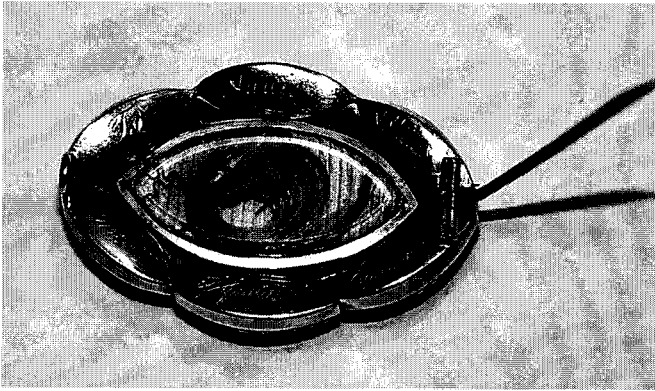


I used a wide range of sources to reconstruct Annie's story, which was published as 'A Token of Gratitude' in *Poverty, Plots and the Palace* by EHRG in 2010.



*Fig 7: Back view of Annie Adkins' brooch, showing the inscription and a lock of hair - not mentioned in the initial correspondence. [KL25 - part]*

She was born in Hanwell in 1855, the daughter of Richard and Mary, née Hazlewood. They had six children, three girls and three boys, but the two other girls died in infancy, so Annie grew up with three brothers. She remained at home, helping on the farm until at some point after the spring of 1881, she moved to Eydon to become housemaid to Susannah Ivens, wife of John Ivens, a farmer, then living at Rectory Farm in School Lane.

It is possible that Annie initially came to the village at a time when Susannah was growing infirm and unable to cope with the duties expected of a farmer's wife. Mrs. Ivens died in 1888, suggesting that the brooch was a memorial gift from the Ivens family, given to Annie for her help in nursing her through her last illness. Annie remained in Eydon after Susannah's death, first acting as domestic servant for John Ivens and later, after his death, for his son, John Henry, who took over the running of the farm.

She was still in the village at the time of the 1911 census and it is probable that she continued acting as housekeeper for John Henry until he died in 1917. Local historian Syd Tyrrell's words lend weight to the assumption that Annie remained in the village until John Henry's death. *"Although I remember her as a very formidable sort of person, she was very kind to many folk and she nursed John Henry with wonderful devotion, some folk said for his mother's sake."* (Tyrrell 1973:180-181).