



*Porlock butchers “gating the road” with a length of rope after my parents wedding at Oare Church.*



*Their wedding reception was back at my mother’s family farm at Yenworthy.*

In one of the photographs of the wedding two local Porlock butchers are “gating the road”, as they called it, an old custom on Exmoor in which a rope was put across the road to stop a wedding car. The newly-weds had to pay to get through and this was meant to bring them luck as they started out on their journey through married life. Clifford Perkins and Mardy Moore, I think, are holding the rope there in the picture. They were obviously delivering meat somewhere that day – one of them is still wearing his apron – and they came across the wedding and gated it!