

# BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON

## An Annotated and Analytical Chronology and Bibliography

by

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### **Introduction.**

The following text is a self-referencing chronological examination of the life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson (hereinafter BFR). This item should not be considered to be a completed document for it will be subject to frequent minor and major online revisions. Readers are therefore advised to revisit this item periodically (**the latest updates will be marked in yellow**). The co-authors have decided to list all known facts about BFR in the hope that a seemingly trivial fact might assist others with their research. This item is intended to generate an informed and considered debate about BFR's contributions to various spheres of activity including literature, journalism, politics and sport. Any reader wishing to comment or add to the entries listed herein is asked to write to any of the email addresses listed below:

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## 1827

**BFR's** father, Joseph Fletcher Robinson (see *11<sup>th</sup> August 1903*) was born in Witham, Essex. He was the eldest son of an independent minister called The Reverend Richard Robinson (see *21<sup>st</sup> June 1858*). The Rev. Richard Robinson (**BFR's** paternal grandfather) was born on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1797 at Hallfold, Lancashire (see 1858). **BFR's** great grandfathers were The Rev. Thomas Robinson (Hallfold, Lancashire) and The Rev. John Dennant (Halesworth, Suffolk). Joseph was named after a minister called The Rev. Joseph Fletcher who had taught The Rev. Richard Robinson at Blackburn Academy, Lancashire.

Joseph was one of nine children, two of whom died at an early age from consumption. His surviving siblings were John (see *30<sup>th</sup> November 1903*), Louisa, Sarah, Federick (see *1922*), Ellen and Hephzibah (**BFR's** paternal uncles and aunts). Autobiographical notes compiled by Joseph's youngest brother, Frederick, report that their upbringing was strictly religious. Joseph and his siblings were compelled to attend chapel twice each Sunday and were prohibited from playing at home or from reading anything other than scripture. Joseph was a weekly boarder at Kelvedon School, Kelvedon, Essex (4 miles or 6.6 kilometres from Witham).

## 1838

**Winter.** Joseph's mother (**BFR's** paternal grandmother), Sarah Green Robinson (née Dennant) died at her home called Ivy Chimney at Witham.

## 1840

**December.** Joseph left Kelvedon School shortly after the arrival of his youngest brother, Frederick. It is probable that Joseph then entered employment as a miller's apprentice (see *7<sup>th</sup> June 1841*).

## 1841

**7<sup>th</sup> June 1841.** 40 year-old The Rev. Richard Robinson was residing at Ivy Chimney four of his children; 9 year-old Frederick, 4 year-old Hephzibah, 15 year-old Sarah, 7 year-old Ellen. Also residing at this address was the children's 35 year-old nurse called Caroline Boulton.

One Joseph Robinson, aged 15 years, is listed as working as a miller's apprentice at nearby Langley's Mill, Great Waltham, Essex (12 miles or 20 kilometres from Witham). It is probable that this was **BFR's** father given that at this time, The Rev. Richard Robinson's "income barely sufficed for his wants."

**Winter.** The Rev. Richard Robinson remarried a 44 year-old Widow called Elizabeth Wade at Colchester, Essex (*England & Wales Marriage Index*, Vol. 12, pp. 123 & 136). This event triggered "problems between him and some of his older children."

## 1843

**Summer.** Frederick reported that at about this time, Joseph caught smallpox “and had to come home [Witham] to be nursed”. The morbidity-rate for this condition in England at this time was approximately 30%.

## 1844

John Robinson commenced an apprenticeship as a journalist with a country newspaper office at Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

## 1848

The Rev. Richard Robinson resigned his pastorate in Witham after some 25 years of service and accepted a ministry in Hallfold. He relocated with his second wife and his two youngest daughters to 55 Hallfold, Whitworth, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, Lancashire (the same house in which he had been born).

Joseph gained employment as a commercial traveller with a wholesale druggist called Robert Sumner of 9 Cable Street, Liverpool. Joseph subsequently visited South America, where he befriended Giuseppe Garibaldi (commander of the Uruguayan fleet). He assisted the Garibaldini and Uruguayans in their war against the Argentinean dictator, Juan Manuel de Rosas ('Guerra Grande'). Joseph's obituaries report that he was wounded three times before the conflict was resolved in 1851 by an Anglo-French intervention (see *22<sup>nd</sup> November 1903*).

At about this same time, Frederick began a 5½ apprenticeship to an ironmonger in Saxmunden, Suffolk. Meanwhile, John was employed as the sub-editor of *Douglas Jerrold's Weekly Newspaper* in London. Jerrold was a noted humorist, playwright and made regular contributions to both the *Daily News* and *Punch*. It is interesting to note that one John 'HB' Doyle (1797-1868), the grandfather of Arthur Conan Doyle (hereinafter ACD), also worked as an illustrator for *Punch* at this same time. Perhaps John Doyle and John Robinson were therefore acquainted through their mutual association with Jerrold?

## 1850

**Summer.** Joseph married 26 year-old Rosalinda ('Rosa') Williams in the district of Liverpool (*England & Wales Marriage Index*, Vol. XX, pp. 184 and 447). Rosa was the daughter of a retired London solicitor called George Edward Williams (originally from Oakham, Rutlandshire that is now part of Leicestershire). Frederick Robinson subsequently honoured his brother and sister-in-law by calling two of his children Joseph and Rosa (Rosa died during infancy).

## 1851

Joseph and Rosa resided at 33 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. During the next seven years, Joseph revisited South America and participated in several expeditions to map the west coast.

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On one such occasion, he rode alone from Buenos Aires to Santiago by horse (a feat then considered remarkable). No doubt Joseph later recounted these adventures to his **BFR**, thereby stimulating his imagination and interest in story-telling.

### **1858**

31 year-old Joseph returned to England from his last trip to South America. Joseph and Rosa briefly resided at 21 Chatsworth Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool. They then relocated to 5 Bagot Street, Wavertree, Liverpool. Joseph also became a council member of a nearby independent chapel in Renshaw Street.

**21<sup>st</sup> June.** 68 year-old The Rev. Richard Robinson died from pleurisy (see **1827**, **1841** and **1848**). He was buried at Hallfold Chapel, Whitworth, Rochdale. Both Joseph and John attended their father's funeral but Frederick was unable to attend.

### **1861**

Joseph and Rosa resided at 5 Bagot Street with 64 year-old Elizabeth Robinson (Joseph's widowed stepmother), George Williams (Joseph's widowed father-in-law), 7 year-old Louisa Robinson (**BFR**'s cousin), 9 year-old Emily Lodge (visitor) and 25 year-old Margaret Jones (servant). Joseph now listed his profession as a wholesale druggist.

### **1865**

11 year-old Richard Robinson (**BFR**'s cousin) was enrolled to study at the Liverpool Collegiate Institute (an independent school). He was the son Frederick who was by then working as an ironmonger and journeyman in Stowupland, Suffolk. Liverpool Collegiate Institute was founded as an educational charity in 1840 and the patron was Edward Smith-Stanley, the 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby. Richard resided with Joseph and Rosa at 5 Bagot Street.

### **1866**

Joseph resigned his position with the wholesale druggist and drug grinder, Robert Sumner & Company (of 50a Lord Street and 45 Cable Street, Liverpool). Joseph then founded his own general brokerage business called *Joseph Robinson & Company* and traded molasses, oil and kerosene. He operated from premises located at 9 Orange Court, 85a Castle Street, Liverpool and also from a warehouse situated in Bagot Street. This company still trades under the name of *Meade-King, Robinson & Company Ltd (M.K.R.)*. M.K.R. now has offices in Liverpool, Leeds and Glasgow (Scotland). MKR is one of the largest independent suppliers of petrochemical-based products in the UK and employs about 30 people. The Chairman of the board, Mr. Anthony Graeme de Bracy Marrs, M.B.E. (Member of the Order of the British Empire), is a great-great-great-nephew of Joseph Fletcher Robinson (see **1967** & **6<sup>th</sup> January 2000**).

### **1868**

Joseph employed his nephew, Richard Robinson, as a general broker's apprentice.

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Winter. Rosa Robinson died aged 44 years. Her death was registered in the district of West Derby, Lancashire (*England and Wales Death Index*, Vol. 8b, pp. 423).

### **1869**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June.** 42 year-old Joseph married 28 year-old Emily Hobson (see **14<sup>th</sup> July 1906**) at the Parish Church of Farndon in the district of Great Boughton near Chester, Cheshire (*England & Wales Marriage Index*, Vol. 8a, pp. 503). Emily was the daughter of William Hobson, a hosier, laceman and shop-keeper of 86 Bold Street, Liverpool. The marriage was witnessed by a local merchant called Charles Holt (26 years-old). Charles belonged to an influential family of chemists and druggists and was also a member of Renshaw Street Chapel (one of Emily's sisters later married into the Holt family). Joseph and Emily resided at 80 Rose Lane, Mossley Vale, Wavertree, West Derby, Liverpool.

### **1870**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August.** **BFR** was born (*England and Wales Birth Index*, Vol. 8b, pp. 544) at 80 Rose Lane, Mossley Vale, Wavertree, West Derby, Liverpool. This address is now the site of a commercial premises belonging to Continuous Dataprint (U.K.) Limited (74-82 Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, Merseyside, L18 8EE) and is adjacent to Mossley Hill Railway Station.

### **1874**

**1<sup>st</sup> January.** Joseph wrote to his customers informing them that he had entered into partnership with a 23 year-old former produce apprentice called Richard Meade-King. Richard was the son of Joseph's wealthy friend called Henry Meade-King, a retired merchant and land-owner of 184 Sandfield Park, West Derby, Liverpool, Lancashire. Joseph would remain the commercial manager and Richard Meade-King would be his financial partner. In the same letter Joseph informs his clients of a change in business address and name (*Robinson and Meade-King*):

On and after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1874, any business will be carried on under the name of Robinson and Meade-King of 7 Knowsley Buildings, Tithebarn Street, Liverpool, a more commodious and central office than 9 Orange Court.

### **1881**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April.** Joseph and Emily were resident at 6, Lyndhurst Road, Wavertree. Ten year-old **BFR** was boarding at a small school called Penkett Road Beach House, Liscard near New Brighton, West Cheshire. The school was located some 7 miles (11 kilometres) from **BFR**'s family home and was owned by a retired farmer called Oswald Bayner from Yorkshire. The school comprised of two teachers, four servants and four pupils including **BFR**. The teachers were 20 year-old Ellen Dell from Hackney in Middlesex and 25 year-old Harrieta Brown from Halstead in Essex. **BFR**'s fellow students were Theodore Grubb from Leeston in Essex (8 years), Charles Knight from Leeds in Yorkshire (8 years) and Herbert Fayer from Egremont in Cheshire (10 years).

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Later this same year, Joseph retired as the commercial manager of the newly renamed *Meade-King, Robinson & Company* (now at 11 Old Hall Street, Liverpool). He was replaced by his 27 year-old nephew, Richard Robinson (**BFR**'s cousin). Joseph, Emily and **BFR** then moved to Park Hill House, Park Hill Cross, Ipplepen, Devon (population in 1881 and 2001 was 816 and 2,446 respectively). The estate was constructed around 1850 for a cider merchant called John Bowden and consisted of a large house, a near-by farm, outbuildings and many acres of land. In 1866, John Bowden funded the construction of Ipplepen Methodist Church and by 1878 he was trading as a corn factor, commission and general merchant in Plymouth and the neighbouring Parish of Wolborough-with-Newton Abbot (population in 1881 and 2001 was 7,662 persons and 23,580 respectively).

It is unclear why Joseph decided to retire to Ipplepen. Liverpool and its suburbs was home to many of his family and friends and is situated some 270 miles or 434 km to the north of Ipplepen (population in 1881 was 611,075 persons). One possible explanation is that Joseph had visited Devon whilst working as a commercial traveller for Robert Sumner & Company and had decided that this rural area would enable him to pursue his interest in equestrian-sports (see **1851** and **late 1881**). Alternatively, it is interesting to note that a cider merchant called John Bowden is listed in the *Liverpool Street Directory* as trading at 54 Berry Street until 1849. Perhaps John Bowden of Liverpool and Ipplepen were the same person (or related) and the two men had befriended each other at Renshaw Street Chapel? Either way, by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881, the Bowden family had relocated to 22 Lambourn Road, Clapham, London (SW4) and Park Hill House was left empty. Interestingly, a 'Bowden' later witnessed **BFR**'s marriage in London (see **17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 1888** and **3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902**).

The Robinson family settled quickly into village life and were well regarded for their generous and charitable disposition. For example, Joseph in co-operation with two local gentlemen called General de Lisle and Mr. Archer Hind, paid for general improvement work to St. Andrew's Church, Ipplepen. This work included renovating the windows and repositioning the organ. Joseph became churchwarden and was befriended by all three rectors during his 21 year period of office; The Rev. Robert Harris (1862-1887), The Rev. Douglas Stewart (1887-1897) [see **15<sup>th</sup> August 1903**] and The Rev. Robert Duins Cooke 1897-1939. The Rev. Henry Robert Cooke (son of The Rev. Robert Duins Cooke), later claimed that his father had provided **BFR** with "advice and help in planning the background" to the plot of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* [1902] (see **7<sup>th</sup> February 1949**).

Joseph was subsequently elected to the Newton Board of Guardians (1884-1894), became chairman of the Local School Board (for ten years) and became a committee member of Newton Abbot Hospital (to which he made frequent donations). Joseph joined the Devonshire Association (from 1884) and regularly rode with both the South Devonshire Hunt and Dart Vale Harriers (until 1895). Furthermore, he joined Ipplepen Liberal Club where he sometimes chaired meetings and befriended Sir Charles Seale-Hayne the Liberal Member of Parliament for Mid-Devon (1887-1903). There is, of course, the repetition of 'Sir Charles', as well as the candidacy for Mid-Devon, with a character in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. **BFR** was himself short-listed as a potential Liberal candidate for mid-Devonshire in 1906 (see **12<sup>th</sup> January-8<sup>th</sup> February 1905**). Joseph was also appointed a Justice-of-the Peace (J.P.) for South Devon shortly before his death. Interestingly, his brother, Frederick, was also an active Liberal and served as a churchwarden and magistrate (see **1922**).

**1882**

**January.** BFR was admitted as a second-year dayboy (see *June 1890*) at a nearby independent school called Newton Abbot Proprietary College at 3 College Road, Wolborough, Devon (2½ miles from Ipplepen). This school was founded at Courtenay Park in Newton Abbot by The Rev. E. H. Cole in 1861 but relocated to Wolborough in 1864. During 1869, ‘Newton College’ was registered as a limited liability company and The Right Honourable William Reginald, Earl of Devon, was appointed president of the governing council (see *18<sup>th</sup> November 1888*). The senior campus eventually comprised of a recreational ground (cricket, rugby union and rugby football), a pavilion, a gymnasium, multiple racquet and fives courts, a bathing pond (1877), a chapel (1876), reading rooms, sitting rooms, a library, a laboratory, classrooms and two sizable boarding houses called School-House (4 masters, 10 servants and 69 boarders) and Red House/Clayfield Lodge (3 masters, 2 servants and 6 boarders). Adjacent to the senior campus was a third and semi-autonomous junior boarding-house called Newton Hall (3 masters, 6 servants and 26 boarders).

‘Newton College’ quickly established a regional reputation for scholastic and sporting excellence and reached its zenith in 1893 with 170 pupils. Thereafter, it went into steady decline: only 146 pupils were enrolled in 1924 and by 1937 this figure had fallen to just 47. ‘Newton College’ closed in 1939 and was incorporated into Kelly College at Tavistock. Shortly thereafter, the former ‘Newton College’ campus was reopened as Forde Park Home Office Approved School (1940-1973). Devon County Council then used the campus as a home and educational facility for vulnerable young people. Recently the site was sold to Barratt Developments P.L.C. and all the existing buildings were demolished and replaced with modern homes (Hillside, Coach Place, Wolborough). ‘Newton College’ recreational fields still exist and are jointly used by Devon County Council, Devon County Football Association and Newton Abbot Athletic Football Club. The latter organisation plays matches on the former ‘Newton College’ cricket-pitch and has incorporated their original pavilion into its new clubhouse and changing-room facility. Finally, the bathing-pool area (which became a swimming-bath) has been filled-in and is now the site of the Decoy Bicycle Motocross Track (BMX).

BFR bequeathed £2000 (payable upon the death of his wife) to ‘Newton College’ for a Fletcher Robinson Modern Languages Scholarship, suggesting that he was a keen linguist. BFR’s Headmaster was The Rev. George Townsend Warner, M.A. (see *22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902*). The Rev. Warner played first-class cricket between 1860 and 1863 for Cambridge University and the Marylebone Cricket Club (M.C.C.). He also represented Cambridge Town Cricket Club (1860-1863), the Gentleman of Devonshire Cricket Club (1870-1872) and Devon County Cricket Club (see *1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> August 1883* and *17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> August 1891*). The future author and scholar, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (1863-1944), had left ‘Newton College’ for Clifton College shortly before BFR’s arrival (see *1944*). Quiller-Couch wrote the following description of The Rev. Warner:

A tall sanguine man, in the middle years, but athletic yet, a rare runner between wickets; in school, and out of it, an organiser: a gentleman with every attribute of a good Head Master save a sense of justice, of which he had scarcely a glimmer, and being choleric, could be angriest when most unjust.

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The Rev. Warner was born in Southampton on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1841. His father, also called The Rev. George Townsend Warner, tutored private students whilst he lived at Highstead, Torquay, Devon. The Rev. Warner senior had taught an ailing student by the name of John William Strutt (son of 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Rayleigh). John Strutt became 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Rayleigh (1873) and married Evelyn, sister of the future Conservative Prime Minister, Arthur Balfour (see *summer 1905*). Strutt was awarded the prestigious Order of Merit by King Edward VII<sup>th</sup> at or about the same time that ACD was knighted (see *9<sup>th</sup> August 1902*). Strutt also won a Nobel Prize for Physics (1904), was elected President of the Royal Society (1905-1908) and was appointed Chancellor of Cambridge University (1908-1919). It is interesting to note that Strutt, ACD and Arthur Balfour, were all members of the Society for Psychical Research and were friends of Sir Oliver Lodge (S.P.R. President 1901-1903).

Whilst at ‘Newton College’, BFR met and befriended three fellow-pupils; Francis Deshon Browne (see *10<sup>th</sup> February 1940*), from Cananore on the Malabar Coast of India (son of James Francis Browne, Archdeacon of Madras), Harold Gaye Michelmore (see *March 1958*) from Newton Abbot (son of Henry Michelmore, solicitor and coroner) and James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden (see *11<sup>th</sup> June 1938*) from Wolborough (son of vice-admiral William Cornish-Bowden). All three boys were contemporaries of another famous Old Newtonian (O.N.) called Percy Harrison Fawcett (1867-1925). Colonel Fawcett is perhaps best remembered for his 1906-1910 survey expedition to the borderland between Bolivia and Brazil. He reportedly described his adventures to ACD, who may then have assimilated them into his novel *The Lost World*, featuring Professor George E. Challenger (Doran, 1912). Fawcett and his son Jack (O.N.) disappeared under mysterious circumstances shortly after 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925, whilst exploring a region of dense jungle near the River Xingu in Brazil (see *Summer Term 1882, 27<sup>th</sup> November 1883, December 1884, Spring Term 1885, December 1887 and 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925*).

The 1884 edition of *Kelly’s Directory of Devonshire* lists all the Newton College Staff and Officials for the previous 1882/83 academic year as follows (pp. 297):

### **NEWTON ABBOT PROPRIETARY COLLEGE.**

*President of the Council*, The Right Hon. the Earl of Devon

*Visitor*, The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese

*Secretary*, Francis Watts

The Council consists of 16 members

*Head Master*, Rev. George Townsend Warner M.A. Trinity  
College, Cambridge

*Second Master*, J. Maxwell Batten esq. M.A. late Scholar,  
St. John’s College, Cambridge

*Senior Mathematical Master*, Rev. William Thomas Wella-  
cott M.A. late Scholar, St. John’s College, Cambridge

*Assistant Masters*, Arthur Hood Spiers esq. M.A. late Scholar,  
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; Joseph John Cross esq.

M.A. Brasenose College, Oxford; Rev. William Thomas Kerry

M.A. St. Edmund Hall, Oxford; Herr Krüger Von Vel-  
thusen; R. Blucher Webber esq. B.A. late Exhibitioner,

Worcester College, Oxford; Jeffrey Peebles Murray esq.

M.A. Caius College, Cambridge; W. Goldsborough Whittam

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esq. B.A. late Scholar, Caius College, Cambridge; Gustavus

W. N. Harrison esq. B.A. Worcester College, Oxford

*Junior Preparatory School*, Claude Earl esq. B.A. Trinity  
College, Cambridge

*Head Master's Secretary*, Jeffrey Peebles Murray esq. M.A.

Caius College, Cambridge

*Non Resident Masters.* – *Viola.* – M. G. Rice esq. *Piano*

*forte &c.* – W. J. Brown esq. *Landscape Painting.* – J.

Salter esq. *Geometrical Drawing &c.* – J. Curnow esq.

*Gymnastic Instructor.* – Col.-Sergeant W. Rendell R.M.L.I.

late gymnastic instructor to H.M.S. ‘Britannia.’ *Lecturer*

*on Geology & Physical Geography.* – W. Pengelly esq. F.R.S.

&c. *Hon. Organist.* – L. E. Bearne esq.

Throughout **BFR**'s time as a pupil at 'Newton College', the school produced a regular periodical entitled *The Newtonian* that was printed by a local stationer called G.H. Hearder (Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot). About nine issues were published annually and complete volumes were then leather-bound (comprising of the January to December issues of each academic year). Each issue was distributed to parents and other prestigious educational institutions for an annual subscription of 4s. and 6d. *The Newtonian* featured essays, stories and poems as well as reported about school administration, societies, sporting events, charitable work and O.N.'s.

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 57 (Vol. 7) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 79. June.* It was announced that **BFR**'s father, Joseph Fletcher Robinson, had made a "handsome" donation of books to the library at 'Newton College'.

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 58 (Vol. 7) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 102. July.* It was announced that **BFR** and 12 other boys had been admitted to 'Newton College' at the beginning of the preceding term (see **January 1882** and **June 1890**).

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 60 (Vol. 7) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 129. 3<sup>rd</sup> August.* **BFR** attended the annual school Prizes Day and was presented with the 'Term and Examination Prize (Second Year)' by The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Devon.

*Page 142. May 1925.* Percy Harrison Fawcett re-entered the school after a brief absence (see **29<sup>th</sup> May 1925**).

*Page 143.* A portrait of The Rev. Warner was hung in the "New Hall" (see **1883**).

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**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 61 (Vol. 7) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 162.* The Rev. Warner was appointed “Patron” of the Devon County Football Union (rugby).

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 62 (Vol. 7) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 176. December.* BFR played as a Forward in a rugby match between the Upper III and ‘The Rest’. The Upper III won by a score of 3 goals and 1 try to 1 try. This was BFR’s first competitive rugby match.

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 63 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 14. 16<sup>th</sup> December.* BFR was presented with a ‘Special Prize for English’ by The Rev. Warner presented.

## 1883

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 65 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 51. 17<sup>th</sup> March.* A steeplechase was held at Teignbridge Marshes. Browne was placed fourteen in the junior section of this race (see 1882).

*Pages 51-58. 7<sup>th</sup> April.* ‘Newton College’ commenced its annual two-day ‘Athletic Sports’. Browne won the 1<sup>st</sup> heat of the Under-13’s 100 yard race (91.4 meters) in a time of 13.6 seconds. He then finished runner-up in the finals of the Under-13’s 100 yard and ¼ mile races (15 participants).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 66 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Pages 65-68.* Following a recent visit by a Mr. W. Grant, an anonymous essay entitled *Recent Artic Explorations* appeared in *The Newtonian*. It refers to a voyage undertaken by a Mr. Leigh-Smith in a yacht called the *Eira* in 1881. The *Eira* was wrecked near the coast of Franz-Josef-Land but the crew escaped and constructed ice-huts in which they survived the winter. In the spring of 1882, a successful rescue expedition was mounted by Mr. W. Grant and Sir Henry Gore Booth aboard a ship called the *Kara* and by Sir Allen Young aboard a steam-whaler called *Hope* (registered in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland). This story is interesting because **ACD** had worked aboard *Hope* as a Ship’s Surgeon in 1880. During this voyage he fell from ice into a freezing sea and only managed to save himself by using the carcass of a skinned seal to pull himself out. It is also interesting to note that **ACD** considered using the name of Sherrington Hope for his famous detective character, Sherlock Holmes.

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*Page 75.* The portrait of The Rev. Warner (see 1882) by Arthur Hacker, R.A. was exhibited at the Royal Academy in London (Gallery V, No. 497). Hacker is perhaps best remembered for painting *Christ and Magdalene* (1890) *Musicienne du Silence* (1890) and *The Annunciation* (1892).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 68 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 122. 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August.* The Rev. Warner was appointed the captain of Devonshire and played two cricket matches against Dorset and the M.C.C. (both 2 day games).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 69 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 127. 31<sup>st</sup> July.* BFR attended the annual school Prize Day and was presented with the ‘Junior Prize for Divinity’. The guest of honour at this ceremony was Baronet Sir John Kennaway (Member of Parliament for East Devon between 1870 and 1885 and for Honiton between 1885 and 1910). Kennaway also became the ‘Father of the House of Commons’ between 1908 and 1910 (see **December 1887**).

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 70 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 161.* It was announced that Christmas Term would conclude 21<sup>st</sup> December and that Spring Term would commence on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1884.

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 71 (Vol. 8) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 171. 27<sup>th</sup> November.* The Bishop of Exeter attended a confirmation service at ‘Newton College’. During this service Percy Harrison Fawcett was confirmed together with 24 other boys (see **29<sup>th</sup> May 1925**).

## 1884

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 72 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 18.* It was announced that the Spring Term would conclude 10th April.

*Page 20.* 14 year-old James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden (see **11<sup>th</sup> June 1938**) and Harold Gaye Michelmore (see **March 1958**) both entered School-House from Newton Hall. Both Cornish-Bowden and Michelmore thereby became classmates of BFR and Francis Deshon Browne. Later, Michelmore also acted as solicitor to the Robinson family and had a letter published in *The Western Morning News* that discussed the literary collaborations between BFR and ACD (see **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949**).

Both Michelmore and Cornish-Bowden had entered Newton Hall when they were 10 years-old (Michelmore was the youngest boarder at that time). It appears that they

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transferred from Newton Hall during a period of instability with regard to the staffing there. Their former boarding house master, Alexander Pyne (1851-1884), had departed during 1883 to become Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School, Australia (see **February 1885, April 1885, March 1886 , August 1886, October 1886** and **August 1887**). Another master called Frederick William Kingston (1855-1933), a former Cambridge cricket Blue, also left during 1883 and became a priest in Cornwall. The remaining master, George Lionel King (1856-1944), a former Sussex cricketer (1880/1881), became a major in the Brighton Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the Sussex Regiment (by 1891). Coincidentally, **ACD** served as a private in the Crowborough Company of the VI<sup>th</sup> Royal Sussex Volunteer Regiment (1914-1918).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 73 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 35. 28<sup>th</sup> February.* **BFR** and 36 other boys participated in a paper-chase that started and finished at ‘Newton College’ and encompassed the nearby villages of Bradley and East Ogwell. A paper-chase involves the pursuit of several individuals (called ‘hares’) by a larger pack of individuals (called ‘hounds’). The hares set-off First and lay a paper-trail for the hounds to follow. The winning hound is the individual who completes the course first. **BFR** finished last-but-one in a time of 4 hours, 45 minutes and 30 seconds.

*Page 42.* **BFR** and Michelmore participated in the Junior School ‘Scratch Fives’ competition. This hand ball game is played by two pairs of players on an open three walled court that has a step across the middle and several ledges. Fives originated as a knock about game between two buttresses at Eton College during the 1840’s. **BFR** and Ingles beat Michelmore and Bridgman senior in the final round (score; 15-7, 15-6).

*Pages 46-50.* A 3000 word essay entitled *American Literature and Humour* was published in *The Newtonian*. This article discussed the relative merits of various American authors and humorists including Henry James, William Dean Howells, Artemus Ward, Mark Twain and Bret Harte. This article also quotes at length from a book by Oliver Wendell Holmes entitled *Autocrat at the Breakfast Table*. The noted Sherlockian, Michael Harrison, conjectured that **ACD** used the surnames of both Oliver Wendell Holmes and a real-life detective called Wendel Scherer, to derive the name of ‘Sherlock Holmes’. This essay is signed ‘B’ and it is tempting to believe that this may have been the first article that **BFR** had published for the following reasons:

**BFR** was nicknamed ‘Bobbles’, ‘Bertie’ and ‘Bobby’ (see **20<sup>th</sup> June 1894, 1933, 8<sup>th</sup> February 1949** and **24<sup>th</sup> October 1969**).

**BFR** had recently received a ‘special prize’ for English (see **16<sup>th</sup> December 1882**).

**BFR** became a member of the school library committee (see **28<sup>th</sup> February 1888**).

**BFR** later wrote about American literature whilst working as a journalist (see **1901-1904**).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No’s. 75-77, (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* reveal that 19 year-old George Townsend Warner frequently played cricket for ‘Newton College’. George Warner was the son and namesake of The Rev. Warner (thereby George Warner III). He had recently completed his schooling at Harrow School (admitted on a

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

scholarship) but he had previously been educated at ‘Newton College’. George Warner had also recently enrolled to read History at Jesus College, Cambridge University (he commenced these studies in October 1884). He later became editor of the *Cambridge Review* and president of the Jesus College Debating Society (see 1890). George Warner also wrote a letter of recommendation in support of BFR’s admission to Jesus College (see **April 1890**) and then acted as examiner when BFR took his final degree examinations there (see **May Term 1893**). Later, George Warner became a master at Harrow School (1891-1916) and wrote a book entitled *Landmarks of English Industrial History* that was published by Blackie & Son Limited of London in 1899. His daughter, Sylvia Townsend Warner (1893-1978), was an acclaimed English novelist and poet. She also wrote many short-stories for the *New Yorker*.

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 77 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Page 120.* It was announced that 21 year-old Arthur Thomas Couch, O.N. (later Quiller-couch), had gained a first class degree in ‘Classical Moderation’ from Trinity College, Oxford University (see 1882).

*Page 121.* It was announced that the summer holiday would conclude 20<sup>th</sup> September.

*Page 122.* The Rev. Warner invited members of the Devonshire Association to attend a choral concert at ‘Newton College’. Members at this time included Joseph Fletcher Robinson and The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, an expert on Devonian folklore, stories and legends (see **29<sup>th</sup> July 1884**, **August 1900** and **2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924**).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 78 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following:

*Pages 136-137. 28<sup>th</sup> July.* George Warner and Arthur Thomas Couch played cricket for the O.N.’s against Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI. O.N.’s batted first and scored 88 runs. Warner and Couch scored 30 and 0 runs respectively. In reply, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI scored 204 runs and Couch took a catch. O.N.’s then batted again and had scored 142 runs for the loss of 6 wickets when time was called. Warner scored a further 26 runs and Couch did not bat. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI were declared the winners. The match report includes the following statement:

“Bennett and Jago (1<sup>st</sup> XI) hit with great freedom, giving the field plenty of practice in catching. Couch at last effected the separation by catching Bennett for a hard hit 45...”

*Pages 126-135. 29<sup>th</sup> July.* The annual ‘Newton College’ Prize Day was held in the Hall after a service in the Chapel. The Rt. Hon. William Reginald the Earl of Devon, was scheduled to preside at the ceremony but owing to his late absence, the event was instead chaired by Sir Samuel Baker (see **30<sup>th</sup> December 1893**). Sir Samuel was supported by The Rev. Warner, Sir Cornelius Kortright (Governor of British Guiana 1877-1882), The Rev. Tudor (Rector of Wolborough) and Joseph Fletcher Robinson. The event was also attended by many members of the Devonshire Association (total membership at this time was 465 individuals).

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The Devonshire Association was founded in 1862 to promote science, literature and art. Members would gather once a year for a two-day meeting during which papers were presented and subsequently published in the annual *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* (from 1866). In 1884, this meeting was held in Newton Abbot and 32 papers were presented. It is probable that Joseph Fletcher Robinson attended this meeting because three of the serving vice-presidents also had strong links with ‘Newton College’; Admiral Cornish-Bowden, J.P. (father of **BFR**’s classmate, James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden ), The Rev. H. Tudor (the rector of Wolborough Church) and The Rev. Warner (Headmaster). Also present was a solicitor called Sidney Hacker (honorary local secretary to the Devonshire Association) who later entered into legal partnership with Harold Gaye Michelmore and was twice granted probate of the Robinson estate (see **11th August 1903** and **28<sup>th</sup> July 1906**).

Perhaps one of the most distinguished members of the Devonshire Association was The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (28<sup>th</sup> January 1834 – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924). He joined the Association in 1878 and was later elected president (1896) and secretary to the Dartmoor Exploration Committee (see **August 1900** and **2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924**). Baring-Gould was a prolific writer of novels and hymns (including *Onward, Christian Soldiers* and *Now the Day is Over*) and his bibliography runs to over 500 items. His grandson, William Stuart Baring-Gould, was a Sherlock Holmes scholar and wrote a fictional biography of the great detective in which he based the early-life of Holmes on the childhood of Sabine Baring-Gould. Sabine Baring-Gould also makes an appearance in Laurie R. King's Sherlock Holmes novel entitled *The Moor*.

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 79 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

*Page 162.* During the summer term both **BFR** and Francis Deshon Browne were awarded certificates for swimming 440 yards (402.34 meters).

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 79 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 150-152.* During this term, **BFR** and Michelmore competed in two ‘Scratch Five Competitions’ for the ‘Lower Shell’ (3<sup>rd</sup> Year). In the first-round of the ‘Form Ties’, **BFR** and Michelmore were defeated by Martin and Clapcott of the ‘Classical V’ (5<sup>th</sup> Year). In the first-round of the ‘Upper (4<sup>th</sup> Year) and Lower Shell Competition’, **BFR** and Luxmoore defeated Martin Junior and Nutt, whilst Davies and Michelmore beat Patch jun. and Alcock Senior. In the second-round tie, Hamilton and **BFR** defeated Luxmoore and Cook whilst Davies and Michelmore lost to Ingles and Lowis. Robinson and Lowis then lost to Hamilton and Ingles in the final-round tie.

*Page 153. 13<sup>th</sup> November.* It was reported that the ‘Newton College’ football ground was used by the County Association to host a North v. South of England Colts rugby match. Seven Newtonians participated in this game.

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**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 80 (Vol. 9) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 180.** It was announced that the Christmas Term would conclude 20<sup>th</sup> December and that the Spring Term would commence on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1885.

**Page 181. 2<sup>nd</sup> December.** It was reported that Mr. Henry B. Mallam, Esq. (a recently appointed assistant master) had played rugby for Devon against Cornwall (see *April 1885*). It seems probable that Mallam stimulated **BFR**'s interest in the game (see *December 1886, October 1887* and *Spring Term 1888*) because the same report asserts that:

“...No member of the Common Room has taken a more practical interest in the school football [rugby] this term, or contributed more to its success...”

**December.** Percy Harrison Fawcett underwent an army entrance exam (see *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 81 [Vol. 10], pp. 20 and *29<sup>th</sup> May 1925*).

**December.** **BFR** and Michelmore sat examinations ('under 16') in English, Latin, Greek, Mathematics and Drawing in the Hall at 'Newton College' (see *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 82 [Vol. 10], pp. 38).

## 1885

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 81 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 14. February.** It was reported that Mr. Alexander Pyne (1851-1884) had recently died in Australia from consumption. He had previously taught at 'Newton College' (1876-1883) and was the 'Second Master' at the time of his departure. Pyne was also the author of the 'Newton Song' (see *April 1885*). He left during 1883 to become Headmaster of the Church of England Grammar School in Melbourne (see *1884, March 1886, August 1886, October 1886* and *August 1887*).

**Page 20. February.** It was reported that Percy Harrison Fawcett had finished 27<sup>th</sup> in the examination for entry to The Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in London (see *29<sup>th</sup> May 1925*).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 82 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 38. 6<sup>th</sup> March.** The results for the 'Cambridge Local Examinations' sat in December 1884 arrived at 'Newton College'. Both **BFR** and Michelmore had 'Satisfied the Examiners'.

**Page 39.** It was announced that A. T. Couch "of Trinity, Oxford, "has been stroking his College Torpid".

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**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 83 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 49-56. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April.* A full report of the two-day ‘Athletic Sports’ was published in *The Newtonian*. Due to time constraints, some events were contested on **9<sup>th</sup> April** (‘Preliminary Day’). Notable results included the following:

- 1) Preliminary. Browne finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 300 yards ‘Open Trial’ heats (27 entries).
- 2) Preliminary. **BFR** won the junior ‘Throwing the Cricket Ball’ event (5 entries). His winning throw measured 55 yards (approximately 50.3 meters).
- 3) Day 1. Browne won a 1<sup>st</sup> round heat for the 100 yards ‘Under-15 Trial’ (22 entries).
- 4) Day 1. Browne won a 2<sup>nd</sup> round heat for the 100 yards ‘Under-15 Trial’.
- 5) Day 2. **BFR** finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Under-15 High Jump event. He jumped 4 feet 1½ inches (approximately 1.26 meters). The winning jump measured 4 feet 2¾ inches (approximately 1.29 meters) and was made by a competitor named Eykyn Senior. Both boys received a prize donated by ‘The Town’.

*Pages 62-63. April.* The following letter was published together with a translated version of the ‘Newton Song’. Both items are reprinted below because they convey the ethos of the school during **BFR**’s time there as a pupil:

To the editor of “*The Newtonian*.”

Dear Sir,

As the Latin School-song written by the late Mr. Pyne has recently been set to music by Mr. Marshall-Hall, and will soon, it is hoped, be given at our Saturday Evening Concerts, I enclose a translation of it into metrical English, which will, I trust, convey with tolerable fidelity both the language and spirit of the original.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant, A. D.

*Carmen Neutonense* [Latin for *Newton Song*].

Gone the term! Its cares are ended,  
Maps and Grammars go your ways!  
One voice lift in joyful chorus  
“Welcome, welcome, Holidays!”

Come stand then together,  
In fellowship blend!  
Not master and pupil,  
But comrade and friend –  
Brother holding fast by brother,  
Glorify our common Mother!

Mark how glorious this inversion,  
See the change of place and part!

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Taught are now become the teachers –  
Lessons not of head but heart.

Chorus &c.

Sure 'tis friendly custom's order,  
That we join in genial throng,  
Liberty, not license rules us  
While we raise our wonted song.

Chorus &c.

Sunny field, and somber class-room,  
Long enough we've owned your sway;  
'Time for all things' –so they tell us—  
Time for idleness to-day.

Chorus &c.

Welcome, too, old friends and faces,  
You to whom we owe our name!  
May each present generation  
Prove but worthy of your fame!

Chorus &c.

Nor part we comrades ere we render  
Filial tribute's proper share,  
To our School—our kindly Mother,  
For her tender fostering care.

Chorus &c.

Trusty ship that well has borne us  
Safely to the wished-for shore,  
Turn we grateful to exalt her,  
"Newton, flourish evermore"!

Chorus &c.

School, that, flickering once and feeble,  
Rose to spread her light afar,  
Now she shines with undimmed luster,  
Devon's fairest brightest star!

Chorus.—

Come, stand then together,  
In fellowship blend!  
Not master and pupil

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But comrade and friend,  
If but brother hold by brother,  
Nought can harm our common Mother.

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 84 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

**Page 79. April.** An assistant master called Mr. Mallam left 'Newton College' to commence a similar appointment at Uppingham School in Rutland. It is possible that he shaped BFR's early interest in rugby because the following tribute was paid to him (see *2<sup>nd</sup> December 1884*):

"The College owed him their best thanks for the keen interest he took in the Football Team, and at leaving he was presented by the Football Division with a Set of Views and Groups of College interest. Mr. Mallam also assisted as "back" in the Devon County Football Team. He has our best wishes for his success and happiness in his new sphere of work."

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 85 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 101. July.** The following announcement was published

"A. T. Couch (O.N.), Trinity College, Oxford, rowed stroke for his College boat in the late races. This is the third year he has occupied that same thwart."

**Page 102. July.** The following announcement was published

"G. Townsend Warner (O.N.), was recently elected to a Rustat Scholarship of £40 a year at Jesus College, Cambridge, with a gratuity of £10 a year and a Prize of £3 3s. for books as the result of the Inter-Collegiate Examination at Trinity, where he was first of his year in History."

**Page 103. July.** The following announcement was published:

"The Head Master [The Rev. Warner] was selected to shoot for Devonshire in the match between the counties of Devon, Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall. He won three Prizes at the late county meeting, £1 10s. in the Sheriff's Cup, £3 in the Association Cup, and £1 in the Grand Aggregate for the Bronze Medal, where he was 21<sup>st</sup> on the Grand Total for the meeting."

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 86 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Pages 110-111. August.** The results of the annual 'Swimming races' were published. BFR, Michelmore and Browne each participated in the '3 Length Races (Under-15)'. The relevant results are reported as follows:

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First Round:

2<sup>nd</sup> Heat. 1. Tudor. 2. Browne.

3<sup>rd</sup> Heat. 1. 1. Robinson. 2. Cornish-Bowden.

4<sup>th</sup> Heat. Lowis and Michelmore swam over (given a bye into Second Round).

Second Round:

1<sup>st</sup> Heat. 1. Cornish-Bowden. 2. Michelmore.

2<sup>nd</sup> Heat. 1. Robinson. 2. Alcock.

Final Heat:

1. Robinson. 2. Cornish-Bowden. 3. Michelmore. 4. Alcock.

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 87 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 127-136. October.* It was reported that **BFR** had won the ‘Form Prize’ for the ‘Classical Side of Upper Shell’ at the annual Prizes Day held in August 1885.

*Page 137. October.* *The Newtonian* reprinted in full an Examiner’s Report written by A. T. Q. Couch. The practice of assessing candidates at an institution that is linked to an Examiner is no longer regarded as good or safe educational practice. This report (that refers to Browne) begins as follows:

“My Lords and Gentleman,

Having had the honour of examining part of the Classical work of the Modern Fifth and the Upper and Lower Shell in Newton College, I may say generally that the papers sent in were exceedingly satisfactory...”

*Page 144. 22<sup>nd</sup> October.* **BFR** and Michelmore played as Forwards for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV in a rugby match against Teignmouth Grammar School. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XV won this game by a score of six goals and two tries to nil.

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 88 (Vol. 10) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

*Pages 156-159. December.* It was reported that Michelmore had participated in both the ‘Scratch Racquet Ties (Open)’ and ‘Scratch Fives Ties (Open)’. **BFR** also participated in the latter of these two events. Furthermore, Browne participated in the ‘Junior Racquet Ties’. The relevant results are reported as follows:

First Round (Scratch Racquet):

G. W. N. Harrison, Esq.	beat	Baker mins.
Michelmore		Wyndham
11-15:15-10:15-2.		

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#### **Second Round (Scratch Racquet):**

G. W. N. Harrison, Esq. beat S. W. S. Carey, Esq.  
Michelmore Marshall sen.  
15-6:15-3.

### Third Round (Scratch Racquet):

G. W. N. Harrison, Esq. beat Walker  
Rendell Michelmore  
15-7:14-14, 0-3:15-11.

#### **Fourth Round (Scratch Racquet):**

G. W. N. Harrison, Esq. beat Davies  
Rendell Martin  
15-11-15-5.

#### First Round (Scratch Fives):

Rev. W. T. Kerry. beat Light sen.  
Baker mi. Michelmore  
15-3: 15-1.

Robinson beat Greer  
Freeland Alsop  
15-11; 15-13.

#### Second Round (Scratch Fives):

Ingles            beat            A. H. Spiers, Esq.  
Walker            Robinson

(This game was ‘scratched’ suggesting that either Spiers or BFR was unable to participate).

## **Junior Racquet Ties:**

1<sup>st</sup>. Round. Browne maj. beat Alcock mins. ('scratched').

2<sup>nd</sup> Round. Browne maj. beat Huson (15-1:15-3).

3<sup>rd</sup> Round. Browne maj. beat Cates (15-7:15-3).

4<sup>th</sup> Round. Browne maj. beat Greer (15-6:15-12).

5<sup>th</sup> and Final Round. Browne maj. beat Fielden mins. (15-6:13-15:5-3).

**December.** BFR, Michelmore and Browne sat examinations (Junior) in English, Latin, Greek, Mathematics and Drawing in the Hall at ‘Newton College’ (see *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 90 [Vol. 11], pp. 27).

1886

During this year, Joseph Robinson employed fifteen year-old Henry Mathews Baskerville (affectionately referred to as 'Harry'), as a domestic servant at Park Hill House (it might be

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noted that a key character in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is called Sir Henry Baskerville). ‘Harry’ had commenced similar duties some four years earlier for just 4 shillings per week. Initially his duties consisted of pumping water to Park Hill House from a nearby well, polishing silverware and cleaning-out fireplaces. He stayed with the Robinson family for 19 years and by 1891 he was both their coachman and gardener and was paid 12 shillings and 6 pence per week. Later ‘Harry’ became head coachman and was responsible for one assistant, three coaches and two horses. He co-founded both Ipplepen Cricket Club and Ipplepen Cottage Garden Society in 1890 (see 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 1901, 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February 1949, 17<sup>th</sup> November 1950, 16<sup>th</sup> March 1959, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1961 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 1962).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 90 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

**Page 27. March.** The results for the ‘Cambridge Local Examinations’ sat in December 1885 arrived at ‘Newton College’. **BFR**, Michelmore and Browne had ‘Satisfied the Examiners’.

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 91 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

**Page 82. March.** It was reported that £69 17s. 6d. had been donated to a memorial fund for Mr. Alexander Pyne (see 1884).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 92 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

**June.** It was reported that Michelmore and F. D. Browne (Browne sen) participated in both the ‘Form Racquet Ties’ and ‘Form Fives Ties’ events. The relevant results are reported as follows (C.Shell. = Classical Forth Form C.V. = Classical Fifth Form, C.VI. = Classical Sixth Form, M.VI. = M.VI. = Modern Sixth Form):

First Round:

C.V.	Cooke	beat	Ingles	C.Shell.
	Michelmore		Alcock ma	
15-5:15-7.				

C.V.	Kay	beat	Nutt	C.V.
	Browne sen		Rogers ma	
(Bye).				

Second Round:

M. VI.	Walker	beat	Michelmore	C.V.
	St. John		Cooke	
15-12:15-4.				

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C.V.	Kay	beat	Cates sen	C.Shell.
	Browne sen		Browne jun	
15-10:15-3.				

Third Round:

C.V.	Kay	beat	Marshall jun	C.V.
	Browne sen		Lowis	
15-11:15-8.				

Final Round:

M. VI.	Walker	beat	Kay	C.V.
	St. John		Browne sen	
15-11:15-1.				

Form Fives Ties (Final):

C. VI.	Huddlestone	beat	Michelmore	C.V.
	Baker jun		Browne sen	
15-7:15-7.				

**Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 93 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 101-102. July.* Michelmore and Browne represented ‘Newton College 3<sup>rd</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Elm Grove. Elm Grove batted first and scored 87 runs (Michelmore made two catches). In reply, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were dismissed for 65 runs and Michelmore and Browne scored 22 and 0 respectively. Elm Grove then scored 58 Runs in their second innings (Browne made a catch). In reply, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI scored 96 runs for the loss of a single wicket in their second innings (Michelmore and Browne scored 57 not out and 37 not out respectively). The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI thereby won this match.

*Page 102. July.* The following announcement was published:

“George Townsend Warner (O.N.) Jesus College, Cambridge, was re-elected to a Scholarship of £50 (an increase of £10 on last year), a gratuity of £10 and a Prize of £3 3s. in books for heading the list of History Honour men in his year in the inter-collegiate examinations on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. He also won the English Declamation Prize at his College.”

*Page 103. July.* It was reported that three members of the ‘Newton Blues’ had played cricket for Devonshire against Hampshire at Southampton (the county where ACD was residing at that time). During this match, Mr. Carey, George Townsend Warner and The Rev. Townsend Warner each batted twice and scored 55 and 0, 14 and 20 (not out) and 1 and 10 runs respectively.

*Page 104. July.* It was announced that Harold Gaye Michelmore had been elected to a full member of the ‘Newton College XXII Cricket Team’.

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**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 94 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 127. August.* The following announcement was published:

“The School-song has been finally revised by Mr. Marshall-Hall, and published by Messrs. Novello and Co. [London]. Copies can be obtained from Hearder’s [a stationer in Newton Abbot who also printed *The Newtonian*] price 3d.”

*Page 128. August.* It was reported that £82 12s. had been donated to the memorial fund for Mr. Alexander Pyne (see 1884).

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 95 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following item:

*Pages 148-149. October.* It was announced that donations made to the memorial fund for Mr. Alexander Pyne would be used to finance an annual prize and to decorate the College Chapel.

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 96 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 158. November.* It was reported that BFR, Michelmore and F. D. Browne (Browne sen) had participated in the ‘Challenge Racquet Ties’. The relevant results are reported as follows:

First Round:

Browne sen      beat      Chataway,      15-0:15-1.

Bridges jun      beat      Robinson,      15-2:18-8.

Michelmore      beat      Alcock ii,      15-0:15-1.

Second Round:

Browne sen      beat      Light sen,      15-6:13-15:15-4.

Michelmore      beat      Marshall sen,      15-4:13-13,5-0.

Third Round:

Michelmore      beat      Browne sen,      15-2:15-6.

Fourth Round:

Walker      beat      Michelmore,      13-13, 5-4:15-12.

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Final Round:

Walker beat Ingles, 15-5:15-0.

*Page 171. November.* It was announced that the Christmas holiday would begin on 18<sup>th</sup> December and end on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1887.

*Christmas Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 97 (Vol. 11) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 188. December.* It was reported that a master called Mr. Tristram had been selected to play rugby (Full Back) for the South of England against the North of England. This match was subsequently played at Blackheath on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1886 in front of some 6,000 spectators. The ‘South’ won this match by a score of one goal and 1 try to 2 tries. Such games were used as trials to select the full England XV. Henry Barrington Tristram was a Devonshire player and had previously represented England (1883-1885). It should be noted that he later contributed a chapter to a book that was mainly written by BFR and entitled *Rugby Football* (see 14<sup>th</sup> December 1897). It therefore appears that Tristram also nurtured BFR’s early interest for the game of rugby (see 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1884, October 1887 and Spring Term 1888). During 1887, he departed ‘Newton College’ to take-up an appointment as a master at Loretto School at East Lothian in Scotland (see 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946).

*Page 189. December.* It was reported that Francis Deshon Browne had been awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV rugby cap.

*Page 191. December.* The following change in school examination policy, effective from July 1887, was announced (see 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1887 and *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 104 [Vol. 12], pp. 129-134 and pp. 135):

“Best of Fifth forms and Sixth-form will be entered for the Oxford and Cambridge Board Examinations for Senior and Junior Certificates instead of for the Senior and Junior Locals. The examinations are of a much higher standard, and we shall be compared with all the best schools in the country. As the work is so much harder, it naturally follows that there will still be plenty of Local Candidates to fill the School Hall as each Christmas comes round.”

This same report also states that the Oxford and Cambridge Board Examinations for Senior and Junior Certificates:

“...is taken for the previous examinations at Cambridge and the responses at Oxford [Oxbridge entrance examinations], and in lieu of Matriculation at several Colleges. Under certain conditions it also serves for the Army preliminary.”

*December.* Browne sat local examinations (Junior) in English, Latin, Greek, Mathematics and Drawing in the Hall at ‘Newton College’ (see *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 98 [Vol. 12], pp. 27 and *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 101 [Vol. 12], pp. 78).

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**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 98 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

**Pages 15-16. February.** It was reported that on **5<sup>th</sup> February**, Michelmore had played as Three-Quarters in a rugby match between 'Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XV' and Torre College. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV won this game by a score of 1 goal and 1 try to 2 tries.

**Page 17. February.** It was reported that a meeting had been held on **3<sup>rd</sup> February** between members of the Classical Sixth-Form and the Modern 5<sup>th</sup> Form. At this meeting it was agreed that a school debating society should be formed under the presidency of Mr. H. B. Tristram. The same report includes the following statement:

"The first debate was subsequently held in the VI form room on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 1887 when Rendell [see **30<sup>th</sup> July 1888**] moved "that, in the opinion of this House, the public school system does not require radical reform." Muller [see **30<sup>th</sup> July 1888**] and Wyndham followed as seconder and opposer, respectively. This debate was continued by Tudor, Michelmore, Fellows, Alsop, Mr. Sharman, Robinson and Mr. Tristram. Eventually the motion was lost by one vote the numbers being: For 9: Against 10."

**Page 17. February.** It was reported that BFR and Michelmore had competed in the 'Open Doubles Fives Competition'. The relevant results were as follows:

First Round:

Marshall ii.	beat	Baker i.
S.W.S. Carey, Esq.		Robinson.
15-5:7:15:15-3.		

Bearne.	Beat	A.H. Sharman, Esq.
Fellows		Michelmore.
4-15:17-14:15-7.		

**Page 19. February.** The following announcement was published:

"W.R. Rendell [see **February 1887**] and O.V. Muller [see **Christmas Term 1888**], have respectively gained Scholarships at Jesus College, Cambridge, of the value of £40 and £50 each, and we can justly feel proud of their performance. Muller was first in Mathematics and Rendell third in Classics, out of a gross number of 42 candidates, 12 in Mathematics, and 30 in Classics."

**Page 19. February.** The following announcement was published:

"C. B. Clapcott [O.N.] has been elected Secretary to the Finance Committee of the Amalgamated Clubs, at Jesus College, Cambridge, and from what he did for the Games Club here, we think they have made a good selection [see **30<sup>th</sup> July 1888**]."

**Page 21. February.** It was announced that the Easter holiday would commence on

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**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.**

*Page 23. February.* It was announced that Michelmore had been appointed a member of the library committee during the previous month (*January*).

*Page 27. February.* The results of the recent Cambridge Local Examination for Juniors were published (see *December 1886*). It was announced that Browne had ‘Satisfied the Examiners’ (see June 1887).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 99 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*Pages 35. March.* It was reported that both Michelmore and Browne had participated in the ‘Form Racquet Ties’. The relevant results are reported as follows:

First Round:

H.G. Michelmore	beat	C.B. Kay
F.H. Cook		R.D. Marshall
15-4:15-7.		
Upper Classical V.		Upper Classical V.

F.D. Browne	beat	W.R. Rendell
C.W.C. Ingles		A.F. Alcock
15-4:15-8.		
Lower Classical V.		Classical VI.

Second Round:

F.D. Browne	beat	J.R. Wyndham
C.W.C. Ingles		C.S. Fellows
15-9:15-10.		
Lower Classical V.		Modern VI.

H.G. Michelmore	beat	P.S. Lowis
F.H. Cook		F.A. Greer
15-4:15-7.		
Upper Classical V.		Modern VI.

Final:

H.G. Michelmore	beat	C.W.C. Ingles
F.H. Cook		F.D. Browne
15-12:15-9.		
Upper Classical V.		Lower Classical V.

*Page 37. March.* The following announcement was published:

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“At the second Debate of the term, Modern Times were decided to be better than Ancient by a majority of 11 to 9. Robinson in opposing showed himself a formidable adversary; but the rhetoric of Wyndham and Peel-Yates was too much for the majority present.”

*Page 41. March.* The following announcement was published:

“Muller and Rendell to share the Senior Exhibition and divide £10 for books between them.”

*Page 42. March.* The following announcement was published:

“George Townsend Warner (O.N.) has for the third time come out first of the men of his year in the Historical May Examination at Cambridge.”

*Page 43. March.* The following announcement was published:

“We congratulate Mr. Tristram on being again chosen for the International match [rugby], England v. Scotland. His services were also obtained for Devon v. Gloucestershire.”

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 100 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*April.* The following results and comments was recorded in relation to the high-jump event that was held on the second day of the annual school Athletic Sports (*18<sup>th</sup> March 1887*):

High Jump (Open). Two Prizes. First prize presented by S.W.S. Carey, Esq.

1. Bearne maj., 4ft. 9½inc.      2. Peel-Yates 4ft. 8 ½inc.

Melhuish and Robinson both got over 4ft. 7inc. We hoped Bearne would have done higher.

*Pages 53-55. April.* It was reported that on *31<sup>st</sup> March*, Michelmore had participated in an annual event referred to as ‘The Steeple Chases’. This event was contested by twelve senior boys and Michelmore was awarded eighth place.

*Page 63. April.* It was reported that both BFR and Michelmore had entered an event referred to as the ‘Form Fives Ties’. The relevant results are reported as follows:

First Round:

Michelmore	beat	Robinson
Cook		Parke
	Scratched.	
Upper Classical V.		Lower Classical V.

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Second Round:

Michelmore	beat	Hamilton
Cook		Ingles
Scratched.		
Upper Classical V.		Lower Classical V.

Third Round:

Rendell	beat	Michelmore
Huddlestone		Cooke
Scratched.		
Class. VI		Upper Classical V.

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 101 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

**Pages 66-67. June.** It was reported that both The Rev. Warner and Michelmore had represented the Newton Blues in a cricket match against South Devon Cricket Club that was played on **14<sup>th</sup> May**. Newton Blues batted first and were dismissed for 71 runs (The Rev. Warner and Michelmore scored 4 and 7 runs respectively). In reply, South Devon scored just 58 runs. Newton Blues therefore won this game by 13 runs.

**Pages 70-71. June.** It was reported that Michelmore had represented 'Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI' in a cricket match against Totnes Cricket Club that was played on **26<sup>th</sup> May**. Totnes batted first and were dismissed for 118 runs. In reply, 'Newton College' scored just 31 runs (Michelmore scored 1 run). Newton College then commenced a second innings and were 10-1 when 'time' was called.

**Pages 71-72. June.** It was reported that Michelmore had represented 'Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI' in a cricket match against the Royal Navy Engineering College that was played on **4<sup>th</sup> June** (at Keyham in Plymouth). R.N.E.C. batted first and were dismissed for 106 runs. In reply, 'Newton College' had scored 178-8 when 'time' was called (Michelmore scored 3 runs before being run-out).

**Pages 73-74. June.** It was reported that Michelmore had represented 'Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XI' in a cricket match against St. Mary Church (Torquay) that was played on **28<sup>th</sup> May** (at College). 'Newton College' batted first and were dismissed for 103 runs (Michelmore batted but failed to score). In reply, St. Mary Church scored 69 runs. 'Newton College' then played a second innings and scored 110 runs (Michelmore scored 51 runs). The College therefore won this match easily. This same match report includes the following comment:

"Everyone worked hard for a win, and Michelmore played well in the second innings."

**Pages 74-75. June.** It was reported that both Michelmore and Browne had represented 'Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XI' in a cricket match against Bovey Cricket Club that was played on **1<sup>st</sup> June** (at Bovey Tracey). 'Newton College' batted first and were dismissed for 45 runs (Michelmore and Browne scored 5 and 3 runs)

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respectively). In reply, Bovey scored 116 runs. ‘Newton College’ then played a second innings and scored a further 85 runs (Michelmore and Browne scored 13 and 0 runs respectively). Bovey were declared the winners of this match.

**Page 78. June.** The results for the Cambridge Local Examination (see **December 1886**) were published. Browne was placed 20<sup>th</sup> (of 33 entrants) in the “Order of Merit of Junior candidates on the whole examination”.

**Page 80. June.** It was reported that Michelmore had been elected to the ‘Newton College Cricket XXII’ (squad of boys from which players were selected to represent the ‘Newton Blues’, Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XI teams).

**Page 82. June.** It was reported that Michelmore, Peel-Yates and J. Alsop had each been elected a ‘Probationer’. This term was used to describe a trial period that was undertaken by a newly appointed school prefect.

**Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 102 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

**Pages 92-93. July.** It was reported that Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Mannamead School that was played on 2<sup>nd</sup> **July** (at Plymouth). Mannamead batted first and were dismissed for 77 runs. In reply, ‘Newton College’ scored 98 runs (Browne scored 13 runs). Mannamead then played a second innings and scored a further 88 runs. ‘Newton College’ then commenced their second innings and had scored 37-7 when ‘time’ was called (Browne did not bat).

**Pages 93-94. July.** It was reported that both Michelmore and Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Buckfastleigh. ‘Newton College’ batted first and were dismissed for 234 runs (Michelmore and Browne scored 24 and 15 runs respectively). In reply, Buckfastleigh were dismissed for a lower score and ‘Newton College’ thereby won this game.

**Pages 94-95. July.** It was reported that an ‘H.G. Michelmore’s XI’ had played a cricket match against a ‘Red House & Scholars XI’. The Michelmore XI batted first and were dismissed for 64 runs (Michelmore scored 19 runs). In reply, Red House were dismissed for 78 runs. The Michelmore XI then played a second innings and were dismissed for 33 runs (Michelmore scored 3 runs). Red House then commenced their second innings and scored 34-4 thereby winning this game.

**Pages 98-99. July.** It was reported that **BFR** had represented ‘Newton College 3<sup>rd</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Teignmouth Grammar School that was played on 30<sup>th</sup> **June** (at Teignmouth). ‘Newton College’ batted first and were dismissed for 50 runs (**BFR** scored 7 runs). In reply, Teignmouth were dismissed for 68 runs. ‘Newton College’ then played a second innings and were dismissed for 84 runs (**BFR** scored 5 runs). Teignmouth then commenced their second innings and had scored 5-2 when ‘time’ was called. This match was drawn.

**Page 102. July.** The following announcement was published:

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“We congratulate G. Townsend Warner (O.N.) Jesus Coll. Camb. On being placed Senior in the First Class of the Historical Tripos published on June 15<sup>th</sup>. ”

*Pages 102-103. July.* It was announced that since December 1886, four Old Newtonian's had been awarded a scholarship at either Cambridge or Oxford University. These individuals were Robert Townsend Warner, William Reginald Rendell, Oswald Valdemar Muller and Charles Blackstone Clapcott (see *30<sup>th</sup> July 1888* and *Christmas Term 1888*). The following statement also accompanied the aforementioned announcement:

“C.B. Clapcott (O.N.) Jesus Coll. Cambridge, was bracketed second of the History Honour men of his year in the May Examination, being only two marks behind the first. He was in consequence elected to a History Scholarship value £40, and given in addition a gratuity of £10 and £3 3s. prize.”

*Page 103. July.* The following announcement was published:

“Two members of the Blues played for the County v. Hants at Graslawn, on June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>. Rev. G. T. Warner and G.T. Warner. After a most exciting match, Hants won by one wicket.”

*Page 103. July.* It was announced that the annual Prize Day would be held on *28<sup>th</sup> July*.

*23<sup>rd</sup> July.* Both BFR and Michelmore sat various examinations for the award of the Lower Certificate by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board (see *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 104 [Vol. 12], pp. 129-134 and pp. 135).

*Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 103 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*Page 112. August.* It was reported that Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Totnes that was played on *7<sup>th</sup> July*. ‘Newton College batted first and were dismissed for 83 runs (Browne scored 1 run). In reply, Totnes scored 119 runs. Totnes then commenced a second innings and had scored 17-3 when ‘time’ was called.

*Page 113. August.* It was reported that both Michelmore and Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Plymouth College that was played on *15<sup>th</sup> July* (at College). ‘Newton College’ batted first and were dismissed for 174 runs (Michelmore and Browne scored 0 and 4 runs respectively). In reply, Plymouth were dismissed for 87 runs. Plymouth then commenced a second innings and had scored 46-3 when ‘time’ was called. The match was declared a draw. This same match report includes the following comment:

“After resuming [lunch interval] Bearne and Taylor took the score to 150, and Rendell stayed for a while, but Browne did little and Michelmore less.”

*Page 115. August.* It was reported that BFR had represented ‘Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup>

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XI' in a cricket match against Dartmouth. Dartmouth batted first and were dismissed for 147 runs. In reply, 'Newton College' were dismissed for 65 runs (**BFR** scored 13 runs). 'Newton College' then played a second innings and were dismissed for 170 runs (**BFR** scored 25 runs). 'Time' was called before Dartmouth were able to play a second innings and therefore this game was declared a draw.

*Page 117. August.* It was reported that both Michelmore and Browne had represented 'Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XI' in a cricket match against Bovey Tracey. Bovey batted first and were dismissed for 97 runs (Michelmore took a catch). In reply, 'Newton College' were dismissed for 230 runs (Michelmore and Browne scored 54 not out and 11 runs respectively).

*Page 123. August.* The following announcement was published (see **1884, February 1885, April 1885, March 1886, August 1886, October 1886 and August 1887**):

"Part of the Pyne Memorial Fund has been devoted to laying down tiles in the Chancel of the College Chapel. Some handsome steps, and skirting of Devonshire Marble from Ogwell [near Ipplepen] quarries have been added, and the result is extremely good. The interest on the balance of the money is we believe to form an Annual School Prize for English, divided between English Essay Open and, an English Literature Prize for the Shells."

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 104 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Pages 125-129. October.* It was reported that the annual Prize Day was held at 'Newton College' on 28<sup>th</sup> July. The Bishop of Exeter opened proceedings in the Chapel by preaching a sermon from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle of Paul to Corinthians (Verse 9) to a congregation comprising of parents, staff, guests and students. This event then relocated to the school hall where addresses were made by the Honourable William Reginald, The Earl of Devon (and president of the 'Newton College' governing council) and The Rev. Warner (Headmaster). Various prizes were then awarded to students in the presence of various invited local dignitaries including one Mrs. Marcus Hare (see 7<sup>th</sup> September 1905) and Sir William Hamilton (see **May Term 1891**).

*Pages 129-134. October.* The results for the Lower Certificate of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, were published (see 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1887 and July 1888). The relevant results were reported as follows:

[The letters prefixed to the candidate's names indicate the subjects in which they passed.

<i>a</i> = Latin	<i>i</i> = Scripture
<i>b</i> = Greek	<i>j</i> = English
<i>c</i> = French	<i>k</i> = English History
<i>d</i> = German	<i>l</i> = Geography
<i>f</i> = Arithmetic	<i>m</i> = Chemistry
<i>g</i> = Additional Mathematics	<i>o</i> = Geometrical Drawing

A capital letter denotes that a First Class was obtained in the subject indicated by the letter.]

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NAME OF PUPIL:	SUBJECTS:
Michelmore, Harold Gaye	a, b, c, f, g, i.
Robinson, Bertram Fletcher	a, f, g, i, J, K.

*Page 135. October.* It was reported that Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Blundell’s School that was played on 23<sup>rd</sup> July (at Tiverton). The start of this match was delayed because some of the ‘Newton College’ players had earlier that same day, sat various Certificates for the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board (see 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1887). It appears that Blundell’s batted first and were dismissed for 200 runs. In reply, ‘Newton College’ had scored 111-5 when ‘time’ was called (Browne did not bat). This match was declared a draw.

*Pages 136-137. October.* It was reported that both Michelmore and Browne had represented ‘Newton College Present’ in a cricket match against ‘Newton College Past’ that was played on 27<sup>th</sup> July (at College). Present won the toss and elected to bat first. This match was eventually drawn “in favour of the College [Present]”. The match report includes the following relevant comments:

“Things looked bad, but a stand was made by Browne and Cates who added 70 before the latter was dismissed for a steady 23. Michelmore [4 runs not out] then joined Browne but before long Browne was bowled by Osmond for a well played 44. Our total stood at 149.”

*Page 137. October.* In a cricketing report entitled *Characters of the XI*, it was stated that:

“F.D. BROWNE. Disappointed as a bat, because he would insist on playing across. A mediocre field.

*Pages 143-144. October.* Both BFR (Forward) and Michelmore (¾ Back) represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match against Torquay Wanderers that was played on 8<sup>th</sup> October (at College). Torquay won this game by a score of 1 goal to 1 try (3 points to 1 point).

*Pages 144-145. October.* Both Michelmore (Forward) and Browne (¾ Back) represented ‘Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XV’ in a rugby match against Totnes 2<sup>nd</sup> XV that was played on 13<sup>th</sup> October (at College). ‘Newton College’ won this game by a score of 2 goals and 1 try to 1 try (7 points to 1 point).

*Page 145. October.* The following announcement was published (see December 1886 and 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946):

“It is with the greatest regret we parted from Mr. Tristram at the end of last term. We may without hesitation say that no one else has been more popular in the best sense of the word as a master, since the School had any existence. We are consoled by the thought that he has only left us for his former School, Loretto, to take charge of a boarding house; and we hope that he will be as much appreciated there as he was here in and out of the School.”

*Page 145. October.* The following announcement was published (see 20<sup>th</sup> October

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1930):

“E.N. Gardiner, Esq., late scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, succeeds Mr. Tristram as Senior Classical Master.”

*Page 146. October.* The following announcement was published:

“W.R. Rendell, O.V. Muller and C. Ingles have entered Jesus College, and H.G. Peter Hoblyn, Peterhouse, Cambridge.”

*Page 147. October.* The following announcement was published (see *June 1887*):

“J.R. Wyndham is Captain of the School, and J.C. Alsop second Captain. The new Probationers are F.D. Browne, J. Currie, E.L. Eynon, W.J.H. King, P.S. Lowis, A.M. Nutt, B.F. Robinson, H.H. Tudor.”

*Page 148. October.* The following announcement was published:

“The College Debating Society, though at their first meeting they elected Mr. A.H. Sharman, President (see *24<sup>th</sup> August 1918*), Robinson, Secretary, and a committee of four members, Eynon, Michelmore, Wyndham and Browne, have not yet held a meeting. We hope it is only postponed and will revive later in the term.”

*Page 148. October.* The following announcement was published (see *28<sup>th</sup> February 1888*):

“The following are appointed librarians – J.R. Wyndham (ex off.), B.F. Robinson, F.A. Greer, H.G. Michelmore.”

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 105 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*Page 161. November.* The ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ batting averages for the 1887 cricket season were published as follows:

Name	Runs	Innings	Times Not Out	Highest Score	Average
F.D. Browne	85	7	0	44	12.1
H.G. Michelmore	15	5	1	7	3.3

*Page 162. November.* BFR (Forward), Michelmore (Forward) and Browne (¾ Back) represented ‘Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XV’ in a rugby match against Dartmouth that was played on *1<sup>st</sup> October* (at College). Dartmouth won this game by a score of 13 points to nil.

*Pages 164-165. November.* Browne represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match against Blundell’s School that was played on *2<sup>nd</sup> November* (at College). Blundell’s won this game by a score of 3 goals and 6 tries to nil (15 points to 0 points).

*Page 166. November.* The following announcement was published:

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“H.H. Tudor received his 1<sup>st</sup> XV cap after the Newton Match; the following also have received the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV caps:- B.F. Robinson, W.H. King, E. Tudor, A. Cornish-Bowden, C. Davies, F.A. Greer.”

*Page 167. November.* The following announcement was published:

“We omitted to mention that the following XXII caps were given last term:- B.F. Robinson, E.T. Tudor, E.L. Hammond, G.T.M. Bridges, E. Biggs, W.P. Gooch, G.A. Fielden.”

*Page 167. November.* The following announcement was published:

“On November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Moderns beat the Classics [at Rugby] by seven points to one. Kay, Lowis, and Davis obtained the Modern tries and Robinson got in for the Classicals.”

*Christmas Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 106 (Vol. 12) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*Page 177. December.* The following announcement was published (see *20<sup>th</sup> October 1930*):

“Mr. Gardiner played for Devon v. Somerset at Exeter, on Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.”

*Page 177. December.* The following announcement was published (see *31<sup>st</sup> July 1883*):

“On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the School had the honour of a visit from the Right Hon. W.H. Smith, M.P. [William Henry Smith also referred to as ‘Pinafore’ Smith], the First Lord of the Treasury and Leader of the House of Commons. Mr. Smith who was in Newton for a Political Meeting, accompanied by Sir John Kennaway and Mr. W.H. Lethbridge and other gentleman came up to the College and made a short speech to the School who were assembled in the Hall to meet him...”

*Page 180. December.* BFR, E. N. Gardiner (Forwards) and Michelmore (¾ Back), represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Totnes (see *20<sup>th</sup> October 1930*). Totnes won this match by a score of 6 points to 1 point.

*Pages 181-182. December.* Both Michelmore (Forward) and Browne (¾ Back), represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Torquay Wanderers (at College). Torquay won this match by a score of 1 goal and 4 tries to 1 try (7 points to 1 point). The match report includes the following comment:

“...Davy next got the ball and looked like scoring but Browne pushed him into touch...”

*Pages 182-183. December.* Both BFR (Forward) and Browne (¾ Back), represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Torre College (Torquay) on *10<sup>th</sup> December*. Torre won this match by a score of 1 goal and 4 tries to 1 try (7 points to 1 point). The match report includes the following comment:

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“...Miller then runs past their “25” but is prevented from going any further. The ball is kicked out of the scrum, and on the Torquay back missing it, Robinson picks it up and runs in [meaning that **BFR** scored the ‘Newton College’ try].”

*Pages 183-185. December.* **BFR**, Michelmore (Forwards) and Browne ( $\frac{3}{4}$  Back), represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Keyham. Keyham won this match by a score of 3 goals and 6 tries to 1 try (15 points to 1 point).

*Page 186. December.* Both Michelmore (Forward) and Browne ( $\frac{3}{4}$  Back), represented ‘Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XV’ in a rugby match played against Torquay Wanderers 2<sup>nd</sup> XV on 22<sup>nd</sup> October (at College). This match resulted in a scoreless draw.

*Page 186. December.* It was reported that the ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ had played 10 matches during the 1887 cricket season. The team won 3 games, drew 3 games and lost 4 games (both Michelmore and Browne participated in 7 of these matches).

*Page 186. December.* It was reported that **BFR**, Michelmore and Browne (Browne sen.) had participated in the ‘Single Champion Challenge Racquet Ties’. The relevant results are recorded as follows:

1<sup>st</sup>. Round.

Browne sen. beat Kay.  
Robinson beat Hayward.  
Michelmore beat C-Bowden mins.

2<sup>nd</sup> Round.

Michelmore beat O'Neill.  
Windson jun. beat Robinson.  
Browne sen. Beat Bridges sen.

3<sup>rd</sup> Round.

Michelmore beat Nutt.  
Browne sen. given bye.

4<sup>th</sup> Round.

Michelmore beat Cates sen.  
Browne sen. beat Windsor jun.

Final Round.

Michelmore beat Browne sen.

*Pages 189-190. December.* A list of serving Army officers and Old Newtonians was published. It includes the following relevant entry (see 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925):

“Fawcett, P.H. Lieut. R.A. Garrison Artillery, Ceylon.”

## 1888

27<sup>th</sup> January. Edward Norman Gardiner represented Devonshire in a rugby match against Cornwall that was played in Plymouth (see 20<sup>th</sup> October 1930).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 107 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Pages 9-14.* ‘Newton College’ had fielded three rugby teams during the 1887/1888 season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV squad regularly included Francis Deshon Brown and had featured Harold Gaye Michelmore on at least one occasion. The former boy is described thus:

“Brown, F.D. (11st. 4lb.). Is strong and fast but is a disappointing three-quarters from inability to use his hands or make ground.”

During the course of this season, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV had played ten games against local clubs and had won 2 matches and lost 8 matches. This team appears to have been managed and coached by two masters called Mr. Hewetson and Mr. Gardiner. **BFR** later referred to both Mr. Gardiner and The Rev. Townsend Warner in his book entitled *Rugby Football* suggesting that they too helped to nurture his interest for rugby (see 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1884, December 1886, October 1887, 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December 1888 and 20<sup>th</sup> October 1930).

*Page 14. 28<sup>th</sup> February.* The school library committee met to discuss and agree rules, policies and procedures for the use of its resources (see **October 1887**). This committee had recently closed the library in order to re-catalogue the collection for the first time in four or five years. The committee then published the following list of rules:

1. That all lost books shall be replaced subject to the approval of the Committee.
2. That a regular system of fines for books wilfully damaged shall be organised.
3. That an entirely new catalogue be printed on the same plan as the old one.
4. That the College crest shall in future be stamped on all new and rebound books.
5. That those who lose books shall be *strictly* required to replace them.
6. That the days on which the Library will be opened will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, immediately after tea except during the Summer term, when the time will be immediately after dinner.
7. That no boy shall keep his book for more than a fortnight.
9. [sic] That a balance of £2. 10s. be always kept on hand by the Treasurer for binding and other expenses.

*Signed,*

**J. R. WYNDHAM,  
H. G. MICHELMORE,  
B. F. ROBINSON,  
F. H. GREER.**

*Page 18.* It was reported that C. S. Arthur, O.N., had represented Wales in an

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international rugby match against Ireland.

*Page 19.* It was reported that an assistant master called Mr. Sharman had recently played rugby for Devon against Somerset (see **24<sup>th</sup> August 1918**).

*Page 19.* **BFR** won a prize and the following announcement was published (see *Christmas Term 1888*):

“H. A. T. Muller has carried off the Earl of Devon’s Divinity Prize, we hear he obtained a very good percentage of marks. B. F. Robinson obtained that awarded by Archdeacon Earle. Mr. Moyle was the examiner.”

*Page 19. 10<sup>th</sup> March.* Francis Deshon Browne was awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby ‘cap’ and Harold Gaye Michelmore was presented with a 2<sup>nd</sup> XV rugby ‘cap’.

*Page 20.* It was announced that the Easter Term would conclude 21<sup>st</sup> April and that the Summer Term would commence 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 108 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Pages 27-29.* Harold Gaye Michelmore published an extensive 3000 word essay entitled *Fishing Near Newton Abbot*. He concluded this article by asserting that:

“The best of Devonshire fishing can be had on this water (River Dart) between Post Bridge [sic] and Buckfastleigh, and it cannot fail to please even the most exorbitant angler...”

It is interesting to note that **BFR** and many of his other friends also enjoyed angling (see **25<sup>th</sup> February 1893, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1897, early 1902** and **26<sup>th</sup> November 1905**). It is therefore probable that **BFR** sometimes accompanied Michelmore on fishing-trips to Postbridge that is located close to Grimsound on Dartmoor. Grimsound is featured as the site of the Grimpen Mire in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see **September 1904, 26<sup>th</sup> November 1905, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924, 9<sup>th</sup> February 1949** and **24<sup>th</sup> October 1969**).

**30<sup>th</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April.** **BFR**, Michelmore and Browne competed in a ‘School Fives Competition’ (see *The Newtonian*, Issue No. 109 [Vol. 13], pp.65).

*Pages 40-41. 5<sup>th</sup> April.* Twenty-five pupils attended a meeting of the school debating society in the Sixth-Form room. The subsequent report about this meeting includes the following two statements:

### **COMMITTEE OF THE DEBATING SOCIETY:-**

J. R. WYNDHAM. | H. G. MICHELMORE.

E. L. EYNON. | F. D. BROWNE.

*Hon. Sec. ... B. F. ROBINSON.*

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“...After the minutes of the last meeting had been read, the motion was proposed by B. F. Robinson, ‘That in the opinion of the house Home Rule is the only remedy for the present

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disorder in Northern Ireland. Robinson gave a short and effective account of the causes of the present state of affairs in Ireland, and argued strongly in favour of autonomy. Wyndham in reply laid stress upon the danger of such change...The proposer exercised his right of reply, and on the motion being put to the house it was defeated by 18 votes to 7."

*Page 41.* A preview about the 1888 cricket season appears cautiously optimistic about the prospects for success of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI team. This article states:

"Our Cricket prospects for the coming season appear to be fairly promising, and with energetic practice we hope to give a good account of ourselves against all our old opponents. Five of last year's years Caps will be available...Kay and Browne could both get runs, and only require practice to be again very useful...Of the candidates for the vacant places Michelmore appears to be one of the most probable...The other members of last year's XXII who are still available are-Alsop, Peel-Yates sen., Robinson, Hammond ma., Nutt, Greer, Bridges jun., Fielden, and Gooch...We hope to see a keen competition among these for the honour of a places in the XI."

*Pages 42-44. 14<sup>th</sup> April.* Several heats and junior events were held in advance of the annual 'Athletic Sports'. A subsequent report lists the results for these preliminary events and includes the following statement:

"We are pleased to hear that Robinson has got well over 5 ft. in the High Jump. No one has appeared at present who is likely to press him, but we hope that in exhibition jumping he may establish a record for Newton College."

*Spring Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 109 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following:

*Page 65. 30<sup>th</sup> March - 1<sup>st</sup> April.* BFR, Michelmore and Browne competed in a school 'Form Fives Competition'. BFR was partnered with Jamieson senior and Browne was partnered with Michelmore. In the first-round tie, BFR and Jamieson senior beat Peel-Yates senior and Owen-Jones senior. BFR and Jamieson senior then beat Eynon and Currie senior in a second round tie (score; 15-0; 15-1). Browne and Michelmore beat Bridges senior and Nutt in a first-round tie and then Kay and Cornish-Bowden junior in a second-round tie (score; 15-4; 15-5). Browne and Michelmore then beat BFR and Jamieson senior in the first semi-final tie (score of 15-0; 15-1) and then defeated Wyndham and Greer in the final (score; 14-14 (0-3); 15-8; 15-13. The following match report appears in *The Newtonian* (Issue No. 118, vol. 18, pp. 37):

"The last round of the ties was exceedingly closely contested, as the scores show. Wyndham played well throughout, and Greer very fairly... Michelmore was the best of the winners above the step, his volleying being sometimes brilliant. Browne played well below and supported his partner in fine style..."

*Page 66.* Browne and Michelmore were awarded the title of 'Form Racquet Pair' and Michelmore received the 'Champion Racquet Cup'.

Racquet differs from Fives in that the later sport involves the use of a racket to speed-up the game and is played on a court with a ceiling. Later, Michelmore also played lawn tennis and was the Devonshire champion between 1894 and 1914 (see **1934**).

*Pages 50-59. 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April.* A full report of the two-day ‘Athletic Sports’ event appeared in both *The Newtonian* and the local *Western Morning News*. In all, a total of 34 track and field events were contested and notable results included:

- 1) Day 1. Browne won the 1<sup>st</sup> round heat of the open (all forms) 100 yards race in a time of 11.2 seconds.
- 2) Day 1. Browne won the open quarter mile race (402.34 meters) by 2 yards in a time of 61 seconds.
- 3) Day 1. Browne and Michelmore were the only entrants for ‘putting the weight’ (shot-putt). Neither boy achieved the standard distance of 26 feet, so the prize was withheld.
- 4) Day 1. Browne ran in the trial heats of the 120 yards hurdles (109.73 meters) and was narrowly defeated by Bridges in a time of 22.2 seconds.
- 5) Day 2. **BFR** and Monkton tied for first place in the open high jump. Peel-Yates was third with a jump of 4 feet 6½ inches (1.38 meters). The report about the high jump competition includes the following statements:

“In the High Jump, though Robinson and Peel-Yates were credited with 5ft. or over in practice, Robinson had to be content to tie with Monckton at 4ft 11in. (1.50 meters)...”

“Peel-Yates jumped in good style; the dead heat between Robinson and Monckton was decided on the Saturday morning (**21<sup>st</sup> April**) when Robinson proved superior.”

**BFR** received a prize from Admiral William Cornish-Bowden (1826-1896). At this time, Cornish-Bowden had two sons at Newton College (see **Spring Term 1884**) and was residing at Oak Lawn, Wolborough. Admiral Cornish-Bowden had altered his surname from ‘Bowden’ by deed-poll on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1873. It is therefore possible that he might have been related to John Bowden from whom Joseph Fletcher Robinson had purchased Park Hill House (see **1881 & 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902**). William Bowden was commissioned as a mate/sub-lieutenant by the Royal Navy on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1846 and subsequently lead a distinguished career (promoted lieutenant 27<sup>th</sup> October 1847; commander 13<sup>th</sup> November 1854; captain 31<sup>st</sup> January 1861; rear-admiral 1<sup>st</sup> August 1877; vice-admiral 6<sup>th</sup> May 1882; admiral 15<sup>th</sup> July 1887). During his service Admiral Cornish-Bowden commanded the Sixth-fleet and acted as surveyor general to the Cape Colonies. He was also a knight of the *Légion d'honneur* which had been founded by Napoléon Bonaparte in 1802 following the French Revolution. His daughter, Hilda Cornish-Bowden, married **BFR**’s master, Edward Norman Gardiner (see **30<sup>th</sup> October 1930**) and a ‘Bowden’ acted as a witness to **BFR**’s own wedding (see **3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902**). Admiral William Cornish-Bowden may have been the origin for **BFR**’s later interest in Naval history (see early **1900**). It is also interesting to note that a portrait of a character called rear-admiral Baskerville is referred in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

- 6) Day 2. Browne finished third in the final heat of the Open 100 Yards race. The report also includes the following references to this event:

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“Miller and Browne were off first and Browne looked like winning at one time, but Kay shot to the front within the last 25 yards and won by a foot and one half from Miller. Browne Sen. was third. Tudor, Wyndham, and Currie Sen. were also included.”

7) Day 2. Browne finished third in the open 120 yards hurdles. This event was won by Monckton in a time of 20.8 seconds. The report also includes the following reference to this event:

“Browne Sen. was third and Bridges Sen. fourth. The four ran level till the sixth hurdle, when Bridges fell to the rear. Monckton took his hurdles in capital style and won by 2 yards from King, who was hard pressed by Browne for second place.”

8) Day 2. A pupil called Tudor (son of The Rev. Tudor, the rector of Wolborough) was subsequently awarded the prestigious ‘Senior Challenge Cup’ by the masters for accumulating the highest aggregate point score for the various competitions he had entered (26/127). The system for calculating these scores and the respective positions of **BFR** and Browne are shown below:

	2 Miles	1 Mile	$\frac{1}{4}$ Mile	Hurdles	100 Yards	Broad Jump	High Jump	Pole Jump	Cricket Ball	Points
1st	9	10	10	8	9	7	7	7	6	=73
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6	7	7	5	6	4	4	4	4	=47
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	4								=7
										}
										127
Tudor	9	10	7							=26
Monckton				8		7	4			=19
Hayward	6	7								=13
Browne			10							=10
Kay					9					=9
Robinson <b>(BFR)</b>							7			=7
Peel-Yates								6		=6
Miller					6					=6
King				5						=5
Owen-Jones		4								=4
Currie						4				=4
Davies		3								=3

(It is interesting to note that George Warner was a member of the ‘Newton College’ athletic sports committee despite being a scholar at Cambridge during this time).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 109 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

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*Page 61.* A second preview about the forthcoming cricket season is decidedly optimistic about the prospects of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI team and states:

“The prospects of the School Eleven are decidedly improving. Wyndham, Kay, King, and Browne are all useful bats left from last year, and we may mention Fielden and Windsor jun. as showing considerable promise...Browne has made considerable improvement since last year, has more confidence and plays with a straight bat...In the bowling line the eleven will have to depend, as last year, chiefly on Wyndham and Cates...Robinson, Hammond, Monckton, Windsor jun., and Bridges sen. also bowl with some success, and we may mention Michelmore, Peel-Yates, Alsop and Currie sen. as likely to perform creditably with the willow.”

*Page 63. 12<sup>th</sup> May.* Browne and Michelmore represented Mr. Sharman’s XI (an assistant master) in a cricket match against South Devon Cricket Club. Browne was dismissed without scoring and Michelmore did not bat. The ‘Newton College’ side won by 24 runs for the loss of only four wickets. The Rev. Warner took 9 wickets for 22 runs.

*Page 62. 15<sup>th</sup> May.* BFR represented the Headmaster’s XI in a cricket match against ‘Newton College’ 1<sup>st</sup> XI in what presumably amounted to a pre-season friendly. **BFR** neither batted nor bowled during this match. Browne and Michelmore played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and recorded scores with the bat of 16 and 7 respectively. This match was drawn.

*Page 63.* The cricket fixtures for ‘Newton College’ 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and Newton Blues (an invitation team comprising of masters, guests, 1<sup>st</sup> XI pupils and O.N’s) was published. This list is reproduced here in full to indicate the range of opponents:

### SCHOOL. 1<sup>st</sup> XI

Day	Date	Opponents	Venue
Thurs.	May 24 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Newton Town	College
Sat.	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	v. Keyham	College
Sat.	June 16 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Blundell’s	College
Wed.	June 20 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Plymouth College	College
Sat.	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	v. Mannamead	Plymouth
Wed.	July 11 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Plymouth College (ret.)	Plymouth
Wed.	July 25 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Mannamead (ret.)	College
Mon.	July 30 <sup>th</sup> .	v. O.N.s	College

### SCHOOL. 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

Day	Date	Opponents	Venue
Sat.	May 19 <sup>th</sup> .	v. St. Mary Church	College
Thurs.	May 24 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Bovey	College
Sat.	May 26 <sup>th</sup> .	v. St. Winifred’s	College
Sat.	June 9 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Buckfastleigh	College
Sat.	June 30 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Torre Blues	College
Sat.	July 7 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Bovey (ret.)	Bovey
Sat.	July 14 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Buckfastleigh (ret.)	Buckfastleigh

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Thurs.	July 19 <sup>th</sup> .	v. St. Mary's Church (ret.)	St. Mary's Church
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### NEWTON BLUES

Day	Date	Opponents	Venue
Sat.	May 19 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Plymouth Garrison	College
Sat.	May 26 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Torquay	Torquay
Thurs.	May 31 <sup>st</sup> .	v. South Devon	S. Devon Ground
Sat.	June 9 <sup>th</sup> .	v. H.M.S. Britannia	Dartmouth
Thurs.	June 14 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Teignbridge	Teignbridge
Sat.	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	v. South Devon (ret.)	College
Wed.	June 27 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Liskeard	College
Sat.	July 7 <sup>th</sup> .	v. H.M.S. Britannia (ret.)	Dartmouth
Sat.	July 14 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Plymouth Garrison (ret.)	Plymouth
Fri.	July 20 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Southgate Wanderers	College
Sat.	July 21 <sup>st</sup> .	v. Southgate Wanderers	College
Sat.	July 28 <sup>th</sup> .	v. Torquay (ret.)	College

*Page 67.* It was announced that there were more army candidates than ever before in the school and that a “third of the School intended to enter the Army.”

**Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 110 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Page 71. 19<sup>th</sup> May.* Browne played cricket for Newton Blues against Plymouth Garrison. The Garrison batted first scoring 163 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Browne took a catch and The Rev. Warner claimed 4 wickets for 60 runs. The Blues then scored 83 runs for 8 wickets in reply. Rev. Warner and Browne scored 30 and 0 runs (not out) respectively. Time was called and the match was drawn.

*Pages 79-80. 19<sup>th</sup> May.* **BFR** and Michelmore (captain) played cricket for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI against St. Mary Church (Torquay). St. Mary Church batted first and scored 80 runs. In reply, the 2nd XI were dismissed for 73 runs. **BFR** and Michelmore scored 3 and 37 (not out) respectively. St. Mary Church then scored 78 runs in their second innings. **BFR** made 2 catches and took 5 wickets with the ball (Michelmore took a catch off **BFR**'s bowling). St. Mary Church won the game by 7 runs on their first innings. The match report includes the following statement:

“...For the College, Michelmore and Alsop batted well, the former hitting freely. Gooch, Hammond and Robinson did good service with the ball.”

*Pages 77-78. 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May.* Browne and Michelmore played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against ‘Newton College Next Twenty-Two’ (that included **BFR**). The XXII side was so-called because it comprised of 22 Masters and boys who were generally not selected for either the Blues or 1<sup>st</sup> XI teams. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and were dismissed for 66 runs. Browne and Michelmore scored 6 and 3 runs respectively. **BFR** claimed 4 wickets (including that of Browne) for 22 runs. In reply, the XXII scored 148 runs and **BFR** was bowled by Wyndham (1<sup>st</sup> XI captain) for no score. When ‘time’ was

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called on the second day, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had reached 39 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in their second innings (neither Browne nor Michelmore batted). During this innings, **BFR** bowled 40 balls and finished with figures of 0 wickets for 16 runs. This match was drawn.

*Pages 72-73. 24<sup>th</sup> May.* Browne and Michelmore played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against Newton Town. The Town scored 34 runs in their first innings and Michelmore took a catch. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI then scored 104 runs in reply. Browne and Michelmore made 27 and 5 runs respectively. Newton Town had scored 22 runs for 6 wickets in their second innings when time was called. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI therefore won this match easily. The match report includes the following statement:

“...Wyndham and Browne added more than 50 runs during their partnership...Browne played a very good innings, punishing any loose bowling. His best hits were two fives and two fours...”

*Pages 73-74. 26<sup>th</sup> May.* Browne played cricket for Newton Blues against Torquay. Blues batted first and scored 174 runs in their first innings. The Rev. Warner and Browne made 62 and 8 runs respectively. In reply, Torquay scored 73 runs in their first innings and had made 83 runs for 7 wickets in their second innings when time was called. Blues won this match comfortably and The Rev. Warner finished with bowling figures of 6 wickets for 82 runs.

*Page 80. 26<sup>th</sup> May.* **BFR** and Michelmore played cricket for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI against St. Winifred’s Cricket Club. Winifred’s batted first but managed to score only 27 runs. In reply, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI scored 225 runs. **BFR** and Michelmore scored 1 and 113 (not out) respectively. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI therefore won the match easily. The match report includes the following statement:

“...For the College, Michelmore, Bridges and Monckton batted in good form. Michelmore seemed perfectly at home with the bowling and played a brilliant innings, making 113 not out in one hour and 14 minutes.”

*Pages 74-76. 31<sup>st</sup> May.* Browne played cricket for Newton Blues against South Devon Cricket Club (The Rev. Warner did not play). Devon batted first and scored an impressive 308 for the loss of only 2 wickets. In reply, the Blues scored only 95 runs (Browne made 7 runs). South Devon therefore won the match.

*Pages 78-79. 2<sup>nd</sup> June.* Browne and Michelmore played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against the Royal Naval Engineering College (Keyham in Plymouth). The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and scored 91 runs. Browne and Michelmore scored 11 and 27 runs respectively. In reply, R.N.E.C. were dismissed for 62 runs. When ‘time’ was called, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were 117 for 4 wickets in their second innings. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI therefore won the match by 29 runs on their first innings total. The match report includes the following statement:

“Michelmore hit hard, and great credit is due to him for his runs made at a time when they were badly wanted. Michelmore and Cates made a stand; Michelmore hitting very hard and twice driving Mooney (R.N.E.C.) over the bank for 4.”

*Page 80. 7<sup>th</sup> June.* **BFR** and Michelmore played cricket for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI against Berry Pomeroy (near Totnes). The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI batted first and scored 57 runs. **BFR** and Michelmore scored 4 (not out) and 17 respectively. In reply, Pomeroy scored 23 runs. Each team then completed a second innings despite the wet weather. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Scored a further 24 runs and Pomeroy made an additional 22 runs. **BFR** and Michelmore scored 5 and 0 runs respectively during their second innings. **BFR** bowled 35 balls during Pomeroy's second innings and collected 4 wickets for just 7 runs conceded. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won this match by 39 runs.

*Page 76. 9<sup>th</sup> June.* Browne, The Rev. Warner and George Warner played cricket for Newton Blues against H.M.S. Britannia (Dartmouth Naval College). Blues batted first and scored 196 runs in very slow time. The Rev. Warner, George Warner and Browne scored 17, 3 and 14 runs respectively. Upon completion of the innings, it was deemed too late for Britannia to bat and so the match was declared a draw.

*Page 82. 9<sup>th</sup> June.* **BFR** and Michelmore played cricket for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI against Buckfastleigh. Buckfastleigh batted first and scored 52 runs. In reply, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI scored 80 runs. **BFR** and Michelmore scored 0 and 41 (not out) respectively. Each team then received a second innings despite a cold wind. Buckfastleigh scored a further 42 runs and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI knocked off the required runs to win this match (**BFR** and Michelmore did not bat). **BFR** collected two wickets during Buckfastleigh's second innings. The match report includes the following statement:

“...Robinson surprised the field by securing three really brilliant catches in the deep field (first innings). Michelmore and Nutt batted well, the former obtaining 41 not out...”

*Page 87. 9<sup>th</sup> June.* Michelmore was presented with a ‘First Eleven Cap’ for cricket after the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI match against Buckfastleigh.

**Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 111 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Pages 92-93. 14<sup>th</sup> June.* The Rev. Warner and George Warner (recently elected to the ‘Lightfoot Scholarship for Ecclesiastical History’ at Cambridge), played cricket for Newton Blues against Teignbridge. Blues batted first and scored 153 runs. The Rev. Warner and George Warner scored 5 and 2 runs respectively. In reply, Teignbridge had scored 129 for the loss of 7 wickets when time was called. This match was drawn.

*Pages 94-96. 16<sup>th</sup> June.* Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** (twelfth-man), played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against Blundell’s (an independent school located near Tiverton). Blundell’s batted first and scored 193 runs (Michelmore taking two catches). In reply, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were dismissed for 146 runs. Browne and Michelmore scored 5 and 66 (not out) respectively (**BFR** neither batted nor bowled). Blundell’s then began a second innings and had reached 40 runs for 5 wickets when time was called. Blundell’s were declared the winners of this match. The match report includes the following statement:

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“...Smith (Blundell’s) seemed well set when a brilliant piece of fielding by Michelmore ran him out. Our fielding was good, though not very showy. King and Robinson were painstaking and correct...it was obvious that in Drury (Blundell’s) our opposition had a bowler of no mean calibre...Michelmore came in and hoisted one on the leg side just out of the way of the field. He then shewed his confidence in long slip whose action justified Michelmore’s judgement, and then he began to hit...The last two wickets stayed with Michelmore until the follow was saved and something over, but the end soon came. Michelmore’s 66 included some magnificent hitting and though not faultless was under the circumstances as good an innings as one could wish to see.”

*Pages 96-98. 20th June.* Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** (full debut), played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against Plymouth College (an independent School that later merged with Mannamead School). Plymouth batted first and scored 172 runs (**BFR** finished with bowling figures of 0 wickets for 11 runs from 4 overs). In reply, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had scored 182 runs for the loss of 6 wickets when time was called. Browne and Michelmore scored 24 (not out) and 30 runs respectively (**BFR** did not bat). The 1<sup>st</sup> XI thereby won this match. The match report includes the following statement:

“...Michelmore joined Cates and runs came faster, though the hitter (Michelmore) was far from comfortable with the left-handed slows of Ryall (Plymouth)...Then both Michelmore and Cates left...but the partnership of Browne and Wyndham was profitable. The former started with seven, on drive, but then was quiescent...the score crept up until with 5 to get and 8 minutes to get them in, the match became a certainty. Monckton drove Ryall for three and Browne scored the winning hit...”

**23<sup>rd</sup> June.** **BFR** played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI (see *The Newtonian* Issue No. 112, Vol. 13, pp. 116-117).

*Pages 93-94. 27<sup>th</sup> June.* Browne, The Rev. Warner and his two sons, 23 year-old George Warner and 19 year-old Robert Warner (see **July 1887**), played cricket for Newton Blues against Liskeard. Liskeard batted first and scored 171 runs. The Rev. Warner took 6 wickets for 61 runs from 21 overs. Following a protracted break for rain, Blues replied with a score of 119 runs for the loss of 5 wickets. The Rev. Warner and George Warner scored 41 and 12 runs respectively (Browne and Robert Warner did not bat). ‘Time’ was called before Blues had completed their innings, so the match was drawn.

*Page 105.* It was reported that 20 year-old Arthur George Henfrey had been admitted to the ‘Common Room’ (staff) during the Summer Term. Henfrey was a student at Jesus College, Cambridge University and was awarded a B.A. degree in 1891. Henfrey later played Association Football (soccer) for Cambridge University (1890 and 1891), Corinthians and England (1891-1896).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 112 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Pages 116-117. 23<sup>rd</sup> June.* Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against Mannamead School. Mannamead batted first and scored 88 runs. Browne took a catch and **BFR** bowled 3 overs for 9 runs but failed to gain a wicket. In reply,

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the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had scored 311 runs for the loss of 5 wickets when time was called. Browne and Michelmore scored 42 (not out) and 2 runs respectively (**BFR** did not bat). The 1<sup>st</sup> XI thereby won this match easily.

*Pages 117-118. 4<sup>th</sup> July.* Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against Mr. Grepe's Team. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and scored 177 runs. Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** scored 25, 5 and 7 runs respectively. In reply, Grepe scored 70 runs for the loss of 4 wickets when time was called. **BFR** bowled 10 overs, 3 maidens, 0 wides and took 1 wicket for 15 runs. This match was drawn.

*Pages 111-112. 7<sup>th</sup> July.* Browne, The Rev. Warner, George Warner and Robert Warner played cricket for Newton Blues in a return match against H.M.S. Britannia. Blues batted first on a lively pitch and were dismissed for 61 runs. Browne, The Rev. Warner, George Warner and Robert Warner scored 0, 11, 17 and 6 runs respectively. In reply, Britannia knocked off the required runs without losing a wicket and had progressed to 146 runs for 6 wickets when time was called. Britannia therefore won this match comfortably.

*Pages 118-119. 10<sup>th</sup> July.* Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against a Newton College Common Room XI (masters and O.N's). The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and scored 106 runs. Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** scored 19, 2 and 9 runs respectively. In reply, Common Room made the required runs for the loss of only one wicket and thereby won this game easily. **BFR** bowled 9 overs, 1 maiden and took 1 wicket for 25 runs.

*Pages 119-120. 11<sup>th</sup> July.* Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in a return match against Plymouth College. Plymouth batted first and scored 173 runs. Browne took a catch of **BFR**'s bowling to dismiss Plymouth's opening batsman. In reply, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI scored 87 runs. Browne, Michelmore and **BFR** scored 0, 19 and 11 runs respectively. Plymouth thereby won this match.

*Pages 120-121. 17<sup>th</sup> July.* Browne and **BFR** played cricket for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI against North Staffordshire Regiment (at 'Newton College'). The Regiment batted first and scored 137 runs. **BFR** took a catch and also bowled 30 balls, 1 maiden and claimed 1 wicket (that of Captain Lindner) for 10 runs. In reply, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had scored 37 runs for the loss of four wickets when it began to rain and further play was abandoned (Browne was 0 not out and **BFR** did not bat). The match was declared a draw.

*Pages 114-116. 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July.* Browne and George Warner played cricket for Newton Blues against Southgate Wanderers (a touring Metropolitan side that included several Midland Counties players). Blues batted first and scored 151 runs. Browne and George Warner scored 0 and 38 runs respectively. In reply, Southgate made 67 runs and were forced to follow-on with a second innings on the morning of the second day. Southgate scored 87 runs in the second innings. Blues won this match by 10 wickets.

*Page 124. 25<sup>th</sup> July.* The return match between Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Mannamead College was abandoned due to inclement weather.

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*Page 126.* BFR and other members of the Classical Sixth Form were set the task of reading a book by Arthur Mapleton Curteis entitled *Rise of the Macedonian Empire* (London, 1877). This illustrated 216 page book was published as part of a series entitled *Epochs of Modern History*. The author discussed Alexander the Great, ancient Macedonia and the origins of ‘modern warfare’.

*Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 113 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*Pages 140-141. 30<sup>th</sup> July.* Browne and Michelmore played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the final cricket game of the season against O.N.’s. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and had scored 166 runs for the loss of 5 wickets when rain intervened. The match was subsequently abandoned and declared a draw. Michelmore scored 17 runs and Browne did not bat. The O.N.’s team included the following notable individuals:

George Warner, captain (see 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916),  
Sir Samuel Baker, (see **30<sup>th</sup> December 1893**),  
Charles William Chamberlayne Ingles (Jesus College, 1887-1890; Royal Navy Chaplain of the Fleet, 1917-24; Honorary Chaplain to King George V, 1923),  
Charles Blackstone Clapcott (Jesus College, 1886-1889; Senior editor of a periodical entitled *Amalgamated College Clubs*; Barrister-at-Law, 1892; Judge at the Native Court of Appeal in Cairo, 1911-1923; Order of the British Empire, 1920),  
William Reginald Rendell (Jesus College, 1887-1890; editor of a periodical entitled ‘*College Magazine*’, Barrister-at-Law, 1893; Fellow of Trinity Hall, 1904-1916; General manager of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Co., 1916-1922; married a daughter of Lord Watson, 1906).

*Page 141-142.* Newton Blues (that included Browne, The Rev. Warner and George Warner) are recorded as having played 10 cricket matches during the 1888 season (a figure that excludes a six match summer-tour of the Netherlands (Browne did not tour)). The Blues won 2 of these matches, drew 4, tied 1 and lost 3. Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI are recorded as having played 9 cricket matches during the 1888 season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI won 4 of these matches, drew 3 and lost 2 (BFR featured in 6 of these matches). A summary of the 1st XI batting performances includes the following statistics:

THE FIRST ELEVEN. BATTING AVERAGES:					
NAME:	INNINGS:	RUNS:	TIMES NOT OUT:	TOP SCORE:	AVERAGE:
F.D. Browne	8	133	3	42*	26.3
H.G. Michelmore	9	180	2	66*	25.5
B.F. Robinson	2	18	0	11	+

\* Not Out.

+ An average was not given for less than three completed innings.

(It is interesting to note that the 1<sup>st</sup> XI also played a match against Newton College Common Room (see **10<sup>th</sup> July 1888**). This match was lost and is not included in the

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calculation of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI batting averages. If this match were included, then **BFR** would qualify for a batting average of 9 runs, having scored a total of 27 runs in three innings).

*Page 143.* The following evaluation of the contribution made by Browne and Michelmore to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket season was published as follows:

“F. D. BROWNE. A forward player with good style, but too nervous to excel. Moderate in the out-field.”

“H. G. MICHELMORE. The Bonnor of the eleven as far as hitting went. Somewhat unscrupulous as to where the ball went, but very useful. Improved in fielding, but still open to further improvement. (Has left.)”

Michelmore departed Newton College after completing his examinations at the end of this term (see *Summer Term 1888*). He then entered training to qualify as a solicitor in nearby Newton Abbot (see *5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April 1891*). Michelmore sometimes revisited Newton College to see **BFR** and Browne (see *6<sup>th</sup> December 1888*). **BFR** and his family remained well acquainted with Michelmore for the remaining duration of their lives (see *11<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1903, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1906, 30<sup>th</sup> January 1907, 16<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February 1907* and *14<sup>th</sup> June 1946*).

*Page 150.* The following reveals that **BFR** was nominated for, but did not receive, honours for representing the 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team at the end of this term:

“J. C. Alsop, N. Monckton, G. A. Feilden and F. A. Greer received their 1<sup>st</sup> XI Caps at the end of last term (Summer Term), the voting being as follows: J. C. Alsop 10, N. Monckton 10, G. A. Feilden 8, F. A. Greer 6, F. Peel-Yates 2, B. F. Robinson 2, G. T. M. Bridges 1.”

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 113 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 129-135. 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1888.* The annual Prize Day was held after a service in the Chapel that was delivered by the Venerable F. Browne, Archdeacon of Madras (father of Francis Deshon Browne). It was intended that the Earl of Devon (chairman of the governing council) would present prizes, but due to a mistake over dates, he was unable to attend. Instead, one Mr. W. J. Watts J.P., presided over proceedings and after a short speech called upon The Rev. Warner to read a report from the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. Relevant examination results for the ‘Lower Certificate’ (sat in July 1888) are presented below (see *23<sup>rd</sup> July 1887*):

[The letters prefixed to the candidate’s names indicate the subjects in which they passed.

*a* = Latin  
*b* = Greek  
*c* = French  
*d* = German  
*f* = Arithmetic  
*g* = Additional Mathematics

*i* = Scripture  
*j* = English  
*k* = English History  
*l* = Geography  
*m* = Chemistry  
*o* = Geometrical Drawing

A capital letter denotes that a First Class was obtained in the subject indicated by the letter.]

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<b>NAME OF PUPIL:</b>	<b>SUBJECTS:</b>
Browne, Francis Deshon	<i>a, b, f, g, i, j.</i>
Michelmore, Harold Gaye	<i>a, b, F, g, i.</i>
Robinson, Bertram Fletcher	<i>a, b, g, I, J, K, l.</i>

The report from the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board (dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1888) is addressed “*To the Chairman of the Governing Body of Newton College*” and is signed by E. J. Gross and P. E. Matheson (secretaries to the Board). This report includes the following references to selected papers submitted by **BFR** and Michelmore (who left the school after the examinations concluded) for the award of the ‘Lower Certificate’:

“*Arithmetic.* There were 25 candidates from this School. Several excellent papers were sent up, two obtaining full marks...Highly commended...H. G. Michelmore...”

“*English History-General.* ...Robinson deserves special mention for an admirable paper; the rest seem to show that hardly sufficient attention is paid to the subject.”

Following the presentation of the examination report, Mr. Watts then proceeded to present various prizes to the nominated pupils including:

<b>CATEGORY: PRIZE LIST</b>	
Name of Award:	Recipient:
Archdeacon Earle’s Divinity	B. F. Robinson
History	B. F. Robinson

(13 awards presented)

*Pages 145-147.* ‘Newton College’ encouraged its boys to play football (rugby) during the Christmas and Spring Terms. The game was played competitively against other local schools and men’s clubs and it became a prominent part of **BFR**’s life. Both the philosophy underpinning this sport and the prevailing ethos at ‘Newton College’ are demonstrated through the following article that appeared prior to the commencement of the 1888/1889 season. This article was probably written by The Rev. Warner because it is addressed “TO THE SCHOOL. -” and signed “FLOREAT NEWTONIA” that translates from Latin to English as “Flourish Newton College”:

“Efforts are being made this year thoroughly to organise the games throughout the school; the success of these efforts rests in the hands of the whole school. The school XV depends on the other games for its very life, for the players to supply the places of those who leave, and for the spirit which should animate them all. You cannot have fifteen fellows full of pride in their school, and determined to uphold its honour in the football field and elsewhere, unless all the members of the school are inspired with this same spirit of patriotism, and show it by doing all in their power for its well being. You can all do something – make a point of being punctual at games, playing hard, looking on at school matches and applauding good play heartily. Let it be considered a shabby and selfish thing to cut a game, or spoil it by sloping, squabbling, or disobeying the captain. By doing this each one of you can help to form a true and manly public opinion. If the school is animated by this spirit, its representatives in

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whatsoever sphere will never be found wanting in the day of battle. May the present season show that this spirit is already in our midst."

*Pages 148-149. 6<sup>th</sup> October.* **BFR** played as a Forward for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in a rugby match against Newton Juniors Football Club (at 'Newton College'). The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV won this game by a score of two goals and two tries to nil (try=1 point, goal=3 points).

*Page 147. 13<sup>th</sup> October.* The rugby committee (that did not include **BFR**) met to discuss re-elections and promotions to and from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV teams. They also agreed the following new rules:

1. – That at the beginning of every season all members of the First XV. Who have received their colours in previous seasons, be considered to have resigned their colours, except the Captain (J. C. Alsop) and Vice-captain (J. R. Wyndham).
2. – That no one do wear the colours of the First XV., until he has received them for the current season.
3. – That members of the First XV. Do wear on their caps the date of the year or years for which they have received their colours."

*Page 148. 17<sup>th</sup> October.* **BFR** and Browne played as Forwards for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a rugby match against Exeter Grammar School (at Exeter). The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this match by a score of 3 goals and 5 tries to nil (0-14).

*Pages 149.* Four O.N.'s entered into residence at Oxford and Cambridge University. These included 19 year-old William Joseph Harding King, who was admitted to Jesus College, Cambridge. King was subsequently awarded a B.A. degree in 1892 and travelled extensively within Northern Africa. He became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, won the Gill Medal (1919) and wrote *A search for the Masked Tawareks* (1903) and *Mysteries of the Libyan Desert* (1925).

*Page 151.* The following announcement was published:

"A. T. Couch, (O.N.) author, under the pseudonym 'Q,' of '*Dead Man's Rock*,' has just published another novel, '*The Astonishing History of Troy*.' "

*Page 151.* **BFR** is recorded as having won the open 120 yards and open quarter mile 'Swimming Races'. Browne was awarded a certificate for completing the quarter mile.

*Page 148. 3<sup>rd</sup> November.* **BFR** and Browne played rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Blundell's School (at Tiverton). Blundell's won this match by a score of 5 tries to nil (5-0). **BFR** was awarded his 1<sup>st</sup> XV Cap shortly after the match (*The Newtonian*, Issue No. 114, Vol. 13, pp. 169). The match report stated that it was a "very evenly contested game until the last few minutes". The same report also stated that:

"...Short but useful runs by their three-quarters (Blundell's) brought the ball gradually back to the centre, where Robinson lost ground by running back...Of our forwards, O'Neill,

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Cornish-Bowden sen. (James), Owen-Jones sen., and Robinson were the best of a hard-working lot.”

Blundell’s School Magazine, entitled *The Blundellian*, also contains a match report that includes the following statement (Dec. 1888, Issue No. 72, pp. 851):

“... of Newton...The forwards played well together; packing well. Robinson, Cornish-Bowden, and Alsop were the best.”

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 114 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by **BFR**), recorded the following items:

*Page 169. 2<sup>nd</sup> November.* Browne was re-elected to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby team.

*Pages 164-165. 10<sup>th</sup> November.* Browne played rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Dartmouth Football Club (at ‘Newton College’). Both teams scored one try and the game was drawn.

*Page 161. 12<sup>th</sup> November.* A meeting of the ‘Newton College’ debating society was held. **BFR** was re-elected as the Secretary to the Committee and Browne was re-elected as a member of the committee. At a subsequent meeting this committee decreed that:

- (1.) – The former rules as far as possible hold good,
- (2.) – That the Debates be held on Thursday evening, commencing at 9.15,
- (3.) – That the attendance of all those who attend late preparation (supervised homework sessions) be compulsory.

*Page 165. 15<sup>th</sup> November.* **BFR** and Browne played rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Totnes Football Club (at ‘Newton College’). Totnes won this match by a score of one try to nil (1-0). The match report stated that:

“...for the College, Pershouse, collared, splendidly, and Alsop, Wyndham, Owen-Jones and Robinson worked hard.”

*Pages 153-155. 18<sup>th</sup> November.* It was announced that The Rt. Hon. William Reginald, Earl of Devon (president of the college council) had died aged 81 years. The Earl had helped to found the school and to build both a Chapel and a boarding-house (Newton Hall). The Earl had last attended ‘Newton College’ in 1887 to preside over Prizes Day. A meeting of the school was convened at which the following responses were unanimously agreed (*The Newtonian* Issue No. 115, page 189):

1. – That there should be a memorial to the Right Honourable Earl of Devon, the late President of the Council.
2. – That it should take the form of a prize to be called the “Earl of Devon’s Prize.”
3. – That a sum of at least £50 be collected to produce £2 a year for the same.

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4. – That subscription lists be opened at once, and that the Members of the Council, the Shareholders, and others connected with the School in the town and elsewhere, be invited to subscribe.

5. – That a collector be authorised to invite the subscriptions in the town.

The following form the committee –

- J. R. Wyndham, Captain of School.
- J. C. Alsop, Captain of Day-Boys.
- B. F. Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain School-House.
- F. D. Browne, Captain of Newton Hall.
- A. M. Nutt, Captain of Red House.

*Pages 165-166. 21<sup>st</sup> November.* **BFR** and Browne played rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Honiton Grammar School (in Exeter). Honiton won this game by a score of two goals and two tries to two tries (8-0). The match report stated that:

“...for the College, Pershouse, collared, splendidly, and Alsop, Wyndham, Owen-Jones and Robinson worked hard.”

*Pages 161-162. 22<sup>nd</sup> November.* The ‘Newton College’ debating society considered a motion proposed by **BFR** that read “That making school games compulsory tends to prevent boys following their natural tastes”. The motion was opposed by an assistant master called Alfred Hubert Sharman (see *24<sup>th</sup> August 1918*). **BFR**’s speech was reported as follows:

“...The speech of the hon. proposer, after a delicate allusion to the means employed by the Football (Rugby) Committee to compel boys to play the school games, appeared to have founded on certain maxims, copy-book or otherwise, such as “*Mens sana in corpore sano*,” (\*1) and “health and happiness.” Perhaps his paradoxical statement that “the natural taste for dandyism is unnatural,” was too much for some of his audience and influenced the result.

\*1 = a famous Latin quotation from *Juvenal* which translates as “A healthy mind in a healthy body” which over time has come to mean that only a healthy body can produce or sustain a healthy mind.

*Page 167.* Newton College Library re-bound about 30 books and added the following items to its collection:

- |                          |                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Badminton Series.</i> | (i) – Cricket.<br>(ii) – Shooting.<br>(a) – Marsh and Moor.<br>(b) – Wood and Covert.<br>(iii) – Athletics and Football.<br>(iv) – Hunting. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |               |                                                                   |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Henty.</i> | With Clive in India.<br>Under Drake’s Flag.<br>The Young Buglers. |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Manville Farm.</i> | Mother Carey’s Chicken. |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|

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*Mr. Edward Rennard.* Killed in the open.  
Straight as a Die.  
The Girl in the Brown Habit.

*Jeffries.* Wild Life in a Southern County.

*Page 169.* It was reported that Charles William Chamberlayne Ingles, O.N., (see *30<sup>th</sup> July 1888*) had represented Jesus College Rugby Football Club and had also finished third in the three mile race at the Jesus College Athletic Sports.

*Page 171.* The following list of school officers for ‘Newton College’ (1888/1889) was published:

*Prefects.* J. R. Wyndham, Captain of School.  
J. C. Alsop, Captain of Day-Boys.  
A. M. Nutt, Captain of Red House.  
F. D. Browne, Captain of Newton Hall  
B. F. Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain School-House

*Debating Society.* President, The Head Master (Rev. Warner).  
Vice-president, A. H. Sharman, Esq.  
Secretary, B. F. Robinson  
Committee, E. N. Gardiner, Esq. (Assistant Master).  
“ J. R. Wyndham.  
“ J. C. Alsop.  
“ F. D. Browne.  
“ E. B. Owen-Jones.

*Christmas Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 115 (Vol. 13) of *The Newtonian* (edited by BFR), recorded the following items:

*Pages 175-176.* An anonymous article entitled *Cambridge Letter* provides details about the activities of nine O.N.’s who were studying at various colleges at Cambridge University. It is interesting to note that six of these students were enrolled at Jesus College and that three of these (George Warner, Clapcott and Rendell) were also editors of various periodicals. The names of the students referred to within this article are:

Peterhouse College:

**Henry Godolphin Peter-Hoblyn** born in Cornwall (J.P. for Cornwall, 1914).

Corpus Christi College:

**Frederick Ernest Awry Jamieson** born in Devon (ordained as a priest, 1894; Vicar of St. John’s Church, Littlehampton, Sussex, 1923-1939).

Caius College:

**Maurice Anderson Ainslie** born in Somerset (Instructor for the Royal Navy and retired with the rank of captain in 1922).

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Jesus College:

**George Townsend Warner, jun.** born in Devon (see *23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916*).

**Charles Blackstone Clapcott** born in Devon (see *July 1887* and *30<sup>th</sup> July 1888*).

**Oswald Valdemar Muller** born in Denmark and son of The Rev. J. Schmidt, Knight of Dannenberg; Professor of History and Political Economy at Elephantine College, Bombay, 1892 – 1916 (see *February 1887* and *July 1887*).

**William Reginald Rendell** born in Cornwall (see *July 1887* and *30<sup>th</sup> July 1888*).

**Charles William Chamberlayne Ingles** born in Kent (see *30<sup>th</sup> July 1888*).

**William Joseph Harding King** born in the West Midlands (see *October 1888*).

*Page 188.* It was announced that Thomas Graham Gilling-Lax had been made captain of the Marlborough College Football Club (rugby). He was an O.N. (left Summer Term 1884 aged 14 years) and studied at Jesus College between 1889 and 1892. In 1890, Gilling-Lax became the undergraduate editor of the Jesus College periodical entitled *The Chanticleer* (see mid *May Term 1890*). He was ordained as a priest in 1894 and worked as a vicar in Kent between 1911 and 1940 (appointed honorary canon of Rochester Cathedral in 1934). Coincidentally, Gilling-Lax moved to Hindhead in Surrey in 1942 (where ACD lived between 1896 and 1907).

*Page 182. 29<sup>th</sup> November.* The ‘Newton College’ debating society met to consider a motion that proposed “That in the opinion of the House a Classical education is superior to a Modern”. Both **BFR** and Browne participated in this debate that was chaired by The Rev. Warner. This debate is reported as follows:

**J. C. ALSOP**, in proposing, referred to the military spirit of the school at present; he showed that love of classical authors was cherished by all who knew them; and he was also certain he had used but few of the arguments that could be brought forward.

**A. H. CORNISH-BOWDEN** (the younger brother of James Cornish-Bowden), referred to the advantages of French and German “on the Continong;” he considered that Otto’s German Grammar was one of the simplest things imaginable; (all the modern members were observed to applaud vigorously); it was a waste of time to learn Greek.

**F. D. BROWNE** seconded, and doubted the truth of the hon. proposer’s last statement; personally considered the Classicals the superior portion of the school; (loud applause from that body).

**W. St. A. WAKE** thought that in games the Moderns “almost generally, always” prevailed.

**B. F. ROBINSON**, urged the claims of Parry *versus* Otto; had not tried the latter but could conceive of nothing more agreeable than Parry’s Greek Grammar.

**A. H. CORNISH-BOWDEN**, by special permission, and J. C. ALSOP having briefly replied on the whole of the debate, the motion was put to the House and lost by 22 votes to 19.

*Pages 178-179. 1<sup>st</sup> December.* **BFR** and Browne played rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against the Royal Navy Engineering College (at College). The 1<sup>st</sup> XV scored two goals and R.N.E.C. scored one goal and three tries. This match was a draw (6-6).

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*Page 189. 5<sup>th</sup> December.* **BFR** and Browne undertook the ‘Bishop of Exeter’s Examination for the study of the Book of Proverbs’.

*Pages 180. 6<sup>th</sup> December.* **BFR** and Browne played rugby for a College XV in a match against a local Newton XV (at College). The College XV won by a score of a goal and four tries to nil (7-0). The match report includes the following statement:

“...Browne made a good try at goal but the ball was too greasy...”

*Pages 184-185. 6<sup>th</sup> December.* The ‘Newton College’ debating society met to consider a motion that proposed “That in the opinion of this House the sports of the summer are preferable to those of the winter.” This motion was defeated by 15 votes to 21 votes. Both Browne and Michelmore (who had left the school at the end of the previous term) participated in this debate that was chaired by Mr. Gardiner (see *30<sup>th</sup> October 1930*). The report about this debate includes the following statements:

**H. G. MICHELMORE** urged the fascinations of fishing. As to the quality of promptitude “what about a fast Yorker on your toe?”

**F. O. PATCH and F. D. BROWNE** considered all the arguments were used up; the latter was sorry to hear either game run down; approved of each season.

*Page 189. 11<sup>th</sup> December.* The following boys were awarded prizes for their results in the ‘Bishop of Exeter’s Examination for the study of the Book of Proverbs’:

The first prize of one pound.  
Prizes of fifteen shillings each.

Prizes of ten shillings each.

H. A. T. Muller.  
F. D. Browne.  
B. F. Robinson.  
E. W. S. Rowland.  
A. W. Green.  
J. C. Alsop.  
J. H. Comyns.

*Page 189. 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December.* It was announced that Edward Norman Gardiner (assistant master) had recently captained the Devon Rugby XV in a match against Gloucestershire (at Exeter). Gardiner was born in Buckingham in 1860 and received his schooling at Marlborough College. He then studied at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and was awarded a second class honours degree in Classics. Gardiner taught at ‘Newton College’ between 1887 and 1890. In addition to playing rugby for Devon, he also played for the English Western Counties (1888/1889). He then became an assistant master at the Royal Medical Benevolent College in Surrey (now Epsom College) and married Hilda Cornish-Bowden of Newton Abbot (*20<sup>th</sup> April 1892*), daughter of Admiral William Cornish-Bowden (see *17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April 1888*). Gardiner also wrote two books entitled *Athletic Sports and Festivals* (1910) and *Athletics in the Ancient World* (1930). These books established Gardiner as a leading scholar on the topic of ancient Greek games and he was awarded a Doctorate of Letters. It is likely that Gardiner taught **BFR** and helped to nurture his interest in rugby and other sports (see **2<sup>nd</sup> December 1884 & December 1886**). The following quotation is attributed to Gardiner:

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“The nemesis of excess in athletics is professionalism, which is the death of all true sport”.

*Page 173.* An article entitled *editorial* includes a review of the Christmas Term and also previewed the forthcoming Spring Term. This article is directed at the boys and includes the following statement:

“...Next term (1889) on half holidays when there is no football (rugby) we recommend fellows to try long training walks: we are in a lovely country, pastoral and picturesque: how many fellows are there in the whole College who have been to the top of Hay Tor, to Compton Castle, to Berry Castle, through Ugbrooke Park, or to numberless other charming spots in the vicinity?...Another point we should like to advise is that every fellow in the school should make up his mind to read at least three good sound novels during the holiday...”

**22<sup>nd</sup> December.** Edward Norman Gardiner represented Devon in a rugby match against Cornwall that was played at Newton Abbot (see **20<sup>th</sup> October 1930**).

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**25<sup>th</sup> January.** Edward Norman Gardiner represented Devon in a rugby match against Somerset that was played at Taunton (see **20<sup>th</sup> October 1930**).

**Spring Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 116 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items (**BFR** had recently relinquished the editorship of this periodical):

*Pages 6-7. February.* Both **BFR** and Browne represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Exeter Grammar School that was played on 6<sup>th</sup> February. ‘Newton College’ won this game easily by a score of 4 goals and 6 tries to nil (18 points to 0 points). The match report included the following comment:

“...The College quickly resumed the attack, Wake and Robinson being most conspicuous, and the latter passed to Browne who by a fine run enabled Alsop to raise the score to 3 goals 1 try...”

*Pages 7-8. February.* Both **BFR** and Browne represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Newton Town that was played on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Newton Town won this game by a score of 1 try to nil (1 point to 0 points).

*Pages 8. February.* Both **BFR** and Browne represented ‘Newton College’ in a rugby match played against Totnes Football Club (rugby) that was played on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Totnes won this game by a score of 2 ties to nil (2 point to 0 points).

*Page 11. February.* It was reported that the following individuals had recently been elected to the following offices, for the ‘Newton College’ debating society:

The Rev. G.T. Warner – President.  
Mr. A.H. Sharman – Vice-President.  
B. Fletcher Robinson – Secretary.  
F.D. Browne – Member.

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*Pages 11-14. February.* It was reported that a meeting of the debating society was held on **7<sup>th</sup> February**. At this meeting, it was proposed ‘That in the opinion of this house, capital punishment is undesirable and unnecessary.’ This motion was defeated by 22 votes to 10 votes. This same report includes the following comment:

“B.F. Robinson took exception of the statement that the abolition of capital punishment would increase the extent of crime. Quoting Russia as an illustration, he averred that death is well known to be preferred to the punishment of flogging with the knout.”

*Pages 14-16. February.* It was reported that a meeting of the debating society was held on **21<sup>st</sup> February**. At this meeting, it was proposed ‘That corporal punishment is undesirable and unnecessary.’ This motion was defeated by 23 votes to 14 votes. The same report states that both **BFR** and Michelmore (O.N.) had been in attendance and that each had contributed to the discussion upon the motion.

*Page 120. February.* It was reported that Edward Norman Gardiner (see *20<sup>th</sup> October 1930*), had played rugby for Devonshire against the ‘Maoris’ on **30<sup>th</sup> January** (at Exeter). ‘Maoris won this game by 2 goals and 7 tries to nil (13 points to 0 points). During their 25 week British tour, the ‘Maoris’ played 74 matches and won 49 games, drew 5 games and lost 20 games. **BFR** later wrote a book entitled *Rugby Football* (see **1896** and **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**), in which, he refers to the match between Devon and the ‘Maoris’ (pp. 303-305) as follows:

“One of the Devon forwards came off the field sorrowfully rubbing his leg. “What is the matter?” I asked. “Why,” he said, “I came to play football, not to join in a dog fight! One of the beggars has bitten me in the calf!” ”

*Page 21. February.* It was announced that **BFR** had been awarded the ‘Pyne Memorial Prize’, for writing an essay entitled *The Rise of Drama* (see **Spring Term 1884**).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 117 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 27. April.* It was reported that a meeting of the debating society was held on **12<sup>th</sup> March**. At this meeting, it was proposed ‘That in the opinion of this house, vivisection for the benefit of Science is justifiable.’ This motion was carried by 28 votes to 11 votes. This same report includes the following comment:

“B.F. Robinson after the vivisection of reporters felt intimidated. Objections to vivisection:-

- (a) Cruelty of vivisection.
- (b) Abuse in former days.

(γ) Strange fascination it possessed.

These he considered, he amply “did away with” by the use it (vivisection) gave to mortals in Science. The cruelty was not so great as in other cases such as traps, etc. He thought that the necessity of killing rats, cats, etc. (cries of Question). ”

*Pages 28-29. April.* In a football (rugby) report entitled *Characters of the XV*, it was stated that:

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BROWNE, F.D. (1887-8-9). A strong and fast forward, useful out of touch and hard to stop when once started, but does not use his feet enough.

ROBINSON, B.F. (1888-9). A heavy and energetic forward, but rather clumsy. Does not make enough of his height in lining out of touch.

*Pages 28-29. April.* Both **BFR** (Forward) and Browne (¾ Back) represented the Classicals in a rugby match against Moderns that was played on 26<sup>th</sup> February (at College). Moderns won this game by a score of four goals to nil (12 points to 0 points).

*Pages 30. April.* It was reported that ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ had played 12 matches during the 1888/89 rugby season. The team won 3 games, drew 2 games and lost 7 games. This same report states that Browne had scored 2 tries during this season.

*Pages 37-38. April.* It was reported that **BFR** and Browne had participated in both the ‘Single’s Form Racquet Ties’ and ‘Double’s Form Racquet Ties’. The relevant results are reported as follows:

Single’s Form Racquet Ties:

1<sup>st</sup>. Round. B.F. Robinson beat A.R. Green (15-0:15-5).  
1<sup>st</sup>. Round. F.D. Browne beat E.L.H. Owen-Jones (15-0:15-0).  
2<sup>nd</sup> Round. B.F. Robinson beat Parke (4:15:15-8:15-4).  
2<sup>nd</sup> Round. F.D. Browne beat Owen-Jones sen. (15-12:15-3).  
3<sup>rd</sup> Round. B.F. Robinson beat Green jun. (15-7:15-7).  
3<sup>rd</sup> Round. F.D. Browne beat Light (15-13:15-5).  
4<sup>th</sup> Round. Cates sen. beat B.F. Robinson (15-4:15-4).  
4<sup>th</sup> Round. F.D. Browne beat Davies sen. (15-4:15-8).  
Semi-final. F.D. Browne beat Monckton (15-10:15-12).  
Final. F.D. Browne beat Cates sen. (15-8:11-15:15-10).

Double’s Form Racquet Ties (1<sup>st</sup> Round):

Browne sen.	beat	Fenton max.
Robinson		Browne jun.
(Up. Cl. VI)		(Mod. VI)
12-15:15-9:15-0.		

Double’s Form Racquet Ties (2<sup>nd</sup> Round):

Browne sen.	beat	Green jun.
Robinson		Burdett
(Up. Cl. VI)		(Up. IV)
15-4:15-3.		

Double’s Form Racquet Ties (Semi-final):

Browne sen.	beat	Hammond sen.
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Robinson                          Currie  
(Up. Cl. VI)                          (Cl.VI)  
15-11:3-15:14-14(3-0).

Double's Form Racquet Ties (Final):  
Played on *29<sup>th</sup> March.*

Hayward        beat        Browne sen.  
O' Neill                          Robinson  
(Mod. V)                          (Up. Cl.VI)  
11-15:3-15:14-14(3-2).

*Pages 41-42. April.* It was reported **BFR**, Browne and E.N. Gardiner had participated in a paper-chase that was held on *12<sup>th</sup> March* (33 entrants). The 'Hares' departed from the College at 2.30pm and the 'Hounds' commenced at 2.45pm. The contestants were required to return to College via a course that encompassed Bradley, Ogwell Hill, Ogwell, Denbury, Ipplepen, Stoneycombe and Langford Bridge respectively. **BFR** completed this course in a time of 4 hours, 33 minutes and 45 seconds (9<sup>th</sup> place). E.N. Gardiner and Browne were placed 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively.

**Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 118 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 45. May.* It was reported that the following relevant elections to the committee for Athletic Sports had been made:

The Rev. Warner (President);  
Mr. A.H. Sharman (Honorary Treasurer),  
Mr. E.N. Gardiner (Honorary Treasurer);  
F.D. Browne (Member),  
B.F. Robinson (Member),  
G.T. Warner (Member).

This same report lists the following results for the 1889 Athletic Sports event:

Day 1 (*4<sup>th</sup> April*):

- 1) F.D. Browne won the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the '100 Yards Trial Heats (Open)' with a time of 11.4 seconds.
- 2) F.D. Browne won the 'Quarter Mile (Open)' with a time of 58.4 seconds.
- 3) F.D. Browne finished runner-up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the '120 Yards Trial Heats (Open)'.

Day 2 (*6<sup>th</sup> April*):

- 1) F.D. Browne won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the '100 Yards Trial Heats (Open)'.
- 2) F.D. Browne won the final of the '100 Yards Trial Heats (Open)'.
- 3) B.F. Robinson won an evidently closely contested 'High Jump (Open)' competition:

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“This proved a close thing between Robinson and Cornish-Bowden. Robinson twice failed at 4ft. 11in. which Cornish-Bowden had cleared: at his third attempt however he managed to clear it, and then he got over 5ft. [over 1.52m], which Cornish-Bowden only just failed to clear at his last jump.”

As a consequence of the above results, Browne and **BFR** were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (with 19 points) and 6<sup>th</sup> (with 7 points) respectively for the ‘Senior Champion Challenge Cup’ (see **17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 1888**). That competition was won by Owen-Jones (with 27 points).

**Pages 55-57. May.** It was reported that both **BFR** and Browne had represented ‘Newton College XI’ during the 1888/89 football (soccer) season. The team was selected from both masters and boys. During this season, ‘Newton College’ played 9 matches and won 6 games, drew 1 game and lost 2 games.

**Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 119 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 71. June.** It was reported that both Browne and The Rev. Warner had been elected to the cricket committee for ‘Newton College’. This same article records that Browne had also been appointed the captain of ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’.

**Pages 71-72. June.** It was reported that both **BFR** and Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against the Royal Naval Engineering College that was played on **5<sup>th</sup> May** (at Devonport). ‘Newton College’ batted first and were dismissed for just 27 runs (Browne and **BFR** scored 0 and 3 runs respectively). In reply, R.N.E.C. were dismissed for 102 runs (**BFR** took 1 wicket for 18 runs from 5 overs). During the second innings, ‘Newton College’ added a further 90 runs (Browne and **BFR** scored 28 runs and 0 not out respectively). R.N.E.C. then scored the 17 runs required to win this game without the loss of any further wickets.

**Pages 72-73. June.** It was reported that Browne, Michelmore and The Rev. Warner had represented ‘Newton Blues’ in a cricket match against South Devon that was played on **16<sup>th</sup> May**. Blues batted first and were dismissed for just 220 runs (The Rev. Warner, Browne and Michelmore scored 110, 14 and 8 runs respectively). In reply, South Devon were dismissed for just 27 runs. Blues thereby won this match easily.

**Page 85. June.** It was reported that **BFR** and three other boys had been permitted to wear the “the College Shield on the XXII coat”.

**Page 94. June.** It was reported that both **BFR** and Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Plymouth College that was played on **8<sup>th</sup> June** (at College). Plymouth batted first and were dismissed for 91 runs. In reply, ‘Newton College’ scored 289-7 and thereby won this match comfortably (Browne scored 107 runs and **BFR** did not bat).

**Pages 97-98. June.** It was reported that both **BFR** and Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Mannamead School that was played on **19<sup>th</sup> June** (at Plymouth). Mannamead batted first and were dismissed for

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119 runs. In reply, ‘Newton College’ were dismissed for 87 runs (both Browne and **BFR** scored 0 runs). This was the first time that Mannamead School had defeated ‘Newton College’ at cricket.

*Pages 98-99. June.* **BFR** represented the ‘Common Room’ in a cricket match against ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ that was played on **22<sup>nd</sup> June** (at College). The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and were dismissed for 139 runs (Browne scored 1 run). In reply, the ‘Common Room’ scored 140 runs and thereby narrowly won the match (**BFR** scored 3 not out). This match report includes the following comment:

“...three runs were needed to make the match a draw and four for a win. Robinson hit the required three, and Pitts just managed to win the match...”

*Page 100. June.* It was reported that **BFR** had represented ‘Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against Bovey Tracey that was played on **18<sup>th</sup> May**. Bovey batted first and were dismissed for 131 runs (**BFR** took 3 wickets). In reply, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were dismissed for just 34 runs (**BFR** scored 1 run). The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI then commenced a second innings and were 28-7 when ‘time’ was called (**BFR** scored 0 runs). This game was thereby drawn. The match report also includes the following comment:

“...Hammond, Gooch, and Robinson bowled with some success.”

*Page 101. June.* It was reported that **BFR** had represented ‘Newton College 2<sup>nd</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against St. Mary Church (Torquay) that was played on **25<sup>th</sup> May**. (at College). St. Mary Church batted first and were dismissed for 50 runs (**BFR** took 4 wickets). In reply, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were dismissed for just 128 runs (**BFR** scored 20 runs). St. Mary Church then commenced a second innings and were 25-6 when ‘time’ was called (**BFR** took 1 wicket). This game was therefore drawn.

*Page 105. June.* It was announced that the annual Prize Day would be held on **29<sup>th</sup> July** and the Christmas Term would start on **20<sup>th</sup> September**.

**July.** 19 year-old Francis Deshon Brown left ‘Newton College’ (see *October 1889*).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 121 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Page 122. August.* It was reported that *The Epsomian* (the school magazine for Epsom College) had recently published a list of athletic records for various public schools (fee-paying schools). Part of this article was republished by *The Newtonian* and reveals that **BFR** was the record-holder for the high-jump at ‘Newton College’.

*Page 124. August.* It was reported that Sir Samuel Baker, F.R.S. had recently been elected the president of the governing council for ‘Newton College’ (**30<sup>th</sup> December 1893**).

**October.** Francis Deshon Brown (O.N.) was admitted to Jesus College, Cambridge University, to read for a Tripos Bachelor of Arts degree. Two other O.N.’s called Charles Ensell and Nevinson De Courcy were also admitted to Cambridge (Jesus and Emmanuel

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College respectively). Ensell (1870-1941) later served as a British military chaplain in the Second Boer War (1901-02) and the First World War (1914-18). De Courcy (1869-1919) later worked for the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works.

**Christmas Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 122 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 130-137.* It was reported that **BFR** was awarded the ‘School Prize for History’ at the annual Prize Day. He was also jointly awarded ‘The Bishop of Exeter’s Prize for the Study of the Book of Proverbs’ (together with 6 other boys including Browne).

*Page 137. October.* It was reported that Browne had represented ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XI’ in a cricket match against ‘Old Newtonians’ that was played on **27<sup>th</sup> July**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI batted first and were dismissed for 192 runs (Browne scored 10 runs). In reply, ‘Old Newtonians’ were dismissed for just 102 runs (Michelmore scored 25 not out). The 1<sup>st</sup> XI thereby won this match.

*Page 137. October.* In a cricketing report entitled *Characters of the XI*, it was stated that:

F.D. BROWNE (Capt.) was more energetic than had been expected and set a good example of hardwork. Possibly the weight of responsibility had something to do with the falling off in his batting as he had a good style and was powerful in forward play. He certainly did not fulfil the expectation of his friends. Should have taken the post of wicket-keeper from the first, in preference to fielding at long leg, as however useful he might be at the latter place, the wicket is a harder post to fill and undoubtedly the best place for a school captain. Has left.

*Page 140. October.* It was reported that following a meeting held on **21<sup>st</sup> September** that the following individuals were elected to the football (rugby) committee of ‘Newton College’:

E.N. Gardiner.

J.C. Alsop (Captain).

E.B. Owen-Jones (Vice-Captain).

C.W. Hayward (Member).

B.F. Robinson (Member).

The same article reports that at the first meeting held by this committee on **3<sup>rd</sup> October**, it was resolved that:

“...no member of the School be allowed to play for any other football club during term time unless special leave be given.”

*Page 140. October.* It was reported that at the annual Swimming Races held on **25<sup>th</sup> July**, **BFR** had won both the ‘Quarter Mile (Open)’ and ‘120 Yards (Open)’ events.

*Page 144. October.* It was announced that **BFR** had been appointed honorary secretary to the swimming committee for ‘Newton College’ and that he had

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subsequently organised a diving competition.

*Page 144. October.* It was reported that a meeting of the committee of the debating society was held on 8<sup>th</sup> October. At this meeting, BFR (honorary secretary) proposed that Mr. E.N. Gardiner be elected as vice-president (Mr. A.H. Sharman having recently departed the school). This proposal was seconded by E.B. Owen Jones (see November 1889).

*Page 147. October.* The names of recent school-leavers was published together with a listing of their extra-curricular contributions to the school community. These listings included the following entry:

F.D. BROWNE – School Prefect.  
1<sup>st</sup> XI 1887, Capt. 1889 [cricket].  
2<sup>nd</sup> XV 1886 [rugby].  
1<sup>st</sup> XV 1887.  
Challenge Racquet Cup 1889.  
Challenge Fives Cup 1888.

*Christmas Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 123 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 149-151. November.* It was reported that a pupil named Edward Berkeley Owen-Jones had died (see 30<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1888, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1888, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1888, 21<sup>st</sup> November 1888, late Christmas Term 1888, April 1889, May 1889, October 1889 and February 1890). The combined obituary and funeral report is reproduced here in full because it both refers to BFR and conveys a further insight into the ethos at ‘Newton College’:

*On Wednesday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, at St. Ishmaels's,  
Newton Abbot.*

**EDWARD BERKELEY OWEN-JONES,**  
aged 19 years.

It is with deep sorrow that we chronicle the above. Berkeley Owen-Jones, Captain of Day Boys and Second Captain of Football [rugby], was one of our very truest supporters. He had not been so long at the School as many, but he threw himself heart and soul into our life and welfare. He was a deadly foe to all sloping, and in consequence scarcely a boy this Term was found loitering about during play-hours. As Second Captain of Football he took the keenest interest in our success. An Association [soccer] player originally, he only took to Rugby Football “because it was the School game, and it was right every one should play it;” and so far did he carry his principles into practice that he would have given up his own game entirely in favour of Rugby, had he been allowed to do so, because he thought it interfered with the legitimate School game.

As a player he began as a forward, but this year he was placed at three-quarter back, and soon shewed capability. A strong runner, he scored several tries during

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the few weeks he played this Term, and we all looked on him as likely to win the Blundell's match for us. We well remember the consternation with which the news of his illness fell on the Fifteen just before that match. He had given up going to Oxford till Christmas on purpose to stay and help us, but alas! He was taken ill ten days previously, and almost the last news he heard in this world was that of our victory. His Head Master appealed to the Fifteen before the match to "remember Owen-Jones and send him a cheering message." How little did we all think that it was our last chance of doing anything for him!

He was also a very good back in the Association game, and a member of the XXII. Though no cricketer, he worked his way up by sheer desire to do something for the School in the Summer Term. Well may it be said of him, "We shall never see his like again." He lived for our honour, and inasmuch as in all probability had he gone to Oxford in October, he would have escaped the illness that struck him down, we may without exaggeration say, he died for our honour. "Si quaeris monumentum circumspice" [if you seek his monument, look around you]. May the recollection of his example be the death-blow to sloping and indolence for years. He would have asked no kinder recognition, nor would he have been contented with less.

The funeral was arranged to take place at St. Ishmael's Church, Ferryside, in Carmarthenshire, where for 25 years his father had lived as Rector of the parish before his death 12 years ago. Before the coffin was taken to the train, a Service was held in the College Chapel, which the relatives and the whole School attended. Twelve members of the Fifteen assisted as bearers from the house to the Chapel and from thence to the Station. The School Choir met the funeral party at the lower entrance gate, and preceded the Clergy to the Chapel singing very sweetly the beautiful Hymn, "How bright those glorious Spirits shine." The Head Master read the short Service, and the Rev. W.H. Coates, a brother-In-Law of E.B. Owen-Jones, read the lesson. The Hymn – A.M. No. 438, a favourite with the deceased, was sung in Chapel, and after the Lesson the Nune Dimittis. The whole School then filed off and followed in procession to the Station, where they formed in two lines for the coffin to pass through to the train, which was drawn up in readiness. The Sixth and "Caps" were allowed inside the Station to see the last ere the carriage was taken back for the train from Plymouth.

The Head Master and eight members of the Fifteen, J.C. Alsop, B.F. Robinson, R.A. O'Neill, G.F. Davies, C.W. Hayward, H.C. Pearse, N. Monckton, and L.B. Carrie went to Wales for the final Service the next day. The Church of St. Ishmael's is a very old building, part of it dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> century, situated in a picturesque spot on the S. Wales coast, close to the sea. In a vault high up above the Church on the side of the hill where his father, three brothers, and a sister are buried, Berkeley Owen-Jones was laid to rest. As the coffin lay in the grave covered with flowers, a pall of the colours he loved so well was gently lowered down, and we left him wrapped around with what he held most dear in his life – the light and dark blue [the 'Newton College' colours]. Beautiful wreaths were sent by O.Ns. from Cambridge, the Fifteen, the Common Room, the School, Mrs. And Miss Warner, E.N. Gardiner Esq. and many personal friends. A touching tribute also was sent from the Clayfield Sunday School Class in

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acknowledgement of kind services rendered to them in the football field by the deceased.

Several of the wreaths were buried with him, but the School colours were left on the grave with the School wreaths and that from the O.Ns. to point out to the worshippers in that lonely spot that he was not only faithful but loved.

O heart as kind and pure in life,  
As brave in friendly strife,  
From thee may seeds of love be sown  
As lasting as thine own.

*Pages 153-156. November.* It was reported that the debating society had met on **23<sup>rd</sup> October**. BFR opened this meeting by reading the minutes of the previous meeting. Members then debated a motion that proposed ‘That in the opinion of the House belief in ghosts is absurd and without foundation.’ This motion was defeated by 6 votes to 23 votes.

*Pages 153-156. November.* It was reported that the debating society had met on **6<sup>th</sup> November**. At this meeting, it was proposed ‘That in the opinion of this House Socialism is undesirable and unnecessary.’ This motion was defeated by 13 votes to 19 votes. This same report includes the following comment:

B.F. Robinson. That he thought that all the speakers [the three previous speakers had spoken for the motion] had confounded Communism with Socialism. Communism certainly implied common property, and the atrocities of its supporters in France, of but late years had given it a bad name and drawn Socialism into the same vortex. Many people shut up their ears and ran away on hearing the name of Socialism without waiting to hear the arguments with which it was supported. The wealth of the state was always increasing, the rich becoming richer, yet how could we account for sweating systems, one person in every twenty a pauper, etc. Socialism proposed to remedy those evils. Two main schemes, the first akin to Communism like the apostles “all men to have their goods in common;” this was impossible as all stimulus to work would be removed. The second the interference of the State; supported by leading Socialists. All land and instruments of labour bought up by the State; all to have fair chance. Extra work, extra pay. Private property not abolished. Free education given to all. In conclusion he considered that Socialists should be considered philanthropists, not miscreants. Careful attention should be given to their views lest the working classes rise and compel us by force to grant what we now refuse.

*Page 157. November.* BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against ‘Mr. Gardiner’s XV’. This match was played at the College on **10<sup>th</sup> October** and Michelmore also played with ‘Gardiner’. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of five goals and one try to one goal and two tries (16 points to 5 points).

*Page 158. November.* BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against Exeter Grammar School. This match was played on **12<sup>th</sup> October**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of 10 goals and 9 tries to nil (39 points to 0 points).

*Page 159. November.* BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’

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against ‘Mr. Gardiner’s XV’. This match was played at the College on **24<sup>th</sup> October**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of three goals and three tries to one try (12 points to 1 point). Mr. E.N. Gardiner was unavailable for this match.

**Pages 159-161. November.** BFR played as a Forward for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against the Royal Naval Engineering College (Keyham). This match was played at College on **2<sup>nd</sup> November**. R.N.E.C. won this game by a score of 5 tries to nil (5 points to 0 points).

**Pages 161-164. November.** BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against Blundell’s School (Tiverton). This match was played on **9<sup>th</sup> November**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of 1 goal and 1 try to nil (4 points to 0 points). The match reports includes the following comment:

“In the lining out Monckton and Robinson were very useful, as they were indeed all through the game.”

**Page 165. November.** BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against All Hallows School (Honiton). This match was played at College on **17<sup>th</sup> November**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of 4 goals and 1 try to one goal (13 points to 3 points).

**Christmas Term (The Newtonian Entries).** Issue No. 124 (Vol. 14) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 178. December.** BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against Dartmouth. This match was played on **23<sup>rd</sup> November**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of 1 goal and 1 try to nil (4 points to 0 points).

**Pages 178-179. December.** BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against Totnes. This match was played on **28<sup>th</sup> November**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of 1 goal and 1 try to one try (4 points to 1 point).

**Pages 179-180. December.** BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV’ against the ‘Old Newtonians’. Both Michelmore and Browne represented ‘Old Newtonians’. This match was played at College on **17<sup>th</sup> December**. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won this game by a score of 3 goals and 1 try to one goal (10 points to 3 points).

**Pages 180-183. December.** BFR played rugby (Forward) for ‘Past and Present Newtonians’ against Devon County. This match was played in front of “a good number of spectators” at the ground of Newton Town on **19<sup>th</sup> December**. The ‘Newton College’ team were photographed prior to the start of this match. Devon won this game by a score of 4 goals to 2 tries (12 points to 2 points). Two members of the ‘Newton College’ team were subsequently selected to represent Devon in their following match against Llanelly that was played on **26<sup>th</sup> December** (Williams and Biddell). The full team list for both sides was as follows:

**Newtonians.** C.W.C. Ingles (Jesus Coll: Cambridge), (back); C.W. Hayward (Newton College), F.W. Marshall (Teignmouth), C.V. Windsor (Newton College), A.A. Bearne (Edinburgh University), (¾ backs); G.F. Davies (Newton College), E.L.L. Hammond

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(Newton College), (½ backs); E.N. Gardiner (Newton College), (Capt.), R.D. Williams (Emmanuel Coll: Cambridge), L.R. Biddell (Exeter), H. Osmond (Exeter), R.A. O'Neill (Newton College), B.F. Robinson (Newton College), J.C. Alsop (Newton College), W. St. A. Wake (Newton College), (forwards).

*Devon County.* Hayman (Exeter), (back); A.M. Sutthery (Exeter), (Capt.), M.H. Toller (Barnstaple), F.H. Davies ([Plymouth] Albion), (¾ backs); F.W. Herring (Tiverton), J. Davies (Torquay Athletic), (½ backs); W. Ashford (Exeter), M.W. Ball (Newton), B. Bennett (Torquay Athletic), A.G. Frith (Tiverton), C. Hawking (Torquay Athletic), Rev. T.W. Hudson (Newton), F.H. Toller (Barnstaple), S.R. Wallis (Exeter), W.S.S. Wilson (Dartmouth), (forwards).

*Umpires – Mr. Smythe and Mr. Jarvis.*

*Referee – Mr. Lovesay (Crediton).*

## 1890

**25<sup>th</sup> January.** Edward Norman Gardiner represented Devon in a rugby match against Somerset that was played at Exeter (see **20<sup>th</sup> October 1930**).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 125 (Vol. 15) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 6-11. February.* It was reported that the debating society had met on **16<sup>th</sup> December 1889**. BFR (honorary secretary) opened this meeting by reading the minutes of the previous meeting. Members then debated a motion that proposed ‘That in the opinion of this House life is worth living.’ This motion was carried by 32 votes to 4 votes. This same report includes the following comments (made in order):

*H.M. Standring* prefaced his remarks by saying that the motion was hard and the time allotted small. The House must not therefore expect much...

*B.F. Robinson* felt that his character as hon. sec. had been impugned. He would take this (his earliest) opportunity of telling the House that this debate was due to the energy of one prominent member of the committee. No time had been lost after the motion had been handed in.

He noticed that suicides were always desirous to get back life. Even a prisoner might find life worth living. A condemned prisoner was always glad to gain a reprieve. Factories were in a good not a bad condition.

*Pages 6-11. February.* It was reported that the debating society had met on **20<sup>th</sup> November**. This meeting was chaired by Mr. E.N. Gardiner (vice president). Members debated a motion that proposed ‘That in the opinion of this House the abolition of the House of Lords is undesirable and unnecessary.’ This motion was lost by 32 votes to 1 vote. This same report includes the following comments (made in order):

*B.F. Robinson* launched himself into a speech of long duration. It would be impossible to enumerate the arguments of the hon. member without elongation of this magazine. He

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proposed reform not abolition of the House of Lords and flavoured his remarks with deep historical research for which he appears especially adapted.

*E.L.L. Hammond* wished to call attention to a remark made by Mr. Robinson. Mr. Robinson had wished money to be represented. If money; why not land? As regards the fact that some peerages were of very short standing, that, as far as the hon. gent. could see, did not interfere with their capabilities of voting...

*J.V. Veschoyle* also wished to notice a remark made by Mr. Robinson, viz. "that the House of Lords should be formed by election." No scheme had as far as Mr. Verschoyle knew yet been proposed...

*Mr. E.N. Gardiner* after a long silence threw himself into the breach, to prevent the untimely close of this house (as opposed we presume to the House of Lords). On two grounds was it possible to oppose the motion.

- (1) Mistake to have two houses at all.
- (2) House of Lords did not represent the opinion of the people.

On the other hand The House of Lords acted as a check, a use which was not useful. Perhaps the House of Lords was not adequate to the task (cries of Question!), if so he would suggest a better representative election.

*Page 14. February.* **BFR** played rugby (Forward) for 'Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV' against the Royal Naval Engineering College (Keyham). This match was played on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. R.N.E.C. won this game by a score of 8 goals and 6 tries to nil (30 points to 0 points).

*Page 22. February.* It was reported that both **BFR** and Mr. E.N. Gardiner had been appointed to a committee for managing subscriptions to an E.B. Owen memorial fund (see November 1889).

*Page 31. February.* In a football (rugby) report entitled *Characters of the XV*, it was stated that:

ROBINSON, B.F. (1888-9-90). A heavy and hard-working forward. Extremely useful out of touch, though somewhat slow at times in passing.

*Page 32. February.* It was reported that during the 1889/90 rugby season, 'Newton College 1<sup>st</sup> XV' had played 12 matches, won 9 matches and lost 3 matches. During the course of these matches, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV scored 30 goals and 17 tries (107 points) and conceded 12 goals and 23 tries (59 points).

**Spring Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 126 (Vol. 15) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

*Pages 34-37. March.* It was reported that the debating society had met on 27<sup>th</sup> March. This meeting debated a motion that proposed 'That in the opinion of this House, Museums, Picture Galleries, and such places of public resort should be open on Sundays.' This motion was lost by 17 votes to 7 votes. This same report includes the following comments (made in order):

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J.J. Verschoyle spoke strongly against the motion. The opening of museums a start for what awful depth of wickedness, a continental Sunday (impressive groans) [sic]. The poor don't care for picture galleries. The opening of such places of unseemly levity as museums and picture galleries a great temptation for Christians to leave their flocks and absent themselves from the administrations of their shepherds. Such consequences inspire the boldest with fear. On the other hand there were working men's libraries and clubs to which they might go, when not absorbed in spiritual contemplation. The infamous character of the working classes has often been manifested. Large staffs of armed attendants would be necessary to protect works of art from the inhuman monster, the British workman.

B.F. Robinson was somewhat astonished at the narrow views of the last speaker. He was surprised to hear that the average man was such a terrible being. Surely if such large staffs of attendants were necessary to protect museums, would the libraries to which the hon. gentleman alluded, be safe from the ravages of the working classes unless staffs of attendants were kept there too! We all know how exceedingly aggravating it is to have the leaves torn out of library books (applause). The hon. gentleman had said it was a counter attraction to Church. How many of the working classes are seen in the London Churches? The working classes are practically our masters. This power has been given them by the franchise. We must educate them well to distinguish between a true orator and statesman and scheming agitator. Everything that leads to a higher and better life than that which they now enjoy should be encouraged. If public house frequenters are never amenable to other influences, at least others who are tottering on the brink of destruction should be drawn away if possible before they take the plunge. He would vote for the motion.

*Pages 38-39. March.* It was reported that BFR had participated in both the 'Form Fives Ties' and 'Racquet Ties (Open Singles)'. The relevant results are reported as follows:

Form Fives Ties (1<sup>st</sup> Round):

Alsop	beat	Davies sen.
Robinson		Hayward
(Up. Cl. VI)		(Mod. VI)
15-2:15-8.		

Form Fives Ties (2<sup>nd</sup> Round):

Everett max.	beat	Alsop
Stork		Robinson
(Cl. VI)		(Up. Class. VI)
15-6:13-13(5-0).		

Racquet Ties (Open Singles):

1<sup>st</sup>. Round. Richardson beat Robinson 13-13(5-3): 14-14(3-2).

*Summer Term (The Newtonian Entries).* Issue No. 127 (Vol. 15) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

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*Page 48. May.* It was reported that the annual Athletic Sports had commenced on **14<sup>th</sup> April**. This same article makes the following reference to the high jump event that was held on that same date:

1. Monckton, 5ft. 2in.
2. Robinson, 4ft. 11in.

Robinson failed rather unexpectedly after 4ft. 11in., but Monckton succeeded in clearing 5ft. 2in., a capital performance, which has been equalled here before [by BFR], but never beaten.

*Page 53. May.* It was reported that BFR was placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the ‘Senior Challenge Cup’ (4 points). The prize for 1<sup>st</sup> place was presented to C.W. Hayward (42 points).

*Pages 54-64. May.* It was reported that a two-day bazaar had been held at ‘Newton College’ on **10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April**. BFR, J.C. Alsop, E.L.L. Hammond and J. Patch had formed an entertainments committee in preparation for this event. The bazaar was opened by Mr. W.J. Watts, the High Sheriff of Devon (see *2<sup>nd</sup> August 1888*) and raised over £320 (Mr. E.N. Gardiner acted as treasurer). During this event, BFR participated in a two scene play that was entitled *The Ghost on the Green*. He played a character called Bill Bully who is described as “a seedy ruffian with little cash and less conscience.” This article features a review of the play and includes the following comment:

The hisses which greeted Robinson’s appearance before the curtain shewed that he had played the villain as a villain should; and alike when fighting and gambling, he had all the manner and look of an alternately ferocious and cowardly *Bully* [sic].

*May Term. April.* 19 year-old BFR was admitted to Jesus College (Cambridge University) to read for a Tripos Bachelor of Arts degree in History. George Warner (son of The Rev. Warner) wrote a letter of recommendation in support of BFR’s admission (see *May Term 1893*). BFR displayed aptitude for his studies and was subsequently appointed an ‘Exhibitioner’ (meaning that part of his tuition fees were paid by the University). During his first term he was elected a member of the Jesus College Debating Society that was commonly referred to as the ‘Cranmer’ (see *Michaelmas Term 1890*). This society was named after Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556), a former Jesus undergraduate (‘Jesuan’) and Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1556, Cranmer was burned alive for heresy and thereby became an Anglican martyr.

Jesus College was founded in 1496 by John Alcock (Bishop of Ely) on the site of a Benedictine nunnery. It is traditionally held that the nunnery was turned into a college because it had gained a reputation for licentiousness. The college’s full name is *The College of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist and the glorious Virgin Saint Radegund, near Cambridge*. Its common name comes from the name of its chapel (Jesus Chapel), which was constructed at the beginning of the 11th century and is the oldest building still in use at Cambridge University.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Arthur Morgan was Master of Jesus College between 1885 and 1912. He was nicknamed ‘Black Morgan’ to distinguish him from the unrelated Senior Tutor and Dean of Jesus College called The Rev. Edmund Henry Morgan (‘Red Morgan’). In 1862, Henry Morgan and Leslie Stephen were the first mountaineers to ascend Jungfraujoch in the

Bernese Alps (summit at 3,471 meters or 11,388 feet above sea-level). Morgan wrote extensively about academia, theology and geography. He was pivotal in raising the profile of smaller colleges within the University of Cambridge.

Despite being a relatively small college (approximately 150 students), Jesus possessed an excellent reputation for sport. About this time, the ‘Varsity Soccer, Rugby and Cricket teams were each captained by a Jesuan (Woods, Martin-Scott and Macgregor respectively). Furthermore, 18 Jesuans had been awarded ‘Blues’ during the previous year (a sporting-honour conferred upon a student who had competed against Oxford University).

During late 1885, the Jesus College Chaplain and Lecturer, Frederick John Foakes-Jackson (see late **Lent Term 1894**), founded a periodical entitled *The Chanticleer* (*The Chanticlere* from October 1892). At the beginning of each term (Michaelmas, Lent and May Terms), this periodical would publish reviews of events and stories which took place during the previous term and pertained to Jesus College. *The Chanticleer* was edited by a committee comprising of Foakes-Jackson and several undergraduates (see mid **Michaelmas Term 1888**). It was published by a local printer called J. Palmer of Jesus Lane, Cambridge and each issue cost 1s. (an annual subscription cost 3s. or for three years, 7s. 6d). Generally, articles published in both *The Chanticleer* and *The Chanticlere* are not by-lined or were signed with a pseudonym. Thus it has not been possible to determine whether **BFR** made contributions to this periodical.

George Warner (see early **Summer Term 1884**), had recently been elected a Fellow of Jesus College (1890). George Warner studied at Jesus College between 1884 and 1887. He gained a first-class Tripos degree in History (1887), won the Lightfoot Scholarship (1888), the Whewell Scholarship (1889) and had won a ‘Blue’ for Golf. George Warner was elected President of the Cranmer in the Lent-Term of 1890 (see **April 1890**). During the May Term (1890), **BFR** was elected as a member of the Cranmer (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 17, **Lent Term 1891**).

During the May Term of 1890, **BFR** would have become reacquainted with Francis Deshon Browne (see **October 1889**). Browne was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Boat Secretary (1890-1891) and had rowed for the College 1<sup>st</sup> VIII in the ‘May Bumps’ (see **4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March 1891**). In 1892, he coached the Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> VIII for the inter-collegiate ‘Lent Bumps’. Browne was also an elected member of the Jesus Drama Society called the ‘Halliwell’ and later played for the College Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV and Cricket 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. Browne was ordained a Deacon (1895) and Priest (1897), before eventually becoming the Headmaster of Lambrook School in Bracknell, Royal Berkshire (1904-1930). He is perhaps best remembered for commissioning the construction of a beautiful chapel at this school during his first year as Head Master. Undoubtedly, Browne helped **BFR** settle in to College life and influenced his choice of extra-curricular activities (see **19<sup>th</sup> March & Easter Holiday 1891** and **October 1891**).

**BFR** also befriended a 21 year-old fellow Jesuan called Percy Holden Illingworth. He was the grandson of Sir Isaac Holden and the brother of Albert Holden Illingworth (later 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Illingworth). Illingworth was admitted to Jesus in October 1887 and was a double Rugby Blue (Captain during the 1889-1890 season). He also played in the 1891 annual Northern England v. Southern England rugby match at Richmond (Surrey), which was one of several official England trial games. Furthermore, Illingworth was Captain of the Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> VIII boat (1890-1891) and narrowly missed gaining a Rowing ‘Blue’ when he was selected as ninth-

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man for the annual ‘Varsity boat-race against Oxford in 1893. After completing his studies (1892), Illingworth became a Barrister-at-Law (19<sup>th</sup> November 1894), served in the Second Boer War (1899-1902) and was elected Liberal M.P. for Shipley, Yorkshire (1906-1915). Illingworth then held various junior government posts before being appointed Chief Whip (1912-1915).

**Summer Term** (*The Newtonian* Entries). Issue No. 128 (Vol. 15) of *The Newtonian* recorded the following items:

**Page 82. June.** The names of four recent school-leavers was published together with a listing of their extra-curricular contributions to the school community. These listings included the following entry:

B.F. Robinson, Easter Term, 1882.

Prefect, Xmas Term 1887.  
Captain of the School House, Xmas Term 1888.  
XXII. Summer Term 1887.  
2<sup>nd</sup> XV. Xmas Term 1887.  
1<sup>st</sup> XV. Xmas Term 1888.  
editor of the *Newtonian* 1887-1889 [Issues 98-115].  
Secretary of the Newton College Debating  
Society, 1888-1890.  
On the Football Committee, Xmas 1889.  
On the Game Club Committee 1889, 1890.

**Page 82. June.** It was reported that BFR “has gone into residence at Jesus College, Camb.” Another O.N. called E.W.S. Rowland had entered “into residence” at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

**Page 83. June.** It was reported that “E.N. Gardiner, Esq., of Corpus Christi (Oxford) has taken his M.A. degree.”

**Michaelmas Term.** Thomas Mather Standring (O.N.), born in Lancashire, entered St. John’s College (Cambridge University) to read for a Bachelor of Arts degree. Standring was ordained as a Deacon (1895) and Priest (1896) and subsequently worked in various roles for the Diocese of Chester and Liverpool.

**Michaelmas Term.** Arthur Herbert Thoralf Muller (O.N.) born in Denmark, entered Caius College (Cambridge University) to read for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. He was the younger brother of Oswald Valdemar Muller O.N. (see *November 1888*).

**Michaelmas Term.** BFR and Illingworth met two Trinity College Freshmen (a term used to describe newly enrolled undergraduates) and all four men became friends. 20 year-old Trevor Gwyn Elliot Lewis of Aberdare in Glamorgan (Wales), was the son of Sir William Lewis (later 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Merthyr) and the younger brother of Hubert Clerk Lewis (later 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Merthyr). Trevor Lewis was later invited to the Bar (19<sup>th</sup> November 1894), became a Parliamentary Barrister-at-Law and disclaimed his father’s title (1911). Twenty-four year-old Arthur Hammond Marshall was from Raven Hall, Scarborough, North Yorkshire and became an author and writer for *Punch* (under the pseudonym ‘Archibald Marshall’). In 1892,

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Marshall had a series of short-stories called *Tales from Trinity*, published in *The Granta* (see early **1892**). In 1899, Marshall developed three of these tales into the novel entitled *Peter Binney, Undergraduate* (see early **1899**). Later, Marshall had an autobiography published which was entitled *Out and About: Random Reminiscences* (see **1933**). In Chapter 1 (pp. 1-7), Marshall recalled the relationships between himself, **BFR**, Illingworth, Lewis, Lehmann (see **Michaelmas Term 1892**) and Bosanquet (see late **1924**).

**Michaelmas Term.** Issue No. 16 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Page 35.* In a cricketing report entitled *Characters of the XI*, it was stated that during the May Term (1890), a 22 year-old Cranmer member called:

H. Menzies again shewed very good form behind the wickets and often got runs when badly wanted; very anxious in the field when not keeping wicket but not over safe.

*Page 40.* During the May Term (1890), **BFR** was elected to the Cranmer.

Henry Menzies later became a Physician and certified **BFR**'s death (see **7<sup>th</sup> March 1936**). He was admitted to Jesus from St. Paul's School, West Kensington, London, in October 1886 along with 68 other 'Chaps' (undergraduates). Menzies was a distinguished member of the Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Team and represented Middlesex as a wicket-keeper/batsman (1891-1893). During one County game (played at Crystal Palace), he famously stumped Dr William Gilbert Grace (England Test Batsman and Captain). Menzies was awarded Bachelor degrees in Natural Sciences (1889), Medicine (1894) and Surgery (1894). He later co-founded the Jesus College Cambridge Society (J.C.C.S.) to which **BFR** belonged (see **1897, September 1903 and 7<sup>th</sup> March 1936**).

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** made his debut for the Jesus Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 17, **Lent Term 1891**).

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** made his inaugural speech to the Cranmer (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 17, **Lent Term 1891**).

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** presented a paper entitled *Village Life in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries* to the Coleridge Society at Jesus College. Illingworth was also an active member of this society (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 17, **Lent Term 1891**).

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**Lent Term.** Issue No. 17 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Page 31.* During the Michaelmas Term (1890), **BFR** played as a forward for the Jesus Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV. **BFR** was athletically built, standing 6 feet and 3 inches tall (1.91 metres) and weighing 13 stones and 7 lbs (85.7 kg). This team also included Illingworth (when not injured) and two international players called Gregor Macgregor of Scotland (see early **1890, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1897** and **7<sup>th</sup> March 1936**) and Samuel Moses James Woods of England (Captain). Jesus played 10 matches and won 9 games and lost just 1 game.

*Page 38.* During the Michaelmas Term (1890), **BFR** made his inaugural speech to the Cranmer. He spoke in defence of his own motion which held “that Trade Unions are justifiable”. Following a “good debate, and excellent speeches”, the motion was defeated by six votes. **BFR** was a life-long Liberal and became a member of both the Reform Club and the Union Club (London) sometime after 1894.

*Page 38.* During the Michaelmas Term (1890), M. White asked the Cranmer to “deny that the present age is one of progress.” **BFR** made a “good speech” attacking the motion which was eventually defeated by nine votes.

*Pages 39-40.* During the Michaelmas Term (1890), **BFR** presented a paper entitled *Village Life in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries* to the Coleridge Society and it was stated that he “showed a complete mastery of his subject.” Samuel Taylor Coleridge (21<sup>st</sup> October 1772 – 25<sup>th</sup> July 1834) was born at Ottery St. Mary in Devon (30 miles or 48 kilometres from Ipplepen). He became a poet, critic and philosopher and together with his friend, William Wordsworth (7<sup>th</sup> April 1770 – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1850), helped to found the Romantic Movement in England. The Coleridge Society at Jesus had no formal membership. All Jesuan undergraduates had the right to attend meetings on the grounds that Coleridge had been an undergraduate at this College (1791-1794). The year 1891 marked the centenary of Coleridge’s admission to Jesus.

**19<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** spoke at a meeting of the Jesus College Common Room Debating Society, a non-elective debating body which was distinct from the Cranmer and was administered by a separate committee (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**).

**4<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** spoke at a meeting of the Jesus College Common Room Debating Society (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**).

**4<sup>th</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** rowed for the Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII in a biannual four-day inter-collegiate rowing race called the Lent Bumps (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**). The Bumps involves boats chasing each other in single-file; each boat attempting to catch the boat in front (bump) without being caught by the boat behind (bumped). Such races are held on narrow water which precludes side-by-side racing (a head race). The River Cam can only accommodate 18 boats at anyone time so the race is run in divisions (each college enters several boats). Boats begin a race some 90 feet (27.43 meters) apart and each crew has 8 rowers and a coxswain. Crews try to improve upon their position within a division and to gain promotion to a higher division (positions are held-over between races). During the 1890’s, the boat which finished first in the highest division in the May Bumps was declared ‘Head of the River’ (a position held by Jesus between 1875 and 1886). Contemporary Lent Bumps and May Bumps are now separate competitions.

**11<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** attended a meeting of the Jesus College Common Room Debating Society and was elected as the ‘Honorary Secretary’ of the Committee (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**).

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**19<sup>th</sup> March.** Easter Holiday: Following the recent Lent Bumps (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**), **BFR**, Browne and 22 other other undergraduates ‘stayed-up’ at Cambridge (meaning that they remained in residence during a holiday) for several days in order to participate in the Jesus College ‘Sliding Trials’ (used to select rowing crews for the forthcoming May Bumps).

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** and Browne were residing with **BFR**’s parents at Park Hill House in Ipplepen at the time of the 1891 English Census Survey.

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.** Harold Gaye Michelmore was boarding at 3, Courtenay Park, Newton Abbot close to Newton College. He was working as an ‘Articled Clerk’ to a solicitor.

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.** Henry Mathews Baskerville was working as a ‘Coachman and Domestic’ for Joseph Fletcher Robinson and was residing at a cottage in the Credefords area of Ipplepen. The term ‘Credefords’ was used by local people to describe the area which now corresponds to the junction between East Street and Dornfield Road. This area is the site of Methodist Chapel which was built in 1866 by the then owner of Park Hill House, John Bowden (see **1881**). Henry Baskerville lived with his parents, John and Mary Baskerville and also with his great uncle, Henry Mathews. 65 year-old John Baskerville was employed as a ‘Farm Labourer’ and 76 year-old Henry Mathews was a ‘Retired Coachman and Domestic’. It seems probable that Henry was named after his great uncle and that Henry Mathews had assisted Baskerville in securing employment at Park Hill House.

**May Term.** Issue No. 18 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Pages 15-16.* During the Lent Term, George Warner had accepted the position of assistant master at Harrow School and had subsequently resigned his Fellowship at Jesus. He was later appointed a house master (1904) and became joint-editor of a periodical entitled *Harrow School* and editor of the *Record of the Harrow Association*. George Warner also acted as the Examiner when **BFR** took his finals in 1893.

*Page 21.* During the Lent Term, **BFR**, F. F. Williams, W. F. Ladeburg, and R. Pulleine were elected as members of The Halliwell (Jesus College Drama Society) commencing from Michealmas Term, 1891 (see **1890**).

*Page 30.* During the Lent Bumps, Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> VIII were bumped four times and the 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII rowed-over (retained its place). The names and weights of the Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII crew were as follows:

		Weight:	Stone	Pounds
Bow	H J Turner	...	10	11½
2	R L Hobson	...	11	9
3	A Bogle	...	11	8
4	E V Palmer	...	11	3
5	J P H Soper	...	12	12
6	B F Robinson	...	13	6 (85.45 kg)
7	H S Maundrell	...	10	1
Stroke	C H I Forster	...	10	4
Cox	F W Simmonds	...	9	4

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*Pages 35-36.* **BFR** is recorded as having addressed a meeting of the Common Room Debating Society which was considering a motion condemning “the growing popularity of horse racing” (see **19<sup>th</sup> February 1891**). The motion was rejected by 29 votes to 10 votes.

*Page 36.* **BFR** is recorded as having addressed a meeting of the Common Room Debating Society which was considering a motion condemning “the present tendency of women to encroach upon the sphere of man”. The motion was carried by 20 votes to 7 votes (see **4<sup>th</sup> March 1891**).

*Page 36.* **BFR** is reported as having been elected as the Honorary Secretary to the Committee of the Common Room Debating Society for the May Term (see **11<sup>th</sup> March 1891**).

**May Term.** William Stirling-Hamilton (O.N.), born in India, entered Jesus College. He was the son of Sir William Stirling-Hamilton of Preston, 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet (1830-1913) and Eliza, daughter of Major-General Barr (see **October 1887**). William Stirling-Hamilton’s grandfather, Sir William Hamilton, 9<sup>th</sup> Baronet (1788-1856), was a famous Scottish Philosopher, Mathematician and Theorist. William Stirling-Hamilton later married Mabel Mary, daughter of Major-General Henry Tyndall. He became the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Preston (26<sup>th</sup> September 1913) following the death of his father.

May Term. **BFR** commenced his term of office as the Honorary Secretary to the Committee of the Common Room Debating Society (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**).

May Term. **BFR** participated in the annual May Bumps (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 19, **Michaelmas Term 1891**).

**Summer.** *The Long* (a Cambridge term for the summer holiday): **BFR** and ‘Harry’ Baskerville played for Ipplepen Cricket Club and were photographed together (Baskerville had co-founded the team in 1890).

**17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> August.** The Rev. Warner played cricket for Devon in a match against Glamorgan at the County Ground in Exeter. Warner scored 0 (not out) and 2 (not out) in Devon’s first and second innings respectively. This match was drawn.

**Michaelmas Term.** Frederick Wilmot Stephens (O.N.), born in Cornwall, was admitted as an undergraduate to Jesus College.

**Michaelmas Term.** Arthur Romney Green (O.N.), born in Hampshire, entered Sidney College (Cambridge University), to read for a Bachelor of Arts degree. Like **BFR**, he was appointed an Exhibitioner (see **April 1890**).

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** became a member of the Jesus College Drama Society or (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 18, **May Term 1891**).

**Michaelmas Term.** Issue No. 19 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

Pages 28-29. **BFR** rowed as 5<sup>th</sup> oar for Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII in the Second Division of the May Bumps or ‘May Races’. Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII bumped both Peterhouse and First Trinity III to finish second in their division. Illingworth and Browne both rowed for Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> VIII in the same competition (Stroke and 5<sup>th</sup> oar respectively). The following statements appear within this same entry under the sub-heading of *Names and Characters of the crew*:

**F. D. Browne.** A painstaking oar: he wants to get his shoulders back at the end of each stroke.

**P. H. Illingworth.** Improved greatly on last years form. He is inclined to hurry, but he is invaluable as Stroke for he never gets short.

**B. F. Robinson.** With constant tubbing (practice) will learn to utilise his long reach and become a very useful man.

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** attended a meeting of the Jesus College Common Room Debating Society (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 20, **Lent Term 1892**).

**13<sup>th</sup> October.** A report in *The Granta* (see early **Michaelmas Term 1892**) recorded the following:

At the Annual General Meeting of the C.U.R.U.F.C. (Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club) held last Tuesday, the following office bearers were elected for the season:— President: H. G. Fuller, M.A., Peterhouse; Captain: T. W. P. Storey, Trinity Hall; Hon. Sec.: C. B. Nicholl, Queen’s; Committee: W. Martin Scott, Jesus, P. H. Illingworth, Jesus, A. Trethewy, Caius, A. Rotherham, Trinity.

**5<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** made his debut for the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Lancashire Rugby Club. This game was played at home and Cambridge lost by a score of “two goals and four tries to two goals”. A report of this match was also published in the Sporting Intelligence section of *The Times* newspaper (6<sup>th</sup> November, pp. 10).

**16<sup>th</sup> December.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** played as a forward for Cambridge in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual ‘Varsity rugby match against Oxford, thereby winning his first ‘Blue’. Cambridge won the match by a score of “2 tries to 0”. This match was played at the Queen’s Club, West Kensington, London, in front of eight-thousand spectators. **BFR** featured in a photograph of the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Football Team which included 7 full-international players (3x English, 2x Welsh, 1x Scottish and 1x Irish). A report of this match was also published in the Sporting Intelligence section of *The Times* newspaper (17<sup>th</sup> December, pp. 10) [see also *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 20, **Lent Term 1892**].

Michaelmas Term. Both **BFR** and Browne participated in an end-of-term event organised by the Halliwell (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 20, **Lent Term 1892**).

## 1892

Arthur Hammond Marshall had a series of *Tales from Trinity* published in *The Granta*. These describe elements of Cambridge student life at the time that he and his friends (including **BFR**) were undergraduates. Three of these tales were later developed into a successful, humorous novel by Marshall, entitled Peter Binney, Undergraduate (see early 1899).

**Lent Term.** Issue No. 20 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Pages 60-61.* **BFR's** participation in the Oxford v. Cambridge 'Varsity rugby match on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1891 was acknowledged as follows:

We are glad to be able to add B. F. Robinson's name to the list of our Rugby Blues. We are not quite sure whether we ought to congratulate him in getting through the season without being damaged. At any rate as he has escaped the fatality which has been so persistently waiting upon our Rugby Blues of late, perhaps we may begin to hope that our long spell of ill-luck is at last at an end, and that we may be able in the future to play a representative team when required.

This same report recorded that six members of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV team had subsequently been injured. Martin-Scott "put his knee out", as did Fitch, and Illingworth "hurt his arm". One member of the team got food poisoning, whilst another broke his arm, and yet another fell into the Cam (a river which flows through Cambridge and which is sometimes called 'the Granta').

*Page 72.* During the Michaelmas Term (1891), **BFR** attended a meeting of the Jesus College Common Room Debating Society. He spoke in favour of his own motion which was "condemning of any attempt to make England sober by legislation". **BFR's** motion was carried by the house.

*Page 83.* During the Michaelmas Term (1891), **BFR** and Browne participated in a Halliwell social event which was described as follows:

The Halliwell [sic] gave a "Social" in Mr. Watts' rooms at the end of last term. The entertainment closed with a dramatic performance in which B. F. Robinson in a wig looked most paternal, Phelps in tights most statuesque, and Elton made a most fascinating young lady on the stage as well as in a photograph. F. D. Brown [sic] showed well in a somewhat invidious part; he has a good voice and was distinctly audible throughout. Mr Watts' kindness in allowing his rooms to be turned topsy turvey in the interests of the drama cannot be too highly praised.

**20<sup>th</sup> April.** Edward Norman Gardiner (**BFR's** former teacher and rugby-coach at 'Newton College') married Hilda Cornish-Bowden at Newton Abbot. Hilda was the sister of James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden (**BFR's** friend and classmate at 'Newton College' between 1884 and 1890).

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July.** *The Times* newspaper published two articles in its *Sporting Intelligence* section which report that **BFR** had rowed for Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> VIII at the Henley Regatta (6<sup>th</sup> July, pp. 10 & 7<sup>th</sup> July pp. 4). Percy Illingworth was also a member of the same team but was rested, having sustained an injury to his hand. Jesus beat Henley Rowing Club in the first-round by three-quarters of a length and Balliol College (Oxford) in the second-round by two-lengths. In the final-round, Jesus beat Trinity College (Dublin) by a margin of four boat-lengths (in a time of 8 minutes and 10 seconds) thereby winning The Thames Challenge Cup. **BFR** was subsequently tried for the full ‘Varsity VIII (which included his friend Trevor Lewis), but was “...passed over in a year of remarkable oarsman.” (see **8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 1894**).

**17<sup>th</sup> September.** It was reported in *The Times* that The Rev. Warner had been elected to the national committee of the Rugby Football Union (pp. 5).

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** became the Rugby Contributor (a commissioned writer) for *The Granta* (published by King, Sell & Railton Ltd, Fleet Street, London, until October 1890 and thereafter by W. P. Spalding, Cambridge). Rudolph Chambers Lehmann (nicknamed ‘Tis’, because of his frequent use of that term in his poetry, but known to most of his friends as ‘Rudie’), had co-founded *The Granta* four years earlier and was both the Proprietor and editor. Lehmann was a former student (Trinity 1874-1878), President of the Cambridge University Society (1876-1877) and a qualified Barrister-at-Law (21<sup>st</sup> April 1880). *The Granta* first appeared on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1889 (see Appendix 1) shortly after Lehmann was defeated as the Liberal Parliamentary Candidate for East Hull. It was originally priced at one shilling (later reduced to six-pence resulting in doubled circulation) and catered for the rising demand amongst students for “...light-verse of topical interest...”. Lehmann later replaced **BFR**’s uncle, Sir John Robinson, as editor of the *Daily News* (1901-1902) and was elected Liberal M.P. for the Harborough Division of Leicestershire (1906-1910).

Lehmann lived in London where he was an active member of both the Liberal Reform Club and the Punch Table (*Punch* Contributor 1889-1919). Thereafter he was appointed Coach of the Cambridge ‘Varsity Rowing Team (1893), Honorary Secretary to the British Amateur Rowing Association (1893-1901) and Captain of the Leander Rowing Team (1894-1896). In order to accommodate these other interests, Lehmann appointed a succession of student Sub-editors (or ‘Cambridge editors’) to manage *The Granta*. One such Sub-editor, Charles Geake (*Punch* 1891-1896 and *Westminster Gazette* 1896-1919), recalled the arrangement in a letter to *The Granta* on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1901:

Lehmann came-up every Thursday with almost unfailing regularity and on Thursday night we met to approve of the next Saturday’s paper, and to plot out that of the Saturday after.

The expression, ‘came-up’, means either going to study at college, or, in this case, someone (Lehmann) who has completed their studies at college and who then returns for a visit, often for a dining-in evening at the college.

*The Granta* was aimed at Cambridge undergraduates but it also included sections about Trinity College (Dublin) and Oxford University. Lehmann distributed copies through London retailers and encouraged his student Sub-editors to broaden the readership amongst Cambridge Colleges too. The four Sub-editors appointed by Lehmann were: Ernest Alfred

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

Newton of King's (October 1889 - May 1890); Charles Geake of Clare (October 1890 - May 1892); Robert Pentland Mahaffy of King's (October 1892 - May 1893) and **BFR** of Jesus (October 1893 - April 1895). Mahaffy (*Dublin Daily Express* 1899-1902, Barrister-at-Law and Legal Advisor to the Governor of Malta, 1921-1929) described his appointment as Sub-editor in a later number of *The Granta*:

When I became Cambridge editor in the Autumn of 1892, there had been great changes in our staff at Cambridge. All our principal writers had gone down [graduated], especially the poets. I was left almost entirely without poets, rowing correspondents, football correspondents, or anything else. It is wonderful however, how quickly one finds poets; in a very few weeks I had discovered a new nest of singing bird ... B. F. Robinson, of Jesus, was my Rugby man, and afterwards, when he was editor of *Vanity Fair* and then of *The World*, I would tell him that I had launched him ...

*The Granta* therefore provided **BFR** with his first taste of journalism and the men responsible for this were Lehmann and Mahaffy. Indeed, **BFR** told Marshall that his Uncle John Robinson (editor of the London *Daily News*) had played no part in his eventual choice of profession. Nevertheless, **BFR** was close to John Robinson (see early 1901) and resembled him in other ways – for example both men had myopia.

**Michaelmas Term.** Percy Gibson Deslandes Winter (O.N.), born in Bengal, entered Caius College (Cambridge University). He later practised as a Dental Surgeon in Southsea (1905-1937) and was a Captain in the East Surrey Regiment during the 1914-1918 war.

**Michaelmas Term.** Stuart Gordon Anderson (O.N.), born in Middlesex, entered Trinity Hall College (Cambridge University). He was the son of Colonel James Alexander Anderson of Portman Square, London. It appears that Stuart Anderson married Rosamond Tufton, daughter of Henry James Tufton, 1st Baron Hothfield.

Michaelmas Term. The Jesus College periodical entitled *The Chanticleer* was renamed *The Chanticlere*. There was no great perceptible change in either its content or presentation. The new publishers were Fabb & Tyler, “Review” Office, Guildhall Street, Cambridge.

**12<sup>th</sup> October.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** and Illingworth attended the first annual meeting of the Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club (C.U.R.U.F.C.). Both men were elected as Members of the Committee.

**19<sup>th</sup> October.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** was selected to represent the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Middlesex Wanderers Rugby Club. This game was played on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and Cambridge won by a score of “two placed goals, a penalty goal, and a try, to nothing”.

**26<sup>th</sup> October.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** was selected to represent the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Rosslyn Park Rugby Club. This game was played on 29<sup>th</sup> October and Cambridge lost by an unspecified score

**2<sup>nd</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** was selected to represent the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against the Harlequins Rugby Club. This game was played on 5<sup>th</sup> November and Cambridge won by a “goal and a try”.

**9<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that seven Oxford and eight Cambridge ‘Varsity players (including **BFR**) competed in an annual rugby-match against a combined London, Southern Counties and Midland Counties XV (**BFR**’s first England trial-game). The match was played at the Athletic Ground, Richmond, Surrey, before four thousand spectators. It was a closely contested game “and should have ended in a draw but for a very bad attempt at goal from a try between the posts”. ‘London and Counties’ eventually won by a “goal and a try to two tries”. A report of this match was also published in *Sporting Intelligence* section of *The Times* newspaper (10<sup>th</sup> November, pp. 10).

**12<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** had “a chill” and was therefore unavailable for a game against Richmond Rugby Club. Nevertheless, **BFR** was selected to represent the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a forthcoming game against Lancashire.

**14<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game against Lancashire Rugby Club (who had inflicted a heavy defeat upon Cambridge during the previous season). The University were “victorious by a goal” and “there was a large attendance for one of the best contested matches ever witnessed on the Corpus ground”.

**16<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game against Cumberland Rugby Club. The University lost the game by a score of “two tries to a try”.

**19<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game against Blackheath Rugby Club. The result of this match is not recorded in the subsequent match report (see **19<sup>th</sup> November 1892**, **18<sup>th</sup> February 1893**, **18<sup>th</sup> November 1893**, **10<sup>th</sup> February 1894** and **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**).

**26<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game against London Scottish Rugby Club. The match was played in poor weather at Richmond and the Scottish won the game by “one dropped goal, one penalty and one try” (see *The Chanticlere*, Issue No. 23, *Lent Term 1893*).

**9<sup>th</sup> December.** *The Times* announced in its *Sporting Intelligence* section that **BFR** had been selected to play for Cambridge against Oxford in the forthcoming annual ‘Varsity rugby match (pp. 11).

**14<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** represented Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual ‘Varsity rugby-match against Oxford University (thereby becoming a double ‘Blue’). The game was played at the Queen’s Club and attracted between 6 and 7 thousand spectators. The match was played in very poor weather conditions and ended in a scoreless draw (each team had won 7 of their previous 20 encounters and 6 matches had been drawn). **BFR** featured in a photograph of the Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby squad which included 8 full international players (5 English, 2 Scottish and 1 Welsh). A report of this match was also published in the *Sporting Intelligence* section of *The Times* newspaper and includes the following comment (15<sup>th</sup> December, pp. 7):

...the Oxford defence was severely tried. But it stood the test. Conway-Rees [Oxford] next had a free kick for a “mark.” B. F. Robinson, however, drove the ball into touch near the line again and Oxford were really hard pressed.

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**December 15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.** *The Granta* reported that Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV had embarked upon a rugby tour. No further details are provided by *The Granta* but later, **BFR** wrote the following account of this tour on pages 152-153 of his 1896 book entitled *Rugby Football* (A. D Innes & Company Limited):

The success of the University tours, and, indeed, of the majority of club tours, is often imperilled by the excessive number of the engagements that which have to be carried through. I remember a celebrated occasion on which a Cambridge team, of which I was a member, started from Euston the morning after the Inter-University match, with its accompanying festivities, and journeyed to Coventry, where a match was played. The next day the team proceeded to Holyhead, and crossed the Irish Channel in a half gale. We arrived tired out at seven in the evening. On the next day we played Dublin University, and won a desperate battle, in which the wounded were as numerous as the excitement was intense [Cambridge won by “a single kicked goal]. A great banquet followed, and yet on the next day – a Saturday – we met and defeated the Lansdowne club fairly easily. That night we recrossed the Channel, and were left stranded at Crewe at two o’clock in the morning. After various athletic sports, amongst which racing luggage trucks up and down the interminable platforms formed a popular feature, we caught a train and arrived in Manchester about four o’clock. The next day was for the most part spent in bed. On the Monday we were off again to Bradford, and played that famous club on the Tuesday. On Wednesday we went to Leeds and again turned out against a strong team. That evening we left Yorkshire and arrived in London about twelve o’clock. The next day saw us separate for our respective homes.

**16<sup>th</sup> December.** Lehmann and Mahaffy hosted the third annual dinner for *The Granta* at the Reform Club (Pall Mall, London). The dinner was also used to celebrate the pending publication of the 100<sup>th</sup> edition. Amongst the 21 guests who attended, were **ACD** (the grandson of John ‘HB’ Doyle, a former *Punch* Illustrator) and **BFR**’s uncle, John Robinson. Both men were friends of a fellow Reformer called Thomas Wemyss Reid, the editor of the *Leeds Mercury* (Manager of Cassell’s Publishers from 1887, founder of the moderate Liberal magazine *Speaker* in 1890, knighted in 1894 and later elected President of the Institute of Journalists). The *Leeds Mercury* is referred to by Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The remaining guests were largely drawn from the staff of *The Granta* and *Punch*, which overlapped to such a degree that the former was called ‘Punch with a little Cam water’ and the latter ‘the London Granta’ (see Appendix 2).

Lehmann later wrote a series of early Sherlockian parodies entitled *The Adventures of Picklock Holes* (and Potson) by Cunnin Toil. The first seven of these were published in *Punch* between 12<sup>th</sup> August 1893 and 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1893 (beginning with *The Bishop’s Crime* and ending with *The Stolen March Part I*). Lehmann later wrote a further eight stories collectively entitled *The Return of Picklock Holes*, which were first published in *Punch* between 1903 and 1904.

## 1893

**Lent Term.** Issue No. 23 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

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Pages 71-72. A review of the sport played during the Michaelmas Term (1892) reported that it was a “disastrous season” for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Team (played 9 games, won three and lost 6). This article also recorded that “B.F. Robinson of course has been as conspicuous as ever getting the ball out of touch” and then continues:

A weak point has been at half, where we sadly missed Illingworth in the important Matches (he was ill). We were pleased to see him show himself as much at home with the ball as ever in the London Scottish match [see 26<sup>th</sup> November 1892].

The same article assesses the contributions made by individual players throughout the season and includes the following statement:

B.F. Robinson. An invaluable forward. Works very hard in the scrum and as good as ever out of touch. Dribbled well several times. It is a pity he could play so seldom for the College.

**28<sup>th</sup> January.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game against Kensington Rugby Club. Cambridge won this game by a score of thirteen points to four and **BFR** scored a try.

**4<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Richmond Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this match by a “three goals to a try”. Illingworth also played for Cambridge and was applauded loudly for “a brilliant drop at goal”.

**6<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Liverpool Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this match by “five goals and a try to nil”.

**11<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** and Illingworth represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match played against the London Scottish Rugby Club. Cambridge won this match comfortably and Illingworth scored a try. *The Granta* asserted that ‘Storey, Nelson and the Robinsons were the pick of the forwards’.

**18<sup>th</sup> February.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *A Compromise* (pp. 210). In this light-verse, **BFR** proposed a comical solution to the contentious proposal for admitting female undergraduate’s women to British universities. This appears to be the first attributed article that **BFR** ever had published. Over the course of the next 14 years he published hundreds of items about a range of different topics and in various genres:

GENRE:	PUBLISHED PRIOR TO JULY 1901:	PUBLISHED OVERALL:
POEMS AND VERSE	19	24
SONGS AND BALLADES	1	4
PLAYLETS	1	9
EXTENDED NON FICTION	25	54
SHORT STORIES	1	55
*NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	13	128
BOOKS & NOVELS (SOLE AUTHOR)	1	2

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<b>BOOKS &amp; NOVELS (JOINT AUTHOR)</b>	2	5
<b>BOOKS &amp; NOVELS (EDITED)</b>	7	8
<b>BOOKS &amp; NOVELS (ILLUSTRATED)</b>	1	1
<b>TOTAL =</b>	71	290

\* The Daily Express and Vanity Fair combined.

**18<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Blackheath Rugby Club (a team which included six international players). *The Granta* reported that Cambridge scored a try and a goal but that they were “generally out-classed”. Illingworth also played, in this, the penultimate game of the season (see **19<sup>th</sup> November 1892**, **18<sup>th</sup> November 1893**, **10<sup>th</sup> February 1894** and **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**).

**25<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in the final match of the season, against the Merchant Taylors Rugby Club. The match-report in *The Granta* (pp. 237) concluded that “... the less said about this game the better ...”, implying that Cambridge lost the match. However the same report ends in an upbeat fashion:

I congratulate Wells and J. J. Robinson [John James Robinson, no relation to **BFR**] on International honours. We have now no less than seven of the team who have attained to this distinction. It has been suggested that in the published lists asterisks should now be placed against the names of those who are not Internationals.

**25<sup>th</sup> February.** *The Granta* (pp. 224) featured a biographical article about Trevor Lewis in a regular section entitled *Those in Authority*. This article focuses upon his successes as a Cambridge Oar but recalled that Lewis also won College colours for football, athletics and cricket. Lewis was nicknamed ‘Paul’ and enjoyed fishing and shooting.

Lent Term. George Townsend Warner (an assistant master at Harrow School in Berkshire) was invited to act as a History Examiner for Jesus College (see *The Chanticlere*, Issue No. 24, **May Term 1893**). His wife, Nora, was pregnant with their first child at this same time (see **6<sup>th</sup> December 1893**).

Lent Term (late). **BFR** and Illingworth both participated in a ‘Rugby Nines’ competition (see *The Chanticlere*, Issue No. 24, **May Term 1893**).

**May Term.** Issue No. 24 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

Page 93. During the Lent Term (1893), George Warner accepted an invitation to act as History Examiner for Jesus College during the forthcoming History Tripos (see late **June 1893**). **BFR** was entered for this same examination and George Warner had previously written a letter in support of his admission to Jesus College (see **1890**). The practice of assessing candidates known to an assessor is no longer regarded as good or safe educational practice.

*Pages 104-105.* Shortly before the end of the Lent Term (1893), **BFR** and Illingworth participated in an intra-collegiate knock-out competition called Rugby Nines. Both men captained a team and five teams were entered. The subsequent tournament report recorded that Illingworth’s team lost in the semi-final and that:

In the first round, B.F. Robinson's side played against Royle's; the feature of this game was the splendid play of Robinson, whose passing and tackling were a treat to the spectators, and his play was often greeted with well-merited applause. However Royle's side managed to pull off a well contested game.

**22<sup>nd</sup> March.** BFR's friend, Trevor Lewis competed for Cambridge against Oxford in the 50<sup>th</sup> annual 'Varsity Boat Race (founded in 1829). Percy Illingworth was the unused 'spare-man' so he narrowly missed gaining a Rowing Blue. This event is still held over a 4.213 mile (6.779 kilometres) stretch of the River Thames between Putney and Mortlake Bridges. It is a head-to-head encounter (see **4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March 1891**) between two 'Heavyweight Eights', which means that no weight restrictions are applied to each crew of eight Oarsmen or their Cox (who steers the boat). Oxford won the 1893 race in a time of 18 minutes and 45 seconds (Oxford 27 wins, Cambridge 22 wins and 1 dead-heat).

**22<sup>nd</sup> April.** *The Granta* published a poem by BFR entitled *A Chess Player's Chortle* (pp. 265). In this light-verse, BFR urged Cambridge students to forget past defeats by Oxford University in rowing and athletics and to rejoice in their recent triumph at chess.

**6<sup>th</sup> May.** *The Granta* published a poem by BFR entitled *A Craven Attack* (pp. 302). In this satirical-verse, BFR countered a suggestion by an American society newspaper that the British aristocracy are ill-mannered. He points out that many American women have married British nobility in preference to the poorly educated American male.

**31<sup>st</sup> May.** John Robinson was at the Reform Club when he took receipt of the following letter from the official residence of the Prime Minister (see **late 1904**):

Dear Mr Robinson

I have the pleasure to inform you that Her Majesty the Queen has empowered me to propose to you, that you should receive the honour of Knighthood and I trust that it may be agreeable to you to accept the proposal which I now tender in pursuance of Her Majesty's gracious permission.

I remain faithfully yours,

W. E. Gladstone.

**1<sup>st</sup> June.** John Robinson sent the following reply to Prime Minister Gladstone:

Dear Prime Minister

I accept the mark of Her Majesty's favour, with gratitude, coming as it does, through the hands of a Minister for whom my respect is life-long and profound.

I remain,

My dear Mr. Gladstone,  
Very faithfully yours,

J. R. Robinson.

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**7<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** was elected to the Committee Member (*ex officio*) of the Jesus College Common Room (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 25, *Michaelmas Term 1893*).

**15<sup>th</sup> June.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *Chuck Her Up!* (pp. 395). In this light-verse, **BFR** reviewed the eleven-man cricket team selected to represent Cambridge University in the forthcoming match against Oxford University at Lords.

**Late June.** **BFR** was awarded a History Tripos degree by the University of Cambridge. He then re-enrolled to study Law at Jesus College during the following academic year (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 25, *Michaelmas Term 1893*).

**Summer.** *The Long:* **BFR** stayed-up at Cambridge throughout his holiday (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 25, *Michaelmas Term 1893*).

**11<sup>th</sup> August.** John Robinson received his Knighthood from Queen Victoria at a private investiture ceremony held at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

**21<sup>st</sup> September.** It was reported in *The Times* that The Rev Warner had attended a meeting of the Rugby Football Union in London (pp. 5). At this meeting, Mr. Miller, the representative for Yorkshire, proposed “That players be allowed compensation for *bona fide* loss of time.” The Rev. Warner opposed the motion and the motion was defeated. The issue of professionalism later lead to a split within the Rugby Football Union and the emergence of two separate codes (rugby union and football).

**Michaelmas Term.** Issue No. 25 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

Page 29. **BFR** was elected as a Member of the Jesus College Common Room Committee (“*ex officio*”). It is unclear why **BFR**’s position warranted automatic admittance to this committee without election. However, it probably related to his seniority as an undergraduate and to his varied extra-curricular achievements which included rugby, rowing, oratory and writing/editing (see *Michaelmas 1893*).

*Pages 12-13.* Towards the end of the May Term 1893, Cambridge University published and displayed its Tripos lists. These feature the name, subject and class of degree bestowed upon each successful student. *The Chanticlere* reprinted entries relating to Jesuans and added footnotes to summarise any extra-curricular distinctions. **BFR**’s entry reads as follows:

## HISTORICAL TRIPPOS

### CLASS II:

<sup>1</sup>**Robinson, B. F.**

<sup>1</sup>Rugby Blue. Rowed in First Boat, 1892. Winning crew Thames Cup, Henley 1892.

**Pages 18-20.** During ‘The Long’ of 1893, **BFR** and 24 other students remained in residence at Jesus College. **BFR** represented the Jesus College cricket XI which also included two cricketing Blues called Osbourne and Hinde. The team played 15 matches, winning 7, drawing 6 and losing just 2. It was reported that the “bowling except Osbourne, was not very strong, Robinson and Hinde being the best of the

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

rest". **BFR** took 27 wickets (his bowling average was 13.4 runs for each wicket taken) and he finished second in the summer averages. The same report includes the following remark:

praise is due to B. F. Robinson and Francis for keeping up the last wicket in the Trinity match. The vehement exhortations of the former to his partner to run caused great amusement in this match.

**Michaelmas Term.** Henry Edward Jamieson (O.N.), born in Somerset, entered Corpus Christi College (Cambridge University). He served with the Sussex Imperial Yeomanry in the South African War, 1899-1902. Both **ACD** and **BFR** visited South Africa during this conflict (see *Winter 1899* and *28<sup>th</sup> February 1900*). Henry Jamieson was the brother of Frederick Jamieson, O. N. (see *November 1888*).

**Michaelmas Term.** **BFR** commenced his 18-month tenure as Sub-editor of *The Granta* under the executive control of Lehmann. The most notable events during **BFR**'s editorship were the retirement of Contributor Barry Eric Odell Pain (Corpus Christi 1883-1886, *Punch*, *Speaker* and assorted London press outlets from 1890) and the appointment of a Contributor called Owen Seaman (Professor of Literature at Durham University 1888-1893, *Punch* from 1897, editor of *Punch* 1906-1932, knighted in 1914 and appointed a Baronet in 1933). Seaman was later described, under **BFR**'s editorship, as being one of the few who "... kept the light of parody burning amongst us." (*Vanity Fair*, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1904, pp. 272).

**Michaelmas Term.** *The Granta* published the Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV fixture list for the forthcoming rugby season. It is certain that **BFR** did participate in most, but not quite all, of these matches for several reasons (see *1<sup>st</sup> November 1893*). Firstly, he was one of an elite group of 8 Cambridge players selected to play for a Combined 'Varsity XV against a London, Western and Midland Counties XV (see *November 8<sup>th</sup> 1893*). Secondly, he was awarded the rare distinction of a third Rugby Blue (see *13<sup>th</sup> December 1893*). Finally, **BFR** featured in the annual Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV team-photograph and is mentioned in an end-of-season review (see *3<sup>rd</sup> March 1894*). The full list of matches to be played was as follows:

Wednesday	Oct	18 <sup>th</sup>	Guy's Hospital.
Saturday		21 <sup>st</sup>	Old Leysians.
Wednesday		25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Thomas' Hospital.
Saturday,		28 <sup>th</sup>	Middlesex Wanderers.
Wednesday	Nov	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rosslyn Park.
Saturday		4 <sup>th</sup>	Harlequins.
*Monday		6 <sup>th</sup>	Ealing. A Team.
Wednesday		8 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford & Cambridge v. London.
Saturday		11 <sup>th</sup>	Richmond.
Wednesday		15 <sup>th</sup>	Cardiff.
Saturday		18 <sup>th</sup>	Blackheath.
Wednesday		22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bradford.
Saturday		25 <sup>th</sup>	London Scottish.
*Wednesday	Dec	6 <sup>th</sup>	Dublin University.
Wednesday		13 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford.

## ON TOUR

Thursday	Dec	14 <sup>th</sup>	Coventry.
Saturday		16 <sup>th</sup>	Cumberland.
Monday		18 <sup>th</sup>	Edinburgh Academicals.

- These matches do not appear to have been played.

**13<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, *Lent Term 1894*).

**14<sup>th</sup> October.** *The Granta* published a short article in which it predicted a successful forthcoming season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV Cambridge University Rugby Team:

There is no doubt that we commence the season with better prospects than have been our lot for many years past. We have with us no less than five Internationals, namely Nielson and Gowans for Scotland, Nichol for Wales, and Field and J. J. Robinson for England. Besides these five, we have B. F. Robinson, Tucker, Rendal and Nelson, making a total of nine of our representatives of last season at Queen's Club.

The same report recorded that:

At a meeting at the “Bull”, on Thursday night [12<sup>th</sup> October], Nielson, our last year’s Secretary, was elected Captain, while Tucker fills the vacancy thus created. The old Captain [Nicholl] and B. F. Robinson, remain on the Committee, while Field and J. J. Robinson, make up the requisite number of that body.

**14<sup>th</sup> October.** *The Granta* published a poem by BFR entitled *The Female Extensionist* (pp. 10-11). In this satirical-verse, BFR objected to the use of college buildings by members of the women’s movement during “The Long” of 1893. Evidently, BFR felt that his preparations for the encroaching academic year had been disrupted by this influx of these “female agitators”.

**14<sup>th</sup> October.** *The Granta* published a poem by BFR entitled *Spectator Inops* (pp. 15). In this light-verse, BFR informed the latest cohort of Freshmen that their established peers valued and respected character over money.

**16<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, *Lent Term 1894*).

**18<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in the opening rugby match of the new season against Guy’s Hospital. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this match by a score of “six goals to nil”.

**20<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, *Lent Term 1894*).

**21<sup>st</sup> October.** *The Granta* published a poem by BFR entitled *A Quid Pro Quo* (pp. 29). In this satirical-verse, BFR attacked American Society for condoning the practice of

drawing-up “... eligible lists at the commencement of each season of marriageable men ...”. He lamented the absence of love and blamed both sexes for reducing the institution of marriage to yet another marketable commodity.

**21<sup>st</sup> October.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Old Leysians Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this match by a margin of five goals (one dropped) to three (one from the mark).

**25<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against St. Thomas’s Hospital Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this match by a margin of “two goals and two tries to nil”.

**27<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, *Lent Term 1894*).

**28<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against the Middlesex Wanderers Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this match by a score of “three goals and one try to a single try”.

**1<sup>st</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game against Rosslyn Park Rugby Club. The result of this match is unspecified in the subsequent match report (pp. 55). However it does record that Cambridge scored two tries and landed an excellent goal, and that **BFR** was “... slightly damaged ...” at an “... early stage of the game ...”. This injury meant that **BFR** was rested for the next game against Harlequins Rugby Club which was played on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**8<sup>th</sup> November.** *The Granta* reported that seven Oxford and eight Cambridge University players (including **BFR**) played in the annual rugby-match against a London, Western and Midland Counties XV (**BFR**’s second England trial-game). The match was played at the Athletic Ground in Richmond before “several thousand spectators”. The Combined ‘Varsity team won by one goal and a try to two tries (it is interesting to note that two of the ‘London and Counties’ players called G. H. Allington and C. Hawkings were also members of Devon County Rugby Club). A report of this match was also published in the *Sporting Intelligence* section of *The Times* newspaper (9<sup>th</sup> November, pp. 4).

**10<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, *Lent Term 1894*).

**11<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Richmond Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this game by a margin of “four goals and four tries to nil”.

**13<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, *Lent Term 1894*).

**15<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Cardiff Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that this match was played “in front of a large crowd” and that Cambridge lost by a margin of “2 goals and a try to a penalty goal”.

**18<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Blackheath Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that neither team managed to score in a game which was played on “a wretched day”. This match was therefore drawn (see **19<sup>th</sup> November 1892**, **18<sup>th</sup> February 1893**, **10<sup>th</sup> February 1894** and **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**).

**22<sup>nd</sup> November.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Bradford Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that the Northern team won by “piling-up a heavy score”. Illingworth also played and was described as a “veteran stroke.”

**25<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against the London Scottish Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that the Scottish team won and that Illingworth also played.

**27<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**29<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** played rugby for Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**6<sup>th</sup> December.** Nora Warner (wife of George Townsend Warner) gave birth to Sylvia Nora Townsend Warner at Harrow in Berkshire. Sylvia was the grandchild of The Rev. Townsend Warner (see **1<sup>st</sup> May 1978**).

**12<sup>th</sup> December.** Lehmann and **BFR** hosted the fourth annual *Granta* dinner at the Reform Club. Guests included Arthur Hammond Marshall, Owen Seaman, Barry Pain and Thomas Wemyss Reid (see **16<sup>th</sup> December 1892** and **early Michaelmas Term 1893**) [see Appendix 3].

**13<sup>th</sup> December.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Oxford University played at the Queen’s Club, thereby becoming a triple Blue. Despite fielding a side which included six international players, the Cambridge team were beaten comfortably. **BFR** featured in a photograph of the 1893 Cambridge Rugby Football Team. A report of this match was also published in the *Sporting Intelligence* section of *The Times* newspaper (14<sup>th</sup> December, pp. 11):

**14<sup>th</sup> December.** *The Granta* reported that **BFR** participated in a rugby-tour with the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV (minus Nichol, Nielson, J. J. Robinson and Druce). The first match was played against Coventry Rugby Club who won by “two goals and one try to nil”.

**16<sup>th</sup> December.** *The Granta* reported that the second Cambridge tour game was played against Cumberland Rugby Club. The ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV won the match and were “reinforced by the presence of absent players” including Nielson who “dropped two goals from half way”.

**17<sup>th</sup> December.** *The Granta* (pp. 138) reported that the Cambridge touring squad spent Sunday in Edinburgh. The team went “to view the Forth Bridge” where they were mistaken for “the Monson case jury and some excitement was caused thereby.” Alfred John Monson was on trial at Edinburgh High Court for the suspected murder of a young nobleman called Cecil Hambrough. Despite seemingly overwhelming evidence against him this case was

eventually found ‘not proven’. Amongst the prosecution witnesses was Dr. Joseph Bell, the Edinburgh surgeon who was the chief inspiration for ACD’s fictional detective character, Sherlock Holmes.

**18<sup>th</sup> December.** The **Granta** reported that the third game of the Cambridge tour was played against Edinburgh Academicals Rugby Club (pp. 138). The ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV won the match by a score of “two goals to nil”. The match report described the post-match celebrations as follows:

The Academicals entertained us to a very excellent repast at the Lyric Club. Mr. Nielson, with his usual oratorical skill, making the speech of the evening, while Messrs. Laing, Robinson, and Todd sang with great vigour.

**26<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** commenced a rugby-tour with Jesus College Wanderers (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**27<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** travelled to Somerset with Jesus College Wanderers (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**28<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** played for Jesus College Wanderers in Somerset (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**29<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** and Jesus College Wanderers spent a rest day in Taunton (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**30<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** and Jesus College Wanderers travelled to North Devon to play a rugby match (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**30<sup>th</sup> December.** Sir Samuel Baker died aged 72 years at Sandford Orleigh in South Devon. He was a major-general in the Ottoman army (1869), Governor-General of the Equatorial Nile basin (1870-74) and was a Fellow of the Royal Society (F.R.S.). During 1889, he was appointed president of the governing council of ‘Newton College’ following the death of The Rt. Hon. William Reginald, Earl of Devon (see **18<sup>th</sup> November 1888**). Baker is perhaps best remembered for exploration, hunting and writing (see **29<sup>th</sup> July 1884**, **30<sup>th</sup> July 1888** and **August 1889**).

**31<sup>st</sup> December.** **BFR** and Jesus College Wanderers spent a rest day in North Devon (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

## 1894

**1<sup>st</sup> January.** **BFR** and Jesus College Wanderers spent a rest day in North Devon (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**2<sup>nd</sup> January.** **BFR** and Jesus College Wanderers travelled to South Devon to play a rugby match (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**3<sup>rd</sup> January.** **BFR** and Jesus College Wanderers were due to play a rugby match in South Devon but the game was (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

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**4<sup>th</sup> January.** BFR and Jesus College Wanderers ended their rugby-tour (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 26, **Lent Term 1894**).

**Lent Term.** Issue No. 26 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Pages 60-62.* During the Michaelmas holiday (1883/84), **BFR** and 20 fellow Jesuans embarked upon a rugby-tour of the West-country (26<sup>th</sup> December). The Jesus College Wanderers XV (captained by G. F. Turner), played their opening game against Bath Rugby Club and won by a score of one try to nil (26<sup>th</sup> December 1893). During the same evening, the ‘Wanderers’ attended a pantomime. The following day, the team travelled to Somerset to play Weston-Super-Mare Rugby Club. This match was tied with a score of 2 tries each (27<sup>th</sup> December). Next, the Wanderers travelled south to play Taunton Rugby Club and won this match by a score of two tries to nil (28<sup>th</sup> December). The following day the team rested at the Somerset County Club in Taunton (29<sup>th</sup> December).

The Wanderers then travelled to North Devon to play Barnstaple Rugby Club (30<sup>th</sup> December). Here they experienced their only defeat of the tour, losing the match by 1 goal and 2 tries to nil. The same evening they attended a second pantomime performance where the team constituted “the principle part of the audience”. Wanderers rested for the next two days in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe (31<sup>st</sup> December 1893 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 1894 respectively). They then travelled to South Devon to play Newton Abbot Rugby Club (2<sup>nd</sup> January). Wanderers won this match by a score of three tries to two tries. The same evening, they attended a performance of *Diplomacy* at a theatre in Torquay. Frozen pitches led to the abandonment of the final two fixtures of the tour against Paignton Rugby Club (3<sup>rd</sup> January) and Devonport Albion Rugby Club (4<sup>th</sup> January).

**Page 60.** During the Michaelmas Term (1883), Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> XV played 12 rugby matches. Home fixtures were played at the ‘Close’ sports ground which belonged to Jesus College. The results of these matches were recorded as follows:

Date	Opponents	Ground	Points for	Points against	Result
Oct 13	Peterhouse	Close	2 tries	-	won
Oct 16	St John's	Close	2 goals, 6 tries	-	won
Oct 20	Christ's	Close	2 goals, 4 tries	-	won
Oct 25	St John's	Close	1 goal, 1 pen. goal	1 try	won
Oct 27	Caius	Close	-	1 goal	lost
Nov 3	Peterhouse	Close	1 goal, 1 try	-	won
Nov 8	Trinity Hall	Close	1 goal, 1 pen. goal	-	won
Nov 10	Emmanuel	Close	1 pen. goal, 3 tries	1 try	won
Nov 13	Clare	Clare	-	6 goals	lost
Nov 23	Magdalen (Ox)	Oxford	-	-	drawn
Nov 27	Trinity	Trinity	-	1 goal, 1 try	lost
Nov 29	Caius	Caius	3 tries	-	won

*Pages 57-59.* During the Michaelmas Term (1893), **BFR** played 8 games for Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> XV (he was unavailable for the matches against Magdalen, St. John's and Trinity

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

Hall and injured for the game with Peterhouse). His contribution throughout the season was assessed as follows:

**B. F. ROBINSON.** – A hard-working forward. Tackles well. A little inclined to kick too hard when dribbling. Shewed signs of getting slack as the season advanced.

It is worth noting that **BFR** played regularly throughout the season for both the College (8 games) and University (12 games) [see early *Michaelmas 1893, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1893* and *3<sup>rd</sup> March 1894*]. He also participated in two rugby-tours during which a further 7 matches were played (see *14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December 1893* and *early Lent Term 1894*). Hence **BFR** may have played in as many as 27 matches between 13<sup>th</sup> October 1893 and 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1894, which equates to two matches per week (see *early 1896*). Perhaps this might explain why he became a little “slack” towards the end of the Jesus College season.

**20<sup>th</sup> January.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *How to be Happy Though Married* (pp. 133). In this light-verse, **BFR** proposed that marriage can put an end to the romance within a relationship and that this might account for adulterous activity. He advises married men to buy a newly published book entitled *The Murray of Matrimony or the Baedeker of Bliss* in order to safeguard their marriages.

**20<sup>th</sup> January.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *A Memory* (pp. 143). In this light-verse, **BFR** reported meeting a woman at a recent Christmas dance to whom he was physically attracted. However her inability to engage in a conversation soon set his mind wandering and prompted an excuse to take his leave of her company.

**24<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** was re-elected as a Committee Member of the Jesus College Common Room (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 27, *May Term 1894*).

**27<sup>th</sup> January.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *To the Muse of Poetry* (pp. 149). In this light-verse, **BFR** likens the act of writing poetry to being in love with a beautiful and dispassionate woman who is pursued by many would-be suitors.

**27<sup>th</sup> January.** *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won their first game of the new term against Kensington Rugby Club. The subsequent match report published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February in *The Granta* stated:

Of last term's team Nicholl, Nielson, Pilkington and B. F. Robinson were absent. Nielson has unfortunately strained his ankle, Pilkington is saving himself for the Sports and B. F. Robinson was away.

**7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** participated in a trial for a place in the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> VIII boat ahead of the annual Oxford and Cambridge boat-race (see *10<sup>th</sup> February 1894* and *12<sup>th</sup> February 1894*).

**10<sup>th</sup> February.** The following article appeared within the *Rowing Notes* section of *The Granta* (pp. 183). It reveals that **BFR** had been shortlisted to represent Cambridge in the forthcoming annual boat-race against Oxford University:

With such constant changes most of the men in the crew have deteriorated, not improved. I think [R. C. Lehmann] the best crew we could get would be – Finch (bow), Paine, Ross, Fogg-Elliot, Game (or Robinson), Bland, Kerrison, and Lewis (stroke). Such a crew, carefully trained and looked after, would render a good account of themselves, and on a favourable day might be very dangerous to even the gigantic Oxford Crew.

**10<sup>th</sup> February.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *An Appeal* (pp. 187). In this satirical-verse, **BFR** attacked Society letter-writers and Society journals for being obsessed with both money and titles. The poem might now be considered ironic given that **BFR** was later to become the editor of *Vanity Fair* (see early **1904**).

**10<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** probably represented the ‘Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a match against Blackheath Rugby Club. *The Granta* reported that Cambridge won this game by a margin of a dropped goal and two tries to a goal (see **19<sup>th</sup> November 1892**, **18<sup>th</sup> February 1893**, **18<sup>th</sup> November 1893** and **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**).

**12<sup>th</sup> February.** *The Times* newspaper published an article (pp. 7) about the Cambridge VIII boat trials (see **7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 1894**). It reported that Trevor Lewis was selected to row at Stroke for Cambridge in the forthcoming annual boat-race against Oxford University (his weight = 12 stones and 2.5 lbs or about 76.5 kg). This same report also stated:

The Cambridge crew were subjected to numerous changes during last week. The President (Mr. C. T. Fogg-Elliott) has spared no pains in endeavouring to find a competent heavy-weight for the centre of the boat. The crew were indulged with a rest on Tuesday [6<sup>th</sup>], and entered upon strict training on Ash Wednesday [7<sup>th</sup>].

Fogg-Elliott did not handle an oar on Wednesday, as he was desirous of giving W. A. Bieber another trial at No. 5. On Thursday [8<sup>th</sup>] H. A. Game did not occupy a seat, his place at No. 4 being filled by B. F. Robinson, Jesus, well-known in Rugby football circles. The same order was adhered to at the commencement of proceedings on Friday [9<sup>th</sup>], but after rowing to Baitsbite and back in the Foster practice boat the crew had a spin to Jesus Green locks in the French-built craft.

Robinson on this occasion vacated his position, Fogg-Elliott coming in at No.4. The crew met at the Goldie Boathouse at 10 o'clock on Saturday [10<sup>th</sup>] morning, and (after they had been photographed) the French boat was launched. When the men took their places it was at once perceptible that several changes had been made to the order of rowing. Neither Bieber nor Robinson was called upon, Game returning to the fifth thwart, Bland going four, and Fogg-Elliott rowing at six ...

**16<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** learned that his two friends, Lewis and Marshall, were gated (confined to college grounds) following an apparent misunderstanding with the Trinity College authorities. Subsequently the following mock invitation card was published in *The Granta* (pp. 181):

**By kind permission of the Senior Dean**

**Mr. T. G. LEWIS  
Mr. A. H. MARSHALL**

**AT HOME**

**EVERY EVENING  
8.0—12.**

**Carpet Slippers and Closed Windows**

The account of this incident was recounted by Arthur Hammond Marshall in his autobiography entitled *Out and About: Random Reminiscences* (pp. 5-6). Interestingly, Marshall incorrectly recalled (pp. 6) that the mock invitation card published in *The Granta* read as follows (see early 1933):

**Mr. T. G. E. LEWIS**

**Mr. A. H. MARSHALL**

**AT HOME**

**Trinity College.**

**Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. 8 p.m.**

**17<sup>th</sup> February.** The Granta reported that Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV played and beat the Old Merchant Taylors Rugby Club by the substantial margin of 12 points to nothing. The subsequent match report in *The Granta* recalled that:

Druce, B. F. Robinson, and Rendall were absent, and their places were supported by Wallis, Bannerman and Wood.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March.** *The Granta* published a poem by BFR entitled *Solvitur Ambulando* (a latin expression meaning that *the problem is solved by walking*) [pp. 236-237]. In this light-verse, BFR expressed amusement with a recent article in *Vanity Fair* which reported that an increasing number of aristocrats partook in walking. He speculated whether the true reason for the abandonment of carriages might be failed foreign investment. Ironically, BFR was later appointed the editor of *Vanity Fair* (see early 1904)

**3<sup>rd</sup> March.** *The Granta* published a review entitled *The End of the Season* which reflected upon the Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV's rugby season (pp. 225-226). It recorded the following:

Forward, Mr. Nichol was literally and metaphorically a tower of strength, and was well supported in all cases where hard work was to be done, by Mr. Tucker, the Secretary, Messrs. J. J. and B. F. Robinson, and Mr. Rendall, all old Blues.

**March** (mid). **BFR** and 62 other Jesuans participated in a ‘Rugby Nines’ competition tour (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 27, **May Term 1894**).

**17<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR**’s friend, Trevor Lewis competed for Cambridge against Oxford in the 51<sup>st</sup> annual ‘Varsity Boat Race (founded in 1829). Oxford won this race in the comparatively slow time of 21 minutes and 39 seconds (Oxford 28 wins, Cambridge 22 wins and 1 dead-heat).

**March** (Easter Holiday). **BFR** participated in the Jesus College ‘Sliding Trial VIII’s’ (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 27, **May Term 1894**).

**May Term.** Issue No. 27 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Page 107.* On 24<sup>th</sup> January 1894, the Jesus Common Room held elections to appoint a President, Vice-President and Secretary. **BFR** and three other persons were also elected to the Committee (L. R. Holme, F. P. David and A. H. Billing). The Jesus Common Room held three debates during the remainder of the Lent Term and also conducted an “...auction of papers” (see early **Michaelmas Term 1893**).

*Pages 105-106.* Shortly before the end of the Lent Term (1894), **BFR** and 62 other Jesuans participated in a Rugby Nines intra-collegiate competition. **BFR**’s side (he was Captain), beat “...Thomas by 3 points [1 try] to nil.” In the second round **BFR**’s side were beaten by “Gray ... by 25 points [5 goals] to 4 points [a dropped goal].”

*Pages 103-105.* At the end of the Lent term (1894), **BFR** rowed in the Jesus Sliding Trial VIII’s (see **19<sup>th</sup> March 1891**). This event involved a short head race between three crews (see **4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March 1891**). All three boats were coached for ten days by Frederick John Foakes-Jackson (see early **1890**) and Bernard Middleditch (1<sup>st</sup> VIII Captain; and England soccer player during 1897).

**28<sup>th</sup> April.** *The Granta* published a comical playlet by **BFR** entitled XXXX (pp. 278-279). In a scene involving Socrates and a character called Double Blue (Cricket and Rugby Football), **BFR** explored the distinction between amateur sports and professional sports (see **8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December 1888**). He also outlined the differences between the male and female approach to sport and the difference between a Coach and a Don (a Cambridge terminology for an academic tutor).

**28<sup>th</sup> April.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *A Woman’s Revenge* (pp. 283-284). In this satirical-verse, **BFR** rejected the widely publicised resolutions made by members of the Australian Women’s Movement in Melbourne. He concluded by suggesting that these protestors were unmarried and seeking to exact their revenge upon men for being ignored.

**12<sup>th</sup> May.** *The Granta* featured a biographical article about Arthur Hammond Marshall in a regular section entitled *Those in Authority*. This article reported that Marshall played piano, wished to become ordained (which he never was) and was nicknamed ‘Archie’.

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**26<sup>th</sup> May.** *The Granta* published a poem by **BFR** entitled *A Protest* (pp. 283-284). In this satirical-verse, **BFR** recorded his opposition to the Elsenham (Essex) Sparrow Club which had reportedly destroyed some 4,195 sparrows during the previous hunting season.

**June** (mid). **BFR** rowed for Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> VIII in the May Bumps (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 28, *Michaelmas Term 1894*).

**20<sup>th</sup> June.** J. J. Robinson was featured in the *Those in Authority* section of *The Granta* (pp. XX). This article ends by commenting upon a rather curious coincidence:

He [J. J. Robinson] is a dashing forward, and a brilliant tackler. Like his namesake (and team-mate) from Jesus [**BFR**], he is, oddly enough, called ‘Bobbles’.

**June** (late). **BFR** was awarded a third class pass in Part 1 of the Tripos Law (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 28, *Michaelmas Term 1894*).

**June** (late). Henry Menzies was awarded a Bachelor of Medicine degree (M.B.) and a Bachelor of Surgery degree (B.Ch.) jointly by Cambridge University and St. George's Hospital. He subsequently moved to 47 Earl's Court Square, South Kensington, London, SW1. Shortly thereafter he became a resident House Physician, Assistant House Surgeon and Assistant Surgical Registrar at nearby St George's Hospital in London (SW17). Menzies was also elected as a Member of The West London Medical and Chirurgical Society.

**Summer.** *The Long:* Lewis rented a large flat at 126 Ashley Gardens, Kensington, London, SW1 (from a builder called William Cooke of Ashley Gardens Properties Limited at 2a Ashley Gardens). Marshall reported that both Illingworth and **BFR** resided with Lewis at this address for the next seven years (all three men were Cambridge Blues and all became qualified Barrister-at-Laws). *The Post Office London Directory* and the *Electoral Roll* for each relevant year do confirm that Lewis did reside at 126 Ashley Gardens between 1895 and 1907. The former record also lists Illingworth as a tenant at the same address between 1897 and 1903. However, **BFR** does not feature in either record, although he is listed at this address in the Jesus College student-register until 1896. This suggested that **BFR** used 126 Ashley Gardens as a London base between frequent trips to Cambridge where he studied further for the Bar Exams and continued working as the Sub-editor of *The Granta*. Later, when **BFR** worked as a journalist he resided at Ashley Gardens between domestic and foreign assignments (see *November 1897* and *Winter 1899*).

**Michaelmas Term.** Issue No. 28 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Pages 138-139.* During the middle of June (1894), **BFR** was selected to compete for the Jesus College 1<sup>st</sup> VIII in the May Bumps. On the first evening of this four-day event, the Stroke (P. Cowan) was afflicted with a severe cramp that both necessitated his retirement and enabled Emmanuel College to bump Jesus. On the second and third day of racing Jesus merely rowed-over. On the final day, Jesus successfully bumped Trinity Hall II thereby ending the races in the same position as they started. The full names and weights of the Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> VIII crew was as follows:

		St.	lb.
Bow	B. Middleditch	9	12
2	E. C. Muir	11	5
3	C. Nichols	10	10
4	T. R. Ubsdell	11	3
5	B. F. Robinson	13	6
6	G. E. Harthan	12	0
7	E. Green	11	0
Str.	P. Cowan (1 <sup>st</sup> day)	11	4
	C. Shuter	10	4
Cox	F. C. Castello-Child	8	8

*Page 150.* At the end of June (1894) **BFR** successfully completed Part 1 of the Law Tripos examination in only one year of study. Because **BFR** was already a Bachelor of Arts (see late June 1893), he was thereby awarded an LL.B. degree (Bachelor of Laws or ‘Legum Baccalaureus’ in Latin.). The published Cambridge University Tripos examination list included the following relevant entry:

LAW	
PART I.	
CLASS II.	CLASS III.
E. J. Watt.	W. Watson B. F. Robinson.

**Michaelmas Term.** 18 year-old Henry Blair Johnson Taylor (O.N.), born in India, was admitted to Jesus College. Like **BFR**, Taylor represented Cambridge University at rugby (Double Blue; 1894, 1896).

**Michaelmas Term.** 19 year-old Alfred Morrison (O.N.), born in Devon, was admitted to King’s College (Cambridge University). Like **BFR**, he was appointed an Exhibitioner (1896) and then later a Scholar (1897). He was awarded a First Class degree in Medieval and Modern Languages in 1897. Alfred Morrison was Assistant Master at Victoria College, Alexandria, Egypt (1903-1910) and was subsequently ordained as a Deacon (1911) and Priest (1912). He later served as a Chaplain in the Royal Army Chaplain’s Department.

**Michaelmas Term.** Freshman, Henry Taylor, O.N. represented Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Team during the 1894/95 season (see *The Chanticleer*, Issue No. 29, **Lent Term 1894**).

**3<sup>rd</sup> November.** **ACD** wrote to Sir John Robinson from Amherst House, Amherst, Massachusetts, in the United States of America. He discussed the first five weeks of his first North America lecture-tour and details the arrangements for his return to England. **ACD** begins this letter thus:

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

MY DEAR ROBINSON

May I make you my mouth-piece in conveying my warm remembrances to friends of the Reform, above all to Payn and Reid?

It is interesting to note that **ACD** seldom addressed his friends by their Christian names. This same formal greeting later appears in two letters which acknowledge the assistance provided to **ACD** by **BFR** with plotting *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see **25<sup>th</sup> March 1902** and **15<sup>th</sup> April 1902**).

**3<sup>rd</sup> November.** **BFR** had a light-verse entitled *To an Old Friend* published in *The Granta* (pp. 36-37). In this poem **BFR** lampooned a newspaper review of a book by a Dutch naturalist which featured sightings of sea-serpents. **BFR** suggested that the editors should permit the publication of such articles only when news is scarce and concluded that the monster will therefore invariably resurface. It is interesting to note the parallel between the title of this poem and a message which accompanied a floral tribute sent by **ACD** to **BFR**'s funeral which read: "In loving memory of an old and valued friend..." (see **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**).

**17<sup>th</sup> November.** Henry Mathews Baskerville married Miss Alice Pering. The wedding was held at Wesley Church, Union Street, Torquay and was conducted by Rev. W. Bee. The newly-wed couple resided at 2 Wesley Terrace, Chapel Street/East Street, Ipplepen near 'Credefords' (see **5<sup>th</sup>** and **6<sup>th</sup> April 1891**).

**19<sup>th</sup> November.** Percy Holden Illingworth was called to the bar of the Inner Temple and therefore qualified as a Barrister-at-Law-at-Law.

**29<sup>th</sup> December.** It was reported in *The Times* newspaper that the Rev. Warner had attended an ill-tempered meeting of the Rugby Football Union in London (pp. 10). Supporters of professionalism attempted to evoke a vote of no confidence in the manifesto of the Rugby Football Union. These attempts were thwarted.

## 1895

**9<sup>th</sup> February.** It was reported in *The Times* newspaper (pp. 11) that The Rev. Warner had attended a meeting of The Rugby Union in London. At this meeting, the committee selected an England XV to play Scotland on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1895. This same meeting elected to postpone discussions about possible sanctions against the Northern League for breaches of the Amateur Code.

**Lent Term.** Issue No. 29 of *The Chanticleer* recorded the following relevant items:

*Pages 179-181.* Following the departure of **BFR** in June 1894, Cambridge 1<sup>st</sup> XV recruited another Jesuan and O.N. called Henry Blair Johnson Taylor. Like **BFR**'s friend, Francis Deshon Browne, O.N., Taylor had been born in India. Taylor became a double Rugby Blue (1894 and 1896) and also represented the 'Varsity 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Team (as did The Rev. Warner). Taylor's performance was evaluated as follows:

H. B. Taylor – A fast and very neat wing three-quarters. His kicking is very good, and he is always in the right place.

**April.** **BFR** was continuing with his part-time studies for the Bar examinations (he retained his name on the Jesus College register). **BFR** and Lehmann were also commissioned to write a book about sport for the Isthmian Library Collection and resigned their positions with *The Granta* (see **1896** and **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**). **BFR** was also employed to edit Lehmann's book and a further seven books for the Isthmian Library. About this same time, Lehmann commenced writing a four-part book entitled *In Cambridge Courts* (published in 1897 by H. Henry & Company Limited, London). By spring 1895, the new Proprietor and editor of *The Granta* was St. John Basil Wynne Willson of St John's College (student 1887-1890 and Bishop of Bath & Wells 1921-1937).

**30<sup>th</sup> May.** The following advertisement was placed in *The Times* newspaper (pp. 14):

**THE NEWTON ABBOT COLLEGE, S. Devon.**

**WANTED** in September, as **HEADMASTER**, in succession to  
**Rev. G.T. Warner**, a Graduate of Oxford or Cambridge, in Honours,  
who must be in Holy Orders. He will be required to take charge of a  
a large boarding-house.

For further particulars apply F. Watts, Secretary to the College  
Company, Newton Abbot.

Applications must be sent in by June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**16<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** had a light-verse entitled *Irish Beauties of the Last Century* published in *The Granta* (pp. 76). In this poem **BFR** mourns the passing of chivalry and questions whether the emancipation of women is either a desirable or an attractive social development.

## 1896

**BFR** had a non-fictional book published entitled *Rugby Football*, which was Volume No. 1 of the Isthmian Library Collection (Innes & Company Limited, London). In this book, **BFR** makes reference to Arthur Budd, C.B. Fry, Norman Gardiner, The Reverend Warner and 'Newton College' (see **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**). He also discusses various aspects of the game of rugby including its wider social implications:

Perhaps the best feature of this enthusiasm for Rugby Football which has grown up amongst working men is the delight in hard exercise and consequent self-denial that it has taught him. A man cannot spend his nights and his wages in the public-house if twice a week he has to face a hard struggle of forty minutes each way [see early **Lent Term 1894**].

**24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** sat the 'Easter Pass Examinations' (Bar Exam) at the Inner Temple-Hall within the City of London (see **17<sup>th</sup> June 1896**). This building was designed by Sydney Smirke and constructed in 1868. It was damaged by bombing during the Second World War (1941) and later reconstructed.

**18<sup>th</sup> April.** Admiral William Cornish-Bowden died aged 70 years at Newton Abbot (see **1882, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1884, 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 1888, 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December 1888, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1892, 1900 and 1934**). He was the father James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden (**BFR**'s friend and former classmate at 'Newton College') and the father-in-law of Edward Norman Gardiner (**BFR**'s former Classics teacher and rugby-coach at 'Newton College').

**17<sup>th</sup> June.** It was reported within the *Council of Legal Education* section of *The Times* newspaper that **BFR** had passed the Bar examinations (see **24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 1896**). It was also recorded that he had accepted an invitation to the Bar Inner Temple thereby qualifying as a Barrister-at-Law. **BFR** subsequently removed his name from the Jesus College student-register. He never practised Law and even delegated personal legal matters to a solicitor and friend called Harold Gaye Michelmore from Newton Abbot (Harold Michelmore & Company solicitors still persist today and have offices in Sidmouth, Exeter and London).

**December.** The position of editor at *Cassell's Family Magazine* (*Cassell's Magazine* from December 1897) passed from Bonavia Hunt to novelist Max Pemberton (knighted 1928). This event triggered a significant increase in **BFR**'s written output and marked the start of a close friendship between Pemberton and **BFR**. Pemberton refers to his relationship with both **BFR** and Sir John Robinson on pages 124-125 of his 1936 autobiography, entitled *Sixty Years Ago and After* (Hutchinson & Company Publishers Limited, London).

## 1897

Dr. Henry Menzies moved to 4 Ashley Gardens (SW1) from nearby St. George's Hospital (London, SW17), and consequently became a near neighbour of **BFR** (126 Ashley Gardens). Prior to his move, Menzies was a Resident House Physician, Assistant House Surgeon and Assistant Surgical Registrar. He also worked for a short time as a Clinical Assistant at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children (London, WC1N). Menzies retained a position on the staff at St. George's Hospital as a Junior Anaesthetist, and he later pronounced **BFR**'s death (see **21<sup>st</sup> January 1907**). He resided at Ashley Gardens until about 1918.

Max Pemberton reported in his autobiography that **BFR** received an anonymous invitation to dine at the Reform Club. The same invitation card implored **BFR** not to disclose this engagement to his flatmate, Percy Illingworth. Meanwhile Illingworth had also received such an invitation and was instructed to conceal the appointment from **BFR**. Pemberton reported that **BFR** and Illingworth spent several uncomfortable days excusing themselves to one another ahead of their absence on Wednesday night. The situation came to a head when each man tried to escape from their flat for the same covert destination using separate Hansom cabs. Eventually the two abashed men were reunited at the Reform Club where they were greeted by their anonymous host - an innocent looking Owen Seaman (newly appointed *Punch* Contributor).

**23<sup>rd</sup> January.** **BFR** had a ballade entitled *Ye Ancient Ballade* published in *The Granta* (pp. 144). This 'song' is written in a style which is traditionally associated with the light anthems sung by members of a university touring sports club. It depicts the experience of a drunken monk whilst fishing, and was inspired by a Christmas card which **BFR** had been received. This was **BFR**'s last contribution to *The Granta* and quite literally his swan song (he had by-lined 15 poems, 1 ballad and 1 playlet).

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**February.** Frank Banfield had an article entitled *Some ‘Vanity Fair’ Cartoons – A Chat with Mr. Oliver Armstrong Fry* published in *Cassell’s Family Magazine* (pp. 238-246). He wrote:

The writer of all the smart notices which accompany the cartoons in *Vanity Fair* signs himself “Jehu Junior.” If Mr. Fry is not “Jehu Junior,” he is his first cousin. And if “Jehu Junior” treats the great with a pungent freedom, it will be realised that he ventures on quite the same liberties with himself or with his editor. Perhaps they are one and the same person. I have my suspicions, though absolute proof of them is wanting. If Mr. Fry be eliminated, I am inclined to the opinion that one might say of “Jehu Junior” what Mrs. Gamp said of Mrs. Harris: “I don’t believe there’s no such person.”

What may have been true of Fry is doubly possible with his successor as editor of *Vanity Fair*, **BFR**, given the style of writing and the topics covered under the name of ‘Jehu Junior’ during **BFR**’s editorship of *Vanity Fair* (see early **1904**).

**March.** **BFR** had his first non-fictional article entitled *A Day with the Hounds* published in *Cassell’s Family Magazine* (pp. 355-364). This article described the practice of riding-to-hounds with assorted provincial hunts. It is illustrated throughout with drawings by Jack Charlton and G. D. Armour and with photographs.

**April.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article entitled *The New Railway to London* published in *Cassell’s Family Magazine* (pp. 492-500). This article discussed a newly completed rail-link between London and the large industrial cities in the North of England. This article is illustrated throughout with photographs and includes a crude map of the new Central Railway network.

**June.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article entitled *Through the Flames* published in *Cassell’s Family Magazine* (pp. 42-50). This article described the work of the London Fire Brigade and provides accounts of how several Firemen gave their lives in the course of discharging their duty. This article is illustrated throughout with photographs and drawings by Gordon Browne (unrelated to F. D. Browne).

**July/August.** **BFR** had a short non-fictional article entitled *The Great Railway Extension* published in Volume 1 of *The Railway Magazine*.

**November.** The following advertisement appeared in the June-November 1897 omnibus volume of *Cassell’s Family Magazine* under the heading of *OUR DECEMBER NUMBER, and Our Programme for the Coming Year*:

### **Mr. B. Fletcher Robinson Goes Abroad for Us.**

**“CAPITALS AT PLAY.”**

**By B. Fletcher Robinson.**

This series of fascinating papers is the result of a visit which Mr. Fletcher Robinson has paid recently to the greater capitals of Europe. He has endeavoured

to sketch for us the lighter social life of Europe's cities, the recreations of the palace and the kitchen, the prince and the pauper at play.

**26<sup>th</sup> November.** It was announced in the *University Intelligence* column of *The Times* that at a Congregation in Cambridge during the afternoon of the previous day (25<sup>th</sup>), the degree of Master of Arts had been awarded to Bertram Fletcher Robinson of Jesus College.

**December.** **BFR** had the first in a series of six articles collectively entitled *Capitals at Play* published in the newly renamed *Cassell's Magazine*. This article was entitled *St. Petersburg* (pp. 18-29) and it is illustrated throughout with photographs (as are all of his articles in the series). This initial article is preceded by the following introduction:

[Mr. B. Fletcher Robinson, the author of this remarkable series of articles, has just completed a tour of the capitals of Europe, solely in the interests of CASSELL'S MAGAZINE. It has been his object to make himself familiar with the amusements of the various peoples concerned, and to show us the lighter side of life in the greater cities. With this object he has studied the pastimes of all classes indiscriminately. While he has not neglected the purely social, the more common recreations of the ordinary citizen have been his chief study. He shows us the people in their parks, their theatres, their gardens, and upon their rivers. The result, we venture to hope, is a series of articles which will be welcomed both by the old traveller and by those who have yet to visit the cities of which Mr. Robinson here treats.]

**14<sup>th</sup> December.** The following advertisement appeared on page 14 of *The Times*, under the sub-section heading of *Messrs. A.D. Innes and Co., books for Christmas presents* (see 1896):

**BY B. FLETCHER ROBINSON**

**RUGBY FOOTBALL.**

With Chapters by FRANK MITCHELL, R. H. CATTELL, C. J. N. FLEMING, GREGOR MACGREGOR, C. B. NICHOLL, and H. B. TRISTRAM [see **December 1886**], being Vol. 1. of the Isthmian Library. Illustrated, post 8vo, cloth 5s.

This same section advertised three further books in the Isthmian Library Collection. The first of these was entitled *The Complete Cyclist* (No. 2) by A. C. Pemberton, Mrs. Harcourt Williamson, C. P. Sisley and Gilbert Lloyd. The second book entitled *Rowing* was edited by **BFR** and written by his old-friend R. C. Lehmann, (No. 4). The third book entitled *Boxing* was written by R. G. Allanson-Winn and both edited and illustrated by **BFR** (No. 5).

The same page of *The Times* also featured the following advertisement under the section heading *Lawrence and Bullen's new books*:

**FOOTBALL.** By A. BUDD and C. B. FRY, with Contributions by B. F. Robinson and T. A. Cook. Illustrated. Crown 8vo., paper cover 6d, cloth 1s.

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

This book was part of the Suffolk Sporting Series. It provided historical and technical information about the various rugby codes which persisted after the Northern Rugby Union broke away from the Rugby Football Union in 1895. Arthur Budd (14<sup>th</sup> October 1853 - 27<sup>th</sup> August 1899) was a former President of the R.F.U. and had played for England between 1878 and 1881. Arthur was the brother of George Turnavine Budd, a Plymouth-based Physician (3<sup>rd</sup> November 1855 - 28<sup>th</sup> February 1889), who had briefly employed a newly-qualified ACD in the late-Spring of 1882. ACD wrote about the Budd brothers in his 1924 autobiography entitled *Memories and Adventures*:

In my last year of study at Edinburgh I formed a friendship with this remarkable student [George]. He came of a famous medical family, his father [William] having been a great authority upon zymotic disease. He came also of a famous athletic stock, and was a great rugby forward himself, though rather handicapped by the Berserk fury with which he would play. He was up to international form, and his younger brother [Arthur] was reckoned by good judges to be about the best forward who ever donned the rose-embroidered jersey of England.

Arthur (who was in fact two years-older than George) had played for Edinburgh Wanderers Rugby Club between 1876 and 1878 (Captain 1877/78). His younger brother George also studied medicine at Edinburgh and had played for the same club between 1877 and 1880 (Captain 1879/80). Both men appear to feature together in a team-photograph taken during the 1877/78 season. ACD refers to George only by the pseudonym of 'Cullingworth' within his autobiography. A character with the same name, clearly very much based on George Turnavine Budd, plays a major part in ACD's semi-autobiographical novel *The Stark Munro Letters* (Longmans, Green & Company 1895).

The collaboration between BFR and Arthur Budd may have been rooted through their mutual acquaintance with Percy Illingworth. Both Arthur Budd ('Jimmy') and Illingworth were distinguished long-term members of Blackheath Rugby Club, London (founded in 1858). Each man represented Blackheath 1<sup>st</sup> XV during the 1887/88 and 1888/89 rugby seasons (Arthur Budd was Captain and President during the 1887/88 season). Arthur Budd and Illingworth both feature together in the same team-photograph taken during the 1888/89 season. Interestingly, 'A. Budd and G. Budd' (George Turnavine?) also feature together in a 1<sup>st</sup> XV Blackheath team-photograph taken during the 1879/80 rugby season.

## 1898

**January.** BFR had the second of his *Capitals at Play* articles entitled *Copenhagen* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 178-187).

**February.** BFR had the third of his *Capitals at Play* articles entitled *Berlin* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 227-236).

**March.** BFR had the fourth of his *Capitals at Play* articles entitled *The Hague* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 398-407).

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**April.** **BFR** had the fifth of his *Capitals at Play* articles entitled *Vienna* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 496-505).

**May.** **BFR** had the sixth and last of his *Capitals at Play* articles entitled *London* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 627-637).

Within the above series of articles, **BFR** commented extensively upon the political, cultural and historical attitudes of the citizens in each city. His remarks often betray his own attitudes and sense of humour. For example, in this article entitled *Berlin*, **BFR** wrote the following about Berliners (pp. 235):

As these worthy citizens with their wives emerge from the theatre, they call loudly for beer and various eatables, and, sitting down, commence to devour their food with astonishing rapidity. Presently a bell rings loudly, and back to their seats we all hurry, the supper consumers finishing the last fragments of their meal *en route*. Several, we notice, are still furtively munching when actually back in their stalls. After each act – astonishing though it may seem – there is a repetition of the process I have described. Their appetites seem positively to increase rather than diminish after each attack upon the eatables.

Max Pemberton reported in his autobiography (see early **1936**) that **BFR** also visited Livadia in the Crimea and was received by the entourage of Czar Nicholas II at The Old Grand Palace (later redeveloped and renamed The White Palace). **BFR** was entertained by the Emperor's Great Chamberlain and was subjected to persistent surveillance by the Russian Secret Police. Following the February Revolution (1917) and the subsequent abdication of Nicholas II (2<sup>nd</sup> March 1917), the Imperial family sought permission to reside at this palace. Their request was refused by Alexander Kerensky, Prime Minister of the Provisional Government and the Imperial family were later shot by the Bolsheviks at Ekaterinburg in the Province of Sverdlovsk Oblast (17<sup>th</sup> July 1918).

**December.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article entitled *The Guards of Europe* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 53-61). This article described the Household Guard Regiments associated with various European Royal Families and was illustrated throughout with photographs.

**BFR** and R. P. P. Rowe co-illustrated a book entitled *Rowing, Punting and Punts*, by D. H. McLean and W. H. Grenfell (Lawrence, London).

## 1899

Arthur Hammond Marshall, under the pseudonym 'Archibald Marshall', had a humorous novel entitled *Peter Binney, Undergraduate* published by James Bowden, London. This story was based on three *Tales of Trinity* which Marshall had originally had published in *The Granta* whilst he was a Cambridge undergraduate (see early **1892**). It described elements of 'Varsity life during the period when both he and **BFR** were undergraduates there. It is unclear whether James Bowden was related in some way to either John Bowden (from whom Joseph Fletcher Robinson bought Park Hill House) or James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden (**BFR**'s classmate between 1884 and 1890). Neither is it known whether James

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Bowden was the ‘Bowden’ that acted as a witness to **BFR**’s wedding in London (see **3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902**).

**January.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article entitled *The Duke’s Hounds – A Chat about the Badminton* published in *Cassell’s Magazine* (pp. 206-210). This article described the members and history of the famous Gloucestershire Hunt and is illustrated throughout with photographs. This article is also listed in a review by *The Times* (14<sup>th</sup> January).

**14<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR**’s article entitled *The Duke’s Hounds: A Chat about the Badminton*, was listed by *The Times* in its Classified Advertisements section under the sub-heading *Cassell’s Magazine*.

**May.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article entitled *Emperors’ Gardens* published in *Cassell’s Magazine* (pp. 665-675). This article described the landscaped and ornamental gardens of the Russian, German and Austrian Imperial Palaces and was illustrated throughout with photographs.

**June.** *Cassell’s Magazine* commenced publication of a series of six articles written by **BFR** which are collectively entitled *London Night by Night*. In each article **BFR** outlined the high level of nocturnal activity which is required in order to meet the demands of Londoners for various services the following day. All articles are illustrated throughout with drawings by A. S. Hartrick and H. H. Flére. The first of these articles was numbered and entitled: *I. – The Next Day’s Dinner* (pp. 48-56).

**July.** **BFR** continued his series in *Cassell’s Magazine* entitled *London Night by Night* with: *II – The Next Day’s Paper* (pp. 142-149).

**July.** **BFR** had his first illustrated short story entitled *Black Magic: The Story of the Spanish Don*, published in *Cassell’s Magazine* (pp. 178-189). The illustrations were by F. H. Townsend. This story is told in the first-person by an old Sailor (Jake) to an educated gentleman in a Public-House overlooking a Cornish harbour. The narrator recalled meeting a strange Spanish-speaking passenger (the ‘Don’), aboard a trading brig (the *Hampden*), during a voyage to Africa around 1856. It transpires that the ‘Don’ had recently murdered his friend for gold. The ‘Don’ becomes convinced that the murdered-man has possessed a shark, which is following the ship and is intent on exacting revenge against him. References to nautical terms, kerosene and palm-oil, suggest that **BFR** may have adapted this story from tales told to him by his father (see late **1848**, **1851** and **1866**).

**August.** **BFR** continued his series in *Cassell’s Magazine* entitled *London Night by Night* with: *III – On the River* (pp. 313-320).

**September.** **BFR** continued his series in *Cassell’s Magazine* entitled *London Night by Night* with: *IV – The Next Day’s Letters* (pp. 404-411).

**October.** **BFR** continued his series in *Cassell’s Magazine* entitled *London Night by Night* with: *V – Late Suppers and Early Breakfasts* (pp. 529-537).

**11th October.** The British held Natal and Cape Colonies in South Africa were invaded by neighbouring Boers from Orange Free State (now Free State Province) and the South African

Republic (subsequently Transvaal Province until 1994). This action resulted in the Second Boer War also known as the Great Boer War, South African War, Anglo-Boer War, Anglo-Boereoorlog and Tweede Vryheidsoorlog.

**November.** **BFR** concluded his series in *Cassell's Magazine* entitled *London Night by Night* with: VI – *The Streets* (pp. 632-639).

**December.** **BFR** had a humorous poem entitled *The Better Part of Valour – Dedicated to all Sportsmen in Love*, published by *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 24-27). This poem was illustrated by Cecil Aldin (1870-1935), who was described in *The Times* obituary as having been responsible for the renaissance of British sporting art. He achieved his life's ambition in becoming the Master of the South Berkshire Foxhounds.

**December.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article numbered and entitled: I. *The Royal Horse Artillery*, published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 121-129). It was the first of a continuous, six-part series collectively entitled *Famous Regiments*, which was illustrated with photographs. One such photograph featured a famous painting by Richard Caton Woodville which is entitled *Saving the Guns at Maiwand* (1882). By 1899, this painting was owned by the Corporation of the City of Liverpool (**BFR**'s birthplace). The Battle of Maiwand, fought in Afghanistan in 1880, was at that time the greatest defeat ever suffered by the British (and Indian) Army. This battle is referred to on the first page of the first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet* (1886). Dr. Watson was wounded at the Battle of Maiwand and this injury compelled him to retire from the Army and return to England, where he meets Sherlock Holmes. In his article on the Royal Horse Artillery (R.H.A.), **BFR** mentions various places where the R.H.A. had acted courageously, and he wrote:

... at Maiwand, where the men of E battery died at their guns, checking the wild rushes of the Ghazis, hot on the tracks of our shattered force ...

A member of E Battery called Sergeant Mullane, won the Victoria Cross at Maiwand for picking up a wounded Gunner and carrying him, under fire, to safety. **ACD**, in the guise of Dr Watson, wrote:

I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the sub-clavian artery. I should have fallen into the hands of the murderous Ghazis had it not been for the devotion and courage shown by Murray, my orderly, who threw me across a packhorse, and succeeded in bringing me safely to the British lines.

It is an interesting coincidence that there was a survivor of E Battery, Gunner Loosemore, who was wounded at the Battle of Maiwand and forced to return to England. Following his retirement from the Army in the 1880's, Loosemore resided in Exeter, whilst **BFR** lived in nearby Ipylepen (20 miles or 32 kilometres).

**8<sup>th</sup> December.** The Boers captured Stormberg in the Graaf Reinet district of South Africa from the British (Northern Cape/Orange Free State front). This action preceded a series of defeats inflicted by the Boers against the British forces in what later became known as 'Black Week'.

*10<sup>th</sup> December.* Lieutenant-General Sir William Forbes Gatacre (1843-1906) led a counterattack against Boer positions at Stormberg. Gatacre and 1800 British troops travelled overnight by train to Molteno and then marched to a hill at Kissieberg which dominated the Boer positions. The subsequent British offensive was confused and chaotic and Gatacre ordered his men to fall back to Molteno. This offensive claimed 135 British casualties and resulted in the capture of 600 British troops and 2 guns.

*11<sup>th</sup> December.* Lieutenant-General Paul Sanford Methuen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Methuen (1845-1932) was ordered to lead a force of 14,000 troops and relieve the besieged British towns of Mafeking (now Mafikeng) and Kimberley (or ‘Diamond Town’) in the Cape Colony. However, the Boer Commanders, Koos de la Rey and Piet Cronje, devised a plan to dig trenches in unconventional positions in order to fool the British and to give their riflemen the advantage. This plan succeeded and 120 British soldiers were killed and a further 690 were wounded. This defeat prevented the British from relieving either Kimberley or Mafeking (which was being defended by Colonel Robert Baden-Powell later 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Baden-Powell).

*15th December.* General Sir Redvers Henry Buller (1839–1908) was ordered to lead a force of 21,000 troops to relieve the British town of Ladysmith in Natal which was occupied by 8,000 Boers under the command of Louis Botha. This objective necessitated the British troops crossing the nearby Tugela River. The Boers met British attempts to cross this river with a combination of artillery and accurate rifle fire. The British suffered 1,127 casualties, and lost 10 artillery pieces during the ensuing retreat. The Boer forces suffered only 40 casualties.

*24<sup>th</sup> December.* ‘Black Week’ triggered both alarm and patriotism amongst the British public. 40 year-old **ACD** decided to enlist as a Physician with the British Army. However, the military authorities regarded him as too old and merely added his name to a waiting-list. **ACD** subsequently accepted an offer to work as a volunteer Doctor for his friend, John Langman, who proposed to open a field hospital in Bloemfontein, the then capital of the Orange Free State.

At about this time, **BFR** was employed by Cyril Arthur Pearson, the owner and founder of *Pearson’s Weekly*, *Pearson’s Magazine*, *Pearson’s Magazine (US)*, and *Lady’s (Home) Magazine*. He assigned **BFR** to Cape Town to report upon the Second Boer War and subsequently founded *The Daily Express* newspaper. **BFR** became the newspaper’s War Correspondent and was responsible for reporting all newsworthy events in South Africa.

## 1900

Cassell’s published a 760-page (large-format, small print and illustrated), non-fictional book entitled *Britain’s Sea-Kings and Sea-Fights*. This book was written by various authors who were in the order stated: **BFR** (four of the 35 chapters), Commander Claud Harding R.N., Tighe Hopkins, F. Norreys Connell, Captain H. Garbett R.N., Herbert Compton, Major Le Mesurier Gretton, A. Hilliard Atteridge and others four of the 35 chapters. It is possible that **BFR**’s interest in naval history was inspired by his association with Admiral William Cornish-Bowden (see *18<sup>th</sup> April 1896*):

- I.     *The Beginnings of the British Navy, from the Days of Alfred the Great to the Days of Good Queen Bess* (pp. 1-38).

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- II. *The Early Exploits of Francis Drake* (pp. 39-60).
- VIII. *From the Armada to the Great Rebellion* (pp. 149-200).
- XIII. *How Europe Fought for the Spanish Crown* (pp. 329-358).

**January.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article numbered and entitled: *II. The Royal Dragoons* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 182-188). It was the second of a continuous six-part series collectively entitled *Famous Regiments*. The series is illustrated with photographs.

**January.** **BFR** had a humorous poem entitled *New Year's Day* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 245). This article was illustrated by Arthur Rackham (1867-1939) who became one of the greatest illustrators, especially of classical children's books, in the world. In his early career he was a reporter for *The Westminster Budget*.

**February.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article numbered and entitled: *III. The Black Watch* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 310-318). It was the third of a continuous six-part series collectively entitled *Famous Regiments*.

**28<sup>th</sup> February.** **ACD** departed from the Port of Tilbury in Essex for Cape Town in South Africa aboard the P&O liner the *Oriental*.

**March.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article numbered and entitled: *IV. The Connaught Rangers* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 387-393). It was the fourth of a continuous six-part series collectively entitled *Famous Regiments*.

**March.** **BFR** had a short non-fictional article published in *Pearson's Magazine* (UK & U.S.) entitled *A True Story – Being the Adventure of Certain Golf Players* (pp. XXX).

**21<sup>st</sup> March.** **ACD** arrived at Cape Town aboard the P&O liner *Oriental*. He resided at the local Mount Nelson Hotel.

**26<sup>th</sup> March.** **ACD** received orders and departed Cape Town for East London, Eastern Cape. He arrived at East London, the only river port in South Africa, on 28<sup>th</sup> March. He then proceeded by train to Bloemfontein and helped to set-up the Langman Field Hospital (2<sup>nd</sup> April). During the next 2½ months, **ACD** travelled extensively and continued writing *The Great Boer War* (see **23<sup>rd</sup> October 1900**). This book was revised, updated and republished as *The War in South Africa – its Cause and Conduct* (see **January 16<sup>th</sup> 1902**). Both books defended the conduct of the British during the Second Boer War and were widely translated. **ACD** was later knighted for his contribution to the war effort (see **9<sup>th</sup> August 1902**).

**April.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article numbered and entitled: *V. The Tenth (Prince of Wales' Own Regiment) Hussars* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 529-535). It was the fifth of a continuous six-part series collectively entitled *Famous Regiments*.

**24<sup>th</sup> April.** Pearson launched *The Daily Express*. It was the first British daily newspaper to put news on the front page.

**May.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article numbered and entitled; *VI. The Corps of Royal Engineers* published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 611-619). It was the last of a continuous, six-part series collectively entitled *Famous Regiments*.

**11<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** departed Cape Town aboard the steamship *Briton*. During the voyage he became acquainted with **ACD** (although there are, as yet, unsubstantiated claims that the two men had met previously). **ACD** was a friend of **BFR**'s uncle, Sir John Robinson, from the Reform Club (see **16<sup>th</sup> December 1892** and **3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894**). **BFR** shared a dining-table with **ACD** and acted as peacemaker when **ACD** reacted angrily to a suggestion by Major Roger Raoul Duval (French Army), that the British Army had used Dum-Dum bullets during the Second Boer War. **ACD** later commented on this incident and **BFR**'s role, in his autobiography (see **18<sup>th</sup> September 1924**). Michelmore suggested that it was during this voyage that **BFR** disclosed the plot for a Dartmoor-based story which the two writers might produce together. He also claimed that **ACD** bought an idea for a plot from **BFR** which **ACD** later used in a short Sherlock Holmes story (see **2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 1949**). However, it should be noted that in 1900 **ACD** had no intentions of reviving Holmes, who was 'killed off' in 1894. **BFR** and **ACD** were photographed with other passengers (including Henry Nevinson a reporter for *The Daily Chronicle*), aboard the SS *Briton*, shortly before it docked at Southampton on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Shortly thereafter, Pearson promoted **BFR** to Debut editor of *The Daily Express*. **BFR** now wrote regular articles about various topics in columns 4-7 on page 4 of the paper's *London News* section.

**August.** The Annual meeting of the Devonshire Association (see **1881, July 1884, 20<sup>th</sup> July 1905** and **2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924**) was held at Totnes in Devon (some 5 miles or 8 kilometres from Ipplepen). During this meeting the 17<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee on Devonshire Folk-Lore was presented to the membership. This committee consisted of Mr. P. F. S. Amery (Secretary), Rev. S. Baring-Gould (see **29<sup>th</sup> July 1884** and **2<sup>nd</sup> January 1924**), Mr. G. M. Doe, Reverend W. Harpley (Chairman), Mr. P. Q. Karkeek, Mr. J. S. Neck, Mrs. Radford, Mr. J. Brooking-Rowe, Mrs. Troop and Mr. H. B. S. Woodhouse. This report was subsequently published in the *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* for 1900 (Vol. XXXII, pp. 83-84). One entry in the report is notable because it resembles the letter-description of the Baskerville legend that was related to Sherlock Holmes by Dr. Mortimer in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. **BFR** had an active interest in the history and landscape of Dartmoor (see **May 1901** and **September 1904**). It therefore seems likely that upon his return from South Africa, he read the following entry or learnt about it from his father, who was a member of the Devonshire Association (1884-1903) and several local hunts (see **1881**). Either way, **BFR** may have imparted this story in part or in full to **ACD** during their stay at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer (see **26th-29th April 1901**):

*Wish or Yeth Hounds.* – Mr. Hardinge F. Giffard sends a valuable addition to our scanty information respecting the belief in these weird Dartmoor spectres. The late Mr. R. J. King, in an article on Dartmoor, writing of Wistman's Wood [see \*1 below], remarked-

The name of the wood connects it with the form in which the widely-held belief in the 'wild hunter' is known on Dartmoor. The cry of the *whish* or *whished* hounds is heard occasionally in the loneliest recesses of the hills, whilst neither dogs nor huntsmen are anywhere visible. At other times (generally on a Sunday) they show themselves jet-black, breathing flames, and followed by a tall, swart figure, who carries a hunting pole. Wisc or Wish, according to

Kemble, was a name of Woden [see \*2 below], the lord of ‘wish,’ who is probably represented by the master of these dogs of darkness.” - Quarterly Review, July, 1873.

Mr. Hardinge Giffard writes: “In 1886 or 1887, while staying for a few days in the parish of Hittisleigh (a hilly parish of scattered houses, about 8 miles W.S.W. of Crediton in Devon), I met an elderly man, whose name was, I think, Hill, from whom I endeavoured to elicit some information concerning the pixies. Reluctant at first to speak on the subject, Mr. Hill, having apparently satisfied himself that my interest was genuine, told me that his father, who had died a very old man, firmly believed in the existence of the wish or yeth hounds. This belief was based on his experience, which, as told by his son, was as follows. Mr. Hill, senior, was at one time employed at the stables at Oaklands, Okehampton [see \*3 below], now the property of General Holley [see\*4 below]. Late one evening, when the horses had been groomed by himself and others, he heard what he believed to be a pack of hounds in full cry at no great distance. Leaving the stables, Mr. Hill ran out and distinctly heard the sound of a horn and the cry of hounds on the moor (Dartmoor) close at hand. Astonished and frightened, he returned to the stables, only to find the horses, which he had left cool and comfortable, trembling with fear and covered with sweat. My informant assured me that his father swore to the truth of his statement, and ever afterwards was a firm believer in the wish hounds, which are popularly supposed to haunt the vicinity of Dartmoor on certain nights in the year, more especially on St. John’s Eve [23<sup>rd</sup> June]. Without actually admitting it in so many words, my informant obviously inherited his father’s belief. I should add that Mr. Hill assured me that it was established beyond doubt that no pack of hounds in the flesh had been anywhere in the neighbourhood on the night in question.” H.F.G.

\*1. Wistman's Wood is a 170 hectare upland oak-wood in the valley of the West Dart River. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest on account the mosses and lichens that festoon the trees and granite boulders found therein. It is located near the centre of Dartmoor National Park, about 2 km north of the Two Bridges Hotel, at the junction of the B3357 with the B3212 (1.25 miles or 2 kilometres from Princetown). A local legend tells how a Farmer returning from the nearby Widecombe fair met a group of phantom hounds here. Their master, all dressed in black, was asked by the Farmer whether they had enjoyed a “good run?” The dark stranger answered “Aye!” and threw the corpse of the Farmer’s child at him.

\*2. Woden is one name for the English Anglo-Saxon God of wisdom and the dead. He featured prominently in folklore as the leader of a ‘Wild Hunt’. This myth is also called Woden’s Hunt or Herlathing in England and Cŵn Annwn in Wales. In each case, the myth entails a mad pursuit across the sky by phantasmal huntsmen with horses and hounds. In many Scandinavian and German versions, the hunt is often for a woman, who is captured or killed. It is notable that in the legend related to Sherlock Holmes by Dr. Mortimer in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, a Yeoman’s daughter dies of fear and fatigue after fleeing from a pack of hunting hounds. Furthermore, Woden is also known by the name ‘Grim’, a term which is repeated in both the real Dartmoor feature of ‘Grimsound’ and the fictitious settings of ‘Grimpen’ and ‘Grimpen Mire’ that feature in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

\*3. Oaklands House was a large Grecian-style mansion situated near Oakhampton close to the Dartmoor foothills. It was constructed around 1808 for the Savile family who yielded much influence over the local town. The estate was bought from the Savile family by a Norfolk landowner called James Hunt Holley in 1858. Interestingly, James Holley was born in Burgh-next-Aylsham in Norfolk (23rd January 1835) which is only 6.3 miles or 10

kilometres from Cromer (see **25th April 1901** and **26th–28th April 1901**). James Hunt died in 1892 and bequeathed Oaklands Estate to his eldest son, Windham Hunt Holley (1835–1898). Windham Hunt Holley studied at Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, between 1854 and 1859 and won a Rowing Blue in 1857. Later he became a Captain in the North Devon Yeomanry (1876–1890), a Justice-of-the-Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for Devon.

\*4. Following the death of Windham Holley, the ownership of Oaklands Estate passed to his younger brother, Edmund Hunt Holley. Edmund had recently retired from the Royal Artillery with the rank Major-General. He was later elected Mayor of Okehampton during the Great War and held mayoral dinners at Oaklands for dignitaries that included senior allied army officers, George Lambert, M.P. and Earl Fortescue (the Lord-Lieutenant). In 1927, Major-General Holley sold Oaklands to a consortium which included George Henry Gratton (Mayor of Okehampton during World War II) and a local Builder called G. K. Blatchford. In 1930, Oaklands was resold to a local solicitor called John Jehu Newcombe. He set about converting Oaklands House into apartments but this work was halted only six weeks later when the house was destroyed by fire following a lightening strike.

**28<sup>th</sup> September.** **BFR** had the first of many articles published in his new column in *The Daily Express*. This article was entitled *The Danger in South Africa* and it outlined the resentment felt by loyal Cape colonists at the practice of appointing British settlers to official positions.

**8<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *In Kruger's Pavilion – Some Transvaal Exhibits and the sad fate of a Pro-Boer*. In this article, **BFR** described the Transvaal Pavilion exhibit at the Paris Exhibition and an incident with a ‘Cockney’ pro-Boer.

**11<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *That Censor Again – A Chat about the Men who Censored Cables and the Men who Wrote Them*. In this article, **BFR** described the men who monitored cables and the reporters who wrote them during the early phase of the Second Boer War.

**23<sup>rd</sup> October.** **ACD** had a book entitled *The Great Boer War* published by Smith, Elder & Company, London. He wrote the following in the preface to this book:

This book was begun in England and continued on board a steamer, but the greater part was written in a hospital tent in the intervals during the epidemic at Bloemfontein.

**ACD** struggled to make typhoid vaccination compulsory in the British Armed Services. He experienced a four-month typhoid epidemic whilst serving as a volunteer Doctor at the Langman’s Field Hospital. **ACD** himself suffered a recurrence of this condition which he had first contracted whilst working as a Ship’s Doctor aboard a West Africa bound cargo steamer called *S.S. Mayumba* (October 1881–January 1882). In a paper entitled *The Epidemic of Enteric Fever in Bloemfontein* published in the British Medical Journal (1900; No. 2, pp. 49–50), **ACD** listed 600 deaths at Bloemfontein in just one month. In 1900, only 10 per cent of the British troops in South Africa were vaccinated against typhoid, even though Almroth Wright had developed a vaccine four years earlier. **ACD** observed that there

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had been no deaths among inoculated patients in a period of one month. He did not hesitate to take on the British military establishment and he remarks in his book, *The Great Boer War*:

There is one mistake which we have made. ... Inoculation for enteric [typhoid] was not made compulsory. If it had been so I believe we should have escaped from most of its trouble.

**ACD** also wrote in his autobiography *Memories and Adventures* (see 1924):

We lost more from the enteric than from the bullet in South Africa.

It is therefore tragically ironic, that his friend Bertram Fletcher Robinson should himself die from complications arising from enteric Fever aged only 36 years (see **21<sup>st</sup> January 1907**).

**19<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Riding to Hounds – Some Curious Stories of the Dangers of the Hunting Field*. In this article, **BFR** listed some of the hunting accidents with which he was familiar.

**5<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *American Slang – A Book that has made the States Laugh, but rather Puzzles the Englishman*. In this article, **BFR** reviewed *Fables in Slang* (1899) and *More Fables in Slang* (1900) by George Ade.

**26<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *About Bullies – Why They are Tolerated in Schools and Colleges*. In this article, **BFR** discussed the issue of bullying in schools and military institutions in both Britain and the USA.

**December.** **BFR** had a light-verse entitled *The Sarcastic Caddie* published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. X, pp. 614-616).

## 1901

Sir John Robinson retired as editor and Manager of the London *Daily News* and **BFR**'s friend, R.C. Lehmann, was appointed to replace him. This newspaper was founded and edited by Charles Dickens in 1846 and served as a liberal alternative to the right-wing *Morning Chronicle*. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1930, the London *Daily News* merged with *The Daily Chronicle* (see **11<sup>th</sup> July 1900**) to form *The News Chronicle*. This newspaper was incorporated into *The Daily Mail* in 1960.

**BFR**'s flatmate, Percy Illingworth, returned to the West Riding of Yorkshire to reside with his family at Lady Royde Hall. **BFR** also departed 126 Ashley Gardens and took up residence at the home of Sir John Robinson, at 4 Addison Crescent, Kensington, London, SW1. Thus only Trevor Lewis remained in residence at 126 Ashley Gardens. Lewis married in late 1903 and eventually vacated Ashley Gardens in 1908 (the property was sold to a Mr. Samuel Cutler).

**BFR** met and subsequently became engaged to a 20 year-old ‘Actress’ called Gladys Hill Morris, of 92 Clifton Hill, St Marylebone, London. Gladys was the daughter of Kate Morris (deceased) and the well-known Portrait Artist, Phillip Morris, A.R.A. (who painted *Son's of the Brave* around 1880).

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**4<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Is Cape Colony in Danger? – Where the Boers now are, what they have Planned, together with the Question of Rebellion.* In this article, **BFR** outlined the then-present situation in the Cape Colony and evaluated the extent of the danger posed by the Boer invasion.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January.** Queen Victoria died at her house on the Isle of Wight after a reign which lasted almost 64 years, the Longest in British history.

**6<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Queen and Her Poets – A Brief Glance at the Men who have Sung of Her whom we have Lost.* In this article, **BFR** reviewed poems written by four Poets laureate which featured the late Queen Victoria (Southey, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Austin).

**18<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *How the Yankees Advertise – Some Quaint Glimpses of Humour Found in Posters, Sign-boards, and Newspapers in the States.* In this article, **BFR** described the humour associated with American advertisements.

**22<sup>nd</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Fate of Wild Things – Stories of Actual Life in Western America, with a Criticism of Writers of Similar Tales.* In this article, **BFR** listed various tales about West American animals and was complimentary about the work of Ernest Seton Thompson. Thompson (1860-1946) was born in South Shields, County Durham, England but later moved to wilds of Canada and the US. He founded a Woodcraft Movement (WM) and became a nature Artist and Writer. In 1902 he had a series of articles about the WM published in *The Lady's Home Journal of Fiction*, and in 1906 he met and influenced Robert Baden-Powell to found the Boy Scouts Association (see **11<sup>th</sup> December 1899, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1903 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**).

**29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March.** **BFR** visited Trevor Lewis at 126 Ashley Gardens (a former flatmate and Cambridge Rowing Blue). **BFR** had been assigned to report on the forthcoming annual 'Varsity Boat-race between Oxford and Cambridge (see **1<sup>st</sup> April 1901**).

**31<sup>st</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April.** Henry Baskerville was residing with his wife and young daughter at Wesley Cottages, Chapel Street, Ipplepen. His parents and great uncle still lived at 'Credefords' and he was still employed as a Coachman and Domestic by Joseph Fletcher Robinson. In view of the fact that Henry Baskerville was residing at Credefords in 1891 and at Chapel Street from 1894, it seems doubtful that he ever lived at Park Hill House as has been claimed.

**31<sup>st</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April.** 41 year-old **ACD** was boarding at the Ashdown Forest Hotel in Forest Row some 3 miles south of East Grinstead in Sussex. Also present was his 63 year-old widowed mother, Mary Josephine Doyle (nee Foley) and his future wife, 27 year-old Jean Leckie, whom he had met in 1897 and subsequently married on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1907. Meanwhile **ACD**'s ailing first wife (married 6<sup>th</sup> August 1885), 44 year-old Louise 'Touie' (died from tuberculosis on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1906) was resident at the Bolton's Hotel in Torquay with her mother, 75 year-old Emily Hawkins. **ACD**'s children, 8 year-old Arthur Alleyne 'Kingsley' and 12 year-old Mary Louise, were left in the care of **ACD**'s sister-in-law, 42 year-old Emily Hawkins, at the Doyle's family home, Undershaw, Hindhead, Surrey.

**1<sup>st</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Race Worth Watching – How Oxford Beat Cambridge in One of the Best Struggles on Record*. In this article, **BFR** described the closing moments of the 58<sup>th</sup> annual ‘Varsity boat-race (see **22<sup>nd</sup> March 1893**). He also referred to his friend R. C. Lehmann within the context of both rowing and as the newly appointed editor of the London *Daily News*. **BFR**’s article included the following description of the climax to this race:

Culme-Seymour (The Oxford Coxswain) had been working for the chance which he knew must come. The station was now in his favour. He spurted, and the Cambridge crew gallantly answered. But the Oxonians were now rowing in better style and time. They began to draw up rapidly. The leaders got short and began splashing. Their cox ran a little out of his course. The people shouted from the banks, and the partisans roared from the following steamers. Now they were level. Now Oxford led. A hundred yards more and Cambridge spurted again, rowing forty strokes a minute. It was a gallant effort. Would they succeed? The gun – and both crews dropped dead-beat over their oar handles. Oxford had won by two-fifths of a length (about 25 ft or 7.7 metres); time 22 min. 31 sec.

**6<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Dream of a Boat-race – In which the Government and the Opposition became Strangely Mixed with the University Crews*. In this satirical article **BFR** imagined a boat-race between Government and Opposition parties.

**23<sup>rd</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *What is Doing at Glasgow – A Chat about the Exhibition that the Greatest City of the North is Preparing*. In this article, **BFR** examined the preparations then being made for a major international exhibition, and described the various buildings and other attractions in Glasgow.

**24<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *An Exhibition in the Making – A Stroll Round the Buildings that Glasgow is now Completing*. This article commented upon the preparations being made for the opening of the Glasgow Exhibition at Kelvin Grove Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (the exhibition closed on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1901 having attracted an estimated 11.5 million visitors). **BFR** recorded some of the local reaction to these preparations and in so-doing revealed his sense of humour:

The ducks of the Kelvin Grove Park are in a state of ferment. They are organising, and an appeal to the Glasgow Corporation is momentarily expected. It was bad enough for the arrangements for the spring housekeeping to be upset by the hurrying to and fro of hordes of men, by the banging and shouting and hammering; but at least this perspiring mass of humanity became quiet at sundown. Now, however, they have commenced to work at night, and the situation has become impossible. As sure as eggs is eggs, duckdom will raise its voice against this outrageous tyranny while it has a quack left.

**25<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** dined at the London home of his friend and former editor, Max Pemberton. At this time, 37 year-old Pemberton was working as an Author and was residing with his wife (Agnus), their six children and five servants at 56 Fitzjohn’s Avenue, Hampstead (NW3). Pemberton later claimed in articles published in the

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London *Evening News* (25<sup>th</sup> May 1939) and *The Citizen* (28<sup>th</sup> June 1939) that during dinner he told **BFR** the legend of Black Shuck. Allegedly, Black Shuck was a large, solitary hound with glowing eyes which roamed the coastline of Norfolk. In some tales, Black Shuck would ascend from the beach at Cromer to nearby Cromer Hall on a path which took it past the Royal Links Hotel (see 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 1901). Pemberton adds that three nights later (28<sup>th</sup> April 1901), **BFR** related this legend to **ACD** and the two men subsequently agreed to write a story together which ultimately led to the inception of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*:

**26th - 29th April.** **BFR** joined **ACD** on a golfing weekend at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer, Norfolk, with the latter recovering from a recurrence of Enteric Fever which he had caught in South Africa. The dates are not precisely known, but **ACD**'s accounts book for 1901 shows a payment of £6.0.0. being made by him to the 'Royal Links Hotel, Cromer' on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and the weekly Cromer & North Walsham Post for 4<sup>th</sup> May 1901 reported that **ACD** had been "making a short stay at the Golf Links Hotel."

In April 1902, J G Hodder Williams writing for *The Bookman* stated:

Robinson is a Devonshire man, and he mentioned in conversation [Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>] some old-country legend which set Doyle's imagination on fire. The two men began building up a chain of events, and in a very few hours the plot for a sensational story was conceived and it was agreed that Doyle should write it.

Hodder Williams was, of course, incorrect in referring to **BFR** as a Devonshire man, for **BFR** had been born in Liverpool and spent only a small percentage of his short life in Devonshire. Whilst at Cromer **ACD** wrote a letter to his mother in which he stated, as a footnote:

Fletcher Robinson came here with me and we are going to do a small book together 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' – a real creeper.

**ACD** wrote a second letter to Herbert Greenhough Smith, the editor of *The Strand Magazine*, in which he again described the story as a "... real creeper ..." (see *October 1930*). **ACD** offered the story to Greenhough Smith but insisted that, "I must do it with my friend Robinson and his name must appear with mine". He added, "I shall want my usual 50 pounds per thousand words for all rights if you do business".

Shortly thereafter, **ACD** decided that the book needed some masterful central figure and reflected, "Why should I invent such a character when I have him already in the form of Sherlock Holmes?" He again contacted Greenhough Smith and offered him a second version of the same novel, a version which would incorporate Holmes. Greenhough Smith agreed to pay **ACD** £100 per thousand words for the Holmes version.

**1<sup>st</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *War's Brighter Side – The Story of a Newspaper Published in a Conquered Capital and Edited by War Correspondents*. In this article, **BFR** reviewed a book by Julian Ralph, entitled *War's Brighter Side*, which discussed a humorous newspaper published in Bloemfontein for British soldiers and Free State burghers.

**May.** **BFR** had an emotive poem entitled *Big Ben and Little Ben* published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XI, pp. 567-568). This poem was illustrated with photographs of 'Big Ben in the Fog' and a small dishevelled child called 'Little Ben' by Henry Irving. The poem was also accompanied by the following appeal to readers for donations to a children's charity founded by Cyril Arthur Pearson:

The Fresh Air Fund was started nine years ago for the purpose of giving poor town children a day's holiday, with plenty of food, at the cost of NINEPENCE a head, no portion of the money subscribed being deducted for working expenses. So far as these are concerned, we have the invaluable assistance of the Ragged School Union. If you it in your heart to assist in alleviating the sufferings of poor destitute little children in our thickly populated big towns, kindly address a subscription, however small, to the FRESH AIR FUND, PEARSON'S MAGAZINE Office, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.

£8 2s. pays for a whole party of 200 children, with sufficient adult attendance. Every amount forwarded will be gratefully acknowledged in Pearson's Weekly. Full particulars will be sent post free to anyone who cares to ask for them.

**Mid-May.** The first instalment of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters I-II of XV) arrived at the offices of *The Strand Magazine*. Recorded belonging to Sidney Paget, the artist employed by *The Strand Magazine* to illustrate *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, reveal that he was paid £34 13s. at the end of May for completing seven illustrations to accompany the first instalment. This would, of course, have been impossible if Paget had not read the instalment during that month. Indeed, Paget had clearly not, at this stage, seen the text of the third instalment, for it is there that **ACD** gives the first description of the physical appearance of Barrymore, the butler at Baskerville Hall. Paget had, however, drawn a picture of Barrymore in the first instalment, and as it did not match the textual description of the third instalment he had to change the appearance of Barrymore markedly with his second and subsequent drawings of the butler, much to Paget's artistic and professional annoyance. If the text of the story was fully written by **BFR** before he met **ACD**, as has been claimed, then this deception of Paget was an extremely cunning piece of obfuscation!

**18<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *From the Jaws of Death – The Personal Experiences of an Englishman in the Destruction of the Town of Galveston*. In this article, **BFR** reported an eye-witness account of the destructive force of a hurricane which hit Galveston in the USA.

**21<sup>st</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled '*Truthful Jean*' on the War – *The Yarns of M. Jean Carrere, the only French War Correspondent with our Army in South Africa*. In this article, **BFR** reviewed an autobiographical account of the Boer War entitled *La Guerre Transvaal – En Pleine Epopée* (*The Transvaal War – At the Height of the Epic*). This book was written by Jean Carreres, a correspondent for the French newspaper, *Le Matin*. The book is critical of British foreign policy and attitudes, but is complimentary about **ACD**, a point which is brought-out by **BFR** in his article:

"What a man!" cried the enthusiastic Frenchman; "and what a brave man! How his merciful and thoughtful words consoled me after the foolish rodomontades [pretentious boasting or bragging] I had listened to!" "He ought to write a book on the war" – M. Carrere was gifted with a spirit of prophecy – "I do not know if

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in his style and in the impression his adventures left on him he will be better or worse than Kipling; but I am certain that he will be more humane – more impartial . . . He loves and defends the English soldier, but he understands the spirit of the Boer, and it is in that the secret of justice lies.”

**ACD** had met Carrere at the Transvaal Hotel in Pretoria in July 1900 and it might be noted that **ACD** used the name ‘Carere’ for one of the incidental characters in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. One might well ask whether **BFR** also met Carrere in South Africa, when **BFR** was acting as a war correspondent there for *The Daily Express*. This review certainly informs us not only that **BFR** read French, but that he also maintained his interest in the Second Boer War after leaving South Africa, as did **ACD**. The other important point about this review is that, once again, we have **BFR** highlighting the good aspects of **ACD**, in spite of the latter’s book, *The Great Boer War*, which is now almost totally ignored by students of that conflict.

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May.** About this time, **BFR** was accompanied upon a research trip to Dartmoor by his friend, The Rev. Robert Duins Cooke, Vicar of St Andrew’s Church, Ipplepen (where Joseph Fletcher Robinson had been acting as Churchwarden for 19 years). Together the two men mapped-out much of the fictional Dartmoor setting for **BFR**’s Dartmoor story (see **7<sup>th</sup> February 1949**).

**25<sup>th</sup> May.** *Tit-Bits* (published, like *The Strand Magazine*, by George Newnes) made the first public announcement about **ACD**’s new story:

### **The Revival of Sherlock Holmes**

Very many readers of *The Strand Magazine* have asked us over and over again if we could not induce Mr. Conan Doyle to give us some more stories of this wonderful character. Mr. Conan Doyle has been engaged on other work, but presently he will give us an important story to appear in the *Strand*, in which the great Sherlock Holmes is the principle character. It will appear in both the British and American editions. In America the play founded upon the career of the great detective has run for many months with enormous success. It is going to be produced in London in about three months, and at the same time the new Sherlock Holmes story will commence in the *Strand*. It will be published as a serial of from 30,000 to 50,000 words, and the plot is one of the most interesting and striking that have [sic] ever been put before us. We are sure that all those readers of the *Strand* who have written to us on the matter, and those who have not, will be very glad that Mr. Conan Doyle is going to give us some more about our old favourite [sic].

It will be noted that at the end of May the story was well-developed, but the length of the story had not yet been determined. A few days later **ACD** stated, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, that he had written “nearly half” of the story. The writing was not completed until early-September, by which time the word count had risen to 60,000.

**25<sup>th</sup> May.** ‘Harry’ Baskerville (Joseph Fletcher Robinson’s Coachman) collected **ACD** from Newton Abbot Railway Station. There is debate about whether **ACD** stayed at Ipplepen upon his arrival in Devon. Either way, Baskerville subsequently drove **BFR** and **ACD** on their

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research trips about Dartmoor (see **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949** and **9<sup>th</sup> February 1949**). In 1905, a Reporter called H. J. W. Dam had an account of **BFR**'s trip to Dartmoor with **ACD** published in *The Sunday Magazine* of *The New York Tribune*, in which there is an account of the visit of **BFR** and **ACD** to Dartmoor (see **26<sup>th</sup> November 1905**).

**29<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Grim Tragedy in China – Mr. Savage Landor Tells the Story of the Sieges and Battles of the Allies in a Book Published To-day*. In this article, **BFR** described Landor's account of reaching Peking through the courtesy of Russian troops after he had been refused permission to accompany the British troops. **BFR** mentioned Landor's journey to Tibet, which had been described in a book by Landor, but there are strong indications that Landor invented parts of that journey. It may be noted that on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1903, **ACD** published an account, *The Adventure of the Empty House* in *Collier's Weekly Magazine*, of Sherlock Holmes's own journey to Lhasa.

**1<sup>st</sup> June.** On this Saturday, **ACD** wrote a letter to his mother from Rowe's Duchy Hotel in Princetown on Dartmoor in which he reported:

Dearest of Mams

Here I am in the highest town in England. Robinson and I are exploring the moor together over our Sherlock Holmes book. I think it will work splendidly – indeed I have already done nearly half of it. Holmes is at his very best, and it is a highly dramatic idea which I owe to Robinson.

We did 14 miles over the Moor today and we are now pleasantly weary. It is a great place, very sad & wild, dotted with the dwellings of prehistoric man, strange monoliths and huts and graves. In those old days there was evidently a population of very many thousands here & now you may walk all day and never see one human being. Everywhere there are gutted tin mines. Tomorrow [Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June] we drive 16 miles to Ipplepen where R's parents live. Then on Monday Sherborne for the cricket, 2 days at Bath, 2 days at Cheltenham. Home on Monday 10th. That is my programme.

We know from other sources (see **10<sup>th</sup> June 2001** and **Winter 2001**) that **ACD** did, indeed, play cricket for the Incogniti School Touring Team at Sherborne in Somerset on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June, at Coombe Park in Bath on 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June and at Cheltenham College on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June (see **7<sup>th</sup> June/8<sup>th</sup> June 1901**). **ACD** then stayed at Morley's Hotel, Trafalgar Square, London, whilst he played at Lord's Cricket Ground in St. John's Wood, London (owned by the M.C.C. at this time). **ACD** must, therefore, have left Devon by no later than the early morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**7<sup>th</sup> June/8<sup>th</sup> June.** **ACD** played a two-day cricket match for Incogniti against Cheltenham College in Cheltenham. This match is reported in the school magazine which is entitled the *Cheltonian* (pp. 139-142) and lists **ACD**'s team-mates as including Sydney Herbert Evershed (formerly Captain of Derbyshire), Cyril Otto Hudson Sewell (Gloucestershire), The Rev. Hugh Frederic Bennett (Worcestershire), Ernest William Hornung (**ACD**'s brother-in-law and author of the A. J. Raffles stories), Major Alfred Herbert Wood (**ACD**'s Secretary) and Captain Philip Trevor (author and **ACD**'s friend and neighbour at Hindhead). **ACD** opened the batting in both innings for his side

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(scoring 23 runs and 13 runs respectively). He also bowled and dismissed Cheltenham's opening batsman during their second innings. The match report includes the following references to **ACD**:

"...The visitors won the toss and decided to bat to take first knock. The first pair were A. Conan Doyle and A. H. Wood, who were opposed by Winterbotham and Grose. Runs came freely at once from both batsman...so that 50 went up after 35 minutes of play. Robertson and Neame then took up the bowling, and Conan Doyle was almost immediately bowled by the former with a ball he made no attempt to play (63-1-23)...The Incogs. Went in again with the same pair and runs came freely. Doyle was caught at 22 however making way for Sewell..."

**10<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Memories of the May Week*. In this article, **BFR** recalled the annual May Week celebrations held in Cambridge during his time as a student there (1890-1884).

**17<sup>th</sup> June.** The proof of the second instalment of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters III-IV of XV) was returned to **ACD** and he informed the editor of *The Strand Magazine* that the third instalment (Chapters V-VI of XV) was nearly finished. At the end of June, **ACD** sent the fourth and fifth instalments (Chapters VII-IX of XV) to *The Strand Magazine*. This coincides with **ACD** having claimed, whilst exploring Dartmoor with **BFR**, that he had completed the writing of nearly half of the book (see **1<sup>st</sup> June 1901**).

**19<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Pro-Boers, Please Note*. In this article, **BFR** attacked a book entitled *The Diary of a Nurse in South Africa*, by Alice Bron, for its pro-Boer sentimentalism.

**July.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Up the River – The Humours and Terrors of it*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XII, pp. 451-456). This article was illustrated by W. (Will) Owen (1869-1957), who illustrated several of **BFR**'s articles and who was a freelance illustrator working for *Pearson's Magazine*, *The Strand Magazine* and *The Harmsworth London Magazine*.

**2<sup>nd</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express*, entitled "The Battle on the Thames". In this article, **BFR** commented upon the friction which existed between serious sportsmen and others attending the Henley Regatta.

**July (mid).** **ACD** went on holiday to the Esplanade Hotel in Southsea, having completed the sixth and seventh instalments of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters X-XII of XV). **ACD** sent corrections to *The Strand Magazine* from Southsea.

**27<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Talk with Max Adeler*. In this article, **BFR** detailed an interview with the famous American Humorist and Journalist about his first book in 25 years, entitled *Captain Bluitt*.

**August.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Concerning Cricket – The Humour of the Game*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XII, pp. 228-232). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

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**August.** The first of nine monthly instalments of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* appeared in *The Strand Magazine*. **BFR**'s contribution was acknowledged in a brief footnote on the first page of the first Chapter as follows:

This story owes its inception to my friend, Mr. Fletcher Robinson, who has helped me both in the general plot and in the local details.—A.C.D.

It should be noted that the US editions of *The Strand Magazine* appeared one month later than the English editions.

**13<sup>th</sup> August.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Last Scene at Potsdam*. In this article, **BFR** described the funeral arrangements and mausoleum for Princess Victoria Adelaide Mary Louise (eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and Empress Consort in Germany and Queen of Prussia by marriage to Emperor Friedrich).

**27<sup>th</sup> August.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Confessions of a Pro-Boer*. This is an article about the relationship between the British Press and a paid Boer agitator called F. Reginald Statham.

**September (early).** **ACD** completed the writing of the final two instalments of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters XIII-XV) and the first printed instalment appeared in the American version of *The Strand Magazine*.

**September.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *On Card Games and others*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XII, pp. 340-344). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**October.** The following assertion was published in *The Bookman* (US):

Every one who read the opening chapters of the resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes in the September number of the Strand Magazine must have come to the conclusion that Dr. Doyle's share in the collaboration was a very small one. The Hound of the Baskervilles opens very dramatically, and promised to be a good tale. But the Sherlock Holmes to whom we are introduced is a totally different personage from the Sherlock Holmes of The Study in Scarlet [sic], The Sign of Four, The Adventures and The Memoirs. Of course all the little superficial tricks and mannerisms have been worked in, but there it ends. In a brief note Dr. Doyle, whose name alone is at the head of the story, acknowledges the collaboration of Mr. Fletcher Robinson. Of course the matter is one which concerns primarily only the two authors and their publishers: but we have very little hesitation in expressing our conviction that the story is almost entirely Mr. Robinson's and that Dr. Doyle's only important contribution to the partnership is the permission to use the character of Sherlock Holmes.

It should be noted that the American version of *The Bookman* was a magazine which thrived on what can only be called literary gossip and unsubstantiated rumours, especially where European matters were concerned. The commentator had clearly seen only the first instalment of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Chapters 1 & 2) and he claims that the Sherlock Holmes in that instalment is different to the Holmes who had appeared in the previous 26

Holmes stories. However, those who are familiar with ACD's work consider that this instalment is one of the purest examples of the depiction of Holmes. The Bookman comment is accredited to the two editors of the magazine, but the author was almost certainly only one of the editors, Arthur Bartlett Maurice, since he later produced a fuller review in the same magazine under his own name, containing similarly erroneous commented on the story and similar phraseology. He makes no allowance for minor differences in the portrayal of Holmes, who had been 'killed off' in despair by ACD eight years earlier, in 1893, and he does not appreciate that the first instalment clearly establishes that Holmes had not been resuscitated, in that this is a story that occurs before Holmes's supposed 'death' in 1891. He also reveals his ignorance in getting the title of the first Sherlock Holmes story wrong!

**October.** BFR had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *On Shooting*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XII, pp. 451-456). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**November.** BFR had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *The Humour of Football* published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XII, pp. 564-568). This same periodical also published a light-verse by BFR entitled *Deceitful Appearances – A true Story for Golfers and other Virtuous Folk*. Both of these articles were illustrated by Will Owen.

**December.** BFR had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Christmas Games old and new*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XII, pp. 740-744). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**21<sup>st</sup> December.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Book of the Moment*. In this article, BFR favourably reviewed a new book by H. G. Wells entitled *Anticipations, concerning social and technological forecasts*, which argued for a rationally planned New Republic to replace existing monarchies and nation-states.

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BFR produced descriptive articles to accompany reproductions of 50 paintings by different artists, illustrating dozens of sports and countryside activities. These articles reveal that BFR had a good knowledge of all of these activities, including: cricket, rugby football, hunting-with-hounds, stag hunting, angling, shooting, golf, rowing, dog and horse breeding and training, and, even women's hockey. The book was entitled *Sporting Pictures*. It was edited by E. W. Savory and published by Cassell's & Company Limited.

**January.** BFR had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *The Hunting of the Fox*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XIII, pp. 115-120). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**8<sup>th</sup> January.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *According to the Prophets – What we may Expect in the Present Year*. In this article, BFR reviewed the predictions made for the year ahead in the prophetic almanacs (*Old Moore's*, *Raphael's*, etc).

**16<sup>th</sup> January.** ACD had a book entitled *The War in South Africa – its Cause and Conduct*. published by Smith, Elder & Company, London.

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**February.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Concerning Golf*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XIII, pp. 228-232). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**28<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *At the Saturday Supper Club – How the Intolerance of the Twelve O'clock Rule has been Defeated*. In this article, **BFR** wrote favourably about initiatives to evade new laws that prohibited the sale of food and drink after midnight.

**March.** **BFR** attended a boxing match at the National Sporting Club, Covent Garden, London, WC2.

**March.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Motor-Cars and Bicycles*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XIII, pp. 340-344). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**15<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Book of the Hour – Stories of the Great Civil War that Wasted the Southern States of America*. In this article, **BFR** gave a favourable review of a book about the American Civil War by Thomas Nelson Page which is entitled *In Ole Virginia*.

**20<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Battle at the N.S.C. – How the 'Maiden Aunt' beat the 'Llama' in Three Rounds of Good Boxing*. In this article, **BFR** gave an account of a boxing match he had recently witnessed at the National Sporting Club, Covent Garden, London, WC2.

**24<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Coronation Boat-race – In which Cambridge beat Oxford easily by Five Lengths*. In this article, **BFR** reported upon the annual 'Varsity Boat-race in which Cambridge defeated Oxford by 17 seconds in a time of 19 minutes and 9 seconds (or 5 boat lengths = 275 feet/84 metres).

**25<sup>th</sup> March.** *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was published as a novel by George Newnes, London (publisher of *The Strand Magazine*), one month before the final episode appeared in *The Strand Magazine*. This English edition of the book includes a short, foreword-like, epistolary acknowledgement on its own page, which reads:

*MY DEAR ROBINSON,*

*It was to your account of a West-Country legend that this tale owes its inception. For this and for your help in the details all thanks.*

*Yours most truly,*

*A. CONAN DOYLE.*

HINDHEAD,  
HASLEMERE.

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**BFR** gave first edition copies of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to ‘Harry’ Baskerville (see *7<sup>th</sup> February 1949* and *9<sup>th</sup> February 1949*), The Rev. Robert Duins Cooke (see *7<sup>th</sup> February 1949*), and to his wife, Agnes Cooke. Each book contains the following handwritten inscription (see Appendix 4):

*To Rev. R D Cooke from the assistant plot producer, Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

*To Mrs. Cooke, with the kind regards of the assistant plot producer, Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

*To Harry Baskerville from B Fletcher Robinson with apologies for using the name!*

**April.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Sporting and Athletic Girls*, published in *Pearson’s Magazine* (Vol. XIII, pp. 452-456). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**15<sup>th</sup> April.** *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was published as a novel by McClure, Phillips and Company (New York). This, the first American edition of the book, includes a version of ACD’s acknowledgement letter to **BFR**. This version was written, from dictation, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1902, by Major Charles Terry (ACD’s Secretary), and it therefore predates the acknowledgement published in the first English edition. This letter is now held by the Berg Collection in New York Public Library and reads:

MY DEAR ROBINSON

It was your account of a west country legend which first suggested the idea of this little tale to my mind.

For this, and for the help which you gave me in its evolution, all thanks. Yours most truly, A. Conan Doyle.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April.** Philip Richard Morris died aged 68 years of “... bladder disease (3 years) and heart failure (2 days)”. He was the father of **BFR**’s fiancée, Gladys Hill Morris and an Associate of the Royal Academy of Arts (elected on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1877). Philip Morris was born on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1833 in Devonport (Devon) and was admitted as a student to the Royal Academy on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1854. Philip Morris is best remembered for his oil painting entitled *Son’s of the Brave*, which was first exhibited in 1880. No last will-and-testament is recorded.

**May.** **BFR** had a short and illustrated story entitled *The Laughter of Dr. Marais*, published in *Cassell’s Magazine* (pp. 653-661).

**May.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Concerning Yachts: A Nautical Story or Two*, published in *Pearson’s Magazine* (Vol. XIII, pp. 564-568). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

May. Arthur Bartlett Maurice wrote a review for *The Bookman* (US) about *The Hound of the Baskervilles* following the conclusion of its recent serialisation in *The Strand Magazine* (April 1902). In this factually inaccurate article, Maurice downplayed the authorship controversy which was publicised in an earlier issue of *The Bookman* (see *October 1901*):

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

When the subject of this story was first discussed in literary and publishing circles in London there prevailed the idea that Mr. Fletcher Robinson had in hand a story to which Dr. Doyle was lending some assistance, his name, and the character Sherlock Holmes. A little later it was being said that Dr. Doyle and Mr. Robinson were in collaboration on this new Sherlock Holmes story. Finally, the first instalment of the tale itself appeared as being the work of Dr. Doyle alone. Allusion to Mr. Fletcher Robinson was made only in a foot-note, in which the reputed writer courteously, but rather vaguely, thanked Mr. Robinson for one or two hints and suggestions that had been of some value to him in the writing the story. Just what the meaning of all this was, just how much Mr. Robinson did contribute to the inception and the working out of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the reviewer is neither inclined nor prepared to say.

**31<sup>st</sup> May.** The Second Boer War concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging. This treaty awarded reconstruction costs and the promise of self government to Orange Free State and the South African Republic in return for incorporation into the British Empire. It is estimated that this conflict cost some 75,000 lives; 22,000 British soldiers (7,792 battle casualties, the rest through disease), 6,000-7,000 Boer soldiers, 20,000-28,000 Boer civilians and perhaps 20,000 native Africans.

**June.** *The Bookman* published a story entitled *The Bound of the Astorbilts* by an American writer called Charlton Andrews (1878-1939). This early parody of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* concluded with the following paragraph:

As I gazed, from far out upon the moor there came the deep, unearthly baying of a gigantic hound. Weirdly it rose and fell in blood-curdling intensity until the inarticulate sound gradually shaped itself into this perfectly distinguishable wail: "I wonder how much of it Robinson wrote?"

**June.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Croquet and Tennis*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XIII, pp. 674-678). This article was illustrated by Will Owen.

**3<sup>rd</sup> June.** 31 year-old **BFR** married 22 year-old Gladys Hill Morris at St Barnabas Church, Kensington, London. The marriage was reported in *The Times* newspaper (on 5<sup>th</sup> June) and was witnessed by **BFR**'s parents, Percy Illingworth (as best man') and 'Bowden' (see **1881** and **Spring Term 1884**). The newly weds resided at nearby 43 Buckingham Palace Mansions that was built around 1894. The previous occupier was a Miss Fane, who had in turn acquired the property from the first occupier, Percival Wolton. **ACD** used 15 Buckingham Palace Mansions as his town rooms from about 1923.

**1<sup>st</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Ride with Fifty Horses*. In this article, **BFR** described riding in a powerful car with a Mr. Edge, the winner of the Gordon Bennett Cup.

**15<sup>th</sup> July.** John Philip Claude Morris (**BFR**'s brother-in-law) joined the Royal Navy as an Assistant Clerk (Non Commissioned Officer) and was posted to the Flag Ship Battleship *HMS Bulwark* in the Mediterranean (Admiral Sir Compton E. Domvile). He was later promoted to the rank of Clerk (*HMS Venus*, 15/07/03), Assistant Paymaster (*HMS Venus*, 26/10/05), Assistant Paymaster & Captain's Clerk (Captain Reginald G. O. Tupper, *HMS*

*Excellent*, 16/07/07) and Secretary to the Personal Staff of Rear-Admiral Reginald G. O. Tupper (*HMS Prince of Wales*, 18/11/12). ‘Claude’ Morris also served as Secretary to the Personal Staff of Rear Admiral Sydney R. Fremantle, MVC (*HMS Hibernia*, 27/07/15).

**17<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Riflemen of an Empire*. In this article, **BFR** described a shooting competition at Bisley, North Surrey, which attracted crack marksmen from across the British Empire.

**29<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Man That Was*. This article portrayed the reclusive life-style of Mr. Kruger, the former President of the Transvaal, then residing in Utrecht in The Netherlands.

**31<sup>st</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *From Friday to Monday*. In this article, **BFR** described the attractions of Ostende in Belgium, which was then attracting holiday makers from all over the world.

**31<sup>st</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Boers at the Seaside*. In this article, **BFR** described the attractions of the Dutch seaside resort of Scheveningen (The Hague).

**9<sup>th</sup> August.** The Coronation of Edward VII was held at Westminster Abbey following his recovery from an operation. Shortly thereafter, **ACD** was knighted and appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey. **ACD**’s friends, Oliver Lodge and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Rayleigh, were knighted and admitted to the Order of Merit respectively (see 1881). It is interesting to note that all three men were friends of the newly appointed Prime Minister, Arthur Balfour and that all four men were members of the Society for Psychical Research (Balfour was the President in 1893).

**September.** **BFR** had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled *Concerning Yachts: A Nautical Story Or Two*, republished in *Pearson’s Magazine* (US).

**1<sup>st</sup> September.** **BFR** had two autobiographical articles about hunting published in *The Daily Express*. The first of these is entitled *A Day with a Pointer in Devonshire* and the second *The Great Partridge Drive*. Both pieces were written in descriptive prose and convey **BFR**’s enthusiasm for the countryside.

**30<sup>th</sup> September.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Tales for Children*. In this article, **BFR** reviewed the then recently published *Just-So* stories written by Rudyard Kipling.

**1<sup>st</sup> October.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Bird in the Autumn*. In this article, **BFR** contrasted the popular conception of pheasant shooting with the reality of the sport.

**8<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Pair of Humorists*. In this article, **BFR** reviewed George Ade’s *More Fables in Slang* (C. Arthur Pearson, 1902), and Owen Seaman’s *Borrowed Plumes* (Constable, 1902).

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**18<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Sagacious Lieutenant*. In this article, BFR related a fictionalised account of a story told to him by a Royal Naval Lieutenant.

**October.** BFR had a humorous and semi-autobiographical article entitled “*Up The River – The Humours and Terrors of it*, republished in *Pearson’s Magazine* (US).

**22<sup>nd</sup> November.** The Rev. George Townsend Warner, the former Headmaster of Newton College Preparatory School (1875-1895), died aged 61 years in Torquay. It is probable that he was partially responsible for developing BFR’s interest for rugby and other sports (*see 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918, 20<sup>th</sup> October 1930 and 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946*). In 1939, his beloved school was incorporated into ‘Newton Hall House’ at Kelly College in Tavistock. A chair inscribed with the name of The Rev. Townsend Warner is located in the meeting room at Kelly College (see 1882, *Christmas Term 1882, Summer Term 1883, Spring Term 1884, Summer Term 1884, July 1885, July 1886, June 1887* and for 1888; 12<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, late *Summer Term*, early *Christmas Term*, late *Christmas Term* and 29<sup>th</sup> November. February 1889, May 1889, June 1889, April 1890, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> August 1891, 16<sup>th</sup> September 1892, 21<sup>st</sup> September 1893, 29<sup>th</sup> December 1894, 9<sup>th</sup> February 1895 and 30<sup>th</sup> May 1895).

**29<sup>th</sup> November.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Play People Love*. In this article, BFR reviewed a play called *Mice and Men*, which had been running in the West End of London for almost a year.

**December.** BFR had a short and illustrated story entitled *Ghosts and their Funny Ways*, published in *Cassell’s Magazine* (pp. 107-110). This was only the second short story which BFR had had published at this time (see *July 1899*).

**December.** *The Windsor Magazine* commenced the publication of six episodes of a serial adventure by BFR and J. Malcolm Fraser, collectively entitled *The Trail of the Dead – The Strange Experience of Dr. Robert Harland*. These episodes later became chapters of the book entitled *The Trail of the Dead* (see early 1904). The tale is about an insane Professor who leaves a trail of murdered colleagues strewn across Europe (see *May 1898*). The first two episodes in this series were granted a copyright in the USA in 1902, whilst the remaining episodes were similarly protected in the USA in 1903. The first of these episodes is entitled *The Hairy Caterpillar* (Vol. X, pp. 121-129). J. Malcolm Fraser was the News editor at *The Daily Express*.

**1<sup>st</sup> December.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *De Wet on the War*. In this article, BFR reviewed a book, *Three Years War*, by Christian de Wet (Constable, 1902).

**13<sup>th</sup> December.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Story of M. Beacaire*.

**20<sup>th</sup> December.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Where We Hold Our Own*.

## 1903

**January.** The serialisation of *The Trail of the Dead* in *The Windsor Magazine* continued with an episode entitled *The Mystery of the Lemsdorf Ham* (Vol. XVII, pp. 264-274).

**1<sup>st</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Story of the Brave*. This article previewed a factual book called *The Story of the Birkenhead*, by A C Addison. It concerns the shipwrecking of the Royal Navy paddle-wheel steamer, *HMS Birkenhead* off the coast of the Cape Colony.

**3<sup>rd</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Highway Success*. This article reviewed the life of James C. Stewart, an influential Civil Engineer and Construction Manager.

**8<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Master and the Man*. This article considered the plot of J. M. Barrie's play, *The Admirable Crichton*, then playing at the Duke of York's Theatre, St. Martin's Lane, London.

**17<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *For Collectors Only*. This article described a visit to a rag and bone day held at the Caledonian Cattle Market, Copenhagen Fields, Islington, North London.

**23<sup>rd</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Acres of Alien Shame*. This article described the contemporary situation in the district between the Tottenham Court Road and Portland Place, London. It was said that large numbers of foreign (European) women were brought there by foreign criminals to lure unsuspecting male victims to their rented lodgings and to rob them with impunity due to the reluctance of their victims to face the publicity which prosecution would bring. **BFR** proposed some remedies.

**28<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Fight at the N.S.C.* This article described a boxing match at the National Sporting Club between Eddie Connolly and Tom Woodley.

**February.** The serialisation of *The Trail of the Dead* in *The Windsor Magazine* continued with an episode entitled *The Chase in the Snow* (Vol. XVII, pp. 370-379).

**4<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** (using only those initials) had a poem published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Pity the Pro-Boer!*. The 'Castro' referred to here was President Castro of Venezuela. It was **BFR**'s first published poem for nearly four years (see May 1900):

A man I marked who made his moan,  
    The While he did peruse  
A paper of a moral tone  
    (I mean the "Daily News").  
His face into the mould was cast  
    Of this in woeful plight,  
Who find that time is running fast,  
    Yet is not running right.

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“The unemployed,” he said to me,

“That walk to earn their pay,

Know nothing of the misery

Afflicting me to-day.

For fate has laid on me a ban

More hard than they endure ;

In me you see that wretched man,

An out-of-work Pro-Boer.

“I hear no more that pleasant noise,

That excellent refrain,

That rose from shouting paper-boys,

‘De Wit’s escaped again.’

I read no more in prose or verse

That we are steeped in gore,

Our soldiers scoundrels—yes, and worse—

And cowards to the core.

“Who would have thought that my allies,

Smuts, Botha, Delarey,

Would listen in a peaceful guise

To what Joe had to say?

E’en recreant Radicals there be,

Or so the papers tell,

Who dare to own that Mr. C.

Is doing very well.

“Is there no topic, sir” I said,

This vacancy to fill,

To drive this sorrow from your head,

Or utilise your quill?

Take up the brave Somali’s side,

Help him who flours the Powers,

Bold Castro—Venezuela’s pride

They both are foes of ours!”

“The times,” said he “are out of gear,

I do my best: the Bill

That educates you, but does not cheer,

Permits a transient thrill

But even though no rates I pay,

Though Bishops I avoid,

In politics I am to-day

Distinctly unemployed.”

**4<sup>th</sup> February.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Circulation by the Million*. This article recounted the history of Elbert Hubbard’s inspirational pamphlet, *A Message to Garcia* in which he condemned the general lack of self-reliance and

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determination in the USA. This pamphlet was translated into many languages and was sold by the million throughout the world.

**6<sup>th</sup> February.** Geraldine Winn Everett was born at Oaklands, 276 Barnet Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire (see **21<sup>st</sup> January 1998**). She was the daughter of **BFR**'s friend and colleague Percy Everett (Trinity College 1889-1892, Literary editor of *The Daily Express*, editor of Pearson's *The Novel Magazine* and knighted in 1930 for his work with the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association). **BFR** was appointed as godfather to baby 'Winn' (see **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**). It is interesting to note that the Everett family home shared the same name as a house associated with a Dartmoor hound legend (see **August 1900**).

**7<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *In the Eye of the Public*. This article contrasted the desire of 'Smart Society' to become well-known and to appear in the press, with the desire for privacy amongst the previous generation of the upper class.

**16<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Alien Thief to the Britisher*. This article condemned the Home Office for its policy on naturalisation. **BFR** claimed that this policy permitted foreign criminals to become British citizens.

**March.** The serialisation of *The Trail of the Dead* in *The Windsor Magazine* continued with an episode entitled *The Anonymous Article* (Vol. XVII, pp. 477-486).

**21<sup>st</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Where to Dine in Paris*. This article described some of the famous restaurants in this cosmopolitan capital city. Given the subject of this article and the fact that nearly 5 weeks had elapsed since his previous article was published, it seems probable that **BFR** had recently travelled to the France (see **8<sup>th</sup> August, 1903**).

**26<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Talk about the Boat-race*. This article attempted to explain the great public interest in the annual Oxford and Cambridge 'Varsity Boat-race.

**April.** The serialisation of *The Trail of the Dead* in *The Windsor Magazine* continued with an episode entitled *The Ammonia Cylinder* (Vol. XVII, pp. 627-638).

**9<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Question of Good Taste*. This article discussed "bad" and "good" form and how Society's rules on good taste are established.

**15<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Country's Resurrection*. This article described and discussed a pamphlet by Sir William Willcocks, entitled *The Restoration of the Ancient Irrigation Work on the Tigris; or, The Creation of Chaldea*. In his pamphlet, Willcock proposed a scheme for the resurrection of the ancient granary of the Near East.

**28<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Return of a Hero*. This article described the return of Sergeant William Raffles to England from the Cape Colony. **BFR** contrasted the celebrations which accompanied the departure of the troops with the lack of interest in his return to England.

**May.** The serialisation of *The Trail of the Dead* in *The Windsor Magazine* concluded with an episode entitled *The End of the Trail* (Vol. XVII, pp. 734-743).

**May.** **BFR** had a short story entitled The Battle of Fingle's Bridge, published in Pearson's Magazine (Vol. XV, pp. 530-536). This was a fairy story, told by a small boy who falls asleep on a moor and witnesses a battle between the people of the ferns and rushes and the people of the gorse and heather. All these people are only six inches tall and are dressed in medieval garb and armour and have miniature horses and weapons. The boy, aided by a fairy, becomes involved in the battle and finally awakens to find signs of the battle on the moor. There is a Fingle Bridge, over the River Teign, which is a famous tourist beauty spot near Drewsteignton, on the North-Eastern borders of Dartmoor. This story was illustrated by Nathan Dean.

**23<sup>rd</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Man in the Cage*. This article described the plight of those who love the countryside but are unable to interact with it due to the socio-economic necessities of modern life.

**June.** **BFR** had a non-fiction article entitled *The Romance of Motor Racing*, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XV, pp. 604-610). It provided a dramatic account of the excitement and dangers of motor racing. This article was illustrated by Victor Prout.

**4<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The China Collector*. This article described the then-current China collecting scene.

**July (mid).** **BFR**'s father, Joseph Robinson, underwent an operation in London following a short-illness. He recovered sufficiently to return to Ipplepen on the 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**August.** **BFR** and Fraser published a short-story entitled *Fog Bound* (*London Magazine*). This tale was republished in 1998 by Oxford University Press in a compendium of short stories entitled *Twelve Tales of Murder* (edited by Jack Adrian), with the title changed slightly to *Fogbound*.

**8<sup>th</sup> August.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Great French Trial*. This article examined the criminal trials of 1903, following the political and financial frauds of Frédéric and Thérèse Humbert which had resulted in bankruptcies, bank collapses, suicides and disgrace (see **21<sup>st</sup> March 1903**). Two months had elapsed since publication of **BFR**'s previous article, so it is seems likely that he visited his ailing father in Ipplepen.

**11<sup>th</sup> August.** At 10.00pm, 76 year-old Joseph Fletcher Robinson died at Park Hill House (see **1827, 1838, 1840, 1841, 1843, 1848, 1850, 1851, 1858, 1861, 1865, 1866, 1868, 1869, 1874, 1881, 1882, Summer Term 1884, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1884, 1886, 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 1888, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April 1891, 31<sup>st</sup> March/I<sup>st</sup> April 1901, May 1901, 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 1901** and for **1903**; mid **July, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 22<sup>nd</sup> November. 12<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February 1905** and **14<sup>th</sup> July 1906**). Joseph's estate was later proved at £16,218 11s 0d net and Sidney Hacker was granted probate. Hacker was a partner in a firm of solicitors called Hacker, Michelmore and Wilkinson (Newton Abbot). Emily Robinson and **BFR** were named as the principal beneficiaries.

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**15<sup>th</sup> August.** An obituary of Joseph Fletcher Robinson was published in the *Mid-Devon and Newton Times* under the heading *An Eventful Career* and recalled:

He was of a most genial disposition, and sympathetic to a degree towards his poorer brethren. In this respect he will be greatly missed by the poor of Ipplepen who seldom appealed to him in vain. He never, however, made a parade of his charity, being a believer in the old principle of never allowing the left hand to know what the right hand did. His integrity was unsullied, and as a magistrate he erred on the side of mercy rather than severity.

**15<sup>th</sup> August.** Joseph was buried at St Andrew's Church (Ipplepen) alongside his friend, The Rev. Douglas Stewart (Rector of St Andrew's 1887-1897). The service was conducted by The Rev. Robert Duins Cooke. Emily's floral tribute read "To my beloved husband, the joy and strength of my life". She also had a stained-glass window installed in the south-side of the Chancel at St Andrew's Church to commemorate her husband's memory. This window, which can still be viewed today, was designed by Victorian Artist, C. E. Kemp and depicts the figures of Our Lady and Child, with St. John the Divine and St. Andrew. This window featured the following inscription:

"To the glory of God and in ever-loving  
memory of Joseph Fletcher Robinson,  
Justice of the Peace for Devon and for  
xxi years Churchwarden of this Parish,  
who entered into rest xi<sup>th</sup> August mcmiii  
aged lxxvi years; his widow and son  
dedicate this window."

**22<sup>nd</sup> August.** A further obituary and funeral report for Joseph Fletcher Robinson was published in the *Mid-Devon and Newton Times*. It reported that the principal mourners were Mr. and Mrs. B. Fletcher Robinson (son and daughter-in-law), Sir John Robinson (brother) and Mrs. Holt (sister-in-law). Harold Gaye Michelmore also attended the funeral.

**September.** **BFR** and Illingworth were both elected as members of the newly formed Jesus College Cambridge Society (J.C.C.S.). The J.C.C.S. was co-founded by Dr Henry Menzies (Jesus College, 1886-1894). Menzies had been Senior Anaesthetist, House Surgeon and House Physician at St. George's Hospital, but now ran a private practice from his home at 4 Ashley Gardens. He was the first Secretary to 'The Society' and was later elected Life-Honorary Secretary. Menzies, **BFR** and Illingworth are all listed as members in the J.C.C.S.'s *Annual Reports* published between 1904 and 1907 (the 1907 report included an obituary to **BFR**). Menzies was the Physician who certified **BFR**'s death (see January 21<sup>st</sup> 1907).

**25<sup>th</sup> September.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Peaceful Revolution*. This article examined the growth in power of the English middle class.

**October.** **BFR** had a short story entitled *The Debt of Heinrich Hermann*, published in Pearson's Magazine (Vol. XVI, pp. 432-440). It involved a young man being imprisoned with a giant ape by a German animal salesman, the intention being, that they would fight for his entertainment. The illustrations were by C. Lawson Wood.

**20<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Leader of Men*. This article praised the leadership qualities of Joseph Chamberlain, Liberal Unionist M.P and Colonial Secretary (First Minister of the British Empire). Chamberlain was also a member of the Athenaeum Club to which ACD belonged.

**29<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Helping a Good Cause*. This article expressed support for those who wished to regulate foreign immigration.

**14<sup>th</sup> November.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The People of the Abyss*. This article reviewed Jack London's only non-fictional book of the same name. In this book, London recounted his experiences of living amongst the destitute and starving in East London at the turn of the century.

**18<sup>th</sup> November.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *On the Roof of the World*. This article reviewed a 2-volume book called *Central Asia and Tibet: Towards the Holy City of Lassa*, by the Swedish explorer Sven Hedin (Hurst & Blackett, 1903). ACD's story involving Sherlock Holmes travelling in the disguise of a Norwegian explorer to Lhasa in Tibet, "The Adventure of the Empty House", was published on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1903.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November.** Sir Charles Seale-Hayne, M.P. died aged 70 years (see **1881**). A character called 'Sir Charles' is featured within *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Charles Seale-Hayne made provision in his will, for money to be made available to found the Seale-Hayne Agricultural College in Newton Abbot (1919-2004). The following obituary was published in the *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* in 1904 (Vol. XVI, pp. 37-38):

CHARLES SEALE-HAYNE, M.P. Mr Charles Seale-Hayne, one of our oldest members, was born at Brighton in 1833. He was the son of Charles Hayne Seale-Hayne. His grandfather was Sir J. Seale, formerly M.P. for Dartmouth. He was educated at Eton, and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1857. In that year, and in 1860, he unsuccessfully contested Dartmouth as a Liberal. He did not renew his attempt to obtain a seat in The House of Commons till 1885, when he was elected a Liberal member for the Mid or Ashburton Division of Devonshire, which he represented to the time of his death. He was most assiduous in his attendance at Westminster and was rewarded, in 1892, for the faithful support he had given the Liberal party, with the office of Paymaster-General, which he continued to hold until the defeat of the Liberal Government in 1895. He was also made a Privy Councillor. He was treasurer of the Cobden Club, and took an active share in the management of that organisation, [sic] In addition to his activity in national politics, Charles Seale-Hayne took a prominent part in local affairs connected with Devonshire. He was the first chairman of the Dartmouth and Torbay Railway, and was also a director of the South Devon Railway Company before its acquisition by the Great Western Railway Company. He entered the South Devon Militia as an ensign in 1853, and took a great interest in the corps, eventually reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel. When the regiment was embodied during the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, he served with it at Plymouth and Waterford, and was for many years its musketry instructor. He was also for some time lieutenant-colonel in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Devon Volunteer Artillery. Mr. Seale-Hayne was a bachelor. He became a member of the Association in 1869. He attended two or three meetings, but his numerous engagements prevented his assisting much in the work of the Society, but he was always glad

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to know of its progress. On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1903, Mr. Seale-Hayne was seized with apoplexy, and died the following day at ten o'clock, in his seventy-first year.

The same *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* also contains an obituary to Joseph Fletcher Robinson. This report makes an explicit reference to the friendship which existed between Joseph Fletcher Robinson and Sir Charles Seale-Hayne. The same report also claims that Joseph Fletcher Robinson spent a continuous 10 year period in South America whilst he was a young man. However, it appears that he merely made intermittent trips to South America because he married in Liverpool during 1849 (aged 24 years) and was also resident there at the time of the 1851 census (Vol. XVI, pp. 39):

FLETCHER ROBINSON. Joseph Fletcher Robison was formerly in business in Liverpool, and was a brother of Sir John Robinson, late managing editor of the *Daily News*. He was a landowner in the parish of Ipplepen, and exceedingly kind to the poor, by whom he will be greatly missed, and was brought much into contact with them, having been for many years a member of the Newton Abbot Board of Guardians. Mr. Robinson was churchwarden of Ipplepen parish church for a long period up to the time of his death, and was chairman of the School Board to the time of its dissolution. He was also a member of the committee of Newton Abbot Hospital, in which institution he always took a great interest, and to which he was a liberal subscriber. In politics he was a strong liberal, an active member of the Ipplepen Liberal Club, a personal friend of the late Charles Seale-Hayne, M.P., also a very good friend of Garibaldi. When Robinson was about twenty-five years of age he fought in the South American wars, and was wounded three times. Some of his adventures at this period were very stirring. Once he rode alone from Buenos Ayres [sic] to Santiago, and at that time the feat was considered a remarkable one. From the time he was twenty until he was about thirty years of age he was in South America, and took part in several exploring expeditions down the west coast. Twenty-two years ago he retired from business, and purchased Park Hill Estate at Ipplepen, where he resided till his death. He became a member in 1884. Mr. Robinson died 11<sup>th</sup> August 1903, aged seventy-eight years.

**27<sup>th</sup> November.** BFR had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Food of the Gods*. This article reviewed a story by the same name, written by H. G. Wells, which was published in the December 1903 issue of *Pearson's Magazine*.

**30<sup>th</sup> November.** 75 year-old Sir John Robinson died at 4 Addison Crescent from "... cardiac failure and congestion of the lungs (4 days)" (see **1827, 1858, 18<sup>th</sup> January 1892**, mid **Michaelmas Term 1892, 16<sup>th</sup> December 1892, 31<sup>st</sup> May 1893, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1893, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1893, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894**, late **Lent Term 1894, December 1896, 11<sup>th</sup> July 1900**, early **1901, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1901, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1903, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1903**, late **1904, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907, 1933 and April 1961**). Earlier that same day he is reported as having remarked to his staff:

I do not feel the desire to converse – kindly respect my wishes.

Sir John bequeathed £500 to Frederick Robinson, his only surviving brother. He also gave £100 to the widow of his friend and former employee, Frederick Moy Thomas. Thomas helped Sir John to produce an autobiography (see late **1904**) by compiling his vast collection of personal papers and writing the preface. It seems very probable that Sir John also utilised BFR's editorial experience whilst uncle and nephew resided together at Addison Crescent (see late **1904**).

**December.** **BFR** had a humorous and illustrated poem entitled *Cupid – Billiard Marker*, published in Pearson's Magazine (Vol. XVI, pp. 585-588). It described some frustrated courting between a young man and a young lady playing billiards. The coloured illustrations were by L Thackeray. Henry Baskerville later claimed that he saw **BFR** and **ACD** together in the billiards room at Park Hill House (see **16<sup>th</sup> March 1959**).

**December.** **BFR** had a short story entitled *Clowns*, published in *Cassell's Magazine* (pp. 88-90). This story was illustrated by Rene Bull.

**1<sup>st</sup> December.** Sir John's death was recorded by his 33 year-old Barrister-at-Law son, Oswald Richard Robinson (**BFR**'s cousin).

**5<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Quarter-Mile of Death*. This article described a hare drive along the edge of Salisbury Plain in central southern England.

**24<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Champion of British Art*. This reviewed a 2-volume, heavily-illustrated book by Byron Webber, called *James Orrock, R.I., Painter, Connoisseur, and Collector*, published by Chatto & Windus (1903). **BFR** applauded Webber for promoting awareness about British painters. It should be remembered that **BFR**'s deceased father-in-law, Philip Morris, was a well known Victorian Artist.

## 1904

**BFR** replaced Oliver Armstrong Fry as editor of the periodical, *Vanity Fair*. He switched from Arthur Evans publishing company to Harmsworth (owned by Alfred Harmsworth, recently appointed Lord Northcliffe and the youngest member of the British peerage). As editor, **BFR** wrote many of the leader articles under his own name and there are strong indications that he wrote other leaders under other pseudonyms. *Vanity Fair* was widely regarded for its cartoon caricatures of famous people, drawn by artists such as 'Ape' (Carlo Pellegrini, 1838-1889) and most famously, 'Spy' (Leslie Ward, 1851-1922). Each cartoon was accompanied by a biography, with these often being highly entertaining and sometimes rather cutting. The original Proprietor and editor of *Vanity Fair*, Thomas Gibson Bowles (1841-1922), supposedly wrote some 2300 biographies during the five decades of the magazine's existence (1868-1914) under the pseudonym of 'Jehu Junior' (named partially after a Biblical King who vanquished his enemies with extreme vigour). This is improbable, as Bowles sold the magazine in 1889 and thereafter became an extremely active Politician. Subsequent editors of *Vanity Fair*, including **BFR**, may well have written material, including leaders, under the pseudonym of 'Jehu Junior', as this was customary editorial practice at the time. **BFR** may also have written under other pseudonyms, such as 'The Man in the Pavilion' and 'X' (see **9<sup>th</sup> June 1904**).

**BFR**, **ACD** and Max Pemberton were each admitted as members to a select twelve-man criminological society referred to by its members as 'Our Society' (see **18<sup>th</sup> October 1906** and **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**).

Elkin & Company Limited, London, published a song written by **BFR** entitled *The Little Loafer* (see **Summer 1905**). The music was composed by Robert Eden, who in 1908, also

wrote the Edwardian Ballad *What's in the air to-day?* (Galaxy Music Corporation, New York).

Ward, Lock & Company (London) published *The Trail of the Dead*, by **BFR** and J. Malcolm Fraser, as a single volume. This book included 16 illustrations by Adolf Thiede. *The Trail of the Dead* was also published by Langton Hall in Toronto, Canada, during 1904.

By this time, 'Newton College' was marketing itself by placing advertisements with photographs in the local Devon press and other outlets. The following advertisement was placed in a book by A. J. Rhodes entitled *Newton Abbot: Its History and Development* that was published by the *Mid Devon Times* newspaper group circa 1904 (pp. 190):

**"Preparation for the Army and Navy, the Universities, Professional & Commercial life. LARGE PLAYING FIELDS. SWIMMING POOL AND EVERY REQUISITE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL."**

**14<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Future of the Very Rich*. This article discussed the power, position and future of multi-millionaires.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Not Playing the Game*. This article countered the position and arguments of the Free Food League and argued in favour of the Tariff Reform movement.

**9<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Czar's Responsibility*. This article discussed the approaching armed conflict between Russia and Japan. **BFR** had previously been entertained by the Czar's Great Chamberlain at the Old Grand Palace, Livadia (*see May 1898*).

**23<sup>rd</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Common-Sense v. Property*. This article discussed why British holidaymakers spent so much money on travelling to continental holiday resorts.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Mischief for Idle Hands*. This article reviewed the newly-published English language edition of Lieutenant Bilse's German novel called *Life in a Garrison Town*.

**10<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A War That Will Decide*. This article examined the Russo-Japanese War and its potential outcome.

**18<sup>th</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A True Ghost Story*. This article described a 'true' Boer War ghost story from Stellenbosch, South Africa, as told to the author by 'The Captain'.

**21<sup>st</sup> April.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Old West Surrey*. This article reviewed a newly-published book of the same name which was written by Gertrude Jekyll (Longman, Green & Company, London).

**5<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Question for the Nation*. This article considered the serious consequences of a falling birth rate in Britain.

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**10<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Continent and the War*. This article examined the surprise Japanese victories in the Russo-Japanese War.

**13<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Black Coat Fetish*. This article discussed the connotations, class distinction and snobbery associated with wearing a black tail-coat.

**19<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Future of the Nations*. This article reviewed a newly-published book called *Success Among the Nations*, by Dr. Emil Reich (Chapman and Hall).

**26<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had his first article entitled *Women of Civilisation*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 664-665). This article suggested that a Hungarian doctor, Emil Reich, in writing a book entitled *Success Amongst Nations*, which criticises the women of Western Civilisation (and especially American women), was not only brave but foolhardy! (see **19<sup>th</sup> May 1904**).

**31<sup>st</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *The Home of Islam*. This article reviewed a newly-published book called *Dar-ul-Islam: A Record of a Journey Through Ten of the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey* (Bickers and Son).

**9<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Spain and Her King – The Royal Guest of 1905*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 730). In this article, **BFR** discussed the problems facing the young King Alphonso XIII of Spain.

**9<sup>th</sup> June.** There are strong indications that **BFR** was the author of an article entitled *M.C.C. Absolutism – The Problem of the Committee*, which was published in *Vanity Fair*. This article is credited to ‘The Man in the Pavilion’, and signed ‘X’. It was written in response to a ‘Letter to the editor’ (**BFR**) from the previous week and concerned cricket. X suggested that it was problematic for the M.C.C. Committee to effectively govern the game of cricket when so few of them actually played it (see **23<sup>rd</sup> June 1904**).

**14<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had an article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *A Pagan Metropolis*. This article outlined some of the reasons why people did not regularly attend church in London.

**15<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had a humorous article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Mr. Beckles' Invention*. This article described how a Mr. Beckles proposed to reduce the number of drinking toasts made at public dinners (see **28<sup>th</sup> June 1904**).

**23<sup>rd</sup> June.** **ACD** had a ‘Letter to the editor’ published in *Vanity Fair* under the heading of *M.C.C. Absolutism* (see **9<sup>th</sup> June 1904**). **ACD** begins this letter by writing: “Sir,—You were good enough to ask me for my opinion of the management of the M.C.C.” **BFR** had clearly relied upon his friendship with **ACD** to persuade the latter to write upon the topic. **ACD** had played for the M.C.C. and his letter complained about innovations in the game. He objected to pitches being specially prepared and to sightscreens being used. Other commenters imply that **ACD** was writing with his tongue in his cheek. For example, he suggested that left-handed batsmen might easily be trained to play right-handed to avoid inconveniencing other players and spectators with constant field changes! There were responses from other readers

**28<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had a humorous article published in *The Daily Express* entitled *Unreliability Tests*. This article described why Mr. Beckles (see *15<sup>th</sup> June 1904*) felt that motor cars make their owners into liars. This appears to be the final article written by **BFR** for this newspaper.

**30<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Pagan London – Miss Corelli's Libel on the Clergy*, published in *Vanity Fair*. Prior to the Great War, Marie Corelli (real name Mary Mackay, 1855-1924) outsold **ACD**, Kipling and Wells with her highly imaginative, philosophical and mystical adventure stories (she was referred to as 'The Female Haggard'). She was very active as a controversialist in many social fields and was both respected and reviled in the extreme. She was offensively anti-Catholic and **BFR** responding fiercely to her ill-justified condemnation of Pagan (actually Catholic) practices appearing within the Church of England. **BFR** suggested that she was an example of the sensationalist decline which was occurring within journalism.

**7<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article entitled *On Political Lies – A Growing Danger in British Politics*, published in *Vanity Fair*. In this article, **BFR** condemned the way in which the Radical political parties (especially The Liberal Party and the nascent Labour Party) were increasingly using misinformation to support their causes. He cites lies being told about the Second Boer War, exaggerations about rising food prices and the falsification of data pertaining to the number of Chinese immigrants working the mines. He exemplifies the situation with a case involving his friend, **ACD**:

In the last General Election, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was standing for a division of Edinburgh. The honesty of his convictions and his hard hitting, straightforward oratory won him the hearts even of political opponents. He had made great progress in the centre of a Radical stronghold, and his election seemed certain. On the day of the poll, however, the constituency was placarded with posters, stating in four-feet letters that Conan Doyle was a Roman Catholic, and that the Church of Scotland was in danger.

This Radical lie – for Sir Arthur does not happen to be a Roman catholic – caused the desired consternation. The worthy Scotsmen read, exclaimed in horror, and hurried to the polls to avert this terrible danger. An honourable method of winning an election surely!

Following publication of the above article, several supportive 'Letters to the editor' were forwarded to *Vanity Fair* (see *21<sup>st</sup> July 1904*). The reference to the integrity of **ACD** is particularly relevant, having been written some two years after the publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and in the wake of the authorship controversy (see *October 1901*, *May 1902* and *June 1902*). **BFR** and **ACD** did, in fact, always remain close friends (see *early 1904*, *20<sup>th</sup> October 1906*, *24<sup>th</sup> January 1907* and *May 1907*).

**14<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had a very short playlet entitled *For Ladies Only*, published in *Vanity Fair*. The subject of this comical playlet is the cattiness of ladies gathered at a society luncheon.

**14<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article entitled *The Policy of Honesty – An Old Proverb with New Applications*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article condemns those Radicals who had opposed and defeated a Government Bill to ban economic migrants. **BFR** particularly attacks what he suggested as being the opportunism of a certain Winston Churchill in this

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matter, as well as those who voted merely in opposition to another party, rather than to the principal of the Bill. He especially refutes the way in which party politics was replacing the individual representation of the people in Parliament.

**21<sup>st</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article entitled *A Sensation per Diem* published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 79-80).

**21<sup>st</sup> July.** Sir Henry Seton-Karr (M.P. for St Helens, 1885-1906) had an article entitled *Radical Romances – Some Personal Experiences of Election Falsehoods*, published in *Vanity Fair*. He strongly supported **BFR**'s view on Radicalism and gave his own examples of electioneering falsehoods. Sir Henry befriended **BFR** (see **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**) and it seems that the latter man may have solicited this article from him. Immediately after Sir Henry's article there is a listing of six notes from M.P.'s, together with the names of six more who lent their support. Amongst these notes is the following:

Sir Henry Seton-Karr, M.P.

DEAR SIR,— I think your leader from *Vanity Fair* re Radical misrepresentation excellent. Shall be glad in any way to expose this wilful misrepresentation going on.

HENRY SETON-KARR.

**28<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR** had an article entitled *The Quick and the Dead – Being a Ghost Story, with Comments Thereon*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article recorded a letter in *The Times* from H. Rider Haggard, describing a dream which he had had about his dog dying, and the fact that the dog had, indeed, died at the end of the dream. **BFR** also recorded a story which had been told to him, for which he claimed to have proof, involving a man being run down by a horse and cart near Dundalk, County Louth, Republic of Ireland. This unfortunate man then allegedly disappeared and the horse later refused to pass the same spot on the road. Interestingly, **BFR** refers to "... the methods of Jehu ..." in this item.

**August.** **BFR** had the first of a series of six detective short-stories collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Addington Peace*, published in Pearson's *The Lady's Home Magazine* (later re-titled as *Home Magazine of Fiction* and then *The Novel Magazine*). The first story was entitled *The Terror in the Snow*. Pearson's by-lined this first part of the serialisation as follows:

Joint author with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his Best Sherlock Holmes Story *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

This is the first of the strange and startling experiences which befell that famous detective, Addington Peace. They are told in a most convincing manner, and should on no account be missed.

Some of the Addington Peace stories were later republished in a badly rewritten form in *The Penny Magazine* shortly after **BFR**'s death (see **4<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> June 1907**). They were given the collective title of *Addington Peace, of the "Yard"* and the by-line became:

These clever stories, starting today, are by the author who collaborated with Sir A. Conan Doyle in "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

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Each tale was a separate story and featured Detective Inspector Addington Peace who is described as follows:

... a tiny slip of a fellow, of about five and thirty years of age. A stubble of brown hair, a hard, clean-shaven mouth, and a confident chin are my first impression.

Peace works for Scotland Yard's Criminal Investigation Department and he is partnered by a Watson-like biographer who is his young neighbour, James Phillips, an Artist.

All six of the original Addington Peace stories in *The Lady's Home Journal of Fiction* were illustrated by Thomas Heath Robinson, the eldest brother of the more-famous William Heath Robinson. There were three brothers in all and all three were illustrators, as was their father, uncle and grandfather. T. Heath Robinson worked for *The Royal Magazine* and *The London Magazine*.

**4<sup>th</sup> August.** An announcement in Issue No. 733 of *Pearson's Weekly* declared that a series of short stories collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* was due to start appearing in the *Lady's Home Magazine* in August. Both *Pearson's Weekly* and *Lady's Home Magazine of Fiction* were published by Pearson. This is the only known entry for **BFR** in the former magazine.

**11<sup>th</sup> August.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Pity Poor Agriculture! – Mr. Chamberlain's Facts, Suggestions, and Prophesies*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article discussed Joseph Chamberlain's proposals for dealing with the agricultural depression then being experienced in Britain. Emphasis is given by **BFR** to Chamberlain's proposals on Tariff Reform, which was a subject of special interest to **BFR**. It may be noted that in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, an imaginary leader in The Times in 1889 is concerned with Tariff Reform.

**18<sup>th</sup> August.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Out of the Depth – The National Problem of the Children of the Slums*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article discussed the findings of a Governmental investigation into the physical condition of young people in Britain. **BFR** commended proposals for physical training and cheap (but not free!) food being provided to all schools.

**25<sup>th</sup> August.** **BFR** had an article entitled *The Country – Second Hand – A New Development in the Reading Public of the Cities*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article suggested that the increasing number of stories about adventures amidst the wilds of nature reflected a yearning amongst urban dwellers for a return to country life.

**September.** **BFR** had a non-fictional article entitled *III – The Fortress of the First Britons. A Description of the Fortress of Grimsound*, on Dartmoor published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XVIII, pp. 273-280). This article is illustrated with drawings and photographs [see *August 1900*].

**September.** **BFR** had the second of his Addington Peace short stories entitled *Mr. Taubery's Diamond*, published in *The Lady's Home Magazine of Fiction*. This adventure takes place in the coastal area of Norfolk, close to Cromer where **ACD** and **BFR** stayed in the Spring of 1901. The story involves a country estate, a Hall and yew walks which are all similar to

those of Baskerville Hall in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. There is fog and a supernatural-seeming creature which appears to be a very large dog, as well as dozens of other links with *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. These may well all be points from the Proto-Hound which **ACD** used in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and which **BFR** then used himself in this later story.

**1<sup>st</sup> September.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Upon Popular Agitations – The Development in the Power of the Popular Press*, published in *Vanity Fair*. In this article, **BFR** suggested that few politicians appreciate the power of the new and cheap newspapers for swaying the opinion of the working classes.

**8<sup>th</sup> September.** **BFR** had an article entitled *The God of Irony – A Remarkable Novel by a Good Cricketer*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This gave a very favourable review of a book by John Collis Snaith (1876-1936) called *Broke of Covenden* (Constable, 1904), although **BFR**, inconveniently, never once mentions the name of the author or the publisher. He does, however, mention that the author was “... a clever left-hand bowler ...”, even though Snaith only ever played one first class match for Nottinghamshire (1900) and never bowled. The story is an imitation of a classical, tragic, Victorian melodrama, made funny by the Olympian perspective of the Greek ‘God of Irony’.

**ACD** also mentions this book in his discussion of the books in his own bookcase, *Through the Magic Door* (Smith, Elder & Company, 1907). This discussion had earlier appeared in a six-part serialisation entitled *Before My Bookcase in Great Thoughts* (5<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1894, without the reference to Snaith. It also appeared in a later 12-part serialisation in Cassell’s Magazine (December 1906 – November 1907), with the Snaith reference. In the book version **ACD** wrote:

Now, there is a book, a modern one, and written by a youth under thirty. It is Snaith’s “Broke of Covenden,” and it scarce attained a second edition. I do not say that it is a Classic—I should not like to be positive that it is not—but I am perfectly sure that the man who wrote it has the possibility of a Classic within him.

**ACD** was wrong about this particular book, as it went through several editions and it was also released by other publishers, both at home and overseas, with Snaith becoming a very prolific and popular writer.

**29<sup>th</sup> September.** **BFR** had an article entitled *As We Fight Elections – Being a Guide on How Not to Win a Seat (In Thanet)*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article depicted a fictional election for the imaginary division of Little Puddlington and details the claims and counterclaims made for ‘Mr. Roe, a publisher, of the Conservative Party’ and ‘Mr Crow, a pepper manufacturer, of the Radical Party’. Mr Crow won by one vote.

**October.** **BFR** had the third of his Addington Peace short stories entitled *Mr. Coran’s Election*, published in *The Lady’s Home Magazine of Fiction*.

**27<sup>th</sup> October.** **BFR** had a humorous article entitled *The Good Old Times – Some Examples of Their Merits Supplied by Lord Brampton*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article reviewed *The Reminiscences of Sir Henry Hawkins (Lord Brampton)* [Nelson, 1904] and clearly

showed that the ‘good old times’ of the mid-Victorian era were nothing of the sort for most. Henry Hawkins (1817-1907) had become famous as a lawyer by demonstrating the false nature of the claim in the Tichborne Case and through prosecuting the claimant.

**November.** **BFR** had the fourth of his Addington Peace short stories entitled *The Mystery of the Causeway*, published in *The Lady's Home Magazine of Fiction*.

**10<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** had an article entitled ‘*The Standard*’ and the New Journalism’, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article suggested that every level of society in Britain had been excited by the news that Cyril Arthur Pearson, the proprietor of *The Daily Express* and several journals, had purchased *The Standard* and half-a-dozen provincial morning and evening newspapers. **BFR** recorded that *The Daily News*, claimed that this would see *The Standard* decline to the levels of light-hearted vulgarity, shallowness and sensationalism associated with the American Press. **BFR** suggested that the public was to blame for this, with all levels of society demanding “... news in tabloid form ...”. **BFR** proposed that, eventually, there might be similar accusations of decadence levelled against *The Times*. How perceptive!

**17<sup>th</sup> November.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Satire — Not Undeserved. An Author Come to Plague Us*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This article reviewed Hillaire Belloc’s newly-issued novel, which was a satirical analysis of those involved in the more-corrupt elements of Imperialism. The book is written in the form of a ‘biography’ and it also satirises the sort of author who writes a biography for his own glorification rather than that of his subject. As usual with **BFR**’s reviewed, the full bibliographical details, including the title, are not given. On this occasion, it is understandable, as the full title of the novel is: *Emmanuel Burden, Merchant of Thames St., in the City of London, Exporter of Hardware, a Record of His Lineage, Speculations, Last Days & Death* (Methuen, 1904).

**December.** **ACD** had the fifth of his Addington Peace short stories entitled *The Vanished Millionaire*, published in *The Lady's Home Magazine of Fiction*. Although the plot is based in Hampshire, it has several incidents which resemble situations which occur on Dartmoor in **ACD**’s short Sherlock Holmes story *Silver Blaze* (*The Strand Magazine*, December 1892), and in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. This story was twice republished under the slightly revised title of *The Vanished Billionaire* (see **February 1905** and **July 1973**).

**December.** **BFR** had an illustrated light-verse, entitled “The Legend of Bess the Mare”, published in *Pearson's Magazine* (Vol. XVIII, pp 719-722). This was the last contribution **BFR** made to *Pearson's Magazine* (UK).

**8<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** and P. G. Wodehouse had a playlet entitled *Our Christmas Pantomime – Little Red Riding Hood; or, The Virtuous British public and the Smart Set Wolf*, published in *Vanity Fair*. This pantomime, filling three and a half very large (A3) pages, had characters supposedly played by a mixture of literary and real people: Little Red Riding Hood was played by The Virtuous British Public; Wolf by The Smart Set; Grandmother by Mrs. Grundy; Good Fairy by W. T. Stead; Demons by Pinero, Maeterlinck, Jones and Ibsen; Hunters by E. F. Benson, R. J. Campbell, Alfred Sutro, Marie Corelli and Rita. **BFR** and Wodehouse feature as The Prologue. The Good Fairy and the Hunters attempt to protect Little Red Riding Hood against the play-writing Demons and the superficiality of the Wolf, with alcohol, drugs, motoring and bridge-playing being particularly condemned. Little Red

Riding Hood eventually points out to the Good Fairy and the Hunters that they too have their social fallings, and that they too are part of a play.

Sir John Richard Robinson's biography, entitled *Fifty Years on Fleet Street*, was published by McMillan & Company Limited, London. The book was compiled and edited by Frederick Moy Thomas, a Journalist for the *Daily News*, who had worked for Sir John ('the Chief') for 25 years (see **30<sup>th</sup> November 1903**). In the foreword to this book, Thomas stated:

I am much indebted to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for leave to publish his striking letter to Sir John Robinson on the subject of America and the Americans [see **3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894**]; ... and to a number of Sir John's relatives and friends for similar facilities or for valuable counsel or assistance.

This comment is important for several reasons. Clearly the Robinson family were still on friendly terms with **ACD** some 3 years after publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and in the wake of the authorship controversy (see **October 1901, May 1902** and **June 1902**). Furthermore, it implies that **BFR** exercised his editorial experience (see early *Michaelmas Term 1892, 1895* and *14<sup>th</sup> December 1897*) to assist his aged uncle with compiling his autobiography whilst the two men resided together at Addison Crescent (1901-1902). This same period also coincided with **BFR**'s recent promotion to Debut editor of *The Daily Express* (see **July 1900** and **28<sup>th</sup> September 1900**), his courtship with Gladys Morris (see early 1901 and **3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902**), the chronic illness of his prospective father-in-law (see **22<sup>nd</sup> April 1902**), the growing infirmity of his own father (see mid **July 1903** and **11<sup>th</sup> August 1903**) and his collaboration with **ACD** on *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see for **1901; 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April, May, 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June**). These points collectively suggest why **BFR** was compelled to withdraw from this collaboration with his friend, **ACD** at an early stage and why it was appropriate to acknowledge his contribution as a footnote (see **August 1901, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1902** and **15<sup>th</sup> April 1902**).

## 1905

**BFR** had eight Addington Peace short stories published in a book entitled *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* (Harper & Brother, London). This book was almost certainly published post-January 1905, following publication of the sixth and final Addington Peace story entitled *The Mystery of the Jade Spear*, in *The Lady's Home Magazine of Fiction*. This book was included in *Queen's Quorum*, a listing created primarily by Frederic Dannay, one half of the 'Ellery Queen' twosome, of the 106 (later 125) most significant short detective/crime stories (see **August 1949**). **BFR**'s name was to appear again in the *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* (see **July 1975**). The sequence of stories in *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* is as follows:

*The Story of Amaroff the Pole*  
*The Terror in the Snow*  
*Mr Tauberry's Diamond*  
*The Mystery of the Causeway*  
*The Mystery of Thomas Hearne*

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

*The Vanished Millionaire*

*Mr Coran's Election*

*The Mystery of the Jade Spear*

Two new short Addington Peace stories were thus featured in the book edition: *The Story of Amaroff the Pole* and *The Mystery of Thomas Hearne*. **BFR** used the first of these new episodes to introduce Peace and Phillips and their home environment. This compelled him to re-write the start of *The Terror in the Snow*, which had been the introductory episode in the original magazine series (see **4<sup>th</sup> May 1904**).

The second new story entitled *The Mystery of Thomas Hearne* is based on a foggy Dartmoor and involves an escaped convict. It is different in style to the other seven Addington Peace stories in that Peace and Phillips appear for less than 12% of the story and are used only to introduce and conclude the adventure. This story also featured a non-police hero who resides at a hotel in Princetown which is very similar to the Old Rowe's Duchy Hotel where **ACD** and **BFR** stayed in 1901. This story may well be a remnant of **BFR**'s Proto-Hound story, as may *The Terror in the Snow* and *The Vanished Millionaire* (or *The Vanished Billionaire*).

A ninth, much shorter, Addington Peace story entitled *The Mystery of Mr. Nicholas Boushaw* was published in *Vanity Fair* on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1906 (see below). **BFR** was, at that time, the editor of that magazine.

In 1998, both **BFR**'s earlier collaboration with J. Malcolm Fraser entitled *The Trail of the Dead* and **BFR**'s *The Chronicles of Addington Peace*, were republished in a single volume by The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box (Ontario, Canada). The short Introduction to this volume includes several errors and there are numerous transcription flaws in the texts. This makes this book unreliable for any serious study purposes, although they do give a general indication of the mediocre quality of **BFR**'s fiction.

**January.** **BFR**'s initial Addington Peace series was concluded with the sixth short story entitled *The Mystery of the Jade Spear*, in *The Lady's Home Magazine of Fiction*.

**12<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article entitled *The German War Scare and 'Vanity Fair' – The Alarmist War Rumours in Berlin*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp.48). This article responded to reported in German newspapers about a speech given by Dr. Paasche, an official of the German National Liberal Party, which accused Great Britain and *Vanity Fair* in particular, of hostility towards Germany and of proposing attacks on the Kaiser's Fleet. Paasche had suggested that only skilful German diplomacy had avoided the possibility of war. **BFR** pointed-out that only three articles had been published in *Vanity Fair* on this topic, with the first suggesting that the only possible justification for German plans to expand its fleet was to pose a challenge to Great Britain. **BFR** far-sightedly pointed out that Germany would have the potential for attacking Great Britain between 1908 and 1913. He concluded his article by suggesting that whilst Germany continued to increase its fleet there could be no friendship between the British lion and the Prussian Eagle. **BFR**'s arguments were slightly simplistic, in that he concentrated on the point that German colonies were so small that they did not justify the existence of a huge armed fleet, whilst ignoring the protection which Germans felt that they needed against the commercial blockading of their home country. His general approach, however, shows an awareness which is in marked contrast to that of his always

politically-naïve friend, **ACD**, who promoted the Anglo-German League and unwittingly assisted German intelligence gathering in the UK.

**12<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> February.** During the run-up to the General Election, **BFR** was short-listed as the prospective Liberal Parliamentary Candidate for Mid-Devonshire (the sitting M.P. was Mr. H. T. Eve, Conservative). In the event, **BFR** did not stand in 1905, but his friends, Lehmann, Illingworth and **ACD** each did (elected, elected and defeated respectively). The Liberals led by Henry Campbell-Bannerman gained power from the Conservative Party, which lost over half of their seats at Westminster.

**19<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article entitled ‘*Vanity Fair*’ and its Critics – A consideration of the Leading articles on our attitude towards Germany, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 83-84). This article responded to correspondence received about an earlier article written by **BFR** and which was published in *Vanity Fair* (see 12<sup>th</sup> January 1905). **BFR** pointed out that his statements made in *Vanity Fair* had been misinterpreted and that he had never suggested that the German Fleet should be attacked or that it could defeat the British Fleet. He suggested that if similar discussions had been carried out publicly prior to the Second Boer War and the Russo-Japanese War, then fighting might have been avoided.

**26<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Russia and France – An historic Parallel in Revolutions – Volley-Firing Excepted*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 120). This article discussed the attempted revolution which had begun in Russia during recent weeks and which is now referred to as the 1905 Revolution. **BFR** also highlighted the massacring of more than 300 peaceful civilians outside the Czar’s Winter Palace in St. Petersburg on the previous Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> January), which became known worldwide as “Bloody Sunday”. **BFR** pointed to parallels between the French Revolution of 1789 and the developing Russian Revolution. He suggested that this uprising must fail and he did not foresee the ensuing strikes which later lead to initial constitutional improvements. **BFR** also suggested that the consequences of a successful revolution could only be comprehended only by a ‘wild imagination’ such as that possessed by H. G. Wells. The article revealed **BFR**’s ignorance of the potentials of Socialism although, he did note, that the Czar’s power depended ultimately upon the peasants who manned the Army which had attacked the revolutionaries.

February. **BFR** had his Addington Peace story entitled *The Vanished Millionaire*, republished as *The Vanished Billionaire* in Pearson’s Magazine (US). The former story had been slightly re-written to meet the requirements of the American readership.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February.** **BFR** had an article entitled *False Economy – The Question of the Salary of the First Sea Lord*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 155-156). This article discussed correspondence received in response to an unattributed article (possibly written by **BFR**) which was entitled *The Man Who Saved Us Three Millions – Why Sir John Fisher Should Be a Better Paid Servant of the State* and which appeared in *Vanity Fair* (26<sup>th</sup> January 1905). **BFR**’s February article illustrated how the First Sea Lord had been responsible for saving vast sums of public money whilst being one of the lowest paid of the senior servants of the nation. **BFR** also broadened the discussion by commenting on the inadequacies of the War Office and the slowness of implementing lessons which had been learned during the Second Boer War.

**9<sup>th</sup> February.** BFR had an article entitled *The Franco-Russian Alliance – The Danger of its Possible Rupture*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 191-192). In this article, BFR gives a far too broad and speculative description of the strengths and weaknesses of various military alliances within Europe, concentrating on the possibility of the Franco-Russian Alliance being disrupted. History was to prove him wrong on several points, but he was right in stressing that the maintaining of the Franco-Russian Alliance was of crucial interest to Great Britain. He wrongly suggested that as Germany had many investments in Russia an alliance might be forged between those two countries. However, it is an interesting fact that even after war was declared between Germany and Russia, the former country continued to supply arms to the latter because of German capitalist interests.

**9<sup>th</sup> March.** *Vanity Fair* published an article about the political position of various British Liberal Unionist and Conservative local newspapers. The editor of each newspaper was approached and asked whether they agreed with the following statements. It appears that BFR was trying to elicit a consensus for his own political beliefs and apply pressure to the major political parties ahead of the 1906 General Election Campaign:

“That it would be detrimental to the best interests of the State for the Government to resign before a Colonial conference has been called, at which the various questions dealing with Tariff reform, Preferential Tariffs, etc., can be debated, and the result submitted to the Nations.”

194 specifically-named newspapers agreed.

189 other newspapers also agreed but asked not to be named.

“That until the Conference has reported the result of its deliberations, the interests of the nation demand that a Fiscal truce should be called within the Conservative and Liberal Unionist Parties; or, in other words, that fiscal reform should be removed entirely from Party Politics.”

176 specifically-named newspapers agreed.

164 other newspapers also agreed but asked not to be named.

“That the Conservative and Liberal Unionist Parties would earnestly welcome an arrangement by which Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, and the Duke of Devonshire might be brought together, and work as heretofore for the good of the State and the interests of the great parties to which they belong.”

188 specifically-named newspapers agreed.

174 other newspapers also agreed but asked not to be named

**26<sup>th</sup> February.** Sir Thomas Wemyss Reid died, aged 63 years (see **16<sup>th</sup> December 1892, 12<sup>th</sup> December 1893** and **3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894**).

**April.** 35 year-old Harold Gaye Michelmore, BFR’s Devon-based solicitor and friend, married 29 year-old Margaret Mignon Galabin in St Marylebone in London. Michelmore’s bride was the daughter of a Southwark-based Physician called Dr Alfred Galabin.

**May.** BFR had his Dartmoor-based short-story entitled *The Tragedy of Thomas Hearne* republished in Pearson’s Magazine (pp. 497-507).

**18<sup>th</sup> May.** **BFR** had an article entitled *Rose of the World*, published in the *The Pick of the Bookstall* section of *Vanity Fair* (pp. 708). **BFR** reviewed a recently published novel entitled *Rose of the Word*, written by husband-and-wife, Agnes and Egerton Smith Castle (Smith, Elder & Company). Egerton came from a rich family (his grandfather founded the *Liverpool Mercury*) and he had travelled widely. He attended universities in Paris, Glasgow and London and finally graduated from Cambridge University in 1881 (Trinity). He studied Law in London for a short period, served in the Indian Army and became Director of The *Liverpool Mercury* (which was later incorporated into *The Liverpool Daily Post*). Egerton was a champion fencer and wrote a book on the history of the sport. *Rose of the World* was made into a film by Adolf Zucor in 1918, with the great Broadway actress and silent movie star, Elsie Ferguson, in the title role.

**Summer.** **BFR** publicly supported Joseph Chamberlain's Tariff-Reform Campaign and criticised Arthur Balfour (Conservative Prime Minister). The Reformists opposed Balfour's Education Act (1902) and Licensing Act (1904), which empowered local authorities to collect more taxes from ratepayers. They also opposed Balfour's decision to permit 50,000 Chinese immigrants to work in South African gold-mines (Balfour's 'Free Trade' policy). These workers were paid poorly and were confined to barracks during non-working hours. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the British Trade Unions objected to what they perceived as 'inhumane slavery'. **BFR** responded to these policies by writing pro-reform poetry with a recurring theme which suggested, "Your food will cost you more." He also wrote the words to a popular tax-tariff reform song entitled *John Bull's Store* (see *early 1904*, **7<sup>th</sup> June 1906** and **22<sup>nd</sup> January 1907**). The music for this song was composed in 1903 by Robert Eden and the score was arranged by George W Byng (Elkin & Company Limited, London). It is noteworthy that **ACD** used a fictitious article on Free Trade from *The Times* (supposedly from 1889) to create the cut-out warning message which was posted to Sir Henry Baskerville in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

**29<sup>th</sup> June.** *Vanity Fair* published an article entitled *The Discomforts of English Racing – They Do These Things Much Better In France* (pp. 897-898). Half of this article consists of a letter written to **BFR** by an unnamed lady who complained about the poor facilities provided at British race courses, in comparison with those of France. The other half of the article comprised of **BFR**'s response to these comments. He suggested that the British racing-public deserved what they got because the upper-middle classes were unwilling to object to poor service. **BFR** added that many of these same people had acquired their wealth through marriage to American partners. He suggested that the English are always hampered through requiring slow changes, whereas other countries benefit from sudden changes, often omitting intermediate developments.

**July.** The Devon Association gathered at Princetown on Dartmoor for an annual two-day meeting. Arthur B. Prowse, M.D., F.R.G.S. (Doctor of Medicine and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society) presented a paper entitled *An Index to Dartmoor and its Borders Contained in the "Transactions" Vol.'s. I to XXX*. This paper was subsequently published in the *Report and Transactions of the Devon Association* (Vol. XXXVII, pp. 481-567) and lists all references made in earlier *Transaction* volumes to Dartmoor between 1866 and 1898 (some 18,000 pages in total). It also contains a map that defines which Devonshire Parishes should be regarded as falling within the area of Dartmoor. This item is reproduced in full (see Appendix 5) because it illustrates the scope of the papers available to **BFR** through his father and might prove to be a useful research tool for readers of this Chronology.

6<sup>th</sup> July. **BFR** had an article entitled *The Problem of National Degeneracy*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 15-16). In this article, **BFR** discussed recent reported of moral and physical degeneracy amongst the urbanised working classes. These concerns had been voiced during a conference held at Mansion House in London by speakers which included The Bishop of Rippon, The Lord Chief Justice, Sir William Broadbent, Bramwell Booth and Sir James Crichton Brown. **BFR** likened future social-prospects to the situation described in the novel entitled *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells (without actually naming this book). He also argued that many of those who complained about social-degeneracy had restricted public outlets for physical exercise and healthy entertainment. **BFR** concluded his article by stating that it was his belief that the astute working class man was being driven from the country by low wages, poor conditions and an ever increasing alien labour-force.

27<sup>th</sup> July. **BFR** had a short story entitled *The Valley of Peace – Which May or May Not Be an Allegory*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 114). This sentimental story seems to be based on Dartmoor because the Valley of Peace is described as being hidden on moorland which is occupied by hunting ghost hounds and covered by ramparts of hills and swamps which can swallow horses. The story involves a father who promises his very young son that he will, when the son is old enough, take him to a secret valley on the moor. When this boy grows older, his father repeatedly finds excuses for not going and eventually dies. When the son himself is dying, he tells a companion that he is, at last, going to find the Valley of Peace, and regrets that he did not travel there with his father.

17<sup>th</sup> August. **BFR** had a very short lyrical play entitled *The Messenger Bhoys – A Political Extravaganza*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 209). **BFR** introduced this semi-verse musical play by suggesting that those looking for material for a musical comedy might well look at The House of Commons.

17<sup>th</sup> August. *Vanity Fair* published the first in a series of five short stories by **BFR** collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Pen*. The first of these stories was numbered and entitled *I. - The Tact of Anne* (pp. 210).

31<sup>st</sup> August. **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Pen*, continued with *II. - The Unchivalric Conduct of M. Paul* (pp. 275-276).

7<sup>th</sup> September. **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Pen*, continued with *III. - The Return of Gilbert Hare* (pp. 306-307) [see **October 1887**].

21<sup>st</sup> September. **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Pen*, continued with *IV. - The Curious Coincidence of the Three Sermons* (pp. 373-374).

5<sup>th</sup> October. *Vanity Fair* published the first in a series of 25 short-stories by **BFR** collectively entitled *Vain Tales*. The first of these stories was numbered and entitled *No. DCLXL – The Woman's Point of View* (pp. 434-435).

12<sup>th</sup> October. **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *The Chronicles of Pen* ended with *V. – Mr. Mathers, Sportsman* (pp. 469). It is worth noting that this story has two central figures called 'Bunny' and 'Mathers' and that these names resemble that of a character called 'Bunny Manders' who featured alongside 'Raffles' in the books by E. W. Hornung (**ACD**'s brother-in-law).

**November.** BFR had a short-story entitled *The Return of Oliver Manton* published in Pearson's Magazine (US). This was later republished in England by Vanity Fair (see *7<sup>th</sup> December 1905*).

**26<sup>th</sup> November.** H. J. W. Dam (a Californian-born Journalist) published an article entitled *Arthur Conan Doyle – An Appreciation of the Author of 'Sir Nigel', the Great Romance Which Begins Next Sunday* (3 December 1905), in the *Sunday Magazine* supplement of *The New York Tribune*. It is not clear whether this was the record of a personal interview or the expansion of written notes in response to specific questions, but ACD did not visit the USA at this time. BFR is recorded as having said:

One of the most interesting weeks that I have ever spent was with Doyle on Dartmoor. He made the journey in my company shortly after I told him, and he had accepted from me, a plot which eventuated in the 'Hound of the Baskervilles'. Dartmoor, the great wilderness of bog and rock that cuts Devonshire at this point, appealed to his imagination. He listened eagerly to my stories of ghost hounds, of the headless riders and of the devils that lurk in the hollows – legends upon which I have been reared, for my home lay on the boarders of the moor. How well he turned to account his impressions will be remembered by all readers of 'The Hound'.

Two incidents come especially to my recollection. In the centre of the moor lies the famous convict prison of Princetown. In the great granite buildings, swept by the rains and clouded in the mists, are lodged over a thousand criminals, convicted on the more serious offences. A tiny village clusters at the foot of the slope on which they stand, and a comfortable old-fashioned inn affords accommodation to travellers.

The morning after our arrival Doyle and I were sitting in the smoking-room when a cherry-cheeked maid opened the door and announced 'Visitors to see you, gentlemen'. In marched four men, who solemnly sat down and began to talk about the weather, the fishing in the moor streams and other general subjects. Who they might be I had not the slightest idea. As they left I followed them into the hall of the inn. On the table were their four cards. The governor of the prison, the deputy governor, the chaplain and the doctor had come, as a pencil note explained, 'to call on Mr. Sherlock Holmes.'

One morning I took Doyle to see the mighty bog, a thousand acres of quaking slime, at any part of which a horse and rider might disappear, which figured so prominently in *The Hound*. He was amused at the story I told him of the moor man who on one occasion saw a hat near the edge of the morass and poked at it with a long pole he carried. 'You leave my hat alone!' came a voice from beneath it. 'Whoi!' Be there a man under 'at?' cried the startled rustic. 'Yes, you fool, and a horse under the man.'

From the bog we tramped eastward to the stone fort of Grimspound, which the savages of the Stone Age in Britain, the aborigines who were earlier settlers than Saxons or Danes or Norsemen, raised with enormous labour to act as a haven of refuge from marauding tribes to the South. The good preservation in which the

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Grimsound fort still remains is marvellous. The twenty-feet slabs of granite – how they were ever hauled to their places is a mystery to historian and engineer – still encircle the stone huts where the tribe lived. Into one of these Doyle and I walked, and sitting down on the stone which probably served the three thousand year-old chief as a bed we talked of the races of the past. It was one of the loneliest spots in Great Britain. No road came within a long distance of the place. Strange legends of lights and figures are told concerning it. Add thereto that it was a gloomy day overcast with heavy cloud.

Suddenly we heard a boot strike against a stone without and rose together. It was only a lonely tourist on a walking excursion, but at sight of our heads suddenly emerging from the hut he let out a yell and bolted. Our subsequent disappearance was due to the fact that we both sat down and rocked with laughter, and as he did not return I have small doubt Mr. Doyle and I added yet another proof of the supernatural to tellers of ghost stories concerning Dartmoor...

It should be noted that **BFR** stated that it was **ACD**'s impressions which were turned into *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and that it was only the plot of a story which he had given to **ACD**. That plot must, however, have been changed dramatically in order for it to accommodate the standard settings and structure of a Sherlock Holmes story.

**December.** *Windsor Magazine* (edited by Arthur Hutchinson – probably the “E” signature at the end of the following footnote), commenced publication of a series of twelve articles written by **BFR** collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*. The first of these articles was numbered and entitled *I – Royalty* (Vol. 13, pp. 35-51) and is accompanied by a footnote which declares:

The foregoing article is the first of

### **AN IMPORTANT SERIES**

In which, under this general title, practically

### **ALL THE CARTOONS OF CELEBRITIES**

Which have appeared in

### **“VANITY FAIR”**

Will be, for the first time, grouped together and republished, in the original colours. Ensuing articles will cover the realms of

THE CHURCH	THE POLITICAL WORLD	LITERATURE
THE ARMY	THE NAVY	SPORT
SOCIETY	ART	MUSIC
SCIENCE	THE STAGE	FINANCE

And every phase of public life invaded by the famous Cartoonists of “Vanity Fair”.

E

**7<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** had a short story numbered and entitled *II. – A Tale of Mystery – The Return of Oliver Manton*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 733-734). This story was previously

published in *Pearson's Magazine* (US) [see *November 1905*]. This was the final article that **BFR** had published in *Pearson's Magazine* (US).

**14<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR** and P. G. Wodehouse had a short play entitled *A Winters Tale – King Arthur and His Court* published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 778-781).

**28<sup>th</sup> December.** **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales*, continued with No. *DCCI. – The Sentiment of Self-Sacrifice* (pp. 846-847).

## 1906

Both **BFR** and **ACD** contributed to an anthology entitled *Great Short Stories, Volume I (I); Detective Stories* that was edited by William Patten (P. F. Collier & Sons of New York). This book (the first of three volumes) includes 12 short stories by Broughton Brandenburg (1), Arthur Conan Doyle (2), Anna Katherine Green (1), Edgar Allan Poe (3), Robert Louis Stevenson (4). The twelfth and final item is *The Vanished Millionaire* by Bertram Fletcher Robinson (pp. 411-429).

**January.** **BFR**'s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *II – Potentates, Princes and Presidents* (Vol. 13, pp. 261-276).

**11<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCIII. – Love and an Election* (pp. 50-51).

**25<sup>th</sup> January.** **BFR** had a short and satirical story numbered and entitled *I. — The Amazing Adventure of Mr. Hiram K. Paddle*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 114-115). This futuristic tale is the first in a two-part series entitled *When Labour Rules* (circ. 1920).

**February.** **BFR**'s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *III – Politics: First Series* (Vol. 13, pp. 383-398).

**1<sup>st</sup> February.** **BFR**'s two-part series collectively entitled *When Labour Rules* (circ. 1920), ended with *II. — In The House of Commons* (pp. 145-146).

**8<sup>th</sup> February.** **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCVII. – A Sentimental Episode* (pp. 178-179).

**March.** **BFR**'s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *IV – Politics: Second Series* (co-written with Wilfrid Meynell) [Vol. 13, pp. 489-506].

**1<sup>st</sup> March.** **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCX. – A Jest of Fate* (co-written with Dion Clayton Calthrop) [pp. 275-276].

**15<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXII. – The Last of the Lindores* (pp. 339-340).

**29<sup>th</sup> March.** **BFR**'s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXIV. – The Return of 'Piccadilly'* (pp. 403-404).

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**April.** BFR's series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *V – Bench and Bar* (Vol. 13, pp. 611-630).

**5<sup>th</sup> April.** BFR had an article entitled *The New Privileged Class — An Illogical and Disastrous Policy*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 431-432). This was the last attributed non-fictional article which BFR had published in *Vanity Fair*.

**12<sup>th</sup> April.** BFR's series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXVI. – Mr. Andrew Perkins – Knight Errant* (pp. 466-467).

**19<sup>th</sup> April.** BFR's series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXVII. – The End of the Chapter* (pp. 498-499).

**May.** BFR's series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *VI – The Army* (co-written with Evan Ashton) [Vol. 13, pp. 733-752].

**3<sup>rd</sup> May.** BFR's series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXIX – Miss Bulpit's Wooing* (pp. 562-563).

**10<sup>th</sup> May.** BFR's series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXX – West Africa Comes to Town* (pp. 594-595).

**24<sup>th</sup> May.** BFR had a short poem entitled *Contentment*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 656). It is an ironical, mild but pointed rebuke of those, who like the fictional hero of this poem, act with hypocrisy. It especially criticises those who profit from war trading.

**31<sup>st</sup> May.** BFR's series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXIII – Romance and a Racing Fraud* (pp. 691-692).

**June.** BFR's series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *VII – Music* (Vol. 14, pp. 35-52).

**7<sup>th</sup> June.** BFR had the lyrics of a short song (to be sung to the tune of *Widdicombe Fair*) entitled *Wastminster Vair*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 721). It is written in Devonshire dialect and addressed Radical complaints about the supposed ill-treatment of 64,000 Chinese 'Coolies' in South Africa. BFR noted that less than a dozen of these 'Coolies' had opted to return to China. This was the fourth song written by BFR (see **23<sup>rd</sup> January 1897, early 1904** and **Summer 1905**).

**7<sup>th</sup> June.** BFR's series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. *DCCXXIV – The Mystery of Mr. Nicholas Boushay* (pp. 725-726). This is a much-shorter ninth story about Addington Peace (see **August 1904** and **early 1905**). Initially Peace is referred to by the non-existent rank of 'Inspector-Detective' although thereafter he is referred to by the rank of 'Inspector' as in the previous stories. There is an unnamed narrator who is not specifically involved in the case in the way that Phillips is in the other stories. In this story, Peace logically deduces that the body of a missing man has been hidden in a recently-dug grave. BFR recorded in a footnote to this story, that a real-life murderer had concealed the body of his victim in this way and that the body went undiscovered for 11 years. The story is set within a fictional village called 'Crone' in Dorset. The description of Crone bears

a closer resemblance to Newton Abbot than to anywhere in Dorset. There is also an interesting reference to a nearby location called Heatree in the story. There is no village or town called Heatree in Dorset or anywhere else in England, but there is a Heatree House on the edge of Dartmoor. ‘Harry’ Baskerville later ludicrously claimed that Heatree House inspired ‘Baskerville Hall’ in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see **6<sup>th</sup> February 1961**).

**14<sup>th</sup> June.** **BFR** had a very short and humorous playlet entitled *How We Entertain*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 756-757).

**21<sup>st</sup> June.** **BFR**’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. DCCXXVI – A Story of the Ascot Stakes (pp. 789-791).

**July.** **BFR**’s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: VIII – Cricket” (co-written with Home Gordon) [Vol. 14, pp. 157-178].

**4<sup>th</sup> July.** Louise Conan Doyle (First Lady Conan Doyle) died aged 49 years from tuberculosis at her home in Hindhead, Surrey (she married **ACD** on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1885).

**4<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR**’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. DCCXXVIII – In Which a Hero of Henley Suffers Adversity (pp. 18-19).

**11<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR**’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with No. DCCXXIX – How Inspector Bullen Respected the Ends of Justice (pp. 51-52).

**14<sup>th</sup> July.** **BFR**’s mother 66 year-old Emily Robinson died at the Springfield Nursing Home in Newton Abbot (see **1869**, **3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881**, early **1881**, **11<sup>th</sup> August 1903** and **15<sup>th</sup> August 1903**). She was buried with her husband at St. Andrew’s Church (the burial service was conducted by their friend, The Rev. R. D. Cooke). **BFR** commissioned C. E. Kemp to design a commemorative stained-glass window which depicts the Good Shepherd with St. Peter and St. Paul. This window, which can still be viewed today, was added to the north-side of the Chancel at St Andrew’s Church, directly opposite the memorial window dedicated to her husband, Joseph Fletcher Robinson (see **15<sup>th</sup> August 1903**). It is inscribed as follows:

“To the glory of God and in ever loving  
memory of Emily Robinson, who entered  
into rest xiv<sup>th</sup> July mcmvi aged lxvii  
years; this window is the gift of her son  
Bertram Fletcher Robinson who only  
Survived her six months.”

Shortly thereafter, ‘Harry’ Baskerville left the employment of the Robinson family after twenty years of service and was re-employed as a Gardener by a local Estate Agent, Auctioneer and Publican called Mr. Sawdye. Baskerville relocated from Ipplepen to Penrae, Ashburton in Devon with his wife and daughter, Myrtle Alberta Baskerville (they later had a second daughter called Eunice Freda Baskerville). Electoral registers reveal that Henry Baskerville later lived at Laburnums, Ashburton (1918-1932) and then at Dorncliffe, 18 West Street, Ashburton (1932-1962).

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**25<sup>th</sup> July.** BFR had a short story, numbered and entitled “No. DCCXXXI – The Moth”, published in *Vanity Fair* as part of the series entitled ‘Vain Tales’ (pp 115-116).

**28<sup>th</sup> July.** Emily Robinson’s estate was proved at £17,679 17s 5d gross, and Sidney Hacker was awarded probate. Emily’s last will-and-testament was witnessed by both Sidney Hacker and Harold Gaye Michelmore. BFR was named as the principal beneficiary and inherited Park Hill Estate.

**August.** BFR’s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *IX – Rowing, Games, and Athletics* (Vol. 14, pp. 279-296).

**22<sup>nd</sup> August.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXXXV – The Inadvisability of Laying Your Cards on the Table* (pp. 244).

**29<sup>th</sup> August.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXXXVI – The Major and the Lady* (pp. 275-276).

**September.** BFR’s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *X – Empire-Builders* – (Vol. 14, pp. 401-420).

**5<sup>th</sup> September.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXXXVII – The First Case of Dr. Edwin Maples* (pp. 306-307).

**12<sup>th</sup> September.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXXXVIII – ‘Dreams and Visions’ - A Racing Story* (pp. 339-340).

**19<sup>th</sup> September.** BFR had an article entitled *The Gospel of Recreation — The Good Advice in the Speech of James Crichton Browne*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 367-368).

**26<sup>th</sup> September.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXL – The Thirteenth Stone* (pp. 404-405).

**October.** BFR’s series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, continued with: *XI – Science and Medicine* (co-written with Charles R. Hewitt) (Vol. 14, pp. 539-560).

**3<sup>rd</sup> October.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXLI – The Misfortunes of William Henry Eagles, J.P.* (pp. 437-438).

**10<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* continued with *No. DCCXLII – A Dramatic Engagement* (pp. 467-468).

**17<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR had a poem entitled *An Over-Married Man*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 498).

**17<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR’s series of short stories collectively entitled *Vain Tales* concluded with *No. DCCXLIII – Two Soft Things* (pp. 501-503).

**18<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR probably attended a meeting of ‘Our Society’ (see early **1904**), during which Max Pemberton delivered a speech entitled *An Attempt to Blackmail Me*.

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**20<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR played golf with ACD and his younger brother, Innes (1873-1919) and two friends (Wood and Sholts Wood) at Hindhead, Surrey.

**24<sup>th</sup> October.** BFR had a short playlet entitled *The Gathering of the Government – or, How They Loved Each Other*, published in *Vanity Fair* (pp. 529-530). It is set within the smoking room of The House of Commons and contrasts the language, pastimes and aims of caricatured representatives of the different political parties (including the new Labour Party). This is the last item by-lined by BFR to be published in *Vanity Fair*.

**November.** BFR's series collectively entitled *Chronicles in Cartoon: A Record of our Own Times*, concluded with: *XII – Explorers and Inventors* (Vol. 14, pp. 645-660).

**November.** BFR was appointed editor of a weekly London newspaper called *The World – A Journal for Men and Women*. It had been founded in 1874 by M. A. Y. Yates and E. C. Grenville Murray, with the former quickly becoming the editor and Sole Proprietor and it ceased publication in 1922. It had originally concentrated on the publication of personal criticism and gossip. By November 1906 it was owned by Lord Northcliffe (Alfred Harmsworth) and managed by Max Pemberton. Frank Harris was appointed to replace BFR as editor of *Vanity Fair*, a position he retained until 1911.

**13<sup>th</sup> November.** BFR visited the office of a solicitor, W. E. Crimp, at 17 Essex Street, Strand, Westminster, London. He wrote his last will-and-testament and appointed both Gladys and Harold Gaye Michelmore as Executors and Trustees. The will was witnessed by Crimp and Charles Thomas (a Journalist from Kingston-on-Thames) and it reveals that the Robinsons had relocated to 44 Eaton Terrace, Belgravia, London. This property was constructed about 1884 and was run for nearly 20 years as a lodging house and apartments by Henry Purchase. About 1903 the new occupier was a Walter E. Evans-Jones, F.R.G.S., D.L., J.P. (Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Deputy Lieutenant and Justice-of-the-Peace). It was Evans-Jones who subsequently sold 44 Eaton Terrace to BFR during 1905.

**8<sup>th</sup> December.** BFR and Major C. G. Matson attended the Paris Exhibition in France. The latter man wrote three articles about the exhibition for *The World* and these were published on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of December.

**11<sup>th</sup> December.** *The World* published a literary supplement entitled *Boot and Stocking Fund Supplement*. It was announced in this supplement that BFR had recently completed a story entitled *An Episode of 1746: Being the Unchivalric Conduct of an Irish Gentleman*. This story does not appear to have been published (see **21<sup>st</sup> January 1907**).

**23<sup>rd</sup> December.** The Paris Exhibition closed.

## **1907**

**16<sup>th</sup> January.** BFR's friend and former flatmate, Percy Holden Illingworth M.P., married 23 year-old Mary Mackenzie Coats in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. It is likely that BFR had been invited to this event (see **3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902**) but could not attend due to illness (see **21<sup>st</sup> January 1907**).

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**21<sup>st</sup> January.** 36 year-old **BFR** died during the early hours of the morning. **BFR**'s brother-in-law, 'Claude' Morris of "HMS Resolution, Chatham" was present at the time of his death. Morris registered **BFR**'s death on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1907 at the St. George Hanover Square Registry Office in the sub-district of Belgravia, London. **BFR**'s occupation was correctly recorded as "Journalist and editor" but his name was incorrectly recorded as "Bernard Fletcher Robinson" (see **28<sup>th</sup> February 1907**). The cause of **BFR**'s death as recorded on the official death certificate was as follows:

Enteric Fever 21 days. Perforation of intestine. Peritonitis 24 hours. Certified by Henry Menzies M.B.

Henry Menzies acted as a Physician for the Popular Assurance Company and ran a private practise from his home at 4 Ashley Gardens where he had resided since 1897. The flat occupied by Lewis, Illingworth and **BFR** from 1895 at 126 Ashley Gardens is located within 70 meters (230 feet) from 4 Ashley Gardens. Menzies was also the Secretary of The Jesus College Cambridge Society to which **BFR** and Illingworth also belonged (see **Michaelmas Term 1890, early 1897, late June 1894** and **September 1903**). It is therefore very probable that **BFR** and Menzies were well acquainted with one another.

Contradictory accounts have been offered by associates of **BFR** to account for his sudden and unexpected death at such an early age. The first of these links his death to visits paid by him to the British Museum in order to research a female mummy which had been linked to the death of several earlier researchers (see **1913, 7<sup>th</sup> April 1922, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1931** and **1933**). Marshall reported in his autobiography that **BFR** "...had gone over to Paris, caught pneumonia, and died in a few days..." (see **1933**). Pemberton reported in his autobiography that **BFR** "...went to the Paris Exhibition ... got typhoid, and died in a few days." (see **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907** and **1936**). Finally, 'Harry' Baskerville reported that **BFR** "...went to France...contracted food poisoning and he only lived 8 days..." (see **6<sup>th</sup> February 1961**). In each case it can be argued and/or demonstrated that these accounts were given by elderly men whose recollection of the precise events surrounding **BFR**'s death was dimmed by time.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January.** **BFR** obituaries were published in *The World*, *The Times* and *The Daily Express* newspapers. The last of these reported:

... It was his remarkable versatility that made Mr. Fletcher Robinson so conspicuous a success as a journalist. It is no disparagement of the many brilliant Contributors to the daily newspapers to call him the best descriptive writer of the day. He was interested in most subjects, from the serious problems that agitate all humanity to the topics of the passing hour, and he wrote brilliantly about all...In his spare moments Mr. Robinson collaborated with Sir A. Conan Doyle in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' wrote many thrilling detective stories and edited a series of volumes on sport. He was also the author of the popular political song 'John Bull's Store,' that was sung all over England a few years ago ... Few men had a larger circle of friends. His was the sunniest and most delightful of natures. He was a charming companion, a witty conversationalist and a most loyal colleague ... and he will be much missed in the world of politics, literature and sport.

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**24<sup>th</sup> January.** BFR was conveyed by a Great Western Railway train from London to Newton Abbot (9.00am - 2.40pm). His funeral service began at 3.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Ipplepen. This service was conducted jointly by The Rev. R. D. Cooke (Rector) and The Rev. R. W. Manneer (Headmaster of Newton College). Amongst the mourners were Richard Robinson (cousin), Claude Morris (brother-in-law), Mrs. Holt (aunt), Harold Michelmore (friend and solicitor), and 'Harry' Baskerville (former employee). Gladys did not attend BFR's funeral but was, instead, comforted by Lady Harmsworth (wife of Lord Northcliffe) at Newton Abbot (probably at the Queen's Hotel opposite the Railway Station). The assembled congregation sang *Fight the Good Fight* (words by John Monsell, 1863) and *Peace, Perfect Peace* (words by Edward Bickersteph, 1875). Interestingly, the music for the first of these two hymns was originally composed by William Boyd in 1864 for another hymn at the behest of The Rev. Sabine Baring Gould. The inscription on BFR's headstone reads:

IN  
LOVING MEMORY OF  
BERTRAM FLETCHER  
ROBINSON,  
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF  
GLADYS HILL ROBINSON,  
OF PARK HILL, IPPLEPEN,  
WHO DIED 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 1907,  
AGED 36 YEARS,

“DO WELL, O LORD: UNTO THOSE THAT  
ARE GOOD AND TRUE OF HEART.”

Many floral tributes were received at St Andrew's Church. Notable messages included:

*To my dear husband, in loving memory*

(Gladys Robinson)

*In affectionate remembrance from Mr and Mrs O. R. Robinson.*

(Oswald Richard Robinson was the son of the late Sir John Robinson and BFR's cousin).

*In ever affectionate memory and with deepest sympathy from his cousin, Emily Robinson*

(Daughter of Sir John. Resided with BFR at 4 Addison Crescent and presumably named after his mother).

*With love and sympathy from Dulcie and Claude*

(sister-in-law and brother-in-law).

*From Mr. and Mrs. Percy Everett and his little Godchild, Winn. God bless you then until we meet again*

(see 24<sup>th</sup> January 1901).

*With deep sympathy from Lord and Lady Northcliffe*

(see 24<sup>th</sup> January 1901).

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

*In affectionate remembrance of an old friend, from Mr. Trevor Lewis, 126 Ashley Gardens, London, S.W. 1*

*With deepest sympathy from Sir Henry and Lady Seton Karr, and Miss Karr, of Kippilaw, Chester Square, S.W.*

(Sir Henry was M.P. for St Helens [1885-1906] and was amongst 1012 passengers who drowned when the Empress of Ireland sank in the St. Lawrence River in Canada during 1914).

*In loving memory of an old and valued friend from Arthur Conan Doyle*

*With sincere remembrance from Sir William J. Bell, 211 Ashley Gardens, S.W.  
(see 24<sup>th</sup> January 1901).*

*In loving memory and kind remembrance from Miss Jessie Pope, Regent's Park Road, Finchley*

(Contributor to *The Daily Express*, *The Daily Mirror* and *Punch*. She wrote a eulogy to **BFR** which is reproduced at the end of this Chronology)

*From 'Our Society,' with deepest regrets from fellow members  
(see early 1904).*

*In loving remembrance of dear Fletcher Robinson, from the staff of 'The Observer' Office – revered as a colleague and loved as a friend  
From the staff of *The Daily Express**

*With deepest sympathy and warmest regard from the staff of *The World*, to its late editor*

*In loving memory and kind remembrances from Miss Jessie Pope, Regent's Park Road, Finchley.  
(see 1941).*

**24<sup>th</sup> January.** The Rev. Septimus Pennington conducted a memorial service for **BFR** at St Clement Danes Church, Strand, London. Amongst the many who attended were Lord Northcliffe (Proprietor and Publisher of *The Daily Express*, *The Daily Mirror* and *The World* newspapers), Max Pemberton (Author, Journalist and knighted in 1928), Dr. Sir Felix Sermon (Physician and Laryngologist), Sir Joseph Lawrence (Proprietor of *The Railway Herald*, tax-reform campaigner and former M.P.), Sir William Bell (later of the British Institute of Patentees), Arthur Hammond Marshall (Author and *Punch* Contributor), Cyril Arthur Pearson (Newspaper Proprietor, founder of the Tariff-Reform League and later knighted for his work with the blind), Owen Seaman (editor of *Punch*, knighted in 1914), Percy Everett (Literary editor of *The Daily Express*, editor of *The Novel Magazine*, and knighted in 1930 for his work with the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association) and Charles Thomas (Journalist who witnessed **BFR**'s last will-and-testament). The congregation sang *Peace, Perfect Peace*. Arthur Marshall later had a short account of this memorial service published in his anecdotal autobiography, *Out and About* (see 1933).

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

**BFR's** name was added to a stained-glass window which he had recently commissioned to commemorate the memory of his mother, Emily Robinson (see **14<sup>th</sup> July 1906**). This window was subsequently installed in the Chancel of St Andrew's Church, opposite the window dedicated to Joseph Fletcher Robinson (see **15<sup>th</sup> August 1903**).

**24<sup>th</sup> January.** A further **BFR** obituary was published in *The Western Guardian* under the heading *London editor's Death* and reported:

He had been ill for about eight days, suffering from the typhoid fever ... His death at the early age of 35 years brings a brilliant career to a premature close.

**25<sup>th</sup> January.** The local *Western Morning News* reported:

The news of Mr. Robinson's death caused a profound impression at Ipplepen, where his family will always be remembered with affection.

**26<sup>th</sup> January.** Obituaries to **BFR** appeared in *The Sphere*, *The Athenaeum*, *The Illustrated London News* and *The Mid-Devon and Newton Times*. Additional obituaries were published in *Vanity Fair*, *The Book of Blues* and the *1907 Annual Report* of the Jesus College Cambridge Society.

**30<sup>th</sup> January.** The undertakers forwarded an invoice for £97 2s 9d plus £1 2s 6d to 44 Eaton Terrace marked for the attention of Harold Gaye Michelmore.

**30<sup>th</sup> January.** Harold Gaye Michelmore wrote the following letter to one Miss Taylor (held by the British Library of Political and Economic Science at the London School of Economics under their reference, Mill-Taylor-Vol. 29, item 306-307):

Dear Miss Taylor

Your telegram was forwarded to me at Chudleigh last night and I can not tell you how sorry I am to hear of your Aunts' death. I know that she was getting up in years but when last I saw her she looked so well and was obviously devoted to Miss Trimble and yourself that I am sure the death must be a great shock to you both.

I am just starting for London in connection with the death of one of my oldest friends Mr. Fletcher Robinson the editor of the World whose death you may have noticed in the paper last week but if I can be of assistance to you in your sorrow before the funeral I will return at once. I had arranged to stay at 49 Wimpole Street W [Westminster, London] and a telegram there will find me at once.

I have appointments until Monday [**4<sup>th</sup> February**] when I intended coming back but if I can help you please send me a wire and I will cancel them until next week and come back. In any event please let me know when and where the funeral will be as I should like to attend it if I can under the circumstances.

I should cancel my visit so I can and not start were it not that Mr. Robinson's Widow who is distinctly in much sorrow is expecting me.

Yours most sincerely,  
Harold G. Michelmore.

**16<sup>th</sup> February.** BFR's estate was proved at £35,949 3s 0d net and Michelmore was granted probate. BFR left 2000 pounds each to Michelmore and several cousins (sons of his Aunt Holt née Hobson of Birkenhead). BFR also bequeathed £2,000 in-trust to Newton College for a Fletcher Robinson Modern Languages Scholarship and £1,000 in-trust to Newton Abbot Hospital for a Fletcher Robinson Bed. Gladys was named as the principal beneficiary and inherited the remaining balance of BFR's estate.

**28<sup>th</sup> February.** Michelmore and Claude Morris officially corrected the name recorded on BFR's death certificate from 'Bernard Fletcher Robinson' to 'Bertram Fletcher Robinson'.

May. Munsey's Magazine (US) published an article written by BFR shortly before his death which was entitled *People Much Talked About in London – The Prominent Men and Women whose Names are most frequently Heard in the World's Metropolis – an Interesting Procession of Celebrities, Political, Military, Naval, Literary, and Social – their personalities* (Vol. XXXVII, No. II). A footnote to BFR's name reads:

This is one of the last articles written by the author before his death, which occurred a few months ago. Mr. Robinson had recently been appointed editor of the London *World*. He was a rising figure in English journalism.

This 11-page article discussed many of the most famous British personalities of the time. It is illustrated with 20 photographic portraits including those of Arthur Balfour, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Winston Churchill and Keir Hardie. Amongst the literary figures we have George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, Rudyard Kipling and ACD. BFR wrote the following under the sub-heading of *The Creator of Sherlock Holmes* (pp. 142-143):

In Pall Mall, too, it is likely that we shall meet some of the more famous of English literary men bound for that most exclusive of clubs — the Athenaeum. Here comes that kindly giant, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, prince of detectives. He is of a fine British type, a clear-headed, sport-loving, big-hearted patriot.

A mention of the Athenaeum Club reminds me of a story Sir Arthur told me of his first visit, after election, (8<sup>th</sup> March 1901), to that home of the respectabilities. He walked up to the hall-porter and, desiring to introduce himself to that important person's notice, asked if there were any letters for Conan Doyle. Now the Athenaeum is a favorite resort of the clerical dignitaries, and the hall-porter, who had small acquaintance with literature, replied 'No, canon, there are no letters for you.'

Sir Arthur did not care to explain, and for some weeks he suffered much from the disapproving eye of the hall-porter. The suit of tweeds affected by the great novelist shocked that functionary deeply, and when one day Sir Arthur appeared in a long racing-coat, the spectacle had such an effect upon him that Doyle had to rush to the desk and explain that he was not a dignitary of the church, but a writer of tales to whom some latitude in dress might be allowed.

Sir Arthur is an earnest supporter of the rifle-club movement. He has erected targets for a miniature rifle-range at his house on the moors at Hindhead (founded in late 1900). There you may observe groom and carpenter, mason and village blacksmith competing against one another on a Saturday afternoon in the same fashion as their forebears did with ‘The Long’ bow, winning Crecy and Agincourt thereby. Among them the novelist may be seen at his best, shooting with them, cheering them on with kindly words or awarding prizes, chiefly out of his own pocket.

Clearly, **BFR** must have written this article prior to his trip to the Paris Exhibition and his subsequent illness. His comments evidently show that he sustained a high regard for **ACD** well after publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the speculations of an authorship controversy. This article reveals that **BFR** was perfectly content with both the acknowledgements paid to him for his contribution and the conduct of **ACD** generally.

**4<sup>th</sup> May.** Cassell’s (London) republished an anonymous selection of **BFR**’s Peace stories in *The Penny Magazine* under the collective title of *Addington Peace of the ‘Yard’*. The first story to appear was numbered and entitled *I - The Terror in the Snow* appeared (Vol. XVII, pp. 145-153). The series was attributed to “... the author who collaborated with Sir A. Conan Doyle in ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles’.” The first two stories were illustrated with drawings by F. Anderson which are dated either ‘06’ or ‘07’. The remaining four stories are illustrated with anonymous drawings.

**11<sup>th</sup> May.** The anonymous series of **BFR** stories collectively entitled *Addington Peace of the ‘Yard’* continued with *II - Mr Taubery’s Diamond* (Vol. XVII, pp. 215-222).

**18<sup>th</sup> May.** The anonymous series of **BFR** stories collectively entitled *Addington Peace of the ‘Yard’* continued with *III - Mr Coran’s Election* (Vol. XVII, pp. 277-284).

**25<sup>th</sup> May.** The anonymous series of **BFR** stories collectively entitled *Addington Peace of the ‘Yard’* continued with *IV - The Mystery of the Causeway* (Vol. XVII, pp. 340-347).

**1<sup>st</sup> June.** The anonymous series of **BFR** stories collectively entitled *Addington Peace of the ‘Yard’* continued with *V - The Vanished Millionaire* (Vol. XVII, pp. XXX).

**8<sup>th</sup> June.** The anonymous series of **BFR** stories collectively entitled *Addington Peace of the ‘Yard’* concluded with *VI - The Mystery of the Jade Spear* (Vol. XVII, pp. 471-479).

This serialisation in the *Penny Magazine* does not include the stories of *Amaroff the Pole* or *The Tragedy of Thomas Hearne*. Both these stories were also omitted from the serialisation featured in *The Lady’s Home Magazine of Fiction* (1904) but were included in the book version entitled *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* (1905).

**18<sup>th</sup> September.** **ACD** married Jean Leckie (the second Lady Conan Doyle) at St. Margaret’s Church, Westminster, London.

## 1908

Max Pemberton had a story entitled *The Wheels of Anarchy* published by Cassell and Company Limited (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne). This book includes the following ‘Author’s Note’:

This story was suggested to me by the late B. Fletcher Robinson, a dear friend, deeply mourned. The subject was one in which he had interested himself for some years; and almost the last message I had from him expressed the desire that I would keep my promise and treat of the idea in a book. This I have now done, adding something of my own to the brief notes he left me, but chiefly bringing to the task an enduring gratitude for a friendship which nothing can replace.

## 1909

Gladys Robinson sold both 44 Eaton Terrace (to William Maxwell) and Park Hill House (to Sidney King Eldridge). Sometime thereafter she married Major William Frederick Halliday and they later moved to ‘Northend’, 82 St. Mark’s Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

## 1913

Douglas Brooke Wheelton Sladen (Australian born Journalist, writer and poet) published his autobiography entitled *Twenty Years of My Life* (E. P. Dutton, New York). He referred to the delivery of a mummy to the British Museum and explained why some people linked this event with **BFR**’s death (pp. 275):

The popular account of his [**BFR**]’s death is that, not believing in the malignant powers of the celebrated mummy case in the British Museum, he determined to make a slashing attack on the belief in the columns of *The Daily Express*, and went to the museum, and sent his photographer there, to collect materials for that purpose: that he was then, although in the most perfect health, struck down mysteriously by some malady of which he died.

It might be noted that **BFR** was actually the editor of *Vanity Fair* when the British Museum took receipt of the mummy in question.

## 1915

**3<sup>rd</sup> January.** Percy Holden Illingworth, M.P., died aged 45 years from food poisoning. Like **BFR**, he was a life-long Liberal and was a member of both the Union and Reform Clubs in London. Jesus College possesses a large portrait painting of Illingworth which is in need of some restoration (see *Easter Term 1890, Michaelmas Term 1890, Lent Term 1891, Michaelmas Term 1891, Lent Term 1892, June/July 1892, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1892, Lent Term 1893, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1893, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1893, 25<sup>th</sup> November 1893, ‘The Long’ 1894, Lent*

**Term 1895, early 1897, late 1897, early 1901, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902, September 1903, 12<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> February 1905, 16<sup>th</sup> January 1907, 1933 and 7<sup>th</sup> March 1936).**

## 1916

23<sup>rd</sup> September. George Townsend Warner died in Harrow at the age of 51 years (see early *Summer Term 1884, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1884, July 1885, July 1886, March 1887, July 1887* and for 1888; 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> July, late *Summer Term* and late *Christmas Term. May 1889, April 1890, early May Term 1891, Lent Term 1893, early May Term 1893 and 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916*). His wife, Nora, later remarried and his daughter, Sylvia Townsend Warner, achieved some success as a writer (see *1<sup>st</sup> May 1978*).

**25<sup>th</sup> September.** An obituary to George Warner was published in *The Times* newspaper (pp. 11).

## 1917

MKR was incorporated and began trading under the title of *Meade-King, Robinson and Company Limited*. The company relocated to new premises at Tower Building, 22 Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1BL (currently Head-Office).

## 1918

24<sup>th</sup> August. 55 year-old Alfred Hubert Sharman drowned whilst bathing in the River Nile, Egypt. He was formerly a Sizar at St. John's College, Cambridge University and had graduated with a Tripos B.A. degree in 1885. Sharman was an assistant master at 'Newton College' between about 1886 and 1891 and was both a keen rugby player and member of the debating society. It is therefore probable that he partially influenced BFR's own interest in both these extra-curricular activities (see *22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902, 20<sup>th</sup> October 1930* and *1<sup>st</sup> October 1946*). Between 1899 and 1918, Sharman was the Headmaster of the Saidia Government School, Giza, Egypt and Khedivial College, Cairo, Egypt (see *February 1887, October 1887, Spring Term 1888, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1888, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1888, Christmas Term 1888, February 1889* and *May 1889*).

## 1921

Both Richard Robinson and Richard Meade-King retired from the board of MKR. Two of Richard Robinson's sons (Arthur and Frederick Allen Robinson) and one of his nephews (Eric Robinson), also held directorships with the company (1917, 1931 and by 1937 respectively). In 1949, all three men were active members of the MKR board.

19<sup>th</sup> April. Trevor Gwyn Elliot Lewis died, aged 50 years (see early *Michaelmas 1890, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July 1892, 25<sup>th</sup> February 1893, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1893, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1894, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1894, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1894, Summer 1894*, early 1901, *29<sup>th</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April 1901, 21<sup>st</sup> January 1907, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907* and 1933). Pilsbury painted a portrait of Lewis, which, according to Paul Cox of the National Portrait Gallery, is still displayed at his family home (Hean Castle, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, Wales).

**9<sup>th</sup> December.** Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson died, aged 55 years, following a fall in his bath (he had been blind since 1910) [see late **1899**, **24<sup>th</sup> April 1900**, **11<sup>th</sup> July 1900**, **May 1901**, **10<sup>th</sup> November 1904**, **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907** and **6<sup>th</sup> February 1961**].

## 1922

**23<sup>rd</sup> February.** **BFR**'s uncle, Frederick Robinson died aged 90 years in Ipswich, Suffolk (see **1827**, **1840**, **1841**, **1843**, **1850**, **1858**, **1865**, **1881** and **30<sup>th</sup> November 1903**). He had co-founded Stowmarket Liberal Association and served as its secretary for several years. Frederick had also served as a magistrate, churchwarden and chairman of Stowupland Parish Council. In 1911 he wrote an unpublished monograph entitled *Reminiscences of Frederick Robinson – For my Children* (with a footnote added in 1918). This article provided some early biographical details about the Robinson family for this Chronology..

**7<sup>th</sup> April.** At the start of his second ‘Spiritualist Mission’ to North America, **ACD** remarked to a *Daily Express* journalist in New York that he believed **BFR** was killed by “... malevolent Egyptian elementals ...”. **ACD** linked **BFR**'s death to the research that he had conducted at the Egyptology Department of the British Museum in 1906 (see **21<sup>st</sup> January 1907**, **1913**, **2<sup>nd</sup> March 1931** and **1933**). **ACD** added that he tried to “dissuade” **BFR** from pursuing this research which suggested that the two men were still closely associated during 1906 (see **18<sup>th</sup> October 1906** and **20<sup>th</sup> October 1906**). This observation further undermines the allegations of an authorship controversy surrounding *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see *October 1901*).

**14<sup>th</sup> August.** Lord Northcliffe (Alfred Harmsworth) died, aged 56 years, following a streptococcal infection (see **early 1904**, **November 1904** and **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**).

## 1924

Frederick Andrew Rice (Downing College, 1892-1895 and Vicar of St. Anne's Church, Stamford Hill, London, 1903-1927), had a book entitled *The Granta and its Contributors 1889-1914*, published by Constable, London. He reported that R. C. Lehmann (absentee Proprietor and editor of *The Granta*), had appointed four ‘Cambridge editors’ to manage *The Granta* between Michaelmas 1889 and Lent 1895. These were in order of their appointment; E. A. Newton, Charles Geake, R. P. Mahaffy and **BFR** (see early **Michaelmas Term 1892**). Rice also reported the following incident which involved **BFR** and a Contributor called Robert Carr Bosanquet (Trinity 1890-1894, Professor of Classical Archaeology at Liverpool University 1906-1920, J.P., Member of the Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments in Wales and the Advisory Board on Ancient Monuments in England):

Christ's was generally associated with an exceptional number of Indian students, and there is a story (now well known) invented by Bosanquet, which will bear re-telling: A missionary had the misfortune to be captured by a tribe of cannibals, who proceeded to fasten him to a stake before settling down to their meal. As the unhappy man was being secured, one of the natives, who had been examining his few possessions, found a Christ's blazer amongst them. He at once ordered the missionary to be released, apologized to him on behalf of his brother cannibals, and added in a friendly tone, “We are all Christ's men here.”

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

Bosanquet first told this tale to B. Fletcher Robinson of Jesus, who was sub-editor of the *Granta* at the time. Robinson was delighted, and soon after repeated it to the Master of his own College (the famous “Black” Morgan), who at once put on cap and gown and hurried off to tell the Master of Christ’s!

Rice also recorded that Mahaffy wrote an interesting article on his editorship in a later number of *The Granta*:

When I became editor in the Autumn of 1892, there had been great changes in our staff at Cambridge. All our principle writers had gone down, especially the poets. I was left almost entirely without poets, rowing-correspondents, or anything else. It is wonderful, however, how quickly one finds poets; in a very few weeks I had discovered a new nest of singing birds . . . . B. F. Robinson, of Jesus, was my rugby man, and afterwards, when he was editor of vanity Fair and then of *The World*, I used to tell him that I had launched him . . . .

Rice later continued:

Mahaffy was succeeded by B. Fletcher Robinson, who he mentions above. Robinson, the last of the Cambridge editors under Lehmann, was a Rugby Blue and later on became a journalist of very considerable merit. He died in 1907 at the early age of thirty-five. The most important writer for the *Granta* during his editorship was Owen Seaman, while at the same time Barry Pain was drawing his long series of contributions to a close.

**2<sup>nd</sup> January.** The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould died aged 89 years at his residence at Lew Trenchard near Okehampton, Devon (see early *Summer Term 1884, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1884, August 1900 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907*). Since 1878, he had been a very active and influential member of the Devon Association and became a member of its Folklore Committee prior to publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The following obituary was published in the *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* (Vol. LVI, pp. 30-32):

The REV. SABINE BARING-GOULD, M.A., J.P., the eldest son of Edward Baring-Gould, Esq., and his wife Charlotte Sophia, daughter of Admiral F. Godolphin Bond, R.N., was born at Heavitree (Exeter, Devon) on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1834. After taking his M.A. degree at Clare College, Cambridge, in 1856, he was ordained deacon in 1864 and became curate of Horbury in Yorkshire. Taking priest’s orders in 1865, he was successively vicar of Dalton, Yorkshire, 1866, and rector of East Mersea, Essex, 1871.

On the death of his father in 1872 he succeeded to the family estate, and on the death of his uncle he presented himself, in 1881, to the living of Lew Trenchard.

He married, in 1868, Grace, the daughter of Mr. Joseph Taylor of Horbury, Yorkshire. From early life Mr. Baring-Gould took a keen interest in Dartmoor and its antiquities; and the moorland continued to occupy a leading place in his thoughts long after extensive European travel had familiarised him with other countries. When, following the results of the late Mr. Robert Burnard’s work at Broadun (a prehistoric pound near Postbridge in Devon which is also referred to as Grimsound), the Dartmoor Exploration Committee of the Devonshire Association was formed, Mr. Baring-Gould was appointed Secretary of the Committee, and

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

so continued until his death. He joined the Association in 1878 and was President at the second Ashburton meeting in 1896. In addition to his presidential address, and the Committee Reported which he edited, he contributed six papers to the *Transactions*, the first in 1888, and the last in 1920.

On the occasion of his eighty-ninth birthday, the following letter was sent to Mr. Baring-Gould from the Devonshire Association:

"DEAR MR. BARING-GOULD,-

The good wishes of every member of the Devonshire Association attend your birthday. We may not claim that the advancement of Science, Literature and Art is an object wide enough to include the whole scope of your work, but we are proud that you have associated yourself with our efforts to fulfil the interest of our corporate being. For your help and example in the past you claim our gratitude, and the present volume of the Transactions will bear witness that you have not claimed the privilege of advancing years to fail in assistance to fellow-workers.

If there is any formality in this expression of our respect, the fault is in my own choice of words, and not in my sincere intent nor in the feeling of our Association.

Personally I would beg you to accept my sincerest good wishes and respect.

I am, Yours Sincerely,  
R. Hansford Worth,  
*Hon. Gen. Sec., Devon Association,*

To this Rev. Baring-Gould replied:-

Many thanks to you and the Association for kind congratulations. Excuse card as for nigh on 3 weeks I have been bed-ridden, and although I hope to be about some day this week, I can now only get up and remain up for about 8 or 10 minutes to write acknowledgements of kind wishes.

Oh! Dartmoor! I have not set foot on it for 4 years. I look at it with yearning eyes from Lew Down, whenever I am there.

Yours truly,  
S. BARING-GOULD."

**18<sup>th</sup> September.** ACD published his autobiography entitled *Memories and Adventures* (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1924). He briefly recalled the incident involving himself, BFR and Major Roger Raoul Duval aboard the SS *Briton* in 1900 (pp. 208). After listing some of the famous passengers on the ship at this time, ACD wrote:

Especially was I fortunate in my friendship with Fletcher Robinson and with Nevinson, which was cemented by this closer association. Only one cloud marred the serenity of that golden voyage. There was a foreign officer on board, whose name I will not mention, who had been with the Boers and who talked with great indiscretion as to his experiences and opinions. He stated in my presence that the

British had habitually used Dum-Dum bullets, on which I lost my temper and told him he was a liar. I must say that he behaved very well, for after thinking it over he saw that he was in the wrong and he sent down my friend Robinson to my cabin with a query as to whether I would accept an apology. I answered that I would not, since it was the army, and not me, which had been insulted. In an hour Robinson re-appeared with the following letter, which ended what might have been a serious incident.

Dear Sir,—

Allow me to tell you that I regret lively what I said about expanding bullets—which I said but after hear saying evidence I request you to let everybody know that I strongly wish on the contrary that I desire to be on best terms with every Englishman and beg you for that to be my interpreter.

Yours very truly.

**16<sup>th</sup> December.** BFR's cousin Richard Robinson died aged about 69 years in Church Stretton, Shropshire (see **1865, 1868, early 1881, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907** and **1921**). An obituary published in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* reported that Richard Robinson had established a farm colony for unemployed people and was President of the Home Institute. He was also Secretary to a committee which sought to promote greater co-operation between different church denominations in Church Stretton.

## 1925

**29<sup>th</sup> May.** Shortly after this date, Colonel Percy Harrison Fawcett, O.N. (1867-1925) and his son, Jack Fawcett, O.N. (1903-1925), disappeared whilst exploring an area of dense jungle near the River Xingu in Brazil (both men were later presumed dead). Colonel Fawcett was a contemporary of BFR at 'Newton College' between 1882 and 1885 (see **Summer Term 1882, 27<sup>th</sup> November 1883, December 1884, Spring Term 1885** and **December 1887**). It is claimed that Percy Fawcett described his earliest explorations to ACD and that the latter man incorporated elements of these stories into a novel entitled *The Lost World* (Doran 1912).

## 1928

**5<sup>th</sup> May.** Barry Eric Odell Pain died, aged 63 years.

## 1929

**22<sup>nd</sup> January.** Rudolph Chambers Lehmann died, aged 73 years, at his home at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire (see early **Michaelmas Term 1890**, early **Michaelmas Term 1892, 16<sup>th</sup> December 1892**, early **Michaelmas Term 1893, 12<sup>th</sup> December 1893, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1894**, early **Lent Term 1895, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**, early **1901, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1901, 12<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> February 1905, 1924** and **April 1961**).

**14<sup>th</sup> September.** ACD had his collection of four Sherlock Holmes novellas entitled *The Complete Sherlock Holmes Long Stories*, published by John Murray, London. In the Preface to this volume ACD wrote:

Then came The Hound of the Baskervilles. It arose from a remark by that fine fellow, whose premature death was a loss to the world, Fletcher Robinson, that there was a spectral dog near his home on Dartmoor [see *August 1900*]. That remark was the inception of the book, but I should add that the plot and every word of the actual narrative are my own.

It should be noted that ACD's remark in the Preface is actually dated 'June 1929' and that he died only 13 months later (see *7<sup>th</sup> July 1930*).

## 1930

**7<sup>th</sup> July.** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died aged 71 years following a heart attack at his home (Windlesham, Hurtis Hill, Crowborough, Sussex). He was buried in the grounds at Windlesham, beside his writing hut on 11<sup>th</sup> July. A large crowd attended the funeral and train loads of floral tributes were sent from all over the country. It was a joyous, colourful and non religious occasion (see late *1881*, early *Summer Term 1883*, early *Spring Term 1884*, late *Spring Term 1884*, late *Christmas Term 1888*, *16<sup>th</sup> December 1892*, early *Michaelmas Term 1893*, *17<sup>th</sup> December 1893*, *3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894*, *14<sup>th</sup> December 1897*, *December 1899*, *24<sup>th</sup> December 1899* and for *1900*; *28<sup>th</sup> February*, *21<sup>st</sup> March*, *26<sup>th</sup> March*, *11<sup>th</sup> July*, *August and 23<sup>rd</sup> October*. For *1901* see; *31<sup>st</sup> March/I<sup>st</sup> April*, *25<sup>th</sup> April*, *26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April*, *30<sup>th</sup> April*, *mid May*, *21<sup>st</sup> May*, *25<sup>th</sup> May*, *29<sup>th</sup> May*, *26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May*, *1<sup>st</sup> June*, *7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June*, *17<sup>th</sup> June*, *mid July*, *early September and October*. Also see for *1902*; *16<sup>th</sup> January*, *15<sup>th</sup> April*, *3<sup>rd</sup> June* and *9<sup>th</sup> August*. Also see *20<sup>th</sup> October 1903*, *18<sup>th</sup> October 1903* *December 1903* and for *1904*; early, *23<sup>rd</sup> June*, *30<sup>th</sup> June*, *7<sup>th</sup> July*, *September*, *8<sup>th</sup> September*, *December* and late. Also see for *1905*; early, *12<sup>th</sup> January*, *12<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> February*, *Summer*, *12<sup>th</sup> October* and *26<sup>th</sup> November*. See also *4<sup>th</sup> July 1906*, *20<sup>th</sup> October 1906*, *May 1907*, *18<sup>th</sup> September 1907*, *7<sup>th</sup> April 1922*, *18<sup>th</sup> September 1924*, *14<sup>th</sup> September 1929*, *October 1930*, *28<sup>th</sup> June 1939*, *27<sup>th</sup> June 1940*, *2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949*, *9<sup>th</sup> February 1949*, *August 1949*, early *1955*, *July 1955*, *1<sup>st</sup> November 1957*, *16<sup>th</sup> March 1959*, *3<sup>rd</sup> July 1959*, *6<sup>th</sup> February 1961*, *April 1961*, *2<sup>nd</sup> April 1961*, *24<sup>th</sup> October 1969*, *1970*, *1983*, *Autumn 1993*, *10<sup>th</sup> June 2001*, *Winter 2001* and *Summer 2002*).

**October.** *The Strand* magazine published a letter written by ACD to Herbert Greenhough Smith in which he first mentions collaborating with BFR on a story that ultimately led to the inception of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see *26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 1901*). Smith also stated:

As readers of the story are aware, Fletcher-Robinson's [sic] name was fully acknowledged. His share in the transaction was to draw the attention of Conan Doyle to the tradition of the fiery hound in a Welsh guide book.

This reference to a "Welsh guide book" has led some to suggest that the Baskerville Legend in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* might have been based upon a tale from the West of England. One such story alleges that a solitary and spectral hound appeared to a member of the Vaughan family shortly before their death. The 'Hound of the Vaughans' also featured in a novel by The Rev. William Samuel Symonds (1818-1887) entitled *Malvern Chase: An*

*Episode of the Wars of the Roses and Battle of Tewkesbury* (William North, Simpkin, Marshall & Company, Tewkesbury, 1881). ACD's first wife, Louise, had as a girl, lived near a family called Baskerville who were related to the Vaughan family through marriage. ACD himself denied any connection between his Baskerville legend and that of the 'Hound of the Vaughans'.

**20<sup>th</sup> October.** Edward Norman Gardiner died aged about 66 years in Oxford (see *October 1887, December 1887* and for *1888; Spring Term, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April, Christmas Term, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December* and *22<sup>nd</sup> December 1888. 25<sup>th</sup> January 1888, February 1889, April 1889, May 1889, October 1889, November 1889, December 1889, 25<sup>th</sup> January 1890, February 1890, May 1890, June 1890, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1892, 1896 and 18<sup>th</sup> April 1896*). In his 1896 book entitled *Rugby Football*, BFR wrote of Gardiner that he provided "excellent advice in football matters" (pp. 262). It is therefore very probable that Gardiner was primarily responsible for nurturing BFR's interest in rugby and other sports (see *22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918* and *1<sup>st</sup> October 1946*). Gardiner was also the brother-in-law of BFR's friend, James Hubert Thomas Cornish-Bowden (see *11<sup>th</sup> June 1938*). He was survived by four children.

## 1931

**2<sup>nd</sup> March.** The following article appeared in *The Western Morning News* under the heading *Dartmoor in Story* (pp. 4):

South Devon has more than a passing interest in "The Hound of the Baskervilles," which is being filmed on Dartmoor. The plot emanated from the brain of the late Mr. Fletcher Robinson, of Park Hill, Ipplepen. Fletcher Robinson was a war correspondent during the Boer war and travelled home from Cape Town in company with Conan Doyle. In the course of conversation he outlined the story which has now become famous and gladly agreed to Conan Doyle's suggestion that they should write it together. Shortly afterwards Conan Doyle stayed with Fletcher Robinson at his father's house at Ipplepen. The two spent many days on the moor collecting local atmosphere, the plot was developed, and part of the book written at Park Hill. The name of Baskerville was borrowed from 'Harry' Baskerville, who was groom to Fletcher Robinson's father.

Fletcher Robinson was a Cambridge Rugger "Blue," rowed in the Jesus eight at Henley, and won the Thames Challenge Cup in 1892. At one time he was editor of "Vanity Fair" and later of "The World." He died in his early prime from typhoid fever while engaged in collecting data to write the history of an Egyptian mummy which was supposed to have proved fatal to many earlier investigators of its history. Fletcher Robinson left a fund to endow, after his wife's death, a scholarship at Newton Abbot College, where he was educated.

The film to which this article refers was directed by Gareth V. Gundrey for Gainsborough Pictures. It was the second British version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the first to feature scenes shot on Dartmoor itself (winter 1929/1930). It starred the Devon born actor Robert Rendel as Sherlock Holmes, Frederick Lloyd as Dr. Watson and John Stuart as Sir Henry Baskerville. This monochrome film was widely regarded by critics as a failure.

## 1933

BFR's friend, Arthur Hammond Marshall (see early *Michaelmas Term 1890*), published an anecdotal autobiography entitled *Out and About: Random Reminiscence*, under his pen name of 'Archibald Marshall' (John Murray). In Chapter 1 of his book, Marshall mentioned several of his fellow Cambridge University acquaintances, including BFR. In connection with *The Granta*, he wrote (pp. 6-7):

The editors of my time were Charles Geake, a young Fellow of Clare, who left Cambridge to take up the work on the Westminster Gazette which earned him his great reputation as a political journalist, R. P. Mahaffy, of King's, and B. F. Robinson, of Jesus, who was a journalist to the bone, even in those early days, and to the end of his too-short life carried on the work that brought him such success in the same light-hearted spirit with which he had begun it.

As this book will be mostly about other people, I may as well now make the first of those digressions which will probably be the best things in it, and write a little more about him, and some others.

"Bobbles," as he was always called, was a tall, rather rugged figure, short-sighted, and with a perpetual chuckle. He was a "Rugger" Blue, and near to getting his Blue for rowing. He was a nephew of Sir John Robinson, for many years editor and Manager of the Daily News, but he told me later on that his uncle had nothing to do with his taking up journalism, and had been rather surprised at his doing so well with it, though at that time he was reading for the Bar, and only took on the sort of job he liked doing. He lived with two other Cambridge friends, Trevor Lewis and Percy Illingworth, in a large flat in Ashley Gardens, where they did themselves remarkably well. I used to go up from the country and stay a night or two with them occasionally, and they did me so well, in the matter of dinners and theatres and suppers after them, that I wondered how anybody could stand such a life for a permanency. But they kept together there for seven years, until they married, one after the other. Now all are dead. (*Out and About*, pp 2-3)

All these men, in their middle twenties then, were workers, and successful workers, though one didn't hear much about the work, unless it was Bobble's, which was treated as a sort of joke, as it was to him in those days. I doubt if he was consciously working up to what he afterwards became—war correspondent, and editor of The Daily Express among other things. He got on with everybody he came across: he was asked to do things, and he did them. But he liked writing better than editing. He loved a story, and was a great inventor of the. He gave Conan Doyle the idea and plot of The Hound of the Baskervilles, and wrote most of its first instalment for the Strand Magazine. Conan Doyle wanted it to appear under their joint names, but his name alone was wanted, because it was worth so much more. They were paid £100 per thousand words, in the proportion of three to one. As I put it to Bobbles at the time, "Then if you write 'How do you do?' Doyle gets six shillings and you get two." He said that he had never been good at vulgar fractions, but it sounded right, and anyhow what he wrote was worth it. (*Out and About*, pp 4-5)

I didn't see so much of Bobbles after we had both married and I was living in the country, but wrote occasionally for *Vanity Fair*, which was his last editorship. The very last time I saw him he told me a wonderful tale about a mummy, which had caused the death of everybody who had had to do with it. He was collecting his material, already had enough for a sensational story, and was on the track of more. This story is now well known, and I have seen frequent references to it, but this was the first I had heard of it. I don't know whether he ever wrote the story, but it cannot have been long after that he was dead himself. He had gone over to Paris, caught pneumonia, and died in a few days at the age of thirty-six or seven. Not for a long time afterwards did I connect his death in my mind with that story about the mummy, and I have never heard of anyone else who did so.

There was a memorial service for him at a church in the Strand that emptied Fleet Street of all its most notable figures for the half-hour or so that it lasted, which was half an hour or so too long. I looked round the crowded church and wondered what the parson would say to such a congregation, most of whom were trained to a vigorous use of the blue pencil. But the utterances of parsons don't get blue-pencilled, unfortunately. This one had never known our old Bobbles, and said so, as if the deceased had lost something. But he told Northcliffe and the rest of us that he had no objection to journalism in its proper place, and had a set of *Vanity Fair* cartoons hanging around his hall. With this Christian consolation we dispersed to our several jobs.

## 1934

Two entries relevant to **BFR** appear in the *WHO'S WHO IN DEVONSHIRE* (printed and published by Wilson & Phillips, Hereford). The first of these entries is interesting because it relates to **BFR**'s former classmate, James Cornish-Bowden. He was the son of Admiral William Cornish Bowden (see *17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April 1888*) and is listed as residing at Red House (pp. 62). This suggests that he purchased the former 'Newton College' boarding house from an ailing school. The second is significant because it demonstrates that Harold Michelmore was a highly active and respected member of the local community (pp. 177-178):

**CORNISH-BOWDEN, James Hubert Thomas** (colonel), C.M.G.,  
D.S.O. Red House, Newton Abbot.  
Born in 1870, Newton Abbot. Son of the late Admiral William Cornish-Bowden.  
Educated at Newton College.  
Married 1900, Margaret Eliza (d. 1932), daughter of late John Gaskoin, of Caerleon.  
First Commission in Regular Army, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, From Militia, 1892. Served with Tirah Expeditionary Force, 1897-1898. Great War, 1914-1918 (severely wounded).  
Heir-Hubert Gaskoin Cornish-Bowden (1907).

**MICHELMORE, Harold Gaye.** solicitor. Saffron Close, Chudleigh.  
Born 1870, Newton Abbot. Son of late Henry Michelmore.  
Educated at Newton College.  
Married 1905, Margaret Mignon, daughter of late Dr. Alfred Lewis

Galabin.

Officer of St. John of Jerusalem; President of Newton Abbot, and Vice-President Chudleigh St. John Ambulance Brigades; Chairman, Newton Abbot Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Member Of Council of All England Lawn Tennis Association; Chairman, Devon County Lawn Tennis Association; President Torquay, President Newton Abbot, and Vice-President Teignmouth Lawn Tennis Clubs; Vice-President, Devon Squash Rackets Association; President, Newton Corinthian Football Club; President, Newton Abbot and District Canine Society; President, Newton Abbot and District Fanciers' Society; formerly President, now Vice-President, Newton Abbot Fat Stock Society; President, Newton Abbot (Stover) Golf Club; President of Bovey Tracey and District Agricultural Association; Honorary Director, Newton Abbot Races; Local Director, Commercial Union Assurance Company; Member Dart Board of Conservators; Hon. Secretary, Lower Teign Fishing Association; President, Newton Abbot Chamber of Commerce. Devon County Lawn Tennis Champion, 1894-1914. Recreations-Fishing, Shooting, Tennis, and Squash Rackets. Heir-Alfred Philip Galabin Michelmore (1906).

**29<sup>th</sup> September.** Arthur Hammond Marshall, Hon.Litt.D. (Yale), died aged 68 years (see late *Michaelmas Term 1890, Michaelmas Term 1892, 12<sup>th</sup> December 1893, 16<sup>th</sup> February 1892, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1894, Summer 1894, early 1899, 8<sup>th</sup> December 1906, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907* and early 1933).

## 1935

**21<sup>st</sup> April.** Robert Carr Bosanquet died, aged 63 years, following minor surgery in Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (see *Michaelmas Term 1890* and *1924*).

## 1936

Sir Max Pemberton had his autobiography entitled *Sixty Years Ago and After, Sporting Reminiscences, Memoirs of days at Cambridge and as a journalist. London in the eighties and famous personalities of those days*, published by Hutchinson and Company (London). Pemberton was the Manager of *The World* Newspaper when BFR was appointed as editor (see *November 1906*). In his book, Pemberton claims that BFR "...went to the Paris Exhibition ... got typhoid, and died in a few days." (pp 124-125).

**2<sup>nd</sup> February.** Sir Owen Seaman died aged 74 years in London (see early *Michaelmas Term 1893, 12<sup>th</sup> December 1893, early 1897, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1902, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907* and *early 1924*).

**7<sup>th</sup> March.** Dr. Henry Menzies died aged 68 years in Farnborough in Hampshire (see *Michaelmas Term 1890*, early *1897*, late *June 1894, September 1903* and *21<sup>st</sup> January 1907*). He had co-founded the Jesus College Cambridge Society to which BFR and Illingworth had belonged and also certified BFR's. The J.C.C.S. published the following obituary in their *32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report* (pp. 27-29):

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

Among the many famous members of the College who have passed on, none will be more missed Dr. Henry Menzies, who died at the age of 68 on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1936, after a life devoted to a noble but exacting profession. His illness, which he so courageously bore, was primarily due to that devotion.

Dr. Menzies came up in 1886, after winning a Natural Science Scholarship. He subsequently took the degrees of B.A., M.B. and B.Ch. He was a member of the *Natives* and *Rhaegunds*, and for four years he was a distinguished member of the College XI, at a time when Jesus cricket was at its zenith, the team including, amongst other Blues, such famous men as Sam Woods, Gregor McGregor [sic] and A. J. I. Hill. Later he played for Middlesex, often deputising as wicket-keeper for McGregor himself. On one such occasion he achieved the rare distinction of stumping W. G. Grace (on the Crystal Palace ground). An eye witness thus described the incident:-

"W.G. stepped right out of his ground and missed a short-pitched 'un, but God was with Henry and it was beard and balls, and W.G. was out!" It has been said that Menzies appeal could have been heard in Westminster.

But Dr. Menzies chief claim to honour amongst Jesus men, is that he was the founder of the Jesus College Society. Its inception dates back to the first night of the 'Varsity cricket match in 1896, when fourteen old Jesus men dined together at the Junior Athenaeum Club. As the direct result of this dinner, the Society was successfully launched in 1903, Dr. Menzies being elected Honorary Secretary, an office which he held until his death. Under his indefatigable Secretarship the Society has gradually increased in numbers, until now over 1,400 invitations to the annual dinner are despatched. Many generations of Jesus men owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Menzies for the opportunities these dinners afford of meeting their contemporaries, especially those who may be home from abroad on leave, or on holiday, as well as those who have been helped by the Society.

Only those who have been in close touch with the Jesus College Society continuously for a long period, can begin to estimate what he did for it and how much it meant to him. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that Dr. Menzies was the Society. Always at the dinner, until exiled from it last year by illness, always unsparing in his own efforts for its success, always too generously grateful for any small help that he had from anyone else, always too modest even to make the speech that we all used to call for, he had (we may hope) an annual reward in those unique gatherings at the Trocadero or the Café Royal whither the very spirit of the College was for the time being transported.

Menzies was a man of few words, but he compressed in them a wealth of good sense and playful irony. He shunned the limelight, but could not escape popularity. He did not conceal his aversion from shams and bores, for he was himself the soul of sincerity and unselfishness. His manner

sometimes appeared to be gruff (perhaps that was the origin of his nickname Blucher) but this endeared him to us, for it hid a heart of gold.

Jesus men of all ages who knew Dr. Menzies well enough to secure his friendship valued it more than they could show. It was, perhaps, not so easy to win, but it was well worth winning. Dr. Menzies was not a man to banter meaningless compliments. There was a fine edge to his irony and, when he wished, he could be devastating. But no kinder or more loyal man ever lived; and for Jesus men he had but one standard: devotion to the College. It was, of course, devotion to the College itself which inspired his service to the Society. He loved to come up and walk around the College on a Sunday morning in the May Term, to dwell on the unique beauty of its setting, on its distinguished past, on his care for its present reputation, on his passionate ambition for its future. His was an outstanding example of the affection which, more than most in Oxford and Cambridge, our College knows how to arouse and to retain.

Some of us will miss bitterly his frequent brisk little notes of congratulations and rebuke and suggestion. We remember that it was in great part his vigour and his generosity, which a few years ago, put the Jesus College Society in its present enviable financial position. The Society is itself his best memorial, the memorial that he would value most."

## 1938

American Sherlockian, Walter Klinefelter had a book entitled *Ex Libris A. Conan Doyle: Sherlock Holmes*, published by Black Cat Press in Chicago. Klinefelter made the following reference to the origin of the story which inspired ACD to write *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and concluded (see 1983):

Its source is partly indicated in the dedication. My Dear Robinson was one Fletcher of that surname with whom Conan Doyle formed a lasting friendship on their return from South Africa in 1899 [sic]. From him he must have had the legend at that time or a little while thereafter...there are no tenable grounds that Doyle had read or heard of it prior to his friendship with Fletcher Robinson.

**11<sup>th</sup> June.** Colonel James Hubert Thomas-Cornish Bowden died aged 67 years. He was BFR's classmate and friend at 'Newton College' between 1884 and 1890. James Cornish-Bowden was also the son of the late Admiral William Cornish-Bowden and the brother-in-law of the late Edward Norman Gardiner (BFR's tutor and rugby-coach at 'Newton College'). He was survived by two children (see *Spring Term 1884, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1884, August 1885, 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April 1888, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1888, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1888, May 1889, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1892 and 18<sup>th</sup> April 1896*).

## 1939

**March 31<sup>st</sup>.** 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox released their theatrical film-version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. This film starred Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson , Richard Greene as Sir Henry Baskerville and was directed by Sidney Lanfield.

**25<sup>th</sup> May.** Sir Max Pemberton made the following claims about *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in an article which was published in the London *Evening News* (see **25<sup>th</sup> April 1901** and **28<sup>th</sup> June 1939**) [this newspaper was incorporated into the London *Evening Standard* in 1980]:

The late Fletcher Robinson who collaborated, with Doyle in the story, was dining at my house in Hampstead one night when the talk turned upon phantom dogs. I told my friend of a certain Jimmy Farman, a Norfolk marshman, who swore that there was a phantom dog on the marshes near St. Olives (near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk) and that his bitch had met the brute more than once and had been terrified by it. ‘A Great black dog it were,’ Jimmy said, ‘and the eyes of ‘un was like railway lamps. He crossed my path down there by the far dyke and the old bitch a’most went mad wi’ fear...Now surely that bitch saw a’ summat I didn’t see...’

Fletcher Robinson assured me that dozens of people on the outskirts of Dartmoor had seen a phantom hound and that to doubt its existence would be a local heresy. In both instances, the brute was a huge retriever, coal black and with eyes which shone like fire.

Fletcher Robinson was always a little psychic and he had a warm regard for this apparition; indeed, he expressed some surprise that no romancer had yet written about it. Three nights afterwards, Fletcher Robinson was dining with Sir [sic] Arthur. The talk at my house was still fresh in his mind and he told Doyle what I had said, emphasising that this particular marshman was as sure of the existence of the phantom hound as he was of his own being. Finally, Fletcher Robinson said ‘Let us write the story together.’ And to his great content Sir [sic] Arthur cordially assented.”

**28<sup>th</sup> June.** *The Citizen* (London) newspaper published an article in which Sir Max Pemberton again claimed that he imparted the legend which led to BFR’s collaboration with ACD and the inception of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see **25<sup>th</sup> April 1901** and **25<sup>th</sup> May 1939**). This weekly newspaper was published on a Saturday.

The Rev. Robert Duins Cooke died in Devon, aged 70 years. He was superseded as Vicar of St. Andrew’s Church in Ipplepen by The Rev. J. Percival Denham (1940-1946) [see early **1881, May 1901, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1902, 15<sup>th</sup> August 1903, 14<sup>th</sup> July 1906, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1907 and 7<sup>th</sup> February 1949**].

## 1940

**10<sup>th</sup> February.** Francis Deshon Browne died, aged 69 years, at Wokingham, Royal Berkshire (see **1882, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1883, 7<sup>th</sup> April 1883, early Spring Term 1884, late Summer Term 1884** and for **1885; 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> April, August, October & December** and for **1886; March, June, July, October and December** and for **1887; March, June, July, August, October, November and December** and for **1888; 10<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> March/I<sup>st</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> April, Spring**

*Term, 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April, early Summer Term, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 23rd June, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> July 10<sup>th</sup> July 11<sup>th</sup> July 17<sup>th</sup> July 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July 25<sup>th</sup> July 30<sup>th</sup> July, late Summer Term 1888, 17<sup>th</sup> October, Christmas Term, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 6<sup>th</sup> December and 11<sup>th</sup> December. February 1889, April 1889, May 1889, June 1889, July 1889, October 1889, December 1889, Michaelmas Term 1890, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1891, early Michaelmas Term 1891, Lent Term 1892 and early Lent Term 1895)*

**27<sup>th</sup> June.** Lady Jean Conan Doyle died aged 66 years and was buried alongside ACD in the garden of their home at Windlesham, Crowborough in Surrey.

## 1941

Jessie Pope died in Devon, aged about 71 years (see **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907** and **post-2002**). She wrote verse for various newspapers and periodicals (including *Vanity Fair*) but is best known for her pro-WWI poetry. It is said that Pope's war-poems provoked Wilfred Owen to write his famous poem, *Dulce et Decorum Est* (Latin expression meaning "It is sweet and right").

## 1944

Professor Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (pseudonym 'Q') died aged 80 years from mouth cancer at his home in Fowey, Cornwall (see **1882**, early *Summer Term 1884, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1884 Spring Term 1885, July 1885, October 1885* and mid *Christmas Term 1888*).

American Sherlockian, Christopher Morley, wrote a book entitled *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Textbook of Friendship*, which was published by Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York. Morley (1890-1957) was a Journalist, Novelist and Poet and had also founded the Baker Street Irregulars in New York in 1934 [an elite organisation of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts]. In his book, Morley explores the source of the Baskerville legend and ventures the following opinion upon the matter:

One believes that it was in 'The Long' voyage back from Capetown [sic] that his friend B. Fletcher Robinson, a war correspondent, told him the "West Country Legend" that became *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

**17<sup>th</sup> November.** Mr. and Mrs. 'Harry' Baskerville held a supper and social evening for 64 relatives and friends to mark their Golden Wedding Anniversary. This event was reported under the headline *Golden Wedding Celebration – Ashburton Couple* in a local newspaper called *The Evening Herald* (21<sup>st</sup> November 1944):

...They ['Harry' and Alice Baskerville] have been closely connected with the Methodist Church all their lives, Mr. Baskerville having filled nearly every office in Methodism open to a layman having served on two occasions as circuit or Mission Steward for the Ashburton Section of the South Devon Mission. He also took a keen interest in local affairs having served on the Ashburton Urban Council for 6 years and 12 years president of the

local Co-operative Society. He is also a member of the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Committee, and is still Senior Chapel Steward and a member of four trusts...The rev. F. W. J. Stedman, Methodist Minister acted as M.C. at the supper on Friday after the loyal toast submitted to that of Mr. and Mrs. Baskerville, speaking of their life-long work for the church, and the community. Other speakers were the Rev. L. B. Stallard, vicar, Mr. F. M. Easterbrook and Mr. A. Fallows. Mr Baskerville gave a Devonshire reading, songs were contributed by Mrs. R. Backaway and Terry, and monologues by Mrs. V. German."

## 1945

Mrs. Clara Margaret Michelmore became a member of the Devonshire Association (see **1881, July 1884, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1903, 20<sup>th</sup> July 1905** and **1924**). This individual appears to be the wife of Harold Gaye Michelmore (by now using the additional name of 'Clara') because she lists her address as "Saffron Close, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot" (see **7<sup>th</sup> February 1949**).

## 1946

Harold Gaye Michelmore had twelve monographs published in a hard-back book entitled *Fishing Facts and Fancies* by A. Wheaton & Company Limited of Exeter (see mid **Spring Term 1888**).

**8<sup>th</sup> January.** Gladys Halliday (formerly Gladys Robinson) died aged 66 years from a pulmonary illness at the London Chest Hospital, Victoria Park.

**14<sup>th</sup> June.** Gladys Halliday's estate was proved at £23,779 8s 3d net and probate was awarded to Harold Gaye Michelmore of Harold Michelmore & Company solicitors, Market Street, Ashburton. Gladys bequeathed her entire estate to her husband and stipulated that, upon his death, any residue should pass to her nephew, Lieutenant-Commander Peter Withers, R.N., D.S.O., D.S.C. (Royal Navy; Distinguished Service Order; Distinguished Service Cross).

**1<sup>st</sup> October.** Henry Barrington Tristram died aged 85 years at St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands (see **2<sup>nd</sup> December 1884, December 1886, February 1887, March 1887, December 1887, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1897** and **20<sup>th</sup> October 1930**). He was an assistant master at 'Newton College' between about 1884 and 1887. During 1883 he played both cricket and rugby for Oxford University. He also made his debut for the England Rugby Team that same season and played at this level for a further two seasons. It is very probable that he was partially responsible for developing BFR's passion for the game of rugby (see **22<sup>nd</sup> November 1902, 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918** and **20<sup>th</sup> October 1930**).

## 1947

**12<sup>th</sup> February.** Douglas Brooke Wheelton Sladen died aged 91 years (see **1913** and **April 1961**).

## 1949

**2<sup>nd</sup> February.** John Dickson Carr's *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* was published by John Murray, London. On the same date, *The Western Morning News* published a review of this book under the heading *When Conan Doyle practised medicine in Plymouth* (pp. 4). This article is reprinted here in full because it refers to ACD's connections with South-west England and Dr. George Turnavine Budd (see **14<sup>th</sup> December 1897**). This article contains factual errors, omissions and opinion which prompted an interesting exchange of letters between some of BFR's associates and the editor of this newspaper (see **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949**, **7<sup>th</sup> February 1949** and **9<sup>th</sup> February 1949**):

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be remembered by most people either as the creator of Sherlock Holmes or as the man who devoted his last years to Spiritualism – which incidentally cost him a peerage and to which he gave £250,000. But between those phases of his 71 years were crowded ceaseless activities of medicine, authorship, politics, campaigns for the Army and other reforms and above all for justice – activities which were bound up with large slices of British history.

For this man was a giant, with a breadth of vision matching his physique. His biographer's task in painting without loss of perspective or detail the vast picture demanded by Conan Doyle's multi-farious [sic] interests was no light one. John Dickson Carr, whose **The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** is published today (John Murray. 18s.), has succeeded admirably. This is a book worthy of its subject.

It is a measure of the hold Conan Doyle – who had once bowled W. G. Grace and introduced skis to Switzerland – had on the imagination and affection of people all over the world that when in 1910 Jim Jeffries was challenged by Jack Johnson for the heavyweight boxing championship he was invited to referee the contest. "By George," he said, "this is the most sporting proposition I ever heard." And he would have gone to Reno to referee the fight had he not at that time been waging a campaign over Belgian administration of the Congo.

### HELPED TORQUAY NURSE

When he created Sherlock Holmes – who was, in fact, himself, he had no intention of writing more than half a dozen stories. He disliked Sherlock's interference with his more serious writing of historical novels, but popular demand forced him to bring the famous detective back from the dead.

He himself turned detective in the interests of justice in two famous cases – the first that of George Edalji, solicitor son of a Parsee vicar and an English mother, who was convicted of a series of animal-slashing crimes in the Midlands, of which he was innocent; and the

other than that of Oscar Slater, who served 18 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

His deductive skill he also employed in response to an appeal by a Torquay nurse, whose Danish fiancé vanished after loading her with gifts, persuading her to give up her position at a Hampstead hospital, and after all preparations had been made for the wedding. Scotland Yard and the Danish police had failed to trace him, but Conan Doyle was able “by a process of deduction to show her very clearly both whither he had gone and how unworthy he was of her affections.” As a young doctor, Conan Doyle practised for a time in Plymouth. A friend, Dr. Budd, who had established himself in the town, had telegraphed:

“I have seen thirty thousand patients in the last year. My actual takings have been more than four thousand pounds. All patients come to me. Would not cross the street to see Queen Victoria. You can have all the visiting, all surgery, all mid-wifery. Will guarantee three hundred pounds the first year.”

So Conan Doyle came to Plymouth where he found his friend “larded it over patients cramming the waiting-rooms, the stairs, the courtyard, the coach-house. He bawled at them; broke windows; prescribed drugs in a way which would have raised any ordinary doctor’s hair. At the end of the day he would march slowly through the principal streets, his day’s takings of gold and silver in a bag held at arms length before him; while his wife and his partner walked on either side of him like acolytes supporting a priest.

### PRINCETOWN VISIT

Dr. Budd “always made a point of walking through the doctors’ quarter. They all come out of their windows and gnash their teeth and dance until I am out of sight.”

The partnership did not last long. Budd complained that Dr. Doyle was ruining the practice. “These thick-witted country people,” he said, “see one door with two doctors’ names they want Dr. Budd, but they fear they will be fobbed off with Dr. Conan Doyle; so they grow nervous and turn away.” Doyle ripped his plate off the door and departed for Portsmouth.

A visit to Princetown in 1901 gave him the background for one of his great crime novels, “The Hound of the Baskervilles.” He captured the atmosphere of Dartmoor, whose prison “then housed a thousand men; ragtag and devil’s crew who not seldom turned on their guards, with carbines and fixed bayonets, patrolled the ground round the outer walls, and at the quarries, always alert when mist rose. The cat-o-nine-tails quelled rebellion.”

## ***The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson***

Conan Doyle studied the ancient Cornish language while on holiday in Cornwall, and became convinced it was akin to the Chaldean. This holiday yielded another story, “The Devil’s Foot.”

But all these were incidents in a chivalrous and crowded life to which his biographer pays this tribute: “And, whether it be said in the spiritual sense or only the earthly influence he has left behind among us, one word may be added. Let no man write his epitaph. He is not dead.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February.** The reference to *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Dartmoor and Princetown in the above article prompted 78 year-old Harold Gaye Michelmore to write a letter to the editor of *The Western Morning News*. The editor at this time was Noel Vinson (editor 1949-1973 and awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1972). Michelmore’s letter together with a brief reply from the Vinson was published as follows on 7<sup>th</sup> February:

Sir – Referring to your review in today’s issue of your paper of “The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,” the statement that a visit to Princetown in 1901 gave him the background for one of the great crime novels, “The Hound of the Baskervilles,” is not quite accurate.

The person responsible for the plot of this novel was the old Cambridge Blue Bertram Fletcher Robinson, who was at one time editor of the “Daily Express” and also of “Vanity Fair”.

He travelled home from South Africa in the same boat with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and discussed many literary matters with him during the voyage.

Fletcher Robinson told Doyle the plot of a story which he intended writing about Dartmoor, and Conan Doyle was so intrigued by it that he asked Fletcher Robinson if he would object to their writing it together.

Fletcher Robinson was, of course, delighted, and in the result Conan Doyle came down and stayed at Park Hill, Ipplepen, which was then the residence of Fletcher Robinson’s father, and they spent several days on the moor together implementing the plot.

The Hound is indebted for the name of his owner to one Baskerville who was at that time the coachman to Fletcher Robinson’s father at Park Hill.

It may be interesting to recall that during the same voyage Fletcher Robinson asked Conan Doyle if it had occurred to him how easy it would be to implicate a man in a murder crime if you could obtain a finger-print of his in wax for reproduction in blood on a wall or some other obvious place near the seat of the crime.

Conan Doyle was taken by the idea and asked Fletcher Robinson whether he intended to use it in his own literary work. Fletcher Robinson replied: “not

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

immediately,” and Conan Doyle offered him 50 pounds for the idea which Fletcher Robinson accepted, and Conan Doyle incorporated the idea in one of the Sherlock Holmes tales which he published shortly afterwards.

H. G. MICHELMORE,  
Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, Feb. 2.

[According to John Dickson Carr's book, Conan Doyle's “imagination was kindled” by his friend Fletcher Robinson's story of a spectral hound on Dartmoor. Robinson a native of Ipplepen, refused Doyle's offer of collaboration on “The Hound of the Baskervilles.” But although the idea originated with Robinson, it is true still true to say that Doyle's visit to Dartmoor provided him with the “background.” – Editor.]

It should be noted that **ACD** had ‘killed’ Holmes in 1894 and had no intentions of writing any further such stories in 1900. **ACD** was persuaded to ‘revive’ Holmes in 1903 and shortly thereafter the idea of falsifying a fingerprint (or rather a thumbprint) was used by him in *The Adventure of the Norwood Builder*, which was first published in *Collier's Weekly Magazine*. It should also be noted that Carr's account of the origins of *The Hound of the Baskerville* are flawed. He suggested that less than a month passed between the trip to Cromer when **BFR** inspired **ACD** to write a thriller (which did not involve Sherlock Holmes) and them arriving together on Dartmoor to gather local colour for the story (which by then did entail Sherlock Holmes). He also incorrectly stated that **BFR** refused an offer of collaboration over this story and that **ACD** had never before visited Dartmoor. In fact, **ACD** had walked around the South-Western rim of the Moor to Tavistock whilst he was working for a short period in Plymouth during 1882. **ACD** had also written a Sherlock Holmes story about Dartmoor, entitled *Silver Blaze*, which was first published in *The Strand Magazine* in December 1892.

**7<sup>th</sup> February.** Following publication of the above letter, 78 year-old ‘Harry’ Baskerville wrote a letter directly to Harold Gaye Michelmore. Michelmore sent the following response to ‘Harry’ by return (private correspondence):

TELEPHONE  
CHUDLEIGH 3129.

SAFFRON CLOSE,  
CHUDLEIGH,  
NEWTON ABBOT,  
SOUTH DEVON.

8<sup>th</sup> February 1949.

Dear Mr. Baskerville,

Very many thanks for your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> instant, which it gave me much pleasure to receive.

It must be a great many years since we met, but I remember you very well and I always look back with pleasure on the old days at Parkhill.

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

It is of course ridiculous for anyone to suggest to you or to me that Bertie Robinson ever refused an offer from Conan Doyle to collaborate with him, and as a matter of fact I remember with what joy Mr. Robinson received the offer and how glad he was to accept it.

If you still have the first edition of the Hound of the Baskervilles I wish you would look at the beginning and see whether I am right in thinking that Fletcher Robinson's part in the book is fully acknowledged and it was only after he died some years later that all reference to him was omitted in later editions.

In reply to your enquiry about Mrs. Fletcher Robinson, when she was left a widow she remarried Major Halliday and died about 2 years ago.

With kind remembrances, and renewed thanks for your letter,

Yours very truly,  
Harold G. Michelmore (signed).

It will be noted that Michelmore stated that **BFR**'s contribution to *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was "... fully acknowledged ..." in the first edition of the book. This is a strong indication that **BFR** was content with the acknowledgements that accompanied the first serialisation of the story in *The Strand Magazine* and the early editions of the book. It is not correct to assert that the acknowledgements were dropped following **BFR**'s death. The varied acknowledgements were only omitted from cheaper editions of the book.

**7<sup>th</sup> February.** Michelmore's letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> February prompted the following letter to the editor of the *Western Morning News* from 63 year-old, The Rev. Henry Robert Cooke (son of The Rev. Duins Cooke) [see mid **May 1901** and **25<sup>th</sup> March 1902**]:

Sir – May I add to Mr. H. G. Michelmore's interesting letter on "The Hound of the Baskervilles." My father – Prebendary R. D. Cooke – was Vicar of Ipplepen at the date you mention, 1901. He was a great authority on Dartmoor. Mr. B. F. Robinson asked his advice and help in planning the background of his story.

My father and Mr. Robinson went up to the Moor together, and under my father's guidance the details of the background were filled in on the spot! My father was very proud of this and often told his children how he had helped to write a very well known book.

My sister, Mrs. Graeme, of Shaldon, has a copy of the book presented to my father by Mr. B. F. Robinson, and inscribed: "To Rev. R. D. Cooke from the assistant plot producer, Bertram Fletcher Robinson."

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

H. R. COOKE.  
Seaton Vicarage, Feb. 7.

**9<sup>th</sup> February.** Following the receipt of Michelmore's response to his letter, 'Harry' Baskerville wrote a second letter to the editor of *The Western Morning News*. This letter was published as follows on **16<sup>th</sup> February**:

Sir – I feel sure that Mr. H. G. Mitchelmore [sic] has given the most accurate account of the whole subject of "The Hound of the Baskervilles." I was coachman for the Robinson family for 20 years. I also have in my possession the first book that was published, autographed by Bertram Fletcher Robinson and with apologies for using my name. In that edition is Conan Doyle's thanks to Robinson for his help in getting all the detail.

I fetched Conan Doyle from Newton Abbot Station and brought him to Parkhill, Ipplepen, when he came to join his friend Robinson with a view to visiting parts of Dartmoor to get the threads of the story. I also drove them to Bovey Tracey (which is mentioned in the book as Coombe Tracey), Hound Tor, Haytree (which is Baskerville Hall), and Grimspound.

The following is a copy of Conan Doyle's thanks to Robinson: "My dear Robinson,—It was to your account of a Westcountry legend that this tale owes its inception. For this and for all your help in all the details all thanks.—Yours most truly, A. Conan Doyle."

H. M. (HARRY) BASKERVILLE.  
Ashburton, Feb. 9.

It may be noted that Baskerville's version of the acknowledgement is slightly wrong, but other parts of his account of the visit of **ACD** to Dartmoor are far more-seriously incorrect.

August. The *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* listed **BFR**'s *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* as one of the most influential collection of crime short-stories ever written. 'Ellery Queen' was the name of a fictional American detective created by the writing partnership of Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee (cousins). The former man was principally responsible for producing this index of crime fiction which was republished as a book in 1951 entitled *Queen's Quorum: A History of the Detective-Crime Short Story as Revealed by the 106 Most Important Books Published in This Field Since 1845* (Little, Brown and Company, Boston Massachusetts, 1951). Supplements were published until 1969, by which time the index had increased to 125 titles. The Addington Peace stories are listed at 33 but this does not indicate their relative importance because the index is chronological. The featured titles are rather idiosyncratic in that **ACD** and Agatha Christie are both nominated only once whilst the minor author, R. Austen Freedman is listed twice.

**17<sup>th</sup> November.** Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baskerville celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. The following article appeared in a local newspaper:

55 YEARS MARRIED. - Mr. and Mrs. H. Baskerville, who now reside at Ashburton and are well known in Ipplepen where they lived for 36 years, on Wednesday of last week celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. Mr. Baskerville is a well-known Methodist and a keen horticulturalist, having been for many years a judge at the Cottage Garden Show. Both are over 70. Mr. Baskerville enjoys good health, but his wife has been in poor health for years. The congratulations of the village goes out to them on their anniversary.

## 1950

**22<sup>nd</sup> February.** Sir Max Pemberton died aged 86 years (see **December 1896**, early **1897**, early **1904**, **18<sup>th</sup> October 1906**, **November 1906**, **8<sup>th</sup> December 1906**, **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907**, **1908**, **1936**, **25<sup>th</sup> May 1939** and **28<sup>th</sup> June 1939**).

## 1951

**27<sup>th</sup> May.** 85 year-old Alice Baskerville, the wife of 'Harry' Baskerville, died at her home following a long-illness (Dorncliffe, Ashburton). The funeral service was conducted by The Rev. F. W. J. Stedman at Ashburton Methodist Church on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Alice Baskerville was buried at nearby St. Andrew's Church. Mourners included 'Harry' Baskerville, Mrs. Hilda Mann and Mrs. Eunice Wellington (daughters) and Mr. and Mrs. J. Sawdye (see **1906**).

**17<sup>th</sup> October.** The South Devon Journal published an article entitled *His Name Has Gone Down In Mystery – Harry Baskerville*.

## 1952

**23<sup>rd</sup> February.** Sir Percy Winn Everett (former first 'Deputy Scout Master' to Sir Robert Baden-Powell) died aged 82 years (see **6<sup>th</sup> February 1903**, **24<sup>th</sup> January 1907** and **21<sup>st</sup> January 1998**).

## 1955

ACD's son, Adrian Conan Doyle, selected two novels and 27 short stories for publication in a book entitled *A Treasury of Sherlock Holmes* (International Collector's Library, Hanover House, Garden City, New York). In the introduction to his compilation, Adrian Conan Doyle remarks that **BFR** and **ACD** had first discussed a hound legend during their return from South Africa (see **11<sup>th</sup> July 1900**). It should be noted that **BFR**'s long-term friend, Harold Gaye Michelmore, also asserted that **BFR** had discussed a story with **ACD** whilst aboard the *SS Briton* (see **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949**):

When my father wrote the book, his Celtic nature was reacting strongly to the legend of the phantom hound that his friend Fletcher Robinson had mentioned to him during their homeward voyage from the Boer War, and perhaps even more to those lonely days that he had spent tramping the moors or sitting on the tors, consuming Holmesian quantities of tobacco while he jotted down in a notebook his impressions

of that bleak yet wonderful landscape. The Hound – the very word is enough. A lesser man might have called it the Dog. What a horrible thought!

**July.** ACD and Lady Jean were exhumed from their graves at Windlesham in Crowborough and re-interred together at All Saints Church, Minstead, Hampshire, close to ACD's former Spiritualist retreat cottage, Bignell Wood, in The New Forest.

## 1957

**March.** Harold Gaye Michelmore died aged 86 years at Newton Abbot in Devon leaving a wife and four sons (see **1882** and for **1884**; early *Spring Term*, mid *Spring Term*, **29<sup>th</sup> July**, early *Christmas Term & December* and for **1885**; **6<sup>th</sup> March, August, 22<sup>nd</sup> October & December** and for **1886**; *March, June, July & October* and for **1887**; *February, March, 31<sup>st</sup> March, April, June, July, August, October, November* and *December* and for **1888**; early *Spring Term*, **28<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> March**, mid *Spring Term*, **30<sup>th</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April** **5<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> April**, late *Spring Term*, **17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April**, early *Summer Term*, **12<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> July**, late *Summer Term*, early *Christmas Term* and **6<sup>th</sup> December**. *February 1889, June 1889, October 1889, November 1889, December 1889, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April 1891, 17<sup>th</sup> June 1896, 11<sup>th</sup> July 1900, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1903, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1903, April 1905, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1906, 13<sup>th</sup> November 1906* and for **1907**; **21<sup>st</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> February. 1934, 1945, 14<sup>th</sup> June 1946** and for **1949**; **2<sup>nd</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> February**).

**1<sup>st</sup> November.** *The Western Times and Gazette* published an article entitled *A Devon Coachman Whose Name Has Become Immortal*. This article featured an interview with 86 year-old Henry Baskerville in which he claimed that BFR and ACD had consulted with him over *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. He also expressed his belief that Heatree House (Manaton, Devon) and Spitchwick Manor (Poundsgate, Devon) were the models for the fictional Baskerville Hall in this story. Both these properties are located within the south-eastern area of Dartmoor National Park but neither bares a strong resemblance to any of the descriptions of Baskerville Hall. The best candidate for Baskerville Hall is seemingly Cromer Hall, located close to the Royal Links Hotel in Norfolk (see **27<sup>th</sup> April 1901**).

## 1959

Margaret Michelmore (the widow of the late H. G. Michelmore) died at Newton Abbot aged 82 years (see **April 1905, 1934** and **1945**).

**March.** Dennis Thornton, the Publicity Supervisor for Hammer Films in London, encouraged the publication of discussions about the authorship of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, in order to increase interest in the new Hammer Films version of the story.

**16<sup>th</sup> March.** A Journalist called Peter Evans interviewed ‘Harry’ Baskerville and subsequently had an article published in *The Daily Express* (the paper for which BFR had worked between **24<sup>th</sup> April 1900** and **28<sup>th</sup> June 1904**) This interview was conducted shortly before the scheduled release of the new Hammer Films version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see **3<sup>rd</sup> July 1959**). Evans reported that ‘Harry’ claimed that BFR had confided

in him that: "... I'm going to write a story about the moor and I would like to use your name." Baskerville is also quoted as saying:

Doyle didn't write the story himself. A lot of the story was written by Fletcher Robinson. But he never got the credit he deserved. They wrote it together at Park Hill, over at Ipplepen. I know because I was there ... Mr. Doyle stayed for eight days and nights. I had to drive him and Bertie about the moors. And I used to watch them in the billiards room in the old house, sometimes they stayed long into the night, writing and talking together...Then Mr. Doyle left and Bertie said to me: "Well, 'Harry', we've finished that book I was telling you about. The one we're going to name after you."

The letter written by **ACD** to his mother from the Rowe's Duchy Hotel in Princetown reveals that at most, **ACD** spent only one Sunday night in Ipplepen (see **2<sup>nd</sup> June 1901**). Furthermore, given that **ACD** played cricket in Sherborne in Dorset on the Monday (72 miles or 116 kilometres from Ipplepen), it is unlikely that **ACD** would have felt inclined to work into the small hours of the morning. **ACD**'s son, Adrian Conan Doyle, responded to Baskerville's comment in a letter sent to Dennis Thornton of Hammer Films. He also supplied a copy of this letter to Edgar W. Smith, editor of *The Baker Street Journal* who subsequently published extracts from it in this same periodical (Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 118):

... I cannot ... allow Mr. 'Harry' Baskerville's marvellous piece of fiction to pass unremarked, though one must excuse slips of memory in a man of 88:

(1) Fletcher Robinson played no part whatever in the writing of The Hound. He refused my father's offer to collaborate and retired at an early stage of the project (vide letters, Conan Doyle Biographical Archives).

(2) My father did not stay with Robinson when evolving the Hound plot. He stayed at Rowe's Duchy Hotel, Princetown (vide letters, Conan Doyle Biographical Archives).

These are small points, but I make it a rule to permit no misstatements apropos Sir Arthur and his creation (sic) Sherlock Holmes to pass uncorrected.

The 'sic' was added by Smith because of the way in which Sherlockians play the 'game' of pretending that it was Dr. Watson who wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories! Adrian Conan Doyle's comments were also mistaken in so far that **ACD** and **BFR** did agree to write a book called *The Hound of the Baskervilles* whilst staying in Cromer (see **26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April 1901**). Later **ACD** introduced the character of Sherlock Holmes and **BFR** was compelled to withdraw from any further involvement for a combination of personal reasons (see late **1904**).

**3<sup>rd</sup> July.** Hammer Films released *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which starred Peter Cushing as Holmes, Andre Morell as Watson and Christopher Lee as Sir Henry Baskerville. It was directed by Terence Fisher and was the first colour film version of the story. Most of the

filming took place at the Hammer Studios in Bray, near Maidenhead, Berkshire. However the Dartmoor scenes were filmed on a ridge above Frensham Ponds near Hindhead where ACD had completed writing the book. Many liberties were taken with the original plot by Hammer. There have been at least 25 film and TV versions of this story, although a few of these seem to have been lost.

## 1961

**6<sup>th</sup> February.** 90 year-old ‘Harry’ Baskerville was recorded for local BBC Radio by Doug Cock at his home in Ashburton. During this interview he related his memories and opinions about his visit to Dartmoor with ACD and BFR (see *25<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1901*). A copy of two-minutes of this recorded interview has been supplied to the authors by members of Henry Baskerville’s family and is transcribed in full below:

**Harry;** “...to arrange a time, Conan Doyle came and I fetched him from Newton Abbot Station, he remained at Park Hill for eight days and I took him back again, I also took him around Bovey Tracy and Heatree for to have a look around Hound Tor and, er pick up some of the threads of the story, the book was written and they promised me the first issue for which I had, and soon after my book came out Robinson went to France, to gather some matter in France for Pearson’s Weekly and contracted food poisoning and he only lived 8 days so consequently in the end the book was called Conan Doyle’s story and he’s got the praise of writing the book and also the Royalties of it.

*As a young man I didn't think anything about sending my copy to, my book to Conan Doyle to have him autographed and never thought anything about it at all, not till the Film came out and then I thought well what a stupid, I haven't sent the book to Conan Doyle, but then at that time, or it was just after, Conan Doyle soon, he passed away and consequently I only had Robinson's autograph on the book.*

*I forgot to mention that Heatree House is Baskerville Hall in the book and er, that case should have been in our family long before I was born or Doyle or Robinson, and old Vicar of Abbotskerswell came to my father to ask him if he'd got any old deeds or writings of any sort, because he understood that this property belonged to our family and if he had anything he'd try and find out as to how it got lost or how they got hold of it, but having nothing, no deeds, the matter was dropped and father never heard anything more about it "*

**Interviewer;** “So when you were at Park Hill was it a fact that Conan Doyle called this place Baskerville Hall, was that the reason why he, er gave it the name for the book?”

**Harry;** “Yes, yes, that was the reason because Hugo Baskerville and Rodger Baskerville and all, they lived there at one time you see.”

**Interviewer;** “That is a fact is it?”

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

*Harry; “Oh yes, that is a fact.”*

**April.** Peter A. Ruber had an article entitled *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle & Fletcher Robinson: an Epitaph* published in a periodical called the *Baker Street Gasogene* (Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 22-28). Ruber was also the editor of this journal and he made the following points (see **18<sup>th</sup> February 1893**):

Whether the forthcoming discussion of Fletcher Robinson was destined to subsist in literary archives cannot be ascertained. And yet, one knows so little of this man that it is curious that no one has yet had the compulsion to search the library shelves and newspaper morgues concerning the mysterious circumstances surrounding his life, and of the even more mysterious circumstances surrounding his death...Fletcher Robinson was not the “literary non-entity” as he has been posthumously stigmatized...Fletcher Robinson...attended Newton College, and later Jesus College Cambridge where he studied for the Bar. Being influenced by his uncle, Sir John Robinson, he cast aside his intended pursuit to follow a career in journalism. Sir John was, at that time, managing the *London Daily News*. Fletcher Robinson having “art in his blood” took to his new professionalism with enthusiasm. He was a poet at heart and beloved of society. He made friends quickly and defended those things which he believed were right. His pursuit of a news story was uncanny; and his columns in the *London Daily Express* were so highly popular that he was given the post of assistant editor of that paper. Douglas Sladen, a noted journalist and writer of travle [sic] books on the middle and far-East, said that had Robinson lived he would have become the greatest journalist the world has ever known...Robinson had met Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on several occasions during the 1890’s and formed a strong friendship...from their [ACD and BFR] arrival in London til the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1901, little is known of Robinson’s activities. No doubt he returned to his column in *The Daily Express*...If any other writings of his were published it would be interesting to discover what they were. Perhaps some studious scholar in London will be inspired and communicate with your editor...in 1907, when Prof. Howard Carter and the Earl of Carnarvon formed their first expedition to the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, Robinson went along to represent *The Daily Express*...We shall always be grateful to both Sir Arthur and Fletcher Robinson for their *Hound* story. It shall always be considered collaboration, for one without the other would not have given given given [sic]us the greatest of the Tales...

Ruber’s article is generally sympathetic towards **BFR** and justifiably cynical about ‘Harry’ Baskerville’s recollections. However it should be noted that Ruber in identifying the need for more research into the life and work of **BFR** makes numerous factual errors. There is no irrefutable evidence to support the claim that **BFR** and **ACD** met before their return voyage from South Africa. **BFR** only studied for the Bar after completing a three year degree in History. **BFR**’S decision to enter journalism was influenced by Lehmann and Mahaffy and not by his uncle, Sir John Robinson (see early *Michealmas Term 1892*). **BFR**’s family were and still are primarily in private business so “art was not in his blood” as stated. Most of **BFR**’s journalism was restricted to reviewing books, historical issues or covering social and

sporting events and not true news stories as implied. Finally, BFR died in early January 1907 and never visited Egypt for *The Daily Express*, his association with this newspaper having been severed in 1904 upon his appointment as editor of *Vanity Fair*.

April. The *Baker Street Gasogene* also included an article by a Toronto Magistrate called Judge S. Tupper Bigelow, which was entitled *The Singular Case of Fletcher Robinson* (Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 19-22). Bigelow's article quotes from the letter sent by Adrian Conan Doyle to Dennis Thornton in reaction to Henry Baskerville's recent commented (see **16<sup>th</sup> March 1959** and **16<sup>th</sup> March 1959**). Bigelow makes the following statement about BFR's literary and journalistic achievements before reprinting the various dedications made to him by ACD (see **18<sup>th</sup> February 1893**):

...Except for the various dedications of The Hound of the Baskervilles, Fletcher Robinson appears to be virtually unknown. One hunts in vain for any mention of him in The Oxford Companion to English Literature, The Reader's Encyclopaedia, The Encyclopaedic Britannica and The Columbia Encyclopaedia, and he apparently said nothing worthy of note on record, as he is not mentioned in either Bartlett's Familiar Quotations or The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. So he was a literary non-entity, except for the single fact that he was the inspiration for the best Sherlock Holmes story ever written, which entitles him, it seems to me to be posthumously knighted (if, indeed, he is dead) beatified, and later on, if things go well, canonized...

S. Tupper Barlow later re-featured this article in a collection of his writings entitled *The Baker Street Briefs* (pp. 70-72) which was published by the Metropolitan Reference Library in Toronto, Canada (1993).

## 1962

**28<sup>th</sup> March.** Henry 'Harry' Mathews Baskerville died, aged 91 years, at Ashburton in Devon. Several obituaries were published in local newspapers including the following example from *The Western Morning News* (30<sup>th</sup> March 1962):

### THE ORIGINAL BASKERVILLE DIES, AGED 91

The man who drove Sir Arthur Conan Doyle over the Moor to gather atmosphere for his Sherlock Holmes story "The Hound of the Baskervilles," has died, aged 91, at his home at Dorncliffe, Ashburton.

He was Mr. 'Harry' Baskerville who was coachman to Mr. B. Fletcher Robinson, of Park-hill, Ipplepen, at the time of Sir Arthur's visit.

The family have a first edition of the book signed by Mr. Robinson and dedicated to Mr. Baskerville "with apologies for using the name."

### KEEN CRICKETER

Mr. Baskerville was a founder member of the Ipplepen Cricket Club and the Ipplepen Cottage Garden Society, both formed in 1890, and he was a well

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known show judge for many years only missing two of the society's shows in his lifetime.

He was a member of Ashburton Urban Council from about 1931 to 1939, when he had to give up because of business, and was also a member of the Court Leet and Baron Juries.

A stalwart of the local Methodist church, he held many important positions in it and society steward-mission, poor steward, and trustee.

He worked for the Sawdye family for some 52 years and in 1951 a portrait of him by the well-known photographer Stuart Black was exhibited at the London salon. A widower, he leaves two daughters.

**31<sup>st</sup> March.** ‘Harry’ Baskerville was buried with his wife in the churchyard of St. Andrew’s Church in Ashburton.

**2<sup>nd</sup> April.** The *New York Herald Tribune* published an obituary entitled ‘*Hound of the Baskervilles – Harry Baskerville Dead; Conan Doyle Used Name*’. This article reads:

Special to the Herald Tribune  
ASHBURTON, England.  
(They were the footprints of a gigantic hound).

‘Harry’ Baskerville, 91, who gave his name to that famous story of terror on the moors, “The Hound of the Baskervilles,” was buried here Saturday.

Mr. Baskerville was a wispy white-haired old man who followed cricket and fancied flowers. While working as a coachman in Devon near the turn of the century, he took Sir [sic] Arthur Conan Doyle on a tour of the moors and was rewarded by having his name immortalized in the Sherlock Holmes story.

### **Received Dedicated Copy**

Mr. Baskerville was working at the time for B. Fletcher Robinson, a friend of Sir [sic] Arthur’s, who lived at Park Hill. Mr. Robinson had told Sir [sic] Arthur about a West Country legend of a family curse and induced him to come from London to absorb atmosphere and write the story.

Mr. Baskerville consented to the use of his name for the luckless family in the tale. When the book was published in 1902, Sir Arthur sent him a dedicated copy, “with apologies for using the name.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Baskerville was said to be very proud of it.

### **Old Man’s Memory**

A few years ago, however, Mr. Baskerville told a London reporter that Mr. Robinson and not Sir Arthur had written the story. Mr. Robinson was in fact a writer, and helped Sir Arthur in the initial stages of the book, but Holmes

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students believe this is as far as it went. They attribute Mr. Baskerville's claim to failing memory and zealous loyalty to an old employer.

Mr. Robinson died several years after the book was published and Sir Arthur died in 1930.

This obituary contains a number of factual errors and contradictions. Firstly, **ACD** was not knighted until after the publication of both the British and American first book editions of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Secondly and more importantly, Baskerville's dedicated copy of the book was given to him by **BFR** and not by **ACD**. Finally it is odd that **BFR** should have inscribed an apology to Baskerville for the use of the name if the latter man had already consented to its usage.

**2<sup>nd</sup> April.** *The New York Times* published an Associated Press release in entitled **BASKERVILLE IS DEAD – Conan Doyle Used His Name for Sherlock Holmes Story**. This article reads:

ASHBURTON, England, April 1 (AP) – ‘Harry’ Baskerville whose name has been a symbol of terror for sixty years because of its association with Sherlock Holmes, was buried here yesterday.

His name was used by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his Sherlock Holmes mystery “The Hound of the Baskervilles.”

‘Harry’ Baskerville was 91 when he died – a man devoted to cricket and the Devon moors. But the Conan Doyle book told the story of a family named Baskerville that lived under a legendary curse.

Mr. Baskerville was a coachman to a friend of Conan Doyle and frequently drove his employer and Sir Arthur around the moors while the author gathered atmosphere for his novels.

Mrs. Margaret Sawdye, the wife of ‘Harry’s’ last employer, said:

“‘Harry’ often talked about it. Apparently Sir Arthur asked him if he could use ‘Harry’’s name. ‘Harry’ was delighted and agreed. When the book was published in 1902 Sir Arthur sent ‘Harry’ a copy dedicated to him and signed ‘with apologies for using the name.’”

Once again this obituary predates **ACD**’s knighthood and reveals that ‘Harry’ was either confused or deliberately misleading about the true origin of his dedicated copy of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. His copy of the book was signed by **BFR** and not by **ACD**. Interestingly, ‘Harry’ appeared to be clear on this point some years earlier when he wrote to the editor of the Western Morning News (see **9<sup>th</sup> February 1949**).

**April.** Peter A. Ruber had a short article entitled **BASKERVILLE OF HOUND IS DEAD** published in *The Baker Street Gasogene* (Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 6-7). In this article, Ruber misquotes from the report published in the New York Times on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1962. He concluded this article with the following statement:

...It may be recalled that in the second issue of the *Gasogene* I wrote a long and feeble account of Fletcher Robinson's influence on the *Hound* story, and how I went about to refute certain statements made by 'Harry' Baskerville in the *South Devon Journal*, in 1951. It comes to mind that I felt 'Harry' Baskerville had perpetrated a hoax on us with certain details he supplied on Robinson. I hesitate to change my mind at this point, but I cannot do more than state that I did make too much capital of certain inaccuracies. Unwittingly, I reproached an old memory that time may have dulled, and perhaps this was not quite fair. How true it is that death changes even the living: it makes us appreciate so many things which we have taken so lightly in the past. It is a lesson to the living, a lesson that cannot be taught but through experience; and often experience is the harshest teacher of them all.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May.** Henry 'Harry' Mathews Baskerville's estate was proved at £1,495 4s 0d net. He bequeathed his house (Dorncliffe) in equal share to his two daughters, Myrtle Alberta Mann (widow) and Eunice Freda Wellington. Baskerville bequeathed the contents of his house solely to Myrtle.

## 1965

Frederick Allen Robinson (son of **BFR**'s cousin, Richard Robinson) died aged 79 years (see **1921**).

## 1967

Arthur Robinson (son of Richard Robinson – **BFR**'s cousin) died aged 82 years. His grandson, Mr. Anthony Graeme de Bracy Marrs, was appointed to the board of directors at MKR (he is the present chairman) [see **1921**].

## 1969

**24<sup>th</sup> October.** Edith Wheeler had an article entitled '*Rescuer*' of *Sherlock Holmes*, published in *The Western Morning News*. This article centred upon the relationships between **BFR**, **ACD** and Henry Baskerville before, during and after publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902). Wheeler argued that **BFR** incidentally facilitated the revival of Sherlock Holmes by providing **ACD** with the inspiration for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Her article is full of misinformation and inaccuracy but it is reprinted here in full because it demonstrates many of the popular misconceptions surrounding the nature of the literary collaboration between **ACD** and **BFR**. Given that 'Harry' Baskerville had died just seven years previously and was well known and respected within the village of Ipplepen, it seems reasonable to conjecture that he is the ultimate source of many of the incorrect statements made within this article. Furthermore it is interesting to note the Wheeler refers to an inscription on Harry's grave which is different to the one which exists today. Celia Bourne, Henry Baskerville's step granddaughter, reported that she has no knowledge of either when or why the original headstone might have been replaced. The following article should be read critically:

B. FLETCHER ROBINSON may almost be said to have restored Sherlock Holmes to life after everybody, including his creator, had believed him to be well and truly dead. Yet in all the biographies and miscellaneous literature which I have read about Conan Doyle, little has been made about the sensational rescue of his great detective, and the man responsible for it. However, I managed to learn a great deal about him in his native village of Ipplepen which is not far from Newton Abbot. The Rector of the parish showed me the beautiful stained glass window dedicated to him in the chancel of the church where he served for 20 years as church-warden.

I was also shown the very impressive Park Hill House, where he had lived and often entertained his friend Conan Doyle.

### **'VANITY FAIR'**

The Robinsons, it appeared, were very generous and at Christmas used to give a handsome present to every family in the village. This was during the time of their prosperity, when they had a large staff of servants, including two coachmen, the junior one being a popular young fellow called 'Harry' Baskerville.

Bobby Robinson, as the villagers all called him (nobody knew his baptismal name), early decided upon a literary career and eventually became editor of the ill-fated periodical "Vanity Fair," on which he squandered the family fortunes.

Later he became keen on Egyptology and took part in the excavations of the tomb of Tutankhamen and suffered the same fate as most of those who dared to defy the curse laid upon the King's resting place, for within a year after his return home he was dead.

It was during his literary career that Robinson became friendly with Conan Doyle, at a time when the latter was one of the most popular writers in the world, owing to his creation of the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes.

### **FINISHED OFF**

I know of no other fictitious character who has become such a living personality, and who even today has two clubs in his honour – the Sherlock Holmes Society in London and the Baker Street Irregulars in America. Yet after only about a dozen of his Sherlock Holmes stories had appeared in the "Strand" magazine, Conan Doyle had become thoroughly sick of his creation and had decided to get rid of him and devote himself to the kind of literature he considered worthy of him – the historical novel, such as his "Micah Clark" and "The White Company."

It was while he was in Switzerland with his wife in 1893 that he thought he had finally finished Sherlock Holmes off by plunging him to his death

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down the Reichenbach Falls, the victim of the villainous Professor Moriarty by whom he had been outwitted at last.

The author thought that by this means he would have put an end to the irritating correspondence of all those credulous people who, confusing him with his detective, wrote begging him to solve their various problems.

### **DARTMOOR TALES**

Conan Doyle was not present in London when the news broke of the popular idol's death, so he did not see a number of young city men going to work with crepe bands round their hats in mourning for their hero, nor did he know of the thousands of angry letters which poured into the "Strand" office demanding the resurrection of the detective.

However, when he returned to England he was unmoved by the popular indignation and was determined that Holmes should remain dead. "He is at the foot of the Reichenbach Falls," he said firmly, "and there he shall stay. I would not revive him if I could, for I have had such an overdose of him that I feel towards him as I do towards the pate de fois gras of which I once ate too much so that the thought of it gives me a sick feeling to this day."

Then, in 1901, he happened to spend a golfing holiday in Cromer with his friend Robinson, who enlivened a wet evening by telling him some of the weird legends of Dartmoor and in particular of a great black hound, breathing hell-fire from its mouth, which was said to haunt the Moor and terrify the inhabitants.

This legend caught Doyle's imagination. He had never been to Devon and when his friend invited him to come and promised to show him some him some of the wonders of the county, he accepted this the first of many invitations. I was told in the village how the two friends might be seen setting forth in caps and knickerbockers suits for long tramps across the Moor or being driven in a governess- cart by young 'Harry' Baskerville.

So Conan Doyle was introduced to Devon's lovely lanes with their high banks on either side dripping with moss and and harts' tongue ferns, and 'The Long', gloomy curves of the moors broken by ragged, sinister tors and the circular huts of Neolithic man at Grimsound; the treacherous Dartmoor bogs where a false step might mean death to man or beast, and that dark blot on Dartmoor, the grim, black walls of Princetown Prison.

### **FINDING A NAME**

All these were woven into a wonderful story of which Sherlock Holmes (although lying dead in Switzerland) was the hero. Then came the question of a title, a matter on which the author was very particular (He is said to have rung the changes on such names as Sherrington Holmes and

Sherrington Hope before he evolved the one which was just right – Sherlock Holmes).

So the two dwelt long on a title for the Dartmoor story, and finally decided to borrow the name of Bobbys' coachman and call it "The Hound of the Baskervilles." By no other name one feels, could it sound so sinister. It appeared in the "Strand" as a continuing story from August, 1901, to April, 1902, and was considered, as its author put it "Sherlock Holmes at his best." When later it was published in book form the debt owed to Bobby Robinson was acknowledged in the preface which reads:

"My dear Robinson. It was in your account of a westcountry legend that this tale owes its existence. For this and your help in the detail many thanks."

### **'THE LAST BOW'**

Sherlock Holmes, having thus been resuscitated, his creator relented towards him and there followed a long series series about him in the "Strand," ending finally with a tale appropriately called "The Last Bow." So highly were these stories valued that the author was paid at the rate of 10s. a word.

It was Robinson, too, who implanted in Doyle that love of Devon which is apparent not only in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" but in his less known work "Silver Blaze." Indeed, some of his descriptions of the Devon countryside are almost worthy of the pen of his friend Eden Philpotts.

When Conan Doyle was staying at Park Hill Robinson thought it was his duty as church-warden to escort him away to the parish church. I was told in the village that this was looked upon with disapproval by some of the parishioners, who knew him at that time to be a leading spiritualist.

### **OUTLIVED MASTER**

'Harry' Baskerville outlived his master and the man to whom he had lent his name by many years, as I discovered, when after some difficulty I found his grave in Ashburton churchyard. It bore the inscription.

**HENRY MATTHEW [sic] BASKERVILLE  
Who died March 28<sup>th</sup> 1953 [sic]  
Aged 91 years**

From all accounts he was a most genial, lovable man, extremely talkative and very proud of his connection with the great Conan Doyle, who had given him a proof copy of the book called after him.

## *The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson*

When the Robinsons could no longer afford to employ a coachman ‘Harry’ had become an assistant to Mr. Webber, who has a large market garden at Ipplepen, and who told me that under him he became a most skilled gardener, and that almost to the time of his death he was invited to judge the exhibits at the annual village show.

I am sorry that I missed the seeing ‘Harry’, for he might have cleared up some of the problems about which so much ink has been spilt on the identity of the places in the Dartmoor novel. There seems to be little doubt that “Grimpen Mire” was Fox Tor Mire, which has the reputation of being the most dangerous bog on the Moor, and I believe that one of the arguments against a reservoir in the vicinity is that it might engulf Conan Doyle’s famous mire.

### **HUMBLE ABODE**

But I know at least six places which claim to be Baskerville Hall, and possibly ‘Harry’ might have enlightened me as to which was the title one or whether, as I am inclined to believe, it was a creation of the author’s imagination.

Today arrangements are being made for putting up a commemorative plaque in the village of Ipplepen, but rather to my surprise it is to be placed not on Park Hill House, the residence of Bobby Robinson and his famous friend, but on the much humbler abode in Wesley Terrace of the man who gave his name in what must rank as the finest of all the Sherlock Holmes stories.

## **1970**

Adrian Conan Doyle (ACD’s youngest son) died aged 59 years. His ashes were buried at his home, the Chateau de Lucens, near Geneva, in Switzerland (see early **1955**, **16<sup>th</sup> March 1959** and **April 1961**).

## **1973**

Eric Robinson (son of Richard Robinson - **BFR**’s cousin) died aged 73 years (see **1921**).

**July.** **BFR**’s short story originally entitled *The Vanished Millionaire* was republished for a second time under the slightly revised title of *The Vanished Billionaire* (see **December 1904** and **February 1905**). On this occasion the story appeared in the *Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine* (Vol. 30, No. 2). This periodical was published between September 1956 and August 1985 and ran to 337 issues in total.

## **1975**

**July.** **BFR**’s name appeared in *Queen’s Quorum* in the *Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine* in August 1949. In July 1975, a short story by Barry Perowne appeared in that magazine,

entitled *Raffles on the Trail of the Hound*. This was a Raffles pastiche, which cleverly twisted the content of the Baskerville case with the background to the inception of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. **BFR** is referred to several times by name in this story.

## 1978

**1<sup>st</sup> May.** Sylvia Nora Townsend Warner died aged 84 years in Dorset. She was the daughter of George Townsend Warner (**BFR**'s History Examiner at Jesus College in 1893) and the granddaughter of The Rev. George Townsend Warner (**BFR**'s Headmaster at 'Newton College' between 1882 and 1890). She is best remembered for writing *The Corner That Held Them* (1948). Her ashes were deposited together with those of the poet Valentine Ackland at St. Nicholas Church at Chaldon Herring in Dorset (see **Summer Term 1884, 6<sup>th</sup> December 1893** and **1916**).

## 1983

Walter Klinefelter had a book entitled *Origins of Sherlock Holmes* published by Gaslight Publications of Bloomington, Indiana. In this book, Klinefelter slightly revised an earlier statement which he made about the source of the legend in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see **1983**):

The two men [**ACD** and **BFR**] had met and formed a lasting friendship while returning in 1900 on the steamship *Briton* from service in the Boer War...And so far as is known, this was the first time the legend had come to Doyle's attention.

## 1992

**19<sup>th</sup> June/21<sup>st</sup> June.** Richard Lancelyn Green (10<sup>th</sup> July 1953 – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2004) had an article entitled *Bertram Fletcher Robinson: An Old and Valued Friend – The Adventure of Two Collaborators* published in *The Handbook of the Dartmoor Expedition of the Sherlock Holmes Society* (London). Lancelyn Green was a British scholar of Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. He was widely held to be the world's foremost expert within both of these fields and he became the Chairman of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (1996-1999). Lancelyn Green's article quoted extensively from an article written by H. J. W. Dam (see **26<sup>th</sup> November 1905**). He incorrectly stated the year of **BFR**'s birth, the precise nature of his involvement with *The Granta*, the subject of his primary studies at Cambridge, the date of his trip to Cromer with **ACD** and his age at death.

## 1993

**Autumn.** William S. Cramer had an article entitled *The Enigmatic B. Fletcher Robinson and the Writing of The Hound of the Baskervilles* published in *The Armchair Detective* (Vol. 26, No. 4, pp. 72-76). This periodical was founded in the autumn of 1967 by the well-known crime fan and bibliographer Allen J. Hubin. Cramer was Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian at Oakland State University in Michigan. This article reported that *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was voted the best book amongst 460 titles in a reader's survey conducted by Michael Seidman and Otto Penzlar (*The Armchair Detective*, Vol. 17, No. 2). Cramer

describes **BFR** as “somewhat of an enigma” and draws the following conclusion about the nature of his contribution to *The Hound of the Baskervilles*:

...So, the last summation to this intriguing literary mystery would seem to be that Doyle was amenable to a collaboration, perhaps even encouraging it, but Robinson for reasons unknown and unknowable rejected this proposal. A very private individual who left no personal record for researchers to delve into, one can only surmise that he wanted to concentrate on his journalistic endeavors and choose not to spend his time and energies writing fiction...

## **1998**

**21<sup>st</sup> January.** Dr. Geraldine Winn Everett died at her home in Elstree, Hertfordshire aged 94 years. Affectionately referred to as ‘Winn’ by family, friends and patients, she was the daughter of Sir Percy Winn Everett (see **23<sup>rd</sup> February 1952**) and **BFR**’s goddaughter. Coincidentally, she died on the 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary of her godfather’s death.

Oxford University Press republished ‘FogBound’ by **BFR** and J. Malcolm Fraser in a compendium of short stories entitled *Twelve Tales of Murder* (edited by Jack Adrian) [see **August 1903**]. Furthermore, the Battered Silicon Dispatch Box republished both *The Trail of the Dead* by **BFR** and J. M. Fraser and *The Chronicles of Addington Peace* by **BFR**, as a single volume.

## **2000**

**6<sup>th</sup> January.** It was announced that Mr. Anthony Graeme de Bracy Marrs (a great-great-great-nephew of **BFR**’s father) was awarded an M.B.E. (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in H.M. Queen Elizabeth II Birthday Honours List ‘for services to export to the Caribbean’ (Civil List).

## **2001**

**10<sup>th</sup> June.** Richard Lancelyn Green had an article entitled *Conan Doyle and His Cricket* published in *The Victorian Cricket Match - The Sherlock Holmes Society of London versus the PG Wodehouse Society* (The Sherlock Holmes Society of London). This article detailed **ACD**’s cricketing achievements and interests and also quoted the letter he sent to his mother from Princeton in 1901 (see **1<sup>st</sup> June 1901**). Lancelyn Green asserted that this letter must have been written on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1901 and not on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1901 as suggested by John Dickson Carr (see **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949**).

**Winter.** Richard Lancelyn Green had an article entitled *The Hound of the Baskervilles, Part One* published in *The Journal of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London* (Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 85-91). This article provided a thorough and critical account of the collaboration between **ACD** and **BFR** on *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and explored in detail many of the influences behind the characters and ideas contained within the story. However, Lancelyn Green incorrectly stated that **BFR** won a Rowing Blue at Cambridge and he also omitted to mention that **BFR** studied law only after completing his first degree in History. He also

incorrectly stated that **ACD** visited the Ashdown Forest Hotel in mid-march of 1901 (see *31<sup>st</sup> March/1<sup>st</sup> April 1901*). Nevertheless, within this article, Lancelyn Green skilfully proved beyond all doubt that **ACD** wrote to his mother from Princetown on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1901. Furthermore, he demonstrated that **ACD** and **BFR** must have visited Cromer together in late April 1901 and not March 1901 as previously assumed because of the incorrect dating of the Princetown letter by John Dickson Carr.

## 2002

**Summer.** Richard Lancelyn Green had an article entitled *The Hound of the Baskervilles, Part Two* published in *The Journal of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London* (Vol. 25, No. 4, pp. 123-128). This article quoted in full **ACD**'s famous Princetown letter. It also provided further biographical details about **BFR** and Henry 'Harry' Mathews Baskerville and gave a chronology of the events preceding and superseding the publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in *The Strand Magazine* (August 1901-April 1902).

**4<sup>th</sup> October.** Rodger Garrick Steele published a book entitled *The House of the Baskervilles* in which he claimed that **ACD** had stolen the idea for *The Hound of the Baskervilles* from **BFR**. He also alleges that **ACD** subsequently committed adultery with **BFR**'s wife and then persuaded her to poison **BFR** in order to avoid being exposed as a plagiarist (Nan-un-do, Tokyo, ISBN4-523-26412-0).

## 2005

**Summer.** Paul Spiring commenced research into the allegations made by Rodger Garrick Steele that **ACD** murdered **BFR** (see *4<sup>th</sup> October 2002*). He also assembled a team of forensic specialists and archaeologists that are proposing to investigate the cause of **BFR**'s death. This Chronology stems from research that was undertaken by Paul Spiring in connection with a petition to exhume **BFR** that was submitted to the Diocese of Exeter. This petition is still under review.

## 2007

**February.** A German company called **BFRonline.BIZ** introduced a tribute website that aims to promote the life and work of **BFR** to the broadest possible audience.

**26<sup>th</sup> February.** Brian Pugh and Paul Spiring signed a contract with the Book Guild in Brighton with respect to their book provisionally entitled *On the Trail of Arthur Conan Doyle: An Illustrated Devon Tour*. This book examines the connections between **ACD** and Devon and is due for release in January 2008.

**March.** The team aiming to exhume **BFR** submit their final affidavits in support of their petition to the Diocese of Exeter.

**END**

***The Life of Bertram Fletcher Robinson***

Good Bye, kind heart; our benisons preceding,  
Shall shield your passing to the other side.

The praise of your friends shall do your pleading  
In love and gratitude and tender pride.

To you gay humorist and polished writer,  
We will not speak of tears or startled pain.

You made our London merrier and brighter,  
God bless you, then, until we meet again!

J P

[An epigraph by Jessie Pope, from an account of **BFR**'s memorial Service published in *The Daily Express* of 20<sup>th</sup> February 1907]

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