

HOLLIER'S FARM, HAGLEY



*AND THE HOLLIER'S
OF HAGLEY 1734 - 1840*



The Court, as a hotel in the 1950's.
The section on the right is the original part of the house



The Court from the garden



The Hollier Tomb in St John's Churchyard

Inscription on the Hollier Tomb



HOLLIERS FARM, HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

The land which formed Holliers Farm was mostly located in the Middlefield, of the medieval field system of Hagley. The strips of land must have been acquired and amalgamated gradually until there were enough to make a viable unit and a farmhouse could be built there. Lay records of this time are lucky to survive but this was a general trend during the 14th and 15th centuries. Thus the farm was on some of the best farmland available in the village.

According to local folk memory the barn where the gunpowder plotters Stephen Lyttelton and Robert de Winter were apprehended was on the farm later called Holliers. *"The Gunpowder-plot Conspirators took refuge in the Barn where two hundred years later Dick Smith was to practice on his clarinet."* according to Miss Grazebrook (1861-1942) whose information came from Martha Mona (Patty) Hickman (1820-1895) who received it from Miss Anne Hollier and her Aunt Mrs Catharine Harris, a friend of the Hollier Ladies. The farmer who was executed for hiding the plotters is named as Perks and in the church registers of St. John's, Hagley the name *"Parks"* and *"Pearkes"* (spelling was according to taste) appear at this date.

The first mention of the Hollier name in the church registers is on 26th. April 1734 when Henry Holler (Hollier) married Elizabeth Banes (Barnes). Unfortunately the register prior to this one is missing, so it is impossible to trace if there are any previous Hollier connections. A John Barnes was buried in August 1745 who is probably John, father of Elizabeth Hollier, since John Barnes father of Elizabeth signed a family document in 1737.

During his lifetime Henry added to his farmlands in Hagley. In August 1737 he agreed to pay £1050, £650 to John Cardale (Apothecary of Dudley, his widow Elinor was paid a rent for this land and he could only pay outright on her death, which took place in 1752 and there was then a court case to enable him to do so settled by the Master of the Rolls) and £400 to Mary, wife of John Amphlett, to purchase fields called "Brettle pits" 6 acres in all, which had been enclosed from the common field called "Middlefield". Witness signatures to the document were John Barnes, father and William and Ann Spittle, Uncle and Aunt of his wife. (This land got its name from the spoil deposited there from the glassworks operated in Hagley by Paul Tyzack and John Pagett certainly from 1678-1710 and probably longer. They made bottles)

Henry Hollier, Gentleman, died 30th May 1763 and in his will he

The Occupants of Hollier's Farm

- 1605/6** Farmer named Perks (or Parks or Pearkes)
- 1734** Henry Hollier (Probably before that date)
- 1763** Elizabeth Hollier
- 1764** Walter Hollier
- 1793** Anne Hollier (mother, 18 days) Anne Hollier (daughter)
- 1828** Dorothy Hollier
- 1837** Henry Hollier
- 1840** Lord Lyttelton who leased the Farm to various tenants.
- 1849** John P. Glazebrook bought the old farmhouse
- 1881** Census
John Taylor Birch farming 130 acres.
- 1896** Kelly's Directory
William Johnson, Farm Bailiff to George King Harrison.
- 1900** Kelly's Directory
Philip Smith, Farm Bailiff to Mr F. Wooldridge.
- 1908** Kelly's Directory
Philip Smith, Farm Bailiff to Mr F. Wooldridge.
- 1915** Kelly's Directory
Fred Robinson
- 1924** Kelly's Directory
Amplias Apelles Tate farming 150 acres.
Miss Glazebrook living at the Court
- ? 1930's** Sir Hugh Chance
- 1940** The Court Nursing Home . The two Miss Muldoon's.
The Farm. Felix Tate, farmer.
- 1950's** The Hagley Court Hotel
Fred Tate, farmer.
- 1964** The Court was demolished for road widening.
- 1979** Hagley Hall Estates took over the farm from Fred Tate.
- 2000** Demolished and replaced by a housing estate.

left his personal estates, and lands in Hagley to his wife Elizabeth, *"in remembrance of her affection and tender care of him"*. After her death his nephew Walter Hollier of Walton, Derbyshire is to inherit all his Hagley lands subject to a mortgage of £800 and an annuity of £30 a year payable to Elizabeth Sparry, widow of Hagley, for her lifetime (was this in part payment for the field called the Furlong bought by Henry, of which she was owned a share?). He left his nephews Thomas and Henry Hollier £100 each and his niece Sarah Ball £100 but the rest of his nieces and nephews were to receive £10 each.

Elizabeth did not long survive Henry and was buried on 25th. November 1764. In her will (Executor John Cardale) Elizabeth left £100 for the poor of Hagley. The money from this bequest was to be distributed at Christmas. (The money was invested in 1792 in the Bromsgrove to Wordsley Green Gate Turnpike Trust at 5%, a very good investment, when the Turnpike Trust was wound up and it was invested elsewhere it never again earned so much interest.) She left various small bequests to relatives and friends with the residue to be divided equally between her 3 nephews Thomas, Walter and Henry Hollier.

Thus Walter, aged 47, came into his inheritance. It seems likely, from the order in which the Hollier nephews are listed in Elizabeth's will, that Walter was a second son. Walter had two sons, Henry and Walter and four daughters Anne, Sarah, Dorothy and Elizabeth. He came to live in his Hagley property with his wife Anne and family. Walter continued to have interests elsewhere for we see that his daughter Elizabeth married James Edwards, Farmer, of Walton, Derbyshire in Hagley on 26th May 1787. His eldest son Henry was, at the time of Walter's death, managing his property at Barton under Needwood in Staffordshire.

The Henry who was the third nephew listed in Elizabeth's will, described as a Maltster, bought The Cottage, Hall Lane and the Malthouse adjoining in 1763 for £100. He had married a relative of the Rector called Ann Durant. All of his children were christened in Hagley. He died in 1766 leaving his son Thomas, who was commissioned in the army and thus provided for £200, his daughter Mary £300 and the property and residue of the personal estate to his son Henry. He notes in the will that he had received a legacy from his father Thomas Hollier of £800 from which he had already given £200 to Mary and £600 to Henry at the age of 21.

What is known of the property called Hollier's Farm. We have an auction description dating from 1840 of the farm premises. *"That pleasant Residence adjoining the Turnpike Roads leading from Hagley to Stourbridge and Birmingham, with the Pleasure Ground, Garden, Orchard, Coach House, Stables, Barns, Cow Sheds, Fold Yards, and five several*

Closes of highly valuable Meadow and Arable land". The land inherited by Walter in Hagley was approximately 115 acres to which Dorothy later added nearly 37 acres at the time of the Hagley "Inclosure" in 1830/2.

Little is known about Walter and his wife Anne, except what can be deduced from Patty Hickman's account, which was written down by E. L. Grazebrook, which says, about 20-30 years after his death, that *"The Holliers had seen better days, yeoman farmers living in ease and plenty."* and also about pews in the church *"The Holliers' was very foremost - important farmers as they had been"* (The Lyttelton pew was in the little chancel) and Walter's will.

This will catered for all possibilities. He left his wife Anne either the yearly rents from his property in Hagley and elsewhere or an annuity of £40 per year. The farm house was to be hers for her lifetime. His daughters were each to receive £500 in addition to what he had already given them. (This included the field called the Furlong in Hagley and a large property probably in Derbyshire, the premises occupied by George Holden, consisting of House, 2 barns, 2 stables, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 10 acres of arable land, 25 acres of meadow and 30 acres of pasture). His son Walter was to have £250. From property in Hagley Walter junior already received an annuity of £20 per annum. On the death of his wife his son Henry was to inherit his lands at Barton under Needwood (Staffs). His daughters Anne, Dorothy and Sarah were to have his house and lands in Hagley **so long as they remained single.** After their deaths the house and lands were to go to his son Henry and his heirs.

This throws light on two pieces of information given by Patty Hickman. Of the son Walter she says that he lived at the farm with his sisters but was *"an ineffectual person who neglected the farming and sat by the fire most of his time with his pot of beer on the hob"* and that Miss Dolly Hollier *"had been courted for many years by a local farmer, a slow sort of person, and the final announcement of the marriage excited much comment in Hagley, but still more comment was aroused by Miss Dolly, who on her wedding-day before she started for the church suddenly and violently declared she wouldn't go. And she didn't..... although she insisted for the rest of her life in being addressed as Mrs Dolly Hollier."*

Walter died on 13th. March 1793 aged 76 and was followed on the 31st. March by his wife. They were both installed in a splendid table tomb close to the church. A tomb onto which his son Walter's memorial is recorded in 1807 and his daughters Anne in 1828 and Dorothy in 1837.

Patty Hickman gives us an insight into the characters of the Hollier spinster sisters. *"Anne Hollier was kindly and hospitable", "On those evenings after tea work was brought out and 'me cousin' read aloud.*

Hollier Family Signatures
(from legal documents)

Henry



Hollier

Walter



Hollier

St. n. c.



Hollier

Doobly



Hollier

Elizabeth



Edwards



John P. Grazebrook



The Grazebrook fountain

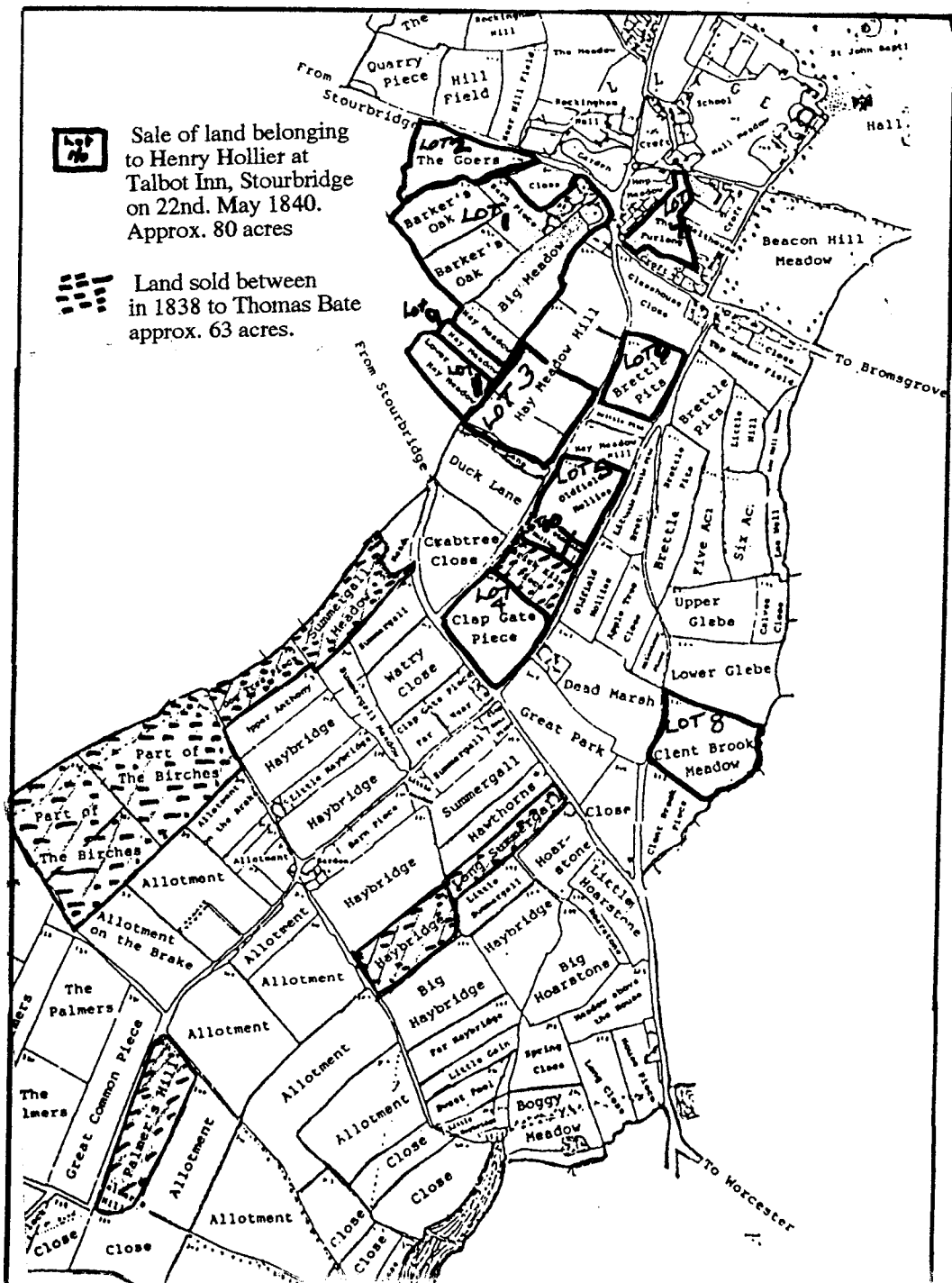
HOLLIER'S FARM, HAGLEY



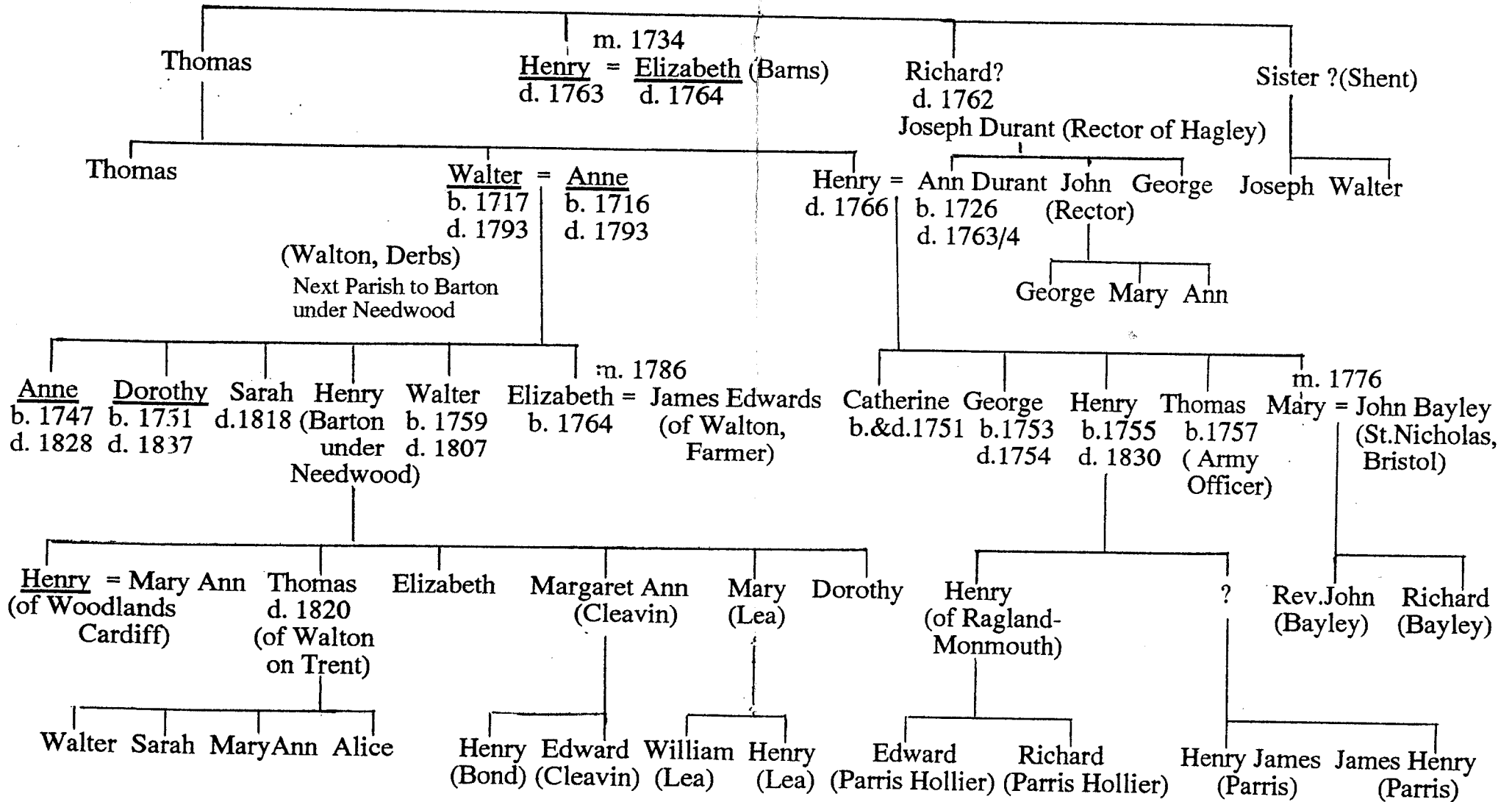
Sale of land belonging
to Henry Hollier at
Talbot Inn, Stourbridge
on 22nd. May 1840.
Approx. 80 acres



Land sold between
in 1838 to Thomas Bate
approx. 63 acres.



HOLLIER FAMILY
(Names underlined were owners of Hollier's Farm)



Anne Hollier loved a story-book, and as there was a circulating library available, the book thus started could be finished at home", "Miss Anne always used an iron knife-tray for holding her knitting, and Miss Hickman always remembered the clatter the knitting-needles made when she threw the knitting into the tray." "Mrs Harris annoyance - caused by Dick Smith, the ladies factotum, practising the clarinet in the barn, but as he was one of the instrumentalists in the Church Choir Miss Anne would not allow his efforts to be discouraged.". The Dick Smith mentioned here was a Richard Smith who was apprenticed in husbandry to Walter Hollier in 1807 at the age of 7 years and continued to work for the family until at least the death of Dorothy in 1837 and probably until Henry Hollier sold up in 1840.

When Patty's Aunt Harris went on holiday to Bath she was left in the care of an old woman who was both very deaf and very industrious with her spinning wheel. "The spinner had a very circumscribed idea of food and the poor child would have fared badly had it not been for Miss Anne Hollier, so Patty could run across the field (the Furlong) and get unlimited kindness and treats from her."

Miss Patty is less complimentary to "Mrs Dolly" who she describes as "a tiny creature of the shrew type" Miss Anne died in 1828 at the age of 81, there is no will for Anne Hollier lodged at Worcester but this may be because she expected everything to go automatically to her sister Dorothy according to her fathers will and other agreements. Mrs Dolly became mistress of the property at the age of 74 and lived at the farmhouse until her death at the age of 86. Her will shows her in a kindlier light than Miss Patty does. She left Richard (Dick) Smith "the cottage and garden occupied by himself and the timberyard adjoining, occupied by William Thomas (Blacksmith) taken out of her field called the Furlong" in addition to this "£200 plus £20 (a years's wages) in addition to any wages owing to him" so she certainly rewarded loyal service. Bequests were spread about the family, retainers and friends to the tune of £1599.19 with the lands in Hagley and the residue of her personal estate to her nephew Henry Hollier. One bequest was of £100 to her niece Margaret Ann Cleavin "for her sole use and not that of her husband or any future husband".

Henry Hollier sold some of the Hagley Lands in 1838 to Thomas Bate, Banker of Stourbridge and he leased the farm and 85 acres to William Waldron before he auctioned the residue of the estate on May 22nd. 1840 at the Talbot Inn in Stourbridge. The lands were split into 10 lots. Lots 3,4 and 5 were bought by Thomas Bate, lots 1,2 and possibly 9 by Lord Lyttelton and a document shows that lots 6 and 7 were bought by Jeremiah Matthew for £1470 but he was unable to raise the money so Lord Lyttelton was persuaded to buy it later in the year (14th. October).



Amplias Appelles Tate





Amplias Appelles and Felix Tate



The 19th. century Farmhouse at Holliers

Mr John P. Grazebrook bought the farmhouse and garden in 1849 and described it as *"the little old cottage"* on the side of the Stourbridge Road. He is described as an *"Ironmaster and Colliery Owner"*. His older brother Michael lived over the road at Hagley House. Although Michael was born in Kingswinford and John in Halesowen and both were Ironmaster's they were scions of a glassmaking family for John Grazebrook (died 1706) was a glassmaker and in 1751 Michael Grazebrook IV was described as a *"Master Glassmaker"* and his son Michael V (1758-1846) was a Master glassmaker and also an Ironmaster, owned a steel mill and a brickworks as well as glasshouses.

John P. Grazebrook was born in 1827. John married Harriet in 1855 and as his family grew up he extended his house and renamed it *"The Court"*. The Grazebrook Fountain in Hagley commemorates John and Harriet's Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 1915. After the death of John Miss Grazebrook is listed as living at the Court in 1924 and then Sir Hugh Chance, glass manufacturer lived there before he moved to Tardebigge, but in 1940 it was *"The Court Nursing Home"* and run by the Miss Muldoons, two Irish ladies. In the 1950's it became a hotel, used mostly by Society's in the area for celebratory dinners, and was demolished in 1964 for road widening.

The farm was owned by Lord Lyttelton but leased to various wealthy businessmen who ran it with the help of a bailiff. A modest new farmhouse was built for the bailiffs or tenants to the farm. It is probably because Lord Lyttelton owned many farms that it retained the name of Hollier's. The 1881 census lists John Birch, Farmer of 130 acres next door to John Grazebrook, he was probably farming at Holliers. From looking at Directories we know that in 1896 at Hollier's Farm William Johnson was Farm Bailiff to George King Harrison, who was a Colliery owner and Staffordshire JP born in Liverpool and he was living next door to Michael Grazebrook in 1881.

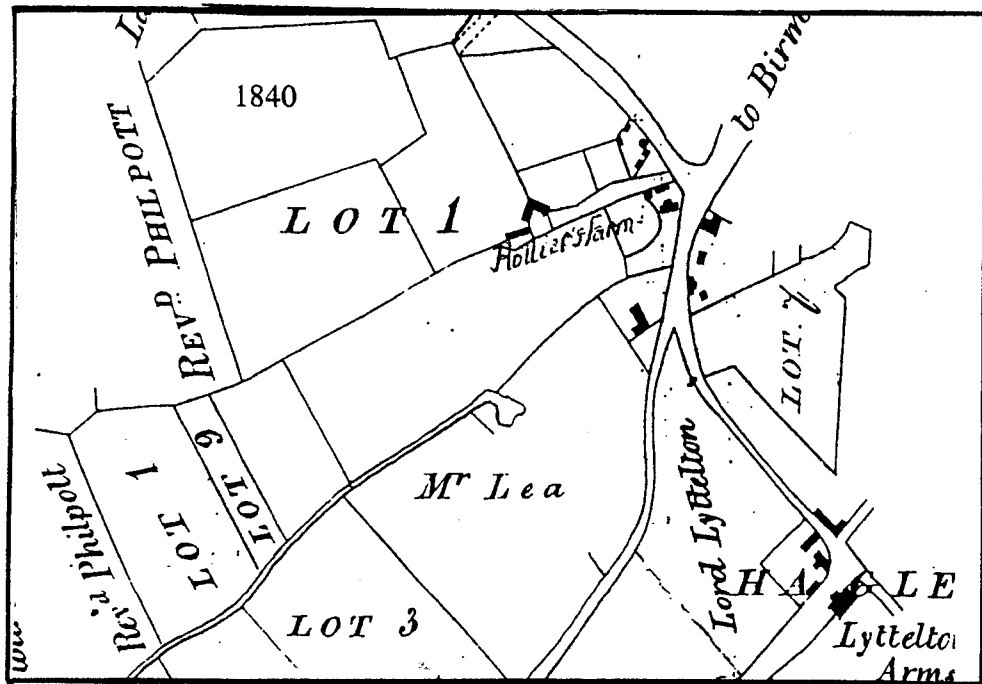
In 1881 there was a report in the Worcester Herald that *"William Smith Instone aged 28, labourer and Samuel Monk, aged 30, fitter, were indicted for stealing four heifers, the property of George King Harrison. Mr Godson prosecuted and Mr Amphlet defended Monk. Instone was the bailiff to the prosecutor, who is a farmer at Hagley. Monk was his brother in law and had been staying at his house. On the 21st November Instone directed a witness to bring down 14 cattle from Hagley Park to the Home Farm. Monk was seen going to Instone's house at midnight, and on the following morning four of the cattle were missing. There were marks of tramping in the snow, and Instone's attention was called to these by a lad named Morris. Instone said that he had been up early that morning as the*

cattle had tried to escape, and he had tried to drive them back. He told Morris to look for the cattle up Hagley Hill and directed him to go along the Northfield road which was in an exactly opposite direction to the road to Kidderminster. Early that morning the prisoner Monk, had been seen driving the cattle along the road to Kidderminster where he had committed them to the care of Messrs Tovey and Elgood , auctioneers, with instructions to sell them for what they would fetch. He said that the beasts belonged to Mr Harris of Belbroughton. Some of the beasts were lean whereas Mr Harris's cattle were always fat when sold, and were disposed of at Hagley stock sales. The auctioneers suspected Monk and refused to pay him for the cattle. Shortly afterwards Instone was seen by a dealer in the market, to whom he complained that he had lost four cattle. The dealer said that Monk had brought the cattle to market and was waiting to be paid for them. He offered to catch him and told how he might capture him. On the evening of the same day Instone had an interview with a police officer with whom he arranged a subsequent meeting. He did not however keep it, afterwards alleging that he had fallen asleep in his chair at home. The jury found both prisoners guilty but Monk was recommended to mercy as having acted under Instone's directions and sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour. William Instone received 5 years hard labour in Pentonville prison.". Thus rural life was not without crime even in the 19th. century.

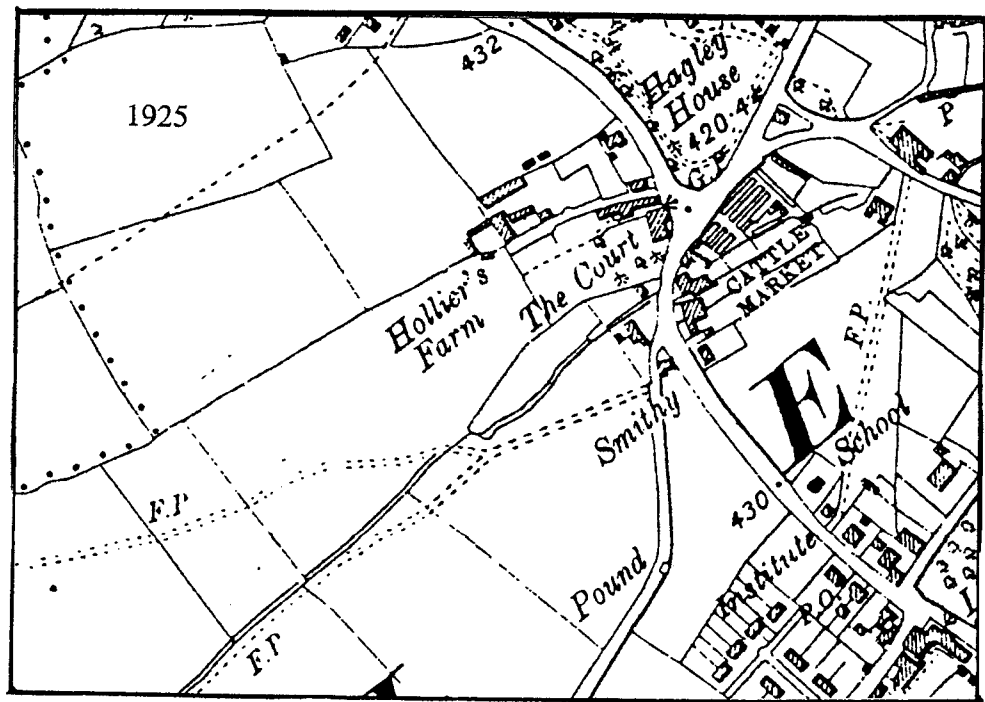
At Holliers in 1900 Philip Smith was Farm Bailiff to Mr F. Wooldridge, then in 1915 Fred Robinson, and by 1924 Amplias Apelles Tate was farming 150 acres there for Lord Cobham. By about 1927 Felix Tate, the son of Amplias, had taken over and his son Fred was born there, although Fred's older sisters were born at Broadmarsh Farm.

When the Tate's were there Holliers farm was mainly grazing with some arable land but it was easy to work and the first tractor was bought in 1936. During the 2nd. World War Park Farm was rented and along with Home Farm were farmed by the Tate's as well. A mixed farming regime was in operation. They were directed to grow cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts, swedes, carrots and potatoes which went mostly to army camps. About 80 beef cattle and 36 milkers were kept. Lambs were fed on the surplus root crops. At that time there were 5 permanent staff and 2 prisoners of war who lived in along with 14 or 15 POW's who came daily from Droitwich. Women from Lye did the seasonal picking. At the start of the War they ran a local milk round but when the Ministry decided that the milk would have to be taken to Ashford's Dairy in Stourbridge Felix Tate gave up milk production. (He had "told them what they could do with the milk"! according to Fred). Fred Tate was at school in 1939 but, if a

PLANS OF HOLLIER'S FARM 1840 & 1925



Look at the changes in the buildings shown



boy (he was 12) was needed to help on the farm you only had to go to school for about a week in 3 months, a fact that delighted Fred.

Felix Tate was a well known local wrestler, *"not like today, but 'all in'"* He was very strong and did it *"for fun"*. Fred recalled *"My father and other young men in Hagley decided to go to a wrestling match at Bewdley. So they all got on the bus for Bewdley and went to the Town Hall, I think, and of course the old man disappeared. They were all sat there and the first bout was announced and it was the old man. He went into the ring and he won his bout and a wristwatch worth about 1/6d. from Marks and Spencers. He couldn't wear his shirt coming home because he hadn't got any skin on his back. There were almost divorces in Hagley because they all reckoned their husbands had encouraged him to go, but he loved a bit of wrestling."*

In normal times Felix Tate travelled to Tenbury, Leominster, Knighton, Kington, and even occasionally Cheltenham and Gloucester to buy cattle. He visited the Cattle Market across the road every market day and if they were short he would go home and fetch pigs, lambs or cattle to make up the numbers, that way he had no costs.

After the War the Green's worked Park Farm again so the Tate's ran Furlong Farm (this land was once part of Hollier's Farm having been bought by Henry Hollier in 1753) and took over Hagley Hill Farm from about 1965 until 1979.

When his father died Fred Tate had an agreement that the land he farmed as a tenant had to be given up as required but compensation was to be paid. It became difficult to farm at Hollier's from the sixties because of the traffic and road widening which took place. Fred left in 1979. The farm buildings were derelict in 1986 but some of the land was rented out for horse grazing and grassed for "set aside". Hagley Hall Estates were the last owners to farm it. Nothing now remains of the farm buildings and a housing estate was built on the site in 2000.

Researched in 2002 by Irene Oliver
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Fred Tate photograph of life on the farm.



Aerial photograph of the Court and Farm



**The barns at Holliers Farm.
Far too modern to have played
a part in the gunpowder plot.**



Sources

Hagley Inclosure Map and Schedule

Hagley Tithe Map and Schedule

Census

Hagley Parish Records

Monuments in St. John's Church and Churchyard

Documents in Worcester Record Office: Wills and Transactions

Directories held in The History Centre, Worcester

Hagley, in the "Twenties of a Hundred Years ago. by E.L. Grazebrook

Hagley Historical & Field Society Tapes of Rosemary Miller and Fred Tate.

Hagley from the 16th. to 19th. Century by Jean Pritchard.

Hagley a Pictorial Record by Hagley Historical & Field Society

Farms and Farming in and around Hagley by Tom Pagett

(Historic Hagley)

The Grazebrooks at Audnam by Primrose Roston

(Black Country Society 1975 Vol. 8 No. 1 page 15.)

The Missing Monk by Marilyn Cliff

(The Bugle 25th. April 2002)