NEWSLETTER of the WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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FROM OUR ARCHIVES

This peaceful village scene from a Rood Brothers postcard taken in the early 1900's shows West End High Street as it was. The road is not metalled and pavements non-existent and no traffic. You get a good clear view of Shotters Hill in the distance with the old National School later the Parish Hall on the left on the corner of Chapel Road. Wouldn't it be nice to see the village like this again!

******STOP PRESS******

We are expecting to re-open our Museum at the Old Fire Station to the public on 22nd May 2021 subject of course to any changes that may be announced by government. Our next society meeting will take place at the Parish Centre on 7th July 2021, starting at 7.30pm as usual and will be "People on Plinths" a talk by Tony Cross.

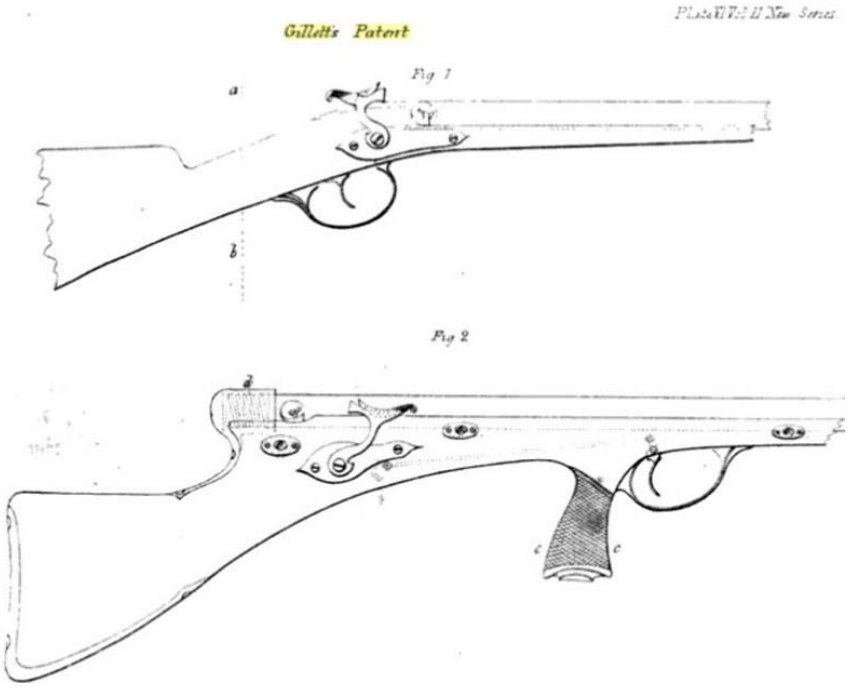
WILLIAM STEDMAN GILLETT, Gentleman, Inventor

By Paula Downer

The previous owner of Harefield House before Edwin Jones was William Stedman Gillett. The 1851 Census shows William Stedman Gillett, aged 50, as a Fundholder and Proprietor of Houses so he was a wealthy man. His father Gabriel Gillett had been a Merchant in Calcutta, India. Between 1788-1814 Gabriel had several ships built on the banks of the Hooghly River, most of his ships dealt with local trade, the larger ships serving the East India Company. The ongoing wars with the French in the late 18th century gave cause for concern, the shipbuilders in England were running out of oak ! To build a wooden ship, they needed a very large quantity. The shipbuilders turned to India, where ample teak grew along the coast. They found that Indian teak was better suited than English oak for wooden ships as it is oily and resistant to marine boring worms.

Gabriel Gillett married Mary Ann Hodgson, their two sons Gabriel Edward (1799) and William Stedman (1800) were born in St.Pancras, London and baptised in the Old St.Pancras Church (Stedman was their paternal Grandmother Elizabeth's maiden name). Both sons were educated in Oxford, Gabriel attended the Oriel College, while William went to Exeter College. They both gained their B.A. and M.A., William was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1821. According to the 1841 Census for England, William, aged 40, was living with his parents Gabriel and Mary Ann at No.25 Guilford Street, London. His brother Gabriel had taken Holy Orders, married Elizabeth Woodall in St.Pancras in 1826. In 1831 Gabriel became the Rector of St.Mary Magdalene Church in the parish of Waltham-on-the-Wolds in Leicestershire.

William sought to make improvements in the manufacturing world of science and industry. In February 1834 a patent was granted to William for improvements in guns and other small arms. William explained how it would be easier to fire a longer and heavier gun if the trigger and thereby the centre of gravity were moved forward thus :-



William also financed improvements in Hansom cabs, the two-wheeled horse drawn Hansom cab was invented by Joseph Hansom of 'The Safety Cabriolet & Two-Wheel Carriage Company'. His secretary John Chapman, whom was an engineer, saw that the cab design could be improved upon, he thought that the wheels were too large and the passenger door being situated at the rear meant customers could leave without paying ! (which they did !) so he made the wheels much smaller, placed the driver's seat higher and moved the passenger door. The capital was provided by William and a patent was granted on 31st Dec 1836. The cabs were an enormous success, being lighter and only needing one horse they were less expensive to hire. They became a common sight on the London streets superseding the heavier 4-wheeled hackney carriage.

In 1837 a patent was granted to William for improvements in harness for draught and saddle horses. He also had a patent granted in 1849 for the design of a diaphragm to be used with a microscope. That same year, William was granted a patent for 'improvements in packing pistons, stuffing boxes, slides and other parts of machinery' *(sic)*.

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In 1848 Gabriel and William's father Gabriel died and was buried in the vaults of Old St.Pancras Church. By 1851 William is shown living at Rosa Villa, Ham Common in Surrey with a butler, housekeeper and cook in his service. In June 1855, William married a widow, Eliza Grant (née Coster, born 1821), whose late husband was Commander Arthur Grant RN, the youngest son of Sir Archibald 3rd Baronet of Monymusk. Arthur was a descendant of Sir Francis Grant (Lord Cullen) whom was appointed 1st Baronet of Monymusk for his contribution towards the legalities of the 1707 Act of Union between Scotland and England. William and Eliza were wed at the Holy Trinity Church in Marylebone, London. Eliza already had a daughter Adela Annie Churchill and a son Arthur Henry Grant. The following year, William and Eliza were blessed with their own daughter Mary Hodgson Gillett.

In 1860 they moved to Harefield House in Bitterne, near Southampton, by then a son William Arthur had been born, followed in 1864, by another son George Edward. The estate of Harefield mansion house would have been an ideal place for the children to grow up, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The estate consisted of over 200 acres, winding driveways led to the front of the seven bedroomed house, coach houses were sited nearby. The terraced gardens sloped down away from the house, a large ornamental pond could be viewed from the rear windows. The brick built farmhouse nearby had a garden and orchard alongside stabling for eight horses, a harness room, dairy, granaries, poultry houses, piggeries and a slaughter house. The water came from a Well, rain water was stored in a reservoir and ice was stored underground. In the grounds, an ornamental cow house had a starling roost perched on the top. On the higher ground stood an observatory with a revolving drum fitted with divisional opening (it could be surmised that William put this here).The Pheasantry in the nearby woods would have been of great interest to the young William. Peacocks were introduced which could sometimes be heard a mile away ! A 60 feet by 30 feet brick indoor riding school was built. In the service of the Gillett family was a nurserymaid, governess/tutor (when the children were young), butler, footman, lady's maid, cook, housemaid, kitchenmaid. The 1861 Census for England shows William's widowed mother Mary Ann staying with the family.

Here's an endearing story from 'Tales of Old West End' by C.M. Sillence :-

Did William Gillett know that when his Head Groom stopped off at the New Inn to quench his thirst, his pony went inside too and waited, laid out on the floor ?

William and Eliza's daughter Mary Hodgson Gillett married the Reverend Henry Eden Trotter in April 1877 at St.Peter's Church in Pimlico, London. Henry was then the Vicar of Christ Church in Northam, Southampton. The following year, in October, there was another wedding when Eliza Gillett's son, Lieutenant Arthur Henry Grant, married Captain Henry Sholto Douglas's eldest daughter Mary. At the time of their marriage Arthur was a Lieutenant in the 27th Regiment of Foot (Inniskilling), he resigned the same year and then joined the Hampshire Yeoman Cavalry. Arthur later inherited Monymusk and became the 9th Baronet.

Henry Sholto Douglas from nearby 'Moorlands' was, along with William Stedman Gillett, one of the principal landowners in the Bitterne area. Henry was a Captain of the 1st Battalion 42nd Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland), his late father was a Major General, Sir William Douglas, 11th of Timpendean and of Bonjedward, K.C.H.. In June 1883, one of Henry's younger daughters, Edith married William and Eliza Gillett's son William Arthur, at the Holy Saviour Church in Bitterne, the ceremony was performed by William Arthur's brother-in-law the Reverend Henry Eden Trotter. The veiled bride, Edith, carrying a spray of orange blossoms, wore a white brocade bodice and train over a petticoat of pearl embroidered satin. The wedding reception, held at 'Moorlands', was a grand affair, many gifts were bestowed upon the happy couple whom left early afternoon 'amidst the customary showers of rice and expressions of hearty good wishes' to spend their honeymoon in the Lake District.

William Stedman Gillett was on the building committee of St.John the Evangelist Church in the neighbouring parish of Hedge End. The church was consecrated in 1874, William donated a stained glass window for the chancel

St.John the Evangelist Church in Hedge End

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William Stedman Gillett died January 22nd 1886 aged 86, he is buried in St.John's Churchyard. His beloved wife Eliza had already passed away July 25th 1879 and lies besides him. William's personal estate amounted to £152,943 - a multi-millionaire by today's standards !

The Graves of William Stedman and Eliza Gillett lies in the Churchyard of St.John the Evangelist

The Reverend Charles Tudor Williams M.A. of St.James' Church in West End mourned his loss, in his 'Parish Notes', he wrote :- 'Mr Gillett's death has denied us of one who always was a good master, especially in times of sickness and a generous supporter of parochial charities'.

Henry Eden Trotter had gained his B.A. and M.A. at Oxford. After Northam, the Reverend Henry became the Vicar at Ardington and then between 1899-1914 was Rector at Whitchurch in Oxfordshire. Henry was acceded to Honorable Canon of Christ Church in 1913, a title usually awarded in recognition of long and dedicated service to the diocese. Henry and Mary Trotter had six children - Edith Mary, Evelyn Constance, Aubrey Robert Gillett, Ronald Herbert Gillett, Lilian Frances Gillett and Arthur Malcolm Gillett, the first two were born in the Vicarage, Northam.

Mary Hodgson and the Reverend Henry Eden Trotter (sitting) with newlywed daughter Lilian Frances Gillett Trotter and son-in-law Reginald Cecil Powys-Lybbe, May 1908

Image courtesy of National Portrait Gallery, London

www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw171694

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The above photograph was taken by Walton Adams, a professional photographer whom had a studio in Bernard Street, Southampton (in partnership with William Stilliard) then Blagrave Street in Reading. Thirteen Images associated with Walton Adams can be viewed in the photographic collections of the National Portrait Gallery.

William Arthur and Edith Gillett lived at Fair Oak Lodge in Hampshire. The 120 acre estate was described as a "sporting estate with fishing and shooting". The two large lakes, totaling seven acres, were known as Quobleigh Ponds. In the late nineteenth century a walled garden was created and four glasshouses erected, presumably by William, in 1900 his orchids won a silver gilt medal. The 1891 census shows William 'living on own means'. After his father William Stedman passed away, William still kept in contact with West End, farmer Albert Fray took part in his shooting parties (which helped to keep his rabbit population down !). During the summer months Albert travelled to Fair Oak Lodge for cricket and refreshments. Fair Oak Cricket Club is today one of the largest cricket clubs in Hampshire, its ground appears to be still within the original Fair Oak Lodge estate, one could make the assumption that this could be where Fair Oak cricket began. Edith lost her beloved husband William Arthur whom sadly passed away in August 1900, aged 40, then their only son, Reginald William, born in 1889, sadly died in 1908 at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital in Portsmouth. Fair Oak Lodge estate was subsequently purchased by the widow Edith's half brother-in-law Sir Arthur Grant of Monymusk.

William Arthur's brother George Edward Gillett married Eleanor Sarah Buston in November 1890 at St.Thomas Church in Winchester. At time of his father William Stedman's death in 1886, George is shown to be of Harefield, by 1891 he is 'living on own means' at Durley Lodge with his wife Eleanor (Nellie) and servants. Durley Lodge was not far away from Fair Oak. In 1911, George is described as 'Gentleman, Farmer, with private means' at Durley Lodge with Eleanor and a number of servants to take care of domestic duties - parlour maid, cook, two housemaids and a kitchenmaid. George tragically died September 1916 in a riding accident and is buried locally in the Churchyard of the Church of the Holy Cross. Eleanor Sarah died in April 1945 aged 79 and is buried with her husband.

Gabriel Edward Gillett, William Stedman's brother was Rector of St.Mary Magdalene Church in Waltham-on-the-Wolds for 40 Years. On his arrival, the church was in a poor state so he had the church interior gutted and refurbished, contributing to most of the cost. The Reverend Gabriel also built the Rectory and village school. Gabriel and Elizabeth had several children, eight sons and two daughters have been identified.

SAD NEWS

We have to report the sad news that two very good friends of the Society have passed away just before and during the period of lockdown, although not related to the pandemic.

John Woolley, grandson of Fred Woolley and generous benefactor to the Society having donated much archive material relating to his grandfather.

and

Ray Upson who passed away in November 2020

He was a stalwart of the Society and a founder member, as well as being responsible for publicity for the society and a regular volunteer at the museum

POPULATION CHANGES IN WEST END—Part One:

Sources and their Limitations

By Sue Ballard, PhD

How much has the population of West End changed over time? At first appearance, this seems like a relatively simple question, which we should be able to answer simply by looking at the census and doing some basic arithmetic. When we look into it, however, it becomes more complex and raises a lot more questions. How do we define West End – where exactly are the boundaries and did they change over time? Was population growth mainly organic (due to births within the existing population), or developmental (due to movements of population into the area)? Was it a steady flow or did changes happen at specific periods that can be identified with historical events? Was population change always a question of growth or were there periods of decline? How far back in time is it possible to go? And what more can population studies tell us about our local community?

Our earliest source is the survey, later dubbed the Domesday Book, commissioned by William I in December 1085 to assess the financial and military resources available under the threat of a Danish invasion and the first draft was completed by August 1086. The survey was based upon pre-existing Anglo-Saxon documents, which were supplemented by lists from every sheriff and tenant-in-chief of all the holdings in their territory as well as the numbers of men owing military service. Royal commissioners were then each assigned a territory in which they visited every manor or settlement, however small, to verify this information. Domesday Book utilised the Anglo-Saxon administrative unit of Hundreds – thought to originally have been an area covering a hundred hides. Many of these Hundreds remained administrative units into the modern period. The Domesday Survey shows that Mansbridge Hundred incorporated 16 named places, including Allington and Stoneham. Allington was held by William Alis and consisted of 3 hides with land for 5 ploughs. In lordship 1 plough. There were 11 villagers and 6 small holders with 7 ploughs, a church, 10 slaves and 2 mills worth 20 shillings each, 67 acres of meadow, grazing worth 30 pence and woodland for 20 swine. Its value before 1066 had been £15, later £7 and, in 1086, £6 and 10 shillings. Stoneham was held by the Bishop of Winchester and had been reduced from 5 hides of land in 1066 to 3 hides in 1086, when it had 11 villagers and 9 smallholders with 8 ploughs and 1 slave, 23 acres of meadow, 2 fisheries worth 39 pence and woodland for 20 swine. A hide was the amount of land considered necessary to support one family and could vary from around 60 to 120 acres depending upon the quality and productivity of the land. The reduction of South Stoneham from 5 hides to 3 hides between 1066 & 1086 may have been due to one of three factors: a decline in productivity, a redrawing of boundaries, or a change in how much produce was considered necessary to feed a family – or a combination of any of these. Being made for valuation purposes, Domesday Book tells us not just about the acreage and population density, but also about the distribution of wealth. The numbers of slaves, ploughs and mills are all indicators of wealth – but of course it was the landholder's wealth, not that of the people living there. In 1086 then, Allington with its church, mills and slaves was a reasonably valuable holding.

Since the Domesday Survey, there were no further systematic and comprehensive studies of the population until the decennial censuses were introduced in 1801 following the Population Act of 1800. The first four censuses were managed by John Rickman (1771-1840), who had first proposed a national census in 1796. Various issues had contributed to the necessity for a census, including the need to plan for war and the better management of industrial and agricultural production and distribution. The 1801-1831 censuses have been largely ignored by family historians because they do not detail individuals by name, but where they survive, they offer useful statistical information. Parish clergy were obliged to provide figures for baptisms, marriages and burials over the previous 10 years, while the Overseers of the Poor or "other substantial persons" were required to collect information answering three questions:

How many houses are there in your township, parish or place, by how many families are they occupied and how many houses therein are uninhabited?

How many persons (including children of whatever age) are there actually found within the limits of your township, parish or place, at the time of taking this account, distinguishing males and females, and exclusive of men actually serving in His Majesty's regular forces or militia, and exclusive of seamen either in His Majesty's service or belonging to registered vessels?

What number of persons in your township, parish or place are chiefly employed in agriculture, how many in trade, manufacture or handicraft, and how many are not occupied in any of the preceding classes?

We can see at once that these censuses were inaccurate, as a potentially large number of people were specifically excluded. The official report on the 1811 census by John Rickman in 1812 included a table showing estimates of the national population from 1700 until 1811, which had been based on parish birth and burial registers. This showed a decrease in population nationally between 1700 & 1710 followed by a steady increase until the population had almost doubled between 1710 & 1811.

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While it is tempting to think that West End may have followed the national pattern, we can see that these dates mark the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and much of the national population increase would be centred on the growing urbanisation of the industrial centres and the influx of Irish and other immigrant workers – by 1850 half the population lived in urban areas, working in factories or mines. However, Hampshire never developed much in the way of industry and remained largely rural, with the exception of shipbuilding at Buckler's Hard during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) and the Naval presence at Portsmouth. Land use statistics based on the 1831 census show that the majority of the population in Hampshire were engaged in agriculture (28,683), with rather less in retail and handicraft (23,164) and "other" occupational categories (22,572), with only 292 employed in industry. Although broad national trends may be seen in population figures for the period 1710-1811, they remain inaccurate; Rickman himself warned us in his report: "from the many alleged causes of deficiency in the Registry of Burials & Baptisms, it may be urged, that no safe deduction can be made there from."

The results of the 1811, 1821 & 1831 censuses in Hampshire survive and have been published, with population and employment data. As the ecclesiastical parish of St. James, West End was not created until 1834, it was not singled out as a community in censuses before 1841, so we have no information about the size of the village at that time, but there are figures for South Stoneham. In 1811, Portswood Tything (the sole representative of South Stoneham parish in that census) had a total of 359 inhabitants in 71 families, of which 10 families (14%) were chiefly employed in agriculture, 21 in trade, craft or manufacture and 40 families were not employed in either occupation. By 1821 the population had increased to 440 in 91 families, with 30 families (33%) chiefly employed in agriculture, 43 in trade, craft or manufacture and 18 families not employed in either occupation.

Source: Census of Great Britain, 1831, Abstract of the answers and returns made pursuant to an Act, passed in the

1831 census figures for South Stoneham					
Parish or Tithing	Total population	No. families	No. families chiefly employed in agriculture	No. families chiefly employed in trade, craft or manufacture	No. families not employed in either occupation
Allington	389	93	53	20	20
Barton & East-	70	13	10	3	0
Bitterne & Pol-	703	140	55	55	30
Shamblehurst	921	198	104	51	43

eleventh year of the reign of His Majesty King George IV. intituled, "An Act for taking an account of the population of Great Britain, and of the increase or diminution thereof." Enumeration Abstract. Vol. II. 1831 BPP 1833 XXXVII (149) 570.

The figures for 1831 show South Stoneham broken down into four tithings including Allington and Shamblehurst. Allington had 92 inhabited houses with 93 families forming a population of 206 males and 183 females totalling 389, with 53 families (57%) chiefly employed in agriculture, 20 families in trade, craft or manufacture and 20 families not employed in either occupation. This shows a distinct move toward farming as the chief employment locally. "Not employed in either occupation" could mean

that they were employed in some other way (clergymen, lawyers, doctors, teachers, prison guards, asylum keepers, clerks, fishermen, ferrymen, coachmen, servants, general labourers, etc.) or not employed at all (between jobs, vagrants, prisoners, patients, those on parish relief, army pensioners, merchants, those living on investments, landed gentry, etc.). There was also an assumption that a whole family were employed in the same occupation. "Chiefly employed" is the key phrase here, as many people in poorly paid or seasonal occupations, such as agricultural labourers, took casual work in other occupations to supplement the family income.

Censuses from 1841 onward detail individuals and offer much more information, including age, sex, occupation and place of birth, although these later censuses have their own problems. It is estimated that 5% of all households were missed from any given census (up to 10% in 1861). As 1841 was the first that was more than a simple head-count, no system had yet been established and enumerators were untrained, although they received written instructions. Henry Mayhew's 1851 study "London Labour & the London Poor", based on interviews with working people across the capital, blasted the national census as a means of understanding the population and the economy, stating that the 1841 census mentions no dustmen whatsoever, and that in London there were around 10,000 costermongers who were also ignored by the census. Much of the problem came from the way in which the early censuses classified different occupations. Mayhew declared: "I have so often had instances of the defects of this national numbering of the people that I have long ceased to place much faith in its returns connected with the humbler grades of labour."

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Census returns from 1841 onward were initially written onto forms (variously referred to as Census Forms, Enumeration Forms or Householders' Schedules) by the head of household and collected the next day by a visiting enumerator, who would complete the form himself if the householder was illiterate. The forms were then copied into preprinted Census Enumerators' Books by hand and the original forms were destroyed. This introduced two possible sources of error: (a) errors in recording the information on the form at the outset and (b) copyists' errors in transferring the information into the census book. Other problems with accuracy stem from evasive answers. There was a general suspicion of officialdom among the working poor due to fear of taxation, so information regarding occupation may be vague, wrong or even missing altogether. The ages of children may have been deliberately falsified to hide the fact that under-age children were working – younger than 9 under the Factory Act 1833 or younger than 10 in mines under the Mines Act 1842. Alternatively, children of any age who were working may not have had their occupation listed, again for fear of taxation.

The 1841 census simply required a Yes/No answer as to whether one was born in the same county but even so, answers are not always consistent with those of later returns for the same family. In this period, parishes were empowered to carry out settlement examinations to ensure people claiming parish relief belonged there and could forcibly remove them if they originated elsewhere. Many people claimed they were born in the place where they lived in order to avoid being moved on. Despite these issues, the censuses from 1841 onward are useful for a general understanding of the development of a local community.

What other sources do we have, then, for the population of South Stoneham and in particular West End and Allington? Parish registers for marriages, baptisms and burials were introduced in 1538 and are the main resource for family historians before the introduction of civil registration in July 1837. They have some limited use for population studies as statistical analysis of the numbers of births and burials within a parish over a given period can show broad rates of growth or decline as we saw with the 1812 Rickman report, but will not tell us anything about families or individuals moving into the parish or moving away. Most agricultural labourers were employed on a casual basis and moved from farm to farm looking for work and taking their families with them. The working population of West End would therefore have been in flux for much of its history and parish records would not tell us if a family later moved away.

Early directories can be helpful in studying local populations, although many listed only "people of quality". The entry for South Stoneham within the Hampshire section of the five-volume 1792 publication "Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce & Manufacture, comprising lists of the inhabitants of London, Westminster & Southwark and all of the Cities, Towns & Principal Villages in England & Wales" refers only to the houses "South Stoneham, the seat of Hans Sloane", and "Town Hill built by Nathaniel Middleton, Esq." and the "ingenious mills of Walter Taylor, Esq. for cutting blocks for His Majesty's Navy", thereby reducing the whole of South Stoneham to two gentlemen's residences and a mill or two. Presumably there were also farms, small-holdings, craftsmen's abodes and farm labourers' cottages that were not worthy of mention. The publication is valuable, however, for the reference to Taylor's "ingenious mills" for cutting blocks, suggesting that what we now know as Gater's Mill – and possibly Woodmill also – were water-driven saw mills at this time.

There are very few water-powered saw mills left today: Gunton Park in Norfolk, Gayle Mill in Wensleydale (Yorkshire) and Kirkdale in Scotland give an idea of how Taylor's mill would have worked. More usefully, from the mid-nineteenth century, directories published background information about the areas they covered, including acreage and population figures.

One of the earliest surviving local directories to publish population figures for West End is the 1855 Post Office Directory of Hampshire, which stated that the population of West End (3,000 acres) in 1851 was 3,346 and the population of Allington 485, giving a combined total of 3,831. Thereafter Allington is not listed separately. The centre of population had moved from Allington in 1086 to the new parish of West End.

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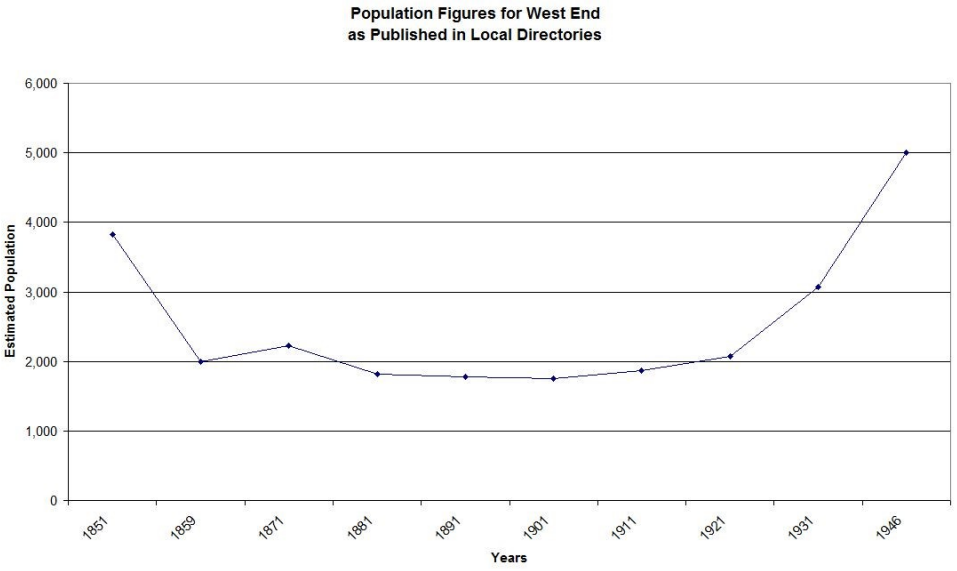
	Population of West End									
Source Directory	**1851**	**1859**	**1871**	**1881**	**1891**	**1901**	**1911**	**1921**	**1931**	**1946**
Post Office Hampshire 1855	3,831									
Post Office Hampshire 1859		c.2,000								
Harrod's Hampshire 1865	2,221									
Post Office Hampshire 1875			2,221							
Kelly's Hampshire 1887				1,817						
Kelly's Hampshire 1898					1,778					
Kelly's Hampshire 1911						1,751				
Kelly's Southampton & Neighbourhoods 1916/17 and 1920							1,871			
Kelly's Southampton & Neighbourhoods 1925 and 1932/32								2,072		
Kelly's Southampton & Neighbourhoods 1935/36 and 1940/41									3,071	
Kelly's Southampton & Neighbourhoods 1946 and 1948										c5000



It is clear that some of these figures were simply carried over from one publication to the next and one has to wonder upon which sources they were based. Researchers studying directories in other areas have shown that publishers used local agents to gather information and many simply copied data from previous publications without verifying or updating it. Nevertheless, taking these figures at face value and plotting them as a graph, we can see a sharp decrease in the population of West End from 1851 to 1859. There was another decrease between 1871 & 1881 followed by a more gradual decrease continuing until 1901 when a slow increase began, accelerating up to the end of World War Two, despite the losses of World War One.

What could have caused these two decreases in the population of West End? It is possible that the sharp decline between 1851 & 1859 may be due in part to epidemics. Although the main cholera epidemics in Southampton were in 1849 & 1865 (either side of the time in question), there had been cholera outbreaks nationally in 1853-1854 and an epidemic of diphtheria lasting from 1855 until 1857. However, figures from the Office for National Statistics show that despite these epidemics, the population of the UK as a whole increased from 27,368,800 in 1851 to 28,917,900 in 1861.

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It is likely that a contributory factor in the local population decline was that many farm labourers, at a time when agricultural wages were at their lowest, moved away in search of alternative employment. The docks at Southampton had been under constant development since 1842 and were always in need of labour. The London & Southampton Railway, later renamed as the London & South Western Railway, had opened in May 1840. The railways therefore opened up more possibilities either for employment on the railway itself or to migrate to London and beyond. The smaller population decrease between 1871 & 1881 is likely to be due to the Agricultural Depression which began around 1873 caused by the opening up of the American prairies to agriculture, which combined with cheap steamship transportation to result in cheap grain imports flooding the British market. Again, we would have seen farm labourers moving away to look for other work.

Boundary changes are also an important factor, so population figures from different points in time may not be directly comparable. The ecclesiastical parish of St. James, West End was formed out of South Stoneham in 1834, originally as a local chapelry to the mother church of St. Mary. One must assume that West End had a population of a reasonable size at this time, to justify the formation of its own ecclesiastical parish and the construction of its own church in 1836. This had 250 rented pews and 390 free seats, giving a minimum total of 640 parishioners. The civil parish of West End was created out of parts of the tithings of Shamblehurst & Allington when the Local Government Act of 1894 caused the 8,007-acre parish of South Stoneham to be broken up, yet the directory population figures for West End do not reflect an increase at this point.

We have seen, then, that the West End area has been populated since the Anglo-Saxon period when Allington was a reasonably wealthy settlement with its own church and two mills. After 1086 we have no further reliable sources for population studies before the nineteenth century, with the publication of local and national directories and the taking of the decennial censuses. Both sources have their problems and limitations. However, census data can tell us much about the population of West End during the Victorian period, which we shall look at in more detail in Part Two. (next issue)

"TO SERVE OR NOT TO SERVE?"

By Pauline Berry

In the 19th century the divide between the rich and poor in this country was very marked. Several large homes and a few mansions were built in West End village in the mid 1800's, and one either employed domestic servants or was one. With fewer opportunities for girls, compared to boys, they were often destined to become servants if they came from working class homes where money was short. The only alternative for them would be shop or factory work. Children could finish and leave school anytime before the Education Act of 1880, and hard strapped parents could send their daughter into domestic service from the age of 10 up. Employers in wealthy homes varied greatly from generous to meaness with wages, conditions and time-off. Some would deduct for breakages, meals or days off sick. As the late Bob Moody recorded in his book "I Remember, I Remember", some employers had trouble keeping their staff in the early 20th century. For a few shillings a week, staff would often work a 14 hour day, with only time off to go to church on Sundays.

Domestic duties for housemaids, for example, was to rise early, light the fires at six or seven am, heat water and carry it upstairs for the use of their employees and visitors, lay the breakfast table, clear away, wash up, make the beds all before the servants had their own breakfast, varying in quantity. Then came the days housework, dusting and scrubbing all floors throughout the house, helping the cook (if there was one), washing up the following meals and so on, until late evening when some would fall into bed, exhausted. Some servants would feel like prisoners, but they could give a month's paid notice or leave immediately without wages. No wonder, most districts complained of a 'servant shortage'. In larger households, if a housemaid was literate and a good needlewoman, she might hope to be promoted to housekeeper or lady's maid in time. That way, she could increase her annual salary from about £10 to £20 or more (1861).

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Fortunately, finding further employment was fairly easy to find in the 1800's, either by recommendation or visiting a servants registry office in Southampton, the equivalent of an employment agency today.

Male domestic servants were fewer and mainly worked in larger households where they would earn higher salaries than women. Above stairs, in 1899, men servants earned an average of £38, footmen £26 and Butlers (the top job) £58 per annum. In addition, tips were an important part of their earnings. Male servants were in demand to work on large estates, as gardeners, grooms etc..

Middle class houses in West End, such as those houses on Church Hill (Glen Lea, The Glen, Stoke View) and Moorhill Road (Pinewood, Firgrove House, The Lodge etc..) would normally employ 2-4 indoor servants for their homes. In the 1861 Census, Firgrove House (now part of Grosvenor Gardens) employed a footman, cook, housemaid, gardener and undergardener. In 1891, The Lodge, next door, a footman, three house servants, a governess, nurse (for an invalid) and coachman. The late Bob Moody recalled they had trouble keeping their servants in later years.

Mansions,owned by the rich, such as Townhill Park House (owned by Lord Swaythling at the turn of the 20th century), The Wilderness, Moorhill House employed larger staff numbers. The late Bob Moody recalled his 20 years as a gardener in the glasshouses and garden of Townhill Park House. He stated that the large staff (indoors 10 plus) had their own particular duties and there was rarely any mixing between the indoor and outdoor staff, except at Christmas. The staff were generally well-treated by their employer, sometimes travelling to his London home as part of their work.

'Shales', occupied by E.H.Brown, the Bishop of Winchester was situated on West End Road into Bitterne. He employed seven indoor staff and the gardener plus family lived in the separate lodge.

'SHALES' BUILT IN 1840 - DEMOLISHED IN 1984

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Like many West End villagers, the late Mrs Wavey Dumbleton worked as a cook in Hatch Grange in the 1920's and remembers her employers, Mr and Mrs W.F. Fletcher with affection. The kitchen was well equipped with many copper utensils and the larder always full of good food.

HATCH GRANGE IN 1928

WILDERNESS LODGE IN THE SNOW JANUARY 1960

Several of the larger houses, including those in Cemetery Road (now part of West End Road) had lodges built in their grounds for the gardener or coachman and families. Some, fortunately, still exist, like Glenbourne Lodge, Roselands Lodge, Hatch Lodge and Winslowe, and are now private homes or businesses. Unfortunately the days of Wilderness Lodge are numbered despite objections.

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Some domestic servants were lucky enough to have been given their own bedrooms, single or shared, with sometimes their own staircases to the next floor. (still to be seen in Glenbourne and Glenlea (Mylor today). C.B. Fry the famous cricketer and sportsman, occupied Glenbourne at the turn of the 20th century and employed a fashionable French cook. These live-in servants benefited from having free board and food, with no travelling expenses. Others preferred to live-out in their cottages scattered along West End's main roads, which gave them much more personal freedom.

TOWNHILL PARK HOUSE IN 1992 (now Gregg School)

Sadly, many of these larger middle-class houses, like The Wilderness, Hatch Grange and Firgrove House, have long gone. Some like Black House, Winslowe and Townhill Park remain in other forms and businesses. A few, such as Glen Lea, Glenbourne and Heather Mount remain as private houses.

EDWIN JONES .... The West End connection

By Nigel Wood

(Previously published in The Partnership newspaper 2011)

Edwin Jones, to many people of a certain age group the name is linked to the famous Southampton Department store, but he also had a connection with the village of West End.

Mr Edwin Jones originally came from Romsey and opened a small single fronted Drapers shop in East Street, Southampton with his sister and a 12 year old apprentice in 1858 (1933 was the 75th.Anniversary

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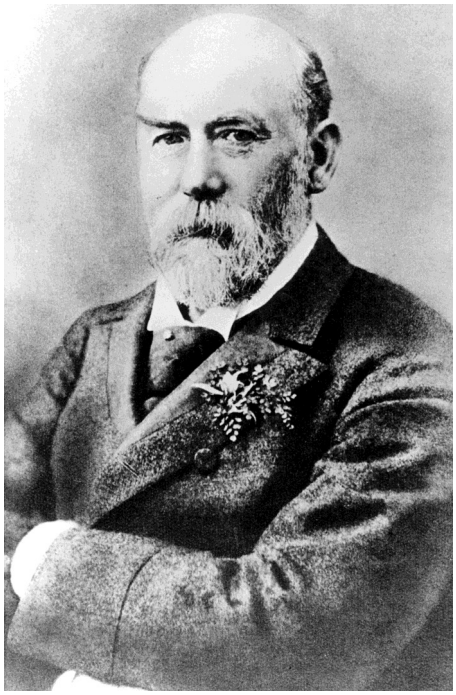
of the founding of the company). During the American Civil War (1861-1865) Edwin had the foresight to purchase large stocks of raw cotton and have them shipped to the Lancashire cotton mills. As a result of this he had a virtual monopoly for linen and cotton goods during the war and his business prospered accordingly. Edwin Jones was regarded as a fair employer and the company flourished and grew.



EDWIN JONES c.1900 and his store c.1935

By 1870 Edwin Jones was a Town Councillor and went on to become Mayor of Southampton in 1873 and again in 1875. By 1880 he had built a large new 'state of the art' Department Store, known Queen's Buildings. In 1890 he retired from the Council and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire but six years later he died, leaving behind a store, which was the largest and most important on the south coast.

Badly bombed and destroyed during World War Two, new premises took 5 years to build and were opened in 1959 on the same site. The company later merged with the United Drapers Trust and in 1973 the decision was made to adopt the single brand name of Debenhams. The department store known as Debenhams in Southampton is still in business today (as of 2011) and occupies the same location.

EDWIN JONES STORE

the post-war rebuild

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HAREFIELD HOUSE BEFORE THE FIRE IN 1915

In 1887 Edwin purchased the 270 acre estate and 18th century Elizabethan-style house known as Harefield, near St. James' Church in the parish of Westend. The house came complete with terraced gardens, an arboretum and ornamental ponds. Originally built in 1846 for Sir Edward Butler, the one-time chairman of the Southampton & Salisbury Railway Company, between 1861 and 1885 it was occupied by William Gillett who was responsible for building an indoor riding school. The house became the residence of Edwin and his wife from 1889 until Edwin's death in 1896. After his death, his widow Fanny Louisa (nee White) married a Dr. Thomas who had been left with four children when his wife died, and the new family all moved into Harefield House.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH

WEST END

On Sunday 6th May 1917, whilst the family was worshipping at St. James' Church it caught fire and was burned to the ground. After the fire the family sold off the estate and Mrs Thomas lived at Midanbury Lane until her death in 1918. By the 1920's the estate began to lose its otherwise rural character, with parts being built over by private enterprise, this began a long period of development. Southampton Corporation becoming heavily involved in resettlement following World War Two and by the early 1950's the estate was converted to housing and since 1954 no longer part of West End Parish (when the boundaries changed), but now part of Bitterne and therefore a suburb of Southampton.

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By the 1960's development was complete and the estate became that we see today. Edwin Jones was buried at the Old Burial Ground in West End where his memorial can still be seen today. In St. James' Church the magnificent east window was dedicated in 1897 to the memory of Edwin Jones, paid for by public subscription and the carved wooden pulpit was also presented to the church in 1897 in his memory.

EDWIN JONES MEMORIAL IN THE OLD BURIAL AT WEST END

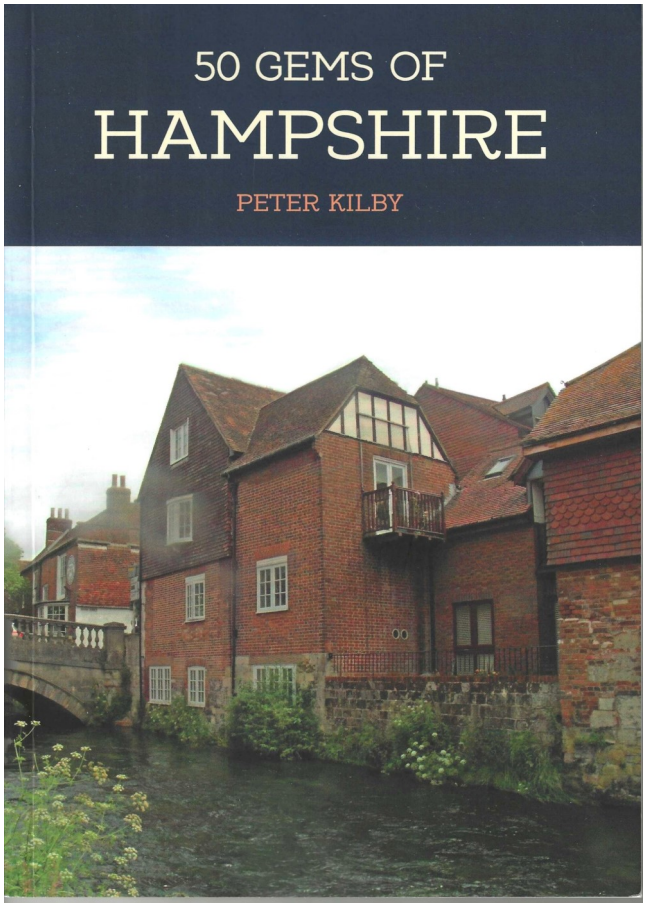
BOOK REVIEW

50 GEMS OF HAMPSHIRE

The History & Heritage of the Most Iconic Places

By Peter Kilby

The title "50 Gems of Hampshire" is an apt title for this book, for this is exactly what it is. Hampshire is most fortunate to have such a plethora of wonderful historic buildings and locations, along with some beautiful coastline. The images chosen for this book illustrate and compliment Peter Kilby's comprehensive text. The book is usefully divided into sections by area, i.e. The New Forest, Romsey & Test Valley, Winchester and the Itchen Valley, Southampton and Southampton Water and Portsmouth/East Hampshire. The text contains a wealth of background information on the different locations as well as a host of fascinating and informative historical facts. An excellent read for local people as well as those new to the area. This book would make an excellent gift.



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RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard

"Banana Pecan & Chocolate Cake"

Covid lockdown has seen a massive increase in home baking and banana loaf has been reported as one of the most popular bakes, possibly because it is one of the easiest and most reliable as well as using up over-ripe bananas. During World War Two, however, bananas were impossible to obtain. In November 1940 it was announced that no more licences to import bananas would be granted and stocks would last only until 2nd December. A recipe for a Mock Banana sandwich filling was created using mashed boiled parsnips, caster sugar and artificial banana essence. Bananas did not reappear in Britain until January 1946, when the first cargo reached Bristol and went on sale to the under-18s.

Bananas are native to Southeast Asia. Researchers believe that they were grown in India by about 500 BC and China by about AD 200, being introduced to Madagascar and thence to Africa by the Arabs. The first record of a banana in England was in 1633. However, their sheer expense precluded them from general consumption until the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The majority of commercially grown bananas for export are now all descended from those grown on the Cavendish estate at Chatsworth in the Peak District, where William Cavendish 6th Duke of Devonshire's head gardener, Joseph Paxton, planted a specimen imported from Mauritius in the 1830s. Cavendish bananas were sent to various parts of the Pacific for cultivation during the 1850s and in 1888 Thomas Fyffe began importing bananas from the Canary Islands which have proved to be a dwarf variety of Cavendish bananas. Cavendish bananas became predominant in the 1950s when Panama Disease, a fungal infection, devasted the dominant commercial variety. However, recent studies have shown that Panama Disease has started affecting the Cavendish cultivars on which the world's production now relies. Bake banana cakes while you can!

My adaptation of Nigel Slater's Black Banana Cake recipe:

2½oz / 75g pecan halves

6oz / 175g butter, softened

6oz /175g light muscovado sugar

2 large eggs, beaten

6oz / 175g self-raising flour

2 over-ripe bananas

100g pack of dark chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to Gas 3 /170C / 150 fan.

Grease an 8in x 5in (20cm x 12cm) loaf tin. Line the bottom of the tin and dust the sides with flour.

Set aside 8 undamaged pecan halves. Lightly toast the remaining pecans in a dry frying pan; let them cool completely then grind them in a coffee grinder or pestle and mortar.

Beat the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy.

Add the eggs a little at a time and fold in the flour and ground pecans.

Mash the bananas and fold them into the cake batter with the chocolate chips.

Place the batter in the prepared tin and arrange the reserved pecan halves on top.

Bake for about 1hr, covering with foil after 40 minutes to ensure the nuts do not burn.

Remove from the oven when a skewer comes out clean. Cool in the tin before transferring to a rack.

NOTES: This recipe keeps well wrapped tightly in foil. It is also suitable for home freezing in slices. I would not recommend using mock banana for this recipe!