

A MEMORY OF THE BOER WAR 1899-1902

I was attending a village school at the time of this episode when some ladies organised a sewing party. A letter was written to the Headmaster enquiring whether some of his older girls would like to come and help in the making of suitable garments, such as shirts, for our soldiers who were fighting the Boers in South Africa. He naturally consulted the Needlework Mistress who made a selection of girls between the ages of 13 and 14 and I was chosen, although only 10 years of age.

I was very excited because sewing was of great interest to me and it still gives me pleasure; so in the company of some older girls who lived near my home, we set out to this fairly large house not far away. We entered a big room and how well I remember it - with its long shining table on which stood two lamps having yellow silk shades with deep frills around and another like them on a side table - paraffin in those days. We seated ourselves round the big table and busily started sewing.

I was given some hemming to do which was already tacked and which turned out to be the tail of a man's shirt. One of the ladies read to us, or we sang some of our school songs as we stitched away.

How I enjoyed those evenings! I may be forgiven a little boast, because in the words of the old song, I was "sewing shirts for soldiers" who were fighting in the Boer War during the reign of Queen Victoria over 80 years ago, and it is still one of my vivid memories.

A.A.M.

M. GARDNER

BRUSH AND VACUUM CHIMNEY SWEEPER

For Fast Efficient Service

Phone Kidlington 5835 (No extra charge for distance)

S.R.N. AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE NURSING
CARE, HOME HELP, COOKING etc.

Phone: Shipton-un-der-Wychwood 831338