



STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE

THE BRADSHAW LEGACY

Frequenters of SAVA's exhibitions over the last few years will be aware of the legacy of images and information left by the Bradshaw family who lived at the Grange for nearly 70 years until 1950. This short article tells a little of the story of the Bradshaws in the 20th Century.

Even though the Grange was a relatively modest small estate, it needed a family with sound finances and good cash flow to sustain the house, its grounds, and the staff. Vice-Admiral Richard Bradshaw brought his family to live in Steeple Aston in 1881, purchasing the house from the explorer Edward John Eyre. The vice-admiral had married Emma Walker, daughter of a successful brewing magnate, a family later to become half of the Taylor Walker empire.

Arthur and Emma raised seven children at the Grange- five brothers, of whom the youngest was Arthur (known as Moses), and two daughters (the family's infuriating habit of using nicknames makes family history research a great deal more difficult). Vice-Admiral Bradshaw died in 1899: the brothers were in their twenties as the 20th Century began. Although Arthur was the youngest he was the only one who married. They were all taken into the family brewery business, and one of them- Robert- eventually inherited Arnos Grove. It fell to Moses to inherit the Grange, although while his formidable mother remained alive no doubt she managed many of the affairs of the estate.



*Moses and Bet Bradshaw
(sitting- centre) on the
Grange steps 1901*



Robert Bradshaw 1900

The Walkers lived on the western fringes of London on another country estate known as Arnos Grove. The Bradshaw family would often visit their in-laws and join shooting parties in the woods of the Grove. Today the house there remains as a care home, but the grounds have disappeared. A nearby Underground station on the District Line is appropriately named "Arnos Grove".

Moses married Violet Evelyn Phillips, known as Bet (why??), the daughter of a Monmouth vicar. Moses and Bet had three children: Richard- who became a celebrated Navy pilot, Eira- who later went to live at Trebah in Cornwall, and Loveday- who was later widowed. It is the children of that generation who have kindly stayed in touch with the author of this article and assisted greatly in piecing together the family's history in the village. Two of these, Robert - son of Loveday's second husband, and Bryan (known as Dick- do you see the problem?)- son of her first- have visited us, and Robert's wife Patricia has been particularly informative with her researches.

After Moses died in 1939 his son Richard inherited, but on his return from the war he sold the family interest in the brewery business, only to be killed in a car crash shortly afterwards. Loveday moved away after becoming widowed but Eira continued to live at the Grange until 1950, when she married and moved to the West country, and so ended the long Grange/Bradshaw dynasty.

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