

1850: *Reports and Papers of the Architectural and Archaeological Societies*: 'In the churchyard is a wonderful old yew-tree, the largest in Worcestershire. Its present girth is 28ft 9 inches.'

1874: *The Gardener's Chronicle* reported that at Stanton, Worcestershire was an ancient yew with a girth of 25 feet at 5ft. This was almost certainly referring to this massive yew fragment found at Staunton, Gloucestershire. In 1874 Staunton was in Worcestershire, becoming part of Gloucestershire in 1931.

1924: *A History of the County of Worcester: volume 4*: 'The church stands back some distance from the road and the churchyard is chiefly on the north side.....To the north-west of the tower is an old yew tree with hollow stem, said to be the largest in the county. Its girth is 28 ft. 9 in.'

1938: Mee's *The King's England* recognised the true immensity of this tree, recording 'a colossal yew 25 feet round and breaking up with age'.

Vaughan Cornish (1940s) wrote to parishes seeking information about their churchyard yews. Hayes replied with the following description: 'Yew with girth of 33', limbs extending 30' on north and 20' on south side. New bark grows over the old trunk. Limbs well covered with foliage.'

1998: This is certainly an unusual and exceptional fragment of a great old male tree, growing on the west side of the church. The photographs suggest that it will eventually become two fragments trees. For now, its two distinct sections, gradually leaning outwards, are held together with thick wire.



photos below - Geoff Garlick 2005





In 2014 Peter Norton recorded a girth of 25' 8" following a natural waistline.

