

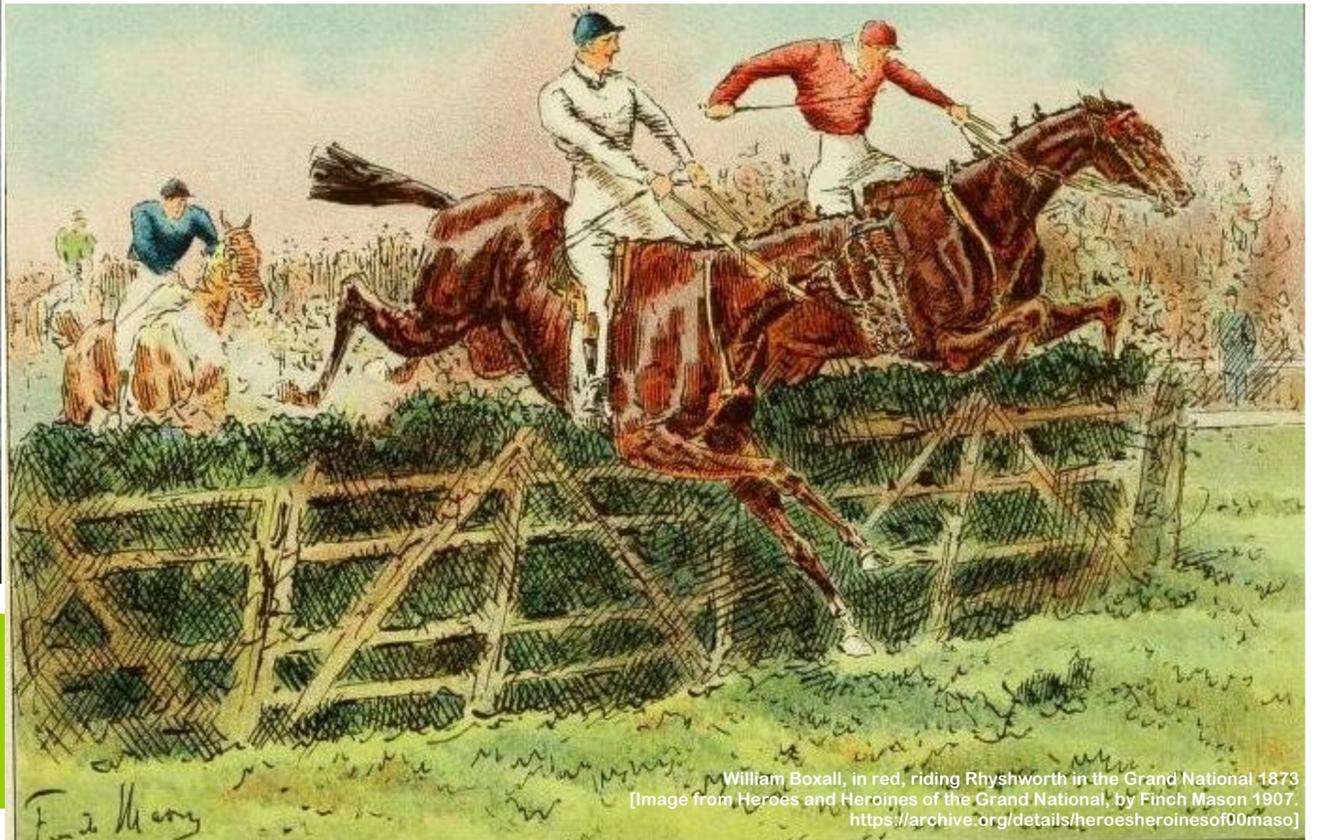
# William Boxall - Huntsman



William Boxall 1900  
[Source: A history of the North Staffordshire Hounds and country : 1825-1902, Charles J. Blagg, 1903]

*"I am proud of the position and grateful to His Grace for the appointment. I would not change places with the Prince of Wales."*

William Boxall was born in 1849 at Kegworth in Leicestershire to a family of huntsmen. He began riding as a youngster at Newmarket in 1860 and stayed there until 1866, when he went to Mr Henry Chaplin as second horseman and afterwards as second whip. He won, most deservedly, a great name as a bold and fearless horseman. In 1873 he came second on Mr Chaplin's horse in the Liverpool Grand National and he won the Sefton Cup Steeplechase on the same horse the next day. Henry Chaplin married Florence, the daughter of the Duke of Sutherland in 1876. Will Boxall is likely to have attracted the attention of the 3rd Duke who was a keen huntsman.



William Boxall, in red, riding Rhyshworth in the Grand National 1873  
[Image from Heroes and Heroines of the Grand National, by Finch Mason 1907. <https://archive.org/details/heroesheroinesof00maso>]



William Boxall with the North Staffordshire Hounds [Private collection]

E. PARKER,  
First Whip.

W. BOXALL,  
Huntsman.

E. JONES,  
Second Whip.

In 1877 Will came to Trentham as first whip, becoming Huntsman to the N. Staffs hounds in 1895. He was well respected, having gained the esteem and regard of the members of the Hunt by his good conduct and fine horsemanship. Charles Blagg, in his history of the North Staffordshire Hounds and County, wrote that he remembered something Boxall had said at the puppy judging luncheon in the summer of 1896. When his health was proposed for the first time since becoming huntsman of the North Staffordshire Hounds, he responded: "I am proud of the position and grateful to His Grace for the appointment. I would not change places with the Prince of Wales."

He lived at the Kennels in Dog Kennel Lane, now Whitmore Road, until his retirement and then moved to the house on Stone Road, which became Monica's Café, later The Poacher's Cottage and now the Harvester.

Will's silver hunting horn and his diary, which records the details of every hunt in the year before his retirement in 1903, remain in the keeping of his grandson. Although retired as huntsman, Trentham estate notes in 1914 refer to Boxall as the stud groom in charge of Canadian remounts at Trentham stables. These were horses brought over from Canada to be trained as Army horses before being sent over to France.

Will Boxall's handwritten diary entry for Wednesday 29 October 1903, headed Trentham Station, reads: "...we viewed a fox in the fields below Barlaston, had a sharp little gallop and killed near Newstead Wood"

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Trentham station  
Drove Burton Oaks bank,  
found in Newpark and in Newstead  
Wood, but did nothing, as we was on our  
way to Cocknape we viewed a fox in the  
fields below Barlaston, had a sharp  
little gallop and killed near Newstead  
Wood, found Cocknape Wood, ran him  
to ground at Copshurst, found in  
Black Lake, had a very good hunt  
by Hartwell and ran to ground  
in Downs Banks,  
  
Kogs 24 couples  
Killed one fox  
Run a brace to ground

## THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUNDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "HORSE AND HOUND."

DEAR SIR,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will allow me, through the medium of your widely-read journal, to thank the many generous subscribers to the handsome testimonials presented to me on my retirement from the position of huntsman to the above Hounds, on the occasion of the luncheon of the North Staffs Hunt Agricultural Show at Trentham on July 23. When the cheque for £430 was handed to me by Major Stamer, together with the album bearing the names of the subscribers to the presentation, I was so touched by the many complimentary references to myself (which of themselves are highly appreciated), that I was unable adequately to express my gratitude for such evidence of kindness from followers of the Hunt which I have served for upwards of twenty-seven years. I wish, therefore, with your kind indulgence, to use your journal as the medium for voicing my heartfelt thanks to all to whom I am indebted for such a handsome gift. I also desire to take this opportunity of acknowledging the unvarying kindness and courtesy which I have experienced from the ladies and gentlemen following the North Staffs Hounds, and which have been amongst the many pleasing experiences to make my official connection with the Hunt an association to ever be pleasantly remembered. Thanking you in anticipation, I am, Sir, yours obediently,  
W. BOXALL.  
The Kennels, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent,  
July 29, 1903.

Will Boxall died in 1918 and was buried in Trentham Cemetery with his first wife, Mary.

He was survived by his second wife, Ellen, and their three children.

