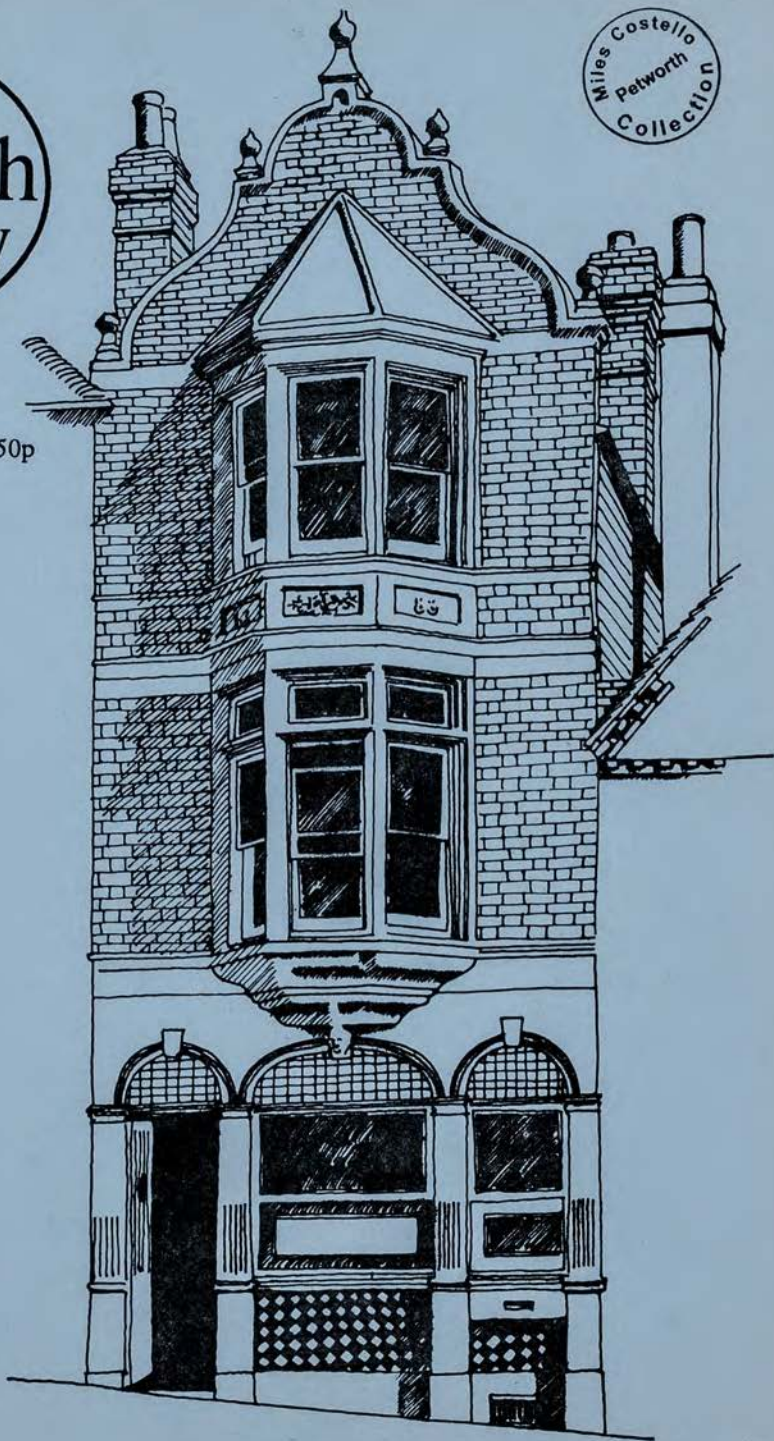


# The Petworth Society

BULLETIN No. 29  
SEPTEMBER 1982  
Price for non-Members 50p

Miles Costello  
Petworth  
Collection



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Cover design by Mr. J.M. Newdick drawn from a photograph by Walter Kevis. It shows the Old Post Office in Market Square.

\* \* \* \*

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THE PETWORTH SOCIETY

Autumn Programme. Please keep for reference.

Monthly meetings. All Leconfield Hall at 7.30. Raffle. Refreshments.

Wednesday October 20th. Mr. Hill of Hove: "Sussex Water-mills". Slides.

Friday November 12th. Mr. Bob Lomas of Dragon's Green Editor of "Heavy Horse" magazine will talk on "Working Horses". Slides.

Wednesday December 15th. An evening with a Christmas flavour including slides of Old Petworth.

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Two-day Exhibition for Petworth Festival: Leconfield Hall September 18th, 19th.

Day 1.	Saturday 18th September	George Garland	1922-1939	10 - 5
Day 2.	Sunday 19th September	George Garland	1940-1970	10 - 5

There will be an enrolment desk for Petworth Adult Education Centre, a stand by the Canal Restoration Fund and a display by Tulben Products of Wittering.

As in previous years we would appreciate help in stewarding.

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PETWORTH SOCIETY WALKS. Please see over page.

..... Please detach here .....

PETWORTH SOCIETY PLATE (NO. 2) Order Form.

(Edition limited to 300 maximum)

Please order for me ..... Petworth Society Plates at £9.50.

I enclose cheque/cash for £ .....

I am a member of the Petworth Society.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

I wish to collect my plate from:  
(Please indicate)

Mrs. GRIMWOOD  
Mrs. SIMMONS  
Mr. D. SNELLER  
Mr. JERROME  
Photograph Exhibition

WALKS:

Peter's Festival Walk. Wednesday 22nd September. Leave Petworth Square at 5.15. No cars. Grade AA.

Jumbo's Stag Park Walk. (Autumn version). Sunday 17th October. Leave Petworth Square at 2.00 p.m. Cars. Grade B.

J's Bedham Walk. Sunday 7th November. Leave Petworth Square at 2.00 p.m. Cars. Grade B.

[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]

PETWORTH SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD

Featuring this drawing by Rendle Diplock of Damer's Bridge in the 1920's, these cards are now available at a price of 9p each including envelope. We haven't done too many as this is something of an experiment.

The inside left of the card bears the picture caption at the foot and the inside right has the greeting:

"Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year".

The form below should be given with the money to Peter Jerrome or any committee member.



---

ORDER FORM

Please supply \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas cards at 9p each (including envelopes).

I enclose cash/cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Address - if not collecting personally)

---



**DEED OF COVENANT**

Full name in BLOCK CAPITALS I, .....

Address in BLOCK CAPITALS of .....

hereby covenant with The Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd. (hereinafter called "the Trust") that I will pay to the Trust on the

This date should be the same as, or later than, the date of the Deed. .... day of ..... in every year such a sum as will after deduction of Income Tax at the standard rate for the time being in force amount to

Please insert here the actual sum you are willing to give each year. .... pounds ..... pence or to my due annual contribution to the Trust at each date on which payment is due, whichever is the greater.

Date of Deed IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this ..... day of ..... 198 .....

Signature (no further seal necessary) SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED by the above named

Signature of witness (not the spouse of the Covenantor) In the presence of .....

Address of witness .....

**PLEASE ALSO COMPLETE BANKER'S ORDER FORM**

N.B. If a Company or Corporation, please apply to the Membership Secretary for a special form of Deed of Covenant. If a firm or partnership, all partners must sign and their names and addresses should be inserted.

**BANKER'S ORDER**

To (Name and Address of your Bank) .....

Please pay to National Westminster Bank Ltd. (53-61-43), of 34 North Road, Lancing, Sussex BN15 9AS for the account of The Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd. (Account No. 63091593) the sum of £ ..... now, and the same amount on ..... (date) in each succeeding year until further notice, and charge the same to my/our account.

SIGNATURE .....

FULL NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

BANK ACCOUNT No. .... DATE .....

THIS FORM SHOULD BE SENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND NOT TO YOUR BANKERS.

**THE WEY AND ARUN CANAL TRUST**

**THE CANAL**

The Canal was built to link the Rivers Wey and Arun, as part of an inland waterway route from London to the South Coast.

The River Arun was made navigable between 1545 and 1575, thus enabling barges to reach Pallingham Quay above Pulborough. The River Wey Navigation was opened as far as Guildford in 1653 and extended to Godalming in 1763. Although proposals to link the two rivers dated back to 1641, it was not until 1816 that the Canal was actually opened. What we know today as the Wey and Arun Canal consists in reality of two canals. Firstly, the Arun Navigation was opened in 1787 to bring commercial trade as far as Newbridge near Billingshurst. The final link, the Wey and Arun Junction Canal, from Newbridge to the River Wey at Stonebridge, near Shalford, was opened in 1816.

The Canal reached its peak as a commercial waterway in 1839, but with the advent of the first railway in Sussex its fortunes declined rapidly, and with the opening of the Guildford-Horsham line in 1865 (itself to close 100 years later) the Canal was forced to close in 1868 and finally abandoned in 1871.

However, most of the line of the Canal remains intact to this day. It leaves the River Wey at Stonebridge and climbs through Bramley and Cranleigh to the five mile summit level near Dunsfold; here it crosses the Surrey/Sussex watershed 163 feet above sea-level. It winds through Sidney Wood, descends through Alfold to Loxwood and Newbridge and then follows the Arun Valley to connect with the River at Pallingham Lock.





23 miles in length, the Canal is on average about 25 feet wide and 4 feet deep. The locks are 12 feet wide and approximately 70 feet long with an average fall of about 6 feet. There were originally 26 locks (of which only 10 survive today, in various stages of decay), some 35 bridges (many of these can still be found serving farms), together with wharves, lock houses and aqueducts.

The Canal can best be seen at Newbridge (A272, west of Billingshurst), Loxwood—Onslow Arms, (B2133), Run Common (close to the A281 near Cranleigh) or Birtley Depot (A281, near Bramley). For map reference, see the 1¼" Ordnance Survey (1 : 50,000) Sheets 186, 197 and 187, or for more detail the following 2½" maps: Sheets TQ 02, TQ 03 and TQ 04. When visiting the Canal please keep to the public rights of way indicated on the maps or by signposts.

Further information about the Canal can be found in "London's Lost Route to the Sea", by P.A.L. Vine. A guide to walking the route of the Canal is "Wey South Path" by A. J. L. M. Mackintosh. These are available through the Trust.

## THE TRUST

The Trust began life in 1970 as the Wey and Arun Canal Society; its objective being to restore the navigational link between the Rivers Wey and Arun and so to recreate the direct water link between the South Coast and London and the rest of the waterways system. In 1973, a Charitable Company, the Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd., was formed to continue the work of the Society.

Restoration work has been undertaken in Surrey and Sussex at a number of sites. Clearance and dredging has been carried out at Bramley, Run Common, Loxwood, Cranleigh and over a long stretch north of Newbridge near Billingshurst. Five bridges have been reconstructed, and Rowner and Malham Locks rebuilt. A major breach has been repaired and a number of smaller works such as culverts and spillways built.

All this has been achieved by voluntary labour and fund raising, together with generous assistance from many local businesses and Councils. Working Parties are run every weekend on canal sites, and also at the Trust's own well equipped carpentry and mechanical workshops.

A small team of professional engineers design and supervise the restoration; successes have included a breach repair with 1,200 tons of clay, the rescue and repair of a 'condemned' bridge at Pallingham, and the first lifting bridge to be built by voluntary effort.

Canal restoration is more than digging and tree felling. The Trust has an active fund raising, and publicity side that runs film shows, jumble sales, sponsored walks, exhibitions and many other events throughout the year.

Participation in the restoration of the Wey and Arun Canal is exciting and varied. Actual restoration work can involve bricklaying, plant operation, lock gate building and scrub clearance. Background activities include plant maintenance, jumble sales and newspaper collection for funds, and exhibition manning.

All members of the Trust, who receive a quarterly magazine 'WeySouth' are encouraged to join in all aspects of this exciting project, and a monthly newsletter with up to the minute information is available on request.

### President:

The Rt. Hon. Lord Egremont

### Vice-Presidents:

Lt. Col. Sir Walter Burrell, Bt, CBE, TD, DL  
 Sir Peter Mursell, MBE, VL  
 Mr Richard Luce MP  
 Sir Geoffrey Harrison, GCMG, KCVO  
 Mr. John Humphries, OBE, MA

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please return these forms, when completed, to The Honorary Secretary, The Wey & Arun Canal Trust, Ltd., 24 Griffiths Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 OHW.



FOR OFFICE USE

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: The Council of Management of The Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd. I/we desire to become a member/s of the Trust and I/we hereby agree, if elected, to be bound by all the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the said Trust, and enclose cheque/postal order/Bankers Order form in favour of 'The Wey & Arun Canal Trust Ltd.' for £ ..... in respect of the annual subscription.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

<input type="checkbox"/> ADULT (18 or over)	£4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> PENSIONER	£2.00
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR (under 18)	£2.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP	£75
<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE (Businesses, Local Authorities, Societies, Clubs, Schools, etc.)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> DONATION (Enter amount here)	£

Please tick appropriate box

SIGNATURE .....

Dated this ..... day of ..... 198 .....

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS:

Surname or Company Name .....

Christian Names .....

Address in full .....

..... Telephone: .....

Office held (if Corporate Membership) .....

Date of Birth (if Junior Membership) .....

Occupation .....

Other interests or ways in which you could help the Trust .....

.....

For CORPORATE MEMBERS

If you require further details of Project Sponsorship Tick Here



The Petworth Society was founded in 1974 "to preserve the character and amenities of the town and parish of Petworth, including Byworth; to encourage interest in the history of the district, and to foster a community spirit". It is non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit-making.

Membership is open to anyone, irrespective of place or residence, who is interested in furthering the objects of the society.

From March 15th the annual subscription is £2. Double membership £2.50. Postal £3.00 (minimum). Further information may be obtained from any of the following:-

Chairman - Mr. P.A. Jerrome, Trowels, Pound Street,  
Petworth. (Tel. 42562)

Vice-Chairman - Mr. K.C. Thompson, 18 Rothermead, Petworth.

Hon. Bulletin Sec. - Mrs. Margaret Hill, Whitelocks, Sheepdown  
Close, Petworth.

Hon. Treasurer - Mr. R.A. Sneller, 16 Littlecote,  
Petworth. (Tel. 42507)

Hon. Membership Sec. - Mrs. J. Boss, North Street, Petworth.

Committee - Lord Egremont, Mrs. Audrey Grimwood,  
Mr. R. Pottington, Mrs. Sonia Rix,  
Mrs. Anne Simmons, Mr. D.S. Sneller,  
Mr. H.W. Speed, Mrs. R. Staker,  
Mr. J. Taylor, Miss Julia Thompson,  
Mr. E. Vincent.

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

While there have been no monthly meetings since I last wrote the various walks have gone off well. Mr. Parish kindly gave the Society a conducted tour of the Graffham Downs and we hope he will be prepared to do this for us again next year. The Petworth Gardens visit was its usual huge success and Mrs. Sheridan's mixture of the new and the familiar just right. Jumbo's evening "unfrequented paths" walk and J's Bulletin walk by way of Duncton and Burton were both much enjoyed and the August walks are still to come as I write. We are giving some thought to providing the occasional walk which will be appreciated by those members who like a walk but do not want too many inclines. We would grade such walks as "AA" and I would hope to have one such walk in the autumn programme.

The second Petworth Society plate should be ready by the time this Bulletin appears and an order form is appended. The design is based on the present Bulletin cover drawing of the old Market Square Post Office but Jonathan Newdick has carefully drawn in the premises on either side. It is an attractive design and, unlike the previous plate, features a building which still stands. The price this time will probably be £9.50 representing a very slight increase as compared with the last plate, but reflecting only very partially a considerable increase in china prices since last year. I think that this time we may make the plate available to non-members but at a more realistic price than £9.50. I must insist that we make very little indeed on the individual plates: it is not a fund-raising project and our only aim is to break even while providing a service to members. If we do break even we will continue the series: if we do not, the series ends. I hope that no one vaguely feels they "ought" to buy a plate. There is only one acceptable reason for buying a plate and that is because you like it and would like to have one.

As an experiment we are running off this year a limited number of Petworth Society Christmas cards featuring a drawing by Rendle Diplock of Damer's Bridge in the 1920's. They will be available either from myself or from any committee member or at the photograph exhibition or at any monthly meeting.

I am very pleased to report that Mrs. R. Staker has been co-opted to the Committee with a view to helping Mrs. Boss with her very considerable membership workload. Please pay subscriptions promptly: it not only helps the Society but it also saves these ladies the chore of sending out reminders.



One or two small points. For the first time for several years I will be giving a course on Petworth History at the Adult Education Centre. This will consist of ten informal talks on Monday evenings during the autumn. The last Bulletin again sold out well before the quarter ended and we are printing an increased number of this present issue. We hope this will enable everyone to get a copy who wants one. Lastly you may ask, "Where is J's walk?" I can reveal that the gentleman concerned is resting his aching feet this quarter but he will be back refreshed in the December issue!

P.A.J. 30th July 1982.

### YOUR HELP PLEASE

(1)

Mrs. K.R. Smith writes:

My family used to live at South Dean Farm, Tillington, before the Bennett family were there. The family name was Sanders and my grandmother's maiden name was Eliza Matthews. She came from Tillington. John Sanders, my grandfather is listed in Kelly's Directory for Tillington in 1878 but he had gone by 1882 when the Bennett family were at South Dean. Apparently my grandfather died about this time and my grandmother left the farm to live at Haslemere. There was quite a large family (7 boys and 4 girls). The boys went to Midhurst Grammar School. My father had a coal-merchant's business at Addlestone in Surrey. In 1930 we brought him back to Petworth to look round, I remember he went into a butcher's shop and spoke to several people about the Sanders family. I wonder if there is anyone who knows anything of the Sanders family at South Dean?

Mrs. K.R. Smith,  
52 Woodland Avenue,  
HOVE BN3 6BN.

(2)

MR. J. CRONSHAW, 1 WILLETT CLOSE, DUNCTON would like to hear from anyone who has any knowledge of the earlier history of cricket at Burton.

(3)

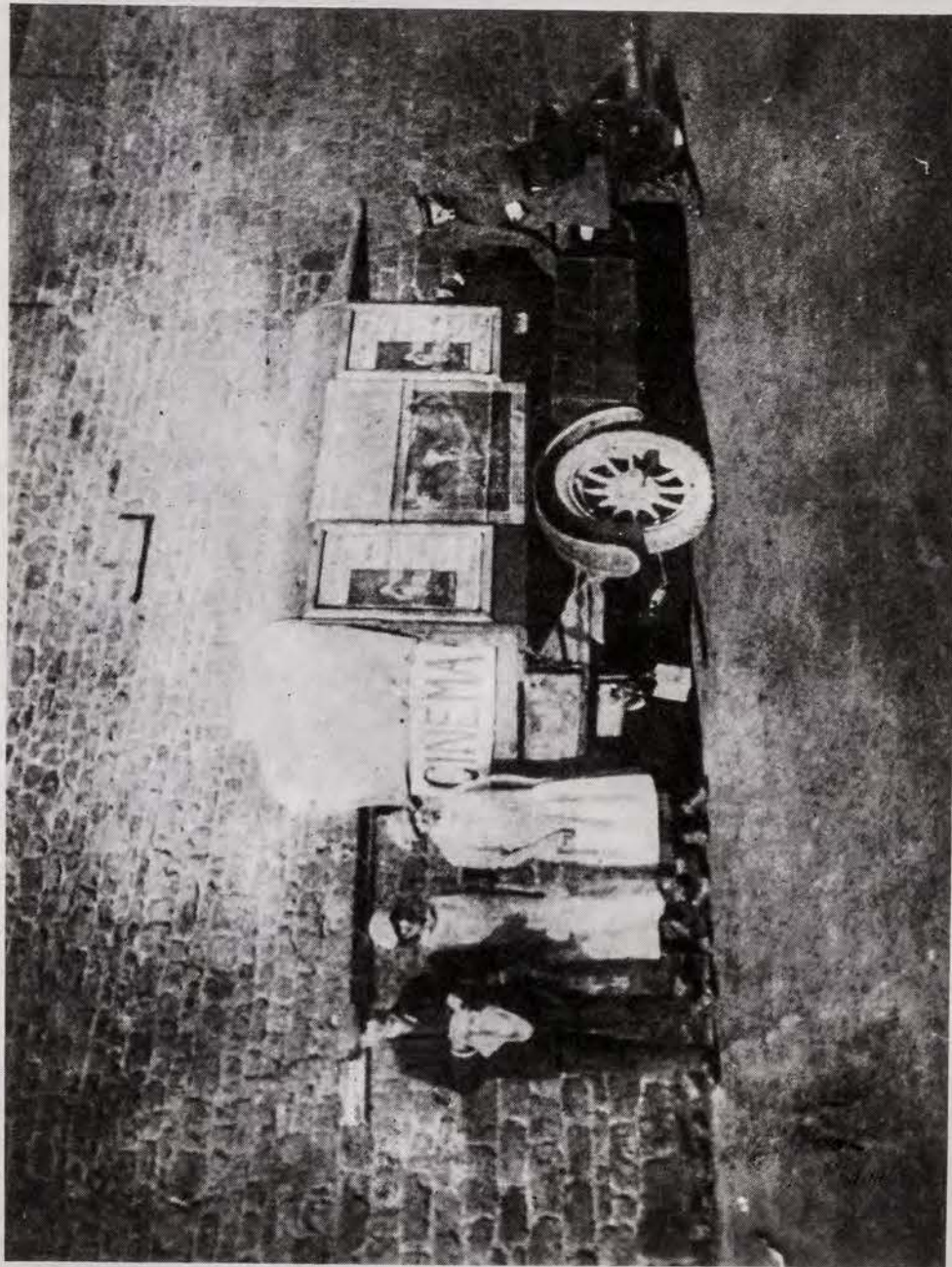
### 'PETWORTH CRAFTSMEN IN WOOD'

The Furniture Restoration School and workshops situated in Burpham near Arundel has a museum of early woodworking tools and a working collection also. Amongst the latter are a number of moulding



South Dean Farm in the 1870's.





Mr. Barrett's travelling cinema in 1920. The van is parked in North Street opposite the Wheatsheaf Public House. Mr. Barrett (right); the Whitcomb family on the left.

planes believed to have come from Petworth House, the belief is based on the single fact that amongst the more recently dated planes are a number stamped by the owner craftsman H. Hoad. Mr. Hoad is known to have worked at Petworth House, a woodcarver by trade and a very fine craftsman judging from the photograph of a copy of a Grinling Gibbons' lintel (?) which Mr. Jerrome kindly lent to us.

Other moulding planes in the same group are sash working tools. The excellent condition of these tools and their subdivision to five owner craftsmen leads one to conjecture that the men were employed at Petworth House between 1750-1930.

The names in chronological order are as follows:-

Habgood	c. 1750
Robinson	c. 1780
Radford	c. 1850
Hoad	Confirmed but precise dates uncertain
J.D.R.	c. 1920

If anyone has any knowledge of these craftsmen and of their employment at Petworth House we would very much appreciate any scrap of information which will help eventually toward completing the jigsaw. Needless to say the history of any old woodworking tool adds a special interest to its use today by our young student craftsmen and a great respect for the skills of his or her predecessors.

M. G. HAY-WILL  
PRINCIPAL  
ARUNCRAFT  
BURPHAM  
ARUNDEL 883143

Re. the Kirdford gunsmiths from the Payne family (see last Bulletin) Mrs. McCann writes from the County Record Office.

"Generations of the Payne family were blacksmiths in Kirdford, particularly at Balls Cross, and it is conceivable that one of them may have done some work as a gunsmith in the 18th century. However the only definite mention I can find of a gunsmith is an Edward Payne of Balls Cross, Kirdford, who was a witness to the will of Ann Willard of Kirdford in 1836. (West Sussex Record Office Oglethorpe and Anderson 269)."



## ACCOMPANYING THE SILENT FILMS

I can remember Mr. Barrett with his travelling cinema. He would often come to the Wheatsheaf in North Street where I lived with my parents. He carried all his equipment in the van and would come once a week for a couple of hours in the evening. The show took place in the Swan ballroom, the screen being on the right on the same side as the door, with the projector of course on the opposite wall. I used to play the piano to accompany the films but it was terribly hard work. You'd never know in advance what the programme was and you had to watch the film and play whatever you thought was appropriate. You could be accompanying cowboys, drama or comedy and a film could last for an hour and a half. The music I was playing from would often fall down and I couldn't stop to pick it up - I just had to go on playing as best I could. Eventually I gave it up and went round the villages playing dance music.

(Mrs. G. Morley)

### PETWORTH CINEMA (2)

#### A LONDON INTERLUDE

For the first time I started to work away from home and went to live with my Grandmother at Whetstone Nr Finchley. This meant my travelling each day from Totteridge Lane Station to Kings Cross and then by underground and tube to Sloane Square with a short walk to my place of business in Pimlico. I made a previous journey beforehand so that I should know exactly where to go with no hold ups such as being late for my work. This appeared a long day for me, up at six o'clock in the morning to have my breakfast and then to catch the early train. I would leave off work at six o'clock each evening and arrive home at Whetstone approx 7.20 p.m., after having my evening meal I was more ready for my bed than going out. Saturday's I would leave my work at 1 p.m. thus making a 48 hour week, and I was free after having my late meal. I would then change into my best suit and go along in the evening to the local Cinema at North Finchley called The GRAND HALL. On some Saturdays I would go down to my Aunt's home to mow the lawn and for this service I would be asked to stay for tea. On one Saturday afternoon a young man came to deliver a parcel addressed to my Aunt and I took the parcel in. He told me that he worked for her by taking out parcels for her Fashion Gown shop in the High Street, but in the evenings he would give some time in helping out in the operating box at the Grand Hall Cinema. I was pleased to have met him and I asked if he would be good enough to take me along, which he agreed to do. Two weeks

later he introduced me to the chief operator who promised me one day he would arrange to show me round. I really could'nt wait for that time to come, I remember so very well, it was a hot Saturday afternoon with only a handful of people in at the matinee and I took my chance to ask the Manager who was standing at the back of the stalls if it was possible for me to look inside the operating Box. He glared at me with some surprise when I told him who I was and where I came from, and the work I was doing in London. He told me to sit down and wait and to watch the film, I thought this was a start of something, so after waiting for about 15 minutes I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned round and saw it was the Manager, he asked me to follow him and then took me up to the operating Box and introduced me to the chief operator. He spoke very little and left me standing watching. The Manager soon left, I presumed he knew very little about projection work, he had the management of the Cinema to contend with. The chief came back again with another spool of film and gave me a wink. I thought to myself I'm beginning to make some contact, I broke the silence after he had laced up the projector, I told him that I had a small 35mm home projector of which I gave many shows with at Petworth Sussex. He asked me what part of Sussex I lived in and I said it is a small county town very near Chichester and Littlehampton, but all he knew of these Towns was from a map. However I could see that No 2 Projector was ready for a change over with very little left on the top spool box, it was most interesting to note how quick the change over was, without any kind of stoppage. As the second operator was rewinding, this gave me the opportunity to look through the porthole, what a long way it seemed from the projector to the screen. The 2nd operator came with another spool of film and laced up the projector, opened the lamp-house and adjusted the carbons of the arc, cleaned some carbon deposit from the lamphouse and wiped the steamed up condenser, and then shut the lamp-house door. There was a slate switch-board mounted on the back of the wall with a volt and ampere meter screwed on, and above were the tandem arc resistances for each arc lamp. All this was very interesting but Dutch to me, another change over soon came, both arcs were cut in. The ampere meter needle wobbled to 80 amps, and the cue for the change-over came when a little round dot appeared at the top of the right hand corner. No 2 projector started up waiting for a second cue dot to appear. There was a clang of metal as the steel shutters changed over from No 1 to No 2. This made me jump. I was hoping for the day to come when I would be asked by the Manager to do some part time rewinding, but I was not yet seventeen years of age and could not be engaged to work in the box until after that age. I noticed the make of projectors were of French design made by the Gaumont



Company. The motor Generating set was mounted under the stone steps with very little headroom for doing repairs, but the chief informed me that the whole generating set was fitted on two sliding iron rails and could easily be moved by underslung rollers. I used to spend three nights a week at this Cinema and helped to bring in some films. The Manager was told of what I had done and for this little job of a couple of hours a night he gave me some complimentary tickets to be used any time except on a Saturday night. I was glad of this concession as it saved my pocket money. I spent many happy months at Whetstone with my Grandmother but found travelling in the winter months was really too much and also expensive. I wanted to be confirmed and had several private sessions with the local Rector at Whetstone before I was ready for confirmation which eventually took place at Church End Finchley by the Bishop of Willesden. I became friendly with a boy at work, his name was Ronald Perry, who had relations near Witley Surrey which is not very far from my home at Petworth. He was living at home with his parents at Wandsworth Common, and when I told him my long daily journey to work and the time I had to leave of a morning he suggested that I should come and live with him and his parents, which was only a short journey from Clapham Junction to Victoria Station with a short walk to the works, so I eventually made a change and left Whetstone for Wandsworth Common. I paid 15/- per week for my Bed and Breakfast. I lunched out each day except on Saturday and Sundays. My washing was inclusive. But I did miss going and helping out on a Saturday at the Grand Hall Finchley. So after I got really settled down I made it my business to get an interview with the Manager of the Lavender Hill Pavilion to ask him what the possibilities were of helping as a part timer in the operating Box. I impressed upon him that I had already had some experience in operating. He was very sympathetic by telling me I was under age to be left on my own, but as the weeks flew by he did make a concession by allowing me to sit at the rear end of the balcony and to watch the films being projected through the portholes. Of course this gave me an added thrill as I was nearer to the Projectors being laced up than ever before. I could'nt resist standing up on tip toe to look through the porthole watching the operators working, and I would tap the window to show them that I was there. But the chief shook his finger at me to try and impress that my finger marks on the glass would cause some distortion on the screen. On my 18th birthday I made my age become known to the Manager stating I was now of that age and could he consider to offer me a part time job as a rewind boy, he eventually agreed to take me on for four evenings a week from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and he paid me the sum of 10/- every fortnight, making it look better than paying 5/- a week. Spring and then Summer came, and I

was due for my two weeks holiday from the works. I came home to my parents at Petworth but how strange everything appeared to be and so very quiet. No buses, trains or trams that I was used to in London. Petworth seemed such a dull place to come back to even for a holiday.

T.S. COLLINS (to be continued)

### "YANKEE" AYLING - A PETWORTH CHARACTER

"Yankee" Ayling was my grandfather but I never know how he came by this nickname or what it referred to. He was quite elderly even when I first knew him and had been a carpenter on Lord Leconfield's estate for many years. He and his wife Alice had had thirteen children of whom twelve survived at the time I am remembering in the early 1930's. The Aylings lived in a small cottage at Limbo on the London Road and most people will remember my grandfather for his donkey "Neddy". Every week regularly he and Neddy would set off up the London Road and up North Street to collect Yankee's pension at the Post Office. Ten shillings a week it was then. The donkey had a tendency to stop dead in the road and then only a carrot or a lump of sugar would induce him to move on. My grandfather also had a pig in a sty in the little garden at Limbo and a tiny old shed where he kept his tools: this was very tidy and there was never a tool out of place. He was quite gifted and most of the furniture in the house had been made by him at some time or another. He used to smoke a clay pipe filled with very strong tobacco. He was somewhat strict with us grandchildren and we weren't allowed to speak at mealtimes. Once my grandfather had some home-made wine locked up in a cupboard and somehow we children accidentally knocked the top so that the wine all poured out under the table. I don't think he was very pleased!

from Mrs. T. GRISDALE,  
DURNFORD,  
SEYMOUR ROAD,  
HEADLEY DOWN,  
BORDON GU35 8EU.

### PETWORTH IN 1920

#### Petworth Connections

I was born at Forest Gate in 1897 but my family moved to Purley in 1903. I went to Brighton College in 1913 and was commissioned in 1917 and sent out to France to a village called Anois just behind



St. Quentin on the Somme. I was there all through the Germans' spring offensive and finally invalided out. It so happened that when I came before the "Board" after coming out, the presiding chairman was Lord Leconfield whom at that time I did not know. Coming back to Chichester Station afterwards I missed my train out and while I was sitting waiting for the next one Lord Leconfield appeared on the platform and, recognising me, struck up a conversation. "Why not come and work for me at Petworth?" That's how my connection with Petworth began - through missing a train! I was here for two and a half years just after the war before going to the new forestry school in the Forest of Dean late in 1921. After that I worked variously for Schrodgers, the German bank, for the Stock Exchange, for an agricultural merchants in Devon and finally for Schrodgers again. When I retired I went to live in Newhaven. I was not at Petworth very long but I have never forgotten it. When I came back, as I often did, I would stay with the Misses Arnold who kept the paper shop in Middle Street.

#### Colhook Brick-kiln

The brick kiln was at Colhook and its owner was Major Vincent. I often went fishing with him on the lake at Ebernoe. There were four furnaces, and brushwood collected from neighbouring copses was carted there and stacked into huge ricks for burning in them. Once the furnaces had been lit they had to be kept going for 48 hours. The men would do a seven or eight hour shift which involved opening each furnace door in turn and putting in one of the huge brushwood fag-gots from the rick. By the time he'd got to the fourth he had to go back to the first and start the whole process all over again. There was no respite at all. It was a very heavy job indeed and the sweat poured from the men even on a cold day. It was absolutely essential that the temperature be kept up all the time.

#### Gateposts and Goats' Milk

There is a little house just outside the wall on the Northchapel Road almost opposite Colhook where old Mr. Peacock lived. He spent the whole of the year cutting out gateposts, large and small, and there was a pit behind the wall where two men worked, one man standing in the pit, alternately pushing and pulling a massive saw.



A Saw Pit

Mr. Peacock lived with his daughter and I used to visit him when he was very ill. His daughter eventually went to Cowdray as head laundry-maid and the only time I have ever been to Cowdray was when I went to see her there.

Every single gate on the Petworth estate, whether big farm gate or little hunting gate, had burned into it under the last rail on the hinge side the letters L.L. and some of these gates are still going strong. I recently saw that the big gate at Pheasant Court Farm still has its L.L. on it. Men like Mr. Peacock did nothing else all year but make gateposts.

His lordship would never jump a gate when hunting. Every single place had to have a hunting gate and the gate had to be so hung that he could get his riding-crop handle just under the ledge and lift the gate which would then open. He would pass through and the gate would close behind him. Woe betide if he found a gate that didn't open or swing to properly!



Goats were kept on the common and the commoners used to drink nothing but goats' milk. I would often take home some of the white goats' milk butter.

#### Mr. Wilcox

I would often go out into the woods to help Mr. Wilcox. He would usually need an assistant because he would take with him a collapsible pole some 20 feet in height which would be used as a guiding measurement. If he was offering wood for sale I would hold the pole against the tree and he would calculate the height at the first break so that when we had measured the girth we could assess the wood capacity. With felled timber we took the measurement on the ground. I still have my measure. Mr. Wilcox was brilliant at estimating the volume of wood in a tree - a real artist.

#### "Rining" oak-trees

A wood of oak would be cut after the sap had started to rise and about the middle of June men would debark the trunks using a special implement, shaped like a turf-cutter as a half-moon but enormously sharp and very long. I also thought it massively heavy. I have never seen one since. It was very skilled work. Once cut off the bark would be stacked ready to be carted away by horse and sent to the tanneries for tanning leather. I'm sure they use chemical means now.



Rining Oak Trees

#### Audit Dinners

I remember Mrs. Gordon Knight's grocers shop and the cheese Miss Knight mentions that was ordered especially for the Audit Dinners at Petworth House. How right she is - it was an absolute gem of a cheese; I've never tasted anything like it before or since. For the farmers' audit the tenant farmers would come in to Petworth to pay the rent of their farms. The cheeses were put out on tables with barrels of marvellous beer and cottage loaves. The farmers could help themselves during the day. I was in the office but I could never resist that cheese. The Audit went on for two days and in the afternoon, about five o'clock, there would be the Audit Dinner, held of course in the Audit Room at Petworth House. The tables were laden - I remember too the little bowls of tobacco with long churchwardens' pipes laying beside them. There were hardly any speeches - but plenty of roast potatoes and the roast beef of old England. I used to sing songs like "Come to the Fair" for them and his lordship would make a brief appearance - often in his hunting gear.

#### Lost photographs

I lodged first in Pound Street with Mrs. Vickers in a little cottage on the right hand side as you go out of Petworth. Mr. Wilcox lived nearby after he left Snow Hill, the house that used to be inside the Park wall. After I left Mrs. Vickers I stayed with Miss Nevatt in the little white cottage on the Sheepdowns. Mr. Mackie the curate lodged there with me. He was head scoutmaster at the time and very keen on photography. He taught me a lot about taking photographs. I wonder what happened to all the photographs he took. The Rev. Powell was the rector then.

#### Petworth House - Logs and "Cabbages"

I once met the head gardener, long before Fred Streeter's time, going down the steps and into the grounds. It was about 5.30 in the evening and cars were already arriving for some function. "Ah, would you like to see the dining-room?" he asked. I walked with him into the dining-room with its magnificent round table. There was a huge log fire in the hearth and the massive logs were all of beech. Beech is the only wood that doesn't spit and no other wood was ever used on the Petworth House fires. Four men were at that time kept permanently employed cutting beech for the House fires and it was a rule that for every tree that was cut down another would be planted.



The silver in the dining-room was all freshly polished and in the centre of the great table were carnations and asparagus fern in a huge vase. "How many blooms are there in that vase?" asked the head gardener. I didn't know. It transpired that there were six dozen carnations in that vase but it wasn't at all overdone - it looked just right. "Actually," the head gardener confided, "his Lordship doesn't like flowers much, but he said to me, 'You'd better put up some cabbages for the guests!'"

#### Carol-singing

On my first Christmas in Petworth, members of the Whitcomb family from Pound Street, Reg, Else and Gertie, together with Percy Vincent who had a beautiful baritone voice, and myself, decided to go carol-singing for St. Dunstan's. We went to Tillington and Upperton where we were very hospitably received. We ended up at Colonel Mitford's at Pitshill. The big house knew of course that we were coming and after we had sung outside the door was opened for us by a flunkey. The dinner party was just finishing and we were asked into the dining room, given coffee and offered cigarettes. I sat on a hob jutting out from the open fireplace. It was so hot that my head began to swim but we raised nearly £60 for St. Dunstan's in that week.

(Excerpted from a tape made for the Editor by Guy Botwright.)

All Drawings by Rendle Diplock.



Bark stacked ready for carting.

#### AN "EVACUEE" AT PETWORTH

My sister and I lived at Slough and when we were to be evacuated in the autumn of 1939 we were supposed to go down to the west country with the other Slough children. However my father's brother, my uncle Harry, was sergeant at Petworth Police Station and it was somehow worked out that instead of going to Devon we would come to Petworth and stay with my uncle and aunt. Actually this put us in a rather peculiar position as being neither true evacuees nor local children either. Because we were staying with relatives my aunt always wanted us to be treated as local children and hence go to the local school rather than be treated as evacuees and go to the evacuee school. My aunt was continually arguing with the authorities over this and I think my uncle used to get a bit tired of hearing about it. "Harry they are our relatives", she would say. But the authorities steadfastly refused to accept her arguments and we were officially classed as evacuees. As far as I can remember the evacuees' classes took place in the chapel hall. The children were from a school in Peckham so we didn't know them and felt a bit out of place, although towards the end we did come across some children from Windsor. Miss Johnson their teacher had come with them from Peckham and I believe she stayed on here after the war.

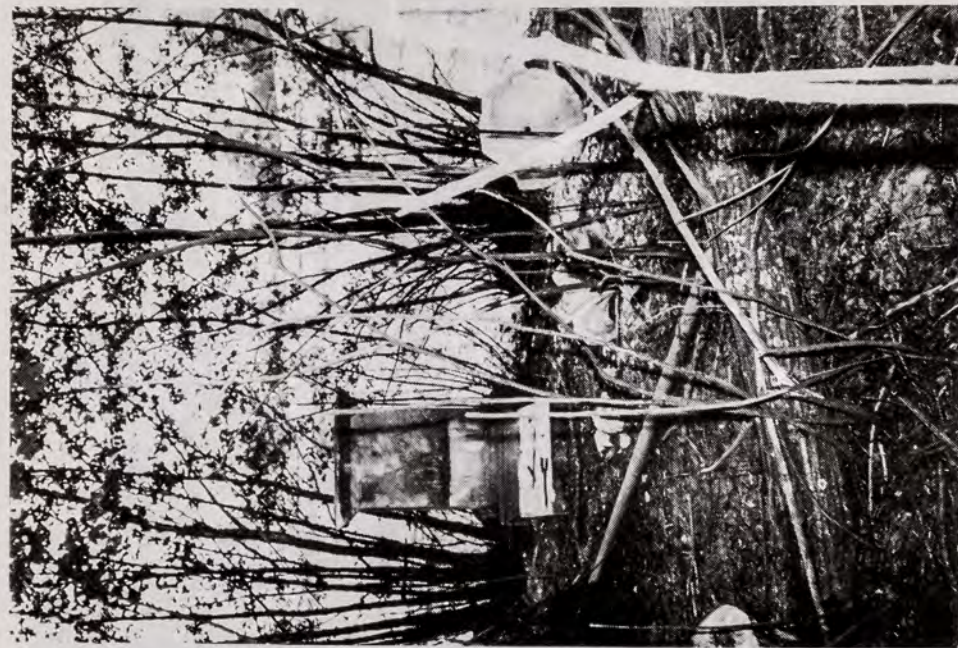
I left Petworth in 1942 and have never, until today, been back since, but once we pulled up in the Car Park I immediately pointed out the steep lane that leads to the Police Station. It was a wet day but that seemed to hold in the very smell of Petworth. Perhaps it was the rain on the plants that grew in the mossy walls but it was almost as if I had never left. No other place smells like Petworth and as soon as I was here again I knew that smell. We were back in England for a couple of months from Papakura in New Zealand and I knew I just had to come back. Up Rosemary Lane we went and there round to the right was the police station - Supt. Stripp's house in my day and opposite was the house where I had lived with the Appletons. The first door had been bricked in and the view wasn't as open as I remembered because the allotments running down the slope had been replaced by houses but it was still the same. I looked up to the upper window of the room where Uncle Harry had kept his apples during the winter - carefully turning them periodically to check that they weren't going bad. They were russetts from the tree on his allotment. Every Friday my aunt would polish the long hallway in the house. She had a fluffy mat and I would turn it upside down so that I could slide down the passage on it. One day my aunt, who didn't think much of this, left the front door open and I slid right out of the house! We only had part of the house - part being used for police purposes.



I loved being in the country and Uncle Harry was marvellous about taking us out. He knew everybody too. He'd point out things that my sister and I, having been brought up in the town, weren't aware of. "Look at those telephone wires", he'd say and point to the swallows preparing to migrate. He was always down the allotment and we'd often see Fred Streeter when we were down there. "Here come the Appleton girls", he'd chuckle. "There you are my loves" - and he'd give us an apple each or some sweet peas. Uncle Harry would take us out gathering mushrooms or we'd collect windfalls from a farmer we knew. On Sundays we were allowed to go into the Park. We'd walk up the Tillington Road and carefully knock three times on the Cricket Lodge gate. The lodgekeeper would then let us in. Uncle Harry had arranged that we could go into the Park although it was officially closed. The windows of Petworth House were boarded up for fear of bomb-blast and there were a few deer about and some ornamental fowl in the wire enclosure at the end of the lake. My uncle knew a lane where crabapple grew and we would get baskets-full for my aunt to make crabapple jelly. I remember too the Virgin Mary Spring where you could drink fresh spring water. Occasionally we'd go to Pulborough on the bus and once we went to Cowdray Park. It was all shut up but my uncle had permission to pick walnuts - at least I think that's what they were - and my aunt preserved them pickled in jars. Once when out with my uncle I wanted to go through a farm but it was all shut off. My uncle said, "You can't". There was a foot and mouth scare on.

One summer there was a great epidemic of cabbage caterpillars, so many that even the walls seemed to be alive with them. The children were asked to gather them up, put them in jam-jars and take the jars down to the Square. We were given a shilling for each jar. I had two friends who leant out of their bedroom windows to scrape the caterpillars off the walls! I also earned a penny three times a week for taking a cocker-spaniel for walks. The lady who owned the dog lived in High Street just up from Windmill House - she later joined the W.R.A.F. but I can't remember her name. Some names I can remember though. There was Mr. Penfold the butcher in Saddlers Row where my aunt bought her meat. I recognised the shop when I passed it. I remember too the blacksmith in High Street but that like the mulberry tree in Back Lane has gone. What a mess the mulberry used to make. It had a peculiar smell which I can still remember.

There were troops in the Park and my uncle was once beaten up by two Canadians who had got drunk. He lost several teeth and was badly cut. Once a Messerschmitt came down on the Downs and the pilot was captured after a long search. He was brought back to the police station at Petworth overnight and then taken away by the Military



Ornamental vase now smashed beyond repair.  
An island scene on the Upper Pond in Petworth Park  
1982.



Petworth Police Station in 1940.  
L-R. Constable Taylor, Sgt. Appleton, Supt. Stripp.



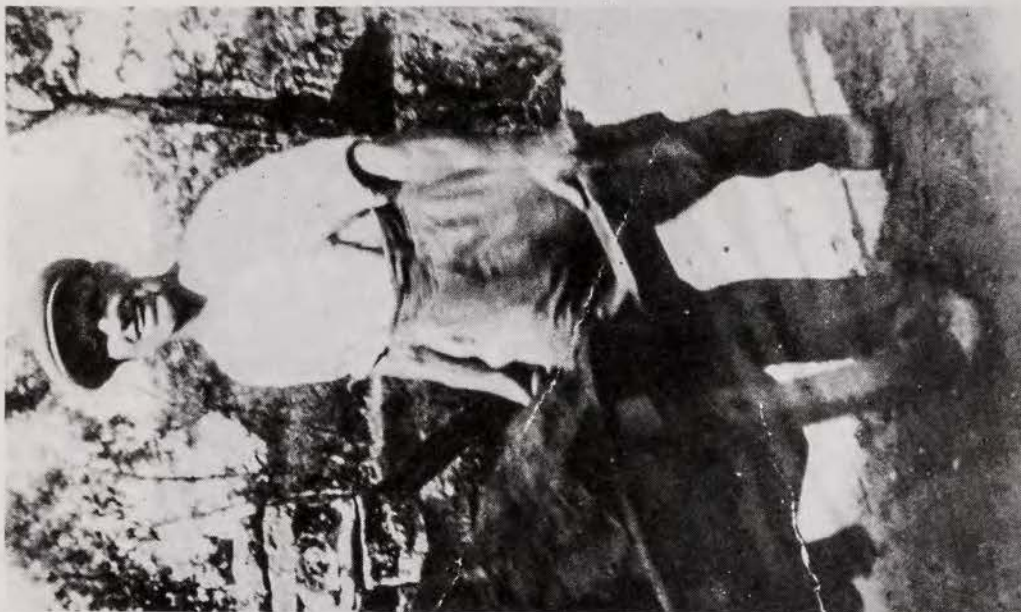


Removing fish from the Upper Pond Spring 1982.



Removing fish from the Upper Pond Spring 1982.  
This photograph by John Mason.





Bert Collins in the 1950's.



"Yankee" Ayling with his donkey c1930.

Police. P.C. Taylor used to be Communications Officer and had a motor-bicycle for this but my uncle only had a cycle. One of the policemen, P.C. Dexter, was very good at drawing cartoons and did a card for my sister's twelfth birthday. I think she still has it. The police were below strength of course because so many men had gone to the war.

My stay in Petworth came to an untimely end in 1942. We were in a school party walking up the Tillington Road when a plane came over flying very low. "Get down", yelled the teacher, we got into a ditch. The boy next to me was up to his neck in water and I was up to my waist. We stayed like that for half-an-hour and in the end my clothes dried out on me. A few days later I felt very ill - I'd caught rheumatic fever. I couldn't go to the Cottage Hospital because it was being used for the troops so my sister and I had to go back to Slough. I would not see Petworth again for 40 years. The Appletons later transferred to Crawley. My aunt died in 1960 and my uncle died at Capel in 1976.

(Marion Davidson was talking to the Editor.)

### A LOOK AT THE UPPER POND

#### A MEMORANDUM FROM 1844

"Great Pond in the Park, the water had not been let out for forty-nine years. On Tuesday the 1st of October 1844 the penstock which is situated at the head of the pond, near the edge and about a foot under the turf .... was drawn, a net having been first placed across the pond from the Boathouse, to the willow tree opposite - the water at the time being 14 inches under a head.

On Thursday the 3rd the water was low enough to take out the fish above the net and on Friday the 4th all the water ran out and the remainder of the fish were caught, in the whole about 350 carps, 6 pikes and a very great number of eels and small bream. The underwoods in the islands were thin(ned) out, and several small islands destroyed and about 30 men employed from October the 4th to February 7th 1845 who took out 9,500 square yards of mud.

The pond was penned December 6th and filled January 20th 1846.

It is necessary to observe that whenever this pond is drawn out, the tenant of Frog Farm should have timely notice and the penstock to be drawn gradually, as the water follows faster than the cofers and ditches can take it and would injure the banks and flood the yards."

Cofers apparently here means culverts. The pond appears to have lain empty for the great part of the year 1845. - 17 -



#### ATTAINING TODAY'S LEVEL

In order to attain today's level it was found necessary to install a six-inch draw-off pipe from approximately the centre of the pond head through the crest of the dam to flow down and into the old overflow which runs down into the drain and thence to Frog Farm. The water level had to be let down by degrees in order to observe safety factors in respect of land lying below. Further along the pond-head an old 4" cast iron pipe can be seen protruding from the bank and into the pond and it would seem that at some time during the past 70-80 years a similar method was employed to lower the water level for the purpose of the repair and maintenance of the extremities of the pond and possibly of the boathouse. The difference in 1982 is that at this particular moment the extremities of the boathouse foundations have decayed to a greater extent thus requiring an extra depth of draw off.

#### ON NOT REMOVING THE OLD PENSTOCK

In regard to the old penstock it should be appreciated that this is of a timber design, being basically a timber gate with a rack and pinion device for raising and lowering. It is situated on the pond-head and is similar to that at Luffs Pond in the Pheasant Copse. As far as is known the penstock has not been drawn since 1844 and, if this is in fact the case, it would probably be impracticable to draw it now, bearing in mind the volume of debris which would surround the screen in front of the penstock. The debris would be mainly mud and decayed branches and there would be no guarantee that if the penstock were drawn it would be possible to drop it again in order to control the flow of water: the penstock might break or it might foul up on debris trapped in the mouth of the culvert. Even in 1844 there had been some concern over raising the penstock. In the intervening period the ditches referred to have been piped - a nine inch pipe being cut into the culvert situated at the south end of the Bully Hole in the Park - basically to restrict the volume of water to a degree that is acceptable to the size of pipe running down beside the road to Frog Farm and under the farm buildings and into Frog Farm Pond. To draw the old penstock and risk losing control of the flow of water would be to run a serious risk of choking the nine inch pipe and causing the Bully Hole to flood with mud and silt. It is doubtful in fact whether this area could contain the volume of mud and water which might be released under pressure from the Upper Pond and this would raise very serious problems.

#### TWO EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

The nine-inch steel pipe which projects some way out into the pond from a point on the bank just south of the Dog of Alcibiades was specially installed for the purpose of supplying a large underground water tank situated on the South Lawn of Petworth House near the Iron Gates. This would provide an emergency water supply in the case of fire and the water level of tank and lake would correspond. In the early years of the last war an extension was made from this tank back along the House drive, through the grand Entrance gates, along Back Road and down between the Iron Room and Harwood's Garage into the large underground tank situated under the Market Square at the north-west corner of the Leconfield Hall, and by the present bus shelter.

Another emergency system involved a steam-pump situated in a compartment on the north-west side of the boathouse. The pump was installed about 1911. Water was drawn from the pond through an eight inch pipe and pumped across the Park in a north-westerly direction via an eight inch cast-iron main to a reservoir on top of the hill by the Monument. This reservoir provided storage for a complete ring-main fire system in and around Petworth House. The steam-pump was removed some fifteen or sixteen years ago and the present method of keeping the reservoir topped up is by direct connection to Southern Water Authority mains. Both of these systems are still operable in case of fire.

#### THE POND BED

The basic form of construction of the bed of the pond (Lancelot Brown apparently building on the site of an earlier, smaller, pond) would appear to be the construction of a clay blanket some eighteen inches to two feet in thickness and well-rammed, trodden and puddled to form a water-tight basin. Probably Weald Clay from north of Petworth was used, being laboriously brought to the site by horse and cart and then to the pond itself by wheelbarrow. A certain section would be dug out first and in all probability the resulting earth put to use to strengthen the down slope of the pond head and to raise the crest of the dam to the existing road level. The clay surface once rammed would be covered with broken stone, bricks, gravel and other small stones to give the clay blanket a reasonably firm surface. These too would be trodden in. Possibly too a covering of two to three inches of sand would be added to prevent the clay from cracking and drying while the process of construction continued.



## THE BANKS

The banks are protected by stone "pitchings" which on an average cover the first ten feet of the bed of the pond around the perimeter. In fact it is soon obvious on closer inspection that during this century the banks of the pond have been considerably eroded. Some of this erosion is quite natural while some damage has been caused by the treading of animals going down to drink. Exceptional wave action during the stormy winter months has added to the problem by carrying eroded earth into the pond itself. The erosion has in turn led to the loss of some of the protective stone pitching. Human attention too has led to the removal of many of the pitchings. Mischievous children have often simply pulled them out throwing them into deeper water, adults too have pulled them out to throw on the frozen pond during the winter months. The loss of the pitchings has given the high winter water levels the opportunity to encroach over the clay lining of the pond bed and cut into the more sandy alluvial natural soil beyond the perimeter. Here in places it soaks down through until it either finds a vent in the rocky ground beneath or seeps down into the foundations of some long lost building. Either way it tends to draw away without a sign of where it is running to. At times this can give the appearance of a small whirlpool. Some six or seven trailer-loads of pitchings have already been recovered, taken away and stored, but there remain several more loads yet to be recovered from the mud. These could be re-used in any possible reinstatement.

## SILTING

Vegetable composts and other silting materials tend, as most visitors to the pond will have noticed (particularly when the levels are low), to settle in some depth between the islands and the shore. Leaves or vegetable matter from the trees etc. are borne along by wind and current to sink when wind and current subside, as happens particularly where the islands provide a shelter. Here leaves pile up under water ultimately to decay in the lee of the islands. This silting could be removed with great advantage, as too the lesser deposits of silt which lie mainly across the centre section of the pond. The extensive silting on the far end toward the pond-tail is a totally different matter altogether and would need considerable thought. The mud, if any attempt were made to remove it, would have at least in the initial stages, to be removed by hand. Machines would have the greatest difficulty with the terrain and could severely damage the pond bed. Nor would the slope of the ground help such a project. If the silting goes unchecked however the pond here will become ever shallower by erosion from the banks and by the decay of leaves from the trees. Steam engines on each bank

drawing a metal skip back and forth may be worth consideration.

## THE ISLANDS

The islands are of course artificial, being basically mounds of soil protected by a clay blanket and surrounded, like the bank perimeter, by protective stone pitchings. Trees and shrubs have been planted according to the size of the islands. The action of the roots of these trees and shrubs on the protective slopes of the islands is obvious and here, as with the perimeter banks, the stone pitchings are in some disarray.

The larger the trees the greater the havoc caused by their roots particularly when they decay and fall.



The Upper Pond -  
a nineteenth century view



#### THE ORNAMENTAL VASES ON THE ISLANDS

These, which are of the same construction as those on Lawn Hill, should number three. There is one on the island opposite the Pond Head, one among the bamboo and willow on an island due south of the boathouse, while a third and last used to stand on the island with the Scots pine and burshwood just to the north of the sunken punt. The vase on this island canted over naturally and fell into the pond some eighteen years ago as a result of root damage to the stand. Only the stand remained on the island. The vase which had come apart into its various segments was painstakingly recovered from the lake when levels were low during the hot summer of 1976. These were then laid out on the island with a view to eventual restoration. For reasons obscure, someone has now smashed the segments to pieces and it would seem that the vase on this island can never now be restored.

#### LADY LECONFIELD'S BIRD GARDEN

Lady Violet Leconfield had a wooden bridge constructed connecting a number of islands in the tail of the pond. These and the fenced-in area here becoming a bird sanctuary. On one of the islands was a small hut thatched with birch twigs that was used as a hide. There were a considerable number of ornamental wild fowl including two Black Swans and the Canada Geese were kept down to 18 through a policy of culling the eggs. The islands were carefully trimmed each year, particularly the willows within the bird sanctuary. Their shoots were regularly cut, bundled, and sold for basket-making.

#### DAMAGE TO THE BOATHOUSE

As already observed there was some concern over the boathouse foundations and considerable work has already been undertaken in this respect. In addition, the statue of Neptune has been removed for restoration and a very considerable quantity of stone has been recovered from directly in front of the boathouse. Removing this from the lake proved difficult and costly: the debris consisting as it does of large York stone seats, paving slabs and building stone. All this has not simply canted over into the water: human agency is responsible for this devastation. Over a period of years the coping has been relentlessly pushed into the water and the huge stone seats on the inside wall of the verandah have been pitched over the parapet - a feat of vandalism requiring the combined exertions of several men. The paving stones used on the roof have suffered a like fate as have two stone balls on the side. This sort of vandalism is not the work

of young boys: often it would be perhaps the aftermath of some function in the Park - sometimes too the work of troops stationed here during the wars out of high spirits probably acquired by drink.

#### BOATS ON THE LAKE

Just south of the Dog of Alcibiades is a semi-circular section of stonework. There are other similar sections at intervals around the perimeter of the lake; another under the horse-chestnut tree opposite the Dog, one down on the Pond Head near the stone seat, and another East of the boathouse and a remaining one over by the stews. These tiny jetties were constructed in such a manner that a boat could come alongside the bank without the damage which could be inflicted on the hull either by its running aground or coming ashore on the cobbled pitchings. The pond has always been used for storing edible fish. Two centuries ago fish appear to have been netted from boats on the lake. Turner's famous picture of the boats on Petworth Park Lake may be more accurate than is usually thought. Boats would have been used also to cut out the immense quantities of ice used for the three large icehouses to the north of the servants' quarters in Petworth House. These icehouses were regularly stocked with ice cut from the pond and there survive many orders and dockets detailing men with horses and carts to cut and transport ice to the icehouses. It has been a regular occurrence over the centuries for fish netted from largish boats to be transported by waggon teams for distribution to the many other ponds throughout the area.

#### LORD LECONFIELD'S PUNT

The boathouse and the cobbled bank pitchings are not the only sufferers from vandalism. Another example is clearly to be seen some 100 yards north-west of the boathouse. A large punt appears to have run aground in the mud and then been abandoned. In fact it is only the recent subsidence of the waters that has exposed the punt to view again. The bottom has now rotted out as it has lain beneath the surface for some years now. It had been removed from the boat-house by vandals and its sunken position previously known only approximately. The massive punt (possibly made largely by Henry Peacock and other estate carpenters) and certainly more than fifty years old, took eight men to lift and would be transported to wherever it was needed on the river by horse and cart. It would be used whenever Lord Leconfield and his party were shooting on both sides of the river and would transport beaters, keepers and members of the shoot across the river to shoot covers and woods on the opposite side. For instance beaters would go up to Perryfields on the Rother



and drive the covers back down the river toward Budham. The punt would ferry guests from side to side. Shopham Bridge was another point where the Estate shot on both sides of the river. The punt was also used for general maintenance of the islands in the lake and other ponds and rivers.

#### THE DOG OF ALCIBIADES

By tradition the statue by Carew was put in the lake by the 3rd Earl of Egremont to commemorate a famous hunting dog. A copy letter from the Estate Office to Mr. Murray, Colonel Wyndham's legal adviser in London, dated 14th February 1840 gives the following information: "James Boxall, Lord Egremont's stonemason, was fixing the statue of the Dog of Alcibiades on the island in the pond of the late Earl of Egremont's Park at Petworth on or about the 5th November 1829. It was brought to Petworth a day or two previous."

The statue stands at present too close to the bank, having been placed in its present position in the mid-1950's. At this time the timbers which supported it in its original position some 20 feet out were found to be decaying so that the statue was beginning to cant over. The four timbers were set at an angle holding up a cairn of stones that served as a base for the statue. The remains of these timbers can still be seen. The present position of the statue does render it somewhat vulnerable to human attention. It may at some time be possible to remove the statue to its original position and at the same time give it a greater stability and safety than it enjoyed before. It would appear from the fact that there is a further "nib" of land some ten or fifteen yards north of where the Dog now stands that the Dog may have stood originally on the more northerly nib but that at some time during renovation and realignment work a second nib was constructed so that the statue could be placed in a position which bisects the view of the House from the lake and sets the Dog at right angles to the centre of the House. There is at present however no documentary evidence for this theory.

#### CANADA GEESE

The population of Canada Geese has increased dramatically since the early bird sanctuary days. This is clear when they are seen in the water but particularly when one looks at the fouling of the shores. This fouling also occurs in the water and a combination of this fouling with the abundant decaying vegetable matter in the pond is certainly detrimental to fish population - many of which exist in a state of stunted growth. At a count some five years ago a number in excess of 600 were present.

#### FISH

In view of the considerable volume of water drawn off and further probable evaporation during the summer months it was thought advisable to net and remove a proportion of the fish stock. Such an operation undoubtedly benefits both those removed and those left behind. It benefits too the water to which those removed are taken. 95% of this work was undertaken by Southern Water Authority employees who have the required equipment and are highly skilled at this type of operation. The first net on the day in question took place on the west bank at a point roughly opposite the Dog of Alcibiades. After an hour and a half's hard work with the "net" - a kind of trawl with a bag at the end - the main haul was a net full of mud which had then to be pumped out again. As regards netting fish the effort proved quite abortive. The second net took place (as in the photograph) from a position on the pond head. The trawl took in that half of the pond that runs from a line to the west of the water cypress standing on the island immediately facing the bank and sweeping out in a wide arc. This time when the net was recovered the result was considerably more favourable: there were a large number of tench (in excess of 150) and weighing from 5½ lbs downward, some 800 to 1000 perch, mainly fairly small, roach of various sizes but very few of any appreciable size except for one of 2 lbs. The others tended in fact to be very small. Roach are bottom feeders and with the depth of mud on the bottom there is little natural weed growth to provide the water snails and shrimps which form their diet. A few pike were recovered but definitely not the number expected; these no doubt still remain in considerable numbers and would probably be advantageously removed at some future date. No eels were taken but this would be owing to the net being pulled over the top of them as they lay in the mud. In fact considerable numbers of eels are known to be in the lake, some weighing as much as seven pounds. No carp or bream were recovered but the carp population of the lake is likely to be of some size. They can sometimes be seen parading round and round the islands. Another sizable population is that of fresh water molluscs. These were probably installed in the lake originally for culinary purposes.

A hundred tench and six hundred perch together with a few roach were transferred to the Lower Pond and the remainder taken to other waters by the Southern Water Authority.

#### THE WATER

The supplies of water to the pond other than the rainwater which forms the basic volume come from the numerous springs in the



surrounding hills to the west. In addition the overflow from the old Petworth conduit supply running through the stew ponds to the west gives a yield of some 50,000 gallons a day maximum. From the north-west runs a brick culvert commencing on the west side of the road that runs through the valley below the Monument opposite the spot where the old rifle butts once was. The culvert then follows the road, keeping some few feet to the west until it reaches Burdock's Bottom or the valley immediately below Lower Well at Upperton. It collects spring water from both places. From there it runs eastward following the contour of the hill at such a level which enables it to discharge into the tail of the pond within the previously mentioned ornamental wild-fowl garden. The yield from this comes from springs which are minimal in themselves but which collect rainwater from the higher ground through land drainage systems. Any water below this level is then carried away by a similar system to the Lower Pond. Out of the northern and eastern slopes, where the land is inclined to sandy wet subsoil, other land drainage systems were installed to give added volume to the contents of the pond which was estimated in 1969 to contain some 23,000,000 gallons. At the present time the water has been drawn off to a depth of some 4 feet 3 inches, an equivalent 12,500,000 gallons; 10,500,000 gallons remaining. These figures are based on an area of some 15 acres, 2 quarters and 39 rods. The distance all round the edge of the water in 1799 was 1618 yards. Through erosion that distance may now be increased by some 30-40 yards.

J. TAYLOR

### MOLE-TRAPS TO BRIGHTON

My father Bert Collins of Little Bognor started work with horses at Douglas Lake Farm but after the Great War worked at various pits and quarries round about - Shimmings, Bognor Common, Flexham Park and River Hill. The stone was used for road-building. He worked on in the quarries until he retired in 1959 at the age of 70 and the only break was a short period in the 1920's when he worked for Alfneys building a new house at Bedham.

As a side-line he caught moles. At one time he was courting a girl who was in service at Brighton and he would set mole-traps all the way from Douglas Lake to Brighton. When the lady moved to Worthing he set traps all the way to Worthing. He once took a bet that he could skin five moles in a minute and won it, having the jackets off in seconds. The skins he used to dry out in the sun and send to a firm at Wisbech. He originally had a bicycle but finally bought a motor-bicycle - out of the proceeds of his mole-catching.

He went on mole-catching until about 1950. The farmers would give him a penny for each tail he produced as proof of capture. The tails were kept in a bin and would soon smell if they were left lying about in the bin. Occasionally the iron traps would catch weasels using the run and this was something of a bonus - a weasel skin was worth 1/6d. as against a shilling for a mole-skin.

Stone was prised out of the pits with huge iron bars. I remember there was a tame fox up there and when the hounds were about the manager used to lock it up in his office.

from Mr. L.D. Collins, 149 Lower Street, PULBOROUGH.

### JOHN SIRGOOD'S WAY

John Sirgood was born in Gloucestershire about 1820 and died in 1885. As a young man working as a shoemaker in Clapham he became a disciple of the evangelist James Bridges, and a member of the "Plumstead Peculiars" a small sect noted for their practice of faith-healing and the anointing of the sick with oil. Later both Sirgood and his close friend John Banyard went their own way and left Bridges' sect. Banyard founded the "Peculiars" as an offshoot of Bridges' group and gained in the villages along the Thames from London to Southend a rather wider following than James Bridges, his mentor, had ever had. Sirgood meanwhile preached "with power" at Clapham either on the common or, in the winter, in local houses. He learned however in a dream that his preaching would meet more success in rural Sussex than it had in uncaring Clapham. Unhesitatingly obedient to this unearthly prompting, Sirgood lost no time in closing his shoemaker's shop and transporting himself, his wife and his few possessions southward by wheelbarrow. There was certainly no money for a train-fare. Alternately pushing and pushed by his wife, he walked through Surrey to finally arrive in the remote and unspoiled Sussex paradise of Loxwood. The year was 1850. Settling in Loxwood, Sirgood set to work as a shoemaker and began also to preach his own version of the "Peculiar" Gospel. "Peculiar" is used in this context not in its present-day sense but in its biblical meaning where it is used to describe Israel as God's "peculiar" or especial people. For these evangelists, just as Israel had been God's especial people in Old Testament times, so now were the "Peculiars" effectually a new Israel.

The early years at Loxwood were indeed "a day of small things" and Sirgood's teaching slow to gain adherents. For some while just five persons met in a Loxwood cottage under his direction. Gradually however Sirgood's distinctive ideas began to take root and he became no longer an object of amused condescension but a serious rival to the parish church: a great proportion of Loxwood's farmers and

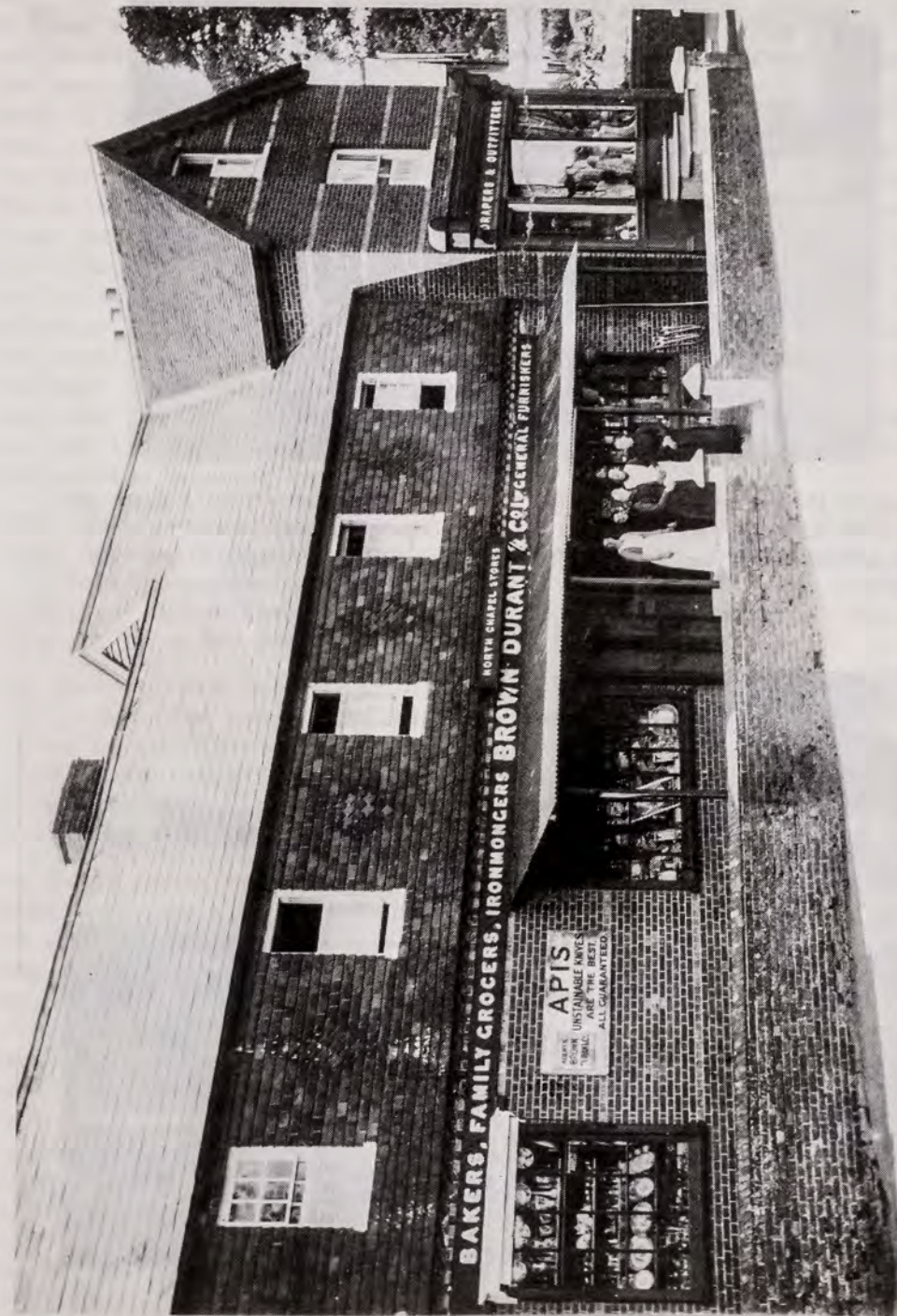


labourers became followers of Sirgood's Gospel and took the name of "Dependents". The almost universally used nickname "Cokelers" is not used by the community itself and its origins are obscure. It is usually assumed to be connected with the Dependents' supposed use of cocoa as a beverage, or possibly to John Sirgood's alleged habit of refusing liquor when preaching in working men's taverns but being prepared to take cocoa instead for the sake of fellowship. Efforts were belatedly made to stop Sirgood's activities by declaring his meetings illegal but, despite a lengthy correspondence, no action was ever taken and the Dependents' cause continued to prosper. A community was established at Shamley Green near Guildford in the mid-1850's and in the early 1860's the Dependents built a chapel in Loxwood itself. Further communities grew up at Northchapel, Warnham, Kirdford, Chichester and Hove.

It was a characteristic of the Dependents, as also of the Peculiarists from whom they had sprung, that support for the movement came almost exclusively from the working people: yet Sirgood seems in no way to have been interested in class division - his eyes were fixed firmly on another world. Sirgood had certainly been bitterly attacked in the early Loxwood days by the establishment, both clerical and lay, but it does not appear that he saw himself as in any way attacking their position and privileges. He sought only to be able to lead his followers in the way of God as he saw it. His followers had already assumed the Body of Christ and were even now to some extent divorced from that sinful world in which they lived.

The few accounts that exist of the dependents, all written from outside the sect, are not always free of misstatement. All stress the austere nature of the practice of Sirgood's followers. Despite this it does not seem that Sirgood's motives were primarily negative. It was rather that, like one of the old prophets, he sought to call his people back to a lost innocence. Only in cutting out extraneous influence would they advance toward the truly spiritual. In contrast to the old "Peculiarists" he laid great stress on the cultivation of a better life through the working of the spirit rather than on a once for all "salvation" that could not be further built upon. Faith healing too Sirgood appears in the later years to have viewed with a greater reserve than in his early days with the Peculiarists. In pursuit of the life of the spirit secular books, music and ornament might find no place in loyal households and the Bible would be the only reading matter.

Much misunderstanding of the Dependents arises from not taking into account that mid-Victorian world from which they sprung and which shaped so many of John Sirgood's convictions. It is for instance a widely-held misconception that the Dependents have a rooted hostility to marriage. It is probably more accurate to say that marriage



Northchapel Stores about fifty years ago.





Wallace Smith delivering bread for Northchapel Stores about sixty years ago.  
 This was the first van owned by Brown, Durant and Co.  
 The walking stick was used to fish out loaves from the back of the van.



Lord Leconfield's punt resting on the dried bed of the Upper Pond in Petworth Park  
 June 1982.

does not fit very well with their somewhat communal way of life. Sirgood's own attitude to marriage was reserved but he certainly did not forbid it, and he was of course a married man himself. Many of the early Dependents were married too. Marriage might well come between a Dependent and the pursuit of spiritual truth and might work against the communal ideal: it was not lightly to be undertaken, and the ceremony could not be performed in a Dependent meeting-house but for all that it was not forbidden. John Sirgood had seen however at first hand the crushing poverty of the Victorian working-classes and had tried to come to terms with it. He had seen particularly the suffering of large families where the father was out of work or a drunkard. Modern Dependents can still recall stories like that of the family who had lost both father and mother and the six children had been farmed out by the parish to uncaring foster-parents. They would be lucky to get a slice of bread and a rabbit's head for dinner and lived on "hard pudding" - a phrase still remembered even if the precise meaning has now gone.

Total abstinence too, while still firmly adhered to, is hardly something that particularly preoccupies the present Dependents; yet in a Victorian context joining the Society and abjuring (or attempting to abjure) drink forever would be, for some at least, literally the passport to a new life.

The dress of the Dependents has at all times been somewhat sombre and for a long time too looked back on those early mid-Victorian days. No one of course now wears the long skirts but the famous bonnets, rather like those of the Salvation army, can still very occasionally be seen today. John Sirgood's own topper survived among his followers for a good many years after his death.

The early converts sometimes faced great hostility. One man, Brother Peter was once a head gardener at Plaistow with several under him, but when he joined the Dependents he lost his job as his workmen simply refused to work with him. Nothing daunted he worked on his own, trenching, copping, any work he could get and in the end returned to his old job. Similarly daughters of the Dependents in the early days sought work in service but were refused because of their Dependent background. Here again, as with Brother Peter, the wheel turned full cycle. In later years daughters of the Dependents were much in demand because of their honesty and reliability. Persecution never deterred the Dependents. Was it not to be expected that the Devil, seeing the working of the spirit and alarmed by it, would stir up dissension and opposition? It was for the genuine Christian to live out the persecution and through his own life's example to preach with power.



The Dependents' stores were something that grew up not as a premeditated business venture but in response to these conditions. They do not seem as some have surmised to have been founded by John Sirgood as a conscious means of stabilising the sect by rendering it self-sufficient, although in practical terms this was the later effect of the stores. The Dependent daughters could not in the early days gain employment in service and the stores gave them employment and kept them within a society ambience. The beginnings were very inauspicious. The Dependents drew their following from the very poorest and one of the first attempts at commerce was when someone baked six lard rolls with much trepidation in case they did not sell and precious food should be wasted. In fact they did sell and very quickly and soon the Dependents were baking hundreds. It was from such humble beginnings that the Dependents' stores grew. In the early days John Sirgood himself would go, top-hat and all, to London to buy for his new stores and Jesse Puttick would fetch goods with his horse and van. Some of the girls, it is said, went round with baskets and cotton. The stores grew out of a social need and never became an end in themselves. Many will remember the Northchapel stores with its various departments, bakery, grocery, ironmongery, furniture, drapery and outfitters. There were the girls with their attractive aprons and the unfailing politeness - "next pleasure please". There was nothing small-minded about the stores in their heyday - they really were small department stores. Cars were hired out and the range of merchandise available was extraordinary for small villages like Northchapel, Loxwood, or Warnham. Many Dependents had a financial share in the stores and it was well-known that any Dependents fallen on hard times could receive material help from the stores. While some suspicion might be expected at the Dependents' resulting hold on the commercial life of a village, the transparent honesty and cheerfulness of the Dependents seems largely to have allayed this. John Sirgood himself was no killjoy and the Dependents, however austere their religious practice may appear to an outsider, have never had that reputation among those who have known them. Hardiman Scott visiting the Northchapel stores in the late 1940's stresses the communal aspect of the Dependents' life. Some sixteen people, men and women, would sit down together for supper, the last meal of the day, in a large room above the stores at Northchapel. John Sirgood would have needed no reminder that the early church too had met like this and lived together as a community.

As befits the followers of John Sirgood the Dependents' chapels are austere in design. There is neither font nor altar and the Bible is the sole book except for the communal hymn book. There are no clergy. Services are conducted by a leader and two "stalwarts". There is no cross, for as Hardiman Scott was told, Christ is beyond both tomb and

crucifixion. The Lord's Prayer too is not used but rather the seventeenth chapter of St. John's Gospel. Services, usually three on Sunday and two others during the week, follow a set pattern, opening with a hymn, then a prayer and a bible reading after which the congregation may, if they wish, offer, individually, a spontaneous testimony that shows "the working of the spirit with power". This they do: there is little of the silence associated with meetings of the Society of Friends. Services are open to all although in practice the congregation does not vary much from week to week. Certainly a warm welcome is extended to newcomers. No pressure however is put on them to join the Society. The Dependents were not a missionary sect in the years after John Sirgood's death and have made little conscious attempt to win new converts. No music is heard at a service but at a recent funeral the unaccompanied singing could be heard at some distance. Funerals have a note in them of triumphant release from a sinful world and the service may last for some hours. The Dependents have a hymn book but much of the singing is quite spontaneous, a well-known hymn being struck up by an individual and then taken up by the congregation as a whole. There is a collection taken during the, at first so called by a child, "money-song" - after all there is heating to be paid for - electricity in these modern days. The hymns are the Dependents' own composition, Brothers Taylor and Hooker being particularly noted and are written much in the manner of Wesley. John Sirgood's attitude to music was probably rather like his attitude to marriage, somewhat reserved. Music was not a bad thing in itself but could all too easily divert the mind from spiritual reality. As we have seen, it is not used in the services of the Dependents.

There are no Dependents now who can remember John Sirgood but there is still a remembrance of those elders who as children had known him at first hand. One old lady who died at the age of 99 could remember going to see him as a little girl and being given brown sugar on bread and butter. "I'm sorry my little dear, it's all I have," she was told. The story does not suggest an austere man.

What would John Sirgood have made of this modern world? Certainly he would not take the easy route of denouncing all that is new as evil. He used to lament the time consumed by his frequent walks from Loxwood to London and would certainly have appreciated modern methods of travel. It is related that he and a friend went to great lengths to make a primitive bicycle to help their travelling but were unable to get it out of the garden gate! Television too he would probably not have condemned out of hand but he would certainly think it, like many of man's latter-day inventions, sadly misused. Its effect on churchgoing of all denominations he would lament. The arms race he would have abhorred: the Dependents



have always been staunch pacifists.

From about 1000, the Dependents are now reduced to some fifty but neither Sirgood nor his followers would ever question the ways of Providence. His flock have never compromised his austere ideals and feel that if Sirgood were to walk into a Northchapel service this coming Sunday he would feel completely at home. Nor do his followers feel in this twilight period that the battle is lost, for truly the days are hastening on and the old prophecies come already to fulfilment.

(The Northchapel Dependents were talking to Mrs. Southin and the Editor.)

There are three articles on the Dependents in the old Sussex County Magazine but they do need to be treated with caution. Hardiman Scott's chapter on the Dependents in his "Secret Sussex" (1949) is a good introduction although again there are some minor inaccuracies. There is a good introduction by John Montgomery in the West Sussex Gazette for 28th December 1961 and some perceptive recollections by L.M. Walsh in the same newspaper (March 25th this year).

#### NEW MEMBERS JOINED SINCE LAST BULLETIN

Mr. Guy Botwright, 30 Valley Road, Newhaven BN9 9XA.  
Mrs. K. Button, 188 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Comber, Manor Farm, Selham.  
Mrs. Y. Cook, 19 Saltash Road, Welling, Kent DA16 1HD.  
Mrs. C.K. Glover, 41 Hatfield Road, Southsea, Hants PO4 9DJ.  
Mrs. Gumbrell, 10 Grove Lane, Petworth.  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Hamilton, Oakside, Graffham, Petworth.  
Mr. C.R. Hannis, 15 Grove Road, Windsor, Berks.  
Mr. J. Knight, 8 Princess Margaret Road, Rudgwick, Horsham RH12 3HN.  
Mrs. T. Norris, 2 Rothermead, Petworth.  
Mr. & Mrs. S. Parrack, 22 Grove Lane, Petworth.  
Mr. & Mrs. K. Parish, Little Paddock, Graffham.  
Mr. B. Peacock, 1 Invicta Grove, Southall, Middlesex.  
Mr. & Mrs. Peters, Little Boxgrove, Petworth.  
Mrs. Phillips, Old Well House, Lodsworth.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Rendell, 22 Wyndham Road, Petworth.  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Saunders, Basement Flat, 13 Denning Road, Hampstead  
Mr. R. Shotter, 17 Valentine's Lea, Northchapel. N.W.3.  
Mrs. K.R. Smith, 52 Woodlands Avenue, Hove, Sussex BN3 6BN.  
Mrs. J. Stanton, 80 Hampers Green, Petworth.  
Mr. R. Taylor, 5 Gabriel's, Marringdean, Billingshurst.  
Mr. A. Sadler, Peacock's Hill, Lower Beeding.  
Mrs. Wallace, Old Place, Haslemere, Surrey.  
Mr. & Mrs. Wickes, Great Yew Cottage, River, Nr. Tillington.  
Mrs. E. Farley, 28 Brighton Road, Horsham.



