

## SOME OF THE POPULATION OF RINGMORE ON JUNE 29th 1857

The parish population was estimated as 337.

The number of voters was 13. By the great Reform Act of 1832, (passed by a Whig government which had not held power for many years) a uniform franchise had been introduced giving the vote to those whom we might describe as moderately wealthy householders in towns and to moderately wealthy freeholders in the shires (we might say the middle and upper non-aristocratic classes). This was brought about by pressure from the wealthier urban men : the commercial and banking interests and Whig peers. Women of any sort did not obtain the vote until the early 20<sup>th</sup>. Century. The Whig intention was to bring a reformed vote to the towns where commercial and banking interests held sway and which were the heart of a rapidly industrialising Britain. (Comments in small type are by Dennis Collinson)

The Rectory was assessed at £19-10shillings and 7and a half pence. It was within the patronage and incumbency of the Rev.G.Butland. The Clerk to the Church Council was Mr.J.E.Hooppell.

There was a small Baptist group who had had a small place for worship but by this time were probably meeting in a room at what is now known as Walnut Tree Cottage. (Tradition that these were Baptists but there is some reason to believe that there was earlier a Quaker interest in the village). George has a note : 'Meeting House licensed 2 Sep 1817' and '1821 a room in a cottage' but I cannot trace his source /s..(Dennis Collinson). See the interesting note of the marriage in the Quaker Meeting House in Plymouth : 10 October 1819 with at least one Ringmore Prideaux present.

Notables (as listed for the parish) were :

Rev. Gilbert Butland

Rector

John Ham

Blacksmith

James Cocker, (Sen.)

Carpenter

James Cooker, (Junior)

Carpenter

John Crimp

Farmer :Lower Farm

James Farley

Thatcher

Thomas Forbes

Coal Merchant

Robert Gay

Victualler and Shopkeeper : New Inn