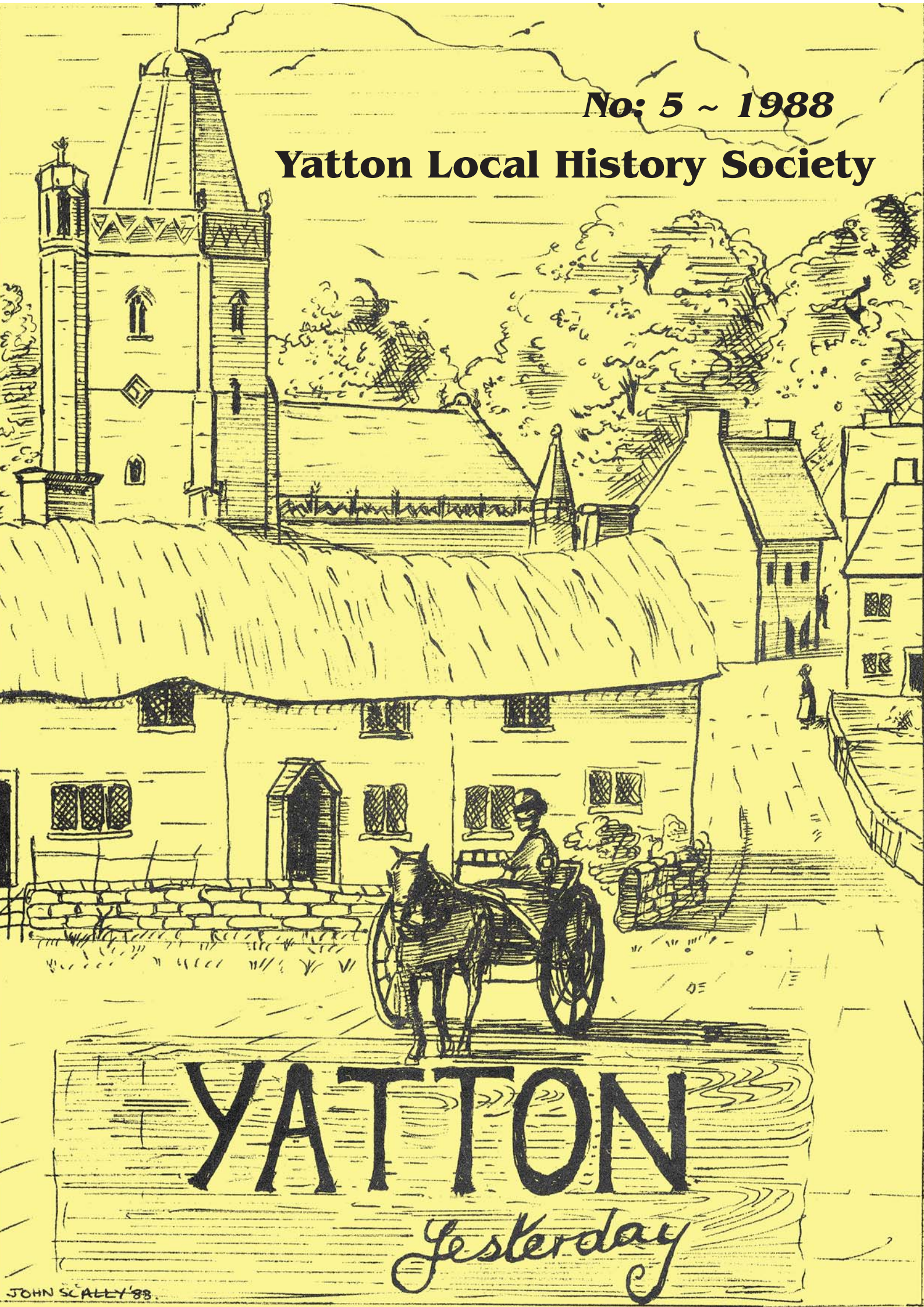


No: 5 ~ 1988

Yatton Local History Society



YATTON

Yesterday

EDITORIAL

Another year draws to its close with this “improved” Issue No. 5. We have been criticised for the quality of our presentation in the past, although the contents have been highly praised. This issue is an attempt to improve the appearance without having to raise the price to ridiculous levels: on this issue our aim is to just break even on a print run of 800 copies. Our thanks to Marian Barraclough for the typesetting and layouts. This year our research extends to Cleeve, part of the historic parish of Yatton.

Our membership now stands at 71 (August 1988) and our winter meetings have been extremely well-attended. Newcomers are most welcome to join us: the cost per meeting is 75p. for non-members, and membership may be obtained for £3.00 per annum (£5.00 for couples). Circulation of ‘Yatton Yesterday’ remains at around the 750 level with copies reaching as far afield as China, U.S.A. and Canada and provoking interesting correspondence. The Society was saddened during the year by the loss of three good friends: Harry Emmott, Iris Norman and Sydney Stranks.

We are pleased to record that numbers of older residents have continued to share their memories with us and some have lent us their house deeds, assisting greatly in the task of recording people and places of times past. Mr. Ron Gilson of the Vernacular Architecture Group has continued to be active on our behalf, visiting and dating the origins of several of the older houses in the village. One of our members, Mrs. Mary Campbell of Cleeve, has published a survey of that parish and general research into old deeds continues at the Somerset Record Office, as does the recording for future historians of contemporary changes and demolitions in the village.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to the local newsagents for making our publications available to the village at no cost to the Society. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of our researchers and correspondents in preparing this issue, which we trust you will find both interesting and enjoyable. Newcomers may like to know that some copies of earlier editions are still available from committee members, although No.1 has now completely sold out after two reprints.

A. F. COE, Chairman

R. H. YOUNG, President

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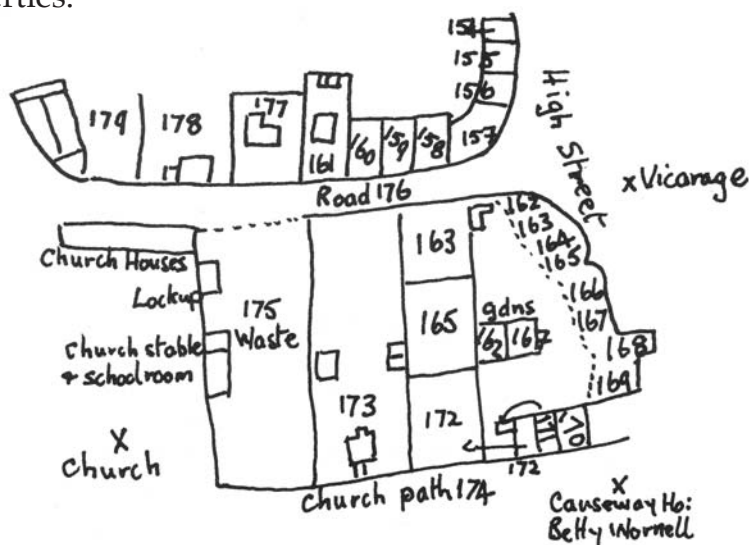
ISSN 0266 8564

Reset and Printed at Woodspring Resource Centre, Locking 01934 820800

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THE COVER ILLUSTRATION is taken from a drawing done in the 1850s by one of the Revd. Henry Barnard's aunts from a window in the old demolished vicarage. Miss Penny Barnard kindly gave the drawing to the Society. The plan below shows what the Glebe looked like in 1841 and is accompanied by a list of the owners and occupiers of the properties.



Tithe Map 1841, enlarged, not to scale.

No.	Property	Owner	Occupier
154	Carthouse	Frederick Lyons	Void
155	House	"	?
156	House	"	?
157	House & shop	"	Owner
158	House & Garden	Thomas Osmond	Owner
159	House	Rev. D. Malcolm vicar & trustee	David Bratt
160	House	"	Void
161	Parish School	"	School
162	House & Garden	Wm. & Thos. Say exors. Wm. Say	George Young
163	House & Garden	"	George Gregory
164	House & Front Court	"	James Quire
165	House & Garden	"	Richard Drissell
166	House & Front Court	"	William Hicks
167	House & Garden	"	Richard Cook
168	House & Front Court	Ann Thomas	Charles Thomas
169	House & Wash-house	"	Owner
170	House	Mrs. Beakes	George Phillips
171	House & Garden	"	John Tilly
172	House & Garden	"	John Knowles
173	House, Outho. & Gdn.	John Cox	James Avery
174	Church Path		
175	Waste		

I continued....

176	Road		
177	House & Garden	James Gregory	Thomas Moon
178	House & Garden	"	Job Jenkins
179	Garden	Thomas Osmond	Owner

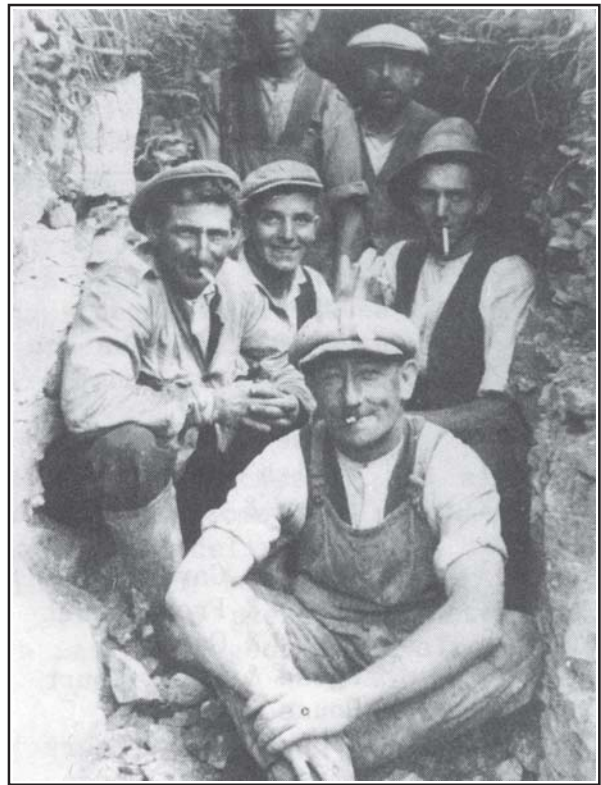
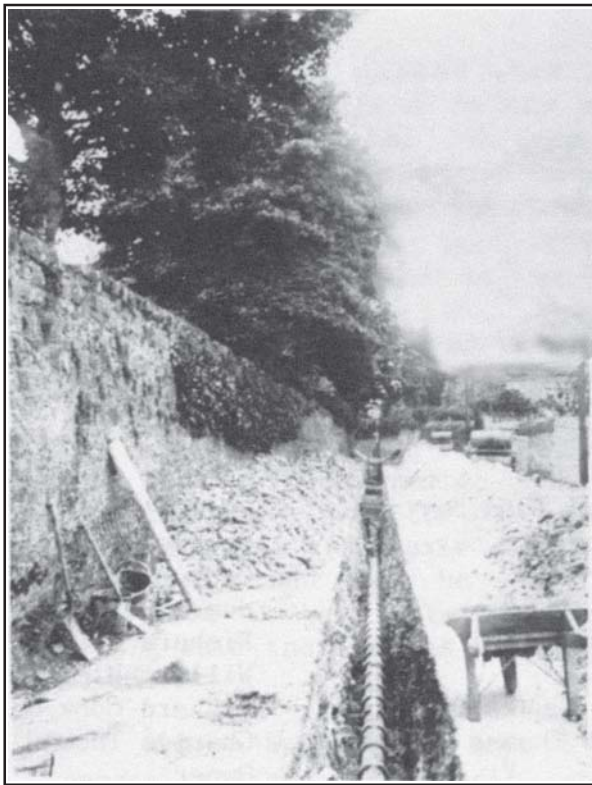
Property owned by Say, Beakes and Cox is copyhold from the Manor of Yatton Rectory (i.e. the Ecclesiastical Commissioners).

Yatton Tithe Award, Somerset Record Office.



Laying the Sewer

These pictures, taken by Mr. Pat Lyons in 1931–32, show the trench at the top of Claverham Road by the Scaur, and the workmen laying the sewer. Can anyone recognise any of the men? Another photograph he took shows that transport was provided by horse and cart.



A Brief History of Yatton Bowling Club

This article is a tribute to those people, not only the few mentioned by name, but all the others who have helped to make Yatton Bowling Club what it is today, on the occasion of the Club's Diamond Jubilee 1988.

The Pioneers

At a meeting held in the Church Hall on 3rd December 1927, the following gentlemen were present: Dr. Wood, Messrs. Millward, Edwards, Ebden, Peckett, Inglis, Burdge, Tutt, Head, Crease. The four under-lined were appointed to find a suitable site for a green.

A further meeting was called on 16th December when it was reported that a site had been found. It was let to Mr. Knight by the Vicar, Rev. Peart, on behalf of the Church Commissioners. A rent of £7 p.a. was agreed, and five members promised £1 each towards this. An annual subscription of One Guinea was agreed. Mr. Counsell offered 100 drainage pipes, and Mr. Atlay a lawnmower.

On 4th May it was agreed to borrow £185 from Lloyds Bank, and that water should be laid on. Mr. Tutt and Mr. Millward donated £5 each, and Mr. Millward agreed to pay the £7 rent.

On 1st June, after an inspection of the green, a group retired to the Church Hall and in addition to the Committee, the following enrolled as members: Rev. Peart, Messrs. I. Page, S. Page, Pullen, Jones, Taylor, Hawes, Cleverdon, Ford, Crofts, Crocker, Clement, Day and Staley.

On 5th June 1928 the official opening ceremony took place. Parish and District Councillors were invited and wives provided tea. The aim of the day was to provide '*an Exhibition of Bowls — how it should be played and how it should not be played*'.

The first Annual General Meeting was held on 20th October 1928. Mr. Edwards agreed to arrange the erection of a pavilion. By October 1929 there was a prize of £1 for the Singles Championship, given by Mr. Millward. The winners of the Pairs received £1. 1.0. and the runners-up, tobacco pouches.

It was agreed to apply to join the Somerset County Bowling Association. There was no application for the League, but the first fixture cards were produced.

The Green

When Mr. Edwards completed the trenches in May 1928 all was set for progress. Mr. Banwell was appointed Groundsman in October 1935 — he was paid £3 per week in the summer and £1 per week in winter. He had already helped on the green for several years and continued until he retired in 1944.

Mr. Neild had created the garden surround and he supplied 32 plants in April 1941. In September 1944 Mr. Millward, Mr. Young and Mr. Neild took over the upkeep of the green, with much of the labour provided by Mr. Millward.

A concrete edge was put round in 1945 and the green was levelled and dressed in July 1946 for £33. In September of the same year an application was made for a 21 year lease with an option to buy. This was granted by the Church Authorities in July 1948.

In October 1947 Arthur Leaker was put in charge of the green and he was virtually the "Greenkeeper" for nearly 40 years. In 1957 a motor mower was acquired. A 24 year lease was applied for in April 1965, which was granted in 1967.

July 1966 was a very important date for the Club. The land between the green and the road was **given** to the Club by the builders developing Well Lane. This was to influence negotiations in 1974. In May 1974 enquiries were begun to purchase the ground from the Church Commissioners. They held out until they discovered that the Club **owned** the land at the roadside. They realised that development was impossible and agreed to sell for £1,500 plus charges. As Reg Wright said at the time "This was the most important decision in the history of the Club". The purchase was finalised in April 1975.

July 1982 saw the installation of a new watering system — the work carried out free of charge by Roy Hibbs and Bill Keating. In February 1983 the upkeep of the green was taken over by professional greenkeepers — Avon Sportsground Maintenance Co.

The Pavilions

The pavilions over the years have involved efforts by many club members who have contributed in various ways.

In May 1928 Mr. A. Edwards negotiated the purchase of a pavilion for approximately £42. By the end of May it was erected and the first meeting held in it. The formal opening took place on 8th June.

"Mr. Edwards unlocked the
door and invited ladies and
gentlemen in. Teas 1/-".

The Council was paid £47, and a Whist Drive & Dance was organised for the excess.

During the Thirties the pavilion was panelled to "exclude draughts" and Dr. Wood provided seats. In 1950, £100 was spent on providing a cloakroom and Gents., and electric lighting and power was added in May 1952.

In 1968 a fund for a changing room raised £266 — this venture was supported by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. 1970 saw Eric Pepper personally building a kitchen with John Keily providing the lights.

From June 1979 enquiries were made in various directions for the purchase of a new pavilion. Success came in 1981 with the acquisition of a school room from the Somerset Education Authority at a cost of £800. 'Wills' of Bridgwater agreed to transport and erect it for £1,270. Foundations were prepared by club members and by July £5,686 had been expended, including a £2,000 loan from Bass.

By September 1981 a meeting was held in the new pavilion with members agreeing to undertake the decorating — much of this was carried out by Peter Reid. A bar was

built under the supervision of Eric Pepper. Curtains appeared in March 1982, and in July of that year Roy Hibbs and Bill Keating installed the heating system free of charge. In the Minutes of October 1982 special thanks were recorded to Eric Pepper for his work in the electrics and the bar, and to Brian Hardwick for the plans.

The ensuing years saw a new bar, tables and chairs, armchairs, carpeting and improved kitchen and toilet facilities. The pavilion as it stands today is a tribute to the teamwork of many club members, too many to list here, but no doubt gratified that Yatton's pavilion is the envy of many bowling visitors.

Inevitably, over a period of sixty years, many individuals have contributed much to the well-being of the Club. It would be impossible in this short history to pay tribute to all of them. However, according to the Minutes, there have been several outstanding ones.

Personalities.

The Founder President, Mr. F. MILLWARD, seems to have been the instigator, and provided the 'drive' to form the Yatton Bowling Club, ably assisted by Dr. WOOD (Dr. Damrel's father), and Secretary Mr. CORNFORD. Mr. Millward was the owner of the Tannery at Court de Wyck in Claverham. He provided funds and workmen to create and maintain the green. Time and time again he provided teas, and his wife was very much involved. He was both President and Chairman from 1928— 1951. He was made a Life Member in 1944. In 1947 he agreed to pay a groundsman for three years. The Minutes reveal numerous occasions upon which he came forward with help, loans and monetary gifts. He was almost a fanatic in his zeal for the game of Bowls.

Talking of fanatics, who can equal ARTHUR J. LEAKER who was a member for 40 years (1947—1987)? In 1947 he was put in charge of the green, with the assistance of Mr. Strange, and he virtually kept his eye on his beloved green for every one of those 40 years. Mr. Neild's flower borders became his particular interest, and for years he produced a blaze of colour. He first became Club Captain in 1953. In 1957 the September Minutes read:

"In esteem and appreciation of the work done
by Mr. A.J. Leaker on the maintenance of the green,
a set of Henselite woods and a bag be presented to him".

All this time he was supported by his wife in arranging teas. She was officially thanked for this in 1961. He was made a Life Member in October 1973, and in March 1980 Arthur was presented with a barometer and Mrs. Leaker with chocolates. One facet, gleaned from his contemporaries, perhaps sums up Arthur's dedication. In connection with his work he had to be at Highbridge by 8 a.m., but before leaving he could be seen tending his 'beloved green' at 6 a.m.

Talking of characters — REG WRIGHT was another. Club Chairman in 1962 and 1969—1972, he was also a County Vice-president and Chairman of the Clevedon and District League. Reg was a Middleton Cup bowler, and he was well known for his 'quips' around the local clubs. In 1970 Reg was beaten in the Club Singles final by one of our Jubilee sponsors, NEIL DRAPER, who became the youngest ever Club Champion at the

age of 14 — a record that will take some beating. Neil was Champion again at 17 but the following year he was beaten in the final by his father, Ken. Neil was also a Middleton Cup bowler for Somerset and Nottingham.

Of the present members, no-one could take exception to tribute being paid to ERIC PEPPER, Chairman 1972-78. His efforts include practical help and service to the bowling community at large, as the following facts confirm. Built kitchen on to the old pavilion in 1970; organised the purchase of the new pavilion and set up the bar and electrics in 1981 — also became Bar Manager; Club Captain 1971-1972; Green Manager 1987-88; Vice-president of Somerset County Indoor Bowls; Chairman of Clevedon and District League; President of Somerset County Bowling Association 1987 — the only Yatton member to have achieved such an honour. At present he is Chairman of S. W. England Bowling Umpires Association and Chairman of the County Patrons Association. He was made a Life Member in 1987.

The Minutes reveal many other stalwarts of the Club — too many to pay tribute in detail, but of whom we make an honorable mention.

ALBERT STOCKHAM	Captain for three years, President 1983—84. Albert has been made a Life Member and he has won most cups in the Club tournaments.
GEORGE BROUGHTON	Secretary 1969—78. Currently President of the Club, he is also a Life Member. His Minutes are outstanding, both in wealth of detail and presentation.
RUPERT CURTIS	Member of the Committee 1963—80. Bar Manager for 11 years. Treasurer of Clevedon Tournament Committee; Secretary of Clevedon and District Bowling Association; Vice-president of Somerset County Bowling Association.
PETER REID	has served as Chairman, Captain, Green Manager and Social Secretary. With his wife, Nancy, has provided teas and meals for social events and other special occasions.
CYRIL GALLOP	helped to run the bar and act as pavilion 'caretaker' for many years.
JACK HURLEY,	general factotum — impossible to list the work and time he has devoted to the Club.

Apologies if I have omitted any dedicated member — my plea will be that “I didn't see it in the Minutes”. Yatton has been privileged to have had so many active members over the years. I salute them all.

A. F. Coe.

(by kind permission of the Yatton Bowling Club)



Yatton Reading Room

A minute book lent to the Society by Mr. Ben Crossman of Hewish sheds some interesting light on the efforts of our village worthies a century ago to keep the young men off the streets and out of the public houses.

A meeting was held at the National Schoolroom on Monday 17th September 1888 to consider the advisability of opening a Reading Room in Yatton. Present were Rev. Preb. Adams (in chair), Rev. H. F. S. Adams, Dr. Lyons, Messrs. W.C. Cox, Lucas, T. Price, F. Gregory, H. Crossman, Phillips, A. Price, Spiers, C. Inglis, Edbrook, Knight, Wensley, R. Chambers Junior and A. Bellamy. The Vicar had secured two rooms at Mr. Wensley's house at a rental of 2/- (10p.) per week, the charge to include cost of keeping the rooms in order. It was agreed that "A Reading Room should be opened in Yatton" and a sub-committee was duly appointed.

A week later the sub-committee had spent over £7 on furniture and 18/6d. (92½p.) on games. The Vicar and Mr. Phillips were elected Trustees and a six man committee became Honorary Members. The Room was to be opened on 2nd October and would be available daily from 6 pm to 10 pm — users would pay a weekly subscription; the amount is not recorded but would only have been a couple of pence. The position of railway porters was raised — these gentlemen were obliged to work alternate weekly night shifts and it therefore seemed unfair for them to pay every week. It was agreed that alternate weekly subscriptions would be in order. If games being used were required by other members, they were not to be retained by the players beyond half an hour for draughts, two games for backgammon or half an hour for dominoes. No other games were to be introduced without the consent of the Committee. Smoking would only be allowed in the larger of the two rooms and the smaller was to be for reading only.

The literature provided is of interest and reflects the social manners of the era:

The Standard & Temperance Chronicle	presented by	Rev. H. F. S. Adams
Weston weekly paper	"	Mr. Cox
Bristol Daily Press (3 times weekly) and Christian Age	"	Mr. Phillips
The British Workman	"	Miss Adams
Tit Bits	"	Mr. R. Chambers

It was also resolved that the following papers be purchased:

The Bristol Daily Press (3 times weekly), Judy, Fun and the Penny Illustrated Paper. The Vicar would present several bound copies of "House Words".

By April 1889 there were problems with premises — Mr. Wensley wanted his rooms back but fortunately a property owned by Mr. John Lyons became available. This was opposite the Vicarage (where Glebelands is now) and would be one of the houses illustrated on the front cover of this volume. The house was engaged from 7th May at a rental of £6.10.0d. per annum excluding rates. Mrs. Gregory was duly engaged as caretaker at 1/- (5p.) per week and the partition walls within the property were demolished free of charge by Mr. Salmon, on the understanding that they would be re-erected upon vacation.

The October 1890 A.G.M., under the Vicar's chairmanship, reported a deficit of £1.8.3d. (£1.42). The Vice-chairman, Rev. H. F. S. Adams, then addressed the meeting on the management of the Rooms over the past year: "Certain things had crept in which were far from satisfactory. There had been a great deal of noise and, he regretted to say, a certain amount of swearing and gambling. These last two had been confined to a small circle of the members — the Ringleaders had been got rid of. These abuses had not taken place when any Honorary Members had been in charge, but he had found it quite impossible to induce them to be present for the purpose. Now, however, gentlemen had come forward and arranged to be present one night each in the week. Consequently everything was thoroughly satisfactory. He felt sure that the Reading Room might become what it was intended to be— a stepping stone for reaching the hearts and confidence of working men and lads and a means of helping them and strengthening them in the difficulties and temptations of life".

A committee meeting on Tuesday 4th November 1890 heard that Mrs. Gregory had applied to supply Cocoa, etc. to members: this led to a discussion on the duties of the Caretaker and the way in which they had been carried out. This culminated in Mr. Inglis proposing that Mrs. Gregory be given notice and that Mrs. Hughes be consulted as to undertaking the management of the Rooms. His proposal was carried unanimously.

1891 saw the Rev. H. F. S. Adams and the Vicar, Rev. Adams, resign as chairman, vice-chairman and trustees — reappointments were deferred pending the arrival of the new vicar. It was resolved that the second vice-chairman should be the new curate. By October of that year the Rev. Arnold had taken the chair: there were by now 21 Honorary Members and 15 ordinary members — the chiefs invariably seem to have outnumbered the indians. At this time the Institute owed £3.11. 1d. and finances were becoming increasingly parlous. By February 1892, having chased up all Honorary Members for subscriptions, paid Mrs. Hughes 13/- (65p.) for cleaning and caretaking and settled other bills, Mr. Carter had the meagre balance of 1d. in hand. He thereupon resigned, to the regret of those present.

To avoid further rental charges it was resolved that Mr. Lyons be given notice of vacation. In April Mr. S. Salmon was instructed to replace the partitions in their former locations by 24th June. Debts however continued to be incurred and on 13th June 1892, with £3.7.11d. owing, it was decided that the Institute should be closed immediately and Mr. Salmon clearly instructed that the reinstatements must be completed by noon on 24th of that month. A call was made on all the hapless Honorary Members to pay one year's subscription to discharge the debt.

Five years later a meeting was called for the Rev. Arnold to resign as trustee and be replaced by Rev. Harrison, the incoming incumbent, with Mr. Benj. Crossman as the second trustee. Assets held in trust were £14.4.0d., deposited with the Wilts. & Dorset Bank.

The final recorded gathering was in the next century. It took place in the Reading Room of the Yatton Social and Rifle Club on 16th November 1908, called and chaired by Mr. Benj. Crossman. He had been contacted by Rev. Mather, the president of the Social & Rifle Club, to enquire whether the funds held in trust might be handed over to

his organisation: "This club is doing really good work for the young men of the parish. It occupies two rooms over the Vicarage Coach House (now Vicarage Press) where members meet for Games and Reading papers on weekday nights... . On Fridays a Gymnastic Class is held in the National Schoolroom. Beyond this there is a successful Rifle Club which has its range in a shed at Horsecastle — as however there are many inconveniences with this shed, it is proposed to erect a Permanent Range on some land in a central position in High Street which Mr. Frank Lyons will let to us for a term of years together with a small cottage. We intend making this Range large enough to serve the purpose of a Gymnasium as well as of a shooting range. The total cost would be £65.0.0d."

As the Wilts and Dorset Bank now held £14.12.0d. plus accrued interest of £3.16.0d., the sum of £8.15.2d. was passed to Rev. Mather for this worthy cause, £10.0.0d. which had been given by Mr. A. Marshall being retained in the account. Presumably this balance was subsequently put towards the Church Hall — when completed in 1913 it boasted a Reading Room which has now been incorporated into the bar area of the renamed Village Hall.

Note: The apparent discrepancy of 7/2d. in the above figures is probably accounted for by added interest, as the final meeting took place almost a year later.

Source: Minute Book of Yatton Reading Room, kindly lent by Mr. Ben Crossman of Hewish.

R. H. Young.



Roller Skating in Yatton

In 1937 and 1938 the Parish Council asked without success for a bye-law prohibiting Roller Skating on roads in Yatton. A similar request made in 1939 was, however, successful and on 15th July 1940 it was reported that the Secretary of State had confirmed the bye-law to come into force on 1st July 1940.

A sub-committee had previously met and arranged for notices regarding the prohibition to be placed on the walls at Horsecastle Corner, Dr. Wood's wall (corner of Claverham Road), Claverham Post Office, Pearce's Corner (Cleeve), wall opposite Mr. Twirton Davis's property at Brockley End (Cleeve), and wall at the top of Rhodyate Hill, Cleeve. (At this date the Parish of Yatton included Cleeve).

However, after official notice of the bye-law had been received it was minuted that 'as place-names are forbidden to be published it is impossible to erect the required noticeboards at certain specified positions and it was therefore decided to take no further action until the termination of War'.

So far as can be traced no action was taken about putting up notices when the War ended. Nor can it be found out whether the bye-law is still in force.

The dates show that the Secretary of State had been giving this matter his attention about the time of the withdrawal of British troops from Dunkirk. No doubt it was thought it would aid the War effort.

H. J. Vincent



Yatton's Royal Visit

There was a reference in a previous issue of Yatton Yesterday to the visit of H. M. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Yatton during the 1939-45 War.

The Minutes of the Parish Council for 11th March 1940 include the following:

“RESOLVED THAT a record of the visit of their Majesties, the King and Queen, to Yatton on Wednesday and Thursday Febry 7th and 8th, be entered in the Minutes.

Proposed by Mr. M. H. Crossman

Seconded by Mr. Millward.

In the course of their visits to centres of war activities their Majesties the King and Queen made Yatton their centre for touring this part of England. The Royal train was stationed in the siding of the Cheddar branch on Wednesday evening February 7th and on the morning of Thursday February 8th. The Queen expressed a wish to meet the children of Yatton on her return in the afternoon. The children, with Mr. Dyte and Miss Stradling, were present on the platform when the Royal train returned from Bristol and Mr. P. C. Dyte, Headmaster, was received by their Majesties. Members of the Council present were Messrs. Burdge, Head, M. H. Crossman and B. Crossman”.

The visit is also recorded in letters framed on the wall of the chancel of the Parish Church.

So far as is known this is the only recorded Royal Visit to Yatton, although the Royal Train has often been through Yatton on its way to and from places further west.

H. J. Vincent



The Wall-Paper Factory

Researching Yatton's old wall-paper factory has been a veritable jig-saw puzzle as no relevant documents exist. The starting point was its ruins, tucked behind "Bird's Alley" at the Market Inn end of the Hill View Cottages at the North End of Yatton.

According to the 1841 tithe, it must have been plot 1629 — a house, outhouse and garden rented by Mr. John Tripp from the Manor of Yatton Rectory (the Ecclesiastical Commissioners). In 1898 it was sold to a Mr. Chandler, and several years later to Stock & Tidman's. Mr. Parsons, of Clevedon, bought the land from a Mr. Stock in 1964, and this is still owned by Mrs. Parsons (senior).

As seen from the photographs, it was a long narrow brick building, two storeys high, with windows in the top storey. As far as we know it was a factory from about 1905-1914 plus. It may have closed during the war. At some time Stock & Tidman transferred the business to Bristol.



I am indebted to Mrs. Huntingdon of Mendip Road for the ensuing information. About 1914 she worked there as a school-leaver with eight to ten other girls, mostly from Yatton but one or two from Congresbury. The foreman in charge was a Mr. Heskith (or Heskett). They had to start work at 8 am and finished at 4.30 pm, with a lunch break. If they were very busy they missed lunch-time and finished earlier in the afternoon. The factory was once fined for working the girls over hours.



The paper was stored on the ground floor and the workers printed the paper upstairs. They passed rolls of paper through a printing machine which stencilled various patterns. Others used paint blocks to stencil friezes. The roll lengths varied according to orders.

Mrs. Huntingdon recalls a very happy working atmosphere and seems to have enjoyed her time there. A Miss Palmer (Mrs. Moon) worked there about 1907 and Mr. Ernest Stockham was foreman there for 2 years.

It has been very difficult to establish exact dates and the duration of this factory. Most of this information has been gleaned from various people's memories, admittedly in some cases being very vague. If any Yatton villagers can supply other details I should be pleased to hear from them to complete the story.

A. F. Coe



Part III – Cleeve in The Eighteen Fifties

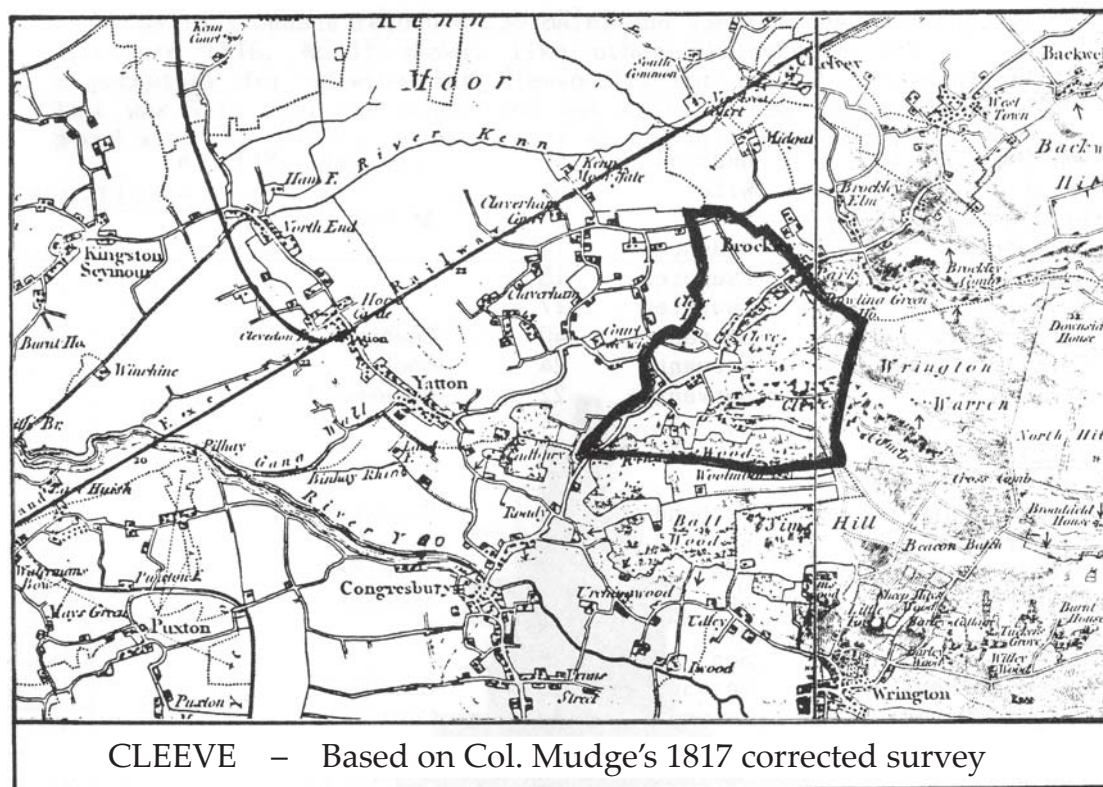
This short study of Cleeve in the Eighteen-fifties is the third in the series covering settlements in the Ancient Parish of Yatton which uses the 1851 Census as the main primary source.

Cleeve became a separate ecclesiastical parish by Order in Council in 1843 but continued its association with the civil Parish of Yatton until 1949.

The Census was undertaken on 7th April 1851 by JAMES HILL defining Cleeve as:—

ALL THAT PART OF THE PARISH OF YATTON WHICH COMPRISES THE WHOLE OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICT OF HOLY TRINITY, CLEEVE WHICH LIES TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TURNPIKE ROAD COMMENCING AT CLEEVE STREET AND ENDING AT MR. JOHN BISHOP'S AT CLAVERHAM (INCLUDING LITTLE WOOD POOLE, MR. HENRY BEAK'S, MEETING HOUSE LANE, BURNT HOUSE LANE AND STREET, KINGSWOOD, STALLARDS BATCH, BICKLEY, RHODIATE AND THE NELSON INN), as shown edged black (FIG. No.1).

FIG. No.1.



The Village

The Census shows 91 dwellings (5 uninhabited) housing a population of 475 persons; 29.93% of households had lodgers but there was no evidence of paupers living in the parish. Eight farms were listed (FIG. No.2) involving approximately 500 acres, two farmers working the largest acreages actually lived outside the village of Cleeve; HENRY BEAKS 134 acres, Claverham Green Farm, and JOHN BISHOP, 119 acres, Bishops Farm, Bishops Road.

FIG. No.2.

FARM ACREAGES 1851			
ACRES	CLEEVE	CLAVERHAM	YATTON
0 – 25	—	1	6
26 – 50	5	5	4
51 – 100	1	3	8
101 – 150	2	3	6
151 – 200	—	—	2
APPROX. TOTALS	500	100	1700

The amount of wooded high ground in the parish and the limited flat land available, together with land taken up by the larger houses and estates accounted for the relatively small acreages of farm land. These larger estates and houses were not found in other parts of the ancient Parish of Yatton; two examples of such households are given below.

Cleeve Court

Wm. R. Vincent	Husband	60	Late Capt. Militia
Sarah	Wife	49	
William C.	Son	21	At home
Elizabeth D.	Daughter	19	
Sarah V.	Daughter	18	
Emily M.	Daughter	17	
John Andrews	Servant	40	Coachman
Caroline Cannard	Servant	24	Cook
Ann Hewlett	Servant	22	Housemaid

Cleeve House

Edward Daubney	Husband	42	Magistrate
Margaret	Wife	33	
Albert	Son	7	Scholar
Charles F.	Son	5	Scholar
Henry J.	Son	3	
Giles A.	Son	2	
James Butcher	Servant	50	Coachman
Mary A. Hubert	Servant	29	Cook
Elizabeth Burjoyne	Servant	32	Nurse
Ann Bond	Servant	25	Housemaid
Mary A. Linton	Servant	20	Under-nurse

The existence through the village of the Bristol to Weston-super-Mare turnpike (an extension of the 1747 Yatton turnpike) continued to give Cleeve an important role in local transport, which was still maintained after the arrival of the Bristol and Exeter Railway in 1840.

In the eighteen-fifties JAMES PLAYER operated a twice-weekly carrier service (Wednesday and Saturday) to the Red Lion, Redcliffe Street, Bristol, via Westown, Backwell, Bourton and Ashton. Evidence showed that he had premises in Bishops Road at the rear of the present butcher's shop. The Player family operated this service for over fifty-five years, first recorded in the Bristol Directory of 1849 and still in existence in 1904.

The Nelson Inn (the Lord Nelson rebuilt on the same site in 1933) was still serving as a Coaching Inn with an adjoining shoeing smith. On the day of the census one visitor was staying at the Inn as will be seen from the census entry set out below.

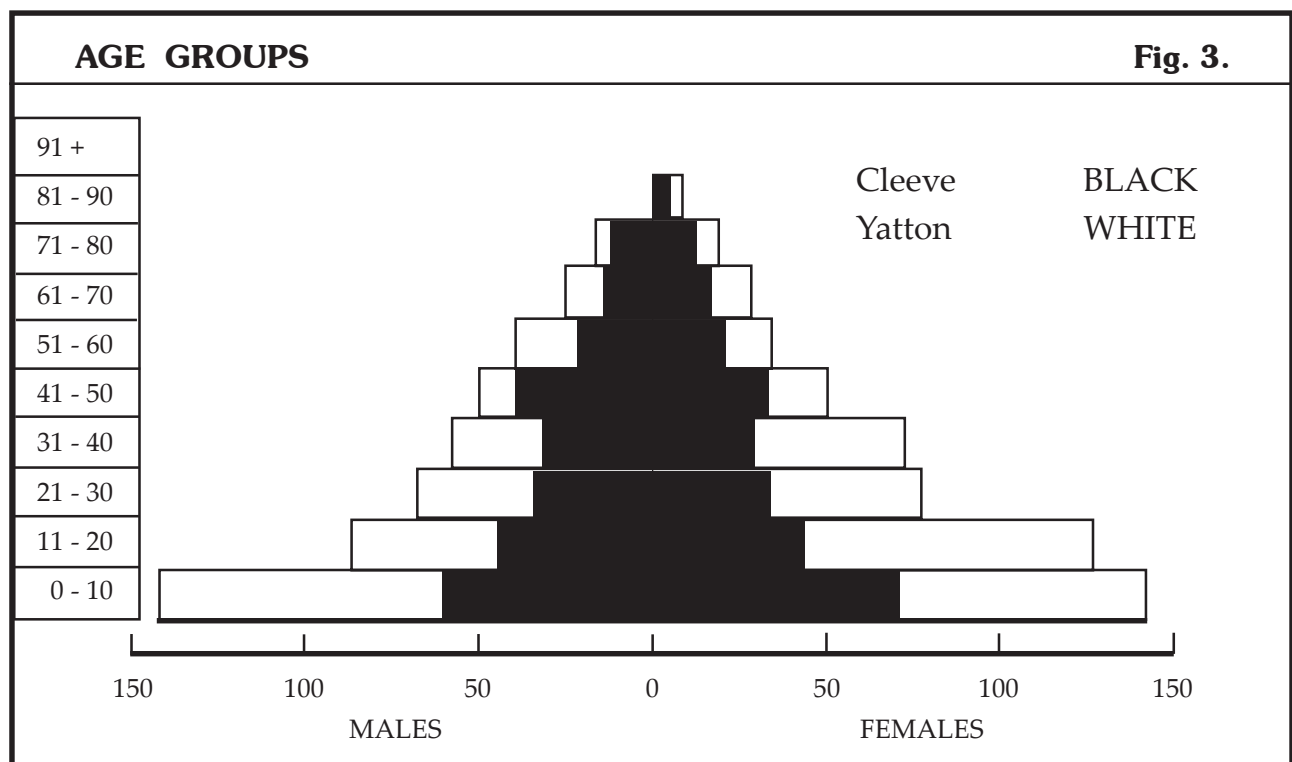
Nelson Inn

William Hill	Head of house	77	Inn keeper
William Hill	Son	39	Farmer 28a.
Elizabeth	Daughter	37	
Anne	Daughter	30	
Hester Baird	Visitor	44	Barrister's Daughter (born Scotland)
Rebecca Wilson	Servant	20	House servant
George Harvey	Servant	15	House servant

Population

The 1851 Census recorded 239 males and 236 females, the Population Structure (FIG. No.3) shows, like other villages in the district, a potential for growth; but Cleeve did not expand until after the last war. In 1931 the population was still in the four hundreds compared with the present day figure of around nine hundred.

Population Pyramid for 1851



BIRTH PLACES IN NORTH SOMERSET (1851 Census)

Within Cleeve/Yatton	49.67%
Within 5 miles of village	15.91%
Within Somerset (outside 5 miles limit)	23.88%
Within adjacent counties	5.81%
Within remaining counties	4.73%

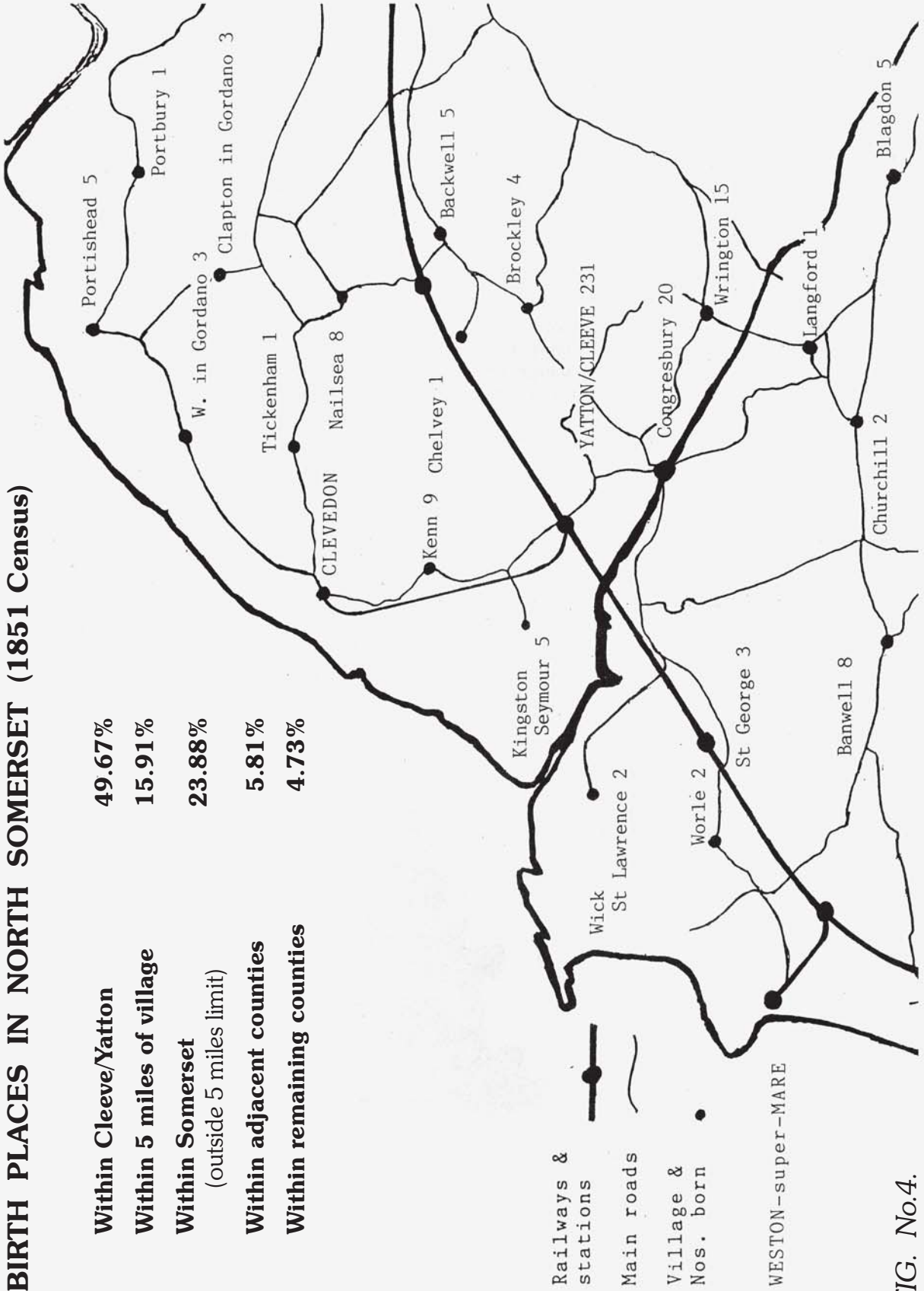


FIG. No.4.

At Census the oldest male was JAMES BUSH aged 84, Farmer, born at Wrington and the oldest female HANNAH MITCHELL aged 90, Widow, born at Draycott. Also of special interest, recorded in the Census, HONOR COLEMAN who was born at Weston Zoyland, daughter of Abraham and Betty Pierce, married at Yatton in 1826 and died at the age of 107 in 1908: her daughter MRS. ELLEN LANSBURY was still alive in 1918 at the age of 87.

The birthplaces of the inhabitants (FIG. No.4) again shows highest figures are within five miles of the village; 89.46% were within Somerset and 5.81% in adjacent counties. With the exception of the six members of the Vincent family, Cleeve Court, who came from Yorkshire, no-one came from north of Shropshire; apart from three persons from Wales no-one came from outside England.

Employment

The Census showed 169 persons were engaged in 42 occupations as shown below.

The Pattern Of Employment For Villagers 1851

Ag. labourers	43	Hay dealers	2
Annuitants	2	Housekeepers	1
Asst. Overseers	1	Innkeepers	1
Blacksmiths	2	Land proprietors	3
Bootmakers	4	Labourers	16
Capt. Militia	1	Launderesses	2
Carpenters	4	Limeburners	4
Cooks	3	Magistrate	1
Coachmen	2	Masons	4
Carriers	1	Mason labourers	2
Commercial travellers	1	Milliners	1
Cap sellers	1	Nurses	2
Cap makers	1	Proprietors of houses	1
Coopers	1	Painter/Plumbers	1
Dressmakers	6	Journeyman painters	1
Farmers	10	Shopkeepers	2
Fund holders	2	Servants (house)	24
Gardeners	6	Schoolmasters	1
Garden labourers	1	Schoolmistresses	3
Grooms	2	Tannery workers	3
Gamekeepers	1	Tailors	1

While analysis (FIG. No.5) indicated that 31.36% of the working population was engaged in agriculture, the existence of the larger houses and estates provided employment for about 25% of the working population, 17.41% of the households having servants.

Two shops were recorded in the village involving only two persons. It was not until the next decade that a butcher and baker arrived.

Cleeve in 1851 had the highest percentage of labourers so far recorded in the district. Most lived in the Plunder Street (Cleeve Hill) area and no doubt were associated with the working of the Parish Quarry and the adjacent limekiln owned by CHARLES PARSON.

ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONS

Fig. No. 5.



Footnote

The present article, together with those included in volumes numbers three and four, have been published as a basis for further study of this decade. We would be glad to receive any information from readers which would help us to correct or extend our researches.

Sources

- Cleeve Tithe Map and Award 1840
- Census (Cleeve district) 1851
- Brown New Guide to Weston-super-Mare & Neighbourhood 1850-1855
- Matthew Bristol Directory 1840-1860
- Harrison P.O. Directory for Somerset 1859
- Collinson History of Somerset 1791
- Kelly Directories 1861-1910
- Somerset & Dorset Notes & Queries Vol. XVI p.149-50
- Mary V. Campbell Parish Survey of Cleeve 1988

Kenneth Dougherty

NOTE: Correction to 'Yatton Yesterday' No.4, p.17, last paragraph. For 'GREEN FARM' read 'GROVE FARM'.



The Battiscombe Family in Yatton

During the whole of the 18th century this family lived in Yatton, which then included Cleeve. It is interesting to remember national as well as local history and to think of what events they would have lived through — the reigns of Queen Anne and the three Georges, the Seven Years War, the American War of Independence, the age of Handel, Haydn and Mozart, Capability Brown and the landscape gardeners, the age of Pope and Dryden giving way to the “romantic” movement, and finally the trauma of the French Revolution which led to extensive bankruptcies. As now, most people would be more concerned with the price of food and the state of agriculture but even in those days we know from letters which exist that people were also concerned with wider issues. Unfortunately we cannot know what was felt by the mass of those who were not literate.

The Battiscombes, however, were “gentlemen”, wealthy and living in some style, important members of the community, leaving money to charity and commemorated **inside** the church. They were friendly with the Pigotts of Brockley; John Pigott the younger gave a silver coffee pot to Christopher Battiscombe — which the latter returns to him in his will.

Christopher’s father, Richard, *d.*14.12.1740., first appears in 1699 as witness to the signing of a lease. The first baptism of one of his children in the parish register is 1706. In 1723 he was “of Court de Week in Yatton” but Edmund Brock was living there in 1711/12 when he, Edmund, had a new lease for 10 years. It is possible that Richard first occupied the house now called Cleeve Cottage, which was enlarged about 1705, and was one of the properties left in Ann Battiscombe’s will (1269 on plan). All property was leasehold from Earl Poulett.

Richard’s wife was Sarah, *d.*3.8.1736, daughter of Thomas Stone of Kingston Seymour, gentleman. In 1687 Thomas married (?again) Jane Taylor, a widow, who had land in Banwell and Wick St. Lawrence, and he was then living in Clevedon. So the Battiscombes held land in Kingston Seymour and in Uphill, as well as Wick St. Lawrence and Banwell, all part of Sarah’s inheritance. They also leased a holding of 56 acres, probably at North End, previously held by the Stones, until after Richard’s death.

The Battiscombe family came from Vere’s Wotton, Symondsbury, Dorset, where they had an estate. Various grants of land in Crewkerne were later made to Richard’s son, Christopher. About 1655 a previous Christopher had married Mary Sterr and their two sons and daughter died childless. Christopher’s brother Richard had a son, John, and this John was the father of Richard Battiscombe of Court de Wyck.

Yatton parish registers do not appear to record all the details of the births and deaths of the children of Richard and Sarah, further complicated by the habit of reusing the names of dead children for those born later. Given below are the details which are recorded in the registers.

Children of Richard and Sarah

John	baptised	22. 8.1706	died	23. 1.1707
Betty	"	18.12.1707	buried	30.10.1715
Richard	"	14. 1.1709	entry dated	22.10.1724 "Mr. Battiscombe died", which may be Richard.
John	"	3. 3.1711	?	
Sarah	"	11. 3.1713	died	5.6.1797, widow of John Plenty.
Peter	"	24.12.1716	died about	1798 (not in Yatton)
Richard	"	April 1725	died	14.12.1740
Ann	"	10. 8.1729	buried	1.11.1805, spinster.
Betty	"	19. 9.1731	buried	6.12.1734

Jane was buried 8. 2.1722, birth not recorded; another Jane was obviously born, referred to as Sarah's sister in 1762, when she may have died because her name has been replaced on leases by the next year.

Robert, son of Richard and Sarah, buried 20.4.1733, birth not recorded.

Christopher's birth is not recorded, but a deed for land in Crewkerne says he was 30 in 1748, so must have been born 1718, after Peter. He died 26.11.1793, his wife Elizabeth (Betty) having died 2.6.1748; their son Christopher was buried 6.8.1748 and daughter Sarah 16.8.1749, so that in just over a year he lost his wife and children. There do not appear to have been any surviving. He is referred to as "of Cleeve, gentleman".

John "of London" died 21.8.1793 (church memorial) possessed of estates in Huish. In 1736 John is mentioned as Richard's son, but in 1741 Peter is stated to be the eldest son and heir of Richard. The John on the above table was older than Peter, so another John must have been born after Christopher and in 1766 is said to be his brother. In a 1775 lease Robert Griffen B., aged 21 (so b. 1754), is the son of John B. of the City of Westminster apothecary, and in 1772 Betty "daughter of John B. of London apothecary" was 15.

Peter in 1741 was "of Bridport" and later "of Crewkerne". This year is the date of his marriage settlement, his wife being Lydia, daughter of Robert Merefield of Shaston (Dorset). It is stated (D198, Dorset RO.) that his son Robert 1754 -1839 was apothecary to George III, but several leases refer to Robert as being John's son, as above, the d.o.b. fits, also father's occupation. However, from evidence on leases it seems that both Peter and John had sons named Robert.

There was only one “nephew Robert” alive when Christopher made his will (1793) and that was Robert “of Windsor”, whether John’s or Peter’s son. Nephew Robert’s eldest son was the Revd. Richard B. who lived in Essex, d. 1873 (DD/BC). Nephew Robert “of Windsor” is mentioned several times in these documents.

- Sarah married on 26th April 1739 John Plenty of Cleeve, son of John. He was born in October 1712 and died in September 1749 — this is recorded on the church memorial but does not appear in the parish register, nor are children recorded. They lived at the present “Perry Court” and “Little Orchard”, 1301 on plan.
- Lydia Naish or Nash was the niece of Christopher and Ann and could have been Peter’s daughter (the name ‘Lydia’ and abode in Dorset). In 1799 she was “of Shaftesbury, widow, aged 50” and was one of Ann’s executors. By 1809/10 she was living in Cleeve. Her sons were Thomas and Matthew aged 18 and 15 in 1799, but Matthew died c. 1809.
- Betty, daughter of John, was Ann’s niece and her other executor. She married the Revd. Cannington Garrick and their son was Christopher Philip, in 1810 said to be aged 26 and late of Cleeve. Betty died about 1807 when her son paid the herriot to Earl Poulett on her behalf (Box 47).

Ann and Christopher had cousins, mentioned in their wills — they were Mary Challenger and her brother James. He was “of Bristol mariner” in 1799, aged 30 (Box 49, Proposals and Fines for Lives) but he pre-deceased Ann (codicil of 1805 to her will). In 1821 Mary lived in a cottage at the east end of the “Lord Nelson” carpark, No.1043 on the plan.

Wills of Christopher and Ann.

In 1793 by his will Christopher left land in Merriott and Crewkerne to Betty Garrick and in Hinton St. George to Lydia Naish. His estate at Wick St. Lawrence and land in Yatton, with property in Huish and two fields “Sleep” and “Search” in Claverham, were left to Ann. He left money to his brother Peter.

Ann in her will of 1799 left her leasehold estate in Huish to her nephew Robert and £100 each to his sons, Richard and Robert. Christopher had already left £400 to his nephew Robert. To Lydia Naish, Ann left her late sister Plenty’s silver, a trunk marked BP1736 with contents, a ½ pint silver cup and silver soup spoon. Betty Garrick had the above fields in Claverham and Ann’s leasehold estate in Kenn. Mary and James Challenger were left items of silverware and money.

Cousin Sarah Hinckes, spinster, was the poor relation. Christopher left her £20 and an annuity of £5 quarterly “provided her behaviour is conformable and agreeable to my sister Ann and not otherwise”. Even this small allowance was to cease “if in case my sister Ann shall maintain and keep the said Sarah Hinckes”. Yet he left about £2,000 in money, as well as his extensive property, and £40 for the poor of the parish of Yatton to be invested, and the interest laid out in bread. This was to be given to the second poor (those receiving no relief) on the second Sunday after Epiphany.

Ann in her turn left Sarah Hinckes a bedstead and furniture, some of her clothes, £10 and an annuity of £8 a year paid quarterly. What had Sarah done to be treated so differently?

Property owned by Ann (*leasehold under Poulett*)

In Poulett's 1798/9 rental (Box 47) Ann held the following property in Cleeve.

No. on Plan

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1301 | House now divided into "Little Manor" and "Perry Orchard" opposite Littlewood Lane. In 1821 owned by Christopher Garrick and occupied by Samuel Perry. |
| 1286, 1285 | The present Orchard House possibly incorporated 1286 which was on this site. 1285 was a shop on the road, by present 'phone box in lay-by. |
| 1269 | Now "Cleeve Cottage" — on bend W. of church, opposite side. Probably medieval, extended 1705. In 1830 called "The Lodge". |
| 1266 | Govier's orchard and cyder house — site now occupied by 87/89 Main Road and outhouses.

The last two owned by T. S. Biddulph in 1821, leased to Lydia Naish. |
| 1043 | Cottage and garden at E. end of Lord Nelson carpark, in 1821 owned/occupied by Mary Challenger, Ann's cousin. |
| 1023 | Cottage & garden in the Combe, Rock Cottage now renamed. |

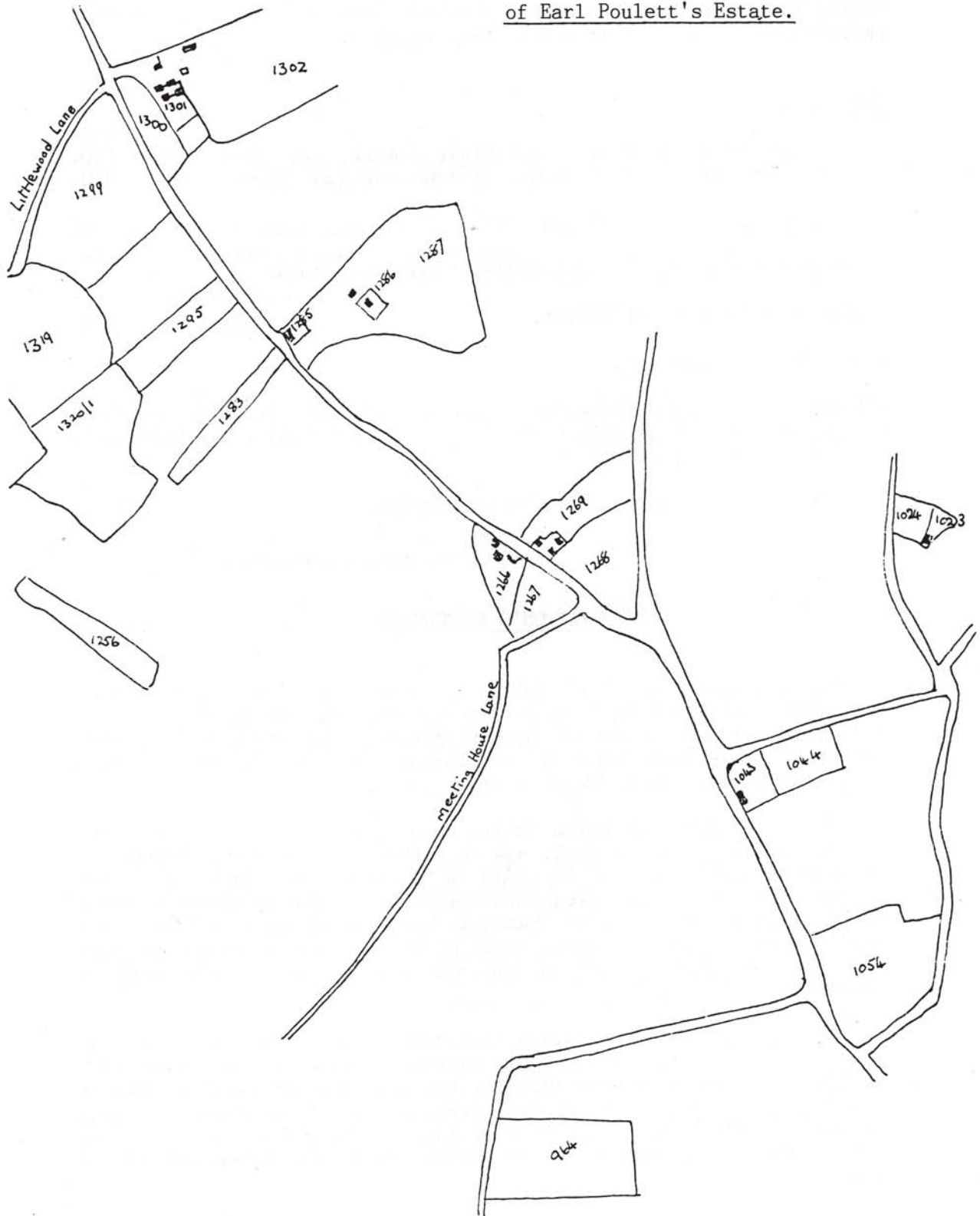
All except the last had common rights, therefore are old properties. There was also land in various parts of Yatton belonging to these properties.

In Claverham, Ann leased from Poulett: Well Cottage, Claverham Farm and the house (now gone) opposite "Rivendale", with lands; also Husadales, which is land between Henley Wood and Claverham Road, stretching from Hollowmead to No.78 Claverham Road, plus land opposite on which now stand Nos. 101 to 87.

Where did Ann live? When she had a new lease for No.1301 (Box 49, Proposals and Fines for Lives) in 1799, the property was "late in occupation of Sarah Plenty widow, deceased", and it would be quite likely that Ann, a spinster, would have lived there with her sister, a widow since 1749. Christopher Garrick surrendered the lease of the same property on the death of Matthew Naish — both being Ann's great-nephews — about 1809/10 and received a new one; by 1821 he had bought the property from Poulett. It was 65 acres, so is probably the same 65 acres held by John Plentie in 1653 (DD/X/BKT c/503).

Christopher, the brother of Ann and Sarah, may have shared their home, or he may have lived at Cleeve Cottage. In any event, Ann outlived all her brothers and sisters and died in 1805, a couple of weeks after the Battle of Trafalgar, an old lady in her mid-70s, possessed of land and wealth. The Battiscombes had been an important family in the parish for about a hundred years, but after Ann no more references to them in Yatton have been found.

Taken from c.1800 Plan
of Earl Poulett's Estate.



References

For Battiscombes in Dorset, and Stone family, mss. from Dorset R.O. (1) on loan to Somerset R.O., D/198, and (2) DD/BC c/649 S.R.O.

For copies of 2 wills — DD/SAS c/82.

Boxes referred to are Poulett deeds, leases and plans.

Sturge's 1821 Survey of Yatton.

Yatton Parish Registers.

All the above in the Somerset Record Office, but the plan c.1800 of the Poulett estates belongs to Mr. B. Crossman of Hewish who has kindly allowed the Society to copy it.

The Battiscombe memorial is in Yatton Church.

Marian Barraclough



Yatton's Boundaries

The historic parish of Yatton included both Cleeve and Hewish. The eastern boundary went up to the windmill in the woods at Cleeve where the three parishes of Yatton, Brockley and Wrington met. To the west, the parish stretched as far as Wick St. Lawrence — that is, within a mile of the M5 junction.

Recently parts of north Yatton have gone to Kenn; in 1840 the land round the old Decoy Pool, now in Yatton, was in Kenn. The boundary with Kingston Seymour is still at Lampley Bow. Parts of Yatton to the south have been taken into Congresbury: the original boundary ran from Chescombe Road at Boundary Cottages along the lane (Land Lane) and Mendip Road (Orchard Lane) to Frost Hill. Boundary Cottages were in Congresbury. Some of the old boundary stones are still in place.

In 1821 Y. and J.P. Sturge undertook a Survey of the Parish of Yatton in which they state: "The extreme length of the Parish from the old Windmill on Cleeve Hill to the westward extremity of Hewish Farm is six miles. The extreme breadth from Kenn River to James Chedzoy's Paddock over Gang Wall is about fifty yards short of three miles. The circumference of the Parish is twenty miles and three-quarters.

This made Yatton one of the largest parishes in Somerset.



Excavations at Bickley, Cleeve, 1982 - 87

In the orchard at Bickley, a small farm on the south-west edge of Kings Wood, Cleeve, a few sherds of medieval pottery were found in 1981 during ground disturbance for the construction of an experimental kiln by members of the Bickley Kiln Project. It was decided to investigate the site further in 1982 as a training excavation under the auspices of the Bristol and Avon Archaeological Research Group.

At NGR ST 451650 a small trapezoid cutting over the original find and an extension were opened up, to investigate a natural outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone. A further metre-wide cutting was opened to the south in order to investigate a low bank and potential ditch which defined the area of the orchard on the south and east sides and separated it from the woodland. Further extensions have been made to the south in a search for buildings.

Results of Excavation

1. **In 1982** the main features found consisted of a small square-cut quarry up to 70 cm deep with loose stoney fill. Finds of a piece of whetstone with an iron wedge suggested a quarry function, while pottery included 12th and 13th century sherds. Two other similar shallow quarries were also found. A northern extension trench was also found to be a shallow quarry.

The largest feature had a fill of red-brown loamy soil with clay and large stones. This in turn covered a slight 'wall'. The north side of the area was defined by some shallow post-holes and was a filled natural swallet.

The bank section showed that there was virtually no ditch and little height to the bank, although an obvious earthwork prior to excavation. A few stones on top of it may have represented a visible boundary. Finds were medieval, but the earthwork is thought to be late since all medieval features appear to be covered with a layer of clayey hillwash.

2. **In 1983** an area of similar size was opened adjacent to and west of the 1982 excavation. The main features were the remains of the 1981 experimental kiln and its associated puddling pit. The puddling pit still contained some puddled clay and contemporary finds such as a polythene bag with a little clay in it. It was at first feared that great damage had been done to the archaeological deposits, but this was not in fact the case.

Over the whole area was a thick layer of accumulated soil. The lower was yellower and of similar depth filling a series of irregular linear features running north-south. They varied in width from 20 to 80 cm and were up to 20 cm in depth, and ran about two-thirds of the length of the excavation. They ended and, in at least one case, were cut by an east-west field wall which marked a 25 cm terrace. The large stones against it gave it the appearance of a retaining wall rather than a high obstruction. The wall robbings contained charcoal, sherds and animal bone. A layer of dirty maroon clay containing charcoal and finds on the terrace below had accumulated against the wall. A fragment of rotary quern of indeterminate date was incorporated in the wall.

3. **In 1984** the area was extended to the south in order to examine the 'cultivation trenches' and the south-east edge of the swallet. It was also thought worthwhile to investigate the area north of the field wall.

It was not possible in the time to examine the trenches in detail. There were several stone-filled features. At least three were recent, but others were certainly of medieval date and probably post-holes. The swallet continued as predicted in a circular fashion and was excavated down to its natural edge. The fill consisted mainly of stones and medieval rubbish, including a great deal of 13th-century pottery.

North of the field wall most of the area consisted of natural limestone with small quarries dated by medieval pottery. On the eastern edge of this was an accumulation of soil similar to that seen immediately against the field wall.

4. **In 1985** work continued on areas opened in 1982 and 1984 and a new area opened south of 1984 to examine any continuation of proposed timber-framed buildings. The appalling weather meant that little progress was made on the 1985 area.

Against the field wall and south of it were substantial sloping layers of soil interpreted as ploughsoil. At its base was a layer of rounded limestones probably wormed down. A large number of finds including several whetstones came from these soils. The earlier are again almost certainly pre-Conquest, the later dated by 12th-century Ham Green ware. The field wall is probably pre-Conquest because of the finds in its foundation trench.

The 'cultivation trenches' were clearly cut by the field wall, but ended only a few centimetres north of it. They were probably cut from east to west to judge from the angle of undercuts in their sides.

To the south, area 1984 was investigated further. A gritty edge to the line of north-south post-holes was interpreted as the edge of a floor and to the west further accumulation of occupation represented at least one other floor. At least two phases of timber building are postulated: one group of posts was visible when the stone infill of the swallet was first seen, another when this stone layer was totally removed to natural Keuper Marl.

South of this area, 1985 contained lines of flat stones and potential post-holes which suggest a mixed construction of sill-beams and uprights. At the west edge of this complex was an area of brown occupation soil which appeared to be extra-mural.

5. **In 1986** extensions were made to the east and west as an attempt to define the building. To the east there were a few post-holes set in what appeared to be deep hillwash. These were probably uprights for fencing. At the east end of the southern line of smallish post-holes and parallel sill-beams foundation, was an earlier pit which contained much burnt clay. South and west of the 'wall' were a few supplementary posts and an obvious drain running east-west and draining to the west.

Over the floor of the building (area 1984) further layers of red clay and stones

were defined and removed. These contained quantities of finds, particularly pottery. It was also possible to show that these floors had been cut through yellow-brown subsoil on the north, as had the wall of the building. A substantial pit to the south and defined in 1985 contained further finds including an iron padlock key. The west extension was taken down to the base of post-destruction soil ready for excavation of stratified deposits. There is little doubt now that the east and south walls of the building are represented by the shallow post-holes found in previous seasons.

6. **In 1987** the daub-filled pit was found to be simply part of the floor of the building and extensions east and south were made to define the north-west corner and east end of the structure. Large amounts of finds, particularly pottery, some in pits, were made in this area.

The west end was defined by a stoney strip and the red clay floor was removed to the natural clay here. The north, south and west walls were ill-defined and still need excavation. A shallow rectangular pit just inside the west end had a stone kerb at one point. The drain found in 1986 was found to turn and run parallel with the west wall towards the swallet.

The building still needs to be completely dug and this will continue in 1988, together with small trial trenches in adjacent areas.

Interim Interpretation

The earliest feature, the swallet, was filled during the medieval period with rubbish from occupation nearby.

The field wall is a relatively early feature built into a foundation trench. The trench contained sherds of late Saxon pottery. The wall was clearly cut through the 'cultivation trenches' which ended more or less on its line. The trenches are V-shaped with occasional narrow 'spines' down their centres. This general appearance and half-dug pieces of clay suggest that the features were cut into without actually being dug out. These trenches are thought to have been made to deepen the soil and encourage drainage or root cultivation. The lack of finds and the concentration of flints and sherds in the overlying layers imply that the topsoil (with the flints in particular) was removed and set aside while digging was done, and replaced subsequently. Further cultivation is represented by the soil south of the field wall which appears to have accumulated to a depth of c. 30 cms against it. The lowest deposits contained early sherds, but Ham Green ware was noted from towards the top of this deposit.

The quarries, which contain glazed sherds, are probably now contemporary with the latest phase of occupation, i.e. the building where glazed sherds are common.

The finds suggest that the site was abandoned before 1200 which explains why there is no apparent documentary reference to it. It still looks like a farmyard although this is less likely than a hamlet or even a village at this date. The finds are of interest in that the range of pottery (in particular) is truly rural, as few of the wares are represented in Bristol. Other finds include a fine bronze buckle of 12th century date and several whetstones, still being found in numbers, and a few fragments of millstone.

The main building is larger than once thought and still needs definition. The two-phase plan needs further examination since the flat stone sill and post-holes are probably associated, not of different dates. The north-south line of posts is now a partition rather than an end. The floors are of red clay in various stages of wear. The rectangular pit at the west end may once have contained something else such as a wooden tank or structure. The drain now clearly runs to the swallet and was deepened to dispose of eaves-drip water. The possible fragment of a second building shows that there may well be more domestic buildings in the area.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our continuing appreciation to Mary Campbell and Ann Clarke for allowing us to disturb them and their orchard, and to all those who helped to make the excavation so successful.

Michael Ponsford
Curator in Field Archaeology
City of Bristol
Museums & Art Gallery

Note: excavations have taken place on this site again during the summer of 1988.



Derivation of Yatton Names

Details from Glebe Terriers (surveys of church land) 1.1635, 2.1650.

- Hangstones:
1. In the hands of Ann Kirkman widow eighteen acres called Hinxsham alias Hinxstone.
 2. In the hands of Thomas and Roger Kirkman eighteen acres called Hingston.
- Binhay:
1. In the hands of Edmond Roome three acres formerly called behind Hay's.
 2. In the hands of Thomas Warre and Isabell Hillman a close of meadow or pasture called Behind-hayes.

Somerset Record Office, Ref. DD/CC



Yatton Carriers — The White Family

My father, Walter George White, was born in Yatton on 14th October 1890. He was one of six children born to John and Ellen White who lived at Horsecastle. John, who was also born in Yatton, in 1858, was a local carrier. He ran a daily service between Yatton and the Wheatsheaf Inn, Thomas Street, Bristol, calling at the villages en route. John's father, Edwin White (born 1822), came from Bristol and had previously been a carrier for over twenty years.

Edwin married in 1847 the daughter of a Yatton farming family, Mary Neads, at St. Mary's Church, and by 1851 they were living at Horsecastle; Edwin was then a haydealer. Mary was a straw bonnet maker. In later years they lived at Lampley and Northend. They produced a family of seven children, four girls and three boys. Mary died in 1877, aged 53, and was buried in the churchyard.

By 1881 great-grandfather Edwin had retired as a carrier and his son John took over from him. John married (30.1.1884) Ellen Inglis at Yatton church. She was the daughter of James and Jane Inglis who had a boot and shoe business in the High Street; they were born in the 1830s in the Taunton area. In 1871 James' trade was "cordwainer" and Jane's "shoebinder". They had the shoemaker's business until James died in 1910 — Mary had died two years earlier and both were buried in the churchyard. Their son Charles does not appear on the table below as by 1881 he had married Lucy from Barrow Gurney and was living in Church Road, Yatton. Charles was a letter-carrier and junior bootmaker, but later they kept the post office in Yatton for many years.

1881 Yatton Census

Address	Name	Relation To Head	*	Age	Occupation	Where Born
High St	James INGLIS	Head	M	48	Bootmaker	Taunton
	Jane INGLIS	Wife	M	48		Staplegrove Somerset
	Ellen INGLIS	Daughter	UM	25	Dressmaker & Milliner	Banwell
	John J. INGLIS	Son	UM	23	Journeyman Carpenter	Taunton
	James INGLIS	Son	UM	21	Journeyman Bootmaker	Taunton
	James REED	Nephew	UM	19	Apprentice	Staplegrove Somerset

Of Edwin's children (John's brothers and sisters), Mary Ann m. Frank Told, railway porter (1876) and Caroline Emily m. Charles Traves, carpenter (1877). Sarah Elisabeth was a dressmaker and Alice Jane a pupil teacher at the Church School. George was the carrier's assistant until his early death in 1888 at the age of 24.

John and his wife Ellen ran the carrier's business from their home in Horsecastle, now the "Coach House" owned by builder Peter Rex. Here their six children were born but sadly Ellen died in 1892, aged 36, after giving birth to their last child. Three years later Edwin, John's father, died; he had gone to live at Crickham near Wedmore, probably with the Told family who were farmers there.

1871 Yatton Census

Address	Name	Relation To Head	*	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Northend	Edwin WHITE	Head	M	48	General carrier	Bristol
	Mary WHITE	Wife	M	46		Yatton
	Mary Ann WHITE	Daughter	UM	19	Dressmaker	Yatton
	James Watt WHITE	Son	UM	17	Ag. lab. Assistant	Yatton
	Caroline Emily WHITE	Daughter		14		Nailsea
	John Edwin WHITE	Son		12		Yatton
	Sarah Elisabeth WHITE	Daughter		10		Yatton
	Alice Jane WHITE	Daughter		8		Yatton
	George Alfred WHITE	Son		6		Yatton
	Elizabeth RACEY	Boarder	W	69	Annuitant	Bristol
	Samuel NEADS	G/Father	Wdr	73	Ag. lab.	Yatton

* M – Married ; UM – Unmarried ; W – Widow ; Wdr – Widower

John had suffered a very sad period in his life. He had lost his brother, his wife and now his father in a short space of time. He continued to bring up his family with the help of a housekeeper.

His two elder daughters, Olive and Ethel, met and married two young men who worked for Wake and Dean. Olive married Charles Young from Bristol who was a

cabinet maker. During 1917-18 he carved the screen at Yatton church with the help of Mr. Mansey, the schoolmaster at the Church School. They held woodwork classes for the boys. Ethel also married a cabinet maker, Dick Cleeve, who came from London.

Son Albert helped his father, John, in the carrier's business, accompanying him on his deliveries. Later he went into the painting and decorating trade. Albert married Mabel Badman and they lived at Backwell for many years. There were two other daughters, Rose who did not marry and Ellen who married Arthur Butler; both went to live in Bristol.

My father Walter, in his early years, worked for W. W. Birch, the baker, at Chiltern House (now Mr. Tutchter's house). The following advertisement is taken from the booklet printed on the occasion of the opening of the new Church Hall, October 1913.

Parties Catered for.

W. W. BIRCH. BAKER AND
CONFECTIONER.

CHILTERN HOUSE, YATTON.

3 minutes walk from Station. **Motorists and Cyclists Accommodated.**

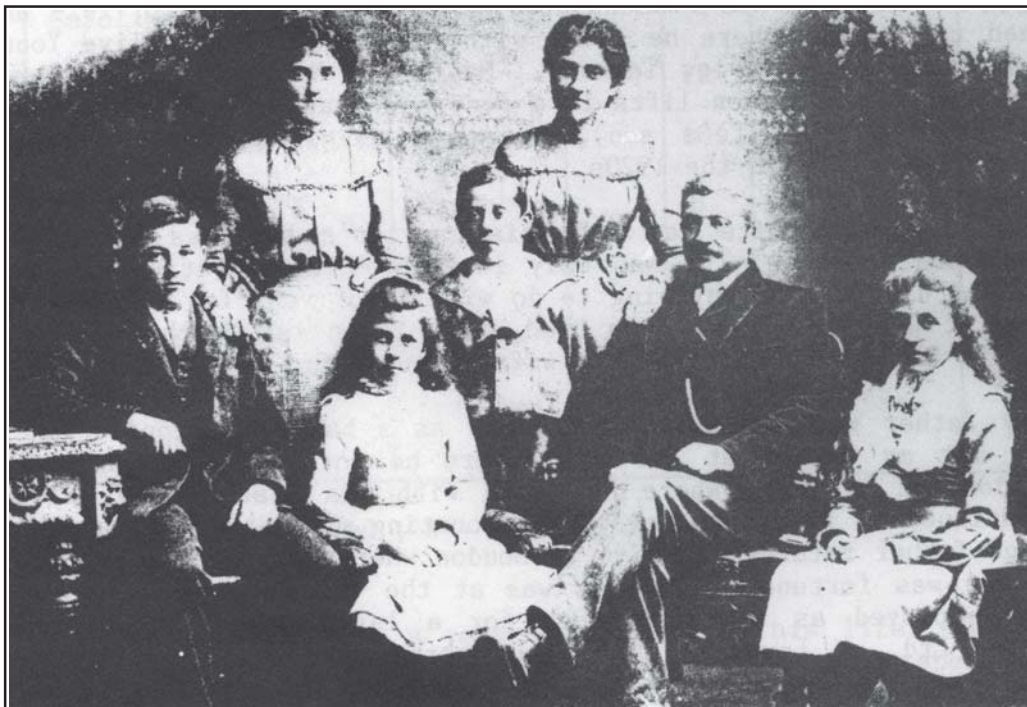
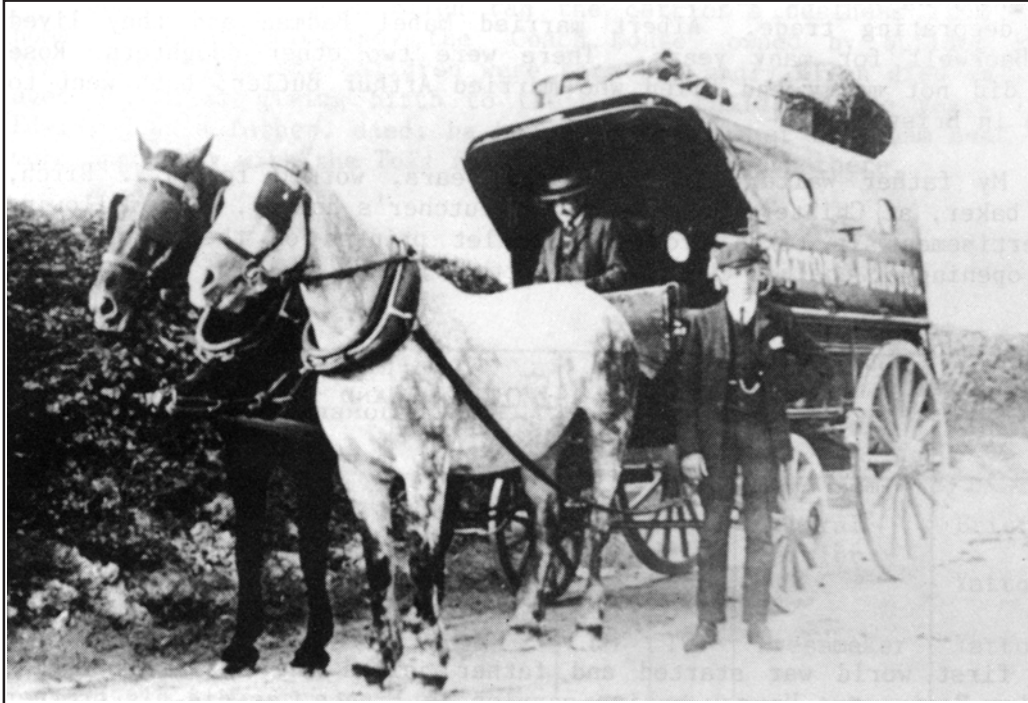
The first world war started and father joined the 2/23rd Battalion London Regiment. He saw active service in France, as did his brother Albert. In 1918 father was a cook with his regiment and was given a good reference by his commandant. He was demobilised in 1919 and returned to Yatton, where he lived with his elder sister Olive Young and family at 10 Southview Terrace. My cousin Naomi was born there. She remembers being given lifts in a pony and trap by her cousin Harry White (James Watt White's son). Harry lived in Kingston Seymour, where he kept a shop in the 1920s.

By 1914 John White had sold his carrier's business after over thirty years' service. He was only interested in operating with his horses and didn't want anything to do with motor vehicles. He retired to live at Claverham, where he died suddenly on 1st March 1923, aged 65 years. He was buried with his wife Ellen in St. Mary's churchyard.

My father went to work in Bristol as a baker and confectioner, and he met my mother at the firm where he worked. He then worked in London for a while where he lived with his sister Ethel Cleeve and continued to visit Bristol whilst courting my mother. After their marriage father returned to live in London where he was able to obtain work. He was fortunate, as this was at the time of the Depression. He was employed as a pastry cook for a large departmental store, Chiesmans Ltd. of Lewisham, for about three years. Later on mother and father returned to live in Bristol, where he continued in the bakery trade until the late 1950s when he had to retire due to ill health. Luckily a job became available, although something completely different from what he had been used to. He became a verger at Bristol Cathedral for several years, a job he greatly enjoyed.

After his retirement at the age of seventy, father unfortunately became ill and did not live long enough to enjoy his well-earned rest. He died on 6th March 1962, aged seventy-two years.

Since then his sisters, Olive and Rose, also brother Albert, have all passed away, leaving no-one to carry on the family name.



Standing L to R: Ethel, Walter, Olive. Seated L to R: Albert, Ellen, Father John, Rose.

Sylvia Starr



Emigration to Australia — 1848 to 1852

The 'gold-rush' that followed the discovery of gold in Australia in the late 1840s caused a serious economic problem for the Colony— there were insufficient men left to man the farms. Massive immigration was needed. To achieve it approved families were offered free passages in reasonably good conditions, together with basic household equipment for starting a new life. Regular sailings were organised on a weekly basis from London via Plymouth and emigration agencies were established throughout the country. The crisis in Australia coincided with a time of increasing upheaval and hardship in the farming communities of England, and volunteers were not hard to find.

Careful records were kept of each batch of new arrivals and from these a study of the immigrants from Somerset in the years 1839-54 has just been published in Australia. Several groups of Yatton people set off on the long (3½ month) voyage. All found immediate employment and seem to have prospered.

- 1848 Ship William Stewart (576 tonnes); dep. Jan. 25th, arr. May 15th.
Keel/Kiel, William (32, house servant, C of E, literate) born at Cleeve.
- 1848 Ship Berkshire (500 tonnes); dep. June 9th, arr. Oct. 3rd.
Hunt, George Young (24, labourer, C of E, literate); Maria (23, literate). George and Maria (Summer) came from Cleeve. George was employed on the voyage as the ship's schoolmaster and received a gratuity of £5 at the end of the voyage. He obtained immediate and continuing employment as a schoolmaster.
Hunt, John (44, gardener, C of E, literate); Harriet Matilda (Young) (43, reads); Charlotte (21, needlewoman, literate); Thomas (18, gardener, literate). (The Yatton parish records for 1841 show the Hunt family living in a cottage owned by Edward Thomas and rated at 2½d. — a very humble dwelling). John Hunt was employed as a Hospital Assistant on the voyage, and received a gratuity of £3 on arrival. The family obtained work as gardeners, on a 6-month contract yielding £40 p.a. plus rations.
- 1848 Ship Andromache; dep. July 17th, arr. Nov. 5th.
Jenkins, Richard (43, butcher, Wesleyan, literate); Jane (44, reads); William (21, groom, C of E, literate); Elizabeth (19, house servant, C of E, literate); Thomas (16, groom, C of E, literate); George (13, reads); Jane (11, reads); Emma (8, reads); Charles (3). Richard Jenkins was the son of Richard and Betty Jenkins, was baptised at Yatton on July 15th 1804, and married Jane Kidner at Bristol on May 31st 1826. In 1844 the family (parents and 6 children) were living in Yatton in a dwelling rated at 3½d., and Yatton Vestry Accounts for April 1844 show that he earned 2/6d. (12½p.) for "repairing the gout from the pump".
- On March 6th 1848 Yatton Vestry agreed to ask the Poor Law Commissioners for permission to advance up to £20 from the Poor Rates to assist Richard Jenkins, his wife and 7 children to emigrate to Australia.

Later the Vestry held meetings of the parish ratepayers to raise money to assist more villagers to emigrate (there was clearly a mutual benefit in the departure of large families who could be a burden on the parish).

Richard Jenkins eventually set himself up as a butcher, until his death in 1875.

1849 Ship Nelson (603 tonnes); dep. Aug. 8th, arr. Nov. 17th.
Hayes, Elias (26, gardener, C of E, literate); Matilda (Wilson) (20, literate). The Hayes family had a bad passage — their 18 month old daughter died of diarrhoea on Aug. 30th, then Matilda gave birth to a premature baby which died. Elias Hayes found employment as a market gardener (£30 pa. plus rations).

Ship Statesman (874 tonnes); dep. Jun. 28th, arr. Sept. 14th.

Nash, Maria (18, housemaid, C of E, literate).

1852 Ship Sir. Edward Perry (575 tonnes); dep. Jul. 7th, arr. Oct. 23rd.
Lyons, Alfred (21, agricultural labourer, C of E, literate), son of Francis and Mary (Perkins) Lyons.

Lyons, Edward (21, agricultural labourer, C of E, literate); Elizabeth (18, literate).

Lyons, Henry James (25, carpenter, C of E, literate); Mary (25, literate); Mary Jane (11).

Young, Sarah (25, domestic servant, C of E, literate), daughter of George and Susannah (Perkins) Young. She obtained work at £26 p.a. plus rations, and in November 1853 married William Lugg from Cornwall.

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The records throw an interesting light on the level of education available to the poor in Yatton in the early 19th century. Only two of the adult emigrants (both ladies in their 40s) were unable to write, but they could both read. None was illiterate.

Source: “The Somerset Years — Government Assisted Immigrants who arrived in Victoria 1839-1854”, by Florence Chuk. (Pennard Hill Publications, 3350 Victoria, Australia).

Pat Scally

□ □ □ □ □

“THE PIT” was the name of the pond at the bottom of Chescombe Road. Miss Banwell says that people caught eels here. Many years ago a young man was drowned in this pond.

THE LAMPLIGHTER: Mr. Slocombe rode his bicycle right up the High Street from the Horsecastle end lighting the gas street lamps at dusk.

An Apprentice in the '30s

1931 — this is the year I left school and started work. I joined the staff of W. A. Tutt, general grocer, in the High Street of Yatton, for a four-year apprenticeship. As a first-year apprentice I earned 2/6d. (12½p.) a week, rising each year by 2/6d. per week.

The first year I did mostly cleaning and sweeping and the next year I came into the shop from the despatch area when the bell was rung three times from the front counter by the shop manager or Mr. Tutt. This rarely happened as there were two other apprentices higher up to come before me, on bell rings of two or one.

I progressed to serving at the counter and learning the trade under Mr. Tutt's watchful eye. He was totally deaf, using a hearing trumpet, but he indeed taught me all the trade from end to end, and he also blended his own teas. After four years I became an "improver" at the large wage of 15/- (75p.) a week, but after three months I left and went to a big Bristol store. Later on I joined Brooke Bond and was with them for 35 years as a tea representative.

During my apprenticeship the hours were long: 8 a.m. to 7 pm Monday to Wednesday, half-day Thursday, 8 am to 9 pm on Friday, and Saturday 8 am to 8 pm. The staff consisted of Mr. H. Williams, shop manager, Mr. R. Drewett, outside canvasser in the villages around, and Mr. H. Witting, despatch and in charge of all apprentices. These were Ted and Ron Viney and Bert Stark. At one stage Maurice Palmer and Charlie Gallop joined us. The van driver was Les Burnell and his van boy Tom Rawlings.

Prices in those days were very different, for example, translated into "new" money, sugar about 2p. per lb., best New Zealand butter 5p., cheese on average 6p., a 3lb. pot of jam or marmalade 6p.-7½p. and dried fruit 2½p.- 3p. a lb. In the accounts and cash office were Miss V. Tutt and Miss Nancy Viney, sister of the apprentices.

Mrs. Tutt ran a drapery shop next door and her staff, believe it or not, were Misses Long, Short and Price. Other grocers were Mr. W. Bailey opposite, Mr. A. Collings opposite the jewellers and at Horsecastle Mr. Austin Griffen on one side and Mr. W. Pearce on the other. (Note: the jeweller's shop was the building between the Butchers Arms and Causeway House).

On Thursday half-day we used to cycle to Clevedon to the pictures, 6d. (2½p.) to go in and threepenny-worth of chips before coming home. In the dark evenings someone was always without a light but P.C.Gibb never caught us.

On Wednesdays I used to go round Claverham on a trade bike with a big basket in front delivering odds and ends to local houses and farms. This is where I met Mr. Arthur Edwards' butcher's boy doing the same thing — Mervyn Davies. We became great friends and in fact we are now brothers-in-law, marrying two sisters from Bristol, Joan and Dorothy.

Although I left the village some 48 years ago the Lyons connection is still there, as my two grand-daughters, Katy and Sarah Lyons, attend Court de Wyck school.

Pat Lyons

Once at "Homelands",
now called Stone House,
66 Claverham Road.



Mrs. Marsh's Memories

Mrs Marsh of Henley Park, born at the turn of the century, kindly agreed to recall for us her memories of the good old days.

Her husband worked at Wake and Dean's whilst she assisted at Mr. Parker's market garden, providing fruit and vegetables for Cleeve, Claverham and Yatton. She remembers:-

- ... Dr. Johnson, who did his rounds in a horse and trap, suddenly appearing with the first car in Yatton.
- ... cattle driven along the High Street to market and the strays being put in the pound — site of the War Memorial.
- ... beer brewed in the Church House to defray church expenses.
- ... the train to Clevedon 7d. (3p.) return.
- ... the Cadbury being a mixed private school.
- ... pack horses coming over Cleeve Hill.
- ... skating on the moors by villagers from Yatton and Nailsea and visitors from Bristol.
- ... the Drill Hall in 1910 with 3 teachers and 30 children.
- ... roller skating in a hall in Rock Road, now the Fire Station. The Rector and his wife provided music with a horned gramophone and made a small charge. (See other article on roller skating).
- ... going to Congresbury Fair, a famous event in bygone days.

Thank you, Mrs. Marsh.

A. F. Coe.



John Lane

This is a name well known in Yatton — the John Lane Charity, now administered by trustees, gives grants for further education to residents of Yatton and Cleeve.

In 1700, aged 28, John Lane held leasehold premises in Claverham from the Pouletts — “one tenement containing 26 acres”. Six years later a new lease gives his brother Thomas as one of the “lives”. In 1724 he has yet another lease because he is taking over some extra land.

In his will dated 1719 he leaves the house and land where he is living to his brother Thomas for the remainder of the term — also his other property at Stream Cross. If Thomas does not return to England then James Lane, his executor, is to have the property. He gave a half-acre of pasture “near a ground belonging to the house I live in called the Grove” to the parish of Yatton for the upkeep of his grave. There are several “Groves” in Claverham.

John Lane died in 1729. In 1735 James Lane’s lease of the tenement is for the lives of Samuel and John Dutton. Martha, wife of John Dutton, had been left money in John Lane’s will so these Duttons may have been his relatives. In 1770 one John Dutton of Englishcombe is the lessee, and his will leaves the property to his grandson John of Bath. By 1789 the grandson has died too and the premises are sold on behalf of his widow and young son — Thomas Taylor, yeoman, of Claverham pays £262.10.0. for the residue of the term of the lease.

Poulett’s rental of 1799 relates to a numbered plan. Thomas Taylor’s land is listed and it can be seen from the plan that the house is the present Home Farm, Claverham. A field next to the farmhouse is called “the Grove”. Duttons occur as “lives” on the lease in this rental and additional proof is provided by Home Farm’s land in 1841 (tithe map) where the fields correspond.

Mr. & Mrs. Hawkins of Home Farm have been kind enough to let the Society see their deeds, in which a lease of a 26 acre holding from Poulett to James Foord (1803) has one John Dutton as a “life”, giving further proof that this was John Lane’s home. When Poulett disposed of all his land in Yatton in 1815 to 1817 James Foord bought Home Farm and the subsequent history is known.

In the deeds is an Abstract of Title commencing 1679, 21 years before the first-mentioned John Lane lease. It is likely that Home Farm was part of the Manor of Claverham sold by Arthur Capell to Avery, Whiting, Willing and Davis in the mid-17th century. They, in turn, sold off various parts of the Manor and Poulett may well have bought Home Farm from them at this date (1679). We have the names of some of the Elizabethan and Jacobean inhabitants of Claverham, but who will ever know which of them lived in this late 15th century house?

Marian Barraclough



The Yatton Invasion Committee

In 1803 some of the inhabitants of Yatton may have joined the 16,000 men of Gloucestershire and Somerset who volunteered to defend their country against invasion by Napoleon and his French forces (1). The story of how the Bristol Volunteers were drilled on the Downs was passed down through the generations. As a child I was told about this as though it was but a short time before.

In the same way, one hundred and thirty seven years later the danger of invasion by Hitler and his German forces has now become part of our history. The Local Defence Volunteers were formed in 1940, this was later to become the Home Guard. My uncle was put in charge of the Cleeve section on the strength of his having been a major in the Indian Army, and it was among his papers that I found the information on the plans made in Yatton in case of invasion. Other copies of these papers exist in Yatton but for those who have not had a chance to read them, the following extracts may be of interest.

The Plan covered every possible contingency. The parishes of Yatton and Cleeve were divided into eight areas each with a leader and deputy leader. Details of these areas have been included as it indicates the small size of these parishes in 1940 and how much new building has been carried out since that time:

1. Mr. Stuckey's garage in Claverham Road to Yatton Vicarage — this included Rock Road, Church Road and Henley Lane.
2. Yatton Vicarage to the railway bridge including all side streets.
3. The railway bridge to the Kingston boundary.
4. Wake and Dean's estate and Horsecastle.
5. Mr. Stuckey's garage to Mr. Millward's bungalow on Bishops Road.
6. The Gospel Hall to Lower Claverham.
7. The Rhodyate to the Lord Nelson, including Plunder Street and the remainder of Bishops Road.
8. All of Cleeve not mentioned above.

The Headquarters and main warden's post was the Pharmacy in Yatton with the Vicarage as the alternative headquarters. The other warden's posts were at Wake and Dean, the School House at Kingston Seymour, Cottage Farm in Claverham and the Village Hall at Cleeve. A committee was formed with each member allocated a special responsibility :—

Billets: Mr. M.E. Stone. — Women's Voluntary Service: Mrs. P.V. Burn.
Food: Mr. E.J. Head. — Air Raid Precautions: Mr. W.L. Williams.
Fire: Mr. T. Jones. — Medical: Dr. W. V. Wood. — Police: Mr. M. H. Crossman.
Home Guard: Mr. P. G. Cardew & Mr. W. H. Neild.
Parish Council: Mr.T. Burdge. — Factory: Mr. D. Munckton.

The Deputies were Mr. Millward, The Vicar, Dr. Ursula Wood and Mr. Atlay.

The W. V. S. Housewives Section was put in charge of the care of the aged, the children, the homeless and the refugees, the making and mending of clothes and assisting with the billets.

A sign of the times was that instructions were given for all bicycles to be rendered immobile, should an invasion occur, by removing and secreting the chain and pedals, but no cars were mentioned. Not only did fewer people own cars but petrol was given only for essential services. Wake and Dean were instructed to immobilize their machinery.

The W.V.S. visited every home discussing the "Stay Put" Policy in event of invasion. The Revd. A.B. Drew was to tour round in a "loud speaker car" impressing on everyone to "Keep Calm". Should this calming voice remain unheeded a warden was to be dispatched to "deal with the situation". He was told to prevent anyone from leaving their homes even to the extent of handing the offenders over to the military authorities! There was a good reason for this. When the Germans invaded Europe the roads became blocked with refugees, thus hindering the defending armies.

The medical arrangements were made for a temporary Hospital Centre at Larchmount Hall. Minor cases were to be treated at the local warden's post. Feeding and rest centres were arranged at the village and church halls, the schools and at Horsecastle Chapel and plans were made for field kitchens.

Wells were listed in case the main supply of water was cut off and instructions were given that only wells listed were to be used. The large supply of 10,000 gallons per hour at Wake and Dean was to be kept in reserve until all other supplies failed.

The most interesting part of all these plans and instructions for today's readers is the survey drawn up to see how many horses, wagons, carts, hurricane lamps, picks, shovels and crowbars could be assembled in the area. In this nuclear age it seems amazing that such a short time ago this equipment was considered so essential.

There were 3 ponies and 86 horses of which the Burdges at the Grange and Park Farm and Mrs. Crossman topped the list with 5 each. Seven tractors, 1 wagon and 99 carts were available and here Mr. Burdge of Park Farm had 5, to be exceeded only by Mr. Knowles of Hollowmead and Mr. Gabriel of Cherry Grove with 6 each. Ninety-seven lamps, 113 picks, 208 shovels and 53 crowbars were also counted. Wake and Dean's 24 lamps, 6 picks, 13 shovels and 6 crowbars helped to boost this total.

An emergency clothing store was made at Cleeve House. In the event of invasion the food shops were to be closed and rationing was to commence. A list of the manpower available was drawn up. Labour gangs were to help in the distribution of food, water and blankets etc. These men, together with the horses, carts, lamps, picks, shovels and crowbars, were also to provide labour for the digging of slit trenches and finally these men were to be ready to dig graves for mass burial if necessary.

On this sombre note this article ends with a feeling of great thankfulness that it never became necessary to put all these plans into effect.

Reference (1) Latimer John, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century*, Bristol 1887.

Mary Campbell



Barberry Farm

This well-known farmhouse, standing back from the busy High Street near the station, has seen many changes in its lifetime. Built in the latter part of the 17th century it has been extended and modified, and from overseeing a large farm of about 60 acres it is now standing on its own piece of ground with nearby Barberry Farm Road passing its back door. The side of the house you see as you go down the 'new road' is in fact the back. There were other outbuildings, including a barn with a coach house and stables. A Mr. Bird rented them many years ago and ran a 'taxi' business with horses and traps.

The building appears to be of a standard type, originally two up and two down layout which had an outshut added, an extension to one end and a further single-storey extension added to that. If you stand in Barberry Farm Road and look at the chimneys you can see the original building on the right, although you are looking at the rear of the outshut.

We believe that a well and under-floor water storage tanks exist in the building, not yet uncovered. The house now belongs to Mr. Peter Rex, a local builder, who is restoring and renovating it with a view to living there. It is very pleasing to know that once again it will become a family home — my thanks to Mr. Rex who has let me have access to see and take photographs of the structure as he has been working on it.

Previously the farm belonged to the Sweet family and had been the family home for over 40 years, but as the village grew and more land was required for houses the farm diminished in size until only the house was left, as it is now.

Hopefully, a more detailed story of this farmhouse will be published in our next issue.

Brian Bradbury



Poor Relief in Yatton 1834 - 1845

Before 1834 poor relief in England was managed with the administration set up in 1601 by a statute of Elizabeth I. By 1832 it was evident that this system, using the parish as the unit of relief, was inadequate, and a Royal Commission was set up to investigate the problem. The resultant New Poor Law of 1834 was based on national uniformity and attempted to provide standardised treatment of paupers throughout the country. The parishes of England were formed into unions, with Guardians of the Poor to replace the Overseers.

The parish of Yatton was grouped with 22 other parishes, including Kingston Seymour, Clevedon, Winford, Dundry, Abbots Leigh, Easton St. George and Bedminster, to form the Bedminster Union. The parishes were grouped into 8 districts, Yatton being placed with Kingston Seymour. Initially the workhouse was at Bedminster, but in 1838 the paupers were moved to new premises at Flax Bourton, now Farleigh Hospital.

Each district of the Union was assigned a medical officer, and it is evident that his duties were well supervised by the Guardians. As early as December 1837 Mr. Shipton, the medical officer for Yatton, was requested to attend the next board meeting to explain 'why he did not pay sufficient attention to Joseph Butcher, a pauper living under his care living in Cleeve in the parish of Yatton'. (GMB 27 Feb 1838). A check was likewise kept on the workhouse sick wards. In March 1846 a pauper complained to the Guardians of unkind treatment in the infirmary by a male nurse. William Derham, a prominent member of the Board of Guardians and a well-known figure in Yatton's history, seems to have been particularly vocal on matters concerning the care of paupers. He wrote to the Poor Law Commission in London about the unsatisfactory care and treatment which he considered a sick pauper had received. The pauper had died. In the subsequent investigation the Master of the Workhouse was cleared of all charges by all the Guardians except William Derham.

Until 1841 admissions to the workhouse were listed occasionally, but from 1841 onwards there are weekly lists of 'ordered to the House' in the Guardians' Minute Books. The following are extracts from these entries:

16 Sept 1840 Sidney Baker, aged 14, of Yatton,
 discharged from workhouse.

Ordered to the House (from Yatton)

1 June 1841	Mary Reed, aged 9
13 July 1841	Martha Williams, aged 30, and child
3 Aug 1841	Ann Cook, aged 26, and bastard child
24 Aug 1841	Sam Hill, aged 51
28 Sept 1841	Betsey Drissel, aged 30
5 Oct 1841	Jane Tripp, aged 24
19 Oct 1841	John Rae (Kingston Seymour)
23 Nov 1841	Jane Clerk and child

4	Jan 1842	S. Cook Phebe Hayes
11	Jan 1842	William Hipisley
18	Jan 1842	Sarah Denmead (Kingston Seymour) Ann Bryant
15	Feb 1842	Phebe Hayes
22	Feb 1842	Sarah Denmead (Kingston Seymour) Sarah Tilly and 2 children
8	Mar 1842	John Mellier S. Cook Deborah Loude
29	Mar 1842	Matilda Lyons
19	Apr 1842	Sarah Denmead (Kingston Seymour) Matilda Lyons

These early months of 1842 were months of high unemployment and it is evident from these lists that quite a strain was put on the resources of the workhouse. Alongside these lists of 'ordered to the workhouse' there are other entries concerning the temporary or permanent release of paupers:

19	Feb 1839	Elizabeth Smith to be allowed out to see her sick mother at Yatton.
30	Dec 1845	Pauper from Yatton (no name given) going to reside in Cwmbran. The Pontypool Union should give her 2/6 a week, and the Bedminster Union would repay Pontypool.

An interesting insight into the diet of the paupers can be deduced from the various references in the Guardians' Minute Books and from local newspapers in which tenders for various items were displayed. If food was not up to standard it was returned to the supplier — in one instance the meat was returned because it was bad, and in another the baker was reprimanded because he delivered the bread late and it was hot.

The basic diet for able-bodied paupers consisted of meat, potatoes and soup. On 'meat days' ¼lb. of potatoes was given, and on 'soup days' no solid food for dinner was given as the soup was considered to be sufficiently solid. The sick were allowed more tea, meat and beer. For some reason the school-mistress was allowed double rations.

All paupers in the workhouse were employed in either stone breaking, crushing bones or oakum picking, although certain paupers were employed as nurses, schoolmaster and shoemaker. Children were given some education and were trained in basket making and shoemaking. When the opportunity arose, girls were sent on trial for service and boys were apprenticed. A letter from the Poor Law Commission in 1842 recommended that all children should be either apprenticed or sent to the colonies to work.

Conditions in the workhouse remained grim, with segregation into sick and infirm, children, able-bodied men and able-bodied women. Paupers would rather starve than suffer the shame of entering the workhouse, and this stigma was not confined to the 1830s; so long as they existed, people feared the possibility of ending up in the workhouse.

Table of Districts and Population, Bedminster Union

(From Guardians' Minute Books, 27 Feb 1838)

Districts	Parishes	Population	
1	Bedminster with workhouse		
2	Long Ashton Dundry Barrow Gurney	1423 583 279	2285
3	Wraxall Nailsea	802 2114	2916
4	Backwell Bourton Brockley Chelvey Winford	1038 219 171 70 865	2363
5	Yatton Kingston Seymour	1865 368	2233
6	St. George Abbots Leigh	2255 360	2615
7	Portishead Portbury Weston Clapton	800 621 124 167	1712
8	Tickenham Walton Clevedon Kenn	427 297 1147 274	2145
		Total	16,269

Sources: Somerset County Record Office, *Guardians' Minute Books, Bedminster Union* D/G/BD 8a/2; D/G/BD 8a/3; D/G/BD 8a/4; D/G/BD 8a/6
 S.G. & E.O.A. Checkland, *The Poor Law Report of 1834* (1974)
 D. Fraser (Ed) *The New Poor Law in the Nineteenth Century* (London 1976)
 M.E. Rose, *The Relief of Poverty 1834—1912* (London 1979)

Christine Schaefer



Coming Down Kingston

Three years ago I was pleased to write about the people one might meet when 'Goin' up Yatton'. Now, with the closure of our Post Office and our one village shop it takes my thoughts back 50 years or more about the tradesmen who would be 'comin' down Kingston'.

This was at a time when there were hardly any motor vehicles on the road and we were well looked after by tradesmen with their horses and vans or carts.

Coombes and Vowles the bakers delivered bread 3 times a week and we always looked out for buns on Fridays. They were 14 a shilling. The roundsman was Charlie Bragg. He was followed by Wilf Parsons, always so smartly dressed in breeches and brown boots and leggings.

Gilbert Stuckey and his son Victor always delivered the meat on Saturdays. I like to think that they got a better reception at Kingston than they did down Horsecastle where Gilbert was known as 'old suet pincher'. I have just read that Edwards the Butchers are changing hands, but I have no recollections of them coming to Kingston with a horse.

There was Mr. Vickerage the fishman and I remember someone called Sharp. What I remember about him was his horse running away when he was delivering and leaving a trail of fish boxes all along the road.

Arthur Wynn started with a horse and van but he would be best remembered at Kingston by the mobile hardware shop that he had built on to a Ford chassis. He came round every Tuesday and in winter was in great demand for we had no electricity at that time and were very dependent on lamps and candles. He carried paraffin in a large tank built into the back, methylated spirits, petrol in 2 gallon cans; he loaned the cans, and by the way the petrol at one time was Russian. 3/9d. for a 2 gallon can! There was vinegar in a wooden cask fitted with a tap, firelighters, matches, cups and saucers, china eggs, lamp and lantern glasses and I seem to remember that somewhere there was a box of oranges.

Does anyone remember A.E. Back? I think that he had a little shop somewhere near the fish shop. He would come down Kingston with his horse and crank-axle cart collecting and delivering boot repairs. I also remember that he sold 'Holdfast' farm boots and told you to wash them in warm water and when dry rub in plenty of mutton fat. People said that he was German which was not a good thing after World War I.

George Warburton's son, Sid, followed his father as postman and generally announced himself as 'King George's Postman'. He also had a cycle shop at Horsecastle corner.

Then George Reynolds who lived at Penlea; 5 feet nothing, he drove a horse and trolley for Sheppys the Millers. George could carry in a 2 cwt sack of corn with ease.

Someone I don't remember, but he came from Yatton to see me into the world, that was Dr. Clayton. And someone I do remember and that was P.C. Gibbs who used to cycle around Kingston to see that we all behaved ourselves.

Ken Stuckey



Yatton Hall

As many people in the village know, Yatton Hall and Myrtle Cottage are to be sold by the Bristol and Weston Health Authority in the near future. It is the subject of much discussion and many proposals have been aired regarding both the site and the buildings. I do not intend to discuss these proposals, only to outline briefly what is known at the present time about the hall. Myrtle Cottage is another story.

The hall is not very old, it was not built by any eminent architect and it was not built as an institutional building. It is, however, a large building which has occupied a prime site in the village for over one hundred years. It may be said to dominate that part of the High Street, but I do not consider it beautiful or of much architectural interest.

The original part was built as a dwelling house about 1884 and was called 'Ashley Lawn'. Why 'Ashley' I wonder — has it any connection with Ashleigh Road? It was taken over by the local authorities in 1916 as a 'Home for Defective Children' despite representations being made by various people at the time. Since then it has been extended, modernised and various alterations made both to the buildings and to the grounds. Many unfortunate people have known it as their home, but with our more enlightened attitude we have tried to allow as many of them as possible to lead a more normal life in the community. So it seems there is no longer a need for this substantial building to remain as part of the local health organisation and a sale is imminent.

What will happen we cannot tell, but we in the Local History Society will follow with interest coming events. I intend to do a full report on this building for the next "Yatton Yesterday", and any information regarding the history or events associated with the hall will be more than welcome.

Brian Bradbury



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