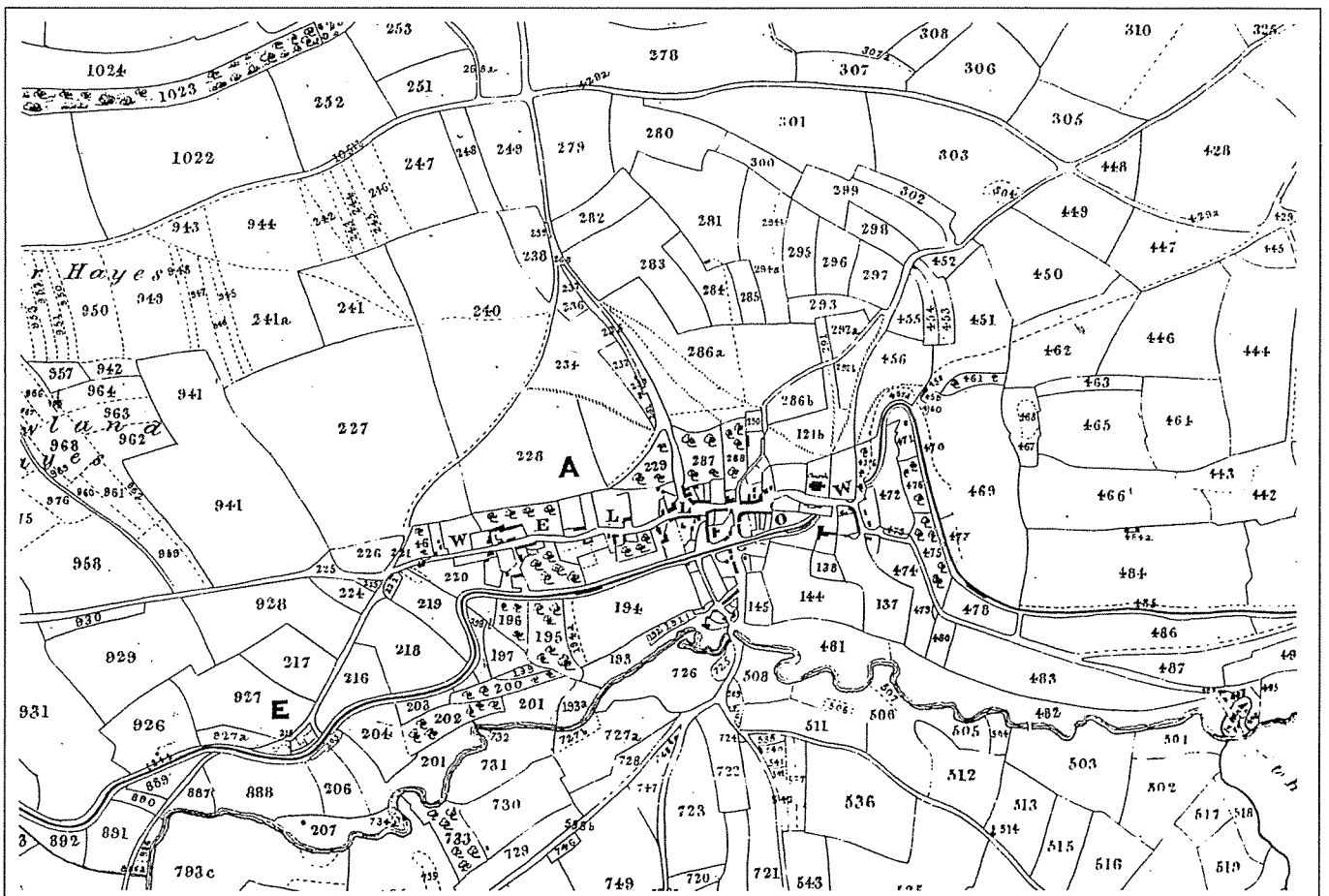


Wellow

Somerset

A village walk with the 1843 Tithe Map



In aid of St Julian's Church - Wellow

Introduction

The small Tithe Map of 1843, shows village properties and land that was tithed, together with names of landowners and tenants. It is an intriguing record of the homes and inhabitants of Wellow in that year. Much of what was known to Moses Franklyn, Jabez Francis, Solomon Slings and others who lived here a century and a half ago remains, today they would recognise several corners of the village of their birth. Arguably, people are more interesting than buildings and yet little is known of them, the surviving details of their lives have been swept into remote archives and, in the name of tidiness, some of their tombstones have been moved, leaving a neat lawn in front of the church. Perhaps here we can redress the balance. Although none of the villagers appeared to have lives that had any influence on the world at large, each contributed in their own way to the community. Like many an English village, they were the heart and soul of a thriving parish which had a baker, butchers, dressmakers, cordwainers and shoemakers. The village had maltings, Inns and a brewhouse, producing its own beer, cider and maybe the odd drop of illicit whisky. There were blacksmiths, carpenters, a timber yard, masons and builders and the water mill that ground the local grain.

Many of the tradesmen and farmers were also good members of the community and were the parish officials, the Parish Clerk, the Churchwardens, Waywardens and Constables, the Overseers and Guardians of the Poor. Their pride of place is evident when, in honour of the Queen, they have the tenor bell recast, paying an equivalent of over one hundred times the average wage of a workingman. Now, we enjoy that legacy whenever the bells are rung for worship or for a happy bride, and whenever the clock strikes.

Many of the tithed buildings have been altered and some rebuilt, apparently on the same foundations. We can only make a cursory glance at such changes here. Similarly, because some houses were sub-let, it is not always certain that the 'Occupant' named in the tithe list was the person who lived in the property. This 'walk' around the village is not intended to be a detailed history, but is more of a snapshot in time of those who lived here in the mid 19th. century.

The dedication of this 'walk' to St Julian's is appropriate because many researched documents were kept by the Church.

Finally, a word about my mistakes. Someone once wrote to the effect..... 'A person rash enough to write on the past events of a village runs the risk of being corrected on the spot by those who have lived there all their lives'For my part I will always welcome corrections or comments.

Gordon Hewlett

February and November 1999

Acknowledgements

Ironically, it is thanks to the demise of St Julian's Church heating system and the need for funds to maintain the ancient fabric that provided a reason to arrange random collections of notes into this 'walk'.

Nothing could have been written without the records of the lives lived by the Wellow people of 1843; it is a greater irony therefore when we realise that the church at this time was largely unheated. Those very same people, on a cold winters day, sitting on St Julian's famously uncomfortable pews would attend the services of the Rev. Charles Paul, and we can be sure his sermons would have been much longer than those of today.

Thanks are due in no small measure to many people of Wellow, Ted Welch among them, who have added information, some of which has found a place in the story, and to Alan Taylor for reading through a draft text.

Thanks are also due,

To Wellow Archives for photographs in the Silver Jubilee Collection, 1977, Janet Green, Mary Messer, Joane Rittner and Anne Watts.

To Wellow History Society and Eric Turner for a later collection.

To Bath & North East Somerset Library and Archive Service.

On the collecting of Tithes

When tithes were paid in kind it was easy for dissatisfaction to arise. Some problems recorded by the parson of Camerton, the Rev. John Skinner, in his published diaries give an insight to the disputes arising between parson and parishioners. The Rev. Skinner was a much misunderstood and querulous man, he could argue over the smallest event, but similar disputes and squabbles were known in many an English parish.

In the 18th and 19th centuries Wellow and Camerton shared a common boundary of the Fosse Way. The Red Post Inn was in Wellow parish and 'Peasedown' was just the name of a portion of the adjacent common land. The Rev. Skinner, thinking he was losing tithe revenue, had harsh words to say of a previous Wellow parson.

In 'Tithe disputes at Camerton' W. J. Wedlake quotes the Rev. Skinner, who records that when the enclosures took place at Wellow and *Shorescombe* the Vicar of Wellow was Mr. Hodson* and his father, Rector of Camerton. Between father and son exchanges of tithes and other deals took place, and because of the family connection, they did not appear to have kept regular accounts. The result was to the detriment of future Camerton incumbents, hence John Skinner's bitter complaint in his diary.

*The Rev Hodson was vicar of Wellow from 1674 to 1718. His remains lie in the south aisle of St. Julian's church.

Also, on the 11th July 1822, the Rev. Skinner notes that farmer Day came in the morning to pay his agistments. Something did not appear quite right. Previously, when Chichester used the 'Parks' for hay the Rector received £20 per annum, now, when Day grazes stock on the land it only nets £6 11s 0d and from this amount the parson has to repay Day two guineas for the rent of the church road. In the evening Day's lambs were to be *tythed*. After dinner the rector and his servant, Heal, walked to Day's farm. Sixteen lambs were for the Rector, but there was 'a little shabby manoeuvring about the last' which was a lamb with its back broken, which Day said was part of the parson's share.

Journal of a Somerset Rector. Rev. John Skinner.

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 valued the tithes which were to be paid in money instead of goods in kind. A century later all tithe payments were discontinued.

A background picture for 1843

The decade became known as the '*hungry forties*', it is then not surprising that, in 1843, Wellow Overseers had many to care for. Queen Victoria had been on the throne just six years, she married Prince Albert in February 1840 and the third Royal child, Princess Alice, is born in May of this year. Wellow Churchwarden's accounts show an expenditure of 2 shillings for prayers for the safe delivery of the Royal child, they had previously paid 10 shillings to the bellringers at the "*Queens Corriation*". The first commercially printed Christmas cards were on sale, and in Bristol there is a celebration for the SS. Great Britain, the first screw steam ship to cross the Atlantic.

Although Wellow has to wait for thirty years or so for the S&D Railway, the GWR already had a broad gauge line from Bristol to London by 1841. The villagers who visited Bath at this time would see Brunel's riverside viaduct and the dirty and noisy steam engines. The journey time from Bath to London was about four and a half hours; the speed and smoothness of the railway was a phenomenal improvement over the road transport of the day, even though the third class rail travel was in open carriages with no shelter from rain, snow or engine smoke.

Local road transport coaches ran from Bath along the main roads to Frome via Hinton Charterhouse and to Radstock via the Red Post. Neither was very convenient for Wellow since it left the considerable walk from the stopping places to the village. The 1843 Bath press advertises coach services :-

From the New Inn, Bath, to Hinton,

Mr Allen's, Saturday 5pm. and Mr Wheeler's daily except Friday, 5pm.

From the New Inn, Bath, to Radstock, via Red Post,

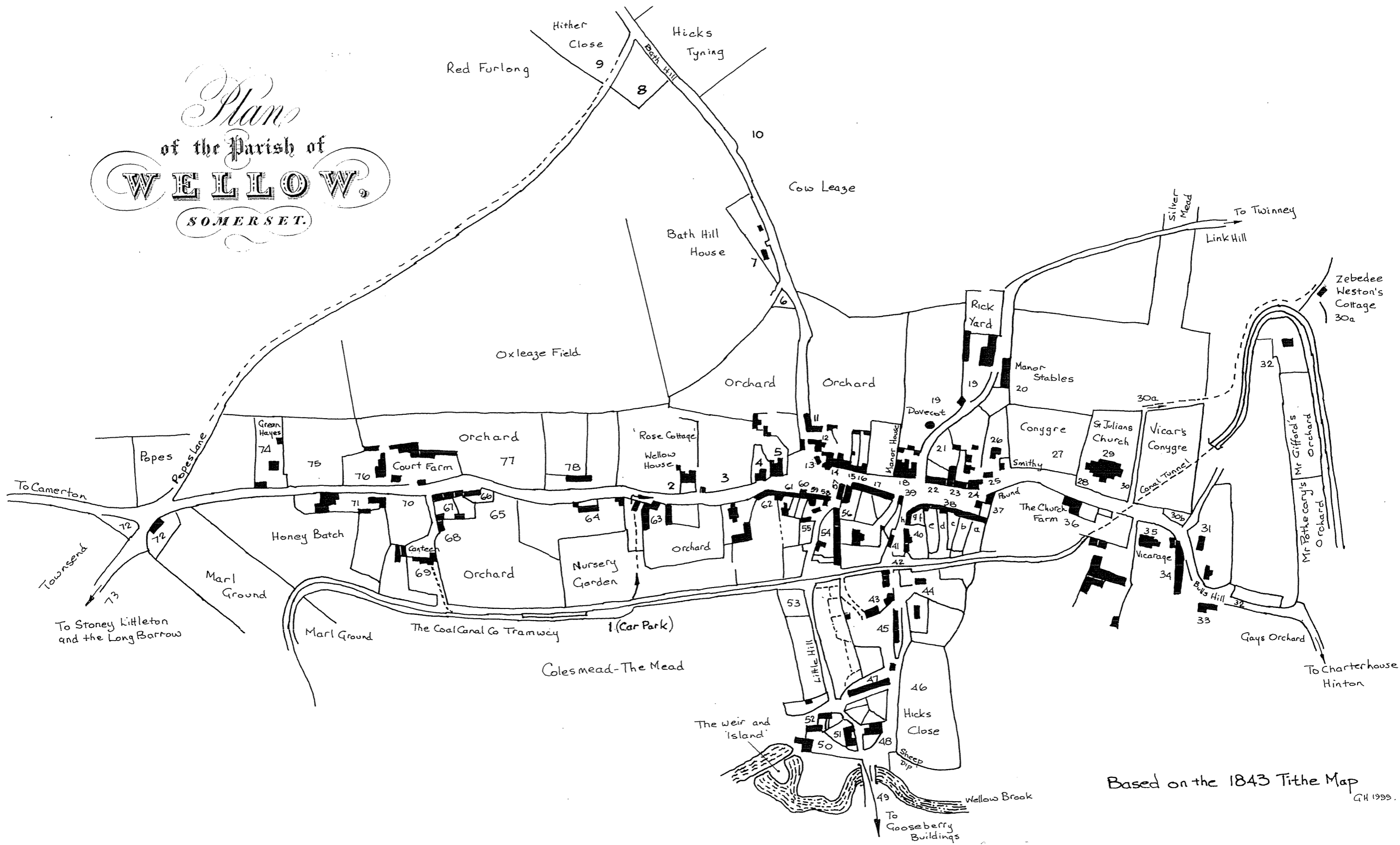
Mr James, 4pm Saturday, Mr Savage, 3pm Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Mr Parfitt's, from The Full Moon, 3pm, also on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

There were many villagers who had stables near their houses, which suggests they had their own transport, but for the majority, walking would have been the usual way of getting about. The village roads were maintained locally and under the care of the waywardens but often they would have been potholed, dusty in summer and muddy in winter, we can also be sure they were sprinkled with a fair amount of horse and cow manure.

The Hon William Gore Langton Esq. of Newton St. Loe was the Lord of the Manor and the Rev. Charles Paul was the vicar, between them they receive the majority of the tithe revenue. For a very much larger parish than the one of today, the rents provided income for The Hon. Mr. Gore Langton of £200 and that for the parson of £355. Both were generous to the church and the foundation of the school.

Plan
of the Parish of
WELLOW.
SOMERSET.



Based on the 1843 Tithe Map
GH 1999.

The Walk

When looking at properties in the village please respect the privacy of the owners.

1)

See the fold out map. The walk begins in the Council Car Park at the end of Station Road on the site of the old S&D railway sidings. The railway line opened on 20th. July 1874 and the last train came through on 7th. March 1966, a longer period than that for which the canal operated. To visualise the view from here in 1843, we will have to remove the wall at the end of **Henley View** gardens together with the houses and replace the railway fences and other items with a dry canal bed and a tramway, which was laid on the tow path about 1815. The canal and tramway followed the contour of the land and came closer to the **Canteen** and **Willow Farm** than the railway did. This can be seen on the 1884 O.S. map which also shows a footpath leading directly to the rear of the Canteen, by this time a beerhouse, from the north bank of an isolated loop of the abandoned canal.

In 1843 the horse drawn tubs carried coal and other goods from Radstock to the Midford canal basin, along the tramway laid for the Coal Canal Company when water supply problems overtook the viability of this section of the route. The canal occupied an area of land listed in the tithes as 'Somerset Tram Road from Midford to Writhlington' and was recorded very thoroughly by Messrs. Cotterell and Rossiter in 1843 to occupy 16 acres 1 rood and 21 perches for its whole passage through the parish. The revenue from transporting coal and other goods was not the only income for the company; passengers were carried, and to achieve this, seats were placed across the trucks after the coal dust had been swept away.

To the west, and within the parish, the tramway passed close to the newly opened Braysdown Colliery where, in 1843, a disaster occurred. Fortunately no village men were involved although the coalmine employed many from the parish, which at that time, included part of Dunkerton.

23rd June 1843 Accident at Braysdown Colliery, Wellow.

The colliery had been opened less than three years previously. Seven miners were killed in the pit which was owned by Mr. Wait, their names and ages are, Richard Aylesbury, 25, of Camerton, Thomas Aylesbury, 23, of Radstock, Aaron Dando, 28, of Dunkerton, Jeremiah Tyler (or Filer), 16, Jacob Richardson, 36, Job Richardson, 36 and John Ashman, 11. "The colliers on the night shift prepared for the descent and stood upon the 'runner' a platform which covered the mouth of the pit. They attached themselves to the chain by means of a hook and a piece of rope forming a noose for the reception of one leg. They were lifted off the platform by the engine with a view to its being moved over the mouth of the pit so that they could be let down. After descending about 100 feet the drum was observed to be revolving rapidly having become disconnected from the main wheel and in consequence of the frightful velocity the men were dashed to pieces on a projecting stage erected a few fathoms from the bottom of the pit".

At the bottom waited **eleven year old** John Ashman and 21 years old Richard Pickford. Both were hit by the falling bodies and debris, receiving serious injuries of which John died in about a week. On the 8th July Richard was said to be "still alive and high hopes for his recovery entertained", although he had a "broken thigh and leg". Four of the deceased were married; only Jacob Richardson had a family; he left a widow and six children.

From, 'Killed in a Coal Pit ' by D P Lindegaard, - available from Radstock Museum.

To the north above the canal bank, was a garden and nursery occupied by Thomas Cole, who is described in the Directories of the day as a '*Nurseryman, Wellow Strawberry Gardens*'. The property was rented from Gracious Cole. The nursery looked across the valley beyond Girts Lane to where there were two fields called 'Lower Henley' and one 'Upper Henley'. All three were too small for modern farming methods and are now incorporated in a larger field. It was the same view to be seen when the modern terrace of Henley View was built on the orchard adjacent to the old Nursery land.

Leave the car park and walk back along the station approach to the main street. In 1843 this would not have been possible, as this road to the station did not exist. We would be cutting through the garden and past the cottage of the 32 year old Isaac Creese, which he rents from The Hon William Gore Langton Esq. (Because the Hon. Gore Langton, Lord of the Manor, was the landowner of so many properties it will be less repetitive if, from now on, we refer to him as **WGL** .)

2)

Turn right in the main street and walk towards the village square. On the left is Wellow House, named Rose Cottage on the 1885 map. It is a C17th. listed house with a Regency front and in 1843 this facade would have been fairly new. Thomas Cole is the 'occupier'* and it is owned by Gracious Cole. The property was described for tithes as 'Dwellinghouse, Yard and Nursery'. This is the house that Thomas advertises as 'The Strawberry Gardens' and it had yet to claim the distinction of entertaining Napoleon III to a strawberry tea. Nephew of Bonaparte, Napoleon III (1808-1873) spent more of his life in exile than he did in France, Bath was one of his favourite haunts both before and after his spell as Emperor. In 1846, as Prince Louis Napoleon, before he became Emperor, he took a suite of rooms at The Pulteney Hotel (now the Holbourne Museum) and in September went on a sketching outing to Farleigh Castle. He may have taken this opportunity to visit the village but September is a little late in the year for fresh strawberries, even in Wellow! He was not to return to this country again until 1866 after he was deposed, he would then have plenty of leisure time in which to visit us in the strawberry season. Many believed he came to Wellow by train; unfortunately he had died before the S&D arrived.

The older part of Welcot cottage to the right of Wellow House gateway existed in 1843 and was probably an outhouse, said at one time to house goats and at another to be a meeting room for the village Brownies.

*Thomas was almost certainly living here, although in some cases the 'occupant' given in the tithe apportionment list would have been the employer of the person living in the house.

3)

Wisteria House, at sometime called **Laburnum House**, is not shown on the 1843 map although it is said to be of mid C19th. origin. By the 1870's the property had a Boarding School for young ladies run by Miss Ellen Bezer. It was a small school with seven or eight pupils, they probably felt themselves very superior to the village children.

4)

Baytree Cottage and Bay Cottage are shown but are possibly much altered from 1843; they are listed as having no rent-charge. We do not know who lived here, where there was no tithe due to either Parson or Lord of the Manor, there would be no reason to record the occupiers.

5)

Weavers Farm, (a Benjamin Weaver married Rachel Harding in 1767). dates from the late C17th.. It and the C18th. barns behind are, in 1843, in the occupation of James Hooper who also has a farm at Twinney*. The joint landowners are Gracious Cole and Pheobe Flower, a tithe of 5/- per annum being payable to WGL. On the eastern side of 'The Batch' the road to Bath is narrowed considerably today by the old cart shed, as it was in 1843.

* The name Twinney is used in many documents of the time whereas Twinhoe is now used, but the hamlet is affectionately still called Twinney today. James Hill suggests the name's origin is from; 'Twyn', Celtic for hillock and the Dansk 'hoe', having the same meaning.

The farmyard, with the field beyond and the modern bungalow garden, was the orchard of George and Gracious Cole. It was quite possibly a cider apple orchard. Around the edges of this walk alone were many acres of orchard, these would in the main have been for locally produced cider for use on the farms and would have been a pleasant sight in the spring. Later, Frederick Horler of **Weavers Farm** and his brother Isaac had an old cider press operating within living memory. It could possibly have been here in 1843.

In the open space of the square stands a horse trough known as 'the pump trough' (to rhyme with 'throw'). The trough is a memorial to the Wellow Guardian of the Poor between 1875 and 1905, and although not part of the 1843 scene, it replaced a larger horse trough standing here, where traffic could pass on all sides and was lit at night by an oil lamp. But if the village appreciated the care taken by the Guardian of the sick, the aged, orphans, the infirm and the families of the unemployed, not everyone saw care of the poor in the same light:-

In respect to the County of Somerset, the poor's levy is a more alarming grievance than tithes. Many parishes, which within twenty years past paid no more than £50 per annum to the poor now pay £200 and unless some plan of prevention be adopted, the evil is not likely to abate. This increase of the Poor Rate has been *general* and may be attributed partly to an increased population, and partly to a growing dissoluteness in the manners of the poor, which ever accompanies national improvement.....not accompanied with a growing disposition in the workman to maintain....his wife and family, or to lay by against a time of need. No; if he can earn eight or nine shillings in *four* days of the week, the remaining *two* days are devoted to pleasure or luxury, and the wife and children are in a worse situation than when more moderate wages compelled him to constant work.....

I can also look back to the time when a commendable degree of pride operated on the minds of the lower class, and withheld them from applications to the parish for relief.....This pride, I am sorry to say, is totally lost.....

From Billingsley's 'General View of the Agriculture of Somerset'.

6)

Further up Bath Hill, on the left between the track and the road, is a triangular small vegetable garden, rented in 1843 from WGL by John Mountgay. It is still a garden today and because of its established identity on old maps it probably has been used for some 200 years for growing crops. Every small scrap of productive land was identified as a possible source of income, and also tithed is a narrow strip of roadside land here, called 'Garden in the Waste', tended by James Cousins.

7)

George and Gracious Cole are given as 'occupiers' of the **Bath Hill House** site. The house has also been known as the Beeches. Living here later in the century was William Edward Stainton Stanley, the Bath Workhouse Union District Medical Officer and Vaccinator. In 1843 the property is described as having a 'malthouse' although no separate building is shown. Possibly malting was done on a small scale for domestic use in the building shown, or the malthouse could have been incorporated in the present house, built or converted about the middle of the century.

The gardens and paddock of the property extended for a long way up the hill, and within the boundary of the garden Ann Body rented a cottage from WGL. The site is difficult to pinpoint on the 1843 tithe map but it is shown clearly on the 1839 & 1884 maps, but it has long since disappeared. There is a possibility that Gracious Cole and his wife Susan may have lived here at some time, theirs is a typically large family that includes a four years old son, also called Gracious. George and Gracious farmed 400 acres and employed 15 men.

The field names which follow would have been used frequently by them, when their workmen were directed to their daily tasks.

8)

The bridleway meets the road here (as it did in 1843) and to the west of the road John Porch had a garden 'Inclosure' in the corner of 'Oxleaze' field and Gracious Cole had a small plot 'Little Tynning'. Both pay a tithe to WGL.

9)

The field in which the modern **Windyridge** is built is known as 'Hither Close'. Behind is the larger field, 'Red Furlong'. Some field name references suggest *Red* may be a corruption of *reed*, but perhaps on this high ground red may refer to the soil colour. Before returning down the hill it is worth noting that fields on the Twinney turning were part of the vicars Glebe, two of those - 'Gays Ground' and 'Bulls Down'- use names which are still associated today with the east end of the village close to the vicarage.

10)

'Cowleaze' and 'Hicks Tynning' are the fields to the east. The modern **Manor Close** bungalows are on the site of another 1843 orchard, rented and occupied by Jacob Willis.

With so many orchards we can only guess how much cider was produced and drunk in Wellow each year. Cider was sometimes part of the wages of the farmworker and a thirsty one could consume up to two gallons a day during periods such as harvesting time. Cider was usually produced on the farm that consumed it. Two varieties of apple grown locally were the Kingston Black and Morgans Sweet, but Billingsley says:-

" If there be a general characteristic of a good cyder fruit it seems to be this; that the apple be of a yellow or light red ground tinged with red streaks on the sun side, of a smart acid flavour with firm but juicy parenchyma - if it possess these criteria, be it called by what name forever it may, it will doubtlessly make good cyder."

The orchards close to the village were of mixed varieties, and included dessert and cooking apples. Wellow's orchards would not have been so productive as those of the traditional cider apple regions of Somerset where an acre could yield several hundred gallons in a good year. Here, in Wellow, Isaac and Fred Horler were known to produce about 600 gallons in a year, some of which was stored in the cellars of The Granary (63) and the Steam Mill (54).

From a book of country lore comes a rather mischievous tale. It relates how farmers in the west of England were in the habit of keeping the best cider for their families, any that had 'gone off' or of poor quality was given to the workers, and sometimes that would be watered down

11)

Alma Cottages were probably named after the Crimean Battle of the Alma in 1854, and any earlier 1843 name is unknown. No tithe was payable and therefore no tenants are named.

12)

Two cottages that are now the single house **Sunnyside** were, in the nineteenth century, without a front wall, the courtyard being open to the road. James Porch and George Porch were tenants of one. George Porch was aged 80 and gives his occupation as 'Thatcher' but it is not known if he was still working at this age. During his working life he would have thatched many of the cottage roofs, and also had the important annual job of thatching the farm ricks. The 1841 census return records a 60 year old James Porch, whose occupation is given as Army P(*ensioner*), living in this area with

his wife Mary. James is one of Wellow's ex soldiers old enough to have fought in the Napoleonic wars, if we assume him to be a serviceman at that time.

One of these cottages has a claim to fame as being the home in 1800 of the champion pugilist John Gully. Violet Cosh in her 'Story of Wellow' says he was the ancestor of Viscount Selby, William Court Gully, Speaker of the House of Commons 1895-1905. By the age of 22 in 1805, John Gully is recorded as being a failed butcher, and although there is no evidence that he lived in Wellow at this time, it is interesting to note that Sunnyside was associated with butchers.

13)

On this corner, in 1843, where the wall now encloses the electricity sub station, a 'Cottage and Slaughterhouse' is shown; the cottage was probably a part of Sunnyside. The slaughterhouse was a separate building in front of the cottage, each has a tithe paid by Joseph Barnard to WGL. We can imagine the village square on a hot summer's day, the pungent smells from the slaughterhouse and the farm opposite, the animal noises and effluent running across the square as a pig or sheep is slaughtered and butchered. Added to this was the smell of nearby brewing. Joseph Barnard and his wife Harriet have three daughters Harriet, 10, Martha, 7, and Mary, 4. Young Harriet who attends the National School shows her skills at needlework and sews a sampler with this years date. Her sister Mary in turn sews another in 1851*, both to survive for us to admire today.

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My Life's a narrow span
A short uncertain day
And if I reach the age of man
It soon will pass away

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I may for aught I know
This hour the summons hear
That calls me where the wicked go
Or where the saints appear

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Harriet Barnard her work
Aged 10 Years in the Year of
Our Lord 1843 at Wellow
National School. God is Love.
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Young Harriet at ten years of age is reminded of her mortality whilst she sews, but neither Harriet nor Mary heard the *summons* for many years. They are recorded two decades later as living with their widower father and working as 'Dressmakers', the needle skills that they learned at school obviously being put to good use for the benefit of the Wellow community.

* In 1944, Swindon descendants of the Barnard family returned the samplers to Wellow.

14)

Turning the corner, **George House** was the George Inn, with yard and stables behind, which probably included buildings on the site of the two storey workshop sideways on to Bath Hill, part of

which was described as a cottage. The occupier and the innkeeper is John Heale, 55, he rents the Inn from John Smith. John and Agnes Heale have four sons living at home, Charles, 30, William, 25, George, 20 and Thomas, 12. All were agricultural labourers. It would have a brave man to pick a quarrel with anyone in the bar of the George. Father John also has a rented garden in the field, 'Mill Meadow', below the ford, where there are a few of Wellow's remaining apple orchard trees which may yet see the next Millennium. He remains the George publican at least until 1854.

15)

George Treasure, according to the 1841 Census, was a man of independent means, he is the owner and occupier of **Footmans Cottage**, said to date from 1733. George also rents a small patch of land called 'The Stitch'* at the corner where **Girts Lane** meets **Hassage Hill**. Also staying in this cottage at the time of the census are James West, a carpenter, his wife Sarah who is a dressmaker and their two daughters, Elizabeth 11, and Sarah 5. We shall meet the Wests again elsewhere two years later at the time the 1843 tithes were collected. Much later George Treasure is described as a 'stockingmaker'.

* Stitch as a field name often means a small area.

16)

The C18th. **St Bede's** was one of the No-Rent cottages and so the occupant is not recorded.

17)

The rank of houses on the opposite side of the road were once thatched with gables facing the road, (see Pl. I of the High St). **No1 High St.** was originally two cottages. The cottage next to the **Fox and Badger** had no rent charge, the middle of the three was occupied by Richard Roberts and his dressmaker wife Ann. The most eastwardly one, **No 3 High St.**, was occupied by Moses Franklyn. There were two men called Moses Franklyn recorded in the 1841 census, and probably Moses senior lived here. Jacob Willis is the landowner of all three cottages; he farms from the **Manor House** and it is more than likely that the occupants of these cottages were also his employees. Violet Cosh records, of the middle cottage, "when the thatch was replaced early in this 20th century, an illicit whisky still was found."

No 2 High Street was called 'Jellalabad' in the C20th. when it was the home of one of Wellow's later soldiers, Sgt.Maj. Albert Mannings of the Somerset Light Infantry. 'Jellalabad' features on one of the Regiments badges. When the tithe map was being prepared in 1842, the British were under siege in Jellalabad during the first of the Anglo - Afghan wars.

18)

The Manor House has a date stone on the north side, **GH 1634**; presumably commemorating the rebuilding of the previous manor for Giles Hungerford. Here was the Manor House of the Wellow branch of the Hungerford family. But Wellow's connection with Farleigh Hungerford predates the Hungerfords to a time when the castle and village were known after the Montfort family.

Although in 1843 the tithe is the property of the Lord of the Manor, **WGL**, it has landowners recorded as the consortium of John Purnell, Sarah L Gale, William Bayntun and Rev J Macdonald. As we noted above, Jacob Willis farmed from here. He paid the vicar £1 12s 8d pa. tithe for a, 'Farmhouse, Barton', and a garden behind the high wall, which in its own right carried 'Rights of the Common on The Hayes'. The Hayes, north west of the village, adjacent to the area where the Romans built their villa, was once strip and common land.

We also know one of Jacob Willis's occupations.

Bath Chronicle 21st September 1843

Jacob Willis of Wellow applied to the Magistrates, and obtained, a Game Certificate at a cost of £4 0s 10d.

So far on this walk we have met farmers Cole, Hooper and Willis. The Wellow Archives contains a doggerel poem most probably written much later for a village entertainment, but the author and date are something of a mystery. However, verse six records:-

**Three varmers in they bygarn days
In Weller Parish bided
I minds 'em, Ooper, Willis, Cole
Twixt them arl were divided.**

19)

Turn left at the Manor House and on the left is the Manor thatched dovecot; at the time, 1843, it is already many centuries old. Jacob Willis also rents the Barns and Barton now "**Manor Farm Barn**" and builds his ricks in the yard beyond. A little further on is **Link Hill** house, it takes its name from the adjacent field. Here in 1843 a John Por(t)ch was 'occupying the cottage and garden'. John is a tenant of farmer Jacob Willis. The lane passes a small pasture called 'Silver Mead', another of the intriguing names given to some of Wellow's fields; like many of the smaller C19th fields the hedges have been removed and it is now part of a larger field. See Appendix C.

20)

On returning to the village, the **Manor Stables** on the left was, in 1843, a Barn and Barton rented by Jacob Willis. He pays the vicar 12s 7d for this, the rickyard, and the two acres of 'Hankley Meadow'.

21)

A patch of ground in front of the garden of **Windmill Cottage** was the property of Anne Bean, 72 years old and a lady of some substance. She possibly has stables and an orchard here. George Cole also has a small garden within the same area. In 1843, **Windmill Cottage**, which probably has C17th. origins, would have had its main access from behind **Lester Cottage**. (24)

22)

Continuing towards the church, the late C16th **Court Cottage** facing the school was until quite recently two, Court Cottage and Manor Cottage, both in 1843, were the property of farmer Willis. James Sargent occupied the one nearer the Manor and the adjacent larger one described as 'Cottage and Court' occupied by Richard Cottle. A 'Court' was likely to be where a farmer's bailiff collected the rents and dues paid by the tenants.

23)

On the high pavement next to Court Cottage are the two cottages of **Ebenezer Terrace, Myrtle Cottage** and **Puiladobhrain**, built adjacent to the Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel, which is dated 1869. In 1843, Anne Bean (we passed her stable facing the dovecot) owned a large 'Malthouse' sited endways on to the pavement where the cottages are, and she had her own cottage on the Chapel site. Jacob Willis rents the malthouse, leaving Anne to pay WGL 2s. for her cottage and stable. The chapel is the second to be built in Wellow by the non-conformists, we do not know why a second chapel was required but perhaps a clue lies in the fact that William Catley, Colliery

Bailiff, and Edmund Jones, Accountant, both of Writhlington were involved in the purchase of the land. The early 19th century Methodist movement was prone to schisms, and at an 1836 meeting of the Bath Wesleyan Circuit, of which Wellow was then a part, a minute records - "A Brother who was formerly nominated (*as Preacher*) has resigned his connection with us and joined the *Primitive Methodists*". The resentment of the rejection was possibly reason enough to suppress the name of the defector. In the years before World War Two it was possible to buy a cup of tea at the cottage next to the chapel, from Mrs. Nichols the 'Chapel Keeper'. Her husband Albert was the local chimney sweep.

24)

Lester Cottage, (named after Miss Lester) facing the main road and **Peacehaven** to the rear, are C17th cottages. Together with **Windmill Cottage**, all three are on the 1843 'no-rent' list therefore we do not know who lived here.

25)

Church Farm Cottage. John Humphries rented a cottage here in 1843, from WGL. John Humphries is a stonemason and sometime bellringer at St Julian's, he also 'occupies' and therefore pays the tithes for, this property and other cottages in the village. Behind is a 'Smiths shop, Cottage and Garden', it is rent free and the occupier is not named. The cottage referred to may well be **Windmill Cottage**.

26)

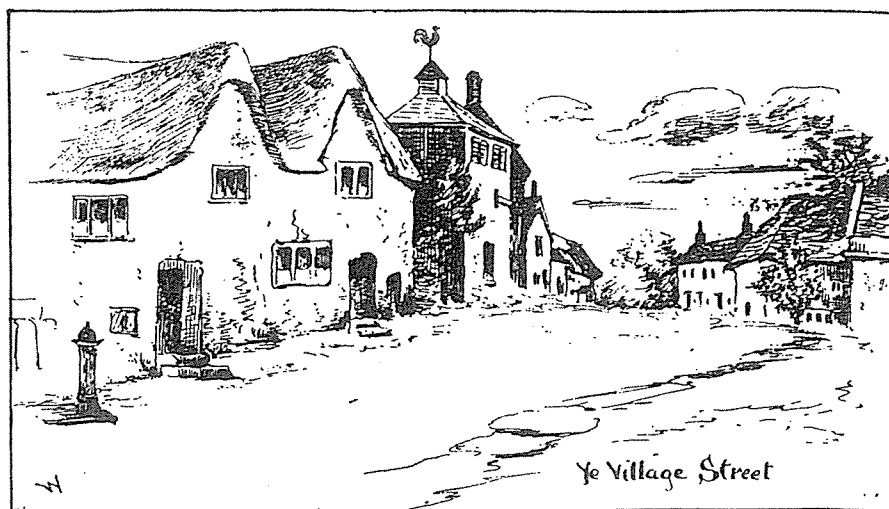
Standing back from the road is **Church House**, at one time called 'Longea'. The property here in 1843 is described as a 'Cottage and Garden - possibly an earlier dwelling occupied by Richard Rossiter the carpenter. A building shown in the southeast corner of the present garden was part of the blacksmith's and could well be the shop where the horses were shod. Violet Cosh records a chestnut tree here in 1953, and makes a link between the smithy, chestnut tree and Longfellow's "Village Blacksmith".

**Under the spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,....**

But the day to day life of the Wellow blacksmiths, James Holdway and John Thomas, would not have been quite so romantic as Longfellow would have us believe.

27)

The paddock in front of **St Julian's** is occupied by farmer George Gifford, it is called 'Conygre'. The Rev. Fussell suggests the Conygre name has Celtic or Saxon origins, but another authority links Conygre with Coney, or a field containing rabbits. Were we able to meet farmer George in 1843, he would possibly tell us with pride of the recasting of the church bell No. 3 in 1835, for which, "Mr. Mears's bill", was £24 17s 10 1/2d, and the massive 22 cwt. tenor bell in 1838. The latter cost £63, with a further 12/- for - "The Carrige (sic) of the old and new bells to (*and from?*) Bath". But the loading at each end came at an extra cost, 2/- "for bear for loading bells at Bath" and 8s 4d "for bear at Wellow". With beer costing less than a shilling a gallon, moving the bell from the road to St Julian's west door was obviously thirsty work. George Gifford was the Vicar's Churchwarden and has his name cast on both bells. Two other churchwardens also have this honour of their names on the newly cast pair, John Palmer with his name on No 3 and Elihu Gibbs (of Shoscombe) on the tenor. We shall meet John Palmer later. Both bells were cast by Thos. Mears of Whitechapel Foundry and will be the youngest two of the six St. Julian bells ringing for the Millennium.



YE VILLAGE STREET.

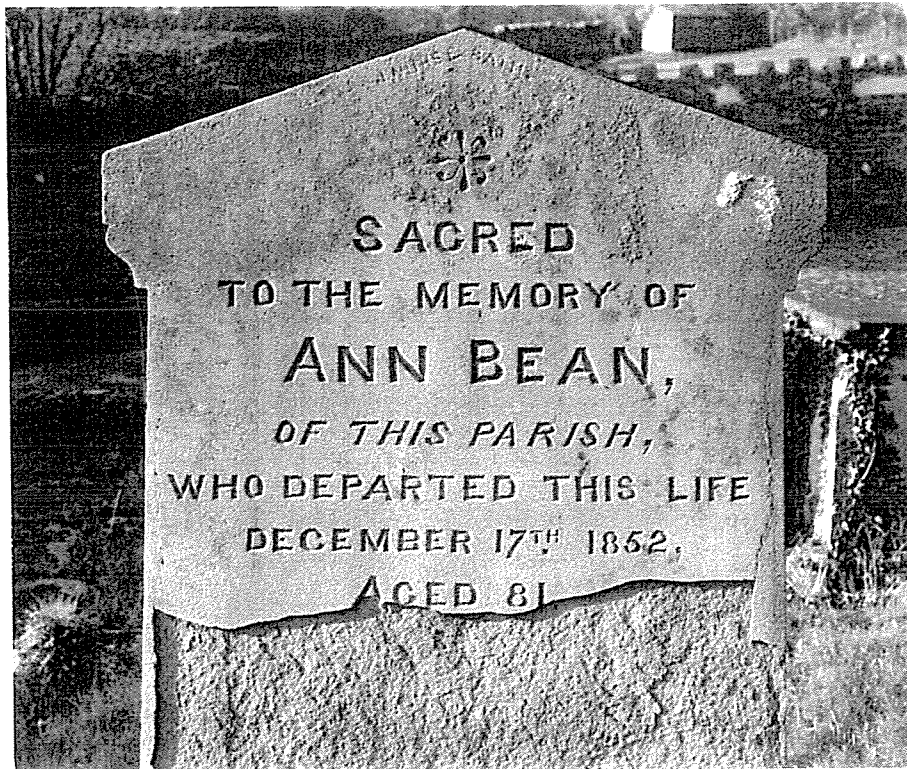
The High St. (17) Note the thatched roofs of No's 1 & 2 on the left, the communal water tap outside and the porch of Footman's cottage on the far right. Also the New Inn brewhouse with its louvred upper storey and weather vane. Bath and County Graphic 1875.



39) A photograph from the early twentieth century with a similar view as above, taken from outside Court Cottage. The water taps, thatched roofs and the louvred brew house are clearly visible. Note the George Inn sign and horse manure in the road. Wellow Archives.



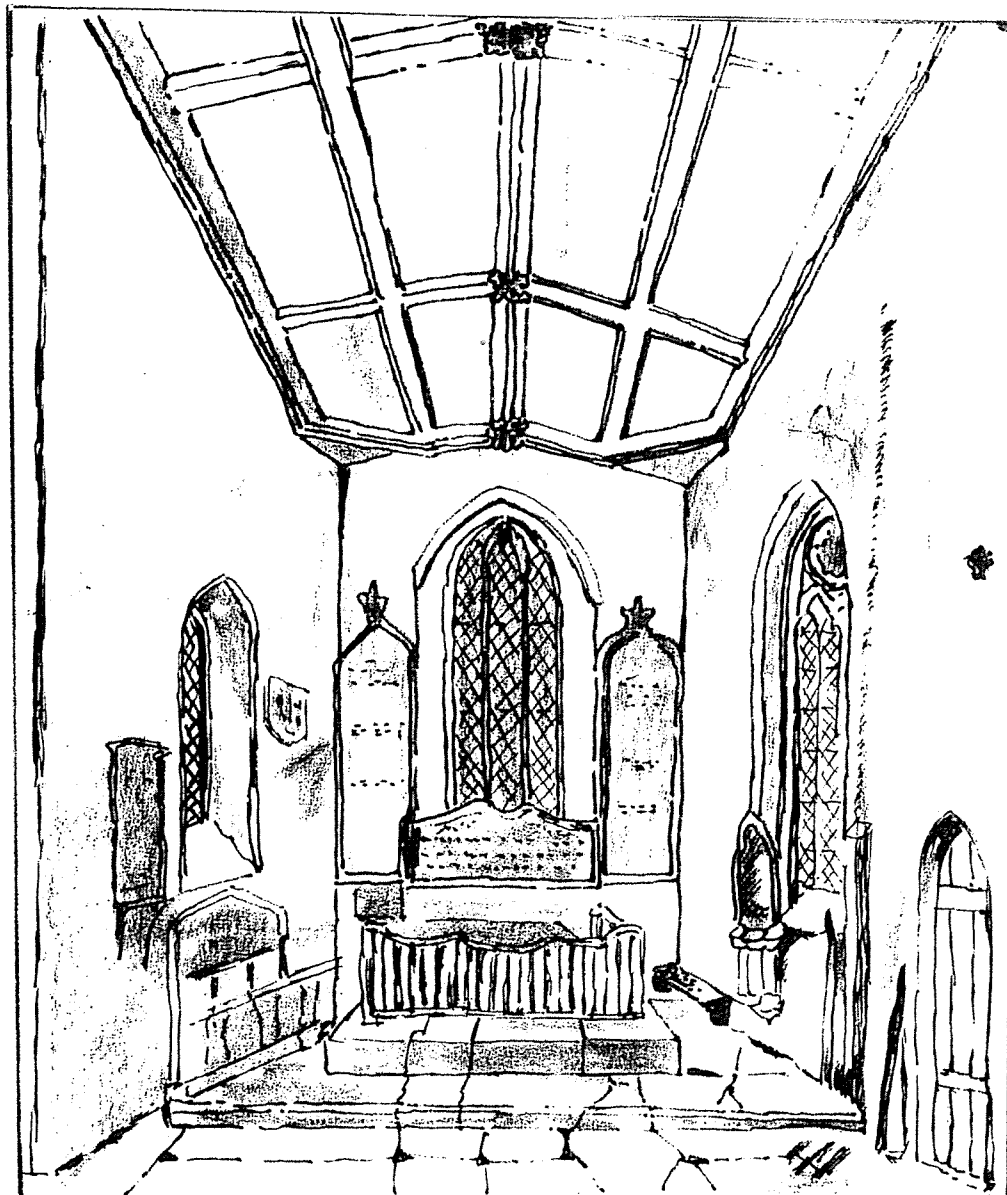
27) The centuries old view across George Gifford's Conygre to the crisp lines of St Julian's tower. The calves were introduced into the paddock for the photographer's benefit. Rev. L.W. Fussell.



28) Ann Bean's gravestone. The mason, J Nurse (of Broad Quay, Bath), has his name at the top of the stone.



49) The epitaph of Mary and James Slingo, the stone is near the church south door



29) A mid C19th sketch of the chancel of St Julian's church, probably as it was at the time of the 1845 restoration. Bath Reference Library.

29) The 'Vestry' meetings approved the Churchwarden's accounts and received nominations for the posts of Churchwarden, in addition it had the responsibility for appointing the men willing to serve as Parish Constables.

*At a legal Vestry held in the Parish Church of Wellow on the 17th day of April 1843.
 We the undersigned do hereby recommend the Churchwarden
 and for the past year and recommend Messrs G.
 Gifford (on the part of the Vicar) and Mr. J. Parker
 (on the part of the Parish) to serve the Office of Churchwarden
 for the year ensuing. Thos. Paul, Vicar
 Chairman
 James Hooper
 Joseph Humphreys*

At a Legal Vestry held in the Parish Church of Wellow Oct'r 13 1842 to ammend the lists made by Order of the Magistrates at a Vestry held the 15th day of September of Persons qualified and willing to serve the office of Constable.

Present	The Rev. C. Paul. Vicar	Chairman
Mssrs	Feaver.	Gifford.
	Parker.	J Ponting.
	D. Hooper.	B. J. Smith.
	J. Hooper.	

Resolved, that the following lists be submitted for approval of the Magistrates of the Bath District.

List No 1, of the persons qualified between 25 and 55 years of age and rated to the relief of the poor or County Rate on any Tenement of the net quarterly value of Four Pounds.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 John Balm, Carpenter, Wellow | 2 Nicholas Walker, Labourer, Wellow |
| 3 James Holdway, Blacksmith | 4 John Lippiat, Miller, Wellow |
| 5 Frederick Nenham, Yeoman | 6 Jas Colborn, Blacksmith, Shoscomb |
| 7 Sam'l Skuse, Yeoman, Whittoxmead | 8 Jas Hooper, Yeoman, Twinney |
| 9 Decimus Hooper, Yeoman, Baggeridge | 10 John Feaver, Yeoman, Littleton |

List No 2, of persons willing to serve the office of Constable and recommended by the Vestry to be appointed altho' not having the qualifications above mentioned.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Joseph Hales, Labourer, Wellow | 2 Sam'l Cole, Labourer, Wellow |
| 3 Rich'd Clare, do, Littleton | 4 Thos Barr,? do, Baggeridge |
| 5 B. J. Smith, Butcher, Wellow | 6 William Gifford, Yeoman, Twinney |

The Rev. Fussell's photograph of 1945, Pl. II, showing St Julian's tower and calves in Conygre, is entitled 'Square to the winds that blow'. It is the same view that was seen daily by George Gifford and the village blacksmiths from their forge, a view that must have remained virtually the same since the tower was built, some six hundred years ago.

28)

Enter the churchyard and here on the left, marked by her headstone, (see Pl. III) now flaking badly, lies the remains of Ann Bean who, 'departed this life 17th December 1852 aged 81'. Her passing and the subsequent sale of her property led the way for the clearing of the old malthouse and the building of the Methodist Chapel and **Ebenezer Terrace**. Also on the left nearer the path is a chest tomb with a floor slab bearing an inscription, "In memory of Joseph Willis". He was a farmer, another of the Willis family who worked many of the fields at the west of the parish. This chest tomb, the one behind, and others, once had tall iron railings around. Little did the family imagine at that time that the tomb railings, like others, would be flame cut and taken away for scrap metal during the Second World War. All of the chest tombs in the churchyard are protected Grade II listed monuments.

29)

Enter St Julian's by the South door. The Rev. Lawrence Fussell illustrates his history 'Via Old England' with a view through the door portal and the porch to the hills beyond, he entitles it "Where Celt and Roman Trod". Since that time a denarius of Antonius Pius has been found in **Hicks Close** (46). Today the view from the porch is still worth more than a casual glance. The traceried door which the Rev Fussell attributed to the 14th. century is the same heavy ancient door passed by the mourners of Ann Foster 88,* who died in the Union Workhouse on October 22nd. 1843; her body was returned to Wellow to be buried. Through this door also passed the more joyous Christmas Eve wedding party arriving from Shoscombe.

1843 December 24th A Wedding

James Grist bachelor of full age, labourer, of Shoscombe, son of Joseph Grist, labourer, married Ann Noakes, spinster of full age, also of Shoscombe, she was the daughter of John Noakes labourer.

*Ann Foster may have spent some of her time in the Walcot Workhouse, which has eventually become Harpers furniture store in the London Road, Bath.

If it were possible to pass the time of day with the vicar, the Rev. Charles Paul, he may tell that he is a prominent member of the Board of Guardians at the Workhouse. He was responsible for the recording of the events of Friday, 10th February 1843, when the Foundation Stone of the new Workhouse Chapel in Midford Road, Odd Down, was laid. On that proud day with Bath City and Ecclesiastical dignitaries present, Addresses were read from representatives of the inmates "gratefully acknowledging the liberality of the Guardians in providing them with a bountiful dinner of Beef and Plum Pudding." The Master of the Workhouse confirmed that the Addresses "had emanated spontaneously.....No influence having been exercised or recommendation given by the Officers to induce their being written." Wellow's paupers, including Ann Foster, as inmates of the workhouse at the time, would have taken a share of the beef and plum pudding, and as part of her normal diet she would have had a pint of tea twice a day during her stay. Tin cups were purchased for the inmates use. A Wellow Guardian, Mr Potheary, was present at a meeting on the 19th October 1839 when a new recipe for making the workhouse tea was agreed upon.... "For fourteen persons, one ounce of dry tea, seven ounces of sugar, one pint of milk and fourteen pints of water"..... Later Ann Foster would have had milk and water substituted for the tea. (see Appendix A)

Sitting in a quiet pew we can contemplate, and with the knowledge of the 1845 renovations to the church (see Appendix B), we know our 1843 view would be of “a complete specimen of a parochial church of the Middle Ages which for some years past the encroachments of time on the venerable fabric have been very apparent”. The north door is bricked up and the ravages of damp show on the wall, the “fine old oak pews with the much admired poppy (*Popish*) heads” are in need of repair and fixing. The bell ringing team, which may have included Henry Blatchford, George Bush senior and George Bush junior, ring the bells from the floor under the tower and “the passage of the ropes has greatly injured the beautiful groined roof”.... “The west tower window is obscured by an unsightly screen and canopy, erected for the protection of the occupants of the gallery from the wind”.

Today we can see the remains of medieval wall paintings in the Hungerford Chapel but in 1843 they are to remain under their whitewash for many years. The freestone figure of a priest “fully vested for Mass” lying against the north wall in front of the Chapel is still, in 1843, in its hiding place yet to be discovered when the 1845 restoration takes place. After discovery it stayed for half a century in the chancel. There is a contemporary sketch of the chancel, Pl. IV, which shows what our mid 19th century view of the altar and the old east window would be. In the floor of the south aisle is the badly worn black monumental slab marking the burial place of Wellow’s 18th century vicar, the Rev. Hodson who, we recall, the Rev. Skinner deplored for his and his father’s handling of tithe matters. The congregation who attended the 1845 celebration, after the restoration, was described in the report as being “comprised of many wealthy and respectable parishioners, beside others of a humbler grade, and strangers attracted from a distance”. In true Victorian style the ‘*humbler grade*’ in the congregation were presumably not regarded as ‘*respectable parishioners*’.

Farmer George Gifford in his capacity as the Vicar’s Churchwarden, whose spelling we know was not too good, kept the Vestry accounts and we can spare a few moments to look in the book and see some of the expenses the Churchwardens have approved. Mr. John Parker, possibly from Shoscombe, is the Parishioner’s Churchwarden.

**“The expender of J Parker and G Gifford from
March 23/42 to April 16 1843.**

1842	Clark fees at visitation	11s	0d	
	May 29 pd for Ringing	10s	0d	
	Form of Prayer for abundant harvis	2s	6d	
	Dec 13 pd Abarham Crees two Wicks and five Days work at 8d	£1	2s 8d	(8d per half day)
	do Man and hors 2 days holing			
	Gravel at 4,6 pr day	9s	0d	
1843	Febry 11 washing the church	£1	3s 6d	
	New Napken and 2 dusters	2s	0d	
	do pd for sparrows*	£5	5s 0d	
	do washing surplis	10s	0d	

*(Sparrows and small birds were seen as pests and despoilers of crops, a small price was paid for killing them)

**The expender of J Parke and G Gifford from April 17/43
to April 3 1844**

1843	May 3 Form of Prayer for Queens Delivery	2s	0d
	do 29 pd for Ringing	10s	0d
	June 2 pd for two mats and bessom	2s	4d
	do 3 pd for new bellropes	£3	5s 0d
	Nov 5 Bred and wine	£1	2s 2d
	to J Thomas Cleaning the clock	£1	5s 0d
	do Sparrows and posting 4 letters	2s	3d

We can also look at the Vestry minute book to see the approval of the above accounts and to find the names of those qualified to take the Office of Constable. (see Pl. V).

30)

From the church, leave the churchyard by the small gate to the east. The pathway here between the churchyard and the stone wall was quite new having been taken from the vicars Conygre in 1841. The Rev. Charles Paul wished to reduce the number of people passing through the churchyard to the field paths beyond, and donated the space for the new path to the public. In return the "said wall 5ft high from the foundation, pointed and thoroughly finished" was built at the expense of the parish to enclose the west side of his Conygre, (cultivated as the kitchen garden of this and later vicars). A previous churchwarden, Decimus Hooper, probably pronounced 'Conygre' as he spelled it, when he sanctioned 2/6d "For rolling the Parsons Coniger for Damages done with the Waggons". This was damage done to the land when the earlier church wall was built. The 'Bilding' was done by the mason Slingo who charged £7 - 9s - 9d. This was another of the many occasions when the parish paid for beer supplied to the men working on the church fabric. Decimus records " Paid John Healls, (the George publican), for beer the men had halling stones and mortar, 6s 10d."

A small detour here is possible, but in wet weather the footpath northwards is very muddy.

Turn left and follow the footpath behind **St Julians Well** to the site of Zebedee Weston's cottage; he was 52 years old when he lived here in 1843 with his wife Ann. Even though their cottage must have been humble, Zebedee is rated at a three and a half pence contribution to the Poor Rate. Even the very poor contributed to those who were deemed Paupers. In 1836 the Guardians of the Workhouse reported to the Commissioners.... "That it is with feelings of honest pleasure that the Board look forward to the speedy diminution of the parochial burthen hitherto so oppressive to the ratepayers, for the non payment of which so many were annually summoned before the Magistrates, their goods seized and themselves reduced to poverty."

The Weston's cottage is not shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey map and all that remains now is a pile of ashlar and a few modern concrete blocks overgrown with weeds; the stone has probably been reused and moved from the original position. The Rev. Skinner records that he employed Zebedee on the 1816 excavation of the Long Barrow at Stoney Littleton. He further records, in 1820, that with his friend Mr. Cranch they visited Zebedee in order to secure his services for the forthcoming excavations of the Roman Pavement on the Wellow Hayes. During his lifetime Zebedee Weston's name was passed to posterity with the Rev. Skinner's manuscripts bequeathed to the British Museum. Zebedee's cottage was one of a pair, the other being occupied by James Coombs and his wife Maria; both cottages were owned by Mrs. Jane Gale. Here also, on the old canal bed, is "Bull's Orchard" for which George Gifford pays the vicar 2s 1d tithe rent.

30b)

If the walker chooses not to visit the cottage site, turn right on leaving the churchyard to regain the main road. Behind the wall, beneath the vicars Conygre and the road, is the canal tunnel* through which the horse drawn coal canal tubs travelled, both ends of the tunnel are now on private land. (see Pl. VI.) On the roadside further east is a small triangle of land now heavily overgrown with large trees, in 1843 this small patch of garden was worked by Thomas Eyres, which he rents from George Gifford. The vicar collects a small tithe.

* 405 ft long by 13 ft 2 ins wide the tunnel had its canal bed filled in to accommodate the trackway which left something less than a 7ft headroom.

31)

The house on the left, as the road bends away, is **White Baines**, which takes its name from the large field behind. It was two cottages in 1843. George Gifford leases the properties from WGL and the tenants are John Balm, a carpenter, and James West, the carpenter and his family whom we met before in 1841 in Mr. Treasure's house. Below **White Baines** on the high ground as the road bends away down the hill, were three more small cottages, (now no more) and gardens occupied by James Pearce, Thomas Allen and Thomas Smith. John Humphries the stonemason leases the cottages from WGL. It is possible that he employs these three men.

32)

The road here is known as **Bulls Hill** and to the south; now partly buried by the railway embankment, is a field, **Gay's Orchard**, two names which we noted before at the top of Bath Hill, names which are carried down to today. **Honeysuckle Cottage**, is built on the site of John Hales garden, for which he paid the vicar 1s 2d tithes. The railway viaduct spans the end of the valley where the canal followed a level contour in a large loop. Within the loop George Gifford and William Potheary have 'Orchards' and at the far end is **St Julian's Well Cottage**, described as, 'Two Houses and Gardens', in the occupation of James Biggs. Also living here later was Henry Biggs, the village policeman. The site of the St Julian's Well is not known today but one is marked here and named as such on the 1884 O.S. map.

Turning back to the village, on the left is:-

33)

Glebe Cottage on the left was formerly two cottages. The 1843 landowner was farmer Willis and they were occupied by George Hales, 40, his wife Hester and their two boys, Joseph and George jun., and Thomas Hales.

34)

Brook Lodge described as 'Cottages, Stable and Gardens', were all part of the Vicarage complex. With no occupants listed, they were possibly used by the parson for his employees and maybe for school use, as the Vicar contributed a shilling and a halfpenny to the Poor Rate on account of his 'School Rooms'.

35)

The Vicarage, divided into two houses in 1976, was a relatively new house in 1843; built on the site of a previous Regency vicarage, there was beyond the southern end of the garden, a plague pit waiting to be discovered by the railway workers when they arrived to construct the line away from the canal bed and tunnel. In the 14th, during the two or three years that the plague took its toll, Wellow had three vicars. John Hereward was replaced by Robert de Estcott in 1349 and he in succession by Will. atte Welle and Thomas Circestre during 1350. But here for the census live the Rev. Charles Paul, his wife Frances, their three daughters and a son; Frances, Mary, Emma and John. Also living on the vicarage premises are William and Mary Keating, who are possibly the vicar's relations, and four domestic staff, one male and three female, one of the latter, 30 years old Mary White, we shall meet later.

Charles Paul was soon to be elected Chairman of the Board of the Bath Union Workhouse and in a Testimonial presentation at the end of his 5 years term in that office was presented with "A chaste and most elegant silver library inkstand, of Elizabethan design, with a taper candlestick in the centre, of corresponding taste. In a scroll on one side of the stand, the family arms of the Rev.

gentleman are beautifully engraved". On the opposite side, there was an inscription, "To the Rev. Charles Paul MA. from the Guardians and Officers of the Bath Union.....March 26th 1851."

We may picture the vicar year in, year out, making a weekly journey into Bath possibly in a pony and trap driven by 20 years old William Cole the Vicar's employee.

In the long, long address that accompanied the presentation of the candlestick the Rev. Jerom Murch alluded to the Guardian's critics and drew attention to the fact that, "there were between seven and eight hundred in the Union Workhouse,..... while if we add to these, 2000 persons, the wives and children of the 1200 on the books, we make an aggregate of 4000 Paupers provided for daily by this Board".

The Rev. Murch then gives this fascinating snapshot of the daunting charitable task that the Wellow vicar had taken on... "Let him (*the critic*) go into the black ward where there are the depraved mothers and their illegitimate children. Let him go too, into the lunatic ward, and see the miserable and pitiful beings it contains. Let him go into the infant schools and the schools for older children, and see what pains are taken there.....Let him go into our field and see the field labour.....Let him go into the shoemakers and tailors shops.....Let him go through the sick wards and meet an indefatigable and untiring chaplain.....Let him go into the Stone Yard and see what the Guardians have to contend with there, what unruly spirits to keep in order....."

(At the close of the prosperous and more enlightened 20th Century we have much to be thankful for.)

36)

George Gifford, farmer and churchwarden whom we have met before, lives in **The Church Farm** house. The farmhouse dates from 1620 with some early C18th additions, and is said to be built on the site of an ecclesiastical guest house. When George lived here the route of the canal trackway came between the farmhouse and outbuildings, which must have proved a very inconvenient arrangement, especially if, in the early days there was water in the canal. George Gifford and Jacob Willis appear to be the only two persons in Wellow to have a licence for Game. (possibly a licence for shooting).

1843 September 21st .

George Gifford of Wellow applies to the Magistrates and obtains a Game Certificate, the cost is £4 0s 10d

37)

Follow the church farmhouse wall westwards and visualise that in 1843 the road was narrower and the verge on the north side much wider, possibly the modern pavement under the wall was then just grass. The farm house wall is old, the stepped school wall less so. Here the 1843 road widens and within the angle of the wall and road was the village pound. In front of the pound and open to a much wider road than today was a 'Carpenter's Shop, Shed and Timber Yard' leased to Richard Rossiter from WGL. Richard, we remember, is a carpenter; he is 62 and his wife Elizabeth slightly older. They lived on the opposite side of the road to the workshop where Church House now stands; the census shows they have a little boy staying with them, 3 years old James Rudman.

Also in the 1841 census, elsewhere in the village but not identified, is the following entry in the house of Robert Henton, his wife and children:-

Two males, - occupation, 'sawyers', - names, 'nk', - and ages 'above 20'.

Perhaps they were itinerant timbermen working at Richard Rossiter's carpenters shop, they are obviously strangers as their names were not known ('nk') to whoever answered the questions. The Census enumerator was Joseph Humphries who was also the village baker, we can assume he would have known all resident villagers. Joseph at various times was also an Overseer of the Poor, and on one occasion was in serious trouble for his inaccurate record of the accounts.

38)

In 1843 the school had not yet been built and across the whole of the school site was a rank of eight cottages with no front gardens, those on the curve turning down **Mill Hill** must have been raised high above the road as the playground is today. All belonged to WGL although some were leased to other landlords. WGL is soon to release three to make way for the building of the new school in 1854.

38 a) At the east end of the rank behind the Rossiter's carpenters shop is the first cottage, and from its position on the map, was almost certainly the one isolated by the building of the school and later photographed with its last occupant Job Bevan. The cottage was demolished in this century. See Pl. VII. 38 b) Next door lived Joseph Hall

38 c)

Here was the cottage of George Bush, senior or junior we do not know, both were bellringers. The George who lived here was obviously a keen gardener as, in addition to his own plot, he also rents the lower section of Joseph Halls garden and a small garden below on the opposite side of the canal tramway. He also contributes to the Poor, rated to the value of one shilling and twopence halfpenny.

38 d)

Then comes the cottage of Benjamin Brown and George Holmes and their families.

The cottages of Joseph Hall, George Bush, and 38d are the ones to be demolished for the first building phase of the National School in 1854.

38 e)

Here lived Richard Francis. His home, and the cottages that follow, survived that first phase of school building. By looking at the census return we can see why; it is the village school house.

The 1841 entry shows:-

Richard Francis	70 years of age*	Schoolmaster
Mary Francis	65 “	Schoolmistress
Patience Francis	25 “	
Patience Richardson	15 “	Female servant
Eliza Butler,	8 “	Scholar
Elizabeth Phippin ⁹	“	Scholar
Maryann Love	7 “	Scholar

Richard was over 70 because in the 1841 census, ages were rounded downwards to the nearest 5 years.

The three boarding scholars at the small schoolhouse do not appear to be village children; those are counted for census purposes in their own homes. Here then, lived the Master and Mistress of the National School which Harriet Barnard attended and where she and sister Mary worked their samplers. The schoolchildren visited the church for a service several times each week on the more important Saints Days and in addition had services in the school. An undated drawing exists of a new pulpit made for school use, which gives an indication of the early aspirations of the church education programme. A National School was one which was founded by the church charity, “*The National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church*”. Richard Francis the schoolmaster, assisted by Rebecca Francis of Bath, was still the nominal headteacher at the school when he was well past his 80th birthday. Without private means he would need to teach until unable to work any more. In 1843 he would no doubt be proud of his son

Thomas and would possibly tell of Thomas's recent marriage to another Rebecca. We shall meet Thomas Francis again later.

1842 December 27th

Thomas Francis a bachelor of 33 years, cordwainer of Wellow, son of Richard Francis schoolmaster, married Rebecca Gifford, spinster and servant from Twinney, daughter of William Gifford, Yeoman. Witnessed by George Bishop, Parish Clerk.

Thomas and his bachelor brother Jabez, continued as shoemakers at least until 1872. The whereabouts their workshop and home has not been identified.

The schoolmaster's successor is eventually to be the appropriately named Mr William Braines.

38 f & g)

William Hinton occupies the next two cottages which begin approximately where the small school gate is now.

38 h)

The last cottage in the far corner of the school playground would seem to be empty.

39)

Opposite the school on the other side of **Mill Hill**, which was then called Mill Close Lane, is **Forge Cottage**. To the rear was a yard and a large barn much as it appears today, the landowner of the whole is Jacob Willis, for which he pays 3s 10d to WGL. In living memory **Forge Cottage** was a bakehouse, it could well be that this was the 1843 bakery and that the baker and census enumerator, Joseph Humphries, baked bread for the village here, aided by his young assistant 17 year old Adam Densley.

40)

A little down Mill Close Lane on the left is the modern **Milford Head**. The stones of old buildings could be seen on the ground of this site in the mid 1970's. In 1843 William Cole leased and occupied the first of two cottages together with a garden, Richard Cole leased the second and it was occupied by Ann Body* and James Hobbs. The lessor for both being WGL again.

* Ann Body is recorded twice, as occupier, both of this cottage and of the one in the garden of Bath Hill House (7) possibly then, Ann lived in Bath Hill and James Hobbs here.

41)

On the opposite side of the road is a ramp up from road level and the remains of a cottage backed against the barn buildings above. The 1843 premises are described as 'Cottage and Outbuildings'. There is no rent charge and so the occupants are unrecorded. Later it became a smithy and remained as such until within living memory. Perhaps a smithy was established here to meet the needs of the horses on the canal tramway, or maybe this was a more convenient site than the one in front of Church House. (26)

42)

Above the railway bridge abutments is the **Sationmaster's House**, not yet built in 1843 of course, but it marks the place where the canal crossed the road. We must now extend our imagination, to visualize a stone arch and an aqueduct carrying the dry canal bed and tramway. It would have been much narrower than the present road, but surely the arch was large enough for a loaded wagon and horse to pass through easily.

In his "Rambles about Bath," later in the century, Tunstall describes a route (*down Mill Hill and via Girts Lane*) to the Long Barrow "take the village road which passes underneath what was once the tramway."

43)

Beyond the canal arch, on the right, are outhouses at the entrance to **The Maltings**. In 1843 these were two cottages, both on the No-Rent List, the blocked up windows are clearly visible from the roadside today. **The Maltings** once known as Albany Farm was described as, 'House, Garden and Stable'. Joseph Humphries, the baker whom we have met before, was the Occupier. His tombstone leans against the bank behind St Julian's vestry, the stone also contains details of many other members of the Humphries family and their relatives the Balms.

The 'Maltings' landowner is William Potheary, a brewer and maltster, who will shortly live here himself.

44)

Easter Howe and **Watersmeet** share the site of a later vicar's watercress beds, where previously, in 1843, Hester Pearce paid the Rev Charles Paul 1/- tithe for her cottage and garden. The landowner for the former is Robert Whitley, who in turn is the lessee of WGL. **Watersmeet** is built where Joseph Barnard occupied a barn and garden. Joseph, we may remember, has the slaughterhouse in the Square and he also rents the field 'White Baines', he pays a tithe to WGL for this.

45)

Vale View Cottages have a date stone 1876. They appear to be built exactly on the site where cottages are shown on the tithe map; those were described as, "Cottages, Outbuildings and Gardens", and they had 'No Rent Charge'. A date stone, ET 1733, is on the rear of the cottages.

46)

The modern **Watermeadows** house is built in 'Hicks Close' which George and Gracious Cole rented from WGL and pay the vicar 5/7d tithe. Where the stream flows out of Hicks Close the village later had its sheep dip. The site is ideal for this purpose and sheep may have been cleaned here over many generations. 'Hicks' is an old Wellow family name; a Thomas Hicks married Elizabeth Turner in 1766.

47)

Opposite the **Watermeadows** there is a terrace of six, (now converted to four) early C18th. cottages called **The Batch**, stretching westwards at right angles to the road. The first, **Tumbledown Cottage**, is described as 'void' in 1843, the next, **Nethercote**, (two cottages) was occupied by John Palmer, churchwarden and shoemaker, who we remember has his name on the tenor bell. By a happy coincidence one of St Julian's Churchwardens lives here today. The third was occupied by William Dagg and the next one by George Bishop, the parish clerk, who witnessed the marriage of Thomas Francis the schoolmaster's son. We do not know who lived in the two 1843 cottages at the far end as they have 'No Rent Charge'.

Please note the roadway is private.

48)

A pair of houses here called **The Hollies** carry a date stone,

GH
1869
JHL

they are later dwellings built on the site where there were two or three tithe cottages. One of those had 'No Rent' charge and the garden behind is divided up and part rented by William Cole. This William may be an older person than the one living in the vicarage at the time. The front garden and one cottage are occupied by Sophia Cole, Joseph and William Hales also rent part of the rear garden.

For the second half of the 19th. and well into this century, later members of the Hales and Hales - Lovell family lived here and ran a sheep hurdle business, making and supplying to the local farming industry and for many of the Wellow Sheep Fairs; held twice a year then traditionally annually on 17th October. As many as 2000 sheep were penned along the main street. In the 1970's Daisy Willcox recalled her childhood when Fairs filled the whole of the main road through the village from the church to the west end. The Archive doggerel quoted before says of the Fairs, :-

**On vair day we was up at darn
To watch them sheep arrivin'
The street wur full of 'urdles then
And arl we 'elped wi' drivin.**

We can be sure much hard drinking occurred on Fair Day, there are tales of men drinking so much they were incapable of returning to their homes at night, the over indulgence was also noted by the writer.

**The Jarge, New Inn and Old Canteen
Was were we got our zider
And often on the vair-day night
We wished them roads was wider.**

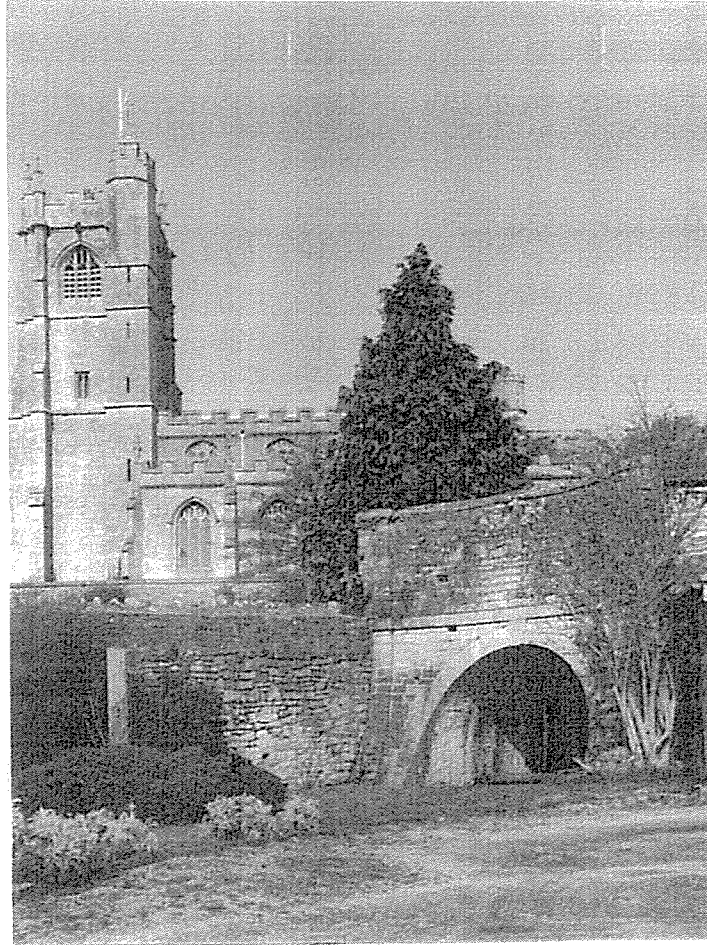
49)

The Wellow brook is crossed by a medieval packhorse bridge, which is aligned with **Little Hill**, and larger wheeled traffic would splash through the adjacent ford. The bridge, much repaired, is now a listed Grade II monument.

To the south over the bridge is the curiously named cottage of Gooseberry Buildings. In 1843 this was a terrace of three cottages and another rented garden. The occupiers are recorded as, Henry Blatchford, sometime Sexton and leader of St Julian's bellringers, his wife and four children; James Walters, his wife, two grown up daughters and seven younger children and Joseph Milsom's family, who are not mentioned in the census. Joseph and his wife Sarah have seven children who were baptised at St Julian's church between 1831 and 1846. Even if all three families were not here at the same time, the two families, Blatchford and Walters, who together account for six of the adults and eleven of the children living here, would have experienced overcrowded conditions difficult for us to comprehend today.

A little after 1843, in a Bath Directory, Henry Blatchford is described as a, 'Tea Dealer', although where the business was, or how large, is unknown. When provision for heating was later installed in the church, Henry was one of those who were paid to light the fires in winter.

James Slingo rented part of the Gooseberry Buildings garden. There were three Wellow masons called Slingo, James, aged 60, Solomon, 35 and John aged 30, between them they did a great deal work on the church and its walls. Outside the south door of the church are two tombstones to the elder Slingo's, James and his wife Mary; the headstone records the dates of their deaths and a smaller stone, possibly made locally, has the epitaph:-



30 b) The southern entrance to the canal tunnel. A view the canal trackway men would have had before plunging into the gloom of the tunnel.
The portal is in a private garden. Wellow Archives.



38a) Job Bevan at the door of his cottage, which was in the corner of the land that later became the school playing field. Wellow Archives.



OLD STONE BRIDGE AT WELLOW.

49) A mid 19th century sketch of the Medieval Packhorse bridge.

Bath Reference Library.



50) The weir below the mill leat. The leat and brook enclosed the 'Island'.
From a postcard of the early part of this century. Wellow Archives.



Stoney Littleton Tumulus. Western side.



Stoney Littleton Tumulus. South aspect.

73) Two sketches of Stoney Littleton Long Barrow. The representation of the hills are a little fanciful as is the view of Wellow village in the distance. If the trees were on the Barrow in the early 19th century then this is also Zebedee Weston's view of the Tumulus.

Somerset Archaeological Society 1858

M S 1838
Farewell vain world thee I shall leave
Nothing of thee do I crave
Nothing brought nor shall I carry
To the cold silent grave
J S 1849

The son John, a few years earlier, married a butcher's daughter.

1839 25th August

John Slingo, bachelor and mason, married Mary White spinster and servant, The groom's father was James Slingo, mason, and the bride's father, William White, butcher. Both bride and groom reside in Wellow and are of full age. Witnesses were Solomon Slingo and Elizabeth S.

Solomon Slingo was not to remain single for long, marrying another Mary White, one of the Vicar's domestic staff; the coincidence of the brides' names would not have escaped the notice of the village.

1842 14th May

Solomon Slingo, bachelor and mason, son of James Slingo, married Mary Ann White, Widow and servant, of Wellow Vicarage. The bride's father was William Sparing, carpenter.

50)

The Water Mill is reputed to have Saxon origins, WGL is the 1843 landowner and the 'Mill House, Gardens, Mill Yard, Mill Orchard and Island', are leased to Walter Holly. He would have employed a miller, probably one Robert Howells. The mill leat was filled in during 1964, the weir was then no more and the island became part of the domestic garden. The tithe map clearly shows the island at that time. The last millstones to be used for milling Wellow flour are now decorating the gateway.

51)

From the packhorse bridge northward is the footpath, known as Little Hill. The present day property **Mill Farm House** is the Mill House referred to above and it too has been enlarged over the years. It carries a date stone, probably from an earlier building.

S
N M
1715

52)

A little further up the hill where the public footpath joins from the west and the access to **The Batch** cottages meet **Little Hill**, were dwellings which have long since disappeared. To the left, behind the Water Mill outbuildings, is where James Bodily rented a cottage from Thomas Cole, possibly James worked at Thomas's nursery. Closer to the footpath Martha Harding has a 'Cottage and Garden'. It is not known when they were demolished but only the latter existed at the time of the 1884 Ordnance Survey.

53)

At the top of the path '**Vera House**' has, in 1843, yet to be built. James Gale has a garden here by the side of the dry canal. He pays WGL a small tithe for this.

54)

Crossing the dry canal bed, we must ignore the signal box and all existing evidence of the railway line. Neither the **Steam Mill** nor the red brick **Fullers Earth Works** existed in 1843. Instead Ann

Joyce gardens on Walter Holly's land for which she pays WGL 1s 6d tithe, and on the Fullers Earth factory side William Potheary has a, 'Dwellinghouse, Malthouse, Cottage and Court'. The malthouse has gone, the dwellinghouse is possibly the C18th. house, **Honeybatch**. There is still a 'cottage' adjoining.

55)

The 18th century **Steam Mill Cottage**, which is on the No - Rent charge list, and the early C18th **Fern Cottage** are shown on the tithe map, but no occupants are given.

56)

James Gale and his wife live in a cottage hereabouts and it could well have included part of the present day **Moss Cottage**. James, we remember, has his garden on the canalside. He also rents various other plots, six acres in all at **Underdown** and a thin curved field called 'Hook Lands Orchard' off Twinhoe Lane. Mrs. Jane Gale is also responsible for charges on Zebedee Westons cottage and 3 acres of rented land. Altogether, husband and wife pay WGL £2 2s 3d. tithe, a fair sum for the day.

57)

The New Inn, now whimsically renamed the **Fox and Badger**, has been much altered over the years as the blocked up windows and doorways show. William Potheary was the 'landowner', the publican who is not named was most certainly William Phillips. Behind the Inn is a building that appears to be a brew house because of the louvred upper storey, shown clearly on later illustrations. Given the proximity of the malthouse and William Potheary being listed as maltster and brewer, because the apple crop was seasonal and the cider crop not always reliable, the New Inn would have most certainly have brewed its own beer. Both the sketch of, 'Ye Village Street' c.1875 and the photograph of the same area taken about 1910 show a building projecting slightly into the road with the typical upper storey louvres of a brewhouse at the north east corner of the New Inn. The louvres existed until the second world war. The walker should take refreshment in the Fox and Badger; he, or she, will then have the opportunity to inspect the 'brewhouse', as it is now the Inn's toilets.

58)

Foscote, on the left, is a rebuilding of the 'tithe' cottage (possibly two) which carries a date stone:-

AJR
1853

The previous cottage was occupied in 1843 by Betty Wallington and next door lived Mary Dascombe. Betty Wallington lived to the ripe old age of 96, dying in 1849. Even she at this time was rated at threepence halfpenny for the Poor Rate. Their landlord, Thomas Holly, pays the small tithe to WGL.

59)

No. 4 The Square pays no tithe. *Note the odd numbering of the cottages here.*

60)

No. 5 and Cobblers Cottage are shown on the map, with possibly the projecting gable end that exists today. One of these was occupied by Charles Withers, his wife Mary and six children, the 'landowner' and possible employer is Joseph Humphries the baker.

61)

The 1843 occupants of **Hope Cottage** are not known, this part of the roadside terrace and the cottage built to the rear having no tithe charge.

62)

Wellow Farm was another farm property, a 'House and Garden', 'occupied' in 1843, together with the, 'Barns and Barton', by Gracious and George Cole. The barn and barton is now converted to the house **Knights Barn**. The person who lived in the house may have been an employee of the Coles family. In 1854 the address of Gracious Cole, his wife Susan, seven children and two female servants is given as 'Wellow Farm. Note the old lamp bracket still in place on the barn.

63)

Farmer Joseph Willis has an 'Orchard' here, for which he pays WGL 6s 10d tithe, it is now built over with the modern houses known as **Knightsfield**, again the apple trees would have made a very pleasing sight in blossom time. This Joseph appears to be a younger Joseph than the one whose gravestone we saw in the churchyard. Joseph also occupies a 'House and Barton' now **Wellow Farm House** and **The Granary**. The Granary is a later building on the site of the earlier 1843 building that stood a little further into the road. It was possibly rebuilt (on the arrival of the railway) by farmer and churchwarden Edmund Peter Hooper, who proudly has his initials on the front. He is only two years old in 1843.

EPH

1876

Three Hooper brothers, Decimus, Thomas and Peter Bennet Hooper, farmed from **Norton Lane** and **Baggeridge** over an area of some 250 acres of tithed land which included the area between the Baggeridge and Hassage lanes. Here there is a field named 'French Ground'. The name may have more to do with being 'over the water' than with any French connection.

We have previously met another Hooper, James, at **Weavers Farm**. There were many of them, an earlier Wellow Hooper, William, who died in 1811, requested to be buried at Wooley church, and according to the Church Rambler, paid a fine for 'luxury', his coffin (sic) being covered with velvet. A fine of fifty shillings was paid to the churchwardens, which was given to the poor.

64)

Continue westwards along the main road past **Station Road**. On the left is **Holly Tree House**, in 1843, a, 'Cottage Garden and Stable', occupied by James Coombs, and a 'Cottage and Garden' occupied by William Bodily.* The latter cottage was possibly a section of the existing building separated from the main house, sideways onto the road. Both properties were rented from William and Charles Cottle, and nets the Rev. Charles Paul five shillings and ten pence tithe in total. **Greenacres** is now built on the 1843 garden.

* The surname(s) Body, Boddy, Bodily and Boddily appear to be freely interchanged for possibly the same family in various records.

65)

Next comes Ann Pothecary's Orchard of nearly two acres. Ann, who occupies **Box Bush** on the corner of Canteen Lane, has the orchard that extends from the roadside wall, still in place at

Wendale, to the canal. It would have added to the charm of Wellow in bloom, at apple blossom time.

66)

Why Not Cottage had no rent charge, and in 1843 the now modernised single house of **Holmlea** appears to have been two cottages, one occupied by James Harrow, his wife and three daughters, the other has no rent charge.

67) The Wesleyan Chapel dated 1808, 35 years old when the map was made, was in the 'care' of Lay Preacher Bro. Francis. He was made a Trustee for the chapel at Christmas 1840. At a Circuit meeting in December 1836, 'Brother Francis at Wellow', was one of the, 'young men proposed', as preacher. The six month probationary period was completed in 1837, when it was noted, 'The Brethren, Francis, Vowles, Ullworth and others, 'have preached their trial sermons and been examined, ...with respect to the Scriptures, and their views on doctrine',.. ...Their names were, 'received unanimously', for placement on the Circuit Plan.

The 1843 Wellow record shows that at the end of the first quarter there were 21 members worshipping, 1 'backslider' and 1 member who had 'removed to other classes'. Bro. Francis also has responsibility for 9 members at Twinney.

The Wesleyan Methodist Circuit Plans for the period carry a standard footnote relating to the days on which there are to be special collections, and there are to be no excuses:-

" The Stewards at every place will have the collections published on the preceding Sunday and the Preachers will not fail to make them on the days they are marked in the Plan."

These collections, extra to the normal ones, would have been for chapel fabric funds.

For a previous quarter Twinney contributed 14 shillings with 13 members and 1 'backslider' compared with Wellow's 4s 6d from 19 members. On the other hand Wellow members also contributed to their own Chapel and to the public collections for Kingswood School, (before its move from Bristol to Bath.) which Twinney did not appear to do. Bro. Francis, about this time, was a subscriber to the Methodist 'Sixpenny Magazine'. He also had the choice of a 'shilling version'.

It would appear that Bro. Francis was Thomas, the son of Wellow's aged schoolmaster, Richard Francis. In a later census, Thomas Francis is described as a, 'Shoemaker and Wesleyan Preacher'. Thomas's father would have owed his respects to the established church, which was also his employer. The establishment at this time barely tolerated Nonconformist views and the denominational differences between father and son had the potential to strain the family relationship.

A handwritten undated note of the period has survived in the Circuit minutes.

"Sir,

Have the goodwill to plan me at Falkland (sic) the first Sunday in June + as a particular favour grant a Lovefeast to be on that Sabbath, it is the request of Bro. Francis that you will not give him any work on that day.*

Yours sincerely, F W Hunt."

Mr. Hunt preached many times at Wellow, his texts for 17th January 1835, at 2pm. and 5pm, are Isaiah 51, "Hearken to me, ye that follow righteousness", and Matthew 18.

*A Lovefeast, or Agape, would have been an occasion for Christian fellowship and sometimes used by Methodists for testimonies of personal faith.

68)

Turning into **Canteen Lane** both **Box Bush Cottage** and **The Cottage** are all part of Ann Potheary's property.

69)

The **Canteen** at the end of the lane was once a beerhouse and was sold as such in 1889, we remember it had a footpath from the canal and it probably carries its hostelry name from the days when the canal tramway was in operation, but in 1843 it is listed as a 'Cottage and Detached Garden'. On the same site is **Canteen Cottage** listed as, 'Cottage, Stable, Outbuildings and Garden', which extended to the canal embankment. The whole property is occupied by two men called William Jeakway, father and son, the landowner is Joseph Willis, and WGL collects the tithe. Both Williams were born in Ireland, the father was an Army P(ensioner). He is another of Wellow's retired soldiers old enough to have fought against Bonaparte or, because of his origins, he may have seen service in Ireland. The younger William was born during the Napoleonic wars and, not following his father's calling, was described as a tailor. Later, he worked at the Cole Nursery.

70)

Tower View (*Turners Tower, Faulkland*) is of a later date than the tithe map, while the adjacent **Bachelors Orchard** house continues the 1843 field name to the present day.

71)

Willow Farmhouse, adjacent to the village shop, as we can see, has been built at two different periods, the right hand side is possibly the earlier and both appear to have existed in 1843. The tithe list gives the farmer as Micah Gibbs, but his widowed mother, Martha, is head of the house and she would possibly be responsible for the tithes. The extent of the farm premises includes the buildings now **Willow Barn**. Micah Gibbs, who is 25 years of age, is described as a Yeoman, son of Micah Gibbs deceased, the younger Micah married Ann Hawkins at St Julian's on 19th December 1839.

Some of the Gibbs field names are charming,

'*Honeybatch*'. The name now used for Mr. Potheary's 1843 house, the field is the land beyond the shop extending almost to the Stoney Littleton turning.

'*Townsend*' or '*Town's End*' is where one would expect it to be, then as now, marking this end of the village, it appears not to be named after a person.

'*Hill Trough*' is south west of the modern bungalows bordering the canal and gives its name to one of those bungalows.

'*Cuckoo Leaze*' is a field off Norton Lane.

'*Marl Ground**' which straddles the canal bed beyond 'Honeybatch' field. The name suggests, at sometime, that marl was extracted for fertiliser. (By 1941 the name Marl Ground had been corrupted to Marvell Ground.)

*Billingsley says:- "an inexhaustible supply of black marl is to be found in the parishes of Midsomer Norton, Kilmersdon, Radstock, Timsbury and many others at a depth of about seven or eight fathoms. It can be raised to the surface in the summer from pits four to six feet diameter. Forty loads for dressing a statute acre at one shilling per load plus the cost of carting gives for the whole, £ 2-18s. per acre, for which a manure is obtained that secures a luxuriant undiminished vegetation, not requiring any further assistance for fifteen or twenty years." Its use in improving poor ground was known in very ancient times.

72)

On the Stoney Littleton corner, in the front garden of **Mount Pleasant**, John Cottle has a cottage and small garden; this includes land on the other side of the lane. He pays the vicar's tithes of 1/4d. for the cottage and 1/3d. for the triangular garden opposite.

73)

Around the corner is **Old England**, a modern bungalow; the 'Old England' field in the title of the Rev. Fussell's history is further to the west.

Wellow has two very ancient monument remains; the Long Barrow and the Roman pavement, both are at this end of the parish. A visit to the Long Barrow from here is a round journey of less than two miles and for those who do not wish to walk, there is a good view from the cemetery road looking south. The lithograph of 1858, Pl. X, shows the tumulus much as Zebedee Weston would have known it when he helped with the excavation, possibly with trees on the top. Sadly it is now in disrepair and closed to visitors, it is in the 'care' of English Heritage. This ancient structure may be seeing its fourth or fifth millennium and perhaps we should take greater care of it. To the north of the cemetery road, in private farmland, is the Roman Villa site, nothing is to be seen on the ground except four stone marker posts protecting the area from the plough.

74)

On the north side of the road is 'Popes' field and the bridleway, Popes Lane. **Greenhayes** is a late C17th. listed house with a later Georgian front. For a short period in the early C19th the property was a beer house, the 'Royal Oak' and was at sometime called 'Popes'. Gracious Cole bought the property in 1830, the previous owner or occupier, being Sampson Morris. Sampson was a baker (probably not in Wellow) and became insolvent, paying the price for his mistakes by a spell in Ilchester Gaol. The 1843 map shows the house together with the roadside stable-coach house and having the description of a 'Dwellinghouse, Cottage, Garden, Stable and Orchard' and in the single occupation of Sampson's widow Mrs. Hannah Morris, for which the vicar nets 7s 4d tithe. Hannah was born in South Kirby, Yorkshire.

75)

Returning to the village, the land area of the century old **Hayes Lodge** and the adjacent modern house was the home paddock of **Court Farm** and part of the greater field 'Oxleaze'.

76)

Court Farm dates from the C17th, with many subsequent additions. The boundary walls around the gardens are shown on the map together with the barns behind. The barns are now much altered and developed as the houses of **Somerfield** and **Oxleaze**, the latter takes its name from the surrounding field. **Court Farmhouse**, for a number of years, was known as West End Farm and since the 1960's has returned to its earlier name. It is another of the properties, 'occupied', in 1843 by those members of the Cole family, George and Gracious, although who worked the farm is not definitely known. The vicar takes 5s 0d. tithe.

77)

The space between **Court Farm** and **West End Cottages** was a large Orchard, more than two acres in all, for which the vicar has 19s 3d. tithe. The relative tithe values for the buildings of Court Farm and this orchard is interesting, possibly reflecting the value of the crop from the orchard.

78)

The robust **West End Cottages**, once cottages of West End Farm, are good examples of turn of the century improvements, they are dated 1911. The cottages on this site in 1843 were in the occupation of James Lintern, his wife Hannah; William Manning, his wife Elizabeth and an unnamed tenant. The landowner was WGL but the vicar collected the 4s 0d. tithe.

Seventy years later the cottages, in the ownership of a later 'Lord of the Manor', had deteriorated to such a state that they were demolished. The following report gives us a glimpse into the

Bath Rural District Council 23rd. December 1909.

Cottages at Wellow

The Council considered a report by the Medical Officer of Health dated 1st. December 1909 on unsanitary cottages at Wellow. He reported that he had inspected three cottages attached to the farm of Mr. Mortimer, West End Farm, and owned by Mr. Collins of Bath. One was in the occupation of Joseph Mitchard. The cottages were situated on rising ground opposite the Post Office. The cottages had a thatched roof, the back part of which was in a very bad state allowing water to enter. They were infested with rats, and as the partitions between them were only of board, a free run for these animals was established. There was no drainage of any kind, except in the outhouse of No1 where the slops of the three cottages were supposed to be emptied. Sewage disposal was by means of a bucket made use of by 17 people of various ages. The living rooms were low pitched and not ceiled. The bedrooms, of which there were two in No 1 and one in each of the other two cottages, had sloping roofs. In the middle cottage occupied by Mead with one sleeping room there was great overcrowding, five boys sleeping on the living room floor, the man, wife and baby occupying the only sleeping room. The back wall was very damp.

The Council had written to Mr. Collins asking him to undertake repairs, but stating at the same time that the cottages were unfit. Councilor Mortimer said there was a political motive behind this, he knew of worse houses. It was decided to give Mr. Collins notice either to repair or to close the cottages.

Cllr. Mortimer said he knew of worse houses! Mr. John James Scudamore Collins chose to build anew.

At the end of the walk

The Rev. L W Fussell said of the 1945 village, "Nightingales abound in their season and children find primrose and blue-bell and later, hazel nuts." We may have difficulty in recognising that poetic view of Wellow in 1999, but perhaps those who live here, and visitors alike, can find an expression of their affection for the village in a quote by W. G. Hoskins from Horace:-

Ille terrarum mihi praeter omnes Angulus ridet.

It is a corner of the world above all, which has a smile for me.

Sources and further reading

The 1843 Map and Apportionment.

Wellow Parish registers and Census returns.

Records deposited in Somerset RO. Taunton, Wiltshire RO. Trowbridge and Bath RO.

Via Old England. Rev. L Fussell.

The Story of Wellow. Violet Cosh.

General View of the Agriculture of the County of Somerset. Billingsley. 1798.

Journal of a Somerset Rector. J Skinner.

Erratum.

p28 line 6, add.

condition of the C19th rural poor.

Appendix A

The Union Workhouse

In the decade that became known as the, hungry forties', the care of the poor featured prominently in the everyday life of Wellow; as well as those who received relief in the village there were inmates, including the aged, the infirm, the able bodied, children and the casual poor.

The Poor Law Acts of 1834 transferred responsibility from the Parish Overseer to a centralised Workhouse. Locally, Parishes of Bath and those of the neighbouring villages shared the cost of the large workhouse at Odd Down, now St Martins Hospital. Conditions, uncharitably harsh by any standards, were imposed on those entering a Workhouse, husband and wife were separated. The able bodied men and women were given fixed hours of manual labour, which included stone breaking; refusing work could result in an appearance before the Magistrates. For the able bodied poor person, the workhouse life was purposely made to be a much less attractive option than existing on the most meagre income outside.

On the plus side, life in the Workhouse was safe, clean, dry and relatively warm with a guaranteed, but meagre and monotonous, diet. Workhouse clothes were supplied and those who absconded 'in his clothes' were punished, usually by being sentenced to two weeks hard labour stone breaking. By weekly attendance at meetings the Rev. Charles Paul maintained a link between the Wellow inmates and their local community, which was also of benefit. A Medical Officer under the control of the Guardians made regular visits to the poor in the parishes. Later in the century our own Medical Officer resided in Bath Hill House.

Over the years, Wellow's Guardians had a good record of attendance at the weekly meetings in Bath, which is to everyone's credit, considering the travelling to and from Bath and the time the meeting would have taken. We would like to think the village folk fared better than the city poor where there were more paupers per parish (Walcot alone had over 400 inmates) and the Guardian was a more remote figure.

We can get a flavour of the times by looking at a few extracts from the minutes of meetings attended by the Wellow Guardian.

1839 9th. October.

At the Guardians meeting today Mr Sutcliffe gave notice that he will move:- The tea served twice a day to the aged, paupers and the sick, be made according to the following scale. For every fourteen persons, one ounce of dry tea, seven ounces of sugar, one pint of milk and fourteen pints of water. Proposal accepted.

1841 10th. November.

Mr. Potheary is at the meeting when it is carried 'that in place of tea, 1 pint of milk and water be given to females over 60 and the infirm, in the proportion of one third milk and two thirds water.'

Also that no female be set to stone breaking except as a punishment.

1842 23rd. March.

Wellow's share for paupers receiving parish relief is twenty-nine pounds four shillings and sixpence three farthings for the Lady Day quarter. The 'In account' charged Wellow £14 1s 0d. for 710 accumulative days, (a rate of fourpence three farthings per day per inmate.)

1843 22nd. February.

The Rev Paul proposes the extension of the vaccination system for the Poor, and in the following July he raises the question why the Medical Officer of the district had not visited the Wellow Paupers the preceding week. The following week the Medical Officer, Mr. Hitchens, is before the Board to explain his reasons.

(His explanation, not recorded, is accepted.)

1844 3rd. January.

The Rev Paul as chairman of the School Committee, having called attention to the prevalent spirit of insubordination among the boys... "such insubordination does exist to a very great extent by the want of Temper and Judgment exhibited by the Master, Mr. Nichols, in the degree and kind of his punishment of the boys"Mr. Nichols is dismissed.

1844 24th. January.

'The Commissioners are of the opinion that one schoolmaster cannot properly educate and manage 120 boys Recommended: - an additional master, rather than increased powers which may result in abuse in a Pauper school.'

BATH UNION.

THE Offices of SURGEON and VACCINATOR to the 7th Medical District, comprising the Parishes of WELLOW and CHARTERHOUSE HINTON, being vacant from and after the 25th day of March next, Gentlemen duly qualified according to the Provisions of the Poor Law Commissioners' Order, of the 12th of March, 1842, desirous of receiving the Appointment, are requested to send their applications, free of expense, to my Office, on or before WEDNESDAY, the 8th of MARCH next, on which day, at Half-past Eleven o'Clock, the Board of Guardians will proceed to the Election, when the personal attendance of Candidates will be required.

Salary £20 per Annum for the Medical Duties, and 1s. 6d. for every successful case of Vaccination.

By Order of the Board,
C. BROWN, Clerk.

*Poor Law Union Office, Bath,
February 22d, 1843.*

BATH UNION.

THE BOARD of GUARDIANS of this UNION are desirous of receiving applications from SINGLE MEN willing to offer themselves as Candidates for the Situation of MESSENGER at the Union Workhouse.

Salary £15 per annum, with Board and Lodging.

Applications, (in the hand-writing of the Applicants,) with testimonials of character, which must be unexceptionable, to be sent to the Clerk on or before TUESDAY, the 28th instant; and the Candidates are to be in attendance upon the Board on WEDNESDAY, the 29th, at Half-past Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, at which time the Board will proceed to the Election.

By order of the Board,
C. BROWN, Clerk.

*Poor Law Union Office, Abbey-street;
15th Nov., 1843.*

BATH UNION.

THE Board of Guardians of this Union are desirous of receiving applications from Persons willing to offer themselves as Candidates for the situation of MASTER SHOE-MAKER at the Union Workhouse. Salary £1 1s 0d per Week. Information as to the duties required may be known upon application to the Master of the Workhouse. Applications, with testimonials of character and ability, which must be unexceptionable, to be sent to the CLERK on or before TUESDAY, the 5th of DECEMBER; and the Candidates to be in attendance upon the Board, on WEDNESDAY, the 6th, at Half-past Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, at which time the Board will proceed to the Election.

By Order. C. BROWN, Clerk.

*Poor Law Union Office, Abbey-street,
22d Nov., 1843.*

The Bath Union Workhouse was a small business that employed many people. Candidates for employment at this time, were interviewed at Board meetings attended by Wellow's vicar, the Rev. Charles Paul and the Guardians Mr. Potheary and Mr. Parker.

Bath Record Office.

POOR LAW UNION CONTRACTS.

THE QUARTER ENDING IN DECEMBER, 1841.

Aldridge.—Flour, 2nd quality, per sack, 280 lbs., 45s.; bread, 2nd quality, 4 lbs., 5d.; beef, per lb., 3½d.; suet, ditto, 5d.; mutton, ditto, 4½d.; cheese, do., 2½d.; oatmeal, per cwt., 19s.; salt, do., 2s.; tea, per lb., 3s. 6d.; sugar, do., 7d.; rice, do., 2d.

Bath.—Flour, 2nd quality, per sack, 280 lbs., 36s.; bread, 2nd quality, 4 lbs., 5½d.; beef, per lb., 4d.; suet, do., 5½d.; mutton, do., 4½d.; bacon, do., 4½d.; cheese, do., 3d.; oatmeal, per cwt., 18s.; salt, ditto, 2s. 6d.; tea, per lb., 3s. 6d.; sugar, ditto, 6½d.; rice, per cwt., 17s.

Chard.—Flour, 2nd quality, 4 lbs. weight, 1s. 10d.; bread, 2nd quality, 4 lbs., 4½d.; beef, per lb., 4½d.; suet, ditto, 4½d.; mutton, do., 4½d.; bacon, do., 4½d.; cheese, do., 2½d.; salt, per cwt., 2s.; tea, per lb., 3s. 4d.; sugar, do., 7d.; rice, do., 3d.

Clutton.—Bread, best quality, 4 lbs. loaf, 4½d.; beef, per cwt., 40s.; suet, ditto, 40s.; mutton, do., 40s.; bacon, per lb., 4½d.; cheese, per cwt., 25s. 8d.; oatmeal, do., 10s. 4d.; salt, do., 2s. 3d.; tea, per lb., 4s.; sugar, do., 7d.; rice, per cwt., 16s. 4d.

Frome.—Flour, 2nd quality, per sack, 280 lbs., 32s. 4d.; bread, 2nd quality, 4 lbs., 4½d.; beef, per lb., 4d.; mutton, ditto, 4d.; bacon, ditto, 4½d.; cheese, per cwt., 32s.; oatmeal, ditto, 19s.; salt, ditto, 2s. 8d.; tea, per lb., 3s. 4d.; sugar, ditto, 6½d.

Shepton Mallet.—Best flour, per sack, 280 lbs., 42s.; bread, best quality, 4 lbs. 5d. to 5½d.; beef, per lb., 4d.; suet, do., 4d.; mutton, do., 4½d.; bacon, do., 5d.; oatmeal, per cwt., 20s.; salt, ditto, 3s.; tea, per lb., 4s.; sugar, ditto, 7d.

Taunton.—Flour, 2nd quality, per sack, 280 lbs., 39s.; bread, 2nd quality, 4 lbs., 5d.; beef, per cwt., 35s.; suet, ditto, 35s.; mutton, ditto, 35s.; cheese, ditto, 26s.; oatmeal, do., 18s.; salt, ditto, 2s.; tea, per lb., 3s. 8d.; sugar, per cwt., 38s.; rice, 15s.

Wells.—Flour, 2nd quality, per score lbs., 3s.; best bread, 4 lbs., 5d. to 5½d.; beef, per lb., 3d.; suet, do., 3d.; mutton, do., 3d.; bacon, do., 4½d.; cheese, per cwt., 23s.; oatmeal, per peck, 2s.; salt, per cwt., 2s. 4d.; tea, per lb., 3s. 8d.; sugar, do., 7d.

Wincanton.—Best flour, per sack, 280 lbs., 40s.; bread, 2nd quality, 4 lbs., 5d. to 5½d.; beef, per lb., 4½d.; suet, do., 4½d.; mutton, ditto, 4½d.; bacon, ditto, 4½d.; oatmeal, per cwt., 21s.; salt, ditto, 2s. 4d.; tea, per lb., 4s.; sugar, ditto, 7d.; rice, per cwt., 31s.

BATH UNION.

To Butchers, Bacon-Factors, Grocers, Drapers, Leather-Sellers, Coffin-Makers, Coal-Merchants, and Others.

PERSONS desirous of Contracting with the Board of Guardians for Three or Six Months, for the Supply of PROVISIONS, STORES, COFFINS, &c., required at the Union Workhouse and by the Relieving Officers, are requested to send to my Office, ABBEY STREET, free of expense, Sealed Tenders, endorsed, "Provision Tender," "Clothing Tender," "Coffin Tender," as the case may be, on or before 10 o'Clock on SATURDAY, the 17th day of SEPTEMBER instant; and to be in attendance at the Board Room, ABBEY STREET, on the same day, at 11 o'Clock in the Forenoon precisely.—Samples of the Clothing may be seen upon application to the Governor at the Workhouse.

The whole of the Articles must be of good quality, delivered free of expense to the Union, and subject to the approval of the Board of Guardians, or other competent person or persons authorized by them.

Information as to the Articles required, and the probable consumption of the same, may be obtained upon application to the Governor, or at my Office.

No Tender will be received but in the Form provided by the Board of Guardians; which may be had upon application at the Union Office, and must be signed by two responsible persons undertaking to become bound for the due performance of the Contract.—The Board do not pledge themselves to accept of the lowest Tender.

By order of the Board,

C. BROWN, Clerk.

Poor-Law-Union Office, Abbey Street; Sept. 6, 1842.

⚠ All Persons having Claims on the Union, are requested to send the particulars thereof to the Clerk (if by letter, post-paid), Ten Days, at least, before the expiration of the Current Quarter, as, by direction of the Poor-Law Commissioners, all demands upon the Union must be discharged during the Quarter in which they were incurred.

[2800]

These two press cuttings give an indication of the purchases made by the Workhouse and the prices paid by the Unions of the region. At the time agricultural workers earned about 10 shillings for a six day week.

Appendix B

17th December 1845

A Celebration Service at Wellow Church.

This interesting ecclesiastical edifice was re-opened for Divine service on Tuesday morning after being closed for some weeks for the purpose of being renovated. The church possesses many attractions for the antiquary: it is a structure of the 14th century, containing several interesting antique monuments, and exhibiting a very complete specimen of the parochial church of the middle ages. For some years past the encroachments of time on the venerable fabric have been very apparent, and it has long been the wish of the respected incumbent, the Rev. Charles Paul, to restore it to something resembling its pristine beauty. This object, after some delay in obtaining the necessary funds, has at last been effected in a great degree.

The whole of the walls, pillars and arches have been cleaned; the mullions traceries &c. of all the windows repaired. A window at the west end of the north aisle has been opened, and this with a corresponding window at the end of the south aisle, glazed with Powell's patent glass in quarries of a greenish hue, with coloured pattern in the centre. The old doorway on the north side, which was walled up, has been reopened. The west tower window, which was formerly obscured by an unsightly screen and canopy, for the protection of the occupants of the gallery from the wind, is now a most striking and pleasing object. It is of a perpendicular character, divided into three lights, intersected midway by a mullion. In the centre of the upper division, set in quarries of the above mentioned composition, encircled by a rich blue border, with a ruby line on the inner side, appear the Arms of England, on painted glass, flanked by the armorial bearings of Col. Langton and Col. Joliffe and a similar set in each of the side compartments. Underneath are the arms of the See, flanked, as above, by those of the vicar and the patron; while the escutcheons of W Long esq., M.P. and W S Wait esq., occupy the principal divisions of the traceries above. This window is the gift of the vicar.

An appropriate tower screen, tastily carved and grained in oak, supports a low gallery front to correspond, so placed as to set off to great advantage a noble and lofty pointed arch, and beautifully groined roof, in which all the injuries caused by the former transmission of the bell ropes have been repaired, and the recurrences of them prevented by the provision of a ringing loft above. The whole of the pavement, flooring and skirting throughout the church has been renovated. All the fine old oak sittings have been carefully refixed; and every defect in any of the unique and much admired poppy-head finials restored. The square pews in the body of the church and their places, supplied by sittings to correspond with the old ones; concessions having, for the sake of unity and peace, been made to prejudices, by enclosing the appropriated seats with low doors, of such a character as not to interfere with the propriety of the general arrangement.

A handsomely carved lectern panelled with crimson cloth, stands on the north side of the nave, in front of an elaborate old chancel screen, the restoration of which is contemplated at a more favourable season. The completion of all the painting and varnishing throughout the building is necessarily deferred.

The repairs and restorations extend to all the foundations, cornices and battlements on the exterior; and an open drain on the north side, will now prevent an recurrence of the mischief from damp, by which the church was before much injured. All the lead on the roof has been repaired.

The chancel has been rebuilt by the lay impropiators, after a design by Mr. Ferrey, of whose well-known talent this building is a happy effort. The roof is tre-foiled pointed, of equilateral pitch. A beautiful new decorated window, with three lights, a circular head and three trefoils, has been placed at the east end, glazed with plain cathedral glass. The north and south windows have been judiciously retained, with every other available characteristic of the date of the original building, which was precisely marked by the discovery at the base of a remarkable old piscina (which has been preserved), of some coins of the reign of Edward II; thus confirming the assertion of Collinson, in his "History of Somerset", who says that the edifice was built at the expense of Sir Walter Hungerford, about AD 1372, in the reign of Edward III.

A recess has been made on the north side of the chancel wall for the reception of the beautiful monumental effigy that was discovered in the progress of repairs in the church.

The whole cost of the renovations, for which the vicar is responsible, independent of the chancel, is £500, exclusive of £100 granted by the parishioners for *essential repairs*. The amount of available funds before the re-opening was £370.

It must not be omitted that the whole of the work reflects the greatest credit on Messrs. Watson of Bath, and Gay of Dunkerton, contractors, and also on Mr. Parker, painter.

The weather on the morning of the re-opening though showery, proved on the whole propitious. Merry peals were rung during the forenoon; and at half past 11 o'clock, the church was well filled by a congregation, comprising many wealthy and respectable parishioners, beside others of a humbler grade, and strangers attracted from a distance. At the appointed hour a procession of clergymen, many of them attired in the canonical habit, entered the church; among whom we observed the following gentlemen:- Revds. C O Mayne, Rural Dean; S H Widdrington, H Blayds, C Baker, R Brook, W Dusautoy, R Palairet, - Parsons, G W Newnham, J Bond, J M Dixon, - Goddard, - Hill, - Franklin, Phelps, H J Williams, W Jarret &c &c.

Prayers having been read in an effective manner by the Rev. C. Paul, the vicar, a sermon remarkable for its perspicuity and eloquence was preached by the Rev. H Blayds, the Rev. gentleman selected for his text Haggai ii 9 - "The glory of

this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

Mr. Milsom of this city ably presided at the organ, and the effective character of the service was much enhanced by the singing of the choir under his direction -services which were gratuitously rendered, we understand, by both Mr Milsom and his assistants. Kent's admired anthem 'Hear my Prayer', Jackson's 'Jubilate' in F and Kent's anthem from Ps.cxix 'Lord, what love I have unto thy law' were sung with much taste and admirable effect, the leading parts being sustained by Misses Allen and Hobbs. The 'amen' at the conclusion of each prayer, and the responses in the Communion service, were also sung, instead of being repeated by the clerk, - an improvement on the usual mode of performing those portions of Divine service, which we should like to see adopted generally. The children in the school, belonging to the church, also assisted in the psalm preceding the Communion service, and evinced careful musical training.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Offertory sentences were read, and a collection was made, amounting to £26 5s. Other donations to the amount of £4, were presented during the day.

In the afternoon, a good substantial dinner was given by the vicar to upwards of 30 men who had been employed in the renovations; and thus concluded the celebration of a day interesting to all concerned, as especially so, we may imagine, to the liberal and enlightened clergyman to whom the parishioners of Wellow are mainly indebted for the restoration of the venerable and venerated church of their forefathers.

Appendix C

Some Wellow field names from the 1843 map

With more than a thousand fields, named and recorded for a large parish, extending from the Red Post at the western edge to Ford Farm and Midford in the east, from the line of the Cam brook at Dunkerton and Underdown in the north to Hassage Manor in the south, any attempt to give the meaning or origins of those field names is best left for another time. As field hedges have been removed in much of the parish very few of the small fields mentioned below remain intact today,

Perhaps 'Old England' is the best known of the Wellow field names, it being the title used by the Rev Lawrence Fussell in his history of the parish, published in 1945. However, for reasons not known, it does not appear in the 1843 Apportionment.

Other fields with evocative names are:-

Ash Hayes:- East of Hassage near Norton St Philip.

Botany Bay:- On Wellow - Norton St Philip border.

Bushy Lands:- South of Double Hill

Brocks Mead :- Possibly from an obvious badger connection, it and its cottage ruins are mentioned by the Rev Fussell as the site of an 1885 tragedy.

Castle:- Between Bath Hill and Twinhoe Hill.

Clay Batch:- Approximately where Peasedown St John school is now built.

Cloud:- Possibly from the Old English word 'Clud', for rock, thus 'Cloud Rocks'. It is to the north of Hinton Hill

Egypt Meadow:- North of the brook near Ford Farm.

Ewe Steads:- Maybe the name is obvious, it is the large field beyond the crest of Underdown Hill looking toward Combe Hay Manor.

Galloping Tyning:- Close to the Eckweek turning, to the north of the Peasedown road, near the new water catchment area.

Grandfathers Close :- To the east of Bath Hill, north of Manor Close.

Julius Caesar :- Quite close to Hillcrest Surgery, Peasedown, now built over.

Grass Barrel:- Between Stoney Littleton Farm and Littleton Mill.

Hang Hill :- Hang is another name for hill. The area is four small strips of land farmed by John Parker, Gracious Cole, Will Packer and John Feaver, it is now part of a larger field. The name lives on as the lane at South View Farm, Littleton.

Hop Yard :- To the south of The Church Farm House, now combined with Long Meadow, along the brookside.

Ireland:- A name indicating 'far away' in fact to the south of Baggeridge.

Lark Hill :-The long southward facing field immediately south of Twinhoe Green

Lias Close :- Suggesting stoney ground, at Middle Twinhoe.

Lime Kiln Piece :- Part of a larger field between Hassage and Mount Pleasant Farm. (Close at hand beyond Tuckers Grave and over the parish boundary is 'Limekiln Cottage')

Little Custards, Long Custards and Green Custards:- North of Midford Lane at Lower Twinhoe Farm turning.

No mans Land:- Now part of Further Hayes west of the Roman pavement site.

Nowhere.:- A long way from the village on the road between Norton St Philip and Faulkland.

Oxenham:- A field belonging to Mr Oxenham of Paglinch. Near Single Hill.

Part of the Park:- Referring to that part of Camerton Park in Wellow, when Wellow and Camerton shared a common boundary.

Pye Leaze, Mye and Pudding :- Generally names given to mire or wet boggy ground.

Primrose :- To the north of Midford Lane, where the lane and the old railway line join, on the Wellow side of Midford

Rainbow Wood :- A crescent shaped wood or field, as a rainbow.

Swan Mead :- Adjacent to Cam Brook at Dunkerton.

Tuckers Path:- Two fields in Single Hill.

Woman's Land:- South of White Ox Mead.