

THE RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY IS TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED IT BY THE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE TO DISTRIBUTE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POPULATION OF THE VILLAGE. THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE OF VALUE TO HISTORIANS IN YEARS TO COME AS THEY WILL PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF HOW THE PRESENT POPULATION OF THE VILLAGE CAME TOGETHER. THE ANSWERS WILL BE ANONYMOUS UNLESS YOU WISH TO ADD YOUR NAME AT THE FOOT BUT THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY ONLY IF YOU HAVE MORE INFORMATION WHICH YOU WISH TO PASS ON.

Were you born in Ringmore?

		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Q H1	Yes						
	No	✓	✓				

Where did you live before you moved to Ringmore?

Q H2 Inybridge:
Nottingham

For how many years have you lived in Ringmore?

Q H3 67 47

What occupations are followed in your household?

Q H4 Retired Florist (semi-retired)
" Market Gardener.

The above questions have clear answers but other questions draw more on peoples' memory and observations and require more of a word-picture to provide the information..

- Demography - variations in the age of the village population, changes in the frequency of house sales. ?
- Occupation - such as lime burning, cobbling, thatching, fishing; local postman, a tailor or seamstress. ✓
- Land use - crops, animals, trees, orchards, footpaths, open spaces, play areas. ✓
- Buildings - changes from thatch to slate/tiles, new buildings, demolition, growth of Challaborough - not for the better. ✓
- Social - delivery of groceries, newspapers, parcels, medicines, even babies! X
- Photographs - old and new, if significant. These can be copied easily and returned undamaged

If you can help us on any of these topics or others, not included, which you think would be useful to the Ringmore Historical Society, please contact any member of the RHS or write your comments in the box below and continue on the back if necessary.

Although not born in Ringmore my father farmed in the area since 1920: & mother stayed here in Larksfoot's Cottage (Dunah's Cottage opp; the Tanneys End) for holidays for some years. I was born - Inybridge in my grand-parents house, before Kimberley was built in 1930. My Grandparents built West-bury (Frederick Ainsworth Rutherford) & my aunt - Verissa May Bailey

Contact Name: Taylor: Maxwell Cross Gardens.

died there in 1931. The most important occupations viz: Farming, Farm labouring & small holding were not mentioned in the list; neither was farm keeping or that good old country pastime poaching.

The Borden family were fishermen, farmers, at Bigbury Down farm Challa Brook - now holiday chalets. Basket weaving, to supply the local farms was also an important occupation - the last craftsman in living memory being Mr. Woodman at Duke's Hill. Mat-farms had their own "willow plant." No mention was given to school teachers, carpenters & that very important gentleman the blacksmith - cum - carrier - without whom there would have been little or no transport - & farm implements would have fallen into disrepair.

The nearest forge in our lifetime was at Kingsbridge, & garden tools were also made & repaired there.

Ask Mrs. Hock about the local post-man - & woman! There must have been builders in the village since the Doomsday Book:

There was always a "seamstress" better known as a dressmaker - tailoring was done at Modbury & Taylor May had a round supplying all sewing & knitting requirements. Friskys at Kingsbridge collected & delivered shoes to be repaired (I ran over 2 of Mother's cabs & the Rector's dog) The International Stores at Kingsbridge & Lakeman's at Modbury both delivered groceries - the latter also paraffin & Methalated spirits, & coal came mainly from Ivybridge Varcoe's had a steam lorry. Meat was delivered from Modbury - Bakery from Wards at St. Ann's Chapel. Large goods came by rail to Ivybridge station & were collected by carrier - Mr. Bartlett at Bigbury; & after

his death delivered ² direct from Ivybridge
by the "Goods Lorry". Some were put on
the bus en-route from Plymouth often collected
from St. Ann's Chapel. Regarding the delivery
of medicines, they were either fetched by
anyone willing to drive to Modbury - either by car
or pony & trap in the case of emergencies
& sometimes even the local butcher's van!

As to deliveries of another kind, in the
distant past most villages had a midwife
& in living memory the district nurse & in
dire emergency the local G.P. were available.

Those who could afford it had a midwife,
employed privately who not only helped the
Dr. deliver the baby, lived in the house & looked
after mother & baby for at least 3-4 weeks.

Gooseberry bushes were abundant in the
village & the occasional stork was spotted,

although this may, in reality, have been a
heron from nearby Wanwell woods.

RINGMORE MEMORIES FROM BARBARA TAYLOR

The Society circulated parishioners for answer to questions about Ringmore. Barbara gave permission for reproduction. This was typed by Dennis Collinson : 28/11/2009

Although I was not born in Ringmore, my father farmed in the area since 1920 : my mother stayed here in her sister's cottage (Dinah's Cottage opposite the Journey's End) for holidays for some years. I was born in Ivybridge in my grandfather's house before Kimberley was built in 1930. My grandparents built Westbury (Frederick and Agnes Rutherford) and my aunt Nerissa May Bailey died there in 1931. The most important occupations viz., frming, farm labouring and smallholding were not mentioned in the list neither was Innkeeping or that good old country pastime - poaching. The Bardens family were fisherman-farmers at Bigbury Down Farm, Challaborough- now holiday cottages. Basket weaving to supply the local farms was also an important occupation. The last graftsman in living memory being Mr. Woodman at Dukes Mill. Most farms had their own 'Willow Plat'. No mention was given to schoolteachers, carpenters and that very important the blacksmith-farrier without whom thre would have been little or no transport and farm implements would have fallen into disrepair. The nearest forge in our lifetime was at Kingston and garden tools were also made an repaired there. Ask Mrs. Lock about the local postman or woman ! There must have been builders in the village since the Doomsday Book.

There was always a "Seamstress" better - tailoring was done at Modburynd Taylor May had a round supplying all sewing and knitting requirements. Frisby's of Kingsbridge collected and delivered shoesto be repaired (and ran over 2 of Mother's cats and the Rector's dog). The International Stores at Kingsbridge and Lakeman's of Modbury both delivered groceries - the latter also paraffin and Methelated Spirits and coal came mainly from Ivy bridge. (Varcoe's had a steam lorry). Meat was delivered from Modbury- Bakery from Ward's at St. Anne's Chapel. Large goods came to Ivybridge station and were collected by carrier- Mr. Bartlett of Bigbury and after his death delivered from Ivybridge by the "goods lorry". Some were put on the bus en route from Plymouth and then collected from St. Anne's Chapel. Regarding the delivery of medicines, they were either fetched by anyone willing to drive to Modbury- either by car or by pony and trap in the case of emergencies.

As for deliveries of another kind, in the distant past most villages had a midwife, employed privately who not only helped the doctor the baby, lived in the house and looked after mother and baby for at least 3-4 weeks. Gooseberry bushes were abundant in the village and the occasional stork was spotted although this may, in reality, have been a heron from nearby Wonwell Woods.

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It is unclear as to the period Barbara Taylor is describing . Certainly Lakeman's were in Modbury in 1954 and possibly later since they helped us out when we lived in Flete Eastern Lodge by taking a gorgeous Boxer bitch from us who persisted in sitting in the middle of the Kingsbridge road in dry weather. After several complaints, the Lakemans inherited Gay (the Boxer) and she could regularly be seen looking out of their flat window above the shop, longing nostalgically for a seat on the road.

On a different theme : Di Collinson began the Choral and Dramatic Society in Holbeton (still going strong after nearly sixty years). She used to write text and music for the pantomime and for summer entertainments. Her first choice as Pantomime Dame was always Doris Masters. Mrs. Masters was married to Bill who was a farm worker and had been so for nearly fifty years. So Mrs. Masters had been in Holbeton for some while. She told us that she had served as 'midwife' in years gone by but of course with no qualifications or training except by an older woman long since dead. Whilst we were there and afterwards she still performed that task. Our two younger children were both born in a flat adjacent to Flete House : one helped by a midwife from Newton Ferrers and the other delivered by a midwife from Modbury. In neither case was a doctor present.

Flete House was requisitioned during the 1939-45 war as an Emergency Hospital and was still serving as a maternity unit when we arrived in Devon. Several Ringmore women gave birth there and I sometimes meet people who were born there but (29.11.2009) the Flete birth records are still not accessible.

Dennis Collinson

29.11.2009