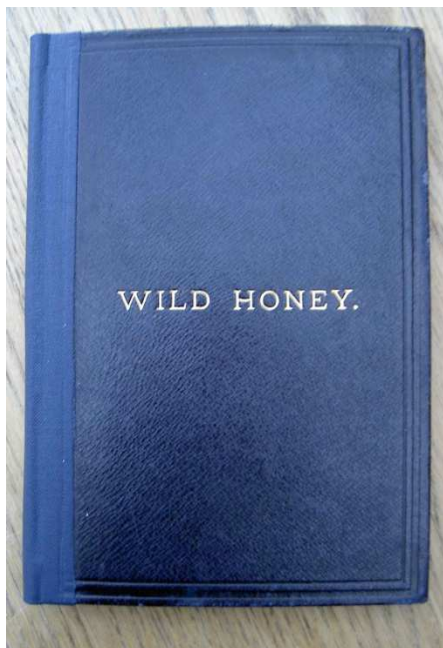
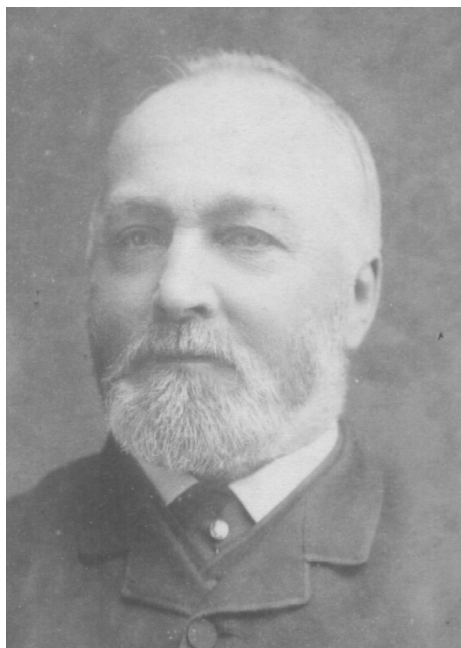


## Joseph Blackmore Marmont 1822 -1914

How the chance purchase of a poetry book in need of restoration entitled '*Wild Honey*' led to some interesting discoveries about a prominent local business man and his family.

The book published in London consisted of 34 poems written between the dates of 1842 and 1895.



One poem in particular alerted me to the fact that the author Joseph Blackmore Marmont might be from Gloucestershire as one poem is set on Selsley Hill. A check in the 1881 census proved my supposition. He was a partner in a pin manufacturing company, living at Windsorege House with various members of his family.

I was intrigued to find out how he had arrived at this point in his life and by census searches, found in 1841 he was humble pin maker. I managed to contact descendants who broadened my knowledge of the man.

In his youth, he was a supporter of repealing the Corn Laws and was a chartist, attending a large meeting of 3000 men and women on Selsley Hill in 1839. However he and his fellow chartist Henry Vincent resigned after the Newport riots later that year.

Between 1841 and 1851 Joseph became unemployed due to his workplace failing. Despite this setback, he and two other apprentices Albert Perkins and Henry Critchley over a pint in the Ten Bells decided to form a new company despite no previous experience. Their duties were divided with Perkins overseeing the engineering, Critchley the accounts and Marmont sales and marketing. They were so successful that they moved in 1851 to new premises namely the old cloth mill at Frogmore Mill. During this same period he married and started a family yet Joseph still found time to write poetry, one of which was too his first born son Percy who had died soon after his birth in 1850.

The company continued for a further 30 years before in 1881 cracks in the partnership appeared. The result of this was that Critchley left the firm and set up his own business, Critchley Bros at Wimberley Mills. Joseph retired and his son Watson took his place, Marmont and Perkins continued until 1834.

Prior to this time Joseph and his wife had led a full and varied life producing a total of 11 children were staunch supporters of the Forest Green Sunday School, and the Nailsworth Literary and Mechanics Institute.

Joseph suffered the loss of his wife in 1852. Following these changes he departed to London, where he took up an accountancy post. He married a second time in London and lived to the age of 92. He has the unusual distinction of having celebrated two silver weddings.

His daughter Juliette married Samuel Newman born in Sebastopol in 1852 and later founded the company of Newman and Hender.

His youngest son Basil to whom the book of poems is dedicated, was a rather eccentric gentleman, apparently preferring to live in a bygone age. He would not install telephones electricity or gas, both at home and at work despite being a director of Wright Brindley and Gell Ltd at Dunkirk Mill; who manufactured brass umbrella fittings. His interest in antiquities led to his discovery of the site of a Flemish glass works at Woodchester.