

Bell Ringers' Q.I.



**Four (Quite Interesting) Things about
Tiverton, St Peter's**

4 Things you may not know:

- **1. The Night the Sky Fell in, 20 Nov 1864**
- **2. Colonel “Mustard” and the Rounds Ringers**
- **3. Curious Case of the Missing Tiverton Two**
- **4. “Here’s to the Ladies – God Bless’em!”**

1. The Night the Sky Fell in, 20 Nov 1864

What happened?

TIVERTON.

ALARMING ACCIDENT.—An accident of an alarming character, though fortunately unattended with serious consequences, took place in the tower of St. Peter's parish church, on Sunday the 20th inst. It appears that as four of the ringers were engaged in the performance of their weekly duty of ringing the **bells** for the evening service, the fifth **bell** suddenly broke away, owing to the wretchedly insecure state of the fastenings, and in its fall happily alighted on one of the beams, where it remains in a secure position. Several persons who were entering the church at the time, were alarmed at the crash of the falling **bell**, and called to the clerk to ascertain the cause. The ringers had a miraculous escape, for had the **bell** fallen clear off the beam upon which it is now lodged, one or more of the ringers must have been killed on the spot.

Parlous state of St Peter's Bells

- Source (right):

Tiverton Gazette -

24 Jan 1865

- Source (Previous):

W. Somerset Free Press-

3 Dec 1864

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT EXETER
Saturday as the 12-15 luggage train from Exeter was passing the Warren three of the trucks got off the line, and one of them loaded with coal was smashed. The line was blocked, and on the arrival of the mail train from Exeter the passengers had to be transferred to a train which was fetched from Newton for the purpose. This caused a delay of about an hour and a-half. The line was cleared by seven o'clock.

ST. PETER'S BELLS.—The subscription set on foot for repairing these bells amounted yesterday to £39 16s. The Rev. William Rayer heads the list with £5, Viscount Palmerston and the Hon. George Denman give 3 guineas each, Messrs. Amory, Reginald, James, W. H. Dunsford, Thomas Carew, and the Right Worshipful the Mayor give 2 guineas each, Mr. R. Henry Taylor, 1 guinea, Messrs. F. Hole S. Gath, T. Aldred, F. Dunsford, F. Mackenzie, H. S. Gill (churchwarden), A. C. Sharland, Daniel, Mrs Welch Owen, Mrs. John Barne, Mrs. William Hole, Miss Dunsford, and the Misses Barne each give £1. The balance is made up by sums of 5s and 10s from various inhabitants.

Parlous state of St Peter's Bells

- In 1867 the 7th bell cracked – the rounds ringers blamed the method ringers and the method ringers claimed that the bells were over-clappered and they had warned of the consequences.
- In 1868 – Enter Colonel “Mustard”.

Colonel “Mustard” & the Rounds Ringers

Who was Colonel “Mustard”?

Colonel Charles Acland Williams Troyte



Biographical Record of Colonel Charles Acland Williams Troyte

Representative of The Devonshire Guild

Date and place of birth 11th March 1842, Dorchester. Trade or Profession Landowner.

Began ringing 1866 at All Saints, Huxelsham, Devon. First Peal date 20th Feb 1895 Method Stratford Treble.
Tower All Saints, Huxelsham.

Other Towers to which subsequently attached

Central Council Member from 1891 to 1894 from to
from to from to

Central Council Offices held

Attended no meetings of the Council.

Association Offices held
President, Devon Guild of Ringers 1894 - 1895.

Notable performances, etc.
His first peal was the first recorded as rung by natives of Devon.
Published his handbook "Change Ringing" in 1869.

Total of Peals Rung. Tower bells conducted
Handbells conducted
Total 20 4

Details of Peals
See Ringing World 16th Sept 1929.

Date of death 11th April 1896 Age 54
Where buried Huxelsham

Colonel Charles Troyte

- President of the St Peter's Society of C. R., established Nov. 1867
- First President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers 1874 - 1883
- Squire of Huntsham Court
- Author of "Change Ringing" which was published in 1869 and went to four editions, remaining in print until at least until 1938
- Paid to augment Huntsham bells to 6 in 1866 and to 8 in 1874
- Arranged to have the cracked 7th at St Peter's recast, the belfry put into good order and took charge of ringing at St Peter's

Colonel “Mustard” & the Rounds Ringers

ST. PETER’S SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

Notice is hereby given, that whereas, the Rectors and Churchwardens of Tiverton have, under certain conditions, given the whole and sole charge of, and power over, the Bells and Bell-chambers of St. Peter’s Church, to the above society, all Ringing done in St. Peter’s Tower is now under the direction and control of the St. Peter’s Society of Change Ringers, and its officers ONLY are authorised to receive the fees payable. No one is entitled to ask for, or accept any gratuity on account of Ringing. *[Scale of fees follows]*

Advert in Tiverton Gazette 17 Nov 1868

See Ringing Round Devon Dec 2017

Curious Case of the Missing Tiverton Two

Who or what were the “Missing Two”?



The Present 7th at St Peter's

The rehanging of St Peter's in 1923 was not straight forward – as the volume of letters in the Taylor's archive shows!

Taylor's suggested making provision in the frame for 10 (Tiverton should be as good as Cullompton John Taylor claimed), but the Rector rejected the idea.

Missing Two – the Bellhanger panics!

C O P Y.

St. Peter's Church,
TIVERTON.

June 24th. 1923.

Dear Sirs,

Either Mr. Pryce or Mr. Denison had better come down here and look at this job when I have got all the bells out as the main beams are rotten. The one under 6 - 7 - and 8 bells is the worst as I can see at present that is on the East side of the tower I am getting the bells through the South window as there is no road through the clock stands on the trap door and the frame would want cutting away before any bells would get through. Mr. Crater told me that they would not have an iron and steel frame at any cost, he says the frame is good so they say they will have the frame pulled apart and some new beams put under and a pretty job it will be, and what timbers are bad to take out and put new in, it has been patched and corner brackets and bolts, now its about all over with them, it all wants clearing out. I can pull pieces of rotten out of the beams as big as my head. I have been between the ceiling and the floor with a light and brought pieces out and gave to them to look at but they will not give way so I think it would be the best for someone to come over. When I get the bells out about Friday. They have not done taking the window out yet, its a rum job right through. They are going to have all

Missing Two – the Bellhanger panics!

someone to come over. When I get the bells out about Friday. They have not done taking the window out yet, its a rum job right through. They are going to have all the bells weighed here before they go away. They are a funny lot I can tell you, one makes bullets and another fires them or trys to any way. When they had their meeting on Wednesday night about the floors, Crater told them that Doble of Taunton told them there was nothing the matter with the frame at all and that the bells only wanted rehanging. It would have been another job like Westbury was when I went to take them out.

It is the opening at St. Stephens, Launceston on the 28th. of June, next Thursday. Let me know if any of you will come over here as when I get all the bells out they are going to have another meeting.

H. BENTLEY.

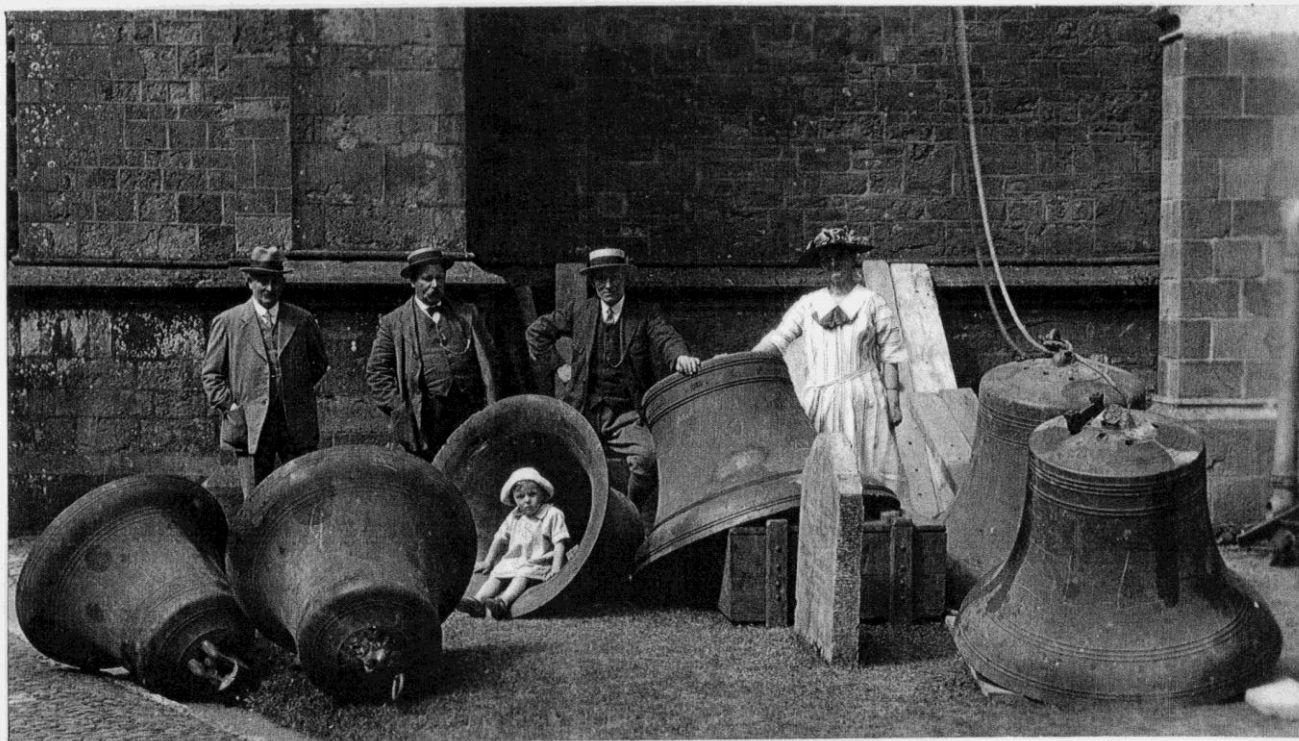
The Rector says "No"!

St. Peter's Parochial Church Council,
TIVERTON, DEVON. Aug. 17th/23.

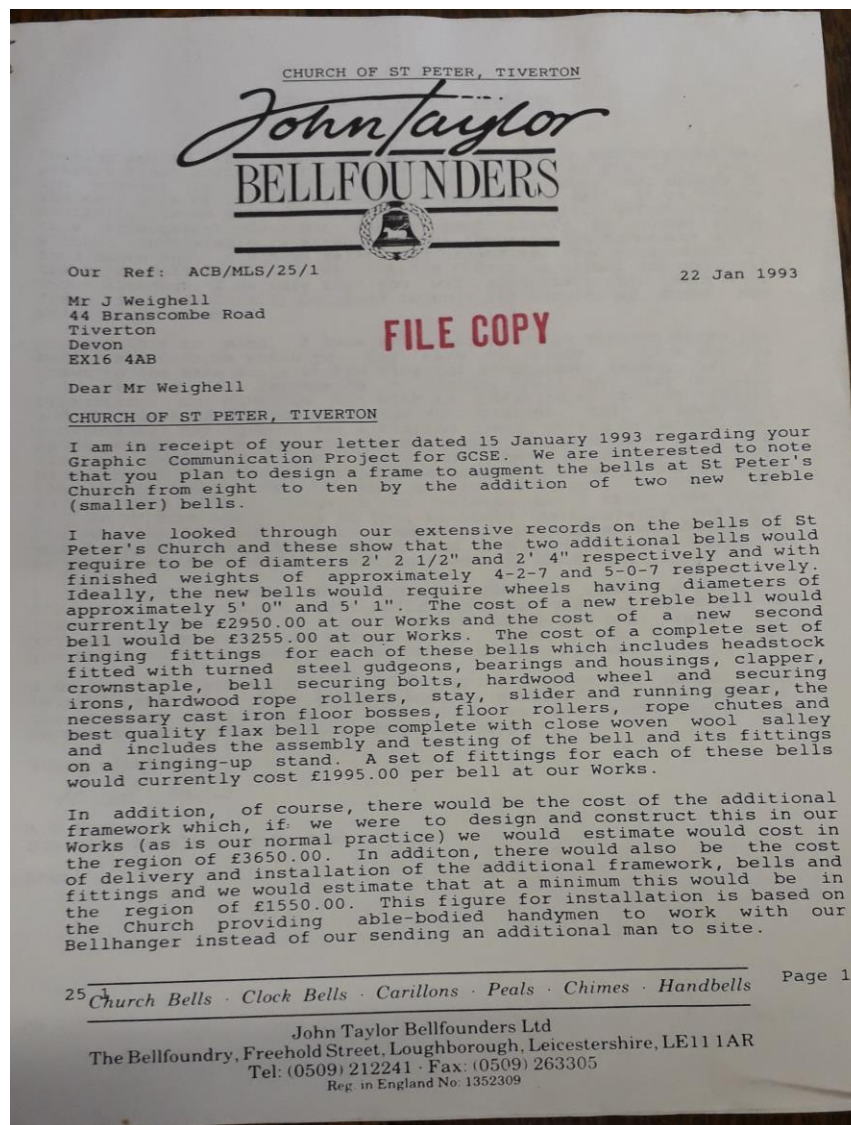
Dear Sir - I am much obliged for your letter.
You have read the Inscription correctly.
The date on the 2nd. Bell is 1815-19.
On the 7th. Bell the 1st. word is "TRUE" -
not 'thru'. The Couplet is written by a very
clever person & the play is on the word
"TRUE".

We do not wish to have tin bells, & we
cannot entertain the increased cost
of £55 for a suitable frame work. Still

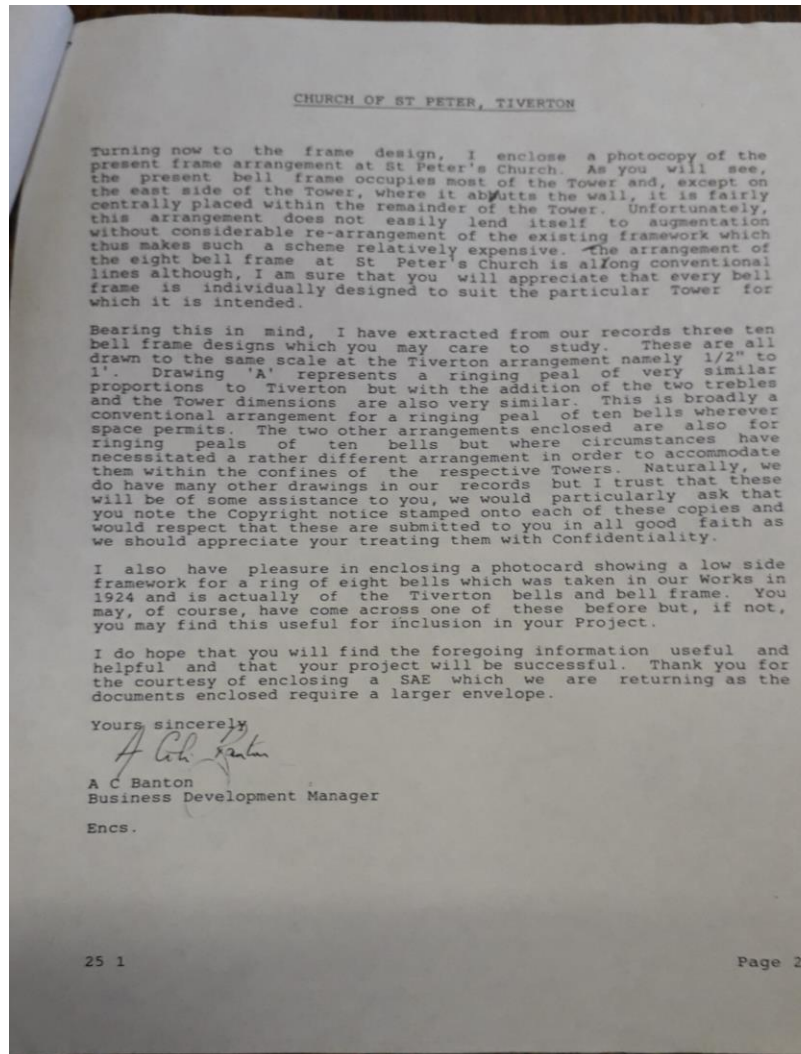
One mystery solved. How they got them out!



A Ten for Tiverton?



A Ten for Tiverton?



Here's to the Ladies – God Bless'em!"

Guild Report, 1903:

TIVERTON.—Our practices have been well and regularly attended throughout the year, also ringing for morning and evening service. A class of ladies was started who have got on well, and rang the treble in some touches of Grandsire Triples with our President, on the occasion of his visit, who we are always very pleased to see among us. During the year a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples and a great many 504's of both Stedman and Grandsire Triples have been rung in which some of the Ladies of our Band have taken part, and muffled touches of Stedman and Grandsire were rung on the occasion of the death of the late Archbishop. Some of our members have visited Calverleigh and Washfield on several occasions, and some very good Minor, Stedman, and Grandsire Doubles have been rung, including the Ladies also who have taken part.

Guild Report, 1904:

C. Parr	H
J. Richards	H
<i>Practice Night, Tuesday.</i>	
TIVERTON.	
8 Bells.	
E. Munday (r), 35, Leat-	
street, Tiverton	
J. Babbage	R
B. Grater	R
R. Grater, senr.	W
R. Grater, jun.	F
John Grater, senr.	F
John Grater, jun.	B
S. Grater	E
W. Grater	H
T. Harvey	W
F. Taylor	E
J. Hart	J
G. Elsworthy	
J. Elsworthy	P
W. Clements	
H. Ware	
Miss C. Scott	
„ K. Hennell	
„ L. Hennell	
„ L. C. Kennaway	T
„ M. Todd	
„ L. Todd	J
„ A. Hayman	V
„ M. Mooyaart	V
<i>Practice Night, Wednesday</i>	
OTTERY ST. MARY.	
8 Bells.	
L. Godfrey (r), Ottery St	V

The Tiverton Ladies Band

- Attracted national attention – reported as far away as Lincolnshire, Nottingham and Edinburgh
- 8 ladies listed in 1904 report, but by 1908 only 4 remained at Tiverton
- By 1911 there were no women listed for Tiverton

So what happened to the Tiverton ladies?

The Tiverton Ladies Band

We are indebted to Janet Ritterman for an answer to that question. Using Census and other information she has discovered that:

- All came from educated, middle class backgrounds, the daughters of clergy, army officers and a physician.
- Two trained as nurses in London
- One became Librarian and English Tutor at St Hilda's, Oxford
- Others married and moved away

See "When the ladies joined in ..." in Ringing Round Devon, 107, Sep 17

First South West Peal by a Lady

206.

TIVERTON

On Saturday May 23 1908
in 3 hrs & 6 minutes
at the Church of
ST PETER
A PEAL OF
GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
5040 CHANGES
HOLTS TEN-PART TENOR 28 cwt & D

S Grater	Treble
E Munday	2
Miss R Elliot	3
R Grater	4
B Grater	5
J Elworthy	6
J Hart	7
S Newcombe	Tenor

Conducted by E Munday

This is Miss Elliot's first peal, and she is the first lady member of the above Guild, and in the West of England to ring a Peal.



Another Notable Peal – the Grater family

Dec^r 19th 89⁺ 62

THE CHURCH OF
St. Peter, Giverton.

A PEAL OF
GRANDSIRE TRIPLES,
5040 CHANGES
Holt's Ten Part.

Richard Grater	Treble
Richard Grater Jun ^r	2 nd
John Grater Jun ^r	3 rd
Ben Grater	4 th
William Grater	5 th
John Grater	6 th
James Grater	7 th
Samuel Grater	Tenor

TIME 3 HOURS 4 MINUTES

Tenor 28 Cwt in D.

conducted by
Richard Grater Jun^r

RUNG BY 2 BROTHERS AND THEIR 6 SONS.



List of Sources Consulted

- Research resources will vary from tower to tower, but those used for Tiverton St Peter are typical for what might be available.
- STARTING POINTS
 - Scott, John, Mack, Frank & Clarke, James *Towers & Bells of Devon* 2 vols, 2007
Gives key dates and historical information often drawing on Churchwarden's Accounts
 - Guild of Devonshire Ringers *Annual Reports* 1874 –
Guild Library has the full set with a few gaps for early years. WW1 & WW2 years available on-line. Lists members tower by tower.
 - Church Histories & Guides
Example: Chalk, E.S. *History of the Church of St Peter's, Tiverton* 1905. Includes selective listing of bell work and payments to ringers from Churchwarden Accounts 1607 – 1852
 - Tower memorabilia
Minute books, peal boards and records, photographs, certificates

Sources Consulted & Possible Sources

- PRIMARY SOURCES – NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS

- Local Newspapers. Especially useful for 19th C onwards, but some from 18th

Example: *The Tiverton Gazette* from 1854 to date. Some years on British Newspaper Archive. Full microfilm runs in Tiverton Library, Tiverton Museum and West Country Studies Library (Devon Heritage Centre) Exeter. Near verbatim reports of meetings in 1850s – 1890s.

Trewman's Exeter Flying Post was published from 1763 to 1917 (1800 – 1900 is on B.N.A.)

- *Order & Disorder* (Wratten & Eisel). 5 vols of newspaper extracts on bells and ringing.

In the Guild Library – there is a consolidated Devon Index on the Guild website.

- Ringing Journals – available on the CC Library website

Church Bells 1870 – 1906

Bell News 1881 - 1915

The Ringing World 1911 – 1970. (More recent issues available in the Guild Library on DVD ROM)

Sources Consulted & Possible Sources

- PRIMARY SOURCES - BELL FOUNDRY & BELLHANGER'S RECORDS

Taylor's Archive, Loughborough (<http://taylorbells.co.uk/history/taylors-foundry-archives/>) . Example: Extensive files of correspondence and other records relating to Tiverton.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry Archive has been taken over by the London Metropolitan Archives and will be fully available in 2021. See: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/the-collections/Pages/whitechapel-bell-foundry-cataloguing.aspx>

- PRIMARY SOURCES – BELFRY RECORDS & MEMORABILIA

Minute Books, Ringing Records, Photographs etc. Search those belfry cupboards, drawers and shelves!

Sources Consulted & Possible Sources

- SECONDARY SOURCES

Towers & Bells of Devon as above

Scott, John *Devon Bellringing 1874 – 1974: A history of the G.D.R.*

Eisel, John *Early scientific change ringing in Devon*. Series of 11 articles in *The Ringing World*, May – Oct 2017

Eisel, John *Musings on call changes in Devon - and beyond*. Series of 8 articles in *The Ringing World*, April – May 2019