



Hankerton History and Memories

The following history about Hankerton, was written by Vernon Manfield. They are the recollections of Mrs. Joy Manfield and her two sons, Leslie and Vernon. When living in the village, Joy had talked at length about local history to Miss May Woodward and Mr. White, whose families had lived in Hankerton for several generations. Miss Woodward in particular was a fountain of knowledge.

As with all research projects, the information in these notes should ideally be cross-referenced with other sources to provide validity and accuracy.

Background

Joy moved to Hankerton in 1926 at the age of 6 years, from the Blacksmith's Shop at Daglingworth, near Cirencester. It was once owned by her grandfather, John Mace.

Joy's father was Isaac Wood, a Carter at Brook Farm. The Carter's house was one of Morton's Cottages opposite the Priory. On the day Isaac and his family moved to Hankerton, they found that Morton's Cottage was still occupied by the previous tenant, an elderly lady called Mrs. Baker, who was bringing up a young grandson. Mr. Baker had been the previous carter at Brook Farm and had died recently.

All cottages in those days were tied to various farms and it was a condition of tenancy that the day you ceased employment, you moved out immediately. Only two farms in the village were privately owned, those being Rookery Farm and Manor Farm. All the other farms were owned by the Charlton Park Estate (Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire) as were the cottages.

Isaac Wood and his family were found temporary accommodation for the night in an empty cottage, near the entrance of Chapel Lane. The following day they were told that Morton Cottage was now available, but when they arrived outside their new house, they found that Mrs. Baker and her grandson had been turned out of the house and their furniture piled up at the side of the road. This greatly upset Isaac's wife Elsie. Mrs. Baker was eventually found a new cottage in Eastcourt.

Village School

Joy had to walk to Charlton School with her brother John as Hankerton School was closed at that time due to insufficient pupils. Several years earlier there had been over 100 pupils at the Hankerton school and a large balcony was installed to accommodate the overspill. At that time there were two teachers, one of whom was called Evelyn Collins (approximately 1918).

After attending the Charlton School for a short while, Joy aged 6 and John aged 8, were told they had to attend Crudwell School and walked there daily.

Frank Chamberlain, the farmer at Brook Farm, had himself attended Hankerton School and then Malmesbury Grammar School. To get to the Grammar School, he walked down the track opposite Folly Fields, followed the footpath across the ploughed field to Hankerton Field Farm (owned by Mr. Branston),

along the road between Malmesbury as far as Filands and then to the school. When his daughter Jean reached the age of 5, Frank Chamberlain said he was not prepared to let her walk to Crudwell School and he refused to send her. This action resulted in him twice appearing before the Malmesbury Magistrates. On the second occasion he received a hefty fine and was told that if it happened again he would be sent to prison. However he won the day and Hankerton School was reopened in 1928, but by that time the balcony had been removed.

The Vicar was Reverend Packer, who is remembered as being a generous man, despite being of very limited means himself. The church organist was Miss Blizzard who held the position for a considerable time.

The Priory

The Priory was owned by Mr. Bates. He was treated with some suspicion by the rest of the village. He had started life as a 'Boot boy' at Charlton Mansion and worked his way up to become Estate Manager, but even that elevated position would not have supported his purchase of the Priory!

Village Business

There were several businesses in the village. The Post Office was at the entrance to Tetbury Lane and was owned by Charles Woodward. At the Post Office you could also buy tobacco and sweets. Charles's daughter married Jim Musty and they eventually took over the Post Office. When they retired, the Post Office was moved to No.3 Council houses where it was run by Joy Manfield and the shop expanded to include groceries. Gypsies camped regularly on the verges in Tetbury Lane and they always obtained their water from Musty's well at the Post Office.

Miss Ruth Norgrove and her brother Billy lived at No.5 Hankerton on the Charlton Road. Miss Norgrove was a dressmaker and seamstress who worked from her cottage.

May Woodward claimed that in earlier years there had been a grocery shop at No.5, but no other evidence has been found of this.

Opposite the entrance to Church Street was the Hand and Steam laundry run by Nellie Woodward who later married Frank Winward, a jockey.

At the side of Chapel Lane was a railway carriage/shed in which lived Percy Palmer. Percy was crippled with polio and was a leather worker, who could repair shoes, handbags and belts etc.

Before Coopers Garage was established at Cloatley, Mr. Cooper's grandfather operated as a Carrier using a pony and trap. His regular trade consisted of ferrying grocery orders from Cirencester for which he charged 6p. His wife later used a green three-wheeled van (single wheel at the front and two small oval windows in the back doors). In addition to fetching grocery orders, she also bought food in Cirencester and sold it from the van.

Much later, John Cooper, who was senior mechanic at Hudson's garage in Malmesbury High Street, started his own business in Cloatley and this was subsequently taken on by his son Richard. For many years in the 1800s (and I believe much earlier) a market was held annually on the site of the Council Houses. At the market, the villagers sold their produce to help pay for their rent. The event was well known and buyers travelled from nearby towns and villages. When living at No.3 Council Houses, Joy's husband David, dug several coins from the garden dating from the 1700s.

Almshouses

In Church Street on the left hand side travelling towards the Church there were two Almshouses. In 1926 one was empty, the last occupants being a Mrs. Davies and in the other lived Mrs. Stephens. Having lived at Morton's Cottages for three years in 1929, Isaac and Elsie Wood moved to No.18 Hankerton, now part of Dove House which has been nominated the Carter's Cottage and was directly opposite Brook Farm.

In approximately 1940, a man called at No.18 Hankerton, and asked Elsie Wood for some tea. She filled his billycan and made him some sandwiches. The man explained he had walked from Cirencester workhouse, that things were looking up for him, as his sister, Mrs. Stephens, had agreed he could live with her in Church Street. Elsie had the sad task of telling him that Mrs. Stephens, had just died. The man walked to the milk stand at the entrance of Brook Farm and sat there for 20 minutes crying. He then returned to Elsie's house, thanked her for her generosity and said he was going to walk to the Work Houses in Malmesbury to try and get lodgings. He was not seen again.

The Almshouses were not occupied again after Mrs. Stephens died and fell into ruin. They were eventually demolished, but some of the outbuildings were left standing for some while (until early 1960s). It is not known how something which was a village amenity, eventually passed into the private domain. May Woodward told Joy Manfield that her grandfather talked of three more Almshouses in a row, opposite the school entrance. They were located on the edge of the vicarage garden and faced the village green, but existed a very long time ago and there is now no physical evidence.

Village Green

In the middle of the Village Green there is a well, but this was capped off about 1950, as it presented a danger to the schoolchildren. In 1926 there was also a pump outside the school and people living in Church Street use this daily for their water. The farm cottages simply had wells, down which you lowered a bucket on a rope.

When Joy attended Hankerton School, a Maypole was erected on the green each year.

Village Stocks

The Village Stocks were also located in Church Street on the left hand side travelling towards the Church just before the Almshouses.

Ducking Pool

The Ducking Pool was at the left hand side of the entrance to Old Church Farm on the Minety Road. It still remains, but it is very much overgrown. A long narrow offshoot ran towards the Vicarage. Village gossips and mischief makers were tied to the chair with a long piece of rope attached each side. One end of the rope was thrown across the pond and the chair dragged through the water. The trailing rope was then pulled to drag the chair back again. This process was repeated until the person was sufficiently punished!

May Woodward's grandfather recalled how one lady died as a result of her punishment and her ghost has been seen standing by the pond dressed in old-fashioned clothing.

Ghosts

Another ghost reportedly seen by many people is that of a Coach and Horses racing from Manor Farm on the Cloatley Road, along the track to the site of Andover House, Bullocks Horn. This was a large house, which burnt down in the 1800s. The drive to the house was lined with Rhododendrons and over the years these spread to cover a large area that was almost impenetrable. The Manfield family used to picnic near the site. Vernon Manfield can remember finding large stones in the undergrowth that had been burnt black.

Village Pub

At the left of the Hand and Steam Laundry facing it from the road there was a style and dirt footpath leading to a Public House (behind the laundry garden). This burnt down in the 1800s when the couple who lived there went shopping and left a 13 year old boy in charge. In the 1950s/60s the site was marked by some old apple trees. It seems odd that a public house should be located in such an inaccessible position as they provided refreshment for travellers as well as local people. It is likely that the business was a 'Jug and Bottle', similar to the one at No.19 Hankerton, selling beer and cider to local inhabitants, with no drinking on the premises.

War Years

During the Second World War, the British Fifth Army Mobile Headquarters were located for some time opposite Bambury Hill Farm House. Two aircraft crashed in separate incidents in this field killing the crews. Subsequent enquiries established there was an air pocket over the field. To highlight the danger to other aircraft the unusual step was taken to mark it with red lights, which were left switched on. Socials were held nearly every week in the school from 1940 to 1945, to raise money for gift parcels to send to people from the village that were fighting overseas.

Parish Council

The positions on the Parish Council were almost hereditary and dominated by the farmers who were very resistant to change. Elections were conducted by a show of hands by those attending the AGM and at one such meeting, Isaac Wood arranged for the young adults in the village to attend and vote. A group of girls, who were of voting age were asked what they were doing at the meeting. When they replied that they had come to vote there was considerable consternation amongst those who had taken it for granted that they would automatically retain their position on the council. The result was that a number of young people were elected and the council became more forward-looking. Electricity was subsequently installed in the village in 1950, shortly followed by mains water and then the sewerage system.

Hanging

Manor Farm was occupied by the Hislop family, (two brothers and a sister Dorothy). The Hislops move to Hankerton from Scotland several generations before and the name Hislop is carved in a beam at the top of the Bell Tower with the date in the 1700s. Shortly after the Hislops moved to Hankerton, they caught a man stealing one of their sheep. He was hung at the road junction in the middle of the village. In conversation with Dorothy Hislop, Julie Manfield asked her if this story was true and Dorothy confirmed that unfortunately it was.

London Coach

When Joy Manfield left Crudwell school at the age of 14, she worked first at Foxley Manor, near Malmesbury and then as Cook to Mr. and Mrs. Synett in Tetbury. Mr. Synett was a Barrister and had a collection of old newspapers. In one, which was dated in the early 1800s, there was a timetable for the London Coach, which passed through Tetbury. The section of the timetable printed in the paper showed that the coach left the Fleece Inn at Stroud and travelled via Tetbury, along Five Lanes to Hankerton, where the horses were changed at Greenslade's farm. There were a set of stone steps in the farmyard to help passengers from the coach and these were still in position in the 1950's. Joy lent the paper with details of the coach timetable to her brother, but unfortunately he did not return it and now it cannot be found. Mr. Synett became a Major in the Army during the Second World War but was wounded and then disappeared in a sand storm in North Africa. His wife died when she fell from her horse while hunting. Isaac Wood's house at No.18 Hankerton, was an interesting building. Like most of the cottages in the village, it was Elizabethan with a flagstone floor, a range for cooking and a well outside the front door. The house was previously a Dame School (a private school for the farmers' children) and was used as such in the 1800's. The upper accommodation was a flat for the teacher, and when Joy Manfield and her family lived at No.18 with her parents for a short while in 1946/48, the forms on which the children sat were still in place, fixed to the walls. In one of the outhouses there were two large bread ovens, with black iron doors. In the fireplaces at the bottom of the ovens, there was room to place whole faggots of wood indicating that this was a commercial sized operation, although no other details could be found. The walls of the cottage were very thick and when decorating one day, one of Isaac's sons noticed that a wall sounded hollow. On breaking through the plaster and lath, he found a small cupboard, inside there was a leather shoe with a large buckle on the front. This was given to Malmesbury Museum, where it was dated as from the 1700s and subsequently placed on display.

The house next door to No.18 had previously been a 'Jug and Bottle' where you could purchase Beer and Cider.

No.18, was a semi detached house, and between it and its neighbouring house, plus the cottage in front

of them (since demolished), contained 7 adults and 17 children. In the small farm at the end of the row (occupied by the Tugwell family) there were another 2 adults and five children.

Village Floods

One of the major problems in the village was the flooding of the Swill Brook nearly every winter. The road flooded from the entrance of Brook Farm to the bottom of Barn Hill (now called Hillwell). Black and white posts were placed each side of the road to prevent people wading through the floods and from straying into the deeper ditches. Children who lived on the Brook Farm side of the flood were taken to school by Isaac Wood in a horse pulled Haywain. The people living in Brookside Cottage moved all their belongings upstairs every winter before the floods arrived and brought them down in early spring. One evening, John Wood, Isaac's eldest son who was then a teenager, was walking home when he heard a cry for help from the direction of Brookside Cottage. The ground in front of the property was much lower than the remainder and on wading through the water he found Katie Branston, an elderly lady with water up to her shoulders. She had become disorientated in the dark and walked to where the water was deepest. She was taken indoors and was none the worse for her experience.

During the Second World War, German prisoners were used to clear the Swill Brook from Hankerton to Eastcourt. Although there was a Prisoner of War Camp for German soldiers at Charlton Park, these prisoners were housed at Morton's Cottages in the village, and unbelievably were unsupervised, living in the cottages on their own. This caused extreme resentment in the village as rented accommodation was very scarce. The prisoners were employed on the village farms when not clearing the brook.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis was rife in the village in the 1800s and early 1900s; being a communicable disease, it decimated some of the families living in damp, crowded conditions. Prior to Isaac and Elsie Wood moving to No.18 Hankerton, it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Painter, before then by Frank King and his wife who had seven children. Mrs. King and five of her children died of consumption within a short time span. They are buried in the churchyard with a headstone on Mrs. King's grave, listing the names of the children buried in unmarked graves to the right of the headstone. After the tragedy, Frank King moved with his remaining daughter Queenie and son Reg to Ludlow Cottages. Another family who lived in one of the cottages at the far end of Chapel Lane suffered a similar fate.

Black Johnny (John born 1829. Wife Jane born 1830)

Black Johnny and his wife were herbalists who travelled round the neighbouring villages on foot, carrying their pills and potions in large baskets. An elderly person in Minety (now deceased) told Vernon Manfield that her father had told her about Black Johnny and his wife who lived in Hankerton in the late 1800s. The site of Black Johnny's house was past Rookery Farm, following the footpath to the Swill Brook, across the wooden footbridge and it was in the field alongside the brook.

Johnny's wife was known locally as 'White Jinny' and it was always presumed that he was of African descent probably because Slave ships docked at Bristol in the early 1800s. Subsequent enquiries, via a census in the early 1900s, revealed that Johnny was in fact born in Calcutta. At the time of the census he was in his 70's. A check of government websites showed that several thousand people moved from India to Britain in the 1830s to 1850's.

Miscellaneous Information (4 or 5 Years Either Side of War)

The Council Houses were built in 1946/1947 with an initial rent of 10 shillings and sixpence per week. In the 1930s, Hankerton had a football team. The shirts were red and white and matches were played on the Common, opposite Brook Farm.

Apart from Mrs. Cooper delivering meat, there were butchers delivering to the village, Woodward from Oaksey, Ellison from Ashton Keynes and two from Malmesbury.

Tugwells collected coal from Minety station and delivered to the village, as did Carpenters from Crudwell. Bread was delivered from Sutton's Bakery, Minety.

An Asian man with a suitcase on the back of his bicycle came to the village every three months, selling stockings, silks and sewing items. Gypsies sold pegs and bars of salt, 6 inches square.

Rabbits cost two shillings and sixpence - sell the skin to Ted Saunders for eight pence.

With all the farms having horses, moles were a pest as a horse could be thrown and break its leg if it stepped on a mole hole. Farmers paid 3p for a moles tail and the skin fetched 8p. The skins were often made into waistcoats and used by Blacksmiths to protect them from the sparks.

Fox pelts fetched £3.

Mr. Saunders sold groceries from his car.

Mrs. Feltham came to the village on a bicycle selling cottons and darning wool.

Billy Hitchins from Lea, sold fruit from his bicycle.

Local farmers sold meat, milk, poultry and sacks of potatoes, but not many could afford to buy.

A treetop for logs cost 10 shillings.

Faggots of wood cost one shilling and 6p.

Aggie Golding laid out the dead.

There was a strong Sunday School and Lady Winchcomb's Bequest provided Bibles for children if they learnt their text correctly (Joy Manfield and her sister Harriet both have one).

Ludlow Charity - The Charity Field was 3 acres and the rent paid a Christmas bonus to families who had brought up children in the village.

P.C. Gough from Minety was the local Policeman.

Hedging and ditching paid £2 per chain (22 yards).

Miss Hill, a short lady (with a red face), delivered clothes from Bailey's in Cirencester and collected part payment weekly. Once you had paid for the item you were 'permitted' to order something else.

Who Lived Where

Travelling towards the village from Charlton.

Bambury Hill Farm – Mr. and Mrs Frank Major, daughters Rosemary and June.

Yew Tree Farm – Mr. and Mrs. Painter

Remains of cottage on right, village number and family name not known - The land was part of Yew Tree Farm, so the dwelling was probably a tied cottage.

No.3 – Mr. and Mrs. Golding and 2 children

No.4 – Mr. Golding, followed by Isaac and Else Wood on their retirement.

No.5 – Ruth and Billy Norgrove, Miss Couch lived in rooms at the side of the house, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

House on the corner of Tetbury Lane long since demolished, no details known.

Similarly, a house about 100 yards along Tetbury Lane on the left, (where Bob Russell kept his chickens)

Similarly, a house on the sharp bend along Tetbury Lane, on the left, by the brick built building known as Charlie Tugwell's Stall (opposite Hereods Hill field).

Post Office – Charles Woodward, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Musty, son Roy.

Council Houses 1 to 6, first tenants:

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Waters, plus 2 children

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hancock, plus 1 child

Mr. and Mrs. David Manfield, plus 3 children

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Pugh, plus 4 children

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Saunders, plus 8 children

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kibble, plus 7 children

Cherry Tree Cottage - Mr. and Mrs. Leighfield and Ken Blizzard

No.10 – Cowman's Cottage, tied to Brook Farm, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Denley, plus 11 children

No.11 – Tied to Bambury Hill Farm, Miss Painter and her father, followed by the Millards, Slaters, Billy Kiddle, Cecil and Billy Law, Ted Saunders (before moving to the Council Houses) and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gillard.

Another cottage along, No.11 – fell into ruin in the early 1900's. The last occupant was a man known as Shepherd Painter. He was buried just inside the churchyard gate.

Church Farm – Wilf Blizzard, who was a herbalist, and 2 sons, Wilf and Innis.

Two cottages once stood on the right of the track leading to Church Farm. These were demolished after falling into ruin, early 1900's. Ernie Smith lived in one.

Brookside Cottage – Frank and Emily Field, followed by Miss Kate Branston, Innis and Pat Blizzard, plus 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Dickenson with 4 children.

Brook Farm – The pigsty in the paddock to the left of the farm entrance was formerly a cottage. The top floor was simply removed to convert it for the use of pigs! Bill Paish lived there with 7 sons. Before him the occupants were Hayward, Davis, Paish and the Sewyn's.

Brook Farm, was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Chamberlain followed by their son Frank and his wife. Frank's son John died at the age of 14 years from peritonitis. He was given a 'proper farmers funeral', with his coffin placed on a decorated hay wagon and the horse dressed as if for show by Isaac Wood, who led the horse and wagon to the church.

No.18 has been discussed in detail elsewhere. Occupants were Isaac and Elsie Wood, plus 4 children. Previous to them were Mr. and Mrs. Painter, Mr. and Mrs. King, plus several other families after it was a Dame School.

No.19 – Eli and Jinnie Skuse, plus 9 children. Eli worked for Charles Law, Chapel Lane, who was a Threshing Machine Contractor.

No. 20 – Cowman's cottage tied to Brook Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Selwyn, plus 4 children

Elm Tree Farm – Charlie and Rose Tugwell, plus 5 children, followed by Bert and Ada Tugwell with 4 children. There was a large wooden cider press in front of the house and in the autumn there was always a large pile of rotten apples being prepared for the press. They also sold milk from their small dairy,

although most farm workers in the village received a daily milk quota from where they worked.

Rookery Farm (privately owned) - Mr. and Mrs. Chivers followed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chivers and Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd, plus 3 children. On the right of the track leading to the farm were two cottages with dirt floors. An old man who lived there (name unknown) was found dead one day having collapsed and fallen into the fire. After his funeral, Mr. Chivers decided the cottages were in such a bad state of repair that they could not be saved so he set fire to them and burnt them to the ground.

Black Johnny's Cottage, which was along the footpath past Rookery Farm, is detailed elsewhere.

The Priory – Mr. Bates (mentioned elsewhere in these notes) had white Cockatoos flying around the trees. He was followed by Mr. Gore, who had mental problems. He had all the windows painted red, including the glass and committed suicide by cutting his throat in a hotel room in Cirencester.

He was followed into the Priory by the Honourable Mrs. Freeman Thomas and her husband the Major and then Mr. and Mrs. Reardon Smith.

No.1 Moreton's Cottages – Granny Hayes

No.2 Moreton's Cottages – Jack and Doreen Denley, plus 2 children

No.1 Ludlow Cottages – Mr. and Mrs. Butcher, plus 5 children

No.2 Ludlow Cottages – Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miller, plus 2 children

In the field known as 'Tanks' opposite the Eastcourt junction, there are the ruins of another cottage, but no names are known

Mr. and Mrs. Saunders lived in a cottage just past 'Tanks' and sold vegetables from the garden.

Minety Road

At the back of where the 4 Council Bungalows now stand, were the remains of a cottage. The garden and well were used until the bungalows were built.

About 150 yards further towards the Church, stood two more cottages (village numbers not known). One was occupied by Bob and Lily Russell, plus 3 sons.

The other one by Agatha Golding, with her son George and lodger, Jim Glead.

Church Lane

Vicarage – Rev. Edgar Packer, his wife Mary, plus 2 children. They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Webb, plus 2 daughters. Mr. Webb was senior English teacher and Deputy Head at Malmesbury Grammar School.

Almshouses – One was occupied by Mrs. Stephens but the other was empty, but previously occupied by Mrs. Davies.

Cottages on left before the school – Mr. and Mrs. Law, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Braid (daughter Beryl died at approx. age 11).

School House – 1928 Miss Jackson, followed by Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Morris, Miss Moore, Mrs. Methers and Mrs. Townsend.

Minety Road – Continued

First cottage on the right, Hand and Steam Laundry – Mrs. Mary Woodward, plus daughters, Nellie,

Elizabeth and Eva (Nellie married Frank Winwood and continued the laundry business)

Cottage behind the laundry where beer and cider could be bought – no names known

Cottage on the right at the far side of the field (opposite entrance to Old Church Farm), Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smart The only access was a muddy track/path.

Old Church Farm - The Tugwell family. Lily Tugwell, who married Bob Russell, was born there. When the house fell into ruin, Wilf Blizzard took on the farm buildings and the small number of fields and merged it with Church Farm.

Three cottages on the left, between Old Church Farm and Chapel Lane (village numbers not known) Fred and Evie Denley, plus one child Josephine

Charles Woodward, plus daughter, Edith May (the Fountain of Knowledge)

Mr. and Mrs. Laura Painter, son Alex died of TB.

Chapel Lane

First cottage on the left - Bill and Dorothy Hatton, plus son Desmond

Chapel Cottage - Charles and Elizabeth Pennell, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Payne and son Roland. Next cottage on left, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Law (Threshing Machine Contractor)

Railway carriage and shed at the side of Chapel Lane - Percy Palmer, Mrs. Hatton's brother, a cobbler and leather worker, crippled with polio.

Cottage by the Church Path Stile - Fanny Law and Emily Sparrow

Two cottages at the far end of Chapel Lane - one was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morgan, plus children, the other by Lil Say. The cottages were knocked into one and then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Scott with two sons Ray and Brian and daughter Muriel.

Manor Farm - was occupied by the Hislop family, two brothers and one sister

Common End Farm – It was originally two cottages one being occupied by Mr. Painter. They were knocked into one house and then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd.

On the left hand side just past Common End Farm, are the remains of a cottage, the last occupant was Moses Major.

Two cottages on the right, just before Coopers - Mr. and Mrs. Major lived in the one on the right and Mr. and Mrs. Say in the other.

Cottage on the left - Mr. and Mrs. Cooper + 2 sons, John and Henry and two daughters.

Two houses on the right, age of building not know - Ted Pinnell and his family lived in one.

Dolmans Farm - Mr. and Mrs. Carter

Laurel Farm – Mr. and Mrs. Henley

Cloatley Farm - Mr. and Mrs. Greenslade, plus son Peter and daughter Betty

Two cottages on the left past Cloatley Farm – Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bishop occupied one, followed by Alan Saunders and his family. Mike Keen lived in the other, and later became the Speedway rider for Swindon

Robins.

Cottage on the left, on the bend, which is still partly standing – Mr. and Mrs. Morgan. It was in this house that Joy Manfield first heard a radio when she was a child; a crystal set with headphones.

The Dower House - No family names known, but the house was either tied to Andover House, Bullocks Horn (the one that burnt down) or was part of its estate.

There is a track opposite the house that leads towards Bullocks Horn that has a large stone known as the Devil Stone. The reason for the name is not known, but it is mentioned in Len Manners book, 'A Countryman Looks Back'. Len was an author and historian who lived in Minety.

Railway carriage on the left hand side, where the bungalow for the Chicken Farm now stands - a lady on her own, name not known. This area is considered by many to be part of Minety, but a check of the parish boundary shows that it is in fact part of Hankerton.

The Barn Ground

At the bottom of Barn Hill, now called Hillwell, stood a building complex know as 'The Barn'. It was surrounded by a high wall and had two cobbled yards with cattle wells in the corner of each, plus a Rickyard, stone cow sheds, plus a stable with lofts etc. This property was included as part of Brook Farm, but in all probability was a farm in its own right at some time. The buildings were extremely old and like the cottages in the village, were probably Elizabethan.

In the Barn Ground were three trenches, all perfectly straight and about 5 foot deep. The first was opposite the Minety Road and started about 70/80 yards from the edge of the field, running away from the T-junction; this was about 60 yards long. Another was at an exact right angle to this going off to the left, towards the Post Office garden. The third again went off to the left at right angles towards the corner of the Post Office building. The trenches were about 10 foot wide at the top. Vernon Manfield discussed these with his history teacher at Malmesbury Grammar School and the conclusion was they served no agricultural purpose and probably part of a building complex. When Mr. Law moved to Brook Farm he unfortunately filled the trenches to level the field.