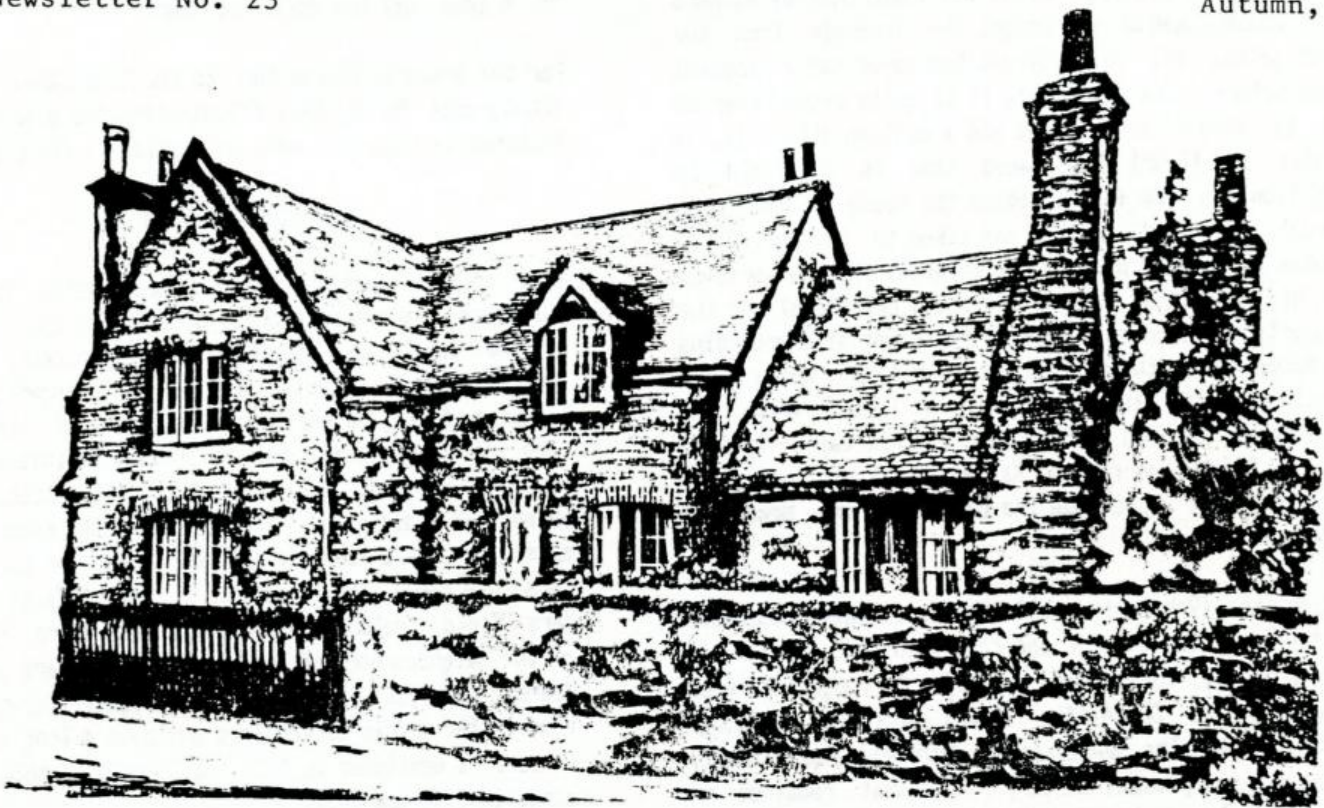


Harefield History Society

Newsletter No. 23

Autumn, 1990



140 HIGH STREET

According to official reports on listed buildings, 140 High Street is a mainly 17th century timber-framed house, though the front part of the present north wing has been rebuilt. At one stage the house extended further to the north but this part was pulled down and replaced by the modern detached bungalow which is there today. The now demolished northern extension was itself a rebuilding, but it had an external chimney stack, said to have been 17th c. (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments: Field Notes, 1923).

A house on this site can be identified in the manor court records at the beginning of the 16th c. but it is rather difficult to work out its history at this early stage. However, by the 17th c. the property was part of the lord of the manor's own estate - that is, it belonged to the heirs of the Countess of Derby and then to the Newdigate family (from 1675).

In the mid-17th c. the tenant of the house was a tailor, John Hill, quite a well-to-do man who was himself the owner of another small cottage on the opposite side of the street. 140 High Street was a medium sized village house in those days (tax was paid on three fireplaces or chimneys whereas the large majority of Harefield cottages had only one or two fireplaces). John Hill died in 1667, leaving a will, and an inventory was made of his possessions. This gives some indication of the rooms in the house:

A hall or living room with tables, stools, chairs and a large cupboard. There was a fireplace.

The kitchen with cupboards, table, lots of pewter, brassware and cooking equipment. There would have been a fireplace here.

A milkhouse.

A bedchamber over the hall with feather bed, striped curtains, 4 wooden chairs, 2 chests, a box and a press. Another room over the milkhouse with two beds. Possibly there was a fireplace as tongs, bellows, fireshovel and andirons are mentioned.

There was a barn full of hay plus livestock (2 cows, 11 couples of ewes and lambs, 2 pigs).

(The inventory is in the Guildhall Library: ms 9174/19)

After John Hill's death his wife Anne continued to live in the house and to rent several acres of "upland meadow" just behind. One of the Hills' three daughters married a blacksmith, John Baily, and the Baily family moved in with Widow Hill at 140 High Street, eventually taking over the tenancy. John and his wife Catherine had a large family of 12 children. In 1699 13 people were living in the household at 140 High Street: John and his wife Catherine (aged 50 and 48 respectively), Catherine's sister Elizabeth Hill (45) and 10 of the Baily children: Richard (22), Catherine (20), Mary (16), Anne (14), Thomas (13), Hannah (12), Henry (10), George (8), Francis (5), Joseph (2). The two eldest sons John (28) and Ralph (25) were away from home

(information from Gregory King's list of the inhabitants of Harefield in the Public Record Office, Kew). John Baily senior had his smithy on the site and he also ran an alehouse on the premises.

140 High Street was taken over by Richard and Judith Keene who bought the freehold from the Newdigates. 140 High Street had never had a special name before, but after this it is quite often referred to as Keene's Farm. Keene was a mealman (that is, a dealer in flour) and owned land in Harefield in addition to the fields behind the house in the High Street. He died in 1722 and asked to be buried in Denham churchyard next to his parents. He was survived by his wife (they seem to have been childless) and the property was then sold back to the Newdigates according to documents in the Warwick Record Office. Widow Keene continued to live here with a lease from the Newdigates, though for how long is uncertain. By 1743 Robert Miles was renting Keene's Farm; he was still there in 1755. Miles was the bailiff of the Newdigate estate.

During the 19th century 140 High Street was described as "three cottages under one roof". In 1843 the tenants were John Day, Julia Geary and Widow Burroughs (Warwick Record Office CR764/64). It was among the buildings mortgaged by the Newdigates in 1879 and was finally sold (in the present century?) when what remained of the Harefield estate was being dispersed.

[Any information about the house's more recent history would be welcome]

Elona Cuthbertson

SPOTTER'S GUIDE TO HAREFIELD

Val Woodward, Deirdre Whiteman and Lorraine Piercy compiled this summer holiday quiz for junior school pupils. Perhaps you would like to try it!

1. A Pope's relatives [may have] lived here.
2. Is this the pirate's hideout?
3. A chemist with brewing connections.
4. A building opened in 1990, but dated 1907.
5. Where was the old Vicarage?
6. Is it a blackbird?
7. Name the Roman Catholic Church.
8. A Derbyshire beauty spot gave me my name.
9. Which Countess built the Almshouses, but not the Close?
10. Name the Parish Church.
11. Who was the last Lord of the Manor and where did he live?
12. The Crusader Knights' Chapel.
13. Narrow boats hold the keys to these four Locks.
14. Which Lock has a thatched cottage?
15. Am I a lizard?
16. A Lane or a garden shelter in June.
17. Is it a shelter?
18. This way to Winnie the Pooh.
19. Where did the Wallaby live?

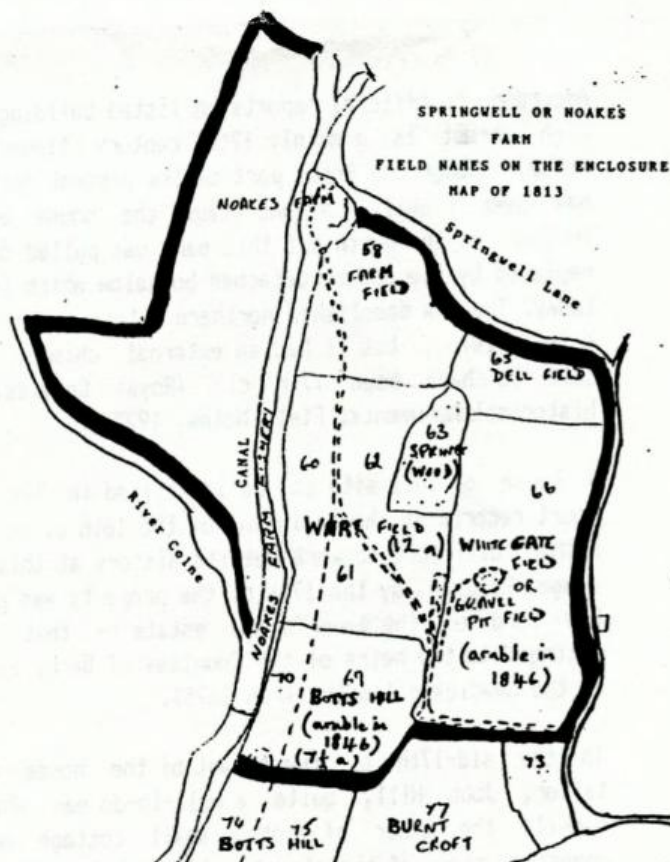
20. Stars in the November sky. In Hill End.
21. Is there lucky heather on Hill End Road?
22. Was this the Pope?
23. An educational Vicar.
24. Sheep farming on the Northwood Road.
25. A tree, off the Northwood Road.

For the answers, please turn to the last page.

[Photographs by Reg Neil illustrating the places which featured in this quiz were on display in the Library]

SPRINGWELL FARM

This ancient farm has recently been sold. The farm buildings and the watercress beds on the opposite side of the canal were disposed of separately; a new farmhouse is to be built further up Springwell Lane. Lorraine Piercy recently met the owner who liked the idea of using old field names instead of inventing new ones, so she sent him a copy of the 1813 enclosure map which has field names. One or two of the names which appear on it are very old indeed. Noakes or Springwell Farm has owned land at Bottshill since 1521 at least. Ware Field could be a corruption of Weare Field - in the neighbourhood of two weirs, Poke Weare and Home Weare, where the farm had fishing rights. The grove or wood in the middle of the farm may have a long history: 1 acre is mentioned in 1521, 1.5 acres in 1636 and 2 acres in 1710 and 1802.



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS Advance notice of a talk on Thursday, 14th March, 1991. It will be at the Post Graduate Medical Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital, at 7.45 p.m. The speaker is Jennifer Wormald, Fellow and Tutor in History at St Hilda's College, Oxford. For further information (or a lift to Mount Vernon, possibly) please contact Dorothy Winton or Elona Cuthbertson

CAPTAIN TARLETON, THE MIDDLESEX SCOUTS
and
THE BREAKSPEAR COUNTY CAMP

by Eileen M. Bowlt

Alfred H. Tarleton, son of Admiral Sir Walter Tarleton, joined the Royal Navy in 1874 at the age of 12. He left the Active List in 1888 when he married Henrietta Tennyson d'Eyncourt, daughter of another admiral, and through her connection with the Wickham-Drake family, inherited Breakspears. He was still on the Emergency List in 1913, in which year he was promoted to the rank of Commander, for special services rendered. He was a Knight of Grace of St John of Jerusalem and held the M.V.O. (4th class). He was Equerry to the Duchess of Albany (widow of Prince Leopold) and Executive Officer of the Naval Employment Agency.

Some of the reminiscences about Captain Tarleton of Breakspears, preserved on tape in the History Society's archives, present him as a somewhat arrogant and autocratic figure, demanding such marks of respect as tugging of forelocks by boys and curtseys from girls.

However Captain Tarleton was viewed by the people of Harefield, there can be no doubt that he had their welfare at heart. In 1896 he presented the males of the village with the Breakspear Institute, run as a Working Man's Club, where they could improve their minds in the reading room as well as rest their bodies (and no doubt do terrible damage to their lungs) in the smoking room. On occasion he provided treats for the village children, and he made available land for allotments so that cheap vegetables could be grown (these allotments were not taken up with any great eagerness). From 1891, he sat on the local bench, helping to preserve law and order in the neighbourhood, though his public-spiritedness was almost certainly not appreciated by those locals who eked out their rations by poaching. He served the Parish Council as vice-chairman from its inception at the end of 1894 until 1904.

Perhaps less well known is his interest in the Scouts. Baden-Powell's successful experimental camp on Brownsea Island in 1907 was followed by the publication of "Scouting for Boys" in fortnightly parts. With this publicity, scouting spread, and began in Middlesex in 1908. Captain Tarleton became immediately involved and was one of the original vice-presidents of the Middlesex Scout Council. In 1913 he was appointed as County Commissioner (the second to hold the post).

Soon after becoming County Commissioner he presented a County Flag to be competed for by teams of eight from each troop, demonstrating: knotting, first aid, communication by morse, semaphore and field telephone, cooking, firelighting and general smartness. The first competition for the flag was at the first ever Middlesex County Camp held at Breakspears at Whitsuntide 1913.

From the account written in "The Middlesex Scout" in October 1913 the camp, which was attended by between 500 and 600 boys, was huge fun. Unfortunately there is no clue as to the part of the grounds used for the tents, though some of the activities took place near the lake (now in the Tarleton Nature Reserve).

Apart from Captain Tarleton, the Bishop of Kensington was an active participant in the camp: leading prayers before the huge Camp-Fire Sing-Song on the Saturday evening, celebrating Holy Communion in the large marquee at 7.00 a.m. on Sunday morning, preaching a stirring sermon at the 11.00 a.m. church parade, and dedicating the County Flag before the competition on the Monday morning. The Harefield Troop formed the colour party at the ceremony and also acted as camp orderlies throughout the three days. At the church parade the Harefield Band provided music for the hymns "in which everyone seemed to join heartily".

Many of the Middlesex Troops seem to have been musically accomplished. The 4th Ealing actually had a Bagpipe Band and the 1st Southall a Drum and Fife Band. Success at the Saturday night Camp Fire went to some of the musicians' heads and they could not be quelled. The writer of the article in "The Middlesex Scout" recorded the night's events:

- 10 0 o'clock - Lights out
- 10 to 12 - Enforcing lights out
- 12 to 12 30 - Accordion and drum duet
- 12 30 to 1 - A few selections on the bugle
- 1 to 2 30 - Accordion, drum, bugle and bagpipes
- 2 30 to 4 - Uproar, second edition of camp concert, camp fire relit
- 4 o'clock - Bedlam, camp fire put out by force
- 4 30 to 5 15 - Grand football match
- 5 30 - Camp fire again lit
- 5 45 - Marvellous discovery by the watch!
man asleep
- 5 48 - Sleeping man stone deaf. Lucky bargee.
- 6 o'clock - Reveille, after a most refreshing night

Perhaps the pre-1914 generation did not have much respect for authority after all.

On Sunday afternoon Captain Tarleton's fire engine (a safety device of which he was very proud) came into play, when it was used to fill a large canvas bath (actual size is not given) with water from the lake. The bath was used so much that "the water soon became a sheet of rich brown, whereon floated orange peel, wood, leaves etc. Bathing costumes were various, that most favoured being a scarf tied about the middle. These seemed to me to have drawbacks, in that their colours whether red, green, blue, mauve or yellow, were not so fast as one could wish, consequently the wearer was usually dyed the colour of his scarf. one youth perceiving this wore a white and red tea cloth with better result."

The Tarleton County Flag was won on the Monday morning by the 1st Staines and Hythe Troop, although the writer considered that the display of the 2nd Chiswick Troop

completely overshadowed that of the Sappers at the Naval and Military Tournament! A Rally and March Past was held in the afternoon. After tea the scouts went home, having thoroughly enjoyed their first County Camp.

Captain Tarleton was thanked "for his great trouble and generosity". Perhaps he enjoyed it too for another County Camp was held at Harefield the following May, the last before the Great War, which must have taken away some of the campers for ever.

Captain Tarleton's Flag, a Union Flag of silk, with its pole embellished with small silver shields, is now displayed in the Collyer Room at Chalfont Heights Scout Camp.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT I am indebted to David Hollier, the Greater London North-West Scouts P.R.O. for sending me a photocopy of "The Middlesex Scout", October 1913, and a copy of his own article about the County Flag in "NW News", July-August 1990.



THE DOVECOTE AT BREAKSPEARS, first mentioned in 1640 and now in "a shocking state of decay") featured in an article in the latest LAMAS Newsletter. The article notes that dovecotes were once common - manors and other important houses, like Breakspears, were likely to have them to supplement meat supplies. There were once two dovehouses in the manors of Harefield and Moorhall. A Gazetteer of dovecotes (by the Ancient Monuments Society) had no entries for Greater London - not even the one at Breakspears was included - and a search is now on for any such buildings, existing or demolished, in the area.

AN INVENTORY OF HAREFIELD CHURCH

The Moor Park Decorative and Fine Arts Society which is a member of the National Association, N.A.D.F.A.S, has received permission to do an inventory of the furnishings of St Mary's - everything inside the church will be recorded: the monuments, woodwork, windows, metalwork, plate, textiles, books - even the hymn books

will be counted. Set forms are issued to cover the items in each category under such headings as donor, inscription, date, material, etc, etc. The Moor Park team of Church Recorders has compiled inventories of St Mary's at Rickmansworth, Holy Trinity at Northwood and is currently working on the church at King's Langley. All the material recorded by NADFAS groups is kept in a central register which is open for consultation by anyone interested. Copies of the inventory are issued to the parish concerned, the diocese, the Council for the Care of Churches and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Lorraine Piercy extracted the following item from The Guardian of 8.9.1990. Any idea who it was? For the answer turn to last page.

NAMELESS LIVES

AUBREY ANON

WHEN a small child, he was abducted by bandits seeking a ransom. His lifelong obsession with ugly ladies of a certain age was attributed to the imperious temperament of his mother. Sweethearts and Broken Hearts followed and were forgotten. In adult life he rose from a clerk in the education service to the Bar, a magistracy, a captainhood in the Volunteers, and a knighthood. A partnership of three brought him fame and fortune, but his real preferences lay elsewhere. He found stage bathing unacceptable, but ladylike real-life bathing was the death of him.

100 YEARS AGO.....

Eyebrows were raised in the local paper about the idea of collecting money for the Harefield school by putting on a theatrical entertainment in the village schoolroom. The play was "Lodgings to Let", and the evening proved very successful

"But, theatricals at Harefield, the home of low Churchism, and in her village school, the nursery of Orthodoxy... Shade of the late Mr Newdegate arise, and behold what a falling off..."

Charles Newdigate Newdegate M.P. who had recently died, had been a generous benefactor of both the church and the school, but his successor General Newdigate (who assumed the additional surname of Newdegate under the terms of his relative's will) seems to have been markedly less enthusiastic about providing financial support for Harefield institutions. For instance, he refused to continue Mr Newdegate's annual contributions to the church or to give a free gift of land for extending the churchyard. Collections at church services had therefore been instituted to fill the gap - to cover the church's general expenses (formerly defrayed almost entirely by the late Mr Newdegate) and contributions to societies and schools which the benevolent ex-lord of the manor had helped. This may be a part-explanation for the theatricals. Extracts from local papers collected by Margaret Evans.

BLACK JACK'S

by Elona Cuthbertson

It may come as a surprise to learn that Black Jack's Mill does not pre-date the coming of the canal at the end of the 18th century - certainly not on its present site, at any rate. A surveyor's sketch of 1699 (1) and a map drawn in the 1790s for the Grand Junction Canal Company (2) both show the spot on which the mill eventually stood, but devoid of buildings.

The area known as Black Jack's was originally part of a farm called Eversden which probably took its name from a certain Simon Eversden who died in 1447 (3). Eversden is mentioned from the 16th century onwards (4) but there is no hint of a mill on the estate. In the Tudor period there was a fulling mill of ancient origin near a farm called Ravenings; this was at Springwell in the north of the parish (5). A second watermill, also to the north of Eversden (judging by lists of owners of fishing rights) was possibly on the modern Coppermill/Bell Works site where the manorial mill stood by the 17th century.

Eversden belonged to a family called Tyler throughout the 16th century. A 17th century owner was Mr John Baldwin, Harefield's minister until 1674; his widow lived there until her death some thirty years later. In the 18th century the property was bought by the Ashbys of Breakspears, an old Harefield family, who in 1758 sold to the Cookes of Harefield Park (later Harefield Hospital) (6). It must have been during this period that the attractive fishing lodge (in the present day mill gardens) was built.

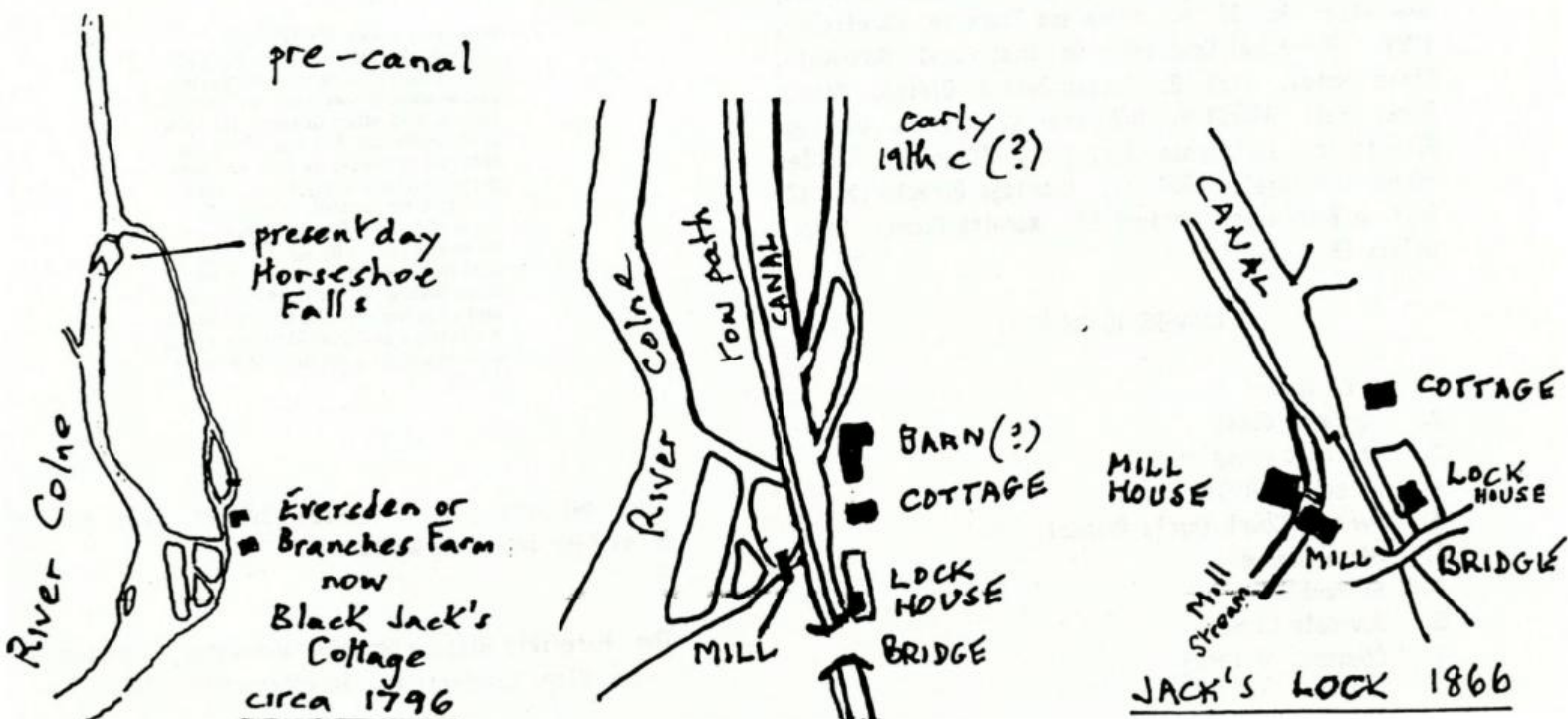
The multiple chimney stack (early 17th century) of Black Jack's Cottage is a surviving part of the old house, Eversden, which was one of the larger dwellings in the parish at this stage in its history. The rest of the cottage has been rebuilt, using original materials. These include heavy timbers which may pre-date the chimney. The thatched roof is a 20th century

innovation; a 1923 photograph shows it with tiles, a more common roofing material in Harefield in times past (7).

By the 1790s the Cookes of Harefield Park owned much of the land which the Grand Junction Canal Company needed for the canal and towpath. A map of the land the Company proposed to purchase shows the existing buildings at Eversden (also known as Branches Farm). Presumably it was the coming of the canal that prompted George Cooke to build a mill on his land next to the new cut, but on the side opposite the farmhouse: communications, which had hitherto been inadequate, would now be much improved. In 1797 the canal authorities were told of "a Mill erected at Harefield with a cut made thereto from the Canal without any previous application having been made to the Company for their consent thereto" (8); this just might have referred to the new mill at Eversden which came to be known as Jack's Mill.

It functioned as a flour mill throughout the 19th century. It was built on 5 floors and had a house where the miller and his family lived (9). By the beginning of the present century the mill was engaged in sawdust grinding (the finely powdered sawdust was used in linoleum manufacture) but it ceased working around 1906 (10). It had become a private residence before the outbreak of the first world war, the owner being a Mr A.W. West. Later owners were E.P. Montgomery in the 1930s and after the war O.B. Howell (11). A part of the existing buildings, once known as The Lodge, has been converted to a restaurant.

The canal authorities bought a piece of orchard between the farmhouse (now Black Jack's Cottage) and the bridge over the new cut for the original lock house. In 1914 they agreed to pull down this house and exchange the land with a piece just to the south of the bridge. Here they built "The Bungalow" for their lock-keeper (12).



The origin of the names Jack's or Black Jack's Lock, Mill, Cottage, remains obscure. Jack's Lock was mentioned in mid-19th century census returns; Black Jack's appears in a canal document in the first decade of the present century, but does not seem to have been generally used until much later on.

The present two roads to Black Jack's - Jack's Lane, parallel to the canal, and the road past Coneys Farm - are not really ancient. The original route branched off Mill or Park Lane and led across the fields opposite Mount Pleasant (13). It can still be seen as a deep track or hollow way and probably went out of use when the Cooke family included the area in Harefield Park. By the 19th c. the official route was via Coneys Farm, as shown on the Enclosure Map (1813) but an unofficial path or road led from the village, through the brickfields and on across "the open field" from Jack's Lock to the Asbestos Works, this section being a cart road which made a short cut "for vehicles travelling from West Hyde or the Harefield Limeworks to the flour mills". In 1888 the owners of this land wanted to close the path which parishioners claimed had been a right of way for 50 years. There was vigorous opposition, the local paper reported.

This must have been an attractive area in the past with its meadows, floodings, pastures, wood, waters and fishings. It is equally attractive today when lakes have replaced the water meadows. It appealed to visitors in the Victorian era who came to sample the rural pleasures of the Harefield Valley, staying perhaps at the Fisheries Hotel or enjoying a day's outing by boat to Jack's Lock; it continues to do so now that canal cruising has replaced the working boats which used to pass through Harefield, laden with children as well as their many and various cargoes.

References 1. Greater London Record Office Acc 1085 EM11 2. British Waterways, Watford 3. Will, Guildhall Library 4. GLRO Harefield Manor Court Records 5. Eileen M. Bowlt, "Gulchwell", Harefield History Society Newsletter No 22 6. "Here and There in Harefield", 1989 7. Royal Commission On Historical Monuments, Field Notes, 1923 8. Public Record Office, Minute Book, Rail 830/39 9. Middlesex Advertiser, Uxbridge Directories 10. Stephen Springhall "Country Rambles Round Uxbridge", 1907 11. Uxbridge Directories 12. British Waterways, Watford 13. Warwick County Record Office CR136 C2611.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

1. Breakspears
2. Penzance Close
3. The Malt House
4. Harefield Junior School
5. Harland Court (Merle Avenue)
6. Merle Avenue
7. St Paul's
8. Dovedale Close
9. Countess of Derby

Black Jack's Mill and the Canal Bridge



10. St Mary the Virgin
11. Newdigate of Arbury, Warwickshire (manorial rights were extinguished on the death of Sir Francis Alexander Newdigate Newdegate in 1936)
12. Moorhall
13. Springwell, Coppermill, Black Jack's, Widewater
14. Black Jack's
15. Salamander Quay
16. Summerhouse Lane
17. Anderson Close
18. Milne Way
19. Harefield Hospital
20. The Plough
21. Whiteheath Farm
22. Adrian Close
23. John Fenrose (School)
24. Shepherd's Hill
25. Ash Grove

NAMELESS LIVES: ANSWER

Nameless Lives: Sir William (Schwenck) Gilbert (1836-1911), abducted on a family visit to Naples, and author of *Sweethearts*, *Broken Hearts*, and other dramas. He took these seriously, but the Savoy operas, set to music by Sullivan and presented by D'Oyly Carte, were far more successful. Nearly all present a stock female character, unmarriageable by age or looks. He said that you could not have his Eliza taking off her dressing-gown and stepping into the bath on stage. Rescuing a girl in difficulties in his swimming pool, he died of a heart attack.

The swimming pool in which Gilbert died was at Grims Dyke in Harrow Weald.

The Harefield History Society Newsletter is edited by Elona Cuthbertson, Telephone 0895 823059