

1928

The following information was forwarded to us by Peter and Meredith Wenham who live in Australia



Sydney Wenham was born in Buxted Bridge in August 1859. He came to South Australia in 1877 as a 17 year old. After retiring from a successful business life as a builder, in 1928 (69 y.o.) he holidayed in England with his second wife and youngest daughter. From his letters, and his daughter's diaries, we know that he arrived in June 1928. By 26th June they had visited Buxted where the photo of Sydney in front of his old school was taken. We presume that the photo was taken by Sydney's niece – Nellie Smith – and forwarded to him at a later time. We know that they met in London, and that Nellie accompanied them on their trip to Sussex.

Sydney's older brother George Spencer Wenham (the only sibling to stay in England), had previously sent several photos to Sydney in South Australia. These included postcard style photos of various local buildings of interest, and a few of the houses where the Wenham's had lived, in Buxted Bridge, Coopers Green, and Five Ash Down. 'Spencer' had written on the back of each, indicating the subject of the photo. One of these was the photo of the *Buxted Church of England Primary School* with the children standing in front of the garden beds. I can only guess at when this photo was taken. It is a different time of the year to the other – there are no leaves on the ivy growing on the building, and there are no flowers which are so evident in the other photo. The wrought iron fence is in similar condition in both shots ... unlike today. The mark 'Velox' on the back may provide a clue to an expert. Velox photos were produced as early as 1893, but I don't imagine that 'post-card' size prints had that sort of mark printed on them before the 20's. My guess would be that it was taken in maybe 1927 or 1926, just prior to Sydney's visit. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can throw more light, or offer other guesses.

