

THE OGBORNE

**FAMILY
OF PLOUGHMEN.**



**WHO PLOUGHED INTO
THE HISTORY BOOKS.**

WITH OVER 1,000 PRIZES.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

When ploughman John Ogborne, died 90 years old, a national newspaper, in an editorial, referring to the fact that he and 18 of his descendants had won over 1,000 first Prizes and Championships, stated,

“That this sort of family record, for which we shall soon search in vain, the annals of our countryside. As the enclosure destroyed the English Yeoman, so the tractor will presumably drive out the Ploughmen.

It would be absurd to pretend that there is not much gained in this progress. But there will also be loss, and the career of such a man as John Ogborne, is an illustration of how great that loss may be..

Weston Mercury.

*By John Bailey,
May 1965.*

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

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INTRODUCTION

“OLD JOHN” as we mere 70ish great grand children, have christened him. Mainly to make it easier for us to relate to him, as in those days, the boys nearly always took one of their father’s names. And as they often only had “John, Charles, and William.” and a few others, to choose from. It has made it very difficult to track them back beyond OLD JOHN, especially as he was fatherless at three weeks old.

THE BEGINNING

The story began in 1949 when Anne was going out with John and he would take her to the local ploughing matches. Anne noticed how enthusiastic the family were, about their ploughing, so she decided to cut out everything there was, about the OGBORNE’S in the local papers. Fortunately, by doing this, Anne was able to amass a large collection of photo`s, and paper cuttings, a lot of which, have been used here.

When Doreen came home on holiday, from Canada, in 1970 as she was staying with Anne they decided to go to an auction, at Clevedon. Here some of Vic. Ogborne`s horse harness, where for sale, because Doreen wanted something to take back to Canada, but alas, it was too dear. So on returning home, Anne showed Doreen, her collection and the “seed was sown”.

In the 1970`s Kathleen became interested, and the two of them, started to go around all the family, asking for items to form a family history, hence the collection was started.

Then, in the 80`s, I, Keith, came along, with my brother, Peter, and with the aid of a computer, we were able to copy it all onto disc for the family`s future use.

I have decided to go with “OLD JOHN” at the moment, because if it was not for his achievements, with his family, in the ploughing fields of North Somerset, then, I would not be writing this, and you would not be reading it.

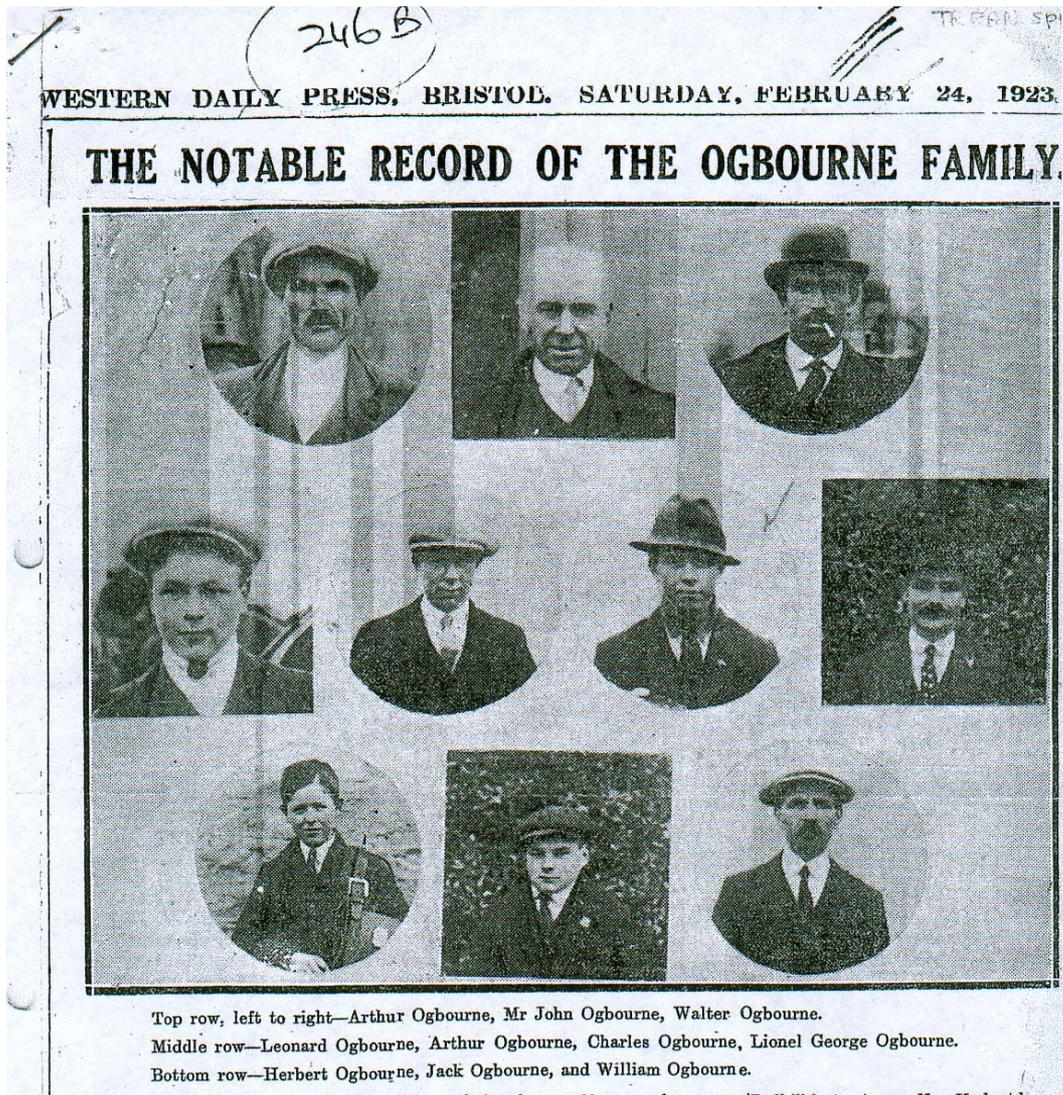
There is no tangible evidence of his achievements, until around 1923, when the papers were beginning to take notice of the family, and put stories, together with photographs, in their papers, because, they were now starting to win prizes.

The other reason I am starting with “OLD JOHN” is because anything, and anybody before him are either in the churchyard, or the Records Office and they will be there for another day.

EARLIEST PAPER CUTTINGS.

The earliest written word we have of "OLD JOHN" is this one in "The Western Daily Press" Bristol Saturday, February 24th 1923 entitled "The Notable Record of the Ogborne Family".

The Notable Record of the Ogborne Family



CHARLES, was my father. WILLIAM, was my grandfather. JOHN, was my great grandfather Keith.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

“It has been writ, that he who made two blades of grass to grow instead of one was a benefactor of mankind, but surely a man who is father of six sons, each man a ploughman, and who induce the land to produce a loaf of bread when there otherwise would be none, indicates not something attempted, but something done.”.. Wrote Eldred G F Walker... “In my wanderings on the agricultural earth I have not met with anything to compare with the wonderful ploughing records of the Ogborne family. They are not of those race of ploughmen who purchase a prize plough with all its fitments and equipments to compete with at a local match, perhaps win a prize, and then take it home, free it from its adherent earth, wipe the paint, grease the polished areas, and then put it away in a quiet corner, until ploughing match days come again. In these days it is rather more than rule to pass over minor industries, and sneer at things agricultural because there dose not happen to be so much money in it as there is in commercial undertakings. Mr Ogborne, of Old Hill, Winford, instead of longing for the money which, being a bit of a farmer, he naturally had not, and therefore which he could not spend on his sons, sought to instil into them that by utilising their hands, properly assisted by a certain amount of brain power, they might become a fortune in themselves rather than an incubus on him, as they grew older. So at an early age he brought them up to work and hold the plough handles in such a way as to turn the straight furrow , that was in turn not only to provide themselves, but other people, with bread. It’s a family of which Somerset may well be proud.

Last week I journeyed up Winford way and found Mr Ogborne, who is in his 77th year, digging out parsnips in one of the best cultivated fields that I have set eyes on for some time. It was a veritable smallholder`s field, a little of everything, and all looking well. And yet a few years ago I remember passing that field, before Mr Ogborne had it when it was a veritable bed of couch. It is no light task for a man when past 60 years of age to undertake such a task and accomplish it so successfully.

Now Mr Ogborne first blinked at the sunshine down Flax Bourton way; for fear that the surroundings might not prove congenial, they took him on to the neighbourhood of Nailsea, where he stayed to the matured boyhood of ten years. When he just went to work. He was happy in his selection of Winford, for there he got in the employ of the late Mr W Childs, who taught him to plough so well that he began to win prizes.

Then he went a-courting, met Miss S. A. Griffin, and she in turn became Mrs. Ogborne. Then he looked after the woods for a while, but returned to the plough, took a prize at Wrington, and when he was 60 years of age won the silver cup at the Winford Ploughing Match. “And I would go there again next week” he said “if it was not fear of whacking my sons.”

And so at 77 he now resides at Old Hill and his wife at 75 regrets that she cannot help him as much as formerly, but someone must look after the trim home and tidy the garden. Such is a brief resume of the now grandfather of the family.

Now his sons have won innumerable prizes. The eldest son, Mr J.C.Ogborne, who now resides at Redfield Lodge Farm, Bitton, before he was 21 years of age, won 32

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firsts, four seconds, and two thirds. Then he secured a most important appointment with Messrs Ransomes, Sims, and Jefferies, Ipswich, as their ploughing expert, which he still continues to hold. During a period of 29 years he has been present at hundreds of ploughing matches in England and Wales, and coached scores of successful ploughmen. Not to mix matters up, he has a son Leonard, who has been successful as a ploughman, and as he married the youngest daughter of that veteran ploughman, Mr Arnold Matthews. If there is anything in the laws of heredity Mr J.C. Ogborne`s grandsons will be ploughmen indeed.

My next journey took me to Redhill, Quarries Farm, where I called upon Mr William Ogborne, and here I found him with his team just hitched on to his plough for a little trial trip to show how the work should be done for Winford. And who, indeed, could do it better, for has he not won 106 first prizes, 10 seconds, 3 thirds, and many specials, besides silver cups.. He went to five matches, five years in a succession and took five first prizes. He went up as far as Kingscote, and beat the Gloucestershire men – a marvellous record. Now it so happened at one time that there was a certain Goliath of the ploughing world, one Mr Woodward, of Herefordshire, who came to the Somerset ploughing match dinners, and said that he could bring a ploughman from Herefordshire who could whack any Somerset man into fits...The challenge was for £5. At the Blagdon and Charterhouse dinner, the challenge was accepted by Mr W. Ogborne, the match took place at Dundry, and Mr W. Ogborne won.

Now Mr Ogborne has little faith in ploughs rusting out, but that he believes in wearing them out, the two beasts held by his sons will show, and both of those boys, or rather, young men “as thur be no bwoys nowadays”, are ploughmen. Arthur Ogborne, aged 20, has 6 firsts..., 2 seconds, and 1 third... To his credit, besides specials; and Charles Ogborne, aged 18, has 3 firsts, and 1 second. Still, it will be some time before they can top their dad`s record, of taking eleven champion prizes in succession. There is evidently a considerable rise in the cost of living for a prize ploughman. Mr Ogborne assured me that the plough with which he won so many prizes, in the days gone by, cost £6 10s, whilst last year, he had to give £40 for two similar ploughs for his sons. This indicates that it costs a modern farmer a goodly sum to produce a sack of cheap wheat, which converted into flour and then bread, is sold at a price that does not lower the cost of living.

Not far from William, lives Mr Herbert Ogborne, at Corner Pool, the third son in this family of ploughmen, and Corner Pool and Broadfield Down are truly wonderful places in the annals of local ploughmen. Now, Herbert, being third boy, of course had not the chance of his older brothers, but this is his record. Up to the Wrington match last year he had taken 11 first prizes in succession, then he got knocked out on Mendip, where the judges` decision that time, was much questioned. He was also placed second to his brother in the Somerset raid on the Wick ploughing match funds last autumn, and was third to his brothers at Redhill last autumn. Now Herbert, has a son, Leonard, and this is the youngster`s record ; 1910 two firsts; Mendip, 4th ; 1918 Redhill , 2nd,; 1920, Redhill, 3rd ; Mendip 4th ; 1922, North Somerset, 2nd ; Mendip, 3rd, Redhill, 1st, And then a messenger was sent for the younger boy, Berty Ogborne, who was fetcher from Farmer Ashman`s, near by, and this sturdy boy began at Redhill, by taking 2nd, and has taken similar honours there in 1921 and 1922.

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My next journey took me to the prettiest and best farm in Chew Stoke, and there I found the fourth son, Lionel George Ogborne, installed and surrounded by his growing family. Now it is his particular delight to relate that he had secured 32 ploughing prizes before he obtained his best prize of all, by getting married. Amongst the former successes were the Winford silver cup, sundry plate, and harness, and first at Dundry. Since becoming married, he has not had time to attend to prize winning; still, for all that, he has added another three firsts, and found time to tutor his son John; who he started at the plough handles when he was 13 years of age. He has since then ploughed four times on Mendip and won three second prizes in succession, and last year took the first....not such a bad record, for a boy of 17 years...

Now the next son, Alfred, also resides at Winford. In his younger days he took to the plough handles and won a few prizes, but he considered that his dad and his brothers worked too hard at those plough handles, and so he resolved to seek his bread in easier form than growing it by means of his plough still his record of; ten firsts, four seconds, and one third, was not such a bad commencement if he had only continued at it. Now there remains of course the household pet, Walter. He was dad`s youngest boy, and being like the younger rising generation, a bit smart. He has managed to annex two of the Winford silver cups, a silver watch to be always on time., a wheelbarrow to wheel the potatoes in home, and a set of carvers, to cut up the family joint, when cooked. He managed to bring a few pound notes away from Mendip, to have a good time with, if he so desired, and he had a special...biscuit barrel, on Mendip. He took a special set of bodkins, guaranteed not to break and when he made his first start,, he won his first prize, a case of Maxwell`s whisky. Whether this put the proper spirit into him or not, he has since then taken over 30 prizes, though of course not all first. He has a boy aged ten whose fingers long to grasp the plough handles as daddy had done before him.

Such is a record of which any grandfather may well be proud. I doubt if it can be equalled, in this world`s agriculture , Here is the true secret of educating and bringing up a family on the land, and not away from it in obedience to the modern trend. Here the lads have grown to turn there own straight furrows on the land as well as in life, and walk them truly to the headlands. The material benefit to the country is great, as it leads to the keeping of horses and the production of home-grown food. There`s a lot in Old Somerset yet, and it makes one think whether the glittering ploughshares of peace are far more valuable to us than the gleaming swords of war.

Long may the Ogborne family continue their work”

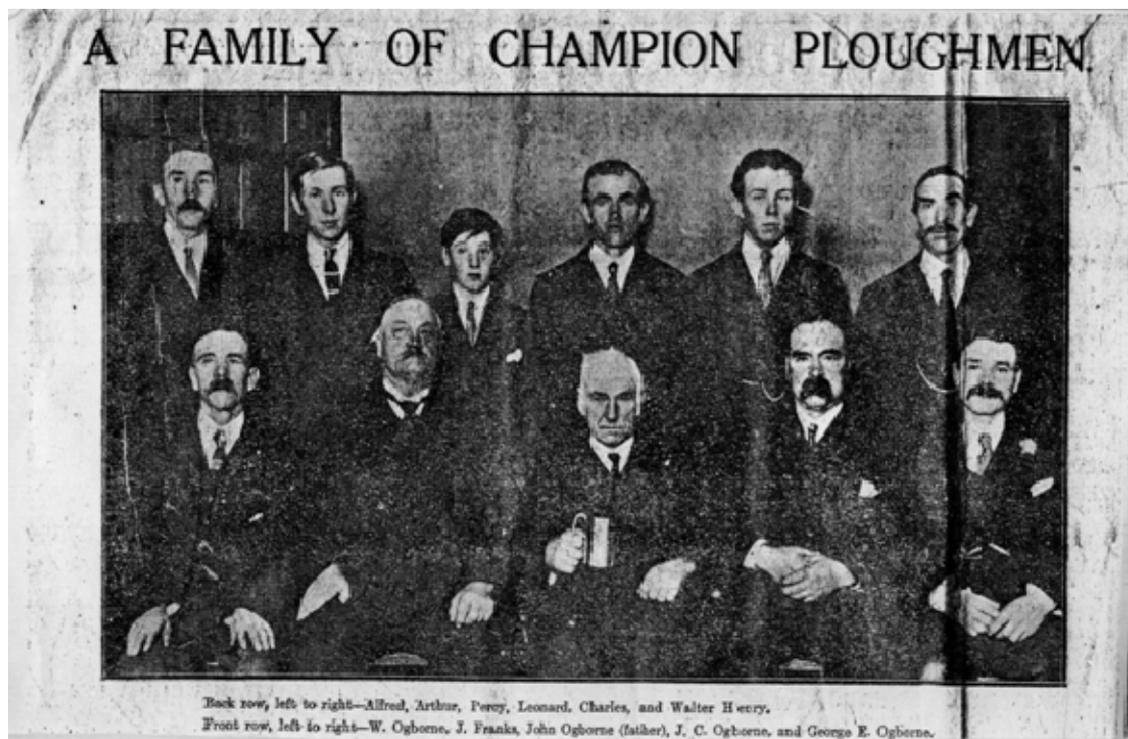
ELDRED G. F. WALKER
("North Somerset")

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

A Family of Champion Ploughmen

This cutting is dated November 8th 1924.

The paper unknown



This, again was written by “NORTH SOMERSET”

“As I briefly mentioned in my report of the Wrington, Burrington, and Farmers’ Union ploughing match At Redhill this week, Mr John Ogborne was the proud recipient of a silver cup, presented to him by that Society for his services to ploughing. The secret had been well kept, and when, at the dinner at the Darlington Arms, Redhill, that well known farmer, Mr Joseph Franks, the chairman of the committee, rose, and his words were awaited with interest. He said that he had a most unusual, though pleasant, duty to perform, and that was make a presentation to Mr John Ogborne, the father of ploughmen. He understood there were three generations of the Ogborne family present, and all were first prize ploughmen. He had to hand Mr John Ogborne a silver cup on behalf of the Society for services to ploughing.”

Last year, in the ‘Western Daily Press’ of February 24th. I wrote of the notable record of the Ogborne family, in the well ploughed fields of the West. It was a record which I doubt can be equalled in the world. Mr John Ogborne resides at Old

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Hill, Winford. He is in his 78th year, and can still plough a furrow that few of the modern generation can excel as regards neatness and straightness. He began learning when a boy 10 years old. He just went to work. The late Mr W. Childs, of Winford, early instilled in him life's best lesson to "plough the straight furrow," and he has never forgotten that. When he was in his sixtieth year, he won the silver cup at the Winford ploughing match, and, turning round, remarked, "I would go there again, and do it again, were it not for fear of whacking my sons." If he went now he would have to contend with his grandsons as well. But Measter John has not been content to keep his skill to himself. He and his able wife have reared a family of six sons, each of whom is a ploughman, and follow well in the footsteps of "Dear Old Dad."

Take the eldest. J.C. Ogborne, who now resides at Bitton. Before he was 21 years of age he had won:-

- 32 first
- 4 seconds
- And 2 thirds

And this brought to him a most handsome tie pin of a GOLD PLOUGHSHARE, presented by Ransomes, Sims, and Jeffries. There was only six made, of which 5 were won by Ogborne's.

Gold Ploughshare Tie Pin

This is a photo of the actual tie pin.

Taken 2004.



GOLDEN TIE PIN PRESENTED BY RANSOMES
TO

MR JOHN CHARLES OGBORNE (BITTON)

ACTUAL SIZE 4" . ONLY 6 MADE . OF WHICH THE OGBORNE FAMILY WON FIVE

With the tie pin, came an offer of being ploughing expert to that world-renowned firm of ploughmakers, Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Jeffries, Ipswich. Not to mix

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

matters up, his son Leonard married the daughter of that veteran plough turner, Arnold Matthews, of Wick, Glos and, of course if there is anything in the laws of heredity. Mr J.C.Ogborne`s grandsons will be ploughmen of the best.....

Then the second son William Ogborne, of Redhill, has won well over 100 first prizes for ploughing besides specials etc galore. His eldest son Arthur has already scooped many firsts and specials and Charles, the second son, has done well, he has taken first prizes where his brother has not competed. Near-by William lives his brother, Herbert, who owing to illness, does not appear in our photo, or either of his two sons. Herbert, being third, had not the chance of the older ones, but he got the nose of his plough in where he could, and has taken a dozen first prizes in succession. His son, Leonard, has won many prizes, and even little Berty, his brother, has several seconds.

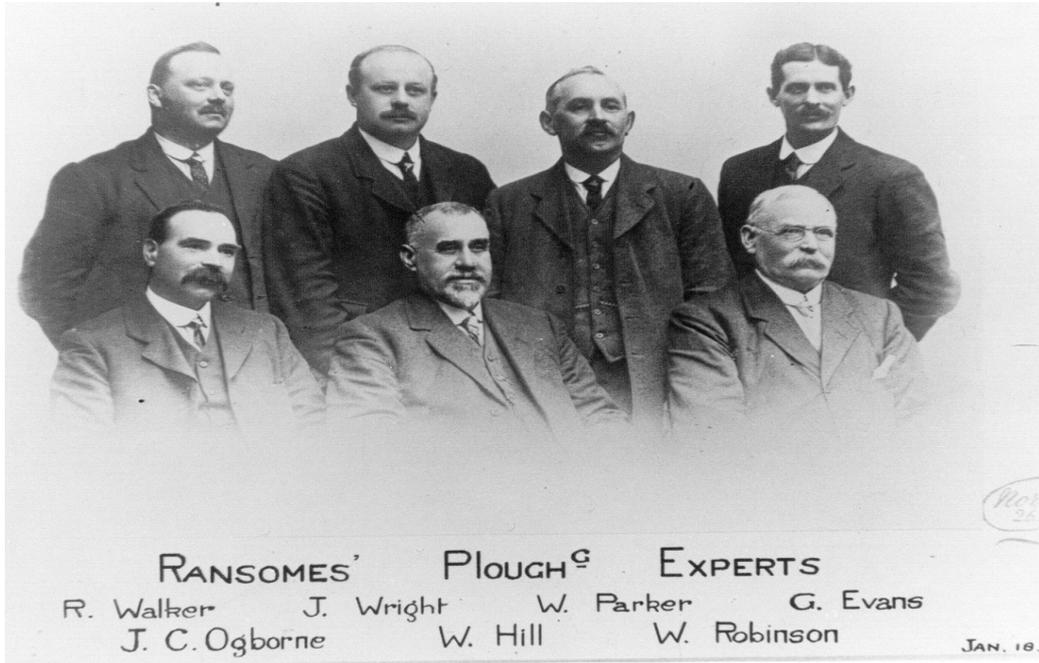
Lionel George Ogborne, the fourth son, resides at Chew Stoke. He has just won 32 ploughing prizes "afore he got married," and he has a little son, Jack, who ploughed furrows and won prizes, when he was 16 years. He also, was called to where ploughing matches are unknown. Then there is Alfred. When he was young he ploughed straight furrows, and won prizes, but mixed with townfolk, and found his bread in easier form than gaining it by means of the plough. Still his record of ten firsts...four seconds...and a third...augured well, if he had stuck to it. Then there remains old dad`s pet Walter. Though the youngest boy, he managed to win a pair of silver cups, a case of carvers...a wheelbarrow...and a biscuit barrel...thus furnishing the house and providing for the family; and he has a little boy who seeks to hold the handles that should turn many a straight furrow.

It`s for all this that Granddad John Ogborne was remembered and honoured by those astute farmers at Redhill. For all this the nation has bestowed honours on men for doing less than John Ogborne has. But then some think that the ploughmen constitute the backbone of England.

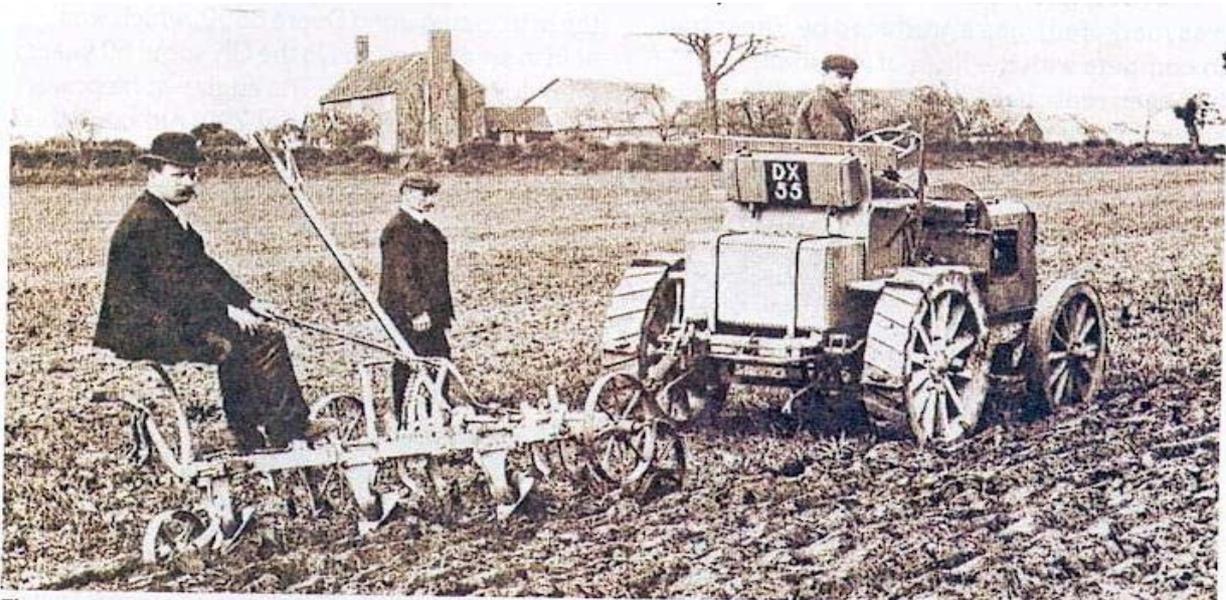
ELDRED G. F. WALKER
("North Somerset")

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Ransomes Plough Experts



**Taken from "old glory" March 2009.
Entitled early developments in Ipswich.
Ransomes tractors 1903-1920.**



The prototype DX 55, shown with a three-furrow trailing plough, possibly in the Suffolk area. The vast majority of publicity photos which have survived show the tractor either with this combination or with a trailer loaded with corn sacks.

IS THIS J.C. OGBORNE.??

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John Charles on Duty??



When we were up at Bitton in 2004 talking to John Henry, John Charles`s grandson, about the tie pin, his grandfather had won. John H said that he could remember when he was alot younger!! and John C was working for Ransomes Sims and Jeffries, there was a three Acre field, on the farm full of Ransomes` ploughs and other implements. John C. went to work in Ipswich, about 1912, and was still working there in 1932.

Now you can see the trouble we had with John Charles`, and John Henry`, etc.!!!

And yes John Henry was a champion,

William Ogborne.

Wrighton, Burrington, And Farmers Union Ploughing Society Annual Match

WRINGTON BURRINGTON
AND FARMERS UNION
ANNUAL PLOUGHING
SOCIETY
REDHILL SOMERSET.

WILLIAM OGBORNE
(REDHILL)
PLOUGHING,
HE HAS NEVER
BEEN BEATEN,
AND HAS WON OVER
150 1ST CLASS
PRIZES, AND
CHAMPIONSHIPS,
AGAINST ALL
COMERS.



The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

“OLD JOHN.”

“Old John.” was born at Butcombe, North Somerset. On 12 May 1847. His father was a Charles Ogborne, and his mother was Charlotte Ogborne. Nee. Croker. Charles was classed as a labourer. His mother’s home was Butcombe. It appears from the Birth Certificate, that as John was registered on 4th June 1847, and as has been seen in the text, he was fatherless at three weeks. Poor Charlotte had two Registrations to deal with. And not able to read or write, she signed the birth certificate with “X”

His early young life must have been very tumultuous, because when he was three weeks old, he was fatherless.... How Charles died we have yet to find out....and taken to his grandfather... also called John...At Flax Bourton. Who exclaimed; another mouth to feed,!

Charles died of Phthisis 26-6-1847 at Shepton Mallet. Aged 22 years. See death certificate at the back. As per Kathleen 2010.

The Western Daily Press Bristol reported...”Mr Ogborne first blinked at the sunshine down Flax Bourton way; For fear that the surroundings might not prove congenial, they took him on to the neighbourhood of Nailsea where he stayed to the matured boyhood of ten years.”

The Bristol Evening World. Reported;”At the age of six years. John went up to Felton. And, with bird clapper and voice! Sought to starve Farmer Childs rooks, and feed himself, all for eighteen pence a week; He worked regularly for Farmer Childs, He helped to bring in the hay, in the “Dimsey”. Then into the dimmer light of a tallow dip (candle). He would have to stand on a box to feed the chaff cutter, for the carter, who turned the heavy handle.

It was at the age of eleven, after having had some practise beforehand, when John first go his chance of ploughing at a match. He asked Farmer Childs if he could borrow a pair horses and the plough, which he brought back at the end of the day together with the First prize his fame of a wonderfully straight markout and furrows spread over the countryside”

A Quote from the “Men Who Ploughed into the History Books” reads; “Getting on for 200 years ago a Somerset man, John Billingsley, writing a survey of Somerset agriculture, stated that tillage on Mendip was best started in September or October. The instrument made use of, is a strong foot plough, without wheels, costing two guineas. Four horses, or six oxen will turn about three fourths of an acre in eight hours”

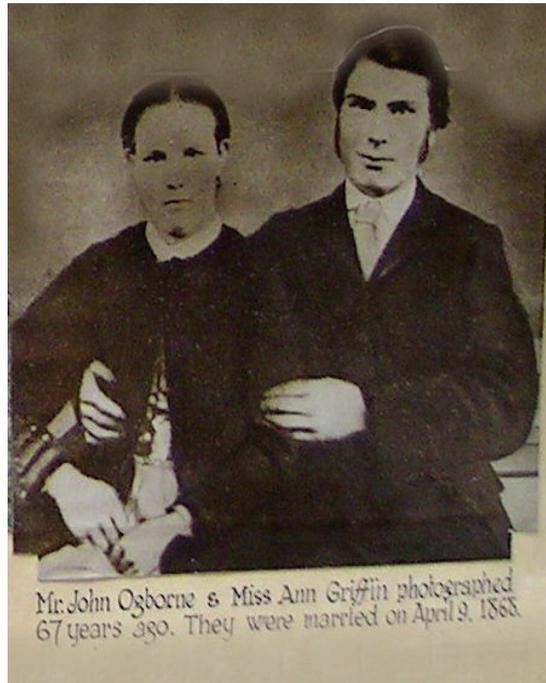
Back with the Bristol Evening World. It wrote...”In those days country life was not as it is now. In fact, at the first ploughing match held at Felton. The teams comprised of six men pulling each plough”

All I can say is OUCH!!

JOHN and SARAH ANN.

John Ogborne, aged 21 years and Sarah Ann Griffin, aged 19 years were married in the parish church of SS Philip and Jacob in the City of Bristol. On the 9th April, 1868, by Thomas H. Barnett. It appears, on their marriage certificate that they both resided in the Tower Hill area of the City.

John and Sarah Ogborne



***They Seem To Have What Could Pass For A Smile.
None of the 12 children yet !!***

SNIPPET

When I was researching for this book. Anne`s husband John, told of the time He was...Learning to plough...With his grandfather William. Watching him.. After he had marked out,...ther was a bend in one side.. William told John to “take that ther` bend out next time”...But when he got back naxt time... looking round...it was still there. Grandfather gave him such a “dressing down” that it wasn`t there next time !!!

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

1881 BRITISH HOUSEHOLD CENSUS RECORD

We only have this record at the present time. But we are still working on this; the reason for putting this copy in now is because of the significance of CORNER POOL Farm. Which for those who don't know, is now Bristol International Airport.

“OLD JOHN” at the time, is only living in one of the cottages`. With his ever growing family, he now has seven children and working as a woodman. He must have designs on the farm because his eldest son J.C.Ogborne, is now ten years old. We next hear of the farm as the venue of the famous centenary ploughing match (coming later.) It was then farmed by Herbert Ogborne. Later he was mentioned when part of the farm was acquired to enlarge the wartime R.A.F. Lulsgate Bottom.

Household Record

1881 British Census

[Search results](#) | [Download](#)

[Previous Household](#) [Next Household](#)

Household:

| Name | Relation | Marital Status | Gender | Age | Birthplace | Occupation/Disability |
|-------------------|----------|----------------|--------|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| John OGBURN | Head | M | Male | 33 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Woodman |
| Ann OGBURN | Wife | M | Female | 32 | Wrington, Somerset, England | |
| John C. OGBURN | Son | U | Male | 10 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Scholar |
| Matilda OGBURN | Daughter | U | Female | 9 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Scholar |
| Alice A. OGBURN | Daughter | U | Female | 6 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Scholar |
| Wm Jas. OGBURN | Son | U | Male | 5 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Scholar |
| Louisa OGBURN | Dau | U | Female | 3 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Scholar |
| Herbert E. OGBURN | Son | | Male | 1 | Wrington, Somerset, England | Scholar |
| Lionel G. OGBURN | Son | | Male | 1 d | Wrington, Somerset, England | |

Source Information:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dwelling | Corner Pool Cottage |
| Census Place | Wrington, Somerset, England |
| Family History Library Film | 1341583 |
| Public Records Office Reference | RG11 |
| Piece / Folio | 2424 / 116 |
| Page Number | 11 |

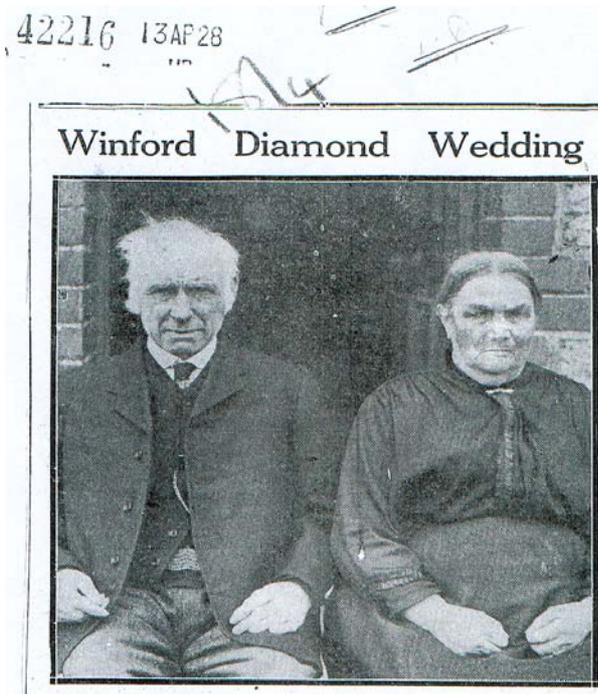
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The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

WINFORD DIAMOND WEDDING.

“There were festivities at Prospect House, Old Hill, Winford, on Monday”, writes Mr Eldred G.F.Walker, “North Somerset”, “when Mr John Ogborne and Mrs Ogborne celebrated their Diamond wedding. They were married at the church of St. Philip and Jacob, Bristol on the 9th of April 1868 and perchance there has seldom been a young couple start life on willing hands and healthful hopes. With such world recording results, for truly they have been the parents of a family of ploughmen, who severally and jointly, have won upwards of 1.000 prizes and championships on the well-ploughed fields of England. They had a family of seven boys and five girls. Six boys and three daughters survive. There are 35 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. They both still take an interest in their agricultural pursuits, and barring a twinge of rheumatics, look forward to completing their century. They received many congratulations during the day, and they proudly displayed those marriage lines. Truly Sarah Ann Griffin has been a worthy partner to John, in providing a family who’s many and straight furrows, no other family has equalled. It’s an honourable record of those who sought it not, but found fame”.

John and Sarah Ogborne



I WONDER WHERE THE SMILE WENT. ..

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

The following quote is from an unknown paper

“WINFORD. 1928.

Congratulations to Head of Family of Ploughmen.

Many congratulations and good wishes were tendered this week, Mr. and Mrs, Ogborne, Prospect House Winford. On the occasion of their diamond wedding, they having been married at St Philip and Jacob Church, Bristol, sixty years ago. Mr Ogborne is the head of the well-known family of ploughmen; he won his first prize when a boy of 12 years of age. From that time he continued competing at all leading matches with great success, winning innumerable prizes, which in the old days were chiefly Harness, and Money.

One of his most valued possessions is a silver cup given him a few years ago by the Wrington Ploughing Society as a token of gratitude for his services in training young men to become experts.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ogborne resided at Redhill for many years, then at Felton, they have occupied their present holding for some years. Wages at the time of their marriage were thirteen shillings per week, and later rose to fourteen. The hours of labour being unlimited and no weekly half-holidays.

Mr. Ogborne, who is in his 82nd year, is still keenly interested in his farm, but, being troubled by rheumatism, has to leave much of the active work to others, who, however, are closely supervised by him. Of their children, the six sons are all champion ploughmen. Altogether, the family between them, have taken more than 900 prizes in various parts of England .surely a record for one family, the members of which are intent upon still adding to the list of successes.

Mr. Joe Franks, of Langford, recalled coming back from a competition at Frome (a distance of 27 miles) in the 1920`s, bringing his horse team with him, at one in the morning. On that occasion he was accompanied by perhaps Somerset`s best-known champion ploughman, Mr William Ogborne. You could bowl a marble down one of his furrows and it would go on and on, said Mr Franks.”

(Man-o-Mendip)

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

THE WESTON – SUPER – MARE GAZETTE. Saturday 17th Oct. 1931.

The report is of the...Oldest Ploughing Society...NamelyThe Wrington and Burrington. This year it is celebrating its 99th year. "OLD JOHN" would already be 81 years old, and would have given up ploughing long ago..

In the report by "NORTH SOMERSET". He wrote;" *The chief attraction of the afternoon was of course, the ploughing. The work in this section was extraordinarily good. And the judges had considerable difficulty in making their awards. As usual the Ogborne family were to the fore, and it was pleasing to see Mr Ogborne, who has lately been ill, out and about again...The ploughing judges at the time were, Mr H. Patch. Felton. And Mr G. Ball, Backwell.*

Some of the Ogborne family prize winners were;

Thatching men under 25. 1st B. Ogborne Redhill.

Rick, not less than 8 tons, 1st D. Ogborne. (under 18s)

Ploughing Open Champion Class; 1st .H. Ogborne. Redhill.

2nd J Stevens, Redhill.

3rd L Ogborne Redhill

Under 21s. 1st R. Ogborne.

Under 18s. 1st D. Ogborne

Horses, Best Pair, property of a tenant farmer; 3rd. W Ogborne, Redhill.

Horses Property of any member 1st and Silver Cup H.Ogborne.

2nd. Capt. Wills.

3rd. W Ogborne."

N.B. Douglas`s family still have his two cups for under 18 years, for thatching and ploughing. And photo`s are on the disc.

Steady Lad Steady



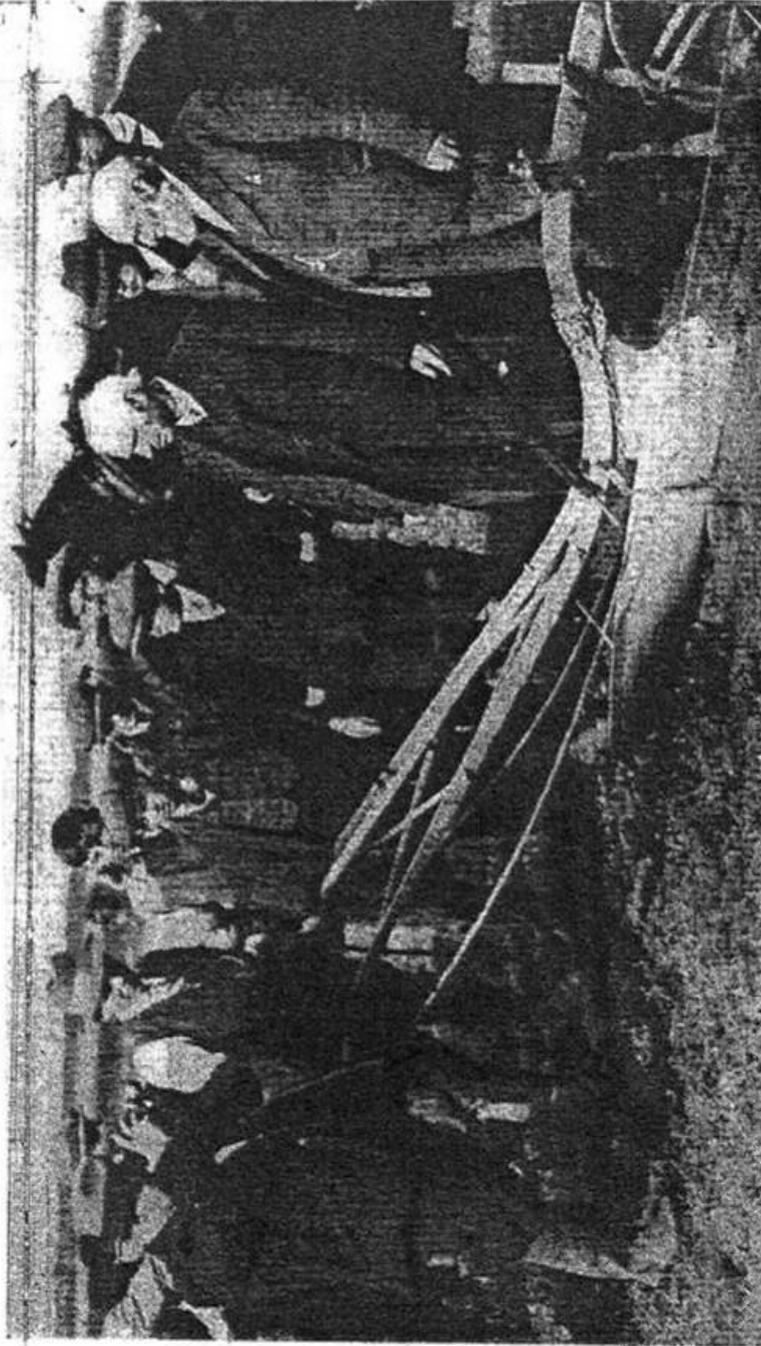
Mr George Ogborne gives his nephew, Douglas, a helping hand with his first furrow at the Wrington ploughing contest.”

Often in those days, to be able to keep a cup, you had to win it three times in successive years. So Douglas must have been winning when he was 15/16 years old.

Bristol Mirror Thursday. October 13, 1932.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1932.

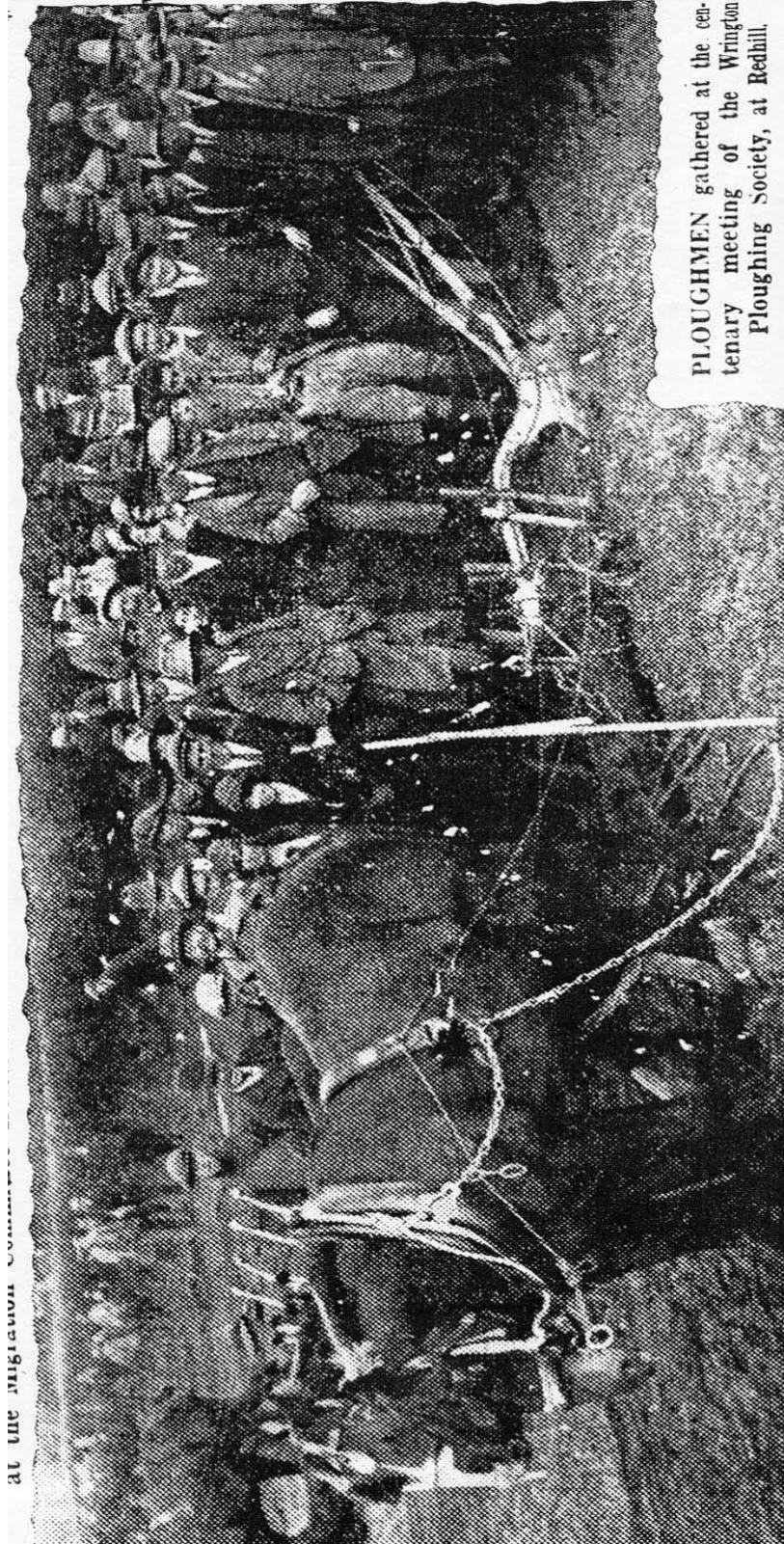
WRINGTON PLOUGHING



OLD CHAMPIONS—Mr. Sidney Hill, a life president of Wrington Ploughing Society, filming two old ploughing champions, Mr John Ogborne (86) and Mr W. Compton (85). On the plough is a grandson, Mr L. Ogborne.

“OLD CHAMPIONS” Mr Sidney Hill, a life president of Wrington Ploughing Society, filming two old ploughing champions, Mr John Ogborne (86), and Mr W. Compton.(85). On the plough is a grandson, Mr L. Ogborne.

Bristol Mirror. Thursday. October 13, 1932.



PLOUGHMEN gathered at the centenary meeting of the Wrington Ploughing Society, at Redhill.

BRISTOL EVENING WORLD.

SOMERSET PLOUGHMEN HONOUR THEIR CRAFT.

FARMERS CELEBRATE CENTENARY. OCT. 13. 1932.

KING. HEADS TRIBUTES TO A SOMERSET FAMILY.

Sons of the Somerset soil celebrated the centenary of the Wrington-Burrington and Farmers` Union Ploughing Society. At the Recreation Hall, Redhill. Last night. The climax of the evening came when Mr H.W.Berry, secretary of this oldest body of its kind in England. Stood on a chair, called for silence and said:

“I am now about to reveal a matter about which I have been sworn to secrecy for some weeks past. But before I make this known. I want you all to stand at attention and sing, “God Save The King”

FIVE CHAMPIONS.

The National Anthem resounded through the crowded hall, and then Mr Berry read a letter headed “Buckingham Palace”, expressing the congratulations of the King and Queen to Mr John Ogborne and Mrs Ogborne of Chilly Hill Farm, Chew Stoke near Bristol on their long span of married life- 64 years. And on the remarkable ploughing record of the family, of which John Ogborne is the venerable head.

FRAMED SOUVENIR.

Mr John Ogborne was then presented with a framed souvenir of his family`s unrivalled ploughing record. The souvenir was a gift of the “Evening World,” and it was presented to Mr Ogborne by Mr Froom Tyler, Literary Editor of the “Evening World,” who made the presentation in the unavoidable absence of Mr,D.T.Lewis managing editor. Farmers and farm workers from all parts of North Somerset crowded the hall at Redhill to witness the presentation of prizes to the winners of the Competitions organised by this 100 year old Society.



The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

Royal Message To A Family Of Ploughmen.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

7th October, 1932.

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to the notice of The King and Queen that you and Mrs. Ogborne have been married for 64 years, and I am commanded to convey to you both Their Majesties' hearty congratulations on this long span of happy married life.

The King and Queen are also interested to know of the remarkable ploughing record of your family, of which you may be justly proud. Their Majesties trust that you and Mrs. Ogborne may retain your health and vigour and be spared to each other for many more years.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D. Mitchell', written in dark ink.

Mr. John Ogborne,
Chilly Hill Farm,
Chew Stoke,
Near Bristol.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

To accompany the photo`s and reports of the centenary match. Together with the presentations and prizes, "ELDRED WALKER". "North Somerset" wrote;

"An old-world home at Flax Bourton nearly 90years ago. The rocking of a cradle beside the kitchen fire.

Lying in it a broad-shouldered little fatherless mite, three weeks old that day. That little babe was John Ogborne, to-day a progenitor of the world`s finest family of Prize-winning ploughmen.

And now, as John and his wife sit side by side, they are perusing a letter of congratulations from the King and Queen.

Surely the world has something for these who endeavour by work to make their way in it.

SCARING ROOKS.

The cradle and babe was taken to Grandfather Ogborne. Another little mouth to feed.

At the age of six years, John went up to Felton, and with bird clapper and voice, sought to starve Farmer Child`s rooks and feed himself, for eighteen pence a week – sixpence more than any other boy was getting.

John worked regularly for Farmer Childs. He helped to bring in the hay in the "dimsey," then in the dimmer light of a tallow dip, duly mellowed by a well-smoked horn lantern.

John would have to stand on an old tub and feed the old chaff box, while the carter cut the chaff. John whistled and dodged the clods of earth aimed at his head if he didn`t keep the horses straight in the furrow.

How John`s hands itched to hold the plough handles. One day, the ploughman got Drunk, and went to sleep on the headland. John and the horses, unaided, finished the day`s work.

NINE DAY WONDER

At eleven years of age, John heard there was to be a ploughing match at Felton.

He persuaded his master to lend him a plough and a pair of horses; At the end of the day, he brought them back...after winning first prize...

The fame of the boy`s wonderfully straight markout and furrows, spread over the countryside; in fact it was a veritable nine days` wonder.

Destiny and self-exerted skill had seemingly, plainly indicated little John Ogborne`s career.

In those days country life was not as it is now. In fact, at the first ploughing match held at Felton. The teams comprised of six men pulling each plough. One Thomas Pool being the first prize-winner.

John`s most interesting youthful success was when, at 12 years of age, he ploughed in Farmer Boyd`s field and won the first prize,...a blind halter. To this day he remembers that it was a good one...

IMPROVED PLOUGHS.

There was a dinner in the evening at the George Inn, Felton, kept by Host Patch. "A Mr Perham, was chairman, and he put the halter over my head and neck and led me round the room." John tells to this day.

Two years later he went up to Mendip to plough for a silver cup. There were 40 competitors. He ploughed so well that he was offered £2 for his chance. But he had neither the £2 nor the cup.

Ploughs were improved. A blacksmith named Edwards, at Barrow Gurney, brought out ploughs with long breasts, and gained an immense reputation for his workmanship, like Mr Eacott, who won at Cleave for shoeing horses and making drags.

National makers began turning out ploughs. John ploughed with Howard`s, then Hornsby`s, and then settled down to Ransome`s. But he still persists that it was not the plough but the boys who did the work...

John had grown up to be a young man, and like all country lads, indulged in "a bit o` courtin`." He had "sort of fixed his eye" on Sarah Ann Griffin, of Felton. Her waist was all right, says John, but `twere the crinoline she wore. They don`t wear `um now...

Anyway, John persuaded Ann to share his future, and off they went to Bristol, with the result that the following marriage lines were issued, still carefully treasured by Mrs. Ogborne:

"John Ogborne and Sarah Ann Griffin were married in the Parish Church of SS. Philip and Jacob, in the City of Bristol, the ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight as appears by the Register Book of the said Parish – Thomas H. Barnett

John was a master man. John had a wife and these two had determination to face the world on a wage of 13s. per week. It was good money then, John adds I wonder how many would think so now

He used to take the grist of wheat up to Felton Windmill on the common to be ground into "flour". He can well remember three of the millers – Ham, Gambrel, and Bacon. He was not so fortunate in going to Rickford Mill. He can remember seeing paper being made there, the tremendous fight being set up by the men from Rowberrow and Shipham, at the Inn, and how they departed with the grist.

"They were a terrible lot then. They used to come to Burrington, and upset the spare mows of wheat, whip the sheaves, and away with the wheat. Not that Broadfield Down was much better. There was a man who stole a sack of Barley at Corner Pool Farm, and carried it on his back all the way to Downside, and hid it under his bed, there were no police then; only constables with boxer hats"

THE GOLDEN PLOUGHSHARE.

"As my family grew up, I learned them to plough and we won a lot of prizes. Then several came down from Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, to the Mendip matches to show how to do it, but we were too strong for them. I have had some times on Mindip,

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

frost, snow and fog. Once, I had to put up a row of trap lamps to mark out with. Another time I stretched a piece of string along the ground, measuring in from the outside boundary to each stick our furrows were straight, Some of the others ploughed right round the ground in endeavouring to mark out,"

Full of reminiscences, John talks on, of how his boys grew up to follow dad's footsteps. Three of them are the proud possessors of The Golden Ploughshare Tie pin, presented to champion ploughmen in the days gone by Messrs Ransome.

The Plough Men



The OGBORNE family Circ. 1932.
JOHN.(father): CHARLES, WILLIAM, HERBERT, GEORGE, WALTER, ALFRED. (sons): LENARD, ARTHUR, CHARLES,
LENARD, HERBERT, PERCY, REGINALD, JACK, WALTER, DOUGLAS. (grandsons).
son's of; CHARLES - LENARD: WILLIAM - ARTHUR, REGINALD, CHARLES, DOUGLAS: HERBERT - LENARD, HERBERT:
GEORGE - WALTER: WALTER - JACK: ALFRED - PERCY:

*WITH "JOHN" ARE SIX OF HIS SONS, AND TEN OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN,
WHO WERE ALL PRIZE WINNERS AT THE MATCH..*

**THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT THE CENTENARY MATCH
AT CORNER POOL FARM. 1932**

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

“Meanwhile, John ploughed himself into being a farmer. His son Charles, not only represented Messrs Ransome’s as their ploughing expert, but also farmed at Bitton, Gloucestershire, his son William, occupies Quarry Farm, Redhill.

George has the prettiest farm in Chew Stoke, Chilly Hill, and Alfred occupies his father’s old place at Old Hill, Winford. The daughters have not forsaken agriculture, his grandsons have inherited Granddad’s skills. They became prize ploughmen, almost as soon as they could hold the plough handles.

THOUSAND PRIZES.

More than a thousand prizes on the well-ploughed fields of the West have been won by John Ogborne and his descendants. He tells of the pleasure those victories gave him. How William won the Gold Medal for four years running, and is contesting again this year, at the Blagdon and Charterhouse match. There is gleam of Pride in his eyes when he says,:

“Mother, vetch I th` kup.” He won it at Kingsdown, when over sixty years of age. It was his last great triumph. Now his joy is in his boys. Despite his years, he is one of them”.

BY
**ELDRED
WALKER.**

“NORTH SOMERSET”
Agricultural Correspondent
Of the “Evening World”

Centenary Medal Given To All Competitors.



THE WRINGTON – BURREINGTON & FARMERS UNION. PLOUGHING SOCIETY
100TH ANNIVERSARY 1832-1932.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

“ CHEATS !! ”

The prizes were presented by Mr Sidney Hill, of Langford. Who is president of England's oldest ploughing society, and who was chairman at this centenary gathering.

This is from the prize-winners list;

Champion class, open to all comers; cash prize of £10 given by Herbert Ogborne.

1st prize...Leonard Ogborne.

2nd prize...George Ogborne.

3rd prize...Bert. Ogborne.

4th prize... William...Ogborne.

Reserve... Walter Ogborne.

The reason the Ogborne's won the class outright, was because nobody would put up against them.

When I went to Chilly Hill, in 2004, to get a copy of the “Montage”, presented to “OLD JOHN”, by The Bristol Evening Post, because they still had it hanging on the wall, on the top landing. I had great difficulty getting a good photo. I had to go outside to take hence it's shape and being coloured.

While I was there, and talking to Aunt Win now over 93. She told of how she remembered the photo of “OLD JOHN”, on his own being taken. They had to fetch him from the fields, up on to the lawn at the front the house, and he was complaining most profusely about being taken away from his work in the field and the fact he had to go in and change his clothes.



The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

MENDIP PLOUGHING CHAMPION.

October 11th 1933.

“Splendid work was put in by ploughmen at the Blagdon and Charterhouse Ploughing Society’s contest, the rain of the morning having been absorbed by the soil, making it cut more freely.

There was some exceptional work on the part of the Ogborne family. The veteran, John Ogborne, despite his years, and the weather, coming along to witness the skill of his descendants.

Mr F.C.Lyne, who presided at the annual dinner, in giving the toast “The Blagdon and Charterhouse Ploughing Society.” Said the cheap food was obtained, at the expense of the farmer and his highly skilled men, who were paid less than the ordinary sweeper of the streets in the town.

In the failure to pay a good fair wage to agriculture, industry took too large a share out of the common pool, but at last, things pointed to agricultural obtaining a fair reward for work done..

They were apt to rely too much on the Government, instead of on their own strength and enterprise. The spirit of co-operation and organisation, must prevail among them, so

that they could show the world that they could work together and constitute the backbone of the nation, as they did in the past.

The Chairman of the society , Mr R J Wear, in response, said this was the 70th anniversary, but Mendip was not now as it was then, when it grew oats, roots and potatoes. If the Government helped other cereals as it did wheat, Mendip would again be prosperous.

Mr Worrall gave “The Judges” Messrs. B Pearce, J Frank, W Young, and S Drew responding. The latter referred to the splendid work done, especially in the champion class. In which it was nearly impossible to divide the work of three competitors.

Mr E.F.Walker gave “Donors of Prizes,” responded to by Capt. Harris and Mr E.Daws.

Some Of The Ploughing Prizes.

*Ex. Champion Class. 1st Herbert Ogborne. Redhill.
2nd William Ogborne. Redhill.
3rd Leonard Ogborne. Ploughman to J Winston. Wraxall
Champion Class 3rd Alfred Ogborne. Winford.
Under 21 years. 1st Walter Ogborne. Chew Stoke.
Under 18 years. 1st Douglas Ogborne. Ploughman to W Ogborne.
Gold Medal For Best Bend Of Ploughing.
Herbert Ogborne. Redhill*

(Man O Mendip)”

Ploughing and Hedging Competitions at Wrinton

PLOUGHING AND HEDGING COMPETITIONS AT WRINGTON.



Scenes at the Wrinton, Burrington and Farmers' Union Ploughing Society's annual ploughing, hedging and specimen root competitions on Wednesday. Top (left): Mr. Herbert Ogborne, winner of the ex-champions' class; (right): Mr. W. Ogborne's cup-winning pair of horses; centre (left): Master Reg. Ogborne (14), who secured the premier award in the class for boys under 18; (right): Mr. Fred Harse ploughing a fine furrow. He was placed second in his class; bottom (left): Mr. F. Sweeting (Congresbury), who unsuccessfully competed in the ex-champions' hedging class; centre: Messrs. H. Cobb and J. C. Blanch, the ploughing judges; (right): Mr. F. Garrett (Wrinton), winner of the champion hedging class.

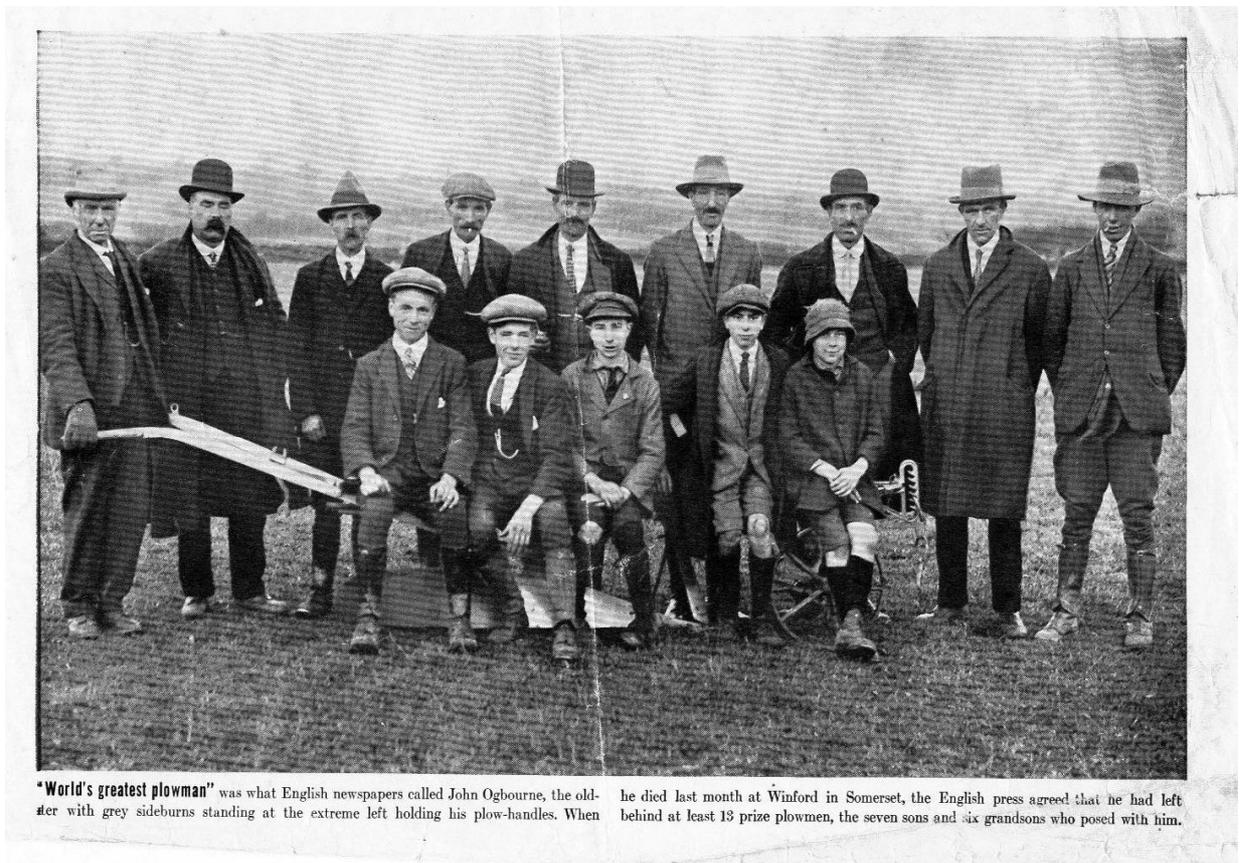
OCTOBER 22, 1927.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

LIFE MAGAZINE.

This photo and script, has the reference: "Page 53 LIFE March 8." On the bottom of this page. As I can remember, there was an American publication "Life Magazine", during the 40's. And as the American spelling of plough, is "plow", and "OLD JOHN" died in 1937 that would be its date.

According to the "net" when I looked it up, (2009) A copy of that particular one, was still available at "\$44." So it must have been a very "POSH" Magazine. In those days..



John, Charles, William, Herbert, George, Alfred, Walter, Leonard, Charles.

Leonard, Herbert, Reginald, Jack, Douglas, .

"World's Greatest Ploughman. was what English newspapers called John Ogborne, the oldest with the grey sideburns, standing at the extreme left, holding his plow-handles. When he died last month, at Winford in Somerset, the English press agreed that he had left behind at least 13 prize plowmen, the seven sons, and six grandsons who pose with him."

"OLD JOHN'S" DEATH 28TH JAN 1937.

Old Johns Death



Mr. JOHN OGBORNE

**Death of
John
Ogborne—
Famous
Ploughman**

**HEAD OF NOTABLE
WEST FAMILY**

By ELDRED WALKER

**John Ogborne, father of
ploughmen, who would have
been 90 years of age in May,
has died.**

He and his family have won more than a thousand prizes and champion cups for ploughing—an unequalled performance.

It is a romance of hard work. They enjoyed the frost and the snow as much as their John Ogborne, who died at the time of his daughter, Mrs. William Leonard, near Winford.

Headmaster of his ploughing secrets with him. He left them with his family by continuing to show to the world what he had done with the plough in Somerset.

PRIZE AT ELEVEN

At 11 years of age he had won his first prize as a ploughman. Once he ploughed with a team of men at Felton with a wooden plough.

Then he married young on a wage that would be a good starvation in these days.

He drew his own wheat and carried it on his back to be ground into flour by Miller Ham at Felton Woodmill.

All of the family have proved themselves champion ploughmen. It is not a matter of brag.

Leonard (Ogborne), who was married the other day, resides on a non-arable farm and has more to do with cattle than horses.

Yet last year he won all three champion cups of the leading local ploughing societies.

The funeral will take place at Winford Church on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

BRISTOL EVENING WORLD.

**PLOUGHMAN AND
FATHER
OF PLOUGHMEN**

**Death of Mr John
Ogborne**

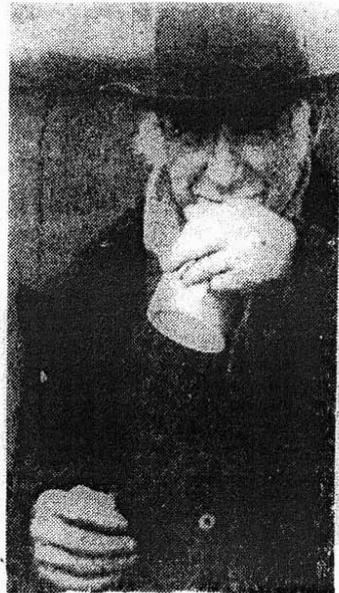
(By Man o' Mendip)

Mr John Ogborne, head of the famous family of champion ploughmen, has died at Chew Stoke in his ninetieth year. The proudest moment in his life of many successes was when he received a letter of congratulation from the King at the time of the hundredth match of the Wington Society, which was held at his son's (Mr Herbert Ogborne) farm, Redhill, in 1932.

By the way, the champion class prize list on that occasion against all comers was all Ogbornes: Leonard, George, Bert, William, and Herbert.

I remember talking to the admirable veteran at that match.

He said: "If I'd known William Compton (another young 'un of 85 and famous Gloucestershire champion in his time) were coming down from Rangeworthy,



Mr JOHN OGBORNE.

dash me if we couldn't have had a class to ourselves."

When the late Mr Ogborne was 60 years old he won the silver cup at Winford match.

Few men have lived a life more valuable to the community. His memory will be treasured in Somerset for a long time to come.

He began learning to plough at the age of 10 at Winford, and no one can claim to have ploughed more "straight furrows." Each of his six sons and his grandsons, too, inherited his skill. One of the latter, Mr Leonard Ogborne, is present champion of all three North Somerset societies.

The funeral will take place at Winford Church on Wednesday, at 2 p.m.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS.

29-1-1937.

30-1-1937.

**“OLD JOHN’S” FUNERAL.
WED. 4TH FEB. 1937.
Old Johns Funeral**

**FAMOUS PLOUGHMAN'S
FUNERAL**

**Grandsons as Bearers for
Mr John Ogborne**

(By Man o' Mendip)

In the God's Acre of the village of Winford, where he won his first prize for ploughing, and where he won his last championship 50 years later, Mr John Ogborne was laid to rest yesterday.

He was attended to the grave by a very large number of his descendants who continue to do honour to his name as farmers and champion ploughmen.

The funeral, which was at the parish church, was conducted by the Rev. N. Owen.

Among the family mourners were sons—William, Herbert, Alfred, George and Walter. Mr Charles Ogborne and his wife were absent through illness. Daughters and sons-in-law—Mr and Mrs Frank Wedlake. Mr and Mrs C. Thompson, Mr and Mrs Benjamin York; daughters-in-law, Mesdames G., W., H. A., and Walter Ogborne.

All the bearers were grandsons—Leonard Arthur, Bert and Charles Ogborne, Maurice Wedlake and John Pearce. Other grandsons present were Leonard, Walter, Harry, Reg, Douglas, Cyril Wedlake, J. York, Percy and Ernest Ogborne. Mr James Weare son-in-law and Dorothy Weare, grand-daughter, and Mr J. S. Sparey, great nephew.

Local Societies

All three local ploughing societies were represented among the mourners, and among those present were—Winford Ploughing Society, Messrs Edgar King, C. Patch, L. J. Franks, C. B. Pearce; Wrington Ploughing Society, Mr E. Donald Harvey, Mr H. W. Berry; Mendip Ploughing Society, Mr E. Bruce Noble; North Somerset Agricultural Society, Mr G. E. Ball, Downside; Mr T. A. Wilmot, manager and Mr W. J. Foot, of Victoria Wagon Works, Messrs J. G. Reeve and S. Twitcher; Mr and Mrs Frank Ball, Winford; Mr and Mrs W. J. Voss and Mr and Mrs J. Read.

The undertaker was Mr G. H. Martin, of Chew Stoke.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS.

5-2-37.

**DEATH OF FAMOUS MENDIP
PLOUGHMAN.**

MR JOHN OGBORNE'S RECORD.

Mr John Ogborne, one of the most famous ploughmen in the West Country, who with members of his family had gained over a thousand prizes, including many championships at ploughing matches, died last week-end at Littleton, near Winford. He was 89 years of age.

At eleven years of age he won his first prize behind the plough, and all the male members of the Ogborne family were famous ploughmen. Until a few months ago, Mr Ogborne never missed an agricultural show, and his passing will be greatly mourned throughout the countryside. His grandson, Leonard Ogborne, won all the championships of the three local ploughing societies last year.

Received Congratulations from the King.

"Man o' Mendip," writing in the "Western Daily Press," said: "The proudest moment in Mr John Ogborne's life of many successes was when he received a letter of congratulation from the King at the time of the hundredth match of the Wrington Society, which was held at his son's (Mr Herbert Ogborne's) farm, Redhill, in 1932. By the way, the champion class prize list on that occasion showed all corners was all Ogbornes—Edward, George, Bert, William, and Herbert, besides me, talking to the admirable veteran of that match. He said: 'If I'd a knowed I was a Compton (another young 'un of 85 and famous Gloucestershire champion in his time) were coming down from Ragworthy, I'd have said we ought to have had a class to ourselves. When the late Mr. Ogborne was 60 years old he won the silver cup at Winford match. Few men have lived a life more valuable to the community. His memory will be respected in Somerset for a long time to come. He began learning to plough at the age of 12 at Winford, and no one can claim to have ploughed more straight furrows. Each of his six sons, and his grandsons, too, inherited his skill."

The Funeral

Took place at Winford on Wednesday, the Rev. N. Owen officiating. There was a large attendance of sympathisers and the family mourners included: The sons—William, Herbert, Alfred, George and Walter (Mr Charles Ogborne and his wife were absent through illness); Daughters and sons-in-law—Mr and Mrs Frank Wedlake, Mr and Mrs C. Thompson, Mr and Mrs Benjamin York; Daughters-in-law—Mesdames G., W., H. A. and Walter Ogborne. All the bearers were grandsons—Messrs Leonard, Arthur, Bert and Charles Ogborne, Maurice Wedlake and John Pearce. Other grandsons present were Messrs Leonard, Walter, Harry, Reg, Douglas and Cyril Wedlake, J. York, Percy and Ernest Ogborne. Mr James Weare (son-in-law) and Dorothy Weare (grand-daughter) and Mr J. S. Sparey (great-nephew).

All three local Ploughing Societies were represented and among those present were Winford Ploughing Society, Messrs Edgar King, C. Patch, L. J. Franks, C. B. Pearce; Wrington Ploughing Society, Mr E. Donald Harvey, Mr H. W. Berry; Mendip Ploughing Society, Mr E. Bruce Noble; North Somerset Agricultural Society, Mr G. E. Ball, Downside; Mr T. A. Wilmot (Manager) and Mr W. J. Foot, of Victoria Wagon Works; Messrs J. G. Reeve and S. Twitcher; Mr and Mrs Frank Ball, Winford; Mr and Mrs W. J. Voss and Mr and Mrs J. Read.

The undertaker was Mr G. H. Martin, of Chew Stoke.

WESTON MERCURY.

5-2-37.

Round About Somerset

WESTON MERCURY
MAY 14 1965



FROM SOURCE TO SEA--

THE BLAGDON YEO

FAMOUS PLOUGHMEN
OF MENDIP

REDHILL. There is rural magic in the name. It summons up a picture of rich hillside acres of ploughland. Wrington, in which it lies, seems to be a parish particularly blessed with enchanting names—Cowslip Green, Barley Wood, Havyatt Green, and Lye Hole. Redhill to-day is perhaps best known as a notorious hill on the A38, the scene of many crashes.

board was father and grandfather of them, John Ogborne, then 85. Also present was another 85-year-old, William Compton, of Rangeworthy, a famous Gloucestershire ploughing champion in his time.

JOHN'S COMMENT

John Ogborne's comment was: "If I'd a knowed William Compton were coming down from Rangeworthy, dang me if we oedn't a had a class to ourselves."

There were over 250 entries for the competitions, and the hedgers competing were as numerous as the ploughmen.

At the end of the day company numbers over 200 sat down to a really jolly old-fashioned supper at which the Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Stewart, was present, and every competitor in the manual class was presented with a replica of the old silver medals given by the society a century ago."

SITE OF FIRST MATCH

Corner Pool Farm, incidentally, had been the site of the first match a century earlier, and there was a proud moment for John Ogborne when a message was read from the King congratulating him and the society on the occasion.

Farming folk will be interested in the names of the committee who organised the centenary matches: Sidney Hill (president), S. Wear (chairman), Frank Marshall (vice-chairman), H. J. Dibble, Wm. Young, H. J. Ashman, J. Franks, L. E. Hard-

THIS IS THE FULL PAGE STORY, WRITTEN ABOUT
THE OGBORNE FAMILY.

By John Bailey.

FAMOUS PLOUGHMEN OF MENDIP.

Redhill, there is rural magic in the name. It summons up a picture of rich hillside, acres of ploughland. Wrington, in which it lies, seems to be a parish particularly blessed with enchanting names....Cowslip Green, Barley Wood, Havyatt Green, and Lye Hole.

Redhill to-day is perhaps best known as a notorious hill on the A38, the scene of many crashes.

There those who remember it for the glorious stretch of Mendip country scene it commands. It also has its association as famous ploughland, and with the

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

achievements of some of the country's most celebrated ploughmen of former years, the Ogborne family, who between them won over 1,000 prizes.

Getting on for 200 years ago a Somerset man, John Billingsley, writing a survey of Somerset agriculture, stated that tillage on Mendip was best started in September or October. He added: "The instrument made use of is a strong foot plough, without wheels, costing two guineas. Four horses or six oxen will turn about three fourths of an acre in eight hours."

SUCCEEDED BY THE TRACTOR.

There are no two guinea ploughs at work on Mendip to-day. Nor will ploughmen be seen using teams of oxen or horses.

Seagulls still follow the plough as they did centuries ago, but the horse-drawn of so many pictures has given way to the tractor. The mechanical giant that now cuts through Mendip's acres has been so developed that in the latest multi-power models you do not even have to put the clutch out to change gear. All you do is press a button.

I wonder what that great ploughman of Mendip, the late John Ogborne, would have thought of this new-fangled thing? Whenever there is talk of ploughing on Mendip the Ogbornes are bound to get a mention.

MOST FAMOUS OF THEM ALL.

Old John, of Winford, was the most famous of them all. He lived to be ninety, won his first prize for ploughing when he was eleven, and his last when he was seventy.

"My mother paid two pence a week for my education," he once said, "but it was money thrown away, so I took up ploughing."

Mists have been known to come down on ploughing matches on Mendip, and there was the occasion when it was very thick, and competitors lost direction. But not John Ogborne. He marked out his course with goose feathers. Another time he was said to have taken his mark-out from Dundry church.....miles away.

John was so famous a ploughman, that when he died a national newspaper gave him an editorial, all to himself.

Unfortunately we have been unable to locate this. (01409281346)

In the ploughing heyday of the Ogborne family, as many as sixteen of them competed in the same match.

PLOUGHING COUNTRY.

Redhill was for many years the centre of the ploughing country, The Wrington and Burrington Ploughing Society, believed to be the oldest in the country, does not hold any ploughing matches now, but still runs hedging competitions. Burrington has close relationships with Wrington, and was formerly part of the village. The syllable of its name may come from the Saxon ..burh..or.. burgh, meaning a fort, and possibly referring to the ancient hill fort above the Combe. The name in its entirety may mean the castle or fort of Wrington.

The Wrington and Burrington Ploughing Society was formed in 1832, its founder being a former rector of Wrington, the Rev. John Vane.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

In the 1880's the Society was unrivalled in the West Country. In 1882, for instance, it claimed it could put nineteen ploughs into the field, all from one parish, whereas the North Somerset Society, which included thirty seven-parishes, could muster no more than thirty-four from its big area..

Then Wrington and Burrington Society's committee had its headquarters at the Darlington Arms, Redhill, where it met for many years. Dinners of the ploughing matches were also held at the Darlington...There is a record of one such dinner, held in 1882 when 140 men sat down to the ploughing match festivity....

MET AT MENDIP LODGE.

The records of the society include a minute of a meeting held at Mendip Lodge, the residence of Thomas Somers, in 1857, stating that "members, being fully impressed with the food which has resulted from the operations of the Society in the cause of agriculture

And actuated by a desire to extend its usefulness beyond its present locality, adopted a resolution re-naming it "The Wrington and West Mendip Agricultural Society."

The Society's centenary match was held at Corner Pool Farm, Redhill. "By kind permission of Mr Herbert Ogborne." In October 1932.

This, of course, was a great occasion, and a newspaper recorded; "Thirty-eight ploughs moving steadily to and fro on the ley and stubble, made a beautiful picture in the sunshine, more particularly as there were 22 champion ploughmen competing some had come from as far as Abergavenny, Devon, and the Dorset border.

"But it was an impossible task to beat the famous Ogborne family on their own ground.

So that the champion class awards, against all comers, contained no other name. Leonard first (who may fairly now call himself the National Champion,)...then George, then Bert, then William and then Herbert himself."

Watching his family sweep the board, was father and grandfather of them, John Ogborne, and then 85 years old. Also present was another 85-year-old, William Compton of Rangeworthy, a famous Gloucestershire ploughing champion in his time.

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John Ogborne's comment was: "If I'd a known William Compton were coming down from Wrangeworthy, dang me if we oodn't a had a class to ourselves."...

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At the end of the day, a company numbering over 200 sat down "to a really jolly old-fashioned supper, at which the Chief Inspector Of The Ministry Of Agriculture, Mr Stewart, was present, and every competitor in the manual class was presented with a "REPLICA" of the old "SILVER MEDAL" given by the Society, a century ago...

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Corner Pool Farm, incidentally, had been the site of the first match a century earlier, and there was a proud moment for Mr John Ogborne, when a message was read, from the King congratulating him and the Society, on the occasion.

A Lone Ploughman on Mendip



• A lone ploughman on Mendip

“MATCH OF THE WEST.”

There is also the proud history of the Blagdon, Winford, Charterhouse, and West Mendip Ploughing Society. Whose competitions are labelled “The Match of the West,” and which is well over 90 years old. Its programme still includes ploughing, but there are now no horse-drawn classes...(1965)...The late Mr Bert Gallop was secretary for 30 years, and was succeeded by his son, Mr John Gallop. The Society was last year named “The Mendip Ploughing Society.”

When ploughman John Ogborne died, 90 years old, a national newspaper in an editorial referring to the fact that he and 18 of his descendants had won over 1`000 first Prizes and Championships, stated :

That is the sort of family record for which we shall soon search in vain the annals of our countryside...As the enclosures destroyed the English yeoman, so the tractor will presumably drive out the ploughmen.

The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

“It would be absurd to pretend that there is not much gained in this progress. But there will also be loss, and the career of such a man as John Ogborne, is an illustration of how great that loss may be”.....

The loss, of course, has been great. No one can pretend that ploughing matches are what they were, but because of this it should not be assumed that agricultural skills have been lost.

STILL AN ART.

There is an art in ploughing by tractor, and it is good to know that in this age of push button ploughing, the tractor ploughmen of North Somerset are still among the best.

In recent years we have had a national champion, in Ted Walker. Of Failand.

The plough, of course, is still the basic instrument in ploughing... it is as old as agriculture – and agriculture is almost as old the human race...The plough has its place in Greek mythology, and Virgil, advised “the wary ploughman,” ---“early, with thy team”.....”the glebe in furrows turn,”....”That, while the turf lies open and unbound”...

“Succeeding suns may bake the yellow ground”

William the Conqueror`s Domesday Book of 1086 is full of references to land for Plough teams. Down the centuries there has always been pride in prowess with the plough, and in former years it was not uncommon for a ploughman who had been guilty of a crooked furrow to find, next day, that his plough had been hoisted to the top of the tallest tree in the village. There is a record of this happening at Banwell within the last hundred years.

In some places, the ceremony of taking the plough into church and blessing it before it begins its work, still survives to-day, but the Plough Monday celebrations of olden days have died out. Plough Monday was the first Monday after twelfth day, or Old Christmas Day, and it was intended to mark the end of the Christmas festivities before everybody really got down to work again.

ADORNED WITH RIBBONS.

In the Mendip Villages all the farm workers were given a holiday, and ploughs adorned with ribbons and evergreens, were drawn around the parishes. Collectors accompanied the procession, and when enough had been gained for a celebration at the local Inn the day ended “wi` a drap o` zider an` a zing-zong.”...

Some farmers also gave their workers Plough Monday suppers.

Twelfth Day was also the time for “wassailing” the apple trees to ensure a good crop, and in those superstitious times no farmer would court bad luck, by allowing his horses to be worked on this special day.

In some places ploughmen also used to go to the stables or oxhouse with their Twelfth Cake and wassail bowl to wassail the horses and oxen.

Since mankind must have bread the plough will always survive.

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As it turns over the earth it will gleam in the light of dawn, noon, and sunset as it has done for centuries, but the scene no longer inspires poets to write in the vein of :

*“With creak of leather and rattle of chain,
Onwards the tugging horses strain,
In their fate-like tread with the cleaving plough.
For men must have bread in the world of Now.”*

By John Bailey

OGBORNE DAYS



“OGBORNE DAYS.”—This picture looks like a Redhill, Wrington, Ploughing Match of yester-year...when the great family of ploughing champions named Ogborne won with horse-ploughs before the days of tractors. Actually it was taken by a Staff Photographer at the National Ploughing Match at Oxford this week.

Blessing the Plough



PLOUGH SUNDAY — The Rev. A. J. H. Hobbs, rector of Winford, blesses the plough during the Plough Sunday service at Winford Parish Church, which was broadcast by the B.B.C. last night.

Blessing the Plough

NEXT SUNDAY — New Year's Day—will be Plough Sunday, and the evening service, which will be broadcast from Winford Parish Church, near Bristol, will include the ceremony of the blessing of the plough.

It is fitting that this particular service should come from this village, for Winford was the home of the Ogbornes, the champion ploughmen, who between 1862 and 1933 won over 1,000 prizes at matches throughout the country. The late Arthur Mee wrote of them as "perhaps the greatest ploughing family in the world."

The present rector, the Rev. A. J. H. Hobbs, was born into the country life in North Devon, where his father farmed his own glebe, shot his own rabbits, doctored his own cattle and never took a holiday—for 43 years! The plough service has been held at Winford since 1945.

The Kings England. First Printed October 1940 by Arthur Mee.

THE KING'S ENGLAND

while away the time decorate an upper room. There is a dog's head over the porch, its builder having three such heads in his coat-of-arms.

Marching On

WINFORD. We walk under an arch of yews, through a lofty west door deeply splayed, into a church made new in the days of the French Revolution except for its stately tower, and we read in great letters across the gallery that the church was built in 1796 and beautified in 1820. It has little of this beauty now, but one lovely thing we noticed which we have not seen elsewhere: a dainty blue frame on the very altar with the names of 20 Winford men most beautifully written, the men who died that we might live.

There are fragments of old gravestones in the nave and the steps of the old cross in the churchyard.

We were too late to have a word with Mr John Ogborne, farmer, for he had left his Old Hill Farm and his 16 farming sons had gone out into the world. But most of them are round about, on farms or in gardens, and they are renowned in Winford as the champion ploughmen of the land, perhaps the greatest ploughing family in the world. Old John carried off all the prizes, his 16 sons have won their share of them, and now a third generation is beating the second, and so the Ogbornes go from victory to victory.

Anthony and His Pig

WINSCOMBE. It has Crook's Peak behind it, a vale in front, a charming village street, a spreading yew 18 feet round the trunk, and a 15th century church which adds to the picture the beauty of its tower, a pierced parapet, a roodstair turret, and great windows rich in medieval glass.

Anthony and his pig (with a bell round its neck) are in one of the windows, with six white and gold angels. The two friends who gave this window 500 years ago kneel below, the wife with her rosary, the husband with his purse. Saints and bishops are in more 15th century glass, and in a window of the 16th St Peter appears three times in glowing orange and gold, with his staff, his keys, and a holy-water sprinkler. A host of winged wooden angels are round the new nave roof; a few old seats have carved ends, and a Norman font has marks where the lid was once locked against witches.

We found a stone to a young man killed at Guadaloupe when



Sculptures on the West Front



The Eternal Father and the Annunciation in St Gallixtus Chapel
THE MEDIEVAL ART OF WELLS CATHEDRAL.

JUST A SIDE STORY.

Those of you who know where Winford Redhill and Corner Pool Farm, are which is around, what is now Bristol International Airport some of Corner Pool Farm was used to make the War time fighter, airfield.

If you take note that a lot of the ploughing matches were around Burrington, Wrington, Blagdon and Charterhouse, but they are all at the **BOTTOM** of Redhill!!

There is true dedication!. Because, for those who don` t know the area, Redhill is the long steep hill, on the A38 about 1 mile West of the Airport.

Just imagine, on match day, they would have to get up earlier than normal, in order to do their own, normal work first, because their wife already had her own to do.

They would have to get the horses, usually two, brushed down, “Dressed”, especially if the horses are entered into the competition, collect the plough, and their kit, i.e. Food Bad weather gear, etc...and set off **DOWN** Redhill. They would have a minimum of three or four miles to get to the match. Walking, perhaps having to carry the plough, because they could not let the landslide drag on the “road” and wear down.

They would spend all day, walking up and down, behind the plough; have an hour or so rest, waiting for the results *perhaps a few pints!!* Then they would make their way back homewards, Up Redhill !!

Oh My Legs.!!

Then when they eventually get home there are the horses to rub down, feed, bed down, the harnesses to clean before they could do their own evening work, and finely they can look after themselves.

I have a photo of a vintage plough together with a trolley, probably made by a local blacksmith. This kept the landslide off the road, fine for coming up Redhill, perhaps room even for the ploughman, to ride on the plough.....!! Poor horses

BUT WHAT ABOUT GOING DOWN ??



AND ONE VERY FINAL THOUGHT....WHAT ABOUT WHERE CHARTERHOUSE IS.

By Keith Ogborne.

The "Montage" Presented To John Ogborne By "Bristol Evening World".



The Ogborne Family of Ploughmen

“Fertility”



The Ogborne family – The Ploughmen of Somerset

October 1932,

The Wrington, Burrington, & Farmers Union Ploughing Society.

Centenary Meeting.

Presented By. R.D.HARVEY, esq.

Presented To. Mr. ALBERT OGBORNE, From Butcombe,

Famous ploughmen of Mendip
WESTON & SOMERSET MERCURY Sept. 6. 2002.

72
ROUND ABOUT

www.thewestonmercury.co.uk WESTON & SOMERSET MERCURY September 6th 2002

This article was originally published on May 14, 1965

Famous ploughmen of Mendip

REDHILL. There is rural magic in the name. It summons up a picture of rich hillside acres of ploughland.

Wrington, in which it lies, seems to be a parish particularly blessed with enchanting names - Cowslip Green, Barley Wood, Hayvatt Green, and Lye Hole.

Redhill today is perhaps best known as a notorious hill on the A38, the scene of many crashes.

There are those who remember it for the glorious stretch of Mendip country scenery it commands.

It is also associated with famous ploughland, and with the achievements of some of the country's most celebrated ploughmen of former years - the Ogborne family, who between them won over 1,000 prizes.

Getting on for 200 years ago a Somerset man, John Billingsley, writing a survey of Somerset agriculture, stated that tillage on Mendip was best started in September or October.

He added: "The instrument made use of is a strong foot plough, without wheels, costing two guineas. Four horses, or six oxen will turn about three fourths of an acre in eight hours."

Succeeded by the tractor

There are no two-guinea ploughs at work on Mendip today. Nor will ploughmen be seen using teams of oxen or horses.

Seagulls still follow the plough as they did centuries ago, but the horse-drawn plough of so many famous pictures has given way to the tractor.

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I wonder what that great ploughman of Mendip, John Ogborne, would have thought of this new-fangled thing?

Whenever there is talk of ploughing on Mendip, the Ogbornes are bound to get a mention.

Most Famous of Them All

Old John, of Winford, was the most famous of them all.

He lived to be 90, won his first prize for ploughing when he was 11, and his last when he was 70.

"My mother paid twopence a week for my education," he once said, "but it was money thrown away, so I took up ploughing."

Mistake has been known to come down on ploughing matches on Mendip, and there

was the occasion when it was very thick and competitors lost direction. But not John Ogborne. He marked out his course with goose feathers. Another time he was said to have taken his mark-out from Dundry church - miles away.

John was so famous a ploughman that when he died a national newspaper gave him an editorial all to himself.

In the ploughing heyday of the Ogborne family as many as 16 of them competed in the same match.

Ploughing Country

Redhill was for many years the centre of the ploughing country.

The Wrington and Burrington Ploughing Society, believed to be the oldest in the country, does not hold any ploughing matches now, but still runs hedging competitions. Burrington has close relationships with Wrington, and was formerly part of the village.

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The society was formed in 1832, its founder being a former rector of Wrington, the Rev John Vane.

In the 1880s the society was unrivalled in the West Country.

In 1882 it claimed it could put 19 ploughs into the field, all from one parish, whereas the North Somerset Society, which included 34 parishes, could muster no more than 34 from its big area.

The Wrington and Burrington Society's committee had its headquarters at the Darlington Arms, Redhill, where it met for many years.

Dinners after ploughing matches were also held at the Darlington.

I have a record of one held there in 1882 when 140 men sat down to the ploughing match festivity.

It is of interest to recall the names of some of the company. F G Farnwell was in the chair, and others present included Pech H H Seath (rector of Wrington), Dr Collins, C L F Edwards, W H Harford, J Wood, J Fowler, Bevis Collins (of Banwell), W Petheram (of Churchill), James Lawrence (Nailsea), G Oliver, J Reeves, C Young, J Marshall, R Harding, P Light, W H Shiner (Yatton), A Blatts, A Body, W Body (Redhill), W Keel, G Hardwick, W Oxford, B Marshall, W Pearce, J Paige, J Radcliffe, J Smith, R T Patch, G T Tucker, J Powell, W Pearce, A Glover, J

Vowles, A Hardwick, W Young, E Carpenter, J Smith, and T Parnell.

Met at Mendip Lodge

The records of the society include a minute of a meeting held at Mendip Lodge, the residence of Thomas Somers, in 1857, stating that "the members, being fully impressed with the food which has resulted from the operations of the society in the cause of agriculture, and actuated by a desire to extend its usefulness beyond its present locality, adopted a resolution re-naming it the Wrington and West Mendip Agricultural Society".

The society's centenary matches were held at Corner Pool Farm, Redhill, by kind permission of Mr Herbert Ogborne, in October, 1932.

This was a great occasion, and a newspaper recorded: "Thirty-eight ploughs moving steadily to and fro on the ley and stubble made a beautiful picture in the sunshine, more particularly as there were 22 champion ploughmen competing. Some had come from as far as Aberavenny, Devon, and the Dorset border."

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So that the champion class awards against all comers contained no other name - Leonard first (who may fairly now call himself the national champion), then George, then Bert, then William, and Herbert himself.

Watching his family sweep the board was father and grandfather of them all, John Ogborne, then 85.

As a present was another 85-year-old, William Compton, of Rangeworthy, a famous Gloucestershire ploughing champion in his time.

John Ogborne's comment was: "If I'd 'a knowed William Compton were coming down from Rangeworthy, dang me if we 'oodn't 'a had a class to ourselves."

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Then there were the judges: Horses: John Bourne, George Edwards; Thatching: Ben Pearce, Fred King; Hedging: Harry Light, Fred King; Ploughing: Rendle Drew (for many years hon. Secretary), Sidney Drew, Geo. Hall, Harry Patch; Roots: Gilbert Vowles, Alf Parker, Bert Gallop.

Match of the West'

There is also the proud history of the Blagdon, Winford, Charterhouse and West Mendip Ploughing Society, whose competitions are labelled 'the Match of the West', and which is well over 90 years old.



▲ A Mendip ploughing scene all too rare in these days in which the tractor has taken over.

Its programme still includes ploughing, but there are now no horse-drawn classes. Bert Gallop was secretary for 30 years and was succeeded by his son, John Gallop.

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When ploughman John Ogborne died aged 90 a national newspaper editorial, referring to the fact that he and 19 of his descendants had won over 1,000 first prizes and championships, stated:

"That is the sort of family record for which we shall soon search in vain the annals of our countryside. As the enclosure destroyed the English yeoman, so the tractor will, presumably, drive out the ploughman."

"It would be absurd to pretend that there is not much gained in this progress. But there will also be loss, and the career of such a man as John Ogborne, is an illustration of how great that loss may be."

The loss, of course, has been great.

No one can pretend that ploughing matches are what they were, but because of this it should not be assumed that agricultural skills have been lost.

Still an Art

There is an art in ploughing by tractor, and it is good to know that in this age of push-button ploughing the tractor ploughmen of North Somerset are still among the best. In recent years we have had a national champion in Ted Walker, of Failand.

The plough, of course, is still the basic instrument in ploughing.

It is as old as agriculture - and agriculture is almost as old as the human race.

The plough has its place in Greek mythology, and Virgil advised 'the wary ploughman':

"... early, with thy team, the glebe in furrows turn. That, while the turf lies open and unbound, Succeeding suns may bake the yellow ground."

William the Conqueror's Domesday Book of 1086 is full of references to land for plough teams.

Down the centuries there has always been pride in prowess with the plough, and in former

years it was not uncommon for a ploughman who had been guilty of a crooked furrow to find next day that his plough had been hoisted to the top of the tallest tree in the village. There is a record of this happening at Banwell within the last hundred years.

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Plough Monday was the first Monday after Twelfth day or Old Christmas Day, and it was intended to mark the end of the Christmas festivities before everybody really got down to work again.

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"With creek of leather and rattle of chain, Onwards the tugging horses strain, In their fate-like tread with the cleaving plough, For men must have bread in the world of Now."

JOHN BAILEY



▲ A lone ploughman on Mendip.

By. JOHN BAILEY.

THANK YOU ELDRED G.F. WALKER.

We are totally indebted to Eldred G.F. Walker, alias “North Somerset” of the Bristol Evening World, and to “Man-o-Mendip” in The Western Daily Press. The Western Mercury & Somerset Herald, and other Bristol area Newspapers, who way back in the 1923/ 1924s started to write about the exploits of the Ogborne Family. I agree that if Great Granddad and his sons, had not started to amass all their Prizes, especially having started from such humble beginnings. Then the press would not have been interested in the Ogbornes, but thanks to “North Somerset” and his photographer, we have such a comprehensive collection of memorabilia both written and photographic, because in those days very few people had their own cameras.

REPEAT PUBLISHINGS.

The original story, which was printed in:
BRISTOL EVENING WORLD. Oct. 13. 1932. By ELDERD G.F.WALKER.

Was reprinted in the :

WESTON MERCURY & SOMERSET HERALD.

May 14 1965. By JOHN BAILEY.

As “FAMOUS PLOUGHMEN OF MENDIP”. Later;
WESTON MERCURY. Sept. 25. 1987.

As “RECALLING SOME FAMOUS MENDIP PLOUGHMEN.

Later;

WESTON MERCURY. Sept. 23 1988.

As “MEN WHO PLOUGHED INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS.”

Later;

WESTON & SOMERSET MERCURY. Sept. 6. 2002.

As “FAMOUS PLOUGHMEN OF MENDIP,

Finally.

I would like to dedicate this to Doreen`s memory,
Because, if she and Anne had not started it,
We would not be reading it.
And alas, she is the first of us, to go on
And meet dear “OLD JOHN.”

In Memorium.

From we not quite so old great grand children. Want to say how proud we are
Of your families achievements, including our grandfathers,.. and our fathers,...

Who finished off by ploughing with the..... “new fangled” tractors.....

I would hate to think how many miles you walked on match days,... coming
Home at 1 in the morning...(page 19).... After a round trip of 54 miles at 3 miles an hour?
plus 5 hours spent at the match.

Even now., 2010,.. As most of us are no longer in farming....

..... YOU WILL NEVER TAKE THE FARMING OUT OF US.....

R. I. P.

CHARLES OGBORNE'S DEATH CERTIFICATE.

“OLD JOHN’S” FATHER.

HD 170395

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District Shepton Mallet

| 1847. Death in the Sub-district of <u>Shepton Mallet</u> in the <u>County of Somerset</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------------------|--|
| No. | When and where died | Name and surname | Sex | Age | Occupation | Cause of death | Signature, description, and residence of informant | When registered | Signature of registrar |
| 59 | <u>Twenty sixth June 1847</u> <u>Gaoi Shepton Mallet</u> | <u>Charles Osborne</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>22 years</u> | <u>Labourer</u> | <u>Phthisis</u> <u>Visitation of God</u> | <u>David Ashford</u> <u>Coroner</u> <u>Shepton Mallet</u> | <u>Thirtieth June 1847</u> | <u>Robert Collett</u> <i>Registrar.</i> |

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

[Signature] Deputy Superintendent Registrar
2nd March 2010 Date

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PHTHISIS...

A disease, characterized by the wasting away, or ATROPHY of the body. Or part of the body.

ATROPHY.

Wasting away, through imperfect nourishment, or lack of use.

VISITATION OF GOD.

An affliction, or disaster, thought of as an act of God.

A fancy way of saying...”Natural Causes”.

This had to be used, to show that Charles did not starve himself, or commit suicide.

In order that he could be buried in consecrated ground.

Because Charles could have had Phthisis for about 10 years, and so it could be running in the family. Some of his siblings dieing young, also., This would probably be the reason, John was moved from his grandparents. At Flax Bourton, to somewhere in Nailsea ??

Charles was buried at Flax Bourton Church. On July 1st 1847. aged 22 years.

His father

John, Was buried at Flax Bourton Church. Jan. 2nd 1862 aged 62.years