

MORE YATTON YESTERDAYS

NO: 5

2000



PUBLISHED BY
YATTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Reprinted 2011

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Cover picture of Court House Farm demolished in the 1960's
to enable the shopping Precinct to be built.

Picture supplied by Mr. L. Burdge

Registered Charity No 1019832

ISSN 1365 - 9766

Photoset & Printed by
Woodspring Resource Centre
Locking, Weston-super-Mare
Tel: 01934 820800

Editorial

Herewith ‘*More Yatton Yesterdays*’ Book No 5 – the latest of our recordings of the history of Yatton and our nineteenth publication.

Apart from contributions from our usual researchers within the Society, we are delighted to have articles written by various members of the village community, both past residents and current. Such extra contributions seem to have been very popular in Book No. 4, so much so that we have sold out. This achievement has been due to our usual outlets. We are indeed grateful to Clive at Yatton News, Nicola at Yatton Post Office, to George and Lyn at the Corner Shop, Richard at Claverham Post Office and Jean in the Precinct.

We would also like to record the success of our Millennium exhibition held way back in January, with the mural of the High Street as it was in 1900 consisting of colour sketches of every building. In just a day and a half the support was incredible.

Finally may I thank the Committee and Society members for all their efforts during the past year.

A. F. Coe, President.

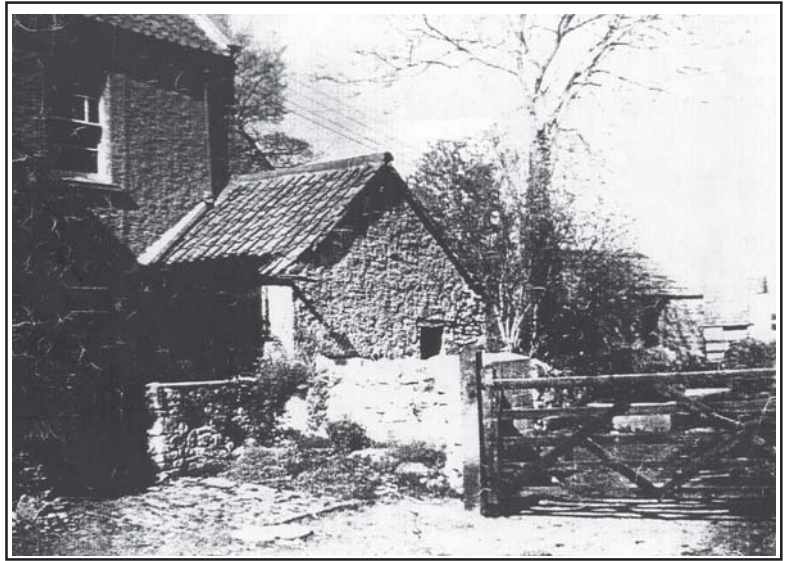
October 2000

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COURT HOUSE FARM - LEN BURDGE'S MEMORIES

Len Burdge is a member of the Burdge family who can trace their origins from William Burdge who was born in 1769 near Salisbury. They came via Wedmore to North End Farm, Yatton in the mid 1800s. Len's father had emigrated following his two brothers, Ted and Sid. The latter was a prairie preacher who made use of a covered wagon.



View at rear of Court House Farm

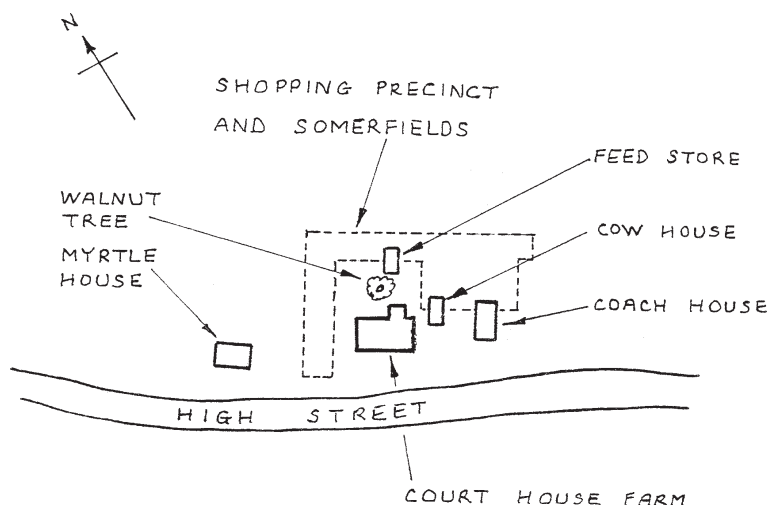
Len's father returned to Yatton to marry and Horsecastle Chapel had its first wedding in 1914 of Len Burdge's parents. Len was born in Canada in 1915 but returned to Yatton at an early age when the family moved in 1924 to the now demolished Court House Farm.

In 1927 when he was twelve, Len set up a milk round selling milk from a bicycle but on leaving school he delivered from a motorcycle and sidecar. Seventeen-gallon conical churns were taken to Yatton station to catch the 8.15 am. train to Bristol. Eventually he sold Guernsey milk from the farm herd for its greater cream content. In the 1930's Len made farm wagons to order, until tractors replaced horses from 1947 onwards. He adapted army surplus items to agricultural use,

using armoured cars with tracks and he even made aircraft fuel jettison tanks into small boats. The local boys used to explore the river nearby, one in a large boat he had built himself and the rest in Len's creations. "Like a duck with her ducklings" is how Len described them.

Included in Len's memories are the bonfire built for the Jubilee of George V and being told by his grandfather and father how grain was taken by horse and cart to Kenn Mill through Mud Lane, Claverham and the green lane at Hillsea. They would have seen this when they farmed Claverham Court.

Yatton precinct was named 'Pages Court' to commemorate its origins as follows:-



Plan of Court House Farm and Shopping Precinct

The earliest records of Court House Farm are deeds dated 1700 showing the name of Thomas Davis, yeoman, of Congresbury but there is some evidence that previously a Robert Pools lived there.

In 1726 the house was called High House. It was a tenement with several closes or smallholdings, thirteen and a half acres in all. It was let to John Davis, a yeoman of Yatton, a Quaker who coincidentally was an ancestor of the Burdges. His son Thomas Davis, who was also known as Churchus, was renting it in 1731. His son of the same name who died when aged 44 years passed it in trust to Edward, his son, aged 23. The name of James Churchus and the date 1785 were engraved on a front bedroom window, used by Len. In 1802 Mary Churchus referred to it as Higher House. Mary was the widow of another Churchus, Robert and she was the daughter of the Wilmotts of Claverham Court; she was 87 when she died in 1816.

In 1799 the farm consisted of a 'good' house, barn, stables, ox shed, cart house, pig cots, orchards, fields, part of Henley Wood and rights to common land. An additional ten acres partly on the moor were bought. In 1821 the farm ceased to be rented when Edward Churchus bought the farm from Earl Poulett's estate.

During the nineteenth century it became known as Court House Farm so possibly a local magistrate lived there and courts were held, but there is no available evidence for this.

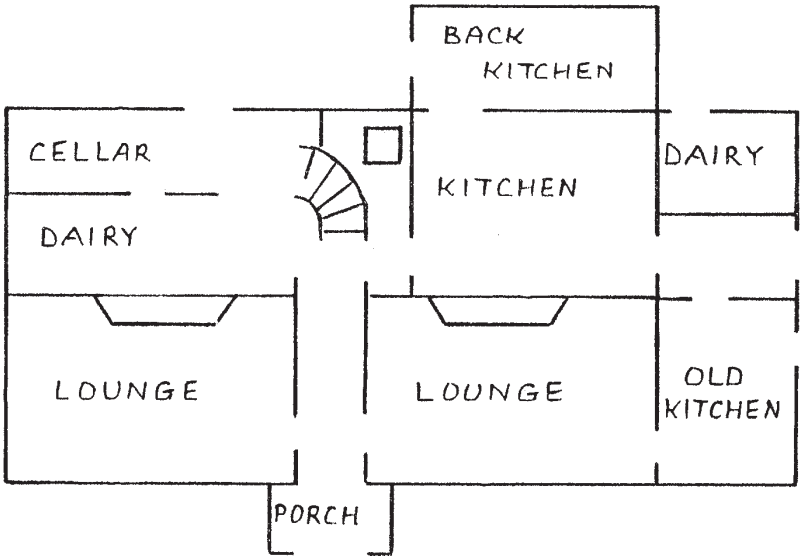
However by 1840 it belonged to Samuel and Hannah Baker and in the 1851 census Samuel Baker is still there as a 52 year old farmer. The adjacent Myrtle Cottage also belonged to the Bakers.

Ernest Burdge took his family, including Len, there in 1924 on their return from Canada. It then had 80 acres and was rented from James Baker Page (hence the name) of Westaway House.

*Floor Plans of
Court House Farm*

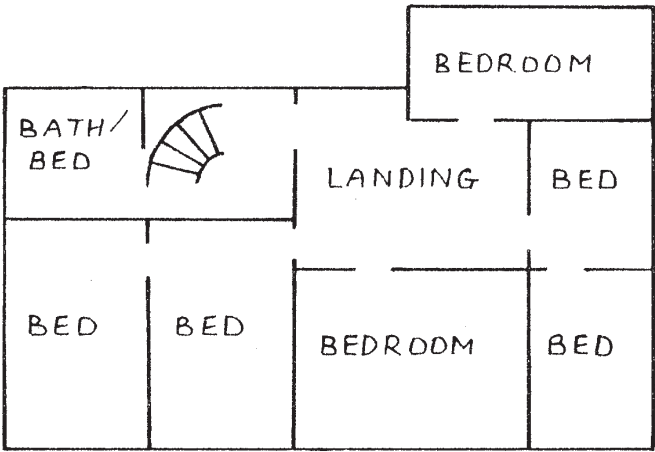
Ground Floor

*Redrawn from a
sketch by Len Burdge
who lived here in the
1930s
by Mike Pitman*



In 1939 Court House Farm had seven bedrooms, a cellar (actually a ground level store), a dairy as well as kitchens and living rooms. The farmhouse was substantial. It is thought from the two-foot thickness of the walls and uneven floors that it was built by unskilled labour possibly in the 1400's during the wars in Europe when the skilled labourers were away for

prolonged periods. It had wattle and daub internal walls and the pattern of a through passage house, together with a circular staircase. There were three floors. Four of the bedrooms were interconnecting (see plan) and the first floor had elm floorboards. On the second floor there were wattle and daub screens under the thatch. The three attic areas were used for storage and Len



*First Floor Plan of
Court House Farm*

*'JAMES CHURCHUS-1785'
ENGRAVED ON WINDOW*

often found walnuts, where mice had hidden them under the floorboards.

There was also a stable and loft, a coach house, a wagon house, a barn, two cow houses, two pigsties, a meal and corn house, two sheds, two ponds and a well with a pump. Three orchards were near the house. The ponds were where the Junior school field is now. The Harris family lived there and farmed it when tiles replaced the thatched roof in the 1950's.

Although the farmhouse was a listed building it was demolished to make way for the shopping precinct in the late 1960's. A reminder of the farm is the walnut tree in the brick surround which was one of seven planted by Len Burdge at the time of the total eclipse of 1928. The ash tree by the bus stop is also a tree dating from Court House Farm times.

Marianne Pitman



GROWING UP IN WARTIME

To an eight year-old the declaration of war in 1939 meant 2 days' extra holiday and the arrival of evacuees from London.

A whole school came to the village by train and the pupils were allocated to families at the Church Hall. My father brought home a small boy called Ernie, who was blind in one eye. His brother and sister were billeted with other families along Claverham Road. Before the days of mass communication these children were regarded almost as aliens from another planet. Many of them came from what we would now call a disadvantaged area of Poplar.

Milk was delivered to our homes, from a pail into a jug. This caused consternation with remarks like, after smelling the milk, "Eh! milk don't come out of jugs it comes out of tins!". Also

the sight of an "animal with no fur on" caused a bit of a panic. This was a first sighting of a pig. Our evacuee's brother "acquired" a detonator from the explosives store at the quarry - turned it into a cap and key banger, mangling one of his hands when it exploded. Later on they all returned home except for a few families.

The village hayseeds sent the evacuees to Miss Eyres' shop to buy some barbed wire seeds, which did not amuse Miss Eyres or the headmaster. The practice was stopped.

When starting in the infant class, at the Church school, we were taught by Mrs Dyte, wife of the headmaster Percy C. Dyte who went on to Clevedon. Malcolm E. Stone took his place and his wife also taught at the school and played the Fairy Godmother in the village Pantomime.

Cricket and School

Malcolm Stone was a useful opening bat and we would watch home games on a Saturday. If he scored twenty or more it was safe to remark on Monday in school "Good match on Saturday, sir!" otherwise the subject was best avoided. He always appeared more benign after a good match.

Billy Ebdon, a previous village head, had turned to umpiring and, if the occasion arose, he would leave the wicket and walk majestically across the ground to a group of us small boys with the admonition "You boys either behave yourselves or leave the ground".

During the war the Vicar, the Rev. W. N. Kempe, the Headmaster and the village policeman Sid Claxton all turned out for the village cricket team! Frank Pearce, the owner of Claverham Garage, after a lifetime of tightening nuts with a spanner, could make the cricket ball hum as it came through the air from one of his off-breaks. Many of the village elders played for the team for years.

Back at school - Malcolm Stone's room for senior boys had five doors. When he left the room you were never sure through which door he would reappear, so it was not advisable to misbehave. The cane was well used.

Malcolm always declaimed that poets are born not made and there was only one poet in our class (leaving age was 14) and that was B.M. He was proved

right because B.M. was caught passing around a highly scurrilous, obscene poem as a parody of the Lady of Shallot. I was cross that the older boys would not show me, as I was considered too young.

In those days many afternoons for seniors consisted of basket making or gardening. Our school garden was next to the churchyard and it is now strange to visit where we used to dig, and see the names on the graves of those we knew as children.

Malcolm Stone was a corporal in the Home Guard and like the others he kept his weapon at home. Many of us got to know how to assemble a Sten gun from the pieces which were kept oiled in his shed.

A rare treat on Ascension Day was to attend church in the morning, and if you had had a good week of work, or behaviour, be allowed to climb the church tower after the service. The rest of the day was a holiday.

Many of us felt deprived at only being allowed to drink milk at break time which cost twopence halfpenny a week (1p) while others had large jars of cod liver oil and malt, presumably to make up for some deficiency. We lost one boy however who died of TB, but I can't remember his name. The milk froze on cold days in a schoolroom heated inadequately by a coke 'tortoise' stove.

School at war

We all had to carry our gas masks to school (there were no excuses for forgetting) and practise working in them. One boy was caned for sailing his gas mask box on Stream Cross on the way to school.

When the bombing started we had at one time to go into the Church Hall skittle alley to shelter. Later on all the windows of the classroom were covered with wire netting and we had to take a piece of carpet to school and sit on it, against the wall, if the air raid siren went.

If there was a 'dog fight' overhead between our fighters and German planes, some of the senior boys would have immediate bladder problems and have to visit the "back" as we called it. The real purpose was to collect spent .303 inch machine gun bullets as they fell from the sky.

When night-time bombing of Bristol started our dog always knew long before the siren went that the bombers were approaching and he would hide beneath the arm chair. To this day I know the intermittent engine pulse of a Heinkel bomber. We sheltered or cowered underneath the stairs listening to the crump of bombs or bark of A.A. guns. I remember being taken outside to see the glare of Bristol, burning in the distance. Bombs did fall on Claverham Road. Three fell on the "tump" behind the British Legion hut - now the Catholic Church. In the morning many of us small boys scoured the fields for bomb shrapnel - a find for us -

oblivious of the lethal propensity of the rust free jagged edges. My brother, Peter, made a major find of a huge piece of shrapnel, well over a foot long, covered in German, presumably the date and batch number. He never forgave Williams the chemist for confiscating his trophy which went for use by the intelligence services.

Later on the Italian Prisoners of War built and fenced in their own camp next to Arthur Wynn's house - we watched it all happening. At first the Italians were real prisoners working on the land. Later on, when Italy entered the war on our side they were allowed more freedom, even going to Weston-super-Mare by train unescorted.

When the German P.O.W.s took over the camp they also worked on the land with some in the tannery. Our football ground was behind the camp and they would watch us play. However we did think it was funny when we saw a prisoner of war cleaning the guard's rifle.

Radio Times

The B.B.C. was evacuated to Bristol at the height of the London Blitz. Some celebrities of those days lived in Yatton: Nan Kenway and Douglas Young, comedians, along Claverham Road and Uncle Mac of Children's Hour fame stayed, I believe, with the Barnards. His face was badly scarred from the First World War. You may remember his closing line "Good night children, everywhere".

Rehearsals for a wartime show called ‘Worker’s Playtime’ were held in the Church Hall. For free we saw many celebrities including Ethel Revnell and Gracie West, the pianists Rawicz and Landauer and Bennett and Williams, with the compere Bill Gates. It was not unknown to see Tommy Handley and some of the cast coming out of the ‘Prince’.

Agriculture

Farming was an important occupation during the war. We played on the farm run by Vic Parsons who had four sons. We used hay knives on the ricks, a chaff cutter in the sheds and thought nothing of handling pitch forks. Any one of these tools could be lethal but, perhaps, growing up with them I never remember anyone fooling about or being injured. Shades of Health and Safety at Work!

Haymaking required many hands, before the days of mechanisation, and, after a day’s work many of the village men would help Vic with his haymaking - putting into haycocks, loading onto the cart and making a rick. Copious quantities of cider were needed to slake thirst. What a delight for boys to volunteer to fill up the bottles for the haymakers. Of course we had to taste it to make sure it was fit to drink as it came out of the barrel!

Vic Parsons’ brother, Sid, kept the streets clean with his cart pulled by a magnificent shire horse. Not all of the cart stored rubbish. A very clean part had garden produce, which Sid sold.

Excitement of Life

Life for children during the war was on one level exciting when one was not exposed to immediate danger. My father was a guard on the old Great Western, and he would often be away for fifteen hours at a time caught in the Bristol bombing. My mother had to leave teaching when she married but the war saw her back at the village school with Malcolm Stone.

The village was small by today’s standards, but since then massive building has taken place. Before expansion everyone knew everybody else, at least by sight, and if you slipped out of line Sid Claxton would have a word with your father.

I left home in 1949 for National Service and settled in Exeter but one’s roots still lie where you were born.

John Maslen



MERILY AND ISAAC JOULES

The graves of many of the Joules family of gypsies lie to the north of Yatton church in two rows alongside the east wall of the churchyard. They include the grave of Merily Joules whose epitaph has been frequently quoted in the past, including an early volume of *Yatton Yesterday*.¹

An examination of the small headstone shows that the epitaph has been misquoted. The grammar has been "improved", "gypsy" substituted for "beauty" and the name spelt "Merrily" instead of "Merily".

The actual inscription reads:-

"Here lie Merily Joules
A beauty bright
That left Isaac Joules
Her hearts delight
1827"

Although Merily is not included in the standard reference book of English christian names it is possibly derived from Meriel, a variant of Muriel, both of which became common in the 12th and 13th centuries and survived in country districts.²



Old Isaac Joule.

It is said that he was a farmer's son who married a gipsy maid, and was disowned by his family in consequence. After his death he frequently spent whole nights by her grave in Yatton churchyard until in 1821 he himself was buried by her side.

*Picture of Isaac Joules
reproduced by kind permission of
The M. J. Tozer Collection.*

The name Meril (or Meryl) was given to one of the members of my family and appears to have a similar origin.

The inscription on the headstone on the adjoining grave reads:-

"IN
Memory of
Isaac Joules
who died
April 10th 1841
Aged 70 Years"

Two newspaper cuttings about the funeral of Isaac Joules are to be found in the Braikenridge Collection at Taunton.³ One of them reads:- "THE GIPSIES. – On Wednesday, the 14th instant [April 1841], the remains of Isaac Joules, an old man of the Gipsy tribe, who has for many years travelled about the country grinding scissors, etc, were interred at Yatton. He was a man of eccentric habits, the sport of the villages through which he passed, and known by the name of Old Isaac. His age was stated at sixty-one, but he is believed to be at least twenty years older, as he has been known as a traveller for sixty years.

About fourteen years ago his wife died in the parish of Yatton, and was buried there. The old man and his family generally paid a visit to the grave when they passed through the parish. He is now laid by the side of his beloved wife. He was followed to the grave by some of his tribe, and a great number of persons from the surrounding villages assembled to witness the interment."

The other newspaper included the following item:-

"ROYAL DEMISE. – On Wednesday week, the funeral of "Old Isaac", the King of the Gipsies, took place at Yatton: there was a very large assembly of the black-eyed brunettes. The ceremony was followed by sundry and various libations, until sorrow was floated up to mirth, and mirth stimulated to anger, and the funeral "baked meats" were knocked about in one general row. Old Isaac had for some months been an inmate of Axbridge Union poor-house."

Members will recall a talk given to the Society last year about Axbridge workhouse.⁴ Yatton itself came within the area of the Bedminster Union whose workhouse was at Flax Bourton.⁵

REFERENCES

1. *Yatton Yesterday* No. 2, p.39.
2. *The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names* by E. G. Withycombe (3rd Ed. 1977), p.224.
3. *Yatton 00011*. In library of Somerset Archaeological & Nat.Hist.Soc.
4. *The History of Axbridge Workhouse*. Talk by Mrs Pat Hase, 23 Nov. 1999.
5. *Yatton Yesterday* No.5, p.42.

Nicholas A Deas



CRICKET'S STRANGEST MATCHES

A TEAM OF '50 OR MORE FARMERS'

YATTON, NEAR BRISTOL, OCTOBER 1887

It is a rare game that has as many as 23 'ducks' in one innings, but here we have an example. The game was billed as Yatton against '50 or more farmers' and there is little indication of how many farmers turned up to play the regular cricketers. The scorecard shows that 41 batted, and the Yatton bowling figures must have been impressive. The wickets were shared between eight bowlers, Radcliffe taking eleven, Chamberlayne and Gage five each, Blew and Shiner four apiece, Atherton three, Winter two and Clapp one. Five batsmen were run out, and there was an amazing dearth of catches, unless the scorecard fails to record the full details of the innings.

It is unlikely that all the 40-plus farmers fielded during the Yatton innings. That would have been some field for a radio commentator to describe. Yatton, a team including some renowned local cricketers, batted to make 75 for six (including two men retired) so we can assume the game was a draw.

The scorecard is reproduced from *Cricket* (27 October 1887), which also includes a brief background to the game: 'Mr Tankerville Chamberlayne, of Cranbury Park, Manchester, and of yachting renown, who has for many

years done so much by purse and presence to uphold and support cricket, both in Hampshire and Somerset, was again to the fore on Friday October 14, at his pretty seat at Yatton, near Bristol, catering for his many hundred guests with unbounded liberality. This was the third successive year of the festivities. The day was very cold, but this did not deter the many hundreds of both gentlemen and ladies attending and witnessing the novel sight, and partaking at the good things provided. Nearly 300 sat down to luncheon, the self-esteemed host presiding, supported by the well-known amateur cricketer, Mr O.G. Radcliffe, Rev. O. Puckridge, Frank Wills, J.H. Fowler About 500 partook of tea and indulged in the dancing until a late hour.'

This is just one example of a game of unbalanced teams, some of which were responsible for what now appear as astonishing bowling figures. Perhaps the most sensational was Johnny Briggs's 15 for four (match figures of 27 for 23) against 22 of the Cape Mounted Riflemen at Williams Town, South Africa, in 1888-9. As late as 1923 MCC beat 15 of Northern Orange Free State by an innings and 35 runs.

THE FARMERS

B. Marshall b Chamberlayne	20
B. Burgess run out	1
C. Hawkins b Radcliffe	0
J. Pavey run out	0
J. Hill b Radcliffe	0
S. B. Griffin run out	2
J. Edgell c Clapp b Radcliffe	2
A. Williams c and b Radcliffe	4
T. Price c and b Radcliffe	0
A. Osmond b Chamberlayne	0
T. Champion b Radcliffe	0
W. Cavill b Chamberlayne	0
H. Wall b Gage	0
W. Marsh b Radcliffe	0
R. Wilcox b Gage	0
M. H. Thatcher b Winter	0
W. Gill b Clapp	11
J. Wallis b Winter	0
W. Hennessy b Gage	0
R. Harding b Blew	0
F. W. Wills run out	1
C. Burgess b Clapp	0
J. Gage b Clapp	10
G. Hardwick b Blew	3
W. Luff b Blew	0
G. Badman b Blew	0
S. M. Harding run out	2
A. Batt b Radcliffe	4
T. Pearce b Shiner	12
C. Griffin b Radcliffe	0
H. Morgan b Shiner	0
T. Nicholls b Radcliffe	2
A. Hardwick b Shiner	0
A. Williams b Radcliffe	1
C. Sayer b Atherton	2
J. Bisder b Shiner	2
C. Young b Atherton	0
H. Macey b Atherton	0
W. Petheran b Gage	4
J. H. Fowler b Gage	0
S. Hurley not out	1
Extras	8
Total	92

YATTON

C. Knowles b Luff	7
A. E. Clapp retired	20
E. W. Blew c Gill b Luff	18
H. Gage retired	23
T. Chamberlayne b Luff	0
W. A. Winter run out	3
W. H. Shiner not out	1
Extras	3
Total	75-6

A.J. Atherton, C.R. Knowles, O.G.
Radcliffe and B.Crossman did not bat.

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

The many early matches where numbers were unbalanced include an All England XI's victory by an innings against 33 of Norfolk on Swaffham Racecourse in 1797 and Lord Winterton's X1 against 37 Labourers at Shillinglee Park in 1843, the Lord's team winning by five wickets. Three years later, Lord Winterton's XI took on 56 Labourers and this game was drawn.

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

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by Andrew Ward.
Published by Robson Books,
for
Past Times, Witney, Oxford.

Provided by Viv Wathen

□ □ □ □ □

YATTON CHURCH ARMORIAL GLASS

SHIELDS IN SOUTH TRANSEPT WINDOW

The following is a shortened version of an article by Nicholas A Deas; the original with a list of sources and the family tree of Matilda, William Vyell's wife is held in the Society's archives, and may be seen on application to the Chairman.

The south window in the south transept of Yatton church contains three 15th century stained glass shields which were recorded by the Rev. J. Collinson in 1791. Although damaged and altered in the past they are the only shields in the church which incorporate glass from the original medieval shields. The stained glass shields in the Newton Chapel date from about 1829 or later.

The three shields in the south transept recorded by Collinson are now numbers 1,2 and 4 looking from inside the church. Each of the shields contains two impaled coats of arms - see Figs.1, 2 and 4. In 1920 the Church Council sought to have these shields deciphered but the Yatton family commemorated by the arms was not identified. The names suggested for some of the arms were of families who had no connection with Yatton.

Mr.Rowland Paul, Bristol Cathedral architect, made drawings of the shields in 1883, 1914 and 1917 which show that since 1883 they have been taken out at least twice and some reversed when put back. It has therefore been necessary to establish whether any of the shields are now set inside out.

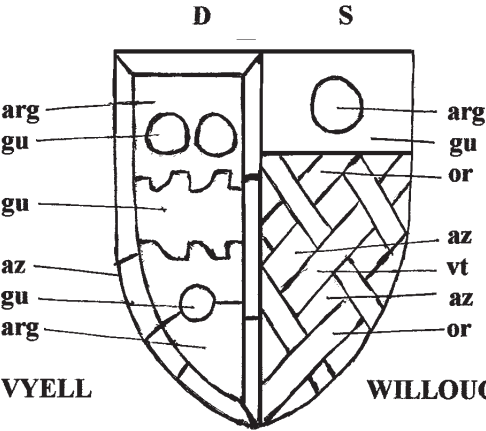
In 1922 one of the former churchwardens stated that years ago when the south transept window was in danger of falling out it was rebuilt by Cowlins who reversed two of the shields. A newspaper report of 1906 mentions the 'reinstatement of the lovely decorated transept window' when the Rev. P. C. Baker was vicar (1895/6).

Rowland Paul's notes and drawings show that shield No.1 is now as it was in 1883 and 1914 and is set inside out. Fig.1 therefore shows the outside face of the shield, which is the correct way to view it. According to Collinson's description in 1791 this shield was then fitted the right way round.

Shields Nos.2 and 4 are now correctly set after being reversed again, probably in the 1920s. Rowland Paul recorded that in No.2 everything below the 'chief' in the Popham arms (i.e.on the sinister or female side) had been made up with fragments from the destroyed shield of France and England quarterly and that some fragments of it were included in No.3 (now No.4) on the dexter side (i.e. in the lower part of Fig.4D).

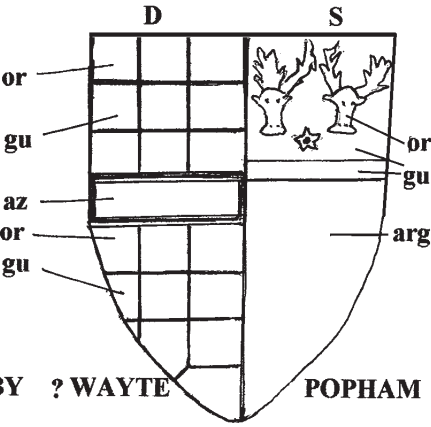
SHIELDS IN SOUTH TRANSEPT WINDOW, YATTON CHURCH

FIGURE 1 – SHIELD NO.1



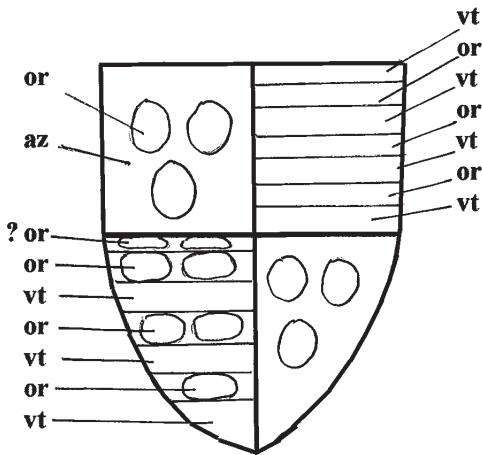
Outside face of shield
As it was in 1883, 1914

FIGURE 2 – SHIELD NO.2



Shield in 1883 1917, with
France and England
Fragments omitted

FIGURE 3 – SHIELD NO.3
MALET ?DE SULLY

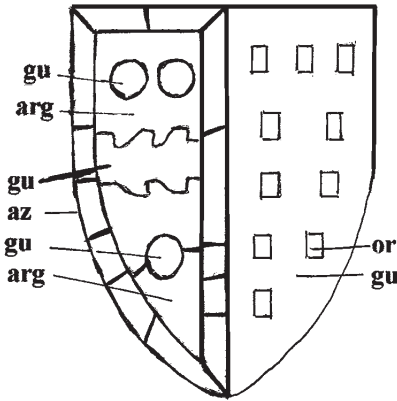


SHIELD IN 2000

KEY
arg = argent (silver)
or = or (gold)
torteau = red roundle
plate = silver roundle
az = azure (blue)
gu = gules (red)
vt = vert (green)

FIGURE 4 – SHIELD NO.4
D. S.

VYELL COUDRAY



SHIELD IN 2000

D = dexter (right)
S = sinister (left)

NICHOLAS A. DEAS AUGUST 2000

The arms of France and England had been in a fourth shield noted by Collinson. The 1931 church guide stated that a new shield had been provided incorporating all that remained of the arms of France and England from fragments of glass within two other shields (i.e. the present Figs. 2S and 4D). It was probably at this time that (1) the dexter side of shield No.4 (Fig.4D) was repaired to match the dexter side of shield No.1 (Fig. 1D): (2) the fragments of the arms of France and England removed from the lower half of the sinister side of shield No.2 (Fig. 2S) were replaced by plain glass. The left stag's head and the pierced mullet (5 pointed star) between the two stags' heads are now missing. Fig. 2S is drawn to show the Popham arms as they were recorded in 1917 but without the fragments of the arms of France and England.

As mentioned above, the arms on the dexter side of the two shields are now the same (Figs. 1D and 4D). These represent the Vyell family who held the Manor of Claverham from the late 14th to the early 16th centuries. The first of the family to hold the manor was John Vyell (d.1399) who was Mayor of Bristol in 1388 and M.P. for Bristol in 1382 and 1390. The Manor of Claverham was transferred to his son Henry, one of the king's esquires, in 1398. Henry had two sons, John and William. In 1438 the manor, lands and advowson of the free chapel of Claverham passed to William and his wife Matilda.

Matilda's mother was Margaret Popham, an heiress to lands in Hampshire and

Berkshire held by the Popham and Coudray families. The arms of these two families are shown in two of the shields in the south transept window on the sinister (female) side – see Figs. 2S and 4S. The five pointed pierced mullet (representing a spur rowel) which previously existed in the Yatton shield (Fig.2S) is a mark of cadency which indicates that Margaret Popham's grandfather Sir Philip Popham was a third son of Sir John Popham of Popham, Hampshire.

Margaret Popham married three times but had children only by her second husband. She probably obtained the manor of Lyford in Berkshire from her first husband, John Coudray. This and other manors in Berkshire were held by her daughter Matilda Wayte and her grandson James Vyell. Margaret's second husband was Thomas Wayte by whom she had three children, Thomas, Margaret and Matilda, who married William Vyell (see above). William died before 1447 and Matilda married Sir John Chalers of Whaddon, Cambridgeshire, who also probably lived in Matilda's house at Lyford and died in 1467. She died in 1471, her son and heir being James Vyell. Part of his inheritance was the Manor of Claverham.

Turning again to the three shields in the south transept window it seems likely that No.4, showing the Vyell arms impaled with those of Coudray, represents William Vyell and his wife Matilda Wayte who inherited the Coudray manor of Lyford from her mother Margaret Popham.

The blazons of these arms are: Argent, a fess raguly gules between three torteaux, within a bordure gyronny azure (for VYELL) impaling gules ten billets or, three, two, two and one (for COUDRAY). In the middle ages a bordure signified that the bearer was not head of the house (William being the younger son of Henry Vyell).

Shield No.1 also shows the Vyell arms (Fig.1D) but the colour of the field has been changed from argent to vert since Rowland Paul's drawing of the shield in 1914. This is contrary to the rule of heraldry that a colour should never be placed on a colour (in this case red on green). The blazons of the arms within shield No.1 are now: Vert, a fess raguly gules between three torteaux, within a bordure gyronny azure (for VYELL) impaling azure fretty or and vert, on a chief gules a plate (for WILLOUGHBY).

It is possible that James Vyell's first wife Joan was a Willoughby and that shield No.1 represents James and Joan. The only Willoughby arms recorded on hatchments in South West England are in Barton Stacey church, Hampshire. They were seen in 1953 but are now missing. This may be more than a coincidence as half of this manor was held by the Coudray and Popham families and their descendants from 1313 to 1576.

In James' will of 1508 he left to Mary, his second wife, the Manor of Claverham but the Mordaunt family succeeded to Lyford when James died. His heir John gave up his rights in ten Berkshire manors in 1516 but the Manor of

Claverham is not mentioned in this deed. It was probably at this time that the Capel family became the owners, as in 1526 Sir Giles Capel presented a priest to the free chapel there.

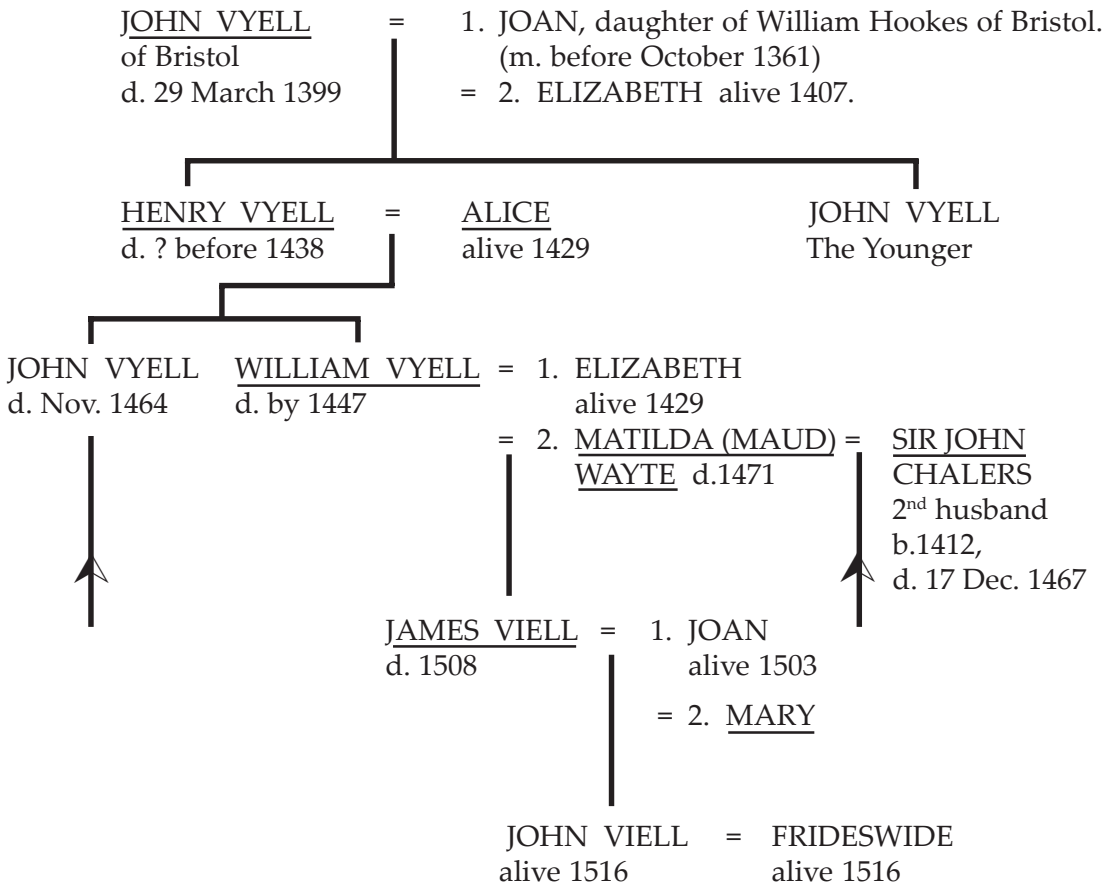
Shield No.2 is a problem. The arms on the sinister side are the arms of Popham (Fig.2S) but the arms on the dexter side cannot be identified with certainty. They are not the arms of Sir John Chalers, the second husband of Matilda, nor the arms of John Coudray and Robert Longe, the first and third husbands of Margaret Popham. They may be the arms of her second husband Thomas Wayte (also known as William or Edward Wayte) and none of the manors inherited by his children came from him. The blazons of the arms within this shield are: Chequy or and gules a fess azure (for ?WAYTE) impaling argent, on a chief gules a mullet pierced between two stags' heads caboshed or (for POPHAM).

There is now a fourth shield in the window not previously recorded - it is shield No.3 looking from the inside (see Fig.3). This must have been brought from elsewhere to replace the reconstructed shield containing fragments of the arms of France and England, mentioned in the 1931 church guide. Assuming that the three oval charges in the first and fourth quarters are meant to represent shells the blazon of these arms is: Azure three escallops or (these are the arms of the Malet family of Enmore). In shield No.3 the arms in the third quarter are damaged but it appears that they were originally the same as those in the second quarter, i.e. Barry of six, or and vert.

According to Collinson Sir Raymond de Sully had lands at Huntspill and bore on his seal barry of six, and his daughter Sarah married William Malet, Lord of Enmore. The Sullys were also Lords of Iddesleigh, Devon, but their main seat was probably Sully Castle near Barry, South Glamorgan; in 1262

they held two knights' fees at Sully and two at Wenvoe. Raymond had died by 1317 with no male heir and Iddesleigh later became the seat of the Malet family, perhaps as a result of the marriage represented by the shield now in Yatton church?

THE VYELL (VIELL) FAMILY



Persons holding the manor of Claverham, Yatton are underlined.

Nicholas A Deas



YATTON THEN AND NOW



View from Church View Cottage to Church Road and High Street in 1940's.



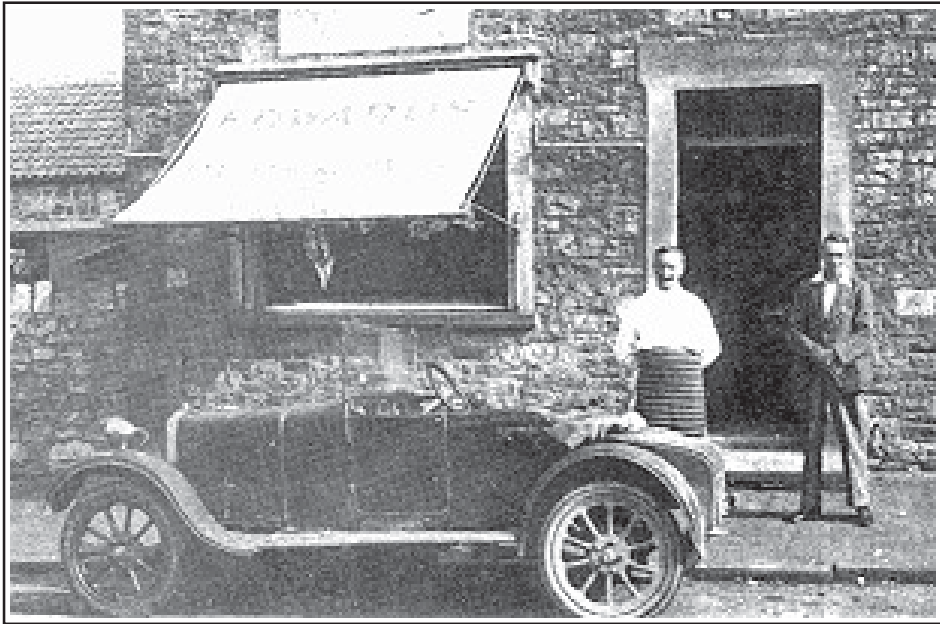
View from Church View Cottage to Church Road and High Street in 2000.



*View from Church View Cottage to Church before 1886 (showing old school house).
(Picture by courtesy of The M. J. Tozer Collection)*



View from Church View Cottage to Church in 2000.



Edwards' Butchers Shop, High Street in the 1930's



Edwards' Butchers Shop, High Street in 2000.

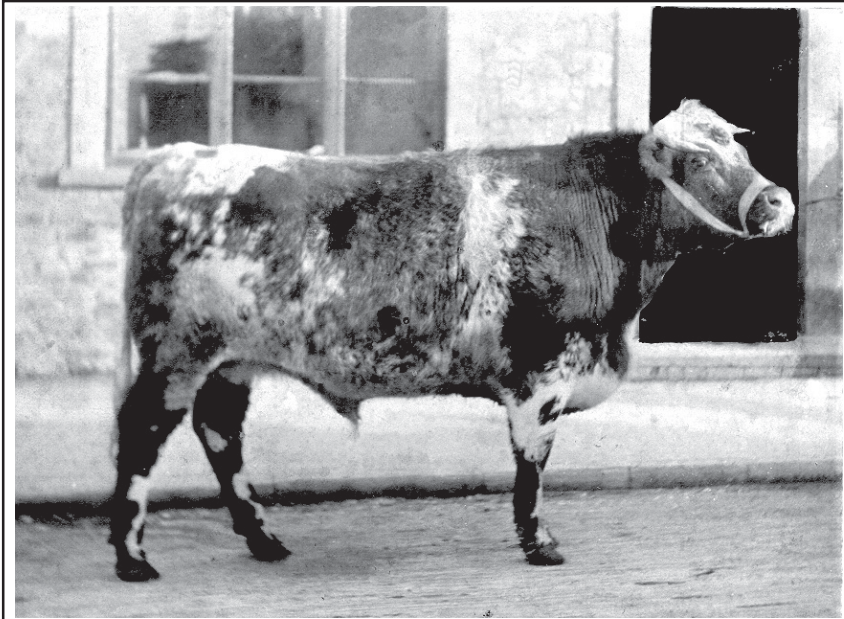


*View from Church Tower over High Street to the Moors in the 1920's.
(Note flooded moors in the background)*



View from Church Tower over High Street to the Moors in 1993.

MEMORIES OF A BUTCHER IN YATTON



Champion Short-Horn Steer Outside Shop, 1926

Robert Edwards has provided these memories of his life as a butcher in Yatton High Street.

The Edwards family came to Yatton from Nempnett Thrubwell in the mid-1800's. Robert can remember his grandfather, Arthur, living at Upton House which was the butcher's shop. Robert's father, Arthur, was a partner in the business with Robert's grandfather.

Upton House had been a butcher's shop before the Edwards family arrived. The previous owner, Wyatt had moved on to shops in Clifton and Bedminster, which had apparently made him rich. The owner before that had not been so lucky: it was reported that he

slaughtered two bullocks a year and that a large crowd would gather to watch. Of course this would have been happening not long after bull baiting had fallen into disrepute. It appears that this particular butcher committed suicide, probably as a result of financial problems. His ghost was said to appear sometimes when the takings were being counted, but only up until the building was altered substantially.

One of Robert's earliest memories was when three years old being driven home to The Elms at Claverham by his father in a Ford T van. He can

remember the look of horror on his father's face when the latter's foot disappeared between the rotten floorboards. Luckily no harm was done!

Whilst it may seem strange now, Robert became accustomed to the work of the slaughterhouse behind Upton House. From the age of five, when wearing his first pair of Wellington boots, he was allowed to watch the dressing of the beef from start to finish. He also 'worked' alongside the men preparing the pigs and sheep.

In 1937 he started to attend Yatton school. On wet days, roundsman George Cutler would bring him home for lunch covered with a piece of sacking in the basket of the delivery bike. Robert's grandparents had a four-poster bed and the three children – Robert, William ('Bill') and Alan – were put to bed in the brass bedstead while their parents worked downstairs in the shop on Saturdays. Robert can still remember the smell of the shop and the sound of the knives being sharpened. One employee, Sam Sedgebear used to feed the orphan lambs, which were a special concern of Robert's. Sam's grand-daughter still lives in Yatton.

Emily Edwards, Robert's grandmother had been a Binning from Manor Farm, Claverham. Her byword had been "kind words are the music of the world" and this phrase has stayed with Robert ever since. He used to help collect the eggs from his grandmother's hens and also assisted with the chickens hatching out. Mr Sheppey from Congresbury Mill used to come on his bike on

Mondays for chicken feed orders: he was always dressed immaculately for a farmer, in plus fours, broad brimmed tweed cap and very shiny brown shoes!

Robert accompanied his grandfather when choosing cattle for eventual sale as meat in the shop. The Edwards would 'bring some of this on' themselves until it was ready for slaughter. A fridge was installed at Upton House during the 1930s and the fridge motor notably lasted for thirty years. With the coming of the Second World War in 1939, however, the slaughter of cattle and the allocation of meat to butchers was centrally controlled from Nailsea, in what was seen as less than a fair way. It was a sad Sunday when the last three short-horns, two roans and one white were slaughtered at Upton House.

Ration coupons were collected annually from customers so the Edwards's could ensure that their business would continue. Some ladies would share their custom between two or more butchers, such as the Stuckeys and the Co-op in Yatton or Pearce's at Cleeve. At the same time there was constant concern that Robert's father might be called up for war service. Robert's grandfather was ailing and doing less in the business: he eventually died of a stroke in 1942. The roundsmen were called up, so Lily Richards from Congresbury came dressed in trousers to drive the delivery van.

From the age of ten Robert had his own knife and in 1942 he prepared all the poultry for Christmas – 36 old hens and three turkeys! In addition to the

deliveries by van, Robert and Bill used to deliver by bike: the bikes frequently tipped over and deposited the joints of meat in the road. Helpful ladies would put matters right, by dusting the gravel off the boys' knees, as well as the meat, and then replacing the tickets somewhat arbitrarily on the load.

The takings had to be right to the last penny, otherwise there would be no wages. The boys, who customarily sat ten rows back on the right hand side in St Mary's on Sundays, were paid after matins: the wage was nine old pence (3½p), consisting of three silver threepenny bits. The boys also cleaned the shop floor, finding the flagstones very difficult.

Often there were no Sunday joints left for the family during wartime, so Emily Edwards made good use of the ox hearts and lambs' heads. Robert is amused to think that these dishes are no longer served in England but still survive in France.

At the end of the war in 1945, Reg Guard and the other employees returned home to work, although Reg later died prematurely. Controls and rationing, of course, continued until 1954. The Edwards family did not return to slaughtering, Arthur preferring to obtain his meat from wholesalers. His adage was 'A good butcher only has as much land as he could put in a flower pot', meaning that the efficient running of a butcher's shop left no time for farming. Bill and Alan joined their father in the business during the late 1940's, whilst Robert tried his

hand at rugby and farming, including raising pigs.

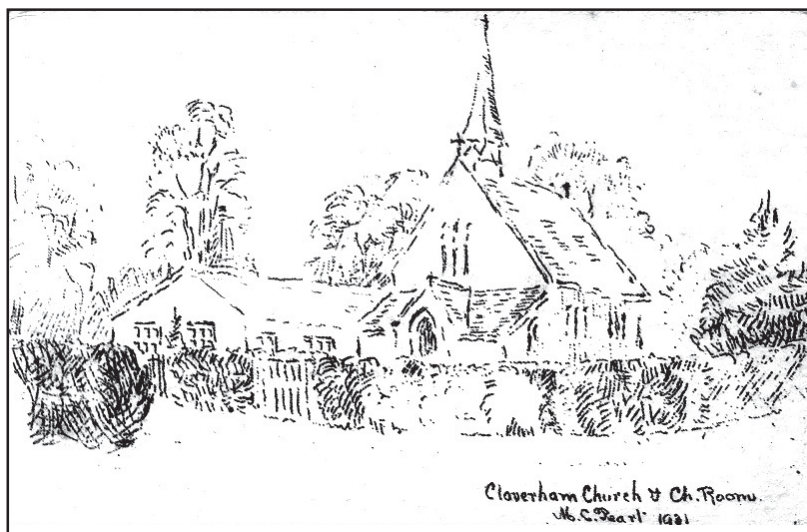
There were by now four delivery vans, but the trade was slowly changing. The introduction of contracts to supply meat for school meals was one such novelty. By 1969, however, Arthur Edwards' health was failing, although he did enjoy seventeen years of retirement. Alan left early in the 1970s to run his own shop in the Forest of Dean, with Bill continuing to look after the books and Robert the shop in Yatton. Domestic meat sales were declining as Sunday lunches became less popular, less meat was being delivered because more people were working and therefore unable to receive deliveries at home, being able to come to the shop instead. Contracts with catering establishments in Bristol, the Ministry of Defence in Bath and elsewhere took the place of some of the domestic trade; quality was becoming much more important. Beef was ordered from Aberdeen Angus cattle in Scotland, with local lambs and pigs being selected for slaughter in Clevedon.

Bill retired in the early 1980's and Isabel, Robert's wife, took over the books. Robert and Isabel eventually decided to sell the business however, partly due to the difficulty in obtaining meat of guaranteed quality thanks to the appearance of BSE. The other determining factor was their son's wish not to follow his father into the butchery trade. This then brought to an end over one hundred years of the Edwards family at Upton House, Yatton.

Marianne Pitman



MEMORIES OF CLAVERHAM



A sketch of Claverham Church by M.C. Peart, dated 1931.

A long time resident of Claverham who was born and lived there most of her life has given us the following memories :-

The lady in question was born two days before her father was killed in the 1914-18 War. With her mother and brother she lived in her grandfather's cottage on the High Street near the church of St Barnabas which still had its spire. The cottage had three rooms up and three down and five adults with two children lived there! Her grandfather worked at the Court de Wyck tannery and she has photos of him with his workmates wearing leather aprons and various hats.

The smell of the tannery was very unpleasant, and it was also quite dangerous in that the pits used to cure the skins were unprotected and her mother nearly fell in one while delivering sandwiches to her father.

When the tannery burnt down for the second time in the 1930's, the heat could be felt in their garden and they could see the machinery falling from the top floor to the ground.

There was an eighth of an acre of garden at the back of the cottage containing plum and other trees as well as many currant and gooseberry bushes and at one time there even was a pigsty. Behind this a plank over a ditch led to the allotments on what is now Franklin's Way where her grandfather grew vegetables on his plot.

There was a well with a pump but when it ran low the water contained worms so it had to be boiled and strained through a muslin cloth. Her city cousins used to play with the

pump, which was a novelty to them, except when they were prevented by her mother at times of drought. The pump had to be thawed with hot cloths when the water froze in winter. Later, the well ran dry when the tannery dug a deeper well and they had to go onto "Company's Water". The pipe from the main was of limited length so they had to walk round the outside of the cottage to the road to obtain water. In summer her mother would rise as early as five a.m. to light the external copper to wash the clothes during the coolest part of the day.

There were weekly deliveries of meat, groceries, paraffin oil and hardware, the latter from Chorley's of Backwell and more frequent deliveries of fish, bread, fruit and vegetables. The tradesmen took orders on rounds from Yatton. There was also a muffin man and later a Walls ice cream man with a refrigerated

bicycle. Milk was delivered daily from Manor Farm. In the village there was a sweet shop at Sweet Briar Cottage run by Miss Parker, cider was sold over the stable door at Streamside and there was a post office at the present site. There was even a smithy in the High Street opposite the policeman's house on what is now the corner of Chestnut Drive backing onto fields called Dunsters and Broadcroft.

Schoolchildren had to walk a mile and a quarter to Yatton and back. They could stay on at school until they got jobs at fifteen or so. Our correspondent went to work in Weston and Oldmixon and later in Banwell. She either went by train having cycled to the station or during the Second World War she lived in Weston because she worked at weekends and until nine at night some days.

Marianne Pitman



YATTON COMMUNITY SERVICE (YCS)

The first ten years

Yatton Community Service is very active in and around Yatton today but not many people realise that it has been working for more than 30 years. During that time it has changed a great deal and it is interesting that some of its original activities are now undertaken by other organisations.

The idea that more help was needed by elderly and housebound people was put forward by doctors, nurses and health

visitors, who were not able to spend long enough with their patients. A general meeting was held on 15 April 1970, a Committee was formed and met a week later, with Mr Crease as its first Chairman. The agreed terms of reference were: 'To visit the aged and infirm, the housebound and lonely old people (not necessarily the sick as such) to befriend them and to endeavour to create a relationship with them, the purpose being to encourage them to

help their like and to make them realise that they still have a purpose in life and a place in society.' This was obviously a tremendous challenge!

The village was split into six areas, each with a coordinator and about 15 helpers. Each helper had one or two 'clients' to befriend and help. The service took time to become established but very soon there were over 60 helpers - which was a remarkable achievement. By the end of 1970 the helpers had done washing, gardening, shopping, child minding, sat with the elderly and of course visited. That Christmas, cards were sent to clients and helpers by Yatton Post Office free of charge!

Finance

Money was always a problem in the early days and grants were received from the Local Authorities and the local Lions group. Expenses were paid to take people to hospital etc. The maximum payment for this was 7 shillings and 6 pence (37½ p).

In June 1971 the first tea party was held for the housebound and by the following year attendance had reached 40. They were held at the Junior School and Horsecastle Chapel. Mrs Liz Coyle was involved with these early parties and still helps with YCS activities today. 1972 was a time of power cuts and YCS helped the elderly with bags of coal and logs, etc.

A "Pop In" chat was set up in the

Church Hall in January 1973. It was open on Monday mornings and afternoons. On 17 November Barberry Croft was officially opened by Dr Damrel. The premises were leased for £5 per week from Mr Albert Sweet who owned the farm next door. This enabled the service to be expanded. It was open from 10-12 and 2-4.15 on Monday and Thursday and on Wednesday there was a Young Wives group. The hall was sublet for other village activities including Guides and Brownies.

In 1974 a telephone was installed so that the elderly could phone in with their problems. YCS had to work closely with medical staff, social workers, the Lions, Round Table, Crusaders, Churches, Schools and uniformed youth organisations to ensure that all requests were dealt with. It was reported that in 12 months, 8000 people had visited Barberry Croft for coffee etc, 480 attended Housebound parties and 130 went on trips. The costs were £780 of which only £120 was covered by grants and the rest was raised by the Committee. There were whist drives, Bingo, dances at Cadbury Country Club and many coffee mornings.

At this time YCS was also involved in setting up a Youth Club (hardly housebound or infirm!). It was originally held in the Methodist Hall but moved to Rock Road in October 1975. YCS still maintained an interest and helped to provide equipment. There were 45 members, with an average attendance of 28.

Range of activities

By 1976, in addition to the activities mentioned above, YCS was involved in monthly markets, a Great Knit, Claverham coffee mornings, coach trips, a chiropody service, garden parties, demonstrations, craft mornings, a stall at the Flower show, Chess, Scrabble, cheese and wine parties, a home nursing course, a creche and a Slimming Sausage Sizzle - whatever that was! The Committee members at this time gave many hours of time helping and running events to keep YCS solvent. The visiting had decreased because so much time was taken up with manning Barberry Croft.

The main activity of YCS today is the lunch club and this was introduced on 7 February 1979. Numbers soon built up to 40 which was the maximum possible in the building. The meals were simple, e.g. soup and a roll, but very popular because meeting other people was as important as the food.

The late Dr Damrel had been President of YCS from the beginning. She always considered that the visiting should be a priority. In March 1979 a general public meeting was called and out of 70 people who attended, 23 volunteers

came forward. The visiting service was re-established.

By the end of 1980 the owners of Barberry Croft indicated that they wished to sell the premises. Although it had enabled YCS to provide good services, having their own building had taken up a great deal of time and effort. They looked for alternative premises and even set up a building fund. They did use Church View Cottage for a while but it was in a very poor condition. It was not very welcoming and as YCS was not allowed to erect a portable building in the garden the cottage ceased to be used.

The first ten years of YCS were truly magnificent and many village people were involved as carers or clients. It is a tribute to all this work that many of the original services are still running today. Some are run by other organisations such as the Lions or Yatton Carers, but everything has been built on the early work of YCS. No wonder there were five Chairmen in the first ten years and the Committee members changed regularly. What a wonderful effort!

Tony Hawkings



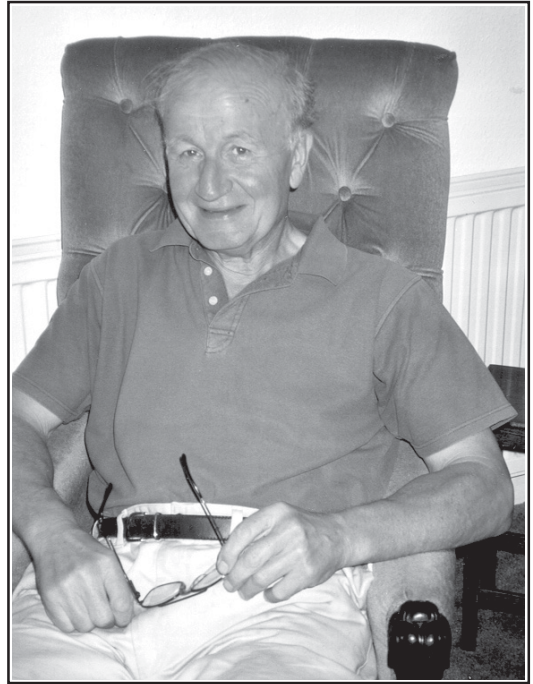
ROBERT EDWARDS, YATTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN 1971-1973

Robert Edwards has always lived in North Somerset, mostly in Yatton. He followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather as a butcher. They ran the butcher's shop in Yatton High Street which is still called by the family name "A. Edwards and Sons"- see page 23.

In 1954, at the early age of 22 years, for those days, he became a Yatton parish councillor. At that time there were still a number of "elder statesmen" on the council and Robert benefited greatly from their experience in further developing the effectiveness of the council and its committees.

Cuthbert Stuckey of Macquarie Farm was the chairman, and he provided initial help and encouragement to the young councillor. Maurice Crossman, a later chairman and a friend of his father provided a worthy debating partner, particularly on issues of drainage and sewerage on which he had considerable local knowledge. Later, Bill Williams who was probably the first elected chairman born outside the village, provided an encyclopaedic knowledge of local government at parish, district and county level. Robert identified with Bill Williams' principles and followed the latter's example in modernisation using available grants and loans to the best advantage of Yatton in housing and sewerage matters.

Robert was also chairman of the playing fields committee when the Rock Road field was the sole playing



Robert Edwards

field. Around this time the field at Hangstones was bought and developed. Rock Road field had two football pitches and a tennis court. There was a part time groundsman for Rock Road, Don Kellow, who still lives in Yatton. While the council supported football and cricket overtly there was always the thought in Robert's mind that they were not so keen on tennis, so he had to fight for the game, which was one of his interests. The committee spent more time than Robert thought was appropriate in discussing the cost of mower repairs and other minor items. He vowed to cut the length of meetings so that they mostly finished at 9-30pm

rather than 10-30pm. He felt that after two to two and a half hours of debate most councillors could no longer do justice to any topic.

For the main council the major topics of debate were flooding at Horsecastle, heavy traffic in the High Street and vandalism, particularly to streetlights. Robert was chairman of the Allotments Committee. There were allotments on the site of Franklins Way, Claverham and the present ones in Mendip Road. The presentation of the plans for the proposed Yatton bypass by the Somerset County Engineer was the start of a debate lasting more than thirty years, which has still not been resolved. More individual matters were also considered such as when the district nurse asked the council for heating in the bathrooms of Church House for the two elderly residents.

Sadly during Robert's chairmanship in April 1973 an event took place, which affected both Congresbury and Yatton families, which was the air crash of a charter flight from Lulsgate to Basle. The council commemorated this tragedy.

In 1964 Robert joined the Long Ashton District Council and by 1967 he had become chairman of the Public Health Committee, which covered sewerage improvements amongst other things. He also pursued an interest in housing issues.

Whilst he felt that the local councils at that time were apolitical, he was concerned that as council areas increased in size the councillors were being placed at a greater distance from their voters, to the detriment of efficient local government.

Marianne Pitman



THE 1891 CENSUS FOR YATTON

(Yatton included Cleeve, Claverham, part of Hewish and part of Kenn Road)

Who was living in Yatton just over 100 years ago and what sort of place was it? The population was nearly the same at the end of the century as it was in 1851, in fact it fell for a time between these dates. There was emigration and also people moved to the newly-built Bristol suburbs (see '*A History of Yatton*' pp 85 & 87). The census shows that nephews and grandsons, employed on farms,

came from as far away as the North of England and London.

1891 was shortly before Wake & Dean came down from London with their furniture factory and workers, and the village was predominantly agricultural, with those working the land having nearly all been born in Somerset, often in Yatton and surrounding villages.

Some came from the neighbouring counties of Devon, Wiltshire and Gloucester but although Yatton was an important railway junction people do not seem to have been travelling to work. We know that farmers drove their cattle down the unpaved High Street!

The census highlights the contrast between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' at this time. Living at Henley Lodge (now demolished) was Herbert Nichols of independent means, with his wife and baby daughter and 5 servants; down at Horsecastle in the little cottages (also demolished) lived the 'labouring poor', as they were known. A large number of domestic servants is listed, some as young as 13 which was the school-leaving age. Children of school age are 'scholars' but there were almost no teenaged girls in labourers' homes. One assumes they had gone into service elsewhere.

There are a couple of dozen 'lodgers' in the village, also two 'lodging-house keepers'. A few were elderly but mostly they were young men, railway or agricultural labourers or apprentices.

Fifty-eight persons are listed as 'farmer', with 13 labourers living in. Twenty farmers' sons were employed, plus 5 sons' occupation not stated, 8 nephews and 2 grandsons plus one assistant overseer. Not living in on farms were 93 agricultural labourers and one bailiff. The farms are listed below for interest because many have disappeared. The Claverham census enumerator did not often give the name of the farm so it is not included (although the Society has most of this information in its records). Farming was labour-intensive and was not to change until the advent of the Great War, as can be seen from the photograph below dated 1912.



Farming in Claverham in 1912

Entries from the Census

YATTON

High Street	William Edwards <i>(living at butcher's shop)</i>
Rectory Farm	Thomas Price
Elbro	Amos Williams
Church Road	John Kingcott
Court House	Joseph Kerton
Cherry Farm	Isaac Price
Laurel Farm	George Atherton <i>(site of The Ridge)</i>
Barberry Farm	Albert Kingcott
York Hse, Horsecastle	George Kingcott
The Grange	William Say <i>(grazier)</i>
Horsecastle Farmhouse	Charles Stuckey <i>(not Horsecastle Farm)</i>
Weeping Ash	Mary Hardwick
Park Farm	George Badman
Chestnut Farm	Josiah Kingcott
Brick House	William Naish
Rose Farm, North End	Joseph Edwards
Ham Farm	Henry Crossman
Boxtree Farm	Joseph Lewis
Bridge House	Samuel Fry <i>(small farmer/labourer)</i>
North End Farm	Edward Lewis
Hope Farm, Kenn Rd.	Charles Young
Farmhouse, Kenn Rd.	William Hazell
Farmhouse, Kenn Rd.	Henry Wride
The Lawns	John Burdge/ Isabel Bown
Horsecastle Farm	William Phippen

HEWISH

Pillhay Farm	Harry Jones
East Hewish Farm	Henry Southcott
Manor Farm	Stephen Layer <i>(aged 80)</i> <i>and grandson farm manager</i>

CLEEVE

Cleeve Street	Elizabeth Bush
Cleeve Street	William Winter
Church Farm	Caroline Millier
?	William Edwards <i>(another with same name)</i>
Cleeve Cottage	Albert Radley
Cleeve Hill	Benjamin Watts
Stallards Batch	Joseph Brookman
Bickley	Henry Cockell

CLAVERHAM

Bishops Farm	William Hill <i>(also Registrar Births and Deaths)</i>
?	Walter Burningham <i>(from Darlington)</i>
?	Charles Binning
Claverham Cottage	George Binning
?	John Wyatt
Oxford Villa	Thomas Weeks
?	Joseph Taylor
Lower Claverham	William Perry
"	Charlotte Taylor <i>(aged 85)</i>
"	George Verrier
"	Edwin Manning
"	George Gregory
Claverham Court	William Burdge
Lwr Claverham	Benjamin Crossman
"	George Westcott
"	Samuel Verrier
"	George Cox
"	Wallace Griffin
Streamcross	Henry Binning
Yatton Road	William Winter
<i>(This is Claverham Road)</i>	James Clapp

Jobs related to agriculture

- Blacksmiths:
- 6 and 4 apprentices plus 1 journeyman
from Uley, Gloucester.
- Saddle & harness makers:
- 3 (one being Frederick Clement)
- Wheelwrights:
- 3 (one from Devon, one from Oxfordshire)
- Auctioneer & corn merchant:
- William Shiner, also one other corn merchant
who was also an insurance agent.

One market keeper and one general dealer in market goods.

One each of cattle dealer, poultry keeper, hay dealer, butter dealer, a threshing machine driver and a thatcher at Hewish (maybe for ricks).

The Railway

The GWR was the largest single employer. The station master, Albert Barber, lived at Bellevue with his son, a railway clerk. Most of the workers lived at Horsecastle apart from Nelson Eyres and his son from the top of High Street.

The workforce consisted of 8 labourers, 9 porters, 4 platelayers, 3 signalmen, 3 packers, 2 gangers, a ticket collector, an engine driver, a railway pumping engine driver, a railway booking porter, a locomotive fireman and a bookstall clerk with assistant. Some came from Devon, Wiltshire, Gloucester, Dorset, and the engine driver from Reading.

William Counsell of Somerset House was the coal merchant.

What a bustling place this railway junction must have been, and how sad to see it today.

Schools

Yatton seems to have been favoured in this respect.

Reuben Spiers the National School-master and his wife were from Redditch. The Undenominational School does not appear as it was not a dwelling. Eight other teachers are listed, as well as a ‘teacher of drawing and painting’ from St.Austell, living at Hill View, but as he was aged 81 one would assume he had retired.

Miss Crease’s school ‘The Hollies’ had 10 boarders, 6 girls aged 8 to14 and 4 boys aged 5 to 8 plus 2 teachers (one from Kent). These children were from Bristol. At Larchmount, Amy Avery aged 30 had 15 girl boarders: 2 from Berkshire, 2 South Wales, 1 each Kent, Wiltshire, Gloucester, Bristol and Birmingham, others from Somerset. Ages ranged from 7 to 17. The music teacher (from Staines) was only 18 and, oddly, Myfanwy Owen from Rhyl taught ‘English subjects’.

The **Tannery** at Court de Wyck owned by Stephen Cox and his brother employed 11 workers, and also living at Claverham was a **shirt factory** manager, with 5 sewing machinists.

You could have your **clothing** needs met locally in 1891, there being 3 tailors, 7 dressmakers, 5 other needlewomen and a milliner. Four boot-makers, 5 shoemakers and a cordwainer were also working here. No need for a **washing** machine - 9 laundresses were at hand and, as for cleaning, 6 charwomen.

If you needed to **travel** there were 2 carriage proprietors (one being Wm. Crease) with 9 coachmen or grooms, mostly not from Somerset. There were 3 carriers of goods (see *Yatton Yesterday* No.5, 1988, p.30).

At Yatton the postmaster was Mr. Inglis (there was a postmistress at Cleeve) and he had 3 'letter carriers' and 2 telegraph lads. The mail contractor employed a driver, and there was also a newspaper carrier (born Aberavon) who was the son of William Smith, the gasworks manager.

Licensed Victuallers, Publicans & Inn Keepers

Charles Lukins	not stated, but probably at the Bell Inn	
Charles Light	Prince of Orange	
C.Parsley	Butcher's Arms	
James Mountstevens	Railway Hotel	
Job Gregory	Railway Inn	
Ann Fry	Bridge Inn	
Mary Ann Andrews	Old Inn, Cleeve	
Harry Llyrd (?Lloyd)	Lord Nelson	(from London)

Ann Fry had 6 grandchildren living with her, all born in Newport (Mon.)

Should there be any disorderly behaviour at closing time, Theophilus Swain, the **police constable**, was no doubt on hand.

For **house repairs** there was no shortage of craftsmen; 8 painters and decorators, 4 builders, 10 carpenters, a bricklayer, 9 masons, 3 plasterers and various apprentices and labourers.

There were 13 **gardeners**, plus a woodman at Cleeve.

For food shopping there were at least 4 butchers' shops, though 8 persons are classified as 'butcher', 8 bakers, 5 grocers, 2 'draper and grocer', 1 general shopkeeper and 1 'baker and grocer'. There was even a pawnbroker (from Staffordshire).

There were a few **professional people** also, viz., Dr. Johnson (born Yorkshire),

a ‘dispenser of medicine’ (from Essex), a ‘wholesale chemist & druggist’, a ‘fine art dealer’, a retired Army Officer, a solicitor’s clerk and 2 solicitors - E. Salmon at The Lindens and James Bramble at Cleeve House. He had a wife and 4 children, 4 servants and a gardener.

Isaac Gale, Vicar of Cleeve, a widower, lived alone with 3 servants. The Vicar of Yatton was Rev. S. Adams, born at Douglas I.O.M. (the old vicarage was on the site of Well Lane). He and his wife were much travelled, as two of their children were born in Montevideo and three more in the North of England. They had 5 servants, not local girls.

A surprising number (over 30) were ‘**living on their own means**’, mostly elderly widows and widowers. Theodosia Richard (Yatton end of Claverham Rd) aged 74 and single was born in Madras and lived alone with a cook and a house parlourmaid. Mary Winter, widow aged 75 of Claverham House, had **seven** unmarried daughters aged between 34 and 53 still living at home, plus 3 servants. About a dozen described as ‘retired’ were probably also living on their own means.

Oddments: 2 licensed hawkers, 1 pedlar, 5 commercial travellers, 4 insurance agents. A quarryman lived at Cleeve and another in Henley Lane, where there was also a limeburner. William Baber of Claverham was a

‘land agent’ and R. Atkins of Yatton a ‘landowner’. There were 2 tallow chandlers. Other occupations, one of each, were basket maker, glass and lead merchant, nurse, coalminer, wellsinker, fireman at waterworks, bill poster, book binder, contractor for public works and ‘Foreman to Local Board Weston-super-Mare’.

To conclude: Parish Relief

Three elderly widows lived in the Poor House and the remaining 10 receiving relief were widows and widowers between 64 and 90, mostly living at Horsecastle. William Denmead, an 89 year-old widower, was supported by his sons.

Unemployment: only one mentioned, a ‘domestic servant out of employ’ aged 19, but Joseph Beacham was a ‘labourer unable to work’ aged 50, presumably supported by his wife and daughter, both charwomen.

A piece of research remaining to be done is to find out how many of the inhabitants of Yatton were in the Bedminster Union workhouse at Flax Bourton at the time the 1891 census was completed.

Probably whether or not you would have liked to have lived in Yatton in 1891 would have depended on your place in this rigid class society.

Marian Barraclough

THE DOWSON FAMILY

My Grandfather, Arthur Ronald Dowson (1875 – 1945) was from a Bristol family. Ernest Christopher Dowson, the poet, was a cousin, as was the Consultant on the Honours Board at the Bristol Royal Infirmary (he had been brought up in France but left before he was 21 to avoid National Service).

Grandpa attended Bristol Grammar School. He was expelled for allegedly throwing a snowball containing a stone, vigorously denied by the family.

He joined the training ship Worcester and from there a windjammer to Australia, where he jumped ship along with the other cadets because of the dreadful conditions and he worked on a sheep farm to earn enough money for his passage home.

Once back with the family, he went to Verity's in Birmingham to train as an Electrical Engineer. At the end of the 19th century he inherited a clay pipe factory and came to live in Yatton at The Gables in the High Street (the house is now known as the Grey House), from where he commuted to Bristol. He claimed to have owned the first car in Bristol.

At that time he had three children, maybe not actually born in Yatton, but the second son, born in 1905, must have

been. From here they went by train to school in Clevedon and the first son, Christopher Henry, regaled us many times with stories of travelling on the footplate and helping to drive the engine. Is it any wonder that he later trained as an engineer (also at Verity's) retiring in 1960 as Chief Engineer of W.D. and H.O. Wills of Bristol.

They moved to the Clevedon end of Yatton (North End) and evidently took the house name with them because this one was, and still is, called The Gables and backed on to the moors. This was obviously before adequate drainage was achieved in that area as the moors used to flood and subsequently freeze in winter. My mother vividly described skating parties when her father had rigged up electrical illuminations from his house where he had his own generator.

His fortunes took a dive when the Liberals were elected in 1905 and brought in Free Trade, as the market was then flooded with clay pipes from Belgium. The family moved back to Bristol where he worked for Wills', finishing as Chief Engineer and eventually retiring in 1940 having been persuaded to stay on because of the war - ironically, by then working under his son who was the new Chief Engineer.

Chris Sampson



GUNNER SIDNEY HEAL

Gunner Sidney Heal's name appears on the Yatton War Memorial but he was not included in the details of some of the names on the Memorial given in *Yatton Yesterday* 7 and 8. His great nephew has sent Yatton Local History Society the following information.

"He was born in Yatton in 1891 and attended school in Clevedon. He enlisted in the army before the 1914 war and was posted to the Royal Garrison Artillery. In April 1917 a massive attack was launched on Arras in France and Sid was killed in this action.

Sid was the only name that we had grown up with, and it was only after we found his name on the War Memorial that we knew anything about him. The Memorial gave me his year of death and his regiment. Armed with this I bought his death certificate and then the Commonwealth War Graves Commission told me where he was buried.

About four years ago I took my mother, Sid's niece, to the countryside near Arras and found his grave: it was an emotional moment. Stranger still was that as we left, the French cemetery caretaker took hold of my arm and began to tell me how the British had died. Evidently, Sid took part in an assault on German positions dug in on the top of the hillside. When the guns fell silent, the R.G.A. tried to move the guns forward but the Germans had not weakened and cut the regiment down from their advantage point.

With my German wife and my parents, we stood on this French hillside, the first visitors to Sid's grave since 1917. When I pass the Memorial in Rock Road now I do not see an old stone, but a remembrance of lost love. If it were not for the Memorial, Sid would have remained a 'rumour' within our family, but now in a small way, he is alive again."

Steve Griffiths



ADDITIONS, REVISIONS & FEEDBACK

We always welcome any feedback from articles which have appeared in previous publications.

More Yatton Yesterdays No. 4, 1999.
Page 46, the Tannery at Court de Wyck.

The fire at the Tannery was in April 1928, not 1927. People were alerted to the situation by the 7 o'clock siren hooting, which could be heard a long way away. The Yatton Auxiliary Brigade, under Mr. T. Budge, attended the fire. The factory was completely destroyed causing over £20,000 worth of damage.

The tannery had been in existence for many years before the Millward family took it over in 1918. At one time it was owned by S and F Cox and Sons (Tanners) who lived in a house built on the ruins of the ancient Court de Wyck mansion. On 15th January 1898 there was another great fire at the tannery. When it was discovered, a man was sent on horseback to Clevedon to call the Fire Brigade. Their Fire Engine was drawn by horses!! The factory was totally destroyed, causing damage

amounting to many thousands of pounds, including £1,500 worth of stock. A rare example of an ancient Tithe Barn, which had been in an almost perfect state of preservation, was badly damaged by the fire, including a 400 year old oak beam roof. Fortunately there were not many other buildings nearby, only the owner's own property and a few cottages. Before the fire 250 South American and English hides were turned out each week. Due to the fire 26 men and lads lost their jobs.

Interestingly, the Clevedon Fire Brigade, which attended the fire, was founded by Sir Edmund Elton, 8th Baronet, in 1883 following a fire at Clevedon Court in 1882. Then a man was sent on horseback to fetch the Fire Brigade from Bristol. It was four hours before it arrived. The West Wing was completely gutted; many valuable books in the library were destroyed together with a Cromwellian Fire Place.

Ruth Summerell

(Information supplied by a Claverham and Clevedon Court resident.)



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