

## The story behind a letter written in 1886 by Arthur Wilson of Tranby Croft

This story is the result of a chance find on the Internet of a letter written by Arthur Wilson on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1886 from Tranby Croft. It is the reply to a letter from a lady, who he addresses as Mrs Pound. In her letter (see below), it seems she had requested, on behalf of her sister-in-law, a contribution towards a stall at a bazaar, the proceeds of which would go towards the building of a new church.

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TELEGRAPH STATION.  
HEBBLE.

TRANBY CROFT,  
HULL.

20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1886.

Dear Mrs Pound.

I am very  
Mr Wilson will be  
very pleased to assist  
your sister in law  
with some contributions  
towards her stall at  
the Bazaar to be  
held for building a  
new Church. Mr Wilson  
is on the Continent,  
but will be home

2

in a few days, when I  
will only be in Hull  
for a few days at the time of the  
Bazaar -

I it gives me very  
great pleasure to hear  
from you, as you say,  
we have not met,  
since I left you at  
the end of my school  
days - but I have very  
pleasant recollections  
of your great kindness  
to me when under

3

your charge and can  
recall you to my  
memory as it were but  
yesterday - I little  
thought when I left  
you that I should  
have had such a  
prosperous life, blessed  
with a good wife &  
good children we had  
four boys but to our  
great sorrow one dear  
little boy aged 13  
was taken away from  
us about 4<sup>th</sup> hour of the  
day - the eldest boy is  
now trying to pass for  
the King the second  
at Eton and the youngest

4

at school they all promise  
very well - I have three  
daughters one married  
and I expect to be a  
grandfather next year  
I should much like to  
have seen you but my  
time is so occupied just  
now - a large number  
to attend to - I wish  
you had been  
Master of the Soldiers  
Horns. With best  
regards - Believe me -  
Yours very truly  
A Wilson

The Duke of Cambridge, attended by General

Arthur Wilson's letter to Mrs Pound

In places, the writing is unclear and the letter was probably written hurriedly. As Arthur Wilson implies, he was a very busy man. However, a transcription of the letter makes its content clearer:

Tranby Croft  
20th February 1886

Dear Mrs Pound

I am sure Mrs Wilson will be very pleased to assist your Sister in Law with some contribution towards her stall at the Bazaar to be held for building a new Church. Mrs Wilson is on the Continent, but will be home in a few days when I will ask her but I fear she will be in London at the time of the Bazaar.

It gives me very great pleasure to hear from you, as you say we have not met, since I left you at the end of my school days – but I have very pleasant recollections of your great kindness to me when under your charge and can recall you at my nursery as it were but yesterday. I little thought when I left you that I should have such a prosperous life, blessed with a good wife & good children. We had four boys but to our great sorrow one dear little boy aged 13 was taken away from us about two months ago<sup>1</sup> – the eldest boy is now trying to pass for the Army the second is at Eton and the youngest at school they all progress very well. I have three daughters one married and I expect to be a grandfather next month<sup>2</sup>. I should much like to have seen you but my time is so occupied just now – a large business to attend to & hunting four days a week being Master of the Holderness Hounds. With best regards. Believe me.

Yours very truly  
A Wilson

Who was Mrs. Pound? Discovering her identity might reveal something about Arthur Wilson's early life as he mentions attending her "nursery". And who was her sister-in-law?

A local search of the 1891 census reveals that there were two Mrs. Pounds living in Hull during that period. However, Mrs. Hannah Pound was aged 57 in 1891 and Mrs Annie Pound was 54. As Arthur Wilson would have been 54 on the date of the census it is unlikely that either of these ladies would have been the one we were looking for. However, it is possible that one (or both) of them could have been the sister-in-law that Arthur Wilson mentions in his letter. There is a hint in the letter that Mrs Pound could have been planning a visit to Hull from elsewhere, as he writes, "I should much like to have seen you", which suggests that she did not live locally and had requested a meeting.

A wider search identified Mrs. Pound in the 1851 census as Charlotte Augusta Pound (née Furley), aged 33, the wife of Rev. William Pound (aged 44) of Sutton Cottage in Norton, near Malton. They were living there with their four children, thirteen 'scholars', amongst whom was Arthur Wilson, aged 14, and five servants. Sutton Cottage seems to have been run by the Pounds as a school, although William's occupation is given as

Part of Family	Other Persons
Charlotte Augusta Pound	William Pound
...	...

1851 Census, Sutton Cottage, Norton

<sup>1</sup> This would have been Thomas Raymond, who died on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1885. The other sons were Arthur Stanley, Edward Kenneth and Clive Harry Adolphus.

<sup>2</sup> Ethel Mary married Sir Edward Lycett Green and their first son, Edward Arthur Lycett, was born 1<sup>st</sup> April 1886. The other daughters referred to were Susannah West "Tottie" and Muriel Thetis.

'clergyman without care of souls'. Neither of the Pounds were local people, William having been born in Middlesex and Charlotte in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Gertrude Attwood's book, *The Wilsons of Tranby Croft*, makes no reference to Arthur's childhood and education. His Wikipedia entry states that he was educated with his brother, Charles Henry, at Kingston College, Beverley Road, Hull, and part of that building remains today as Kingston Youth Centre. It appears that, because of financial difficulties, Kingston College came to an untimely end in 1847. Thus, it is likely that Arthur and his brother were transferred to Sutton Cottage. By 1851, the date of the census, Charles Henry, three years older than Arthur, would have left school and, thus, not be included in the household at Sutton Cottage on the day of the census.



Kingston College, Hull

Arthur's reference to 'Nursery' in the letter is puzzling. If he had gone straight to Sutton Cottage, upon the closure of Kingston College, he would then have been 10 or 11 years old. This would have made him a bit old to have attended what we would call a 'nursery' today, but perhaps in Victorian times the word had a different meaning.

Sutton Cottage was owned by Robert Bower, so presumably, the Pounds were tenants and renting the property. Robert Bower was the occupant in 1867<sup>3</sup>, so by then, the Pounds must have moved and, presumably, the school closed or relocated.

However, the Pounds were still at Sutton Cottage in 1854, when one of their daughters died. On 29<sup>th</sup> July 1854, the following announcement appeared in the York Herald:

On Saturday, the 15th inst, at Sutton Cottage, Norton, near Malton, aged 12 years, Annie Augusta, daughter of the Rev. WILLIAM POUND.

They were still resident at Sutton Cottage in 1861. By this time their two sons, Robert and Alfred, were being educated at Winchester and Eton schools, respectively. Five servants, a Professor of Languages, Robert Milner, and an English Tutor, James Collins, were also recorded along with nineteen 'scholars'.

During the 1860s, the Pounds moved from Norton as, in 1871, Rev. William Pound was headmaster at Appuldurcombe School, near Ventnor, on the Isle of Wight. There were twenty-eight pupils in residence on the date of the census.

In 1881, William and Charlotte Pound were still to be found at Appuldurcombe House. William, aged 74, was described as a 'retired headmaster'. His son, Robert, had taken over as headmaster of the school. William Pound died later that year in the autumn. This would mean that Charlotte would have been a widow, aged 68, at the time she wrote to Arthur Wilson in early 1886.



Sutton Cottage, Welham Road, Norton (2020)

<sup>3</sup> White's Directory. 1867

Who was Charlotte Pound's sister-in-law, mentioned in Arthur Wilson's letter?

William Pound appears to have had only one brother, Matthew (b 1812, d. 1883) whose wife was called Sarah. They appear to have lived in the London area throughout their married life and so it is likely that Sarah can be ruled out as the sister-in-law referred to. Also, the fact that there were no other brothers seems to eliminate Mrs. Hannah Pound and Mrs. Annie Pound, mentioned on page 2. Thus, her sister-in-law must have been the wife of one of Charlotte's brothers of which she had two – Richard Lee Furley (1822-1898) and William Cross Furley (1825-1889).

Richard Lee Furley married Mary Ann Hodgkinson in London in 1848 and, sometime between 1854 and 1855, after living in Lincolnshire and Pontefract, they moved to Hull, where several of their children were born. However, in early 1862, Mary Ann died. Three years later, Richard married Kate Harrison but, in 1873, she also died. Nevertheless, in 1877, Richard married a third time in Portsea, Hampshire, where his new wife was living with her father, Richard Champney, a retired army officer. Richard Lee Furley's third wife was Felicia Rebecca Champney (b. 1832 in Ellerker, East Yorkshire) and, in 1881, the couple were living at Stretton House, Salisbury Street, Hull, in The Avenues area of the city. This is where they would have been living in 1886, at time of Arthur Wilson's letter. The Furley's were at the same address at the time of the 1891 census, when Richard's occupation was given as 'shipowner'. Furley & Co., shipping and forwarding agents, had their business premises at 5 Minerva Terrace, Humber Dock Basin. Richard Lee Furley's son, also called Richard, was involved in his father's business and was resident at 95 Westbourne Avenue, Hull in 1892.<sup>4</sup>

Charlotte Pound's other brother, William Cross Furley, married Hannah Elizabeth Brown in Scarborough and spent his life in various locations in Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. He had health problems and was declared bankrupt in 1862.

It is unlikely that Hannah Furley is the sister-in-law referred to in the letter, and that Felicia Rebecca Furley is the most likely candidate.

One of Felicia's step daughters, Edith Markham Furley<sup>5</sup>, was described as a 'foreign missionary' when staying with her in 1901, by which time Felicia had removed to 200 Park Street, Hull, following her husband's death in 1898. In fact, Edith, who remained single, had worked as a missionary and nurse in Mengo, Uganda with the Church Missionary Society<sup>6</sup>. One of Felicia's brothers, Richard Champney, was an ordained clergyman. These details, coupled with the fact that Charlotte Pound had been married to a clergyman, would suggest a strong connection of these families with the Church and, thus a strong desire to help in the establishment of a new church.

The church in question was St. Augustine's Anglican church on Queen's Road, Hull. A bazaar was held in order to raise money for the building of this church over three days from Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1886. The bazaar took place at the Public Rooms in Hull on Jarratt Street and was opened from the platform by Sir Albert Rollitt. On the platform with Sir Albert, along with other dignitaries, was Robert Lee Furley. In front of the platform there was "a splendid display of choice plants and flowers kindly supplied by Mrs. Arthur Wilson of Tranby Croft."<sup>7</sup> Clearly, Mrs. Wilson had responded with a contribution following Charlotte Pound's request in the letter to her husband.

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<sup>4</sup> Bulmer's History and Directory of East Yorkshire 1892, p892

<sup>5</sup> Edith Markham Furley was awarded an OBE in 1937 for social services in the Uganda Protectorate. She died in Lechlade, Gloucestershire in 1942. The following link provides some interesting information about her life in Uganda: <http://www.thingspostal.org.uk/easc3/images/bea/EdithFurley&Marcus%20Falloon%20%20prf3.pdf>

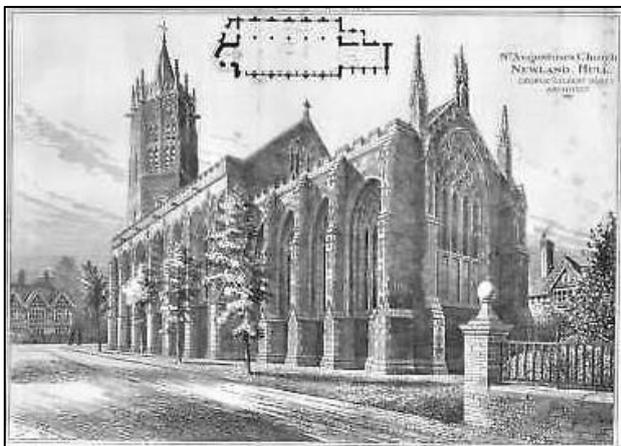
<sup>6</sup> UK Census, 1911 and above webpage

<sup>7</sup> Hull Daily Mail, Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1886, p4 (includes an extensive report on the opening ceremony.)

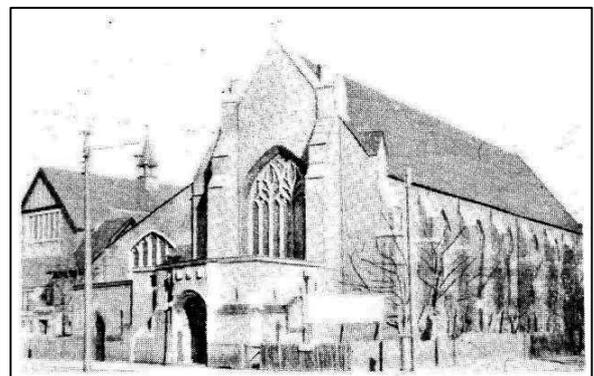
There were many stalls at the bazaar and “the Salisbury Street Stall was run by Mrs Furley, Mrs Spyvee Cooper, Mrs Garbett, the Misses Cooper, and friends.”<sup>8</sup> In addition to stalls, there was a dramatic presentation of the fairy tale Cinderella by “children who been admirably trained by Mrs Isaac Newton, [which] afforded immense satisfaction to all who witnessed it”. There was also an orchestra (The Spring Bank Orphanage Band) which presented “a most attractive appearance”.<sup>9</sup>

An item in the Hull Daily Mail the following day reported that, “in the evening, despite the weather, there was a fairly good muster, and a brisk business was done”. The weather continued to be unkind and, indeed, “the rain continued most unmercifully for the three days of the bazaar”.<sup>10</sup> On the third day, “almost contrary to the most sanguine expectations, the Public Hall was crowded and a very satisfactory business was effected”.<sup>11</sup>

The church of St. Augustine of Hippo was consecrated in 1896. A temporary church had been in existence on the site from 1884. The original plans for the permanent building were drawn up in 1887 by George Gilbert Scott, junior, but the work was eventually carried out by his assistant, Temple Moore, who produced a new, less elaborate and, no doubt, less costly design. At the time of the bazaar, the Hull Daily Mail reported that “the site which had been selected for the church under the advice of Mr. G. Gilbert Scott FSA, architect, is a particularly fine one, being at the corner of Queen’s Road and Prince’s Road and facing directly down Princess [sic] Avenue from which the tower and west end of the church, when completed, will present a most imposing appearance”.<sup>12</sup> The proposed tower was never completed perhaps because of lack of funds. The church building survived for around eighty years but closed during the 1970s. Following closure, the church was demolished in 1976.<sup>13</sup> The Parish Hall still survives on Prince’s Road.



St. Augustine’s Church, Queen’s Road  
view of proposed building by G.G. Scott, 1887



St. Augustine’s Church, Queen’s Road, c.1960,  
Parish Hall on left.



St. Augustine’s Parish Hall,  
Prince’s Road, Hull, 2018

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Hull Daily Mail, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1887

<sup>12</sup> Hull Daily Mail, Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1886

<sup>13</sup> Lost Churches and Chapels of Hull, David Neave, Hutton Press, Beverley, 1991, page 50

Did Charlotte Pound travel from the Isle of Wight to visit Felicia in 1886, hoping also to meet her former protégé, Arthur Wilson, and was she present at the bazaar? So far, these are questions that we have not been able to answer and, perhaps, we never shall.

Charlotte Pound died in early 1891 in Wroxall, Isle of Wight. Her death was reported in the *Isle of Wight County Press and South of England Reporter* on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1891:

**Pound** — Jan. 27, at Park View, Wroxall, IOW, **Charlotte** Augusta, widow of the late Rev. Wm. **Pound**, of Appuldurcombe, and formerly of Malton, Yorkshire, aged 73.

Felicia Furley died in Hull on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1917, aged 84, of “senile decay”<sup>14</sup> and was buried in Hull General Cemetery. No headstone survives but the cemetery record of her burial can be seen below:

No. of Burials.	Where Buried. No. of Grave and Compartment.	Date of Death.	When, Where and by Whom Registered.	Date of Burial.	Christian and Surname of Deceased.	Age		Description.	Sex.	Residence.	Cause of Death.
						Years	Months				
44601	16079	16 <sup>th</sup> September 1917	September 17 <sup>th</sup> 1917 Hull, Yorkshire C. Appuldurcombe	1917	Felicia Furley	84		Widow		Small 200 Park Avenue	Senile Decay

We should be grateful to Charlotte Pound and those after her for preserving Arthur Wilson’s letter for posterity. Without it, this interesting piece of history would not have been discovered.

Francis Davies  
1 February 2021

### **Acknowledgements**

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*Dennis Chapman for bringing the existence of Arthur Wilson’s letter to light and for his contribution towards revealing the identities of Charlotte Pound and Felicia Furley.*

*Bill Longbone who provided the burial record for Felicia Furley at Hull General Cemetery.*

*Gordon Stephenson for providing a copy of page 4 of the Hull Daily Mail published on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1886, and whose interest in the history of Tranby Croft was the catalyst for the completion of the research into Arthur Wilson’s letter.*

<sup>14</sup> The term ‘senile decay’ suggests that the Felicia Furley had been suffering from diminished mental capacity due to old age.