

WESTENDER

IN OUR 21st YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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past for your future....*

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FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Our picture shows Quob farmhouse shortly after it was built and occupied by Fred Woolley. In later years it was divided into flats and the land around it built on for housing. Sadly this once elegant building has now recently been demolished to make way for yet more housing.

Due to the current situation regarding the Covid - 19 outbreak .

Following Government guidelines, we feel the society must behave responsibly and not hold any large meetings. We have therefore taken the decision to postpone our monthly meetings until next year, and for the time being close the Museum until further notice.

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



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THE REDOUBTABLE MISS MOODY

By Sue Ballard, PhD

Miss Moody is a familiar and well-respected figure of West End's twentieth century history, having been actively involved in the local community for most of her life and part of a large extended family, with many aunts, uncles and cousins in the village. However, her immediate family was small and ended with her.

Winifred Lucy Moody was born at West End on 16th August 1899 and seems to have had a shaky start. She was the youngest child of William & Laura Moody and the parish magazine for November 1899 shows that she was baptised privately on 6th September, being formally received into the Church on 1st October. This entry tells us that she must have been a weak baby or became gravely ill in the first few weeks after her birth. In this period, sickly babies were given a private baptism at the time of birth or shortly afterward, to ensure burial in consecrated ground if it were thought they may not survive. When they were stronger and deemed likely to survive, a ceremony was held in the church to formally welcome them into the Christian community. Winifred was one of only three children. Her siblings, Elsie Millicent and William Victor, were ten years and seven years older than Winifred respectively. Elsie never married and died at the age of twenty-two.

Winifred's father, William Moody, was born on 15th December 1864 and baptised at St. James, West End on 12 February 1865, the second son of Benjamin Moody, and his wife Eliza Reeves, a farm labourer's daughter, who had married at St. James' Church, West End in 1856.



WINIFRED'S PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER, ELIZA MOODY NÉE REEVES

Benjamin, a farm labourer's son from Moorgreen, worked hard to build up his family fortunes. The 1844 tithe map shows that his own father, William Moody senior, rented a cottage and garden totalling 38 perches (just under a fifth of an acre) in Burnetts Lane. Beginning as a farm labourer himself, Benjamin was living with his parents in Burnett's Lane in 1851. By 1861 he was a master gardener and in 1871 was a market gardener at Berry Wood Farm and could afford to employ a single female domestic servant. In 1881 the family were living at Gravel Pit Farm and Winifred's father William, now aged 16, and his younger brother Albert Charles were employed as gardeners by their father. The museum archive holds a lease dated 1887 in the name of Benjamin Moody for the lease of Hickley Farm, South Stoneham from the Provost of Queens College Oxford for 7 years from Michaelmas 1887 at a rent of £175.

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William Moody married Laura Amelia Skeats in 1884. Laura was the daughter of Thomas & Louisa Skeats from the borders of Somerset and Dorset. Thomas Skeats was a widowed labourer when he married the fatherless Louisa Bound at Castle Cary in 1854. In 1861 the Skeats family were living at Adber, a tiny hamlet on the Somerset border 4 miles northwest of Sherborne, Dorset and Thomas was working as a farm labourer. The places of birth of their children show that sometime between 1861 and 1864, the family moved to Bashley in the New Forest and then to Lymington, where Laura Amelia (known to her family as Millie) was born in 1867. The family then moved to Allington, where their youngest child was born in 1870. By 1871 they were living in Bishopstoke, where Thomas was a general labourer. In 1881 the family were living in Burnetts Lane and Thomas was a gardener, which is perhaps how Millie met William Moody. It is not clear why the Skeats family moved to Hampshire. It is almost 55 miles from Adber to Bashley – a long way to travel for a labourer seeking work.

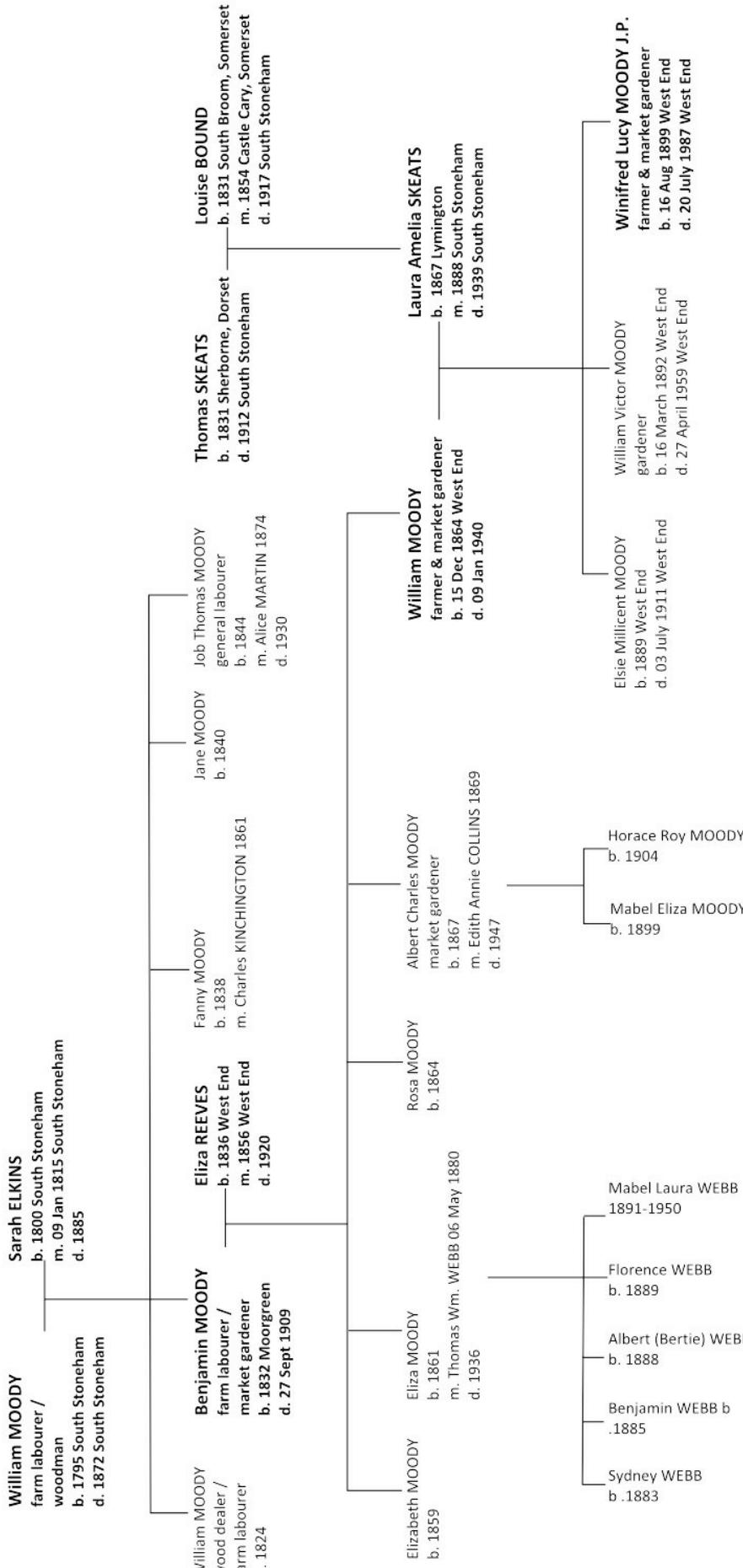
The 1891 census shows William & Laura Amelia Moody living in Gravel Pit Lane, West End with 11-year-old Elsie, 9-year-old William Victor and baby Winifred. In 1911 their address is shown as Dog Kennel Lane. A report in the Hampshire Independent of 26th May 1917 lists William Moody of Kenilworth Farm as a Committee Member of the West End Rat & Sparrow Club (see Westender Volume 12, No.1) and a Collector responsible for receiving and paying for rats, house sparrows and sparrow eggs. This news item is the earliest reference I have found to the Moody family residence being called Kenilworth Farm.



WINIFRED WITH HER MOTHER LAURA AMELIA (MILLIE) MOODY NÉE SKEATS – & WITH DOG

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FAMILY TREE OF MISS WINIFRED LUCY MOODY

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Winifred Moody had a busy and active life in West End's community. Strangely, she is rarely mentioned in the parish magazine apart from her baptism and winning a 4th Class Certificate with Honours in Drawing when she was 10 years old. Yet her family were all baptized at St. James' church and were devoutly Christian. The Hampshire Chronicle of 30 September 1905 reported that her father was one of six local men prosecuted for non-payment of the portion of the poor rate used for education on the grounds that it paid for sectarian education "contrary to the word of God". Nothing is heard of Winifred's mother except for her regular donations of "illustrated papers" (magazines) to the workhouse between 1918 & 1922.

In contrast to the rest of her family, who remain obscure, Winifred herself was frequently mentioned in the newspapers, chiefly for her singing. The Hampshire Advertiser of 22nd April 1922, reporting on an organ recital at Lyndhurst Church described the soloist Winifred Moody as possessing a "remarkably fine soprano voice" and on 7th October 1922, in another concert at Lyndhurst Church she was reported as possessing a "cultured soprano voice". In September of that year she was billed as the soprano performing in a Grand Concert at the Guildhall in Winchester under the patronage of Lord & Lady Swaythling, supporting the "famous Jugo-Slavian violinist" Miroslav Shlik. The Peartree Choral Society held its inaugural concert in February 1923 with a 40-strong choir, supported by "the celebrated violin virtuoso Miroslav Shlik and Miss Winifred Moody, the well-known local soprano." She performed with Shlik again in May 1923 at an orchestral concert held at the Southampton Coliseum with Mr Franz Somers' School of Music. In July of that year she performed at Burley parish church and in August at Netley Castle Fete, in aid of St. Edward's Church Roof Fund, she was recalled for an encore. Concerts and recitals abounded throughout the 1920s and 1930s, including a Christmas Day recital at South Stoneham Union Workhouse in 1923, when she sang in "a bright accomplished manner" and a Botley Choral Society Concert in May 1924.

She also gave solo performances of hymns at Hedge End in 1931 and 1933 for meetings of The Brotherhood, a non-conformist sect which had originated in 1875 in the West Midlands as A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Society, also known as the Men's Own Brotherhood, "to teach a 'democratic religion' leading to a 'practical Christianity' full of love and good works" and holding "bright, open meetings" each Sunday afternoon with hymn singing, other musical contributions and talks intended to appeal to men who would not normally attend church. The Brotherhood established itself in Basingstoke in 1899 and spread throughout Hampshire, reaching its peak in 1912 but declining over the next ten to twenty years. Between 1933 & 1940 Winifred trained the Hedge End Girls Friendly society and accompanied them on the piano at various performances, while the museum archive holds a programme from a concert in aid of the Southampton Children's Hospital Jubilee Trust dated 1935, which features Miss Winifred Moody as the soprano. During this inter-war period, Miss Moody was in her twenties and early thirties, single and carefree, and clearly enjoyed indulging her love of music, which ranged from classical and ecclesiastical works to popular hymns and folk songs.

There is a distinct absence of such reports from 1939 onward. Winifred's mother died in the spring of 1939 and was buried at St. James' on 25th April. On 3rd September, war was declared. The 1939 Register, taken on 29th September, shows Winifred living at Kenilworth House with her widowed father, who at the age of 75 was still a farmer and market gardener. Winifred's brother 48-year-old William Victor was still single and assisted his father on the farm. Interestingly, the 1939 Register records his birth as 16th March 1893 while Winifred's is given as 16th August 1900 – each one year later than they actually were. Winifred's occupation is recorded both as "unpaid domestic duties" (looking after the house) and as her father's secretary. The column for recording voluntary war work shows her as a Representative for the Women's Land Army. Nothing is recorded for William Victor.

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KENILWORTH HOUSE FROM THE AIR

Less than six months later, her father died on 19th February 1940 after a short illness. His probate record shows that he left his entire estate, amounting to £19,621 12s 5d (equivalent to approximately £1,079,000 today) to Winifred Lucy Moody. From this date onward, directories show Kenilworth House in the name of Miss W. Moody, farmer. Her brother William Victor is not found in any further records until his death at the age of 67 on 27th April 1959, leaving £10,900 6s 7d (equivalent to about £255,500 today) to Winifred. He had never married, so Winifred was the last of her immediate line. We may only speculate as to why their father left everything to Winifred and not to her elder brother. How likely is it that William Victor had a major quarrel with his father, yet never left home? If he was a reprobate, we would expect to see reports of escapades in the newspapers, yet he is never mentioned. Was William Victor disabled in some way, which would prevent him from managing the farm? Neither the 1901 or 1911 census records show a disability (deaf & dumb, blind, lunatic or imbecile) for William Victor, although it is possible that the family did not want to admit to one. Perhaps he was injured during the First World War. He would have been 22 years old at the outbreak of World War One. However, I have been unable to find a military record for him (although many were destroyed or fragmented in the World War Two Blitz) and farmers were a reserved occupation in the First World War, so it is likely that he did not serve in the armed forces at all. The question of why was he disinherited remains unanswered and the fact remains that the farm was inherited and managed by Winifred. Her time working as her father's secretary now paid dividends as she already had much of the skills and knowledge she would require. Three major events within a twelve-month period left Winifred running the farm and implementing major changes under the direction of the War Agricultural Committee while coping with the death of both parents. News reports now took a more serious turn and show how she stepped up to the mark to manage the business and engage with the community in an entirely different way than hitherto.

The Hampshire Telegraph of 12th February 1943 lists her as the Botley representative of the Salisbury & District Branch of the National Growers' Association, when she argued for the adjustment of prices to meet both the increased cost of production and the increased cost of living. In 1944, Miss Moody was the Honorary Secretary of the Botley Horticultural Branch of the National Farmers' Union and in May 1959 she presided over their meeting to discuss the Horticulture Grant, which was discussed again in October at a "Food Forum" hosted jointly by the Botley and Wickham branches, at which Miss Moody again presided.

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This object of discussion was the proposed Horticulture Bill 1959, which sought to restructure the system of marketing and distribution of fruits and vegetables to make it more efficient and cost effective. At the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stated: "if growers are to increase their share of what the consumer is prepared to pay, they must grow what the public wants and present it so that it moves easily and cheaply through the processes of marketing and distribution." In a minor echo of her situation in 1940, Winifred Moody had to cope with major structural changes in her business while in mourning for her brother and facing a future alone.

The museum archive holds papers dated 1952 which list Miss Moody, Kenilworth House as Auxilliary Secretary for the RSPCA in West End. In February 1956, Miss W.L. Moody was on the team of the Botley, Hedge End & West End Conservatives at their "Any Questions" session held in Botley, at which she suggested a long-term policy of saving money by not building trunk roads "which ruined the countryside and people"; she gained little support. In June of that year, she was re-elected as Chairman of Moorgreen League of Friends, a position she held until at least April 1958, when she received on their behalf the gift of a 20lb chocolate Easter Egg decorated with marzipan rosebuds and leaves. Miss Moody also found time to serve on the Rural District Council from about 1945 and as a Justice of the Peace from at least 1948; directories list her with both responsibilities until at least 1964. In 1970 she is listed simply as "farmer" – taking it easy at last!



**MISS MOODY PERFORMING CIVIC DUTIES AT WEST END CRICKET PAVILION c.1957.
(COURTESY MARY HALIFAX)**

Winifred Lucy Moody died at the age of 88 on 20th July 1987. Her probate record shows that she left an estate worth £235,877 – equivalent to £895,000 (relative to per capita GDP) and £1,053,000 (relative to total economic output) in today's money. The Moody family's story is a quite rare one of rags to riches, moving from farm labourers to substantial landowners in three generations through sheer hard work.

JOHN PICKARD, STEWARD OF TOWNHILL PARK ESTATE

By Paula Downer

The Sales Particulars for the late Nathaniel Middleton esquire's
Estate dated 1808 described Town Hill Park as :-

A Capital and Very Valuable Estate and Noble Mansion Seated in a fine Park of 400 acres
Consisting of Extensive Manors of Shamblehurst or Town Hill and Allington
With Various Farms Contiguous, Extensive Wastes and Valuable Demesne Woods

A number of estates in Britain were bought by wealthy East India Company men upon their return from India (if they had survived the wars, perils and diseases) as a means of securing an income to live on such as the lease of land and housing. A large estate was a valuable asset. To manage Town Hill Park estate Nathaniel Middleton employed Yeoman John Pickard. As Steward John Pickard was responsible for the efficient running of the estate and its day to day administration. He collected rent from the tenants, kept a log of repairs done to buildings, fences, roads, kept records of livestock, crops and game animals, paid the estate workers their wages. John Pickard held the lease to several acres of the estate himself thereby had more incentive to run the estate profitability, his reward being a comfortable living for himself and his family. On the social scale a Yeoman was considered to be one step down from landed gentry.



Petworth House in West Sussex has a fine example of a Steward's Estate Office

On Town Hill Estate, several acres of land were identified as being in the occupation of Mr John Pickard :-

In the Manor of Allington, to the N.E. of Town Hill Park :-

The Steward's House, recently built, neat, uniform brick and slated messuage with right and left wings, flight of stone steps to front door. Steward's Room in right wing, approached from yard by flight of stone steps. Cellar under. Two principal and two smaller Bed Chambers and Dressing Room on first floor. Two Garrets (rooms) and Store above first floor, underneath roof.

To the rear of the house - weather-boarded and tiled Fuel House, 3-stall Nag Stable and Cow House, Barn with oak threshing floor adjacent to Allington lane, Chaise (Carriage) House, Piggery, Garden, Orchard, piece of Meadow.

In the Manor of Town Hill :-

Small Farmhouse, timber built, brick underpinned, panelled, thatched.

2-bay Barn/Stable, thatched, Cart Lodge, thatched, Wheat Stand on five stone props and caps. Orchard, Meadows, Arable fields (32 acres).

Adjacent to Hatch Farm Freehold held by Messrs Gater and Pickard :-

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Paddocks, Meadows adjoining Hatch Farm (39 acres).

Part of Thomas's Farm (19 acres) including Farmhouse, brick panelled, tiled. 2-bay Barn, timbered, weather-boarded, thatched. Garden, Copse, Meadow.

Great Allington Farm On lease to Mr John Pickard for 14 years from 1808 at £500 per annum :-

Large Farmhouse part brick built, panelled, tiled with a handsome brick built, tiled building fronting Yard, two neat Chambers on first floor.

Long brick and tiled building containing two 6-stall Stables with Hayloft above.

2-bay Barn/Rick House, tiled.

Granary on stone props/caps.

4-bay Barn, tiled with good oak threshing floor.

3-bay Barn, next to Yard, Chaff Houses (*storing husks from threshed grain crop, for animal feed*), brick built, tiled. Stable for Colts at one end.

Cow House, timber built, weather-boarded, thatched.

Calves Pens.

Fothering (*fodder*) House, timber built, weather-boarded, thatched.

Large Waggon Lodge, timber built, weather-boarded, thatched.

Fuel House, timber built, weather-boarded, thatched.

Piggeries.

Circular brick Rick Stand and Frame *Harvested corn crops stored in Ricks to await threshing*

Above standing on at least 270 acres with Meadows, Pastures, Copses.

Adjacent to Wildern Farm 17 acres, three New Enclosures for three named Lives (*) :-

Small Farmhouse, brick panelled, thatched.

Offices - timber built, weather-boarded, thatched.

Small 2-bay Barn.

Straw House, Stabling for six horses.

Waggon and Cart Lodges.

Wheat Rick Stand on stone props/caps.

(*) *3 named Lives meant that 3 named individuals were in a queue to take over the tenancy upon a death. Normal practice was to renew each life upon payment of a fine.*

Wildern Farm :-

On lease to Mr John Pickard for a term of 21 years from November 29th 1797 at £25 per annum.

77 acres of land including House, Offices, Yard, Garden, Pond and Drove.

New Inclosures :-

Extensive area of New Inclosures (180 acres) inclosed and cultivated at great expense by John Pickard, with Tenancy for three Lives (John Pickard, George Pickard, Jane Pickard) fixed at a rent of £18 17s for the first life (John), for second life (George) a rent of £28 5s 6d and for third life (Jane) a rent of £47 2s 6d. This meant security for John Pickard's dependents.

Moorgreen :-

Cottage, brick panelled, thatched with Chambers above, Lean-to attached behind. Cow House.

John Pickard would have toured the estate on horseback, a tenant had to keep his property in good order, repairs were inspected. New buildings were examined as they went up. The Steward may have had disputes between tenants to settle. He also hired and fired tenants/workers. Tenants from outside the area, seeking to rent land on the estate needed a reference from their current landlord, especially if they desired a landholding with a 21 year lease. Their character, reliability and husbandry skills were vetted.

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John and Elizabeth Pickard had five children :-

John, born 26th July 1785

George, christened 16th January 1787

Jane, christened 29th August 1788

Edith, christened 21st June 1790

Elizabeth, christened 3rd March 1792

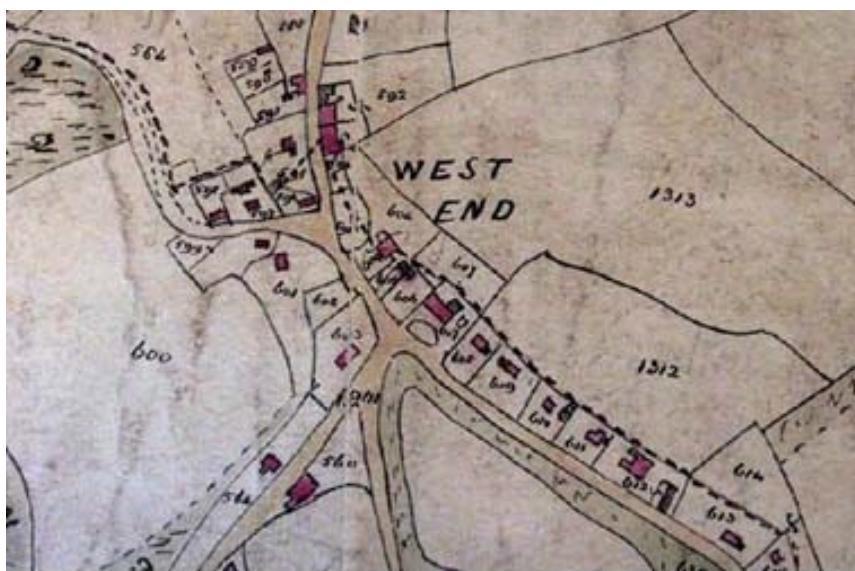
Daughter Edith Pickard married Land Proprietor James How esquire of Brook House, Isle of Wight on 23rd Feb 1813.

John Pickard, Steward, died 1818-19, a copy of his Will proved June 1819, can be viewed at the Hampshire Record Office.
John left his dear wife £50 to be paid soon after his decease, a sum of £80 payable half yearly during her natural life and all his household goods, furniture, plate and china from his dwelling house. To each of his three daughters he left a sum of £1,000 to be paid within three years.

The eldest son John Pickard rose to the status of Gentleman, his father had left him the sum of £1,500 and property in his Will (£1,500 is worth over £100,000 today).

Eldest daughter Jane Pickard married Charles Smith in South Stoneham on 7th June 1821. A document in Hampshire Archives identifies a Yeoman Charles Smith of Mayles Farm, Wickham in Hampshire, the 1841 Census for England show Jane as his wife, presumably this is Miss Jane Pickard of South Stoneham. The 1841 Census also shows James and Edith How with Edith's mother Elizabeth and siblings John and Elizabeth Ann in West End, it is not apparent whether James and Edith were living there or whether they were visitors, a horizontal line has been entered into the column where their occupations would have been detailed. Elizabeth Pickard, the mother, died during the last quarter of 1844 (ref. bmd website). In her Will she bequeathed her daughter Elizabeth Ann her property and personal effects. It appears that the Will was made shortly after purchase of a messuage (dwelling house and outbuildings) with garden from Charles Edmund Andrews and others (unnamed). The household goods and furniture were equally divided between the three daughters.

The 1845 South Stoneham Tithe Map show a Elizabeth Pickard as owner and occupier of Plot No.604 containing a House and Garden, a contemporary map show this to be situated in Swaythling Road, in the vicinity between the Crown & Thistle public house (now Master Builder) and the New Inn (since demolished).



Extract from the 1845 South Stoneham Tithe Map showing location of Plot No.604

Edith How died February 3rd 1846 aged 56, she is buried with several members of the How family in a tomb in St.Mary's Churchyard, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight ; see www.foncc.org.uk.

The 1851 Census for England show James How, now aged 73, as a Farmer and Land Proprietor at Brook, Isle of Wight.

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Elizabeth Ann is shown as Land Proprietor in the 1851 Census for England. John and his sister Elizabeth Ann never married, the 1861 Census show them sharing a house in an unnamed private road in West End. John Pickard died 6th April 1865 aged 80, Elizabeth Ann Pickard died 24th February 1869 aged 77. They are buried in the same grave in St.James' Churchyard in West End, Hampshire.



The Gravestone of Siblings John and Elizabeth Ann Pickard in St.James' Churchyard



Footstone with initials J.P AND E.A.P.

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Headstone (rear) and Footstone define the plot boundary

John Pickard, Steward, may have had a sister Edith, the South Stoneham Parish Register details the marriage of Edith Pickard to Samuel Laver on 1st November 1783.

What happened to George Pickard ? does anyone know ? According to his father's Will dated July 1818 George was in line to inherit property along with his brother John. The Will makes a reference to freehold estates held at Wildern and nearby Botley Holmes.

OBITUARY

The following message has recently been received from one time West End resident and retained fireman retained at the West End Fire Station, he now lives in Norfolk:

... "I have just learnt of the following sad passing, Michael (Mike) Smith former Westend Fireman of Chapel Road. Served January 1974 'till the Station closure in January 1996. Passed away 15th. September 2020".

SOME PERSONALITIES FROM WEST END'S PAST

By Nigel Wood

Considering that once West End was but a sleepy little village, it has certainly had more than its share of prominent people, who have either lived here or were born here. This is just a small selection of some of them:



Richard St. Barbe Baker was a West End man born and bred. His father John Richard St. Barbe Baker started a Nursery at *The Firs* in Beacon Road, West End after using the ground for sand and gravel extraction. Born in 1889, Richard served in the Horse Artillery during the Great War, where he was wounded. His claim to fame is that he formed the *Men of the Trees* organisation whilst working in Kenya in 1922. This grew into a major environmental force whose aim was re-afforestation as a means to combat the world's advancing deserts. An influential force, he was friend of Kings and Presidents around the world and one of his many triumphs included the preservation of the Pacific Redwoods in the USA in conjunction with John Muir. The organisation has long since been renamed and is today known as The International Tree Foundation and is still very active in the field of tree planting and environmental issues.



Arthur Henry Rostron was Captain of RMS *Carpathia* on that fateful night of 14th/15th April 1912 when RMS *Titanic* struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic on her maiden voyage and sank with the loss of 1,523 lives. Captain Rostron was responsible for saving all 706 survivors, he was feted both with a knighthood by Britain and many other awards including the Congressional Medal of Honour by America. In later life after a distinguished career he rose to become Commodore of the Cunard Line and moved to West End around 1927 and bought a house at the top of Chalk Hill. He retired from the sea in 1931 and died of illness in 1940 and is buried in the Old Burial Ground by the War Memorial along with his wife Minnie.



Edwin Jones although not born in West End, lived at Harefield House in the late 19th century (the grounds of which are now a housing estate). At that time Harefield, Thornhill and parts of Bitterne were all incorporated into the Parish of West End. Edwin was famous for his Department store in Southampton (now Debenhams) and was a very enlightened and thoughtful employer. On his death he was buried in the Old Burial Ground, where his memorial can be seen today.

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Harriett Haselfoot, born in 1803 came from Essex. She was a very wealthy lady inheriting her husband's fortune on his death, she moved to West End complete with servants and bought the house called *Moorhill* where the Reservoir is now in Moorhill Road (not to be confused with the present house of that name). She lived to 97 years of age and spent much of her fortune in acts of generosity towards the people and village around her. Amongst other deeds she purchased the land, paid for an Infants School to be built by local builder Haines Bros in 1871 (now the site of Old School Gardens) and ran it for a number of years as a Dames School for local children, she also contributed large amounts of money to rebuilding St. James' Church in West End and St. Johns' Church in Hedge End. She died 19th September 1900.



Brigadier General George Henry Gater was the son of William Henry Gater of Winslowe House, West End; born in 1886 was educated at Winchester and Oxford and in the Great War he joined the Army and in the short space of five years became the youngest Brigadier General in the British Army. Destined for promotion to even higher rank had the war continued, he was demobilised on 18th January 1919 taking up his civilian career as Director for Education for the County of Lancaster. He was badly wounded in the mouth and ear in 1917 at Messines and again the following year with a machine gun wound below the shoulder at the Aisne. For his service in the Great War he was highly decorated, including the DSO with bar, C.M.G, as well as the Croix de Guerre and Legion of Honour from the French. He played an important part in halting the German advance in 1918 and was always a leader "that led from the front", a very brave man.



Melita Norwood (nee Sirlis) came to prominence for all the wrong reasons - she lived at Thornhill (then part of West End parish) and went to St. James' School at Hilldene in the 1920's. She was unmasked as a KGB spy, who had spied for Russia during the "Cold War" period and before. The Government decided not to prosecute her due to her advanced years (she was 87 years old). She next appeared in the Times Obituary column on Tuesday 28th June 2005, which gave news of her passing away aged 93 on June 2nd 2005.



Melita in a circa 1922 school photo taken at St. James' School, West End

A WARTIME SECRET IN WEST END

By Nigel Wood
(reprinted from a 2009 article)

A very interesting and unusual acquisition came the way of the West End Museum some while ago. Mr Roger Sherlock very kindly donated items from his collection of the German Heinkel III crash artefacts, excavated from a field at Allington Manor Farm some years ago. Amongst the more easily identifiable items are; pieces from the instrument panel, a harness buckle, part of a machine-gun sight, door catch, parts of the Perspex windscreen and several exploded 7.92mm cartridge cases.



GERMAN HEINKEL III

The background to the story of the Heinkel III crash, provided by Roger Sherlock of West End and Nigel Parker of Oxford, concerns the German Luftwaffe bomber force of 62 aircraft aiming to bomb Southampton and its surroundings, amongst other targets, on January 19th 1941. Their mission was successful, starting 14 fires in Southampton, killing one person and injuring several others. Much industrial damage was caused at the Railway Works at Eastleigh and a First Aid party of five was reported as killed.

The German plane that came to grief in West End was reputedly hit by a shell from the Quob Lane No.310 Anti-Aircraft Battery at 8.45pm. The plane broke up in the air, one wing and a tail falling two miles away from the main wreckage. The Heinkel crashed and exploded in the field, all five of the German crew perished. The wireless operator, whose notebook provided our War Ministry with much useful information had managed to bale out early but his parachute failed to open.

Our Society's late President, Bob Moody, was involved as a Special Constable in 1941 and recalled seeing the bodies in the temporary morgue behind the old Parish Hall (now the site of the In-Excess store) on the corner of Chapel Road.

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The surnames of the German air-crew were; Lindhorst (pilot), Radke, Krause, Karzel and Enslin, their remains were eventually buried in the German War Cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire.



AERIAL VIEW SHOWING THE WEST END ANTI AIRCRAFT GUNSITE AT QUOB LANE

Information gleaned from the Ministry of Defence years later revealed that the Heinkel was in fact carrying a "Most Secret" navigation system devised by the Germans. The notebook found in the dead Wireless Operator's pocket confirmed that the "BENITO" radio beam system was being used by the navigator to pinpoint with deadly accuracy, its British bombing targets. Unfortunately, the MOD pulped this fascinating piece of evidence along with the other cumbersome wartime records in the mid-1970's! Luckily, however, we now have a copy of the original report of their findings.

Nigel Parker has in his possession one of the shell cases which reputedly brought down this enemy plane. As part of our war-time collection in the Museum Archives we also have many 1970's black and white photographs of the remains of the Quob Lane Anti-Aircraft site (before it was covered with Motorway spoil).

World War 2 is part of West End's history, unavoidably so, since we were sandwiched between the port of Southampton, vital defence industries and Eastleigh's Airport and Railway Works.

SOME PICTURES FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Above: MISS JANE MAY'S SHOP IN CHAPEL ROAD circa 1910 Below: COACHMAN & GARDENERS COTTAGES AND TRADESMAN'S ENTRANCE TO HAREFIELD HOUSE.



RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard 'LADY BRADFORD'S STICKY GINGERBREAD PUDDING'

Britain, and England in particular, has been famous for its puddings for centuries. A well-known quotation by Henri Misson de Valbourg, a French visitor to England in 1698 reads "The Pudding is a Dish very difficult to be describ'd, because of the several sorts there are of it ... they make them fifty several ways: Blessed be he that invented Pudding for it is a Mana that hits the Palate of all sorts of People ... Ah, what an excellent thing is an English Pudding!"

Puddings originated as savoury boiled puddings, consisting largely of flour or oats with suet or bone marrow boiled in a stomach, bladder or piece of intestine (in the manner of a sausage skin) in a cauldron over the fire. Being basically fat and starch, they were served as filler before the meat, thus saving on the quantity of meat required. Depending on the resources available to the household, variations included blood or minced meat – the origin of black pudding and white pudding. The use of the pudding cloth (made waterproof by wetting it and coating it in flour) was first recorded in the early 17th century, following which a plethora of puddings were developed, including sweet puddings, which over time became enriched with eggs and milk and – for those who could afford it – included sugar, spices and dried fruits.

In 1914 May Byron published "Pot Luck: British Home Cookery", a collection of over a thousand recipes that she had gathered from old family recipe books from around the country. The 1936 edition lists 106 different puddings, which she claimed was the pick of the crop, having excluded those which proved ludicrously expensive or with flavour combinations which would be unappealing to modern tastes.

This modern recipe for gingerbread pudding comes from "Porters English Cookery Bible" by Richard, Earl of Bradford & Carol Wilson (2004) and was a regular feature on the menu at Porters English Restaurant in Covent Garden before it closed in 2014. It is delightfully easy to make and comes out heavenly every time. One of my favourites, it would also make a nice light alternative to Christmas Pudding.

75g butter
150ml / generous ½ cup milk
1 tabs black treacle or molasses
1 Tabs golden syrup
1 egg
75g / ½ cup dark muscovado sugar
175g / 1¼ cups self-raising flour
1 level tsp baking powder
1 level tsp bicarbonate soda
2 level tsps ground ginger
1 level tsp ground cinnamon
½ level tsp ground cloves
75g stem ginger, finely chopped
110g cooking apples, peeled and finely diced

Place the butter, milk, treacle and syrup in a pan and heat gently until the butter has melted. Allow to cool, then whisk in the egg and sugar.

Sift the flour, baking powder, soda and spices into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, stir in the liquid to create a smooth batter.

Fold in the stem ginger and apples, then pour into a buttered 2 pint pudding basin.

Cover with a square of foil with a pleat in the centre and secure with string.

Steam for 1½ hours or until the pudding springs back when pressed lightly.

Turn onto a serving plate and serve with custard.