

The Poxon Family

Notes from email communication with Chris Browning April 2020

I'm emailing you just in case you or any other contributors to the Pembury History website can help me discover more about my great great grandfather Joseph Poxon who was a resident of Pembury from the early 1840s until his death in 1892. I am aware that you don't normally help with family research but after trying for some considerable time to find out more about him I visited Pembury Library and went through their archives but drew a blank.

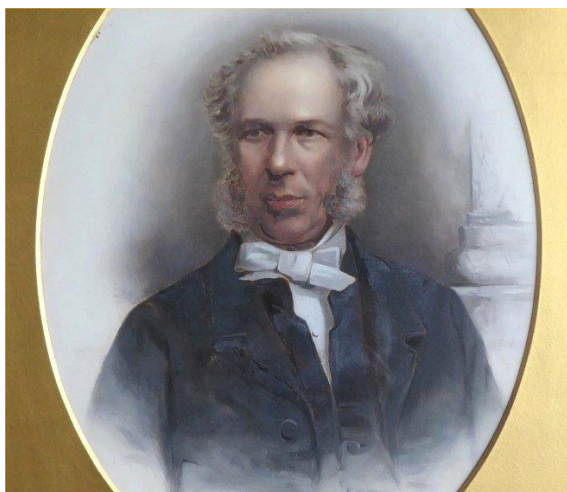
Joseph was born in 1815 in Breaston, Derbyshire, and was initially a market gardener together with his brother William. His elder brother, the Reverend John Poxon, became a prominent Methodist minister in the north of England. I believe that Joseph came down to Kent in c.1840 to work as a sub-contractor on the building of the Tonbridge to Paddock Wood section of the South Eastern Railway, at some point after which he purchased Gimble Garden and Vinery in Pembury, where he lived until his death in 1892. He had by then become a much loved resident and local Methodist lay preacher, and Madge Woods of the Tonbridge History Society found his obituary from the Friday 4th November 1892 edition of the Kent & Sussex Courier and sent it to me last year. I'm attaching it to this email as it will give you an idea of the esteem in which he was held.

Searching online I can see that a Joseph Poxon who I expect was him was living in Church Road, Pembury in 1886, and a John Poxon (possibly John Albert Poxon) was living at Kippings Cross at the same time. Also I believe that in 1904 the postmistress in Pembury was a Mrs Charlotte Poxon, and I wonder if she was connected with the family.

If you or your contributors have any information about Joseph and his family's time in Pembury, also Gimble Garden and Vinery and where exactly it was situated, then I would be very happy to hear from you.

Just in case there is any future interest, I wonder if you could add a couple of images to my data. One is a photograph of a painting that I believe is very possibly of Joseph Poxon but so far I haven't been able to confirm that, and the other is a scan of a photograph of one of Joseph's children, my great grandmother Eliza Poxon (c1883).

Chris Browning



Reply to the above email –

Hi Chris,

there are some registered Poxons in Pembury listed obscurely on the Pembury History web site.

Navigate to this page -

<https://pembury.org/history/shops-of-pembury/introduction-references/>

From about 1855 onward you will see links to various trade directories.

The Kelly's Directories are of particular interest as they also list private residents as well as commercial and trades people.

Typically 1886 and 1898 have some Poxons. This may be an exhaustive search for you. I have not got all the residential listings for all years as my initial searches were for traders and shopkeepers.

I will place your data on the web site under 'People' and see if there is any future interest.

Regards,

Tony

Kelly's Directory 1886 Joseph Poxon at Chruch Road

Kelly's Directory 1898 Frederick W.A. Poxon, coal merchant, Lower Green & PO High St.

Kelly's Directory 1898 Mrs Sarah Poxon nursery gardener, Lower Green