

Rev John Walter Bowden Page

The Rev Page was Rector of Clopton from 1906 to 1931, although during then Great War he was also an Army Chaplain and served in France.

He was born in Cambridge in 1861, one of six children. His father, Joseph Page, was also ordained, but he died when John was just 5 years old, so he knew little of his father. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Leach). John was baptized on 29th July 1861 at St Andrew the Great Church, Cambridge.

John spent much of his life in Winnepeg, Canada, where he was ordained as an Anglican priest. He met his wife, Ada Jessie Adams, here and they married in 1889. She was born in Jubbulpar, India. They had one daughter, Gladys Mary who was born in Winnipeg in 1891.

Around 1906 he moved to Clopton Church and remained Rector until 1931. He oversaw the amalgamation of Clopton and Debach Benefices in 1928 (see London Gazette 2 November 1928).

He died whilst living at 76 Bixley Road, Ipswich, on 25th May 1938. He left effects totaling £2771 – 4s - 8d.

Mention is made of Rev Page in a book by his grandson, Sir John Treacher, *Life at Full Throttle*:

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

My maternal grandfather, **John Walter Bowden Page**, on leaving Oxford took Holy Orders and soon afterwards settled in Canada,

taking up his duties in the Province of Manitoba. In 1888 he married Ada Jesse Adams, the eldest of eight children of a retired Indian Army officer who had become a senior executive in the Hudson Bay Company. My mother, their only child, was born in 1890 in Kenora, near Winnipeg.

Grandfather **Page** was a man of immense moral and physical courage whose various feats of single-handed bravery in tending his parishioners during the bitter winters of mid-Western Canada were modestly recorded by the Humane Society of Kenora and inscribed on the case of a gold hunter watch and the head of an ebony cane presented on 6 October 1906.

By this time an Archdeacon, he returned to England and took a country living in the village of Clopton in Suffolk. When war broke out he was asked to serve as Chaplain with the First Canadian Infantry Division and crossed to France in 1914, remaining with them there until the end of the war. He was accompanied by his daughter, now an army nurse.

The Rectory at Clopton was to be our first home on our return to England. His was a wonderfully benign presence and this infected all those around him. I was thirteen when he died and I missed him greatly.

Sadly, my grandmother was as introspective and egocentric as he was thoughtful and generous. She outlived her son-in-law by six years. We were all very fortunate that my mother took after her father.

Stock, being part of a larger sum of such Stock now held by us, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, on behalf of the said Benefice of Brent Pelham with Furneaux Pelham and there shall be annexed to the United Benefice of Furneaux Pelham with Stocking Pelham all other the endowments and property of the said Benefice of Brent Pelham with Furneaux Pelham except the said glebe house or Curate's house.

" Provided always that nothing herein contained shall prevent us from recommending and proposing any other measures relating to the matters aforesaid, or any of them, in accordance with the provisions of the said Measure, or of any other Measure of the National Assembly of the Church of England, or of any Act of Parliament."

And whereas drafts of the said Scheme have been duly published in accordance with the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, and Notices have been transmitted to the persons or bodies entitled under the same Measure to receive Notice requiring any objections to such draft Scheme to be stated or transmitted in writing to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners within the time prescribed in the Statutory Rules applicable to proceedings under the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923:

And whereas the prescribed time has elapsed and no such objections have been so stated or transmitted to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners:

And whereas public notice of the certification to His Majesty in Council of the said Scheme and the consent thereto in writing of the Bishop of Saint Albans has been duly given in the manner and within the time prescribed in the Statutory Rules aforesaid:

And whereas the said Scheme has been approved by His Majesty in Council:

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His said Council, is pleased hereby to affirm the said Scheme and to order that the Benefices therein recommended to be united shall be united to the extent and for the purposes recommended in the said Scheme, and further to order and direct that the said Scheme and every part thereof shall be effectual in law immediately from and after the date when this Order shall have been duly published in the London Gazette pursuant to the said Measure.

And His Majesty, by and with the like advice, is pleased hereby to direct that this Order be forthwith registered by the Registrar of the said Diocese of Saint Albans.

M. P. A. Hankey.

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 1st day of *November*, 1928.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, duly prepared, and laid before His Majesty in

Council, a Scheme bearing date the 11th day of October, 1928, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

" We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, acting in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for effecting the union (1) of the Benefice of Wickham Market and the Benefice of Lowdham with Pettistree (now part of the United Benefice of Bredfield with Lowdham and Pettistree) (2) of the Benefice of Bredfield (now part of the said United Benefice of Bredfield with Lowdham and Pettistree) and the Benefice of Boulge (now part of the United Benefice of Boulge with Debach) and (3) of the Benefice of Debach (now part of the said United Benefice of Boulge with Debach) and the Benefices of Clopton and Burgh all of which Benefices are situate in the County of Suffolk and in the Diocese of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich:

" Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Reverend Walter Godfrey, Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich, pursuant to the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, to inquire into and report upon the union (1) of the said two Benefices of Wickham Market and Lowdham with Pettistree (2) of the said two Benefices of Bredfield and Boulge and (3) of the said three Benefices of Debach, Clopton and Burgh duly made their Report to the said Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich and therein recommended the said three unions of Benefices and the terms for effecting the same, including provisions for the union of the said Benefices of Bredfield with Lowdham and Pettistree and Boulge and also for the union of the said Benefices of Clopton and Debach pending the taking effect of the said three unions of Benefices and the Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich signified in writing his approval of the said Report:

" And whereas we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, have prepared this Scheme for the said unions of Benefices based upon the terms recommended in the said Report:

" And whereas the said Benefices of Bredfield with Lowdham and Pettistree, Clopton, Burgh and Wickham Market are all now full, the Reverend William Maulkinson Snook being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Bredfield with Lowdham and Pettistree; the Reverend Canon John Walter Bowden Page being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Clopton; the Reverend George Maddock Shallard being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Burgh; and the Reverend Basil Charles Pownall being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Wickham Market and the said Benefice of Boulge with Debach is at present vacant:

" Now, therefore, with the consent of the said Walter Godfrey, Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme), and with the consents of the said William Maulkinson Snook and John Walter Bowden Page (testified by their signing this Scheme), we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty in Council all that is in this Scheme

Report by Canadian Great War Project

Reverend John Walter Bowden Page was born in England in 1861 and lived in Canada for more than twenty years. He moved back to the UK and served as a British army chaplain during the war.

John was the youngest son of Joseph and Mary Jane Page of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. Joseph, a clergyman, was born in Essex and his wife Mary Jane (née Leach) was from Somerset. They were married in 1853 and they had three sons (Joseph, Robert and John) and two daughters (Elizabeth and Fanny). John was born in Cambridge on 6 July 1861 and his father died in 1865, when he was four years old. His mother was left financially secure and in the 1871 census the household included a governess for the children. In 1875 John was sent to Haileybury College in Hertford Heath, about 40 km south of Cambridge. Haileybury was a boarding school and John was a student there for four years, graduating in 1879. When the 1881 census was taken he was 19, living in West Clandon, Surrey and attending a Land Agency school. The following year he immigrated to Canada, arriving in Quebec in September 1882 on the *Sardinian*.

John studied at St. John's College in Winnipeg and he was ordained there as an Anglican priest. In 1885 he accompanied some of the British troops during the North West Rebellion and he was awarded the North West Canada Medal for his services. He returned to Winnipeg where he was married on 4 September 1889 to Ada Jessie Adams. Ada was born in 1868 in Jubbulpore, India, the daughter of William and Charlotte Adams. Her father served in India as an officer in the British army. Her parents returned to England when she was about three and she spent her childhood in London. In 1884 her family immigrated to Canada and settled in Winnipeg, where her father worked for the Hudson's Bay Company.

John and Ada had one child, their daughter Gladys Mary, who was born in Winnipeg in July 1890. By 1897 they were living in Rat Portage (later renamed Kenora), in northwestern Ontario, where John served as the

Rector at St. Alban's Pro-Cathedral. John and his wife moved back to England around 1908. He became the Rector at the parish church in Clopton, a small village near Ipswich in the county of Suffolk.

During the First World War John joined the British Army Chaplains' Department. An item published in the Kenora Miner and News in May 1917 said that Reverend Page was in France and was "much beloved and very popular with the men." In early 1918 John was serving at No. 3 Stationary Hospital in Rouen. He was 56 years old by then.

John returned to England after the war and his daughter Gladys was married a few months later. Her husband, Frank Charles Treacher, was a war veteran who had served in France with the Honourable Artillery Company. Frank was born in Argentina and shortly after getting married he and Gladys moved to Chile.

John passed away on 25 May 1938, at age 76. He was living at 76 Bixley Road in Ipswich at the time, serving as the Canon of Ipswich and St. Edmundsbury. Ada survived her husband by 24 years. She died in Ipswich on 1 April 1962, at age 94. John and Ada are both buried at All Saints Church Cemetery in Kesgrave, Suffolk.

By Kenora Great War Project