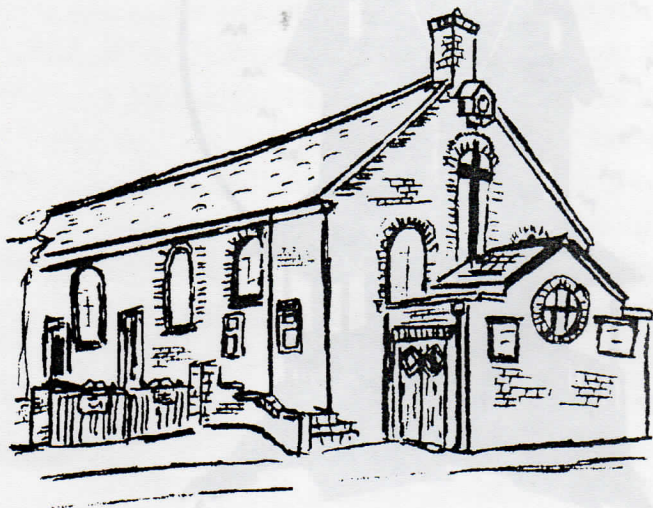


Two Gates
Ragged School



THE GHOST
of
OLDNALL



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Oldnall appears to have taken a prominent part in Cradley's history. It now has no buildings at all, in Cradley's early history there were three chain shops, a public house and the Cradley workhouse, the remains of this can still be seen. There was also a farm, the the residence of a school master, Mr Major Pardoe, who was head of Orchard Lane School, Lye.

It was at the turn of the century, that the farm house, now in ruins and the surroundings derelict, that the ghostly apparitions made their appearances. Like most farms at that period, it had a well that was in constant use, this well can still be located.

the story goes that a youth, employed by the farm, was subject to such ill treatment by his master, that he decided he could stand no more. he resolved to end it all by committing suicide.

What more appropriate way than to jump to the bottom of the well, where he could never be found. So he did just that.

Not long after, queer things began to happen. The bucket, which was always securly fastened after use, was always at the bottom of the well in the morning. Then the farmers pig disappeared and then his dog. Both were later found at the bottom of the well. In fact many articles in daily use, mysteriously

disappeared, only to be found at the bottom of the well.

These disappearances always occured in day light, whilst at night, the ghost made its appearance. Passers by were terror stricken, it became apparent, that the ill treated youth was the cause of all the trouble.

The local vicar was informed, he held a service on the spot. This had no result. Then a service of exorcism was held by the vicars of Halesowen and Oldswinford. during ths exercise, a lighted candle, with an appropriate text, was placed in the bucket and gently lowerd down the well. As it neared the bottom, the candle went out. The bucket was wound up, the candle relit and lowered again. This went on several times with the same result.

At the seventh attempt the candle remained lit and from that day to this, the ghost of Oldnall has never returned.

The question is, did the impish youth get tired of blowing out the candle or did the exorcisms of the clergy work.