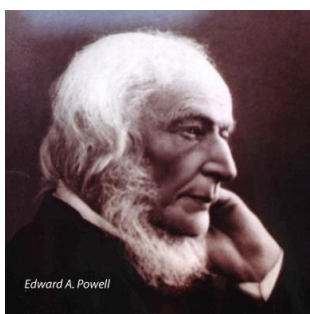
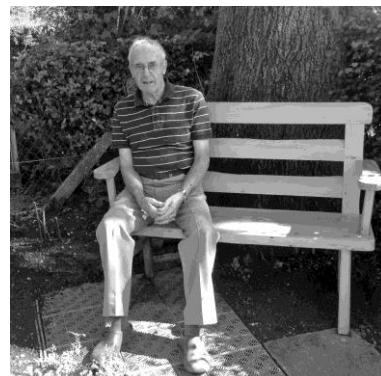


# Toft Historical Society



## A vicar, a tree and a bench

In the late 1840s, one of Toft's most famous vicars, the Rev. Edward Powell (1843-1892, above) planted a cedar of the Lebanon in Saint Andrew's churchyard. It grew into a magnificent specimen alongside its stately neighbours and provided shade, protection, colour and beauty for more than a century (photo top left, Ann Mitchell). Sadly, earlier this year, a great storm sent it crashing to the ground (photo, top centre, Mike McCarthy). Luckily, little damage was done to the churchyard, but removing the huge tree was a long and arduous task.

Once the trunk had been removed, village residents were able to claim pieces of various sizes as souvenirs for their gardens and homes. Mr Peter Barker (School Lane), renowned for his exquisite woodworking skills, transformed a section of the tree into a beautiful bench which now stands in his garden, offering a view of his plot and the Home Meadow (photo top right, Yvonne Balcombe). The tree may have gone, but parts of it live on in Toft history.