



The famous W.G. Grace  
batting in 1883

## News from the St. Tudy History

## Group Research Team ...

I have been investigating our first ever Schoolmaster of St. Tudy School. I first came across him on our own History Group website when I was reading Joy's information on St. Tudy School. Well, for some reason, I just had to investigate – you just get a "feeling" when researching sometimes. It has been hard to condense the life of this sometimes tragic, rather complex and talented man called Charles Manning Jaggard.

He was born in June 1856 in Balsham, Cambridgeshire, and his parents were Balsham Village Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress. Charles must have been quite brilliant, as he was a teacher at Balsham School in 1871, at 15 years of age. By 1880 he had married Amelia Edwards, and he was now 24, and the Schoolmaster at Balsham School. The following year, Charles and Amelia had moved to Colerne, and Charles was a very successful bowler and batsman with Bath Cricket Club – but we will come back to this later. He and Amelia had two children. Unfortunately, his Wife and both young children all died within a short time period between 1883 and 1884 at Colerne. By 1886 Charles had moved away and was employed as a Navy Schoolmaster. I am not sure how he got to St. Tudy, but Charles started as our first Headmaster in October 1900, and I can picture him playing cricket on the old green in front of the school with the pupils. It looks like he was only our Headmaster for a short time, but did find a new Wife in St. Tudy. He married Fanny Hocken, in Marylebone, London, in late October 1901. This relationship didn't seem to last, although there was a daughter born in 1903, Fanny and her daughter Eliza returned back to Cornwall without Charles, sadly Fanny died young in 1911.

Charles then seems to have been admitted to various workhouses in the London area with health problems like Jaundice between 1908 and 1915 – there was no National Health then, he also worked for the workhouse board on a casual basis for short periods of time.

It was in 1916 when life seems to finally change for the better for Charles, as he acquires the position of Headmaster at St. Michael's School, Kent, and re-marries Susan Berry. They seem to have made a good couple, as his new Wife was also the School's Matron on occasions, and was described as a "buxom lady and equally authoritative and purposeful as her husband". She was fierce and bossy! Charles was much loved by his pupils, and in the school's biography of him, they fondly remembered him as "Jaggy". One pupil said that he remembers Charles always smelt of whisky, tobacco and leather! Charles would walk several miles to and from the school every day no matter what the weather and presided over sports days wearing striped trousers and a trilby hat! Sadly, his pupils never knew he had tragically lost his two young children and his first wife, and had another child, Eliza, by a marriage that didn't seem to work. Charles also left diaries of his every day working life at the school, and retired from St. Michael's in 1932 after 16 years of excellent service. Everyone who met Charles spoke of him with great affection. It was also rumoured that he had bowled out the famous W.G. Grace.

I am now in communication with St. Michael's, and Balsham, who are sharing our information in their records and parish magazine, and I am hoping to find current day descendants of Charles's only child that survived – Eliza. We also now have photos of him in his trilby hat. Oh, back to the cricket – Charles was a very talented batsman and a formidable bowler. Thanks to the newspapers of the time, I am now able to confirm to St. Michael's and Balsham, that their, and our, former Headmaster did in fact, in 1883, bowl the famous W.G. Grace out for 99. **Howzat!** PAM FREE