

YATTON

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No: 6 ~ 1989

Yatton Local History Society

Editorial

Welcome to our Sixth Annual Publication: we hope that you will find the content both informative and enjoyable. The new format introduced with Edition No. 5 seems to have been well received, with 600 copies sold up to the end of July. Newcomers to the village may be interested in obtaining back issues — Nos. 2 - 5 are still available.

Last winter's evening lectures were well attended and the summer outings received support from small but enthusiastic groups. Membership remains at the modest sum of £3.00 p.a. and we hope that all who are interested, however mildly, in the history of the area will join us in our 1989/1990 gatherings.

Our thanks are due to our hard working research group and committee and to our generous village newsagents who, together with Claverham Post Office and the Prince of Orange, make our publications available to the village at no cost to the Society. We must also record our appreciation of the efforts of all contributors to this issue, especially the 'guest writers'.

Mr. John Scally has again drawn the front cover for this issue:

Yatton Hall has been featured in view of the uncertainty regarding its future.

On July 20th our Chairman represented the Society at Wick St. Lawrence church on the occasion of the dedication service for the Jack Crease memorial window. Jack, who died in 1986, was our popular and respected first President. Earlier this year we lost another good and generous friend and authority on local affairs when Dr. Ursula Damrel died after a lifetime of service to the village. A number of her papers and photographs have been given to the Society archives by her daughters.

As ever, we shall be most grateful to receive information on times past in Yatton and look forward to hearing from all who may be able to supply raw material for our 1990 edition.

R. H. YOUNG
President.



YATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Yatton Hall, Myrtle Cottage and The Hollies

The buildings we now see on the site are the result of alterations and extensions being carried out over the years. The main building is formed by considerable modifications to the original building, now called Yatton Hall although it was originally built about 1884 and named Ashley Lawn. The name Yatton Hall appeared in 1901 before the property was taken over by the Local Authority for use as a home for mentally handicapped people.

We are, however, going too quickly to the end of the story, for to trace the history of the site we must go back to the first record of a transaction, in 1679, when Richard Broakes leased from the second Lord Poulett of Hinton St. George some land comprising 10 acres and 2 acres in West Mead for the lives of his sons, Richard and John. These were fields off West Mead Drove, which is on the moors, beyond Stowey Road as it is now. Then in 1717 lease No. 78 was granted to Thomas Broakes for the lives of his sons Richard and John for 10 acres and 2 acres in West Mead with Bishopswell; incidentally in 1700 a certain Arthur Thomas and his son were 'alias Broakes' and they had land in Cleeve but they may not be connected with the first-named family.

So far a dwelling house has not been mentioned but a lease was given to Richard Broakes, No. 79, dated 8.3.1736, as tenant of a tenement containing one fardle (about 10 acres of land) for the lives of his sons Thomas and Edward, and then in 1800 Earl Poulett let to Edward Broakes 'A neat House, Barn, Stable and Cartlodge' with a common right. Therefore it is likely that a house had been on the site in medieval times, as a common right indicated that the owner or tenant had an established right to use the common land in the area.

In 1813, on the 20th October, Earl Poulett sold this estate in Yatton to James Broakes. In 1821 we know from Sturge's survey that James Broakes was the owner, and also lived in the house, with an orchard and a field called Little Moor Lea. On 1st February 1832 he let the property to a Samuel Alvis for one year. We then have some doubt as to who owned the property for a few years. One document suggests that a Richard Broakes (?James' son) assigned the property to Mr. John Baker on 2.2.1832. Thomas Baker held the title to the property in 1852 (was he John Baker's son?) while the tithe award shows that Hester Alvis owned and occupied the property in 1840 (was this Samuel's wife?). The tithe of 1840 gives Hester Alvis with a house, outhouse and garden (No.105), an orchard (No.104), two parts of orchard (Nos.103 and 103A) and Little Moor Lea (No.321) – see attached map on page 10.

Anyway later on we find Thomas Baker had the property in 1852 as I said earlier, and on 6th May 1852 he sold to Mr. Arscott Millar Darke '*A freehold messuage (or dwelling house) and lands at Yatton*'. This was confirmed in 1866 prior to A. M. Darke selling to Mr. John Cox '*Conveyance in fee of a messuage and hereditaments at Yatton*' on 6th November 1866. It appears from maps that the house had been extended or rebuilt between 1821 and 1840 although there is no documentary evidence of this so far. Mr. John Cox already owned a neighbouring farm which is, alas, no more, called Cherry Grove Farm. I imagine most people in Yatton know where this farm was. Yes, where Cherry Grove is now. However, back to Yatton Hall, although not yet called any name we

know of, on 30th December 1875 John Cox passed the property as Deed of Gift to William C. Cox (?his son) comprising house and lands as described before. William Cox held the house until 25th August 1884, when he granted in trust some of his estate to Donald Cox (was this his son?) and this is the first time we have a name for this property. It was called Ashley Lawn. We have a good description of the estate from that document of 1884 as follows:

All that messuage or tenement known as Ashley Lawn with barn, stable, garden and outhouses containing 1 acre, with a pasture called 'Home Ground' and orchard adjoining, containing together by estimation 3 acres. Also a piece of meadow called Little Moor Lea containing 1A: 2R: 10P.

Tithe Nos. as follows		A:R:P.
103	Part of orchard and home ground	1 : 2 : 38
103A	Part orchard	0 : 1 : 30
104	Orchard	0 : 2 : 0
105	House, outhouse and garden	0 : 1 : 29
321	Little Moor Lea	1 : 2 : 23
		<hr/> 4 : 3 : 0 <hr/>

325 A Meadow in West Mead called 'Two Acres'.

William Charles Cox died on 27th October 1897 and Donald Cox was the new owner. Again we have a problem as we know that the present building, or at least the old part of the present building, was built c1884, but there is no record in the documents we have seen. Could it be that William rebuilt the place before bequeathing it to Donald? Next in 1899 we have Donald Cox selling to Mrs. Ada Nilsen 'A freehold and premises known as Ashley Lawn' although she did not own it for long, selling to Charles Frederick Terrell on 15th June 1901, and we find for the first time the name is Yatton Hall. He raised mortgages on the property in 1901 and then sold the Hall to Charles Franck as '*A freehold messuage and tenement called Yatton Hall*' on 20th January 1904. He in turn sold it to Henry A. Knill on 30th September 1907. Henry kept it. He leased it to R. J. Miles on 23rd July 1910 for a period of 7 years at £100 per annum, determinable by the tenant after 5 years. Though on these transactions we have no mention of the selling prices for the property and it appears that the land, except for its grounds, were sold separately from about 1885, we have a record of the fire insurance value of the property in 1911 of £1,460.

In 1914 a Mr. J. Henry Crocker is listed in Kelly's Directory as a tenant but this is not recorded anywhere else so perhaps Mr. Miles sublet. Mr. Miles must have decided not to continue his lease because on 7th October 1916 Henry Knill (still the owner) leased to '*Robert Alford and others for 7 years at £120 per annum, determinable after 5 years*'. We do not know who 'the others' were, but we find in Yatton Parish Council minutes that on 20th September 1916 '*A petition was received from a large number of residents protesting at letting of Yatton Hall to the County Education Committee as an establishment for mentally deficient children*'. The Council supported the protest and wrote to Somerset County Council. They had a reply from the County Council on 18th October 1916 that '*Yatton Hall had been leased to Somerset Association for Care of Mental*

Defectives, a voluntary organisation entirely independent of the County Council'. There were further letters from residents protesting at this use of the building. The Council sent a letter of protest to the Board of Control (the government department which then dealt with mental defectives). This evoked a reply from the Board of Control on 15th November 1916 that they had conditionally approved the use of Yatton Hall as a certified Institution under the Mental Deficiency Act and saw no reason to depart from this action.

One assumes that Henry Knill leasing to Robert Alford and others must have had some connection with Somerset County Council or the Board of Control, as on 25th July 1917 it was agreed by Henry with Robert that alterations could be carried out by the tenant. What these were we do not know – although we do have drawings showing alterations and additions to the Hall, these were carried out later.

On 31st December 1917 Henry Knill raised a mortgage on the Hall for £1,200 at 5% with the Misses A.T. & H. M. Green. Nothing else happened until 19th March 1919 when Henry Knill sold to *'Robert Alford and others a dwelling house and premises known as Yatton Hall'* – again no land is mentioned. Then later in the year Robert Alford and others sold the Hall to Somerset County Council (on 12th November 1919) and Miss H. Redfern was appointed Superintendent of the 'Home for the Mentally Defective Children' as it was then called. As far as we can tell there had not been any substantial alterations carried out up to this time, although there was a reference in 1917 to some works being agreed, but we do not know if they were undertaken.

Now, however, after the sale to Somerset County Council there was a major refurbishing and extension programme set in train. We had sight of the plans used for this work starting in 1920, a contract being placed by the S.C.C. with Messrs. C. Addicott & Son from Weston-super-Mare for £9,500 to carry out alterations to Yatton Hall. An architect named Peter G. Fry of Waterloo Street, Weston-super-Mare, had produced drawings and specifications to extend the hall for 'The Mental Deficiency Committee of S.C.C.'. One of the documents says *'to be carried out to cause the least possible inconvenience'* to staff and inmates.... certain works to be delayed until other parts are completed and handed over for the use of the Institution (e.g. a note says the present kitchen to continue in use until the new one is completed – indicating that the old part of the house was in use for some time after the extensions started). Other contracts entered into were:

Contract dated 19.12.1923 between Wesley C. Day of 'Hillcrest', Claverham Road, and S.C.C. to carry out internal decoration of part of the building: £153.

Agreement of 15.7.1922 between William Burston of Old Street, Clevedon, and S.C.C. to pave the yard with tar macadam: £93.18. 0.

Agreement of 10.6.1920 between James Crispin & Sons of Bristol and S.C.C. for heating apparatus and hot water supply: £1,920.

Agreement of 10.6.1920 between Tuke & Bell Ltd. of Lichfield and S.C.C. for sewage disposal works: £496.10. 0.

Agreement of 3.5.1922, William Burston to convert and adapt stables for use as a hand laundry: £87.18. 6.

From the plans we have seen we have been able to produce drawings of the hall prior to the alterations described above and these are reproduced on the following pages.

There is a theory that the care of mentally handicapped people started when a relative (?son) of one of the owners of the hall returned from the 1914 to 1918 war suffering from shell-shock and he together with other returning soldiers were cared for and nursed at the hall. Can anyone supply more information about this?

We are up to 1922; little seemed to happen then until 1966 when Mr. B. C. (Bruce) Harris who farmed Court House Farm (demolished to make way for the Gateway Shopping Precinct) entered into an agreement with S.C.C. and sold a parcel of land, 0.95 acres, to them on 15.3.67. The hall has been used until the present time as a home for mentally handicapped people, having been transferred to the Bristol and Weston Health Authority; associated with Yatton Hall is of course Myrtle Cottage which is now part of the same establishment. This cottage was built between 1821 and 1840, we think by Samuel Baker who owned Court House Farm (which was next door) and it was occupied by Hannah Baker according to the 1840 tithe award. This cottage was apparently in the same family until it was sold by Miss N. C. Freer in 1952 to the Minister of Health; Miss Freer had been housekeeper to Samuel Baker Page's brother. We have records that Mr. James Baker Page left the house to Miss Alice Annie Page in 1939 when he died, and she in turn left it to Miss Nora Christine Freer in 1948.

We also know that The Hollies on the opposite side of the High Street to Yatton Hall is scheduled for redevelopment. It was used by the Bristol and Weston Health Authority as flats for staff use until recently and now stands empty. This house appears on the 1840 tithe map adjacent to the Methodist Chapel which has been rebuilt. There were two houses here; one was demolished to build Derham Court in 1982 and both were built between 1821 and 1840. They were owned by William Derham in 1840 and occupied by Joseph Derham.

Early this century a school was operating at The Hollies. Miss Crease ran this school and lived in the house – she was related to our late president, Mr. Jack Crease, his great-aunt I believe. Mr. Charles Edwards relates that when he joined the school in 1911 it was called Yatton High School and pupils wore a Panama hat with a black and white striped hat band and the initials YHS embroidered on the band. The classrooms were behind the house, attached to the house next door (now demolished) owned by a Mr. Whittings. *'There was a gallery where you would be sent as a punishment, and it was a most interesting building'* says Mr. Edwards. The teaching staff included Miss Crease (although she had retired from teaching by 1911), Miss Holbrook and Miss Taylor (who became Mrs. Charles Counsell), assisted by a succession of mam'selles and once a fraulein. It was, he says, a kindly enough school but not very good teaching. Later Miss Crease retired and the school was taken over by a Mrs. Langdon who had a daughter Violet, and the school did not continue long after this. Can anyone supply further information about this school, staff or pupils?

Part of the hall complex as it is now includes another small house, Holly Cottage, much altered and difficult to reconcile with the original plans attached. This must

have been built about 1890 when the hall was rebuilt or extended, perhaps as accommodation for servants or housekeeper.

And so we come to the present time. What will happen to these buildings? Only time will tell. However, we have attempted to record the story of the hall, which we see has no real right to be called the 'Hall' as it was never the home of the local squire, but nonetheless must have been a major building at the turn of this century.

My thanks go to many people who have helped both directly and indirectly in this story; without their help these researches would not have been possible.

References:

Somerset Record Office

Poulett Rental c.1800 DD/PT Box 47

Sturge's Survey of Yatton 1821 D/P/Yat 13/1/3

Yatton Tithe Award 1840

DD/SS Yatton Deeds (536)

DD/X/AUS 20/S Leases W.C. Cox

D/H/snd 5/13 Contract & plans re Yatton House 1919-1923

Bristol & Weston Health Authority

List of Title Deeds and relevant documents.

Mr. Charles Edwards' memories;

Kelly's Directories of Somerset;

O.S. Map 6", 1st Edition 1885;

Yatton Parish Council minutes.

Brian Bradbury



Quarter Session Records give an insight into the way life was lived in Yatton in days gone by. For instance, in 1681 a case was brought concerning '*Trespass, Assault and Threats of Violence*' by Thomas Hawkins of Yatton and Frances his wife. The Justices of the Peace were Edward Gorges and John Pigott and the date was 15th September.

It was stated that on 11th September Thomas was driving the piggs to the pound belonging to the Manor of Yatton that had several times trespassed him in his corn, and that John Beakes of the same parish husbandman made a rescue of the said piggs and made an assault on the said Hawkins and his wife, and with a peeke staff with both his hands did violently strike him the said Hawkins on the eyebrow and doth further threaten what he will do unto them.

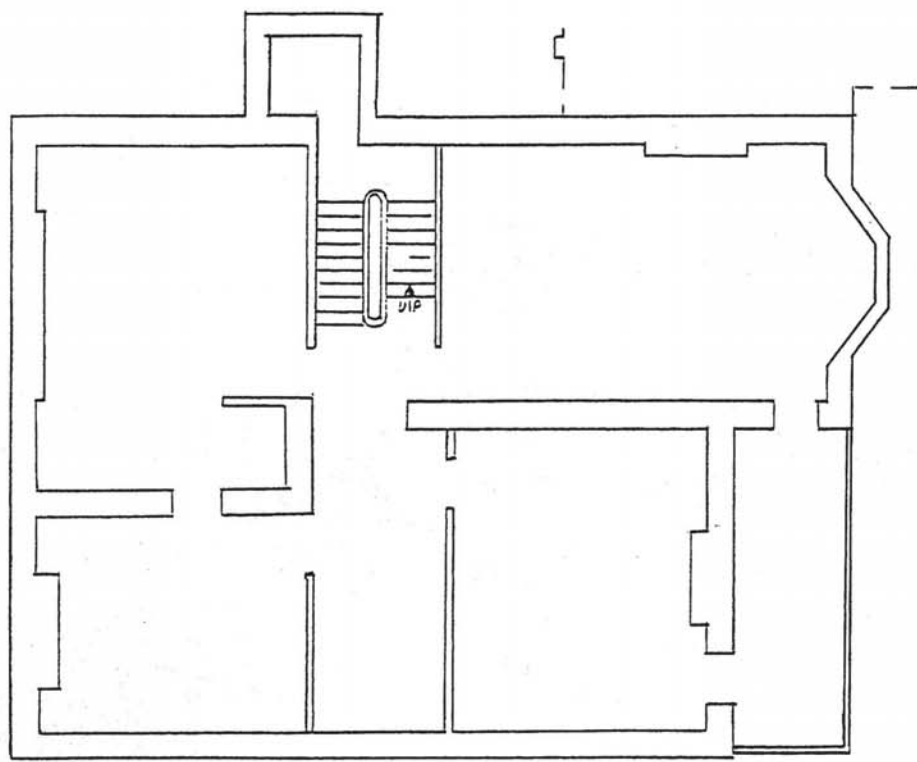




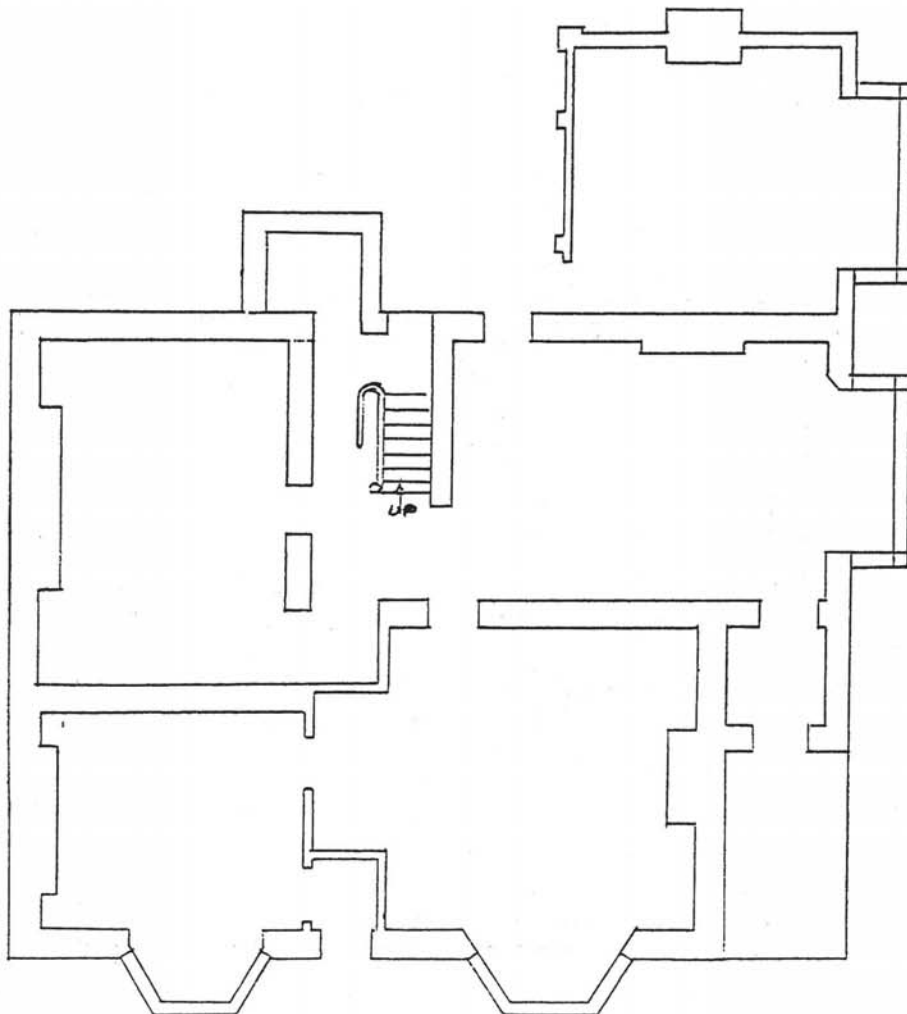
Front Elevation



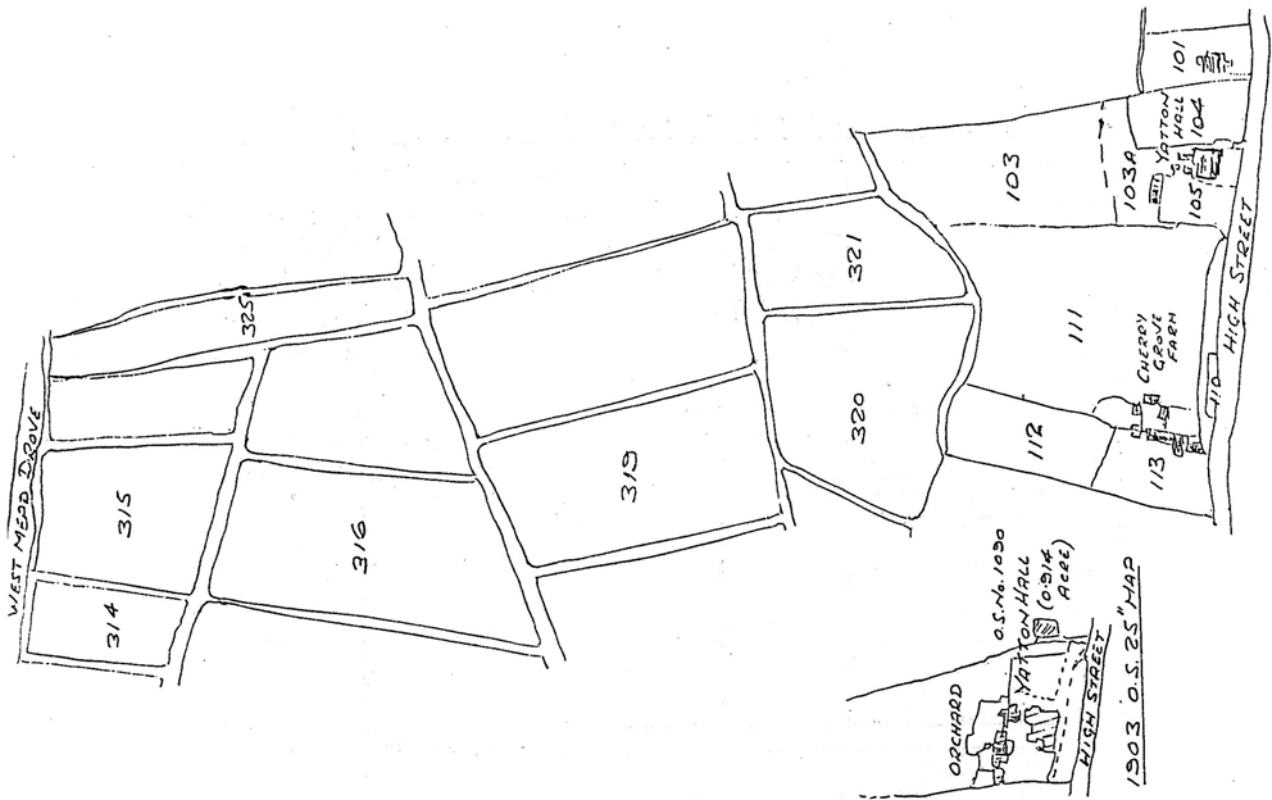
Side Elevation



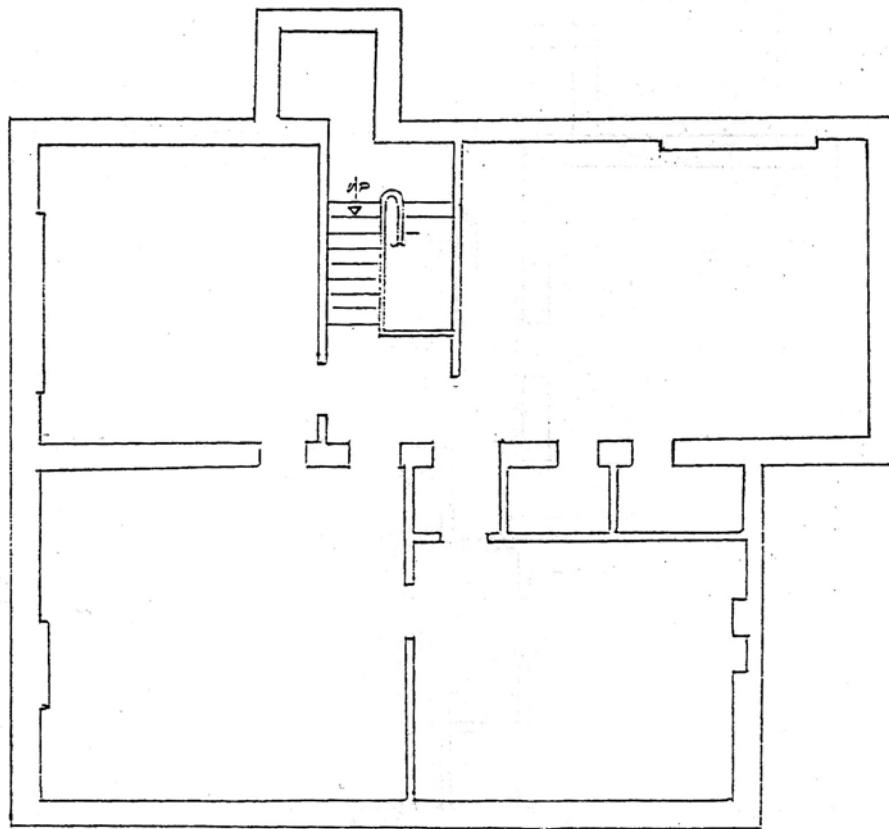
First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan



1840 Tithe Map



Second Floor Plan

Fifty-one Years at Wake & Dean (Avalon)

In October 1932 I was engaged by Wake & Dean Ltd. for a month's trial period to prove that I had the ability to become an apprentice learning the arts of cabinet making. I was 14 years old then and I left school on the Friday and began work the following Monday. I was born and brought up in Mark and I lodged in Claverham Road with my brother Cyril. Cyril was twelve years older than I and had been apprenticed at Wake & Dean in 1921.

My indentures were duly signed on 2nd January 1933, my mother paying £50 for a period of five years. My father had died in 1925; Mother had been a Parsons of Cleeve before her marriage and had taught at Dundry school and also at Larchmont Hall with Miss Avery. I was the last indentured apprentice at the company, which thereafter took on 'trainees'. The company was very well known for the manufacture of church furniture and examples of this can be seen in many churches and chapels throughout England and Wales. In addition, the firm was an established contractor to the Ministry of Works. Contracts were held for many education authorities; desks, cupboards, blackboards and easels were supplied in large quantities. School and college laboratories were equipped and lockers, tables and desks were supplied to hospitals.

In 1933 we worked from 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. with one hour for lunch. On Saturday the hours were 8 a.m. to 12 noon. I used to cycle to work from Claverham Road. We had one week's unpaid holiday, the August Bank Holiday week, which was then at the beginning of August, when I used to go home and stay with my mother. During the first year of my apprenticeship much of my time was spent in cleaning up the workshop, attending the glue tanks, fetching and carrying for the cabinet makers and shopping at the local grocers for pea flour, which was mixed with glue and used as stopping for nail holes, rubbing into timber shakes etc. This was later superseded by plastic wood. The closest I got to cabinet making was sandpapering mouldings, of which a large quantity was used, and this work made large blisters on my hands.

After some months I went to live with Mr. & Mrs. Richards, still in Claverham Road, and later on with Mrs. Leonard Jones in Wakedean Gardens. During my first year I received 12/6d. a week, 10/- for my board and lodging and 2/6d. pocket money. I joined Claverham and Kingston Seymour cricket clubs and in the winter used to go and watch Bristol City. After about a year I made my first furniture, 4' 6" bed ends. The pieces were cut to shape in the mill and had to be joined together. Later I made a tea wagon, then wardrobes and chests of drawers. I worked in the bottom (Horsecastle) end of the factory. I completed my apprenticeship in January 1938 and was then a cabinet maker, able to understand the methods of construction and the use of 'Rods and Boards'.

The factory was divided into seven main departments – two mills and cabinet shops for (a) church and contract work (b) domestic and office (c) school furniture, and two polishing shops. Timber was stored on the ground floor at the bottom of the factory, where later was a machine shop, and across the road where the conversion mill was later sited. Timber was received by rail on the company siding

and offloaded by hand. Railway lines had been laid from the siding through the factory up to the main road, and when timber was required by No. 1 Machine Shop it was loaded on bogies which were winched part way and then pushed by labourers to the shop (which later became the Prototype and Jig Dept.). Timber for special items such as altars, pulpits, seats, etc. was selected by the sawyers; other run-of-the-mill items were made of timber picked out by the yard foreman.

Details of requirement were contained on boards, usually pieces of plywood 6"- 7" wide of various lengths, on which was written the size of each part to be cut by the sawyer, which came from the drawing office. When sawn and planed, the parts were then sent to a 'setter out' of which I was one, who had been supplied with a 'rod' on which all details of every part was shown, full size. For simple items the rod was a piece of plywood, but for complicated items such as pulpits the rod was of ceiling paper, approx. 21" wide and of the necessary length.

The machines in No. 1 Mill were mainly belt-driven from overhead and sometimes below-ground shafting, and power was supplied by a gas engine. This was fuelled by a producer gas plant using chips, sawdust and timber to produce gas. Factory heating was by hot water circulated in cast iron pipes with boilers in stoke holes in various parts of the factory. During cold weather temperatures were never very high. Work was planned so that jobs such as planing table tops, levelling frames and similar work was done in the mornings, as this was the only way to get warm.

After my apprenticeship ended, I continued with my bench work for a year or so, then I was transferred to No. 2 Mill to assist with the supervision and movement of parts through the mill. Owing to an illness at the beginning of the war I was not called up, but remained at the factory throughout the war. The factory was working on Ministry of Works contracts, obtaining timber by licence from the Timber Control for such items as overbed tables and storage cupboards for hospitals, cupboards for flying officers' clothing, folding tables for mess rooms and office equipment for various ministries. Part of the factory was used for making and repairing ammunition boxes and another part, including part of the timber yard, was enclosed and used as a government store for food. After the war the company manufactured 'Utility' furniture and resumed the production of school furniture. Timber drying kilns were built and No. 3 Mill, later the panel machine shop, erected. Additional storage for timber was provided.

I married in 1942 and lived at Cleeve, and later Claverham. At the time when the company was taken over by the Hunts (1953) I was transferred to be Inspector of finished goods and later went to Mill No. 3 as a Production Controller, and in due course had responsibility for the running of the mill. During the next few years there were several changes of management until finally the company, now named 'Avalon', was taken over by Stag Furniture Holdings Ltd. I was then transferred back to Inspection as Chief Inspector and remained in that post until my retirement in 1983, having completed 51 years with the company.

With modern type woodworking machinery and new methods of dowel construction, and with the introduction of chipboard, the skilled craftsmanship has been superseded by machinery which has marvellous accuracy and precision.

Now furniture is so scientifically made that it only remains to be assembled by skilled operators. It also has a preprint finish polish of teak or mahogany on a veneer face pressed on chipboard – then through Despatch and transported away on a fleet of lorries to all parts of the United Kingdom, and a small amount overseas.

D. A. Day



Ref: Yatton Yesterday Vol. 2. 1985 Article on Quakers in Yatton

When Mr. Harold Fassnidge of Bradford-on-Avon was in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1984 a family of Gregorys was living there in the same road as the Quaker Meeting House. He has tried to contact them for us without success and thinks they must have moved away.

He writes about them: “....in 1981 I attended Australia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and there met Russell and his two daughters, Linley and Claire. Russell would be about 70 perhaps and the girls in their late thirties or early forties. Russell told me that his ancestors were Somerset Quakers and worshipped at Claverham Meeting. Other ancestors worshipped at Frenchay Meeting; his uncle Edward was buried in the Quaker burial ground at Frenchay”.

Edward Gregory (d.1956) who wrote the ‘Family Annals’ quoted in Vol. 2, may be this uncle. In the ‘Annals’ he says that his brother Alfred went to New Zealand in 1899 and that **his** grandson John was born in Australia in 1942.

Ref: Yatton Yesterday Vol. 5, 1988 Article called “Coming down Kingston”

In his article ‘Coming down Kingston’, Mr. Ken Stuckey mentioned Arthur Wynn’s mobile hardware shop. This prompted the Revd. John Gregory to send us a photograph of Arthur Wynn’s vehicle taken outside the old Bridge Inn in 1930. The photograph shows the van with a bunch of bananas on the bonnet.

Correction, Yatton Yesterday Vol. 5, 1988

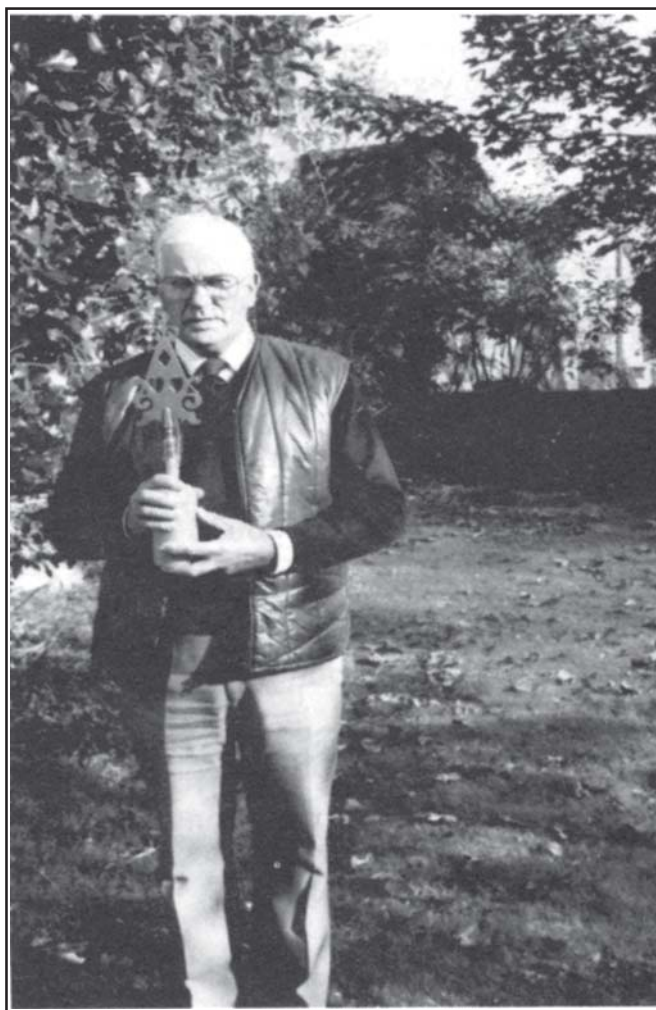
Page 25, ‘Yatton’s Boundaries’, 4th line of 2nd paragraph.

It should read “*parts of Congresbury have been taken into Yatton*” and not the other way round, as stated in error.



Yatton Friendly Society

Research into this society started when the Revd. John Gregory of Sutton Coldfield returned to Yatton the friendly society polehead which Mr. Bill Marsh is seen holding in the photograph. Mr. Gregory's grandparents, Henry & Mary Smith, kept the Bridge Inn and until 1933 the polehead hung on the wall there (the old inn, before rebuilding). It had probably belonged to the Baker family who were previously there, Mary Smith having first been married to Edwin Baker, who died. There are other poleheads in Taunton and Reading museums.



The first legislation was the Act of 1793 for "the protection and encouragement of Friendly Societies in this Kingdom, for securing by voluntary subscriptions of the members thereof, separate funds for the mutual relief and maintenance of the said members, in sickness, old age and infirmity, and is likely to be attended with very beneficial effects by promoting the happiness of individuals and at the same time diminishing public burthens". (i.e. if the poor supported themselves less money would need to be paid out in poor relief). There was legal protection against embezzlement, and an Act of 1819 gave model rules and tables of benefits. A society's rules had to be approved by the Justices of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions. Other Acts were passed from time to time.

It was realised that the village labourer would not join unless there was beer, a fire and a feast day. A pamphlet published in Bristol in 1812,

"Hints towards the formation of a Society for promoting a Spirit of Independence among the Poor" says "one day in the year of relaxation and social enjoyment will be found useful as an additional inducement to the Poor to enter the Club".

The Yatton Society: In the Somerset Record Office are the 'Rules of the Friendly Society established at Yatton in the County of Somerset in 1777, renewed under sanction of the late Acts of Parliament, 1824'. The vicar was president and the trustees included J. H. Smith-Pigott of Brockley and Rev. T. S. Biddulph of Cleeve. Stephen Cox of the Tannery at Court de Wyck was treasurer. The Hon. Members, gentry or prosperous farmers, paid not less than £5 initially and not less than £1 per annum.

It was decided to re-establish the 1777 society in order to place it under the protection of the more recent Acts against fraud and mismanagement, and a

meeting was held at the Prince of Orange in 1824 when a clerk and four stewards were appointed. The duties of the latter were to keep order at the meetings, to receive subscriptions, to visit sick or lame persons twice a week during their illness and report back to the committee and to pay out allowances.

Meetings: Quarterly meetings were to be held on the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October commencing at 6 p.m. at the Prince of Orange, and the A.G.M. to be on the Feast Day, the first Tuesday in May at 9 a.m. Thereafter members were to *"attend Divine Service in a decent and becoming manner and then return to the House of the Society to dinner... which the Stewards shall take care to order..;"* Members had to pay for this in advance, a sum not exceeding 2/6d.

"Any member who does not contribute his share of expenses or be absent from the Feast or guilty of riotous disorderly and quarrelsome conduct during the day, or who shall not quietly depart home upon the meeting being declared to be at an end... shall pay the sum of 5/-" (25p).

At the quarterly meeting the sum of 3d. and no more was to be spent in liquor by each member, the money to be collected by the stewards. *"If any private individual shall... call for any liquor or be guilty of any disorderly conduct or profane swearing or be intoxicated or lay wagers or promote quarrelling or use any treasonable seditious or uncivil language or shall refuse to sit down and be silent upon the Steward requiring it three times, he shall for every of these offences pay 1/-" (5p).*

Contributions: Members had to live in Yatton, Kenn, Brockley or Kingston Seymour. There were two classes, the first being the present and old members and the second those becoming members, each to have their own funds. A table of contributions for the second class is given at the end of this article. Class 1 members paid 2/- per quarter and received 5/- a week if ill in bed, or 2/6d. if ill and not in bed, with £2 for a funeral. Class 1 old members, if under 50, could transfer to Class 2.

No relief would be paid to any member who contracted a disease *"by profligacy quarrelling or drunkenness or during confinement in any prison"*. If a member were refused relief to which he was entitled he could complain to the Justices of the Peace. There are various rules on admission, arrears, expenses, exclusion and investment of funds.

Funerals: Stewards were to notify 20 members who *"shall attend the Corpse to the grave in a decent and orderly manner"*. Every member of the class to which the deceased belonged should contribute 1/- to the widow, or if it were the wife who died, then 6d. to the widower. The fine for not attending the funeral when chosen was 2/6d., unless ill.

Other Societies: Many societies had silk fringed banners with heraldic designs and patriotic wording or mottoes such as *"Let Brotherly Love Continue"*. There are examples in Stogursey church. As well as the social side, these societies did much good, especially when the new Poor Laws with their workhouses came in, often saving families struck down by accident or sickness from being split up. But there were those who criticised the lavish feast days and funerals, and the

meetings in pubs. In the 1830s the Rev. J. J. Toogood, vicar of South Petherton, founded an alternative to the society already existing there for this reason. An Act of 1855 empowered societies to build or lease a building for meetings instead of using the pub.

Hannah More set up women's societies. The 1812 pamphlet referred to above said "*the refreshment at the Anniversaries of the latter (i.e. women's societies) should be confined to tea*".

The first **Friendly Society Registrar**, John Tidd Pratt, barrister, was appointed in 1846 and made his first report ten years later. In 1871 Trade Unions could register as friendly societies and so obtain protection for their funds.

Decline of Friendly Societies: By 1796 there were 114 societies in Somerset, later rising to 664, but by 1855 numbers had fallen to 565 and continued to fall. In the early 19th century other societies began to spread from the Midlands, e.g. Oddfellows and Ancient Order of Foresters. The latter had 214 members in Somerset in 1852 and 11,981 by 1896. They often took away the more affluent members because their subscriptions were higher. The friendly societies also lost members to trade unions because the younger men saw membership of a union as a way of removing the causes of poverty, not simply alleviating it. The advancing age of friendly society members caused further decline, as the young would not join when they felt that they were providing benefits for older people.

Labourers in Somerset were poorly paid in comparison with the rest of the country (7/- to 8/- a week in 1851 or 35 - 40p) and often could not afford the contributions. Members were lost through emigration, both abroad and to the rapidly expanding towns. State old age pensions came in in 1908 and health and unemployment insurance in 1911 and 1920.

End of the Yatton society: In the more rural areas, such as West Somerset, societies seem to have continued later than in Yatton, where there was not such a high percentage of agricultural labourers and where, by moving into nearby Bristol, many obtained better paid employment. Margaret Fuller in 'West Country Friendly Societies' says that the Yatton society was dissolved in 1872. However, according to Yatton parish magazine for November 1874 a friendly society was established 29.9.1835, one of the trustees being the vicar, Preb. Barnard. The accounts for the year 1874 are given; there were 114 male members and 47 female. In 1883 the annual supper was held on Friday, 26th January, at 7 p.m. in the schoolroom. Yatton Church Monthly for March 1892 states that at the A.G.M. in the school on 22nd February, funds amounted to £5,050.11.11.

Presumably, therefore, both ran at the same time, the 'traditional' one with the polehead meeting at the Prince of Orange and the other, a more sober affair, at the schoolroom. If any reader has information about either society, Yatton Local History Society would be pleased to hear from them.

Table A: contributions to be paid by Class 2 in respect of each share to which they will be entitled after being a member for a year, 2/6d. a week in sickness and £2 on death.

Age on Admission	Contribs.on Admsn. & ¼ly for life	Contribs.in a single paymt. on Admission
Under 25	11d.	2. 18. 6.
25 & under 30	1/-	3. 2. 0.
30 & under 35	1/1¼	3. 5. 6.
35 & under 40	1/3	3. 9. 6.
40 & under 45	1/5	3. 14. 0.
45 & under 50	1/ 7¼	3. 18. 6.

Table B: contributions of assuring each shilling per week for life after the age of 65, 2nd class.

Age at Paymt. of 1st Contrib.	Payable ¼ly during life	Contribs.in a single payment
Under 25	5¼d.	1. 7. 6.
25 & under 30	7¼d.	1. 16. 0.
30 & under 35	10d.	2. 8. 0.
35 & under 40	1/2	3. 4. 0.
40 & under 45	1/8¼	4. 6. 0.
45 & under 50	2/6	5. 18. 0.

Table C: contributions for assuring (extra to Table A) each sum of £1, 2nd class, on death, but death not within one year from the payment of the contribution.

Age at Paymt. of Contrib.	Contribs.in a single payment
Under 25	7/5
25 & under 30	7/11
30 & under 35	8/6
35 & under 40	9/2
40 & under 45	9/10
45 & under 50	10/7

Sources

Margaret D. Fuller: "West Country Friendly Societies",
University of Reading, 1964.

Somerset Record Office, ref. Q/Rsf

Information from the Revd. John Gregory

Marian Barraclough

My 'Gran' Hardwick

For several years I have enjoyed contributing what I remember about the people who used to ply their wares between Kingston and Yatton. This has brought me contacts and correspondence with those whose memories have been revived by what I have written. It has also been interesting to read of what others have written on a number of subjects which link up the two villages.

This year I thought that I would like to write about my 'Gran'. When I sat and started to think I found that I was not so concerned about my Gran as I was about the remarkable family to which she belonged and of the influence they must have had on local village life. They were the Hardwick family of Weeping Ash Farm, Yatton. It consisted of John Hardwick and his wife Harriet with their two sons and nine daughters!

The 1851 census returns make interesting reading and I have attached the list to show who they were. I cannot trace all of the family but perhaps some of our readers can tell me more about them. I think the eldest daughter was Sarah who married Henry Crossman of Ham Farm. They had four children, Henry, Maurice, Beryl and Evelyn. The second Christian name of each child was Hardwick and there were other relatives of the family who also bore the name.

Maurice and his father contributed a great deal to parish affairs and I am quite sure the rest of the family were to the fore in their public work. Jane was the grandmother of Mrs. Hawkins of North End and lived to be ninety-three.

Next comes Eliza who married into the Edwards family who were well known as butchers and farmers. I had a long letter a while ago from Charles Edwards who lives at Chelmsford; Arthur Edwards who died in 1986 was his brother-in-law. I know little of the two Hardwick sons, Joseph and John, but understand that John married Emily Yeates.

Perhaps the best known of the family was Mary Ann, known to all as Aunt Polly. She never married and lived for most of her life with her sister Ellen. Ellen married Michael Yeates who was a farmer at Dundry and so began a very strong connection between two well known and respected families. Unfortunately Michael died when quite young and his widow had to leave the farm. Ellen and Polly returned to Weeping Ash where they farmed quite successfully for many years. I can remember when I was a boy seeing the two old ladies in their large white sunbonnets standing by the gate at Weeping Ash.

Again a strong bond was established between the Yeates and Hardwicks. The Yeates were well known in Clevedon and Yatton for they built up a flourishing furniture removal business, and were later coal merchants. I have not mentioned the two sisters, Elizabeth and Hannah, but the story has it that one or both of them died quite suddenly when aged about twenty.

This leaves my Gran, Phebe, whom I intended to write more about than I have. She married my grandfather, Frank, and after their first few years of marriage, when I think they lived at Dowlais, they moved to Yew Tree Farm where I live, and where the Stuckeys farmed for a hundred years or more. I like to remember my Gran when

as a schoolboy I used to drop in and see her at her retirement home at the top of the lane and get one of her fritters, which she cooked so beautifully. She was, as I heard someone describe her, '*A dear old lady, but so very curious*'.

I almost concluded by failing to mention the last on that long list of brothers and sisters – Louisa, the youngest and the smallest. She became the wife of Charles and mother of Cuthbert Stuckey, both men figuring very prominently in any list of Yatton's public servants.

YATTON 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

			<i>Where Born</i>
William Hardwick	43	Shoemaker	Kingston Seymour
Sarah	"	Shoe binder	Congresbury
Charles	"	Shoemaker	Yatton
John	"	"	"
Thomas	"	Scholar	"
Phoebea Ann	10	"	"
Elizabeth	"	"	"
Martha	"	"	"
John Hardwick	50	Farmer 65 acres	Portishead
Harriet	"		Nailsea
Sarah	"	Employed dairy	Yatton
Jane	"	" "	"
Eliza	"	Employed house	"
Joseph	"	Employed on farm	Wick-s-Lawrence
John	"	" "	"
Mary Ann	"	Scholar	"
Elizabeth	"	"	"
Hannah	"	"	"
Ellen	"	"	"
Phebe	"	"	"
Louisa	"		"

KENN 1851 CENSUS RETURNS

Samuel Hardwick	83	Farm worker	Portbury
Betsy	"		Congresbury
Edward	"		Kenn
Josuah	"		"
Samuel Hardwick	83	Farm worker	Portbury

Ken Stuckey



The History Of Wake & Dean Ltd. (Later 'Avalon')

Part I

NOTE: Individual prices have not been converted, but as a guide; one shilling (1/-) contained 12 pennies (12d), now the 5p coin. There were 20 shillings in £1. Half-a-crown (2/6d) is 12½p.

Beginnings

In the year 1800 Henry Wake, a Londoner, started to make school slates framed with wood in a workshop in Borough Road, near the Elephant and Castle. The slate came from a quarry in Wales owned by the Wake family. He was soon making primitive school desks – by hand naturally – and the business prospered. Twenty years later he was joined by his uncle, John Dean, and the firm of Wake & Dean was born.

In 1850, still in the same premises, they were joined by Charles Frederick Wake, senior. Machinery was being introduced now, for example, circular and frame saws, overhead planing and other machines, for converting logs and planks into furniture components, thus increasing the output capability. A move was made to larger premises nearby, at 110 London Road, with showrooms too, and in the twenty years between 1850 and 1870 many new machines were installed. In 1900 carpenters' rates of pay rose from 10d. to 10½d. an hour.

Wake & Dean were a family firm. Although there were no more Deans, Charles Frederick Wake junior joined in 1892 and his brothers followed – Percy William in 1894, Sidney James in 1896 and Shirley Alfred in 1899, the latter to assist in the office at 5/- per week. The formation of a private company followed in 1898, Wake & Dean Ltd., with a capital of £20,000. C. F. Wake senior held 10,000 ordinary shares and 5,000 preference shares, so control remained with the Wake family. All four brothers were eventually made directors; in addition, Charles became Secretary in 1908, Percy Chairman and Managing Director in 1912, Sidney General Manager in the same year, but Shirley entered the church in 1930 and left the company.

Publishing

The firm was still making school furniture but had also gone into publishing and established a separate department for this. In 1899 it was stated that the 'New History Readers' were to sell at 2/6d. Books of cantatas and songs (e.g. 'A Jolly Birthday Party') followed in 1900 and Mr. Self of Oldham was offered £1 a week for the job of traveller selling "*histories, spellings and recitations*". Maps, prayers, catechisms and books of plays were produced. In 1901 it was decided to send details of the 'Victory History Readers' to 'Organising Masters, Diocesan Inspectors and Bishops'. Titles included 'The Empire and its Heroes' and 'The Kingdom and its Founders'.

Later it is recorded that 6d. to 8d. was to be charged for supplementary readers, and 'The History of Somerset' followed – this was still selling in 1914, and there reference to publications ends.

Move to Yatton

In the closing years of the 19th century a similar business was bought in Bristol. The premises there being too small, Wake & Dean acquired in June 1899 part of the land belonging to 'The Lawns', Yatton, one acre fronting the Clevedon Road, for the building of a furniture factory. Arrangements were made to transfer the manufacture to Yatton. This was done gradually and the London premises were retained for some time. In 1899 "*Mr. Percy Wake to go to Yatton and to be in the joiners' shop walking about and seeing that men are kept at their work*". In July of that year it was decided that C. F. Wake (junior) should be manager at Yatton, and Mr. Chant was to go down after Christmas to engage a working foreman. In September 1900 a new lathe for Yatton cost £12.10. 0. and plans were advanced to transfer staff to Yatton to work on making desks.

At the end of 1900 all the closing mill machinery including the engine and boiler went to Yatton. The top floor of the London building was closed and the remaining timber stock was transferred. Timber was henceforth imported via Avonmouth, £600 worth (40 standards) of pitch pine is mentioned in 1901. There had obviously been complaints that winter of lack of heating at Yatton, and an oil stove was purchased to heat the factory. The next summer Messrs. Woolley prepared a plan to heat the works; their estimate of £300 also included repair of machinery and other work.

The London Office

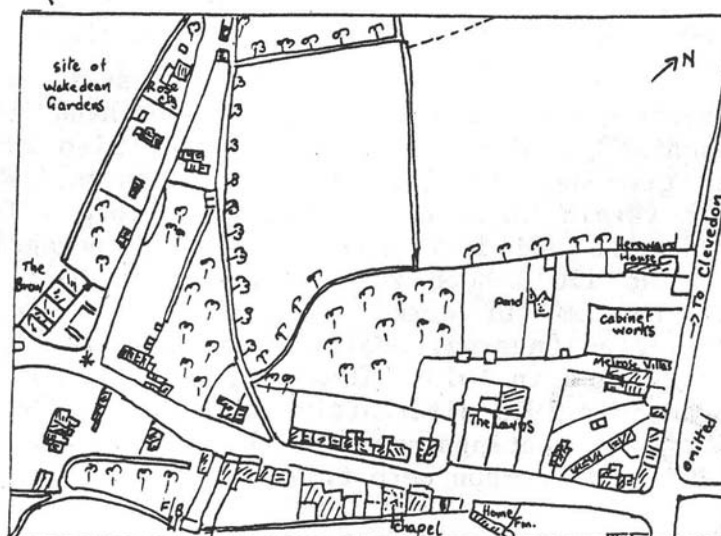
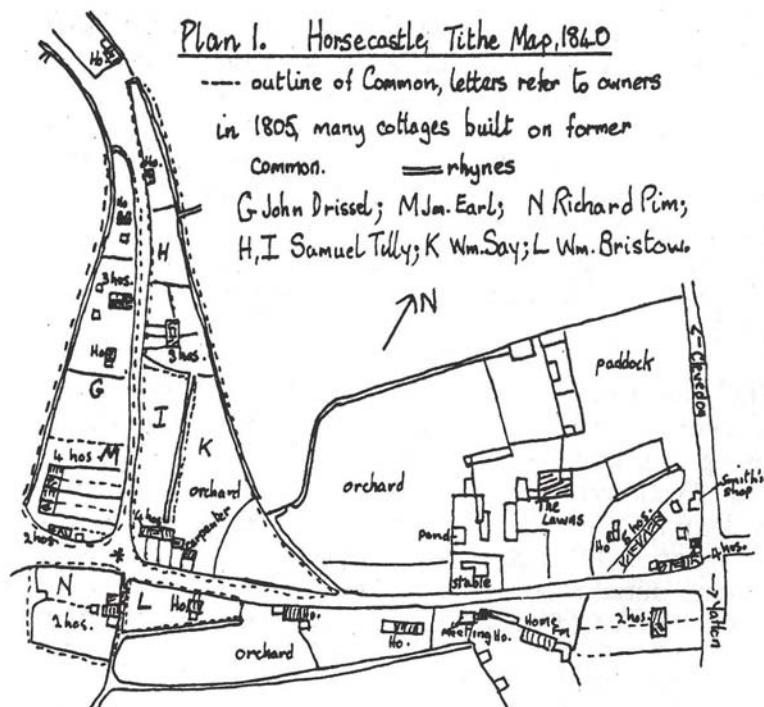
Meantime the London office was still in operation. In 1900 they advertised for a girl to write shorthand "*able to work a typewriting machine*", wages 10/- a week. They also advertised for a girl clerk to give her services free for 6 months. Not surprisingly, they did not retain their office staff for long – later that year two clerks had left and four more were to be engaged. Alterations were made at the 110 London Road premises and part was let. No. 111 housed a showroom for desks and seats. By 1911 the office had moved to Newington Causeway nearby. The last board meeting to be held there took place in 1913. Then they were held at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel and after 1915 alternately there and at 'Steam Works, Yatton'. After 1917 all meetings were at the 'Registered Offices, Yatton', and the links with London were finally severed.

Horsecastle

If Wake & Dean had not chanced to buy a plot of land at Horsecastle, village history would have been very different. They brought their workers with them when the factory moved and other Londoners came down subsequently to join them. Horsecastle in 1900 was in a way separate from the main village and residents spoke of "*going up Yatton*". There is an article in 'Yatton Yesterday' No. 2 on the history of Horsecastle and so it is only briefly summarised here, to give the background to Wake & Dean's new premises.

Originally there were two farms – Home Farm and opposite it that known as 'The Lawns' built in the 18th century on the site of an older farmhouse. Castle Villa was there in 1800. Much of the land was common and Earl Poulett had given permission for various people to build cottages on it from about 1785.

PLAN 1 shows the former common and the area in 1840. John Drissell's cottage remained in the family until demolished in the mid-1980s for the building of the new chapel. The late Mr. Alfred Moore came from London to work at Wake & Dean, married Elsie Drissell and lived there until it was pulled down. PLAN 2 shows the area in 1903.



Plan 2. 1903 Ordnance Survey.

Growth, Pre-1914

Mr. Percy Wake came permanently to Yatton in 1905. He obtained contracts for school furniture from various authorities including Somerset, Hereford, Wiltshire, South Wales and the L.C.C. so that a new joiners' shop had to be built. By 1909 four churches were being furnished, laboratory fittings had been supplied to Bristol Grammar School and the firm was accepted as the furnishing contractor for all Somerset schools for three years. From then until the outbreak of war it was a story of continuous

growth. In 1910 the works had more than they could cope with and the mill was unable to keep pace with the cabinet makers. New spindle and jointing machines were bought and an estimate of £170 obtained for a new timber store and shop. A new cabinet makers' shop followed in 1913. Mr. C. F. Wake bought Nos. 1 and 2 Melrose Villas, late 19th century houses, for £475.

Church furnishing was now taking a fair share of the works. Contracts were obtained from the firm of church architects, Pugin and Pugin. Wedmore church was refurbished, the choir stalls being made in Austrian oak. A fume chamber for fuming oak was built. Other contracts included 250 oak armchairs and £1,000 worth of work at the County Offices at Trowbridge. Samples of desks and furniture were sent to Argentina.

New offices were opened at Yatton built by the firm of Needhams on the eve of the war, and the telephone was installed (no. Yatton 15). It was noted that "*the Trade Unions have been very active in the last 12 months*". Mr. Chant, the foreman, died in this year after 35 years with the firm. Mr. C. F. Wake senior had died in April 1912.

The War Years 1914-18

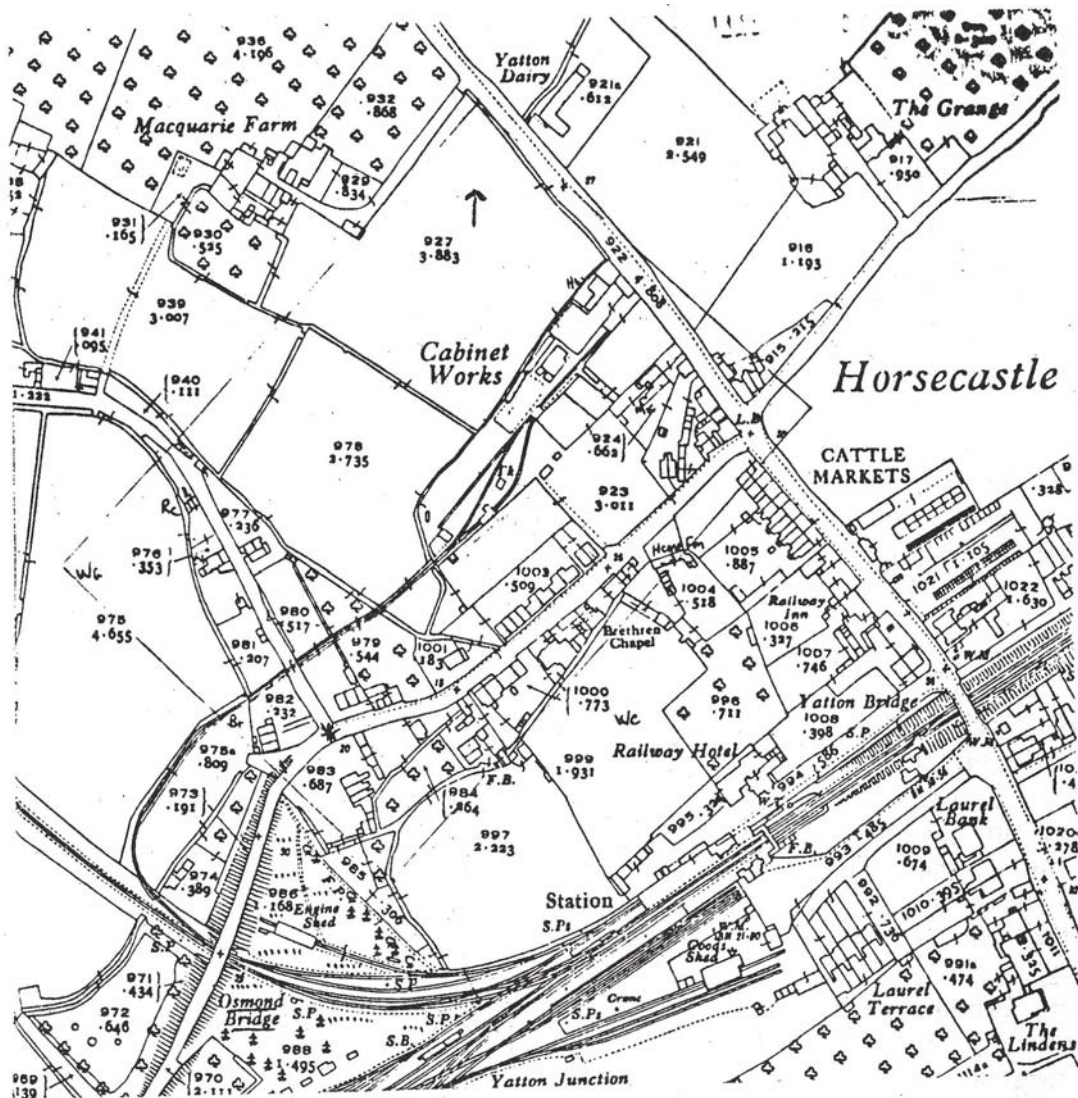
By early 1915 thirty men had joined the Forces and wages had to be increased to retain essential workers. The cabinet works were now lit by incandescent burners. An overdraft of £5,000 was needed to carry on the business. Most of the work was on government contracts including aeroplane parts, which by 1917 were worth £15,000. Women had to be employed; the late Mrs. Lawrence worked in the factory at this time and married her husband, who came from London, in 1918.

New labour-saving machinery was installed to compensate for lack of manpower, for example, a suction gas plant from Tangyes for £1,300, a gas engine and two belt sanders. A contract was placed for a new workshop and timber store and by 1918 there had been substantial extensions to the buildings. In 1915 Hereward House was fitted up with 12 beds for boys taken on from 'training schools' to help replace men called up, but later in the war it became workshops and stores and afterwards furniture showrooms. Later it was turned into flats. This house – the name no doubt culled from one of the company's history books – appears in Kelly's Directory for 1902 as a private residence occupied by C. F. Wake; in 1914 the entry is 'Mrs. Wake'. The 1914 directory also lists Sidney Wake at Nithsdale, High Street (now called 'Step-Aside'). 'The Lawns' with 2 acres was bought for £800 from R. W. Burdge at the end of 1917 and let to a foreman.

The Railway

The Board of Trade intended to run a siding from the Clevedon line into a field at the rear of the works but this did not materialise. Wake & Dean decided to go ahead with the line they had planned to join up with it and bought the following land: $\frac{3}{4}$ acre from Mr. Counsell, £250; 3 perches, Mrs. Chidsey, £25; 6 perches, Mrs. Denmead, £100, and 27 perches, Society of Friends, £33.15. 0. The total length was about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and it was completed by 1919, See PLAN 3.

PLAN 3: 1931 Ordnance Survey



Apprentices

In addition to the wartime recruitment mentioned above, the firm had a thriving apprenticeship scheme which formed the subject of an article in 'Yatton Yesterday' No. 2. Apprentices served for 5 years, conditions being laid down by indenture, the company providing training in return for a payment of £50. Indentured apprenticeship ceased in 1933; thereafter 'trainees' were taken on. Some boys were apprenticed by Boards of Guardians or homes such as Barnardo's and these boys tended to come from further afield, for example, Surrey, Berkshire and South Wales. Nearly all remained with the company on completion of their apprenticeship.

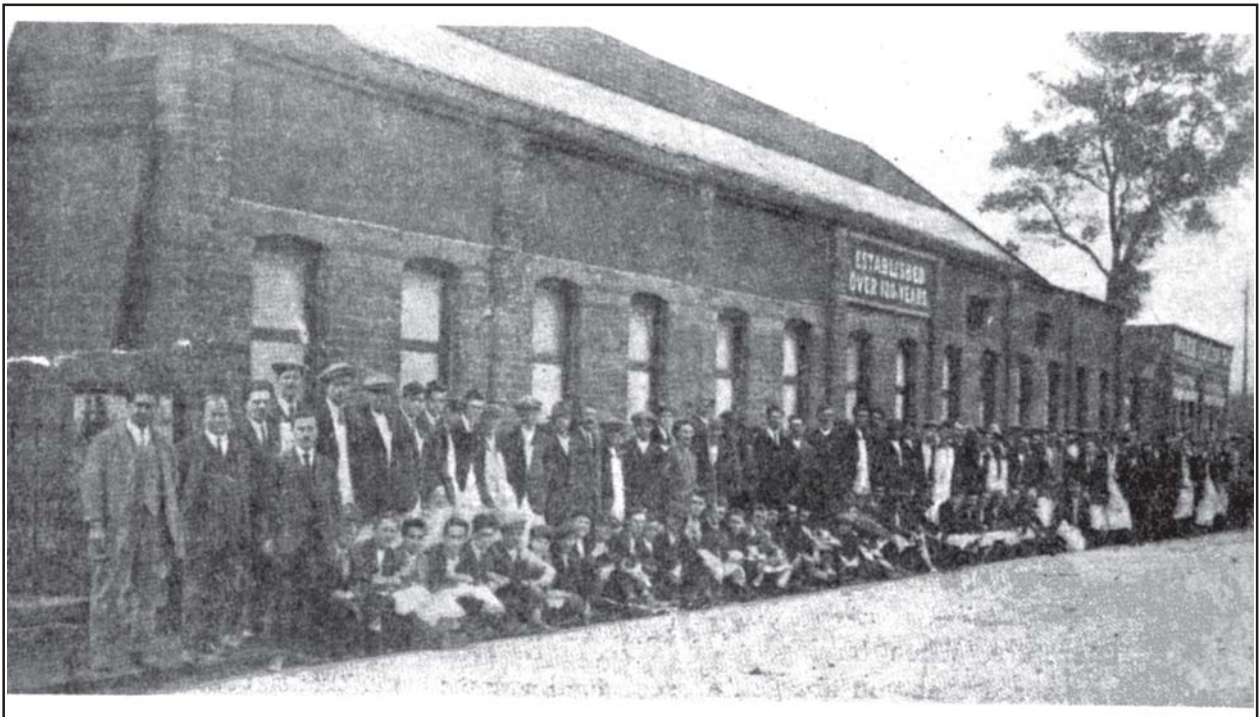
The Interwar Years

At the end of the war in 1918 output was between £3-4,000 a month. Workshops had been enlarged and extended and by 1921 electricity was being used. A union branch was formed. The working week had been reduced from 54 to 47 hours and skilled men were earning a flat rate of 1/6d. an hour.

By 1919 house furniture orders were exceeding those for school and church. The old sawbench, lathes etc. were replaced by new spindle moulding and panel planing and thicknessing machines, and the works were reorganised. In 1922 because of the

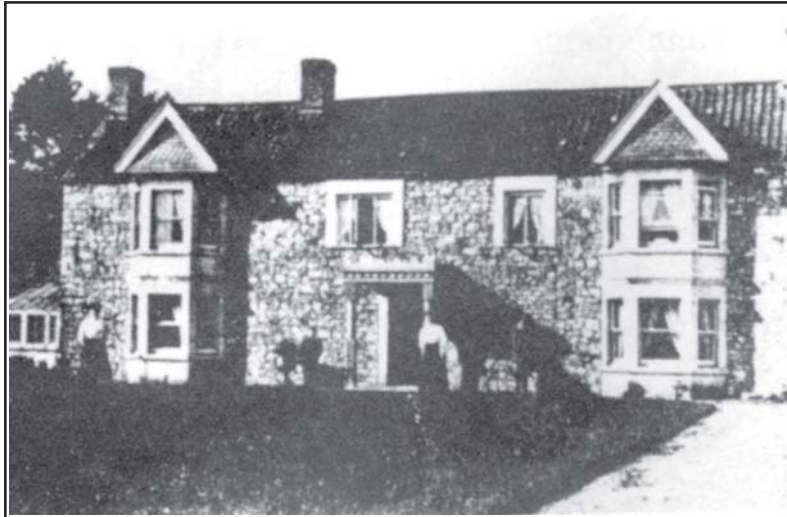
high cost of railway transport motor lorries were bought and part of the buildings at 'The Lawns' was adapted as a garage. Throughout the 1920s expansion continued, with new departments (e.g. upholstery), offices, timber stores and machines.

In 1925 the firm was converted from a private company to a Public Limited Company with a capital of £130,000, increasing to £300,000 in 1936. Turnover doubled between 1919 and 1928 and again during the next six years. School, hospital and office furniture continued to play an important part but the domestic side was growing, with the 'Victory' and 'Pedigree' brands. In the catalogues produced for the firm's customers a large upholstered armchair was priced at £5 and a settee at £8. Wooden armchairs from £2.2.6., chests of drawers from £5.10. 0., sideboards from £7.10. 0. and 4'6" beds at about £4, all of solid oak, appear too in the catalogues. Ordinary bentwood chairs from 10/- and oak gate-leg tables at about £4 are also listed. The picture shows the staff outside the main entrance to the factory in 1928.

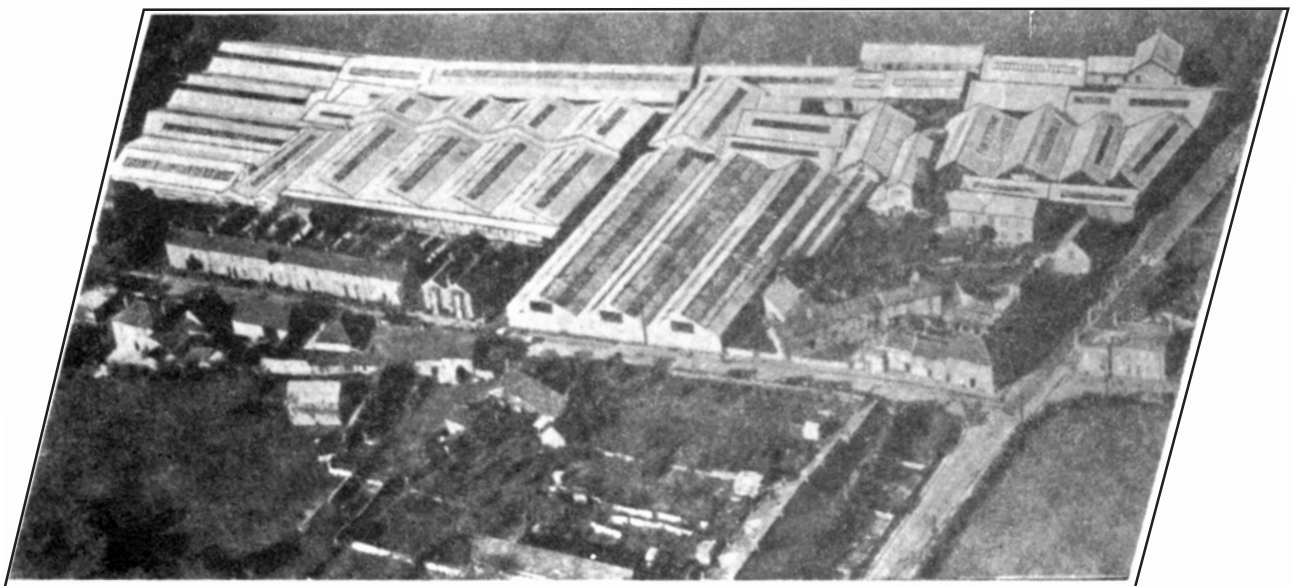


From 1930 the company took a stand at the Furniture Exhibition at Olympia, and more representatives were appointed. At this time it was stated that new methods had brought in semi-mass production and continual extensions were needed to house the new machinery. An attempt to purchase property at the corner of Horsecastle and the main road failed – Crossways House and neighbouring buildings still remain. Mr. L. Pearce, grocer, was at the corner shop and next was Mr. S. Warburton, radio and cycle dealer. In 1930 'The Lawns' was demolished and a modern factory erected on the site. In 1935 ten cottages and land were bought for extensions, belonging to Mr. Denmead, Mrs. Knowles and Mrs. Burton, total cost about £2,500. A couple of years later Melrose Villas were demolished. Castle Villa and shop were purchased from Mr. R. Mountstevens and used as accommodation.

Picture (1) shows 'The Lawns' in Mr. R. W. Burdge's time.



Picture (2) shows the sheds with the three long parallel roofs in the centre, which were built in the early 1930s on the site of 'The Lawns'. Hereward House is top right; Home Farm centre near bottom. Both these buildings are still standing.



Drainage

In 1919 the Yatton Jury of Sewers minutes record that Wake and Dean were to be asked to stop their nuisance from flowing into the Commission Rhyne, and the matter was to be reported to the Commissioners for them to deal with. A pencilled note in the margin says 'to Court' so presumably they were prosecuted. Not until 1934 was the factory connected to the council sewage. The company employed Woolley Bros. to bore for their own water supply, which was successful. The factory also ran their power plant on refuse such as sawdust and chippings.

Accommodation for Employees

There was a shortage of accommodation for the expanding labour force needed to keep pace with increased orders. In 1936 Messrs. Garland and Cook of Clevedon erected four flats for rent (now opposite the entrance to Wakedean Gardens) for £934.10. 0. One acre of land was bought in Biddle Street (Chescombe Road) on which in 1937 six houses were built, Nos. 34-44, but these were to be sold.

In March 1939 a tender from J. Mosseley for £21,162 was accepted for building 69 houses for letting, to be called Wakedean Gardens. At that time the central space was not filled in with housing. By that October 34 houses were completed and let, and all were finished by April 1940, some being taken over by the Army. Rents were about 12/ 6d. a week.

Conclusion

On the eve of the last war, the company had 18 lorries delivering furniture; rail was used too and furniture went to Ireland by sea. At this time paid holidays were introduced – all Bank Holidays and August Bank Holiday week, for all employees. Wages and prices showed little increase in the twenty years 1919 - 1939. In 1937/8 a dividend of 10% was paid on ordinary shares.

New offices and the new canteen were occupied in the August, when plans were being made for the war now seen as inevitable.

Part II of the story of Wake & Dean, later 'Avalon', will, we hope, appear in next year's 'Yatton Yesterday'.

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catalogues and records.

Kelly's Directories of Somerset

Verbal information from older residents

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This article was the idea of Mr. G. T. ('Clem') Clements, and is the result of cooperation between him and the Society.



Imperfect Recollections

An octogenarian's boyhood memories of some of the people and buildings in Yatton's High Street.

Looking over the stone wall at the bottom of our yard I could see the horse-drawn brakes in the forecourt of the Prince of Orange. Most of them carried beery men, but some of them in a bountiful season brought parties from Bristol for a strawberry-and-cream tea in the country.

The pub was kept by Joel Knight, who also ran a livery and bait service; he owned a Victoria and an ordinary 'fly'. He had a plump wife and four plump children – Dora, George, May and Olive. May married Owen Light of Congresbury; Olive married Stan Stuckey, the butcher, a regular customer of the Prince. Stan was cheerful, red-faced and extrovert, and a thoroughly nice man. Olive died in early middle age; Stan made old bones, if that is the right phrase for describing an aged butcher.

The 'Prince' had other regular customers who were 'characters'. For instance, the two brothers W..... Once, the elder brother had occasion to visit the earth-closet in the back premises. After a while, there was a commotion and cries of agony. When his trousers were down, a hen had come in quietly and nested in them. When he rose, he frantically tried to raise and rebutton his trousers, with the hen still inside.

Separated from the pub by the Knights' garden were the outbuildings, house and grocer's shop of the Bailey family – Mr., Mrs., Gladys, Reg, Eileen, Cecil and Margery. The buildings were old, possibly of more than one period. These, I believe, have been wholly or mainly rebuilt. The shop occupied the ground floor of much of the main building. It had a narrow front but went back a long way. On the left as one entered, there was a long counter; behind it stood four Baileys, each crying 'good-morning' in turn. They were a Roman Catholic family. Mr. Bailey was austere, but could smile on occasions. Once I was next to him at a funeral service in the parish church. He glanced around, and then whispered to me "*You know, Charles, they stole this from Us*". I was old enough to realise that this was a statement which, perhaps, might not go unchallenged. Mrs. Bailey and the rest of the family were cheerful, warm-hearted and forthcoming. Of course, the Baileys were business rivals of the Tutts opposite, but both were friendly and obliging rivals. If one shop ran out of a commodity, someone would be despatched across the High Street to find if the other could oblige.

Next to the main shop was a window to a sitting room. This was turned into a small shop, and a door of its own was added. Here, Gladys, the eldest daughter, sold sweets, assisted by Margery. You could get the best quality boiled sweets for two ounces a penny and lovely jellied and sugared orange and lemon slices, a penny a quarter.

Next to the sweet shop was a cartway to the extensive back premises, including a loft where occasionally the Bailey lads and girls would give a more-or-less

impromptu variety show. Reg was a marvellous comic and a good ventriloquist. Incidentally, he and his brother, Cecil, looked after the delivery service and Cecil turned into a good footballer and a very fair cricketer, too.

W. A. Tutt's double-fronted grocery and drapery shop stood immediately opposite Baileys. To the south, and part of the same structure, was the grocery store room. Attached to the north side, and standing back behind its front garden, was the Tutts' home.

Mr. Tutt, good-natured and rotund, ran the grocery side. He was very deaf; hanging round his neck from a black cord was his circular hearing aid. When you went to talk to him he would pick up the hearing aid and, with a rapid movement, hold it within a few inches of your lips. I always found this somewhat disconcerting. The grocery counter was on the right as one entered. In those days sugar arrived in bulk and was weighed out into blue paper bags in one-pound and two-pound lots. If a small amount (usually caster sugar) was required, a grocery assistant would take a piece of stiff blue paper, twist it into a cone, insert the sugar and fold in the open end of the cone. One of the assistants, Mr. Stinchcombe, a fat little wag, would balance one of these (empty) cones on his nose or his chin. Sadly, I couldn't do it, although I tried very hard.

Mrs. Tutt, also rotund and very kind, ran the drapery side, helped by two assistants. It was a very civilised drapery side. At the time I was particularly taken by the brass measure let into the mahogany counter. There were also black bentwood chairs for the customers and the place always seemed to be well-stocked. They don't make shops like that nowadays!

Separated from the Tutts by the old British School building and a garden wall was the shop and house of the Collings family. I can just remember old Mr. Collings. Later, Bill Collings, one of his sons, and his wife kept the shop. She was one of the daughters of Mr. Rolls, who owned the shoe shop opposite The Avenue. At that time the grocery side was staffed by Mr. Whitting who lived next to the United Methodist Church, Wilfred Cleverdon, second son of John Cleverdon of Claverham, and 'Donkey' Derham. I believe Donkey's father or grandfather once owned the shop. He seemed old to me – short, greying beard, disconcerting squint and pebbly glasses. He was a dedicated Liberal; his house was the local Liberal headquarters at election times. At one election, I believe it was one of those fiercely fought over the Parliament Bill 1910-11, some of the Tory lads came stealthily at night and colour-washed the whole house blue.

The grocery side closed down some time after World War I, but Bill kept on the drapery and men's outfitting side. This I believe dwindled and then ended. The family lived in the back wing of the house, but later Bill Collings built a new house in the garden, or, to be accurate, converted a stone outbuilding.

Further down the High Street was the British School alias Yatton Un-denominational School, now the village Infant School, much enlarged.

It was virtually descended from a school founded by Richard Durban, the Quaker, in the early 18th century. It moved to its present site just before I went to school there (about 1912). A large Victorian building, it had two large classrooms,

a cloakroom, the Headmistress' room and a room reserved by the Quakers for meetings. The lavs were outside. The Headmistress, Miss Brentnall, was nice, kind and firm. She took the upper school in the big room; Maud Radbourne took the lower standards, also in the big room. Mrs. Davies ruled over the infants in the other room. There was a Quaker burial ground adjoining the playground. When Mrs. Peckett was buried there the grave was lined with ivy.

About two hundred yards beyond the British School was Court House Farm, pulled down, alas, some years ago to make room for a shopping precinct – a sin against Yatton's heritage. Probably, as its name indicates, it was one of the few really ancient houses in the parish, and one of the few which were thatched.

It was the place of my second oldest memory. Uncle Wilfrid and Aunt Kate Kerton lived there; she was my mother's eldest sister. She died when I was two years and four months old. I was taken into her bedroom and lifted up on the bed so that she could kiss me goodbye. No doubt about it – this was a genuine memory and not something I had been told later. I can remember the relative positions of the door, the bed and the window. Her hair was let down in ringlets, her face was grey and her nightgown was pale yellow and ruched down the front.

Uncle Wilf lived on there for, perhaps, another 40 years. A housekeeper, Miss Coates, brought up young Jack, the cause of his mother's death. Then Miss Coates died and Uncle Wilf married a second time. The house and farm were later occupied by Ernest, the youngest of old Farmer William Burdge's vast brood. He, too, lived to a great age.

A. C. Edwards



From the Parish Council Minutes

In 1905 and again in 1906 the Yatton National School won the Somerset Challenge Shield of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Trees. In 1905 there was a Bird and Tree Festival to celebrate this and in 1906 to celebrate, trees were planted on the right hand side of the approach road to the Parish Church. Presumably the tree near the bier-house is a survivor of those planted.

In August 1904 a petition was received from 114 ratepayers living in Claverham and Cleeve asking for a railway station at Claverham. It was sent to the Great Western Railway. After several reminders they replied in November 1906 that they could not provide a station at Claverham. No doubt if it had been built, several fields would have been sold for house-building and the area would have developed in quite a different way.

H. J. Vincent

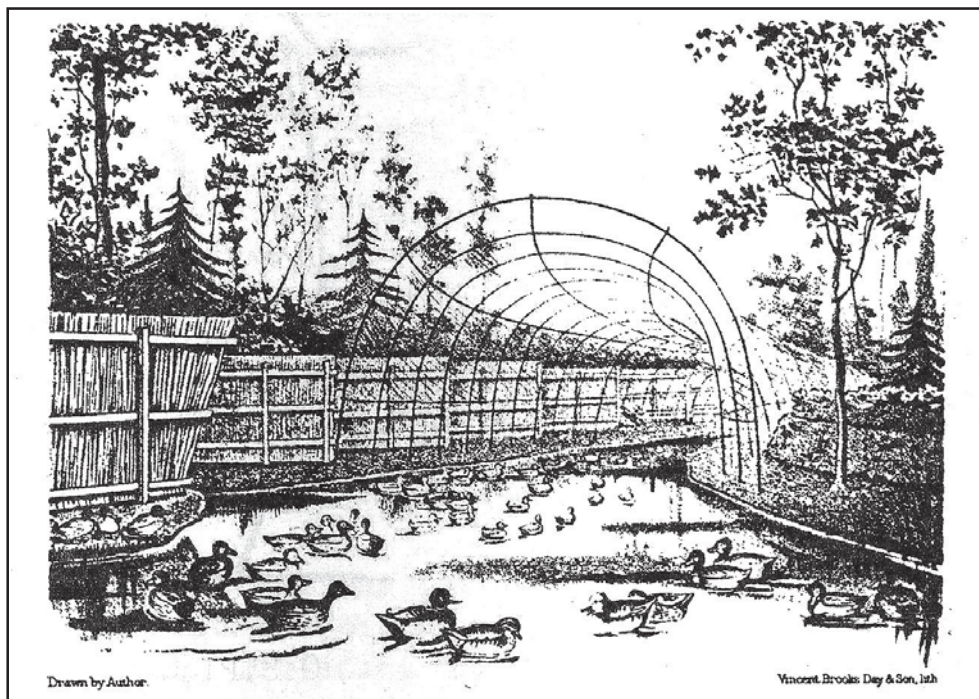


Decoy Pools at Kenn Moor & Claverham Common

Duck decoy pools were common in Somerset throughout the 18th century. A decoy consisted of a pool with channels called pipes going out from the corners. The decoy ducks remained on the pool because they were fed – for Nyland pool, records show that hemp seed was grown and fed to the ducks. Wild ducks flying over and seeing the decoy ducks would come down and land on the pool. The pool was surrounded by trees and the pipes were covered with netting. Small dogs ran along outside screens placed beside the pipes, arranged in such a way that first the dogs would be in sight of the ducks and then out of sight. The ducks would swim towards the dogs to keep them in view, and so they were lured down to the end of the pipes and caught (*see illustration*).

The decoy at Meare was said to be ancient, so perhaps it is significant that Robert Willcox of 'Mare', yeoman, was a lessee of the Kenn Moor pool, together with James Cox of Nailsey, yeoman. On 31/12/1751 they received a lease from Earl Poulett of a *'dwelling house, pool or pond and a plot of ground, the same as now fenced in and enclosed, called Kenn Decoy Pool in the Parish of Yatton for 21 years, to commence 30 January next'*.

The yearly rent was £30 plus *'50 couples of Great and Small Wildfowl (to witt) 25 couples of ducks and drakes and 25 couples of widgeon and teale at the seasonable times of the year'*. The lessees were to keep in repair the house and pool and at the end of the tenure to yield up complete with pipes, nets, reed hedges and fences, with as many tame fowl as had been there at the commencement of the term. (It was 200 couples of ducks and drakes valued at 2/- a couple). In addition they were to supply Poulett with as many ducks and drakes as he required for 18 pence (1/6d or 7½p) a couple, widgeon and teale at 1/- (5p). They were to take them to a carrier in Bristol, for doing which they were to receive 1/6d. a basket.

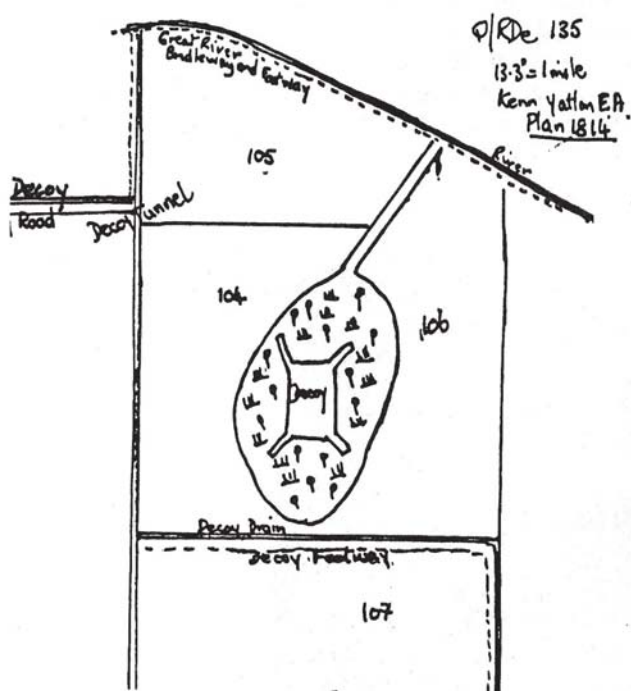


ENTRANCE TO A DECOY PIPE, WITH DOG AT WORK AND WILD FOWL FOLLOWING HIM UP THE PIPE.

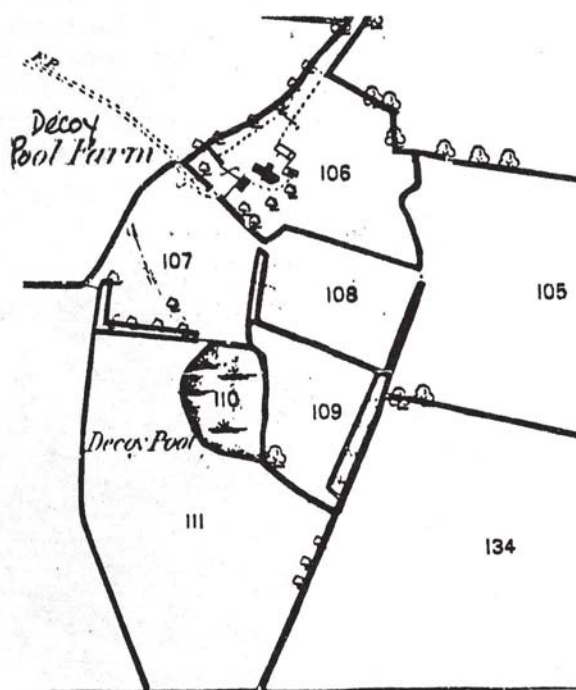
Poulett agreed to use £50 out of the first two years' rent towards throwing and cleansing the pool, making a new pipe and repairing nets and other work, the lessees to pay any amount over £50. Poulett also agreed to repair *'the passage boat or cause a passage or bridge to be made to the said pool and to provide one boat during the said term for breaking the ice on the said pool'*.

At this time, apart from the decoy area, Kenn Moor was unenclosed and undrained common land liable to be inundated in winter. The Act for the enclosure of Kenn Moor (1810) says that the pool will be *'considerably injured if not wholly destroyed by the Inclosure of the said moor'*; therefore the Commissioners were to allot to Poulett such part of Kenn Moor as will be *'a fair and just Recompence, Satisfaction and Remuneration for the Injury, Loss and Damage'* incurred. No house is shown on the enclosure plan.

Kenn tithe map, 1839, (the area then being in Kenn) and the 1885 O.S. plan both clearly show 'Decoy Pool Farm' which may have been built on the site of the original house referred to in Earl Poulett's lease. The farm came after the enclosure of the moor. The farmhouse appears to be roofless on the 1903 25" plan. The farm buildings were reported by Rev. Blathwayt in 1935 as 'dilapidated'. Today the site of the farm is obvious though the stones have been removed for re-use. There is a slight rise in the ground in this area and back up the causeway to Nailsea Wall –possibly an old river bank?

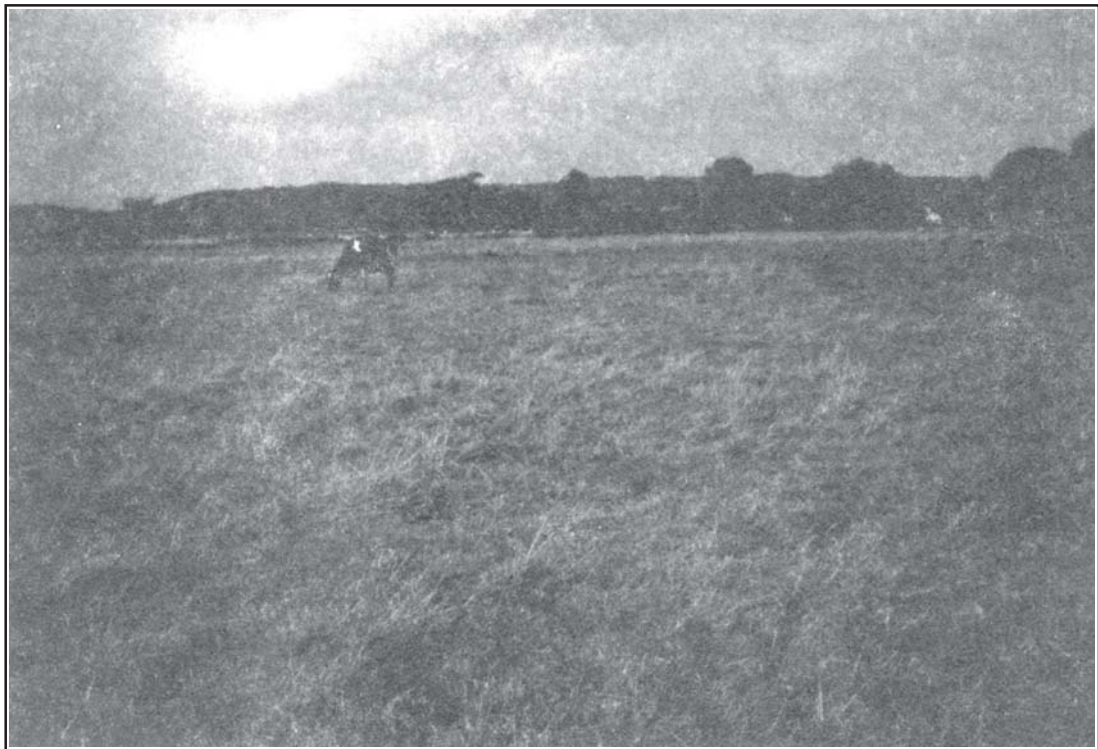


*Plan of 1814 from
Kenn/Yatton Enclosure Act.*



*O.S. Plan of 1885
the same area.*

The cow in the photograph is standing where the pool was – a faint outline of the banks can be seen, and the area is wet and marshy underfoot. Decoy Pool Farm was in the trees at the back.



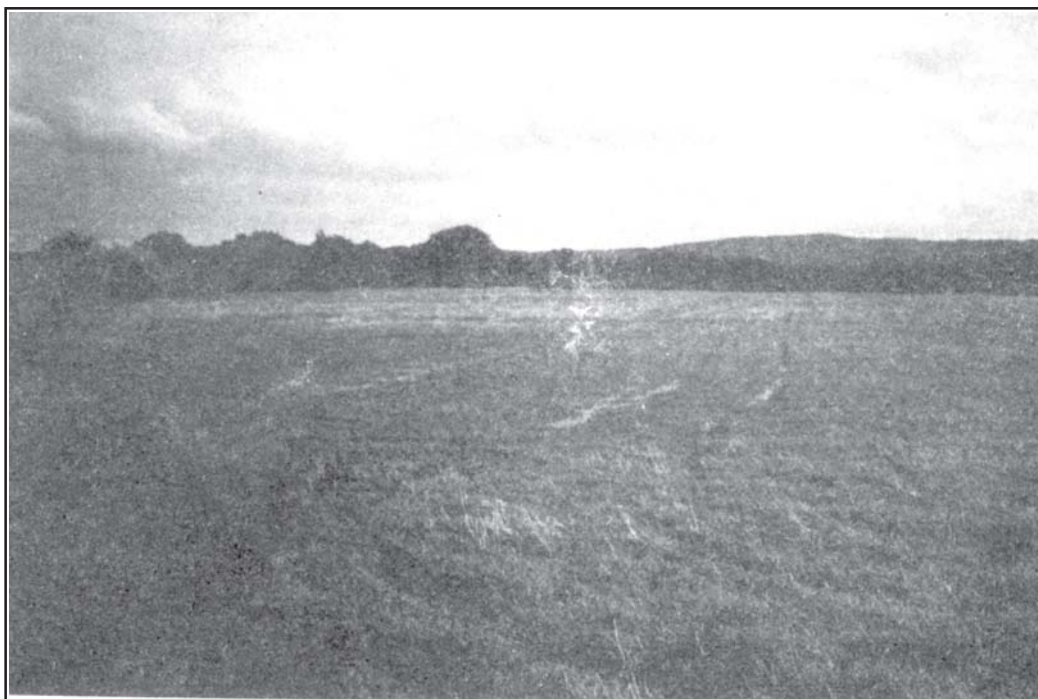
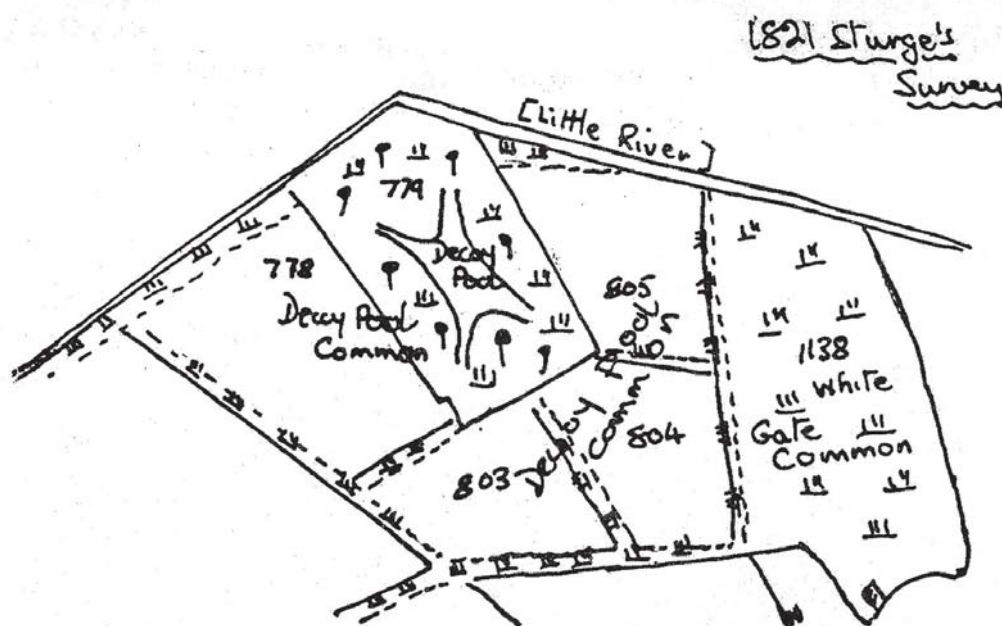
The other decoy pool in the parish was on the former Claverham Common in an area bounded on the north by the Little River. This pool was not constructed until after the common was enclosed in 1750, as it does not appear on the enclosure plan. The area concerned is the 32 acres allotted in 1750 to Samuel Willmott, the tenant of Claverham Court, by the Enclosure Commissioners. A deed of 29.9.1801 between:-

- (1) George Penrose Seymour (who by then owned Claverham Court) and
- (2) Amelia Cam and Samuel Baker,

refers to 32 acres heretofore enclosed and allotted to Samuel Willmott grandfather of the Samuel from whom G. P. Seymour purchased it. *'The said ground is now used as a decoy pool and in possession of Thomas Nicholls as tenant to George Penrose Seymour'*.

The pool is shown on Sturge's 1821 survey and was let to Bishop Gregory of Claverham Court which was still owned by Seymour. No pool is shown on the 1841 tithe map but the five fields there all have the words 'decoy pool' in their names. These fields today form part of the Court's estate. (See plan and photograph).

The decline in decoys was partly due to the draining of the levels and partly to the growth of large shooting parties. Ducks could be killed in this way, providing sport as well as food, and also the noise of the shooting would have caused the decoy ducks to fly away.



The site of Claverham pool today, looking S. E. from the bank of the Little River. There is a wet area and several banks but it is not as obvious as the Kenn Moor pool.

Outside Yatton, the outlines of the Nyland pool may clearly be seen from Nyland Hill. Permission must be sought to climb it, and it is stressed that both the Kenn and Claverham sites are on private land to which there is no public access.

The National Trust owns one of the three working decoys in England called Boarstall Duck Decoy and situated near Aylesbury, Bucks. It is open to visitors; for details of times see the Trust handbook. Ducks caught there are used for ringing to study migration patterns.

Sources

Somerset Record Office: DD/MR 41 (lease); Kenn Tithe Award 1839; Q/RDe 135 Yatton/Kenn E.A.1810; Q/RDe 3 Yatton E.A.1750; D/P/Yat 13/1/3 Sturge's Survey of Yatton 1821.

S.A.N.H.S. Library, Taunton: unpublished papers of the late Harry Savory including copy of picture from Book of Duck Decoys by R.W.F. Payne-Gallwey 1886.

Proceedings of S.A.N.H.S. Vol.128, 1984, Gazeteer of Duck Decoys in Somerset by R. McDonnell,

Somerset & Dorset Notes & Queries Sept. 1988 - Dr. J.H. Bettey

Deeds of Cadbury Farm, Yatton, lent by Mr. M. Britten (Claverham deed).

Details of Nyland pool – Mr. Vince Russett of Cheddar.

We should like to thank the landowners for permission to visit the sites: Mr. J. Baker, Mr. J. Naish and Mr. & Mrs. Atwell.

Marian Barraclough



From the Parish Council Minutes

The Village Pound was at the south end of the High Street nearly opposite Claverham Road. In 1908 there were proposals to sell the land. However in 1909 a letter was received from solicitors acting for H. T. Castle claiming ownership as Lord of the Manor of Yatton. There is no further mention of him but again in 1913 there was a proposal to sell. Nothing was done and eventually in 1919 the area was added to land purchased from R. C. Counsell to form the War Memorial Gardens.



In October 1931 a letter was written to the Bristol Tramways and Carriage Co. who operated the local bus service asking that the fare from the railway station to the Scaur should be reduced to one penny. In January 1932 another letter was written thanking the company for making the reduction.



In February 1916 it was decided that Warning of Air Raids should be given by 3 blasts on the Fire Brigade hooter. However, this decision was rescinded as it was thought that the crews of zeppelins could hear the hooter and realise they were over a village. Leaflets about air raid precautions were delivered by the local Boy Scouts.

H. J. Vincent



Yatton Market

Yatton Market had been in existence since the last century. At first it was a free market, where once farmers had paid a headage toll to the market committee. They were free to take their animals in and pen them and then sell them themselves to the cattle dealers who attended from Bristol and the surrounding area. Later Yatton auctioneer, Mr. William Shiner, who lived at 'The Eagles' in the High Street, took over the market and started selling the animals by auction. He was noted for having a tremendously loud voice and could be heard doing this selling right down into North End. Later a Bristol firm, George Nicholls, Young, Hunt & Co., took over. Just before the first World War, a Clevedon firm of auctioneers, Alonzo Dawes & Son, built another market on the side of the original one, so there were two markets running side by side for many years, until they joined forces and became Yatton Market Auctioneers.

I have been told that during the first World War Mr. Teddy Dawes, the auctioneer, was called into the army leaving no-one to do the selling. Mrs. Dawes, his wife, applied for an auctioneer's licence which was granted. She became the first woman auctioneer in the country (perhaps in the world) and continued to conduct the selling until her husband returned at the end of the war. All through that time the Dawes family ran another market at Congresbury where the animals were penned in the street before being auctioned.

In the days before motor transport all the animals were driven to market on foot from the surrounding area. My father and his sisters were brought up at North End Farm; they have told me that on market days there were so many cattle on the roads that they had to be taken to school at Yatton by pony and cart for fear of being knocked down by cattle. I myself can remember up to 250 cattle being handled at Yatton on one day, and have seen cattle driven in from as far away as Walton-in-Gordano and Wick. St. Lawrence.

Besides all the cattle, sheep and pigs that were sold there was also a large produce market where eggs, butter, cheese, live and dressed poultry, apples, greengrocery, farming tools, surplus furniture and large numbers of rabbits were on offer to crowds of buyers.

The Christmas Fatstock Show was the highlight of the year. The market was full of the best animals that could be produced in the area and they were shown in many different classes. The prize-winners realised high prices from large numbers of butchers who came from Bristol and Clevedon and surrounding areas. The champion beast in the show was in great demand because it was a marvellous advertisement for a butcher to have the championship rosette displayed in his window. I have been told that the largest bullock ever to win the championship was exhibited around the year 1910 by Mr. Charles Stuckey of Macquarie Farm, Yatton. It weighed about 1 ton and was sold to Mr. William Pearce of W. H. Pearce & Sons of Cleeve. The late Mr. George Pearce, who was the grandson of William, told me that when the bullock was slaughtered the carcass was so heavy that it had only cost about 5d. per pound (about 2p today).

My great-grandfather, William Naish, who lived at Brick House Farm, won the following year with a shorthorn bullock that weighed 17 hundredweight. William at that time was about 90 years old. In modern times, Fred Burdge, Ralph Bye and Tim Harris, all of whom live locally, have been successful in producing the Champion of the Show.

On Fatstock Show day the market was packed with hundreds of people – all the farmworkers in the district took part of the day off to attend the show and have a few drinks with their friends. On the following Monday the Christmas Poultry Show was held. This attracted more people than ever, and the market was packed with hundreds of live and dressed poultry of all descriptions, a tremendous amount of holly, mistletoe, Christmas trees and all kinds of Christmas fare.

Many characters could be seen every market day. One man who was known by everyone was the late Stanley Willicombe who worked for the Dawes family of auctioneers practically all his life, and had built most of the pens and sheds himself. I can always remember him holding the fowls and ducks high above his head while the auctioneer was selling them so that everyone could have a good look at what they were bidding for.

Most of the drovers who handled the cattle and sheep, driving them into the selling rings and re-penning them, came from Bristol. They got their living by going from market to market most days of the week. One man was called Mr. Emmy; he was a very big, tough man with a big square chin who seemed to talk in grunts. He always stuck the identification numbers on the calves and pushed them in and out of the ring as they were sold, and he liked to draw a threepenny tip from as many farmers as he could. He would load the carts for butchers after the sale for 6d. (2½p) a time.

Another man who was always there was a very small chap called Bobby Tooze who always seemed to be rushing about wearing a coat that almost touched the ground. Another was George Harding, who came from a family of professional drovers. During the last years of the market that well-known and greatly respected Yatton man, the late Bill Howell, was in charge of handling the stock and cleaning up the market.

Amongst the buyers, probably the best known was the late Jimmy Burdge from Langford who had attended the market all his life until his death at the age of 86. He was what was known as a commission buyer, who bought the animals not for himself but for other dealers and butchers around the district. Another buyer who comes to mind was Elijah Hicks from Bath; he was a very big, stern man who was always falling out with the rest of the buyers. When they fell out they generally pushed the prices up so that none of them could earn much money from what they had bought. This, of course, helped the farmers who had stock there to sell.

From the outbreak of the last war in 1939 until the end of food rationing in 1954 all animals for meat were purchased by the Ministry of Food, who had them slaughtered and distributed to butchers all over the country. It was illegal for anyone else to do this. The system then was that farmers took their animals to market, where two men examined them – one represented the farmers and the other the Ministry of Food. They came to an agreement as to how much should be paid per hundredweight for cattle and per pound for sheep, and the payments then came from the Ministry of Food. During this period Yatton was a very big centre. Some weeks they handled

250 cattle or more, and hundreds of sheep. Most of these animals were put on the railway at Yatton station and sent to slaughterhouses all over the country. It doesn't seem possible now that during the war the meat ration per person went down to 10d. per week (less than 5p in today's money).

I have been attending Yatton market since the early 1930s, with my father and grandfather in those days. I was lucky enough to be one of the 8 or 10 people who were present at the very last market before it was unexpectedly closed.

On one occasion, when it was fast running down, no cattle arrived for sale. The auctioneers asked me if I could help. I told them I had a steer at home I could fetch if they would wait. The late Frank Knowles from Claverham and I set off in his cattle lorry to Kenn, picked up the steer and took it to the market where they put it up for sale by auction. The buyer was Robert Edwards of Arthur Edwards & Sons, butchers, of Upton House, Yatton. If I remember correctly the price realised was £17 per hundredweight which was the going price at that time. Frank then took it to Clevedon slaughter-house for its new owner.

Unfortunately Yatton Market was closed about ten years ago, partly due to lack of support from local farmers and also because the land on which it stood became very valuable for industrial development.

Ray Naish

Footnote: We were so impressed by Mr. Naish's article in 'Moor News' on Yatton Market that we asked if he would be willing for us to include it in 'Yatton Yesterday' No. 6, so that it would become part of Yatton's historical records. He readily agreed and amended his article to suit our format. Our grateful thanks to him.

A. F. Coe



From the Parish Council Minutes

During both wars elections for Parish Councils were postponed by the government. 1916 should have been an election year, but no election was held until 1919. During the second war elections should have been held in 1940. They were eventually held in 1946, when the number of councillors was increased from 11 to 15.



The Canal Which Might Have Been

In the latter part of the 18th century and early 19th century many canals were constructed in England. There were several projects for canals from the Bristol Channel to the English Channel intended for ships to avoid the dangerous passage around the coasts of Devon and Cornwall. One of these would have put Yatton on the canal map. In 1769 a route was surveyed from the River Exe at Exeter to the River Tone near Taunton with a connecting canal to Uphill. Nothing came of this but in 1796 the Great Western Canal was authorised from Topsham to Taunton with a branch to Tiverton. Only part was built and is still in use for pleasure craft.

Another route was surveyed in 1793 from Axmouth to Bridgwater and then through Congresbury to the collieries at Nailsea with a branch from Nailsea through Yatton to Uphill. Some of this route was authorised in 1825 as the English and Bristol Channels Ships Canal from Beer in Devon to Stolford near Hinkley Point. This was not built but part of the route was used for the Chard Canal opened in 1842, now long since abandoned.

A third plan was for a Bristol & Western Canal from Morgans Pill on the River Avon (near the present M5 bridge) to Taunton to connect with the other planned canals. After several re-surveys it was intended to have a 600-yard tunnel at Clevedon and one of 1,050 yards at Banwell with aqueducts over the Rivers Axe, Brue and Parrett. This plan had an Act of Parliament in 1811 as the Bristol & Taunton Canal but without proposed branches to Cheddar or to Nailsea Collieries. Some construction was begun but by an Act of 1824 it was shortened to a Bridgwater and Taunton Canal and as such was opened in 1827 and 1841. It is still in use.

This Bristol & Taunton Canal, authorised in 1811, would have passed through the parish of Yatton, but its exact course is uncertain. In 'The Book of Nailsea' and an article in a publication of the Nailsea Local History Society it is said that some land in Nailsea was purchased and that the route of the Nailsea branch would have been along Nailsea Wall (the boundary with Yatton) and then to the north of Kingshill and thence to the glassworks and the collieries.

Plans for building canals came to a halt when the railway age began. Bristol was connected to Exeter in 1844 and various branches soon began to be planned and authorised. Those canals already opened led a precarious existence for a few years and were then abandoned or kept only for drainage. Several other canals were built or partly built in Somerset including a lengthy one from Bradford-on-Avon to Poole Harbour for which a famous canal lift (the remains of which can still be seen) was actually built near Mells.

References:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| The Canals of S.W. England | – | Charles Hadfield (David & Charles) |
| Aspects of Somerset History | – | T. J. Hunt & R. R. Sellman (Som.C.C.) |
| The Book of Nailsea | – | M. Thomas (Barracuda) |
| The Canal that Never Was | – | J. M. Pullan in 'Round & About' ¹
(Nailsea Local History Society) |

H. J. Vincent



Part IV – Huish in the Eighteen Fifties

This study of Huish (Hewish) in the eighteen fifties is the last covering the four districts within the ancient Parish of Yatton.

The main primary source is again the 1851 census (taken by Benj Haynes on the 5th April 1851) which indicates that Huish comprised two settlements, Huish East and Huish West. Huish remained in the ecclesiastical Parish of Yatton until 1865 after the consecration of the newly constructed church of Saint Anne in 1864. Huish was lost to the civil Parish of Yatton after the second world war when it was taken into the Parish of Puxton.

The Hamlets

The census shows a total of 12 dwellings, 5 being at Huish East, housing 20 persons (Fig. No. 1), Huish West having 7 dwellings, housing 41 persons (Fig. No. 2).

Only one farm was recorded at each of the hamlets, East Huish farm of 135 acres and West Huish farm of 205 acres, including a dairy. The farm houses were the major households in Huish, the latter having the only house servant recorded in the census as shown below.

There was no evidence at all of any shops or beer houses.

East Huish Farm

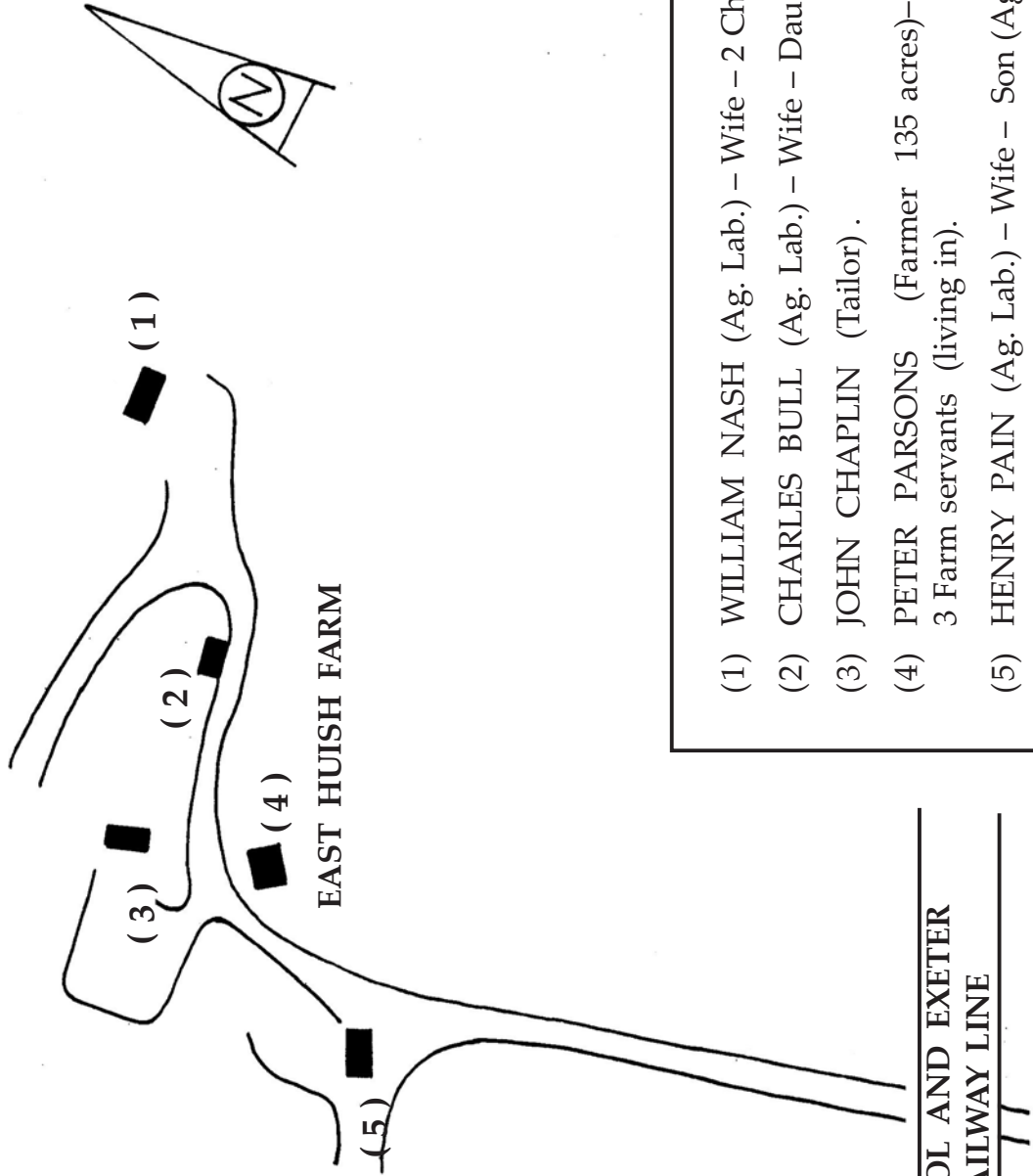
Peter Parsons	45	Husband	Farmer 135 acres
Eliza	39	Wife	
Ellen	14	Daughter	
Peter	11	Son	Scholar
Elizabeth	8	Daughter	Scholar
James	7	Son	Scholar
Thomas Poultny	30	Servant	Farm servant
Alfred Bishop	19	Servant	Farm servant
Sarah Palmer	14	Servant	Farm servant

West Huish Farm

Stephen Laver	39	Husband	Farmer 205 acres
Harriet	39	Wife	
Jane	18	Daughter	Works in dairy
Frances	14	Daughter	Scholar
Samuel	13	Son	Scholar
Mary	11	Daughter	Scholar
Eliza Ann	10	Daughter	Scholar
Edward	6	Son	Scholar at home
Harriet	4	Daughter	
James Palmer	21	Servant	Farm servant
George Parker	19	Servant	Farm servant
Elizabeth Seymour	18	Servant	House servant

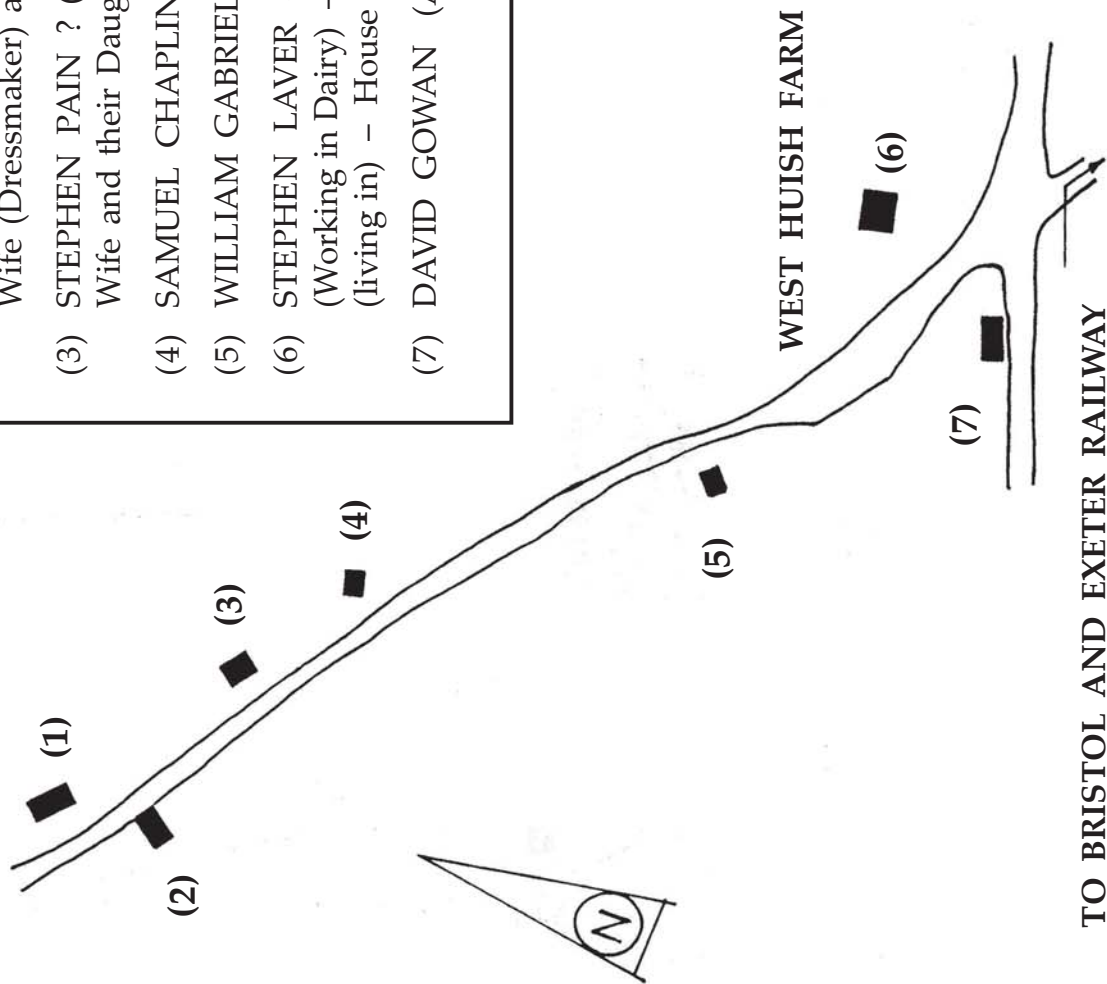
EAST HUISH - HAMLET HOUSING 1851

Fig. No. 1



- (1) WILLIAM NASH (Ag. Lab.) - Wife - 2 Children.
- (2) CHARLES BULL (Ag. Lab.) - Wife - Daughter (Dressmaker).
- (3) JOHN CHAPLIN (Tailor) .
- (4) PETER PARSONS (Farmer 135 acres)- Wife - 4 Children - 3 Farm servants (living in).
- (5) HENRY PAIN (Ag. Lab.) - Wife - Son (Ag. Lab.).

WEST HUISH - HAMLET HOUSING 1851



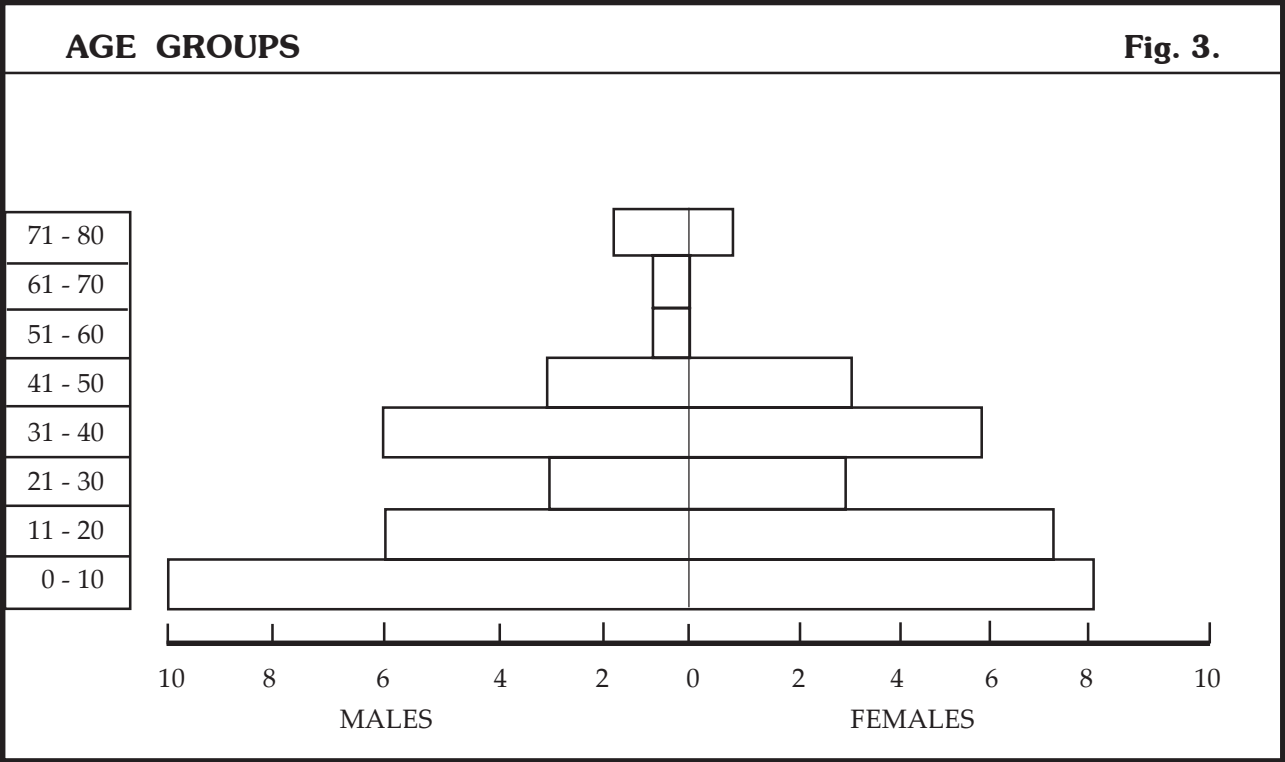
- (1) JOHN FISHER (Ag. Lab.) – Wife – 5 Children.
- (2) THOMAS INGRAM (Shoemaker) – Son-in-law Ag. Lab.)
Wife (Dressmaker) and their Daughter.
- (3) STEPHEN PAIN ? (Ag. Lab.) – Son (Shoemaker)
Wife and their Daughter (Apprentice Shoemaker).
- (4) SAMUEL CHAPLIN (Ag. Lab.) – Wife – 2 Children.
- (5) WILLIAM GABRIEL (Potato Dealer) – Wife – 3 Children.
- (6) STEPHEN LAVER (Farmer 205 acres)– Wife – Daughter
(Working in Dairy) – 6 other Children – 2 Farm Servants
(living in) – House Servant .
- (7) DAVID GOWAN (Ag. Lab.) – Wife.

Fig. No. 2

Population

The census recorded 33 males and 28 females; the population structure (Fig. No. 3), shows a similar potential for population growth as other parishes in the district, which in fact did not take place. This was no doubt due to the decline in agriculture in the latter part of the last century, together with the call for labour in the rapidly developing towns of Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon.

Population Pyramid for 1851



At the census the oldest male was THOMAS INGRAM aged 75, widower, shoemaker, born at North Petherton; the oldest female SARAH GOWAN aged 72, born at Timberscombe; both were living at West Huish.

There was no evidence of paupers within the hamlets and only two lodgers, LOUISA SPARKS (Widow) and her dressmaker daughter.

The birthplaces of inhabitants, (Fig. No. 4), again shows the highest percentage being within five miles of the village; 93.45% were within Somerset and 4.90% in adjacent counties; of the remaining counties only one person was recorded, an agricultural labourer from Northampton the son-in-law of THOMAS INGRAM the shoemaker. No-one came from outside England.

BIRTH PLACES IN NORTH SOMERSET (1851 Census)

Within Huish/Yatton	18.05%
Within 5 miles of village	45.90%
Within Somerset (outside 5 miles limit)	29.50%
Within adjacent counties	4.90%
Within remaining counties	1.65%

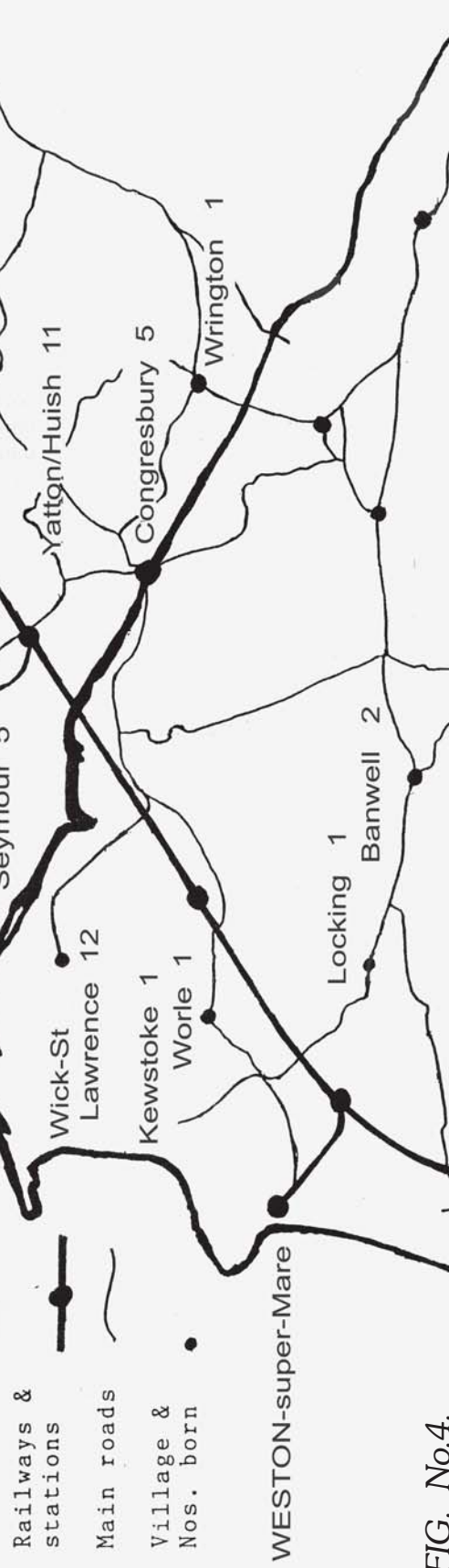


FIG. No.4.

Employment

The census shows 25 persons were engaged in 8 occupations as shown below.

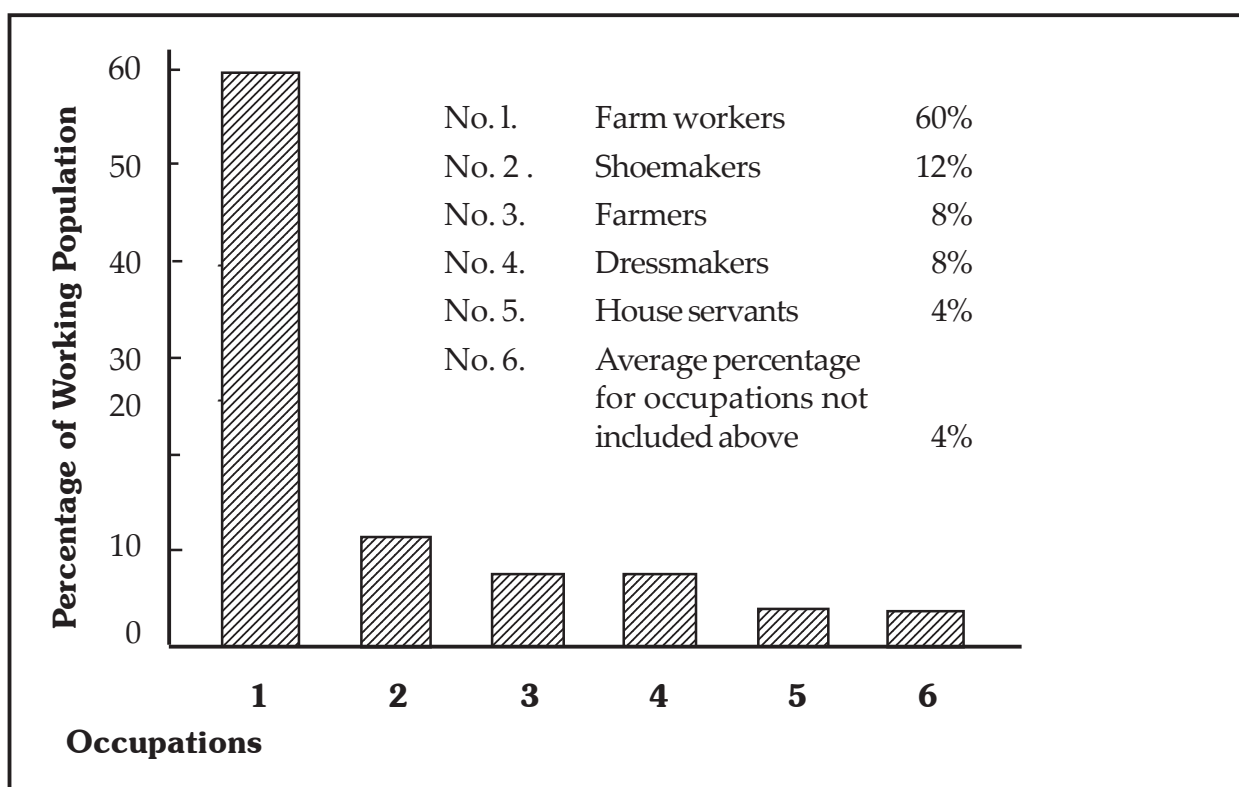
The Pattern of Employment for Villagers – 1851

Ag. labourers	9	House servants	1
Dressmakers	2	Potato dealers	1
Farmers	2	Shoemakers	3
Farm servants	6	Tailors	1

The analysis (Fig. No. 5), shows 68% of the working population was engaged in agriculture, the highest in the ancient Parish of Yatton. It is of interest that apart from the potato dealer, the remainder of the working population was engaged solely in dressmaking and shoe-making.

Analysts of Occupations

Fig. No. 5



Sources

Col. Mudge's corrected survey 1817
Yatton Tithe Map and Award 1841
Census (Yatton District) 1851

Kenneth Dougherty



The Earl of Essex

In June it was reported in the press that Arthur Capell, a retired grocer from Morecambe, Lancashire, had succeeded a distant cousin to become the 10th Earl of Essex and had taken his seat in the House of Lords.

The Earls of Essex are directly descended from Sir John Newton (died 1487) and Isabel de Chedder whose tombs are in Yatton church. Sir John's eldest son, Richard, had no sons and two daughters: Joan who married Sir Thomas Griffin and Isabella who married Sir Giles Capel.

The considerable estates of the Newtons were divided between Joan and Isabella. According to Collinson's 'History of Somerset' Isabella inherited Angers Leigh, Butcombe, Christon, Shipham and Ubley which were held by the Capels for several generations.

Sir Giles Capel was one of the knights attending King Henry VIII at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 and he later became Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire.

The great-great-great-grandson of Sir Giles and Isabella became Lord Capell in 1641.* He was a staunch royalist in the Civil War and was executed in 1649. At the restoration of the monarchy his son was created 1st Earl of Essex. The new 10th Earl is descended from a younger son of the 4th Earl who died in 1799.

These Earls of Essex have no connection with Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, the famous favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, whose son died without heirs in 1646.

H. J. Vincent

* This Lord Capell owned the Manor of Claverham: see 'Yatton Yesterday' No. 3 (1986) page 44.



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