



## Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society

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90 years. I personally called to see him at his residence about 1886, having well remembered him in my boyhood, when he stated the greater part of the foregoing to me. He had saved his money, and built two cottages, which he named "Preston Villas," in one of which he lived and died.

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**Beating the Bounds of Milford.**

A LETTER FROM THE REV. H. E. U. BULL.

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18, WOOD STREET,  
BARNET,  
*April 20th, 1909.*

DEAR DR. HARRIS,

I have succeeded in finding a few old letters and notes which bear upon the perambulation of the Bounds of Milford Parish on Wednesday, May 6th, 1891, a Rogation Day, but very much of my information must depend upon memory. The perambulation was carried out as the result of a resolution passed at the Easter vestry meeting, when it was decided to hire ten men and lads for the day in order to ensure that the task should be accomplished by a sufficient number of natives, the money required for expenses to be raised by private subscription. I was appointed Secretary with instructions to write to the land-owners through whose property the boundary ran, and ask their permission to pass through their land. The Vicar undertook to ask Colonel Cornwallis West and Mr. Horace Mann, and Mr. R. H. Jennins was requested to approach Mr. Hammersley. Permission was readily granted by almost all the land-owners, but refused by Mr. F. Ellis of Priestlands. Mr. Hammersley granted permission to Mr. R. H. Jennins to walk along the boundary wall in his garden, and promised him a glass of sherry at the end, Mr. Jennins accepted the offer of

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the sherry, but without the due performance of the condition.

Four men and six lads were duly engaged to perambulate the bounds, the four men were Ward Mr. Neal's shepherd; Hampton and Saunders from Pennington, engaged by Mr. J. Godwin King, of Wainsford; and one of the Rickmans of Arnewood. The lads were Harry Hunt, Bert Fugett, Edward Nicklen, Charles Berry, (jun.), "Cammy" Whatley, (old Whatley's second son), and another whom I cannot remember, but I think it was William Rickman, next to the Crown Inn, who went to Sea.

On the morning of May 6th a large party met on the shore by Bookcliff at 10 o'clock, including Mr. W. T. Agar, (churchwarden), Mr. & Miss Stedman, Mr. R. H. Jennins, Colonel Alfred Jennins, Rev. A. R. Miles, Rev. R. B. Matson, the Ellaland boys, Mr. S. G. Hill, Mr. H. Girdlestone, Mr. J. Godwin King, Mr. Edward Neal, Mr. H. Masters, Mr. H. Evans, (Newlands Estate), Miss Hilda Wilkinson, Miss Georgie Walker, the Vicar, myself and the ten hired men. There were about 70 in all. Mr. R. H. Jennins had been one of a similar party 53 years before, the last times the bounds were perambulated, i.e. in 1838, when he was a boy of 12. The start was made along the Rookcliff boundary line, and the first event of note was the passage through Kivernalls; a detachment from the party was allowed to pass through the house and down the garden to the stream, crossing the stream by a narrow plank Mr. W. T. Agar lost his balance and fell in, he retired wet and his share of the day's proceedings was over. The boundary line between Milford and Hordle now lay through Colonel West's property, and Mr. H. Evans took up the task of guide. There was some rough work in going through Black Bush, and the numbers began to decrease, but there was no difficulty in finding the boundary as far as the Everton and Milton road and through Leagreen farm. Just before reaching Arnewood the Ellaland boys drooped

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out, and in Mrs. Bank's grounds Mr. H. Masters was called upon to guide. There was considerable difficulty in finding the way here, and without Mr. Master's guidance the party would have been in difficulties altogether. The hedges and ditches had been changed from their original position, and it was not possible to find the line by the help of a map alone. At Batchley Cottage, the point where the new boundary between Milford and Pennington begins, a halt was made for lunch. The commissariat department had been put in the able hands of Mr. Edward Neal, who brought up provisions in his pony chase, and did not forget a cask of beer for the non-teetotallers. A change of guides was again necessary at this point, and Mr. George Warr, bailiff to Mr. Keppel Pulteney, and Mr. Lower of Ramley took the party in charge.

Mr. Henry Jennins told us that in the former perambulation in his boyhood it was necessary to make a boy jump in and swim the stream, but in 1891 the stream was quite small. [Could it have been possible that in 1838 the boundary was by Gordleton Mill, where there might well be water enough to permit of swimming? This by way of parenthesis. H.E.U.B.]

The numbers after the lunch at Batchley were greatly decreased; all the representatives of Colonel West retired, and only those more or less interested in Pennington, together with the hired men and some six others, continued. In crossing Mr. Lower's fields at Ramley the map was again no use. The old boundary hedge and ditch had been long since levelled, and the only way by which the boundary could be traced was the colour of the growing corn. A different shade of green marked the line where the former hedge and ditch had been. On reaching Mr. Hammersley's garden a deputation headed by Mr. R. H. Jennins went through.—I cannot vouch for the glass of sherry, but think that it was forthcoming.

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In crossing the marshes there was a long check, for the only guidance was an occasional boundary stone set up by Mr. Keppel Pulteney. Here however Warr's good memory and instinct of locality were of great service, and thanks to him this part of the perambulation was safely accomplished. The final stage was the return along the shore where it was no longer possible to lose the way. One adventure occurred. A party of the local volunteers had been ordered out for firing practice on the rifle range and with much shouting and waving of red flags tried to stop us. But the Vicar rose to the occasion. Putting himself at the head, he marched boldly on towards an enraged sergeant. "We are beating the bounds of the Parish, you cannot stop us.—Act of Parliament." And the volunteers had to cease firing while we marched triumphantly on. As we trudged over the shingle which separates Sturt Pond from the sea Mr. Jennins told us that in the former perambulation the boundary line lay across the pond, and that a passage was made across in punts, boys being dropped overboard at intervals to impress the boundary upon their memories. He mentioned the name of one boy who was dropped: it was Hillier of Pennington. In the course of 53 years no less than two entire fields had disappeared into the sea. These fields had formed part of a strip of coast belonging to Hordle Parish and extending to Hurst Castle, which was still in 1891 in Hordle, although the church services were supplied by the clergy of Milford. Rookcliff was reached again at 5.20 p.m. Sixteen finished. In addition to the ten paid men there were Miss Hilda Wilkinson, Miss Georgie Walker, Mr. R. H. Jennins, (aged 62), Mr. H. Girdleton, the Vicar (aged 63), and myself. Mr. Godwin King accomplished the greater part of the journey. Thanks to the kind permission of the land-owners every part of the boundary was duly perambulated, except the little piece by Priestlands, where we had to walk in Lyminster Parish, Mr. Ellis having refused permission. The bells of Milford Church were rung at 6.30 to celebrate the event

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I hope that all the above statements are correct ;  
I may be wrong as to one or two names, but am  
prepared to vouch for the rest. The old letters which  
I found at Southampton were helpful.

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT E. U. BULL.