

INFORMATION, FROM THE BOOKS:

- Betley A VILLAGE OF CONTRASTS
- Betley'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

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# Wickstead

## WHO WAS CHARLES WICKSTEAD?

CHARLES WICKSTEAD WAS THE ONLY SON OF GEORGE TOLLET IV. FROM AN IMPORTANT, WEALTHY FAMILY, IN 1861 HE BECAME LORD OF THE MANOR. CHARLES— OR CHARLEY— ALSO BECAME A MAJOR FIGURE IN THE HUNTING SCENE. I DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE TARPORLEY HUNT CLUB. WHICH IS IN FACT, IS THE OLDEST HUNT CLUB IN THE COUNTRY!

## THE LIFE OF CHARLES WICKSTEAD

THE REASON CHARLES IS NOT KNOWN AS CHARLES TOLLET IS BECAUSE IN 1841 HE MADE THE DECISION TO INHERIT HIS UNCLE'S— THOMAS WICKSTEAD'S—NAME. (THOMAS HAD PUT THIS REQUEST IN HIS WILL.) CHARLES GAINED A PROPERTY LEGACY BY DOING THIS.

IN 1855 A NEW SCHOOL OPENED NAMED BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL. CHARLES, BEING A SIGNIFICANT VILLAGE MEMBER, ATTENDED THE OPENING. THE CHILDREN

WERE LUCKY TO HAVE A BIGGER SPACE TO LEARN.

THE NEXT STAGE OF CHARLES'S LIFE WAS GETTING MARRIED. HIS BRIDE WAS NAMED MARY MEYSEY WIOLEY. THEIR WEDDING DAY WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY DAY; ALL THE VILLAGERS CELEBRATED. (THE CHILDREN OF THE SCHOOL WERE DELIGHTED, I'M SURE, TO HAVE A DAY OFF SCHOOL.)

THE WEDDING CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THE MID-MORNING OF THE DAY. THEN THE CELEBRATIONS BEGAN. THE BETLEY BAND PLAYED LIVELY TUNES AND LATER PARADED THROUGH THE VILLAGE. AT 4 O'CLOCK 40 MEN SAT TO DINNER AT THE BLACK HORSE (LATER MRS KING'S HOUSE). LATER ON, THAT EVENING— AT 10 O'CLOCK— THE BAND PROCEEDED FROM BETLEY TO WRINEHILL. PEOPLE CARRIED TORCHES AND THE FIREWORKS CONTINUED FROM THE EXCELLENT DISPLAY THAT WAS SHOWN AT 9 O'CLOCK. IT WAS THE MOST INTERESTING SIGHT EVER SEEN...

DURING HIS POSITION AS LEADER OF THE HUNT, HE WROTE A HUNTING SONG AS WELL. IT WAS