

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)

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Rev. J. and Mrs. Barker with
Joe, Rhoda, Jim and Jack.
Strick House, 1881.



Mrs. Barker.



The first
Mr. and Mrs. James Newton.

who live in Ceylon but regard Eardisland as home, and both they and their children spend long leaves and school holidays here.

There is mention of an Elizabeth Miles as living at Staick Cottage when the Tithe Map was compiled in 1842, and it is almost certain that the Miles family of Hardwick are her descendants. Many of us remember old Mrs. Miles, a wonderful old lady, who died in 1953 at the age of 93. She had nine children, six of whom are still alive, and three (Mrs. Stead, The Shop; and Jack and Phoebe, Fields End House, Hardwick) living in our Parish. Their father was born at Lower Burton in 1860, and his father before him was an Eardisland man and was at one time our Parish Constable. The family moved to the present Miles home when Mr. Miles was one month old - so that they have lived there for 95 years. All the Miles children went to Eardisland School, and Mrs. Stead can remember her mother talking of a time when their schooling cost 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a week for each child. The great day in their year was May 13th, the day of Pembridge Fair; they always came to school that day in their best clothes and had a half-day to go to the Fair. They had to walk the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to school, and the road to Hardwick in those days was grass-grown in the middle, with deep cart-ruts each side. They had their own milk, eggs and butter, and their own pig, but Mrs. Stead can remember many children coming to school with nothing but dry bread for their lunch, or bread and treacle. Her brother Jack can recall some children bringing a bottle of cider with them, but this was later frowned upon and stopped! A great treat to them was Slab Cake at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a pound. Her mother regularly paid 1/- a year for the Nurse, and 1/- a year for the Hospital Fund, but she never had a day's illness in her long life. Mr. Miles, in addition to running his smallholding, was a gardener at Burton Court for many years.

Mrs. T.G. Smith, of West End, recently celebrated her 70th birthday. She was born in Eardisland and has lived here all her life. Her father, Mr. John Roberts, was a Pembridge man; he worked at Burton Court as a young man and there he met his future wife, Ann Swift. They settled at Staick Cottage for the early years of their married life, Mr. Roberts being gardener and coachman to the Revd. J. Barker. He was with Mr. Barker for 15 years, and with Mr. Spencer, Glan Arrow, for a further 15 years before finally retiring and going to live with his daughter, Mrs. Smith. He is remembered as being a first-class gardener, and it was he who planted the fir trees by the river, and several shrubs in the Churchyard. Mr. Jim Roberts, Stretford Bridge, (just outside the Parish) is a member of the same family, being a nephew of the late John Roberts. He was born at the White House, Barewood, and has been in this part of the county all his life. In his early days he hired out a portable cider mill, and can remember making as much as 15 hogsheads of cider a day. He is now farming at Stretford Bridge, and his only daughter is married to Mr. Jim Kington, of Grove House, a member of another of Eardisland's old families.

The first Jim Kington to live in Eardisland - as far as we know - was a native of Grendon Bishop. He was an old soldier, and saw service in the East before retiring from the Army and coming to live at Riverside (then Roadside) Farm in 1874. He was a great diarist, and fortunately for us he and his son both had their farm records handed down and preserved, and those we have found most helpful in our History, though the "lost years" have been a matter of great regret. We liked the first entry in his Account Book for 1874: "For a Glass of Ale at Cross, 2d."

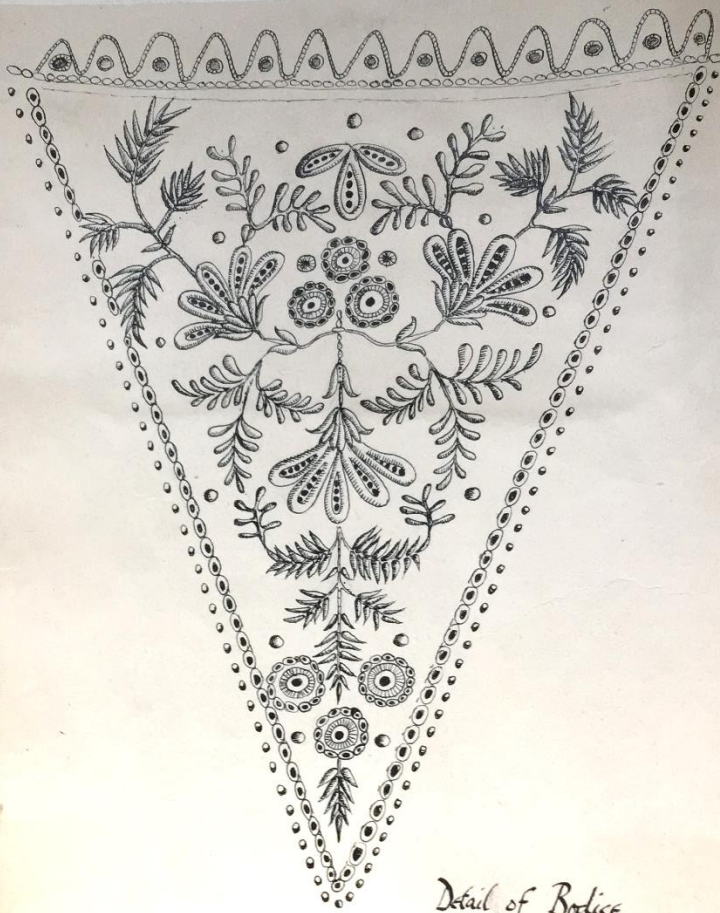
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Detail of Bodice.

Drawn by Mrs. David Louck.

Early 19th Century Christening Robe.
Traditional wheatsheaf embroidery design.
(Kington Family.)



Detail of Bodice.

Drawn by Mrs. David Leuck.

Early 19th Century Christening Robe.
traditional wheat sheaf embroidery design.
(Kington Family.)

He must have been a warm and generous character, for other entries read: "Gave to Ringers, 2/-; Drink for Men at Fair, 6d.; basket for Minnie (his little girl), 1/-; Newspaper Boy, 6d.; To a blind man, 2d.; Gave to Poor, 9d.; our maid as a present, 4/6d.; expenses to Hereford Show, 5/-; expenses at Leominster Fair, 9/-" - and so on. One can well believe the story that he lost £200 during the two years he was at Riverside (his outgoings in Rent, Tithe and Poor Rate alone for 1875 were £222, incredibly high if the acreage then was about 50, as it is now) and he was probably glad to move to Grove House in 1876 and start afresh. Jim
Kington

Mrs. Kington is remembered as a most generous soul: "It was nothing for her to have as many as 40 beggars in a day, and she would give food to every one of them, as long as they didn't ask for cider!" says Bill Morgan, who was a Boy at Grove House in the Nineties. Right through our records there is mention of the Kingtons and the work they did for the Parish in various directions, and everyone was glad to see Grove House remain in the family when the present Jim Kington (grandson of the old soldier) bought it in 1950, when the Burton Court Estate was sold. Two more members of the Kington family still live in the Parish - Artie and Mary, at The Barr. It is to be hoped that one day young Janet Kington - aged nine, and a pupil of Eardisland School will collect together all the diaries and write the history of the Kington family.

There have been Hopes in Eardisland more or less continuously since about 1863, when Mr. Alfred Hope came to Lower Barewood Farm. About 1878 he moved to Upper Barewood (in Pembridge Parish) but he continued to farm land in Eardisland, and his son, (Mr. Alfred Hope, of The Corner House, Weobley) used to play Cricket for Eardisland in the Barkers' day and has very happy memories of the village in those days. We have recorded Mr. Hope's farming memories elsewhere in this History. Mr. Frederick Hope, a brother of the "first" Mr. Alfred Hope, took over the Court House Farm in the early Nineties, and a nephew, Mr. Henry Hope, came to Lower Hardwick in 1897. Henry Hope's son, Mr. Harry Hope, is represented by young John Hope, who is at present at the village school and will, we hope, carry on the farming tradition of the family.

Mr. Jim Williams, father of Mrs. Gittoes, Ruscot, and Mr. Stan Williams, Garden House, may have been born at Little Folly, Eardisland. At all events he lived there when a youngster, his father having come here from Marston, Pembridge - so that one can safely say that the Williams family have been here for the best part of 90 years. Jim Williams was a renowned ploughman, having won over 40 prizes in his time, the last one - a Veterans' Award - when he was 75. He worked for a great number of years at the Lynch. He never used a tractor; he "couldn't bear the sound of them", his daughter says. They lived at one time at Tadpole (now called Brook House), and Mrs. Gittoes remembers hearing about one time when the floods were so bad they had to put the pig upstairs! Jim Williams' grandson, John Gittoes, at present attends Leominster Grammar School.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Harry Owens, and Miss Mary Owens, Lynch Cottages, have associations with Eardisland going back a long time. Mr. Owens, Senior, came here about 70 years ago, and he worked for many years at the Lynch, where his son and daughter now work. Mrs. Harry Owens was a Kedward. Her father was born in Barewood and her parents were married in Eardisland Church and lived at both Upper Hardwick and Barewood. Mr. Kedward, Senior,

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Mr. Walter Williams
at the wheel of our first car.
1907.



Mr. Arthur Symonds and his Team,
Jim Richards, Eric Dement and Arthur Dubberley.
1905.

worked at Bidney Farm. His won - born in 1884 and recently returned to his old village - recalls working at Bidney as a ploughboy in 1896 at a wage of 9d. a day and doing a full man's job. Through a newspaper advertisement (jobs in those days were advertised in the weekly press) he got a post with a florist in Newport, Mon., at £10 a year. Later on he had his own floristry business and he has recently retired. It was a great pleasure for us to meet someone who went to school here so long ago, as it seems that only he, Mrs. Bill Morgan and Mrs. T.G. Smith from that particular generation of children still live in the village and can recall the days when Mr. Rogers was Schoolmaster.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morgan have a long association with Eardisland. Mr. Morgan's people moved to Lower Burton in the Nineties and Mr. Morgan worked at Grove House as a boy. For a time he worked in the mines; later on he joined the Militia and was in South Africa during the Boer War, returning in 1901. He did not, however, settle in his village but joined the Welch Regiment as a regular soldier, taking his discharge in 1918. He has lived in Eardisland ever since, having worked at Kingsland Sawmills for 32 years until his retirement recently. Mrs. Morgan was a Philips. Her parents came to Barewood about 1900, and later they moved to Lower Burton. She has vivid recollections of walking to school at Eardisland in Mr. Rogers' time - a long walk from Barewood, and no taxis and cooked dinners in those days!

Mr. Archie George is another of our Old Boys, having been born at Lower Burton Mill in 1881. For a time he lived out of the Parish, and he had all his schooling at Dilwyn, returning to Eardisland in 1898. His wife was a Londoner; both she and their son have predeceased him. Archie is by a long way our oldest bell-ringer, and he can recall many occasions connected with bell-ringing in Eardisland. For 40 years he worked on the Council as a roadman, retiring in 1953. We are glad to say he still lives in the village.

Mrs. Symonds, of The Hemmings, was born in Pembridge Parish in 1878, one of twelve children who were brought up on a wage of 12/- a week. She remembers vividly helping when the Stephens family came to Hardwick House; she was 13 at the time, and it was her job to lead a four-horse team bringing the furniture. She remembers, too, a time when her mother used to walk 6 miles to Kington Market, and the same distance back, carrying the farmer's fruit to sell, her wage being 1/- . She went out to service at a wage of £2.10.0. a year and had to milk 5 cows night and morning. Later she earned £3 a year, and later still £10. Her husband - born in 1871 - came from Clehonger, and moved to Dilwyn when very young. After they married they came to The Hemmings, a smallholding, and Mr. Symonds hired out his Threshing Mill. In the early days he was obliged by law to employ a Flag-man, to go before the Traction Engine warning on-coming traffic, the fine for non-compliance being 15/-. Many can recall the warning note of the Flag-man, Arthur Dubberley: "Out of the road! Arthur Symond's Traction will be over the top on ye!" All the Symonds children were born at The Hemmings: Sophie, who still lives at home; Albert, who lives in Leominster; Wilfrid, who lives at Burton Mill; and George, who lives at the Council Houses in Eardisland. There are several grandchildren, and little Edward Symonds goes to the village school.

Mrs. Pat Smith, our W.I. Secretary, has associations with Eardisland going back to 1895, when her father, Mr. John Watters, came here as Coachman and Head Groom (later on Chauffeur) to

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Mrs. John Walters
when very young - 1877.



for daughters, Mabel and Grace.
1915



Mrs. Walters and Nettie.
1915



Mrs. John Walters at Saddle Creek.



Mrs. Walters and Mrs. Crows at
Edith's Wedding, 1926

A Page of Fashion.

Colonel Clowes. The family were closely associated with the Court until the end. Mrs. Smith was born in Lowcot, moving with her parents to Highcot (both in Burton Lane) a year later. On her father's death in 1914 her mother and she came to live at Church Cottage, on the Burton Court Estate, her mother having been left this cottage for her lifetime; and after her mother's death in 1950 Mrs. Smith bought the cottage from the Burton Court Trust. Of the seven Watters daughters she is the only one to settle in Eardisland. Mr. Watters was a keen bowler and fisherman and an active member of the Reading Room. When the Women's Institute was formed in 1919 Mrs. Watters was its first Secretary, Mrs. Clowes being the first President - and she continued in this office till 1924, when she was succeeded by her daughter who has been Secretary ever since. Mrs. Smith is also Clerk to the Parish Council, and she has been Secretary of the annual British Legion and W.I. Pete and Flower Show since its inception in 1949. Her only child, Patricia Watters Roche, is married, with two children, and lives in one of the new Council Houses.

The Walter Williams' family connection with Eardisland started in 1900, when Mr. Williams came here as Coachman to Mr. Spencer, Glan Arrow. Later on he was to drive the first car in the village, and we hope to show a photograph of both Mr. Williams and the car. His daughter married Mr. Harvey, who had settled in Eardisland in 1901 and had carried on business as a Poultry and Egg Dealer. Later on, in 1914, they took over the premises by the river formerly occupied by Mr. Lewis and there they developed a Grocery and General Stores. They retired from the business in 1948 and now live at Tividale, Eardisland. Mr. Harvey was a Parish Councillor on and off from 1914 to 1942, and a Rural District Councillor (and on the Board of Guardians) from 1916 till 1954. During this long period he was returned to the R.D.C. on every occasion except one unopposed; the one occasion when three candidates put up Mr. Harvey topped the poll. Their younger daughter, Nancy, is married to Mr. Jack Price. They have two children and have recently gone to live at the Council Houses, another instance of a fourth generation being born in the village and settling at Green Elms. Long may new generations continue to settle among us, so that when the next history comes to be written the roots are deeper still.