

THE N----- COTTAGES
in
Church Road, Eardisland



My photograph. 27th January 2017.

Currently six cottages, but first recorded as only five. They are named:

Niche, Nutshell, Noggin, Nutmeg, Nook, Nest.

That more than one dwelling existed on the site of the present properties in the early 1840s is probable. An elongated building shows in that position on the Tithe Map (1842-1844). The Map shows them as Nos. 516 and 516a, both of which the associated Apportionment Schedule details as *House and Garden*. They were in the ownership of Henry Bullock:



Henry Bullock was still the owner in 1861 when, on 18th May he sold to *Mr W^m Jno Bullock...five cottages buildings and garden in Eardisland*¹ Within the document itself they are described as *Henry Bullock of Eardisland...Shopkeeper..... William John Bullock of Coalbournbrook Stourbridge...county of Worcester Schoolmaster* It was an *absolute*

¹ HAS R18.

sale...subject to a certain mortgage debt of one hundred and fifty pounds.....Richard Woolfall to whom such mortgage debt is secured for one hundred and fifty pounds.....

Later in the document is more detail of what was conveyed to William John Bullock:
ALL THOSE five cottages or tenements buildings and gardens in the several occupations of Sarah Childs John Smith John Morgan Richard Godding and William Parker situate in the village of Eardisland in the county of Hereford adjoining a messuage and premises in the occupation of the said Henry Bullock...

Thus only five cottages in 1861.

The *messuage and premises in the occupation of the said Henry Bullock* is likely to have been modern Adlen House². This was Tithe Map 498, also in the ownership of Henry Bullock. The next property to the south of the five cottages was modern *Holmlea*³. This was Tithe Map 517, owner Jemima Preece. But it did not adjoin to the five cottages to their south⁴ (as did Adlen House to the north). The roadway there was then wider and a small part of Tithe Map 511 (The Great Orchard, Owner Elizabeth Taylor) intervened.

Whether or not what shows on the Tithe Map represents one, rather elongated, dwelling or a row of cottages, there is no doubt that by the end of 1899 the present buildings had been erected:



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Documentary records of which I am aware are then silent until 1920, when on Friday, July 9th, the five *Cottages & Gardens* were sold by auction:

Continues overleaf.....

² Currently, January 2017, 'Rita's Tea Rooms'.

³ Currently, January 2017, Barry Freeman's Tea Rooms.

⁴ My directions are indicative rather than accurate.

⁵ My photograph on 15th January 2017.

PARISH OF EARDISLAND.

Edwards, Russell & Baldwin

Have received instructions to SELL BY AUCTION,

On FRIDAY, JULY 9th, 1920,

On FRIDAY, JULY 9th, 1920,

At The ROYAL OAK HOTEL, LEOMINSTER,

At 3 p.m.,

Five Well-built Modern Freehold
Cottages & Gardens

Situate in Church Road, Eardisland.

The Cottages are in excellent repair and are built of brick and stone with tile roofs; were erected in 1899.

Each Cottage contains 2 Bedrooms, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Wash-house with sink and furnace, Coal House, W.C. There is a large Coach-house attached to No. 5.

There is an excellent GARDEN with each cottage, also a brick and tile built Pig-stye with brick floor.

There is one pump and the water supply is good, also there are two large galvanized iron Soft Water Tanks.

The Property is let at the low rental of £39 4s. per annum and is in the occupation of: No. 1, Mrs. Parton; No. 2, Miss Williams, 6 months' tenancies; No. 3, Mrs. Stubbs; No. 4, Mrs. Evans; No. 5, Mrs. Harris, 3 months' tenancies.

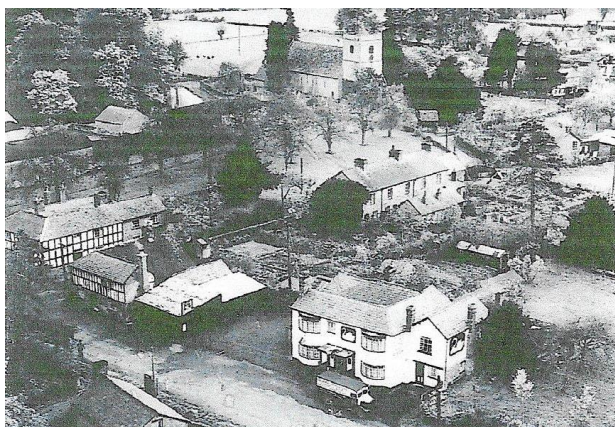
The Tenants pay Rates. Tithe 1s. 6d.

For further Particulars apply to A. S. ALLEN, Esq., Solicitor, BROMYARD;
or to the AUCTIONEERS, Leominster, Hereford and Tenbury.

Leominster Printing Co., 27, Drapers Lane, Leominster.

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Coincidentally there also exists a photograph, taken from the air, which, judging by the vehicle parked outside the Swan Inn, can be placed in a date range of, say, 1920-1930:



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In 1956, at *facing page 26* in *Eardisland WI Book*, the cottages are referred to as:
Church Row (5).

Lastly some Oral History. Written down by Barry Freeman, probably soon after the publication of his quoted source book, it explains the naming of the cottages and the existence of the sixth one:

The Names of the Cottages.

See pp 41-2. Eardisland: Portrait of a Village. Ed. P. Selfe 2006.

Visitors to the village are frequently intrigued by the alliterative names above the doors of the six cottages forming numbers 1 to 6 in Church Road. The volume quoted above states "It is believed they received (these names) from a subsequent owner".

The origin of these names lay with John Carter who, with his wife Madge, was tenant of number 4 in the 1960s and early 1970s. He decided to award his cottage a name and called it The Noggins.

This intrigued the landlord, the late Reg Greene, who was a man of many practical craft talents. He made the five nameplates to go above the doors of the brick built row, choosing all names to start with the letter N. The Niche was subsequently added when he converted the stone barn into a cottage.

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

