

BRADWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER No 58 December 2025

Up-coming events

As always the key event in the December calendar is the annual dinner at the Shoulder of Mutton. This will take place on 16th of the month beginning at 7 pm. Most of the members able to attend have already informed John Monahan who will have passed the numbers on to the staff at the Shoulder. If you haven't registered for the meal but would like to, you should contact the pub directly to find if any places are still available.

Your committee has agreed a request from Jen Lockhart and Gordon Scott to buy a new Christmas tree which they will be presenting in the church along with offerings from many of the other groups in the village. Jane Dalrymple writes 'Opening times will be from Friday December 12th until Wednesday December 24th, 3-4pm Monday - Friday, and 11-5pm at weekends. The church will be heated and coffee, tea and biscuits available for those on duty and for visitors coming to see the trees; donations from visitors will be welcome, proceeds going to Crisis at Christmas and to help with the heating costs.'

Our AGM will be held on 19th January 2025 and once again we will be trying to be as close as possible 'paperless' for this meeting, so you will find such things as financial reports, minutes of the last AGM and the programme for next year online at our website early in January.

Seth Evans



Occupying almost a full two-page spread of the issue of the Derbyshire Times for 10th January 1925 was an appreciation of the life of Seth Evans. The spread was entitled **Fifty Years a Journalist, Death of Mr. Seth Evans, J.P., A busy public career.** The newspaper report runs

A painful sensation was caused on Tuesday evening by the death of Councillor Seth Evans J.P., of Bradwell Villas. Mr. Evans who was the doyen of Peak journalists, had been through the extensive Hope and Derwent Valleys (*that day*) where he represented the 'Derbyshire Times', and reached home about half past seven. As soon as he entered his house he had a seizure. Dr. Hill was called in, but Mr. Evans passed away in a very short time. For some time past he had not been good health, And had suffered from heart trouble and bronchitis.

A native of Bradwell, where his ancestors lived for several centuries, Mr. Evans was 66 years old. At the early age of eight years he began to work, and had to depend upon night classes for his education. At one period he was employed in a Bradwell lead mine, and later was an overlooker in a cotton mill in Bamford. When about sixteen years old Mr. Evans began to represent in the district around Bradwell for the 'High Peak Advertiser'. Those were days when the Peak had no railway and he tramped hundreds of miles in

search of news. Not only so but he was his own newsagent as well and carried the news door-to-door. Subsequently Mr. Evans came to New Mills to represent the 'High Peak Advertiser', but he still continued his work in the Hope Valley. For thirty years he was the 'Advertiser's' representative and was a voluminous writer on all sorts of subjects for that journal. At that time he also carried on business as a newsagent and stationer in High Street, New Mills. In the meantime he had built up an extensive lineage connection with Manchester, Sheffield and Nottingham papers. Over twenty years ago he ceased to represent the 'High Peak Advertiser' and devoted himself to work for the dailies and the 'Derbyshire Times' in the Hope Valley and the Derwent Valley, for which he had an intense love, and whose praises he ever sung with his pen. The first day of his journalistic life was spent in Bradwell so was his last.

To be continued in a later Newsletter...

The report has little to say of Seth's birth and early life but some of this (and his later life) may be pieced together from *Ancestry* searches and Seth's own writings.

Seth's father and mother were Stephen and Eileen Evans (née Middleton). Stephen was born in 1836 in Bradwell. He had two older brothers Joshua and Isaac. At one time Joshua had a photographic studio in Bradwell and a copy of the portrait he took of Stephen can still be seen. This must date from shortly before Stephen's untimely death in 1866.



By the time of his death wife Alicia had borne three sons, Seth (1858), Dennis (1862) and Maurice (1864). Alicia was carrying a fourth son, also to be a Stephen at the time of father Stephen's death and the son was born in 1867. Alicia remarried Robert Barker and thereafter gave Seth a half sister, Laura.

Father Stephen Evans died before the outbreak of the Bradwell Fever (1868-70) but in his *Bradwell Ancient and Modern* Seth lists his mother Alicia, brothers Dennis and Maurice and himself as suffering from the fever (probably typhoid fever) but recovering from its grip.

Although his career was supremely successful his personal life was afflicted with misfortune. The names of three of his wives are engraved on a tombstone in the Wesleyan grave yard in Bradwell . His first wife was Sarah Ann Elliott who married him in 1877 and died in 1889. The second, Elizabeth Hannah Taylor he married in 1890 and who died in 1893. The third wife on the stone is Mary Harrison married 1895 and died in 1904. The name of Seth's fourth wife who he married in 1913 does not appear on the stone. Seth was her second husband and was Florence Eaves (whose second marriage it was - née Davenport). Following Seth's death she married William Bowden and died Florence Bowden when living in New Mills in 1949. Sarah Ann gave Seth a daughter Ann in 1879 and Elizabeth Hannah son Stephen in 1891.



Unfortunately Seth's memorial stone has not weathered as well his wives' but there is a record of what is written on it.

*In memory of Seth Evan
Died 6th Jan 1925
Aged 66 Years
At Rest
He was Justice of the Peace
for this county for many years
A member of the Bradwell School Board
New Mills School Board
New Mills Urban District Council
Trustee of this Chapel
Author of
Bradwell Ancient and Modern
Methodism in Bradwell
And other works*