FORD STREET

*Editor’s note: See an explanatory map of Ford Street and Gortnell under “historical archive” in the Gallery*

My paternal grand-mother – Elizabeth Salter (nee Perry) was born in 1870, and was the 5th (or possibly 6th) child of George & Elizabeth Perry and the grand-daughter of John & Elizabeth Perry.

The 1841 census shows that they lived at Dukes Cottage, which was opposite White Barn (on the sharp corner before the steep hill at the top). It was possibly also known as Jagos, & was probably owned by Mr Jago at some stage. The head of the household was John Perry (age 45), his wife Elizabeth (age 40), & George was 5.

In 1861 John Perry was 66, Elizabeth 62 and George (age24) was married to Elizabeth (nee Phillips from Starcross), also a baby Elizabeth born in 1860 probably daughter of George & Elizabeth, but not on future censuses.

In 1871 George & Elizabeth had 5 children, the youngest of these being Elizabeth (my grand-mother), who was born in 1870. If the Elizabeth who was born in 1860 was theirs in all probability she had died, so they called another daughter Elizabeth. Strangely enough also on the 1871 census James Salter, formerly from Hemyock was living further down Ford Street – probably somewhere around the turning off to Blackmore. He was married to Elizabeth and they had 2 sons, William, age 4, & Henry (my grand-father) age 2, both born in Ford Street. They didn’t stay in Ford Street for long, and by May 1871 they were living in Champford Lane in Wellington. Henry married Elizabeth Perry in 1890.

The Perrys were still in Dukes Cottage in 1881, 1891 & 1901. Also in 1901 the eldest daughter, Sarah Jane (b. 1862) was living at Gortnell Cottage with her husband John Richards. In 1911 Henry Perry (b.1874) was living in Ford Street with his wife Emily (nee Broom b. 1879) & 2 daughters Elsie (3) & Edith (2).

The censuses also show a ‘Little Dukes’ which was probably next door and William & Elizabeth Cook lived there for several decades.

Then c1935 my grand-parents Henry & Elizabeth bought White Barn and lived there until their deaths – Henry in 1951 & Elizabeth in 1959. My uncle Reg Salter & his wife Mary (nee Hoste) lived there until c1970. The Hostes lived at Scottsdale next to White Barn. I vaguely remember my father saying something about Dukes Cottage burning down, but can’t remember any details.

John Salter

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