

The WRIGHT Family - Hempstead Vicarage - 1900 and subsequent history

In 2001, two old, fire and water damaged photograph albums were purchased at auction. They contained pictures of a family named WRIGHT resident at the Vicarage, Hempstead by Holt, Norfolk and also pictures of life at a University and the Army.

It was known there were memorials in the churchyard to a WRIGHT family. Subsequent research failed to make any connection with a local family and it seems they were on holiday.

The WRIGHT Family

Charles Francis Wright was born in Edinburgh in 1853. By 1881 he was still unmarried, living at 8, Duke Street, Westminster, London and a practising Barrister at Law.

He married and on the 4th September 1890, Bertha, his wife, gave birth to their son Charles James Stewart Wright.

The date of his wife's death cannot be ascertained, but Charles was already a widower by April 1901, and by now a stockbroker/agent living in Eastbourne with his son and one servant.

In 1900 he and his son are with a house party at the Vicarage at Hempstead by Holt, Norfolk. The names and relationship of other in the house to Charles and his son are not known.

Charles Francis Wright died in in an apartment block at 65, George Street, Portman Square, London on the 30th December 1911.

His estate of £975 : 2 : 0d was left to his son.

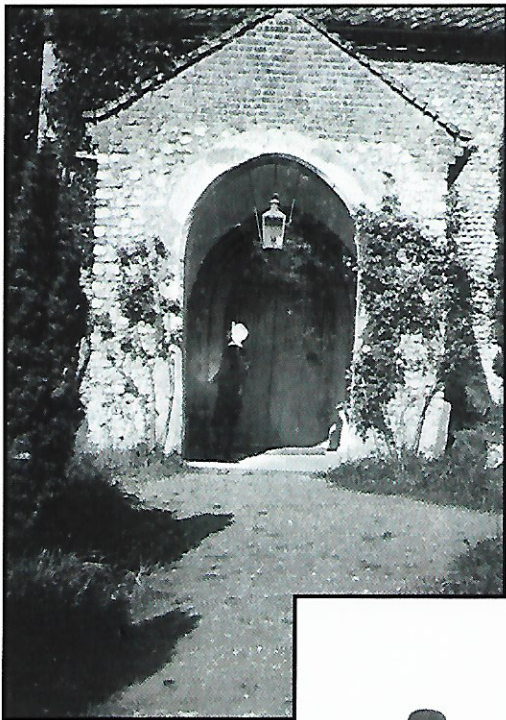
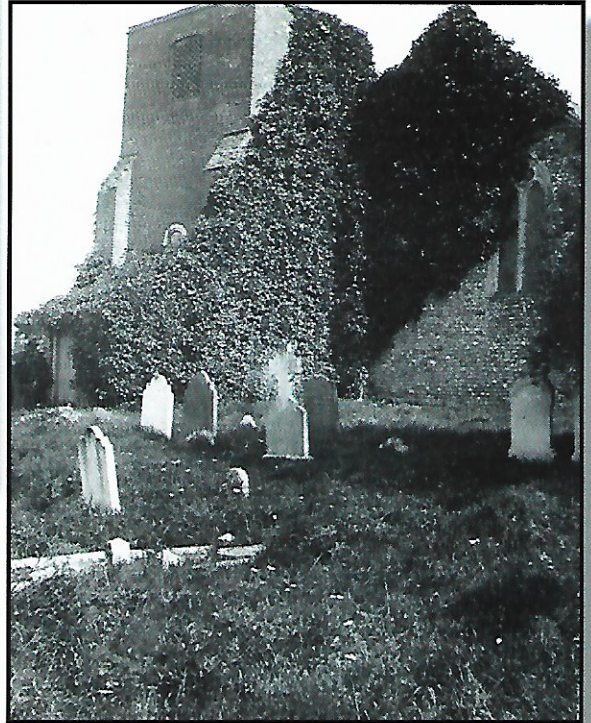
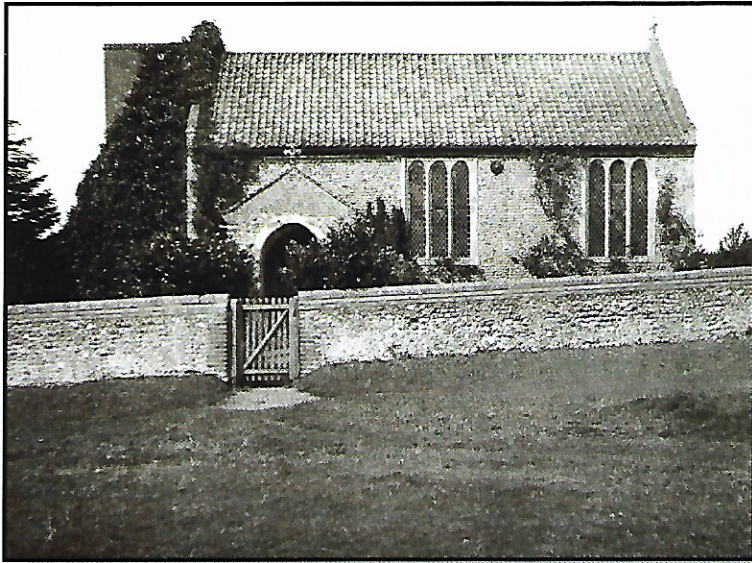
Geoffrey R. Harris
Hempstead.



Hempstead Vicarage - with Charles J.C. Wright in a pony and trap at the front of the vicarage - the conservatory remains much the same today.



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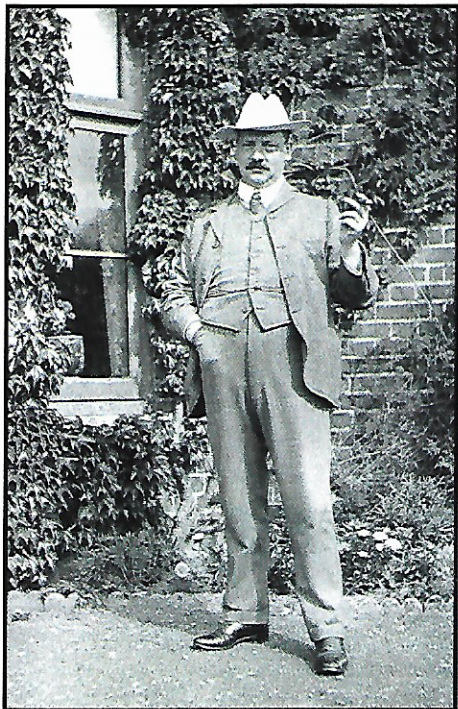
Sunday meant attending church. The church remains much the same today, although the mass of ivy has been removed and a thatched apse built; unfortunately the imposing lamp in the porch has been removed.

The churchyard has been extended and a length of the wall removed.

The church party are walking back to the vicarage across what is now the village playing field.



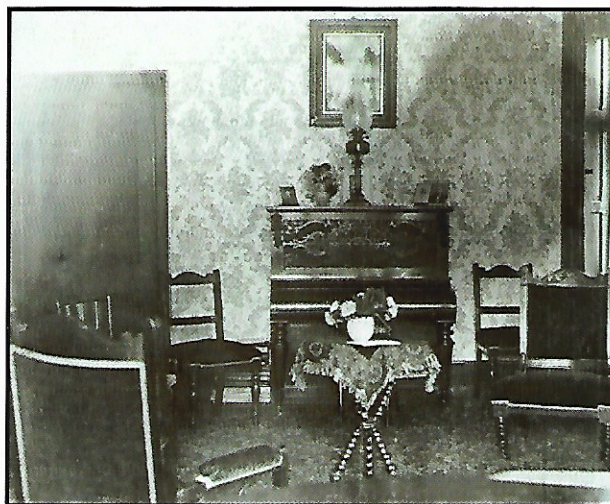
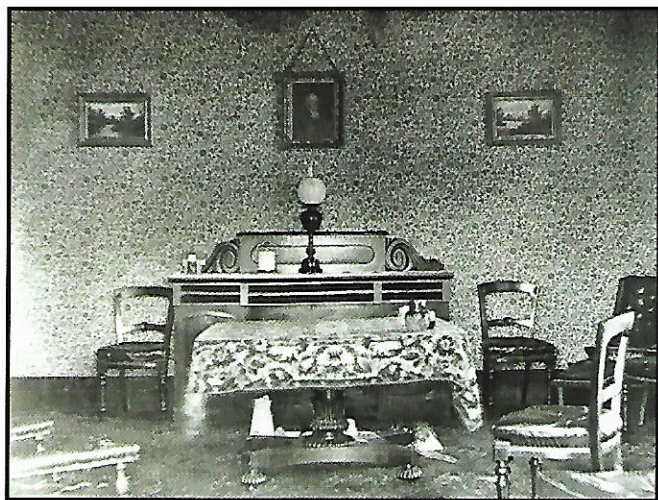
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Charles Francis Wright

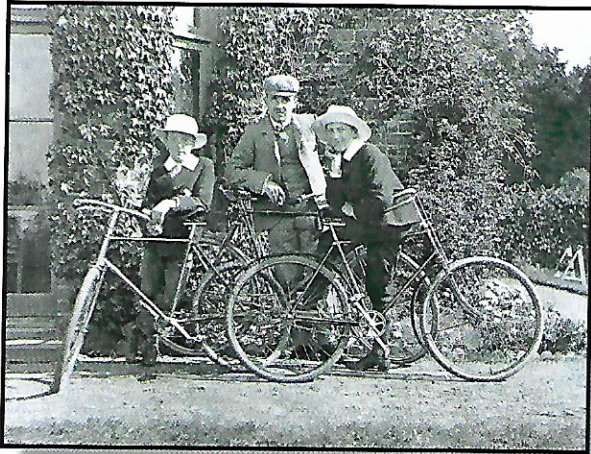


One of the party was a keen photographer - not for him a small cameras to be carried in his pocket. - and but for work we would not be able to see how they spent their days.



Oh my!
Look at
us

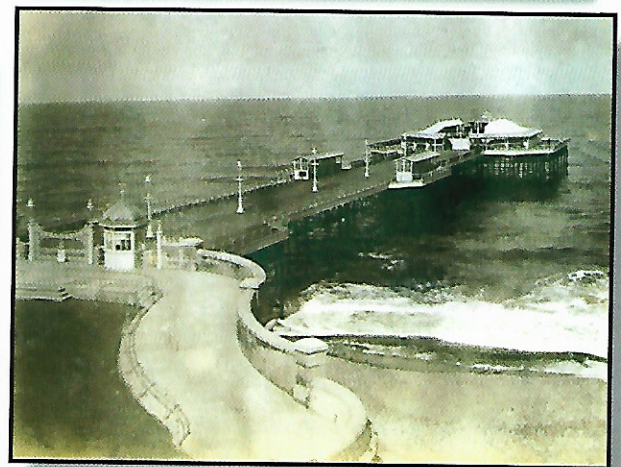
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For entertainment, the local countryside was explored by cycle or on foot.



The imposing church of St Margaret, Cley



Cromer Pier, finished in 1900 - and not much altered over the years.



The party stops for a rest and some refreshment - watched by a bearded local somewhat bemused by the influx of 'them rich visitors'. There are six soda siphons in the picture - did they drink just soda water, or have they hidden the alcohol?



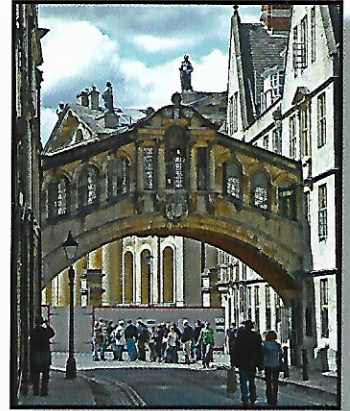
.....and a walk on a Sunday meant dressing up

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The front entrance to Hertford College

Charles James Stewart Wright was born at Headington, Oxfordshire on the 4th September, 1890. He was educated at Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire between 1904 and 1909 where he was a school prefect. He won an exhibition to Hertford College, Oxford. There are no details of his life there except he was Secretary of the Harts Sailing Club and Captain of the Eight.



The cantilever bridge joining two parts of the college



Charles J. S. Wright

The Eight, 1912.

- Bow.—W. W. WARD.
- 2.—R. S. EVANS.
- 3.—F. C. DAVIS.
- 4.—D. L. RUSSELL.
- 5.—R. C. H. KINGDON.
- 6.—C. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN.
- 7.—O. W. PRICE.
- Str.—C. J. S. WRIGHT.
- Cox.—R. P. FRIHAM.

Hailywell Press, Ltd.

The Eights,

May 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 1912.



HERTFORD COLLEGE
BARGE.

—
Captain: C. J. S. WRIGHT.
Secretary: C. WILLIAMS-VAUGHAN.



A reminder of times gone by - a coaching party taken outside the main entrance to the college - little did many of these young men realise that they were soon to be sucked into the cauldron of war - who were they? perhaps members of the sailing or rowing club - and how many survived the war?

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In World War I Charles J.S. Wright was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the 14th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

The London Gazette for the 26th February 1915 records his promotion "Temporary 2nd Lieut to Temporary Lieut from 1st October 1914."

By July 1916 he had been promoted to Captain in the 7th (Service) Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.

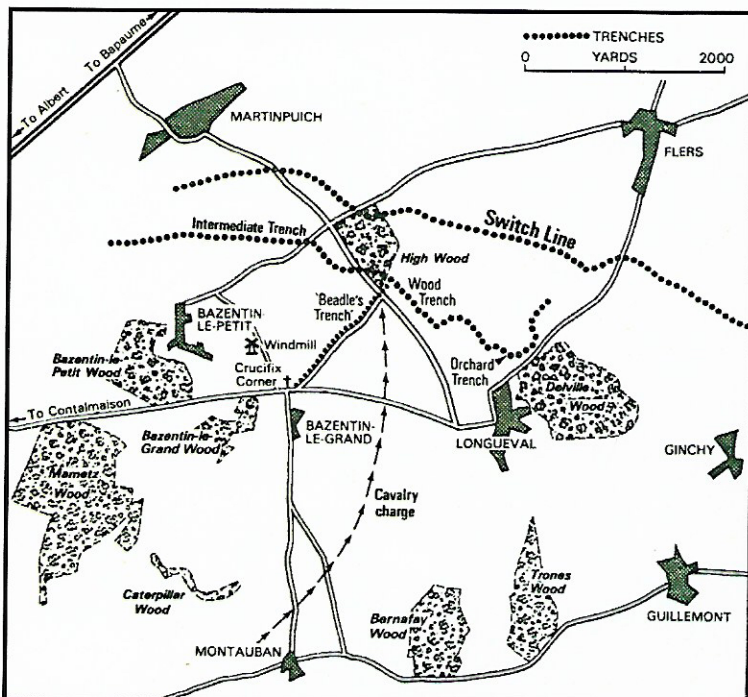
The Battalion was then part of the 110th Brigade, 21st Division commanded by Major General D. Cambell.

The Division took part in the Battle of the Somme. The attack on Bazentin-le-Petite was made during the second part of the battle, and was the first night action recorded. Wright was killed in action on the 14th July, 1916 during the attack on the village.

His remains lie in the Serre Road Cemetery No: 2, Somme, France.



*Charles James Stewart Wright
2nd Lieut. 14th Bn. W. Yorks. Regiment.
Killed in action. July 14, 1916
Oct. 25.*



The attack in which Charles Wright was killed was considered a success, but, as usual, failure to follow up and secure their positions resulted in many months of hard fighting and great loss of life.

a few lines in history tells the story ".... attack on Bazentine-le-Petit. Advanced at 3.25 a.m. with 6th Leicestershire. D Company of left and B and C in centre held up by machine-gun fire. Enemy's front and second line taken by 4 a.m.. By this time **only two officers left in action.** Village later cleared and line established in Bazentin-le-Petit wood. Relieved and to Fricourt.

Casualties - 553.

The village was easily cleared.... "