

### Amwell St. Named for English Town

Some time ago, a discussion arose as to the origin of Amwell Street in Haileybury and the question has been answered in the following little story of the village of Amwell in England, which comes to us from the excellent memory of Mrs. Jenkins.

"Amwell is situated in the rural district of Ware, Hertfordshire, England and is some twenty miles north of London. Although so close to the big city it is in a country side of extremely attractive scenery, well wooded and well watered, where rural charm may still be found.

The district is reached by the main road to Cambridge which follows the old Roman road. Prehistoric burial mounds and various Roman remains have been found nearby. The River Lea flows through the parish and New River has its source

here. In the Dornesday Book, compiled by the Romans in 1086 AD, it is recorded as Emmeville. In the south of the parish is the public school and college of Haileybury where the founder of our town received part of his education.

Charles Lamb knew Amwell and made reference to it both in his essays and in personal correspondence to Woodsworth another poet, John Scott lived at Amwell in the 18th century and constructed a grotto which may still be seen.

The water supply for the rapidly growing City of London became an acute problem about three hundred and fifty years ago, and Sir Hugh Myddelton, a goldsmith and friend of Sir Walter Raleigh, obtained the approval of the Corporation for a scheme to relieve the shortage. He tapped the deep springs which issued from the high ground at Amwell and conducted the water along an artificial channel to Islington. When successfully accomplished

in 1613 AD, this became known as New River. Under the administration of the Metropolitan Water Board it still continues to contribute an unflinching supply of pure water to the vastly greater metropolis. Incidentally the first town well the writer can remember in our Haileybury was very close to Amwell Street where all residents came with their pails, which may have suggested the name Amwell to Mr. Farr.

There are two islands which divide the New River at Great Amwell. On the larger is an urn put up to the memory of Sir Hugh Myddelton. On the smaller is a stone inscribed with some verses by Archdeacon Nares.

Amwell, perpetual be thy stream,  
Nor e'er thy springs be less,  
Which thousands drink who never dream  
Whence flows—the boon they bless.

Too often thus ungrateful man  
Blind and unconscious lives,  
Enjoys kind Heaven's indulgent plan.

Nor thinks of Him that gives.  
In and around Amwell are attractive old cottages and houses mellowed by the passing centuries. The village stocks where offenders were held for public ridicule and shame may still be seen near the church."

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