

Notes written by Anne Lambell and sent to Dr.DI Collinson in 2009.

'Rockey Lane was actually called Rocky Hill when I was a child, in fact I think that that was always its name. There were never any ridges cut in it. This tale was started by a Mrs. Peggy Hoare who lived in Hill Cottage with her husband Leslie. They owned the Exeter Inn in Modbury.\* The rock before it was tarmaced over looked exactly the same as the rock outside Rock Cottage, and definitely never had any ridges in it. As it was far too dangerous for us to ride our ponies up and down and actually quite dangerous to walk down, as it was very slippery at times. It had been tarmaced over quite a while before the Hoares owned Hill Cottage. This was done by the Water Board, who gained permission from the Parish Council when they laid the mains water to the village on the understanding that it was remade (?) after. Peter was Chairman at the time, and my father was on the Council. Unfortunately this agreement was never enforced which was a great pity in my opinion as it was such an unusual feature of the village.

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#### The Barn

I know that this was an Alms House at one time, but I was always given to understand that also, many years before that labourers that built the Church, also lived there. When Jen(?) and John converted it, in the end part of it where John's father lived, " they found a bread oven built into the wall. I don't think that it was ever part of Lower (?) Higher(?) Manor. My parents bought the Barn, then a shippen and calf houses beneath with the barn above, and also 12 acres of land (Father had also kept 33 acres of Houghton Farm when he and his brother sold it) from Bill Luckcraft who lived at Pleasant Cottage known locally, I'm afraid as 'Buggery Bill' , because of the ' (?) language he used (?) riding his horse and cart through the village if the horse misbehaved, I remember.

I remember this so well as a child as our Dad had about six milking cows then and a few calves. When he retired in the 1960s, he sold part of the land to Mr.Wells at Lower Farm, 12 acres to a Mr.Tubb who built the original bungalow down Cockle Lane where Carol and Dudley Hext now live and I had the field behind Alice Mason's and Westbury; the barn which I converted into stables in the part where the cows were milked and the calves were kept and left the actual barn above to store my hay etc. I also had the field behind where we now live and in the early seventies gave Jen and John the barn to convert and in 1974 obtained planning permission in the field for a bungalow for Jane and Mike and for Brian and myself.

The nanny, 'Birdie'\* that Mother had for Barbara and myself was tweeny-maid with Alice Mason's and Margaret Lock's mothers at the Rectory for the Hingston Randolphs. She was there when he horse-whipped one of his daughters and locked her in her room for three weeks because she became involved with a young man in the village. He had the young man sent away into the army.

Birdie's day started at 5.30 a.m. and finished between 7-8p.m. She earned one shilling and sixpence a week, had two hours off on a Sunday and half a day once a month. She said the Hingston Randolph was a dreadful man and they were all scared of him. I can tell you a lot more of the things that she told me and the sort of life that she and her two sisters led if you would like. Birdie always said that part of the Rectory was a nunnery at one time.

\* 'Birdie' was actually Elsie Bardens

\* (Birdie was born around 1880 and actually called Elise Bardens)

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 bought the barn, <sup>a shop</sup> the ~~shop~~ house,  
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 barn above, and also 12 acres  
 of land (Father had also kept 33  
 acres at Hayton Farm where he and  
 his brother sold it) from Bill  
 Luckcraft who lived at Pleasant  
 Cottage (known locally, I'm afraid  
 as 'Buggery Bill' because of the  
 of livery lunge he used when  
 driving his horse and cart though  
 the village, at the horse market.)  
 I remember this so well as a child.  
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Mr. Wells at Lower Farm, 12 acres  
 to a Mr. Tubbs, who built the  
 original bungalow down Cochrle  
 Lane where Coral and Juddley Hoxst  
 now live, and I had the field  
 behind Alice Masons and Westbury.  
 The barn, which I converted  
 into stable's ~~where~~ in the  
 part where the cows were milked  
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 had for Barbara and ~~myself~~ <sup>was</sup>  
 Lucy - maid with Alice Masons  
 and Margaret Leech's mothers (Bordie

was born around 1880, (actually  
called Frie Barkers) at the  
Rectory for Hungster Randolph, and  
was there when he had enveloped  
one of his daughters and locked  
her in her room for three  
weeks, because she became  
enveloped with a young man in  
the village. He had the young man  
sent away into the army.  
Barker's day started at 5.30 am  
and finished between 7-8 pm.  
She worked one and a half a week,  
had two hours off on a Sunday and  
half a day once a month. She  
said Hungster Randolph was a  
cheatful man and they were  
all scared of him. I can tell  
you quite a lot more of the  
days she told me about  
the area when she was a  
child, and the sort of life  
she and her two sisters led if  
you would like.

I do hope you can read my  
writing, that and spelling was  
never my strong point! I would  
be very happy to tell you anything  
of interest that I might know.

Baudie always said part of the  
Rectory was a nuisance at all  
times.

Anne

From Ann  
Lambell  
Jan. 2009



This reads like  
an Am Lambell  
Contribution?

Annie and Ernest Freeman, he had asthma and used to burn Potters Asthma cure, and you couldn't see across the kitchen for smoke and steam. They lived there for many years. They died there. Alice used to have to sing "Forever with the Lord" for them on a regular basis. When alive he worked as a gardener for Mr. Atkins at Bigbury. She was a very pleasant woman, she had rather prominent nose, and her glasses were always dirty.. After Ernest died her sister Lily came to live with her and keep her company. They also had a lodger a Mr. Parsons, and he always gave all the children in the village shoes at Christmas. He went to live at Bigbury with Mr. Bardens. Annie died at Hillcottage and Lil stayed on and eventually sold. The very small cottage. Miss. Potter, she did a lot of knitting.

Miss Francis, village schoolteacher until the school closed in 1929, she then returned to Bristol.

Mary and Wallace Freeman, father of Viv Freeman, lived there in the thirties.

Miss Francis returned for a few years before returning to Somerset.

The two cottages were joined together by Mimi Shorthouse and her husband. They had been publicans in Ivybridge. They were a very lively couple, and they had a very large poodle. They left and started a bus and taxi service in Kingsbridge.

They were followed by a Mr. Mrs. Foster, followed by Peggy and Leslie Hoare who had The Exeter Inn in Modbury. Miss Hilton and Mrs. Bennett, who are still there at the time of writing.

#### Sea View.

It was owned by The Manor, and the village was being sold off and in 1915 Margarets Great Uncle David bought it for He was a carpenter and undertaker. He rather fancied himself, and he also owned a donkey. His wife was called Ellen. He was Church Warden, and always had to clear his throat as he went into Church. They had two daughters Miriam who married an Olver (mother to Dorothy Rogers) and Maude who married farmer Holman (they had 3 sons and 1 daughter) Miriam was widowed early, her husband dying very young. She ran the Post Office from the front room. In 1925 Stan and Lily Triggs bought the house from Maude for £500. Margaret was only a baby, and in due course was married from there, and had a baby Michael. Margaret is still living there, but mother father and husband Eric all died, and Michael married and moved to Ivybridge.