

SEND & RIPLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter No 72

January/February 1987

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Next Open Event: Annual General Meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, followed by an illustrated talk on Local Memories by Jane Bartlett.

ELM TREE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, RIPLEY

Part II: Ownership and Occupation

by Bette & John Slatford

This is perhaps the best example we have encountered so far in Ripley of a house having a documented history of ownership and occupation that is almost complete from the 17th century to the present day. It is possible to trace this virtually unbroken sequence back to 1667, in particular from documents which the present owners, Colin & Julie Abbott, possess, and from study of the Courts Baron of the Manor of Send & Ripley. In the 25 years before the Court Baron of 1667, there are gaps, mostly in the extant Court Rolls during the Civil War and the period of the Commonwealth. From the Courts Baron that we have, it would seem that the first build on this site was some time between 1641 (the year before the Civil War began) and 1663 (three years after the Restoration). The first mention in 1667 records George Allen being granted "a cottage, garden and 30 rods of land ... lying on Ripley Green, lately parcel of the waste soil of this manor", at an annual rent of twelve pence with a heriot on death of three shillings and four pence. This terminology remained more or less constant until the freehold was granted in 1862.

George Allen held the cottage, which at that time would have been the cross wing behind the gable on the right, until 1668 when he surrendered to Richard Noble. This Richard died in 1688 and bequeathed the property to Lydia Symmonds for her lifetime and then to her daughter, Lydia, and to Mark Bishop. Lydia, the mother, was granted the premises at the Court Baron of 1688 and there was then a dispute involving Lydia, her daughter, her son-in-law and one Edward Jaques. The result was a grant to Lydia Symonds and on her death to George Stout, a butcher of Ripley.

Lydia Symonds died in 1713 and the property then passed into George Stout's ownership and occupation until 1732, when he sold it to Robert Wood, also a butcher of Ripley. After Robert's death in 1752, his widow, Mary, continued living there, but ownership became divided between Robert's sister, Sarah, wife of William Everest of Chipstead, and William Wood Hall (then aged 8), son of his deceased sister, Elizabeth, and his brother-in-law William Hall, also deceased, who had been a butcher of Epsom.

By 1773, the house was occupied by Edward Harbroe, a surgeon, and in the following year he purchased the two half shares (or moieties) from the son of William Everest (also William), a yeoman of Otford, Kent, and from William Hall, a miller of Ewell. The price was £400 for each half. It was at this time that the house was greatly enlarged, so as to appear from the road much as it is today.

Edward Harbroe and his second wife, Jane, had five children before her death in 1792. Two of these five died in infancy. The eldest son, Edward, born in 1700, also became a surgeon and, after the death of Edward senior in 1802, was granted the property through the trustees named in his father's will: his uncle, James Harbroe, and Henry Harland.

Edward Harbroe junior married Elizabeth Harden at Send Church in 1805. By the time of her death in 1821, they had eight children. Edward died in 1832. Although the court roll entry names his son, Edward (also a surgeon), as his heir, Edward's will left the house to Charles Brown esq of Chobham and William Holland, a farmer of Godalming, upon trust for the three daughters, Elizabeth, Sarah and Anne Harbroe in equal shares. Shortly afterwards, Sarah and Anne both obtained mortgages of £200 on their one third shares of the house. For Anne this money was to "defray her expenses" in "proceeding to parts beyond the seas" - where this was we do not know.

GODALMING PORTRAIT ROOMS,
PUBLIC HALL, BRIDGE STREET, GODALMING.

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removal of a Pupil.

ADVERT. FOR MRS GALL'S SCHOOL. 1874.

William Holland, as trustee, was admitted copyhold tenant to the property in 1835 and remained thus until 1856. By this time Elizabeth Harbroe was married to John Daws of Send Barns and later Hazlehurst, and Anne Harbroe had become Anne Coverdale. On 20 February 1856, Robert Daws purchased the property from William Holland, the trustee, for £440, and this sum was divided equally between Elizabeth Daws, Sarah Harbroe and Anne Coverdale.

Robert Daws was possibly the son of John Daws by an earlier marriage, as yet untraced. He lived at the Kilns and was variously described as a farmer of 750 acres, a brickmaker, auctioneer and valuer. In 1851 he employed 60 labourers. In 1861 the property was enfranchised by the Manorial Court, that is it became freehold, thus ending 200 years of records in the Court Rolls.

Robert Daws died in 1870 and in his will appointed executors, including one Charles King, to administer his estate for the benefit of his children. Eventually, over a period of 50 years, Charles King became the only trustee, and he sold Elm Tree House (as it had then become) to Margaret Camroux, a spinster of Ripley, in 1920 for £1800. Miss Camroux had, at that time, already been a tenant of Elm Tree House for over 20 years.

At this point it should be mentioned that after the death of Edward Harbroe junior in 1832, the house was let to tenants until 1920. For a major part of this time it was a private school for girls or, to use its advertised title, a "Seminary for young ladies". The census of 1841 records Clara Whitburn in residence there as a Ladies School Keeper, with Anna Pannell. In 1851, Clara Whitburn was still there, with Emma Pannell, the younger sister of Anna, who was by then with her other sister, Maria, the wife of the village doctor, Abraham Crisp Gall, at what is now the Vicarage. Maria died in 1855, leaving her husband with six young children. It would seem that he then married his sister-in-law, Anna, who was herself left with the young family when Abraham died in 1859.

The 1861 census shows her as Mrs Anna Gall, a widow with six step children, running the girls' school with boarders. She is still there in 1871 and 1881 with her step-daughters (or nieces!), Alice and Marian. Kelly's Directory of 1891 also shows her there, but by 1895 Elm Tree House was in the name of her daughters, the Misses Gall. Thus there is a continuous history of nearly 60 years of girls' education at Elm Tree House. It was during this period that the house acquired its name. Mrs Gall advertised regularly in Andrew's Guildford Almanac and the entry for 1874, shown in the illustration, is the first one as Elm Tree House. It is to be noted that the general style of advertising in this period contrasts sharply with that we know today!

Miss Margaret Camroux is shown in Kelly's in 1899 as being at Elm Tree House with Miss Mary Marsland, running it as a boarding house. Miss Camroux continued this way until 1920, having, as aforesaid, bought the house in 1920. She then sold the property to a Christabel Kate Eatough, under whom Elm Tree again became a private school. This time, however, it was short-lived, since Mrs Eatough was declared bankrupt in 1932.

The more recent history of Elm Tree House is well documented, though relatively uneventful. For a brief period during World War 2, the property was renamed Sandrock House, but by 1942 it had reverted to Elm Tree House. There is a document of 1935 recording the lease of a piece of land belonging to Elm Tree House and fronting on Ripley Green to Captain Christopher Morris Hussey Pearce and Dr Ralli Albert Frank Creet for the use of Ripley Cricket Club and the pavilion was subsequently built on this site. The rental was £15 in the first year and £12 thereafter, but two years later it was reduced to £9.

In summary, it is, as stated initially, most unusual to find a house as well documented as this one. Its history is, moreover, made all the more interesting by the interlocking of many pieces of evidence available from various sources, including the census, directories, and court rolls.

HEATH FARM FROM 1936 UNWARDS

by Mr Peter E Rixon

The first time I heard of Heath Farm was when my father came home from work and said that his employer, Mr A W Secrett, had bought another farm at Send and he wanted him to take it over as general foreman.

At this time we were living at Hampton Hill, Middlesex, and Mr Secrett's farm was at Ham Common, which is between Kingston and Richmond, so my father had quite a journey each day, and we moved to Send.

The reason that Mr Secrett moved to Send was that the Ham River Sand & Gravel Company were digging into his land and the farm was getting far too small. He bought Heath Farm off a Mr Socrman.

Back at Ham Common I had one uncle and two aunts still working on the farm. At that time there were about twenty employed. It was still being cropped until it became too small to be economical, so Mr Secrett asked that if any of them would care to travel down to Send to work, he would still keep them employed. Several left, but eight all told decided they would travel to Send each day to work on the farm.

After all the horses and farm equipment had been moved to Send, each day one of the market lorries, on its way back from Covent Garden, would call into Ham and pick up the workers and bring them down to Send. That was quite all right in summer, but very cold in the winter. This went on until about the outbreak of the war, and by this time one or two more had retired and one or two others went into war work.

Going back to 1937, when A W Secrett first took over Heath Farm, on my father's Time Book there were 3 lorry drivers, 11 carters, 9 labourers and 14 women workers, plus 2 box repairmen and 1 greenhouse maintenance man fulltime, and in the summer, in addition to this labour, there were Irish labourers who took on piecework planting and weeding. There was also a gypsy encampment at the bottom of Tannery Lane, ie on a piece of land just over the bridge opposite Prew's Farm. With the Irish and typsy workers, there were about 54 on a full-time basis working for A W Secrett. There was also part-time labour. In addition to this, at Covent Garden, we had one full-time salesman, one under-salesman and one porter - these were permanently on the staff at Covent Garden, and A W Secrett had two sons who worked on the farm as well.

With the outbreak of war came the Land Army. These were the girls who came to take over the places of the men who were called up. With the war on, the government urged more food to be produced, so more labour was needed. In addition to the land girls, after a while the government made arrangements that certain prisoners of war were sent down to assist with the cropping and planting under strict supervision of armed guards. In addition to the extra labour, the government also passed a law to have what was called then "Double Summer Time"; this gave several more daylight hours, and some weeks my father and some of the workers did as many as 80 hours plus, as well as their voluntary jobs, such as VFS (Voluntary Fire Service), ARP wardens and Home Guard and Fire Spotters.

During the war a plane crash-landed on the farm, and a large bomb dropped in the back garden of one of the farm houses, but fortunately no one was killed. There were several incendiary bomb attacks which were believed to have occurred when they were looking for Vickers. Other than that, the firm escaped without any damage being caused.

After the war, the Land Army still went on, but then some of the local girls joined forces with them, as there was still a great demand for fruit and vegetables. Around about 1948/9, the first of the foreign students came to England to learn the techniques of market gardening. Students came from Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and France. Also at this time there were gentlemen farmers' sons who came to gain firsthand knowledge of market gardening. Even so there was still a large demand for labour. The government thought of a scheme by which town workers could take a working holiday on the farms.

I've got to go back now and tell you a little of how the farm worked. The ploughing was all done by horses throughout the war and carried on, to my knowledge, through to the late 1950's, but when some of the old carters retired, he bought a large tractor called a Fowler. This was a track vehicle of great strength and it took over some of the ploughing.

I mentioned earlier that all the ploughing in the beginning was done by horses, but on one occasion A W Secrett hired a large machine to do the ploughing - it was called a Gyrotiller. It had two revolving ploughs, contra-rotating at the back, and ploughed three feet deep. There was just one problem - no one had mentioned to the operators of the machine that the land had several land drain pipes running right through the fields it was given to plough. As a consequence, they were ripped up and had to be relaid at a later date.

There was a stream which ran through the farm, and when Mr Boorman owned it, he had it widened in one place. This was done by Irish labour, and to this day is known as "The Irish Hole". The reason this hole was dug was so that water could be pumped from the widened part of the stream for irrigation of the crops, but when A W Secrett increased the output, the Irish Hole was not sufficient to cope with the demand for water, so he had a large reservoir dug with a new pump-house built with an underground pipeline running right round the farm, with standpipes fitted at given intervals. The reservoir was filled from the stream. This was all right when the water level of the stream was constant, but sometimes in summer, when the stream was low and the level of the reservoir dropped, more water was needed. The only thing that could be done was to get permission from the Water Company in Woking to tap-in to their main which ran down Tannery Lane. This was run through a meter box, and tapped through a pipeline to the farm. I do not know how much water was used, but I know it was restricted in those days to so many gallons a day.

(To be concluded)

100 YEARS AGO

AN EXTRACT FROM "BICYCLING NEWS" - 11 DECEMBER 1886

There were very few cycles down the Ripley Road last Sunday ... The roads were hard until mid-day, and then they were necessarily heavy ... There was, however, very little new metal out, and we did not see much preparation for putting any fresh stones down, whilst the patches are nearly in ... Touching the Anchor, by the way, everyone will be glad to hear that Mrs. Dibble is convalescent ... and we were heartily glad to see her downstairs on Sunday morning. As, however, she is not yet quite strong enough to take part in the evening's amusement, and as everyone would feel that with Mrs. Dibble absent the thing was incomplete, we have been asked to notify to all of the "old Brigade" who it may concern that the

"last night of the year" entertainment will not take place this 31st December, though doubtless a few riders will turn up as usual, and make a little friendly coterie. The good lady of the Anchor is, of course, pleased to see visitors as usual, and it is needless for us to say how well they are looked after.

Contributed by Les Bowerman

LETTER FROM BASIL HOWARD

(Basil Howard's parents bought Tudor House, High Street, Ripley, at the end of 1919, as well as the property opposite, which they converted into a garage. They also subsequently purchased Cedar House, next door to Tudor. An account of the history of these premises, written by Basil Howard's mother, as well known tea-rooms in the 1920/30's has appeared in previous Newsletters - Ed.)

Thank you for sending me the Newsletters of the History Society, which I so much enjoy reading. One item which particularly appealed to me was Mrs. Sex's "Do you remember?" article. It brought back a host of memories to me of when I was young in Ripley.

I am now turned eighty, so that the things I remember are a long time ago, for example when the incumbent at the vicarage was the Rev. Mr. Headeach, (may have spelt him wrong, if so apologise to his memory) who painstakingly prepared me for my confirmation, not an easy job when my mind was full of motor bikes at the time. His old father, a retired vicar, acted as his curate, a dear old man as I remember.

In due course he was succeeded by the Rev. Morgan Evan Thomas who was formerly a mining engineer who had a distinguished record in World War 1, winning the M.C. and subsequently taking Holy Orders. In manner, and indeed in looks, he greatly resembled another Thomas, Lord Tonyandy, the former Speaker of the House of Commons. I had a great deal of respect for him.

High among the unforgettables were the Sexes of Send, father and sons whose superb ironwork was of the very highest order of skill. Their wrought iron gates achieved fame throughout the country and beyond. Charlie, senior, was formerly G.F. Watts's chief smith at Compton before he established their forge at Send, and his two sons, Arthur and Ron, were experts far beyond the average, Ron in particular.

Ron's delicate wrought iron flowers built into his lovely gates were a superb piece of the blacksmith's skill, and his welding was of the highest expertise.

Other memories which come crowding back include the Ripley Fire Brigade, headed by their Captain, Mr. Allwork, the builder. The early fire engine was of the kind which had to be pushed by the assembled firemen, at a brisk trot, to the scene of the fire!

Sometimes the fire had burnt out by the time this equipment finally arrived, so Captain Preston, who lived at the big house at the top of Rose Lane (formerly Montague Singer's house (I believe this refers to the property now simply known as "The Cottage" - Ed), managed to acquire an ex World War 1 Crossley tender, and had it converted into a motor fire engine for Ripley. This was driven by young Mr. Toogood, I remember, and the motley bunch of firemen included Mr. Giles, who I recollect running after the engine, having arrived too late! That is, if it got started in time, as often it was necessary to stuff a rag into the air intake to get it to start from cold, and on occasions they forgot to remove it, so the engine stalled, and Mr. Giles was able to catch it up.

After a typical fire, Mr. Allwork who, as mentioned earlier, was the Ripley builder, would say to the unfortunate householder, whose house had caught fire, "That is going to cost you X number of pounds to repair."

Captain Preston, who, as I mentioned, had acquired the fire engine, was a retired architect, who, in the course of his career had done a lot of work professionally in Shanghai and other parts of the world, and was most interesting to talk to. I used to go round to his house in the evening, and listen enthralled to his memories of the many parts of the World where he had worked, and the people he worked with.

He, and his brother who lived at the house at the top of Rose Lane (presumably "The Cottage" - Ed), were looked after by Mr. Mills and his wife. Mr. Mills was an ex sergeant major from World War 1, who had stood on parade at the coronation of King George V. They were excellent servants but Mr. Mills never shed the sergeant major's attitude, and, I felt, thoroughly disapproved of me, when I called!

Eric Preston, was the ex architect, and his brother, Kenneth, was an ex. R.F.C. pilot in World War 1 who sustained a serious crash during the war and was said to be sewn together with silver wire as a result. At the time about which I am writing he was an Aircraft Inspection Department inspector at Vickers Aviation, Weybridge, the forerunners of the British Aircraft Corporation and now part of British Aerospace.

A delightful and much loved figure in Ripley in those days was Nurse Paul, the Irish village nurse, with her broad Irish brogue and friendly manner.

The students from the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley used to have board and lodging for the most part in Ripley, and some of them used to lodge with Mr. Allenby, the chemist. Pip Forsythe was one of those who lodged there, and Dr. Darbyshire, a botanist, also had a room there. Nat. Gould, the head botanist, lived in a bungalow at Sand.

Mr. Allenby's brother, known as "Arry", worked behind the scenes, making up the prescriptions; he was a funny little man of a retiring nature, but a qualified pharmacist.

The Ripley Road on Sundays was alive with cycling club members in their thousands including many riding "penny farthing" machines*. They converged on the Anchor where the grand old landlord, Mr. Alf Dibble was "mine host" in those days.

One notable veteran cyclist was "Bath Road Smith", the landlord of the White Lion at Cobham, who often rode through Ripley, in his eighties, wearing cycling outfit on his racing bicycle, pedalling at a rate of knots, with his nose nearly on the front wheel, a grand old man of the road.

Another notable character was Mr. Lacy who combined his antique business with that of a barber, and many a time he left a half shaved customer, covered with lather, while he attended to someone enquiring about an antique chair.

On Sundays Mr. Lacy used to mount his famous tricycle, which was entirely of polished copper (? a copper finish - Ed), and join the cycling club members on the Ripley Road, for a spin.

*As Mr Howard is speaking of the period 1919 onwards, he is presumably thinking in this instance of the Fellowship of Old Time Cyclists, some of whom did ride the old "Ordinary" high bicycle on their annual ride to Ripley - Les Bowerman.

One of Ripley's notable characters was Charlie Noakes, the local ironmonger and electrician, who was much in demand as the village wireless expert from the days of crystal sets, with "cat's whiskers", and the later valve sets with batteries which had to be regularly charged up. I remember his green model "T" Ford taxi, which was regularly hired for journeys to East Horsley station to catch a train, and that reminds me that before the line was electrified, in the days of steam, trains sometimes used to run out of steam on the steep climb between Effingham junction and East Horsley, so had to stop and raise more steam pressure before continuing the climb.

Memories come crowding back, but I had better stop. I hope that you will continue to send me the newsletter.

Yours sincerely
Basil Howard

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Newsletter 71 - Corrections and Comments

Page 2, para 4. "Shamfer" should, of course, read "chamfer".

" " para 1. The Harkness sketch of Elm Tree House is endorsed 1831 and not 1834, as the manuscript note below the illustration shows.

Page 5, "100 Years Ago". First sentence. For Cambridge University Bicycling Club, read Cambridge University Bicycle Club.

Page 7, "Re-enactment of Local Courts Baron". The article on manorial bailiffs which preceded this item was a suitable scholarly piece of writing, and one can only commend the attempt to bring life and colour to the Manorial Court Rolls by staging a re-enactment of a court. Clearly a certain amount of artistic licence is necessary in such a production in the absence of precise detail, but in these pages we should maintain the distinction between the two types of local court. We are fortunate to have in the Guildford Muniment Room an almost complete record of the proceedings of the courts, and in our files a full translation from the original Latin. As John Slatford observed in N/L 35, the Court Baron was concerned with transfers of manorial land. The View of Frank-pledge dealt with minor breaches of the peace, and of manorial law and custom. Strictly, therefore, in a re-enactment of a Court Baron there should be no scope for alesters and pinfolders, (the latter being in charge of the pound or pinfold as to which see N/Ls 1, 2 and 3, and not necessarily the common herdsman). A chaplain is not mentioned in any of the Court Rolls. Similarly, would not the beadle serve a parish rather than a manor? The reference to a hangman doubtless added some macabre fun to the re-enactment, but even when there were capital crimes, surely only the Royal Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction would need such a post. Strictly, also, some of the items reportedly presented for consideration were not matters within the scope of a Court Baron. I trust these comments do not make this writer the subject of the hangman's next presentment!

Page 11, "Roman Villas", line 11. Your Secretary would have no objection to boards appearing on his front lawn. It was the prospect of hordes which worried him. Incidentally, referring to line 12, the text could be misread, so it should be stressed that it was the 1914 notes of P M Johnston which were muddled and not those of Dr Gower.

Page 11, "Letter to the Secretary". Pirbright should, of course, be spelled thus.

Page 12, "Letter to the Secretary". "Stoke Part" should read "Stoke Park".

Page 12, last line and page 13 last para of Symposium Report. In cycle history circles, the adjective "vintage" is felt more appropriate to the produce of the vine than to old or veteran cycles.

Painshill Park

The 60 members who attended the Society's visit to the 18th Century Pleasure Gardens at Painshill Park last May will recall that although Elmbridge Borough Council had public-spiritedly bought the gardens, it was effectively preventing public access by refusing planning permission for car parking. The Painshill Park Trust appealed against this refusal, and the Society wrote supporting the appeal. The hearing was in December, but the result will not be known until some time after April. There were 300 letters supporting the appeal and under 100 against.

In the meantime, anybody wishing to visit the gardens will be pleased to hear that weekly guided walks will be provided for the general public during 1987. These will be on Wednesday afternoons, commencing on 29 April. Visitors should arrive promptly at 2 pm. The entrance is adjacent to the bridge over the River Mole as you come to Cobham along the old London Road. Tickets, available at the gate on arrival, are £2, with reductions to £1.50 for OAP's and £1 for children. Dogs not admitted.

Membership

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due. They remain at £3 for couples and £2 for individuals. Those who joined after 1 November are covered until next year. Payment, please, as soon as possible, to our Treasurer, Patricia Medlen, Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking; to me at Send Manor, Ripley, or to any Committee member or Newsletter distributor. (A tear-off slip for this purpose will be found at the end of this N/L - Ed.)

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY

From Margaret Bayliss of Potters Lane, Send

Thank you very much for "The Straight Furrow". I was very interested in it, as I knew Miss Eveline Marsh (and her father) and Rev Morgan Evan Thomas and Connie Wanbon.

I knew Mrs Hollingsworth, also of Gorsewood, Hook Heath. My aunt was her cook for years and Mr Hunt (across the road from me) was her head gardener.

But Mr Dixon has slipped up in saying they were from Bourne & Hollingsworth. They had nothing whatever to do with that firm, not even related. Mr Hollingsworth was, I think, in some kind of insurance and a racehorse owner.

The Hollingsworths had three children, Betty, Richard and John. John died and Betty married (I am not sure that her married name wasn't Dixon).

Mr Marsh was a composer of music. He composed the music for the opening of the Stratford-on-Avon Theatre and chants in the Parish Psalter and a carol. Miss Marsh also composed a song. Mr Marsh was a bee-keeper also. I have some photos of both of them and of Gorsewood.

From Margaret Stuart of Brook Lane, Send

Thank you for the interesting article on the history of Send Tannery Site (N/L 71). When we came to live near there in 1943 the Tannery was owned by Mr Dockerty for Pulverising, making shoe lasts and some tanning as well.

We were shown over the buildings, and Mrs Dockerty often took people to see what she called the "Monk's Kitchen" at the rear, also the Georgian door at the side - we understood it was a listed building, but when Mr Hamburger was about to demolish it, I asked Dr Dance, Curator of Guildford Museum, who found no record of it (it was not on the 1939 list - L G B).

Mrs Peggy Hack and Mrs Donn remember the "kitchen range" which was on the left of the door as you entered, and the "Penitentiary Cell" was on the right of the door, with steps up to it.

Mrs Hack remembers a "big door with an iron bar across it which was always kept locked. Inside were brick steps going down. In latter years this filled up with water."

They both remember the well, with an iron ring in the stone slab cover. We also remember the two small diamond-paned leaded windows looking onto the canal, just above the water level - passing boats would remember them.

Mrs Hack says Mrs Dockerty let this area to some Welsh people who used the rear part as their living room, and who always complained that the place felt strange, and that the Monk's presence was about there - the lights would come on and go off in that part of the house.

As the Priory was dissolved in 1539 and the canal cut in 1652, I imagine Tannery House was built onto an existing disused building which had been used by the Monks.

Mrs Dockerty died in 1985.

From Betty Batten of London Road, Guildford

I was most interested to see the article in Newsletter 71 about the Mangles family.

This family came to my notice when I was in Perth, Western Australia, a year or two ago and I was particularly interested as there were such close ties with Guildford.

As you say, Lady Stirling was the wife of Sir James Stirling who founded Western Australia and a daughter of James Mangles, MP for Guildford; in fact one area near Perth is called Guildford. Lady Stirling's cousin, Captain James Mangles, RN, was interested in having seeds of native plants collected and sent to Kew, Chatsworth, the RHS, etc, and seems to have asked Lady Stirling to help him. Through her he got in touch with various ladies who had settled in the area and they collected the seeds. There is an extremely interesting book by Dame Alexandra Haslock, "Portrait with Background", of the life of Georgina Molloy, one of the collectors of the seeds. This describes the difficulties they faced. They were particularly interested in collecting *Nuytsia floribunda* called the Christmas Tree, with vivid orange feathery flowers. This is a parasite of the mistletoe family and is very difficult to propagate in this country. Finally the Mangles name is carried on in the Latin name of the Kangaroo Paw, the State flower of Western Australia, *Anigozanthus Manglesii*.

I felt I must write as I have always been interested in the local connections. After all the Stirlings are buried just across the park from me.

From Sheila Burdett of Wellington, New Zealand

I used to live in Potters Lane, Send, over 30 years ago, and my home was called "Copsley". My father, the youngest of the Grove family, was, and still is, Alec Grove. My mother Edith, maiden name Bingham, was the youngest daughter of Ernest Bingham of Send Barns Lane, who was the gardener, for most of his life, for Colonel Thorpe of Elmsleigh.

I am explaining my family connections, because I am writing from the Southern Hemisphere as I would like to purchase two copies of the book "Ripley and Send - Then and Now". My grandfather, Walter Grove, appears in this book outside the Drill Hall (Send Institute) as the chief Fireman of that time. The Grove family had long associations with the river, my Uncle Ewart Grove lived at the Boathouse, and another uncle (Norman) lived at Worsfold Gates. Frank Grove was employed by Allwork & Son, if I remember correctly. Vernon, the youngest brother, only died two years ago in Melbourne, Australia, and my father Alec, who is still fit and well, was able to visit him in recent years. My father made his home in New Zealand after my mother died, and as my brother, Peter Grove, lives in Philadelphia, he visits on his way backwards and forwards from England most years. Also interested in your publication (the reason for asking for two copies) is Vern Carter, known in Ripley in those days as Nenny Carter. He too is in New Zealand and lives near us. He and his wife Christine have been close friends for a long time and Christine is Godmother to our elder daughter. The Ripley cricket dances used to be held at the Talbot Hotel way back in 1947 to 1949, and an old photograph of that time shows all four of us in the same photo, though we hadn't all met then.

For seven years I used to work at Continental Cars, which was situated at Burnt Common Crossroads.

Secretarial Notes: Walter Grove was master carpenter at Worsfold Gates from 1885-1930. His father, W Grove, had been lock keeper at Triggs for 59 years from 1856-1915. Norman Grove was master carpenter at Worsfold from 1930-1966 (N/L 10 and P A L Vines "London's Lost Route to the Sea").

THE NEWSLETTER - A CHANGE OF PRODUCTION

increased beyond their present level. To offset costs further, the possibility was also considered of introducing suitable advertising by local firms and shops at a modest fee. It was thought that this could even add a degree of charm to the appearance of Newsletters in the course of time.

It has therefore been decided by the Committee to adopt the proposed new method of publication starting with the next Newsletter, No 73. The generous, dedicated and freely-given typing services provided by Chris and Geoff Parker will be retained. The Society's duplicator will be lodged with Geoff for safe keeping and will still be available for use if required.

Members will be able to judge for themselves whether the change in production of their Newsletter is worthwhile.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, 21 February ... Surrey Arch. Socy. Symposium at Dorking Halls (Farnham Tiles, Thames gravel beds, Excavations at Surrey Heath and Leatherhead, Merstham Stone Mines, etc).
- Thursday, 26 February ... Annual General Meeting at 8 pm at Ripley Village Hall, followed by an illustrated talk on Local Memories by Jane Bartlett.
- Tuesday, 3 March ... Buildings Group Meeting at 8 pm at Kevan Cottage, Clandon Road, Burnt Common.
- Tuesday, 17 March ... Open meeting, commencing at 8 pm, at the Red Cross Centre, Sandy Lane, Send, when Mr John Jannaway, Senior County Local Studies Librarian, will give an illustrated talk on the history of Godalming.
- Tuesday, 24 March ... Local Memories Group Meeting at 8 pm at Muir House, Brooklyn Road, Woking.
- Saturday, 28 March ... Surrey Local History Council Meeting at Dorking on the subject of Population Studies.
- Tuesday, 21 April ... Open meeting, commencing at 8 pm, at Ripley Village Hall, when Mr Ken Halls will give an illustrated talk on the History of, and Current Developments on, the Basingstoke Canal (subject to confirmation).
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