

Palmer, Jack b.1905

Jack was born in Melbourn and lived there all his life. The family lived at The Campkins until they moved to Orchard house which was built by Jack's grandfather. The family moved again to Cawdon House in 1920, where Jack and his sister Peggy lived for many years. The family home had been a Dame school run by the Misses Elbourn and Jack and his sisters, Peggy and Molly started their education at the school. He later went to the Perse School in Cambridge. At the end of his schooling Jack and his brother Jim, joined their father in the fruit growing business. They became one of the biggest orchard owners in the area employing 12 men and a team of 20 women in the picking teams. The Palmer family has lived in the area for several hundred years and local history was one of Jack's hobbies. A lifelong teetotaler and a staunch member of the Melbourn Congregational Chapel, he was a generous man donating his time and means to the village. Early in the 1930's, until 1950, Jack was the Scoutmaster of the Melbourn Troop, after which he became Assistant District Commissioner for the Scout movement. An accomplished sportsman, Jack played hockey for the county, sailed, walked, enjoyed tennis and rugby, and skied for nearly 40 years. Jack served on the Melbourn Parish Council and was Chairman for several years. He was also a school Governor. When the Palmers Way playground was built he donated all the play equipment for the area.

Salmon, Percy b.1872

Known as 'Peepbo', Percy came late to the village. He had a colourful career as a photographer and journalist (often using the name Richard Penlake) travelling widely throughout the world. Living at the Cross proved a great vantage point from which to keep an eye on village life and to photograph the comings and goings of the village. His photographs can be seen on many postcards of the village.

A Journalist's Jubilee – Fifty Years of News-Gathering

For the past ten years Mr Percy R. Salmon, our Melbourn correspondent, with his pithy pars, his fun and sobriety, his pathos and humour, and his faithful recording of village happenings, has caused his weekly column to be looked upon as a leading feature with our readers, yet few realise he is anything but the inexperienced scribe he would have folks believe.

His recent account (when village news was scarce) of how he once photographed and reported the doings of Queen Victoria when on a visit to the French Riviera let the cat out of the bag a little, and learning from another source that this year he celebrates his 50th year of professional news-gathering, we have endeavoured to find something about his doings in bygone days. He was, however, too modest and retiring to say very much, but thanks to 'Who's Who' and other reference books, volumes of literary cuttings and items from other sources, we are able to pen the story of how a village lad, overcoming the handicap of primitive schooling fought his way to London by untiring self-effort to become a front-rank journalist and an authority in the photographic world.

Born of Farming Stock

A son of the late W. Salmon, subsequently of Cambridge Borough Police, and a nephew of the late Superintendent C. Salmon, Cambs County Police, 'P.R.S.' first saw the light of day 71 years ago at Waterbeach Cambs. His forebears were all farmers and market gardeners, and his first grains of knowledge were derived from his grandfather who had a night school at the farm, teaching all adults who cared to attend.

Very soon he escaped (as his father and uncle had done) from the farm to Cambridge, where he continued to make a close study of photography. He

joined the Cambridge Camera Club, and won the Club's Silver Cup in 1892. He made a speciality of genre and country life pictures, winning the cup for a picture of a girl at a farmyard well, Miss Eliza Dickerson of Little Abington, whom he married 9 years later.

He used his camera so skilfully and artistically that in all he has won 16 medals for photographic studies, mainly scenes of country life.

He was elected a member of the Royal Photographic Society in 1897, and was admitted a Fellow of the Society (F.R.P.S.) the following year and is now one of the oldest members.

A magic lantern show

Mr Salmon gave a lantern slide show to the Men's Society. This included two views of Dolphin Lane which had won approval by judges in Australia and on the continent.

Eliza and Percy 'Peepbo' Salmon



Royston Crow 10th March 1933