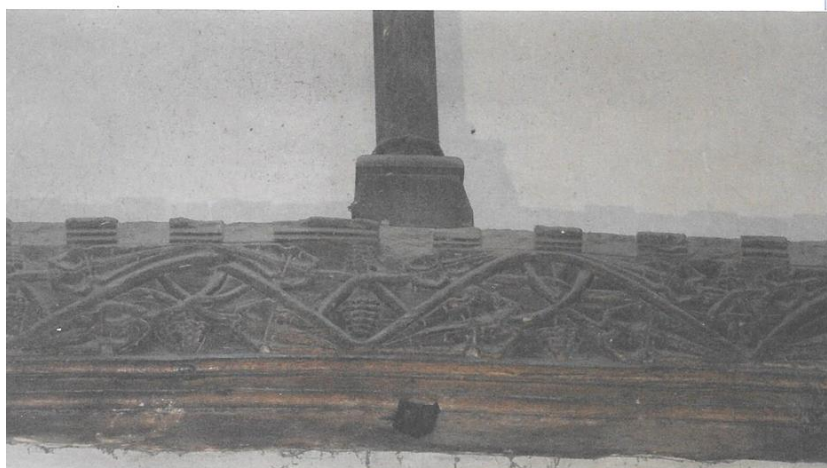


TIE BEAM

High up on the west wall of the nave is a Tie Beam:



It dates to considerably earlier than the present roof which was constructed as part of the restoration/rebuild of the church which was undertaken between 1863-1865.

In 1890 the Reverend Joseph Barker, then Vicar here, gave his Paper entitled *Eardisland, its Church and Antiquities* at a meeting in Hereford of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club. It was later (?1901) published in the form of a small booklet.

At page 5 of this is detail which Barker attributes to Henry Curzon, who was the Architect in charge of the 1863-1865 alterations:

The nave had anciently, beyond all doubt, a high-pitched roof, but at the time the restoration was undertaken no trace remained of such a roof, and only two tie beams of the fifteenth century roof which followed it.

Curzon refers to two tie beams. Only one survived his 'restoration'. I have no comment to make as to the possible fate of the other one.

¹ These photographs were taken for me by the visiting professional in charge of the Video Film Crew working in the church for Eardisland Oral History Group very late in the afternoon of 30th August 2001.

A more recent Vicar, the Reverend P.A.H. Birley (1917-1938), in his *Records Book*² said:

The carved oak beam at the West end of the Church may possibly have been the original Rood beam

This possibility is put in doubt by what Curzon said about the existence of two such beams, and further by the wording used in the report of The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, 1934³:

The roof of the nave is modern except for an early 16th-century tie-beam against the W. wall. This is moulded and embattled and has a broad band of running vine ornament.

Which of these two dates proposed by expert opinion, *fifteenth century* (Curzon), *early 16th-century* (RCHM), is correct is way beyond my expertise to comment on, except perhaps to say that if Curzon's wording is altered slightly to 'late fifteenth century', then there is very little difference between the dates suggested.

Perhaps then a summarising date span 1480-1520 is allowable.

There are one or two reasons which could be conjectured as to why a re-roof of the nave may have been necessary around then. If any specific record comes to hand which could account for it, then a re-write of these last paragraphs will be undertaken. Until then the situation must be left open to discussion.

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

² Herefordshire Archives reference BR67/23.

³ Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. Herefordshire, Volume 3. HMSO 1934, at page 45.