

Contents

-
Chairman's Introduction
Alveley's Past
Memories of Alveley - Charles Brown
Holiday Memories - Barry Cox
Quatt Farm School - Dr John Turnock
Arden Allotment Association - Heather Ithell
Fire at Bowhills
Memories of Alveley - Marjorie Rivers (nee Elcock)
Property Auction
The Creswell Table
Early Councillors of Alveley
The Alveley Parish Church Council
Memories from the Highley/Alveley Pit
A Tunnel System at Hampton Loade Forge - David Poyner
The Wordsley Brewery - David Cox
Memories of a Pit Carpenter - George Poyner
Nineteenth Century Primitive Methodists in Alveley - Colin C. Short
St Mary's Church Altar Frontals Appeal
Memories of Highley Colliery, Alveley Pit - Harry Rudd
Memories of Alveley - Barbara Elizabeth Haner
The Bache Family of Alveley - Robert Bache
The Bell Inn - Tim White
The Hanging which almost took place outside the Royal Oak - Bing Cooper
The "Three Horse Shoes"
The Wilcox Family History - Richard Wilcox
Alveley Folk of 1871 - Margaret Sheridan
Richard Lee, the emigrant - Alan Nicholls
Research at The Public Record Office - Alan Nicholls
Alveley Parish Registers 1600-1650 - Alan Nicholls

Introduction

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This past year has seen a welcome increase in the society's membership to eighty, with the Society gaining members from as far as the United States of America! No doubt due to our Research Group Chairman, Alan Nicholls, and his visit to the Lee Society.

The Society has successfully completed its book of photographs, *Images of Alveley*, depicting Alveley in earlier times. This project could not have been completed without the help and participation of the villagers, who lent the society hundreds of photographs, and also to those who helped to edit and publish the book. Once again, many thanks to all concerned.

In July this year the Society, with the help of other village organisations, held a 'Classic Car' event that was a great success and enjoyed by everyone.

This year also saw two 30th anniversary events: the Miners' Reunion and the Alveley Pre- School Playgroup. The miners' event was held at the Severn Country Park, the site of the Alveley shaft of Highley Colliery, to mark 30 years since the mine closed. The event included a display of the Society's photographs. The Playgroup celebrated its anniversary with many original members from the first sessions attending the event. The society also participated in the Altar Cloth Appeal organised by the P.C.C. to raise the required funds for conserving the historic altar cloths.

In September the Rev. Colin Short from the Methodist Church gave an intriguing and well-attended lecture on Methodism in Alveley and its links to the surrounding area, and has written an excellent article in this edition.

As always, if there are any interesting stories and items that you would like to contribute to future transactions then please let us know. Meetings and further events are published in our quarterly newsletter. To all those who have helped the Society in whatever capacity, thank you and I hope you enjoy reading the final edition of this millennium!

Matt Nicholls, Chairman

Alveley's Past by Matthew Nicholls

The existence of a tithe barn in the parish provides us with evidence of Alveley's medieval past and the importance of agriculture to its development. A tithe was a tax of one-tenth of a person's income that was given to support the clergy or the church. Such a tax was an indication of the church's importance in society and the role it played in the life of the ordinary individual. Yet the tithe barn also represents the focus of the early settlement around Alveley which was based on agriculture.

Medieval society was founded on the relationship between the Lord of the Manor, his servants and the peasantry (Serfs). As one walks through the pathways and lanes around Romsley, it is easy to imagine the fields full of activity gathering in the harvest, ploughing the fields and sowing seed for the next year. These activities remained unchanged for hundreds of years until the revolution in agriculture with new methods of farming, farm machinery and stockbreeding.

Other evidence of the impact of farming on the community, though perhaps obvious, illustrates the nature of the settlement of people in the area. In the 1841 census for Alveley and the surrounding hamlets, people are either employed in or connected with jobs allied to agriculture. A browse through the census reveals Blacksmith, Wheelwright, Waggoner, Cooper and even Mole Catcher as the occupations in the village. The blacksmith had an important role shoeing horses and making iron implements - an essential job in an agricultural community, as was the role of the wheelwright. The Wagonner's job was to look after the horses and to see that they were able to pull the carts and other machinery on the farm. The number of individuals involved in farming in the parish and the variety of occupations demonstrates how necessary land was in the 1840s.

Out of a population of approximately 1,100 only 18 per cent, according to the 1841 census, were involved in agriculture and subsidiary trades. This is an interesting figure that requires further investigation, especially if a satisfactory answer is to be found. The answers lie partly in the fact that agricultural workers supported relatively large families, certainly much larger than the average family today. Moreover, the number of people working in agriculture decreased at this time because many people left to find work elsewhere. The repeal of the Corn Laws had yet to be felt.

The Corn Laws of 1815 decreed that imports of foreign corn would be banned until home-grown corn had reached a market price of 80 shillings a quarter. This had the effect of maintaining high prices for the farmers but crippling the poor agricultural worker even more. (Agricultural wages have historically been low). From the mid-1830s onwards the country witnessed a series of bad harvests that had a large impact on the agricultural communities across Britain, and no doubt in Alveley too.

A stable population, however, may also suggest that other economic activities began to have an impact on the rural community, not least the industrialisation of the area. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that the population of the parish remained at 1000 for well over a century and only increased in numbers after the Second World War.

The development of the parish in both social and economic terms deserves further investigation, and will undoubtedly show that Alveley's past is as interesting as the village's future is bright.

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Memories of Alveley

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(by Charles Brown, Wolverhampton, West Midlands)

I was born at Bewdley on 1st September 1909 and can barely see to read or write and am housebound by arthritis.

At Bewdley C of E School 1917/1918, I was taught by a Mr Elcock who cycled from Alveley and back daily, a member of a well known Alveley family. He would then be 25-30 years (I imagine).

About 1924 (spring), with my uncle in horse and trap, I came to Shatterford where the licensee of the "Bell" declared it impossible to get a horse up the lane to Romsley. We started up the lane and at the Pool House, Mr Hooper sitting outside in the sunshine hailed my uncle and asked him to deal with a ewe in trouble. We removed a dead lamb from the ewe, also got the afterbirth away, blamed it all against the fox and left Mr Hooper happier but still very lame.

Approaching Romsley, the mare stopped. She trembled and she sweated. My uncle tried soft words, then the whip, but she refused to budge. He turned her round in the lane, put his jacket over her head and backed her some 25 yards up the road. Then he removed his jacket, turned her around and all was well! I offer no explanation, although I have heard one concerning the Civil War which I do not believe, but I vouch for the fact.

Crossing the main road, we came to Alveley and there were very few houses between the main road and the village. With time to spare, my uncle took me to see the Buttercross and said it marked the spot where in former times, butter and other goods were marketed. I never believed this either!

Back in the village, my uncle performed some minor veterinary service for Mr Baldwin the Blacksmith. Mr Baldwin's son Geoff was at King Charles I School, Kidderminster with me - a musician, I recall - played the cornet. He attained very high rank in the City of Birmingham Police Force and I last saw him about thirty years ago.

We moved on to a farm called Little London. My uncle did some 'vet' work - we borrowed a gun and shot a couple of rabbits out of hundreds which infested the ground, and then drove on to Arley. Well over to the left was the Lowe Farm (Lawleys now, I think) and its name indicates a burial mound, probably Anglo Saxon.

In 1925 (Whit Monday), as a member of the School Cricket XI (King Charles I, Kidderminster), I cycled from Bewdley and played a game arranged by Geoff Baldwin against a local XI at Coton Hall. We batted second and, off a rough pitch, a ball flew up and struck me above the right eye. It bounced off to be caught at point and I was given out! No matter I was hors de combat, the cut bled profusely! I was taken to the Squirrel where I enjoyed having the wound stanching and dressed by a Bewdley girl, Marjorie Oakes, who claimed that the licensee was her uncle. She was the daughter of Alf Oakes, a corn and meal dealer at Bewdley, and thus granddaughter of the notable character, Joseph Oakes of Wyre Hill, Bewdley. Joe Oakes owned several farms - lots of heavy horses and timber wagons; ran a timber business; owned any number of barges on the Severn and the Stourbridge canal; was Major circa 1923/24. He was semi-literate and died in 1926 aged 80+ years and scaled 26 stones at death.

Forgive this rambling!

At Bewdley, I knew an elderly widow, Mrs Annie Harris - a very genteel lady, who died circa 1930 at a great age. Her unmarried sister, Miss Edwards, kept a private school at Bewdley. Mrs Harris told me that her family, the Edwards, came from Alveley and had been involved in the manufacture of paper there. Later on, I found from census returns 1851 et seq, that many people in the Alveley area had been employed in paper making. I suppose former corn mills were utilised - what raw materials were used?

(possibly textile waste and, if so, where from?)

Mrs Harris was a typical Victorian/Edwardian church-going Lady. She told me that at one time she had relatives at Hextons, Alveley, or somewhere in the lane leading to Hextons. She said it was easy to get lost in the Alveley to Arley lane on a dark night, but there was a gibbet post (!) - a tall post which was all that remained of an ancient gibbet, at a lane junction, and once they found this, they knew where they were. Mrs Harris would never tell untruths, knowingly or for effect. Not that type!

The road through Shatterford and towards Romsley is believed to follow the course of a Roman vicinal(??) road, possibly from Worcester (Brennugenirm)(?). Certainly, Roman artefacts have been found near Shatterford and the Romans left many evidences of their presence in the Arley - Eyemore area. In the 1930's (I think) a boy at King Charles I School, who lived in the Alveley/Romsley district, found and collected very many pieces (potsherds) of Roman pottery. Unfortunately, they were thrown away (by his mother, I understand). This was Eric Tipler who later kept a pig farm and lived at Holly Bank, Romsley. I do not know whether he found them as a widely extended 'scatter' on arable land, or whether they were more concentrated, indicating a refuse pit, or possible a kiln.

My people came to Bewdley from Evesham circa 1790. My great great grandfather, Charles Brown (a carrier - Bewdley/Birmingham twice weekly, both ways!) married Ann Kirkham, daughter of Rick Kirkham, shoemaker of Bewdley, born 1765 at Alveley, son of William Maryk(?). So I have Alveley blood in my veins.

The Kirkhams, quarrymen and stonemasons, appeared in Alveley in the mid-18th Century. Nearly two centuries earlier, they were at Pattingham, but had come from the North originally. There are at least three places of the name, one in L..?? in Yorkshire. They worked (owned in some cases) the many quarries around Alveley and Arley and across the Severn, especially at Stanley. By 1860, they had spread widely in South Shropshire and North Worcestershire and there are still many in the West Midlands. Twenty years ago, there were at least two married ladies at Alveley whose maiden names were Kirkham.

The stone for Telford's new bridge at Bewdley (1798) was almost certainly cut by Kirkhams and brought down river by the Wilcox family.

I think your church is magnificent, with many features quite outstanding. It is sad that on so many sandstone gravestones the memorial inscriptions are now illegible.

I was in the village fairly recently and thought how very insubstantial some of the new houses looked by comparison with the sturdy stone cottages of the old village.

Most of this may be of no use. Never mind, they are the memories of a very old man with an enduring love of all the towns and villages along the Severn (beside which I was born). My older daughter has walked the Severn from Shrewsbury to the canal outlet at Sharpness. Incidentally, much of the stone for the quays and wharves of the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal came from quarries in the Alveley/Arley area. You will know, no doubt, that the Wilcox family were watermen working between Bridgnorth and Bewdley.

I hope you receive a good response - lots of photos (but they are only recent history) and memories, and folklore - the stuff of local history!

Holiday Memories

(by Barry Cox, Wordsley, Stourbridge)

With reference to Alveley: Starting between the war years, our family spent many happy weeks camping with a small caravan on Mr Evans' farm at Fenn Green. Living in Netherton during that period, it really was like another world and one of the main topics of conversation with family get-togethers is the very happy memories still shared by us.

I suppose you could compare the difference with someone now visiting the Costa Brava, it was just staggering how the ten miles distance between Alveley and Netherton could be so different. Living in the shadows of "Hingleys Chimneys", how we appreciated the clear air cannot be described.

The "Round House" and "Fenn Green" kept in such good order by Mr Millington, was a picture and when I ride past now, I get a little depressed at the way it declined after the war (the pool being where I first learned to swim) and have great memories of when the Americans stationed up the lane by the "Mill" restaurant where thousands of war vehicles were being stored ready for "D-Day".

The Americans used "Fenn Pool" quite a lot and I have often wondered about their outcome in that battle. A lot of nice fellows.

By the way, Mr Millington "who lived in the Round House Cafe", as it was then, was an excellent artist and I remember his pictures hung round the restaurant walls. I have asked around different places in that area, trying to locate one of his pictures, but without any luck. Mr Millington, I think, came from Romsley, but I'm not sure where he retired to when he left Fenn Green.

I've also been looking for a postcard photograph of the Round House in its thatched glory that was sold locally, but without any luck.

As you may appreciate, I could write an write about Alveley and district, but must come to an end. The only other item I would like to mention is that both my mother and father, auntie and uncle expressed a desire to have their ashes scattered in the top lane, which we did a couple of years ago, mum and dad both living to be 96 years and, even at that age, their fonder memories were of the times spent with their family down "Alveley".

Alveley 1940's

*When you come to think, didn't they do us proud, old Lil and Len?
Out of their few bob we got a holiday - that was unheard of then.
We got away and smelt the smells and ran fields
that left us memories that will always stay
I go back to the lanes, now to reminisce
I sit awhile and go back 50 - odd years
Pondering some happening, when I'd run to mum in tears.
She'd pick me up with a twirl, give me a hug and a kiss.
We'd get back home with a South of France tan
Though we'd only been ten miles down the road
But we'd seen the sun and revelled as only kids can
In it's light, with no "Hingleys" filthy smog to erode.
Mum and dad are in the lane now, near to Tom and Sue
If the lane is right, I see them walking up the lane
As if they owned the place - and why not?
Time and hope was all they'd got - that was their lot.
I still smell the aromas that came across the meadows*

*Bringing a flood of memories, those weeks we spent
In the sun, out of the dirt, out of the shadows.
But didn't they do us proud, Lil and Len
With that few bob they saved out of the rent
On "Evans' Farm", Fenn Green, with folding beds and an old bell tent.*

In a further letter, Mr Cox continues

Thank you for the "Alveley Historical Society" information you so kindly sent to me. Further to this, you will find a couple of items that may interest you. Poetry and a small incident that happened 50+ years ago.

As you can imagine, Alveley holds many memories for our family and they do seem as only yesterday, even though many of my family have passed on since those halcyon days; the times where we spent our growing up years I still hold very close.

Camping Alveley - 1942/43/44 onwards

Cousin Harry, 12 or 13, two years my senior (but when you are that age, those two years made him my guardian). It would be: "Take Barry with you, Harry, and mind what you are up to Barry, do as Harry tells you". These were the parting words of warning we would get as we set off for another day, repeating yesterday's warning and the days before. Then we would be away, looking for the adventure only young lads can find which, somehow, in those days of innocent fun, was always just around the corner.

We were on our camping holiday, 7 or 8 days on Charlie Evans' farm, Alveley. Where, from the dirty sulphur laden air of the Netherton streets, where we normally played those war years, the fields and meadows surrounding Alveley became, for just a short time, our adventure playground, where we would spend a whole day swinging from some tree on a very dodgy rope, playing Robin Hood, mimicking Errol Flynn or Gene Autry in some shoot out with the baddies, who always lost.

Innocent fun which, after a time, if we got bored, we would walk, looking for some other activity. I remember fishing with some worm hanging on to a bit of cotton, quite often, or playing in Charlie's barn.

Riding on the tractor was another favourite where, after 10 minutes tuition by Charlie, Cousin Harry and myself were allowed to drive it round the fields, picking up hay bundles or some such farm chore. Happy thoughts and memories, happenings that lasted through the coming hard winters we were getting then.

On one such day, having killed the robbers in a shoot out, or slaughtered the Sheriff of Nottingham's tax collectors with a few deft strokes of our trimmed branch swords, we decided to move on to other things, scything down grass tufts with our swords as we ran in search of other things to do and, still with half a beautiful, peaceful day to fill, we decided on the barn; there was so much for young fertile minds to create in a covered barn.

Cousin Harry stopped dead in his tracks, standing by a small hole in the ground. "Look at this here - I think it's a wasps' nest." I stood next to him, watching a continual stream of foraging wasps enter and leave the hole in the ground. Harry began to prod his ex-sword into the entrance of the nest. "Fishermen buy the wasp maggots" Cousin Harry knowingly informed me, digging his stick deeper and deeper into the hole, having totally forgotten about the barn, or any of the plans we had in mind to fill the afternoon. As it turned out, our destiny for this particular quiet, sunny afternoon, were well and truly laid.

Harry had, by now, pushed his stick quite a way into the entrance of the wasps' nest, myself standing at the side, watching his actions as he thrust the stick deeper and deeper. What Cousin Harry hadn't taken into consideration, was the secondary entrance located three or four feet away, from which a continual stream of very angry wasps was forming an ever darkening cloud above Cousin Harry's head. Harry, at last realising the imminent danger to his being that was ready to descend, started to high tail it up to the

tents to find refuge, of sorts, amongst the campers - mainly the area where his parents and my parents were about to sit down for a nice quiet lunch, as they did on nice days, sitting around the trestle table, deep in conversation and feeling at ease with the world.

I stood, transfixed to the spot, as wasps in their thousands flew past me and, as if with a guidance system installed, keyed into Cousin Harry's fleeing body who, by now, had hundreds of wasps stinging him wherever they could find a nice area of virgin skin to plunge their barbed arrows in.

Meat stews were popular when camping. Meals seemed (other than salads) to be boiled, because cooking was more or less limited to the top of the "Primus" stoves; a fancy baking oven just wasn't on our camping itinerary.

At the time Cousin Harry disturbed the wasps' nest, the peaceful outdoor meal of beef stew, fresh potatoes and peas, followed by boiled rice, was in the latter process of being served up, chairs being arranged around the folding trestle table.

My dad, knocking his pipe out and folding his heavily read paper, easing himself out of some comfortable chair, nicely ready to demolish the meal that had been set for him, was, at that moment in time, very satisfied with his lot.

Cousin Harry had, by now, reached a speed so near to breaking the 100 yards sprint record of that period, not only running but screaming at the top of his voice at the same time.

As the last dish of the delicious stew was being placed on the trestle table, Cousin Harry, being chased by twenty thousand missile bearing wasps, hit the camping area. The wasps were ready to sting anyone and, within a short space of time, a state of calamity had been reached where, one minute ago tranquillity reigned, chaos was now in charge.

Trying to strip Cousin Harry of his wasp infected clothes (he was, by now, swelling up nicely), Mother and Auntie Sue tried to get him into a tent and shut the canvas door, so keeping the wasps out. Dragging Cousin Harry towards the tent, he hit the folding table which, of course, immediately folded with half a dozen bowls of stew flying across the floor, followed by the big bowl of rice pudding, bread. This, and all the equipment needed to lay such a feast, was now strewn over the dining area floor of well trodden grass. Dad and Uncle Tom were not only laying about the wasps with folded newspapers, but were running round the tents trying to elude the vicious stings the wasps were planting to great effect.

Uncle Tom, doing a circuit of a bell tent, waving his paper swat, caught a guy rope and fell, sliding into the still steaming stew and rice pudding, skidding a couple of yards on his belly.

Dad had dived into the sanctuary of a laced up tent, getting his shirt off to shake the wasps out.

Cousin Harry, by now unrecognisable by the swellings caused by the stings, was having calamine lotion slapped onto his ballooning limbs by my Mother and his Mother, trying to ease his death by a thousand stings.

While all this was happening, some of the wasps had moved to other meal sites and, suddenly, people were jumping up, waving arms around, swatting wasps that were still angry and ready to sting anyone in their path, with precariously balanced lap meals being dropped or thrown into the air as stings got implanted.

Gradually, the crisis passed, the wasps dispersed. Cousin Harry, the culprit, lay in a tent, swollen like a blimp. My dad muttered something under his breath about being hungry, as we watched his nose start to swell from the attention paid to it by the black and yellow Stuka diver attackers. "What a waste, what a waste" his watery eyes scanning the lumps of beef now settled nicely in the grass, mixed with liberal amounts of the rice pudding which, at that moment in time, was Dad's favourite dish.

Uncle Tom, wiping the front of his shirt, trying to clean himself up a little from the beef gravy and rice grains that had adhered to him on his belly flop of ten minutes ago, did, with each wipe, threaten Cousin Harry (when he had recovered) all sorts of life threatening beatings.

It happened many years ago. Whenever Cousin Harry (passed on now) and I met in later years, we would

have a laugh and he'd say "You know, I have never had a twinge of rheumatism because of those stings those years ago". We would laugh about the incident, although it could have had a different ending, and it became a story of our camping holidays that was related over and over again amongst our families in later years.

Whilst all the wasps were attacking, I stood my ground by the nest entrance and, do you know, I never had one sting. Why? I don't know! They just flew past me, intent on catching the speeding body of Cousin Harry, or, maybe someone above was watching over me.

Later, some of the campers who did a little fishing, dug the nest out for maggots. It was huge and the work the wasps had put into it made you understand why they guarded it with such vehemence against ignorant town lads pushing sticks into the entrance of their castle.

Next day, things were back to normal and, with Cousin Harry keeping well away from anything looking like a hole that could harbour our black and yellow striped friends of yesterday, we made our way to the Round House swimming pool to finish off what were some of the best holidays two young lads could have had, giving us memories that have lasted these so many years.

Fishing Trip to Pool Hall (by Barry Cox)

Cousin Harry and myself, as soon as we had filled our stomachs in the morning, were away, to find some adventure, out of the way of adults.

This little episode happened, I think, about 1942/43.

Farmer, Charlie Evans, saw us coming up to the field gate. "Hello, you two - nothing to do? Why don't you ask Jim at Pool Farm (Pool Manor), he will let you do a little fishing."

Taking Charlie's advice, off we went down the lane. On the cart track of those days, we met the old farmer. "Yes - don't get up to any mischief." Everything was in order. We ran like whippets to find something that resembled a fishing rod and a line with a hook on it. What we finished up with, time has erased, but cotton and a bent pin would probably have been the tackle we would have finished up with.

I know it was part of the Manor moat we headed for and we learned that the moat was used in the past by an order of monks for the supply of fresh fish. Since those long gone days, the farming of the fish had ceased and the fish were left to their own devices, as Cousin Harry and myself were to discover.

We sat patiently for an hour or so, without a nibble, even though we could see hundreds of the things swimming a yard from the edge, whatever our skill at fishing at that time in our lives, wasn't expert enough to bring them ashore.

Soon, of course, our patience palled and we started to explore, eventually coming across a culvert with water cascading over and through the iron bars of the barrier to the gutter that ran the surplus water away.

What we found there was amazing. We had been sitting an hour or so with our rods without any encouragement from the fish and here they were just pouring over the culvert in their hundreds.

We soon found a bucket or something of a container with a load of holes in it and, by just holding it under the waterfall for a minute, we soon had half a bucket of fish in our possession. I remember running up the lane with our catch to where we were camping, and putting them in front on Dad and Uncle Tom.

After a little discussion, Uncle Tom and Dad decided they would be all right grilled in butter for tea. Of course, our two backwoods men knew all about living off the land and cooking fish was a doddle. Later, the womenfolk left the scene as they witnessed their men struggle to gut and prepare the fish and get them in a pan.

After a while, the fish, which now looked like cat food, was put on a plate. No way were Cousin Harry or myself being used as guinea pigs. We stood back sharply as they proffered us a taste, deciding to leave that honour to our experts, the backwoods men. Finding no-one else willing to succumb to taste their culinary special, the cooks dived in themselves, immediately accompanied by grimaces to frighten the

dead as they spat the lot on the floor.

Apparently, river or pond fish were stood in fresh water to get rid of the brackish taste, in the days of the monks.

Anyway, none of the fish we caught were eaten - the only benefit we had from the episode was the many hours of laughing we had in the following years. I don't think the ladies were pushed out of their kitchen territory again.

For us, just holding a bucket under a culvert soon lost its interest, and we soon moved on to something else to occupy our young minds.

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Camping (by Barry Cox)

*Fields, meadows, that in normal week
carried black and white cowherd.*

A flock of bleating sheep

watering their thirst in a field dividing the creek.

Filled with canvas, white, green, brown.

With tents rolled out, poles sorted, the hammered down pegs.

Chattering, laughing folk, descended from sooted town

*twenty mile distant, here for that holiday break in new baggy shorts
showing whiter than white legs.*

Transported by the Morgan three wheel sport.

*Two seaters, a luggage rack on the back, a tent tied to
with bags on top, stuck like glue.*

BSA's, AJS's, motor bikes of every sort

Harry or Charlie are here, with all their gear

come camping down Alveley every year.

Only come from Brum

it's not far, but further than some.

*In come the bikes, tandems, sidecars attached holding child
everything on top piled.*

Panniers full to bursting for their camping hol,

young girls, young lads, legs aching, the ride had took its toll.

Alveley, so many memories to evoke.

*Cousin Harry, picking the spot for our little ridge, two berth,
then awake at two in the morning, no sleep.*

Me searching, trying to find a flat bit of earth.

Six in the morning, some would stir, mushrooms to gather,

Primus stoves, knocked-knocked to get up pressure.

Men standing outside, in vests, faces covered in lather.

Then the smells, across the meadow,

eggs and bacon like you have never had.

I am older now, of course, and it happened when I was a lad.

Disneyland, the Canaries or Spain wasn't the craze,

but just a bit of canvas on a pole

put up without delay,

for a week in Evans' farm meadow,

down dear old Alveley.

PS.

Charlie Evans farm, Fenn Green round house pool,

where I learnt to swim with my dog paddle stroke,
 where Mr Millington fished me out with a long handled tool.
 But I remember best the trees we climbed, the fields we ran,
 country lane walks, down to the river on a balmy night.
 Uncles and Dads, gone now, talking of their future plan,
 after the war, four years old now, with the end just in sight.
 It was sixty-odd years ago, good years I know and miss.
 But, isn't it nice to sit awhile and gently reminisce?

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Quatt Farm School by Dr John Turnock

In Switzerland, the influential educationist and philosopher Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1745-1827) described by Pollard *Pioneers of Popular Education* (1956) p.23 as "a teacher of remarkable genius, who far outdistanced any other educational thinker of his generation" was developing the concept of the 'nature school' which had originated in France towards the end of the 18th Century. Pestalozzi's work had greatly influenced Dr Charles Major, Master of Bridgnorth Grammar School from 1817 to 1819 who spent three years at the Institute at Yverdun, bring Pestalozzi's ideas to England in 1922 and putting them into practice in a new school which he founded at Epsom. His sister Elizabeth married a member of the Whitmore family of Dudmaston, near Bridgnorth in Shropshire. Another member of the family, William Wolryche Whitmore, a trustee of the Brierley Charity connected with Worfield Grammar School, also took an active interest in education. Interested in Swiss educational ideas, Whitmore visited Philip Emanuel de Fellenberg (1771-1844) who, describing himself as a disciple of Pestalozzi, had founded on his estate at Hofwyl near Bern, a practical school for agriculture and manual work to train the peasant farmers in the most modern theory and practice of agronomy (*Pollard, "Pioneers of Popular Education" p.48*). Following his visit to Switzerland, Wolryche Whitmore established a farm school for pauper children on his estate at Dudmaston, modelled on de Fellenberg's ideas. The exact date of its foundation is not known, since many of the records and accounts were destroyed in the 1920's, but it must have been prior to 1838 as there is an unsolicited testimonial letter dated 28th December 1847 from an ex-pupil who had been nine years at the school, written to the Master from her first place. The first pupils were, according to Dodd:

"The pauper children of Bridgnorth Union workhouse, who were probably glad enough to remove from that cheerless atmosphere to the quarters provided for them at the school in the former Wolryche Dower House. The school took 15 boys and about a dozen girls." (*J.P.Dodd "Three Centuries of Shropshire Experiments in Education", Shropshire Magazine, June 1958, p.31*)

Whitmore's philosophy of education was summed up in an address which he gave to the ratepayers of the South East Shropshire Poor Law Union in November 1849. In an effort to convince them of the value of the 'industrial' system of education which he had pioneered at his farm school, with a view to enlarging it to become a district industrial school, he said:

"The System of Quatt School is industry combined with education. This I believe, to be the best system of education for all the children of the poorer classes, but essential for the pauper class. The object in the latter is not only to give a sound, healthy education, but so to improve both the physical and mental powers, as shall break, if I may express myself, the thread of pauperism and enable this hitherto degraded and unhappy class to establish themselves in afterlife as independent labourers." (*W.A.Whitmore, "A Memoir relating to the Industrial School at Quatt", 1849, p.3*)

Whitmore evidently succeeded in persuading the Unions of Madeley, Cleobury, Bridgnorth and Seisdon to join in the transformation of the farm school into a district school, as recorded in a gazetteer of Shropshire in 1861 (*Harrison Harrod & Co, "Gazetteer of Staffordshire and Shropshire with Dudley and Worcester" 1861, p.607*). The dower house was extended and the late Lady Labouchere of Dudmaston Hall recalled that there were upwards of a hundred boys and girls at the school towards the end of the nineteenth century and that there were children attending from the industrial Ironbridge Gorge area. A small infirmary was attached, housed in two cottages and ten acres of land on the estate were cultivated by the pupils (*W.Whitmore, op cit, p.11*).

The Bridgnorth Board of Guardians had, at the time of its formation, realised the benefit of separating the charity school from the workhouse itself, but it was only in 1845, influenced no doubt by the success of the school at Quatt, to which they had also sent pauper children, that they had themselves adopted the 'industrial' system of learning by direct experience.

"They took four acres of land to be cultivated by the boys; they thereby raised the potatoes and provided the milk required for the establishment, leaving a portion of the produce for sale. The experiment proved even more successful than was expected, not only giving a good healthy education combined with habits of labour to the children, but yielding such a return in money as altogether prevented any additional cost to the ratepayers and even paid a portion of the former expenses [of keeping children in the workshop]. (*ibid, p.4*).

Genuine philanthropist that he undoubtedly was, Whitmore recognised at the same time the utility of his project. Anticipating criticism he remarked that it was often said that:

"You ought not to give a better education to the pauper children than that imparted to the children of independent labourers, that you are giving them an undue advantage and proportionately injuring the hard-working independent labourer. Is the State to educate as paupers, to train to habits of improvidence, of vice and spiritual destitution, the poor children thrown upon its hands; or is it to adopt such a more of education as shall arrest these evils and convert the pauper child into an independent labourer, a good and useful member of society." (*W.A.Whitmore "A Memoir relating to the Industrial School at Quatt" 1849, p.9f*)

Whitmore felt that to convert paupers into useful members of society was both a duty and an honour. He did not feel however, that the benefits of this type of education should be confined to paupers. He agreed that it was highly expedient that all the poorer classes should be provided with industrial schools. The advantage of industrial education of the pauper children was evident to others. Jellinger Sumons, giving evidence to the Committee of Council on Education, pointed out that the training for life which they received would remove habits of idleness and incapacity which were productive of future pauperism and would facilitate the means of a permanent and independent livelihood when the children left school (*P.P. 1850-1851, Vol XXVI p.viii*). While Whitmore had been strongly influenced by the work of de Fellenberg in Switzerland, it appears that at Quatt, more formal instruction was given than at the Wehrschüle on which it was modelled. The mornings were devoted to school instruction and the afternoons to field work. The boys did most of the cultivation of the arable areas and attended to the stable, the cows and pigs and half an acre of meadow land. The girls did the housework and attended to the sewing, baking, washing and dairy work. This latter was an important feature of the establishment and yielded quite large returns. For the year 1847, for example, the value of milk sold to the school or by outside sale, was £38.6s and of butter £36.3s. The crop production per acre, remembering of course that it was intensely

worked, was extraordinary. Typical yields were: mangles 30-50 tons per acre; cabbage 50 tons; carrots 20-24 tons; swedes 30 tons and potatoes 12 tons to the acre. It is hardly surprising that the farm showed a good profit, which in 1849 was some £67.

Quatt Farm School in Account with Cash

Receipts from Lady-day 1848 to Lady-day 1849

	£	s	d
To Cash from Sale of Potatoes	29	3	6
To Cash from Sale of Milk	49	13	8½
To Cash from Sale of Butter	41	4	6½
To Cash from Sale of Livestock	90	1	6
To Cash from Sale of Cabbage Plants		7	0
To Stock in Hand on Lady-day 1849 (as per valuation)	66	0	6
Total	276	10	9

Expenditure from Lady-day 1848 to Lady-day 1849

	£	s	d
By purchase of Food	36	9	10
By purchase of Seeds	4	15	5½
By purchase of Livestock		11	7
By purchase of Tools, Implements etc	3	0	8½
By purchase of Manure		11	11
By purchase of Straw	6	0	0
By purchase of Sundries	2	9	11
By Cash, a Year's Rent, including interest expended in the erection of Buildings, Draining, Rates etc.	19	6	0
By Stock in hand on Lady-day 1848 (as per valuation)	75	7	6
By Profit	67	17	10
Total	276	10	9

According to Dodd, the extraordinary productivity of the land was due to the adoption of a Swiss agricultural practice of using liquid manure. In 1847 Henry Garland, who was in charge of the school, said his Italian ryegrass, due to this practice, had been two feet high and, having already cut it twice, he would be able to cut it twice again. The educational value of training given at the school lay not only in the skills acquired by the children, but equally in the self respect and pride in a job well done which the system encouraged.

Widespread interest was shown in the project at Quatt. The Bridgnorth Beacon records, in October 1852, that the farm had excited much attention in Birmingham and other large towns and that it had been the subject of several inspectors' reports. "It is gratifying", the Beacon observed "to find persons of influence actively engaged in fostering these schools" (*Bridgnorth Beacon, 1st October 1852, p.3*). An article in the same paper the following month made a favourable comparison between the farm school at Quatt and Dickens' satire on the workhouse school in *Oliver Twist*, and contrasted the effect on the pupils of such wide differing types of education. It was education and training which transformed the same boy who, in the workhouse, would be fated to a stunted intellect and stolid indifference, into one of quick apprehension and eager mind.

The social stratification which characterised society at the time was underlined by the Beacon's observation that the object of the farm schools was to fit the children educated there for the future station in life as farm labourers, into which they had been born. Nonetheless, sponsorship of students to the agricultural college at Cirencester would be a worthy cause for interested benefactors. Cultivation of the mind was not neglected, the formal school curriculum consisting of geography, history and arithmetic as well as reading and writing.

Whitmore took pains to employ a better class of female servant than the pauper women from the workhouse, to remove the children from contact with pauperism and immorality. He recorded that the moral education provided at the Quatt School taught the children self-respect and, as a result, illegitimate children were virtually unknown among the ex-pupils. His genuine philanthropic interest in the pupils extended to their life after school. He took pains to find places for the children after they left and many were enabled to obtain employment at a higher level than they could otherwise have dreamed of attaining. They wrote touching letters after they left, expressing their gratitude for the good start in life which they had received. One girl informed Mr Garland, the teacher, that she had at his suggestion applied to be a Sunday School teacher, which she much enjoyed, and that she was going to try her fortune in America. Another wrote to say that she was happy in her situation as children's nurse in a doctor's family. Another wrote:

"I have taken the pleasure of writing these few lines to you to return you humble thanks for the education you have given to me, for I was a poor ignorant girl when I came to you and did not know my letters, but now I can read the Bible, but I cannot write very well because I have not practised myself much. Sir, I shall always be indebted to you as long as I live and I hope God will reward you for the trouble and care you have had with me. I used to take it very hard when you punished me, but I have found it was for my own good since, and I cannot express my gratefulness to you for the care you have bestowed on me and the same to Mrs Garland for learning me to sew and knit. I return thanks to the kind gentleman for placing me in such a situation. I was a poor girl without a father or mother. I am living at a large flower and grocer's shop in Kingswinford and am going on very well" (W.A. Whitmore "A Memoir relating to the Industrial School at Quatt" 1849, p.7f).

Arden Allotment Association - a brief history

by Heather Ithell, November 1997

A Public Meeting was held on Tuesday 15th April 1975 at Alveley Primary School to consider the formation of a village allotments association. In attendance was Councillor Jim Stephenson, Parish Council Clerk, Jim Lowe and 28 parishioners. Councillor Stephenson was able to tell the meeting that the Trustees of the Arden Charities had agreed to make land available for allotments. The Meeting gratefully accepted the offer. A committee was elected to meet with the Trustees and agree terms.

The original committee comprised Mr Dennis Shaw (Chairman), Mr V.Cross (Treasurer), Mrs Heather Ithell (Secretary) and members Peter Fleming, Les Hunt, Bob Sollars, Ten Southey and Albert Waterfield.

The committee viewed the proposed land of 1.87 acres (the field next to the car park of the Squirrel Inn) on Sunday 20th April to check access and soil. They then met with the Trustees of the Arden Charities, together with their Land Agent, Mr Cattell, on 1st May, again at the Village School. In order to complete a Lease Agreement, the Committee, with the exception of the Treasurer and Secretary, were nominated as

Trustees.

The first Annual General Meeting was held at the Bell Inn on 23rd September 1975 to bring members up to date with proceedings, agree a set of Rules of Conduct and complete a draw for plots; a total of 15 full plots and 20 half size plots. All members expressed themselves as satisfied. The plots were marked out and handed over to members on 8th October 1975.

During the first year, agreement was reached with the Kidderminster Brewery Co Ltd and the Association, for a direct water pipe to be laid across the Squirrel car park to the allotments. Planning permission was also obtained from Bridgnorth District Council in July 1979 for two screened and painted ex bread vans to be located on the allotments for storage of members' tools and supplies.

The first Annual Produce Show was held at the Bell Inn on Saturday 4th September 1976, followed by a prize giving social in the evening. The judges for the first event were the Vicar, Mr Broadhurst, Councillor Stephenson and Mr Williamson. There were 20 classes, 17 competitors giving a total of 83 exhibits. The Arden Charities have provided a trophy for the best kept plot/half plot since 1977. The Show itself moved to the Village Hall in 1978 and has been held there annually ever since. It was also opened up to anyone living and growing produce within the parish boundaries. The Alveley WI and Arden Allotments Association have successfully held joint shows since 1995, although the WI have reluctantly decided on a biennial joint event in future. Show entries for 1997 were 174. With the closure of the Bell Inn at the end of 1995, Committee Meetings and socials have been held at the Three Horseshoes Inn.

Over the years, regular working parties have carried out general maintenance of the paths and hedgerows. Mowers were brought with Association funds to help keep common areas tidy.

Additional benefits to members have included annual bulk seed orders offering small discounts from Dobies and Riddleys Seed Merchants. Coach outings have been arranged, when asked for, to various places of interest, for example the Shrewsbury Flower Show. Spring and Autumn social events with illustrated lectures on a variety of country/garden topics have also helped to keep the Association going.

In Autumn 1997, the Arden Allotment Association has 18 members and 24 associate members. They come in a variety of ages and from all walks of life, all with a common interest in gardening. Committee meetings are open to all members who are welcome to voice their opinions and ideas. Current officers are Bill Watkins (Chairman), Alan Oxlade (Vice Chairman), Paul Harris (Treasurer), Les Sherlock (Show Secretary), Heather Ithell (Minutes Secretary) and Betty Oxlade (Seed Secretary).

Fire at Bowhills

The following is taken from the Bridgnorth Journal of May 1985 - it appeared under the column "Peeps in the Past - from the Bridgnorth Journal of 75 years ago".

Destructive Farm Fire near Bridgnorth.

On Tuesday morning a fire was discovered in a Dutch Barn at the Bowhills, Alveley, Near Bridgnorth.

Mr Lewis, the tenant of the farm, rode into Bridgnorth with the intention of asking the Fire Brigade to attend but, when near the Fox Inn, Low Town, the horse came down and badly cut its brisket.

A young man named Norman Wiggin, in the employ of Mr J.J.Higgs, butcher, was coming along with a horse and undertook to go on to the Fire Station to give the alarm, which he did at six o'clock.

Mr William, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, informed him that as Mr Lewis was not on the list of subscribers, the Brigade could not attend. Mr Lewis arrived at the Fire Station a few minutes later and, on learning that the Brigade could not attend, he saw Mr C.H.Deighton, Superintendent, who rang up the Stourbridge Fire Brigade, and they attended with their steamer.

The fire was in a substantial and comparatively new Dutch barn, which contained a rick of some 40 to 50 tons of hay, the produce of 18 acres of oats and 8 acres of peas, all of which were destroyed and the barn wrecked.

The Stourbridge Fire Brigade, on arrival, got to work to prevent the fire extending to the buildings (which are close up to the barn at the end where the hay was stacked) and to the ricks in the rickyard. This they were fortunate in being able to do, but the fire had so great a hold on the barn that it was quite impossible to save anything there.

We understand that the produce was insured with the Alliance Office, but that the barn, which the tenant had erected only a year ago, was not. The total damage is roughly estimated at £500.

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Memories of Alveley

by Marjorie Rivers (nee Elcock)

Marjorie Rivers was born at Shatterford in one of the houses next to the "Bellmans Cross", her uncle and other members of the Elcock family lived in Turley Green. In the following article, she recalls her visits to Alveley which seem to be very happy days.....

As the senior years increase, one tends to think of one's youth in rosier tints! When I look back, I recall the happy days I spent at Alveley. When my aunt had a holiday break, I would go to Turley Green to keep my grandmother company. Various little anecdotes come to mind - picking button mushrooms in the meadow near the house and then having them poached in milk for my tea - looking for a lost cow, which we never found, although our steps took us up Astley Bank - coming down the lane past Pennycroft after a Whist Drive and Dance in the school, and hearing the clock strike 4.00am.

At Christmas time, we always went to Turley Green. Before there were any buses doing the journey from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth and back, father used to hire a pony and float for the transport. Although it was winter time, and one could expect bad weather, I never remember having to use the umbrella cover. Boxing Day saw us all gathered around the table, various grandchildren making up the number. The meat was always a round of beef, but the cooking was too rare for my liking. Plum pudding and mince pies followed, with eager eyes looking for a silver sixpence in the pudding. If one were unlucky the first time round, then it was a case of stuffing down another helping. In the afternoon, we adjourned to the sitting room and played cards. If we were feeling in a betting mood, we used Indian corn for money. Woe betide if Boxing Day fell on a Sunday - definitely no card playing. I remember my maternal grandfather would not allow us even to sing songs on Sundays. It had to be hymns only.

During the summer there was a Sports Day, although I am not sure in which field it was held. There were contests for prizes, naming the number of currants in a home-made cake, planting a stake in a given plot to locate treasure, and transferring dried peas from one jar to another with two pencils.

I could relate a little episode which happened in the parish of Alveley. I had occasion to call on an elderly lady who had a dog. The dog was similar in looks to the lurcher dogs the gypsies trailed under their caravans. This day, he was tethered by a long piece of rope to a post by the door. I looked at his guilty,

dejected stance and wondered at the reason for it. Apparently, he had been very disobedient and had been chasing sheep and lambs in a nearby field. He followed his mistress and me down the garden path and when we reached the gate, she turned to me and said those memorable words: "He has been a very naughty dog. You can't larn him, he won't be teached". And then I went.

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Property Auction

The following article, taken from the "Kidderminster Times", dated Saturday October 14th 1933, was researched by Margaret Sheridan and gives an insight into the property world before the war.

ALVELEY Property Sale:

Mr G.Herbert Banks of Kidderminster, conducted a sale of properties situate in the village of Alveley on Monday, at the Squirrel Hotel. Considerable local interest was evinced in the sale and there was a large attendance and all the lots were disposed of at satisfactory prices. A pair of cottages, No's 40 - 41 The Orchard, producing rentals of £23.8s, including rates, were withdrawn at £295, but were afterwards disposed of to Mr T.Webster; a similar pair of cottages, No's 42 - 43 The Orchard, producing rentals of £22.2s, including rates, were purchased by one of the tenants (Mr W.Painter) for £315; a detached cottage known as Orchard Cottage, let at £12.7s, including rates, realised £255, to Mr T.Webster; a cottage known as No 36 Alveley, after numerous bids, went to the tenant (Mr P.Morris) at £130; The Grove House, Alveley, offered by order of the Trustees of John Groves' Pension Charity and comprising a commodious Queen Anne type residence, situate in the centre of the village, was knocked down to Mr T.Webster for £400. Messrs Ivens, Morton and Morton of Kidderminster were the solicitors concerned for Lots 1-4 and Messrs Marcy, Hemingway and Sons, Bewdley, for Lot 5.

Antiques Roadshow, BBC 1

Sunday 8th November 1998 at Bletchley Leisure Centre

THE "SHROPSHIRE" TABLE

..... actually the Creswell (Romsley) Table

The Lady on the television was Suzanne (b.1951), daughter of Ruth Ela Thomas, nee Roberts (b.1912), Grand-daughter of Doris Nancy Creswell (b.1889).

John Hubert Creswell (b.1882), Katherine Frances Creswell (b.1885), Doris Nancy Creswell (b.1889) were the children of Zephaniah and Emma (nee Harley) Creswell who lived at one time in Romsley and at their deaths in 1903 and 1928 respectively at Grove House in Alveley (The Squirrel 1891 - 1895).

Relevant family tree details showing possible ownership:

John Creswell (born c.1700) came from Clent to live at The Bowhills, Romsley in 1744 - SON.

Stephens Creswell (b.1731) (d.5/10/1801 in Romsley), married Mary Green, Barratts Farm, Alveley and lived at The Hall, Romsley - SON.

Abraham Stephens Creswell (b.9/7/1771) (d.23/9/1854 at Cross Farm, Romsley), married Keziah Hughes.

SONS: Ezekial (b.28/3/1805) (d.29/8/1875) - bachelor - lived at Pool House Farm, Romsley; and

Stephens (b.4/2/1807) (d.24/12/1977) - lived at Lower House, Dodds Meadow, Alveley and married Priscilla Griffiths of Arley.

Their SONS were: John (b.1845 / d.1916) at the Firs, Romsley and Romsley House, Bewdley, who had NO CHILDREN.

Stephens (b.1849); and Zephaniah (b.22/3/1854) (d.6/4/1903) who married Emma Harley (b.12/2/1857) (d.16/3/1928) [see above].

The table was left by Zephaniah's brother, John Cresswell and his wife (who had no children) and who lived at The Firs, Romsley, and also at Romsley House, Bewdley, to his niece, Doris Nancy (married Charles Reginald Roberts). Other items such as an oak chest, a grandfather clock etc, are also still with the family.

The table was thought to have been in Romsley and the District until 1916, then went firstly to the Potteries until 1921 and then to Hill Top Farm, Yarlet (a hamlet between Stafford and Stone) and was left to Ela upon the death of her mother in 1952, although remaining at her father's property until his death on January 12th 1970, when it was taken to London.

The table, which had been handed down through the Cresswell generations, was thought by the family to be a refectory table, but the Antiques Roadshow "expert" said it was not and described it as a long board oak dining table c. 1700. It had a loose top and was probably used on both sides - the rougher side for preparing food and then turned over to eat from the other polished side and when not in use.

The front and sides of the table only had 'Norman arch' carvings and vines and he said it would have been made between 1650 and 1720. He said that it would have been situated up against the long wall of the kitchen with the frontal carving facing outwards, so that visitors would see that aspect of the table. The family would probably have sat along the back of the table on a long wooden bench probably fixed to the wall. The table itself is nearly 6 ft long with slender column legs.

Ela Thomas gave it to her daughter many years ago for safe keeping as her flat was unsuitable for such a large table. Ela Thomas is a (long distance) paid up member of the Alveley Historical Society.

The Antiques Roadshow "expert" suggested an insurance value of a minimum of £10,000!!!

Early Councillors of Alveley

(continued from last Transactions)

Following the first ten years in the last issue, this is the next ten years of the true record of the Gentlemen elected on the Alveley Parish Council.

Minutes of the annual assembly of the Parish meeting held at the (old) School room, Alveley, on Monday the 7th day of March 1904.

Mr Cross proposed and Mr Morris seconded that Mr G.B.Clark be appointed Chairman of the Meeting, carried unanimously.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Mr John Cresswell laid a statement of accounts of the Charities of Arthur Arden and others, for the year ending December 31st 1903 before the meeting.

The following persons were nominated as candidates:

1. Charles Massey	26 votes	8. Rev J.F.Gatliff	16 votes
2. William Elcock	25 votes	9. H.Halford	14 votes
3. William Webb	24 votes	10. R.Morris	12 votes
4. John Haycox	23 votes	11. W.Cross	11 votes
5. Herbert E.Monk	20 votes	12. J.Jennings	11 votes
6. E.M.Wakeman	18 votes	13. J.H.Nichalls	11 votes
7. Thomas Wilkes	18 votes	14. H.G.Meredith	9 votes

The first nine candidates were declared elected. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman for presiding.

22nd April 1905 E.M.Wakeman, Chairma

Minutes of the annual assembly of the Parish meeting held in the School room, Alveley, the 22nd day of April 1905.

Present: E.M.Wakeman Esq, in the Chair; Rev J.F.Gatliff; Messrs W.Webb, H.E.Monk, T.Wilkes, C.Massey and John Cresswell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.
The chairman laid a statement of accounts of Charities of Arthur Arden and others for the year ending December 1904 before the meeting.

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Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held at the School Room, Alveley, on Monday the 4th day of March 1907.

The Rev J.F.Gatliff proposed and Mr Morris seconded that Mr G.B.Clark be appointed chairman of the meeting, carried unanimously.

Mr H.G.Meredith proposed and Mr R.Elcock seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Parish Councillors which was carried unanimously.

The following persons were nominated as candidates for the Parish Council and declared duly elected.

Elcock William	Turley Green, Alveley	88 votes
Evans Ernest Lloyd	Bell Inn, Alveley	78 votes
Morris Richard	Dumballs, Alveley	86 votes
Massey Charles	Alveley	74 votes
Monk Herbert	Yewhurst, Alveley	63 votes
Nicholls J.Harold	Pool Hall, Alveley	87 votes
Roden Henry	Lodge Farm, Coton, Six Ashes	80 votes
Wakeman Edward Malhby	Coton Hall, Six Ashes	84 votes
Wilkes Thomas	Alveley	69 votes
Link William		16 votes (not elected)
Halford J.H.		1 vote (not elected)

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 22nd April 1908.

Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held in the School room, Alveley, the 22nd day of April 1908.

Parochial Electors present: E.M.Wakeman Esq in the Chair, Mr C.Massey, Mr H.E.Monk, Mr C.H.Roden, Mr T.Wilkes, Mr E.L.Evans, Mr W.Elcock, Mr Morris and Mr John Cresswell.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The Chairman laid a statement of accounts of the Charities of Arthur Arden and others for the year ending December 31st 1907 before the meeting.

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 16th April, 1909

The Annual Assembly in 1906 must not have taken place and 1905 minutes not signed.

Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held in the School room, Alveley, the 16th day of April 1909.

Parochial Electors present: E.M.Wakeman Esq in the Chair, Messrs R.Morris, T.Wilkes, C.H.Roden, C.Massey, and John Cresswell.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The Chairman laid a statement of accounts of the Charities of Arthur Arden and others for the year ending December 31st 1908 before the meeting.

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 12th March, 1910

Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held at the School room, Alveley, on Monday the 14th day of March 1910.

Mr John R.Clark was unanimously appointed Chairman of the meeting.

Mr Wakeman proposed and Mr Cross seconded a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the meeting and the same was passed unanimously.

The following persons were nominated as candidates for election on the Parish Council, the first nine being declared duly elected:

Evans Ernest Lloyd	69 votes
Elcock William	49 votes
Wakeman Edward Malhby	67 votes
Monk Herbert E.	48 votes
Massey Charles	63 votes
Gatliff Rev John Francis	30 votes
Webb William	57 votes
Parry Thomas	27 votes
Wilkes Thomas	57 votes
France William	24 votes
Morris Richard	54 votes
Parry Alfred	16 votes
Roden Charles Henry	51 votes

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 19th April 1911

Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held in the School room, Alveley, the 19th day of April 1911.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The chairman (E.M.Wakeman Esq) laid a statement of accounts of Arthur Arden and others before the meeting December 31st 1910.

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 15th April 1912

Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held in the School room, Alveley, on the 15th day of April 1912.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

The Chairman (E.M.Wakeman Esq) laid a statement of accounts of Charities of Arthur Arden and others before the meeting for the year ending December 31st 1911.

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 17th March 1913

Minutes of the "Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting" held at the School room, Alveley, on Monday the 17th day of March 1913.

Mr John Robert Clark was unanimously appointed Chairman of the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

Mr Wakeman laid a statement of accounts of the Charities of Arthur Arden and others for the year ending December 31st 1912 before the meeting.

The following persons were duly elected as Parish Councillors for the Parish of Alveley:

W.Cross	Astley House
C.H.Roden	Lodge Farm, Tuck Hill
A.W.Ellis	Pool Hall
E.M.Wakeman	Coton Hall
W.Link	Alveley
W.Webb	The Hadleys
C.Massey	Alveley
T.Wilkes	Alveley
H.E.Monk	Yewhurst

Mr Wakeman proposed and Mr Cross seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the meeting and the same was passed unanimously.

E.M.Wakeman, Chairman 15th April 1914

The Parish Magazine for the Rural Deanery of Bridgnorth

May 1929

The following "Alveley PCC" article is an extract from the above magazine printed some 70 years ago. The Society is grateful to Bill Inkson of Bridgnorth for his assistance in bringing this magazine to the attention of the Society.

THE ALVELEY PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL

Statement of Account for the Half Year ended 30th April 1929

RECEIPTS

		£	s	d
1928				
Nov 1	By Balance (cr) at Barclays Bank Ltd	49	16	6
1929				
Apl 30	Amount of Church Collections for Half-year (including one year's rent of Bell Field) less sundry Cash payments	22	16	8
Apl 30	Proceeds of Whist Drive held in aid of the Church on 26th Dec 1928.	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>85</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>

PAYMENTS

1928				
Nov 9	Mrs S.Scriven, Cleaning Church from Sept 30 to Oct 28	1	0	0
Dec 6	Cheque Book		5	0
Dec 14	Mrs Jackson (per E.Scriven) Cleaning Church		12	0
Dec 21	T.Scriven, Lighting Fires etc		1	4
Dec 31	R.Clark, Bread for the year to 1st Ult		3	0
1929				
Jan 11	T.Scriven, Fires and Work	1	16	0
Jan 18	A.Hunt, Organ Blowing		0	7
Jan 18	Evensons (Coal) Ltd, Coal and Coke,			
Nov 1 & 2 1928		4	9	7
Jan 21	R.Wise, Lamps, Wick, Vessels, Glasses	6	8	6
Jan 25	J.Weppell & Co Ltd, 6 Lamp Chimneys		0	5
Jan 28	J.A.Clark, Oil and Brush and Stail		3	8
Jan 28	Camp Coffee for Whist Drive		0	1
Feb 7	G.Howells, Organist Salary, quarter ended 27th Ult	5	0	0
Feb 15	T.Scriven, Fires, 5 weeks and getting in coal	1	2	0
Feb 25	Nicholson & Co, Worcs, Tuning Organ, March 8, 1928	1	18	6
Feb 20	Mowbray & Co, Oxford, Candles etc	1	14	0
Mar 15	J.Baldwin, General Smith, 2 new Grates etc	1	0	0
Mar 15	A.Hunt, Organ Blowing		0	8
Mar 18	R.Wise, Rope for Church Clock, Brooms etc	1	6	3
Mar 19	T.Scriven, lighting fires etc	1	0	0
Mar 26	T.A.Shepherd, Salary as Organist to Oct 1928	4	13	4
Mar 30	Evensons (Coal) Ltd, Coal, 1st Feb 1929	2	3	11
Apl 3	E.Link, Winding Clock 1st Aug 1928 - Jan 31st 1929		1	0
Apl 4	T.Scriven, Work in Churchyard	1	0	0
Apl 6	Rev Easten, Laundry, Oil and Sundries	1	14	0
Apl 6	S.Humphries, General Repairs and Cleaning	1	18	6
Apl 6	Mowbray & Co Ltd, Oxford		3	9
Apl 6	A.Scriven, 4 months' Lighting Lamps			

	to Jan 23rd 1929	13 4
Apl 30	Balance (cr) at Barclays Bank Ltd	<u>35 19 8</u>
		<u>85 13 2</u>

Memories from the Highley/Alveley Pit

During the Second World War, when many men were called up, mining was one of several reserved occupations. Churchill made Welshman Aneurin Bevin Minister of Labour - Bevin recruited workers for the factories and stepped up coal production with his conscripted "Bevin Boys".

Extract from "The Shropshire Magazine" October 1950:

The "Coal Frog" A Bevin Boy at Alveley's "Wonder Pit" by Geoffrey Williams

"They called me "the Coal Frog". It wasn't a bad nickname either. Anyone who saw me crawling along a coal face three feet six inches high would agree that I wasn't exactly the picture of agility.

It was by no means easy for me, a youth of eighteen, not used to manual work, to adapt myself to life in Shropshire's "Wonder Pit" at Alveley near Bridgnorth, where I was sent by Mr Bevin. Looking back, however, I find I had some quite good fun and interesting experiences from three years of a mole's eye view of Shropshire and Shropshire men.

Alveley is an up to date pit. It's miners mostly from the twin villages of Highley and Alveley, but including a sprinkling of men from the Clee Hill and Bridgnorth districts, broke several output records while I was there, in the days when coal was more news than it is now.

It gives me a sense of pride to feel that I played some small, though not very distinguished, part in "Keeping the home fires burning". I did a variety of different jobs down the pit, but such a poor showing did I make at most of them that I was kept at none of them long. It was on this work that I got my nickname. After holes have been bored in the coal face with a machine known as a "tadger" in readiness for shotfiring, a peculiar gurgling noise comes from them, by subterranean water. I asked in my ignorance what the sound was, and was told it was made by a coal frog. I peered into one of the holes and it was immediately assumed I was looking for this mythical animal. Soon the whole coal face was echoing with Shropshire laughter. I had been christened "The Coal Frog".

Such was my acquaintance with that innate sense of humour possessed by Salopians, which was frequently called on to brighten the austerity of life underground.

The tale was often told at Alveley and probably still is, of the collier who went to London and was asked if he went to Buckingham Palace. "No" was the reply "but I saw the balcony they comes out on y'know".

One morning I was on the coal face at 9.00am when there was a heavy fall of "muck" from the roof. We just scrambled clear in time. " A lorry going over the new road" said one collier "or the gaffer getting out of bed" continued his mate.

The peculiar Shropshire slang words I learnt during my stay at Alveley would fill a small dictionary. "Surry!" a kind of exclamation was the most common, while another unusual word was "muzzuck" which I believe means chin. My head became a "yud" a field "a fild", while posts were always referred to as "posties" with a silent "t". "Ow bist" were the words we used to greet each other with in the morning,

while the time for knocking off has been known for generations as "loose it". Everybody in the pit uses these words and by the time I left Alveley, I, a son of Worcestershire, had acquired quite a Shropshire accent.

The above are just a few odd recollections of the time I spent in this little Shropshire Pit - no collier ever refers to them as "mines". Although in many ways it seemed like a sentence of three years hard labour to me, I don't feel any the worse for it. There's a spirit of comradeship among colliers, Shropshire one's especially."

A Tunnel System at Hampton Loade Forge - by David Poyner

At the end of the Eighteenth Century, two iron forges were established at Eardington and Hampton Loade on the River Severn between Bridgnorth and Highley. Their histories have been documented previously⁽¹⁾. The Eardington Forges are known for, amongst other things, being linked by an underground canal⁽²⁾ and this was explored by the club in the 1960's. Hampton Loade Forge (SO 748864) was built in about 1796 on or close to the site of a mid-Seventeenth Century blast furnace⁽³⁾. It was equipped with both a steam engine and a water wheel. In the 1820's a short-lived tinworks was established on the site. The forge closed in 1866. the industrial archaeology of the site has not been studied in any great detail. Although much of the works was demolished at the end of this century, a group of houses remain and the area forms a small hamlet. In may this year, the Alveley Historical Society visited the forge site. During the course of this visit, the group (of which I was part) was shown the entrance to a tunnel. The tunnel is only known to those who have lived locally, as far as I am aware. With the permission of the landowners, I was able to return in June to explore it in more detail.

The forge at Hampton Loade has two ponds, an upper and a lower pond (fig 1). Both of these are now drained. The mouth of the tunnel is beside what was the lower pond and it heads in the direction of the upper pond. It is set into a steep bank. At present, the entrance to the tunnel is underneath a tree root, there is a stone retaining wall on the east side which is about 6 feet long. The tree root makes it difficult to say what was the original arrangement at the tunnel mouth. Once in the bank itself, the tunnel is in good condition. It is made of sandstone blocks and is shaped like an inverted U, 5ft wide and 4 ft high (fig 2). It stretches for about 50 ft approximately, due north until it is blocked by a fall. About 18 feet from the entrance there is a branch tunnel, heading NNW. This is of the same profile but is made of brick and is 4ft wide and 2ft 6ins high. After about 40 ft this is also blocked by a fall, although just before this point it seems to be swinging round to go in a more northerly direction. The floor of both tunnels is covered with several inches of silt but it is possible to see that at least in the smaller tunnel there are tiles or plates about ¾ inch thick which actually form the true floor. At several places in the smaller of the tunnels, bricks are missing from the bottom course to create openings that look like drains; in the middle of the small tunnel these are either side of a slot in the floor where there is a gap about 6" wide between the plates. Close to this there is an iron nail and towards the end of the small tunnel, are several large pieces of clinker and slag. Both tunnels are approximately driven on the horizontal.

The functions of the tunnels are mysterious. It is not clear whether they were built together. The small brick tunnel must date from the time of the forge and it is reasonable to assume the larger tunnel was also built for the forge rather than the blast furnace 150 years earlier. Given the alignment of the large tunnel, it seems reasonable to think that it might have carried water from the upper to the lower pool, presumably connecting with a short shaft that is now not visible. Quite why this would be preferred to a more conventional overflow channel is unclear. If the large tunnel carried water, so must the smaller tunnel. Presumably the "drainage" holes must have been blocked up, the slot in the floor might have held a balk of timber. The small tunnel seems to be heading in the direction of the forge complex itself. Perhaps it was built for water conservation? It is possible that water from the upper pond was sent to the forge for some purpose and then redirected to the lower pool. It seems likely that it was the outlet from the lower

pond that drove the water wheel that is known to have existed at the site. It would have been important to ensure that the lower pond always had enough water to drive the wheel.

There are many unanswered questions about the Hampton Loade tunnels. A careful survey would be very useful to establish their exact alignments and gradients (ie which way would water flow in the small tunnel!). A good set of accounts for Hampton Loade survives (or did in the 1960's) covering the 1820's onwards, and this might also give clues as to their function.

I would like to thank Joyce and Bing Cooper of the Alveley Historical Society for showing me the site and drawing my attention to the tunnels and Mr and Mrs Ibberson for allowing me to explore these.

References:

- (1) Mutton, N. The Forges at Hampton Loade and Eardington, Trans Shrops Arch Soc, 58, 1965-8, 84-88.
 - (2) Mutton, N. Eardington Forges and Canal Tunnel, Industrial Archaeology, 7, 1970, 53-9.
 - (3) Herefordshire Record Office, Foley Collection, E12/VI.KAc/161, 162. I am grateful to Peter King for drawing my attention to the existence of a charcoal blast furnace at Hampton Loade and to the above references.
- (See also "Images of Alveley" 1999, pages 134 and 135.)

The Wordsley Brewery - by David Cox

On 12th October 1858, an Indenture of Conveyance between Samuel Parrish, Edward Oakes and Henry Herbert, marked the beginning of the business concern that came to be known as the Wordsley Brewery. Of these three individuals, it is Edward Oakes who played the major part in the story. He was born in 1820, the son of Edward Oakes Senior, who was a victualler. Edward Junior seems to have tried his hand at several business concerns before becoming a brewer, he is listed in the 1841 census as an iron merchant and, according to his bankruptcy examination in 1985, he had prospered to the tune of some £1,800 in this occupation. He also dabbled in the corn trade and had later unsuccessful dealings with relative in the colliery business.

In 1858, he erected a brewery complex toward the bottom of what is now Brierley Hill Road (formerly known as Moor Street and later as Brewery Street), the main building perhaps being better known to locals as the Olympia Cinema - which apparently retained its foundation stone inscription until its demolition - but more of this anon. The size or capacity of the brewery is unfortunately not recorded, but it was unlikely to have been very large; in the 1851 Census, 70% of brewery owners employed less than 10 men. The Oakes family lived in a large house fronting onto Brierley Hill Road, immediately below the brewery. In the January 1871 edition of the Brierley Hill Advertiser, the following advertisement appeared: "Wanted - a good General Servant - apply Mrs Edward Oakes, Wordsley Brewery". Such a servant would have considered themselves fortunate to earn about 5s (25p) per week, with free board and lodging. In 1873, Edward Oakes is listed as "Brewer and Maltster" in White's Directory.

By 1874, the brewery appears to have been thriving, Edward having placed an advertisement in the Advertiser calling the public's attention to "the numerous alterations necessary for the extension and enlarging of the Brewery." A 100 foot well had been sunk by this time to provide a suitable supply of brewing water and Edward made clear that the water so obtained was pure and uncontaminated; he proudly informed the readers of the Advertiser that the County Analyst had found the well water to be "free from any deleterious contaminants". The County Express of 13th February 1875 carried in its

District Intelligence column a brief description of the brewery and stated that it was capable of brewing "with ease 600 bushels (4,800 gallons) of malt per week."

Edward's business seems to have prospered throughout the 1870's as well it might; beer drinking reached an all time national high in 1876, with a consumption of 34 gallons per capita (compared to present per capita consumption of c.23 gallons). The brewery is mentioned in Mark & Moody's Directory of 1885 where it is called the Lion Brewery (two stone lions apparently being located on the parapet of the main brewery building). By this time, the brewery was also producing "mineral water" - what we would now call fizzy drinks - either as a result of the increasing growth of the temperance movement or possibly because of uncertainty concerning the purity of the public water supply. However, this latter explanation seems unlikely for two reasons; firstly, a report to the Local Government Board on Sanitary Conditions in Staffordshire and Worcestershire in 1887 stated that Stourbridge had "a Public Supply good and constant at 95% of houses" - this compared very well with the rest of the county. Secondly, in an article in an 1894 publication, A Descriptive Account of Stourbridge, the mineral water is recorded as being supplied by the Stourbridge Water Works.

By c.1890, however, Edward appears to have suffered serious financial difficulties, the brewery was mortgaged to a Mr Collis who owned a long-established wine merchants in Stourbridge. On Tuesday 24th April 1895, Edward Oakes filed for bankruptcy at Stourbridge Court with debts of £114 1s 9d. In a report in the County Express (April 27th 1895), he had previously refused an offer of £7,000 for the brewery and had also suffered £1,000 worth of "acid ale" due to poor brewing. His mineral water business had also lost £1,000. The brewery re-emerged in the mid 1890's under new ownership and seemed initially to have undergone a new lease of life. The aforementioned Descriptive Account of Stourbridge paints a rosy view of the brewery (the article in fact reads like an extended advertisement and was possibly financed by the Brewery Company itself). It describes the newly re-equipped brewery as being built on the "most advanced modern lines" and at the forefront of brewing technology. It also gives us a good picture of the layout of a late nineteenth century brewery, describing the scene as "a quaint blending of pastoral and industrial life, for in the fields between the church and the brewery buildings well-conditioned horses and aldermanic pigs were enjoying life and taking things very comfortably". Horses were obviously vital in the pre-Internal Combustion Engine age for deliveries, while pigs fed on the used mash grains provided important extra revenue.

The new Wordsley Brewery Co Ltd spared no expense advertising their wares; a two column full length advertisement appeared every month in the County Express throughout 1897. However, within ten years the business had failed and on July 26th 1906, the brewery and its buildings, together with its 29 tied public houses and three malt-houses, were put up for sale. The brewery was taken over by the Hereford and Tredegar Company, but not as a going concern. At an Extraordinary General Meeting in 1908, the brewery was sold to Mr Anthony Bailey, who paid c.£1,250 for the brewery and associated buildings. In the same year, Edward Oakes (who by then lived in Enville) died at the age of 88.

Mr Bailey's contribution to the history of the Wordsley Brewery and Wordsley as a whole, is more fully documented in H.Jack Haden's articles "Wordsley Lymp and its Proprietor" parts I and II in the Spring and Summer 1984 editions of the Blackcountryman. In 1911, he was advertising the sale of bottled beers and mineral water and, on 23rd December 1912, he opened the newly converted main brewery building as the Olympia Picture House. He continued to run the mineral water business until 1919 when he sold it to Bland and Co of Stourbridge. The Olympia continued as a cinema until 1959, with the last film shown being "Maracaibo" starring Cornel Wilde. In May 1969, the building, used as a warehouse, was finally demolished and its 111 year history came to a sad conclusion.

List of Wordsley Brewery Co Properties for Sale July 26th 1906:

Three Furnaces	Brierley Hill	Spring Grove	Stores	Lye
White Chimneys	Lower Gornal	Wheatsheaf	Ironbridge	
Royal Exchange	Kinver	Lion Inn & Brewery	Wordsley	
Beehive Stores	Kidderminster	Pheasant	Kidderminster	
Royal Oak	Alveley	Broadwaters Inn	Kidderminster	
Finger	Alveley	Crown	Iverley	
New Inn	Alveley	Station Inn	Stourbridge	
Red Lion	Netherton	Foster's Arms	Stourbridge	
Rose & Crown*	Wordsley*			
New Inn & Queen's Head	Lower Gornal			
Brinton Arms	Camden			
Bottle & Glass	Buckpool	Junction	Lower Gornal	
Saracen's Head	Bewdley	Vine	Kinver	
Tontine Hotel	Stourport	Sportsman &		
Exchange	Wordsley	Railway Inn	Old Hill	
True Briton	Tipton	Cook's Malthouse	Wordsley	
Talbot	Tipton	Tack Malthouse	Wordsley	
Old Round of Beef	Bilston	Audnam Malthouse	Wordsley	

* Not present day Rose & Crown

Acknowledgements: Brierley Hill Library, Dudley Archives and Local History Service, Stourbridge Library.

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Memories of a Pit Carpenter. - George Poyner

I was born on June 27th 1927 in Highley. My father, Jack Poyner had worked in the mines at Kinlet and Highley since coming out of the army after the First World War. I left Highley school in August 1941 and went for a interview with Mr Chesworth, the chief engineer and Mr Caine, the assistant manager at Alveley Colliery. I wanted to be a carpenter and Dad had asked them about a job just before I left School. They gave me a job in the carpenters' shop. I was lent a saw, hammer and chisel by another carpenter, George Elcock and my first job was making a roller box. This was a wooden box which contained a cast iron roller. This fitted between the rails. In those days the coal was loaded into tubs and these were pulled along the rails by a wire rope attached to a haulage engine. The roller box stopped the rope from dragging on the floor.

In the workshops when I started I remember Harry Latham, a shaftsmen, Alma Honeybourne, Fred James, Fred Guy and Ern James, a sawyer who left after a few months. The colliery manager was Mr Machin who was well respected by most people.

On a Saturday morning the lads in the workshop would catch a train at Highley Station to travel up to Ketley where we would walk up to Walker Technical College, Oakengates. Later a Whittles Bus was laid on for us on Monday afternoons. At the college we were taught mining science by a lecturer called John Smith. We also had a lecture on rope capping by Ted Carrey, the engineer at Madeley Wood Colliery.

When I started, Alveley Colliery was really new. It was sunk in 1935/6 and had only been in full production since 1940. Alveley had nice new brick workshops, offices, a lamproom, winding house and ambulance room. The headframe was made of concrete with a height of 60 feet to the winding wheels and 20 feet above that to a gantry for lifting or changing the wheels. I think the concrete legs were 18" square. The hay shed was built of old bricks from Highley Colliery and Highley Brickyard, which closed in the early 1920s. The garages were built of brick and the doors were made out of the Pitch Pine timber taken from the Kinlet Colliery wooden headframe. They were cut into boards 9" x 1" and hand planed and grooved to make doors 5' wide by 10' high. The garages were used for 2 lorries, a van and two cars belonging to Mr Walley, chairman of the Highley Mining Company.

Also on the surface were the screens. These were where the coal was brought to be sorted and graded according to size. There were two sets of screens. The Peggson Screens were primitive, noisy and dusty and were simply made from sheets of corrugated iron. The coal from these went for landsale; it was taken away in lorries by local coal merchants. There would often be 10 to 12 lorries waiting at the weighbridge at 7.00 in the morning to take slack and nuts (small coal) to Stourport Power Station. The Peggson screens lasted about two years and were replaced by new steel shakers and tipplers.

Most coal was taken in wooden tubs to the Baker Screens on the other side of the river. They were pulled along by a 7/8" wire rope which passed over my roller boxes. The rope went around two sets of wheels to guide it to the screens. The tubs crossed the river by a bridge which was made of concrete. This is still there: a single span. It is a fine construction, completed in June 1937 and designed mainly to carry coal over the river. At the screens the tubs were unhooked from the rope and moved forward automatically by a creeper and retarder. The tension and return wheels for the ropeway were beneath this. The tubs were emptied into the screens and the coal was sorted and eventually loaded into railway trucks.

Horses were used on the surface to take the dirt or stone waste to the tip and the empty tubs from the landsale screens to the pit top. My father looked after the 50 horses underground along with George Price and Job Hammonds. The man in the hay shed was George Wood and every day enough corn and hay for all the horses had to be taken to the pit top.

My first experience underground was when I was 15. I went down with Alan Kelly, a fitter, to drill holes, 1½" diameter into a baulk of timber for a tension screw for a haulage rope.

I usually worked on the surface. I worked with Fred Guy on the canteen making tables and benches. As we were in the war, we had to make black-out curtains for all the windows. The water in the canteen was boiled in two small cast iron boilers and I had the job of chopping sticks to light the fire. We were allowed pork pies every day as part of our ration; the van used to fetch them from Marsh and Baxter's in Kidderminster.

The wooden tubs were repaired in the shop at the pit top by the side of the track, about every 6 months. There would also be 50 new tubs to be made; we were paid piece-work for these, 12 shillings a tub. The carpenters and tub repairers stayed over to make these. The tub repairers were Jim Breakwell, Arthur Mayers, Stan Link and Dennis Mullard.

The colliery was nationalised in 1947 and a lot of changes took place. Mr Machin was promoted to Area General Manager. The manager who followed was Ray Hasbury; he had been a surveyor at Madeley Wood Colliery. He was in his late 20s. The manager's job was an arduous task for one so young but he rapidly gained experience and moved on to become Area General Manager. He came back to Highley in 1994 when we had the pit wheel installed at the colliery site to commemorate all those had worked at the mine from 1878 to 1969.

In 1950 the baths and the new canteen were opened. It was a great asset to the miners as they could shower and go home clean. The baths and canteen were opened by Sir Ben Smith, chairman of the West Midlands Division of the Coal Board. I remember building the stage for the opening ceremony. The canteen was a smart building adjoining the baths. My sister Brenda worked there for a short time; all the family worked at the colliery at this point! Of my brothers, Ray and Des were electricians, Arthur worked underground and Geoff and myself on the surface. Dad was the horsekeeper. I well remember Brenda and mother cutting the snap, sandwiches for 6 hungry miners! I also remember the colliery breaking the record of drawing 1000 tons of coal in a day. Everyone was given a savings certificate of 15 shillings.

The colliery was only about 20 years old when there was a major reconstruction. This was about 1958. The shaft was deepened from 340 yards to 400 yards and a new road was made underground to the coal seams. It was a major undertaking. Boreholes were sunk at Six Ashes, beyond Alveley. It was my job to make boxes to store the cores that came out of the boreholes and then these could be checked to see what strata they were drilling through.

The Staple shaft was another major undertaking when a 15' diameter shaft was sunk underground. This was a pit within a pit; a shaft that connected two underground levels at the colliery. It was an escape shaft; if anything happened to the Alveley winder or shaft the men could go down the staple shaft, get into the old workings and walk underground beneath the river and then up the Highley shafts.

I have not mentioned the Highley Colliery. It was sunk in 1878 and was the first large mine in the village. It was closed for coal winding when Alveley started but the two pits were connected underground. Highley was kept open to serve as an air shaft; air went down the shaft at Alveley, around the workings and then was sucked up the Highley shafts by a fan. After the war the old winder at Highley Colliery was converted to electricity from steam. The boilers were dismantled and the site on which they stood was levelled. Highley had 2 steel headgears about 40 feet high. I well remember painting them with Ken Price. The pulleys were 9 feet in diameter and the winding rope was 11/8" diameter. The cages in the shafts were small and had been made by the pit blacksmith; they were about 6' high and 6' by 3' wide. To stop them swinging about when they went down the shaft there were two guide ropes for each cage. The shafts were enclosed with brickwork and had concrete roofs. This building had to be air tight so the fan would draw the air up the shafts. There were big wooden doors leading to the shafts, about 6' square with a smaller door about 12" square to relieve the pressure so the big door could be opened. Highley had a beautiful winding house with Victorian cast iron window frames. The only remains of Highley Colliery now are the pit offices which have been turned into flats.

I also haven't said anything about Kinlet Pit. This was started in 1893 and closed in 1937. Dad worked at Kinlet before he was transferred to Highley. The winding house still stands, close to the New Road on the Kinlet side of the brook. Alma Honeybourne told me a lot about Kinlet pit whilst we worked in the shops. The wooden headgear was built by a carpenter called Spider Matthews. The winding house took quite a battering when the scrap men moved in to take away the engine. They did not want the winding rope and so they thought they would let it down the shaft. However as more and more rope went down the shaft it gathered speed and it ran away with itself. This caused the winding engine to explode, blowing the roof off the engine house. However the walls are still standing.

I stayed at Alveley pit throughout most of the 1960s. In the late 1960s the Coal Board said that it was unprofitable and decided to close it. I left a few months before the end and after a few weeks at the Star Aluminium I moved to Westpoy Construction where I carried on my trade as a carpenter.

August 1999.

Nineteenth Century Primitive Methodists in Alveley

Colin C Short

Nothing in the eighteenth century ?

Reading the plaque in the gable end of the chapel reveals that this is a mid nineteenth century building erected by the Primitive Methodists, an early nineteenth century separation from the Wesleyans, which in 1932 reunited with them and United Methodism to form the present Methodist Church.

This is the original Methodist chapel in the village, for there was neither a Wesleyan chapel, nor as far as we can tell, a Wesleyan society here; John Wesley and his preachers passed us by in the eighteenth century - in John's case, literally. On many occasions in the middle & later periods of his ministry, making the annual spring journey from Bristol, he would travel up the Severn Valley, journeying from Worcester often on this side of the river by the turnpike roads through Kidderminster, and on to Bridgnorth, en route to Madeley or Shrewsbury. That route took him away from Alveley to the east, and not through the village.

However on the first of those journeys bro.John did pause in the area. It's Wednesday 15 March 1769. Wesley is on his spring tour, and has left Worcester heading north.

“My horse being lame, and part of the road very bad, I did not reach Mr Lee's, of Coton, till noon. ... His Chaplain had just begun reading prayers; afterwards he desired me to give an exhortation. So I could not take horse till half an hour after one, when I had eight and twenty miles to ride on a lame horse. I came however to Shrewsbury between five and six, and preached to a large and quiet congregation.” (Journal 15 March 1769)

Coton Hall is a couple of miles north east of us, and the private chapel is now in ruins, although there is an 1851 Religious Census return for it.

That casual and peripheral visit is all that eighteenth century Methodism had to do with Alveley; and although we can say, 'Mr Wesley preached here,' it was not in public, and I doubt that we should call Mr Lee, or his Chaplain, Methodists !

Primitive Methodism in the area.

The history of Primitive Methodism in south east Shropshire is not clear. The concise and handy summary in the Victoria County History is very accurate for the north, centre and west of the county, but fails to notice the influences from Worcestershire along the southern county edge. As yet the details of that story have not been uncovered. What is clear is that Kidderminster emerged as the Circuit base for south east Shropshire. Although origins in the town may have been early, it was Hopton Bank (on the east side of Titterstone Clee) that became the head of the Circuit formed in 1825 from Darlaston, the parent Circuit of most West Midlands Primitive Methodism. Kidderminster Circuit separated from Hopton Bank in 1832, and eventually included Highley, Bridgnorth and Kinver as well as Alveley.

Industry and employment in Alveley.

In order for people to live in any area, they have to find work there - and the story of Methodism is often intimately tied up with the work people did, and the migrations they made to find work, both away from, and into an area.

It is no surprise that the oldest industry in Alveley is farming - we still have a farmer in our membership here. With the farming went the corn & flour milling which once flourished here, and other rural trades. We will meet agricultural labourers, a gentleman farmer, a miller and wheelwrights later in this story.

Once too there had been a paper mill, and a brick works, albeit a small one, although it is just possible that this chapel is built of its bricks. Methodists do not seem to have worked in either industry.

Of major importance, both for the village and for this chapel, was the quarrying industry. The quarry to the north of the parish church and another to the south, just over the border in the Worcestershire parish of Upper Arley, were major employers of Alveley men from within the eighteenth century until the end of the nineteenth century at least.

Another industry having its origins in the eighteenth century was iron founding. On this side of the river lay the Hampton Loade ironworks, a forge with some of its accommodation in this parish, and some in Quatt, the next parish north. The works started in 1796, and the Wesleyans had a society there from 1797, the nearest they ever got to Alveley. It ceased when the forge closed in 1826. At some date the forge resumed, but not the Wesleyans, for by 1862 workmen from Hampton Loade ironworks were having a significant input to Methodism here. However that seems to have ceased when the forge closed in 1866, and the skilled workmen moved away.

Two other ironworks of importance in the area, and having some 'people-input' to our story, are both on the other side of the river: Eardington Lower forge, which operated from the late 1770s to 1889, and Eardington Upper forge from the 1780s to approximately 1830.

The industry which lasted until quite recently was coal mining. The earliest pits in the area were on the Highley side of the river, at the Highley ferry at Stanley (where Highley railway station is) - that closed in the 1820s - and at Billingsley (1796 to 1812, and then the 1870s to 1921). Highley pit began in 1879 and survived until 1969, by which time the main hauling and man shaft was here at Alveley, where winding began in 1935. To complete the story, a pit at Kinlet operated from 1892 until the 1930s.

However Alveley was never a pit village. Miners are not very evident in the 1881 census and only really begin to appear in 1891. Just one enters our story in the nineteenth century.

Last but by no means least - because you'll probably hear evidence of it today - we should mention that they were building a railway in the valley in the middle of the nineteenth century, which opened in 1862, the same year as this chapel. There is no connection, for although Primitive Methodism appears to have arrived at Highley with the railway navvies in 1856, it was well established on this side of the river by then.

Methodism in Alveley relates specifically and significantly to three of those industries. At its origins there are quarrymen, soon joined by forgers from Hampton Loade ironworks. Quarrymen and the forgers become the first Trustees of the chapel, but that stage is only reached by the decisive intervention of a gentleman farmer. By the time of the second Trust the forgers have moved on, the quarrymen have ceased to be involved, and the gentleman farmer is joined by men with village trades, and our first collier.

The people and the story

[I'm going to tell the story, without detailed references or quoting my authorities. It's built up from local and national Primitive Methodist documents and publications, the Census data for the village, industrial histories and the Alveley Historical Society Transactions.]

The first Primitive Methodist evangelists - probably ministers - came to the village in 1829, probably from Kidderminster, then in the Hopton Bank Circuit. We know who the ministers were, but very little about them. They came to a village that was then a quarrying village, the Hampton Loade ironworks having closed in 1826, and a village whose only religious presence was St Mary's parish church; the ironworks Wesleyan society had died with the works.

One major quarrying family was the Woods. There are four contemporary Wood males in our story, William, James, Jeffery and George. They were probably brothers although some may have been cousins, with their sister(or cousin)-in-law, Hannah Wood, the widow of an eldest fifth. George and William Wood heard the preaching of the gospel, and they, with William's wife Ann, were converted. In November 1830 a society was formed in the village, meeting at George Wood's home. Among other early converts was a Thomas Williams, who may have worked for the Woods; he remained a member until his death at 66 in 1860.

William Wood became a local preacher, and was joined in that office by his brother/cousin Jeffery. His story though is a little different.

Jeffery Wood was a parish ringer at St Mary's, and was involved in the opposition that was raised against the Primitive Methodist evangelists. However he found that several of his friends, and his brother George, were converted. George constantly urged Jeffery to attend the meetings at George's house, and when in

1833 he eventually did, he too was converted ! He became an enthusiastic Primitive Methodist and in 1839 a local preacher. As a class leader, he led classes at Alveley, at Hampton Loade and on the other side of the river, at Stanley: with no society based at Highley the Stanley class was part of Alveley. The society must have been fairly large at this time. Jeffery Wood died of a stroke in 1869, when he was aged 67 and the senior local preacher in the Kidderminster Circuit.

All these early Primitive Methodists in Alveley were quarrymen and quarry owners. When the forgesmen joined them we don't know for sure, as we can't be certain when the ironworks reopened, but from children's birth places and ages we know that one Hampton Loade forgesman's family arrived in Quatt parish by 1842/3, and another between 1852 and 1856.

The society met in Alveley at the home of George Wood at first, and then at his brother Jeffery's. Unfortunately we don't now where these houses were: the census does not indicate addresses for the village. We do know that they made many attempts to build a chapel, but were always thwarted in their attempts to obtain land.

Time to turn to this plot of land - the allotment garden alongside is also Methodist property. Known as The Patch it had been held by Benjamin Perks, a blacksmith. A whole line of Perks-es, blacksmiths, goes back to the early eighteenth century, and probably before that. Perhaps this land was the site of an early blacksmith's shop. Benjamin Perks' will transferred The Patch to John Wood Perks - there's that Wood name again - who, when he inherited, was a 'gentleman' living at Northampton near Ombersley in Worcestershire. There were quarries of course near Northampton. When Wood Perks inherited The Patch it was occupied by ... Hannah Wood. One would guess that if it had been a blacksmiths it was by then no longer so. John Wood Perks seems to have evicted Hannah, and to have occupied it himself.

One John Higgs was in occupation of the land at some later date. We know that he was the butcher to the landlady of The Three Horse Shoes. Was this land then used for holding beasts for slaughter ? Or even as a slaughterhouse ? Interestingly in 1868 a William Higgs, butcher, had his son baptised with the Primitive Methodists.

Then on 17 January 1845, for £45, John Wood Perks sold The Patch to James Wood, one of our quarrymen brothers/cousins. We're not entirely sure that James Wood was a Methodist, but there is a strong suspicion that he was acting in their interests by buying at this time.

We've now identified the original quarry working Primitive Methodists, and we've noted that the forgesmen joined them. We've revealed the possession of this site, The Patch. We must now turn to the coming of the gentleman farmer.

Michael Fellows was born at Broad Oak, on the Bridgnorth-Enville road, about 3 1/2 miles north east as the crow flies, in 1810. When his father died he moved to Enville with his mother, and there became an elected church warden. His cousins, Harriet and Catherine Fisher, lived in Upper Arley. At some stage Catherine became house keeper to John Bacon at Hall Close, a farm then of 147 acres, about 400yds south of us here. At some point before 1851 Fellows' mother died and he moved to Pool Hall in Alveley, then a farm of some 135 acres, with two labourers, about 1/2mile south east of here. Harriet Fisher moved to become his housekeeper. John Bacon may have been some sort of relative, because in 1852, on Bacon's death, Fellows inherited Hall Close. Harriet moved with him.

In Alveley Fellows continued his attendance at the parish church and here too he was elected church warden. His obituary describes him as scrupulous in his duties.

Harriet however became a Primitive Methodist. One of the still unexplored mysteries of this story is, how, why and when ? - I've not yet found an obituary. She was however a regular attender at the services in Jeffery Wood's cottage.

One Sunday in 1854 Michael Fellows came home from church and complained of feeling 'starved' in the service. Miss Fisher prevailed upon him to attend the meetings at Jeffery Wood's home. He decided to try - and never went back to the parish church, in spite of many inducements and cajolements.

Very soon he began to exert every effort to obtain for the Alveley Primitive Methodists a chapel in which

to worship. Their spirits were down by repeated failures to secure a site, but the advent of Michael Fellows to their fellowship was one important new spur to their effort.

Fellows went on to become Society Steward here, Trustee, Treasurer, Class Leader and a local preacher. He is the only local preacher to appear in the Circuit Baptisms Register Baptising children at Alveley. He never married.

The other spur to getting things going here was the coming to the circuit in 1859 of Rev William Gwillim. Gwillim was a Herefordshire man, born in the Cwm Circuit against the Welsh border in 1817, who began his ministry in 1843. His obituary records him as a chapel builder, and under his guidance in the Kidderminster Circuit new chapels had been opened at Cookley, Clowes Top, Button Oak and Bridgnorth, and the school room at Kidderminster rebuilt; if Alveley were to achieve their chapel, Gwillim was the man to encourage it.

Yet Fellows sealed the effort. He gave Gwillim a pledge that if Alveley built their chapel, he, Fellows, would see it opened free of all debt. Who wouldn't go forward on a pledge like that ?

Thus in December 1862 James Wood conveyed to Michael Fellows and others, 120 square yards of The Patch for £2, to ...

« erect a Meeting House and School for the Primitive Methodist Connexion. »

The conveyance identifies that this is to be held under the terms of the 1830 Primitive Methodist Model Trust Deed. A chapel was in the making !

Actually, by the time the Deed was signed it had been made ! Miss Fisher had laid the foundation stone the July previous, and the opening services had been held on the 19th October. It looks as if the foundation stones are red sandstone blocks taken from the very old wall that forms the boundary to The Patch. Donations on the foundation stone laying day and following the opening services meant that the chapel did open free of debt. This fact brought special mention from the editor of the Primitive Methodist Magazine, who commended the example to the Connexion ! The reported cost was £253/4/6.

The building was essentially as you see it now in the chapel section, without the door to the back. The white stones about the doors and windows and on the corners outside were given by Messrs Wood & Jones - Mr. Jones will appear soon. The bricks may have come from the works in the parish about 2 miles north east of here or from a works at Shatterford to the south, in Worcestershire. The windows are unchanged and probably original glass. The stained glass bull's eye window and the painted glass fanlight were given by Miss Fisher, along with two bronze chandeliers - which have disappeared. Up the centre and hidden below the carpet lie, we believe, 'encaustic tiles of appropriate pattern and colour' donated by Michael Fellows. The red deal forms at the back are probably originals - there have never been pews here. The opening report claimed that those forms 'will accommodate about one hundred and forty.' They must have been smaller in those days. Another original feature is the shelf below the pulpit for the chalice and platen for communion. It seems to have been a fairly common provision in small Primitive Methodist chapels, but in many the advent of a 'communion table' saw the shelf removed; not here, thankfully, although today we do use a table. Originally the heating was provided by 'a handsome ornamental descending stove' - which has gone - the chimney for it can be seen in an early photograph; the word 'descending' seems to relate to the fact that in the floor beneath the carpet are grids with vestiges of some sort of heating system. Around the outside ran cast iron palisading with 'pineapple' bosses - at a venture I'd say the product of Hampton Loade forge - but all that survives is a section devoid of many of its bosses, down the north side.

Nothing was said of any instrument to accompany singing; there probably wasn't one. This organ came second hand from we know not where in 1943. It was 'opened' by a Mrs J.Wood.

This then is an unusual building - in the first place a Methodist chapel opened free of debt ! So unusual that as to merit special mention ! And we note that not only had Alveley acquired a financial sugar daddy; so had the Kidderminster Circuit ! And not only Fellows, but Miss Fisher, and Messrs Wood & Jones, Builders and J & J Wood, Quarrymen, all presumably encouraged by Fellows, become benefactors to the

circuit. Thus in 1863 the Gallowstree Elms chapel - it's a place I have yet to discover - and the Stourport chapel were aided by Miss Fisher. Stourport was also helped by Michael Fellows and J & J Wood, a massive and unmanageable debt being reduced to a level where the money Stourport could raise would be enough to pay off the annual interest payment and have enough over to help reduce the capital debt as well. That is intelligent benevolence.

The building is unusual in a second respect. The Civil Marriages Act of 1836 had instituted the civil marriage, and although until 1898 a Registrar had to be present, it was possible for a local chapel to Register itself for marriages. A small number of Methodist chapels did, often only the largest chapels in a town; few country chapels registered before the end of the century. But Alveley seems to have registered as soon as it was opened: it has the lowest Registration number I have ever seen, 7359; Highley, which registered in 1914, is 21,232. The only other chapel registered in the Kidderminster Primitive Methodist Circuit was the town chapel at Cross Street - and I understand it had a larger Registration number than Alveley. Michael Fellows was wanting to do things properly. He was also attacking the monopoly of the parish church on weddings - but in time the parish church got its own back.

The 'others' who with Michael Fellows comprised the first Trustees were

Jeffrey Wood	quarryman	Alveley
Henry Turley	forgeman	Eardington
David Jones	builder	Alveley
William Humphries	labourer	Chelmarsh
George Wood	quarryman	Alveley
James Wood (the younger)	quarryman	Alveley
William Turley	forgeman	Hampton's Load
John Haywood	mason	Alveley
George Holloway	labourer	Alveley

All these men are relatively local - and here now are the forgemen. We know something about all of them, although in the absence of obituaries we cannot always tell when they became Primitive Methodists.

The quarrymen are still here. James Wood the younger was the son of Jeffery, and born in Alveley in 1832/3. George Wood was probably the George in whose home the services had been held, although by now he had two nephews called George, both of whom were quarrymen and Primitive Methodists. David Jones came from Cardiganshire, but his wife was born here, and his eldest son here in 1845/6. He was a carpenter and partner in a building business with one of the Woods.

We have a Chelmarsh man, Humphries, a labourer - which probably meant he'd do any work going - born in 1820/1, in .. Jamaica; was he perhaps coloured ? His wife was born in Staffordshire. As the others seem to have been part of the Alveley congregation, presumably Humphries was too, which implies that the spasmodic Primitive Methodist society at Chelmarsh had folded again.

Haywood the stone mason was born in Bewdley in 1802/3, his wife was born at Rock, to the west of Bewdley, and his two sons, stone workers, at Ombersley between Kidderminster and Worcester in 1825/6 and 1838/9. They were clearly migrant stone masons who had come to Alveley for work sometime after 1838. Another John Haywood, a labourer, possibly a son of Haywood senior, lived at Arley in 1864 when his daughter was Baptised, and in the village in 1865 & '68 when a son and another daughter were Baptised. A John Haywood - probably this younger man - became a local preacher by 1883, later living at Oldborough near Wolverley and then in Kidderminster.

George Holloway is described here as a labourer. By the time he and his wife Sarah has two daughters (twins ?) baptised in 1869 - by Michael Fellows - he had become a waggoner.

And then there's the pair of forgemen, two Turleys, Henry of Eardington and William of Hampton Loade. Turley is a local name - Turleygreen is a hamlet on the north side of the village - and it's a name not uncommon throughout the west midlands. There are many local Turleys in the censuses.

Our Henry was born in Quatford - the parish that then covered Eardington - in 1822/3, and at the 1861 census he was an Iron Refiner, living at 4, Forge Row, Eardington. Twenty years later the Lower Forge was struggling to survive when the 1881 census came around, and one Henry Turley, born in Eardington, 1821/2, was the ferryman at Hampton Load, and a Primitive Methodist local preacher. It seems possible that the two were the same man.

William was born in Birmingham in 1819/20, with a wife born in Bridgnorth and children born in Wolverhampton, in 1851/2, in Wednesbury in 1852/3 and Quatt from 1855/6. The skills of forgemen were sought be emerging forges, but soon disposed of when forges closed. William had moved away again by the 1871 census -five years after the forge closed.

Other than these bare details, we know little about these Turleys, although by appearing as Trustees they indicate the established presence of the forgemen in the society.

However, checking the names in the register of Primitive Methodist ministers revealed that there were three Primitive Methodist ministers called Turley.

T. Turley (no Christian name) appointed to Wrockwardine Wood 1840 and disappears 1841.

Josiah Turley born Hampton's Load 1845. Appointed to Leighton Buzzard 1868 and dies, Bournemouth 1926.

Thomas James Turley born London 1873 appointed to Bury (after training) 1894 and dies, Southampton 1907.

Clearly at least one of these - Josiah - had to be a member of the society in this village. And fascinating details emerged from the census and his obituary, about Josiah Turley.

He was born in 1845, with a younger brother Alfred two years later, and sisters three years before and four years after, all in Quatt or Quatford or Alveley. An Alfred Turley who in 1869 presented his first son for Baptism could have been Josiah's brother; the forge was closed by then and Alfred was a wheelwright. Their father described himself to the 1861 census as "Iron Refiner and Methodist Local Preacher" - and the census marks Josiah as "ditto"; he was then 15. By the age of 17 he was fully recognised as a local preacher, and early in 1867 at the age of 21 he went to serve as a Hired Local Preacher in the Leighton Buzzard Circuit - how that was arranged is unclear. That same year that circuit sponsored him as a probationer minister, and he went to be trained at Elmfield School at York, one of the first of the few to be trained there. He began his ministry back at Leighton Buzzard in 1868.

It was a long and fruitful ministry, mostly in the London District or the Salisbury & Southampton District, holding senior positions in both Districts, but he never served in the West Midlands District. The Primitive Methodist Magazine described him as if he had all the talents - preacher, pastor, teacher, winner of souls, organiser, administrator, financier - but the Magazine's biographical studies are a bit like 'the lives of the saints'. Yet unless you were good I doubt if you ever featured. His photograph shows him as a thick set man with a square face, a full head of hair still in 1906, and a moustache.

In 1910 Primitive Methodism ended its centenary celebrations by holding its Conference in Tunstall, with meetings on Mow Cop, the site of the original Camp Meeting that kicked off the Primitive Methodist movement. The Conference handbook for the occasion shows Josiah Turley as the third speaker at stand no.1 on the first day of the Camp Meetings, June 18, and two days later as leading the prayers at the Great Centenary Meeting at the Victoria Hall, Hanley. In Primitive Methodism it wasn't really very far from being a local preacher at a small village chapel to being a major speaker at your denomination's centenary meetings.

Josiah continued to work as an active minister until the age of 74 before retiring at Portland, his last circuit, in 1919. He died at Bournemouth in 1926.

His obituary allows us to fill in one link in the chain of Turleys. Thomas James was his first child, born while Josiah was stationed in the London 2nd (Caledonian Road) Circuit. On becoming ill while stationed at Portsmouth in 1906 Thomas moved as a Supernumerary to Southampton, where Josiah was stationed, in the hope that he might recover, but he died at his father's manse in 1907.

That's the link onwards in time; what about the link backwards to the first Turley - T.Turley of 1840 ? This Turley was sponsored as a probationer minister - Primitive Methodist terminology was, 'pledged' - by the Wrockwardine Wood Circuit in 1840, and stationed in that circuit. He was never, 'taken onto the annual list' - i.e. never received out of probation, and therefore he disappears. Interesting that it should be so near to here that it happened, in a circuit that would include forgermen among its occupations, and intriguing that Josiah's father should be called ... Thomas.

Yet I don't think that Thomas-the-father-of-Josiah is actually our T.Turley. All the Josiah Turley pen portraits and obituaries refer to his father as being a local preacher in the Kidderminster Circuit for many years, without any reference to a period as a probationer. There's no evidence he ever had connections with the Wrockwardine Wood Circuit; he was born in Kidderminster, and all his children round here. He stayed in the circuit when Hampton Loade forge closed, moving to Linley, between Bridgnorth and Broseley, but remaining on the Kidderminster Plan. So I think we must rule out that identification.

Yet we've not done with T.Turley, for another Thomas Turley lived in Hampton Loade in 1851, also an Iron Refiner and a Primitive Methodist, for he brought his children to Baptism in the 1850s. I can't tell whether he was related to Josiah's family. He was born at Snedswell - which may be Snedshill, within the compass of the Wrockwardine Wood Circuit - and his wife at Lightmore - definitely within the Wrockwardine Wood Circuit. In 1840 this Thomas would have been 33/4, a little old, but if the census gives us all his children, he was probably not married until 1841. He was fairly mobile, for in 1848/9 he was in Sunderland, in 1851 at Hampton Loade, in 1852 at Quatford, in 1854 at Kinver and by 1861 back at Hampton Loade. The data are suggestive; but there is nothing to prove that this is the T.Turley of 1840, come to live by 1861 in Alveley. The census gives a question mark in the column "Whether blind or deaf & dumb" - which, if he is the probationer minister, may be a reason he did not continue.

These then are the people of the early days of the chapel. We know a little about some others living in Alveley whose children appear in the Baptism Register, although they may not have come to the chapel - Baptisms could be done at home, and Primitive Methodist Baptism Registers do not give us the place of baptism, just the parents 'abode' and the father's occupation - a valuable piece of information though.

James Wood had only sold the area to be occupied by the chapel in 1862, retaining for himself the rest of The Patch. However in 1864 he sold 'the quarter acre known as The Patch' to Miss Fisher for £40. James Wood's net proceeds of sale were less than he had paid for the site, which may reflect an interest in the Primitive Methodist cause. Miss Fisher then held the land for 23 years, until in July 1887 she sold it to Messrs Fellows and others, for £40 - the price she paid - to be held on the new (1864) Primitive Methodist Model Trust Deed. It looks very much as if Miss Fisher had purchased The Patch when it came on the market on the tacit understanding that the local Trustees would buy it as soon as they were able.

The purchase necessitated the creation of the second Trust. This time, alongside Michael Fellows were ...

Charles Massey	blacksmith	Alveley
George Wall	wheelwright	Alveley
John Giles	miller	Alveley
Edward Morris	wheelwright	Alveley
John Haywood	mason	Alveley
John Weale	miner	Alveley
James Frederick Lloyd	grocer	Highley
Thomas Parton	baker	Highley
Alfred Henry Clark	farmer	Kinlet
David Francis	farmer	Upper Arley
George Walker	butcher	Bridgnorth
Samuel Broadhurst	tailor	Kidderminster

Immediately apparent here is the total absence of quarrymen and forgemen. The latter is not unexpected - the forge had closed - but quarrymen still featured in the next census. It seems that the generation of quarrymen who founded the chapel had had their day as its elders. What we have now is typical of the leadership of late nineteenth century village Primitive Methodism in this area: an array of normal village trades - with the single exception of the miner, who appears at a very early date; he typifies the industrial change in the village. Unfortunately no more is known about him, for although he appears on the 1889 Plan as a local preacher living at Alveley, he is in neither the 1881 nor the 1891 census for the village.

Here too are circuit nominees, from outside Alveley, although J.F.Lloyd was later a member here; more of him, and Parton, the other Highley man soon. They and all the nominees were local preachers. Tailor Samuel Broadhurst was Secretary of the Quarterly Meeting, on the Circuit Finance Committee, as well as the Kidderminster Chapel Committee, and butcher George Walker was on the Bridgnorth Chapel Committee: a butcher and a tailor would be typical Primitive Methodist circuit nominees of this period. David Francis lived at Hexton Farm in Upper Arley, which is adjacent to the southern quarry at which Alveley men worked; he may have worshipped here, but there was a slightly closer chapel at Shatterford. Farmer Clark I have been unable to find anything about.

Other than Michael Fellows only one name continues from the 1862 Trust, that of John Haywood, the mason. It seems that by 1887 he was living in Kidderminster, although the Deed has him living in Alveley; perhaps he retained property here - a workshop perhaps.

The two wheelwrights may have been partners, or master and workman: the trade was labour intensive. George Wall was 43 in 1887, born in Billingsley, his wife at Quatford. In 1868/9 a daughter was born at Stottesdon, but all children since 1871/2 were born in Alveley. At the 1881 census he lived at No.33, The Village, and had two apprentices. Edward Morris was a local preacher, 30 in 1887 and born at Romsley. In 1881 he lived at 3, Potters Load with his parents and a two year old daughter but no wife; presumably she had died.

John Giles equally had no wife listed in the 1881 census, but he appears to have been single. His mother acted as his housekeeper at 2, Crow's Mill in 1881, and a brother 20 years his junior lived with them. Giles was born at Middleton Scriven, south west of Bridgnorth, and in 1887 was aged 32.

Charles Massey we knew of already - his memorial plaque is on the north wall of the chapel, and descendants still live in the village. Another is parish clerk, but he lives in Kidderminster and worships at Arley Kings chapel, across the river from Stourport. In 1887 our Massey was 43, and had described himself to the 1881 census as "Blacksmith and Local Preacher". He came from Stottesdon, but his wife was born here, and five children from 1872/3. He too was well enough off to have an apprentice living in, at 3, The Village. In 1894, when the Parish Councils came into existence, Charles Massey was elected as one of the first for the village.

Then we come to the Highley names. In some ways they're the most interesting of the 1887 Trustees. There were Lloyds in Alveley in the middle of the century, and Thomas - a shoemaker - and Mary Lloyd were living successively at Eardington, Eardington Mill, Knowl Sands Quatford, Eardington and Quatford when children were Baptised in the 1840s and 50s. But I've not identified a Baptism entry for J.F.

He appears, living at Highley, as a local preacher already half way up the list on the first Plan we possess for the 1880s, in April 1883. Where he was a member is unclear; at this time there was no society at Highley; most probably it was here. Sometime between March 1884 and December 1886 a society was reborn in Highley, and J.F. emerges as its first Society Steward. By 1891 J.F. ran the Highley village bakery, stores and Post Office - here he is called a grocer - and he was living at the Highley shop. There Thomas Parton was his baker. Parton had become a local preacher by 1889. Thus at the time of the Alveley 1887 Deed we have two Trustees here who are respectable members at Highley.

Yet in the second quarter of 1893 no appointments were made to Highley, and no society Steward is quoted on the Plan. It was later said that "our people withdrew through most unaccountable circumstances." Lloyd had some undefined part in that. Although keeping his business in Highley, he moved across the river to here, where he became Society Steward, and in due course succeeded Michael Fellows. Parton temporarily moved to Kidderminster, returning to Highley when the society resumed in 1896, to become a Trustee. Lloyd never went back to Highley Methodism in any capacity. Oral traditions

in Highley suggest that Lloyd's marriage was 'unusual' - but whatever that means, it is forgotten now. What exactly was happening, I'm not sure and I doubt if we'll ever know. There is no evidence that whatever upset Highley was replicated here.

In 1897 Michael Fellows died, aged 87, and thirteen days after him, Mrs Eliza Leeson, who had been one of Fellows' servants at Pool Hall, and was now the wife of Edward Leeson, a local preacher. Both were buried in the churchyard, but not without controversy, for neither were allowed the rights afforded by the Burials Act of 1880. This Act allowed that the burial of non Anglicans in an Anglican churchyard could be conducted according to their own form of words by their own minister - but that right in law was denied by the vicar of Alveley to Primitive Methodists. Both Fellows and Mrs Leeson were buried in a rather cursory manner to the words of the Book of Common Prayer. Mrs Leeson had specifically requested her own minister conduct her burial, but that request was ignored, and it seems that Michael Fellows was buried without consulting the Methodists - and no one was there ! There was outrage at both happenings. But the parish church had got its own back on the man who denied them the wedding monopoly !

The problem was that the vicar claimed that as the portion of the churchyard within which the burials had to take place was specifically bequeathed for burials according to the rites of the Church of England, the law of 1880 did not apply. He was wrong - but he was the authority in place. Primitive Methodists were routinely refused the right of being buried by their own minister.

It remains an open question as to why they never used the rest of The Patch as their own burial ground. Michael Fellows had been quick off the mark to register the chapel for marriages - and it was easier to open a burial ground. Yet it seems that it never happened. Perhaps it was already being used for something else.

The burial dispute rumbled on into the late 1930s, when eventually the ex Wesleyan Superintendent of the united circuit wrote to the Bishop of Hereford. Where the Primitive Methodists had battered away in vain, a Wesleyan won ! The Bishop ruled according to law - he had to; it had been in place over 50 years ! - and ended the rebellion of Alveley's vicars.

We've exposed the people and their occupations, and the changing social and employment scene in the village through the nineteenth century. We can end the story with the final nineteenth century property development at Alveley Primitive Methodist chapel.

In 1893 a School Room - the lean-to construction behind the pulpit wall - was built on a small section of the land acquired in 1887.

That simple act created a major problem, for it created the interesting phenomenon of one building held on two different, and not entirely compatible, Trust Deeds ! It resulted in the whole property management of the building being on a somewhat dubious basis until, in 1940, the property was put on the new Model Deed of the 1929 Methodist Church Act; the provisions of the 1976 act finally dispelled any remaining doubt.

And it would have been a great pity if, in that intervening period, any problem had arisen to a chapel that had been commended to the Connexion in 1862 as a model of financial stewardship. Mr Fellows would have been very upset !

[Note arising from the discussion of the lecture: the query referred to under the second T.Turley is more likely to reflect the fact that the place of birth, Snedswell, could not be identified.]

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Joint appeal for the preservation of the late 15th Century and 19th Century altar frontals

We are very pleased to report that the appeal has raised a total of approximately £3.000 and another £7,000 has been promised in grants to fund the preservation of the late 15C frontal at different stages of

the work. This will cover the estimated costs of the preservation and restoration of both frontals. The appeal will remain open for the time being because we know there will be other items of expenditure to be covered.

Work on the late 15C frontal will commence in June / July 2000 and be completed by the end of the year. Wendy Toulson an expert conservator will carry out the work.

We have decided to replace all the existing material on the replica frontal and to replace it with new silk stripes of ivory and pink. This involves removing all the existing embroidery from the old material and transferring it to the new strips. A member of the Hereford Embroidery Group, Mrs Joanne Hume has very kindly agreed to carry out the restoration work. The embroidery group is based at Hereford Cathedral.

Mr Gilbert Kilbride, a silk weaver who lives near Abergavenny will be weaving the new silk strips. Gilbert and his wife Wendy have given us very helpful advice on materials, colour and patterns.

The restoration of the replica will also be completed by the end of next year.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council have decided that after preservation the late 15C altar frontal will remain on display in the Church in its existing case. Several modifications have already been made to the case and further changes will be made before it redisplayed.

A member of St Mary's has very generously agreed to pay for a case for the replica which will also remain in the Church. This case is being made so the replica can be easily removed and used on the altar for special occasions.

We are grateful to the Council for the care of churches, The Radcliffe Trust, The Society of Antiquarians and other organizations and the many individuals who have kindly supported our appeal.

We will give a further progress report in next year's " Transactions " .

Bill Pryce.

Members of the Joint Fundraising Committee

- Alveley Historical Society :- Alwyn Potter, Bing & Joyce Cooper, Thelma Maderni, Councillor Tim White.

St Mary's Church:- Rev. Nick Armstrong, Fred & Colleen Brown, Peter & Hilary Fleming, Rev. Bill Pryce.

Memories of Highly Colliery, Alveley Pit - Harry Rudd

Born in 1926. His parents came to Highley when he was two and a half from South Wales. His grand father was originally from the Clee Hill and had walked to Kinlet each day across the fields. His father worked down the mines and part time as a game keeper for Oakley Beddard. Beddard had a shoot involving local solicitors and businessmen. Harry's father reared the pheasants and Harry sometimes acted as a beater. The Rudds lived at 25 Clee View. Harry went to play football on the Hag Leys but Mr.Jones of the Hag did not like this and would shout at the boys "I know who you are, two Wards, two Rudds and a load of Humphries."

Harry left school a week early in 1939 and went to work at Alveley. Mr Caine, the assistant manager, sent Harry back to apologise to Mr Smith the headmaster at Highley for leaving early. On his first day he was

set to work door-trapping. He had no training. He had to sit by a door on the north side of the pit where there was a main and tail haulage, in a manhole. When a load was due, the rope would fly up in the air and he would have to wait for the journey to come and open the door. It was a very lonely job and he hated it. He was eventually put on pony driving, to 32's district. Again he had no training. He took the empty tubs to the face and turned them on their sides so they could be filled and took off the full tubs to the haulage. He had four ponies during his time driving-Jimmy was very lively. Particularly at the end of a shift the ponies would tear back to the stables. He never saw the men he was driving for - they were just shadows. Both the north and south side's of the pit were worked by stalls, with the stallsmen as contractors. The worse stallsmen would not turn up for work for three days at a time but still got paid by the H.M.Co. for the coal.

After driving he moved on to be a switchman, working a conveyor. At this date it was a belt conveyor, not a chain conveyor. The switch gear was placed next to the face. This was wrong as it should have been by the waste. A large lump of coal rode out of the conveyor, crushing Harry and breaking his pelvis. He was not completely crushed because he fell back between two props which took the force of the coal. He was carried out on a stretcher. The overman insisted that he was taken out by the back airway so as not to stop the haulage. The men carrying the stretcher were bent double and their sweat fell onto his face. He was taken to Kidderminster Hospital. When he came out of hospital he was given a light job driving a motor on the south of the pit. This was an endless rope. Although there were plenty of men by him, clipping tubs on, he did not like this, and left in 1945 to go into the forces. The union never told him that he could have got compensation for his accident.

He returned from the forces in 1948 and went back down the pit. By now there was a training programme and eventually a training face was established. He was put to work ripping. He had to make the headings big enough for the gate-end conveyers and the supply roads. He worked with "Joyful," George Jones. They used electric drills and shots to bring down the rock and get up steel arches held together with a single fishplate. They were paid by the yard, with extra for man holes and side packs. The work was measured by the deputy. Backripping was a different job, ripping in the return airway. He then worked as a loader. The pit worked on a three shift cycle, preparation, cutting and coaling. The loaders worked on the coaling shift. First of all they shovelled out the cutter slack onto the conveyor. Then they drilled the face. The shotfirer then brought the coal down. The compressed air bursters were much better than explosives because there was no smoke. The coal was then broken up with ringers and shafts (i.e. picks) and shovelled on to the conveyor. Props were set to hold the roof. Dowty props were much better than wood. Rigid steel props had the same problems as wood - the floor often had to be nicked it so they would fit. Occasionally they needed a pack at the top, unlike wooden props. The coal from each face went onto tubs and the face was chalked onto the tubs. Faces were paid piece rate. There were suspicions that the chalk marks might be altered for the benefit of another face.

Harry also worked as a chainman, dismantling the Panzer conveyors (retarders) on the preparation shift. The drive head would be removed, the top and bottom pans were taken out, the chain rolled up and everything then advanced ready for the next cut. Other men withdrew the timber and reset the props with sylvesters. Packs were also dismantled and rebuilt. Jock Holiday was killed doing this - he went under an unsupported roof and it gave way. Harry never had a job driving the cutters. He remembered Meco Moore cutters. At one point double coal winding was tried but it was more trouble than it was worth. Absenteeism rose considerably and it was abandoned.

Harry was encouraged to be a deputy by a relation. He went to Oakengates to study. He eventually became secretary of NACODS. He would go to regular meetings in the People's Hall in Nottingham, but branch meetings at Highley were poorly attended. On one occasion he was in dispute with Mr.Cossey, the assistant Manager. It had been agreed to make Saturday a coaling shift and Sunday preparation. It was agreed with Mr Wood, the manager, that men would only be used for coaling on the Saturday and nothing

else. However, Harry found out that Mr. Cossey wanted to send men down the pit for maintenance . Harry refused to allow this and the scheme was dropped. Harry sat on the Colliery Consultative Committee and thought this worked well, it allowed men to air their grievances. He was also on the Absenteeism Panel. Absenteeism was generally not bad but there were a number of regular offenders.

Harry thought Widdowson had deliberately run down Alveley. He put the power loaders onto a face that could not be worked properly by hand filling due to the poor state of the roof The coal was very dirty and could not be worked. Harry tried to open out a new face and put on a conveyor but was told by it Widdowson to dismantle it. Harry left in October 1968 and went on a welding course. He much preferred his new working conditions which were considerably easier than at the pit.

Memories of Alveley - Barbara Elizabeth Haner

Your mention of Alveley brought back many fond memories for me as my parents were keen cyclists and we used to cycle out to Turley Green where my father knew a Miss Burrows who kept I think, "The Yews". She used to serve teas for cyclists before World War II and we used to go down there to pick fruit which my mother used to bottle. She had hives and the rich smell of honey from her combs used to permeate the whole house. We would return to the Midlands with saddle bags and panniers loaded down with fruit.

I was born in 1942 so these remain some of my earliest memories especially as I was allowed to play in the hay ricks and it was my job to help Mr Burrows look for eggs. All of her hens were free range. My father would then help with wood cutting and trimming. Eventually she left "The Yews" to move to the stone house which was on the hill and just below the village on the Bridgnorth side of the road. she also had a brother in the village who likewise never married.

My love of antiques, huge bay windows and window seats all stem from this period as Miss Burrows's house was full of all these. Also old crocker pumps as she had one outside for the garden and one in the kitchen. I understand the old yews have now been chopped down.

Miss Burrows died in the 1950's and must have been in her mid-to late eighties. Do you have any records of the family from your village data?

My parents eventually retired to the village of Pencombe near Bromyard and I likewise have accumulated quite a bit of information about that village as I decided to try to trace who had lived in their black and white cottage I inherited when they died. It has certainly been interesting and now I find I correspond with people in Australia and New Zealand. As the cottage was quite small it would either be used as a cottage where people lived when they were newly married or when they retired. I have the complete Village census from 1841-1891 in a Microsoft Word table and can search easily to create information for people by House, farm or family name.

Thanks for the chance to dream.

The above letter was e-mailed to one of our members in North Wales from California, USA.

The Bache Family of Alveley

Continuing our series of family histories, the Bache family can claim links with our village and parish back into the 1500's. Earlier this year I wrote to a small article for the " Black Country Bugle " the article described how many people moved from the countryside to the Black Country to find employment and that many branches of local well-known families have many connections with the Black Country people. Today it seems that the story has gone full circle with people moving back into the village in the 70's and

80's, some perhaps descendants of those that moved away nearly two hundred years ago. In response to that article the following letter was received together with a newspaper article from the Shrewsbury Chronicle dated 7th March 1884 and a family tree

Tim White

Dear Mr. White,

I have taken more than a passing interest in your contribution to the " Bugle" where you linked Alveley's past to the Black Country. I have traced my " Bache " ancestry back to 1560 when Hugh Bache of Romsley was church warden at St. Mary's, Alveley.

Thereafter the family moved to the Greenhouse which they occupied for circa 200 years (As a result of my research I have visited the Greenhouse at the invitation of the present occupier Mr. C. H. Williamson).

Later generations had connections with Stone House Estate and Newhouse Farm. The latter purchased from Harry Lancelot Lee. Also the Lake House. Generations continued to act as churchwardens at St Mary's Church.

However, around 1820 my great, great grandfather by the name of John Bache left the Greenhouse for Kingswinford. He was second eldest son, his older brother recently married and made the Greenhouse his family home and seemed to take over the running of the Estate from his father. We find that John Bache is never mentioned in later wills.

Nevertheless, John Bache thereafter established our connection with the Black Country, working in foundries and nail making. Our most recent ancestors are well established in the Stourbridge area, spreading into the West Midlands.

Whichever way it came about the above outline of the information I have gathered over the years reinforces your writings on the Alveley link with the Black Country! !

We try to visit the Alveley area when time permits.

Yours sincerely,
Robert Bache

The Bell Inn - Tim White

Our long awaited dendrochronology report on the " Bell Inn " arrived earlier this year, unfortunately the timbers from the Inn itself failed to date, however from the previous architectural survey we know that the majority of the building dates from the fourteen hundreds with the kitchen being dated to the twelfth century.

The Malthouse or Bell Room did date as the report below indicates.

The full report was published in " Vernacular Architecture " Vol. 29 (1998).

Shropshire Dendrochronology Project

D.H.Miles and M. J. Worthington

Alveley, The Bell Inn (SO 760 845) (a) The Malthouse (granary)

Felling date: Winter 1753/4 Principal rafter 1753 (17C); Purlins (1/2) 1753 (38C). Site Master 1679-1753 BELLINN1 (t = 9.3 MASTERAL; 8.1 MDMI7b; 8.0 SALOP95)

(b) Malthouse extension. Felling date: Spring 1824

Upper cruck 1823 (241/4C); Cruck spurs (1/2) 1821 (11); Purlin 1820 (29); Curved former to door arch (0/1). Site Master 1726 - 1823 BELLINN2 (t = 5.6 ENGLAND; 5.3 EASTMID;4.9 WALES97)

The granary at the Bell Inn, Alveley is referred to locally as " The Malthouse ", but there is no evidence to support such an identification, and it is more likely to have been a granary when "The Bell " was a farm. It is stone built, with the two northern bays constructed in 1753/4; their roof structure consists of an interrupted tiebeam, a low collar with V-struts above. In 1824 the building was extended southwards by a further two bays using truncated upper-crucks. The Bell itself incorporates the remains of a box-framed, two-bay, open-hall house which, unfortunately failed to date. Later alterations include an upper cruck of similar form to the 1824 example from the granary. The " Bell " is also remarkable for containing a number of twelfth century sculpted stones, described in the individual case study.

The Hanging Which Almost Took Place Outside The Royal Oak!

By Bing Cooper

Apparently it was all over a gallon of beer. Ben Beddows and Jack Giles had been drinking all day in the Royal Oak. When it came their turn to pay for the next gallon of beer, they said that they could not pay. So without further ado the rest of the party took the men outside and stood Ben Beddows on a table and tied a rope around the branch of an old apple tree. Jim Garbett (Dickster) placed the rope as if he was going to put it over his head, while George Hollie was to be the hangman.

Mr Turford's father was acting as the preacher and said that they were just about to pull the table from underneath him when the publican came out and stopped them, saying he would pay for a gallon of beer himself?

The publican at that time was a John Haycox (the grandfather of the present John Haycox the funeral director).

This account of the "hanging" is by Mr. Turford of 47, Peacock Hill, Alveley, when he was eighty three years old and the interview was given in 1983.

This was only a mock hanging and was set up as a joke. The photograph (in the book *Images of Alveley*) was taken as a record when it took place in the early nineteen hundreds.

The "Three Horse Shoes"

The Three Horse Shoes is reputed to be the oldest public house in Shropshire-licence granted 1406. It is a simple whitewashed building with a plain tile roof, largely rebuilt during the 1800's Medieval Alehouses were traditionally built adjacent to the Church in the centre of the village Alveley was no exception, two only survive. one being the Three Horse Shoes Georgian and Victorian licensing hours were long and demanding 4am -10pm, seven-days a week, closing only for devine services, Christmas Day and Good Friday.

As an Inn The Three Horse Shoes was permitted to remain open as long as there was an empty bed-offering basic accommodation, simple provender,(dry food for cattle and horses) home brewed ale and stabling for the lawful traveller. Alveley ale was strong, dark, malty, mild, heavy, sweet and cheap and varied considerably from brew to brew. Average Parish Gravity 1060- second highest in England. Periodically stronger at Christmas and All Saints Day.

"Church", "Whitsun" and "Brides" ales were brewed as commissioned by the Churchwardens usually with the help of the ecclesiastical malt.

In the census of June 1841 Alveley born John Millward aged 55 is recorded as Landlord - married to Ann. Son Edward was aged fifteen. They boarded the village butcher Thomas Higgs and a carpenter named Thomas Bowen. They employed fifteen year old William Evans as a servant.

By 1847 widow Mary Hobbis was tenant. According to the census of 1851 Mary Hobbis aged 45 was Irmkeeper. John Higgs the butcher lodged there with his daughter Ann (aged eight) who was a house sermon at The Inn.

1874- The Three Horse Shoes is recorded as the property of Mr. John Wood Perks. It was auctioned on the 16th June 1874. The highest bidder was Yeomen Harry Smith Foxall- nine hundred and twenty pounds.

1880 (June 16th.) Proceedings against the occupier of the Three Horse Shoes Alveley, for attempting to bribe a constable. Fined: five pounds seven shillings and sixpence costs. Harry Smith Foxall leased the property to Matthew Bartlett on November 22nd 1887 for twelve months at forty pounds per annum.

Thomas Caldwell Dalley, Wines, Spirits and Beer Merchant of Bewdley purchased the public house on 24th June 1890 for seven hundred and eighty pounds.

The census of 1891 records Matthew Bartlett (aged sixty two) Innkeeper with his wife, Alveley born, Sarah (age sixty one). Their seven-year old grandson Albert Bartlett lived with them. Edith Haycox (aged fourteen) employed as a servant.

1892-(January 9th) Proceedings against the occupier for selling adulterated gin. Fined: ten shillings and eighteen shillings costs.

1893 (22nd November) Thomas Caldwell Dally, Merchants of Bewdley sold the property to Joseph Bernard Fereday, for the high price of one thousand and fifty pounds. Joseph Bernard Fereday was unable to pay the mortgage and bankrupted on 7th March 1894. The property was then passed to Messrs. Bucknall & co., Brewers of Kidderminster for eight hundred and seventy five pounds.

Bridgnorth magistrates visited the property on 30th July 1896 and found conditions good and clean with five rooms upstairs and three rooms downstairs, with stabling for four horses. Rateable Value was thirty seven pounds and nine shillings, which included one and a half acres of land. The tenant at this tince, Martha Fereday dated the alehouse to 1406 and Mary Jane Hemmings dated "The Bell" to 1642. Messrs. Bucknall of Kidderminster eventually became part of Worcestershire Brewing and Malting Company. In 1901 the owners were recorded as Worcestershire Brewery and Malting Company of Kidderminster. Occupier and a manager Martha Fereday. The accommodation comprised of five rooms upstairs and three downstairs plus a Clubroom and stabling for three horses.

Licensees of the Three Horses Shoes is Alveley since 1825:

1825 John Millward	1847 Mary Hobbis	1874 John Briggs	1881 Thomas Evans	1887
Matthew Bartlett	1894 Joseph Fereday			
1894 Martha Fereday	1907 Charles Harley	1924 Thomas Bailey	1936 George Henry Link	
1957 Albert Adams				
1974 William John Scriven	1984 Anthony Taylor			
1985 Robert Lambert	1987 Barry Butler	1990 Barry Becket		
1992 Michael John Griffin	1994 Richard Macey	1998 Mark Hill		

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The Wilcox Family History

Earlier this year Richard Wilcox of Birmingham contacted the Society with information concerning his family, many of whom resided in the parish of Alveley, indeed the surname Wilcox is mentioned in the Parish Register of the 1500's.

Richard is currently preparing a family tree and early information indicates that many of the family come from Tuck Hill, Six Ashes and Enville areas.

Recently two documents came to light concerning a Henry Wilcox, the first being his last will and testament and the second an inventory of his goods. Both documents are dated 1716. On the following pages are copies of the original documents together with transcriptions.

Facts about some of the Alveley Folk of 1871 - Margaret Sheridan

ANDREWS WILLIAM, (thirty-five) farms 84 acres at Boathole. He and his wife Eliza have three children; William, Eliza and Jane.

AINSWORTH HENRY, (fifty) is a Farm Bailiff. He and his wife Leah live at Shropshire House with their five children; William (fourteen), Edward (twelve), Richard (eleven), Abraham(seven) and Amelia (four).

ASHCROFT WILLIAM, (fourteen) is employed as a servant at Lowe Farm.

BACHE THOMAS, (Born Alveley about 1796- widower), farms 338 acres at The Greenhouse. His forty-two year old daughter Mary also lives at the Farm

BAKER ALICE, (widow) lives with her niece Mary Potter at Mayhouse.

BASIN RICHARD, (Born Kinlet) is a thirty-one year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (daughter of Richard Scriven) live at 2 Dye Lane They were married at Alveley Church in May 1865 and have four children; Agnes (seven), Emma (five), William (three) and Charles (one).

BELCHER WILLIAM, (twenty-three) is a Gardener (at Coton Hall??). he and his wife Elizabeth live at Coton Lodges with their two sons Thomas (two) and William (two months).

BENNETT THOMAS, is a sixty-five year old Alveley born agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah (maiden name Broome) live at No 3 New Row with their three younger children; Harriet (fifteen), George (thirteen), and James(ten).

BENNETT THOMAS, (aged seventeen- son of Thomas & Sarah Bennett) is employed as a domestic servant HallClose.

BINNALL THOMAS, is a thirty-four year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Hannah (thirty-two) live at 2 The Stank.

BIRKIN GEORGE, (seventy-one) is a retired farmer, living at 5 Turley Green with his two children; Thomas (thirty-six) and Elizabeth (twenty-four).

BISHTON JOHN, (eighteen) is employed as a servant at Coton Farm.

BLOUNT JOHN, is a thirty-two year old farm labourer. He and his wife Ann live at Quatt Gate. They have two children.

BLUNT THOMAS, (fifty) is an agricultural labourer- living with relatives at 1 The Stank.

BRAZIER ANN,(widow- aged sixty-six) is employed as a domestic servant at 55 Alveley.

BROXTON JANE, (seventeen) is employed as a servant at "The Squirrel Inn"

BULLOCK THOMAS, (twenty-seven) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah (daughter of John Link) live at Nether Hollies Cottages. They were married at Alveley Church October 9th 1865 and have two children; Mary (three) and William (five).

BUTLER JAMES, (thirty-two) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Harriet live at 41 Alveley with their two children; Henry (eleven) and Harriet (two).

BUTLER WILLIAM, (fifty-five) is employed as stone quarryman. He and his wife Jane live at 46 Alveley with his wife Jane and their two daughters Mary (seven) and Agnes (one).

BOWEN THOMAS, (twenty-three) is employed as a Groom (at Coton Hall?)

He lodges at Baggs Cottage, Coton.

BRIGGS THOMAS, (aged eighteen) is a Butcher. He lives with his grandmother Mary Hobbis at "The

Three Horse Shoes”

BROOKES HERBERT, aged fifteen lives at The Hadleys with his Aunt and Uncle John & Eliza Clarke.

BREWER JOHN, (Born Highley), is a fifty-three year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Jane (forty-eight) live at 30 Alveley with their four children; Jane (fourteen), Benjamin (nine), Ann (eight) and John (five).

BROOM MARY, is a forty year old agricultural labourer. She lives at 6 Turley Green with her twelve year old son William.

BROOM WILLIAM, (aged twenty-two- son of Sarah Bennett) is employed as a quarry labourer. He and his wife Ann (thirty-two) live at 5 Daddlebrook with their little daughter Amy (one).

BRISTOE GEORGE, (aged thirty) is a farm servant living at 1 Turley Green.

BOURNE MARY, (forty) is an agricultural servant, living at 6 Turley green with her twelve year old son William.

CAREY ELIZA, (aged sixteen) is employed as Housemaid at the Vicarage.

CARTER WILLIAM, (widow- aged sixty-four) is employed as a farm servant at Coton Farm.

CARTER WILLIAM, is a twenty-nine year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Emma (twenty-six) have three sons Arthur (five), William (three) and Albert (five months).

CHALLENGER RICHARD, is a forty year old farm labourer. He and his wife Mary live at Greenhouse Lodge with their five children; Mary (ten), Emma (eight), John (five) Elizabeth (two) and Margaret (four months).

CHAPMAN JOHN, is a sixty-four year old labourer living at Baggs Cottage with his wife Frances (sixty-two) and their thirteen year old granddaughter Olive.

CLARK JOHN INSTAN, (born 1831) is Butcher & Innkeeper at “The Squirrel” Inn. He and his wife Emma (born Lichfield June 1832) have two sons Stephen (three) and Robert (two).

CLARK STEPHEN, (Born Alveley) is a sixty-three year old farmer of 23 acres. He and his wife Sarah (sixty-nine) live at 4 Turley Green.

CLARKE JOHN, (forty-nine) farms 161 acres at Hadleys Farm. He and his wife Eliza (thirty-one) have two children; Henry (five) and Ann (three).

CLIFTON HENRY, (twenty-eight) is an agricultural labourer, lodging at Baggs Cottage Coton.

CLINTON SARAH, is a sixty-nine year old widow, living at 48 Alveley with her twenty-six year old daughter Ann.

CLINTON THOMAS, (forty-seven) is an agricultural labourer. He and his Alveley born wife Mary (forty-eight) live at 13 Alveley with four of their children; William (twenty) agricultural labourer, Sarah (eleven), Harriet (nine) and John (five).

CONSIDINCE ROBERT AUGUSTUS WELLESLEY, (aged sixty-two) is incumbent at Alveley Parish Church- married to Mary (second wife). They live at the vicarage (22 Alveley).

COLEBATCH WILLIAM, (thirty-five) farms 83 acres at Little London.

COLLINS DINAH, (twenty-six) is employed as a domestic servant at The Butts Farm.

COX MARGERY, (widow aged sixty-nine) lives at 1 Turley Green- farmer of 14 acres (also recorded as a Wheelwright).

CROW JOHN, (seventy-four) is an ex-paper maker. He and his wife Elizabeth (sixty-eight) live at 1 Alveley (next to the church). Elizabeth is a dressmaker.

CROW EDWARD, (aged seventy-four) is a retired farmer. He and his wife Sussannah (sixty-nine) live at 12 Alveley.

DAVIES SAMUEL, (aged sixty-six) is a Miller. He and his wife Mary (sixty-three) live at Crowmill House with their thirty-one year old daughter Mary.

DAY GEORGE, (nineteen) is employed as a farm servant at Little London.

DAY THOMAS, is a forty-five year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Ann (twenty-three) live at Clacker Cottage.

DAY JOHN, is a sixty-three year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah (forty-nine) live at 2 Cookscross.

DIXON WILLIAM, aged fifty farms at The Lakehouse - about 150 acres. His wife Frances is forty-eight.

Their nephew Francis Mullens (six) lives with them.

DOLITTLE JOHN, is Victualler at The Finger Inn.

DOVEY THOMAS, (thirty-five) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (daughter of Richard & Harriet Yates) have a six month old daughter named Hannah.

DOVEY SARAH, aged sixty-eight, lives at Button Hall.

DOVEY JOHN, (aged forty-eight- son of Sarah Dovey) lives at Button Hall.

DOVEY HANNAH, (aged seven) lives at Button Hall with her grandmother and Uncle.

DOWNTON SAMUEL, (born Kinlet 1821- son of Thomas & Sarah Downton) is a Tailor. He and his Alveley born wife Sarah (daughter of John Lane) live at 9 Alveley with seven of their children; John (twenty) is a Tailor, Thomas (sixteen) is a labourer, Mary fourteen, William thirteen, Henry (known as Harry) is eleven, Frederick eight, and James six.

DULSTON ELIZA, aged thirty-nine, lives with relatives at Lowe Farm. Her two children, George (eleven) and Rosetta (nine) live with her.

EDWARDS JOHN, is a miller living at Bowhills.

ELCOCK WILLIAM, (born Chelmarsh 1827) is a thrashing machine Proprietor. He and his wife Harriet (born Alveley about 1833- maiden name Monk) live at 39 Alveley. Son John (fourteen) is employed as a farm servant. They have six other children; William (eleven), Mary (ten), Robert (eight), Elizabeth (seven) Catherine (four) and Alfred (two).

ELCOCK GEORGE, (twenty-four) is a Wheelwright. He and his wife Ellen (maiden name Welch) live at Six Ashes. They were married at Chelmarsh in 1870. Daughter Ellen Jane is seven months old.

ELKS WILLIAM, is an agricultural labourer. He lives at Coton Cottages with his sister Mary; a thirty-three year old Cook.

EVANS JOYCE HANNAH, (aged eighteen) is employed as a domestic servant at Hadleys Farm.

EVANS JOHN, (sixty-seven) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (aged fifty-eight- maiden name Blunt) live at 1 The Stank, with their sixteen year old son William (agricultural labourer).

EVANS THOMAS, is a sixty-six year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah live at 7 New Row.

EVANS THOMAS, (fifty-seven) is an agricultural labourer. He and his fifty year old wife Elizabeth live at 49 Alveley with their two sons Frederick (ten) and Herbert(four).

FARLOW JOHN, (seventeen) is employed as a farm servant at Pool Hall.

FISHER RICHARD, (fifty-six) is a retired farmer. He and his wife Ann (sixty-seven)live at 40 Alveley.

FISHER HARRIET, (aged sixty-Born Upper Arley) is recorded as Cousin to Michael Fellows She is employed as House Superintendent at HallClose.

FLETCHER HARRIET, (twenty-three) is a domestic servant at 1 Turley Green

FELLOWS MICHAEL, (born Claverley about 1811) farms 146 acres at HallClose. He employs three labourers, three boys and a keeper.

FLETCHER ANNE, (thirty-one) is employed as a domestic servant at The Greenhouse.

FRANCE JOHN, (born Highley about 1839) is a stone quarryman. He and his wife Mary (born Broseley about 1843- daughter of Edward Morris) were married at Alveley Church May 1864 and live at Wright's Cottage with their four children; Sarah (seven), Henry (six), William (four) and John (two).

FRANCE WILLIAM, (born Highley about 1841- brother of John), is a stone quarryman. He and his wife Mary (aged thirty-four) live at 35 Alveley,with their four children, Albert Brazier (seven), John (six), Mary (four) and new born Miriam. William France and Mary Brazier were married at Alveley Church May 23rd 1870.(Children John (six) and Mary (four) are by William's first marriage)

FOXALL HARRY SMITH, (aged forty-nine- son of James Foxall??) is a Gardener. He and his wife Eliza (daughter of Thomas Hayward) live at Cardoll Place. They were married at Alveley Church February 12th 1850.

FOXALL CHRISTOPHER, (thirty-three) is a Bricklayer. He and his wife Eliza (twenty-nine) live at 8 Alveley with their four children; Christopher (six), James (five) Fanny (one) and baby Sarah (one month).

FOXALL JAMES, (seventy-four) farms 10 acres. He lives at 55 Alveley. His wife Lucy died July 1846- buried at Alveley.

FOURACRES MARY, (twenty-one) is employed as a domestic servant at Little London.

GIBSON JOHN, (aged fifty-son of John Gibson) is a Blacksmith at Allam Bridge- married to Mary (forty-eight).

GIBSON RICHARD, (fifty-one) is a Groom. He and his daughter Eliza (twelve) live at Greenhouse Lodge.

GILES EDWARD, (aged forty-three-widower) is an agricultural labourer, living at 4 Dye Lane with his children; Thomas (nineteen) Elizabeth (fifteen) and Edward (twenty-one). Thomas and Edward are employed as agricultural labourers.

GILES EDWARD, aged two, lives with relatives at 4 Dye Lane.

GREEN FREDERICK, (twenty-five) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Olive (twenty-nine) live at 6 Alveley with their daughter Ann (one).

GREEN WILLIAM, (sixteen) is an Alveley born farm servant at High Barns.

GRETTON WILLIAM, farms 267 acres at Little Coton. Son James is thirty-six. Daughter Eliza is forty-five. Niece Mary (nine) also lives at the Farm.

GRIFFITHS JOHN, (forty-seven) is a Gardener. He and his wife Elizabeth (live at six ashes??) With their five children; Charles (fourteen), John (eight), Frederick(six), Elizabeth(four) and Alfred (two).

GRIFFITHS WILLIAM, (aged sixty-nine-widower of Sarah Griffiths)is a tailor. He and his two daughters Mary (thirty-five) and Emma (thirty) live at 45 Alveley. Emma is a Shop woman.

GUTTON WILLIAM, (forty) farms 193 acres at High Barns (Coton). - married to Harriet. Daughter Ann is six.

GWINNAP SARAH, (aged fifty-eight- widow) lives with her brother James at Fen Green House.

HANSON WILLIAM, (forty-two) is a gamekeeper (Coton estate??) He and his wife Martha live at Coton Lodge with their six daughters; Emily, Mary, Jane, Sarah, Annie, and Lucy.

HARDWICK JOHN, is employed as a Gardener at The Greenhouse.

HARLEY JOHN, (born 1831) is Innkeeper at "The Royal Oak". His wife Sarah was born in Alveley April 1835 daughter of Benjamin & Frances Webb.

HARRIS VINCENT, (nineteen) is employed as a farm servant at The Butts.

HARRIS HENRY, (fourteen) is a farm servant at High House.

HARRIS GEORGE, (seventy-two) farms 162 acres at Lowe Farm - married to Elizabeth sixty-seven.

HARRIS MESHACH, (son of George & Elizabeth Harris) lives with his parents at Lowe farm. Son George is eleven.

HARRIS MARY, (sixty) is an agricultural labourer, living at 3 Lowe Lane.

HAY WILLIAM, (fifty-two) is an agricultural labourer. He and his fifty year old wife Mary (maiden name Nicholls) live at 4 Papermill Place with three of their children; George (sixteen-gardener) Henry (eleven), and Michael (six). Anne Nicholls (mother-in-law) aged seventy-two lives with them (Dressmaker).

HAYS ELIZABETH, (born Alveley about 1842) is a dressmaker, living at 29 Alveley with her two children Adeline (eight) and Henrietta (three).

HAYWARD JOHN, (forty-three) farms 180 acres at The Butts Farm. His seventy year old mother Mary lives with him.

HAYWARD THOMAS, (forty-one) farms 56 acres at Hillhouse. He and his wife Mary (thirty-five) have three children; Henry (five), Jessie (three) and Frances (one).

HAYWARD JOHN,(forty-three) is a labourer. He and his wife Elizabeth live at 36 Alveley with their four children; Sarah (seven), William (seven), Alice (two), and Mary (three months).

HAYWARD GEORGE, (forty-four) is a Bricklayer. He and his wife Hannah (twenty-five) live at 31 Alveley with their baby daughter Sarah

HAYWARD HANNAH, (widow- aged seventy-one) lives at 8 New Row.

HAYCOX WILLIAM, (forty-nine) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah (forty-eight) live at Crowsmill Cottage, with their children; William (sixteen), fanny (fourteen), William (eleven) and John (nine).

HEAD WILLIAM, (sixteen) is employed as a servant at HallClose.

HEAD JOHN, is Beer retailer at "Kitlands".

HEAD GEORGE, (born Romsley- aged twenty-one) is employed as a domestic servant at Church House.

HEAD GEORGE, (aged twenty-four- son of Ann Head) is an Alveley born Wheelwright. He and his wife Augusta (twenty-four) live at 1 Birdsgreen with their two children; George (three) and John (one).

HERD HENRY, is a Wheelwright at Hammer House.

HIGGINS ELIZABETH, (twenty-three) is employed as a domestic servant at The Greenhouse.

HIGGINS JOHN, (thirty) is a Gardener employed at The Greenhouse.

HIGGS JOHN, (sixty-two) is a retired butcher lodging at "The Three Horse Shoes". His wife Ann died May 1843, aged twenty-eight.

HIGGS HENRY, (fifty-five) is a labourer- living at Alveley Lane (Wood Barn) (?)

HIGGS WILLIAM, (born Alveley about 1829 son of John & Ann Higgs) is a Butcher. He and his thirty-five year old wife Emma live at 20 Alveley with their two sons William (three) and John (ten months).

HINTON WILLIAM, is a miller at Allam Bridge.

HOBBIS MARY, (widow-aged sixty-five) is Victualler at "The Three Horse Shoes".

HOBBS LOUISA, (forty-seven) lives with her sister Mary Potter at Mayhouse.

HOBBS WILLIAM, is a miller at Allam Bridge. Daughter Eliza is thirty-nine.

HODGKISS MARY, (widow) is a sixty year old Housekeeper, living at Greenhouse Lodge.

HOLLOWAY SARAH, (seventy-six) is a farm servant living at 1 Dye Lane.

HOLLOWAY GEORGE, is a thirty-nine year old farm labourer. He and his wife Sarah (thirty-five) live at 42 Alveley with children; Ellen (ten), William (eight), Elizabeth (five) and Amelia (one).

HOLT THOMAS, aged thirty-five, is Alveley Police Officer. He and his wife Mary live at 11 Alveley.

HUDSON GEORGE, (fifty-three) lives at Coton Lodges (gardeners Cottage). He and his wife Eliza share their home with their nineteen year old daughter Anna (dressmaker).

HUGHES ELIZABETH, (eighteen) is employed as a domestic servant at Little Coton Farm.

HUGHES WILLIAM, (sixteen) is employed as servant at Butts Farm.

HUNT JOSEPH, (twenty-nine) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (twenty-one) have a two year old son named Albert.

JAY THOMAS, (sixty-one) is a stone Sawyer. He and his wife Eliza live at 25 Alveley.

JENNINGS JOHN, and his wife Phoebe live at 10 Alveley. John (farm labourer) was born at Spring Mill Alveley January 12th 1846, son of George & Rosanna Jennings.

His wife Phoebe Elizabeth was born about 1848, daughter of Hannah Tolley. They were married at Alveley Church 8th September 1869 and have two children; Hannah (born 1870) and Elizabeth (three months).

JENNINGS WILLIAM, (born 1825, son of William & Elizabeth Jennings) is employed as a stone Sawyer. He and his wife Anne (twenty-nine -maiden name Francis) live at "New Inns" (Also known as 27 Alveley). They were married at Alveley Church 9th May 1870.

JENNINGS WILLIAM, (born Kidderminster 1785) is a retired Shoemaker, living with his son & daughter-in-law at "New Inns. His wife Elizabeth died 24th December 1869- buried at Alveley.

JONES DAVID, (forty-nine) is a Carpenter. He and his wife Mary (forty-nine) live at 44 Alveley with their eight year old son David. Another son Arthur (twelve) is employed as a farm servant at Church House.

JONES MARY, is a seamstress living at Hammer House.

JONES ELLEN, is a sixty-eight year old widow, living at Wright's Cottage with the France Family.

JONES RICHARD, (forty-one) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah (forty-five) live at 2 Birdsgreen.

LANE THOMAS, (sixty-four) is a quarry master, mason and farmer of 35 acres. In the quarry he employs ten men and two boys, and at the farm three labourers. He and his wife Ann (fifty-four) live at 23 Alveley.

LANE THOMAS, (fifty) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Ann (thirty-eight) live at 4 Daddlebrook with their three children; Benjamin (nine), John (seven) and Jane (five).

LANE GEORGE and WILLIAM, are Wheelwright's at Hammer House.

LANE WILLIAM, (thirty-nine) is a stone quarryman, lodging at 41 Alveley.

LANE SARAH, (widow) lives at 28 Alveley with her sister-in-law Jane Lane.

LEWIS MARY, (aged fifty-widow of Thomas Lewis) lives at 19 Alveley with her two sons Edwin (nine) and James (eight).

LEWIS JOHN, (fifty-six) is as sawyer. He and his wife Jane (fifty-eight) live at 2 Papermill Place with their seven year old granddaughter Louisa Lewis.

LINK JOHN, (fifty-three) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Eliza live at Merricks Cottage with their son William (eleven- farm servant).

LINK GEORGE, (aged twenty-six- son of John & Eliza Link) is as stone quarryman. He and his wife Ann (twenty-one) live at 7 Alveley with their seven month old son Arthur.

LITTLEFORD GEORGE, (born Quatt-aged twenty-eight) is a Wheelwright. He and his wife Harriet live at 18 Alveley with their two children; Fanny (four) and Walter (four months).

LLOYD EDWARD, is a thirty-one year old Shoemaker. He and his wife Eliza live at Rose Cottage with their two year old son John.

MALPAS MARIA, (sixteen) is employed as servant at Hay Farm.

MARKHAM FLORENCE, (twelve) is employed as a servant at 4 Turley Green.

MASSEY CHARLES, (born Stottesdon 1844) is a Blacksmith lodging with George & Emma Wall.

MASSEY MARGERY, (aged fifty- widow of William Massey) farms 6 acres at Turley Green.

MASSEY JOHN, (forty-three) is a waggoner. He and his wife Ann live at Kingsnordley with their four children; William, Thomas, Mary and Hannah.

MATTHEWS EDWARD,(aged fifty) is an agricultural labourer lodging at 2 Daddlebrook.

MEREDITH WILLIAM, (widow- aged seventy) is an agricultural labourer.

MEREDITH WILLIAM, (twenty) is employed as a domestic servant at The Lakehouse.

MIDDLETON CAROLINE, (seventeen) is employed as a domestic servant by Webbs of Allam bridge.

MIDDLETON ANNIE, (aged two) lives with the Hayward Family at 31 Alveley.

MILLWARD SARAH, (forty-nine) is employed as a Laundress at Coton Hall.

MINIFIE RICHARD, farms 270 acres at Coton Farm. He and his wife Emma (twenty-six) have four children; William (seven), Myra (three), Elizabeth (three) and James (two). The children have a governess by the surname of Morgan.

MOLINEAUX WILLIAM, (forty-nine) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Isabella live at six ashes with their five children; Michael, Harriet, Anne, Dan and Ada.

MONCK ROBERT, (seventy-one) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (sixty-six) live at Woods Cottage with their daughter Caroline (aged forty-five).

MORGAN WILLIAM, (thirty-five) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Jane live at Quatt Gate with their two sons Thomas and John.

MORRIS RICHARD, (sixty) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Elizabeth (fifty-five) live at 1 Pottersloade with their two sons; Richard (eighteen- agricultural labourer) William (twenty-four-carpenter).

MORRIS EDWARD, (aged thirteen- son of Richard & Elizabeth Morris) is employed as a farm servant at Little London.

MORRIS HANNAH, (twenty-four) is employed as a general servant at Coton Farm.

MORRIS WILLIAM, (aged sixty-nine- widower of Sarah Morris) farms 120 acres at Church House employing two men and a boy. His wife Sarah died November 23rd 1869, aged 63.

NEW JOHN, (nineteen) is a servant at High Barns.

NICKHALLS WILLIAM, (sixty-five) is a Butcher lodging at 4 Daddlebrook

OVERTON THOMAS, (nineteen) is employed as a farm servant at Hay farm.

PACKWOOD RICHARD, (fifty-one) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Ann (forty-nine) live at 51 Alveley.

PALMER JAMES, (thirty-three) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary live at 5 New Row.

PARKER EDWARD, is a thirty-nine year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Miriam live at New Barn Cottage with their children; Edward(thirteen), George (eleven), Frederick (eight), Edith (seven),

Walter (five), Sydney (two) and Percy (new born).

PARTON THOMAS, (thirty-four) is an Alveley born agricultural labourer. He and his wife Emma (thirty-three) live at 3 Dye Lane with their five children; Elizabeth (nine), Thomas (seven), Mary (five), Eliza (three) and William (nine months).

PASSEY JOHN, (fifty-two) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Emma (forty-eight) live at Paradise Cottage with their twelve year old son James.

PAINTER, the following children (surname PAINTER) live with their grandfather William Griffiths at 45 Alveley- William (eight), Annie (six), James (four) and Sarah (two).

PASKINS JAMES, (forty-seven) is an agricultural labourer, lodging at 46 Alveley.

PARRY WILLIAM, (sixteen) is a farm servant at 4 Turley Green.

PARRY JOHN, (fifty-eight) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Elsie (forty-six) live at 1 Papermill Place with their six children; Samuel (twelve- farm servant), Hannah (eight), Thomas (six), Alfred (four) Sarah (two) and Jane (new born).

PEARCE WILLIAM, of Fenn Green House farms 41 acres.

PICKERING THOMAS, (forty-one) is Schoolmaster. His wife Ann (thirty-five) is schoolmistress. They live at 15 Alveley with their three children; Annie, Thomas, and John.

PITT CHARLES, is a forty-three year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Sarah live at Tuck Hill with their five children; William, Elizabeth, Thomas, Joseph, and Mary.

PREECE ELIZABETH, (twenty-four) is employed as a servant at HallClose.

PREECE MARGARET, (fifty-eight) is employed as a general servant at Church Farm.

PREECE EMMA, (eighteen) is employed as servant at The Lakehouse.

PREECE WILLIAM, is a sixty-two year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Ann (fifty-eight) live at Upper Onions Cottage.

PRICE JOHN, is a thirty-nine year old farm labourer. He and his thirty year old wife Ann live at Papermill with their three daughters Sarah (seven), Fanny (four) and Louisa (two).

POUNTNEY STEPHEN, is a fifty-eight year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Ann (sixty) live at Rowell Cottage.

POUNTNEY JAMES, is a thirty-one year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Harriet live at Fimbrells (4 Lowe Lane) with their five children; Elizabeth(seven), Ada (six), Richard (four), Maria (two) and Jossie (five months).

POTTER MARY,(widow)farms 35 acres at Mayhouse, employing two labourers. She was born in Kidderminster about 1821- maiden name Hobbs.

REYNOLDS GEORGE, is a twenty-seven year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Ann (twenty-four) live at 5 Cookscross with their nine month old daughter Emily.

ROWLANDS JOHN, is a thirty year old farm servant at Coton Farm.

ROWLEY RICHARD, (forty-three) is a Quarry master & Commercial Agent. He and his wife Catherine (forty-three) live at 34 Alveley with their children; George (sixteen) and Rebecca (ten).

SHINTON EDWARD,(aged seventeen) is employed as a Page at Coton Hall.

SHUTT JOSEPH, is a sixty-one year old farm Bailiff. He and his wife Eliza (fifty-four) live at Lindridge with sons Samuel (sixteen) and Thomas (thirteen).

STOKES MARY, (aged ten) lives with her aunt & uncle Christopher & Eliza Foxall at 8 Alveley.

SCRIVEN JAMES, (seventy-seven) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (seventy-five) live at 6 New Row.

SCRIVEN SAMUEL, (born Alveley 1828- son of James & Mary Scriven) is a drainer (land drains). He and his wife Fanny (thirty-six- maiden name Maisfield) live at the newly developed 6 Daddlebrook.

SCRIVEN JAMES, is a thirty-five year old Alveley born stone quarryman. He and his wife Emma (thirty-three) live at 17 Alveley with their children; Caroline (thirteen), Sarah (eleven) and Thursa (three).

SCRIVEN OBEDIENCE, (servant) lives at 3 Papermill .She was born Bridgnorth about 1814, daughter of Sarah Scriven.

SCRIVEN THOMAS, (born Alveley 1840 -son of Obedience Scriven) is a farm servant at Little Coton Farm.

SCRIVEN ROSANNA, (aged thirty-two- widow of Jeffrey Scriven) lives at 2 New Row, with children; Jeffrey Jacob (eleven), William (eight) and Phoebe (eight months).

SCRIVEN WILLIAM, is a twenty-nine year old Alveley born agricultural labourer. He and his wife Amy (twenty-four) live at 37 Alveley with their two daughters Fanny (three) and Harriet (one).

SCRIVEN RICHARD, (widower of Esther Scriven) is sixty-seven. He lives at 56 Alveley with his two sons; Charles (twenty-six) and Joseph (twenty-one). They are all employed as agricultural labourers.

SMITH WILLIAM,(widower) is a fifty-eight year old agricultural labourer at Moor House.

SMITH JOSEPH, is a fifty-eight year old agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary live at 47 Alveley with children; Joseph (twenty- agricultural labourer), Rosanna (seventeen), and Alfred (thirteen- farm servant).

SMITH MARTHA, (twenty-two) is employed as a domestic servant at Pool Hall.

STANLEY JOHN, is a nineteen ear old farm servant at Little London.

STOCKALL ELIZA, (aged sixty-four-widow of John Stockall) farms 10 acres at Cookscross.

THATCHER RICHARD, (aged eighty-three- son of William Thatcher) is an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Mary (sixty-one) live at Cookscross.

THOMAS JOHN, (born Alveley- aged sixty-nine) is a farmer of 130 acres at Broadlane. His wife Elizabeth (born Enville) is seventy-one.

THOMAS RICHARD, (aged forty-eight) is a Coachman (at Coton Hall??) He and his wife Ann live at Coton Lodges with their six children; Joseph (fifteen- Stable Boy), Elizabeth (fourteen), Annie (eleven), Sarah (twelve), Catherine (ten) and Fanny (eight).

TICER GEORGE, (thirty-five) is employed as a farm servant at Hadleys Farm

TOLLEY ALFRED, (thirteen) is employed as a domestic servant at Lakehouse.

TOLLEY HANNAH, is a fifty-two year old agricultural labourer, living at Lowe Lane with her eleven year old daughter Mary.

TOMLISON, the following Tomlinson children live with their granparents Richard & Hannah Yates at 57 Alveley; Richard (twelve), Ada (six) and Lavena (four).

TOVEY EMANUEL, (aged forty-six- son of Mary Tovey) is a Blacksmith, lodging at Allam bridge.

TROTH SARAH, is a ninety year old widow. She lives with her brother and sister-in-law James & Mary Scriven at 6 New Row.

VEAL RICHARD, (born Alveley) is a seventy-nine year old farmer of 63 acres at High House. His wife Ann is fifty-seven. Daughter Edna is thirty-two.

VERNER MARY, aged thirty, is employed as a Cook at the Vicarage.

WATKINS GEORGE, (born Bridgnorth) is an eighteen year old domestic servant at "The Squirrel Inn".

WALKER JANE, is a thirteen year old servant at 18 Alveley.

WALL GEORGE, is a twenty-seven year old Wheelwright. He and his wife Emma (twenty-five) live at 43 Alveley with their little daughter Mary (one).

WAKEMAN, resides at Coton Hall. Offley Francis Drake Wakeman, eldest son of Rev. Wakeman died 20th July 1865, aged 29.

WARDER JOHN, (aged fifty-eight) farms 180 acres at The Hay. He and his wife Elizabeth share their home with five of their children; Thomas (twenty), Fanny (seventeen), Mary (fourteen), Sophia (twelve), and Richard (twelve)

WEBB BENJAMIN, farms 60 acres at Allam Bridge. His wife Frances is sixty-four.

WELCH ELIZABETH, is a seventy-eight year old widow, living at 3 Turley Green.

WIER WILLIAM, (born Alveley 1794- son of John & Elizabeth Wier) farms 30 acres. He and his wife Mary (born Eardington 1811) live at 4 Cookscross. They have two sons; John (born 1840) and William (born 1846).

WILLIAMS SAMUEL, is a fifty-seven year old stone quarryman. He and his wife Ann (forty-six) live at 26 Alveley.

WILLIAMS ELIZABETH, (widow-aged sixty-three) is employed as a domestic servant at Moor House.

WILLIAMS MARTHA, is a seventy-one year old widow living at 21 Alveley.

WILLIAMS SAMUEL, is a fifty-seven year old stone quarryman- married to Ann.

WILLIAMS EDMUND, is a twenty-eight year old stone quarryman. He and his wife Jane (twenty-five) live at 32 Alveley with their children; Henry (six), Edith (three) and Mary (one).

WILLIAMS THOMAS, is a seventy-two year old labourer. He lives at 33 Alveley with his daughter Mary (aged twenty-nine- described in the 1871 census as “Imbecile from birth”).

WRIGHT PHOEBE, (widow) lives at 1 New Row.

WRIGHT THOMAS, is a twenty-seven year old Alveley born stone quarry man. He and his wife Jane Ann live at 3 Alveley with their two sons George (five) and William (two).

WOOD GEORGE, is a forty-two year old Alveley born stone quarryman. He and his wife Sarah live at 2 Pottersloade with their seven children; Ann (thirteen), George (eleven), Hannah (nine), Alice (seven), James (five), John (three) and Jeffrey (one).

WOOD ANN, (aged forty-five) lives at 1 Daddlebrook with her two unmarried brothers William (forty-two) and John (forty-one). Both men are employed as stone quarrymen. (They are the children of James and Mary Wood.).

WOOD HANNAH, is a seventy-eight year old widow. She lives at 2 Daddlebrook with her son John, a fifty-one year old stone quarryman, and granddaughter Luisa Rowley (eighteen).

WOOD JAMES, (thirty-eight) is a miner. He lives at 3 Daddlebrook with his mother Druscilla (widow of Jeffrey Wood) and his seventy-five year old Spinster Aunt, Sybil.

WOOD GEORGE, (aged thirty-six-son of James & Mary Wood) is a stone sawyer. He and his wife Ellen (thirty) live at 5 Alveley with their eight year old son Henry.

YARDLEY THOMAS, (aged thirty-eight) is Innkeeper & Blacksmith at “The Bell Inn” (4 Alveley). He and his forty-two year old wife Ellen have seven children; Louisa (thirteen), Alice (eleven), Henry (nine), James (eight), Richard (five), John (two) and Thomas (nine months).

Proceedings against the occupier of “The Bell Inn”

December 17th 1870: allowed Gambling Fined 10s and 19s 4d costs.

February 4th 1871: allowed Gambling Fined £1 and 11s.

YATES RICHARD, is a seventy-one year old Alveley born Carpenter. He and his wife Hannah (fifty-two) live at 57 Alveley.

YATES WILLIAM, (sixty-five) is a retired Wheelwright. He and his wife Sarah live at 16 Alveley, with their daughter Emma Turley, a thirty- one year old dressmaker.

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Research at the Public Record Office - Alan Nicholls

Since publishing my book “*The History of Alveley*” in 1994 I have been noting many more references to the Alveley area while researching the Lee ancestry. The Public Record Office at Kew has millions of documents and I have found references in many classes of records there. I do not always have time to look at every item referenced but make a brief note of it and the subject. When taken together there is a lot of interesting detail that complements my book. One day I may publish an updated impression but until then I thought it may be useful to include some of the references here so that they are not lost.

E134 Exchequer Depositions - Deponents 1621 - 67

Salop 1658-9 Hil 9 Alveley People

Salop 1658-9 Hil 24 Alveley People

22 Jas I 29 Nov. at Enville, Staffs Hil. 18

Lancelot Lee vs John Nicholls, Henry Penn, Wm Perry. Manor of Kingsnordley Salop and Astley Salop. Meets and bounds. Customs of Manor touching payments of herriots and alienations. The possessions of Gerrard Whorewood, Sir Francis Newport, Sir Thomas Whorwood and ? Throckmorton sometimes owners of Kingsnordley manor.

13 Feb 14 James 1

An indenture witnessing that Henry Longmore of the parish of Areley in Co. Stafford grants unto Richard Hale of Pedmore in Co. Worcs. In fee simple three closes and parcels of land calle Breeche and Breeche Meadow in Romsley late in the tenure of Henry Kightley.

22 Jas I 29 Nov. at Enville, Staffs Hil. 18

Lancelot Lee vs John Nicholls, Henry Penn, Wm Perry. Manor of Kingsnordley Salop and Astley Salop. Meets and bounds. Customs of Manor touching payments of herriots and alienations. The possessions of Gerrard Whorewood, Sir Francis Newport, Sir Thomas Whorwood and ? Throckmorton sometimes owners of Kingsnordley manor.

4&5 Chas I Hil 13

Francis Dovey, John Dovey, Lancelot Lee Nordley Regis. Customs of Manor

3&4 Chas I Hil 15

Lancelot Lee vs Francis Dovey, John Dovey, John White, Thos. Bathe, John Marten, Humphrey Jordan, Thos. Fletcher and wife Eliz. Wm Woldriche, Thomas Woldriche, Roger Perry, Richard Dovey, and son Francis, Stephen Jannes. Customs of Manor

PRO C8/114/131 Lake vs Fluett 1653

John Lake of the Burroughs of Kidderminster, Butcher,. Whereas Edward Fluett late of the parish of Alveley, Salop, husbandman, took to wife Ursula the daughter of Thomas Jones and Elizabeth his wife. Elizabeth was one of the daughters of John Andrewes late of Banbury, Oxford - your orators grandfather now deceased. Edward and Ursula had only son Thomas then Edward caught the plague and died and left the estate to Ursula and to Thomas his son being then an infant of half a year old. The child also caught the plague and died soon after and so did Ursula but she never wrote her will. But she spoke it leaving the orator - then an infant of 4 years, her cousin german, being only child of Margery the wife of Edward Lake, which Margery was sister to the said Elizabeth theretofore wife to Thomas Jones and aunt to the said Ursula - all or great part of her legacy. But after the death of Edward Fluett and his son Thomas one Humphrey Fluett of Alveley., brother of Edward, wheelwright, had the estate.

The case was presented to Lancelot Lee, William Bendy, Lancelot Nicholls, James ?, Francis Taylor and Henry Toy to adjudicate on. Humphrey Fluett denied the above and claimed the estate as next of kin.

C7/467/134 Lancelot Lee vs Longmore of Alveley 1656

Richard Grove and Thomas Jordan named. Nice document of info about land and church pews in Alveley and Romsley - 5 sheets

PRO C7/516/109 Elizabeth Lee, Alveley 1671.

Your orator Elizabeth Lee of Cotton in the parish of Alveley, widow, relict and sole executor of Lancelot Lee , late of Coton deceased.

Whereas Lancelot had lands etc. in Alveley to the value of £10 yearly did some 40 years since at the earnest request of John Toy, late of Alveley, yeoman, dec. in consideration of £30 agreed to be paid by John Toy to lease the said messuage to the said John Toy and Elizabeth, his wife, for their lives or for 99 years. John Toy enjoyed the premises but never paid. The orator leased out the same to James Elcock and after his decease to Katherine Elcock, his wife,. John Toy 20 years since died. The bond was then in the hands of Elizabeth Toy and Edward Freckleton the elder of Alveley, yeoman, and Edward Freckleton, the younger.

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PRO C7/451/49 John Longmore vs Thomas Longmore 1662

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The joint answers of Thomas Cumber and Thomas Ford two of the defendants of the bill of complaint of John Longmore and his wife

Thomas Cumber says he believes it may be true that John Longmore was seized of the premises within mentioned in his demense as of fee and that he did settle the same on Thomas Longmore, his son, and that it may be true that there was a treaty between Thomas Longmore and Elizabeth, his wife, one of the daughters of Samuel Toy. The said John Longmore did agree to bestow upon his son Thomas household stuff, corn, cattle, and the said defendant. Thomas Longmore did agree to make a feoffment to John nad Thomas Toy, two of the sons of Thomas Toy, and to Gregory Vernon and Thomas Cumber, of all the moiety of all the lands messuages, tenements for a jointure for his wife and did agree to pay £30 pain to John Longmore and to keep a horse for his wife and to provide for the said complainant John and Alice his wife such other necessaries as in by the said complainants bill is set forth...or otherwise the said defendant was to allow him £10 more. And in case the complainant should survive the defendant, his son, then he should have the one moiety of all the premises during his life without ?? Samuel Toy, in consideration aforesaid, did agree to settle a parcel of land called the Hubbolds. And he believes the marriage did take effect. Humphrey Grove was a party to the agreement between Thomas and John Longmore and Thomas did grant unto Humphrey Grove and their heirs a messuage and lands belonging in the possession of Humfrey Goodman and several tother messuages and lands.

PRO C5/144/71 Cassandra Nicholls 1689

Your orator, Humphrey Barrett of Alveley. That Cassandra Nicholls, late of Alveley, spinster did about 9 May 1666 make her last will and testament and did bequeath all her household goods unto the orator Humphrey Barrett. And also all the rest of her goods and chattells she gave and bequeathed to the orator and to her brother Thomas Nicholls to be equally divided between them and also made Thomas her executor. Thomas proved the will in PCC but died before distributing her goods eight years since, making his own will, making Eleanor Nicholls, his daughter, executrix who proved the will and possessed all his goods including the goods of the orator but never presented an inventory of the goods of Cassandra. Eleanor married John Baker of the city of Worcester, Brasier - etc. They to be a certain day to come to court to decide the outcome.

C8/455/32 Eldred Lancelot Lee vs Charles Lye 1696

Answers of Charles and Henry Lye.

Eldred Lancelot Lee is entitled to Alveley Manor and common or waste ground called Alveley Green. And that Charles Lye, for several years has two messuages, one barn, and a shop or building with a smith forge near unto the waste ground called Alveley Green, and they were in the inheritance of Richard Longmore dec. who for £39 paid to him by Thomas Potter in July 1651. - needs reading more.

Chancery Case C10/257/8 Lee vs. Longmore

The joint and several answers of Gerard Longmore, one of the defendants to the Bill of Complaint of Eldred Lancelot Lee esq.

This defendant..... believes it to be true that Humphrey Longmore, this defendant's grandfather, did purchase of Thomas Whorwood, late of Stourton Castle, and Dame Maude, als Magdalen, his wife, or Gerard Whorwood, son of the said Thomas, and his wife..... one small messuage in Romsley, sometime then before in the possession of one Burroughs for ... one hundred pounds And also purchased

some other lands called Lenmores of some of the Whorwoods at some other times but of which this deponent knows not, nor the time.... when they were purchased.... Having never had the deeds and writings by which the estates were purchased and doesn't know where they are. And this deponent believes that his grandfather, Humphrey Longmore,.... Purchased other lands From one Elcock, one Hale, one Nicholls, one Longmore and one Baskervild and of some of the Lords of Kinlett - but the particulars and times ... the deponent cannot say. But ... by his last will and testament Humphrey Longmore ... demised all, or a great part, of them in Romsley and elsewhere to Humphrey Longmore, this deponents's eldest brother and his ... grandson who held the same for his life and then by his will devised them to George Longmore this deponent's father. All which premises the said George Longmore entered upon and was possessed of. And sometime after the said George Longmore, this deponent's father, about thirty years since In consideration of a marriage and marriage portion with Elizabeth, this defendant's now wife, did convey and assure unto Lancelot Nicholls and Gerrard Davies and their heirs forever, trustees in the said settlement named, All the lands in Romsley and Alveley to their uses limited. Amongst which uses it was limited to the defendant for life. And after his decease some part thereof to Elizabeth, this defendant's wife, for life. And after their decease to the use of the heirs The whole were of the yearly value of about £70 and which the defendant hath held and enjoyed since the making of the settlement..... there was yearly paid to the chief Lord of the manor of Romsley 16s. And there was also paid to the complainant and his ancestors the sum of 35s. 2d. and a couple of capons yearly at the days and times in the said bill for that purpose mentioned. But.... out of what part (of the premises) the rents were paid This defendant cannot say.

This defendant also says that having some misfortunes in the world he hath been forced to sell some part of the said messuage lands and premises hereinafter mentioned to several persons herein also named.

To witt: Thomas Nicholls of the Perry House, one messuage built in Rough Leasow together with the said Rough Leasow, one close or pasture called Lenmores, three closes called the Batches. And did also assign over to the said Thomas Nicholls the remainder of a term of years which this defendant had in two leasows or pastures called Tuckfield in which conveyances and assurances to the said Thomas Nicholls as aforesaid this defendant hath reserved to be paid to the complainant and the Lord of the manor of Romsley in the sum of 17s. And which this defendant hath proportioned in manner following.... That is to say, Thomas Tyrer esq. Lord of the manor of Romsley, the sum of 1s. yearly. And to the complainant and his heirs the sum of 16s. yearly which this defendant hath heard and believes has been paid by the said Thomas Nicholls accordingly. And this defendant did also sell to Mrs Margaret Nicholls, spinster, one messuage called Heathy Croft with the garden, orchards and two closes thereunto adjoining, one close or pasture called Dumballs Furlong, and three parcels of land in Orchard Field containing about three acres..... yearly rent of 6d. to be paid to the complainant. And this defendant hath sold to John Longmore of Romsley, yeoman, one parcel of land in Romsley Field and one other parcel of land in Whorfurlong 6d. rent to Thomas Tyrer... And this defendant hath sold to Henry Plymley one close or meadow called Poole Meadow and two small parcels in Romsley Field containing about one acre ...rent 2s. ... to Thomas Tyrer. ... Sold to Gerrard Davies of Romsley, yeoman, one close or meadow called Little Poole Meadow, one other leasow or pasture called Edmore als Easemore Croft, one close called Barnefields now in two parcels divided Rent 6d..... to Thomas Tyrer. Sold to Thomas Hill and John Hill, his son, one parcel of land called Moyle Hole, two butts in Old Pitt, one other close thereunto adjoining, four parcels in Winmillfield containing about three acres with a cottage thereupon, one close called the Hooker with a cottage thereon, one close called the Elder Acre, one close called Nash Yard, one parcel in Nash Field containig about three acres, one piece called Blunders Wall and three butts adjoining to Wynmill Leasow... rent 4s... to Thomas Tyrer... But whether the rent has been paid this defendant cannot say. And this defendant hath conveyed to Humphrey Bate of Compton, Co. Staffs., yeoman, and to John Davies of Hadsor?, Co. Worcs, yeoman, the messuage and premises called Burroughs Farm and some other lands The whole to the value of £20....

The defendant now hath, or was never seized of , any lands But from his marriage settlement.... The complainant is heir in law to Thomas Lee esq. , his father, and to Lancelot Lee, the complainant's grandfather, and that this said Lancelot Lee did purchase some lands, rents, capons and herriots of the said

Thomas Whorwood or Gerrard Whorwood.... Etc.

Signed Gerrard Longmore - his mark

Wirtnessed by John Lacon, Richard Dovey, William Clare, John Jones.

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