

MY SHROPSHIRE DAYS ON COMMON WAYS

By

JOHN BEARD, C.B.E.

Birmingham

Cornish Brothers Ltd

Publishers to the University

39 New Street



Farm Worker of the 19th Century

Michael J Macgregor

This book is produced in complete conformity
with the authorised economy standards.

MADE AND PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

I DEDICATE WHAT IS OF ANY WORTH IN THIS BOOK
TO
MY MOTHER
EMMA BEARD (*nee* Onslow)
AND TO ALL THE OTHER MOTHERS OF “THE COMMONS”
AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD
WHO BROUGHT UP LARGE FAMILIES -
IN ONE CASE TWELVE AND IN OTHERS TEN AND SEVEN -
ALL REARED ON SMALL WAGES.
THE STRUGGLE WAS THEIRS TO “MAKE DO AND MEND”
ON A WAGE GENERALLY LESS THAN
FIFTEEN SHILLINGS A WEEK.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I.	1
CHAPTER II.	7
CHAPTER III.	16
CHAPTER IV.	25
CHAPTER V. Poynton, Shawbury Heath and Wytheford	30
CHAPTER VI. Walton of the Clubbe	39
CHAPTER VII. Osbaston	45
CHAPTER VIII.	53
CHAPTER IX. Sherlowe, Longwaste and Longden-on Tern	63
CHAPTER X. Richard Turner	69
CHAPTER XI. Crudginton	78
CHAPTER XII. The Lilleshall Estate	85
CHAPTER XIII. Kinnersley	90
CHAPTER XIV. Newport, Edgmond, Tibberton and Cherrington	94
CHAPTER XV. Villages and Families	103
CHAPTER XVI. Muckleton Days	139
CHAPTER XVII. Cold Hatton Heath	161
CHAPTER XVIII. Rowton	191
CHAPTER XIX. Our Camp Fires and Playing with Fire	206
CHAPTER XX. John Taylor, Esq.	221
CHAPTER XXI. The Commons	227
CHAPTER XXII. Ellerdine Heath Wesleyan Chapel	239
CHAPTER XXIII. Joe and I	249
CHAPTER XXIV. "Tiddly Wink" Tales	254
CHAPTER XXV. Our School	271
CHAPTER XXVI. Richard Baxter	278
APPENDIX	298

ILLUSTRATIONS

Farm Worker of the 19th Century	
Charlie the Sweep	9
Algernon Pearce, J.P.	33
Tom Buttrey	34
High Ercall Church and High Ercall Hall	58
Cherrington Manor and Crudgington Manor	100
Ancient Cottages at Hodnet	116
Leonard Powell	162
Bit of Land at Nobridge left vacant when Common was enclosed	171
Stephen Burton carries his Plank Bridge	175
Thomas Picken	192
John and Sarah Picken	193
Rowton Church and Elizabeth House	196
Councillor Mary Gater and the Author	207
Elizabethan Cottage at Heath Hayes	208
Interior of Ellerdine Heath Wesleyan Chapel and	
Ellerdine Primitive Methodist Chapel	235
Group of Ellerdine Wesleyans	236
Richard Baxter	277