

# WHILTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## GUESS OR REMEMBER

The July 2010 meeting was well attended and members had the opportunity to pour over three dozen drawings, photos and paintings of people, places and objects from Whilton. This caused some interest and discussion, as parts of the parish have changed so much. There was a watercolour of the original Whilton Lodge, before it was rebuilt in 1867, and a photo of the cottage in which Harold Haynes was born, which has been demolished. The photo of the road leading from the Locks towards Whilton Hill was also unrecognisable to most, as the Motorway has cut through the rural scene pictured in 1957.

Three women of Whilton

The formidable lady on the right cannot be identified for certain, but she is probably Ann Emery, the daughter of John Judkin of Roughmoor, born about 1810. She was the wife of James Emery. The 1861 census records that he was farming 400 acres and employing nine men and five boys.

Long dresses such as that shown cannot have been very practical for everyday life. On Sunday mornings the Emery yard was brushed down so that the ladies could walk to church without getting mud on their crinolines.

James and Ann had nine children, and the youngest daughter was Ruth, born about 1850. Ruth Emery, pictured left, married a farmer and cattle dealer, James Cross of Braunston, in 1873.

They later farmed in Whilton too. They had no children of their own, but they brought up Will Emery, Gordon's grandfather.

No one can now remember Miss Dorothy Dyer, pictured here in about 1920. She was born in Bethnall Green, the daughter of a West Country couple, James and Dora Dyer, who were schoolmaster and mistress of the National School here from 1869. Their daughter taught with them and later lived in Rose Cottage, which she rented from Mrs Coates, Grace Tooley's mother.

After his retirement, James Dyer ran the Post Office for a short while until his death in 1896. Miss Dyer took over and became Post Mistress. She was also the church organist and had a reputation for being able to control the behaviour of the choir boys.

Among the work of Whilton artists was an ink sketch of the Manor House, labelling the wall which faces the road as the rear, and drawn in 1975.

There was also a pencil sketch of Field View, with the washing on the line. This drawing was also completed in 1975, when Will and Freda Adams lived in the house.