

## Random Jottings of Edward Wragg

My name is Edward Wragg. I was born at a very early age, the 4th October 1900 to be exact. I was born at Clay Cross in New street in one of four houses built by the father of John Holmes, my father-in-law, better know as Pop Jack, for his four sons. New street was renamed King St. after the coronation of 1911 for King George V. This was because the street was deemed to be the best decorated of any in Clay Cross. I later learned that my wife Mary was born in the house next door to where I was born, albeit four years earlier in 1896.

My father Ernest was president of Clay Cross church from 1906 to 1910. Like Nephi, I was taught in the learning of my father. We lived at Epthorne Lane, Teversal from 1904 to 1909, then moved to Clay Cross in 1911. I went with my father through the winters of 1911 to 1914 to light the fires at church for the services. At the 1914 Conference, Apostle William Henry Greenwood suggested I be usher. I had that job until 1919.

Owing to an accident at school, when a teacher hit out at a boy next to me, who dodged the teacher's hand causing him to miss his intended target, the said boy, the nail of one of the teacher's finger's caught the pupil of my eye. From that time on, for quite a number of years, I had trouble with matter forming on my eye lashes which then fell off. This trouble re-occurred regularly over a period of six to seven years. In 1912, my father took me to church on the Wednesday evening and there I received administration from Brother Greenwood. My eye got better and I had no more trouble with it from that day to this, which is January 28th 1988.

My first trip to Sutton was in 1906. We took a train to Teversal and then from walked there to Brother Robert Rallings house in Fern street. I first came to live at Sutton in 1922 and I married Mary Holmes in 1923. She passed away in March 1943. We had three children, Edward Jnr, Mary and John.

Edward our first son was born in September 1923. In 1924 he was very ill and in and out of hospital quite a number of times. Mary and I took him to Brother and Sister Alf Shaw's one evening as Patriarch Baldwin was there. Brother and Sister Shaw lived across from us in Glen street. As we were crossing the street we me Brother G. W. Rallings, who was an ambulance man. He looked at our son and he said "Why the boy is dead, his eyes are glazed." Nevertheless we carried on; he was administered to by Brother Baldwin and he got better as some of you well know.

I also remember Brother William Henry Greenwood who was a missionary from 1906 to 1914. I think he was present at the commencement of the Sutton Branch. The early pastors of Sutton, Harvey Taylor, Robert Rallings and John Holmes - Pop Jack, all came from Clay Cross. Bishop Roderick May came to Sutton from his London headquarters for a while, but he went back to the USA when the war started. Brother Abel Hall was missionary from 1914 to 1924. Then Nephi Dewsnip from 1925 to 1927 or 28. President F.M. Smith came in 1920 and I remember Paul M. Hanson came in 1924.

The Sutton Congregation held services at first in Priestic Road school, then in Bourne street, then moved to Fern street in 1920 into an army hut. Then Brother G.V. Willis built a brick church. The rostrum and other wood work being done by Brother Harry Holmes.

In 1924 I took Brother T.W. Williams on a trip to Sherwood Forest; I borrowed a cycle for him. It was lovely weather; we went to the Royal Oak, to Robin Hood's larder, and to the Russian Hut. This is a hut which is built entirely without nails. He took my photograph while we were there. When we came back we were invited to tea by sister Flossie Marriott and Nellie Carlisle who ran a restaurant in Mansfield. It was very good of them and we had a very enjoyable tea. We arrived home around 6.30 in the evening and then I went to bed for a couple of hours as I was on nights.

I was ordained a deacon on the 4th December 1922, a teacher on the 20th January 1924 and an elder on the 13th April 1941. The pastors of the church were Brother G.V. Willis from 1920 to 1938, Brother Alf Trenham from 1939 to 1940, Frank Arrowsmith from 1940 to 1941 and myself from 1941 to 1945. Then Edgar Holmes from 1945, then John Holmes, then Edward Wragg Jnr, my eldest son, then Ralph Holmes, then John Holmes had a second period as president and the present pastor in 1988 is brother Alan Riley.

Harry Taylor played a violin; he was the chorister at Sutton for quite a number of years and was the father of Maggie and Ethel. Ethel married Walter Rallings, Maggie married Walter Simpson. I remember old Tom Worth being in Sutton after he was ordained Patriarch, he stayed at out home in Kirkby for a week.

We lived next door to Ethel and Walter Rallings; they had three daughters, Lily who married Harold Woodhouse, Jessie a twin who married Howard Shaw and May the other twin who married John Holmes. I also remember Tom Worth Jnr starting his ministry in 1924.

John Holmes, that's Pop Jack my father-in-law used, to have Magic Lantern Shows on Saturday afternoon in the wooden hut church in Fern street, then we had Religio on Saturday nights. I was baptised on 17th July 1916 and if I'm still around on the 4th October this year 1988, I shall have lived longer than any of my brothers and sisters.

And that at this moment in time is all my random jottings. Hope you enjoyed it - bye for now.