

# Cornish Inventors & Cricket

By George Pritchard, Redruth OCS

This excerpt is taken from an article which appeared in the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Annual Report in 1930 and was entitled Cornish Inventors. The Author was Mr J Hambley Rowe and it was a transcript of his Presidential address which he gave at the Penzance Exhibition on the 15th July 1930. Mr Hambley Rowe states in his article that:

"Roger Vivian of Tuckingmill devised improvements in the construction of balls for cricket and other games".

He also stated that "William Christophers, Pattern-maker of Hayle, invented the spliced bat and showed it to Lillywhite at the great match of 1856 – eleven of all England v twenty two of Cornwall, at Clowance Park. Lillywhite took it up and its universal adoption quickly followed."

On the 1841 census a William Christophers, aged 15, is living with his widowed mother Margaret at Bodriggy in Philack, Hayle. His occupation is shown as being a labourer. He Married a Jane Roberts whose father was a shoemaker at St Keverne on the 30th of October 1850. At the time of his marriage he is shown as being a "moulder in the foundry at Hayle."

The 1851 census shows William Christophers as an Iron founder, aged 29, living with his wife Jane and widowed mother Margaret at Bodriggy in Phillack, Hayle.

By the 1861 Census William and his wife have disappeared from the Cornwall census.