

THE HISTORY OF the KILVE DISTRICT

Part 3

Early History and Origins of Kilve

Lordships, Landowners and Residents

Maps and Population

Putsham Farm

Memories of Kilve Court

January 1997

THE HISTORY OF
the
KILVE DISTRICT

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THE LOCAL HISTORY

OF

THE KILVE DISTRICT

Following the publication of Part 1 in March, 1995, and Part 2 in January 1996, the publication of Part 3 concentrates more on the older historical aspects of Kilve.

It is intended to continue publishing 'The Local History of Kilve District' by parts from time to time, and Part 4 will focus on industry and education, together with some photographs. A file of the documents, articles and maps which have been collected has been placed at Kilve Court so that any resident may have access to them there. A list of the papers was published in Part 2, and any additions will be noted in subsequent publications.

Compiled, Edited and Produced by Olaf Chedzoy

Printed at Kilve Court

A HISTORY OF KILVE, LORDS OF THE MANOR AND RESIDENTS OF KILVE THROUGH THE AGES

INTRODUCTION

It was a visit to Bridgwater Library by Frank Stanford, when he obtained a wealth of information about Kilve, which really started things moving. From these documents and from other visits to Bridgwater Library, the Local History Library, Taunton, the Somerset Archivist's Record Office, Taunton, various other venues and from studying numerous history books and extracts we have been able to assemble quite a lot of interesting data relating to the older history of the Manor and Parish of Kilve

It has been quite a time consuming and often painstaking job which is far from complete. Many of the historic facts which have been revealed inevitably create additional lines of enquiry, which time has not permitted us to follow up. However, a good start has been made, but what we present may well overlap in some respects with what other people's researches, it is also quite likely that some of our findings and assumptions may differ to some extent with other people's views and could be debateable. We have done our best to present a factually accurate picture of the older history of KILVE.

An experienced historian is really needed to piece all the facts together and to present a comprehensive and logical report.

HISTORY OF KILVE - RESIDENTS IN PRE-HISTORY, ROMAN, ANGLO-SAXON and NORMAN TIMES

a) PRE-HISTORY

"The History of the County of Somerset", Volume V, Page 97, by R.W.Dunning and published by the Oxford University Press in 1985 informs us that Mesolithic flints and Bronze Age barrows were found on the Quantock Hills at Hare Knapp and Longstone Hill. Both of these areas of common land are inside the boundary of the parish of Kilve and therefore the findings confirm:-

- 1) that pre-historic man roamed the hills above Kilve, and
- 2) that an early civilisation existed here some 2000 years BC, indicating that the first resident of the parish of Kilve was in all probability a Bronze Age man.

b) ROMAN TIMES

In his book, "The History and Antiquities of Somerset" published in 1791, John Collinson, when describing the parish of Kilve, states "the principal part of the dwellings which are thirty in number, belonging to this parish, stand in a small hamlet called Putsham, where coins of the ROMAN EMPIRE have frequently been dug up".

Similarly, in his excellent book "Pre-historic Sites in Quantock Country", L. V. Grimsell also refers to a row of Roman coins being found in Putsham village in the 18th century". Neither of these authors tells us exactly where the coins were found or what happened to them. Our limited enquiries have not produced further information.

A study of the history of the Roman conquest and the occupation of Britain (55 BC and AD 406) confirms that the Roman legions spread westward during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, covering most of Somerset and well into Devon in their efforts to control the warring Celtic

tribes and to create settlements. In addition to the Roman cities built at

Bath and Exeter, settlements were established in several places near to the important Roman road "The Fosse Way", which ran from Exeter to Lincoln (and still does). As far as we have been able to ascertain, no roads or settlements were ever built by the Romans in West Somerset, but earlier this century Roman pottery and other artefacts were unearthed in a tithe plot called Castle Ditch near Lilstock. This, and the finding of Roman coins at Putsham, suggests that there must have been some sort of ROMAN presence in the Kilve area between AD 300 and AD 400, when Roman Legions were in the West Country.

c) ANGLO-SAXON TIMES

The departure of the Roman legions from our shores in AD 406 left behind a more civilised Celtic population happily settled in the villages and towns which the Romans had established throughout Britain, but during the following two centuries they were frequently invaded by Angles, Saxons and Jutes from the northern provinces of Europe. By AD 600 Anglo-Saxons had settled throughout most of the East and South of England.

Small independent kingdoms had been formed with Wessex being the most westerly kingdom which included much of Somerset, Exmoor, Dartmoor and Cornwall as we know it today remained mostly Celtic held land. A lot of research has been carried out, but it has not revealed any information about the residents or population of the West Somerset coastal strip during this era of British history.

The next 200 years or so was a very complicated period of British history and to understand all that took place you need to study the Anglo- Saxons chronicles in depth. It was an era of raids and battles with invading Vikings from Denmark and other Scandinavian countries mostly along our Northern and Eastern coastlines. It was also a period when the various kings and kingdoms were struggling for power, culminating with King Alfred and his sons making ENGLAND a single Kingdom during the latter part of the 9th century AD. As many people know, for the final battle King Alfred gathered his new army at Athelney out on the Somerset levels (Marshland at that time), before defeating the Viking forces at Edington in AD 879.

Our research has not revealed any specific information about Kilve or the surrounding area during this time, but it has been established that there would have been Anglo-Saxon settlements along the stretch of West Somerset coastline from Bridgwater. It is also known that during this period Viking ships ventured up the Bristol Channel on several occasions and in 988 AD they landed at Watchet and it is said that a battle was fought at Danesfield near Williton.

d) NORMAN TIMES and DOMESDAY BOOK

In AD 1066 England was invaded by William of Normandy (since known as the Conqueror) and his Barons at the Battle of Hastings King Harold was slain. The battle was followed by the conquest of Anglo- Saxon England.

In AD 1085 William ordered the compilation of the Domesday Book, which has a detailed inventory of the Hundreds, the Manors and the Villages in existence throughout England at that time. It named the land- owners/lords of the manor, the extent and valuation of their estates, together with details of their tenants, livestock, etc. and the purpose of the record was to tell William how much tax he could extract from Anglo- Saxon England.

The manor of Kilve was then in existence and is mentioned in Domesday Book¹². It was then called CLIVE or sometimes SELVE by the Normans and it comprised three settlements, i.e. CLIVE (Kilve), PERLESTONE (Pardlestone) and HILLE (Higher Hill).

From the translations we know that in 1085 the residents of the three settlements were 8 villeins (villagers), 14 Bordars (smallholders) and 3 Serfs (servants) and their families. In addition, from the entries in Domesday Book, we know that Roger de CURCELLE (or COURSEUILLE in French) owned the manor and became the first lord of the manor of Kilve and that he owned large tracts of land in the West Country. We have been unable to ascertain his position or where he lived in England. It is reasonable to assume that he came from Normandy with William the Conqueror and was given land in this country for his part in the invasion. There is a village with a manor house on the Normandy coastline facing England between the medieval cities of Bayeux and Caen and in all probability that is where he came from, but it does require further investigation.

There was no mention of Putsham in Domesday Book from which we conclude there was no settlement here and that the area was either part of other communities or just woodland. Probably the latter, although the finding of Roman coins suggests an earlier habitation at Putsham.

It is most unlikely that Roger de Curcelle as lord of the enlarged manor ever resided here. In AD 1085, the residents of the manor would have been the 8 villeins (or villagers), the 14 Bordars (small holders) and the 3 serfs (servants) and all their families. This probably meant a population of the manor of around 50/60 people. Bearing in mind that the population of the whole of England at that time was less than one million, it was a fair-sized community for such a remote area.

1. SEE FRANK STANFORD'S ARTICLE ON DOMESDAY KILVE ON PAGE

2. PHOTOSTAT COPIES IN KILVE HISTORY FILE OF THE FACSIMILE VERSIONS TAKEN FROM DOMESDAY BOOK AND THE TRANSLATIONS AS PUBLISHED IN THE VICTORIA HISTORY OF SOMERSET, VOLUME 1, PUBLISHED IN 1906. SECTION FOR ILLUSTRATION ON PAGE.....

ANGLO-SAXON KILVE and DISTRICT

by Frank Stanford

Why is Kilve called Kilve? The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon Old English "CYLFE" (pronounced KEWLVE) which means a club and refers to the club-shaped ridge of the Hilltop area. The word is just one of many that have survived into Modern English from Old English, perhaps with changed spelling but with very similar pronunciation.

The ancestors and roots of all true English people lie in that period, which makes it such an interesting and significant part of history.

The first Anglo-Saxon pagan invaders came to the South and East of Britain in about 450 AD from the area now comprising S. Denmark, N. W. Germany and the Frisian Islands and the Anglo-Saxon period of history developed over the next 600 years. Their culture and way of life was not suddenly obliterated by the Battle of Hastings in 1066; the Normans were only too pleased to utilise the existing laws, coinage and land management, tax system and the arts like manuscript production, metalwork and embroidery. The Bayeux Tapestry was made by English needlewomen.

The brutal side of life and the often poor primitive conditions were common to the Anglo-Saxons and Normans alike. Although the Normans introduced their language into government and court life, Old English remained in everyday use by the population and only changed slowly over hundreds of years, especially in rural areas. The earliest record of Anglo-Saxons in West Somerset occurs in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (first begun by monks in King Alfred's reign, 871-899).

The Chronicle states that in 658 King Cenwealh of Wessex drove the indigenous Britons west of the River Parrett and his successor Centwine drove them beyond the Quantocks. These Britons were later driven into Cornwall where their language (closely allied to Welsh) survived for centuries. In 702, King Ine built his fortress at Taunton and extended Wessex to Exmoor.

In 789 the first Viking raids occurred (at Portland) and in 836 and 843 the Saxon Kings Egbert and Aethelwulf fought Vikings at Carhampton. Their fleets of long boats must have beached at Blue Anchor. In 845 Ealdorman (Earl) Eanwulf defeated Vikings at Brent Knoll and what is now Stogursey. By 878 Wessex was the only Saxon kingdom in England not completely over-run by the Vikings or the Danes and Alfred took refuge in his stronghold at Athelney near Burrowbridge. From here, he rallied the men of Somerset and soundly defeated the Danes, their leader Guthrum consenting to be baptised at Aller and Wedmore. The power of the Danes declined steadily over the next 80 years through the efforts of Alfred and his descendants.

In 899, King Alfred died and among many bequests in his will, left what are now Kilton and Kilve to his son, King Edward the Elder. In 979, King Aethelred the Unready founded Adscombe Priory at Over Stowey. (Unready is a misnomer, he was "Unraed" or ill-counselled.)

At this time there was a small mint in Watchet (the moneyers were Hunwine and Godchild) which may have partly tempted the Viking attacks in 988 and 997. In King Edward the Confessor's reign, the Earl of Wessex was Godwine who grew so powerful that armed confrontations occurred between his followers and the King's men at Porlock and London and it was Godwine's son Harold that King

Edward finally appointed as his successor (unfortunately, William' of Normandy claimed the same thing.)

Somerset men were in King Harold's army at Hastings and after his death his mother, Gytha, and her ladies, took refuge on Flatholm Island (visible from Kilve cliffs) and finally escaped to St Omer in Flanders. In King William's Domesday survey of 1086, the manors of Kilve, Hilltop and Pardlestone are given a detailed description.

One fascinating sequel to the Norman Conquest stemmed from the obvious dissatisfaction of the remaining nobles and fighting men. In about 1075-80 Siward Barn, the Earl of Gloucester, led a Saxon migration in many long boats to Constantinople, where the fighting men enlisted in the Varangian Guard of the Roman Emperor, and there is evidence that some of these "wild geese" later passed on to the Crimea and founded fortified centres, including a "London", a "York" and a "Gloucester". There is still a Londina in the Crimea.

(First published in Kilve News, February, 1990)

Various Spellings of the Village Names

CYLFE Anglo-Saxon

CLIVE Domesday Book 1086

CULNE Lay Subsidy Returns, 1327

SELVE mentioned by John Collinson 1791

KULVE Legal Document 1672

KYLVE Legal document 1724

CULVE Legal document 1782

HILLE Domesday Book 1086

PUTSOME Legal Document 1782

PERLESTONE Domesday Book 1086

DOMESDAY KILVE

from Frank Stanford

From his Christmas Court in 1085, William the Conqueror despatched 'legates' and 'justices' throughout England to make a detailed inventory of the shires, hundreds and villages.

This inventory was completed in under two years and was basically a geld or tax book although giving extensive information on land division, ownership and population. It later became known as the Domesday Book, and the original parchment tomes are kept in the Public Records Office.

William wanted to know exactly how much he could extract from conquered Anglo-Saxon England, for Saxons had lived in our area since the days of Ine, King of Wessex in the early 700s.

The Domesday entry for Kilve covered three manors, Clive (Kilve), Hille (Hilltop) and Plestone (Pardlestone). The entries were in a complex abbreviated jargon, a mixture of legal Latin and Anglo-Saxon and Norman names and terms.

A translation of our entry is as follows.

Roger holds KILVE itself, Brictric held it before 1066; it paid tax for 2 1/2 hides. Land for 4 ploughs.

In lordship 2 ploughs and 2 hides and 3 furlongs, with 1 slave.; 5 villagers and 5 smallholders with 2 ploughs and 1 virgate and 1 furlong. A mill which pays 6s; meadow, 13 acres; woodland 12 acres; pasture 1 1/2 leagues long and 1/2 league wide, 2 cobs; 9 cattle; 7 pigs; 40 sheep; 50 goats. The value was and is £4.

HILLTOP has been added to this manor. Edwald held it as a manor before 1066; it paid tax for 2 hides, Land for 2 ploughs, 1 villager, 5 smallholders have 1/2 plough. A mill which pays 12d; meadow 7 acres; woodland 20 acres. The value was and is 30s.

PARDLESTONE has also been added to this manor. Perlo held it before 1066; it paid tax for 1/2 hide, Land for 1 plough, which is there in lordship, and 1 1/2 virgates, 2 villagers and 4 smallholders with 1/2 plough, meadow, 3 acres; pasture 12 acres; woodland 6 acres, 13 sheep, 24 goats. The value was and is 10 s. Norman holds it.

Explanations.

Roger was Roger de Courseuilles, one of William's nobles and a great landowner in Somerset. Brictric, Edwald and Perlo were his deposed Saxon predecessors, (for before 1066, Domesday says T.R.E. or Tempus Regis Edwardi, in the time of Edward the Confessor). Some Saxons retained their property, others remained as under tenants. Norman at Pardlestone was one of Roger's retainers. A hide was a variable tax indicator, but roughly 120 acres, supporting a tax-paying freeman and his household. A virgate was 1/4 hide. Their plough was a massive oak implement hauled by 8 oxen. Long furrows! The pigs were small brown and hairy, not much different from the wild species. The sheep were like the Soay primitive type and the cattle were either ancestors of Red Devon or black like Dexters. The mills were wooden water mills, Kilve's on its present site, and Hilltop mill probably near the later Chantry or Lower Hill. The amounts of money may sound quaint but were

considerable then. Taxes could be partly or wholly paid in kind, or by working for the Lord of the Manor.

(First published in KILVE NEWS, April 1988)

LORDSHIPS OF THE MANOR

The Lordship of the manor of Kilve was established with Roger de Curcelle (or Courseuille). As previously mentioned he was one of William the Conqueror's nobles but we have not been able to establish his position, where he actually lived in England or where he came from, but it is fair to assume that he came from Normandy with William and as there is a village with a manor in Normandy called Courseuilles sur Mer. It was probably where Roger de Curcelle came from, but it does require further verification.

Starting with Roger de Curcelle in AD 1085, we have endeavoured to establish a comprehensive history of the lords of the manor of Kilve in chronological order right through the centuries giving details of succession and inheritance together with other relevant information relating to the person and the years they held the lordship of the manor.

Actual documentary evidence during the Middle Ages, and in Tudor and Stuart periods as well as in later years to some extent has been difficult to find and the particulars which we have collected and set out on the chronological list have been extracted from numerous history books and other records, but in particular from the Victoria County History of Somerset (Vol 1- 1906, Vol II - 1911, Vol III - 1985) and John Collinson's The History of Somerset (Vol II - 1791).

We have presented for the history file what we think is a fairly comprehensive and accurate record of the lords of the manor of Kilve over the 9 centuries from 1085 to 1961, although it would appear that when Daniel Badcock, J.P., the owner of Kilve Court, died in 1915, the Lordship of the manor was not conveyed to a successor.

It is a somewhat lengthy schedule to digest but those who do read it will note particularly that in 1664 Sir John Rogers who was the owner of the lordship and manor of Kilve at the time sold off large portions of his estate.

The lordship of the manor of Kilve and much of the land was bought by John Cunditt, whilst the southern part of the manor, which included part of Holford and tenements in Putsham and Pardlestone, was sold to John St. Albyn of Alfoxton. Further land in the manor of Kilve was acquired by the St. Albyn family during the 18th century and this included Higher and Middle Hill and Pardlestone Farm.

In 1769 JOHN CUNDITT jnr., who had succeeded his father sold the remaining land of the manor of Kilve and the lordship to HENRY SWEETING and between 1782 and 1785 he built a "mansion house" at the village of Putsham as his family home and he called it Kilve Court. On his death, his grandson JOHN HANKEY SWEETING inherited both the estate and the lordship of the manor, but there is some doubt of his ever living at Kilve Court as he had homes in Bedfordshire and the Channel Islands.

We have learnt from Lady Gass that her great-great-grandfather, SIR ALEXANDER HOOD, M.P. for West Somerset, lived for a time at Kilve Court early in the 19th century and therefore would have

been a tenant of JOHN HANKEY SWEETING as the SWEETING family owned the property and the estate until 1862.

It has also been ascertained that EDWARD FOWNES LUTTRELL Esq., was also a tenant of Kilve Court and presumably of some of the land belonging to the SWEETING family. He was in residence at Kilve Court from the 1820s onwards and he purchased Kilve Court, the estate cottages, all the remaining land of the manor and the lordship from JOHN HANKEY SAUMAREZ SWEETING, the son of JOHN HANKEY SWEETING, in 1862.

According to Kelly's Directory of Somerset for 1875, a JAMES NICHOLAS WHITEHEAD was living at Kilve Court, and he must have been a tenant of the Luttrell family for a few years because in 1886 George Fownes Luttrell of Dunster Castle conveyed Kilve Court and the

lordship of the manor to Daniel Badcock, J.P., who lived with his wife Mary at Kilve court until his death in 1915. It would seem that the Luttrell family retained Kilve Farm (Priory farm), Poor House Farm (now Parkhouse Farm), the cottages of the estate and most of the agricultural tithe plots.

The Lordship of the Manor has not been traced after the death of Daniel Badcock. His wife Mary continued to live at Kilve Court until 1920 when she sold the house and adjoining lands to Col. Joseph Cooke-Hurle, but the lordship of the manor was not conveyed. After the death of his father in 1930 and his mother, Norah Lilian Cooke-Hurle in 1960, Lt.- Col Reginald J. Cooke-Hurle sold Kilve Court and the estate to Somerset County Council for use as a Youth Education Centre.

LANDOWNERS and OCCUPIERS of the PARISH of KILVE in AUGUST 1832

In 1832 the Land Commissioners of England and Wales commissioned a detailed survey of Tithes for the Parish of Kilve and an apportionment of Rent charges (i.e. Rates) in lieu of tithes, including tithes of Glebe land. As a matter of interest, the total rent charged for the Parish of Kilve was £211.10s. Individual rents charged were calculated on the basis of previous tithes of Imperial bushels, viz:-

Wheat - 200.83086 bushels at 7s.04d, a bushel

Barley - 356.21054 bushels at 3.111/2d. a bushel

Oats - 512.72727 bushels at 2s.9d. a bushel

The original Assessment Survey Sheets are held by the Somerset County Council Archivist's Record Office at Obridge Road, Taunton. They are the earliest record held by the County Council of land-owners and occupiers of the Parish of Kilve and because of their size and fragility it is not permitted to take photocopies of the sheets, but they can be expected at any time and data extracted longhand.

The Assessment Survey Sheets are dated the 15th August 1832 and they define very clearly the actual Land Owners, the Occupiers of dwellings and plots of land, the acreage and description of the tithe plots and their use at that time. The information shown on the attached sheets has been extracted from the Assessment Survey Sheets and provides the following comprehensive information about the Parish of Kilve in 1832:-

- a) The names of all Land-owners on August 15th, 1832
- b) The names of all the occupiers of the Tithe plots and dwellings on August 15th, 1832. Acreage is also shown for the larger Land-owners. c) The numbers of all the Tithe plots.
- d) The description of all the plots of land on August 15th 1832.
- e) The use of the individual plots of land on August 15th 1832.

As the purpose of the exercise was to ascertain who owned and who occupied dwellings and land at the time of the 1831 Assessment the individual breakdown of the Rent (i.e. Rates) charge has been ignored although this information is clearly defined on the Assessment Survey Sheets.

There is no Tithe Map in existence for the Parish of Kilve for 1832, but the earliest Tithe Map held by Somerset County Council Archivist's Record Office is dated 1839. Copies of this map have been enlarged from a micro-fiche film, and are available in the History of Kilve file.

The tithe plots shown on the 1839 Map seem to tie up accurately with the 1832 Assessment Survey Sheets, reflecting little or no change between 1832 and 1839.

An analysis of the 1832 Rent Assessment Survey Sheets and the 1839 Tithe Map clearly show that in 1832 the Parish of Kilve was really segregated into five parts as follows:-

- Kilve - Farm properties and land, and Glebe property adjacent to Kilve Church (Parkhouse farm to the sea).
- Putsham - The most populated part of the parish, comprising Kilve Court, farm properties and land, cottages, the village inn, Nether Mill as well as Glebe properties and land.
- HILL The turnpike road from Bridgwater to Minehead ran through the centre of Putsham -Farm properties and land of Higher, Middle and Lower Hill.
- PARDLESTONE - Mainly farm properties and land at the foot of the Quantock Hills.
- PART OF HOLFORD - Properties and land on the Alfoxden side of Holford.

Note: Alfoxden Park House and Parkland were in the Parish of Stringston but Langley Saint Albyn, the owner of Alfoxden Park, also owned many of the Tithe Plots in the Parish of Kilve.

RESIDENTS OF KILVE, 1861 to 1935

From Bridgwater Library, photocopies of entries in Kelly's Directory relating to the Parish of Kilve were obtained for 1861, and then every 5 years right through to 1935. These have been placed in the Kilve History File.

Below is a copy of Kilve's entry for 1861.

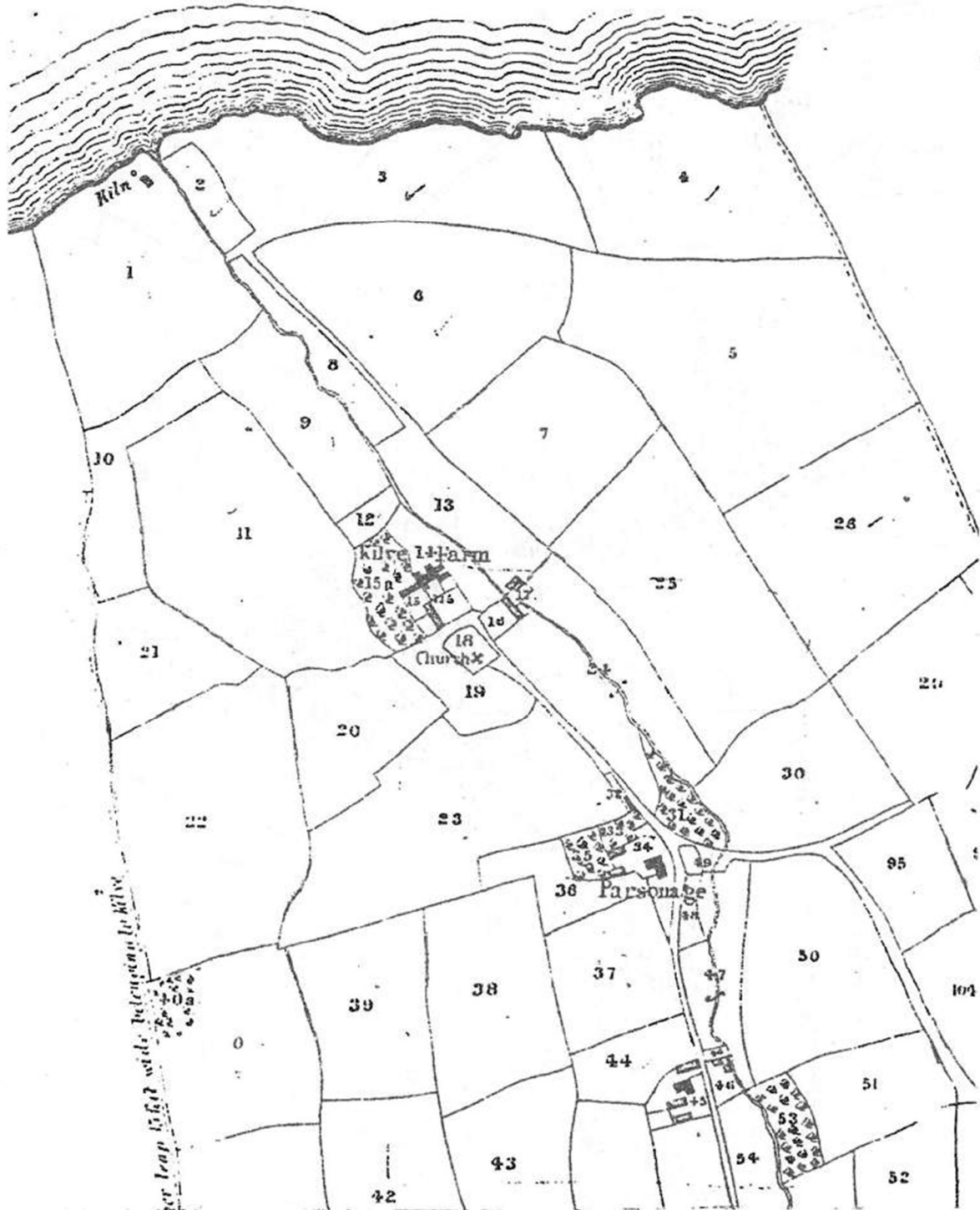
KILVE is a pleasant village and parish, 3 miles north-east from Williton station on the West Somerset railway, and 12 miles north-west by west from Bridgwater. It is in the division of West Somerset, hundred of Williton and Free-manors, Williton union, deanery of Bridgwater, arch-deaconry of Taunton, and diocese of Bath and Wells. The parish is bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel, and the turnpike road from Bridgwater to Minehead passes through it. The church of St. Mary (which is now being restored) is a small neat building; it has a centre aisle, chancel, porch, and square tower containing 3 bells. The living is a rectory united with the vicarage of Stringston, joint annual value £642, including a good residence and 130 acres of glebe land, in the gift of Balliol College, Oxford. The Rev. William Greswell, M.A. is the present rector. Here is a small chapel for Independents, and a Parochial school for the education of both sexes, supported principally by the rector. Near the church are some remains of an ancient chantry. The population in 1861 was 226, and the acreage of the parish 1,605 acres. The soil is a stony rush, with some clay; subsoil, marl and gravel; and produces good crops of wheat, oats, barley, mangolds, potatoes, turnips, &c. J. H. Sweeting, Esq. (lord of the manor), Lanceiot St. Albyn, Esq., and others, are principal landowners.

Greswell Rev. William, M.A. Rectory	Dibble William, farmer, Kilve court	Merry William, <i>Hood's Arms</i>
Luttrell Col. Francis Fownes, Kilve ct	Evered George, farmer, Palston farm	Paine Michael, farmer
Luttrell Edward Fownes, esq. Manor house	Evered John, farmer, Higher Palston	Rendall William, farmer, Putsham
Pugsley Mr. Henry	Evered Robert, farmer, Higher Hill farm	Sanders George, grocer & draper
COMMERCIAL.	Evered Thomas, miller, Putsham mill	Stroud Philip, tailor
Crocker James, blacksmith	& Washford mills, Old Cleeve, Taunton	Westcott Miss, seminary
	Frampton William, wheelwright	

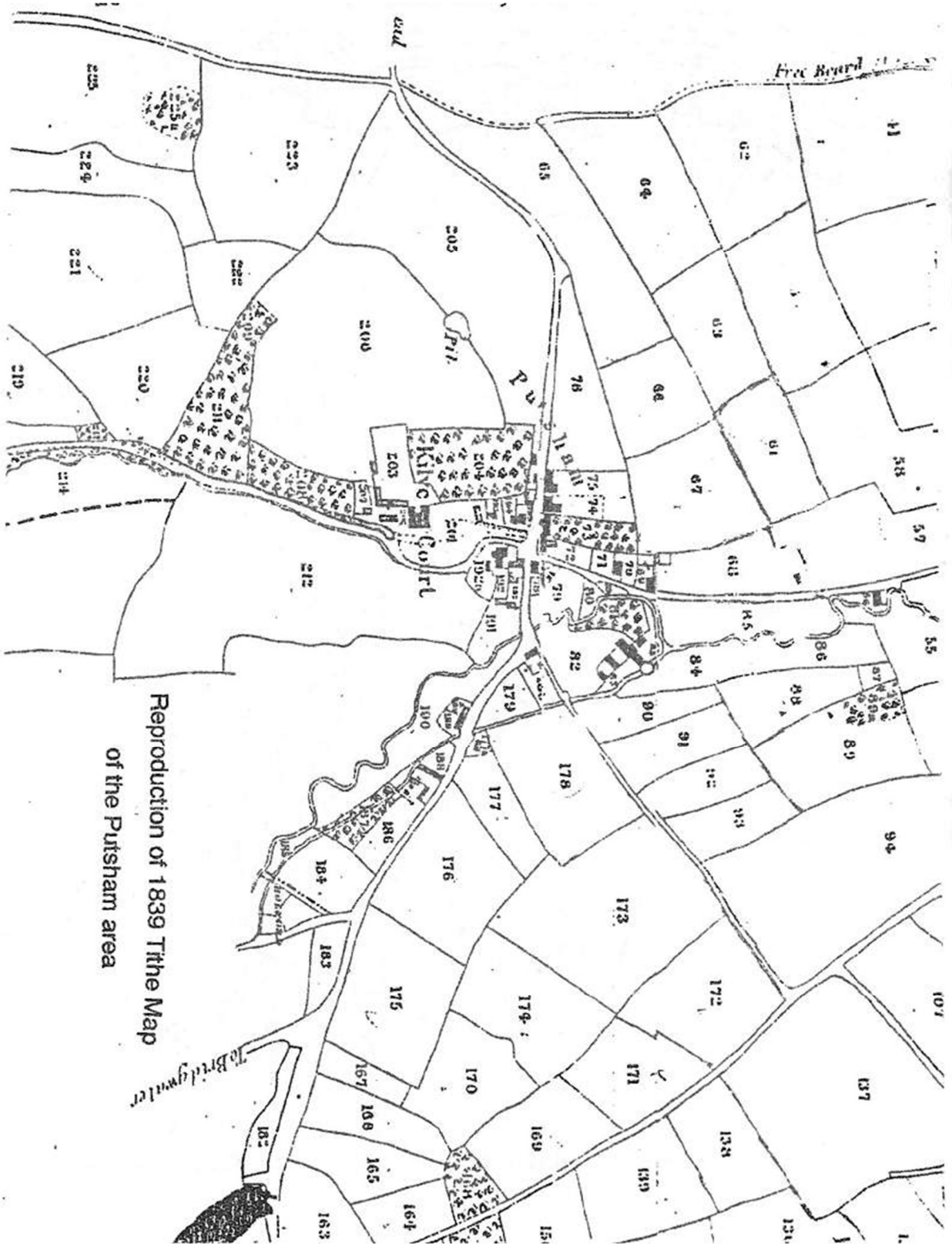
POST OFFICE--Mrs. Sarah Hughes, receiver. Letters arrive from Bridgwater at 7 a.m.; dispatched at 7.20 p.m. Stowey & Williton are the nearest money order offices

Tithe Maps

Reproduction of 1839 Tithe Map of the Kilve Church area



Reproduction of 1839 Tithe Map of the Putsham area



Reproduction of 1839 Tithe Map
of the Putsham area

POPULATION STATISTICS

The Victoria County History quotes Kilve as having 20 households in 1563, while by 1790 this had risen to 30. In 1667, there were 196 taxpayers.

Formal population records do not generally start in the U.K. until 1801. A schedule of the population of Kilve has been obtained for the years from 1801 through to 1981. These statistics up to 1881 have been taken from the Victoria County History of Somerset, Vol. II, and later ones from the county census reports.

In 1801 the population of the parish was 176 and by 1981 it had risen to 344. From 1891, the total is shown broken down into males and females. Where this is shown the population of females is slightly greater than that of males, which is the usual feature over the years.

It is interesting to note that whilst in 1801 the total was 176 and rose steadily to 260 in 1871, it then declined and fell right away to just 149 people in 1901. The growth in population for the whole of England and Wales from 1871 to 1901 was just over 40%, although of course, that included heavily industrialized cities and towns.

We wonder why the population fell, for afterwards it rose steadily again to reach 344 in 1981.

Year	Males	Females	Total
1801			176
1811			218
1821			263
1831			233
1841			240
1851			256
1861			226
1871			260
1881			222
1891	91	95	186
1901	67	82	149
1911	79	88	167
1921	98	136	234
1931	116	141	257
1941	no census		
1951	135	149	284
1961	131	155	286
1971	147	170	317
1981			344

Note: The figures from 1931 reflect the addition of part of Holford in the parish of Kilve (refer to 1832 assessment) to the parish of Holford in 1933.

PUTSHAM FARMHOUSE

The exact date of the buildings of Putsham Farmhouse has not been established. The structure of the building, the materials and internal features all suggest a period construction of the early 17th century or even late 16th century.

It has been established that from 1662 to 1664 Sir John Rogers of Langton Long, Blandford, in Dorset held the lordship and manor of Kilve which he had inherited from his forbears. The lordship and manor had been held by the Rogers family since the year 1419 (see chronological list of lords of the manor of Kilve). In 1664, Sir John Rogers divided his estate and sold off large portions of it.

The lordship of the manor, the manor house and some of the land was bought by John Cunditt of Edmundsham, also in Dorset, but the southern part of the estate described at the time as being "part of the manors of Kilve and Holford" which included tenants in Putsham and Pardlestone were sold to John St. Albyn of Alfoxton and this included Putsham Farm and Farmhouse.

Until 1920 Putsham Farmhouse was part of the Alfoxton Estate and owned by the St. Albyn family and latterly their trustees. On July 1st 1920, Alfoxton Park and the remaining properties and land in the parishes of Holford, Kilve, Stringston, Nether Stowey, Spaxton and Cannington were sold off at Public Auction at the Plough Hotel, Holford. Putsham Farm, (i.e. farmhouse, buildings and land (see photostat copies of Auction Catalogue) were bought by Harry M. Summerhayes who had been a tenant of the farm since 1919 but his father had been a tenant before him since 1875.

OCCUPANTS OF PUTSHAM FARMHOUSE.

Year	Occupant
1664 to c.1790	Various tenants of the St. Albyn family of Alfoxton.
c.1790	John Batholomew (tenant)
1821	Robert and John Bartholomew (tenants)
1832	Thomas Thorne (tenant)
1852	Henry Randall (tenant)
1866 to 1875?	Robert Eames (tenant)
1875 to 1919	William Summerhayes (tenant)
1919 to 1920	Margaret J. and Harry M. Summerhayes (tenants)
1920	Harry M Summerhayes bought property and farm
1920 to 1975	Harry M. Summerhayes (Owner)
1975 to 1977	P. J. Salvidge bought property and farm in in 1975 but farmhouse was unoccupied
1977 to date	Kay and Oliver Normandale (owners)

INCUMBENTS OF KILVE CHURCH

---- Franc Staun
1311 Walter de Bale
---- Petrus atte Bryggs
1329 Richard Bartelmaus
1332 Walter de Remmesburg
1333 John de Plumstoke
1335 Will Malet
1335 Walter de la Mors
---- Thomas Cox
1350 Johann de Wynesford
1410 Johann Corbyn
1411 Richard Sawyer
1416 Rael Lamedon
1417 Johann Salford
1418 Johann Joly, alias Plummer
1429 Stephen Hulle
---- Johann Bubbewick
1436 Johann Grene
1448 Johann Roberd
1449 Morgan Vauhn
1468 Will Collins
---- Henry Wright
1471 Will Robyn
1487 Simon Lane
1497 John Davey
---- Thomas Roberts
1567 Adam Rycheman
1586 William Prior
1593 Hugo Jenkins
1626 Robert Jeffry vel Jessop a.m.
1662 George Greene a.m.
1665 Thomas Poor a.m.
1669 Benjamin Roy AB.
1716 Edward Strong AM.
1717 Henry Dampsey
1735 Thomas Wilson AM.
1736 William Beeltell
--- Henry Farr Yeatman
1797 John Matthews
1837 William Parr Greswell M.A.
1877 Hay Sweet-Escott M.A.

1910 David Hartwell James M.A.
1938 Digby James Hawker M.A., C.F.
1957 Arthur Louis Siderfin B.Sc.
1964 Howell Minshull B.E.M.
1982 Rex Hancock M.A., C.F.
1994 Andrew Stephens M.A.

Memoranda:-

1) From 1329 to 1411 the Manor House (subsequently Kilve or Priory Farm) was occupied by the college of priests (Monks?) under a licence granted by Sir Simon de Furneaux and during this period the Chantry was added to the manor house. There were five priests appointed to celebrate mass daily in the adjacent church of St. Mary the Virgin for the souls of the lord of the manor and his family, his forbears and his heirs. It has therefore been assumed that the following names extracted from the list of incumbents would have been the names of the senior priests at the time.

1329 Richard Bartemans
1332 Walter de Remmesburg
1333 John de Plumstoke
1335 Will Malet
1335 Walter de la Mors
1350 Johann de Wynesford
1410 Johan Corbyn.

By 1411 the college of priests had ceased to function and the Chantry fell into a state of neglect and by 1433 the Church had reverted to its function of being the Parish Church.

2) The list of incumbents in the Church shows the Rev. John Matthews as the Rector from 1797 to 1837 and the Rev. William Parr Greswell M.A. as the Rector from 1837 to 1877, but the Assessment Records for the special survey carried out in 1832 for the Land Commissioners of England give the name of Rev. William Parr Greswell as the owner of all the Glebe land at the time although he is not shown as the occupier of the Rectory or any other Glebe property.

Will of Edward Warner Boyes

(a former owner of The Hood Arms)

This is the last Will and Testament of me Edward Warner Boyes of Putsham within the Parish of Kolve in the County of Somerset Victualler - I give devise and bequeath all my Messuages Tenements Lands Heraditaments and real Estate and all my goods chattels rights credits personal and testamentary estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever unto John Govett of Kilton in the said County Gentleman and John Bale of Bridgwater in the same County Accountant my son-in-law their heirs executors administrators and assigns respectively Upon Trust in the first place to pay and discharge any just debts funeral and testamentary expenses and the costs charges and expenses of executing the trusts hereby declared and of repairing and keeping in repair and insures from loss or damage by fire of the messuages and other buildings in and upon my real estate until the sale thereof hereinafter directed and subject thereto Upon Trust to pay to or permit my dear Wife Elizabeth Boyes to use occupy and enjoy or to receive the rents issues and profits dividends interest and proceeds of the said estates respectively for and during the term of her natural life and from and immediately after her decease Upon Trust that any said Trustees or the survivor of them or the heirs executors administrators or assigns respectively of such survivor or other the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of the said Trust Estates respectively do and shall see and dispose of my said messuages tenements lands heraditaments and real state and see and convert into money such part and parts of my said personal estate as shall not consist of money in such manner and either by public auction or private contract or both or either and in one lot or parcels or several lots and with such special conditions as to title or otherwise and for such price or prices in money as they or he shall think fifty and reasonable whose receipt and receipts for such purchase money or monies paid to them or him respectively by virtue of the trusts of the Will shall effectively discharge all and every purchaser and purchasers of said real and personal estates respectively or any part thereof and also all and every other persons or person paying the same money or monies respectively from all liability to see the application of such money or monies and direct the Trustee or Trustees for the time being of the said Trust Estates monies and premises respectively to stand possessed of the monies to arise by the means aforesaid upon Trust in the first place to pay retain to and reimburse, themselves and himself respectively all costs, charges damages and expenses which they or he shall expend be or put unto in the execution of the Trusts in their behalf And then upon further Trust as to Fifty pounds sterling part of the surplus to pay the same to my grandson Edward Warner Boyes (son of John Sibley Boyes) his executors or administrators to whom I bequeath the same accordingly And as to the residue of such surplus upon Trust to divide the same into five equal parts and to pay one of such parts to my said Son John Sibley Boyes his executors administrators or assigns, one other of such parts unto my Daughter Ann Eliza, Wife of Joel Evered Yeoman, her executors or administrators, one other of such parts to my Son, Edward Warner Boyes, his executors administrators or assigns, one other of such parts to the said John Bale his executors or administrators. In Trust nevertheless to apply the same in and for and towards maintenance execution and advancement of his children by his late wife Chistiana my daughter deceased in such manner as he his executors or administrators shall think fit and his or their receipt shall be a good and effectual discharge for the same last mentioned part - And the remaining fifth part unto my daughter Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Cadell Squire her executors or administrators, to which several persons I bequeath the same several five parts separately. - Provided always that if any or either of the Trustees for the time being of this any Will shall die or be desirous of being discharged from or

shall neglect refuse or become incapable or unfit to act in the aforesaid Trusts then and as often as the same shall happen it shall be lawful for my said Wife during her her life and after her decease for the acting Trustee or Trustees or the last acting Trustee his heirs executors and administrators respectively - and I do hereby require him, her or them to nominate some other fit person or persons in the room of the Trustee or Trustees so dying desiring to be discharged or neglecting refusing or becoming incapable or unfit to act as aforesaid and that immediately upon such appointment the said Trust estates monies and premises respectively shall be conveyed and assigned so as to rest in such new Trustee or Trustees together with the surviving or continuing or acting Trustee or Trustees or solely as the case may require and their his or her heirs executors and administrators respectively. Upon the Trusts and with full powers and authorities aforesaid as if originally appointed - and I appoint the said John Govett and John Bale Executors of this my will for the better execution of the said Trusts In Witness whereof I have to each sheet of this my will contained in two sheets of paper set and subscribed my hand this eighteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty seven.

E. W Boyes

Signed and declared by the said Testator as for and to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who being with him present together at the same time have in his presence and in the presence of each other subscribed our names as Witness thereto,

Henry Long

T Warden, Solr. Bardon.

MEMORIES OF KILVE COURT

by Sir Patrick Moberly

My memories of Kilve Court are those of childhood holidays, and principally summer holidays. Our parents used to take us down from London to stay at Kilve every year in August. There would be lots of other cousins there, plus assorted aunts and uncles -- a large family gathering, especially in the days before World War Two. Once the war began, the gatherings were fewer and smaller, and inevitably the care-free atmosphere was never quite the same again.

Mrs Cooke-Hurle was our much-loved Granny, or actually my step-grandmother. She was often occupied with County Council work and other commitments, but managed to find time for us as well. Although she believed in taking a cold bath every morning, reputedly until her eighties, fortunately for us she did not insist on her visitors doing likewise. She loved the garden with all its trees and flowers; and there were always lots of cut flowers in the house, particularly sweet peas with their distinctive sweet scent in the hall.

I imagine the large house must have felt a bit empty after the large parties had ended. But even to me, aged just eleven when war broke out in September 1939, the staff themselves helped to make up much of the magic of the whole place.

Phyllis and Grace have written evocative pieces in this series about their time working as maids. I remember also Beatrice and Gladys, and Nancy, the bespectacled cook whom as a small boy I found rather terrifying (not that this persisted in later years). Then there was Hurley the gardener, assisted in those days first by his son Brian and after him by the youthful Sam Thorne; and of course Herbert and subsequently Arthur Knight in their roles as chauffeur, both of them recalled in the delightful contribution by Audrey Prole. (Incidentally, the old Daimler YC 10 mentioned by Audrey had a glass partition between back and front, and a voice tube for communication with the driver irresistible for younger members of the family whenever we went out in the car with Granny).

It may sound a large staff, but then it was -- and still is -- a large house with extensive gardens to match, including at that period a fully stocked kitchen garden. Ah, those gardens! The two grass courts at the front of the house came in for plenty of use, although I was too young to join in the occasional Saturday tennis party except for being allowed to hand round plates of cucumber sandwiches to the visitors at tea-time.

But of special interest to us youngsters were the fruit trees inside and outside the kitchen garden. Peaches, plums and greengages were definitely not for picking by the young; but naturally we found ways of raiding them when, we hoped, nobody else was looking -- and quite delicious they were.

Another feature of the garden offered us a little surreptitious adventure. This was the long culvert through which the brook runs from beside the upper garden to the far side of the road. There is (or at least was at that period) just enough room for us to walk through the considerable length of this small tunnel, again something which had to be done without giving ourselves away to the grown-ups.

Once I remember us all watching the brook rise dramatically after a thunderstorm deluge of rain, the water soon reaching the top of the culvert and beginning to pour in a torrent down the drive (made

of crushed red sandstone in those days). Hurley, who lived in one of the cottages by the front gate, hastily dug clods of earth from the edge of the lawn in order to divert water on to the tennis courts instead of flooding down the drive into the cottages and on beyond into the village.

One boyish activity during those August holidays was searching out and destroying wasps nests. It was a matter of pride for us to dig out a nest with a spade next morning after it had been taken by 'poison' the previous evening. Not without some risk, too, given the likelihood of getting stung by the few inevitable survivors.

Someone suggested that a clever way to locate a nest would be to capture a wasp and tie a length of coloured cotton around its waist, then sprint after this visible marker as the slowed-down wasp headed for home. Our uncles were pressed into service to blow pipe-smoke into an upturned glass, our aim being to anaesthetise a captured wasp before attaching the cotton. We did manage the first stage once or twice, but not surprisingly the complete experiment never actually succeeded -- or bedtime intervened.

Besides Granny an elderly relation of hers lived at Kilve Court for many years. This was Agnes Fry. As mentioned elsewhere, she had become almost stone-deaf. (I believe the only time she admitted to having heard anything at this time was when, as a very small child, I stepped backwards into a pool adjoining the house and let out a piercing scream). The way for us to communicate with cousin Agnes was by writing on a pad which she carried with her, or by using our fingers and hands to spell out letters one by one-- neither of which made for fluent conversation. She did, however, teach us Mah-Jong and let us look through her telescope, When Agnes eventually moved to Brent Knoll, her place at Kilve was taken by Betty Underhill, sister to the then Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The bedrooms which my parents and my brother and I occupied on these annual visits were at the top of the house, always the same ones -- nice big rooms with a view over the front lawn and beyond. Others of the family party occupied similar bedrooms on the middle floor, where Granny also had her room with its four-poster bed. The main staircase was noticeably attractive, one might say user-friendly, with its polished bannister rail and its broad but shallow tread between one stair and the next.

Downstairs, the rooms which came in for most use by us were firstly the Dining Room facing the small lawn and rockery at the side of the house; and secondly the Library, also known as the Study, which was immediately on your left as you entered the front door of the house.

The Study was where Granny had her desk and did most of her work, and also where the family would assemble immediately before and after mealtimes. On a table in the hall stood a small gong which one of the maids would sound to announce lunch or dinner. Typically for someone of her spartan standards, Granny refused for most of her life to have a telephone in the Study, preferring instead to make and take calls in a cold draughty passage at the far end of the hall.

The large Drawing Room (on your right after entering the house) was little used by us, so far as I can remember, being brought into action only when there were visitors or on other special occasions. It was in fact an elegantly decorated and well proportioned room, containing some fine furniture.

Off the first half-landing of the main staircase was a small room above the dining room known as the Den, where the young could congregate and keep out of other people's way. Kept in the Den were

various Victorian games and other toys which I expect might have been quite valuable today had they survived; also a set of bound copies of Punch dating back to the magazine's earliest years, whose jokes and drawings (particularly around the time of World War One) kept us occupied for hours on rainy days.

I got into trouble once for climbing out of the window of the downstairs loo as the quickest way to rejoin people in the garden -- and foolishly forgot to unlock the door. One of our uncles found the door locked and waited more and more impatiently for someone to come out. Eventually it emerged that the place was empty, by which time the old chap was fairly furious. I was given a severe reprimand for being so thoughtless.

Kilve beach was of course a regular draw. We knew where one could bathe at different stages of the tide. We tried our luck at glatting and sometimes caught a few smaller congers, although Hurley was probably the only person who seems to have enjoyed eating the ones we brought back.

But our favourite occupation on the beach was the building of dams. First choose a convenient little stream running across the sand; then construct several yards of sand walls in preparation on either side, before everyone frantically helped to close the gap; once done, keep extending and strengthening the walls, until it was time to go home or the incoming tide threatened to reach our pool -- at which point we made a finger-sized nick at the top of the highest part of the dam and watched the breach widen until it became a broad chasm through which the floodwater poured. The following day, you could still see traces of our earthworks on the sand, even though the tide would have been up and down twice in the meantime. We could not claim to be at all original, but thought our constructions were bigger and better than any others on the beach!

Further afield there were walks up the lane and on to the hills, for instance to Bicknoller Post and back. Occasionally the whole party would set off by car for a picnic on the hills or along the coast. Our preferred places to swim were Blue Anchor and St. Audries Bay. Driving past the anti-aircraft guns at Watchet were an extra excitement, at least for the younger cousins if we thought there might be target practice going on.

Every morning when the newspapers arrived we made for the cricket scores, always Somerset first. Better still, if she had business in Taunton or Weston-super-Mare, Granny might take younger members of the party and drop us at the County Ground for the day to watch Gimblett and Wellard and such heroes playing.

On Sunday mornings we all walked or drove to Church, where I was always impressed by the British Legion banner on the wall and by the stained glass window of Joseph-of-Arimathea in memory of my grandfather. Thoughts tended to stray also towards the prospect of a quick visit to the beach after the service.

Various neighbours often came to tea on Sunday afternoons, although I was not old enough to register who many of them were. Ones whom I clearly remember, however, were old Mr Luttrell from East Quantoxhead and Lord St. Audries from Fairfield. We paid return visits to both of them too. Not only Granny but my mother and her sisters had known them for many years, so such reunions gave much pleasure.

But back to Kilve Court itself. How lucky we were to have known Kilve in what may have been its halcyon days. Even at an early age! think I could instinctively realise what a lovely place it is, set in such beautiful and peaceful surroundings - a house, in my own recollections, full of people and companionship and enjoyment. Come to think of it, despite the many changes in character since that time, perhaps something of a similar character still pervades the house today. Long may it endure.

Correction, Page 12, Part 1.

Grace Thorne mentioned the room which she recalled as the "ruenette room". Sir Patrick tells us that it was actually called the Lunette Room because of its semi-circular window.