

Rectors in Carlton until the closure of the Rectory

The Reverend John Henry Townson

With the resignation of the Reverend William Townson in 1904 a replacement rector was needed. One could say there was one just around the corner; he was the nephew of the previous rector. There was probably some planning in the Townson family, but he was selected so he must have impressed some people. Rev John Henry Townson became Rector of Carlton under the patronage of his father the Rev Robert Townson in 1904.

John was born in Allithwaite, Westmoreland in 1869 and was the nephew of his predecessor, William Townson.

In 1881, at the age of twelve John was a boarder at Rossal school in Fleetwood, Lancashire and later attended a school in Bury St Edmunds. University education followed at Emmanuel College Cambridge where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1890. He then pursued a career in the Church, being ordained deacon in Gloucester and Bristol before becoming a priest working in Eastville, Gloucestershire in 1894. Several clerical appointments followed in southern England, particularly Cornwall. In 1895 he married Cecilia Maud Curtis of Stroud, Gloucestershire who was born in 1867. Their daughter, Marjorie Phyllis Sara was born in the following year in Brentford.

The family then moved to Cornwall, firstly to St Teath and then St Kew. Their son Robert Hugh Charles was born in St Teath in 1899, his birth being registered in Delabole.

The 1901 census records John, his wife, 2 children and a servant in Duloe Cornwall. In 1903 they moved to Milstead, Kent before John was appointed as rector of Carlton in the following year.

Little is known of the family's life in Carlton. The children were both of appropriate age and could have attended the village school but was it, governess followed by boarding school and perhaps university later? The 1911 census describes the children's status as "lessons". Normally children were described as scholars, their status could mean taught at home by parents or a private teacher. Their middle-class life in the rectory demanded both domestic and outdoor staff but did the rector's stipend and private income cover this? Certainly, John's tenure in Carlton lasted longer than his previous appointments and several which followed; he resigned in 1910.

The Townson family moved first to Herodsfoot, Cornwall. The 1911 census lists John, his wife, two children, a cook and house maid. Next, to Wotton Underwood, Bucks in 1913, then to Catherston Leweston, Dorset in 1915. John's final parish was Grafton, Surrey from 1920 until his death in 1933. Probate was granted to his son, Robert for £96, a very modest sum for a middle-class family man. The 1939 census described Cecilia as an invalid living with her son and his wife. Cecilia died in Surrey in 1951.

His time at the rectory as far as is known was quite mundane partly because of the short time he was there.

Reverend John Anderson Dougherty

The Revd. John Anderson Dougherty was born in Deptford Kent in 1845, the son of a Colour sergeant in the army. The 1851 census states his father was a Chelsea pensioner age 55 which in those days meant he was on a war pension. John trained at Morden Hall in about 1871 before joining the Royal Navy as a chaplain. He served on HMS Garnet and wrote a book about life on board whilst cruising on the East Indies Station over the period 1887-90. He was later appointed chaplain and instructor on HMS Carysfort up to the time she was decommissioned in 1881. He then opted for retirement from naval service.

It is probable that he was based in Malta for some of his service career and found work there as a clergyman after leaving the navy. His wife, Louisa Mary Grungo, was living in Valetta before they married in 1876. The couple lived on the Island for some years; indeed, most of their ten children were born there. Unfortunately, only two, Madeline Violet Melita and Eric Bernard Compton, survived to adulthood.

By 1901 the family of four were living in Evesbatch, Herefordshire. In 1910 John then took the post in Carlton and moved into the rectory at the Gift of Rev Richard Battison Lowe MA. It is not clear if Madeline was pursuing a career; perhaps any plans were terminated when she married Claude Taylor at Market Bosworth in 1913. WWI certainly limited Eric's scope for education and steered him into the Royal Marines Light Infantry. Having achieved the rank of Lieutenant, he was killed in action at Gallipoli on the 13th of July 1915 at age of 19 years. There is a plaque in his memory in Carlton Church.

According to local people living at that time, John, then in his seventieth year, never really recovered from his son's death. He resigned his post and had left Carlton by 1917. John and his widow moved to Leamington Spa, but they died in 1921, he on the 3rd of March and Louisa on the 14th of July. According to their probates, John left an estate of only £29 but Louisa left £3769 to her daughter Madeline who moved to New Zealand and died in 1955.

Census records

1861 John his father, Hanna's mother, John, 2 brothers and a lodger at Deptford Kent

1871 John a scholar at Morden Hall "a school for young gentlemen"

1881 Living aboard the Carysfort a naval land vessel.

1901 John, Louise, Madeline his wife, Madeline Daughter, Eric B son, Nancy Townsend servant living at Evesbatch Herefordshire.

1911 John, Louise, Madeline, Madeline Bernard, (niece) Elizabeth Haines servant, Ada Baker servant living at Carlton.

The Reverend E.P. Herbert M.A

The Revd. Edward Palin Herbert followed John Dougherty as rector of Carlton. He was born in Hythe Kent in 1859 and trained in Islington has a missionary clergyman in the early

eighteen eighties. In 1884 he sailed to India to work there as a missionary. Whilst in the sub-continent he met Miriam Ireland and married her in January 1886. Later that year the couple had a daughter, Miriam Annie. However shortly afterwards Miriam died in November. By 1901 Miriam Annie, by then a teenager, was at boarding school in England and later became a teacher.

Edward continued to serve as a missionary in various areas of India, progressing to become a Clerk in Holy Orders. In his work he met other missionaries including Louisa Caroline Sophia Deanable who he married in Bengal in 1902. She was of German descent. The couple continued to work in India until they returned to England in 1911. Edward was awarded a BA from Emanuel College Cambridge in 1914 supporting himself and his wife by working as a curate in several parishes.

Whilst at St Luke's, Darlington, Louise took an inappropriate interest in the output from a local munitions factory. This came to the attention of the police via her maid, and she was charged with passing information for the use of an enemy under the recent Defence of the Realm Act. She was convicted by magistrates and sentenced to 6 months which was upheld after an appeal. She was very honest in court admitting sympathies with Germany and writing to friends and family there via Switzerland. She further conceded an intention to pass on sensitive information but denied having done so. She served her time in Durham gaol and on completion, was promptly interned in Aylesbury Women's Prison for the remainder of the war. Edward was quick to leave Darlington and later moved to Hanslope, Buckinghamshire to be near his wife.

Having been appointed rector, Edward moved to Carlton probably in 1917; he was certainly listed to vote in the village in 1918, this being the first register for several years. Louise was first included in 1920. This was probably the result of incarceration; after emancipation, many of the older women of the village were first registered to vote in 1918.

Edward's daughter Miriam was also registered to vote in Carlton for the years 1920 and 1921 suggesting that she was living in the rectory over that period. She trained as a teacher, but it is not clear if she worked in the locality. A local girl recorded Miriam often spoke of India presumably recalling her childhood there.

In 1920 in the Carlton school admissions list two children as at Carlton Rectory one was Roumanian and the other Hungarian, registered with the rector as their guardian.

Louise's previous activities were general knowledge and must have caused some ill feeling in the village. Perhaps this did not affect the day-to-day relationship with the rector and his wife. It is reported that Edward was a caring rector and allowed children to use the rectory grounds as a play area. Informal records also noted that the grounds needed attention. This suggests that Edward's private income did not extend to that of William Townson who employed a governess, three live-in female staff and a coachman/gardener.

In the nineteen twenties most of Carlton glebe land was sold retaining only the field nearest the rectory. It is understood glebe land could be sold and the interest on the capital could be

used by the rector, but it is not known if this was the case at Carlton. Alternatively, the rector's stipend could have been adjusted accordingly but was this consistent with the costs of supporting a family in such a grand house to the standards expected?

After the impact of WWI Carlton entered a welcome period of stability and recovery during Edward's tenure in the rectory. Perhaps the biggest controversy arose over the public footpath passing through the churchyard. Edward wanted to divert this through the adjoining field, but others blocked his proposal. Clearly the matter was of some importance to Edward. When his wife died in 1928 her body was buried across the public footpath in the vain hopes of deterring people walking through the churchyard. More respectfully, an oil lamp and a memorial brass plaque were installed above the pulpit in her memory. The lamp was removed with the coming of electricity, but some unknown person placed flowers on the grave for many years after her death. Perhaps the German spy was not seen as the villain of the piece.

Edward retired soon after the death of his wife, vacating the rectory in favour of St. Pancras. He spent some time travelling with his daughter, Miriam before his death in 1939. There is an entry in 1931 at the age of 71 he and his daughter left Southampton for Port Said in Egypt. Miriam never married and died in 1971 in St Albans.

Census records

1861 Father, mother, brother Charles 6, sister Ann 3, an aunt, 2 assistants, 2 servants and an apprentice

1871 Father, mother, brothers Lewis 17 and Sidney 10, sister Ann 15 and 3 servants

1881 Edward was a boarder at school studying Theology age 21.

1911 Edward was a missionary Clergyman in an establishment with 20 other people in Highbury London.

In 1928 he was living in Hornsey with his daughter but also in the house was Jessie Bishop who could have been a carer. The electoral rolls imply he was not particularly settled after he left Carlton.

1930 to 1933 his address was Homes of St Barnabas Hornsey but no mention of his daughter.

1935 he was living with his daughter in Claremont road Hornsey.

1938 he was living with his daughter in Cromwell Avenue Hornsey

1939 he was registered at Crowell Avenue when he died but only left approximately £70 according to his probate. Perhaps all his money was used in his missionary work in earlier years.

There is an article on the internet under "Durham at war" briefly relating the life of Louisa Caroline Sophie Herbert (nee Daenble) where her trial and unsuccessful appeal are detailed at length. However, I had to put "Edward Palin Herbert" into a search engine to find it.

Reverend Walter H. Ansell

The Revd. Walter Ansell wrote a letter in September 1929 from the Isle of Man introducing himself to the parishioners of Carlton where he was soon to be rector. He was inducted on

the 10th of October 1929. Walter was born in Albury Surrey in 1864 and trained to be a schoolteacher. He married Frances Mary Aris in 1883 in Hammersmith, London.

In 1901 he was teaching in Kent but by 1911 he had moved on to be principal of an orphanage in Croydon. This was a residential post, then accommodating the couple with their six children. Eventually their family grew to seven, five girls and two boys. It is not clear quite when he took Holy Orders and abandoned teaching. It was not uncommon for ordained clergymen to be appointed to teaching posts particularly as headmasters. However, by the time he moved to Carlton, Walter was strictly a clergyman and most of his children had left the family home.

Although on a national scale it spanned the Great Depression, Walter Ansell's tenure as rector was largely a quiet period in life of the village. Perhaps the biggest event was the coming of electricity. Inadequate funding prevented a connection to the church but the domestic routine at the rectory must have been reduced by the sheer convenience of improved lighting and the few appliances such as a kettle and iron that were available at that time.

The electoral rolls indicate that there were no staff over the age of twenty-one living in the rectory. It seems probable that local people were employed for domestic and outdoor work on a daily or weekly basis consistent with the funding available.

When they moved to Carlton the Ansell family consisted of the rector, his wife, Frances Mary, and two adult daughters, Nellie Aris, and Margaret. Nellie was registered to vote here for only the first year and presumably moved elsewhere. Margaret sold items of needlework door to door in the neighbourhood and thus deserves most of the credit for raising the money to install the clock in Carlton Church. When it was ordered in 1936 this cost £98, the weights and access ladder being extra. The clock was installed in 1938.

At a meeting on 12th May 1938 the rector had written stating that he considered it unwise to attend the church meeting. At a meeting on 5th September 1938 it was stated the Rev Ansell had been living in Bosworth but had left the district. Notification from Registrar that the rector had resigned from 30th Nov 1938 and he should leave the house on that date. The Bishop allowed Frances and Margaret to remain in the rectory for up to six weeks. They left the rectory on 24th April 1939.

At the time there were rumours, with compelling evidence, of a serious indiscretion by his wife that humiliated the rector hence his sudden departure. At that time anyone would have been shocked at the indiscretion especially by the rector's wife. Even today it would create much discussion in the village. I will not disclose the details, but they are known.

Walter was living in the rectory at Publow, Somerset when he died at the age of 77 in 1941; probate was registered in Bristol, leaving his estate to his wife. A woman named Frances Mary Ansell, perhaps the Rector's wife, died in Nuneaton aged 85 in 1945.

Margaret was 46 and single when she left Carlton; it is probable that she never married. A seventy-five-year-old called Margaret Ansell died in Bristol in 1967 although it is not certain it was the rector's daughter.

The unexpected resignation and departure of the Rev Ansell left Carlton with no rector. As usual, routine and family services were conducted by clergymen based at churches in the locality. In the first instance, much of this work reverted to the Parish of Bosworth where the incumbent was frequently supported by a curate. In this case the rector, Canon Payne, took most of the Carlton services himself.

Reverend Henry Edward Williams

The Rev Henry Edward Williams was appointed as the new rector of Carlton and was initiated and inducted in November 1939. As his name suggests he was a Welshman born in Penarth in 1883. It is difficult to trace his early life, but he was living at Llanvethine with his parents in 1891 and they had 5 servants implying a good standard of living.

In 1901 the only probable trace of Henry was as servant with a family. His mother was living with her brother. By 1911 he was living with his mother (who was described as a farmer), and Henry classed as a farmer's son possibly running the farm. There were 3 people described as servants probably working on the farm. It is difficult finding the death of his father but as the family had split up by 1901 it could be he had died before they split up.

Nothing more is known of his early years and education, but it is probable that he took holy orders relatively later in life. He was married at the age of 38 to Winifred Leah Parry in Abergavenny in 1921. She was born in Cross Penmaen near Newport, Monmouthshire in 1900 and was seventeen years younger than her husband. They had 6 children, Cynthia born 1922, Denzil E T born 1924, Malcolm H G born 1925, John Aubrey 1926, born at Abergavenny. Anne was born 1931 on Anglesey and Margaret Gladys 1933 at Pontypridd.

Initially their father was a farmer at one period farming at Cowbridge, Wales but it is not clear when he was ordained and became a fulltime clergyman. Once ordained, the clergy normally served one or more periods as poorly paid curates under the guidance of a vicar or rector before being promoted to a parish themselves. This was feasible for a single man but difficult if not impossible for a married man with a substantial family and no independent means. It is possible that he continued to farm whilst serving as a curate. Most of their children were born at Abergavenny but the younger two were born as mentioned above. This could have been because the family moved for new position as a clergyman.

The school admissions at Carlton school included the two youngest girls, they first attended the school on eighth September 1939. That could have been the start of the autumn term. It also listed they came from Breedon on the Hill. Further enquiries at Breedon have not shed any more light on that statement.

The entire family moved into the rectory at Carlton in 1939. Cynthia was described "Housewife" and Denzil as a scholar possibly attending school in Market Bosworth. The rest of the family were redacted from the census. The two younger girls attended Carlton school and moved on the Market Bosworth.

Generally, it is not clear at what ages each of the children left school or quite what any of them did for a living. With no domestic staff, there was plenty to occupy some of the family

in the rectory although in the early forties everyone was under pressure to contribute to the war effort.

Denzil walked with a serious limp and was thus exempt from military service. In later years he travelled to work on the Leicester bus but based on local electoral roll left the Rectory in 1946. He married an Ibstock girl, Nora Greasley in 1951 before the couple moved to Coventry.

There is no indication of Malcolm serving in the armed forces, but he certainly had an expensive lifestyle and an interest in horses: he kept several at the rectory successfully competing in local shows and gymkhanas.

It is possible that John was engaged in formal training and thus deferred his national service, but he became a regular soldier in 1950. None of the younger generation was married at Carlton. It is also possible that some left the family home in this period. Denzil was registered to vote in Carlton until 1946 and Cynthia was listed only in 1948 and 1949. Both parents were listed regularly but neither of the younger girl appeared on the Carlton register.

Henry's tenure as rector seems to have been relatively uneventful although services were rather infrequent for a clergyman with only one parish. There were also suggestions of marital problems with the Rector living in the Church at one period. I was told by Bruce Milnthorpe he was tasked by his mother to collect coal from along the railway to take to heat the church for the rector. I have heard recently the vicar moved to the church because his wife invited a soldier from the search light battery below the Rectory to live in the rectory.

Some of the family particularly Winifred and Malcolm were regular customers in the Gate Inn. Whilst this was perhaps not the done thing for the Rector's wife, Winifred excused herself by claiming that she married a farmer not a clergyman. My grandmother became friendly with Winifred and spent many hours in her company in the Gate Inn. She gave my grandmother several articles of furniture from the rectory probably when she knew they would be moving soon. I have a garden ornament in our garden donated by Winifred to my grandmother. I have been told Winifred was a very pleasant and friendly person but liked to live life and go dancing with her eldest daughter.

On one occasion Malcolm caused amusement in the Gate by riding a horse in the front door, through the central passage and outside through the back door. At the time, this simple route would have taken him past the out-sales end of the bar, but it is not clear if he was served with a drink. I heard a similar stunt was carried out in one of the Bosworth Public Houses.

Bruce Milnthorpe told me that several village youths took a horse and trap from the rectory and rode through the village via Bosworth. He also stated, they regretted the action when Malcom thrashed them with a horse whip when they returned. Malcom borrowed a portable wind-up gramophone from my mother to familiarise his horse to music for events he attended. The gramophone was never returned to my mother.

The children did not mix with the village children although two of them went to the village school. I was told on one occasion one of the younger girls visited Mrs P. Price riding a

bicycle. The comment was the bike was too small for her and Mrs Price bought the bike for her daughter. However, the next day a policeman came to collect the bike as the girl had borrowed it to get home and the owner wanted it back.

In the early fifties Henry was restricted by a long debilitating illness. In the absence of such official services at that time, some of the villagers helped with his nursing and treatment including my grandfather who used to shave him after he became crippled. He died on fourteenth of January 1951. He was not buried in Carlton, probably being returned to his native Wales.

Being a tied property, the family were then obliged to vacate the Rectory: Winifred moved initially to Herefordshire although probate on Henry's estate was granted in Llandough. Malcolm stayed in the Leicestershire area first moving his horses to Nailstone. He initially lived in a caravan at Crawford's where his horses were kept. He left plenty of evidence of his activities at the rectory including horseshoes lying around, rosettes hanging in the sheds and a pit in the garden which formed a combination jump with the field fence. Being wrought iron it gradually became bent from the hooves of horses clipping the top. Unfortunately, Malcolm was later killed in a riding accident in Herefordshire in 1966 at a point-to-point.

With the departure of the William family, a decision was made to close the rectory and combine the parish with Nailstone with the rectory at Nailstone used by the rector. Our family bought the rectory in 1952 and moved in on the 11th November of that year just over a year after Henry's death.

Richard Liddington

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