

# Living History

Yarpole Group Parish  
2000



Volume V  
(2007)



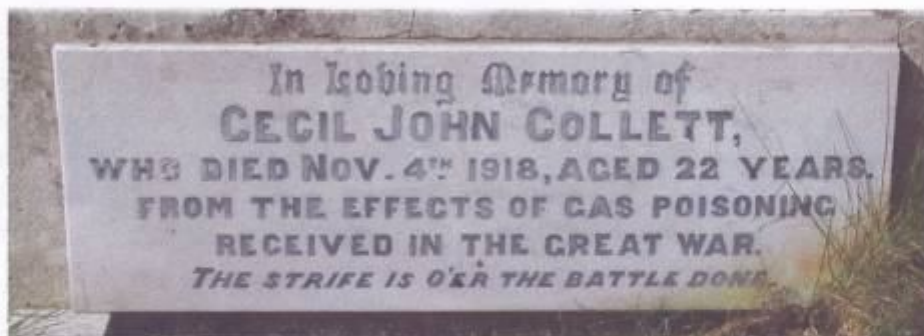
# Living History.

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2007.



Many thanks to everyone who helped with the recording of the inscriptions in the burial ground on a beautiful morning in April. We managed to record all the pre 1951 graves, which will be typed up and added to the churchyard list. A copy will be in the church and a copy sent to the Herefordshire Family History Society. It is very satisfying to feel that we have recorded information that may be lost as several gravestones were already hard to read or partly lost in weeds or grass.

There were fewer details on most of the gravestones than in the churchyard, but a few stood out, notably those of  
CECIL JOHN COLLETT who died November 4<sup>th</sup> 1918 aged 22 years "from the effects of gas poisoning received in the Great War."



and the WILKINSON family grave which tragically contained the inscriptions to four members of the family who died young:

EDITH MARY WILKINSON who died in 1909 aged 26, RICHARD JOHN WILKINSON who died in 1911 aged 26, followed by Pte HARRY WILFRED WILKINSON of the Northamptonshire Regiment who was killed in action in February 1917 aged 27 and

Pte CECIL ALLAN WILKINSON of the Herefordshire Regiment who was reported killed in July 1918 aged 22.

From the 1901 Census we learn that this family had at least seven children. The father William was in 1901 the estate carpenter. Edith was a Pupil Teacher and Richard was a painter's apprentice.

On a lighter note there is the grave of Phillipine Cross who is listed on the census as from Calais in France. She is probably the oldest person we recorded, dying aged 92, but there were many who lived into their eighties.

Following the completion of the graveyard Inscription Project and other research, we can now cross-reference and update our Yarpole & Bircher War Memorial Schedule which was published in September 2006: This is ongoing and we will reprint the Schedule at a later date.

Have you noticed how the condition of the old gatehouse is deteriorating?



There would appear to be damage to the common rafter and since the integrity of the roof verge is reliant on this member being sound, along with the tiles and pointing, it is a matter of serious concern and we intend to notify the appropriate Conservation Authority.

#### Seasonal Changes.

“The oak before the ash – we shall have a splash,  
Ash before the oak – we shall have a soak.”

Amongst the many seasonal oddities this year has been an increase in the gap between oak and ash leaves opening. The oak is nearly always first but sometimes by a very few days. This year the gap was of weeks rather than days. According to an ‘expert’ on the Today programme it is because the oak responds to temperature and we had a very mild early Spring. The ash, however, responds to day length so it comes into leaf at roughly the same time each year. As with many sayings the plants are not predicting weather but responding to it.

Of the two articles attached, the “Quaker Wedding has taken six years to finalise but the “Pound” was drafted within the last few months with Clive Barker’s full consultation, and he was very pleased to get his copy of the final draft before his untimely death.

Special Proclamation: It was agreed at our last meeting that Chris and John should be made Life Members of the *Living History* Group.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 07**, 8pm at the Bell.

## Quaker Wedding in Yarpole in 1686:

It has become part of the folklore of the Parish, that there was a Quaker wedding in Yarpole and that the ceremony had been held in the old Gatehouse which was being used by the local Quakers, as a 'secret' meeting place.

It was the late Mr. Cyril Jarrold of the Manor House in Yarpole who, whilst browsing in the Reference Section of the Leominster Library, found the reference to this wedding in a book written in 1884 - *The Quaker Lloyds in the Industrial Revolution* by H. Lloyd.

The story goes something like this:-

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 1686 there was a Quaker wedding in Yarpole.

Charles Lloyd whose home was at Dolobran House, 6 miles north of Welshpool, had spent 10 years in Welshpool Goal (because of his beliefs), and now, in 1686, a widower, was to marry a fellow Quaker, Anne Lawrence from Almeley, whom he had befriended whilst in prison. It was to be a double wedding for his son, Sampson, was to marry Elizabeth Good, daughter of Sybil Good of Lea Farm, Kimbolton (which still stands today), who had suffered under the particularly harsh treatment meted out to Quakers in Herefordshire.

Although the Quakers, at this time prior to the Act of Toleration (1689), were still suffering persecution, there were many 'Friends' in this area, in Eye, Luston, Eyton and Yarpole as well as in Leominster itself, where the Meeting House in South Street (on the site of the Euphoria Nightclub) was built in 1672.

Because Quakers did not marry in the local parish church it was important to ensure the legality of the marriage and so the marriage 'certificate', signed by all the witnesses, was presented after the ceremony to a magistrate to be recognised under the Civil Marriage Act (1653).

The wedding would have taken place in a 'Friend's House', and the wedding certificate, which has the signatures of some 50 witnesses, gives the location where the ceremony took place as "In their public meeting place in Yarpole", which would have been the home of a Quaker family.

The only Quaker family resident in the Parish of Yarpole at that time was a family by the name of John and Mary Pitts. John Pitts was a maltster who, as identified in his will, was also a farmer and had all the accoutrements to run an inn; (his will is set out in full in Appendix I).

*It should be said that the Quakers were not averse to alcohol.*

The actual location of the wedding is not declared on the marriage certificate, nor in the source book\*, nor has it been found after exhaustive searches of Quaker and other records; but there is one clue!

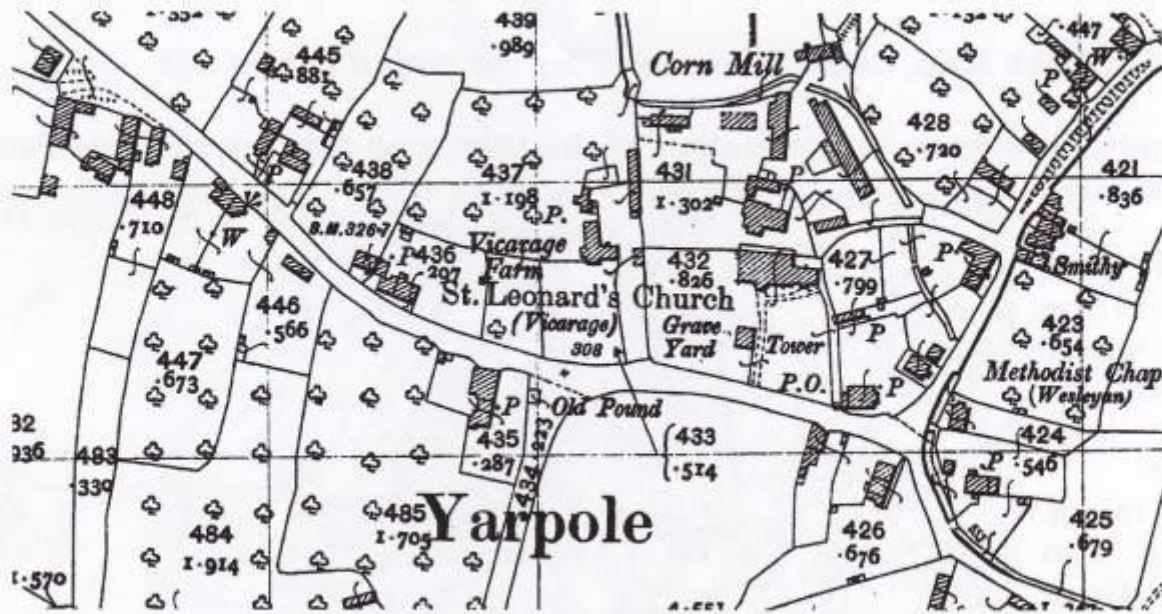
\**The Quaker Lloyds in the Industrial Revolution* by H. Lloyd.

## Appendix I:

### **A True and Just Inventory of all the Personall estate goods Chattalls and Cattels the which were John Pitts Testator now deceased In Yearpoll and Leominster**

Imprimis the Corn growing in Yearpoll 25 Acres and an halfe	13-0-0
Corne in the Barne	15-0-0
of pease 9 Bushells	1-16-0
of poulse Thirty bushells	2-10-0
Item Haye	9-0-0
Six oxen and one Cow	40-0-0
one pigge and one Mare	3-0-0
sheep and lambs	3-0-0
Item Money in his pocket and in the house	3-0-0
His cloathes	5-0-0
his Horse and sadle	10-0-0
Item His watch and Silver Tobacko box	2-0-0
one silver Tanket, one Cupp, halfe A dozen of spoones	
one pottenger, two salts and two tastors	5-0-0
Item eight Beds and bedsteeds with their furniture	10-0-0
Three and Twenty peire of sheets	3-0-0
six dozen and an halfe of Napkins And Table clouths	1-10-0
six peire of pillowe beeres And two cupbord cloathes	0-10-0
Item one Case of drawers And one stand	0-12-0
seven Truncks, two boxes and one Coffe	0-10-0
Two dunn and eight cheires	0-10-0
Item Two Furnaces	2-8-0
one boyler, two potts, two kettles, one brass pan and posnet	1-9-0
fifteen dishes of pewter And three dozen of plates	
one salt one mustard pott, one potenger and spoones	2-6-0
Item working tooles and old Iron And Irons belonging to the fire of all sorts	1-1-8
one clock one Jack	1-1-0
Two spits, two dripping pans, Candlestickes and snuffers	0-5-0
Item one old muck waine, two yokes and one plow beame	2-2-6
one horse maltmill, one steelmill and one sidermill	2-7-0
one warming pan	0-3-0
Item Twelve Hagsheads and five halfe hogsheads	3-15-0
one Cheesewringe, chees yates, two mike sceeles	
one Cadle, one kneading trind. one paile and one bucket	0-6-8
Item eight Tables and frames, one dresser and shelves	1-5-10
Glass botles, glasses and other smale things about the house	0-10-0
Item stock in Malt	30-0-0
one kill heire and baggs	0-10-0
Tubbs, Trinds and Weeting yates	1-0-0
bookes	0-10-0
Item wooll and flax	0-5-0
Hop poles	2-0-0
Twelve Hundred of old hops	10-0-0
Item Two pecocks and one pehen one cock and hen	0-2-0
debts due to my husband	5-0-0
one Table and four chaires	0-5-0

The Parish Pound:



This is taken from the 1903 Ordnance Survey map and shows the site of the "Old Pound" in the centre of Yarpole village.

Situated just to the right as you turn into Niblett's Lane from Green Lane are two stone 'buttresses' which mark the site of the parish pound. We are indebted to the late Sandy Thompson for retaining these markers of the site of the pound.



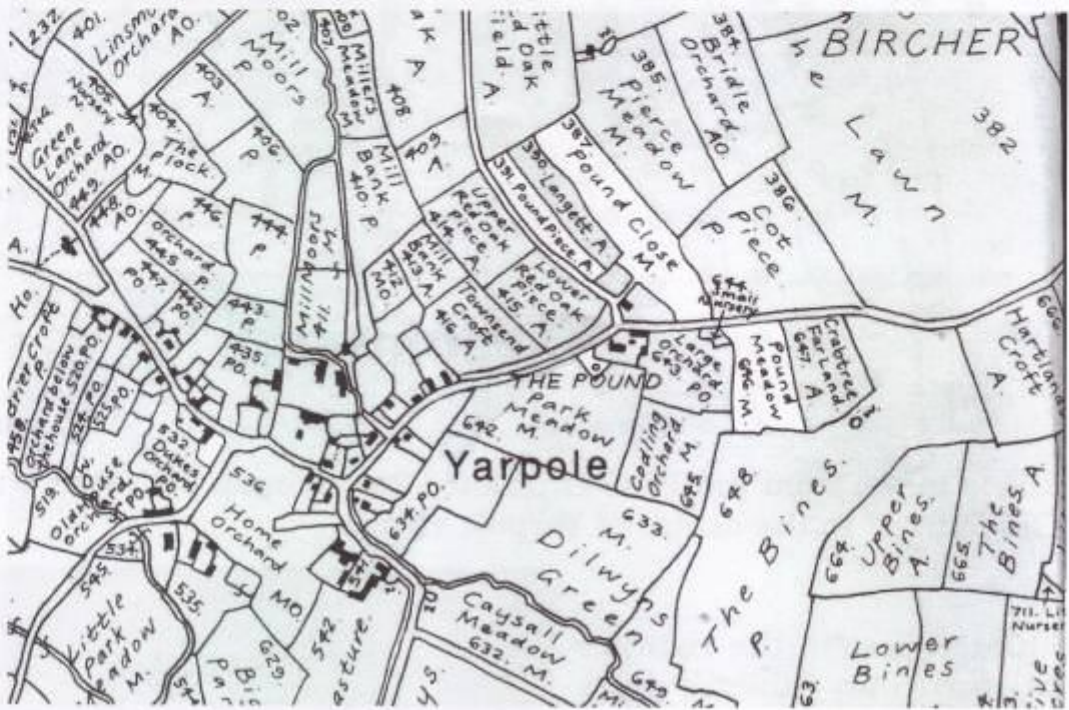
The parish pound, otherwise known as a penfold or pinfold with the person who managed it being called a 'pinder', was used to pen up, or 'impound', livestock found trespassing or straying along the roads and they were held there until the owner could collect them and paid a fine.

The pound was administered by the Parish and was generally a stone walled enclosure with a gate with a brick or stone floor. Some had roofs, called 'closed' or 'covert', but most were open or 'overt' to which the owner had access to feed his animals until such time as he was able to pay the fine. If unclaimed by the Sunday following, particulars would be announced at the church gate after the morning service. This was known as 'Crying', usually the duty of the clerk or sexton.

The Yarpole pound is also shown at this site on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6 inch map which was published in 1891 but the survey work had been carried out in 1883-4 and is labelled "POUND", (not "OLD POUND").

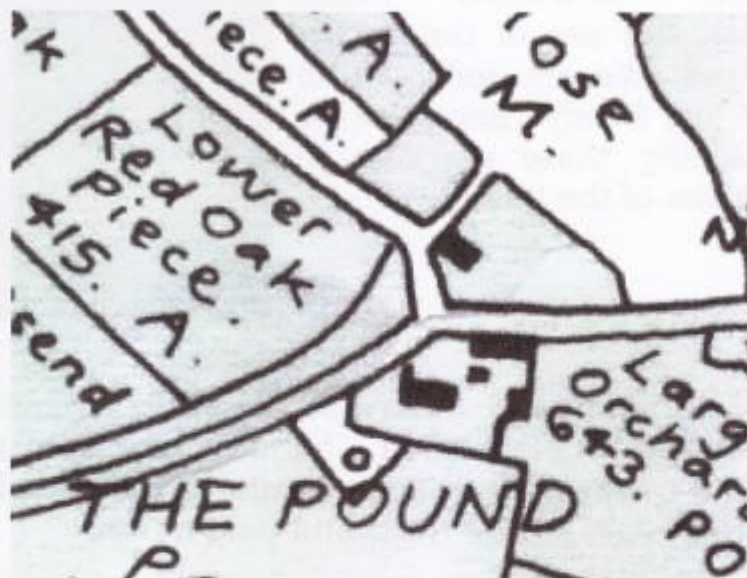
The original **Tithe Map**, dated 1841, confirms the pound at this site.

Interestingly, Gwatkin's 'Interpretation' of the tithe map appears to name Pound House as "THE POUND" but does not show a pound in the location where it appears on the later Ordnance Survey maps. This map also shows three fields in the vicinity of Pound House which have "Pound" in their names



Closer scrutiny of Gwatkin's map shows a small enclosure adjacent to Pound House which could have been the original pound.

Today, there is no sign of it other than the boundary wall of the house and at the top left corner where there is now a stile.



All this would suggest that the location of the Yarpole pound was originally at Pound House, then moved at some time before 1841 to the entrance to Niblett's Lane and was no longer in use by 1903.