

Biographical Record

GEORGE WILLIAM SIMMONDS (1903 – 1992)

Represented the Guild of Devonshire Ringers on the Central Council
from 1976 - 1977 and attended 1 meeting

Born at Caversham, Oxfordshire on 15th October 1903.

Learnt to ring at Caversham in 1914, being taught by his father, Harry.

Later he was attached to Weybridge, Oxford and Hersham. In the early 1950s he moved to Devon ringing at Plympton St Maurice, Babbacombe, and St Marychurch Torquay. He became a big influence on the development of change ringing at Babbacombe. In his last years he rang at Lymington, Hampshire.

Rang his first peal at St Giles, Reading around 1917.

Rang in record 16271 Grandsire Caters at Appleton on 27th December 1932. On 20th January 1956 at Wolborough he rang in the first peal of Surprise Major by a resident band of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. He rang a total of 12 peals for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, the last one being at Buckfastleigh on 10th July 1976.

He served as General Treasurer 1957-1960, Peal Secretary 1960-1972, Ringing Master 1980-1985 and Vice President 1985 of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Occupation: Ecclesiastical woodcarver, master joiner. He made several pews for Babbacombe Church, one of which is in the ringing chamber. He had a special skill for sharpening tools and helped other local carpenters by sharpening their tools for them.

Bill was very knowledgeable about bells and bell-hanging and was responsible for major work at Babbacombe, Blackawton, St Marychurch, Torquay and St Leonard's Tower, Newton Abbot.

He died on 1st July 1992 at Lymington.

*Obituary in The Ringing World in 1992
page 780*

