

## Memories of Wadworth Cottage from Richard and Jenny Bough Compiled by Bronwen Wild

Wadworth Cottage (at the west end of Breinton Common) was formerly called Memorial Cottage and was the home of Miss Baker who gave the carved book stand to the Mission Hall Church and which is now in St. Michael's Church. The cottage was originally called Alice Cottage, then Memorial Cottage and finally Wadworth Cottage. It has inscriptions on the oak lintels across the gable ends.



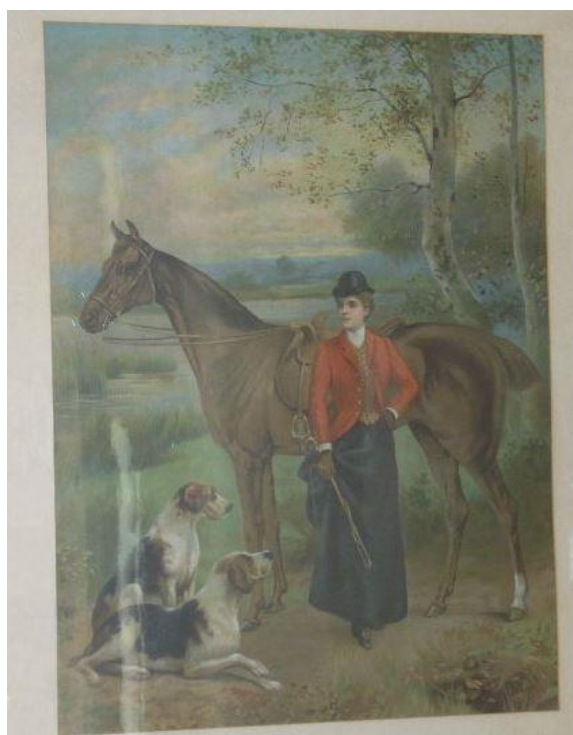
“Wadworth Cottage was built in 1902, designed by Henry Alfred Wadworth who had it built in memory of his daughter Alice. “In Memorium Alice Wadworth 1st January 1901” at the front; “Henry Alfred Wadworth 1852-1929” at the side.





Henry Alfred Wadworth was born in 1852 and died in 1929. He lived at Breinton Court and was a farmer. He had a legal practice in the city. Sadly, he died in a riding accident in Upper Breinton when he was thrown from his horse. In 1875 he bought a brewery in Devizes in Wiltshire. Wadworth beer is well known and the firm is run by his great nephew today. Henry Alfred had a granddaughter called Marigold who ran away with the gardener from Breinton Court and lived in Cobhall Common, Allensmore.

“His daughter Alice was killed on 1st of January 1901 in a riding accident at Dinedor whilst riding at a point to point. She was only seventeen years old. There is a painting of a young girl in a riding habit of the day which hangs in the hall of the cottage. It was here when we bought the cottage in 1982 and we wonder if it is Alice.”



The house is single storey and built of stone with black and white elevations and an ornate chimney pot. The windows, doors, window seats and cupboards are all made of oak with wrought iron fittings. It was built for the use of old servants in retirement and the rules of the cottage are inscribed on a cupboard door, and here they are!



*This house is occupied on condition that it and its grounds are kept tidy  
The occupier is requested not to drive nails into the walls(hooks are provided)  
Or to paper,colour or paste anything onto them.  
The hedges are to be clipped and weeds not allowed to seed!*



Then follows a list of articles to be left in good condition when the house is given up:-  
*Well rope, Well bucket, Iron soil bucket in closet, Water tub, Furnace lid head, 4doz picture rail hooks, 6 brass curtain rods and 12 screws, 5doz brass curtain rings, trivet, brick burner in grate.*

“This is a transcript of the newspaper/magazine cutting (attached to the back of the cupboard door). It was here when we arrived nearly 34 years ago. I suspect that it may date from WW2 as some years ago a walker passing by stopped to say that he was from Canada and that he lived here with an aunty during the war. He knew the history and layout of the cottage and that there was a well where the bathroom and utility area are now. There was no bathroom but a privy in the garden and he knew that there had been a range in what is now the dining room. The cutting is of a poem called “Log Lore” and is followed by this statement:-

“Having once lived in British Columbia I think readers with log burning fires might be interested in the following lines written by an anonymous writer.” It is signed at the bottom with the initials V.M. (Mrs) Loanhead, Midlothian. I can read the poem if you like but it is quite well known and describes the burning qualities of different sorts of wood and ends with the lines:

*“But ashwood wet or ashwood dry  
 A king shall warm his slippers by!”*

Richard goes on to say:-

“In the wood at the bottom of our garden are the remains of a semi circular slit trench used as a machine gun post by the Home Guard. In a field on the left, just before Heathfield, (a red brick house half way up the steep hill that leads out of Breinton Common) are the remains of a brick bunker system linked by tunnels to other structures on the river side of the road. I think they were search light and anti aircraft sites to protect the munitions factory at Rotherwas in WW11. There may be links to the secret version of the Home Guard who would have been an underground resistance in the event of a German invasion. I believe that Mr. Morgan Jones Snr. (*of Sugwas Court*) was a member of such a group. I know that my uncle George was in the Breinton Home Guard and must have patrolled round here before he joined the Grenadier Guards, sadly meeting his end at Monte Casino. It was a small world as my father was there in the tanks and one of his sisters, May, was also there as a nurse. Jenny’s Dad was in Italy in the RAF as a radio operator!”

