



STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE TRUST

The following news items appeared in the Jackson's Oxford Journal

14th February 1891

TRAP ACCIDENT. – On Friday, the 6th inst., Mr. Hinks, of this parish, met with a slight accident while driving to Bicester Market. It appears that the horse shied and fell, causing the shafts of the trap to be broken, but fortunately the occupants were not injured, and subsequently reached Bicester safely. On the return journey, however, a more serious accident befell Mr. Hinks and his friend, who was driving him. Having hired a trap for the return journey, they reached Lower Heyford safely, but not till dark, and the night was exceptionally dark. When they reached the turn at the river bridge for Steeple Aston they got on the footpath, and the wheels came into contact with the posts which divide the road from the footpath, and both were thrown violently into the road. Mr. Hinks fell very heavily, and was very much bruised, and both wrists were sprained, but happily no bones were broken; his friend was only slightly bruised. Help was soon procured and they were brought home in a rather pitiful state.

CO-OPERATIVE CONCERT- On Tuesday evening last a very successful concert was given in the committee Room at the Stores. The room was crowded, and the programme gave every satisfaction. The proceeds were devoted towards the purchasing of a piano for the Society's choir, which is to be formed as soon as the instrument can be procured. Mr. Nash again kindly performed the instrumental and accompanying part of the concert, while the vocal part was rendered by Mrs. Nash, Mrs. Franks, Rev. S.R. Standage, Mr. Field, and Mr G. Jordan. All the pieces were heartily encored, especially Mr. Standage's "Simon the Cellarer," and the comic duet "Domestic Squabbles," ably given by Mrs. Nash and Mr. Jordan. Mr. Field was loudly applauded in his song "A Thousand A Year," but owing to a very severe cold was sorry he could not respond.

STEEPLE ASTON, OXFORDSHIRE

11th July 1789

ELOPED from his Master, William Harris, Mason,
JOHN WOODFORD, aged about twenty-two Years, about five Feet five Inches high, and bright brown straight Hair. All Persons are hereby forbidden to entertain him or employ him at their Peril. If he will return to his Master, he will be treated with usual Kindness, by W. HARRIS

9th December 1876

FIRE ENGINE SOCIETY. – The yearly meeting of the Subscription Fire Engine Society for the Astons, the Bartons, the Heyfords, Rousham, and Dun's Tew, was held on Monday evening, Dec.4, at Hopcroft's Holt Inn, and was attended by Mr. Joseph Hollier, sen. (Churchwarden of Steeple Barton), who occupied the chair: Messrs. Clifford, Coggins, J.Fenemore, W.Fenemore, E.H.King, Hurst, Mathews, Rogers, Roberts, Stevens, Westover, and Wing.- The engine-keeper reported that he tested the working of the engine on the 25th ult., and that all the machinery under his care is fit for use in an emergency. He had been called to one fire at Upper Heyford during the year, but it was subdued before his arrival.- Though the attendance of subscribers was good, it is only too plain that much apathy exists as to the engine and Fire Brigade work, for while names are continually disappearing from the register, through death and removal, few new ones are added; none were so on Monday, but that of the Ref. F.P. Burnett, who was declared entitled to the primary subscription of his predecessor in the Vicarage of Steeple Barton, and that of Mr. Charles Townsend, in place of his late father. It is probable that many who are now averse or lukewarm as to the engine, and to the duty of keeping it in an efficient condition, would feel uncomfortable if its use were refused upon the occurrence of a fire, or if they had to pay heavily for it. The Chairman himself stated that twenty-two years ago he failed to subscribe to the Society, but a fire occurring at a lone farm in his occupation the engine was fetched to it, and he had to pay 7/-. Soon after he became a member, and had ever since been entitled to the use of the engine for sixpence a year.