

Aylesbury Clock Tower

A young man born in St. John's Wood London in 1856 and following in his father's footsteps as a stonemason arrived in Aylesbury looking for work. This he found and obtained a position in the Webster and Cannon team that built the clock tower in Aylesbury market square in 1876. His main task was to produce the floral scroll work adorning the tower.

Whilst living in Aylesbury he met a young lady, Lucy Stevens, and on the 12th October 1879 they were married in St. Mary's church. Over the years the marriage produced 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls, 7 of the children were born in Aylesbury and one daughter in London who died soon her birth.

This man was Frank William Bennett and their youngest daughter was my mother. My grandparents are listed in the 1881 census living in the Rising Sun hotel in Aston Clinton with their first born son. Grandfather Bennett was the only grandparent that I knew as the other 3 had died before I was born.

As the years went by all the Bennett family migrated to London but towards the end of the 1920s my parents left London to live in Dinton. (My father was born in Dinton in 1900)

In 1941 shortly after the 2nd world war began the family decided it would be much safer for grandfather to leave London for rest of the war and he came to live with us in Dinton. It was certainly more peaceful there, but in early 1942 grandfather died. His body was then returned to London for burial in Tooting cemetery.

Each time I walk through the market square and look at the clock tower I think of my grandfather with a good deal of pride and think that I spent so little time with him. I know that grandfather enjoyed his short stay in Dinton with us.

The clock tower is a fitting memorial to all those who worked on it. What I find incredible is that I spent nearly a year of my life living in Dinton with a man who was born in 1856!

Market Square



1901

Gordon S.Weedon