

James R. Jerram

James Richard Jerram was born at Fleet, Lincolnshire and was the youngest son of the Rev. Richard Jerram of Fleet. The young Jerram trained as a marine engineer but later took up bellhanging at Long Sutton. It was at Holbeach where he taught the young Thomas Blackbourn to ring. Later, they were to form a partnership in Salisbury where Blackbourn carried on business as a bellhanger and bellfounder.

Whilst in Salisbury, James Jerram contributed much to the ringing scene. He was a founding member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers. In 1883 he became an appointed instructor of change ringing and an inspector of belfries. He was, at one time, librarian to the Clerical Library, Salisbury and where a number of his books, on bells, are now housed.

He had a life-long interest on bell archaeology and had a large collection of rubbings of bell inscriptions and decoration and pen and ink drawings of bell frames. He was also General Secretary and a Central Council representative for the Salisbury Guild.

At the time of his death in 1932 at the age of 80, he had been living in the Cathedral Close, Salisbury. He is buried at Fleet in Lincolnshire.

NEIL SKELTON.

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