



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.

Lugershall	1	Henry Ford	65	Farmer	Y		
		Elizabeth	50		Y		
		George	30		Y		
		Charles	20		Y		
		John	20	Blacksmith	Y		
		Aaron	15		Y		
		Samuel	15		Y		
		Harriet	20		Y		

1841 Census Lugershall

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

1851

The 1851 Census for Didmorton/Kingscote shows **Henry Ford** (aged 60) still living at Woodleaze, Kingscote. He is a farmer living with his wife Elizabeth 60, daughter Harriett 34, and sons **John** and Charles, he has 220 acres of land, and employing 9 men, 2 woman and 5 boys. The census does not say if he is farming the land or has cattle, I suspect the former, as it is known that they were moving corn and flour by Trows and a steam vessel on the Stroudwater Canal.

28th November 1854 Marriage of John Ford to Henrietta Lord

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE								GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE	
								Application Number 4003916	
1854. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Horsley, in the County of Gloucester.									
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Habitation at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.	
223	28 th 1854.	John Ford	full age	Bachelor	Servant	Kingscote	Henry Ford	Farmer	
		Henrietta Lord	full age	Spinster		Horsley	Frances Lord	Grazier	
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence or after by me,									
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ John Ford		} in the presence of me,		{ Gazi Ford		John & Maugis Vines	
CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Stroud given at the General Register Office, under the Seal of the said Office, the 18th day of May 1892									
<p>MX 543371</p> <p>This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.</p> <p>CAUTION.—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.</p> 									

An entry in 1855 shows that **H Ford** and Sons are farming at Woodleaze Farm, and paying £120 for half years rent. In 1859 they are shown as Messrs Ford, and are still farming at Woodleaze, the half year rent is now £139.10s. In 1860 they are still tenants and are paying rent of £279 per annum. They are also farming a plot of land called Shortwood and paying £28.10s. for the half years rent.

On the 17th June 1856 Samuel Ford married Esther Paradise

Page 16.

1856, Marriage solemnized at the Church in the Parish of Kingscote, 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 Sister	Cook Baker Sister	Kingscote Dursley	Henry Ford John Paradise	Sonman Sonman
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,								
Samuel Ford Esther Paradise								
in the Presence of us,								
John Paradise Elizabeth Paradise								

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 Kingscote

Parish or Township of Kingscote		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Hamlet or Village, &c., of		Ecclesiastical District	
Road, Street, No. and No. or Name of House	HOUSES Inhabited (See Note at bottom)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male Females			Rank, Profession, or Occupation		Where Born			
		Henry Ford	Daughter married	28						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Harriett Ford	Daughter married	21						Wiltshire Bradford-on-Avon			
		John Powell	Servant unmarried	16						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Henry Ford	Head married	68						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Elizabeth Ford	Wife	66						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Harriett Ford	Daughter unmarried	14						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Henry Ford	Servant unmarried	18						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Mary Partridge	Servant unmarried	16						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Elizabeth Partridge	Widow	10						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Robert Powell	Other Member of Family	9						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Eliza Powell	Daughter married	51						Gloucester Kingscote			
		John Powell	Daughter married	55						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Eliza Powell	Daughter married	31						Gloucester Kingscote			
		William Powell	Daughter married	10						Gloucester Kingscote			
		George Powell	do	6						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Thomas Powell	Widower	73						Gloucester Kingscote			
		William Gledhill	Head married	38						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Robert Gledhill	Wife	26						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Mary Gledhill	Servant	13						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Harriet Gledhill	servant	2						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Mary Hale	Head	53						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Henry Ferrier	Other married	13						Gloucester Kingscote			
		Harriet Ferrier	Wife	74						Gloucester Kingscote			
6	Total of Houses... 6		Total of Males and Females... 10 1/2										

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 undermentioned Houses are situated within the Boundary of the Parish (or Township) of Hawley								
Parish (or Township) of Hawley	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward or	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village	Hundred or Wapentake, or Rural District	Religious Denomination of Household	Whether Household is Occupied	87 (Page 3)
No. of Households	Number, Name and Date of Birth of Head of Family	Number of Rooms and Floor Space in sq. yds.	Name and Sexes of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of each Person	Trade, Profession, or Occupation	5 Boys
1a7	Mill Bottom	1	John Ford Henrietta Do Henry J Do Clara 3 Do Ellen H Do Elizabeth Swinton Aaron Do	Head Wife Son Daughter Son Son	Married Married	35 31 5 3 11 16	Grocer, Timber Merchant, Glazier, Milling M. etc.	Gloucester, Gloucester, Hawley
1a8		1	John Ford Sarah Do	Head Wife	Married	29	Chain Maker	Do
1a9	Recknong Hill	1	Joseph Henderson Julia Do Alice E Do Alfred H Do Edina J Do Julian L Do William J Do James W. Weston	Head Wife Daughter Son Daughter Son Son Lodger	Married Married Married Married Married Married Married Single	33 33 21 2 6 5 7 1/2 21	Pt Painter, Tailor, Farmer, Man Scholar Scholar Scholar Scholar Scholar Scholar Scholar Fan bending, Waitress	Leinster Hawley Do Birmingham Do Gloucester, Hawley Do Hawley Do Hawley
51		1	George Bradford Elizabeth Do Charles Do Mary Anna Do Louisa Do George R. Do	Head Wife Son Daughter Son Son	Married Married Married Married Married Single	35 35 13 11 8 5	Cavalcader Domestic work Cloth Worker Cook Scholar Scholar	Do Hawley Do Hawley Do Hawley
Total of Houses...		1 1/2	Total of Males and Females...		11	12		Ring Sheet D.

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.

A WAREHOUSE FALLING AT STONEHOUSE.—At half-past eight on Tuesday morning, just after the clerks and warehousemen had gone to breakfast, a man driving along the road past the Ryeford Mills, Stonehouse, belonging to Messrs. Ford Bros., suddenly saw a six-storied stone warehouse attached to the mills toppling over, and burying in its ruins a siding from the Midland line running into the mills and choking up the Stroud Canal, which runs past. Mingled with the ruins were the contents of the counting-houses and the five thousand sacks of grain the warehouse had held in store. Not a wall is left standing, and the ruins are a heap thirty feet high and a hundred feet square. Directly upon the crash the wives of some of the workmen were at the place, distressed with the fear that their husbands were in the ruins. The damage is estimated at from 1000*l.* to 1500*l.* The general opinion is that the warehouse was overladen: it had only been built about ten years. The Canal Company drained off the water, and made the canal navigable again by Wednesday morning.

FROM THE ALONE& CO. CHRONICAL
SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY 1870

1871

The 1871 census for Horsley shows that Henry Ford aged 77 is a Farmer of 720 acres, employing 29 men, 7 women, 6 boys. This is a considerable increase of acreage from the previous census. (350 acres)

Horsley 1871

1	James F. Jones	male	100	37	slimy mucus	190000
1	W. H. Stent	male	80	37	frogs	80
1	W. H. Stent	male	80	69	toad	75
1	William Powell	60	200	73	purple	190000
1	William Powell	60	100	59	purple	190000
1	James Ford	male	100	78	farmer of 700 acres on Shetland	190000
1	W. H. Stent	male	80	78	24 men & women 60-70	190000
1	W. H. Stent	male	80	78	men & women	190000
Total of Houses..	6	2		6	11	
Total of Males and Females..						

The census also shows **John Ford** 45, Timber Merchant, living at Ryeford with his wife Henrietta 40, and sons Frederick 9 a scholar, William 7 a scholar, and Ernest 2 also two servants, Jane Bennett 20 and Ann Summers 19. (Missing from the previous census are Clara M and Ellen H who have been boarded out)

STRoud 1871

Page 16)		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the						
* Civil Parish [or Township] of Stroud	Municipal Borough of Stroud	Municipal Ward of Stroud	Parliamentary Borough of Stroud	Town of.	Village or Hamlet, &c., of Stroud	Local Board, or [Improvement Commissioner's District] of Stroud	Zonalisation	
No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. of NAMES of HOUSES	HOUSES No. of Rooms and No. of BEDS	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of Person	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
82	Ryeford House	1	George Ford Head 50			50		Gloucestershire: Uley
			Hester M. W. Wife 44			44		By: Coalpit
			Mary E. A. Son 20			20		By: Nailsworth
			Emily E. H. Daughter 19			19		By: Nailsworth
			Charles G. Son 17			17		By: Stroud
			Aaron G. Son Brother 45			45		By: Uley
			Samuel G. Son Brother 10			10		Other: London
			Mary H. Servant Servant 20			20	Servant maid	Gloucestershire: Cirencester
			Mary A. Servant Servant 21			21	Cook	By: Gloucester
			John A. Servant Servant 24			24	Dairymaid	By: Nailsworth
			John Ford Head 50			50	Servant: Stroud	By: Uley
			Henrietta A. Miss 19			19	Scholar	By: Coalpit
			Frederick G. Son 7			7	Scholar	By: Nailsworth
			William G. Son 5			5		By: Stroud
			Frank G. Son 2			2		By: Stroud
			Carey Dorothy Servant 20			20	Carey: Servant	By: Gloucester
			Eliza G. Servant Servant 16			16	Servant	By: Gloucester
			Eliza Thomas Head 39			39	Miller	By: Chippingham
			Eliza G. Wife 42			42		By: Stroud
			Martilda E. Slave Servant 16			16	Servant	By: Gloucester
			Emily G. Slave Servant 14			14		By: Kingsland
			William G. Son 16			16		By: Stroud
			John G. Son 10			10		By: Stroud
			Freddie G. Son 5			5		By: Stroud
Total of Houses.		5	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.

1871

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 66 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 Minuets 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. R. Gape, 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 Minuets 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.*

Minuets 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

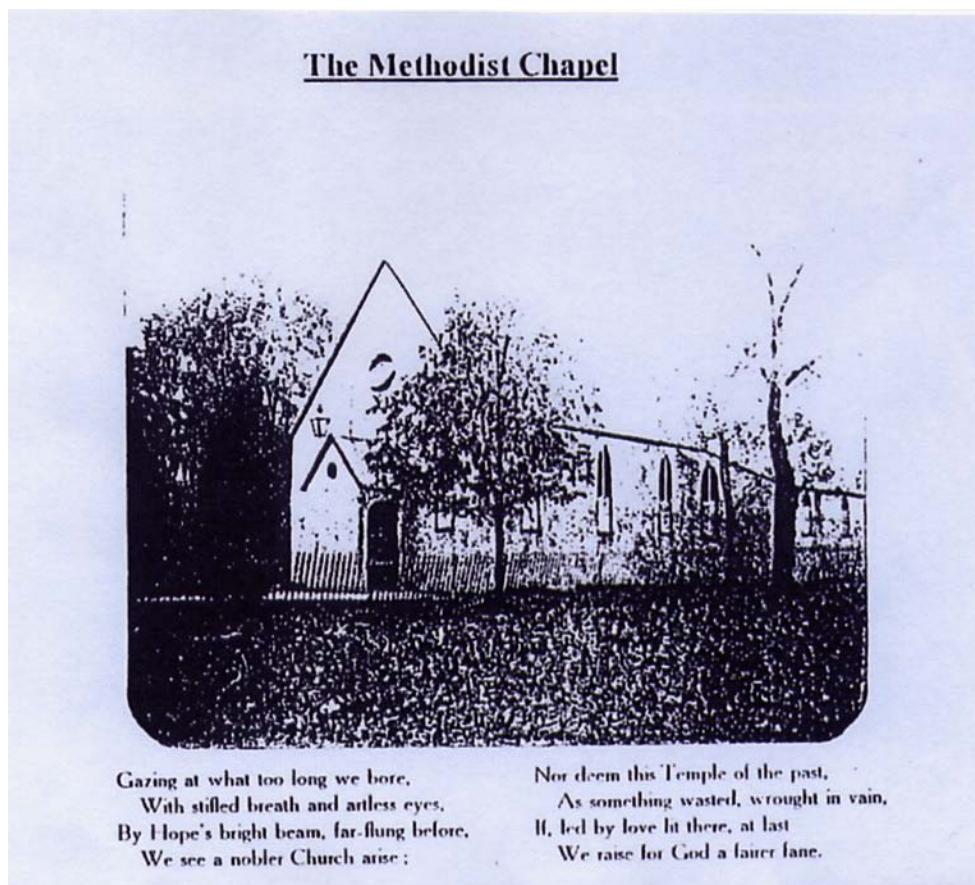


Photo and text from the local news paper.

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.

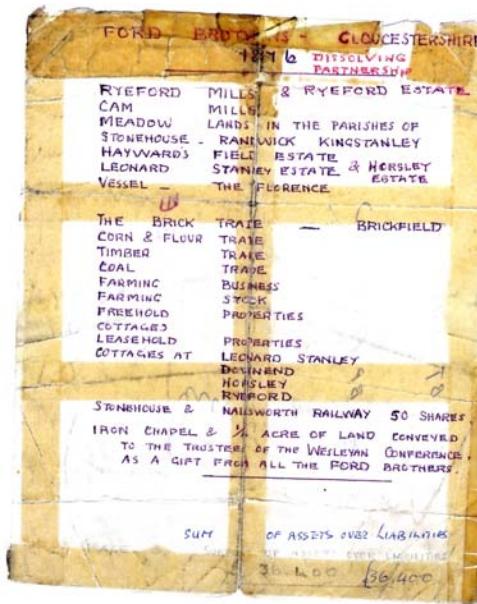
When the new Stonehouse Methodist Church was built, the Chapel became known as 'Ford Hall' and served the community as a classroom; also Saturday evening lectures were held there.

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 indecided taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the Parish of Bonehouse in the said County of Gloucester,
TO WIT. on the Twenty-second day of November in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Seven,
BEFORE ALFRED JOHN MORTON BALL, party for John Fishlock Ball,
one of the Coroners of our said Lady the Queen for the said County on view of the body of Charles Richardson then and there lying dead upon the Oath of
Edwin Hale, Henry Selby, George Bonwick, George Whitelocke, James Ford,
Charles Townsend, William Fowke, Alfred William Joseph Lee, Benjamin
Evans, Henry Lewis, James Gammill and Edward Bowcher,
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 where where how and by what
means the said Charles Richardson came to his death, do, upon their Oaths, say that the said Charles Richardson a labourer
aged 18 years of Age but likely longer at the Twenty-second day of November being then in the employ of John
Ford at Plyford and miles on Thursbury, late 20th instant, being at his usual work in
the said Master's tree with two other men in the same shed - he passed up the shed as they
happened in course necessary purpose and almost immediately was seen near the shafting - the
wheel was above stopped - he was then straddled between - his left arm torn off and both his
legs broken in two places and died thereon - it is after once said that his body was carefully
removed to the Stephouse - and by the jury as he accidentally came to his death. John Hale Henry
with George Bonwick William Fowke Charles Townsend Edward Lee Benjamin Evans Henry George
or some other George John
In Witness whereof as well the said Coroners as the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition set their Hands and Seals on the Day and Year and at the Place first above written.

John Hale  William Powell 
Henry Selby  Alfred William Fishlock 
George Bonwick  Benjamin Evans 
George Whitelocke  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	Built by Henry Lewis, Stonehouse, 1855. Official Reg. No., 11634. In
Trow	1862 sent 62 tons 10cwt flour to Bristol from Ryeford. Paid 1/- (5p) each for night passes in 1873.
Emily	In 1862 brought 46 tons 10cwt of coal from Junction (with Gloucester &
Trow	Berkley Canal) to Ryeford Paid 1/- each for night passes in 1872 and 2/- each for 3 in 1873/4.
George	Built Stonehouse 1873. Trow owner George Ford. Paid 2/- for night
Trow	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 settled 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 procession 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)

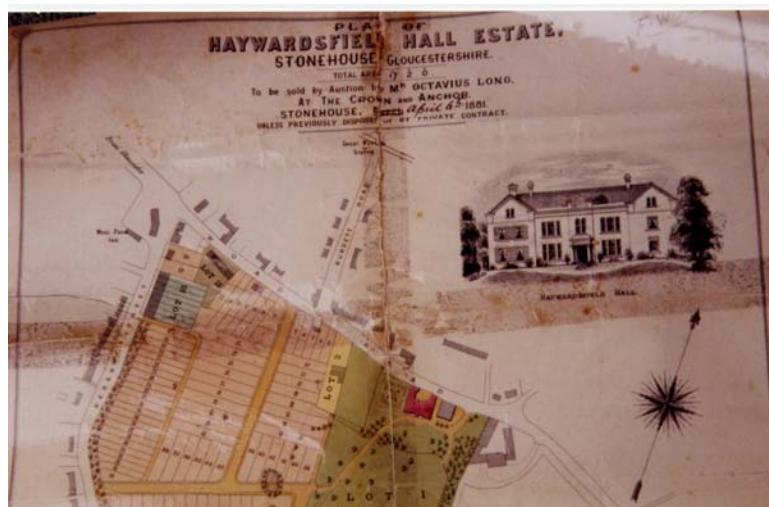
1881 Census

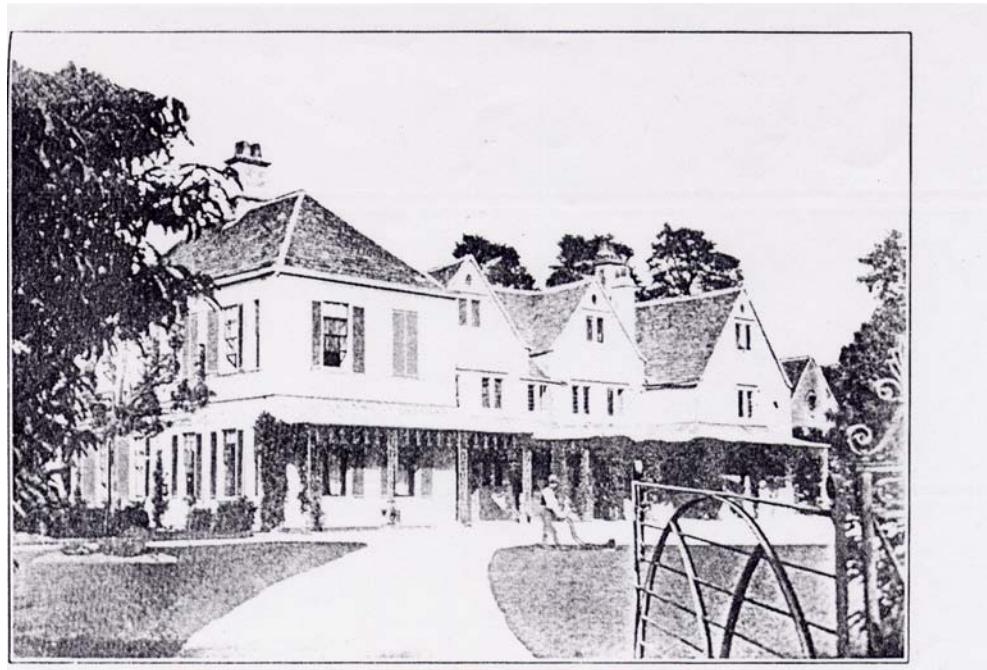
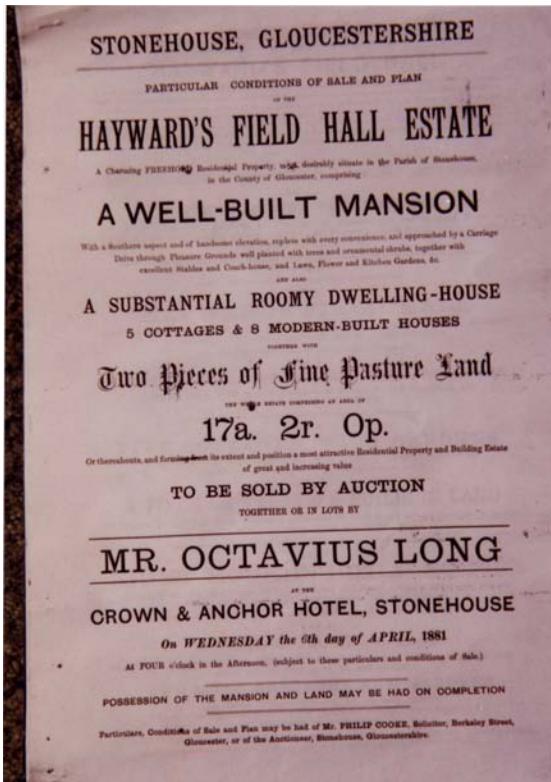
The 1881 census shows **John Ford** 57, (my great grandfather) is a Timber Merchant, and living at Haywardsfield, Stonehouse, with his wife Harriett 52, son **Henry John** 25, (my grandfather) who is also a Timber Merchant. Clara 23, Ellen H 21, William E 17, Ernest E 13, Sidney C 10, and Maud M 7.

1881 Census Haywardsfield

The 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 possession" to become Wycliffe College.





Haywardsfield Hall became Wycliffe College in 1882

From a Local Newspaper 16th April 1881

LOCAL LAW CASE.	16 APRIL 1881
COURT OF APPEAL.	
(Before Lords Justices Bramwell, Baggallay, and Lush.)	
WILKINS V. HOARE, BART.	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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</p>	

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.)

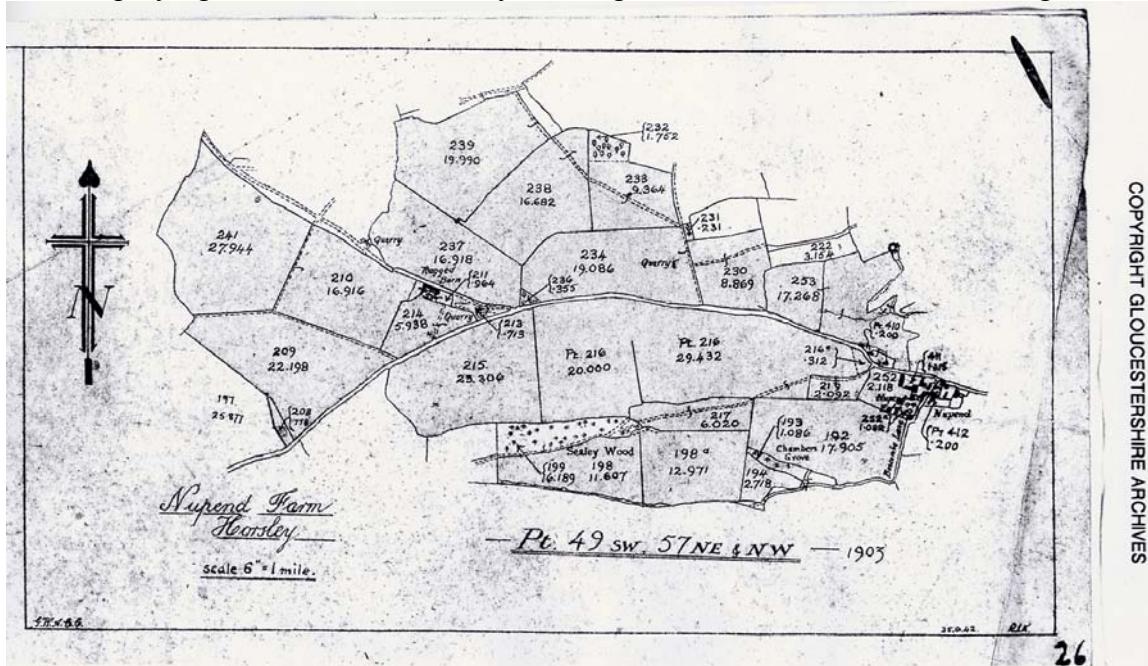
Lord Justice Bramwell, in giving judgment, held that the contract in dispute did not possess any property in the trees and timber. It only gave a right to a contract which should possess the property.

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

1887

A Report from the Gloucestershire Journal dated Saturday 15th October 1887 states that Charles Ford is seriously in debt and is bankrupt. The report is best read in full to appreciate his financial problems.

A further Report from the same Journal dated one month later, Re Charles Ford, Farmer of Horsley. *Adjourned examination*. Mr Curtis (London) who appeared for the Debtor who passed his examination.

1890 Marriage of Henry John Ford to Ellen Warden

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE							GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE		
							Application Number PAS 452511/4		
1890. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Stephen's Church</u> in the parish of <u>St. Helens</u> , in the County of <u>Kent</u> .									
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Conditions	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage		Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
374	July 14 th 1890	Henry John Ford	34	Bachelor	Commercier Noveller	Mr Thomas (of Spitalfields) Woolwich		John Ford	Timber Merchant
		Ellen Warden	28	Sister	—	Mary Woolrich		Robert Warden	Book Manufacturer
Married in the <u>parish church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>cleric</u> : <u>cleric</u> after <u>cleric</u> by me,									
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>Henry John Ford</u> <u>Ellen Warden</u>				in the presence of us,	<u>Ernest Warden</u> — <u>Attributed</u> <u>Clara Warden</u> <u>J. Warden</u> <u>Rector</u>				

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Woolwich
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 10th day of December 2002

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry; and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

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GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
ENGLAND & WALES



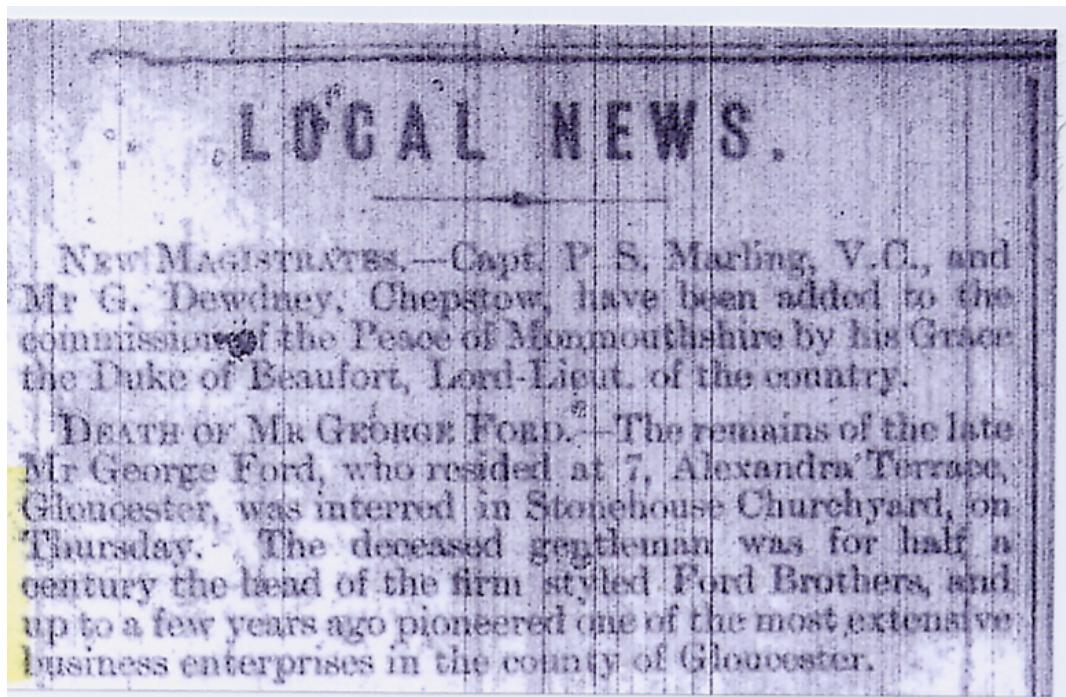
Engagement/Wedding photo of Henry John Ford to Ellen Warden

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
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953



of an ENTRY
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 Anascarca 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.

[Signature] *deputy* *Superintendent Registrar*

12.2.07

Date

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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