More Yatton Yesterdays

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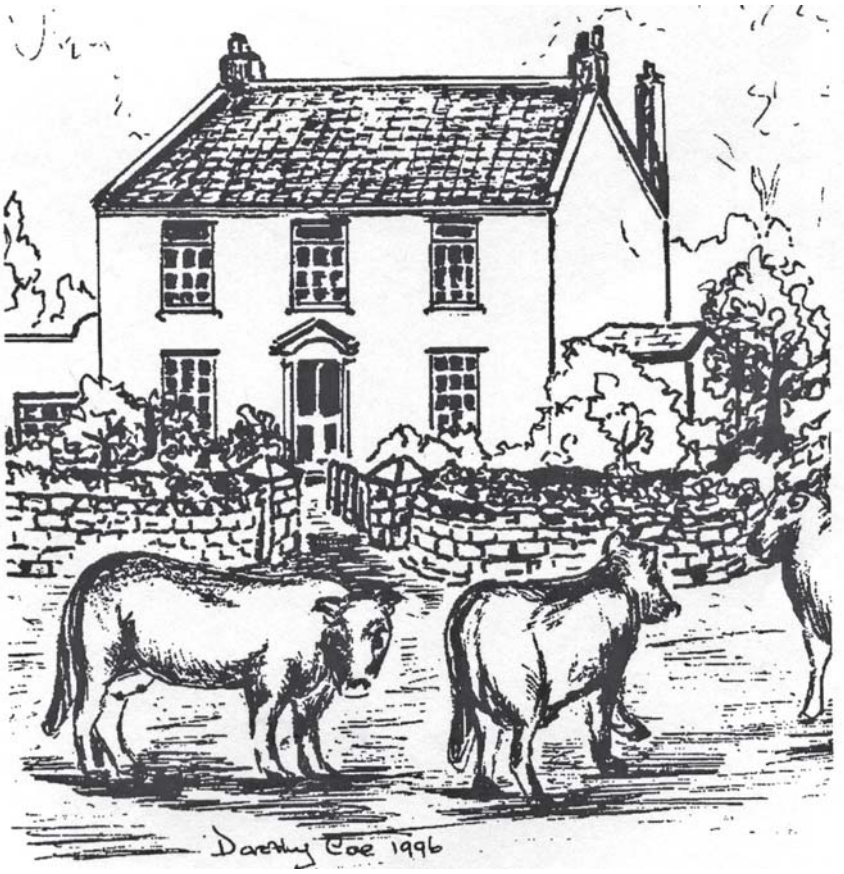

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Yatton Local History Society

A Tribute to Jack Vincent

In November 1995 the Society suffered the loss of Jack Vincent who had been our Treasurer since March 1982. He was enthusiastic, efficient and dedicated in his service, not only to our Society but to the whole community.

Jack was born in Ealing, North London, but his ancesters were Bristolians. He worked for the Clerical Medical Life Assurance Society and moved with them as their Pensions Secretary when they re-located to the Bristol area. He had been a J.P. in Harpenden for some years. Jack came to Yatton in 1977 and he was elected a member of the Parish Council in 1980, becoming chairman of the finance committee; he was also associated with the Scout movement until he retired at the age of 60. A loyal Church member, he was the covenant secretary of St. Mary's Church.

He had two main hobbies: tracing and studying family trees; and being involved with the railway networks not only in this country, but also in Austria, Switzerland, Spain and even Greece. He had an amazing stock of timetables and railwaY magazines, many from America. Kathleen, his wife, says that his collections of books are being sought by all kinds of Societies in different parts of the world.

She has bought a house in West Lancashire where she was born, and will be well looked after by her many relatives. We wish her well. We miss Jack very much, and to acknowledge how much we owe to him, we wish to dedicate this book, the first of a new series, to his memory.

A. F. Coe President.

B. Bradbury Chairman.

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Cover illustration of Chilton House by Dorothy Coe

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Foreword

The history of the village of Yatton has been well researched and documented in the past eleven years with the publication of ten editions of *Yatton Yesterday*, as well as *Yatton at War, Yatton Trail* and *A History of Yatton*.

We are still finding new information, thanks to local residents, and we have decided to publish a new series of books under the title *'More Yatton Yesterdays'*. This series has a new colour and a new format, producing a new start while maintaining a link with our previous publications.

Again we thank our many contributors, and we are appreciative of the efforts of our own dedicated researchers. Finally we must say thank you to our very good friends at Yatton News, the Corner Shop, Yatton Post Office and Claverham Post Office, who have generously agreed to sell this publication without charge.

A. F. Coe President.

B. Bradbury Chairman

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Contents

A Yatton Farmer

John Tutcher was a farmer in Yatton before his retirement to live in Cleeve. This is his story, and that of the village as it was when he was farming.

John was born in 1903 at Brockley; his father was the gardener at Brockley Hall until his death at the age of 59 in 1920. His mother, Ellen, became the caretaker at the Hall while the family lived in the Lodge. After about five years she bought Chilton House on the High Street in *1925,* and the family moved to Yatton. The family comprised eight children, three boys and five girls. John was the youngest in the family, his eldest brother was 17 years older, his eldest sister, 20 years older than John. One of his brothers, Fred, emigrated to Canada where be died in 1919.

When John left school in 1916 he took ajob at Manor Farm, Brockley, working for Captain Ridge, and then he went to work at Brockley Hall digging the garden, which was quite large and walled. John was not very keen on gardening or the work at first, because he could not see anything, or anybody, the walls being too high. He could hear horses and carts on the road outside with the occasional motor car or lorry (which were quite rare) passing by. John had to cycle to and from work every day, when the family moved to Yatton, but he came to enjoy his time at Brockley Hall (he stayed about seventeen years!) and was taught many things about horticulture by his employer, Mr. Cole. John had married his wife Alice in 1936 and they moved into Gleneagles, opposite Chilton House.

John left Brockley Hall to take over at Chilton House in 1941, after his brother died. At that time there were about two acres of land attached to the house, between Yatton High Street and Stowey Rhyne, with pigs and hens being kept on this land.

Into Dairy Farming

When John took over he decided that a dairy herd was what he wanted. So he bought some young beasts which prospered and he eventually had a milking herd of twenty cows; the cows were all known by name as was common in those days of small herds. They were kept on the land between the High St. and Westmead Rhyne although it was very wet ground, flooding up to the field gates at the top end of the fields in winter. Mr. Gabriel who lived at Cherry Grove Farm (demolished in the 1950's) proved to be a very good neighbour at this time: he was always on hand with advice or practical help when John needed assistance. At the same time Vic Parsons had a milk round, lived in Henley Farm near the Quarry, and farmed land called "Cooksleys"- where Ashleigh Road is now- and Alec Price farmed at Rectory Farm (the house near the Church).

When the 1939-1945 War started an Agricultural Policy came into effect, which set out that farms had to produce foodstuffs, particularly vegetables for home consumption, on part of their land. Because of this requirement and a shortage of labour due to the war effort, some farms were too large to operate effectively. Rectory Farm was one of these, and John took over part of their land (where Shiners Elms and Dysons Close are now), but it was poor quality grassland with "snakebite" grass which grows in spiky clumps, and soit was used to produce hay. The hay which was surplus to John's requirements was sold to horse dealers from Bristol, and some went to feed pit ponies in the Welsh coal pits.

Maurice Crossman, who was a Sergeant in the "Specials", (he farmed at Ham Farm) persuaded John to become a Special Constable and he had the task of patrolling the area as part of his duties which included checking that everyone obeyed the "blackout" regulations. One dark night John rode off on his bicycle to check that the Kingston Seymour residents had

covered their doors and windows correctly. However he got lost and when at last he found someone to ask, he was told he was on the road to Yatton, where he had just come from!

Enlarging the Farm

Returning to farming, John had taken over the field at "Cooksleys" from Vic Parsons and as part of the Agricultural Policy grew cabbages which were sold at the door of Chilton House. People were known to queue for these as John did not sell through the market which operated in Yatton. The Market was held on what is now the Industrial Estate opposite the Market Inn (which used to be the Railway Inn). It was originally two small markets run by Bill Shiner, Auctioneer, who lived in the Eagles on the High St. (now demolished) and Mr. Nichols of Alonzo Dawes and Hoddell, Auctioneers from Clevedon. (see Y.Y.No. 6)

John took over some of the Cadbury Farm land when Bill Jones retired. This was where the Surgery or Yatton Family Practice is now, in Mendip Road. As part of the Agricultural Policy annual returns had to be made on the 4th. of June to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, listing cattle, pigs, poultry and acreage farmed with different crops. This was always done by Mrs. Tutcher, and was subject to checking by the Police. Milldng was done by hand, with first milking at 5.30 am and the last at 5.00 pm, seven days a week throughout the year. The milk was poured into chums of 17 gallons capacity but these were later replaced by a smaller 10 gallon size with a better cap: the larger churns had had a recessed cap which retained rainwater, some of which could get into the milk. John's daughter, Dorothy remembers how difficult the big chums were to handle, and as there was a considerable slope down to the road a trolley was used with a restraining rope to hold it back when setting the milk on the timber platform for collection. The milk was collected by a lorry at about 8-30 am, from all of the Yatton area including Cleeve and taken to the "Milk Factory", which was where Smart Systems' building is now; some of the milk was used to produce butter and cheese.

During the winter months milldng was done in the yard but during the summer the cattle stayed out and the milking was done in the fields. When milldng "out" a dog was generally used to round up the cattle; the large farms could have had four or five men out milking. Feed which was grown on the farm was fed to the cattle during the winter when there was little grass for the cows to graze, and a corn rick was built in the farm yard, complete with thatched roof. Although electric milking machines became available they were expensive and many small farmers continued to milk by hand; John hand milked until 1958. During the war farmers could have assistance from prisoners of war. Initially an Italian helped John but he was replaced by a German whose name was Joe, from the PoW camp at Top Scaur. Joe was a very hard worker; he still keeps in touch with the family and sometimes visits them. Although John ploughed with horses at first, a "Trusty" tractor was used for many years, this had the implements fixed to the back of the power unit, the operator walking behind them. At one time John had a horse that had been used for a bakery round- he would stop at every house he came to!

Yatton as a Farm

The village was nearly all agricultural during and soon after the war: as John says "it was one big farm" (there were about eighteen farms). The only existing side roads at that time were Rock Road, Church Road, Derham Park, The Avenue, The Ridge, Laurel Terrace and Southview off the High Street. John, with his land on both sides of the main road was one of the last farmers to drive the cows across the road in Yatton village at milking time. Everything stopped when they crossed!

After the war Tuberculin Testing of milk was introduced, and milk returns continued, which recorded the yield and the quality of the milk by the butter fat content (4% content was good). Shorthorn cattle were much favoured at this time for their milk quality. Joe had meanwhile returned to Germany, a new tractor was bought and more of Rectory Farm land was taken over. John was able to walk from the Cheddar Valley railway line at Biddle Street (now Chescombe Rd.) across the High Street to Stowey Rhyne all on the land he was farming. The cattle were fed on mangel-wurzels, chickpeas, beans and wheat, all grown on the farm. Cabbages were still grown and sold at the door, together with eggs from the hens which were kept behind Chilton House, and this continued until John retired in 1972.

John Tutcher was 91 years old when the interview was recorded from which this article has been written, he had lived in Yatton for 67 years and considers farming is now an industry. Real farming he claims was when you had to plough with a horse, milk the cows by hand, build hay-ricks and "hedge" your own fields.

Perhaps he is right.

Brian Bradbury

Canadian Connections

In books 9 and 10 of *Yatton Yesterday*we published two accounts of the Burdge family emigrating to Canada. Last year we received a booklet from Mr M W Burdge now living in Vancouver. This contained some experiences of the Burdge family and those of the Kingcotts, the Gumetts and the Bakers, all leaving Yatton on a new adventure. We feature these three families and also two amusing poems about these pioneers.

A. F. Coe

Plight of A Farmer

Down on the farm 'bout half past four
I slip on my pants and sneak out the door,
Out to the yard I run like the dickens
To milk ten cows and feed all the chickens;

Clean out the barn, curry Nancy and Jiggs,
Separate the cream, and slop the pigs.
Work for two hours, and then eat like a Turk,
And by heck I'm ready for a full day's work.

Then I grease the wagon, and put on the rack,
Throw a jug of water in an old grain sack,
Hitch up the horses, hustle down the lane.
Must get hay in cause it looks like rain.

Look over yonder, sure as I'm born
Cattle on the rampage and hogs in the corn.
Start across the meadow, run a mile or two
Heaving like I'm wind-broke, get wet clear through;

Get back to the horses then for recompense
Nancy gets straddled on the barbed wire fence.
Joints all aching, and muscles in a jerk
I'm fit as a fiddle for a full day 's work.

Work all summer till winter is nigh
Then figure up the book and heave a sigh,
Worked all year, didn't make a thing,
Got less cash now than I had last spring.

Now some folks tell us that there ain't no hell,
But they never farmed so how can they tell?
When spring rolls 'round, I take another chance,
While the fringe grows longer on my old grey pants;

Give my 'spenders a hitch, my belt another jerk
And by heck I'm ready for a full year's work.

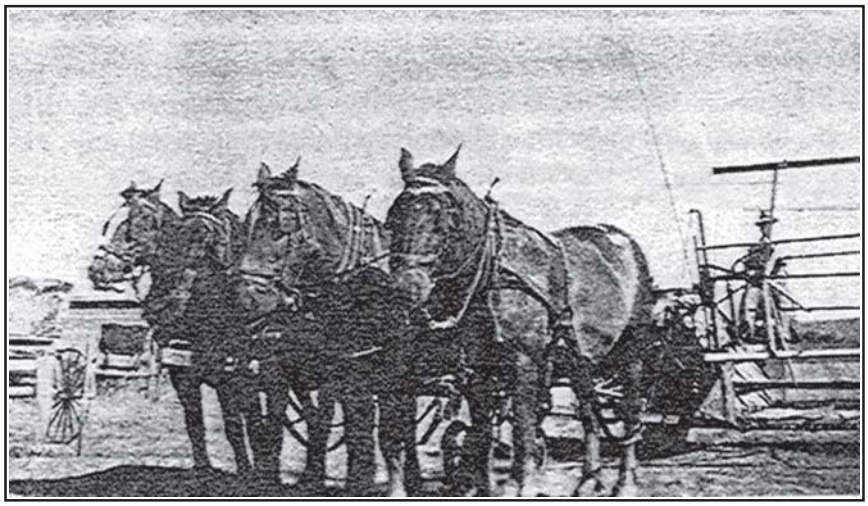
Oh Pioneers

Toward the everlasting hills on trails of grass,
they set their course and struggled on
The rain, mosquitoes, mud denied they'd pass;
they clamped their jaws and carried on.
They found a place out on the plain and called a halt
to start a life there when they'd won.
Through rain, and bog, through swamp and sloughs of salt;
a shack, but home, a garden, lawn.

Toward the everlasting hills they turned to see
the sun explode the skies before the nights.
They found a time to thank the Lord for life to be;
for crops and rain, for dancing northern lights.
They raised a brood of boys and girls to love the land
and know the vista of the windy hills.
A peaceful place, a prairie sky so wide and grand;
with rustling wheat in fields and flour mills.

Toward the everlasting hills they've gone by now
their graves are simply marked by prairie stones.
Their spirits live in all of us, with pride endow;
because we feel them in our kindred bones.
We thank the Lord for peace and life to be
in quiet times when sunsets fade.
Oh pioneers, oh lonely, steadfast pioneers we see
the dream you had, and courage made.

A. Wilson



Let's Go to Canada

by Charles F. Baker

July 4, 1923. Four young fellows and myself, relaxing in a village Memorial Hall in Somerset, England, dissatisfied with the employment situation, were discussing our chances of getting a decent job in the near future. One who had been looking at the ad column of the daily newspaper, said, "Let's go to Canada". He had been looking at the full page advertisement, calling for young men to go to Canada for the harvest season. There was plenty of work at good wages, and the opportunity of seeing a new country.

The fare from England to Canada was ten pounds, about $50, in Canadian currency, at that time. The return fare, if undertaken before December 31 of the same year, was the same fare as going. We had little to lose and much to gain, if the glowing account of Canada, as pictured in the ad, was correct.

We decided to try it, and next day found us in the city of Bristol, at the Canadian Pacific Steamship Office, booking passage to Canada. About a week later we arrived at the port of Southampton. But we were unable to board the ship until the next day, so had to find accommodation for over night. The hotels were full of harvesters, or should I say, would-be harvesters! We managed to find a place with room for four, but the five of us wanted to stay together, so the hotel management made up a bed in one of the bathrooms. I mention this to show how many were taking advantage of this excursion: doctors, lawyers, teachers, university students, almost every profession was represented.

I cannot remember the name of the ship, but it was one of the "Empress" line, bound for Quebec. When we arrived there, it took some time to pass through customs, then on to the west bound train. But before doing so, each passenger was given a basket of food, at a nominal price. This food was supposed to last for the journey. The train was a special harvester excursion, often pulling into sidings to allow the main trains to go through. This was most noticeable through Ontario. But we enjoyed it, as in places it was pos9sible to leave the train and walk about, as the train moved so slowly.

We arrived in Winnipeg and had to report at the employment office. They told us to go west as far as possible on our rail ticket. This was a cheap rate also, ($10). My chum, Harry Sparey, and I booked through to Hanna, as they told us harvesting had started there. Our three companions went to south eastern Saskatchewan.

When we arrived in Hanna, harvesting had barely started. We were getting low on funds, so looked around for a job. We heard there was a car of coal to unload at the power station. Calling at the office of Tingle and Wade, we had no idea what a car contained, so when we were offered the job for $7.00 we fell for it. Constable Joe Winkler found us tools and took us to the power station. When we saw that the car was full of coal, we knew we would eam our money. By the time we had half of it unloaded, I figured, we were doing it too cheaply. We went back to the office, where we were told that was the price they paid, and we would get nothing unless we finished the job. It took us about a day and a half.

Though we were strangers in a strange place, we found the people very friendly. Mr. Blackmore invited us to supper. I believe he owned a threshing outfit, but would not be starting for some time. He told us a Mr. Sydney Burdge of Berry Creek had a threshing outfit, and would probably be looking for men. We found it was Mr. Ted Burdge who owned the outfit, and incidentally, these families came from a village a few miles from our home in England. Harry knew some of the relatives in England. He had intended to get the address of those in Canada, but we had to leave before it was possible. Mr. Blackmore told us to get off the train at Rose Lynn, which we did, though we had an offer of a job at Sheerness. At the store in Rose Lynn we felt rather lonely, and hoped someone would come along needing help. We didn't have to wait long. A team and wagon was approaching with two men in it. Harry said, "I believe that is Phil Inglis". I didn't know him, but Harry did. They both played football, and played on opposing teams. He knew he was in Canada, but didn't know what part. The other fellow was George Redman, both farming at Berry Creek.

They took us to Arthur Kingcott's. He was looking for stookers, so this was where our harvesting experience started. Our eight-hour work day ended. Arthur showed us how to pick up the sheaves and place them in a stook. Seemed easy, but after half a day, we were ready to give up. The stooks seemed more ready to lie down than stand up. We certainly felt the same way. However, practice makes perfect, and we eventually got on to it.

All the farmers we worked for that fall were very patient and understanding. And their good wives treated us as part of the family. Our next job together was stooking a field of oats, that had lodged for Dan McLeod. The sheaves were like a pair of long johns when it came to standing them up; anyway, we did our best. That night we had a wind storm; next morning there was hardly a stook standing. I'll never forget Dan's greeting when we came to breakfast, "I'm sorry, boys, but you'll have to stook them again."

From there, Harry went to stook for George Redman, and I stooked for Mr. Burdge, until threshing started. Then we went with the outfit. Frank Burdge was engineer and Harry Tippit, separator man. I believe we had six bundle teams. I was driving one. One of my horses took sick. Harry Tippit had a horse and buggy with the outfit, and he let me use the old grey mare, in the place of the sick horse. On the buggy, that horse seldom got out of a walk, but she ran away with the bundle wagon. Nothing could stop her. We were threshing for Mr. Ern Burdge. I shovelled grain until the wagon was repaired and I could get another horse.

Albert G. Kingcott

by daughter Mary Bartlett

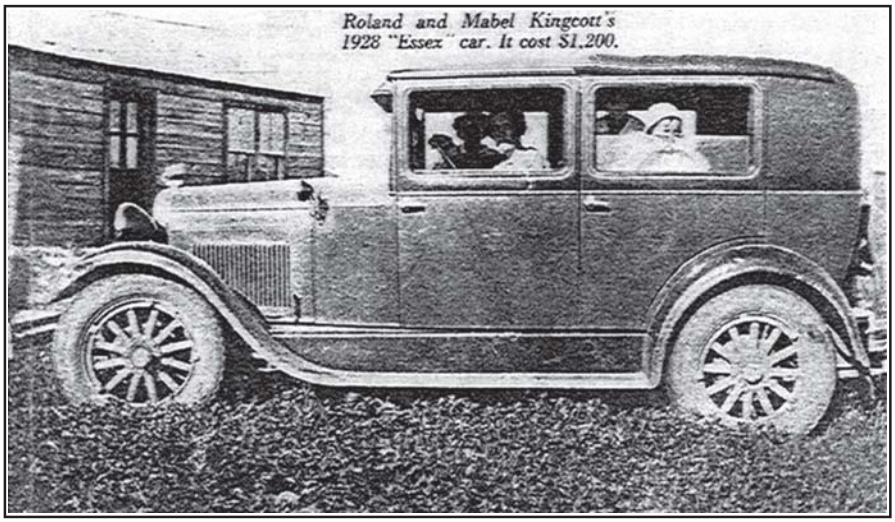
Albert Kingcott was born in Yatton, Somerset, England, on January 26, 1885. He was raised on a mixed dairy, and sheep farm. When he got the urge to go west he landed in Ontario in 1907, working for two years farming, and working on the railroad.

It was through a Sunday School teacher, Sydney Burdge, who was in contact with some of the younger generation in Yatton, that Albert left England. Mr Burdge thought the young people had a better chance if they went west and homesteaded. In 1909 he arrived at what was then the Berry Creek area; later, when the railroad was built, Rose Lynn was his address. He hauled lumber from Bassano to build a fourteen by sixteen foot shack on his homestead, the N W. 1/4 of 15-28-12 and he ploughed the virgin sod with two oxen. Later, when horses were used, the oxen were fattened on turnips and hay, then slaughtered and sold for beef to the settlers. They dressed out over a ton of meat.

Dad was very good at finding underground water. With the use of a willow, he witched many wells in the district. Milk, butter, and meat were kept by hanging them down the cool well with a rope and pail. This was the only means of refrigeration before the ice box. Their washing was done on the scrubbing board. Dad told stories of his trips on the trail when they freighted lumber and supplies from Bassano, and later from Richdale. They travelled many a mile over open prairie. At the end of the day the horses were hobbled and left to graze and rest. They made their camp out under the stars, their bed rolls rolled out under the wagon were solid comfort. At daybreak the horses were caught and they were on their way again.

Dad spent two summers working on the Bassano dam, employed as a cook in the off season. During the flu of 1918-'19 he did his share of chores helping around the community. Many people died that year. Dad and several others buried Anton Welzbacker who died of the flu. His grave was dug on the side of a hill on his homestead, where it still remains. A cedar post was placed at each corner, a fourteen foot plank was fastened to the posts. Rocks were placed around this as they cleared them off the land. The grave has settled a little, but it is still in good condition.

Dad made several trips back to England. On March 17, 1926 he married Olive Sheppard from Bristol, Somerset, England and brought his bride to the homestead in Canada. Her first experience was being met in Richdale by Albert's brother, Arthur, with an open wagon for their ride to the homestead. The board across the top used for a seat was a little short, and every bump the wagon hit she hit the floor. She soon learned how to hang on. Another experience was learning to drive the team down the right side of the road, after being used to the English way of driving on the left side. In 1927 they added two more rooms and a basement to the one room shack. The basement was dug out with horses and a slip. William Greenslade did the plastering and built the chimney. That year they had a good crop of wheat, on possibly thirty acres. Along came a terrific hail and windstorm. If it had not been for the table holding the linoleum on the floor it would have hit the ceiling. All that baby, George, would do was holler. Later, when Mom and Dad were busy trying to nurse some badly bruised turkeys, Sam Burdge came and said the storm sure did him some good. "Hailed out all my mustard weed!"


Roland and Mabel Kingcott's 1928 "Essex" car. It cost $1,200.

The going was rough in the dry years so every advantage was taken to make a dollar. Dad joined others with teams and scrapers building roads and dams. They had a few chickens and sold eggs for five to eight cents a dozen, beef sold for five cents a pound.

When it got real dry with no crops, Dad went into chickens on a bigger scale, with six hundred white leghorn laying hens. He shipped two thousand hatching eggs, also supplied eggs to retail outlets in Calgary, as well as those for home use. A good set of records was kept. He furnished the Provincial Poultry Branch with some interesting and encouraging information with respect to his flock.

There were no veterinarians in the early years. Dad was good with the knife so was in demand come branding time. One incident George and I will always remember was the time we remodelled Dad's grindstone. I turned the handle, George used the chisel and hammer. When we were finished, the grindstone was very off round and later our bottoms were very off coloured.

Dad sold out in 1949 and moved to sunny Victoria, where he kept active on a thirteen acre farm with a few chickens, dairy cows and fruit. He sold this in 1966 and retired. He passed away on December 8, 1973.

Arthur James Gurnett

by son Roger Gumett

On August 29, 1910 Arthur James Gurnett filed on the N.W. ¼ of 35-28-12 and at the same time pre-empted the southwest quarter of the same section. He came from Yatton, a small town in the county of Somerset, England, which is located south and west of Bristol. Influenced by the Burdge family of his home village, he left home as a young man of nineteen to find his life in Canada, and settled in the same township where his old neighbors had obtained land the previous year. Here he met Ruth Benner of Orillia, Ontario who had come in 1917 to spend time with her brothers, Herb, Wilf and Reg. The Benner brothers

had homesteaded on sections 2 and 21 of twp. 28-11; Reg in 1908 (the same day as Archie McKellar filed on the N.E. ¼ and N.W. ¼ of 18-2811, being November 23, 1908) and Herb and Wilf in 1909. Arthur Gurnett and Ruth Benner were married on April 2, 1918 in a simple ceremony at the home of Sidney Burdge (who had homesteaded on the S.W. ¼ of 5-2911 on August 31, 1909).

World War I was still being fought at that time. As a younger son in a family where three brothers were serving in the army, Arthur had not been accepted for military service. His older brother, Walter, had come to Canada as an army reservist and was recalled to England at the outbreak of the war. Arthur and Ruth Gurnett moved temporarily to Orillia, Ontario shortly after their marriage while Ruth was recuperating from the flu of 1918, and lived there for four years. During this time their sons Roger and Bill were born. The family moved back to the prairie homestead in 1923 and remained there until 1941.

These were the years the Berry Creek community enjoyed years of good crops and suffered from years of extreme drought. The nationwide depression of the thirties, of course, affected this community as everywhere else.

During these years three more sons were born: Jack, Ted, and Tom. In 1933 an appendicitis attack took Arthur's life. It was February and there was no way to reach a doctor. Finally by horse drawn sleigh to Rose Lynn and by train to Hanna, Arthur was taken to the hospital, but peritonitis had developed. Without penicillin there was little that could be done, and Arthur Gurnett's body was laid to rest in the little cemetery at Berry Creek while he went to be in the presence of his Redeemer. The family lived on at Berry Creek until after the outbreak of World War II. Roger joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and Bill the Signal Corps of the Canadian Army and their mother and the three younger boys moved to Orillia, Ontario where Ruth cared for her elderly mother; and so ended the presence of the Gumett family on this land. A good neighbour, Charlie Baker, acquired the land eventually.

Briefly Jack lived in the old house just after World War II, but the family never came back. Bill lived in Youngstown from 1953 to 1967 where he was involved in the beginning of Youngstown Gospel Chapel; not only driving nails but preaching sermons. The boys have been back for visits, and usually are surprised at the changes. Just at present (1978), Roger and Bill live in Edmonton, Jack at Rimbey, Alberta, Ted in Lindsay, Ontario and Tom in Williams Lake, B.C.

Here are just a few memories of those years from 1923 to 1941. The first school the Gumett boys attended opened in 1928. Known as Kingsdale, it was a typical one room - two outhouse school named after the Kingcotts on whose farm the building was situated and was one mile from their home. Later, school was held in the basement of the Berry Creek Gospel Hall and still later moved one half mile north to a school building on the farmstead that had been lived on by Ern Burdge and later Frank Burdge.

The post office and general store that the Gurnetts used was the Berry Creek Post Office, located in their time just one half mile east of their home. Miss Rose Hennessey (herself having filed on homestead land in 1910, the N.E. ¼ of 26-28-12) served the neighbors with the needed groceries and credit during the twenties and thirties. It was a true country general store with jars and barrels and boxes and oiled floor.

The Berry Creek Gospel Hall served as the gathering place for the folks of the area who shared a common faith, and the little cemetery beside it is a reminder of many who lived and died in the area.

Another memory of those times is the "beef ring". A number of farmers belonged to this co-operative venture, which provided meat during the summer for the farmers who had no refrigeration. Each farmer who belonged to the 'ring' contributed an animal during the summer and it was butchered and distributed by Arthur Gumett; each contributor receiving his fair share of fresh meat about every two weeks. So by co-operation and the use of a man who had old country experience as a butcher, the farmers of the area overcame the lack of refrigeration in a hot and dusty land.

In retrospect the area was not suited for small farms, but the pioneers who came left a legacy of courage and kindness that enriched their descendants' lives. Arthur Gumett travelled into the area by oxcart from Brooks, taking longer for the joumey than his grandson and namesake, Arthur James, took sixty-five years later moving to Afghanistan, ten thousand miles away.

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You can *see* a Ghost in Yatton

"Lost in such ecstacies in this old spot
I feel that rapture which the world hath not
That joy like health that flushes in my face
Amid the brambles of this ancient place..."

John Clare

It is comparatively recently that hedges have been recognised as having any historic significance and interest. That they were once of great importance to ordinary people cannot be denied. Up until the early years of this century they were a resource for villagers, providing food, fuel and medicine, and were vital as territorial boundaries or to fence in stock. In wildlife terms a hedge is a complete eco-system. Insect eats leaf, bird eats insect. Vole eats grass, kestrel eats vole. It acts as a windbreak, a soil stabiliser, a shelter to livestock and crops. It retains moisture and is a bird sanctuary (the cheapest insecticide!). The greater the tangle of growth, the richer the life in it. In a "good" hedge, over 100 species of invertebrate may be found overwintering in a 20 metre stretch. Half of our native mammals, all of our reptiles and a fifth of bird species can be found in hedgerows. The wildflowers to be found there number over 1000 species, more varied than in woodland or heath. Once a hedge is created it is totally sustainable, enduring year after year, perpetuating itself and increasing in its diversity. An old hedge is, therefore, a green thread which binds us to our village origins and our native wildlife.

The old parish boundary between Yatton and Congresbury can be traced on old maps. It can also be traced in part on the ground. One obvious clue is Boundary Cottage in Binhay Road. Binhay itself means "behind the hedge" and relates to a field which was behind the landmark boundary hedge. When the houses in Court Avenue were built just after the Second World War, the hedge marked their boundaries. In the deeds of our house,

ownership is given to the hedge and ditch at the bottom of our garden. Our neighbour's hedge had been ripped out to accommodate the development of Binhay Road. Twenty years ago when we moved in, the hedge was vigorous and continuous along Land Lane, the footpath leading to the junction of Mendip Road/Rectory Way. Sadly, much of it has been lost by residents extending their gardens. Dutch elm disease removed many of the elms. Some of the hedge contains small leaved lime, or pry (tilia cordata). This tree is a living link with Mesolithic times. It is a strictly woodland tree which does not ordinarily get into hedges. It is an indicator of a "woodland-ghost" hedge.

Once the commonest tree of ancient woods in this area, it is now seldom seen as it no longer grows from seed due to climate change. It occurs in ancient semi-natural woodland, such as Kings Wood, Cleeve, and can be seen only very rarely in hedges, which Oliver Rackham calls "ghost hedges", ghosts, that is, of the wildwood which once covered this area. There are few other clues to its origin in this short stretch, although lesser celandine appears in spring along the hedgerow where it gets the sun. An exciting find in December 1995 was a beautiful fungus called an earth-star, which was growing in association with old hazels along a fence in Mendip Road. When these were coppiced (cut to ground-level to produce a crop of new shoots) eight of these amazing and rare toadstools were exposed. They were previously only recorded in the ancient Leigh Woods and graphically demonstrate the hedge's link to our wooded past. Hazel itself is not good at colonising new hedges and is characteristic of pre-Tudor hedges which have six other species growing in them. Stretches of hazel hedge occur elsewhere in the village, along with the odd shrub of field maple and dogwood, both of which also indicate a pre-Tudor mixed hedge. In our garden we have a multitude of tiny conical snails, identified by the Natural History Museum as Hygromia cinctella. These are also rarities, previously only recorded in Devon and Cornwall, and associated with ancient hedges.

The number of shrub species in a hedge can indicate its approximate age. A statistical "rule" discovered by Dr. Max Hooper indicates that the number of shrub species in a 30 yard stretch is roughly equal to the age in hundreds of years. Thus a two-species hedge is likely to date from the Enclosures Acts two hundred years ago, whereas a Tudor hedge should contain at least five species, and a Saxon one will have about ten. This is a useful guide where documentation or maps are missing. Hooper's Rule is likely to work because:

1) With time more species can enter a hedge, seeds being brought in by birds and wind;
2) In earlier times more species were planted. (In times of Enclosure the great demand for hedging meant that the hedges planted were just hawthorn or blackthorn);
3) The older the hedge the more likely it is to be "natural", that is, created from the original woodland.

Elm is an exception to this because it is so efficient at suckering that whole elm hedges can be very old even where no other species occur, because they have been suppressed.

No-one knows just how long our landscape has been hedged, but the antiquity of hedges is well documented. At North Wootton in Somerset there was a hedge already described as old in 816. In Dunbartonshire, an archaeological dig found evidence of Romans ripping out hawthorn hedges to build a fort in 142AD. Ancient charters mention hedges as well as hazel-rows, thorn-rows, willow-rows, and even stone-rows. The Old English word haga has given us the word haw-thorn, and hege, our modern word hedge. The Romans were impressed by hedges as a wonder of far-off lands. Julius Caesar observed in Flanders the Nervii tribe cutting into slender trees and bending them over so that many branches came out along their

length. They finished these off by inserting brambles and briars so that these hedges formed a military defence like a wall "which could not only not be penetrated but not even be seen through".

One of the essential methods of maintaining a hedge is through layering. Living shrubs are cut down through the stem nearly to the ground and bent over to one side so as to grow across the next upright stem. Gaps are filled by weaving hazel along the top to keep all the branches in place. Notched stems can be pegged into the ground so that where they touch they will root. Stems cut right to the ground will shoot again from the root. A laid hedge is self-renewing, constantly springing up from ancient rootstocks. The small leaved limes at the back of Court Avenue could be the oldest thing in the village – dating back not just hundreds but thousands of years!

Earth Stars

When the value of hedges was of a more commercial nature they were closely protected. A 'hayward' or hedge warden was employed to guard and maintain the hedges of a manor or parish. In Elizabethan times there was great demand for fuel, due to a time of extreme cold and poverty, and the hedges were raided by villagers. At this time punishments were severe: "Any persons breaking any hedge and stealing wood be put next Sunday or holy day in the stocks for two hours at the least and the wood be placed before them, signifying the cause of the punishment". Hedge-breaking in subsequent centuries could carry the penalty of transportation.

Yatton has many old hedges, remnants of which can be traced among the housing estates as well as along the field boundaries of remaining farms. Until very recently they were managed in a sustainable way, since careful work carried out by hand every five to ten years allowed new shrubs to grow up. Now in our mania for clean and tidy countryside they are flailed annually by tractor and are slowly dying. The debris which falls down creates a mulch through which new shoots cannot penetrate. Disease enters the plants through the jagged tears which the machinery makes and, as the tops of the plants are always removed, neither flowers nor fruits occur. Eventually, if they survive such treatment, a row of thick and leafless tree trunks will remain. Hedges which survive in more urban parts of the village are threatened by weedkiller on the verges and fly-tipping of garden waste, which also mulches the base of the hedge and prevents new growth. Fortunately help is shortly to be at hand, for the Hedgerow Bill, which is to become law in summer 1996, will at last give hedgerows some protection against destruction. Yatton Parish Council has acted to save the remnant of the ancient parish boundary hedge which is on land it owns (Rock Road Playing Field) and the traditional art of hedge-laying has retained the ancient genetic stock as well as creating a visual delight for us all. Hedges take longer to create than walls or fences, but once they are established they are self-renewing and constantly changing.

Our hedges, particularly the oldest and greatest, are a very important part of our historic heritage. I hope we will be able to leave them in good health to give joy to future generations too.

Faith Moulin

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Barns of Claverham

Claverham is rich in old farm buildings which are still in use. The information in this article has been obtained from Yatton Local History Society records and the owners of the farms described. Thanks are recorded to them for sharing the information as the farms are their private dwellings.

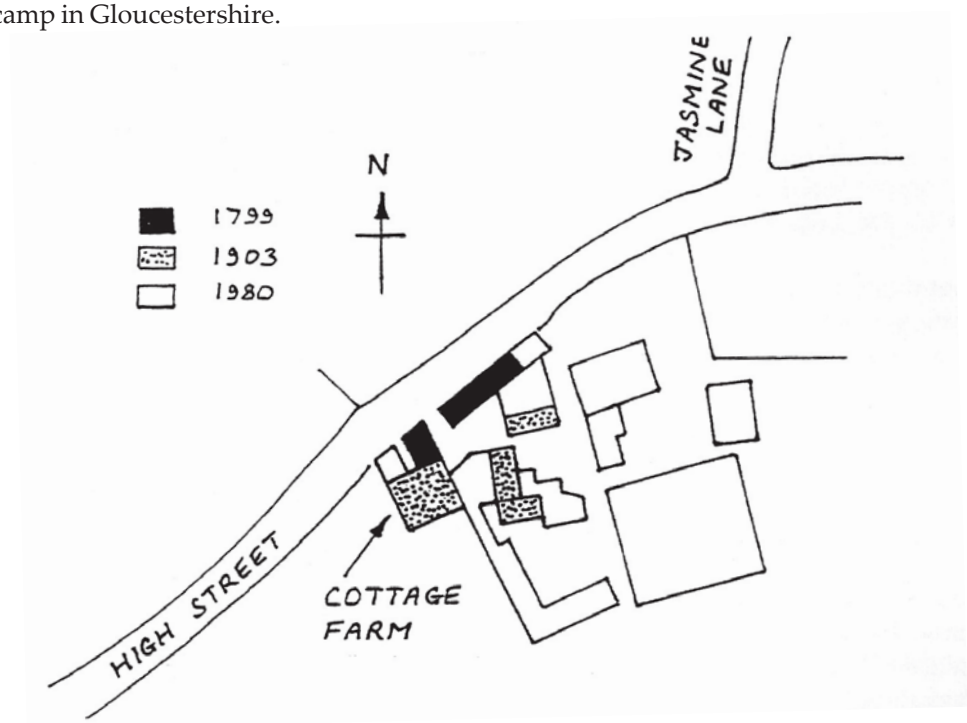
Cottage Farm

This farm is an interesting example of a farmyard expanding over 200 years. In 1799 there was a barn/stable and carthouse alongside the road. These were rebuilt in 1900 of local stone with a cobbled floor and wooden mangers and stalls which remam.

By 1900 there were additional buildings to the south across the yard for cattle. The 1980s map shows extensive additional buildings which appeared as follows. The yard was cut off to the south, by a delivery platform for chums of milk which were taken to Bristol for local farmers in the 1920s. After the 1926 Milk and Dairies Order, farms gradually converted from churns to steam sterilisation and vacuum milking in the 1930s. The home-made wooden milking stalls are still present. Other buildings were adapted for other uses such as hatching eggs in the hayloft.

Behind the dairy a tall chaff house was built and at right angles brick built piggeries, sometimes used for calves in the 1930s. Alongside is a galvanised shelter holding a grain dryer, with a chute and pit as well as a cattle food mixer which was used after the Second World War until the 1980s. In the second yard beyond is a second 1930s piggery capable of holding 60 pigs which are long since gone.

Beyond this are two Dutch bams one twice rebuilt in the 1940s and 1962 after two fires, one started by an agricultural PoW. The second was built in 1970. Alongside the latter is a large covered yard sufficient for 100 cattle built in the 1950s. The roof is of asbestos from an American army camp in Gloucestershire.



The loft of 45 foot rails and pine trees from Cleeve can take 100 tons of hay. Outside there is a convenient ramp to load the muck, scraped from the covered yard, onto a wagon for the fields.

Alan and Dorothy Young

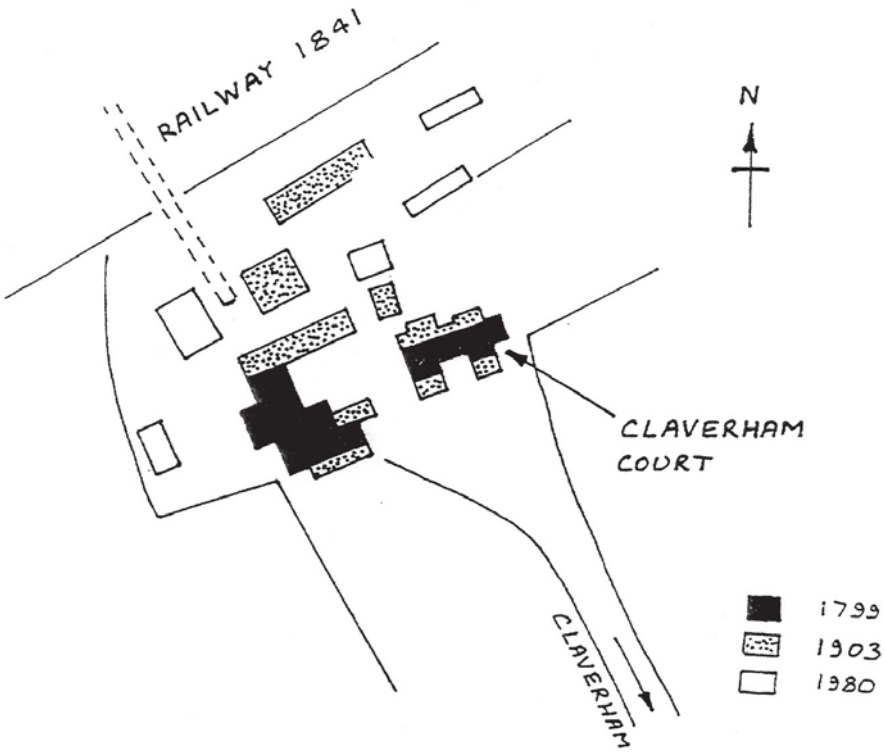
Claverham Court

The most notable feature of this farmyard is a large six bay bam of 15th /16th century construction which has been altered and added to over many centuries. It is 17 metres long and 7 metres wide. One of the changes was a nineteenth century king post and sloping struts which were probably added to raise the roof to support a loft at one end. There are cart doors on the east side incorporating a smaller door and ones opposite on the west wall. Although other doors have been added for convenience the cart doors were used for hand winnowing and threshing before the advent of threshing machines in 1786.

The bam has a pantiled roof and coped verges so it is an impressive building which was originally used to store grain. It would have been comparatively expensive to maintain and repair. Many disappeared when alternative methods of cheaper storage such as hay ricks were used, and the stone was used for new buildings.

The bam is shown on the 1799 map and was mentioned with other bams, stables, outhouses and offices in an 1844 lease.It appears that there was considerable expansion in those 45 years. While the buildings appear on both the 1903 map and the 1980 one, the barn appears to have been extended in the 19th century. While a small number of additions were made between 1902 and 1980 the plan of the farmyard is very little changed.

John and Betty Atwell



Rose Farm

In Poulett's rent records of 1800 it was noted that there was a small barn, a stable, a carthouse and yards. All of these can be traced on the 1799 map and remain today. In auction details of 1900 another waggon house, a dairy, a cowshed and three piggeries are included besides the buildings above.

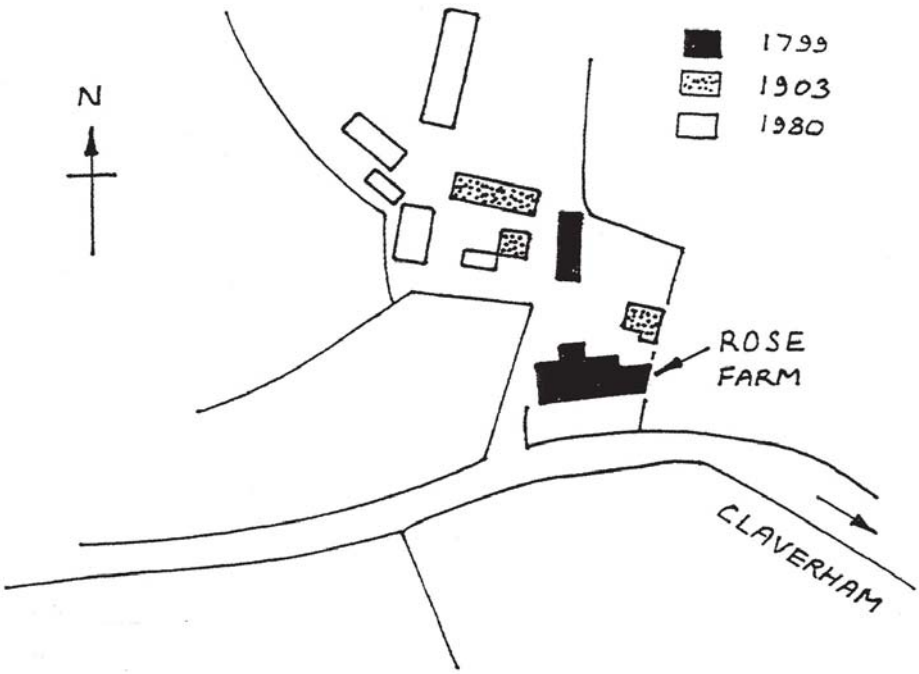
In the latter half of the 20th century there were considerable changes. A Dutch barn was added in the 1950s and in the 1960s a pond was filled in. In the 1970s a milldng parlour and cow kennels were built for milking and beef cattle. In the 1980s the stable was converted into a house and the milking parlour demolished. Also a galvanised shed behind the carthouse was demolished and a clamp was built to store winter feed.

The building materials used show the transition from local stone in the 18th and 19th centuries to brick in the early part of the 20th century. In the latter part of the 20th century, man-made materials such as galvanise were cheaper and easier to handle than brick or stone. They were more adaptable and easier to replace.

Also the transition from pigs and dairy cattle to beef cattle can be traced in the building history of this farm. The latter was due to the imposition of milk production limiting quotas.

The conversion of farm buildings to an alternative smaller dwelling for the farmer and the sale of the original farmhouse to a family not connected with farming is also a continuing trend.

Pip and Di Franklin and Gertie Franklin



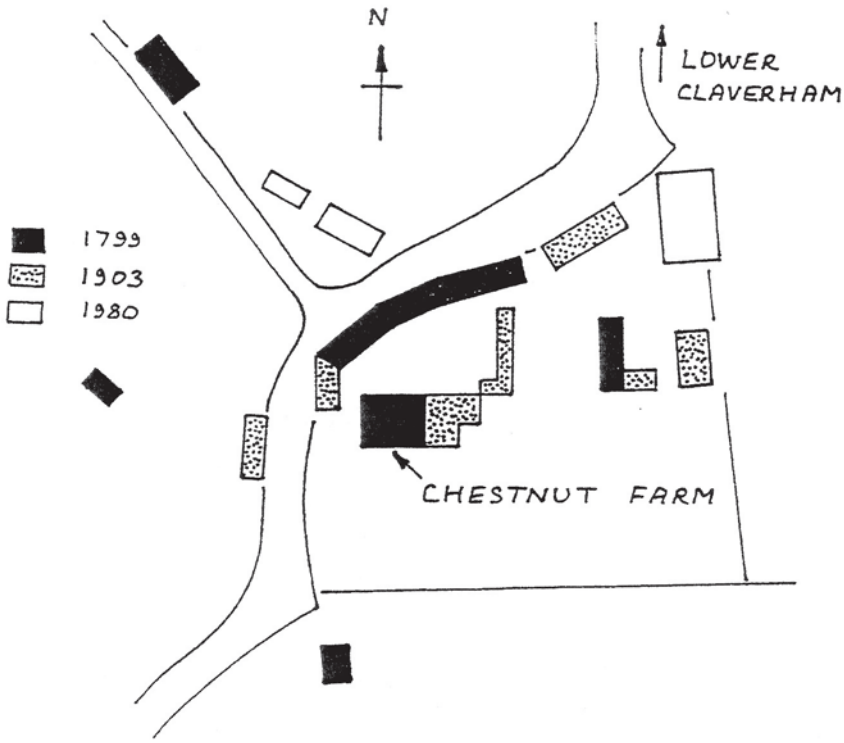
Chestnut Farm

This farm is shown on the 1799 map. A range of buildings is shown alongside the road and one at right angles to the house. Also there are two more across the road. All these buildings are on the 1903 map. Additionally there are buildings alongside the road and in a second yard to the east. By 1980 there were two Dutch bams and a covered yard together with additional buildings across the road.

In various notes the building adjoining the house was described as being a dairy on the ground floor and a cheese room on the first floor. In the 1980s they were not used for this purpose but the external steps to and the louvred windows of the cheeseroom are still there in 1996.

The range of buildings alongside the road included a boiler house and laundry with a chimney, a coal house, a cider house, a chaise house, a four stall stable and at right angles a cow house. A piggery and a beast house across the road are also mentioned in 1 930s sale details. All these buildings still exist although used for different purposes.

Sally Withers



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One hundred and thirty years of purveying meat
W H Pearce & Sons
Butchers at Cleeve 1902-1993

The front of the shop in 1943

After 35 years in butchery, David Pearce retired from the butcher's shop on 'Pearce's corner' at the top of Bishops Road in Cleeve in 1993. Initially David went into partnership with his elder brother Bert for a short while. Bert took over on his father, Arthur's, death in 1953 but had been in partnership with his parents before that.

The business came to Cleeve in 1902 to what had been a smithy established before 1799. The proprietor was William Henry Pearce who was the fifth son of a Portishead butcher, William George, David's great grandfather, who also farmed at Weston Lodge, Weston in Gordano.

Earlier still David's great great grandfather, William Pearce was one of a number of Portishead millers. Both of his sons took up farming and butchery about 1850 when these were thriving occupations. By 1870 one was working in Canada when trade was not so good here. Later in the 1800s there was a shop in Bedminster which supplied Bristol hotels. This gave William George the opportunity to do some horse dealing at which he was reported to be very successful, bringing gold sovereigns home in piles on the floor of the trap. Presumably he also had a good stout stick, as he was a large man with bilateral footdrop following an accident and could not get in or out of a trap unaided.

For six years before coming to Cleeve ,William Henry and his wife, Alice Mary had a shop at Horsecastle on the corner of Moor Lane where David's father, Arthur, was born in 1899 and another son George in 1902.

Alice Mary was a distant cousin who came from Exeter. Probably their meeting was linked to the coming of the railway in the mid 1800s which allowed working people to find employment further away from home than previously and still keep in touch with family and friends.

There were 6 children in William Henry and Alice Mary's family, two girls and four boys one of whom died young from croup. The two elder boys, Arthur and George, the latter after an apprenticeship with a cousin in Clevedon during the first World War, became butchers and worked in partnership until 1952. The two girls, Edie and Elsie also worked in the business until they were married. Edie Day still lives in Claverham.

William Henry died in 1932 aged 61, having contracted pneumonia after taking a child with a fever to Bristol in a trap or similar vehicle. He was also a large man, (twenty four stone reputedly) and on his death he had to be hoisted through the front bedroom window at Cleeve as the coffin could not be carried down the enclosed wooden spiral staircase.

The business was described as purveying meat. In this case it meant that the family either bought cattle, sheep or pigs to slaughter at home from Yatton's Monday Market or more likely they bought young cattle or lambs and kept them until they were ready, on 40 acres at Cleeve Hill, in fields across the main road at Cleeve or on Claverham Moor. They were purveyors and graziers.

Usually on Tuesdays the animals were slaughtered as required in the yard behind the shop and hung in the well or sunken pit (6 foot square) by the back door to keep cool in thundery or hot weather or in a building next to the house until the advent of refrigerators. There was a covered cement lined evisceration pit in the back garden which was emptied periodically. The skins were sold.

The meat was either sold from the shop or taken out to order on rounds by horse drawn covered cart, locally by Raleigh or Hercules bicycle and latterly by three or four wheeled van. The rounds which were in competition with other local butchers such as Stuckey's or Edward's in Yatton covered Cleeve, Claverham, Yatton, Congresbury, Hewish, Puxton, Wrington, Brockley, Chelvey, Nailsea, Kenn and Kingston.

David recounts that he started work aged nine on his cumbersome bike. He had some adventures such as when the contents of his large metal delivery basket landed in the main road and he had to go back and start again. Even with a horse and trap life was not all plain sailing as once, the horse, Tommy bolted towards Brockley Coombe and left him stranded again in the middle of a then quiet main road! On Saturdays the rounds were long and helped along by generous helpings of cider from local farmers.

Sometimes animals were slaughtered and dressed on the farm for the farmer's use so butchers had to be not only strong to use the manual poleaxe for cattle but also resourceful if things did not go entirely to plan. Later the humane killer made the manoeuvre a little less uncertain. Pigs once dead were treated with hot water and the bristle burnt off so besides the noise, water and blood there was a unique smell! Slaughtering continued at Cleeve until 1968.

Before the advent of fridges no water was allowed to touch meat for fear of making it deteriorate rapidly, unlike today when it is obligatory to wash carcases. Beef could be hung for 4-5 days but then would need to be either cooked or salted to preserve it. By-products such as calves feet and heads were sold and others made into faggots, chitterling and tripe prepared by quick-limeing; hams were cured, tongues cooked, beef and brisket pressed and salted with nitrite and sausages and dripping made. A hundred-weight of dripping was made each week and sold in pound greaseproof packets as the staple cooking fat for

chips and frying. All this happened in the outbuildings behind the shop alongside the carthouse and the cattle pens and hayloft.

In 1912 at the Christmas fatstock sale in Clevedon the 20 hundredweight champion cost William Henry £41. In 1937 a beef carcase cost £12.50 compared to £1000 in 1993. Suet was expensive at 8d or 4p a pound compared to sirloin steak ls 6d or 7.5p a pound. In 1958 half a pound of ham was three shillings or fifteen pence and bacon was two shillings and threepence or twelve pence a half pound.

Deep frozen New Zealand lamb in muslins and Wiltshire bacon and sausages sent in heavy cardboard boxes were also sold in latter years as well as ready plucked chickens. The salesman's name was MR VAN! Until well into the Fifties chickens which were not intensively reared were a Christmas treat.

In the 1960s and 70s as many as 12 staff including two book keepers were employed. Working hours were as long as 12 hours normally and much longer at festival times. There were long queues particularly at Christmas, etc.

In 1961 there was some modemisation to enlarge the back of the shop by taking in part of the kitchen. Also the shop front which resembled a bay window was updated and the stable door at the side was changed. Some straw was found in the roof indicating that the original building may have been thatched.

Gradually meat sales fell as more women worked away from home and there were more canteens. The fall increased with the advent of domestic freezers, supermarkets (Yatton Gateway opened in the late 1960s) and almost universal ownership of cars despite efforts to provide bulk meat supplies and more processed meat such as pies, eggs, cheese and vegetables. Finally a health message that too much meat was a bad thing meant less rounds were needed and in time less staff.

David had a book keeper, Marian Smith, for 26 years after his mother gave up, who still lives in Cleeve. The book keepers worked in the office in what had been the passageway behind the front door with a hatch adjoining the shop so that orders could be booked in the ledger, bills made out and payment made. The separate room was essential to keep the book keeper warm as butcher's shops before air-conditioning and refrigeration had to be cold and draughty.

Also David had one roundsman, Len Lawrence who had worked 60 years in the trade, 25 with David when he retired in 1993 and was expert in the use of not only the knife but the poleaxe: the mark of a true butcher.

Sadly having had large numbers of sons to carry on the name of Pearce in William Henry's time there is now only one, David's son Adrian who happily lives not far away in Kenn but is not a butcher.

These reminiscences were collected from David Pearce by Christine Derrick and myself at the time of his retirement and are interspersed with other family records as well as with my childhood memories, as I am George Pearce's daughter.

Marianne Pitman
(née Pearce)

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Excavations at Cadbury Farm, Yatton

The Society in conjunction with the Congresbury Local History Society and under the expert supervision of Dick Broomhead, Field Archaeologist, carried out a "dig" on Cadbury Farm at the end of August 1995. This was at the suggestion of Mark Britten, who is the owner of the farm and who had noticed possible archaeological remains when laying field drains. Although the site is in a field of rough pasture there are some irregular slopes and two "platform" areas with a North to South parch mark which had become obvious because of the long, hot and dry summer.

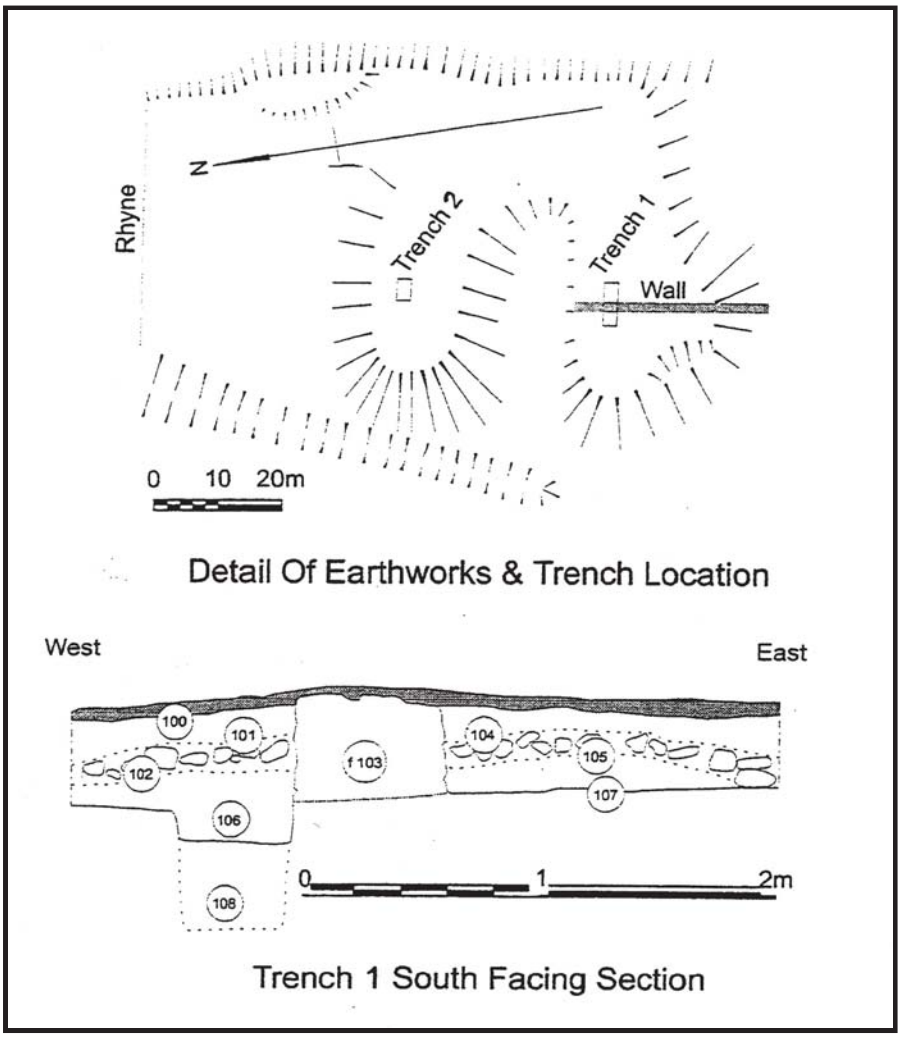
As far as we can tell from documentary evidence there has been no activity such as building on the site since 1736 when an enclosure called "Binney" included the excavation site. Adjacent to this was another enclosure named "Binney House and Smith Mead". We can date this site back to 1567 when a yardland called "Benny's" was divided between three tenants – John Champneys, Isabel Beney and Edmund Watts and although there was no record of a building, the title "Toft" was used, which implies the existence of a previous building or dwelling.

The area of the excavation was surveyed from a base line running roughly north-south and two trenches were hand dug using spades, trowels and lots of enthusiasm supplied by the volunteer work force! The southern trench was about one metre (3 feet) wide and about three metres (10 feet) long; the other being smaller was about one metre (3 feet) wide by one and a half metres (4' 6") long. The southern trench immediately revealed stone work. This was on the highest level of the southern "platform" with the prominent parch mark: a clay bonded, stone wall about 60 centimetre (2 feet) wide was only 10 centimetre (4 inches) below the surface. Further digging revealed local limestone rubble, with a large tile or flagstone, and fragments of Medieval pottery with charcoal flecks. The wall was about 45 centimetres (1' 6") high on a charcoal rich, brown/black silty clay bed surrounded by many pottery, stone and bone fragments. This is shown on the section through the trench at the end of this article. The other (northern) trench was dug at the insistence of the Chairman and proved to be a waste of energy. Very little was uncovered!

The finds from the excavations included a piece of Romano-British pottery, as well as bone, slag, iron, flint, lead and glass items but these were greatly outnumbered by the pieces of pottery, about 270 in total. Most of this was similar to that found on similar sites, including Cheddar 'J', Redcliffe or Ham Green 'B', suggesting a 14th Century date for most of the finds. The Romano-British shard was found by Mark Britten when he excavated below the level of the main 'dig' in strata 108. The glass fragment was in 106, near to the original base level of the excavation. The majority of the finds came to light in the levels 105, 106 and 107, in the southern-most trench. A worked flint discovered in the top of the wall was probably a chance find but could have been left by some Medieval activity. Iron nails were found, which could have originated in some building or structure long since demolished or destroyed by the elements.

The 'dig' established beyond doubt that there had been human activity, buildings and domestic animals on the site, certainly from Medieval and probably from Romano-British periods of history.

The Society's thanks go to Mr. Dick Broomhead, who led the excavation team, and kindly permitted this précis of his report with the use of his sketches. The Society is also indebted to Mark Britten who started this off with his inquisitiveness and gave us free access to his farm. Dick's report is available through the Society, price £2.50 and gives full details of the excavations and the finds, complete with his conclusions.



Brian Bradbury

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Claverham Road

Claverham Road was called 'Yatton Lane' or 'Yatton Road' and it takes a route round the floodable land which lies between Yatton and Claverham. According to Earl Poulett's estate map of c. 1799 the only house there was the present No.160, Streamcross Villa, until 1984 a general shop owned by Mr. Stockham (who still lives in the house). This is not counting Westaway at the other end, which is in Yatton High Street. A very small building is shown on the map where No. 160 is now with no details given in the accompanying schedule. The adjacent land, 'Stoney Land', between Claverham Road and Chapel Lane, had been divided into several fields.

Maps of the area are at the end of this book.

In the years between 1812 and 1815, at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Earl Poulett sold his estates in Yatton. In some cases tenants exchanged one landlord for another – for example, John Norman Esq. owned much of Poulett's land in 1821 and Mrs.Norman, presumably his widow, in 1841. An absentee landlord was Christopher Garrick who had inherited most of Ann Battiscombe's tenancies (see 'Yatton Yesterday' No.5) and who bought the properties at the Poulett sale. Part of his land was 'Husadales', divided into several fields, stretching from the present No.78 to No.118 on the corner of Hollowmead. Land was then a source of income and so there was no reason for it to be sold for building.

Other less affluent tenants bought small parcels of land at the Poulett sale. Such building as there was along the road reflected property boundaries to a large extent; it took place piecemeal and very gradually. The 1821 survey map shows two new houses, as follows: Going towards Yatton on the south side, past the various closes named 'Stoney Land', still remained some of the original medieval strips of Oar Field and John Rogers bought a couple of these. He held them, as Poulett had, copyhold from the Manor of Yatton Rectory (later known as the Ecclesiastical Commissioners). On one he built a house, occupied in 1821 by John Filer. It is now No.132. The records of this manor show that in 1837 a total of four and a half acres, including the house,was let to Richard Filer, who may have died by 1840. James Locke of Bishopswell Farm then became the copyholder and in 1878 the Commissioners conveyed the house – now only a quarter acre – to John Vowles of the Elephant Public House, Nicholas Street, Bristol, licensed victualler. (Ref: DD/CC 178891)

Mrs. French of Rock Road was born there in 1912 when it was a thatched cottage called 'Clarence Cottage'. Mr.Summers, her father, built the present front round the old cottage. A new kitchen was added at the back, covering the well. It will be noticed that this house is not aligned to the road.

The second property shown on the 1821 map is Bishopswell Farm, No.67. This also has been altered by up-dating the front. In 1821 James Broakes had bought from Poulett land previously rented by Edward Broakes (his father?) and it was he, it is thought, who built the house which at that time was let to someone else. By 1841 it had been bought by James Locke (see above). He was not living there at that date, but appears to have been at the time of the 1851 Census, when he is described as aged 55 and a farmer of 9 acres. It is recorded that in 1927 Edwin Baker of Bishopswell Farm wrote objecting to having to pay for flood-prevention work. Later it was bought by Mr. Pearce (senior) of Pearce's garage.

To return to Streamcross Villa, by 1821 it was owned and occupied by Ann Hucker and she had let some of Stoney Land to Richard Filer (see above) of Ivy Cottage, now No.36 Claverham High Street. By 1841 it was owned and occupied by Samuel Hazell; Mary Hazell, widow, aged 74, proprietor of houses, was there at the 1851 Census. By 1855 the house had been enlarged and outbuildings had been added.

In 1917 this house was sold at auction for £750 when the tenant was R Jackson. It consisted of dining room, sitting room, bathroom, four bedrooms, dairy, etc., stable with hay loft over, harness room, carthouse, cartshed, cowhouses, 2 pigstyes and a carpenter's

shop, and would seem to have been a smallholding. The late shop was in the former 'stable with hay loft over'. So Claverham Road hardly changed in the first twenty years of the last century and continued to be a country lane. In the next twenty years over a dozen cottages appear and in addition Henley Wood Cottage (now Henley Farm) and five houses at Hollowmead were built. Compared with present-day developments, very slow progress.

Between 1821 and 1841

Nos. 157. 159 and 161 were three cottages built at this time. William Eddington of Rock House, High Street, had a holding of 9 acres and in addition 'one acre lying in the wayside leading to Yatton near to Streamcross', called 'Yatton Lane Paddock'. He died in 1806 when his heir William was only five and his trustees were to manage his estate until his youngest child was 21 (in 1823). They bought Rock House with Yatton Lane Paddock and Henley Wood Orchard from Poulett in 1815 – the remainder of the 9 acres does not concern us here. They sold the house in 1823 and so it seems likely that soon after this date the three cottages were built, on the Paddock.

The western one belonged to William Eddington in 1841 and the other two to John Eddington. They were inhabited by Charles Sumner, John Filer and William Verrier. At the 1851 Census John Filer (aged 70) and William Verrier (66) were still there but Silvester Kingcott (35) was in the other cottage. All were farm labourers. We are told that earlier this century it was two cottages and that Mr. Scribbins lived in the one to the east, Mr. Wynn, the oilman, in the other (he is referred to on p.45 of 'Yatton Yesterday' No.5). In 1969 No.157 was sold for £3,100.

Henley Wood Orchard had been sold by the Eddingtons to Josiah Fish Esq. who built a cottage, now Henley Wood Farm, occupied by William Waltars.

Stowey Lodge. No.11: a full account of this appears in 'Y.Y.' No.10, but to summarise:

Samuel Salmon bought land from Poulett and by 1841 had built a cottage and outhouse in the angle between Claverham Road and Stowey Lane. He had an orchard and also a small field to the east of the cottage. At the 1851 Census he was 73, a 'gardiner', born at East Harptree. At some time about the turn of the century the cottage was extended to the east. It remained in the Salmon family until 1927 when it was bought by Mr. Summers, who built some of the houses in the road.

No.49 was the next house in 1841, opposite the present R.C. church and west of the garage. The piece of land of two acres was also part of the Eddington estate in 1821. It is not known who built the house there after this time, but in 1841 one is recorded, belonging to Charles Soloman and occupied by Silvester Kingcott. This may be where John Walker, aged 23, dealer in hay, was living at the 1851 Census.

No.62 (Eastern Cottage) and No.76. Across the road from No.49, these belong to this period and were built on a small field called "Frog Acre' which John Norman Esq. had bought from Poulett, although the tenant was Samuel Willmott and by 1821 his trustees, as he had died. Joseph Thomas bought the field and by 1841 the present No.62 was a 'house' built in part of Frog Acre, occupied by Miss Hart, and to the east in the other corner were, going from west to east, house and garden occupied by Francis Rogers, house occupied by Mary Parrott and house, garden and shop occupied by George Neads.

No.58 - 60, now and in 1841, only one house, was built on a small piece of a field adjoining Eastern Cottage and variously named 'Hackwell', 'Hawkers' or 'Hawkins' Hill. Again, John Norman had bought it but it was leased to George Standfast; however, by 1841 Josiah Fish Esq. owned the land and there was a house there, occupied by Robert Crook. The 1883 O.S. 25" plan shows it divided into three – probably two cottages and a stable.

None of these names appear ten years later – at the 1851 Census there are two masons, Joseph Thomas (50) and Edward Thomas (30), with William May (32) auctioneer and two farm labourers, William Clapp (62) and Henry Hiscox (20) living in this area. By 1841 a quarry is shown – the R.C. church was later built in it – owned by the Rev. Richard Symes of Cadbury (later Henley) Lodge.

Hollowmead: Nothing else was built in this period on the south side of the road except five houses at Hollowmead, probably nearer to the end of the time because one was incomplete at the 1841 Tithe. Part of Hollowmead was still divided into strips and adjoined those of Oar Field, various pieces being called 'White Cross Ground' in 1799. James Gregory, a Claverham carpenter, had bought part of Hollowmead and built a row of three cottages as well as two houses here. William Burge lived in the completed house and Charles Young, James Day and John Parsons in the cottages. The Census gives James Taylor *(55)* pauper, farm labourer, Charles Young (55) and John Parsons (67), occupations not stated, James Wookey *(55)* carpenter and John Burge (76) pauper. This property remained in the Gregory family until the present century.

Bishop's Well: Bishop's Well Paddock on the north side of the road adjacent to the actual well is No.336 on the Poulett plan of c. 1799 and it was occupied leasehold from Earl Poulett by Samuel Willmott who died in 1807. Poulett sold his land in Yatton in 1815 when John Norman bought the paddock and eventually it was sold to James Holbrook of Cleeve, carpenter, on 24th March 1827. But on 3rd June 1828 Joseph Thomas, mason, had bought from Holbrook, Bishop's Well Paddock together with dwelling house lately erected. Therefore No.87 was built between April 1827 and May 1828. (Ref: deeds of No.87).

Later in the year of 1828 Francis Hart, captain in the 39th Regiment of Foot, of Bedminster, purchased a parcel of ground, dwelling house and hereditaments. The paddock had been divided into two, tithe no.371 to the west and 372 to the east with the above house on it, this part being fenced off with a quick set hedge. It seems probable that Francis Hart had the present 'Bishop's Well' built. i.e. No.85 (and possibly 83, the two being described as one house in 1851) on No.371, the western part of the paddock. He was living there in 1841, when No.87, which he also owned, was 'void'. 'Bishop's Well' was therefore built between 1829 and 1841, as it appears on the tithe map.

No.89 is also pre-1841, 'house and land', occupied then by Samuel Phillips, in 1851 aged 67 and a limeburner (there was a kiln by Henley Farm). To return to No.87, 'The Cottage', in 1855 Hart sold it for £200 to John Mullett Bishop of Bishop's Farm (d. 1865) who used it to raise money by mortgage. It was 1 rood 4 perches then. After the death of his widow it was sold to Arthur George Wyatt, the butcher, in 1879, who lived there and died in 1931.

One other house of this period further along is possibly the present 103/105, Alma and Fern Cottages, or a house on the site, but it was only one dwelling in 1841 and owned and occupied by Samuel Green.

Between 1841 and 1883

In 1883 the first O.S.25" plan for the district was produced. Not many houses belong to this period. To quote from 'A History of Yatton': 'By 1861 the population of Yatton had fallen by about 10% and was to remain static until 1901, when it was almost back to the 1851 figure. The population of Claverham fell from 399 in 1871 to 336 in 1891'.

Nos.43/45 and 35/37 were built by Walter Parsons in 1877 and 1881 respectively and bear the initials 'W.S.P.' The cottage behind Henley Farm and the two in the lane appear on this plan. Alma and Fern Cottages are now shown as two. No.66, house with stable, appears for the first time, also built on 'Frog Acre'.

In 1851 there was a cottage, probably opposite Streamcross Villa (see above) occupied by two families – Richard Coles a tanner from Exeter and Robert James, a journeyman carpenter, newly arrived from Staplegrove, with a wife from Devon. Richard had not been in Yatton above four years. This could be the present No.179, altered or rebuilt, although no building appears on the site in 1841. Then it was a field called 'Stream Cross' and significantly, the owner, William Say, had just died and so his executors may have sold his property. A building appears here on the 1883 map.

'Holly Bank'. No.1. The land on which this house was built had been occupied by Samuel Willmott but by 1841 it was a garden owned by Richard Greville and occupied by James Hurd (both doctors). The house is shown on the 1885 plan and is superior to anything else built in the road. The site for this large house was probably chosen for its proximity to the High Street, and it does not really belong to Claverham Road.

To summarise, at the 1851 Census the road was called 'Bristol Road' as far as about the present No.89, and then 'Claverham Road' after that. Of the families listed in the Census, there were nine farm labourers (plus possibly two more unspecified), three carpenters, two masons, two pensioners/ annuitants with one proprietor of houses, two paupers and one each of hay dealer, engineer, limeburner, auctioneer, tanner and small farmer – 27 families, including Hollowmead but not Henley Farm.

Between 1883 and 1903

In 1903 a second O.S. 25" plan was produced on which several more houses are shown but, again, not a great number. The road is now sometimes called 'Yatton Road',

Walter Parsons completed his work by building two more houses, No.47 in 1898 and No.41 in the same style as those he had previously built.

It will be remembered that Samuel Phillips was living at No.89 in 1851 and it seems that the whole of Tithe No.373 was his, the house being in the western corner. About 1888 George and Harry Needham acquired this land (ref. deeds of No.99) and built two pairs of semi-detached houses, Nos. 101/99 and 97/95 and also No.93, previously known as 'Henleigh' and occupied by George Needham. Another new house, Woodleigh (now No.9 1) was occupied by Harry Needham. In 1930 (electoral register) George, Edith, Gertrude, Henry and Jennie Needham were living at Woodleigh and Leonard and Lilian Needham at 'Woodbyne'.

99/101 were known as Albert Villas, and No.99 also as 'Woolmoor Cottage' at first and later as 'Cotswold'. In 1908 when it was occupied by Edward Lucas as tenant George Needham sold it to Miss Batt. Ten years later it was bought for £350 by Mr. Croft who came from Northampton to work at the tannery.

Further along, Nos. 107 and 109, and 115 and 117, two pairs of semi-detached houses, were built prior to 1903, as were Nos. 149 and 151, 'Havard' and 'Radnor'. These two formed part of the estate of Claverham House when sold in 1917 and were said to be 'newly erected freehold houses'; nevertheless they appear on the 1903 plan. In 1917 'Radnor' was empty but H.G.Skuse lived at 'Havard'. In 1930 Walter and Ida Hay were living at 'Radnor House'. The 1903 plan shows Bishop's Well as two houses. In 1919 'Bishopswell' with half an acre was sold with a sitting tenant for £730.

Between 1903 and 1931

Quite soon after 1903 three stone houses were built almost opposite 'Radnor' and 'Havard'. These are now numbered 134/134A, 136/138 and 140. They were in any case built before the 1914-1918 war.

Nos.7 and 9, a pair of semi-detached stone houses, are dated 1922. The present R.C.Church which occupies a building formerly used by the British Legion, is shown as 'club' on the 1931 plan, occupying the site of a former quarry.

The 1930s

For the first time in many years, houses began to be built in the road in some quantity.

Nos. 1 12/114 and 116/118 are two pairs of semi-detached houses on the corner with Hollowmead and were built by Needhams either at the end of the 1920s or very early 1930s. No.120 was built by Tom Lukins in 1932 and No.153 'Springfield' (now 'Fairlight') was built in the 1930s on land belonging to Streamcross Villa by George Yeo. His widow sold it in 1942 to Louis Burdge.

The White House had two acres of land and a driveway from Claverham Road.

The Free Church at the corner of Streamcross is dated 1927, and the council houses on the main road were built after the Great War.

Returning westwards, four bungalows Nos. 104-110 are from this period, as is No.82 Danbury, built in 1933. Nos.78/80 are early 1930s and 38/40 are pre-1939.

On the north side of the road, Nos.15,17,19 and 21 were built between 1927 and 1939 on the orchard of Stowey Lodge by its owner, Mr.Summers. The garage (No.51) is said by Mr.Pearce to date from 1926 when the yard to the east was a field (now a space numbered 53). Next to this, No.55, a detached house recently extended, is said to have been built before the war for Mr. Nunney.

Bungalows 69.71 and 73 are pre-war. No.77 dates from 1938, probably also No.79 and No.8 1 were built around 1935/6 by Mr.Lukins for Reg Gard who worked for Edwards the butchers. Later Mr. Stone lived there when he retired from the junior school.

No.113 The Mount, called 'Wayside', was built about 1930 by Mr.Summers, also No 111, a bungalow, for Mrs. Viney. Mr. Day had Nos. 167/169 built in 1929-30 and No.173 dates from about 1936.

A considerable amount of building, therefore, had taken place in the 1930s and Claverham Road was beginning to fill up (see plan). Houses were usually built individually to order and there seems to have been little speculative building. Westaway Park and the top end of Stowey Road (which was a cul-de-sac) came after the last war, as did Claverham Park.

By looking at the map of houses in the road in 1939 and comparing it with those on the ground today, it is easy to see which have been built since the last war. Most of them came in the 1950s and 1960s, with a few later additions, mostly in-filling. It has now become a busy and dangerous road, although improved since the weight restriction was imposed, a far cry from the country lane described at the beginning of this article.

Marian Barraclough

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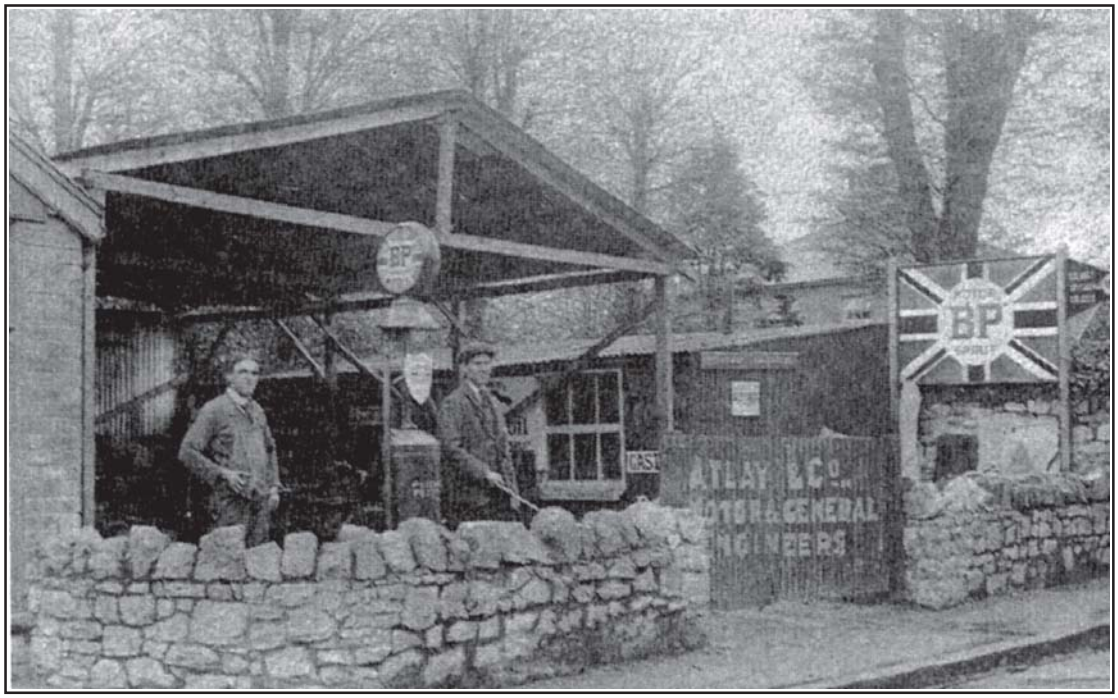
Petrol Stations in Yatton

With the oft rumoured redevelopment of the Yatton Motors site, in the High Street, a distinct possibility, it would seem a suitable time to record, as far as possible, the history of retail petrol sales in Yatton. As most readers will know, there are now no retail petrol outlets in either Yatton or Claverham but this has not always been the case.



Starting at the North End of the village, the first petrol pumps and showroom were at what is now 5 North End Road and operated by a Mr (Dicky) Bird. There were two pumps here and a small glass fronted showroom where bicycles were displayed. I have been unable to find a date when he started trading, but it would seem to be in the 1920s or 1930s with the pumps closing in about 1949 and finally ceasing trading in the 1960s.

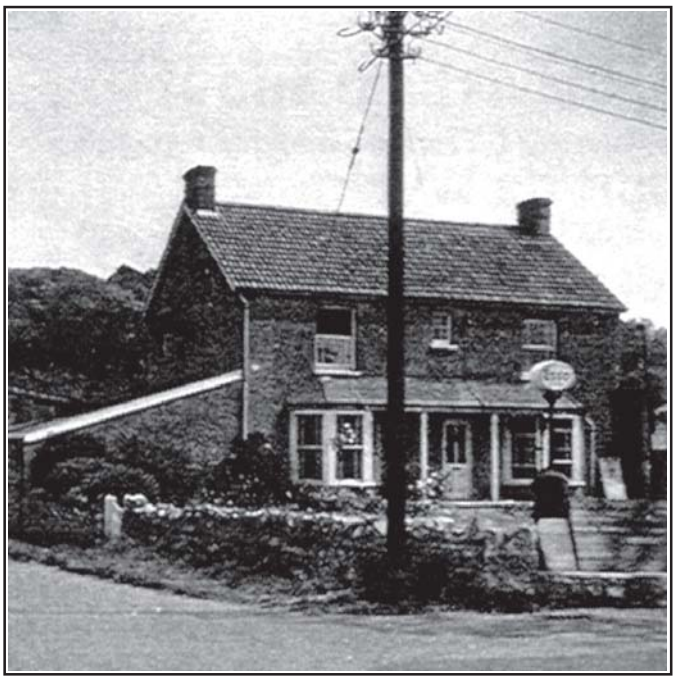
The next petrol site is what up until recent years was Yatton Motors, although that was not its original name. Mr J. R. Atlay came to Yatton in 1919 and commenced business in what was then a covered yard called Atlay & Co Motor & General Engineers (see

photograph), at the corner of Grassmere Road and High Street. He sold BP petrol and repaired all sorts of mechanical items, among them milk chums for the milk factory which stood where Smart Systems now stands. Mr Atlay stayed at this site from about 1921 until 1929 when he moved across the road and built on the site which was until recently Yatton Motors. The present building is similar to the original which had been destroyed by fire in 1944 and rebuilt by the garage staff. At the same time a building was purchased from a Services sale - the long building - and was originally used as a cafe, then a car showroom, second hand shop and store. Mr Atlay operated Atlay's Garage as it was then known, where he was all things to all motorists, repairing commercial vehicles, cars, farm machinery, etc. until he sold to a petrol company in 1958 and severed connections with the garage. Various people have operated the garage until a couple of years ago when it closed down.

Whilst at this end of the village it is as well to mention that, although not a retail petrol pump, there was a pump installed at Clements Coal Yard (Charringtons) for their own use. This used to be quite common in the 1920's but is rarely found nowadays.

Moving along the High Street in a southerly direction, research disclosed that on the 26 February 1887 a Mr A.G. Collings had been granted a licence to store 80 gallons of petrol. Presumably this would have been in two gallon cans and sold from what was then a grocery and drapery store' (No.34, Brandon House) – no chance of that happening now!

Further in a southerly direction, behind where the bus stop is now sited on the end of Henley Lane, we find Henley Cottage. This was the home of Mr A. Wynn who sold petrol from a site in the front garden. If you look for the sign "Henley Lane" you will see a low gap in the wall and it was behind this wall that two petrol pumps were sited. The gap in the wall allowed the person selling petrol access to the car tank . Petrol was sold here from the 1930s until at least 1939 and maybe even later. Mr Wynn was a hardware dealer and covered the area with a travelling shop – a Ford Model "T" van –from which he sold paraffin, gas mantles, lamp and stove wicks and all similar commodities.



Retracing our steps to Claverham Road we will find in about a quarter of a mile Claverham Coaches, which in earlier days was called Pearce's Garage - the garage itself being where the metal worker now operates.It started in 1926, selling Shell and BP fuel and Ford cars. If my memory is correct, there were two pumps and this business carried on until 1976 when the sale of fuel stopped.

Our last port of call on this survey is further along Claverham Road towards Claverham, at "Fernbank", a red brick house opposite the old wheeled milk stand. Behind this house Mr Stuckey operated a workshop and taxi service. The pumps and tanks were in the front gardens of the 'new' houses, going down the hill towards Claverham. Mr Stuckey opened the garage here in 1920 and installed the pumps in about 1930 selling BP fuel. Throughout the war years, Mr Stuckey's pumps were used by the Military and he finally stopped selling petrol in the 1950s. Along with Atlay's Garage, Mr Stuckey provided Yatton's taxi service: Atlay's with Humber, Morris and Standard cars, Mr Stuckey with a Willys Overland. Who, of the writers age, can forget that particular machine?!

To close this little survey, it must seem peculiar that in the days when car ownership in Yatton could be counted on one's fingers and toes, such a number of petrol points were available, compared to the present day, when car ownership is numbered in hundreds but no petrol pumps now exist. Perhaps someone more knowledgeable than I may care to enlighten us.

I am grateful to the following for their help in preparing this article:

Mrs Joan Buxton, Mr Tom Atlay, Mr Ron Clements, Mr Ken Pearce, Mr Sam Stuckey

Reference

Yatton Yesterday No 6, Page 28

Monty Lane

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Stalling's Cross, Claverham and Cross at Court de Wyck Providence Methodist Chapel, Claverham

In 1791 Collinson said "westwards from these ruins (ie of the Court de Wyck) stands an old massive cross, called Stalling's Cross".[1] In 1829 Rutter mentioned another cross – "in the court was the foundation of a cross".[2] Pooley in 1877 wrote as follows:- "The remains of the ancient Cross which formerly stood in the courtyard close to the old chapel, now tenanted by cider flasks, have entirely disappeared; so also has every vestige of the more noble Cross, called 'Stallings Cross', which stood a little **to** the west, close by a stream in the high road, where now stands a chapel of the Primitive Methodists. The name has been corrupted to 'Stream's Cross' by which the site is now generally known".[3] The chapel is dated 1867[4] and stands opposite the post office in Claverham; it was united with Yatton Methodist Church in 1921[5] and eventually closed in 1972. The redundant chapel building was sold in 1976 and converted into a house about 1978.

The cross which once stood near the old chapel at Court de Wyck was presumably a preaching cross, whereas the cross at Claverham crossroads called 'Stalling's Cross' was probably the market cross for the Manor of Wyck (Week). It is likely that the name 'Stalling's Cross' derives from the cross on the Temple side of the River Avon in Bristol where a great market was held until 1247 when a stone bridge was built over the river and the two towns, on the Gloucestershire side and the Somersetshire side, were incorporated into one.

A manuscript of 1247 refers to the market "at Redcliffe being kept at Temple Cross, als S. Allege, or Stallege Cross"[6] Barrett in 1789 said that the market was held at "Stallenge Cross"[7] **or** "Stallage-cross".[8] It is probable that the various alternative spellings are a corruption of St. Alphege.

St. Alphege (954-1012) was first a Benedictine monk at Deerhurst Abbey, Gloucestershire, and then abbot of a monastery near Bath. He was made bishop of Winchester in 984, and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006, but was killed by the Danes at Greenwich in 1012. His relics were first kept at St. Paul's and later at Canterbury.[9]

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2. Rutter, J. : Delineations of the North Western Division of the County of Somerset (1829), p.71.
3. Pooley, C. : Old Stone Crosses of Somerset (1877), p.172.
4. Yatton Yesterday No.4, p.10.
5. Yatton Methodist Church Centenary 1888-1988, booklet, p.10.
6. Pooley, C. : Notes on the Old Crosses of Gloucestershire (1868), p.4.
7. Barrett, W. : The History and Antiquities of the City of Bristol (1789), p.75.
8. Ibid : p.541.
9. The Book of Saints (compiled by the Benedictine monks of St. Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate), 6th Ed. (1989), p.28.

Addendum

It would appear that Pooley was wrong in saying (in 1877) that the chapel on the site of Stalling's Cross was a chapel of the Primitive Methodists. Morris's Directory of Somerset and Bristol (1872) described it as belonging to the United Free Methodists and in a Baptismal Register dating from 1868 it is described as the Free Methodist (Providence) Chapel.

Nicholas Deas

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Snippets

Below are some snippets from conversations with a Yatton Nonagenarian (Mrs Irene Ford, Orchardleigh, High Street, Yatton), who died in June 1996. She was probably one of the very few remaining residents who could remember Yatton as it was before the First World War. Much smaller, close-knit and traffic-free, it must have been a delightful place in which to grow-up.

Mrs Ford was the twin sister of Miss Vera Tutt who died in 1994. They were the daughters of Mr and Mrs Tutt who ran a combined drapery and grocery business in Yatton High Street. Mrs Ford lived in the adjoining house. She was the widow of Rev. Richard Ford whom she met when he was a curate in Yatton. She had left the village for thirty years when he was vicar of various parishes in Somerset (he finished his ministry in Tickenham). The Fords then returned to Orchardleigh and shared the house with Miss Tutt. Rev. Ford died in 1981.

Miss Tutt continued to run the business after her parents died. The grocery shop was eventually sold to the International Stores, but she continued the drapery side until she retired. She also taught the piano. In the following quotes Mrs Ford refers to Miss Tutt as "Vee".

The Creases, Edwards and Williams she mentions all lived near the Tutts in the High Street. Mr and Mrs Crease had two children, Madgie and Jack. Tragically Madgie was to die young from T.B. Jack was a founder member of Yatton Local History Society and was President from its formation in 1982 until his death in 1986.

The Edwards family owned the butcher's shop (and still do). In 1986 Charles Edwards had a book about Yatton published, entitled 'A Pleasant Abode'. He died in 1990.

The Williams - Mr and Miss (they were brother and sister)- ran the Yatton chemist shop. They lived in the house now occupied by the Brittons, Funeral Directors. First of all they used the little shop attached to the house, which is now the Brittons' office. Then they moved the business to larger premises on the corner of the High Street and Derham Park, but continued to live in the house.

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"My first memory is of us going to Bristol to have our photograph taken. We were about two-and-a-half. The photographer told us to watch the birdie. He actually had a model one – he held it up for us to look at." (This charming photo still exists).

"When we were very small an organ grinder with a monkey used to come and play under our nursery window which was on the first floor and overlooked the High Street. We danced to the music and howled when he moved on."

"Our doctor considered Vera and me to be too delicate to go to school until we were seven years old. We went to Miss Avery's school at Larchmount Hall (now the Masonic Lodge). Miss Avery was very strict and we had to sit on benches without back rests, but she and her staff were very good teachers. When we were older we attended St Kilda's School in Bristol and were ahead of pupils who were the same age as us. We leamt piano at Miss Avery's. The music teacher was a dragon. If you played more than two or three wrong notes she sent you packing and threw your music book after you. It slithered along the shiny floor."

"Miss Avery was unable to tell us apart. One day I could do my sums, but Vera couldn't, and was told to stay after school to get them right. However, I stayed behind and Vee went home. I soon got away."

"The same doctor that forbade us to go to school until we were seven told my Mother we were kept too clean and should be allowed out into the garden to make mud pies. Mother compromised. Some sand was brought up from Weston Beach for us to play with."

"Being identical twins we were a bit of a novelty. We would be dressed up in clean starched pinafores and people would come up to the nursery to inspect us. They would make remarks about how alike we were. One friend of my Mother said 'They found one of you in a Christmas Cracker and the other hanging on a Christmas Tree.' We thought she was a very stupid woman. This type of thing made us shy of strangers, but I was considered to be a chatter-box."

"The first Yatton vicar I remember was the Rev. Mather who had a big bushy white beard. Vee and I knew that the men in the Bible had beards. We were out with Nanny one day when he stopped to speak to us. He was just going when I said, Was that Moses, Nanny?' 'Did the child ask if I was Moses?' he demanded. Nanny's answer was non-committal and she hurried us away. The Rev. Mather had six children, but we didn't like him much; we preferred Rev. Robinson who came after."

"Jack Crease was older than us and a bit like a big brother. He used to come and play and we would quarrel and he would go off in a huff. Then he would come back later as if nothing had happened. When he had his first pair of long trousers he stood at their gate all day for passers-by to admire them. I can remember his sister Madgie dancing on our front lawn at the time of George V and Queen Mary's Coronation to entertain my Grandmother."

"Word went around Yatton that a plane from France would be flying over the village. Many of us went up on Cadbury Hill to watch the spectacle. The pilot flew the plane very low and threw a penknife out of the cockpit. Jack picked it up and added it to his collection."

"Mrs Crease and my Mother were great friends. My Mother liked to change the furniture around and Mrs Crease would help her shift it. My Father on entering the room would say good humouredly 'You'll be moving the door next, Mother!'.

"Charles Edwards' mother told mine that Charles was so brainy because she fed him on a diet of fish and grapenuts." (Rather an odd diet for a butcher's son!)

"Mrs Richards lived near the Church and used to come and help my Mother. She had flat feet. In those days there was lino on the passage floor and we would hear her flip flopping along it. She had a hard life. She had five children including twins, and money was always short. At one time she had had ajob at Brinsea Farm and had pushed her twins in their pram there and back to it. She said working for my Mother had been one of the happiest times of her life. Vee was her pet and she called her 'My baby'."

(Mrs Ford had a photo of Mrs Richards looking rather severe but quite smart in what Mrs Richards called her 'frooneral hat')

"Before the First World War my parents owned three horses, as we delivered groceries over quite a wide area - as far as Wrington. At the outbreak of war the army took the best horse which was Mother's favourite. She was very upset. We never saw it again."

"At that time we had two cats, one was called Kitchener after Lord Kitchener and the other was called Jellicoe after Admiral Jellicoe. We shortened the names to 'Kitchy' and 'Jelly'."

"A circus used to be held at Clevedon every year and would parade through the High Street on its way there. One day an elephant caught a whiff of baking as it approached Pullins. It refused to go any further until it had been given a bun."

"At election times shops used to dress their windows in the colours of the party they supported. One such time we saw the curate outside our shop and heard him say in a loud voice which he meant us to hear 'Not the right colours'. I think he was a bit batty."

"Another curate was sweet on two young ladies in the village. He was reported **to** have said 'I can't make up my mind whether to propose to Miss M or Miss R!' He later married Miss M and I think Miss R had a lucky escape!"

"The old vicarage (pulled down in 1965 when Well Lane was built) had a lake in the grounds with ducks on it. There was one little mallard that was blind. Every morning one of the sighted ducks would escort it to be fed. The Rev. Peart used this as a subject for a sermon."

"Many years ago Mr Knight was landlord of the Prince of Orange. On Christmas Eve the Knights always sent us over a jug of punch. They also ran a taxi service called 'Knight's Taxis'. One day the taxi went by the window and Vee saw it. 'I wonder who's in the taxi?' Vee remarked. Our cousins from London were staying with us and they laughed. In London where there are lots of taxis you don't expect to know who is in them."

"To begin with our shop had the only telephone in the village. The line was connected to Yatton Post Office. People were always popping in to ask if they might use it. A person was making a call one day when she said into the receiver 'I think somebody is listening to us.' 'No I'm not' cut in a third voice."

"I had only one accident when I was driving, I ran into one of Maurice Crossman's cows. Luckily it was a hardy beast and didn't appear to have come to any harm."

"Two peculiar brothers lived in a cottage in the Causeway. One wore a coat that had originally been black, but was so old it was green with age." (The cottage in the Causeway was pulled down many years ago.)

"A young man in the village used to go poaching. He would appear on our doorstep holding up a hare with the words 'Would you like thissen - he's a gooden?"'

"We leamt from our London cousins that at the time of the Abdication the City children were singing, 'Hark the herald angels sing, Mrs Simpson's pinched our King'."

"The Paveys lived in Laurel Terrace. They were all artistic and musical and a little eccentric. Mr Pavey painted that picture on the wall (in her room) of Henley Wood at bluebell time. One of his daughters ran a Brownie pack. In the school holidays we would see her taking a group up to Cadbury Hill. She would have a large frying pan strapped to her back."

"We acquired a kitten from Mr Ebdon who was the village school headmaster. He was keen on cricket and had christened all the kittens with names of famous cricketers. Ours was called Verity. Unfortunately the poor cat was shot by a farmer. Mr Ebdon's fingers were all deformed where they had been broken by cricket balls. He was quite proud of them. We used to go to Whist Drives that were held in the Village Hall and the Ebdons went to them, too. One evening when we were playing I noticed Mr Ebdon looking thoughtful. I said 'What are you thinking about Mr Ebdon?': he replied 'I'm working out the Binomial Theorem.' He was very brainy."

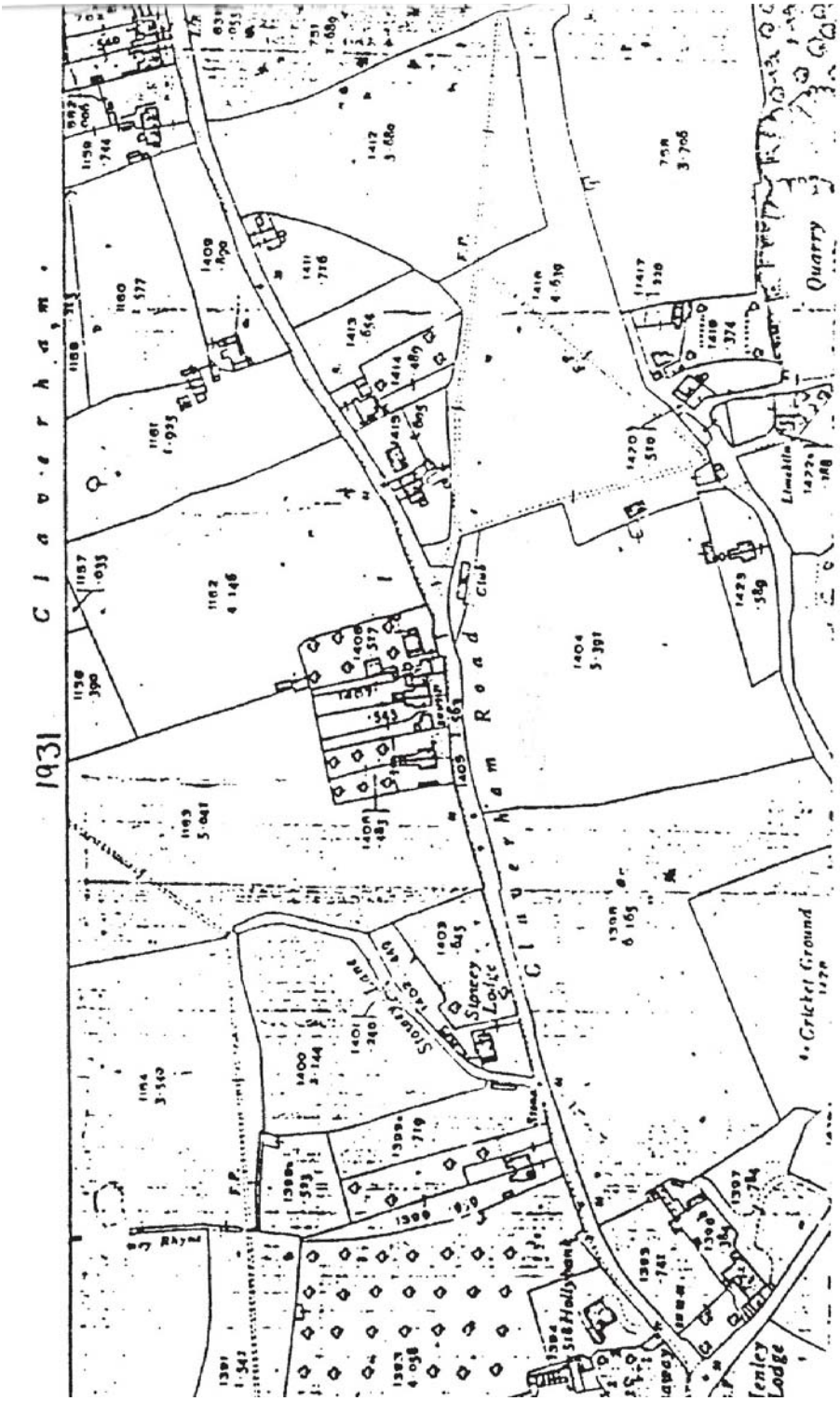
"In the Second World War Vee had to do fire-watching. Her uniform coat was too big for her and came down to her ankles and the sleeves covered her hands. Mr Williams was in charge of the fire-watchers, and on Friday evenings Vera was based at his house. It was also the evening when Mr Williams took a bath. Along with the splashing noises could be heard the strains of him singing 'My little Grey Home in the West' - it never varied. When he left the fire-watchers at their various posts his parting shot was always 'I hope you get damned well blown up!"'

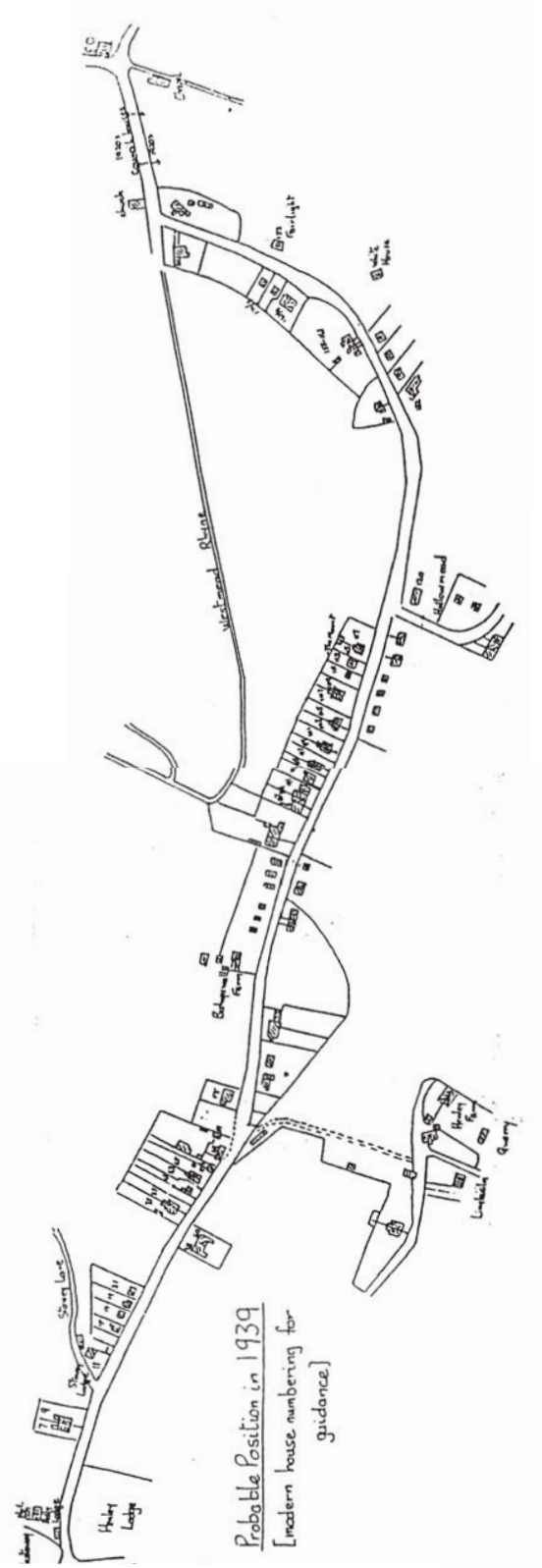
Mrs Ford was a great character, and it was a privilege to know her.

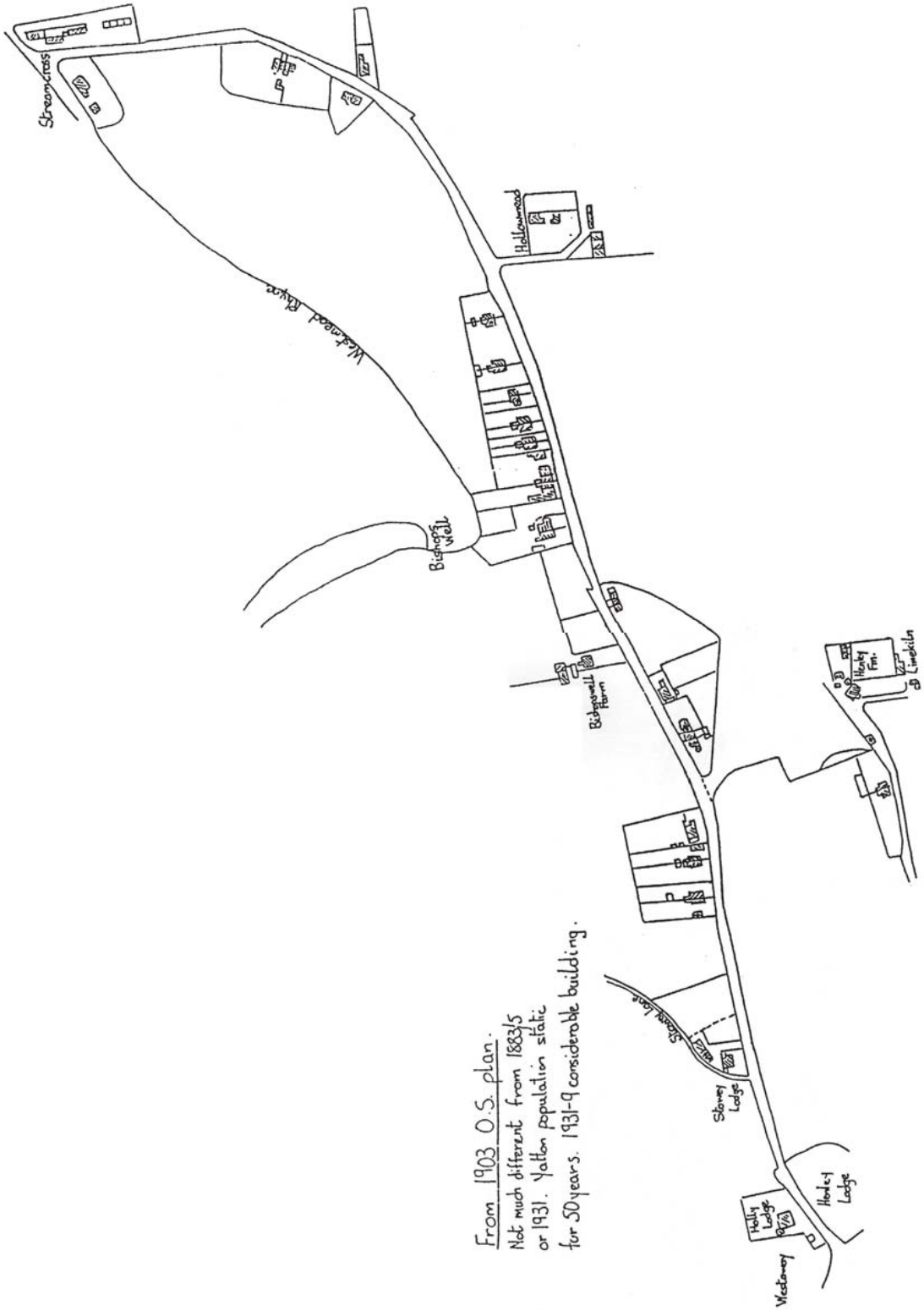
Judy M. Lovejoy

Maps relating to Claverham Road since 1799

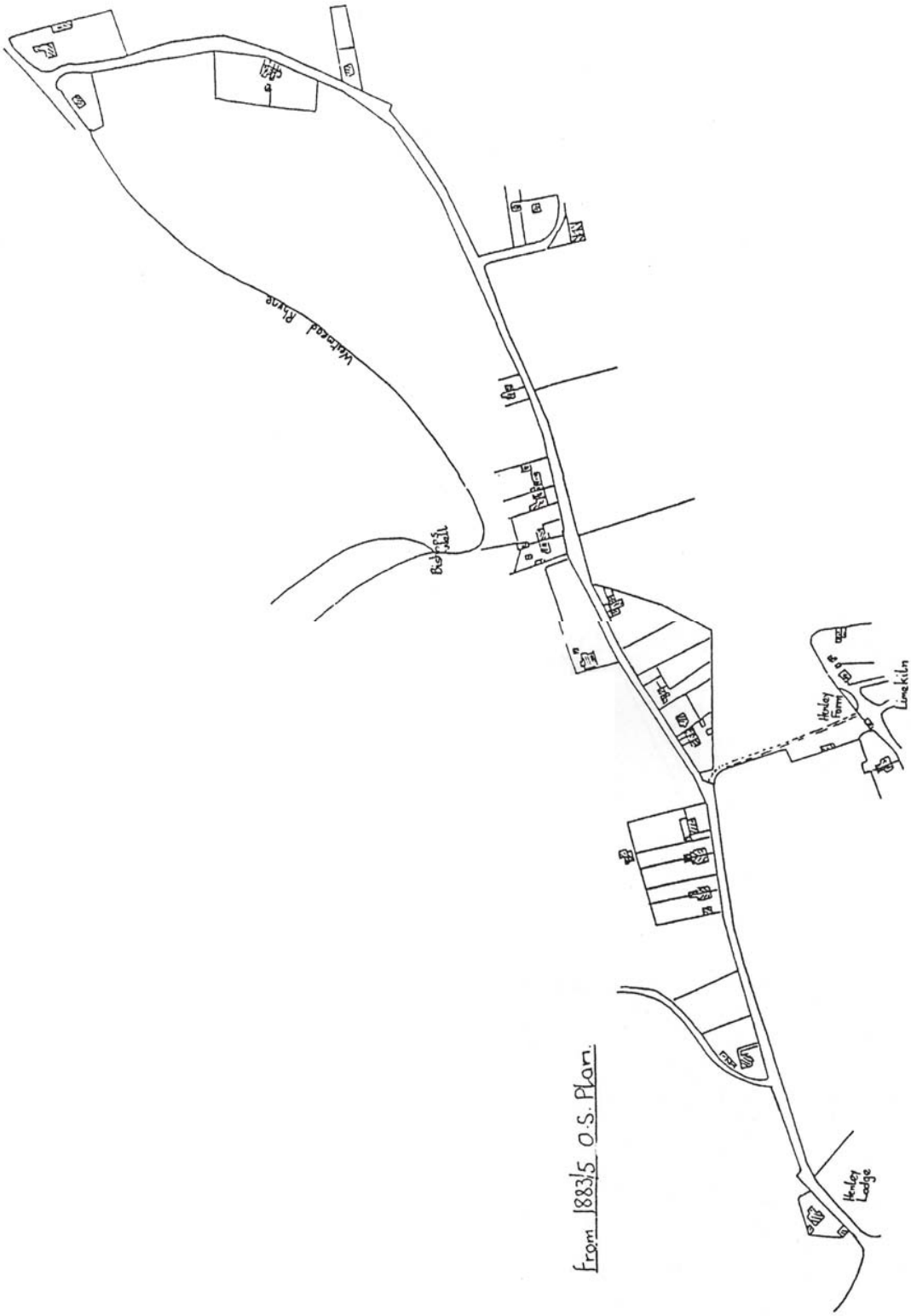
(*See article page 22*)



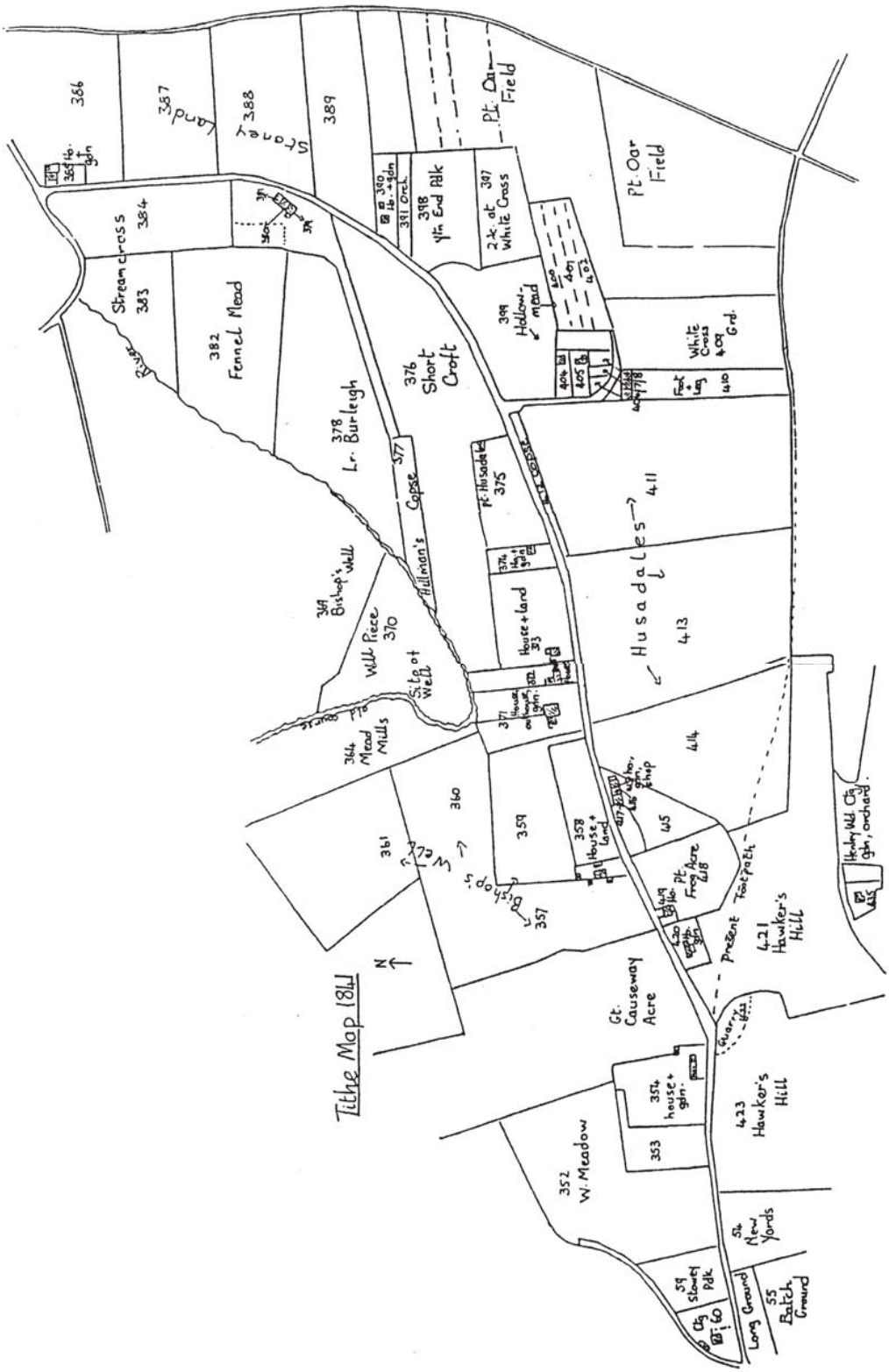

Probable Position in 1939
[modern house numbering for guidance]

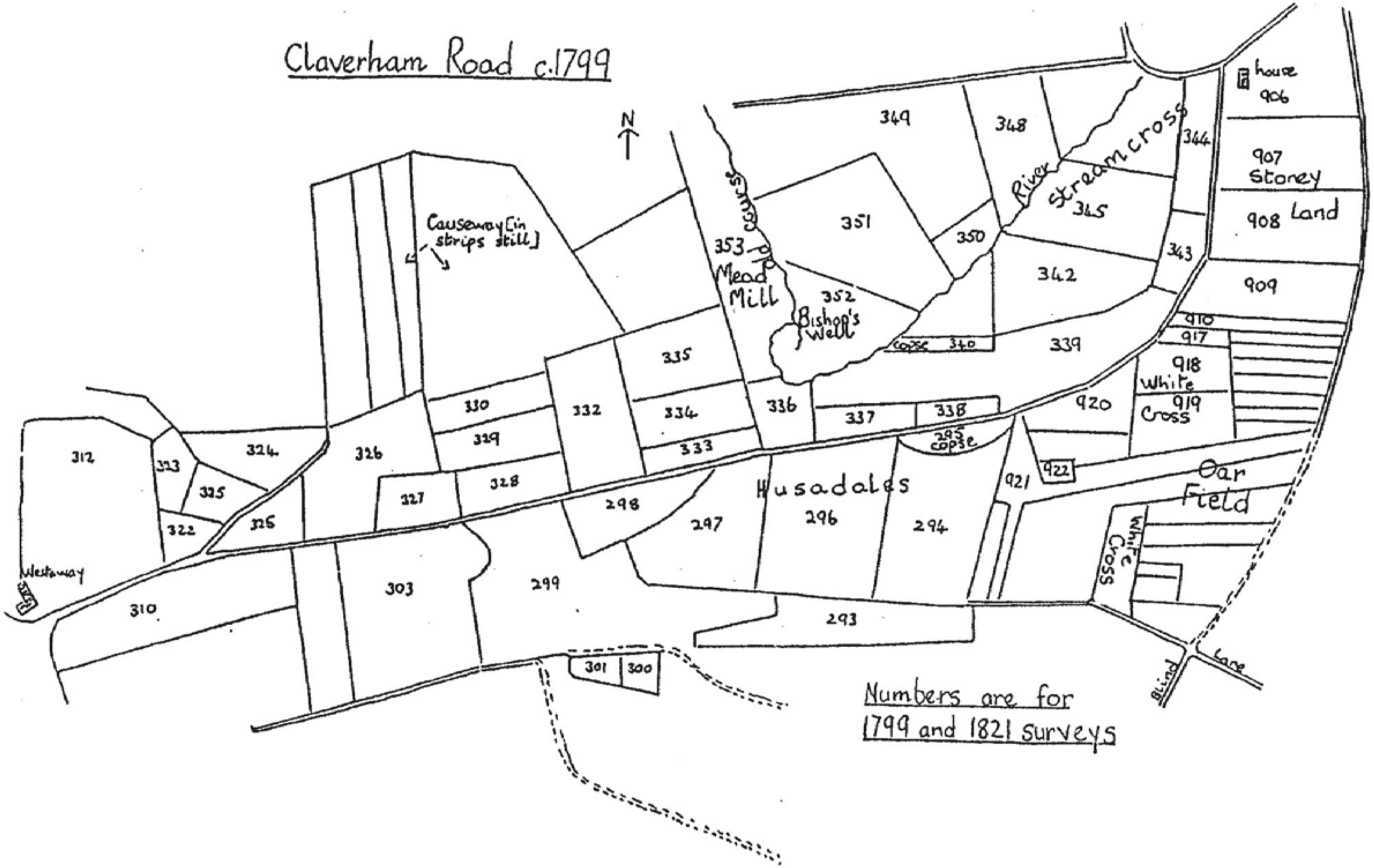


From 1903 O.S. plan.
Not much different from 1883/5 or 1931. Yatton population static for 50 years. 1931-9 considerable building.



From 1883/5 O.S. Plan.


Tithe Map 1841
N
Stream cross
383
384
366
367
Land
368
Stony
389
390
391 Orch.
398
Yth End Pk
397
2 ac. at White Cross
Pt. Oar Field
Pt. Oar Field
399
Hollow mead
400
401
402
White Cross Grd.
409
Foot Leg
410
382
Fennel Mead
378
Lr. Burleigh
376
Short Croft
377
Copse
Hallinan's
Pt. Husadales
375
Husadales
411
413
414
349
Bishop's Well
Well Piece
370
Silo at Well
House + land
33
371
364
Mead Mills
360
361
359
358
House + land
357
Bishop's
405
Pt. Four Acre
418
Present Footpath
421
Hawker's Hill
Hedge Well Cl.
Gdn, orchard.
Gt. Causeway Acre
354
house + gdn.
353
352
W. Meadow
423
Hawker's Hill
54
New Yards
59
Slowey Pdk
55
Batch Ground
Long Ground



Claverham Road c.1799

Numbers are for 1799 and 1821 surveys

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