

## *ROBERT HENRY LEGG 1865-1950*

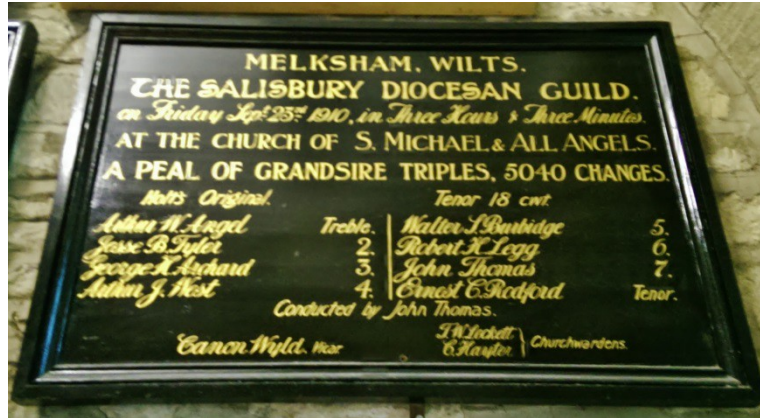


*Robert Henry Legg & eldest daughter Margaret Annie Patterson Legg (1892-1992)*



*Mary (Mines) & Robert Henry Legg*

<b>Family Timeline</b>				
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Other</b>
Robert Henry Legg	1865	Nelkerby, Dorset	1950	Robert Henry Legg married Mary Mines September 1890.
Mary Mines	1861	Corsley, Wiltshire	1940	
Margaret Annie Patterson Legg	1892	Shepton Mallet, Somerset	1992	My Great Aunty Mag, never married.
Dorothy Mary Legg	1894	Shepton Mallet, Somerset	1927	Never married.
Winifred Alice Legg	1896	Shepton Mallet, Somerset	1956	Married David Crook, Son Theodore, lived in Beanacre.
Robert George Legg	1897	Melksham, Wiltshire	1937	Never married.
Richard Stanley John Legg	1899	Melksham, Wiltshire	1992	My Grandfather (Grampy Legg), married Joyce Emilie Coombe.



### SALISBURY DIOCESE RINGERS

#### Festival at Lyme Regis – Oldest Member Travels from Melksham

Ringers from all parts of the Salisbury Diocese attended the annual festival of the Diocesan Guilders at Lyme Regis on Saturday. More than 180 members were present, but none was more enthusiastic than Mr. R.H. Legg, of Melksham, who had travelled nearly 80 miles to be present. Mr. Legg was anxious to reach Lyme Regis not only to attend the festival, but also to refresh his memory & to recall happy days he spent in the quaint Dorset town where he learnt to ring many years ago. He was probably the oldest ringer present, certainly the one with the longest experience of ringing, for he has taken his turn in many towers for the past 62 years.

Other ringers with long records of service were also present, and it was decided to send a telegram of congratulations to Mr. J. Sansom, of Donhead St. Mary, who has been ringing for more than 50 years, and was celebrating his golden wedding. He is the captain of the Donhead band of ringers.

The festival opened shortly after midday with a Guild service in the Parish Church, attended by members, their wives and friends. The Rev. F.L. Edwards, of Kington Magna, hon. Secretary and treasurer of the Guild, officiated, and the preacher was the Rev. C. Carew Cox (vicar of Lyme Regis). During the service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells by four of the Lyme ringers, the Vicar being one of them. Canon W. Jacob, R.D., read the lesson.

#### ENGLISH ATMOSPHERE.

In his address the Vicar said one could not help feeling sorry for the parish which never heard its bells, either because they had no bells or no ringers, because bells did more than people realised to maintain the real English atmosphere of the countryside. They were a heritage of the past, and it would be a real disaster if parishes were to lose them.

A collection of £2 2s 6d is to be devoted towards diocesan memorials to the late Archdeacon Carpenter and the late Canon Christopher Wordsworth. Stedman triples were sounded on the bells by mixed bands before and after the service.

At a luncheon which followed in the Church Hall, the Rev. R.H. Gundry, Master of the Guild, who has recently recovered from a long illness, presided and he was supported by the Mayor of Lyme Regis (Alderman W.J. Emmett), the Rev. Canon Hellins, D.D. of Marnhull, the Rev. C.F. Urquart (rector of Chideock), Messrs. H.J. Ramsbottom and C.H. Sutton (Lyme Regis churchwardens) and others. A message was received from Lord Shaftesbury, president of the Guild, regretting his inability to be present.

#### MAYOR'S WELCOME.

A civic welcome was accorded to the guests by the Mayor (Alderman Emmett), who said he was particularly pleased to be present, as he was a ringer at one time.

Lyme Regis to-day was fortunate in having one of the few clerical ringers in the diocese, in their vicar. Under his able instruction, scientific change ringing had progressed and peals of Bob Major, Grandsire and Grandsire Triples had been rung by the local band.

It was a great pleasure to him last year to unveil a peal board erected in the belfry to record a peal of Stedman Triples, rung in honour of the Coronation. It was the first peal of its nature rung by a local band in Dorset.

**The Western Gazette, Friday, May 27th, 1938.**

**Robert Henry Legg the Gardener.**



Robert Henry Legg was the head-gardner at Melksham House. Originally working for Captain Richard Chaloner, the second son of Richard Penruddock Long, M.P. of West Ashton, who was a tenant at Melksham House from 1896 to c1903.



*Gisborough Hall, R. H. Legg is standing in back row on the right.*

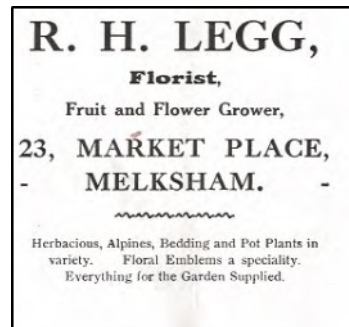
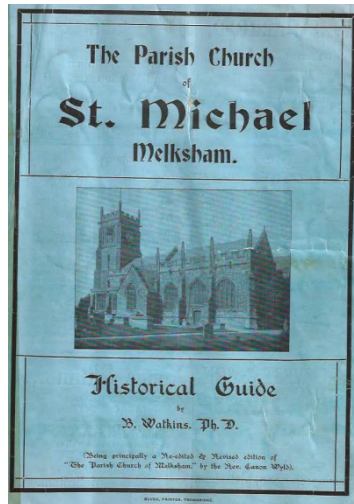
When Captain Chaloner left Melksham to take up residence at Gisborough Hall, Robert Legg went with him, but returned three years later to Melksham House and took over as the head gardener to Mr. Blathwayt. He and his family lived in one of the two cottages which were located behind Bransons Motor Works (*Author Note: Although for many years I worked at Bransons and saw the cottages daily, I never appreciated the one on the right of picture below, was the home of my grandfather – Richard S.J Legg & great-grand parents*). The second cottage was occupied by Mr. Blathwayt's coachman, who then became the chauffeur.

As the head gardener, Robert Legg was assisted by six under gardeners.



*Robert Henry Legg tending Melksham House Garden, also see article in the [Well House Collection](#)*

## Robert Henry Legg the Gardener.

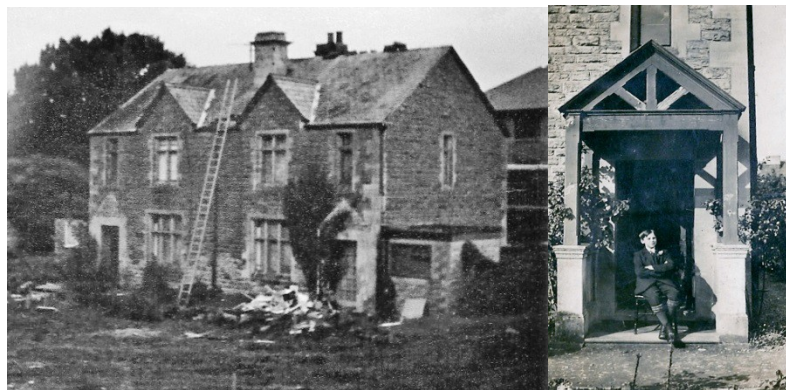


Advert from *The Parish Church of St. Michael, Melksham – Historical Guide* c1925. View full guide at the [Well House Collection](#)

## Robert Henry Legg's Other Interests.

A tape recording was made about 1989, by my Uncle Tim talking with his Father Richard Stanley John Legg, the youngest son of Robert Henry Legg. Robert Henry sang Tenor, he was in a choir at Whiteleys in Surrey, and he sang Solo. My grandfather remembers him having a tie-pin with Whiteleys on it, in those days ties were knitted. The musical tradition followed in the family, George and Dorothy both played the church organ, George at St. Michael's and many other churches and Dorothy at Semington Church. Richard sang for many years in St. Michael's Church Choir and later so did Tim. Tim and his sister Christine (my Mother) both played the piano and could sing well and in the next generation my sister Julie sings well, but for some reason this musical talent alluded me!

## The Gardens Cottage



*The Garden Cottage's being demolished c1986 & youngest son Richard Stanley John Legg sat outside cottage c1911*

My grandfather remembers there being a boiler in the kitchen at The Gardens. The cottage had no electricity, so they all had to go to bed by candlelight. Richard and his brother George used to read "The Magnet" at the kitchen table by oil-lamp, they shared a bedroom, Sisters Dorothy & Winifred shared another room and the oldest sister Margaret was away working. Baths were taken in a round bath in front of the fire, the water had to be heated up, girls bathed first followed by the boys.

Their Aunt Louie used to come round to visit and they all played the card game Rummy.

Robert Legg and his wife Mary were both buried in the cemetery at St. Michael's Church, but unfortunately I have been unable to find their gravestone. My Aunt Rachel remembers whereabouts the grave was, but it seems to be missing. I talked to the Churchwarden and he told me gravestones that became, or in bad disrepair were removed for safety reasons. The book that listed the burial plots, went missing in the 1960's when taken to be transcribed and replaced.

*Births, Marriages & Deaths Notices*



**LEGG** – September, 25th 1940, at Market Place, Melksham, Mary, dearly beloved wife of Robert Henry Legg.

**Bath Chronicle and Herald, Saturday, October 5th, 1940.**

*Records from Register of Burials, Melksham Parish, 1938-1967.*

No. 164 Mary Legg.	The Gardens.	September 28 <sup>th</sup>	80 yrs	J. H. Langton Vicar.
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BURIALS in the Parish of Melksham in the  
County of Wilts in the year One thousand  
nine hundred and fifty.

NAME.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed.
Robert Henry Legg	23 Market Place	May 5 <sup>th</sup> 1950	85 yrs	Jimmie Howe vicar

No. 585