

# THURSDAY'S THUNDERSTORMS: DELUGE OF RAIN AT WHEATLEY

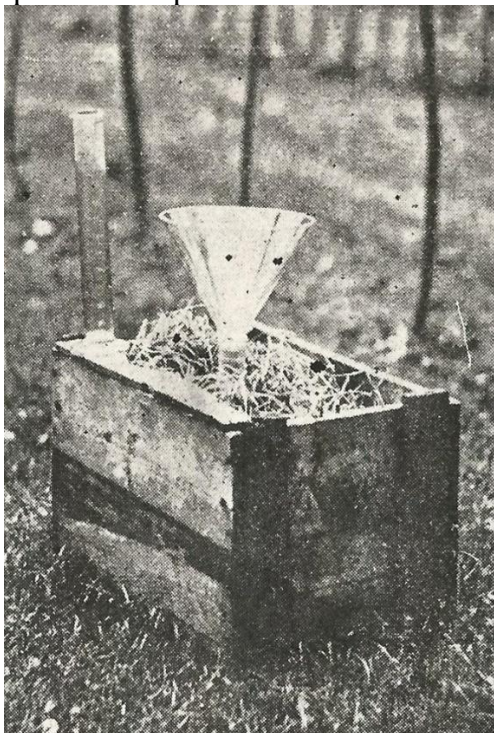
From Oxford Journal Illustrated 15 June 1910

Wheatley, six miles east of Oxford, by reason of its situation at the foot of a crescent of hills, has suffered severely from storm-floods on several occasions in the past. Never before, however, has such havoc been wrought as on Thursday last, when a cloud-burst of record severity was experienced. From 12.40 pm to 1.40 pm over four inches of rain fell, the equivalent of over 400 tons to the acre, and the village for some time was at the mercy of a raging torrent. Hailstones of exceptional size stripped the foliage from the trees and shattered the garden plants, whilst the flood carried everything moveable before it. Unfortunately, through the flooding of the Post Office, Wheatley was isolated during the day and our photographers were unable to reach the village before the waters had subsided. Some idea of the extent of the flood may perhaps be gauged from the above pictures which show:

- 1) A house in Crown Road in which the lower rooms were submerged to a depth of six feet. The cross shows the window through which Mrs Harding escaped.



- 2) Mr Leyshon's gauge, which registered the phenomenal rainfall of 4.34" in one hour. This gauge stands quite in the open.





- 3) A house in Crown Road. Mr Harding (on the left) is pointing to the high water mark. The furniture in the sitting room swirled round in the flood and a harmonium was completely ruined. The water even entered a Dutch clock hanging near the ceiling.



- 4) Mr Robbins farmyard, (X) being a rick weighing nearly two tons which was carried bodily by the flood from the site upon which the farmhands are standing.





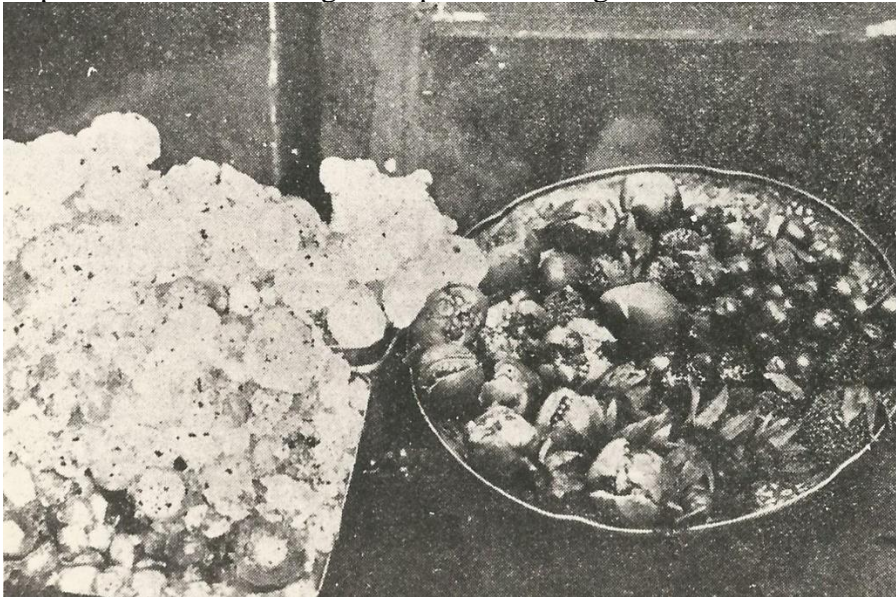
- 5) Replacing the road surface opposite the Merry Bells. In several places the sand was deposited one and two feet thick, the roads resembling a sea-beach



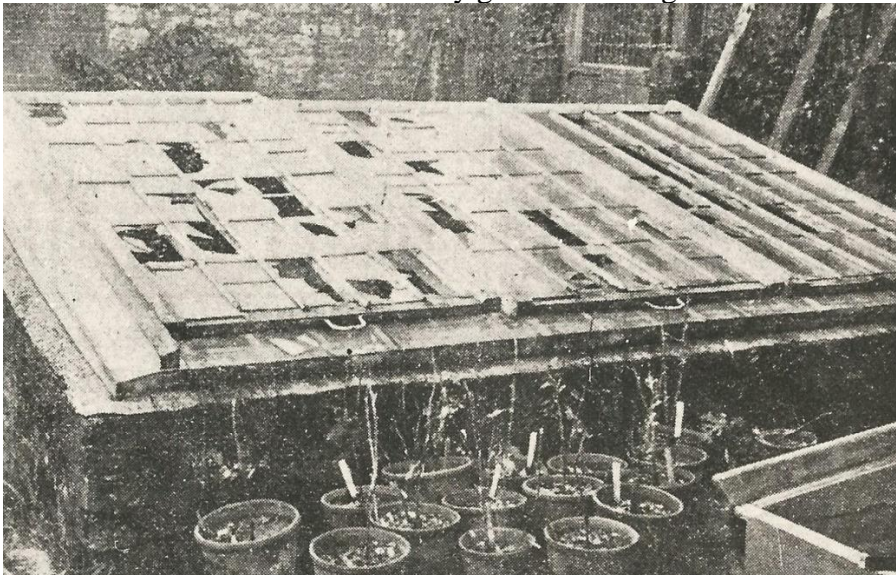
#### THE WHEATLEY DELUGE: REMARKABLE HAILSTONES

Some striking records of the hailstones and damage caused by them in the Wheatley district during Thursday's storm are supplied by the Rev E. C. Spicer, rector of Waterstock, whose garden was stripped of its vegetation.

- 1) A pile of hailstones alongside a plate of damaged walnuts and strawberries.



- 2) One of several frames in the rectory garden whose glass was riddled



## OUR LETTER BOX

### THE FLOODS AT WHEATLEY.

To the Editor of the OXFORD JOURNAL  
ILLUSTRATED.

SIR,—The village of Wheatley has suffered in a most grievous way from the waterspout which burst over this district on Thursday, June 9. when  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rain fell in one hour. The whole of the village, which lies in a hollow, was flooded to an alarming extent,, many of the houses being filled with over 3ft. of water, and the main street in less than half-an-hour was a raging torrent, down which were washed water-barrels, tables, and other things. It is a great mercy the storm broke. during the day and not at night, or possibly life might have been lost. Owing to the suddenness of the storm it was impossible for the inhabitants to make any preparation to save their goods, and consequently all their lower rooms have been flooded, cupboards filled, clothes covered with muddy water, and furniture soaked to an incredible extent. In addition to this loss, the gardens of many of them have been ruined by the hail and raging water, and what were flourishing potato patches or onion beds are more like a wilderness. Many fowls and chickens have also been drowned. I, therefore, appeal to, your readers, many of whom know what misery a flood causes, to send me help, which will be administered in a most impartial manner by a committee consisting of myself, the churchwardens, the chairman if the District Council, and others.—

Yours faithfully,

W. D. B. CURRY.

Wheatley Vicarage, Oxford