

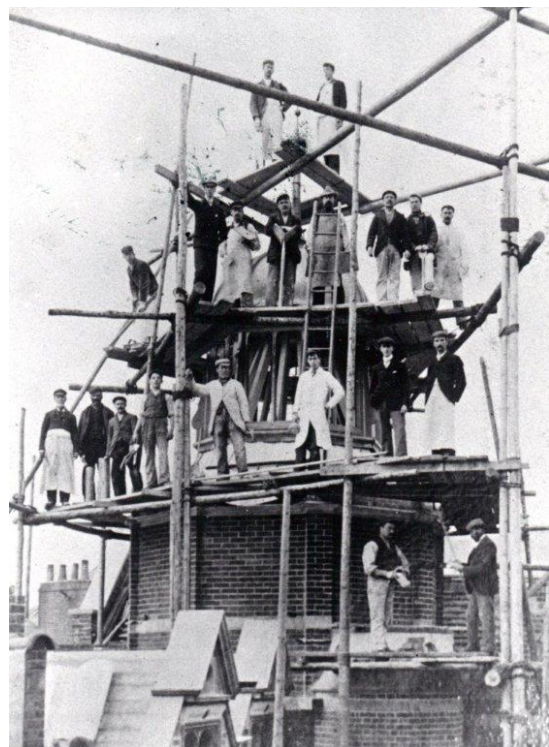
William Caddy and Sons

by Keith Shaw

Revision 1 March 2016

Introduction

William Caddy & Sons, Builders are probably best known in Lyme for building the town's iconic museum; the topping-out ceremony for which is shown to the right. However, the work the company did in Lyme was both varied and extensive. As the town grew in the early 20th century, it can be thought that the Caddys shaped the town.



Beginnings

William was born in Broadwindsor (now usually Broadwindsor) as was his father, Thomas. For at least 30 years the family lived in that area of Dorset between Beaminster and Crewkerne. His mother, Kezia was born in Mosterton and his elder brother, Joe in Burstock. The 1861 census has them living in the Gatehouse at Hursey, a hamlet between Burstock and Broadwindsor, with Thomas working as an agricultural labourer. William was 10 years old. Ten years later, the family is in Broadwindsor with Thomas and eldest son Joseph agricultural labourers. However, William is a mason; the first step on a climb through society!

By the 1881 census, William had moved back to Hursey, married Emma and had three children: Florence, Edwin and Herbert. Then came a big change in his life because the 1891 census shows the family living at Hatchett in Lyme Regis. William was still working as a mason, Edwin at 12 was old enough to be an errand boy and two more sons, Herbert William and Arthur Thomas had arrived.

Building

When or why William Caddy decided to move from being a mason to starting his own building company is not known but, perhaps, having three growing sons, all of whom would need to find gainful employment, was a spur. However, the trade directories give "William Caddy, builder, Coombe St." from 1893 and in 1899 the Bridport News reported, in 1899, "...at last Mr Caddy's tender is accepted for the erection of the much talked of Marder almshouses" and the following year that Mr Caddy had bought "the old B and F school premises and Woodmead". The latter item possibly referring to the British and Foreign school in Mill Green and the farm on Silver Street; both good development opportunities.

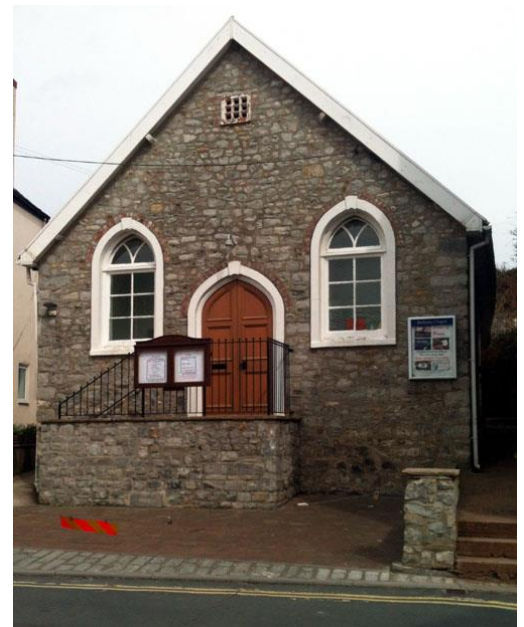
By 1901 William was building a museum for TED Philpot, a great nephew of the fossil collecting Philpot sisters and a former mayor of the town. The census for that year gives William as a builder, Herbert William as a carpenter and Arthur Thomas as a bricklayer. The company of William Caddy and Sons had all the necessary skills.

It is possible that the Caddy's house and premises at this time were at 42 Coombe Street as he was a tenant of W N Farnham and the Farnham's were known to have owned that property.

It is clear that from the 1920 Caddy & Sons, Builders, Contractors were based at Lewesdon (right) on Silver Street. The phone directories give that address for



the company from then until 1953 which is, presumably, when the company closed. Jack Wiscombe, in his “memories”, recalls that “At the junction of Uplyme Road and Haye Lane was a builder’s yard (Caddy & Son)” and that it was “sold to a development company and flats were built.” Thus it is clear that, from the early 1900s on, the Caddy’s yard was next to William’s house, Lewesdon. John Fowles states in a Lyme Regis Museum Curator’s Report (1995-6) that William Caddy built Lewesdon for himself. Adding weight to this assertion is that Lewesdon Hill, after which the house was presumably named, is in Burstock Parish where William spent much of his early life. Fowles also opined, when an original length of wiring from the house was donated to the Museum, that Lewesdon must have been one of the first houses in the town to have electricity.



Caddy and Sons also built the Bethany Chapel in Coombe Street (right).

The Chapel’s web-site tells us that “Denning’s Court. A terrace of 8 condemned cottages end on to Coombe St (formerly Horse St) was purchased for £200. [In 1861, 37 people lived in 7 of those homes and 1 was empty!] The Gospel Hall as it was then known was built on the site for £233 by Lyme builders, Caddy & Sons. The final bit of wall from the cottages was only removed in 2008!” We also know that William was an original trustee of the chapel and remained one for many years.



Houses

Despite being best known for building the town’s iconic museum, it can be argued that the biggest effect that Caddy & Sons had on the town was in housing. In the early 20th century, the town was expanding and much of the new housing stock was Caddy built. Pound Road, Hill Rise Road, Uplyme Road, Sidmouth Road and Haye Lane hold many examples. E.g.:

Herne Lea on Pound Road is an example which clearly shows the item that became the Caddy “trade-mark”, a bottle cemented into the end of a roof ridge (above). Such a bottle is a very good indicator that a house is Caddy built.

Sunnyfield Cottage on Haye Lane was built for Harold Ramsbottom, solicitor and Town Clerk, who ran the Hillman & Bond law practice on Broad Street.

Sea Venture (now St. Anthony’s, below right) on Somers Road was built for Captain Humphrey Best in 1935 and named after his boat which he sailed regularly from the Cobb. (Captain Best became Lt. Commander Best CBE DSO in WW2, was captain of HMS Snapdragon and responsible for the capture of Admiral Karl Doenitz.)

The advert (left) is from 1933. Perhaps Captain Best rang 37.

W. Caddy & Sons,
Builders and Contractors
Plumbers, Heating & Sanitary Engineers
Decorators.

Estimates given for any type of
 Buildings, Alterations, Repairs and
 Decorations. * * * * *

Lwesdon, Lyme Regis, Dorset
 Phone 37.





Coolrus



To give more insight into the "Caddy House", the following is a brief description and history of one example.

Coolrus, or Stonebarrow View as it is now known, is not a significant house in its own right but is a good example of the Caddy houses that were built all over Lyme early in the 20th century. A hundred years on, it still retains many of its original features: sash windows, "Arts and Crafts" fire-places (below right with William Morris design & above), man-hole covers (below left) with the Caddy name cast into them and even a plank door or two. Unfortunately, the trade-mark bottle cemented into the end of the roof ridge is missing.

Stonebarrow View and four other houses sit on a lane off Pound Road and were built by William Caddy and Sons between 1906 and 1910.

The 1911 census shows that Herbert W Caddy lived in Elmsleigh (now Pound House) and Arthur T Caddy lived in Y-bryn (now Afuze), the two houses to the right of the lane. Lewesdon is round the corner in Silver Street. By this time Arthur was a plumber whilst Herbert was a house builder. Arthur Caddy's wife, Ivy, lived a long life mostly in Y-bryn and she recorded her memories in Lyme Voices 2.

The two houses at the top of the lane were originally named Westhaye (now Heselhaye) and Southernhaye . Coolrus was the first house on the left of the lane.



Coolrus is a village in Limerick which was the birthplace of the father of Eliza Marion and Frances Henrietta Harte who were the original occupants of the house. The Harte sisters





were school teachers and it is likely that their school was in the house. They lived at Coolrus until at least 1922.

After the Harte sisters, the owners of the property were Henry and Nellie Garrioch who ran a Guest House in the property from the late 1920s into the 1930s. In *"The Popular Wallet Guide to Lyme Regis"*, the "wallet"

contained twelve postcards of the town and one was a front view of Coolrus (above) wishing the reader "Season's Greetings" from Mr & Mrs H J Garrioch.

In 1926, the rear garden was extended by the purchase of a substantial part of Westhaye's garden. It is not known at what point the cottage at the rear was built but it can be seen in the above picture and it is thought to originally have been a garage with rooms over.

After a brief period of residence by Constance and Hector Jackson, the Guest House was taken on by Mr & Mrs P G Sheppard from 1935 to 1941. As shown in the advertisement (below), their telephone number was Lyme Regis 166. Mr Sheppard had been chef to Queen Victoria and had made and decorated the wedding cake of King George V.

During WW2 the house was owned by Dr. Sidney Underhill. His address in the 1944 phone book is Stone Barrow; so the name had changed to one similar to that used today. After the war R W Baker, a businessman and an ex-Mayor of Lyme Regis, owned the house. Over its life, the longest period of ownership was by the Scoones family. Several members of two generations lived in the house from 1949 until Geoffrey Scoones died in 2001.

Finale

When William Caddy died on 16th July 1945 he was living at 6b Windsor Terrace in Lyme Regis. His probate was granted to Edwin John Caddy, baker (the one son who didn't join the family business) and Herbert William Caddy, builder. His effects totalled £5813 2s 2d.

In his life he had gone from lowly beginnings to someone who was a Burgess of Lyme Regis and a trustee of the chapel he had built. His company prospered for the best part of 60 years and helped make Lyme what it is today. However, it did not long survive him.

References

Lyme Voices 2, edited by John Fowles and published by Lyme Regis Museum
 UK censuses 1851 to 1911
 Lyme Regis Museum records
 Bethany Chapel web-site

