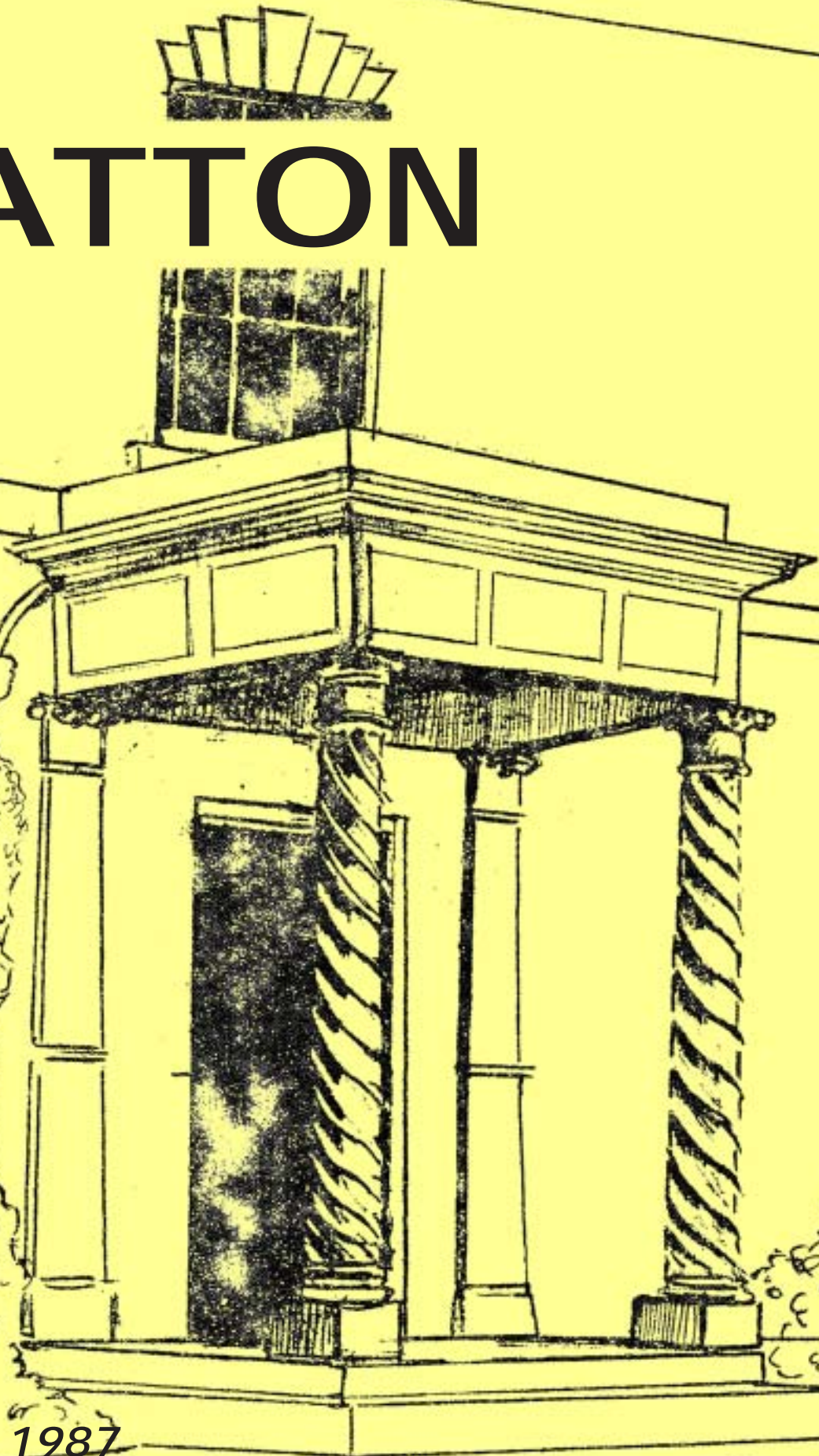


YATTON

ESTERDAY



No: 4~ 1987

Yatton Local History Society

Editorial

We hope Book IV meets with your approval. The front cover, beautifully designed by John Scally, gives a lead to our first two articles on Claverham.

Thanks are due to all members of the research team for their tireless efforts in producing this edition.

Again our distributors, the three Yatton newsagents and Claverham Post Office, have done sterling work and have been largely responsible for sales: YY 1 – 830, YY 2 – 898, YY3 – 760 to date. Extra copies of all are still available.

You will note that we have started interviewing with our tape-recorder for residents' memories of the past. If any other Yattonians can contribute, we shall be pleased to visit them.

Finally, "Yatton Yesterdays" have a wide circulation. Copies of all editions are to be found in Cornwall, Devon, Shropshire, Gloucester, Buckingham, Middlesex, North and South Wales, Canada, Seattle and Santa Barbara in the U.S.A., and even one set in China.

A. F. Coe
Chairman
Yatton Local History Society

From the President

It is a considerable honour, albeit a poignant one, to have been asked to succeed our Founding President, the late Jack Crease. Whilst I cannot aspire to his eminence in local affairs, I hope that my brief tenure of this office may encourage more 'born and bred' Yattonians to assist our researches with their own memories and documents from times past.

We owe a great debt to those relative newcomers to our village who have founded and nurtured the Local History Society to its present healthy state. It deserves the active support of more of those to whom Yatton has always been home, so please do contact us with any photographs, documents or reminiscences you may have of the old days. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Ursula Damrel, we now have our own tape recorder and shall be delighted to visit those of you who may be unable to attend our meetings.

We hope that you will enjoy this Fourth Edition and perhaps join some of our gatherings during the coming year. The next issue will depend upon a continuing supply of material about old Yatton and upon the efforts of our researchers and contributors, to whom I extend our grateful thanks.

R. H. Young
September 1987

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Cover design:
The Fifteenth Century Portico of Court de Wyck, Claverham,
the ancestral home of the Newton family
by John Scally

Reset and Printed at Woodspring Resource Centre, Locking 01934 820800

The History of Claverham, Part II

Report on Research undertaken in 1987

The first part of the history of Claverham appeared in “Yatton Yesterday” No.3, 41–51, and dealt with the original Claverham, that is, the area now known as Lower Claverham. This area was originally referred to as ‘the Manor of Claverham’. There were several manors within the parish of Yatton, another being ‘Week’, now written as ‘Wyck’ (as in Court de Wyck). One of the Poulett estate rentals ⁽¹⁾ says there were five tythings in the parish – Cleve, Week, Claverham, Yatton and Huish. As the Manor of Week included much of Cleeve, tything and manor do not seem to coincide, and as the fields have often changed names and buildings gone it is not now possible to sort out exactly what was classed as Week, Cleve or Claverham.

In his History of Somerset 1791, Collinson states that the ancient mansion of Court de Wyck is “*a little south from Claverham. . . the ruins of Court de Wyck house stand at a small distance north from the high road between Brockley and Congresbury*” – and then follows a description of the house. The history of the early owners is already well documented and so is not dealt with here. About 1338 John Wyke had a licence to have divine service celebrated in his oratory of Wyke in the parish of Yatton for a year ⁽²⁾, so the original house must go back at least to the 13th century. In the 15th century the Newton family were at the Court, Sir John (d. 1488) and his wife Isabella (d. 1499) being buried in Yatton church, where they gave money for the building of the south porch and the north chancel chapel.

The Court in Queen Elizabeth’s Reign

In the fifteenth year of Queen Elizabeth (1573) Thomas Markham Esq. of Allenton alias Ollerton in the Co. of Nottingham and Mary his wife let to William Smythes of the parish of Yatton gentleman, Goodlove his wife and John Smythes his son “*the cheif manor house of the Manor of Weeke*” with the land, also two closes of meadow/pasture called Brockes in Kingston Seymour belonging to the manor of Weeke but they excluded from the lease “*one wood called Kingswood otherwise called Bickley Wood*”. In 1585 William is letting Brockes to John at Halle and John Oliver, yeomen, of Chewe. In the intervening twelve years Goodlove has died.

By indenture of 23 May 1574 between Markham and Christopher Kenne Esquire and John Kenne gentleman (his brother), Markham sells the Lordships and Manors of Wike and Walton “*which were some time of the inheritance of one Richard Newton Esquire deceased, and the scyte and capital messuage of the said Lordship and Manor of Wyke*”.

The Kenns paid £2,920 for both manors. John then gave up his interest to his brother; after Christopher died they were to go to his heirs. John Smythes (the son) of Compton Greenfield surrendered his lease to Christopher Kenn for £100. ⁽³⁾

Elizabeth, the daughter of Christopher and his wife Florence, inherited the above manors and she married John Poulett of Hinton St. George who became first Lord Poulett and died in 1649 — so began the ‘reign’ of the Pouletts which lasted for 200 years. After Christopher died, Florence married Sir Nicholas Stalling who already owned the Manor of Yatton. Presumably the cross at Claverham was named after this family; Collinson says “*westward from these ruins (i.e. the Court) stands an old massive Cross called Stalling’s Cross*”. In 1829 Rutter mentions another cross — “*in the court was a foundation of a Cross*”. The 1800 Poulett map has ‘Claverham Cross’ written by the Post Office — but does it refer to the crossroads?

The Court in the 18th Century

The third Lord John Poulett married (firstly) the daughter of Alexander Popham, which would account for the “*large gateway formed by two Doric columns on which are the arms of Poulett and Popham*” mentioned by Collinson, but it is unlikely that the family lived there

Plan 1

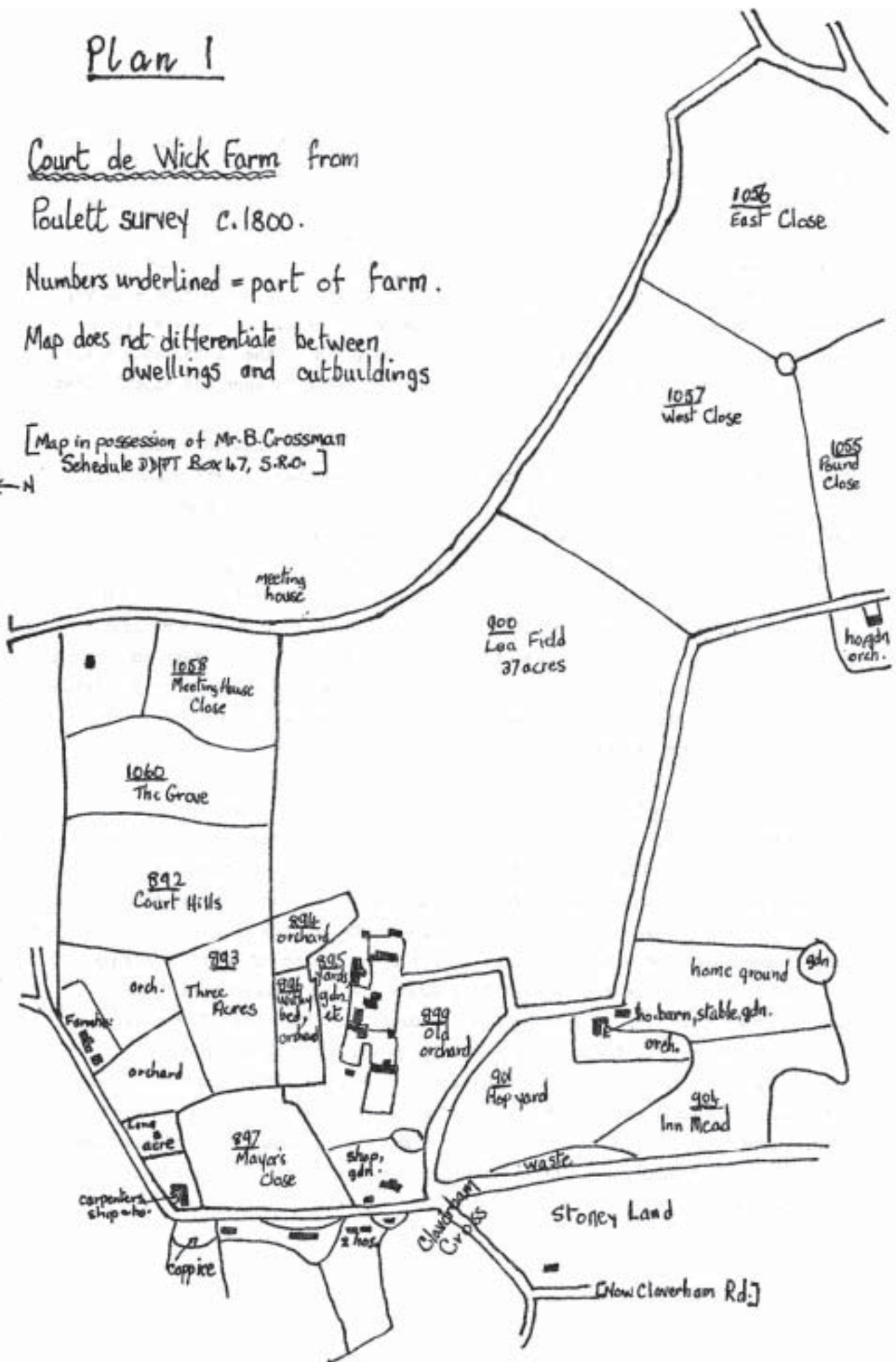
Court de Wick Farm from
 Poulett survey c.1800.

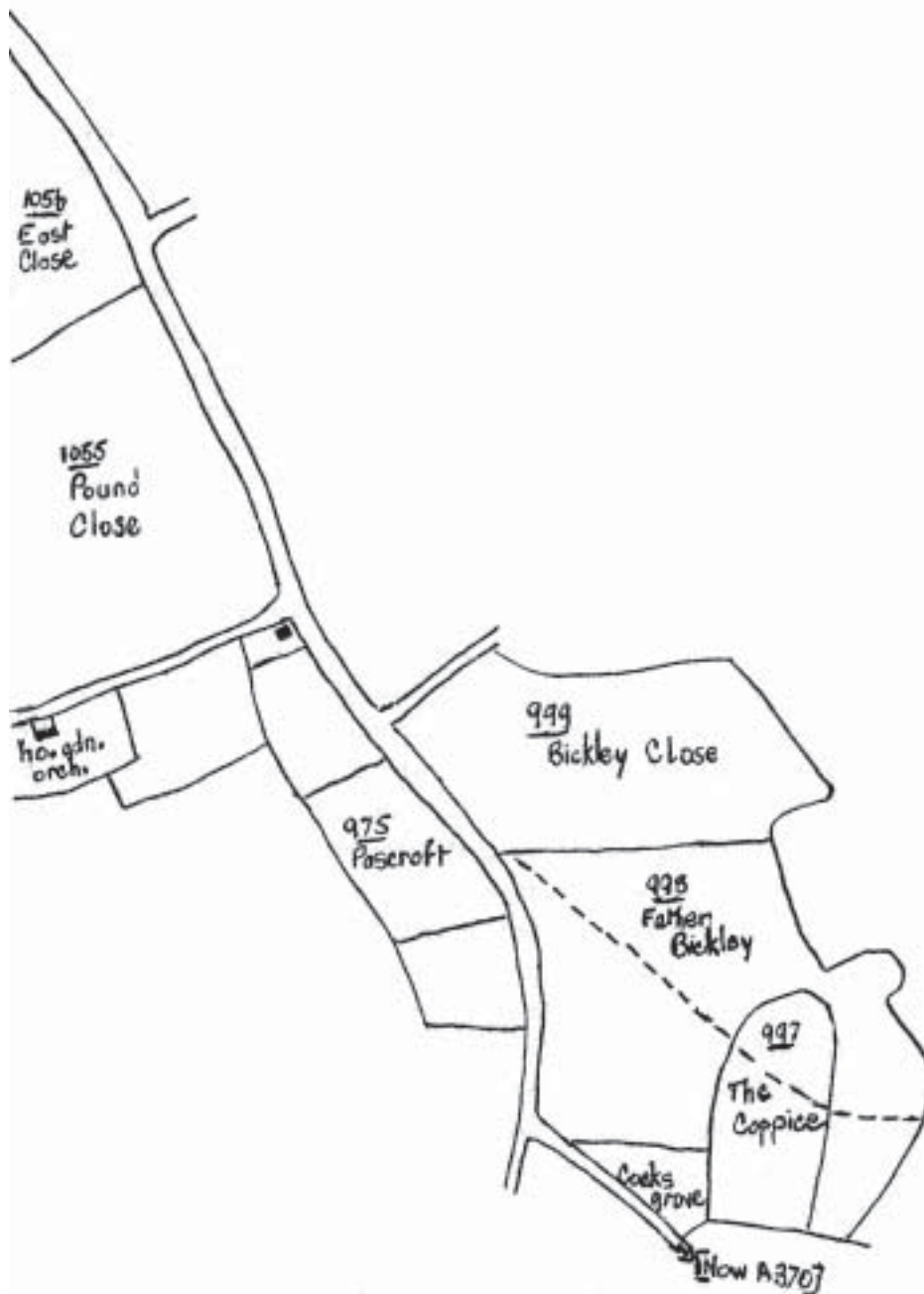
Numbers underlined = part of farm.

Map does not differentiate between
 dwellings and outbuildings

[Map in possession of Mr. B. Crossman
 Schedule 2] PT Box 47, S.R.O.]

← N





permanently. At the beginning of the 18th century they became earls; the Rt. Hon. John Earl Poulett to whom most of the deeds studied refer, was the 4th earl and 7th baron, succeeding to the title in 1788.

Early in the 18th century Richard Battiscombe and Sarah his wife were living at the Court. She was the daughter of Thomas Stone of Kingston Seymour gentleman, and died in 1736; he died in 1740 (memorial in Yatton church) (4). This family came from Symondsburry near Bridport – Richard’s son Christopher owned land at Merriott near Crewkerne and at Hinton St. George, mentioned in his will, indicating a connection with the Pouletts. The earliest baptism in Yatton parish register of one of their children is August 1706, when therefore they must have been living here. Richard was not Poulett’s steward – his name does not appear as such in the contemporary Court Book (5). More about the Battiscombes later.

Parts of the Court must have been habitable because in the 1798 rental ⁽⁶⁾ John Wornell was the tenant of 'Court de Wick Farm' at the very high rent of £155.10.0. It states "*the building consists of a very large old mansion, barns, stables, cart lodges, cattle sheds rights of common at £5*". The land belonging to the farm at that time is shown on Plan 1. About this date Poulett leased to John Wornell a piece of waste ground in Cleeve Combe to build a cottage, garden and limekiln, with liberty to take stone for burning lime – situated behind where Cleeve Court now stands ⁽⁷⁾.

Sale of the Poulett Estate By indenture of 1st January 1812 Earl Poulett and Viscount Hinton (his son) directed their trustees, John Tyndall Warre and George Booth Tyndall, to sell all their property in Walton-in-Gordano, Yatton, Huish, Kenn, Wrington, Cleeve, Claverham and Week-juxta-Yatton alias Court of Week. By January 1816 . . . "*The said manors directed to be sold, have been sold*". £67,295. 10. 0. had been raised by the sale ⁽⁸⁾.

After the sale, building took place gradually along Yatton Lane (now Claverham Road) where no houses are shown on the 1800 map. The Earl did not own the Manor of Claverham – the land in the Claverham Court and Hilsea areas – nor that belonging to charities. He held much church land by copyhold from the Manor of Yatton Rectory. Some of the larger farmers, such as Edward Gregory and Samuel Willmot, bought their property, usually with mortgages. More was bought by business men, often non-resident, as an investment. Examples are Samuel Galton, W. H. Goldwyer of the City of Bristol, surgeon, (dead by 1821), Christopher Garrick (nephew of Ann Battiscombe), Thomas Jones of Bristol, attorney, John Norman of Yatton, surgeon and George Standfast who was a Bristol butcher, later of Cleeve. Rev. Wadham Pigott and Rev. Thomas Shrapnell Biddulph were large landowners. Church land was now held direct, leasehold or copyhold, from the Manor of Yatton Rectory and not via the Earl; for instance, James Tucker, who had the Rectory House and land.

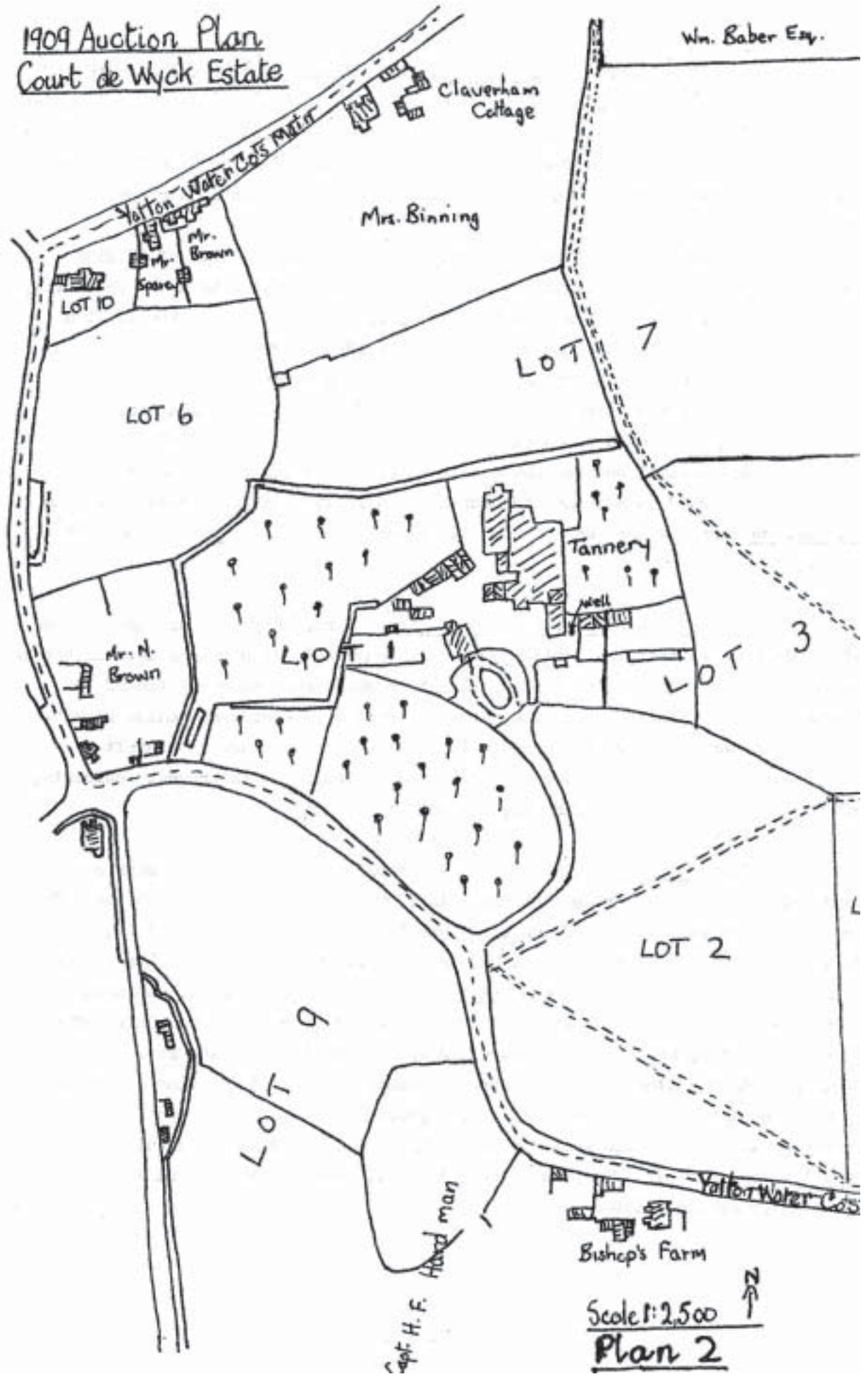
Sale of the Court As far as the Court itself is concerned, by indenture of 1st and 2nd May 1815, the Earl sold the site of the capital messuage or mansion house, with land and buildings, totalling 156½ acres, to Stephen Cox and John Beames of Lincoln's Inn for £10,130.⁽⁹⁾ The 1821 survey shows that John Beames had leased his share to Cox.

Cox rebuilt the house on a slightly different site and pulled down the old one. The chapel doorway and other carved stonework were incorporated in Cleeve Court which Rev. Biddulph was building at the time. The facade of the tithe barn remains today (the interior being gutted by fire in the 1920s) and also the chapel and Doric porch. A deed of 1841 says Bickley Cottage was "*lately built*" on the coppice adjacent to Pascroft, Further Bickley and Bickley Close (see plan 1).

A tannery was opened – in July 1843 a steam engine and machinery are listed. Stephen Cox's sons James Fitchew Cox and John Giulle Cox are given as "*tanners*" and Stephen junior is "*of Nailsea, tanner*". Stephen senior died in 1844 and his wife in 1855. Again, the subsequent history of the Court as a tannery is too well known to repeat here.

Auction of 1909 The estate with tannery and closes of land "*offering fine building sites*" totalling 82 acres was put up for sale by auction in ten lots on Monday, 27th September, 1909 at the Railway Hotel (now Firebox). In Lot 1, the house consisted of "*porch, hall, dining room, drawing room, breakfast room, kitchen with force pump, back kitchen with oven, boiler and force pump, dairy and fruit room over. On the first floor, 4 large bedrooms, dressing room, unfitted bathroom with basin and w.c. and above are 2 large bedrooms. Extensive underground cellars*". In addition, there were two 3-stall stables and lofts over, workshop, storeroom with granary over, cider cellar, fowl houses and pigstyes. The tannery too is listed under Lot 1. The Reserve Price for all this was £3,000, but Lot 1 was withdrawn at the sale. The auction plan shows "*Yatton Water Company's Main*" running down Bishops Road and up High Street ⁽¹⁰⁾.

1909 Auction Plan
Court de Wyck Estate



The three fields to the north of Bishops Road were at that time let to Mr. E. E. Young at £84 p.a. including an orchard N. W. of the Court. He bought two of the fields and the large one to the north, also all the east side of Chapel Lane and site of the school – there were no houses there then. Lot 6 – allotment or building land known as “*Allotment Gardens*” of about 4 acres (where Franklins Close is) – was purchased by the Parish Council of Yatton for £270. Lot 10 was Court de Wyck cottages occupied by Messrs. Bishop and Packer at a rent of £10 and £6.10. p.a. respectively, sold to J. Reed for £210. They were two of the very few cottages scattered somewhat haphazardly around the Court during the Poulett’s time. They are of 17th century origin, and had a right of common ⁽¹¹⁾. In 1800 William Wookey had a carpenter’s shop here. Houses which have common rights are either old or rebuilt on the site of an older building – a field with such a right indicates that there was once a house on the site. However, these rights ceased between 1810 and 1815 when the commons were enclosed.

Claverham High Street - South End Country roads consisted of tracks with “*waste*” at the sides, and mention is frequently made in the rent books of land “*inclosed from the waste*”. Usually someone is being given permission to build a cottage on it. In 1833 Stephen Cox of Court de Wyck granted James Curtis a certain part of the waste of the manor on which “*a messuage and blacksmith’s shop has since been erected, situated on the west side of Mayor’s Close and on the east side of the road leading from Streamcross to Claverham*”. The lease was for 99 years at a yearly rent of 10/- (50p.) ⁽⁹⁾. Mayor’s Close is the same as the Allotment Gardens – this is now 16 and 18 High Street, the shop and the former smithy now rebuilt, between Franklins Way and Anvil Road.

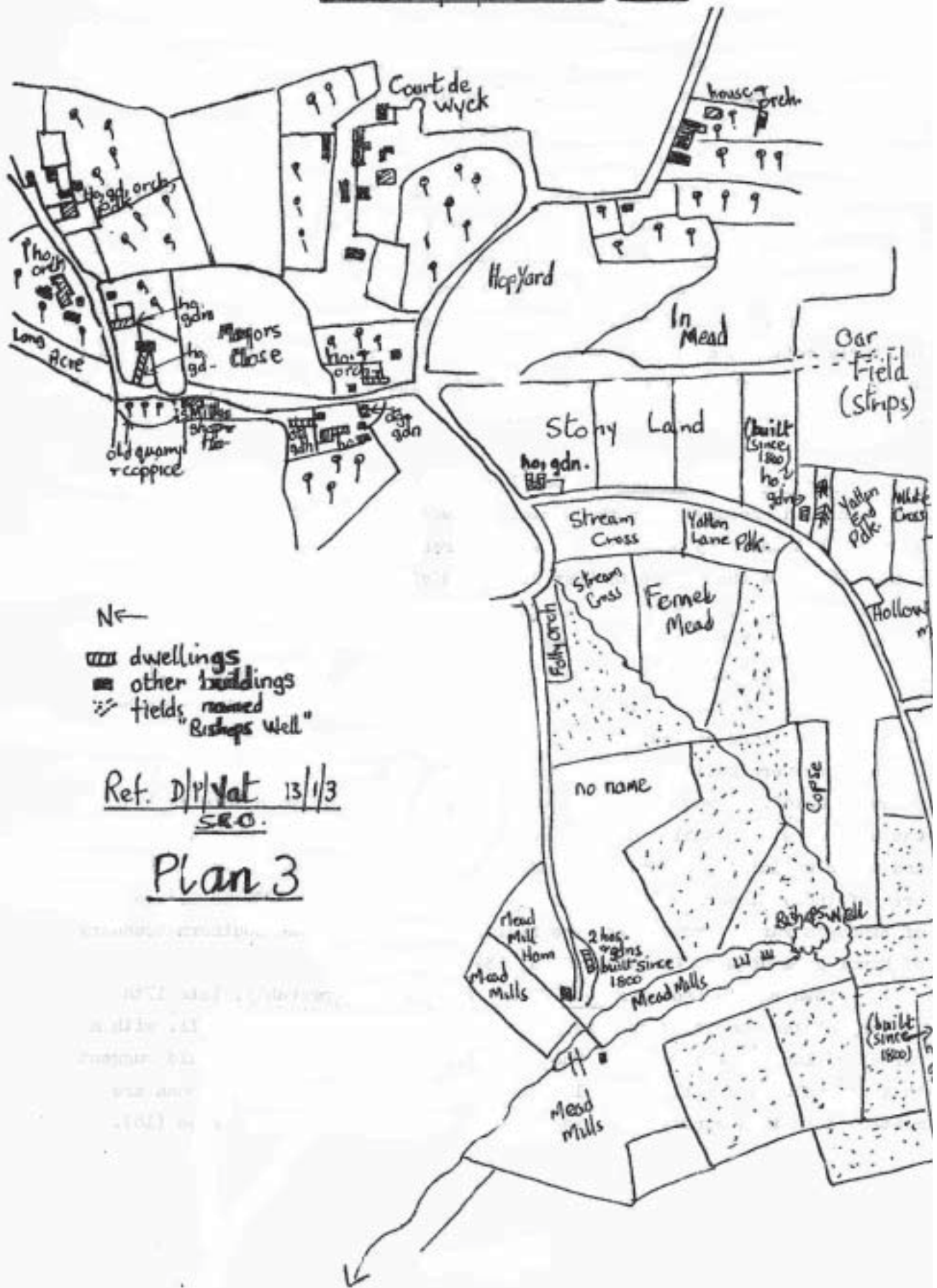
As can be seen from **plans 1 and 3**, it is likely that cottages on the west side of High Street were built on land at some time enclosed from the waste. “**Streamside**” was built about 1700 as a 2-roomed cottage with a door from the road by the chimney stack ⁽¹²⁾. The “**Long House**” was recorded in 1800 as “*2 houses in 3 tenements*” but by 1840 as “*house, butcher’s shop and garden*”. A report on this house is pending.

Above here was a cottage and garden, probably on the site of 17 High Street, and between here and the Scout H.Q. the land belonged to Manor Farm ⁽¹³⁾, owned in 1820 by Lydia Gregory and in 1840 by Edward Hatcher. At the first date it was “*house, smith’s shop and garden*”, but by 1840 it was three cottages and gardens. At the north end was an elm plantation and quarry, now occupied by bungalows 31/33/35 High Street. “**Yew Tree House**” is not later than early 17th century, being a 3-roomed cross passage house with a later extension ⁽¹⁴⁾. In 1800 Nathaniel Willmot had the house with shop, garden and common right; by 1821 it is recorded as a house and orchard, and in 1840 as three cottages. **The Post Office** first appears on the 1840 tithe map, and “**Coma House**” on the 1884 O.S. 25” plan.

Claverham High Street, North-East End Here, only one building remains of pre-1800 date, that is “**Cottage Farm**”; we have not yet obtained details before 1800, when it was let by the Earl to Elizabeth Sherborne and consisted of “*a farmhouse, barn, stable, carthouse, haybarn, garden, orchard and common right*”. In the 19th century there was a coal mine in the field behind. The shaft reappeared during the last war and Mr. Young filled it in to prevent accidents, but we have been unable to find any records of this mine.

Hillman’s Tenement was a “*cottage, stable and common right*” with some land, just behind St. Barnabas church. In 1799 John Hillman was “*aged about 70*” and there were no “*lives*” left on his lease ⁽⁶⁾ which presumably fell in on his death. Twenty years later only an oxhouse and orchard are recorded here. There is still a building there today. “**Clevedon View**”, 40 High Street, was once known as Yew Tree Cottage. As well as the house, the property consisted of a blacksmith’s shop and barn, carthouse and shed “*fronting onto the road leading*

1821 - after the Paulett sale
 (from survey by Y. and J.P. Sturge)



- N ←
- ▭ dwellings
 - other buildings
 - ▨ fields named "Bishops Well"

Ref. D/P/Vat 13/1/3
 SRO.

Plan 3

from Bristol to Yatton”, plus one acre of orchard, being at one time occupied by a hay dealer called Samuel Filer. The present 38 High Street was outbuildings. Frederick Iles bought the whole property for £280 in 1920 and then built the “**Old Nursery**”. (15) No. 36 was there in 1821, occupied by Richard Filer – it was however extended later.

James Gregory, Holly Cottage and Hollowmead James Gregory was 31, his sons William 9 and John 6 when he was leasing 10 perches of waste land at Claverham Cross from the Earl in 1812. In 1821 he owned – and probably built – a house with orchard, now **Holly Cottage** and former outbuildings, and also Hollowmead. Here he built a row of three cottages and two separate ones, the one to the south was “*now building*” in 1840. By his will of 1867 John Gregory (? the son), who was a carpenter, left his house and carpenter’s shop with outbuildings and orchard to his son Wallace. Previously John had occupied the cottage, **39 High Street**, built between 1821 and 1840 at the west end of the orchard. The will mentions two other cottages here and “*Long Paddock*”, formerly Court land, where **Prospect House** was built between 1840 and 1880. Obviously a prosperous man, John had a house at Streamcross too which he left to his daughter Fanny. He died in 1869, and his other daughter, Mary, to whom he left the three cottages at **Hollowmead**, married James Perry and went to live in the Grosvenor Road/Brunswick Square district of Bristol where she had nine children, and died aged 76 in 1917 (16).

The Streamcross Area Nos. 1 and 2 **Copse Cottages**, Chapel Lane, were built on land enclosed from the waste. Between 1821 and 1840 it was planted as a copse, but the 1885 O.S. plan shows the present cottages. Chapel Lane (chapel dated 1867) was the way up to “*Oar Field*”, divided into many strips, and it joined Blind Lane, then a road, at the right angle bend. Mr. Stockham’s “**Streamcross Villa**” stood on “*Stoney Land*”, belonging to the Cams of Claverham House, and a building is shown on this site in 1800. Confusion may arise because the two houses on the north side of the road, opposite Mr. Stockham, were built on land called “*Streamcross*”, which belonged to Cottage Farm in 1840 before they were built. “*Streamcross Villa*” may have been extended or rebuilt because in 1821 it was described as “*house and garden*”; when sold in 1942 it was a house with “*stable, harness room, carthouse, cowhouse, carpenter’s shop and other buildings, garden and paddock*”. In 1917 the house with the whole area of (now) Claverham Park, about 3 acres, was sold for £730 to George Verrier of Bishop’s Farm. *Broadcroft*, the field, extended from the southern boundary of Manor Farm down to Claverham Road, 13½ acres. (17).

Down Hunt’s Lane was **Mead Mill**. A rental of, probably, late 17th century states “*one cottage here heretofore a mill called Meade Mill, with a parcel of land on the Banks*”. The lessee was Henry Wall. This would suggest that it had been a mill within living memory. Hannah and Mary Coleman are mentioned in this survey as having 4 acres of pasture at White Cross (18).

About 1638 Arthur Capell, who had bought the Manor of Claverham, leased to Richard Williams of Cleve gentleman a messuage or tenement called **Cheyneyes** with one cottage called Wickhams, part of the said manor, with land. This land included “*4 parrocks of moor called Bishoppwell, ten acres*”, and “*one piece of meadow ground in Holemeade*”. Some of the land was in Cleve, but so far this farm has not been identified and it may well have disappeared.

Claverham Farm appears on the 1800 map as a cottage and garden with common right. Up the lane, opposite the bungalow “*Rivendale*”, was another cottage and garden with common right (part of the Manor of Week), which disappeared early this century. **Well Cottage**, also part of Week, is early to mid-17th century (19). **Rose Farm** is a medieval house, probably with an open hearth, the ceiling, fireplace and stair being inserted in the late 16th or early 17th century (20), and certainly one of the oldest houses in the parish.

Bishops Road In 1800 there were two houses in Bishops Road, apart from the present butcher’s shop adjoining the main A370. The one at the Cleeve end, with a stable, orchard and common right, was let by Poulett to Richard Bishop. Just to the north of the butcher’s had been a

cottage demolished in, probably, the 18th century, and Richard Bishop's house was next, his land stretching up to the corner towards Claverham. The other house in Bishops Road was opposite the Court entrance where the ruined barn/stable is now. This was let by Poulett to Edward Ash in 1799. His age is not stated but his wife Elizabeth was 61, and by 1821 there was only an orchard where the house had been. The present Bishop's Farm had been built by then on the "home ground" of the previous farm, just round the corner. It was occupied by Joseph Gregory but owned by Elizabeth Ash (if the same person, she must have been over 80 by that time). By 1840 J. H. Smyth-Pigott was the owner, and the occupier was John Bishop.

In the **whole** of Yatton in the mid/late 18th century there were over 4,000 acres of meadow/pasture, 670 acres of arable and 440 of woods, roads, quarries etc. Of the crops grown, oats predominated with nearly 2,000 bushels at 2/9d. (13½p.), then barley with 1,360 at 3/11½d. (20p), lastly wheat with 770 bushels at 7/9½d, (38½p) (1).

Research is still continuing. We should like to thank most sincerely all who have helped us by letting us see their houses and/or deeds and by telling us what they remember. The maps referred to (with schedules) are: 1800 Poulett's survey; 1821 Y. & J.P. Sturge's survey; 1840/41 tithe map and survey.

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- | | |
|--|--|
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| 2. Bishop Ralph's Register, S.R.S. Vol. 9. | 13. Deeds of Manor Farm |
| 3. DD/PT Box 10a S.R.O. | 14. E. H. D. Williams 1984 - vbl. from exterior |
| 4. D.198 Dorset Record Office | 15. Deeds of 40 High Street, and vbl. Mrs. Williams |
| 5. DD/MR 108 S.R.O. | 16. Deeds of Hollowmead and vbl. Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Stanley |
| 6. DD/PT Box 47 S.R.O. | 17. Deeds of Streamcross Villa |
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| 9. Deeds of Hither Bickley | 20. R. G. Gilson 1986 |
| 10. Hoddell Pritchard | |
| 11. R. G. Gilson 1987 | |

S.R.O. is Somerset Record Office; Without the help of Mr. Shorrocks and his staff this article could not have been written.

Marian Barraclough

Thomas Markham inherited the Court from his grandmother

Sir Thomas Griffin of Northants d.1569	m.	Jane, dau. of Richard Newton
Sir Rice Griffin	m.	Elizabeth
only child Mary,	m.	Thomas Markham of Allenton or Ollerton

(from Burke's Extinct Peerage)

George Smythes (a son of William) died 1615, was an Alderman of the City of London, a goldsmith; bequeathed a gold cup and cover weighing 66 ounces to the City of Bristol which is still represented in the Bristol civic plate. A note from "Civic Treasures of Bristol" by Mary E. Williams, 1984, quoting "The Connoisseur" of 1973 — "The Insignia and Civic Plate of the City of Bristol" by Charles Oman.

Jack Vincent

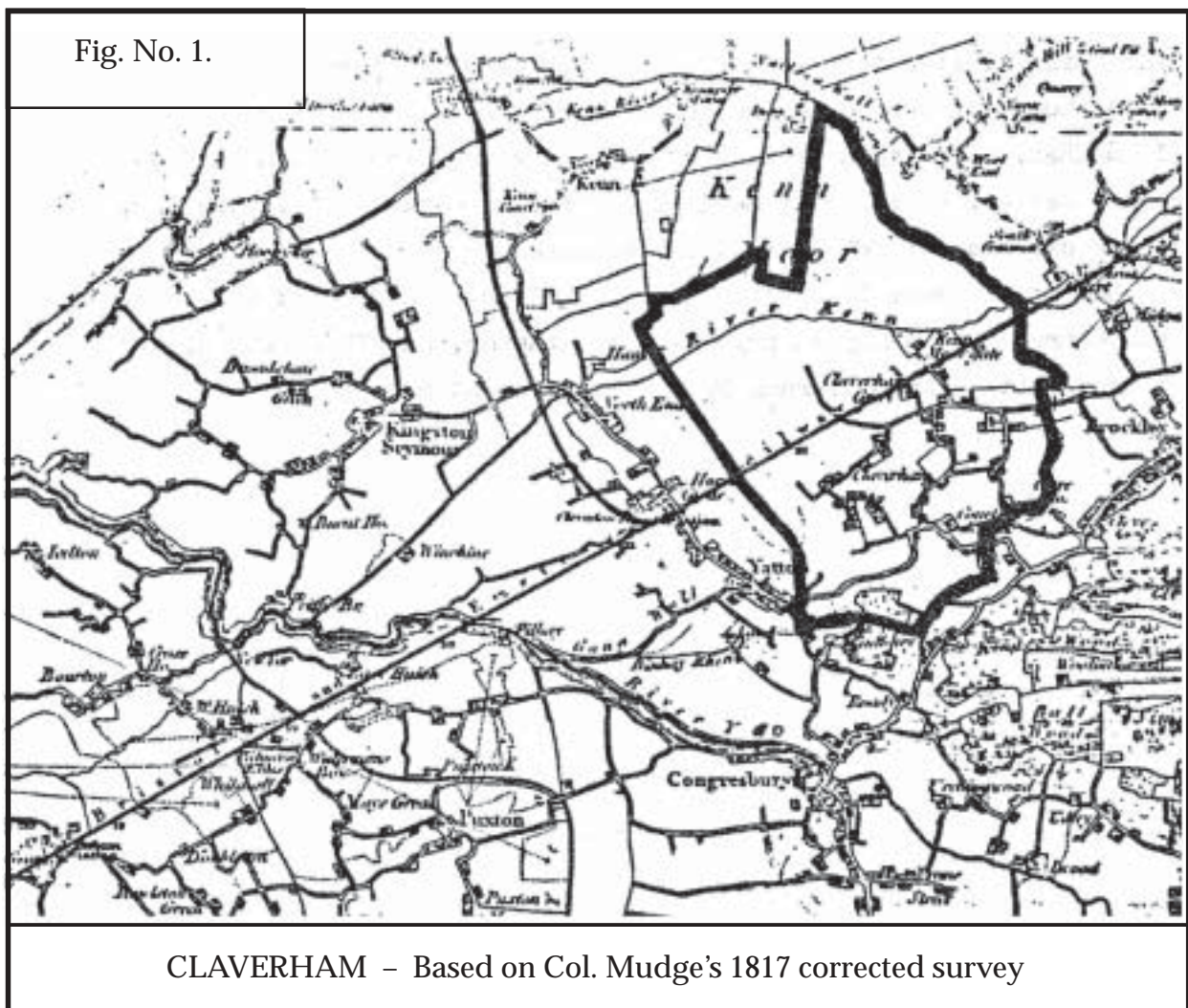
Claverham in The Eighteen Fifties – Part 2

Directories of the eighteen fifties described Claverham as a hamlet situated between Yatton and Cleeve being within the Parish of Yatton.

The census taken on 1st April 1851 by Francis Day defined Claverham as :-

ALL THAT PART OF THE PARISH OF YATTON WHICH LIES TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE MAIN ROAD LEADING FROM COURT DE WICK TO THE SCORE (i), COMMENCING AT COURT DE WYCK AND ENDING AT MR.. NORMAN'S (ii) AT THE SCORE, INCLUDING CLAVERHAM GREEN, CLAVERHAM COURT, MR. JOSEPH MANNING'S (iii), MOOR LANE, STREAM CROSS, HENLY WOOD, HACKER'S HILL AND BRISTOL ROAD. (Fig. No.1).

- (i) Now SCAUR the narrow rock cutting between Henly Park and Henly Lodge on B3133 widened in the 1960s.
- (ii) Eaglesfield renamed WESTAWAY HOUSE – then as now within the village of Yatton.
- (iii) Claverham Green Farm.



The census does not show separate births for Claverham as they were recorded under Yatton registration. The Registrar during the eighteen-fifties being JOSEPH DERHAM, Grocer and Draper of High Street, Yatton.

Claverham had a population of 476 persons, housed in 71 dwellings (5 houses uninhabited) 9.7% having lodgers and 6.18% servants.

The census showed Claverham had 14 farms with a total approximate acreage of 1,000 acres, (Fig. No.2) but there was no evidence of dairies within the farms.

The present High Street, as today, was the centre of the village; shopping being limited to a Butchers shop and General Store, (Fig. No. 3).

Although Claverham had no Inns, there was listed a Beerhouse keeper, FRANCIS ROGERS, residing near Claverham Green Farm, also WILLIAM LYONS

Fig. No. 2 FARM ACREAGES 1851		
ACRES	CLAVERHAM	YATTON
0 - 25	1	6
26 - 50	5	4
51 - 100	3	8
101 - 150	3	6
151 - 180	1	2
Not quoted	1	-

Ciderhouse keeper, residing at Mead Mills (end of Hunts Lane). Trading, no doubt, was carried out from both these premises.

One of the many lime kilns in the district was located in Claverham near the entrance to Henly quarry. The lime burner, SAMUEL PHILLIPS, lived nearby in a cottage in Claverham Road – the present No. 89.

CLAVERHAM HIGH STREET – DATA SHEET

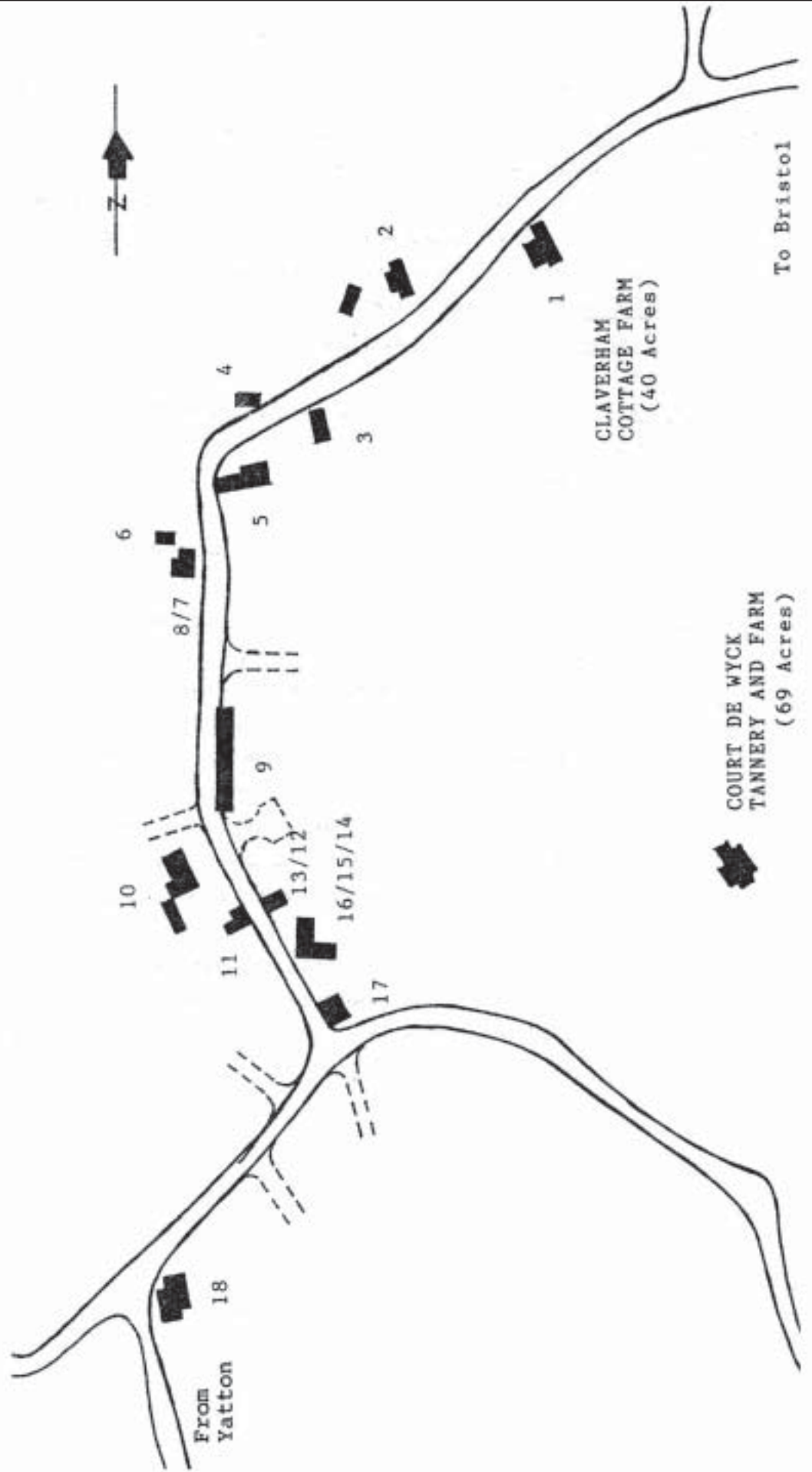
Where necessary present day identification or usage given in brackets.

1. CLAVERTHAM COTTAGE AND FARM Betty Palmer, retired from farming – Richard Binning, farming 40 acres.
2. HOLLY COTTAGE George Gregory, Carpenter – employing 4 men.
3. IVY COTTAGE Lydia Filer, retired + twin sons Samuel and John, Hay dealers + 2 grandsons – servant carters + 1 house servant.
4. OLDFIELD LODGE – uninhabited at census.
5. COURT DE WYCK COTTAGES William Clarke, cordwainer + Henry Burdge, Wagoner.
6. COTTAGE (Demolished, site of bungalows) – William Parsons, Farm labourer.
7. COTTAGE (Demolished, site of bungalows) – John Burdge, Tan yard labourer.
8. COTTAGE & SHOP (Demolished, site of bungalows) – Isaac Gregory, Shopkeeper + servant shopboy, aged 14.
9. COTTAGE & SMITHY (Site of terrace) – George Summers, Blacksmith + son Charles aged 17, Blacksmith.
10. COTTAGE & SHOP (Now two houses) – Thomas Abraham, Butcher.
11. STREAMSIDE COTTAGE – William Day, Cordwainer.
12. COTTAGE (Demolished) – William Ashman, Shoemaker.
13. COTTAGE (Demolished) – E. Ellis, Journeyman miller.
14. COTTAGE (Yew Tree House) – George Virgo, Miller.
15. COTTAGE (Yew Tree House) – James Hewlett, Journeyman shoemaker.
16. COTTAGE (Yew Tree House) – Mary Churchus, pauper – daughter, Sarah, Seamstress.
17. COTTAGE (Post Office) – available evidence suggests – John Wright, Schoolmaster + wife Mary Ann, Schoolmistress.
18. COTTAGE (Former shop) – Mary Hazell, Proprietress of land and property.

CLAVERHAM HIGH STREET 1850s - SHOWING POSITION OF COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC BUILDINGS

Fig. No. 3

Scale 1 : 2,500 (approx.)



HOUSEHOLDS OF MAJOR DWELLINGS 1851

CLAVERHAM COURT

John Seager Winter	Husband	39	Farming 180 acres
Mary Elizabeth	Wife	34	
Susanna Sophia	Daughter	13	
Charles	Son	12	
John Cambridge	Son	9	
Alice Sarah	Daughter	5	
Ada	Daughter	3	
Ellen Jane	Daughter	1	
Elizabeth Townly	Sister	35	
Harriet Sleep	Servant	31	House servant
Ann Churchus	Servant	40	Nurse
Charles Blanning	Servant	18	Farm servant

COURT DE WYCK

Henry Fry	Husband	51	Farming 69 acres
Maria	Wife	30	
John Cox	Husband	41	Tanner
Mary Ann	Wife	30	
Florence	Daughter	6	
Sara Gadd	Servant	15	House servant

CADBURY LODGE (Henly Lodge Estate)

Richard Symes	Husband	55	Incumbent Trinity Cleeve
Elizabeth	Wife	59	
Mary Cozens	Servant	27	Cook
Eliza Clatworthy	Servant	27	Housemaid
Richard Cowling	Servant	23	Groom

GREEN FARM

Joseph Manning	Husband	33	Farming 125 acres
Harriett	Wife	32	
Edwin	Son	8	
Amelia	Daughter	5	
Henry	Son	3	
Martha Ann	Daughter	1	
William	Brother	39	Employed on farm
Henry Mapstone	Servant	13	Farm servant
Elizabeth Paine	Servant	15	House servant

BIRTH PLACES IN NORTH SOMERSET (1851 Census)

Within village	53.36%
Within 5 mls. of village	18.87%
Within Somerset (outside 5mls. limit)	14.95%
Within adjacent counties	4.38%
Within remaining counties	7.13%
Not known	1.31%

Railways & stations
Main roads
Village & Nos. born

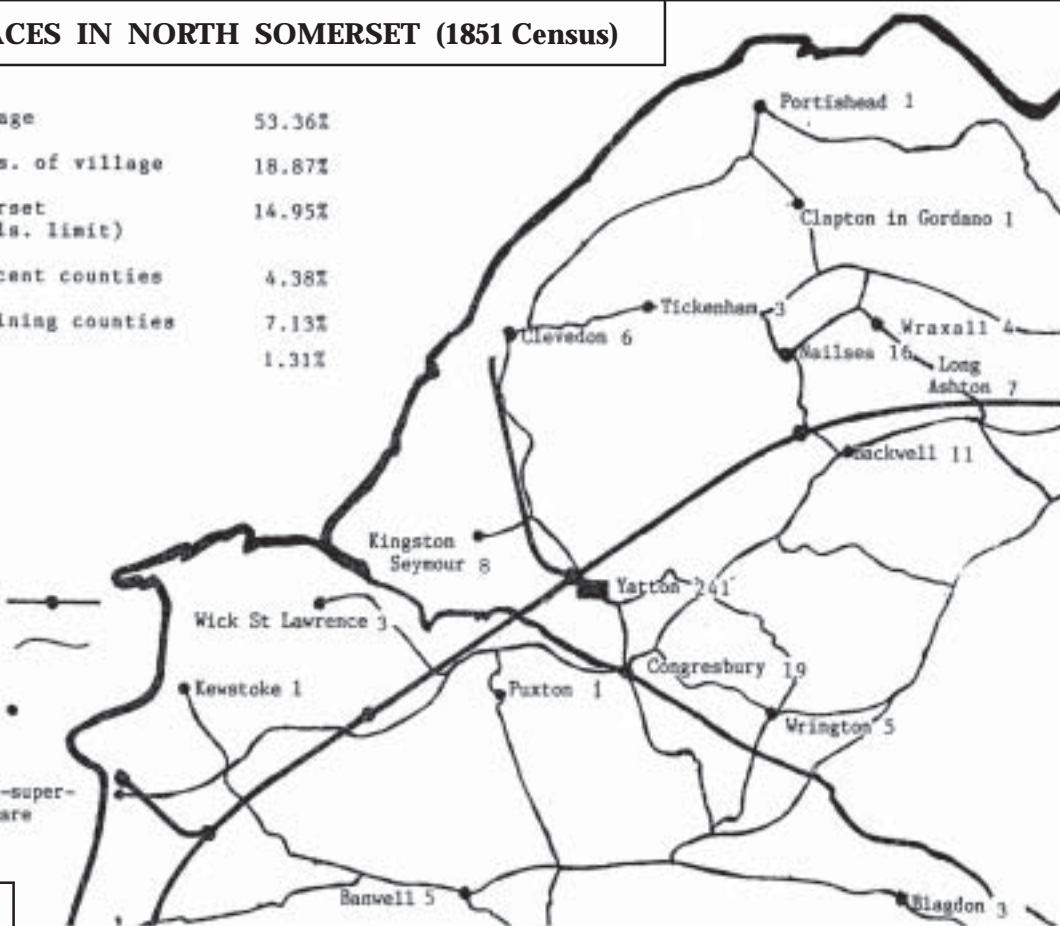


Fig. No. 5.

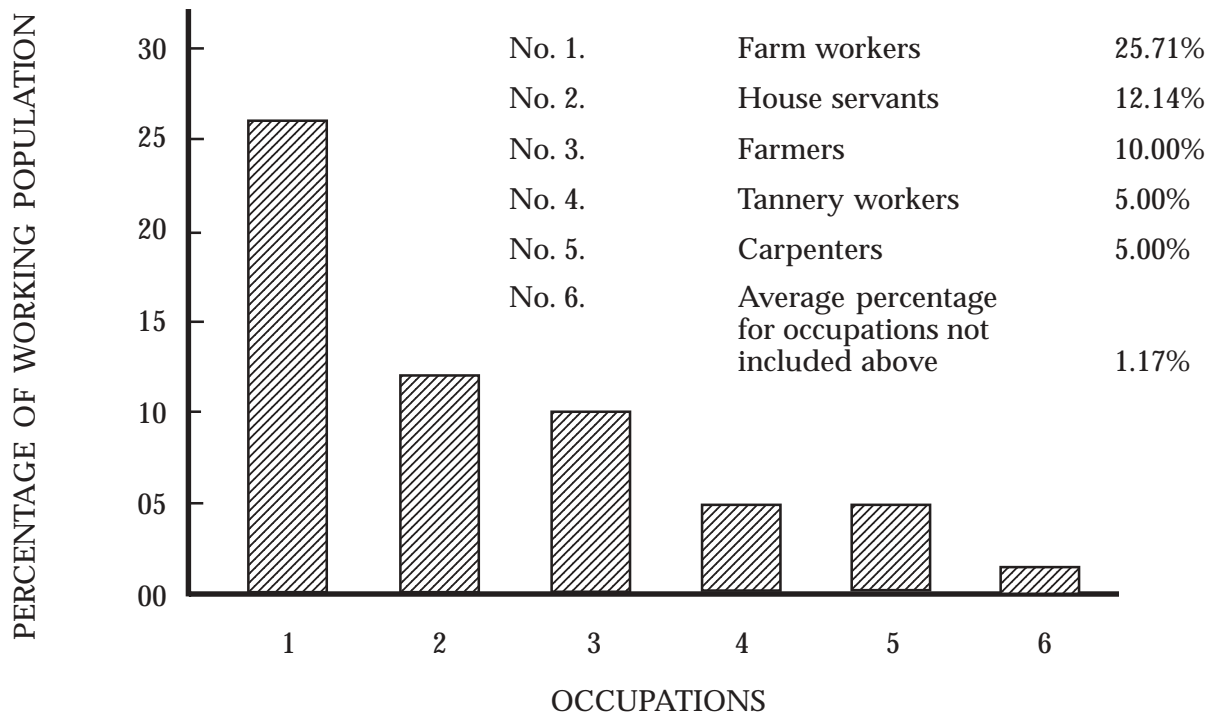
PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE VILLAGE 1851

Fig. No. 6.

Ag. Labourers	34	Ciderhouse keepers	1	Masons	2	Schoolmistresses	1
Annuitants	3	Clergymen	1	Millers	2	Seamstresses	1
Apprentices	1	Cooks	1	Miners (Coal)	2	Servants (carters)	2
Auctioneers	1	Cordwainers	2	Miners (Cornish)	2	Servants (farm)	12
Beer house keepers	1	Dressmakers	1	Nurses	1	Servants (house)	17
Blacksmiths	2	Engineers	3	Nursemaids	1	Shopkeepers	1
Boot and shoe makers	4	Farmers	14	Proprietors of houses	2	Shopboys	1
Butchers	1	Gardeners	3	Railway labourers	1	Tannery workers	7
Carpenters	7	Grooms	1	Schoolmasters	1	Thatchers	1
		Hay dealers	3			Wagon labourers	1
		Limeburners	1				

ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONS

Fig. No.7.



Kenneth Dougherty

SOURCES

- 1) Yatton Tithe Map and Award 1841.
- 2) Census (Yatton District) 1851.
- 3) Collinson, History of Somerset.
- 4) Devon and Somerset Mines — U.O.E.
- 5) Harrison, Post Office Directory for Somerset 1859.



Letter From America

4839 Pullman Ave., N.E.
Seattle, Wa. 98105

July 5, 1987

Dear Mr. Coe,

Thank you so much for the copies of Books 1 and 2 of "Yatton Yesterday". I will be looking forward to Book 4 later this year.

I am continuing to probe trying to find out more about my family in the Yatton area. So far I have been dependent on the microfilmed records of the Mormon library in Salt Lake City. They are not as complete for Somerset and Avon as they are for some portions of England, so it's a challenge.

Thanks again for your response. I am enjoying the books immensely.

Sincerely,

Jeanne W. Smith

Memories of Wartime Yatton

(i) The Doctor Remembers

We are grateful to Dr. Ursula Damrel of Church Road for the following reminiscences of the early 1940s, when she was the village GP.

During 1940 the first trainload of evacuees arrived at Yatton. The children were from the poorest area of East London, around Poplar and Bow, and the condition of some of them alarmed the villagers greatly. Many were heavily infected with lice and had spent an entire day on the train, some in non-corridor coaches. They were met at Yatton by motor coaches which distributed the passengers throughout the surrounding villages at the direction of the billeting officer, Mr. Stone. None of the children or their parents knew where they would spend the night when they set out from London.

A less resourceful medical officer than Dr. Damrel might have accepted the situation as being one beyond her power to change single handed, but she was ready for the second trainload. The coaches which awaited the young passengers at Yatton were commandeered and diverted to the village green as they became full. Here the children were disembarked and marshalled into lines by the sergeants and NCOs of a field ambulance unit billeted in the village. This unit boasted three doctors, which officers Dr. Damrel had pressed into service to sit at tables and examine the youngsters for infection. The worst cases were immediately placed aboard the buses again bound for Axbridge, where there was a decontamination unit. The others proceeded to the Church Hall (now the Village Hall) where the WVS filled them with tea and biscuits before they were dispersed at the direction of the billeting officer.

One problem with the Hall was the fact that it only had one toilet: Dr. Ursula vividly recalls a long line of potties of varying shapes and sizes arrayed along the main passage of the building. Later on in the war, an entire London school was evacuated to the Church Hall, where it continued to function quite independently with its own teachers. Earlier on, however, evacuees placed in Yatton attended the local school, at that time under the headmaster-ship of Mr. Dyte.

The overnight half of the Royal Train on the Cheddar Valley loop is well known but Dr. Ursula recalls that Her Majesty, now the Queen Mother, expressed a desire to see and speak with some of the local children.

Mr. Dyte accordingly shepherded his flock to the station in some haste and, not expecting to become involved himself, did not bother to change from his gardening trousers to his Sunday best apparel. After some minutes of conversation, however, the Queen beckoned to the headmaster and enquired whether he experienced difficulties due to the London children's level of learning being greatly in advance of the villagers'. This was a red rag to Mr. Dyte, who momentarily forgot protocol and waxed eloquent on the behavioural characteristics of the East Enders in comparison to the disciplined and well taught local children. At this time and for many years afterwards, Yatton school had the best record in Somerset for 11+ examination successes and his professional pride must have been touched to the quick. The village boys and girls were also generally extremely healthy, thanks to an unremitting campaign of inoculation by Dr. Ursula.

As the blitz spread across the country, the London visitors were joined by whole families from Bristol, who used to come down on the evening train to spend the night away from the bombing and return to town in the morning. The doctor recalls that many houses had a bed in every room, with the visitors sleeping upstairs and the hosts on the ground floor.

The doctor's lot was not an easy one during the 1940s: the telephone was a rarity in the average house, no bus services ran and there was no public ambulance service. Rail was the normal mode of travel, but on one occasion Dr. Damrel despatched a child to the Children's Hospital via the medium of Pearce's Carriers with a label attached to his lapel!

The presence of the military field ambulance unit was a godsend and they co-operated willingly with the village doctor. The HQ was at Westaway on the Scaur, the officers living in the house and the men, other than those on duty, lodging throughout Yatton. Westaway was of course very handily near to Dr. Damrel's residence at Henley Lodge and she found the military always most helpful in times of emergency. At night sentries would be posted and the duty crew would sleep in the vehicle – like all soldiers they were not always well pleased at being awoken from their slumbers. On one occasion, having been asked by the guard to wait while he roused the crew, Dr. Ursula heard his fierce stage whisper from the vicinity of the ambulance: "Shut up — she's waiting just outside!" The vehicle would then proceed out into the night to take the patient to hospital in Bristol.

Some lighter moments were provided by nationally known entertainers, for the BBC Light Entertainment and Children's Programme units had been removed to Bristol for the duration of hostilities. Kenway & Young and Leon Goossens made appearances at concerts in the Church Hall and the revered "Uncle Mac" of Children's Hour lodged for two years at The Grey House with Nurse Barnard's family.

Villagers gradually became aware of strange urban hazards and customs. One lad steadfastly refused to remove his boots upon retiring and justified this unusual omission by asserting that he "didn't want them rats gnawing my toes." Another host couple were perplexed by their guests' question, posed as the days shortened towards winter, "When yer gwyne ter paiper us?" After some enquiry it emerged that each autumn their bodies was pasted with layers of newspaper which remained *in situ* for insulation purposes until the following spring.

In spite of these large culture gaps, it is heartening to report that many lifelong friendships were forged: when the late Mrs. Childs at Claverham had a party for her ninetieth birthday, the grown ups whom she had hosted for two years as evacuees made the trip down from London to join the celebrations. As will be seen from Hilary Bridbury's article, she took back to London many happy memories of Yatton and we are delighted that she has recorded them for us.

R. H. Young
March 1987

(ii) Recollections of a War-Time Evacuee in Yatton

During 1940/41 my sister Jennifer and I spent nearly a year at Court House Farm, Yatton, with Mr. and Mrs. Burdge and their family, Leonard, Tom and Joan, and their helper May Boulter. Bill, their second son was away at the war.

In October 1940 a stick of bombs had fallen near our house in one of the London suburbs. Fortunately none had exploded. The police closed our road and so we were sent off to the farm at Yatton where we had spent peacetime holidays — and we went by TRAIN, which was quite exciting.

We were eight and twelve years old and I think we soon settled down to country life. I don't remember ever being homesick, which was a tremendous tribute to the Burdges.

We loved Court House Farm and I am sad it has gone. I can still see the big kitchen table we all sat around for meals with the dresser in the background and the farm yard with milling heifers and bullocks outside the window. I remember the scullery with its stone floor and the pan of cream scalding in a copper in the corner and the dark sitting room with a huge fireplace of burning logs (which never seemed to give as much heat as coal did even when you scraped a poker along them and produced exciting sparks) and a piano, a canary in a cage and a bookcase filled with books like “The Girl of the Limberlost” and “A Peep behind the Scenes”.

We had to share a bed which was pretty traumatic until Mrs. Burdge produced a bolster to put down the middle. My mother tells me she had waves of fear whenever she thought of us with candles under a thatched roof and she was quite justified as we used to flick our fingers through the flames for dares. Outside our bedroom window was an orchard with old tipped-over trees bearing small green fragrant apples which I have looked for ever since and never found. There was a boxroom smelling of ripening apples with more books piled all over it. The bliss of reading “Thirty-nine steps” and “Mr. Standfast” eating those wizened apples!



The Burdges gave us jobs to do. We took it in turns in the evenings, with Joan, to shut the chickens up in their henhouse across the fields. On wet winter nights it meant crossing the ditches over narrow slippery planks in the dark. We collected eggs from the straw in the nest-boxes into pails and I loved the smooth, sometimes warm feel of them. Often we helped put the cardboard tops on the milk bottles which Len filled and we delivered some before school. My “round” included Stuckey’s the Butchers. We helped with the haymaking and unloading hay into the Dutch Barn. As we got near to the roof my nose and eyes streamed with the dust – above all we washed up and washed up!

We loved Mrs. Burdge’s cooking, especially figgy duff – scrumptious — and when we first arrived we had absolutely delicious spiced buns filled with clotted cream **and** honey. As the war wore on we had to drop the cream and then the honey. Horror of horrors, we once had little roly pieces of meat which we were told were the tails of the lambs bleating outside

in the yard. I wonder if they were - or were the Burdges teasing their evacuees again? Jennifer was told to clean her shoes with elbow grease and asked which tin it was in. She delighted them by carrying in a hen saying "This hen is broody" and it dropped an egg. Len gave us a big box at Christmas with a parcel within a parcel until the actual present was a florin in a pill box. Len, I remember was terribly old (he must have been at least twenty-five) and I realise now he used to tease us a lot.

We were lucky that there was such a good school at Barbary House. Mrs. Burdge, Miss Sawyer and Miss Owen helped me with extra coaching to get into big school when I returned to London. There were sessions when we were lined up against a partition and asked "tables" and went up and down the line as we got them right or wrong. I bless them to this day.

I made some good friends at school and at Girl Guides; among them were Queenie Cook (Poppy Patrol) from Hewish, Christine Stevens (Harebell) from Clevedon and Janet Harvey from Langford. We wrote to each other for some time after I left.

Smells are one of the most vivid things I remember, the apple-book room and the duck weed on the stagnant pond where we used to "boat" on a sort of dustbin lid. I can recall the strong aroma of brilliantine used by the RAMC soldiers who came to sing hymns around the piano on Sunday evenings (When He cometh to make up His jew-els). When we had baths the bathroom smelled of a mixture of iron and mildew. It was a big operation. I noted in my diary that for our baths Len carried pails of very hot metallic-flavoured water up the dark round staircase and that the bathroom was very very cold. I also remember the smell of cream on the cardboard milk-tops - and only a month ago I was on a country walk with my family and we stood in a swollen stream. Suddenly, quite clearly, I was taken back by the smell of mossy damp earth to the days when we used to wade along the stream in Spring looking for primroses in Yatton.

Hilary Bridbury (Love)



"In Pursuit Of The Uneatable"

The winter of 1987/8 sees the centenary of the body popularly known as the "Foot Harriers", now correctly styled The Clifton Foot Beagles, the name under which they were formed in 1888 by Mr. Arthur May, Mr. George Gibbs and others.

The name "Clifton Harriers" predates the current organisation by almost half a century, for as long ago as 1840 a pack of miniature beagles was hunted over Durdham Downs in pursuit of bagged hares (i.e. hares specially released from a sack for the chase). Their activities were short lived as the Clifton residents of the time raised strenuous objections to their practice of meeting at 6 a.m.

These early enthusiasts were succeeded in the 1850s by the mounted Bristol & Clifton Harriers, who covered a wider area - Wick, Bitton, Broadfield Down and Keynsham, as well as Westbury on Trym. Mr. W. B. Reed was Master and no doubt the current patrons of Habitat, Queen's Road, Bristol, would be surprised to learn that the hound pack was quartered on this site when it was the Queen's Hotel. In 1860 redevelopment plans made demolition of the kennels necessary. Mr. Reed offered the pack free to any gentleman who would keep and hunt them within reach of Bristol. There were no volunteers and the hounds were sold to a Mr. Thomas of Cardiff for 20 guineas, the proceeds going to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

In 1888 a group of sportsmen under the leadership of Arthur C. May formed the Clifton Foot Beagles. Among the pack were two or three couples which had been kennelled at

11, Park Place, Clifton and exercised over Brandon Hill. The first Huntsman was one Richard Holmes a Court and the whippers in were Percy W. Turner, Val Hewitt and George Gibbs, all of whom subsequently became Masters. Indeed, Percy Turner's brother Philip became a sort of local Jorrocks, remaining with the hunt for almost 60 years until his death in 1947.

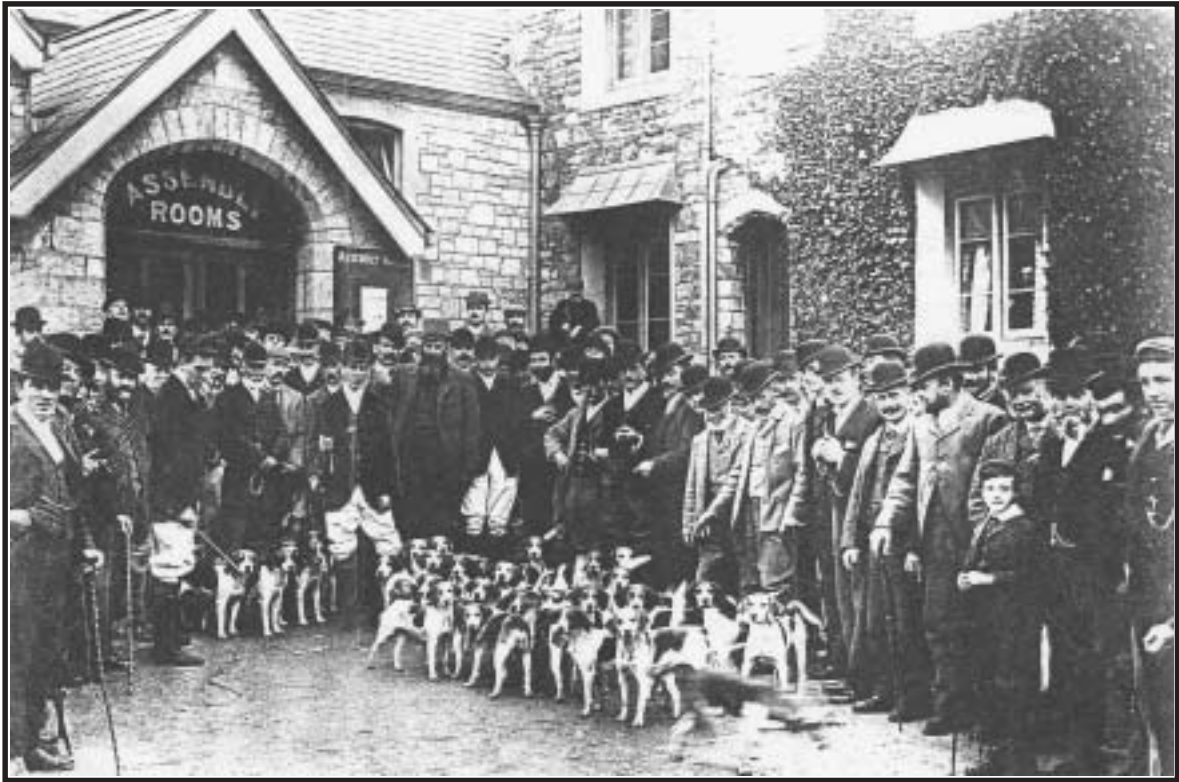
The Clifton Foot Beagles covered an amazingly wide area a century ago: on December 12th 1891 they travelled to Warminster. The railway of those days spared little expense to meet market demand. The GWR maintained special "Hound Vans" for the use of the many packs operating in its area. These pieces of rolling stock were somewhat shorter than the normal carriages and contained partitions for hounds, horses and a cabin for the huntsman and staff. A van could be ordered for a particular day and coupled up behind a suitable train, being slipped at destination and later returning to the point of origin in similar fashion.

By 1894 it had become apparent that beagles were not really large enough for the rough, rhyme-crossed Somerset countryside and the pack was changed to Harriers — 16½ - 17" animals whose greater size better suited them to the demanding conditions. The name was changed to Clifton Foot Harriers and management, which up to this time had been by committee, came under the Mastership of Mr. Arthur May. In their first season the animals had been kennelled at his home in Stoke Bishop, but in 1889/90 new kennels were built at the Railway Hotel, Yatton (now the Firebox) and the local association began. These kennels were only demolished twenty or so years ago and stood at right angles to and to the left of The Assembly Rooms, on what is now the car park. The writer of these notes garaged an ancient Austin Seven there in the early 1960s, when John and Daphne Wake kept the Hotel.

Relationships with the local farmers, over whose land the hunt operated, were always cordial and it was obviously imperative that they should remain so. Annual hospitality was dispensed accordingly. On 20th October 1894, 150 farmers sat down to an Invitation Breakfast at the Hotel. So many were present that the Hall could not accommodate the full number "*and tables had to be laid in the ante rooms opening out from the larger apartments.*"

Mr. A. C. May was in the chair and among the vice chairmen was Dr. W. G. Grace, the famous cricketer (see YYIII — Village Cricket) who hunted regularly with the Clifton until leaving the district in 1899. W G must have been a familiar figure in the village: on this occasion he proposed one of the five toasts drunk, to "The Huntsman and His Whips". An excellent photograph survives of this gathering, the bearded Doctor near the centre with A. C. May and the famous Phil Turner as a young man. W G was a large man in an age of large men - it is reported that he wagered a quart of ale with the kennel huntsman, George Barham, the heavier man to collect. W G scaled at 18 stones and Barham at 20, somewhat to the Doctor's chagrin. The dedication with which the hares were pursued is well illustrated by a report from The Field magazine of November 3rd 1894 concerning a hunt which took place on Wednesday 24th October: "*.... they met at Hewish in rather wet and rough weather, the Master carrying the horn. In the morning they killed 2 hares and in the afternoon had a clinking run of 80 minutes. Getting up just in front of the hounds the hare was only saved from being chopped by the energetic interference of Dr. W. G. Grace. Scent was good, and once away she was hustled along at a great pace, coming to Puxton River 3 times. This has hitherto been regarded as unnegotiable, but Mr. Philip Turner proved the efficacy of throwing your heart over first by taking it in his stride.*" The wide drainage rivers in the area have always presented a barrier to pedestrian traffic, but apparently the hunt staff thought nothing of leaping in and swimming across in pursuit of their quarry and hounds, even on the most dismal cold winter's day. A hardy breed of men.

The other main barrier to unbridled chase (before the modern motorway) was of course the railway. Nowadays, with the immense speed of trains, the line is avoided but in earlier days the tracks were crossed often. Indeed, Capt. Douglas Wills of Wrington, who became



Joint Master with Philip Turner in 1938, once stopped a train. On another occasion the pack was feared lost in Flax Bourton tunnel, which they entered simultaneously with a fast train. However, all the animals emerged unscathed at the other end, running in orderly fashion between the up and down tracks. The Cheddar Valley line was of course far less hazardous and drivers would often stop their train for a word with the huntsmen if they were casting along the embankment.

The move from the Railway Hotel kennels to the present purpose built premises at Wemberham took place some time just before World War I, although the Hunt did not obtain the title deeds until 1924. Membership in 1906 was two guineas – this had risen to three guineas by the 1930s. Non members could participate in a day's sport for 5/- (25p), and this was reduced to 2/6d (12½p) in 1941. Various fund raising activities were carried out by the Hunt Supporters and sheep are still kept with various local farmers' flocks to be sold for revenue in due time.

By the late 1960s it was becoming difficult to replace harrier stock as the mounted hunts were crossing them with foxhounds to produce extra speed, which led to stock of this type outpacing the foot followers. In 1978 the decision was reluctantly taken to revert to beagles. The Hunt has since resumed the original name of The Clifton Foot Beagles. The final hunt with harriers took place on March 11th 1978, followed by a celebration supper at Cheddar organised by the Supporters. Many toasts were drunk to both the future and the past; it must have been reassuring to reflect that, in a rapidly changing world, very many of the farmers present on this occasion were the grandsons of those who had attended the great breakfast of 1894.

R. H. Young – July 1987

Sources: Mr. Keith Gardner, Backwell (Joint Master)
Shooting Times & Country Magazine, May 4-10, 1978
Bristol Times & Mirror, Monday October 22nd 1894
The Field Magazine, November 3rd 1894

Prince of Orange

This very well known and ancient public house situated in the High Street of Yatton is probably the oldest licensed house in the village. The building dates back to the mid 17th century but it has been altered, added to and modified, to suit the changing needs of the times and the community. When it was built about 1650 it was only a two-roomed plan house with a stair in the turret at the rear of the building. This original building forms the modern bar with the dining area, and the two fireplaces are in the original positions although much modified as time has gone on. You can still see the thickness of the original walls, about 25 inches (630 mm) thick, and we think that some of the timber beams are original although some have been added, some replaced and some are now hidden. There were of course division walls which have been removed. Not so long ago there was a partition dividing the then lounge from the public bar. Even the writer can remember this!

As we can see there were additions to the original building, an extension was added to the south end of the house, with an access down to a cellar, then a carriage way was formed to the yard behind with another wing built on, reaching forward to the main road. There was no cellar under the original building, one was added when the first extension was carried out and the stair down formed. The carriage way can still be clearly seen with a pair of wooden doors to the road elevation. The wing of the building projecting towards the main road has been shortened to allow for a road widening earlier this century. Our reproductions of old postcards accompanying this article, dated about 1915, show clearly the original size of this wing. We know that this wing was used for stabling with drains in the floor and evidence of feed being passed down from above for the horses. Behind this wing and across some of the old yard is the skittle alley (every good pub has one!) and there is an outshut across the rest of the building.

When it was built it would have been the second largest building with public access in the village, second only to the church. There would not have been a car park. Again our old



postcards show a garden wall enclosing the space between the “Prince” and what is now Hill’s Furnishers. Readers of Book II will recall that there are signs in the division wall between what were the gardens of Hill’s and the “Prince” of the original ground level, window sills of the barn formerly in Hill’s garden can still be seen. This wall was built in 1864 and shows how much the present car park level has been raised.

What about the name, where did it come from? We know that the building dates back to the mid 17th century, say 1650 as being a reasonable possibility, and we find that in April 1641, William, Prince of Orange, married Mary, the daughter of Charles I, and it is more than possible that the pub was named after this Prince of Orange who came from Holland where he was a Stadtholder or Governor. There was another William, also a Prince of Orange. He was the son of the above-named William and Mary. He also married a Mary, the daughter of James II, and this pair became joint rulers as William and Mary of this country. Their marriage took place in 1677 and some people consider that this Prince of Orange is the one that these pubs are named after although it is suggested that this William was not very popular especially after the death of Mary in 1694. If it was this later William that this pub was named after then it is quite possible that the building was built as a small farmhouse and turned into a pub later in the century. I like to think of the first possibility being the correct one and that it was built as a public house. Who knows?

We know that this house has a long history of providing for its customers, not least during the time of Yatton Market which started in 1893 and closed about 1978. This was a Monday market and the “Prince” held a market licence, that is to say that the inn could open all market day except for one hour. All the farmers and gentry went to the “Prince”, all the drovers, labourers, etc., went to the Market Inn. Mr. Hoddell recalls how as an auctioneer at the market he, along with other market personnel, would repair to the “Prince” at about 2.30 p.m., have a drink and a meal, usually cold meat with vegetables, and then he would conduct an auction of land or premises in the afternoon. Some of the farmers involved would then stay on for more drinks and no doubt some were pleased that their horses and traps could take them home safely.

There would be up to 100 people attending the afternoon auction at the “Prince”. It was usually held in the clubroom “upstairs”. These were rickety old wooden stairs which had seen better days. There was a bar upstairs for the customers’ use although the food was prepared downstairs and had to be carried up by hand. The Knight family are remembered, particularly Dora Knight, as licensees at about the time of the Second World War, and although the gatherings were somewhat rough and ready as one could expect, and sometimes all-male, they were at all times very respectable. The all-male gatherings occurred particularly after the Christmas Fat Stock Show when there was an annual dinner, sometimes with an entertainer, perhaps a lady playing piano or similar. The “Prince” was also the venue for skittles matches, meetings of various clubs such as the Cricket and Football, dinners and other gatherings for celebrations, etc., and as we know it is still used by many organisations at various times.

We should also mention here that the inn was used for official business, confirming that it was the centre of activity, after the church, in the village. Amongst the officials who visited were the commissioners appointed during the reign of George III to enforce the Enclosure Act for land in the Parish of Yatton and Kenn. They first met at the “Prince” on 7th August 1811 to allot land in lieu of common rights, to make roads, bridleways, paths, drains in the area. They met again on 18th June 1812 to hear objections regarding Kenn Moor, and then on 26th May 1813 re Cleeve Hill and Ham Moor. Finally on 27th January 1815 the last meeting was held at the “Prince” and the final document was signed by Joseph Wollen and witnessed by John Plaister, a solicitor of Wrington.

We know that the Prince of Orange was owned by Earl Poulett at this time and the Rent Book dated 1799 tells us that Lydia Naish held the lease and that she received it from her sister, Sarah Battiscombe (as was) who married a John Plenty. Sarah died on 5th June 1797. Lydia held the lease for the lives of Robert Battiscombe, who was then 42 years of age, and Robert Parsons, aged 25, for the sum of 13/- (65p) per annum with a heriot of £3.3.0. (£3.15). It was let by Lydia to Elizabeth Parsons who also owned or leased land in the village. It seems that Elizabeth was the inn-keeper and she was also farming. The Prince of Orange had a sizeable land holding and we know that the following comprised the total property and land in 1799 from Earl Poulett rent records:

- No. 260 – Prince of Orange, stables, yards, gardens and a common right (to graze)
- No. 265 – Part of a close adjoining (the P. of O.) called Westovers
- No. 387 – Causeway Acre (off Claverham Road)
- No. 331 and 329 – Land adjoining Causeway Acre
- No. 328 – Little 2 Acres (off Claverham Road)
- No. 303 – Hawkers Hill (opposite side of Claverham Road near Henley Lane)
- No. 305 – Land in Hawkers Hill
- No. 330 – Paddock adjoining Causeway Acre



We do not know the total area of land but much later the holding which was smaller was stated as 6.257 acres. In addition to the above Elizabeth Parsons had Nos. 438 and 439 in Westmead and No. 712, Vastcroft 10 acres, so she must have been quite wealthy (and busy!).

About 1812 or 1813 Earl Poulett sold his interests in Yatton, including the Prince of Orange, and Lydia Naish and Elizabeth Parsons were still “in residence” but in 1821 Lydia Naish held the leasehold under John Norman Esq. who presumably was the new owner. The land schedule was as above plus No. 454, Cold Harbour, so the holding was even larger at this time.

The next record we have was in 1831 when Charles Hale was the inn-keeper and then, in 1841, Edward Thomas is named as the innkeeper. This was at the time of the tithe map being made and he is recorded as the owner. The holding is renumbered and consists of :

No. 32 – Prince of Orange with stables, outbuildings, barton and garden

Nos. 33, 34 and 35 – all Westover

No. 494 – Uggins 3 acres — at Cleeve

He owned No. 497, house and stables at Cleeve. He rented these to a William Hunt together with No. 460, part of Oarfield (up Chapel Lane at Claverham), No. 449, an orchard, and No. 495, a cottage and garden at Cleeve occupied by John Hunt. He also owned No. 461, another part of Oarfield (let to John Lukins) and No. 498, another house and garden at Cleeve let to John Cox. Presumably some buying and selling has been going on. In 1851 Augustine Atherton was recorded in the census as being “aged 35, Innkeeper” and may have been at the “Prince”. His family is listed as Charlott (his wife) “attends the bar”, John and William (his sons) aged 10 and 7 “scholars”, Amelia and Celia (his daughters) aged 4 and 10 months, with Jane Burge aged 12, “servant and nursemaid” from Bedminster.

During the latter part of the 19th century the “Prince” became involved in a lot of leases, money-raising activities, being let and used as surety in various transactions, but in 1915 “The Ashton Gate Brewery”, later to be part of “The Bristol Brewery, Georges and Co. Ltd.” bought the property. Then in 1948 the Yatton Parish Council bought what is now Rock Road Playing Fields from the Bristol Brewery. This was the “Westover” part of the estate. When the “Prince” was sold in 1915 to the brewery, it cost £3,300 including out-buildings and land totalling 6 acres, and in the occupation of Joel Knight, this was presumably the same family as Dora mentioned earlier in this article.

And so the Prince of Orange continues as a popular pub and will, no doubt, continue for many years to come. May I say thank you to many people who have helped with this article, particularly Mr. R. J. Hoddell, Mr. C. Gosden.

B. Bradbury



Yatton’s Ancestors of Royalty

In 1874 the then Vicar of Yatton (Rev. H. J. Barnard) published in the Yatton Parish Magazine the results of his research into the Newton family. From this and other information it appears very probable that the second line of the “family tree” on page 2 of “Yatton Yesterday”, No. 3, should read:

Thomas Newton (d. 1496) m. Joanna Hampton

(dr. of John Hampton and widow of Thomas Chokke)

Sir John Newton’s father, Sir Richard Newton (previously Cradock) the Lord Chief Justice (d. 1489) had married Emma, daughter of Thomas Perrot of Haroldston, which is near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire. It is thought that the Newton family inherited an estate there. Should any reader visit this part of Pembrokeshire, the Society would be glad to hear of any references to the Cradocks, Newtons or Perrots in any churches or memorials there.

Sir John Perrot (1527-1592), who was born at Haroldston, was reported to be the illegitimate son of King Henry VIII and Mary Perrot, wife of Thomas Perrot.

Jack Vincent



Memories

Using the tape recorder presented to us by Dr. Damrel, I had the pleasure of interviewing two respected residents of Claverham in the persons of Mr. Joe Brown and Mr. Albert Stockham. Some of their recollections are as follows:

Mr. Brown tells of such incidents as the occasion when, working as a coach builder for Bristol Tramways, he was asked to be on duty on Christmas Day. A tram broke down and, though inexperienced, he had to drive a relief tram outside the tram shed gates.

In 1939 a meeting was held in the Paint Shops to raise funds for “the poor people of China”. Just after the war a “Harvest Supper” was held in Claverham Church Hall. In view of the rationing the supper consisted of 2½ lbs of biscuits and cups of tea! Guess who acquired the biscuits?

Joe’s wife Ena had a brilliant career in the world of music. At an early age she attended music school in Knowle studying singing and piano-playing. She then registered as a full-time student of the London Trinity School of Music, where she passed out with full honours — sash — regalia! Piano and singing lessons followed for children of Claverham, Yatton and Wrington held in Yatton Church Hall. In 1928 she helped put on concerts, aided by her cousin from St. Barnabas Church in Bristol.

Meantime, singing professionally in the Victoria Rooms and at the Old Market in Bristol she became involved in the Entertainment World. There she met Vesta Tilley, a world-renowned Music Hall Star of the early 20th century. They became such good friends that Vesta Tilley frequently visited her at her home in Wrington, whenever she was on tour in Bristol.

Talking of the Entertainment World, Albert Stockham was responsible for introducing Charlie Chaplin to Claverham. Being in charge of evening meetings at the Claverham Church, he was once let down by a lantern slide lecturer. A friend volunteered to bring his film projector and showed a Charlie Chaplin film, enjoyed by both young and old. Later, a purchase of a film projector for the church enabled them to show biblical and travel films as well as their favourite hero of the Silent Film.

Most of Albert’s stories are of cricket, which we have passed on to the Cricket Club for their proposed publication. However, Albert tells of the village lamplighter, nearly seven feet tall and nicknamed “Candle”.

He also recalls the moors flooded between Horsecastle and Nailsea. In the winter when frozen over, hordes arrived from Bristol to enjoy skating there.

Then there was the Wake and Dean horse which returned from a trip to London; finding his own way, as the driver was sound asleep!

A. F. Coe



Extract from Parish Registers

“A poor travelling boy, from Clifton to Gloucestershire, buried May 17th, 1711”

“A travelling woman found drowned, buried March 7th, 1786”



The Religious Society of Friends in Yatton

(Article in “Yatton Yesterday” No. 2 — comment on page 7 of this)

In his ‘Family Annals’, Edward Gregory stated that his grandfather Maurice attended Durban’s Yatton school *“then carried on at Rock House”*. This was queried in the article because at the relevant time Rock House was occupied by William Eddington, a farmer, and his large family. It is true that later on a school was run there.

In 1735 the Quaker school was said to be held in ‘**Porberry House**’ (*see note 9 of original article*). Poulett’s survey of 1700 (DD/CN 35/6) shows that Henry Grimsteed, aged 33, had a lease for *“one tenement called ye **Vorbery** house and severall closes of land, in all 14 acres”*, at an annual rent of £1.14. 8. and 1 capon. The lease was for his life and that of John Griffen, aged 10. Henry died 9.1.1714/15 and as his memorial is in the Newton Chapel the Grimsteeds obviously were not Quakers. In the mid 18th century Jno. Griffen had a tenement called ‘**Foreberry** House’ (box 43).

In about 1799 one John Griffen had an unnamed house, garden, stable and some land – according to the plan, this seems to have been opposite and just down the High Street from Rock House, about where the butcher’s shop is now (box 47). About the same time other Grimsteeds occupied a building on or near the site of the present Grey House. This dwelling house was stated to be in ruins, and Poulett granted a new lease with the condition *“lessee to covenant to rebuild a dwelling house on the old site”* (box 49) — so this could not have been the school.

Therefore it appears that the Quaker school was somewhere on the east side of the High Street, and this fits in with what Collinson says – a quarry of limestone was opened in 1782 in a garden *“at the southeast end (of Yatton) near the Quaker schoolroom”*.



Do It Yourself Research

A piece of paper (*photocopy opposite*) was recently found by the present owners of Rock House, Mr. and Mrs. D. Hale, in the ceiling of the lounge when they were decorating. It could possibly have dropped through the floorboards above. As you will see, this beautiful piece of handwriting was signed by Joseph Oldfield firstly on January 23rd 1825 and secondly on February 28th 1825. It was obviously two linked pieces from an exercise book, hence the different dates, with other pages on top having been torn out.

In May 1823 the premises were bought by Mr. John Heale, a schoolmaster. He died in 1836 and left the house to his wife, Mary. We know Mary Heale ran a girls’ school (from the 1851 census) and she died in 1857. We can **assume** that John Heale ran a boys’ school from 1823 until his death.

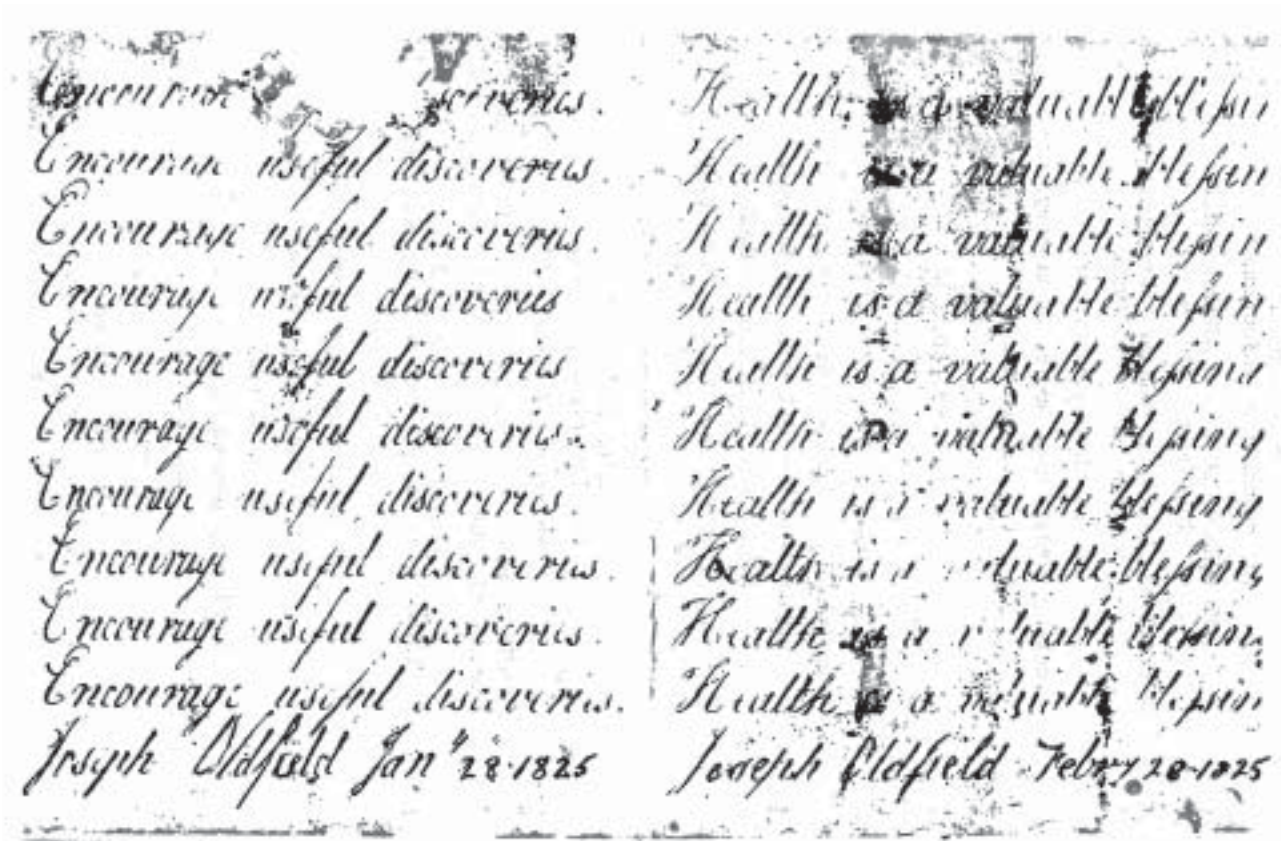
Can anyone provide any further proof to back up our “handwriting” discovery?

A. F. Coe



Manor of Week – at the Court Baron of the Rt. Honb^{le} John Earle Poulett ... Anno Domi 1736, Mr. John Plenty foreman.

Item: We present Henry Vowles to put his Dogg out of the Parish of Kill him or that he shall not be seen within the Parish of Yatton after ye fourteenth Day of October upon Pain of Twenty Shillings. SRO DD/MR 108.



Piece of writing by Joseph Oldfield, January 23rd, 1825 and February 28th 1825.

Found at Rock House by Mr and Mrs D. Hale.

Memories of Barberry House School

I am not a Yattonian – in fact, I’ve never slept one night in the village – but if I had a pound for every time I’ve walked up or down the High Street I’d be quite well off – for from September 1928 to July 1937 every day in term time, I used to catch the 8.47 train from Clevedon – then the 12.45 home to dinner – back again on the 1.50 and home on the 4.00. The fare then was 3p return – half fare.

Well, why did I make these daily journeys – it was to attend school at Barberry House school – alas now, no more – but I expect that most of you know the old farm house in the High Street with the Barberry Farm Estate lying behind it.

It was about 1924 that Miss Dorothy Burdge started the school in the family farm house. At first the pupils used the dining room and the first floor back bedroom for lessons but by the time I started in 1924 the extension, housing three class rooms, had been built. (This extension was later used by, I think it was, Clytha School, and is now a bungalow).

By present day standards it was a very small school. The maximum number of pupils rarely exceeded 60 – but it was a very happy school, for Miss Burdge, herself a dedicated teacher, had the happy knack of attracting similarly minded colleagues and the standard of teaching was high.

Our school uniforms (none of this ‘go as you please’ sloppiness of today) were tussore silk dresses in the summer, with navy blazers and Panama hats and in the winter navy gym slips and white blouses and navy blue winter coats and velour hats.

We played tennis in the courts behind Atlay's Garage in the summer and hockey in the winter on the ground behind the Prince of Orange. In the early days it was netball, played in a field opposite Wake and Deans factory – I liked netball, I was tall so could do quite well – but how I hated hockey! I used to get chilblains and I always got my toes knocked or stepped on.

When we had gym, the sliding partitions in the school room were pulled back. We had parallel bars, the horse and the ladder. A Mr. Lyons from Weston was the gym teacher, a small, dapper man with a waxed moustache.

The reference to Wake and Deans reminds me that all our school desks came from that factory – what a shock when the factory closed down – and our school books were from the Scholastic at the junction of High Street and Bridge Street in Bristol, one of the Bristol 'institutions' that went in the Blitz.

Every year, in about November, we had our prize giving and concert in the Church Hall – to a small child the Hall seemed huge! On hot days we sometimes took our lessons out into the garden and what fun we had in the garden in break time and after lunch – hide & seek in the shrubbery, 'Touch', skipping, all the games that were in vogue at that time.

In about 1931 Miss Dawn St. Clair Salter joined the school for a year before she went to college and helped to start Brownies and Guides.

In the Brownies, we had three "Sixes" – Pixies, Elves & Fairies, and the Guide Patrols were Poppy, Harebell and Sunflower. During the summer holiday the Guides went to camps at Holford, Timberscombe and Selworthy and there was the proud occasion when the Company won the County Cup.

Miss Beryl Crossman who ran the Yatton Company, was a great help in the early days of the school company.

In about 1935/36 extra space was needed for a dormitory for the boarders and a big hut was built in the vegetable garden.

I left in 1937 and after the start of the War in 1939 the number of pupils increased so much that Miss Burdge and her partner Miss Sawyer took over Caerleon, the next door house.

The War ended -- state education was reorganised. Mrs. Burdge (Miss Burdge's mother) and Miss Gregory (Mrs. Burdge's sister) felt they could no longer cope with the domestic side of the school so Barberry School closed and Mrs. Burdge and her mother moved into Caerleon. Later Miss Burdge and Miss Sawyer took over The Chestnuts School at Winscombe, but this is outside our story.

Well, this is a brief history of the school – what about the staff and pupils – I remember Miss Atkinson who taught the 'babies' and Miss Revill who took her place.

Miss Siderfin (she came from Cannington near Bridgwater) took Maths and French – she left to take up midwifery I think – Miss Salter came for a year, then Miss Bark, followed by Miss Wheeler and then Miss Lewis. After I'd left Rosemary Clarke, a former pupil, came for a while after she had finished her training.

Miss Cox from Weston came up to teach Elocution & Drama and Miss Vera Tutt taught Music & Singing (her twin sister married the Curate of Yatton, if I remember rightly).

It has been very interesting, trying to remember names of fellow pupils — here are some of the 'old' boys and girls:-

Irene Ashman
 Jean & Keith Allen
 Tom Atlay & sister
 ? Atkinson
 Olive Brudge
 Jean, Dick & Ruth Burdge
 Barbara Burdge
 Tom, Leonard, Billy & Joan Burdge
*(I think they lived in the farm where the
 Gateway now is)*
 June Bailey *(Congresbury)*
 Con Cadoux
 John Colquhoun
(son of Vicar of Congresbury)
 Joan & Dick Buscombe
 Mary Bendall
 Rita Cleverdon
 Janet & Rosemary Clarke *(Clevedon)*
 Joan Clark
(Clevedon - I think she died of T.B.)
 Harold Crocker
 Margery & Stella Court
 Diane & Queenie Cook
 Geoffrey Clements
 Daphne Collins
 Ben Crossman
 Arthur Collings
 Douglas & Sheila Collings
 John Diamond
(killed in the war - ? R.A.F.)
 Winifred Dyer *(Kenn)*
 Nora, Phyllis & Jeffrey Davis
 Valerie Downs
 Gillian & Jennifer Emery
 Audrey Findlay *(Nailsea)*

Ruth Fisher *(Clevedon)*
 Esme Garrett *(Clevedon)*
 Hilda, Mabel & Richard Griffiths
 Elizabeth Grace
 Brian & Hilda Gosling
 Bridget Holloway
 Janet & Rachel Harvey
 Rachel & Ian Hardisty
 Hilda Harris
 Betty, Phyllis & Mary Kinsey
 Isobel & Pam King
 Ivor Keel
 Jean Jennings
 Ruth & Constance Jarrett *(Clevedon)*
 Iris Jones
 Barbara Merrifield *(Clevedon)*
 Audrey Pether
 Glennie Powell
 Pauline & June Popplewell
(Granddaughters of Vicar of Congresbury)
 Brian Pullin
 Ruth & Pam Redding
 Phyllis & Vivienne Randall *(Clevedon)*
 Joan & Tony Ridger
 Christine Stephens *(Clevedon)*
 Peter Stuckey
 Pam Stuckey *(Kenn)*
 Barbara Toothill
 Joan Tutton
 Pat & Jill Vowles
 Joyce Walters *(? Kingston Seymour)*
 Pat Wear
 Phyllis & Beryl Wear
 Kitty Williams
 Mary & Doreen Young

I must end by saying that all the events and names are, as is shown on the bottom of bills – E. & O. E. *(errors and omissions excepted)* – memory can be unreliable at times. In today's educational system I suppose that a school like Barberry would be out of place, but I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Miss Dorothy Burdge – a good teacher who lived, as well as taught, her Christian faith.

Constance Jarrett



Yatton in The 1880's

The Society has been lent parish magazines by Mrs. R. Cox covering most of the years 1882 - 85, called "The Banner of Faith". They bring vividly to life a world completely remote from ours 100 years later.

It is obvious that the vicar, Rev. Preb. J. Barnard, loved his parishioners, especially the children. Not only did he let the whole Sunday School into his garden, but hired swing boats and seesaws for them and had fire-balloons sent up. He wrote "*The boys of the choir are steady, good boys*" and took them to Bristol on the train one afternoon. There he let them wander round the shops before a museum visit and tea in a restaurant.

In the autumn of 1884 Rev. Barnard left to become vicar of Pucklechurch (*he died in July 1892*); before going, he took the choir and all his church helpers to Dawlish for the day in a specially reserved carriage on the train. Dinner and tea were had at the Royal Hotel, and in between, bathing, rowing and playing on the beach – "*notwithstanding some amount of fatigue, all seemed thoroughly to have enjoyed the excursion*".

He regretted in 1884 having to raise the price of the magazine from 1d, to 1½d. The churchwardens' accounts of May 1883 tell us that Mrs. Sarah Dyer received £3.18.0. for cleaning the church, and that £14.9.0. had been paid for gas and coke (*presumably for the year*). Class distinctions were clear – the farmers, tradesmen and professionals on the one hand, and the labouring poor on the other. Infant mortality seems to have affected both equally, as W. H. Shiner, the auctioneer, lost two baby boys during the three years. Over 20 children under 7 years were buried, most being infants. On the other hand, more than 30 people were over 70 when they died, three being nonagenarians. Mention is made of an outbreak of scarlatina in the summer of 1883. Sick children from Bristol came to stay in Yatton, and Mrs. Viney was paid £1 for taking Mary Arne (deformed) for a 4 weeks' stay.

The Coal Club and Clothing Club both collected weekly subscriptions; for the latter it was 1d., 2d., or 3d. a week. The better-off people in the village supported the clubs financially and their names were listed – for example, farmers Mr. Badman and Mr. Crossman, Tankerville Chamberlayne, Dr. Lyons, Rev. Dr. Hardman, shopkeepers Mr. Scholl and Mr. Collings, Rev. Symes and Col. Bramble of Cleeve. In 1884 the Coal Club bought coal worth £90.4.3. from W. Counsell. The same year £132.10.9. was paid to Mr. Carter for clothing.

Of the poor of the parish not receiving parish relief during 1882, 33 persons were given 15/-, 51 had 11/- and 46 had 8/-, and £5.18.6d. worth of bread was bought from the baker, James Denmead.

The villagers did enjoy themselves in spite of everything. In January 1883 both a concert and a theatrical performance "*were largely attended and gave general satisfaction and enjoyment*". Ladies and gentlemen from Clifton came and gave three pieces at the performance.

The juvenile branch of the Temperance Society had 76 members aged 8 - 13 and they enjoyed a "*capital Magic Lantern*" show when "*some excellent Temperance Tales were illustrated*". The meeting ended with God Save the Queen and three hearty cheers. Other meetings were organised by the Band of Hope and the Friendly Society, and there was a parochial library of 650 volumes, terms 2d. a month for one book a week.

In August 1883 Yatton Cottagers Horticultural Society held its first show in Mr. Badman's field, borrowing the tents of the Cricket Club. W. H. Shiner was the Hon. Secretary. Exhibitors were divided into 'Cottagers' and 'Gardeners & Amateurs', the latter being asked to "*contribute flowers, fruit and vegetables that are calculated to give interest and splendour to the Exhibition, even if not shewn for competition*".

The Girls' Friendly Society had an annual festival – in 1883 they went to Wells on the 11.30 train for a service and tea in the Palace grounds, provided by the Bishop and Lady Hervey, who presented premiums for good service to ten Yatton girls. The next year it was held at Clevedon Court and before going there the girls *“amused themselves with donkey-rides, boating and the Pier”*.

Ladies (*as distinct from women*) of the parish held sewing parties at the Vicarage in aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and sent £5 to the 'Burmese Catechist' in 1884.

Under the next vicar, Rev. Preb. W. H. Walrond, the first Harvest Festival was held on Tuesday 15th September 1885. After church services, when the Dean preached, dinner was eaten in a tent and loyal toasts drunk. At tea (5.30 p.m.) *“the exceedingly large number that pressed into the tent, caused a more lively and urgent demand for tea than could be immediately met”*. There was dancing until 10 p.m. when *“the company dispersed quietly to their own homes”*.

In June 1885 the addition to the churchyard was consecrated by the Bishop. Hymns sung included 'Brief Life is here our Portion'. The following month William Gregory, aged 64, was the first to be buried there. Rev. Walrond complains of the state of the building adjoining the churchyard wall, formerly used as a schoolroom, parish room and stable. *“It is now unsightly, ruinous and dangerous”*. The next summer the Vestry were to get tenders for a stable only, to be built at the east end of the poorhouse.

Mr. Walrond also complains that his congregation prefer the evening service to the morning, that not enough of them come anyway and when they do he wishes they would *“join with a more audible voice in the Psalms, the Responses and the Singing”*. They are exhorted to *“hold up the falling, encourage the well-doing and rebuke the wrongdoers”*.

Finally, to education. The children of the better-off would at this time have gone to private schools. At the church school the master, Reuben Spiers, was paid between £114 and £120 a year, whilst the salary of his assistant, Miss Northam, rose from £28 to £40 per annum during this time.

The pupil teacher, Alice White, received £10 to £12. In the year 1881-2 the following money was received:

£77. 4.0	Government grant
£19. 0.0	Lane's charity
£32.19.0	School pence (2d. per week for each child)
£39. 0.6	Subscriptions from Individuals *
£12. 0.2	Subscriptions from Societies
£ 1.5.0	Other sources

** the individuals subscribing were mostly the same as for the coal and clothing clubs.*

£7. 5. 9. had been spent during the year on books, apparatus and stationery. The next year £1.18. 6. was raised at a sale of work.

In 1882 H.M. Inspector of Schools reports that “chief defects of the school are a want of strict and habitual Discipline, and of neatness and thoroughness in the work”, and “A fuller supply of Books and a Map of the British Isles are wanted”. Next year a different H.M.I. says “better distinct and audible”. Things had not improved much in the following year, though the report does concede that “the School is in very fair order”, and says “Kindergarten games might be introduced with advantage if a new room is provided. Desks are desirable”. This year, 1884 - 5, the school was in debt by £13.14. 2¼.

In 2087 what picture of us will parishioners of Yatton have when they read our present magazine, "Moor News"?

Marian Barraclough

N.B. Sums of money given in £. s. d. have not been translated into decimal coinage because many of them are too small – *e.g.* ld.



The Little Old Barns of Kingston Seymour

For the past hundred years what is left of these old buildings have stood as a reminder of a time, two hundred years ago, when Napoleon Bonaparte was threatening to starve this country into submission; so with a fast increasing population and the Industrial Revolution, grain was in great demand.

So, the landlords had the barns built, the farmers grew the corn and the labourers with their flails threshed out the grain on the strong wooden floors.

The barns were of much the same pattern, being stone-built buildings with the threshing area in the centre and a smaller room on each side of it.

One side was used to house the farm wagon and the other was a stable for the horse.

High up at each end of the barn were two square doors where at harvest time the waggonloads of corn could be pulled below the doors and the sheaves of corn would be '*pitched into the lofts*' and stacked until winter days when the men could thresh out the corn.

There were also entrances on each side of the threshing floor with double doors of the stable door type. On windy days these doors would be opened so that the breeze would blow through the barn. The corn would be tossed into the air with a shovel and the wind would blow away the husks and the dust.

Often the straw would be combed out before being beaten with the flails, the ears of corn cut off with a sickle and the straw would be tied into sizeable bundles and later used for thatching houses or mows of hay or corn.

Some barns had an upstairs threshing floor and this was approached by stone steps. At the base of the steps one would find a dog's house built into the wall. The purpose of this was to guard against what were often very hungry people going around at night to try and steal the corn.

Other thieves were the rats and mice and I well remember the barn owls, who could be seen on moonlight nights, waiting on a nearby corn mow or in the barn itself ready to swoop down and catch the vermin.

A few years ago when repairing a wall in my barn, I found a filled-up cavity which originally had been made to allow a pair of owls to make their nest inside.

And the future of these old barns. Will they be kept as store rooms for the odds and ends of the farm or will they be converted into holiday homes in this present day of leisure?

Ken Stuckey

