

Living History

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

Annual General Meeting and Open Afternoon October 2016

This event was very successful at raising the profile of the Living History Group with many non-members attending, lots of discussion, displays, several new members and lots of cake!

Rhianon Turrell formally announced her intention to resign as chairman in January, but to continue in a research capacity.

Message from Rhianon Turrell, Retiring Chair.

By the time you read this we shall have had a special meeting at which Norman Taylor will have taken over as Chairman and hopefully we shall have a group of people prepared to take on some of the many activities with which Living History is involved, not least as secretary and putting on a display for the village fête.

Brian Mitchell has taken over as Editor of the Newsletter, but will need more contributors if this is to continue. Audrey Bott is continuing as Treasurer, Ron Shaw will continue to contribute Military research and a small group will continue with Parish Record transcription. Rhianon Turrell will continue with News from the Archives for the Parishioner, family history help and general research as needed. Nancy Morgan has also offered to be part of this group.

If you were not able to attend the meeting and are able to help in any way please contact Norman Taylor on 780243.

Again thank you to everyone who has contributed, in so many different ways, to the Living History group over the years I have been Chairman and I am confident that the group will flourish with a new team in charge.

Rhianon Turrell. April 2017

Message from Norman Taylor incoming chair of the Living History Group

After many years of dedicated work Rhianon has stepped down from her role as Chair of Yarpole's Living History. A great deal has been achieved during the period for which she held office. It is now important that the Group builds on the foundations laid down by Rhianon and John, who had responsibility for the Newsletter.

It is important that this is undertaken as a matter of urgency. If it is not done the continued existence of the Group will be at risk. There are, at present, approximately 6 active members and the Group would benefit from an infusion of fresh ideas and members prepared to build on the legacy of Rhianon and John.

At a meeting of the group on the 13 April it was unanimously decided that Norman Taylor would succeed Rhianon as chair, and that the roles of Secretary and Newsletter Editor would be taken by Nancy Morgan and Brian Mitchell respectively. The meeting noted that the next edition of the Newsletter, with two accompanying articles, would be published and distributed before the end of April. Two further publications are scheduled for later in the year.

We need more people to actively participate in the activities that Norman and his team are planning to ensure the continued existence of the Group. Of prime importance is the development of a programme of activities which will engage all those with an interest in the history of Yarpole and the surrounding area. To this end there will be a meeting of the Group in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 25th May. This meeting will be followed by a regular monthly meeting the dates of which will be announced at the meeting of on the 25th May.

A feature of this meeting will be a short presentation of the work currently undertaken on the Yarpole Parish Records held in the Hereford Records Office. Other topics which will be on the agenda for this meeting are as follows: the programme of work to be undertaken by the Group, the institution of an annual conference/workshop, agreement of a series of visits to areas of historical interest. Agreement will also be sought on the nature of the Group's contribution to the Village Fete and what needs to be done to secure the village's historical archive.

The following topics have already been proposed as a focus of the Group's engagement with local history: house histories, parish records, and flora and

fauna. If you would like to engage with one of these or have an idea for another please come to the meeting on the 25th May.

Norman Taylor. April 2017.

Living History AGM and project displays



Articles

The following articles accompany this edition of the *Newsletter*:

Sir Herbert Archer Croft by Ron Shaw

Virginia Cottage by Rhianon Turrell

We always welcome proposals for articles. Please contact the *Newsletter* editor - Brian by email on seiftonbatch@gmail.com if you would like to discuss possible articles or if you have contributions for the Newsletter.

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2017 are now **due**. They can be paid to Audrey Bott either by leaving them at the village shop addressed to her or sending them to Audrey at Horizons, Green Lane, Yarpole (tel:01568780489) Cheques should be made out to

“Living History” for £7.50. If you do not wish to receive paper copies of future editions of the Newsletter please let Audrey Bott or Rhianon Turrell (01568 780677) know. The production and printing of these paper copies is the main cost born by the group along with displays at various functions and the hire of the hall for meetings such as the AGM.

Fine

Sir Herbert Archer Croft

Herbert was the first child of Sir Herbert George Denman Croft, the 9th Baronet, and Lady Georgiana Croft. He was born on the 5th of September 1868 at the family residence, Lugwardine Court. He was baptised on the 30th of September at Lugwardine and was initially educated at Mathon in Worcester and then Jersey and Westminster. When he was 20 he went to Australia to manage part of the extensive Croft Estate in Australia. Here he met Miss Kathleen Hare. They married at St. Andrews Cathedral in Sydney, New South Wales on the 20th of June 1892. Their first 2 daughters were born in Australia, Dorothy in 1893 & Anna in 1895. The family returned to England sometime before 1898 as their third daughter Nancy was born in England on the 6th of September 1898. Kathleen died on the 25th of September 1898, possibly from complications following the birth of her 3rd child.

Currently we cannot find Sir Herbert's whereabouts from the 1901 Census but we know that he travelled to Canada in 1897 and he may well have been out of the country at the time of the Census. On the death of his father in 1902 he succeeded to the title and became the 10th Baronet residing at Lugwardine Court. He was active in local affairs and during this period was a Deputy Lieutenant of the County, a Justice of the Peace and also served on the County Council. Herbert was a keen sportsman and especially enjoyed tennis & cricket. In 1903 he married Miss Katharine Agnes Parr of Grappenhall, Cheshire and they had 2 children. Elinor was born in 1904 and James was born in 1907. Sir Herbert also served in the 4th Battalion of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry as a Lieutenant.

When war was declared on the 4th of August 1914 he immediately volunteered for military service and on the 8th of August the Herefordshire recruiting around the a Staff Officer to August he was was training with the soon commissioned Battalion. After 3



Captain in "C" Company, which was now training in the Midlands. The 1st Battalion, numbering 29 Officers & 969 Other Ranks, left their barracks at Rushden, Northamptonshire on the 16th of July 1915.

was attested at Hereford Drill Hall as a private in the 1st Battalion of Regiment. He was involved in local towns and villages, acting as Colonel Scobie. On the 17th of promoted to Acting Sergeant and Battalion in Sussex. Herbert was as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st months he was promoted to

Sir Herbert Archer Croft

Picture courtesy of
The National Trust



SS EURIPEDES

They embarked SS Euripedes at Devonport and sailed as part of the 53rd Division (Welsh) for the Middle East. They stopped off at Gibraltar on July 20th and Malta on July 24th before disembarking at Alexandria on July 27th. The Battalion then moved to Port Said, embarked Steam Packet Snaefell and sailed to Suvla Bay (Gallipoli) arriving on the 9th August. They immediately disembarked at 4am and were later that day ordered to advance to a forward location.





British Troops landing at Suvla Bay

The Herefords immediately came under enemy fire and in this action Herbert was reported missing. His death was confirmed by comrades in September. Later his batman, Private William Oseman gave a detailed report to the Hereford Times in which he stated that Lord Croft was last seen charging towards the Turkish Lines and coming under very heavy sniper fire. This incident occurred on the 10th of August at about 7.30am and it is accepted that he was killed in this action, his body was never found.

For his military service Herbert was awarded the following medals.



The 1914-15 Star



The British War Medal



The Victory Medal

Sir Herbert is commemorated at St. Michaels and All Angels Church at Croft, Herefordshire and on The Helles Memorial at Gallipoli.



Ron Shaw. April 2017

Virginia Cottage, Yarpole



The present owner of Virginia Cottage, Yarpole (opposite the Church) has kindly shared documents about its previous ownership with the Living History Group and this article is a summary of those details.

As the property was jointly owned for some of its history with the the Old Post Office & Stores the documents at times also refer to it. For more details on the Post Office please see our previous articles on this.

The earliest document is dated 1863 but refers back to the previous owner who died in 1823. Obviously the cottage is older but further research will be needed to find evidence further back.

Mr. William Ross “aged upwards of 69” declares that there are no mortgages,

dispute or settlements relating to the property and mentions that his father John Ross who died in 1826 knew of none. William Ross, gentleman, of Woodstock House Brimfield was selling the property to William Radnor, farmer of Comberton, Orleton. The second document makes it clear that he needed to make this declaration as the deeds had been lost or mislaid. It was sold for £108. It was in the occupation of John Kinsey, tenant. Its position is described in detail:

“Bound to the West by lands of Revd. William Trevelyan Kevill Davies, on the North by the public highway from Cockgate through Yarpole to Leominster, and on the East & South by lands of William Connop.”

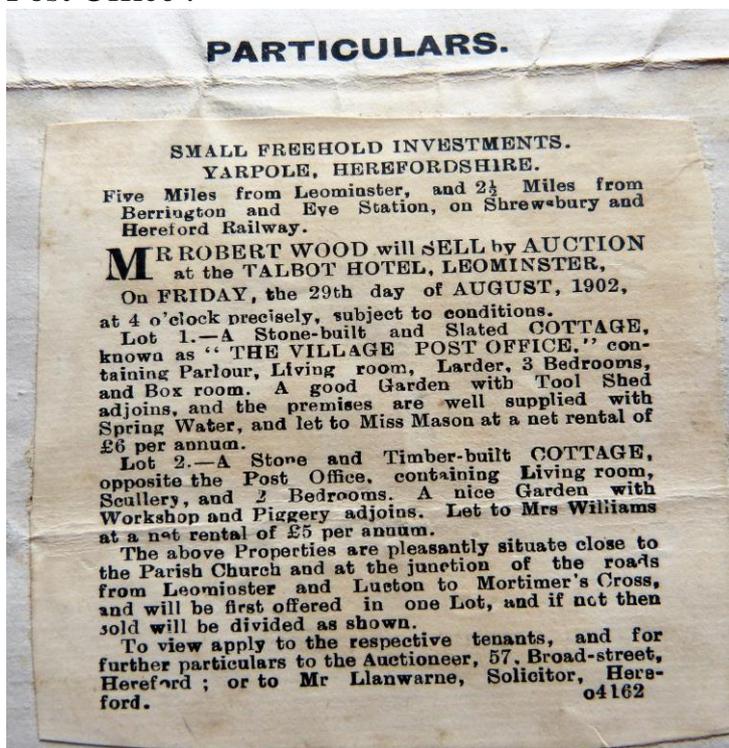
The sale included any common rights. It was also for the use of Richard Valentine, surgeon of Ludlow in trust for William Ross.

William Radnor died in 1866 and in his will distributed his various properties to friends & family. The bulk is left to his wife Charlotte, son in law John Radnor, John Jones of Orleton, shoemaker and Samuel Bishop of Overton, farmer, who are also his executors. He then made various bequests of property to his daughters including to his daughter Ann Evans “the cottage and garden in the parish of Yarpole, now in the occupation of John Kinsey until her youngest child is 21.” The executors are then to sell the property and divide the surplus between all her children. There is a pencil note saying that the youngest son’s name is Henry. The executors are also to place £50 at interest in Ludlow Savings Bank in their names to pay such sums to Anne Evans as they see fit. There is another bequest of two properties at Orleton to his daughter Mirah Radnor and the residue to go first to his wife and then to be divided between his four daughters Letitia Radnor, Sarah Jay, Ann Evans and Mirah Radnor.

While William Radnor's connection with Yarpole was fairly brief the careful descriptions of the property and his daughter's names mean that the history of the cottage can be clearly followed.

The next conveyance is from John Radnor to Charles Nottingham of Wyson, Brimfield, Carpenter and Wheelwright. This refers back in detail to the will of William Radnor to prove the right to sell. Charlotte Radnor had died in 1876, Samuel Bishop in 1879, John Jones in 1892. Henry Evans, the youngest child of Ann Evans, became 21 on 4th July 1896 so John Radnor was following the instruction to sell the property. The property is again described in detail. He sold it for £67.10s and it was now in the occupation of James Williams. Charles Nottingham who took out a mortgage in 1897 for £30 on the property with Edwin Preece Lloyd who would own the property if unpaid. The next document conveys the cottage from Edwin Lloyd of Leominster to Mrs. Martha Mason of Grange Villa, Leominster for £82 so presumably the mortgage was not paid off. James Williams is still the occupier.

In 1902 the cottage and the Post Office were both for sale. The cottage was described as “Lot 2 A stone & timber built cottage opposite the post office, containing living room, scullery & 2 bedrooms. A nice garden with workshop & piggery adjoins. Let to Mrs. Williams £5 p.a.” They were bought for £165 by Thomas Richards of Aymestry, Postman. Miss Mason was the tenant at the Post Office .



Thomas Richards died in 1945, leaving all his properties i.e. The Post Office, Steps House and Virginia Cottage, first to his wife, Emma Winifred Richards, who died in 1946, then to his daughter Martha Vera Mason Richards. She married Alfred Charles John Edwards at the Methodist chapel, Bircher Common.

When she died in 1961, her brother William George Prince Richards of Yew tree Farm was an executor and W.C.T. Richards became the owner of the properties. He sold the Post office to Doris Milner in 1966(see previous articles) but retained Virginia Cottage and rented it out to Mrs. Tildersley. He was by then living in Dudley as there are items of correspondence about repairs to the cottage.

He finally sold it to J.R. Moss and Mrs. J.C. Jarvis of Leominster for £30,000 in 1986.

Thanks to Lyn Ashton for lending us the documents.

Rhianon Turrell February 2017