

TYNTESFIELD



LOCAL MEMORIES AND RESEARCH

Compiled for Nailsea and District Local History Society
by
Peter Wright

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TYNTESFIELD LOCAL MEMORIES AND RESEARCH

A great deal has recently been written about Tyntesfield following the death of Lord Wraxall. Much of it has been to do with the history of the Gibbs family (*whose prosperity was founded by the sons of Abraham Gibbs of Topsham who established banking houses in Naples, Genoa and Palermo*) and the need to save Tyntesfield described by the National Trust as a time capsule and fine example of a Victorian mansion. Now that the Trust has succeeded time alone will tell what Tyntesfield will bring to Nailsea. It must not be forgotten that if the right decisions are made Nailsea may well have much to bring to Tyntesfield by way of attracting visitors to the area.

This compilation comprises the information that has appeared in recent editions of "Pennant" *The Local History Journal of Backwell Nailsea Tickenham and Wraxall* (published by Nailsea and District Local History Society) together with some additional illustrations and facts. Apart from the quotations and letter from the Late Lord Wraxall all the information here is in the public domain.

There seems to be some confusion locally about the name Tynte's Place and whether it was an earlier name for the "House". Phyllis Horman one of the contributors to this book mentions a conversation she had with the late Lord Wraxall which I hope resolves the question once and for all.

Any profits from this publication will be used by the Society to assist it in its aim to promote interest and research into local history. Nailsea's industrial past has much to offer the visitor but the evidence can be a little difficult to find.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS IN NORTH SOMERSET

Two stately homes and a Grade 1 listed pier together with remains of coal mines, engine houses, tramways and glassworks all within a radius of 8 miles from Tyntesfield! There can be few areas in the country that have such interesting sites so close together.

To the west of Tyntesfield is Wraxall village and a mile or so further is Nailsea, once the home of the fourth largest glassworks in the UK. Established in 1788 by John Robert Lucas the glassworks depended on supplies of coal from the many mines in the area. Vestiges of these can still be seen if you know where to look. The Glassworks closed in 1874 as supplies of suitable coal ran out and other glassworks took its trade. The last coal mine in Nailsea shut in the 1880s.

Further to the west is Clevedon, not only well known as a holiday resort since Victorian times but also 'home' to Clevedon Court. This stately home is open to visitors on certain days.

A further delight for visitors to Tyntesfield is Clevedon Pier, no more than eight miles away. Currently it is the only accessible Grade-1 Pier in England.

Peter Wright

Editor and publisher for

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TYNTESFIELD



Tyntesfield in the County of Somerset (Master)

For the earlier days I am indebted to a man who died over 100 years ago. The Rev George S Master M.A. prepared his "Collections for a Parochial History of Wraxall" but died just before it went to print in 1900.

Space requires that we ignore the many interesting details relating to Wraxall and Failand and that the portion of this book devoted to 'Master' is confined to the comments he makes about Tyntesfield and the Gibbs family.

When reading the extracts from Master it is essential to remember that they are over 100 years old and that use of the present tense relates to the late 19th century and not the early 21st.

TYNTESFIELD – THE FAMILY OF TYNTE

As can be seen from the following extract Master gives a detailed account of descent of families associated with the house and then mentions a payment "towards the re-edifying and repairing of the house in Wraxall, Somerset, being the ancient house of his ancestors, for which John Tynte prayeth that he may be admitted to a composition" ...He goes on to say that it is doubtful whether any portion of the legacy was actually expended upon the repairs of the Wraxall mansion, John Tynte preferring Chelvey Court as his residence ...

The family of Tynte, giving its name to this place, although subsequently associated in local history with the neighbouring manor of Chelvey still in its possession, had certainly its origin in Wraxall, in and about which it was widely spread, its members holding the position of 'franklins', freeholders, or yeoman, in Backwell, Flax Bourton, Long Ashton, Chew Magna, Winford and other adjoining parishes.

In 1401 Robert Tynte of Wraxall granted to John Wale and his son lands and reversions in Wale's Place, Portbury, and Easton in Gordano.

In 1410 Thomas Lord Berkeley granted to John Tynte and Alice his wife, with reversion to Robert Tynte and Isabella his wife and their heirs, Whelpes place in this parish, conjecturally bearing reference to the lioncel in their arms.

There are Wills of John Tynte of Wraxall, franklin, 1542; John Tynte of Long Ashton, 1550; Isabel Tynte of Long Ashton, 1558; John Tynte of Wraxall, 1563; Robert Tynte of Wraxall, 1577; Edmund Tynte of Backwell, yeoman, 1577; Edmund Tynte of Wraxall, yeoman, 1570, without date of proof.

Edmund Tynte married Elizabeth, daughter of John Panther or Panter of Keynsham (who married secondly, in 1571, Richard Sheppard, their daughter Dorothy becoming the wife of William Harbord of Midsomer Norton, ancestor of Baron Suffield) and had issue-

- I. Edmund Tynte, ob. 1670, aged 6.
- II. John Tynte of Wraxall, Esq., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law styled in the Register of Burials 'the Counsellor,' who married Rebecca¹, daughter of Richard Stevens, Esq., but dying without issue in 1616 passed on his property to his brother.

III. Edward Tynte, Esq., who married here, in 1613, Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Gorges of Charlton, and by her had issue as below. He purchased the manor of Chelvey from his brother-in-law, John Aishe, Esq., and resided there. He died and was buried there 1629. Will same date. His wife was buried there, 1660.

IV. William Tynte, to whom his father left lands at Bourton.

V. Sir Robert Tynte, went to Ireland, was founder of the family now represented by Joseph Pratt Tynte of Tynte's Park, co. Wicklow. Will 1643 left bequest towards the re-edifying of the Tynte's house at Wraxall.

VI. Dorothy Tynte, married William Harbord.

VII. Florence Tynte, married Thomas Sheppard.

Edward Tynte, Esq., the second son, and heir to his brother John, had issue:

1. John Tynte, Esq., born 1618, General in the Royal Army. M.P. for Bridgwater 1661, thrice married—first to a lady of Devon, by whom he had a daughter married to John, eldest son of Francis Baber, D.C.L., of Chew-Magna; secondly to Jane, daughter and heir of the Rev. Hugh Halswell, Rector of Cheriton, Hants, by whom he had issue Sir Halswell Tynte, first baronet, ancestor of the Kemys -Tyntes of that place, and Cefn Mably, co. Glamorgan; thirdly at Bradford, Wilts, 1663, to Frances, daughter of Francis Trenchard of Cutteridge, co. Wilts, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Gorges of Wraxall (She re-married Sir Edward Nevill, Baron of the Exchequer, and died in 1714.) He died 1670. Will 1669."

2. Robert Tynte, buried at Chelvey 1636, aet. 16

3. Sir Hugh Tynte of Peperharrow, co. Surrey, a cavalier officer 1643—9, Mayor of Guildford 1688. By his wife Penelope, daughter of Sir Philip Frowde, he had no issue. (She married secondly Nathaniel, Baron Crewe, Lord Bishop of Durham.) Will 1690.

4. Rev. Edward Tynte, Vicar of Yatton 1666—79. his eldest son, Colonel Edward Tynte, Will 1709, was Governor of Carolina.

5. Dorothe Tynte, unmarried.

6. Florence Tynte, unmarried.

Among the Royalist Composition paper's in the Record office is a memorandum by John Tynte of Chelvey, Esq., in his own handwriting:

"1646, Feb. 2. Sir Robert Tynte, his uncle, has bequeathed to him £1000, according to his Will Ap. 3, 1643, part of the £4000 due to him, Sir Robert, from His Majesty and House of Parliament in England, being lent in ready coin or ticket for the use of His Majesty's army in Ireland, £1000 thereof [increased by codicil, May 10, to £2000] he freely doth give and bequeath to the compounder, John Tynte, towards the re-edifying and repairing of the house in Wraxall, Somerset, being the ancient house of his ancestors, for which John Tynte prayeth that he may be admitted to a composition."

From the Journals of the House of Commons, Oct. 3, 1646:

"Whereas the House did order Ap. 3, 1642, that Sir Robert Tynte should have the public faith of the kingdom for the repayment of £4000 with interest borrowed of him by the Lord President of Munster; that the said Sir Robert Tynte being now dead, and that Captain Sir William Tynte having the money in his possession when it was borrowed, It is now ordered for the comfort and satisfaction of the said Captain Sir William Tynte that Sir J. Wollaston, Treasurer at Guildhall, do give the public faith for what is due of principal and interest to Captain Sir William Tynte and his assigns."

It is doubtful whether any portion of the legacy above mentioned was actually expended upon the repairs of the Wraxall mansion, John Tynte preferring Chelvey Court as his residence, and adding to it, *inter alia*, an ornate entrance porch on the east, bearing his arms and those, as is supposed, of his third wife. The old family house at Wraxall was approached through an avenue of fine elms. Sir Charles Harbord, Kt., by his will (1678), left a bequest to the inhabitants of Wraxall for apprenticing two boys, at the discretion of 'my worthy kinsman and friend, Hugh Tynte, Esq., or his heirs, being owners of that ancient Mansion House, wherein he now dwelleth in Wraxall aforesaid.'

The stately residence of Antony Gibbs Esq., deriving its name from one of the enclosures of the property, stands upon or very near to the site of the ancient mansion of the Tynte family, of which no vestige remains, known as 'Tynte's Place'. Degraded to the condition of a farmhouse, and subsequently known from its occupiers as 'Brodriggs', 'Sadlers', etc its exceptionally beautiful situation attracted the attention, in 1813, of John Penrose Seymour Esq. (at that time the owner of the adjoining estate of Belmont), who purchased the place, his son and successor the Rev. George Turner Seymour erecting a handsome mansion upon it.



Tyntesfield early 20th Century (*MJ Tozer Collection*)

His widow alienated it in 1843 to William Gibbs, Esq. the father of the present (c1900) proprietor, and he by many successive additions and alterations, whereby much of the former fabric became buried within the loftier walls of the later structure, completed the existing palatial building.

The architect mainly responsible was Mr John Norton, of Bristol. Sir Arthur Blomfield, A.R.A., was the builder of the beautiful chapel, and Mr Henry Woodyer of Guildford, of subsequent additions, notably the drawing-room, cloister, and the bays of the eastern facade.

The position is one of extreme loveliness, the stone built mansion, of imposing architectural elevation, occupying a terraced plateau at half-height upon the hillside, amid sheltering woods, which, clothing the limestone range with indigenous and artificial growth, are traversed by glades and dingles of varied beauty. The prospect from the house, which faces South and West, is of unusually wide extent, including the rich intervening pastoral valley from Dundry to the Mendips and the Bristol Channel whose broad silver streak, broken by its 'holmes' and horizoned by the mountains of Wales, is a notable fea-

ture in the charming combination of sea and land, hill and plain, woodland and meadow, outstretched at length, in which may be noticed the church towers of Dundry, Barrow Gurney, Flax Bourton, Backwell, Wraxall, Nailsea, Tickenham, Yatton, and Clevedon.

He then goes on to describe the entrance and rooms and the various pictures hung therein.

Upon the steep slope which rises immediately from the house on the north east stands the magnificent chapel, unrivalled as an appendage to a private gentleman's residence, built on the plan of a college chapel in the decorated style

Having described various brass plates he goes on

A little higher on the hillside is the pleasant Chaplain's house and near it the engine house, from whence electric light is supplied to every part of the premises; while eastward are the stables forming a handsome quadrangle, and southward, where they are concealed from view by the fall of the ground and the intervening trees, extensive kitchen gardens with handsome stone orangery, spacious ranges of glass houses, and convenient residences for gardeners. Picturesque stone lodges at all the entrances of the park, their gates 'opening of their own accord' being worked by internal windlasses; intermediate lodges for domestic servants; and a 'water-catch' on the crest of the hill, an ingenious contrivance, whereby the rainfall upon an acre of enclosed and asphalted ground is intercepted, and conveyed by pipes to the house below, are only some of the many admirable appliances of an exceptionally perfect and delightful residence.

He then refers to

BELMONT AND HANNAH MORE

Within the demesne, at some distance to the east, another mansion house, Belmont is now included. This was a separate estate, the property at the end of the 18th century of William Turner Esq., who built the house on the site of an older cottage, and laid out walks in the wood behind it, one of them planted with an avenue of yews. Engaged to marry Miss Hannah More, he employed selections from her poems to ornament his grounds, placing them upon tablets of wood, two of which have recently been repainted, and restored to their original positions.

Dying here and being buried in the Cathedral yard at Bristol, he was succeeded by his nephew John Penrose Seymour, whose eldest son, the Rev. George Turner Seymour, the builder of Tyntesfield, as already stated, sold this property to George Gibbs, Esq., cousin of William Gibbs, Esq., the subsequent owner of both, and re-builder of Tyntesfield. George Gibbs dying without issue, Belmont passed in reversion to George Lewis Monck Gibbs, who sold it to his uncle. The central portion of the house, which was a commodious and substantial one, has been deprived of its floors, furnished with a glazed roof, and turned into a racquet court, while its rooms in either wing remain available for residential purposes.

FAMILY OF GIBBS

William Gibbs, Esq., purchaser of Tyntesfield in 1844 and founder of the Somerset family was born at Madrid 22nd May 1790, second son of Antony Gibbs, a Spanish merchant by Dorothea-Barnetta, his wife, daughter of William Hucks of Knaresborough, Esq. He was partner in the firm of Antony Gibbs and head of the house 1842 – 1875; a munificent benefactor of the English church, of which he was a devoted son, building at his own cost the magnificent Chapel of Keble College, Oxford; the church and vicarage of St Michael Exeter; the Church of St Michael, Paddington (for the most part); the Church of Flaxley, co. Gloucester; the vicarage of Exwick, and the Chapel at Cowley both in co. Devon. He contributed largely to the restoration of Exeter Cathedral, and of many parish churches of which Backwell was one; he was the patron of the benefices of Clyst St George and Exwick co. Devon, and Stow-nine-churches co. Northampton. In 1856 William Gibbs erected the present boys school and afterwards the girls school was built by Antony Gibbs Esq., then of Charlton, now (c1900) of Tyntesfield, both upon sites given by Sir Greville Smyth, Bart.

He married August 1st 1839 at Flaxley Matilda Blanche, daughter of Sir Thomas Crawley-Boevy of Flaxley Abbey, Bart., and by her, who died September 22nd 1887, and was buried at Wraxall had issue as below. He died here April 3rd 1875 and was buried at Wraxall.

His children were

- 1 Dorothea Harriet b June 12th 1840
- 2 Antony Gibbs b December 10th 1841 who was the father of George Abraham born 6th July 1873
- 3 Alice Blanche b October 27th 1843
- 4 William b January 14th 1846

- 5 George Abraham b March 25th 1848
- 6 Henry Martin b May 30th 1850
- 7 Albinia Ann b June 7th 1853

Details of all are given as also are details of their marriages and issue as well as the lineage of the family.

At the time of the 1881 census only the servants were in residence at Tyntesfield; Matilda Blanche Gibbs 6 years a widow appears on the census in London at 16 Hyde Park Gardens.

While his family were at Charlton House Antony Gibbs was not. It seems that he is recorded as Anthony GIBBS, M, 39, M, Paddington, Middlesex, Lieut. Yeomanry Cavalry & J.P. at 1 High St Grosvenor Rd Queens Hotel with two other Yeomanry officers.



Tyntesfield Early 20th Century

The clock tower was demolished in 1935
(*M J Tozer Collection*)





Tyntesfield Early 21st Century

The clock tower was demolished in 1935
(Peter Wright)



TYNTE'S PLACE

By Phyllis Horman

About 10 to 15 years ago my brother Wilfred and I went regularly to Taunton Record Office to see what information we could find about Wraxall. Amongst many interesting papers I found an original lease for Tynte's Place. It had apparently been used in latter years as a farm, and John Vowles wished to take on the lease. I think I am correct in stating that this John Vowles mentioned, was the first of that name in Wraxall farming.

Some people have thought that Tyntesfield House was built on the site of Tynte's Place but it will be seen on the lease that a "Saddler's Tenement" is mentioned. This, according to the late Lord Wraxall, was more or less the site where Tyntesfield House was built, not actually on the site of Tynte's Place.

I have only extracted the most important parts of the lease as it was quite large (so large that it almost covered the table), and one has to remember those who sat at one's side and opposite! It is quite easy to read in most parts, although there are a few places where I was uncertain or could not decipher a word, (these are the question marks) but this does not spoil the overall meaning of the lease. As usual, some of the expressions used seem a little odd, but what can one expect for about 1760?

Extracts from an Indenture concerning the leasing of Tynte's Place, Wraxall.

1st. February 33rd. of George 2nd. (c 1760). Between Charles Kemys Tynte of Halswell in Goathurst Som. of one part and John Vowles of Wraxall Yeoman. Sir Charles Kemys Tynte in consideration of the yearly rent, conditions and agreements with John Vowles to farm lett all that Farm Tenement and premises commonly called and known by the name of Tynte's Place in Wraxall with several closes, pieces and parcels of Land, Meadow and Pasture, late in the possession and occupation of Robert Askey deceased and several other closes and pieces of ground hereon also endorsed part of Saddler's Tenement in Wraxall together with all ways, paths, passages, waters, watercourses, easements, profits, commodities, advantages, to demise and grant to Charles K. Tynte, his heirs, and assigns all manner of timber, pollards, and other trees, young saplings, and standards likely to make trees, coppices, woods and underwood, and tops and lops of maiden trees, quarries, mines and oars(? ores) of every nature or kind etc. with full and free liberty of Ingress, Egress and Regress for Sir K. Tynte and his heirs and (in any words) to view, cut

down, dig and carry away same. Also of Hawking, Hunting, Fishing and Fowling.

To John Vowles from the 5th. day of April next for a term of 7 years, to pay yearly and every year to Sir K. Tynte the rent or sum of £149 15s. of lawful money of Great Britain at those four feasts or days of payment — 25th. March, 24th. June, 29th. September, 25th. December. John Vowles shall plough, break up and convert to tillage except Clovers Tynning, The Hill Grounds, above Tynte's House, Upper Letts, and Yew Tree Ground, 14 Acres, Lower Letts, Letts Paddock, / the additional extra rent of £5 for every acre and (?) proportion for every part of an acre. Rent is payable next and immediately after such Meadow and Pasture Ground shall be filled or broken up as aforesaid. John Vowles, his assigns or Administrators shall and will at all times during the said Term bring or cause to be (put) into use expend and employ in and upon every (each?) of the said demised — dressing of Lime or Dung according to good husbandry and also that the said John Vowles his assigns or administrators shall not nor will fret any of the Meadow Grounds belonging to the said premises hereby granted — and after such dressing shall take only one crop of Wheat and one crop of Barley or Oats before he or they shall not dress the same again unless it be a crop of Peas or Vetches and with the Barley and Oats shall always (be?) sufficient quantity of good Merchantable Clover seed or other Grass seeds. The grant to lie pasture two years at least before it be sown again. And also that it be lawful to and for the said Sir K. Tynte his heirs etc. and his and their agents servants and labourers at any reasonable and convenient time in the last year of the said Terms hereby granted to come into and upon any part or parts of the Arable Ground hereby. Also that the said John Vowles his Executors or Administrators and Assigns shall not nor will fret any of the Meadow Grounds belonging to the said premises hereby granted, or Young Clover or Grass in the time (?) between Christmas and Lady Day in the last year of the said Term with any stock or cattle other than sheep. And also that the said John Vowles etc. shall and will use and expend and employ in and upon the said demised premises all the Hay, Straw, Fodder, Dung and Muck and Soil that shall arise or be made thereon during the said Term and shall not carry away or dispose of the same elsewhere but at the end of the valid Term shall leave all such as shale(?) and remain unused by the said John Vowles etc., they may be at liberty to sell and dispose of any Hay growing on the said premises and which is over and above for his and their use and demand in support of the usual and accustomed number of Oxen, Cows and Sheep kept and maintained on the premises aforesaid. And also that John Vowles etc. when and as often as they shall take a fall down the hedgewood and the tops of such trees as have been usually topped and lopped (which is to be done but once proportionately yearly during the said

Term and none in the last year thereof). Shall and will take to Fence (lay?) the Hedges and dig the Ditches either single or double as they have been heretofore. And also that the said John Vowles etc. shall and will at his and their own proper costs and charges from time to time and at all times during the valid Term will and sufficiently Gripe any Gutter and Trench the meadow and pasture grounds and keep, repair and maintain the Glass Windows, Gates, Barns, Stiles, Outbounds and Fences belonging to the said demised Premises having Timber allowed on the Premises by delivery for the doing thereof and Wood and Treash(?) to repair the Outbounds of the said Premises. And also that the said John Vowles etc. shall and will at all times during the said Term whenever an Apple Tree or Trees shall be decayed or fallen down in any of the Orchards, Gardens or Fields in the said Premises, new sett and to plant a good and sufficiently young Tree or Trees in the room of such as shall be fallen down or decayed as aforesaid. And also shall and will allot and allow to John Vowles etc. if on the Premises to be found enough Timber for making and repairing his and their Plough Tackle to be used on the same Premises and not elsewhere (and also allowed £400 towards keeping and repairing and maintaining the Outbounds). And lastly that the said John Vowles etc. shall and may from time to time and at all times during the said Term etc. an agreement herein contained peaceably and quietly into Household use, occupy, possess and enjoy all and singular the said demised Premises.

TYNTESFIELD – THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND LATER

The first forty years of the 20th century presumably passed without great changes apart from the house passing from father to son. However as we arrive at the time of the second world war things began to change. Boarders from Clifton Girls School were evacuated here. Staff would have been called to the colours and help was on hand on the land. The Americans arrived to set up a field hospital and after the war civilians took over the hospital buildings set out in the grounds.

A LAND ARMY GIRL AT TYNTESFIELD

Extract from "Villages at War"

Mary Stephenson came from Bootle to learn her trade in the Women's Land Army at Steambow Farm, Pilton. This was a farm that had been taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture which assumed very wide powers and required that the maximum use be made of the land. If this was not done a farmer could be, and frequently was, dispossessed of his land for bad husbandry.

As with all such sweeping powers they were sometimes abused. Farmers if they were any good knew what their land could produce and were inclined to ignore instructions from someone sitting behind a desk if those instructions were, in the farmer's view, wrong.

When she arrived the farm had been open for a month. She found POW's and conscientious objectors also being trained.

Following her initial training she says:

"I was sent to Lady Wraxall at Tyntesfield. I was met at Flax Bourton Station by a chauffeur in livery, peaked cap, gauntlet gloves, pouchy trousers, double breasted coat. He looked absolutely fantastic and drove me to the farm where I was to work for Mr and Mrs Brimble. Mr Brimble was Lady Wraxall's bailiff having taken over from Ernest Wyatt who had died."

"Home Farm supplied milk, eggs and poultry to the Big House. With the two boys at Eton when I arrived, Lady Wraxall took a very active interest in the farm."

"It was a very modern farm for its time and had a milking machine - I was

delighted because I wasn't very good at milking. She kept a pedigree herd of shorthorns - they were lovely. They were dual purpose animals good for beef and good for milk. When being milked they had individual attention, certain cows being milked by hand."

"We had sows and our own boar pigs and bred our own little pigs. The sows were kept in a Danish type piggery - quite modern boxes with doors that opened into alley ways which could be shut off as could the pen."

"Haymaking and harvesting were very different to what it is today."

Although it was much more of a manual operation most of it was done by land girls. Some of it was very heavy work.

"The corn went into 2 cwt sacks and I used to be able to carry a sack and tip it into a bin. As long as I had two ears to hold I could get it onto my back."

"Dairy feed came in 1 cwt sacks. I used to help unload the lorries."

Lady Wraxall used to go to Scotland to buy Highland cattle, Belted Galloways -

"all cows had horns in those days. These cattle would come down by lorry and we would pen them all the winter. We threw in clean straw every day but they were never cleaned out. By the time spring came and they went to market the muck had to be cleaned out. It was deep and solid as a rock. With Teddy the evacuee at the farm, I had to cut round with a hay knife and pull it with a fork."

"Oh I can remember now the joy when you actually hit the bottom and you felt the stone. It was ever such hard work. We used to work very hard."

"I was fed well but I was lucky because I was in a good farm. It was a great change of life because suddenly you were in a very quiet place. Mr and Mrs Brimble went to bed about 8.30 - 9 pm."

"Milk had to be ready in the morning - it went to a retailer called James, at Long Ashton."

"When he got to Tyntesfield he would bottle up more milk - churns were sometimes 10, 12 or 17 gallons. The milk had to be ready for him otherwise he got a bit narky."

"I was the dairy maid and I used to do all the washing up and get the milk ready. There were 10 stone steps from the floor of the dairy to the churn stand at the top. He wouldn't carry the churns up so unless I got someone to do it for me I had to do it myself. The churn itself weighed about 20 lbs and the milk it contained about 170 lbs."

The milk was bottled using an adapter and a capper and sometimes Mary was asked to do this as well.

Tyntesfield also kept sheep and these had to be examined each day removing maggots and bathing feet as necessary. Where there was particularly trouble with maggots the wool was trimmed off and Stockholm Tar put on the bare flesh. Where tails were to be removed they were cut off, rubber bands were not used at Tyntesfield.

Mary remembers the roar of aero engines when she was working near the top road (the Clevedon-Bristol road). They were tested in a quarry a short distance down Portbury Lane. She also mentioned the Doreen Hut which continued in use for dances even after the war. The hut was a wooden chalet type building in a copse on the north of the Wraxall-Bristol road just before the Jubilee Cottages. It was built by Lord Wraxall for the Villagers to use as a village hall for plays and dances. It was named after Miss Doreen Gibbs.

The Yanks used to wander all over Tyntesfield wearing red dressing gowns.

"They would come to give us candy bars. One even brought Mrs Brimble a dressing gown. They were very generous. Nearly all were white - there were very few coloured. In fact I cannot remember any walking wounded who were black."

"We used to use the Battleaxes and never saw any black Americans there. White walking wounded would come there as they got better."

After her time at Tyntesfield, Mary went to a farm at Clevedon. Eventually she married Eric, took a great interest in local government and eventually became Chairman of Woodspring District Council. She still lives in Tickenham.



1932 Ordnance Survey



ey - with permission

THE "FILTON" RAID 25TH SEPT. 1940

Extract from "Villages at War"

During the war Tyntesfield and the surrounding area suffered at the hands of the Luftwaffe as did the area around as the following will show. This information was obtained from the Civil Defence records held at Somerset Record Office at Taunton.

"between 11.35 am and 12.23 pm

9 HE and 2 petrol bombs and incendiaries fall and explode in Nailsea

3 in Trendlewood field

2 in Little Nailsea

1 at East End House Nowhere

1 at East End Farm

1 at Greenacres

1 at White Oak

1 incendiary at East End Farm

1 Petrol bomb at East End Farm

1 Petrol bomb at White Oak.

No damage or casualties.

One Ambulance to Charlton House Top Gate Failand – one German airman suffering from leg fractures to Clevedon Hospital.

4 parachutes.

1 UXB 50 yds from The Cottage, Wraxall.

Enemy plane down at 11.50 am Racecourse Farm.

5 UXB's there also 4HE and 2 Petrol bombs in field of Failand Lodge Farm.

5 HE and 1 petrol bomb in field and garden, Home Farm Tyntesfield.

2 cottages, Farm House and outbuilding badly damaged.

Water main fractured - cut off water to Tyntesfield House."

SUPPLEMENTARY PICTURES



Tyntesfield House, Gardens & Orangery (20th Century)

Tyntesfield House & Chapel (20th Century)



Tyntesfield House side (21st Century)

Tyntesfield House Front (21st Century)



THE AMERICAN GENERAL HOSPITAL AT TYNTESFIELD

The War brought many strangers to the area as is explained in the book "Villages at War". Among the Americans who came were those of the 74th General Field Hospital set up in land belonging to Tyntesfield. To provide access the longest holly hedge in England had been breached. (The entrance can still be seen May 2003) The hospital was supposed to be the largest American Hospital in North Europe and it is believed that General Eisenhower visited it on at least one occasion.

Many of the local people helped at the hospital some working voluntarily for the American Red Cross.

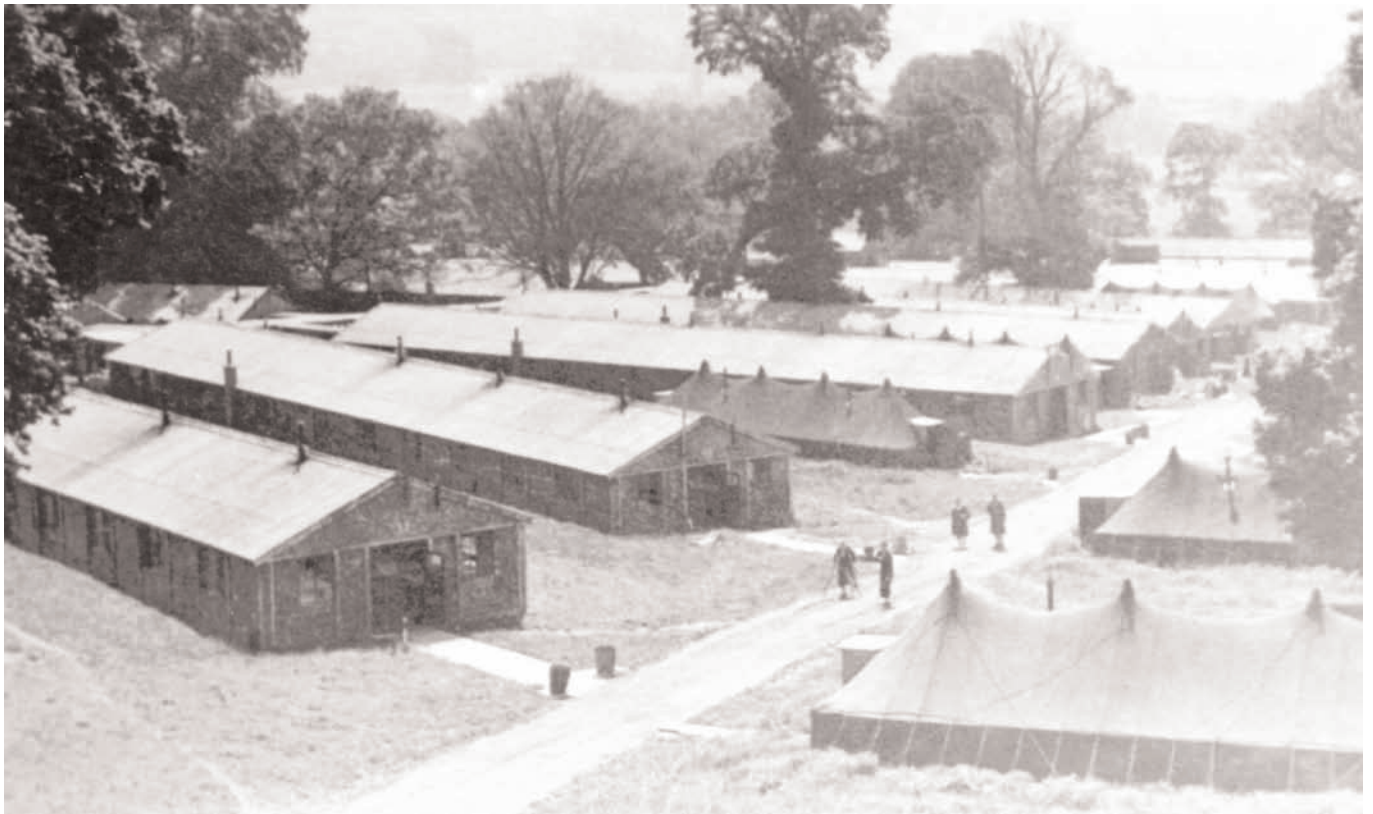
Dances were held there later in the war, the Americans would come to the village in a truck and take the girls back there for a dance and supper. Afterwards the girls were brought back to the village in the truck. No Americans were allowed to leave camp after the dance and the truck was often searched at the gate but this did not deter the more daring ones from hiding below the seats and chancing their luck on getting back later.

On Dec 24th 1944 Christmas Services were held at 10am and at 8pm. The programme for these shows that at both of these services an offering was taken for the 'Mueller Orphanage'. (Muller?)

When the Americans left the area they put on a party to reward the many helpers.



Winnie - a Nailsea girl met Jim Carter at the American General Hospital and they now live in America in a house called Tyntesfield



The American General Field Hospital at Tyntesfield c1944

(Winnie Carter)





Tyntesfield - early 20th Century (*M J Tozer Collection*)





PAX INTRANTIBUS SALUS EXEUNTIBUS

“GOOD WILL TO THOSE WHO ENTER, FARE WELL TO THOSE WHO DEPART”

AFTER WORLD WAR II TYNTESFIELD PARK

By Doris Christie

This was the site of the American Field Hospital and used many of the existing huts and the heating system.

Doris Christie moved into Tyntesfield Park in 1946. Originally it was called Tyntesfield Estate but was re-named owing to some confusion over the house numbers of the original Tyntesfield Estate.

We were among the first families to be housed, so we weren't surprised to see the road up to the houses hadn't been surfaced (and never was) and the path to the front and back doors still had to be paved. But who cared? we had the house. It was pretty basic, but well laid out. Two good sized bedrooms, large living room, bathroom, kitchen and pantry. The living room was heated with a large round boiler type stove, with the chimney pipe running up the room. I was able, eventually to buy a grey range which improved the look of the room, and which proved more useful. At first, hot water was supplied from the boiler house, but when it got too expensive to run, we were all supplied with a large immersion heater, which was placed on a high shelf in the passage. This shelf was also useful for a hideaway for the children's Xmas presents until Father Xmas called.

We had a local farmer (Mr. Atherton) who delivered milk daily and also a greengrocer who called twice a week and a hardware van from Nailsea, later there was a shop run by Mr. and Mrs. Colley who sold most everything else that was needed (coupons permitting).

There was a hall where concerts were held and eventually cinema shows. Parties were laid on for the children at Xmas, a small lending library was just inside the main gate and also a chapel where my daughter was the first baby to be baptised there using a little silver font which had been kindly donated by Mr. Warry, the local blacksmith. During the time we were living there, the present Lord Wraxall came of age and a firework display was held at Tyntesfield House.

We were living there during that very cold winter when all the country was iced up. The bus came into the estate to pick up the school children and on at least one occasion, couldn't turn round to go back out. People came out with buckets of ashes and sacks, to put under the bus wheels, but I think eventual-

ly the buses were taken off. It was so cold that year that icicles hanging over the windows were like bars in a prison. If I remember rightly the following summer was gloriously hot. During that time polio was around and several children developed it one little boy sadly died.

Later on a flower and vegetable show was organised, as every home had a garden front and rear, and also allotments were available.

There were also raffles held which I once won (the only time I ever had) the prize was a box of groceries, which, as food was still in short supply, was very welcome. I don't know who organised it or who donated the prize, but it was certainly a great idea, I think we paid sixpence (old money) a week towards it.

We also did our bit for the war effort, there were containers for waste paper, cardboard and rags, also a bin for household scraps for the pigs.

Eventually the time came when people were being re—housed. The usual speculation as to who would be 'first out'. We left in 1956 after ten years at Tyntesfield Estate, to settle into town life, which to say the least, was decidedly different.

Another memory of Tyntesfield Park gave rise to a letter from W Gordon Newton mentioning that, a Mr John Dancey, followed by Mr Lin Williams,

Season 47-48

Played 35 Won 30 Lost 5 Goals for 135 Goals against 35
Back row: Lin Williams (manager), John Winter, Alan Knights,
Mike Page (goal), Alan Harding, Donald Stamp, Gordon Newton.
Front row: David Knights, Reg Bray, Dudley Williams, Alec
Mansfield (capt), Brian Port, John Vowles, Sid Bessant
(deceased)



organised and ran a very successful boys club which regularly fielded 2 Football teams in two of the Boys Club Leagues in the Bristol area. They had a pitch at the Belmont end of the Estate, alongside the road, and the older team- 16 year olds- played in amber & maroon quarters, while the juniors - 11 years or so - wore blue and white halves. The kits were financed by weekly

sweepstakes tickets based on the weekly professional results, and were sold throughout the Camp, and in Wraxall village. In fact they proved so popular, that eventually both teams were kitted out with socks and shorts, in addition to the original shirts. It was said that at one period the weekly income exceeded that of the local Wraxall club, which may or may not be the case.

Mr Newton sent the local history society a copy of a photo that he had treasured from his teenage years, most of the lads are still around as far as he knows except Sid Bessant who died of a brain tumour not long after this picture was taken. The 1948 season was highly successful, their only big disappointment was to lose 3-1 to Yeovil Town Boys in a semi-final.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LORD WRAXALL

by Phyllis Horman

An edited version of the article previously printed in Pennant the journal of the Nailsea and District Local History Society.

I came to know the estate quite well when I was still at school in the 1940's. One of my friends was the daughter of the head gardener, and Margaret and I spent much time in walking around, especially in the woods. These woods were on four levels as far as I remember, each with a really decent wide path on which to walk. By the side of one path was a memorial to Hannah More, and in another part of the woods was a summer house. Inside was a round table made of a section of the trunk of a very large tree, the surface of which had been at one time, highly polished. The legs of the table were made of smaller trunks of trees. I was told that in years past, when a shooting party was being held, refreshments were taken to the summer house for those in the party.

Another part of the estate which remains in my memory - and is still there - is a round thicket of rhododendrons, near the house, which is really beautiful when in full bloom. At the side of the main drive amongst the bushes were two clumps of bamboo, no doubt used for use in the gardens, my father told me he planted them when he worked on the estate as a boy, but they are no longer there. Up until the 2nd. World War, many men and boys were employed for the outdoor work, gardeners, woodmen, game keepers, all helping to keep the vast grounds in good order, all in all, a beautiful estate.

It was at the gardens where I got my first taste of peaches and nectarines. They were grown in a very ornate building known as the "orange house". Mr. Tegg (the head gardener) was very kind to me and often gave me various fruit to take home. If any of it was slightly bruised or even had a finger mark on it, it would not have gone to the House (everything had to be in perfect condition) and would only have been thrown away. Most of what I was given was perfect and not in any way damaged!

Several years ago, two or three different people told me that the family who were living in the cottage by the entrance to the Avenue (Wraxall Hill end) were preventing people from walking through saying it was their property and was private land. I decided to write to Lord Wraxall and put the case to him, knowing that the Avenue was on Tyntesfield land. I still have his letter and he stated that it was (and still is) a public footpath, and also included a photocopy of a portion of the ordnance map including the path. Apparently the occupants of the cottage kept pulling down the public footpath sign.

When I was trying to piece together information on the public houses and beer houses of Wraxall and Nailsea, I wrote asking for information on the "BattleAxes" which one of his ancestors had built. His letter in return gave me the complete history of it, and he also told me of a beer house (which he thought more likely to be a cider house) that had been in a cottage on the estate, near Belmont Hill, where the workmen could get a drink. I had never heard of that one. (Editor - This letter is printed later in this publication)

My first meeting with Lord Wraxall was when he invited my brother and I to Tyntesfield House for a chat. I've forgotten what was the subject, but it was obviously historical. We were given a day and time to be there, it was a Friday at 2.00 pm. We arrived there with time to spare (couldn't be late for a first appointment!) and at precisely the correct time we approached the main door. The old butler came to us and asked us in, with apologies from His Lordship, who had been called to the office at the last moment, but he would be with us as soon as possible. We were ushered into a room and invited to sit and wait and by about 2.15 pm. Lord Wraxall arrived. We had a really pleasant and interesting talk with him, he was very knowledgeable in many ways. We were all thoroughly enjoying ourselves and after quite a time Lord Wraxall looked at his watch and said "Good lord, its 10 to 5, I was supposed to be back at the office at 4.30, so I'm afraid I must go, but I have SO enjoyed talking with you, and I would like you to come again". We thought our talk would be for about half an hour or so and would have been happy at that, but it was a good two and a half hours. Of course we thanked him for sparing time to talk with us and that we had really enjoyed meeting him. He said

again that he had enjoyed our talk and the way he spoke was entirely genuine, and it made me feel that he could have been equally as happy talking to ordinary village folk, especially about history which he seemed very interested in, than the upper class people he had to meet in his daily life.

Once a year he opened the chapel and grounds for a Rogation service and was most always present. (see following article)

Lord Wraxall made a point of coming to my brother and me for a few words. The last Rogation service I attended was on his birthday (29th. May?). When the service ended, everyone was leaving the chapel to continue around the grounds, (again it was a Salvation Army band providing the music) I decided to stay and wish him a happy birthday. Having one of my many moods on me (57 varieties in fact) I told him that two interesting things happened in 1928, he smiled and said "Oh, what was that?" so I replied "You and I were born in 1928". This seemed to interest him and he asked what month and day I was born, so this started a little conversation before we joined the rest of the people.

We found Lord Wraxall a very interesting person to speak to, he helped us considerably, he had a great interest in what we were discussing, and I was very sorry to hear of his sudden death.

A real gentleman.

TYNTESFIELD – ROGATION DAY MEMORIES

By Phyllis Horman

According to Hutchinson's New 20th. Century Encyclopaedia "Rogation Days are the three days before Ascension Day in the Christian calendar. The processions marking the occasion in England have mostly lapsed". — Not so in Wraxall.

During the lifetime of the late Lord Wraxall I have been to several Rogation services held in Tyntesfield chapel. Many people went to this service and the chapel would be packed.

It was a short service, the music for the hymns provided by a Salvation Army band, and from there we went into the grounds of the House, where the rest of the service was continued.

Basically, Tyntesfield House and grounds represented the village of Wraxall. When the house was blessed, it represented all of the homes of the village, various parts of the grounds represented the fields, gardens, crops of the village. The lake represented the streams, wells etc. of the village. So, all in all, everything of Wraxall was blessed.

Arriving at the western end of the grounds, we climbed a bank and were then at the side of the Home Farm, which of course, represented all of the farms in Wraxall. At this point, the last hymn, prayer and blessing were sung and spoken (this was when the cows actually "mooed" when the amens were said) and the service ended. Tea and refreshments were served, and Lord Wraxall chatted to many of the people. A most interesting and moving Christian service.

FAILAND INN

by Phyllis Horman

The present Failand Inn is not the original one, this one was built about 1860. It was bought by Mr William Gibbs of Tyntesfield in 1874 and the present Lord Wraxall sold it to Courages of Bristol in 1962.

Lord Wraxall has told me that the present inn was already a public house when Mr Gibbs bought it and he suspects that he only did so because it was on the edge of the Park.

The old Failand Inn was said to be almost opposite where the present one stands, there is a building which may now be used as a farm, but as you will read this you will see that the position of the old Inn is difficult to place. The old Inn was also used as the local Justices Court, but according to Mrs L Bowden who wrote two books on Failand, at least three farms were also inns.

John Stracey's manuscript of 1736 talks of a well known hostelry at Failand. In the Bristol Gazette 2nd May 1771 there was an advertisement that "Faylands Inn" was to be let. Notes of Rev. E P Vaughan of Wraxall and Failand (it is one parish) states in 1884

"This house Failand Lodge, was built in 1801 and for many years was an inn .. (and) .. that the old Inn was rebuilt by Mr George Penrose of Belmont. The magistrates meetings were held there, it stood where the present house stands. The ground before it was open Down until the 1812 enclosure. The Inn was closed about 1835"

So, counting the present one, there appear to have been three buildings, more or less in the same area.

*Some of the information about the Failand Inn was supplied to Phyllis Horman by the **late Lord Wraxall** and readers may be interested in **his comments made in May 1986** in a letter to her following an enquiry she had made regarding the "Inns" on and near the estate*

Dear Madam,

I was very interested to get your letter about the proposed book on the local Public Houses and am now writing to give you what information I have in answer to your questions.

1. The Battle Axes, was built by my great grandmother Mrs. Matilda Blanche Gibbs, widow of William Gibbs, in 1881 as a Temperance House and Estate Club. It was sold by me in 1962 to Mr. A Bird whose widow still owns it.

At about the time of the first war it ceased being used as an Estate Club and it was leased to Georges Brewery in Bristol and they eventually were taken over by Courages. Mr. Bird was one of Courages tenants and so he bought it direct from me once Courages had surrendered the lease.



The Battle Axes (*M J Tozer Collection*)

2. The Failand Inn, was bought by Mr. William Gibbs in 1874 and I then sold it in 1962 to the tenants, Courages of Bristol. This building was always leased, first to Georges and then to Courages and was never used by the Estate. From my records it appears that it was already a Public House when my great grandfather bought it and I suspect he only did so, because it was on the edge of the Park.

I realise that Failand Lodge had been the site of an earlier Public House and I do not know the history of that at all. Failand Lodge had been bought by Mr. William Gibbs in 1859 and then sold to Mr. George Down in 1925.

3. The Gordon Crest Inn, was on the site of The Battle Axes and was bought by Mr. William Gibbs in 1854. It must therefore have been demolished to make way for The New Battle Axes. The Battle Axes are the family crest of the Gibbs family.

4. Near Wraxall Church on the site of what is now the Memorial Cross in the lower Churchyard stood a beer house of sorts that was acquired by my grandfather Mr Antony Gibbs and then demolished by my father Colonel George Gibbs in about 1920 when he gave the lower churchyard to the village as an extension. I do not know what this was called but I suspect it was only very small.

5. The so called inn near Belmont mentioned by Mr. Greenhill was I think probably in a cottage now used by one of my farm staff and bought in 1869 by Mr. William Gibbs. This cottage was just off one of the minor roads which in those days came up into the Park here and which was taken out of use by my grandfather when he redesigned the drive system. I think that this cottage may really have been a small beer house or cider house and I suspect may have been used by the staff attached to Tyntesfield and Belmont. This cottage was part of the neighbouring property which had belonged to his cousin, Mr. George Gibbs, and my great grandfather was able to amalgamate the two properties quite easily. This all indicates that it was the wrong side of Belmont to be connected in any way with Kingcott Mill, now occupied by Mr. Atherton. If of course people were prepared to go from Kingcott to Wraxall and go out of their way they could have looked in to this small beer house but I have no reason to believe that this was a regular performance.

This information is rather limited but it may help you in your research.

Yours faithfully,

Wraxall

Lord Wraxall

SOURCES

The Late Lord Wraxall

Civil Defence Records at Somerset Record Office
CD/CL/1&2 CD/GEN/3/26, 27, 28 and 29.

Collections for a Parochial History of Wraxall - Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society - Rev. George Master Pub 1900 SANHS

Illustrations from the M J Tozer Collection

Illustrations as attributed

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Villages at War Peter Wright
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