



THE BRUNDALL & BRAYDESTON CHRONICLE

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Brundall Local History Group

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Have you got something to share? Items for publication should be sent to The Editor, Orchard House, Blakes Lane, Brundall NR13 5JN. Tel: 01603 716115 Email: enquiries@brundallvillagehistory.org.uk

Watercolour painting of 'Brundall' 1898. This was probably copied from a photo taken in 1890, the year before Armiger and Helen Louisa sold the property. It may have been painted as a wedding gift for their daughter Constance in 1899. Photo: Courtesy of Beth Cumberland



Seeking a better future

A Canadian home called Brundall

Beth Cumberland of Canada contacted BLHG about her great-grandfather Armiger Ibbot Hubbard (1834-1905). He had emigrated from Norwich to Canada with his wife and infant son in 1862. Wishing to learn more about her Norfolk roots, Beth sent us an image of a watercolour painting dated 1898 which illustrated the homestead in

Ancaster, Ontario where her ancestor had settled; intriguingly, the house was called *Brundall*. A search on the Ancestry website revealed that another Hubbard descendant in Canada had already uploaded a family tree and it was possible to contact them. This led to BLHG receiving some remarkable early family

photographs and a fascinating biographical account, authored in 1924 by a close friend of the Hubbards. Now we can begin to piece together the Hubbard story, their connection with Brundall and perhaps appreciate their reasons for leaving England to make a new life in Canada.

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www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk

Our first Zoom meeting

We had our first public talk this year via Zoom in March when we welcomed Phyllida Scrivens to talk about the Lady Lord Mayors of Norwich.

It was a fascinating talk - Phyllida is an excellent and entertaining speaker, and the human stories of the women who held the 'top job' in the city of Norwich were heart-warming and often surprising.

We hope more members will be able to join us at the next Zoom talk we have coming up. (More details by email and on the website).

The AGM will take place in July this year, also on Zoom.

If you aren't familiar with Zoom, it is really very straightforward. Contact us if you would like help in getting started with Zoom.

Archive group

The BLHG archive group continues to meet via Zoom.

Members are keen to start the process of cataloguing our large collection of photographs. It will eventually give us the chance to make our collection available to the Norfolk and wider public.

Your photos

If you have photos of Brundall showing life in lockdown would you be prepared to donate them to our archive?

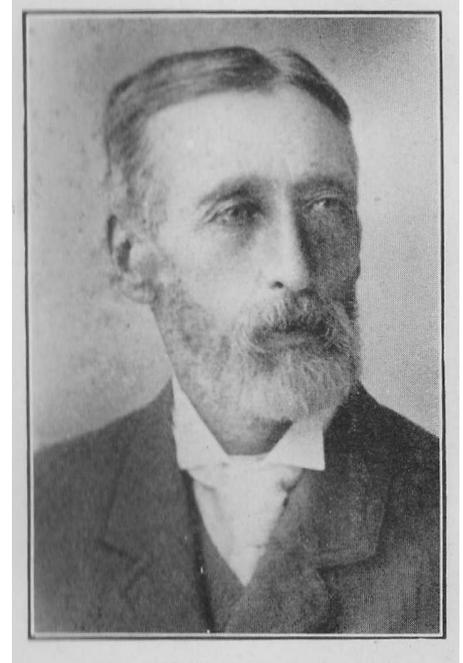
We are interested in anything relating to life under lockdown, to record this strange period for the future. It could be queues and empty shelves, your rainbow posters for the NHS—or anything which tells the story.

Canada: A brave

(Continued from page 1)

In 1833 Armiger Watts Ibbot Hubbard, an attorney's clerk, married Mary Ann Wright Deacon at the parish church of St John Maddermarket, Norwich. They lived in a 'commodious house' on St George's Plain where Mary Ann ran a school for young ladies. The couple's first child, Armiger Ibbot Hubbard, was born on 17th May 1834, followed by four more sons: George Lovick (1835), Henry Cornelius (1837), Frederick Samuel (1839) and Arthur (1841). Sadly Frederick only lived for about a week after birth and Henry died in 1840 aged just 2. Tragedy struck in 1841 when Mary Ann died of tuberculosis aged only 30. Although Armiger senior remarried shortly afterwards, by 1843 he was also dead, aged 32. Suddenly orphaned, the secure world of the brothers, Armiger aged 9, George 8 and Arthur just 2, collapsed.

Grandparents appear to have stepped in, especially Armiger Watts Hubbard, owner of a substantial property in Thorpe Hamlet. Following his death in 1844, his will left monies raised from the sale of his estate and investments, in government stock and coal, to be held in trust for his grandsons until they were twenty-one. The 1851 Census recorded their maternal grandmother had provided a home for them in William Street, off St Giles Hill, with Armiger, aged 16, listed as a banker's clerk. With George's death in 1853 at the tender age of 18, Armiger inherited half of his grandfather's legacy when he came of age in 1855.



Armiger Ibbot Hubbard senior (1834-1905) from Thomas Farmer's 'History of the Parish of St John's Church, Ancaster' 1924.

In 1860 Armiger married Helen Louisa Miller (1839-1912), at St Mark's Parish Church, Lakenham. Helen was 'given away' by her grandfather John Challis, boot maker, 'gentleman', executor of the 1844 will and 'Guardian' to Armiger and his brothers.

By 1861 the couple was living in Pack Lane, Strumpshaw, along with Armiger's brother Arthur and Helen's siblings Frances and Ellis. Armiger and Arthur's occupations were both described as 'Land Proprietor'. Armiger Ibbot Hubbard junior was born on 30th June and baptised at St Peter's Church Strumpshaw. The Hubbard's brief stay in Strumpshaw may only have been to provide a second home during Helen's pregnancy, away from the health risks and high mortality rate in the city.

e step into a new world



The Hubbards at their home, Brundall, in 1890: Mrs Lettice Miller (Helen Louisa's mother) seated left, with Armiger Ibbot junior (Midge) seated at her feet. His wife, Catherine, is seated on the chair at the centre. Armiger Ibbot Hubbard senior sits on the porch step at the rear and his wife Helen Louisa stands on the right, second from left. Their daughters 'Nellie' and Constance are present with other members of the family and friends. Photo: Courtesy of the Woods Dewhirst Relatives Family Tree)

On 24th August 1862 the *Norwich & Eastern Counties Journal* advertised an auction of fine household furnishings and goods from the home in Earlham Road, Norwich '...of Mr Armiger Hubbard, who removes to a distant country'. Undoubtedly Armiger already had the means to cover the cost of his family's passage to Canada and their comforts on arrival.

By the 1860s emigration from England to the British dominions in Canada had grown into a popular movement. The Norfolk press regularly extolled its advantages and appealed to people from all classes of society and backgrounds seeking a better life and a fresh start. The Ontario government also ran campaigns to attract colonists to the vast wildernesses

of its northern areas. Settlers were offered free land grants on condition that a stipulated area was cleared and cultivated within a stated period and a house built. The better-off could purchase previously-cleared land or hire men to do it for them. It is unlikely the Hubbards farmed the land themselves but instead, benefitted from the rents of tenant farmers or as employers of labourers who could earn a percentage of the profits. Professional businessmen like Armiger Hubbard found themselves assimilating into established town communities where they could be 'gentleman farmers' and enjoy a typically middle-class English lifestyle with their families.

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'What a cosy, cheerful, well-kept home was 'Brundall'

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The town was a small urban community in Wentworth County, southern Ontario, which had prospered as an industrial centre and one of the most influential communities in Upper Canada.

The progress of Armiger and Helen was fondly recalled by their friend Thomas Farmer in his account published some sixty years later. The Hubbards had first settled on a farm in Barton called 'Cherry Lane' but "...after a year Mr Hubbard purchasedwhat became known as the 'Brundall' property of 80 acres three miles west of Ancaster village on the Jerseyville road."

"What a cosy, cheerful, well-kept home was 'Brundall'... What a thoroughly warm English welcome was always extended by the genial host and hostess? How the writer of this history always looked forward with supreme delight...to a day, a week-end, or better still, a whole week, to be spent there with the gay and frolicsome young people of that pleasant entertaining household! And how he looks back...to those bright halcyon days of his young life spent among the hills and woods surrounding dear old Brundall and with its cultured and charming occupants as his hosts!" The remarkable photographs taken on the Brundall estate that have survived from this time confirm Farmer's description of the Hubbard family's active social life and family values.

Armiger Junior, known as 'Midge,' was privately educated at Ancaster Grammar School before carving out a successful career in banking and insurance to become 'one of the leading businessmen in his line in Canada'. In 1898 he died of tuberculosis, for which there was still no cure, aged only 37. His sisters, Mrs 'Nellie' Stevenson and Mrs Constance Cumberland, lived well into old age. Both married respectable professional men of English descent and had several children and grandchildren.

Although they retired to Bradford, Toronto in 1891, the quiet St John's churchyard in Ancaster was the final resting place for Armiger (1905) and Helen Louisa (1912) and a brass plaque to their memory was mounted in the church.

Researched and written by Chloe Veale

We are very grateful to the descendants of the Hubbard Family who kindly assisted with the research for this article and gave their permission for us to reproduce their family photographs.

References:

www.ancestry.co.uk: Woods Dewhirst Relatives Family Tree

www.findmypast.co.uk: British Library Newspapers

Campey, L, *Seeking a Better Future: The English of Ontario and Quebec* (Dundurn, Toronto 2012)

Why choose to name their house Brundall?

When the new Norwich to Yarmouth railway opened in 1844, the quiet riverside village of Brundall became easily and cheaply accessible to visitors. It developed as a desirable residential location for Norwich businessmen who could commute to work as well as enjoy rural pursuits such as angling and sailing.

Brundall House and estate dominated the village, running from the Yarmouth Road down to the River Yare. During the early 1860s the house was occupied by Sir Robert John Harvey (1817-1870), whose main residence at Crown Point Hall, Trowse was under refurbishment. His family had founded the Norwich Crown Bank in 1792, which Harvey now controlled. We know Armiger was a bank clerk in 1851 but not the name of the bank where he was employed.

Another important landowner was Squire Thomas Gilbert Tuck (1810-1862), Lord of the Manor of Brundall, Deputy Lieutenant and Magistrate of the county and owner of Strumpshaw Hall and estate. The arrival of Armiger and Helen Louisa in the village would probably not have passed him by. His influence would also have been felt at Sunday services held at St Peter's Church, Strumpshaw where attendance in the presence of the Squire was considered compulsory.

On the acquisition of their own substantial estate in Ancaster, Canada, around 1863, the Hubbards may well have associated their new-found status in society with that of the landed gentry in the old country and considered their homestead worthy of the name *Brundall*.

Editor's note: Although auto-despatch of this edition by email was possible, we decided once again to send the *Chronicle* direct to your home in its traditional format. We thank Interprint for their reprographic services.

Please note: Only one person, wearing protective equipment, has been involved in the despatch of this Chronicle.