

LEATHERHEAD
& DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



PROCEEDINGS VOL 5 N^o 8
1995

(no page 196)

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SECRETARIAL NOTES

The following Lectures and Visits were arranged during 1995:

January 20th	Lecture: "Ranmore in Bookham", by Stephen Fortescue.
February 17th	Lecture: "Old Palace, Croydon", by Liz Walder.
March 17th	Lecture: "A Year in the Life of Polesden Lacey", by Bruce Edwards.
March 22nd	Joint visit with LCA to Old Warwick Town and Castle.
April 21st	The 48th Annual General Meeting, followed by a Lecture: "Early Fliers and Flying from Farnborough and Brooklands", by Gordon Knowles.
May 19th	Lecture: "A History of Epsom", by John Furness.
May 20th	Ashted Common Walk, led by Bob Warnock.
June 9th	Visit to Walthamstow, led by Joan Kirby.
July 7th	Visit to Brooklands, led by Gordon Knowles.
September 15th	Lecture: "The 1840's Commune at Ham Common", by Julie Latham.
September 20th	Visit to Strawberry Hill, led by Linda Heath.
September 30th	Effingham Walk, led by Mary and Frank Rice-Oxley.
October 20th	Dallaway Lecture: "Surrey in Postcards", by John Gent.
November 17th	Lecture: "Surrey Villages", by Charles Abdy.
December 15th	Christmas Miscellany, organised by Gordon Knowles.

Number 7 of Volume 5 of the *Proceedings* was issued during the year.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Letherhead Institute, 21 April 1995

The Report of the Executive Committee and the Accounts for the year 1994 were adopted. The Committee elected to serve until the next AGM and the Officers of the Society are shown below.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1995/6

<i>President:</i>	S. E. D. FORTESCUE
<i>Past President:</i>	J. G. W. LEWARNE (Part year)
<i>Vice-President:</i>	DR D. F. RENN, C.B.E., F.S.A.
<i>Chairman:</i>	LINDA HEATH
<i>Secretary/Membership Secretary:</i>	JOYCE FULLER
<i>Treasurer:</i>	C. V. M. LATHAM
<i>Editor:</i>	J. C. STUTTARD
<i>Museum Curator:</i>	JANET GOLDSMITH
<i>Treasurer, Museum Trust Fund:</i>	J. R. BULL
<i>Sales Secretary:</i>	H. J. DAVIES
<i>Archaeology Secretary:</i>	E. A. CROSSLAND, I.S.O.
<i>Lecture Secretary:</i>	D. R. WHITTINGTON
<i>Librarian:</i>	F. J. KIRBY (Part year) GWEN HOAD (Co-opted)
<i>Records Secretary:</i>	J. R. CLUBE, O.B.E.
<i>Committee Members:</i>	JILL GODFREY; H. G. KNOWLES; P. A. TARPLEE
<i>Co-opted</i>	A. A. TUFFERY

Leatherhead and District Local History Society

PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 5, No. 8

1995

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OCCASIONAL NOTES

VE DAY AND VJ DAY COMMEMORATIONS

The 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe was marked on 6th–8th May in the Leatherhead area by parties in beflagged streets, processions and special church services. Wartime memorabilia were on display at the Leatherhead Museum, St John's School and other venues, bringing back memories of the time when bombs inflicted much damage to houses, shops and schools. Ration books on show recalled the wartime food shortages while press cuttings pointed to the scarcity of all luxuries until well after the war.

The VJ Day commemorations in mid-August, though more muted, fittingly brought back memories of the Far East War and of the end of the Second World War. The churches held remembrance services and local branches of the Royal British Legion organized ceremonies at war memorials. The band of the Royal Marines gave a moving concert at Randalls Park to mark the occasion.

J. C. STUTTARD

A HISTORY OF ASHTEAD

This book, published in October 1995, covers the history of Ashted from the earliest times to the present day, though it deals in most detail with the 19th and 20th centuries. The Society's previous history, *Ashted: A Village Transformed* (1977) has been out of print for many years so this new one is particularly welcome. A publication of this kind takes a long time to prepare, work being started on it about six years ago. Much time was initially taken up seeking contributors and deciding on the structure of the book, its balance and coverage. When compilation started articles in the *Proceedings* provided much of the basic information, but libraries and learned societies were also consulted. The contributors were specialists in their subjects and the book was edited by Jack Stuttard. Maps, drawings and half-tone photographs illustrate the text which is well printed and easy to read. The front and rear covers, in a handsome shade of green, add a distinct lustre to the book, with excellent evocative photographs of Ashted village. It is hoped that the publication of this book will encourage more research to be done, leading in time to a possible future up-date.

A reception to launch the book was held at the Esso Company offices in Ermyn Way on 18th October. This was attended by the Chairman of the Surrey Council, the Chairman of the Mole Valley Council, the Surrey County Archivist and the Chairman of the Surrey Local History Council. Headteachers of schools and representatives of local Societies and Associations were also present. The reception was followed a week later by an informal party at the Leatherhead Institute for all those who contributed to the book.

LINDA HEATH



VE DAY EXHIBITION AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL LIBRARY.

Photograph by J. C. Stuttard.



A HISTORY OF ASHTEAD: CONTRIBUTORS.

Back Row: John Hopper, Jack Willis, Cherry Pepler, Roddy Clube, Mary Cree, Alan Gillies, Richard Butler, John Derry, John Hampton, Howard Davies, Ernest Crossland.

Front Row: Gwen Hoad, Kathleen Davies, Jack Stuttard, Linda Heath, Joan Harding.

Photograph by Andrew Stuttard.

JOHN LEWARNE, NORMAN WEST, FRANK KIRBY: AN APPRECIATION

This year the Society has lost three long-standing members. **John Lewarne**, who died in his 92nd year, had been a member of the Society since its very early days, becoming a Committee member in 1956, Vice-President 1976–78 and President 1979–early 1988. He was a frequent contributor to the *Proceedings* and had a deep historical knowledge of the district. He had a special interest in Fetcham and was always ready to help anyone working on its history. His wise counsel will not be forgotten. **Norman West** was also a long-serving member, with particular interest in Effingham. He held the position of lecture secretary and was responsible for maintaining the Society's large collection of slides and photographs. **Frank Kirby** was our librarian for many years and it was through him that the Society developed close relations with the Leatherhead Community Association. The contribution of all three was a lasting benefit to the Society.

J. C. STUTTARD

Errata: Procs. LDLHS, 5 (7), 1994, p. 177, line 1, for 'No. 9' read 'No. 19'; p. 178, line 8, for 'Bogden' read 'Bagden'.

FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD, 1948–66

By J. C. STUTTARD

IN the 50th anniversary year of the end of the Second World War it seems fitting that attention should be directed to Leatherhead's close links with Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery soon after the war. He first came to St John's School in 1948 when he reviewed the Surrey Cadet Force on one of the school's playing fields. This led to his being invited by the Headmaster, Hereward Wake, to present the school prizes the following year, which the Field Marshal readily accepted. A few months after the prize-giving he was elected a member of the School Council becoming Chairman in 1950 which he described as 'the quickest promotion of his career'. Although military duties continued to be demanding, the Field Marshal always maintained an active interest in the school's affairs. In 1951, the year after his appointment as Chairman, he managed with great energy and aplomb a series of memorable events which marked the centenary of the founding of St John's School. Through his influence a Mansion House Dinner was held in March that year to raise funds for the school, followed soon after by a Gala Film Première at the Odeon Theatre, Marble Arch, with H.M. Queen Mary among those present. At the end of the month he organized a Commemoration Ball at the Dorchester Hotel, attended by Earl Mountbatten of Burma. A month later he was present at the Thanksgiving Service held at the School Chapel when an address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the years that followed the school's centenary celebrations Field Marshal Montgomery promoted many improvements at the school, including finding the funds for a new



FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY.

By Sir Oswald Birley.

Courtesy of St John's School, Leatherhead.

Gymnasium. This was built in 1955 on the site of the old one which had been destroyed by a land mine during the war; the squash courts were also added at this time. Two years later a new science block was opened by the Field Marshal who provided a generous sum of money towards its cost. Other buildings were renovated and redecorated at his instigation. In addition, he showed a keen interest at all times in the school's sport and social activities.

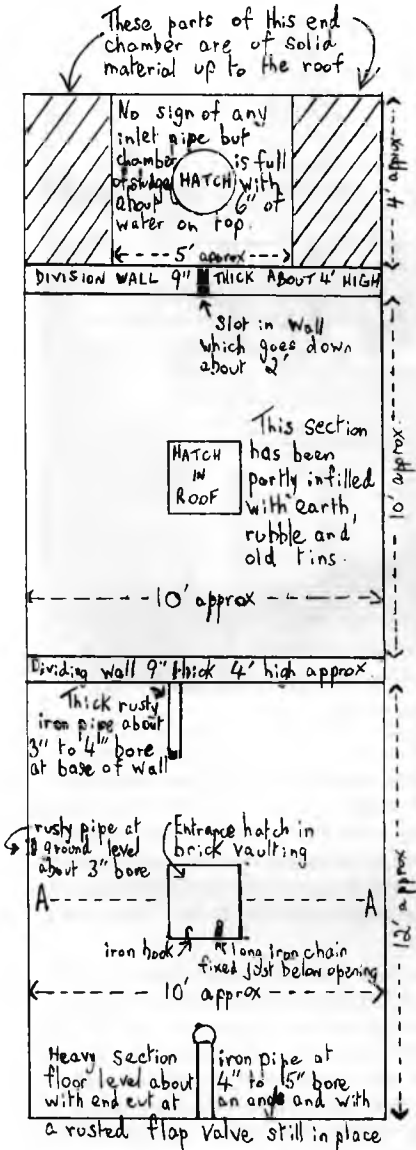
Field Marshal Montgomery's most notable contribution to St John's School was his enthusiastic support for a new chapel. It was due to his initiative that an anonymous friend agreed to provide the money needed for its building. He also successfully persuaded Seely & Paget, a leading architectural firm under Lord Mottistone, to design the chapel. The foundation stone was laid by the Field Marshal in the spring of 1962 and the new chapel was dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford in June the following year. The former chapel became the school library and when Field Marshal Montgomery left the school in 1966 he gave signed copies of his memoirs and other publications to it, including also many books presented to him by war leaders and politicians.

THE OLD WATER SUPPLIES OF FETCHAM PARK

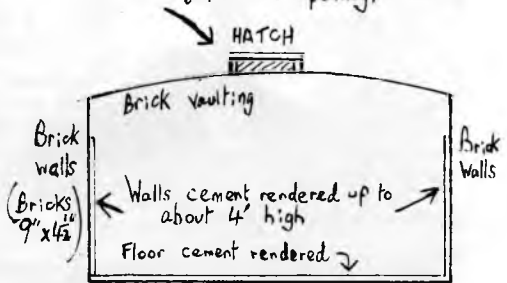
By G. HAYWARD

WHEN Arthur Moore bought the Fetcham Park estate in 1705 he spent much money improving the property and in particular sought ways to supply water to the garden and house.¹ Contemporary and later evidence showed how well he succeeded in this. Celia Fiennes' account of her journeys in the area between 1710 and 1712 told of the 'fine pond which ran across the breadth of the gardens and orchards' (there are traces of this pond still in Rookery Close); she also referred to 'another great pond' and to a fountain which could blow jets of water 20 yards, all the water being brought 'up the hill' from Leatherhead at 'vast expense'.² These facilities were confirmed by two documents dating from soon after the death of Arthur Moore in 1730 when Fetcham Park was sold: they both referred to 'strong leaden pipes' which furnished the house with water, and to the 'large engine' at the 'six acres of springs' (Mill Pond) which served the 'canals, basins and reservoir' at the house.³ The sale showed the great cost of Moore's water enterprise, the leaden pipes being valued at £2,000 as against £2,700 for all the rest of the house.

The engine at Fetcham Mill was described as providing 'excellent water' for Fetcham Park in the 1780s.⁴ There were, however, two mills at that time, a water mill at the Mill Pond and a windmill between the top of The Mount and Park Farmhouse. The water mill was said to have had three pairs of stones and to have been powered by an iron overshot water wheel, 12 ft. in diameter which also drove a water pump for Fetcham Park.⁵ Not many years ago water pipes were discovered at Fetcham Pond, and where the canal at Fetcham Park ended. As for the windmill near the farm, this could have been used as a pump which would have created a vacuum in the pipe line serving the house, whereas the pump working off the water wheel at the Mill Pond would have pushed the water uphill rather than sucking it. The windmill ceased to be insured by the Hankey Estate about 1804 and had gone out of use. The discovery of the lead pipe near the water wheel strongly suggested that there was a pump here and the wooden pipes at different levels could have



Once closed by means of a heavy flat stone with iron ring. Remains of this are below the opening.



CROSS SECTION A-A

PLAN OF OLD RESERVOIR, FETCHAM PARK.
(Near the site of the old Park Farm).



FETCHAM MILL HOUSE AND POND, c. 1929.

Courtesy, Mrs J. Paton.

fed the overshot water wheel, the lower pipe coming into use when the pond level was lower.⁶ Since the mill wheel would have turned normally only when corn was required to be ground presumably the miller had to be told when the wheel should be turned just for pumping. The pump may have been permanently connected to the water wheel with any surplus water at Fetcham Park being allowed to flow back to the Mill Pond via the ornamental ponds. There would then only have been the need to communicate with the miller if there were not much corn being grounded.

Some of the water pumped through pipes from the Mill Pond to Fetcham Park was held in a reservoir, or there may have been more than one. Underground chambers were reported to exist in gardens near the site of the old Park Farm and an investigation of one of these was made by Ernest Crossland and the writer in 1991 (see plan). The chamber was found to have been a former reservoir, neatly built of brick with a brick vaulted roof and cement rendering to the floor and walls inside up to 4 ft. high. There were three sections in it, the last of which had two exit pipes at ground level, one of which had a flap valve lifted by means of a chain hanging below the opening hatch. The other exit pipe had no sign of ever having a flap valve but as it was at base level there would have been a continuous

flow of water through this pipe unless controlled at the other end wherever that was. Perhaps the flap valve was for the purpose of controlling the supplies of garden or stables' water whether for a small tank in the area of the house or even for an icehouse reservoir lower down the hill. A believed second reservoir, not inspected as its opening was covered with a very heavy stone, was probably the earlier of the two.

It is not certain when the water regime at Fetcham Park ceased to operate. A general map of Fetcham in 1777 and another in 1813 showed the canals and Hassell's picture of 1823 seemed to include the lake but this may not be so.⁷ None of these features appeared on a 1870 map⁸ so the old water system must have been given up sometime in the mid-century years whilst the Hankey family occupied Fetcham Park.* The reservoir near the house was, however, still being supplied from the Mill Pond as late as 1911, proved by the Fire Brigade records of the fire at Park Farm on 14 August that year. Mains water which came to the district in 1884 probably topped up the reservoir. The supply of water from the Mill Pond may have stopped at the time of the fire at Fetcham Mill in August 1917 as the pumping operation was dependent on the working of the water wheel. The disused rusty iron, overshot water wheel survived into the late 1950s when Fetcham Mill House was demolished and the appearance of the water wheel then gave the impression that it had not turned for many years.

NOTES

1. F. B. Benger, 'Fetcham Park', *Procs. LDLHS*, 2 (1), 1957, pp. 19–29.
2. C. Morris (ed.), *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes* (1947).
3. SRO 19/9/39; Bodleian Library, Ms North 6/24.
4. James Edwards, 'Companion from London to Brighthelmstone', *Procs. LDLHS*, 5 (3), 1990, p. 82.
5. J. Hillier, *The Water Mills of Surrey* (1951); help from Peter Tarplee was appreciated on the Fetcham water wheel.
6. A. T. Ruby, 'Wooden Waterpipes at Fetcham', *Procs. LDLHS*, 1 (6), 1952, (note inside front cover); S. E. D. Fortescue in *Fetcham Parish Magazine* (October, 1947).
7. J. Richardson, 'Survey of Fetcham Park Estate (1777)', *Procs. LDLHS*, 2 (5), 1961, p. 134 (in article by A. T. Ruby); J. G. W. Lewarne, 'Fetcham Enclosure Award, 1813', *Procs. LDLHS*, 3 (1), 1967, pp. 14–18; F. B. Benger, (1957) *op. cit.*, facing p. 25.
8. Copy of 1870 map kindly supplied by John Henderson.

* The Hankey family resided at Fetcham Park from 1788 to the early 1920s.

COL WILLIAM HENRY SPICER (1777–1841) THE MANSION, LEATHERHEAD

By J. R. CLUBE

THE *Proceedings* of the Society for the year 1990 referred to a serious fire which broke out in Leatherhead Parish Church in 1989 and which threatened to destroy the whole building. It appears to have started in the North Transept, an area which, until 1867, traditionally belonged to the owners of *The Mansion*. When the debris was cleared away, the vault of the Spicer family, containing the remains of William Henry Spicer, his wife and daughter, was revealed. The family owned *The Mansion* from 1820 to 1845.

The large plaque to William Henry Spicer and his wife, Maria Charlotte, survived the fire and is reproduced below.



SPICER PLAQUE: LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH.
Photograph by J. R. Clube.

It is curious that the plaque contains no mention of Army rank and this cannot have been an oversight. In contemporary Directories William Henry was listed as 'Col Spicer' and we can be sure that he was normally accorded this title. While serving with the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, he was addressed as either 'Col' or 'Mr'.¹ It seems only right that we should use the courtesy military title here.

The plaque provides a useful starting point for examining the history of the Spicer family, but it gives his date of birth as 1778 whereas Topsham parish records, in which *Wear Park* his birthplace stands, give the year as 1777. The Colonel was one year older than he thought. *Wear Park*, mentioned in the plaque, was a mansion in the hands of the Spicer family from 1760 to 1804 when it was sold by the Colonel's eldest brother, William Francis Spicer, to Sir John Thomas Duckworth. It is today the clubhouse of the Exeter Golf and Country Club.

The Spicer Family

The Spicer family into which William Henry Spicer was born held a grant of arms and had a pedigree going back to the early 16th century. His antecedents were for the most part merchants in Exeter, some holding positions of authority, and apparently wealthy. His father, William Spicer, was twice married, his first wife, Mary, dying in 1762. Henry was a son of the second marriage: his mother was Elizabeth, née Parker, the widow of Thomas Baring who had died in 1758. William and Elizabeth were married at Exeter St Leonard's on 9th January 1763. Between 1763 and 1780 six boys and five girls were born in addition to the two boys surviving from the first marriage. William Henry, known in the family as Henry, was the youngest son. Several of the boys served in the Army.²

Military Service

William Henry Spicer joined the 27th Light Dragoons as a Cornet in 1795, transferring to the 5th Dragoon Guards with the rank of Lieut. in 1796. There followed his first spell of service in Ireland. He transferred again to the 2nd Queen's in July 1799 to join his brother William Frederick. In 1800 he became a Troop Commander with the rank of Captain. In 1803, following an attempted seizure of Dublin Castle, the Regiment was sent to Ireland returning to England in January 1806. In the spring of 1809 the Regiment was warned to prepare for an operation to destroy the French held port of Antwerp. William Henry embarked on 23rd July but the Earl of Chatham, the Force Commander, decided against a direct assault and landed the army on the island of Walcheren instead. The operation became a disaster and as the island terrain was in any case unsuitable for cavalry the Regiment was reembarked and returned to Canterbury in September 1809.³ Shortly after this William Henry married and retired from the Army.

Marriage

William Henry married Maria Charlotte Prescott at St Marylebone Church in London on 29th January 1810.⁴ There were four children: Elizabeth Maria Jane, baptised 20th January 1811 and later to marry a barrister, Samuel Jay; William Henry, baptised 11th June 1812 and called to the Bar in 1840; Charles, baptised at the Royal Hospital Chapel on 13th June 1816; and Charlotte, born 1820, baptised in Leatherhead in 1822; she is interred in the family vault.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Following his retirement from the Army Spicer was appointed Deputy Treasurer of the Royal Hospital on 12th October 1812, a post he held until it was abolished in 1836.⁵ With the position went comfortable family accommodation. Among colleagues he would have met Dr Charles Burney, organist at the Hospital, and probably Fanny Burney when she was looking after her father before he died in the Hospital in 1814.

The scope of the Deputy Treasurer's post was broad. It dealt with every aspect of the hospital's finances, including the pay of In-pensioners and Out-pensioners, correspondence with the War Office and the Treasury, and presentation of accounts to the Board and the Public Auditor.

A major part of the Colonel's work, however, lay with the examination and payment of claims for Army Prize Money under the Act of 1811 promulgated by Lord Palmerston. By making this the responsibility of the Royal Hospital, unclaimed money could be accumulated to form a good endowment. The scale of the work expanded greatly with the claims resulting from Waterloo and the Peninsular War. On one occasion, in July 1817, the Deputy Treasurer was awarded £200 gratuity because of the increase in the work.⁶ Regarding Waterloo he tried to get a final statement in 1819, but the Agents Smith and Forsyth replied, "in the hurry of business we paid a number of sums twice over, sometimes to the same person, sometimes to relations, and to different persons of the same name . . . we shall be glad when all are paid . . ."⁷

In 1833 under the terms of the Act for the Consolidation of the Offices of the Paymaster General, it was decreed that all unnecessary offices were to be abolished as opportunity occurred. In fact advances in banking practice had rendered the Colonel's post virtually redundant, and the accounting duties could be handled by the First Senior Clerk. The Colonel was instructed in 1836 to prepare for the Paymaster General a statement of all legacies and funds, in addition to the Unclaimed Prize Money Fund.⁸ The volume of paper and records required in this Prize Money work was such that when the Colonel was about to hand over this responsibility to the Paymaster General in 1836 it was agreed that the whole of his office accommodation, including his own office, would be retained to store the Prize Rolls, books and vouchers and that an office keeper and messenger would be needed to man it.

The reorganisation which led to the closing of the Deputy Treasurer's and other offices cannot have come as a surprise to the Colonel and his colleagues. The instigator was Lord John Russell who introduced the Reform Bill into Parliament in 1831 and 1832. He was Paymaster General from 1830 to 1834 and more importantly Treasurer of the Hospital. The effect of his reforms was to reduce the salary bill of the Hospital by £3000, or by one-third.

Retirement

On the Colonel's retirement from the Hospital its Secretary, Richard Neave, sent him a letter dated 8th November 1836 addressed to his home in Leatherhead. The final paragraph read: 'The Lords and other Commissioners direct me to state that they cannot omit the expression of their regret at the discontinuance of your services, nor of the sense which

they entertain of the zeal and attention with which you have performed your duties as Deputy Treasurer for so many years . . .”⁹

Residence in Leatherhead

The Spicer family arrived in Leatherhead in 1819 or 1820. The Land Tax record for 1819 shows the Colonel was the occupier of premises owned by de Crespigny Esq., and in 1820 was both owner and occupier. No address is given but the amount of tax shows that this was *The Mansion*.¹⁰

Peter Champion de Crespigny had become the owner of *The Mansion* and nearby properties through the inheritance of his wife Emelia. She was the daughter of William Wade, and in 1816 inherited a third share of her father’s extensive estate in Leatherhead. *The Mansion* was then occupied by the unmarried Beauclerk ladies the last of whom died in 1820. In addition to *The Mansion* the Colonel bought from de Crespigny, in 1819, No. 30 Church Street, a cottage later to be known as *Devonshire House*. He paid £400 for it and in 1824 sold it to Mrs Sarah Hoper. This situation is confirmed in the Tithe map of 1841 which shows *The Mansion* and its Pleasure Garden sweeping down to the Mole owned by the Colonel; and the cottage belonging to Mrs Hoper.

It is difficult to know how the Colonel divided his time between Chelsea and Leatherhead in the period from 1820 to 1836. His office was a busy one requiring his frequent presence. He also had accommodation at the Royal Hospital. Coach communication with London was good and it is likely that the Colonel was a frequent traveller.

Col Spicer became acquainted with his neighbour the Rev. James Dallaway, Vicar of Leatherhead, soon after settling at *The Mansion*. When Dallaway applied in 1819 to Queen Anne’s Bounty for a grant to build an extension to the vicarage the Colonel was appointed Administrator to handle the transaction.¹¹ In 1821 Dallaway was able to comment that Spicer had greatly embellished the house and garden of *The Mansion*. The Colonel was made a joint trustee of Dallaway’s will, with Harriet, the Vicar’s wife.¹²

Spicer’s friendship with Col Drinkwater Bethune in the years before the latter came to live at *Thorncroft Manor* may throw some light on the reason why Drinkwater Bethune moved to Leatherhead in 1837. It was reported in the *Proceedings* for 1993 (p. 155) that Drinkwater held various military posts particularly when working for the Duke of Kent and Royal Hospital records show that for many years he was a member of Boards there, certainly between 1815 and 1822. The two officers were certainly well acquainted and Spicer probably spoke well of Leatherhead as a place to live in. Spicer would have been able to tell Drinkwater Bethune that *Thorncroft Manor* was vacant after the death of James Trower in 1836. Drinkwater Bethune became its owner in the following year.

As the owner of *The Mansion*, and resident in Leatherhead for so many years, Colonel Spicer was undoubtedly an important figure in the town, even if he was less well-known nationally than some of his Leatherhead friends. The group of gentry surrounding the *Vicarage*—the Spicers, the Drinkwater Bethunes, the Cottons and the Dallaways would have known one another well. Much has been written about three of these gentlemen: this note gives some information on the fourth.

Four years after the Colonel’s death in 1841 *The Mansion* was sold to Nathaniel Bland and became a boys’ school under Joseph Payne.

NOTES

1. PRO: PROB 6/217.
2. Devon County Record Office; *Burke's General Armory* (1884).
3. PRO: WO 12/294; WO 12, 141/150; M. A. Mann, *Regimental History of Queen's Dragoon Guards* (1993), p. 168.
4. Hertfordshire County Record Office; Rev. T. Hiney, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
5. C. G. T. Dean, *The Royal Hospital, Chelsea* (1950), pp. 267, 274/5, Appendix.
6. PRO: WO 250/377, p. 134.
7. PRO: WO 164/627.
8. PRO: WO 250/390, p. 452.
9. PRO: WO 246/10, p. 269.
10. Society Records: LX016, LX055.
11. W. J. Blair, 'James Dallaway: Additions to Leatherhead Vicarage in 1820', *Procs, LDLHS*, 4 (9), 1985, p. 261.
12. PRO: PROB 11, 1833: Dallaway's will.

Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges the help of Michael Gainsborough, Secretary, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, the Rev. Tim Hiney, Chaplain of the Hospital and Mr C. S. Gill, Curator, 1st Dragoon Guards, Guards Museum, Cardiff. The College of Arms was consulted on Col Spicer's armorial bearings but searches into their legality were not made.

ROYAL OAK COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, GREAT BOOKHAM

By S. E. D. FORTESCUE

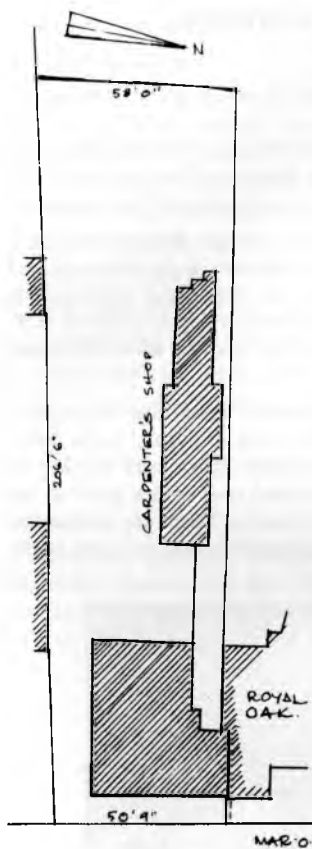
UNTIL recently, little was known of the three Royal Oak cottages other than that they fronted the High Street (Nos 18–22), were within the Manor of Eastwick and had a Georgian facade which, as investigation was to prove, gave no indication of their antiquity.

In 1990 the opportunity arose to investigate and restore the cottages. Behind the facade traces of passages became apparent, the meaning of which was obscure, doors were revealed behind plaster and an unusual bressummer became visible. The title deeds commencing in 1733 became available, disclosing a site of 50 ft. 9 in. width and a depth of 206 ft. 6 in. This coincided with the site prior to the extension made in 1965 and the sale of the land at the rear for a public car park.

The report by the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) found that this row of three cottages disguised a three-bay medieval timber-framed house with jowl posts and a moulded bressummer. There had probably been a suspended upper floor over one bay of the open hall and originally there would have been a half-hipped roof with a gable at the south end. The roof is a clasped purlin structure with wind bracing. There are substantial rafters, original to the house, pegged at the apex. The moulded bressummer is set at the



ROYAL OAK COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, GREAT BOOKHAM.
This photograph was taken in 1962 before the alterations made about 1965.



NOS. 18-22, HIGH STREET,
GREAT BOOKHAM,
WITH CARPENTER'S SHOP
AT REAR.

Based on a 1858 deed.

upper end of the house, of a style that suggests a date c. 1400. The spine beam ceiling in the hall is set into the bressummer which suggests that this bay of the open hall always had a suspended upper floor over the one bay. Upstairs in the solar there is a Georgian partition with short lengths of boarding and a small door, with a nailed high hinge, to a cupboard over the stair. The cellar under the north bay has an ironstone floor of brick-sized pieces laid on edge. Cellars are not usual in houses until the 17th and 18th centuries.

The old timber-framed house was obviously one of some consequence, constructed when there was sufficient space to build parallel to the main street and not gable end on. The two-storey Georgian facade, built in Flemish Bond with a string course, appears to date from the early 18th century. The four evenly spaced upper windows all have closers on both sides and are an original feature of the cladding. The sash frames are set flush with the outside of the wall; this was made illegal by the Building Act 1709 but it continued for some time after this date. It is believed that the second window from the north was probably over the front door and that the rubbed brick window head was directly below. The north window is where one would expect this to be.

Documentary evidence shows that in 1733 the house with other property was owned by Charles Clark who borrowed on its security. This may have significance since it was at this time that the Georgian facade may have been added and the property divided into two tenements with a carpenter's shop at the rear. Clark held the property until 1791. The brickwork at the back of the original house is similar in style but the windows are set back and the sash boxes are hidden behind the brick, indicating a date after the Building Act 1774. The back rooms were probably added in the late 18th or early 19th century.

By 1896 the property was divided into three cottages with the carpenter's shop still at the rear. Two of the cottages were used as the village Telephone Exchange in the early 1920s; the third was associated with the carpenter's shop. The three cottages have not changed in appearance since then except for an extension to No. 22 about 1965; they are now privately occupied.

Acknowledgements

The author is greatly indebted to the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) for the use of its report on the Royal Oak Cottages.

HAMPTON COTTAGE, LEATHERHEAD: NOTES ON ITS CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILDING OF A SCALE-MODEL

By A. A. TUFFERY

HAMPTON Cottage, which became the Leatherhead Museum in 1980, is a small timber-framed building in Church Street dating from about the mid-17th century. It may have been a labourer's cottage in its early days but in 1682 it was occupied by the widow of William Fering, a falconer. He was probably a high ranking servant of one of the manors of Leatherhead and his widow's dwelling was likely to have been somewhat better than a labourer's cottage.¹

In the course of constructing a scale-model of *Hampton Cottage* much was learnt about the carpentry of the original building. The completed model is on display at the cottage.

Basic Construction

Hampton Cottage is a three-bay building, each bay with a ground floor and upper room, with doorways between the upper rooms and a straight passageway from front to back door on the ground floor. The present door and porch were added this century; the original doorway on Church Street is marked by a small window in the front room. There may well have been no doors originally on the upper floor. The original stairway is thought to have been a ladder in the south-east corner of the back room. Most of the timbers in the ground floor, apart from those in the internal cross walls, had been replaced by the



HAMPTON COTTAGE, LEATHERHEAD.

Drawing by Betty Eldridge.

time the building was restored in 1979, but much of the original can be seen in the upper floor and roof.

Woodwork

Old buildings like this are often of oak but elm is the common timber here, perhaps because at the time this wood was the cheaper of the two. Certainly oak was becoming rarer in the 17th century, because of demands by the Royal Navy and iron smelting. During the 16th and 17th centuries elm became as popular as oak for floorboards, purlins, beams and joists, although it was little used outside except for weatherboarding, and underground for pipes.² Re-used wood, not uncommon in medieval and later buildings, can be found in the cottage; its careful use would not necessarily harm the building's structure, and it would reduce costs. The presence of carpenters' marks provides evidence that the cottage was built in the usual fashion for its time. Each major cross-frame separating the bays would be laid out in the builder's yard, and the joints marked out as appropriate. The upper (visible) surface would be the main or "face" surface and pegs would be knocked in from this side when the building was erected.

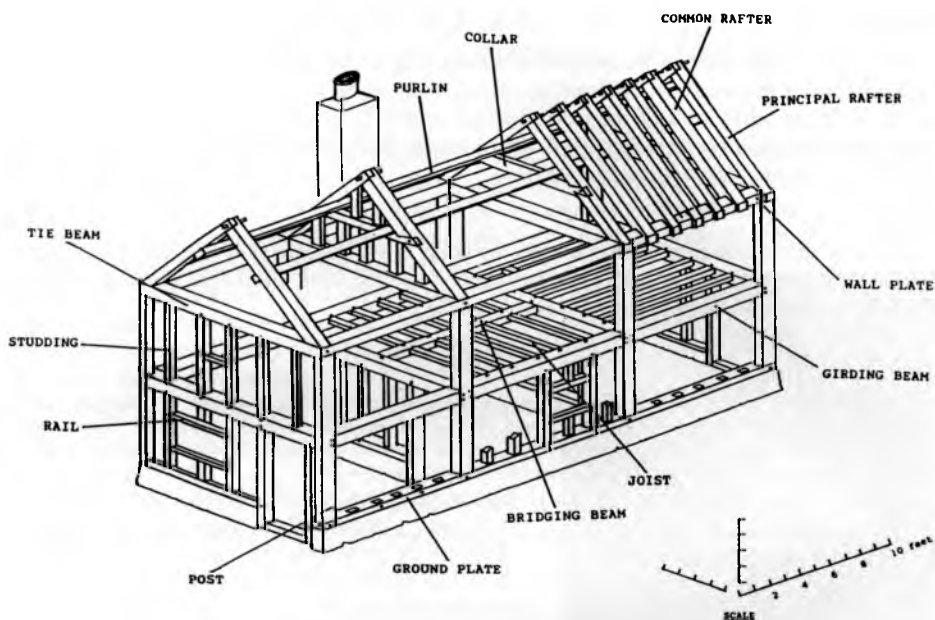
Unlike modern buildings which use sawn timber, most of the 17th century timber would have been hewn or cleft from green timber (that is, wood not fully seasoned). This timber is easier to work than other kinds and in buildings properly jointed and framed it will dry out without risk to the integrity of the structure, even if there is a little distortion. For good work the log conversion needs care. Through-and-through conversion would not have been used for many frame components; instead boxed heart (for main beams, purlins, plates and posts) and halved or quartered logs for joists, rafters, etc. would have been used. This kind of care seems to be evident in at least some of the work in the cottage—the bridging beam in the centre room is certainly halved timber and the joists, where they can be made out, are quartered. The rafters show an acceptable short cut/economy measure. Some of these are quartered from trees so small in section that some of the sap wood, and even the bark, can be seen. Sap wood is unacceptable for wood likely to be exposed to the weather, but it can be tolerated in rafters where it is unlikely to interfere with the wear of the structure. Undoubtedly, 17th century carpenters were as canny as 20th century ones!

Most of the timbers used were undersized judged by the standards laid down by the 1667 Act (after the Great Fire of London in 1666), but this is unlikely to mean that they were inadequate for the purpose. By modern standards timbers in most medieval and later houses were oversized. Perhaps the 'under-sizing' was an economy measure, consistent with local practice, or just because it was a very small cottage.

Joints

Apart from the careful choice and use of the wood itself, the quality and longevity of a timber-framed house resided in the choice and care used in constructing the joints. Such joints were fixed with pegs only—no nails or glue would have been used in this cottage.

Mortice and tennon joints are by far the most common. The main framework (posts, plates, etc.) was jointed this way and double pegged, and all the studding, but in this case only alternate, wider, studs were pegged; clearly an economy measure for such a small building. The floor joists and the bridging beams were fastened with a particularly sound version of this joint, which was invented in 1510–12 and is still in use today!



TIMBER FRAME OF HAMPTON COTTAGE.

By A. A. Tuffery.

Scarf joints are used to join long timbers end to end. One was found in the wall plate of the middle room and is exposed for show. There could have been similar joints in the ground plates, and there may be one in the corresponding timber on the south wall. The purlins comprise three sections joined by scarf joints.

There are simple half-lapped joints at the top of each pair of rafters, which are easily seen in the upper front room. The rafters also show clear carpenters' marks. The last set of joints, and certainly the most complex, is that joining each corner (or frame) post with the top/wall plate and tie beam, that is, three major structural timbers have to be joined at this point.

Roof

The roof is fairly simple in structure being built around the four main trusses, with clasped purlins. The pitch (of about $42/43^\circ$) suggests that the roof was tiled from the beginning, not thatched.

Doors

The original doors have long since vanished. In all probability the front door opened directly on to Church Street (then Little Queen Street) in line with the back door, a design feature dating back to medieval times. The scale model has been furnished with doors and hinges of late 17th century style as described by J. Moxon in a classic work of 1678 and referred to by C. A. Hewitt in his recent book on historic carpentry.³

Windows

By 1670, in this type of house, the windows might well have been glazed, with lights in lead frames mounted fairly directly on the main framework. There is one anomalous window in the north wall of the front upstairs room. It is a small unglazed four mullion type, which could have been fairly old fashioned by 1670. It may have had a sliding shutter inside, but there is no evidence of this.

Walls

Between the studding and main frames the walls are filled with split oak laths, and daubs of clay, dung and hay; the laths were probably plastered over, or at least given a frequent limewash. This can be seen in the upper middle room.

NOTES

1. J. M. Harding, 'Timber-framed Early Buildings in Surrey: A Pattern for Development, c. 1300–1650', *Trans Ancient Monuments Soc.*, 37, 1993, pp. 117–45; Pru Hyland, *Hampton Cottage, Leatherhead*, DBRG, 1978; Mary Rice-Oxley, *The Story of Hampton Cottage* (1986, reprinted 1995), p. 4; Edwina Vardey (ed.), *History of Leatherhead: A Town at the Crossroads* (1988), pp. 310–12.
2. F. W. B. & Mary Charles, *Conservation of Timber Buildings* (1984).
3. J. Moxon, *Mechanick Exercises or the Doctrine of Handyworks* (1678, reprint of 1703 edition); C. A. Hewitt, *English Historic Carpentry* (1980).

SEPTIMUS WELLING (1850–1935) A WELL-KNOWN LEATHERHEAD FIGURE

By J. R. CLUBE

SEPTIMUS Welling, the distinguished figure in the photograph below, was born in Ashted on 22nd October 1850 where his parents, John and Ann Welling were in service. His father had died by the 1851 census leaving his mother with several children. Septimus is thought to have received schooling until his tenth year; and when eighteen became a footman in the household of Sir Samuel Martin, Baron of the Exchequer, and Lady Martin, in Eaton Square, London. While in that employment he visited Brussels shortly after the fall of Sedan in the Franco-Prussian war.

In February 1872 he left the Martins' employment at his own request, with a very good reference, in order to go to America. He sailed steamer from Liverpool to Portland, Maine, and later wrote of going to Montreal, thence to Toronto and Chicago. He then went to Keokuk, Iowa, on the banks of the Mississippi and later to a fruit farm in Illinois. Finally he reached Philadelphia where he worked in a joinery mill. He returned to England briefly at the end of 1873 during which time he became engaged to Julia Randall of Brighton. He went back to Philadelphia alone but after a few months returned in 1874 to England. The following year he obtained permanent employment with Emily Moore at the Swan Hotel, Leatherhead and in 1876 married Julia.

In 1884 Septimus Welling applied for a post of Relieving Officer at the Epsom Union, an application supported by an impressive array of references.¹ Emily Moore of the Swan Hotel said she had employed him in a position of trust; Abraham Dixon of Cherkley Court had employed him occasionally; and Edward Budd of Vale Lodge wrote in a similar vein. His application, countersigned by more than 20 residents of Ashted, Bookham and Leatherhead, was successful and he was made responsible for the Leatherhead district. The post involved giving support in cash and kind to the local poor; Welling's daughter Lilian later recalled travelling with him on occasion in a donkey-cart to



SEPTIMUS WELLING.
Welling is wearing the uniform of the
Volunteer Training Corps, raised during the
First World War.
Courtesy, Mrs R. J. Pickett.

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addresses in Fetcham. With this appointment he continued in the employ of Emily Moore at the Swan and it is reported that King Edward VII, when lunching there on Derby Day, commented favourably on his appearance—"Your Cellarman would make a damn fine Bishop".

The uniform Septimus is wearing in the photograph is that of the Volunteer Training Corps (VTC). This was set up shortly after the outbreak of war in 1914 and was disbanded in 1919.² Its purpose was to encourage those who were not eligible for service in the army for whatever reason—and Septimus was already in his sixties—to acquire basic military skills of drill, and musketry etc. Units were used in a great variety of ways from guarding vulnerable points to off-loading railway supplies. In addition to Welling's VTC service and his other responsibilities, he was for a time during the war the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. It is known from a contemporary photograph that he took part in the peace celebrations in Leatherhead in 1919.

The press account of Welling's funeral in December 1935 stated that he had remained Relieving Officer as well as School Attendance Officer until his retirement after the First World War. It was also reported that he was one of the oldest members of the Leatherhead Institute and had been Vice-Chairman of its Committee of Management for many years. Institute records show that he had been a member of the Entertainment Committee also; and that he finally retired from the General Committee in 1932 at the age of 82.

Septimus and Julia (1854–1909) had three children: John Percival; Lilian who married Thomas Stedman; and Emily Beatrice (1878–1914) who remained unmarried and was a teacher at Poplar Road School.³ Descendants of Septimus Welling are still resident in Leatherhead.

NOTES

1. Society Records, LX 1013.
2. *Volunteer Forces: the Volunteer Training Corps in the Great War*, Official Record of the Central Association of Volunteer Training Corps (1920). Imperial War Museum Library.
3. Edwina Vardey (ed.), *History of Leatherhead: A Town at the Crossroads* (1988), p. 218.

1934 ? see in club papers
in records. JEB
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Acknowledgements

H. G. Riddlestone, Chairman of the Trustees of the Leatherhead Institute, kindly supplied information on the positions held by Welling at the Institute. Family information was generously provided by Miss Joan Stedman, Septimus's granddaughter, based on personal knowledge and augmented by letters, birth certificate and photographs.



ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF WILLIAM HENRY SPICER IMPALED
WITH THOSE OF HIS WIFE MARIA PRESCOTT,
LEATHERHEAD PARISH CHURCH.

Photograph by Alison Wright.

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