



The teachers and pupils on the road outside the school c1920. They are from the left:- (Back) Miss Ada Hockey, Barbara Brown, Ivy Hansford, Freda Godden, Violet Hyde, Ena Crabb, Ivy Gill, Amy Symes, George Crabb; (Middle) Donald Brown, Mabel Chubb, Florie Hansford, Jack Pullman, —?—, Harry Crabb, Frank Crabb, Bill Gill, Blanche Knight, Miss Dayrell Read; (Front) Flossie Brown, Bessie Chubb, William Symes, Jack Gale, Bertha Symes, —?—, —?—, David Hyde, Marjorie Hansford, —?—, Vera Knight, —?—.



Loders School children in 1924 dancing around the maypole, a tradition re-introduced in recent years. (Left to right) Doris Ward, Ronald Legg, Bertha Symes, Fred Read, Clara Ward, Fred Darby, Lily Peach, George Hyde, Lily Samways, George Fooks, May Hudson, Roy Richards, Linda Brown, Bill Symes, Louise Hudson and Percy Read. The card is by Percy S. Smith of Bridport.



Miss Elizabeth Hinks with the infants in 1925. They are from the left (back) Jack Crabb, Walter Bishop, Bill Budden, Vera Read, Margery Dawe, Ethel Ward, Winnie Coombs, Edgar Bishop, Linda Baker (Harper). (Middle) Dorothy Read (Broom) Eileen Read, Violet Richards, Ernie Symes, Elizabeth Read, Letty Darby. (Front) P Hansford and Pearl Gale (Symes).



Senior pupils with their teacher, Miss Annie Garland, in about 1930. From the left:- (back) Victor Darby, Teddy Pitcher, Sidney Coombs, Tom Norman, Kenneth Fowler. (Middle) Freda Powell, Alice Rogers, Mary Aliss, Dora Paul (Hyde), Vera Legg, Vera Rendell. (Front) Mabel Symes (Skeats), Ethel Ward, Winnie Read (Ward), Annie Hawker (Paull), Ruby Richards and May Sanders.

17 and 18 Loders and Westwards



17 Loders, once two cottages, has a datestone "1755" near its porch. To its left is 18 Loders which ran back at a right angle to the road. The front door was off the side path, not the street. Minnie Crabb, the local fortune-teller, was the last occupant. Although we children were slightly nervous of her and her strange mystic powers

her regular clients swore by her predictions. As long as she told them what they wanted to hear; which, I'm lead to believe, she generally did! In the 1960s 18 Loders was demolished and a detached house built between nos. 17 and 19.



Picture printed by Roger Pinn from a Hider glass plate. It was taken from outside the school, probably in the early 1950s. Two cyclists head westwards, possibly to Bridport for work or shopping. Not many had cars then. The bicycle was the most convenient way to go to 'town'. Electricity and telephones had well and truly arrived, the skyline is criss-crossed with wires, now, thankfully removed. The thatch on the roof of 19 has a covering of galvanised corrugated iron.

19 Loders and Nearby



George Read outside 19 Loders, c1920, chatting to a man on a bike. This side of 19 is the adjoining cottage, 18 Loders. The picture below dates from about 1918 showing Kate Read (née Marsh)(my mother's aunt) with three of her children, Aggie, Ivy and Percy. Edna and Eileen came later. Aggie moved to Cheltenham, married

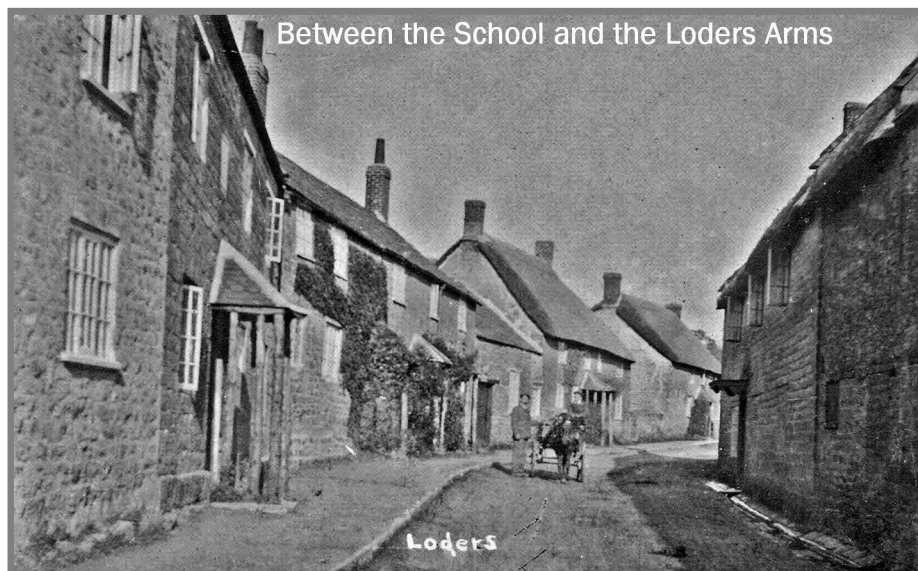
and became the owner of a successful grocery shop. Ivy moved to London, Percy to Yeovil, Edna to Beaminster and Eileen also to London.

Another daughter, Kathleen sadly died as the result of a sad and tragic accident aged two in 1917. They had a problem with rats in the pantry where food was stored. To kill them Kate put rat poison on two pieces of bread and butter. She placed one on a shelf under the stairs the other on a shelf in the larder, both out of the way of the children. The slice of poisoned bread in the larder somehow fell onto the larder floor, presumably knocked down by a rat. It was eaten by two year old Kathleen with sad and fatal consequence. Something that surely must have remained with Kate for the rest of her life.



I was fairly young when Aunt Kate died. My memories are of a highly polished house with a wooden high backed chair and a stuffed animal of some variety. I can remember Kate talking about her 'Buddery Door' apples. Many years later I discovered they were Buttery D'Or. Apparently they are sharp apples for cooking and cider making and they come from Dorset. I wonder, if the tree is still there?

As an aside, collecting postcards can lead to some chance encounters. When I was about 10 we stayed with Ivy and her family in London during the summer holidays and became friendly with a nearby relative, Roger. Some 55 years later my wife, Christine, and I were at a postcard fair at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London where we found a couple of Loders postcards. One showed 19 Loders. We were talking about this when the man next to us joined in and told us that he had stayed at number 19 with Aunt Kate. It turned out he was Roger's brother.



In the early 1900s many of the cottages in Lower Loders were owned by the Loders Court Estate, they were tied cottages for its workers. A lot of these cottages featured similar front porches, a tiled roof on ash posts, built by either the village builder or one of the Estate's craftsmen. Above, one of the village carriers makes his way slowly along the deserted street on a sunny summer day.



On a hot summer day Mr Tolley (left) standing outside the doorway of Waddon Farmhouse (The Barns). This 17th century farmhouse was extended in the 18th century and again more recently. On the right, Judy Greening stands in her front porch. Next-door but one with the porch is Fuszards. The datestone over the door is dated 1786. Beyond that, a village carrier is delivering to the Loders Arms.

Fire at 41 Loders September 1929

Taken from the Bridport News 4th October 1929

Tragic Occurrence at Loders. Respected Inhabitant's Untimely Death Fell Down Stairs During Fire

The little village of Loders was plunged in gloom on Saturday afternoon when one of its most respected and popular residents lost his life, in distressing circumstances.

A serious fire had broken out in a row of outbuildings attached to the Loders Arms, the licensee of which is Mrs Flora Richards and the building being thatched, the flames quickly rose to a great height and threatened to spread to an adjoining thatched cottage where lived Mr Frederick Fooks aged about 47, his wife, two children and an invalid sister.

Mr Fooks who was a carpenter and joiner, at once set to work removing furniture from the dwelling as a precaution, and it was while thus engaged that he fell down a flight of stairs, breaking his neck. Death was practically instantaneous.



Among the crowd watching the fire fighting are Hilda Greening, second left, talking to someone at the door or window. Mr. Ellery (nearest with his hands behind his back) and David and Nellie Crabb (Jessie (Barrett) and David's parents) near the front with their hands on their hips.

When they heard of Mr Fooks' death villagers who had turned out to help watched the procession as the body was removed with tears in their eyes, for he was one of the most well-liked men in the village. He was Secretary of the Loders branch of Oddfellows, while he took a deep interest in the affairs of the church.

Bridport Fire Brigade made a prompt response under Chief Officer G L Atherton, and eventually succeeded in getting the fire under control. The conflagration was confined to the outbuildings, which consisted of milking sheds and a carpenter's shop.

The inquest: *An inquiry into the circumstances attending the fatality was held at Loders Arms on Monday afternoon by the Deputy Coroner for West Dorset (Mr S Edgar Howard) . PC Sartin, Bridport acted as Coroner .*

The first witness called was Mr Henry John Fooks of 18 St. Andrews Road, Bridport. He identified the body as, that of his brother, William Frederick Fooks who resided at No 41 Loders. Deceased was a carpenter by trade and enjoyed quite normal health. To the witness's knowledge he had never had a day's illness. His age was 47.

Sidney George Hyde, 20 Loders, said he was present 5 minutes after the fire had broken out in some outbuildings attached to the Loders Arms. Deceased's house was adjoining the scene of the outbreak. He (witness) assisted Mr Fooks to remove his furniture. One corner of the deceased's residence had caught alight. There was no smoke in the house at the time of the accident, witness and others having closed the window.

Continuing witness said that no one actually saw the accident. He and Mrs Fooks were engaged removing a mirror, which would not go down the stairs. Deceased got a screw-driver, loosened the two screws, and then dropped the screwdriver. He (deceased) then proceeded down the stairs with one part of the mirror and witness followed behind a couple of seconds later. When he (witness) came to the top of the stairs he saw deceased lying at the bottom. He heard no cry or fall. It was a straight staircase. As soon as witness saw deceased he ran down the stairs. The mirror deceased had been carrying was half-way down the stairs, Mr Fooks was lying on his back with his feet up the stairs. Witness and a neighbour Mr Ward, carried Mr Fooks into the roadway. Deceased showed no signs of life.

Thomas George Kimber Ward, 2 Yondover, said he was helping to remove the furniture from the house. He was on the ground floor at the time of the accident and a yard or so away from the foot of the stairs, suddenly he heard a crash and turning round he saw Mr Fooks lying at the foot of the stairs in

the manner described by the previous witness. He (witness) raised Mr Fooks' head but there were no signs of life. Artificial respiration was applied for about 20 minutes but all to no purpose.

Dr Sanctuary, Bridport who was sent for, announced that Mr Fooks' neck was broken. Stanley Tolley of Waddon House, Loders who said he also was present at the fire, deposed to assisting to carry deceased from the house. He heard the doctor say that deceased had broken his neck.

In returning a verdict of accidental death, the deputy coroner said it was a most lamentable accident which they all deplored. He tendered sincere sympathy with the members of deceased's family.

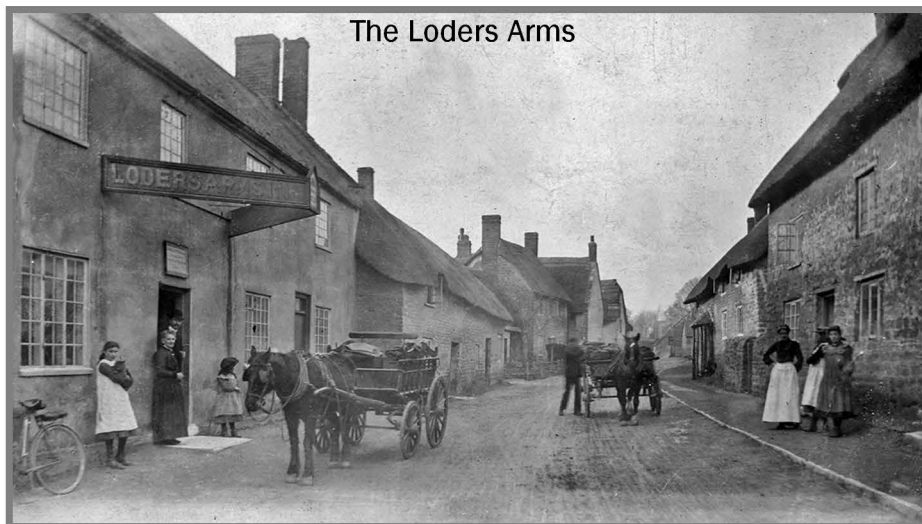
Mrs Flora Richards, licensee of the Loders Arms and the witnesses gave their fees to the widow. "It would have been preferred by far had the house and furniture been destroyed than that we should have lost a man like Mr Fooks was the comment of Dr Ward, one of the witnesses, which concurred with the Deputy Coroner's expressions of sympathy with the widow and other members of the family.

Scenes at the funeral: *Many members of Oddfellows, ex servicemen and a large representation of the general public attended the funeral, which took place on Tuesday at Loders Parish Church burial ground. As the funeral procession wended its way through the village from Waddon Farm, the house of Mr Tolley, where the body had been reposed since Saturday, tributes of respect were paid by the inhabitants among whom were those who had known the deceased as a merry, carefree boy and later as a bluff good natured man, whose cheerfulness and sunny disposition had often been the means of lightening to a sorrow borne by his fellows.*

The coffin was covered with floral tributes, while the majority of those walking in the procession carried wreaths and other such expressions of sympathy.

The cortège was met at the entrance to the churchyard by the vicar Rev A.B. Hutton (pictured right) who preceded it into the church, where many of the village woman folk and other friends of deceased had assembled. There a short but impressive service was conducted by the Vicar, who afterwards performed the last sad rites at the graveside.



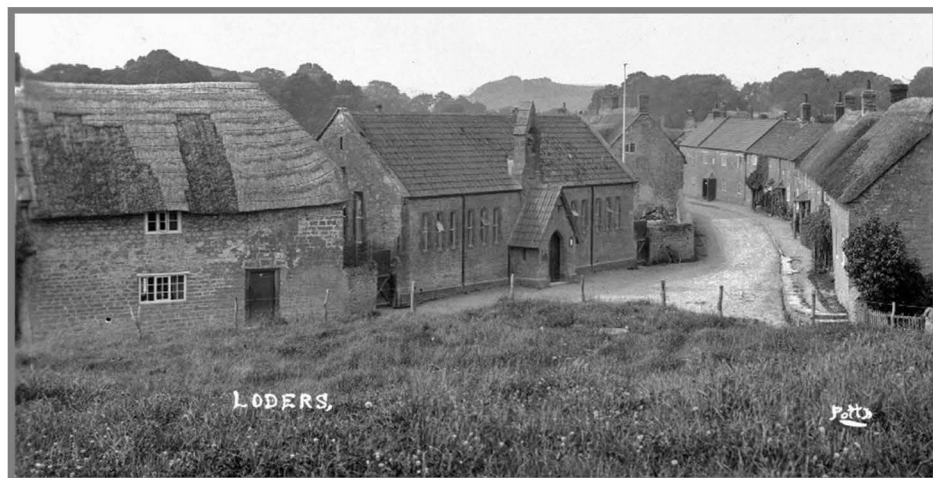


Card posted on 31 December 1908 showing the landlord and his family, thought to be the Hudsons, outside the pub. The wagon in the foreground is one of the village carriers, possibly Mrs Macey or Mr Woodrow. The other wagon carries coal collected from Bridport Station and loaded into hundredweight (51kg) hessian sacks for delivery. Quite an eventful day in the village!



A later postcard, c1934; a car waits outside Number 41. On the right, Mary Alice stands by the front doorstep talking to three small children, the Rogers family. Mrs Symes, the carpenter's wife, stands in the doorway of her thatched cottage beyond the pub. This is long since gone and is now part of the garden at the Loders Arms. The carrier, Mrs Macey (?), is watched by two small boys. The late Bill Budden thought they were probably him and his brother, Tony.

From 1869 to 1918 the School catered for children from the ages of 5 to 12 or 13. In 1918 the school leaving age increased to 14. Those who won a scholarship or whose parents could afford it transferred to Bridport Grammar School. The majority did not. They left school at the relevant leaving age to start work and, in many cases, follow in their parents' footsteps.



View across the road from the plot that is now the garden of Smishops showing the school in about 1930. The school flagpole and the porches on the houses have gone. Otherwise the street scene is almost unchanged.



A sunny summer day c1910 with the children in a cheerful mood. Perhaps it's the end of term? The group of boys stand on the wall of what is now Smishops. The wicket gate leads from the road to the field with a new haystack in the top corner. The door to the old pump house is at the right hand end of the wall. Water for the school and nearby houses would have been carried from there in buckets.