



No.194. March 2024

THE PETWORTH SOCIETY  
*magazine*

No.194. March 2024

# THE PETWORTH SOCIETY

## CONSTITUTION AND OFFICERS

The Petworth Society was founded in 1974 'to preserve the character and amenities of the town and parish of Petworth including Byworth and the parish of Egdean; 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, anywhere and the annual subscription is £20.00 for UK addresses and £30.00 for overseas addresses. Further information may be obtained from any of the following.

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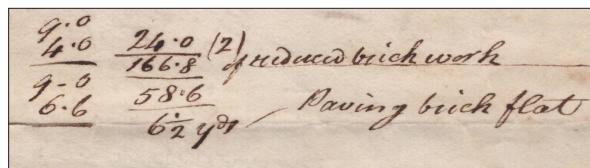
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the Coultershaw Beam Pump and Petworth St  
Edmund's Day Fair.

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Mike Mulcahy

A Happy New Year to all our existing, future and past members.

This is my second report as Chairman of the Petworth Society, and I have to commence by stating that I made a mistake in my first iteration by implying that there had been two previous chairmen. I have been researching the records and find that the first chairman was Colonel Maude, indeed the first magazine issue of May 1974 lists the officers as: Chairman Colonel Alan Maude, Vice Chairman Sir Leslie Fry, Hon. Secretary Mr Arthur Hill and Hon. Treasurer Mr Horace Probin.

The reason for the research is hinted at by the date of that first issue fifty years ago this May, and of course we will, on March 15, be celebrating that very anniversary of the establishment of the Society at the Leconfield Hall. We hope that many members young and old will get together to celebrate this extraordinary organisation. Details will be published soon but the event is beginning to look exciting with refreshments and canapes along with some riveting presentations by important persons!

That first edition covered some fascinating areas: there were reports on the proposed demolition of the Hermitage, it stated this was to be rigorously opposed! It would appear that was a successful initiative.

The final article in the eight-page magazine, actually named *The Bulletin*, was 'Questions in search of an answer'. They included: 'Why was Soanes once referred to as Wicked Hammans?'; 'What is the earliest record of the Virgin Mary Spring being a place of pilgrimage or its healing powers for the eyes?'; and 'Was there a Saxon battle at Byworth?'

As I write this report, we are well into winter, although the weather has been unusually mild. Things in the town have been quiet now that the St Edmund's Day fair is over, and the town's Christmas Cracker event done and dusted. Even the Christmas lights and decorations have been removed. The Society did have another successful book sale in early December; I try to help Mike and Sarah Singleton but just end up buying more books of my own.

We have some exciting events coming up and summer walks are being planned, even one around the tunnels of Petworth House.

A recent initiative has been the establishment of the Petworth Society

Facebook site. It already has 161 members – it is meant to compliment the website and is proving a useful information outlet. Look out for it and join up.

Finally, I have to thank Sarah Singleton, who is retiring as a committee member and web-master, for all of her hard work over the years. I am, however, excited that we have attracted three new committee members – Ron Parsons, Mike Singleton and Beverley Sewell. If you are interested in helping we are keen for further members, so let me know.

The annual subscriptions will be due at the Society year end of February 28 and we will hold the subscription rate at the existing level of £20 for UK members.

Enjoy the upcoming Spring and this current magazine.

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## **EDITORIAL**

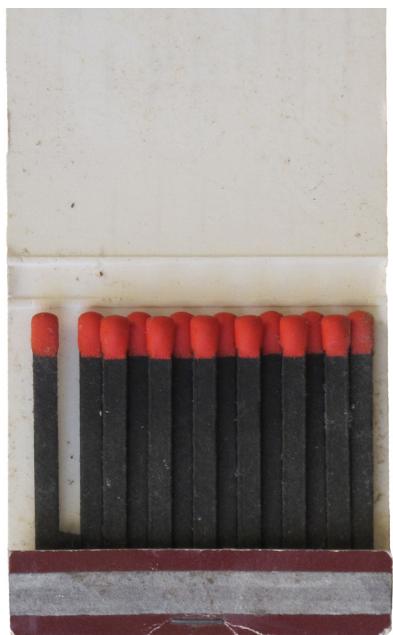
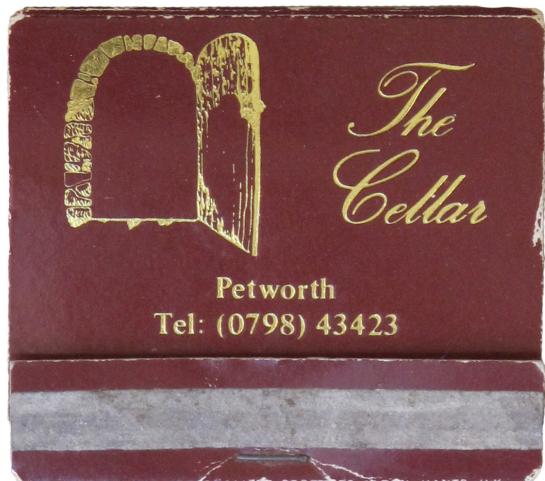
Andrew Loukes

I echo the Chairman's excitement in recognising the 50th anniversary of the Petworth Society and much look forward to the commemorative evening. The next issue of the magazine will celebrate its own half-century of production. The present edition sees the second of Hazel Flack's multi-layered articles on the Iping Paper Mill, so relevant to us because of its contextual relationship with the Coultershaw Heritage site – do look out for spring events there, along with the annual opening of the Cottage Museum, whose excellent new guidebook is reviewed in these pages.

Elsewhere here, the former Leconfield Estate foreman Roy Dunstan shares with Miles Costello his insightful and typically entertaining recollections, including a colourful cast of characters who will bring back memories for many. Miles also tells the intriguing and enigmatic story of the Upton-family vault at Bartons Lane cemetery, the final resting place to members of a major Petworth clan who for generations served the Lords Egremont and Leconfield, some of whom occupy the adjacent tomb.

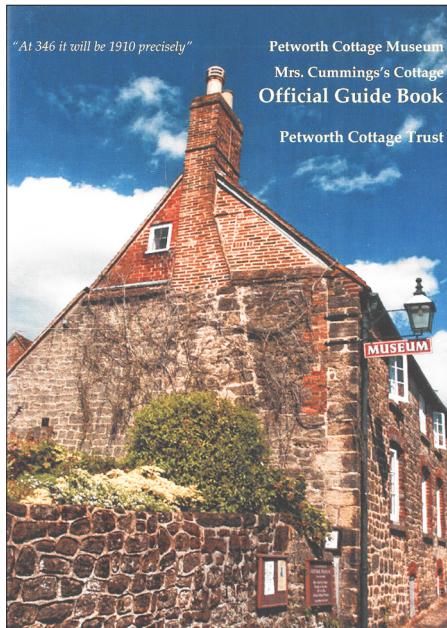
A welcome debut piece from new Committee member Ian Yonge explores the 1911 Census in relation to the workforce at Petworth House and the Estate at that date, revealing not only its scale but also divisions in roles between local and non-local employees and the impact of the latter on the town's demographic. Delving further back in time, Robert Stedall follows his survey of the Dawtreys with another tracing a similarly important and long-disappeared Petworth family, the Peacheys. In the field of contemporary art, it is thrilling to see the near conclusion of Alison Crowther's beautiful and monumental sculpture made of local wood.

Finally, having shared with us her 1990s memories of Posters bistro, occupying the basement which is now Basmati, Kate Wardle has discovered this match-book from another (the first?) restaurant on the site; a lovely survival, and evidence of widespread smoking which is now almost unimaginable.



# A valuable reference work

Petworth Cottage Museum / Mrs Cummings's Cottage – Official Guidebook



Having been through several revisions since it was first printed in 1998 the Petworth Cottage Museum Guidebook was completely rewritten last year, twenty-five years after the first edition. The resulting publication represents a welcome up-grade, printed on glossy paper with numerous colour illustrations and forming a comprehensive 52-page guide which not only explains the history of the cottage, the present displays and the contexts of Mrs Cummings and the Leconfield Estate, but also documents how the museum was founded and is run.

Particular features include an extensive transcription of the vivid recollections of Agnes Phelan, who had visited the cottage in 1919 and had been invited by the trustees to return in

1997. Her recollections have been pivotal in the presentation of the museum and also reveal much about Petworth in the early twentieth century. Also fascinating are the local memories of those who remembered Mrs Cummings, which again offer wider insights into both the town and working at Petworth House during the period.

Other additions include summaries of subjects explored more fully by museum volunteers in the pages of this magazine: the Goss China collection (*PSM* 176) and the previous known residents of the cottage (*PSM* 191).

Overall, the new guidebook represents both a valuable reference work and an informative souvenir – the perfect complement to the reception which visitors receive from the museum's friendly and knowledgeable stewards. The opportunity to purchase this important publication should add an extra incentive to visit the museum this season and to encourage others to do so.

# People and paper

A history of Iping Mill, part two. Hazel Flack

The first of these two articles about Iping Mill, which appeared in the December issue, detailed the origins of the mill and the changes that took place in the buildings and functions over the course of its history. This article talks more about the people who owned, leased, or worked in the mill. One of these stories is about the brief life of a young girl, Clara Booker, who worked in Iping Paper Mill for a short time in the early 1880s.

## **CLARA BOOKER'S STORY (PART 1)**

Clara's early life was unsettled. Her mother, Jane Booker, born in Easebourne in 1839, was the fourth child of agricultural labourer Thomas Booker and his wife Elizabeth. As a young woman, Jane obtained work as a housemaid in the home of James and Ellen Eames who ran a 63 1-acre farm at Linch, Midhurst. As well as thirteen male farm employees, the Eames family employed one male and four female live-in household servants, including Jane.

Finding herself pregnant, Jane may have left her employment and returned to her parents' home, and Clara was born back at Easebourne in July 1868. The child was baptised on July 26, and a blank space was left next to the father's name on the baptism record. Just under three years later, we find Clara in the 1871 census, aged two, and described as a 'boarder', in the home of blacksmith Thomas and Eliza Cluett, and their two adult sons, in Upper Street, Easebourne. It could be that her mother found another post as a live-in domestic servant where the child would not be welcome, though Jane cannot be found in the 1871 census.

In 1873, Clara began attending the Easebourne Parochial School, where she remained for several years. In the meantime, her mother Jane married agricultural labourer and carter, Frank Horlock, at Easebourne on May 17 1874, and by 1881 Jane and Frank were living at 7 Iping Street, Iping, with Clara and her two younger half-siblings, Ethel and George.

Within the next year, Clara left school and took work, probably as a rag sorter, at nearby Iping Paper Mill. We'll come back to her story a bit later.

The earliest confirmed reference to Iping Mill being used for the manufacture

of paper is in 1746 when John Bigg, 'Papermaker', is living there with his wife Susannah; running the mill, and taking on apprentices. Their son (also John) was born in 1754, and at the age of 14 was apprenticed to a wool-comber in Bury (presumably, that in West Sussex). Although during John's tenure the mill buildings were destroyed by fire, business at the rebuilt paper mill must have been good, as when John died in 1772, he left £1,500 to his widow Susannah (an amount with a buying power equivalent to around £188,600 in 2023). Susannah took over the management of the mill, and patented a method of bleaching paper.

There were a number of short-term owners and occupiers of Iping Paper Mill from 1800 until the latter end of the 1820s, by which time ownership was with father and son, both called William Devaynes. In 1827 Devaynes senior had leased the mill to the three co-partners of a wholesale stationery company in London: brother Benjamin and Thomas Pewtress, and James Low; this lease was renewed by Devaynes junior in 1846 at an annual rent of £330 for the first three years, then £290 per annum. Benjamin Pewtress moved to work at Iping Mill, with his second wife Mary and children from both his first and second marriages. (A visitor to the mill in 1923 was told that the Pewtresses brought up 22 children in the mill, but there is evidence of just eleven in census records, named: Mary, Edmund, Ellen, Stephen, Charlotte, Benjamin, Edward, Ebrahim, SG, JB, and Josiah.) At this time the mill was manufacturing paper used for *The Times* newspaper.

Brothers William Edward Warren and John Chalcraft Warren purchased Iping Mill in 1869, though they did not immediately work the mill themselves. The brothers had been born in Headley, Hampshire in the 1840s, and as young men worked alongside their father and grandfather in the family business of William Warren and Sons, based at Bramshott Paper Mill, near Farnham. A family legend held that one of their ancestors was the first Earl of Surrey, Earl de Warrene, who came over with William the Conqueror and whose early descendants were papermakers. Bramshott was a busy mill, which in 1861 employed 29 men and 40 women.

At the time they purchased Iping Mill, William and John were working as paper merchants in Southampton, and then returned home to help out their widowered father at Bramshott Mill. It is only in 1891 that we find both brothers actually living and working at Iping with their young families. A young worker from Bramshott Paper Mill, named Daniel Budd, liked his boss 'Mr John' and moved with him to work at the Iping Paper Mill, as a finisher, for a wage of one shilling per week.

**BELOW** A professional photograph of group of workers from Iping Mill. Date unknown but probably early twentieth century (photograph courtesy of Victor Eldridge).



#### **HENRY WELLS – BOILER STOKER**

Henry had started his employment at the mill in 1867 (shortly before the Warrens' arrival) and was still there fifty-six years later when he spoke to the 1923 visitor mentioned above. Henry said that workers did not just do their own job, but many others too. He was originally employed as a boiler stoker, but would lend a hand if needed, for example if there was a break in the machine. Henry did not like the new methods introduced by management after 1916 when John Chalcraft Warren retired. In particular he had been used to running the boiler at a pressure of 80 lbs but to his disapproval the new methods required the boiler to be run at 60 lbs pressure. He stayed on

**BELOW** Horses were used to collect rags from the station to the mill (a snapshot courtesy of Victor Eldridge).



for two years but not liking the ‘new-fangled ways’, he left. Eighteen months later, however, he returned to his job at the mill, having missed working there.

#### **THE 1883 SMALLPOX OUTBREAK AT IPING**

A detailed account of a smallpox outbreak at Iping may be found in the *Journal of the British Association of Paper Historians*, written by Ian Friel MA PhD FSA in 2020, and has been used as a source for this section. The deadly outbreak, which started at the paper mill during the tenure of the Warren brothers, was believed to have been caused by infected rags, as all those who caught the disease either worked at the mill or had contact with someone who did. There were five deaths in total, but nineteen people who fell sick did recover.

Negligence may have been a cause of the outbreak, as the provenance of rags was not always clear, and they were not routinely disinfected, but the public health response was swift and effective and, alongside the commitment and bravery of members of the community, succeeded in ending the outbreak completely within two months.

The outbreak was contained by isolating those infected, and healthy residents played their part by running errands for those who were in isolation,

**BELOW** Iping Marsh cemetery at the site of the now demolished Knapp Church, showing the overgrown north-eastern corner. This is the possible site of the unfortunate Clara Booker's grave.

leaving provisions for them at an agreed place some distance away. Those unable to work because of infection received provision from Poor Law Guardians, and temporary hospital tents were erected on the Common for patients and their families, with nursing support. Affected homes were fumigated, and items boiled or burnt as required, with the Sanitary Authority providing replacement items for those that had to be destroyed.

Effective vaccination against smallpox had been developed the previous century by Edward Jenner (1749-1823), and in 1853 was made compulsory for all newborns, in spite of zealous opposition from a small number of anti-vaccinators. In fact, the final victim at Iping was unsure whether he had been vaccinated, but refused it when offered after being infected. However, many people in this area had received vaccinations before this time, which was another factor in the success of containing the outbreak.



## **CLARA BOOKER'S STORY (PART 2)**

Working at Iping Paper Mill as a rag sorter in 1883, Clara was the third person to be infected in the smallpox outbreak (the first two had recovered quite quickly). Progress of the disease in Clara's case was cruelly swift – she developed the rash on May 10, the next day fell into a coma, and she died and was buried on May 12, the youngest of five people in her community to die in the outbreak connected to the paper mill.

Clara's mother Jane and stepfather Frank, in spite of their own grief, continued to support their wider community. Jane took in and nursed a young neighbour and colleague of Clara's who was also infected (and subsequently recovered), while still nursing her own recently born infant. Frank meanwhile moved out with the two older children, and lodged in a nearby shed from where he helped other sick people by running errands for them.

Two more rag sorters (Mrs E. Moseley and Frederick Denyer) were infected by mid-May and died quickly like Clara, then there were two further fatalities: a woman named Ellen, who was not a worker at the mill, but related to a rag-sorter, died at the end of May, and a seventy-one-year-old man named George Chitty, in early June.

It was in 1883, two months shy of her fifteenth birthday, that Clara's funeral took place at Iping. It is unclear where she is buried. There are two graveyards at Iping, one at the church, and a second at Iping Marsh, at the site of Knapp Church (now demolished) and it is most likely that Clara lies here, possibly in an unmarked grave. The older part of this churchyard is full, and many graves do not have memorials. The far north-eastern corner is overgrown by bracken and scrub, but a contemporary plan of the churchyard indicates that in that corner the graves of George Chitty and Mrs E. Moseley are to be found, and there is also a 'Booker' grave nearby, with no first name given. The plan also has the comment 'smallpox' inscribed close to the Chitty and Moseley graves.

We are grateful to Victor Eldridge who has provided us with photographs, original letters and other paperwork from the time his mother Violet was working at Iping Mill. This includes the three pieces of blotting paper with edges singed by the 1925 fire at the mill (more details of this event and a

**BELOW** Violet Eldridge starting the mill lorry (photograph courtesy of Victor Eldridge).



photograph of the blotting papers were included in part one of these articles). Violet Eldridge placed these burnt blotting papers into an envelope, onto which she added a note to say that her own mother was the first to spot that the mill was on fire. Three of the photographs provided by Victor are included in this article. The owners of the twentieth-century house built on the site of Iping Mill have also kindly provided some interesting information and photographs.

Many of the artefacts and photographs mentioned above, along with information provided in both parts of these articles, will be included within a temporary exhibition about Iping Mill for the launch of Coultershaw's new season at Easter 2024. All the information gathered will inform and support the Rother Valley History Project that will be used to create an exhibition in the new exhibition space in the South Warehouse at Coultershaw Heritage site, when it is opened.

# Nobby wasn't keen on shovelling

Roy Dunstan in Conversation with Miles Costello

Oh how I wish I had listened carefully to the stories that my parents and grandparents had told me. It would make telling my tale so much easier. Nevertheless, I will try to share with you how the Dunstan family got here along with a little bit about me.

My paternal Grandparents – the Dunstans – came from the East End of London. Grandfather George was a merchant seaman and sailed with the notoriously dangerous Russian convoys during the Second World War. Miraculously he had survived being sunk on at least one occasion and eventually came through the war more or less unharmed. I say unharmed; he did, however, contract TB and was sent to recover at Aldingbourne House, a large sanatorium set in the countryside between Arundel and Chichester. It may have been about this time that his wife, who had remained in London with their four children, was bombed out, and the family were evacuated to West Sussex. Rather conveniently, I suppose, to be near George as he convalesced.

The story becomes hazy at this point but we know that through fortune or intent grandfather gained employment as a woodsman on the Leconfield Estate at Petworth, and the family moved to the Monument in Petworth Park at Upperton. With their four children, two boys and two girls, they shared the isolated property with Lady Violet Leconfield who had an artist's studio in the tower. The children were very much spread out age-wise and the youngest of them, Aunt Joan, is in fact only twelve years older than me.

My grandmother Florence was employed as a cook at the Swan Hotel in the town, a lengthy walk across the Park from Upperton in all weathers. I imagine that it was at Petworth that my father Roy was born and family legend tells that the Christening service was somewhat raucous with both my grandparents' families demanding that he should have a name common to them and so Roy Christopher Stanley Dunstan was duly invested into the Christian church.

Most of our very much extended family had remained in the East End of London but for quite a few years after the war various relatives would travel down to Petworth in the spring to pick daffodils in the local woods. They would return to London with prams full of the flowers, selling at railway stations, and back home in London. They were real East Enders and their

**OPPOSITE** '... they shared the isolated property with Lady Violet Leconfield who had an artist's studio in the tower.' Upperton Monument.

regular visits to West Sussex must have seemed like a holiday to them.

The stay at the Monument was relatively uneventful and soon the family moved to Pheasant Copse Lodge where grandfather would work part time looking after the cows at the nearby Stag Park Farm. Much later I recall visiting my grandparents there and feeding the ducks on the farm pond. A great treat for me. In those days it wasn't unusual for Leconfield employees to move round as their employment and family circumstances evolved, and so before long they were once again on the move and left Pheasant Copse for the Grand Lodge at Petworth House. Firmly back in the town, grandfather was engaged as a night watchman and lodge keeper, a rather solitary role that he didn't fully take to but which he endured for a number of years.

It wasn't long before the wander-lust took hold again and the family moved to a council house in Station Road. It was there that my father Roy Christopher Stanley met and married Peggy Goff, a young girl who had grown up deep in the woods between Bedham and Fittleworth. At first the newlyweds rented a house at Tillington before moving to Greatpin Croft at Fittleworth, this being so much nearer to where Peggy had grown up. The houses at Fittleworth, while comfortable, were barely modernised and we would have to use oil lamps to visit the outside loo while Mum would do the washing in the bath. Dad had injured his knee with a nail as a young man and having escaped conscription he trained as an electrician at a polytechnic in Horsham before deciding that it didn't suit him and he went to work for Boxalls, the Tillington builders, as a bricklayer.

Yes, I remember Fittleworth School; of course it was the old school which is now a house. Living just across the lane there was no difficulty in getting to school, however many of the children walked in from the outlying districts such as Bedham and Coates and when the weather was bad they would spend long periods at home. Winters were especially bad and they seemed so much harsher then. During one winter I can remember a huge wall of snow being built in the school playground and snowball battles being fought between opposing groups of children. Of course that wouldn't be allowed now but it was relatively harmless and I don't ever remember anyone being hurt. Little changed in the



daily routine of the school, summer would drift into autumn then winter and then spring. I do, however, recall one day when the coal man's horse dropped down dead just outside the school; this provoked a great deal of interest and speculation among the children. Mr Strudwick's coal yard was almost next-door to the school and the sight of him and his horse and cart were so part of village life that little notice was taken of them until they were no longer around and then they were soon forgotten altogether, as was the coal yard.

The school had three classes at the time with Mrs Alder taking the infants and Mrs Dorothy Leyland the middle class. I believe that there was a Mr Moran who took the older class while Mr Hill, the Petworth head teacher, would occasionally come over to help out.

Out of school, life seemed to revolve around getting up to mischief. We could often be found fishing on the river without a licence, scrumping apples, or simply digging holes on the common. The latter would be covered over to make camps and with my brothers Paul, Peter and Jimmy, mock battles would rage across the heath. We were certainly not model children and must have been a worry to our parents.

As a teenager I enjoyed most sports from table tennis to five-a-side football. Later on I would become a regular at the squash courts at the Youth Centre in Petworth. I also played darts for both the Tavern and the Post Office teams. Before I was legally old enough to drink alcohol I would sneak into the bar at the Tavern where Mrs Smith would allow me to sit quietly in the corner with a small beer while I waited for the number 22 bus back to Fittleworth.

Childhood slowly changed to young adulthood, I had left school and father gave me a job as a contractor working for the Leconfield Estate. Mr Wells was clerk of works at the time with Mr Luard the Leconfield agent. Working with my father was a continuous round of training. With him I learnt plastering and tiling as well as achieving a handy knowledge of most other trades. Of course being quite young I spent a good deal of the early years simply labouring and this included going out with Nobby Wadey in the Estate lorry to the tip at Brinksole to drop off building waste. The lorry at that time was not a tipper and Nobby wasn't keen on shovelling off loads which is where of course I came

in. Nobby liked nothing better than rummaging through the rubbish at the tip and got something of a reputation for being a dealer in what we jokingly called contraband.

Much of the Estate work was carried out at Petworth House for the National Trust. In total I spent over ten years on the roof of the house and in the servants block. One memory that sticks in my mind is the storm of '87 when we were part way through a significant renovation of the roof of Petworth House. A temporary structure had been built consisting of scaffolding and huge sheets of corrugated iron covered with plastic. As the winds increased the sheets became increasingly unstable and myself with Mr Wootton, Jack Enticknap and Nobby Wadey spent a long and nervous night sheltering in the roof space listening to trees cracking in the Pleasure Garden and wondering if the entire construction might be blown away at any moment, because with the wind far too strong we were unable to do anything to prevent it. Fortunately the chimneys, which we had recently rebuilt, were undamaged apart from the odd score caused by flying debris. Needless to say a certain amount of damage was done and some of the plastic roof covering was later recovered as far away as Moor Farm but thankfully the roof survived.

The roof had originally been a series of valleys but we changed it to a crown flat and so doing away with the very troublesome valleys. We began the restoration in about 1978 at the north end above the library and continued to the south end when the storm hit. Much of the work was carried out inside the roof space where there was a series of internal gutters. Such was the condition of the roof that inside the roof there were dozens of receptacles of various sizes such as buckets, pots and even obsolete hip baths used to catch leaking rainwater. The theory was that the water would evaporate to a degree before the next heavy rain and so avoid any overflowing. Besides the house roof we also worked on those in the stable yard. One block of buildings was in Horsham stone while the other was Northumberland slate.

Working on the roof was not without risk and on one occasion the people of Petworth were woken to a headline in the local newspaper proclaiming that a workman had fallen fifty feet from the roof. Not one to put truth in the way

of a good story, the newspaper had not bothered to check out the facts. What really happened was that Arthur Brown was carrying a cup of tea along one of the duckboards in the roof space when he slipped and fell about eight feet. Fortunately he was well wrapped up in his cold weather gear and only bruised himself. The trouble was the National Trust health and safety taskforce went into overdrive and a somewhat bemused Arthur was not allowed to move while the fire brigade were called who eventually lowered him to the ground where he was removed to hospital for a check-up and he was promptly returned to work. None of us were very surprised at this incident as Arthur was rather accident prone. If he was seen to pick up a plank anyone nearby would immediately duck as he was likely to swing it round and hit someone on the head. Arthur was always keen to collect any off-cuts of wood to take home for his fire. On one occasion a joker filled his empty lunch bag with bricks, which Arthur assumed was wood, and he carried them all of the way home before realising that he had been tricked.

The disastrous fire at Uppark was another memorable point in my career. A team from Petworth arrived on the day following the fire and helped with the immediate cleaning up as well as protecting valuable items which had been saved from the fire. It was just meant to be a short secondment but turned into ten weeks. Needless to say the National Trust was billed for our time.

Of course, I have fond recollections of my time on the Estate but my fondest memories are of the characters. Naturally, most of my colleagues worked as I did for the building or maintenance department. The likes of Dickie Fowler, Barry Stanton, Ron Blackman and Roy Standing were all carpenters. Then there were the painters Sid Grist, John Baker, Nick Spicer and Frank Remnant. Plumbers were Jack Holloway with Arthur Brown his mate, and Reg Wakeford who while being a plumber was also a very useful tin-smith. Last but not least were Mick Stubbington and Bert Lintell who were electricians. They were all very much individuals and highly skilled tradesmen from whom I learnt a great deal over the years.

I probably got most enjoyment working in the big houses both at Petworth and in London where the family had two properties. I seemed to have a certain

aptitude in repairing fireplaces and as there were so many it became a large part of my work. I was working in Petworth House on one occasion when a member of the National Trust staff pointed out an interesting label on the rear of a painting by Turner, it read simply 'Property of H.M. Treasury' and I assume that it had once been earmarked as payment for death duties but had not been removed for one reason or another.

Memories play tricks but a few stick in my mind such as the time that I was working on a cottage at the Shimmings near Petworth with Tim Jemmett. When it came to lunchtime Tim decided to have a nap while I went down to a nearby hedgerow where I knew there was a walnut tree. As I made my way back with an armful of nuts I was met by Mr Wootton the clerk of works who to his obvious pleasure believed he had caught both Tim and I 'skiving' which of course was not the case, but it was many years before I managed to convince him that he was mistaken. Another quite humorous occasion was when we had just begun renovating Joy Gumbrell's cottage at Byworth. Joy was not at all happy about the works being carried out and on one occasion complained that the newly installed toilet seat kept moving about and working loose. Well, whatever we did to cure the problem failed to satisfy Joy until Mr Wootton, never to be beaten, came to the conclusion that it was to do with the way that Joy sat and so she was given written instructions on the exact way to sit on the seat and the matter was resolved as far as I am aware.

Leconfield Estate records will show that I eventually reached the lofty height of foreman in the maintenance department and I continued to spend a lot of my time at the London properties as well as at Petworth House. I enjoyed many aspects of the job and learnt a great deal – however, I always felt restricted by not being an apprenticed tradesman. Who knows where I might have ended up but as luck, or should I say bad luck, would have it I contracted Parkinsons and was forced to retire quite early. My life now revolves very much around my garden at Upperton which despite my obvious disability I am able to tend to and get great pleasure from showing people round it. This is my third Leconfield cottage, having lived at Stoney Hill and then Waterworks Cottages before moving here.

# Reserved for Betsey

The Upton family vault in the Bartons graveyard. Miles Costello

Of the four family burial vaults that I am aware of in the Bartons graveyard at Petworth two belong to the Upton and one to the Brydone family, the other being the Wyndham vault. As far as I know the latter is the only one still used for interments although the capping stone of the Brydone vault contains a record of ten family members, the most recent being Gillian Mullins, daughter of Reginald Marr Brydone, who died in 1982, this being almost a century after the graveyard was closed to earth burials. No doubt there are other vaults, but their identity and locations are now probably lost.

We are concerned here with an Upton Vault. The Upton family was exceedingly important in Petworth, being surveyors and land agents and much of their influence came from advising local landowners on matters such as the construction of roads, canals and railways. While members of the wider Upton diaspora were successful throughout the British Empire, at Petworth they were very much reliant on the fortunes of the Leconfield Estate, and it is no coincidence that the decline of the Estate's influence in the town corresponded broadly with that of the Uptons, and so by the end of the twentieth century they had disappeared from Petworth altogether.

The Upton family home was East Lodge, later known as Grays, in Angel Street and they were tenants of the neighbouring Withey Farm in the Shimmings valley. The large eighteenth-century house is situated just above the Withey Copse as the road descends to the Shimmings.

Among a mass of Upton material which has recently appeared are invoices and drawings relating to the family's burial vault in Bartons graveyard. The plans were commissioned by Thomas Poling Upton in 1823 and were for a vault capable of taking twelve coffins. Spaces were reserved for Thomas and his wife Ann and ten others, a curious number considering they had twelve children, all of whom were born before the commissioning of the plan for the vault. It was estimated that the construction of the crypt would require at least 3,220 bricks of which many were to be laid at double thickness to add strength to the tomb, and in 1842 Thomas was giving instructions to his executors that in the event of his death he wished '... to have it [the vault] paved with stone over the top and iron rails across the front ... with

a plain stone at the back against the wall inscribed as follows: "In memory of Thomas Poling Upton who was born September 6, 1763 and died —. Also of Ann his wife who was born December 12, 1768 and died — and of Betsey Upton their daughter and of Sarah Upton their daughter. I wish the two places on the platform over their Mother & me to be reserved for Betsey and Sarah."

Incidentally, the two daughters Sarah and Betsey would die unmarried in 1862 and 1882 respectively which would explain their burial in the vault. In a somewhat less tidy hand Thomas adds that a stone with room for the four names should be placed over the heads of the coffins. This sudden burst of enthusiasm for the vault may have been the result of his failing health; he was, after all, 70 at the time, and with his passing just two years later it seems probable that the construction of the vault was by then complete.

No further mention of the vault appears in the Upton material until 1888 when another plan similar to that of 1823 shows the vault with the coffins of Thomas and Ann with Betsey above her father. The layout is much as Thomas directed to his executors in 1842 but the space reserved for Sarah above her mother is empty and her coffin lies on the other side of the vault and separated from her mother by the small coffins of two of her brothers, John and Edward, who, along with three other children, died in infancy. Strangely, the 1888 plan of the vault makes no mention of these last three infants who were presumably buried elsewhere. Sharing the platform above with Betsey are the coffins of Henry Upton, the grandson of Thomas and Ann, who died in 1888 aged 86, and alongside him is his wife Mary who had died seventeen years earlier. It seems likely that the plan was drawn following the opening of the vault for the burial of Henry in 1888 and reveals that of the twelve children of Thomas Poling and Ann only four are interred in the vault. So, in theory, there is space for another five coffins.

No later plan is known to exist, and it is not immediately obvious





whether the vacant spaces in the vault were ever occupied. Henry and Mary had seven children, all of whom appear to have survived infancy, and of them only one, Mary Sophia, remained unmarried and it is likely that she would have eventually joined her parents in the vault.

The following invoice addressed to the executors of H. Upton from the Petworth builder Frederick Whitcomb reveals the preparations made to receive Henry's coffin:

Oct 18th. 1888. Digging out ground, opening & closing vault, whitewashing vault and filling in ground, providing & fitting [elm?] boards to vault, providing 4 bearers to meet hearse at East Lodge & carrying the late Mr Upton from Bedroom to his hearse. £2.11.6d.

Another invoice dated 1888 is from John Marshall, a stonemason in Angel Street who charges the executors then healthy sum of £9.10s for cleaning and re-lettering the two tombstones, and taking up the paving over the vault, repointing it and painting the iron railings.

It seems unlikely that the Upton vault has been opened for well over a century. The entrance is difficult to locate, despite the 1888 plan appearing to show the incorporation of an existing wall into one side of the structure; this may well be the west wall of the upper section of the graveyard upon which is fixed a large memorial to the Upton family. If Thomas' instructions to erect iron railings across the front of the vault were carried out, they have long since disappeared.

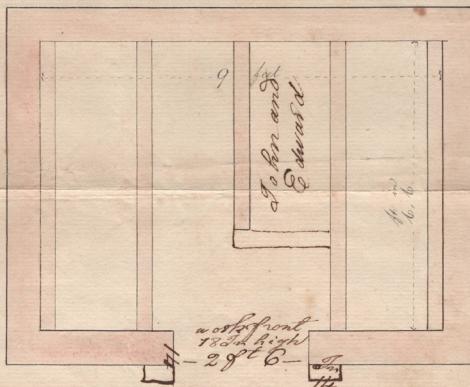
For a vault 9 ft by 6 ft in - 26 April 1823		
ft in	thickness	
20.0	16	
<u>8.0</u>	106.8 (2)	
9.0	36.0 (2)	
9.0		Bricklaying
4.0	24.0 (2)	
<u>9.0</u>	<u>166.8</u> reduced brick work	3000
6.6	58.6	
	62.4	Paving brick flat
		220
		3220

July 1st out followed P. Class and  
Publication and carts to cover  
the School and other premises  
adjoining the Lower Lane at  
Petworth - & tally noted down  
my judgment respecting  
the value

J. A.



Vault for twelve coffins  
Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch to a foot



**LEFT** The 1823 elevation (above) and plan (below) for the Upton vault in Bartons Lane cemetery titled 'Vault for twelve coffins. Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch to a foot'.

**OPPOSITE** The reverse of the addition pasted to the top of the plan which estimates the quantity of bricks required 'For a vault 9 feet by 6 ft 6 in - 26 April 1823'. There would be 3,000 bricks plus 220 pavers for an area of 6½ yards.

# Ebernezer and Harriet Remnant et al

Petworth House and the Leconfield Estate as a local employer in 1911.  
Ian Yonge

The original idea behind this article was to examine all the censuses from 1841 to 1911 to note those employed at Petworth House and by the Estate, and to see how many were local to Petworth and the immediate area. A quick run through the 1911 census revealed that, apart from the domestic staff who all appear as one block, the employees are scattered throughout its 200-plus pages. So, the project was scaled back to the 1911 census alone. This seemed the best date to choose, being just before both the cataclysmic event of the Great War and a more widespread availability of jobs for women outside of domestic service. It also gave more information than any previous census.

As the census took place on April 2, 1911, prior to the marriage of the 3rd Lord Leconfield to Violet Rawson on November 11, 1911, the selection of the domestic servants for Petworth House perhaps involved her mother-in-law Constance, the widow of the 2nd Lord Leconfield, although she lived mainly in London at this date.

The census area seems to be broadly similar to the Petworth town and surrounding area of today. Of course, some workers could have walked or cycled from outside and were not, therefore, picked up in the data. A number of different hands seemed to have completed the census so there may well be variants on how the same job is described or how much detail is given.

## THE HOUSE AND SERVANTS' QUARTERS

Under the heading 'Lord Leconfield Head of Household' appear the names of 21 servants who worked in the house and kitchens as footmen, housemaids, kitchen maids, still-servants (makers of jams and preserves) and other domestic staff. The valet (Edwin Lewis), the groom of the chamber (Tom Southwood), the under butler (Edwin Thomas) and the three footmen were male, the rest female. The preponderance of female servants may be a cultural legacy of the male servant tax which ran from 1777 to 1852.

Apart from the valet, the groom of the chamber, the housekeeper (Elizabeth Counley), a still-room maid, a nurse, and the head housemaid (Helen Daniels) they were all in their early to late twenties, possibly reflecting a fairly transient servant population. The groom of the chamber was the only one married.

The most senior member of the household, the butler, was William Guilford Thomas who is described as living in North Street. His house was the Butler's Cottage at the bottom of the Cowyard, just before the tunnel under the Pleasure Grounds. He came from Somerset, his wife from Yorkshire. The fact that so many incomers' spouses were born in very different parts of the country might suggest many couples had met while in service.

By this date education was compulsory up to the age of twelve. While domestics could be taken on at thirteen, big houses such as Petworth would often delay recruitment until prospective staff had some experience. Many employers by this time hoped for the domestic servants they hired to have at least some elementary literacy and numeracy. For many, domestic service was not really a career but rather a stage in their lives before marrying and setting up their own businesses. The situation was more stable in large rural households, but even here junior servants tended to leave after a year or so.

With the exception of Harriet Remnant, who was born in Petworth and whose family still lived there in 1911, the house servants came from all over the country and beyond. Some were born nearby in other areas of Sussex (Arundel and Rye) or Surrey, while two came from as far away as Aberdeen and County Clare. The others are listed as having been born in Shropshire, Somerset, Oxfordshire (2), Devon, London (4), Hampshire, Monmouthshire, Worcestershire, Kent, Hereford and Gloucestershire.

Interestingly, other houses in the town often had servants who came from Petworth, so it appears that Petworth House reflected the common country house policy of not recruiting locals. It was felt that non-local staff would be less inclined to spread gossip about the family or be pestered by suitors and less likely to run off home if unhappy with their lot or to spend time too much time with their own families.

How did these servants from all over the country find employment in Petworth? There was of course word of mouth recommendation and the Situations Vacant columns in newspapers, but most importantly there were the Servants Registries, a form of labour exchange just for domestic servants. Such registries were often run by ex-servants. These had existed since Georgian times and most provincial towns had at least one, while in large cities there were several. London was the epicentre, with numerous registries.

Potential employers would outline their requirements, such as the type of servant required and the wage offered, and the registry would match up servants with potential employers. Those seeking employment would enter their name, job skills and the kind of work they were looking for in a

registry book, hence the name ‘Servants Registries’.

In some cases, both employer and servant would pay a fee, in others just the employer and in others the servant, once a position had been found. Some registries kept a ‘black sheep’ list which listed those who had a bad employment record. Though most domestic servants were female, the registries also acted for men.

Registries had a distinctly mixed reputation. *The Pall Mall Gazette* of January 15, 1894 reported:

A good servant is sent to a bad place, where he or she will not remain, and a bad servant is sent to a good place, where the master or mistress will not put up with incompetency. Thus, the poor servants are constantly kept returning to the registry lodgings, impoverishing themselves while enabling these land-sharks to live in luxury.

From 1907 Servants Registries were licensed, but only those operating in London, and even then many servants would have got a raw deal.

There was considerable churn among domestic servants and many only stayed in one place of employment for a couple of years. Good servants were in high demand and if not satisfied with their lot would look to move on for better pay and conditions, while those who proved to be unsatisfactory would be quickly dismissed, so there was plenty of work for the registries.

In large households such as Petworth servants tended to stay longer than in middle-class homes. While life in a big house could involve long hours, hard work and strict rules, the advantages included higher wages, often better food and shared workloads, plus greater companionship, occasionally leading to marriage.

Servants were often recruited from rural backgrounds, as those from the country were seen as more manageable, adaptable and harder working than the urban workforce. Only four of the Petworth domestics were born in London, and two of those were men.

Times were slowly changing though. One Petworth entry shows a father as a farm labourer while his daughter is a cashier in a grocer’s shop. By 1911, there were more jobs for women, not only in retail but also factories, offices, teaching and nursing. However, employment in rural areas was still limited and there was consequently a steady exodus of young girls from the countryside, constantly seeking work and entering domestic service.

By 1901, 1.5 million people across the United Kingdom (four per cent of the population) worked as domestic servants.

## OTHER ESTATE EMPLOYEES

Other employees are listed below, with names, jobs and places of birth given as recorded on the Census, including spelling and punctuation. Where recorded, addresses and other details are given in brackets.

### Porters, lodge-keepers etc

Harry Batchelor – Night watchman, private house. Born in Petworth, his wife at Sanderstead Surrey [Park Road, Petworth]  
Walter Henry Bishop – Domestic lodge porter. Born in Petworth also his wife [Church Lodge, Petworth]  
Richard and Anne Card – Lodge keeper and his assistant. Petworth Park estate, both aged 72. He was born in Rotherfield, she in Withyham Sussex  
John Bedding – House porter domestic. Born in Buckinghamshire, his wife in Norfolk. [Damer's Bridge Petworth]

### Horses and Hounds

Daniel Wakeford – Stable helper at Petworth House and porter on own account. Born in Kirdford, his wife in Petworth. [Many of his family lived in Petworth]  
George William Gillard – Whipper in of fox hounds. Born in London.  
Thomas Sopp – Kennel man. Born in Tillington.  
Walter George Wakeford – Kennel man. Born in Petworth. [Kennels, Petworth]  
Tom Carr – Huntsman, fox hounds. Born in Hereford, his wife in Yorkshire. [Kennels, Petworth]  
James Nash – Domestic coachman. Born in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, his wife in Surrey. [Stables, Petworth]  
Ernest Vickers – Domestic groom, Petworth House Stables. Born in Dublin. [Pound Street, with a lodger, John Blache – a groom's assistant, born in Brighton]  
William Blackmore – Second coachman. Born in London. Single. [Stables Petworth]  
John Thompson – Stud groom. Born in Northumberland. His wife in Carmarthen. [Petworth]  
Ebernezer Greest – Kennel carter. His mother came from Billingshurst. Born in Petworth, his wife in Fernhurst. [The Lodge, Hampers Common]  
Harry Ellish – Domestic groom. Born in Petworth. [New Street]  
Stephen Whitelock – Domestic groom, Petworth House. Born in Petworth, his wife in Ireland. [Pound Street]  
Harry Smith – Domestic groom. Born in Petworth, his wife in London.  
William Christopher Tiplady – Domestic groom. Born in Aldershot, his wife in Petworth. [High Street, Petworth; this is a rare instance of a male incomer marrying a local woman]  
Walter Wilson – Domestic groom. Born in Petworth, his wife in Gloucestershire. [High Street, Petworth]  
Daniel Sadler – Domestic groom. Born in Petworth, his wife in Shoreham. [Park Road]  
Samuel Speed – Whipper-in of fox hounds. He and his wife both born in Shropshire. [North Street]  
Alfred Hill – Groom, private service, Petworth House. Born in Petworth, his wife in Epsom. [North Street]  
Henry Williams – Domestic groom of the Stables, Petworth. Born in Gloucestershire.  
George Nevatt – Domestic groom, Petworth house. Born in Petworth, his wife in Northchapel. [North Street]  
William Whittington – Domestic groom, Petworth house. Born in Petworth, his wife in Bordon, Hampshire. [North Street]  
Harry Padwick – Domestic groom, Petworth house. Born in Petworth. [North End, Petworth]  
James Standing – Domestic groom, Petworth House Stables. Born in Chiddington. [Limbo Cottages]  
William Harper – Groom, hunting stables. Born in Shropshire, his wife in Petworth. [Byworth; another example of an incomer marrying locally]  
George Cross – Domestic groom, Petworth House Stables. Born in Petworth area but parents born in Dorset.  
Walter Marriot – Shoeing smith, estate. Born in Yorkshire.  
George Barber – Domestic groom. Born in Northumberland. [Percy Row, Petworth]

## Gardeners

James Cobby – Gardener domestic. Born in Petworth.

James Elson, born in Devon, Albert Kilham, born in West Dean, Sussex and Leonard Powell, born in Buckinghamshire. All Gardeners, Petworth Park Gardens. [All lived at the 'Gardens' and were all single]

George Hooker – Domestic gardener. Born in Tillington, his wife in Easeborne. [The Lodge, Hampers Common]

Edwin Walter Pull – Domestic gardener. Born in Norfolk, his wife in London and son Charles Henry (also a domestic gardener) born in Petworth.

Henry Miles – Domestic gardener. Born in Petworth, his wife in Ireland.

James Saunders and William Chandler – Both garden labourers. Born in Tillington and Petworth respectively [Percy Row]

William Booker – Domestic under-gardener. Born in Lurgashall and his son George (also a domestic under-gardener) born in Petworth. [Percy Row]

Arthur Harold Dudeney – Domestic gardener. Born in Portslade.

Henry Edwicker – Domestic gardener. Born in Tillington.

## Others

William Sutton – Clerk of works. Born in Lincolnshire. [Petworth Park Estate]

Jonathan Edmund Bellings – Coachman/chauffeur domestic. Born in Staffordshire, his wife in Buckinghamshire. [Pound Street Petworth]

Henry and son Reginald Whitcomb – Estate clerks. Landed estate. Henry born in Petworth, his wife in London. [Pound Street]

Charles Grossthepian – Chef. He and his wife born in France. [Egremont Row]

Henry Ballard – Electrical engineer in charge of private light electrical plant. He and his wife both born in London. [Egremont Terrace; the electrical plant was the Battery House in the Cowyard]

Edward Whittington – Upholsterer, private repairing staff Petworth House. He and his wife both born in Petworth. [Egremont Terrace]

Harry Hoad – Carving and cabinet worker, Petworth House private repairing staff. Born in Petworth, his wife in Kirdford. [Egremont Terrace]

Daniel Hill – Indoor servant, Petworth House. Born in Petworth. [Middle Street, with his daughter. He is the only domestic servant who is listed outside of the residential staff. He was in his late 60s and far older than the other domestics.

The 1861 census gives his occupation as railway labourer and in the 1901 census he was still described as a labourer]

Arthur Hearn Smith – Professional tennis player. He and his wife both born in London. [Egremont Row]

William James Reed – Blacksmith, Estate. Born in Dunton, his wife in Midhurst. [Pound Street]

Clement Smith – Stonemason. Born in Petworth, his wife in Partridge Green. [Pound Place, Petworth]

George Peacock – Labourer on farm. He and his wife born in Petworth. [New Lodge; included, with the Luxfords below, as he was also a residential lodge-keeper. A number of other people with agricultural jobs are listed, but their relationship with the Estate is unclear without further research and so have been omitted from this summary. They were almost all born in Petworth]

Harry Peacock – Pit sawyer, Petworth Park estate. He and his wife both born in Petworth. [near Limbo Farm]

Sampson Luxford – Shepherd on farm, and sons under-shepherd and shepherd's boy. Born in Billingshurst, his wife in Chertsey, Surrey. [New Lodges, Petworth]

Samuel Caplin – Estate labourer. Born in Lurgashall, his wife in Tillington.

Ebernezer Remnant – General carter on private estate. Born in Kirdford, his wife in Dunton. [Hampers Green; his daughter was the only domestic who was born in Petworth]

James Pullen – No occupation. Formerly gamekeeper. Aged 91. He and his wife both born in Petworth. [High Hoes, Petworth]

John Pullen – Forester, Petworth Estate. He and his wife both born in Petworth.

William Claude Ephraim Boxall – Woodman labourer on Lord Leconfield's Estate. He and his wife both born in Petworth. [Buckfold, Cottages Petworth]

William John Compton – General carter on the Estate. Born in Wiltshire.  
Ernest Card Estate – Worker bricklayer. Born in Petworth, his wife in Easebourne.  
Hazeal Newman – Estate bricklayer. Born in Guildford.  
Charles Elliot – General Labourer, Petworth House. Born in Petworth.  
William Maybank – Coach painter. Born in Petworth, his wife in Duncton.  
Henry Greest – Blacksmith and shoeing smith. Born in Hambledon, Hampshire, his wife in Lurgashall.  
Robert Burdock – Estate painter. Born in Petworth, his wife in Hurstpierpoint.  
Charles Edward Sadler – Estate carpenter. Born in Northchapel, his wife in Duncton.  
George Whitcomb – House decorator and plumber, worker. Born in Petworth, his wife in Hardham.  
Harry Long – Estate blacksmith. Born in Petworth, his wife in Kirdford.  
William John Birdock – Blacksmith on the Estate. Both he and his wife born in Petworth.  
John Joseph Jeffery – Wheelwright. Born in Somerset.  
Middleton Ford – Pit sawyer, Estate. Born in Kirdford.  
Henry Tate White – Blacksmith, Estate. Born in Broadwater. His assistant, his son, born in Petworth.  
Frederick Hill – Labourer general, carter on Estate. Born in Tillington, his wife in Stopham.  
John Hill – Labourer-bricklayer, Petworth Park Estate. Both he and his wife born in Petworth.

## CONCLUSION

Lord Leconfield was clearly the most significant single employer in the area. While the domestic staff at Petworth House and those providing specialist roles on the Estate were overwhelmingly not from the town, those in other skilled or unskilled manual jobs tended to be local. Collectively, the employment opportunities created by the house and Estate had made Petworth a far larger and more diverse town than it might have been otherwise.

## RIGHT

There seem to be few photographs of Petworth House staff from the time of the census. This, however, is almost certainly the tennis professional Arthur Hearn Smith who would leave Petworth in 1913 or early 1914. It was taken in South Africa in 1917 and is reproduced from Peter Jerome, *Those that are never seen – below stairs at Petworth House* (Window Press 2018) where he is referred to as Arthur 'Tennis' Smith.



# From Pikeshoot to Switzerland

Alison Crowther's Petworth oak, part three. Jonathan Newdick

Almost there ... Alison and her assistant Philip Walker chisel the smooth parts of the sphere while the textured areas with their natural features have already taken on their own timeless character. All that now needs to be done is for Alison to carve her initials somewhere unobtrusive and to call Mtec Fine Art to bring their big white lorry to begin the sphere's journey to its new home in Switzerland.





# The Peachey family of Petworth

Robert Stedall

There were two significant branches of the Peachey family of Petworth, both of whom descend from Edward Peachey (c.1606-57) who operated as a successful haberdasher there. The eldest son, Edward (1626-93), joined the Grocers' Company in London in 1650 having served as an apprentice to his brother-in-law William Smyth who had become master of the Company in that year. Although Edward was in business as a London merchant the nature of his activity has not been established, but he took in his youngest brother John (1631-93) as an apprentice and John joined the Grocers' Company in 1651. Neither Edward nor John joined the court of the Grocers and there is no record of them being involved in City affairs, but they must have operated successfully. Edward acquired land around Colhook and Ebernoe, enabling his descendants to become the lords of the manor of Ebernoe. John is described as 'of Earham'. In 1687, his daughter Elizabeth (b.1667) married Sir Richard Farington (c.1644-1719), High Sheriff of Sussex and the Whig MP for Chichester between 1681 and 1701, being created a baronet in 1697.

Edward and John had a brother, William (1628-85), who also became a successful London merchant and it is his family that is the focus of this article. In 1670, he acquired New Grove House in Petworth by marriage to Mary Bulstrode. She was probably the grand-daughter of the Parliamentarian MP Colonel Henry Bulstrode of Upton, Buckinghamshire, who died in 1643 but her mother's family, the Halls, had lived at New Grove for several generations. William's eldest son, Henry probably worked in his father's London-based business and latterly inherited New Grove. In about 1692, he married Jane (1678-1717) the daughter and heir of William Jarrett from Aldington in Worcestershire and he was knighted in 1696. It is not clear why this was, but it implies that his business interests were prosperous. Two years later he stood and failed to be elected as Whig MP for Midhurst. He was eventually elected in 1708 but again lost in 1710.

By the time of Jane's death in 1717 they had had five children, two sons and three daughters, but they all predeceased their father without issue. In 1736, Henry was created a baronet, being known as Sir Henry Peachey

of Petworth with special remainder to his brother John (1680-1744). John had also started life as a London merchant but early records describe him as a Captain in the 7th Foot. According to Skinners' Company records, he was apprenticed to Francis Martyn in 1694 and, in turn, took on William Wyat as an apprentice in 1708. Nevertheless, he did not join the Skinners' Company court and was not involved in City affairs, although his London-based business interests must have been successful. On his brother's death in 1737, John duly inherited the baronetcy together with New Grove, including ten acres. The rest of Henry's estate (augmented by that of his wife Jane) was left between his brother John and John's second son James (1723-1808).

What are the origins of this family? We do not know the whole story. Various sources say that Edward was the son of Edmund Peachey (1572-1627) the rector of Earham but no baptismal record for him has been found and there is no Edmund (or any other Peachey name) shown to have been a clergyman in the records of the diocese of Chichester at this time. Sources also say that he married a Mary at Oving on November 14, 1597. While this may be right, the digitised copy of the Oving Parish register omits the marriages between 1591 and 1600.

There was certainly a Peachey family living at Earham who were of sufficient standing to write wills, but these were signed with a mark, implying that they were illiterate. There is no record of a son Edmund among the beneficiaries and a clergyman would have needed to be able to write. Furthermore, there is no record of an Edmund Peachey being baptised at Oving in 1572. Although there was a Peachey family at Colworth, two miles south, almost none of the children baptised there in the 1630s and 1640s survived infancy – perhaps as a result of the plague. The only appropriate record is of Edmond the son of John Peachie baptised at Eastergate, three miles east of Oving on October 7, 1566. The conclusion has to be that they were of humble stock.

The source of their income as merchants in London is also enigmatic, particularly as they clearly made a lot of it. It is reasonable to assume that the haberdashery business benefited from the Percys starting in the 1570s

**B BELOW** Jeremiah Davison (c.1695–1745)  
*Bulstrode Peachey Knight*, oil on canvas, 125 x  
100.5 cm., Chawton House, Hampshire.

**B BELOW** Unknown artist after George Romney,  
*The Hon. Georgiana Peachey, Lady Greville*, oil on  
canvas, 75 x 62 cm., National Trust, Calke Abbey,  
Derbyshire.

to use Petworth as their southern residence, rather than simply a hunting lodge. Nevertheless, it is more likely that the Peacheys' business interests in London primed their subsequent land acquisitions. Given that William joined the Grocers' Company and John became a member of the Skinners, it is quite probable that they were involved in more than one London merchanting activity. It might be expected that they were members of some of the many international trading companies, but their name has not been found in the records of any of them. There was a brand of Peachey chewing tobacco in Virginia, but the name is not unusual, and is probably not of the same family.

Reverting to William Peachey's descendants, in 1706, John Peachey had married Henrietta London (1684–1754), a noted botanical illustrator, whose father, George London was gardener-in-ordinary to Queen Anne and had designed the pre-Capability Brown garden at Petworth House. On his brother Henry's death in 1737, he moved to live at New Grove with his wife



and family. In addition to their sons, John and James, they had daughters, Mary (b.1724) who married Michael Seare of Tring Grove, Hertfordshire, Henrietta (1726-71) and Rebecca (b.1728), neither of whom married.

William and Mary Peachey had three more sons, Bulstrode (1681-1736), Charles (or George) (1682-1700) and James (1683-1771). Bulstrode is also recorded as having been a London merchant but served as a cornet in the Horse Guards in 1704. In 1722, he became MP for Midhurst, where he bought up forty-nine burgages (leases in the town) from Viscount Montague which seem to have made him particularly prosperous. In 1725, he married Elizabeth Martin, when they were both aged forty-four, enabling him to consolidate his property interests with hers. She was the extremely wealthy widow of William Woodward (later Knight). She and William Woodward had been first cousins and were very fortunate in their inheritance. They were both grandchildren of Sir Christopher Lewkenor (d.1706) MP for Midhurst and Recorder of Chichester and his wife Mary May (1619-42).

Sir Christopher was the second son of Richard Lewkenor (1568-1602) of West Dean (now the college near Goodwood). Although West Dean had passed down the senior male Lewkenor line to their second cousin, John Lewkenor (1658-1706), he died unmarried, and they became his heirs. In addition to West Dean, John Lewkenor left them Abbots Barton at Epsom and a half interest in the manor of Steventon in Oxfordshire, inherited from his very wealthy mother, Anne Mynne (d.1704).

By this time, the couple had also inherited Raughmere at Lavant from their grandmother Mary May (d.1642) (married to Sir Christopher Lewkenor) and Elizabeth had received the valuable Chawton Estate in Hampshire from her father's cousin Sir Richard Knight on the understanding that she changed her surname to Knight. This resulted in William Woodward and in due course Bulstrode Peachey adding Knight to their surnames.

Bulstrode and Elizabeth lived at Chawton on which he lavished substantial improvements. On his death in 1736 he was buried at Chawton and left her his interest in the property together with £3,000. By this time their

cash assets had become intermingled and Bulstrode made large pecuniary bequests to his Peachey relations. He left £2,000 to his youngest brother James and £200 per annum to his eldest brother Sir Henry, but his principal beneficiaries were the younger children of his brother John who were all minors. James (later the 4th baronet) received £4,000 while his sisters Henrietta and Rebecca received £3,000 each. Michael Seare, who by that time was betrothed to the eldest sister Mary, received £1,000, as Bulstrode had already contributed to her marriage settlement. There was a further £20,000 which was left to James for the purchase of property. As if this were not enough, James was also the principal beneficiary of his uncle Sir Henry Peachey who died in 1737 and was to receive half the estate of his uncle James Peachey when he died in 1771. In 1737, John inherited his brother's baronetcy together with New Grove.

In the same year, Elizabeth née Martin also died. Having no close relatives, she left all her properties other than Chawton to a distant connection of her grandmother, Thomas May. But she left Chawton where she had lived with Bulstrode to Sir John Peachey. With both estates being of a similar value, Sir John almost immediately, agreed a land swap with Thomas May, whereby he received West Dean and Thomas received Chawton, enabling each of them to consolidate the properties that they had now received with others in their ownership. Sir John now sold New Grove and moved to live at West Dean but lived only another six years. His already extremely wealthy son James, now aged twenty-one, inherited West Dean. In 1747, he married Lady Georgiana Caroline Scott (1727-1809), the daughter of Major General Henry Scott, who had been created Earl of Deloraine by Queen Anne. He was the second son of the beheaded Duke of Monmouth, a reputed son of Charles II. Georgiana's mother, Mary Howard, had been a Royal mistress.

In 1755, Sir James became MP for Seaford, holding the seat until 1768 while progressively acquiring property to add to the West Dean estate until it amounted to 8,000 acres including land at Selsey. In 1760, he was appointed Groom to the Bedchamber of George III rising in 1791 to Master of the Robes. In 1794, he was created Lord Selsey and between 1805 and his death in 1808 he set about remodelling West Dean, employing James Wyatt, the most highly-regarded architect of the day, to design its crenelated roof, flint-faced walls, gothic windows and orangery.

Lord and Lady Selsey had a son, John (1749-1816), who succeeded as the 2nd Lord Selsey and 5th baronet on his father's death in 1808, and a daughter, Georgiana, who married George Greville 2nd Earl of Warwick



Henry Bone (1755-1834) after Sir William Beechey (1753-1839), *Caroline Mary Peachey*, 1816, pencil and ink drawing squared in ink for transfer, 27.9 x 21.7 cm. National Portrait Gallery, London.

(1746-1814), but she died in childbirth in 1772. John became an MP and married Hester Elizabeth Jennings (1766-1837) whose paternal grandfather, Admiral Sir John Jennings (1664-1743), had commanded the Mediterranean fleet as a formidable naval officer, and her maternal grandfather, Michael Bourke (1686-1725), was the 10th Earl of Clanrickarde.

John and Elizabeth had three sons and two daughters, but only their second son, Henry John Peachey (1787-1839) and eldest daughter, Caroline Mary Peachey (1789-1860) married. Henry became a Captain in the Royal Navy and, in 1816, duly inherited West Dean as the 3rd Lord Selsey. He married Anna Maria Louisa Irby, the daughter of the 2nd Lord Boston, living with her at Kirdford before inheriting West Dean. They had no children and on his death the Peachey titles became extinct, but West Dean was inherited by his sister, Caroline Mary, who had married the Rev Leveson Venables-Vernon (later Harcourt-Vernon) (1788-1860) Bishop of Carlisle. Although they lived at West Dean, they too had no children and, on her death the estate was left to her mother's relative, Ulrick Bourke (or de Burgh), 1st Marquess of Clanrickarde, who promptly sold it.

Bulstrode Peachey's next brother Charles (or George) (1682-1700) died young, but the youngest brother James (1683-1771) joined the East India Service becoming Governor of Gambroon (now Bandar Abbas, Iran) on the north side of the strait of Hormuz, where he made a substantial fortune. On his return to England, he moved to live at Fittleworth House. He sat as MP for Leominster, Hereford from 1747 to 1754, but never married. Nevertheless, he had an illegitimate son Gracchus Peachey (1732-73) (described as a nephew in his will) who was on good terms with the rest of the family. In 1771, Gracchus married Margaret Williams (1741-94) and they moved to live at St Mary Cray in Kent but had no issue. On James's death he left half of his estate to Gracchus and half to his nephew Sir James Peachey of West Dean (soon to be created Lord Selsey.) He was buried at St Mary's Church, Petworth and when Gracchus died in 1773 he asked to be buried close to his father. There is a memorial plaque in the church to father and son placed there by Margaret Williams who is also buried there.

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**

Some of the local houses associated with the Peachey family: Fittleworth House, Ebernoe House and New Grove, Petworth.



# Proudly Petworth for 180 years

The history of the Petworth Town Band. Michelle Clifford

The history of the Petworth Town Band is well introduced on our website by John Grimwood, a well-known local bandsman who was in the band for nearly 63 years. In his words: 'The exact origins of the Band are vague but it seems that around the middle of the nineteenth century some Petworth men used to walk to Arundel to play in the Band of the Sussex volunteers and then decided to start a band of their own.' ([www.petworthtownband.com](http://www.petworthtownband.com))

In fact, the earliest mention of a Petworth band can be found in the *Brighton Gazette* of June 11, 1840. It then appears that the Petworth Band was in fact co-opted in 1860 to form the 6th (Petworth) Sussex Rifle Volunteer Corps. Bands were often created to assist with parades and it was quite normal for local village bands to be enrolled for a time to serve with local detachments. These bands ranged from full brass bands to drum and fife, flute or woodwind bands.

There are records of the 6th (Petworth) Sussex Rifle Volunteer Corps entering contests during 1863 and 1864 and enjoying some success. These were in Sydenham in south London and in Swiss Gardens in Shoreham. It was recorded in the *Chichester Express and West Sussex Journal* in 1863 that the town of Petworth were 'not a little pleased at their success in Shoreham'.

By around 1890 the band seemed to consist of local men who retained a military type uniform, no doubt the remnants of the Rifle Volunteer Corps uniform. They were involved in many local events such as the coronation of King Edward VII and the bonfire celebrations on the Common (Hampers Green).

They continued to enter contests and enjoyed much success, and records exist for 1907 through to 1912. The most notable conductor at this time was Mr C. W. Tiplady and he is credited with ensuring the success of the band at this time. In 1912 he was awarded an ebony silver-mounted pocket baton at an annual band contest held at Haselemere.

Between the wars the band continued to flourish and became an important part of the community, playing at many different functions. Often at weekends there would be a programme of music in the afternoon followed by dancing in the evenings. Then, like now, Armistice Day was also a great occasion, the Petworth parade forming up by the British Legion and marching to the church.

By 1921 the Petworth Town Band was a brass band with a few wind



**FROM TOP TO BOTTOM**

Petworth Town Band and in about 1905, in about 1890 and in 1902, with followers, to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII (photograph by Walter Kevis).



instruments and two or three clarinets. Numbers in the band, however, fluctuated greatly and it became difficult to attract new members.

The outbreak of the Second World War meant that once again the band was suspended and all the equipment was packed away into a big cupboard at the infants school (on the site of the present library), where it remained for the duration. As it happened the cupboard was near the kitchen and when the weather grew cold and water pipes burst everything became wet, and the stands and music went out for salvage to help the war effort. So, after the war the band had effectively to restart from scratch. In this task Percy Savage was a leading light by all accounts, as was Mr A. Pratt. With great patience and no funds Percy managed to kindle an interest in re-forming a band, and more importantly persuading some youngsters to give it a go. The instruments they had to use were reportedly very old and shabby. It is noted that in 1947 on Christmas morning about eight musicians played carols around the town including two violinists and a clarinettist, which is an odd ensemble for a brass band.

The numbers in the band continued to fluctuate and it seemed to be difficult to maintain an interest in going to practices, and therefore there was a lack of progress in what they could play. It appears that discussions took place about the viability of continuing to maintain the band at an AGM of the time but thankfully it was resolved to try and get some new members. This pattern became a recurring theme over the decades and the fortunes of the band waxed and waned as members joined and then drifted away. During the 1950s an effort was made to attract youngsters to the band and new uniforms were obtained which added to their smartness. Practicing with other bands such as Midhurst was commonplace and later in the decade the Northchapel Band closed down, which was of help to Petworth in the short term as several members joined our band.

In 1957 it was noted in the *West Sussex Gazette* that 'Mr Pratt referred to the playing of the only woman member, Mrs P. Steer (cornet), who has taken a keen interest since she joined 18 months ago'. A milestone indeed as up to now the band had been the sole preserve of men.

During the 1960s membership continued to vary and bands helping each other out was a regular occurrence. West Chiltington and Midhurst both helped the Petworth band and it was even discussed at one time to amalgamate with Midhurst. However, it was not to be as Midhurst Band closed down in 1965. The Petworth Band received fifteen of their instruments, some music and stands in various states of repair.

The 1970s proved a turning point, when more effort was made to engage

**B BELOW** The band, looking less military than in earlier photographs, posing in the sunshine outside St Mary's Church, Petworth in 1958.

with youngsters and train them up to play with the main band. Also, with grants and support from Lord and Lady Egremont, the band began to have a routine of sorts and music was being chosen which appealed to a much wider audience, instead of overly relying on the military music of the past.

During the 1980s and '90s the band still had periods of low membership but with new uniforms and a more structured approach to how it was organised and run it appeared that the band was now beginning to flourish and maintain its standing in the local community and further afield. By the 2000s, with grants and fundraising, new smarter and more up-to-date uniforms were purchased along with new instruments and, while attracting youngsters remained a struggle, several older members joined and stayed for many years. The band also still benefits on occasion from playing with other bands and has a reciprocal arrangement with Farnham Band who help out with playing at the Gold Cup Polo in return for our support at their carnival.

During its long history the band has benefited from a variety of 'band



rooms'. These have included the boiler-room cellar of the then Congregational Chapel, later moving to the chapel itself, now the United Reformed Church, the old infants school, Hampers Green Hall, the audit room in Petworth House servants' quarters, the Herbert Shiner School and finally the old granary in Petworth House stables. The pandemic and increased numbers of players forced a rethink, however, on space to play and so once again the band rehearses at Hampers Green Hall where improved space and facilities has been essential.

Bandmasters as well as band-rooms have also changed considerably over the years. The post of Bandmaster still exists today and has developed from a Band Sergeant role which was instigated in 1968. His job was to ensure that the band looked smart and that marching was improved. Today's Bandmaster, Martyn Streeter, fulfils that same role as well as ensuring that a balanced band is well turned-out for engagements. Martyn, writing about his time in the band recollects that '... when Fred Standen took over the conductor role he became my role model for smartness in the band, he was always extremely smart and tried to instil this in the band. Hence my pet hate of black shoes with bright-coloured socks with motifs.'

The Musical Director role that the band has today has developed from that of Conductor which previously existed. Trying to list Bandmasters and Conductors has been difficult as the two roles prior to 1968 were often linked. Also, on many occasions, stand-in conductors would be used. Today's Musical Director, Paula Streeter, took over that role in 1989, having been in the band as a youngster and then rejoining after her musical training.

The types of engagements that the band has during the year include many traditional ones, such as the Petworth Fair, Remembrance Sunday, Fête in the Park, Bury and Bignor fêtes, and also a range of others including weddings and Christmas events. In 2015 the band undertook a tour of Cockermouth and Egremont, playing with bands from both those Cumbrian towns. Then in 2017 another tour took place, to France to play notably at Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches les Bain and Saint Aubin Sur Mer with a reception at Petworth's twin town of Ranville.

Today the band is proud to have weathered the storm created by the pandemic and is possibly the strongest it has ever been. It is comprised of 30 members, playing a mixture of saxophones, clarinets and flute as well as brass players. There are different ages of players who all have different abilities and all enjoy playing the variety of music which is chosen to appeal to a wide audience. As in the past, attracting youngsters continues to be a challenge but it is a very strong band which will continue to flourish well into the future.