

Studwell Lodge

23 March 2015

Author: Gordon Hope

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk



STUDWELL LODGE – NOTES SENT MARCH 2015 BY GORDON HOPE TO MICHAEL AND CAROLINE
MCGEEVER - (Page 1)

NOTE DATED 23 MARCH 2015.

To Michael and Caroline.

Herewith the photocopy (enlarged by 150%) of the original entry regarding Palace Meadow in the Survey of A.D. 1551. It is the paragraph marked 'XX'. I also enclose my rather unprofessionally presented transcription and translation of this. Hope you can make it all out. The little piece of land referred to as "Pallyce Mede" is that piece of meadow running southwards from the pathway between the two white footbridges (over the present river and what is sometimes called the "dead" river - the latter being still the boundary between Droxford and Soberton parishes).

You can ignore (if you wish) the first paragraph of the photocopy, as this relates to lands held at the north end of the village (north of Mill Lane) by the BENSTED family, who were the tenants of the Manor Farm, Droxford (which lay between the Manor House and Mill Lane).

The second paragraph, however (which I have marked with a pencil '*'), is very interesting for you. Henry, Earl of Southampton, was the second Earl and aged only about 5 when his father Thomas, the first Earl, died on 30 July 1550. He was therefore a "minor" in 1551 when the Survey was made and would have been in Guardianship. The father, Thomas, was an active royal officer to King Henry VIII, became Baron Titchfield in 1544 and (1st) Earl of Southampton in 1547. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries he acquired the sites of Beaulieu and Titchfield Abbeys and more monastic land in Hampshire than anyone else. Presumably it was at about this time that he acquired (in some way I have not - yet - discovered) this piece of land called "Buckler Pleers" - a name of whose origin I have at present no idea!

The interest in this for you is the location of his 'Buckler Pleers' which the 1551 Survey gives. Philip Ludall to its north I can positively identify as the tenant of the copyhold now known as the "White Horse" (pub) and earlier as the "Woolhouse". Thomas Strugnell's land to its south must have been the land on which "Crossways" now stands (where your neighbours Alan and Margaret Scriven now live). Your own property, therefore, must have been this "Buckler Pleers" but I have found nothing to indicate a building there in the mid 1500's and the 1551 Survey.

It may be that Thomas, 1st Earl, intended to build there but died too soon. However, as you will see from what I have already given you (in typescript), at Hock 1556 your site was surrendered by a Clara Smyth, formerly wife of Thomas Strugnell, to Thomas's son John. What I am surmising, therefore, is that when the 1st Earl of Southampton died the Guardians of his son Henry (2nd Earl) disposed of "Buckler Pleers" and that Thomas Strugnell next door (so to speak) then acquired a copyhold of it and built a "messuage" on it before his death (somewhere between 30 July 1550 and 1556). There certainly have been people living on your site from at least 1556 until now and, also, Thomas Strugnell and his family held copyholds elsewhere in South Hill, Droxford as far north as The Square.

I hope all this makes some sense to you. The Hampshire Record Office at Winchester might be able to cast light on how the 1st Earl acquired your site (before his ennoblement he was THOMAS WRIOTHESLEY). Also, an expert examining your "old" roof under the present one might be able to date it. I leave it there for now but please ask if you have questions on any of this (and excuse manuscript slip-ups).

Gordon Hope - 23 March 2015.

Literal transcriptions and translations of items marked ‘*’ and ‘xx’ on attached photocopy:-

‘*’ HENR’ COMES SOUT’ TN I PCELL TR VOC BUCKLER PLEERS
 (Henry Earl of Southampton holds 1 parcel of land called Buckler Pleers)
 IAC (IN) ORIENT PT VIA DUC VS MYDLINGTON
 (lying (in) the east side of road leading to Mydlington)
 INT TR PHI LYDALL IN BOREAL PT &
 (between land of Philip Lydall on the north side and)
 TR THOME STRUGNELL in austral’ pt
 (land of Thomas Strugnell on the south side)
 P REDD ANN’ AD (DICT) FEST’ 1d.
 (by rent annually at the said Feast of 1 penny.)

‘xx’ PHUS WASTELL tn 1 pcell tr includ voc
 (Philip Wastell holds 1 parcel (of) land enclosed called)
 PALYCE CONT iac in austral pt
 (Palyce containing (acreage lost) lying on south side)
 de (?CLATE) mede int ripia in orient pt
 (of (?CLATE) meadow between river bank on east side)
 & tr JOHIS TANNER in occid’ pt et 1 pcell
 (& land of John Tanner on west side and 1 parcel)
 prat includ 1 acr voc PALLYCE MEDE
 (of meadow enclosed (containing) 1 acre called PALLYCE MEDE)
 lac in austr’ (?pt) de le co (missing) mede inter
 (lying on south (?side) of the (?)co(mmon) meadow between)
 (?) cap de Soberton in orient pt & ripia
 (the (?)field of Soberton on east side & the river bank)
 in occid’ pt’
 (on west side)
 (Remainder of entry not transcribed as it relates to 8.5 acres of arable land around Droxford
 at various locations).

NOTE DATED 16 MARCH 2015.

PALACE MEADOW. (See map).

→ First known documentary reference by name is in a Survey of holdings in Droxford manor, dated 1552 A.D. (Latin). It is described there as “one parcel of enclosed land called PALYCE, containing ... “
- page edge badly torn and acreage area therefore now lost. It was then held by a Philip Wastell as tenant of the manor and lay with the river bank to its east and land of a different tenant to its west. So far as can be traced and is known it has always been pasture or, in its eastern part, water-meadow.

→ At a date probably between 1290 and 1300 A.D. the muniments of Winchester College show a Richard de Midlington granting to a JOHN DE DROKENESFORD “ ... two acres in the field of Midlington in Brodforlange (Broad Furlong) between land of John le Carter and meadow of Alice de

Wallop on the East side and next to the Church path from Midlington to Droxford on the West side ...” (see map for “Wallops Close” and the north-south “Church path” - the grant seems to have been the long strip of land parallel with that path, the area of which I calculate at about 2.5 acres - see map again. This strip lies higher than the rest of “PALYCE”, i.e. going towards the river).

- JOHN DE DROKENESFORD was a “clerk” and son of JOHN DE MOLENDINIS according to a grant he made around 1300 A.D. to St. Denys Priory at Southampton. He was born somewhere around 1265 to 1270 A.D. in Droxford and seems to have changed his surname to that of his place of birth in line with common practice at that time. He had at least three younger brothers of the “de D.” surname.
- JOHN DE D. (J. de D. now for short) entered the service of King Edward I (possibly after study at Oxford) and by 1288 A.D. was an Usher of the Wardrobe, i.e. the King’s private finances as opposed to those via the Exchequer. He rose rapidly through the ranks in the Wardrobe to eventually become its Keeper (in which position the King kept him very busy finding monies for his Welsh and Scottish wars). In 1298 A.D. J. de D., as Keeper and also a banneret, led his own retinue of knights and esquires to join the third (i.e. the King’s) battalion in Scotland.
- When Edward I died, J. de D. and King Edward II fell out to some extent and J. de D. left his Keepership to be Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1310 A.D. He was largely opposed to Edward II’s doings and he eventually died in Dogmersfield (Hants) in 1329 A.D.
- All his life, however, he kept returning to Droxford to stay awhile, so where might he and his retinues as Keeper and as Bishop have then lived? I discount Droxford Manor in the village centre, as this belonged to the Bishop of Winchester as Lord of Droxford Manor. I also discount the house of his father John de Molendinis (possibly on the south side of Park Lane, Droxford - where Manor Cottage and Clark’s House are now) as there would have been no room there, I think.
- I have therefore thought for many years that the “enclosed” land of 1552 A.D. holds the answer, especially the western strip of 2 to 2.5 acres which J. de D. was granted in 1290 – 1300 A.D. (see above). One of his knights in the retinue of 1298 A.D. (see above) was Sir John de Scures and he had a large manor house by Wickham church. Would J. de D., as Keeper and then Bishop, have had less?

12

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Sept 2nd - 1865

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[Faint handwritten notes]

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part in the
C. 6 and 7

(67) 1890
Kopiede

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1891

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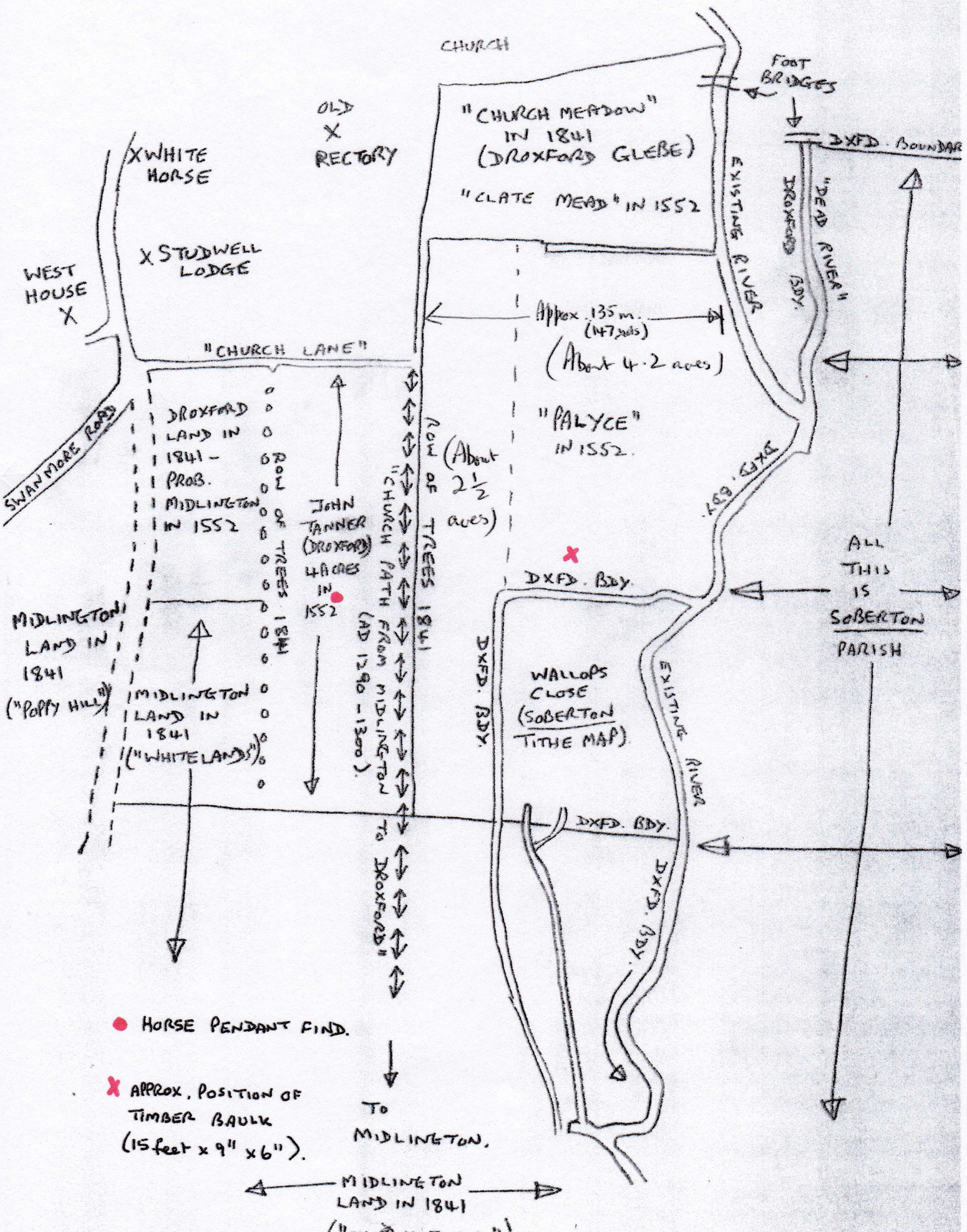
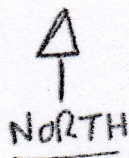
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CHURCH

OLD
X
RECTORY

"CHURCH MEADOW"
IN 1841
(DROXFORD GLEBE)

"CLATE MEAD" IN 1552

FOOT
BRIDGES

DXFD. BOUNDARY

"DEAD RIVER"
DROXFORD Bdy.

EXISTING RIVER

Approx. 135 m.
(147 pds)
(About 4.2 acres)

"PALYCE"
IN 1552.

(About
2 1/2
acres)

JOHN
TANNER
(DROXFORD)
4 ACRES
IN
1552

"CHURCH PATH FROM MIDLINGTON
(AD 1290-1300).
TO DROXFORD"

ROW OF TREES 1841

DXFD. Bdy.

WALLOPS
CLOSE
(SOBERTON
TITHE MAP).

DXFD. Bdy.

EXISTING RIVER

ALL
THIS
IS
SOBERTON
PARISH

DXFD. Bdy.

DXFD. Bdy.

● HORSE PENDANT FIND.

X APPROX. POSITION OF
TIMBER BAULK
(15 feet x 9" x 6").

TO
MIDLINGTON.

MIDLINGTON
LAND IN 1841

"CHURCH MEADOW"

Woodlands.
Brookbridge Rd
Droxford SO3239T
6th March 15.
Tel 01489 878774

Dear Mike,

I was speaking to Robina Talbot Ponsoby, and she said how much she enjoyed meeting you, and that you were interested in the history of the house

I enclose details of Sir Harry Keppel who lived at Stranwen about 1840? I will have to search through some books

I believe you are here during March. I hope to meet up.

There is a local history group about to start in March are you interested.

Best wishes from
Frances Keppel

The Honorable Henry Keppel born 14th June 1809

4th son of the Earl of Albemarle by Hon. Elizabeth Southwell

4th daughter of Edward, Lord de Clifford

Entered navy Feb 1822 passed exam 1828

1829 first commission

1830 joined The Galatae/Galatal 42 on 11 02 1830 and again

1831 on 20 07 1831

1833 Promoted to Commodore and served from May 1834 to Spring of 1838 in
the Childers 16 in the Med. & at the Cape of Good Hope

1839 present rank from 5th Dec 1839

1841 From Aug 1841 to 1845 commanded Dido... served in the latter vessel at
capture of Woosung and Shanghai and in the operations on the Yang-tse-
Kiang in 1842

(see Gazette 1842 pp3400-3404)

1844 ... and in Aug. 1844 with only the Dido and Hon. East Indies Co. steamer,
Phlegethon under his orders, he attacked a large piratical settlement on the
Island of Borneo; where while the loss of the British amounted to 32 men
killed and 30 wounded, the enemy had five of their towns destroyed, 250 men

killed, some thousands of houses and 200 or 300 proas of various descriptions
burnt and 70 brass guns and 13 flags taken.

Since he was paid off Capt. Keppel has been unemployed

1839 he married 25th Feb. Katherine Louisa, daughter of the late General Sir John
Crosbie, G.C.H. of Watgate, Co. Sussex. Agent Joseph Woodhead

see 'The Honorable Henry Keppel - A Captain in the Royal Navy'

see 'A Sailor's Life Under Four Sovereigns' Vol. II p 57
available Portsmouth Central Lib.

Jan. 27th 1844 "Just arrived at Spithead called at Cashers wine merchants to know
whereabouts of his wife. He informed Keppel she had come from Boulogne and
only two days ago he had sent parcels to my place at Droxford where she had
joined her father who with his family had taken possession

Aug 1847 Rookesbury Sept 7th Shooting, bagged 22 brace.

"No house in England so enjoyable as this Rookesbury: no people so kind and
generous" Drizzly rain.

Took leave of friends at Rookesbury. At Southwick

DEATH OF

SIR HARRY KEPPEL, O.M.

FATHER OF THE NAVY.

We regret to announce that Admiral the Hon. Sir Harry Keppel died yesterday at his residence in the Albany, Piccadilly.

Although in his ninety-fifth year, the gallant admiral enjoyed fair health until last week, when he suffered a breakdown, due chiefly to age, and rapidly became worse. Several members of his family were present when he passed away yesterday afternoon.

Sir Harry Keppel was the "father of the Navy," and so youthful was he in his old age that the rule that admirals shall retire at the age of seventy was in his case relaxed. His career was full of exciting episodes. He obtained post-rank in the year the late Queen Victoria came to the throne.

He fought in the Crimea, and all over the China Seas. He was a dashing, almost reckless leader, beloved of officers and men, and when he finally left his command in the East, it was the late Duke of Edinburgh, and the officers of his ship, who manned the barge which took him to the mail steamer.

"MY DEAR LITTLE ADMIRAL"

With the Royal Family Sir Harry was a favourite from boyhood, and to his Majesty and the Queen was known as "Daddy." The Queen not long ago sent a greeting to "My dear little Admiral." Sir Harry was indeed a "little" admiral, for he was barely five feet in height.

Although he lived to so great an age, Sir Harry Keppel had a narrow escape of being buried as soon as he was born, for it was at first thought there was no life in the infant which came into the family of the Earl of Albemarle in July 1809. At the last moment the nurse declared, "There's life in the small thing," and the baby was saved.

When the young Keppel was eleven years old, Lord Albemarle decided that it was time he and his brother Tom selected a profession. This is the admiral's version of it: "We both decided for the Navy. My father thought that we should have separate professions. As we disagreed, I hit Tom in the eye. He was the bigger, and returned it with interest. When we had had enough my father decided we should both be sailors."

So in 1822 young Harry Keppel joined the Naval College at Gosport, and there spent two years. His final examination was almost a fiasco, as it was discovered during the geography paper that he had in his pocket a handkerchief with the map of England printed on it. Nevertheless he was appointed to the Tweed, and began life at sea.

"I've been to most places in the world, and known most of the interesting people of my time," he said not long ago. "Harry Nelson's favourite captain, I remember well."

"KEPPEL'S GULLY"

In 1829 Keppel was at the Cape, distinguishing himself chiefly as a devil-may-care sportsman. The steep and almost precipitous cliff down which he drove a tandem is still known as "Keppel's Folly."

Wherever he sailed he always managed to secure a fair share of the sport that was going. He told thrilling tales of being chased by a rogue elephant, of fighting a duel, of escaping from arrest to dance at a "dignity" ball, and of being tossed by an Indian buffalo. "I've been at the bottom of most ditches in most parts of the world," he would say.

It was in the "thirties" that Keppel's serious work began. The Chinese and Malay pirates infested the Eastern seas, and perpetually imperilled our merchant ships. His first job was to blockade sixty miles of coast with boats, and thus he did so well that the Rajah offered him his daughter in marriage.

Soon after he was made commander, and returned home to look for a ship. This he got, but he was so young and so small that his friend, Admiral George Dundas, advised him not to appear in person at the Admiralty. He did not.

In 1838 he attended the Coronation of Queen Victoria. In the interim he was again in the China Seas suppressing piracy. With the brief interlude of the Crimea, and a temporary command elsewhere, he spent thirty years in Eastern seas.

BOAT FIGHTS WITH PIRATES

"Boat fights are not much now, then," says the admiral. "I remember sailing 100 miles over what was laid down as land and even mountains. People used to say that my ship's keel was as rugged as a saw—well, I don't know, but I went anywhere and took risks. Still, we really always fought the pirates from our boats, and many a time have I captured a pirate with fifty or sixty dead and wounded on board, and some three feet of blood and water in the boat."

"People weren't so particular in those days."

"When I was at Wensing, with Sir Hugh Gough, I heard him direct an Irish orderly to ascertain if a fallen Chinaman were dead or alive. The man thrust his bayonet through the body, turned it over, and said, 'Did you honour.'"

Probably the finest piece of boat-work ever done was Keppel's attack with seven boats on thirty-five large Chinese junks in Fatshan Creek in 1857, when his galley was sunk beneath him, and five out of six of the men in it were killed or wounded. At the first attack the Chinese fire was so hot that the boats were obliged to fall back. Then Keppel called out, "Let's try once more with the row-boats, boys," and the men gave such a cheer, and made such an onslaught, that the Chinamen gave way, and a number of the junks were captured and several sunk, while Keppel laid siege to Fatshan city with a population of about 200,000.

After his final return from the East years later Sir Harry became Commander-in-Chief at Devonport. At the age of ninety he was sent to Singapore, where the new

honour was bestowed on his home.

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In 1838 he attended the Coronation of Queen Victoria. In the forties he was again in the China Seas suppressing piracy. With the brief interlude of the Crimea, and temporary command elsewhere, he spent thirty years in Eastern seas.

BOAT FIGHTS WITH PIRATES.

"Chairs were of no much use then," says the admiral. "I frequently sailed 10 miles over what was laid down as land and even mountains. People used to say that my ship's keel was as jagged as a saw—well, I don't know, but I went anywhere and took risks. Still, we really always fought the pirates from our boats, and my a time have I captured a pirate with my or sixty dead and wounded on board. I come three feet of blood and water in my boat."

People weren't so particular in those days.

When I was at Woosung, with Sir Hugh, I heard him direct an Irish orderly to ascertain if a fallen Chinaman were dead or alive. The man thrust his bayonet through the body, turned it over, and said, "var honour."

Probably the finest piece of boat-work ever was Keppel's attack with seven boats, thirty-five large Chinese junks in Fat-Creek in 1857, when his galley was sunk with him, and five out of six of the men were killed or wounded. At the first the Chinese fire was so hot that the boats were obliged to fall back. Then Keppel called out, "Let's try once more with our boats, boys," and the men gave a cheer, and made such an onslaught, the Chinamen gave way, and a number of the junks were captured and several while Keppel laid siege to Fatsan, with a population of about 200,000.

On his final return from the East years ago, Sir Harry became Commander-in-Chief at Devonport. At the age of ninety he was named in his honour.

The Village of Hambledon

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FAMILY HISTORY

Tailors, Blacksmiths of Hambledon

I've been researching the Taylors, blacksmiths of Hambledon, for my five Taylor children and stepchildren, their descendants.

The first known Taylor of the line must have been born just before the church records began in 1596, and seven more generations followed, father to son, until the last died at Forge Cottage in 1908.

They were humble folk, but they've left their mark on the village.

The Great Fire of Hambledon, 1726

Robert Taylor, grandson of the first known Taylor, was a blacksmith of Hambledon, as I expect his father and grandfather had been before him. He married his village sweetheart, Alice Baker, in 1676, when she was just 17. They were not blessed with many children, but enough: a daughter to be their support in their old age, and a son to carry on the family trade and name. The marriage seems to have been happy: as Robert's life was drawing to a close in April 1724, he made his last will and testament leaving all he had to his "loving wife Alice". They had a house in East Street, probably the home they retired to after handing on the smithy to their son. Robert must have died expecting that Alice would live out her days in security there, surrounded by the possessions they had acquired in nearly 50 years of marriage.

But two years later the villagers woke in terror to the dread cries of "Fire!", as the late John Goldsmith related in his book from *Hambledon: Biography of a Hampshire Village*.: An ugly pall of yellowish smoke was escaping through the upper windows and thatch of one of houses on the east side of the High Street. The villagers rushed to organise a chain of buckets from the nearest well, but they couldn't prevent the whole roof exploding into flame. A stiff westerly breeze blew the flames down the row of old wooden Tudor houses, and soon all the houses on the east side of the High Street were doomed. The village pump was brought into service, but its pathetic squirts of water could do nothing to halt the conflagration."

With all one side of the High Street destroyed, the houses round the corner in East Street were under threat. The occupants must have been torn between joining in the attempts to halt the fire, and rescuing whatever possessions they could. The flames moved hungrily along East Street, consuming house after house. Then, miraculously, the fire seemed to stop at the house of John Courtneil, who lived next door to Widow Alice Taylor. John Courtneil's house was untouched by the fire. But Alice's hopes that her home would be spared were soon dashed: the fire jumped past Courtneil's, and destroyed the next two houses.

The greater part of the village was gone, and the damage was valued at over £5000. From the deeds of no 9 East Street it appears that in 1726 widow Alice was desperate. The house on which she held the residue of a 1,999-year lease was "... in the late dreadful conflagration at Hambledon burnt to the ground and she being in straitened circumstances was unable to rebuild". Parishes across England held collections to help, and the accounts have survived.

One of them records a gift of 10 pence:

"LILFORD CHURCH, PETERBOROUGH. Hambledon in County Southampton; Loss by fire 5184l. Collected November 1726 0l. 0s. 10d."

Perhaps the 10 pence, and other donations, helped, as Alice didn't remain homeless; her house was rebuilt by her daughter's father-in-law, a wheelwright of West Dean, and she was allowed to live there for the rest of her life, in exchange for the remainder of the lease.

This photo from John Goldsmith's book shows Courtneil's house, which was spared, and those either side which were eventually rebuilt.



25 East Street, c. 1906. In 1726 there were no buildings on the site of the house on the extreme left, or where Mrs. Matthews' shop stands. The house beyond, where John Courtneil lived, had a miraculous escape from the fire. The two houses beyond that were burnt to the ground.

From this, we can identify Alice Taylor's house, which is still numbered 9. Here are two of Alice's descendants, twins Andrew and Richard Taylor, standing outside it in 2013.

On the wall of 9 East Street is a small plaque with a number and a sun logo, like this:

This proved that the residents had paid for the Sun fire brigade to come galloping with their water truck if there was another fire. Wise after the event!

The most glorious cricket match

During the splendid era when the men of Hambledon could beat all comers at cricket, the greatest victory of all took place on 17 June 1777, when Hambledon defeated All England at Sevenoaks by an innings and 168 runs. The team included Taylor - but which Taylor? If anybody knows his first name, I'd love to hear from you.

The murder on Cams Hill

Fast-forward to James Taylor, blacksmith, grandson of Robert and Alice, the fire victim. When Mary Knight walked down the aisle of Hambledon Church to wed this James Taylor in October 1757, and returned seven months later to christen their firstborn, John, little did she dream of the grief that was to come.

The story has been told many times: one summer night in 1782, 24-year-old John was drinking in the New Inn (now reincarnated as a cottage conversion) when he witnessed a fellow drinker take delivery of a sum of money. When they left the pub, the other chap headed home to Soberton. John walked with him, as he lived with his mother in the same direction, at Hoe Cross, an isolated spot between Hambledon and Soberton.

The lane up Cams Hill was dark and deserted. There was nobody to see or hear when John, overcome by greed and drink, savagely murdered his companion with his stick, stealing his buttons, shoe buckles and cash. Here's how the Hampshire Chronicle reported the murder:

At seven o'clock Friday evening **John Taylor**, a blacksmith of Hambledon, was brought to our county goal, charged with the wilful murder of **Mr. Stares**, of Soberton. - The particulars of this cruel murder are as follow :-

On Wednesday afternoon last **Mr. Stares** went to the New-Inn at Hambledon, to receive some money from a person who met him there for that purpose. - **Taylor** happened to be at the same time in the Kitchen, dressed in a round frock, and drinking with another person, and saw the money paid. - About half past eleven, **Mr. Stares** got up to go home, and being on foot, **Taylor**, who lived about half way between the New-Inn and **Mr. Stares's** house at Soberton, offered to accompany him so far on the road - They set off together a little before twelve o'clock, and **Taylor** took with him the handle of an old mop, as a walking stick. Early the next morning the body of the deceased was found dead, cold, and mangled in a most shocking manner, his head was entirely covered with cuts and bruises, his arm the same, and his throat cut from ear to ear, and another cut across from his chin downwards; the mopstick was found lying by his side, and broken to pieces with the severity of the blows. Suspicion falling at once on **Taylor**, he was apprehended, and charged with being the perpetrator of the deed, and the tremor he was in upon the occasion very plainly indicated his guilt. He was asked for the round frock he wore when he left the New-Inn, but he positively denied having it on - His mother's house was searched for it, and it was at last found behind the forge in the shop, covered with blood, and appeared to have dirt rubbed over in order to hide it. On his examination, he was ordered to put the frock on, when **Mr. Tribe**, master of the New-Inn at Hambledon, and his maid servant, swore positively to the frock being the same as the delinquent had on when he left his house with **Mr. Stares**; on **Taylor's** denying the frock to be his, and never saw it before in his life, his mother was put upon her oath whether it was her son's frock or not, and she acknowledged it was. He was then committed to take his trial at the next assizes - He is a young fellow about twenty one years of age, and has for some time carried on the business of a blacksmith for his mother. It appeared that he robbed the deceased of all his money, the buckles out of his shoes, and his sleeve buttons.

A 'round frock' was a particular kind of smock. Imagine Mary's horror when she was forced to identify the bloodstained garment as her son's. John was tried at Winchester Assizes in March 1783, and was ordered for execution 'his body to be dissected and anatomised' - a shameful desecration which meant that poor Mary could not give her son a Christian burial or a funeral.

The Murder Stone on Cams Hill was erected to mark the scene of the crime. Time and nature - assisted, it is said, by the Taylor family's hand - have completely erased the inscription on it. It's a Grade II listed building described as "The Murder Stone, II, Monument. 1782. Plain stone pillar with gabled head. It commemorates an early conviction on purely circumstantial evidence." *Circumstantial evidence?*

Perhaps. But this case is a bit too cold to re-open now!

The forge at Cams Corner

After John Taylor was arrested and executed, his younger brother Robert took over the smithy, perhaps helped by his uncle, another Robert (or Robin) Taylor. Here they both are in a trade directory from 1784, when young Robert was 19:

We know the location of the Taylor smithy from the caption to this photo in John Goldsmith's book:

So the forge in the photo is near the site of John Taylor's forge and it's at Cams Corner, the point where Cams Hill meets West Street. The farrier is Harry Lott, who is part of this story.

By the time of the first census, 1841, young Robert Taylor's son was running the family smithy. There were few street names and no house numbers in the early censuses, so locating the smithy entailed comparing neighbours and landmarks across seven censuses on a spreadsheet. Eventually the clues converged: the Taylors clearly lived at Cams Corner, the same spot where John Taylor had hidden his bloodstained smock in 1782. Through the next five censuses, father gave way to son, but the Taylors continued to live at Cams Corner in the house now called Forge Cottage.

Now, if you're familiar at all with the history of Forge Cottage and Lotts Store at Cams Corner, you may well be thinking: but surely Forge Cottage and its smithy belonged to another blacksmithing family, the Hammonds and their heirs the Lotts.

Yes, and as the photo of Harry Lott shoeing a horse shows, their smithy was at Cams Corner. But in the first five censuses the Hammonds and Lotts lived a little way away, up Cams Hill, in a double flint cottage. It's the last house on the left of this map, which dates from about 1890 and shows Cams Hill curving down from the left to West Street, with Forge Cottage where they meet.

I think that the Hammonds and Taylors leased the cottage and the forge to the Taylors, probably for the life of William Sutton Taylor (1822-1908).

By 1901, all but one of William Sutton Taylor's brood had left home, and Harry Lott and his parents moved into the vacated space. Here they are on the census of 1901:

So George Abraham Lott, smith and farrier, with Emma his wife and their son George Harry, smith and farrier, were sharing the home of William Sutton Taylor, retired whitesmith, and his son Edwin, also a whitesmith. Lott senior is 'Employer', and he must be employing young Harry, who is 'Worker, At Home'. Edwin Taylor is self-employed, 'Own account', so he isn't working for Mr Lott, and he is also working 'At Home'.

So did the families share a forge, as well as the house? I think not. The map shows Forge Cottage, square, with an extension on either side. The extension on the left was the smithy in the photo, now demolished, and the extension on the right is now Lotts Store. My guess is that both were forges originally, one for Lotts and one for Taylors.

The two families weren't in direct competition with each other, because the Lotts were always plain shoeing smiths, whereas the Taylors diversified into whitesmithing and other fancy work, as these two entries from directories of 1878 and 1885 show.

The photo below dates from 1904, the period when Lotts and Taylors both occupied Forge Cottage. It's another view of the forge where Harry Lott was shoeing a horse.

When William Sutton Taylor died in 1908, Harry Lott and his wife made Forge Cottage their home. They had a son Reginald in 1910 and then a daughter, who still lived in the house where she was born when she celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2012.

With the Taylors gone, there was no need for two forges, so Harry Lott converted one into the familiar Lotts Store. In the 1911 census, Harry's occupation was 'blacksmith, ironmonger and cycle agent'. To convert a forge into a shop selling and repairing cycles would not be difficult. The photo below shows Harry Lott outside his shop in 1920.

Epilogue

When William Sutton Taylor died, his children all left the village where their ancestors had been part of the fabric for centuries. William Sutton's youngest son went as a missionary to China, where his sons and grandson were born. The name Hambledon was just a faint memory. But now, by pure chance, the missionary's grandson and his grown family live in Hampshire and Emsworth, and are enjoying discovering their unspoilt heritage.

Gillian Taylor, June 2013. If you have any comments or additions, please get in touch: gillian@tcp.co.uk.

Sources:

Hambledon: Biography of a Hampshire Village, John Goldsmith, 1994, to which I am heavily indebted.

Transcripts of Hambledon baptisms and marriages on <http://www.knightroots.co.uk>

Censuses 1841-1911

Official description of the Murder Stone on <http://www.britishtitledbuildings.co.uk/en-146450-the-murder-stone-hambledon-hampshire>

Hampshire Chronicle for 24 Aug 1782 on <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/ZOtherPapers/HCAug26178>


Historical directory for 1784 from <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/pageviewer.asp?fn=0000cn7m.uf&dn=HAM20001uf&zoom=s>, part of listing for Hambledon

Map from old-maps.co.uk.

Photos of 1904 and 1920 from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2090143/Theres-place-like-home-100-years-Centenary-lives-house-born-electricity.html#ixzz2TQzTn1fj>

Last Updated (Monday 26 August 2013)

Anyone know Margo

 History of Lotts



"THE MYSTERY NURSE"

Dad's (Frederick John Kershaw 1913 - 1966 born to Annie Warren (born 1879 East

Meon, Hants) cousin MARGO is all we know and that the family were all around the Hambledon/Hascombe/Godalming/Guildford area. Margo is definitely from the Warren side of the family and has the family looks/features. The nursing badge is from where Margo qualified at one of the London County Council hospitals, but despite extensive searches of hospital badges (and having the photo scanned, professionally, to enlarge) contacting the Royal College of Nursing in Edinburgh and having the photo published in the Petersfield Post (some of the Warren family lived in East Meon before moving to Hascombe, Surrey) and sending the photo to the Surrey Advertiser (don't know whether it was published) - I still cannot find out which hospital or who Margo is. My Mother believed Margo went on to become a Queen Alexandra's Nurse but without a surname for her - I cannot trace any further regarding her career. But hopefully one day, I WILL find out just WHO she is!

Last Updated (Tuesday, 04 September 2012)



Entering the village from Der
landmark is Lotts Stores at the
Cams Lane. See map. It has

History

For around a hundred and fifty
the foot of Cams Hill before it
displaced the horse by the mill
known blacksmith was Henry
1856) who worked the forge.
He was succeeded by his eldest
called Harry. This Harry had
about 1872, the business passed
Abraham Lott (1842 - 1917).
Cottage just up Cams Lane.

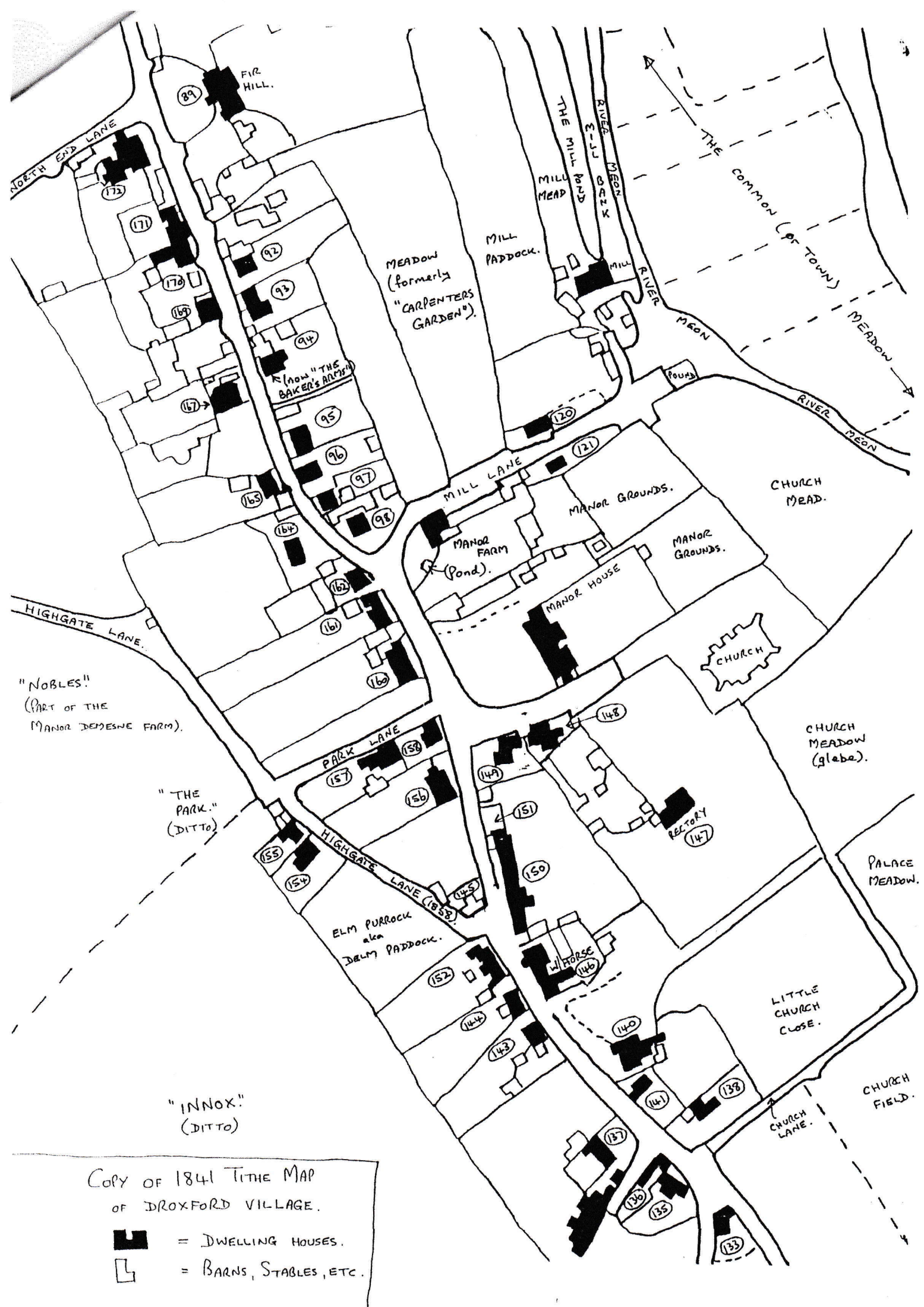
Last Updated (Sunday, 03
Read more...

Descent of older houses in Droxford - general background notes.

1. The Fine Books in the Hampshire County Record office at Winchester, from which the entries below have been extracted, survive from the mid - 1500's (Henry VIII / Edward VI) through to the late 1800's. Up to the mid -1700's they are in abbreviated Latin and thereafter in English.
2. The Lord of the Manor of Droxford from the mid - 1200's to the 19th. century was the Bishop of Winchester, apart from a short period during the post - Civil War Commonwealth in the mid - 1600's.
3. This Manor was made up of four Tithings - Droxford, Hill (with Midlington), Shedfield and Swanmore.
4. Manorial Courts at which property holder changes were recorded were held each year at 'Hock' (just after Easter) and at the feast of St. Martin (in the autumn).
5. A few properties in the Manor were held 'freely' by free tenants but most were held 'by copyhold', i.e. each property could only pass from one tenant or 'copyholder' to the next under the Lord of the Manor's licence, it coming into his hands on either the surrender (marked "S" in the entries below) or the death (marked "D" in those entries) of the existing copyholder.
6. On a surrender or a death the Lord or, more probably, his Steward would admit a new copyholder (often a close relative) to the property on the payment of a 'fine' to the Lord which did not usually change in amount throughout the centuries unless the property was divided, in which case the amount of the fine was divided too.
7. On the payment of the fine the transaction was entered in the record of the Court and a 'copy' of that entry was given to the new 'copy-holder', a single such 'copy-holding' often being made up of a dwelling ('messuage') in, say, Droxford village with a 'curtilage' (courtyard or paddock) adjoining it plus one or more pieces of cultivated land in the common fields plus a share in the common meadows plus certain rights in the common woodlands of the Manor.
8. All this took place in the Court in the presence of a 'Homage' of local men who made sure that all was done in accordance with the Manor's customs 'from time out of mind'.
9. The above procedure generally remained in force in Droxford Manor until the copyholds were 'enfranchised' in the late 1800's/ early 1900's and the present methods of property exchange succeeded.
10. In 1841 a Tithe Map was drawn for the Manor (and Parish), each piece of property on it being numbered and the then owner, occupier, nature and use of each numbered piece being listed on a Schedule prepared with it. From that date onwards, therefore, it is not difficult to trace the ownership of a property and the extracts below do not go beyond the mid - 1800's. The copyhold Fine Books at the Record Office for the 1840's onwards are in English and easy to read, if at times the legal terminology is tedious!

Gordon Hope, "Cleobury", South Hill, Droxford.

21 October 1999.



TITHE MAP NO. 141, now apparently part of Studwell Lodge (see T.M. no. 140).
(In 1582 this property was part and parcel of a larger copyhold described as "One ferling and fifteen acres of land", held for a 'fine' of 16s. 8d. At Hock 1596 - see below - it was divided-off and thereafter held as a new copyhold for a fine of 2d. under the new description of : "One parcel of land [one rod], lying on the East part of the Queen's/King's high way leading towards Mydlington". A cottage was built on it between 1638 and 1647 - see below).

=====

Hock 1596 (S).
From John STRUGNELL
to Thomas HOBSON.

St. Martin 1638 (D).
From Thomas HOBSON deceased
to his grandson John PEPPERING (only son of Katherine PEPPERING deceased, younger/est daughter
of the said Thomas HOBSON).

Hock 1647 (S).
From John PEPPERINGE
to Thomazina DEWEY and to John HAWKESWORTHE and his wife Joanna HAWKESWORTHE
(their daughter Anne HAWKESWORTHE to have it after their deaths).
(Note: The description now also states " ... with a cottage recently built thereon ... ").

(St. Martin 1678 - Philip LYDALL pays a fine of 1d. for Anne his wife, formerly Anne HAWKESWORTH,
with this copyhold).

Hock 1692/1693 (S).
From Philip and Anne LYDALL
to Peter CROSWELL.

St. Martin 1714 (S).
From Peter CROSSWELL senior and his wife Mary
to Ralph CAWTE of Preshaw.

St. Martin 1715 (S).
From Ralph CAWTE
to Joseph and Mary MADDISON (who have a daughter Mary, spinster).

Hock 1725/1726 (S).
From Joseph and Mary MADDISON
to Richard WIDMORE, gentleman (they having failed to repay him £102 under a mortgage).

Same Court (S).
From Richard WIDMORE, gentleman
to Ralph CAWTE.

Hock 1729/1730 (S).
From Ralph CAWTE
to William MADDISON.

Hock 1745/1746 (S).
From William MADDISON, painter [?artist], of Droxford (by his attorney Peter GOLDICK the younger of
Droxford, school-master)
to Margaret MYNGS, widow.

(T.M. no. 141 - continued).

St. Martin 1764 (D).

From Margaret MYNGS, widow, deceased

to Sir John OGLANDER, baronet (cousin of Christopher MYNGS dec'd., only son of the said Margaret).

St. Martin 1766 (S).

From Sir John OGLANDER

to Edward HOBBS, sawyer, of Droxford, and to Sarah HOBBS, his wife.

(Note: Land Tax records show Sarah HOBBS as owner/occupier for 1800 and 1803).

Hock 1810 (S).

From Sarah HOBBS

to Samuel EVANS, artist, of Eton College.

(Notes: 1. Sarah is to occupy the property rent-free for her life and EVANS is to pay her £20 per annum.

2. Land Tax records show Sarah HOBBS as owner/occupier for 1812 and 1813.

3. For 1820 they show - owner, Samuel EVANS ; occupier, Mrs. JACKSON).

Hock 1823 (S).

From Samuel EVANS

to the Rev. John BAYNES, Rector of Exton, Hampshire.

(Notes: 1. Land Tax records for 1825 show - owner, Rev. John BAYNES ; occupier, Rev. RICHARDS.

2. For 1830 they show - owner, Rev. John BAYNES ; occupier, Miss MARTIN.

3. Tithe Map 1841 shows Margaret BAYNES as owner/occupier).

St. Martin 1845 (D).

From Rev. John BAYNES deceased

to the Honourable Henry KEPPEL, Captain in H.M. Royal Navy, of Studwell Lodge, Droxford.

17 July 1858 (S).

From the Hon. Henry KEPPEL, Admiral, Royal Navy

to four [named] Trustees of an Indenture of Settlement (dated 9 June 1856) between John BOWER, Mary HEAVISIDE (spinster), the said Trustees, Charles William SPICER and Samuel JAY (esquires).