



HALLOW HISTORY ARCHIVES

CHRISTMAS PAST – Hallow and the surrounding area from 19th century newspapers.

Berrows Worcester Journal – Thursday 26th December 1833

“We wish you merry Christmas all,
With pleasure in its train;
And when another year comes round
Perchance we'll meet again.”

Worcestershire Chronicle - Wednesday 23rd December 1846

“The Weather – The three weeks’ frost broke up suddenly on the night of Friday last, and the weather of the following morning presented one of those contrasts which are frequently experienced in these islands, being dark, dank, and dirty, in which state it has continued, with but little intermission, till today. A correspondent of the Times, writing from Worcester says – “It is now fourteen years since we had the river frozen over so as to permit of skating; and on the last occasion a sheep was roasted whole on the river to commemorate the event . . .”



Worcestershire Chronicle - Wednesday 20th December 1848

“Fresh sprats were cried in this city on Saturday last at 4lbs for a penny. The cheapening of this and many other articles of food we owe to the increased railway communication.”

(An early 20th century postcard of Shaplands Herring Curer & Game Dealer established at 19 Sidbury in 1850)

Worcestershire Chronicle - Wednesday 25th December 1850

“Christmas Market - We have seldom, if ever, observed our Christmas market abounding in a better or more profitable display of good cheer than was exhibited on Saturday last. In the beef department was a perfect realisation of “roast and boiled”, most happily divested of those sickening superfluities of fat which custom and foolish feeding have been wont to produce. The dripping pan and the chandlers’ scale were, however tolerably well provided for in the exhibition and sale of some of the bulky and remarkably fine mutton;” “The poultry market was well stocked, though the quantity rather inferior to last year. A fine turkey, weighing 22lbs, realised 17s, and a noble goose, bringing down 16lbs, sold for 10s”. *Some of the*

other prices were – “meat (prime joints) 6d per lb, turkeys, 5s to 14s, ducks 3s 6d to 5s per couple; fowls 3s to 4s 6d per couple; suckling pigs, 5s to 6s each”.

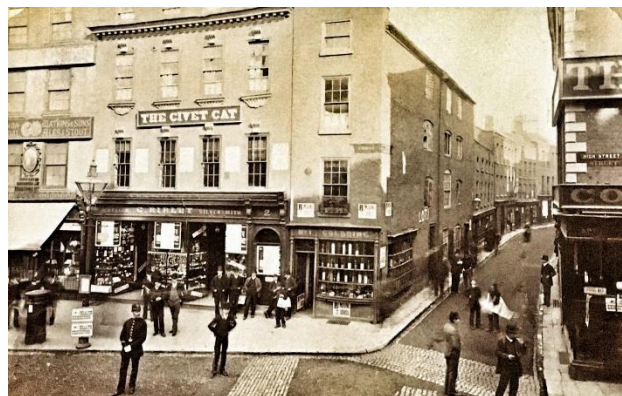
Berrows Worcester Journal– Saturday 8th January 1859

Christmas Festivities at Grimley, Hallow and Broadheath in 1858

“At the new schools at Grimley and at those of Hallow and Broadheath, Christmas trees have this year been exhibited. In spite of bad weather, a good many respectable inhabitants and parents with their children were present. After some carols, which had been prepared for the occasion, had been sung, the presents from the trees were distributed among the children by the ladies of the parish. . . At the close of the proceedings, the national anthem was sung by the children, and hearty cheers were given for the kind friends who had given the presents.”

Berrows Worcester Journal - Saturday 29th December 1855

Christmas presents at M A Birley's, The Civet Cat, 2 The Cross (*pre 1902 postcard of The Civet Cat. Now the site of NatWest Bank*) Presents included decorations for Christmas Trees and several games we know today - Backgammon, Draughts and Chess. Also "Race and Steeple Chase Games, Dissected maps (an early form of the Jigsaw puzzle) and Pope Joan Boards" (a cards and counters game)



Worcestershire Chronicle – Saturday 2nd January 1886

“Hallow Congregational Chapel – On Monday December 28th, the children of the Sunday School connected with Hallow Congregational Chapel were provided by the teachers and friends with a good tea, after which the children were presented with a variety of useful presents, also a bountiful supply of oranges, sweets &c. In the evening there was a public tea, notwithstanding the heavy downpour of rain, there was a very large attendance. After tea there was an entertainment. The programme included singing recitations, and readings by scholars and friends. At about 9.30 a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by singing and prayers.”

Berrows Worcester Journal – Saturday 24th December 1892

Grimley - Bequest of the late Miss Garmstone

“Benefactions – During the last week 92 families in this parish have each, through the bequest of the last Miss Garmstone, of Sinton Green, received 7 cwt. of coal, which, through the kindness of the employers, was delivered at the cottages free of expense. On St Thomas's Day the gifts of bread, flannel, and money were distributed, as usual by the Vicar and churchwardens.”

Worcestershire Chronicle – Saturday 15th December 1894

Toys – Mr Hutchinson's Bazaar in Foregate Street where could be found “a large model tiger, a brown bear, a cow – all mechanical toys; and especially ingenious is the swimming frog, which swims in a glass globe by means of a pneumatic arrangement, Japanese dolls, and other dolls of all sizes and prices . . . a funny toy called a bull-fighter, also a walking parrot, a galloping donkey &c. . . . The Christmas cards are very pretty and the black and white ones especially well-executed.”

Berrows Worcester Journal – Saturday 28th December 1894

“The Christmas season is essentially a “stay-at-home” holiday, and there are few outdoor attractions. There were large congregations at all the services at the Cathedral and at the various churches and chapels in the city, during the day. There was a good attendance at the Cathedral at the evening service, when a portion of the “Messiah” was performed. On Bank Holiday only a few persons left the city on excursions, and these were principally to Malvern in the afternoon. The early afternoon trains into the city were filled with an eager crowd from the country to witness the football match in the New Road, at which there was a good gate. In the evening there was a crowded audience at the Theatre at the opening performance of the pantomime, and the audience was of the usual good-humoured Bank Holiday character. The Bijou Minstrels received a good share of attention at their performance in the Public Hall.”

Jacquie Hartwright – Hallow History Group

Postcards from my Worcester collection

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