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EDITED BY.

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*Men that undertake only one district are much more likely to advance Natural Knowledge than those that grasp at more than they can possibly be acquainted with. Every kingdom, every province, should have its own Monographer.*—GILBERT WHITE, of Selborne.

*Things seen are mightier than things heard.*—TENNYSON.

*[The authors alone are responsible for the statements and opinions contained in their respective papers.]*

Stafford, Essex:

THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB, AT THE ESSEX MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL HISTORY.

1927.



SAMUEL WILLINGALE  
 (From a photograph taken in 1668).

connection it may be mentioned that on each occasion when the phenomenon here described was seen, the sun, although rather low, was strongly illuminating the water at the red end of the pond, the other parts being shaded by the surrounding trees.

To those who may be interested in this subject and in that of the remarkable group of sulphur bacteria in general, a most useful German pamphlet may be recommended. Its title is "Die farblosen und roten Schwefelbakterien des Süss- und Salzwassers" by Dr. W. Bavendamm. (Jena, G. Fischer, 1924). Another very interesting paper on these forms is "Studies on the Sulphur Bacteria," by Dr. L. G. M. Baas-Becking in the *Annals of Botany*, vol. xxxix., July, 1925.

### THE WILLINGALES OF LOUGHTON: TO WHOM DO WE OWE EPPING FOREST?

BY PERCY THOMPSON, F.L.S.

[Read 28th November, 1925.]

(With 3 Plates.)

WITH the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century enclosures of Epping Forest waste, which had been on a scarcely noticeable scale before that time, suddenly became so alarmingly frequent, and so extensive, by reason of the rise in land values caused by the rapid expansion of London, that genuine public alarm was felt that, unless this action was checked, the Forest would within a few years cease to exist except in name.

No less than 3,600 acres out of 6,021 acres were illegally enclosed between the years 1851 and 1875;<sup>1</sup> whereas prior to 1851, barely 600 acres in all had been enclosed during two centuries and a half!

Local protests were made, but were unheeded: public opinion at the time was not organized for interference, and the manorial lords, countenanced, and even prompted, by the Government of the day, continued their policy of enclosure of the waste within their respective manors.

<sup>1</sup> Rept. of Epping Forest Commission, 19 March, 1875.

A seemingly well-informed local writer in 1859<sup>2</sup> records that some time previous to that date three or four poor labouring men of Theydon Bois had actually "commenced a law-suit with the lord of the manor, on account of his annoying them in their wood-cutting, and brought the matter to a trial at Chelmsford; but instead of appearing they became frightened, and allowed judgment to proceed by default. The lord of the manor proceeded against them for the law costs, and threw them into prison, where they remained some months in the debtors' gaol. Since which," adds the author, "the lord of the manor has carried things with so high a hand, that one might be almost ready to suppose that he considered that this incident gave to him absolute power over the forest affairs of Theydon Bois manor."

Nor is it at all remarkable that the manorial lords should take this view of their powers. They had been pressed by Government agents to purchase for cash the Crown rights in Epping Forest, under the threat that, if they refused, these would be offered to outsiders; and they were assured by the officials that, once these Crown rights had been so purchased, they would be free to do as they pleased with the Forest, each within his own manorial limit. Naturally enough, they believed the statement, and in or about the year 1858 they purchased the Crown rights accordingly, at the rate of approximately £4 per acre.

At that period, the policy of enclosure of waste lands was regarded, not by the Lords alone, as a righteous action in the interests of public morality. Thus, in Collier's *People's History of Essex*, published in 1861, we read, under the heading of Loughton:

"The proximity of the forest, and the pretext of procuring firewood by means of the loppings of the trees, which the inhabitants claim a right to cut during the winter months, encourage habits of idleness and dislike of settled labour, and in some cases give occasion for poaching, all of which are injurious to the morals of the poor. Enclosures, however, seem to be commencing in the neighbourhood, which will probably check these irregular and, to a certain extent, demoralising tendencies".

<sup>2</sup> Maynard's *Concise History of Epping Forest*, published 1860 by the author, John Maynard, at the School House, Theydon Bois.

and at a later date the Loughton Vestry, at its meeting on April 1st, 1875, passed the following two Resolutions:

1. "That the existence of the alleged forestal rights causes great waste and demoralisation, and that it is expedient that they should be abolished with due compensation.

2. "That the Epping Forest Commissioners be informed that the enclosure of lands granted from the waste during the last 20 years has been highly beneficial to the parish by enlarging the area for assessment by providing labour for the industrious poor, and by conducing to the general health by drainage and cultivation, and that in the opinion of this Vestry it is very desirable that no attempts should be made to interfere with such enclosed lands."

As some of the most prominent vestrymen of Loughton at that time were themselves beneficiaries by the enclosures, one can realise how "very desirable" it was, in their opinion, to be left undisturbed in their new possessions.

When, in 1865, the lord of the manor of Loughton, bolder than his fellows, put a ring fence around the whole extent of 1316 acres of Forest contained within his manor, leaving open only 50 acres of roadside waste, and began to cut roads through the very heart of the woodlands in order to develop them for building sites, it was realised widely that a crisis had been reached which demanded energetic counteraction if the Forest was to be saved at all.

In 1866, a labouring-man of Loughton, one Thomas Willingale, by his stubborn determination in asserting his ancient right to enter upon the Forest and to lop trees during the winter months, was instrumental (being backed by Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton and others, and by the newly-formed Commons Preservation Society), in initiating the long drawn out legal proceedings which only reached a final conclusion sixteen years later, when, in May 1882, Queen Victoria formally dedicated the Forest as an open space for the use and enjoyment of the people for ever.

Almost from the first, however, confusion arose as to the facts connected with the action of the humble individual who merits the distinction of being the protagonist in this great fight for public rights: and that confusion has become accentuated with the passage of time. Even those who should have been

best qualified, by their presumed intimate acquaintance with the facts, to be regarded as authorities on the subject, cannot altogether be trusted in the absence of confirmatory documentary evidence.

Let us take some examples :—

Mr. G. Shaw Lefevre (afterwards Lord Eversley), in a letter which appeared in *The Times* of November 17th, 1874, wrote :—  
 “ An old labouring man named Willingale, who for many years of his life had exercised this right [i.e. of lopping], and partly earned his livelihood by cutting wood in the winter months, was determined not to submit. He persisted in the annual lopping and invited his sons and neighbours to do the same. *For this act two of his sons and a nephew were summoned before the magistrates, and although they protested their right, which should have arrested the jurisdiction of the Bench, they were sent to prison for seven days, with hard labour.*<sup>3</sup> It subsequently turned out that one at least of the committing magistrates had received a large share of the Forest. The old man thereupon represented his case in quarters where he was likely to be assisted. He was advised to commence proceedings in Chancery against the Lord of the Manor, to restrain him from cutting down the trees or enclosing the Forest.

“ A fight between a labouring man on behalf of his right to lop trees and the Lord of the Manor, who had 1,000 acres of land at stake, was not a very equal one. Assistance, however, dribbled in sufficient to keep the suit alive. Every attempt was made to destroy the old man's case. His character was maligned; with the greatest difficulty a lodging was found in the parish where he could maintain a *locus standi* sufficient for his suit. At times attempts were made to buy him off. I had frequent opportunities of seeing this old man, and always found him confident in the justice of his case, and as determined to stand by it as any village Hampden could be. In due course his case came on for hearing before the Master of the Rolls on a preliminary point, the defendants having demurred to it on the ground that by the English law the inhabitants of a parish, not being incorporated, were too vague a body to enjoy such a right as that claimed. Lord Romilly, after two days' argument, decided the point in favour of Willingale, saying that this right

<sup>3</sup> The italics are mine.—P.T.

was claimed as having been granted by Queen Elizabeth to the parishioners, and that such a grant alone would be sufficient incorporation of the inhabitants to satisfy the rule of law. This important technicality having been decided, the case was relegated to its further proceedings, which involved questions of fact. It was not destined, however, to be concluded. Poor Willingale died, and his suit terminated with his death.”

Mr. Shaw Lefevre went on to say (loc. cit.), “ I have told this story, of some interest I hope, notwithstanding its length, because few, besides myself, have the clue to the whole of it.” And indeed, Mr. Shaw Lefevré was justified in his claim to be acquainted with the ins and outs of the case, he being then (and for many years after), Chairman of the Commons Preservation Society, which newly-formed body was taking a leading part in supporting Willingale's action; and his account, as given in the letter above quoted, is correct in most, though not in all, particulars. Yet we find that, five years after, when possibly his memory of the details was becoming somewhat dulled, he gave a different version of the story. In a speech made by him in the Forest to the loppers of Loughton on the night of November 11th-12th, 1879 (reported in the *City Press* for November 15th of that year), he said “ You recollect, probably, that one of your villagers, old Willingale, determined to resist this invasion of your rights, and, with his two sons and another man, he broke down the fence and lopped the trees as usual. For this *his sons were arrested and convicted by the magistrates of malicious trespass in property, and were sent to gaol for three months with hard labour.*”

We may note that in this second account there is no mention of a nephew being one of the sufferers, as Mr. Lefevre had stated in his letter to *The Times* of 1874: the sons only are referred to. Also, the term of imprisonment has increased from seven days to three months!

In his book, *English Commons and Forests*, published in 1894, Mr. Shaw Lefevre is responsible for yet a third version of the story. He says (p. 126), “ After Mr. Maitland's great enclosure, when the day arrived, in 1866, for the annual assertion of the custom [of lopping], a labouring man named Willingale, with his two sons, who had in past years made a living, during the winter months, by lopping wood for their neighbours, went

<sup>4</sup> The italics are mine.—P.T.

out as usual at midnight, broke in upon the lord's fences, perambulated the Forest, and lopped the trees in accordance with the custom. For this act in vindication of their rights, *the three Willingales were summoned a few days later by the Lord of the Manor before the local justices, and although they protested that they were only asserting their rights according to the custom, which should have ousted the jurisdiction of the magistrates, they were convicted of malicious trespass on property, and were sent to prison for two months with hard labour.* It turned out that one at least of the magistrates had received an allotment of the inclosed lands in compensation for his rights. *One of the Willingale's sons was put into a damp cell in the prison, where he caught a severe cold, which developed into pneumonia, and resulted in his death.*<sup>5</sup>

In this, Mr. Shaw Lefevre's third version, we notice that now, for the first time, Willingale, the father, is included in the little band who suffered imprisonment, and the nephew of the first account has been entirely forgotten. Here too, we have the genesis of the sensational embellishment, which is wholly without foundation in fact, that one of his sons met his death in consequence of his suffering.

From the quotations given, it will be abundantly evident that, almost from the first, accounts were confused as to the actual facts of this occurrence, itself insignificant, but in relation to what followed of the greatest importance.

Nor is this altogether to be wondered at, when we remember the tremendous legal fight to which the occurrence served as a prelude. At such a time, when events crowded upon each other and public interest became roused to fever heat on the subject of the saving of the Forest for the people, it is small wonder that the trivial summons which initiated a struggle lasting for sixteen years should be lost sight of and the facts forgotten and distorted.

Later writers have, as might be expected, been content to copy the statements or misstatements set down as actual occurrences in the earlier accounts.

Even the late Mr. E. N. Buxton, in his guide to *Epping Forest* (first edition 1897), is content to repeat the statement that "one Willingale," was the victim. He says (p. 16),

<sup>5</sup> The italics are mine.—P.T.

"Willingale's defiant act was treated by the Justices as a theft and he, not having knowledge enough to assert his right before them, was convicted"; and Mr. Houghton Townley, in his book *English Woodlands and their Story*, published in 1910, says (p. 180): "The real romance of Epping is the story of one common man, a woodman, who used his axe at midnight, and saw his son die in prison in defence of the right of the commoners of Loughton to lop the trees of Epping Forest," and (p. 181) he copies, almost verbatim, Mr. Shaw Lefevre's assertions: "Willingale and his three sons, who contested the validity of the interdiction, were promptly arrested and sent to prison as felons. One of the sons was put in a damp cell, where he caught a severe cold, which developed into pneumonia and resulted in death." But even in copying, Mr. Townley introduces a further variation—the number of sons has increased to three!

It was reserved for Mr. Ernest Linder, of Buckhurst Hill (a former Member of this Club) to disentangle the knot. Mr. Linder re-investigated the facts by personal enquiry of surviving relatives of the parties concerned, and by consulting contemporary records;<sup>6</sup> and I have myself, during the past months, followed in his footsteps, and am able to confirm and (in a few instances) to supplement his results, which may be summarized as follows:

Old Thomas Willingale, the father, never went to prison. It is true that at a slightly earlier date, on Dec. 8th, 1865, he was summoned at the instance of the lord of the manor before the Epping bench for injury to the Forest trees, but the case was dismissed. Thomas was, indeed, the leading spirit in asserting his right to lop, but except for the dismissed summons he was not proceeded against. He was an old man of well over 70 years at the time; of his sons, Samuel, Thomas, John and William, then aged 26, 23, 18 and 15 respectively, Samuel only, the eldest, and his two cousins, Alfred Willingale (aged 23) and William Higgins (aged 23), all of Loughton, were the victims of the lord of the manor. Against these three a summons was granted, returnable at Waltham Abbey police-court, and there, on March 7th, 1866, they were fined 2s. 6d. each, with 11s. costs and damage, or in default of payment seven days' imprisonment.

<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that when Mr. Linder, in 1911, drew the attention of Lord Eversley to the inaccuracy of his statements concerning the Willingales, his lordship did not dispute Mr. Linder's facts, but accepted them, adding (*in litt.* 27-12-1911) "it is strange that I should have made the statement about the elder Willingale so many years ago and so often without being corrected sooner."



ALFRED WILLINGALE  
(Enlarged from a photo. by G. E. Stearns, Loughton,  
taken January, 1925).

The following is a report of the hearing of the case, as given in a local newspaper of that date :—

WALTHAM ABBEY PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1866.

Magistrates present :—J. S. Davies, Esq. (Chairman), and J. Williams, Esq. FOREST RIGHTS.—*Alfred Willingale, Samuel Willingale, and William Higgins*, labourers, of Loughton, were charged with doing damage to the amount of 1s. 6d. each by cutting some hornbeam and beech trees on enclosed land in the manor of Loughton, the property of J. W. Maitland, Esq., the Lord of the Manor.—Mr. Metcalf appeared for Mr. Maitland.

The defence was that the wood cut was only loppings, which were not the property of the Lord of the Manor. They had gone and cut the wood merely in defence of their rights.

Mr. Metcalf addressed the Bench at some length, and explained that the Lord of the Manor had some time since entered into an agreement with all the freeholders, copyholders, and others, who had any rights, to enclose certain portions of his manor, and it was in respect of one of those enclosures that the question arose. Mr. Maitland had made most liberal arrangements with the freeholders, etc., before he made the enclosures, paying compensation for the various rights. Mr. Metcalf then referred to the law upon the subject, after which he proved, by evidence, the enclosure by the Lord of the Manor and the cutting of the wood by defendant [*sic*] who, he said, had gone in a most open manner to commit the offence, and he was present to urge the right of the Lord of the Manor to protection. The defendant Higgins said he was a tenant of Mr. Tree's, who was a freeholder, and he had, therefore, a right to the wood.

Mr. Williams said he knew that the Lord of the Manor had given compensation to those who had any rights before he had enclosed. Besides which, Mr. Maitland had entered into the arrangements at the request of the freeholders and copyholders themselves. Several persons had been to him (Mr. Williams) and asked his advice in the matter, and he had explained the circumstances to them, and advised them not to get into trouble. He knew that the Lord of the Manor had behaved very liberally to the freeholders and others, and if the defendant Higgins had any claim at all, it must be upon his landlord, for Mr. Tree had received £300, which was a greater proportion of compensation than any of the other freeholders had been paid.

The Chairman said the defendants had been acting very illegally, but as the Bench only wished to put a stop to such proceedings, the Magistrates would, on the present occasion, only impose the very small fine of 2s. 6d. on each of the defendants, with 1s. for costs and damage. In default of payment they would each be sent to prison for seven days.

The defendants, who behaved with considerable levity in Court, appeared to treat the matter quite in the light of a joke, and said they would each "do the seven days." They were then removed from the bar and locked up.

The only survivor of these three men, Alfred Willingale, now an old man of 82, still living at Loughton (present this

afternoon), assures me that the money for payment of the fines and costs was available, but that the three defendants, strong in their sense of the injustice done to them, refused payment, preferring to go to gaol in default.

They were conveyed to Ilford gaol,<sup>7</sup> the three being handcuffed together. Their imprisonment was with hard labour, which included the treadmill daily, as well as oakum picking and the shifting of paving stones. Alfred Willingale still retains a vivid remembrance, after nearly sixty years, of his experiences in prison, where he was known as "No. 13."

It is not true that any of the men died as the result of imprisonment. One of the three young men caught a chill whilst in Ilford gaol, and was seriously ill for some months after. As to which of the three was the victim there is a conflict of authorities. Old Thomas Willingale, the father, states that it was his son,<sup>8</sup> his actual words are: "the poor young man nearly lost his life, and in consequence was obliged to be a burthen on his club nearly all the summer!": on the other hand, the sole survivor to-day, Alfred Willingale, is positive that it was William Higgins who suffered thus, and denies that his cousin Samuel caught a chill. Be this as it may, Samuel lived until 1911, and Higgins until 1870: even had the few days in prison had so tragic a sequel, I cannot see that a prosecutor can justly be held responsible for the condition of our prisons at that time.<sup>9</sup>

It will be convenient here to tabulate the various members of the Willingale family. They are:—

Thomas Willingale, the father, born about 1793, died in or about 1870.

\*Samuel Willingale, eldest son, born 1840, died 1911.

Thomas Willingale, second son, born 1843, died 1925.

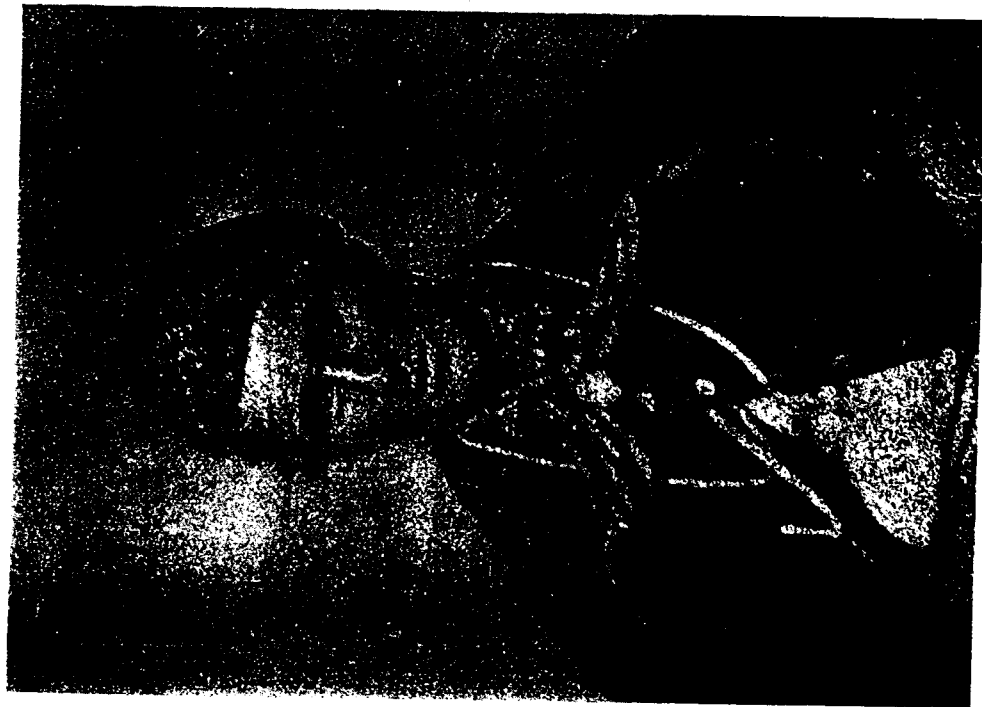
William Willingale, fourth son, born 1851, still living.

\*Alfred Willingale, cousin to Samuel, born 1843, still living.

\*William Higgins, cousin to Samuel, born 1842, died 1870.

The three men who suffered imprisonment in 1866 are marked with a \*

WILLIAM HIGGINS  
(Exchanged from a photograph taken c. 1862).



<sup>7</sup> "Ilford Gaol" was situated at Little Ilford, on the Romford Road; it was built in 1831 and remained in use for nearly half a century, being demolished about 1886.

<sup>8</sup> In a letter addressed by him to the editor of the *Woodford, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton Advertiser*, dated December 10th, 1866.

<sup>9</sup> A writer in the *Essex Review* for July 1905 (E. H. "Monkham and his inmates") refers to the old gaol at Ilford as having "a court so pestilential that it is believed to have shortened the life of . . . Mr. John Gurney Fry," one of the sitting magistrates.



There were also two other sons of old Thomas Willingale, viz., John Willingale, born 1848, died 1910; and Joe Willingale, who died at age 17; but these do not come into the story.

At a later date to the events with which we are here concerned, in December 1872, the Corporation of London took proceedings against one Willingale in the petty sessions for felling a tree in the parish of Loughton in contravention of the Order of the Epping Forest Commissioners, dated 30th October of that year: the offender was bound over to appear when called upon, and cautioned. (*Repl. of Coal, Corn and Finance Committee*, July 1, 1875.) I do not know which (if any) of the brothers was the culprit on this occasion; the Willingales were, and still are, a well represented family locally.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre, in one of the extracts quoted, speaks of the persecution which old Willingale suffered in Loughton on account of his determination to press his claim.

The lord of the manor purchased, through his agent, the cottage on Baldwyn's Hill in which Willingale had lived for 27 years, and, on the 12th October 1866, he applied to the County Court for an Order to recover possession of it. The original Order is preserved by the descendants of the old man.

It has been openly asserted that this was a vindictive step on the part of the lord of the manor, the intention of which was, by forcing Willingale to leave the parish, to disqualify him as plaintiff in the just instituted Chancery suit of Willingale *versus* Maitland and others,<sup>10</sup> the Bill of Complaint in which suit had only been filed ten days before, on 2nd October 1866.

But is this certain? Mr. Maitland had actually purchased Willingale's dilapidated cottage, together with others, in May 1866, five months before; and in the following July he gave each occupier notice to quit, with the intention (which he duly carried out) of building other and healthier cottages on the site: and he offered Willingale, with the others, alternative accommodation, naturally at an increased rental, in one of these new cottages.<sup>11</sup> On July 16th Willingale actually accepted this offer in writing, but subject to conditions, one of which was that the lord of the

<sup>10</sup> The co-defendants in the suit were George Washington Abbott, who was the grantee of some 17½ acres of Forest land at Black Bushes, to the north of Earl's Path, and adjoining the "Robin Hood" inn, and John Low, another grantee, who was a farmer in Loughton.

<sup>11</sup> Those of us who remember the Rev. John Whitaker Maitland in his later days, as a Member of our Club, will have difficulty in believing that so gracious and friendly a personality can ever, at any period of his life, have been guilty of so mean an action as that with which he is charged.

manor should purchase from him an encroachment of about two perches which Willingale had himself effected from the "waste" as a squatter during 27 years, and which he now claimed as his own freehold by squatter's right: which rather goes to show that the difference between Willingale and his Lord, as regards illegal acquisition of land, was one of degree, rather than of kind! These facts are taken from a *letter written by old Willingale himself*, on December 10th, 1866, to the *Woodford, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton Advertiser*, which appeared in the issue of that paper dated December 15th, 1866.

Local feeling ran so remarkably high in connection with these happenings that one has to be very careful before admitting the accuracy of statements made by the various partisans concerning their opponents and their methods. In these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at that the characters of the Willingales were bitterly assailed; but I can find no justification for the attacks. Old Thomas had been employed regularly by Sir George Carrol, a City Alderman and ex-Lord Mayor, resident in Loughton, who left him a legacy in his will; and even their detractors admit that during the previous five years, out of every hundred trees felled in the Forest, eighty had succumbed to the mattock and axe of the Willingales—father and sons—in the course of their avocation: they can hardly have been the ne'er-do-wells alleged by some of their opponents! Attempts were made by the lord of the manor's agents to effect a settlement out of Court of the Chancery action, by offering Willingale what, to a man in his circumstances, were substantial sums: but in vain.

The old man stood firm. He and his family were given shelter in a wooden cottage in the Lower Road at Golding's Hill by an elderly Loughton lady, Mrs. Tyser,<sup>12</sup> and he consistently refused a monetary settlement.

The Chancery suit went on: and although brought automatically to a stop by old Willingale's death four years later, it sufficed to give breathing time in which to marshal the forces of those interested in saving the Forest and especially to bring in the Corporation of London to their support.

For years past, the two surviving Willingale brothers, Thomas and William, have boasted that they were the individuals who

<sup>12</sup> This lady was presumably the Elizabeth Tyser who died 27 Feb. 1868, *at 80*.

"saved the Forest," and they have not scrupled to accept pecuniary acknowledgments from sympathetic auditors imperfectly acquainted with the real facts. In 1913 a considerable fund was got together, of which these two, it is alleged, reaped the benefit.

So far as I can discover, however, the only active part which Thomas (junior) took in "saving the Forest" was to be summoned to Waltham Abbey petty sessions, where, on January 22nd, 1867, he was fined 10s., with 10s. 6d. costs, for trespassing for conies; and his brother William, at a later date, acted as guide when, in January 1878, Mr. George Burney, of Millwall, brought down a large body of workmen to remove the Forest fences, after the judgment of the Master of the Rolls in November 1874 had declared the enclosures to be illegal.

When, in January 1925, Thomas Willingale (junior) died, at the age of nearly 82 years, a local newspaper, the *West Essex Gazette* (31st January 1925), repeated the old assertion that the deceased was one of the three Willingales who had been sentenced by the Epping Justices to two months' imprisonment for lopping wood in the early sixties; and a proposal was set on foot by some well-meaning but ill-informed local residents in Loughton, to erect some sort of memorial to him in the Lopping Hall there. Happily this *faux pas* was checked in time.

We see, then, that with the passage of the years an often unmerited halo has crowned the several male members of the Willingale family, and what was but a reflected glory has been appropriated to and by each individual as his of right. It is with the intention of sifting the chaff from the wheat and of giving honour where alone honour is due, that the above account of the real facts has been given.

In conclusion, I would remind my hearers that our Club possesses two direct relics of the Willingale family in its Forest Museum, namely, a lopper's axe, which was presented to that museum by John Willingale, and a billhook, formerly belonging to Samuel Willingale, both of which tools were employed in lopping trees on the Forest in the old days before the lopping rights were extinguished. These interesting and now historic relics were secured for the Club by the kindness of Mr. Ernest Linder, to whom also we are indebted for destroying the myths which have grown up around the Willingale family, and to

whom I gratefully record my own thanks for interesting me personally in their history.

I may be allowed, in your name, to express our pleasure at the re-appearance of Mr. Linder among us this afternoon, and also to welcome the surviving old-time Forest champion, Mr. Alfred Willingale, who, in spite of his advanced years, has been prevailed upon to come here to listen to this account of his early experiences.

Lastly, I should like to show you a number of views of the Forest as we know it to-day, all taken in the Loughton neighbourhood, and loaned me by various friends, which will serve to remind us of the heritage we possess in this glorious unfenced woodland, and of the debt we owe to, among others, the Willingales of Loughton.

## BUGS,

### WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE EPPING FOREST FORMS.

BY CHARLES NICHOLSON, F.E.S.

[Read 27th October, 1923.]

WHEN the word Bug is mentioned the idea conveyed varies according to the nationality or social status of the persons concerned. Amongst the generality of our American cousins the word is used indiscriminately for all insects and small insect-like creatures, and the expression "bug-hunter," as with us, means a collector of insects or an entomologist. In the American underworld, however, the bug-hunter is a stealer of breast pins or a robber of drunken men, whilst colloquially both nations refer to people of importance as "big bugs."<sup>1</sup> Amongst the scientifically initiated on both sides of the Atlantic the word Bug means one of that group of insects known as the order Hemiptera (or Rhyncota), which includes the bed bug—*Cimex lectularius*.

<sup>1</sup> The old meaning of the word was "bugbear" or "goblin." An example of its literary use in this connection is in the Bible—"Thou shalt not be afraid of any bugs by night" (Matthew's Bible, Psalm xci. 5)—which is rendered in the Authorised Version, "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night." Shakespeare repeatedly uses the word with this meaning:—"Sir, spare your threats!"

The bug which you would fright me with I seek."

"For Warwick was a bug that fear'd us all,"  
*3rd Part King Henry VI.*, 5, 2.

*Winter's Tale*, iii. 2.

*3rd Part King Henry VI.*, 5, 2.