

# **The Tresham Murder?**

# SHEPHERD KING'S CROSS

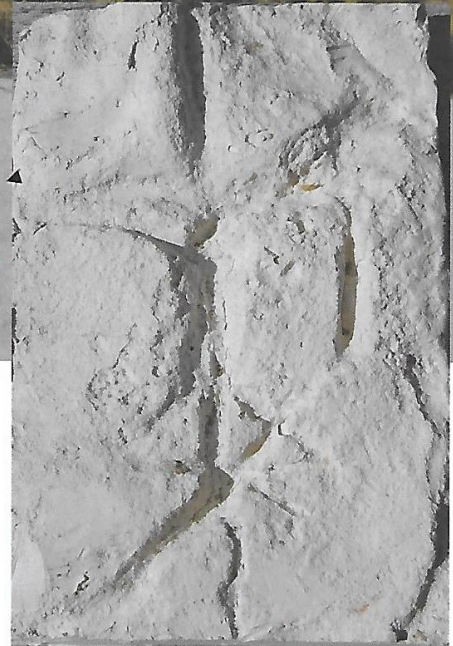
AN INVESTIGATION INTO A STORY TOLD BY GRANNY FRANKCOM

Summer 2017

For Michael and Brian, who valued the story



A Plaster cast of the cross that had been cut into a vertical stone at the base of the wall where Esau King died on the night of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 1894



## Introduction by Mike Gardner

This story was originally told to me by Granny Frankcom on Christmas Eve 1969.

It concerns an incident that took place in Tresham in 1894.

She also told it to my friend from school days, a great Scholar and local historian who prefers to remain anonymous, but without his exhaustive research much would have been lost.

He wrote and documented this story for Dr.Brian Hayward our English master who valued and encouraged the collection and preservation of Gloucestershire customs, songs and stories.

I will leave it to the folks of modern day Tresham to decide whether or not Calvin Evans was guilty of anything other than abandoning his friend on that fateful evening, remembering in those days there was no telephone, little forensics etc.

Very Best Wishes.

Mike

## Granny Frankcom's Story



Granny Frankcom (Florence Charlotte Frankcom, nee Chappell) born in 1888 at Hazlecote, Kingscote, died in 1970 at Tresham, daughter of William Chappell and Martha (Godfrey), wife of Harry Frankcom

Picture taken at Meadowview, Tresham .c. 1969

This is the story she told

*“I knawed you was interested in History and after you went I remembered this’n.*

*Esau King and Calvin Evans and this other chap used to go drinking up at the Oak at Leighterton. ‘Twas about Christmas time and a terrible rimey frost. They had gin and beer and I ‘m not saying as ‘ow they ‘ad a lot to drink, but as they went whoam, they left thuck other fellah an’ he went off to Saddle’ood and they came on past the Turnpike and when they came to where the stone’s turned upside down, Cal’ hit Esau (whether they quarrelled or not, I doan knaw) on the back of the yud. He ran back to the Turnpike and called out to’n but a wouldn’t open because he thought ‘twas somebody trying to break in, so he threw out a box of matches.*

*Cal went back and took off Esau's collar and tie - and cap and took it back and hung it on the Esau's mother's gate post and went in to bed. 'Course a must a knawn a was dead, but a was scared, I spoase.*

*Well, then they come and found Esau, of course, a was frozen to death. Course, we was all 'ad up about it and at the Inquest the Coroner said, "This is a terrible thing that you've done. I hope you haff to suffer a worse death."*

*'Course, Cal died of consumption, a terrible death 'e died. He married – Walker of Kingswood and she nursed'n, but 'twas a terrible death"*

Granny Frankcom was only about 5 when the incident between Calvin and Esau occurred, so she only heard about it from other people. Her father, William Chappell was a neighbour of Francis Frankcom and his family at Saddlewood in 1871 and would have known "thuck other fellah"

## Investigating the story

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 1894 Going to Leighterton and back.

In the afternoon of the First Sunday after the Epiphany, 7 January, 1894, two neighbours, Calvin Evans, 24, a carpenter, and Esau King, 36, a farm worker, known in village oral tradition as a shepherd, set out from Tresham to walk to Leighterton for the evening service at St Andrew's Church. They were two single men, dressed in their Sunday best and probably looking for some entertainment in the form of company which they would not have had in their own small village. They had money in their pockets, as they were intending to go the pub, The Royal Oak, after the service.

The Rev. John Balfour Clutterbuck was the son of Lewis Clutterbuck of Newark Park. He was responsible for the restoration of Leighterton parish church, St Andrew's in 1875, when the North Aisle was added to the simple nave and curious north-south chancel of the original. The angel paintings behind the Communion Table at the east end are said to date from 1885.

The service which Esau and Calvin attended would have been, therefore, in a recently restored and decorated church, possibly in the Ritualist Tradition, with a robed male choir and rector in surplice and stole (as in an undated photograph in the vestry, probably from c. 1910). The Rev. John Balfour Clutterbuck ((1831—1925) had been Rector of Boxwell with Leighterton since 1857. He had been curate of Tresham before that for two years, 1856 –7. He had been educated at Shrewsbury School and Peterhouse College, Cambridge and married Catherine Purslow Cresswell at Sherston in June 1863. They had three daughters and one son. On that night in 1894 the Rector would have been 62 and his wife 50. He knew the families of the two men and may even have known them personally

During the service, Esau and Calvin would have heard the words of the Collect for the day, “grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do.” It was not to prove so, at least for Calvin.

After the service, the two men went to the public house in Leighterton, the Royal Oak. There they drank “several pints of beer” according to the Stroud News. Granny Frankcom's version had them drinking beer and gin.

At 9.35 pm, they left the pub in the company of a man called Frankcom and started to walk home.

It was a “terrible rimy frost” according to Granny Frankcom. The men walked on in the dark with only the stars and moon to give them any light. When they arrived at the Bath Road they were soon to part company. The man called Frankcom was going to his home at Saddlewood and Esau and Calvin were taking the turning to Tresham.

It might seem odd that Granny Frankcom did not remember the name of the “third man” as he was a Frankcom. The reason could be that the family had moved away by the time that

she came to live in Tresham and so perhaps they were no longer mentioned. The relationship between her husband Harry Frankcom and the Saddlewood Frankcoms was second cousins. Harry Frankcom's grandfather, John Frankcom of Tresham, (1807—1869) is believed to be the brother of Francis Frankcom of Saddlewood. It is possible that his grandson, Henry James Frankcom born 1875 is the "Third Man". Perhaps Granny kept the family out of the story.

Henry was a single man like the other two. In fact, he did not marry until 1918. He left Gloucestershire and went to work in the coal mines in Blaina, South Wales. In 1911, he was a lodger in the house of the Williams family. When the head of the household filled in the details of those in his house that night, he put down Henry Frankcom's place of birth as "Oxupton" (i.e. Hawkesbury Upton). In fact, Henry was born in Haresfield and baptized there on 3rd December 1876. If Henry should be considered too young, at 17 or 18, to be the "Third Man", then another candidate would be his father, James Edwin Frankcom, (1850—1918). He would have been about 45 at the time of the incident, a married man with 7 children, and less likely to have been out drinking in the Royal Oak with two bachelors. He left Gloucestershire in 1907 and emigrated to Canada on The Ionian, taking with him his wife Emma (1857- 1926) and their two youngest children, Samuel and Elsie.

Henry Frankcom was about 18 in 1894. He was nearer to the age of Calvin (24) and this might be the reason for the two to remain talking at the Saddlewood turning, whilst Esau went on towards Tresham. The Stroud News account states that they were talking for "about twenty minutes" and that it was when Calvin hurried after Esau, along the lane from Ham Green, that he found him lying in the road. Esau hadn't got very far. If the time is accurate, he could possibly have walked much of the way home to Tresham in that time. Something happened at this point, which is the central mystery of the whole tale. Granny Frankcom, a person who never had a bad word to say about anyone, believed that they had fought and that Cal had hit Esau on the back of the head and knocked him down. This is, no doubt, what was believed in Tresham and reported to her. The account in the newspapers states that Esau was already on the ground when Cal found him, but the only witness to that is Cal himself, who had every reason to exonerate himself as best he could.

If Esau had got no further than "where the stone is turned upside down" (in Granny's version) and if the length of Cal's conversation is correct, what was he doing all that time? As the suggestion has always been that the two men were drunk, he could have found himself unable to carry on alone. There may have been a quarrel, as Calvin had left him waiting too long. Cal's story of just finding him on the road is the more likely. However, why could Cal not get Esau up from the ground?

Esau was 12 years older than Calvin, and may also have been much heavier and difficult to move. It seems unlikely that Calvin would have tried to help him get up for several hours. "Between two and three o'clock in the morning" is reported in the Gazette. It was a "terrible rimey frost" according to Granny Frankcom and during that time, both men would have been likely to suffer from hypothermia. Only Granny's story relates to the involvement of the Turnpike Keeper.

Calvin ran back to Ham Green and hammered on the door to rouse the Turnpike Keeper to help him with Esau. It must have been after Midnight by then and the Turnpike Keeper was well-aware of the dangers of attack from "roadsters" (tramps) on the Bath Road and so he refused to unlock the door and help Calvin. When Calvin persisted and claimed that he couldn't see what to do because of the darkness, the man opened a window and threw him a box of matches. It was an action which did little to help.

Then comes one of the strangest details of the story. Cal took off Esau's collar and tie (and cap in Granny's version). The newspaper adds "at his request" i.e. Esau's. Feeling very hot is a feature of hypothermia (see Appendix). Having been unable to get Esau on his feet, Calvin took some identifiable articles of clothing to give to Mrs King, Esau's mother. But, of course, he did not give them to her, he just left them where she would find them in the morning, hanging on her gatepost/door-knob. If it is true that Esau asked Cal to do this, what was he thinking might happen? Perhaps he saw it as something like a token to his family? Again, it seems that neither of the two men could think clearly. A glance at the map of the area will show that, with the exception of the Turnpike House at Ham Green, there were no houses that Calvin could get to easily to ask for help. The time of night would be likely to ensure that no one would come out and help him, but that could not excuse his leaving the collar and tie and cap on Mrs King's door when he got back to Tresham. At that point, he should have called for help, but he went in to bed and slept it off. Without his cap, Esau would have lost even more body heat and been even more likely to die of exposure. But was he already dead, as Granny Frankcom thought?

It hasn't been possible yet to identify the Turnpike Keeper. The Turnpike cannot have lasted very long. There is no house there on the Tithe Map (1840) and it had been demolished by the Ordnance Survey Map of 1902. The 1882 map shows a strip of land running along the Bath Road on the other side of the lane to Tresham and this may have been a garden which Mr David Gardner explained belonged to the Turnpike House, as lilies-of-the-valley and honeysuckle still grew there. The house was on the opposite side of the lane to Tresham (see map).

For most of its existence, the Turnpike at Ham Green was kept by John Rodway, (1816 - 1886) a shoemaker., which was a job done at home and so he could open the gate, take the tolls and do his cobbling and make more of a living. He is recorded as keeping the gate in the censuses of 1851, 1861 and 1871, but by 1881 he had retired into Tresham village and was buried there on 15 July 1886. In 1894, we do not know who was living in the Turnpike House, nor whether the tolls were still being collected.



## Monday 8th January 1894

### The discovery of the body

At 7.00 am, on Monday, 8 January, Henry Lewis was going to work when he found Esau's body on the roadside. Scattered over the road were the matches which the Turnpike man had thrown out. Henry went to Burdon Court Farm, (The Upper Farm) to get a cart and bring Esau home. There seems to be some confusion here in the newspaper accounts. The Stroud News names the man who found the body as Henry Lewis. The Dursley Gazette states that an unnamed man who found the body of Esau lived at Ham Green. That would make him the Turnpike Man. In the 1901 Census, Henry Lewis lived at the Alderley end of Tresham with his wife Eliza and their 6 children. He worked as a cattleman on a farm. If he lived in the same house in 1894, he would have had to pass right through the village to get to Ham Green, so perhaps he was working at Saddlewood? But he returned to Daniel Holborow's farm where Esau had worked "since he was a boy" and asked for help to bring the body home.

Henry Lewis had not been long in Tresham and was not going to stay long either. He moved regularly, like so many of the workers on farms. He was born in 1868 in Lydiard Plain, the son of James and Kerrenhappuch Lewis. In 1892 he married Eliza and they had 9 children: Florence and Henry were born in Broad Hinton, Wilts and Lucy, Elsie, Ada and Edwin were born in Tresham and Edith, Alice and Nellie in Acton Turville. Henry Lewis himself died in 1910.

Burdon Court Farm<sub>1</sub> was owned and run by Daniel Holborow, who had inherited it from his father, Henry Holborow (1820 – 1865) a sheep and corn farm of 400 acres employing 10 men, 4 boys, and 4 women. Daniel was 10 when his father died and he presumably managed the farm with his brother, Robert, under the direction of his mother, Ann. By 1881, the farm covered 520 acres and employed 9 men, 3 boys and 2 women. One of these men would have been William King, as shepherd and his son, Esau. Daniel married Anne Eliza Holborow, the daughter of Francis Holborow (1821- 1899) who had retired from farming in Tresham (Church Farm, rented by Hartrick) and lived the life of a gentleman at Melrose House, Yate. Anne Eliza's mother, Mary (1824 – 1870) was the daughter of Henry Holborow, gent, of Kilocot. Daniel's elder brother, Henry John Holborow (1853 – 1920) married Janet Iles of Saddlewood and moved to the Manor House, Ashley, where he farmed for the rest of his life. Robert Holborow, (1858 – 1911) Daniel's younger brother, left farming and ran The Prince of Wales Hotel on the A38 near Berkeley Road. He too married a Holborow, Annie, the daughter of John Holborow, spirit merchant of Oldbury on the Hill. Farming families were often intermarried. It is always said to be unwise to make a negative remark about a member of one of the farming community to another as this would be criticism of a near relation! A comparison of the value of the wills of the three brothers shows their relative success in life: Henry John Holborow (£8653 – 5 – 3), Daniel Holborow (£1918 – 17 – 6) and Robert Holborow (£1478 -1 - 6).

Daniel Holborow was 39 when the body of Esau King was brought back in the cart to Tresham. He was in his twenties when the King family moved into Tresham to work on the farm and he was only three years older than Esau. Daniel died at the age of 42, leaving his widow, Anne Eliza to carry on the farm, as his mother had done after the death of his father. Daniel and Anne Eliza had three children: Marguerite Mary (1891 – 1974) who married Frank Leonard, an engineer from Bromham, Wilts, Daniel Francis Holborow (1893 – 1952) who later farmed with his mother at Netherstreet Farm, Bromham, and William Robert Holborow (1895 – 1916) who was killed in the Great War and buried in Gordon Cemetery,

Mametz (Source: Hawkesbury at War, by Simon Bendry, 2016, pages 143-4.)

Esau's body was taken to his parents' home in Tresham and the police and doctor summoned from Hawkesbury Upton. Granny Frankcom told Michael that the Kings lived in what is now called Rose Cottage, down the street a little from Burdon Court Farm, opposite where Michael lived. The Police station at Hawkesbury stood on the rise from the pool at the Hillesley end of the village. In 1891, there were three policemen there. Matthew Rose aged 50 was the Police Sergeant., married with one daughter and there were two police constables, young single men aged 25: Henry Austin White born in Hanbury and Henry William Hiron born in Old Down.

Next door to the Police Station in the Census Return for 1891 was Western Villa, where lived William Isidore Cox, the general practitioner, duty registrar, and Medical Officer for No 3 District of the Chipping Sodbury Union. Perhaps the doctor and the Police travelled together to Tresham when they heard the news. William Cox was 70 years old when he went to examine the body of Esau King. He had been the general practitioner in Hawkesbury for many years, having arrived in Hawkesbury from Chelsea, London, sometime after 1854. and certainly by 1861. He was born in Marlborough, Wilts, the son of Caleb and Mary Cox. His father was a solicitor. He was trained in Aberdeen and his qualifications were MB, MRCSE and LSA. He was married to Annie Kerbey some 12 years his senior and his household in 1861 consisted of himself, wife, step-daughter, daughter, son, sister and Eliza Stinchcombe, aged 20, the house servant. William and Annie had 6 children and after her death in 1879, he married Sarah Ann Watts in 1880 in Bristol. William retired from general practice sometime after 1901, moved to Bromley, Kent and died there in July 1907.

In his chapter on Tresham, (*A Painter's Pilgrimage*, CUP 1939 page 185) A.S.Hartrick gives a pen portrait of William Cox, as he was some 10+ years later.

*“Our parish doctor lived at Hawkesbury Upton, five miles away. He was over eighty years of age, so paid us only occasional visits in fine weather, when he made the journey in a farm cart in which an arm-chair had been placed for his greater comfort in travel. On his departure, the usual greeting between villagers was reduced to the question, “Well? What did he gie ye, the pink or the blue?” He had two medicines for all emergencies, one coloured pink, the other blue.”*

<sup>1</sup> Burden Court Farm house at the time of the incident was what is now Burden Court and not located where Tom Hatherell and family live now

## Wednesday 10th January 1894

### The Inquest

An inquest was arranged for Wednesday, 10 January, at The Plough Inn, Tresham, near the church. It had been kept for over twenty years by Robert Watts (1834 – 1907) but he had retired to Kilcott and the pub was licensed in 1891 to Ann Sparrow, the widow of Jesse Sparrow, farmer, of Woodlands Farm, Doynton, Ann seems to have combined farming with being a landlady. She had moved from Tresham to Codrington after 1901, but was brought back for burial on 21 March 1908. The pub was taken over by William Drissell who changed the name to the Plough Hotel.

Inquest details do not survive for this part of the county at this date and so we do not know the names of the local jurors who were assembled to witness the proceedings. The coroner for the Lower Division of Gloucestershire was Edward Mills Grace (1841 – 1911) and he registered Esau King's death on 11<sup>th</sup> January. It was he who severely reprimanded Calvin for having left Esau to die of the cold and in the words of Granny Frankcom remarked, "This is a terrible thing that you have done and I hope you haff to suffer a worse one."

Edward Mills Grace was nicknamed "The Coroner" and "The Little Doctor" in the sporting world which he so much enjoyed. He was one of the greatest cricketers of the 1860s and 1870s and only dropped out of Gloucestershire's First Cricket team in 1896, aged 54. He was an elder brother to Dr W.G. Grace and G.F. Grace. He was elected coroner in 1875 and served for 36 years. He seemed to have a finger in every pie:

*Present at your birth, he registered it, vaccinated you, superintended registration of your marriage, signed your death certificate and registered it, or if you were unfortunately killed in an accident, sat on you holding an Inquest.*

*He had a very affectionate nature and though quick-tempered, never let the Sun go down on his wrath, never smoked, was a TT for 29 years, did not swear, was devoted to hunting in the winter with both the Berkeley and Beaufort hunts and was a good judge of a horse.(an account of E.M. Grace, by his son, Dr. Edgar Grace, 1958 in the Society of Thornbury Folk Bulletin.)*

A.S. Hartrick gives a description of E.M. Grace as a coroner at Tresham some years later.

*A man fell off a stack and broke his neck.....this accident led to an inquest and it was held in the public house. I was elected foreman of the jury. We had to wait an hour or more for the Coroner, Dr. E. M. Grace, the cricketer and brother of the great W.G. when at length he arrived, he was full of apologies for being late, excusing himself with some remarks on the new midwifery bill of which he evidently did not approve. He went on to explain that he had been called out at 3 a.m. that morning on a false alarm to a farmer's wife some five or six miles away. "I would like to know what pleasure there is in that", he added, as a further reflection. "Ah!" piped up the voice of a jurymen with a big black beard, "It's in the makin' o' ee that the pleasure is, Doctor," at which the doctor roared. Then all adjourned to view the corpse, after which the verdict of "accidental death" was promptly returned. Some gave their shillings to the widow, but the rest was spent at the "pub" on beer. (page 186)*

(The man was William Henry Rodway, aged 59, who was buried July 6<sup>th</sup> 1902. The Burial Register for Tresham notes: "No 135. Buried with Coroner's warrant, killed accidentally by falling from a rick".)

The inquest on Esau King and the criticism of Calvin Evans by Dr Grace, must have led to mixed feelings amongst the assembled villagers about where sympathy should lie. Mr and Mrs King had lost their son, who, perhaps, could have been saved if Calvin had gone for help. Mr and Mrs Evans had a son being severely reprimanded by the coroner, for not saving the life of Esau, but no one knew exactly when Esau died. These two families lived just across the street from one another. It cannot have been easy for the families nor the neighbours. Granny Frankcom's story makes Calvin more guilty by stating that he hit Esau "on the back of the yud" and no doubt there were people in Tresham who felt that Calvin should have been arrested and charged with assault. The Evans family, however, were Tresham people of long standing, whereas the Kings had not been in the village for more than about 15 years. People liked Calvin and respected his father, as we shall see.

## Was Calvin to Blame?

The Inquest did not consider that it may have been too late to save Esau's life and that, by remaining with him, Calvin had done what he could to help. A view of the medical opinion in the Appendix ("A Second Opinion") may help the reader to decide whether Calvin deserved the condemnation of the coroner.

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 1894

### Esau's Burial

It was four days after the inquest that Esau King was buried in Tresham Churchyard by Edmund J.F. Johnson, the officiating minister. He was vicar of Hillesley and then aged 37. He lived in Hillesley with his wife and 4 daughters. Originally from Leicester, Edmund was the son of Edmund Johnson, a wealthy merchant banker and manufacturer of hosiery, employing 70 men. Whilst at Hillesley, Edmund had 4 servants: nurse, cook, coachman and housemaid. In 1911, When he went on to Sarsden Rectory, Chipping Norton, he employed a footman, cook, kitchen maid, laundry maid, housemaid and parlour maid.

There is no tombstone or monument for Esau. The ground would have been very difficult to dig, even if the frost had gone. Perhaps that is why the burial took place several days later.

A.S. Hartrick was very concerned that there were so many people buried in Tresham churchyard with no memorial or marker.

*Towards the end of our ten years' sojourn at Tresham, it was borne in on me that there were only one or two tombstones in the churchyard there, for the rest were all green mounds that wiped one another out in time and came again, like waves of the sea. I suggested to the vicar that it would be a gracious thing to put a reredos in the church as a memorial to the unnamed dead buried in that churchyard. I offered to do a painting for it if the suggestion were approved. The idea was welcomed; it was decided to re-decorate the whole of the chancel as a memorial, and this called for some money to pay for alterations by a builder. (page 187)*



# Background to the Two Men

## The King Family

We now need to look at the sort of people Esau King and Calvin Evans were. It has already been noted that the Kings were new to the village. William King came from Frampton Mansell and was baptized at Sapperton on November 26<sup>th</sup> 1815, the son of Thomas and Hester King of Frampton Mansell, labourer. He married Sarah Maisey at Sapperton on 12 November 1843. She was baptized in Coln St Aldwyn on 10 October 1819, the daughter of John and Catherine Maisey, labourer.

From the places of their children's birth in the Census returns, it can be seen how often the family moved - Caroline,(?) John b.1844 Sapperton, Rose b.1846 Sapperton, Sarah b.1849 Sapperton, George b.1851 Sapperton, Eliza b. 1853 Minchinhampton, Mary Ann b.1855 Minchinhampton, Esau b.1857 (Lowesmoor) Avening, Ellen b. 1860 Coates, Jane b.1862 Edgeworth, William b.1864 Edgeworth. Not all the children remained at home when others were born. In 1871, the family lived at Lasborough with only Mary Ann, Esau, Ellen, Jane and William. By 1881, when the parents had moved to Tresham, they only had Esau and William with them. In 1891, it was only Esau who remained at home with his parents. All the other children had left home. Two grandchildren made up the household: Herbert and Thomas Jones, aged 4 and 2. The newspaper report of the inquest remarks, "Deceased was a faithful son to his parents."

Sarah King was buried in Tresham on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1898, aged 79 and two years later William King was buried there on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1900, aged 84.

## The Evans Family

By contrast, the Evans family had been in the village for some years. Calvin's grandparents, Thomas and Eunice (Clift) Evans came from Minchinhampton. Thomas was baptized there 3 April 1791. They were married in Minchinhampton 10 June 1816. Their son, Henry Evans, was born in Minchinhampton in 1820, but they had moved to Tresham a year or so later as their son, Edwin was baptized at Hawkesbury on 17 November 1822. (Tresham was in the parish of Hawkesbury and did not have its own baptism and burial registers until later. Baptisms begin in May 1841 and Burials in June 1856.) He became a farm labourer. Their other son, Francis, was born at Tresham in 1828. Thomas Evans was a carpenter and Henry and Francis continued in that occupation. When Henry married at Hawkesbury in April 1844. Both he and his wife, Harriott Davis could sign their names. Henry was buried "of Tresham" at Hawkesbury in September 1855, aged 35. Francis married Susan Neal, the daughter of Thomas Neal, shoemaker, at Hawkesbury, May 28, 1859 and again both could sign their names.

Francis and Susan had five children. The eldest was Frank who was baptized at Tresham 13

October 1861. He moved to Twerton, near Bath where he continued as a wheelwright and was living at 138 Coronation Avenue in 1911. He married Matilda Russell and had five

children; two of his boys were French polishers. Francis and Susan had three girls Eliza, who was baptized at Tresham 31 May 1863, Agnes who was baptized at Tresham 16 April 1865 and Susan Annie, who was baptized at Tresham 29 July 1866. The youngest child was Calvin and he was baptized at Tresham on Christmas Day 1869. Calvin was the son who would take over his father's business.

Again, we benefit from Hartick's reminiscences. He describes two Evans brothers; Ted and Francis, *two of the best known characters in the my time*. However, he seems to have confused the two. He published his book in 1939 and possibly had no one to ask to check his details.

*The first, called Francis, was our gardener during most of our time in Tresham; his forebears were probably working the land before the battle of Hastings. He was eighty-six years of age when we left and still good for a day's work at his own pace. Younger men laughed knowingly and hinted that he owed his present vitality to the exceptional care he had always taken never to overwork himself. Not that he was lazy, for his toll for the day would still fall not far short of that of men thirty or more years younger; but long before the coming of trade unions he had decided exactly how much he need put in for a given wage and nobody ever got more out of him. It cannot be said that he was beloved by anyone or was even popular with his neighbours. He had never been known to give anything away and was believed to have quite a "tidy bit" of money hidden away in his cottage; not even his daughter who lived there knew where, or if she did, would not acknowledge it. To cut a cabbage from his garden was a trial to him, the smallest potatoes must be eaten first, and so on. Years before, it was reported that, as a man with a young family, he could rarely bring himself to cut a slice for Sunday dinner from the side of bacon in the rafters (he kept a pig always, of course). until the meat showed unmistakable signs of being rotten. He had clothes that had served him for forty years and the wrinkles in his corduroy breeches were as fixed, in spite of many washings, as those in his cunning old face. Deafness was his one infirmity, though his ears could always detect the magic word "beer", but his eyesight remained marvellous and nothing seemed to escape it near or afar. He could read a little, he said, but his fingers were too stiff for writing. A radical in politics, he supported the chapel so far as he attended to his spiritual wants at all, but towards the end for some reason never revealed to anyone, he attended the church as well. pages 176 -177*

Whilst it seems odd that Hartrick would not know the name of his gardener, this description must refer to "Ted", Edwin Evans (1823 – 1911), who was 86 when the Hartricks left Tresham in 1907. Ted was a farm labourer and a widower. He lived with his unmarried daughter, Ada, and her son, Worthy Edwin. W. Evans, (born in 1891 in Downend, Bristol.) Ted's younger brother, by some six years, was Francis, the carpenter and father of Calvin.

*"His brother was nearly as ancient and quite as hale, but different altogether in character and temperament. Unsuspicious, he was hearty in every sense of the word. His job was that of woodman and carpenter to the Alderley estate, so he belonged to the aristocracy of the hamlet, and was generally given the title of the "Mayor of Tresham" – a real old-fashioned Englishman. He lived in a house of his own that was held on one of the leases dependent on three lives, which used to be common and can only be excused on the grounds that they are English. A genial, careless fellow with a weakness for beer; truth to tell he was becoming a little senile at this time, and completely in the hands of his wife, a very respectable, practical woman with a strong sense of duty and appearances, but a bit too "managing" in her ways for the comfort of old Ted Evans. She kept him clean and would not permit him to enter the house in his muddy boots; they must be left in the scullery. Nor was he allowed to sleep on*

*the sofa when in beer. Privately, we were told that she washed his great bald head every Saturday night to be ready for church on Sunday. It cannot be said that he was grateful for these attentions, but he had reached that state of resignation or salvation that puts up with them. Having been sent to the vicarage with a parcel from his wife, who did dressmaking, one day of pouring rain, he was greeted by the parlour-maid with: "Well, well it's a terrible wet day, Mr Evans." Turning up his eyes to the weeping skies, he answered humbly enough, "We must take what the Lord does send us!" – "The Missus has naught to do with that." he added on a note of sly satisfaction that the weather at any rate was not under her control.*

pages 177 – 178



## The Sequel

On 16 November, 1901, Calvin married Amy Walker, the daughter of Charles Walker of Wortley at Wotton parish church. They were both 32. They had four children: Violet baptized 19 October 1902, Jack baptized 13 December 1903, but who died 8 days later, and what may be twins, Calvin and Nellie baptized together on 12 February 1905.

Hartrick continues the story into the next generation.

*The son of this couple was a superior young man who had succeeded to his father's job on the estate and married the prettiest girl in the village. They had a little daughter and a baby son. All seemed well for another generation, and then the Fates, ravelling up the skein, cut it blindly, as is their wont. The girl wife had a brother, a soldier, who had been invalided out of the army in India with lung trouble; he came to live with this little family for the sake of the pure air. Within two years, husband, wife, babe, as well as brother, were in their graves through tuberculosis and only the little girl and the old people remained untouched. The irony of Fate, it was called! But such close association with infection would not be permitted nowadays. Page 178*

It is difficult to attribute the death of Jack Evans in December 1903 to TB, but certainly, when Calvin was buried at Tresham, 4 July 1908, (died 1<sup>st</sup> July) aged 38 years, his Death Certificate gave the cause of death as "Pulmonary Tuberculosis", certified by James George Boyce, MRCS, an Irishman, the doctor from The Chipping, Wotton-under-Edge. The informant was "Mr Albert Rodway, causing the body to be buried at Tresham, Hawkesbury". (Perhaps this was John Albert Rodway, aged 30, the son of William Henry Rodway, who fell from the rick in 1902 and whose inquest Hartrick had attended, as noted above.) Calvin's status as a "superior young man" is indicated by the fact that he is registered as a "Master Carpenter", i.e. he employed others. Amy's younger brother, Herbert Walker, who had enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1893, aged 18, was buried in Wotton, 19 August 1908, aged 33.

In the 1911 census, taken 2 April, Violet, Calvin and Nellie were living safely with their grandparents, Francis and Susan Evans in Tresham. Amy was living alone in Tresham, isolated, to keep the infection from spreading. She was buried there about two weeks later on April 17, 1911, aged 41 years. Who cared for her as she was dying?

Francis Evans died, aged 84, the following February. Mrs Evans seems to have left Tresham with her grandchildren - destination unknown.

As Granny Frankcom had heard – 'Er nursed'n, but 'twas a terrible death.'

She spared us just how unhappy the full story was.



Esau King and Calvin Evans, Mrs Sparrow from The Plough,  
Daniel Holborow, Lily Hartrick,  
Sally, Jack and Granny Frankcom lie in Tres'am Churchyard now.

(with thanks to T.H for the inspiration)

## Appendix 1: A transcription of the newspaper accounts:

STROUD NEWS – FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1894

### A MAN FROZEN TO DEATH IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A man named Esau King, 36 years of age, at Tresham, was frozen to death on Sunday night, between Tresham and Leighterton. A companion of deceased, named Calvin Evans, states that they both went to Leighterton Church on Sunday evening, and after the service they went to the Royal Oak, where they each had several pints of beer. As they were proceeding home, when near Ham Green Pike House, Evans stopped for about twenty minutes talking to a man named Frankcombe, who came from Leighterton with them and deceased went forward homewards. Evans, on following, found deceased lying down in the road and he states that he tried for two or three hours to get him home, but could not. He took off his collar and tie and left him by the side of the road, where he was found dead in the morning by a man named Henry Lewis, who was going to his work.

DURSLEY GAZETTE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1894.

### DEATH FROM EXPOSURE

An inquest was held at the Plough Inn, Tresham, on Wednesday, on the body of Esau King, aged 37, who was found dead near Ham Green (which is on the Bath road) on Monday morning. Colin (*sic*) Evans deposed that deceased and himself went to Leighterton on Sunday evening, from Tresham, which is about 2 and a half miles distant. They attended the service of the Church there and afterwards went to the Royal Oak and had some beer. They both, with a man named Francombe, left the house about 9.35 and proceeded homewards. At Ham Green, Frankcombe had to leave them to go to Saddlewood in another direction. Deceased was ahead of them. After parting with Frankcombe, witness overtook deceased and then he had some difficulty in getting him along. Deceased lay upon the ground. Witness stayed with him till between two and three o'clock in the morning. He took off deceased's collar and tie at his request, and as he could not prevail upon deceased to accompany him, he eventually left him at the time mentioned.

A witness residing at Ham Green house deposed to finding the body when proceeding to his work, about seven o'clock on Monday morning. A cart was procured from Mr Holborow, at the Upper Farm, Tresham, to convey the body home. At this farm deceased had worked ever since he was a boy. Deceased was a faithful son to his parents.

Mr Cox, medical practitioner, of Hawkesbury, stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body. He attributed death to exposure.

The witness Evans was severely reprimanded by the Coroner in not seeking help to convey the man home. He particularly referred to the heartlessness displayed in leaving him on so severe a night. He narrowly escaped criminal proceedings as the death of King was accelerated by his negligence and want of thought.

The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

## Appendix 2 – A Modern Doctor’s Second Opinion

We do not know what clothing Esau was wearing. Nor do we know what he had been doing all day and how much of the time had been outdoors. It is quite likely that he had spent time outdoor before going to Church, which could have started to lower his body temperature. Would the church have been heated? Many churches are freezing in my experience. Hence more opportunities for body cooling.

Esau imbibed alcohol on the Sunday evening which would have caused vasodilation and increased the rate of heat loss by both radiation and convection.

Esau and Calvin and another man left the Royal Oak at 9.35 pm on Sunday.

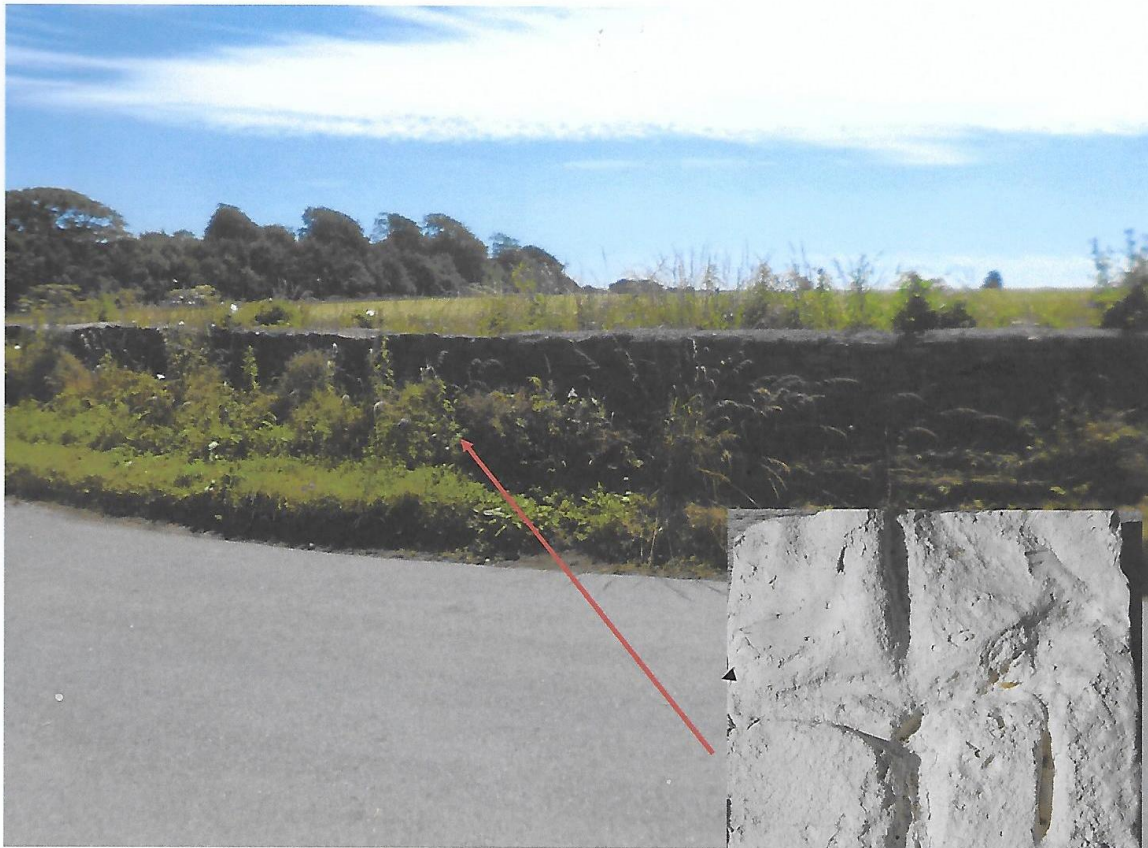
Calvin stopped to talk to another person for about 20 minutes, whilst Esau continued home. When Calvin caught up with Esau, he was lying on the ground. Calvin states that he had difficulty trying to get Esau along. Esau clearly had difficulty walking, which would be consistent with stage 2 hypothermia but was possibly contributed to by the effect of beer superimposed on weakness.

As Esau lay on the ground, he asked Calvin to remove his collar and tie. This suggests to me that Esau was in a stage of inappropriate undressing, but probably had lost the dexterity of his hands and therefore requested that Calvin remove them. He was probably in an advanced stage of hypothermia at that time.

The witness Calvin Evans stated that he stayed with Esau until between 2 and 3 in the morning. Hence at the time Calvin went home Esau had been outdoor on this cold night for between 4 ½ hours and 5 ½ hours. This would have dropped everyone’s temperature on a very cold night and the effect of earlier cold exposure on that day could have played a critical part.

Unless Esau had suffered a stroke, which cannot be 100% excluded, then in my opinion hypothermia adequately explains his death. Against Esau having a stroke was the fact that he was aged 36, and there is no description by Calvin of him having a facial weakness or speech defect.

## Appendix 3 – The Stone Cross



Right: a plaster cast of the cross cut in a vertical stone at the base of the wall where Esau King died on the night of Sunday 7 January 1894, a simple cross standing on a triangle base, 8 cms x 6 cms. When the cast was made in the 1970s, the stone was fractured by frost and the wall in a bad state of repair. It has since been rebuilt and the cross may be lost.

Above: the wall to the field called "Ham Green Piece". The trees in the background mark the line of the Bath Road, A46. The road in the foreground in the lane to Tresham.

We do not know who cut the cross to mark the place. Michael wonders if it were the turnpike keeper who regretted that he did not come out to help Calvin get Esau home.