

1 Kempe Rd.
Finchingfield,
Braintree
Essex
CM7 4LE

22nd March 2012

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter Re: Alfred Palmer and Sons.

Alfred Palmer and Sons were established 1854 in London, making organ pipes for Organ builders home and abroad. All of that stopped during the 2nd world war, and most Organ builders, were called up or put on war work.

The premises was bombed during the conflict.

After the war Mr Clifton Williamson and Arthur Davis met up and looked for suitable premises in the country and as they had worked for the old firm they decided to carry on with the Palmer and son's name. They found a large house which they divided with an old granary workshop in the garden in Finchingfield approx: 1946.

Mr Clifton Williamson was a reed voicer, and Mr Arthur Davies was the flue pipe voicer. I started working for them when I left school in 1949.

As we supplied many Organ builders with pipes in the UK, it is quite possible the pipes you referred to were made and voiced at Palmers. We also sent pipes to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland to name a few.

Arthur Davies retired in 1968, and Clifton Williamson in 1975, as Davies wanted to move away and the workshop was on his part of the garden, the work came to an end, and I was out of a job!!!

I was lucky to be employed by Hill, Norman and Beard of Thaxted, 6 miles from Finchingfield and I was pipe maker and voicer until 1996 when the business came to a dramatic halt!

I am the organist at St John the Baptist Church Finchingfield playing a 3 manual Miller organ of Cambridge dated 1896, which I helped restore in 1995.

During the summer months Finchingfield has many visitors and the church is always a popular stop, if anyone plays the organ I can arrange this, the village has tea shops and 3 pubs that serve meals, quite a nice day out.

Trusting this has been informative for you,

Yours Sincerely,

Richard Webb

Richard Webb