SURREY HISTORY

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SURREY HISTORY

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PHILLIMORE

Shopwyke Hall, Chichester, Sussex.

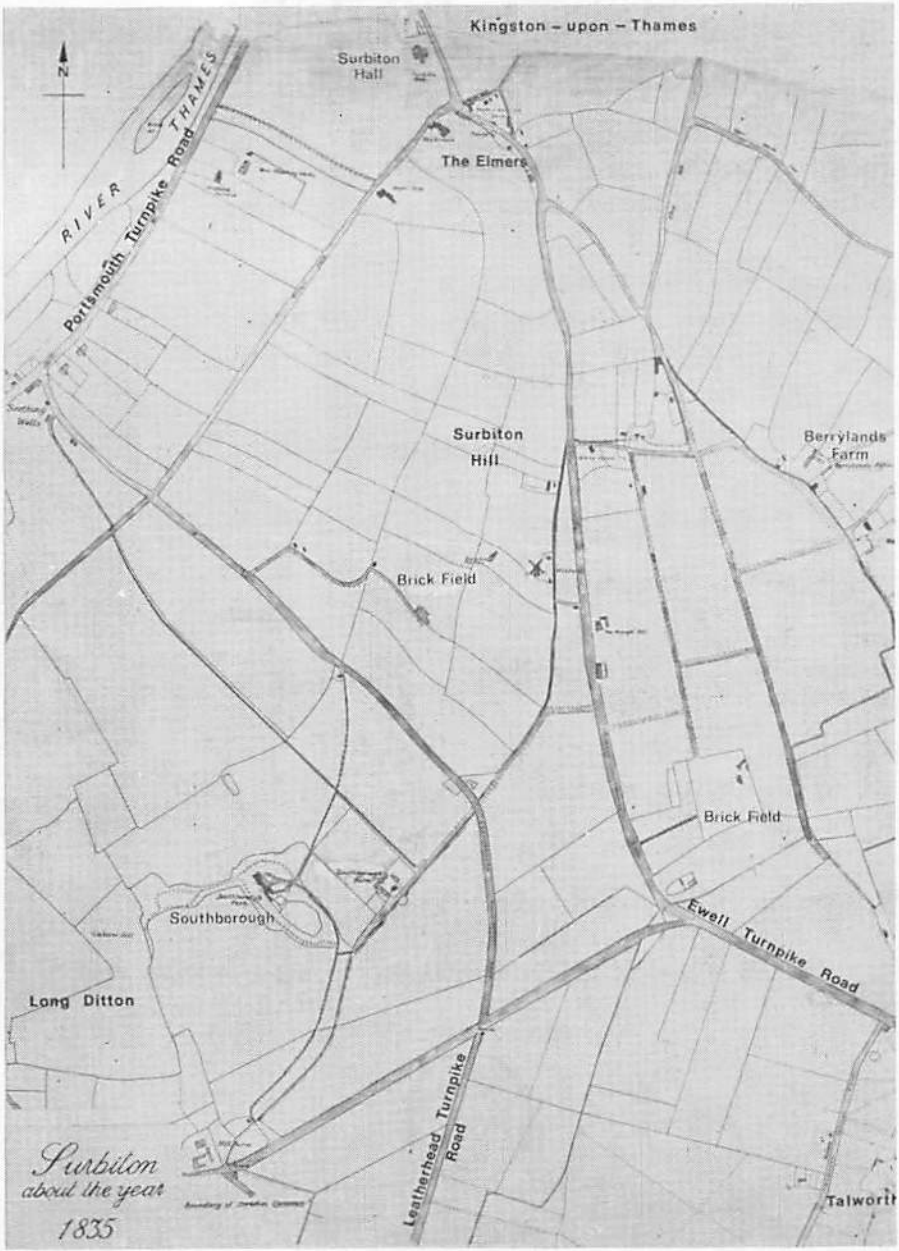

Fig. I: Surbiton about the year 1835

SURBITON – THE QUEEN OF THE SUBURBS

P.H.Grevatt

Surbiton Historical Society

To the casual visitor it might seem difficult to comprehend how the residential area known as Surbiton can present very much of interest to the local historian. Long since merged with the vast London conurbation and for administration purposes, at least, with its ancient neighbour Kingston-upon-Thames, it is hard to imagine how the place ever possessed a separate and vigorous existence of its own or has any sort of a story at all worth the telling.

It is an inescapable fact that Surbiton's story has little of antiquity, but belongs essentially to Victoria's long reign. Its inception and growth were undoubtedly influenced by great national trends of that era – rising population improved communications, the unprecedented growth of cities and suburbs, and had Surbiton's existence been dependent on these alone, its story might have been adjudged mundane and dull indeed. But vitally important as these elements have been in Surbiton's development, they are so commingled with and enhanced by local events and trends, all combining to produce a town which in its heyday achieved an almost legendary character, that the resulting story is not, it is felt, without some interest or indeed fascination.

Let us take a look at the town as it was at the beginning of this 'heyday' – in the early 1860s when clearly it had arrived as a place of some individuality and size. A map of this period shows a fairly compact town of about a square mile in area. Set on the right bank of the river Thames it spreads southwards over the river plain to cover much of the high ground known, and still known, as Surbiton Hill.

The outer edge of the remorselessly expanding London is still many miles away, and on all sides, except where interrupted by Kingston, the town is surrounded by pleasant open village-dotted countryside – a feature to remain for many decades to come.

A closer look at the map shows that a very high proportion of the buildings are substantial villas or terraces which would clearly be occupied by individuals or families of some substance. Areas of humbler dwellings are there too, and shops, hotels, schools and places of worship, but of industry or 'manufacturies' of any description – other perhaps than a brickfield or two still lingering on the periphery – there are few signs.

Now let us examine a map of the district as it was a little more than 20 years earlier – in the late 1830s. The contrast is startling. Here is hardly a sign of so much as a hamlet in the accepted sense. Farmland dominates the area between

The Hill and the river. The Hill, itself, only recently enclosed from the former Surbiton Common, is still for the most part rough, furze-covered ground bordered to the east by the farmsteads of Berrylands and to the west by the farm and parkland of the Southborough Estate – the latter dominated by a fine mansion designed by Nash.

At the foot of the Hill near the Borough boundary lie two other 18th century mansions, Surbiton Hall and 'The Elmers', each in its own extensive grounds. Brickfields and a windmill add to the country scene, and it will be noted that the area is traversed by a network of highways bordered by the occasional inn and toll cottage. These are the turnpike roads which lead from Portsmouth and from Leatherhead and Ewell to Kingston and eventually to London. These roads are to be of some significance to our story. Apart from two or three residences that have been erected on The Hill following the enclosure of the Common, there is little to interrupt the rural atmosphere or to fore-shadow the considerable change which the later map has indicated was soon to take place.

Before going further, however, at least a brief mention must be made of the earlier history of the area, scant as this is. Kenneth Cameron[1] gives the meaning of the place-name derived from its Anglo-Saxon elements as 'south barley farm'. With Norbiton or 'north barley farm' a mile or so away this would indicate that the farm was one of the two principal providers of food for Kingston. The area to which the name applies is rather a nebulous one, situated along the southern boundary of the Borough, and later almost entirely occupied by the grounds of Surbiton Hall. Brief mention is made of the district in the annals of the Borough and of Merton Priory whose successors, Merton College, Oxford, are still landowners in the district. Little else can be said save that Surbiton Hill was in July 1648 the scene of one of the last battles of the second Civil War (an episode well covered by R.J.Milward).[2]

Returning to the 1830s it would be in vain, at this stage, to look for the cause of impending transformation in a mere extension of London Suburbia. As mentioned, in the 1860s and for long after, London still lay some miles away and many of the towns which were much later to form the great 'sprawl' were still little more than villages. What then gave rise to the creation of this rather splendid new town so much in advance of its suburban neighbours?

Another glance at the map of 1865 reminds us that the turnpike road network of the earlier map forms the main pattern – and still does – but there is, apart from the new roads and buildings, a single prominent feature which is absent from the earlier map. This is the thin line which divides the entire district and which, of course, represents the railway. In this lies at least part of the explanation.

During the 1830s the great railway building era was getting well into its stride and was beginning profoundly to affect the social and economic life of the nation. It soon became apparent that a rail link between London and the port of Southampton would present considerable advantages. The decision in favour of this was made by 1830 and the necessary Act of Parliament passed

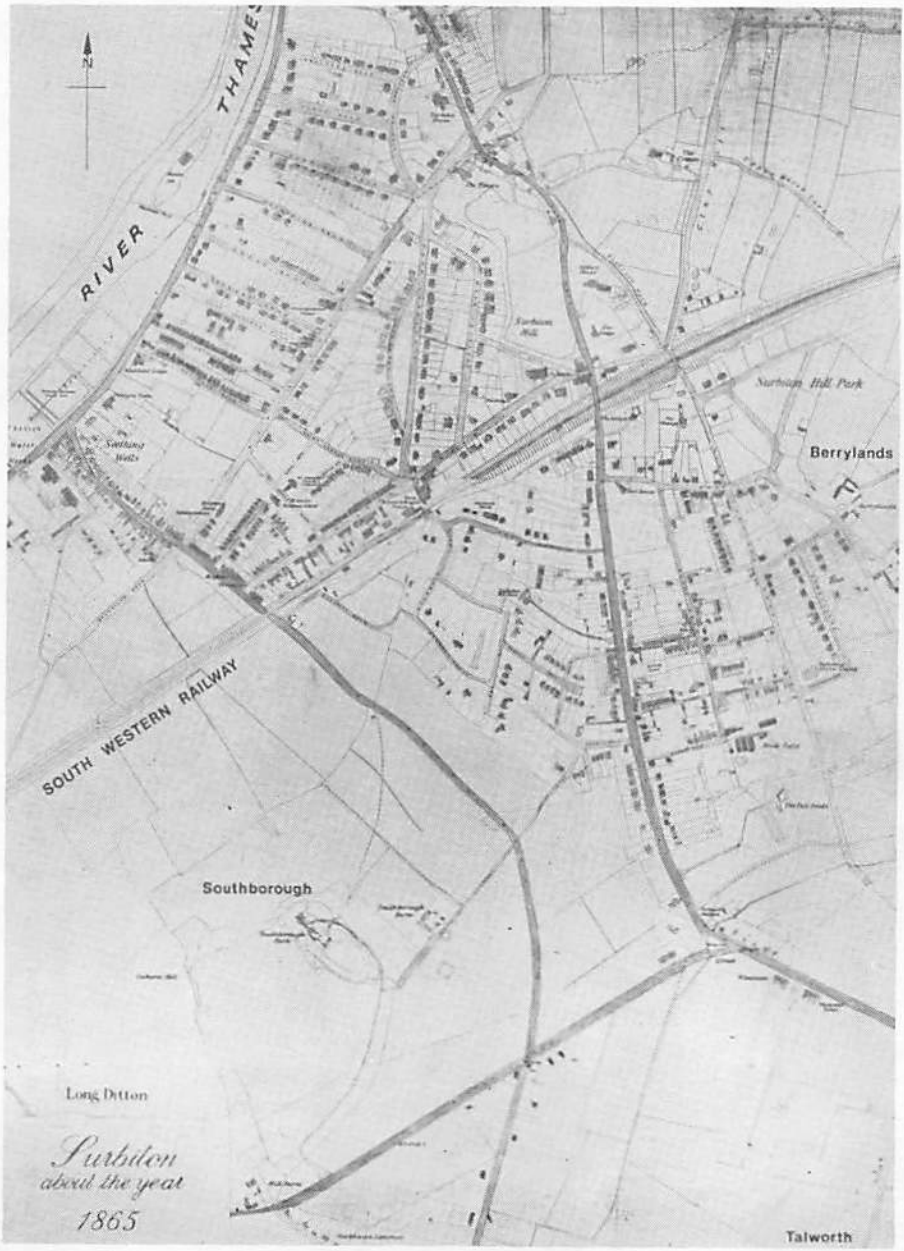

Fig. 2: Surbiton about the year 1865

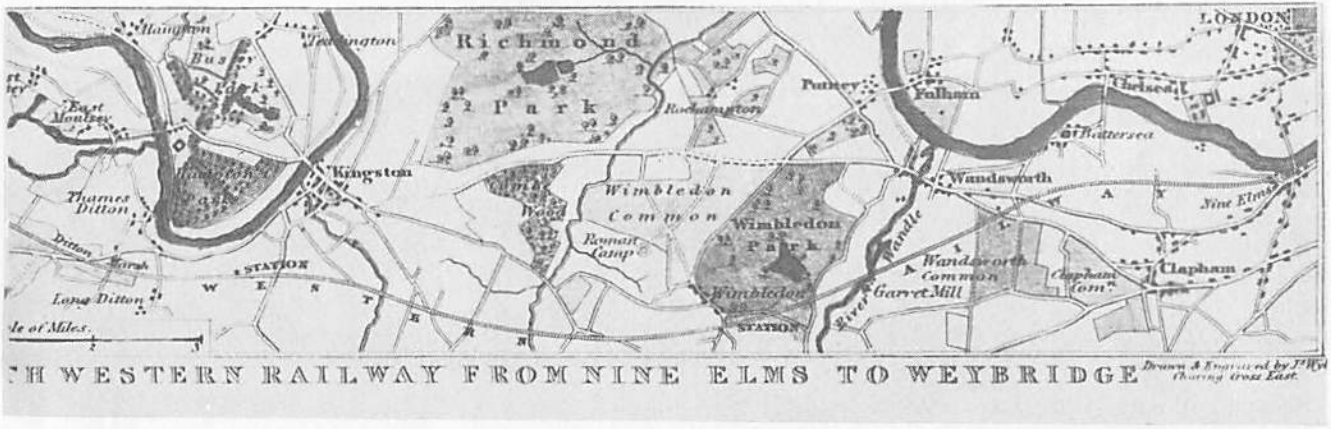

Fig. 3: A map of the eastern end of the South Western Railway – produced soon after the opening in 1838. Surbiton was about to appear around the station shewn near Kingston.

in 1834. The design and execution of this line would doubtless provide a saga in itself, but this would have to be told elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the troubles which beset these early promoters were not due to physical difficulties alone. Opposition from various sources frequently plagued their enterprises and the 'London-Southampton' did not escape. The convergence of a number of turnpike roads onto Kingston has been noted and indeed the resultant coaching trade was of prime importance to that town. It needs little imagination therefore, to appreciate the effect which the conception of this newfangled mode of transport had on the minds of its citizens.

The railway promoters would clearly have preferred to pass the line through the town, partly to absorb the potential traffic and partly to keep to the easy low-lying ground near the river. Kingston, it appears, was almost to a man in violent opposition to the project, and in the words of a near-contemporary writer 'fought against it with the obstinacy of old conservatism'. However, they could not baulk the enterprise entirely, but they did succeed in forcing an amendment to the route which directed the line away from the town a mile or so to the south and through the high ground of Surbiton Hill. In the long deep expensive cutting which was necessitated and near the Ewell turnpike road, the railway provided Kingston 'station'. This was a tiny cottage-like structure, reached only by a steep, winding footpath the very meagreness of which surely reflected the relationship between railway and town. However, for the present Kingston was satisfied apparently. The sacred precincts remain inviolate and presumably the trading interests preserved.

The town, of course, soon had reason to regret its 'old conservatism' when inevitably and quite quickly the coach trade faded away, and it was more than a generation before the (by then much desired) railway reached the town itself.

Notwithstanding Kingston and all the other troubles, the line was completed and opened (initially between Nine Elms and Woking) in May 1838 and extended to Southampton a year or so later. It proved an immediate success. The appearance of the engines and the comfort of the carriages differed vastly from the later development better known to us, but the service was quite commendable. Five journeys a day were provided and the time taken from 'Kingston' to Nine Elms was only 31 minutes, – quite favourably comparable to today's standards and a revolution when compared to the coach.

The advent of the railway, profound as the general influence was to be, need not at first have affected the immediate locality to any degree, particularly in view of Kingston's indifference and the then relative remoteness of London. However, it so happened that in 1839, a year after the railway opened, the owner of the farmland which lay between the railway and the river died, and his property was put up for auction. A Kingston speculative builder – one Thomas Pooley – with perhaps more vision than his fellow-townsmen, purchased some of this land and proceeded to embark on the development of a high-class residential estate. His roads and crescents were well planned and his terraces and villas spacious and elegant. He must have been a man of some

resource since almost immediately he pursuaded the Railway Company to abandon the Kingston Station and to construct a few furlongs down the line and nearer to his estate a far more substantial affair in conjunction with which a commodious hotel (The Southampton) was erected.

Pooley's little estate – as may be guessed – marks the true beginning of Surbiton, although it was not at first so called. It was known as New Town, New Kingston and –quite awfully – Kingston-on-Railway!

The eventual abandonment of the 'Kingston' element of the name in favour of Surbiton indicated an early sense of independence. The estate roads still form the road pattern of the central area nearest the station, and many of Pooley's terraces and villas remain as attractive examples of very early Victorian domestic architecture, and at a discreet distance from the main estate a little working-class colony was established, consisting of two rows of neat semi-detached cottages, each in its own little garden, and these too still remain usefully occupied.

Although all seemed set fair, trouble lay immediately ahead. Pooley had been over-ambitious, and well before his plans had reached fruition he met with disaster, that occupational hazard of the speculative builder – bankruptcy. Work on his estate ceased abruptly with much of the building left unfinished. It was said that within a few months the area acquired the appearance of a ruined town.

It would seem that the new-born Surbiton was not to survive infancy. But survive it did – this the first of the series of threats and setbacks of its colourful existence.

The unfortunate Pooley disappeared. Fortuitously, his chief financial 'backers' had been the great London banking house of Coutts, and eventually the 'estate' fell into their hands. For some good reasons – (perhaps not entirely financial) the Coutts family developed a considerable personal interest in their newly acquired property, and fell to the task of rescue with considerable vigour. Not only did they complete in an exemplary manner the estate and successfully sell it to willing purchasers, but they also saw to it that the less material aspects of the new community were provided for. Largely due to the Coutts family's generosity, the first church (St. Mark's) was erected as early as 1845, following which a separate ecclesiastical parish was established. Soon after from the same generosity, augmented by public subscription, a church school was provided for the children of the poorer families. These early actions not only reflected the Coutts' generosity, but also the incipient sense of corporate responsibility of the early residents.

Encouraged by the actual and potential amenities, development beyond the Coutts' estate took place. Building increased on The Hill and along the river frontage some really fine villas were erected. Development was steady but not spectacular – even by the mid-1850s the population had not risen beyond 1,000, which was just as well since serious difficulties were beginning to manifest themselves. As mentioned, the new Surbiton lay beyond the Kingston boundaries, and although the Borough looked upon the development as a 'useful adjunct to the old Town' they did almost nothing to superintend the development or assist

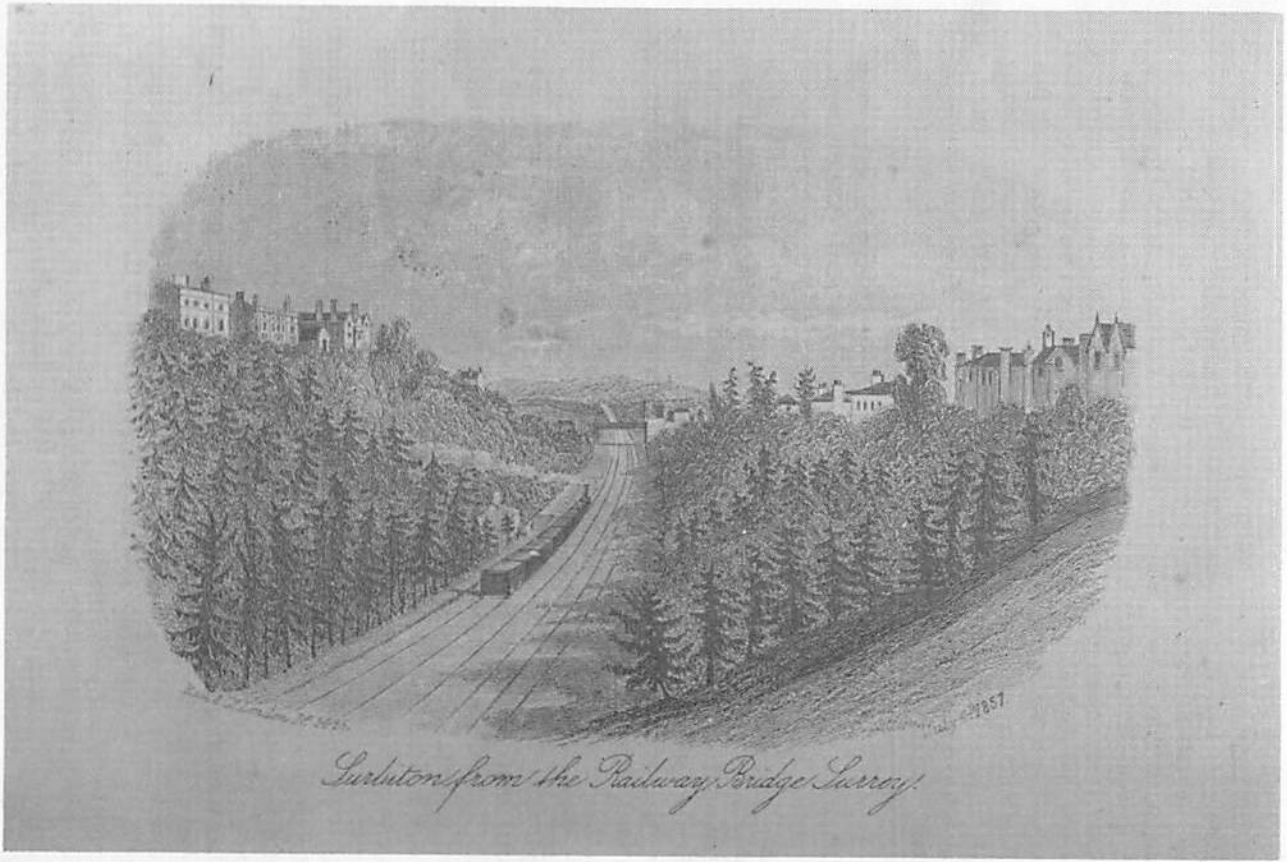

Fig. 4: The South Western Railway 'through the long, deep, expensive cutting' of Surbiton Hill.

the inhabitants in any way.

The civil parish of Kingston, within whose area Surbiton did lie, had few responsibilities. Even their powers in relation to highways were, in spite of frequent appeals, hardly utilised. This meant that not only the control of building operations, but also such vitally important amenities as road repairs (other than on the 'turnpikes'), lighting, drainage and sanitation generally were neglected. It says much for the integrity and imagination of the private developer of the day that the building was of such a high standard and the layout of estates attractive, but it was of little consolation to the new residents to leave their fine dwellings and step into badly maintained befouled roads or to be surrounded by distasteful signs of poor sanitation. Even the water supply of the district failed on more than one occasion, and it is quite startling to the modern mind how far the state of affairs could reach in urban development in the absence of safe-guarding legislation, now long since taken for granted.

In 1854 at a point when a crisis was obviously approaching there was a move by Kingston which served indirectly to resolve the whole matter. The Borough appreciating the high potential of the area financially and otherwise, sought Parliamentary powers to extend its boundary to effect the enclosure of Surbiton. By now, however Surbiton had developed a strong independent communal spirit. It felt most strongly that as a responsible middle-class community it wanted no dealings with the 'traders' of Kingston. The vigour of the opposition to Kingston's move must have taken the Royal Borough very much by surprise. Public meetings, even when attended by the Mayor, ended in uproar and Surbiton made it abundantly clear that it 'failed to see the advantages' of the proposal.

In the event Kingston's Bill was defeated in Parliament and immediately a crisis-formed 'Surbiton Association' promoted its own Bill for the creation of a separate local government organisation. The Bill was enacted with remarkable speed (Surbiton's large professional classes easily provided the lawyers, parliamentary agents and the necessary influence) and in May 1855 it became the Surbiton Improvements Act. This provided for the election of 15 'Commissioners' with powers to levy rates, make byelaws, appoint officers and carry out the basic functions of local government.

The Commissioners, selected from the town's leading personalities, set to work with a will and within a few years effected most of the much needed improvements to highways, drainage and to public health and safety. More fortuitously the desperate water suppy situation was saved by the advent of the Lambeth and Chelsea Water Companies who, around 1850, had moved upstream and established themselves in the western end of Surbiton's river frontage.

Now, with the physical necessities of communal life assured and with its many amenities well managed, Surbiton was about to enter a golden era which was to last fully to the end of the century.

But who were these people that, in the town's early years, took up residence in Surbiton? The national census of 1851 tells us that a number of youngish or middle-aged professional men – surveyors and their families – lawyers, barristers,

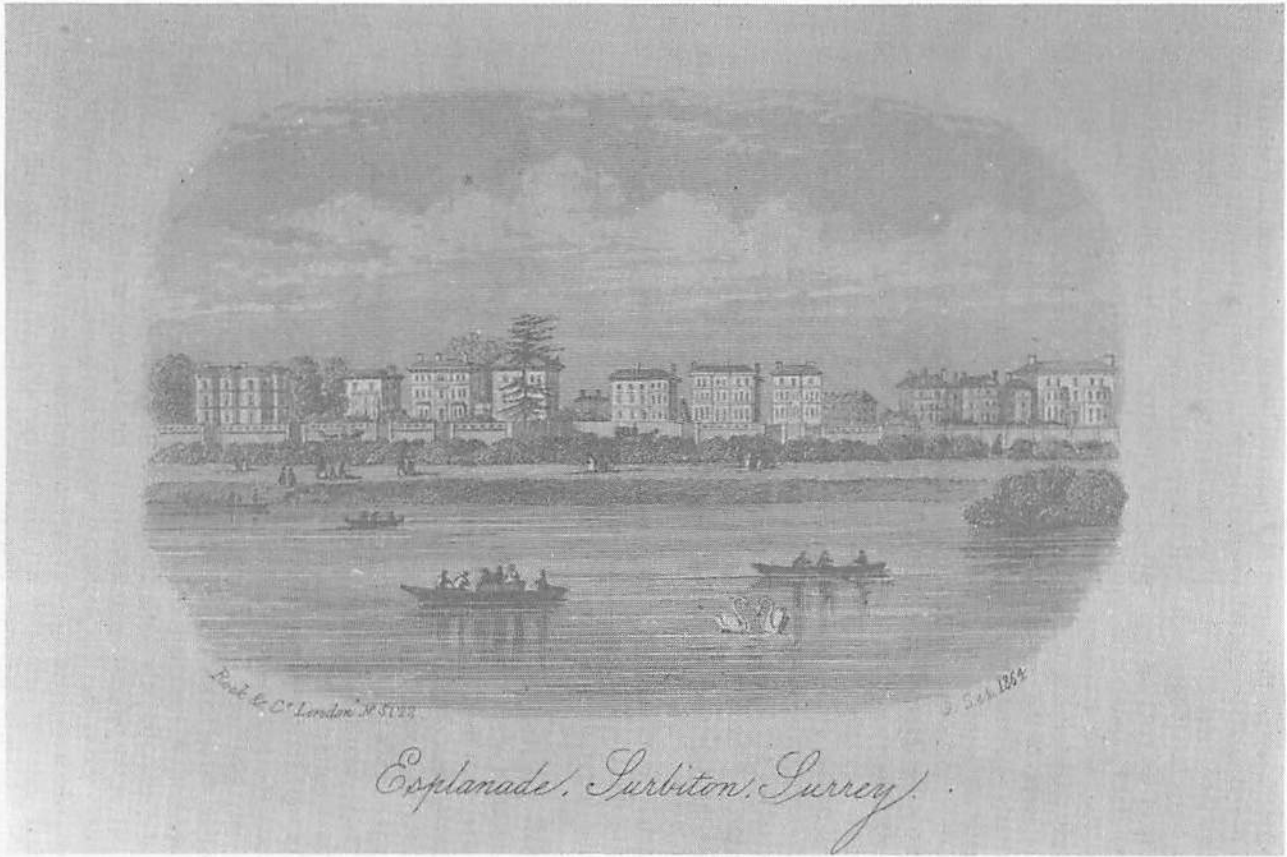

Fig. 5: 'Along the river frontage, some really fine villas were erected'.

civil servants settled there, most of whom doubtless had their employment in London and to whom the railway was the *sine qua non* of residence in Surbiton.

Then there were those in quite considerable numbers who were clearly well-to-do, but who laboured not at all. These were some of the more fortunate beneficiaries of the growing prosperity of the country – and the Empire. Such terms as 'annuitant', 'fundholder' and of course 'landed proprietor' appear frequently in the 'Professional' column of the census and numerous 'gentry' are listed in the early directories. For these the railway to a lesser extent could be an attraction – ease of access to the Capital for occasional business, shopping and social affairs but clearly this concentration of wealth argues other amenities, particularly the generally attractive 'aura' of the new town.

Furthermore such wealth would give an economic stability accruing to the benefit of the less fortunate. Not only the servants but the other dependent working classes could be given a security of employment higher than a dependence on trade or an industry could provide, and although there were some undoubted signs of poverty, the town's poor seemed to have escaped the worst of the misery and degradation which afflicted most urban areas – and indeed the countryside. A few of the 1851 inhabitants were more or less indigenous, originating from Kingston and the surrounding areas. Others had clearly moved out from London but for the remaining majority, particularly the servants, the catchment area was nation-wide.

Families in all classes were large – five, six or more children being quite the order of the day. The middle classes usually had two or perhaps three servants, but manifestations of extreme wealth in the form of butlers, footmen or even coachmen were rare.

There is evidence that the concentration of relative wealth which continued to mark the town's development for some decades, gave rise to an atmosphere of autocracy, but there is equal evidence of social conscience and concern for the less fortunate. Certainly the spiritual aspect of life was exceptionally well provided for all – even by Victorian standards.

By the 1880s and before the population had reached five figures, no less than 10 substantial places of worship covering most denominations had been erected and three quite commodious 'free' schools provided.

Nor were the temporal activities neglected – clubs and societies for most of the usual sporting and social activities were not lacking, and the River Thames provided a great asset in this respect. By 1885 the precursor of the internationally known Surbiton Lawn Tennis Club was founded at Berrylands.

The health of the community was – in spite of the high proportion of elderly retired – exceptionally good. Statistics carefully detailed by Rowley W.C.Richardson (one of the original Commissioners) in his excellent treatise[8] on the town of those days shows that the population escaped almost entirely the ravages of diseases which afflicted many of the less salubrious areas of the country and that the death rate was well below national average; all in all, the acclaimed title the 'Queen of Suburbs' was justly deserved.

In 1894 with the population well into five figures and following a further threat from the direction of Kingston advantage was taken of recent public health legislation. Urban District status was sought and obtained. The Commissioners as such, having carried out their task for 39 vital years, disappeared from the scene.

But the changes were to be far more profound than this. Throughout society, the lower middle and more prosperous working classes were emerging in increasing numbers, gradually diffusing the more rigid class structure. This was reflected in Surbiton by the appearance towards the end of the century as the town rapidly grew, of a far higher proportion of the relatively modest dwellings designed for these newer classes. This trend was to continue from now on and the change was accelerated by the now rapid and remorseless growth of London. Within a decade or two after the turn of the century the great conurbation was threatening the very boundaries of Surbiton.

Soon after the 1914-18 war the threat became a reality and Surbiton – itself expanding well into the surrounding countryside – was overtaken by the great 'sprawl'. Threats to the town's character came from yet further directions. The commuter (now of both sexes and of wider variety) was still prominent amongst the inhabitants, but of increasing importance was light industry and similar internal activities. The whole ethos of the town was changing. An attempt to return its original identity was valiantly made in 1936 when incorporation to Borough status was achieved; but this latter-day honour was not enjoyed for long. In 1965 the town was merged, officially and irrevocably, not only with Greater London but finally and after over a century's resistance, with Kingston!

Surbiton 'went quietly' into this melting pot which doubtless brought some advantages. Some physical remnants certainly, and perhaps some of the imponderable charm of the old days remain, but the most loyal resident would have to admit that the 'Queen' has long since abdicated!

[1] Kenneth Cameron. *English Place Names.* 1961, p. 144.
[2] R.J.Milward. *History Today.* October 1970, pp. 716-723.
[3] Rowley W.C.Richardson. *Surbiton, 32 Years of Local Self Government.* 1888.

WHAT PUT CHIDDINGFOLD ON THE MAP?

Clare Robinson

The Chiddingfold Society

Among the many obscurities and queries of its history, the appearance of Chiddingfold on the map painted on the walls of the Guardaroba in the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence is one of the strangest. The order to the cartographers was given by the Signoria in 1566. Only three other Surrey names appear: Croydon, Guildford and Kingston.[1]

In the following year Jean Carré (John Carry or Quarre)[2] 'the astute Antwerp promoter' (born in Arras and buried in Alfold), having made enquiries into the state of the Wealden glass industry, applied for a licence 'to manufacture glass for glazing such as is made in France, Burgundy and Lorraine'. He assured Lord Burghley, whom he petitioned, that no English glassmaker would be displaced by the introduction of foreign workers and that the Wealden industry was at a very low ebb indeed, the activity in Chiddingfold being restricted 'to such little works as primitive bottles'. Carré may have exaggerated his case in order to obtain the licence, but it is very doubtful if, at the time that the Florentine map was commissioned, more than one Chiddingfold glassmaker was making window glass. By the time that Henry VII's chapel at Westminster was being built white window glass had become the luxury of rich corporations. Window glass, it should be said requires a much higher degree of skill than common vessel glass.

Carré was granted his licence, established two continental-type furnaces at Fernefol near Wisborough and the glass produced there during his lifetime (he died in 1572) and that of his successors was of a high quality and little inferior to the window glass made today. The French, mainly or wholly Huguenot refugees, continued there for the next 40 years and the industry was finally extinguished by Proclamation in 1615 forbidding the use of wood fuel in glass houses only because Sir Robert Mansell, another astute promoter (and also an Admiral and M.P.) saw the enormously increased advantages of using coal instead of wood as a fuel. He eventually established the Wisborough glass men in Newcastle and in 1623 he obtained a comprehensive patent giving him a monopoly to make most types of glass.

Some confirmation of Carré's contention that the Chiddingfold glass industry was at its nadir comes from Charnock's Breviary in 1557:

As for glass makers they be scant in this land,
Yet one there is as I do understand.
And in Sussex is now his habitation
At Chiddingfold he works of his occupation.

(Chiddingfold never was in Sussex, though Charnock's error was repeated by the makers of the Tithe Map of 1846!) The solitary glass maker was probably a Peytowe, the only family known to be making glass in Chiddingfold in the 16th century. In the 15th century, apart from the reference to Henry Ropley, glass carriour[2] there is no evidence of manufacture at all, though this does not necessarily mean that some glass was not made.[3]

It seems, therefore, that the inclusion of Chiddingfold in the Florentine map owes nothing to its reputation as a glass-making centre within the previous century and a half, and it is difficult to believe that the memory of its limited activity in the second half of the 14th century can have persisted through all that time. So another explanation must be sought.

Although the Renaissance cartographers, of necessity, copied what their predecessors had done and, in turn, were copied by their successors, the trouble that was taken to perfect accuracy and detail was, on occasions, immense. Sebastian Munster (1489-1552) employed 120 collaborators in the making of his Cosmographia Universalis which appeared in 1544.

About this time two cartographers made maps of England containing Chiddingfold. One, Anonymous, 'Anglia Figura . . . ', is in the British Museum and is given a date 'after 1534', and the other, by George Lily, domestic Chaplain to Cardinal Pole, 'Britanniae Insulae . . . Nova Descriptio', was made in Rome in 1546. As the other Surrey names (Croydon, Kingston, Guildford) are those used by the Florentine map makers it is most probable that this was the map from which they copied. One of these two map makers (or their collaborators and assistants) would have visited England, explored centres of learning, places frequented by the court and towns of importance, and as a result of the visit a decision was made to include Chiddingfold in the subsequent map.

Seven years after the Florentine maps were painted Humphrey Lhuyd in his 'Nova Descriptio Angliae' made in Antwerp still included it and then, dramatically, as though the truth had at last dawned, Van den Keere's 'Atlas of the British Isles', c.1605, not only omits Chiddingfold but puts instead and, for the first time, in that empty space in the south-west weald the name of Chiddingfold's Chapel-at-ease – Heselmere Capell. Sic transit gloria . . . !

The problem now arises as to where Munster's collaborator picked up the name Chiddingfold, which is one of six Surrey names given in his master's map. The glass industry, as has been said, was practically dead and it is unlikely that any recent maps of England had been made which would include villages as small and insignificant as Chiddingfold. We have to go to the second half of the 14th century to find the answer.

The only mediaeval deeds relating to the manufacture of glass in England concern the Schurterre family of Chiddingfold and between 1351 and 1400 there is documentary evidence that Chiddingfold glass was conveyed to the two chapels, St. Stephen's and St. George's, of the Royal Palaces of Westminster and Windsor. There is, in addition, good reason for believing that Chiddingfold glass was supplied to Merton College, Oxford, and to the two foundations of William of Wykeham, Winchester College and New College, Oxford. It is perhaps significant that Thomas Deddington, c.1351, who worked as painter and glazier at Westminster and Windsor, so impressed the Clerk of the Works, William of Wykeham, that 30 years later, when that great man decided to build his twin colleges, Thomas of Deddington was made 'operator vitri'.

About the middle of the 14th century the most remarkable of all mediaeval maps was in the process of being made. As Mr. E.J.S.Parsons says in his Introduction to the 1958 facsimile, it has no apparent predecessor and not until the late 16th century is anything made that is comparable to it. For over 400 years we have no knowledge of its whereabouts. Then at the sale of Thomas Martin of Palgrave's collection on May 20, 1774, lot 405, described as 'a curious and most ancient Map of Great Britain', was bought by Richard Gough, antiquary and authority on British topography, for half a crown and left by him on his death in 1809 to the Bodleian Library where it is now one of their most priceless possessions. It contains nine Surrey names, one of which is Chiddingfold.

Where the map was made, where it was kept, whether there was more than one copy, who made it, are, in the total absence of a clue; matters of conjecture, but it is reasonable to suggest that its compilation took place in some such location as a university and that on completion one copy (if there was more than one) would be kept at Westminster for reference purposes. This is a suggestion made by R.A.Pelham,[4] who also admits the possibility that more than one map was made. It is therefore possible that the delivery of Chiddingfold glass by John Alemayne and William Holmere, dealers and carriers of glass in Chidingfold, to the Royal chapels at Windsor and Westminster in 1351 may have taken place at the same time that the great map was in preparation or to be seen at one of them.

If there were documentary evidence to support the delivery of Chiddingfold glass to Merton College by the Dedyngtons,[5] speculation might graduate to hypothesis because Walter de Merton (in Surrey) founded the college in 1270 specifically for his nephews and, later, for any descendants of his parents, preference being given to those living in the diocese of Winchester, which embraced most of West Surrey. The Library, the gift of William Rede, bishop of Chichester, was not built till 1377, but that long narrow unchanged room would have been an ideal place for map-making or map showing, and one where Surrey men would have been known and welcome. When the Calvinist Visitors of Edward VI came to purge the college of what they regarded as scholastic rubbish, they threw out the instruments of astronomy and mathematical science, both of which, like the terrestrial globe, are the tools of the map-maker.

If it is to a chance conversation between a glass carrier and a map maker that Chiddingfold owes its inclusion in the Florentine map, it is at least no stranger than the fact the the first glass maker recorded by name in England, Laurence Vitrarius, out of all England chose Chiddingfold as his habitat. Far from markets, on cold, stiff, unyielding clay, a foreigner in a foreign land, with roads impassable for months on end, one is astonished that Laurence should first have established himself on the still lonely edge of Dunsfold and then, about 1226, moved two miles south to the equally lonely outskirts of another wealden village, Chiddingfold.

1 The *Victoria County History* says only two Surrey names appear. This is an error repeated by both S.E.Winbolt in *Wealden Glass* and G.H. Kenyon in *The Glass Industry of the Weald.*

2 These variants on the name Carré make one wonder whether the description 'carriour', which is applied to Henry Ropley (G.I.W. p.29). is correctly taken to mean merchant and carrier of glass or refers to the craft of making window glass. There is a record of a glassmaker called Jordan who is described as a 'carriour' or quarrier, a maker of panes of glass and, in a deed of Godstowe Nunnery in Latin, appears as 'verrarius'. Window glass was normally sold by the square foot. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary derives Quarrier from the Latin 'quadrare' to square and gives 'carrier' as the modern form of it. In modern French one of the meanings of 'carreau' is a pane of window glass. Larousse defines 'verrier' as 'celui qui fait on vend de verre'. Might not Henry Ropley have been a *maker* and seller of window glass?

3 In 1495 Thomas Shorter (Schurterre?) conveyed land to Henry Ropley 'glassecaryour'.

4 R.A.Pelham. The Gough Map. *Geographical Journal.* Vol. 81, 1933, pp. 34-9

5 S.E.Winbolt, *Wealden Glass* 1933, p.9. Dedyngton is 14th century spelling of Deddington.

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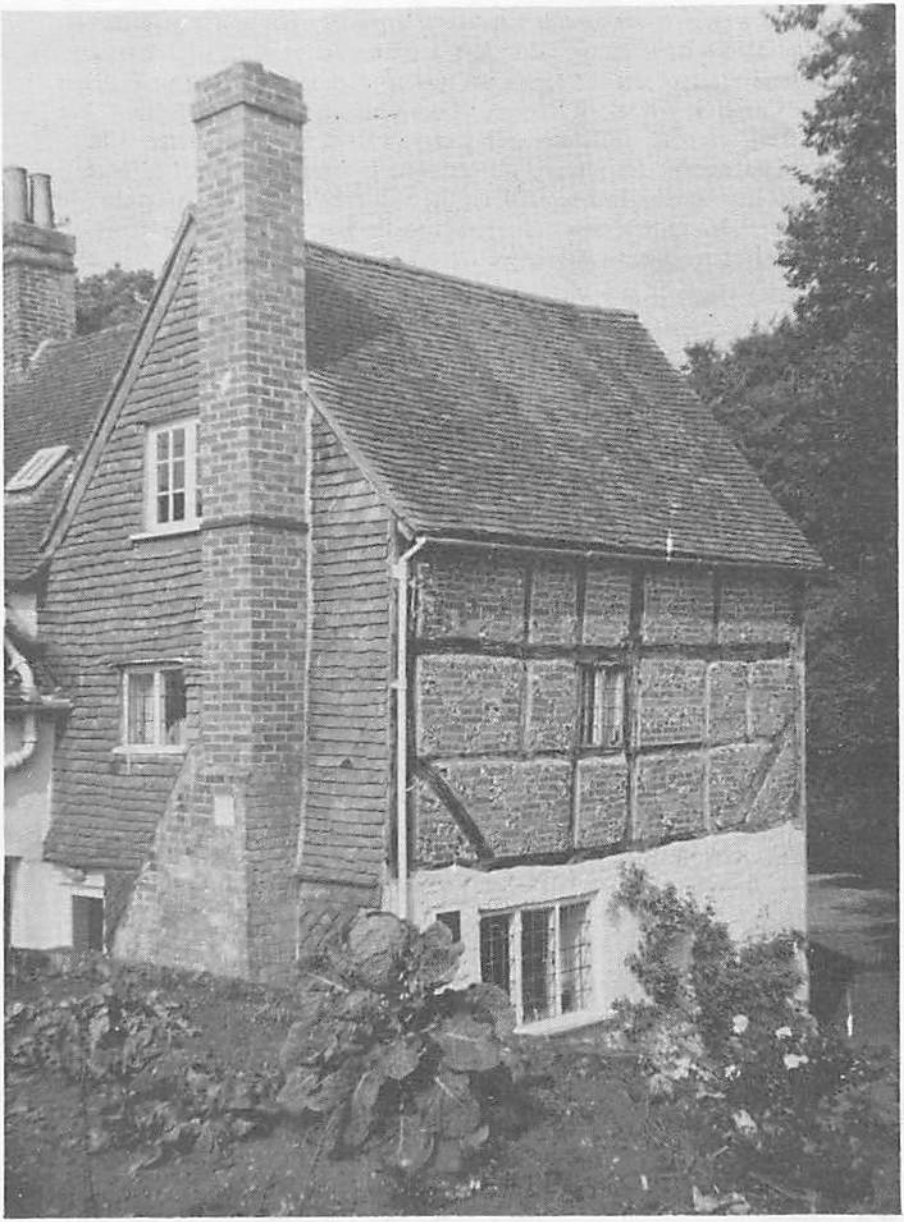


Plate 1: MONKS HOUSE, formerly GRAVEL PITS FARMHOUSE, part of original 1663 house.

HISTORY OF OLD VILLAGE PROPERTIES IN GOMSHALL

Sir Jack Sutherland-Harris

Shere & Gomshall Local History Society

Documentary evidence extracted about 1760 from the manorial court rolls is available for both the Gomshall manors – Gomshall Towerhill or East Gomshall and Gomshall Netley or West Gomshall – as it is for the manor of Shere Vachery as described in a previous article (Surrey History Vol. I. pp. 17-25).[1]

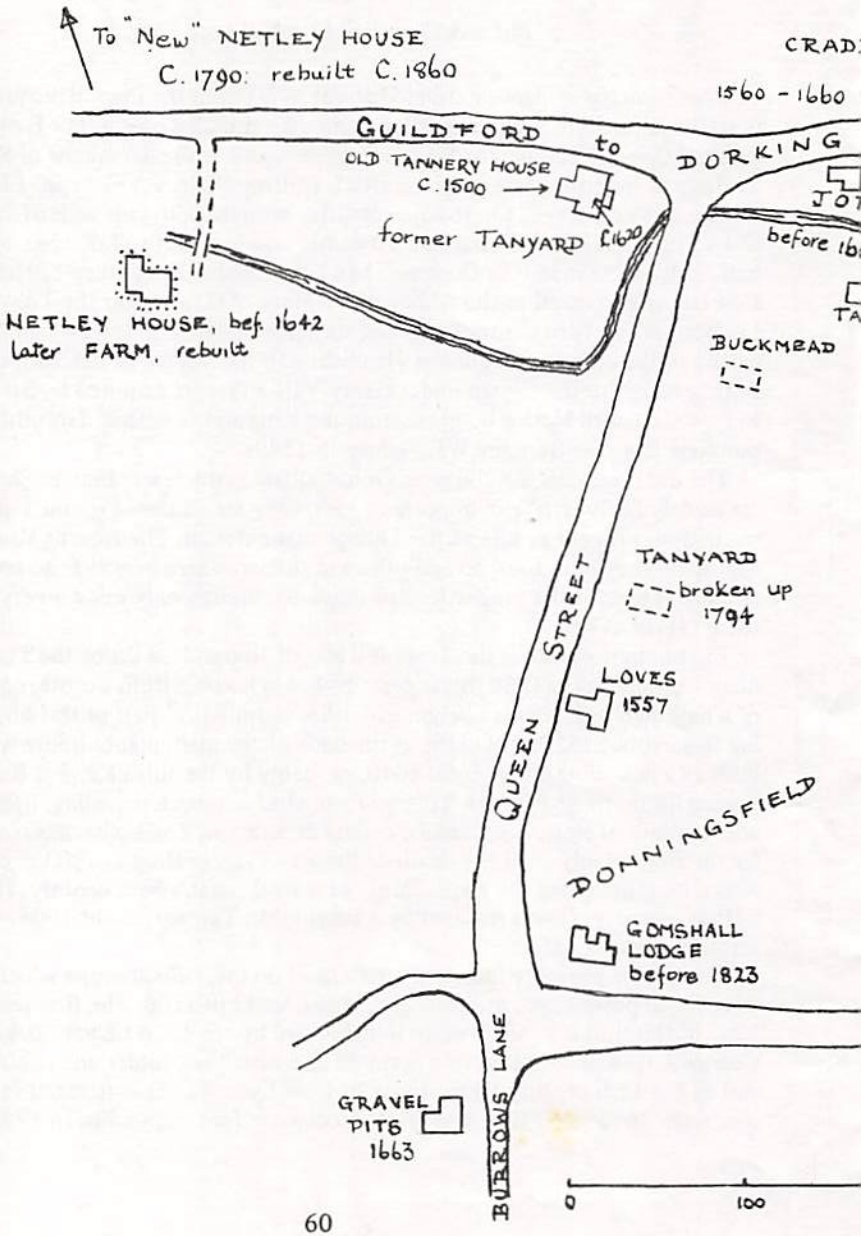
The earliest entry is for 1616, except for references to rent rolls of 1367 and 1532 in the case of Gomshall Towerhill and to a rent roll of 1581 for Gomshall Netley. The manor of Gomshall had been divided in the time of Henry II. East Gomshall passed to the Abbey of St. Mary of Grace, near the Tower of London, in the 14th Century – hence its name of Towerhill; West Gomshall passed to the Abbey of Netley in Hampshire in the middle of the 13th century. Both reverted to the Crown under Henry VIII and were acquired by Sir Edward Bray – Gomshall Netley by grant from the King and Gomshall Towerhill by purchase from Sir Edmund Walsingham in 1549.

The old houses in the village of Gomshall are many fewer than in Shere, but are mostly fairly large and important ones; they are scattered round a quadrangle of roadways on either side of the Tillingbourne stream. The records also suggest that there may have been several others in the same area of which no trace now remains. Three of the properties had tanyards, though only one tannery remains today. (Plan at Fig. 1).

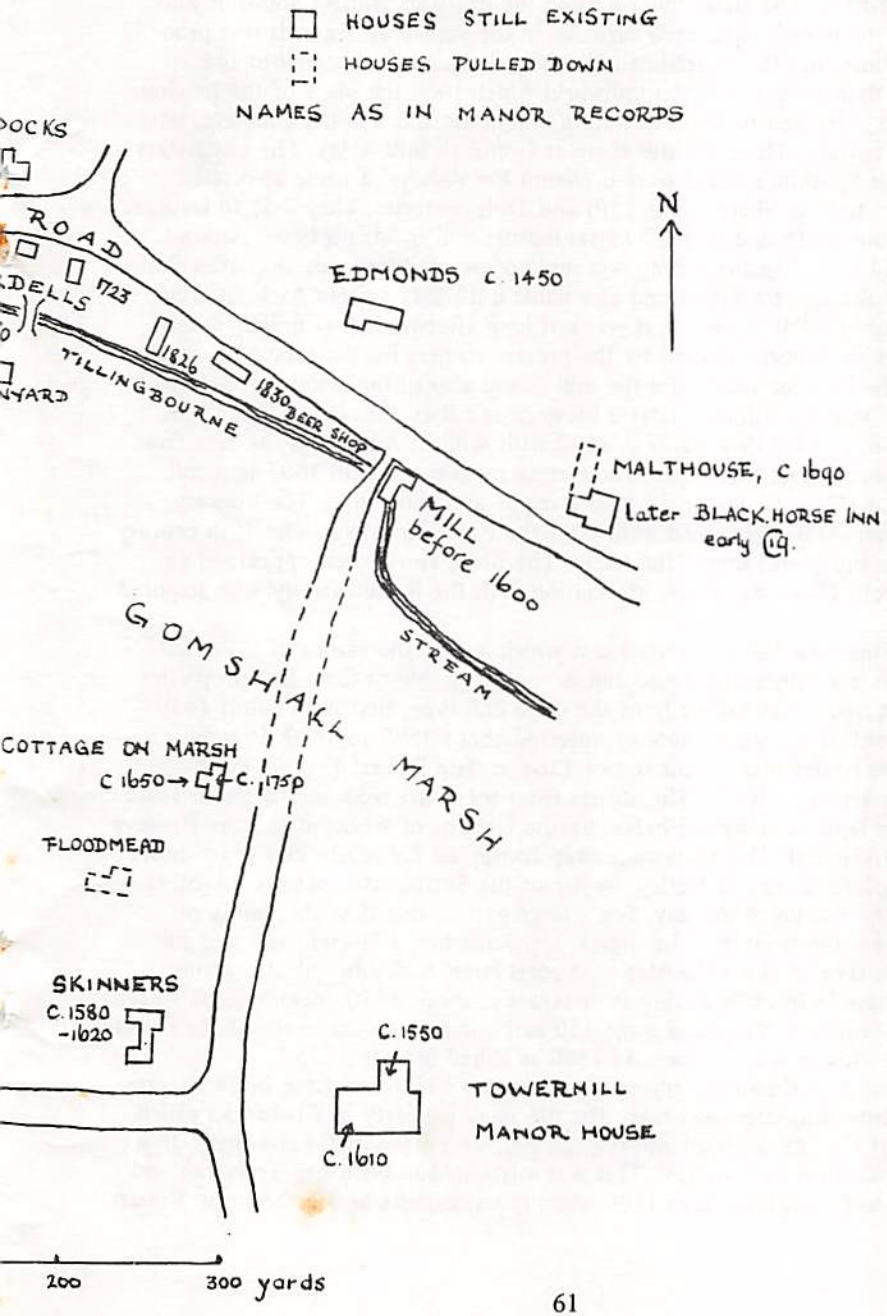
First in importance is the Towerhill Manor House. In a list of the Towerhill manor properties in 1568 this is described as 'a house within a mote, consisting of a hall, two cellars, one kitchen and other chambers'.[2] Part of this house, dating from about 1550, still exists at the back of the main manor house which was built as a new wing about 1600-1610, probably by the third Edward Bray, following his marriage in 1603. This new wing has Jacobean panelling, fireplaces and an unusual embossed heraldic ceiling decoration. The house was occupied by the Bray family until the death of the Rev. George Bray in 1803 and further alterations, including the south front, were made in the 18th century. It is still a Bray property. It was restored by a tenant, Mr. Tatham, about 1908. There is no longer any moat.

The manor property included a watermill on the Tillingbourne which was one of its main possessions, in terms of revenue, listed in 1568. The first record of a lease of this mill is in 1611 when it was leased by the third Edward Bray to John Chennell; it then consisted of a cornmill and a maltmill under one roof.[3] At the end of the 17th century when it was let to William Woods – first father and then son, from 1695 to 1740 – it was said to contain four corn mills. In 1759 it was

GOMSHALL


To "New" NETLEY HOUSE
C. 1790: rebuilt C. 1860
CRAD
1560 - 1660
GUILDFORD to DORKING
OLD TANNERY HOUSE
C. 1500
former TANYARD
before 16
NETLEY HOUSE, bef. 1642
later FARM, rebuilt
BUCKMEAD
TANYARD
broken up
1794
QUEEN STREET
LOVES
1557
DONNINGSFIELD
GOMSHALL
LODGE
before 1823
GRAVEL
PITS
1663
BURROWS LANE
0
100

- OLD HOUSES


HOUSES STILL EXISTING
HOUSES PULLED DOWN
NAMES AS IN MANOR RECORDS
DOCKS
ROAD
N
EDMONDS c. 1450
1723
IDELLS
1826
1830 BEER SHOP
TILLINGBOURNE
NYARD
MALTHOUSE, c 1690
later BLACK HORSE INN
early 19.
MILL
before 1600
STREAM
GOMSHALL
MARSH
COTTAGE ON MARSH
c 1650 → c. 1750
FLOODMEAD
SKINNERS
C. 1580
-1620
C. 1550
TOWERHILL
MANOR HOUSE
C. 1610
200
300 yards

sold by Ann Bray, widow of the sixth Edward Bray, and her son George Bray to the then lessee, David Harris of Shere. Particulars exist of two further sales, in 1822 and 1850. The latter sale followed the death of William Southon who also owned the baker's shop at 'Vaughans' in the square at Shere. It was probably in his time that the undershot mill was redesigned as an overshot one – 1839 is the date on the cast-iron millwheel which took the place of the previous wooden one. Attached to the mill were a mill-house and a miller's cottage, later the carter's cottage. These are still there at Gomshall Mill today. The purchasers from William Southon's estate were probably the Kelseys, a name associated with Upper Street in Shere in the 17th and 18th centuries. They sold to George Egerton in the 1880s and in 1887 he rented the mill to his nephews. Around 1900 he sold to Sir Reginald Bray – a resumption of Bray ownership after 250 years – but the Egertons remained as tenants until they bought back from Sir Jocelyn Bray in 1950. However, it was not long afterwards that milling ceased. The mill has since been restored by the present owners for the selling of antiques.

Across the Dorking road from the mill – and also in the manor of Gomshall Towerhill – was a malthouse, later a brewery and then the *Black Horse* Inn. The manor record for this begins in 1692 with William Amey and the rent from the manor was a grain of pepper. There is no mention of it in 1683 rent roll, so it looks as if the original malthouse was put up about 1690. The brewery which it became later remained until after the First World War. The 19th century *Black Horse* Inn is still there. The name 'The Black Horse' first appears in an 1823 rent-roll. There was a long association with the Reffell family who acquired it in 1812.

Next to the west lies Edmonds Farm which was in the manor of Gomshall Netley. This is a substantial house and is one of the oldest Gomshall properties. The present house was originally of the open hall type, first built about 1450. It also has still the original chimney, inserted about 1580 to 1600. It is described in the Netley manor rent roll of 1581 as 'late Robert Edmonds"; at the time it was Thomas Elyot's. The entries from the court rolls only begin in 1684 when it was held in undivided halves by the Evelyns of Wootton and the Husseys of Sutton (Abinger). This joint ownership continued for nearly 200 years until 1860 when John Fraser of Netley, owner of the Sutton half, bought the other half from the Evelyn of the day. For a large part of this time the family of Burchett were the tenants of Edmonds, appearing in a 1740 rent roll and still there at the time of the Tithe Map 100 years later. A number of alterations appear to have been made during their tenancy, about 1830, including the stucco front. The farmland comprised some 150 acres, mainly to the north of the Dorking road. Plans show it was the same in 1860 as it had been in 1735.[4]

To the west of Edmonds, across what is now Colekitchen Lane but was formerly 'now lane' and later 'owl lane', lies the small property of Craddocks which consisted of a house, orchard and hop garden, with a few fields elsewhere. It is still called 'Craddocks Cottages'. This was a freehold in Gomshall Towerhill and is referred to in a court roll in 1566 when it was bought by Matthew and Robert

Astone whose family owned it for the next 100 years. The present brick house was probably built during that time.

On the south side of the main road lies the present King John House, also a freehold in the manor of Gomshall Towerhill. This is shown on a 1788 plan of the Rev. George Bray's freehold estate as a mansion house and tanyard with a considerable number of buildings. It had been bought with some 70 acres of land to the south, mainly on the west side of Burrows Lane, by the Rev. George Bray shortly before 1788 from the grandchildren, who lived in Virginia, U.S.A., of Mrs. Ann Brayne, nee Bignold. The Bignold ownership dated from the 16th century when the property was bought by a James Bignold of Cobham. His son, also James, settled there as a tanner in 1549 on inheriting it. In some Bray notes on an 1872 valuation list it is called 'Old Tannery House' and the *Victoria History of Surrey* about 1900 says it was still known as the Tannery House at that time.[5] It then belonged to the Frasers of Netley Park who had acquired it from the Brays in the middle of the 19th century in exchange for other land. Part of the early house, dating from about 1500 or earlier, remains at the back of the present one. But the main existing house is a fine Jacobean one of about 1620, probably a rebuilding by the James Bignold who was the son of the one who settled here as a tanner in 1549. In the size of its rooms, panelling (most of which has been removed since) and fireplaces (initialled J.B.) it closely resembles the slightly earlier Jacobean part of Towerhill Manor. It looks as if the Bignolds built it in emulation of the Brays. It probably ceased to be a tanyard after the sale to George Bray at the end of the 18th century. Neither the house nor the documents provide any evidence in support of the tradition (reported in the *Victoria County History*) that it had been built 'shortly after the great plague from profits out of hides collected free in London'.

The demesne lands of the manor of Gomshall Netley lay to the west of the Old Tannery House. But the former Netley House, built before 1642 when it was sold by the fourth Edward Bray to his brother-in-law William Heath from Sussex, was rebuilt as the present Netley Farmhouse within the last 100 years. About 1790 Edmund Shallett Lomax built the new Netley House on the opposite (north) side of the main road and moved there from Sutton Place, Abinger. This house burnt down in the middle of the 19th century but was rebuilt about 1860. There was never a Netley manor house comparable to Towerhill.

To the east of the Old Tannery House, now King John House, and on the north bank of the Tillingbourne were two old houses called Jordells or Yardleys. with a tanyard belonging to Jordells on the south side of the stream, across the old, said to be 16th century, Packhorse Bridge. The manor record for Jordells starts in 1671 with the death of the then owner, Henry Goddard, but there is a tantalising note against it, apparently written by William Bray, which says 'it appears by the title deeds that in [blank] Charles I there were two houses called Jordells belonging to the Goddards who had purchased of Walter Chennell in [blank] James I. This part is the principal house now a tanyard'. In 1688 this had been acquired by Thomas Coe and remained in the Coe family for over 100 years until 1815. In 1835

it passed to the Eversheds who appear to have joined the two houses together, probably in the 1850s or 1860s since the Tithe Map of 1844 shows two separate houses still. By so doing they formed a grand residence of which photographs taken in 1868 still exist.[6] This has now become a row of houses, fronting the main road, known as 2-9 Station Road, of which no. 9 at the west end gives some indication of what the main residence looked like. The tanyard remains on the south side of the Tillingbourne. It has been considerably extended into the present-day Gomshall Tannery. The stream on the other hand has become much more insignificant.

Another house was built to the east, on part of the waste of the manor, about 1723. This is now the Gomshall Tannery office building. In 1826 William King, miller (Netley Mill), built a house further to the east which was added to by his daughter and her husband, Richard and Kesia Stedman – now Grovers Cottages – and they also built in 1830 what is now the Compasses and was formerly a beer-shop. Stedman is described in documents as a shop-keeper and retailer of beer. The Compasses probably became an inn about 1886 when it was leased to a Guildford brewery company.

To the south of the Tillingbourne lies the old house, now 9-12 Queen Street, which was a farmhouse 'part of Love's' with manor records going back to John Levett in 1557. Before 1581 it passed to the Gatton family who owned it for nearly 200 years until 1758 when it was acquired by George Eastmond or Eastman. Belonging to it, and situated to the north near the marsh, was the third tannery at Gomshall; a note in an old rent book says this was broken up in 1794, apparently just after George Eastmond the second had parted with it to his mortgagor, so presumably it was no longer a success.

In 1815 land to the south, called Donningsfield, was sold off to John King, described as bricklayer, and he appears to have built Gomshall Lodge there before 1823 when it appears in a manor rent roll.

To the west lies the present Monk's House, formerly Gravel Pits farmhouse, built on the waste of the manor of Gomshall Netley by a Thomas Street in 1663; he also built a smith's shop there. But although he appears to have been a blacksmith the house he built – very late timber-framed with fine brick and flint infilling – was of a high quality indicating considerable wealth. The main block is built around a central chimney and there is a two-bay crosswing on parts of which can be seen the original infilling of flint and brick squares. (Plate 1) From 1734 to 1857 Gravel Pits farmhouse with a 50-acre farm belonged to the Frost family. Substantial additions were made at the back late in the 19th century when it belonged to the Frasers of Netley.

Further east and close to Towerhill Manor stands the old house now 'Malthouse Cottages'. This is recorded in the Gomshall Netley manor records as a freehold called 'Skinners' and the first entry is for 1616 when John Gatton died holding lands formerly William le Skynners. The whole house was built as one, with its fine chimneys, from the beginning, about 1580-1620 and therefore probably by John Gatton. At the south end was the parlour and the good quality of the house is

Plate 2: MALTHOUSE COTTAGES, formerly SKINNERS, C.1580-1620

shown by fine chamfer moulding and stops in the main ground floor girders in this part and the ornate timber work on the front (Plate 2). The earliest reference to the property as including a malthouse, as well as a house, is in 1677 deed and it is possible that by that time at least part of the house had become a malthouse. But it seems to have started as a fine residence nearly a century earlier. The Bignolds seem to have acquired it from the Gattons by the middle of the 17th century and were succeeded by Thomas Coe about 1677. Land across the highway to the south went with it. To the north lay another house, apparently called Floodmead, which was there in 1788 as shown on the plan of the Rev. George Bray's estate, but had gone by 1919. Still further to the north and on the edge of Gomshall Marsh is The Cottage, Goose Green, of which the back part appears to date from about 1650 and the front part from about 1750.

The Gomshall Towerhill manor records going back to 1532 refer to other houses that may have been in this area around the marsh – notably one called 'The Bucke' or Buckmead which was a small meadow on Queen Street south of the Tannery, and onother called 'Adam Ayres' which could perhaps have been in the area between Loves and Skinners. The family of Eggar, churchwardens in Shere in the 16th century, lived at 'Adam Ayres' and 'the Bucke' was described in 1532 as the late William de Cothull's. But no trace of either remains today.

[1] The actual court rolls have been deposited by the Bray Estates with the Surrey Record Office (Guildford Muniment Room).
[2] Copy of translation of customary of the manor in Guildford Muniment Room (85/8/22-23)
[3] Documents in Guildford Muniment Room (85/13/373-379)
[4] Plan prepared for Sir John Evelyn 1735 (GMR) and plan attached to a conveyance 1860
[5] *Victoria History of Surrey* (1905), Vol. II, p.341
[6] Evershed photographs at Gomshall Tannery.

THE PATTERN OF SURREY VILLAGES

Uvedale Lambert

Blechingley Preservation and Historical Society

Let us start with a subject on which I don't pretend to know even the rudiments – and that is the fascinating period of prehistory which is called geology. I often thought historians were a cantankerous lot who usually disagreed but geologists seem as bad.

Anyhow, some say south-east Surrey was once under the sea, hence the pebbles on Chelsham heath which we call hoggin. But these pebbles were laid down by the last of a series of seas which overflowed the earth surface, one after another, first leaving behind a deposit of clay then sand and finally chalk.

Then occurred a buckling of the earth surface and a vast chalk mountain was thrown up over Ashdown Forest – 10,000 ft. high whose rivers drained down its sides into the Thames or the Channel. Wind and weather eroded this in the efflux of time and we are left with the edges of the foothills only in the North and South Downs, through which run the rivers:

> Arun, Adur, Ouse, and Cuckmere to the South and the
> Wey, Mole, Darent and Medway to the North.

Be that as it may, the historian is left with certain basic facts which early man and indeed 20th century man, has to cope with. Our area has a series of different soils stretching from east to west across it and this fact has largely controlled its development. For the chalk, after initial popularity, was too arid and inhospitable for comfort until modern times, and the clay too wet and cold.

So when we trace the centres of population in Surrey's early history we at once notice a certain pattern. There are settlements along the Thames valley, but these are only in the areas where the arid chalk is covered, even if thinly, with more fertile deposits or at its junction with other deposits. On the actual North downs early settlements are not very frequent, White Hill Camp in Blechingley seems to be almost the only certain Neolithic settlement in South-East Surrey. North-east Surrey is lacking in settlements except one on the Wey in the barren sand. And along the indeterminate south edge of the county there is a wide band of uninhabited Wealden Forest, which only began to be settled after Domesday.

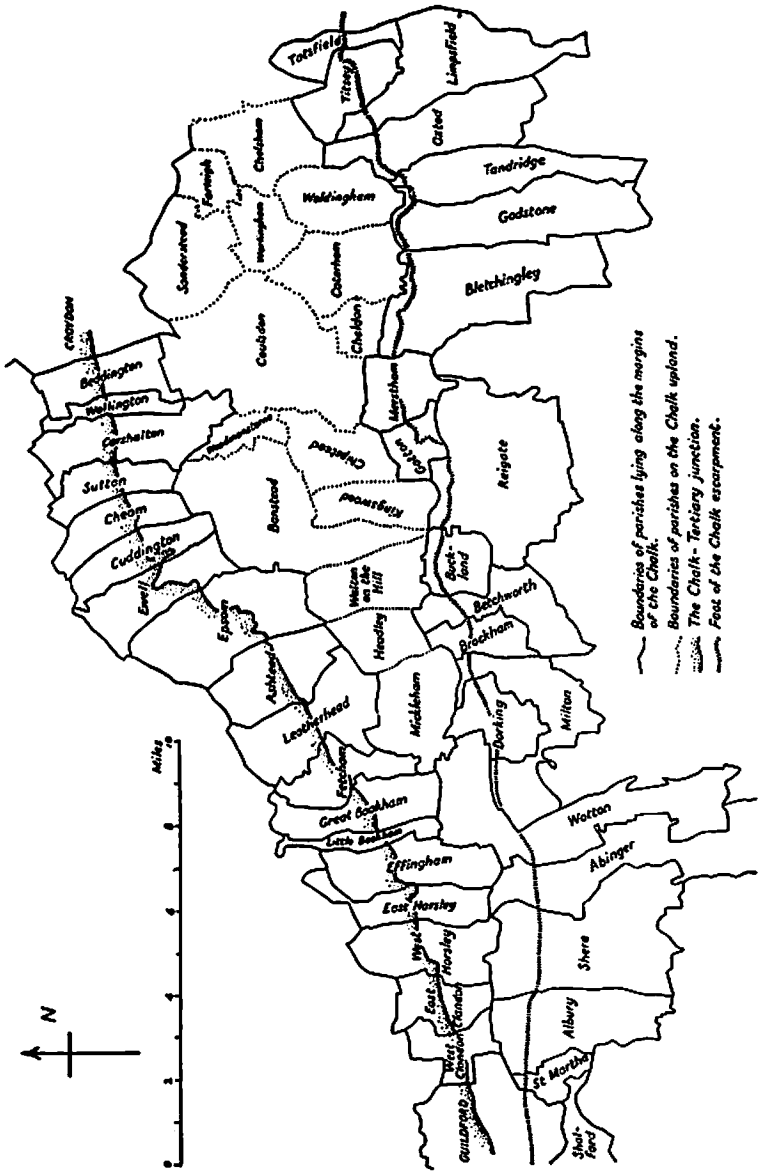


Fig. 17. Parish boundaries on the North Downs in Surrey

Fig. 1: Parish boundaries in the North Downs in Surrey. Reproduced by kind permission of Methuen & Co. Ltd., from S.W.Wooldridge and G.E.Hutchings, *London's Countryside*

South of the sand ridge, only two villages are recorded in Domesday; then there are some undoubtedly Saxon names which no doubt represented small settlements e.g. Norbryght in Godstone, Thundersfield in Horley. At Dry Hill Camp in Lingfield we have a Celtic site, but this is on the Hastings bed breaking through the Wealden clay.

Perhaps, however, the most obvious and outstanding line of settlements are those along the sandstone ridge – Limensfield, Oakstead, Tanridge, Walkingstead, Chevington, Blechingley, Northfelle, Churchfelle, roughly the line of the A25. Some people maintained that these settlements were made from the North. I remember painting vivid pictures of our Celtic forbears descending from their camps on the North Down and bravely pressing Southward across gault clay to the sunny uplands of sandstone ridge and down again into the wild wet weald where they were torn by thorn and briar, but with indomitable spirit clearing and settling even there.

Then came the wild beast, or dangerous foes, and they panicked back to the North Down fortresses, only to venture down again when all was quiet. Hence, of course, you will find all the roads run north and south in Surrey and very few for only short distances east/west.

Well, I'm not so sure now. It may well be that the Roman villas of Blechingley and Titsey were set up by romanised Celts who bravely came down to the gault from the North Downs to carve themselves an empire. But it seems unlikely that there were many Celtic settlements on the North Downs, though there were many to the north of it, e.g. Mitcham, Sanderstead, Banstead, Croydon, Sutton are full of them. I suspect that the Saxon settlements came from the East along the line of our present A25.

Someone may well wish to interrupt and say what about that ancient Neolithic trackway – Pilgrims Way? Now I expect most of you have lived through the sad period of the gradual debunking of the Pilgims Way. It is a very interesting piece of Victorian romanticism – fostered by the mediaevalism which made Barry, a decent classical architect, cover his classical-shaped Houses of Parliament with profuse Gothic ornamentation, which made English painting go pre-Raphaelite, when France was going impressionist, which made romantic Blechingley folk turn Stangrave into Ivy House, Coldharbour into Sunnyside, Wychcroft into Underhills and made a sober captain of the Royal Engineers, in whose charge was the surveying for the first Ordnance Survey map, write 'Pilgrims Way' on his survey in Gothic lettering, a name which had no respectable history. Now we have accepted that debunking and we can more realistically imagine Chaucer-like pilgrims gossiping along the A25 from village to village and church to church and hostel to hostel. But have we now to take a deep breath and face another debunking?

The Neolithic trackway, quondam Pilgrims Way, is being questioned too at least as a continuous trackway from Hampshire to Kent and the way our remote ancestors got their goods from the Kentish coast to the centre and West of England. Mr. Denis Turner, one of our local historians; has been engaged in studying the evidence for this trackway and he has found it very sketchy, to say the least. This is no time to go into details, but I am afraid we must prepare to fight for or abandon the idea,

except perhaps as a local line of connection to the Holmesdale valley where the weald was impassible and probably on the Hogs Back.

Some people have even tried to prove that West Surrey was settled from the South, across the Weald. This I find hard to believe – perhaps I am biased because I know so well from long experience how impossible even in the 20th century the Weald, if left to itself for even 20 years, can become. West Surrey was settled from the Thames Valley up the tributaries. But I must not poach on other preserves. Let us return to our theme and outline very briefly the settlements chronologically and geographically:-

1st Settlers before 2000 B.C. Neolithic people who built longbarrows and megaliths, travelled from West Mediterranean by sea to our Western Coasts, e.g. Salisbury, South Devon.

Bronze Age 1500 B.C. migration from Europe, still a pastoral people but settling sometimes on lower ground, but not in the Weald, e.g. Medway and Wey basins. They buried in roundbarrows.

Iron Age 500 B.C. – clearance begins: Hill forts, e.g. Hascombe, Holmbury.

Belgae 100 B.C. – iron age people (from Aisne and Marne) who built farms from Kent to Hertford and tended to settle not only on hilltops.

Romans 43 A.D., military roads to the coast. In our area signalling stations, and transit camps and some farms, probably occupied by Romanised Celts.

Anglo-Saxons 380 A.D. – first people to push into lowlands and clear. Earliest names 'ing' as Sompting, Dorking, Epping, denoting 'family of'; then ham = homestead, Hamm = meadow, 'ton' = fortified settlement, ley = clearing, felle = field, dun = hill.

In Surrey we have two lines of Saxon settlements:

1. On chalk dip-slope where it joins the eocene beds. Guildford to Croydon:- Merrow, Clandons, Horsleys, Effingham, Bookhams, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Ashtead, Epsom, Ewell to Cheam, Sutton, Carshalton, Beddington. 20 settlements in 24 miles.
2. Below chalk on greensand ridge – Shalford, Chilworth, Albury, Shere, Abinger, Wotton, Dorking, Betchworth, Brockham, Reigate, Nutfield, Merstham, Blechingley, Chevington, Walkingstead, Tandridge, Oxted, Lipsfield. 20 settlements in 30 miles.

Both lines are similar because the settlements being close together must extend north and south, and so we have two lines of strip parishes:

a) The Northern line extends North to London clay and South to chalk downs.

b) Southern from chalk downs into Wealden clay, e.g. Abinger, 10 miles long. Wotton is the same. Shere and Albury probably did extend but were cut by later developments in Weald; Godstone and Tandridge were till recently 12 miles long. West of the Mole the two sets of parishes join each other. East of the Mole, where the chalk is much wider, there are some plateau parishes between the two lines e.g. Headley, Walton, Banstead, Chipstead, Chaldon, Caterham, Coulsdon, Woldingham, Warlingham and Chelsham. Where the greensand is wider, then there is a tendency for two settlements to appear on the sand, or one only just off it into the Weald, e.g. Leigh, and later again settlements Post-Domesday appear in the Weald, e.g. Lingfield, Horne, Felbridge, Burstow, Horley, the 'folds'.

Of the Dipfoot settlements in the North of the County, I am not qualified to speak. Did they push into London clay? From Saxon charters we know that Ewell Cheam, Beddington had 'denes', i.e. pig pasturage south of Tandridge! 15 miles away. There is some evidence that the Dipfoot settlements had extensions into chalk and that chalk villages are later – Kingswood was really Ewell, Walton = 'Wood-tun'.

But I hope you now have in your mind's eye the pattern of our Surrey villages and at least some possible reasons why they are where they are.

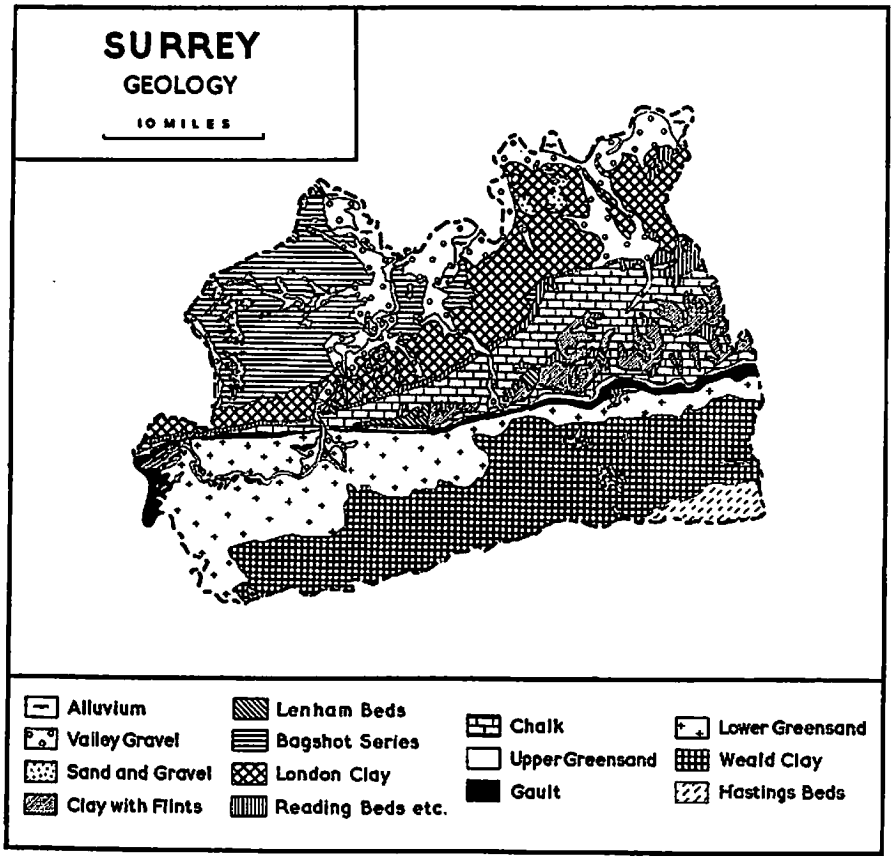


Fig. 2: Surrey's surface geology. Reproduced by kind permission of the Cambridge University Press from H.C.Darby and E.M.Campbell, *The Domesday Geography of South-East England*

Fig. 1: Heath Lodge 1973.

ALBURY WORKHOUSE – NOW HEATH LODGE, ALBURY HEATH

Ann Williams
Albury History Society

The drawing by John Baker shows Heath Lodge as a private house in 1973, but there are documents extant which gave many indications as to what it was like as a Workhouse in the 18th century.

There had been some primitive workhouses in England in the 17th century, but the 18th century saw the establishment of workhouses in towns and rural parishes. The administration was either brutally hard or incredibly lax, and according to *The Encyclopaedia Brittanica*, ranged from 'houses of terror to houses of debauchery'.

Paupers were herded indiscriminately into workhouses, and it was not until 1782 that an Act was passed forbidding the admission of able-bodied unemployed, but there was great poverty at that time, and consequently a very heavy demand on outdoor relief. In 1834 a more modern system was introduced whereby the 15,000 parishes in England and Wales were organised into a few hundred poor law 'unions', each of which was required to set up a well organised workhouse.

At a Meeting of the Vestry in Albury on 9 May 1732 it was agreed to build the Workhouse on Albury Heath, at a reasonable cost, and officers and parishioners were appointed to run it and see that the poor 'be kept well and clean and in good order', and that £200 be borrowed to start the building on the security of several of the more wealthy parishioners, and with the promise of more money to be borrowed later. The work began almost immediately, and one of the most interesting documents is the detailed account of the bills which were paid.

The Workhouse cost £339 1s. 4½d. to build, and a lawyer was paid 6d. for writing a legal letter and 3s. 0d. for drawing up a bond. The well which was necessary for water, as the house was built on a hill, was dug for the sum of £10 12s. 0d. and the well rope cost 9s. 11d. Goodman Brumfold was paid 3s. 0d. for going down the well on an inspection trip. The well exists today but is now safely covered with paving stones.

The bricks and tiles for the building came to £107 8s. 0d. and the timber £41 14s. 7d. The carpenter's bill was £46 0s. 0d. The plaster in those days was made of cow's hair which used to be collected from the abbatoir, and of local lime and sand. There are two bills extant – one for 12 baskets of lime at 5s. 0d. and the other for 40 bushels of cow's hair at £1 6s. 8d. The bricks almost certainly came from the brick yard in Weston Woods, now the sand pits, and the timber from Albury Park where a timber yard existed up to the last century. The few remaining old floor boards in the house are thought to be Scots Pine which almost certainly came from the Park. The tiles on the roof are original and were made locally.

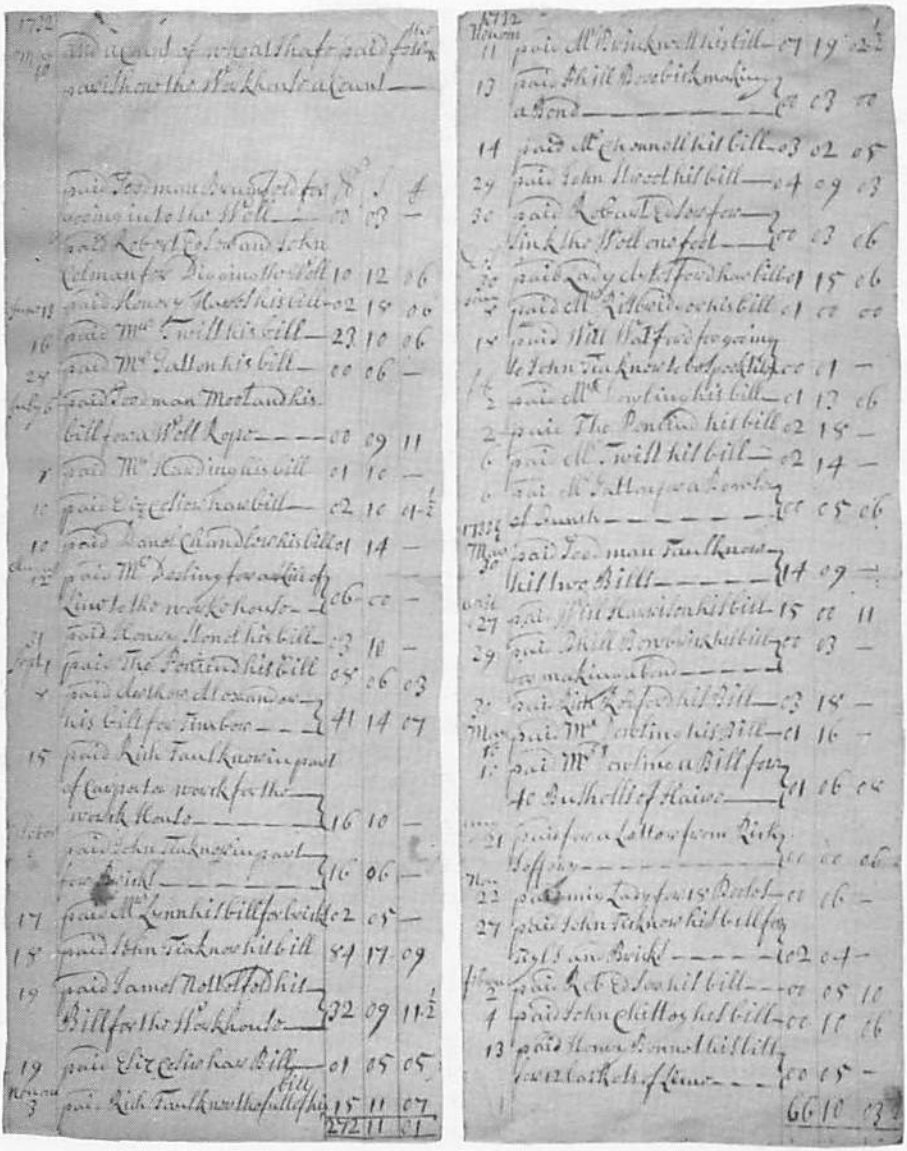


Fig. 2: An account of payments for the building of the Workhouse.

There are several inventories in existence of the contents of the Workhouse dating from 1739 to 1824, and among the contents of the kitchen for example, are listed various pothangers, bellows, cleavers etc; one turf iron and two turf baskets. Turf was used for the fires and came from the garden, and under the terms of the Indenture made out each year, had to be replaced as used. Also in the kitchen were rush candlesticks which were made of rushes gathered from the Tillingbourne Stream, stripped and soaked in mutton fat; 1 large Bible, 6 pairs of knitting needles, 10 earthenware pots and cups, and 11 chairs. There was, and still is, a cellar where they kept pickling and salting pots. There was also a Pantry and a Brewhouse which provided the beer ration for the inmates. Listed in the Brewhouse inventory are coppers, grain stirrers, beer coolers, pottage dishes etc., and also a wart sieve, a lawn searcher and a hare searcher. The wart sieve was for sieving the extract of malt and the term is still used today in the brewing trade.

There are listed in every inventory seven bedchambers, plus two garret rooms, and as this is a small cottage, the rooms must have been partitioned off into tiny cubicles. Each room had its own bed with heather bedsettle, complete with curtains, valances, bolsters and sheets and blankets, which sounds much grander than it probably was. Apart from the bed there was a chest which held all the occupant's belongings. That was all the furniture.

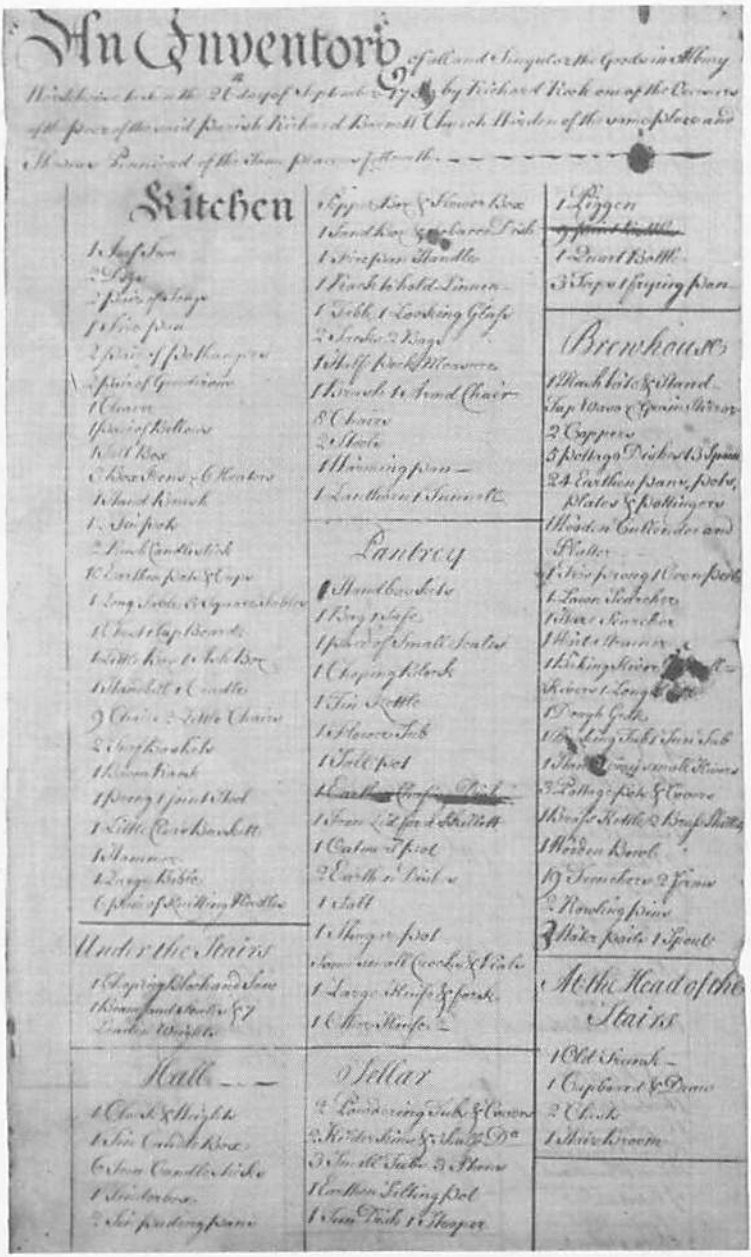
Only 12 people seem to have lived in the Workhouse at any one time, that is 12 paupers, plus the Governor or Governess. In 1876 Catherine Boxall, the daughter of the local doctor, was appointed Governess of the Workhouse at a salary of £5 5s. 0d. per annum. A new governess may have been appointed each year, but that is the only one of whom we have a record. There was probably a governor before 1782 when able bodied men were admitted, but after that date only the aged, the sick and children were resident.

Up to 1952 the whole of the attic area of the Workhouse was plastered in original plaster made of cow's hair, lime and sand. This must have been a very good mixture as it lasted over 200 years before it became necessary to remove it. Its deterioration was almost certainly due to the introduction of central heating. The cellar was also plastered the same way.

In the garrets were kept two spinning wheels and there are numerous mentions of ells of brown cloth and yards of British linen, so the women were obviously kept hard at work which was the policy – to keep the unemployed employed.

The following are household accounts from the inventory of 1779:

11 pairs of new sheets @ 7s. 6d.	£4	2s.	6d.
2 pillow coats		2s.	0d
6 hand towels		3s.	0d.
12 lbs of soap		9s.	0d.
28 lbs Pork @ 7½d.		17s.	6d.
89 lbs Bacon @ 9½d.	£3	17s.	5½d.
4 loaves of bread		2s.	6d.



An Inventory of all and singular the Goods in Abbey Workhouse taken the 28 day of Septemb 1739 by Richard Rock one of the Overseers of the poor of the said Parish Richard Bennett Church Warden of the same Place and Thomas Brainard of the same Place aforesaid

Kitchen

1 Jack Iron
2 Pots
2 Pair of Tongs
1 Fire pan
2 Pair of Pothangers
2 Pair of Gridirons
1 Cleaver
1 Spring Bellows
1 Salt Box
2 Box Irons & 6 Heaters
1 Hand Brush
1 Tea Spoon
2 Brass Candlesticks
1 Earthen Pot & Cups
1 Long Table & 2 Square Tables
1 Chest & Cap Board
1 Table Knife & Fork Box
1 Chamber Bill & Candle
2 Chairs & 2 little Chairs
2 Chopping Knives
1 Bacon Hook
1 Pair & 1 Spit Rod
1 Little Cleaver Bench Bill
1 Hammer
1 Large Table
1 Pair of Knitting Needles

Under the Stairs

1 Chopping Block and Iron
1 Bason and Ewer & 7 Earthen Wash Balls

Hall

1 Clock & Weights
1 Iron Candle Box
6 Iron Candlesticks
1 Fire Shovel
2 Tea Kettle Stands

1 Pipe Box & Flower Box
1 Sand Box & Earthen Pots
1 Fire pan Handle
1 Rack to hold Linnen
1 Table & Looking Glass
2 Sacks 2 Bags
1 Shelf Book Measure
1 Wrought & 1 Joynd Chair
8 Chairs
2 Stools
1 Warming pan
1 Earthen & 1 Tunnel

Pantry

1 Stand Candlestick
1 Bag & Case
1 Pair of Small Scales
1 Chopping Block
1 Tin Kettle
1 Flower Pot
1 Toll Pot
1 Earthen Coffee Pot
1 Iron Ladle and Skimmer
1 Cream Pot
2 Earthen Pots
1 Salt
1 Stone Pot
Some Earthen Cruets & Vials
1 Large Knife & Fork
1 Other Knife

Cellar

2 Laundering Tubs & Covers
2 Kitchen Tubs & Chalk Do
3 Small Tubs & Stone
1 Earthen Salting Pot
1 Iron Dish & Sleeper

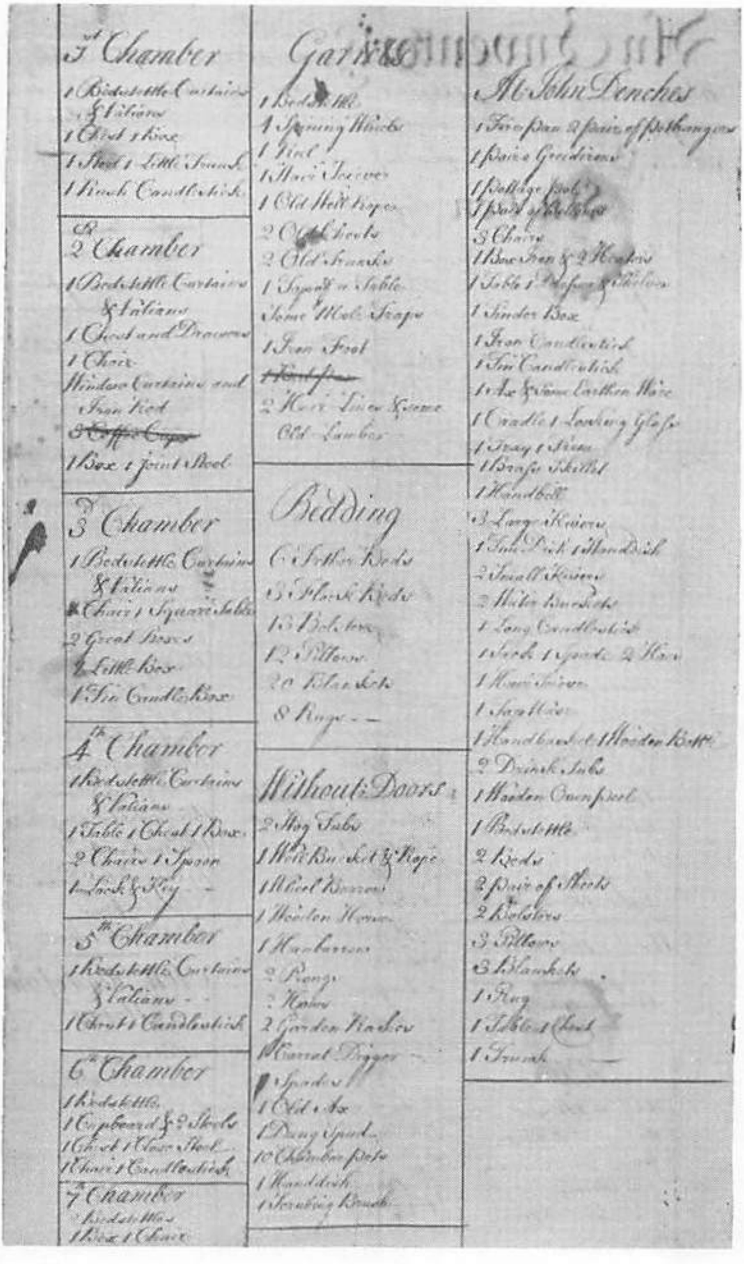
1 Pigeon
1 Quart Bottle
3 Tops & 1 Frying pan

Brewhouse

1 Mash Tub & Stand
1 Tap & Bung & Grain Strainer
2 Coppers
3 Pottage Dishes & 3 Spoons
24 Earthen Pans, Pots, Plates & Pottingers
1 Wooden Cutting Board and Rutter
1 Iron Prong & Oven Fork
1 Iron Shovel
1 Hair Sieve
1 Tubing Kiver
Rivers & Long
1 Dough Gritt
1 Iron Tub & Iron Sieve
1 Iron & 2 small Rivers
2 Pottage Pots & Covers
1 Brass Kettle & Brass Skillet
1 Wooden Bowl
19 Trenchers & 2 Trays
2 Rowling Pins
3 Water Pails & 1 Spout

At the Head of the Stairs

1 Old Trunk
1 Cupboard & Drawer
2 Chests
1 Wine Broom



An Inventory ...

1st Chamber
1 Bedstettle Curtains & Valians
1 Chest 1 Box
1 Stool 1 Little Trunk
1 Rush Candlestick

2 Chamber
1 Bedstettle Curtains & Valians
1 Chest and Drawers
1 Chair
Window Curtains and Iron Rod
~~3 Coffee Cups~~
1 Box 1 joint Stool

3 Chamber
1 Bedstettle Curtains & Valians
1 Chair 1 Square table
2 Great Boxes
1 Little Box
1 Tin Candle Box

4th Chamber
1 Bedstettle Curtains & Valians
1 Table 1 Chest 1 Box
2 Chairs 1 Spoon
1 Lock & Key

5th Chamber
1 Bedstettle Curtains & Valians
1 Chest 1 Candlestick

6th Chamber
1 Bedstettle
1 Cupboard & 2 Stools
1 Chest 1 Close Stool
1 Chair 1 Candlestick

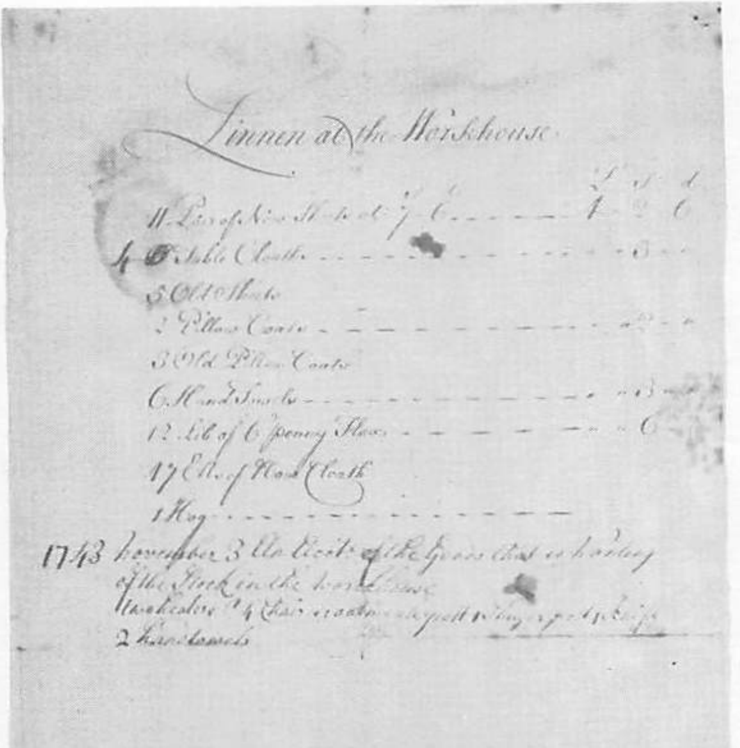
7th Chamber
1 Bedstettles
1 Box 1 Chair

Garrets
1 Bedstettle
1 Spinning Wheels
1 Reel
1 Hair Sieve
1 Old Well Rope
2 Old Sheets
2 Old Trunks
1 Sugar a Table
Some Mole Traps
1 Iron Foot
~~1 Reel~~
2 Hair Lines & some Old Lumber

Bedding
6 Feather Beds
3 Flock Beds
13 Bolsters
12 Pillows
20 Blankets
8 Rugs

Without Doors
2 Hog Tubs
1 Well Bucket & Rope
1 Wheel Barrow
1 Wooden Horse
1 Handbarrow
2 Prongs
2 Hoes
2 Garden Rakes
1 Carrot Digger
1 Spades
1 Old Ax
1 Dung Spud
10 Chamber pots
1 Handdish
1 Scrubing Brush

At John Denches
1 Fire pan 2 pair of Pothangers
1 pair Gridirons
1 Pottage pot
1 pair of Bellows
3 Chairs
1 Box Iron & 2 Heaters
1 Table 1 Dresser & Shelves
1 Tinder Box
1 Iron Candlestick
1 Tin Candlestick
1 Ax & some Earthen Ware
1 Cradle 1 Looking Glass
1 Tray 1 Sieve
1 Brass Skillet
1 Handbell
3 Large Knives
1 Tin Dish 1 Handdish
2 Small Knives
2 Water buckets
1 Long Candlestick
1 Fork 1 Spade 2 Hoes
1 Hair Sieve
1 Saw Horse
1 Handbasket 1 Wooden Bottle
2 Drink Tubs
1 Wooden Oven peel
1 Bedstettle
2 Beds
2 pair of Sheets
2 Bolsters
3 Pillows
3 Blankets
1 Rug
1 Table 1 Chest
1 Trunk



Linnen at the Workhouse

		£	s	d
11 Pair of New Sheets at 7 6		4	2	6
4 Table Cloaths			3	
5 Old Sheets				
2 Pillow Coats			2	
3 Old Pillow Coats				
6 Hand Towels			3	
12 Lib of 6 penny Flax			6	
17 Ells of Flax Cloath				
1 Hog				

1743 November 3 the Receit of the Goods that is handing of the Stock in the workhouse
two kettles 4 Chairs [illegible] pott [illegible] knife
2 handtowels

	£	s	d
the first pare at	0	4	0
Second pare at	0	5	0
third pare at	0	4	6
fourth pare at	0	7	6
fifth pare at	0	6	0
6 pare at	0	6	6
7 pare at	0	6	6
8 pare at	0	5	0
9 pare at	0	5	6
10 pare at	0	4	6
11 pare at	0	4	0
	2	17	0

These were all made at the Workhouse, but as they are on an inventory they are only valued at the current prices. The bread seems rather expensive, as in 1739 three yards of tobacco cost only 3s. 0d., a bowl of punch 5s. 0d. and gin was 1s. 7½d. a pint.

There is a very good record of the people who lived there and from which Parish the inmates came. After 1782 the Workhouse was only able to accept the incapacitated, the elderly and children whose parents were unable to support them. There is one record of 12 inmates, six of whom were children. Henry Lowick aged six years was put into service as were Thomas Lowick, obviously a brother, and another boy both aged nine years, and yet another brother Richard aged 11 years, was apprenticed, but to whom and as what we do not know. The other six inmates were all elderly.

Before each child or inmate was sent out into either service or apprenticeship, they were given suitable outfits and there are lists of the stores of clothes from which these came. Among the men's clothing are great coats, waistcoats, breeches, frocks, stockings, perukes and silk handkerchiefs. Among the women's garments are listed:- bonnets, cloaks, stays, shifts and clogs. The bill for outfitting didn't amount to more than a few shillings– shoe mending was 3d. and new shoes cost 3s. 3d. – and this was paid for out of the Poor Rates for which very rigid accounts were kept.

The Wardens of the workhouse saw to it that it was literally self supporting. Pigs were kept in the garden, vegetables were grown, bread made, also clothing. From what was the open fireplace in what is now the sitting room, the chimneys are so arranged that while the fire downstairs cooked the food, bread baked in the oven behind it, and smoke was directed up to the attic where bacon was cured.

Inmates were also apparently great gardeners as there are lists of many spades, hoes, shovels, wheel barrow etc., and each year the garden was replanted with useful vegetables.

In the files are records from 1730-1830 of the amounts of the rates paid by all the local landowners and householders of Albury for the relief of the Poor. Lord and Lady Aylesford, and the later owners of Albury Park House were obviously the largest landowners in the village, and as their property in the 1700s was valued for rate purposes at £142 and the rate of tax was then 2s. 0d. in the pound, their annual contribution to the poor was £14 4s. 0d. Many families contributed as little as two or three shillings per annum.

The exact date on which the Workhouse ceased to exist as such and became a private house is not known, but it was probably about 1832, as the local records of the Poor Rates end then. The chimneys may also give a clue as when Mr. Pugin came to Albury in about 1840 he built his ornate chimneys on to most of the houses in the village, including the Workhouse. It is almost certain that no-one would have gone to the trouble of erecting these very ornamental and costly chimneys on a house that was run by the Parish out of the Poor Rates, for the paupers. Unfortunately they were found to be unsafe and were removed from the house in 1958, but the present chimneys are much nearer in design to the original ones.

However from 1732 for, probably, a hundred years the Workhouse at Albury received the paupers of the village and provided them with an existence which was not devoid of human understanding and possibly some happiness.

All the records, lists and inventories referred to in this article are in the possession of the Albury Parish Council

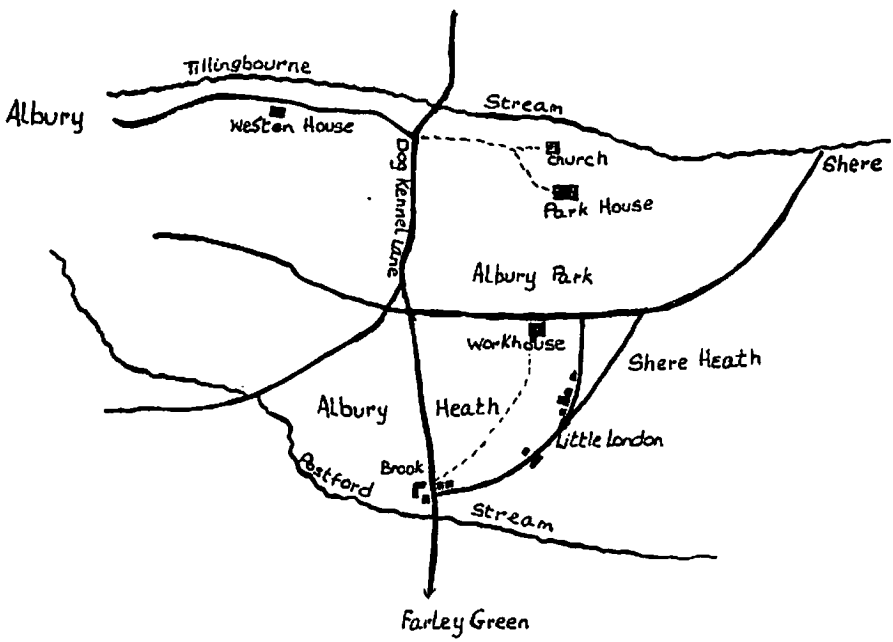
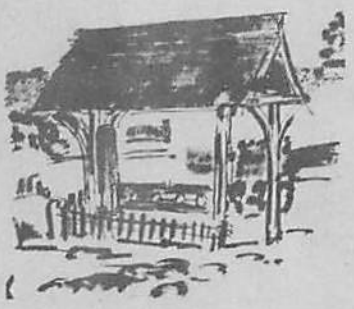


Fig. 4: Copied from 'Plan of the Country in the Vicinity of Albury' by Lieut. Cdr. Malden, R.N. Drawn Circa 1825-28.

Brickworks, Hambledon

Gravel Hill, Leatherhead



Stocks and Whipping Post
Alford

Old Boarden Bridge, Godalming

Nicholas Woolmer's Cottage
Blechingley

Old Crane, Guildford Wharf
Guildford