

The following articles are from the 1997 edition of Transactions of the Alveley Historical Society

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WELCOME.

Introduction

For this years Transactions I am pleased to have been asked to write a few notes on the years events. The year started with the news that our Research Group Chairman, Alan Nicholls was moving to the south of England due to work commitments, what a blow !!! Alan has been the leading figure in our group for the past few years and was the main driving force in our research. We wish him well in his new job and home. Alan has agreed to remain as our Research Group Chairman and will continue to edit and help produce the yearly Transactions.

In April the Historical Society won the annual Village quiz, the team being Joyce Cooper, Adam and Matt Nicholls and myself. Of course winning the competition means that next year we have to arrange the quiz. Our main project for this year has been to continue to gather photographs for our forthcoming book, we are well on course to publish this in early 1998. The Historical Society were pleased to receive grants towards this project from the Whittle Meadows Trust and the Parish Council, many thanks to all concerned. In 1997 we welcomed several new members to our meetings and have also introduced a membership scheme for people who wish to have contact with the Society. It is our intention to issue a newsletter to members, and make them feel part of our village wherever they live. The annual fee is £2, and one gentleman has already paid a five year subscription.

In August the Society were given a talk by Keith Beddoes on the history of the Round House and the Nautical William, the Society were most grateful to Keith for a very interesting evening, held at the Bell Inn.

September saw the Open Day, held at the Pavilion, where all the Society's photographs were on display. The day proved to be very successful. For this years Transactions I am pleased to say we have contributions from people who have an interest in our village, and live in the U.S.A. I think you will find their stories most interesting, and I thank them for their time and interest.

Unfortunately this year we have more stories and items than space permits, we are therefore holding some of the items over until the next Transactions, to all who have contributed we are most grateful.....I hope you enjoy reading these Transactions

Tim White, treasurer.

Alveley and Romsley Remembered by Dennis Evans

Let me introduce myself. My name is Dennis Victor Evans. My mother told me that I was born on February 18th 1917, as the church bells of Alveley Parish church were ringing for the 11 o'clock service. I

was her firstborn and later to become the eldest of four boys and four girls. I was born at No 53 Ivy Place, Alveley. My mother gave me a photograph she had taken of me standing in the lane which ran alongside our house. I was about 1 year old and am wearing a long white dress and a pair of lace-up boots.

Our neighbours were Mr and Mrs Scriven. I used to call Mrs Scriven "Auntie Emma" and I spent a lot of time in their house before I went to school. Their family had grown up and had left home so I had a lot of attention. When I was older, I used to spend a lot of time with Mr Scriven in his shed at the bottom of his garden. He always seemed to have something to do, "pithering" my mum called it. One day, I saw him sitting on an up-turned log with a pair of pliers in his hand, wrestling with an aching tooth. After a while he proudly showed me the tooth which had been causing him trouble. I have often thought of the pain he must have suffered. There were no doctors or dentists in Alveley at that time. There was no transport either, except for Thursday and Saturday. Many years later when my Grandfather Evans and Mrs Scriven had died, my Grandmother married Mr Scriven which, no doubt, gave them companionship in their later years.

One of my earliest memories was a visit to see my Grandad and Grandmother Gittins who lived at the Forge at Eardington. My dad took me to the ferry at Potters Loade and we crossed to the railway lines. We then walked to Eardington. Dad carried on his shoulders most of the way and I can remember seeing the masses of primroses on either side of the railway banks all the way to Eardington. A year ago, I re-visited the Forge and the railway banks, but was disappointed to find that the old cottage where my grandparents had lived had been demolished and the primroses long gone. Very disappointing. The thought crossed my mind that it was a good walk to Eardington from Alveley and back in one day; I couldn't do it today.

My brother, Maurice, went to stay with Grandma Gittins for a while when we were quite small, during which time I had another visit there. My Grandad was sitting in his armchair having his afternoon snooze and I think Maurice and I made enough noise to wake him. I remember that we had a good telling off. I don't remember visiting them again. It was not long after our visit that Grandad died. Grandmother Gittins subsequently came to live opposite us in Alveley. She was able to get a one-bedroomed house in the row of cottages for old people, which was very convenient for her to be near us. The cottages were known as The Poor's Row. They were demolished after the war and have been replaced with a much better row of houses on Church Way. My Grandmother was a very independent lady; she minded her own business and expected others to do the same.

We had a standpipe next to our house where local people were able to collect their drinking water. Most of the houses collected rain water in tubs to use for washing etc, from the downpipes from their roofs. My Grandmother liked to be the first to draw water from the tap each day. Grandma had a white enamel pail used solely for her drinking water and she kept it in the pantry, covered with a white cloth. She used to make her own bread and when she had a small joint of beet, she kept the dripping and spread it on her home baked bread for us and we thought it was great. She had a small garden at the front of her house where she grew several herbs and a few flowers.

The village was supplied with water from a very strong spring which gushed from the hillside near the river. The water was used to drive a ram which pumped the water to a tank which stood on top of a tall building near the bottom of our garden. The door at the base of the building was kept locked to prevent interference with the valves that were kept therein. The water was pumped to some seven or eight stand pipes situated at various sites around the village.

Number 53 Ivy Place is the end house in the row and is built with sandstone which, I presume, was quarried locally as were many other houses in the village. We had three bedrooms, a kitchen and a back kitchen, and a parlour which Dad used as a grocery shop. No front garden, but a small garden at the rear. We also had a pigsty and a shed where we kept a few hens. There was also a "midden" where we emptied the ash from the fire. My sister, Barbara, had a mishap one day on the midden, when she fell and cut her leg badly on a broken oil lampshade; she still has the scar today. Dustbins in Alveley were not thought of then. We had neither electricity nor gas in the village. The main light was an oil lamp downstairs and a candle to go to bed. One night when brother Maurice and I were in bed and Mother was attending to Barbara in the next room, the breeze blew the curtains across the candle flame and set them on fire. Panic set in for a while but the flames were soon put out with a pail of water. Maurice and I were taken to Mrs

Morris who lived opposite and we spent the night there, to our great delight.

Next to our house was a narrow lane which led to the coal mine. The overflow from the tap there, formed a small stream which ran alongside the path. There was a nice muddy pool halfway along the path and my Mother told me that she found me washing a black kitten, trying to change it into a white one. When I was a bit older, I remember getting some blue violets and trying to sell them, but I don't remember having any customers.

The next set of buildings past the lane, belonged to Mr Webb; he stabled his horses there. He also had a large Dutch barn where he usually kept hay and straw. We had some good slides down the ricks and also made some good tunnels at the base. Remembering that makes me realise how stupid we were. Not only the chance of being smothered but also of being gassed. However, when we were caught, it put an end to all that.

Mr Webb had a stone quarry a short distance past the church. We often went to watch the stone being shaped into blocks of varying sizes, also into different sizes for grindstones. At the quarry, I saw the large steam engine driving the saws which didn't appear to have any teeth. It was much later that I learned that they were not supposed to have any, as the cutting was done by abrasion.

Mr Jack Yeomans was the waggoner. I often saw him with his team of horses taking a load of stone to the Black Country where the grindstones were used to sharpen the various tools that were made there. I doubt if there is a much worse terrain anywhere in the country for a team of horses to travel, with the steep hills around the area and the heavy loads they were moving. I was intrigued with the braking system used on the wagon. At the top of the hill a metal shoe, shaped like an aitch shaped scoop with a solid front to which a heavy chain was attached, was fastened to each side of the rear of the wagon, in front of the rear wheels. The shoe was placed on the ground in front of the rear wheels and the wagon moved forward so that the wheels were trapped in the shoe. There were also two brake blocks which were operated on and off by turning a small wheel. The wagon went down the hill with the rear wheels slithering along the ground.

Alveley is half way between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster and, when I was young, was rather isolated. Very few of the population had cars; the bus service was only part time and the people didn't travel very far. I think that I knew almost everyone in the village. It's very different now! I knew where they lived, what work they did and, in most cases, their nicknames. The families had nicknames and so did most individuals. After an absence of many years, I went into the 'Shoes' pub with Tom Breakwell, my brother in law, and several times tried to name someone who came into the pub, only to be told 'that's the right family, but he's the grandson'. It is amazing how the family features are handed down. I suppose that the huge influx of new-comers to the village since the war will make it difficult to recognise the features in the future.

Most of the men were either farmworkers or miners. Dad wouldn't let any of us take a job down the mine. He worked all his working life at the Highley/Alveley mine. During the war my cousin, Jim Evans, was able to take me down the mine to have a look around. I'm eternally grateful that Dad said that mining was not for any of us.

The village had both football and cricket teams and the pubs had their darts teams. Often, there was a dance at the Village Hall and most of the activities were well supported. There was also a Fete at Whitsun, which was often held in the Leah, a field just below the Bell Inn. The village band played during the afternoon, the usual stalls sold cakes, drinks etc. I remember Mother making nettle beer and several bottles burst because the corks had been tied in to stop them popping out. Climbing the greasy pole was one competition, and catching the greasy pig another. My Mother caught the pig one year and we took it home and fattened it for bacon. I think that was in 1924 or 1924. There was also the May Queen; Auntie Emily, Dad's younger sister, won this one year, I remember. There was the Maypole, sack races and the tug of war for the men.

The old stone school in the village where I began my education is now demolished. It was a two storey building of two rooms, looking over the village green. Each room was divided by a folding partition to make four classrooms. Older children were taught upstairs, younger ones downstairs. Our playground was the road outside; the boundaries were a farmhouse, the churchyard and a couple of houses.

Four large Elm trees towered over the school yard, where we often chased each other playing tag. During the marble season (sometimes it was in fashion and other times it was not) we marked a circle on the hard packed soil with a turning movement of a boot, which formed the circle where the marbles were placed. The opponent held a larger glass marble on his thumbnail and flicked it towards the circle to try to remove one of the marbles and thereby capture it. The other players took turns to try their luck at removing the marbles also. We often broke the top of a 'pop' bottle to get the glass marble which was used to seal the bottle of lemonade. During the fruit season, we often tried our hand at throwing sticks etc at the overhanging fruit trees in the hedge behind the school. We also played tipcat, a game I've not seen since my schooldays. We stamped a depression in the ground with the heel of a boot so that, when a six inch by one inch thick piece of wood was placed in the depression at an angle, it left a piece protruding and that is where the wood was struck with a two foot long piece of stick. As it flew, spinning in the air, it was hit firmly and the tipcat that went furthest was the winner. During the conker season we boasted how many conkers a particular conker had destroyed. Today, the hole through a conker would most likely be drilled, but our method was to head a nail in the fire and force it through the conker. We tried to harden them by baking them in the oven, but it never seemed to make much difference. Playing conkers was alright, until your opponent rapped your knuckles.

The classrooms in the school were heated by two free-standing coke stoves which were not very efficient. I can still picture Jenny Preece with massive chilblains on her hands. My sisters also had chilblains and the itching nearly drove them mad. If anyone mentions chilblains now, my mind goes back to the old school. I don't remember complaining about the cold, though.

I think everybody enjoyed the last period on Fridays, as the teacher used to read *Oliver Twist*, *Treasure Island* and other adventure stories. We didn't have as many subjects as is customary today, but we learned poetry and lots of songs.

Our landlord was Mr Monk who lived at a small farm at the end of Stone Row. I think he had retired as he only had about twenty acres or so. I often used to watch him repairing his buildings etc and he didn't seem to mind me being there. One day he took me to see a wooden sledge that he had made which he said was for me if I would give Mrs Monk a ride on it through the village. It was a good job she wasn't a big lady as I was only small myself and I was able to perform my task. We spent many hours on the sledge down Banky Whittle and also later, when we moved to Romsley. Years later, I saw the old sledge filling a gap in one of Dad's pigsties and I wouldn't be surprised if it's not there still. When we left the village, Mr Monk gave me a carpenter's tool bag, a hand saw, pruning saw, a hammer and a mallet, and also a wire brush to remove moss from the fruit trees, he said.

I was in the church choir and we had two main services each Sunday. We had choir practice each Thursday evening. If we had attended both services on Sunday, we were paid twopence. That was just about enough to buy a packet of five Woodbines. The Keeper from a nearby large estate visited the village on Friday nights to select several boys to act as beaters to help with the shoot on Saturdays. The beaters, mainly boys, were supposed to patrol a stretch alongside the woods to keep the pheasants and partridges confined until the shooters arrived. We were in position before daylight. To help pass the time we often tried to light a small fire to keep warm but the wood was usually damp and we had little success with the fire, however, we did manage to light a Woodbine. The shooters arrived to take up positions at one end of the wood whilst we, the beaters, went to the opposite end where we entered the wood and advanced in line, moving towards the shooters, driving the birds forward at the same time. The dogs were kept busy retrieving the birds as they were shot. Sometimes, the birds were only wounded and was nauseating to see the Keeper grab a bird, hold its neck in his mouth and, with a quick bite, he killed the bird instantly. I suppose it was the most humane way to put the bird out of its suffering, but the sight of blood and feathers round the Keeper's mouth put me off somewhat!

At lunchtime we went to the Greenhouse Farm where we were served with a 'doorstopper'; a very thick sandwich filled with a large slice of pink coloured brawn. It didn't look very appetising but it tasted great and certainly satisfied our hunger. We had a mug of cocoa to drink and the men were given rough cider if they so wished. After lunch we went through another wood then, when we were finished, we were paid a half crown which seemed like a fortune to us. Sometimes, the shooters shot some rabbits and we were

given them to carry, which was a task we didn't like.

After a long day outside wearing short trousers, as was the custom for boys under 14 years old, I will never forget the tin bath in front of the blazing fire after the encounter with the brambles and nettles in the woods. It was torture at first as the soap made the scratches on my legs sting, but that soon eased and it was a pleasure to relax.

When I was about seven or eight, my cousin Jim and I went scrumping. The local bobby caught me, but Jim could run faster than I could although that made no difference as he knew who we were and we both had a telling off!

The Blacksmith's shop was alongside the Carpenter's shop and they were both next to Townsend Farm. I spent many happy hours there watching the sparks flying all around when Mr Baldwin was shaping a piece of iron or fashioning a new part to repair a farm implement. I was sometimes allowed to pump the forge bellows and watch as he held the iron with a long handled pair of tongs, plunging the iron into the fire until it was the right temperature to beat into shape on the anvil. I used to marvel at the ease with which he lifted the huge leg of a shire horse, placed it against his leather apron between his legs and fit the hot shoe to the horse's hoof. That was a smell I'll never forget! It always amazed me how patient the horses were as the nails were hammered into their hoofs and then have the big rasp treatment to shape the shoe and hoof together.

It was interesting watching the carpenters making a large wagon wheel. The blacksmith had a large circular iron plate with a hole in the centre which was outside on the ground in the yard. The Carpenters placed the wheel on the plate with the hub in the hole in the centre. The blacksmith then made the iron tyre for the wheel. He made it smaller than the wheel, then heated it to expand it and, whilst it was hot, three men with long tongs carried it and placed it on the wooden wheel. They then hammered the tyre into place after which they poured cold water on the tyre to shrink it to make a tight fit.

Mr Baldwin made an iron hoop for me; it was about two feet in diameter. I used a stick about two feet long to move it along by knocking it forward and that kept me amused no doubt. Lots of my pals had hoops also, thanks to Mr Baldwin. He had a kind heart.

Although my family went to the Parish Church, we sometimes went to the Methodist Chapel for the Harvest Festival or some special occasion. I liked to see the 'magic lantern' shows, where we listened to the missionaries giving lectures and showing slides of the places they had visited overseas. We thought it was great. No wireless or cinema for us in those days, where we lived. I remember listening to my first wireless programme at a friend's house. His Dad had a crystal set and he put the headphones under a basin - we put our heads close to the basin to listen to our first faint programme. Times soon changed, however, and we had our own wireless set. We also had the 'pleasure' of taking the wet battery (or accumulator, as it was called) each week to have it re-charged at the garage where there was a generator, as no-one had mains electricity in Alveley at that time.

The wireless was a boon for people like my Mother, who never travelled far from home. Her hearing was poor, but she was able to enjoy listening to Gracie Fields and Tommy Handley, to name just a couple of her favourites. How different from even a few years before - people like 'grannie' Clews, who lived alone, had only her dog to talk to.

My father was William Evans. He was born at Highley on June 12th 1890. He lived there for two years and then came to Alveley with my Grandfather and Grandmother Evans. They lived in a cottage near the ferry at Potters Loade and, after a short while, moved to the village to live at Stone Row. The house they lived in is now the village Post Office. Dad worked for the Alveley/Highley Mining Company all his working life, from 13 until he was 65 years old. He worked at the coalface for most of that time, which was obvious when he stripped off and we could see the blue scars on his body that coal miners collect from accidents at work. My Father led a full life in the affairs of the village. He was on the Church Council for some time and also the Parish Council. He was a Bellringer and Choirmaster for a number of years. He also played in the Village Band. When he was younger, he played football in the village football team. He was a keen supporter of Aston Villa and if there was an important match, he would go to work in the pit on Saturday, leave at noon and, after washing and changing, bike with a mate to get to the Villa in time to see the second half. I think he must have been keen! Soon after my Mother and Father were

married, they opened a small grocery shop at 53 Ivy Place.

Dad was the secretary of the Alveley Working Men's Club for a while before the War. The Club was very different from the Club today. The original was a large stone built room where Members sat and had their drinks. There was a smaller room attached to the Club where the beer barrels were kept on trams. The barrels were covered with wet sacks in summer to try to keep the beer cool. It was never very successful and warm beer before the War was a way of life. In the large room there was a Bagatelle table and card tables, and a darts board on the wall. There was sawdust and spittons on the floor. It was a very friendly place however, where everyone knew each other, with a lot of friendly banter and concern if anyone was in need of help. At Christmas, the Club profits from the year's income were distributed to the members. We all had tokens for free beer and there was a large table with a huge joint of cold beef, ham, pork pies and other food for people to help themselves. There were bread rolls and various pickles, and there was plenty to eat for everyone. I was able to join the Club when I was sixteen. We played bagatelle and darts. The card games were usually don, though whist and pontoon were often also played.

After the war it was decided to demolish the old Club and re-build a larger and more modern one on the same site. The Club now has lady members and has a large concert room as well as a games room. There is also a large car park which is essential today. The most important thing is that the beer which is sold today is well kept and it is still a friendly place to visit. I was made a Life Member several years ago. My Mother, Mary Purnell Gittins, was born at the Denny Farm, Chelmarsh on June 15th 1891. Later, Grandfather Gittins went to live at Nordley and Mother went to Tuck Hill School. Before my Mother and Father were married, my Mother was in domestic service for a Colonel who lived at the Greenhouse Dingle on the main Bridgnorth-Kidderminster road. At Whitsun a small fair used to visit the village and park in Jack Baldwin's field at the top of Daddlebrook, opposite Stone Row. There was a roundabout, coconut shies etc, as well as swingboats. Tommy Yeomans, a lad of my age, was playing behind the swingboats and was hit on the head by one of the swingboats. He was carried to my Gran's house opposite and my Mother attended to him until he was taken to hospital. He was very ill and had to have a plate implanted in his head.

There were several hazelnut bushes in the hedges at the end of the lane near Ivy Place. Some of my pals and I often climbed along the branches and pretended to be either Freddie Fox of Steve Donaghue, or some other jockey, as we bounced up and down on the branches. The farmer had some hay cribs where he placed hay for the sheep to eat. The cribs had wheels and we often had a ride to the bottom of the slope. They were too heavy for us to return to the top of the hill again.

I was nine years old when, in 1926, Dad bought a five acre small-holding called Lady Pitt Farm, Sham Lane, Romsley. Sham Lane was a very narrow rough road with trees and hedges meeting above which made it seem like walking through a tunnel. Very eerie on a dark night on the way home, when an animal in a nearby field coughed or made a strange noise. My first visit to Lady Pitt with Dad was to take some large barrels to use as rainwater butts. He had borrowed a horse and cart to move them and we were at the bottom of the steep hill when we saw the Fishman coming down the hill in his Model T Ford. There was no way he could reverse, so Dad pulled into the side. As he did so, the cart wheel began to climb the bank at the side of the road. It was panic stations for a minute or so until Dad got down from the cart and backed the horse and cart into a gateway. I thought we were going to tip over.

Lady Pitt was very run down. It was Autumn and the fruit lay hidden in tall grass. It was difficult to see through the tangled branches and we had great fun finding and tasting the different fruit. It was not so much fun, though, after we had settled in and Dad began to prune the trees; he could prune faster than we could move the branches. We had to stack the prunings around the pool and they were used to light the fire. The thicker pieces were sawn into logs. The smell of apple logs on an open fire is very pleasant. We had a saw horse in the barn which was used to hold the wood whilst sawing the logs, usually with a cross cut saw.

There were a dozen or so different varieties of apples and half a dozen pear trees. We had a row of egg plums, a couple of greengages, two cherry trees and a large walnut tree. In the hedgerows there were many damson trees and nut bushes. Even with the many different varieties of fruit that we had, we often visited the neighbouring orchards; the fruit was no different from the fruit at home, but I suppose it was

the idea of doing something wrong that appealed to us. When the farmers saw us, nothing was said as we often used to help to pick up the windfalls so that the animals didn't eat too many apples etc and become ill. We also had a few cider apple trees and also a massive pear tree which often produced enough pears to make a cask of perry. I was saddened to hear a couple of years or so ago, that the wind had finally toppled the old pear tree. When it was in full bloom and had the sun shining on it, it was a beautiful sight. The pears were not very big, sharp to the taste and hard as bullets. They made some lovely perry though. To get the cider apples, Dad had a long pole with a hook attached, which he put over a branch and shook. The apples fell like hail. Afterwards, it was our job to put them into sacks ready for Charlie Evans to bring his cider press to make them into cider. The cider was put into large wine casks on a frame known as a tram, in the cellar alongside the wines that Mother made.

Most of the cider was given away to the passers by from the village. They worked with Dad and used to walk from the village if the weather was warm and they would call for a chat and a drink of rough cider before going to the pub on their way home. My brother and I have made many trips to the cellar with the old white quart jug to get drinks for Dad's mates.

During the season we used to collect dandelions, cowslips (not many about now), elder flowers and elderberries for wine. We had a large tub on the back yard where we used to put the windfall damsons and they were made into wine. Mother also made parsnip wine which blended well, about 50:50 with cider, and which was rather potent. My favourite was redcurrant wine.

We also used to go 'nutting'. In the hedgerows there were several hazelnut bushes and a couple of filberts. When the nuts came away easily from the husks, we called them shealers and they were then ready to eat. We knew where to get plenty of chestnuts, both sweet chestnuts to eat and conkers to do battle with. We also had a walnut tree which we were told to beat with a stick. We always seemed to have plenty of walnuts and we picked enough walnuts before they were fully ripe for pickling. I didn't like pickled walnuts, but I did enjoy getting the ripe nuts and eating them straight off the tree. Our hands became very stained from peeling off the green husks but the kernels tasted so much better than the dry nuts usually bought in the shops. The walnuts were called bannuts.

The two cherry trees were growing close to the house and it was easy for us to fix the old bell which we used on the door of the shop, to a branch in the nearest cherry tree, and to connect it with a length of string to the window catch in our bedroom. Whoever was awake first was supposed to pull the string and ring the bell to scare the birds. We had plenty of cherries but the birds didn't go short either.

We enjoyed the greengages and had plenty to eat. It was often hazardous picking greengages as the wasps seemed to come from miles around when they were getting ripe. They would tunnel into the fruit and, if you were not careful when picking the greengages, it was quite easy to get stung. Greengages made lovely jam and was one of our favourites. Dad often used to take jam for lunch down the mine as he said it kept moist and, after all, it was sugar and fruit which was energy.

We gathered the apples and pears and also the damsons for a dealer who came every year to collect fruit to fulfil his contracts. We learned from him the names of all our fruit. I wouldn't be surprised if the majority of the names have disappeared now. 'Beefeater' pears; massive fruit and great for stewing and bottling. 'Marie', 'Elizabeth' and other apples, 'Jennets', a small pear which was ripe ages before the others and 'Beauty of Bath' another early cropper. Whoever planned our orchards did so with fruit to span the season, with cooking, eating and keeping qualities. We used to store a lot of keepers in the loft in the barn. The green and brown 'Bueree' pears were delicious after being kept, and so were the 'Russets' and 'Blenheims'. We had a loft over the stairs and Dad used to store some choice fruit there. When we went to bed, we sometimes climbed on the top rail of his bed and were able to get an apple or pear.

Most of our animals had pet names and were made a fuss of. During the lambing season the farmers often brought an orphan lamb for Mother to rear. We called them 'cade lambs'. We had one lamb called Maisie and she was with us for a few years and had lambs of her own. Our family had increased at the time of this particular episode and Maisie was a full grown ewe. It was washday and we had finished breakfast and the crockery was piled onto a large three legged round table in the back kitchen. Someone left the door open and Maisie came to investigate; she went under the table and became stuck. In her struggle to get free, she tipped the table over and the crockery fell on the stone floor. There wasn't so much washing

up to do that day!

One day, when Dad took a cow to auction, he said that he was at the side of the auction ring where animals were paraded when being sold and, as soon as the cow came into the ring, she walked straight over to him and stayed there until she was sold. He said he felt really sad about selling her. There was a large Rhode Island cockerel who was with some hens in the orchard along the road and I went to feed them one day. As I reached them, the old cockerel came flying at me with his claws towards my face. I was lucky that I still had the bucket and, after several hits, I was able to drive him off. He was a determined fighter though, and I'm glad we kept the children away from him. It was not long afterwards that he was in the oven.

Several years later, I was on leave from the Air Force with my wife Mabel, and Dad had left a note for me to take one of the sows to the boar as he didn't have one at that time. We let the sow out and she knew where she needed to go, so Mabel and I followed her up to the Pool House Farm. When we caught up with her she was standing beneath an opening in the sty wall and the old boar had his two front legs hanging through the opening. I went to tell the farmer that I had brought Dad's sow and he said "Let the boar out". I said "Not bloody likely" and Mabel and I disappeared as fast as we could get away. That boar's name was Satan - he was rightly named! He had managed to get out one day and had paid a visit to see one of Dad's sows. I repaired the gap he made in the hedge with ten strands of barbed wire. I was disappointed to learn that it didn't stop him when he was roaming again. He was a frightening animal! Each year, Dad fattened a large sow to kill for bacon. The butcher would kill the pig on a sturdy bench and two or three of us held the pig on its side while the butcher cut its throat. The pigs were usually about twenty score, ie about four hundred pounds. They were strong and heavy and it was no easy task to hold them; however, when the struggling and squealing was over we were kept busy carrying boiling water from the furnace where Mum did her washing and the butcher scraped all the bristles off the pig until it was shaved clean. The pig was then lifted and hung from a beam by its back legs in the barn. The butcher then removed the insides etc and Mum took the fat and rendered it down to lard. She used to put rosemary in the lard to flavour it and we often had it spread on toast for breakfast.

Mother also made scratchings when she was rendering the fat and she left plenty of fat on them so they were tasty with salt and pepper. I don't think I could manage a lot of scratchings today, but we liked them when Mother made them. When the bacon and ham was cured, the sides and hams were placed on the bacon rack which was hung from the ceiling in the back kitchen. Maurice and I were told by Mother to take some pig meat to 'Grannie' Clews, an old widowed lady who lived alone in a cottage nearby. She was not a relative, but she was known all around as 'Grannie'. When we were in her house she asked us if we would like some pie; we said 'Yes Please' and she brought both of us a piece. She said that it was blackbird pie and went into the next room for something. While she was away, we fed the dog who made short work of our pie. We didn't fancy blackbird pie.

Her dog, Nancy, was a black and white fox terrier. She was a good ratter. We saw Grannie Clews returning from the village one day; she was carrying a bag which had a hole in the corner and there was a rabbit's head poking through the hole. The dog had caught it in the hedgerow. We had a pup called Jack from that bitch at one time and he was as good as his mother; he often caught rats and the occasional rabbit when we took him for a walk around the fields. We were amazed to find a dead hedgehog by the dog's kennel one morning. The dog was tied up, as usual, and next morning we found a second dead hedgehog. We couldn't understand why the hedgehogs could be so stupid to get near the kennel when there was a whole field to roam in.

The toilet facilities at Lady Pitt in the early years were rather primitive. It was a task at the weekend to get the papers and cut them into small squares which we hung at the back of the toilet door. It's amazing how much news was gleaned from the hanging squares. There was a little man who did odd jobs around the area and emptying the 'closets', as they were called, kept him fully occupied. He liked a drink and I will leave it to your imagination what hazards drink and emptying closets had in common. News of a mishap soon spread around the village.

One of my earliest memories was going to see my Grandmother Evans who was cutting swedes in a field near Townsend. It was after school and I helped to stack the swedes so that it would be easier to cart them

away and also to cover them with the leafy tops should there be a frost. The swedes were usually stored in a frost-proof building or placed in a straw lined bury and covered with soil to keep out the frost. I noticed that my Grandmother had set aside a half dozen swedes which she told me to look after as she was taking them home. It was a usual practice to take swedes, peas or potatoes after gathering them all day. She said to me 'It's the back carriage that pays' and I have heard the same sentiment mentioned many times in similar circumstances.

Quite often we went to help Mum pick peas in the neighbouring farmer's fields. The price per pot of 40 lbs was one shilling and, when the picking was good, it was not a bad job. Of course, some farmers grew peas but others allowed thistles and nettles to grow as well and it was no picnic then. My sister, Ivy, did a lot of crop gathering for the local farmers. I often thought of her potato picking or sprout picking when it had been raining and everywhere was sodden. Today, harvesting methods have changed and, instead of aching backs, the potatoes are lifted by an elevator where they can be sorted, with the operator seated inside a moving, covered machine, which is a much better idea.

Mr Pearman was a neighbouring farmer who lived at the Lower House Farm, Romsley. He was a bachelor and was a very interesting man to talk to. I wish he were alive today as I can think of many questions to ask him. He was very tolerant with us and we roamed over his fields without complaint. We earned a pit of pocket money helping with the hay making at Mr Pearman's and also picking up windfalls. He had a field, about five acres, where there was the site of a ruined house which had a moat around it. There was nothing left of the house, but the water flowed through the overgrown moat and off down the field to join the brook to eventually end up in the River Severn. One year, Mr Pearman helped us to clear a lot of the weed from the moat and we used to try to swim therein. Then we helped him launch a flat bottomed boat he had made for us and we had a lot of fun with that. Soon after the war, I wrote to Mr Pearman to see if I could buy the Moat Field and we settled on a price. With the letter of agreement came a letter from my mother to tell me that Mr Pearman had been killed in a motorbike accident. The field was sold with the estate and is now part of a large field; several hedges have been removed and the moat filled in.

Romsley is a hamlet connected to Alveley and I suppose the total population then was no more than 80 people. Some of the children went to Arley School and four families went to Alveley. It was a good two mile walk to the old school in Alveley and, I guess, it would be thought too far for a five year old to walk today. There was no other way for us to go, other than walk and we thought nothing of it. Arley School was even further away. Each year at school, my sisters competed to find and name as many wild flowers as possible, and they became quite proficient at their task. We all became interested; I know that it has given me an interest which I still have and my sisters, too, can usually name the flowers we see when we go for a walk.

I remember one trip to the river when, during my lunch break at school, I went with Ellis Evans (who's Dad looked after the ferry) and he threw my cap on to the river bank. I collected it and was stung by wasps seven times on my head for my trouble. His mother smothered my head with Reckits Blue, which was supposed to help. I remember my head ached; I don't think we were very good friends for some time after that.

There was no drinking water on the property and, for a time, we collected our drinking water from Lady Pitt Cottage next door. Their spring was very poor and, in the summer time, we had to carry water about a quarter of a mile away from a strong spring which ran in the ditch near the Old Hall. There was a stone trough in the ditch the water flowed into and, when full, the water carried on down the ditch. We had a pool at the back of the buildings which helped to keep the animals supplied. The water for washing and household cleaning was taken from several sixty gallon barrels which were used to collect water. Before the war, Dad had a water diviner to check if we could find water near the house. He found a couple of sites where he thought there would be water and we began to dig. It was Autumn when we started and also fruit picking time. We dug through six feet of solid clay and then struck rock. Fruit picking held us up and winter ended work for the year. During the winter the hole filled with surface water and the walls caved in which made it difficult to continue with that site.

In the Spring we set to work at the second site. We did the first six feet of clay as before, but the remainder of the well was solid rock. We had a windlass above the well with a wooden seat to sit on while

someone turned the handle to lower whoever was working in the well. We had no electricity or compressed air to drill the holes necessary to put the powder in to blast the rock. We used a six foot jumper drill. It was a long 1½ inch thick steel rod which was sharpened to a chisel point at each end. The blacksmith used to harden and temper the ends after he had re-shaped them. The idea was to raise the tool and let it fall in the same place each time, turning it a quarter of a turn each time it fell. The pulverised the rock in the hole and the dust was removed with a long handled spoon. When the hole was deep enough, Dad would be lowered to put the charge in the hole, light the fuse and be quickly raised from the well. After the explosion, we would wish for a barrow load of rock to be moved, but it was usually only a bucketful or 'a capful' as Dad often said. It was really tough rock. I would be surprised to hear that there was any sign of subsidence of the house or buildings after witnessing what we found in the well. It was a long and tedious job, as we were doing it mainly in our spare time, so that, in the end, Dad had Freddie Painter to work full time to get the job done. The well was 84 feet deep when digging finished. The spring was not the torrent we had hoped for; however, it did help and we didn't have the long trek to Old Hall. It was a wonderful day for us all in the area when, at last, the reservoir was built and we had a flush toilet and bath. We noticed the difference, though, when we washed after being used to the rainwater.

We were equally delighted to have mains electricity after the war. Dad has previously had a small Lister generating set which was fine to light the house, but not good enough for his needs. He sometimes had seventy or eighty pigs at various stages of growth. He often had five or six sows; he also kept a boar for most of the time. The electricity was a great help to keep the young pigs warm when they were first born. It was a boon for Mother to watch television and it brought Romsley into the 20th Century. My Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother Powell came to live at Romsley in 1865. They occupied an old cottage which was built in 1714 and which has been modernised and is still lived in today, though not by any of our family. Great Grandfather and family came from Six Ashes. He was a sawyer but later became a roadman and was responsible for the maintenance of the stretch of road from the Three Counties Stone near Shatterford, to the Finger at the north. We called it the Old Road and it was originally the main road between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth. His duties were to fill the potholes, keep ditches clear, keep the verges trimmed back and to 'siden' the overgrown hedgerows and banks; in other words, cut back brambles and low branches that encroached on the road.

The road was, and still is, very narrow in places and, before it was tarred, the traffic formed two grooves where the wheels ran and left a mound in the centre of the road. After a while, the steam roller and a gang of men came to repair the road, which was then levelled, new stone added where required, and soil was dug from the sides of the road and spread between the stones. A large water cart with a sprinkler was used to saturate the road which was then rolled to compact it. We often had the roller and the driver's van parked in our field at the corner of the road. The driver stayed near the van to attend the fire and have steam up ready for work next day. I remember one day, when the rain had set in and the men had been sent home, only the foreman and engine driver were in the fan and they persuaded my brother and me to get them some cider and parsnip wine, which we did. They were quite happy until the engine driver sat on his free-standing coke stove. In his haste to cool off, he fell down the steps of his van. That was the end of play for that day. Dad has told us often that his Grandmother used to help Great Grandad on the road in the summer when the cow parsley and other plants were getting out of hand. Some of the narrow lanes were used mainly by horse and cart and the grooves were sometimes a foot below the centre of the road. The centre was usually covered with grass.

It was customary for the Village Band to go round different parts of the village just before Christmas, usually accompanied by the village lads. I was with them one year at the Greenhouse Farm. The Band had been well lubricated and I remember the old fellow who carried the lantern on a pole saying 'I think it's going to rain' after someone had poured a glass of cider over his head. He was well lubricated also and it raised a smile afterwards when someone 'thought it was going to rain'. I recall an occasion when the Band had been playing in the Romsley area all evening and they finished the evening at our house. Maurice and I were kept busy with the white jug, up and down the cellar steps, with wine and cider. They had enough to eat and were still talking and drinking when we were sent to bed, as we had to go to church next day. On the way to church, we found several pieces of music and a peaked hat belonging to one of the

bandsmen.

As for Christmas presents, we usually received colouring books given to us at school, and sometimes a small board game, such as Snakes and Ladders or Ludo. They were supplied by National companies, such as Libby's, Lever Bros, Oxo and others. At home we had a small holly Christmas tree and usually a white sugar pig, an orange, coloured crayons and a few other small items. The girls usually had a doll which was often a rag doll made by Mother or a friend, whereas wooden toy engines were for the boys. It seemed to us that the lucky lads had a small Meccano set or something like that. Not very exciting by today's standards but, knowing nothing different, we were happy enough. There always seemed to be plenty of snow when we were on holiday and we had fun making huge snowmen. We had plenty of space and were able to build them where we liked. We found an old pipe belonging to Dad, a couple of small cobbles of coal for the eyes and a bit of old rag for a scarf, which finished him off. It was surprising how long they lasted sometimes. We always found something to amuse ourselves.

I remember getting an old car inner tube, which I cut into 3/4 inch ribbons about 12 inches long. I found an old pair of boots and removed the tongue. I then cut a Y shaped fork from an ash tree and trimmed it to make the handle for a catapult. After tying it all together, we used to shoot at cans etc and became quite good at knocking them off the wall.

We had a lot of moles at times and were encouraged to catch them. They are not easy to catch until you learn to be tidy setting the trap and keeping the run sealed as you found it. When the moles were caught, it was necessary to skin them and nail them by each corner to a flat board to dry off. When I had several skins, I took them to Bridgnorth and sold them, usually for sixpence a skin. At that time we were able to get some 5/16th inch square elastic which was far superior for catapults, so we were all soon kitted out with a catapult. We found the one inch lengths of elderberry wood very convenient to make whistles and also pop guns and pea shooters. The pith is easy to remove from the centre of the wood which was good for the pea shooter. When we cut a two inch slot on the top side of a six inch length of elderwood and removed the pith from one end, then using a four or five inch length of steel from an old pair of lady's stays (corsets), it was possible to anchor one end of the steel in the pith and bend the other end to move in the slot so that it acted like a trigger, and it was possible to shoot matchsticks and small objects.

We often tried to trap birds, hoping to get a linnet or a finch, but we only managed to get a sparrow or two. We borrowed Mother's cinder riddle, propped it at an angle with a piece of wood the size of a pencil, to which was tied a long length of string, the other end being held out of sight in the buildings. Some of Mother's corn was strewn around and under the riddle and, when the bird went under the riddle, the string was pulled and, hopefully, the bird was caught.

Old prams were sought after and we were able to strip them and make a trolley which we used to race down the fields.

Thinking of the catapults reminded me of the Watkins family who lived at the Clecker. I went to the Clecker one lunch time from school with Jack (alias Rabbit). He was a bit older than I was and was a great shot with a catapult. He said 'Watch this' and a peewit flew above. He just shot and down came the peewit. His Dad made a living for most part of the year catching rabbits for various farmers. He said that one had to be a 'bunnified' rabbit catcher to do his job. Perhaps he meant bone fide; whatever it was, he knew how to get rabbits.

It was during a very cold spell that Dad had Mr Dick Watkins to catch rabbits in the far orchard, as they were getting to be a nuisance. It was lunchtime and Mum asked me to take the very handy white jug filled with Camp coffee to Dick Watkins, which I did. I suppose I was about ten or eleven and I had refused even to taste coffee before then; in fact, we seldom had coffee in the house except for cake making. It was a little walk to where Dick was catching the rabbits and the smell of the coffee tickled my taste buds, so I had a taste. I was converted.

Some of my most vivid memories of Romsley were the very cold winters. We had chamber pots under the bed and I have seen them frozen many times. The mattresses were full of feathers and we snuggled down and were comfortable and warm. I recall the long icicles hanging from the eaves around the buildings; we used to snap them off and suck them like lollipops. We often had a slide on the pool. We tried our hand at making bows and arrows which passed the time, as did making paper kites with newspaper, flour paste

and thin hazel twigs to form the shape. They were usually too heavy to fly and we had better luck when we found some thinner paper. Romsley is a good area for kite flying.

During the winter evenings we often helped Mother to make a hearth rug. Old jackets, trousers and anything similar were cut into strips about four or five inches long by about half an inch wide. Mother would buy a new piece of hessian about six feet long by four feet wide and that formed the base of the rug. If there were plenty of colours in the old material, it would be sorted and we tried to work a pattern into the rug. We had several 'prodders' which were used to insert the strips of cloth into the hessian, so that two or three people could work at the same time. It was a time-consuming job, but the finished rug was appreciated. It was a heavy thing to shake and, as Mother became older and I shook the rug, I wondered how she had managed years before. I experienced a similar feeling when I offered to turn the mangle on washday. That was another chore the invention of the washing machine did away with. From an early age I did a lot of repairs to the buildings and sties where the animals had damaged the boards etc. I also did some hedgelaying, which I was very keen to do, as I had seen Mr Banks laying several hedges in the neighbourhood. The hedges were very wide and there was plenty of holly and hawthorn to make a good hedge. I also made two or three gates when I was older. The gateposts were young elm trees which I felled and trimmed. The elms seemed to be very quick growing and had been left to mature when the hedges were cut. Damsons and greengage trees, as well as blackberry brambles and elderberry bushes, were also left to grow in the hedges. We used to gather the blackberries for Mother to make into wine, jam and blackberry and apple pies. The blackthorn bushes were covered with white blossom in the Spring and, in the Autumn, they had a lot of small damson-like fruit. It gave me endless pleasure to pick some sloes, as they were called, and pretend to eat them. I tricked both my sons when they were about four years old into tasting them. Neither liked my prank.

When we were roaming about, we often tasted the various fruits etc. There was a lot of sorrel in the fields around Lady Pitt. Sorrel has an unusual flavour; I used to chew the leaves then spit them out. It has only been in the last few years that I have seen sorrel sold for use in salads. We often picked the young shoots of the brambles before the thorns formed. We peeled off the skin and nibbled the remaining flesh. It wasn't unpleasant to taste and neither was the 'bread and cheese' which is what we called the tips of the young hawthorn shoots. We were lucky to be able to roam the district and know where to get conkers and also the edible chestnuts. We often went nutting and mushrooming, and we sometimes ate one or two when their lovely pink undersides looked appetising. The smaller swedes were also good to eat as long as we didn't mind a bit of soil as we peeled them with our teeth.

In our barn, under the eaves, we had swallows and martins who visited us each year. It was always good to see them arrive and great to see them dive through the space at the top of the pigsty door to get to their nests, especially when they had young. It was most interesting to watch them assembling on the electricity and telephone wires prior to their migration. It would sometimes take a fortnight for them to fully gather and then, one day, there was not a bird to be seen.

We sometimes had a moorhen on the pool. I remember one time a pair built a nest at the top of Dog Kennel Road. There was a pool with a lot of reeds and we had been told that the eggs were good to eat, so we took some home for Mother to cook. The eggs were about the size of a bantam's eggs and were not worth the bother. We left them alone after that, also the peewit's eggs which we had also been told were good to eat.

We had a neighbour before the war who lived next door at the top of Sham Lane. Mr Swindells lived alone and farmed about 30 acres. He was a returned army officer and, I suppose, was about 30 years old at that time. I often walked to church with him and we had some very interesting conversations. He would point out several stars and he told me about some of his adventures in the army. He kept several pigs which I sometimes looked after when he had to be away from home. He let his sows roam the fields and they soon converted them into ploughed fields by rooting with their snouts, searching for pig nuts. I found and tasted a pig nut - they were small potato-like tubers with a brown skin which rubbed off leaving a cream coloured flesh. They tasted a little like raw potatoes. Mr Swindell's water came from a well at the bottom of the hill and was pumped to the top by a hand operated semi-rotary pump, which was a time-consuming job.

During my life at Romsley, before the war, I never saw a hare, but since the war I have seen several. I know that rabbits were nearly wiped out by myxomatosis, yet I have never heard if hares are vulnerable also. I suppose there were hares about as I had heard of jugged hare, but had never tried it. Mother used to do roast rabbit with different herbs and with fresh vegetables from the garden, which we all enjoyed. There was usually a good cricket and football team in Alveley. I played in the football team whenever my shift work allowed. My cousin Jim and our friend Horace (Billy) Leith, usually stayed in Kidderminster if we had been playing in the area. We had a meal and then went to the pictures afterwards. At the start of the season, it was a common thing to have to stand in the aisle in the cinema to ease the cramp, but that eased as we had more games. I'm afraid there wasn't too much training done. Sometimes, if the picture was good we decided to stay till the end and so missed the last bus home. It's a good walk home. There were no lights for most of the way and very little traffic. I remember how we used to sing away, any of the jingles from radio Luxembourg, or the latest Crosby or something similar. It's a good job there was no-one else about.

One year, our team won the Harriers Junior cup. We had to play a team on the Clee Hill in the semi final. We beat them and, after the match, went to the local pub to change and have a drink. The landlord called for silence, congratulated us on our win and said we must all have a drink out of their cup. He brought in a white chamber pot which was nearly full of beer. There were also two well cooked sausages floating around in the beer. Not a very pretty sight. However, after a lot of banter I think everybody had a drink. I did, and I remember the beer ran down the side of my mouth and the lip on the pot was so wide. A few years ago, I took some friends to Bewdley to show them the area. We visited the museum and I was delighted to see many of the things I had used or had seen used. My brothers and I spent some time with our cousin, Jack Head, when he had several stacks to burn for Mr Pearman in his wood near Harts Green. He had a crude hut covered with sacks and had a small charcoal fire inside. The little whiff of smoke from the fire was very pleasant.

I can remember having two holidays before I left school. The first was a trip with Dad to stay for a short time with my Uncle Jack who was a sergeant with the Met in London. He took us to Crystal Palace to hear the Brass Band contest. Fodens won the competition and the test piece was Samum. I bought the record several years later and was told that it represented the sun setting on the Severn. I liked the tune and the thought. Unfortunately, the record was broken during the war. My second holiday was with brothers Maurice and Harry. We went to our Aunty's at Crewe. We were fascinated with the steam trains and we spent many hours watching them being marshalled in the yards. Our Uncle was a turner in the works and he used to work mainly on axle boxes. We also had several trips with our cousin to the pictures whilst we were there. I remember spending a penny on Bridgnorth Station; there was a cigarette machine where one penny bought one Churchman No 1 cigarette which was in a small packet. I smoked it and it made me giddy. It took me several more years before I managed to get some sense into my giddy head and finish with cigarettes altogether. While I was at Crewe, my Aunty tried to get me to eat some tripe. I had never tasted it and, even when she tried to tell me it was white fish, I still wasn't interested.

My Uncle came to live with us for a couple of years or so. He did some work on a local farm and also caught rabbits for farmers. He had a couple of fetters and my brother, Maurice and I, would often go rabbiting with him. He had a collar and lead on the ferret which he sent into the hole and, when the ferret cornered the rabbit, he could follow the lead to locate them. Sometimes, the holes were deep under a hedgerow and it was difficult to get to the ferret and rabbit.

I plagued my Uncle to take me poaching with him one night. It was pitch black, no moon or stars to be seen. We went to a field known as the Long Earl and stretched a long net about two feet high for distance along the field near the hedge. It was supported by a few sticks. We then walked to the opposite side of the field; Uncle at one end and me at the other. Then we walked back towards the net making a little noise to scare any rabbits into the net. I hadn't walked very far before I stumbled over an object in the dark which made a noise like someone moaning. I didn't wait to find out what it was, but took off as fast as my legs could carry me and was back home in no time. When my Uncle returned, he was not very pleased and he informed me that I had stumbled over a cow resting on the grass and that was what had scared me. Needless to say, I never went poaching again!

On one occasion, we were inspecting some snares that Uncle had set the previous evening. Maurice was the first to see a rabbit in a snare; he pulled the rabbit out and proceed to stretch its neck, which is the way they were killed. Unfortunately, Maurice (I suppose he was about 10 years old) wasn't strong enough, or lacked the expertise to stretch the rabbit's neck, so that when he put it on the grass, the rabbit just took off. 'There he goes' said Maurice, as the rabbit scampered away. I cannot remember what Uncle said, especially as it was the only rabbit caught that morning, but he didn't look too pleased. Another incident occurred with Maurice, when he was on one side of the hedge, putting purse nets on holes which seemed to go just through the hedge, and not into burrows. Uncle and I were netting and putting the ferret into the hole from our side and Maurice was supposed to get the rabbit as it went into the net on his side. We heard him shout and, the next thing we saw, was a net being thrown over the hedge. The dog pounced on it and he had got a rat instead of a rabbit.

One day, a gentleman came to see Mother and he told her that his wife was on holiday and that he would like Mother to show him how to pluck a rabbit. He had the rabbit tucked under his arm and Mother could see a two inch bare patch where he had been trying to pluck the rabbit. Mother soon had the rabbit skinned and dressed, for which he thanked her. It caused some amusement in the family when we heard about it.

We also helped in the hayfield and the cornfields, gathering the sheaves and standing them upright together to dry out before they were stacked. They usually stood in the stooks for three weeks because, if they were stacked straight away, they would sweat which could spoil the grain, or maybe even cause spontaneous combustion. We liked the corn harvest because, when the binder had only a couple or so laps of the field left to cut, we would say that we would 'soon have the rabbits out of it now'. The rabbits were driven ever inwards as each cut was made until the final cut, when they had nowhere to run. The farmers were waiting with their guns and dogs to catch them. It was thought that the harvest rabbits were the best as they has been fattening on the corn. I know that we had our share and Mother made some lovely meals. I was riding my bike to work at Kidderminster at 7 am one morning and, as I went down the Birch Hill, I heard a loud squeal. I stopped and saw a rabbit in the woods. It was mesmerised by a stoat which ran off at my approach, but the rabbit just stayed there. I picket it up and put it our of its misery. I travelled about a couple of miles further on and met brother Harry, who was returning home after working a night shift in Kidderminster. I stopped him and handed him the rabbit which he took home. That made another lovely meal.

Several years later, I was staying at Romsley with my wife and two young grand-daughters. I was scything a patch of nettles when I saw a couple of very young rabbits. With plenty of nettle stings and some mad rushing about, I caught them both and gave them to my grand-daughters to hold. They were thrilled and wanted to keep them, but we were able to persuade them that Mrs Rabbit needed her babies more than they did, so they were released.

In the Romsley area, before the war, there were a lot of yew trees. We were told that they marked the boundaries of the estates many years ago. Yew trees are very difficult to cut down with an axe because they are slow growing and are very tough. They grow to a ripe old age and were used to make bows for weapons. That is why I believe they were planted, as I'm sure the farmers knew of the poisonous nature of the yew. I know of a couple of instances where cows were poisoned through eating yew and the offending trees were cut down. Mr Chad Norgrove had an old yew tree which stood near a quarry on the brow of a steep hill, from which there was a lovely view of the Clee Hills and the Wrekin. It was the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary and everyone wanted to celebrate. The different villages planned parties and other activities. Chad decided to have a huge bonfire and fireworks to join in the celebrations. There were fires to be lit throughout the country and on the night it was great to see the fires on the Wrekin and on the hills all around. Chad had hired a large tent and the tables inside were laden with plenty of food. I think all our neighbours attended the party and brought something for the feast. There was a cask of ale and one of cider, and I had the job of attending to those and keeping everyone supplied. The party was a great success. During the weeks before the party, hedges were cut and the hedge brushings and anything else that would burn were taken and stacked over and around the old yew tree. We had to use a ladder to stack all that we had. When Chad lit the fire, we all had to stand well back as it was

so hot. The fire was smouldering for several days afterwards.

In the yard at Lady Pitt we had four small cages, two either side of the chimney. Mother used them for her broody hens to sit and she raised many chicks there. It is not until one sees the modern poultry farm, with massive buildings filled with birds all the same age, that we begin to understand how costs are kept down. The modern methods feed according to daily requirements and, at a pre-determined date, the entire flock is processed for market. No wonder Maurice and I were unable to make any money with our attempt at fattening cockerels. Today's birds are kept for only a fraction of the time that we did. Everything is computer regulated and chicken is a regular and affordable item on the menu, and not just at Christmas as it used to be.

At Romsley, we had several old fowl pens around the orchard and Dad gave one to Maurice to keep some pigeons in. I helped to make a platform for them to land on after a flight, and also some nest boxes. Dad didn't like the idea of the pigeons getting on the garden. He had enough trouble with wood pigeons.

The pigeons caused no trouble, however, and the only cause for complaint was when Mother's corn went missing. Maurice was proud of his pigeons and often sent away for eggs to hatch to improve his loft. We often took them on our bikes and released them to get them used to the area. Maurice joined a pigeon club in Kidderminster. I remember him painting on his pen "M.E.Boss, D.E.under". That put me in my place. I was not very big when we went to Romsley and, when I was able to get an old bike, I learned to ride with my legs through the crossbar as I couldn't reach the pedals. To make matters worse, the bike I had was one with a "back-pedal" brake. It had no hand brake and it was necessary to pedal backwards to put the brake on. Like most bikes at that time, it was a single speed machine and, when going up a steep hill, it was often necessary to pedal part of a turn back to gain more pressure on the pedal, which was self defeating because, as soon as the pedals turned back, the brake went on. The next bike was an old fixed wheel and that was a nuisance going downhill, as the pedals kept turning and downhill was no help at all. What wouldn't I have given for a bike like my grandsons have today. Twelve gears!

The lights were paraffin lamps which smoked when turned up too high, and then we had acetylene lamps, or carbide lamps as they were often called. These lamps had to be filled with calcium carbide and water. To operate, a single drop of water was allowed to drip onto the carbide which caused the acetylene to form and the gas was fed to a jet which was lit with a match. It was a better light than the oil lamp, although it needed daily attention to keep up a supply of carbide and water. It was sometimes difficult to find water out in the countryside and, if a light was necessary, then often drastic steps and imagination were need to get out of trouble.

My cousin, George, worked as a rep for Lucas in Birmingham many years ago. He told us about the Super acetylene lamps that they made and he was able to get one at cost price. They were really lovely lamps! Double fishtail burners with a big reflecting mirror behind the burners. They were better than a lot of the car lights at that time. Following that was the dynamo which was fastened to the forks, and a knurled wheel was turned as the bike wheel was rotated. That needed no batteries and was a good light going downhill, but useless when one had to walk up the hill. The dyno-hub wasn't much better. I haven't forgotten the battery lamp. They were no trouble but they soon lost their brightness as the batteries discharged.

Cars were scarce in the village when I was small; they were slow moving and took a while to pick up speed. We often used to run behind my uncle's "Model T " Ford as he was delivering coal. One day, I was running behind the lorry, holding onto the tailboard, when I let go and the postman ran into me on his bike. His mudguard caught me on the bridge of my nose. Mother cleaned me up and put on a couple of small plasters. She had crossed them and, pointing to my eyes, said "Oxo", which is how I gained a family nickname.

Small things like that gave rise to all sorts of nicknames. Each of my brothers and sisters have their own nicknames which were more like terms of endearment and never spiteful.

When we lived in the village, Dad had an allotment and I used to help weed etc. The allotments have now been built on. We had a very good garden at Romsley and, with unlimited manure from the fold yard, the soil was kept in tip top condition. Dad grew early potatoes with the hope of having his first meal for his and Mother's birthdays on June 12th and June 15th. We grew a lot of greens: runner and broad beans,

peas, carrots, red cabbage and shallots for pickling, as well as all the salad crops. We also grew some great celery which I enjoyed with cold beef and home brewed cider. We usually bought most of the main crop potatoes as the farmers could grow them cheaper than we could produce them; besides, we had a large family and we used a lot of potatoes.

On the wall opposite the fireplace at Lady Pitt, we had three framed prints about two feet high by one foot wide. Similar prints were in several houses at that time. These pictures were named Faith, Hope and Charity and each showed a lady in corresponding circumstances. I was about ten years old and was standing by the table opposite my mother; I suppose I was being cheeky, when she picked up the tea cosy and threw it at me. I was fairly nimble in those days and I ducked to let the tea cosy hit the picture so that it fell onto the tiled floor and shattered the glass. I dashed out into the field with my mother after me. "I'll get you when you come to roost my lad" she said, but all was forgiven when I did return. I've often thought about those three titles; Faith that I could escape before Mother caught me, Hope that she would forget and Charity that she would forgive.

Another pastime I remember, was what we called Tatting. I have heard it called by other names. We would get an empty cotton reel and knock four small sprigs around the hole in the centre. Then, by winding the wood twice around the sprigs and lifting the last turn over the sprigs in a continuing action, the resultant rope-like materials would emerge from the hole in the reel. When the rope was long enough, it was laid flat and coiled round to make a teapot stand or place mat by sewing the coils to each other. Next door to Granny Clews lived Mr Banks, his wife and son, Wilfred. Mr Banks was a farm labourer. We had often been told to be careful not to get scratched by blackthorn as the scratch soon became infected. Mr Banks was laying a hedge and was scratched across his eye. The result was blood poisoning and he died. There was no penicillin then. I often visited Wilf Banks; he had an accordion and I had a mouth organ, and we tried to play a few tunes together. Wilf worked on the steel pickling vats at Baldwins and the fumes made his teeth go black. I don't think it did his stomach much good either. When their house and Grannie Clews's house became empty, they were converted into one house; Geoff and Maureen Norgrove live there now.

By the time I was fourteen, our family had grown to seven. There was no way that Dad could afford for me to go any further with my education at Bridgnorth Grammar School, so I left and went to work for Mr Chad Norgrove for the going rate of two shillings per day. I didn't get very wealthy, but I wouldn't have missed the experience for anything. I was not partial to hoeing and singling sugar beet all day long, but there were some jobs that I liked. Around 1931, people were becoming interested in tractors and using them instead of horses. Chad was a good mechanic, although he had no formal training. I helped him to convert a horse drawn mowing machine to one which the tractor could pull. It was still necessary to have someone to ride the machine. The tractor was started on petrol and, as soon as it had warmed up, was switched over to paraffin which gave off a smoky exhaust and which, by the end of the day, made me feel sick.

I was also introduced to the steam engine which was used to drive and also tow the threshing machine to the farms in the area. As it was the only threshing machine nearby, we had plenty of work. I learned about boiler tubes and how to clean them; about injecting water into the boiler and how to maintain the steam pressure needed to make it all work. I was allowed to try my hand at steering when we were off the main road - that is not as easy as it may seem because there is plenty of slack to take up the chain which guides the front wheels and the steering wheel is constantly moving one way or the other, just to keep the engine on a straight line. I was only 15 or so when I went bond cutting; that is, picking up the sheaves as they were passed from the stack and, with a knife, cutting the twine that was holding the sheaf. The feeder standing alongside would take the sheaf and unravel it, dropping it into an aperture where the stalks were beaten by a revolving set of metal blades which looked like the paddles on a paddle steamer. The blades were spinning rapidly and they made a loud humming noise as they did so. There were also some wooden "shakers", for want of a better word, which moved the straw towards the rear of the threshing machine to be trussed. The grain was riddled to remove weed seed etc and then was bagged into large sacks. It was a dangerous, noisy and shaking job, and was out of bounds officially to anyone under 16 years old. However, I cut bonds and also did some feeding when the need arose.

At the start of 1932, Chad bought a new German baler. It was the first in the district and, instead of having sheaves to handle after threshing, the bales were easier to handle and didn't take up so much space when stacked. We were threshing one day at Pool Hall with the new baler, I was on the box cutting bands, when I heard a shout and saw Chad holding up his hand with blood dripping from it. I went to see what was the matter and learned that he had been trying to fix a problem with the knotter on the baler and had lost the end of his finger. He said that he had to go to hospital and asked if I thought that I could manage to look after the engine and start and stop the machine at lunchtime. I said that I would try, which is what I did. I was constantly up and down from the box, adding coal to the fire and maintaining the water and steam level in the boiler. It was a tricky job to set the machine in motion once it had stopped. Luck was with me and none of the driving belts came off, which is what happens if the machine is started too quickly. It took me ages to get paid for that day's work as Farmer Giles said that Chad ought to pay me as I was doing his job. He didn't even say thanks for getting the job done!

I dreaded having to thresh horse beans. They look like broad beans but, when they are ripe, they are very hard and when the sheaves are fed into the machine they hit the revolving drum which shoots the beans out like bullets. One a cold day, before balaclavas, my ears and face were exposed and it wasn't a very pleasant job.

A short time before I was 16, I went to work in the office at the Carpet Trades in Kidderminster. The wages were seven and sixpence a week. There were about 80 people in the office and I was quite happy there to address letters on a typewriter, and other simple tasks. I was able to get brother Maurice a job in the weaving sheds when he left school. When I was 16, my wages dropped to six shillings and sixpence. When Maurice gave Mother his thirty shillings pay packet and I added mine of six and sixpence, it didn't take me long to think I needed more money. I went to the office manager three times to ask for a rise and he said that I was holding a gun to his head. Why he said that, I'll never know, but in the end I asked him to transfer me to the weaving shed where Maurice worked. And that is what he did. One of my office jobs was to cycle to Franche to the manager's house, to collect some large wet white handkerchiefs, which he dried on the radiator in his office. I had to nip across Mill Street to the paper shop to get a small triangular packed of snuff which he frequently used. He was a big man and he wore a navy blue suit with a snuff decorated waistcoat.

We worked a forty eight hour week. We started at seven and had half an hour for breakfast. If we were more than three minutes late, we had to wait until nine o'clock before we were allowed in. We worked then until one and had one hour dinner time. Then we worked till five o'clock. On Saturdays, we worked until one o'clock. The week seemed to go on for ever and it was great when, after the war, the week was reduced to a five day, forty hour week. In winter, Maurice and I travelled to work in the dark, and it was dark when we returned home, also.

Work in a carpet factory is a very noisy experience, with many large looms rattling and thumping all day. We had a weaver and creeler on the front of the loom and a creeler at the rear whose job it was to keep the bobbins of yarn filled. The creeler at the front of the loom had to climb to the back and crawl above the lengths of yarn that were protruding to the front so that the grippers could hold the selected colours to form the next row of pattern. His job was to replace any ends of yarn that came away from the carriers and to do so while the loom was still working. For different patterns there are hundreds of colours and it was necessary to place the colour in the correct location in the appropriate creels at the rear of the loom. It is a complicated job to set up the various patterns as every row of yarn in a patterned design can be different. The creeler at the back of the loom was usually the latest team member. It was necessary to serve five years creeling before one was allowed to be a weaver. The weaving was mainly piece work and the creelers earned one third of his weaver's pay. The looms we worked on were Axminster looms. Very many changes have taken place in the weaving industry and many of the old methods and practices have disappeared. Carpets were one of the first commodities to feel the cost of a recession and, in 1937/38, most of the carpet factories in Kidderminster were on short time. Brother Maurice left to go to Baldwins Steel Works and I got a job at the "beet" (British Sugar Corporation).

The British Sugar Corporation is situated on the Stourport Road, a mile or so from the centre of Kidderminster, which meant another mile for me to bike. During them Autumn and Winter, sugar beet

was harvested and brought into the factory, where it was weighed and then tipped into one of several large silos. A sample was taken from every load to measure the amount of soil on the beet and, more importantly, the sugar content of the sample, which governed the amount the farmer was paid for that particular load.

I found the process of sugar making fascinating. I can't think of anything that was wasted. The soil and lime used in the processing were taken back to the farms and spread on the fields. One of the by-products is molasses and some of that is mixed with the dried pulp to be fed to the animals. The plant uses a large amount of water to transport the beet and also to wash it before it enters the factory. The process starts with the beet being sliced and then heated to extract the juice. Everything is heated and a constant temperature, during the different stages, was controlled by opening and closing valves allowing steam to enter the large containers. I heard that the plant has now been modernised so that the temperature control and other operations are now electronically performed.

When the factory started to process the sugar beet, the process was continuous, being a seven-day, twenty-four hour a week job, which went on for several weeks. If your mate on the next shift didn't turn up for work then you had to stay and do the extra shift because the process couldn't be arrested. To finish work in the hot factory at six in the morning and get on the bike to cycle home with frost or rain to greet you, wasn't a very pleasant experience.

After the beet processing was completed, the factory closed for cleaning and overhaul. I was kept on for that job and then work was started on refining. The railway ran through the plant and trucks of cane sugar were unloaded to be processed into white sugar. The season for this usually lasted through the summer. Our bikes were kept in a shed and the sugar on our shoes often stuck to the pedals and that attracted the wasps and bees. We often saw some strange insects as we unloaded the bags of raw sugar and it was a common thing to get a wasp or bee sting. During the beet run, no matter how you washed or bathed, the smell of sulphur and beet juice oozed from your pores and people knew where you worked.

At the beginning of the war, conscription was introduced and Maurice was among the first to be called up. He was posted to the Worcesters, who were stationed at Norton Barracks, where he spent his first few weeks in tents in the snow. We didn't envy him. I was called up on April 4th 1940. Horace Leith was my age. We both passed the Groves exam and went to Bridgnorth Grammar School together. We had our medical together and had both worked in the office. We both passed A1 and I was sent to Cardington, where the Airship R101 had been kept, to join the RAF to train as a mechanic and, later, as an aircraft fitter. Horace was posted to the Army and ended his life on the notorious railway in Burma. My cousin, Jim, who usually was with us, was a miner and was in a reserve occupation, so was not called up.

At Cardington, the huge Airship hangars were being used as equipment stores and we were kitted out there. We were there for a week and had our injections and inoculations there, after which we were dispersed to various parts of the country to training centres to learn foot drill etc. I was very fortunate to be sent to Morecambe and to be in a 'Civvy' billet. The summer of 1940 was perfect and it was a pleasure to be marching along the sea front.

I often think of my first visit home on my first seven days' leave. I had told my folks when I would be arriving; it was early on a Saturday morning in June 1940. I had travelled during the night and I caught the first bus from Kidderminster. It was a glorious morning and had the makings of a warm day. As I walked up Sham Lane the cobwebs glistened in the sunshine and the dew was heavy on the grass verges. When I was about one hundred yards from home, I could smell my breakfast being cooked. A lovely thick slice of home cured ham with a couple of fresh laid eggs. I was drooling as I went through the gate. I had visions of my Mother, with her favourite black-handled knife, cutting into what she called the horse shoe of the ham. She would have her tongue just peeping through her lips as she concentrated on her task; the frying pan on the open fire. When the ham and eggs were cooked, a thick slice of bread was put in the pan and fried. I dare not even think about it today.

After completing our basic training, we were separated into different trades and some were sent elsewhere in the country. We were moved to different billets and attended various garages in the town that the Air Force had taken over, where we were to be trained as aircraft mechanics. All this took four months. There were eight airmen in our billet and one of our mates had his girlfriend from Norwich staying nearby, on

holiday for a fortnight. He had his leg pulled, as you can imagine, and I asked him when he intended to do the right thing and marry the girl. He took it all in good part.

We stayed at Morecambe until September 1940 and were then posted to different aerodromes around the country. I, with several others, was posted to Feltwell in Norfolk, to 75 New Zealand Squadron. We worked on Wellington bombers, which were used for night bombing. Not long after being posted to this Squadron, I had been on night duty and was in bed, when I was awakened to find Cecil Garwood standing beside my bed asking if I was going to officiate as his best man. I had scarcely seen him since Morecambe and, as he was in a different Flight from me, I was rather bewildered, to put it mildly! He said that he had been posted overseas and they had decided to get married. I had never been to Norwich, but Cecil said that I would be going by train some 40 miles or so with him, and his mother would put me up for the night. I was able to do an extra duty and had the next day off, so managed to get a 24 hour pass.

Cecil and Hilda were married in a beautiful little church about two miles from Norwich. I was introduced to the Bride and had to get back to the station. The Chief Bridesmaid took me to the station and saw me safely off back to camp. She has told me since that when she returned home, she told her mother that she had met the man she was going to marry. Her mother accused her of drinking and she said that she had only had a glass of champagne and one of sherry. What chance did I have? I wrote frequently to Mabel and told her that it was only a 'platonic' friendship. I visited Mabel a few times whenever I was able to get a 24 hour pass. I remember that, one night, I stayed overnight and had to get up very early to get the six o'clock train back to camp. I sat in the carriage making my breakfast off a succulent drumstick; very tasty! Sometimes I was able to hitch-hike, which saved my cash.

I have often thought and wondered how fate has shaped my life, and I suppose it is the same for most people. I think that I have been fortunate - I have a lovely wife, a good family, had a good home life and belonged to a caring family. My health has been good and, although we have never been rich, Mabel and I have never been deprived of anything we thought was important. After many letters (one letter most days), Mabel and I decided to get married and, on April 24th 1941 we were married in St George's Church opposite Norwich Cathedral. I travelled to Romsley two days before the wedding and collected Dad and Jim Evans, who was to be best man. It is a tedious journey by rail from Kidderminster to Norwich at the best of times; it took 16 hours during the war. We reached Norwich in time to be introduced all round, have a quick pint and get to bed ready for THE DAY.

The wedding was mid-week, as Mabel worked at Bonds, a large store, and her friends were able to attend the wedding. She had one young friend who played the organ and all went off extremely well. We had the reception at the Chief Bridesmaid's house, as it was much larger than Mabel's house. We had a good spread - excellent considering that it was wartime and food was rationed. We travelled to Romsley next day and I was able to introduce Mabel to the remainder of my family. I have often wondered what Mabel thought of Romsley - no street lights, no electricity or water and no flush toilets. There were no complaints, though, and she soon settled in. I had used up all my leave and Mabel left a few days later to return home.

We were not left at Feltwell for long before several of us were posted to Moreton in Marsh in Gloucestershire. We were the first arrivals, some eighty or so of different trades, and we were to form an aircrew training camp where pilots learned to take off and land Wellington bombers. When we arrived at the railway station, the porter asked us if we had gum boots and advised us to put them on. When we arrived at the camp, we found out why. Wimpy's were still building at the camp! None of the huts were built and we had to doss down in one of the two dining halls. It was a real shambles for a short time with no proper sanitation or hot water.

In the one corner of the dining hall, about seventy or more fire extinguishers were stood upright. One night, when we were all asleep, someone went outside to go to the toilet and, as he did so, he stumbled in the dark against the stack of extinguishers and knocked a couple over. Several others followed suit, like nine-pins and, because they only had to be tilted to operate, the foam was spraying everywhere. Eventually, everything settled down, but there was plenty of activity next morning trying to clear up the mess.

When we finally had a billet, it was a wooden hut in a nearby wood. During my two years stay at

Moreton, that was my home. We had two paraffin hurricane lamps to light the hut and a couple of Valor stoves to heat the place. We were about one mile from the main camp and we were never bothered with kit inspections etc. We were on dispersal where our planes were parked in the bays that had been cut into the perimeter of the wood. Each mechanic or fitter had one plane to look after, to keep it filled with fuel and oil, and every day to do a daily inspection on the plane, signing that it had been done before it was regarded as serviceable to fly. Every trade - riggers, wireless mechanics etc - had to complete their inspections and sign the inspection sheet before the plane was allowed to fly.

We were working on Wellingtons and the planes were very close to our huts so that when the pilots were training in circuits and bumps (ie take-offs and landings) the hut used to shake. It's not surprising how soon one gets used to the noise. Noise is a hazard which has only been taken notice of recently, both in the Air Force and also in industry. I am sure that the noisy jobs that I have had during my working life have damaged my hearing. It is usual to wear ear muffs on noisy jobs today, although I have noticed several occasions where muffs should be worn and have been disregarded.

We were very lucky at Moreton in Marsh, because the woods were filled with edible chestnut trees and hazel nuts. We certainly had our share and I took lots home when I had leave. We often went to the local pub where we could get a pint of rough cider for twopence. The old landlord fetched the cider in a big white jug, which reminded me of the jug we had at home. He had a candle in one hand and the jug in the other. We often thought he would have an accident and set his long beard alight as he bent over to turn on the tap to get the cider.

In our Flight was another Evans (no relation), who was also a mechanic, and we became great friends. In fact, after the war, I was best man at his wedding. Bill Evans was a great mate. He was in the civil service and worked in Cardiff before being called up. I did a correspondence course while I was in the RAF to try to further my education and I had a great deal of help from Bill. We used to go for a drink together and, after a couple of pints of old Harry's cider, we used to put the world to rights. Bill and I had many interesting talks and, when we had a 48 hour pass together, we visited his parents at Merthyr, or I took him to Romsley to see my folk. We used to hitch-hike as it was difficult to get trains or buses, and Norwich was too far to go on a short pass.

In June 1942, Bill and I went to Cosford on a Fitters Course. Cosford is about 16 miles from Romsley. We were there for four months and were able to get a few weekends at my home. When we were on fire duty one weekend, I had a telegram to say that my son, Brian, had been born and that both Mabel and he were OK. Bill and I rushed around and found someone to do our fire watching. We then went to visit my Aunt and Uncle, who kept a pub at Sedgley, about six miles away. We got a local train to Wolverhampton and were at the pub in time for tea. When I told my Aunt why we had called, she said that we had to wet the baby's head, which we did, and continued to do until it was late - we just managed to get the last train back to camp. My head was in a sorry state next morning! Mabel told me that the bed which she had used while she was in the Nursing Home after having Brian, was occupied by a lady and her baby who were killed by a bomb a few weeks later.

Later that year we had completed our course and returned to Moreton in Marsh. We were on duty and our planes were night flying when we had an air raid warning. The German planes flew over us and headed for Coventry. They devastated the City and we saw the reflections of the flames in the sky some 40 miles away. At the time, we were not sure where the raid was until the news next day.

We had a 'Brummie' in our billet. He used to nip through the hedge and go home to Birmingham at every opportunity. He was never caught and it was thought that he was working in the market. He was a real character and was what might be termed 'a wide boy'. He made his bed with three blankets (we had no sheets) and, with the largest safety pin I have ever seen, he pinned them all together and that is how they stayed all the time he was with us.

Each day we had our washing water delivered in dustbins, but we had to visit the camp to have a shower where the water was usually cold. We went to the camp for meals and, after a while, when the camp was established, we were able to go to the occasional concern and sometimes a film show. We were able to get cigarettes and stamps from the Naffi and also a cup of tea and a bun. We were quite happy to be in the wilds, out of site and out of mind. However, that didn't last and, after two years, Bill, myself and about a

dozen or so other fitters, were posted to Foulsham in Norfolk.

While I was at Moreton in Marsh, I was able to get a sleeping out pass and I found a place for Mabel to stay for a fortnight. It was a gardener's house and he and his wife rented us a room. I was able to get some time off as my mates did some of my duties as I had done for them. Mabel and I often laugh at what the landlady said: "I can hear everything and every little noise in this house." Well, there was one noise she couldn't fail to hear as she had put stiff brown paper under the mattress and, when we moved in the bed, the paper and the springs made a fair racket. That didn't last long as we soon removed the paper, folded it and put it under the bed.

The husband had a lovely vegetable garden and I admired his bed of onions. I used to see him in the pub and I bought him several pints of cider before he told me his secret recipe for growing onions. He said that he dosed them with Epsom Salts. Having taken Epsom Salts years ago, I can say that they certainly moved me, but didn't make me any bigger.

As the war progressed, the American Air Force increased in numbers and we were moved out of several aerodromes to make way for them. Foulsham was taken over and we were posted to Waterbeach, which was an established pre-war camp with established living quarters and all that went with it. Cinema, recreation rooms and concrete runways. We were still with 3 Group Bomber Command and had Lancaster Bombers. We mainly flew at night and the Americans bombed during the daytime. There were occasions when there was a thousand bomber raid and both the RAF and the USA combined. It was an impressive sight to see the planes getting into formation everywhere you looked, from horizon to horizon, and the noise was deafening.

I was still doing my correspondence course and I also went to the Chivers Jam factory, which is only about four miles from Waterbeach, and there I attended French classes. It was quite interesting and we met some of the employees who were also taking various courses.

We were able to get into Cambridge and have a look around the various places of interest. I was amused, one day, as I was talking to the sergeant in charge of our flight, when a couple of WAAFS propped their bikes against a shop front, turned to the sergeant and asked him if he would keep an eye on the bikes. He put his hand to his forehead and out popped his glass eye, which he placed on one of the saddles. I can still remember the shriek they let out. Sergeant Giles was a character. He was a regular airman and had lost his eye when a screwdriver slipped as he was working. He was a collector of black round headed screws and, no matter where he saw them, he took charge of them. To learn of his accident with the screwdriver has made me very wary and, later, when I had apprentices using tools, I told them about the sergeant and told them how easy it was to lose an eye.

After a while, Bill was posted to Lincolnshire and I was posted to nearby Downham Market which was also in 3 Group. The 'drome was built during the war and so we were back to Nissen Huts. There were compensations, however, as part of the aerodrome was built on market garden land and there were a couple of acres of strawberries still growing in one corner. We had plenty of them to eat in the camp and I took some home when I was able to get a pass; I also found some mushrooms which went the same way. While I was on leave, or when I was able to get a 48 hour pass, I used to stay with Mabel and Brian. I spent parts of most nights in the Air Raid Shelter, together with Mabel's Mother and Father and several neighbours. I really dreaded it as it was dark and crowded. The defence guns were nearby and often bombs could be heard thumping not far away. I slept better in camp! The people certainly had my sympathy as they had to endure many sleep disturbed nights. However, the news one day became good and we were glad when VE Day arrived.

On that great day, we were all given a 48 hour pass. The streets of Norwich were crowded with people looking for a drink and somewhere to celebrate. There was a shortage of drink but, judging by the carnival spirit around the City, they must have found some somewhere. Norfolk people were renowned for their 'reserve', but that was all forgotten that VE night, May 8th 1945.

There was, of course, still the Japanese war to be dealt with and, although we were far away from the war, we still had plenty to do. It was not too long to wait until it was finally over. August 15th 1945 was VJ Day and a great sigh of relief was heard all around. The news of the second atom bomb brought the war to a sudden halt. We were filled with awe when we learned of the devastation those two bombs caused. At

the time of the explosion of those bombs, a lot of people condemned their use and many still do. It was an atrocity, yet I believe it was the lesser of two evils, for who can tell how many more lives would have been lost had that war continued?

Apart from enemy action during the war, I found the fact that I was detained and unable to go where I wanted, irksome. I think the worst problem was not knowing when it was all going to end. Some days the news was good; others it was just the opposite and it all seemed to drag on. However, after nearly six long years, demobilisation was in the air. The demobilisation was done on the system that those who were called up first were the first to get back to 'Civvy Street'. We looked eagerly for our group to have a date to get out.

Before we were allowed to leave, we were posted to an FAR depot where we handed in all Air Ministry property in exchange for a suit, hat and a pair of shoes. It was easy to see the ex-servicemen as they walked by in the streets, as the range of patterns was small, and it was easy to say 'snap' when a look-alike suit passed you by.

Well, it finally ended for me on January 18th 1946, and I was soon back in Norwich. The following day, Mabel, Brian and I went to Romsley to stay with my parents on demob leave. It was still a long, weary journey from Norwich and we arrived late on Saturday night. Early on Sunday, we had a telegram to say that Mabel's father had died in his sleep. He was 63 years old and had had a heart attack. It is difficult to imagine the shock that Mabel's mother must have had when she awoke and it's no wonder she was ill with grief for a long time. Mabel was shocked, as were the rest of the family. There was only one thing to do. My mother said she would look after Brian, so we set off again on the trip to Norwich and arrived with the papers at 2.30 on Monday morning. The journey was a nightmare. Mabel's brothers, Charlie and Russell, were already home and they soon took charge of the necessary things to be done. After the funeral, we stayed in Norwich for a short time and then returned to Romsley. Russell and his wife stayed at Norwich, whilst Charlie took his mother home with him. While we were in Norwich, Brian had measles, so mother had her hands full with Brian. When our holiday was over, we returned to Norwich and stayed with Russell and his wife at Mabel's home. The next thing I had to do was to get a job.

Opposite Wales Square, where Mabel lived, was a large garage, Mann Egerton. I went there for a job and was set on right away, stripping and rebuilding army trucks, ambulances and various other vehicles. I didn't have far to travel, only about two hundred yards.

Our second son, John, was born on July 18th 1947 and, because Russell and his family were living at Wales Square, we were a bit cramped. As we were on the council housing list, we had enough points to have a council house. It was a new, well built, semi-detached, three bedroomed house and was in a good neighbourhood - we liked it very much.

Our house in Norwich was at Half Mile Road and was built on the site of an old farmyard. When we moved in, there was plenty of work to do to get in into shape. Brian was six years old and was keen to help with anything there was to do. We collected over 500 old bricks when I dug the garden and they made a good path down the middle of the garden. There were several old horseshoes and assorted rubbish, but I soon had the garden dug and planted. When the potatoes were growing, we found a lot of mushrooms along the rows. We had the usual vegetables and I had bought a packet of Eschscholzia seeds which I gave to Brian to sow in the border under the window. He put them all in and, when they grew, they were lovely. I entered our garden in the Council Garden Competition and managed to get a prize which supplied us with enough seeds for the following year. For Brian's sixth birthday, an uncle who was a carpenter, made him a wheelbarrow, and he was delighted with it. It came in useful when the sprouts were ready to pick. I looked at the neighbour's garden, beyond ours, and his greens were looking like lace curtains - I saw that mine were also infested with caterpillars. Brian and I went down the rows, picked off the caterpillars and put them in the barrow. They were crawling up the house and some had invaded the bathroom. I dug a hole, emptied the pests and poured a kettle of boiling water over them, and covered them with soil.

John was able to get around easily after a while. I built a shed and we had half a dozen hens. John liked to get his hand through the wire and he tried to wash their feet. I came home one day to learn that he had escaped into the street and was standing under the milkman's horse. There was never a dull moment with

John!

Norwich is a lovely city but is mainly geared to farming and rural activities; consequently, agricultural wages were the norm just after the war. My brother, Harry, had returned to 'Civvy Street' from the Navy and was married and working in Coventry. When we met on holiday, we were discussing wages and what we were both doing, and he said that I would earn more in Coventry, just labouring. After paying rent for our house, there was very little left for anything else so, after a couple of years and several letters to Harry, Mabel and I decided to move to Coventry.

In 1950, I left Mabel and the boys in Norwich and went to Coventry to find a job and also a house. My brother in law and family had moved to London to work and live. Mabel's mum left her home and went to stay with Mabel and, when Mabel and the boys joined me in Coventry, Mabel's mother came as well. She lived with us for 28 years until she died, aged 97 years.

I soon found a job at the Jaguar, working on the assembly track. The house was a different matter, as the Germans had done a lot of damage to Coventry. However, I was able to get a terraced house which was leasehold, and something I was not happy about. After quite a lot of preparation, I was able to have Mabel and family join me. When I first came to Coventry, I lived with my brother and slept in a room right next to the railway line. I was working nights and had fallen asleep when I thought the house was falling down. It was a goods train going past and it fairly shook the place. However, it wasn't long before I got used to it.

I worked at the Jaguar on the engine building track, doing the same operation every four minutes. It was a moving track and it was necessary for the operation previous to yours to be completed before you could do your part of the job. Consequently, as my position was near the end of the track, there always seemed to be a struggle to get my part done and not hold up the next in line. I found it an extremely boring and frustrating job and, after six months, decided that it was time to move on.

My next job was at the Coventry Victor, where they produced horizontally opposed water and air cooled industrial engines. Single cylinder diesel engines were made to power boats and various other units, such as generating sets and 'nodding donkey' oil pumping units, as used on oil wells. Before the war, Coventry Victor made a three wheeled car, but had discontinued it before I went there. When Massey Ferguson began to make combine harvesters, they used a small engine to drive the ancillary equipment on the harvester. The Coventry Victor engine was chosen for the harvester and kept us busy for a few years until combines had been redesigned and the ancillary engine not needed. There were about 200 employees working at the Victor and some had been there for a long time. All the parts were machined on site and, as there was such a large range of products being made and so many parts to store, it became difficult to be competitive and, eventually, they had to close down.

The factory was in the middle of Coventry, where the bus station stands today. From second floor windows, we could see the Cathedral and we were able to watch the new Cathedral being built. It didn't take long to build the Cathedral. We walked around and were amazed at the amount of scaffolding used to support the roof whilst it was being built. It was nearly impossible to see the inside and I think it must have been difficult to walk between the scaffolding as it was crowded so closely together. We watched the big helicopter lift the spire and hover above the Cathedral while it was lowered into place.

After the old Cathedral was burnt down, the nails were salvaged from the burnt timbers and melted down to make thousands of miniature crosses. They had a pin attached and were then plated. When the Cathedral was consecrated, all the churches in the area were invited to attend the service. Mabel and I went and were each given a 'Cross of Nails' which we still have. It is a very modern Cathedral and was not liked by everybody. It is a place we liked more each time we visited it.

Soon after the Cathedral was built, a new ring road around Coventry was started and we had to move. In fact, one of the pillars supporting the road is right where my workbench was. We also had a storage yard opposite the factory and that is where the Olympic sized swimming pool is now built.

Money was scarce and I worked overtime most of the time I was at the Victor. I was able to bike home to lunch where Mabel had the meal ready for me. She never went to work until Brian had left school and John soon about to follow. I didn't have a car until Brian had begun to talk about getting one. We were friendly with the neighbours and I was surprised one day, while I was at work, to receive a 'phone call to

tell me that someone had emptied several tins of paint over my car which I kept in a friend's garage in the next street. I grabbed a tin of thinners from work and several rags, and soon began removing the mess. Luckily, I had polished the car and the paint was still fluid, so I was able to remove it after a while. I couldn't think of anyone who disliked me so I thought it must have been my friend who had caused the upset.

When we knew that the factory had to move and that we were having a new factory built on the Rugby side of Coventry, Mabel and I looked at some new houses at Binley Woods. We liked a finished one that we looked over and went to see if there were any left. We were lucky to get one which had been cancelled, and we watched it being built every week when we checked to see how it was growing. We moved in on February 18th 1966, my birthday. We had been in Coventry for 16 years. We had done a lot to improve the house, added a bathroom and removed rolls of heavily varnished wallpaper, which nearly got me down. It was a great pleasure to move into the country, into a secluded close only about 200 yards from the woods. Mabel was working in Coventry and I was still able to get home at lunch time and check if Mabel's mum was OK. She was able to look out of the window and see the children playing outside. There were small children at most of the houses. There was no through traffic and we were away from the city noise and also the noisy train that ran by Harry's house. Incidentally, a few years later, brother Harry moved to live three doors away from our house.

Whilst I worked in the city, I had a 'phone call to say that my mother had had a heart attack and had died almost immediately. That was on 15th December 1965. She was 74 years old. We all missed her a great deal as there was always a cheerful greeting whenever we went to visit. She loved all her grand-children and they thought the world of her. Dad missed her too. They had a happy marriage of more than 50 years. Dad was fortunate that my sister, Barbara, was able to go and live with him, and she looked after him at Lady Pitt until he dies on December 8th 1981. He was 91 years old.

Dad was about five feet six inches tall and I was about two inches taller than him. When we were fooling about Maurice and I would stand either side of him, stretch upright and peer down at him. He used to say "bigness is not greatness" and that used to put us in our place. Never in my life did I hear him swear. He wouldn't even say "damn and blast it", instead it came out as "jam and plaster it". For those who really annoyed him, they were either "torrels" or "tronkels", and when he said that we knew that they, as my grandsons would say, were "the pits". Dad used to have one pipe of tobacco during the evening and would walk down Sham Lane to the Nautical for a pint and a natter.

I worked long hours at the Victor and was not able to spend as much time with the family as I would have liked, although we were able to get a bus into the countryside and often had a picnic in Crackley Woods or somewhere not too far away. We spent some weekends at Romsley but it was a difficult journey there, as we had to take four buses and the journey took four hours. We visited there more often when we had cars.

The last two years at the Victor, I became foreman in the fitting shop. It was very sad when we had to close down. No-one got rich there, but there was always a job. I stayed on to look after the close down. During my last week, I visited a fellow in the next road to get some tomato plants for my greenhouse. He took me to see a new idea that he was experimenting with. He had some wild-stock tomato plants which he was grafting to the usual tomato plants. The idea was that the wild root stock would resist disease better. I tried some and was pleased with the results. It is a common practice to use grafted plants now. While I was watching him grafting, he asked what I did. I told him that I was a fitter and would be out of work by the weekend as the factory was closing down. He said that he worked for Hey Engineering, who were machine tool manufacturers and, if I liked, he would speak to the manager for me. I went to work there the following Monday. It was very different from the work I had been doing, but interesting nevertheless. After a couple of years there, the factory went on short time, three days a week.

The first day off work, my old foreman from the Victor came to see me. He asked me where I was working. I told him and also that I was on short time. He asked if I would be interested in going to work with him at Rolls Royce in Coventry. He made an appointment for me to see the supervisor and I got the job, and very thankful I was. I was working on the RB211 engine which is used on the Boeing 774. I worked there for nine years until I retired.

Brian and family surprised us in 1990, after a holiday in Australia, by telling us that they were trying to get to Australia to live there permanently. After a while, they were able to get the necessary permission to live in Australia and they left England on October 7th 1991. Both Mabel and I missed them very much and we decided to apply to emigrate to Australia also. After a while, we were given permission to emigrate and we arrived in Australia on May 2nd 1992.

By then, John had been in Australia some twenty years or so. They had four children. We had seen all the children as we were no strangers to Australia. The extra money that I earned for working nights, went a long way to pay for Mabel and me to have five holidays during the 70's and 70's and after I had retired. We had many tapes with all of John's family talking to us and giving us reports of school. We also had plenty of photos when they went on holiday. I still have a couple of tapes with songs. I was singing to Ruth and Robert the first time we came here. I was trying to teach them to sing "My old man said follow the band" etc and when I played it to Ruth a year or so ago, she was thrilled. I'm so glad to have kept those tapes. During our first two visits, I recorded each day, where we had been and now, so long afterwards, I can remember it as if it were yesterday. I also have a tape of Mabel's mother describing her life and the things she got up to. I have dad saying a few words and, maybe, someone in the family, in the future, will find the tapes amusing.

I have kept a diary for many years. During the war I never missed a day, but slacked off quite a lot afterwards. I am back to daily scribbling now and have found it good when we have visitors to know where we took then last time they were here.

Although we have had several holidays in Australia, it has taken us a while to settle. It would be foolish to think that we wouldn't miss our families and friends in England. I found it rather depressing at times. However, the family have all been extremely good to us, and for us, which is no more than we expected and we are happy to be with them and to see them growing up. I smile to myself, sometimes, as I think of the times I stood beside dad and suggested I was SO much taller and then stand by my grandsons who are well over six feet. I miss the smell of meadowsweet in the ditches and the dog roses and honeysuckle on the hedges. I am still bewildered by which direction is north and I still can't come to terms with being able to plant spring flowers in the Autumn and vice versa. The neighbours are friendly and helpful and we can't ask for more than that. We are also able to have some interesting walks in the parks nearby and, as the sea is only a mile away, we are able to walk along the Nature Strip on the cliff tops or along the sea front. We are learning the names of some of the flowers and trees. Mimosa, of Wattle as it is called here, comes in a number of different varieties and is good to see when in full bloom. We watch the cormorants diving and try to guess where they will surface next. There are numerous birds around, among which are parrots and cockatoos, as well as large flocks of budgies.

My wife, Mabel, had two heart attacks in February 1993, while we were staying at Sorrento (Australia) at our son John's holiday home. She was taken to Frankston hospital, about 30 miles away, where she had great care and attention. She has been told to walk and take plenty of exercise and that is what we do. We are fortunate to have plenty of places to visit and, I'm pleased to say, she seems to be keeping well.

When we lived in Binley Woods near Coventry, Mabel and I belonged to an 'Over 60's' club. We made many friends and had a lot of happy times with them. We decided to join a similar club here and have been on trips with them and have visited several places of interest that we wouldn't have known about. Besides, it's easier to have someone else drive and listen to a commentary at the same time. The following poem was passed around the coach one day. I don't know who wrote it, but there were more than a few of us who knew what it was all about.

I'm so happy I am living
And not among the dead
But I'm getting so forgetful
And mixed up in my head
I'm getting used to my arthritis
And to my dentures I'm resigned
I can cope with my bi-focals

But, ye Gods, I miss my mind!
 Sometimes I can't remember
 When I'm standing by the stair
 If I'm going up for something
 Or just coming down from there.
 Before the fridge so often
 My mind is full of doubt
 Now, did I put some food away
 Or come to take it out?
 Well, never mind, let's have some fun,
 Forget about our knees.
 The weather's fine - oh, hang about,
 Where did I put those keys?

These few pages were in answer to my sister Alwyn's request that I should describe my life in Alveley and Romsley, as our family had moved to Romsley before she was born. I am 16 years older than she is. I'm afraid I have been carried away somewhat.

My First Day in Heaven

I dreamed death came the other night
 And Heaven's gates opened wide.
 With kindly grace, an angel ushered me inside.
 And there, to my astonishment,
 Stood folks I'd known on Earth.
 Some I'd judged and labelled
 Unfit, of little worth.
 Indignant words rose to my lips
 But never were set free.
 For every face showed stunned surprise,
 No-one expected me.
 (anon)

Alveley and Kinver Families

In 1990 my cousin Bert Little, who had lived in Kinver all his life passed away. He had for most of his life lived in a 17c house called the Threshold, located in Church Hill. In the 1970's he moved to a bungalow with his father, my uncle. During this time he must have taken with him the original deeds to the Threshold. When my cousin's bungalow was being cleared out I found three framed parchment documents, the deeds to the Threshold. Two of the documents mention only Kinver families however the third document mentions a number of Alveley families and it is well worth copying this deed for our archives. The text is as follows.....

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whom this present writing shall come to be seen read or heard John Winford of Kinfare in the County of Stafford sendeth greetings in our LORD GOD everlasting Know yee that I the said John Winford for and in consideration of a marriage agreed upon and shortly by Gods permission to be hae and solemnized between John Winford and Margery Greenhouse daughter of Margret Greenhouse of Alveley Widd in the County of Salop for several good and valuable causes I the said John Winford hereunto especially moving Have given granted Enfeoffed delivered and confirmed and by these presents do for me and my heirs give graunt enfeoffe deliver assure and confirme unto the said (sic) Robert Nurthall of Kinfare aforesaid in the said county of Stafford Clothier and Thomas Dunn of Alveley aforesaid in the County of Stafford mason (TRUSTEES) all that shopp (same description as

above save that in his own possession)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all the before franted messuage (not mentioned before!) garden house edifice building and all and singular other ye premises with appurtinances unto the said Robert Nurthall and Thomas Dunn and their heirs and assigns to the several and respective uses intents and hereafter in and by these presents expressed and declared and to and for noe other use Intent or purpose that is to say to the use and Behoofe of the said John Winford and his assigns untill the aforesaid intended marriage shall be had and solemnized and immediately from and after the solemnization thereof then to the use and behoofe (a line of the draft deed has been lost here - it should say, 'of the said John Winford during the term of his natural life and after his death in the use and behoofe') of the said Margery Greenehouse' and her assigns during the term of her natural life and immediately from and after the decease of the survivor of her the said Margery (omitted - 'and the said John') the to the use of the heirs of the body of the said John on the body of the said Margery lawfully begotten

TO BE HOLDEN OF the Chief lord or lords of the fee or fees by the rent and services thereof due if any of right accustomed and I the said John Winford all ye aforesaid Burgage or messuage garden house building ... unto the said Robert Nurthall and Thomas Dunn and to their heirs and assigns to the several and respective uses ... shall and will warrant and for ever by these presents defend

IN WITNESS whereof I the said Winford have to this my present charter put my hand and seale given this 14th day of August 1673 and in the 25th year of Charles II.

X Mark of John Winford

The above text is as the parchment document reads....all three documents were later deposited in the Salt library at Stafford as per my cousin's wishes.

Silica, Sandstone and the Severn Valley

In the Winter of 1994 local historian Keith Beddoes published an article in the Severn Valley Railway magazine entitled Silica, Sandstone and the Severn Valley, the article gives details of the construction of the railway and in particular the use of the valleys sandstone resources. As the article mentions Alveley it is well worth reprinting the relevant paragraphs

"In choosing the red sandstone, for whatever reason, the Severn Valley engineers do appear to have ignored, at least in Wilden, Sandbourne and Bewdley viaducts, the use of any one of three excellent high quality Shropshire sandstones already known to be ideally suited for structures exposed to the elements. Two are found in the Severn Valley. one at Highley and the other across the river at Alveley, the third is found at Grinshill, just north of Shrewsbury. All three are of a similar pale colour indicating a high silica content, chemically resistant to water, whilst the texture is made up of angular quartz grains which interlock to produce a tight fit, the resulting rock being very hard. For these reasons they have all been used to greater or lesser degrees for face work in river bridges over the Severn between Shrewsbury and Gloucester. Alveley stone, quarried over the river from Highley was also a yellow carboniferous sandstone from the younger rocks of the upper coal measures known as the Keele Beds. It has a slight pink or red tint and for this reason was used extensively for decorative purposes and some examples can still be seen in the doorways and windows of Abberley tower near Stourport and at St. Johns church Kidderminster, following restoration work in 1892. Grindstones were also made for a Stourbridge manufacturer of agricultural machinery until the early years of this century, when its high silica content was given as the reason for the quarry closing, due to many incidents of silicosis suffered by the men working with it. Alveley stone was also sent to Birmingham armaments factories for grinding gun barrels".

Keith Beddoes.

Alveley Brownies visit to the Bell Inn

In May this year the Girl Guides and Brownies asked the Historical society if they could view our collection of old photographs, the venue was to be the Bell Inn where the children could also see some of the carved stones. In order to give the leaders and indeed some of the children a background history to the

Guides and Brownies in Alveley a brief history was researched, the following article is the result of that research.....

“Very little is known about the history of this organisation in the village. However, what is known was told to us by Mrs Daisy Jones of Church Road, now 79 years old and with an excellent memory. Mrs Jones was in service at Coton Hall in the early 1930s and she believes that the Girl Guides were set up about 1934 by Miss Agnes Coalville, daughter of Captain and Mrs Coalville, owners of Coton Hall at that time. Mrs Jones joined the Guides when she was a teenager and remembers that most of the girls that formed the Guides came from around the Tuck Hill areas. In those early days, all the Guides meetings were held at Coton Hall, often with camp fires being lit in the grounds. Whilst Mrs Jones lived-in at Coton Hall, on her days off from her duties, she would often cycle back home to the village with her Guides uniform on.

Today, the name Coton still appears on the Guides flag, depicting the origins of the group in the Parish. Many years later, and right up to the late 1960s, the Guides and, by this time, the Brownies continued to meet, but at the old school on the village green. Now demolished, this building served as their headquarters for a number of years...”

The Brownies finished off their evening at the Bell with a visit to the old school site near to the Church.

The Lees Return to Alveley.

In October 1996 two Americans visited Alveley in search of their ancestral home, Rochelle and Rhonda Lee descendants of the Lees of Virginia and the Lees of Coton Hall decided to come to England and see where their descendants were the Lords of the Manor. Whilst in Alveley they visited Coton Hall, the remains of the old chapel at Coton, St Marys Church and also Wolverhampton Art Gallery where a number of paintings of the Lees are on show. To complete their visit the Historical Society invited them to a tea at the Bell Inn, a perfect setting in which to entertain the Lord of the Manor and where many new friendships were made.

For this years Transactions we asked Rhonda Lee if she would care to write a small article on her reasons for coming to our village and her thoughts on her ancestral home, the Historical Society is very grateful for the following letter....

August 17, 1997

When I graduated from law school, my parents gave me a set of luggage and the promise of a two week vacation, anywhere I wanted to go. In deciding where to visit, I remembered a curiosity I have held since childhood. To explain, when I was a young girl, for as long as I can remember, my mother annually drug me to the meeting of a historical organisation called, "The Society of the Lees of Virginia."

As a kid, I absolutely couldn't stand these meeting. They were a lot like church; solemn, long lasting and required the wearing of Sunday dresses and sitting still into perpetuity. In these meeting I was taught the history of our family, the Lees of Virginia. I was told that our proud family originally was from a town called Alveley, Shropshire, England.

Somehow, I changed from hating this forced history lesson, to loving it and wanted to know more. I clearly remember the day that our Societies Genealogist, David Halle, Jr., announced that he was going to England, to study the link of our American family to Alveley, Shropshire. I felt so envious that he was going on an exciting trip to our ancestral home across the ocean and I was going to summer school.

As I understand it, this trip of David's marked the eventual rebirth of a genealogical controversy which involves Alveley. To explain, we, the Lees of Virginia, have always been told that we are from Alveley. Our common ancestor, Richard Lee of Stratford Langthorne and Dividing Creek, Virginia, declared that he was "descended from the Lees of Shropshire". The coat of arms used by our ancestor, which we, the present generation of Lees, declare to be our own, denotes the line of the Shropshire Lees, the family of Coton Hall. David's research suggests that we are not of this family. As I understand it, he has concluded that we are descended of a family named Lee from Worcester, some twenty miles from Alveley. David's ideas are shared by a Mr Thorndale, whose research is published in The National Genealogical Society Quarterly, December 1988, Vol.76, No 4.

In this article, Mr Thorndale disdainfully claims that his research "proves the immigrant was the son of John Lee, a Worcester clothier, and his wife Jane Hancock".

As for me, I do not readily accept Mr. Thorndales conclusions. To accept his claims necessitates, among other historical leaps, that my ancestor was a common liar. Needless to say, as a result of this controversy, my interest in Alveley increased. When I was offered a vacation, Alveley was my choice.

Once there I was excited to meet a local historian, Mr Alan Nicholls of the Alveley Historical Society, who was diligently pursuing the counter argument to Mr Thorndales writing; that we, the Lees of Virginia, are the descendants of the Lees of Coton Hall, Shropshire. With excitement I await the public presentation of his primary source based research, which will, at a minimum, cast doubt on Mr Thorndales "proof" of our ancestry.

As to my impressions of Alveley, I have never known such genuinely kind people. So many took me into their homes and made me feel welcome. The village itself is beautiful. Being there is like stepping into an old postcard of a peaceful, preserved little village that somehow escaped the noise that accompanies progress. It was a belittling feeling to stand in the ancient chapel in Alveley and see my familys name written in stone in the wall. It was a moment in time I will never forget. I felt as though I somehow belonged there, and yet Id never been there before. I wonder if I will ever be there again. Regardless, Alveley is etched in my mind; a peaceful, old little village full of people who are kind, down to earth and humble; a place I am proud to believe my ancestors are from.

Rhonda Selwyn Lee
Massachusetts, U.S.A.

The Parliamentary Gazetteer

This year the Historical Society were pleased to receive a copy of the Parliamentary Gazetteer for the years 1843 to 1844. The following transcript although very brief gives an insight into the village and parish 160 years ago,

ALVELEY

A parish and township, partly in the hundred of Stottesdon, and partly in the borough of Bridgnorth, county of Salop. On the eastern bank of the Severn, 6 miles southeast of Bridgnorth, it includes the liberty of Romsley, and the township of Nordley Regis. Living, a perpetual curacy, under the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of Bridgnorth; rated at £65 per annum in the parliamentary returns; gross income £82. Patron, in 1835, John Wingfield. Esq., who appoints an official, and registrar

There are three daily schools here, one a free school, endowed by John Grove in 1615; masters salary £22.12s. John Grove, also bequeathed yearly stipends to five old men of the parish. The entire income of both these charities is £73. The other charities, connected with this parish yeild £56 yearly.

Population, in 1801, 791

Population, in 1831, 949

Number of houses, 193.

Acres, 7,640

A.P. £5,618. (value of assessed property).

Poor rates of the township in 1837, £485.

Those houses shown to be counted, being those houses, seen to be inhabited close to the year of 1831. The value of assessed property, (A.P.), having been taken close to the year of 1815.

The gross income of the living, having been included and taken from the ecclesiastical commissioners report of 1835.

NORDLEY (KINGS)

A township in Alveley parish, county of Salop; five and three quarter miles south east of Bridgnorth.
Returns with the parish.
Of the liberty of Romsley, there is no further mention.

STOTTESDEN HUNDRED

In the county of Salop, lies in the south west corner of the county. Bordering on the counties of Worcester and Stafford.

Area, 87,290 acres.

No of houses, 2,290

Population, in 1801, 11,919.

The Palmer Family History

In March 1997 a letter was sent to the editor of the "Black Country Bugle" from Kathy Compagno of the U.S.A. The letter was requesting any information from its readers on the Palmer families of a number of Black Country towns, and also of Highley and Alveley. The Historical Society were able to give Mrs Compagno a little information on the branch of her family that lived in Alveley and as a result of various letters between Alveley and America, Mrs Compagno has sent the following history of her family which we are pleased to print in this years Transactions.

Hello from an Alveley Descendant in California !!

My Palmer forebears lived in the village of Alveley rather briefly for only a few generations during the 1700s, while in transit from their nearby "ancestral" village of Highley to the industrial Midlands of Cookley, Worcestershire. They were also in transit from an agrarian, rural lifestyle of relative independance to one of working for wages in the iron foundries and coal mines of the Industrial Revolution.

Their documented story begins in the early pages of the Highley Parish Register, which shows two seperate Palmer branches, one "Thomas of the Netherton" area, the other my Thrustan Palmer who lived at Potters Farm, near the river Severn. Early Hereford probate records extend the family story to before 1500, with Richard Palmer of Hyggeley and his wife Agnes Elizabethe. Tax returns show a John and William Palmer at Highley in 1473, but the 1320 tax return lists no Palmers. There is a tantalizing mention of Sir John Palmer, Highley Parish incumbent in 1392; he may explain the arrival of others with his family name in Highley. It is possible that the early Palmers came to Highley from the numerous family of that name at Bridgnorth, well documented at "Brug" in the twelfth century as a prosperous, litigious family with numerous branches, but I have found no records for the intervening centuries.

The Palmers at Potters Farm in Highley circa 1600 have been described by Gwyneth Nair as "aspiring gentry from the upper stratum of yeomanry". They were quite prosperous, mowing thirty loads of hay in 1620. Richard and Elizabeth Lowe Palmer had four daughters and four sons. It appears that the inheritance pattern of primogeniture explains the family dispersal, as their oldest son Thomas continued at Potters Farm, while his brothers moved away (one to Ludlow, Shropshire, and another to Leigh by Bransford, Worcestershire). Their daughter Marjorie inherited the family estate at Wyer Hill, Bewdley, which included a house, tenement, tanhouse, mill, stable, closes, gardens, pools, and yards! The 1666 will of Thomas son Richard shows an estate value at Highley of £66; the family wealth was conserved by not dividing the land of Potters Farm. This pattern continues for several generations.

The Alveley connection begins with Thomas third brother, Edmond Palmer. He cared for his sister Anns orphaned children at her Woodend Farm (her husband Oliver Harris had died young in 1685, "being slaine at Bridgenorth Fair Upon St. Lukes Day", while she died two years later). This may explain Edmonds rather late marriage in 1698 at the age of 48 to Anne DORSETT (or Dorcett or Dossett) of Alveley (baptised 5 January 1663, of Robert and Joane). Their youngest child Thomas was baptised at Kinlet, while the first two are found in Highley Parish records. Both Edmund and Anne were buried in 1728 and 1744 at Over Arley, Worcestershire (now called Upper Arley).

It is interesting to note that all of these towns (including Bridgnorth) are on the banks of the River Severn. The sorry state of roads in those days made land travel difficult and lengthy, and most undependable. River traffic, especially to ship goods, was of greater importance. So trading patterns, and fair days at the river ports, help to explain family migration patterns as well.

My William Palmer was the eldest son of Edmund and Anne. He married Elizabeth Gibbs at Wombourne, Staffordshire, on 15 April 1723. Wombourne is a coal mining town on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal route, and it is difficult to explain why they chose to marry there. The marriage records at Wombourne for that time period show an amazing variety of home parishes for the weddings; William and Elizabeth are not the only couple to travel such a long distance. Their wedding record clearly states "William of Upper Arley" and "Elizabeth GIBBS of ALVELEY".

Elizabeth was baptised in 1698 at Alveley, the daughter of Thomas Gibbs and Anne Hatton. She and William baptised their children at Upper Arley and Alveley. Their son John Palmer was a miller (and also served as a juror) at Alveley, and married Sarah Chitley in 1758; he sadly died young with no children. John's older brother was another William Palmer, baptised 1729 at Upper Arley. His first marriage to Mary Morris of Enfield left him a widower with no children; he secondly married Anne Hill in 1761 at Alveley, and their children were all baptised at Alveley Parish. William served Alveley as churchwarden, and his lovely signature graces the parish records from 1768 to 1770.

Anne Hill was probably from Upper Arley, baptised 1740 of William Hill and Anne Guill. I find the Hill/Guill combination rather confusing, and wonder if local pronunciation patterns would make this variants of the same name? More likely, the Gu- sound is that of W-, making her name sound Will. Her widowed mother "Ann Hill" was buried in 1776 at Alveley parish.

The four children of William and Ann made the final move away from the Severn River; their families are found in the 1841 and 1851 census records at Cookley, Worcestershire. Their daughter Elizabeth was baptised 22 January 1765 at Alveley Parish, and she apparently married William Jennings. That record has not been found, but their children were baptised in Alveley and Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. The children are found in the census living with their "Uncle Thomas" Palmer at Cookley, Blakeshall. Anne is a dressmaker, Elizabeth a housekeeper, and John and Thomas Jennings are farmers. All are single in 1851, and not found in the 1861 census.

Their son John was baptised 29 December 1768, and married Hannah, of Brickgrove. Four children were baptised at Bromsgrove, and their son Thomas is possibly the Thomas living at 27 Hayley Row, Cookley, in 1841 with his wife Anne and six children. He is working as a nailer, having "joined the Industrial Revolution".

John and Hannah are both buried at Cookley, she as a widow "of Bank Farm, Claverley". One of John's children is named John Hill Palmer; possibly a clue to his mother's ancestry, or namesake of a cousin.

William's son Thomas was baptised in 1774, and is found at Blakeshall, Cookley, in 1841, 1851, and 1861 census records. He is a farmer or landed proprietor, with ten acres, and lived to around the age of ninety! He was single, but kept close family ties. The Jennings children all lived with him, and his property was left to his nephew Frederick Palmer, who lived at Blakeshall in 1868 with his wife Patience and their family. Frederick Junior was born 1844 at Hitchin Hereford; in 1924 he celebrated his 80th birthday at Cookley. His eleven children still have descendants living in the village of Cookley.

Frederick was the son of the fourth child of William and Anne, my William Palmer baptised 14 November 1762 at Alveley. This William also apparently "left the land" to work in the ironworks, as his family records are found near the Whitchurch Ironworks, in Whitchurch and New Weare Herefordshire, from 1788 to 1792. His wife is named Ann in all records for their children, but there is no clear wedding record for this couple. She is possibly the Rosannah Wood who married William Palmer in 1788 at Eyton upon Weald Moors, Shropshire (Eyton served as the parish church for Wellington during that decade, as Wellington church was being rebuilt). Wellington was an industrial area at that time, but I cannot confirm this was my couple.

William and Ann had five children; Frederick mentioned above, and two who died in Whitchurch parish; John James and Harriot. George and James are their other two sons, both are found in Cookley census records. George was born in 1795, in Herefordshire, and married Ann, of Gloucestershire; they had nine

children. George was a "forgeman of sheetiron, at the ironworks", while his children worked as tin plate rubber, tinman, sheetiron roller and forgeman, seamstress, and dressmaker. Another industrialized branch! It is worth noting that the Knight family, who owned the ironworks at Cookley, also had enterprises in the Highley and Alveley area. I have been told they encouraged the migration of workers as they were needed at Cookley.

My James Palmer, baptised 6 March 1791 at Whitchurch Hereford, married Dorothy Hardy (of Derby) at Old Swinford, Worcestershire. He was a forgeman, ironworker, and iron sheet and plate roller, who died age 74. They lived at Cookley with their six children, and their sons all worked in the ironworks until it closed.

Their daughter Lydia married Thomas Spruce in 1858; he was an ironworker and iron shingler. They moved to Staffordshire, and lived at Bilston, Sedgley, and New Mills Farm in Plck near Walsall. Their only son Samuel Spruce was born in 1859 at Princes End, Sedgley. Samuel married Sarah Ann Mason of Toll End, Tipton, and worked as a butcher in Walsall, where my grandmother Olga Mary Spruce was born in 1889. His shop assistant in 1912 was Archibald Munrow Wolverson, of Walsall and Willenhall. Arch emigrated to the United States in 1914 to join his cousin Enoch Ash in St. Louis, Missouri; my grandmother Olga followed in 1916. They settled in the suburb of Webster Groves, Missouri, and had two children.

Their son Arch Raymond Wolverson now lives in Denver, Colorado. He married Sue Rubin, and has two daughters, Shirley and Nancy Wolverson, who both still live in the St. Louis area. My mother Olga Wolverson married Hugh Bertsch; their two children Hans Bertsch and Katherine Bertsch Compagno both live in California. And that explains why I am writing to the Alveley Historical Society from so far away.

Extracts from the Parish Meeting Minute Book

March 1925 to 1982

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting of March 1925 held in the Village School (next to Church House Farm) record that it was proposed by Mr R. Knowles and seconded by Mr. H. Roden that Mr. T. A. Shepherd be elected Chairman of the Meeting and that this was carried unanimously. Obviously in those days the Parish Council Chairman did not Chair the Parish Meeting. I was particularly amused to read the final Minute of this Meeting: "Mr. Wm. Cross proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the meeting, Mr. T. A. Shepherd, for presiding, which was passed with APPLAUSE". This obviously must have been a short meeting and they were able to adjourn to the Local sooner than expected!!!

At this meeting the following were elected Parish Councillors for a period of three years: John BALDWIN, William Benjamin WOOD, Edward MILLINCHIP, William EVANS, George Alexander SIMCOX, Ernest Lloyd EVANS, Simpson WILLIAMSON, John MILLER, and William CROSS.

In 1928 the following persons were elected as Parish Councillors: John Robert CLARK, Hugh Devenport COLVILLE, William CROSS, Arthur DAVIES, William Henry GRIFFIN, James LUKIN, George Alexander SIMCOX, Simpson WILLIAMSON, and Albert WINWOOD.

At the meeting of March 25th. 1937, I notice that Mr. S. Williamson proposed and Mr. J. R. Clark (my Grandfather) seconded, that a hearty vote of thanks be extended to the Chairman of the meeting, Mr. W. G. Massey for presiding. (also my Grandfather). Mr. Massey duly responded and the meeting was declared closed.

The next meeting was not held until 1946, obviously because of the war and one assumes that those elected in 1937 served for 9 years -three sessions- without complaint !!! Looking at the names, I think they all survived the war years and this lengthy period of office, unless anyone knows differently?

They were: James Joshua BEDDOE, James Oliphant BEVERIDGE, John Robert CLARK, Arthur DAVIES, Lionel Trevor HOOPER, George Harry JENNINGS, James Arthur MOTTERSHEAD, Simpson WILLIAMSON, and Albert WINWOOD.

The Parish Meetings appeared to take place annually from 1950 and moved to a new venue The New County School in 1954. At the meeting of the 15th February 1955 it was agreed to purchase the existing

street lights from the MEB with a loan of £197 to cover the cost and legal charges.

At the meeting of 13th. March 1958 there were only 9 persons present plus the Clerk Mr. J.P. Low and it was recorded that the meeting commenced at 7.45 and finished at 7.55pm. Again, another excuse perhaps to adjourn to the Local !!!

In March 1964, there were 8 persons present and in March 1965, slightly better at 13 persons. However, at a special meeting in June 1965 re. the development of Old Peoples Bungalows in the Village there were over 100 persons present.

In 1969 it was stated that the Sports Ground was maintained by voluntary contributions and that additional financial support was urgently needed - nothing changes here !!!

In 1970 there was a first mention of a House to House collection for the British Empire Cancer Campaign. (still being undertaken to date)

In 1971 over 100 persons again were present to hear proposals regarding the development of the old Pit site into a Country Park. There was also a complaint at this meeting regarding parking of cars outside the school entrance - nothing changes much !!!

In 1972 a proposal was made to ask the District and County Councils to consider the provision of a road to by-pass the village down to the Country Park and the Industrial Estate. This is again currently on the agenda as an urgent requirement.

In 1979, the meeting asked for the provision of street lighting on the Main Road between Birds Green and the Woodlands. This appears at the time of preparing these notes to have just been agreed and will take place in the very near future - perhaps even in place by the time this is published !!!

In 1982 The Chairman, Mr. J.E. Stephenson pointed out that the bus service had been cut back further and that a Saturday morning and evening service was needed for people working at Bridgnorth. An approach was to be made to Narburgh Bros. for them to run a service at the weekends. (We still have Bus Service problems.) Mr. Scriven, the District Councillor, announced that plans to build nine old persons bungalows at Centre Place had been finalised and that the vehicular access would be from the top of the Village.

Michael J. Massey.

Good Deeds

Early this year one of our members noticed a card in the local newsagents shop advertising several old documents for sale by a gentleman from Chester. He had inquired locally whether anyone would be interested in them but received no response. Luckily our treasurer Tim White found out about them and purchased them for our archive. They were deeds and indentures from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries concerning the descent of land and property in Alveley in the possession of various families who all had connections with the blacksmith trade in the village. I have transcribed the documents and we are publishing them in full. The following account summarises their content along with a small amount of additional material which I have researched from other sources.

In his will of 1667 Thomas Potter left to Charles Lye of Alveley, Blacksmith, a house and shop in Alveley in which Charles and his father Robert lived. He also left to Charles one innedge called Brook Lane Innedge and one piece of ground called Whittall Hill. In 1690 an indenture shows the ownership of a cottage, barn and shop, with fields and gardens belonging to them, in Alveley. Also three butts of land in Whittall Field. The deed shows that Richard Bate gave the property in 1649 to his son John Bate who was a butcher. This John gave the property in trust to John Grove for his daughters Elizabeth and Margery Bate and his son John Bate. In the 1709 will of Henry Lye, who was the son of Charles Lye mentioned above, shows that Henry inherited the blacksmiths shop from his father Charles and left it to his brother John Lye. This Henry Lye had bought the premises outlined in the 1690 indenture which he left to his brother Charles Lye. The 1725 will of William Perry mentions an iron furnace which I presume was purchased by the Perkes family mentioned in the indenture of 1726. This 1726 indenture shows John Perkes as blacksmith of Alveley buying more property in Alveley at Agnes Croft. The 1741 will of John Perkes gives details of his family and his bequests to them. Benjamin, his son, becomes the blacksmith

but both son John and daughter Anne were left a furnacr apiece. In 1754 Benjamin Perkes bought land and houses at Pepper Alley from John Lye of Ombersley who was a grandson of the above Charles Lye. In 1755 Benjamin bought another house in Pepper Alley.

This series of deeds and wills gives an example of what documents are still available but unrecorded. They show the descent of property and skills through various families connected with Alveley. They may easily have been destroyed or lost. If anyone has any old documents we would be delighted to add them to our archive which is now stored at Shropshire Records and Research Centre in Shrewsbury where they can be used to further research into the history of our village.

Will of John Potter 1666 (Staffs. Record Office)

In the name of God, Amen, the seventh day of May, Anno Domini 1666, and in the seventeenth year of the reign of King Charles the second of England. I Thomas Potter of the parish of Alveley in the County of Salop, husbandman, being but weak in body but of sound and perfect memory, praised be given to God for the same and knowing the uncertainty of this life on earth and being desirous to settle things in order do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

That is to say, first and principally I commend my soul to Almighty God, my creator, assuredly believing that I shall receive full pardon and full remission of all my sins and be saved by the previous death and merrits of my blessed savior and redeemer Christ Jesus, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in such decent and Christian manner as to my executor hereafter named shall be thought most convenient.

And as touching such worldly estate as the Lord in mercy hath lent me my will concerning it the same shall be employed and bestowed and hereafter by this my will is expressed. And first I do revoke, renounce, frustrate, make void all wills by me formerly made and declare and appoint this my last will and testament.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Charles Lye of the town of Alveley, blacksmith, the house and shop, together with the garden, hemplock and backside and one barn adjoining to the said shop lying and being in the town of Alveley and county of Salop aforesaid which he, the said Charles Lye, and his father Robert Lye do now dwell in and enjoy.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto the said Charles Lye one innedge called Brook Lane Innedge on the north side of an innedge of Samuel Ardens.

Item. I give and bequeath unto the said Charles one other little parcel of ground lying within one piece of ground formerly Groves called Whitall Hill.

And do constitute, make and appoint the said Charles Lye my full and sole executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above mentioned.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, the wife of Robert Lye, one pound.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Anne Person, Francis Smyth and Thomas Smyth a mark apiece to be paid them by my executor.

The mark of Thomas Potter. Witnesses. Elizabeth Lee, Humfrey Lee

Indenture 1690

This indenture made the third day of April 1690 and in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, by the grace of God etc.

Between James Grove of Pool Hall , Alveley in the county of Salop esq. of the first part, Elizabeth Cupper of the parish of Alveley, widow, and George Loton of the parish of Chetton, yeoman and Margery his wife, sister of the said Elizabeth Cupper and daughters late of John Bate of Alveley, butcher, deceased, of the second part. And John Bate of the parish of Highley, yeoman, son of the said John Bate, deceased, on the third part.

Whereas Robert Thorne of Wenlock, gent., by indenture bearing the date the twentieth day of January in 22 James I, did demise unto Richard Bate, deceased grandfather of the said Elizabeth, Margery and John

Bate, the son, that cottage, shop and barne place with the close, fold, garden and appurtances thereto adjoining. And the moity of three butts of land then lately enclosed and lying in a field called Whithall Field situate, lying and being in the parish of Alveley. To hold unto the said Richard Bate, his executors, heirs and assigns from the feast of St Michael the Archangel for a term of nine hundred years at the yearly rent of seven shillings.

And whereas the said Richard Bate by his deed poll under his hand and seal bearing date 17th February 1649 did give, grant and assign over unto the said John Bate the father all the said recited cottage, tenement and premises with the appurtances and all his estate and term in to the same premises.

And whereas the said John Bate the father by his deed of assignment under his hand and seal bearing the date 28th October 33 Charles II and wrote on the back of the original indenture of lease did grant, assign and set over unto the said James Grove, all the said recited cottage, tenement and premises with the appurtances and the remainder of the said term of nine hundred years in the said original indenture of lease mentioned yet to come and unexpired in trust for the said Elizabeth Cupper, then called Elizabeth Bate, and the said Margery, for the term of thirteen years. And after for the said John Bate, the son, his executor and administrator, and to be assigned as he should direct as by the said indenture of lease and deed of assignment more at large will appear.

Now this indenture witnesseth that the said James Grove, in pursuance of the said trust in him reposed, and at the request and by the direction of the said Elizabeth Cupper and George Loton and Margery his wife, testified by their being parties hereunto, and for the sum of two shillings to him in hand paid by the said John Bate, party to their presentments, and the said Elizabeth Cupper and George Loton and Margery, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of thirty pounds of lawful money of England to the said Elizabeth and Margery, already paid and satisfied by the said John Bate in manner hereafter mentioned, (that is to say fifteen pounds thereof to the said Elizabeth Cupper and fifteen pounds residue thereof to the said Margery before her intermarriage). And for the other good causes moveing, they the said James Grove, Elizabeth Cupper, George Loton and Margery his wife, have granted, bargained, sold and assigned over unto the said John Bate all the said cottage wherein John Potter, clerke, and the said Elizabeth Cupper do now dwell, with the buildings, lands, tenements to the same belonging in the said original indenture of lease and deeds of assignment. And all the estate, title, interest, claim and demand, whatsoever of them the said James Grove, Elizabeth Cupper, George Loton and Margery, his wife, or any or either of them, in out of and to the same premises. To have and to hold unto the said John Bach with their appurtances, his executors, heirs and assigns for and during all the rest and residue of the said term of 900 years which are yet to come unexpired.

In witness whereof the said parties first above named to their presentments, indentures, interchange their seals have put the day and year above written. J.Grove, Elizabeth Cupper (her mark), George Loughton, Margery Lought (her mark)

1709 Will of Henry Lye of Alveley

In the name of God, Amen. I Henry Lye of Alveley in the county of Salop, Blacksmith, being sick in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to Almighty God for the same. I do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First

Item. I give and bequeath all that messuage, tenement or dwelling house wherein I now live, lying and being in Alveley, together with the garden, backside, barn, Blacksmiths shop, with all the appurtances thereunto belonging after myne and my wife's death, unto my brother John Lye, his heirs and assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath all that other house and tenement wherein John Bate lives and another dwelling house that stands void, both lying and being in Alveley aforesaid and formerly purchased by me from the said John Bate, together with the gardens, backsides and appurtances thereunto belonging, after myne and my wife's death, unto my brother Charles Lye, his heirs and assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my sister Elizabeth Lye the sum of five pounds to be paid to her within one year after myne and my wife's death.

Item. I bequeath unto my sister Anne Lye the sum of £5.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my sister Mary, the wife of Michael Lawley £5, all which sums I do appoint my brother John Lye to pay out of the premises above bequeathed to him. But as to my sister Mary's £5 I do order and appoint that my brother, John Lye, shall have the disposal of it for her good and her husband not having anything to do with it.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Priscilla all the goods in the house, tools in the shop and personal estate whatsoever excepting on iron furnace and a pewter frame and dresser of drawers, a great table board and frame, bedsteads and a joynd press now standing in the parlour, which I do appoint shall remain and be as heirlooms to the house so that after myne and my wife's deaths they may belong to my brother John Lye with the house, the said John Lye paying the sum of twenty shillings for the funeral charges of my father Charles Lye pursuant to an agreement I made with him for the goods.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my brother Charles Lye that chest that stands in the parlour with all my wering apparel, linen and woolen, to be delivered to him within six months of my decease.

Item. As to the goods mentioned above to stand as heirlooms to the house I do appoint that my wife may have the use of them during her life.

Item. All the rest, residue of my estate not already disposed of, my debts and funeral charges being first paid and satisfied I do give and bequeath unto my dearly and well beloved wife Priscilla Lye whom I do hereby appoint sole executrix of this my will. Henry Lye. Signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of us who subscribe our names in the presence of the testator.

John Low, John Brown, The Mark of Thomas Binion

Probate attached - Bridgnorth

1725 Will of William Perry

In the name of God Amen. The thirteenth day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and twenty five.

I William Perry of Chelmarsh in Salop, Wheelwright, being of good health and sound mind and memory do publish and declare this my last will and testament.....

Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my cousins Paul Lawrence and David Lawrence and to my cousin Rachel Mallard all my leasehold estate in the parish of Alveley to hold unto them until they shall receive out of the rents and profits of the premises the sum of £45 with interest for the same from my decease.

Viz. £20 for Paul Lawrence. £20 for David Lawrence and £5 for Rachel Mallard. But my will and desire is that my cousin Edward Perry of Enfield shall pay unto the said Paul Lawrence £20, unto the said David Lawrence £20 and unto the said Rachel Mallard £5 within twelve months after my decease. Then I give devise and bequeath all the said leasehold estate unto Edward Perry for the residue of the lease.

Item. I give unto George Weld esq. my Iron Furnace and my dresser, desiring that they may not be removed from the places they are now.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my cousin Humphry Goold of London, gardener, £20 and my grat bible.

And I give unto my executor John Cropp £5

And to Elizabeth and Mary, the daughters of my cousin William Griffin and Elizabeth, his wife, the sum of £5 apiece at 21 years.

All the rest of my estate, cattle and chattels, whatsoever, I give unto the aforesaid Edward Perry, Paul Lawrence, David Lawrence, Rachel Mallard, Humphry Goold, John Cropp, Elizabeth and Mary Griffin, equally between them.

I appoint the aforesaid Edward Perry and John Cropp joint executors.

Probate attached.

1726 Indenture

This indenture made the eight and twentieth day of March in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George, 1726, between Edward Smallman of Bridgnorth, mercer, on the one part, and John Perkes of Alveley, Blacksmith of the other part.

Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of threescore and eleven pounds and eight shillings of good and lawful money of Great Britain to him, the said Edward Smallman, by the said John Perkes, in

hand, paid at and before the ensembling and delivery of these presentments, the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge.

Do grant to John Perkes all that messuage, cottage or tenement situate in Alveley, heretofore called Agnes Croft, but now being two dwelling houses and in the possession of John Goodman and Joseph Jasper as tenants to the said Edward Smallman, together with the gardens, orchards and backsides to the said tenement belonging. Which said premises do lye in Alveley aforesaid between the lands of Charles Lye on the south side, land in possession of Walter White on the north side, and Alveley Streete on the east side, for and during the term of two hundred and forty five years, paying to Edward Smallman every year, his heirs and assigns, the rent of one peppercorn at the feast of St Stephen.

Lots more why's and wherefore's

Signed and sealed. Edward Smallman

1744 Indenture

This indenture made the second of April in the year of our Lord 1744 in the seventeenth year of our Sovereign Lord George the Second.

Between George Bague of Alveley, gent, Benjamin Cardall of Stourbridge, apothecary and Thomas Grove of Etwall in the county of Derby, gent of the one part, and George Steward of Billingsley, Salop, yeoman, of the other part.

Witnesseth that George Bague, Benjamin Cardall and Thomas Grove, in consideration of 5s. to them in hand paid by George Steward, have granted and sold that messuage or tenement with the garden thereunto belonging, situate and being in Alveley, now in the possession of Thomas Scriven, to have and to hold from henceforth for the term of one whole year, paying one peppercorn rent at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary next ensuing.

Signed and sealed. Geo. Bague. Benj. Cardall. Thomas Grove.

1747 Will of John Perkes

In the name of God amen. I John Perkes of Alveley parish in the county of Salop, Blacksmith, being of sound and perfect mind and memory and understanding. praise be given to Almighty God, and considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following. First.....

First I give unto my loving wife Susanna all my leasehold and personal estate of what nature or kind soever during the term of her natural life except as shall be hereinafter mentioned.

Item. After my wife's decease I give unto my son John my furnace and large stone cistern?. Also after my wifes decease I give unto my said son John, and his heirs, the house which I now live in with the garden, shop, stable and pigsty thereunto belonging during the term of years in the lease which I hold the same by, on these conditions.

That is to say that he, my said son John, shall pay unto my son Benjamin the sum of twenty pounds within twelve months after my wifes decease or give him sufficient security for the said twenty pounds before he takes possession of the premises, and also that my daughter Anne shall have the use of the house, rent free, for the space of six months after the decease of me and my wife. And if my son John shall not think fit to comply with these terms then it is my will and desire that my son Benjamin shall have the said tenement paying my son John £20 in the manner above specified and allowing my said daughter Anne the use of the house aforesaid.

Item. After my wifes decease I give unto my said daughter Anne a house now in the possession of Susanna Scriven, with the garden and pigst thereto belonging, during the term in the lease which I hold the same by. Also a little furnace which is in the said house, my best bed which I usually lye upon with ye bedstead curtains and curtain??. two best bolsters, two best blankets and the rug thereunto belonging and my best pair of flaxen sheets and my best table cloth.

Item. After my decease I give unto my son Benjamin all of my Iron and shop tools of what kind or sort soever, and all my wearing apparel.

Item. After my wifes decease I give all the rest of my household goods, except eatable and drinkable, to

be equally divided betwixt my said son Benjamin and my daughter Anne. And it is my desire that Benjamin shall divide them, or cause them to be divided, into two parts, and that Anne shall choose the part that she shall best like.

Lastly, all the rest and residue of my personal estate whatsoever, after my wifes death, I give unto my daughter Anne whom I make joint executrix and trustee with my dear and loving wife Susanna of this my last will and testament, revoking all other wills.

The thirteenth day of February 1745. The mark of John Perkes. Witnesses. Wm. Roden, clerk. and Thomas Parker. Proved at Bridgnorth 26th September 1747

Indenture 1754

This indenture made the thirteenth day of March in the twenty seventh year of our Lord 1754 between John Lye of Ombersley, county Worcester, yeoman, on the one part and Benjamin Pearkes of the parish of Alveley, Salop, Blacksmith, of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said John Lye, for and in consideration of the sum of 5s. of lawful money of Great Britain to him in hand paid by the said Benjamin Pearkes, have granted and sold two little messuages or tenements with the gardens, yards and backsides thereto belonging, situate lying and being in Pepper Alley in the parish of Alveley containing by estimation 3 roods or thereabouts, now in the tenure or holding of one John Hardwicke his undertenant at the yearly rent of two pounds and nine shillings, together with all the outhouses, buildings, barns, stables, gardens, orchards, woods, underwoods, ways, waters etc.

To have and to hold unto Benjamin Pearkes, his executors and assigns, from henceforth for one whole year, yielding and paying one peppercorn upon the feast of St John the Baptist next ensuing.

Sealed and delivered to the said Benjamin Pearkes by John Lye and Elizabeth his wife. Signed and sealed. John Lye.

1755 Indenture

This indenture Tripartite made 11th June in the 28th year of George II 1755 between Joseph Hawkes of the parish of Kinlet, yeoman, of the first part, John Gilbert of Bridgnorth, shoemaker, of the second part, and Benjamin Pearkes of Alveley, Blacksmith, of the third part.

Witnesseth that Joseph Hawkes and John Gilbert, for the sum of 5s. apiece of lawful money of Great Britain paid by Benjamin Pearkes, do sell unto the said Benjamin Pearkes all that dwelling house and garden situate, lying and being at Alveley at a place called Pepper Alley, heretofore in the possession of one John Reynolds, late in the holding of John Hooper and now of Thomas Scriven. Together with all ways, waters etc.

To have and to hold the said tenement unto the said Benjamin Pearkes for the term of one year paying one pepper corn upon the feast of St John the Baptist.

Signed and sealed. The mark of Joseph Hawkes. JH John Gilbert.

Tim White found the following tombstone inscription in the graveyard at St Mary's, Alveley. We don't know the connection between the two at this time -

On one half of the tombstone -

In Memory of Benjamin Perkes who died November 10th. 1771 aged 50 years. Also of Elizabeth, his wife, who died June 23rd 1793, aged 76 years.

On the other half of the tombstone -

In memory of Elizabeth, daughter of Henry and Mary Smith who died March 26th 1851 in the 70th year of her age, also of Sophia Mary, their daughter, who died December 14th 1854 in the 76th year of her age.

ALVELEY MANOR COURT ROLLS

In 1996 I printed the customary and the court rolls from 1746 to 1762. This is a continuation from 1762 which I have transcribed in the last year.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 24 OCTOBER 1763 The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Monday the twenty fourth day of October in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1763

Before Daniel Clarke, Gentleman, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Edward Oakley; William Gill; George Colebatch; Thomas Wilcox; John Hayward; William Bennett; Richard Beech; William Instans; William Crow, Jun; Francis Hand; Thomas Stockall; William Grove; Thomas Martin

We present The Rev. Joseph Ball, William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present Thomas Skelding, John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We also present that at this court came Edward Coles and he claimed to hold as brother and heir to Joanna Lowe, widow, dec'd the messuage or tenement and lands called the Mayhouse within this manor by free deed of the Lord of this manor at the yearly rent of one shilling, herriot, relief, suit of court and fealty, and that the said Edward Coles paid the herriot of one shilling, his relief of one shilling and did his fealty.

We also present that the said Joanna Lowe died seized of a messuage called Platters within this manor and which she held of the Lord of this manor by the yearly rent of one shilling, a herriot, one shilling relief, suit of court and fealty, which herriot of one shilling the said Edward Coles as executor of the late Joanna Lowe has paid.

We find a pain of ten shillings ought to be paid by John Horn for not scouring his water course pursuant to a conditional time given him at the last court.

We present that Richard Heries ought to set a stile at the usual place on the top of Poors Land leading down a footpath to a well called the Poors Well and amerce him in ten shillings unless the same is duly done accordingly within one calendar month.

We present and elect Thomas Stockall petty constable for the year ensuing for the tenement called Cleckers.

Signed by all jurors.

(On front page)

Thomas Lowe did his fealty for a nook of land at Nether Hollies devised to him by Edward Lowe.

Death of Wm' Boycott seized of estate called the Lowe and that Thomas Boycott is entitled thereunto as devised.

Death of Thomas Adney seized of Plimleys and Whites, presented.

Edward Coles did his fealty for the May House.

Death of Johanna Lowe, seized of the Platters presented.

(On back page) Mem'm Two herriots within mentioned to have been due upon the death of the late Tho's Adney were the best beast each. Note. There was only one beast distrained, there being no other for a

herriot.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 22 OCTOBER 1764

The manor of Alveley, to wit :- The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Monday the twenty second day of October in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1764 Before Daniel Clarke, Gentleman, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Chidley; William Instan; John Palmer; John Hayward; Richard Morris; James Nicholes; John Glaze ; George Colebatch; William Giles ; William Harden; Richard Humphreys ; Thomas Stockall; Edward Oakley

We present The Rev. Joseph Ball, William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present Thomas Skelding, John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We also present that to this court came Thomas Lowe and that he claimed to hold as devisee under the will of Edward Lowe and upon the late decease of Joanna Lowe, the said Edward's widow, a nook of land at Nether Hollies within this manor to him the said Thomas Lowe, to his heirs forever by the yearly rent of three shillings and four pence, herriot, relief, suit of court and fealty, and that the said Thomas Lowe paid his relief of three shillings and four pence and did his fealty.

We also present that William Boycott who held of the Lord of this manor a messuage or tenement with diverse lands to the same belonging called the Lowe, within this manor by the yearly rent of one penny, herriot, relief, suit of court and fealty is some times since dead, that upon his death there happened to the Lord a herriot for which the Lord is satisfied and that Mr Thomas Boycott as his devisee , as we are informed, now owns and enjoys the same premises and that as such devisee he ought to pay his relief and do his fealty.

We also present that Mr Thomas Adney who held of the Lord of this manor a messuage or tenement with diverse lands to the same belonging called lat Plimleys, part of Rowland Whites fee farm late Wall's, both in Romsley, by herriot, relief, suit of court and fealty, died since the last court and that upon his death there hapened to the Lord a herriot and another for late Wall's for both of which the Lord is satisfied.

We find a pain of ten shillings ought to be paid by Richard Morris for not setting a stile in the usual place at the top of the Poor's Land as presented at the last court and we lay a further pain upon him of ten shillings if such stile is not set up at such place within one calendar month.

We present and elect Thomas Turner ? as petty constable for the year forthcoming for the May House.
Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 22 OCTOBER 1765

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the twenty second day of October in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1765

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Hayward; William Doolittle; Edward Oakley; John Instan; John Glaze; William Wood; John Lowe; William Bennett; Richard Beech; William Snibson; William Crow; William Jordan; John Bennett

We present The Rev. Joseph Ball, William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We find a pain of ten shillings is forfeited by Richard Morris for not setting a stile in the usual place at the top of the Poor's Land as presented at the last court and we lay a further pain and amercement upon him of twenty shillings if such stile is not set up at such place within one calendar month.

We also present that Edward Wilcox is intituled to a road or way for waggons and horses from Alveley Town to and from the houses at Potters Load for the use of the house only and we present that George Colebatch ought to erect a gate at the usual place at the corner of Potters Load Meadow and we lay again and amerciamment of ten shillings upon the said George Colebatch if he doth not erect a gate accordingly within six months after notice given him for that purpose.

We present and elect William Bennett as petty constable for the year ensuing Cumbers message..

Mr John Gill appeared at this court and did his fealty for an estate called Hardings Messuage lately purchased by him of William Doolittle and he hath paid his relief being one shilling and five pence.

And we present that the said William Doolittle hath satisfied the Lord for the herriot due upon the alienation of the said estate to the said John Gill.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20 OCTOBER 1766

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Monday the twentieth day of October in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1766

Before Daniel Clarke, Gentleman, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Edward Oakley; Aaron Elcock; John Glaze; Thomas Scriven; Thomas Jordan; Joseph Scriven; John Wallech; Thomas Thatcher; Francis Hand; Edward Lewis; William Instan; George Binion; William Gill

We present The Rev. Joseph Ball, William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing

cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We also present that Edward Oakley who held of the Lord of ths manor certain freehold lands following, viz. a parcel of meadow containing four acres called Alice Furlong, one close called Kitcroft, a meadow thereto adjoining called the Innage, about two acres in Onyons Field, three butts of land called the Innage Rowell in Crosswell Field by free deed by the yearly chief rent of eight shillings, a herriot of the best beast, fealty and suit of court, died thereof seized since the last court whereupon there happened to the Lord an herriot for which the Lord has received satisfaction. And we present that Edward Oakley is the eldest son and heir of the said Edward and that he is the now tenant of the said land mentioned and being present in court has paid his relief and done his fealty.

We find a pain of ten shillings is forfeited by Richard Morris for not setting a stile in the usual place at the top of the Poor's Land as presented at the last court and we lay a further pain and amercement upon him of twenty shillings if such stile is not set up at such place within one calendar month.

We present and elect Benjamin Pearkes as petty constable for the year ensuing for the house he now lives in.

We present the Lee Bridge to be out of repair, that two posts and a rail shall be set up for safety of passengers and we lay a pain of ten shillings on the occupier Wm. Wood if the said bridge is not repaired within two calendar months.

Signed by all jurors.

Notice of View of Frankpledge 1767

Manor of Alveley

These are to will and require you to give publick notice within the said manor that the View of Frankpledge for the same manor with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the said manor, will be holden at the place accustomed on Tuesday the twentieth day of this instant October at ten of the clock in the forenoon and that yo warn all the tenants of, and inhabitants within the said manor that do owe any suit or service at the said court that they and every of them personally be and appear at the time and place aforesaid then and there to do and perform the same. And likewise that you summon thirteen honest and lawful men of the said manor to be and appear and then and there serve on the jury. And to have there their names with this precept given under my hand and seal the nineteenth day of September 1761.

Daniel Clarke, Steward there.

To John Gowen Bailiff of the said manor.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20 OCTOBER 1767

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the twentieth day of October in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1767

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Hayward Sen'r, foreman; John Glaze; William Wood; Edward Oakley; Thomas Jorden; George Oakley; William Instance Sen.; John Hatton; James Nicholls; George Colbatch; Richard Beech; Francis Glaze; Thomas Stockall; William Instance, Jun.

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We find the pain of ten shillings laid upon William Wood at the last court for not repairing the Lee Bridge to be discharged.

We present and elect Richard Beech as petty constable for the year ensuing for the house that he now lives in

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20 OCTOBER 1768

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the eleventh day of October in the eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1768

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr George Bague Sen'r, foreman; Mr. John Glaze; Mr Richard Morris; Mr. William Wood; Mr John Hatton; Mr. Francis Glaze; Mr John Bennett; Mr. William Harden; Mr William Trow; Mr. William Instan; Mr Thomas Wilcox; Mr. Thomas Stockall; Mr John Instance; William Instance, Jun.

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cooksey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present that Samuel Wilcox and James Pitt are entitled to a road or way for houses from Alveley Town to and from the houses at Potters Loade for the use of the houses only and we present that John Horn ought to erect a gate at the usual place at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow and we lay a pain and americiament of twenty shillings upon the said John Horn if he doth not erect a gate accordingly within six months after notice given for that purpose.

We present that Thomas Longmore hath some time since alienated a messuage and lands within this manor called Sham Lane to Thomas Skelding whereupon there happened to the Lord for an herriot the best beast or best good of the said Thomas Longmore which is yet unsatisfied.

And we also present that the said Thomas Skelding ought to do his fealty for such lands and we lay a pain of ten shillings upon the said Thomas Skelding if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We present and elect Ffrancis Hand as petty constable for the year ensuing for the estate called the May House and we lay a pain of five pounds upon him if he does not take the oath of office before one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the county of Salop within one month after notice given him for that purpose.

Signed by all jurors.

Notice of View of Frankpledge 1769

Manor of Alveley

These are to will and require you to give publick notice within the said manor that the View of Frankpledge for the same manor with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the said manor, will be holden at the place accustomed on Friday the twenty seventh day of this instant October at ten of the clock in the forenoon and that you warn all the tenants of, and inhabitants within the said manor that do owe any suit or service at the said court that they and every of them personally be and appear at the time and place aforesaid then and there to do and perform the same. And likewise that you summon thirteen honest and lawful men of the said manor to be and appear and then and there serve on the jury. And to have there their names with this precept given under my hand and seal the nineteenth day of October 1769 Daniel Clarke, Steward there.

To John Hampshire. Bailiff of the said manor.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 27 OCTOBER 1769

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Friday the twenty seventh day of October in the tenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1769

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Thomas Stockall; John Hayward; Richard Beech; William Snibson; William Bennett; William Grove; John Chidley; William Gill; William Wood; Richard Morris; John Lowe; John Wall; William Instan; Thomas Thatcher; Ffrancis Glaze

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty inroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We find a pain of ten shillings is forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing

his fealty and lay a further pain upon the said Thomas Skelding of twenty shillings if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We present John Horn for stopping up two stiles in the road leading from Ball Green to a piece of land called Bradleys Close and lay a pain of ten shillings upon the said John Horn if he does not lay open the same within one month after notice given him for that purpose.

We find a pain of twenty shillings forfeited by John Horn for not erecting a gate at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow and lay a further pain of thirty shillings upon the said John Horn if he does not erect a gate at Potters Loade Meadow within one month after notice given him for that purpose.

We present and elect William Inston as petty constable for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 16 OCTOBER 1770

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the sixteenth day of October in the tenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1770.

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Hayward, foreman; John Chidley; Edward Oakley; John Horn; John Glaze; Thomas Jordan; Richard Bache; Thomas Hanson; William Wood; Thomas Richards; John Lowe; Aaron Elcock; Thomas Stockall

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cuxsey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We find a pain of ten shillings is forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and lay a further pain upon the said Thomas Skelding of twenty shillings if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We find a pain of ten shillings forfeited by John Horn for not laying open the road leading from Ball Green to a piece of land called Bradleys Close and we lay a pain of ten shillings upon the said John Horn if he does not lay open the same within one month from the date hereof.

We find a pain of thirty shillings forfeited by the said John Horn for not erecting a gate at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow and we lay a further pain of thirty shillings upon the said John Horn if he does not erect a gate at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow within one month after the date hereof. We present and elect John Palmer as petty constable for the year ensuing, and we lay a pain of five pounds upon him if he does not appear before one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for the county of Salop and take the Oath of Office within ten days after notice given him for that purpose.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 9OCTOBER 1771

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Wednesday the ninth day of October in the eleventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1771.

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Hayward, foreman; John Hatton ?; Edward Oakley; William Wood; John Lowe; William Jordan; John Glaze; James Nicholls; Francis Glaze; Thomas Wilcocks; Richard Beech; Edward Veale; Francis Hand

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, William Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cooksey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We present Joseph Austin for a pigsty incroachment upon the waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence. (crossed out)

We find a pain of twenty shillings is forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon the said Thomas Skelding if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We find a pain of ten shillings forfeited by John Horn for not laying open the road leading from Ball Green to a piece of land called Bradleys Close and we lay a furter pain of ten shillings upon the said John Horn if he does not lay open the same within one month from the date hereof.

We also find a pain of thirty shillings forfeited by the said John Horn for not erecting a gate at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow and we lay a further pain of thirty shillings upon the said John Horn if he does not erect a gate at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow within one month after the date hereof.

We present that Edward Flewett who held of the Lord of the manor an estate called the Over Hollies by the yearly rent of three shillings and eight pence and a herriot being the best beast or best good, relief, suit of court, and fealty, died since the last court and that Penelope the widow of the said Edward Flewett is entitled thereto for her life and ought to do her fealty for the same, and that the Lord hath been satisfied for the herriot.

We present Thomas Jordan for having encroached upon the road leading from Alveley Town to Brewers Well and for laying muck in the same road and we amerce him in ten shillings if he does not remove the same within one month from the date hereof.

We present and elect Peter Pope as petty constable for the year ensuing, and we lay a pain of five pounds upon him if he does not appear before one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for the county of Salop and take the Oath of Office within fourteen days after notice given him for that purpose.

We present that the bridge over Hobage Dingle leading from Little London to Over Areley is very much out of repair.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20 OCTOBER 1772

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there

holden for the same manor the Tuesday the twentieth day of October in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1772.

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Edward Flewett, foreman; John Wall; Edward Oakley; Thomas Richards; John Glaze; James Nicholls; Thomas Stockall; James Jones; William Wood; Thomas Scriven; Francis Hand; William Gill;

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece for whose names we refer to the suit roll.

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, Thomas Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cooksey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We find a pain of twenty shillings is forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon the said Thomas Skelding if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We present that Edward Flewett upon the death of his father Edward Flewett as mentioned in the presentment at the last court became entitled to the estate called the Over Hollies within this manor and that Penelope the widow of the late Edward Flewett deceased is not entitled to the same for her life, and we further present that the said Edward Flewett has at this court paid his relief and done his fealty for the same estate.

We present that the footroad leading from Ball Green to the Almshouse Gardens has been lately stopped up and that the same ought to be laid open.

We also present that there ought to be a gate erected at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow.

We present and elect William Wood as petty constable for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20 OCTOBER 1772

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the twentieth day of October in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1772

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Edward Flewett, foreman; John Wall; Edward Oakley; Thomas Richards; John Glaze; James Nicholls; Thomas Stockall; James Jones; William Wood; Thomas Scriven; Francis Hand; William Gill

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece for whose names we refer to the suit roll.

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, Thomas Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cooksey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We find a pain of twenty shillings is forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon the said Thomas Skelding if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We present that Edward Flewett upon the death of his father Edward Flewett as mentioned in the presentment at the last court became entitled to the estate called the Over Hollies within this manor and that Penelope the widow of the late Edward Flewett deceased is not entitled to the same for her life, and we further present that the said Edward Flewett has at this court paid his relief and done his fealty for the same estate.

We present that the footroad leading from Ball Green to the Almshouse Gardens has been lately stopped up and that the same ought to be laid open.

We also present that there ought to be a gate erected at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow.

We present and elect William Wood as petty constable for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 5 OCTOBER 1773

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the fifth day of October in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1773

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Hayward foreman; John Glaze; John Chidley; Thomas Stockall; Thomas Snibson; George Oakley; William Inston; William Wood; William Juston; John Horn; John Jewkes; James Jones; Edward Wheeler

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Jordan, Rachel Mallard, Thomas Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Gill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cooksey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in six pence apiece.

We find a pain of twenty shillings forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon him the said Thomas Skelding if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We present that John Lowe who held of the Lord of this manor two estates called Dod's Green and Cooks Cross dyed since the last court seized thereof and that upon his death two herriots, being the best beast or best good, became due to the said Lord for which a grey mare and a bay gelding have been seized, but who is now entitled to the said estates we at present know not.

We present that the foot road leading from Ball Green Pool to the Almshouse Gardens has been lately stopped up and that the same ought to be laid open.

We also present that there ought to be a gate erected at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow.

We present and elect John Chidley as petty constable for the year ensuing, John Jewkes sworn deputy.
Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 4 OCTOBER 1774

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor the Tuesday the fourth day of October in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the 3rd, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord 1774

Before Robert Pardoe, Gentleman, Deputy Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Hayward foreman; Richard Beech; William Instan; John Glaze; John Chidley; William Wood; James Jones; William Jorden; George Oakley; James Nicholls; John Jewkes; James Pinches; Edward Wheeler;

We present all persons who owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in appearance and amerce them in six pence apiece and all persons that have not appeared at this court nor the last we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present William Jordan, Hannah Booth, Thomas Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

We present Ann Hill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, William Instance, William Jordan, for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We present John Lowe, William Cooksey and John Milward for continuing encroachments upon the waste within this manor and amerce them in 6 pence apiece.

We find a pain of twenty shillings forfeited by Thomas Skelding for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon him the said Thomas Skelding if he does not appear at the next court and do the same.

We present that Sarah, the wife of John Lowe, is institled to the two estates called Dodds Green and Cooks Cross of which her said late husband dyed seized, during her life or so long as she shall remain a widow as we have been informed and believe. And we lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence on her the said Sarah Lowe if she does not appear at the next court to be holden for this manor and do her fealty and pay her reliefs due to the Lord of this manor for the same estates.

We present and elect Edward Oakley as petty constable for the year ensuing. We also present that there ought to be a gate erected at the corner of Potters Loade Meadow.

We present that the foot road leading from Ball Green Pool to the Almshouse Gardens has been lately stopped up and that the same ought to be laid open.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 17th OCTOBER 1780

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the seventeenth day of October in the twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty, before Robert Pardoe, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Thomas Jordan, foreman; George Binian; Richard Law; Edward Wheeler; John Glaze; John Wall; William Jones; Benjamin Corkes; Richard Harris; Joseph Kimberlin; Thomas Stockhall; John Chidley

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present Hannah Booth, William Jordan and Thomas Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

Also we present Ann Hill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, Will'm Instance, and William Jordan for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We find that Thomas Skelding has forfeited a pain of twenty shillings for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and we lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon him if he does not appear at the next court to pay and do the same.

We present that Richard Booth dyed since the last court seized of a messuage and lands at Turley Green within the manor which he held of the Lord of this manor by the yearly chief rent of three shillings and six pence, herriot, being the best beast, on death or alienation, fealty, and Suit of Court. And that on his death there happened to the Lord an herriot for which a cow was seized by the Lord's bailiff but who is at present entitled to such messuage and lands we know not but desire time to enquire.

We present and continue Richard Law petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing, he having agreed to accept and continue his office.

We present Thomas Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the waste at Dods Green within this manor and amerce him in sixpence.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Edward Lowe, Simon Jennings, John Hayward.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 9th OCTOBER 1781

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the ninth day of October in the twenty first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty One, before Robert Pardoe, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Thomas Jordan, foreman; George Binyon; Thomas Stockall; Edward Milward; John Glaze; William Cooksey; Richard Harris; Thomas Snibson; Edward Oakley; William Instonin; John Wall; Thomas Brook; William Jones

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present Hannah Booth, William Jordan and Thomas Snibson for continuing cottages on the waste within this manor, we amerce them in one shilling apiece.

Also we present Ann Hill, Aaron Elcock, John Milward, Will'm Instance, and William Jordan for continuing cottages but not upon the waste, within this manor, and amerce them in sixpence apiece.

We find that Thomas Skelding has forfeited to the Lord of this manor a pain of twenty shillings for not appearing at this court and doing his fealty and we lay a further pain of twenty shillings upon him if he does not appear at the next court to pay and do the same.

We present Thomas Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the waste at Dods Green within this manor and amerce him in sixpence.

We present and elect George Oakley petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

We lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence on every person who shall turn his, her or their pig or pigs out unringed after two days notice given them to the contrary.

We present that Elizabeth Beech, spinster, hath since the last court purchased of her brother Richard Beech a messuage and lands at Turley Green within this manor which was the estate of her late father. And that thereupon there happened to the Lord of this manor, the best beast or good of the said Elizabeth Beech for an herriot. And we also present that the said Elizabeth Beech hath appeared at this court and done her fealty to the Lord of this manor for the said messuage.

We present that George Humphreys hath since the last court purchased of Mr John Bracebridge Hawkesford a piece of land called Rowells lying near to the Moorehouse Green within this manor held of the Lord of the said manor by the yearly chief rent of one shilling, herriot being the best beast or good, on death or alienation, and that such purchase an herriot being the best beast became due to the Lord which is not yet settled.

We present that the said George Humfries hath appeared at this court and done his fealty to the Lord of this manor for the said piece of land so purchased by him aforesaid but hath not yet settled this herriot. Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Thomas Jordan, Edward Oakley

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 21st OCTOBER 1800

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twentyfirst day of October in the fortieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred, before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Gill, foreman; Bartholemew Yates; Francis Hayward; Thomas Brookes; Edward Flewett; John Lowe; George Glaze; Joseph Bates; John Glaze; Thomas Crow; Benjamin Perks; Edward Milward; Thomas Jones

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in sixpence.

We lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence on every person who shall turn his, her or their pig or pigs out unringed after two days notice given them to the contrary.

We present Sarah Lowe, widow, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at Dods Green, and amerce her in one shilling.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Edward Milward for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in six pence.

We present Thomas Dovey for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in two pence.

We present Joseph Scriven for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in one penny.

We present William Instance for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste at Turley Green within this manor at and amerce him in two pence.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at

and amerce him in four pence.

We present Jane Richards for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce her in one penny.

We present Henry Skelding for erecting a gate across the public road at Ball Green and for erecting another gate across the public road at Lakehouse Green and we lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence upon him if he does not take away the gate erected across Ball Green within fourteen days upon notice given him for that purpose by the bailiff of this manor.

We present and elect Bartholemew Yates petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

We present David Williams as surveyor of the highways within this manor for not repairing the public road leading from the church gates to Alveley Town end and we lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence upon him if he does not cause the same to be repaired before Christmas day next.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20th. OCTOBER 1801

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twentieth day of October in the forty first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and One before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Gill, foreman; Edward Milward; George Glaze; Edward Gorton; Joseph Bates; David Williams; Thomas Jones; Thomas Crow; Bartholemew Yates; Richard Crow; Francis Hand; Joseph Kimberley; John Glaze

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence on every person who shall turn his, her or their pig or pigs out unringed after two days notice given them to the contrary.

We present John Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in sixpence.

We present Sarah Lowe, widow, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at Dods Green, and amerce her in one shilling.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Edward Milward for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in six pence.

We present Thomas Dovey for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in two pence.

We present Joseph Scriven for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in one penny.

We present William Instance for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste at Turley Green within this manor at and amerce him in two pence.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present Jane Richards for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce her in one penny.

We present Henry Skelding having saved a conditional pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence laid upon him at the last court for erecting a gate across the public road at Ball Green he having taken away such gate according to the order of the last court.

We present Henry Skelding for inclosing Lakehouse Green being part of the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two shillings and six pence.

We present Henry Skelding for erecting a gate across the Stank Lane within this manor, the same being a public road, and amerce him for the same in six pence.

We present David Williams as surveyor of the highways within this manor has saved a conditional pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence laid on him at the last court he having repaired the public road leading from the church gates to Alveley Town according to the order of the last court.

We present and elect David Williams petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - John Gill and Thomas Crow

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 19th OCTOBER 1802

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the nineteenth day of October in the forty second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Two before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Gill, foreman; Edward Oakley; Francis Hayward; John Glaze; Edward Flewett; Edward Gorton; George Glaze; Francis Hand; John Lowe; Thomas Brookes; Joseph Bates; Thomas Dovey; Bartholemew Yates

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in sixpence.

We present Sarah Lowe, widow, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at Dods Green, and amerce her in one shilling.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Edward Milward for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in six pence.

We present Thomas Dovey and William Instance for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present Joseph Scriven for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in one penny.

We present Jane Richards for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce her in one penny.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present and continue David Williams petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing as deputy for Mr. Francis Hayward.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Francis Hayward and Edward Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 25th OCTOBER 1803

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twenty fifth day of October in the forty third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Three before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Harry Skelding Foreman; John Glaze; John Gill; Thomas Brookes; Francis Hayward; Thomas Crow; Edward Flewett; Edward Milward; John Lowe; Thomas Dovey; William Veale; David Wiliams; Benjamin Perkes

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Sarah Lowe, widow, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at Dods Green, and amerce her in one shilling.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Edward Milward for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in six pence.

We present Thomas Dovey and William Instance for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in one penny each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present and elect John Lowe petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Henry Skelding and Edward Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 22nd. OCTOBER 1805

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twenty second day of October in the forty fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Five before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Edward Flewett Foreman; John Glaze; Francis Hayward; Bartholemew Yates; Edward Oakley; David Williams; George Glaze; Thomas Crow; John Lowe; Edward Gorton; Joseph Bates; Thomas Dovey; George Oseland

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the

last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that the Lord has received satisfaction of Mrs Ann Grove, widow of the late Westney Grove esq. for the two herriots presented at the last court as due to the Lord of this manor on the death of the said Westney Grove for the two estates within this manor called Hadleys Leys of which he died seized. And we present that the said Ann Grove is (as we have been informed) now entitled to the said estates as devisee of the said Westney Grove and ought to have appeared here this day and done her fealty and paid her relief for the same.

We present that Edward Oakley died since the last court seized of two estates within this manor. One being freehold and the other copyhold held of the Lord of this manor by the yearly chief rent of eight shillings for the freehold and heriot being the best beast on the death of the person dying being seized thereof. And for the copyhold the yearly chief rent of nine shillings and six pence, heriot being the best beast and fealty and suit of court for each of the said estates. And we further present that a horse and cow were seized by the bailliff of this manor for the Lords use for two heriots which became due to the Lord of this manor for the two herriots for the said estates on the death of the said Edward Oakley and that the Lord has received satisfaction for such herriots. And we also present that Edward Oakley, one of the jury, is the only son and heir of his late father Edward Oakley deceased and is now entitled to the said estates and that he hath this day done his fealty and paid his relief to the Lord for the freehold estate but is not yet admitted tenant of the copyhold estate.

We present John Milward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in one penny each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence. We present that the footbridge across the waste at the mill at Hamptons Loade and the footbridges at Holbeche Dingle and also the footbridge at the new Stank at the paper mill are repaired pursuant to the order of the last court but that the latter bridge ought to have a handrail made thereto for the safety of persons passing over the same.

We present and elect Mr George Oseland petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Edward Flewett and Francis Hayward

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 15th OCTOBER 1806

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the fifteenth day of October in the forty sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Six before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Edward Flewett Foreman; Francis Hand; Francis Hayward; Edward Gorton; Edward Oakley; Bartholomew Yates; Henry Skelding; Joseph Thomas; George Glaze; Thomas Dovey; John Lowe; Joseph Kimberley; George Oseland

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in one penny each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present and elect William Veale petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing when Henry Skelding was as his deputy.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Edward Flewett and Francis Hayward

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 29th OCTOBER 1807

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty ninth day of October in the forty eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Seven before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Edward Flewett Foreman; Thomas Jones; Francis Hayward; Ezekiel Darby; Edward Oakley; John Evans; George Glaze; John Walker; John Lowe; Edward Gorton; George Oseland; Thomas Crow; Bartholomew Yates

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Michael Hayes for continuing a cottage and gardens on the Lord's waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in one penny each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present that Thomas Lowe died seized sometime since of an estate within this manor called Colehill held of the Lord of this manor by the yearly chief rent of three shillings and four pence and herriot on the death of every person dying seized thereof for which the Lord is not yet satisfied and that the wife of George Whitehouse of Dudley is now entitled thereto as the daughter and only child of the said Thomas Lowe.

We present and elect Ezekiel Darby petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Edward Flewett and Francis Hayward

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 18th OCTOBER 1808

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd

there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the eighteenth day of October in the forty ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Eight before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Francis Hayward Foreman; John Lowe; James Flewett; Bartholomew Yates; Edward Oakley; George Oseland; Ezekiel Darby; Edward Gorton; George Glaze; Thomas Dovey; Henry Flewett; Thomas Crow; Benjamin Perkes

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present that Edward Flewett died since the last court seized of three estates within this manor called the Lowe, the Upper Hollies and Platters, held of the Lord of this manor by herriot, fealty and suit of court and chief rent. And that upon his death there happened to the Lord three herriots for which two geldings and a mare of the value of fifty pounds were seized for the Lords use and for which the Lord has received satisfaction. And we further present that James Flewett as devisee of his late father is now entitled to the estate called Platters and will on the death of his mother be entitled to the said estate called Upper Hollies. And that Henry Flewett also as devisee of his said father is now entitled to the estate called the Lowe. And that the said James Flewett and Henry Flewett, two of the jurors, have paid their reliefs and done their fealty.

We present and elect Edward Oakley petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - James Flewett and Francis Hayward

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 24th OCTOBER 1809

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the eighteenth day of October in the fiftieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Nine before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Francis Hayward Foreman; John Evans; James Flewett; Benjamin Perks the younger; George Oseland; Joseph Kimberley; John Lowe; Thomas Dovey; Bartholomew Yates; William Clark; Edward Gorton; William Bennett; Thomas Crow

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this

manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present and elect Edward Esp petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

We present George Humphries for an encroachment on the public road leading from Moorhouse Green to the Paper Mill stank and we lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence upon him if he does not remove the encroachment he has so made within three months from this day.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 24th OCTOBER 1810

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores' d there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the sixteenth day of October in the fiftieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Ten before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Francis Hayward Foreman; Edward Esp; John Lowe; John Cresswell; Bartholomew Yates; Joseph Kimberley; Edward Gorton; Richard Humphreys; George Oseland; David Williams; Thomas Crow; Thomas Brookes; Edward Milward

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present that George Humphries has saved a conditional pain laid upon him at the last court of 39/11 by removing the encroachment on the public road leading from Moorhouse Green to the Paper Mill stank.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present Benjamin Thatcher for making a ditch and laying timber on the public highway near Cooks Cross within this manor and we lay a pain of ten shillings upon him if he does not fill up the ditch and remove his timber from the said road within one month from this day.

We present that John Glaze died since the last court seized of an estate within the manor called Wannestory held of the Lord of this manor by the yearly rent of two shillings, herriot, fealty and suit of court and that on the death of the said John Glaze a herriot being the best beast of the said John Glaze became due to the Lord of the said manor, but who is now entitled to this estate we at present know not and desire time to enquire.

We present all persons within this manor who neglect to cut low their fences and scour their ditches adjoining the public highway within this manor, or who suffer their pigs to go about unringed and we order that such hedges be cut and ditches scoured forthwith and we lay a pain of ten shillings upon any person who shall within a month after notice for that purpose neglect to do the same or who shall after

notice suffer his or their pig or pigs to go about unringed.

We present and elect Joseph Flewett petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - John Lowe and Francis Hayward

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE -16th OCTOBER 1811

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the sixteenth day of October in the fifty first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Eleven before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Henry Skelding Foreman; William Williams; James Flewett; William Clark; Joseph Flewett; Thomas Dovey; George Oseland; Thomas Thatcher; Edward Gorton; Joseph Thomas; Bartholomew Yates; Joseph Kimberley; David Williams

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present that Benjamin Thatcher has saved a pain of ten shillings laid upon him at the last court by filling up the ditch and removing timber from the public highway near Cooks Cross.

We present and elect John Walker petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

We present that bridges at Crows Mill in this manor is out of repair and ought to be repaired at the joint expenses of the parishes of Quatt and Alveley and we direct that notice be given to the surveyors of those parishes to repair the same forthwith.

We present that the bridge at a place called the Cookcows within this manor is out of repair and ought to be repaired by the owner of the land adjoining thereto and we lay a pain of twenty shillings on him if he does not repair the same within one month after notice to be given to him for that purpose.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Henry Skelding and James Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 21st OCTOBER 1812

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentyfirst day of October in the fifty second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Twelve before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Henry Skelding Foreman; Benjamin Perkes; Bartholomew Yates; Thomas Dovey; George Oseland; Joseph Cartwright; James Flewett; John Walker; Joseph Flewett; Joseph Thomas; Ezekiel Darby Joseph Kimberley;

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present that Mr Thomas Skelding died since the last court seized of an estate within this manor called Onions's held of the Lord of this manor by a yearly chief rent of six shillings, fealty and suit of court and that on his death his son Henry Skelding became entitled thereto under the will of the said Thomas Skelding, his father, and appeared at the court, paid his relief and did his fealty to the Lord for the same.

We present that the bridge at the Cuckoo's Nest within this manor is still out of repair and that the owner of the land adjoining such bridge has forfeited a pain of twenty shilling for not repairing the same pursuant to the order of the last court and we lay a pain of thirty nine shillings and eleven pence upon him if he does not repair the same within six months from the date of this court.

We present that the Pool Dam of Gortons Pound? Within this manor ought to be fenced adjoining the public highway there and we lay a pain of twenty shillings upon Edward Gorton the owner of such Pound if he does not fence the same within one month after notice given him for that purpose.

We present and elect Thomas Jones of Pool Hall as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing - and we lay a pain of twenty shillings upon him if he does not attend one of his majesties Justices of the Peace for this County and take the oath of office within one month from the date hereof.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Henry Skelding and John Lowe

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 20th OCTOBER 1813

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentieth day of October in the fifty third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Thirteen before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor. Mr Henry Skelding Foreman; Richard Crow; Edward Oakley; William Clark; James Flewett; Thomas Dovey; Joseph Flewett; Joseph Kimberley; Bartholomew Yates; Thomas Thatcher; George Oseland; John Walker; Joseph Cartwright

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within

this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present and elect William Clark as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Henry Skelding and James Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 25th OCTOBER 1814

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores' d there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty Fifth day of October in the fifty sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fourteenth before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Henry Skelding Foreman; James Foxall; Joseph Flewett; Joseph Thomas; George Oseland; William Williams; Bartholomew Yates; William Crow; Joseph Cartwright; John Lowe; William Clarke; Thomas Brookes; Joseph Kimberley

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present and continue William Clark as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

We present that the foot bridge between the land of Richard Oakley and Mr Francis Hayward is out of repair and we lay a pain of twenty shillings on them or which of them as ought to repair the same in case the same is not repaired within three months after notice given them for that purpose.

We present that the bridge at Cuckoos Nest within this manor is out of repair and that John Creswell as the owner or occupier of the land adjoining ought to repair the same and we lay a pain of twenty shillings upon him if he does not repair the same within three months after notice given him for that purpose.

We present that Sarah Lowe, widow, died since the last court seized of two estates within this manor called Dodds and Cooks Cross and that upon her death two herriots being the best beasts of the said Sarah Lowe, became due to the Lord of this manor, one for Dodds and another for Cooks Cross, and that John Lowe, one of the jurymen is entitled to those estates as we are informed and has done his fealty for the same and paid his relief and that the herriots due to the Lord of this manor on the death of the said Sarah Lowe are not yet satisfied.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Henry Skelding and James Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 25th OCTOBER 1815

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty Fifth day of October in the fifty sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Fifteen before George Clarke, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr James Flewett Foreman; John Walker; Edward Gorton; James Foxall; Joseph Flewett; William Grove; George Oseland; Joseph Kimberley; Edward Glaze; Richard Foxall; William Higgs; Thomas Brookes; William Clarke

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present that the Lord of this manor has received satisfaction for the herriots presented at the last court to be due to the Lord of this manor on the death Sarah Lowe, widow, for two estates within this manor called Dodds and Cooks Cross.

We present and continue William Clark as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing with his own consent.

We present that the foot bridge between the land of Richard Oakley and Mr Francis Hayward has been repaired since the last court by which the conditional pain of twenty shillings laid on them at the last court has been saved.

We present that the bridge at Cuckoos Nest has been repaired since the last court whereby the conditional pain of twenty shillings laid thereon at the last court has been saved.

We present that the Lord of this manor hath since the last court enfranchised the copyhold lands of Edward Oakley of the Hill House within this manor and also released the freehold and copyhold lands of the said Edward Oakley from the herriots heretofore payable for the same lands and hereditaments, but that the ? and accustomed chief rents payable to the Lord of this manor for each freehold and copyhold were not ? but continue payable to the Lord of this manor by the owner of such land.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - James Flewett and Joseph Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 23rd OCTOBER 1816

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty Third day of October in the fifty sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Sixteen before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Lowe Foreman; William Nicholls; George Oseland; Thomas Dovey; Ezekiel Darby; John Lane; William Higgs; Benjamin Thatcher; William Grove; William Clarke; Thomas Bache; John Walker; James Foxall

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present that Grey Jermyn Grove esq. who held two or more estates of the Lord of this manor by suit of court, herriot, relief, fealty and chief rent, died since the last court and as we are not at present informed of the particular estates of which he died seized or what heriots became due to the Lord of this manor we desire time to enquire further relating thereto.

We present the said John Millward for another encroachment on the Lords waste within this manor at a place called Dodds Green by enclosing another part of the waste lands belonging to the Lord of this manor adjoining to his former encroachment there and thereby harrowing and injuring the road and we lay a pain of twenty shillings on the said John Millward in case he does not throw open the said last encroachment within two months from this court.

We present Mrs Grove, widow, and George Glaze for two encroachments on the Lords waste within this manor by inclosing part of the waste lands belonging to the Lord of this manor at a place called the Hay Pool and thereby laying the said waste lands so inclosed to the respective lands of the said widow Grove and of Adam Prattinton esquire, the owner of the estate held by the said George Glaze and we amerce the said widow Grove and George Glaze in sixpence each. manor called Dodds and Cooks Cross.

We present and James Foxall as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing with his own consent. Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - John Lowe and George Oseland

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 28th OCTOBER 1817

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twentyeighth day of October in the fifty eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Seventeen before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr John Cresswell, Foreman; James Foxall; Ezekiel Darby; William Baggott; William Higgs; Benjamin Thatcher; Michael Hay; Richard Thatcher; Thomas Dovey ; Edward Holt; William Grove; Thomas Brookes; Thomas Richards

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Millward, the younger, for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in six pence.

We present Joseph Scriven and Jane Richards for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present John Moseley for continuing a cottage and garden on the Lords waste within this manor and amerce him in two pence.

We present that on enquiring it appears that Grey Jermyn Grove esq. who's death was presented at the last court was not at the time of his death seized of any estate within this manor on account of which any herriot became due to the Lord of this manor.

We present that Mrs Grove, widow, and George Glaze for continuing two several encroachments on the Lords waste within this manor presented at the last court and amerce them in sixpence each.

We present that the footbridge at the bottom of Brook Lane within this manor is out of repair and that Mr George Glaze as the occupier of the land adjoining ought to repair the same and we lay a pain of twenty shillings upon him if he does not repair the same within two months after notice given him for that purpose.

We present and continue James Foxall as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing with his own consent.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - John Cresswell and Ezekiel Darby

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 28th OCTOBER 1818

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentyeighth day of October in the fifty ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Eighteen before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Henry Skelding, Foreman; Richard Crow; James Flewett; Thomas Dovey; Joseph Flewett; John Lane; George Glaze; Richard Thatcher; Edward Esp; James Foxall; William Grove; Benjamin Oakley; John Lowe

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present Joseph Scriven for continuing encroachments upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce them in two pence each.

We present William Nicholls for continuing an encroachment upon the Lords waste within this manor at and amerce him in four pence.

We present that Adam Prattinton Esq. and George Glaze for continuing two several encroachments on the Lords waste within this manor presented at the last court and amerce them in sixpence each.

We present that the footbridge at the bottom of Brook Lane within this manor presented at the last court to be out of repair has been repaired by George Glaze who has thereby saved the pain of twenty shillings laid on him.

We present that Mrs Anne Grove, widow and devisee of the late Westney Grove esquire hath since the last court alienated to Adam Prattinton esquire, a messuage and lands now called Hadleys heretofore two several estates called Hadleys and Lye Farm, held of the Lord of this manor by two several chief rents of nine shillings and eight pence for Hadleys and ten shillings and four pence for The Lyes and by fealty, suit of court and one herriot for each estate on death or alienation and that the herriots due to the Lord have

been satisfied.

We present James Flewett as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing with his own consent.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Henry Skelding and Joseph Flewett

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 25th OCTOBER 1820

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentyfifth day of October in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Twenty before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Francis Hayward, Foreman; William Grove; James Flewitt; Joseph Kimberley; Henry Skelding; James Foxall; Joseph Flewitt; Richard Thatcher; John Edwards; Edward Esp; George Steward; Henry Oakley; Thomas Dovey

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that the encroachment made by Joseph Scriven upon the Lords waste within this manor and presented at the last and previous courts still continues and that the said Joseph Scriven is now dead. And that the said encroachment should, with the consent of the Lord of the said manor, be laid to and enclosed with the Poors Land adjoining, now rented by Thomas Crow.

We present John Millward as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Francis Hayward and James Flewitt

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 24th OCTOBER 1821

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Harry Lancelot Lee esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentyfourth day of October in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Twenty One before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Francis Hayward, Foreman; James Foxall; Henry Skelding; Edward Esp; John Lowe; William Higgs; Joseph Hughes; Joseph Cartwright; John Walker; Thomas Dovey; Richard Crow; John Lane; William Grove

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present John Walker as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - Francis Hayward and Henry Skelding

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 26th OCTOBER 1831

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentysixth day of October in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Thirty One before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor. Mr John Cresswell, Foreman; John Jones; Joseph Hughes; James Adams Flewett; John Walker; Joseph Wilkes; John Lowe; Joseph Cartwright; Edward Walker; Thomas Dovey; Richard Veal; John Stockall; Thomas Bache

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present Joseph Shingleton of Townsend in the village of Alveley as petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered by - John Cresswell and Thomas Bache

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 21st OCTOBER 1832

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentyfirst day of October in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord 1832 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

James Adams Flewett, foreman; Richard Veale; John Cresswell; Thomas Dovey; Joseph Wilkes; William Bamford; Thomas Green; Thomas Dovey; Joseph Hughes; William Thatcher; John Jones; John Walker

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present William Clarke of Alveley Village as Petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Notice of View of Frankpledge 1833

Manor of Alveley

These are to will and require you to give publick notice within the said manor that the Court Leet or View of Frankpledge for the same manor with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the said manor, will be holden at the place accustomed on Wednesday the twenty third day of this instant October at eleven of the clock in the forenoon and that you warn all the tenants of, and inhabitants within the said manor that do owe any suit or service at the said court that they and every of them personally be and appear at the time and place aforesaid then and there to do and perform the same. And likewise that you summon thirteen honest and lawful men of the said manor to be and appear and then and there serve on the jury. And to have there their names with this precept given under my hand and seal the twelfth day of October 1833.

E R Nicholas , Steward of the said manor.

To Mr Isaac Baker

Bailiff of the said manor.

Chief rents: Thomas Bache 12s.0d; ?? for Lowe 3s 1d; Grove esq. £1 0 0; Thomas Crow 3s 6d; Wm. Lane 6s 4½d; Wm. Gill? £2 6s 0d; Wm Wire - 2 yrs 1s 4d; Flewett 4s 8d; Skelding £2 3s 1½d; See Clury ? as to sum paid for by Mr Spakman?

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 23rd OCTOBER 1833

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twentythird day of October in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord 1833 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Thomas Bache, foreman; John Walker; Joseph Hughes; John Stockall; John Jones; John Millward; Richard Veal; William Clarke; Thomas Green; William Jennings; Edward Walker; William Thatcher; Joseph Wilkes

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present Harry Green who held of the Lord of this manor an estate called the Lowe situate within this manor by the rent of one penny, herriot being the best beast or good of the tenant on death or alienation, suit of court and other usual customs and services, died since the lastcourt, whereupon a herriot fell to the Lord of this manor which has been satisfied. And we further present that Felicia Green, daughter and only child of the said Harry Green, an infant of the age of four years and about ten months is now entitled to the said estate as heir at law to the said Harry Green whose fealty is ?? on account of her minority.

We present and continue William Clarke of Alveley Village as Petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

Offered on oath by Thomas Bache and John Jones

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 28th OCTOBER 1834

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twenty eighth day of October in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord 1834 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Mr Thomas Bache, Foreman; James Foxall; Joseph Wilkes; Thomas Williams; Thomas Green; William Thatcher; Richard Veale; John Walker; John Jones; John Millward; Joseph Hughes; John Stockall

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in six pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last one shilling each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present William Griffiths of Alveley, tailor, as Petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all jurors.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 28th OCTOBER 1835

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty eighth day of October in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the fourth by the grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, And in the year of our Lord 1835 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Lowe, foreman; Thomas Williams; John Bacon; William Grove; Joseph Hughes; James Foxall; John Jones; William Griffiths; Joseph Giles; John Stockall; John Walker; Joseph Wilkes

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that James Adams Flewett died since the last court seized of two estates within this manor, one called Upper Hollies held of the Lord of this manor by a chief rent of 3/8d, herriot being the best beast or good of the deceased, fealty and suit of court. And the other called Platters, held of the Lord of this manor by a chief rent of 1/-, herriot being a years chief rent, fealty and suit of court, which herriots have been satisfied, and we are informed the said James Adams Flewett devised his said estates to or in trust for the benefit of his daughter Mary Ann Flewett, his only child.

We present that Thomas Crow died since the last court seized of an estate at Turley Green within this manor held of the Lord of this manor by chief rent, herriot being the best beast or good of the tenant, fealty, suit of court. Whereupon a herriot fell due to the Lord which has been this day satisfied and we are informed the said Thomas Crow devised his said estate to or in trust for the benefit of his children, three boys and three daughters.

We present Richard Lee lately chosen as Governor of the Parish Workhouse, Petty Constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 25th OCTOBER 1837

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty fifth day of October in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1837 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Jones, foreman; John Lane; Joseph Hughes; James Foxall; Joseph Wilkes; John Stockall; Thomas Green; John Millward; Richard Veal; William Groves; Thomas Williams; William Crow; Whitmore Jones

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that Priscilla Hayward, widow, died since the last court seized of an estate within this manor called the Mayhouse, whereupon a herriot of 12d. being one years chief rent became due to the Lord of this manor.

We present that Mrs. Burnett, sister of John Godwin heretofore a tenant of this manor, died some time since seized of an estate at Romsley within this manor called the Hall Lands whereupon a herriot fell to the Lord of this manor for which the Lord has received satisfaction by the payment of five pounds in lieu

of the best beast or good of the deceased.

We present William Yates of the Centre House in Alveley Village petty constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 30th OCTOBER 1839

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the thirtieth day of October in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1839 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Lowe, foreman; Thomas Williams; Thomas Green; John Walker; Edward Esp; Thomas Evans; Joseph Hughes ; Charles Walker; John Millward ; William Higs; Joseph Wilkes ; John Stockall

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that John Lane died since the last court seized of a messuage and garden part of late Richards's within this manor held of the Lord of this manor by chief rent, herriot and other services and that on his death a herriot fell to the Lord being the best beast or good of the deceased.

We present that an estate within this manor called the Hall Lands heretofore Godwins has been alienated since the last court and we are informed by the devisees under the will of the late John Godwin to Mr John Cresswell as purchaser whereupon a herriot being the best beast or good of the vendors fell to the Lord of the manor.

We present Thomas Lane of Alveley Village petty constable of this manor for the year ensuing.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 26th OCTOBER 1841

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty sixth day of October in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1841 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Joseph Hughes, foreman; John Stockall; John Jones; James Foxall; Thomas Green; Samuel Davis; Edward Esp; William Higgs; Thomas Edmonds; Thomas Lane; Joseph Wilkes; Thomas Evans;

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that John Lowe died since the last court seized of an estate within this manor called Dodds and another estate called Cooks Cross and another called part of the Gilletts also within this manor whereupon two herriots fell to the Lord in respect of the two first mentioned estates being the best beast or good of the tenant for each estate, and chief rents are due to the Lord for each of the said three esates. We present Geoffrey Wood of Alveley Village, quarryman petty constable of this manor for the year

ensuing

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 9th OCTOBER 1844

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the ninth day of October in the eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1844 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

John Jones, foreman; Thomas Williams; Thomas Green; William Crow; Thomas Fletcher; Joseph Wilkes; Thomas Evans; John Millward; Samuel Davis; James Foxall; Charles Winnall; Jeffrey Wood

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that William Hayward died since the last court seized of several estates within this manor formerly Clares', Haslewoods and others for which various chief rents are payable to the Lord of this manor but the particulars of which estates and any herriots which may be due to the Lord of this manor in respect thereof we are not at present informed.

We present Charles Winnall of the Manor Farm petty constable of this manor for the year ensuing

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 27th NOVEMBER 1849

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the twenty seventh day of November in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1849 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

James Jones, foreman; Thomas Evans; Richard Veal; Charles Walker; Thomas Hayward; Joseph Wilkes; John Millward; William Jasper; Thomas Lane; William Crow ; James Foxall; William Griffiths ; Thomas Jukes

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that Richard Hand of Hillfields in the parish of Areley in the County of Stafford, farmer, died during the present year seized of an estate within this manor called Dodds held of the Lord of this manor by the chief rent of one shilling and a halfpenny, herriot, fealty, suit of court, and of another estate within this manor formerly called part of Gillets held of the Lord by chief rent of four pence, fealty, suit of court, and which said herriots being the best beast or good of the said Richard Hand due to the Lord, and which said estates were formerly John Lowes.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 31st October 1855

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the thirty first day of October in the nineteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1855 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Richard Veal, foreman; James Foxall; Stephens Cresswell; Benjamin Webb; John Jones; William Crow; John Millward; William Morris; John Lane; William Wyer; Timothy Barnbrook; Edward Walker; John Cox

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present Mary Hayward who held of the Lord of this manor several estates , namely a messuage called Cutts by the yearly rent of one penny, herriot, relief, fealty and suit of court, and an estate called Over Hollies by the yearly rent of one shilling and one penny halfpenny herriot, relief, fealty and suit of court, also one other estate called Butts by the yearly rent of four pence, died since the last court namely on the 14th of this month, seized of the said estates, whereupon there became due to the Lord of this manor one herriot being the best beast or good of the said Mary Hayward for each of the said two first mentioned estates called Cutts and Over Hollies. And we further present that Catherine Hardman, widow, sister of the said Mary Hayward is now entitled to the said estates during her life under the will of the said Mary Hayward, which estates were formerly the property of Francis Hayward deceased. We also present that Priscilla, widow of the said Francis Hayward who held of the Lord of the manor an estate called the Mayhouse, for her life, by the yearly rent of one shilling, herriot of one shilling, relief, fealty, suit of court, died some years ago and that her son William Hayward survived her and became entitled to the said estate and that he also died some years since seized of the said estate, and that his widow, now Mary Anne Potter, is entitled to the said estate under his will, as we are informed.

N.B. Ann and Sarah Hayward, younger sisters of the said Mary Hayward deceased, said to be entitled after the death of Catherine Hartman Snr. For life. The will of Mary Hayward ? be seen.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 28th October 1857

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the twenty eighth day of October in the twenty first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1857 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

Richard Veal, foreman; Timothy Barnbrook; Stephens Cresswell; William Morris; John Edmonds; John Millward; John Jones; Benjamin Webb; Thomas Cox; James Foxall; John Cox; Edward Walker; William Wyer

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that satisfaction has been made to the Lord of the manor for the 2 several herriots which became due on the death of Miss Mary Hayward in respect of the several estates called Cutts and Over

Hollies as presented at the last court held for this manor by the payment of £2.2s being a composition of 10 guineas for each of the said herriots.

We also present that the herriot of 1s.2d. which fell due to the said Lord on the death of William Hayward and in respect of the estate called the Mayhouse as presented at the last court has been paid.

We present that William Crow who held of the Lord of this manor a messuage and lands at Turley Green by the yearly rents of two pence and 3/4d. herriot, relief, fealty and suit of court, died since the last court, namely November last seized of the said estate, whereupon there became due to the Lord of this manor one herriot being the best beast or good of the said William Crow for which the Lord has received satisfaction, and we are informed that his widow, Jane Crow, is now entitled to the said estate.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 30th October 1861

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Wednesday the thirtieth day of October in the twenty fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1861 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

William Bushe, foreman; Thomas Lane; Stephens Cresswell; John Millward; John Edmonds; John Doolittle; Thomas Cox; James Foxall; Benjamin Webb; Edward Walker; Stephen Clark; William Wier; William Massey

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that William Trow (?? Or Crow) esq. died since the last court seized for his life of two estates within this manor namely Hadleys, held of the Lord of this manor by herriot, fealty, suit of court, relief and yearly rent of 9/8d. And Lyes farm held of the Lord of this manor by herriot, fealty, suit of court, relief and yearly rent of 10/4d whereupon two herriots became due to the Lord of this manor being the best beasts or goods of the said tenant which have been satisfied by payment of £30 being a composition of £15 for each of the said herriots. And which said estates as now known by the general name of Hadleys have been lately sold and conveyed as we are informed to Benjamin Gibbons esquire, whereupon two further herriots have become due to the Lord of this manor.

We present that Frederick Hall who held of the Lord of this manor a messuage and lands called the Hillhouse and Lydiates and other freehold lands, by the yearly rents of 9/6d and 8/-, two herriots, relief, fealty and suit of court, died since the last court seized of the said estates, whereupon there became due to the Lord of this manor two herriots being the best beasts or goods of the said Frederick Hall and we are informed that the said estate has been sold to William ?? Potter esquire.

Signed by all Jurors **VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 27th October 1863** The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of John Muxloe Wingfield esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Tuesday the 27th day of October in the 27th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1863 before Edward Richmond Nicholas, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

Jurors as well for our Sovereign Lord the King as the Lord of the Manor.

William Bache, foreman; Stephens Cresswell; Joseph Edmonds; John Stockall; Edward Hughes; William Morris; Thomas Lane; John Edmonds; John Hayward; John Doolittle; William Wier; James Foxall

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that the two estates within this manor late of William Trow esquire, deceased, namely Hadleys held of the Lord by herriot, fealty, suit of court and yearly rent of 9/8d and Lyes Farm by herriot, fealty, suit of court, relief and yearly rent of 10/4d have been alienated to Benjamin Gibbons esquire. Whereupon two herriots became due to the Lord of this manor which have been duly satisfied. And the herriots and chief rents due in respect of the said estate have been sold and released to the said Benjamin Gibbons by the Lord of this manor.

We present that upon enquiry we find that the messuage and lands called the Hillhouse and Lydiates and other freehold lands heretofore of Edward Oakley, late of Frederick Hall and now of William Orme Foster esquire noticed at the court holden for this manor on the 30th day of October 1861 are not subject to herriots, the same having been released as mentioned in a presentment at a court holden for this manor in the year 1815, but that the ancient and accustomed chief rents of 9/6d. and 8/- payable in respect of the same estates were not redeemed but continue payable to the Lord of this manor.

We present that the bridge for foot passengers on the highway leading from Cooks Cross to Pool Hall has fallen down and that the same ought to be forthwith restored and made passable by the surveyor of highways in the parish of Alveley.

We present Mr Benjamin Webb for laying down timber opposite the paper mills within this manor by the roadside and thereby impeding the passage of carriages and we lay a pain of two shillings on him in case of his not moving the same within one month from this day.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 28th October 1864

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Benjamin Gibbons esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Friday 28th day of October in the 28th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1864 before Benjamin Soars, Gent, Steward there. Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

John Edmonds, foreman; William Cross; Thomas Lane; Joseph Humphries; Edward Walker; Richard Griffiths; William Morris; John Doolittle; Benjamin Webb; John Clarke; Joseph Edmonds

The jurors on their oath present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

They present that Matthew Reynolds some time since sold and conveyed to John Edmonds a dwelling house called Tucks Ash and about four acres of land in the liberty of Romsley within this manor whereupon a herriot became due to the then Lord of this manor viz: the best beast or good of the said Matthew Reynolds which has not yet been satisfied but the chief rent of two pence was paid up to Michelmas 1863.

They present that James Foxall who held of the Lord of this manor a tenement and lands at Romsley within this manor has sold and conveyed the same sometime since to several parties whereupon one or more herriots became due to the then Lord of this manor but we have not at present sufficient information as to the particulars of such sales.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 4th November 1865

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Benjamin Gibbons esq. Lord of the manor afores'd

there holden for the same manor on Saturday 4th day of November in the 29th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1865 before Benjamin Soars, Gent, Steward there. Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

John Edmonds, foreman; Joseph Edmonds; William Cross; Thomas Lane; John Warder; John Wier; Benjamin Webb; John Harley; William Morris; John Doolittle; John Clark

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that Matthew Reynolds has since the holding of the last court satisfied the herriot which became due to the Lord on the alienation to John Edmonds of the dwelling house called Tucks Ash and about four acres of land in the liberty of Romsley within this manor by payment of the sum of ten shillings.

We present that we have not yet obtained any reliable information relating to the herriot or herriots due from James Foxall on the alienation of the tenement and lands in Romsley mentioned in the roll of the proceedings of the last court.

Signed by all Jurors

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE - 21st October 1867

The manor of Alveley, to wit :-

The View of Frankpledge with the Court Baron of Benjamin Gibbons esq. Lord of the manor afores'd there holden for the same manor on Monday 21st October in the 31st year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, And in the year of our Lord 1867 before Benjamin Soars, Gent, Steward there.

Essoigns appear by the Suit Roll.

John Edmonds, foreman; Richard Veale; William Cross; Joseph Humphries; Benjamin Webb; William Hinton; Benjamin Webb, jun; Thomas Lane; Stephens Cresswell; John Harleytle; Joseph Edmonds; John Weir

We present all persons that owe suit and service to this court and have this day made default in non appearance and amerce them in three pence each. And all people that have not appeared at this court nor the last six pence each for which names we refer to the Suit Roll.

We present that Stephens Cresswell has duly satisfied the herriot which became payable due from James Foxall on the alienation of the tenement and lands in Romsley mentioned in the roll of the proceedings of the last two courts.

We present that since the holding of the last court Miss Sarah Cresswell, a customary tenant of this manor, has died, whereupon a herriot of the best good or beast upon the land of the said Sarah Cresswell has become due to the Lord of this manor.

We further present that the said Sarah Cresswell has been succeeded in the possession of the said land by her nephew Stephens Cresswell.

Signed by all Jurors

JENNINGS FAMILY GATHERING

In 1996 two family history minded members of the family, Stella Ritchie (dtr. of George Harry Jennings of Coton Farm) and Dorothy Yardley (dtr. of Jack Jennings of Shatterford), were persuaded to organise a get-together of the descendants of the Jenningses of Alveley. The date chosen was Sunday July the 28th and the venue was Tuck Hill where the majority of the later family burials have taken place. The ecclesiastical Parish of Tuck Hill having been formed from parts of Alveley, Bobbington, Claverley & Enville Parishes in 1870.

The day began with a special service at The Holy Innocents Church, Tuck Hill conducted by the Rev. Robert Sharp; with readings by Nevil Mottershead DFC (son of Mary Jane Mottershead, nee Jennings, of Chelmarsh). The church and the family graves had been decorated for the occasion.

After the service those in attendance joined others already at the village hall, where the montage of family tree charts and photographs provided the perfect icebreaker for many family members who had never met before. Drinks were provided to go with the picnic lunches which all guests had been asked to bring, but unfortunately the day proved an exception to the very dry summer and picnics had to be eaten inside.

Photo albums were studied, and copies of photos ordered; the most popular being ones of John Jennings and Pheobe Tolley from whom all the family in attendance were descended. Hundreds of new ones taken including a group of five all of whom were named John Jennings.

Most branches of the family were represented. The furthest travelled were Bryan Jennings (grandson of William Henry Jennings) and his wife, from Queensland, Australia; the date of the gathering having been chosen to coincide with his visit. Bryan is very keen on family history and the amount of information he had discovered from sources available in Australia was amazing! It was hoped that Vic Brown (son of Emily Brown, nee Jennings, of Little Coton) and his wife, also over here from their home in Australia, would attend but they unfortunately had to return home prior to the event.

During the late afternoon most of the guests took the opportunity to visit Alveley Church where the earlier family graves had been tidied up for the occasion and they could pay homage to our earliest known ancestor William Jennings, shoemaker of Alveley.

John N Jennings