

WESTENDER

IN OUR 21st YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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FROM OUR ARCHIVE



THE M27 BEING BUILT AT WEST END

Our picture this edition shows roadworks during the building of the M27 at West End around 1982. The construction of the M27 took place between 1975 and 1983 and effectively cut parts of West End in two. This image among many others was kindly donated to our archive by member Mr Keith Watson and shows in the background Quob Farm with its distinctive concrete feed silo.

The last of the buildings comprising Quob Farm, namely the farmhouse, has recently been demolished to make way for housing.

Latterly the farmhouse had been converted to flats, with a housing estate built fairly close to the buildings boundary.

Ed.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



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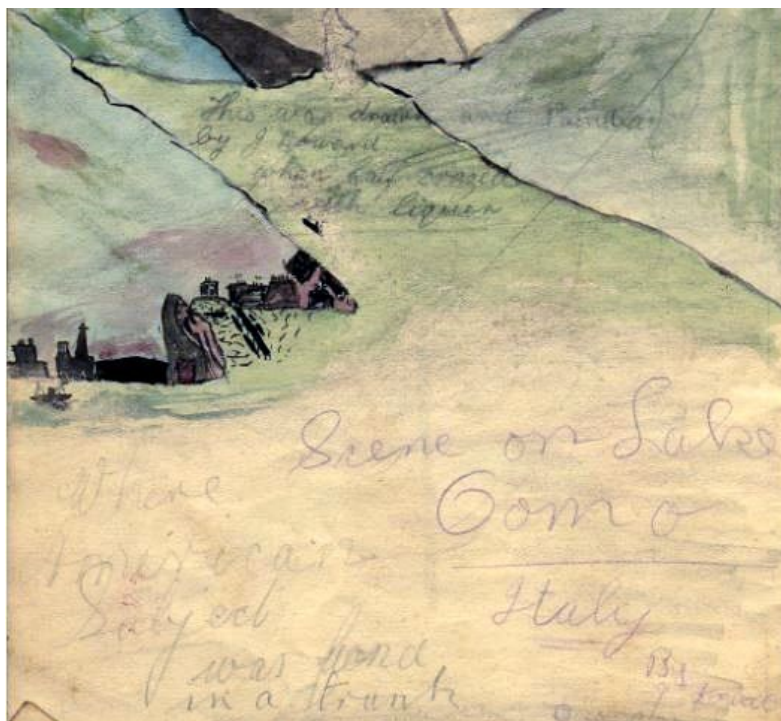


STORIES BEHIND A MUSEUM OBJECT: “Jack the Lad”

By Sue Ballard, PhD

In the museum is a drawing book from Ludlow Road Boys School in the name of Jack Howard, dated April 9th 1913. At first glance, one wonders what connection it may have to West End, but pencilled inside the remnant of the front cover are handwritten notes from when the book was donated: “married Miss Curtis; lived at 13 Moorgreen Road; shipyard & aircraft riveter at Saunders Roe, I.O.W.; died early 1980s”. The notes demonstrate the link to West End and are enough to begin researching Jack Howard.

The content consists mainly of botanical drawings, almost every page being adorned with plants and flowers, from pansies, wallflowers and foxgloves to runner beans and briars. These delicate pencil sketches and detailed water colours appear to be Jack’s art homework, some of which demonstrate a fair level of skill and range in date from 1913 to 1914. What makes the book more interesting and more personal, though, are later additions (one dated as late as 1929), interspersed with the botanical drawings and occasionally even superimposing them as Jack reused his old school book when paper was in short supply during the Great War. These doodles and sketches provide some insights into his character & preoccupations at the time. There are several flags, warships & soldiers and a poem about dancing. A block of numbers appears to be some form of multiplication sequence and there are several cartoon figures and faces, including Mr Punch and one with a red nose labelled “The Last of the Booze-Fighters”. There is also a single landscape, covering a whole page. It is a view of Lake Como, most likely copied from a newspaper photograph, with the words “This was drawn and painted by J Howard when half-crazed by liquor”. Of course, he was not drunk – the landscape is quite carefully executed and the handwriting controlled – but it tells us that the 15 year old perhaps dreamed of himself as being a wild Jack the Lad.



Detail from the landscape Scene on Lake Como, showing annotations.

Why choose Lake Como as his only landscape? Intriguingly, pencilled faintly in a larger script beneath is written: “Where American Subject was found in a trunk” – most likely the caption copied from the original photograph. Newspaper reports show that this is a reference to the murder of an American actress Mrs

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Maria Scott Castle Charlton, whose body was found huddled at the bottom of a trunk caught in fishermen's nets on Lake Como, Italy on 10 June 1910. Initially, a Russian was arrested and there were fears that Mrs Charlton's missing husband had also been murdered. But they had gone to Lake Como for their honeymoon and when he returned to New York without her he was arrested and readily confessed to her murder, without offering any explanation. American newspapers tell us that Maria was a divorcee in her forties when she married 20 year old Porter Charlton, who bludgeoned her with a mallet in the villa they were renting. The post-mortem examination revealed that she had still been alive when he tied her up and placed her in the trunk, filling it with stones before throwing it in the lake. After lengthy legal wrangles, Charlton was extradited to Italy in 1913 but his trial was delayed due to the impending War. He finally went on trial in 1915 and was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 6 years and 8 months but as he had already been in prison for 5 years while awaiting trial, he only had to serve 1 year and 8 months – but was released almost immediately as part of a general amnesty in wartime. He served only 29 days of his remaining sentence, causing outrage in the USA, widely reported on both sides of the Atlantic. This sensational case had clearly caught the imagination of the young Jack Howard.

But who was Jack Howard? There is no record of that name listed in the Hampshire births index within an appropriate time frame for him to have been at school in 1913. Neither did an initial search of censuses show a Jack Howard of relevant age within the catchment area of Ludlow Road Boys School. However, later street directories show a "Howard, Rt. Chas." at 13 Moorgreen Road. In searching the censuses for a Robert Charles Howard to see if his age and place of birth might indicate whether he could be Jack's father or brother, I found Jack himself in the 1911 census, completed by his mother, which gives his name as "Robert C.K. Howard called Jack". If she had not squeezed the last two words onto the form, we would perhaps never have made the link.

having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)		"Servant."	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	aged 15 years and upwards.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
1. <i>Blanche H. Howard</i>	<i>Head</i>		<i>40</i>	<i>Married</i>	
2. <i>Stanley Ralph Howard</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>Single</i>	
3. <i>Robert C.K. Howard called Jack</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>10</i>	-	-	
4.					
5.					

Extract from the 1911 census detail enabling the identification of Jack.

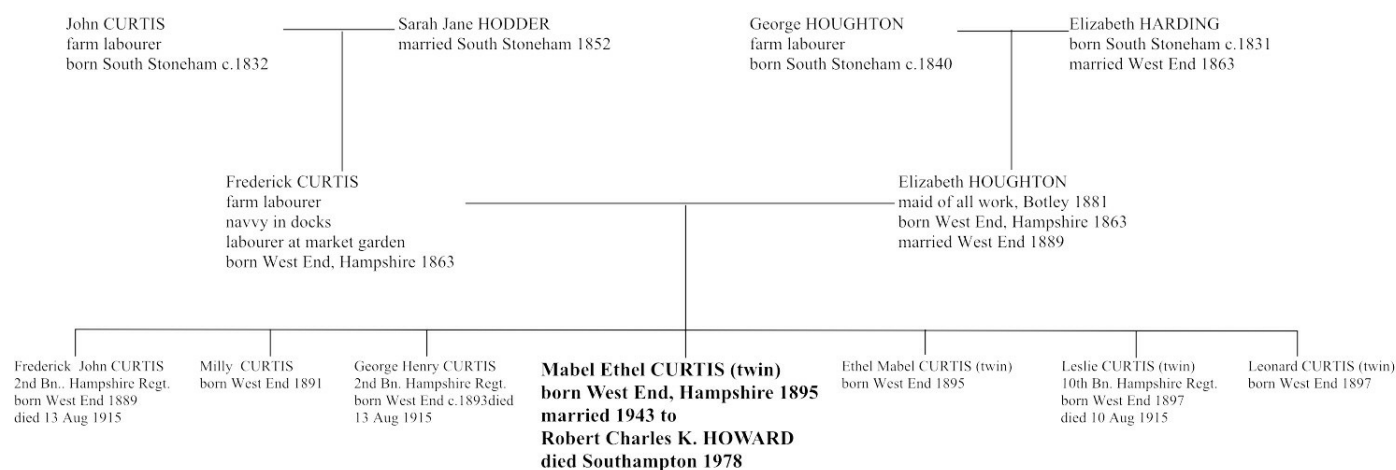
At this time, the family were living at 126 Mortimer Road, Itchen, Southampton, where they had moved some time between 1901 & 1907, which ties in with his attending Ludlow Boys' School, just a five minute walk from his home. Jack lived at Mortimer Road at least until the outbreak of World War Two, when he is found at this address on the 1939 Register with his widowed mother. The register lists him as a "ship's riveter (heavy worker)" and married. This appears to be a clerical error; Jack did not marry until 1943 when he married Mabel Ethel Curtis, who is shown on the 1939 Register as living with her widowed father and younger brother Leonard at "Mayfield", Moorgreen, next door to Albert Moody. Our first record of Jack living at West End is the 1946 Kelly's Directory, which lists Rbt. Chas. Howard at "Mayfield", Moorgreen Road, although it is likely that he actually moved in to Mabel's family home upon their marriage in 1943. Directories list Jack at the same address until 1970, when it was listed as 13 Moorgreen Road.

Jack's wife Mabel was a twin, one of seven children of farm labourer Frederick Curtis and his wife

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Elizabeth Houghton, both natives of West End. Frederick was the son of farm labourer John Curtis and his wife Sarah Jane Hodder, while Elizabeth was the daughter of George Houghton, also a farm labourer, and his wife Elizabeth Harding. Both families hailed from Moorgreen. Three of Mabel's brothers, Frederick John Curtis, George Henry Curtis & Leslie Curtis, served in the Great War and feature in the West End book "The Men Who Marched Away" by Nigel Wood. All served with the Hampshire Regiment, Frederick John and George Henry with the 2nd Battalion and Leslie with the 10th Battalion. Leslie, the youngest and Leonard's twin, was only 17 years old when he was killed on 10th August 1915. Three days later his two elder brothers Frederick John and George Henry were both killed on 13th August 1915, a devastating blow for their parents.



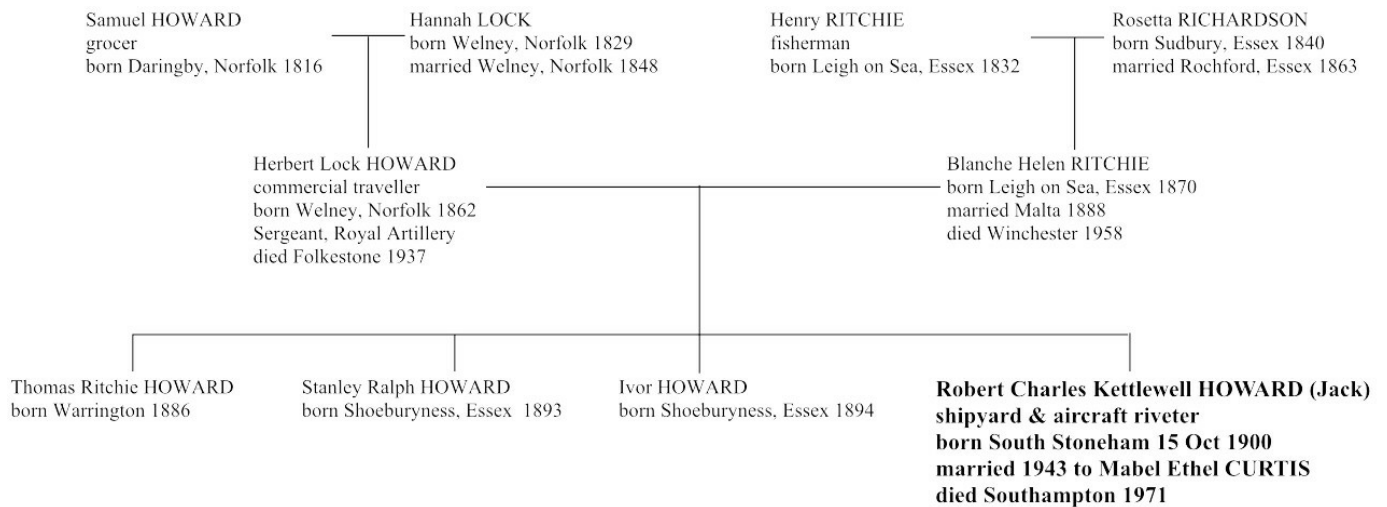
Family Tree of Mabel Ethel Curtis

Being from the West End area, Mabel's family were relatively easy to trace. Jack's provided more of a challenge. Jack was born in South Stoneham in 1900, registered as Robert Charles Kettlewell Howard. In 1901, at the age of 5 months, he lived at Firgrove Road, Shirley, Southampton with his mother Blanche and two of his elder brothers, Stanley & Ivor. Although both the 1901 and the 1911 censuses record Blanche as being married, Jack's father was not in residence on census night and from 1907 onward the directory entries for 126 Manor Road are in the name of Mrs Howard only, suggesting that she, rather than her husband, was the head of household.

Jack's father, Herbert, was born in Norfolk in 1862, the son of a grocer, Samuel Howard, and his wife Hannah Lock. The Army Returns show that Herbert Lock Howard & Blanche Helen Ritchie were married in Malta in 1888, two years after the birth of their eldest son, Thomas. Blanche had been born in Essex, the daughter of a fisherman, Henry Ritchie, and his wife Rosetta Richardson. The 1891 census shows the family living in married quarters at the School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness in Essex where Jack's father was a sergeant in the Royal Artillery, so it is possible that in 1901 he was away on active service in the Boer War. The family moved to Hampshire some time between 1894, when the third of Jack's elder brothers was born at Shoeburyness, and 1900 when Jack was born at South Stoneham. Herbert Lock Howard died at Folkestone, Kent on 27 December 1937 and was buried at Hawkinge, where the parish burial register records that he was a 75 year old commercial traveller, perhaps explaining his absence from the family census in 1911. However, the probate register named his executor as Ada Rebecca Moore, spinster. No mention is made of his widow Blanche or his four sons, Thomas, Stanley, Ivor and Jack. It appears that Jack's parents had separated some time after Jack's birth.

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Family Tree of Jack Howard

No war record exists for Jack. During World War One, the Military Act of 1916 introduced compulsory conscription of all single men between the ages of 18 & 41. Jack reached the age of 18 in October 1918, just 27 days before armistice, although he could have volunteered at a younger age as many others did. But as a ship's riveter he would have been in a reserved occupation, vital to the war effort. Nonetheless, his prolific war-themed sketches seem to suggest a preoccupation with the war and that he was perhaps sensitive about being a non-combatant. Reverend Rowland Dawson, in the West End Parish Magazine, wrote scathingly of those who had not volunteered: "I suppose there can be no greater disgrace to a man than to know that he funk'd his duty to his country at a time when she was in trouble. In fact, the man who has failed to volunteer is hardly worth the name of Englishman; and for all time he will suffer from a stigma." We can imagine that this attitude prevailed everywhere and that young Jack would have lived under continual strain as he had to constantly defend himself against criticism and justify his position.

When World War Two was declared Jack would have been 39 years old and again, being in a reserved occupation he would not have served in combat. Nevertheless, the National Service Emergency Regulations 1940 and the Emergency Reserve Corps Regulations 1941 compelled all males aged between 18 & 65 who were not in the armed forces to serve in one of the civil defence organisations: the Local Defence Volunteers (later renamed the Home Guard), the Royal Observer Corps, as an Air Raid Precaution Warden, on Traffic Police duties or in the Auxiliary Ambulance or Fire Services. We do not know in which capacity Jack served.

Jack was employed at Saunders-Roe Limited at the Columbine Works, East Cowes on the Isle of Wight. The boat building company S.E. Saunders was founded by Samuel Edgar Saunders and was renamed Saunders-Roe Limited after Alliott Verdon Roe & John Lord purchased a significant number of shares in the company in 1929. In 1931 Whitehall Securities, a large shareholder in Spartan Aircraft Limited of Southampton, also acquired substantial shares in Saunders-Roe and the two companies effectively merged. We do not know whether Jack had previously been employed by Spartan Aircraft Limited, but it is possible that he had worked in Southampton originally. Saunders-Roe's main production was the small scale manufacture of flying-boats. During World War Two they manufactured Supermarine

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Walruses and Supermarine Sea Otters. The Sea Walrus, first flown on 21 June 1933, was designed by R.J. Mitchell, later famed for the Supermarine Spitfire. A total of 740 Walruses were manufactured between 1936 & 1944; it was used principally for reconnaissance by the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, the Irish Air Corps and the Royal Australian Air Force. The Sea Otter was a longer range version of the Walrus and was the last biplane flying-boat designed by Supermarine and the last to be used by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, first flown on 23 September 1938; a total of 292 Sea Otters were produced between 1942 & 1945. Saunders-Roe Limited closed in 1964, which is perhaps when Jack retired, given his age. If so, he enjoyed only a few years' retirement. The death of Robert Charles K. Howard, date of birth 15th Oct 1900, was registered at Southampton in the first quarter of 1971. One wonders whether Jack had maintained his love of art and produced more works as an adult, now lost to us.

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON'S MEMORIAL IN St. MARY'S CHURCH, BATTERSEA

By Paula Downer

I have long been fascinated by the 'New England' style church of St. Mary's, Battersea. As Mike and I ambled past when walking the Thames Path in 2001, little did I know then, that here was a memorial to Nathaniel Middleton and that in years to come I would be extensively researching this Lord of the Manor of Town Hill otherwise Shamblehurst.



At the time of his death in November 1807, Nathaniel Middleton's London home was in the parish of St. James, Westminster, Middlesex, hence, why he was buried in the parish of Battersea and not in St. James is difficult to establish. With an ever increasing population, especially in London, churchyards were becoming overcrowded prompting the parish church of St. James, Westminster to create a separate

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burial ground some 2 1/2 miles away in the borough of Camden. Here a Chapel of Ease was built. It is likely that Anne Frances Middleton wished her husband to be buried within the church, in the 18th and early 19th century this was seen as a measure of social status. For the church it meant a significant source of income, it was more costly to be interred in the crypt than in the churchyard and Battersea was probably less expensive than St.James.

Grade 1 listed, St. Mary's church in the parish of Battersea is a fine example of Regency architecture. In the eighteenth century Battersea became a fashionable suburb, away from the hustle, bustle and unpleasant smells emanating from the streets of London. Battersea could be easily reached within an hour by carriage.

In this splendid church hangs the Memorial Tablet of Nathaniel Middleton, Lord of the Manor of Town Hill otherwise Shamblehurst; it can be found on the left hand side :-



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*Sacred to the Memory of NATHANIEL MIDDLETON Esq.
who terminated his earthly career on the 7th November 1807
in the 57th Year of his Age.
As a Memorial of departed Excellence, not less than as a Testimony of Affection
this Tablet is erected by his afflicted Widow*

*In the Vault near this Spot are deposited the Ashes of Daughters
SOPHIA whom departed this life in 1790 at the Age of 4 Years & 3 Months and
AUGUSTA on the 30th of April 1802 in the 17th year of her Age*

*This grateful Tribute, sacred shade ! receive,
All that a sorrowing Bosom now can give*

*Also in the same Vault are deposited the Remains of
ANNE FRANCES MIDDLETON,
Relict of the above NATHANIEL MIDDLETON Esq. who departed this life on the 3rd November in the Year of our
Lord 1823 Aged 65 Years*

*In the Vault Beneath are Interred the Remains of LOUISA ANN HERBERT, youngest daughter of the above named
Nathaniel and Anne Frances Middleton and Relict to CHARLES HERBERT Esq. of Mucross Ireland who died 23rd
May 1828 Aged 31 years*

It seems that Louisa Ann Herbert (née Middleton) was Anne Frances Middleton's favourite daughter. Louisa Ann Middleton, born 1796, was one of their three children whom were born in Town Hill in the parish of South Stoneham (Ref. Westender Vol.10 No.6). On August 22nd 1814, by licence and with the consent of her mother, Louisa married Charles John Herbert of the parish of St. George, Hanover Square in London. The Herbert family were wealthy, owning land and property in Muckcross, County Kerry, Ireland. They had made their money in the local copper mining industry. Charles Herbert died in 1823, at the age of 37. Louisa took their six children (Henry Arthur, Louisa Anne, Emily, Charles, Maria, Jane) to the Middleton's family home in Bradford Peverell in Dorset, but sadly died five years later.



Mrs Louisa Herbert (née Middleton) wife of Charles John Herbert of Muckcross, 1814

From the book 'Voices from the Great Houses: Cork and Kerry' by Jane O'Hea-O'Keeffe
www.irishlifeandlore.com

In Powis Castle in Wales, hangs a painting of Charles and Louisa Herbert's orphaned children by Richard Rothwell :-
Ref. www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/1180954

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By 1854 three hundred lead lined coffins had been placed in St.Mary's crypt, many of them stacked on top of one another. In the course of time, occasionally, a coffin would burst, due to gases building up within, rendering very unpleasant aromas within the church ! (a lead lined coffin can only preserve a body for up to a year). To ameliorate this, in 1875, an Order in Council was obtained to re-arrange the coffins which were then laid on each side of the crypt and covered with one foot of concrete.

It is just as well Anne Frances Middleton did not choose to bury Nathaniel Middleton in St.James's churchyard as in 1887 with the expansion of Britain's railway system, Euston Station was extended to build additional platforms resulting in most of the monuments and tombstones from the burial ground being removed and the churchyard re-laid as a public garden. Many of the gravestones were relocated to the garden perimeter. The garden has been further destroyed recently to accommodate the expansion of Euston for the High Speed 2 (HS2) train project. The chapel was demolished after suffering bomb damage in World War II.

FRED WOOLLEY AND QUOB FARM

By Nigel Wood



Left: Fred Woolley

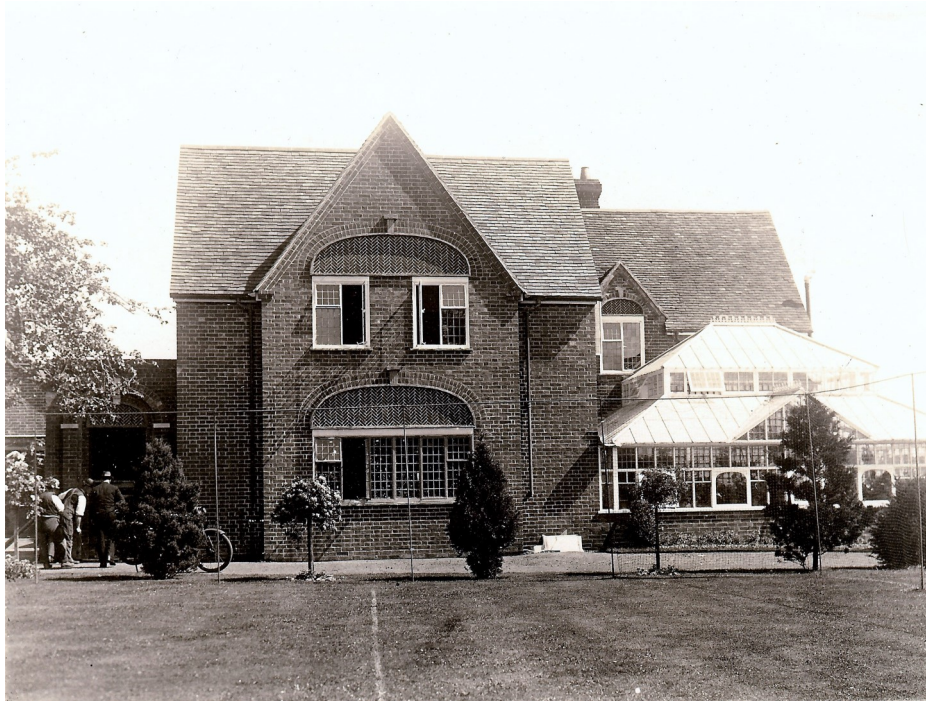
Right: "Woodleigh" at the junction of Chalk Hill and Church Hill as it looked in 1907

Fred Woolley was born at Kidsgrove in Staffordshire in 1877. He moved to West End from 'Mount Villa' in Testwood Lane, Totton in 1912. Initially he lived at 'Woodleigh', a house set in grounds at the corner of Chalk Hill and Swaythling Road. 'Woodleigh' dated back to 1851, when it was known as 'Westend Villa', and boasted a brickfield in its then extensive grounds. After road widening, re-alignment and sale of land the much depleted estate and house became the local offices and yard for Scaffolding (Great Britain) Ltd in the early 1930's before being demolished in November 2007. Today the site is host to townhouses and blocks of flats. Fred moved again in 1921 when he bought Quob Farm in Quob Lane, West End, which was

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still standing until recently. It was divided into flats and was surrounded by housing built on the site of the farm and the once beautiful gardens, which boasted tennis courts, a sunken terraced garden, complete with summerhouse and a pond fed by the present watercourse.



BURNMOOR FARMHOUSE SHOWING THE EDWARDIAN CONSERVATORY

Whilst at Quob Farm, Fred renamed the farmhouse 'Burnmoor', a name that he also used for his Dairy business. Fred led a busy life breeding a pedigree dairy herd amongst other farming activities and for a time also leased Hatch Farm. He ran a successful Accountancy business in Southampton and had many other interests as well as being a member of Rotary. In 1912, as a result of the Titanic disaster, two Relief Funds were set up, one in London - the Mansion House Titanic Fund, and one in Southampton set up by the Mayor of Southampton, Henry Bowyer. Fred was appointed Secretary of the Southampton Titanic Relief Fund. Eventually merging with the London Fund it continued until 1959, having helped to support some 1,400 dependents of the victims of the 'Titanic' sinking.

CREAM **Fresh**
Rich
Thick

Produced from Pedigree Jersey Cows
under Perfect Hygienic conditions
——— available daily at ———

BURNMOOR DAIRY FARM
WESTEND.

ADVERTISEMENT FROM St.JAMES' CHURCH MAGAZINE - September 1924

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Fred was made Mayor of Southampton in 1932 and 1933 and created an Alderman. During World War 2 Fred's farms made extensive use of Prisoner of War labour and had some of his farm land requisitioned for use as an Anti-Aircraft battery and Barrage Balloon site. It was during this time that one of the barrage balloon's broke free from its mooring and with the steel hawser swinging freely to and fro managed to destroy the beautiful Edwardian conservatory at 'Burnmoor', leaving devastation in its wake, but luckily no casualties. For years afterwards the tiled floor of the conservatory served as a patio for the family, the conservatory never being rebuilt. In 1949 whilst still resident at 'Burnmoor' Fred passed away. He is remembered in many ways, having done so much for Southampton. There is a beautiful stained glass window in his memory in the Royal South Hants Hospital Chapel, a large memorial with a bas relief plaque in Southampton's Civic Centre, there was once a Fred Woolley House - Home of Recovery in Chilworth named in his honour as well as a plaque commemorating the sinking of Titanic and the West End connection including Fred's name. Unfortunately during the last couple of months Quob Farmhouse has been demolished to make way for yet more housing!



QUOB FARMHOUSE RENAMED BY THE WOOLLEYS AS "BURNMOOR"

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due for 2020, as there was no meeting in January due to a clash with New Years day, the subscriptions are due from February meeting. Please see Delphine to pay. Very good value for money at only £12.00 per person per year with a speaker at each meeting except in August (Social Evening at Museum) and December, although this year we will have some special entertainment (see programme) Ed.

HATCH FARM - extracts from Hatch Farm diary (1897)

Part 7

By Pauline Berry

Following a mild and occasionally wet Christmas with only one day off from farm work, the new year 1897, begins with colder weather. Work on Hatch Farm follows the usual pattern, with extra feeding for the animals, ploughing, dung spreading and the frequent delivery of lambs. Farmer Albert Fray continues:

January 2nd 1897	Sharp this morning ... (Augusta and I) have been married for 14 years today (married in 1883).
January 5th	Wet and dirty all day, men busy cutting chaff (corn husks) etc.. But could not do much afield I sold Fred Pearce 3 cows (Blossom, Beauty and Daffey) and 3 sheep for £25.
January 6th	Fine day. I have been to Town, bought myself and James (son) some boots, 18 shillings ... Gave Frank Allen 2/6d., Christmas Box.
January 7th	A lot of rain, but a fine day Carter fetched a ton of linseed cake (for the animals) ... and crushed corn from (Gaters) Mill. Began to give the tegs (young sheep) some hay today.
January 9th	Finer today, but the ground is full of water
January 10th Sunday	Went to church in morning and spent the rest of the day with Father at Stoneham (farm)
January 13th	Fine day, drying a bit Davis and Sid spreading dung. Christmas tree at Chapel.
January 14th	Fine day Davis took 1/2 ton of straw to Mr May (shopkeeper at Rosemount). Carted straw into barn.
January 16th	We have had a fall of snow today and it looks very windy.
January 17th Sunday	Frosty. The first ewe lambed with twins.
January 18th	Very sharp frost today I have given sheep extra hay etc.. Fred brought calf meal from (Swaythling) station.
January 19th	Slight frost, most of the snow thawed today
January 20th	Fine day. Mr Daniel Haines (Tower House) had 3 tons straw. Four ewes lambed to day, one lamb died.
January 22nd	Ground covered with snow this morning and a heavy snowstorm (forecast) for tonight. Two lambs born this morning. County Council Bye Election today. Colonel Bance returned by 15 majority.

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January 23rd	A very rough cold day with drifting snow Men caring for cattle in afternoon. One ewe lambed.
January 25th	No frost, snow going off nicely I have been out with the game keeper and others rabbiting in Dummers Copse. Caught 28, I had 2 pairs (to keep).
January 26th	Very sharp frost this morning, the country looks very barren We have picked our 20 sheep for market tomorrow.
January 27th	Sharp frost 2 lambs born this evening, one dead. Been to a lecture on Billy Bray (an unconventional evangelist) at Chapel ... very interesting and instructive.
January 28th	Frost again Davis and Sid dung carting Sent cheque £42 for the 20 sheep on to the Bank. 4 lambs born today.
January 31st	Mild and damp. (8 lambs born in last 3 days).
February 1st	Wet most of day, had to bring the ewes off the swedes and into the paddock and orchard (5 more lambs born today).
February 4th	Damp and a lot of rain ... 3 lambs born, 2 died.
February 5th	A very wet morning A lot of water about. I got the feed (?) off Mr Fletchers paddock (Hatch Grange) for the ewes (£2).
February 6th	Finer today, some rain I have been up most of the night, 3 ewes lambed.
February 8th	Fine day. Ploughing with 2 ploughs and Sid rolling meadows ... I have done for the sheep and I went ferreting, caught 9 rabbits.
February 11th	Wet all day Austin's Sale at Bishops Waltham today.
February 13th	Damp most of the day Spent day preparing food for cows and stumps of hay for horses. Mr Leaves (Tailor) sent my breeches today, 16 shillings and 6 pence.
Feb 14th Sunday	A fine day. Missionary services at the chapel.
February 15th	Fine day—Father and (Uncle) John drove over this morning, agreed to have the ewes at 50/-d. each and me to have 2 tegs. Mrs Bignall at Quob Farm died suddenly after being at Chapel.
February 16th	Fine day Men busy, Rogers finished stiles and bridges over Barnsland footpaths. Mrs Elliott (Headmasters wife) had another daughter.
February 17th	Fine day with some sunshine, a treat

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- February 16th Fine day. Brown and Knight hedging and ditching. Mrs Broomfield (Thorneydown Farm) had tea with us today.
- February 19th Damp all day Sid carting wood all day for Mr Fletcher.
- February 20th Wet morning, fine afternoon ... Mr Hogg came over and we went ferreting and caught 5 rabbits.
- February 23rd Sheppard (Hatch Bottom) came and picked out 20 sheep (£41) Fred Pearce came and I sold him 4 barreners (cows) and a bull for £50.
- February 24th Fine day. (Men busy) after taking 2 loads of dung to Mr Scott of the 'Crown & Thistle' ('The Master Builder' today). In Town Trade for sheep was good.
- February 26th Fine day, drying wind I and Knight have put up a new post to gate in Allington Copse
- February 27th Fine drying day Men busy I had a game of hockey with Miss (Esme or Hilda ?) Fletcher this afternoon. Threshing machine came but did not thresh. (They later got 97 sacks off the machine for £3. 10 shillings hire)



NOTE
*Many thanks for the information from
Adrian Fray, grandson of Albert Fray.*

**Left: REUBEN AND AUGUSTA FRAY
AND THEIR FAMILY AT HATCH FARM
c. 1904**

OBITUARY

It was with sadness that we learned that long standing member Marie Newton had passed away aged 89 years old on 21st December 2019 after suffering a long period of illness. The funeral was held at St. James' Church, West End at 1pm on Thursday 16th January 2020. The funeral was followed by a private cremation. Our condolences go out to members of her extended family and friends.

RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard

“ROUT CAKES”

Rout cakes were popularly served at assemblies, balls and routs during the Georgian Spa period and are famously referred to in Jane Austen's "Emma" (1815): "She was a little shocked at the want of two drawing rooms, at the poor attempt at rout-cakes ..." and Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" (1847): "Joseph Sedley contented himself with a bottle of claret besides his Madeira at dinner, and he managed a couple of plates full of strawberries and cream, and twenty-four little rout cakes that were lying neglected in a plate near him." The little bite-sized rout cakes appear to have originated in the 1780s, being absent from the lists of cakes and biscuits offered for routs and assemblies in confectioners' adverts of the 1760s & 1770s, which tended to feature large cakes. An advert in the Morning Post of 1782 offers "Fruits, ices, jellies, rout-cakes and all sorts of confectionary & c." Another, appearing in the Leeds Intelligencer in 1795, offers: "Desserts served up. Rout cakes, lemonade, orgeat, milk punch, spun sugars & c." Orgeat was a non-alcoholic drink of barley-water or almond-water flavoured with orange flower water. Milk punch was a mix of milk, brandy and sugar flavoured with vanilla or nutmeg. Rout cakes were well-established by the Victorian period, being served at the Lord Mayor's Day Banquet every year from the 1840s into the 1930s. Despite their apparent popularity, none of the well-known cooker writers of the period included them in their publications since Maria Rundell in "A New System of Domestic Cookery" in 1806:

Rout Drop Cakes.

Mix two pounds of flour, one ditto butter, one ditto sugar, one ditto currants, clean and dry; then wet into a stiff paste, with two eggs, a large spoon of orange-flower water, ditto rose-water, ditto sweet wine, ditto brandy, drop on a tin-plate floured; a very short time bakes them.

A recipe appears in May Byron's "Pot-luck, or The British Home Cookery Book" (1914), a collection of undated recipes from a wide variety of sources. The 1806 recipe uses equal quantities of flour, butter and sugar. May Byron's recipe differs in using 5 eggs rather than 2 eggs for the same quantity of flour, but only 1oz butter & 8 oz sugar and in replacing half the currants with candied peel. The greater proportion of eggs and very small quantity of butter in May Byron's version would result in a very different texture. Recipes published in newspapers in the 1930s differed even more by using ground almonds instead of flour and omitting the butter altogether; one recipe lacked eggs as well as butter, being in effect little more than flavoured marzipan, showing how the recipe evolved to fit modern tastes.

This scaled down version with modern instructions is from "The Jane Austen Cookbook" by Maggie Black & Deidre Le Faye (1995). It is healthier than many modern cakes, being lower in fat and sugar, and tasty but not too sweet.

5 oz / 150g plain flour
pinch of salt
2 oz / 50g butter, softened
2 oz / 50g caster sugar
1 egg
½ teaspoon orange juice (I used orange blossom water as in the 1806 recipe above)
½ teaspoon rosewater
1 tsp sweet white wine or sherry (I used Marsala)
1 tsp brandy
1 oz / 25g currants

Preheat oven to Gas Mark 4 / 180C / 160 fan. Lightly grease a baking sheet.

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl and rub in the butter until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add sugar.

In a separate bowl beat the egg with the other liquid ingredients.

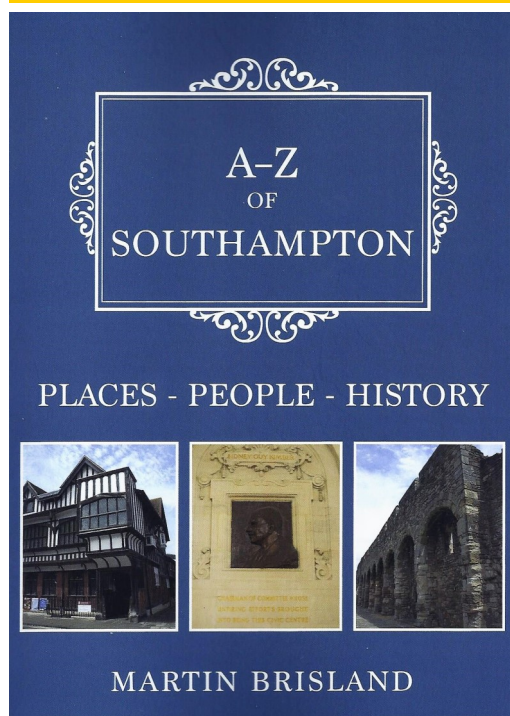
Gradually add the liquid mixture to the dry mix to create a smooth dough.

Mix in the currants.

Put the cake mixture in small, neat heaps (¾ inch / 2cms across) onto the baking sheet and bake 16-18 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack.

BOOK REVIEWS



“A-Z OF SOUTHAMPTON Places – People – History” By Martin Brisland

At first glance you are apt to think, not another book on Southampton, but on glancing through the book you realise it is a little different. The author is to be congratulated on following the A-Z theme of place, people and history so well and digging up some fascinating lesser known facts. There is just enough information about each subject for it to be very interesting but not enough to get boring. When I started reading the book, comments such as ‘well, I didn’t know that!’, kept cropping up. For anyone who has even a passing interest in Southampton, its characters and history will find this book fascinating. It is set out in such a way that you can pick it up and start reading at any point in the book. Totally recommended as a good read, it would make an ideal present.

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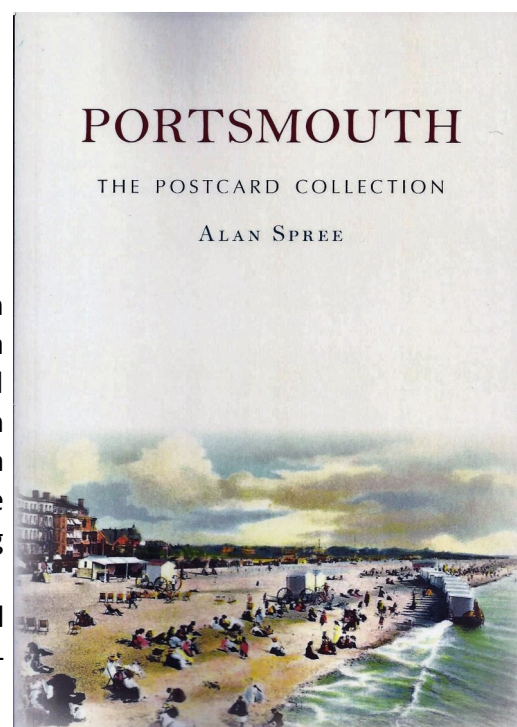
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“PORTSMOUTH The Postcard Collection” By Alan Spree

As its title suggests this is a pictorial history of Portsmouth seen through the medium of vintage postcards. The book starts with a short introduction giving a brief history of the city and a useful map showing the districts of Portsmouth relating to the images in the postcard collection. There are postcard views both in sepia and colour from most of the major postcard publishers of the time representing just about every aspect of the city, including Southsea.

Alan is to be congratulated on putting together such a varied and interesting collection of postcard images along with the accompanying information explaining each picture.



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