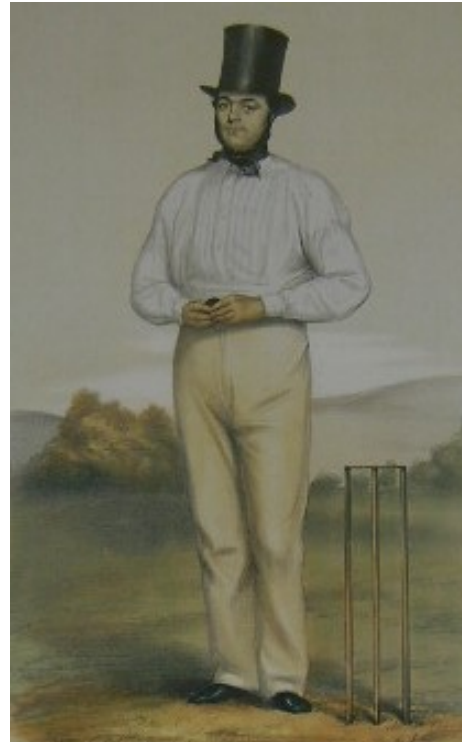


JOHN BICKLEY

John was born in Keyworth on January 16th 1819, the seventh child of Samuel Bickley and Mary Howard who married on 15 December 1795 and John's first job was as a silk glove weaver. He first played for Keyworth with his brothers, Thomas (born 20 October 1799) & Joseph (born 7 February 1810) in matches during the 1827 & 1828 season (listed in some publications as 'Brickley') and his sister Sarah married John Pike who in 1871 was the first KCC player selected for the Notts Colts. A fast right arm bowler, he usually walked towards the crease and then delivered from very close to the stumps and became quite a celebrity in the game. He was originally spotted playing for Rancliffe Arms, a pub team in the city and participated in the first ever Nottinghamshire County XI versus XXII Colts of Nottinghamshire match at Trent Bridge 2-5 September 1833 playing for the winning Colts



which led him to be selected to play for the Nottingham team that played against Sheffield 10-11 July 1843 at Sheffield but it was not until 9-11 August 1847 that he made his debut for Nottinghamshire CCC against an All England XI at Trent Bridge.

His best performance was taking 8 wickets for 23 runs from 40 overs with 23 maidens against an All England XI at Lords 16-18 May 1853. John was himself selected to play for the All England XI on 55 occasions against primarily club and privately sponsored teams of 22 players taking 526 wickets in the process with his best year being 1852, a season when he also played for Surrey CCC and in the 1854 season he played for Kent CCC. He also participated for the North of England versus the South of England in a match played on 16 July 1849 at Lords and for the Players against the Gentleman in the matches of 1853, 1854 and 1855 alongside William Clarke, George Parr and John Wisden, all famous names associated with cricket.

John at the peak of his career stood 5ft8ins tall and weighed 12st4lbs, a fine slip fielder he was also a good all round sportsman and in 1839 challenged George Moore of Leicester, the famous Quarter Miler for a wager but lost and he also often competed in Jumping and Strength competitions.

The Earl of Stamford engaged him as the cricket professional between 1855 and 1858 at Enville Hall in Staffordshire during which time he began to run the Sawyers Arms in Lister Gate in the city of Nottingham from 1857 and occasionally he was called upon as an Umpire. He died following two years of illness on 15 November 1866 at home in Nottingham.

John Bickley's First Class career statistics (1847 to 1860)...

| Mat | Inns | NO | HS | Runs | Ave | Ovrs | Mdns | Runs | Wkts | Ave |
|-----|------|----|----|------|------|--------|------|------|------|-------|
| 41 | 66 | 9 | 27 | 235 | 4.12 | 1357.1 | 585 | 1656 | 141 | 11.74 |

*The photo (above right) is a coloured lithograph by John Corbett Anderson.
William Collins and Burlington Gallery, originally published by F Lillywhite.*