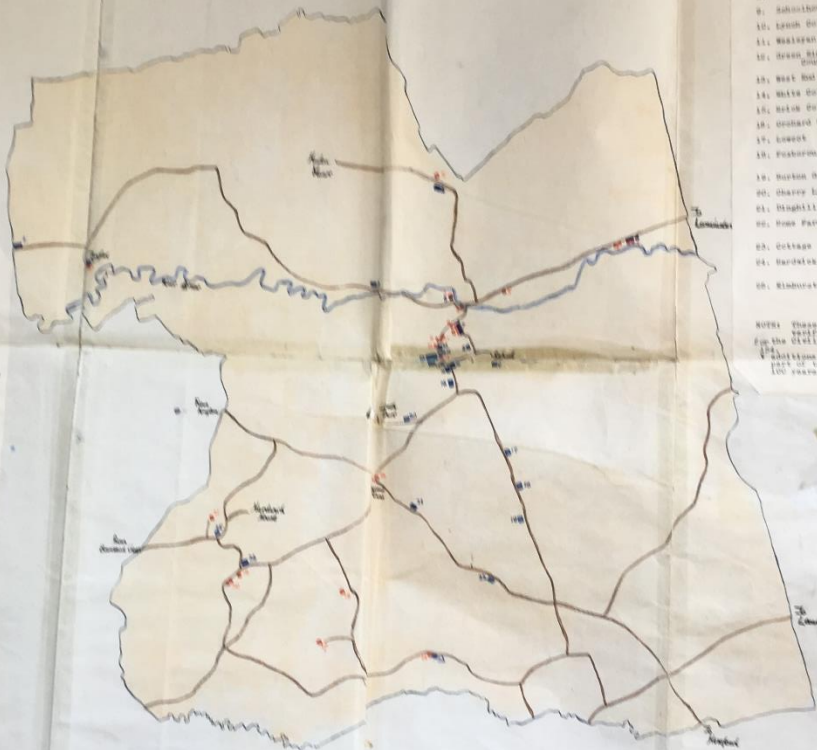


Coth Parish of Eastland.



1. Puffin Farm Cottages (10) 1801
2. Puffin Farm Cottages (10) 1801
3. Puffin Farm Cottages (10) 1801
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- NOTE: These records have been verified as far as possible by the Civil Parish-Register Office, ...

1. Puffin Farm Cottages (10) 1801
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- NOTE: These records have been verified as far as possible by the Civil Parish-Register Office, ...

To face Page 26.

Parish Eastland.



BUILDINGS new since 1855
Indicated thus ■

1. Twyford Farm Cottages (2) 1901
2. Twyford Farmhouse 1911
3. Woodford 1951
4. Hinton Cottages 1952
5. Riversdale about 1890
6. Streamsford (3) before 1900
7. Church Row (5) 1899
8. Vicarage 1904
9. Schoolhouse 1875
10. Lynch Cottages (2) before 1900
11. Wesleyan Chapel 1854
12. Green Elm (19 new Council houses 1954 & 1955)
13. West End (2) before 1900
14. White Cottage 1936
15. Brick Cottages (2) before 1900
16. Orchard Cottages (2) 1912
17. Lowcot 1902
18. Foxborough (formerly Hightcot) 1903
19. Burton Gardens before 1900
20. Cherry Lynn 1948
21. Dinghill about 1930
22. Home Farm (formerly Quebec Cottage) 1902
23. Cottage on Pigmere before 1900
24. Hardwick Cottages (2) before 1900
25. Elmhurst (formerly Jubilee Cottage) about 1887

NOTE: These records have been verified as far as possible for the Civil Parish-present-number of houses, & additions only. The original part of the house is well over 100 years old.

BUILDINGS down since 1855
indicated thus ●

1. Twyford Farmhouse (burnt down 1911)
2. Tithe Map 1842 - Name unknown.
3. Sea side house - pulled down about 1890 - Riversdale built in its place
4. Cottage by river - Arrow Lawn (pulled down after 1846)
5. Cottage next to Glan Arrow Cottage. pulled down about 1915
6. 2 cottages at Streamsford (fallen down)
7. 2 cottages at Streamsford (pulled down to make way for 2 brick ones)
8. 5 cottages in Church Road (pulled down to make way for 5 brick ones about 1899)
9. Barn (Tithe Map, 1842.)
10. 4 cottages, Ruscot (formerly Tomkins' Row, and later still Robinson's Row: burnt down 1917)
11. Cottage in Elms Orchard - nothing known
12. Cottage in Elms Orchard - nothing known
13. 2 cottages (fell down early 1900's. Old Workhouse recorded on Tithe Map)
14. Turnpike Cottage (Tithe Map: nothing further known)
15. Turnpike Cottage (believed to have fallen down before 1900)
16. Cottage at Pigmores (pulled down to build new one)
17. Cottage at Lower Hardwick (fell down)
18. Cottage at Dowsage (fell down)
19. Cottage nr. The Hemmings (burnt down Guy Fawkes night, 1904)
20. 2 cottages nr. The Hemmings (fell down before 1900)
21. Cottage opposite White House (either pulled down or fell down, date unknown.)

NOTE: These records have been verified as far as possible for the Civil Parish-present number of houses, 154.

HOUSES AND FAMILIES, THEN AND NOW.

WE HOPE TO RECORD, by means of maps, the houses which have been built in the Parish in the last 100 years, and those which were here 100 years ago but are now gone. As a generalisation one could say that the newer houses have mostly been built in brick, while those that have gone were in the main half-timbered dwellings, and they were either burned down or fell into decay. Old houses were not, of course, fashionable in the early years of this Century, and many can remember the tumble-down state of much of our property then. Later, however, the fashion for old houses developed, as also did the fashion for a "house by the river". Earlier still, our river had begun to attract fishing-enthusiasts from the towns, for in the Directory for 1891 the Cross Inn is given a boost with the description, "Good accommodation for visitors: excellent fishing in the River Arrow."

Property changed hands, labourers' cottages were put in repair and thus rescued from decay. At the same time new names were given to houses, in keeping with the Victorian fashion; the Tan House becomes The Elms; (Vulcan House becomes Porch House and later the Manor House; New House becomes White House, and later Arrow Lawn; Jubilee Cottage changed its name to Elmshirt; the Bull Inn is re-named Arrow Villa, and later Arrow Bank; Roadside becomes Riverside; Sea Side House is pulled down, and a red brick villa put up in its place and named Riversdale. *Other way round, see p. 10*

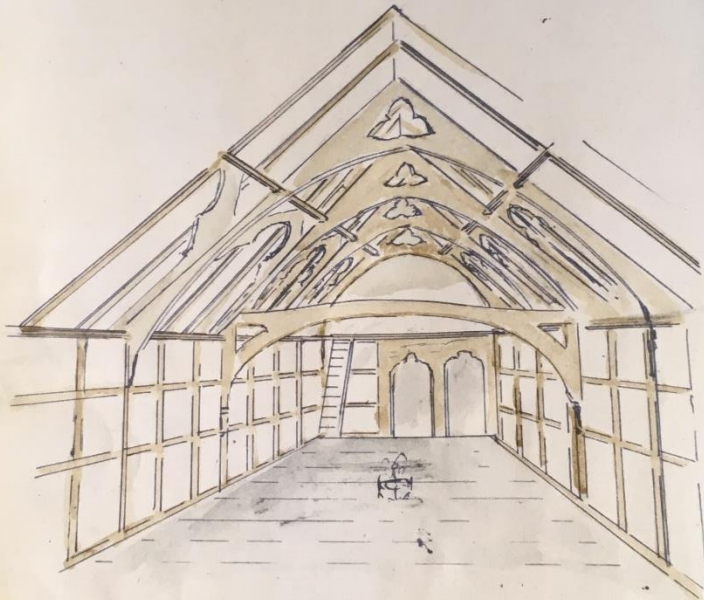
Fortunately, however, Victorian fashion did not affect our buildings. Ours is a pretty village, and we hope we may be forgiven for quoting from the 'Hereford Times' of June, 1933:

"Which is the most picturesque village in England? The matter is raised by Mr. S.P.B. Nais in a 'Daily Telegraph' supplement ("Beautiful Britain") this week, and that famous homeland traveller and writer (who recently was the principal speaker at the Hereford Chamber of Commerce dinner) has something to say in favour of awarding the palm to Gardisland.

He mentions the names of a dozen or more well-known English villages, and winds up: "And after all I am not at all sure that Gardisland, in Herefordshire, does not beat the lot. Here are exquisite magpie-coloured cottages with their black timbers checkwise, triangular, and circular among the white plaster, with overhanging storeys and thick thatch, standing on the banks of the Arrow, a trout stream that would have delighted Izaak Walton, an ancient warm brick dovecot, an old mill, and a big black-and-white grammar school with a whipping post, and wooden stairs, standing right on the greystone bridge that spans the second winding stream! Before you finally decide which is England's most picturesque village I think you will have to give Herefordshire its chance to provide the winner."

In the past quite a deal of our building materials must have been produced locally. On Hinton land we have a field called Clay Gobbet, and there is also a stone quarry on this farm, from which stone has been taken comparatively recently. On the Embouse land, and also on the Crown Farm land, there are stone

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GREAT HALL STAICK HOUSE. EARLY 14th CENT.
BEFORE BEDROOM FLOORS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE 17th CENT

quarries, one a very large one now in disuse, but producing stone very much like that used in the Church and several of the houses; and Burton Court estate had a brickyard producing bricks until quite recently, for repair to the estate buildings. Within living memory many of our half-timbered houses were thatched, but nowadays only The Latchetts (formerly two cottages) and Ruscote (two cottages) are thatched. Stone slates, too, are becoming a thing of the past, due to the expense of keeping this type of roof in repair; and now one must go to quarries in the Cotswolds for slates, or use second-hand ones.

We do not propose to write about all our "exquisite cottages" especially since many of them have already been recorded by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments; sufficient to say that they go right through from about 1200 to 1954, and there are many good period houses among them. We should, however, like to say something about the oldest of our buildings, because they have interesting features.

The house at Upper Hardwick Farm (or Hardwick House, as it is now called), although mainly late Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Century, has a portion of a cruck in one of the first floor rooms, probably dating to around 1200, and part of the original house.

The Great Hall (or Court House) at Burton Court is of early Fourteenth Century date and still preserves most of the original features. (The Manorial Rolls date back to 1332.) The house has presumably been changed greatly through the Centuries, and the present building - apart from the Great Hall - is mainly of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century, the porch and the bays being added in 1912. We were delighted to come upon the following extract from Lady Greenly's Diary for July, 1837:

"Wednesday at half-past three I called for Mrs. Stewart and proceeded to dine at Burton Court. Mr. S. went in his gig. We dined in the new room, but the Library and Drawing-room not yet finished, sat in one of the bedrooms, from which there is a lovely view. I extremely admire the manner in which the fine old hall has been preserved and fitted up, and think the whole a comfortable mansion. The exterior has been criticised, but I am not one of those who find fault. We strolled out after a 5 o'clock dinner and sat in a pretty root house at the end of a green terrace, in which Mrs. and Miss Evans spend a great deal of time in fine weather."

Knapp House (there is also a Knapp Orchard, on Lower Burton Farm) is an interesting old house, dating back to the Fourteenth Century. It was probably a yeoman's house and was at one time larger than it is now, with a Great Hall extension.

Staick House is interesting as an example of a yeoman's house which was added to at various times over a period of nearly 400 years, each new addition causing a change in the function of certain parts of the house (stables into living-room, etc.), and yet the fabric remaining in its essentials exactly as it was when built. The earliest portion dates to the early Fourteenth Century. A little later the Great Hall was added to the West, as a completely separate building; this Hall was floored over early in the Seventeenth Century to make bedrooms, and we show opposite a sketch of what it must have looked like until then. It would have had a central hearth, but no chimney, the smoke escaping through a hole or fleche in the roof; and to this day the beams (now hidden by ceilings) are covered in soot. Further

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Strick House in 1860, when four Cottages.



1949.



New Central Chimney,
and
Repair to Roof
under way.
1950.

extensions were made right up till the late Seventeenth Century.

It is thought that the house continued as one dwelling till round 1800, when it was converted into four cottages. Unfortunately there is no known history of the house, and the old Deeds have been lost, but we know that in 1851 one Thomas Huxley, tailor, lived at The Stank (its original name may have been Stank House, the river having been stanked or dammed here), and both the Curate and the Schoolmaster lived here in the last Century. The house was bought by the Revd. J. Barker soon after he came and was restored by him in the early Seventies. The Barkers continued to live here until 1909, but the house by then was in a very dilapidated condition, and it was unoccupied and unwanted for three years, till Mr. Greenhough bought it and the family moved there in 1912. Once again a programme of extensive repairs was undertaken - and indeed repairs of one kind and another seem to have gone on ever since, the latest being in 1950, when a new central chimney-stack was built and the roof was restored, the decayed oak (some of it 600 years old) being replaced and new stone slates laid.

We have never discovered how long one must live in Eardisland to become "native", but we decided that those families who were here in 1900 surely qualify, and should be mentioned in this history.

As far as we know only two of our families were here 100 years ago: the Blackmores and the Mileses. The Blackmores came in 1811 and, with the exception of short periods when Arrow Lawn was let, and one short period during which it was sold, they have lived here ever since. Miss Blackmore (of Kingsland) writes:

"Mrs. Haywood, my great-grandmother, came to Arrow Lawn in 1811. Her unmarried daughter followed her. At her death my grandmother, Mrs. Blackmore, inherited and she and her husband came to live there in 1846. There was then a cottage by the river; my grandfather bought it and pulled it down and laid out the garden there. He also built up the South wall in the back garden and planted the orchard. He raised the ceilings in the house and decorated one room with grapes and vine leaves, modelled from the vine which grew on the side of the house. The other room ceiling he decorated with acorns and leaves from his oak in a field on the way to Street. He added the upper story at the back of the house and installed the water closet - the talk of the neighbourhood at the time and for long after."

Miss Blackmore goes on to tell us that one of her great-uncle was apprenticed at the Tan House (now the Elms), "but he did not like it and abandoned it for farming." At one time both the Court House Farm and the Lyme Farm belonged to the Haywood family.

Arrow Lawn is referred to in the earlier Directories as New House; later it was known for a time as the White House. The present owners are Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Bowen (both nee Blackmore).