

Newsletter

August 2022

Forthcoming Talks

**Bruce Bairnsfather: WWI Cartoonist by Mark Warby.
Monday 26th September at Colwall Village Hall.
Doors open 19.00. Talk at 19.30.**

A green plaque dedicated to Bruce Bairnsfather is located at the British Legion which he often visited.

Mark Warby (www.brucebairnsfather.org.uk) is a leading researcher on the life and work of Bruce Bairnsfather and will be giving us a talk on how his cartoons made him world famous in WW1 and his links with Colwall. Mark will also be bringing along some items from his collection to complement his talk.

**Herefordshire Household Waste Recycling Collection.
Monday 14th November at Colwall Village Hall.
Doors open 19.00. Talk at 19.30.**

A speaker from Herefordshire Council will talk about the proposed changes and what happens to our household waste.



1914
*What do yer reckon Plum and Apple jam
is made of, Bert?*

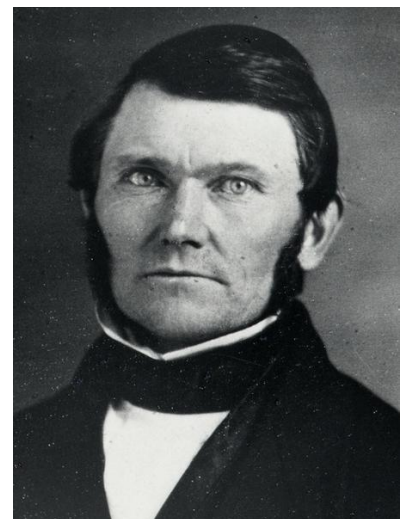
A history of Mormons in Colwall by Liz Hill

In 1840, Herefordshire and the adjoining areas of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire became the focus of a mission undertaken by Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as the Mormons, who travelled here from America. An estimated 1,800 people in the Three Counties were baptised into the church, which was about a quarter of the UK membership in 1841.

One of the American missionaries was called Wilford Woodruff and he kept a detailed journal of his travels, which can be found at <https://wilfordwoodruffpapers.org>

He visited the Colwall area in April and May 1840 and again in March 1841.

Many of the converts were originally members of a non-conformist sect called the United Brethren which had been founded in Herefordshire in 1832 by Thomas Kington. A Preaching Plan for the United Brethren for April to June 1840 still exists and shows that there was a weekly service in Colwall at 10.a.m. The northern region which was called the Froomes Hill Conference had 20 branches and included Colwall. Amongst the preachers for Colwall was Jonathan Lucy who features prominently in the history of Mormons in Colwall. Most of the United Brethren were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the preaching districts stayed the same.



Wilford Woodruff recorded on **Saturday 9th May** - *I walked to Colwall & spent the night at Johnathan Lucy during this days*

walk I had a grand survey of the works of nature & the power of God while standing upon the top of Marlver[n] Hill elevated from 12 to 1500 feet in the air where I had a view of all the surrounding country for many miles the City of Worcester is in plain view in the North & Gloster in the South with several large villages between & Ledbury with other villages in the wes[t] with a fine beautiful cultivated vale upon evry hand, & while standing upon this eminance & beholding this grand prospect or survey to add to the solemnity of the scenery the thunders began to roll & lightnings flash beneath my feet while the rain descended in torrents in the vale beneath while I was in the midst or above the clouds to behold the scene.

On the 10th May Jonathan Lucy was baptised and confirmed in the Church. Jonathan Lucy became a priest in the new religion and influenced others. Thomas Steed was 14 years old when his family was converted in Malvern. Later in his life he recorded a gathering of Saints at the home of Jonathan Lucy in Colwall.

All at once a power put me on my feet, the Spirit of prophecy rested upon me. . . The house was filled with the Spirit and the power of God, and every one present was thrilled with the convincing power of the Holy Spirit and which I could feel through my whole system like fire shut up in my bones. It was then plainly made known unto me that God lives, that Jesus is the Redeemer and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Most High God. Of the truth of this a doubt has never crossed my mind from that day to this.

The missionaries were not always welcome. For example, in Dymock - *I opened meeting by Singing & Prayer & no sooner had we commenced than the mob armed themselves with eggs, Bricks, rocks, & evry thing els they could lay their hands upon & began to throw them upon the house like a shower of hail Stones for nearly an hour they dashed in the windows scattered Stones, Brick, & glass, through the rooms, broke the tile on the roof & continued such depredations untill the close of the meeting.*

Wilford Woodruff was accompanied to England by Brigham Young and William Richards. All three missionaries crisscrossed the three counties on foot, often covering 12 miles a day – preaching and baptising converts. Their paths would occasionally cross and on the 20th May they held a council on top of Herefordshire Beacon where they decided to publish the Book of Mormon in England.

Wednesday 20th May 1840 -*We walked to Wind Point & Elders Young Richards & myself walked onto the top of the part of Malvern Hill called Herefordshire B[e]acon. Here we united in prayer & held a council & unitedly felt that it was the will of God that Elder Young should go immediately to Manchester to assist in Publishing a collection of Hymns of 3000 copies & also to immediately print & finish 3000 copies of the Book of Mormon.*

The Preachers and Members of the Fromes Hill Circuit of the United Brethren met at the house of Elder John Cheese, on Stanley Hill, Herefordshire on June 21st, 1840. It was agreed that the meeting be hereafter known by the name of the Fromes Hill Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Jonathan Lucy is listed in the report as being the priest with the care of the church at Colwall. Another meeting on the 21st September 1840 lists the Colwall branch as having 17 members.

Wilford Woodruff was back in Colwall on Wednesday 17th March 1841 when Mary Foxall (who had been baptised at Brand Lodge the previous year) told him - *Said she saw an angel stand [illegible] me clothed in a white robe I conversed with many Saints upon the subject of gathering. I walked to Wind Point, while on the way I went into the Giants Cave on Marlvern Hills it was dug out of a solid Rock ... After taking a view of this I went down the Hill visited the Saints at Wind Point from thence to Colwall met with a large congregation of Saints & preached to them ... the Saints Donated £0.6 shillings to help me on my Journey on my return home I spent the night at Br Johnathan Lucy.*

In addition to Wilford Woodruff journal the Church started issuing a Newsletter called the Millennial Star 1840, which includes short reports of conferences held around England.

By 1847 the Millennial Star Church Member report on the “First Division of Mars Hill Conference” shows that there were 37 members and Jonathan Lucy was still the Elder of the branch.

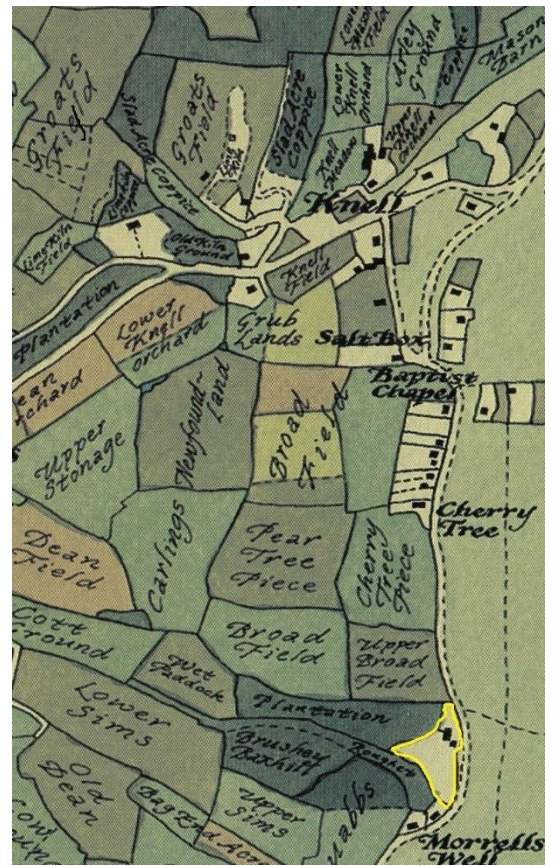
The Colwall branch is listed as having closed by 1852 but a report in the 1854 news section of the Millennial Star Church Newspaper suggests it was still going in 1854.

There was also a branch at “Wind Point” (Wynds Point) which is listed as having a membership of 31 in 1840 and 23 in 1841. Locally there were also “The Malvern Hill Branch” and “Moor-end Cross Branch”. Nearly half of the 1,800 converts from the Three Counties are likely to have left England and set off on long migrations across America following Brigham Young. Thomas Steed emigrated in 1844.

However, Jonathan Lucy and his family remained in Herefordshire. According to the 1841 census he was an Agricultural Labourer, but elsewhere he is described as a thatcher. In 1841 he was recorded living in Upper Colwall at a place described as "Woods". The 1842 Tithe map shows he owned a house and a field in Chase Road. It is marked in yellow on the plan and is now called Grove Cottage.

Jonathan Lucy died in 1869 and is buried in St James' Church in Colwall along with his first wife Anne who died in 1853 and his second wife Sarah who died in 1861. However, his connection to the Mormons lives on to the 21st century with Mormon Missionaries wanting to see Grove Cottage because Brigham Young stayed there.

Two reminders of this time remain. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have bought the pond near Castle Frome where many baptisms took place and in 2004 they bought and restored the chapel at Gadfield Elm near Pendock in Gloucestershire.



Photographer: Bob Embleton
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The Gadfield Chapel originally belonged to the United Brethren, was deeded to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who in turn sold it to provide funds for emigrations to America. Today it is the oldest Latter-day Saints chapel in the world still standing and the last surviving memorial to the United Brethren.

A full version of this article, including additional material and referencing, is available on The Colwall Village Society website at <http://www.cvs.colwall.info/Archives.html>

Welch's Grocers by Andy Ball



I'm indebted to David Hodgson who sent me several images of shops in Colwall Stone from around 1900. This image of Welch's the grocers intrigued me so it formed the start of some delving into the past and some surprising discoveries.

The story starts with Herbert Graves who was born 1851 in Colwall and in his early life lived at the 'Purley' where the 1851 census states that his father Thomas was a Game Keeper and his mother Elizabeth was a Glove Maker. In 1878 he had married Mary Ann Hanna (b. circa 1864), originating from the registration district of

Aston, Warwickshire. That made Mary Ann only around 14 at the time of her wedding. Whilst quite shocking, this young age of marriage was nevertheless legal, although unusual, during Victorian times.

The 1881 census records the married couple as living at Edwards Close, Colwall with Herbert being a Postman and the couple having two children - Thomas W. being 1 year old, and James - 2 months old.

Jakeman and Carver's Directory of Herefordshire 1890 lists Herbert Graves as being a Grocer and Provision Dealer so it's possible that the shop dates from around that time. The 1891 census records the family as living at 'Colwall Stone'. This address is slightly confusing as another distinct entry in the census has the same property name. Both entries flank the one in the census for the Crown Inn so it's highly probable that this is indeed the stone cottage (now called 'Elspeth Cottage') directly adjoining the Crown Inn to which the shop was a wrap-around structure. At this time Herbert's occupation was Shopkeeper and Gardener and there are two entries for the couple's children – Thomas W. and Arthur C.

However, there's still no clue to the link with the name Welch present in our photograph. By the time of the 1901 census however, all of this had changed. The 1901 census listed the occupants of 'The Stone' as being Herbert Graves married head of the household, now 49, and as having the occupation of Grocer and General Dealer. Living with him were Matilda Welch (widowed) aged 41 and serving as Housekeeper/Domestic. With her were her children Frank (16) working part-time as an Errand Boy, George (13), Annie V. (3), Albert E. (3) and Augustus (2 months).

All of this begs the obvious question where was Herbert's wife Mary Ann Graves and their children? It seems that by 1901 she had moved back to the civil parish of Aston Manor in Warwickshire and was living independently with her two sons Arthur C (18) and Herbert G. (16). Her oldest son Thomas W., now 21, was living as a lodger in Great Malvern in 1901 and intriguingly has an occupation of Grocer's Assistant so maybe he was still employed by his father in Colwall...? What happened to the marriage can only be guessed at.

So now we need to look a little more at the life of Matilda Welch and how she came to be in Colwall. Tracking back her ancestry she had the maiden name of Howard and had been born in about 1860. She had married a William Welch at Old St Pancras in the County of Middlesex on 25 December 1880. William was a Mineral Water Maker.

William's father was Martin Welch married to Mary Welch. Martin Welch was listed as a Railway Labourer in the 1861 census for Colwall and was at the time lodging in the village. It's highly likely that he was one of a significant influx of people who came to Colwall in the 1860s to work on the construction of the railway in this area, and indeed William had actually been born in Staffordshire. There we have a vital link back to Colwall.

Tragically William Welch died young, in 1894, aged just 34 and is buried in the churchyard at Colwall, St James the Great Church. It can be theorised that he, together with Matilda and their children, returned to Colwall sometime between the 1891 census and 1894, since in 1891 they were still living in London.

The 1911 census record for Colwall has Herbert Graves, now 59, still married and living with Matilda Welch. Listed in the census for the property are Annie Victoria Welch (13), Albert Edward Welch (13), Augustus Graves Welch (18) and Laurence James Welch (7 months). Note the addition of the name 'Graves' to Augustus' name...

Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire from 1913 lists Mrs Matilda Welch as being a Grocer in Colwall. That ties in with the 1911 census for which Herbert Graves occupation is Jobbing Gardener so it seems that Matilda was running the shop by then.

That's not the end of the story, however. On 30th January 1929 Herbert and Matilda were married in Colwall. By this time he was 78 and she was 69. One can only guess as to why it took so long for them to marry. Maybe Herbert's previous wife Mary Ann died around this time allowing the couple freedom to formalise their relationship?

Their marriage was short-lived. Herbert died in 1932 aged 81, whilst Matilda passed away in 1937 aged 77. Both are buried in the graveyard at Colwall, St James the Great Church.

The shop premises continued to be used and later became a wool shop. The shop has since been demolished and part of the site is now occupied by Jo Ludlow Hairdressing.

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