

The Takeley Pump Company

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A few years ago Michael Piper, a member of Takeley Local History Society, brought along to a meeting a booklet he had put together in 1998 recording the history of the Takeley Pump Company. Michael's great grandfather George Piper was one of the founding members of the company. Not so very long after that Michael sadly passed away.

The pump would have been a very important feature in Brewers End as the sole water supply for many families. It even featured on a village postcard. It can still be seen beside the road through Brewers End outside Chestnuts, where one of the shareholders, Mr Lambert, had a post office, grocery shop and general store. Across the road at Guyvers George Piper ran a carpenters/undertakers business although that does not do justice to the wide range of items and services that were for sale.



Postcard of the pump

The Takeley Pump Company



Chestnuts



Guyvers

Following Michael Piper's death time went by and when I made enquiries as to who might have a copy of that booklet it appeared that no copies existed and that the original was somewhere with Michael's family who no longer lived locally. Eventually I had the good fortune to be put in touch with Michael's daughter Heather and she agreed to track down the booklet and make a copy for me, which she did.

The Takeley Pump Company



George Piper 1897

Heather and her family have kindly agreed that we can include a copy of the booklet within this compilation and so what follows is a facsimile copy of Michael Piper's original booklet .

**TAKELEY PUMP
COMPANY**

1886

1934





Brewer's End Takeley Pump

Preface.

Why write an article on the Takeley Pump Company? Pumps and wells were part of life in the past, especially in the rural areas. It was a meeting place for the locals where they gossiped, quarrelled and put the world right!!

I hope that what I have written, a little piece on the history of Takeley, will help the present generation and generations to come to understand something about village life in those days.

George Piper was my great grandfather and his son, Alfred my grandfather. Alfred was affectionately known by all who knew him as "Gugga" (where this nickname originated from we do not know.)

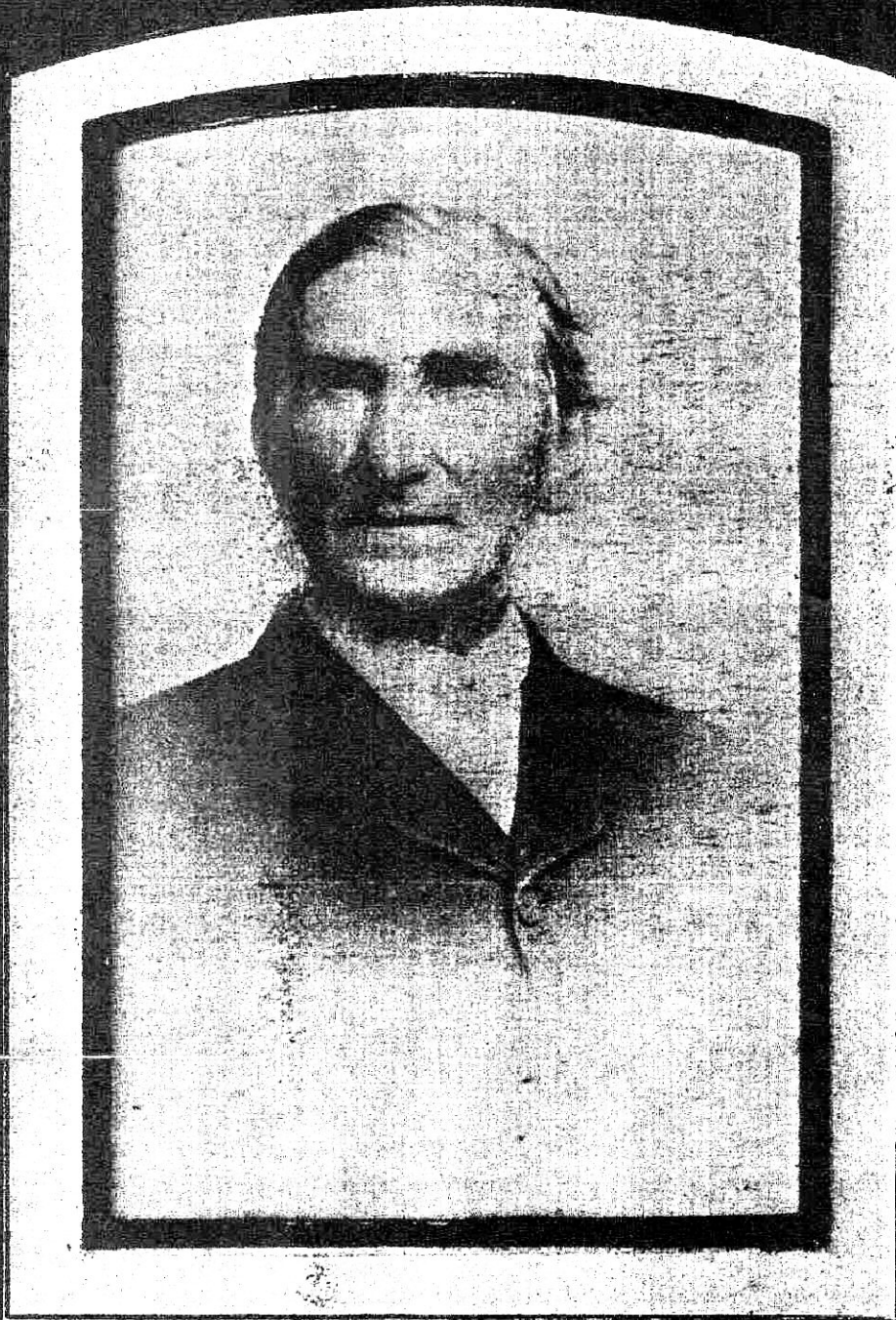
I spent many happy days at "Guyvers" Brewer's End, where my grandparents lived, and fetched many a pail of water from the pump to fill the copper in the wash house, ready for "Bath Night"

All the facts and information herein were obtained for the surviving "Minutes and Accounts" book of the Takeley Pump Company.

It has been handed down through four generations and was lent to me by the late Marjorie Wallis whilst I am researching the family history.

Mike Piper

October 1998



George Piper

The Takeley Pump Company.

It must have been a hard life in years gone by when most people had to draw their water from a well and carry it home. How many buckets a day were needed for domestic use for a family of six, which was the norm at the beginning of the 20th Century. Fathers would tell their families "Don't waste water, I have to carry it." Today they say the same except it's "Water us on the meter, I have to pay."

For the benefit of the families that lived in Brewers End, Takeley in the late 1800's and drew water from the well, (by lowering a bucket into the well and hauling out the water.) Five local gentlemen formed the Takeley Pump Company in 1886 and fitted a pump on the well head. They are recorded as

Mr. W. Lambert

Mr. V. Smith

Mr. W. Patmore

Mr. G. Piper

Mr. P. Stillins

All had shares in the company. Mr. Lambert had four, Mr. Patmore held four and the remaining three share holders held one each making a total of eleven.

"The Minutes As Recorded" 1886

The first recording we have in the surviving minute and account book is dated 22nd December 1886 and tells of the meeting held in the vestry of Takeley Congregational Church on that date. It states that Mr. George Piper should collect all monies due from the people drawing water from the pump by the 24th November of each year and that he be requested to call a meeting annually on 1st December to divide his receipts. Anyone not paying by this date would have the privilege of using the pump cut off!!!

As the pump was situated opposite Mr. G. Piper's residence he was asked by the committee "to use all his efforts to watch the interests of his fellow share holders and check those who used the pump "without proper right." In later years the pump was chained and padlocked and each "paid up" participant was issued with a key.

The secretary who wrote the minutes was probably George Piper's wife Elizabeth as the writing is the same as that which is written in the accounts book of George Piper, Carpenter and Undertaker etc. that book having been preserved to this day.

TAKELEY PUMP

Shareholders:-

	<i>4</i>	<i>Shares</i>
<i>MR. W. LAMBERT.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>MR. T. SMITH.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>MR. W. CATMORE.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>MR. G. PIPER.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>MR. P. SULLINS.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>

The Well and Pump

The well was sunk on ground belonging to R. Lambert (W. Lambert's father) around 1879 and the pump installed shortly after the forming of the company.

The pump, which still stands in Brewers End, has the name G. INGOLD B'SP STORTFORD cast into the body of the pump.

G. Ingold, Pump Makers and Well Sinkers had their workshop in Apton Road Bishop's Stortford. The business was started by a J. Ingold in 1851 and upon his death was carried on by George Ingold.

The cast iron body of the pump was probably cast at the iron foundry of William Hughes in the Causeway, Bishop's Stortford, by the River Stort, as William Hughes was in partnership with George Ingold.

George Piper did the repairs to the pump, fence etc. The winter of 1892/94 must have been a hard one as the pump "frooze" (Essex dialect in those days for "froze").

One entry in the accounts book reads:- 6th February 1894, Paid G. Piper 2 shillings and 8 pence for thawing out pump and packing with manure!!

An original invoice (which still exists) shows that repairs were carried out to the pump on 13th July 1888 and the invoice for that work is dated January 1889 some 6 months later. No cash flow problems for G.Piper in those days.

Share holders

Throughout the years shares changed hands. On George Piper's death in 1900 his shares went to his wife Elizabeth and on her death in 1914 went to their son Alfred. The Piper family were the only ones to have held shares throughout the history of the company.

Share prices rose and fell in the late 1800's much the same as they do today. Below are a few examples.

1887 3 shillings and 2 pence

1888 1 shilling and 1/2 pence

1889 3 shillings and 4 pence

1890 3 shillings

1891 2 shillings and 2 pence

1892 2 shillings and 9 pence

1895 5 shillings and 4 pence

1896 4 shillings and 8 pence

1897 4 shillings and 9 pence

1898 3 shillings and 8 pence

1899 5 shillings

1900 5 shillings

No more recordings after 1900.

Clients

Over the years clients in Brewers End supplied with water moved on as the names in the records show.

The years 1903/04 show the following families drew their water from the pump.

Webb	Burt	Mumford	Peachy
Wall	Hall	Burls	Tuelon
Brand	Franklin	Felstead	Stevenson
Tebbitt	Dorrington	Lambert x2	Morrison
Martin	Little	Pallett	Barthrop
Rolf	Burton	Phelan	Pawsey

Many of the descendants of these families still live in Takeley today.

Charges

Charges for the use of the pump as recorded are:-

1886 1 shilling a quarter of year

1921 2 shillings a quarter of year

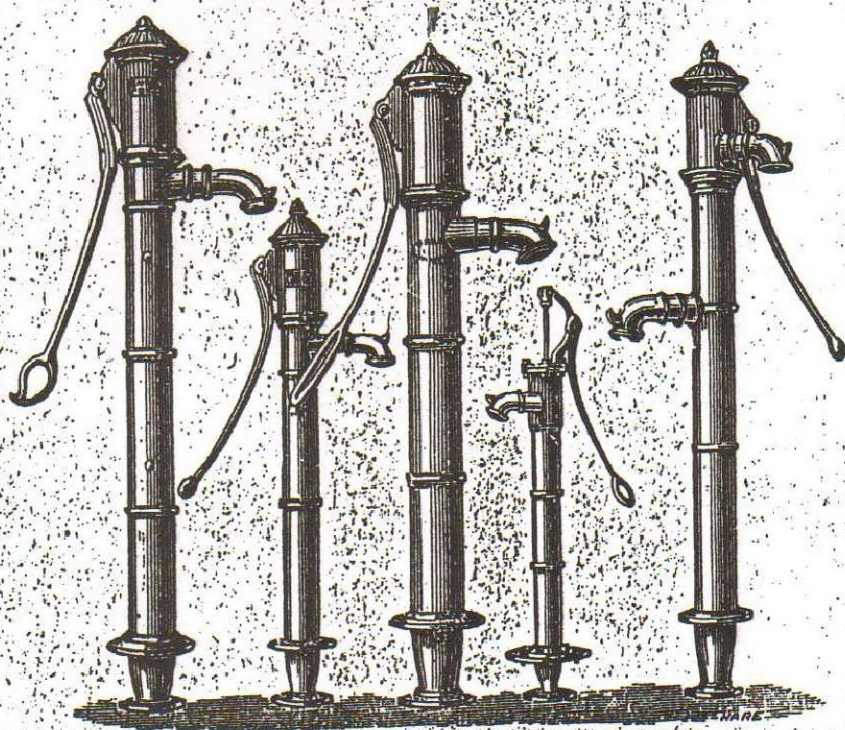
I, Robert Lambert of Takeley in Essex
Tailor do hereby acknowledge that I have this
day received from Martha Piper of Takeley
in the County of Essex the sum of ^{four} ~~five~~ Pounds and
^{sixteen} ~~five~~ shillings in full for the free and uninterrupted
right for the said Martha Piper and the occupier
for the time being of the Cottage and premises at
Hatfield Broad Oak and now in the occupation
of George Piper and belonging to the said Martha
Piper to have, draw, and take water from the
Well now lately made and sunk on ground belonging
to me at Takeley aforesaid he and they with other
persons having a like right from time to time paying
a proportionate part of keeping the said Well and
fences thereto belonging in good order repair and
condition.

As witness my hand this twenty fourth day of
November — 1879

Robert Lambert



GEORGE INGOLD,
HYDRAULIC ENGINEER,
WELL SINKER & PUMP MANUFACTURER,
BISHOP'S STORTFORD.



PUMPS

For Houses, Cottages, Gardens, Farm Yards, Maltings, Brick-
fields, Water Carts, Road Sides, &c., &c.

Pumps of all Sizes for Wells of any Depth.

Good Workmanship, Strength, and Durability.

WELLS SUNK AND BORED.

Estimates given for the Supply of Water in any quantity.

Water Service in Bishop's Stortford laid on from the Mains.

Bollers and Hot Water Pipes Supplied and Fixed for Heating Green-
houses, Conservatories, &c.

Copy of the original advertisement for George Ingold

Takeley Public Village Pumps.

Other public pumps in Takeley, mostly beside the A120 were:-

"The Street" (Thremall Priory end) Opposite Taylor's Farm,
near the "old Mill Pub"

"The Street" On brow of hill near "Greenman" Pub.

"Smith's Green" On the green. (This pump is still insitu.)

"Dunmow Road" Near what is now the Esso Garage.

No information on the ownership of the above pumps is available as to date.

Mains water was laid on to some parts of the village in the late 1930's.

ESTABLISHED 1867.

BREWERS END, TAKELEY.

January 1889

The Takeley Pump Committee

To GEORGE PIPER,
CARPENTER, UNDERTAKER, &c.

1888 July 13.	To painting & Repairing Pump	£	s	d	
	Fence.	1	5	0	
	New Water slab.		2	6	
		£	1	7	6

Paid
George Piper

Invoice from George Piper to Takeley Pump Company

As The Years Rolled By.

Information on the company from 1906-1921 is non-existing and the next entry in the book is dated 8th February 1921. Shareholders recorded as Rev. Burton, A. Lambert, B. Balthrop and A.C. Piper. They proposed a letter be sent to all owners of properties whose tenants used the pump informing them that it had been decided to make an annual charge of 8 shillings per house, such charge to commence as from the 1st January 1921 and would be payable in advance. It was resolved therefore to lock the pump and supply a key to subscribers and shareholders.

The last entry is dated 7th July 1934. Shareholders present were the same as 1921.

It was recommended that the well and pump were handed over to Dunmow Rural District Council (now Uttlesford.) Mr. Lambert, the treasurer was given one week to "Balance the Books" so that any monies could be equally divided among the share holders.

Hence ended the being of the Takeley Pump Co.

Copy

"Guyvers"

Takeley,

9th February, 1921.

Dear Sir,

Brewers End Pump.

I am desired by the Owners of the above to draw your attention to the fact that your Tenants have been supplied with water from this Pump without any payment having been made for same.

The Owners feel they cannot allow this to continue without some rent being paid for the use of the Pump, and it has been decided to make an Annual Charge of 8/- per house, such charge to commence as from 1st January last, and is payable in advance.

I shall be glad to hear that you agree to this.

Yours faithfully,

The 'Reminder'



CARTE DE VISITE



PORTRAIT.

