

Samuel Govier - Master Smith of Lyme Regis

<https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk>



Mr & Mrs Samuel Edward Govier, of Broad Street, Lyme Regis, celebrated their golden wedding today. Mr Govier was painted by James Abbot McNeill Whistler under the title of "Master Smith of Lyme Regis", and this was considered one of the finest pictures painted by this famous artist. The picture now hangs in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, USA.



Mr Govier started work as a blacksmith at the age of 10, and continued until he was 60. He is now 78 and his wife is aged 81. They were married at St Michael's Church, Lyme Regis. Govier earned 2/- a week when he started work with his father, who had been a master blacksmith for sixty years previously at Lyme Regis. "We used to work 17 hours a day, including Sundays," said Mr Govier, adding it would be difficult to find a lad today to work even 10 hours a day.

Newspaper cutting, February 13, 1934