



Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

Cotswold Canals Restoration

Phase 1b. Saul Junction to The Ocean, Stonehouse

Project S13

The Ford Brothers of Ryeford

by Peter Ford April 2007 Issue 1

In the mid 19th century Ryeford Mill on the southern bank of the Stroudwater Canal at Stonehouse ceased to be a cloth mill. It then became wholly a corn mill owned by the Ford family. This account describes the Ford Brothers' involvement with Ryeford Mill and their use of the Stroudwater Canal for carrying wheat and flour.

Henry Ford (Farmer)

Born Owlpen 8th March 1791, **Married** Elizabeth Tainton 21 May 1811

Died 26th June 1874 Aged 84. Buried Stonehouse Parish Church.

Elizabeth Buried Stonehouse 27th January 1866. Aged 73

Children.

Henry born 16th May 1813. Charles born 1814. George born 1815

Harriett Bap 4th Nov 1817. **John** baptised 7th Jan 1821 Dursley Methodist.

Aaron baptised 16th April 1823 at Alkerton Wesleyan. Samuel born 1827



Woodleaze Farm, Kingscote.

Residence of **Henry Ford** 1851 Census

The earliest information I have been able to find on **Henry Ford**, (my great great grandfather) and his sons business and farming activities is that in 1837 **H. Ford** and sons were tenants at Woodleaze Farm and paying rent of £257 per annum. In 1838 at Kingscote, he was also renting from the trustees of John Wright (deceased), two plots of land, on the map shown as Plot No. 230 Horse Croft, comprising 3 acres 0 rods and 8 perch, and plot No. 231 Coldwell, 3 acres 2 rods and 39 perch.

1841

In 1841 the Census for Lugershall shows **Henry Ford**, age 45 (age 50) my Great Great Grandfather, living with his wife Elizabeth 45, at Lugershall, in the Parish of Newington Bagpath. He is a Farmer but no acreage is shown. His daughter Harriet (who is of simple mind) is 25, **John Ford** (my Great grandfather) aged 20 is a blacksmith, the occupation of the other brothers, George 20 Charles 20, Aaron 15 and Samuel 15 is not shown.

1841.

Lurgershall	1	Henry Ford	45	Farmer	2
		Elizabeth Do	45		2
		George Do	20		2
		Charles Do	20		2
		John Do	20	Blacksmith	2
		Aaron Do	15		2
		Samuel Do	15		2
		Harriet Do	25		2

1841 Census Lurgershall

The 1841 census for Owlpen shows a John Ford age 45 who is an agricultural labourer, also his wife Elizabeth 50, daughter Ann 15, son Joseph 12, and Jonathan Ford aged 65 who is also an agricultural labourer, are living at Owlpen Farm (Is this John a brother of Henry shown above living at Lurgershall? What relation is Jonathan Ford to the above John Ford, perhaps his father?)

1848

On the 31st May 1848 George Ford, Bachelor, of Nailsworth married Esther Maria Hadley, Spinster, at the Parish Church Slymbridge. Witnessed by, Henry Ford Farmer, and Samuel Hadley, Timber Merchant.



Ryeford House residence of George Ford

On the 17th June 1856 Samuel Ford married Esther Paradise

Page 16.

1856, Marriage solemnized at the Church in the Parish of St. Margaret in the County of Gloucester

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
31	June 17	Samuel Ford Esther Paradise	29 27	Bachelor Spinster	Cloth Dealer Dressmaker	King's Cote Dursley	Henry Ford George Paradise	Farmer Farmer

Married in the Christ Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, James H. King
Samuel Ford By John Paradise
Esther Paradise By James H. King

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Samuel Ford in the Presence of us, John Paradise
Esther Paradise James H. King

1861

The 1861 Census shows that **Henry Ford** 68, and his wife Elizabeth 66 and daughter Harriett are living at Binley Farm; he is farming 350 acres and is employing 14 men, and 3 women and 3 boys. The rent for Woodleaze has now increased to £146 for the half year. Two other people are living in the house, they are Mary Partridge aged 15 who is a servant, and Elizabeth Partridge aged 10 who is a scholar. Also in residence is a Henry Ford 18 unmarried, employed as a servant. He was born in Ashley Leicestershire. (His father, also a Henry*, may be the son of Henry and Elizabeth.)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Parish of St. Margaret

Page 19	Parish (or Township) of <u>St. Margaret</u>	City or Municipal Borough of <u>St. Margaret</u>	Municipal Ward of <u>1861 KINGS COTE</u>	Parliamentary Borough of <u>No 1779</u>	Town of <u>FOLIO 35</u>	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of <u>PAGE 12</u>	Ecclesiastical Diocese of <u>Gloucester</u>	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
								No. in the House	Male						
										William Ford	Head	married	68	Farmer of 350 Acres	Binley Farm
										Elizabeth Ford	Wife	married	66	3 Women & 3 Boys	Binley Farm
										Harriett Ford	Daughter	unmarried	15		Binley Farm
										Henry Ford	Servant	unmarried	18		Binley Farm
										Elizabeth Partridge	Servant	unmarried	10	Scholar	Binley Farm
										Mary Partridge	Servant	unmarried	15		Binley Farm
										William Partridge	Servant	unmarried	10		Binley Farm
										Elizabeth Partridge	Servant	unmarried	10		Binley Farm
										Henry Ford	Servant	unmarried	18		Binley Farm
										Elizabeth Partridge	Servant	unmarried	10		Binley Farm
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										Elizabeth Partridge	Servant	unmarried	10		Binley Farm

The 1861 census shows **John Ford** 35, with his wife **Henrietta** 31, **Henry John** 5 (my Grandfather), Clara 3, Ellen H 11 months. They are living at Mill Bottom, near Stroud. He is a Timber Merchant, and is employing 11 men and 3 boys.

1861 CENSUS

The unenumerated Houses are situated within the Boundaries of the 87 [Page 3]

No. of Inhabitants	Parish (or Township) of Madley	Household No. and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb	
										Sex
17	Mill Bottom	111	John Ford	Head	Mar	35	Timber Merchant & Milling	Gloucestershire Deal	Yes	
			Henrietta Do	Wife	Mar	31		Do	Yes	
			Henry J Do	Son		5		Do	Yes	
			Clara Do	Daughter		3		Do	Yes	
			Ellen H Do	Daughter		11 months		Do	Yes	
			Elizabeth Swinton	Servant		16		Do	Yes	
			Anna Reed	Servant		16		Do	Yes	
18			John Reed	Head	Mar	27	Blair Washer	Do	Yes	
			Joseph Do	Wife	Mar	21	Blair Washer	Do	Yes	
19	Reckford Hill		Joseph Warrington	Head	Mar	33	Tim Painter & Horse Shoe Man	Do	Yes	
			Julia Do	Wife	Mar	33		Do	Yes	
			Alice E Do	Son		9	Scholar	Warwick Birmingham	Yes	
			Alfred H Do	Son		8	Scholar	Do	Yes	
			Victoria J Do	Son		6		Gloucestershire Pittsburg	Yes	
			William J Do	Son		3		Do	Yes	
			William J Do	Son		7 1/2		Do	Yes	
			Samuel W. Maxwell	Servant	Mar	21	Iron heading Machine	Do	Yes	
51			George Bircham	Head	Mar	35	Excavator	Do	Yes	
			Charlotte Do	Wife	Mar	35	Domestic work	Do	Yes	
			Charles Do	Son		13	Black Washer	Do	Yes	
			Mary Ann Do	Son		11		Do	Yes	
			Lucas Do	Son		8	Scholar	Do	Yes	
			George R Do	Son		5	Scholar	Do	Yes	
Total of Houses...			4	Total of Males and Females...		11				

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The 1861 census shows George Ford 40 Miller, living at Ryeford House Mill, Stonehouse, with his wife Esther M 33, Caroline H 12, Henry G 10, Emily C H 9, Charles E 3 months, Aaron 34 Miller (brother), Hannah Browning 30 Cook, Martha Henderson 20 Nursemaid.

1866

On the 27th January 1866 Elizabeth wife of Henry Ford died aged 73

1870

The following is taken from the Gloucestershire Chronicle, dated Saturday 12th February 1870. From the description of events the Ford Bros are very lucky there were no fatalities or serious injuries. It is the first indication that I have that gives some idea of the scale of their farming/milling.

STROUD 1871

Page 16] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

* Civil Parish (or Township) of	County	Municipal Borough of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c. of	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners District) of	Estimated		
Strodehouse	Gloucestershire		Strode		Strode				
No. of Subdivs.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSE No. (if any) and No. of Subdivs.	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	1. Dist. 2. Em. 3. Let.
50	Ryeford House	1	George Ford	Head	Mar.	50		Gloucestershire, Stroud	
			Henrietta	Wife	Mar.	46		do, Stroud	
			Henry G	Son	Mar.	20		do, Stroud	
			Charles E	Son	Mar.	10		do, Stroud	
			Emily E H	Daughter	Mar.	19		do, Stroud	
			Aaron	Son	Mar.	45		do, Stroud	
			Emily	Servant	Mar.	15		do, Stroud	
			Martha	Servant	Mar.	22	Housemaid	Gloucestershire, Stroud	
			John	Servant	Mar.	24	Coachman	do, Stroud	
54	Ryeford	1	George Ford	Head	Mar.	15	Shoemaker	do, Stroud	
			Henrietta	Wife	Mar.	20		do, Stroud	
			William	Son	Mar.	4	Shoemaker	do, Stroud	
			William	Son	Mar.	2	Shoemaker	do, Stroud	
			Elizabeth	Servant	Mar.	20	Washer	do, Stroud	
			John	Servant	Mar.	14	Washer	do, Stroud	
60	Ryeford	1	George Ford	Head	Mar.	50		do, Stroud	
			Henrietta	Wife	Mar.	46		do, Stroud	
			Charles E	Son	Mar.	10		do, Stroud	
			Emily	Daughter	Mar.	19		do, Stroud	
			William	Son	Mar.	45		do, Stroud	
			John	Servant	Mar.	15		do, Stroud	
			James	Servant	Mar.	5		do, Stroud	
Total of Houses..			Total of Males and Females..		12	12			

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

My Grandfather **Henry John Ford** 15, (with his cousin Samuel Ford 14), shown on the Previous Census, are in residence at Wesleyan College, Queens, Taunton Somerset. He was sent to Queens as the private tuition he had been receiving had left him poorly educated.

The 1871 Census shows George Ford 50 still living at Ryeford House with his wife Henrietta (sometimes known as Hester) sons Henry G 20, Charles E 10, daughter Emily E H 19, his brother Aaron 45, and three servants. No occupation is shown against George and Aaron.

STONEHOUSE.

AUCTION SALE. — On Friday week a large auction sale of fat cattle and hay took place on the premises of Messrs. Ford Brothers, of Ryeford. The auctioneers were Messrs. Bruton, Knowles and Bruton, of Gloucester. The whole of the live stock, consisting of 60 stall-fed bullocks and 350 ewes and lambs, proved to be of excellent quality. The bullocks were sold at very good prices, ranging from £20 to £26 per head. The sheep also sold well. A large quantity of hay was also disposed of. This, we understand, became the property of the Duke of Beaufort at £850, there being about 140 tons of it, in two ricks of 80 and 60 tons each respectively, or thereabouts. There was also for sale by private contract a large number of oaken gates, cow cribs and sheep troughs. Luncheon was provided. The Ryeford mills offer facilities for such sales from their contiguity to the Stonehouse and Nailsworth branch of the Midland Railway, thus affording easy conveyance from the place of sale to the large towns along the line.

From the Stroud News and Journal 25th February 1871.

The local newspaper The Stroud News and Journal, has several entries for 1871, showing George Ford and his brother Aaron are very involved with the Wesleyan Church. *A public meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society was held on Monday 11th February 1871, which was well attended, including several members of the Clergy, W.H. Marling MP, and also George and Aaron Ford. The meeting started with the singing of a Hymn and prayers.*

The amount collected for the previous year was £114 15s 5d, after various speeches a vote of thanks was proposed by G Ford. A Ford moved a vote of thanks to those gentlemen who occupied the platform that evening.

Extract of the Minutes of Quarterly meeting March 1871

The Superintendent nominated Mr Chas Warner and Mr Geo Ford for the re election to the Office of Circuit Stewards, Mr Mayo moved and Mr Farmiloe seconded the adoption of the nomination with thanks to the two gentlemen for their past services. Both accepted the office for another year.

*The Superintendent stated that Messrs George and Aaron Ford had generously promised to give the shell of an **Iron Chapel at Ryeford** to seat about 160, if the friends would furnish the interior. The advisability of the scheme was discussed at some length; a unanimous resolution was ultimately arrived at accepting the offer made by George and A Ford.*

RYEFORD NEW WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Wednesday, May 24th, the above mentioned place of worship was opened for divine service, when two striking sermons were preached by the Rev. W. O. Simpson, of London.—On the following Sunday the Rev. James Clapham, Chairman of the Bristol District, preached two sermons which were listened to with great attention, and were very much appreciated. In the evening the chapel was too small to accommodate those who came to attend the service. The services will be continued next Sunday, when the Rev. E. Cape, of Doncaster, a former minister of the circuit, will preach in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, and in the evening at 6.30 o'clock; and collections will be made towards defraying the cost of furnishing.

From the Stroud News and Journal 3rd June 1871.

From the Minutes of Quarterly meeting on 30th September 1871. *Those present included G Ford Circuit Steward.*

The Stewards reported an Income of £50 12s 7d and the expenditure of £49 17s 7d. Moved by Mr Richards and seconded by Mr G Ford that the Stipend of the Superintendent Minister be £120 P/A, and that of junior Ministers be £75.

Minutes of Quarterly meeting at Ryeford, 26th December 1871.

Present Rev Allen, Messrs G Ford, A Ford, C Warner T Hopkins, Mrs Kimmins.

The Steward reported the income to be £48 0s 0d the expenditure to be £47 14s 8d. Leaving a balance of 5s 4d.

Vote of thanks for the Ryeford Chapel proposed by Rev G L Allen and seconded by C Warner.

That an Iron Chapel having been erected at Ryeford for the use of the Circuit. The thanks of the meeting are due to Messrs Geo and A Ford, for the use of the site and building, and to those friends of the Circuit who have given the fixtures and fittings of the interior.

Vote of thanks passed to Messrs C Warner and Geo Ford for their services and to the Stewards who were re elected

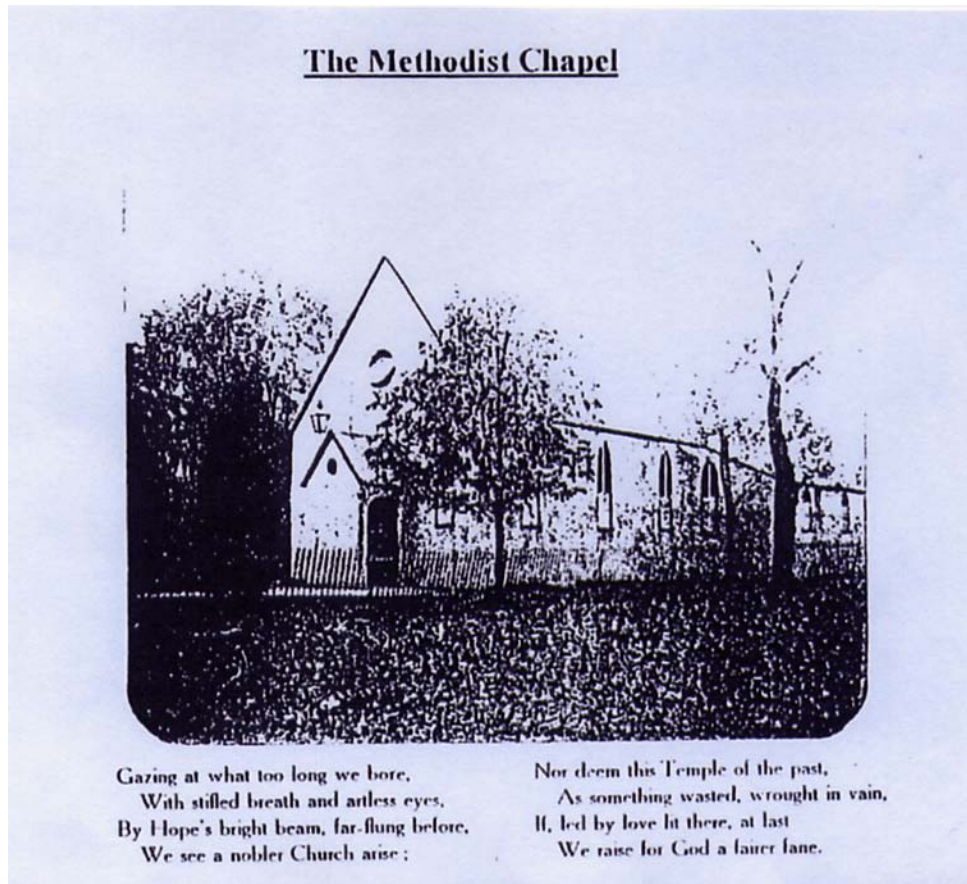


Photo and text from the local news paper.

Stonehouse Methodist Chapel was situated in an iron building in Regent St. (c 1890) which had originally been erected in 1871 at Ryeford and later moved to a more central site. In due course the building became the Bethel Church, and when its congregation moved to new premises in Bath Road, the old iron Chapel was demolished to make room for the Wycliffe College squash courts.

The building was of corrugated structure and had a small congregation, but was able to hold around 160. It was apparently a very comfortable Chapel and was lined with red baize and was constructed with 'glittering nails' plus other attractions. It also had an organ of doubtful quality.

In 1889 the 'Tin Chapel' as it was affectionately known, was dismantled and moved from Ryeford to Regent Street in Stonehouse, where it was re erected. The move became necessary because the masters and boys from Wycliffe College had to walk half a mile from the College to Ryeford to attend Services. The new location was much nearer to the College. The reason for the boys attending was that the founder Mr Sibley was a Methodist.

When the business partnership of Ford Bro ceased trading in 1878, it was decided that the Chapel and a quarter acre of land be presented to the Wesleyan Conference as a gift from the brothers.

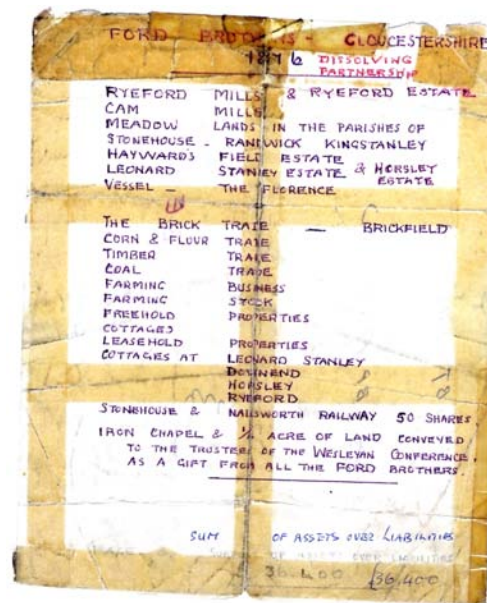
When the new Stonehouse Methodist Church was built, the Chapel became known as 'Ford Hall' and served the community as a classroom; also Saturday evening lectures were held there.

The 1873 Land Registry show the brothers, Aaron Ford 5 acres, Charles Ford, 15 acres, George Ford, 18 acres, **John Ford** 5 acres and Samuel Ford 5 acres. No acreage is shown for their father.

The family operate first as Henry Ford, then as Henry Ford and Sons, and after his death, as Ford Bros. that is apart from Henry (the eldest son) who was never involved in the family's farming/business activities, and who for some reason or other moved to Ashby in Leicestershire. His name only appears in the Court case Ford v Ford. The only information I have on him, is that he was one of the Trustees for his sister Harriet. At the moment I have not been able to find out if he married, or trace his whereabouts

On the 26th June 1874 Henry Ford died aged 84

Research carried out by Frederick Ford (1930s)



Research carried out by my Great Uncle Frederick Ford (my Grandfathers brother) in the 1930's shows they either owned or rented land in the Parishes of Kingscote, Horsley, Stonehouse, Randwick, and Kings Stanley.

He also says they were involved with the Haywardsfield Estate, Leonard Stanley Estate and the Horsley Estate, but he does not say how they were involved.

They were also involved for many years in the Brick Trade, Corn and Flour Trade, Timber and Coal Trade, in addition to the Farming; they were operating several Mills and boats on the Stroudwater Canal.

FAULTY ACCOUNTS.

Ford & Co. v. S. Stephens.—Plaintiffs, millers, of Stonehouse, represented by Mr Parsons, sued for £7 14s. 6d. balance of account. This case occupied a considerable time, there being discrepancies in the various account books, invoices and receipts shown.

Judgment was given for 16/6, some sacks recently sent by the defendant from Swansea to plaintiff's, to be delivered up to him, or their value.

From the Stroud News and Journal 16th March 1878

STONEHOUSE.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS. — Last week the annual missionary meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Ryeford. The chair was occupied by Mr G. Ford, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. William Williams (chairman of the Bristol district), the Revs. Thomas Raspass, J. Bawden Allen, J. Bullock, and other gentlemen. The deputation, in a very interesting manner, described the missionary field and enterprise, giving in detail incidents of a gratifying character, which were listened to with much pleasure and marked attention. The Rev. J. Bawden Allen read the report. Others present bore testimony to the great and important work of the society. A collection was made at the close of the meeting, which amounted to £5.

From the Stroud News and Journal Saturday 30th March 1878

In a local book of *Clergy and Gentry*, it is interesting to note that, Mr George Ford, Ryeford House, Mr Samuel Ford, The Grove, and Mr **John Ford** (no address shown) are listed as *Gentry*. Under *Professions* is listed, Ford Brothers, Millers, Timber Merchants, &c, Ryeford Mills. Unfortunately I do not have a date or name of this publication.

On the 20th December 1877 an accident occurred at the Ryeford Saw Mill, an 18 year old employee Charles Richmond was caught up in machinery and killed. At the inquest on the 22nd December the Jury brought in a verdict of accidental death, but recommended the owner **John Ford** carried out safety measures to protect the workers.

A typed copy of the original Inquest is on the next page.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE. AN INQUISITION indented taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the Parish of *Stratton* in the said County of Gloucester,
TO WIT.
on the *twenty second* day of *December* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy *seven*

BEFORE ALFRED JOHN MORTON BALL *party for John Gustave Ball*
one of the Coroners of our said Lady the Queen for the said County on view of the body of *Charles Richmond* then and there lying dead upon the Oath of *Edward Hale, Henry Tilly, George Cornock, George Mortimer, James Ford, Charles Townsend, William Powell, Alfred William Griffiths, Benjamin Evans, Henry Lewis, James Gurnmill and Edward Pender*

twelve good and lawful men of the said County duly chosen and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to enquire for our said Lady the Queen when where how and by what means the said Charles Richmond came to his death, do upon their Oaths, say that the said Charles Richmond a lawyer aged 18 years of legal but lately being at times having been in the employ of Mr John Ford at Ragford near Stroud, on Thursday last 20th instant being at his usual work in the said Stroud town with two other men in the same shed - he passed up the shed as they supposed for some necessary purpose and almost immediately was seen around the shafting - the wheel was at once stopped & he was thrown several yards distance - his left arm torn off and his legs broken in two places and he then commenced after some breathing - his body was carefully removed to the High Street - and as the jury say he immediately expired there & that the body was buried & was buried there & was buried there & that the shafting be put in repair & that the jury say in some other respects which they think fit to state in their verdict -

In Witness whereof we well the said Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition at their Hands and Seals on the Day and Year and at the Place first above written.

Alfred John Morton Ball
Coroner.
James Gurnmill

Edward Hale  *William Powell* 
Henry Tilly  *Alfred William Griffiths* 
George Cornock  *Benjamin Evans* 
George Mortimer  *Henry Lewis* 

GLOUCESTERSHIRE – AN INQUISITION indented taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the Parish of STONEHOUSE on the twenty second day of December in the year of our Lord 1877.

Before **Alfred John Morton Ball** Deputy for **John G Ball**, one of the Coroners of our said Lady Queen for the said County on view of the body of *Charles Richmond* then and there lying dead upon the oath of

Edwin Hale, Henry Tilley, George Cornock, George Mortimer, James Ford, Charles Townsend, William Prevett, Alfred Williams, Joseph Rea, Benjamin Evans, Henry Lewis, James Granville, Edwin Buchan.

Twelve good and lawful men of the said County duly chosen and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to enquire for our said Lady the Queen when where how and by what means the said *Charles Richmond* came to his death, do, upon their oaths, say that the said *Charles Richmond* a sawyer aged 18 years of Uley but lately lodging at Kings Stanley housing barn in the employ of John Ford at Ryeford saw mills. On Thursday last 20th inst., being at his usual work in the saw mills then with two other men in the same shed --- he passed up the shed as they supposed for some necessary purpose and almost immediately was seen round the shafting----- the wheel at once stopped and he was thrown a considerable distance ---- his left arm was taken off and both his legs broken in two places and died there immediately after once breathing----- his body was carefully removed to the Ship Inn---- so the Jury say he accidentally came to his death and the Jury wish to express their opinion that it is desirable that the shafting be protected as far as possible and or some other arrangement which may seem preventable, to Mr Ford.

In Witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition sat their Hands and Seals on the Day and Year and at the Place first above written.

(Signatures and Seals are shown)

The book by Joan Tucker, *Stroudwater Navigation*, makes interesting reading. The canal was built by a Company of Proprietors and was opened in 1779, and used mainly to carry coal. In 1853, **Henry Ford** and Sons are shown as being one of the main users of the Canal, moving wheat, flour, coal and bricks in their fleet of boats. At Ryeford Bridge they had their own private wharf for loading and unloading corn and flour from the mill.

In July 1858 Messrs Ford requested that the lock at Eastington be widened to allow the steam vessel, Queen Esther through. The Canal authorities refused their request.

In 1863 they occupied *Ryeford Mill*, and are shown as *Flour Millers and Mealmen*, they also worked *Millbottom Mill*, in Nailsworth. As their business expanded they gradually increased their fleet of Trows. These were either pulled along by a horse or

by several men or in favourable weather by sail. The Steam vessel Queen Esther seems to have caused some problems using the canal, owing to its size.

Boats owned by the Ford Bros

And cargoes carried

Caroline Trow	Built by Henry Lewis, Stonehouse, 1855. Official Reg. No., 11634. In 1862 sent 62 tons 10cwt flour to Bristol from Ryeford. Paid 1/- (5p) each for night passes in 1873.
Emily Trow	In 1862 brought 46 tons 10cwt of coal from Junction (with Gloucester & Berkley Canal) to Ryeford Paid 1/- each for night passes in 1872 and 2/- each for 3 in 1873/4.
George Trow	Built Stonehouse 1873. Trow owner George Ford. Paid 2/- for night passes in 1873. Dock charges 2/6 (12p)
Florence Trow	In 1862 sent 59 tons of flour from Ryeford to Newport. Brought 40 tons of coal, and 1 ton of timber from Newport to Ryeford.

Queen Esther In 1882 brought 80 tons wheat to Ryeford from Newport Mons.
Steam Ship

The coal pen at Ryeford was built by Marling & Co, who paid half the cost, the other half £79.11s.8d was paid for in cash by the Ford Bros on the 1st October 1864. The coal pen is the only one to survive on the Stroudwater Canal today.

From Joan Tucker's book, Stroudwater Navigation, it appears that the Ford Bros, and in particular George Ford, were not always on good terms with the Canal Authorities. Apart from the disagreement with the authorities the brothers were disagreeing among themselves.

The dispute finally came to a head when on the 2nd February 1878, a Writ was issued *In the High Court of Justice*, between George and Aaron Ford v **John**, Charles and Samuel Ford to settle their differences in Court. It was agreed that all businesses were dissolved, and to cease trading together as Ford Bros or H Ford and Sons.

From the Statement of Claim dated 13th February 1878

The opening paragraph indicates that for many years prior to the month of May 1876 differences had arisen between the brothers. An agreement was reached on the 1st May 1876, by the brothers, and then modified on the 7th November 1876 (no final settlement seems to have taken place, it took a further two years of bickering between the brothers for an agreement to be reached)

The business referred to are

Corn and Flour Merchants, Timber Trade, Coal Trade, Brick Makers, Farming

That all Title Deeds and writings in the possession of the co-partnership be handed over to the arbitrators

The arbitrators were Samuel Stephens Marling of Stanley Park, Gloucestershire, Esquire M.P. and Sebastian Stewart Dickenson of Brown's Hill, Stroud.

All existing partnerships between George Ford, Aaron Ford, Samuel Ford, Charles Ford and **John Ford** whether under the style of 'Ford Bros' or 'H Ford and sons' or otherwise to be dissolved and determined on 30th June next.

The assets over liabilities of the Brothers amounts to £36,389 17s 0d.

In the Agreement the businesses were divided up between the Brothers.

George and Aaron Ford shall take to and purchase the Corn and Flour Trade to be carried on at Ryeford Mill and the right to trade under the title of Ford Bros. Including the dwelling houses lands and premises, and the assets and liabilities of the Brick Trade.

With exception that on the 22nd February 1873, £500 that had been drawn by George Ford on the purchase of property in Eastington to be treated as a debt due from him to the co-partnership

Samuel Ford shall take to and purchase, the Mills and premises of the co-partnership situated at Cam, the Coal trade of the co-partners with the goodwill assets and liabilities thereof, and the right to trade if he should wish, to Trade as H Ford and Son.

John Ford shall take to and purchase the timber Trade of the co-partners with the goodwill assets and liabilities thereof a liability of £5,000 being part of the debt due to the partnership on deposit of deeds that portion of real estate which is comprised under the heading 'The Haywardsfield Estate' (It was later sold to Mr G W Sibley in 1882 to become Wycliffe College)

The arbitrators were to agree a rent for **John Ford** to pay George and Aaron Ford to use the Ryeford Mill property to carry out his timber trade

Charles Ford shall take to and purchase the Farming Business with the goodwill assets and liabilities thereof

The fifty shares in the Stonehouse and Nailsworth Railway held by the brothers were transferred so each one held ten shares.

Dated the 1st of May 1876

It was agreed by the Brothers that the Iron Chapel Built on the brickfield plus one quarter of an acre of land be conveyed to the trustees of the Wesleyan Conference as a gift from the Brothers.(The Chapel was later used by the pupils of Wycliffe College).

It was also agreed that an Annuity of £100 be paid by the brothers to their sister Harriett (who is of simple mind) each paying £20.p/a. The Trustees were Daniel Jackson Ford of Tewkesbury, Charles Warner of the Cottage Horsley, and Henry Ford of Leamington

Warwickshire. (Henry I believe to be the eldest brother—not involved in any of the business activities)

The Plaintiffs and Defendants duly signed on the 7th November 1876 a further agreement as follows;

We the undersigned George Ford, Aaron Ford, Samuel Ford, Charles Ford and **John Ford** do hereby mutually agree with each other that the agreement of reference made by Messrs Samuel Stephens Marling and Sebastian Stewart Dickenson and dated on or about the 1st day of May 1876 be altered and modified as follows – that is to say

That the partnership between us which under the said agreement were declared to be dissolved on the 30th June 1876 were dissolved and shall deemed to be dissolved on the 24th day of June 1876 and that in taking the accounts under the said agreement of reference the 24th day of June 1876 shall be the day of dissolution.

The arbitrators proposed that a notice of dissolution for insertion in the London Gazette should be signed by all the brothers.

Note The Court Case, Statement of Claim and the Statement of Defence is very complicated and covers about twenty six pages, and has to read to fully understand the differences between the brothers.

From the Stroud Journal 23rd November 1878
Stonehouse

At a meeting of the Liberal electors of the Stonehouse branch of the Association, George Ford said that he had lately been to Paris, and while he was there he was led to reflect upon the despotism of the first Napoleon and his overthrow, and that so it was with all despotism, it would immediately be overpowered and cast to one side. He urged them all to be up and doing, in order that they might bring about a better state of things. (Applause)

Extract from The Stroud Journal 30th November 1878.

Stonehouse Science Class.

The annual Distribution of Prizes in conjunction with the
Science and Arts Department, South Kensington.

Took place at the Stonehouse Institute.

Among those present were Mrs White, Misses Hayward, A Ford, and Miss Ford.

The Chairman expressed his regret at the absence of the Vicar.

The successful students belong to the Ebley Science Class.

Following the prize giving a musical programme was gone through, followed by a discussion 'Science and the Bible'.

Mr G Ford said he had great pleasure in being present that evening. The Chairman when he was handed the Certificates of the successful candidates, in Botany, made what appeared to his mind, the sorrowful remark, only two.

The Chairman replied that he meant it as a compliment.

Mr Ford continuing, said it was deserving of nothing short than to be complimented. (Hear hear) The Chairman had asked him to tell them a few things about France, and as that Gentleman had the ruling of the meeting he would accede to his command.

The French people display a great amount of skill and taste in the laying out of their flower beds, and this was obviously manifested to a considerable degree at the Paris Exhibition. The vacant places surrounding the Champ de Mars presented a sight which is rarely to be seen, the flowers were arranged in such neat and delicate order, and the colours were in perfect harmony.

He then went on to say that he had the opportunity of paying attention to the Electric Light, and observing upwards of one hundred lights by the Jablockoff system.

From the Stroud Journal 7th December 1878
Important to Flour Dealers
Ford Bros v Owens.

This was an action which Messrs Ford Bros, Ryeford Mills, Stonehouse, brought to recover from the defendant, Mr D J Owens of Ystrad the sum of £1, for 20 sacks which the defendant had failed to return also the sum of £27 12s, in consequence which the defendant having refused the balance of 100 sacks of flour ordered from the Plaintiff.

Mr George, residing at Ryeford, said he received an order on April 11th to send flour to the defendant. The defendant had 52 sacks delivered, and 20 of them were sent in their own sacks, and at the time of the action they had not been returned.

(as the sacks were returned on October 11th and after lengthy discussion the Judge ruled there was no case to answer, and that Jurisdiction arose in the Court at Ystrad and not in this Court)

1881 Census

The 1881 census shows **John Ford** 57, (my great grandfather) is a Timber Merchant, and living at Haywardsfield, Stonehouse, with his wife Harriett 52, son **Henry John** 25, (my grandfather) who is also a Timber Merchant. Clara 23, Ellen H 21, William E 17, Ernest E 13, Sidney C 10, and Maud M 7.

1881 Census Haywardsfield

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

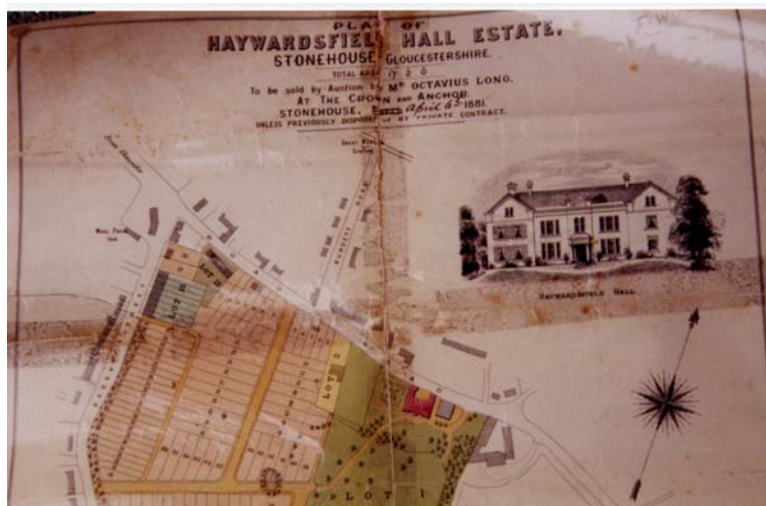
Civil Parish (or Township) of	Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	15	Page 237
Stonehouse		1881	Stonehouse	Stonehouse		Stonehouse	Stonehouse	
No. of Sublots	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Total) (1) (2) (3) (4)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
	Haywards End		Thomas L. Hayward	Husband	Married	18	Scholar	Stonehouse
			William H. Do.	Son	Single	7	Do	Do Stonehouse
115	Do	1	Charles Danvers	Head	Married	31	Woolen Weaver	Do Eastington
			Thomas Rogers	Head	Married	25	grove Manager	Do Stonehouse
			John Do.	Wife	Married	25	Do	Do Stonehouse
116	Haywards End House 1	1	Mary A. Hayward	Head	Married	67	Widow of Daniel Hayward	Do Stonehouse
			John Do.	Son	Single	60	Do	Do Stonehouse
			Charles P. Do.	Brother	Married	49	Do	Do Stonehouse
			Elizabeth Hayward	Daughter	Single	21	Cook Domestic	Do Stonehouse
			John & Elizabeth	Do	Do	20	Domestic	Do Stonehouse
117	Haywards Field 1	1	John Ford	Head	Married	57	Timber Merchant	Do Stonehouse
			Hannah Do.	Wife	Married	52	Do	Do Stonehouse
			Henry Do.	Son	Married	25	Timber Merchant	Do Stonehouse
			Charles Do.	Son	Married	23	Do	Do Stonehouse
			William Do.	Son	Single	21	Do	Do Stonehouse
			William Do.	Son	Single	14	Scholar	Do Stonehouse
			Ernest E. Do.	Son	Single	13	Do	Do Stonehouse
			Edwin Do.	Son	Single	10	Do	Do Stonehouse
			Mary Do.	Daughter	Single	7	Do	Do Stonehouse
118	Haywards End 1	1	John Evans	Head	Married	25	Cloth Worker Wears	Do Stonehouse
			Mary Do.	Wife	Married	20	Wearer of Woollen	Do Stonehouse
			John Do.	Son	Single	17	Do	Do Stonehouse
119	Do	1	John Meredith	Head	Married	36	Cloth Spinning	Do Stonehouse
			Elizabeth Do.	Wife	Married	36	Wool Worker	Do Stonehouse
15	Total of Houses...	12						
			Total of Males and Females...			12	13	

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng. Sheet D.

The 1881 census shows **John Ford** and his family are living at Haywards Field.

On the 6th April 1881, Haywardsfield Hall is to be sold by Auction by Mr Octavius Long. It would appear that my Great Grandfather **John Ford** is in financial difficulties. It was purchased by Mr G W Sibley for £2,990, “by the National Provincial Bank as Mortgagees in proceession” to become Wycliffe College.



STONEHOUSE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

PARTICULAR CONDITIONS OF SALE AND PLAN

HAYWARD'S FIELD HALL ESTATE

A Charitable FREEHOLD Estate, well situated in the Parish of Stonehouse, in the County of Gloucester, comprising

A WELL-BUILT MANSION

With a Southern aspect and of handsome elevation, replete with every convenience, and approached by a Carriage Drive through Pleasure Grounds well planted with trees and ornamental shrubs, together with excellent Stables and Coach-houses, and Lawn, Flower and Kitchen Gardens, &c.

AND ALSO

A SUBSTANTIAL ROOMY DWELLING-HOUSE

5 COTTAGES & 8 MODERN-BUILT HOUSES

TOGETHER WITH

Two Pieces of Fine Pasture Land

THE WHOLE BEING COMPRISED OF ABB. OF

17a. 2r. Op.

Of themselves, and forming with its extent and position a most attractive Residential Property and Building Estate of great and increasing value.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

TOGETHER OR IN LOTS BY

MR. OCTAVIUS LONG

AT THE

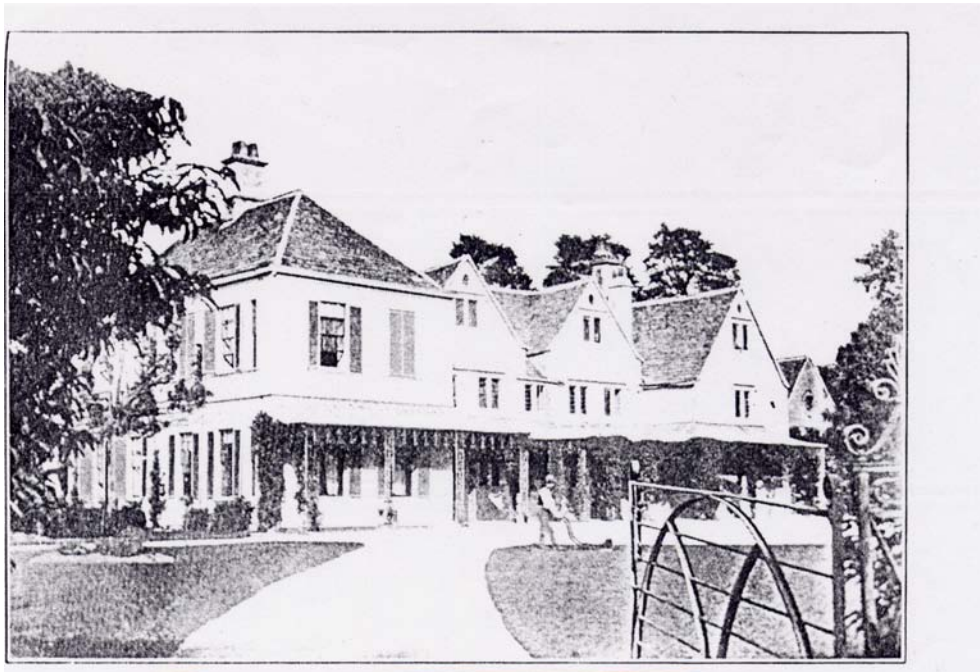
CROWN & ANCHOR HOTEL, STONEHOUSE

On **WEDNESDAY the 6th day of APRIL, 1881**

At FOUR o'clock in the Afternoon, (subject to these particulars and conditions of Sale.)

POSSESSION OF THE MANSION AND LAND MAY BE HAD ON COMPLETION

Particulars, Conditions of Sale and Plan may be had of **MR. PHILIP COOKE**, Solicitor, Berkeley Street, Gloucester, or of the Auctioneer, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.



Haywardsfield Hall became Wycliffe College in 1882

16th April 1881

LOCAL LAW CASE.

COURT OF APPEAL.

(Before Lords Justices Bramwell, Baggallay, and Lush.)

WILKINS V. HOARE, BART.

This was an appeal by plaintiff from the judgment of Joseph Brown, Esq., Q.C., delivered after the trial of the cause by him sitting as Commissioner at the last Gloucester Assize. The action was brought by Mr Walter Wilkins, as the trustee in the bankruptcy of Messrs John Ford and Henry John Ford, against Sir Henry Ainslie Hoare, Bart., the owner of landed property known as the Stourhead and Knoyle Estate, in the county of Wilts, to recover damages for the wrongful conversion of 554 oak trees, of the value of £699 6s., sold by the defendant to the Messrs Ford in April, 1879.

Mr Jelf, Q.C., and Mr Anstie were counsel for the appellant; Mr Staveley Hill, Q.C., and Mr A. T. Lawrence were for the respondent.

The facts, as stated in the opening of the learned counsel for the plaintiff, were these:—An arrangement was entered into between the parties through Mr Thomas O. Bennett, sub-agent to Sir Henry Hoare, for the purchase of the trees in question, payment for which was to be made within four months from the 20th April, 1879, and which trees were to be removed from the land in six months, unless special permission was given that they might remain longer. They were accordingly marked, felled, and stripped of their bark, the whole of which latter, of the value of £150, was taken away by Messrs Ford, with Mr Bennett's knowledge and assent. In June, 1879, the trees were measured and valued at the rate of 2s. per foot, as agreed on, and an account rendered by Mr Bennett to

Messrs Ford, who accepted. In the following month the Messrs Ford were in difficulties, a fact which became known to Mr Bennett through dishonoured bills in other transactions, and he accordingly took steps to protect the interests of the vendor, Sir Henry Hoare, by entering into an arrangement with the Messrs Ford to give them further time for the payment of an aggregate sum of £1,844, in which they were then indebted to Bennett on their giving him an authority to receive the proceeds of certain contracts which they had entered into with the Great Eastern Company. On this, however, becoming known to Mr Longburn, the solicitor and head agent of Sir Henry Hoare, he at once repudiated the arrangement, and the Messrs Ford shortly after became bankrupt—the plaintiff being appointed their trustee. The plaintiff, however, claimed to have a lien on the trees then lying on his grounds, and refused to deliver up possession, on which the present action was brought. The learned judge reserved judgment, and subsequently gave judgment in London in favour of the defendant. From this ruling the plaintiff now appealed.

Mr Jelf submitted that as the 29th of August, when the trees were to be paid for, had not arrived, there was no lien on the trees, and that the defendant had already parted with possession when he allowed the Messrs Ford to take away the bark, which was as much part of a tree as its branches or trunk.

Lord Justice Lush said he quite agreed with that. (Laughter.)

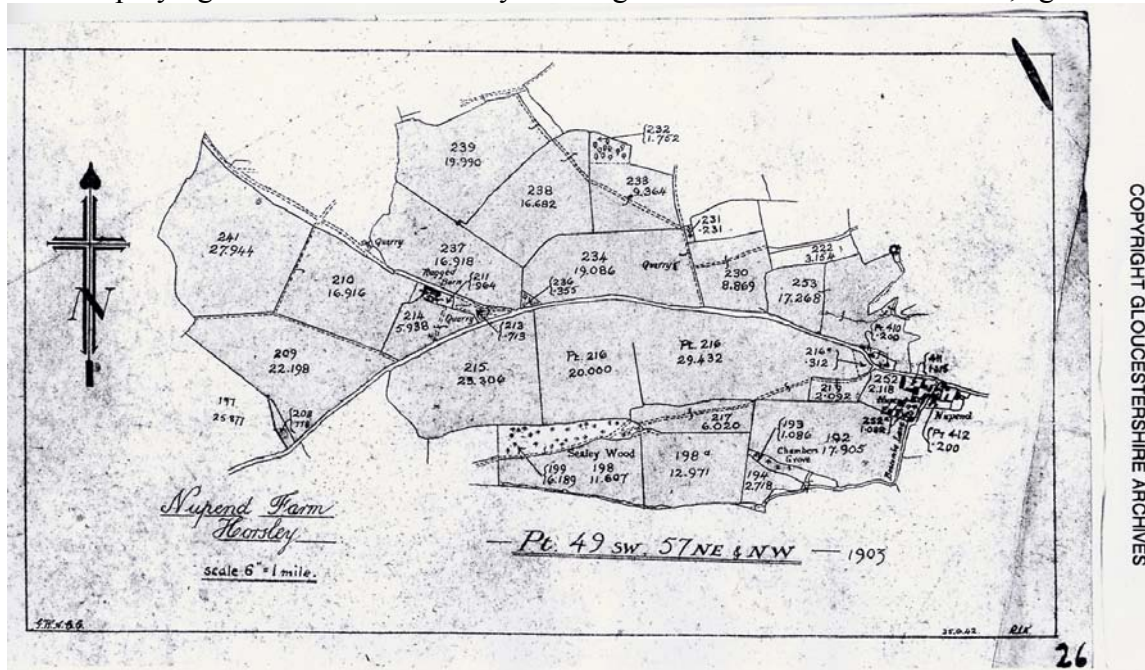
Lord Justice Bramwell, in giving judgment, held that the contract in dispute did not possess any property in the trees and timber. It only gave a right to a contract which should possess the property.

Lord Justices Baggallay and Lush concurred, and the appeal was, therefore, dismissed.

The above newspaper report shows that **John Ford** and his son **Henry John Ford** are bankrupt; I knew my Great Grandfather **John Ford** was in financial difficulties, which led to the selling of Haywardsfield Hall. I did not realise that my Grandfather **Henry John Ford** was also involved. His youngest daughter Ada Mary Ford (my aunt) told me that her father would never discuss the time before his marriage. He eventually had his own very successful business, manufacturing fences and gates, operating from Wembley/Harlesden in Middlesex. The money for the business came from his wife Ellen Ford nee Warden.

1881 Census Horsley

Charles Ford 53, (un -married) living at Nupend Farm, and is farming 500 acres and employing 26 labourers and 4 boys. Living with him is his sister Harriett, aged 65.



Map of Nupend Farm dated 1903 1881 Census Cam

Samuel Ford 50, a coal merchant and living at Middle Mill with his wife Esther 53, sons Samuel 23, Arthur 15, Albert 14, and daughter Alice 12.

1881 Census Stonehouse

George Ford 60, Miller & Timber Merchant, living at Ryeford House, Stonehouse, living with him is his wife Hester 55, son Charles 20, and his brother Aaron 55, who is also a Miller and Timber Merchant.

A letter dated 2nd September 1883, written by my grandfather **Henry John Ford**, to his sister Nellie, from the Southampton/Eastleigh area, states that he, and his younger brother William E Ford, are operating a saw mill, and that his father, **John Ford** has been to see them. From the letter it looks as if John may be the owner of the mill and my grandfather the manager. To date (2005) I have not been able to find out how long or how successful they were in business. My Grandfather, **Henry John Ford** moved to the London area and eventually had his own timber business at Coronation Road, Harlesden, manufacturing gates and fencing.

1884

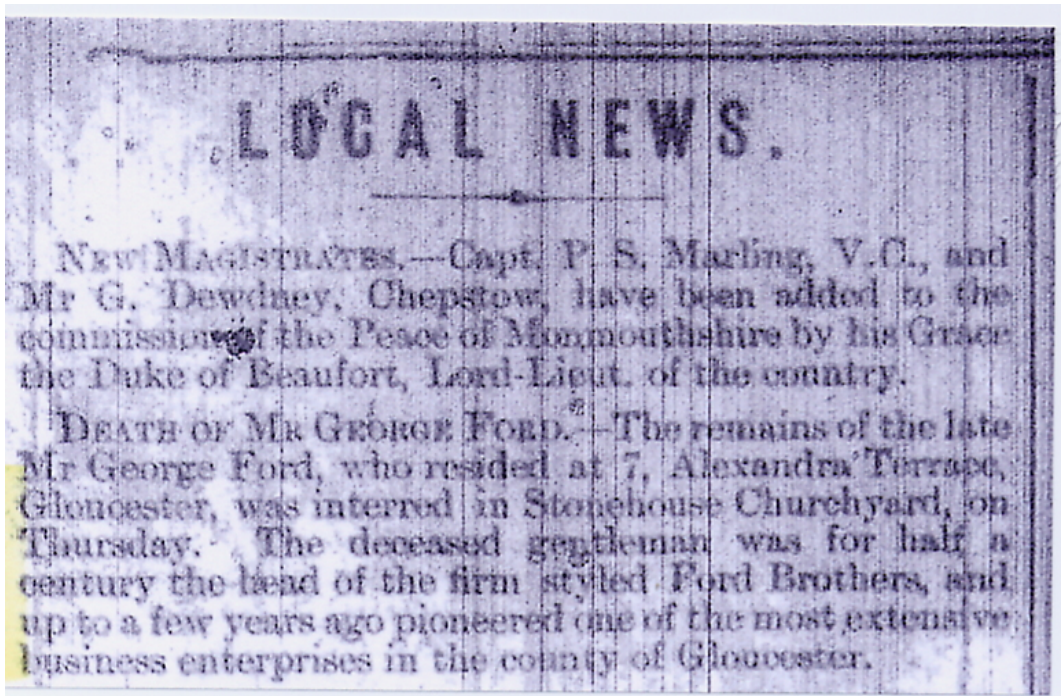
Obituary from the Stroud News and Journal. On the 21st February, at Ryeford House, Aaron Ford died after a short illness of congestion of the lungs aged 59 sincerely regretted. His brother George was the sole Executor, Estate £50

1891 Census

The census shows that Charles Ford is still living at Nupend Farm, Horsley, is still a Farmer, it does not say if he is the owner of the land. His nephew, William E Ford 27, is living with him and is a Farm Bailiff. Also staying at the farm is the Foxwell family, Helena (50), Katherine (24), Mabel (19), and Ida (14). Are they relations of his late wife or lodgers to help to pay expenses?

Also from the 1891 Census, my great grandfather **John Ford**, age shown as 64, (but by my calculations he is 70), he is no longer self employed and is now a manager of a Timber Yard, perhaps working to pay off his debts? He is living at 19, London Road, Bristol, with his wife Henrietta aged 60, and sons Ernest aged 20 who is a Clerk, and Sidney aged 18 who is a Grocers Assistant.

On the 22nd December 1895 George Ford Died aged 80, at 7 Alexander Terrace, Gloucester. Administration to his son, Henry George Ford, (Ford Sons & Branch, Printers Paper Bag Manufacturers, 13, Stroud Road, Gloucester). Estate £225 9s 9d.



Samuel Ford died 1895 aged 68

John Ford died 11th May 1896

FD 049770

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

Registration District Bristol									
1896. Death in the Sub-district of Saint Paul in the City and County of Bristol									
Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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
45	Eleventh May 1896 19 London Road UD	John FORD	Male	72 Years	Timber Merchant	Morbus cordis Anasarca 7 months Certified by Fredk Dymock M.R.C.S.	F. Wallace Ford Son Present at the death 19 London Road Bristol	Twelfth May 1896	Robt Fendick Registrar

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

 *Deputy*
 Superintendent Registrar

12.2.07

Date

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

On the 3rd November 1897 Charles Ford Died aged 83.

1901 Census

The 1901 census shows William E Ford has left Nupend Farm as Bailiff and is living at 19, London Road, Bristol, and is employed as an Insurance Agent. The head of the house is his mother Henrietta who is now a widow, aged 72; also in the house is Sidney C Ford, aged 29, who is a Grocers assistant. Also living with them is Ingrid M Ford, who is shown as *Daughter* age 27. (The 1881 census shows a Maud M Ford, aged 7, I can only assume that her name has been wrongly transcribed) Ernest is no longer shown living with the family. My Aunt Ada told me many years ago that one of her father's brothers was given a one way ticket to America by his father, owing to his behaviour; I can only deduce that it was Ernest. Sidney C Ford died in the early part of the 1950's and left John and I £400 between us, in his will.

Stonehouse Parish Church.

Inside the Parish Church is a window given by Emily Ford in memory of the Ford family of Stonehouse. It is a modern window and given to the Church around 1960. More research required