

Living History

NEWSLETTER December 2012

Wool Day

This wonderful project to show the story of Wool was organised by member Pauline Burke. The projects aim was to raise funds for a stairlift in the church, hundreds of visitors came and over £1800 was raised.



Well done everyone involved.

The Living History Group supported this project with a fascinating display relating the story of the Leominster Ryeland Sheep. Our thanks go to Gill Brace, Rhianon Turrell & Ian Mortimer for creating such a wonderful show.

The first article this issue is “Ayshore” by Chris Gunson, edited by Rhianon Turrell. Ayshore is a dwelling near the Old Vicarage at Lucton. The second article is a selection from Nora Barkers jottings, again edited by Rhianon. Nora lived for many years in Lower House Farm and left a collection of jottings with Challis Stokes for publication at some time, now is the time.

Subscriptions for 2013

Next years subscriptions are now due, please contact Audrey Bott on 780489 or leave them at the shop for her attention.

Remembrance Day

This year we again sponsored the Remembrance Day display on the bier in St. Leonards, our thanks to Rita Shaw for a truly wonderful tribute.



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Open Meeting

We plan to hold an Open Meeting next year; suggestions so far include;

Duncan James- Parish Buildings

John Turrell- The History of Playground Games in H&W

LH Group- An Introduction to Family History Research

NT Croft- A Taste of Croft

LH Group- A Review of On-going Projects

If you have any further suggestions or would like one of these subjects please Ron Shaw on 780770 or [email shaw42@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:shaw42@tiscali.co.uk)

Date of Next Meeting

Will be on Thursday 7th Feb at 7.30pm in the C'tee Room of the Village Hall.

Number 2 Aisher/Ayshore/Arther/Arsher Cottages, Lucton

When the December 2010 edition of Living History arrived in the post we were particularly interested in the article about **Ayshore Cottage** by Paul Longcharich. As the following piece makes clear the name and /or spelling have varied greatly over the years.

John and I (Chris) first came to North Herefordshire in the late 1980s, researching my family history – in particular my maternal grandfather, Henry George Probert who was born at Nether Lye (now known as Lower Lye). In the 1881 census his parents, Jane Probert aged 21 and George Probert aged 24 were living at number **2, Arther Cottages**, Lucton. We walked around Lucton village looking for Arther Cottages and couldn't find them.

Before John and I moved to Yarpole in 1997, we rented a cottage in Ivington for six months. When talking to our landlords (local farmers), we mentioned our disappointment at failing to find the cottages.

Mrs. Duggan was born in Lucton and was able to tell us that we were looking for **Aisher Cottages** and where to find them. We went to have a look and found that they had not yet been renovated. It was easy to imagine that it was substantially unchanged since my great grandparents lived there. We debated asking if we could look around, but our courage failed us – what a shame.

George was a cow man and his brother Thomas, who was living with them at the time, was an agricultural labourer. As the cottages were part of the Croft Estate, we assume that is where they worked. Jane and George had only been married two years earlier at the Leominster Baptist Meeting. When the census was taken Jane must have been very obviously pregnant as their first child, a daughter, was born on 12 May 1881. The saga of the cottage's name continues, as her birth certificate calls the cottage **Arsher!**

We don't know how long they lived in the cottage, but it can't have been long because, by the time my grandfather was born in June 1885, they were living in Nether Lye. By 1901 they were living at Ivington. As an "ag. lab." George would have needed to move around the area to find work and their home would typically have been a tied cottage.

The daughter born at **Arsher Cottages** was called Louisa, known as Louie. In 1902 she married a man who, although a manual worker, was a very keen photographer and thanks to him we have a photograph of my great grandparents, George and Jane. They are outside a cottage which we hoped might have been Arsher, but the picture makes it clear that it was long after they were in their 20s!

Louie lived in Gloucester. My mother was born in her house, and lived there during part of World War 1. Louie had six children who lived and seven grandchildren. I am still in touch with three of them.

Chris Gunson

February 2012, Torquay

Note: Although the 1881 transcript shows the cottages as Arther, the image appears to show them as Arsher. RT

Lucton

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		
		In-habit-ed	Un-in-habited (U), or Building (B)				Males	Females	
37	<i>Mortimers Cross Mill</i>	1		<i>Charles Bellaby</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Unm.</i>	<i>27</i>		<i>M</i>
				<i>Sophia Do.</i>	<i>Mother</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>W</i>	
				<i>Mary J Do.</i>	<i>Sister</i>	<i>Unm.</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>F</i>	
38		1		<i>William Coleman</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>F</i>
				<i>Frank Do.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>81</i>		
				<i>William Freeman</i>	<i>Grandson</i>		<i>13</i>	<i>F</i>	
39	<i>Half mile Lodgegate</i>	1		<i>Wm Wilkins</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>62</i>		<i>Lo</i>
				<i>Elizabeth Do.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unm.</i>	<i>26</i>		
				<i>Emily Do.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Unm.</i>	<i>26</i>		
40	<i>Arsher Cottages</i>	1		<i>Thomas Harris</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Unm.</i>	<i>67</i>		<i>g</i>
41	<i>Do.</i>	1		<i>George Probert</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>34</i>		<i>g</i>
				<i>Jane Do.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>21</i>		
				<i>Thomas Do.</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Unm.</i>	<i>27</i>		<i>ag</i>

Nora's Memories

These have been compiled from notes that Nora made with a view to publication. Apart from turning the notes into sentences I have attempted to keep the notes as recorded.

I came to live in Yarpole in 1917/1918. I lived very close to the Church. The Church bells were rung for every service-morning (from 10.30 to 11.00 a.m.) and evening(6.00 to 6.30 p.m.). If someone died in the parish they were tolled, the bells.

The vicar of Croft and Yarpole was T.W. Ward. Charlie Chamberlain blew the organ and dug the graves. Her_sister Ellen was the caretaker. There were owls in the Belfry and bats in the evening. The scholars from Cockgate came to Church on Good Friday. Sunday school was taken by Mrs. Ward in the kitchen at the Rectory.

There were services at the Chapel on a Sunday evening and the preacher arrived on a bike.

If you wanted to go to Leominster you provided your own transport, pony and trap or walked to Berrington and Eye station and caught the trains. People went to Leominster on a Friday.

There were two shops in the village – one was the Post office , kept by Mrs. Vera Richards where the bottom shop is now; quite often the cat was lying on the counter.

The postman cycled from Leominster. There was a man who had a hut in the quarry on the common where he mended boots and shoes and returned to Leominster in the afternoon. Vera did the post on the common. There were no telephones.

The milkman was a farmer with a float with milk churns and a measure. The cows were taken down the road in the morning and evening.

A roadman cleaned the ditches and clipped the grass verges about twice year.

Bob Hyde made bread in the Bake house and took it round in a pony and trap.

Babies were delivered at home with the District Nurse in attendance. If there was a problem the local doctor was called in.

As there was little transport most worked on farms or in forestry or cycled to Leominster. They also worked at Croft Castle, Bircher Hall or the Rectory.

We had no bathroom-the toilet was up the garden.

Nora also left several poems and limericks which were intended for publication. One of these is reproduced below.

Me

It was on a Sunday morning,
I saw the light of day,
Not at Lower House, Yarpole
But at Lower House, Llanvihangel, 30 miles away.

I was such a tiny little scrap,
But could make a terrible row,
My mother hadn't much milk for me
So my father went to market and bought another cow.

This little cow she fed me well,
Which is pretty plain to see,
I didn't grow an awful lot,
But am fit as the proverbial flea.

I lived in Wales till I was two
And then to Yarpole came,
I've lived in Yarpole ever since
My only claim to fame.

My husband's name is Ernie,
A farming man is he.
We get on well together
Apart from watching tele.

Football, cricket, snooker, tennis,
Coronation St., Emmerdale Farm, the blooming lot.
I'm curled up in the corner
As if I didn't care a jot.

But I do get a bit fed up,
Then Ernie says "Here's something for you,"
It's Delia in the kitchen
Making a pot of stew.