

# Biographical Record

## **William Hillyard JACKSON (1935 – 2009)**

Represented the North American Guild on the Central Council from 1978 - 1995  
and attended 12 meetings

William Hillyard Jackson was born on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1935 at Tadcaster in Yorkshire.

He learned to ring at Hatfield in South Yorkshire, being taught by his father, Gibson Jackson.

Other towers which he was attached to were various Oxford towers while he was at the University, Kingston upon Thames, Cookham, Prestbury (Cheshire), Wilmslow and St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

He conducted a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at Carlton-juxta-Snaith in July 1949, aged 13, with a band of 11-13 year old boys.

He rang his first peal, Grandsire Triples at Campsall, on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1949, the day after his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was interested in handbell ringing from the beginning and his first handbell peal was his 9<sup>th</sup> peal, when he was aged 14.

He was Ringing Master for the Northern District of the Surrey Association 1966-1967.

In 1968 his work took him to Toronto - at that time a city without any tower bells, but he rang several handbell peals at that time.

He was a founder member of the North American Guild of Change Ringers in 1972 and was the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Guild.

In 1974 he moved back to England to work in Cheshire. While there he took part in the record peal of 13,664 Yorkshire Surprise Major in hand. This record still stands.

In 1981 he moved to Norfolk. While there he joined with ringers from Cambridge to ring over 30 different Maximus methods to peals on handbells. In 1989 he took part in a record length of Grandsire Caters - 15,047 changes on handbells. In 1990 and 1991 he rang in the first peals of Cambridge and Lincolnshire on 16 handbells.

He rang 709 peals in total.

He died on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 and his funeral took place on May 1<sup>st</sup>.