

Brimington and Tapton *Miscellany* number 10

Brimington and Tapton Local History Group's Yearly History Review

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Introduction, from Doug Spencer, Chairman of the Brimington and Tapton Local History Group

This is our tenth edition of *Brimington and Tapton Miscellany*. When we published the first edition in 2008 it was an experiment. But since that time we have been able to maintain production.

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to this and our previous editions. As I mentioned in the last edition, in these days of electronic communication we still believe that the printed word will outlast anything that we might produce and load on to a website. Though we are a small local history group, with limited resources we hope that *Miscellany* makes something of a lasting contribution to Brimington's and Tapton's history and maintains a relatively high standard.

We continue to welcome contributions – particularly personal reminiscences. Please visit our website at www.brimingtonandtaptonhistory.btck.co.uk to keep up-to-date with our meeting programme and events.

Doug Spencer

BRIMINGTON AND TAPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Officers serving for 2017

Chairman: Doug Spencer, 19 Manvers Court, Nightingale Close, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7NY.

Telephone: 01246 224678.

Vice Chairman (and *Miscellany* editor): Philip Cousins, 34 John Street, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1ER. Telephone: 01246 209528.

Secretary: Janet Walmsley, 19 Rother Avenue, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1LG. Telephone: 01246 275527.

Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Marion Spencer, 19 Manvers Court, Nightingale Close, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S41 7NY. Telephone: 01246 224678.

Other Committee members: Alan Sharp and Brian Smith.

To contact the group by email please use: batslhg@gmail.com.

Our meetings

All our meetings are open to non-members.

The group meets monthly during the year (except July and August) on the fourth Thursday of each month, at Brimington Community Centre, High Street, Brimington, starting at 7.30 pm. In December the group usually meets on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm. These meetings usually comprise a talk by a guest speaker or a group member. One outdoor visit is held in June. There are no meetings in July or August.

Our website

Miscellany is the principle means in which members of the group present the results of research. It also enables us to maintain a chronicle of local events, which we hope will be of some use to future local historians. The group does, however, maintain a website, on which details of our current events can be found. The URL is <http://brimingtonandtptonhistory.btck.co.uk/>.

Our other activities

One of our aims is to encourage people to bring along items that help record the history of Brimington and Tapton. If you have any old photographs, documents or a story to tell about the group's area and would be willing to share these with us, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Doug or Marion Spencer (address above) or come along to one of our meetings.

Membership

Membership of the group costs £12 per year (there are no reductions). Benefits include reduced admission to the group's meetings. In addition the group actively collects and copies old photographs and information from the Brimington and Tapton area. Members have free access to this resource. All members receive a free copy of the *Brimington and Tapton Miscellany* relative to the year that their subscription covers. For further details contact the membership secretary.

The group is affiliated to the British Association for Local History and a member of the Derbyshire Victoria County History Trust.

Front cover illustrations; Left: Brimington Common Methodist Church, on 12 November 2017 – see pages 12 and 40 (Philip Cousins); centre: 1967's Brimington Gala Queen – Janet Walmsley is accompanied by Cllr Tom Whyatt at the gala on Eastwood Park – see page 44 (Collection Janet Walmsley); right: Henry Bradley first joint editor of the Oxford English Dictionary – see page 23.

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Comments on articles should be addressed to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Group. The comments expressed herein are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily the Brimington and Tapton Local History Group.

We welcome contributions to this publication, which should be with us before the end of October in each year. For details contact the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

HENRY BRADLEY'S BRIMINGTON YEARS

Philip Cousins

This is an extract from Brimington and Tapton Local History Group's yearly history review publication *Brimington and Tapton Miscellany*, 10, for 2018.

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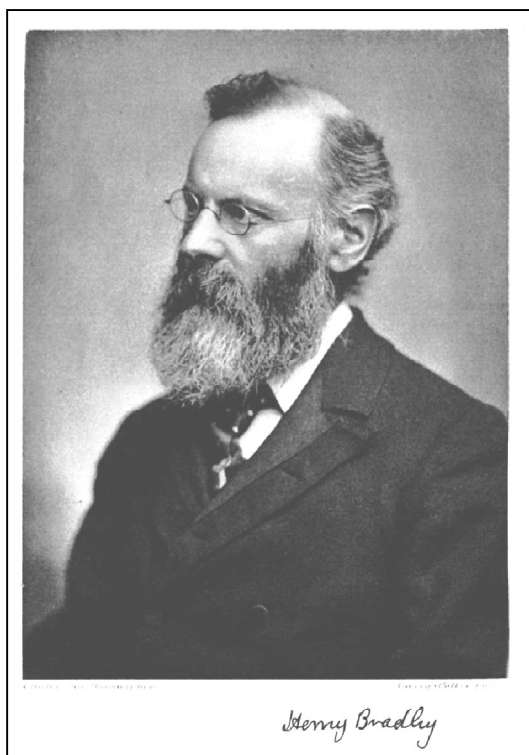
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September 2018.

HENRY BRADLEY'S BRIMINGTON YEARS

Philip Cousins



Henry Bradley, taken from the *Collected papers of Henry Bradley with a memoir by Robert Bridges*, published in 1928.

Introduction

It is probable that few local people have knowledge of the person that Henry Bradley Nursery and Infant School is named after. Perhaps even more confusingly we have Bradley Hall, next to the Brimington Congregational Chapel, along with Bradley Close and Bradley Way. The Henry Bradley (born in 1845 and died in 1923) who is the subject of this article is not of the same Bradley family that is commemorated in Bradley Hall.¹ Though the subject of this article had, as a youngster, a relatively short residence in Brimington (from 1846 to 1859), he went on to make a lasting contribution to the English language; from the late 1880s as an editor of what became the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and later second editor of that dictionary, which was then in its very early and path-breaking years. It is this person after whom the Princess Street infant and nursery school, Bradley Way and Bradley Close are named.

Fortunately the Henry Bradley school website now has a very brief account of him, along with a photograph.² Philip Riden's history of Chesterfield Grammar School³ (where Bradley was an old boy) has also gone some way to address a largely forgotten figure in Brimington's history, who never-the-less left a lasting legacy world-wide.

This account aims to rectify the lack of knowledge locally about Bradley. It looks principally at his early life in Brimington, before also looking at his later life and his accomplishments.

The Bradley family

We know a little about the early life of Henry Bradley due to a short memoir of him written by Robert Bridges in the early 1920s.⁴ Henry Bradley was born in Manchester on the 3 December 1845. He was the only son of John Bradley's (originally of Kirkby-in-Ashfield) second marriage to Mary Spencer.⁵ John was a farmer and a partner in a Harlesthorne cloth-mill in Clowne with his two brothers.⁶ In 1821 John is described as 'Candle-wick and Harden manufacturer'.⁷ Apparently there was a disagreement between John and these brothers. John renounced the partnership he had with them as he could not

¹ This Bradley family had a direct connection with the Congregational church. They are unconnected with the family who are the subject of this article. See B Sharman, 'Brimington Congregational Church', *Brimington and Tupton Miscellany*, forthcoming.

² [On-line], last visited 13 November 2017 at URL: <https://www.henrybradleyschool.co.uk/history>.

³ P Riden, *History of Chesterfield Grammar School* (2017).

⁴ *Collected papers of Henry Bradley with a memoir by Robert Bridges* (1928), pp 3 – 56 (hereafter *Collected papers*). This paragraph is mainly based on Bridge's account, with Bradley's early life at Brimington, dealt with at pages 3 – 5 therein.

⁵ According to the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 25 May 1925, Henry Bradley was the fourth son of John Bradley, the others presumably from John Bradley's first marriage – see also below, p. 24.

⁶ This has sometimes been stated as a flour-mill – a statement originally made in the main text of Bridge's account of Bradley, but corrected to cloth-mill in an errata within the book. *Collected papers*, p. 3 and p. X respectively. See also P. Riden, *Victoria county history, Derbyshire, volume III, Bolsover and adjoining parishes* (2013), p. 118.

⁷ The National Archives (TNA), RG 4/2155.

countenance the ‘truck system’⁸ that his brothers were forcing on their workers. In 1841 John Bradley is shown in the census of that year as a ‘Relieving Officer’ at Clowne. This means that he was employed by the poor-law union – persons in Clowne parish could apply to him for poor relief. John is shown with his two sons, two daughters, female servant Mary Spencer and two male servants.⁹ It seems as though John’s first wife died in 1836,¹⁰ John then marrying his second wife and former servant Mary Spencer sometime later. John was over ten years older than Mary.¹¹ Why Henry was born at Manchester in 1845 I do not know, but the family arrived at Brimington in 1846.

Life in Brimington

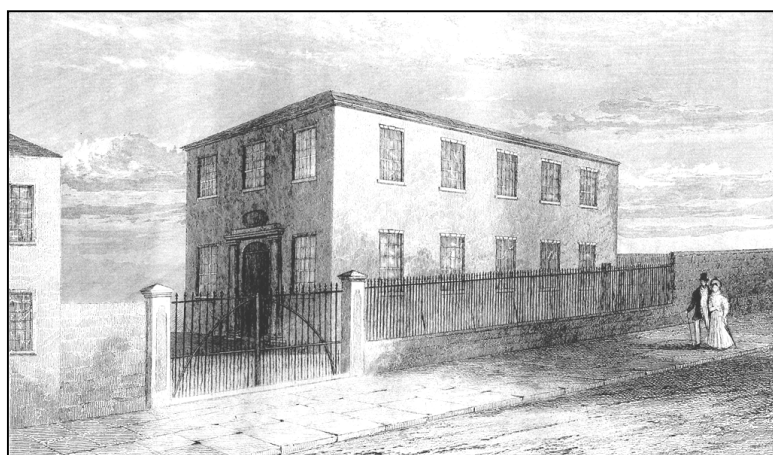
The home of Henry Bradley for the first 14 years of his life was Brimington. The 1851 census shows John Bradley (aged 58) with his wife Mary (aged 46) and the young Henry (aged 5), as the only occupants at their home on Brimington Common.¹²

Bridges says the young Henry took after his mother – Mary Spencer (of an old Middleton-by-Wirksworth family);

... a gentle and somewhat delicate lady of refined intellectual cast . . . Husband and wife were a quite pious couple devoted to their son, to whom the homely affections of his childhood remained unsullied by time among the ideal sanctities of life.

His father ‘seems to have been a good man of business, of a kindly and genial nature and strong physique.’¹³

The family were Congregationalists (also described as Independents). Bridges recounts that Henry, when attending a church meeting for the first time, persisted in holding his book upside down. This naturally caused his parents some distress until they discovered that Henry had learnt to read the Bible during family prayers. His father had had the Bible open on his knees whilst reading the lesson aloud. The young Henry (who was only three at the time), followed the words whilst standing in front of his father – reading them upside down. According to Bridges ‘His [Henry’s] mature faculty seems to have been perfect in his infancy, and in this first picture of him Philology and Piety are seen hand in hand.’¹⁴



The Independent Chapel on Soresby Street, Chesterfield from an engraving in Ford’s 1839 History of Chesterfield. Henry Bradley’s grammar school enrolment entry has his father as an Independent, which indicates they may have worshipped here or in nearby Calow. The Independents, also known as Congregationalists, had around 150 attending both morning and evening services in 1851. Another chapel in South Place was being used for a further 90 people. Though enlarged and altered the building depicted here still stands as the Rosehill United Reformed Church.

⁸ The Truck system saw employers pay their workforce with vouchers, not money. These vouchers could only be used at shops belonging to the employer. This system was widely abused and was outlawed in 1831.

⁹ TNA, HO 107/194.

¹⁰ Derbyshire burial index transcription 1558 – 1910, last visited 2 March 2018 at URL

https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=R_22561519883.

¹¹ TNA, HO 107/2147.

¹² *ibid*.

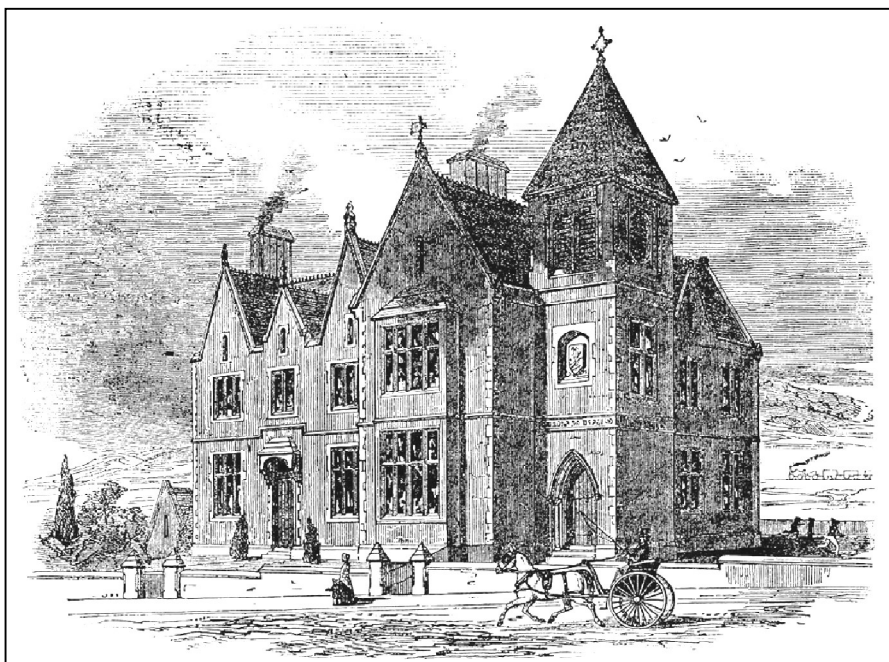
¹³ *Collected papers*, p. 3.

¹⁴ *ibid*, p. 4.

Grammar school scholars' registers have the family as Independent worshippers.¹⁵ The congregation with whom they worshipped might have been that in Chesterfield on Soresby Street. There was, however, another active congregation in Calow, who were originally aided by the Soresby Street church. The congregation in that village had erected a building in 1837 and a new school room in 1855. In 1846 preachers at the Calow church were supplied by a break-away congregation based in South Place, Chesterfield, until the church there was later reunited with that at Soresby Street. In 1855 the Independents in Calow were holding cottage meetings in the homes of several members, these proving very popular.¹⁶ Could the Bradley family have been attending these meetings?

Whilst at Brimington, Henry Bradley attended Chesterfield Grammar School, from January 1855, aged 9.¹⁷ It is worth quoting at length from Bridge's memoir of Bradley;

It was a very precocious little boy who entered Chesterfield Grammar School in 1855. Here he was fortunate in his master, the Rev. Frederick Calder, and in his schoolfellows, amongst whom Bishop Chavasse, my fellow-commoner at Corpus [Christi College, Oxford] remembers him well, and describes him as being then 'of delicate appearance with his sallow face, crown of dark hair and luminous eyes', and tells how he was 'chivalrously protected from any roughness by the boys who, won by his superior mental gifts, his gentle manners, his patience, modesty, and courage under physical disabilities, had something of a hero-worship for him. Indeed the mass of his information, his inordinate love of reading, the excellence of his essays, and the ease with which he mastered his daily tasks seemed to our youthful minds uncanny.' The general belief was that Bradley suffered from a mortal heart-complaint, and would never attain to manhood: and yet he was fond of fives and walked daily to and from school. On his return walk boys would often accompany him a good part of the way, some two and a half miles, which he had divided into 'stations' for intervals of rest. But though Bradley had no actual complaint, his health was not vigorous or weatherproof enough to allow his regular attendance: and when after four years of it Mr Calder advised his leaving, since there was nothing more he could learn in class, it may have been as much for his own health's sake as for his mother's that the family removed to Sheffield, where his father accepted the agency for some Staffordshire firm; and from this year 1859, when he was fourteen, his home was in Sheffield.¹⁸



Chesterfield Grammar School's 1846 building – the school that Henry Bradley would have known well. The scholars' entrance was to the right, under the bell-tower, which opened out into an entrance hall. From here the ground floor and first floor classrooms were accessed – there being only two. The headmaster's house was to the left, with a separate entrance. The house was quite large, being designed to accommodate boarders. (From the Illustrated London News).

¹⁵ Derbyshire Record Office (DRO), D3661/3/1.

¹⁶ HG Orton, *Our heritage. The history of the Congregational church at Calow, 1837 to 1962* (1962), pp. 9-11.

¹⁷ DRO, D3661/3/1.

¹⁸ *Collected papers*, pp. 4-5.

As Philip Riden¹⁹ has remarked, Chesterfield Grammar School was experiencing something of a renaissance in Henry Bradley's time there. The grammar school had originally been founded by will of Godfrey Foljambe of Walton (who died 1585). It had probably opened in 1598, taking over a chapel to the north of the town, before it was rebuilt in 1710. For a number of years the school had suffered a period of decline, closing completely in 1832. New buildings were opened in February 1847, with Frederick Calder appointed as the first headmaster of this reopened school – he being instrumental in its success. There were both boarders and day-scholars. Numbers attending in Bradley's time appear to have fluctuated somewhat. In 1857 there were 58 pupils – lower than the previous year, which had seen a 'considerable increase'. By late 1858 Calder reported that the school was in much better shape. This improvement was confirmed by an increase in boarders and success at new public examinations. In January 1860 (Bradley having left the previous year) there were 68 boys – 35 foundation scholars (who paid no fees), 14 boarders and 19 day boys. In 1853 a library was established, but sports did not appear to feature to any great degree – not that Bradley's delicate constitution would have allowed him. Bradley's fellow pupils would have mainly comprised the sons of better-off Chesterfield families, who were mostly trades people.

Bradley was a commercial school scholar, who did not pay fees.²⁰ The curriculum in this school was designed to equip boys for work, rather than the 'classical' department, which was designed more for those who wished to pursue an academic career. The commercial school included the teaching of English subjects, along with arithmetic, geography and history, most boys then going on to study Latin, though modern languages were not studied.²¹ Free scholars were more likely to be non-conformists.²²

Despite his short stay at the school Henry Bradley appears to have become quite accomplished in some subjects. Local newspapers generally published the names of grammar school prize winners in December of each year. In 1855 we find a Bradley of the 'commercial school' winning a prize and also a prize in 'divinity and scripture lessons'.²³ The following year a 'Bradley' of the 'classical school', (so it is unlikely to be our Henry) won an overall prize and also a prize in French.²⁴ In 1857 a 'Bradley' won joint second with two others for the Archdeacon Hill's prize for divinity, with an H. Bradley a prize in French and an overall prize.²⁵ 1858 saw H. Bradley winning a 'natural philosophy prize' with a 'Bradley' winning a French prize.²⁶ If it is our Henry Bradley who won the French prize, his family has probably paid extra for additional tutorials.²⁷

The 1846 grammar school building comprised only two classrooms, which were built above each other, of some 40 ft by 18 ft each. These were accessed from an entrance underneath a clock tower and, for the first floor classroom, a staircase. The classrooms were to be fitted with 26 desks each, with total accommodation for 110 scholars. The headmaster had a 'commodious' house' adjoining the school. The exterior was said have been constructed to an Elizabethan design.²⁸ A contemporary illustration is included at page 26. One might imagine a young Henry Bradley sitting at his desk in one of these classrooms, perhaps trying to feel the warmth of the coal fire installed in the room, following his walk on a cold winter's day from Brimington Common.

¹⁹ For further details regarding the history of the grammar school during Bradley's attendance period see Riden, especially pp. 129-178 and pp. 423-442. The majority of this paragraph is based on that account and comments made by Mr Riden, to whom I am especially grateful.
²⁰ DRO, D3661/3/1.

²¹ Riden, p. 176, p. 134 and p. 436.

²² Riden, p. 426.

²³ *Derbyshire Times (DT)*, 15 December 1855.

²⁴ *Derbyshire Courier (DC)*, 13 December 1856.

²⁵ *DC*, 19 December 1857. The situation is somewhat complicated here as there is also a JW Bradley. Examination of the school's enrolment book shows a John Weston Bradley, of Spencer Street, enrolling in September 1856; DRO, D3601/3/1.

²⁶ *DC*, 18 December 1858.

²⁷ Riden, p. 177.

²⁸ Riden, pp. 132-133 and *DC*, 26 December 1846.



The former Chesterfield Grammar School. Although somewhat remodelled the 1846 building is still prominent in this December 2017 view. The building now comprises Chesterfield College's 'West Studios'. (Author).

There is a published recollection of Bradley's 'childhood notebooks'. Although the date of these has not been stated, apparently they included;

facts of Roman history, scraps of science, lists of words peculiar to the Pentateuch or Isaiah, Hebrew singletons, the form of the verb to be in Algerine, Arabic, bardic and cuneiform lettering, Arabisms and Chaldaisms in the New Testament, with vocabularies that imply he was reading Homer, Virgil, Sallust and the Hebrew Old Testament at the same time. In another group the notes pass from the life of Antar ben Toofail by 'Admar' (apparently of the age of Haroun Arrashid) to the rules of Latin verse, Hakluyt and Hebrew accents, whereupon follow notes on Sir William Hamilton and Dugald Stewart and a translation of parts of Aeschylus' Prometheus...²⁹

If these notes date from the time that Henry was at Chesterfield Grammar School (and therefore living in Brimington), it is no wonder that his fellow pupils 'had something of a hero-worship for him',³⁰ but one wonders what the rougher elements of youths of Brimington Common might have made of all this?

What had the family come to Brimington to do and where did they live? In the census of 1851 Henry's father, John, is described as 'clerk and commercial traveller'.³¹ The grammar school scholars' register gives more information to help us answer this question. Henry's father is shown as living on 'Brimington Moor. Traveller at Knowles & Co.' – referring to a business owned by one John Knowles.³²

Knowles, from a Matlock lead mining family, was principally a railway contractor who specialised in tunnelling. He also had a hand in brick production, particularly fire bricks.³³ He would have had knowledge of brick manufacturing as part of his railway contracting business, particularly from lining tunnels. Knowles had established a business at Wooden Box (now Woodville) on the south Derbyshire/Leicestershire border in 1849, after being involved in railway contracting activities there and discovering plentiful supplies of fire clay. The undertaking made clay and firebricks and later stone-ware drainage pipes; railway companies, iron and steel producers including those in Sheffield, were supplied.³⁴

²⁹ S. Winchester, *The meaning of everything. The story of the Oxford English Dictionary* (2003), p. 151-152.

³⁰ Above, p. 25.

³¹ TNA, HO 107/2147.

³² DRO, D3661/3/1.

³³ For an early summary of Knowles' activities see P. Cousins, 'John Knowles', *Midland Railway Society Journal*, number 28, summer 2005, pp. 13-14. Unfortunately the date of his birth in that article is incorrect. Knowles was born in 1802.

³⁴ John Knowles & Company, *A brief history of Knowles in this their centenary year* (1949), pp. 1-2.

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 CHESTERFIELD.
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The period that the Bradleys lived on Brimington Common saw development of the area, following enclosure of former common land. An ironworks was established and there was brick-making, mining for coal and ironstone in the vicinity, along with farming. This advertisement from the Derbyshire Times of 23 August 1856 is one example from the period. The 'play ground' is the recreation ground, which was allotted to the parish when the common was enclosed.

In 1850 Knowles entered into a partnership to assist Chesterfield solicitor John Cutts to run an iron smelting business and for joint ownership of 'certain mines and beds of ironstone'.³⁵ The furnace was at Furnace Farm on Brimington Common. It had probably been in operation before the partnership was formed. A potential scenario, therefore, is that when John Bradley moved to Brimington in 1845 he became employed to help look after the affairs of Cutts's and later Cutts's & Knowles's business.³⁶ Bradley possibly had an earlier job or may have been at the furnace and associated business from the start. Once the partnership between Cutts and Knowles was dissolved in 1856,³⁷ John Bradley would then have worked exclusively for Knowles. This may have been on the furnace business, but perhaps primarily for the Wooden Box fire clay and brick business.

At the time that the Bradley family were on Brimington Common the area had been fairly recently enclosed – that is the lands which had formerly been common-land had been arranged into parcels and allotted to local land owners. The road which today we know as Manor Road was also laid out at that time. This would have spurred development and the growth of local industry. Unfortunately mapping evidence of the period is not good. The enclosure award enrolled in 1853 shows the final land allotments, not the extent of development at that date, with the tithe map of 1849 showing only a small amount of development.³⁸ The first large scale map of Brimington Common is the 25-inch Ordnance Survey of 1877, which is after the Bradleys left Brimington in 1859. An extract of a 6-inch map produced using the same survey as that used in the 1877 large scale map appears at page 32.

The census of 1851 gives us some idea of the mixture of people near the Bradleys. The enumerator recorded Joseph Ashmore (a coal and ironstone miner) and his family immediately before the Bradleys. Following the Bradley family came 'Brick and tile merchant' James Dickson, his wife and two servants. Husband and wife William and Sarah Ashmore, the former an ironstone miner, were then followed by the Ball family (Joseph Ball being a coal miner), then the Parr Smiths with Robert as 'brickmaker'.³⁹ James Dickson appears to have owned brickworks, which were likely to be near the former Brickmakers' Arms, with the Parr Smiths the actual producers.⁴⁰ Other residents included farmers, moulders, furnace labourers, agricultural labourers, coke burner, blacksmith and shopkeepers. This listing gives some idea of the trades on the common at that time. The census also records that some properties were under construction. A couple of pages in the census before the Bradley's entry we have the Adcocks, whose

³⁵ DRO, D 177 A/PC 154.

³⁶ *ibid.* In the partnership agreement between Cutts and Knowles in April 1850 Cutts is described as the owner of mines and beds of ironstone and 'of a certain blast furnace' indicating the furnace was in business at this time, though published blast furnace statistics do not list the furnace until 1855. The chronology of the furnace business still requires research, the tithe map and award (1849) still have the land as under agricultural use. The Cutts and Knowles business was styled 'John Knowles and Company'.

³⁷ *London Gazette*, issue 21868, 4 April 1856, p. 1312. The partnership was dissolved in April 1856 – John Knowles carrying on the business thereafter.

³⁸ DRO, D177/A/PC/146 and D643/A/PI/12/2.

³⁹ *ibid.*

⁴⁰ P Cousins and D Wilmot, "The Brimington Brick Company" – north east Derbyshire's brick making in microcosm', *The journal of the North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society*, Volume 1, September 2006, p. 16.

head – bookkeeper John – was brother-in-law to John Knowles.⁴¹ It is likely that Adcock was running or assisted in running the Brimington furnace for Knowles.⁴²

Rating valuation books from the period 1852 to 1854 show John Bradley occupying a two storey house and a garden on the ‘Common’ adjoining another house occupied by George Milner – both being owned by Joseph Milner. The houses were identical, in that they each occupied some 40 square yards measuring 23½ ft long, 15½ ft depth and 17 ft high. The properties occupied 8 perches of land each, including the garden.⁴³ Unfortunately the survey that accompanied the valuation books is lost, so it is not possible to say exactly where the Bradley family lived or if their properties survive amongst the others that occupied the area. However, if the numbering follows that in the tithe award⁴⁴ we can place the family’s home somewhere in the area to the east side of Manor Road immediately beyond the *Miners’ Arms*, heading northwards, to just beyond the end of the recreation ground (which would be on the opposite side of the road).⁴⁵ Today numbers 191 – 213 Manor Road occupy the area of land on which the Bradley’s probably lived – they certainly did not occupy the whole of the plot.⁴⁶ With further research and analysis, which would include measuring existing properties, it might be possible to identify if any of the remaining properties might be considered as the Bradley family home.

Brimington Common would have been somewhat different during the period of the Bradley family’s residence there (from 1846 to 1859). Interspersed with newspaper reports and advertisements of new building, land and houses for sale, were periodic reports of friction between the English and the Irish workers who lived there; drunkenness, assaults, burglaries and general disorder. This appears to be particularly prevalent in the 1850s. John Knowles was the subject of one crime himself, when four geese were stolen from his farm (presumably that associated with the ironworks) in October 1857.⁴⁷ 1855 saw a stabbing incident,⁴⁸ whilst in September 1859, when the landlord of the *Miners’ Arms* was applying for a full licence at the Brewster Sessions, the chairman remarked that ‘Brimington Common is a very riotous place’. It was also reported that there had been two other recent cases of riotous behaviour. At this time the Common was said to have around 113 houses, with Knowles’ works described as ‘large extensive’.⁴⁹ There was a serious disturbance during the Christmas period of 1859 when a group of Englishmen attacked the Irish living at a property called ‘The Barracks’, near the recreation ground, smashing windows and the contents of the property, causing £20 worth of damage. It was also reported that gunshots were heard at the *Brickmakers’ Arms*, where at least one customer was assaulted.⁵⁰ In 1851 the Rector of Brimington had resorted to preaching out of doors on Brimington Common and elsewhere; ‘The neglect of public worship is, we believe, very general in the mining districts, whilst beer houses are increasing, and desecration of the Sabbath becomes fearfully prevalent amongst the working classes,’ reflected a correspondent in the *Derbyshire Courier*.⁵¹

There would have been more pleasant activities, of course, on the recreation ground, where occasionally cricket was played.⁵² The countryside was, like today, close at hand. But the landscape may have been

⁴¹ DRO, D856B/E10

⁴² Letters to Adcock are in DRO, D177/A/PC/154 and D7223/6/6/1.

⁴³ DRO, D177A/PC8 and D177A/PC/9.

⁴⁴ DRO, D177A/PC8 and D1771/PC/9 have the two houses as being part of parcel 608 ‘plan 1’. The tithe map D643/A/PI/12/2 shows parcel 608 in the area stated.

⁴⁵ DRO, D643/A/PI/12/2.

⁴⁶ The rating valuation books description has ‘part 608’; DRO, D177A/PC8 and D177A/PC/9.

⁴⁷ *DT*, 31 October 1857.

⁴⁸ *DC*, 29 March 1855. The victim later died, but not, it was thought, due to his stabbing injuries.

⁴⁹ *DC*, 10 September 1859.

⁵⁰ *DC* and *DT*, 1 January 1859.

⁵¹ *DC*, 6 September 1851.

⁵² *DC*, 9 August 1856. Here it was reported that it had been five or six years since cricket had been played in Brimington. ‘We are sure our cricketers will feel much obliged to Mr. Knowles, of the Brimington Moor Iron Works, that gentleman having very kindly promised to enclose the ground for them and put it in order before another year. We cannot speak sufficiently in commendation of such kindness’. Another report of cricket on the recreation ground appears in *DT*, 18 October 1862.

more despoiled than we might imagine, with evidence of ironstone and coal mining, including open excavations in fields in the area.⁵³ Knowles' works, based near the present Furnace Farm, included an engine house and engine, railway for coal, coal mine and ironstone quarry, carpenter's and smithy shop, office, 50 coke ovens, furnace and hot air ovens,⁵⁴ machinery for castings, casting house and crane, plus a house and stable.⁵⁵ The furnace itself was probably around 30 feet tall⁵⁶ and would be in continuous use. The business was sometimes styled as the Brimington Moor Ironworks.⁵⁷ Farming was also carried out.⁵⁸

During his period at Chesterfield Grammar School, Henry Bradley would have been accompanied by some near neighbours. Immediately above Bradley in the grammar school scholars' register (for January 1855), is 'John Kws. Adcock', of Brimington, whose father must be the same 'bookkeeper' described in the 1851 census.⁵⁹ Though it is not possible to tell exactly, there were at least eight other pupils from the Brimington area who might also have attended whilst Henry was a pupil at the grammar school.⁶⁰ Just how many of these would have accompanied Henry on his two and half mile walk to and from school, described in Bridge's memoir of him, is not known.⁶¹ One might imagine the young Bradley making his journey to Chesterfield Grammar School through Tapton, or walking into Brimington to follow the main road into Chesterfield, with his fellow pupils. But the Brimington Common of today would have been a different place than that of Bradley's time. The paraphernalia, noise and pollution of brick making, mining, iron smelting and smithying would never be far away, as was the potential and actual violence of a largely un-policed and thirsty workforce. Death was never very far away either, with frequent and sometimes fatal injuries being sustained by those working. Henry would have known the rough and tumble of life and the characters of the area at the time. This would have included the worldly-wise John Knowles, who his father worked for. Henry's father would have been off on business trying to sell fire clay and bricks and perhaps other products from the smelters. Just what an impact this world made on the young Henry is not known, but his time in Brimington was surely part of his formative years.

The Bradley family moved to Sheffield in 1859. This probably coincided with a renewed initiative to sell bricks and fireclay into the Sheffield steel market. Having a local agent such as John Bradley would assist the company in further tapping into this market, which had other south Yorkshire competitors.⁶² Additionally, the Brimington Common furnace was reported as out of blast for the first time in the year of the Bradley family move.⁶³ The same year (1859) 'Messrs Knowles and Buxton', were 'manufacturers of patent tubular tuyeres',⁶⁴ a business apparently undertaken at Brimington.⁶⁵ The patent had been enrolled in July 1856,⁶⁶ Buxton being described as 'manager of ironworks'.⁶⁷ Tuyeres are 'the end of a blast pipe conveying blast to a furnace or hearth'⁶⁸ – a natural fit with the fire clay and refractory

⁵³ DC, 2 June 1849 and DRO D177/A/PC/154.

⁵⁴ This description indicates that the blast was hot, not as Brelsford has stated – cold; V Brelsford, *History of Brimington...* (1937), p. 52.

⁵⁵ DRO, D177A/PC8 and D177A/PC9 in 1852 and 1854 respectively. The owner of the land was Adam Barker Slater.

⁵⁶ DC, 15 August 1857.

⁵⁷ For example DT, 22 December 1866; DRO, D177A/PC8.

⁵⁸ *London Gazette*, issue 21868, 4 April 1856, p. 1312. Knowles is described as living at Herne House, in Calow parish, at this time, though his business interests would have seen him living in various areas, particularly due to his railway contracting efforts. He later built Knowlstone Place in Matlock; *Derby Mercury*, 16 June 1858.

⁵⁹ DRO, D3661/3/1. Adcock had no age shown against his entry, but was 10 in the 1851 Census; TNA, HO 107/2147. The Kws abbreviation is for Knowles.

⁶⁰ DRO, D3661/3/1. Entries of this time do not generally give leaving dates, so it is not possible to say whether those enrolled in the period immediately before or during Bradley's time at the school were actually still on the roll when he attended.

⁶¹ *Collected papers*, p. 5.

⁶² For an assessment of ganister and fireclay production in the Sheffield area see especially R Battye, *Forgotten mines of Sheffield, especially around the upper Don, Loxley and Sheaf valley* (2004).

⁶³ P Riden and JG Owen, *British blast furnace statistics 1790-1980*, (1995), pp. 113-14.

⁶⁴ [On-line] last visited 1 January 2017 at URL <https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/images/5/52/Im1859V7-KB.jpg>. Unfortunately the source of this advertisement is not given.

⁶⁵ DRO, D7223/1/1/1.

⁶⁶ *London Gazette*, issue 21911, 8 August 1856, p. 2750; issue 21929, 7 October 1856, p. 3292.

⁶⁷ *London Gazette*, issue 21911, 8 August 1856, p. 2750.

⁶⁸ WKV Gale, *Iron and steel industry. A dictionary of terms* (1971), p. 216.

business and also of the Knowles' Brimington furnace operation. John Bradley's work would probably have involved trying to sell these tuyeres along with fire clay and fire bricks. His work must have been successful, as on John Knowles' death in 1869 the company were dealing with customers such as Firths, Vickers, Cammells and the Park Gate Iron Company.⁶⁹

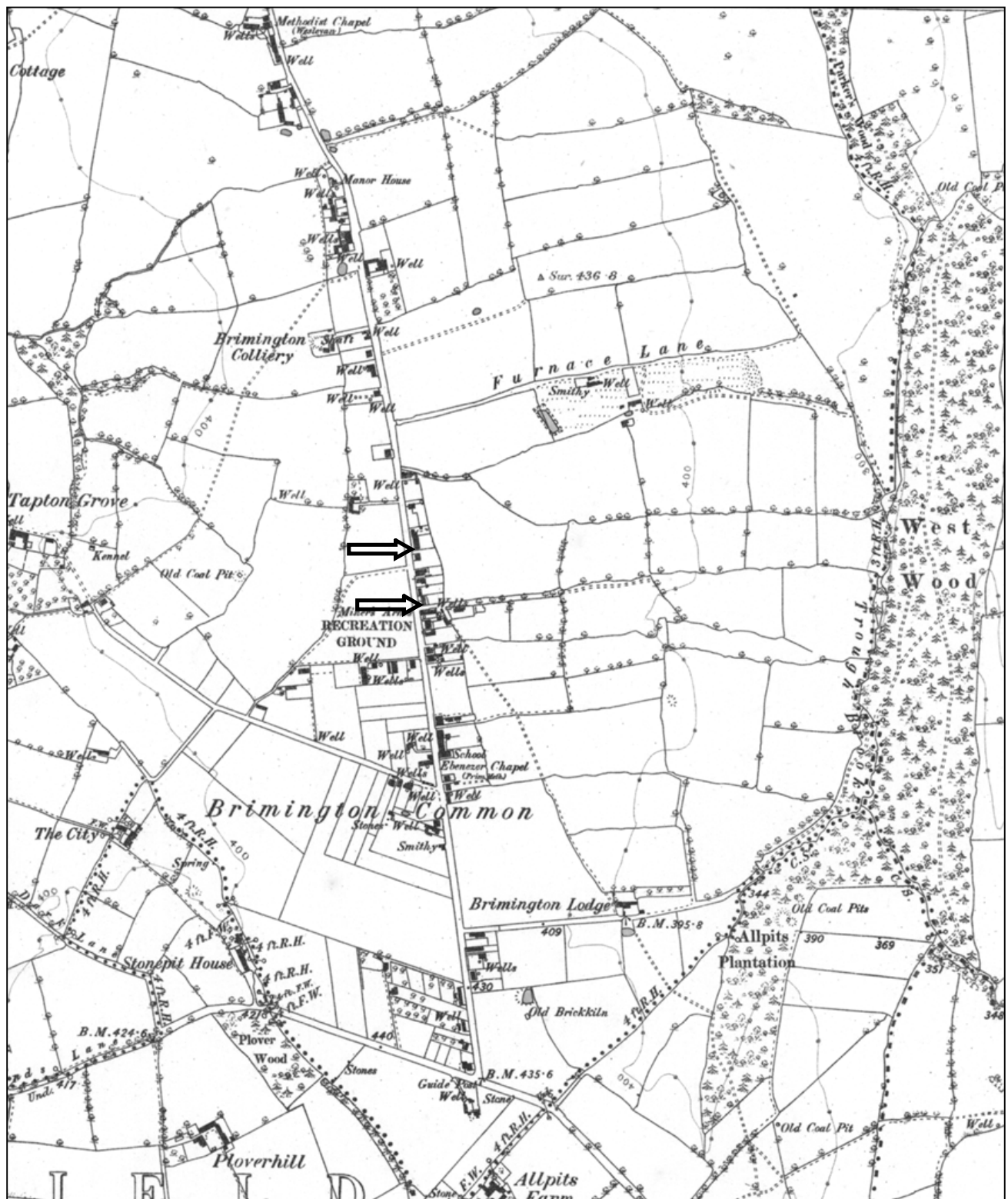


It is not possible to trace where the Bradley family exactly lived on Brimington Common without more research and analysis. Evidence, however, indicates that they may have lived in the area immediately north of the Miners' Arms public house; the present 213 to 191 Manor Road. This view of Manor Road was taken in March 2018 – looking north – showing this area, which extends from the north side of Anderson Lane. 213 Manor Road is the right-hand property. (Author).



The same area in which the Bradley family may have lived, pictured looking in the opposite direction to the photograph above, with the Miners' Arms public house in the far distance. The nearest two stone properties are numbers 193 and 195 Manor Road, which may be amongst the earliest buildings in this group, perhaps dating from the 1840s to 1850s period. Edwardian photographs depict this type of dwelling with small paned windows. Along Brimington Common some of the 'low' stone cottages and other earlier housing have been demolished to make way for newer development. The 1850s valuation surveys indicate the Bradley house as perhaps semi-detached, but in reality it was probably joined on to other properties. Without undertaking measured surveys it is not possible to further explore where the Bradleys lived. (Author).

⁶⁹ DRO, D7223/1/1/1.



Although issued in 1883, this extract from the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (at altered scale) was actually surveyed in 1876-77. Even this is over 15 years from the date that the Bradleys left Brimington. Though a couple of 1850s rating surveys survive unfortunately their maps do not – so this is the best we have. If the same field parcel numbers on the tithe map have been adopted for the rating surveys then the Bradley family house was situated in one of the properties between the two arrows – the present numbers 191 to 213 Manor Road. Unlike the Miners' Arms the Brickmakers' Arms is not labelled on the map as it was only a beer house, not a public house. It is probably the first property, slightly northwards from the entrance to Furnace Lane, on the opposite side of the road. The former Brimington Moor Ironworks – described in the text and latterly operated by John Knowles, for whom Henry Bradley's father worked – is represented by the 'smithy' and other buildings along Furnace Lane and the area with the dotted fill. The works would be much reduced by this time. The coke ovens – demolished by this date – were probably ranged in the area roughly to the centre of the site, denoted by the rectangular unfilled area. The smelter had been out of blast since 1859, the year in which the Bradleys moved to Sheffield. The site was used for other purposes including farming and production of tuyeres. (Ordnance Survey, 6-inch to one mile, Derbyshire sheet XXV.NE, 1883).



Today it is perhaps hard to believe, but the area around the present Furnace Farm, pictured here in February 2018 from Furnace Lane, was once a hive of activity. During the Bradley family's time on Brimington Common here were 50 coke ovens, casting shop, engine house and hot blast furnace around 30 feet high, along with mining and all the paraphernalia of an industrial complex, plus a working farm. (Author).

Life in Sheffield and beyond

As this account is primarily about Bradley in Brimington, what follows is only a summary of his life thereafter, with a little more detail about his contribution to the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

According to Bridges' memoir, in 1859, '...the [Bradley] family removed to Sheffield, where his [Henry's] father accepted the agency for some Staffordshire firm.'⁷⁰ This firm is undoubtedly Knowles as John Bradley is at Sheffield as an 'agent for John Knowles' fire clay and bricks', in a directory of 1862.⁷¹ The 1861 census has John Bradley as 'fire clay agent' also at Sheffield. By this time the family's circumstances had improved, as along with his wife and son Henry, the household had gained a servant, 15 year-old Hasland born Jane Cutts. She was the same age as Henry.⁷²

In Sheffield in 1859, according to Bridges, John Bradley employed a Doctor Lennard to attend to his ailing wife. This Lennard suggested that the delicate Henry Bradley should go and live with his son, who was a few years younger than Henry.⁷³ Lennard had built a farmhouse at Crawshaw Head, near the moors, so that his ailing son might benefit from the cleaner air.⁷⁴ Henry went to live there for around two years, benefitting from his new surroundings, so much so that he was able to take long rambles on the moors. Weekends saw Bradley walking some seven or eight miles back to his home, now much stronger, though he took no part in farm-work. He apparently had a hand in teaching the young Lennard.⁷⁵ In Christmas 1861 Henry Bradley took a similar teaching position assisting a Sheffield physician.⁷⁶

⁷⁰ *Collected papers*, p. 5.

⁷¹ White, *Dir. Of Sheffield* (1862), p. 59. John Bradley is shown at 37 Occupation Road, Sheffield.

⁷² TNA, RG 9/3451.

⁷³ *Collected papers*, p. 5.

⁷⁴ Crawshaw Head is at Hollow Meadows. It was sold on William Lennard's death in 1868. At this time a bed of fireclay under the Estate was being worked by Messrs Dyson; *Sheffield Independent*, 4 July 1868. One wonders if John Bradley had advised Lennard on this development, with his knowledge of fire clay. Dysons purchased the Knowles' Wooden Box business in 1969.

⁷⁵ *Collected papers*, p. 5-6.

⁷⁶ *Collected papers*, p. 7.

1863 saw Henry taking up a 20-year corresponding clerk's job to an exporting Sheffield cutlery firm – Messrs Taylor. Bradley continued to expand his knowledge of languages during this period, still practising his religion, assisting at the Wicker Congregational Chapel. Henry's father John Bradley died in 1871, still in Occupation Road, aged 79.⁷⁷ There are a few surviving copy letters to John Bradley at Sheffield in a letter-book of John Knowles' Wooden Box establishment, the last being from August 1868.⁷⁸

In 1872 Henry married Eleanor Kate Hides of Sheffield, their eldest child being born in 1873.⁷⁹ Bradley contributed to the *Sheffield Independent* during these years under the name of 'Leofric'. His first major article was in 1877 to *Fraser's Magazine*, reviewing a book on place-names, on which he had also contributed articles to the *Independent*.⁸⁰ In 1883 a friend of Bradley's sent him to Oxford with introductions to some of the learned society there. At around the same time Bradley was made redundant by his old employers.⁸¹ Circumstances combined (including the view of a doctor attending his wife that she needed to move from Sheffield), so that the family, including their then four children, eventually moved to London in 1883.⁸² There were eventually four daughters and one son.⁸³ Bradley found the going difficult, despite having been introduced to some literary figures. But it is during this period that the first edition of the *New English Dictionary* was published. Bradley had his review of it, in the *Academy*, noticed by the then editor James Murray, who was so impressed that he invited Bradley to join the staff of the dictionary project – he eventually became a correspondent and later senior editor.⁸⁴

The Oxford English Dictionary

The history of the *Oxford English Dictionary* is amply dealt with on-line by its publisher, the Oxford University Press.⁸⁵ Some introduction to its history is, however, necessary in order to consider a little about the contribution that Henry Bradley made to it and languages in general.

In 1857 the Philological Society of London decided that existing English language dictionaries were deficient. They called for a new approach, which would completely re-examine the English language from Anglo-Saxon days onwards. This was an ambitious project, which not surprisingly made slow progress. In 1879 the society reached an agreement with the Oxford University Press to begin work on a *New English Dictionary*, with James A.H. Murray as editor. This later became known as the *Oxford English Dictionary* (O.E.D.). Murray estimated that the dictionary might be completed in ten years, comprising approximately 7,000 pages. Though this would in itself be a massive undertaking, the work was again underestimated. The first volume (actually called a fascicle), was not published until 1884 (consisting of words in the range A-Ant). The final volume came in 1928, the whole dictionary comprising more than 16,000 pages and over 400,000 words and phrases.

From its inception, particularly as progress on publishing stalled, the next forty years saw the numbers working on the dictionary expand under Murray. In 1886 Henry Bradley was appointed to assist editing

⁷⁷ *Sheffield Independent*, 12 August 1871.

⁷⁸ DRO, D7223/6/1/1. The letter book spans the period December 1863 to September 1873. There appear to be five letters in all to Bradley. The first is dated 29 March 1867, the final letter on 21 August 1868.

⁷⁹ *Collected papers*, pp. 8-10 Bridges has Henry Bradley living at 165 Occupation Road, 'John Bradley's old house', but the White's directory entry cited at note 66 had John Bradley at 37 Occupation Road in 1862.

⁸⁰ *Collected papers*, p. 10.

⁸¹ *Collected papers*, pp. 10-11.

⁸² *Collected papers*, pp. 11-12.

⁸³ WA Craigie, 'Bradley, Henry (1845-1923)', rev. Jenny McMorris, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, [on-line edition, May 2007], last visited 31 August 2016 at URL: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/32030>.

⁸⁴ *Collected papers*, pp. 12-13.

⁸⁵ [On-line], last visited 13 November 2017 at URL: <http://public.oed.com/history-of-the-oed/> and <http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/dnb/35163.html> from which the majority of this section is sourced, unless separately referenced.

contributions to the dictionary – for the letter ‘B’. He was appointed as second editor in 1888, first under Murray’s supervision, then in 1889 as an independent editor, being entrusted with the letter ‘E’.⁸⁶ Bradley was joined by a third co-editor in 1901 (W.A. Craigie) and then C.T. Onions (who had worked in Bradley’s team) in 1914. After Murray’s death in July 1915 (he was knighted in 1908), work continued under Bradley, Craigie and Onions. Though the work was finished in 1928 a one-volume supplement to the twelve volumes published was issued in 1933, edited by Craigie and Onions. A four volume supplement was published between 1972 and 1986, edited by R.W. Burchfield. Since that time the Oxford English Dictionary has appeared in a twenty-volume second edition (1989). It is important to note that the co-editors and editors have not worked on their own, but as part of a much larger team of readers.

After his review in the first part of the *O.E.D.* in the *Academy* in 1883 was noticed by Murray, Bradley became involved as ‘a correspondent and an increasing participator in the Dictionary until the day when he succeeded Sir James as senior editor.’⁸⁷ According to the on-line history of the *O.E.D.* Bradley; ‘demonstrated such an unusual knowledge of philology that Murray began consulting him on etymological problems.’ When Bradley was appointed as second editor of the *O.E.D.* in 1888, he worked in London, with his own staff, at rooms provided by the British Museum. In 1896 Bradley moved to Oxford – still working separately from Murray (who also lived in the city at that time) in rooms at the Old Ashmolean Museum. For the next forty years Bradley worked on letters E-G, L-M, S-Sh, St, and part of W.

Bradley was a modest, unassuming scholar; although their backgrounds were similar, his quiet manner was a contrast to Murray’s occasionally volatile temperament, and their methods were quite different. Onions, who worked under both men before becoming the fourth editor contrasted Murray’s formal, schoolmasterly instruction with Bradley, the ‘philosophical exponent’, who taught ‘by hint, by interjectional phrase, or even a burst of laughter’.⁸⁸

One of the more notable people who worked in Bradley’s team on the *O.E.D.* was J.R.R. Tolkien, who said that he ‘learned more in those two years than in any other equal period of [his] life.’⁸⁹

As Simon Winchester has remarked, there were some similarities in the childhood background between Murray and Bradley. The former had been born at Denholm, near Hawick, Scotland – his father being a tailor. He, like Bradley had attended grammar school, but had undertaken self-education and was from relatively humble beginnings;

Bradley had counted shipments of spoons and knives that had been sent off to foreign clients; Murray had, prior to his schoolmastering days, written ledger entries for the foreign department of a bank...Just as with James Murray – and so it seems, with so many men and women involved in the dictionary project – Henry Bradley had a wide range of interests and a level of scholarship in each (except music)...⁹⁰

Bradley, however, had a ‘quiet manner ... a contrast to Murray’s occasionally volatile temperament’.⁹¹

Bradley received two honorary awards from Oxford University – a Master of Arts in 1891 and a D. Litt. (Doctor of Letters) in 1914, the latter at the same time as Murray. 1896 saw him elected a member of Exeter College; in 1916 he became a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. Bradley received a Civil List

⁸⁶ H. Bradley, ‘Sir James Murray, 1837-1915’, *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Vol. VIII, (1918), p. 5. There is some discrepancy regarding the dates in the two on-line accounts. The OED’s biography of Bradley <http://public.oed.com/history-of-the-oed/dictionary-editors/> has January 1888; whilst the Dictionary of National Biography’s account of Murray - <http://www.oxforddnb.com/public/dnb/35163.html> - has Bradley beginning his co-editorship in 1889. Bridge’s account (p. 15) has Bradley sending in his ‘first instalment of his independent editing’ in January 1888, being ‘acknowledged as Joint Editor, responsible for his own sections’, in 1889.

⁸⁷ *Collected papers*, p. 12.

⁸⁸ [On-line] last visited 25 January 2018 at URL: <http://public.oed.com/history-of-the-oed/dictionary-editors/>.

⁸⁹ P Gulliver ‘Henry Bradley: ‘sméaþoncol mon’’, Oxford Dictionary blog [on-line] last visited 2 March 2018 at URL: <https://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2013/07/08/henry-bradley/>.

⁹⁰ Winchester, p. 150.

⁹¹ [On-line] last visited 29 January 2018 at URL: <http://public.oed.com/history-of-the-oed/dictionary-editors/>.

pension from 1892 for his services to learning.⁹² On Murray's death in 1915 Bradley became senior editor⁹³ until his own sudden death, of a stroke, in May 1923.⁹⁴ He is buried in St Cross Churchyard, Holywell, Oxford.⁹⁵ He was survived by his wife, Bradley leaving £3601: 10 shillings: 4d.⁹⁶

Bradley's other works

It would be wrong to associate Bradley only with the *O.E.D.*, as his works were numerous, though after he settled at Oxford, in 1896, he concentrated on that work. He did however, for example, contribute over forty articles to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, published between 1885 and 1888. Bradley wrote *The Story of the Goths* and revised a dictionary that had been written on Middle English. Bradley's published criticisms and reviews were wide ranging and learned. His contribution to the understanding of Old and Middle English were important along with that on place-names. He held the office of president of the Philological Society for three periods. With Robert Bridges he formed the Society for Pure English in 1919.⁹⁷ In 1904 his *The Making of English* was published, 'which was for many years one of the most popular accounts of the history of the language.'⁹⁸ Bradley's reviews included articles on literary and linguistic issues some of which showed 'brilliant discoveries or suggestions that have been readily accepted by other scholars'.⁹⁹ All this work along with that on the *O.E.D.* took its toll on Bradley, who had various periods of sickness.¹⁰⁰

Remembering Henry Bradley

Henry Bradley's death was marked locally. Chesterfield Grammar School's *Cestrefeldian* magazine of July 1923, paid tribute to Henry Bradley, publishing a photograph of him, describing him as 'the most famous "old boy"' of the school.¹⁰¹ The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* reported Bradley's death as 'Dr. Bradley Dead. From Sheffield Clerk to World Famous Philologist'.¹⁰² The *Derbyshire Times* was lavish in its praise, describing Bradley as being one the grammar school's 'most brilliant old scholars', identifying that Bradley's limited time there was his only formal schooling. The newspaper went on to comment that 'an authority in "The Times"' had stated that work on the *O.E.D.* had confirmed that Bradley's peers 'are unanimous that it places him in the front rank of scholars, not only of his time, but of all time.'¹⁰³ Bradley also featured in other national publications, including the *Illustrated London News* and *The Graphic*.¹⁰⁴ The *Daily Herald* concluded that Bradley's 'career was a real romance of scholarship and illustration of the all conquering power of perseverance.'¹⁰⁵

Despite Brelsford's brief account of Bradley in a *History of Brimington*, published in 1937,¹⁰⁶ he became a somewhat neglected figure in Brimington. Henry was, however, remembered in January 1946 by the *Derbyshire Times* commemorating his birth in 1845; the newspaper staying that the *Times Literary*

⁹² Craigie, *DNB*.

⁹³ *ibid*.

⁹⁴ *Collected papers*, p. 50.

⁹⁵ [On-line] last visited 14 November 2017 at URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22031650/henry-bradley>.

⁹⁶ Craigie, *DNB*.

⁹⁷ Craigie, *DNB*, in which are summarised his publications. A fuller bibliography can be found in *Collected papers*.

⁹⁸ P Gulliver 'Henry Bradley: 'sméapnocol mon'', Oxford Dictionary blog [on-line] last visited 2 March 2018 at URL: <https://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2013/07/08/henry-bradley/>.

⁹⁹ Craigie, *DNB*.

¹⁰⁰ *ibid*.

¹⁰¹ *Cestrefeldian*, volume XV, no. 3, July 1923, pp.103 – 105.

¹⁰² *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 25 May 1925.

¹⁰³ *DT*, 26 May 1923.

¹⁰⁴ *Illustrated London News*, 2 June, 1923 and *The Graphic*, 2 June 1923, who both published photographs of Bradley.

¹⁰⁵ *Daily Herald*, 25 May 1923.

¹⁰⁶ V Brelsford, *History of Brimington...* (1937), p. 69.

Supplement had published a page devoted to Bradley the previous month.¹⁰⁷ Despite this apparent lack of interest Princess Street School was renamed after him sometime between 1945 and 1964.¹⁰⁸ In early 1979, however, school head teacher Mrs Glenys Eyley claimed that; ‘The name Henry Bradley doesn’t mean anything to people in Brimington’, as she made efforts, with the school’s governors, to have the name dropped.¹⁰⁹ Unfortunately the *Derbyshire Times* made a bit of a hash in attributing the name of the school, saying that Henry Bradley ‘was a local benefactor and one-time postmaster in the village. Bradley Hall was named after him because he left a sum of money for the foundations in his will.’¹¹⁰ They appear to have confused the two Bradleys.¹¹¹ Fortunately the suggestion to drop the name Henry Bradley was not agreed by the county council.

Chesterfield Grammar School did not forget him. From the autumn term of 1946 Bradley ‘house’ was set up additional to the existing five houses.¹¹² The school’s magazine of the period describes Bradley as ‘one of the most famous of Old Boys’.¹¹³ The house colours were light or Cambridge blue, with the motto ‘Nisi Dominus ædificat’ – the opening words of Psalm 127; ‘Unless the Lord builds the house’.¹¹⁴ This new house was created due to a perceived need to keep the number of boys in each house down to no more than 150.¹¹⁵ The house system lasted until the closure of the school in 1991. In more recent years Henry Bradley has been marked in Brimington by the naming after him of Bradley Close and Bradley Way, both off Chesterfield Road.

Conclusions

Henry Bradley was born in Manchester in 1845. He appears to have had a strong religious upbringing as a worshipping Independent. The family moved to Brimington Common in 1846 where his father worked for John Knowles based in the vicinity of the iron smelters around what we now know as Furnace Farm. The family moved to Sheffield in 1859, where Henry’s father was a representative for Knowles, concentrating on brick and fireclay sales to the Sheffield steel industry. During his relatively short stay in Brimington Henry Bradley attended Chesterfield Grammar School where he did well in his studies. This was his only formal education. Henry Bradley’s health was not generally good throughout his years at Brimington and later. The family appeared to underpin their lives as practising Independents.

On moving to Sheffield Bradley began to write for a local newspaper. Later he wrote reviews for various publications. He came to the notice of the then *O.E.D.* editor James Murray, who engaged him on work on the dictionary. Bradley had things in common with Murray – grammar school education, elements of being self-taught and in having a relatively humble childhood. Bradley rose to become the first joint editor (with Murray) of the *O.E.D.*

Bradley’s contributions to the English language have been largely forgotten in Brimington, where he spent most of what must be regarded as his formative years. Just what part his living on Brimington Common amongst the miners, iron smelters, moulders, labourers and farmers had on him is uncertain. What is certain is that his contributions to the English Language have been lasting and are worthy of a little more understanding locally.

¹⁰⁷ *DT*, 25 January 1946.

¹⁰⁸ [On-line], last visited 13 November 2017 at URL: <https://www.henrybradleyschool.co.uk/history>. The school log-books are missing for this period.

¹⁰⁹ *Star*, 12 January 1979.

¹¹⁰ *DT*, 16 February 1979.

¹¹¹ See above, page 23, footnote 1.

¹¹² *Cestrefeldian*, Vol. XXXVIII, no. 1, June 1946, p. 5.

¹¹³ *Cestrefeldian*, Vol. XXXVIII, no. 2, December 1946, p. 69.

¹¹⁴ *ibid.*

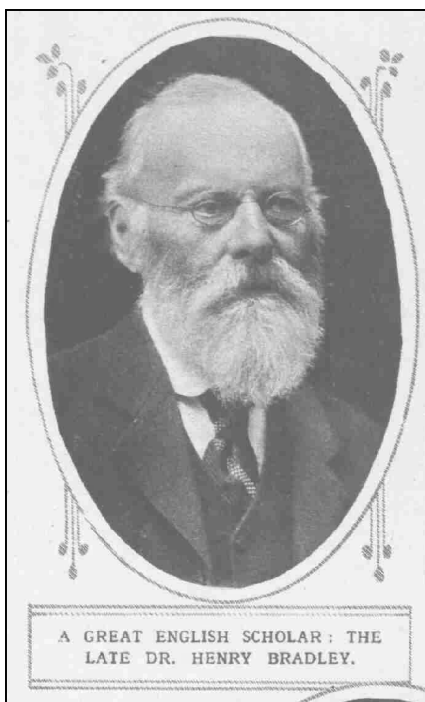
¹¹⁵ Riden, p. 487 and *Cestrefeldian*, Vol. XXXVIII, no. 2, December 1946, p. 69.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful for assistance from Philip Riden particularly with Chesterfield Grammar School issues. Elizabeth Pemberton has also assisted with various family history aspects. My usual thanks to the staff of Chesterfield Local Studies Library and to the staff of the Derbyshire Record Office.



In more recent years the name of Henry Bradley has been better remembered in Brimington than for some time previously. Bradley Close and Bradley Way, off Chesterfield Road, are named after him. (Author).



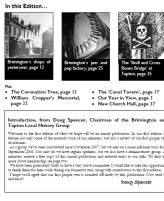
Henry Bradley as he appeared in the Illustrated London News of 2 June 1923, following his death.



Henry Bradley Nursery & Infant School, Princess Street, is still perhaps the best known memorial to Bradley in Brimington. The school was opened in 1904. For many years known simply as Princess Street School, it does not appear to have been named until the period 1945 – 1964. Fortunately efforts to get rid of the name in the 1970s did not reach fruition. (Author).

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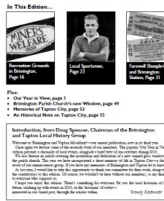
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