

MARY SEAMAN

20 February 2009

I am on the family tree search and hoping you may be able to help me please.

I see in your web page 'The first 100 years of St John's School Lemsford' Mary Seaman as Head mistress and Walter Seaman as assistant teacher at the school May 1872 . I believe them to be my great great grandparents. They had a son Frederick born Dec 1872 Lemsford Hertfordshire Would that have been possible, acceptable in those days?

Walter was a Devon lad born, his mum and dad and family were Cardiff based. Mary was from Bury Somerset and I believe her father was John Adams who taught at a school in Boscastle for 24 years.

From Lemsford Walter and Mary went to St Ives to teach at St Andrews Street School. Walter as Head and Mary as assistant. Would you have any information on Mary and Walter Seaman .Old school photos, paper clipping anything? Or even ideas of how I can verify this information.

In hope, and many thanks if you can help.

Julie (nee Seaman) McAndrew

Reply dated 21st February 2009

Sent 4 'Ladbury' photographs of the school

I was delighted when Andy has passed your e-mail on to me for, as you will gather, we would do not know much about the Seamans and would be very interested to know more - especially as Mary Seaman was the first head teacher of St. John's School.

I have checked the baptism records for St. John's Church, Lemsford and there is no mention of a baptism for a Seaman baby. It was very usual in those days for the first child to be taken back to the maternal grandparents home for the baptism so almost certainly that is where the record will be.

I have found two other articles about the early days of Lemsford School which I am attaching. Unfortunately the school records describing the first years of the school are missing as also is a copy of the photograph of the children and teachers taken on the opening day. We would dearly love to find them.

I have some photographs of the school taken around the turn of the century - too late to interest you. However we have been lucky enough to be contacted by the grandson of William Ladbury, the head teacher from 1902 - 1936 who has let me have some photographs of the school house taken in about 1911 when his grandfather was there and I am attaching these.

If you have any photographs of the Seamans, it does not have to be one taken when they were in Lemsford, we would be very grateful for a copy - e-mail would be fine, but not too small please as it would not reproduce well . We are trying to collect photographs of all the head teachers and we do not have one of them. We do not keep any original documents or photographs only scanned copies. Also we would much appreciate any information about the Seaman's to add to our files.