



Brading Community Archive Group



During this first year of our HLF Project our volunteers have spent many hours scanning and transcribing the Town Books which contain a wealth of information about former residents of Brading and their lives. We have uncovered information about many families who have lived in the town for generations and some individuals who have made significant contributions to our rich heritage.

In this insert we are highlighting a few of the past residents of Brading who have been particularly interesting or memorable. This first group have been chosen to represent different eras and different spheres of influence. There are so many from whom to choose and we'd welcome suggestions any information or photographs about others who could feature in future articles.

From the Town Book we have noted that the following people had trades or shops in Brading in 1840. It is interesting to note that there were five shoemakers, four tailors and five carpenters. Robert Loe the watchmaker, (maker of the clock pictured here which is in the IW Record Office), also ran the Post Office from his premises from 1850 until c1910.



George Stone	Mercer	Joseph Walker	Glazier
Jane Chiddey	Shopkeeper	Mary Ann Wilburn	Victualler
Richard Alford	Tailor	Sarah Day	Victualler
Robert Willis	Blacksmith	Henry Humphry	Victualler
Robert Barnes	Mason	Benjamin Jolliffe	Mason
John Williams	Carpenter	Joseph Burt	Tailor
John Deboyne	Carpenter	James White	Shoemaker
William Riddick	Grocer and Baker	John Yelf	Shoemaker
Francis Cooper	Butcher	John Burt	Tailor
William Warder	Broker and Shoemaker	Robert Saunders	Butcher
John Cripps	Chairmaker	James Walker	Carpenter etc
John Midlane	Smith and Ironmonger etc	George Kemp	Carpenter
William Duke	Baker	James Cordey	Grocer and Shoemaker
James Hayden	Carpenter	Cornelius Blyth	Tailor
James Jacobs	Shoemaker	John Kemp	Glazier etc
Robert Loe	Watchmaker	Luke Langley	Grocer and Baker etc
William White	Mason		



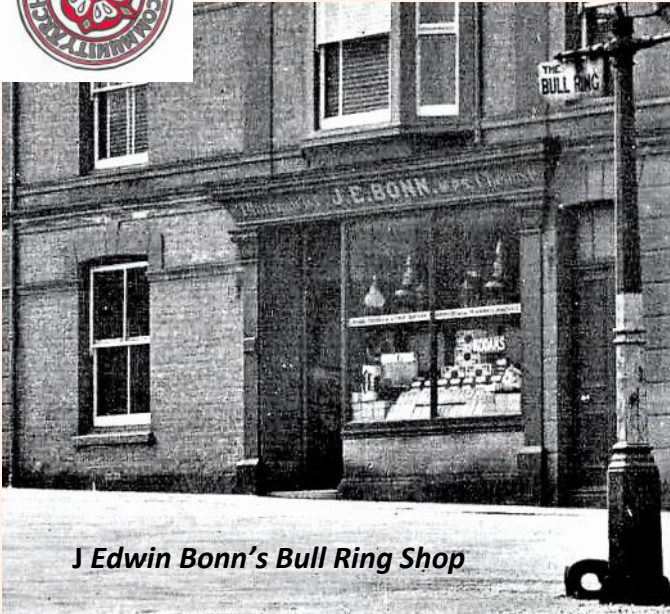
One renowned Brading resident was **Legh Richmond**, who was ordained deacon of Brading in 1797. He wrote the "Annals of the Poor" detailing the story of "Little Jane" of Brading, which became a best seller and was translated into other languages and widely circulated in America.

Another was **Mary Toms** (1795-1850) a preacher who was instrumental in bringing the Bible Christian Church to the Island and settled in Brading with her husband **William Warder** (1793-1866) a shoemaker. Their legacies are well known beyond Brading and their story is detailed on our website www.bradingcommunityarchive.com





John Edwin James Bunn (Bonn) 1861-1927



J Edwin Bonn's Bull Ring Shop

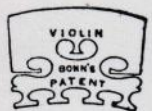
John Edwin Bunn was born in Fermoy, Ireland in 1861. He was brought up in Dorset, but in the 1881 Census he is listed as living at 36 High Street, Brading and being employed as a 20 year old Chemist's Assistant. Steven's Directory (1883-4) lists Smith & Bunn, High St, as photographers, picture frame makers and stationers. Pharmaceutical Society records show that Bunn was registered as a 'Chemist and Druggist' in 1887 and that in 1889 he changed his name to Bonn. In 1890 he married Mary Elizabeth Warder (granddaughter of William Warder and Mary Toms) and they lived the rest of their lives in Brading, where he established his own Chemist's business at the Bull Ring, which he ran for more than thirty years.

Mr Bonn was a Fellow of the College of Violinists and an Associate of Trinity College London. With an assistant, he made 150 violins, numbered on the labels. They were apparently well made, showing detailed workmanship and finished with an amber coloured varnish. Bonn also made bows, invented a popular four-footed bridge and also internationally selling 'Premier' strings, which were unaffected by the heat of hands (see advert) as well as violin varnish cleaner. He also wrote a booklet on violin strings etc.



Brading Orchestral Society 1906 of which Mr Bonn was an enthusiastic conductor for many years

BONN'S PATENT BRIDGE



SEÑOR SARASATE says: "I find it a decided improvement on the old two footed Bridge."
HERR DAVID POPPER says: "It possesses all the advantages you claim for it."
MONS. JOHANNES WOLFF says: "While it greatly improves the inner strings, the outer strings are more clear."



All Violinists know that with the old two footed Bridge the two inner Strings are never so powerful and brilliant as the two outer ones, —in fact, they are very much weaker. This is because the outer Strings have a direct bearing on the belly of the Instrument, whereas the inner ones have not.

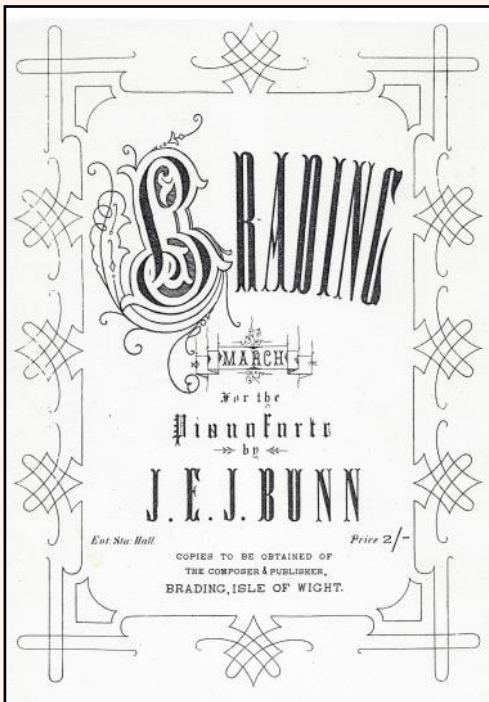
BONN'S NEW BRIDGE WITH FOUR FEET renders each String perfect. Clear ringing tone, clearer *pizzicato* notes, notes in high positions more mellow, greater carrying power, and above all every String equal in power and brilliancy. Prospectus free SAMPLE VIOLIN BRIDGE 1s. 1d.

TECHNICAL NOTES on the choice and keeping of VIOLIN STRINGS. By J. EDWIN BONN, M.S.O.L. M.S.A. Seven stamps. Every Violinist should read it.

BONN'S "PREMIER" STRINGS, FOR VIOLIN, VIOLA, 'CELLO, BASS, &c.

The production of the Premier Strings is the result of a series of chemical experiments conducted by J. Edwin Bonn, M.S.O.L. F.C.V. L.Mus. In their preparation they are subjected to chemical treatment which renders them comparatively unaffected by moisture and heat of the hand, at the same time giving them a more brilliant volume of tone, greater durability, and such strength that the "E" will bear pulling up to "A," thus standing a greater strain than any other string ever produced. Each is subjected to a test before leaving the hands of the inventor. Prospectus and Price List Post Free. Sample packets 1s. 1d., 1s. 7d., 2s., 2s. 6d., or 5s. post free.

J. EDWIN BONN, 26, High St., Brading, Isle of Wight.



*Brading Mall Board School photographed by J E Bonn early in the 20th century.
(Photo courtesy of Paul Sheath)*

As well as contributing to the thriving musical community in Brading both by performing and composing the 'Brading March', Mr Bonn established himself as a professional photographer, often recording local groups and events. He served on the Town Trust, was treasurer of the Conservative Club and was honorary secretary for many years and one time Captain of Brading Rifle Club. He was reportedly the first person to own a car in Brading.



1905 Motor Bus photographed by J E Bonn

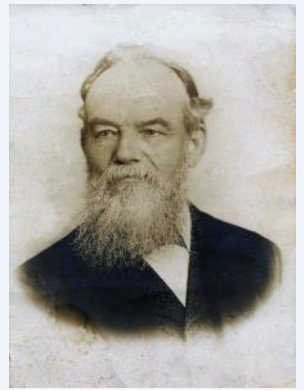


Bonn died whilst staying in Brighton on 2nd January 1927. He left an inheritance of £4821 6s 5d to his widow and was buried in Brading Churchyard. When he died, the gate outside his shop was fixed closed. His obituary spoke of 'sincere regret throughout the old township' at his death and described him as 'a man of unflinching kindness with an invariable charm of manner which won for him general esteem.'



Samuel Bulley 1834-1918

Samuel Bulley came to Brading aged 20 when he was appointed as the master at the British school on the Mall in 1854. The school had been built in 1846 because the pastor of the Congregational Chapel thought that "every child should be educated to be better prepared to fight the battle of life." Schools were few and far between and the local people were poor at that time, so he wanted to establish a school on the broad, unsectarian principles of the British and Foreign School Society. The cost of the school and the land was about £640. An infants' classroom was added in 1861 and other extensions in the 1870s before Brading School Board took over the school and carried it on, based on the same principles. They also provided a separate house for the master (Mall Villa). At the Jubilee celebration in 1896, Mr Bulley stated his aim as "to teach the children such things as would be useful to them in later life and to give them a moral training to enable them to fight the battle of life." As part of this, the school supported the "Band of Hope" a temperance organisation founded in 1847. All members took a pledge of total abstinence and were taught the "evils of drink." Samuel Bulley continued a "great work" there until



Mr Bulley's Retirement Gathering in 1900

retirement in 1900, by which time "for nearly half a century he had patiently laboured for the good of the school and at least 2500 children had passed under his tuition." (IWCP April 11 1896)

Former pupil Mr Fred Jolliffe (1886-1976) remembered "Mr Samuel Bulley was the headmaster. He was a really wonderful man: a strict disciplinarian, but always kind. Always just. As a singer with a good base voice, he was often called upon to use his ability in that way at the very popular concerts organized and sustained by the Brading Orchestral Society. He was very keen on the tonic sol-fa system of music. We had regular lessons of this in school; I have, ever since been grateful for those lessons, I have found them so helpful. Mr Bulley was not only headmaster of the day school but was also

superintendent of the Congregational Sunday School. In connection with the day school he formed a fife and drum band. This band was utilized in heading the procession of Sunday School scholars when holding their annual treat, and outing, to some place on the Island. All these and other activities in which he was engaged was done under the following handicap – he had only one arm. How well I remember his ability in sharpening the ordinary lead pencil. The handle of an open large-sized pocket knife would be tucked under his armpit and the pencil worked on to the knife instead of the usual way of working the knife on to the pencil. Another method he used was a block of wood with a depression made in the centre, over which the blade of an old time "cut-throat" razor was fixed. On this he would bring the lead pencils to a fine point. To we children, watching, either of these operations were followed with great interest, with me, and I expect many others, never forgotten. "



Brading Town Band c 1902 at Nunwell (Mr Bulley left of drum)

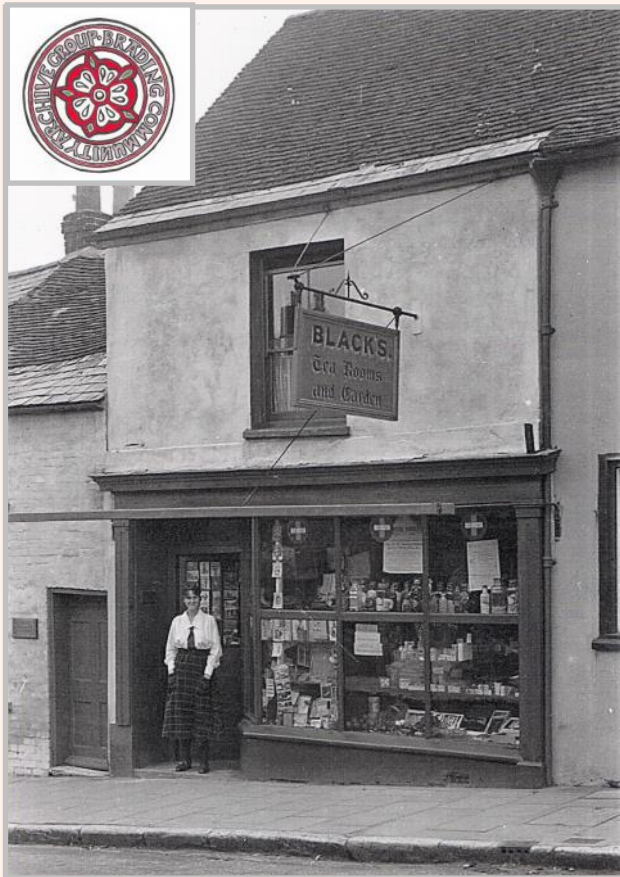
Mr Bulley married Elizabeth Turton in 1867 and they had a daughter, Rebekah, and a son, Samuel. Mr Bulley engaged in musical, temperance, council and many other activities in Brading outside of his school work.



Mall Villa

On retirement, Mr and Mrs Bulley moved from the school house to Norlington in New Road. His grave is in the Congregational churchyard and the hill opposite where the school stood is now named In his memory.





Mrs Black ran this sweet shop in the High Street which incorporated tea rooms and this photo shows her daughter there.

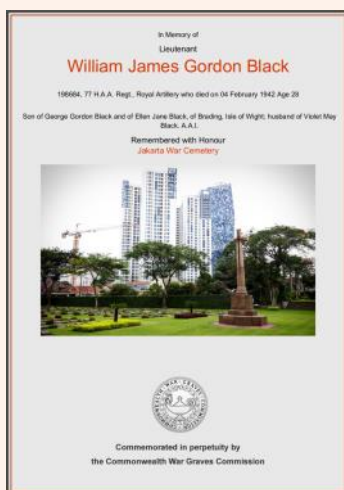
Miss Black TCL, LRAM ARCO was an accomplished musician and piano teacher of considerable renown and has been described as 'an outstanding personality in Island music circles'. She was a founder member of the IW Music Festival in 1923 and was actively associated with it until her death. She was also organist at Yaverland Church for more than 40 years.

Ellen Gordon Black 1899-1982

Miss Ellen Black moved to Brading with her parents and younger brother in 1915 when she was 16. They built a house in New Road called Craigellachie, the design of which was based on a Scottish hunting lodge. She lived there for the rest of her life. It is now called St Nicholas.



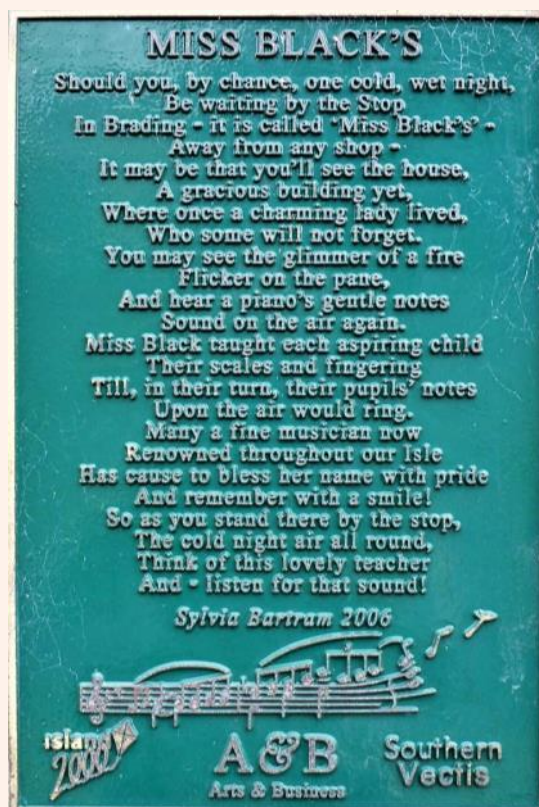
Almost 40 years after her death, the bus stop outside her home is still known as 'Miss Black's' and this metal plaque bears testament to that.



Miss Black's brother William George Gordon Black was listed as an auctioneer and surveyor living with his parents in New Road in 1939. He married Violet who sadly died aged 31 in 1941. A few months later William, aged 28 and serving in the Royal Artillery, was killed in Java in 1942.

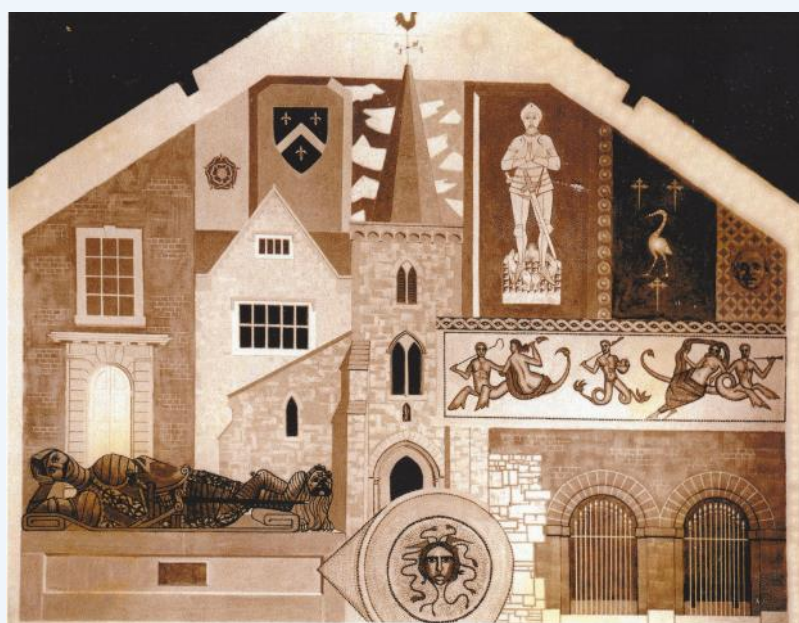


This memorial is in Brading church yard

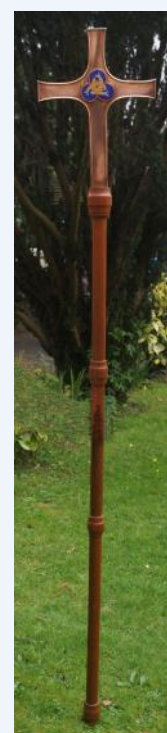
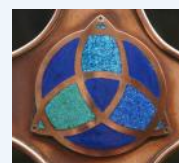


Joseph Fereday (1917-2001) and Molly Fereday (1917-2004)

Cyril Lawrence Joseph Fereday, known as Joe, specialised in painting and etching. Born in Dudley, he won a scholarship to the Wolverhampton School of Art. After serving in the army during the Second World War, he went on to study at the Slade School of Art in London where he was taught by the artist Stanley Spencer.



He was appointed a lecturer at the Portsmouth College of Art & Design in 1948 and he worked there until his retirement. Joe lived with his wife, Molly, at Yarborough House, New Road. He produced many Island views and, in particular, this mural in Summers Hall, West Street. This mural showed historical connections to Brading with symbols. It was 16 feet high and 18 feet wide, took a month to paint and was completed in August 1958.



Molly taught at Sandown High School and, as an enamel artist, produced the Mayoral chain for Brading as well as decoration for the Processional Cross and this plaque for Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge.



Dedicated by the Bishop of Portsmouth on the 150th Anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Church 22nd July 1996

