

Information sent at EJ's request by Dellie Sophia Adcock, (Mrs G. R. Adcock) on
February 4, 1948 (Literal transcription)

Bennet George Johns :

Born: August 20, 1820 At Plympton, Devon

Ordained priest, Dublin University, (M.A.)

Master at Helston

Headmaster: Dulwich Grammar School

(EJ note: latter date not right?)

Chaplain, secretary and treasurer: School for the Blind; 1861 to 1897

St George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.

and Wandsworth Junior School

Also: lecturer at North London School for Girls, in English Composition and Literature.

Also: at Bedford College, London.

Reviewer of books: for Morning Post for forty years.

Pensioned by authorities of School for the Blind. One thousand pounds invested for him "with grateful acknowledgment and appreciation."

Vicar: Woodmancote and Popham, Micheldever, Hants. 1887 to 1893

Rector: All Cannings, Devizes, Wilts. 1893 to 1900.

Died: at All Cannings, July 12, 1900 Aged 80

Author: Frequently contributed articles to Edinburgh Review, Fortnightly, Sunday Magazine, Good Words, Chambers' Journal, Cassell's Magazine.

EJ's note: Now here is what Bellie has to say about "Henry Incedon Johns" and the

Visit to The Lizard:

My father, B. G. Johns, was the author of the Visit to the Lizard, Cornwall. We do not know why he sometimes used Henry Incedon Johns. There was no H. I. Johns, except his eldest son (EJ note: my father) who did not write. The illustrations were done by his youngest sister, Ann Johns. He published a book on butterflies. He had many friends in London, belonging to the Savage Club and Authors Club. He was on the Royal Commission for the Blind, was invited to civic dinners given by various Companies of those days. The Bishop and Canons of St Paul's, and the Dean, all old friends. He was a fine preacher and church worker and this came first in his life.

He was very like Lord Tennyson. Mistaken for him on two occasions in his big

wide-awake hat in winter and a broad Scotch plaid wrap over his coat. A distinctive figure in the crowd. A very handsome man, blue-eyed, black hair, later even at 80 only streaked with silver.

He was very dear to us. I used to escape from our governess when lessons were over and sit on a little tin box in his study and often he would forget that I was there. Friends dropped in. Various authors and ~~artists~~ artists, Charles Dickens among them. Reading aloud every evening and music quartettes. He had a lovely tenor voice.

He met my mother at the Flora Dance in Helston. It is noted even in these days as an old custom. They used to dance through the houses. He was left a widower at my birth in 1870. Second marriage in 1872, not very happy. (Note by EJ : my father would not have agreed with this. He always said that the step-mother did her best with the turbulent family.) The three boys, as customary in those days, had every advantage and consideration. They all brought great sorrow on my father. All three were very wild and went their way. We three girls were very dear to him. He was quiet and absent-minded and yet a great worker, too. Book always in hand taking notes for reviews and articles. But these were side issues of a very busy clerical life.

Charles Johns, father's brother, was Charles Kingsley's tutor. My sister (Mary Morley) was a friend of Rose Kingsley's and often stayed there. Charles was also ~~in~~ Holy Orders and an author. He was head master at Winton House (preparatory school ~~of~~ for Winchester College). Author of Flowers of the Field, British Birds and their Haunts, Forest Trees, Etc.

End of Dellie's Memorandum

Dear Cousin Philip,

Dellie's note about the possible identity of Bennet George Johns and Henry Inledon Johns amazes me. Dellie's reference to the illustrations as having been done by "the youngest sister, Ann Johns," might give a clue. From the whole tone of Dellie's letter, it is clear that she is convinced that Bennet did write The Visit to the Lizard. She seems to be unaware of the existence of the Henry Inledon who, according to your information, was her grandfather. I think that her memory must be at fault here and that Bennet did not write the Lizard book. But what about the Ann who did the illustrations? It is all rather baffling. I am sending you my extra copy of Delphina Hepburn who danced into Bennet's life at Helston. Dellie told me that there was a "Bothwell" curse on all the men of the Hepburn line. They all "went wild". It is strange that this has certainly been true in both the generations of which I have known anything. Fortunately, there is a noble collection of old maids to uphold family prestige but we shall disappear within a year or two or maybe three. The men, curiously enough, left no progeny, in the male line, except my brother Alex, who is now 59 and not likely to have a family.

I hope that all this hawing may be of interest to you and that you may yet be able to find out whether it was my grandfather or my great-grandfather who climbed the Lizard cliffs wearing a top hat and pantaloons with straps over the instep. I am proud of him, whoever he was and I hope that I inherited a little of his audacity. I know I got a good share of his love of wild flowers and birds and all free things on this green earth.

Henry Incledon Johns married Maria Boon 1803

1809. Sophia who died 1819.

1811. Charles Alexander.

1819. Bennett George the elder who died the same year.

BENNETT GEORGE JOHNS was born 1820 or later, which agrees with the impression of E.J. that he was well on in the seventies when he died in 1896 (almost certainly)

Before 1852: B.G.J. met Delphinea Sophia Hepburn in the course of the Floral Dance at Helston, and married her; she was descended from Lord Balmerino of the Bothwell clan who was executed on Tower Hill.

~~The children of this marriage were~~

Note. Charles was Headmaster of the School at Helston from June 1844 to December 1847. Was it during this period that the Floral Dance episode occurred?

In 1848 Charles moved to London and lived in Walpole St., Chelsea. Coleridge and Kingsley had preceded him.

The children of Bennett and Delphinea were, according to Violet Morley:

Henry Incledon jr: father of Ethel, Alexander, and Owen.

Cecil Edmund ?

William Edger (married: no children)

Mary Morley: mother of Mary R., and Violet.

Alice

Dellie S. - *married George Adcock.*

Henry Incledon junior was born about 1853

Attended Trinity College Dublin, like C.A.: connection here with Alexander Johns of Carrickfergus

Kingsley was Canon of Chester 1869-75

Bennett moved in literary circles and contributed to reviews. He reviewed novels (Rhoda Broughton)

He was Head of the School for the Blind, Southwark: E.J. feels sure he was head of this institution in 1877(1878?) the year of the marriage of her father, Henry Incledon junior with Amy Robinson at Denbigh.

Bennett was presented to the living of Woodmancott, and subsequently to All Saints, All Cannings, near Devizes, by the patron Lord Ashburton.

Henry Incledon jr became a missionary to the Indians in Canada where he died in 1895 aged 42.

Bennett outlived him by about a year. Bennett was a fine-looking man who cultivated a Tennysonian appearance.