

YELD FAMILY

This Paper does not set out to be a history of the Yeld family in general, only a record of them for the period of time when they were directly associated with the parish of Eardisland.

Documents came my way from Rosemary Y Martin (descended from the local family) from which I listed a considerable amount of detail arranged in chronological order; the basis of this Paper. The documents themselves were deposited at appropriate archives, predominantly Hereford Record Office.

The earliest reference I have to the Yeld family in the parish of Eardisland comes in 1821¹ when Thomas Yeld took the tenancy of the Broome, in Eardisland, Landlord The Lord Viscount Bateman. He remained there until April 1853 when he retired from agriculture.

In 1842 George Yeld senior, aged about 35 years, founded a herd of pedigree Hereford Cattle at Twyford, in the parish of Eardisland, obtaining his first bulls from the prize winning herd of his brother, Thomas Yeld of the Broome, the adjacent farm.² Initially at least,³ George Yeld snr. was a tenant at Twyford as evidenced by the Tithe Map ownership schedule (1842)⁴, which ascribes all the lands surrounding Twyford Farmhouse and close environs to John Higford.⁵

1845 saw a happy event in the Yeld household, the birth of George Yeld jnr., possibly/probably at Twyford and on 9th June 1845 the infant, son of George snr. and Fanny Yeld whose abode was at Twyford, he a farmer⁶, was baptised at Eardisland. This was followed by the baptism of a sister for George jnr., Mary, baptised at Eardisland on 29th December 1846. A further two brothers and two sisters followed, but I have no dates for them.

George Yeld snr's wife, Fanny, was the daughter of Henry Procter of Orleton, Herefordshire. On 13th February 1857 Henry Procter signed his Will, although he did not die until late in 1860.⁷ The Will was proved at Hereford Probate Office on 31st January 1861. The trusts and other arrangements which originated from it are the main subject of the documents on which much of this Paper is based. Much hard work, arrangement and re-arrangement of family affairs resulted, which was still ongoing well into the 1890s.

In the meantime George Yeld jnr. and his siblings had been growing up: Twyford must have been a hive of activity quite apart from its farming functions. Young

¹ Prior to 1821 my references have them in Leominster, where the Parish Register records the Baptism of George Yeld son of Edward and Ann Yeld on September 3rd 1807. He had been born on 26th February that year. This George Yeld will be known as George Yeld Senior in this Paper.

² Sale booklet of Twyford, 4th October 1877.

³ The sale of Twyford in 1877 included well over 20 acres of land.

⁴ Unless he purchased it between the date of the Tithe Commissioners record of the ownership of the land and 31st December 1842.

⁵ With the possible exception of plot number 827 (French Barn Orchard) which I can not yet be certain was owned by Higford.

⁶ He was still there in 1858 when Cassey's Directory recorded, under the heading "Farmers", 'Yeld, George, Twyford'. He was still there in 1859, as listed in Slater's Directory of 1859. No indication one way or the other as to whether he was tenant or owner in either of them.

⁷ 14th November 1860.

George received his education at Hereford Cathedral School where he was Head Boy before leaving to go up to Brasenose College Oxford, probably in 1863.

Throughout his (very successful) time at Oxford, indeed probably until some time after he became Assistant Master at St Peter's School, York in 1868, George jnr. probably thought of Twyford as "home", but by 1874,⁸ the time of his first marriage in York, this role had likely been ceded to Clifton Cottage, very close to, if not indeed the property of, the school.

During this period (1862 to 1874/1877) there are some references local to Eardisland which could refer to either George snr. or George jnr., the type of activity probably indicating which:

1874 "George Yeld, Twyford"... was one of the new Trustees appointed to Eardisland School.⁹

Then in August of the same year:

"On the last day of August.....birthday and coming of age of Mr P.L.Clowes.....and Mr Yeld, with many other gentlemen, accompanying the procession on horseback."¹⁰

1875 "...George Yeld a keen member of the Burton Court Cricket team."¹¹

At the time of George snr's retirement from "agricultural pursuits" in October 1877 he sold..."His magnificent Herd of 68 Head of Pure-Bred Pedigree Hereford Cattle.....an Orchard of Fruit; Excellent Grass and Winter Keep; 20 Acres of capital Roots; Rick of prime Hay to be consumed, and Rick of Clover to go off....."¹²

However this was not by any means the entirety of the Twyford Estate, which was in any case encumbered by mortgages. It can be surmised that arrangements had been made to allow him to sell sufficient to enable him to enjoy a comfortable retirement. He eventually died on 7th January 1889 at Credenhill, Herefordshire.

Another part of Twyford, then described as Twyford Farm, was the subject of a lease dated 26th July 1879 between George Yeld(Jnr.) and Mary Yeld (his sister) and Robert Routledge. George jnr. and Mary were trustees under various family arrangements: neither were still resident in Eardisland. Considerable legal/financial adjustments concerning Twyford continued until eventually the "Twyford Estate" was sold on 12th August 1901.

Thereafter there are only three references to the Yeld family in relation to the Parish of Eardisland:

Both in 1912 and 1919 is found very nearly the same wording..."...the road (leading) from the Bridge to Mr Yeld's cottage."¹³ and, undated "Old Henry Yeld that lived at Arrow Bank was also a familiar figure and a keen fisherman, always boasting of that Big Fish that Got Away. He was also a Hereford cattle breeder and always bred good bulls....."¹⁴

.....*Finis*.....

⁸ Perhaps, arguably, until 1877 when George snr. retired from farming and (impliedly) moved from Twyford.

⁹ Museum Papers, page 12.

¹⁰ WI Book, pages 22-23.

¹¹ Portrait of a Village, page 32.

¹² Sale Booklet. Messrs Edwards and Weaver, Corn Exchange, Leominster.

¹³ WI Book, page 88.

¹⁴ WI Book, page 96.

