

# Send & Ripley History Society

FOUNDED 1975 AS SEND HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Ruins of  
Newark Priory  
West View

Journal Volume 6 No. 214

Sept/Oct 2010



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**Cover photo: Ruins of Cowdray House.**

**Photo © Les Bowerman**

## Editorial

The publication last year of *Memories of War*, one of the most successful of our books, has encouraged the writing of wartime reminiscences by a number of members and others. In Journal 211, for instance, Derek Hack wrote movingly of his father's experiences as a prisoner of war and by contrast we learned of the Stedman family's wartime life in Boughton Hall. In the last issue (J213) we had Gwen Puttock writing vividly about life in Ripley in wartime. In this issue we have Jean Turner doing the same with a substantial and profusely illustrated article about wartime Send, while Tony Wallis in a short letter speaks of both Ripley and Send. Still to come in issue 215, Isla Hunt writes about her father, James Jackman, over a period, which included WW2, and Andrea Farrell speaks of family life in a double-decker bus at Hatchford End at the end of the war. All of this is very welcome as the 70th anniversary of the end of the war is celebrated. These, indeed, are experiences that it is essential to record before it is too late.

Moving on from seventy years ago to the present, we offer congratulations to our Webmaster, Chris Brown, on completing a gruelling 300 miles 4-day sponsored bicycle ride from Crystal Palace, South London, to the Eiffel Tower in temperatures that reached more than 30 degrees. The group of 50 riders together raised in excess of £55,000 for Kidney Research UK.

  
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## The 400 Year History of Footbridge House, High Street, Ripley Part Two - 1794 to 1990s

*John and Bette Slatford*

### **‘All that cottage formerly a barn and part of a tenement called the White Hart’ in the 1800s**

This property was situated between the present day Footbridge House and Ripley House and is clearly shown on the Tithe Map of 1843 and on the first edition of the 1:2500 (25 inch) Ordnance Survey map of 1870. It seems to have been demolished before the issue of the second edition OS map of 1896.

The death of William Peters was recorded in 1816 and his estates were bequeathed to his widow, Sarah Peters. She died in 1840 and in her will directed that her copyhold cottage was to

be sold and the profits should go to her daughter, Mary Ann Wyatt, and to her son, Robert Peters. The Court Baron did not record this sale but the purchaser was Edward Collen, a stationer living in Albury. The 1841 census for Ripley shows Joseph Collen, a grocer and probably Edward's son, living in this cottage. Joseph did not stay there long because Kelly's Directory in 1851 records Francis Cotterell being there as a grocer and he was still there in 1861. Also living in part of the property in 1851 and 1861 was John Bird, an agricultural labourer, and his family.

Edward Collen's death was recorded in the Court Baron of 1866 when the cottage was stated to be 'in the occupation of Charles Henry Sherman' (*according to the 1871 census and later Kelly's Directories, the name should have been William Henry Sherman*). Sherman was described as a grocer, draper and coal merchant and he was there until at least 1878. In his will dated 10th January 1855, Edward Collen left his Ripley property to his son, Peter Edward Collen, and his son-in-law, Wendelin Kleyser of Freiburg, Baden, Germany (*in 1861, he was living in Portsmouth with his family*) as trustees. They immediately sold the property to Elizabeth Patience Woodbury, the wife of Thomas Woodbury, a yeoman of Ockham.

The last manorial record of the 'cottage formerly a barn' was on 20th April 1876 when the enfranchisement of Elizabeth Patience Woodbury was recorded (*that is, she was granted the freehold*). It is likely that shortly afterwards she sold to Charlotte Elizabeth Pigott who also bought the other part of the properties (*see below*) and had bought the adjacent Ripley House in the same year. Miss Pigott may have been responsible for the demolition of the "cottage formerly a barn" soon afterwards.

#### **'All that messuage formerly part of the White Hart' in the 1800s**

The Court Baron of 11th January 1811 recorded the sale by William Baker, for the sum of £307 and 10 shillings, of 'all that messuage formerly called part of the White Hart to the use of Robert Whitburn brewer of Ripley'.

Robert Whitburn was a prominent figure in Ripley through the early 1800s and had acquired considerable property including most of the village inns. This he achieved largely with borrowed money and by 1832 he had been declared bankrupt. The Court Baron of 17th February recorded the sale by public auction of 'the copyhold messuage, buildings, gardens and orchard formerly called part of the White Hart at the further end of Ripley'. The auction was held at The Talbot Hotel where the highest bidder at the price of £370 was John Parsons Kaye. The Court Baron of 21st April 1835 recorded the surrender into the Court by Robert Whitburn's administrators to the use of John Parsons Kaye and his admission as tenant of the copyhold property.

John Parsons Kaye was an insurance agent and lived in the house with his mother Sarah. He died in 1876 and his executors, Joseph Martyr of Knaphill, and Alfred Honnor of Ripley Kiln, sold the property to Charlotte Pigott of Ripley House next door. Miss Pigott was admitted as copyhold tenant on 5th April 1877 and on 12th October in the same year she received a grant of enfranchisement, that is, the freehold, from the Lord of the Manor, the Earl of Onslow. It cost her £156. 9s. 4d. Thereafter, the house was let to a succession of tenants until the mid 1950s.

The first recorded tenant in 1880 was an artist named Charles Gregory. He came from London with his family and stayed for over ten years. The tenancy agreement carried the name Bridgefoot House for the first time. In this, Gregory was permitted to convert the coachhouse and stable into a studio for his profession. Almost certainly he left his mark on the house in the form of two circular portrait murals which remain fitted into the south wall of the garden. There is no identification of the subjects but it is likely that they are two of his children. By 1901, the Gregory family had moved to Witley and in their place was a solicitor, Edward Gafford.



Living with Charlotte Pigott for much of her time at Ripley House was her sister Salisbury Anne. She was the widow of Count Sayn Wittgenstein of Egern Fegensee in Bavaria, Germany, and she had two daughters. One of these, unmarried, was Eleonora Princess Sayn Wittgenstein and the other was Leontine Countess of Konigsmarck, her husband being Count Charles Konigsmarck. Charlotte Pigott died on 11th July 1893 and in her will she left her Ripley property, Ripley House and Bridgefoot House, to her widowed sister. John French Pigott and Count Charles Konigsmarck were the executors. Five years later, Salisbury Anne

gave both of the houses to her daughters. There are no further mentions of the sisters or the houses until 1916, well into the First World War, although in the 1901 census and in Kelly's Directories there are various mentions of the tenants of Bridgefoot House.

### **Bridgefoot House in the 1900s**

In 1916 an Act of Parliament, known as the Trading with the Enemy Act, came into force and Princess Sayn Wittgenstein and Countess Konigsmarck as owners of Bridgefoot House and Ripley House were declared to be 'Enemies within the Act'. A vesting order was made on 13th July 1916 ordering their properties to be confiscated and vested in the Public Trustee as custodian. The order stated that the custodian was at liberty to let the properties to tenants for a period of not more than 14 years. The tenant of Bridgefoot House for much of that time was Percy Belton at a rental of £55 per annum. He was followed by Ernest Rowe Dutton. On 12th February 1926, the Public Trustee sold Bridgefoot House to Dutton as the sitting tenant for £1150. There is no known record of whether the German sisters were ever compensated for the loss of their property in Ripley.



To help pay for the purchase of his house, Ernest Dutton found it necessary to borrow £850 from Ena Grey Wigan but not long afterwards on 28th September 1926 he sold it to Guy Cleveland Onslow, the then owner of and living next door at Ripley House. Guy Onslow, a member of the Onslow family who owned and lived at Dunsborough all through the 19th century, was the headmaster of Ripley Court School. He took over in 1917 after the death of his father-in-law Robert May Pearce who founded the school in 1893. It seems that Bridgefoot House remained as tenanted property until well after the end of the Second World War.

Eight years after his purchase of Bridgefoot House, Guy Onslow sold it and Ripley House to his mother-in-law Mabel Hussey Pearce for the total sum of £3,183. 19s. 1d. To finance this Mrs Pearce obtained a private loan from the Hon. Sir Algernon Boyle, a retired RN admiral, and Frederick Prestcott, a solicitor in London. There is a record of a lease agreement of Bridgefoot House in 1936 to Sarah Pakenham the wife of Major Arthur J E Pakenham of Hawthorn Cottage, West Clandon. The term was for four years at a rental of £95 per annum.

**THE FAMILIES AT "THE COTTAGE FORMERLY A BARN"  
AND AT "THE MESSAGE FORMERLY PART OF THE WHITE HART"  
1794 - 1900**

**THE MESSAGE FORMERLY PART  
PART OF THE WHITE HART  
(BRIDGEFOOT/FOOTBRIDGE)**

William Bissley of Ripley  
|  
surrendered in 1794 to William Baker  
|  
sold in 1811 to Robert Whitburn  
| brewer of Ripley  
|  
sold at auction in 1834 to  
John Parsons Kaye (died 1876)  
|  
sold in 1877 to Charlotte Elizabeth  
Pigott (died 1893)  
|  
bequeathed to sister Salisbury Anne  
Countess Sayn Wittgenstein  
|  
gifted in 1898 to daughters:  
Eleonora Princess Sayn Wittgenstein  
Leontine Countess of Konigsmark

**THE COTTAGE FORMERLY A BARN**

William Bissley of Ripley  
|  
surrendered in 1794 to William Peters  
| (died 1816)  
bequeathed to widow Sarah Peters  
| (died 1840)  
|  
sold to Edward Collen of Albury  
| (died 1866)  
|  
sold to Elizabeth Patience Woodbury  
of Ockham  
|  
sold to Charlotte Elizabeth Pigott  
|  
demolished

**THE OWNERS OF BRIDGEFOOT/FOOTBRIDGE HOUSE FROM 1900**

Leonora, Princess Sayn Wittgenstein  
and  
Leontine, Countess of Konigsmarck  
|  
1916 vested in the Public Trustee  
|  
sold in 1926 to Ernest Rowe Dutton  
|  
sold in 1926 to Guy Cleveland Onslow  
|  
sold in 1934 to Mabel Hussey Pearce  
(died 1943)  
|  
sold by executors Westminster Bank Ltd.  
in 1959 to Cecil W R Trimming

Mabel Pearce died on 15th September 1943. Although the probate of her will was obtained a year later, the estate was not settled until 1959 when the executors Westminster Bank Ltd. finally

sold Bridgefoot House to Cecil W R Trimming for £4,275. It was during Trimming's ownership, which lasted until the 1990s, that the name was changed to Footbridge House.

My thanks are due to Tony and Nicole Vlasto for their help in providing their collection of documents and for their permission to publish these reports.

ERRATUM: In Issue 213 page 5 the date '1860' relating to Thomas Stanton should have read '1680'. Apologies to John Slatford for this typing error.

## More Memories of Wartime - 2 Part One

*Jean Turner talks to Clare McCann*



*Young Jean Smallbone*

I was delighted to talk to Jean Turner, née Smallbone, who has lived in Send all her life. She was kind enough to share some of her wartime memories with me. Jean was eight and a half when the war broke out and lived with her parents, Len and Edith, and her younger brother Michael at 1 Tannery Lane. Her father's full name was Colenso (named by his father after a Boer War battle – he also had a brother called Ernest Inkerman!). Len worked for the Woking Water and Gas Company and was in a reserved occupation. Amongst other duties, he was needed to turn off water mains when they were damaged by bombing.

Jean was initially at Send School, when Mr Penn was still headmaster, and Miss Palmer and Miss Rhodes were teachers.

Unlike some of those who have talked about the war, Jean does not remember any particular aggravation with the evacuees but she confirmed that at one point they did have half the day at school and half the day at the Lancaster Hall (then known as the Drill Hall). One story she told me of the evacuees was of a boy climbing a tree on the corner of Farm Lane and getting stuck.



*Jean and Michael*

Quite a crowd gathered but eventually the fire brigade had to be called to rescue him.

One day on the way to school she remembers seeing German bombers going over to bomb Vickers. The

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(To be filled up by the occupier or by any other authorised person).

- Name in full of holder of certificate. (Surname first, BLOCK CAPITALS)  
SMALLBONE, Colenso
- National Register number, if any, and date of issue  
115/1
- Private address  
1, Tannery Lane, Send, Surrey
- Name of occupier of premises at which the holder of this certificate is employed  
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children ran and then she felt panicked until she managed to find her brother Michael. Even at school there were dangers and she remembered a large glass partition which ‘scared you skinny’ (as presumably it predated safety glass and would have shattered if the school had been hit).

Unlike Ripley, they did not have bomb shelters and when she moved on to St Bede’s their only protection was trenches dug in the grounds. On the way back into the school from the trenches, she saw a doodlebug (a V1), which ultimately landed at Burnt Common. Whilst it was a terrible tragedy for the Privett family, she pointed out that it was fortunate that it did not land on the school. This was not the first doodlebug she had seen as she recalled that the family took regular Sunday walks and on one occasion they were going to The Saddlers Arms for cherryade when a doodlebug went over Jackmans.



*Jean, while at St Bede’s*

Jean’s other recollections of enemy action included bombs on Send Hill, on the Rec (Recreation Ground) and at Heath House. The bomb that landed at Mays



*St Bede’s prefects including Jean*

Corner apparently caused a lot of damage but miraculously did not kill anybody. The two lodgers who were living with Sid Stanley’s family were blown over but Sid and his brother John (Jean’s cousins) were staying with Jean’s family that night.\* She also said a plane made an emergency landing at the end of Tannery Lane (possibly the Bristol Beaufighter that Sid Stanley told the Society about, which ran out of fuel in October 1940). The anecdote, Jean added, was that locals initially thought the crew might be Germans as they were speaking a foreign

language but it turned out they were French Canadians!

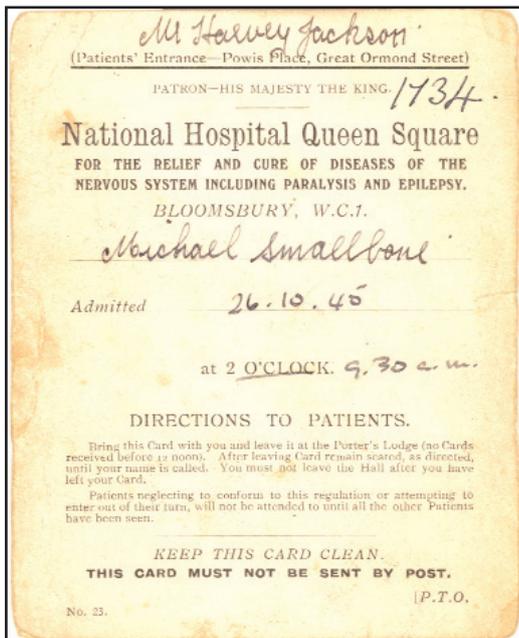
Jean had another uncle in Send, Bill Faithfull, who was a gardener at Heath House and he had two sons, Bill and Gordon, who also used to come to stay. Like Jean’s father, Bill Faithfull was not away during the war but was in the Home Guard.

Eventually Heath House was taken over by the army and a bomb disposal unit was based there. Jean’s parents became friendly with one of the soldiers, Vic Stanyer, who came from Stoke-on-Trent. He survived the war and the friendship continued, with Mrs Smallbone sending lily-of-the-valley each year to his wife. Jean says that, although the house was not big enough for evacuees, there were always people being invited home. Michael Smallbone made friends with a Canadian, Jimmy Hunter, (the Canadians were based on what is now Send Close) and again the friendship survived after the war.



*Jean, her cousins Sid and Bill, with brother Michael on her lap*

The Canadians were in Send testing DUKs and practising building Bailey bridges. They were always well supplied and would bring round treats such as sweets and they also organised film shows at



the Lancaster Hall. Jimmy and his wife came back to visit Send some years after the war and stayed with Jean. Sadly, Michael contracted chicken pox/measles during the war, which led to complications and many visits to hospital. Eventually these were to lead to his early death in 1948.



Jimmy Hunter

On one of Jean's visits to Michael at the end of the war she and her mother walked over Waterloo Bridge en route to Holborn and



the devastation, she said, was truly terrible.

Michael was not alone in having some health problems as Jean remembers having a serious problem with her knee. During the war toys were not plentiful and her Mum got her a 'two-wheeled bike' from the people where her aunt worked. Her Mum rode it home and Jean learnt to ride it on the Rec. Unfortunately Jean had a nasty fall on a gravel road and hurt her knee. After it healed she developed warts all over her knee and she had to go to hospital to have them dealt with. She went to what was the old Railway orphanage in Oriental Road, Woking. The orphanage had been evacuated and the premises taken over by St Thomas's. The specialist she saw used a new treatment, only previously tried on a student and then without knowing the outcome. She had to have her knee strapped up after the preparation was painted on and go back several times but it did the trick and they came off in a crust and never came back.



Michael Turner

Jean remembers her aunt, May Faithfull, getting married during the war to Edwin 'Ted' Amos and she showed me pictures of the wedding party at the Lancaster Hall.

Whether it was for this wedding or her mother's funeral (Mrs Faithfull lived at 83 Send Road and died in 1940) I am not sure, but at some point Mrs Smallbone bought a new coat



costing 4 guineas from the Co-op in Send Road. There was something in the collar which caused a violent reaction requiring time off work and medical treatment. Jean still has the letter from the Co-op settling the claim. ■

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WV/25B 24th March 1943.

Mrs. E. Smallbone,  
 1 Tannery Lane,  
 SEND, Mr. Woking.

Dear Madam,

We are now in a position to settle the claim re coat as outlined in your last letter.

The Insurance Company however, have sent the cheque for £27.19.0. which requires to be endorsed by both yourself and Mr. Smallbone and we have pencilled across the stamp where we shall be glad if you will sign. Mr. Neighbour, Manager of Send Branch will cash the cheque for you.

You will notice that the cheque includes four guineas being the value of the coat which they have retained and also 7/6d for fare advanced by Woking Society to you. We shall be glad therefore, when you cash the cheque, if you will pay to Mr. Neighbour the 7/6d to clear the outstanding account with Woking.

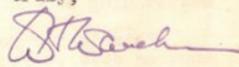
This leaves you free to purchase another coat to your own liking.

P.T.O.

- 2 -

The Claim is arrived at in the following way -

Loss of 6 weeks work @ 30/-	£9. 0. 0.
" " 1 " " (3x4 hrs @ 4/-	12. 0.
Fares, Ointment etc. say	1. 0. 0.
Fare of friend to London M.O.	7. 6.
Interview at Woking with C.I.S.	
Loss of work 6/-	
Bus for 2 2/-	8. 0.
Domestic help	2. 0. 0.
	13. 7. 6.
Plus Grant	10. 0. 0.
	23. 7. 6.
Plus Coat	£4. 4. 0.
" Fare	7. 6.
	4.11. 6.
	£ 27.19. 0.

Yours truly,  
  
 MANAGING SECRETARY.

\* See more detail in the new book, 'Memories of War'. We hope that Jean's memories will be added to this book if and when it is reprinted.

## SRHS Visit to Midhurst

On the beautiful summer's day of Thursday, 8th July, eighteen members made their own way to the mediaeval market town of Midhurst. Considering that it is such an interesting place, it is



Cowdray House Gatehouse  
 Photo © John Creasey

surprising that this was the Society's first visit there. The town originally developed adjacent to St Ann's Hill, an ancient holy place on a promontory overlooking the valley of the river Rother. After the Norman Conquest a motte-and-bailey castle was built there by Robert de Montgomery who was charged with the defence of Western Sussex. The wall lines, showing inter alia the situation of the gatehouse, the keep, chapel and kitchen, were set out in 1913. The party did not visit the castle site, but it does explain why the mediaeval town is situated where it is behind what now appears to be the town centre along the present main road. It was the construction of Cowdray House as a magnificent Tudor mansion half a mile away on the river bank which caused the drift away from the old centre.

The party met at the Angel Hotel, an old coaching inn, and enjoyed coffee in the calm of what remains of the courtyard

at the back. For those familiar with H.G. Wells's delightful 1896 cycling romance, *The Wheels of Chance*, it was here that the cad Bechamel and the "Young Lady in Grey" stayed a night whilst the hero, Mr Hoopdriver, spied on them from the old teashop nearby where Wells himself had lodged whilst a teacher. As it happened, Hoopdriver had previously watched them enter the Golden Dragon in Ripley, known to us as The Anchor Inn.

Before leaving the Angel, the party had split into two as our guide for the morning, Bridget Howard, felt that twelve was the most she could reasonably manage in the narrow streets. The remainder, led by Anne and Les Bowerman, did their own morning tour, beginning with the Court Room and Robing Room at the Angel where the Assizes were previously held.

Both groups wended their respective ways along the quaintly named Knockhundred Row to the magnificent timber-framed building which, because it is now the public library, we were able to enter to marvel at the fully exposed mediaeval roof structure. The D.I.Y. group looked inside the parish church of St Mary Magdalene & St Denys, founded in Norman times but largely rebuilt in 1422. Around it was the market, originally an open space below the castle. The square contains the Market House, built in 1551 with open aisles. Upstairs a school for 12 local poor boys was founded in 1672, now the Grammar School in a splendid stone building in North Street. H.G.Wells was a pupil and later a master there. The Market House aisles were enclosed when it became the Town Hall in 1760. The law courts sat there, and the stocks, formerly near the church, are now under cover at ground level. Many other superb timber-framed Tudor buildings, some with wall paintings, survive in the market area, not least the Spread Eagle and the Swan Inn.



*Part of the carved porch  
Photo © Les Bowerman*

Clare McCann tells us that Bridget Howard informed her group that the curfew (meaning 'cover your fire') is still rung every night in Midhurst at 8pm. The story goes that a traveller, lost in the woods, heard the Midhurst curfew and was thereby able to find his way to safety. In gratitude he bought a plot of land in Midhurst, the rent from which was used to pay for the curfew to be rung in perpetuity. The bell is now computerised.



*The Swan Inn  
Photo © Les Bowerman*

After lunch the more energetic and/or able-bodied of the party walked across the half-mile causeway to the ruins of Cowdray House whilst the remainder proceeded by car. Our guide, Maggie Fox, was conducting her first official tour there and did so with great erudition and a fine sense of humour. The original manor house of Coudreye, with

the injection of money by noblemen from the Courts of Henry VII and VIII, was converted to a mansion of unbelievable splendour and magnificence. The prime mover in this was Sir William Fitzwilliam who bought the property in 1529 and completed the work in 1542. He became the Earl of Southampton in 1537 and entertained Henry VIII there on several occasions.

When Sir William died in 1542, the estate went to his half-brother, Sir Anthony Browne, he who had been granted the lands of our Newark Priory after its dissolution in 1539. His son became the 1st Viscount Montague, and Cowdray was still in the hands of the same family until



*St Mary Magdalene & St Denys Lychgate*  
l to r: Anne Bowerman, Audrey Sykes, Les Bowerman,  
Barbara Tinkler, Hazel Creasey  
Photo © John Creasey

the time of the 7th Viscount. It was destroyed by fire in 1793. Today the entrance porch is one of the best preserved parts of the house. The carved ceiling is virtually intact with the carving still very crisp. The main hall, known as the Buck Hall because of the carved bucks which stood high on the walls all round, was one of the noblest in the country. It is 60ft by 28ft and 60 ft high with a hammer beam roof. Some of the decoration is still to be seen. Other parts of the house were looked at but space precludes a fuller account. Suffice to say, the view from the top of the remaining tower across the Park is awesome. To read more, google Cowdray House, Midhurst, and click on 'A Guide to Cowdray'.

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## Correspondence

### *A letter from Tony Wallis re wartime memories.*

I very much enjoyed reading the July/August issue of the Society's Journal, especially "More Memories of Wartime."

Mr & Mrs Mitchell, whom Gwen (Puttock) remembers, are my relatives, Mrs Mitchell being my father's eldest sister, and the "baby" is my cousin Anne. I lived with my parents, brother and sister, at 6 Perseverance Cottage, joined later by our maternal grandmother and two cousins, Jim and Toni. Two events marred our happiness – my mother's death in 1943 and then in 1944 the "doodle bug" (V1 flying bomb) menace.

First I went to Ripley School (Mr Fred Dixon the headmaster) and then to St Bede's (Mr Benjamin Gay headmaster). There, as Gwen recalls, our classes often took place outside close to the trenches, into which we jumped when the warning sounded! Also, I attended St Mary's church where I was a choir member and server. Mr Evan Thomas was the vicar. Mr Sidney Green ("housing officer") was organist and choirmaster. Mrs Sybil Methold ran the Sunday School, in which I also took part.

It was with great excitement at the thought of the victory yet to come that everyone greeted the news of the Normandy landings! Then, in May 1945, came the culmination of all our hopes when VE Day arrived – a day off school, too, with all-round celebration; lots of people gathered about the bonfire on the Green as the German swastika and eagle went up in flames!

After the peace we returned to London but often came back for holidays or visits, staying with an aunt (Mrs Lygo) in Georgelands. In later years I went on my own, but all these occasions were a source of pleasure. Although the years have passed and so many of my own family and those I knew are no longer with us, they and Ripley will ever stay with me in fond remembrance.

Thank you SRHS, Clare, and especially Gwen, for recapturing for me many happy memories.

PS. Yes, I do remember "Scotty" because, after church on Sunday, we three boys took our ration coupons and pocket money (6d each) to Pinnocks for our once a week sweets treat!

## Grove Heath North - A Growing Story

*Andrew Jones*

As far as I can tell, Grove Heath North was originally part of a field called Rawridge, which was part of Grove Heath Farm. Both were owned by John Daws of Send/Ripley who is listed as having parcel No 405 (a total of 102 acres) in the 1843 Send and Ripley Tithe Appointments.

He sold all 102 acres of the estate between 1843 and 1911 to John Peyto Charles Shrubbs of Lymington. It is not known if John P C Shrubbs ever lived in or visited Ripley, but on 6th July 1911 he mortgaged Rawridge (ref 205, 915.os 21a 1r 3p) to Walter Stennett Prichard, Solicitor, of Bedford Row WC1, and Henry Walter Stein, Solicitor, of Burton on Trent. The mortgage was for £2500 at 4% interest per annum. John P C Shrubbs made a will dated 7th July 1918, leaving his wife Alice Maude Shrubbs as executrix and trustee along with others .

John P C Shrubbs of Boldre Grange near Lymington died on the 18th October 1918 and left £2000 and all his properties in Godalming, Guildford, Ripley, Clandon, Rudgwick and elsewhere in Surrey and Sussex to his daughter, Sibylla Audrey Maude Slatter, wife of Sydney Wilfred Slatter. She had married in the church of Milford, Southampton, on the 10th July 1918 but did not inherit until the 2nd January 1919. She was covenanted to pay on demand the outstanding balance of the mortgage of £2500. It was about this time that Grove Heath Farm estate was leased to a G W Booth (lease now expired).

Sibylla Slatter sold Grove Heath Farm and its lands to Allen Ansell of Priests Havering Road, Romford, Essex, on the 9th December 1927 for £4200 pounds. I believe that Mrs Slatter or Mr Ansell started the development of Grove Heath North on the land known as Rawridge Field, which up to that time was arable land. Allen Ansell made a will in 1928. At the time he was living at Danes Hill, Oxshott. The executors were to be his son John William Ansell and Sydney Hunt, Solr, of Romford, and one other.

Allen Ansell died at Kingston-on-Thames Hospital on 28th July 1933, leaving the two surviving executors, John William Ansell and Sydney Hunt, to administer his estate. It is known that John William Ansell of Rainham, Essex, was a contractor.

They sold a plot (os205) on Grove Heath North which became Ikaya, 5 Grove Heath North, to Irma Ernestine Scrimshaw of South View, Fairmile, Cobham for £500 on 13th November 1936. The plot was described as "all that irregularly shaped piece or parcel of building land situate on the south east side of the public highway known as the Portsmouth Road, part of the Grove Heath Estate of the late Allen Ansell". The sale document goes on to give the precise details of the boundaries in around another 100 words.

Mrs Scrimshaw sold this plot (Ikaya, No. 5) to Frank Gray, gentleman, of East Horsley, some time in 1938 for £650. In 1933 Frank Gray had appointed his wife Katherine Mary Gray as executrix to his will. Frank Gray died in 1942 at No. 5 Grove Heath North and his wife became executrix some time in 1943. She made her own will in 1951, but was living in Guildford, at that time. She appointed the Westminster Bank and Harold Radcliffe Philpot of Guildford as executors. Catherine Mary Gray (note that the first name was spelt with a 'c' and not a 'k' as in her husband's will) died on 10th February 1961 at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and on the 24th March the two executors were granted probate. They sold the property to Denis Sydney Mills, Solicitors Managing Clerk, and his wife, Joyce Marie Mills, of Westminster on the 30th of May 1961 for the princely sum of £3,650.

Catherine Mary Gray also owned other property in Grove Heath North and sold No. 10 to Frances Cameron, wife of Ian Norman Mc Donald Cameron, of Oxford in 1945 for the asking price of £1400. She owned the property until the 6th August 1954 when she sold to William Greenhalgh, mechanical engineer, and his wife Margery Greenhalgh for £1700. They lived at No.

10 until 13th August 1964 when they sold the property to Kenneth Owen Cunningham Brown for £5,250. He lived there until 16 April 1968 (*and subsequently at The Willow Pool, Send Marsh Green, which he and his wife jointly owned together with the neighbouring Send Manor – Editor*). Kenneth Cunningham Brown sold No. 10 to Philip Edward Davies Bowen and his wife Susan Davies Bowen, the purchase price then being £6,450. Claire Veronica Bowen moved into the house in 1972 after inheriting it on the 7 April 1987 from Philip Bowen, who died in 1986. Mrs Bowen later moved to Send and the house was sold to Dudley and Maureen Pardo in 1998 for £160,000 .

This is all that I know at this time about Grove Heath North and I would like to thank Dudley Pardo, former owner of No. 10 and Maureen Woodcock of No. 5 for the information in this article.

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## **The Ripley Pals – Part II**

*Peter Spooner*

The September/October 1999 issue of the Society's newsletter (No. 148) contained an article I had written entitled 'The Ripley Pals'. The article related to seven men from Ripley, Frederick Parfett, Clarence Worsfold, Robert Spooner (my great uncle), Andrew Gadd, James Woolgar, Ernest Hyde and Ernest New, who enlisted in The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) in 1914. The men were allocated consecutive numbers; none were to survive the war.

Since writing the article I have been able to examine the men's service records, which are held by The National Archives and can be viewed via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk); I have also been able to examine the Battalion's War Diaries, which are held at The Royal Green Jackets Museum in Winchester. Having been able to study these documents, I am now able to provide more information about the men's service.

Although six of the men were attested in Guildford on the 2nd September 1914, for some unexplained reason Andrew Gadd was not attested until the following day. From initials written on all the attestation papers, it appears that the men wanted to join the King's Royal Rifle Corps but this was not to be. The day after attestation the men presented themselves at Winchester, where they joined The Rifle Brigade. Initially they were posted to the Depot, then the 9th (Service) Battalion and finally the 12th (Service) Battalion, with which all but one were to complete their war service.

A period of training followed during which some fell foul of the discipline system by overstaying their passes from midnight 26th December 1914 to midnight 27th December 1914. For three of the men, this was to be their last Christmas period anywhere. On the 22nd July 1915 the Battalion landed in France as part of 60th Brigade 20th (Light) Division, with the men in C Company. The casualties were about to begin.

Ernest New was the first casualty; he was killed in action on the 5th September 1915, receiving a gunshot wound to the head. The War Diary records that 2nd Lieutenant Knights Smith and an unnamed Rifleman were killed whilst in a listening post, where they had been for an hour endeavouring to locate German machine gun emplacements. They were buried side by side, with the burial service being taken by the Reverend Steward of the 60th Field Ambulance.

Andrew Gadd was wounded on the 14th September 1915. The War Diary refers to 410 men forming a working party to work under the Royal Engineers. Four were wounded by shrapnel and it is likely that Andrew was one of them. Andrew returned to duty on the 18th following treatment at 61st Field Ambulance. He was wounded again on the 12th February 1916. This time it was a gunshot wound to the head, which seems to have been received during an attack by

German infantry on the Battalion's trenches. Again he was treated at 61st Field Ambulance but this time he was transferred to 10 Casualty Clearing Station and then No. 13 General Hospital. On the 25th February 1916 he was repatriated to England and appears to have been treated at No. 4 London General Hospital. He returned to France on the 22nd December 1916 and rejoined C Company five days later. On the 27th November 1917 he was wounded again. This time it was a gunshot wound to his right hand. He was treated at 55 Casualty Clearing Station and No. 1 Australian General Hospital. Having rejoined the Battalion he had two weeks leave, returning on the 1st February 1918. On the 24th March 1918 Andrew was killed in action when German infantry carried out an attack on troops holding the canal bank at Offoy.

Clarence Worsfold and Robert Spooner are both shown as killed in action on the 25th September 1915 in the Action at St Pietre, a diversionary attack made as part of the Battle of Loos. The Ripley Parish Magazine reports that Clarence's family were initially informed that he was missing believed killed, but it was not until April 1916 that it was able to report that the family had received confirmation of his death. An entry in his service record, although difficult to read, may help to explain the delay. It is apparent that his death was reported to the Foreign Office by German sources. It is not clear if he was found dead by the Germans or wounded, captured and died of his wounds whilst in captivity. *1915 – The Death of Innocence* by Lynn MacDonald contains reminiscences of Rifleman Worrell who served in C Company 12th (Service) Battalion and is likely to have known the lads from Ripley. He refers to this action, during which he was wounded.

Ernest Hyde was wounded in the Action of St Pietre. His service record does not provide information as to the extent of his injuries but, as he was repatriated to England two days later, they may have been serious. It is also possible that the move was because facilities could not cope with the number of wounded. It is likely that Ernest was initially treated by Lieutenant Malling RAMC, the Battalion Medical Officer. For his actions that day, during which he treated over 300 casualties, Lieutenant Malling was awarded the Victoria Cross. Following treatment in England, Ernest was posted to the 15th (Service) Battalion in Sleaford Lincolnshire, returning to France on the 22nd March 1916. On his arrival in France, Ernest was posted to 13th (Service) Battalion The Rifle Brigade, 111th Brigade 37th Division. It is unlikely that he saw his surviving friends from Ripley again. On the 12th March 1917 he was again wounded. This time it is described as a mild gunshot wound to the head, the circumstances of which are not clear. On the 27th April 1917 he was wounded once more. This time he was not to survive and he died on the 12th May 1918 in No. 9 General Hospital in Rouen from a gunshot wound to the chest. The circumstances that led to him being wounded are not known and the War Diary does not provide assistance.

Frederick Parfitt (The surname is spelt Parfett in his service record, which was no doubt the spelling selected by the person completing the form on enlistment.) Frederick was wounded on the 6th June 1916. His service record shows that it was a slight gunshot wound and he was treated by 61st Field Ambulance and 20 DRS, returning to duty on the 16th. The War Diary records that the Battalion's trench was subject to an attack by German infantry supported by shellfire and a mine explosion. On the 29th June 1916 Frederick was killed in action. The War Diary records that the men in the front line trench were firing in support of a neighbouring battalion carrying out a raid when a 5.9 gun started enfilade fire on the support trench, killing 5 men and wounding 21.

James Woolgar was killed in action on the 22nd February 1916. The War Diary records that British artillery shelled the German front line opposite their trenches. There was a severe barrage in retaliation and 4 men were killed and 34 wounded. James's service record shows that his widow was awarded a pension of 10/- (50p) a week.



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- 2. Rfm. E. New.
- 3. Rfm. F. Parfitt.
- 4. Rfm. A. Gadd.
- 5. Gun. S. Gadd.
- 6. Gun. G. Nash.
- 7. Lvc. N. Southers.
- 8. Rfm. G. Worfield.
- 9. Rfm. E. Hyde.
- 10. Pte. A. Browning.
- 11. Pte. A. Chandler.
- 12. Tpr. F. J. Heath.
- 13. Rfm. J. Wadgate.
- 14. Lvcnt. M. Young.
- 15. Rfm. R. Spenser.
- 16. Rfm. H. J. Tappin.
- 17. Pte. R. Watson.
- 18. Pte. A. Braddock.
- 19. Sgt. S. Thorman.
- 20. Pte. L. Sisk.

*Presented to the  
Ripley Branch of the  
Comrades of the Great War*

Four of the men are recorded on Memorials to the Missing and do not have known graves. An extensive card index relating to WWI casualties has been discovered in the Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva. Once available on the Internet in 2014, information may be found to identify their places of burial.

At the end of my initial article I said that I was left with more questions than answers. I have now answered some of those questions but there are still some that may never be answered. What I do have is a better understanding of the experiences of the Ripley Pals.

I am grateful to Ken Gray of The Royal Green Jackets Museum for arranging for me to examine the Battalion War Diaries.

If readers require more information about any of the Ripley Pals, please contact me. I have been able to extract additional personal information from their service records. My address is 6 Wolsey Way, Syston, Leicester, LE7 1NP. ■



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Autumn is almost upon us and we are looking forward to a varied programme of talks and activities on the third Wednesday evening of each month in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe, starting at 8 o'clock. The Museum will be open every Saturday morning from 10.00am to 12.30pm and on the third Sunday of the month to coincide with the Antiques Fair in the Village Hall. The football exhibition will be coming down shortly and Clare will be replacing it with an interesting-sounding new one about Dunsborough Park and gardens.

**Sat/Sun 11th/12th September** – Guildford Heritage Weekend. As in previous years it will be Open Day at the museum on Saturday morning (no change there, then, except possibly a few balloons). On the Saturday afternoon, starting at 2 pm, John Slatford and Les Bowerman will give guided tours of Ripley.

**Wednesday, 15th Sept.** – “Romans in the South East”, an illustrated talk by Judie English.

**Wednesday, 20th October** – “The Surrey Swing Riots”, a talk by Judith Hill.

**Saturday, 30th October** – Surrey Local Symposium at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey. The theme is “Surrey - London’s Playground”. Our Chairman will speak on “Awheel in Surrey 1850-1950”. Other papers will be on the Derby, the YHA, etc. The Society will have a display. Entry is £10 per person by ticket. Applications for tickets to Les Bowerman with the appropriate money by 19th October, please.

**Saturday, 6th November** – West Surrey Family History Day at Woking Leisure Centre. The Society will have a stall with Parish Register transcripts, census returns, etc., from our Reference Library available for research.

**Wednesday, 17th November** – Women on the Home Front in Surrey in World War II, an illustrated talk by Carol Brown.

**Wednesday, 15th December** – The Christmas Social. The usual Christmas fare and jollification with a musical entertainment provided by our member Cameron Brown.

For further details of any of our events, please ring me, Anne Bowerman, Programme Secretary.  
Tel: 01483 224876

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**Journal Contributions:** Closing date for the next issue is Friday 15th October.

Will authors of illustrated articles please submit **original photographic prints** if at all possible to ensure reasonably good reproduction in the Journal



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**Contact Les Bowerman on 01483-224876**  
**if you require further information or wish**  
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‘Ripley & Send Then and Now; The Changing Scene of Surrey Village Life’ (Reprinted 1998 and 2006)	£10.00
‘Guide to The Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin, Send’	£1.25
‘Then and Now, A Victorian Walk Around Ripley’	(Reprinted 2004&7) £4.00
‘The Straight Furrow’, by Fred Dixon	£1.50
‘Ripley and Send – Looking Back’	(Reprinted 2007) £9.00
‘A Walk About Ripley Village in Surrey’	(Reprinted 2005) £2.00
‘Newark Mill Ripley, Surrey’	£3.00
‘The Hamlet of Grove Heath Ripley, Surrey’	(Reprinted 2005) £4.00
‘Ripley and Send – An Historical Pub Crawl in Words and Pictures’	£6.00
‘Two Surrey Village Schools - The story of Send and Ripley Village Schools’	£10.00
‘The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen Ripley, Surrey’	£5.00
‘Memories of War’	£8.00

**All the publications are available from the Museum on Saturday mornings, or from Ripley Post Office. The reprinted copy of ‘Ripley & Send Then & Now’, ‘Two Surrey Village Schools’ and ‘Memories of War’ can also be obtained from Send Post Office. All publications are available via the Society’s website [www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.sendandripleyhistorysociety.co.uk)**



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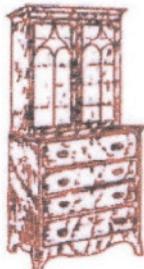
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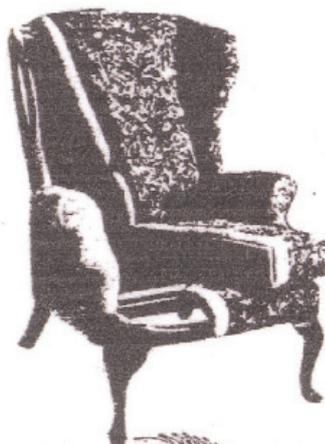
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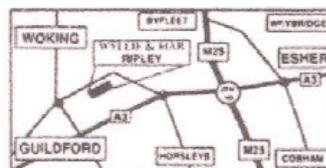
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