

Chelsfield Parochial Notes
by
Arthur Thomas Waring
of Woodlands,
Lord of the Manors of Chelsfield
and Hewitts, c. 1912.

Transcribed and typed by Mrs. Sarah Tanner,
1992.

Part two - pages 88 to 127.

The Poor

The present system of poor-laws was commenced in Queen Elizabeth's reign, when overseers of the poor were appointed; the erection of poor houses was authorised, and house holders were taxed in order to raise a poor rate. (Townsend's Manual of Dates).

Previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, which brought Board of Guardians into existence, every parish had to provide for the wants of its own poor; and a very costly system it was, leading to many abuses, and pauperising the people on account of the indiscriminate way in which relief was granted. Mr. George Warde Norman in a letter to the ratepayers of Bromley, written in 1838, shows that the cost of the poor to the parish of Chelsfield on an average expenditure for three years before the passing of the above Act was £598; which dropped to £314.6.6. for the first year after the formation of the Union.

A parish in providing for its poor, generally had a poor house, although in some cases the poor were boarded out with neighbouring parishes, or given a kind of out-door relief as is evidenced by the following entries in an old private account book. "1819 £10.16.0 to poor persons on account of Chipstead Parish". In the same year there was paid "to Dame Miles 2s.6d. per week on account of Horton parish".

At the time of the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, Chelsfield owned six Cottages; four at Maypole, and two at Pratts Bottom. It is uncertain whether the whole number were used as Poor-houses, but most of those at Maypole were used for this purpose. Many still living can remember these houses before they were demolished (See p.159).

Owing to the absence of the Overseers books it is impossible to say how these houses were managed, but evidently the interests of the parish were well looked after. 'Removals' were constantly obtained, for in the parish chest is to be found an Order dated 1829 for the Removal of Stephen Gardner with Hannah his wife and four children from St. Giles, Camberwell, to Chelsfield; and also similar Orders dated 1827 and 1830 for the Removal of other persons. In the Churchwardens accounts for 1752 are these items. "A Warrant and expenses on Burns acct 3s, order for removing the same y Burns 4s.6d. The first copy of Burns oath 1s, the second copy 2s, retaining Counsel on Burns acct £1.1.0". Probably the above also relates to a poor law case.

When the Board of Guardians came into office, nearly all the parishes of this Union possessed Poor-houses; but only those of Bromley, Chislehurst, and St. Mary Cray were taken over by the new Board for the use of the Union; the remainder were left in the hands of the respective parishes. Those belonging to Chelsfield were then let as ordinary Cottages.

It seems that the parish Cottages at Pratts Bottom were eventually sold in 1853 to Richard Hickmott, together with a field named Redlands. It is stated in the conditions of sale that the parish of Chelsfield acquired this property in 9th King Charles I reign (1634). In a letter to the Poor Law Commissioners at the time of the above sale, these Cottages are described as being "four most wretched Cottages under two Roofs...All the....Cottages are in a most dilapidated state, and quite unfit to be inhabited by Human Beings".

Three of the Cottages at Chelsfield were sold in 1864, when they were described as "1 Brick, Timber and tiled, and 2 Thatched Cottages, together with about 2R 3P of Garden land situate at Maplested in the parish of Chelsfield". William Waring was the purchaser.

The first meeting of the Board of Guardians was held at the 'White Hart' Hotel in Bromley on May 21st 1836 with Mr. George Warde Norman in the Chair. The first Guardian for Chelsfield was Mr. William Morgan.

On June 24th 1836 the Board resolved "That instructions be sent to the respective Overseers to withhold all relief after Saturday next the 25th, except in cases of absolute necessity and that the Paupers be referred to the Relieving Officers".

On the following 1st of July the Guardians ordered "That Paupers in Poor-houses not taken over be removed into those retained". Thus were the duties of housing, and relieving their poor, transferred from the Overseers of Chelsfield to the new Bromley Board of Guardians.

The retaining of the Poor houses of the three parishes already mentioned, was only a temporary measure; for it was decided that the whole of the poor of the Union should be accommodated in one House.

The Union Workhouse at Locksbottom was built in 1845; and this expense somewhat frightened the contributing parishes. We find that our Vestry in the same year passed a Resolution "that it is expedient for the permanent benefit of the Parish

that the Cottages and Lands belonging to the Parish should be forthwith sold towards paying the quota of the expense in building the Union House at Locksbottom". It is clear from the books that this Resolution was not acted upon at that time for, we find that the money was raised from the Rates as shown by this entry. "1845 a Rate made at Chelsfield of 9d for the poor and to pay quota for instalment and interest on the £6,000 to build the Union House".

Guardians

1836	William Morgan ¹
1837	Robert Crawford ²
1838 to 1849	Samuel Brooker ³
1850 to 1858	William Waring ⁴
1859 to 1861	The Guardian Minute Book for these years is missing
1862	Bartholomew Spain ⁵
1863 to 1868	Henry Evans Harris ⁶
1869 to 1879	James Phillips ⁷
1880 to 1895	William Beardsworth Fox ⁸
1896 to 1899	Thomas Figges ⁹
1900 to 1906	Edward Loxley Waring ¹⁰
1907 to	Arthur Thomas Waring ¹¹

1. William Morgan lived in the House opposite Forberry field and was tenant of land near 'Black Bush'.
2. Robert Crawford of the Court Lodge. Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield.
3. Samuel Brooker was tenant of Lillies.
4. William Waring lived at 'Woodlands' and was Lord of the Manors of Chelsfield and Hewetts - he ceased to be an elected Guardian upon his appointment as a Magistrate, but continued to act ex-officio.
5. Was a tenant of the Court Lodge Farm, and lived at the Court Lodge.
6. Lived at Fairtrough.
7. The younger son of G.W. Phillips (see Churchwardens), and upon his death continued to farm Norstead.
8. Tenant of Lillies, and farmed Court Lodge & Bucks X farms.
9. Tenant of Chelsfield Hall, his family lived at Hockenden, St. Mary Cray for many years.
10. Youngest son of William Waring.
11. Son of William Waring, and succeeded him.

Overseers

1748 & 1749	Francis Buster ⁵⁹	Thomas Laurence ⁶⁰
1750	William Child ¹	Richard Baker ²
1755	Thomas Whiffing ³	John Wakeling ⁴
1756	Francis Edwards	Thomas Barton ⁵
1757	James Aynscomb ⁶	Joseph Mace ⁷
1758	John Ward	
1763	John Graves ⁸	
1768	Edward Everest ⁹	
1772	Thomas Skeggs ¹⁰	James Aynscomb ⁶
1773	James Hargreaves ⁶¹	John Graves ⁸
1775	James Ebbut ¹¹	William Brooks ¹⁶
1780	Robert Harris ¹⁴	Edward Everest ⁹
1787	John Eyles ¹²	James Harris ¹³
1788	James Waters	James Harris ¹³
1791	Thomas Brooks ¹⁵	George Small ¹⁷
1794	Samuel Burrough	Richard Skinner ⁶²
1796	James Harris ¹³	William Barker ¹⁸
1798	James Graves ¹⁹	Samuel Burrough
1799	Thomas Brooks ¹⁵	James Jackson ²⁷
1802	Thomas Phillips ²⁰	James Brooker
1806	James Graves ¹⁹	
1808	Richard Skinner ⁶²	
1810	William Stow ²²	John Hills ²¹
1811	James Jackson ⁶³	Joseph Brooker ^{31a}
1813	William Young ²³	Joseph Brooker ^{31a}
1817	Robert Crawford ²⁴	James Jackson ⁶³
1818	William Young ²³	
1819	William Young ²³	Joseph Brooker ^{31a}
1820	James Graves ²¹	
1822	William Rock ²⁵	
1824	Thomas Waring ²⁶	
1825	William Morgan ²⁷	William Young ²³
1827	William Young ²³	George Waker Phillips ²⁸
1830	Thomas Waring ²⁶	Richard Jackson ⁶⁴
1831	Edward Brooks ²⁹	
1835	Robert Crawford ²⁴	
1837	Samuel Brooker ³⁰	
1838 & 1839	John Graves ³¹	
1840 & 1841	William Morgan ²⁷	
1842	Edward Brooks ²⁹	Richard Hickmot ³²
1843	James Graves	
1844	William Hills ³³	W. Read
1845	Philip Rock ³⁴	R. Isard ³⁵
1846	Philip Rock ³⁴	
1847	Henry French ³⁶	
1848	Richard Hickmot ³²	

1849	Edward Brooks ²⁹	Mr. Stevens ³⁷
1850	Mr. Harris ³⁸	Mr. Isard ³⁹
1851	James A. Harris ³⁸	Mr. Isard ³⁹
1852 & 1853	James A. Harris ³⁸	B. Stow ³⁷
1854 & 1855	James A. Harris ³⁸	Mr. Phillips ⁴⁰
1856 to 1858	James A. Harris ³⁸	Mr. Riddle ⁴¹
1859	Henry Harris ⁴²	Richard Hickmot ³²
1860 to 1863	H G M Harris ⁴²	Mr. Riddle ⁴¹
1864 to 1869	H G M Harris ⁴²	Henry Thompson ⁴³
1870	H G M Harris ⁴²	William Beardsworth Fox ⁴⁴
1871 to 1888	W.B. Fox ⁴⁴	Henry Thompson ⁴³
1889 & 1890	W B Fox ⁴⁴	Thomas Packman ⁴⁵
1891	Thomas Figges ⁴⁶	T.W. Walton ⁴⁷
1892	Thomas Figges ⁴⁶	Augustine Giles ⁴⁸
1893	Edwin Fox ⁴⁹	Frederick Martin ⁵⁰
1894	Henry Thompson	Frederick Martin ⁵⁰
1895 to 1897	William Elias Bailey ⁵¹	William Thomas Groom ⁵²
1898 to 1903	William Elias Bailey ⁵¹	James Smith ⁵³
1904 & 1905	James Dowler ⁵⁴	James Smith ⁵³
1906	Joseph W. Rowley ⁵⁵	James Smith ⁵³
1907 to	Joseph W. Rowley ⁵⁵	George Osgood ⁵⁶

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1. Tenant of Court Lodge Farm, part owner house at Green St. Green
 2. Was the owner of Cackets
 3. Owner of Walnuttrees, now pulled down (see p.40)
 4. Was the tenant of Pax Farm
 5. Was the owner of 'Shots', near Fairtrough.
 6. His wife Mary after this date owned Goddington & Lillies
 7. Was the occupier of the Hall farm (Chelsfield Hall?)
 8. Was the tenant of a portion of Catherine Saunders estate.
 9. See Churchwardens
 10. Thomas Skeggs of Norstead (see p.40)
 11. Landowner nr. Goddington & Greenstreet Green, his house was named 'Andrews'.
 12. Tenant of 'The Porcupine' Inn and land near it at Richmore Hill
 13. Owner of Goddington and Lillies
 14. Was a small landowner at Pratts Bottom & Richmore Hill.
 15. Was the tenant of Maypole Cottage, and the adjoining land
 16. Owned 'Cross Hall'.
 17. Was the owner of the 'Queens Head', at Greenstreet Green.
 18. Was the owner of a house and land called Newyears Woodgate situated at the back of Knockholt Church.
 19. Tenant of 'Gilman Brimstone' farm
 20. Tenant of Norstead and owner of 'Shots Farm'.
 21. Owned a house in the Village called Durtnalls, also the 'Eleven Cricketers'. He also kept the Post Office.
 22. Tenant of Chelsfield Hall Farm

23. Owned a house at Pratts Bottom.
24. Of Court Lodge and Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield.
25. Was a Blacksmith in the Village.
26. Of Hewetts, Lord of the Manor of Chelsfield, died Woodlands 1851.
27. Lived in a house opposite Ferberry field, and was tenant of land near 'Black Bush'.
28. Tenant of Norstead and owner of 'Shots Farm'
29. Occupier of Maypole Cottage, and land adjoining.
30. Tenant of Lillies
31. With his brother Thomas were tenants of 'Gilman Brimstone'.
- 31A. Was the tenant of Lillies.
32. Lived at the foot of Richmore Hill, he was a small farmer at Washneys.
33. Was the Postmaster. He was the owner of the Post Office, of the House & Shop (late Eleven Cricketers), of Rounds, and of Worlds-End.
34. Was a veterinary Surgeon, and owned the Forge in the Village.
35. Farmed land at Greenstreet Green.
37. Owned a house on the Waste at Greenstreet Green.
39. His real name was Thomas. The Stows farmed Chelsfield Hall.
40. Tenant of Norstead and owner of 'Shots Farm'
41. Lived at Greenstreet Green, and farmed Mr. Gills farm.
42. Henry Harris & H G M Harris are probably the same person, the latter lived at Goddington.
43. Kept the Village Shop. He owned several cottages between the Schools and Ivy Cottage; also Tripes for a short time.
44. Tenant of Lillies, and farmed Court Lodge & Bucks X Farms
45. Kept the 'Five Bells' Inn.
46. Tenant of Chelsfield Hall
47. Thomas Walter Walton is the tenant of Gilman Brimstone farm.
48. Lived at Greenstreet Green.
49. Was the younger son of W.B. Fox. He was killed by an accident; being run over by a water-barrel on August 11 1893.
50. Kept the 'Five Bells' Inn.
51. Was the Village Schoolmaster, he was killed in the Hands-cross accident, when a Motor Omnibus on a pleasure trip was upset.
52. The Baker in the Village.
53. Builder at 'Rounds'.
54. A small landowner at Greenstreet Green.
55. An architect living at Greenstreet Green.
56. A coach-builder at Pratts Bottom
57. (1799) was the tenant of Cackets farm.
59. (1748) was the tenant of Gilman Brimstone farm.
60. (1748) was tenant of Hempstalls.
61. (1773) kept the 'Porcupine Inn' on Richmore Hill.
62. (1808) was tenant of Simons Hawe.
63. (1811) was tenant of Cackets, and Washneys.
64. (1830) was tenant of Cackets, and Washneys.

Chelsfield Properties

The history of the four Manors in this Parish has already been given in these Notes, and it is now proposed to trace the descent of other holdings, including several which are now no longer known, having been taken from the Court Rolls of the Manors of Chelsfield and Hewetts, with the addition that those properties which belong to the writer are described from the Rolls, and also from old deeds.

Lillies

The house at Lillies is evidently an old one, there being some old timber work still to be seen in parts of it. Probably Peter Collet was at one time the owner, for we find in the Chelsfield Court Roll for the year 1612 that Sir Anthony Aucher held Lillies in right of his wife Hester, who was one of the daughters and coheirs of Peter Collet, and the Roll for 1652 records that Sir Peter Heyman who had married Sara the other daughter, had sold a moiety of this property to James Styles. The same Roll states that James Styles' son, also named James, had acquired the other moiety, and was then in the possession of the whole. A James Styles was baptized at Chelsfield in 1566, and married Margaret Wakelen here in 1593. He also owned Leach Croft, but there is no record as to where he lived, he was buried at Chelsfield in 1642. He was, succeeded by his son James who was baptised in 1594, and buried here four years after his father. He was followed by his son also named James who was baptized at Chelsfield in 1623, and it was this James Styles that owned both the moities of Lillies, being buried here in 1676. His successor was a fourth James baptized in 1663, and buried here in 1708, and who was also the owner of Goddington. Then came a John Styles the son of James, who was buried at Chelsfield in 1726. It would appear that John left no issue, as the property upon his death descended to James Burton and others in gavelkind. James Burton had married Barbara Style at our Church in 1664. James Burton held Lillies by agreement with the others as his wife's share, and is the same person as described on the Monument in the Church. (See p.61)

Ann Halsey is given in the Court Rolls as the next owner, but how she was related to the Burtons we are unable to say, but upon her death the property passed to Barbara Judd, a daughter of James Burton, and then the wife of Thomas Judd. Barbara was baptized here in 1701, and buried in 1788. Thomas Judd died in 1786, and upon their death their daughter Mary

Aynscombe succeeded, she died in 1793, and was followed by her daughter Mary born in 1770, and married in 1787, whilst still a minor, as recorded in the Register, to James Harris.

James Harris died at Goddington in 1837 at the age of 72 and his widow Mary Harris in 1846 at the age of 77. John Harris their son was the next owner, and George St.Pierre Harris is the present possessor. Thus Lillies has been in the possession of this family for close upon three hundred years.

The tenants have also remained for a long period on the estate. The Brooker family having been at Lillies at least from 1798, and probably earlier, until about 1853, when the late William Beardsworth Fox entered into occupation, and his son William Fox only gave up the tenancy in 1912.

Gilman Brimstone

The house belonging to this farm is a typical old English farm house, and probably of a great age. From the Chelsfield Court Roll we find that one of the numerous Petleys was the owner in 1612, one Edward Petley who evidently did not live upon the premises, since it is stated that it was in the tenure of Thomas Marshall.

Edward Petley was also the Lord of the Manor of Hewetts, which he sold with Gilman Brimstone to Thomas Petley of Filston in the parish of Shoreham. At this time the property consisted of the house and about seventy one acres of land. Thomas Petley was dead before 1652, and the estate had descended to his next heirs Ralph, Francis and Richard Petley in gavelkind. The Roll states that in 1717 Ralph was dead, and that this property had come to his son Thomas. Thomas was also dead before 1739, at which date his son Ralph had succeeded him. In 1773 Ralph Petley was deceased, and the estate according to the Court Rolls was held by his widow Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Petley, widow, in 1806 sold Gilman Brimstone to John Fuller of Hewetts, who died in 1819, and was buried at Shoreham. By his Will he left this property to his daughter Mary Fuller of Woodlands, she died in 1842, and was also buried at Shoreham. Her nephew Waring succeeded her in this and her other property; he dying in 1904 was followed by his eldest surviving son Arthur T. Waring.

Bucks Cross & The 'Five Bells'

Bucks Cross Farm and the 'Five Bells' Inn although always two separate holdings, appear to have passed through the same ownership, and since 1680 to have been dealt with by the same set of deeds.

We believe that the origin of the name 'Bucks Cross' is to be found in two old Deeds set out on pages 131 and 133 to these notes, where it is stated that one William Buck owned land at this spot in the years 1479 & 1488, and probably the 'Cross' comes from the fact that the two roads cross, or meet, at this point.

In the earliest deed (1588) it is stated that Bucks Cross was accounted part of the Manor of Heywoote. We have often heard of this Manor, but this is the first and only time that we have seen it mentioned in an old writing, and have no idea as to what lands it comprised.

In 1588 William Petley, another member of this well known family, settled this property on his second son Robert Petley, but by his Will dated 1599, after reciting that Robert was dead, left Bucks Cross to his son William. The elder William Petley was buried here in the above year, and in our Register he is described as "Benefactor", some extracts from his Will have been already given in these notes. The younger William settled this property in the usual manner upon his marriage with Mary Saxbye of Westerham in the year 1603 (see p.151). In 1631 their son Anthony Petley who was baptized here in 1604 was in possession, but he died in 1655. In the same year Mary Petlie and her son Robert cut off the entail, and settled it to other uses. Robert died in 1668, and by his Will left this property to his cousin Robert Smith, but in the event of Robert dying without issue, then "to his verie loving kinsman Richard Thomas of Deptford". Robert Smith died without issue, therefore the property went to Richard Thomas.

Richard Thomas by his Will dated 1678 left the estate to his wife Ann Thomas, who in the same year gave two thirds of the property to her son Edward, and they jointly in 1680 sold Bucks Cross Farm, and 'The Five Bells' Inn to one Richard Thomas. This Richard was succeeded by his son Sir Snelling Thomas who was a brewer of Upper Town Deptford, and who was Knighted in 1715. Sir Snelling Thomas in 1706 had been Sheriff of the County of Kent.

Pedigree of the Thomas Family
Barons of Bucks Crests (see ante p. 165)

Richard Thomas
m. Ann

Edward Thomas

Ann & Edward had Bucks Crests to Richard below.

Richard Thomas

Sir Snelling Thomas
m. Mary Thomas Hickin

buried at Maidenstone Jan. 21. 1715-19
2nd Ann Lamb

Richard Thomas

born. 15. Oct. 1681. at Deptford
died with wife & buried
at St. Pauls, Covent Garden

Margaret Thomas

born. 2 March 1682 at Deptford
m. Sir Thomas Hicks
bur. Dec. 3. 1739 at Deptford

M. T. Hicks

Snelling Thomas

born. 21 July 1695 at Deptford
bur. 22 March 1731 at Deptford
A Brother of Sir Thomas

Lamb Thomas

born. 17. Aug. 1714 at Deptford
bur. 14 July 1714 at Maidenstone

Ann Thomas

born. Sep. 25. 1715 at Deptford
m. Charles Allcock 1749

Paul Thomas

born. 19 Jan. 1717 at Deptford
bur. 15 Jan. 1718 in the
father at Maidenstone

Sir Snelling upon his marriage with Anne Lamb of Maidstone in 1713 settled this property upon certain trusts. Anne Thomas survived Sir Snelling, and by her Will dated 1728 left the whole of her real and personal property to her daughter Ann, the latter in 1749 married Charles Allicocke of Loddington in Northamptonshire when the whole of this property was again settled. Upon Ann's death it came to her husband Charles Allicocke who sold the whole to Mary Fuller in 1759.

Mary Fuller was succeeded by her son John Fuller of Hewetts, who upon his death in 1819 left it to his daughter Mary Fuller, and from her it has descended in the same way as the rest of her property. While the estate was in the possession of John Fuller he built 'Woodlands' in 1815, in Russia Croft, a part of Bucks Cross farm, for his daughter Mary, who resided in it until her death in 1842.

In the earlier deeds the premises now the 'Five Bells' are described as "that Messuage or Farm House", and it is difficult to say when it became an Inn, as it is never mentioned in the deeds by the name of the 'Five Bells', but the Chelsfield Court Rolls from 1717 always describes the holding under that name.

Fairtrough

According to the Chelsfield Court Rolls, Edward Ferby Esq was in possession of this place in the year 1612. The Ferbys were the owners of Pauls Cray Hill, which they held from the end of Edward III reign up to 1686. Edward Ferby was the owner of the latter property at this time, and most likely was the same person as the owner of Fairtrough. The Roll for 1632 records that a Thomas Ferby, who was probably a younger son of Edward, was dead, and that a parcel of this property had descended to David Polly, who owned another parcel of the farm. It would seem that at this time the original holding had been divided, the one portion being Fairtrough, and the other Little Fairtrough. The name Polly was an alias for Polhill (Hasted) and the family was of importance in this County, and several David Polhills served the office of Sheriff for Kent. David Polly was dead in 1717, and had been succeeded by his son also named David.

Fairtrough is not mentioned again in the Rolls until the year 1814, when it is recorded that George Polhill had aliened the estate to George Townley. Thus it would seem that the property had remained in the family of Polly, alias Polhill, during the whole of this time. Before 1828 George Townley had sold it to George Phillips, the tenant of Norstead, and he parted with it to the Misses Smith before the Court Baron held in 1842.

Cackets

In 1612 a Mr. Bowles owned this farm, with Richard Frith as tenant, who served the office of Churchwarden here in 1615. The Court Roll for 1652 records the fact that Cackets had passed from Robert Bowles to John Stevens. It was presented in 1717 that William Clements who held land called Cackets was dead, having left this property by Will to William Clements his son, and Alice his daughter; that Alice had married Richard Baker. After the death of Alice the property was in the possession of William Clements and Richard Baker. Before 1773 Richard Baker had aliened the estate to William Shallcrass. In 1807 Ann Shallcrass his widow was dead; and her sons William and Robert had inherited it in gavelkind. At this time James Jackson was the tenant. The Roll for 1842 states that William and Robert Shallcrass had sold it to Thomas Burt, who before 1853 had sold it to William Amos, who was in possession of the property in 1859.

Hempstalls

Henry Staple, the heir of Robert Staple, held lands in Chelsfield, late Pratts, called Hempstalls in the tenure of Arnold Sexton in the year 1612; and it remained in the same name, although probably it was not the same person, up to 1674. In 1717 one Robert Staple was dead, and had been succeeded by his son Thomas Staple, who was also dead in 1739, and had been followed by his only son William Staple.

William Staple before 1773 had sold the property to Thomas Skeggs of Norstead. The Court Roll for 1779 records the fact that Thomas Skeggs had aliened it to Godfrey Le Farrant and it remained in this family certainly until 1859. An account of the Farrant family is given under the Manor of Norsted (see p. 41).

Picketts

Picketts farm lies chiefly on the south side of the Warren road, and abuts upon Greenstreet Green, and several houses have now been built upon it. In 1612 it belonged to Richard Daniell, but before 1652 he had sold it to William Savage who was already dead at that date, and it had descended to Mrs. Savage and Lewis Smee in right of his wife. A Rental for 1764 gives Henry Farrant as owner.

The Court Roll for 1717 records that Richard Abbot who held Picketts was dead, and that his son John Abbot had succeeded. In 1739 this John Abbot was deceased, and the property had descended to his son John. Before 1773 John Abbot Jnr had sold it to Edward Hodson, and in 1798 his daughter Miss Hodson was the owner.

Previous to 1828 Picketts had come into the possession of Thomas Morgan, but at this date it was held by David Morgan and Thomas Waring in trust for Richard Waring M.D. and his wife Mary Cecilia who was the daughter of Thomas Morgan. Upon the death of Doctor and Mrs. Waring in 1868 and 1872 respectively Picketts came to their only son Walter Thomas Waring who died in 1895; and soon after his death the property was sold.

Washness

In the earlier Court Rolls this farm is called Washners, from 1674 to 1842 Washneast, and Washness appears for the first time in 1848.

The Rental for 1612 gives Robert Allen as the owner, and states that it was in his own tenure. In 1717 it is recorded that George Allen who owned a half of this holding was dead, and that this half had descended to his son John, who already held one third of the other half of the property. That another John Allen who held the other two thirds of the second half was also dead, and that this two thirds had descended to George Gardiner and Mary Allen. This is an excellent illustration of the common practice in those days of dividing the ownership of property. In 1739 John Allen's shares had been sold to one Mompesson of Brasted; and George Gardiner's and Mary Allen's parts had descended to George Gardiner's daughter Ann, married to George Pawley. Before 1773 Mompesson's portion had descended by Will to John Peach, and from him to Edward Peach. This Edward Peach had also bought George Pawley's interest; thus the farm was again in one ownership.

The Court Roll for 1799 records the fact that Edward Peach had sold the property to William Louttil. It again became separated before 1842, when upon the death of William Louttil a portion went to Mary Magdalen Louttil, and her sister married to John Whenman Lewis; and the remainder had been sold to Thomas Phillips by William Louttil. So it remained according to the Court Rolls down to 1859. The Louttil part being described as Washness farm; and Phillips' portion as Little Washness.

Simons Hawe

Simons Hawe was a small property consisting of two fields about fifteen acres, situated at the Greenstreet Green end of the Worlds End Lane. The fact of a house being on this property is never mentioned in the Rolls; probably after it was built the same description of the holding was given in the Court Rolls as before its erection. At the end of the sixteenth century, or in the early part of the seventeenth, it belonged to Thomas Brasier of Cray, but in 1612 it had descended to his son William Brasier, when one Henry Godden occupied it.

It afterwards came into the possession of Thomas Mace who was buried at Chelsfield in 1652, and then passed to Thomas and George Wakelyn. The Rental of the Chelsfield Manor for the year 1674 states that "Henry Langridge who married Tom Wakelins Widdowe" paid the quit-rent for that year. The Roll for 1717 sets out that John Waklyn the owner of one moiety was dead, and that his four sons John, George, Thomas, and William were his heirs in gavelkind. Also that Thomas Wakelyn was dead, and that his moiety had come to his daughter Frances the wife of Robert Wyborn. Before 1739 the Wyborn's had sold their moiety to Thomas Bath; and by 1773 he had been succeeded by his son Andrew who died in 1794 at the age of 88 years. Andrew was followed by his son John Bath who died in 1806 aged 73; and he was succeeded by his daughter Mary, the wife of William Clark.

The Roll for 1842 records that William Clark had sold this moiety to Sir George Farrant. As to the other moiety which was owned by the Wakelyns in 1717, we have been unable to trace its descent; but the Rental for 1848 states that George B. Farrant at that time held both the moieties, and so it continued down to 1864 when it was bought by George Gill.

Green Street Green Farm or Chelsfield Hall

This estate is now known as Chelsfield Hall, but in all the records of the Manor of Chelsfield it is called Green Street Green Farm. Edward Ferby who has already been mentioned as the owner of Fairtrough possessed this property in 1612; but in 1652 it had passed to Richard Summers from Thomas Ferby.

Richard Summers sold it to James Style of Goddington and Lillies, James died in 1708, and in 1717 his son John Style was in possession. John Style was buried here in 1726, and all his estates passed to James Burton and others in gavelkind. They sold it to Charles Polhill, who in turn alienated the property to John Wells Esquire. John Wells was succeeded by his brother William, and the latter's son Rear Admiral Wells sold it before the year 1807 to George Norman of Bromley Common who died in 1830, and was succeeded by his son George Warde Norman, who was followed by his son Charles in 1882, he in turn being succeeded by his son Archibald Cameron Norman in 1889.

Coxcroft

Coxcroft as a separate holding is gone, and the name is no longer known. It consisted of a House and about thirty one acres of land. The house stood directly opposite Gilman Brimstone farm buildings, where the two cottages now stand. Some of the land was adjoining the house, and the remainder by Chelsfield Hill Wood. The earliest record of this property is to be found on a deed dated 1600, by which William Wakelen the elder lets the property to his son Thomas (see pp.17 & 149). William Wakelen must have been born about the year 1524, as the register states that at the time of his burial in 1607 he was 83 years of age. He probably lived at Chelsfield the whole of his life, as one of his younger sons, Thomas, was baptized here in 1558, this event being the third entry in our old register. Possibly he was the son of the Parish Clerk who was buried here in 1562.

Upon the death of William Wakelyn this property descended to his three sons William, Thomas and John. William died, and John sold his share to Thomas, who thus became the owner of the whole. Thomas Wakelyn was buried at Chelsfield in 1640 being 82 years of age. From the parish register it would appear that he left a large family, also the deeds in our possession show that some of his children held a ninth share of Coxcroft and other property after his death. It is to be

presumed from the deeds and Court Rolls that all these shares were acquired by his son George who was born in 1593, for this George in 1657 settled Coxcroft upon his eldest son John who was about to marry Margaret Dunmoll of Eynsford. The line of succession of this family can be traced in the Court Rolls down to the year 1717, when one John Wakelin, Malster, sold it to Thomas Norton the then Lord of the Manor; and the latter dying in 1749 left this with other property to his sister-in-law Ann Mayhew for life, and after her death to her daughter Catherine Saunders (see p.60).

In 1774 Mrs. Saunders sold it with the rest of her property in Chelsfield to Mary Fuller, and from her it has descended in the same line as the rest of the Fuller estate.

Walnuttrees

Walnuttrees is another property that has lost its identity, and is now merged in a larger farm. It was situated "at or near Wellhill adjoining to the King's Highway leading from Chelsfield street to Wellhill". The House was pulled down at the death of George Dunmall who lived in it for many years. It stood on the south side of the road leading from Maypole to Well Hill; by Odds Hill, so called because one John Oddbey once lived there; and opposite the two Cottages standing in the angle where the road from Woodlands and Maypole join. The land consisted of about five acres, and now forms part of Kiln field.

In 1612 it was owned by William and Thomas Wakelyn, with Nicholas Mace as tenant. Thomas was dead in 1652, and the property had descended to George, Thomas and William Wakelyn, the two latter had sold their shares to Nicholas Mace the tenant, but George retained his portion. Before 1717 Henry Chapman had come into the possession of the shares which Mace had bought, but was then dead, and had been succeeded by his daughter Susanna the wife of Abraham Whiffen, and Sara the wife of John Wood. George Wakelyn was also dead, and his son George had inherited his one third share. By 1723 Abraham Whiffen had bought John Wood's and George Wakelyns shares, and owned the whole estate. His only son and heir Thomas Whiffen, a blacksmith of Farnborough, sold it in 1768 to Thomas Skeggs of Norstead, the latter in 1779 passed it by sale to Thomas Bence and Robert Cousin. In 1780 it became the sole property of Bence, who sold it in 1784 to Thomas Smith of Dartford. John Fuller purchasing it from the latter in 1785, and since then it has descended in the same way as the other Fuller property.

Whiteheads

Was this the House from which William Whythed in the year 1468, and a second William Whitehedde in 1500 were carried to be buried "yn the porche of the chyrch" of Chelsfield (see p.2). Probably it was, for in the Rental of 1612 it was described as being the fee simple of George Smith parson of Chelsfield, and is described as "conteyninge two and a half acres sometymes belonginge to Whiteheads".

An endorsement on an old deed bag clearly locates this property as standing on the small meadow adjoining Durby Lane, and the road leading from Woodlands to Bucks Cross. The northern end of Godley Hawe also belonged to this holding, which consisted of a tenement, barn, stable and orchard.

George Smith sold it to John Gooday of Gray's Inn, when it is described as Whiteheads or Hanning Croft, the latter name being that of a late tenant. William Harris in 1663 bought the property from John Gooday for three score pounds; and in the following year he also purchased the holding known as Dulleys from Thomas Bourman for three score and one pounds; and from this time the two holdings were merged into one.

Dulleys consisted of eight acres, and is the present Durby meadow at the far end of Durby lane, and a portion of the adjoining field on the east called Wellfield, at one time the property of Anthony Petley.

Upon the death of William Harris the holding descended to his three daughters Mary Randall, Elizabeth Rumney, and Ann Haltropp as coheirs. In 1730 Mary Randall sold her one third share to Edward Rogers of Kemsing, who aliened the same to William Young of the same place, whose son James Young in 1768 sold his one third part to Mary Fuller, who was succeeded by her son John Fuller. In 1739 James Rumney, the husband of Elizabeth who was then dead, sold his one third share to William Haltrop, who was already in possession of his mothers portion. William Haltrop in 1751 sold these two third shares to Robert Relph of Chislehurst. Thomas Relph and the other children of the above Robert sold their interest in the property to John Fuller in 1787; and the whole of these properties were again in the same ownership, and descended as the rest of the Fuller estate.

Cross Hall

Cross Hall stands in the Village, at the South end of the School playground. It is probably one of the oldest houses in the parish. At some time it was a mansion of importance, and we have been told that formerly there was oak panelling in the principal room on the ground floor, which has been only removed in recent years.

This house is mentioned in the Chelsfield Manorial Rental for the year 1612, but no owners name is given, and we have been unable to find any other allusion to it before 1717. In that year it was in the possession of a father and son, both named John Heath. The latter about 1739, sold a moiety of it to one Thomas Bath, but retained the other half. Thomas Bath's moiety passed to Thomas Insell, and from him to George Golding, and then from Golding to Michael Allwin. In 1773 the whole was vested in William Eaton, having received it by the Will of Michael Allwin. William Eaton somewhere about 1799 sold the property to William Brooks, and it eventually came into the family of Yeates, one Mrs. Richard Yeates, widow, being owner in 1842. It remained in this family for some years, and during their ownership the house was used as a Place of Worship by two different sects of Nonconformists. One of the Chapels being on the ground floor, and the other over it. It is now the property of the Thompson family, who formerly kept the Village shop, and the house has been converted into several smaller holdings.

Kidders

Kidders is another old house that we have been able to trace by the help of the Chelsfield Court Rolls. It is now divided into two Cottages one of which is the Woodlands Laundry. It is first mentioned in the Court Roll of 1717, when one John Brasier "held one messuage, one orchard, and one close of land called Kidders situate at Bucks Cross"; a later Rental states that Kidders fronted the Rectory gate. The gate opposite this house was at one time the principal entrance to the old Rectory, now known as Chelsfield House.

In 1739 it had passed from John Brasier to his son John, who had sold it to Thomas Insell, he only held it until 1740 when he conveyed it to George Keeble of Shoreham. A Mrs Elizabeth Kebel of Lullingstone together with her children in 1799 sold it to John Fuller from whom it descended to the present owner. This house was at one time used as the Village School as described in these notes under the head of Education (see p.86).

Rounds

This property was a part of the Court Lodge estate. Thomas Norton, the Lord of the Manor, bequeathed this holding together with the Manor to his nephew Henry Martin, who in 1799 by his Will devised a farm in Chelsfield, tenanted by John Round, in trust for his daughter Catherine Henrietta Estabroke, - hence the origin of the name by which this property is now known.

Mrs. Estabroke changed her name by Kings sign manual to that of Rowells. Mrs. Rowells trustees sold the property to John Hill of Chelsfield, and his son William Hills in 1868 left it to Josiah Groombridge, who sold it in 1880 to William Waring.

The Eleven Cricketers

This Inn as already mentioned stood in the Village. In the Court Roll for 1739 it is described as "The Cricketers" formerly owned by Abraham Whiffen and John Ward but then the property of John Winson, and in the occupation of John Creavy. In 1814 it was still a Public-house, and owned by Edward Everest, but it had blossomed out to the full title of "The Eleven Cricketers", and about this time it passed into the hands of Edward Skinner. The 1828 Roll states that the messuage formerly called "The Eleven Cricketers", and then occupied as a shop, kept by Richard Clarke was sold by Skinner to John Hills. William Hills succeeded his father John Hills, and his tenant Henry Thompson followed Clarke in the grocers business. Thus the "Eleven Cricketers" is identified with the present Village shop kept by Mrs. Neal.

The Wheatsheaf

This was another old Inn just on the boundary of the parish of Chelsfield, in fact the old house stood partly in Chelsfield and partly in Halstead, on the ground that was excavated in making the railway cutting just on the east side of the bridge by Mr. Bowen's timber-yard, also known as Marylebone Bottom. The house was closed as an Inn about the year 1845. The Wheatsheaf was originally a part of Cadlets farm, and in 1798 was the property of one John Goodhew, who in 1799 conveyed it to his nephew Captain Peter Pennell of the East Kent Militia.

Peter Pennell upon his death left 'The Wheatsheaf Inn', and a small quantity of land to John Shilling the younger, the son of John Shilling the elder, who had been a private soldier and servant to Captain Pennell. The Captain obtained his discharge from the Militia, and had made him his bailiff or steward. John Shilling the younger in 1839 sold this small property to the trustees of Thomas and Sarah Waring. After the Inn was closed John Bowen in 1846 became tenant of the house and land, and one of his sons is still the occupier at the present time (1914), which is another illustration of a long tenancy in Chelsfield.

Eveshole

This small property consisted of a messuage and garden called Eveshole at Maypole, but is no longer known by this euphonious name; perhaps for good reasons. Its boundaries are carefully given in a deed dated 1720, from which, and also from the Court Rolls, it is evident that the two cottages on the south side of the road leading from Maypole to Well Hill, and to the east of the Blundell property, now represent the above.

This holding was held by the Eve family (hence the name) certainly from 1612 to 1717, and probably before the former date. In the latter year one William Eve sold it to Charles Lewis of Mereworth, who in 1810 conveyed it to John Fuller.

Original start of vol.II. Chelsfield Parochial Notes 1904-1914

Rough Garden or Rose Garden with Sextees

Rough Garden consisted of three Cottages and four acres of land, being the first three houses on the west side of the road after passing the Wells at Wellhill. Sextees which embraced sixteen acres is represented now by Systedsfield, and that part of Owen Wood adjoining the White Cottage. The actual spot on which this Cottage was built formed a part of Sextees; but the back premises was a portion of Rough Garden.

Sextees was within the Manor of Chelsfield, while Rough Garden was within that of Hewetts. The Court Rolls of the former only date from 1612, whereas those of Hewetts go back to 1517; therefore it has been possible to trace Rough Garden further back than Sextees.

In 1590 one William Brasier was in possession of Rough Garden, but in 1626 he was dead, and had been succeeded by Francis Brasier, who also according to the Chelsfield Roll for 1652 owned Sextees, and the two parcels from this period were certainly one holding. Francis Brasier died before 1666 and was followed by John Brasier, John was dead in 1673 and it had come to his widow Joanna, who afterwards married Robert Woodrofe. Mrs. Woodrofe was succeeded by her son Francis Brasier of West Wickham, who by his Will dated 1711 devised Rose Garden and Sisteeds to his wife Ann for life, and after her death to his daughters Rachael and Faith. It will be seen that the name Rough Garden had now been changed to Rose Garden, probably it being considered that the latter was better sounding than the former.

Upon the marriage of Faith Brasier to Lacy Hawes of Keston in 1720, her moiety of the property was settled upon the trust that her trustees should sell.

Rachael who lived with her mother at Shoreham sold her share in 1718 to her brother William Brasier. In 1742 Hannah Hayward one of the daughters of the above William Brasier sold her share of the property to her sister Mary Brasier, when the property is described as Rose Garden otherwise Sisteed of twenty acres and three cottages lately erected.

In 1755 the daughter of the said William Brasier sold her share to Allen Cowper of St. Martins in the Fields, Tallow-chandler. Allen Cowper had already married widow Brasier.

By a Will dated 1776 Martha Hawes, who was probably a daughter of Faith Brasier, left her share of the Chelsfield property to Richard Cowper, and by this devise five eights of the estate became vested in Richard Cowper, as he had already inherited several other shares.

In 1801 John Fuller bought the above five eights, together with the other three eights of Rose Garden otherwise Sisteeds. Thus this property had been in the possession of the Brasiers and their descendants for certainly two hundred years. It is still in the hands of John Fuller's family.

Mount Hall or Walnuttress

This property was originally described in Deeds as Walnuttrees House with several fields containing together twenty one acres; also a barn, and stable, with two other fields called Breche and Children Croft of about forty acres in all. It is quite evident that there were two houses named Walnuttrees, as the two properties have separate title deeds, with a different descent of owners, and it is equally clear that they stood not far apart.

Mount Hall is first mentioned by this name in a deed dated 1778, and it is probable that this name was substituted for Walnuttrees to prevent confusion with the other, when the new part of the house was built in 1775. The back part of the house is much older than the front, and possibly the former is the old Walnuttrees. Breche and Childrens Croft can be identified with Bridgestile field and the surrounding land; and it is suggested that 'Bridge' is simply a corruption from 'Breche'.

In 1590 it was in the possession of Thomas Dunmole, a boy of fourteen years of age, who had succeeded his father of the same name. In 1612 it was in the ownership of John Tresses; but before 1652 it had come to the Revd George Smith, the Rector of the parish, for at that date he had sold it to William Goodday according to the Court Rolls. From William Goodday it descended to his son John and then to the latter's brother Roger Goodday who is buried in the Chancel of the Church (see p.51). Upon the death of Roger in 1674 his daughter Ann came into the property, she in turn being succeeded by her cousin John Goodday (see p.171 re: The Gooddays), who in 1734 sold it to Thomas Chapman, who was at that time the tenant in occupation; he left it to his son William Chapman who probably built the new portion of the house. William by his Will dated 1778 left his real estate to John Round and Thomas Judd upon trust for his nephew William Biggs in tail male. William Biggs was succeeded by his son James who sold the property to John Fuller in 1818.

Leach Croft

Leach Croft is another small property gone and forgotten. It consisted of a House, buildings, and five acres of land; four and a quarter acres being the southern end of Cartersfield and abutting on the road leading from Bucks Cross to Maypole: and the other three quarters of an acre being in Bucks Cross Orchard adjoining.

In 1612 it belonged to James Stile, and was still in the possession of a James Stile in 1652 (see Lillies p.94). Before 1717 it had come into the ownership of Henry Soane who had married James Style's daughter, and he had been succeeded by his son Henry. In 1739 this last Henry Soane was also dead, and had devised the property to Richard Stileman. In some way it passed from Stileman to John Nash of Sevenoaks, for in the year 1768 he sold it to Mary Fuller. The house and buildings had been demolished before this last purchase, as the fact is endorsed on the purchase deed.

Riddenshaw

A very small property that has disappeared, so far as the house, and its name is concerned, within the last few years. It originally consisted of two houses with gardens situated on the Hewetts side of the 'White Hart' Inn at Bo-peep.

It formerly belonged to Robert Allen of Hewetts, but upon his death before 1773 it had become divided into two moieties, the one in the ownership of James Allen, and the other in the possession of Ann Brooks. It is the latter one, which was represented by the old cottage lately pulled down, that concerns these Notes.

Ann Brooks died before 1799, and her son Thomas Brooks succeeded her, he by his Will dated 1812 left Riddenshaw to trustees with instructions that each of his six sons should have the option of purchase in the order of their ages, and in the event of all refusing this option, then the property was to be sold. In 1832 one of the sons, Thomas Brooks, bought the property, and by his Will dated 1848 left one half to his grandson Thomas Reeves, and the other half to his son Stephen Allan Brooks for his life, with remainder to his grandson Thomas Brooks Emery. In 1867 John Walton of Halstead bought both of the moieties from the above; and in the same year resold the whole to William Waring.

Pax

This property has already been described in these notes (see p.62). In 1612 John Brasier the son of Richard Brasier was the owner, but at some time between the years 1619 and 1629 it had passed to William Browne, and from him it descended as already stated in giving an account of the Browne family when describing their Monument in the Church.

Wheatfields

As stated when describing Alice Bray there is no property answering to this name at the present time. It now being known as Maypole Cottage (see p.52).

In the year 1448 one Alan Typon conveyed it to Master William Peter, Philip atte Well, Nicholas Sybbyns, and Simon Wodeward the younger. In 1479 Simon Woodward of Chelsfield sold it to Richard Bonnanter and Alice Bray, and they in turn in 1487 passed it on to John Jettor of Chelsfield yeoman and Agnes his wife, to Sir John Percyvale Knt, and John Bonnanter (see pp.131 & 133). In the year 1503 John Jettor appears to have sold it in his sole right to John Beverech of Chelsfield, Robert Marshall of Orpington, and William Cowper of Farnborough.

Henry Beverych by Will dated 1509 leaves this house and garden to his wife for her life, with remainder to their issue, and in default of such issue it was to be sold, and the proceeds to be devoted to praying for the souls of Allen Colegate, and Anne his wife, for the souls of the Testator and Eleanor his wife, and for all persons souls (see p.134). It would seem that there was issue, but the descent is a little difficult to follow just at this time, since in 1563 Elizabeth Beveredge releases her House at Chelsfield to Richard Brasier. In 1633 Francis Brasier the son of one William Brasier is in possession; but in 1642 this property is settled upon the marriage of Emma, the only daughter of John Brasier, with Francis French of Seal. It remained in this family for many years, for in 1768 Elizabeth Berrington of Seal the only daughter of Francis Berrington, who was the only son of Robert Berrington of the Middle Temple and Ann his wife, formerly Ann French, sold it to Mary Fuller, the great grandmother of the present owner (see p.119).

The Porcupine Inn

This House is in the parish of Chelsfield, and stands at the top of Richmore Hill. It is quite distinct from the present Inn bearing the same name, which is located close by, but in Halstead parish. It remained an Inn until about the year 1814, when it was converted into a farm-house, and which it still remains. In 1696 a Chelsfield Manorial Rental tells us that the "Porquepyne Inn" was kept by one Thomas Ward, and probably it was the property of a member of the Ash family, but before 1739 one Edward Ash had sold it to John Lansdell, who in turn alienated it to Lord Vere Beauclerk, he being the third son of the first Duke of St. Albans. Lord Vere was an Admiral, and had distinguished himself in several commands (Hasted I.32). Lord Vere Beauclerk sold it to George Arnold Arnold; and it afterwards passed through two generations of the Cazelets. The Rev. James Cazelet sold it about 1821 to Alderman Atkins, in whose family it still remains.

Hamlets of Chelsfield

Pratts Bottom, Greenstreet Green, Well Hill, Maypole, and Bo-peep are all Hamlets, either large or small, in the parish of Chelsfield.

Pratts Bottom It is suggested that this Hamlet derives its name from a family of that name, who held land there according to both the Chelsfield and Hewetts Court Rolls certainly from 1590 to 1694, and probably for a longer period. Some of this land was held in comparatively recent years by the late Richard Hickmott, who lived in the small house on the north side of the road, not far from the present Schools. The Pratts also owned Hempstalls in the sixteenth century.

Greenstreet Green We find this Hamlet mentioned in a Will dated 1522, and in the earliest Court Rolls of the Manor of Chelsfield; and it is fairly obvious that the name is derived from its position and surrounds.

Well Hill This part of the parish, without doubt, derives its name from the fact of there being wells on the hill. How long this has been so, we are unable to say, but probably for very many years. The Parish Register under the date of 1579 contains this entry "Alice Fletcher wydow of Wel hil buried"; and the Hewetts Court Rolls for the years 1590 and 1626 record that "Roughgarden in Chellefield" was near the well there.

Maypole We have been unable to find any mention of this Hamlet earlier than 1720, when the name appears in a deed, nor any authority for it being so called, and we can only suggest that in olden days the May games, with a May-pole were held near this spot.

Bo-peep The first reference to this Hamlet which we have been able to discover is in a Chelsfield Court Roll dated 1821, but probably the name was known long before this. We think its origin may be accounted for in the following way. 'Bo' or 'Bok' is first found in English in 1430, and is an exclamation intended to surprise or frighten. In Johnsons Dictionary (1766) it is explained that "To play Bo-peep is to look out and draw back, as if frightened", and in a larger edition of the same work (1816) it is stated that 'BO' is an interjection derived from 'Bo' an old northern captain of such fame, that his name was used to terrify the enemy; and that 'Peep' is to look slyly. Now this small group of Houses is snugly ensconced in the angle of the roads; and may it not be suggested that some humorous person likened this position to the definition of Bo-peep? and hence the origin of the name.

Wages, Rents, Cost of living etc

We often hear it discussed, whether the poorer classes are better off now than in former days. During the past two centuries wages have risen considerably; so have rents and the necessities of life, therefore it is difficult to determine whether a labourer was freer from the cares of this world some hundred years ago, than he is now. We have in our possession farm books dating from the year 1720, and from these it would appear that rents, wages, meat etc have risen in price at an even progression, but that the price of wheat has varied in a very marked manner. We expect therefore that the price of wheat is the true key to the workman's position.

From 1720 to 1800 the price of wheat grown in, or near Chelsfield varied from 24s to 176s per quarter. Even in a given year the price varied much, and the following prices are the highest recorded in each year from these farm books. In 1720 it was 36/4d; in 1730 24s; in 1740 64s; in 1761 26s; in 1770 50s; in 1787 54s; in 1800 176s. During these eighty years a labourer at day work was paid about 8s a week; and his rent was from £2.2.0 to £3.5.0 per annum. Pork, mutton and sometimes beef was sold by the farmer to his workmen, as well as to the Butcher. During this period mutton varied from 3d to 3d per lb; pork from 3d to 4d; and beef in the year 1724 was sold at 2d per lb. Veal varied from 2d to 3d per lb.

From the year 1800 to that of 1855 there was a considerable rise in the price of meat, rents, and wages, but nothing like the same variation in the prices of wheat. The latter in 1804 was 112s; in 1808 100s; in 1815 120s; in 1823 54s; in 1830 it averaged 70s; in 1855 it averaged 76s. During this period day work was paid for at a rate from 10s to 15s per week. Mutton cost 6d to 7d per lb; pork from 4d to 7d per lb; and rents varied from £2.10.0 to £5.5.0 per annum; the farmer evidently being paid by old tenants; and as they dropped out their cottages were re-let at a higher rate.

Women were paid what we should now consider very small wages. In 1720 "Goodey Verrall", and several other 'Goodies' were paid 7d per day for picking hops. Mary Brown in 1770 earned 6d a day at stone-picking; but in 1808 a womans wages had risen to 1/-s per day. A boy in 1808 was paid 4d a day.

In 1816 this memorandum was made "Paid Grahams for drying Hops 15 shillings a week, allowed him a gallon of beer for a day and night and a glass of gin every morning". In 1820 William Johnson was paid 4s for two days cutting down timber.

Before thrashing machines came into use; the corn was thrashed out by men in the barns by hand, and in 1805 the price for this work was 4s a quarter, but in 1808 it had fallen to 3/6d. This work found constant employment for some of the workmen, and during a winter they thrashed large quantities of corn. We have found the following records:

		qr	bus
"1729. Wheate Thrased in ye lower barn			
by Wm Williams	6	7	
by George Rinwood and Johnson	76	3	
	<u>83</u>	<u>2</u>	

between Nov 2nd & Feb 24th

In ye upper barn	Wm Williams	38	3
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1730 Wheate in ye lower barn

by Wm Cheesman & Wm Williams	124	6"
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In 1780 James Bunn was paid £1.10.0 for catching 180 moles, which works out at exactly 2d per mole.

Woodcutting was another employment for the men during the winter months, and it is curious to note the difference between the prices paid two hundred years ago, and those of the present day. The following is an account for this kind of work, and we have added the prices of the present day.

"Decem 24 1724 Thos Yeomans work				price per bundle	
				1724	1912
Hurdle rods & stakes	21 bundles	0.03.7	2d		2d
fagget rods	34 bundles	0.05.8	2d		not cut now
broom staves	8 bundles	0.01.4	2d		3d
bushes	175 bundles	0.03.6	2s per 100		2/6s per 100
stack wood	3 cord of wood	0.05.3	1/6 per cord		4s per cord
kids	46	0.01.10	4s per 100		8/4d per 100
canhoops	13 bundles	0.02.02	2d		3d
hoops	36 bundles	0.06.03	2d		3d
bavins	444	0.10.05	2/4 per 100		4s per 100
		<u>2.00.00</u>			

the hedgin round the wood}

To 157 rods att 2d ye rod}	1.06.02	2d per rod	4d per rod"
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To the prices of 1912 must be added the sum of 2d for every shilling earned, for what is known as wood-money. In former days a woodcutter carried away a certain amount of wood for his own use. This practice was stopped, and in lieu of the perquisite the 2d was added to each shilling earned.

In olden days some of the men on a farm were hired by the year, principally wagoners and mates. They were lodged and boarded in the farm-house. Their wages varied as the following extracts from the old books will show:

		£.	s.	d.
"1741 Mich.	Bargined with Will Barton for a year at	3.	5.	0
	Bargined with Alex Martin for a yr	5.	5.	0
Oct ye 2	Bargined with Edward Simmon to			
	serve tell St.Mich next at	10.	0.	0
St.Mich	Bargened with Jas Barton for a year	6.	0.	0
Sep ye 29 1742	Bargined with Wm Barton for a yr	3.	11.	0
	Bargined with James Lunn for a yr	6.	0.	0"

Probably those that were paid the larger wage were the wagoners, and the others the mates or cartér-boys. The wages were not always paid in money, but partly in clothes, as these entries will show:

"Decem 29th 1729	Fortunatus Ringwood in money	0.	10.	6
March 2th	In money	0.	10.	6
May 17th	In money	0.	5.	0
June 28th	In money	0.	10.	6
	for a sack to make a coat	0.	3.	0
Sep 29th	In full	3.	6.	6
		<u>5.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>0 "</u>

It will be seen that the addition in the above account is wrong, it should be £5.6.0, but probably the agreed wage was £5.5.0, and Ringwood was well named 'Fortunatus' (lucky).

"Jan 22nd 1729-30	George Know for 4 shirts	0.	14.	3
March 6th	paid for making shirts	0.	1.	0
May	for a pair of stockings and 2s 6d money	0.	5.	6
Sep 29th	in full	2.	9.	3
		<u>4.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0 "</u>

Here again the addition is 10s wrong, this time it is against the boy. We wonder whether - George Know..ed it?

Maidservants were also hired for the year and their wages were paid in a very similar manner as those of the men; thus:

"Oct 8 1726	Anne Barton came	
May 8 1727	Ann Barton in money	1. 5. 7
June 16	In money	0. 8. 0
July 10th	In money	0. 7. 0
	Recd in full	<u>19. 4</u>
		<u>3. 0. 0 "</u>

"Octob 28th 1733

Mary Stringer began her yeare and is
to have three pounds pr anum

	£	s	d
June 12th In money Five Shillings			
and musling fower shillings & sixpence	0.	9.	6
for a piece of cheque for an apron	0.	1.	8
June 18th For an ell of Holland}			
three yards of edging }	0.	2.	11"

The above account was never finished, having no entry after June 18th, and one wonders whether Mary left her situation before her year was ended, or what became of her.

There are several other memoranda of advances of wages both in money, and clothes etc, but no complete account for a full year; the following one was never completed.

"June 29th 1724 Martha Ellis	
a pair of shoes	0. 2. 6
for yarn	0. 1. 2
Sep 29th paid Tho Skinner for a pair of shoes	0. 3. 0
Jan 2nd paid for gound and makeing	0. 12 10.
March 6th for a pety coat and two shifts	0. 09. 0"

The following entry is of some interest as showing the kind of wage a nurse recieved in former days.

"1728 Oct 14. Sarah Hawkins came to nurs my father at
2s per week".

Old Chelsfield Families
still resident in the Parish (1914)

There are at the present time (1914) several families in Chelsfield which have been connected with the parish for very many years, and it is now proposed to write a few lines concerning them.

Alwen

The name of this family is variously spelt Alwin, Alwyn, and Alwen; and the first record of them is to be found in the old register under the year 1673; when John the son of William and Elizabeth Alwin was baptized. According to the Court Rolls for the Manor of Chelsfield, one John Alwyn in 1717 owned two Messuages at Pratts Bottom, but before the year 1773 his daughter Elizabeth had sold them.

In 1724 William Alwyn possessed a property called 'Sole Field' in Chelsfield"; and father has been succeeded by son certainly up to the year 1859 when the last Court Baron for this Manor was held, and we believe the family are still in possession of it. The above William Alwyn also held land called 'Beechcroft' a portion of the Manor of Hewetts for a short time about the year 1731.

One Michael Alwin owned 'Crosshall' for a short period of time about the year 1773. The name of this family appears in the Parish Register at irregular intervals, and probably they have not always lived in the parish.

Arrow

Calib the son of Calib Arrowes was baptized at Chelsfield in 1760; and it is noticeable how often the name Caleb appears in subsequent years. In 1807 Caleb Arrow was a tenant within the Manor of Chelsfield, being the owner of a cottage at Green Street Green, but in 1848 it had passed into the possession of a Mrs. Young.

Dunmall

The Dunmalls are another very old Chelsfield family, and their name is also spelt in several ways, as Dunmolle, Dummol, Dunmul, Dunmull, Dunball and Dunmoil; but it must be remembered that it was a common practice in former days to write names phonetically. In 1583 according to our register Jane Dunmolle married Thomas Byrsey, and this is the earliest record of the family. The Court Roll for the manor of Hewetts for the year 1590 contains an entry that one Thomas Dunmole owned property that now forms part of Mount Hall, having then lately succeeded his father (see p.108). A Rental for the Manor of Chelsfield dated 1612 contains the fact that John Dunmole held certain woodland called Dowlands Gosse, and other lands in Chelsfield amounting to twenty acres. In 1652 he had been succeeded by his son also named John, and soon after this date this property passed away from the family.

In the year 1657 one Margaret Dunmoll of Eynsford married George Wakelin of Cox Croft (see p.101). The family are constantly mentioned in the Register down to the year 1710; but from this date there is a break until 1762; when their name again appears with great regularity. A cottage with a small quantity of land on Wellhill near the 'Kent Hounds' Inn was owned by several generations of this family up to the year 1832, and we believe some of the land was held until a much later date.

French

The family of French can be traced in the Chelsfield Records from the year 1612, when according to the Rental for the Manor of Chelsfield one James French owned "One Tenement and Orchard there late Colgates"; which property was probably situated at Maypole. In 1652 his son Thomas was in possession of it, but soon after that date it seems to have passed from them.

John Brasier who died in 1646 states in his Will (see p.165) that Francis French had married his daughter, and that he was to have one moiety of his tenements and lands. Francis French's share was three closes of land &c called Wheatfields (see p.110). This property continued in the name of French for some years; but the Chelsfield Court Roll for the year 1717 records the fact that one Francis French was dead, and that Elizabeth his widow had married Thomas Selby who held Wheatfields in her right. The name of French appears with some regularity in the parish registers from the year 1617 down to the present time.

Graves

The Graves can be traced in the parish from the year 1708 when one Anne Graves was buried here, and their name constantly appears in the register from that date up to the present time. They were the tenants of Mrs. Katherine Saunders land, and afterwards of Gilman Brimstone farm certainly from 1759 to 1871.

James Graves served as Churchwarden in 1786; and other members of the family as Overseer on many occasions between the years 1763 and 1843.

In 1814 Widow Graves was the owner of two cottages at Greenstreet Green, which her late husband had purchased, and this property was still in the possession of the family when the last Court Baron was held in 1859. They have also held the property at Sluts Hole since 1842, and probably for a longer time.

Hills

One Richard Hills was buried here in 1719, and from that date down to the present time the name constantly appears in the various records relating to Chelsfield. Probably there were two families of this name.

For eighty years, covering the period between 1785 to 1865, the Village Post Office was kept by members of this family (see p.14).

John Hills served the office of Overseer in 1810, and his son William in 1844. The Chelsfield Court Roll for 1799 states that John Hills was possessed of a "Messuage called Durtnall and six acres of land called Newfields". The name of this house can be traced back to the year 1652, but we have been unable to locate its position. Before 1814 John Hills had purchased 'Rounds'; and about the year 1828 'The Eleven Cricketters' (see p.105). These properties with the addition of the cottages and land at Worldsend remained in the family of Hills until the death of William in 1868

Verrells

The name of this family, who have been harness-makers here for several generations, appear in the parish registers on several occasions between the years 1757 and 1769, then it disappears until 1840, but from this date it is fairly frequent up to the present time.

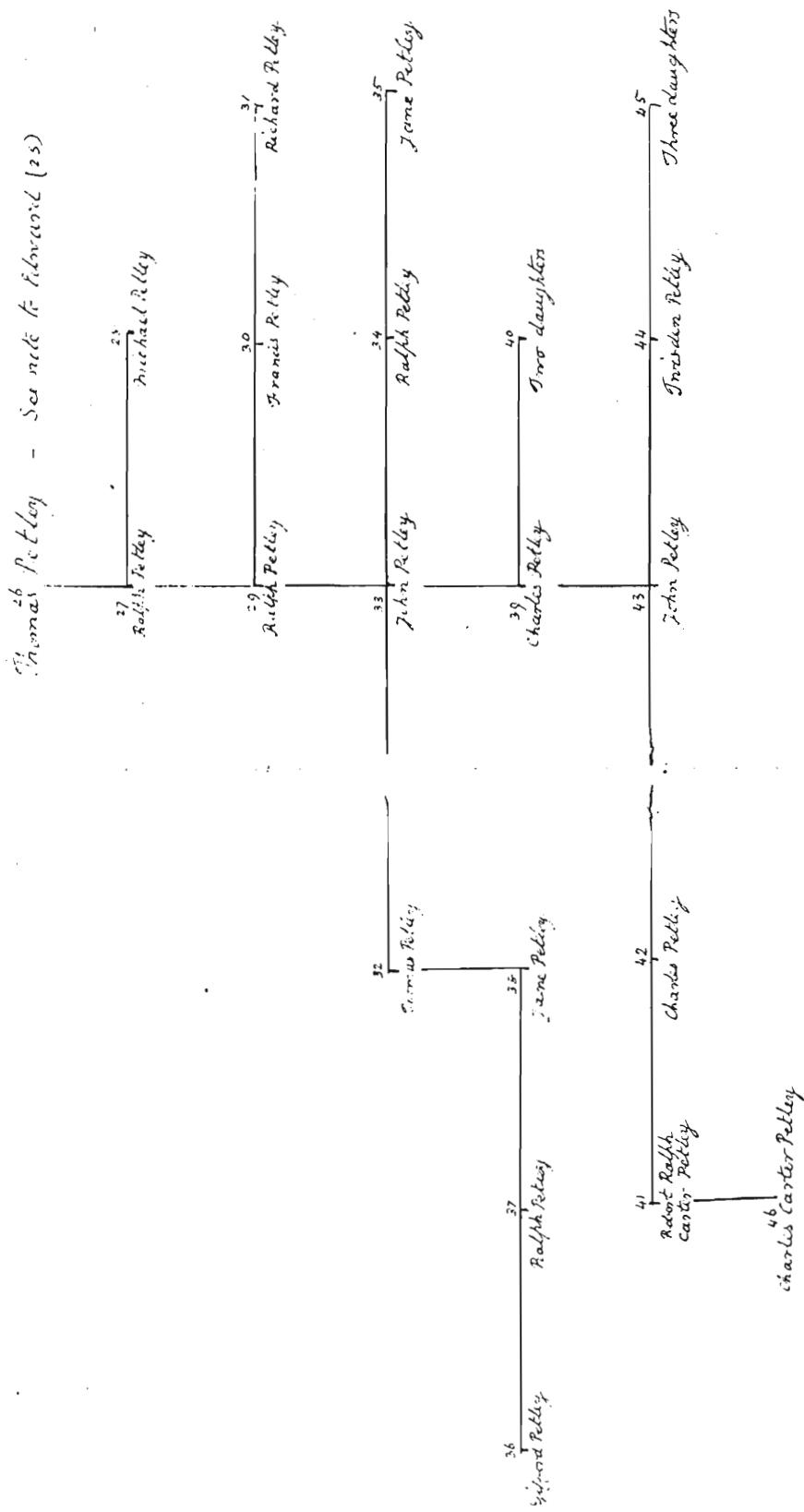
Whitehead

This name is variously spelt Wythed, Whythede, Whitehedde, Whitehead, and Whitehead, who appear to have belonged to the Yeoman class. The earliest recorded member of this family was one William Whythed who desired to be buried in the Church porch in the year 1468, and the next is another William Whitehedde who in 1500 wished to be buried in the same place (see p.2,103). In 1488 it is recited in an old deed that William Whythedde owned lands near Hewetts; and in 1509 William Whitehead was one of the Trustees under Alice Bray's will (see p.54). The Parish Register records the fact that in 1559 one John Kingsland, whose family continued in the parish for more than a century, married Dorothy Whitehead; and entries concerning the Whiteheads continue with great regularity down to the year 1609. In an earlier part of these notes we have suggested that the above members of this family dwelt at the house called 'Whiteheads' (see p.103).

We have been unable to find any trace of this family in Chelsfield from the year 1609 to that of 1705; possibly they lived over the borders of the parish; but from the latter date they again appear in the registers down to the present time.

The following old families are still resident in the parish, viz - The **Thomas**' traceable from the year 1699 to that of 1704, when they disappear until 1740, but from this last date they again appear with some regularity. The **Morgans** from 1794; and the **Miles** from 1766.

Petty Pedigree .. continued



Old Chelsfield Families - no longer living in the Parish

The Key to the Pedigree of the Petleys

This a suggested Pedigree of the Petley family so far as they were connected with the Manor of Hewetts, Hewetts farm, Little Hewetts farm, Bucks Cross farm, Gilman Brimstone farm, and land at Goddington, all being in the parish of Chelsfield. It has been compiled from Hasteds History of Kent, the Court Rolls of both the Chelsfield and Hewetts Manors, the Parish Register, Old Deeds, old Wills, and the Visitation of Kent 1663-1668, and from a Pedigree after the year 1770.

1. **Richard Petley** probably of Downe Court Manor (Hast.I.116).
2. **William Petley** the second son of Richard(1). He purchased the Manors of Halstead, Hewetts, and Hever from Lord John Gray and Dame Anne his wife in the year 1522. He was a man of considerable property, since by his will, after making provision for his wife, he left the above Manors with his land called Coalgates and Skypps, and his land at Greenstreet Green, Goddington, Farnborough, Bromley, Lewisham, Cudham, and Chelsfield (some near the Parsonage, probably Bucks Cross) and his property at Bedington and Bardon in Surrey to his eldest son Stephen. To his younger son Thomas he bequeathed Filston in the parish of Shoreham. He died in the year 1528, and with his wife Alice was buried at Halstead (Hasted I.320; His Will p.139, Old deeds).
3. **Stephen Petley** the eldest son and principal heir of William(2). He resided at Halstead. He was twice married; 1st to Lora daughter ofBrown of Sussex, by whom he had six sons: William, Thomas, and four others whose names are not given. He married 2nd Anne Skelton by whom he had two sons Ralph and Mathew. His name appears as the Lord of the Manor of Hewetts in the Court Rolls for the years 1540 and 1545. He died in 1547. (Hasted I.320; Will 1522; HC Rolls 1540 & 1545).
4. **Thomas Petley** the second son of William(2), and succeeded to Filston in Shoreham. He appears to have had no connection with Chelsfield (Will 1522).
5. **Jane Petley** the daughter of William(2) she married John Hodsoll (Will 1522).
6. **Johan Petley** the daughter of William(2) who in his Will first describes her as "Johan Allen my daughter", and later on as "Johan Marshe other wyse called Allyn my daughter" (Will 1522).
7. **Eme Petley** daughter of William(2), she married ...Brasyer (Will 1522).

8. **William Petley** son of Stephen(3) but not the eldest, by his first wife Lora. He lived at Chelsfield, and owned Bucks Cross, and land at Goddington. He was twice married: 1st to Joan who was buried at Chelsfield on December 9th 1578; and 2nd to Alice who survived him. William was buried at Chelsfield on January 7th 1600 (Will 1599: Rolls: Register).
9. **Robert Petley** son of William(8). He died in his father's lifetime (Will 1599).
- 9A. **Alice Petley** daughter of William(8) by his first wife. She was baptised at Chelsfield on the 5th April 1562, and married Edward Weite, or Write, at the same place on the 11th June 1599 (Will 1599; Register).
10. **Elizabeth Petley** daughter of William(8); she married ...Collins (Will 1599).
11. **Thomas Petley** son of William(8). His father left him two annuities amounting to £2.13.4, provided he should "behave himself godlie and honeslie" in the judgment of two of his Kinsmen named in the Will. (See pp.5 & 148). He appears to have survived his father but a short time, as he was buried at Chelsfield on June 17th 1603. (Will 1599: Register).
12. **Amy Petley** daughter of William(8) by his first wife. She was baptized at Chelsfield Sept 8th 1567, and married Thomas Brasier there on November 11th 1593. (Will 1599: Register).
13. **William Petley** son and heir of William(8) by his first wife. He was baptized at Chelsfield on April 1st 1576; and married Mary the daughter of Anthony Saxbye of Westerham in 1603. He inherited Bucks Cross farm, and the land at Goddington from his father. In the rental of the Manor of Chelsfield dated 1612 his house is described as his "Mansion House". (Will 1599: Old Deeds: Register).
14. **Anthony Petley** succeeded to Bucks Cross on the death of his father William(13). He was baptized November 8th 1604, and buried July 25th 1655 at Chelsfield. (Old Deeds: Register).
15. **Robert Petley** appears from the Register to have been the brother of Anthony(14). He jointly with his mother Mary held Bucks Cross after the death of Anthony(14). He was baptized at Chelsfield on February 13th 1614, and buried here June 22nd 1668. His wife's name was Joane, but it seems he left no children; since by his Will he left his real property to his "Cosen Robert Smith"; failing him to his "Kinsman Richard Thomas of Deptford (see p.96: Deeds: Register: Will 1668 p.166).
16. **Elizabeth Petley** daughter of William(13). She was baptized at Chelsfield on September 6th 1607. (Register).
17. **Amy Petley** daughter of William(13). Baptized 9 September and buried 13 December 1610 at Chelsfield (Register).
18. **Maria Petley** daughter of William(13). Baptized at Chelsfield on April 5th 1612 (Register).

19. **Thomas Petley** was the eldest son of Stephen(3). He lived at Halstead, and held that Manor, and those of Hewetts and Hever. He married Mifs Hamond of St.Albans, and died in the year 1553. (Hasted).
20. Four other sons of Stephen(3) by Lora Brown. (Hasted).
21. **Ralph Petley** son of Stephen(3) by Anne Skelton. (Hasted).
22. **Mathew Petley** son of Stephen(3) by Anne Skelton (Hasted).
23. **Thomas Petley** was the son of Thomas(19). He owned both Halstead and Hewetts Manors. He married Mifs Polly of Shoreham in Kent. (Hasted: Rolls).
24. **Thomas Petley** son of Thomas(23) and succeeded him to the Manor of Halstead, which he sold to Sir Thomas Watson. This Thomas Petley died without issue. (Hasted: Will 1626: Deed 1664).
25. **Edward Petley** son of Thomas(23) who left him the Manor of Hewetts. He also owned Gilman Brimstone farm, which he also probably inherited from his father. He died about 1626, as this is the date of his Will. He left some of his property for the benefit of his brother Thomas(24) and his heirs; but failing heirs the trustees in 1664 sold the Mansion called Hewetts, and some 111 acres of land; but the Manor, and Little Hewetts with Gilman Brimstone remained in the Petley family, being in the possession of one Thomas Petley who is next described. (Will 1626: Deed 1664: Rolls).
26. **Thomas Petley** who succeeded Edward(25) as stated above, was of Filston in Shoreham. There is no doubt but that he was descended from Thomas(4), but we have been unable to trace the descent, hence a break in our pedigree. He was twice married: 1st to Dorothy the daughter of Michael Bashford, or Beresford of Westerham: and 2nd to Elizabeth the daughter of Ralph Came of London. He was the owner of the Manor of Hewetts, and Gilman Brimstone Farm. (Hasted: Rolls: Visitation 1663-1668).
27. **Ralph Petley** was the son of Thomas(26). He married Frances Polhill of Otford. He owned the Chelsfield property. (Hasted: Rolls: Visitation 1663-1668).
28. **Michael Petley** was the son of Thomas(26). He married Mary daughter of Sir Edward Gilbourne of Shoreham, Kent. He is described in the Visitation of 1663-1668 as being of Filston in Kent. He left a son Thomas of Filston (Visitation 1663-68; Deeds).
29. **Ralph Petley** son of Ralph(27) and succeeded him in the Hewetts and Gilman Brimston properties. Probably this was the Ralph who was Sheriff of Kent in the year 1680, then described as being of Riverhead. He married Jane daughter of Sir John Seyliard of Chidingstone, bart. He died in the year 1704, aged 59, and was buried at Sevenoaks. (Hasted: Rolls: Vis. 1663-68, Pedigree).
30. **Francis Petley** son of Ralph(27). (Vis 1663-1668: Rolls).
31. **Richard Petley** son of Ralph(27). (Rolls)

32. **Thomas Petley** son of Ralph(29). Upon his marriage with Margaret daughter of Thomas Gifford in 1694, Gilman Brimstone was settled. He was also owner of Hewetts Manor. He died before the year 1731. (Hasted; Pedigree; Deeds; Rolls).
33. **John Petley** son of Ralph(29). He married Jane Lockyer (Hast:Ped).
34. **Ralph Petley** son of Ralph(29). He died a bachelor. (Hasted:Ped).
35. **Jane Petley** daughter of Ralph(29). She married..Fowler. (Hast.)
36. **Gifford Petley** son of Thomas(32). He died abroad when young and unmarried in the lifetime of his father. (Pedigree).
37. **Ralph Petley** son of Thomas(32) and succeeded him. He died a bachelor, and intestate in 1751. His Chelsfield and Sevenoaks properties descended to his first cousin Charles Petley(39). (Hasted: Rolls: Pedigree).
38. **Jane Petley** daughter of Thomas(32). She died single in the lifetime of her brothers(Pedigree).
39. **Charles Petley** son of John Petley(33). He succeeded his first cousin Ralph(37) to the Manor of Hewetts, and Gilman Brimstone as above stated. He was Storekeeper of the Ordnance at Chatham. In 1752 he married Elizabeth the daughter of Robert Paul of the County of Northumberland esq., and then lived at Riverhead. He died intestate in July 1765. It would appear from the Court Rolls, and also from old deeds that his widow Elizabeth succeeded him as Lady of the Manor of Hewetts, and to the farm of Gilman Brimstone; but she may have only acted for her sons who were minors. (Hasted:Rolls:Deeds:Pedigree).
40. **Jane Petley** daughter of John(33). Died unmarried(Hast.Ped.)
41. **Ralph Robert Carter Petley** son of Charles(39). He and his brother John(43) were joint heirs of their father, and in 1783 they executed a Deed of Partition, by which Ralph took Little Hewetts and the Manor. It is not quite clear how Gilman Brimstone was apportioned, but upon the death of John(43), he John left Gilman Brimstone to his mother in fee. R.R.C. Petley married Elizabeth, and died in 1788 (Hasted:Deeds:Ped.)
42. **Charles Petley** son of Charles(39), he died in January 1750, about five years old (Pedigree).
43. **John Petley** son of Charles(39) - see R R C Petley(41) above Mrs. Elizabeth Petley sold Gilman Brimstone to John Fuller in 1806. (Pedigree: Deeds).
44. **Twisden Petley** son of Charles(39). He died in 1778 when about twelve years old. (Pedigree).
45. Three daughters of Charles(39). Names not given (Pedigree)
46. **Charles Carter Petley** son of Ralph Robert Carter(41), and succeeded his father to Little Hewetts, and the Manor; both of which he sold in 1826 to the Trustees of the late John Fuller for the benefit of Sarah his daughter, and then the wife of Thomas Waring. John Fuller had already bought the Mansion House and Hewetts farm in 1781.

Thus the connection of the Petley family with the parish of Chelsfield came to an end; after having certainly existed for some three hundred years and probably longer.

Wakelens

The family of Wakelen were long resident in this parish, and their name is to be found in the records extending over a period of two hundred years; and probably they were inhabitants of this place long before the records commence; but they have now been extinct in Chelsfield for many years.

The baptism of one Thomas Wakelen, dated 1558, is the third entry in our oldest register; and entries relating to this family occur with great regularity down to 1682. From this last year down to 1746 the name is spelt Walklin in the register, but evidently they are the same family, since the Chelsfield Court Rolls, and Deeds give the proper spelling of the name during this time, and it is curious to note that this same period nearly coincides with the incumbency of Mr. Petty, and probably the entries in the register were written phonetically. This suggestion is strengthened by the fact that after 1752 the name is spelt Wakelin down to 1766, when it disappears from the register.

As already stated in these notes members of this family were Churchwardens on several occasions, and one John Wakelin, who was the occupier of 'Pax' farm served the office of Overseer in 1755. The register informs us that "Thomas Wakelen ye parish Clerke" was buried here in 1562.

No less than three members of this family were original Trustees of the Collet Charity, see p.156, William and Thomas who were the joint owners of 'Coxcroft'; and Walnuttrees, and George who was either a brother of the above, or a son of one of them. This George was also a Trustee of the Colegate Charity.

They were small landowners in the parish. In addition to the already mentioned 'Coxcroft' and 'Walnuttrees', 'Simons Haw', was in the possession of the family for a time. (see pp.101, 102 & 100).

Brasier

The Brasyers, or Brasiers were inhabitants of the parish at the time when our Chelsfield records commence, and probably they were here long before.

The name can be traced in the register from its beginning in 1558 down to the year 1728, and in the Court Rolls to 1739. After this date the family appear to have left the parish, as no further entries relating to them can be found either in the Rolls or Registers, with the solitary exception of a marriage in 1810.

They were a numerous family evidently belonging to the Yeoman class, being landowners and of some importance. They intermarried with the Petleys and Stiles, both of which families also owned land in this place. They served the office of Churchwarden on several occasions; and William Brasier of 'Rough Garden' was one of the original Trustees of Collets Charity, while his son Francis was a Trustee of Colgates Charity, and it was probably this Francis that was returned as a 'Suspect' during the Commonwealth (see p.10).

In 1563 one Richard Brasier purchased 'Wheatfields and Betses'; which property remained in the family until the year 1768 (see p.110). 'Rough Garden and Sextees' was in their possession in 1590, and remained in the family until 1801 (see p.106). They were the owners of 'Pax' in 1612 (see p.110). One John Brasier held 'Kidders' in 1612, and a member of the family also named John, who followed the trade of shoemaker, was living there in 1717, but it had been sold before the year 1739. It would seem from the fact of their having parted with their property, and also from the occupation of John, that at this time they had come down in the social scale.

At various times they also held 'Simons Haw', a house and land at Greenstreet Green; and 'Larke House' a property which we have been unable to identify.