

4 THE GREEN



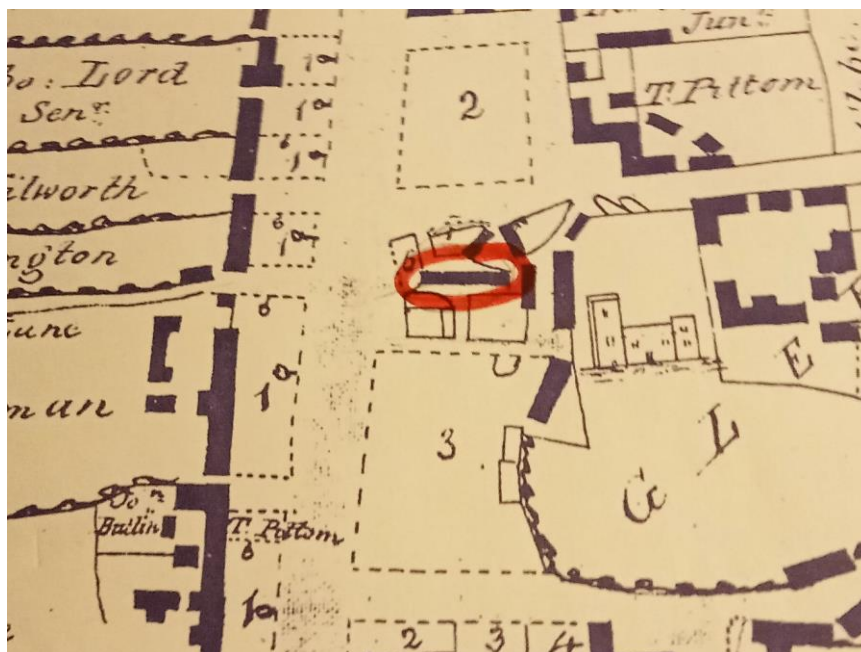
**BARBY LOCAL
HISTORY GROUP**

FEBRUARY

2025

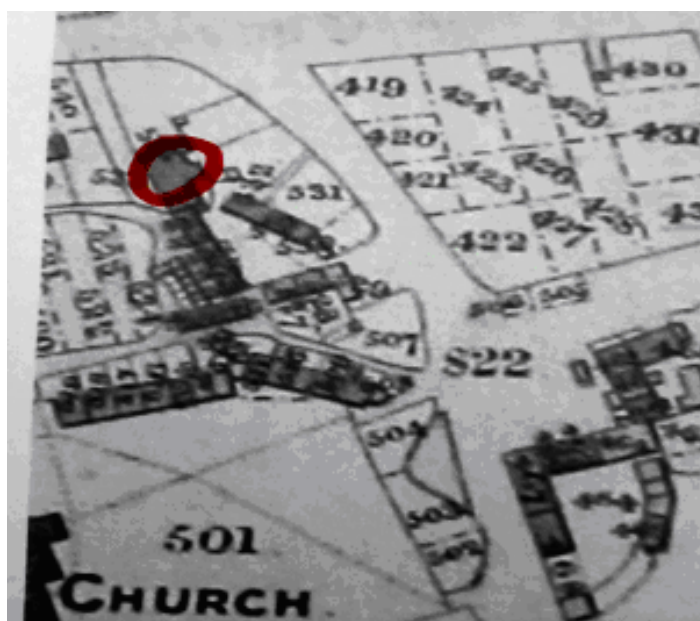


4 *The Green* is a property tucked behind what is now *Poppy Hall*, the former *Independent Chapel/Memorial Hall*. Although it looks like a modern house both outside and within, there are remnants of a much older property. A house has probably stood on this site for many years as shown by the Enclosure map of 1778 below.¹



Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO), 24P/211 & Map 5082

A further map, produced as part of the Oakley Survey of 1840, shows the property.



¹ The cover photograph, taken in 2024 by Alan Atkinson, is in the Barby Local History Group archives (BLHG) PD 2024/031; for more information about the Independent Chapel/Memorial Hall, see *From Chapel to Memorial Hall and Beyond* at www.barbylhg.org.uk/Local Topics

Over time the property has had many inhabitants. The earliest available census is that of 1841 when George Dicey and his wife Ester lived there and appeared to own the property. Both aged 50 at the time, they lived in the house with their daughter Rebecca (aged 20) and sons Thomas (aged 15) and Owen (aged 10).

10 years later, the property was still in the Dicey family but owned this time by William Dicey, aged 33. He lived there with his wife Catherine and 6 children. In the census, William was described as a grocer, tailor and draper. It is difficult to know if he traded from the house or whether he was in employment, although most likely the former.

William Dicey was still at *No 4* in 1861, with his wife Catherine and 3 children.

In the censuses of 1881 and 1891 the returns show John Vincent and family living at *No 4*. John is described as a grocer and an attached lean-to was the shop premises. A photograph of the family exists showing them outside the little store, no doubt offering an important service to the village that the residents found valuable: see below.



BLHG PD 1742 Village Centre

No 4 changed hands again as the census of 1901 shows Thomas Walker and family living there. More is known of the Walker family. Thomas was born in *Moulton* & Elizabeth in *Thornborough*. The couple had 3 children: Eveline, Ralph and Gladys.

Thomas and Elizabeth first moved to Barby around the 1890s into a house in *Church Walk*. At that time Thomas was a wheelwright and draper. Elizabeth was an astute business-woman, starting a shop selling bits and bobs to the village from a room in the house at *Church Walk*. The need for increased space led them to move to 4 *The Green*. The shop was established in the attached lean-to where the Vincents had their business and it continued to flourish. At some time in the early 1900s Thomas & Elizabeth bought the house.



The Walker family with the 3 children circa 1897

Back l to r: Thomas, Elizabeth; Front l to r: Gladys, Eveline, Ralph

BLHG P1768 People Vol 2

The 1911 census shows Thomas, Elizabeth and children were still living at 4 *The Green*. Thomas was still described as a wheelwright, Elizabeth as draper and grocer. Next to the property at that time was a bakery (on the site of the later *VG Store*) where Ralph, their son, worked as a self-employed baker, a trade he continued in the army during World War I. Eveline, their daughter, was assistant to (presumably) her mother in the shop. Thomas & Elizabeth were still in business in 1928 and Ralph still a baker.²

² *Kelly's Directory 1928*

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Families... 98
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after Census)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards		BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person	INFERMITY
				Married	Single	Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which person is connected			
1. Thomas Walker	Head	45	M	Married	20	Whitewright	692	Barby	Northampton	
2. Elizabeth Walker	Wife	44	F	Married	20	Washer & Ironer	760	Barby	Northampton	
3. Louisa Walker	Daughter	19	F	Single		Baker	925	Barby	Northampton	
4. Ralph Walker	Son	17	M	Single				Barby	Northampton	
5. Benjamin Walker	Daughter	15	F	Single				Barby	Northampton	
6. Benjamin Walker	Daughter	10	F	Single				Barby	Northampton	
7.										
8.										
9.										
10.										
11.										
12.										
13.										
14.										
15.										

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Male	Female	Total
3	2	5

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Thomas Walker
Postal Address: Barby, Nr. Rugby

By 1921, Ralph was living at No 4 with his family, as seen in the census of that year, shown below.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in Ink.

Number of Families... 112
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after Census)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or OCCUPATION	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY	OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT		Place of Work	Number and ages of all other children and any children under 10 years of age, whether residing on the premises or not, or in the care of any person on the premises
						Personal Occupation	Industry or Service with which person is connected		
1. Ralph Walker	Head	27	M	Married	Barby	Baker	Employer	364	51/10/10
2. Edith A. Walker	Wife	25	F	Married	Barby	Home Duties			
3. Robert A. Walker	Son	11	M	Single	Barby				
4. Louis M. Hookman	Visitor	27	F	Married	London	Bank	Insurance Machinery	Employed	33
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									
10.									

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Male	Female	Total
2	2	4

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Household, or other person responsible for making the return)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Walker

This census shows Thomas and Elizabeth living elsewhere in Barby. It has not been confirmed, but the couple may have moved back to Church Walk.

The 1939 Register, taken at the outbreak of World War II, shows Ralph still living in the property; aged 41, he was married to Edith and they had a son Robert who was 20 years old.

He had followed his father into the bakery trade and was described as a bread and cake maker.

Ralph's sister Eveline still worked in the shop at the house: she had married Edwin Smith in 1916. They went on to have a son Reg, who eventually would take over the running of the shop following his mother's death.

The house itself eventually came into Reg's ownership with the Smith family retaining possession until it was sold in 2023 to the current owners Andrew and Nannette Chilton who have lived there for approximately a year at the time of writing this document. Little remains of the old features of the house, although in the former shop, now the garage, there is evidence of thick walls, old beams and a hole in the wall which could have been for a chimney flue.



Photo showing old beams (taken with kind permission of the Chilton Family)



BLHG PD 2024/033

This photo above shows the lean-to from which the shop used to operate (taken with kind permission of the Chilton Family).³

³ For another account of the Smith and Walker families, dependent on conversations between Reg Smith and Peter Start, see *Marriage & Business Links between two Barby Families 1890-1993* at www.barbylhg.org.uk