

Mary Seaman (MS): Good Morning Children. Welcome to St John's school Lemsford on the 4th March in the year of our Lord 1872. I will call out your name and you will answer ' Yes Miss' and stand up, to show your self to the school. I would like to introduce you to your teacher Mr Seaman who you will address as 'Sir' or Mr Seaman

Walter Seaman (WS); Thank you Mrs Seaman and Good Morning Children.

MS: Susannah Bracey

MS: Elizabeth Bunnage

(all children say Yes Miss and stand up)

MS: Miss Bunnage what is your mothers occupation?

Elizabeth: Straw platter.

WS: Elizabeths father was dead and her mother Emma was 50 to makes end meet she was a Straw Platter. Straw plating in 1872 was a common occupation for many females. It was a cottage industry and bought in much needed spare cash. Women and girls had to work long hours to earn these wages and often plaited while walking as well as when sitting at home. The straw lengths (usually 10 inches long) had to be moistened in the lips first. Plait widths ranged from three to 16 straws, although seven was most common. Plait was made into 20-yard lengths called scores and the better workers produced four of these a day. The Plaits were sent to St Albans or Luton to be made into Hats.

MS: William Bunnage

MS: Mary Campkin

MS: Thomas Channer

MS: James Channer

WS: Thomas Channer what is your fathers occupation

Thomas Channer : Groom Sir

WS: Thomas father was John aged 57 and married to Anne 37. He would have probably worked at Brocket hall which was owned Francis 7th Earl Cowper. Who may not have resided at Brocket Hall but remained at Panshanger as the census of 1881 shows the Hall to be occupied by his younger brother Henry Fredrick Cowper (1836 – 1887). Lord Francis Cowper, who at that time owned the Panshanger and Brocket Estates, had a school built in 1872, which he supported financially until 1903

MS: Walter Dawson

MS: what is your fathers occupation

Walter Dawson: Land steward

WS: Walter Dawson was the nephew of James Dawson aged 59 the Land steward of the Brocket Estate married to Lizzie aged 67. Land Stewards were tied to the estate and did not travel with the master of the estate. They managed all the activities associated with making the estate profitable, including record and account keeping, managing contracts, and overseeing the agricultural aspects of the home farm. Mrs Seaman We will look after Master Dawson well as he is of good stock.

MS: Charles Drapper

MS: Mary Draper

MS: Eliza Flitney

MS: Ebenezer Fowler

MS: Ebenezer Fox

MS: Ebenezer Fox what is your fathers occupation

Ebenezer Fox : A railwayman Flagman

WS: Henry fox aged 26 married to Mary aged 30 worked as a flagman on the railways a flagman is an employee of the railroad who is assigned to protect contractors or anyone performing work on a railroad right of

way. A flagman is also assigned to protect a train that has stopped on a section of track. In 1872 Henry would have worked for the Great Northern Railway which started at Kings Cross and had been around for 20 years. Kings Cross (temporary) was built in 1850 and the local station Hatfield was built also in 1950 and Henry would have worked out of Hatfield.

MS: John Freeman

MS: John Garret

MS: John Garret what is your fathers occupation and where do you live

John Garret: My father is a Miller and I live at Lemsford Mill in the Village

WS: John Garrets Father was George Garret aged 35 married to Mary aged 37. They lived at Lemsford Mill. Owned in the 12th Century by the Fitzsimon family of Simonshyde. From then until the 19th century its history is obscure, though the village was referred as Lemsford Mills from the 17th century. For many years it remained in the ownership of the Brocket Estate and amongst its 18th century and 19th century lessees were George Garrett (who also worked Welwyn and Codicote Mills)

MS: Walter Goodge

MS: Alfred Goodge

MS: Emma Hill

MS: Ann Hill

MS: James Hill

MS: Children I would like to introduce The Vicar, the Revd. W Burnside, who will open the school each morning with prayers, and be himself responsible for the teaching of Scripture to the older pupils.

Rev WB

Psalm 90 selection.

LORD, thou hast been our refuge, * from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, * thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, *
and as a watch in the night.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so
strong that they come to fourscore years, * yet is their strength then but
labour and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon: * so shall we rejoice and be
glad all the days of our life.

Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast plagued us; * and for
the years wherein we have suffered adversity.

Show thy servants thy work, * and their children thy glory.

And the glorious majesty of the LORD our God be upon us: * prosper
thou the work of our hands upon us; O prosper thou our handy-work.

We shall now sing the Hymn ‘ All things bright and Beautiful ’

MS: Thomas Horn

MS: Thomas Horn what is your fathers occupation and where do you
live.

Thomas Horn: Farmer and we live at Handside farm

WS: Thomas father was William James Horn age 33 who was born at
Handside, Hatfield, the son of William Cooper Horn and Mary Ann
Woodhouse, on 16th June 1837, his father dying in 1839. He lived all his
life at Handside Farm and married Sarah Cox in the St Albans
Registration Area in the July-September quarter. The 1881 census shows
that William James Horn was then farming 600 acres, which must have
been one of the biggest farms in the area. His widowed mother was in the
house as were his wife and surviving children.

MS: Susan Horn

MS: Elizabeth Horn

MS: George Lawrence

MS: George Lawrence what is your fathers occupation and where do you
live

George Lawrence: Beer retailer and in the village in the Long and Short

WS: Georges father was James aged 39 married to Mary aged 40

‘The Long Arm & the Short Arm’ was originally a cottage and blacksmith’s shop and dates from 1734. In 1853 the buildings were described in an auction catalogue as a’ a brick built and tiled beer house, baker and grocers shop, bakehouse and premises’. In 1871 James Lawrence was beer retailer. He had a wife, Mary and five sons. Other occupants of the building at the time was the Drapper family.

MS: Thomas Lawrence

MS: Emily Lines

MS: Elizabeth Lines

MS: Elizabeth Manning

MS: Mary Manning

MS: Sarah Mumford

MS: William Mumford

MS: Charles Munt

MS: Isabella munt

MS: Walter Munt

MS: Louisa Munt

MS: Peter Nash

MS: Solomon

MS: George Redd

MS: Alfred Redd

MS: Alfred Redd hat is your fathers occupation

Alfred Redd: Farm Bailiff

WS: Alfred father was William aged 49 his mother was Mary aged 45.
Mary had 10 children

Farm bailiffs exist on landed estates. The farm bailiff is employed by the Cowper family and his managerial duties can include collecting rent, taxes and supervising both farm operations and labourers.

A bailiff is a law officer who makes sure that the decisions of a court are obeyed. Bailiffs can take a person's furniture or possessions away if the person owes money.

MS: Annie Redd

MS: Arthur Redd

MS: Ada Redd

MS: Frederick Reynolds

MS: Elizabeth Reynolds

MS: Elizabeth Reynolds what is your fathers occupation

Elizabeth Reynolds : Railwayman platelayer

WS: Elizabeth father was David aged 30 married to Emma aged 37.

Most family's worked for the estate as agricultural workers (Hands up census) but many were working outside the estate on the new railway. A platelayer or trackman is a railway employee whose job is to inspect and maintain the permanent way of a railway installation. The term "platelayer" derives from the plates used to build plateways, an early form of railway.

MS: Reuben Sear

MS: Frank Sear

MS: Bertha Sear

MS: James Sear

MS: Frederick

MS: Issac Sear

MS: William Sear

MS: Sarah Spriggs

MS: Arthur Spriggs

MS: Ellen Stringer

MS: Lizzie Taylor

MS: Thomas Taylor

MS: George Taylor

MS: Ann Taylor

MS: William Titmuss

MS: William you share the name of our Prime Minister Mr William Gladstone

WS: The parents of these children would have known personally two other Prime Ministers, both living at Brockett Hall. The first William Lamb known as Lord Melbourne, William who inherited the Hall in 1805 married Caroline Ponsonby who became Lady Caroline Lamb and romantic liaisons were abundant at Brocket Hall. The wife of had a great passion for the poet Lord Byron and is said to have fallen from her horse at the shock of seeing his funeral cortege passing the Brocket estate; she had not known of his death until that moment.

The second Lord Melbourne proved to be more of an individual, going on to become Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister in 1834 with whom he struck up a close friendship. Victoria herself often stayed at Brocket Hall so the Local would also see the present queen.

The second was Lord Palmerston went on to become Prime Minister and in 1865 died, 2 days before his 81st birthday in somewhat bizarre circumstances at Broomfield Hall, on a billiard table.

MS: Sarah Titmuss

MS: Emily Titmuss

MS: Charles Tyler

MS: Walter Tyler

MS: Alfred Tyler

MS: Elizabeth Walby

MS: James Walby

MS: Annie Warner

MS: David Warner

MS: James Warner

MS: Thomas Warner

MS: Charles Wilmot

MS: Frederick Wilmot

MS: William Wilmot

MS: Emma Wright

MS: Annie Wright

MS: Frederick Wright

MS: Harry Wright

Rev WB: Ends with thanksgiving service and a prayer

SERVICE CONCLUDED