

THE
History of Harefield

PRICE SIXPENCE

**PLACES OF INTEREST ROUND
HAREFIELD.**



STOKE POGES, 9 miles : The scene of Gray's
"Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard."

JORDANS, 8 miles : Meeting House and
Burial-ground of Quakers ; Grave of William
Penn.

CHALFONT ST. GILES (Milton's Cottage)
7 miles : Milton came here to escape the plague
which was raging in London in 1665.

THE
History of Harefield.

COMPILED FOR
WOUNDED AUSTRALIANS
AT
HAREFIELD PARK HOSPITAL

BY
THEODORA ROSCOE.

TOGETHER WITH
A SHORT OFFICIAL RECORD
OF THE HOSPITAL FROM
ITS COMMENCEMENT.

Price Sixpence.

(this page is blank)

FOREWORD.

IN taking advantage of the privilege accorded me by the Committee of the "Harefield Park Boomerang," I welcome very gladly the opportunity of commending to the staff, patients and friends of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, the fruit of the labours of the Editress and Committee of our Hospital paper, in providing us with a "History of Harefield," which I am sure will serve to interest those of us who pass through the hospital or remind us of happy days spent here. In these pages we are reminded that "England is a part of us and of that mighty, fruitful and abiding past out of which we are come . . . which holds for ever safe for us our origins," and may such thoughts breed in us, who live a very little time, and whose future is not ours but our children's, a longing, which is also a prayer, that future generations in our own land will be strengthened and comforted in times of stress and trial by an appeal to the history of the soul of our own great Nation in the South.

C. YEATMAN, Lt.-Col. A.A.M.C.

No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital,
Harefield Park,
Harefield, Middlesex.

22nd February, 1918.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PLACES OF INTEREST ROUND HAREFIELD ii.	cover.
FOREWORD	3

THE HISTORY OF HAREFIELD

I.—HAREFIELD AND THE DOOMSDAY BOOK	5
II.—HAREFIELD A THOUSAND YEARS AGO	8
III.—THE CHURCH AND A FAMOUS COUNTESS	10
IV.—QUEEN ELIZABETH COMES TO HAREFIELD	15
V.—THE CHURCH AND ITS MONUMENTS	18
VI.—OLD PARISH REGISTERS	22
VII.—MOORHALL	24
VIII.—BREAKSPEARS	25
IX.—HAREFIELD PARK, PAST AND PRESENT	29

RECORD OF NO. 1 AUSTRALIAN AUXILIARY HOSPITAL ...	33
---	----

The History of Harefield.

I.—HAREFIELD AND THE DOOMSDAY BOOK.

Harefield has always taken part in history, and to-day, although only a small Middlesex village, it is having its share of the effects of the war. The slouch-hatted Australians strolling about; on crutches; or in wheel chairs, have become such a common sight that only strangers now stand and wonder at this invasion of men from the Antipodes into an English village. But they are history—modern history in an old historical setting. For Harefield goes back to the very earliest records—to the Domesday Book.

This Domesday or Domesday Book was the result of a survey which William the Conqueror ordered to be made in the year 1085.

To quote a contemporary writer in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, perhaps the only Journal of the day then:

“So strictly did he cause the survey to be made, that there was not a single hide, nor a yardland of ground, nor—it is shameful to say what he thought no shame to do—was there an ox or a cow or a pig passed by, that was not set down in the accounts; all the writings were brought to him.”

We can imagine the resentment and indignation felt by the inhabitants, the Anglo-Saxons, when the Conqueror

ordered his men to make the survey, and to ascertain the yearly revenue he should himself acquire from each county. But it was a great work. When his men came to Harefield they made the following report of the Manor (the land held by one Lordship) and of the village:

“Richard, son of Gilbert the Earl [of Briou] holds Herefelle, which is taxed at five hides. [The hide or hyde was the measure of land in Edward the Confessor's reign. When William the Conqueror came he changed this word into carucate.] The land is five carucates. Two hides are in demesne [reserved for the Lord of the Manor] on which there are two ploughs. The priest has one Virgate, there are five Villains [servile tenants] who hold a Virgate each; and other five have each half a Virgate; Seven bordars who have five acres each and one bordar who has three acres; there are three cottars and three slaves; two mills yielding 15 shillings rent, four fisheries yielding 1,000 eels; meadow equal to one carucate, pasture for 1,000 cattle and pannage for 1,200 hogs. The total annual value is £12; it was only £8 when entered up by the present owner (Richard, son of Gilbert the Earl of Briou); in King Edward's [the Confessor] time, being then the property of the Countess Goda, it was £14.”

This Earl of Briou, who owned Herefelle, or Harefield as it is now called, was, no doubt, one of the many followers of William the Conqueror when he sailed away from France to invade England, and, after the successful conquest, was rewarded with a portion of the vanquished land. The portion allotted to him, if it were only valued at £14, was not a very magnificent reward, although in those days a pound was worth three times its present amount.

What happened to the Earl of Briou, or how Harefield passed out of his hands, there is no record kept. The next name in connection with the place was Roger de Bacheworth

—and this still clings to the district in the word Batchworth Hill that mounts out of Rickmansworth.

But of de Bacheworth, and how he granted the Manor and land to another, we shall hear later.



THE VILLAGE POST OFFICE.

II.—HAREFIELD A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

Perhaps it is stretching the long bow to call it a thousand years, but, to be exact, it is nine hundred and thirty-six years since William the Conqueror's men came to Harefield to make a survey of the place. And it is interesting to stop and compare Harefield as it was then—nine hundred and thirty odd years ago—and as it is to-day. So before going on to trace the owners of the Manor, after it passed out of the hands of the Bacheworth family, we will stop and look at the now familiar village, with its main street; its quaint old bits of gabled houses and red-brown roofs; with the newer dwellings creeping in between; its village green; and the few larger houses standing back from the street in their own gardens and shrubberies; and then the old parish church, lying so beautifully secluded in the dip of the hill, amongst green meadows, below the village. It is a picture that will be taken home to Australia by many men who have spent long weeks here—a picture stamped forever on their minds.

But it is more difficult for us to see Harefield as it was a thousand years ago. There are only vague lines given from which to draw this picture. There was the manor house where lived the Earl of Briou, a big mansion which stood beside the church.

But nothing of it remains now, nor of the house which succeeded it, for that too has disappeared in time. Then, too, we know that there were two mills, yielding but fifteen shillings rent a year. One of these exists still in the Asbestos Works; and the second was probably the mill at Jack's Lock,

at the point where the canal and the river meet. This mill has recently been destroyed by fire.

One of the four fisheries yielding 1,000 eels which were mentioned in the survey of Harefield must have been on the little river Colne, which flows past the Denham Fisheries (Mrs. Goodlake's).

The Anglo-Saxon word "Hide" or "Hyde" a division of land, spoken of in the Domesday Book, is retained in the name West Hyde, the village lying in the valley westward from Harefield, and famous for its watercress beds which stretch before the straggling row of cottages like a winding green carpet. In fact, so much like a green carpet are these watercress beds, that a London child, seeing them for the first time, calmly stepped upon them, thinking she was stepping on to solid earth.

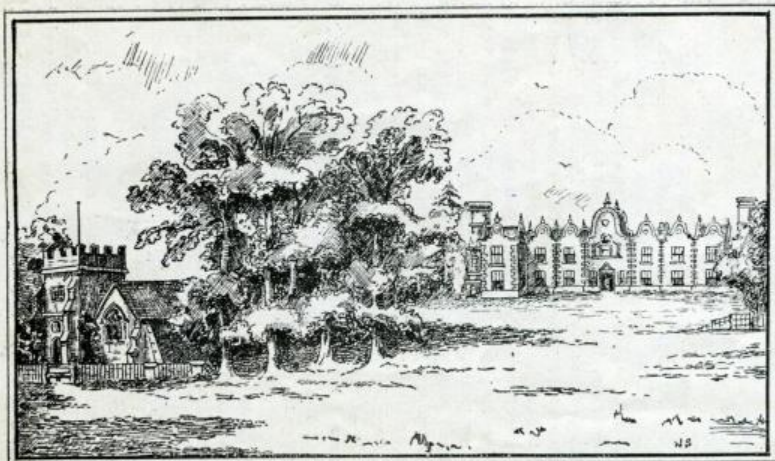
When Spring is here, with its bursting buds and thickening of branches, a wander along this river will give a rare glimpse of the fairness of our English countryside. And then, too, when passing along, we can picture to ourselves this place as it was a thousand years ago, changed, it is true, and yet still retaining some of the original landmarks.

III.—THE CHURCH AND A FAMOUS COUNTESS.

What does the word Harefield mean? There are two or three answers. Some authorities say it was the hare-field—the field of many hares. Others say, and no doubt this is most probable, that it was in the very earliest days the field (Anglo-Saxon *feld*) belonging to one named Here, or Hare. So many local place names come from the name of the owner. For instance, Rickmansworth meant the farm of one, Rickmers.

Many stories are told about the early history of Harefield. One of these is that in ancient times it was known as the city of Swansdown, and that there were big mansions leading down to the church, all of which were demolished by Cromwell. This story must have arisen from the fact that once the manor belonged to the family named Swanland; and that there was one large mansion, the manor house, then known as Harefield Place, standing beside the church. But there is no truth in the story of the city of Swansdown, nor that Cromwell ever came to Harefield. He is supposed to have been everywhere; and if there is any question why such and such a building now no longer exists the cause given is put down to Cromwell and his men.

In the first page of the History of Harefield we saw that the manor was in the hands of the Bacheworth family. In 1315 Sir Richard Bacheworth granted it to Sir Simon de Swanland, who married his niece. It was one of these Swanlands who gave a piece of land and a house, for sixty years, to one William Breakspeare. And in this way



THE CHURCH AND MANOR HOUSE IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

the name Breakspeare still clings to the property which stands about half a mile above the church, approached by an avenue. And it was one of these Breakspeares who was elected Pope Adrian IV. in 1154, the only Englishman who ever become a Pope. But to go back to the Manor of Harefield. From the very earliest records it has descended from the Bacheworths, the Swanlands, to the Newdigates, except for a period of ninety years, from 1585 until 1674, when it passed into other hands. But like other old families, who, when they have lost their ancestral home, still cherish a wish to get it back, so the Newdigates bought back Harefield after it had been out of the family nearly a hundred years. But that ninety years, when the manor or estate changed into other hands, was about the most eventful in the whole history of the place. For it was during that period that Alice, Countess of Derby, bought the house and land. This was in 1601, when Elizabeth was Queen of England. The Dowager Countess of Derby had, the year before she came to Harefield, married her second husband, a man named Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Seal, who only a few years previously had been present at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots.

There is a very ornate monument to this Countess of Derby in Harefield church, on the right of the altar; and if the position in which she was placed showed the esteem with which she was held, then she could not have been held in greater, for her very feet touch the little altar. We want to know more about this lady whose statue lies in such an exalted place in the church.

There is an old letter from Sir Thomas Egerton to the Countess of Derby still preserved, telling the reason why he married her. "To make true declaration," he writes, "to my most honorable lady, the Countess Dowager of Derby,

that I desire not hers, but herself, for her virtues and worth." And at the finish of his liberal epistle—for in it he disposes of all his properties to her—he ends thus: "And will ever think all too little for so Honorable Virtuous and worthy a Lady." It was the fashion then more than now to exalt people of high estate because of their position rather than for their personal virtue. But this Countess of Derby, who living in the old home beside the church at Harefield surrounded by her children—and who asked Milton to write some "holiday poetry" for her grandchildren—must have been a very lovable as well as gifted woman. Milton did write a "holiday poem"—the masque of Arcades, and came himself to Harefield to see it acted, there in the open, amidst the sloping fields, down by the church.

O'er the smooth enamelled green
 Where no print of step hath been,
 Follow me, as I sing,
 And touch the warbled string;
 Under the shady roof
 Of branching elms star-proof,
 Follow me;
 I will bring you where she sits
 Cold in splendour as befits
 Her deity.
 Such a rural Queen
 All Arcadia hath not seen.

The rural Queen was, of course, the Countess. So much we can picture in this sloping park land, where once stood the mansion. And even to-day, on a sunny afternoon, it is possible to re-live some of the scenes which once took place here. And are not the very brick foundations of the house still to

be seen—the moat now partly filled, and the old walled garden? There is a rumour too about a subterranean passage recently discovered in the churchyard whilst digging a grave. I cannot think that the bricks which were dug up were any others but the foundations of the old house, probably the cellars. And if we trace where the house stood, and see where the graves of the Australians lie, they are on the site of the extreme wing of the ancient building. It is not such a romantic solution to the story, for a subterranean passage gives wings to the imagination. But does not the knowledge that these are the very bricks of the old house around which once was enacted such a quiet piece of English history give real satisfaction? And so, in this old house, down by the church, lived that Countess of Derby, a friend of Queen Elizabeth, and the patron of the poet Milton. It was she who built the old almshouses which stand on the right of the road, above the entrance to the church. That was about three hundred years ago. And to-day when you go by, on a sunny afternoon, you see the heads of the old women peering over their fence, a reminder that the kindly spirit of the Countess still lives in this village.

IV.—QUEEN ELIZABETH COMES TO HAREFIELD.

Never since the visit of Queen Elizabeth to Harefield, in the summer of 1602, has the village had such a merry-making. The coming of the Australians has brought good times to many, but the Queen's coming was a regular gold mine to the delighted village people. It was the last days of July and the first day of August when Elizabeth and all her retinue came to stay with the Countess of Derby in the house down by the church. She arrived on horseback; and it was raining. In fact, it never stopped raining the while of the three days—some Australians who have known how it can rain at Harefield may think that it has never stopped since:

The Queen must have approached Harefield from the direction of Uxbridge, for we read of her being met at Dew's Farm by two persons, the one representing a Bailiff, the other a Dairymaid, who delivered a "complimentary speech."

How history repeats itself. This same Dew's Farm, although lying so seemingly remote from the turmoil of war, is sharing in the responsibilities that are thrust on the nation by the great strife. It is one of the centres to-day, under the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, where women are trained to become workers on the land. And there is very little doubt that if the present Queen were to make an entry into Harefield to-day via Dew's Farm she would be welcomed by a very modern dairymaid in the picturesque Land Army uniform.

But those who know Dew's Farm and the lonely fields that lie around it can picture Queen Elizabeth drawn up

there, the rain pouring down, whilst her bright retinue of mounted followers in the rear listened to what the two had to say. Then the Queen, proceeding further through the lanes, reached the manor house, where she alighted from her horse, mounted three steps, and sat on a raised seat, where two more persons came forward, one representing Time and the other Place. Poor Queen Elizabeth—she was but a year off seventy, and she had to sit out in the rain and listen to two long dissertations about herself. But she was a vain woman, and perhaps when she heard these words addressed to her,

“ Beauty’s Rose and Virtue’s Book,
Angel’s mind and Angel’s look,”

it made up for having to sit there in the wet.

How they amused the Queen and her Court during these three rainy days is told us. They played a game—a lottery—in which people drew different articles—a fan, a looking glass—with two verses attached to each. It is also said that Othello was played before the Queen, and that Shakespear himself was present. But there seems to be a doubt about this. However, whatever else they did, they feasted, for there are some old accounts still preserved, showing what great preparations were made for the Queen’s visit, and how well they fared. These are some of the presents which Sir Thomas Egerton had sent him by friends to eke out the other provisions : 13 Stags ; 74 Bucks ; 11 Oxen ; 65 Muttons ; 15 Swans ; 150 Lobsters.

And how the Village prospered by the royal visit we only have to read such items to know :—

Walter Larke, for provisions of beefe, mutton,
lamb and white £177 5 0

Abraham Viell, for Oylle	...	...	...	£79	3	0
Mr. Hart, Earbe man	...	...	...	14	0	0
Wax Chandler, cotton and sope	...	...	...	16	10	0
Mr. Shewmaker, the tallow chandler	...	...	...	6	6	0
Jerry Weston and his men, attending to the beere and wine	...	...	...	7	3	6

These are but a few items of the local purchases, but the whole amounted to £1,225 12s. 0d. And by the time all the accounts were settled Sir Thomas Egerton and the Countess of Derby had spent £4,000 on the three days' reception, and four thousand pounds was worth almost three times as much then as it is now.

When the time came for the Queen to depart, the allegorical person, representing Place, made her the following speech:—"Sweet Majestie, be pleased to look upon a poor widow, moving before your Grace; I am this Place, which at your coming was full of Joy, but now at your departure am as full of Sorrow." Could Queen Elizabeth have believed all this?

V.—THE CHURCH AND ITS MONUMENTS.

The earliest portion of Harefield Church dates back seven hundred years. Through the centuries it has changed; here a new aisle has been added, there a window, and the tower with its battlements is later still. But the old Church has been the centre of village life from the earliest days; and could it only speak, what tales it would tell of merry weddings celebrated hundreds of years ago, when the village girls and women were decked out in gay dresses and silken aprons, and the men wore richly embroidered smocks. In these early days dancing in the green was the amusement at a wedding, and so, after leaving the church, they would wend their way—bride and bridegroom and all the wedding guests—up the hill to the village green, and there dance to the tunes of a fiddle. This Church could tell of the people who came and worshipped here from the old house standing close beside it—destroyed in 1660—the Countess of Derby and her grandchildren, Queen Elizabeth, Milton, and many others.

Inside the Church (the key can be obtained at the cottage behind the church) very little has altered during the centuries. There are still the old box-pews, reserved for the influential families of the parish. They have lost much of their importance, these old pews. They and their occupants were looked up to by the poorer inhabitants with a kind of adoration and awe. Now they are interesting because they are relics of a past age, when the holders of property were the elect.

Under the pulpit is the old Clerk's Seat, a sight one sees but seldom now. The oldest tomb in the church dates back to 1528. It is to the memory of John Newdigate, and is on the right of the altar; above the tomb are some quaint figures



HAREFIELD CHURCH.

Showing on the Right of the Altar the Tomb of the Countess of Derby; on the Left, the Tomb by Grinling Gibbons.

in brass, showing the deceased with his eight sons and five daughters. Besides this tomb there are many other monuments and old brasses to families who once dwelt at Harefield—the Ashbys, who lived at Breakspeare; and others of the

Newdigates, the owners of the old Manor House, which stood beside the Church. There are too many, in fact, to mention, but they go back some centuries, and are well worth looking at, if it is for nothing else but to read the curious inscriptions. We should notice the monument on the east wall (to the left of the altar) erected to Sir R. Newdigate, Bart., who died in 1710. This is the work of the celebrated carver, Grinling Gibbons, whose work can be seen in many of the City churches and at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. This tomb at Harefield is not a good specimen of his powers, but it is not all village churches that possess anything by him. When old St. Paul's Cathedral was burnt down in the Great Fire, Grinling Gibbons was employed for years under the famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren, in the decoration of the new St. Paul's.

Outside Harefield Church, rather high upon the North wall—to the left of the porch—there is a curious monument of a game-keeper and his dog, put up to a faithful servant, Robert Mossendew, in 1744, by his master, Mr. Ashby. The epitaph reads thus:—

In frost and snow, thro' hail and rain,
 He scour'd the woods, and truded the plain;
 The steady pointer leads the way,
 Stands at the scent, then springs the prey;
 The timorous birds from stubble rise,
 With pinions stretched, divide the skies,
 The scattered lead pursues the sight
 And death in thunder stops their flight;
 His spaniel of true English kind
 With gratitude inflames his mind,
 This servant in an honest way,
 In all his actions copied Tray.

Some people objected to an epitaph where a man is praised because he imitated his dog.

In the churchyard on the right as you enter the gate is the grave of General Goodlake, the first soldier to receive the Victoria Cross.

And so the old church, lying in the dip of the hill amidst sloping park-land, has witnessed much. And now, like someone who has weathered the years, it looks out serenely amidst this new phase of history—the advent of you men from the Antipodes.

VI.—OLD PARISH REGISTERS.

So many of the old parish registers of England have been, since the war, searched through by Australians wishing to trace back their ancestors. No doubt there are many who, looking through the registers at Harefield, would here discover past links in their family history, for the earliest entry of a burial is 1538, and of a marriage, 1546.

Among some of the Harefield registers you read: "Francis Ashby, buried in linnen, 21st April, penalty £2 10s. to the poor." "Mrs. Judith Ashby, died 1753, buried in linnen, and the penalty paid according to the Act for burying in woollen, 30 Charles II."

The explanation of this is that by a law made in the reign of Charles II. all persons must be buried in wool, under a penalty of £5; half of which to go to the informer and half to the poor of the parish. The idea was to encourage the woollen trade. There was great indignation at the time when this law came into force, and the richer people preferred paying the fine; and, after all, the poor must have rejoiced when the law was avoided, for it meant a good time for them.

When the earliest registers were made 200 housing people lived in Harefield; that is, persons of sufficient age to receive the Lord's Supper—a curious mode of taking a censor. It was in those days, too, that the old Manor House stood beside the church—the house in which Queen Elizabeth was entertained, and where Milton stayed, and which, some fifty years afterwards, was burnt down. The story goes that Sir

Charles Sedley, the poet and wit, was a guest at the time in the house. He was reading in bed, and the hangings caught on fire. We can imagine the big four-poster bed hung with curtains which would be given to the honoured guest; and we can imagine, too, how it would be regretted afterwards by the hostess that he had not been put to sleep in a bare garret.



HAREFIELD CHURCH.

VII.—MOORHALL.

When you pass Harefield Church and continue along the road in the direction of Denham, just in the right before reaching the canal you will see an old red-brick house. It lies back from the road in a field, and close beside it is a barn that looks very much like a simple chapel with its pointed windows. This old house and outbuildings has its history.

Years back, about 1300, it was a Preceptory, in other words, a small religious house, an offshoot of the Monastery of St. John's at Clerkenwell, a district that is now part of London. This little religious house at Harefield was the property of the famous Knight Hospitallers who with the Knight Templars were the first Christian Crusaders. The actual monastery where the monks lived no longer exists, and the old farmhouse stands on the site of it. This farmhouse dates back to Tudor days. But the building standing beside it, which, if you were to go inside, you would most probably find inhabited by some stray hens, is the old Refectory, or dining hall, of the monks who lived here centuries ago. Behind the farmhouse is a pond, where you can imagine the monks kept their fish.

Moorhall has been the property of the Newdegates family for many centuries.

There are rumours that an underground tunnel connects Breakspear with this religious house, but nothing is really certain.

When you pass by on your road to the station have a look at the old farmhouse—in itself about five hundred years old, standing in the site of a still older building—and then at the tall barn beside it, the dining hall of the monks, the only part of the small monastery that is left.

VIII.—BREAKSPEARS.

Breakspears, the oldest inhabited house in Harefield, has been continuously occupied since the very earliest times. It has passed by succession, and has never been bought or sold, therefore there is a continuous record of deeds, papers, etc. The most famous of Breakspears was Nicholas Breakspear, who became Pope Adrian IV., the only Englishman to become a Pope. The earliest deed at present known is dated 1310. The oldest existing rooms are the dining-room, entrance hall, library; these, as is the case in all old houses, are small.

The house itself is the oldest part, constructed of local red brick, the clay for the making of which is said to have come from a pond near by, which still bears the name of the Clay-pits, but the house in the course of time has been much altered and added to at various periods. The site on which the house stands is said originally to have been occupied by a British Fort which formed the westernmost end of the second line of a British defence against Julius Cæsar, and that it has been occupied in very early days is proved by the quantity of remains of buildings which have been dug up at various times. In the wars of Charles I.'s reign considerable operations involving skirmishes took place over this portion of Harefield, and helmets or headspears and horseshoes have been excavated on the estate.

The Dining-room is an oak panel room, probably fifteenth century, though no doubt the room itself is much older. It has a secret closet or hiding place, the door to which is formed



BREAKSPEARS.

by a section of the panelling, with a hidden spring by which it is opened. A short flight of stone steps formerly led to the cellars (which are much older than the rest of the house, and do not conform to the plan of the existing building), whence



THE PIGEON COTE.

an underground passage is said to lead to various places, but most probably only to an adjoining wood. During alterations some years ago the remains of the passage were dis-

covered. The windows of this room contain some small medallions of stained glass dated 1569—1572. The old fireplace the heavy carved overmantel are still in existence. The entrance hall bears evidence of being somewhat older, also panelled with oak screen panelling, and contains a curious piece of carving—two early English figures, probably of Saxon origin. There is some stained glass in the windows of the Hall containing Queen Elizabeth's coat of arms, and those of Lord Leicester and Lord Warwick, which are said to have been placed there to commemorate her Majesty's visit to Harefield. The Library is a low room probably of a little later date, and is typical of old English domestic architecture.

The Cote at Breakspears is the oldest building in Harefield, and probably dates from Saxon times; part of it is built of Roman bricks. It is now the clock tower.

A. H. TARLERTON, Commander, R.N.

IX.—HAREFIELD PARK, PAST AND PRESENT.

How many of you Australians on that first Anzac day had ever heard of Harefield? The war has taken you to many places, and at last dropped you here in truly English surroundings, for the large House and Grounds of Harefield



MISS BILLYARD LEAKE.

Park Estate, which was offered to the Australian Government by the present owner, Mr. Billyard Leake, is, in spite of rows of wooden wards, a real corner of England. It only seems a few months ago that rumour went round the neighbourhood that Harefield Park was to become a Hospital for Australian soldiers. Since those first days forty-three wards have sprung up over the park land, and many thousands of men from the Australian fighting force have passed through Harefield. The man who built the present house little knew that in two hundred years his home would be put to its present use. This man was a certain George Cook, Esq., Chief Prothonotary in the Court of Common Pleas, who settled in Harefield in the year 1700. He was no relation of the explorer. There was evidently an old farmhouse named Ryes, or Rythes, standing here in about 170 acres of ground. The farmhouse of George Cook must have been pulled down, and in its place he built the present big house, at the same time planting trees and laying out the garden. Later he bought a small tenement, with stable and orchard,, called Belhammonds, thus increasing his property, and it was this name—Belhammonds—which he gave to his own house. When he died his son bought more land, and soon afterwards the name of the estate was changed to Harefield Park. In the garden close to the house there is a statue in white marble of the first owner, the man who built the house and laid out the garden, and on it is a long inscription. Among his multitude of other virtues we read that this great lawyer was—

“Blest with the sense to Value,
With the Art to enjoy,
And the Virtue to impart.”

In the billiard-room at Harefield Park there is a picture of this same George Cook, painted in 1726, by one Vander-

bank. Since those days Harefield Park has passed through many hands. But although the house may be two hundred years old, it is modern compared to the history of Harefield itself, for we have traced the village from the Domesday Book, when the whole village was valued at £14, up to the



HAREFIELD PARK.

year when Queen Elizabeth visited her friend the Countess of Derby in pomp and splendour, and Milton witnessed the performance of his "Arcades" for the first time before the Countess of Derby and her grandchildren, in the sloping parkland beside the old church. And then we pass on to to-day, and see it still taking its part in history, this little English village. But we know that Harefield is only a temporary rest-place for you men from over-seas—except for those few who will remain behind in English soil.



THE VILLAGE GREEN, HAREFIELD.

Record of No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital.

Early in November, 1914, Mr. Charles Billyard Leake, of New South Wales, offered to the Minister for Defence, Melbourne, on behalf of his wife and himself, the property known as Harefield Park, to be used as a home for convalescent soldiers of the A.I.F. for the period of the war and six months after. The offer was accepted by the Commonwealth Defence Dept. in December, 1914.

The property comprises three-storey structure, outbuildings, ample grounds, lakes, shrubberies, flower gardens, paddocks, &c. At the time of acceptance the military authorities estimated the house would accommodate 50 soldiers in winter and 150 during spring and summer. On January 19, 1915, the Minister for Defence informed the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs that he approved of the appointment of the following staff:—One captain (A.A.M.C.), one sergeant, one corporal, and four men as wardsmen and orderlies, also one matron and five nursing sisters, the medical superintendent to be under the supervision of the High Commissioner. On arrival in England the Medical Superintendent was to purchase necessary equipment and furnish the house in readiness for the use of Australian troops in the spring.

The commanding officer appointed was Capt. M. V. Southey, A.A.M.C., and staff, who left Australia by the transport Runic. The matron (Miss E. Gray) and five nurses

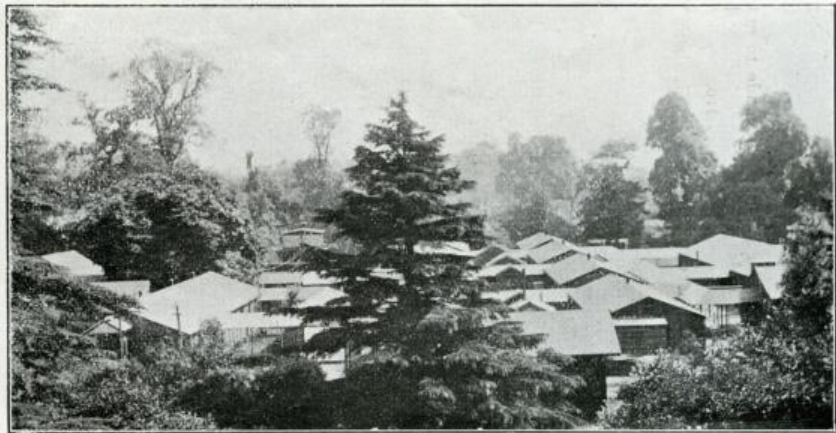
sailed on the Osterley. The nursing sisters were Senior Sister Pratt and Sisters E. Mills, Chadwick, Kidd, and Hayes, all chosen specially for the work.

The aim of the depôt was a rest home, to recuperate after



MRS. ADDISON.

sickness or injury, for officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.'s, and rank and file, and also as a depôt for collecting invalids for return to Australia.



THE HOSPITAL 'MIDST SUMMER FOLIAGE.

On May 31, 1915, arrangements were made to extend the accommodation to 500 beds. The hospital is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Denham railway station and three miles from Northwood.

Evacuation work was carried out from Denham Station, and under the control of eleven N.C.O.'s and men of the A.M.T.S., seven ambulances, two touring cars, one motor lorry, and one motor cycle.

The hospital was opened to visitors on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, between 2 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. To-day privately-owned motor-cars and other vehicles run between village and hospital and station.

One sergeant and one private of the A.A.P.C. are attached to the hospital in charge of pay section. They also attend to No. 2 A.A.H., Southall.

On November 11, 1916, a direct representative of the Red Cross was established, and the store was opened and put in charge of Miss Staley (now Mrs. S. S. Addison), assisted by Mrs. C. Yeatman, wife of Lt.-Col. Yeatman. A new store was built and opened on December 8, 1916. Recreation and study were carried out successfully by Messrs. H. Beaumont, Ross-Jones, and A. Gilchrist (all Y.M.C.A. representatives). The present director is Mr. H. Coxen. Concerts, touring parties, picnics, &c., are all well carried out.

A patients' canteen was opened, and conducted by Mrs. C. Billyard Leake, Miss Leake, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Stedall, Miss Stedall, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Venning, Misses Roscoe, and other ladies of the district. The canteen was put under the control of the director of recreation and study. Billiard-rooms, reading-rooms, recreation hall, where concerts and dramatic entertainments are given daily by visiting parties; and a cinema show twice weekly. The library is managed by Mrs. Gregg-Macgregor, wife of Chaplain-Captain Gregg-

Macgregor (who has since returned to France, and been replaced by Captain Terry).

An orderlies' canteen is attached, with piano, billiard and reading rooms erected, and managed by a committee.



Mrs. GREGG-MACGREGOR.

A hospital magazine, known as "Harefield Park Boomerang," was started in December, 1916, by Pte. C. A.

Even den and Pte. H. J. Kemp, and afterwards controlled by a committee. At present the editorship is in the hands of Mrs. Theodora Roscoe, assisted by the following staff: Chairman, Major Anderson; vice-chairman, Capt. Terry (chaplain to the 1st A.A.H.); hon. secretary, Pte. Wm. Anderson; hon. treasurer, Corp. Savage; sub-editor, Sergt. Chrystie; art editor, Corp. M. Mizon; advertising editor, Corp. Jacobs; hospital nursing correspondent, Mrs. Addison.



THE ANZAC CORNER.

Regimental funds are obtained from the canteen profits and sales of by-products, &c.

Through the instrumentality of Sir Francis A. Newdegate-Newdegate, K.C.M.G., Governor of Tasmania, a portion of Harefield parish churchyard was reserved for the burial of Australian soldiers. It was offered by Sir Francis and Mr.

Mills, M.P. for the division, to erect a memorial in the shape of a granite obelisk 22ft. high. But the High Commissioner has decided that it is premature and of too local a character to be approved of as satisfactory, and the matter is deferred until the end of the war.



RETURNING FROM A COMRADE'S GRAVE.

Commander A. W. Tarleton, R.N., of Breakspears, when asked for the turf to cover the graves of the Australians, wrote to the O.C.: "I should like very much to take this matter on myself, and if the Australian authorities would permit this small help, would undertake that Breakspears

will grass the graves and keep them in order. This would be a very little thankoffering in recognition of the help given by the gallant action of Australian soldiers in preserving such peaceful homes from the violence of the enemy. I know my children would faithfully keep the trust, and that, in this country, means from generation to generation."

There are now thirty-seven graves in the churchyard. In five instances headstones were erected; two by soldiers' relations or friends, two by the staff to brother orderlies, and one by patients to a comrade. In other cases wooden crosses were supplied by Headquarters.

Early in 1917 a fund was started for the erection of headstones to all the graves, and this was energetically carried out by Lieut. Maxwell, and L.-Corp. Green as hon. secretary. About £100 has been subscribed to date by staff and patients, and twenty-three headstones are now erected. The work of erecting the remainder is being proceeded with. The headstones are of uniform pattern, in scroll form on a flat pedestal.

When the hospital commenced all supplies of food were arranged for through the A.S.C. at Hounslow. In November, 1915, a committee was formed to purchase all foods in open market. This was a success. The committee was dissolved when the Australian Headquarters were transferred from Egypt to London. The practice of purchasing in open market still continues.

All this time the hospital was developing rapidly, and during nine months in 1917 there were 10,232 admissions.

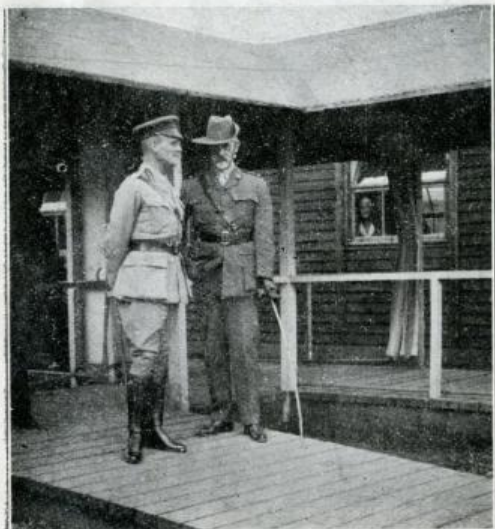


MISS BIRDWOOD WITH THE HOSPITAL MASCOT.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS.

16.8.'15.—King and Queen visited hospital.

22.11.'15.—Lieut.-Col. Hayward appointed O.C.; Capt. J. A. Smeal registrar. Only wards up to No. 27 were then built, and accommodation for 500 patients.



GENERAL BIRDWOOD AND LIEUT.-COL. HAYWARD.

- 22.12.'15.—Workshop for making artificial limbs established.
- 5.1.'16.—Eye, ear, and throat ward opened.
- 5.1.'16.—First evacuation of patients to Australia.
- 9.2.'16.—First death.
- 9.2.'16.—Visit of High Commissioner for Australia, Right Hon. A. Fisher.
- 18.3.'16.—Visit of Hon. W. M. Hughes, Premier of Commonwealth, and Mrs. Hughes, who addressed the patients.
- 23.4.'16.—Visit of Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.
- 4.6.'16.—Visit of Premier of Queensland and Mrs. Ryan.
- 20.6.'16.—Visit of Lady McCartney and Sir John McCall (Agent-General for Tasmania).
- 26.6.'16.—Visit of Brigadier-General White, C.B., D.S.O.
- 1.7.'16.—Father Caron appointed R.C. chaplain.
- 11.7.'16.—Major W. Baker appointed ophthalmic surgeon.
- 18.7.'16.—Sports held, arranged by Lady Coghlan and other Australian ladies. H.M. Scots Guards band in attendance.
- 20.8.'16.—Visit of Dowager Marchioness of Linlithgow.
- 25.8.'16.—1,010 patients in hospital.
- 4.9.'16.—Death of 1677 Corp. W. T. Hitchin, 45th Batta., who raised the company of Back Block recruits known as the "Coo-ees," and marched several hundred miles to Sydney.
- 19.11.'16.—Red-letter day, when Right Hon. A. Fisher presented medals and decorations to the following:—
D.C.M.'s: Pte. (now Chap.-Capt.) J. V. F. Gregg-McGregor, 1st Field Amb.; Sgt. F. Alberry, 8th Bat.; Sgt. A. Schleon, 8th Bat.; Pte. J. Miles, 1st Bat.; Tpr. T. M. Renton, 10th A.L.H. Military Medals: Sgt. A. B. Drew, 4th Bat.; Cpl. F. L. Percy, 4th Bat.; Pte. P. E. South, 4th Bat.; Sgt. J. L. Bryson, 18th Bat.; Sgt. R.

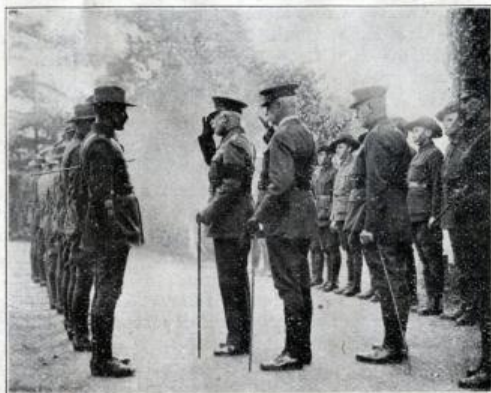


Photo by W. & D. Downey, 61, Ebury, St., W.

MAJOR WISTON BAKER,
Ophthalmic Surgeon, A.I.F.

- Crow, 23rd Bat.; Sgt. F. E. Bradshaw, 23rd Bat.; Cpl. A. McGorm, 5th Bat.; Pte. W. E. Butcher, 51st Bat.; Pte. D. Ross, 13th Field Amb.; Pte. P. S. Nankinel, 30th Bat.
- 1.12.'16.—Visit of Right Hon. A. Deakin and Mrs. Deakin. Matron Gray transferred to France, to the regret of all.
- 8.12.'16.—New Red Cross store opened.
- 21.12.'16.—Miss E. J. Gould reported as matron for duty.
- Christmas, 1916.—Red Cross gave 2s. 6d. per head for extra dietary, and great festivities.
- 5.1.'17.—Mr. A. Gilchrist reported for duty as director of recreation and study.
- 8.1.'17.—Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. R. Birdwood, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., inspected hospital.
- 23.1.'17.—Administrative Headquarters agreed to installation of civilian labour in kitchens, &c., in place of orderlies.
- 16.2.'17.—New receiving block and W.O.'s office opened. Silver cornet presented to band by Capt. C. B. Deane-Butcher.
- 7.3.'17.—Exhibition of patients' fancy work, Countess of Malmesbury present. Fancy work department in charge of Mrs. J. F. L. Evans.
- 11.3.'17.—Concert given by new hospital band.
- 20.3.'17.—Major J. S. Verco appointed registrar, vice Major Smeal, transferred to France.
- 23.3.'17.—Sisters' new sitting-rooms completed. O.C. decorated Cpl. R. Montgomery, 15th Bat., and Pte. J. M. Montgomery, 15th Bat., brothers, with Military Medals.
- 28.3.'17.—Capts. Rayson and E. L. Morgan and thirty-nine others picked from staff for 16th Field Amb.
- 24.4.'17.—Major Smeal and thirty-one others selected from staff for 16th Field Amb.
- 24.4.'17.—Hon. C. G. Wade, Agent-Gen. N.S.W., visited.

- 29.4.'17.—Sir Francis and Lady Newdegate visited hospital.
24.4.'17.—H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught inspected hospital and decorated the following:—D.C.M.: C.S.M. A. Wicks. Military Medals: Sgt. L. N. Huntley, Pte. L. R. Charman, Pte. W. G. Hutchinson, Cpl. T. Morton.



THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR.

- 25.4.'17.—Anzac Day. Service at graves of soldiers. Hospital sports, afternoon.
2.6.'17.—New pay office and maids' quarters completed.
4.6.'17.—Lieut.-Col. W. T. Hayward (O.C.) invested C.M.G.
16.6.'17.—Hospital sports.
14.7.'17.—Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., visited.



MISS GOULD
(ex-Matron of the Hospital).

48 RECORD OF NO. 1 AUSTRALIAN AUXILIARY HOSPITAL.

- 21.7.'17.—New mortuary completed.
22.7.'17.—Bishop of Kensington's divine service.
13.9.'17.—Major T. L. Anderson appointed registrar. Following appeared in honours list for devotion to duty:—
S.-Sgt. J. A. Gourlay, S.-Sgt. G. J. Williams, A.-Sgt. J. M. Tynan, Cpl. A. L. Jones, Cpl. E. M. Nye, L.-Cpl. H. H. Green.
24.9.'17.—Lieut.-Col. Hayward transferred to Headquarters.
Lieut.-Col. Yeatman appointed O.C.
2.11.'17.—1,048 patients in hospital.
30.11.'17.—Miss Ross appointed matron.



SEWING ON THE RAMP.



