

Blizzard of 1908 Bugbrooke

Information from my father and grandfather about a Blizzard that hit Bugbrooke in 1908.

My Father told me that he was four years of age, when a big Blizzard was to hit Northamptonshire, the weight of the snow that collected on the wires was to break down many of the newly erected Telegraph Poles that the telegraph Company had erected in the late 1800s, for whom my grandfather Ebenezer worked for at the time, for he had helped to erect most of the poles that carried the Telegraph into Bugbrooke, and to many of the surrounding villages.

From information from them both they said that the Snow was to drift, and fill the natural holes, or contours of the ground within the area of Butts Hill.

During this period in time there were two sand Pits situated both sides of the road at the bottom of the hill, that belonged to the Blue Coat School, the snow had drifted and filled them both in, it had drifted level from the top of the field the Mill Side of the hill, across level of the ground next to the barns that stood at the top of grants orchard, they said that you could not even see the first cutting near to the top of the hill, due to it being level from one side to the other, as the snow was about ten to twelve feet deep in this area, and even deeper in the area to where Mr Barford in later years was to have his garage built.

They said when standing next to the wall of the manor House looking towards Butts Hill, the snow was level from the top of the bank in the Manor Field, across and up to the barns in Grants orchard as well, covering the road to a depth of ten to twelve feet of snow and getting deeper as you reached the bottom of the hill itself, it was so deep at one point near to the bottom of the hill that the snow covered the wires and the top of one of the Telegraph Posts, they thought for a start that the snow had snapped it off when they at first could not see it, yet in the field on the brow of the hill the grass was peeping through the snow.

They said that when it eventually thawed out, it was followed by most places getting flooded out near or next to the Brook and River.

Stanley Joseph Clark.