

History: KS2

Histories in the Headstones



Henry Wooldridge: Died February 18th 1913 aged 73

Henry Wooldridge was of a humble background with little or no education. He had no family wealth but even so, managed to start his own business and make a success of it. In addition he introduced a new trade to the town and was possibly the first and only man in Lye to build houses for his workers.

At the age of 8 Henry was making nails, a hard job for a young boy. By some effort he managed to get enough money together to start his own nailmaking business and when that trade was in decline, turned to making horseshoes. This he developed and started making **frost cogs**, special horseshoes to help horses walk in the frost and snow. He became so well know for these that he presented a paper on horseshoes to the Royal Scottish Society of Arts in Edinburgh in June 1886.

Henry was also a cultured man. He played the flute and collected chess pieces the latter forming an exhibition in Stourbridge Free School and Technical Library in 1905.

Research Questions:

1. Look at the 1911 census return for Mr Wooldridge. What was his address?

2. Can you find this address on a current map? Can you find the address on an historic map dating from around that year?

3. How important was the nailmaking industry to this area? How old were children when they started work and how many hours a day were they expected to work for?
