

Biographical Record

George Easterbrook HITCHMAN (1865 – 1943)

Represented the Birmingham and District Society on the Central Council
from 1897 to 1899 and attended no meetings

George Easterbrook Hitchman was born of English parents at Dundalk in Ireland. It is not known when the family moved to England, but the 1881 census shows them resident in Granville Street in Birmingham. He and his mother lived at 65 Granville Street in 1891.

On Boxing Day in 1901 George was married to Agnes Amelia Sparks at St. Philip's church in Birmingham. The Bell News lists the names of the ten ringers who rang St. Philip's bells immediately after the ceremony. The bells were fired and then a touch of 377 Grandsire Caters was rung. Interestingly, one of the ringers was a C. Sparks - maybe he was related to the bride? In the 1911 census George was living with his wife and their two children at 57, Nursery Road at Harborne.

At the Annual Meetings of the Birmingham and District Amalgamated Society in both 1892 and 1893, George was elected to the Committee.

Before his marriage, George was member of the band at St. Philip's church in Birmingham, but after his marriage and subsequent move to Harborne, he became a member of the band there. By trade, he was a tin plate worker.

The Bell News used to report not only peals and quarter peals, but also touches – even those which were lost. George's name appeared in very many touches and quarter peals. Grandsire was the most popular method, but he also rang Stedman and Plain Bob and occasionally methods such as Double Oxford Minor and Darlaston Bob Triples. He was able to ring Grandsire Triples in hand as well as on tower bells. After his marriage he rang in many quarter peals at Harborne, but also returned to Birmingham to ring from time to time. He rang at least three peals.

He died on June 19th 1943. Prior to his death he had lived at 33 Clarence Road, Harborne