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yard, n.¹

Pronunciation: /jɑːd/

Forms: OE *geard*, ME *Ʒerd(e)*, ME–15 *Ʒard(e)*, *yerde*, ME–17 *yerd*, ME–18 *yaird*, (ME *Ʒherd*, ME *Ʒeard*, *Ʒord*, *yorde*, 15 *Ʒharde*, 15, *yorte* (18 *dial. (Lancs.) yort*), 16 *yearde*, 17 *Sc. yeard*), ME–15 *Ʒaird*, 15–16 *yarde*, ME– *yard*.

Etymology: Old English *geard* strong masculine fence, dwelling, house, region = Old Saxon *gard* enclosure, field, dwelling, Middle Dutch, Dutch *gaard* garden, Old High German *gart* circle, ring, Old Norse *garðr* GARTH n.¹, (Swedish *gård* yard, Danish *gard* yard, farm), Gothic *gards* house, with corresponding weak forms Old Frisian *garda* garden, Old Saxon *gardo*, Old High German *garto* (Middle High German *garte*, German *garten*) garden, Gothic *garda* enclosure, stall. (Old English *geard* is the second element of *middangeard* MIDDENERD n., *ortgeard* ORCHARD n., *wingearde* WINYARD n.)

The ulterior relations of these words are uncertain. Close affinity of sense is exhibited by the words derived from the Germanic root *gerd-* : *gard-* : *gurd-*, represented by GIRD v.¹ (Old English *gyrdan*, Old High German *gurten*, Old Norse *gyrða*) and GIRTH n.¹ (Old Norse *gǫrð*, Gothic *gairda*), and those derived from an Indo-European root *ghort-*, viz. Greek *χόρτος* farm-yard, feeding-place, food, fodder, Latin *hortus* garden, *co-hors* enclosure, yard, pen for cattle and poultry, COHORT n., COURT n.¹, Old Irish *gort* cornfield; but there are phonological difficulties in the way of equating both groups of words. (Old Church Slavonic *gradŭ* enclosure, town, Russian *grad*, *gorod* town, as in *Petrograd*, *Novgorod*, Lithuanian *gàrdas* hurdle, fold, are probably borrowed < Germanic.)

The general signification of the word is 'enclosure', the particular character of which is usually to be inferred from the context; the simple word is thus often felt to be short for a specific compound of it (see references in the various senses).

1.

a. A comparatively small uncultivated area attached to a house or other building or enclosed by it; *esp.* such an area surrounded by walls or buildings within the precincts of a house, castle, inn, etc. Cf. BACK YARD n., *castle yard*, *chapel-yard* n., COURT-YARD n., *inn-yard*, *palace yard*, *stable-yard*.

In Old English used in sing. and pl. = dwelling, house, home, the 'courts of heaven'; also, region, tract (cf. *middangeard* MIDDENERD n.).

OE *Guthlac* A 791 Swa soðfæstra sawla motun in ecne gearde up gestigan rodera rice.

OE *Beowulf* 2459 Nis þær hearpan sweg, gomen in geardum.

OE *Genesis* 740 Wit..forleton on heofonrice heahgetimbro, godlice geardas.

c1400 *St. Alexius* (Laud 108) 302 Alex..Is dweld in his fader Ʒerd As a pore man.

c1480 (▶a1400) *St. Mary of Egypt* 571 in W. M. Metcalfe *Legends Saints Sc. Dial.* (1896) I. 312

- To þe tempil men cane draw; & of It til in þe 3arde I wes cummyne, I ne spard.
- 1524 in J. W. Clay *Testamenta Eboracensia* (1902) VI. 10 A litile howse with a yerde.
- 1562 J. HEYWOOD *Prov. & Epigr.* (1867) 100, I kepe doggis..in my yarde.
- 1565 in D. H. Fleming *Reformation in Scotl.* (1910) 613 Part of ane yard within the abbay place of Sanctandrois.
- a1657 J. BALFOUR *Hist. Wks.* (1825) II. 71 He was brought vpone a scaffold in the parliament yaird.
- 1711 J. ADDISON *Spectator* No. 121. ¶1 As I was walking..in the great Yard that belongs to my Friend's Country House.
- a1720 W. SEWEL *Hist. Quakers* (1795) I. II. 96 The steeple-house yard.
- 1817 SCOTT *Rob Roy* II. xii. 242, I wandered from one quadrangle of old-fashioned buildings to another, and from thence to the College-yards, or walking-ground.
- 1838 E. BULWER-LYTTON *Alice* II. v. iv. 135 Four horses, that had been only fourteen miles, had just re-entered the yard.
- 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* I. v. 183 An old cathedral yard.
- 1842 DICKENS *Amer. Notes* I. viii. 279 A long row of small houses fronting on the street, and opening at the back upon a common yard.
- 1908 E. FOWLER *Between Trent & Ancholme* 20 The small yard between the stables.

b. spec. †(a) The 'ground' of a playhouse, orig. an inn-yard; (b) *Sc.* *pl.* a school playground; (c) = COURT *n.*¹ 3 (esp. in proper names, as *Carter's Yard, Thompson's Yard* in Oxford).

- 1609 T. DEKKER *Guls Horne-bk.* sig. E3, Neither are you to be hunted from thence though the Scar-crowes in the yard, hoot at you.
- 1808 SCOTT *Autobiogr.* in J. G. Lockhart *Mem. Life Scott* (1839) I. 41, I made a brighter figure in the yards than in the class.
- 1815 SCOTT *Guy Mannering* I. ii. 27 Half the youthful mob 'of the yards' used to assemble..to see Dominie Sampson..descend the stairs from the Greek class.
- 1851 H. MAYHEW *London Labour* II. 211/1 Every Street, Lane, Square, Yard, Court, Alley, Passage, and Place..are to be thus cleansed.

c. Contextually = CHURCHYARD *n.*, GRAVEYARD *n.*

- [1617 F. MORYSON *Itinerary* I. 145 Not farre thence is a yard vsed for common buriall, called the holy field, vulgarly *Campo Santo.*]
- 1792 R. BURNS in J. Johnson *Scots Musical Museum* IV. 326 And now I greet round their green beds in the yerd.
- 1836 HOOTON *Bilberry Thurland* I. xi. 217 The road he had taken brought him at length to the church, through the yard of which it led.

1856 C. M. YONGE *Daisy Chain* I. xxii, The little..church, its yard shaded with trees.

d. An enclosure attached to a prison, in which the prisoners take exercise. **liberty of the yard** (U.S.): see quot. 1828-32.

- 1777 J. HOWARD *State Prisons Eng. & Wales* iii. 74 Why were not the walls of the yards repaired in time, that prisoners might with safety be allowed the proper use of them?
- 1828-32 WEBSTER *Amer. Dict. Eng. Lang.* at *Yard*, *Liberty of the yard*, is a liberty granted to persons imprisoned for debt, of walking in the yard, or within any other limits prescribed by law.
- 1861 H. MAYHEW *London Labour* (new ed.) III. 438/1 This person..took me into the yard and stripped me.

e. the Yard, short for 'Scotland Yard', the chief London police office.

- 1888 A. C. GUNTER *Mr. Potter* xviii. 221 They're tired of paying your old master's salary up at the Yard.
- 1904 J. SWEENEY *At Scotland Yard* ii, W. E. Monro..was one of the greatest public servants who ever worked at the Yard.

f. U.S. A college campus or the area enclosed by its main buildings; *spec.* at Harvard: **the Yard**, the quadrangle formed by the original college buildings.

- 1637-9 *Harvard Coll. Rec.* in *Publ. Colonial Soc. Mass.* (1925) I. 172 Mr Nathaniel Eatons Account... The frame in the Colledge Yard & digging the cellar.
- 1841 *Harvard Faculty Orders & Regul.* 6 Collecting in groups round the doors of the College buildings or in the yard [shall be considered a violation of decorum].
- 1871 L. H. BAGG *Four Years at Yale* 27 Besides the fourteen buildings already described, the only others within the yard..were the two wooden dwelling-houses.
- 1902 *Boston Evening Record* 18 Mar. 8/4 (*heading*) Out of the 'Yard'—how the Harvard students have gone to the 'Gold Coast'.
- 1942 L. V. BERREY & M. VAN DEN BARK *Amer. Thes. Slang* §829.12 *Campus*, camp, orchard,..yard.
- 1947 *Harvard Alumni Bull.* 12 Apr. 586/2 Few people have likely ever thought of the Yard as a bird sanctuary... What of the Yard? There must be bird records.
- 1970 'E. QUEEN' *Last Woman* III. 163, I found out the truth about myself in my freshman year at Harvard... There was an episode in a bar, well away from the Yard.
- 1981 'D. JORDAN' *Double Red* xv. 71 Stumbling across the Yard..after too much Harvard Provision Co. gin.

2. An enclosure forming a pen for cattle or poultry, a storing place for hay, or the like, belonging to a farm-house or surrounded by farm-buildings, or one in which a barn or similar building stands. (Cf. *barn-yard* *n.* at *BARN* *n.* Compounds 2, *FARM-YARD* *n.* and *adj.*, *poultry-yard*.)

- †c1300 *Havelok* (Laud) (1868) 702 Þe hennes of þe yerd.
- c1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Priest's Tale* 27 A yeerd she hadde enclosed al aboute With stikkes and a drye dych with-oute In which she hadde a Cok.
- c1386 CHAUCER *Nun's Priest's Tale* 177 Oon of hem was logged in a stalle Fer in a yeerd with Oxen of the plough.
- 1481 CAXTON tr. *Hist. Reynard Fox* (1970) 11, I [sc. chantecler] had viij fayr sones and seuen fayr doughters whiche..wente in a yerde whiche was walled round a boute.
- 1551 in J. W. Clay *North Country Wills* (1908) I. (Surtees 1908) 218 To Jhon Collin,..one lode of heye in my yarde.
- 1573 T. TUSSEY *Fiue Hundreth Points Good Husbandry* (new ed.) f. 23^v, All maner of straw, that is scattedred in yard.
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* III. xxv. 175 One of the Lyons leaped downe into a neighbours yard, where nothing regarding the crowing or noise of the Cocks, hee eat them up.
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Georgics* II, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 94 His wanton Kids..Fight harmless Battels in his homely Yard.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* II. IV. viii. 51 A vast Herd of Cows in a rich Farmer's Yard.
- 1841 DICKENS *Old Curiosity Shop* I. xv. 173 A thriving farm with sleepy cows lying about the yard.

3. A piece of enclosed ground of moderate size, often adjoining a house and covered with grass or planted with trees; a garden. Now chiefly *N. Amer.* and *dial.*, a kitchen or cottage-garden (cf. *DOOR-YARD* *n.*, *kail-yard* at *KALE-YARD* *n.*).

See also *grass-yard* *n.* at *GRASS* *n.*¹ Compounds 2, *GREEN YARD* *n.*

- a1300 *Cursor Mundi* 1027 Paradis..es a yard cald o delites Wit all maner of suet spices.
- 1390 J. GOWER *Confessio Amantis* II. 30 And after Phillis Philliberd This tre was cleped in the yerd.
- a1400 (†a1325) *Cursor Mundi* (Vesp.) l. 12522 He sent him to þe yerd..For to gedir þam sum cale.
- c1400 *Sc. Trojan War* (Horstm.) I. 255 3ardes for herbys ande for virgerys.
- c1440 *Gesta Romanorum* (Add. MS.) xxvii. 111 He had a faire yerde [*Harl. MS.* gardin], that he mekell loved.
- c1440 *Promptorium Parvulorum* 537/2 3erd, or 3orde.., *ortus*.

- 1477 in *Exch. Rolls Scot.* IX. 101 (*note*), Oure landis of Auld Lindoris with the brewlandis cotagiis and yairdis therof.
- c1540 J. BELLENDEN tr. H. Boece *Cosmogr.* xvi, in *Hyst. & Cron. Scotl.* sig. Dj, Aqua vite..maid..of sic naturall herbis as grew in thair awin 3ardis.
- ?1591 R. BRUCE *Serm. Sacrament* v. sig. T2^v, Quhat Christ suffered for thame in the zarde [sc. Gethsemane], and on the crosse.
- 1718 in *Nairne Peerage Evid.* (1874) 33 Houses biggings yairds orchyairds.
- 1793 R. BURNS in G. Thomson *Sel. Coll. Orig. Sc. Airs* I. i. 17 My daddie has nought but a cot-house and yard.
- 1818 SCOTT *Heart of Mid-Lothian* viii, in *Tales of my Landlord* 2nd Ser. I. 236 Any of her apple-trees or cabbages which she had left rooted in the 'yard' at Woodend.
- a1825 R. FORBY *Vocab. E. Anglia* (1830) *Yard*, the garden belonging to a cottage or ordinary messuage.
- 1835 J. H. INGRAHAM *South-West* II. xxxii. 88 Striped grass, cultivated in yards at the north.
- 1877 H. G. MURRAY *Tom Kittle's Wake* 21 My daughter, Molly tief pass, maam, den go da him yard.
- 1889 M. E. WILKINS *Far-away Melody* (1891) 11 Four..old apple-trees, which stood promiscuously about the yard back of the Cottage.
- 1907 W. JEKYL *Jamaican Song & Story* 163 The immediate surroundings of the house are called the yard. They seldom speak of going to a friend's house. They say they are going to his yard.
- 1932 'L. G. GIBBON' *Sunset Song* ii. 97 The berries hung ripe in the yard of the gardener Galt.
- 1947 J. A. LOMAX *Adventures Ballad Hunter* vii. 185 She says, 'Can you cut yards?' an' I says, 'Yes ma'am.' She says, 'Go roun,..to de back.., you'll find a lawn-mower there, and then begin cuttin'.'
- 1956 G. E. EVANS *Ask Fellows who cut Hay* iv. 55 The village was almost entirely self-supporting, most families living on what they grew or reared on their *yards* or allotments.
- 1980 W. MAXWELL *So Long, see you Tomorrow* (1981) ii. 22 The rented house had no yard to speak of.

4.

a. An enclosure set apart for the growing, rearing, breeding, or storing of something or the carrying on of some work or business. Cf. *brickyard n.* at *BRICK n.*¹ Compounds 3, *DOCKYARD n.*, *dung-yard*, *hemp-yard*, *ORCHARD n.* (Old English *ortgeard*), *SHIPYARD n.*, *tan-yard*, *VINEYARD n.*, †*winyard* (Old English *wingearde*).

- 1378 *Durham MS. Cell. Roll* In plumbo empto pro uno aqueducto in le Hempyard.
- 1520 *Perth Hammermen Bk.* (1889) 15 Ressavit fra John Kynloch of this yeres excrestes of the yairds.
- 1523 LD. BERNERS tr. J. Froissart *Cronycles* I. xvi. 7/2 Great leuers..the whiche they founde in a carpenters yarde.

- 1555 *Act 2 & 3 Phil. & Mary* c. 16 §7 Before the said Boate..bee lanced out of the Yarde or Grounde wherin the same Boate..shall fortune to bee made.
- a1610 J. HEALEY tr. Theophrastus *Characters* (1636) 23 He hath a little yard, gravelled fit for wrestling.
- 1696 *Cal. State Papers, Domest.* 282 The porter, master-caulker and 'teamer' of Deptford Yard.
- 1748 B. ROBINS & R. WALTER *Voy. round World by Anson* II. vi. 200 A ship-carpenter in the yard at Portsmouth.
- 1803 PERING in *Naval Chron.* 15 61 The yard is paid quarterly.
- 1836 DICKENS *Sketches by Boz* 1st Ser. II. 184 What can be more amusing than Searle's yard on a fine Sunday morning.
- 1836 DICKENS *Pickwick Papers* (1837) ii. 15 'What's Mr. Smithie,' inquired Mr. Tracy Tupman. 'Something in the yard [sc. the Dockyard],' replied the stranger.
- 1855 *Poultry Chron.* 3 191 Eggs from the Yards of Mr. Punchard.
- 1873 G. S. BADEN-POWELL *New Homes for Old Country* 194 The 'yards'..are usually situated near the head station.
- 1891 W. K. BROOKS *Amer. Oyster* 131 Around each claire is built a levee or dirt wall called a yard... This yard retains the water filling the basin.

b. The piece of ground adjacent to a railway station or terminus, used for making up trains, storing rolling-stock, etc.; also an enclosure in which cabs, trams, etc. are kept when not in use.

- 1827 E. MACKENZIE *Descr. & Hist. Acct. Newcastle* II. 722 A waggon set out for London from the general waggon-yard..every day.
- 1836 DICKENS *Pickwick Papers* (1837) ii. 7 A..young man..emerging suddenly from the coach-yard.
- 1894 *Daily News* 18 May 5/4 Yesterday his cabs were still in the yard.
- 1903 *Westm. Gaz.* 8 Jan. 7/3 The yard foreman knows the capacity of each of the engines he sends out from his yard.

c. the Yards, the stockyards where cattle are collected for slaughter, esp. in Chicago. *U.S.*

- 1865 *Atlantic Monthly* Jan. 83/2 The average weekly expenditure by butchers at the New York yards during the year 1863 was \$328,865.
- 1906 U. SINCLAIR *Jungle* xv. 170 Already the yards were full of activity.
- 1935 A. G. MACDONELL *Visit to Amer.* vii. 114 As in Chicago, the pride of Omaha is the Stock-yards... I was looking straight down into the Yards.
- 1974 'M. ALLEN' *Super Tour* ii. 57 I've been called all kinds of things ever since I was a kid back of the Yards.

5. U.S. and Canada. An area in which moose and deer congregate, esp. during the winter months.

- 1829 T. C. HALIBURTON *Hist. & Statist. Acct. Nova Scotia* II. ix. 392 In winter they [sc. moose] form herds, and when the snow is deep, they describe a circle, and press the snow with their feet, until it becomes hard, which is called by hunters a yard, or pen.
- 1864–5 J. G. WOOD *Homes without Hands* 614 So confident is the Elk in the security of the 'yard', that it can scarcely ever be induced to leave its snowy fortification.
- 1884 *Science* 28 Mar. 394/1 Immense yards, containing hundreds of deer, existed along the various tributaries [of the Ottawa].
- 1903 *Longman's Mag.* July 248 [They] never failed to destroy a 'yard' to the last fawn.

COMPOUNDS

attrib. and *Comb.* (a) in sense 1, as **yard-broom**, **yard door**, **yard gate**, **yard wall**; **yard-dog** *n.* a watchdog kept in the yard of a house or dwelling. (b) in sense 2, as **yard-bar**, **yard-dung**, **yard-liquor**, **yard-pond**, **yard-room**; †(c) in sense 3 (Sc. and U.S.), as **yard door**, **yard end**, **yard house**, **yard tack**; **yard-boy** *n.* a general labourer; a gardener or gardener's boy (*obs. exc. Caribbean*). † **yard-dike** *n.* *Obs.* a garden wall. **yard-grass** *n.* a low annual grass, *Eleusine indica*, common in 'yards' about houses in parts of U.S.A.; also *Cynodon Dactylon*. **yard sale** *n.* U.S. a sale of miscellaneous second-hand items held in the garden of a private house. (d) in sense 4a, 4b, esp. relating to dockyards, ship-yards, cab yards, or railway yards, as **yard clerk**, **yard craft**, **yard-keeper**, **yard-lighter**, **yard-master**; **yard-money** *n.* fees payable by hirers of cabs from cab-owners to stablemen, etc. on returning them to the yard.

(a)

- 1580 in *Archaeologia* **64** 358 To mak and hang a yard dor at the nether end of the turrit at the bridg.
- 1795 J. HAIGHTON in *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **85** 197, I kept this animal nineteen months, during the greatest part of which he performed the office of a yard dog.
- 1823 SCOTT *Quentin Durward* I. Introd. p. vii, Trusty, the yard-dog.
- 1857 C. KINGSLEY *Two Years Ago* I. iii. 69 Lofty garden and yard walls of grey stone.
- 1865 C. KINGSLEY *Hereward* xix, Let me and my serving-man go free out of thy yard gate.

- 1905 A. C. BENSON *Thread of Gold* ii, A big black yard-dog.
- 1908 E. FOWLER *Between Trent & Ancholme* 29 Near the yard doors.
- 1921 *Blackwood's Mag.* Feb. 195/1 Dip an old yard~broom in a bucket of water.
- 1982 J. SCOTT *Local Lads* iii. 32 Billy took up an aged, patchily moulted yardbroom.
- (b)
- 1580 T. TUSSER *Fiue Hundred Pointes Good Husbandrie* (new ed.) f. 49^v, Some barnroome haue litle, & yadroome as much.
- 1744 W. ELLIS *Mod. Husbandman* Jan. xi. 81 He may now carry out his Stable or Yard-Dung.
- 1764 *Museum Rusticum* II. I. 3 When I make use of yard dung, I take care it is very rotten.
- 1778 W. MARSHALL *Minutes Agric. Digest* 23 It is better management to prevent, than either to waste or cart-out a superfluity of Yard-liquor.
- 1827 J. CLARE *Shepherd's Cal.* 20 While ducks and geese..Plunge in the yard-pond brimming o'er.
- 1869 A. D. WHITNEY *Hitherto* xi, The lowing of cattle at their yard-bars.
- (c)
- 1473 in C. Rogers *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 189 He sal put bath husband tak and 3ard tak til al possibil polyci.
- 1505 *Rental Bk. Cupar-Angus* (1879) I. 260 Biggind of gud 3erd hous, sufficiand chawmeris and stabulis to resau and herbry..xij or xvj hors.
- 1532 *Abst. Protocols Town Clerks Glasgow* (1897) IV. 57 The rademyng and lowsing of twa riggis of land, lyand at his yard end.
- 1595 *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.* 132/2 Up the saidis Alesteris eist yaird-dyk to the mairch of Galdwalmoir.
- 1691 *Burgh of Jedburgh Council Rec.* 19 Mar. ((Scottish Borders Archives: BJ/1/4)) Ffor his wrongous..away takeing of certaine stoness out of the ministers yeard dyke at his awin hand.
- 1788 J. WOODFORDE *Diary* 7 Jan. (1927) III. 2 To my Yard Boy, Charles Crossley, for 3 Quarters of a Years Wages pd o. 15. 9.
- 1809 A. HENRY *Trav. & Adventures Canada* 79 Behind the yard-door of my own house,..there was a low fence.
- 1822 J. WOODS *Two Years' Resid. Eng. Prairie* 199 Yard-grass comes on land that has been much trodden; it is something like cock's-foot-grass, except the seed.
- 1831 C. FARQUHARSON *Jrnl.* 2 Dec. in *Relic of Slavery* (1957) 47 Employed all hands weeding..along with the yard boys.
- 1848 R. H. SCHOMBURGK *Hist. Barbados* 586 *Cynodon dactylon*. Devil's Grass. Bahama, or Yard Grass.
- 1907 A. LANG *Hist. Scotl.* IV. xvi. 392 A minister's yard dyke, or garden wall, was overthrown.
- 1958 S. SELVON *Turn again Tiger* viii. 185, I take the worst job that was going—as a kind of yard-boy by the white people house.
- 1975 *New Rev.* May 10/2 In and around Port of Spain cooks, ironers and yardboys in attendance.
- 1976 *Flint (Mich.) Jrnl.* 12 July c-5 *Yard sale*—1508 Webber canning jars, screen tent, patterns, books, [etc.].
- 1982 M. MCMULLEN *Until Death do us Part* (1983) vii. 46 There was a yard sale down our street.

(d)

- a1647 P. PETT *Life in Archaeologia* (1796) **12** 266 Those businesses, which were put out by the great to divers yard-keepers.
- 1737 *Chamberlayne's Magnæ Britanniae Notitia* (ed. 33) II. 87 Yard-keeper and Fire-maker.
- 1804 *Naval Chron.* **12** 504 Six Gun-vessels and Yard-lighters.
- 1861 in *Orders Council Naval Service* (1904) II. 29 Pensions..granted to the Riggers employed in Your Majesty's Dock~yards, and the Seamen belonging to the Yard Craft.
- 1864 *Rep. Children's Employment Comm.* 139/1 in *Parl. Papers XXII.* 487/1 Mr Thomas Wheat, yard~master... My duty is to give orders..and manage the work.
- 1883 P. L. SIMMONDS *Dict. Trade Products Suppl.*, *Yard Clerk*, one who has the overlooking of the yard of a brewery, builder, etc.
- 1884 *Bath Jrnl.* 26 July 7/3 On returning to the yard at night he has to stump up ten shillings more, plus a mysterious fee of two shillings called 'yard money'.
- 1889 *Boston (Mass.) Jrnl.* 9 Apr. 3/4 [A] yardmaster at Brattleboro' had one leg cut off by a switching train.
- 1891 C. ROBERTS *Adrift in Amer.* 93 The brakesman was standing by to couple the cars that the yard engine was backing down on to the rest of the train.
- 1898 *Engin. Mag.* **16** 67 The ordinary yard-handling of, say, an army corps.

DRAFT ADDITIONS 1993

W. Indies. Also **yaad**. A dwelling or house (including the land attached); also, a property composed of many rented dwelling units consisting of independent structures with shared toilet facilities (a *tenant yard*) or forming part of multi-family buildings (typical of a *government yard*); hence amongst expatriate Jamaicans: Jamaica, 'home'.

- 1877 H. G. MURRAY in F. G. Cassidy & R. B. Le Page *Dict. Jamaican Eng.* (1967) 485/1 My daughter, Molly tief pass, maam, den go da him yard.
- 1907 W. JEKYL *Jamaican Song & Story* lvii. 163 The immediate surroundings of the house are called the yard. They seldom speak of going to a friend's house. They say they are going to his yard.
- 1950 L. BENNETT et al. *Anancy Stories & Dial. Verse* 71 Me gat tree pickney an dem mumma up a yard.
- 1956 in F. G. Cassidy & R. B. Le Page *Dict. Jamaican Eng.* (1967) 485/1 Wi kyan go a mis mieri yaad: We can go to Miss Mary's place.
- 1974 *New York* 4 Nov. 73/1 Alton has been on the hit parade down in Yard..ever since his first

smash in 1959.

- 1976 J. BERRY *Bluefoot Traveller* (1977) 27 No mood can touch one Mango season back at Yard.
- 1988 *Washington Post* 4 Sept. (Book World section) x14/4 The Pamela Mordecai anthology of Jamaican poetry since independence is titled *From Our Yard.*, but 11 of the 28 poets live somewhere else.
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Oxford University Press

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