

The Tucker Family



The population of Hamworthy increased following the construction of the first bridge between Hamworthy and Poole in 1837 and the coming of the railway in 1847, when Poole Station was in Lower Hamworthy.

Thomas and Anna Tucker came to Hamworthy in about 1850. They rented a cottage in Halter Path, later called School Lane, then Tuckers Lane. The couple had seven children.

The youngest son, Moses, became a well-known character running the family's smallholding in Tuckers Lane. He married Sarah Matilda Witherington in 1881 and they had five children.

The daughter, Louisa was a teacher at the adjacent Hamworthy School until her marriage in 1920. She remained in Hamworthy all her life.

Apart from a short spell in the army in WW1, the son, George Moses, spent his entire life working the family smallholding and assisting with the green grocery / milk round before taking over completely. In 1924 George married Sarah Ivey, but they had no children.

With many thanks to Ann Smeaton for the text and photos



George kept a horse called Toby on the smallholding which was much loved by the pupils at the adjacent school. At the end of the day selected children were allowed to feed Toby apples and bread.



It is said that the Tucker's cottage was built by a retired sea captain, using timbers from his last ship. Another story tells that the captain buried money in the orchard. The Tucker family searched and found a hole under a tree but no treasure. Could it still be here?

In 1935 the family cottage was put up for auction by the Canford Estate. George jumped at the chance of buying his former home despite its condition. The bidding was keen, but there was no stopping George, whose winning bid was the very inflated sum of £610. Unfortunately, the cottage was later deemed unsafe, beyond repair and was demolished.

George continued the smallholding until the Education Authority acquired it as the sports field for Hamworthy County Primary School. The school closed in 2004 and the sports field is now being restored and renamed Tucker's Field.