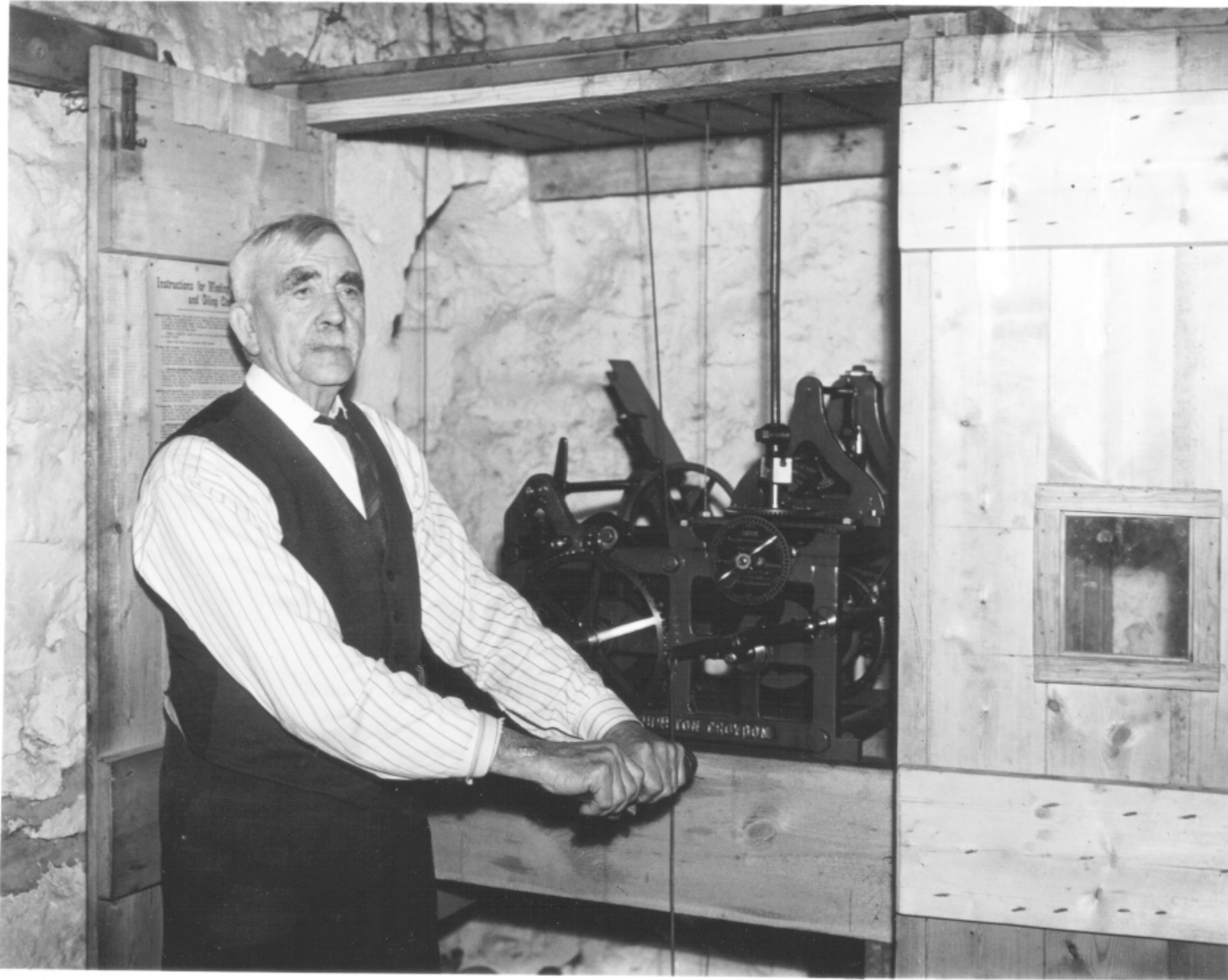




William Curtis winding the church clock, February 1950

He wound the church clock twice a day from 1900 until 1919, when it was replaced by a modern movement. He then wound it three times a week until the late 1950s.

EB178 (*Bedfordshire Archives – Beds Press Collection 3970/7*)

Bellringer's Celebration

A special peal was rung from Bletsoe Parish Church on Monday evening in celebration of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Curtis, of 44 Bletsoe, who were married at St. Mary's Church, Northill, on 6th February 1900.

Aged 74, Mr. Curtis has been a bell-ringer since he was 15. He was sexton of the Parish Church from 1900 to 1944 and served under seven rectors. He tolled the bell at the passing of three monarchs, Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, and King George V.

From 1900 to 1920, when the new clock-movement was installed in the church tower, Mr. Curtis had the task of climbing up the tower twice daily to wind it. The new movement needs winding only three times a week.

Mr. Curtis in the belfry, where he has been a ringer since he was a boy.

By occupation a gardener, he had been employed at the Old Rectory garden for 53 years, until his retirement last month. For the past 46 years he has been a member of the Parish Council. A keen cricketer in his younger days, he is still very fond of the game.

Mrs. Curtis, who, before her marriage, was Miss Katie Little, of Ickwell, is 69 years old. A former member of the Mothers' Union, and at one time she held Girls' Friendly Society classes in her cottage. There are two children, Mr. Stanley George Curtis, of Bletsoe, and Mr. Godfrey Cedric Curtis, of Sharnbrook, and five grandchildren.

Bedfordshire Times, 10th February 1950



News article marking Golden Wedding of William & Kate Curtis, February 1950.

EB173 (*Bedfordshire Archives – Beds Press Collection 3970/6*)