

## The CULLUM FAMILY OF WHEATLEY

My father was Arthur Edmund Cullum who was Chairman of Wheatley Urban District Council for some years, and a Justice of the Peace for thirteen years until his death in 1946. Cullum House and Cullum Road are named after him.

He was a builder in partnership with his brother, Francis William, on the site which is now known as 'Hathaways'. They also owned a sawmill on the site of what is now Simon's Close, and the stabling for the timber horses was there too. The horses grazed on the top field which is now Howe Close.

The wheelwright's shop (now two garages) in Hathaways was largely for the repair of farm wagons and the making of wheels. Opposite the wheelwright's shop was Harry Chandler's blacksmith's shop. He used to shoe the timber-horses, and make the metal tyres for the wheels in the ancient manner of 'tyring'.

The tying platform lay between the two workshops. This was a large circle of stone with an iron spike in the centre to which the wheel was clamped. Then the re-hot tyre would be lifted from the heat, and dropped onto the rim. (*There is a diagram of this on Sheet 5 of the Trades and Industry exhibition*). Bill Hollifield was the wheelwright, and Chandler the blacksmith.

On Saturday November 16 1985, my elder son and I spent the afternoon in Wheatley looking at all the changes which had taken place in the last fourteen years, since the last Cullum (my sister Barbara) left Wheatley, after selling the land and house in Westfield Road.

Templars Close is built on what was the tennis court, a flower and vegetable garden, and the orchard, and two blocks of town houses stand on the land my father let as allotments.

The Cullums can trace their ancestors back to 1641, when the family lived at Wantage, and then moved to Long Hanborough in the north of the county. From there they moved to Wheatley.

According to Dr Hassall's 'Wheatley Records', one of the Cullum women married a Munt, and emigrated to Australia.

On page 16 of the booklet on Wheatley Schools is Mrs Martha Hunt who was my great, great aunt - and her tombstone is amongst those of the Cullums at the back of Wheatley Churchyard.

We have a photograph of the horses bringing the timber along Church Road, and I will send you a copy. Also one of the garden before Templars Close was built.