

Reading throu' the 1933 diary, some interesting occurrences which I thought I'd get out while I remember.

It's the year his first two adult siblings die within 11 weeks of each other, Teddie ("a great shock after only a day's illness" - his death certificate in a job lot of Squire's papers reveals several causes including cirrhosis of the liver) and Ettie, after nearly a nine-months illness where she went progressively weaker, in her last couple of months Squire records taking her up to church in a wheelbarrow, as Isobel Strawson (nee Addison, daughter of Alfred) recalled. Squire calls hers "a most beautiful deathbed"! Plenty of flowers around her. He gets frequently confused when he has to take over main organ-playing duty.

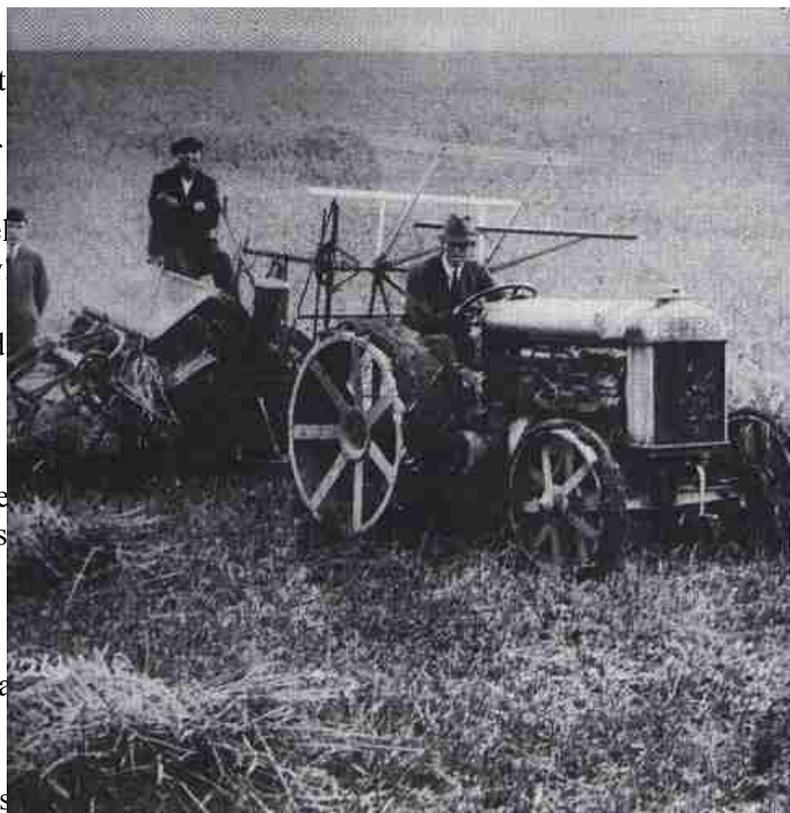
Donald Coates, who has been farming North Farm, announces he can't carry on, and subsequently leaves the Langmore in the April, Squire taking over the crops in the ground, his foreman Danby running the show. It seems that Danby is instrumental in the Dale's arrival, as at Whitsun, after a conversation with Danby, Squire opens negotiation at Whitsun with 'Dale of Ormsby' who he thinks 'a very pleasant man' (as most people did), and hopes he will get him to take on both farms. Initial positions for rental are 10 shillings an acre from Dale, 12/6 from the Squire. ( His highest bid for South Farm in 1932 was 5 shillings an acre, which is why he thought he'd give it a go himself, a risky move in the teeth of a severe agricultural and industrial depression. The Wheat Act of 1932 was the start of price-fixing or subsidies for wheat-growing, which has been with us in one form or another ever since, and which is maybe why Jack Dale was initially able to offer a higher bid, tho' he subsequently gets it rent-free for first two years, if Bob's notes are right.)

One dramatic event is the loss of a wagon of hay (called 'seeds') in Thorn Tree to fire, burning out both the load and the wagon itself. Squire records he and Parsons going to see his new tractor working with a reaper in Far Petterhills. Earlier in the year he had been up in 'East Field' to see 15 horses working in one field when drilling spring barley. A reasonably good harvest, following a fine and hot August, sees most crops on both farms cut, led and stacked by 10th September, including a 'magnificent' crop of oats in Fox Cover. Danby tells Squire that he thinks he should invest in sheep. Squire complains he has no money to do so. Eventually Lambert takes Danby off to Partney Fair to buy sheep, using £200 invested by Maggie and Polly at £100 each!

This is a rough copy of a picture I borrowed from Bob Dale who was sent it by Brian Stainton, Harry's son. It apparently shows Harry on the back of the reaper, with Danby driving the tractor, a Fordson. Bob says you can tell it's Danby because he's wearing a trilby. He thinks the picture is in Thorganby Walk, and the young man stood behind the reaper is Danby's son. He thinks Danby retired from WN to Waltham.

It's interesting to see how little Polly gets mentioned in both Squire's and Parsons diaries, she really is a very shadowy figure. Squire records her making jam with a glut of raspberries in 1933, but otherwise she is very little mentioned, and in some years gets no mention at all.

Nuisances for the Squire consist of pigs



getting out into his garden, sheep getting out into the churchyard ('Very annoyed') and Parsons and Lambert not turning up for a Sung Evensong 'when they promised they would', and 'some boys' turning up to measure up for the 5-yearly rating valuation.

The figures of SS Paulinus and Gilbert of Sempringham arrive (from London I think, the makers' name being illegible) for WN Church, - "quite beautiful", and their pedestals are prepared with stones gleaned from various abbeys. Their dedication at All Saints by Squire's chum Canon Jordan is 'quite wonderful'. An excitement is the arrival of Lord Mayo to visit his sister's grave - "a most delightful and agreeable man" who is delighted by the memorial to his father, George Wingfield Bourke who organised the building of the current church. Is this something we are missing?

Squire still has some trips out, with family looking at churches in Notts and South Lincs, with Miss Brewster to the 2-day Lincs Archaeological field trip (looking at churches), to the Naturalists' field trip (looking at churches), with his friends from St Augustine's, Canon Jordan and Fr. Bloomer to France, (looking at churches), to stay with Teddie's widow and son at Alton (Teddie Jnr takes him looking at churches), and several trips to Bainton, where somewhat disconcertingly he keeps writing about 'poor little John Ollard', who suffered from meningitis and associated illnesses and died in November aged 15-ish. Squire goes up to Bainton for the funeral, views the Catafalque, ("very peaceful and serene"), and reads the letters the Canon and Mrs Ollard received from the Archbishop of Canterbury Temple etc. The day after the funeral Canon Ollard doesn't get up till 12.15pm! Squire goes off to visit a couple of churches with 'Chris and Bob driving me'.

One other fascinating little snippet. Across the diaries, there are frequent entries for Day and one other 'rabbitting' in woods, mostly the valley, his companions either Maggie, 'the policeman' or Lappidge, a builder from North Thoresby, usually with an account of how many couple of rabbits they get, and to whom subsequent distribution of rabbits are made. In this diary is an entry (date I can't find now) "Day and policeman get three badgers, great relief."!