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Introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Alveley Historical Society Transactions. It has been another busy year for members of the Society.

Our members have been at the forefront of the committee formed to raise funds to restore the Altar Frontal for St Mary’s church, of which Rev Bill Pryce reports in this issue. We have also had representatives in the debate about the fate of the miners bridge and we held a display at the miners reunion in September. We have organised the annual village quiz in May. Throughout the year our members have been in contact with those interested in Alveley parish history both at home and abroad.

The articles in this volume encompass a range of topics including memories of times past, family trees, landscape archaeology, latin deeds and another 50 year section of the parish register.

There are moves afoot to bring together and publish our collection of Alveley family trees so anybody who has one of interest that we have not seen should contact Tim White so that it can be included.

Alan Nicholls. Research Group Chairman

Limestone working in Alveley and District

by David Poyner

Alveley is well known as a centre of stone quarrying. However, most of this was sandstone, found in thick beds and used for building stone and grindstones. The limestone workings found in Alveley and the neighbouring areas of Kinlet, Arley, Wolverley and Trimpley are much less well known. This article attempts to reconstruct their history.

Geology of Limestone¹

Limestone is a rock chiefly made up of calcium carbonate. It can be formed from the shells of fossilised animals or by chemical deposition. In the Alveley area the significant limestones were chiefly formed by precipitation of calcium salts as shallow lakes and seas dried out. These limestone beds are sometimes associated with particular types of fossils which give them their names. Limestones formed in this way are often known as cornstones. After the limestones were laid down, they often suffered erosion, breaking down into pebbles. Sometimes these pebble beds overly the primary deposit of limestone, to form cornstone conglomerates. Calcium carbonate can also infiltrate other deposits to produce lime-rich deposits. Marls are made of either clay or fine-grained deposits called siltstones that are enriched in calcium carbonate.

In Alveley the main type of limestone is the *Spirorbis* limestone, named after the chief fossil found in the rock, *Spirorbis pusillus*. This was an aquatic worm that lived inside spiral tubes and the remains of these tubes form the fossils. The *Spirorbis* limestones are found in thin bands, less than a yard thick. They were laid down towards the end of the period when coal seams were also being formed (the Carboniferous period). There are probably four bands of *Spirorbis* limestone that occur in the locality. West of the river is a band found in the geological formation known as the Highley beds, which also contain a number of seams of workable coal. In the geological sequence the Highley beds are followed by the Keele beds which contain virtually no seams of coal but several good quality beds of sandstone (these were the basis of the sandstone quarrying industry of Alveley). Up to three beds of *Spirorbis* limestone have also been identified in these measures. These extend east of the Severn through Alveley into Arley. In addition to these beds of *Spirorbis* limestones, there are other poorly defined patches of limestone found in the Keele beds, existing as either cornstones or marls. Locally these are important near Hampton Loade.

In the south of Arley parish, extending into Wolverley and Trimpley is a geological structure known as the Trimpley Inlier. This is made up of rocks laid down in the Devonian period that immediately preceded the Carboniferous. In here there are beds of cornstone known as *Psammosteus* limestone, named after fossil fish that is found in the measures (in fact it is now known that it is not *Psammosteus*, but the name has stuck). The limestone in these beds is up to 5 yards thick. The distribution of the various limestone outcrops is shown in figure 1.

Uses of limestone.

Limestone has found uses both as building material and as a chemical raw material. In the first case, it can be used as a building stone or as a roadstone. Locally, it seems that only the thick *Psammosteus* limestones could ever have been quarried for good quality building stone (freestone). However, the thin *Spirorbis* limestones could yield rubble suitable for roadstone. As a chemical, limestone could be used in many ways. Crude limestone was used as a flux in iron smelting. However, for most uses the limestone needed to be heated in a kiln to give quicklime. Chemically this represents the conversion of calcium carbonate to calcium oxide. Quicklime reacts vigorously with water to produce slaked lime, calcium hydroxide. Unlike limestone itself, slaked lime will dissolve slightly in water to give an alkaline solution and its very small particle size also means it can easily be taken up by plants. These properties make it a valuable fertiliser and, particularly from the mid-Eighteenth Century, large quantities of quicklime were used to improve farmland. The product has also been used by builders since antiquity for mortar. Another, more minor use of slaked lime is in tanning. There is no doubt that much local limestone was burnt in kilns, probably for agricultural use².

Working limestone.

Limestone was extracted from the ground with simple tools; picks, hammers, wedges and crowbars. Wherever possible, natural faults and cleavage planes would be exploited. Where building stone was required, the emphasis would have been on obtaining large, regular shaped blocks. Here considerable skill was needed with picks and chisels to cut out a series of holes or a groove which could then be split by wedges. Where the limestone was used as rubble or for burning in kilns, then it was a positive advantage to remove it in small pieces. Gunpowder was available for blasting from the Eighteenth Century, either for the limestone itself or to remove the overlying strata. A very important consideration in working the stone was the thickness of the beds. The cornstones of the Trimpley inlier were of considerable thickness and appear to have been removed by classical open quarries. By contrast, the thin *Spirorbis* limestones were difficult to quarry, due to the large amount of overlying, non-productive rock. These were often extracted in pits, following the outcrop as it went underground. In a few cases, these may have approached genuine underground mines, as seen in the Lilleshall and Ironbridge areas of Shropshire.

As noted above, most local limestone seems to have ended up in lime kilns. The earliest and simplest form of kiln was just a stone-lined bowl, open at the top, in which limestone was mixed with firewood or coal and the whole mass set on fire. After it had burnt itself out, the walls of the kiln would be demolished and the lime removed. However, the kilns that survived to be recorded at the end of the Nineteenth Century were horseshoe kilns, which were somewhat more sophisticated (see figure 2). These were also open-topped, stone-lined bowls, but with an additional opening in the base (the draw-hole) protected by substantial wing-walls, giving the kilns a horseshoe-like shape. Like their predecessors, they would be loaded with a mixture of lime and small pieces of coal from the top. The draw-hole would be sealed after the coal had been ignited and the kiln contents would be left to burn for several days. After it had cooled, the draw-hole would be opened, the quicklime raked out and then the kiln could be reused³.

History of lime-working

The lime-working industry of Alveley and surrounding parishes is not well documented. This account draws heavily on the field notes of a geologist, Thomas Cantrill, who mapped the local limestones in 1893-5. Fortunately Cantrill had broad interests and his notes include much valuable historical information. Cantrill was followed by Dr. R.W. Pocock, who completed the mapping of the area for the Geological Survey in 1932; again his work provides useful historical evidence. When these sources are supplemented with a few other scattered references, a pattern does emerge⁴.

The earliest reference to working of the local limestone comes from 1565, across the Severn in Kinlet. In a sale of Earnwood, that part of Kinlet adjacent to the Wyre Forest, one field is called "Limepit Field"⁵. It retained this name until the tithe map of the 19th Century was drawn, allowing its identification. It is close to the outcrop of *Spirorbis* limestone west of the Severn and there seems little doubt that it takes its name from Tudor or perhaps even medieval lime-working. There is no evidence that this industry continued for very long, although at the end of the 19th Century Thomas Cantrill noted burnt pieces of limestone and hollows that might once have been kilns close to Bank Farm in Arley, a little south of Limepit Field.⁶

After Limepit Field, the historical record is silent until the Shropshire Coroners' Inquests of July 1771. These include an inquest into an old man who was killed in Alveley by falling into a "marl pit". This would have been dug to extract lime-rich stratum for spreading on the fields. It is not clear where the pit was located.

The next documented reference to lime-working comes from a sale notice in Berrows Worcester Journal, 1st July 1806, of a limestone quarry in Alveley, adjoining Lye Hall, Quatt. The quarry was close to a 21 acre estate with a dwelling house, corn and paper mill and was obviously working limestone next to Paper Mill brook. A few years later, in March 1817, an advert in the same newspaper for Hadley's farm refers to the presence of "good limestone on the premises", indicating a second quarry. The Alveley tithe map of 1849 shows Limekiln Leasow and Limekiln Meadow as adjacent fields just south of the Butter Cross and a limekiln survived here well into the 20th Century. In 1894, Thomas Cantrill described this as a raised, horseshoe kiln. He also noted two cornstone/cornstone conglomerate quarries, one between Hampton Loade Ferry and Hill Farm and the second south of the Butter Cross; perhaps the limestone workings mentioned in the two newspapers adverts⁷. These remains all point to lime-working from the late Eighteenth to the mid-Nineteenth Centuries. There is however an intriguing possibility that in the mid-Seventeenth Century these same limestone deposits could have been quarried for use at Hampton Loade furnace, which worked from c1640-1661. This must remain supposition.

There was also much commercial activity at the start of the Nineteenth Century in the *Psammosteus* limestone workings of the Trimply outlier, on the boundaries of Wolverley, Arley and Trimply. The outcrop was readily identifiable when it was mapped for the Geological Survey by the old quarries that had worked it and a surviving kiln was noted⁸. The best documented enterprise was Birchwood Lime Works, in Wolverley parish. On November 1st 1809, Arley parish registers record the baptism of William Anthony, son of Andrew Thompson, lime merchant and Catherine his wife. Andrew Thompson was a brother to John and Benjamin Thompson who were joint owners of the Stanley Colliery in Highley and partners in an ironworks at Aberdare in South Wales. John also owned Hampton Loade Forge. The family had come from Sheffield, where they were involved in the local iron industry⁹. Given this background, Andrew's interests in local industry are not surprising and he may have started large-scale lime quarrying in the area.

There is no direct evidence to show where Andrew obtained his limestone, but circumstantial evidence suggests it was at Birchwood. The last mention of Andrew seems to be in January 1812 when he baptised his daughter Georgina; he was described simply as "gent". Later that year Stanley Colliery was sold by John Thompson to William Hughes and partners of Worcester and at the same time Hughes became associated with Birchwood lime-works. Adverts in Berrow's Worcester Journal announced that Hughes and Co would completely open the works by 1st January 1813 and it is reasonable to assume they purchased this at the same time as the mine. The advert stated that they were looking for contracts from the inhabitants of Wolverley and district as well as farmers along the Severn. For the latter, a boat and steersman was to be kept at Stanley Colliery where lime would also be burnt. Whether it was really the intention to transport quicklime by river is an interesting point, in view of the potentially violent way in which it reacts with water. Richard Rowley, a limeburner of Stanley is recorded in the Highley parish registers for 1815, suggesting a kiln was in operation at the mine. Birchwood remained as part of the Stanley Colliery empire which latterly also included sandstone quarries at Highley and Hextons (Arley), the Ship Inn in Highley and Hampstall brick works below Stourport. On December 9th 1822 the whole business was put up for sale, apparently due to geological problems at the mine. The sale notice claimed that the Birchwood limestone was found in beds 6' thick and was "much approved" of both for building work and agriculture. It seems the limeworks, unlike the colliery and sandstone quarries, found a buyer for it was not included in a resale the next year. However no more is heard of it and it had probably closed by the middle of the century¹⁰.

The *Psammosteus* limestone outcrop continues west of the main Bridgnorth-Kidderminster road. Thomas Cantrill recorded field evidence of workings here in 1893/4. East of Gunhill's Wood he noted a "cornstone hole" where limestone had been

worked and also a horseshoe kiln. Further west, at Bannerer's Cottage he came across an old quarry with four horseshoe kilns on the edge of a slope against the wood. Inside the kiln were a number of thin (2¼") bricks fused together from the heat of a firing. The site had not been used for a generation as it was overgrown with trees. More field evidence was recorded by the Geological Survey in 1932, most notably quarries near Holbeache and Hillhead Farms. One of the Holbeache quarries seems to have worked a particularly thick exposure of limestone, suggesting that this might have been quarried for building stone¹¹. The quarry near Hillhead can probably be equated with a "lime works" marked on the first series OS map published in 1832 (but first surveyed in 1815-7) and lying within the former parish of Dowles, on the east bank of the Severn. Dowles belonged to the family of Samuel Skey, an entrepreneur who established a chemical works on the west bank of the Severn near Bewdley at the start of the Nineteenth Century and it is possible that he also developed the lime works. The works was disused by the time the Dowles tithe map was drawn in c1840, but two fields next to the old quarry called "Limekiln Close" and "Old Limekiln Close" confirm that limestone was burnt as well as quarried.

In the east of Arley, there is documentary evidence for limestone working in the mid-Nineteenth Century. The tithe map of c1840 marks a coal and lime works at Pickard's farm, leased by the landowner, Arthur Lyttleon Annesley (Lord Mountnorris) to Allen and Thomas Wagstaff. The Wagstaff family had worked coal on Annesley's Arley estate for many years. A lease survives from 1844, granting Annesley's coal and lime works at Shatterford to Allen Wagstaff on a year-by-year basis¹². Most of the lease deals with coal, but Wagstaff was to pay a royalty of 1 shilling for every ton of lime made from limestone "to be raised or taken out of" Annesley's lime works. The minimum royalty payment was to be £17 pa, suggesting that the parties envisaged an output of well over 340 tons of quicklime a year, a respectable quantity for a small lime works. The lime kilns would have used the small coal and slack from the coal pits that would have otherwise have been difficult to sell. It is not clear if the works were still based at Pickard's Farm or whether they had moved nearer to the centre of present-day Shatterford. Wagstaff was described in the lease as a miner; he probably employed a small number of men or boys to help him in his work. He may have got and burnt the limestone himself but it is perhaps more likely that he employed other labourers for this work. At the same time as the lease was made, an inventory was drawn up of Annesley's stock at the limeworks which was to be taken by Wagstaff. Many of the items relate to mining (e.g. horse gins), but could have been used if limestone was worked underground. At the lime works there were 156 feet of rails weighing 16 cwt and valued at 5/- per cwt. This represents a light, wrought iron rail. Quite why so much was needed at the lime works is a mystery; it is possible that it was simply stored here for use at either coal or lime works. Wagstaff could not have worked for long under the terms of this lease. In the late 1840s a series of ambitious companies were floated to work coal and other minerals at Arley, culminating in the Arley Colliery Company of 1850 that operated a mine and brickworks adjacent to the Bellman's Cross at Shatterford. In 1851 they received £15-8-10 for lime sold from June to December of that year¹³. Annesley gave Wagstaff notice to quit and leased his coalworks to the Arley Colliery Company. The company collapsed a few years later and although they were replaced by a successor, there is no evidence this worked lime during its short life. From 1854 Wagstaff leased coal under the Brittles estate, north of the Bellman's Cross; again, he appears not to have worked limestone¹⁴. Thus it seems that limestone working in Arley virtually ceased after the mid 1850s.

Whilst it is possible that some of the limestone obtained by Wagstaff and the Arley Colliery Company was from the outcrop of the *Psammosteus* limestone in Man Wood, the location of the lime works at Pickard's Farm on the tithe map suggests that most came from the *Spirorbis* beds that are found here. An outcrop extends from Bromley Farm to Hall Close Coppice where it is a yard thick. In the 1930s a kiln was still visible in Little London Coppice indicating that it was also burnt at the Alveley end of the outcrop. The same bed is found just north of the Bellman's Cross at Shatterford, where it extends eastwards under the main Bridgnorth Kidderminster road towards Brittle's Farm. A number of pits show where it was quarried or mined¹⁵.

The field notes of Thomas Cantrill provide most of the evidence for the working of *Spirorbis* limestones found in Arley and Alveley¹⁶. An outcrop occurs just south of the Butts Farm. Here Cantrill was shown two grassed-over horseshoe kilns in a field called Limestone Piece. (He was also told that a Mr Aston of the Butts Farm had sunk a well and come across a yard-thick seam of good burning coal). R.W. Pocock in 1932 found shallow excavations either side of Hexton's Farm where this same limestone had been worked; in the southern excavation the limestone had been partially burnt, suggesting the former presence of a kiln. Another outcrop runs from Nash End farm in Arley to north of the May House. At Bainham's, 500 yards SW of Lowe Farm Cantrill came across a kiln with a very shallow opening which apparently had produced excellent agricultural lime. There were workings here on both sides of the road. Further north along the outcrop he was told that Charles Scriven of Shropshire Farm had got many tons of the limestone from a field near the May House to mend a road a few years before and that the excavation was still visible.

Conclusion

Limestone working was never a major industry around Alveley and Arley. The *Spirorbis* limestone beds were good quality but too thin to sustain large-scale working. Likewise, the *Psammosteus* limestone beds were limited in extent and remote from the main users compared to the limestone quarries found around Wenlock Edge, East Shropshire, Dudley and other established areas. Nonetheless, they have been worked locally since Tudor times and in the first half of the Nineteenth Century a number of independent operations were at work. The largest concerns seem to have been centred on the *Psammosteus* limestone beds, of which the Birchwood works is the best documented. However, towards the middle of Nineteenth Century the *Spirorbis*

limestone beds under the Arley Estate of William Annesley were also vigorously exploited. Elsewhere other landowners found it worth their while to open small quarries to service individual limekilns. Whilst some of the thicker stone in the *Psammosteus* outcrop went for building stone, most ended up in the kilns destined for agricultural use. There is little doubt that the pressure to improve agricultural land in the late Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries by the spreading of slaked lime provided the major impetus for the growth of the local industry. Its decline was largely due to the exhaustion of easily obtainable limestone, coupled with improvements in transport that made it cheaper to bring in lime from outside the area.

Since the work of Thomas Cantrill in 1893-5 and R.W. Pocock in 1932, there has been no attempt to record the remains of the industry. It has probably not survived well. Two pits are still visible in a field at SO794826, just south of Brittle's Farm; perhaps the remains of some of Allen Wagstaff's workings. It is likely that many other sites have now been filled in. However, it is difficult to completely obliterate all traces of an extractive industry and there are probably good survivals of quarries and other works hidden in woodland. It would be a useful exercise to document and record what still survives.

References

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- 2) *The Wenlock Limestone Industry*, G. Williams, 1997, pp 12-41.
- 3) *Limekilns and Limeburning*, R. Williams, Shire Publications, Aylesbury, 1989, pp 3-15.
- 4) T.C. Cantrill, Field Notebook 8, British Geological Survey Library, Keyworth, Notts; Whitehead and Pocock, *op. cit.*
- 5) Public Record Office, State Papers 12, Vol. 36, No. 1, Survey of Earnwood, 1565.
- 6) Cantrill, *op. cit.*
- 7) Cantrill, *op. cit.* The exact location of the various workings by Hampton Loade is complicated. Limekiln leasow and meadow almost certainly take their name from the kiln recorded by Cantrill and shown on early OS maps. However at the time of the tithe survey they did not belong to Hadley's Farm. It is possible that the Hadley's quarry was a little to the south or east of this kiln.
- 8) Whitehead and Pocock, *op. cit.*
- 9) For references on the Thompson family, see *The Wyre Forest Coalfield*, R.E. Evans and D.R. Poyner, Tempus Publishing, Stroud, 2000, Chapter 3.
- 10) Evans and Poyner, *op. cit.*
- 11) Cantrill, *op. cit.*; Whitehead and Pocock, *op. cit.*
- 12) Worcester Record Office (WRO) 10863/33.
- 13) Public Record Office BT 41/25/29 Arley Coal & Iron Mining, Brick, Lime & Coke Company; BT 31/311/1078 Arley Mining Company: WRO 4000/161, 10863/33.
- 14) WRO 10863/33.
- 15) Whitehead and Pocock, *op. cit.*
- 16) Cantrill, *op. cit.*

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The Grave of Molly Jones

By Pauline M.Ritter (nee Flewett), Florida, USA

During a three week vacation in 1995, I visited the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Alveley. Research on my Flewett ancestors has led me to Alveley and my seventh great grandfather, Humphrey Fluett. My hope was to find a Flewett gravestone in the churchyard.

On a hot August day, we found the gravestone of Molly Jones, wife of my second great granduncle, James Adams Flewett. The headstone reads: "Molly Jones, wife of James Adams Flewett, who died May 9, 1875, aged 86 years, she rests in hope."

James Adams Flewett was the seventh of eleven children born to Edward and Betty Flewett. Betty's maiden name was Adams, hence James' middle name of Adams. He was baptized January 1 1783 at St Peter's Church in Over Areley (Over Arley), Stafford.

James was a farmer following in the steps of his ancestors and was a churchwarden during the years 1820 to 1823 and again in 1825. He married Molly Giles on October 1, 1814 at Chetton, Salop. Discrepancies arose when a marriage bond was found for James dating after his marriage to Molly.

Licence documents dated December 20, 1814 show that James appeared before Charles Fewtrell, Surrogate and applied for a licence to marry Elizabeth Giles. Elizabeth "had her usual abode for the space of four weeks last, past" at Chetton, Salop. The bond was made between James and John Giles and in neither document, the application nor the bond, was it mentioned that Elizabeth was the daughter of John Giles.

We have here a marriage between James Adams Flewett and Molly Giles on October 1, 1814 and then a question when James applies for a marriage licence to marry Elizabeth Giles on December 20, 1814, two months after his marriage to Molly. It was thought that Molly died and James then married Elizabeth. This did not happen because James and Molly had two children and Molly did not die until 1875. The application and the bond are a mystery.

The witnesses to the marriage between James and Molly were John and Ann Giles. It is not known if Molly was the daughter of John Giles but she was the sister of Ann Giles.

James and Molly had two daughters. Elizabeth was born in Shropshire House, Alveley, and baptized on October 20, 1815, only to be buried on October 25, 1815 at Alveley. Mary Ann was also born in Shropshire House, Alveley and was baptized on March 30, 1817.

James died on November 27, 1834 at Upper Hollis, Alveley and was buried on December 1, 1834 at Alveley. His estate was left to Molly and Mary Ann with a few other bequests to various people including sisters and his only surviving brother, Henry Carpenter Flewett, my second great grandfather. In the Alveley Transactions 1997 by the Alveley Historical Society, View of Frankpledge – 28th October 1835 – James' death is noted on page 145.

Almost a year later Mary Ann married Edward Hughes on November 17, 1835 at Alveley. Edward was the son of Edward and Mary Hughes and was baptized April 15, 1810 at Chelmarsh, Salop. Edward and Mary Ann had four children. Mary, baptized December 29, 1836 and Amelia Flewitt Hughes, baptized May 30, 1844 both at Hempton, Chelmarsh. As yet, baptism records for Edward and Emma have not been found.

Molly eventually remarried on May 10, 1841. She married James Jones, a widower and farmer from Hampton Lovett, Worcester. The wedding took place at Alveley and the record shows her name as Mary. Her son-in-law, Edward Hughes, was a witness. The civil record does not show a father for either Molly or James.

The Upper Arley 1871 Census shows Molly living with her sister, Ann Giles. Ann is listed as being an unmarried head of household, aged 79, and a retired victualler. Molly is shown as Molly Jones, Widowed, aged 82 and an annuitant. The record shows that the sisters were born in Chetton, Salop.

Molly died on May 9, 1875, of old age, widow of James Jones. In her will of April 20, 1875, Molly left her estate to her four grandchildren, Mary Bowen, Edward Hughes, Emma Bellow and Amelia Clayton. Mary and Emma were the executrices of her will.

According to the records accompanying the will, Molly's grand daughter, Mary, had married John Bowen, a farmer of Dunvall House in the parish of Astley Abbots, Salop. Molly's granddaughter, Emma, had married John Bellow, an ironmonger of Leominster, Hereford.

In the 1881 Census, John Bowen is shown as being aged 45, born in Bridgnorth, Shropshire and to have had 169 acres. He and Mary had one son, John, aged 16 at the time of the Census, who was born at Astley Abbots, Shropshire.

The 1881 Census also shows that Amelia married Charles Clayton, a manufacturer, aged 56, born in Montgomery, Wales. He and Amelia had four children. Ada M. Clayton was shown as ten years of age, born London, Middlesex; Gertrude B. Clayton, eight; Florence M. Clayton, six and Lillian F. Clayton, six months, were all born at Streatham, Surrey, where the Census was taken.

Whether Edward Hughes, Molly's grandson, ever married, is not known.

The death duty register of the will of James Adams Flewett, shows that Molly's daughter, Mary Ann, died November 9, 1846. Chelmarsh parish records show that Edward may have married two more times. A daughter, Anne, was born to Edward and Anne Hughes on March 3, 1849, three years after Mary Ann's death. The record shows Edward as a gentleman living at Hempton as do the baptismal records of Mary and Amelia Hughes. Chelmarsh parish records also show a Catherine Fanny born to Edward and Eliza Hughes on April 4, 1853, seven years after the death of Edward's wife, Mary Ann. Again, the record shows that Edward was a gentleman living at Hempton. It is unlikely that it was Edward, the son, because he would only have been about thirteen years of age at the time.

Edward Hughes Snr died March 20, 1879 at age 68 in Hempton, Chelmarsh, Salop. His son died on July 17 1881 at age 41 in Church Stretton, Chelmarsh, Salop. Research on the Hughes family continues so that dates of births, marriages and deaths can tie up loose ends.

The Census

By Margaret Sheridan

In this year of the Census, I thought it would be interesting to take a brief look at some past Alveley Censuses.

The details of the early Census of 1801-1841 were very primitive and I understand was basically just a head count, listing the address of the property, head of household and how many occupants. This system was greatly improved by 1841 when the enumerators records included everyone's name, address, age, marital status, place of birth and occupation and, in some cases, if a person was disabled in some way (ie blind, deaf or dumb).

The enumerators task was quite a difficult one; travelling from house to house and taking the information of every man, woman and child in each household.

Errors were often made, some people had no idea of how old they were; some older folks were hard of hearing and it was not uncommon for older inhabitants to accidentally give false information!

The first Census took place on Monday 10th March 1801 with a population of 791 recorded in Alveley.

This figure was little unchanged by the next Census of 27th May 1811, when a figure of 802 was recorded.

There was a small improvement by May 1821 when a figure of 831 was recorded in the village.

The next Census was taken on the 30th May 1831, which recorded 193 houses.

The next Census of 6th June 1841 showed a population of 914 people living in 187 houses; the majority of people were recorded as "born Alveley". Surnames recorded included Wood, Foxall, Wyer, Thatcher, Veal, Oakley, Bache, Webb, Griffiths, Jennings and Clarke.

The following Census of 30th March 1851 recorded a population of 1041. One of the enumerators was Richard Veal of High House. Among the families recorded were Bache, Bennett, Broom, Dovey, Evans, Foxall, Gibson, Griffiths, Hay, Haynes, Hayward, Jennings, Lane, Link, Lloyd, Middleton, Nicholls, Oakley, Pountney, Rowley, Scriven, Thatcher, Webb and Wood.

The following Census took place on 7th April 1861. The enumerator was Richard Veal and unfortunately, his handwriting is very difficult to read in parts.

The enumerator of the Census of April 1871 was Thomas Warder of Hillhouse (fortunately his handwriting was much better!). He recorded a lower population figure of 985 consisting of just over 120 households. Among the well-known families recorded were Warder, Clark, France, Morris, Wood, Foxall, Link, Jennings, Hayward, Elcock, Scriven, Bennett, Monk, Nicholls, Griffiths, Head and Wier.

The enumerators for the next Census of April 1881 were Thomas Warder and John Cresswell. All the familiar Alveley "names" are present. The majority of the population either worked as stone quarrymen, servants or agricultural labourers. The whole of the British 1881 Census is now available on computer compact disc and it is interesting to see that some "Alveley born" people by this time had moved away and settled into many other counties, including Herefordshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Kent, Glamorgan, Wiltshire, Somerset, Surrey and Hampshire.

The last Census of the 1800's took place on 5th April 1891 and showed an Alveley population of 848. Among the well-known families recorded were Wood, Clark, Foxall, Massey, Scriven, Kirkham, Nicholls, Elcock, Monk, Holloway, Lane, Knowles, Ward, Morris, Head, Turford, Richards, France, Hunt, Beddoes, Link, Warder, Hayward, Bennett, Jennings, Cresswell, Wier, Harley, Corfield, Molyneux and Garbett. Descendants of many of these families still remain in the village today.

It is amazing how much the village has expanded in a century; the population figure for Alveley in 1991 was 2,219.

I recently received this year's Census form through the letterbox and it is amazing how things have changed. These days they want to record so much extra information, including how many cars or vans you own and whether you rent/own or mortgage your property. The form was 20 pages long!

Someone recently sent me this poem all about the "Census Taker" of long ago:

Census Taker

*It was the first day of Census and all through the land
The Pollster was ready, a black book in his hand.
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride,
His book and some quills were tucked by his side.*

*A long winding ride down a road barely there,
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting up in the air.
The woman was tired, with lines on her face,
And wisps of brown hair she tucked into place.*

*She gave him some water as they sat at the table,
And she answered his questions, as best she was able.
He asked of her children – yes, she had quite a few;
The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.*

*She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red.
Her sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
She noted each person who lived there, with pride,
And she felt the faint stirring of the wee one inside.*

*He noted the sex, the colour, the age ...
The marks from the quill soon filled up the page
At the number of children, she nodded her head,
And saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.*

*The places of birth she "never forgot".
Was it Kansas, or Utah, or Oregon – or not?
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear,
But wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.*

*They spoke of employment, of schooling and such.
They could read some and write some, though really not much.
When the questions were answered, his job there was done,
So he mounted his horse and rode toward the sun.*

*We can almost imagine his voice, loud and clear:
"May God bless you all for another ten years"
Now picture a time warp – it's now you and me,
As we search for the people on our family tree.*

*We squint at the Census and scroll down so slow
As we search for that entry from long, long ago.
Could they only imagine, on that long ago day,
That the entries they made would affect us in this way?*

*If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel,
And the searching that makes them so increasingly real?
We can hear, if we listen, the words they impart,
Through the blood in our veins and their voice in our heart."*

(Author unknown)

Alveley Bridge

By Margaret Sheridan

About a year ago, I was searching the internet for some Shropshire local history and suddenly stumbled on an article written by Brenda Brown of Carlsbad, California, stating that her father was manager of Highley Colliery in the 1940's and was involved

in the construction of the bridge spanning the river between Alveley and Highley.

I e-mailed Brenda and was very pleased to receive her reply. Here are some interesting extracts from her letter:

“Hi Margaret,

Yes, my father William I Cain, was Manager of Highley Colliery about 1941 – 1947. He designed and had built the bridge from Highley to Alveley which is still there.

I had all the plans, drawings, photos of construction etc and a diary which my father kept of the day-to-day workings of the progress being made with the bridge and the tunnel under the River Severn.

Ground was broken in August 1935. He was very interested in the geological make-up of the ground and collected many specimens of fossils from the workings.

When my father left Alveley Colliery, he transferred to Madeley Wood as manager and was there from 1947 to 1952. We lived at Tweedale Lodge, the Colliery Manager’s house on the corner of the lane leading to the pit.

The Under Manager, Mr Cockrill, lived next door.

I went to school in Wellington at Hayatt College for Girls.

We then moved to Burntwood in Staffordshire as my father had been injured in a rock fall at Madeley Wood and sustained a slipped disc, which in those days was inoperable. He then went to work in the National Coal Board’s Surveyor’s Office at the headquarters in Cannock. After my training as a secretary, I also worked at the NCB offices from 1957 to 1963.

Just a mention in passing; when we were in England in 1995, I tried to find the bridge my dad had built and stopped in the village to ask a man who was gardening if he could direct us. He was a tall man with a “pork chop” moustache and one tooth in the front of his mouth. Although I had left the area in 1946, this man knew my dad and had worked with him and had also sung with my father’s sister, Helen Cain, when she did shows around the area.

My new husband was amazed to think we had stumbled across someone who knew our family after all those years.

*Sincerely
Brenda Brown”*

I then wrote to Brenda asking if she possibly still had the plans and other documents, but she wrote back telling me that she had tried to sell the documents to the NCB, but they were not interested and a few other people just wasted her time, so before her departure to California in 1983, she disposed of all the diaries, plan, drawings etc, and has regretted it ever since.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

(or "Uncle Tom's Home Made Caravan")

By Barry Cox

1946. Post-war Britain was beginning to shape up to the challenge of the years of peace. Factories began to re-tool for washing machines, fridges and, of course, the motor cars (for which, at one time, I think there was a four or five year, maybe more, waiting list). The first notable improvement I remember at my age then, was getting a banana, the first one for six years.

The propaganda at that time put out by the government, was "Export, export, export". America, being the recipient of most of our production, we needed the Dollar. It hasn't changed really over the fifty-odd years since then.

I mentioned the waiting time for a new car, but what I remember of that time is there was a waiting list for practically everything, the waiting was going on right into the beginning of the Sixties, housing being the worst, with 10 or 12 years being the normal waiting time. To help us with the housing shortage, America and Canada shipped us the pre-fab house.

German prisoners of war were used as labour to put the foundations down, the pre-fabricated unit erected on the pad in two or three days and fully connected to mains and water in another day. People moving into them at the end of the week, in absolute wonderment at all the mod-cons they contained. People who moved into them after the war were loath to leave them forty or fifty years later when the authorities decided to remove them.

A shortage of materials for the manufacturing of any product was dire, to say the least, with the major manufacturing exporters getting first call and, of course, being at the top of the list to ensure those exports did get away from our shores and bring back those Dollars.

So, this was the state of the country when Uncle Tom decided to build a caravan, a step up the ladder from the camping days our families had shared through the war years at Alveley, very happy years.

To move on, Uncle Tom had decided it was a new era and something a little more substantial than a canvas tent was required. So it was – a caravan was born. A bold enterprise, as I have stated, with so little to build it with, to obtain the required metal and timber, a major scavenging and procuring effort was put into motion (the least said here, the better), but procure and obtain, Uncle Tom did.

One thing he did have was a foundation for his idea. This was a big Humber car chassis which bestraddle the front garden of his daughter and son-in-law, which was later moved to the rear of his own house where, over several months, the caravan of caravans took shape. Uncle Tom, a sheet metal worker, worked wonders with the begged and borrowed materials (I visited one day and he was getting nuts and bolts from some aircraft seats to use for some job on the van – ex-military equipment was finding its way onto the streets by then). Gradually, the body took shape, windows went in, finally the interior was tackled – cupboards and beds were installed. Then that day arrived – at last he could stand back and admire his creation.

There it stood, a silver monument to Uncle Tom's endeavours and skills – but not quite. What it needed, he decided, was a coat of paint and what better colour than a nice green – green being the only colour that was available to him, the decision being somewhat made for him (thank heaven he didn't get mauve!).

Visitors came from miles around to cast an eye over and admire the masterpiece that had taken shape on the rear garden, it was pats on the backs to all. Just one problem now stood between the caravan and the sylvan meadows it was destined for – the house and how to get it onto the road, at least on the road in one piece. The only way out was over the rear garden, around the house that stood at the rear of Uncle Tom's and then out onto the cul-de-sac.

Uncle Tom was a Labour councillor during this period and he used all his persuasive skills to enlist the help of fellow councillors (especially if they had a lorry, a crane, anything that would help get the caravan to its site). No matter their political leanings – if they could assist in any way, they were in.

In writing this, I had some information off Alma, his daughter, and Joe, his son-in-law who, by the way, was instrumental in obtaining quite a lot of the material for the construction.

Joe told me of the Conservative Councillor who could obtain a lorry and came to see the caravan (to check the size etc). Casting his eye over the van he remarked "By Jove, Tom, yo have made a big un". Uncle Tom replied "Us Labour blokes do everything big". Quick as a flash, the answer came back "Ar, I've noticed that with some of the blunders yo lot have med on the Council". Uncle Tom was a little hog tied there – he needed the bloke's lorry and couldn't upset him.

Ultimately, things were arranged. The householder at the rear agreed to allow the caravan to be hauled over his back garden and onto the road. A crane was borrowed to lift it over fences and hedges and finally a great lorry that had to manoeuvre in the confines of a narrow road so that the crane could get broadside and drop the load onto the back, hopefully in one piece. Of course, for anyone who could build a caravan out of bits and pieces in those days (without power tools) in the back garden, the small matter of getting it onto a lorry was small fry. So, of course, it was loaded and, after apologies to the owner of the churned up garden, the first step to get it to its site were taken.

Uncle Tom's family and our own family holidays camping holidays were always taken on Charlie Evans's farm at Alveley, so of course, this had a direct effect on where the caravan was to be sited. Arriving at the farm, the field was found to be water logged and there was no way it could be sited without it sinking into the ground. It was decided to lift it over the fence and leave it for the next week before trying to move it further. To do this they had to shut off the lane so that the crane could do the job of lifting it. By the time the job had been executed, there was quite a bother with the local law about the lorry and crane blocking the narrow lane without permission for two or three hours, all, I think, resolved in some way or another.

So, the caravan had arrived at its destination (though not on its proposed site) and all that was required was for the ground to dry out so that it could be moved to its final resting place. The arrangement was to meet the following weekend (Easter weekend) to get the caravan on to its proposed site at the bottom of the field, which they did, albeit in a snowstorm.

So, with its old Humber chassis holding it aloft proudly for the world to see, Uncle Tom's Cabin provided so many, many happy years for the families down on Charlie's farm at Alveley. It saw the austerity of early post war years diminish and the more prosperous times emerge, when people could visit caravan sales forecourts and purchase some gleaming second home on wheels for the two or three thousand pounds that was becoming easier to obtain with just a signature on the bottom of the agreement. But, were they ever to have the fulfilment that Uncle Tom had from his vision of building his own caravan and placing it in the countryside of his beloved Alveley?

Uncle Tom's and Auntie Sue's, with my Mum and Dad's ashes, are scattered down the lane two hundred yards from where they spent so many happy years, and it isn't hard to imagine them as in those early years pottering around the van and the oft call of "I could just bust a cuppa tea, Sue". The men sitting down in the deckchairs after knocking a fencepost back the cows had demolished during the night, or some other little job that would materialise from somewhere to give them the satisfaction of keeping the van in good order.

The years were to pass. I don't know what finally happened to Uncle Tom's home-built caravan. It isn't there now, or any of the weekend bungalows that flanked it. I suppose, just like the emergency housing pre-fabs that so many families lived in and enjoyed for over fifty years (they were only supposed to be there for ten years) they had fulfilled a role and their time had come to be replaced.

Uncle Tom's caravan, I suppose, could be described in such a manner – it was of that time, it was the focal point of every weekend for family for 40-odd years. Good years. Years and happy memories that are engraved on us survivors and will be for a very long time.

How the Pneumatic Tyre helped to change the landscape around the village of Alveley and the Round House Pool, Fenn Green.

By Barry Cox

What wonderful memories those few words evoke. My first splashing strokes in the super effort to keep my head above the sparkling water of that pool. My sixteen stone dad diving off the spring board, it snapping off as he attempted to do a double pike in front of his admiring offsprings and the laughter it caused around the immaculate lawns of the pool (Mr Milsom's pride and joy).

Me out of my depth and cousin Harry dragging me to the side. The bottom of the pool was concave, two or three steps out and the water was a foot deeper, difficult if you were only learning.

Those baking hot days when us kids ran up the field from the campsite, an old threadbare towel under our arms, no luxurious beach towel then for us. Mr Milsom standing at the turnstiles counting us in. Uncle Tom always coming to some understanding with him on our entrance money and why we shouldn't pay – I can't recall one of us paying at the pool (Uncle Tom negotiating a block family fee – Mr Milsom not realising it was for three families, but there again, they were very big families in those days).

I remember vividly the green turnstiles and the click click as you pushed against them and that heady water smell, the sound of the cascading water falling down the ornamental steps as we ran round to the changing rooms, then the half hour as we dangled toes trying to buck up enough courage to submerge ourselves fully into the water.

Some of the braver ones, brother Len, cousin Harry, diving in straight from coming out of the dressing rooms, me knowing I would just die if I did it (not through drowning, but heart failure), then some sneak running round the back and pushing me in leaving me clawing air trying to keep out of the water.

After two or three fun-packed days, with our sunburned pickled cabbage red backs adding to the discomfort of our ground sheet bed and the hardness of farmer Charlie Evans' field, we were keeping out of the way of physical contact with anyone, the expressions and explicit statements coming thick and fast. eg, from Dad: "For Jesus' sake, don't touch my back" or "Did you have to ruddy kick that damn ball at my shoulders". Uncle Tom's "Harry, if you so much as breathe at me I'll skin you alive". Or the knotted handkerchief that was worn to protect the already thinning head.

Sunburn, we know, can be serious, but you know, it was never a problem in those days (sun lotions – what were those?). There has been more skin trouble since the use of all the concoctions they rub in these days than there was before, Calamine lotion being the salve in those days. I do remember that, after a couple of days, the redness would go and a gorgeous tan would take its place. Returning home after our break, everyone would be saying "Where have you been – the South of France?" It seemed impossible to say we had only been ten miles away down Alveley.

The Round House was immaculate (I have learned since that the design was borrowed from French buildings that were around at that time) with its thatched roof. The Round House, being on the fork in the road, soon became a landmark and a marker for the area, along with the Nautical William.

Recalling the Sunday evening mystery tours that were very popular at the end of the war (2), not many people having cars at that time, one of the regular runs was from Netherton to Bridgnorth for an hour, then up the Kidderminster road for an hour, in the Nautical for a drink, then Kidderminster and home. Those mystery trips were so popular then. On the Monday morning after, it would be "We stopped at the Nautical on the way back, had a lovely trip". Then they would go on to tell how they had to wait for so and so who were always late getting back to the coach, or what a nice trip they'd had.

I know Davenports Luxury Coaches, Netherton, always filled a couple of coaches on a Sunday night and, if my memory serves me well, if you hadn't booked up, you were or could be disappointed. Thinking of Netherton, a small place and keeping three Coach companies busy, it shows how the need to get out of the smoke and grime even for a couple of hours on a Sunday evening was so important.

An aunt of mine told me a story once of going on a trip to Rhyl with one of the local coach companies (which will be nameless, but one must remember the regulations were not in force as now and the coaches pre-war vintage were running on a shoestring, literally at times). Two coaches travelled up to Rhyl for the day. On the return journey, one of the coaches broke down in the Welsh mountains. The owner/driver told them he would take the one coach back and return for the other passengers post-haste in about six hours time, the two coaches being his total fleet and no reserves. Immediately, he had a riot on his hands with the passengers who would have to sate the night on a bare mountain. To cut the story short, after a lot of bargaining on the cost of the trip, it was agreed to get all the passengers onto the one running coach. My aunt told me that on that journey home, doubled up in one coach, were ninety people. The driver told them he would have the lights out in the coach and going through the towns they would have to duck down. This was a precaution against anyone seeing he was overloaded. She went on to tell me after an hour riding like this, that it was chaos.

People shouting at the driver to stop so that they could have a pee; those frightened to move in case they lost their seats; kids shoved in luggage racks; three squashed into seats made for two; people trying to finish off soggy warm tomato sandwiches prepared earlier that morning. Absolute disaster, she went on. After a nightmare journey, they were so relieved to see a Bridgnorth sign making them only a dozen or so miles from home. Someone started a sing song, she said. There we were, ninety-odd soddin sardines singing our heads off through Bridgnorth "Ten green bottles hanging on the wall". The best of it, just coming out of Stourbridge, someone (a black country comedian, most probably) suggested a whip round for the owner/driver and it didn't go down well at all. I can just imagine. Those were the days. But, do you know, she laughed about that trip for years, along with the remarks that some of the old wags came out with, which I can imagine with a load of heavies from the chain and steel industries aboard.

The point I am trying to get to is the simple pleasures that satisfied us just going back 50 years – a camping holiday 10 miles away; a cay trip to Rhyl that could be called upon to provide a good laugh years and years later. Now, with all the travel and exotic places we can get to in a short time, are we any more fulfilled than in those days? Most of the stories related to me about a modern holiday seem to be centred around if the hotel was good, if the food was up to standard and how they are trying to get a rebate because of something that went wrong on the journey.

There we were, ready to ride on coal lorries that had had a quick brush off; anything big enough to get our camping stuff on; anything to get down to Alveley. Now I think everyone is too critical and nothing can fall below that 100% mark without someone suing someone.

--oo0oo--

Shortly before the war (2), especially with the one paid week's holiday becoming law (38/39), the factories at full capacity preparing for that war and money being a little more easy, the mystery coach trips came into their own. With the people from the Nethertons and Cradleys of the Black Country, fuelled by their hop-picking trips in the hard days of the Thirties to help out with the family funds, who made the hop field trip their annual holiday and gave the people the taste for country air, more people started to get out into the countryside, ie camping and caravanning.

Then the explosion of the Thirties of more permanent dwellings "the Bungalow". These were the heady heights of our social structure, if you were lucky enough to own one. A statement casually dropped out to a neighbour in the Co-op grocery shop, something like "We went down our "Bungalow" the weekend" was sure to turn every head in the shop. The bungalow they spoke of being little more than a shed, enlarged over a time by the little man with his sawing and hammering on the weekly visits he made through the year to the farm where the structure was taking place.

Now, to the pneumatic tyre and its importance in making a change in the landscape. Prior to the invention of the pneumatic tyre, buses and cars ran on solid tyres, of course (the ride, I suppose, likened to being pulled along on a shovel). With the newer tyres being used, a difference could be made of the springing of the vehicles and so new chassis were designed for the new era of road travel, making the solid tyre type redundant. Now, what do you think happened to the old buses and trams that were being thrown out? Well, around about the time my family started visiting Alveley, camping, in the 1940's onward, I knew of at least 7 or 8 bungalows that had started out as public service vehicles and had become the nucleus of a proud Black Country family's place in the country.

The chassis of their country estate was held aloft on stacks of bricks, whilst the wheels were always kept stowed away carefully underneath the bungalow, ready for the annual movement of the ex-bus. If the bus could be moved one yard one year, then back the following year, it could not be rated as a normal property (not that I can recall anyone visiting from the Council to make sure the ritual was performed).

People bought the redundant buses. They were driven to some farm where the farmer could use a little extra in the way of rent, then the old wooden slat seats were taken out, some being placed outside as benches. The passengers' windows were blocked in, stoves installed, a bed provided and, over the years, palaces developed from the austere beginnings of the clapped out coach or bus.

Tow or three years ago, more or less in the middle of the demise of amateur built bungalows (due, I think, to holidays abroad in the new time-shares – another one to mention in the Co-op), Ralph Evans, the farmer, showed me the chassis of what I think was a very early Leyland bus, not early, but ancient – some national vehicle museum already involved. It had been put there for the basis of a bungalow, solid tyres as well. Hand-forged steering rods an inch thick would still operate the unit.

After so many years, the building it had supported had collapsed around it, but I can imagine those many years of enjoyment it brought to some family and their offsprings. The sun-baked fields to play in; the water-logged meadows in a wetter year, when wellies would be the order of the day. A picture I do have in my mind is the day that old bus was shoved on the field, probably with the help of a horse or two. The men deciding where to site it and the standing back to admire it when they had got it there. Then the years of love and work that went into making it a home from home.

Another passenger vehicle I remember being used, but this time for a Netherton pub's bowling green pavilion, was a tram that had been used on the Stourbridge/Kinver Edge route. As kids, we used to watch the pub Bowls Team from it and remember the destination winder still operating, us lads turning it to "Stourbridge". If it were there now, I am sure I would turn it to "Nostalgia" – what a lovely route that would be.

So, at that time of minimal planning permission requirements, you found fields of temporary buildings being erected, enough to change the landscape. Even today, a trip down the Severn will open vistas of weekend bungalow covered fields that own their birthright to someone who got an old bus sited there those many years ago and made a weekend retreat.

I do think it is a big part of our heritage, because with all the rules that abound now, another era such as the one we lived through could never happen again.

So, from the simple enjoyment of camping, through to the more permanent Bungalows founded on old solid tyred chassis that changed the landscape, I am afraid the next knock-em-cold statement to whisper out loud in the Co-op to make them turn their heads, is the hundred foot yacht in the Med. But, I'll tell you something mate, it won't have a bus chassis with solid rubber tyres on it for its foundation.

--oo0oo--

I remember the sports field next to the school; the Annual Village Day held on the sports field, also the cricket matches on several Saturday afternoons through those summers that dad and myself watched the village men in white play some other visiting village men in white, us reclined on the grass verge with just an odd "owzat" or a rippling clap around the field to jolt

us out of the warmth induced nap that had wrapped itself around us. Balmy days with a gentle sport as a backdrop.

On the Saturday evening, it was the dance at the village hall. Us lads either too young or not bothered with the complicated courting rituals of trying to entice young giggling spring flowers from the chairs that lined the walls, a skill we left to older brothers and cousins who, having seen Clark Gable or Charles Boyer win over some glamour girl at the Savoy cinema, endeavoured to emulate their technique, only to find that their skills didn't quite match those of the silver screen idols and fell flat on their faces with the local girls and could only talk for a couple of days about the beauties who got away and what could have been if only.

--oo0oo--

The Village Cricket Team

Remember Betjeman Day's
Village Greens with Village Teams
Village Lads all in white
Trousers secured by gaudy tie
That unique clack as bat hits ball
Over the fence to the village hall.
Of mis-fielded balls, only to let the other team win on byes.
The home team accompanied by superior sighs
Leave the field, with a splattering of a clap,
Reaching the pavilion with someone's "well done, old chap".
Then the tea and cucumber snack on village bread
Served by village lasses with chiffon scarves around their head.
In their cotton blowing dresses
They pat the backs of their forlorn heroes as they return.
The solicitor Captain, with chin on chest
Turning to heavy clad blacksmith "Ernest Guest"
Now in stumped armour and dimpled glove
What went wrong "Ern, Heavens above,
Now don't go and blame the rest".
"Do you think you are past your best?"
Ern, throwing pads into bag of leather
"Don't blame me,
I think it was something to do with the weather".
The laughter, the camaraderie and the giggling girls,
With light chiffon scarves around their curls,
Turn to clearing trestles of all the vessels.
Plates and cups washed, crumbs swept to pavilion lawn
To waiting village sparrow,
Who speed to village fledglings, just born.
When all is cleared and Captains shake farewell,
The distant Village team departs for home
Accompanied by the sound of the village church bell
To the waves and last shouts "see you in a fortnight's time".
The coach trundles down the lane.
The lads in white lock up the pavilion shed,
Walk off to the village pub with their ladies in blowing cotton dress,
Their chiffon scarves around their head.
The naked sheep, newly shorn, leave the boundary fence
Look to the centre pasture for the disappearing men in white,
Munching their way to the hallowed turf
Searching for the blade of greener green to bite.

Memories of Alveley School

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By Mary E.M.Ellis (nee Jones) of Farnsfield, Newark, Notts

We were so pleased that we came to Alveley that Saturday. It was almost impossible to believe that it was 50 years since I started teaching in September 1950. My home was near Baschurch and after going to the Priory Grammar School in Shrewsbury, I had spent two years at college in London.

Compared with most village schools it was very new and I felt very lucky to teach there. Of course it was still an "all age" school then and I felt little older than some of the pupils.

How different teaching was then to when I retired seven years ago, and even more so today. Everybody was so much more relaxed. It was really fun to be with the children, well, most of the time anyway! BUT we did have well over forty in a class. I taught the younger juniors for two years, then the older juniors and the infants for my last year. I also remember taking the senior girls swimming one summer and introducing them to netball in the winter months.

There was a parent-teacher association, even all those years ago, mainly to organise a fete in the summer to raise money for the Christmas party. Mrs Morgans, the Headmaster's wife, was a grand person for such events – always full of ideas for stalls etc. One of those people who could turn her hand to anything – art, craft, music, drama – a very good teacher.

Outside school she had started a Girl Guide Company persuaded me and a parent (Mrs Skelley) to start a Brownie Pack. We used to meet in the upstairs room of the Old School near the church.

At about the same time a "Dramatic Society" came into being. I remember doing a series of one act plays for our first performance, a concert/ review for the Coronation celebrations, and then very adventurous – Emlyn Williams' play "Night Must Fall". Those were the days. With the tennis, cricket and football clubs, Alveley really was a busy village in those far off days.

We really enjoyed staying at Stanmore Park Caravan Site and I'm sure we will return soon. Perhaps then we will come and "walk" the village. It was difficult to sort out all the development by just driving around in the car. From the Post Office towards the church and around seemed totally different. The house I stayed in appears to have gone altogether!

We have a very elderly couple living in Farnsfield who remember Alveley – a Mr and Mrs Cracknell who lived at Hammerhill – Mr Cracknell was gardener for a Mrs Kendrick. We met them in 1966 when we first came here – our local pub! They knew several children I had taught at Alveley.

I remember several of the family names mentioned in the book you enclosed – France, Scriven, Link, and even some of the individuals mentioned in photographs etc!

Peace on the River Severn.

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The following article is taken from the book "Both Sides of the Severn" by W.Byford Jones. It gives a description of the village of Hampton Loade in the 1930's.

I sat early one morning at the base of an ancient oak bell post, watching a mare pull a cart through the swift-moving Severn at Hampton Loade. The driver in the cart was talking to the mare in comically subservient tones and the mare was appropriately stubborn. From the top of the valley I commanded an enchanting view of hills crowned by a profusion of trees and shod with red stone cottages and their flaming gardens. I could see half a mile down the river. The water below babbled with the glee that all Nature felt in the sparkling freshness of that lovely morning.

Except for the man in the cart no-one was in sight. But wait ... a figure caught my eye far off on the opposite hills and as I watched it assumed the grace of a Shropshire bathing girl wearing tight blue cap and mackintosh. As she tripped down the steep stony path the mackintosh flapped open revealing shapely white limbs that presently were to slip silently into the warm glistening water.

The mare and the cart, dripping with water, climbed the opposite bank; the blue speck of bathing cap in the sun kissed river vanished round the leafy trees that crowded down on to the water's edge, vain for the sight of their own reflections.

The landscape was deserted. The score of cottages that make up Hampton Loade had wide-open windows and yawning doorways, but the villagers were nowhere to be seen. There was a magical quality of stillness and silence in the valley. A shoal of dace and chub turned acrobatically near the water's edge further up the river and I heard at once the sound of disturbed

water.

Back in Wolverhampton, not more than 20 miles away, pavements were alive with serious faced clerks and typists, and streets were agog with whirling yellow and green buses and insistent cars loaded with silent and mournful people underway to another day of figures and problems and “Yes ma’ams” and “Yes sirs”, and several traffic signs were blinking red and green and amber – the ensign of civilisation’s arbitrary demands ...

Hampton Loade is separated by the Severn. If an Alveley-sider wants to have a chat with a Hazelwell-sider, he pays 1½d and takes a trip on the ferry. That is unless he puts his fingers in his mouth, whistles and succeeds in attracting his friend down to the water’s edge on the opposite side. It is an expedient often resorted to. But this particular morning I had to cross the river.

I went to the bell post, took hold of the rope attached to the hammer, and tugged. The ear splitting clang of the large brass bell had an astonishing result. As it filled the valley, a drove of birds swept out of the trees down by the water and bared heads appeared out of the windows or doorways of every cottage on both sides of the river. A cow on the hill ceased to graze and lash its tail at insistent flied to blink round at me reproachfully.

The Village knew mine to be a stranger’s toll and the village is ever curious of strangers in the early morning of a weekday.

Out of the end cottage across the water a girl in white with long blonde tresses emerged to trip down to the moored ferry-boat.

I felt a little self-conscious as the girl approached me in the boat. She did not row or punt; she merely kept the helm of the boat against the current of the river by the steering gear and it came across to where I stood. She watched me closely, smiling artlessly the while.

Did I imagine that she curtsied “Good morning” this pretty niece of Hampton Loade’s ferryman? Anyhow, she chatted merrily about the glorious morning, pointing out coloured birds and giving them names. She loved the Severn. She was on holiday from service and she was helping her uncle with the ferry. I paid three-halfpence for the crossing, but it was worth more. For some inscrutable reason, a cow would have paid sixpence for the same privilege, a pig sixpence, a sheep twopence and a calf twopence and they would none of them have enjoyed it a quarter as much.

The ferryman, a little sunburned fellow with a squinting eye and a corncob pipe, met us on the hill beside a giant ferry-boat that was stranded up there, many yards from the water’s edge. A flood deposited it on the bank years ago and no-one had troubled to push it back.

I talked to him about the village and he told me the names of the villagers ticking them off on his calloused fingers. There were 8 houses on the one side and ten on the other. There was one inn on each side of the river and one church on the Alveley side, this now being used as a hikers’ hostel. There was not one shop in the village, either side, the nearest one being two miles away at Quatt, and the children walked two miles to school, no matter what the weather.

The villagers were more amiable than any people I had met, unless I counted the black natives of outlandish places in North West Africa. They smiled, touched their hats and there was a real joy in their “Good Mornings” – they were nothing like the jaded pre-9 o’clock salutations of those noisy pavements in Wolverhampton.

The ferryman took me into his little cottage. The family had had breakfast two hours ago. The one room was hung with such pictures as “The Meeting of Dante and Beatrice”, exhibiting the artistic leanings of those who advertised beverages years ago. In the porch was what seemed to be a canary in a cage, but it did not whistle. “It’s not alive” the ferryman told me, “It’s made of wool. One of the kids’ uncles promised her a canary and that’s put there to remind him when he calls today.”

I lingered in the village long enough to visit the Lion Inn, a squat centuries old stone and wood refuge, tucked away up a leafy lane that leads to Alveley. I drank nut brown ale with the portly landlord who had full-bosomed lasses of Victorian times tattooed on his hairy arms. He told me of South African war days and he was loath to discuss his inn.

Generations of Hampton Loade villagers had frequented this ale house. And what do you think they mostly talk about during long winter evenings? Why, Dickens – Charles Dickens and his characters, notably Bill Sykes, Pecksniff and Little Nell. Over the great yawning fireplaces are nailed seven little copper tablets. They feature Mrs Gamp, Micawber, Pecksniff, Martin Chuzzlewit, Bill Sykes, the author himself and another of his characters now partly erased by years of polishing.

Charles Dickens is still the most popular author in Hampton Loade and the people of the village are none the worse for their fidelity to him.

Newspaper Extract from 1962

With all the talk of new development in the village at the moment, here are some interesting extracts from a local newspaper article from December 1962, when proposals were put forward to increase the housing in the village.

“The mining village of Alveley has claimed a reputation for friendliness and warm welcomes to strangers. But under the new proposals agreed this week, it might find itself running short of smiles for newcomers.

The Local Government Authorities concerned with the future of Alveley have agreed that its population of 590 is soon to be expanded to 2,000.

But what do the villagers think of their village and the proposals?

John (Jack) Honeybourne:

He has a farm of 60 acres. He moved from Staffordshire in 1942. ‘They are friendly people here, the village is centred much around the church. My farm is called church farm, to disgrace it all I do not often go to services.’

James (Jim) Garbett (aged 84):

A miner for 38 years. ‘I used to be in the pit at Kinlet as a pony driver. I was paid 7d a day. You used to pay to go to school when I was a lad. By the age of 12 I started to work. It was not good in them days. It has altered now, look at the pay they get!’

He smokes a pipe and enjoys a pint at the local pub. ‘If it weren’t for the beet, I don’t think I’d be here.’

Sarah Garbett (aged 86):

She has lived in Stonerow all her life. ‘We have seen many changes in the village, but I think they have all been for the best.’

Michael Carr (aged 21):

He works below Alveley Colliery as a Packer. On leaving school he went to work in Bridgnorth but later left and became a miner. ‘I earn £15 a week.’

James (Jim) Stephenson:

A native of Welshpool who worked in Wolverhampton and moved to the village in 1961 as a sub-postmaster. ‘The nice thing about the village at present is its friendliness. Take me, I was soon in the village life. I started bell-ringing. They went out of their way to make me welcome. But if it were to grow any larger, it would be a village no longer and would become a small town. I think something would be lost.’

Albert Adams:

Licensee of the Three Horseshoes and a private builder. He is quite outspoken about post war development of the village to date, saying ‘Alveley Council estate is the worst I have ever seen. The houses will ruin the community. The estate looks like a barracks. More here would spoil things as there is a wonderful spirit in the village.’

Phyliss Adams

She helps behind the bar. ‘Strangers come in here and within minutes are in conversation with the regulars. It is a wonderful atmosphere to live in.’ ”

Village Fete and Sports Day 1954

The following extract is taken from a local newspaper describing the Village Fete and Sports Day of September 1954.

“A fete and sports jointly organised by Alveley Recreation Association and Sports Club was held on Saturday and made £25. One of the main attractions was the children’s sports with Messrs D.Link and James Beveridge as starters and Messrs J.V.Morgan and J.Harris as judges.

Toddlers:	1. Barbara France	2. Lynn Painter
Hoop Race:	1. Leslie Bennett	2. Paul Mannings

Boys (8-11 yrs) 80 yards: 1. Godfrey Giles 2. John Amphlett
Sack Race: 1. Paul Mannings 2. Garth Link
Girls (8-11 yrs): 1. Evelyn Lewis 2. Diane Jones
Sack Race: 1. Sylvia Molyneux 2. Evelyn Lewis
Boys (11-15 yrs) 100 yards: 1. Roy France 2. John Buttery
Wheelbarrow Race: 1. Michael Carr & Terry Pierce.
 2. Dougie Chadd & Raymond Newbury
Girls (11-15 yrs) 100 yards: 1. Sheila Jones 2. Daphne Jones
Three Legged Race: 1. Audrey France & Daphne Jones
 2. Ruth and Mary Lewis

Competition Winners:

Shooting: R.Newton, David Bowen and Mrs J.Knowles

Bowling for the Pig: Colston Carr

Sports and Competition Prizes were presented by Mrs J.Harris, wife of the Club President.

The Canadian “Scrivens”.

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By Susan Fowler, British Columbia, Canada

I have been working with great enthusiasm on my family tree for almost three years. Before that I was just collecting information and photos of the family. I would like to thank all the people I have met on the internet who have supplied me with a wealth of information, especially Margaret Sheridan.

I had been searching for information on Alveley because I had found the 1881 Census of my Great Great Grandfather, Joseph Scriven, living with his wife Mary and four of their children, his birthplace being Alveley. With the help of the IGI and the Alveley website, I have extended my family tree by about 500 new family members.

I now have the 1851 Census when Joseph was just 9 months old living on Dye Lane with his parents, Richard and Esther and siblings Louisa 13, Mary 8, Charles 6 and Emma 4.

Then I have the 1871 Census, with Joseph, 21, living with his father Richard, 67, and brother Charles, 27, at 56 Alveley. Also in this Census is Mary Verner, 30, employed as a cook at the Vicarage. Joseph Scriven married Mary Verner in Alveley on 3rd July 1871.

They remained in Alveley and had a daughter, Josephine on 12th July 1872. She is my Great Grandmother. I guess they decided to move on down the street to Tardebigge, Worcester, where they had a son, Henry on 3rd October 1874. Things must not have been good as they then moved to Alvechurch, Worcester and had Edward on 10th December 1877 and then Walter on 3rd December 1878.

Next came the big move. I have not been able to find the ship that they travelled on to come to Canada, but my Great Aunt Queenie has told me stories that her Grandma Mary told her about how sick the children were and how very hard it was to keep them all comfortable on the trip over.

They had one more son, Frank, on 17th February 1882 in Canada.

The family settled in Port Carling, Muskoka, Ontario, where Josephine met and married Walter Francis Fowler in 1891. They had the following children: Elsie Gertrude on 11th August 1893, Rosemary born in 1895, Archie Bruce on 14th July 1896, Walter Francis on 27th July 1901, Emily on 30th March 1903, Queenie Elizabeth on 18th December 1907, and Ralph Henry on 31st March 1914.

Walter Francis Fowler married Minnie Campbell on 23rd September 1923 and they had two sons, Charles Francis on 14th May 1925 and Bruce Douglas on 9th October 1927.

Charles Francis married Lois Lillian Speedie on 16th November 1946 and they had the following children: James William on 13th May 1947, Stephen Francis on 19th May 1949, Susan Marie on 27th March 1951 and David Charles on 18th February 1954.

I have two grandchildren that come to visit often and see me working on the family tree. They know what it is and that it is their family, but are too young to understand the age of it. I am sure, however, that when the time comes, they will enjoy it as much as I have.

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A Short History of Bridgnorth's Hospitals.

Very little can be traced of Bridgnorth's first Hospital, which was thought to be sited at the bottom of Squirrel Bank and staffed by Franciscan Monks.

A little more is known about the Hospital of Holy Trinity and St John the Baptist. This was situated at the north end of St John's Street and founded in 1179. It was endowed by several noblemen, the most beneficent of these being Ralph Lestrangle, who left three and a half virgates (*Medieval measure – about 30 acres*) at Alveley to the Hospital.

The Hospital was used for the refreshment of travellers and relief of the poor. It had royal permission to gather firewood in the Forest of Morfe.

Late it was petitioned (about 1505) to belong to Lilleshall Abbey and when the Abbey was dissolved in 1538, the Hospital was closed too – the endowments being claimed by the Crown. Nothing remains of the building.

First records show that the Leper Hospital of St James (known as St James Priory) was built at the angle of the Kidderminster and Stourbridge roads (the origin of Hospital Street) in 1224 on land thought to have been given by King Henry I after an appeal by the Pope. They too had permission to gather firewood in Morfe Forest.

The Hospital was endowed by the townsfolk and was staffed by Monks. It treated both sexes of the sick and cared for lepers especially.

In 1547 the Hospital was closed and all their monies were passed to the Crown upon the dissolution of the monasteries.

After these two worthy establishments were lost in the reign of Henry VIII, those in need were cared for by the “Union Poor House” and the sick were nursed in the Infirmary. No records are available to show the whereabouts of these buildings.

The Bridgnorth Dispensary was first recorded in 1817 and was held in a rented room at the Postern Gate, in a house that was demolished when the Post Office was built. It opened on Tuesday and Saturday mornings to those who were “real objects of charity” and who brought a note of recommendation from a subscriber. Each half guinea subscribed allowed one person to be “on the books”. Patients who lived in the town could be visited at home if necessary.

During the first year, the total income was fifty-five pounds and ten shillings (£55.10s.0d). One hundred and thirty patients were treated and of these 123 were cured, six patients died and one was “discharged as incurable”. The surgeon’s salary was sixteen guineas, rent of room three guineas, drugs and vials cost £11.10s.10d.

A society for the “relief of poor married women in child bed” was formed in 1818, in the Parish of St Leonard’s. Each of the women (on average 36 per year) were furnished with five hundred weight of coal, 1 lb of soap and a set (or more) of baby things, as necessity required, plus the “loan of everything needful for them”.

In 1832, a committee met to discuss the establishment of an Infirmary, which opened three years later, in a house which still stands between Listley Street and Hollybush Road.

The building of 13 rooms (later sold for £400) was leased to the Trustees of the Infirmary by Thomas Whitmore, for ten shillings of “Lawful British Money” for the purpose of “establishing an Infirmary for the relief of the sick and poor in Bridgnorth”. The money required for structural alterations and equipment (around £1,000) was raised by donations and a £200 loan. Lady Louisa Whitmore, Lady Harriet Clive and their lady friends, formed a benevolent fund and the Earl of Stamford and Warrington (a Vice President) gave £105 and Mr Thomas Whitmore (President) gave £100. In fact many townspeople contributed, including for example, Mrs Rock of the Castle Inn, who gave a feather bed, and Mr Spilsbury of the Swan Inn, who gave half a crown.

The Infirmary, which amalgamated with the Dispensary in 1871, continued to be self supporting by means of its benevolent fund, donations and collections and its subscribers scheme – which remained in force until the 1930’s. Each patient was required to pay Matron four shillings a week, unless they were recommended by a subscriber who paid for them.

Outpatients were seen at the Infirmary between eight in the morning and nine in the evening, except on Sundays. Patients were required to bring a letter of recommendation from a subscriber. Those unable to attend were seen in their homes by the House Apothecary.

To be admitted, in-patients had to attend at the Hospital on a Friday at one o’clock “in a clean state and with a change of linen”. It was policy that poor persons “afflicted by accident or sudden illness” were admitted as in or out-patients, without recommendation.

As the demands on the Hospital grew, it became obvious that a new hospital was needed. The Bishop of Hereford, in a speech at the Town Hall in January 1890, stated “a cleaner place he was never in” but that certain defects were prominently imprinted upon his mind. He particularly remarked that the Mortuary and Operating Theatre were not suitable for their intended purpose (they were in caves carved out of the sandstone at the back of the hospital).

The raising of money to build a new hospital on another site, began in 1891, with a Doll Show in the Agricultural Hall. Donations and collections followed, and the present site was purchased in 1892.

Two cottages on the land were demolished before the building of the new Infirmary commenced in 1895, the foundation stone being laid on 24th April that year by Mrs Foster of Apley Park. Good weather throughout enabled the building to progress well and the new “Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Infirmary”, the hospital we have today, was formally opened on 17th September 1896.

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My Head Quest

By Christine Johnson (Caerphilly, South Wales)

In June 2000, I managed to persuade Clive, my husband, to upgrade our home computer. I needed this so I could search for our family roots and literally was starting from scratch.

My mother, in her 93rd year, was alive at the time and I tried to extract as much information as I could from her, although I must admit this wasn't a particularly easy task. She did, however, have quite a lot of old photographs and postcards that she inherited from her mother, who passed away around 1950. These were to prove a treasure chest for my family research.

My mother, Doris Edith Saunders, was the daughter of George Harris and Edith Head. They were married on 16th July 1906 at St Paul's Church, Grangetown, Cardiff. One of the witnesses to the marriage was Lizzie Margaret Head (Edith's younger sister).

On checking the Census for 1881, I found Edith (my grandmother) aged one, together with a younger brother, William Head, aged 3 months. The full entry of the Census is as follows:

Dwelling: Sutton Com. Millford Place
Census: Kidderminster Foreign, Worcester

WILLIAM HEAD (head) – occupation: gardener.	Married	Age 26 – Male
Born: Shatterford, Stafford, England.		
SARAH J.HEAD (wife).	Married	Age 34 – Female
Born: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England.		
EDITH HEAD (daughter)	Unmarried	Age 1 – Female
Born: Kidderminster, Worcester, England.		
WILLIAM A.HEAD (son)		Age 3m – Male

On checking the old postcards in my mother's possession, these proved I had the right family. I then applied for the Marriage Certificate of William and his wife Sarah Jane that showed they were married at the Parish Church of St Mary's, Kidderminster, on 30th March 1879. This again showed William's occupation as that of gardener. His bride was named on the certificate as Sarah Jane Blow. One of the witnesses to the marriage was Mary Ann Head. Most importantly, perhaps, was the name of William's father, this was given as Luke Head (occupation – labourer).

This is where my problem really started. In 1819 there was a Luke Head baptised in Highley and in 1820 there was also a Luke Head baptised in Alveley. One year apart with the same name. What a poser. Through a lot of investigative work, I confirmed my Luke Head was the one born in Highley, although he lived a substantial amount of his life in Alveley which, for the period he lived there, had two Luke Heads, one married to Mary Ann, my great great grandmother, and the other which married an Ann.

After I had become 100% sure of which Luke was mine, I applied for Luke and Mary Ann's marriage certificate:

“18th January 1846 by Banns, the marriage of Luke Head to Mary Ann Bridgwater, both of full age, took place at the Parish Church of Kinver in the county of Stafford. Luke's father, Richard Head and Mary Ann's father, Richard Bridgwater.”

My Luke (born Highley) I traced to living at Meyricks Cottage and then Kidderminster Road in Alveley. I also confirmed the two Lukes were first cousins. Luke Head of Highley's father was Richard Head and Luke Head of Alveley's father was John Head, and they, in turn, were the sons of John Head (baptised 1753) and Joanna Bennett (baptised 1763), Chelmarsh and Abdon respectively.

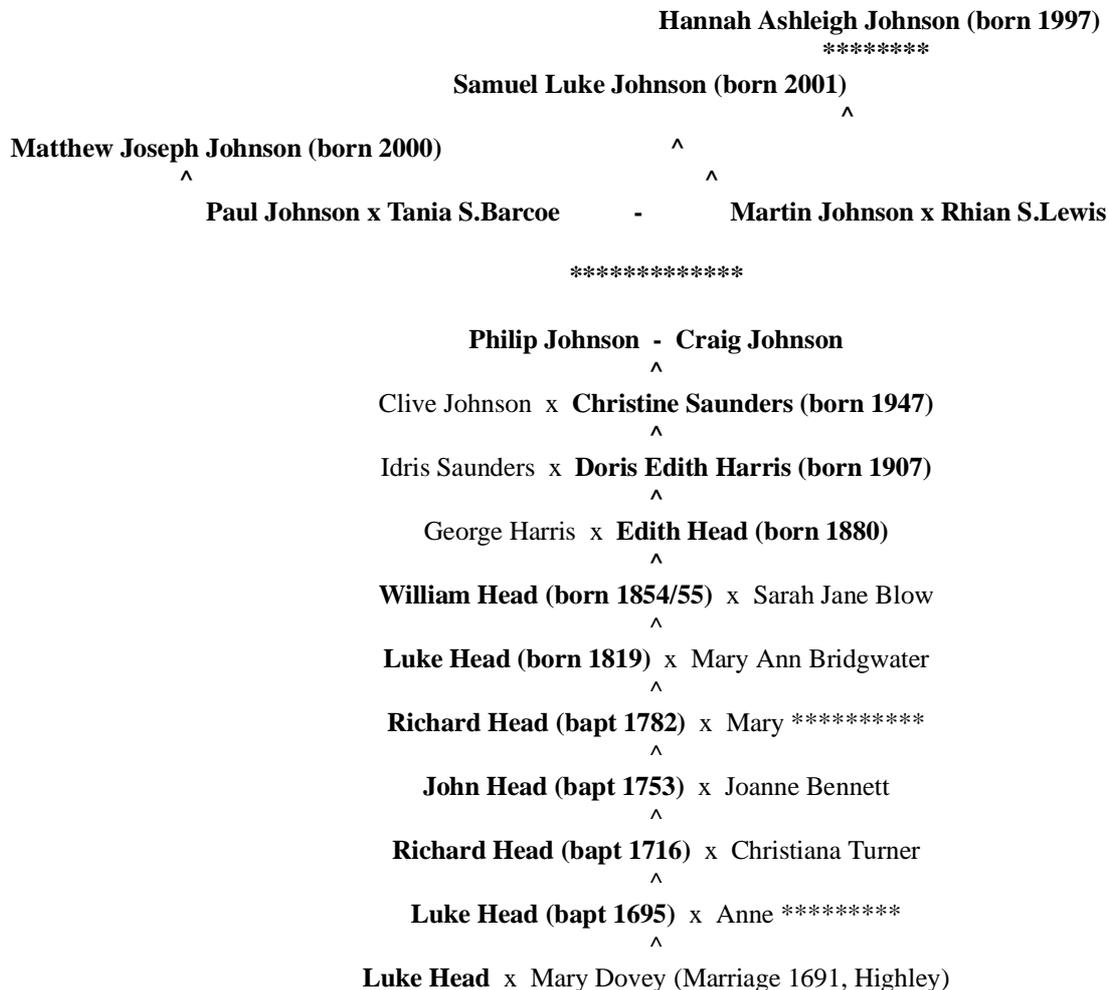
Although my great great grandfather Luke Head was born in Highley, a number of his children were born in Alveley and baptised in St Mary's Church. Also, the first John Head, Landlord of the Red Lion public house was a first cousin to my Luke. The Red Lion stayed in the family for a considerable length of time and there was an article in the Kidderminster Times dated September 1930, that shows the Heads leaving the “Lion” after being involved with the premises for 135 years.

This is a story that gives me immense satisfaction to tell and many thanks go to all the people who have helped me with my research, namely: Margaret Sheridan, Tim White, the Letters Page of the Bridgnorth Journal and Kidderminster Shuttle and, of course, all the various people too numerous to mention who responded to my letters to these local newspapers. Also to the

memory of my mum who passed away on 6th January 2001 and was, herself, a direct "Head" descendant.

I must also mention that I have also made contact with Marguerite Francis from Wolverhampton, who is a distant relation from my line of Heads. Neither of us knew each other existed until my research was undertaken.

The following is a direct family line



(this last entry is speculative and I am currently working on the proof)

** The top entries are my grandchildren and underneath them are my four sons and two daughters in law.

St Mary the Virgin, Alveley

Progress Report on the Project to Preserve a Late 15th Century and Late 19th Century Altar Frontals

By Rev Bill Pryce (September 2001)

In the 1998 and 1999 Transactions of the Alveley Historical Society, there were articles about the two altar frontals (please see refs 1 and 2). The Article in the 1998 Transactions gave some details of the frontals and in 1999 a brief progress report was given.

The aims of this article are to give a brief report on the final stages of the project and some personal reflections on my involvement since it commenced.

I am writing these notes in mid-September 2001 and it reminds me that the project started 5 years ago in the autumn of 1996.

Sometimes projects start with the inspiration and vision of one person. Others start with a group of people who share a common aim to achieve a goal. Projects have many different starting points. The frontal project started in a very low-key

way. Mrs Thelma Marderni, a member of Alveley Historical Society who lives in Birmingham, was visiting St Mary's. Thelma expressed concern about the condition of a late 15th Century frontal mounted in a glass fronted oak case on the external wall of the south aisle. From that comment developed a project which is nearing completion and which will have cost nearly £14,000.

The Alveley Historical Society have been partners in the project with St Mary's Parochial Church Council, following the setting up of a joint fund-raising committee in January 1999.

The joint fund-raising committee have met 23 times and the final meeting is planned for the 14th November. In addition to the meetings, members paid several visits to the studio of Wendy Toulon at Kington, Herefordshire. Wendy, an expert textile conservator, carried out the conservation work on the late 15th Century frontal. Several visits were also made to the silk weaving workshop of Wendy and Gilbert Kilbride, Llanfair Croes near Abergavenny. They made the new silk panels in pink and white for the restoration work on the replica frontal. Visits were also made to the workshops of the Hereford Broderess Group, which are housed in a building near the Cathedral. This voluntary group of ladies meet every Wednesday and carried out the restoration of the replica.

During the course of the project, the joint committee were faced with many problems and had to make decisions as the work proceeded. To give one example, some of the 3mm diameter metal sequins on the replica were missing. The remaining ones were all discoloured and needed to be replaced. The option was to replace them with sequins made of plastic or metal. We were able to locate a company in Bedworth in Warwickshire who could supply both types. The plastic ones were cheaper but we decided to order the metal sequins which contained 2% gold. They were sold by weight. The minimum weight we could order contained 2,000 sequins, many more than we needed! The cost was £50. The gold content gives the sequins a glitter as the light catches them. We are very pleased because they seem much more in keeping with the other aspects of the restoration. Each sequin has a tiny central hole and was sewn onto the silk with three threads!

Tim White, in his excellent booklet "The Church of St Mary the Virgin" gives information about St Mary's and the frontal project (please see ref. 3).

During the course of the project, criticism was made by some people on the cost of the work. Their point was that the expenditure could not be justified when there were so many more important causes which needed financial support. The joint committee discussed this issue a number of times, but we always came to the conclusion that we had a responsibility to preserve both historical frontals because they were part of the history of Alveley and the people of the parish over several centuries. Furthermore, we felt that we should try and ensure that both frontals be preserved for future generations.

Last year, the joint committee decided a thanksgiving service should be held when preservation work was completed. Invitations were sent to all the organisations and individuals who had supported and worked on the project to a service in St Mary's on Saturday 12th May. A large number of people attended the service and the address was given by the Rt Revd Dr John Sapbee, Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow. He also rededicated the frontals.

The weather was very warm, clear blue skies, and the whole event was very moving. We were particularly pleased that Sister Janet from the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage, was able to join us. Sister Agnes, a member of the Community, had embroidered the replica in the 1870's and all the main motifs have been transferred to the new silk panels, so her wonderful work has been preserved.

The Parochial Church Council decided to hold a three day flower and craft festival from 12th to 14th May, of which the service was a central event. Excellent refreshments were available throughout the weekend and many visitors came to see the displays and the frontals.

Some work remains to be completed. An oak pelmet and a shelf to cover a central heating pipe running underneath the case housing the replica frontal have to be fitted. Some adjustments are also necessary to one of the fringes which runs the full width of the frontal. Lined curtains which are completely light proof and flame retardant have also to be fitted. Similar curtains have already been fitted to the case housing the late 15th Century frontal.

Minutes of meetings, photographs and other papers and information on the project will be stored in St Mary's.

I would like to pay a warm tribute to my colleagues on the joint committee for their very kind co-operation and support. The representatives of St Mary's were:

Rev Nick Armstrong, Rector of Alveley and Quatt
Peter and Hilary Fleming
Fred and Colleen Brown

And to the Alveley Historical Society representatives:

Thelma Maderni
Alwyn Potter
Bing and Joyce Cooper
Councillor Tim White

And also to:

Sandra Wilson, a co-opted member.

I believe we worked very well together. We did have disagreements but we always managed to find an acceptable solution to the many problems we faced. We shared a common purpose and were determined to achieve our goal. I am delighted to say we still remain good friends!

All the money for the project has come from grants, donations and fund raising by joint committee members and friends. We are deeply grateful to the organisations and individuals who have supported the project financially and encouraged us and to all those involved in carrying out the work.

Finally, the Parochial Church Council have agreed to a request from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London for the loan of the late 15th Century frontal for a major exhibition "*Gothic Glory: Late Gothic Art in England 1400 – 1547*" from October 2003 to January 2004. We hope it might be possible to discover information about its origins when experts have the opportunity to see it. At the present time, we know nothing about its history.

Ref 1: Alveley Historical Society Transactions 1998 "The Altar Frontals of St Mary's Church", pages 3-7.

Ref 2: Alveley Historical Society Transactions 1999 Millennium Edition "St Mary's Altar Frontal Appeal", pages 97-98.

Ref 3: "The Church of St Mary the Virgin", April 2001 (priced £3.50, available from Tim White).

California – Alveley – New Zealand

Introduction (by Tim White)

It gives me great pleasure to write the introduction to this article and answers a question I am often asked by people joining our Society.

Just over 12 months ago, I was contacted by a lady named Mary Green from New Zealand, requesting any information about her family, the Green's, who came from Alveley in the 1700's and 1800's.

Mary was kind enough to forward a copy of her family tree and upon cross referring this with our collection of family trees, I noticed the name "Palmer" appeared on her tree and on a family tree supplied by a Kathy Compagno in California.

Kathy has been a very keen member of the Society for a number of years and has contributed to the "Transactions" in the past.

I forwarded a copy of Mary's family tree to Kathy and Kathy's family tree to Mary and the rest, as they say, is history.

Oh, the question I am sometimes asked is "Why should I send a copy of my family tree to the Society?"!

Letter from Kathy Compagno of El Cerrito, California, USA

Dear Tim

Can you hear the e-mails humming? Mary Green and I have been excitedly "chattering away" ever since you introduced us via the Alveley Local History Group. Many, many thanks for your astuteness (and diligence!) in recognising connections amongst the varied interests of the members and for your kindly interest in putting us in touch with those who may be distantly related.

And, in fact, Mary and I do share a remote Palmer ancestry; our shared ancestors are William Palmer, baptized in 1729 at nearby Upper Arley, Worcs, on the Severn River, and his second wife Ann Hill, also of Upper Arley. But their marriage took place at Alveley Salop in 1761 and their four children were baptized at Alveley parish. Their daughter Elizabeth is Mary's ancestress, she married Robert Green in 1783 and their story will be found in the Transactions article which Mary has written for your members. There were three brothers; John, Thomas and my ancestor William. John and Thomas are both recorded in the 1851 Census at Cookley, Worcs, where my William's three sons, Frederick, George and James also settled. My James left Alveley to work at the Cookley Ironworks (after a brief stint in Herefordshire), while John and Thomas were farmers at

Cookley, as the family had been at Alveley. Their story is told in my letter published in the 1997 issue of Alveley Transactions.

It was exciting to compare research notes with Mary. We had come to many of the same conclusions in “sorting out” our Palmer ancestors and were able to share records in other cases that added to our research, both in Alveley and Highley upriver, for the older generations and distaff lines. I was especially pleased to learn that Mary had a copy of the will of our William Palmer (probate date 10th April 1775); “being of sound mind and good memory and understanding, though weak in body.” In the Will, he carefully names his father, William Palmer, his “dear wife” Ann, their four children Elizabeth, John, George and James and even his wife’s brother, William Hill, the executor, for good measure! It was a wonderful confirmation of the family grouping and the SURVIVAL of each of the children; the latter is often difficult to prove. William’s estate value was £170, quite respectable for those days, and the Will mentions “stock, horses, cattle, sheep, implements of husbandry, corn and grain.”

It intrigues me to ponder the travels of our ancestors; from the ancestral Salopian villages to distant places, thousands of miles away, to Mary in New Zealand and myself in California, USA. And yet we have the same urge to understand our roots and shared beginnings, so that we can more fully imagine their way of life in the distant centuries. Mary’s branch has a continuity of farming that continues unbroken; my branch shifted to the new opportunities available in England’s emerging Industrial Age, and ultimately to other options offered in the United States.

It seems to me that the story of a family is one of survivors, those who are able to cope with the challenges and demands of their time and position in such a way that they can support their family and nurture them to adulthood to have families of their own, ultimately leading in an unbroken line to today’s descendants (and hopefully, with the documents to trace that line!). Extended families often helped in such nurturing. Not all the siblings married, but they often worked together and helped support the family group and care for the children, as Thomas Palmer had his Jennings Niece and nephews living with him in 1851. Many of the daily details have been lost with time. We can merely try to imagine wearing their shoes and walking their paths, working in their occupations and returning home at night to their families.

Visualising such daily routines explains much of my fascination with family history and the Local History Group at Alveley has been a wonderful resource in helping me to imagine from afar much more clearly my ancestors amongst the lanes and paths of Alveley. The Transactions are a wonderful way to share the findings of the group with those locally and with those, like Mary and myself, much further away.

Thank you again for your helpful correspondence through the years.

With best wishes and deep gratitude

Kathy Compagno

Copy of the Will of William Palmer

“In the name of God, amen. I William Palmer of the parish of Alveley in the county of Salop, yeoman, being of sound mind and good memory and understanding, though weak in body, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this transitory life, to make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say,

First and principally, I commend my soul to God who gave it trusting through the merits of our blessed redeemer to obtain remission of my sins and eternal life; and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named; and as to the temporal estate and what goods and chattels it hath leased God to bestow upon me I give and dispose of the same in manner following.

First I give and bequeath to my dear wife Ann Palmer all my stock, horses, cattle, sheep, implements of husbandry, corn, grain and all the rest of my goods and chattels to her use during her life and at her disposal to my children afterwards share and share alike. I also give and bequeath to my said wife the sum of twenty pounds for her own use and disposal. Also I give and bequeath unto my four children namely William, Elizabeth, John and Thomas, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds now in my father William Palmer’s hands and payable to me or mine within three months after his decease, which said one hundred and fifty I will and order to be equally divided between my four children aforesaid share and share alike at the discretion of my said wife. And my will is that if my said wife should be with child at the time of my death that the said child shall come in for an equal share with the other aforesaid and consequently the aforesaid stock and money to be divided into five equal parts. All the rest, residue and remainder of my personal estate of what kind soever or in whose hands the same is to found, I give unto my wife aforesaid whom I nominate constitute and appoint, together with her brother William Hill, executors of this my last will and testament and do hereby disannul and make void all other will or wills by me made and declare this to be my last will and testament dated the 10th day of April 1775.”

(The signature is very shaky. James Jordan and George Nechell were the witnesses).

Letter from Mary Green of Palmerston North, New Zealand

Dear Tim

At last I have this finished to my satisfaction and with a certain amount of constructive help from Kathy Compagno. I cannot thank you enough for putting me in touch with her. Over the months we have found we share other interests as well as family history and our association has been most rewarding. How far the children of Alveley have spread over the earth in the last century and a half! I wonder how many more there are?

I hope my article might stimulate a little interest in other descendants of the people I mention that may be still living in Alveley or surrounding districts. It has not been possible for me to follow all the lines of my family, but I would hope there might still be some distant cousins out there who might like to contact me.

Kathy and I have spent some thought on your suggestion that there is a story about our families and she has written something for you that I have seen (as she has seen mine).

Please feel free to add or delete anything to or from my article and write any sort of introduction that fits in with what Kathy is sending you and with your editorial policy. You put out a really splendid publication and I am proud to be able to contribute. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

With kindest regards and very best wishes.

Mary Green.

The Greens In Alveley

To the right of the front door of my grandfather's house in Auckland, New Zealand, was a handsome plaque bearing the strange word "ALVELEY" and all my life I have known that this is the name of the place in England that the Greens came from. But not till I started researching family history did I know that my grandfather's father had been born there at Dumbolds Farm, and not till then did I think of finding out just where Alveley is – in the bottom right hand corner of Shropshire, six and a half miles north of Kidderminster. Although the parish lies on the east bank of the great Severn river that has been such an important waterway in the West of England, the village itself is a little distance further east.

We had always taken it for granted that there had been Greens in Alveley since forever and the parish records show this to be true, but unfortunately for us, there is nothing linking us to them. The name disappears from the records in the seventeenth century and does not appear again until the first of our family of Greens to be born there made his appearance in 1728. He was Thomas, the first child of John Green and Anne Grove of Barretts Farm.

Anne was the first child of Thomas Grove, himself the second Grove to occupy Barretts. When he died in 1724 his will stated "...I give and bequeath unto my daughter Anne both the farm I now live on together with the stock of the same and the corn ... cattell, sheep, swine and implements of husbandry, she paying the rent that was due at Mich(aelma)as..." and he made her responsible for her two younger sisters and her stepmother. Thus, when John Green married her in Quatford – two or three miles south of Bridgnorth and about five miles north of Alveley – two years after her father's death, she was a woman of some property and presumably, since her father left her the farm, some interest and skill in farming.

It is not so easy to determine where John Green came from, but the most likely candidate to be Anne's husband seems to be a John Green born in Bridgnorth to John, a plasterer, and Anne in 1702. John the Plasterer, also born in Bridgnorth in 1666, was the son of yet another John and Margaret. Where they came from is still unknown. Other children of John the plasterer were, in birth order, Anne, Sarah, Elizabeth and George, all names that recurred in later generations.

There is nothing to suggest that any Greens before John were farmers, but the love of the land that was Anne's legacy has been handed down to this day. Of the eight generations of her descendants, four in Alveley and four in New Zealand, all but two have been, or still are, farmers. It is not known if John ever worked at Barretts before his marriage, or if he ever knew his father-in-law, but he certainly took up farming after his marriage as by his death in 1767 he was known as John Green of Barretts. Anne died in 1736, only 31 years old.

John and Anne had three children. First was Thomas, my ancestor, then Mary who married Stephen Cresswell and had seven children, some of whose descendants might well be still in Alveley. The third child was christened Joseph according to the parish records, but seems to have been called John and lived to marry Esther Yorke. Their twelve children were christened in Alveley between 1755 and 1775. I have not as yet traced more than three of their descendants, but again, there could well be some still in Alveley or round about.

The second of these twelve children of John and Esther was Mary, born 24th September 1757. She married Thomas Hand on

20th May 1777 and had at least four children. The second child and first son was also Thomas, born 5th July 1779. In 1841, on the death of John Green of Harts Green (a son of John and Esther and therefore his uncle), he came into possession of Harts Green Farm which, in 1849 he left to his second cousin, Thomas Green of Dumbolds, who did not live to enjoy it as he died in the same year. However, it was the proceeds of the sale of Harts Green, £900, that allowed Thomas's third son, Robert, to emigrate and his other four sons to set themselves up in business. In fact, without that bequest, I might well have been born in England, perhaps even in Alveley, and not New Zealand!

John and Esther's sixth child, Elizabeth, born on 6th November 1764, married her cousin, Robert Green, in 1787, but unfortunately, it was a short lived marriage as Elizabeth died before any children were born.

John's elder brother, Thomas, my ancestor, the first of John and Anne's three children and born at Barretts on 4th February 1728, married Elizabeth Bickerton, daughter of Edward Bickerton and Anne Joy of Bridgnorth, where she was born in 1743. Thomas was almost certainly a yeoman, like his father, but as neither of their wills seem to have survived, it is not possible yet to discover if he followed his father at Barretts or took up another property.

The Bickertons were a well established Bridgnorth family. The couple significant to us were Edward Bickerton and his wife Elizabeth Corser, who married at St Mary Magdalene in 1666. Of their five children, John was the grandfather of Elizabeth, who married Thomas Green in 1759 and his older sister, Elizabeth, married Richard Gill in 1703. The Greens descend from both John and Elizabeth, as Greens and Gills intermarried for several generations, making it virtually impossible to write about the Alveley Greens without constant reference to the Gills. Originally, the Gills were of Upper Arley where they appear in the records from the middle sixteenth century, but Richard and Elizabeth settled in Alveley. A son moved to Rock and a grandson settled in Abberley.

The first child of Thomas Green and Elizabeth Bickerton was Anne who married William Gill, grandson of Richard and Elizabeth. They married in 1778 when the bride was 18 and they had 9 children whose fortunes I have not followed.

Robert Green, the third child and first son of Thomas and Elizabeth (and widower of his cousin Elizabeth Green) married as his second wife, Elizabeth Palmer in Alveley in 1793. She was born in Alveley in 1765. Her father, William Palmer, though coming from a well known Highley family, was born in Upper Arley in 1729, but moved to Alveley where he became a yeoman. Unfortunately, it is not known which property he farmed. As well as Elizabeth, William Palmer and his wife Anne Hill, had three sons, the eldest being William, born in Alveley in 1762. He is the ancestor of Kathy Compagno of El Cerrito, California. Kathy wrote about her Palmer family in the 1997 Transactions. I am indebted to her for my knowledge of our Palmer ancestors.

A further link is William Palmer's mother-in-law, Anne Gill, who was a daughter of Richard Gill and Elizabeth and a great aunt of Mary Gill, who married William's grandson Thomas Green, in 1831. The eldest child of Robert Green and Elizabeth Palmer, Thomas was a great grandson of John Bickerton and Mary was a great granddaughter of John's sister, Elizabeth Gill, and second cousin of her future mother-in-law, Elizabeth Palmer, also a great granddaughter of Richard and Elizabeth.

Robert farmed at the Fillets, also in the parish of Alveley, which at his death in 1827 belonged to a Mrs Hale. I believe it is still a good farm with good buildings. Robert did well there and his will was proved at "under a thousand pounds". He left comfortable sums of money and goods to all his children and his widow.

Of Robert Green's older children, Thomas's sister Elizabeth, as mentioned above, married John Gill, Mary's brother. Thomas's brother, John, never married; his brother Richard married Jane Jordan of Wombourne, Staffordshire, and his sister Sarah married Jane's brother, John Jordan. Richard farmed at Abbington in Staffordshire and was an executor of Robert's will. Of the other children, Henry, William and Anne died young or unmarried. The fifth child, Mary Bickerton Green, also did not marry, but she lived to the age of 86, dying in 1889.

I believe that at least one descendant of John Gill and Elizabeth Green came to New Zealand early last century, but although the two families did meet in my grandfather's day, the connection has since been lost and I have not yet been able to re-establish it.

Thomas Green and Mary Gill married in Abberley, Worcestershire, and farmed the Dumbolds. They had five sons. The eldest, Henry, left home young and did not keep in touch with his family. He became a draper in London, at Shoreditch, married and had at least two children, a son and a daughter. Thomas, the second son died in 1851 at the age of 17 years. Edwin, the fourth, went to America where he married and had four children, but he and his wife both died when the children were young and their father's brother, John, the fifth and youngest son, brought them to England and looked after them. Two, a son and daughter, survived to marry and settled; Mary in Stourbridge and Fred in Devon, but I know nothing more of them. John became a grocer in Bromsgrove and prospered. He had three children, Mary who did not marry, Robert who became a medical doctor and John, who entered the Navy and rose to the rank of Captain. Unfortunately, we have long lost track of them and their descendants.

The middle son of Thomas and Mary was Robert, born in 1836, who when he turned 21, came into his share of the proceeds of Harts Green and left for the goldfields of Victoria, Australia. We have a tie pit made from a gold nugget about the size of the tip of a little finger. This is said to be the largest nugget he discovered, so it is not surprising that he soon found coach driving paid better. In 1864 he came to New Zealand and drove for Cobb & Co. This was not the original Cobb & Co, as Freeman Cobb returned to America from Australia about 1857-8, but the firm's name became almost generic, partly perhaps because the same type of coach was always used. Robert married Sarah Wilson from Country Antrim, in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1865, and became my great grandfather.

Thomas, though as his son John says, was "a good steady man" and a hard worker, was also not very robust and died in 1849, when his sons were still young. As well as the Dumbolds, he also took on the Mose, said to have been owned by George Green of Quatt, who was born in 1773, the youngest son of John and Esther, and so another second cousin of Thomas. This venture left Thomas grossly undercapitalised and also over-worked, which is thought to have contributed to his early death.

Mary supported her children by opening a school two or three miles away in Quatt, the adjoining parish, when she was already over 50 years old. She had a hard time until 1862, when her sons were able to support her. It must have been some help when she inherited her second son, Thomas's share of the sale of Harts Green. So the inheritance of Harts Green proved of critical importance to the Alveley Greens.

It must have been in 1849 or 50, after the death of Thomas, that the Greens finally left Alveley (though at first they went only as far as Quatt), so they were in the parish about 125 years. They have been in New Zealand about 135 years and seem likely to stay. Although each generation gets further from Alveley, the place still seems to have some attraction for at least our branch of the family since at least one member of every generation both in New Zealand has been to visit there. My Grandfather's sister went in 1905, and my father went during the first world war, as also did two of his sisters, who were nurses. This was largely due to the hospitality of their uncle and great uncle, John Green of Bromsgrove, who lived until 1934. It is from their letters and diaries, as well as parish documents, that I have discovered much of our history and connections. Of the two later generations of New Zealanders, my nephew visited in 1992 and I was fortunate enough to be able to go the next year. To us, Alveley is still a special place. I would love to visit it again and perhaps spend some time there, but that seems at the moment unlikely.

Ancient Latin Deeds found in the British Library

Transcribed by Alan James Nicholls.

I found the latin copy of these deeds in a notebook in the manuscript collections of the British Library. The latin copy had probably been done in the early 20th century with no transcription and no note as to who transcribed them. I have only transcribed the deeds that are pertinent to Alveley and district.

British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 2.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Ricus ate Walle filius et heres Agnes filie qu dm Nichi de la Grene dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Johanni Hugynessone de Wooton infra Manoriu de Quatte unamplaceam Pre jacent in Manor de Nordeleye in latitudine inter Venellam que ducit de Nordeleye versus Morf ex pte una et t'ram qu' d'm Willi de Fillilode alta parte et in longitudine a t'ra qu' d'm Rici Alisandre usq' ad t'ram qu' d'm Willi Dods. Hab'd et tenen'd de capitalibus dnis feodi illius pred'tam placeam terra ad omnibus suis p'tin prefato Johi heredibus et assigns suis libere, quiete, bene et in pacie in feodo et hereditate imppetua p. s'vicia et consuetudin que inde debentua. Et ego vero pred'cus Ricus et heredes mei pred'cam placeam terre ad omnibus suis p'tin prefato Johi heredibus et assign suis contra omes mortals warantiz abim's imppetua. In cuius rei testimonium huic carte mee sigillum mea apposui Hiis testibus Rogero ate Lee, Rogero Ffillilode, Willimo Yonge, Rogero Zya'e, Johne ate Wayle? Et alys. Dat Nordeleye die D'nica pxm post fm Purificaiois Marie Virginus, Anno Regin Regis Rici Secdi post conquest decimo nons.

Know all present and future men that I Richard atte Walle son and heir of Agnes, daughter of Nicholas de la Grene have given granted and by this my present charter confirmed to John Hugynessone of Wooton in the manor of Quatt a place lying in the manor of Nordley in length between the lane which leads from Nordley towards Morfe on the one part and the land of William de Fillilode on the other part in length from the land of Richard Alisandre all the way to the land of William Dods. To have and to hold in chief of the fee for the aforesaid place and land with all the appurtenances to the said John his heirs and assigns, freely, quietly, well and in peace in fee and inheritance with the services and customs which are thence due for ever. And verily I the said Richard and my heirs will warrant against all men all the aforesaid place, land and all the appurtenances to the said John, his heirs and assigns forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. With these men as witnesses:- Roger atte Lee, Roger Ffillilode, William Yonge, Roger Zya'e, John ate Wayle and others. Dated at Nordeleye feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. in 19th year of the the reign of Richard Second . (1395-6)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 3.

Sciant presentes et futuri q'd Ego Adam Tunny de Nordlegh dedi concessi et hac p'senti carta mea confirmani Margerie filie Nichi de la Grene seniori p quadam Summa pecureie quam michi dedit pre manibz una placea t'r mee jacentem in manio de Nordlegh in latitud int venellam que ducit de Nordlegh v'sus Morffe ex pt una et terram Wittmi de Ffililode ex pte alta in longitude a terra Rici Alexandri usq ad terram Willmi Dod. H'n'd e tenendam p'd'tam placeam terre ad omib suis ptineciis p'dle Margerie e heredib's suis e suis assignatis liber quiete bene e in pace in feodo e in hereditate impetua de capitali dno illius feodi p' s'vicium Uni denarii argenti annui reditus de festu sci Michael p' omi s'vico seclari exacio consuetudine sou demanda. Et ego p'dts Adam et heredes mei p'noiatam placeam ter ad omib' suis p'tinecii prefate Marg'ie e heredib' suis e suis assignatis contra omes homes e feminas warrantiz abim' acquitabim e imppm defendemus. In cujus rei testimonie presentem cartam impressione sigilla mei coborani hiis testibus Johe de Astlegh, Rogo Fre Suo. Witto de Ffililod, Nicho de la Grene, Rogo Sier, e multis aliis. Dat apd Nordelegh die Martis pxima post festu Epiphanie, Anno r'gni r'gis Edwardi filii r'gis Edwardi Octavo decimo.

Know all men present and future that I Adam Tunny of Nordley have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to Margery, daughter of Nicholas de la Grene, senior, for a sum which has been given to me for a place and land lying in the manor of Nordley in length between the lane which leads from Nordley towards Morfe on the one part and the land of William de Fillilode on the other part, in length from the land of Richard Alexandri all the way to the land of William Dod. To have and to hold the aforesaid place and land with all the appurtances to the said Margerie, her heirs and her assigns, freely, quietly, well and in peace in fee and inheritance forever in chief of the fee with the services rendering one silver penny annually on the feast of St Michael for all services exacted and customs so demanded. And I the said Adam and my heirs will warrant and defend against all men and women the place and land and all the appurtances to the said Margerie her heirs and her assigns forever. In witness of which presentment I have impressed my seal. With these men as witnesses: John de Astlegh, Roger Fre Suo, William de Ffililode, Nicholas de la Grene, Roger Sier and many others. Dated at Nordley the March after the feast of Epiphany. In the eighteenth year of the reign of Edward, son of Edward (1324-5)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 4.

Sciant p'sentes e futuri q'd ego Hugo filius Hug' Berton de Wodynton dedi concessi et hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui Thome filio Walti de Gatacr' dimidiam acram terre jacent in illo assarto d'to Le Monerudyngge iux Wyceleye int terram p'dti' Thome ex una pte in latitudine et terram meam p'p'am ? q'm Johes Henyis de Wodynton nup tenui ex alta pte que in p heditatem defendebat in longitude a via col? ducent de Brug v'sus Kederminstr ab uno capite usq terram q' dm Walti de Gatay' put ibid'm certis budis budat. Hend' et tenend p'dtam dimidi acrm terre ad o'ibz suis p'tin de capitali dno feodo illius p'dto Thome e heredib suis e suis assign libere bn e in pacie e in feodo e hereditate imppetua p s'vicio inde debita e consueta. Et ego p'dtus Hugo e he'd mei et mei assignati p'dto Thome e hedibz suis e suis assign p'd'tam dimidiam acrm terre ad omibz suis p'tin con' om'es mortals warranti zabim e imppetua defendem. In cui rei testm p'senti carte sigill mei apposui. Hiis testibz Witto de Guenoy?, Henry de Wistan'mere, Rob'to de Chickenhulle, Rogo de Overton, Rico clico, et aliis. Dat apud Clauevleye die Martis px post fm Annunciacois be Marie, Anno E. tertii a conquestu quarto

Know all present and future men that I Hugo, son of Hugo Berton of Wodynton have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to Thomas, son of William Gatacre half an acre of land lying in his assart of Le Mone Rudyngge near to Wyceleye between the land of the aforesaid Thomas on the one part in length and land of mine which John Henyis of Wodynton lately held on the other part which came to him by inheritance, in length from the road leading from Bridgnorth towards Kidderminster from one chief all land which the said Walter de Gatacre has in the same place To have and to hold the aforesaid half acre of land and all the appurtances in chief of the fee from the aforesaid Thomas and his heirs and his assigns freely, well and in peace and in fee and inheritance forever with the services and customs thence due. And I the said Hugo and my heirs and my assigns will warrant and defend against all men the aforesaid half acre of land and all the appurtances unto the aforesaid Thomas his heirs and his assigns forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. With these men as witnesses: William de Guenoy?, Henry de Wistan'mere, Robert de Chickenhulle, Roger de Overton, Richard the clerk, and others. Dated at Claverley the.... March after the feast of the Annunciation of Mary. In the 4th year of Edward the third

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 5

Sciant p'sent e fut' q'd ego Johes de Ffynchesley fillius e heres Thomas de Ffynchesley dedi concessi e hac presenti carta mea confirmanui Johi Hewessone de Wottone unam placeam terre noui assarti in Northley que jacet juxta Rowelone? Int' terram Walti de Gatakre nup Walti de Hadeley ex pte una e terram cantarie be marie de ecclia de Aluetheley quam Johes Trimpeley aliqu tenuit ex alta. Habend e tenend p'dram placeam terre ad oibz ptin suis prefato Johi Hewessone hedibz e assignat suis de capital dno feodi illius p s'vicia inde debita e de jure consueta imppetua. Et ego p'd'tus Johes de Ffynchesley e hedes mei p'd'tam placeam terre ad oibz p'tin suis p'to John Hewessone heredibz e assign suis contra omes hoies? Warantiz abimus e defendemus p p'sents impp'm. In cuius rei testiom' huic carte mee sigillum mea apposui. Hiis testibus Rogo Lee de

Kotene, Egidio de ffililode, Roger Syer, Witto Parchey, Walto Gatakre e aliius. Dat apud Northley di Martis px ante festu sci Gregor' papes. Anno regni Regis Henry iiii post conquestu sexto..

Know all present and future men that I John de Ffynchesleye son and heir of Thomas de Ffyncheseley have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to John Hewessone of Wotton a place and land (newly) assarted in Nordley which lies near to Rowelone? between the land of Walter deGataker, lately of Walter de Hadley on the one part and the land of (the bells?) of the church of Mary of Alveley which John de Trimpeley holds, on the other part. To have and to hold the aforesaid place and land and all the appurtances to the said John Hewesson his heirs and assigns in chief of the fee with the services thence due and customs forever. And I the aforesaid John de Ffyncheseley and my heirs will warrant and defend against all men the aforesaid place and land and all the appurtances to the said John Hewesson and his assigns forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. With these men as witnesses: Roger Lee de Kotene, William de Ffililode, Roger Syer, William Parchey, Walter Gataker and others. Dated at Nordleythe March before the feast of St Gregory. In the 6th year of the reign of Henry 4th. (1404-5)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 6

Sciant p'sent e fut'I q'd ego Hugo fillius Hugoni de Wattone dedi concessi e hac presenti carta mea confirmanui dno Rico ate Wodehouse e dno Thome de Astone capellanis duo mes e duas dimid virgata terr ad omibz suis p'tin jacent in le Wottone in feod de Quatte guox Unu? Mes e dimid virgata terr vocant Peyremueslond, et allumi mes e dimid virgata terr hen'y hannyes? Nup tenuit . h'end e tenend' omia p'rata mes e terra cu omibz suis p'tin p'ato Rico e Thome heretibz e assignat suis liber, gete, bn e in pace de dnis feodor p' servicia inde debitua e de jure consueta impp'm Et ego v' p'dict' Hugo e heres mei omia p'dta mes et terr cu omibz suis p'tin pr'dict Rico e Thome heredibz e assignat eor contra omes gentes warrantiz abim e imppm. In cui rei testimonius huic p'senti carte sigulla meu apposui. Hiis testibz Thoma de Dodmestone, Rico Gravenor, Hugone Tonkys, Rico Madok, Johe de la Grene, e mlts aliis. Dat apd le Wottons die Sabati in Viglia Pentecost Anno regni regl Edward tertii post conq quadragesimo tertio.

Know all present and future men that I Hugo son of Hugo de Wattone have given, granted and by this present charter confirmed to Richard ate Wodehouse and Thomas de Aston, chaplains two messuages and two half virgates of land with all the appurtances lying in Le Wottone in the fee of Quatt. And one (message?) and one half virgate of land called Peyremueslond, and another message and half virgate which Henry Hannys lately held . To have and to hold all the aforesaid messuages and land with all the appurtances to the said Richard and Thomas, their heirs and assigns freely, quietly, well and in peace of the fee with the services thence due and Customs forever. And verily I the said Hugo and my heirs will warrant against all men all of the aforesaid messuages and land with all the appurtances to the said Richard and Thomas their heirs and assigns forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. With these men as witnesses: Thomas de Dudmaston, Richard Gravenor, Hugh Tonkys, Richard Madok, John de la Grene and many others. Dated at the WottonsPentecost. In the 43rd year of the reign of Edward 3rd. (1369-70)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 7.

Sciant p'sentes e futuri q'd ego Hugo Roniloe ? de Bruggenorth dedi concessi e hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui Humfro Wolrich Gentlelman et Thome Tomkys clico rectori Eccle de Quatt unu messuagium in Kotton in Com Salop simul cu omibz terr arrubitz prat pascuis e pasturis d'to messuagio nunc (s)pectantibz ant p'tinent in Kotton p'dta Nordeley Regle infra Dominiu de Clav'ley et suis p'tin in Com' p'dto ficut? Witt'ns Hadley p'dta terr et te'nta cum p'tin de me tenuit p' annualem reddit quadraginta uni solid' ultra repris. Hend' et tenend' p'dtum messuagium cum omibz terris arrabitz prat pascuis e pastures d'to messuagio (s)pectant sive p'tinent e t suis p'tin p'tat Humfro et Thomae hered' et assign suis imppm, de capitlibz dnis feodor illor p' s'vicia inde debit e de jure consuet'. Et ego vero p'dict Hugo e hered' mei p'dictum messuagium cum omibz p'dtis terre arrabitz prat pascuis et pastures dicto messuagio spectant sive p'tinent et suis p'tin p'fat Humfro e Thome hered e assign suis con omes gentes warrantiz abim' et imppm defendemus. Insu? P' nom'te me p'fatum Hugonem attornasse et in loco meo posuisse diltm michi in xpo Thoma in Doyve de Mose meu verum e legitimu' attorn ad intrand et deliband vice e noie meo p'fat Humfro et Thome Tomkys hered et assign suis plenam e pacificam possessionem et seisinam de e in omibz p'dtis terr et tent cum suis p'tin scdm formam vime esstm p'dte carte mee inde confect. Rat e grat hent e hituq? Totum e quiquid p'dtus attorn meus fecent in deliberatione seisine prdle. In cuius rei testimoniu huic p'senti carte mee sigulla meu apposui. Hiis testibus Johe Prene e Wittimo Bromley tunc ballis ville de Bruggenorth p'dict, Thome Doyve, Rico Doyve e Thoma Rise e mult aliis. Dat apud Wotton p'dict in vigilia sci Andree apli, Anno regni Regis Henrici Septimi post conquestu quintodecimo.

Know all present and future men that I Hugh Roniloe ? of Bridgnorth have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed to Humfrey Wolrich, gentleman, and Thomas Tomkys, clerk of the Church of Quatt, one message in Koton in the county of Salop together with all arable? land, meadow , pasture and pastures which now belong to the message in Koton, Nordley Regis aforesaid under the lordship of Claverley with all the appurtances in the aforesaid county..... William Hadley

holds of me the aforesaid land and tenement with the appurtances for the annual payment of forty one penceTo have and to hold the aforesaid messuage with all arable land, meadow, pasture and pastures which belongs to the messuage with the appurtances to the said Humfrey and Thomas their heirs and assigns forever, in chief of the fee with the services thence due and of right custom. And verily I the said Hugh and my heirs will warrant and defend against all people the aforesaid messuage with all the aforesaid arable land, meadow, pasture and pastures which belong to the messuage with the appurtances to the said Humfrey and Thomas their heirs and assigns forever. the said Hughand in Thomasin? Doyve of Mose my right and lawful attorney and the said Humfrey and Thomas Tomkys their heirs and assigns with full and peaceful possession and seizing of and in all the said land and tenements with the appurtances In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. With these men as witnesses: John Prene and William Bromley then the town of Bridgnorth aforesaid, Thomas Doyve, Richard Doyve and Thomas Rise and many others. Dated at Wotton aforesaid in of St Andrew, In the 15th year of the reign of Henry 7th. (1499-1500)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 8

Sciant p'sentes et futuri q'd nos Humfrus Wolrych, gentilman et Thomas Tomkys clicus rector eggli de Quatt dedim concessi et hac p'senti carta n'ra confirmauim Hugoni Roduloe de Bruggenorth et Margarete uxori ejus unam messuagiu in Wotton in Com' Salop simul cum omibz terr arrabiz prata pascuis et pastures dicto messuagio nunc spectantibz ant p'tinentibz in Wotton p'dta, Nordeley Regis et infra dominiu de Claverley et suis p'tin in Com' p'dict sicut Wittms Hadeley p'dta terr et tenta cum p'tin tenuit de p'fato Hugone p' annuaem redditum quadraginta uni solid' ultra repris que nup huim ex dono et feoffmento ejus d'm Hugonis hered et tenend p'dtm messuagiu cum omibz p'dict terr arrabitz prat pascuis et pastures dicto messuagio spectant sive p'tinent e suis p'tin p'fat Hugoni et Margarete ae Rect heredi de corpore dci Hugonis legitime p'creat imppm de capit'libz dnis feod illor p' servicia inde debit et de jure consueta. In cujus rei testiom huic p'senti carte n're sigilla n'ra apposuim. Hiis testibz Johe Prene et Wittmo Bromley tunc Ballis ville de Bruggenorth p'dict. Thoma Doyve, Rico Doyve et Thoma Rise, ac mult aliis. Dat apud Wotton p'dict in die sci Andree Apli Anno regni Regis Henrici Septimi post conq quintodecimo.

Know all present and future men that we Humfrey Wolrych, gentleman, and Thomas Tomkys, clerk, rector of the church of Quatt have given, granted, and by this our present charter confirmed to Hugh Roduloe of Bridgnorth and Margaret his wife one messuage in Wotton in the county of Salop together with all arable land, meadow, pasture and pastures which now belong to the messuage and the appurtances in Wotton, Nordley Regis and in the lordship of Claverley with the appurtances in the aforesaid county just as William Hadley held the aforesaid land and tenement of the said Hugo for the annual payment of forty one pence lately the gift and feoffment of the said Hugo. To have and to hold the aforesaid messuage with all the aforesaid arable land, meadow and pasture belonging to the aforesaid messuage with the appurtances to the said Hugo and Margaret and the right heirs of the body of the said Hugo lawfully begotten forever, of the chief lord of the fee by the services thence owed and accustomed by right. In witness of which testimony we have affixed our seals to this our present charter. These being witnesses, John Prene and William Bromley then (baillifs?) of the aforesaid town of Bridgnorth. Thomas Doyve, Richard Doyve and Thomas Rise and many others. Dated at Wotton aforesaid the day of St Andrew the Apostle in the 15th year of the reign of Henry VII. (1499/1500)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

Feoffment British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 11

Sciant presentes e futuri qd nos Witto P'cheye e Agnes ux ejus dedimus concessimus e hac p'senti carta n'ra confirmauim Johi Prophete clico, Johe Heseleye, clico, Rico Hulle capellano e Rico Rede capellano omia illa terras e tenta cu p'tinentiis que nup huim ex dono e feoffamento Witt Andrewes e Henrici Donfeu e Rici Ffynchesley inf' e feodum de Nordeley. Hend e tenend omia p'dta terras e tenta cu suis p'tinensiis p'fatis Johi, Johi, Rico e Rico e heredibz e assignatis suis imppetuu de capitali dno feodi illius p' servicia inde debita e de jure consueta. Et nos vero p'dti Witts e Agnes e heredes n'ri omia p'dta terras e tenta cu suis p'tinensiis p'dtis Johi, Johi, Rico e Rico e heredibz e assignatis suis, e p'dten est contra omes warantzabim imppetuu. In cujus rei testimoniu huic p'senti carte sigilla n'ra apposuim. Hiis testibz Johe Ffylilode Rico Wodehous, Johe Elcok, Johe Tomkyes, Thoma Whyte e multis aliis. Dat ap'd Nordeley die Lune px post fm sci Petrias Vincula, Anno Henrici quarti post conquestum nono.

Know all present and future men that we William P'cheye and Agnes my wife have given, granted and by this our present charter confirmed to John Prophete, clerk, John Heseleye, clerk, Richard Hulle chaplain and Richard Rede chaplain all our land and tenements with the appurtances lately ... gift and feoffment of William Andrewes and Henry Donfeu and Richard Ffynchesley in the manor and fee of Nordley. To have and to hold all the aforesaid land and tenement with the appurtances to the said John, John, Richard and Richard their heirs and assigns forever, of the chief lord of the fee by the services thence owed and accustomed by right. And verily we the said William and Agnes and our heirs will warrant against all people all the aforesaid land and tenements with the appurtances to the aforesaid John, John, Richard and Richard and their heirs and assigns forever. In witness of which thing we have affixed our seals to this our present charter. These being witnesses, John Ffylilode, Richard Wodehous, John Elcok, John Tomkyes,

Thomas Whyte and many others. Dated at Nordley the Monday after the feast of St Peter Vincula, in the ninth year of the reign of Henry IV. (1407-8)

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 13**

A release to Humf. Wolrich.

Omibz xpi fidelibz ad qs p'sent tre quuen'int Robtu Rowlowe de Bristall, m'cator saltm' in dno Nou'itis me p'fat Robtum remisisse relaxasse e omino p'me e heres e executorz meis imp'm q'ete clamasse Humfro Wolriche armigo e here e assign suis totu jus meu intesse qd heo seu aliqs at noie meo het de p'in omibz illis terries ten't messuag' burgagiis p't pascu e pastur e al libtat e comoditatibz eis de terr p'ten mes e cet is p'pecint e eo? milt p'tin in villa e in campis de bruggenorthe, Nordeley, Worfeld, Clav'ley e Kingesnordley e Wotton in Com Salop. Hend et tenend eidem Humfro here e assignat in p'pm de capitlibz dnis feod ilt p' s'vit ind debit e de jure 'suet. Ita? qd nec ego p'dict Robtus e here mei n' alies alius noie meo alig'd jus titl'm interesse seu c'lam in p'dtis tent' mess' b'gagiis p'ats pascu ac pastur cu omibz at suis p'tin p'petu de ceto exigerre clamar' seu venditor pot'im in future. Iz? Ab omi jure title et clam inde p'tend sim? Exclusi e quilt' Sit exclusq im'ppm. In cui rei testom' huic p'senti scripto meo sigillum meu apposui. Hiis testibz Johe Lymett, Rogo Lanpene? Johe Olyver, Thom Broke, Georges Heywarde e multis aliis. Dat decimo die mensis Novembr Anno regni Regis Henrici viii post c'qst Anglie quarto decimo. P'me Robart Rowlow, marchant of Bristol..... Sunt hec omia inpenda Rolandi Graveno' bno e Allio' libtate De Brugenorth

All faithful and present men, I Robert Rowlowe of Bristol, merchant greet you. Now I the said Robert release, and all my and heirs and executors forever quitclaim unto Humfrey Wolrich esquire, his heirs and assigns all that interest that I have once in the lands, tenements, messuages, burgages..... and pasture and all liberties and commodities of the lands pertaining in the town and in the fields of Bridgnorth, Nordley, Worfield, Claverley and Kingsnordley and Wotton in the county of Shropshire. To have and to hold to the said Humfrey, his heirs and assigns forever, of the chief lord of the fee, by the services thence owed and accustomed by right. And that neither I, the said Robert or my heirs or any other with just title interest or claim in the said tenement, messuage burgage and pasture and with all the appurtances forever of right title and claim thence forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal to this document. These being witnesses John Lymett, Roger Lanpene? John Olyver, Thomas Broke, George Heywarde and many others. Dated 10th November in the 14th year of the reign of Henry 8th. (1522-3).

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 14**

Sciant presentes e futuri quod ego Johes filius Hugonis de Wotton dedi concessi e hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui dno Simoni rectori de Quatte e dno Wittmo Bacwardyn capello de Alvedleye unu messuagiu in Wotton p'dict vocat Peycefynng e medietate unio virgate ten' cu suis p'tin inf'a maniu de Quatte. Dedi eciam? e concessi p'fat Simoni e Wittmo unu cocagiu? cu p'tin quod Johes ate Wode tenet inf'a maniu de clav? (Claverley) p'ptua dedi e concessi p'fat Simoni e Witto qui'ng ffeodyngg int dictu maniu de orlant?? (claverley) vide le smythureadyngg, le wycelyereadyng, le holderreadyng, le monreadyng e le devenubusreadyng? Hendum' e tend' omia p'dicta messuag t'ra cocage e reodyngg ad omibz suis p'tin quibzcugz que modo sut vt de possunt in future racone jur' e heditate p'fat Simoni e Wittmo heredibz e assignat suis imppetuu. Reddendo dnis illor feodo s'vic inde debita e consueta. Et ego v'o p'dict Johes e heres mei omia p'dicta messuag' terr cocage reodyngge ad omibz suis p'tin quibz cuq ut p'tin est p'fat Simoni e Wittmo heribz e assignat suis cont' omes gentes warrantizabim e imppetua defendem. In cui rei testimoniu sigilla meu apposui. Hiis testibz: Hugon Dudmaston, Hugone Mortimer, Thoma de Gatacre, Tho ate Broke, Walto Gatacre, Rico orochurfte? Rago ate Rowton e aliis. Dat apud Wotton p'dict die Marte in festo decollacois sci Johis Bapt, anno regni Regis Rici conquestu anglie quinto decimo.

Know all present and future men that I, John son of Hugo of Wotton, have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to Simon the rector of Quatt and to William Bacwardyn, chaplain of Alveley, one message in Wotton aforesaid called Peycefynng and one virgate and tenement with the appurtances in the manor of Quatt. Given and granted to the said Simon and William with the appurtances which John ate Wode had in the manor of Claverley forever. Given and granted to the said Simon and William (in the lordship of the said manor of Claverley??) known as smyth ridding, the wycelye ridding, the holder ridding, the mon ridding and the devenubus ridding. To have and to hold all of the aforesaid message, land, and ridding and all the appurtances in any way..... right and inheritance of the aforesaid Simon and William their heirs and assigns forever. Rendering to the fee the services thence owed and accustomed by right. And verily I the said John, and my heirs will warrant and defend the aforesaid message, land and ridding and all of its appurtances to the aforesaid Simon and William, their heirs and assigns, against all men, forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. These being witnesses. Hugh Dudmaston. Hugh Mortimer. Thomas of Gatacre. Thomas at Broke. Walter Gatacre. Richard Rago at Rowton and many others. Dated at Wotton, March in the feast ofSt John the Baptist, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Richard II. (1391/2)

Copy of deeds in the British Library.

British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 15

Sciant p'sentes e futuri qd nos Ricard de Kynefar e Johes de la Grene dedim e concessi e hac p'senti carta n'ra confirmauim Johi de Piritone omes terr e ten' n'ra in feod de Quatte que e quas nup huim e de dono e feoffmento Ade Broun. Habd' e tened' omia p'dta terr e ten cu omibz suis p'tin p'dto Johi Piritone heredibz e assignat suis libere quiete bn e in pace de capli dno feod illi p' servicia inde debita e de jure consueta imppm. Et nos v'o pr'dti Rics e Johes Grene her'd n'ra omia p'dta terr e ten cu omibz suis p'tin prdto Johi Piritone her'd e assignat suis e contra omes mortals warantizabim e impptuu. In cui rei testim huic p'senti carte sigilla n'ra apposuim. Hiis testibz Thoma de Dodmastone. Hugone Huwes sone, Hugone Tonkys, Johe Harlewyn, Witto Waldewyn e mult aliis. Dat apud Quatte die lune in f sce Mar Magdalene, anno regni Regis Edward tertii post conq. Tricesimo octavo.

Know all present and future men that we Richard of Kinver and John of the Grene have given, and by this our present charter, confirmed to John of Piritone all the land and tenements in the lordship of Quatt which was formerly held by the gift and feoffment of Adam Broun. To have and to hold all the aforesaid land and tenements with all of their appurtances to the aforesaid John Piritone and his heirs and assigns, freely, quietly, well and in peace of the chief lord of the fee by the services thence owed and accustomed by right, forever. And verily we the aforesaid Richard and John Grene and our heirs will warrant against all men all the aforesaid land and tenement to the aforesaid John Piritone, forever. In witness of which thing we have affixed our seals to this our present charter. These being witnesses. Thomas of Dudmaston. Hugh Huwes son, Hugh Tonkys, John Harlewyn, William Waldewyne and many others. Dated at Quatt, June in the feast of Mary Magdalene in the thirty eight year of the reign of Edward III. (1364-5)

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 16**

Pateat univ'sis p. p'sentes qd. ego Johes atte Walle de Cheylmarsh dedi concessi e dimisi Thome de ffincheseleye unam placeam terre jacent in Northleye in latitudine int' venellam que ducit de Northleye v'sus la Ron Welone ex pte una e teram Witt de Ffililode ex pte alta e extendit se in longitudine a terra Johis Hicokes usq ad terram que fuit Thome Dod. Hend e tenend p'd'tam placeam terre durante tota vita mea p'fato Thome hedibz e assignatis suis de capitali dno feodi illius p sui inde debita e consueta. Et ego vero p'tus Johes e he'des mei p'd'tam placeam p cu omibz suis p'tin p'fato Thome hedibz e assigntis suis durante tota vita mea cont omes mortales warantiz abimz e defendem in forma p'dta. In cui rei testimoniu sigilla meu apposu. Hiis testibz Rogo de Astleye, Thoma de Astleye, Witto de Ffililode. Johe de la Grene Rico de Lendemore, et allis. Dat apud Northleye die dnica in festo Annuntiacos be Marie, Anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu vicesimo sexto.

Be it known to everyone present that I John atte Walle of Chelmarsh do grant and demise unto Thomas of Ffincheseleye a place and land lying in Nordley in length between the lane which leads from Nordley towards the Ron Welone ?? on the one part and the land of William de Ffililode on the other part extending in length from the land of John Hicokes all the way the land of Thomas Dod. To have and to hold the aforesaid place and land during all of the life of the aforesaid Thomas, his heirs and assigns, of the chief lord of the fee by the services thence owed and accustomed by right. And verily I the said John and my heirs will warrant against all mortal men the aforesaid place with all of its appurtances during all the life of the aforesaid Thomas, his heirs and assigns. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal. These being witnesses. Roger de Astley. Thomas de Astley, William de Ffililode. John of the Grene, Richard of Lendemore and many others. Dated at Nordley the day of the feast of the Annunciation of Mary. In the twenty sixth year of the reign of Edward III. (1353)

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 17**

Sciant presentes e futuri qd ego Margia filia Nichi de la Grene senior dedi concessi e hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui Agneti filie mee p quadam summa pecunie quam michi dedit p manibz unam placeam terre mee jacentem in Manio de Nordleye in latitudie int venellam que ducit de Nordleye versus Morfe ex una pte e terram Wittmi de Ffililode ex alta parte e in longitudie a terra Rici Alisandre usq ad terram Wittmi Dod. Hendam e tenendam p'dtam placeam terre cum omibz suis ptinensiis p'dte Agneti heredibz e assignatis suis libe quiete bene e in pace in feodo e in hereditate imppetuu de capitali dno feodi illius p s'vitiu unius denarii p annu ad festi sci Michis e unu denariu ecclie beate Marie de Alvetheleye ad eundem fm, ad celebrandum unam Missam p aia mea duratum annuatim successive p omi servitio seculari exactione, consuetudine, seu demanda. Et ego vero p'dta Margia e heredes mei p'noiatum placeam terre cum omibz suis p'tinensiis p'fate Agneti heredibz e assignatis suis cont omes heies e servicias warrantiz abim' acquietabim e imppetuu defendem. In cui rei testimoniu huic p'sentis carte sigillum weu apposui hiis testibz Johe de Astleye. Rogo fre sus. Witto de Ffililode. Nicho de la Grene. Rogo Syer et allis. Dat apud Nordleye die d'nica in festo sci benedri Abbtis, Anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum Septimo.

Know all present and future men that I Margia, daughter of Nicholas of the Grene senior, have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to my daughter Agnes for a sum which she has given me, one place and land of mine lying in the manor of Nordley in length from the lane which leads from Nordley towards Morfe on the one part and the land of William of Ffililode on the other part and in width from the land of Richard Alisandre to the land of William Dod. To have and to hold the aforesaid place and land with all the appurtances to the aforesaid Agnes, her heirs and assigns, freely, quietly, well and in

peace, in fee and inheritance forever of the lord of the fee for the service of one penny per annum on the Feast of St Michael and one penny to the Church of St Mary of Alveley to celebrate a mass for me every year successively for services exacted and customs so demanded. And verily I the aforesaid Margia and my heirs will warrant and defend against all men all the aforesaid land with its appurtenances to the aforesaid Agnes and her assigns forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal to this my present charter. These being witnesses. John of Astley. Roger his brother. William of Ffililode, Nicholas of the Grene. Roger Syer and many others. Dated at Nordley the day of the Feast of St Benedict, in the seventh year of the reign of Edward III. (1334)

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 18**

Sciant presentes e futuri qd ego Adam Broun de Alvetheleye dedi concessi e hac present carta mea confirmaui Rico de Kynefare e Johi de la Grene omes terr e ten mea cu omibz suis p'tin infra feod de Quatte jacent. Hend e tenend omes p'dtas terr e ten cu omibz suis p'tin p'dtis Rico e Johi hered e assignat libere quiete bn e in pace de capti dno feod illius p servicia inde debita e de jure consueta imppm. Et ego vero p'dtus Adam e hered mei omes p'dtas terr e ten cu omibz suis p'tin p'dto Rico e Johi heredibz e assignatis contra omes mortales warrantizabim imppm. In cui rei testimoniu huic present carte sigillu meu apposui. Hiis testibz Thoma de Dodemastone. Hugon Huwes senior Hugo Ponkys. Johe Herlowyn, Witto Waldewyn e mult aliis. Dat apud Quatte die Lune in sepria pentecoste Anno regni Regis Edward tertii post conquestum tricesimo sexto.

Know all present and future men that I Adam Broun of Alveley have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to Richard of Kinver and John de la Grene all of my land and tenements with all the appurtenances lying in the lordship of Quatt. To have and to hold all the land and tenements with the appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and John, their heirs and assigns, freely, quietly, well and in peace, forever, of the chief lord of the fee by the services thence owed and accustomed by right. And verily I the said Adam and my heirs will warrant against all people all the aforesaid land with the appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard and John and their heirs and assigns forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal to this my present charter. These being witnesses. Thomas of Dudmaston. Hugh Huwes, senior. Hugh Ponkys. John Herlowyn. William Waldewyn and many others. Dated at Quatt the Monday in ? Pentecost. In the 36th year of the reign of Edward third. (1362/3)

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
British Library Additional Mss. 30320 page 19 (Not dated but about 1306)**

Sciant presentes e futur quod ego Goditha filia Roberti Wodere de Nordleg, dedi concessi e hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui Aldithe filie Stephan de la Grene pro quatuor solid argenti quos michi dedit de Ingressu qu'dm partem t'ra mee de assarto que noiatum nou a t'ra, Illam videlicz parte t're cui In capite orientati est parnus Sychecus e ex parte boriali petet t'ra ejus dem Godithe e pars occidens p'dte terre extendit usq ad Tugelone p via regia jacet ex parte australi. Habend e tenend de me e heredibz meis ul meis assignatis p'dte Aldithe e heredibz suis ul suis assignatis seu quibzcuncqz t'ram illam cum p'tinens dare vendere legare ut assignare voluit In feodo e hereditate libere quiete e pacifice inppetuum. Reddento inde annuatim michi e heredibz meis p'dta Alditha et heredes sui vel sui assignati unam denarium ad festum sci Michis pro omni servitio exactione et demanda. Ego vero p'dta Goditha e heredes mei p'dtam terram cum pertinensiis p'dte Aldithe e heredibz suis ut suis assignatis cont omes homines et feminas Imppetuu warantizabim acquitabim et defendemus. Et ut hec mea donacio concessio e p'sentis carte mee confirmacio rata et stabilis inppetuum p seneret p'sentem carta in sigilla mei impressione roborau. Hiis tetibz Johe dno de Estleg. Henrico de Morf. Simone de Alvitheleg. Walto de Kemeseye. Johe de Bosco. Adam Baret. Ricardo le Masun. et multis aliis.

Know all present and future men that I Goditha, daughter of Robert Wodere of Nordley have given, granted and by this my present charter confirmed to Aldithe, daughter of Stephan of the Grene for four silver pennies which she has given to me to enter upon that part of my land of assart which land.part of the land which is in the east and is chiefly (the land of) Sysecus and the northern part (of the) land (is the land of) Godithe and the west part of the aforesaid land extending all the way to Tugelone lying to the south. To have and to hold of me and my heirs and assigns to the aforesaid Aldithe, her heirs and assigns.....all of the land with the appurtenances sold and assigned In fee and inheritance, freely, quietly, well and in peace forever. Rendering thence annually to me and my heirs the aforesaid Alditha and her heirs and her assigns one penny on the Feast of St Michael to me for all the services demanded. And verily I the aforesaid Goditha and my heirs will warrant and defend the said land with its appurtenances to the said Aldithe and her heirs and assigns against all men and. women, forever. And as I give, grant and present my charter I confirm ratify and establish forever charter and impress my seal (with vigour?) These being witnesses. John de Astley. Henry de Morf. Simon de Alveley. Walter de Kemeseye. John de Bosco. Adam Baret. Richard le Masun and many others.

**Copy of deeds in the British Library.
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Sciant presentes e futuri qd ego Willms de Ffililod dedi concessi e hac presenti carta mea confirmaui Thome de Ffyncheleye unam placeam terre mee que vocat Ffyncheleye Rudynge cu p'tin in Nordleye jacentem int terram meam de Stockwall e terram

que fuit Rici Yonge in Longitudine e in latitudine int terram que fuit p'dti Rici le Yonge e terram p'dti Thome. Hend e tenendam totam p'dtam placeam terre cu omibz sua p'tin p'fato Thome e heredibz suis de capitalibz dnis feodi illius p s'vicia inde debita e consueta imppm. Et ego vero p'dtus Wittms e heredes mei totam p'dtam placeam terre cu omibz suis p'tin p'fato Thome e heredibz suis cont omes mortales warantizabim e imppm defendem. In cui rei testimoniu huic p'senti carte sigillo meu apposui. Hiis testibz Rogo de Astleye. Walto de Haddeleys. Thoma del Wodehous. Johe de Dodemaston. Rico de Lendemore e multis aliis. Dat apud Nordeleye die vendis in festo exaltacois sce crucis. Anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii post conquestu vicensimo sexto.

Know all present and future men that I, William de Ffillilod have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed to Thomas de Ffyncheleye a place and land of mine called Ffyncheleye Rudyngge with the appurtances in Nordley lying between land of mine called Stockwall and land of Richard Yonge in length and width between the land of the said Richard Yonge and land of the aforesaid Thomas. To have and to hold all of the aforesaid place and land with all the appurtances to the said Thomas and his heirs of the chief lord of the fee by the services thence owed and accustomed forever. And verily I the said William and my heirs will warrant against all people all the aforesaid place and land with the appurtances to the aforesaid Thomas forever. In witness of which thing I have affixed my seal to this my present charter. These being witnesses, Roger de Astley. Walter de Hadley. Thomas de Wodehouse. John de Dudmaston. Richard de Lendemore and many others. Dated at Nordley feast of exaltation of the cross. In the twenty sixth year of the reign of Edward third. (1352/3)

With seal