

**E. AVERY
& SON
GROCER
& DRAPER**

Avery's Shop and the Averys

from old newspapers
and other sources

This is a scrapbook of information about Avery's Grocers and Drapers using newspaper cuttings as a timeline. Genealogical information has been added.

Today, Averys is the name of a house, comprising nos. 42 and 44 The Street. In the time that it was a shop, no. 42 was the accommodation, no. 44 was the shop. The shop was established by Edward Avery in 1851, and it remained a shop until the 1970s. From small beginnings it became a village emporium.

On the sign that spanned the shop it was declared to be a drapers, outfitters and corn merchants in addition to being a grocers. The ground floor housed the Post Office as well as the grocery department. On the upper floor there was a range of household and other goods, running from glassware and crockery to coal scuttles and Wellington boots. Somewhere on the premises, possibly in an outbuilding, you could find iron bedsteads and feather mattresses, deal and mahogany dining tables, dining and easy chairs, and sofas and couches. On one occasion the advertised stock included a grand piano.

Albert Avery changed the face of the building. Behind the facade it is straightforwardly medieval, but Albert added the gable and 'Arts and Crafts' front elevation that you see today. Business must have been good. Edward's father was an agricultural labourer, his granddaughters were classically-trained pianists.

The story begins with the will of William Parks, who left property to Thomas Avery and to his son Edward. They were also the executors of his will. William Parks had other property which was to be sold off, with the proceeds divided equally between his younger sister and brother - Anne Hedgecock and Esau Parks.

We don't know why William Parks made these bequests to Thomas and Edward Avery, but the will refers to them as "my two respectful friends". William Parks and Thomas Avery were two years apart in age. William Parks was a baker who owned a number of properties in the area and was clearly well off. Thomas Avery was an agricultural labourer. Edward Avery was 23 when the will was written, and a cordwainer. Father and son were both tenants of William Parks, living in the adjacent properties they were due to receive when William Parks died.

But before going on, there are some discrepancies regarding the occupation of Thomas Avery. He is described as a labourer in William Parks' will of 1846. He was 58. Also in 1846, a newspaper report says that he was the occupier of a coal shed and lime kiln. The 1851 census says he was a labourer. When Edward married in 1853, his father is given as Thomas Avery, baker. Thomas was then 65. A newspaper report in 1858, when he was 70, says he was a baker. The 1861 census says he was a retired labourer, aged 73.

The discrepancies may be more apparent than real. It is likely that he was a labourer who turned his hand to other things, like making lime. In later life, when his friend William Parks may have been retiring, he went to work at the baker's shop and then ran it, and still ran it for a while after William Parks died. Pure conjecture, of course, but it fits the few facts we have, and it's consistent with a picture of two friends getting older together. Along the way, William Parks developed a regard for Thomas's son.

Edward was trading as a grocer before receiving his bequest, but having William Parks as a family friend can have done no harm. Subsequently, he benefited from being the owner of one, and then (on the death of his father) two properties. At some point, either he or his son must have acquired the freehold of the Averys property. It hasn't been possible to determine the ownership or function of this building before it became Avery's shop.

In collating this information I have gone down a few sidetracks when there was something to see, and especially if it gave a flavour of the times. There are buried pieces of the past that deserve to be brought up from the digital depths of the newspaper archives.

In other words, sometimes this narrative wanders all over the place.

Alan Tribe

ALHS

2025



Averys in the early 20th century.

26 May 1857

South Eastern Gazette

NOTICE

ALL persons having any claims on the estate of the late Mr. WILLIAM PARKS, of Appledore, in the county of Kent, Baker, deceased, are requested to send the particulars thereof to Messrs. THOMAS and EDWARD AVERY, of Appledore, the Executors, in order that they may be examined and discharged; and all persons indebted to the estate of the said deceased are requested to pay the amount of their respective debts to either of the said executors forthwith.

FURLEY, HALLETT, & CREERY,
Solicitors to the said Executors.

Ashford, May 19th, 1857.

Note: William Parks (1786-1857) was a baker, trading and living at the baker's shop at what is now 8 The Street. He was a single man, and in his will, dated 1846, he left "the Wickham House butcher's shop" to Thomas Avery and "the Blue House" to Edward Avery, Thomas Avery's son. An auction following the death of William Parks showed that he had owned a number of properties in Appledore, Kenardington and Hamstreet. Thomas Avery (1788-1868) was an agricultural labourer. Edward Avery (1823-1909) was a cordwainer (shoemaker) in 1841 (aged 18) and a grocer and draper in 1851 (aged 28).

The Wickham House butcher's shop and the Blue House were probably on the site of what is today Wickham House and Langton House. This semi-detached pair of houses was built sometime between 1871 and 1881. Census information suggests that the Blue House was divided into two dwellings.

The building that came to be known as Averys (42-44 The Street) was immediately to the right of the Blue House and Wickham butcher's. There is no record of this building having a name before it was named after the shop. It is a medieval timbered building with 19th and early 20th century alterations, particularly to the front elevation. The current facade is in the Arts and Crafts style and dates from around 1905.

There may well have been a succession of Wickham butchers in Appledore. The first reference comes in 1798 when the Kentish Weekly Post reported: "Monday last died Mr. Edward Wickham, butcher, of Appledore". The last Wickham butcher was John Wickham (1796-1886) who lived at Poplar Row, but was likely to have been running the Wickham House butcher's shop at the time of William Parks' will.

The first newspaper reference to a butcher in Appledore comes from 1784 when Samuel Callaway, a butcher from Appledore, "was returning from Snargate, when by some accident he fell from his horse into some water and was drowned".

Thanks to an enquiry received by ALHS, we also know of an indenture, dated 1722, that mentions property and six acres of land previously belonging to William Acton, a butcher. William Acton can be found getting married in 1720 but the property in the indenture cannot be identified. It may have been the same property described as the 'Wickham butcher's shop' in William Parks' will, 124 years later.

10 April 1858
Kentish Express

E. AVERY, GROCER, DRAPER, &c., Appledore, begs to return his most sincere thanks for the very liberal support he has received for the last seven years, and to inform his numerous friends and customers, that he has considerably enlarged his premises and increased his stock, which will be found to contain every variety of goods in each department; and, which combined with moderate prices, he trusts will ensure him that support it is his constant study to merit. E. A. having been appointed Agent for supplying the Ashford and Alfred News, by the proprietor, and for the sale of the London Newspapers and Periodicals of all kinds, begs to call attention to the fact, and requests that all who are in the habit of taking one or more, will kindly favour him with their orders, by which means they will ensure them with the utmost regularity and despatch.

Note: This suggests that Edward Avery started his grocer's business in 1851. At the age of 28 he stopped being a cordwainer and became a grocer and draper. An 1855 trade directory lists an Edwin Avery as a grocer in Appledore but thus looks like an error.

He wasn't without competition. In 1851 there were at least two other grocers in The Street. One was William Durrant with a grocer's and Post Office at what is now 35 The Street. The other was John Paine, grocer and draper, at Tuckers Cottage. John Paine was obliged to liquidate his assets in 1858 (which were signed over to two grocers in Ashford and Maidstone) but was still a grocer and draper at the same address in 1861. By 1871, there was William Sims, Grocer and Draper, at the current village stores. Between 1871 and 1891, there were records of three grocer's shops on the Heath. At least two of them seem to be different shops.

10 April 1858
Kentish Express

MAGISTRATES' CLERK'S OFFICE
Monday, April 5th - Before W. BURRA, Esq.

James Whitcomb was charged with stealing a half-sovereign from the shop of Mr. Avery, senior, baker, of Appledore. Isaiah Ralph said he was assistant to Mr. Avery, and having taken a half-sovereign from a woman in the shop, he put it in the drawer, and afterwards fell sleep; when he awoke the prisoner was in the shop, and asked for some bread; he served him and was putting the money in the drawer when he missed the half-sovereign; he then gave information to the police. P. C. Baldrey said he apprehended the prisoner and found on him 6s. 6½d. in money; he afterwards confessed to him that he had taken the half-sovereign. Prisoner said he had nothing to say in answer to the charge. Committed for trial. At the East Kent Quarter Sessions on Tuesday, the prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

Note: As mentioned in the introduction, it looks as though Thomas Avery ran the baker's shop for a few years after the death of William Parks.

7 May 1859
Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser

DEATHS

AVERY - April 21, at Appledore, Mr. Alfred H. Avery, aged 39, leaving a widow and five young children.

Note: Alfred Hollands Avery (1820-1859) was the son of Thomas Avery and older brother of Edward Avery. He worked as a carrier.

26 November 1859
Kentish Express

BACON SMOKED

EDWARD AVERY, GROCER, DRAPER, &c., APPLIEDORE, having long felt the need of a place for Drying Bacon, Hams or Tongues, has erected one - and offers to dry for any who may require, at the charge of 4d. for each Ham.

4 March 1865
Kentish Express

TO BE LET BY TENDER, TWO NEWLY-ERECTED SEMI DETACHED COTTAGES, substantially built, and fitted with every convenience. Each containing four good rooms, cellar, large attic, and detached washhouse, together with about 1½ acres of highly productive Arable Land. Pleasantly situate, very compact, and abutting to a hard road on Appledore Heath.

Particulars and conditions may be obtained of E. AVERY, Appledore, and tenders to be sent to him on or before March 14th. The advertiser does not bind himself to accept the highest, or any Tender.

Note: The location of these cottages on The Heath is not known. In 1871 Edward Avery was describing himself as 'Grocer, Draper and landowner'.

Edward Avery was an entrepreneur. He didn't inherit money, and he didn't marry into it, but thanks to William Parks he owned his own house, and fourteen years after establishing his grocer's shop he was a property developer.

18 August 1865
Kentish Express

ASHFORD PETTY SESSIONS. TUESDAY.-Before G. E. Sayer, Esq., H. B. Walker, Esq., and C. Hardy, Esq.

WILFUL DAMAGE. A man named Frederick Bourne, living at Appledore, laid a complaint against four young men, or lads, named Charles Poole, John Boorman, James Wilkinson, and William Avery, for throwing at a building in his occupation, whereby they had damaged window to the extent of 2s. The building belongs to Mr. Sion Thomas Adams. The complainant and his son, a boy nine years old, having deposed that they saw the parties throwing, the Bench granted summonses.

Note: William Avery was the eldest son of Edward Avery, and was born in 1854, so was 10 or 11 when he was breaking windows. His full name was William Parks Avery, which must be significant. The families weren't related (or it would have been mentioned in the bequest) so Edward must have been honouring the name of his benefactor.

William Parks Avery married Annie Hall in 1881, in Appledore. He was on the voter's register in Appledore until 1887. Annie died, but it is not clear when. In 1887 he married Elizabeth Dunster in Woodchurch, when he was a Corporal with the Royal Engineers in Gillingham. In 1891 he was a Sergeant, still with the Royal Engineers in Gillingham. In 1901 he was a bricklayer in Gillingham, with Elizabeth and six children (all born in Old Brompton, London). In 1911 he was a "Bricklayer (Army Pension)" living in Gillingham. He was now a widower (Elizabeth had died in 1902, not long after the birth of her sixth child) and he was a boarder at the address, along with four of his children.

In 1914 he was again serving with the Royal Engineers, aged 60. He was discharged from the Royal Engineers (No. 10 Depot, Newark) in 1917, aged 64 years and 2 months, intending to return to civilian work and to reside at Yew Tree House in Charing Heath. His rank on discharge was Company Sergeant Major. His military character was "Exemplary".

His advanced age during this second spell in the army (which spanned most of the 1st World War) was irregular. He may have been a Reservist before rejoining, in which case the upper age limit could have been waived. He may not have served overseas.

2 September 1865
Kentish Express

COTTAGE TO LET AT APPLIEDORE HEATH - Apply to E. Avery, grocer, &c.

The following is only here because 'Mr Avery' served on the Coroner's jury, but it's a story that should see the light of day after 150 years. The Mr Avery of the report could have been Thomas or Edward. Thomas was 79, Edward was 44.

24 August 1867
Kentish Express

APPLEDORE

A MAN DROWNED IN THE CANAL

Early on Tuesday morning an old man was seen to pass over the canal bridge at Appledore, and subsequently along the canal side for some little distance. A boy who had noticed him in the first instance, on looking in the direction the man had taken observed a movement in the water, and ran along the opposite side of the canal to discover the cause. On reaching the spot he saw the body of the man lying in the water, and ran and gave the alarm. The boy's father arrived on the spot, and the man was speedily got out; not, however, until he had ceased to exhibit signs of life.

Pope, the Appledore policeman, arrived on the spot and searched the body, and some hours after a medical man arrived and made the usual examination, the body having in the meantime been conveyed to a storehouse near the canal to await identification. P.C. Pope having communicated the fact to P.C. John Wall, of Wittersham, the latter mentioned the subject to Supt. Butcher of the Rye borough police force.

On hearing the facts Supt. Butcher produced to Wall the following notice which had been put into his hands on Monday. "Missing-Left his home between 7 and 8 am. on Monday last, at Bexhill, a man named Abraham Chatfield, 74 years old, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, fresh colour, light brown hair turning grey, large white beard and moustache, stout figure, respectable appearance. He is of unsound mind, and has been a shepherd.

From the description given on the paper the constables came at once to the conclusion that the man lost from Bexhill and the unfortunate man found drowned in the canal at Appledore must be the same person. P.C. Wall then telegraphed to Supt. Glenister, of Hastings, that information might be conveyed to the friends of the missing man, with a request that they would be in attendance at Appledore on Thursday noon.

It appears that the unfortunate man had been seen by several persons in the course of his wanderings, and noticed for his vacant manner. He was seen one day at Hawkhurst. On Friday last he was seen at Cranbrook. On Saturday he was seen passing through Reading-gate, when it was observed that he ought to be taken care of, as he appeared deranged. He was at Stone on Sunday, and on Tuesday morning very early a man in the employ of Messrs. Vidler, of Rye, saw him about forty rods from the Appledore canal bridge, resting near a hedge. He is said to have been seen by one person very early on Tuesday morning standing for some time upon the brink of a pond.

At one o'clock on Thursday, at the Red Lion Inn, Appledore, an inquest was held on the body, before H.J. Farrar, Esq., deputy coroner, and a jury of which Mr. Benjamin Ames was chosen foreman.

Mary Sharpe, the first witness called, deposed: I am the wife of Richard Sharpe, labourer, of Bexhill. The deceased is my father, Abraham Chatfield. He has been a labourer, but has not done any work for some years. He was very nervous and feeble and was supported by the parish. He was 74 years old, and lived with my mother and sister. He has been accustomed to walk about by himself, but has always returned. He was thought to be sometimes of unsound mind, and I could not consider him as quite right lately. He was quite harmless, and never made any attempt to commit suicide. He has been more quiet than usual this last month. The deceased never gave way to drink, and did not require any watching or looking after. He has complained of pains in his head.

He left his home a week ago last Monday. I did not know of it until Tuesday, when my mother told me of it. I had been out to work. My mother gave information on the Wednesday after to the police, and they had the bills printed. It was a mistake of theirs to say he had been a shepherd.

A juryman noticed the fact of deceased having no money about him, and some of his pockets being sewed up. Witness: I don't know anything about that, it must have been a fancy of his own. I know mother made his waistcoat. He used to keep at home and read, except when he went out for a walk. He has walked this summer more than usual. He has not been under a doctor. There was nothing uncomfortable at home between my mother and him to make him go away; he never complained of anything of the kind to me. With respect to deceased having asked the way to Romney, witness said she believed he had formerly lived either at Tenterden or Romney.

Richard Sharpe, the husband of the witness, was not sworn, but gave testimony to the quiet, sober habits of the deceased.

Albert Relph, 16, a lad living at Appledore: I have seen the body. I last saw the deceased alive on Tuesday morning, at a little before 6. I was on the canal bridge. The man came over the bridge from Appledore street, and passed me; he asked me the way to Romney, which I told him. He stopped and said something, I could not hear what. He walked round the corner and got on to the towing path, and walked on by the edge of the water. I looked away and when I looked again he was gone. I heard no splash, but I saw the water move. The man was quite sober when he spoke to me. I went to the spot on the opposite side of the canal and saw him in the water; the water was then quite still. I saw his coat in the water; he made no struggle. I don't know whether he walked in, or tumbled in, or jumped in. I directly ran up town and called my father, who came back with me. The man was dead when taken out of the water; he had been in about a quarter of an hour.

Mr. Avery (juryman) suggested that the man fell into the water in stooping down to drink.

Jeremiah Relph, labourer: When my son came to me on Tuesday morning I was at the forge. My son said there was a man in the canal. I went with him directly up the towing path, and saw the man lying in the water. His head was near the bank and his feet towards the stream, so that I could reach his collar. The water did not cover him all over; his head was not under water. I pulled him out by his collar. I think he was dead when he fell in; he was not in more than ten or twelve minutes. He was not warm nor yet cold; he was clammy. From the appearance of the side of the bank I should think he slipped in. The edge of the canal at this spot is somewhat abrupt, although the depth of water is quite shallow. I could not perceive any life in him, nor any signs of breathing.

Stephen Pope, K.C.C., stationed at Appledore: I was in bed and was called up and arrived at the canal a little before 7 o'clock. I found the body of the deceased there. About a dozen persons were on the spot. I examined the body first. There was no movement; there was a sort of clammy warmth about it. I searched the deceased, and found on him a pocket handkerchief and an empty purse. I believe the pockets had not been touched before. I went for a doctor. The deceased looked much wasted, but I saw no marks of violence. I could see the man was dead; nothing was done to restore him. I caused inquiries to be made, and through P.C. Wall obtained the bill produced (meaning the notice headed "missing.").

The Coroner then briefly summed up the case, commenting on the want of evidence to show in what manner the deceased came into the water, and the jury without hesitation returned a verdict of "Found drowned."

Mr. Avery could not help regretting that nothing more had been done by way of endeavouring to restore the deceased to animation, he having been in the water so short a time. The poor man is to be buried at Appledore at the cost of the parish.

31 August 1867
Kentish Express

APPLEDORE, KENT

IMPORTANT SALE

W. ATKINS has received instructions from Mr. Avery, Draper and Furniture Broker, of Appledore, who is about to quit a portion of his premises, TO SELL BY AUCTION, ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1867, on the premises, a quantity of very useful new and second-hand HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, READY-MADE CLOTHES, SEVERAL DOZENS OF WINE, &c.

THE Stock comprises feather beds, bolsters, and pillows, mattresses, iron and other bedsteads, rush and cane-seated chairs, painted, birch, and mahogany chests of drawers, sofas and couches, mahogany dining, Pembroke, and deal tables, washstands, and dressing tables, towel horses, blankets and counterpanes, mantel and tray glasses, GRAND PIANOFORTE, (by Broadwood), fender and fire-irons, American clocks, coco-nut matting and rugs, tea trays, decanters, wine glasses, stoves, corner cupboards, bureau, easy chairs, quantity of pictures, paraffin lamps, servants' boxes, several dozens of wine, &c.

Also, a quantity of ready-made clothes, hats, caps, shoes, &c., &c.

Sale to commence at One for Two o'clock precisely. The Auctioneer respectfully requests an early attendance as the lots are very numerous.

Note: It must have been a sizeable portion of his premises to contain that little lot. Later aerial photos show a number of buildings behind Averys, and Edward also had the use of whatever buildings there were at the Wickham property. On this occasion he is also described as a 'furniture broker' so may have dealt in second-hand furniture. Did Averys really stock grand pianos? It seems unlikely, as a general rule, so this may have been second-hand. It looks as if Edward Avery was rationalising his business and was relinquishing or repurposing an outbuilding. There's no way he could have been housing all of this stock in the shop.

24 February 1868
Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser

DEATHS

EVERY. - On the 16th inst., at Appledore, Thos. Avery, aged 80.

Note: Edward inherited the 'Wickham House butcher's' property, meaning that he could now redevelop the Wickham/Blue House site. Which he did, a few year's later.

14 March 1868
Kentish Express

BE SURE AND ASK FOR CLARK'S DIGESTIVE FOOD FOR INFANTS, WHICH is decidedly the best and most economical that can be used. Free from any artificial compound, made from the best wheaten flour into biscuits and double-baked. It is strengthening and invigorating. Children the most delicate can take it because of its purity. See Testimonials. Sold in Tins, 6d. and 9d. each, by the Sole Manufacturer, F. CLARK, No. 14. HIGH-STREET, RYE, and the following Agents:- Mr. Ingall, Ashford; Mr. Lee, Hastings; Mr. Jenner, Hailsham; Mr. Wilkins, Eastbourne; Mr. Smith, Rye; Mr. Neve, Wittersham; Mr. Avery Appledore; Mr. Pile, Northiam; Mr. Woodlett, Winchelsea; Mr. Russell, Beckley; Mr. Paine, New Romney; Mr. Noakes, Brede; Mr. Phillips, chemist, Norwood; Mr. Willsher, Tenterden; and in other places throughout the country.

Note: There were a number of repeat advertisements such as this, which is included as an example. There was still a Willsher's grocer's in Tenterden in the early 1960s. The building (Eastwell House) is gone, but Willsher's was in the position of today's Boots the Chemist.

There were similar advertisements saying that Avery's were agents for Gilbey's Spirits and wines, and other products.

13 February 1869
Kentish Express

A long report about the granting of licences to sell petroleum, relating to The Petroleum Acts. Towards the end -

Messrs. Bugler, Allen, Headley, and Spiers, of Ashford, and Avery, of Appledore, were the applicants. Mr. Allen said that as Mr. Bugler was satisfied with 20 gallons of benzoline he could not with propriety ask for more; at the same time it would be very inconvenient to have only so small a quantity. Mr. Bugler said it would be equally inconvenient to himself; but the article was so dangerous that he could not ask for more, looking at the danger to the community arising from it. Mr. Avery said that in Appledore perhaps more of this article was sold than in a town like Ashford where many of the inhabitants burnt gas. He asked for permission to keep 36 gallons in a detached building in his garden; and he stated that he made it a rule never on any account to sell any of it by candle-light, and under that restriction he did not apprehend there was any more danger from it than from any other inflammable commodity.

Note: Benzoline was used for lanterns and stoves. Gas never came to Appledore and electricity didn't come until 1935.

In 1934, according to the electricity company, the residents of Woodchurch, Appledore and Stone had shown little interest in having electricity (presumably because of cost), so there was no money to be made by supplying it. In 1935 there were concerns about the proposed course of the electricity pylons. In November 1935, the Methodist Church raised £3 15s towards its electric lighting fund. In December 1935, it was hoped that a bazaar and whist drive would provide funds for lighting the church and village hall. In February 1936, it was proposed to hold a fete to raise funds for lighting the church. In December 1936, Appledore's vicar announced that an underground cable (maximum depth 2 feet) would be laid across the churchyard from the northern boundary to the north-west of the church. No graves would be crossed, and those with Munk 1770 and 1806 would be avoided. In March 1937 there was a request to extend the electricity supply to Appledore Heath.

26 November 1869
Dover Express

TENTERDEN COUNTY COURT

This court was held on Thursday, November 18th, in the Town Hall. There were 72 original plaints; six summonses for commitment; and one bankruptcy case. The following undefended and admitted actions were heard before the Registrar, Stephen Weller, Esq.:-

The cases included:

Edward Avery, grocer, Appledore, v. John Wickham, labourer, Appledore; £3 0s. 8d. for grocery and drapery; 6s. a month. - Same v. John Coleman, Appledore; £2 14s.; 6s. a month.

01 October 1870

Kentish Express

E. AVERY, DRAPER, &c, APPLEDORE INVITES attention to his large and varied STOCK of DRAPERY, HOSIERY, READY-MADE CLOTHING, HATS and CAPS, BOOTS and SHOES, which has been bought in the best Markets on the most favourable terms, and which he will consequently offer at prices lower than for years past. BLANKETS, CALICOES, and HOSIERY are now extremely low, and E. A. has many job lots well worth attention. The Latest Fashions in HATS, BONNETS, FLOWERS, FEATHERS, and all kinds of MILLINERY GOODS. The Newest Styles in READY-MADE CLOTHING, FLANNEL SHIRTS, SCARFS, TIES, COLLARS, &c. Ladies and Gentlemen's BOOTS and SHOES of every make at the lowest prices. E. A. has also an excellent Stock of FURNITURE and FURNISHING GOODS, China, Glass, Earthenware, Cutlery, Tinware, and Furnishing Ironmongery.

Note the reference to 'Ready-Made Clothing'. Today it would be taken for granted that clothing would be ready-made, but not in 1870. Making clothes for the family was part of a woman's role, hence the fact that drapers were almost as common as grocers, and that in smaller communities groceries and drapery would be found in one shop.

23 September 1871

Kentish Express

APPLEDORE

E. AVERY, GROCER, DRAPER, &c, BEGS to inform his friends and the public' that he has disposed of his Business to Mr. W. J. Piper, for whom he solicits their kind support and patronage, fully assured the business will be conducted in an efficient and satisfactory manner. E.A. begs sincerely to thank all his friends for their kindness and support to him during the 20 years he has conducted the business, and informs them he will remain for some time with Mr. Piper, to introduce him to his friends and the public.

W. J. PIPER, in Succeeding to the Business of Mr. E. AVERY, begs to inform the inhabitants of Appledore and the surrounding neighbourhood, that it will be his endeavour, by strict personal attention and with a well-selected Stock at moderate prices, to retain the liberal and kind support so long given to Mr. Avery.

Note: This is unexpected. Edward Avery sells up at the age of 49 - to become a cobbler (1881 census). He had been a cordwainer as a young man but that was a step up from a cobbler, who is a mender of shoes rather than a maker of shoes. Earlier in 1871 he described himself as a grocer and landowner, so may have had other assets and other income. At this point, following the death of his father three years earlier, he would have owned the Wickham property in addition to the Blue House. He may already have pulled them down and built Wickham Villas. Disposing of the Avery's business doesn't seem to have meant disposing of the Averys property.

The Avery family in 1871 is: Edward Avery (b 1822, age 49), Mary Ann Avery (b 1832, age 39), William Parks Avery (b 1855, age 16), Edwin Henry Avery (b 1856, age 15), Albert John Avery (b 1858, age 13). Only Albert is at home in 1871. William was a grocer's shopman in Rye, and although not on the 1871 census, it's likely that Edwin was a grocer's assistant at Peasmarsh, in a business that he was later to manage and run.

W. J. Piper cannot be identified, although there was a William James Piper on the electoral roll for Appledore in 1873 and 1874. Mr Piper was gone by 1881.

20 October 1879
Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser

MARRIAGES

EVERY-WAIT - On 12, at Peasmarsh, by the vicar, Rex W. R Brodrick, Edwin Henry, second son of Mr Edward Avery, Appledore, to Matilda S. H., eldest daughter of Mr Richard Wait, Peasmarsh.

Note: Edwin is marrying Matilda Wait, a draper's assistant at the grocer's shop in Peasmarsh, and eldest daughter of the family that owns it. He would later run the business himself.

In 1881, the Averys shop was run by Sydney Smith. He was 35 and was born in London. He married Julia, who was 34 and was born in Lydd.

Also at the property were two daughters and a son, aged from 0-5. The eldest child was born in Mayfield, Sussex, the middle child in London, the youngest child in Appledore. In addition, there was Louisa Kettle, a 15 year-old servant, born in Lydd, and Elizabeth Hart, a 66 year-old widow, born in Tenterden, and described as a 'monthly nurse'. A monthly nurse was a person looking after a mother and baby after delivery of the child, usually for about a month.

In 1881, Edward Avery was 58, described as a cobbler, and was living at 2 Wickham Villas with his wife. It looks as if there may have been a succession issue at the shop. Edward withdraws in 1871, for whatever reason, while his sons are still teenagers. Mr Piper comes in to run the shop for maybe three years. Sydney Smith is running it in 1881. In an 1882 trade directory, the business is listed as: "Avery, W. P. & A. J. grocers, & agents for W. & A Gilbey, wine & spirit merchants."

W. P. is William Parks Avery, his eldest son, then aged 27. A. J. is Albert John Avery, his youngest son, then aged 24. Edwin, his second son, was a grocer's manager in Peasmarsh. Albert can't be found in the 1881 census - in Appledore or anywhere else. Sometimes when people go missing from censuses it's because they're in the army. The first Boer War was fought from 16 December 1880 until 23 March 1881. The 1881 census was taken on the 3rd April 1881. The troops wouldn't have got back from South Africa by then.

The partnership of William and Albert didn't last for long. William Parks Avery was soon to leave Appledore and join the Royal Engineers. The voter's register shows that Albert was in Appledore in 1885, living in a 'joint tenement' in The Street. In 1891 the census shows him as grocer and draper at Averys.

10 April 1882
Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser

Suppliers to the Union Workhouse, Tenterden, included -

Messrs Avery, Appledore, second Limerick butter, 11d per 1b; salt, 28 per cwt; coffee, whole, 1s 1d per lb.

29 August 1885
Kentish Express

MR. WHITELEY AT APPLEDORE

On Thursday evening Mr. Whiteley, Liberal candidate for the Ashford Division, addressed about 300 of the inhabitants in the Appledore booth. Mr. B. Ames presided, and amongst those on the platform were Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Wright, Mr. E. Avery, Mr. Neve, Mr. J. Brignall, and Mr. A. J. Avery.

The CHAIRMAN having made a few opening remarks, Mr. WHITELEY spoke. He advised the new electors to exercise their votes according to the dictate of their own consciences. He referred to the severe opposition which the late Government had met with, and said, if Mr. Gladstone had listened to his true friends, they might have had less wars. He hoped they had all read the very able defence of Lord Ripon to the attack made upon him by Lord Randolph Churchill. When Lord Ripon first came into power he found a war in Afghanistan, and he succeeded in staying the war and in making friends with the Ameer.

Mr. Whiteley then went in for a reform of the Land Laws, and spoke of the reforms which the Liberal Party would support in the future. With regard to the Burials Bill, although it was as good a bill as Mr. Gladstone could think of passing, it was not complete. They ought to have the churchyard open to one sect as well as another, and the Bill they wanted to see passed would be one for taking away the legal effect of consecration. Mr. Inderwick also spoke, and the proceedings concluded with the usual resolution and votes of thanks.

Note: Reveals Edward and Albert Avery to be supporters of the Liberal party. What was the 'Appledore booth' that could hold 300 people? A marquee? In later years Albert Avery was a supporter of the Conservative Party.

01 October 1887
Kentish Gazette

PETTY SESSIONS

On Tuesday in the case of Mr. Thomas Boorman, coal merchant, Charing, who had a steelyard which, through its readily getting out of gear, was 3 lbs. against the purchaser, and for whom Mr. Mowll appeared, the Bench consented to the disposal of the matter by Mr. Boorman consenting to the steelyard being confiscated, and paying the costs 18s 8d. Mr. James Palmer, butcher, Appledore, who had chains of a weight scale too long; Mr. William Sims, grocer, Appledore, who had a scale six drams against the purchaser on account of a rust spot on the beam and Mr. Albert John Avery, grocer, Appledore, who had scales unequally balanced, were each fined £1 and 9s. 4d. costs.

22 November 1889
Kent County Examiner and Ashford Chronicle

TENTERDEN COUNTY COURT

E. and A. Avery, grocers, Appledore, v. George Pellett, labourer, Stone; claim 18s.5d.-His Honour, after going through the plaintiffs' books, gave judgment for 8s. 7d., to be paid by 3s. a month.

In 1891, Edward Avery is one of only nine inhabitants of Appledore to be listed as an 'Esquire' in the Court Directory of Kelly's Directory. This was an outmoded term that had been devalued over the years. There is no telling how this distinction was arrived at.

He retains the distinction in 1903, when only eight are listed. Also in 1903, E. Avery & Son are listed as bakers, in addition to grocers, drapers, tea merchants, etc.

In 1913, Albert Avery is listed as a 'Private Resident' in a list of eleven.

25 June 1892
Kentish Express

MR. BUGLER AT APPLEDORE

An open-air meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. J. U. Bugler was held opposite the Red Lion, Appledore, on Wednesday evening. There was a fair attendance of the labouring class.

Mr. B. Ames presided, and he was supported by Mrs. Bugler, Messrs. A. Brown (Hothfield), H. B. Mace (Tenterden), T. Wood (Tenterden), J. G. Wright, John Palmer (Horn Farm, Kennardington), J. Brown (Appledore), Edward Avery, H. Paine (Reading Street), and H. Pearson (Kennardington).

MR. AMES, in introducing Mr. Bugler, said that he had known that gentleman for very many years. He had always found him upright in all his ways and all his transactions. Mr. Bugler was known all over the county, no matter where he went, and he had never heard a person speak against him.

MR. BUGLER then proceeded to give his views on the political questions of the day. Alluding to the Ulster question Mr. Bugler said that the Tories gave out that if Home Rule was given to Ireland the Roman Catholics would persecute the Protestants in the province of Ulster. That was nothing but a war cry on the part of the Tories.

PLEDGE TO SUPPORT. Mr. BROWN proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting, having heard Mr. Bugler's explanation of his political views, expresses its satisfaction therewith and its determination to use every legitimate means to secure his return as member of Parliament for this Division." In doing so he said it was true that the Conservative Government had got along pretty fairly during the present Parliament, but it was with the help of the Dissident Liberals. It was time now, however, that the Liberal party resumed its proper position. They must return a liberal Government, so that they might have Liberal measures carried for the future by the right party, and they must retain their proper position as a progressive party in this realm. Mr. WRIGHT briefly seconded the resolution.

AN AMENDMENT. Mr. PEARSON, of Kennardington, said the demonstration at Belfast last week showed that the Ulster Protestants were very much against Home Rule, and he moved an amendment to the effect that Mr. Bugler was not a fit person to represent the Division in Parliament. The amendment, however, failed to find a seconder.

Mr. BUGLER said there was no fear of the Protestants being persecuted. The best plan was for Mr. Pearson to go over and convert the Roman Catholics. (laughter). Mr. PEARSON: It won't do for me to-night. The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried with only five dissentients.

Mr. BUGLER, in returning thanks, said he was going to appeal to the working men. He was in favour of working men having every liberty. Mr. Hardy had not got a single house nor a foot of land in Kent. On the other hand he (Mr. Bugler) lived in Ashford, the most central place in the Division.

Mr. Bugler then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ames for presiding. Mr. AVERY, in seconding, said Mr. Bugler had made his mark in Ashford and on the County Council. He referred to that gentleman's action in the County Council with regard to the maintenance of side walks, which showed that Mr. Bugler's sympathy was with the working class. The resolution was carried, those present singing "For he's a jolly good fellow."

The CHAIRMAN having responded, the meeting terminated.

Note: So, Edward Avery, whose father was an agricultural labourer, was a Liberal and had concerns for the working class. Albert Avery, his son, was originally a Liberal but became a Conservative (and Freemason) as his social standing increased. The political question of the day was Home Rule for Ireland - and pavements. Mr Bugler was not elected.

This Mr Bugler is the Mr Bugler that was applying for a licence to sell benzoline, along with Edward Avery, in 1869. He ran a large ironmonger's in Ashford High Street.

10 September 1898
Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

This may be when Avery's received a licence to sell wines and spirits. There is a curious report from the 'Brewster Sessions' of the police court at Ashford. The magistrates seemed keen to revoke licences and not grant new ones.

The Chairman announced that the magistrates had decided not to grant any additional licenses, and if any buildings had been erected with the view of a licence they had better be altered... An application for an off licence at South Willesborough for Mr. A. Hills was refused... A wine licence for Thomas Guond, of Charing, who keeps the Queen's Head, was refused, but grocers' licences were granted to Alexander Stonham, of Wye, and Albert John Avery, of Appledore, the Bench having no alternative.

Note: The Temperance Movement was quite strong at this point.

03 March 1900
Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald

BIRTHS

EVERY - On the 18th Feb., at Appledore, the wife of A. J. Avery, of a son.

Note: This would be Edward Bernard Avery. He was born in the first quarter of the year and died in the fourth quarter of the year. Is it significant that Albert hadn't previously announced the birth of his five daughters in the newspaper?

Albert's wife was Helen Spencer Pearson. They were married in 1887. Albert was 29, Helen was 26. Albert's father was given as Edward Avery "Gentleman" - rather than grocer, draper or cobbler. Helen's father was given as George H. S. Pearson "Gentleman dead". He had been a grocer in Woodchurch.

These were their children -

- **Helen Mary Avery** born 1888, died 1935, aged 46, unmarried. Usually referred to as Mary.
- **Alice Grace Avery**, born 1890, married Reginald Giles, in 1915 in Lewisham. In 1939 they were living in Ashford and Reginald was the Chief Clerk of the Commercial Union Assurance company. Alice died in Folkestone in 1976, aged 86. Sometimes referred to as Alys.
- **Edith Muriel Avery**, born 1894, died 1894, aged 10 weeks.

- **Evelyn Margaret Avery**, born 1896, married Mr. Désiré Verhoeven, an officer of the Belgian army, in 1919. Died in Antwerp in 1971, aged 75.
- **Rachel Winifred Avery**, born 1898, unmarried, died in 1979 in Denbigh, North Wales, aged 81.
- **Edward Bernard Avery**, born 1900, died 1900, aged less than 1 year.
- **Norah Parks Avery**, born 1902, died 1903, aged less than 1 year.
- **Frederick John**, born 1903, died 1904, aged less than 1 year

Helen Spencer Avery died in 1905, aged 43. Her final years were spent giving birth to three children who died within a year. Albert Avery died in 1941, aged 82.

There are frequent newspaper reports of Miss Avery or 'The Misses Avery' (or even the Mesdammes Avery) playing the piano (and violin) at functions. Which one or which two? There were four Misses Avery who played the piano: Helen Mary, Alice Grace, Evelyn Margaret and Rachel Winifred. They were all trained to a high level. Helen and Rachel remained unmarried and were housekeepers for their father after the death of his wife. Rachel was also postmistress.

10 March 1900
Kentish Express

MISCELLANEOUS

A letter was received from Mr. E. Avery, Appledore, asking whether it was desirable to approach the Rye Harbour Commissioners with a view to taking over the length of the Canal from Appledore to where it joins the Rother. Might it not be possible for a stop to be put in at Appledore and so render that end navigable and thus restore a means of water carriage which had been lost for years. The matter was referred to the clerk and the acting expeditor.

21 June 1902
Kentish Express

Advertisement

ALBERT J. AVERY, APPLIEDORE KENT, VALUER AND TRANSFER AGENT to the GROCERY, DRAPERY and GENERAL TRADE. Write for Terms.

Note: Albert is advertising his services as a valuer and broker of businesses. He is the equivalent of an estate agent for businesses, but not their premises. There are a few examples of him advertising such businesses for sale. This advertisement appeared every week in the Kentish Express.

17 January 1903
Kentish Express

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEA

The annual tea and prize-giving of the Appledore and Ebony Sunday school took place in the National schools on Thursday, in last week. Tea was provided at five o'clock for the children, and at seven p.m. Mrs. Cock, of the Court Lodge, gave away the prizes before a crowded room, which was followed by an excellent programme, arranged by Mrs. Godwin. It was opened by a selection by the Appledore band, followed by a pianoforte duet by M. and A. Avery; song, "Two Wings," Norah Sutton; recitation, "A Brave Deed," Jane Dunster; song, "The Gift," A. and D. George; recitation, "Casual Joe." Annie Marchant; infant song, "Dollies," recitation, "The Dead Dolly." Beatrice Relph; recitation, "Bunnies," Douglas Johnson; infant songs, "Ducklings," and "Sun, Moon and Stars" (conducted by Miss Palmer); recitation, "Rover in Church," Dorothy Johnson; dialogue, "Nancy's Penny." six girls; song, "Asthore," Angie Bates; pianoforte solo, Norah Sutton; duet, "Angel Whispers" M. and A. Avery; violin solo Elsie Springett; infant song, "Curly Head;" dialogue. "The Lost Pencil," Ebony children: song, "The Beautiful Prayer," M. and A. Avery song. "Dollies, Good-night," Ruth Wright and Doris Golmer: recitation. "Which One?" Cosette Godfrey; part song. "A Boat." E.. H. and D. Johnson; recitation, Tommy's Dream." Daisy Johnson; song. "Fiddle-de-dee," Elsie Springett and Daisy Johnson; "Nursery Rhymes.

Note: The first recorded appearance of the musical Miss Averys. 'M. and A. Avery' is Helen Mary Avery and Alice Avery, then aged 15 and 13. Helen Mary may have dropped the 'Helen' to avoid confusion with her mother.

20 June 1903
Kentish Express

MUSICAL SUCCESS

At the Trinity College of Music examination (Hastings centre) Miss Helen Mary Avery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Avery, of Appledore, passed with honours in pianoforte playing (junior division). Miss Avery, who was the youngest in her class, gained a prize with 86 marks. In the preparatory division, her sister, Alice Grace Avery, gained a certificate.

19 December 1903
Kentish Express

APPLEDORE.

FOR Christmas, E. AVERY AND SONS have a good assortment of Fruits, Huntley and Palmer's Biscuits and Cakes, Gilbey's Wines and Spirits, a variety of Fancy Articles for presents, Photograph of Appledore for framing, also mounted on 'Xmas Cards from 4d. each. Picture Post-Cards from a halfpenny each. Christmas Puddings and Cakes, our own make, 9d. and 10d. per lb. Grocers, Bakers and Confectioners. An inspection solicited. - Post Office, Appledore.

AT SIMS'S Stores you can supply a great many of your wants The annual Christmas and New Year's Bazaar is now filled with a large assortment of Fancy and Useful Articles, suitable for Presents for children and adults. In the Grocery Department we can well supply you with Raisins, Currants, Sultanas, Muscatels, Figs, Dates, Oranges, Nuts, etc., etc., all at popular prices. Pay us a visit and let us supply your wants. 'Xmas and New Year Cards. Views of Appledore and other Post-Cards, etc., etc. Don't forget, SIMS'S Stores is the place.

Note: Sims's Stores was a precursor to the current village shop. It was run by William Sims for about forty years.

26 January 1904
Tuesday Express

APPLEDORE INSTITUTE. OPENING PROCEEDINGS.

The new institute at Appledore was opened on Thursday by Mr. and Mrs T. J. Pearson. In doing so, Mr. Pearson said he hoped it would be supported and not allowed to fall through. He sincerely thanked the members of the committee for the great assistance they had given him, and also the subscribers, who had given so liberally. After the building had been declared open as an institute an excellent concert followed. Those present besides the Chairman and his wife, were Miss Hook, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Wright, Mr. E. B. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Avery, Mr. and Mrs. Dapson, Mrs. Bates, Mr. J. Palmer, Mrs. Elgar, Mr. Bacon, Mr. T. Palmer, Mr. C. Palmer, Mrs. Trewren, and others.

The concert was opened by a very well rendered overture for violin and piano by Messrs. Walker and Pilcher, of Rye. Excellent songs were given by Miss Nellie Bennett, whose beautiful voice was very much admired. She sang "The Carnival" with great effect. Miss Evans also delighted the audience with her humorous songs, "Gay Tom Tit," and "Uncle John," receiving encores for both. Mr. Ney, Mr. Apps, and Mrs. Howard also received well deserved encores. Vocal duets were given by Messrs. Turner and Bishop, and the Misses Bennett and Turner, and a capital glee by Miss Bennett, Mrs. Howard, and Messrs. Turner and Apps, which concluded the programme.

Mr. Sims proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Pearson for the great interest they had taken in establishing the Institute, and for arranging such an excellent programme that evening. Mr. E. B. Terry also thanked the Chairman and his wife in a very humorous way, saying that they wanted to test the building to see if it was likely to fall down, so he thought they had better give cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, which was responded to in the true Appledore style. Mr. Pearson very suitably responded and the pleasant evening was closed by the singing of the National anthem.

On Friday a "free and easy" concert took place at the Institute, Mr. Pearson presiding. Upwards of forty members were enrolled, and afterwards the Chairman announced that the building would be open for recreation, etc., on Monday evenings. The following contributed to the entertainment:- Piano duets by the Misses Avery, Miss A. Bates and Miss A. Avery, and Mrs. Palmer and Mr. Baldwin; songs by the Chairman, Mr. W. Pearson, Miss A. Bates, Miss Palmer, Mr. S. Bishop and Mr. T. Palmer, nearly all receiving encores. The duties of accompanists were shared by Miss Palmer, Mr. T. Pearson and Miss M. Avery. On each evening the room was packed. The platform was very tastefully decorated by Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Palmer, assisted by Mr. T. Pearson, Messrs. S. Bishop, Kelsey, Wright, sen. and jun., and Mr. T. Palmer.

The cost of the Institute, completely furnished, will be about £70, and this amount has nearly been raised through the efforts of the Chairman and the committee.

Note: Those were the days. Warbling mezzo-sopranos and piano duets by young ladies in a tin hut. Everybody home by 10 o'clock after singing the National Anthem.

The Appledore Institute had been the subject of a heated exchange in letters to the Kentish Express. Harrison Weir, a celebrated artist and illustrator, had moved to the village two years before (living at Poplar Hall) and was outraged that he hadn't been consulted about the erection of what he called the "iron room". In fact, he had been invited to a meeting chaired by the vicar but his wife hadn't passed on the message. Mr T. J. Pearson responded in a dignified fashion and Harrison Weir looked a bit of a fool. The full text of these letters is in the ALHS archive.

21 January 1905
Kentish Express

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF Mrs. A. J. AVERY

Early on Saturday morning the wife of Mr. A. J. Avery, grocer and draper, passed away after a short illness. Mrs. Avery, who came from Gloucester, had won universal love and esteem during her life in Appledore by her quiet and gentle nature and evident devotion to her husband and children. The funeral took place on Wednesday, amidst general tokens of sympathy and respect. The service, which was conducted by the Rev. C. B. Hall (vicar), assisted by the Rev. E. J. Wright (curate), commenced with a hymn and another followed the Psalm, which was read. As the body was carried to the graveyard the Nunc Dimittis was sung by the choir. A large concourse of people attended the service.

Note: As noted earlier, Helen Spencer Avery was 43 when she died. Her final years were spent giving birth to three children who died within a year.

09 May 1905
Tuesday Express

APPLEDORE CLUB DAY

One of the earliest of all the Kent club days is that of the Appledore Friendly Society, which always takes place on the first Thursday in May. The day's proceedings commenced with Divine service in the parish church, which was largely attended, the curate, the Rev. G. J. Wright, preaching an appropriate sermon. The Dover Town Band attended, a cornet solo being given by Mr. W. Medhurst.

Mr. E. B. Terry presided at the 51st annual dinner and was supported by the Rev. G. J. Wright, Dr Toms, Messrs. E. Neve (secretary), A. J. Avery, C. Noakes, H. C. Terry, S. Hook, R. Springett, H. Walker, F. Noakes, W. Bourne, A. Boon, A. Bean, T. C. Palmer and others.

Mr. H. Pearson occupied the vice-chair. The usual loyal toasts having been honoured, and the Chairman having given the clerical toast, to which the Rev. G. J. Wright replied, Dr. Toms gave the toast of the day. "Success to the Appledore Friendly Society." He said that the balance sheet was very pleasant reading, and on this, the 51st anniversary of the club, he must heartily congratulate the members. He supposed that the success of the club was due to the energy of its officers. Mr. Pearson and Mr. Neve, whose names were coupled with the toast, replied. Mr. Neve stated that the total income amounted to £990 10s. 3d., while the expenses were £165 6s. 74d, the balance being £825 3s. 8d. For sickness £108 had been paid and one member had died.-

Mr. Avery was entrusted with the toast of the "Medical Officers." and paid a high tribute to the efficiency of them. Dr. Toms. whose name was coupled with the toast, suitably replied. Other toasts were "The Visitors," proposed by the Chairman, and the "Host and Hostess " (Mr. and Mrs. Brown). During the afternoon and evening Messrs. Elliott and Herbert greatly enlivened the proceedings with their songs, while the selections of the Dover Town Band were much enjoyed.

01 July 1905
Kentish Express

MUSICAL SUCCESS

Miss Mary Avery, daughter of Mr. A. J. Avery, Appledore, recently passed the intermediate Trinity College examination in pianoforte playing with honours. She was prepared by Mrs. C. Avery (silver medallist, R.A.M.), 55, Raglan-place, Ashford.

Note: Mrs C. Avery was Maria Avery, née Pope of Appledore. Her father was Henry Pope who farmed Gusbourne. Her husband was Charles Avery, son of a prosperous farmer at Rolvenden. Charles Avery played cricket for Kent. It is not clear if the Rolvenden Averys were related to the Appledore Averys, and it would take too long to work it out...

Maria Avery was trained at the Royal Academy of Music, travelling up and down to London for five years. She was music teacher at Ashford High School for thirty-four years, from the day it was founded in 1898 as a school for young ladies. The newspaper says she was a silver medallist of the Royal Academy, which didn't mean that she came second. At that time it was an annual award to the most distinguished student of the Academy. She was a virtuoso.

27 February 1906
Tuesday Express

CONCERT AT APPLEDORE

A concert arranged by Miss Palmer was given in the schoolroom at Appledore on Thursday, the proceeds of which are to be used for the purchase of new books for the choir. The programme was commenced by a piano duet by the Misses M. and A. Avery. Songs were given by Miss Green, Miss Palmer, Mrs. Elsley, Miss Springett and Miss Johnson: vocal duets by the Misses M. and A. Avery; violin solos by Miss Alice Avery, and various part songs by the choir. The programme was concluded with a performance of "Beauty and the Beast" by children belonging to the Sunday school, which created roars of laughter. The Vicar, who presided, sincerely thanked Miss Palmer and Mrs. Avery for the trouble they had taken in arranging the programme, also to all who had kindly assisted. The attendance was not a large one and the proceeds only amounted to £1 1s.

16 January 1909
Kentish Express

GROCERY and Drapery, village general trade; takings £3,000; low rent on lease; ingoing by valuation about £850. Fullest particulars of Avery. Valuer, Appledore.

GROCERY, Provisions and Hardware, trade of £40 weekly; stock and fixtures by valuation about £300; rent only £30, with good house and garden. Particulars of Avery, Valuer, Appledore.

KENT Village. Freehold Premises comprising grocer and baker's shop; with convenient dwelling house; takings over £2,000; capital necessary to purchase, including stock about £1,550. Apply, Avery, Appledore.

KENT Town. Grocery, Provisions, Wine and Spirits, a profitable trade of £7,000 yearly; rent £60 on lease: stock about £500. Apply, Avery, Valuer, Appledore.

Note: This gives some insight to the 'ALBERT J. AVERY, APPLEDORE KENT, VALUER AND TRANSFER AGENT' notices that appeared every week in the Kentish Express.

27 February 1909
Kentish Express

THE TERRITORIAL FORCE

RECRUITING MEETING AT APPLIEDORE

The Tenterden Company 5th Buffs, under the command of Captain J. Munn Mace, had a recruiting march to Appledore on Tuesday evening. A smoking concert was held in the schools, the room being crowded. Quartermaster T. J. Pearson, Royal East Kent Yeomanry, presided, and was supported by Captain J. Munn Mace, Lieutenant Body (Wittersham), Captain Sharpe (Rye), the Rev. A. O. Scutt (vicar), and the following ladies:- Mrs. T. J. Pearson, Mrs. J. G. Wright, Mrs. E. B. Terry, Misses M. and A. Avery, Miss Middleton and others.

The Chairman, in a few opening remarks, observed he was very pleased to find that since the 31st March so many young men had joined the Territorial Force. He earnestly appealed to the young men of Appledore and district to come forward and join. Captain J. Munn-Mace also addressed the meeting. There were, he said, several reasons why the young men should join the Force, and he would like employers of labour to make it as convenient as they possibly could for their men to join.

After explaining the conditions of service, Captain Munn-Mace said he hoped there would be a good response. The training would pull the web together and give them some very pleasant evenings at drill, which would be done, as much as possible, at Appledore. The Chairman said they were gratified to find their new Vicar present with them. Although he was almost a stranger in their midst, he was glad to find he had their welfare at heart. The Rev. A. O. Scutt, in replying, quoted Lord Roberts' views on invasion, and said that although many people disagreed with him about the first line of defence being broken, he thought it was well to be prepared.

Lieutenant Body also addressed the meeting. Captain Sharpe proposed the health of the Chairman, and Mr. E. B. Terry spoke on behalf of the owners of land. Fifteen recruits were sworn in. During the evening excellent selections were given by the band of the Company, and songs by Miss A. Avery, Mr. J. G. Wright, Messrs. Vinall, Backshall, Hilder and Baldwin; a violin solo by Mr. W. Chacksfield; quartettes by Messrs. Turner, Manger, Backshall and Bishop, also by the Misses M. and A. Avery, Baldwin and Lindsay. The duties of accompanist were ably carried out by Miss M. Avery and Mr. Manger,

Note: The Territorial Force was a part-time volunteer component of the British Army, created in 1908 to augment British land forces without resorting to conscription. The new organisation consolidated the 19th-century Volunteer Force and yeomanry into a unified auxiliary, commanded by the War Office and administered by local county territorial associations. The Territorial Force was designed to reinforce the regular army in expeditionary operations abroad, but because of political opposition it was assigned to home defence. Members were liable for service anywhere in the UK and could not be compelled to serve overseas unless they volunteered to do so.

23 November 1909
Tuesday Express

DEATH OF MR. E. AVERY OF APPLIEDORE

We regret to record the death, which took place on Monday morning, of Mr. Edward Avery, of the firm of Messrs. E. Avery and Son, of Appledore. The deceased was 87 years of age.

04 December 1909
South Eastern Advertiser

THE LATE MR EDWARD AVERY

The funeral of Mr. Edward Avery of Wickham House, took place on Thursday, November 25th. The coffin, covered with a black velvet pall, surmounted by a lovely wreath of arum lilies, "With sympathy from the employees of the firm," followed by Mr. Edwin Henry and Mr. Albert John (surviving sons). Private R. E. Avery, Miss M. Avery (grandchildren), Mr. and Mrs. G. Chapling (Brockley), Mr. and Mrs. C. Lindridge (Woodchurch), Mr. Pounds, Mr. J. Wood (The Heath), Mr. G. Palmer (London). Mr. Gibb (Tenterden), Mr. James Palmer, Mr. John Pellett, Mr. Rogers, Miss Watts (employees), and many other parishioners, was borne from the house to the church gates, being met by the Vicar (the Rev. A. O. Scutt), who read the opening sentences in an impressive manner.

The service was fully choral, the surpliced choir, with Mr. Lindsay at the organ, rendering the 90th Psalm and Nunc Dimittis in a very feeling manner, while the Vicar read the Lesson, which has brought comfort to many sorrowing hearts. Deceased's two favourite hymns were sung, "Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer." preceding the Psalm in the church, and "For ever with the Lord" at the grave, after the Benediction. While the procession was proceeding to the grave the Organist rendered the "Dead March" in "Saul." Wreaths were also sent by Mr. and Mrs. E. Wait Avery (Brockley), "In loving and affectionate memory of dear grandpa, from Win and Mabs" and Mr. and Mrs. C. Lindridge (Woodchurch), "To dear Uncle Edward, with deepest sympathy." - Mr. E. H. Avery, Redford House, Peasmarsh, desires to express his deep appreciation of the many expressions of sympathy accorded him on the sudden death of his father by the inhabitants of Peasmarsh and elsewhere.

Note: Private R. E. Avery was Richard Edward Avery, son of Edwin Avery of Peasmarsh, so grandson of Edward Avery. He was a private in the 19th Hussars and had signed up for 'Short Service' (7 years) in 1908. He became a Lance Corporal but bought himself out (on payment of £78) in 1912. He emigrated to Canada, where he was credited (although it would appear by himself) with introducing stoolball (a Sussex game) to British Columbia.

11 October 1913
Kentish Express

E. AVERY & SONS, the old-established Grocers and Drapers who have earned a wide reputation for the quality of their Bacon, have recently purchased a Berkel Slicing Machine with all the latest improvements, including a new patent for removing the rind from each rasher. Their customers are invited to witness the working of this machine when fixed.

Note: Berkel bacon slicers were Dutch and had been invented in 1898. They were distinctive, with their red metalwork, and many will remember them. The company still exists and the bacon slicers are still red.

06 December 1913
Kentish Express

TO GROCERS, DRAPERS and OTHERS

ACCURATE and COMPREHENSIVE BOOK-KEEPING

Stock Taking and proper Balance Sheets are essential for present day Trading. This work can be done by experienced men without disturbance to every day Trading. An easy and simple method of Book-keeping introduced showing position at a glance, with correct method of Income Tax Return.

Terms and vacant dates can be arranged by application to Albert J. Avery, Practical Accountant and Stock Taker, APPLIEDORE.

14 February 1914
Kentish Express

GROCERY and Drapery, a profitable trade of £60 weekly. worked at very slight expense. Rent £38; fixtures, utensils, live and rolling stock, £200; stock by valuation about £500. Full particulars on application to Albert J. Avery, Valuer, Appledore.

BUTCHER'S Business, in thriving agricultural village, Kent; takings average £20 weekly: convenient premises, with good outbuildings; price for all fittings, utensils, pony and trap, piggeries, etc., £120. Apply. Avery, Appledore.

GROCERY and Drapery, with Post Office, only shop in village, doing a trade of £30 weekly; rent £38; stock and fixtures about £350. Avery, Valuer, Appledore.

Note: Albert doing his sales agent thing.

14 February 1914
Kentish Express

This appears here because Miss Avery played the organ, but it's interesting anyway. Ulundi was the last battle of the Anglo-Zulu War.

OFFICER WHO WAS AT ULUNDI

DEATH OF COLONEL JENKINS OF APPLEDORE

We regret to record the death of Colonel H. C. Jenkins, late of the 17th Lancers, which took place at his residence, Forstall Hall, Appledore on Saturday. Deceased, who had lived in Appledore for about twenty years, was always ready to help any deserving persons in the village. He took especially keen interest in the Gardeners' Society and their annual show was always held in the picturesque grounds of Forstall Hall. He had two medals for active service, namely South Africa, 1879, Tel-el-Kebir (Egypt), 1882, and the Khedive's Star, 1882. He sustained severe wounds in the head at the battle of Ulundi and was in charge of the escort that brought home the body of the late Prince Imperial. The deceased had been practically an invalid for some time past.

The funeral rites were observed at Appledore parish church on Tuesday, the Rev. E. J. Wright officiating. As the cortege entered the church "Onward, Christian Soldiers" (Sullivan) was played on the organ by Miss Avery, by request, and "O Rest in the Lord" (Elijah) as it left for the graveside. The chief mourners were the widow, the Earl of Lovelace (brother-in-law), Colonel A. E. Jenkins (brother), the Countess Lovelace. Mrs. A. E. Jenkins. Mrs. F. Leyland, Mr. Beadle, Mrs. Harrison Weir, and Dr. Doughty. There were no flowers by request. The coffin, which was of polished oak, bore the inscription: "Herbert Charles Jenkins, died February 7th, 1914, aged 62 years."

07 August 1915
Kentish Express

FOR THEIR COUNTRY

Pvt. Joseph John Pope, 4784, Royal West Kent Regiment, who was killed in action at the battle for Hill 60, on April 1st, was, as a lad, apprenticed to the grocery trade with Messrs. E. Avery and Son, at Appledore, and afterwards went to Whitstable with Mr. Baker, of Canterbury-road. Last November he enlisted and subsequently volunteered to fill up one of the gaps and went to the Front. He was a great favourite with his chums and a lover of all sports.

Note: Hill 60 was an important vantage point at Ypres, Belgium, where casualties in a four-year battle may have surpassed one million.

02 March 1918
Kentish Express

WHIST DRIVE

A very successful whist drive in connection with the Farmers' Red Cross Fund was held at Mr. A. Boon's residence, Griffin Farm, on Wednesday, there being upwards of one hundred players. The prize winners were - Ladies - 1, Mrs. Hilda Boon, 2, Miss Gill; sealed number, Miss K. Ashbee. Gentlemen - 1, Mr. R. Turner, 2, Mr. Reginald Boon: sealed number, Mr. Alfred Boon. A few gifts were sold and the proceeds amounted to £15. 0s. Od. Mr. T. J. Pearson acted as M.C. A musical programme was given during the interval by the Misses Avery, Mrs. Giles, and Lance-Corporal Rickaby.

Note: 100 players? It must have been in a barn. Whist Drives were once commonplace but awareness of them might be dying out.

Anatomy of a Whist Drive

A hall or large room would be set up with a number of tables, each seating four players. Players played in pairs, two against two. The total number of players might be a few dozen or well over a hundred.

After each deal, tricks won above six (the "book") counted towards a partnership score. Instead of cumulative scores as a foursome, the results were recorded for each individual, because players rotated partners.

After a fixed number of hands, a signal was given (often a bell or whistle). Winners would move to the next table (sometimes clockwise, sometimes "men move up" while "ladies stay seated") while losers remained where they were or moved in some other way.

This movement was "The Drive", and ensured that everyone was partnered with different people, and against many others. At the end, individual scores were added up and prizes awarded.

Whist drives were as much about socialising as playing. They were popular as fundraisers for churches, charities, schools and clubs. People paid a small entry fee and had a night or an afternoon out. There would be tea and refreshments, and in Appledore there might be a musical interlude from a Miss Avery.

18 May 1918
Kentish Express

KILLED WHILE ON DUTY

Acting Bombardier S. Percy Bates eldest son of Mrs. Ellen Bates, of Appledore, was killed by a gun accident at home military centre on May 6th. Deceased, who had seen service in France, had been invalided home but was fit again, and under orders for the front once more. The funeral took place at Appledore on Saturday amidst every token of sympathy. A great number of floral tributes were sent, including one from the Weald of Kent Lodge of Freemasons (of which Bates was a member), the Lodge being represented by W.B. A. J. Avery, L.P.M. He was also a member of the Victoria Park Lodge, 1816, in which he was initiated.

Note: Percy Bates was the son of Simeon Bates, butcher at the Chute House butcher's shop - although the report avoids any mention of his father, who had left (or was ejected from) the family. The accident was due to a faulty fuse and happened during a training exercise on Salisbury Plain. Albert Avery is noted to be a Freemason. "W.B." means Worshipful Brother, "L.P.M." means Lodge Past Master.

19 July 1919
Kentish Express

WEDDING OF MISS AVERY OF APPLEDORE

The wedding of Miss Evelyn Margaret Avery, daughter of Mr. Albert J. Avery, of Appledore, to Mr. Désiré Verhoeven, of the Belgian Army, was solemnised at the Roman Catholic Church at Rye on Wednesday, the Rev. Father Ferguson officiating. Captain and Mrs. Wearing kindly acted as witnesses.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was dressed in dove grey Georgette with hat to match Miss Rachel Avery, the bridesmaid, wore a dress of biscuit Georgette. Mr. Reginald Giles acted as best man. On the return to Appledore the wedding breakfast and reception were held at the residence of the bride's father. The bride and bridegroom left on Thursday morning for London, en route for Antwerp, where they will reside. The bridegroom, after being wounded in action, was for two years in the Censor's office at Folkestone.



Note: Evelyn Avery would have been 23. She was baptised in Appledore church, so it is likely that her husband was Catholic and that she went through some form of conversion, possibly nominal. Désiré is a man's name in French-speaking countries (it would be female with an extra 'e' at the end). They cannot subsequently be located in Belgium. They would have been in their 40s when Belgium was occupied for a second time in WWII. Désiré may have again been in the Belgian army.

There were a number of Belgian refugees in Appledore during the 1st World War. They were housed in Court Lodge Road.

04 November 1919
Tuesday Express

EX-SERVICE MEN ENTERTAINED

At the school room, Warehorne, on Friday evening the returned service men were entertained to a dinner, followed by a concert. The arrangements were in the hands of a ladies' committee, under the presidency of Lady Millais, who had very prettily decorated the room and tables. About fifty returned men sat down to the dinner, which was presided over by Dr. Toms. During the evening various toasts were honoured, including 'The Royal House,' 'Navy and Army', 'In memory of departed friends', 'For absent friends', 'Ladies of the committee' and 'The Chairman'. An exceedingly enjoyable concert made the evening pass very pleasantly, the artists being Mr. and Madame Ada Wrey, Miss Giles (Willesborough), Miss File (Brook), Miss Pearson (Goudhurst) and Mr. C. Howard, with Miss Avery (Appledore) as pianist, whose efforts were thoroughly appreciated.

27 March 1920
Kentish Express

FOR EASTER and the Holidays a new Hat is absolutely necessary; a good assortment is on show at our shop in all new shapes and colours, at very reasonable prices. A visit will be much appreciated and beneficial. Avery and Son, Progressive Drapers, Appledore.

Note: Progressive Drapers... In the 1891 census, Albert's wife Helen was described as a milliner (although she had died by now).

22 May 1920
Kentish Express

WHIST DRIVE

A very successful whist drive was held at the Women's Institute on Wednesday week, in aid of the local Gardeners' Society. Mr. J. Pope, the energetic hon. secretary, acted as M.C. There was a good attendance, and the prizes were given away by Mrs. Carey, of the Quillett. The successful players were:- Ladies, 1 Mrs E. Backshall, with 176; 2 Mrs. D. Dapson and Miss Compton E. Mannering 175 (tie); sealed number, Miss G. King, 158. Gentlemen, Mr. Percy Boon, 182; 2 Mr. Reg Boon, 181. Mr. H. Balcomb and Mr. D. Dapson tied for sealed number with 155 each. During the interval a programme of music had been arranged, the following contributing items:- Miss Avery, the Misses Queenie and Mabel Smith, Miss J. Baldwin and Miss Mary Avery, A.L.C.M., who presided at the piano. At the close Mr. J. Pope very suitably thanked Mrs. Carey for giving away the prizes.

Note: A.L.C.M., the initials after Mary Avery's name, stand for 'Associate of the London College of Music'. The W.I. was keen to report that they had a fully-qualified pianist at their whist drives.

22 January 1921
Kentish Express

APPLEDORE WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING CEREMONY

Never before in the history of Appledore have the inhabitants seen their church so full as on Sunday afternoon, when the unveiling ceremony of the war memorial took place. The memorial takes the form of a white marble tablet, mounted on grey marble, on which the following is inscribed:- "To the glory of God and in grateful memory of the men from this Parish who laid down their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918 - They were a wall unto us both by night and day."

(the names are then listed)

The tablet is situated on the north wall of the church and the adjoining windows were simply but effectively decorated. A number of service and ex-service men of the parish were on parade and a muffled peal was rung by the bellringers under Mr. Alfred Johnson. The ceremony opened by a procession comprising the clergymen, choir, church-wardens and sidesmen and Colonel J. Body, D.S.O., which entered the church and passed down the aisle to the seats reserved for them. The vicar (the Rev. A. O. Scutt) conducted the service and the first lesson was read by Dr. F. W. Cock, J.P., whilst the Rev. J. M. Després (Wesleyan Minister) read the second lesson. After the creed and prayers the procession re-formed and slowly proceeded to the memorial which was then unveiled.

Colonel Body, in performing the ceremony, spoke of the fine qualities of the men whom he had led in Mesopotamia and urged the congregation to live as people worthy of the sacrifice that those brave fellows had made. The Archdeacon of Maidstone (the Venerable H. Maxwell Spooner) then dedicated the memorial and the Last Post was sounded by two buglers from the belfry. A hymn was then sung, following which the procession returned to their respective places. The Archdeacon then ascended the pulpit, and addressed the congregation from the text "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend," from St. John xv. 13. The preacher said that the country was in great danger of losing that which it had fought so hard to win. Each class seemed to be out for its own ends instead of pulling together.

After the service Mies Avery, the organist, played the Dead March in Saul, after which the buglers played the Reveille. The National Anthem was sung, followed by the Recessional hymn.

The memorial was subscribed for by the parishioners and a responsible committee comprising the Rev. O. A. Scutt and Messrs. A. J. Avery, E. B. Terry, T. J. Pearson, A. J. Baldwin and E. N. Wimble, undertook the arrangements. The wardens who took part in the ceremony were Messrs. E. B. Terry and E. N. Wimble, and the sidesmen were Messrs JP. Hodson, W. Banks, J. Dunster, A. J. Avery, A. Johnson and G. H. Smith.

Note: Today, you sometimes hear that Appledore is lacking a war memorial, but in relation to the First World War the inhabitants of the day would have said that they had one. A later reference to the War Memorial said that it had been fixed to a wooden cross used by the Vicar (Rev. M. M. Vischin) when he was a chaplain in France, which was made from an ammunition case.

22 January 1921
Kentish Express

WE HAVE PURCHASED privately the Contents of a House and are offering the same at reasonable prices. The Furniture consists of Tables, Chairs, Sofa, Bureaux, Carpets, Matting, Bedsteads, Mattresses, Washstands, etc., all in good condition and worth Inspection. - E. Avery & Son, Appledore.

23 July 1921
Kentish Express

FETE

An entirely successful fête was held in the Vicarage grounds on Wednesday week, when more than four hundred attended. Mr. Strang Steel opened the fete and later Major Strang Steel visited the scene. Tea and refreshments were served by Mrs. Terry and her band of workers; ice creams were made and dispensed by Mrs. Pearson; Mrs. Palmer did a brisk trade with her home-made sweets. Mr. Marchant presided over the work stall; Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. E. Wimble worked splendidly for the rummage stall. Competitions were well managed by Messrs. Hodson and Pearson and helpers. Mr. J. Cowley was in charge of the coconut shies. Miss F. Usher and Miss Swaffer did good business at their post office.

Miss R. Avery was busy at her bran pie. The Woodchurch band was a feature of the afternoon's enjoyment. In the tug-of-war Snargate beat Appledore and Stone.

In the evening a delightful concert was given by clever Jean Stirling Mackinlay, assisted by other artistes. Joey Fuller ran "The Living Marionette" to Miss Avery's accompaniment. Demonstrations of folk-dancing were also given. Gross takings amounted to £50/10/8d, the majority of which will be handed over towards church repairs.

07 October 1922
Kentish Express

Composite advert for Karswood Pig Powders.

RID your Pigs of worms with Karswood Pig Powders. Twelve 1s., never fail. Marsh, 35, High Street, Ashford.

SOW died leaving pig keeper nine young ones, all thrived on Karswood Pig Powders, Penny each, recommended by Avery and Son, Post Office, Appledore.

PIGS are plumper and skin cleaner, since using Karswood Pig Powders, writes one user.

Note: Averys is described as the Post Office, albeit one that sells pig powders. Albert Avery also gave his address as 'Post Office, The Street' a couple of years later when endorsing Major Strang Steel as Conservative candidate for Ashford.

And just because we can -



Karswood also made 'Poultry Spice'.

The ingredients of these wonder products were never revealed. Sold in grocer's shops, they were probably bought by people who kept a pig rather than farmers. There were rival products that claimed to cure all diseases of pigs and chickens.

28 October 1922
Kentish Express

WEDDING BELLS

A pretty wedding was solemnised at the parish church on Saturday between Mr. Charles Marchant and Miss Maud Mummery. Quite a number of people assembled to witness the ceremony, which was performed by the vicar, the Rev. A. O. Scutt, Miss Avery being at the organ. The Wedding March from Lohengrin was played as the bride arrived at the church. Two hymns were sung, "How Welcome was the Call" and "O, Father, all Creating". Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played while the register was being signed. The bride and bridegroom left amid a shower of confetti and the merry ringing of the bells. The bells rang out again as they left in the evening for Canterbury. They were the recipients of a nice lot of useful presents.

12 January 1924
Kentish Express

APPLEDORE SOCIAL

A most enjoyable social, organised by Mrs. Terry for the Women's Work Party, was held in the Hut on Friday evening. Songs were given by Miss Pearson, Miss Hodson, Miss Emma Marchant, Rev. Scutt and Mr. Humphrey. Recitations by Mrs. Pope, Mrs. Elgar, Mrs. Fowle and Miss Gertie King: pianoforte duet, Mrs. Scutt and Miss Avery. Mrs. Marchant and Mrs. Fowle repeated their amusing duologue, and Miss Macdonald's little play was again enjoyed. Nursery rhyme dances were prettily done by the Misses Christine and Avis Scutt, and ballet dancing by Miss Marjorie Hodson. Refreshments were served, followed by games. At the close Mrs. Terry thanked all who had helped to make the evening such a success.

Note: The Appledore Institute has become the Hut - unless there was another hut.

06 December 1924
Kentish Express

CINEMATOGGRAPH

A cinematograph entertainment organised by Mr. and Mrs. Potter was given in the schools by Major Ansom on Wednesday in aid of the Church Restoration Funds. There were two performances and films were shown featuring popular favourites. Music was supplied by Miss Avery and quite a substantial sum was raised for this worthy object. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the promoters by the Rev. A. O. Scutt.

19 December 1925
Kentish Express

AN INSPECTION of our windows will show the quality of our Fruit is of the very best and therefore cheapest to use. We hold a good variety Huntley and Palmer's Cakes, Fancy Tins of Chocolates and Crackers. A specially good Port Wine at 3s. a bottle, purity guaranteed. E. Avery and Son, Grocers, Appledore.

From this on point there are repeated references to Miss Avery playing the piano at village functions. There are also a number of references to Albert Avery's involvement with the Freemasons. If they're not interesting for some other reason, they've been omitted. Albert Avery's advertisement of his 'Accountant & Valuer' services appears weekly.

26 July 1930
Kentish Express

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM "OLD READERS"

MR. ALBERT J. AVERY, Appledore

The Ashford paper is Kentish institution and to English people abroad almost a national one. I post a copy to my brother in Canada, who in turn circulates it to about eight different persons in Saskatoon, natives of the Ashford and Rye district. I also post it regularly to Antwerp. My father, who founded the newsagent's business here in 1852, sold the paper when it was called the Alfred News and as a lad I used to travel with a half ticket for eightpence to Ashford and bring back the parcel of papers; this was cheaper than paying rail carriage. On other occasions my mother's servant was sent with me to bring the parcel from the station, not so heavy as today, our combined ages being about 25.

Note: The postings to Antwerp were to his daughter, Evelyn Margaret.

04 October 1930
Kentish Express

A READER IN CANADA

Dear Sir - Allow me, with so many others, to congratulate you on the seventy-fifth anniversary of your valuable paper, which has stood for so many years a champion for the right of free but pure speech for all, the friend of the oppressed and intelligent enlightenment of all, may it long continue and yourself be blessed.

My earliest recollections are of the "Alfred" news. My father, Mr. Edward Avery, of Appledore, Kent, being the agent. I recall printing the large letters on "Sugar Papers" or Royal Hand, and then the "Kentish Express and Ashford News" with rampant horse or Kent arms. I am not sure of the date. I was born on October 15th, 1856, and went to a Dame's School in 59, can remember my first public event, viz., the Prince of Wales' (the late King Edward's) wedding day, March, 1863, and then my first understanding of the change in years as my father explained to me in making up accounts I had to alter the date from January 1st, 1863, to January 1st, 1864, after writing December 31st, and from about that time I used to deliver the "Kentish Express" to some houses in the street.

I remember when the Post Office at Ashford was near the Fountain in High-street, not far from W. Rabson's store, where deposits in the P.O. Savings Bank had to be made, as Appledore P.O. was not then opened for that class of business. In October, 1868, I became a boarder at Alexander Academy New-rents conducted by Mr. T. Vye, but on Friday evenings I went by the 7 p.m. train (or if the papers were not on time) by the 9 p.m., so that I might deliver them around the village on Saturday, returning to school on Monday by the early train. I remember Mr. Rutter and Mr. Brookes very well, but I expect they have long since passed on.

Later, when I went to Cliffe House College, St. Margaret's, near Dover, my father sent me the "Kentish Express" weekly so that I might keep in touch with so much that I was interested in, and since I have been here (eighteen years) my brother, Mr. A. J. Avery of Appledore, has sent me the paper regularly, so that I am still acquainted with what is going on, and your editorials are a real delight. Your "A Mere Englishman in America" was also very enlightening as well as interesting: a similar experience would be yours if you should tour Canada. I watch the Ashford column very closely, as during my stay with the late Mr. Henry Headley, and my association with the Baptist church, under the pastorate of the Rev. Ebenezer Roberts, I became acquainted with so many friends, but scarcely a copy comes now that does not record the passing of some one I knew fifty or sixty years ago.

The pleasure I have in receiving is shared by other Ashfordians, and is then sent on to others who value the paper, the inspiration it is to them being a strong link with the Homeland, or Old Country. I can recall many other friends and scenes, but will not weary you further. If you could let me know the date "Alfred" was changed to "Ashford" I would appreciate it. Wishing you still greater success and much happiness in your work.

I am, dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

E. H. AVERY.
Saskatoon, Canada.

Note: To answer E. H. Avery's question, the Ashford and Alfred News was first published in 1855 and was renamed the Kentish Express & Ashford News in 1858. Alfred Town or Alfred New Town was the original name for Newtown in Ashford. If Google AI can be believed, the S.E. Railway (who built it for workers) named it after King Alfred The Great. The Alfred Arms pub still exists.

03 October 1933
Tuesday Express

A FRIEND OF ASHFORD

Among friends who met in the garden of the High School, Ashford, on Saturday there was a genuine feeling of regret that the occasion should be in the nature of a farewell to Mrs. Avery who, by her charming personality and musical gifts, has been an asset to Ashford for over forty years. A daughter of Mr. Henry Pope, of Appledore, she taught at Ashford High School for thirty-four years, and MRS. AVERY played the pianoforte and sang in almost every part of Kent. She now resides with her daughter at Brighton.



Sir Charles Igglesden, who presided at the informal gathering, read letters of appreciation of Mrs. Avery from Dr. Merrill, Dr. Colville, Mrs. H. Blackburne, Mrs. Windsor (Tenterden) and Mrs. Judge. Sir Charles claimed to have known Mrs. Avery longer than anyone present, but he assured them that when he was quite middle-aged she had only just reached her "seventeenth year!" She had never failed to offer her willing help at concerts, and requests for her services had been received with invariable cheerfulness. In presenting on behalf of the subscribers to Mrs. Avery a cheque and an illuminated album containing the names of her many friends, Sir Charles said: "Old admirers are glad to show you their esteem. We wish you happiness and good luck."

Mrs. Avery expressed her gratitude, and tea was then served, through the kindness of Miss Brake, by Miss Williams, Miss Shackleton, Miss Weston and Miss Salmon.

Among those present were Mr. W. P. Spens, M.P., and Mrs. Spens, the Rev. R. S. B. Sinclair, the Misses Kingsford, Mrs. Edwards, Miss Brake, Mrs. Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Headley, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Headley, Captain M. and Mrs. Dorman, Mr. and Mrs. Flower, Mr. H. Godden, Mr. and Mrs. H. Burnage, the Rev. H. Boys-Roberts, Mrs. Kither, Mrs. Wright, the Misses Chapman, Mrs. Edinger, Mrs. Rex, Miss Nash and many others.

Note: Another report says she trained at the Royal College of Music. This Mrs Avery may not have been related to the Appledore Averys. She was from Appledore, she tutored Helen Mary Avery, but her husband was from Rolvenden.

22 December 1933
Kentish Express

CANADIAN READERS RETURN

MR. AND MRS. E. H. AVERY, APPLIEDORE

Twenty years ago Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Avery left Appledore for Canada. They have returned from Saskatoon. Mr. and Mrs. Avery have brought a daughter and a granddaughter with them and will spend a lengthy holiday with another daughter and son-in-law in Staplehurst before returning to Canada. Mr. Avery, who is a native of Appledore, and was for some time in business at Peasmarsh, went to Canada in 1913 and settled in Saskatoon where he has been employed as a clerk by the city Corporation.

On his retirement from that post he was presented with a handsome gratuity and acknowledgement of his services signed by the Mayor. He will be well remembered by the older generation in Ashford as a confidential clerk to the late Mr. Henry Headley, and also as a member of the Baptist Church in Station-road, where he was a Sunday School teacher for many years. The Kentish Express has been sent to Mr. Avery regularly every week since he left this country and the copy circulated through eight Kentish families in Saskatoon.

29 December 1933
Kentish Express

The following is only here because Albert Avery attended the funeral but it's of general interest.

MR. G. W. HUMPHRY, APPLIEDORE

We regret to record the death in King's College Hospital, London, on Saturday, of Mr. Godfrey Wood Humphry M.A., a well-known resident of Appledore. Mr. Humphry, who was 60 years of age, was born in London and was educated at Winchester and King's College, Cambridge. He later became a qualified solicitor but never practised.

In his own parish he filled many useful posts among which were the secretaryships of the Parish Church Council and the Gardeners' Society, and he helped to keep together a friendly and co-operative feeling between his neighbours. That he will be missed goes without saying and adequately to fill his place will be a most difficult task.

Being of a highly artistic nature he studied the art of staining glass, a pursuit in which he excelled and became a considerable authority. His work in this sphere is to be seen in many places in this country especially in Essex and the Eastern Counties.

He restored the painted glass in the celebrated King's College Chapel, Cambridge, and did work at both Clare and Pembroke Colleges.

In Kent his work is to be seen at Maidstone, at Christchurch Ashford, and especially in his Parish Church of Appledore, where his window in the North Chapel is a memorial to his escape from injury in the Sevenoaks railway accident some years ago. And in the South Chapel is his most beautiful medallion in the Flemish taste which is worthy and quite comparable to that of the Dutch and Flemish masters. The memorials to the Hornes in the same Chapel are also his work. He was also highly gifted in coloured gesso work of which his armorials on the screen of Appledore Church are a standing evidence.

The funeral took place in the Parish Church at Appledore, on Tuesday, conducted by the Rev. G. A. Wright (vicar) assisted by the Rev. A. O. Scutt, Thurnham (former vicar). The service was choral and among those present were: Miss E. Humphry, Miss M. Humphry Mr. and Mrs. P. Humphry. Mrs. Geidard, Dr. J. O. Geldard, Mr. S. H. Geldard. Mrs. F. Humphry, Mr. A. Macpherson, the Rev. C. Griffiths, Canon R. U. Potts, Sir Henry Nicholson. Dr. and Mrs. F. Cock, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Terry. Mr. E. B. Terry junr., Mr. J. Terry, Commander and Mrs. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Ronaldson, Mr. E. N. Wimble, Mrs. A. O. Scutt, Mrs. Leicester Carey Mrs. Jenkins Mr. R. Nicholls, Mrs. C. B. Ticehurst, Miss B. Mollett, Mrs. E. A. Pearson, Mr. T. Pendray, and Mr. A. J. Avery.

Flowers were sent from The Family: Mr. and Mrs. P. Humphrey: Pheobe and Dulcie: Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Cock: Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Terry: Mr. and Mrs. C. Hickman, Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith; Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Ticehurst and Miss Starbuck, Mr. Freeman Matthews, Mrs. E. A. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Macpherson and Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Ronaldson.



Note: Godfrey Wood Humphry lived in The Deeze and made the Horne window in the church - which contains an electricity pylon.

The pylon indicates that the window is modern, but in an older style. It's also a nice device to show the pylon next to the medieval windmill on the Horne's Place estate.

15 May 1934
Tuesday Express

TREBITSCH LINCOLN IN KENT

The older parishioners of Appledore will well remember the once famous Trebitsch Lincoln who recently visited this country, this time styling himself a Buddhist leader, Abbot Chao Kung. It was at Appledore that he served for several years as a curate. When he came to the village to take up his first curacy in the Church of England. his name was the Rev. Isaac Trebich but he changed this to Trebitsch Lincoln, at the same time as he took out his naturalisation papers as a British subject.

He kept himself very much apart from the villagers, although he lived in the main street - one of the two houses now converted into one to form the Swan Tea Rooms - and one of his greatest friends was Mr. Albert J. Avery, proprietor of Avery and Son, grocers. Mr. Avery received from Lincoln an autographed book on philosophy as a memento. A story speaks of Lincoln's farewell sermon at Appledore. The idea of leaving the village was hurting him very much as before the end of the sermon his eyes were full of tears, and many of the congregation were openly crying. As the church was emptying, one old man, now dead, stood by the church gates, and said, "He don't mean all that. He's having you on a string!"

Note: This information wasn't available when the ALHS booklet about Trebitsch Lincoln was compiled. The Swan Tea Rooms were at Swan House.

22 February 1935
Kentish Express

GREAT LOSS TO APPLEDORE

DEATH OF MISS H. M. AVERY

There was a representative gathering at Appledore Church on Tuesday afternoon at the funeral of Miss Helen Mary Avery, eldest daughter of Mr. J. Avery and the late Mrs. Avery, of the Post Office, Appledore. Miss Avery died in St. Augustine's Nursing Home, St. Leonards, on Friday, where she had undergone an operation. She was 46 years of age and the eldest of four daughters. For more than 25 years she had been organist and choirmistress at Appledore Church and had been a member of the Parochial Council. She had also been a member of the Women's Institute for many years. The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. G. Wright, who was assisted by a former vicar, the Rev. A. O. Scutt, now Vicar of Thurnham. Dr. F. W. Cock read the lesson.

The chief mourners at the funeral were Mr. Albert J. Avery (father), Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Giles brother-in-law and sister), Madame Verhoeven-Avery (sister), Mr. Ross Giles (nephew), Mr. F. Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. G. Barling, Mr. G. Ellis, Mrs. E. Mills, Mr. C. Longley, Mr. E. Pearson and Mr. J. Herriott.

Among those attending were the Rev. A. O. Scutt, Mrs. A. J. Bailey, Mr. J. R. Pearson, Dr. and Mrs. Ticehurst, Mrs. A. Hassell, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Terry, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Foster, Mrs. Lyon, Mr. A. W. T. Mark and Miss Mark, Mr. A. Johnson, Mrs. J. King, Mr. A. J. Baldwin, Mrs. W. Boorman (Stone), Mr. E. M. Wimble, Mrs. Weaver, Miss Price, Mrs. A. H. Green, Mr. Colthrup, Mrs. P. Scotland, Mrs. Goldsmith, Mrs. Fowle, Miss Law, Mrs. H. Balcombe, Miss E. Van Heurk, Miss Goodge, Mr. P. T. Stone (W.M. 1854 Lodge, Freemasons), Miss Flisher, Miss Pix, Miss Mannering, Mr. J. Pope, Mrs. Ditton, Mrs. Lester Carey, Mrs. Emerson, Mr. R. Rivers, Mrs. Cowley, Mrs. W. Hickman, Mrs. A. Padgham, Mrs. E. Joy, Mrs. Eggleden, Mr. Ralph, Mrs. Hueffer, Mrs. Harry Terry, Mrs. E. Pearson, Mr. G. Ashbee, Miss Waterman, Mrs. King, Miss Coleman, Mrs. Apps, Mrs. S. Bourne and Miss Bourne, Mrs. Potts, Mr. Godden, Mr. and Mrs. Cruse and Miss Cruse, Mr. H. L. Caryer, Mrs. C. Hickman, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman (Eastbourne). Mr. J. Pearson (East Peckham), Mrs. Cock and Miss M. Cock, Miss E. Laidlaw, Mr. F. Wilson, Miss Mannering, Miss L. Starbuck, Mr. F. D. Bouckley, Mrs. Flack, Mrs. Jenkins, Miss Barden, Mr. and Mrs. Noakes, Miss Clark, Miss King, Mrs. and Miss Ashby. Mr. and Mrs. W. Rogers, Miss Mittell, Messrs. A. G. Ireland, A. Padgham, J. Boorman (employees), Mr. W. Law, Mrs. Butchers, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Rofe and son, Miss Salter, Mr. and Mrs. Pick, Mr. J. Rollings, Mr. and Miss Bean, Mr. J. A. Thompson (representing Messrs. Poncia, Swann and Carter, Ashford), Mr. F. Paine, Mrs. Allcorn, Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Sharps, Mrs. J. Neve, Mrs. W. Green, Mrs. Parr and Mr. C. Apps (Tenterden).

Wreaths were sent by Father and Rachel; Alys, Reg and Ross; Margaret and Désiré; Frank; Auntie Grace and Kathleen; Auntie, Uncle and Cousins (Canada); Ray and George; Betty and Peter; Mr. and Mrs. Wason, Win, Mabel and Dora; Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford and Mr. and Mrs. Harford; the employees of E. Avery and Son; A. West, Mark and Ethel; Mrs. E. B. Terry's Work Party; the Women's Institute; the Choir; the Church Council; all at Poplar House; Auntie Polly: Miss Mollett; Mr. and Mrs. Wimble; Mr. and Mrs. George Palmer and family; Mrs. Alywin and family Mrs. Jenkins; "Mitt"; Mr. and M. W. T. Scandrett; "M.P."; Mrs. Pettite and family, and Mr. Fred Paine; Mrs. Padgham and family; Dr. and Mrs. Cock, and all at Well House; Bert and Oct; Charlie and Madge; Mrs. Pearson and family (Park House); Mrs. Waters and family (Hawkhurst); Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Stone; Margaret Apps: Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Judge; the Misses E. J. K. M. Humphry; Mr. and Mrs. Potts; all at the Court Lodge; Miss Liliast Starbuck; Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Ticehurst; Stella and Margaret Ticehurst: Mr. and Mrs. Turk and family: Choir Boy unable to be present; Mr. and Mrs. H. Bourne, Phyllis and Clarice; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Tester; G. J. Flisher and M. Flisher; Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Madge; Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Chope; Mr. and Mrs. A. Fowle; Mr. and Mrs. J. Pope and family; Mr. and Mrs. Eggleden and family: Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Green and Doreen; Veness House and White Wings; Commander and Mrs. Francis H. Lyon; Mr. and Mrs. A. Bates and Bobby; Mr. and Mrs. Cruse and Dorothy; Mr. and Mrs. Monty Bates; Mr. and Mrs. W. Rogers and family; and Aunt Esther.

Note: That was quite a funeral. Her sister (Madame Verhoeven-Avery) came over from Belgium, with her husband Désiré mentioned on a wreath.

03 May 1935
Kentish Express

CANADIAN READER'S DEATH

MR. E. H. AVERY, OF APPLIEDORE

The announcement has recently reached this country of the death of Mr. Edwin H. Avery, 78, a native of Appledore, who was for some time in business at Peasmarsh. He will be remembered by the older generation in Ashford as the late Mr. Henry Headley's confidential clerk, and also as a member of the Baptist Church in Station Road, where for many years he was a Sunday school teacher. Last year Mr. Avery, accompanied by his wife, daughter and grand-daughter, visited England for the first time since their departure for Canada in 1913 and spent a lengthy holiday with another daughter and son-in-law at Staplehurst. In Saskatoon (where Mr. Avery lived in Canada) he was employed in the tax department of the City Hall. On his retirement from this post he was presented with a gratuity and an acknowledgment of his services by the mayor. Ever since he left this country the Kentish Express has been sent regularly to Mr. Avery by his brother, Mr. A. J. Avery, of Appledore. This copy was circulated through eight Kentish families in Saskatoon.

20 January 1940
Maidstone Telegraph

To Grocers. Wanted, middle-aged or elderly man to assist in village store.
Apply E. Avery and Son, Appledore, Kent.

21 June 1940
Kentish Express

EXPERIENCED Grocery First Hand required immediately; over military age.
Apply, E. Avery and Son Appledore.

Note: Albert Avery didn't want the nuisance of employing someone who was likely to be conscripted.

07 March 1941
Kentish Express

PASSES AT 82

A DEVOTED FREEMASON

A well-known village tradesman, Mr. Albert John Avery, of Appledore, died on Sunday at the advanced age of 82. He had carried on the business of grocer, draper, corn merchant and sub-postmaster at Appledore for many years, and was born in the shop where he carried on business. He was a keen Freemason, a past-master of the Weald of Kent Lodge and Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 1928. He was exalted in the Invicta Chapter, Ashford in 1919 and became M.E.Z. in 1927. Also he was a Mark Master of the Invicta Lodge, Ashford. For his generosity he was a life governor of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and served as steward in 1920. He is survived by three daughters, one of whom was last heard of in May on the Continent.

At the funeral on Wednesday afternoon at Appledore parish church there was a large attendance of friends from many parts of the county. During the service the hymns "There is a land of pure delight," and "Now the evening shadows closing," the Twenty-third Psalm and the Nunc Dimmittis" were sung. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Maine, the Rev. W. E. Watson and the Rev. A. O. Scutt.

Family mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Giles (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Rachel Avery (daughter), Mr. R. S. Giles (grandson) and the following friends, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Longley, Mr. George Ellis, J.P., Mrs. J. Foster, Nurse Collett. Among others present in the large congregation were:- Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Bouchley (Maidstone), Mrs. A. G. Smith (Maidstone), Mr. W. J. Herriott, Mr. J. S. Waters, Miss Mollett, Miss A. Van Hennick, Mrs. Boulding, Mr. W. Cobb (Tenterden), Mr. Jabez Pearson (East Peckham), Miss Pix, Miss Mittell, Miss Flischer, Mrs. Bates, Mrs. M. Bates, Mrs. Pearson, Mr. E. B. Terry (churchwarden), Mr. G. Wrenn, Mr. Edward Wrenn, Mrs. Flack, Mrs. Shapland, Mr. J. F. Newman (Maidstone), Councillor and Mrs. A. E. Hammond (Canterbury), Miss M. J. Johnson (Beckley), Mrs. S. B. Butcher (Benenden), Mr. David Wilson (Head Postmaster, Ashford), Mr. J. F. Newman (Chas. Arkcoll Ltd., Maidstone), Mrs. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ward, Mrs. Chipchase, Mr. Lindridge, Mr. J. Boorman, Mr. and Mrs. Padgham, Mrs. Joy, Mrs. Hickman, Mrs. Ayres, Brothers Purver, Hilder, Gouldstone, Milsted, Taylor, Rutherford, Diggle, Dunster, Apps, Caryer (representing Weald of Kent Lodge), Mr. H. A. Shorter (Chief Officer, Ashford Fire Brigade), Mr. A. W. Lyle (Ashford), Mrs. E. B. Terry, Miss Colthup. Miss May Colthup, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent, Miss Wales, Mr. Hopper (G. W. Chitty & Co., Dover), Mr. C. W. Noakes (Weald of Kent Lodge), Mr. A. S. Nicholls, Mr. John Ashby, Mr. T. H. Pendray, Mrs. Jameson, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Salter, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Wilding, Mrs. Law, Mrs. Bourne, Mr. H. E. Swann (Ashford), Mr. and Mrs. Cowley, Mrs. Dunster.

There were very many beautiful flowers.

Note: Was this report posted by the Freemasons?

15 April 1941
Tuesday Express

LICENSING

Miss R. W. Avery was granted the licence formerly held by her late father, Mr. A. J. Avery, Appledore, to sell sweets, wines and spirits by retail for consumption off the premises.

Note: During World War II, and in addition to rationing, you needed a licence to sell sweets. The rationing of sweets didn't end until 1953 but they were still in short supply for several years afterwards.

03 January 1947
Maidstone Telegraph

For the Exors. of the late Mr. A. J. Avery. "WICKHAM" semi-detached House in centre of Appledore Street. Vacant possession.

Note: in 1939, Albert and his daughter Rachel were the sole occupants at Averys. They were presumably at this address until Albert's death, with Rachel staying on afterwards. Wickham House, inherited from Albert's father in 1903, had probably been rented out from that date.

21 May 1948
Kentish Express

FORTHCOMING SALES

For Miss R. W. Avery Nos. 1 & 2 CANAL COTTAGES APPLEDORE

Note: This is the last mention of Rachel Avery in Appledore. She was 50 years old. Rachel sold Averys to Clifford Noakes and moved to Wales. Accompanying her to Wales was the District Nurse who was retiring at this time. Rachel died in Denbigh, Wales, in 1979, aged 82. There is no report of her between 1948 and 1979. The identity of the District Nurse is not known.

The church was advertising for a new organist.

26 December 1958
Kentish Express

From a lengthy article by the Editor -

What had our grand-parents and great-grand-parents to discuss at the fire-side at Christmas-time about 100 years ago? Strangely enough, the "Kentish Express " (then only three years old) had very little, if anything, to say about Christmas, and even the advertisements, with one exception, gave no indication that a big festival was imminent.

Whilst a Mr. Donald Duncan was purveying pure Scotch malt whiskies at 18s. and 15s. a gallon, Mr. Love, salesman, Ashford, was offering about 1,500 bushels of turnips at 5d. per bushel, and an Appledore grocer and draper, Mr. Edward Avery, was prepared to dry hams at 4d. each.

08 October 1971
Kentish Express

DEATHS

AVERY

In Antwerp on September 14th, Evelyn Margaret Verhoeven-Avery, third daughter of the late Mr. A. J. Avery, Appledore, Kent.

Note: This notice was likely to have been posted by Rachel Avery, from her home in Wales. Rachel would die eight years later and that would be the end of the Averys, Grocers and Drapers of Appledore.

Avery's remained a grocer's after the departure of the Averys, but the precise chronology is not known. It runs something like this:

Late 1940s and 1950s - run by Clifton Noakes after he purchased it from Rachel Avery in 1947. Clifton Noakes had been landlord of the Red Lion, like his father before him.

1960s - run by the Sibly family, or more specifically, by Mrs Sibly. Frances Taylor (née Sibly) recalls that her parents owned the property from approximately 1962 to the early 1970s. It was primarily a haberdashers and it was still known as Avery's. In 1966, or thereabouts, it ceased to be a shop and became a family dwelling.

Captain Sibly

Mr Sibly was John Graham Sibly, often known as Graham. He was also Captain Sibly, Trinity House pilot, and he was invariably described as 'a character'.



Born in 1916, in Manchester, he spent his working life at sea. From 1941-42, he was 3rd mate on the *Ajax*, a Blue Funnel ship, which sailed in relief convoys during the siege of Malta. Reading his later account of these convoys, it is clear that you needed a fair slice of luck to survive enemy attack, both at sea and in harbour. In 1942, he was second mate on the *Queen Elizabeth*, which was being used as a troopship. In 1945, he was second mate on the *Samharle*, a 'Liberty ship' built in the USA and managed under a lend-lease agreement by the Blue Funnel line.

By the early 1960s, he was a Trinity House pilot, operating from the pilot cutter then stationed off Dungeness.



THPV Bembridge, built in 1938, and initially based at Cowes. Took part in the British evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. Hit by a bomb during a German air raid in 1941, but the bomb didn't explode. Took part in the Normandy landings in 1944. Employed as a cruising cutter at both the Dungeness and Sunk Pilot stations. Employed as a survey ship in the North Sea in the 1970s, where she was mostly involved in oil exploration and the laying of oil pipelines. The Bembridge is still afloat, at Szczecin in Poland. Fully restored, she is owned by Magemar Polska for use as a company office and museum.

Note: 'Sunk' is a sandbank in the Thames Estuary.

Captain Sibly was the Shell company's selected pilot for navigating their tankers from the English Channel to the Thames Estuary. He pioneered the berthing of tankers at Thames Haven in the hours of darkness. After leaving Trinity House, he was assistant harbour master in Abu Dhabi, and another posting took him to Qatar. He eventually emigrated to New Zealand, where he died in 1996.

Some of the information above comes from Captain Sibly's daughter, Frances Taylor, née Sibly.

An Appledore resident recalls that whilst in Appledore John Sibly drove a Lotus Cortina and also owned a vintage Bentley convertible. Captain Sibly was an interesting man, and in 1970 he came to national attention. Questions were asked in Parliament.

Top pilot warns of major disasters ahead

- Radar that had to be kicked before it worked
- The ship that sailed in circles for three hours
- Oxy-acetylene cutter used on tanker deck
- It's just like the 'Navy Lark' on some ships

MADNESS AT SEA

By BRUCE MAXWELL

A GRIM warning that Britain is facing more major oil tanker disasters has been made by a top sea pilot.

The pilot, Captain John Sibly, 54, says: "This is a crisis."

"We—the pilots—have kept silent for too long. The time has come to spell out some of the hair-raising things that are happening off the British coast."

Captain Sibly, from Folkestone, Kent, made his remarkable warning in an exclusive statement to the Sunday Mirror.

He has been at sea for thirty-eight years and for the last twenty years has piloted ships round the British coast.

A Trinity House spokesman said: "He is one of our most senior pilots."

During his career Captain Sibly has piloted almost 1,000 tankers in British waters, so he knows what he is talking about.

Captain tells of huge oil tanker risk

only two officers besides the captain.

"In another case I was taking a fully laden tanker up the Thames to Thameshaven. We were pulling up the anchor to leave and the anchor chain jammed."

"Before I knew what was happening the crew were down there with an oxy-acetylene cutter. Sparks were flying down the deck. And on deck, you could see oil fuming from the tanks."

Civvies

"I just held my head and thought: 'Oh my God! and, with no thanks to the inexperience of the crew, the ship didn't blow up.'"

Another ship in the English Channel had her engines stuck on "Full Ahead" and sailed in circles

"When you board a ship a few miles off Britain, and go up to the bridge, it is disconcerting to find the skipper wearing civvies and a fat hat," he says.

Although Captain Sibly's remarks do not apply in these cases, the fact remains that many tankers have collided or run aground since the Torrey Canyon disaster in 1967.

Most recently the Pacific Glory, 23,000 tons, collided with an even larger tanker, Allegro of the Isle of Wight.

Most of the cases of collisions or groundings were not widely reported because no-one was killed and no oil escaped. But taken together, they make a formidable list.

Zany

Captain Sibly—talking about other cases, not the above—which occur almost weekly around the British coast, said: "It is like that radio serial: 'The Navy Lark'."

"All you need is to imagine Officer Pertwee and a few others of his zany crew, and you have got the situation aboard some ships coming to Britain today."

"Let me make this clear. Most



Captain John Sibly . . . It's a crisis, he says.

ADVERTISEMENT

Why Are You A Bore?

A NOTED international publisher reports that there is a simple technique of everyday conversation which can pay you real dividends in both social and professional advancement. It works like magic to give



The story was carried in several newspapers. "It's just like The Navy Lark" is a reference to a BBC radio comedy series that ran from 1959 to 1977. Sibly mentioned a number of issues that he had encountered: radar that only worked if you kicked it, absent navigation charts, charts that were ten years out of date, direction finders that hadn't been calibrated since 1958, echo sounders that didn't work, magnetic compasses that were badly out of adjustment, broken or intermittent steering gear, engines with known faults, emergency equipment that was absent or had never been tested, broken radios - and so on. He had observed crew members using oxyacetylene equipment in the presence of visible oil vapours. He had seen ships drifting across shipping lanes with no power. He had seen a ship with its engines jammed at full speed going in circles for three hours. Some of the ships passing through the Channel were sailing blind, with inexperienced crews, hoping for the best.

Captain Sibly was supported by his colleagues, and by Trinity House, who had no powers of enforcing safety standards. A pilot could only refuse to board a ship if the ship's ladder was unsafe. If they refused to board for any other reason, the ship was entitled to proceed without a pilot. The pilots' concerns came in the wake of the collision of two large tankers off the Isle of Wight a few weeks before. With the way things were, maintenance and safety issues only became apparent after such accidents.

And after that lengthy detour, back to Avery's...

Before reverting to private accommodation, no. 44 became an antiques shop, run by Ben Hatch. 'Appledore Antiques' was advertising in local newspapers from 1971 to 1978. They seemed to specialise in grandfather clocks, with twenty or more in stock. In 1977 they applied to Ashford Council for permission to open part of their premises for the serving of afternoon teas. We don't know if permission was granted.

In March 1978 the advert grew from a few lines to a panel -

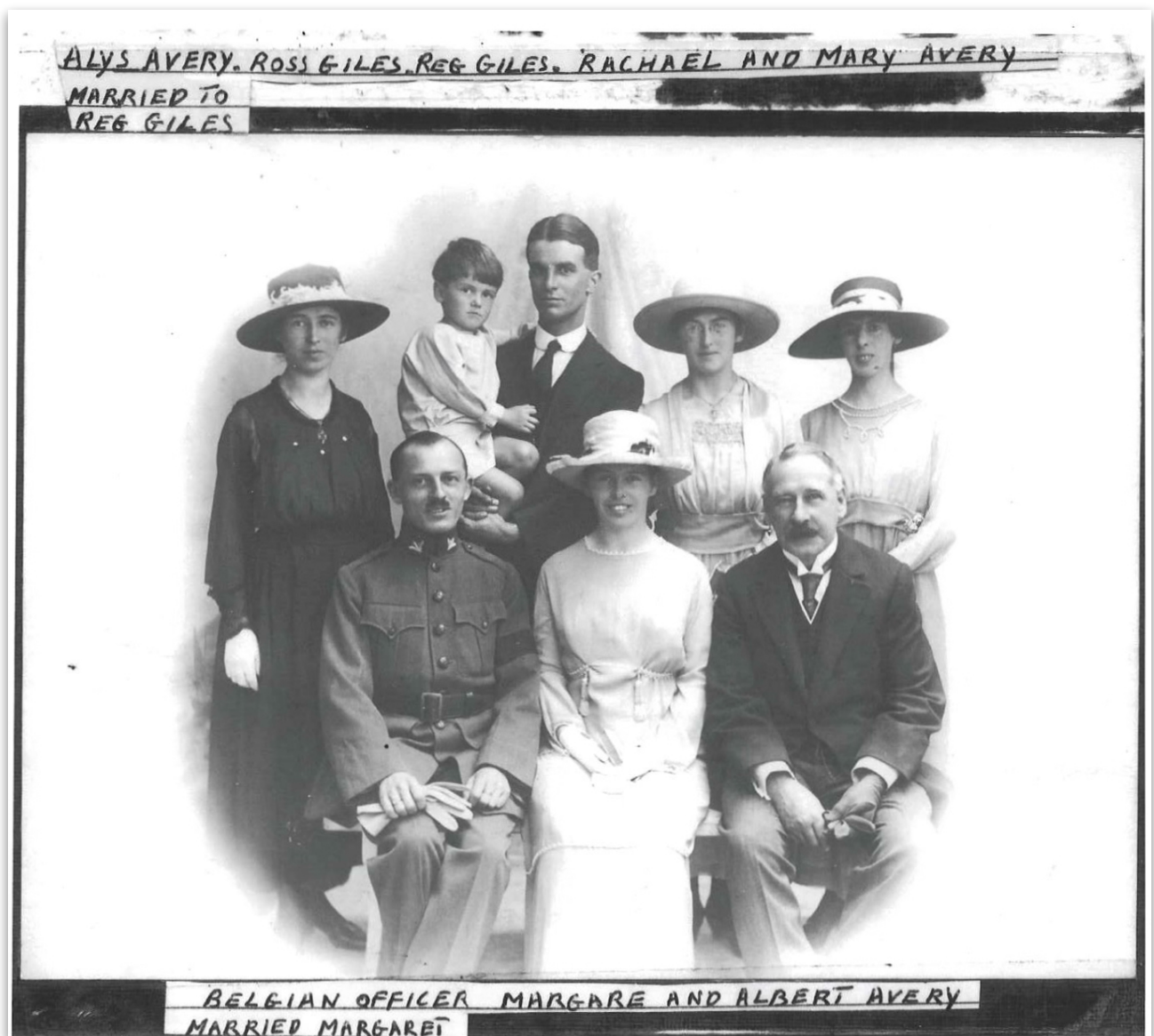


Ben Hatch also held the licence for The Swan, but it was managed on his behalf by John and Unis Wade. The last advert for Appledore Antiques appeared in June 1978. In 1989 Ben Hatch was running Hatch Antiques in Weybridge, Surrey.

In September 1979 the Council published a Public Notice regarding the *"Change of use from house and shop to private dwelling house at Appledore Antiques, The Street, Appledore."*

Memories

Stella Wood, of Little Saxtons, Appledore, supplied a photograph with notes in 2009 -



AVERY PHOTOGRAPH

Presumably a wedding group - marriage of "Belgian officer" to Margaret Avery. Standing behind are Alys Giles nee Avery, Reg Giles and his son Ross.

I did not know any of the above except Ross who I think worked in Ashford, Geerings or the local paper.

Albert Avery. Avery's shop and Post Office. This was a general store selling groceries downstairs with a long counter on the right, large biscuit tins set at 45 degrees in front, bacon slicing machine and large cheeses butter etc at far end. Stairs from there led to where you could buy all sorts of articles from glass vases to Wellington boots. Downstairs on the left was the Post Office and haberdashery with Rachel Avery as postmistress, later in the 30s joined by Dorry who married Harold Turk the baker. I don't recall Mary Avery in the shop but she played the harmonium and later the organ in church and died in the 1930s.

Mr Avery employed some local staff of whom I remember Mr Rogers, Mr Boorman (Edwin's father) and Ebenezer Ireland with a white beard who served the groceries.

I understood (as a child) that Wickham House and the adjoining house had been intended for Rachel and Mary. Mr Avery owned and used the "outhouse" and all the garden behind these houses as well. About 1947 Miss Rachel Avery sold "Averys" to Clifford Noakes and moved to Wales with the then District Nurse who was retiring.

Note: Ross Giles did work for the local paper. When he married in 1940, the Kent Herald, Canterbury, said: "The bridegroom is now serving in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, but before joining H.M. Forces he was at Canterbury for three years as a member of the reporting staff of the Kentish Express. Mrs. Giles is on the Kentish Express clerical staff at Maidstone."

Gallery



953ASH ©Appledore Local History So

This looks early, and without the later remodelling that we're accustomed to, it can take a moment to see that it's Averys. Is there a sign that just says 'Avery'? Albert Avery didn't join the business until 1881-1891, so there was no 'E. Avery & Son' until then.

And what's going on next door at Colthups, 46-48 The Street? The definition of the photo is poor, but it could be an annexe to the main part of the shop. In 1867 there was a newspaper report of Edward Avery quitting a portion of his premises. If that portion was this annexe, the photo could be from the 1860s.



Albert Avery and his wife Helen. This looks later than the first photo, which is confirmed by 'Avery & Son' over the door.

They married in 1887, in Appledore, when Albert was 29 and Helen was 26. She was the daughter of George Pearson, deceased, a grocer in Woodchurch. At the time of her marriage she was 'Helen Spencer Pearson, step-daughter of the late H. P. Wotton, of Gloucester'. Her mother had re-married and was twice widowed.

This photo is probably from the early 1890s, before there were any daughters old enough to stand beside them.



The girl on the right could be Rachel Avery as a teenager. If so, the picture would date from 1911 to 1917. Albert would be somewhere between 53 and 59.

However, the earliest date for Rachel and just one other sister living at home was after July 1919, when Evelyn married and left for Antwerp. Rachel would be 21, Albert would be 61. The older daughter would be Helen Mary, aged 31.

The earlier date is more likely for Rachel, but then it is not clear who the older woman is.



Two pictures taken on the same day.

An accompanying note in the ALHS archive says that the bicycle picture shows Mr Albert Avery, Mrs Emily May Avery, two daughters - Mary and Rachel, Abel Padgham - horse and cart driver, Mr Potts - postman, Mr Rogers - bike, Mr Ireland - bike (or possibly Jim Boorman). If correct, who was Mrs Emily May Avery? Albert's wife was Helen. There is no record of him marrying twice.

Helen Spencer Avery died in January 1905, so for the photo to include her it would have to be from 1904 or earlier - and In 1904, Rachel was only 6. It's not Helen Spencer Avery in the photo.

If the identification of the ‘minor characters’ is correct, the photo is from 1912 or later, because they weren’t together in Appledore until that time. Because of their respective ages, the youngest shop assistant is more likely to be Jim Boorman (Edward Richard James, but known as Jim) than Abner Ireland.

Jim Boorman had considerable misfortune in life. His wife, when 39, drowned herself in the pond at Court Lodge Farm, opposite their house at 3, Court Lodge Road. She was probably suffering from post-natal depression. Their son James was hospitalised five years later, following a nervous breakdown, and shot himself in the head when he was 40.

This is a hard photo to date, if you want to align the probable ages of everyone who is said to be in it. The identity of Mrs Emily May Avery is unresolved, which also leads to some uncertainty about which Misses Avery are pictured.



Bacon, biscuits, cigars, gin, hats - and pig powders. Everything you could want.



Date not known, possibly 1920s.



Date not known, possibly 1930s.

E. AVERY & SON,

APPLEDORE,

Family Grocers,

— AND —

Provision Dealers,

— AGENTS FOR —

W. & A. GILBEY'S WINES.

A LARGE STOCK OF
GENERAL DRAPERY, CLOTHING & BOOTS.

Ladies' and Children's Jackets and
Millinery,

IN ALL THE NEW STYLES AND MATERIALS.

BEDSTEADS. BEDDING.
AND
FURNITURE.

Post Office, Appledore.

E. AVERY & SON,
Grocers & Corn Dealers,
Drapers and Outfitters,

Good Class Provisions, Crosse & Blackwell's Preparations.

W. & A. Gilbey's Wines and Spirits.

A Large Stock of Drapery and Outfitting
Cooper's well-known "Beehive" Boots and Shoes.
Earthenware and Ironmongery.

Fancy Goods and Stationery. Newspapers and Periodicals.

N.B. Agent to Kent Fire & Life Office Assurance Company

ALBERT J. AVERY,

APPLEDORE, Kent,

VALUER TO THE
Grocery, Drapery & General Trades,

TERMS ON APPLICATION.