

Not Forgotten...

In the last issue we printed the request for information about Robinson Atkin and his descendants. Here, the researcher explains his connection to Goxhill:

I'm an ardent genealogist living in Sussex, researching my own family tree of Atkin, a prolific surname originating from Lincolnshire. During the course of my research, I traced a number of my ancestors who lived and worked in Goxhill during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The family I'm interested in is a Robinson Atkin born in 1873 at Waltham who married Emma Ellis in 1897. The couple had four children, Charles Atkin born in Grimsby, Elsie Atkin b.1898, Arthur L Atkin & Harold Atkin b.1900 in Goxhill. According to the 1901 census, the family were living on a farm in the area with an occupation of Horseman on a farm and most importantly, parishioners of your local church. At this point, the trail goes cold.

Were Robinson's children christened or maybe married and then buried at the church? Did his children marry and have children of their own? Are descendants of Robinson Atkin still living at Goxhill? As you can see, I have many questions but few answers.

It is for this reason that I would like to make an appeal for your help. Are you an Atkin or do you know of anyone in the Atkin family who might recall these names? Do you remember maybe seeing these names in the parish register or inscribed on a grave stone in the churchyard? Are you in fact a descendant of Robinson Atkin?

If you think you could help, you can email me at: zincraft@bbfamilytree.co.uk or alternatively please contact the editor.

Irrespective of how small your information might be, it all helps build and expand this fascinating family tree.

Sincere thanks, Bruce Atkin

For the Atkin Family Tree Web Site: www.bbfamilytree.co.uk

The Willis Fleming Charitable Trust, based in Hampshire, wishes to know more about Rev. William Seed, who was vicar of Goxhill in the early 20th century. They have in their collection a carved wooden bible box, with a brass inscription saying that the box was presented in 1883 by Rev. William Seed to D. S. Croft on the occasion of the latter's 58th birthday on 6 June 1883, and made from wood from Hull Grammar School restored in 1883 as the Parochial Mission Room. If you can have more information about the man or how his box came to be in North Stoneham, contact the Gander.

In the last issue we printed the request for information about George Frederick Sheppard. This is Ron Parker's response, which we have passed onto the very grateful family:

Apple Jack

I recall in my youth an old hand who as a child was brought up in Barton, must of been in the Pasture Road south area for he knew it so well, he used to talk of Apple Jack, I never knew of him by any other name until I read the Gander which brought back memories..

He said of Apple Jack that he lived in a cottage at Barrow Haven with a large orchard, mostly of Apples, he said that Apple Jack could be seen walking down the railway line into Barton with a Butchers Basket under his arm full of apples to sell to the Barton shops, he would then walk back with it full of groceries, no doubt paying for them with apples, he also used to trap song birds such as the finches, the most prized in those days were the Goldfinch, which was trapped almost to extinction in those days, I was about 18 before I saw my first pair one day feeding on some Burdock, though they have made a come back this last 40 years, today one can see flocks of several hundreds out of breeding season, his orchard was an attraction for these sort of birds, the finch family, he then used to take them to Hull and sell them to the Pet Shops as cage birds because of their colours and songs, He was reputed to be an expert at Grafting Fruit trees and in the Hawthorne hedge along side of his orchard you could see a mature Hawthorne bush with a branch of a Pear or apple growing out of the top

More noted for his love of Fox Hunting he was known by many for he always followed on foot, he must have been very fit to do this, he would walk to a meet, most likely in the Barrow or Barton Market Place and follow the hounds until they found a fox and set off after it with the huntsmen in tow, Jack would set off running in a different direction, for as one may know or not know a fox will usually run in a wide circle, often coming back to where he started from, Jack had followed them that many times he knew where the fox would be heading for, so he set off across country in the direction that his knowledge took him, it was said that he was often waiting at a vantage point to greet both fox & hounds with the hunters behind to wave them past, more often than not when the hounds made a kill he was there waiting for the Huntsmen to arrive...

When he died it was said that when cleaning out his cottage (I believe it was demolished many a decade ago) the hearth in the fire place was full of used Tea Leaves, piled high for he never thrown any out for some time after use, possibly he had a use for them when dried, who knows with a man of Jack's character.