

COVE
OLD AND NEW



MAYE WATSON and
L. F. CALLINGHAM

21 COVE RD.
COVE.

COVE—OLD AND NEW

BY

MAYE WATSON

AND

L. F. CALLINGHAM.

The profits on the sale of this little
book will be given to the Farnborough
and Cove War Memorial Hospital.

ALDERSHOT.

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FOREWORD.

The history of the little parish of Cove, now almost a town, goes back through the centuries. The present time when, perhaps by amalgamation with Farnborough, it may become really urban in character, seems a very suitable one to gather together what history can be gleaned from old manuscripts and records, and in later years from the memories of "old folk," and write it down. It is always very interesting to look back into the past and try to imagine the lives our forefathers led. We can only guess at the days of patient toil on the land in the remote Manor on which their days were spent. Great events reached them for the most part as vague rumour. They had no books, no schools, no posts, no newspapers, feeble lights, and wood or peat fires. Their recreations were an occasional festival or May day celebration. Their living was wrung hardly from the earth, and winter was a difficult time; often a time of real privation. There were no "root crops" as we know them—no means of preserving food, except salting, and of course no imported food. Many of the cattle were killed off because there was little or no fodder for them, and the cold dark days descended on a people prepared to endure hardship till the spring came. The joy with which the lengthening days of spring were welcomed is shown in the many old songs which rejoice in its coming, and this can be easily understood—supplies of all sorts ran short—vitality was low, and spring brought the promise of new life—a veritable resurrection. Perhaps now and then one, more venturesome than the rest, joined the army or navy, and after fighting at home or abroad, returned with wonderful stories to end his days among his own folk.

The records of the parish are not so full as they might be, because till 1844 Cove had no church of its own, and the valuable history contained in old church registers is therefore not available. But when one begins to search for history it is surprising how many interesting facts come to light, and how absorbing the work has been. Many thanks are due to Mr. J. Andrews, J.P., and the late Mr. C. Yeomans for their reminiscences of the Cove of their boyhood, to Col. J. H. Stilwell of Yateley, to Mr. Smith of the Farnborough Secondary School, and to many others who have contributed in various ways to the book. The chief sources of documentary information have been the Crondal Records and the Victorian History of the Counties of England.

COVE OLD AND NEW.

880—1925.

CHAPTER I.

COVE IN OLDEN TIMES.

"The Mill wheel cannot grind again with the water that has passed."

Cove throughout the centuries has always been a little hamlet forming part of the ancient Hundred of Crondal in the north east corner of Hampshire. The Hundred of Crondal contained the following villages: Crondal, Aldershot, Farnborough, Yately, Cove, Hawley, Fleet, Minley, Long Sutton, Ewshot, Dippenhall and Swanthrop.

The earliest written record appears in the Will of King Alfred the Great, 880-885. Before that date there is little or no recorded history of Crondal and Cove, but some five or six miles to the north of Cove there are the great east and west Roman roads from Silchester and London, while at about the same distance to the south was the Harroway, one of the most ancient trackways in the country. It ran east and west, keeping to the dry slopes of the chalk ridges, and was part of the great trunk road from Cornwall to the Straits of Dover. A third ancient track, and one dating from Celtic days, ran in a north-easterly direction across Cove common. This was the Maulth or Sheepway, which began somewhere near the village of Well on the Harroway, crossed the Blackwater at Coleford, and then ran along the top of Chobham Ridges. From relics found in the neighbourhood there is ample proof that the Romans were here at some time. Later, no doubt, the dread cry of "The Danes! The Danes!" may have been heard in the peaceful Saxon village of Cove. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells us of big battles fought against them at Reading, Basing, and Farnham. The reference to the big battle at Farnham in 894 A.D., in the Chronicle is as follows:—

"They (i.e. the Danes) had now seized much booty and would ferry it northward over Thames into Essex to meet their ships. But the Army rode before them, fought with them at Farnham, and there arrested the booty. And they fled over Thames without any ford."

Perhaps one or two Cove men were fighting for King Alfred that day.

King Alfred by his Will gave the Hundred of Crondal to his nephew Ethelm. The actual bequest is as follows:—

"And to Ethelm, my brother's son, I grant the vill of Aldingbourne and that of Compton, and that of Crondal."

The next mention is apparently in the Will of Aelfsize, Bishop of Winchester, 925-940. How he became possessed of the Manor and Hundred of Crondal is not clear, but he bequeathed his "land at Crundele after my life to Aelfheah and after his life to go to the old monastery (at Winchester)" that is to the Cathedral.

In 976, King Edgar confirmed the gift to the old Monastery, and minutely detailed its boundaries, mentioning for the first time Dudda's Brook, which flows through the village of Cove to-day. The land consisted of 45 cassates, and was to be free of all land service except war service, and the repair of bridges and fortresses. It may be interesting to give the quaint and ancient boundaries of Crondal Hundred.

"First from Isenhurst gate to blackthorn way, then to the northern-most way, and so to Ethelrede's park at Withigham; thence to the boundary into the brick kilns; thence along the boundary to Gisteardes well; thence along the boundary to the Witantree at the cleared firwood; thence to that strong gate, so to the deep dell; thence to the springs of the river Icel to Ethelbrihtes' boundary at Ylfetham; thence out upon the heathfield to Fugel-mere, so to Bromhurst and along the bourn to Bedecanley, thence over all the heathfield up to Hnaef's shelf; thence west along the boundary to the road; thence west to Coelbrihte's stone, and so west to the main dike, so to the boundary of Everscombe; thence along the boundary to Mule's fen; thence to Dudda's brook and along the stream to Bryda's ford; thence to Fearnley ford, so on to Escesslew; thence along the stream into Runingfealle's swamp; thence along the stream up to Emice's bank; thence along the way to the Wulfrusca's; thence forth to the Heathfield Hall; and along the boundary to the high gate; then to Lilles' beam, thence forth upon the boundary to Bentley boundary, so on to the heathen burial place; thence west to the boundary where Elfstan lieth in heathen burial; thence to Badeca's dean, so forth to Sibbe's way, thence to Wulfstane's boundary at Weargeburn; then to Cannen dean at its west end, then to Patting dean at its west end; then to Hegley towards Ceoleges' tree, then forth to the deep furrow, where the Deocca barns stood; so in to Wifele's

boundary; thence into the broken hill, so to Hamsted Wells on their north side, then again to Isenhurst gate."

The following entry occurs in the same manuscript. It is of later date and very debased:—

"These are the boundaries between Krundale and Elvetham. First from the old ford along the road, thence eastward to Foghelsmersh, then to the wolf pit, then to the highway, and there along the highway to Brughteacre, then along the river to Bromhurst, then along the bourn to the boundary of Crundele."

Then we come to Domesday Book—A.D. 1086, that famous survey of all his Realm prepared at the behest of William the Conqueror, which gives us some very interesting information.

The Crondal entry is as follows:—

"The Bishop himself holds Crundele. It always belonged to the Church. There were fifty hides. In the time of King Edward (the Confessor) as well as now, they were assessed at forty hides. The land is twenty-nine carucates. There were four carucates in demesne, and forty five villeins and eleven borderers with twenty-five carucates. There is a church there worth twenty shillings, and twelve serfs. Woods for the pannage of four score hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth £15 10s. 0d., and afterwards £6 and now £24.

"Odin de Windsores holds of the same Manor three hides in Fernaberga (Farnborough) of the Bishop. Alwin held it of the Bishop in parcenary and was not able to remove. There is now one carucate there in demesne and seven villeins and four borderers with three carucates. There are five serfs there and a mill worth 10d. and three acres of meadow. There are woods for six hogs. In the time of King Edward and now it is worth 60/- when received it was worth 40/-."

Of the little hamlet of Cove which in those early days was a tithing of its parent parish of Yateley, we have some interesting glimpses.

In the Domesday Book Cove is entered as follows:—

"Of the land of this Manor (Crondal) German holds of the Bishop eight hides in Ticelle (Itchel) and in Cove—Lewis & Ulward held them in parcenary of the Bishop and were not able to remove. Each of them had a hall, but when German received it there was only one hall, he has 3 carucates in demesne and 20 villeins and 10 borderers with 6 carucates, also 6 serfs and a mill worth 3/- and 2 acres of meadow. There are woods for the pannage of 15 hogs.

It was worth £6 and afterwards 40/- and now £8. Belonging to the same Manor William holds of the Bishop 3 yardlands in Beddelie which were held by Aluricus as villager of the Bishop; here is 1 ploughland with 1 borderer and 4 serfs."

In 1301 there were 7 freeholders in Cove who paid 61/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ rent, and 9 customary tenants paying 39/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ rent.

In 1334 Cove was rated at 35/6, Farnborough at 11/10, and Aldershot at 55/2.

In 1580 the Manor of Cove with appurtenances, estimated at 2,040 acres of land comprising 3 messuages, 3 tofts, 4 gardens, and 3 orchards, 20 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 10 acres of pasture, 2,000 acres of heath and gorse, and 100s. of rent, with appurtenances in Yateley and Cove, was sold by Thomas Brabon and Ann, his wife, to Robert White, Esq. and Mary, his wife, for £120. (It is interesting to note that the acreage of Cove to-day is given as 1,972 acres).

In 1567 Batts Iveley, Knappe Ively, and Southwoodes were held by Robert Wattes, who succeeded his father Henry Wattes. His rent was 3/1 a year, and he paid a fine of 5/- on entry which his lord remitted. The Watts family seems to be the oldest existing family in the records.

In regard to the sums of money quoted, it must be remembered that the comparative value of money was much greater in the old days and further considerable fluctuations in the value of money were often caused by the disturbed state of the country and troublous times.

CHAPTER II.

THE COMPOTUS ROLL AND THE CUSTOMARY.

"I have friends (my books) whose society is extremely agreeable to me; they are never troublesome, but immediately answer every question I ask them."

Francesco Petrarch.

In 1248 we find a very valuable document, the Compotus Roll, a minute account in Latin of rents, acquittances, defaults, receipts, live stock and supplies, in respect of 22 estates belonging to the St. Swithun's Priory, at Winchester, which included Crondal. The writing is cramped and abbreviated, but the document is most interesting and gives us a picture of the life of the times. Four ploughers were paid 3/4 at Yateley. Henry de Lymescia was fined 6/8 for trespass. Alard the Shepherd paid 4/- for Alice, his daughter to be married without the Lord's Manor, and Juliana Thurgood paid 2/- for her daughter Avicia to be married within the Lord's Manor. Ten plough wheels cost 15d. and digging Bramshete meadow 2/2. The wages of a carter for one year were 4/-. Eighty chickens were bought for 3/10. The very great care and completeness with which this account is kept is most striking. It was presented to the Exchequer of St. Swithun's at Winchester, by the Reeve, Gilbert, and by two servientes William and Henry, and gives a most interesting glimpse of life on an isolated and remote Manor. A good deal of entertaining was done as the purchase of 1,700 platters at 16 a 1d. shows. The work of the farm was carried on partly by "service" due from the tenants, and partly by men employed as required. The Reeve, Gilbert, received 6/8 a year, and many of the tenants made a money payment instead of service. There was a carter in charge of the horses, four herdsmen, a keeper of the lambs, one "day" or dairyman, and "an odd man who harrowed, led dung, and did other necessary things" for a payment of 2/6 a year.

There is another very interesting document, dated 5th June, 1284, setting out "The services which the Prior of St. Swithun, Winchester, and his tenants at Crondale, as well the freemen as the bondmen, owe to the Lord Bishop of Winchester." The opinions of the landlord and the tenants did not agree in those days, any more than they do sometimes now-a-days. For instance,

the Bishop says "In the first place the Prior and all his tenants of Crundale, free as well as bond, owe two suits of court yearly before the Lord Bishop's steward at Blackheathfield, which is in the Manor of Farnham." The tenants' answer is that "the freemen can answer for themselves." The Prior says he owes no suit there, but that his bondmen "ought to appear twice a year at the Blackheathfield, but not to answer anything there."

To another request the answer is that "it is altogether to be denied."

In 1567 we find the longest and most important document—The Crondale Customary—containing the ancient customs of the Manor of Crundale. The tenures and customs had evidently drifted into a state of confusion and uncertainty, and in 1541, soon after Elizabeth's accession, the Dean and Chapter resolved to put an end to all uncertainty by drawing up a new Customary for the Manor embodied in a deed dated 10th October, 1567. It must have taken a long time for it is very detailed, and though closely written, the Indenture occupies $2\frac{1}{2}$ large skins of parchment, and the schedules 30 skins. There are two copies extant—one in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, and the other of the parish of Aldershot.

There used to be copies in the Churches at Crondale and Yateley, but these have disappeared. At Winchester the skins containing the Indentures are damaged from being folded over the Schedules, which are in a fair state of preservation, except the fourth and fifth skins of the Crokeham tithing, which are mouldering from rot caused by damp, as are also the first of the Yateley skins, and the third and fourth of the Hawley tithing. The Aldershot copy is in a fine state of preservation. It was locked up in an old chest in the belfry, and for 70 or 80 years was forgotten. In 1857 a Mr. Baigent saw the chest, and asked to be allowed to look into it. With great difficulty the then incumbent, the Revd. James Dennett, found the keys in an old farm house, but they were so rusty that a blacksmith had to be sent for. When the chest was open it was seen that an immense cobweb thick with dust, covered the length and breadth of it. On breaking through this the Customary was found.

Some of the customs are as follows:—

- (1) Heriot to the land of next best quick beast or catele.
- (2) Right upheld of tenants to cut timber on their lands (except "okes and ashes") and the right to cut any timber for repair or erection of their houses.

- (3) The Great Fleate Pond reserved to the Lord of the Manor.
- (4) Customary Tenants bound to keep their customary messuages in repair.
- (5) Customary Tenants prohibited from leasing the customary lands for more than a year and a day without consent.
- (6) Customary lands forfeited on tenant committing treason, murder or felony.
- (7) Right upheld of tenants to use waste and common land and to dig gravel, etc.

CHAPTER III.

THE MANOR IN FEUDAL TIMES.

"Where knights and squires come riding down."
A. A. Milne.

Before considering the history of Cove Manor it may be well to give a short explanation of the Feudal system and the position of the Manor in Mediaeval times.

The basis of feudalism was that land was held by military tenure. The King granted certain land to vassals or powerful barons on condition that they rendered him military service when he was in need thereof. The Baron then granted out small portions to his dependants who in turn undertook to supply so many men with military equipment, etc.; these in turn divided up the lands to smaller holders on similar conditions combined with other services. The smallest unit to this system was the Manor. The Lord of the Manor owed military service to his superior lord, and levied or exacted services from the tenants of the Manor. This chain was connected by the oath of fealty and homage which each superior lord took from his immediate tenants.

Every portion of land amounting to £20 in annual value constituted a knight's fee, for which the service of a fully armed knight must be rendered.

The whole feudal system was confirmed and elaborated by William the Conqueror and his Norman successors.

In addition feudal land was subject to three aids:—

- (1) For ransoming the lord if taken captive.
- (2) For making his eldest son a knight.
- (3) For marrying his eldest daughter once.

The country itself was divided into shires (later developing into counties) which were divided into Hundreds, which were divided into Manors.

The County was also divided into parishes, *i.e.*, towns or villages with churches (villages without churches being called hamlets or tithings) but the parish never formed an integral part of the Feudal system.

It was not until the reign of Henry VIII. or thereabouts that England was systematically divided into Counties and Parishes.

The word "Manor" is probably derived from the Latin verb "Manere" "to hold," and in Domesday Book appears as "manerium"; the English word "mansion," the Scotch word "manse," and the French word "maison," are derived from the same origin.

The typical mediaeval manor comprised the following:—

- (1) The residence of the lord of the manor and the demesne lands retained by the lord for the use of himself and his servants.
- (2) Lands held by freehold tenants or by free and common socage (later developing into freehold) owing fixed services to the lord which were frequently commuted into money payments called Quit Rents.
- (3) Lands carved out of the demesne lands and occupied:
 - (a) by villeins who had substantial holdings and owed fixed services to the lord, and
 - (b) by cotarii or borderii who had a mere cot and no arable land, and who were almost attached to the land and were sold with it. These latter became the "customary" tenants.
- (4) The uncultivated part known as the lord's waste which served for roads, common pasture and other customary rights.

The business of the Manor was conducted by the following:—

- (1) The Court Baron.

This court had only civil jurisdiction, and decided matters concerning the common lands of the Manor, the services due to the lord, and cases of debt and trespass not exceeding 40/-. The freehold tenants acted as judges, presided over by the lord or his Steward.

- (2) The Court Leet and View of Frankpledge of our Lord the King.

This Court had criminal jurisdiction.

All residents in the district could be summoned to attend under penalty of a small fine.

The jury and homage usually numbered more than 12 and less than 24. In the case of more serious

offences the Court Leet merely certified them to the King's justices at the next Assize, but in some smaller cases such as nuisances, disturbances, it could inflict a fine; it could also appoint constables.

- (3) The Customary Court, for matters concerning the Customary Tenants, including transmission of copyhold lands either by death or inter vivos (*i.e.*, between the living).

The services by Freehold, Copyhold and Customary Tenants included the following:—

- (1) Fealty or Oath of fidelity. (2) Suit of Court or homage. (3) Actual services or quit rents in lieu thereof. (4) Relief or fine on transfer of land. (5) Heriots on death or alienation. (6) Wardship.

Manual service has long since passed out of existence, but it used to comprise such services as reaping, thatching, ploughing or the giving of live stock or produce once a year.

These old services are now commuted into and represented by Quit Rents and under the Statute of Charles II (12 Car. II. c. 24) all tenures other than copyhold were turned into free socage and discharged from homage, wardships and other incidents, but not from Quit Rents, reliefs or fines.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MANOR OF COVE.

"But that was in the Middle Ages. It wouldn't happen now." A. A. Milne.

The Manor of Cove (which was a typical Feudal Manor) from time immemorial formed part of the ancient Hundred of Crondal.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Itchel and Cove were held as separate estates by Lewin and Ulward, but soon after the Conquest Bishop Walkelin granted both to one Germanus (probably one of his retainers) to be held in accordance with the feudal system maintained by the Normans.

It is referred to in the Domesday Book as follows:—

"Lands of the Bishop of Winchester for the support of the monks of Winchester Corondel Hundred.

"The Bishop himself holds Crundele . . . of the land of this Manor German holds of the Bishop 8 hides in Ticelle (Itchell) and in Cove (de terra hujus Manerii tenet Germanus de episcopo VIII hidas in Ticelle et in Cove) . . . (for detailed description see Chapter I).

In a list of Knights' fees compiled 1243 it is recorded that—

"Willelmus de Coleville tenet feoda duorum militum in Hichulle et Cova in hundredo Le Crondalle."

William de Coleville holds 2 knights fees in Itchell and Cove, in the hundred of Crondal.

And from a Return 1316 the following entry occurs:—

"The Hundred of Crondal belongs to the Prior of St. Swithin's Winchester and in the same Hundred are the underwritten villages (inter alia) Ichehurst and Cove the lord whereof is John Giffard, and Farnburghe the lord whereof is John de Farnburghe."

In 1346 the country was asked to pay for the knighting of the Black Prince, a great and wonderful feudal ceremony to which Cove contributed its quota.

The assessment contains the following reference :—

" John Giffard holds in Ichulle and Cove two knights fees by reason of the wardship of John Giffard which fees belong to Godfrey Bishop of Winchester and are held of the Bishop of Winchester—£4."

About 1575 Itchel passed into the hands of Wriothlesley, Earl of Southampton, and Cove, so long connected with it historically, became separated as a Manor.

About the same time, when religious changes caused the break up of many old families, Cove passed out of the Giffard family, the last of the Giffards found himself in the Tower of London, and his younger brother fled to France, where he subsequently became Archbishop of Rheims.

On 4th May, 1580, the Manor of Cove is stated to comprise 3 messuages, 3 tofts, 4 gardens, 3 orchards, 20 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 2,000 acres of heath and gorse and 100 shillings of rent with appurtenances in Yateley and Cove.

In 1620 we find another interesting sidelight on national history, which shows how the extravagance of the Stuart Kings affected even remote places.

It is a record of a Subsidy granted to King James I. in 1620, being at the rate of 4/- in the £ on land and 2/8 on goods.

		£	s.
COVE.—Jane Amey in lands value	.. 2	levy	8
Edward Westbrook ..	.. 1	"	4
Alice Wates, of Brook ..	.. 1	"	4
Richard Heather ..	.. 1	"	4
James Ratlif ..	.. 1	"	4
Edward Smith ..	.. 1	"	4
Absolon Knight ..	.. 1	"	4
Robert Hall ..	.. 1	"	4
Total levy, £1 16s. 0d.			

The following documents relating to the Manor are now in the possession of L. F. Callingham, Esq.

THE COURT ROLLS 1739—1889.

These are endorsed "Court Leet and Court Baron and view of Frank Pledge."

In the First Minute the Manor is in names of " Sir Anthony Sturt Knight, George Thafin Esq. and Humphry Sturt Esq., Lords of the Manor in trust for George Pitt the Younger held Munday the

three and twentieth day of July in the 13th year of the Reign of King George II and in the year of Our Lord 1739 by William Joanos Gentleman Steward."

The following is a list of the dates of subsequent holdings of the Court with the name of the then Lord of the Manor :—

9th April, 1745. George Pitt.

NOTE.—At this Court the Tenants include Rt. Hon. Earl of Anglesea, Rt. Hon. Lord Castlemaine, the latter of whom (family name Tylney) held an estate at Minley as well as other large estates in Hampshire (see note infra).

12th August, 1752. George Pitt.

NOTE.—At this Court John Holloway the Elder and Thomas Street were sworn to take care of the Peat Moors. The oath is as under :—

" You shall swear that you will well and truly serve George Pitt Esquire Lord of the Mannor of Cove in taking care of the Peat Moors and every one of them and within the said Mannor You shall from time to time give notice of all offences concerning the same to him the said G. Pitt Esq or his Steward or agent properly deputed of all peat whatsoever which shall be cutt sold or carried away beyond Mr. Pitts allowance to each respective tenant within the said Mannor when thereunto required and in all other things behave faithfully in the said office according to the best of your powers So help you God."

3rd August, 1756. George Pitt.

31st July, 1758. " "

15th Septr., 1762. " "

13th July, 1771. " "

NOTE.—At this Court there is a recital of withdrawal of the action by William Watts the elder of Cove in the County of Southampton, Yeoman, in the Trinity Term 1768 in His Majesty's Court of King's Bench to restrain Nicholas Bailey of Yateley, Yeoman, for digging peat in a place called Elmore part of the Waste of the Manor of Cove.

NOTE.—The Earls of Anglesea had a seat at Farnborough Place and five holders of that title are buried in the crypt of the Old Parish Church, Farnborough. In the same place is buried the Earl of Tyrone, who married the eldest daughter of the first Earl of Anglesey, and subsequently died in the Tower of London in 1690, a prisoner, but his body was brought to Farnborough for burial.

15th July, 1776.	Rt. Hon. George Lord Rivers Baron Rivers of Stratfieldsay.
14th July, 1780.	Same.
13th July, 1785.	Same.
1st August, 1788.	Same.
2nd August, 1790.	Same.
25th May, 1814.	Valentine Henry Wilmot, Esq.
27th May, 1823.	Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Dacre.
7th October, 1831.	Same.
23rd May, 1845.	Same.
5th Septr., 1851.	Rt. Hon. Barbarina Baroness Dacre.
23rd Decr., 1864.	The Rev. Frederick Sullivan.
30th Novr., 1869.	Same.
8th Decr., 1874.	Capt. Francis William Sullivan, R.N., C.B.
9th Decr., 1879.	Admiral Sir F. W. Sullivan, K.C.B.
16th Decr., 1884.	Same.
17th Decr., 1889.	Same.

NOTE.—At this Court the Homage presented that the following were the names and addresses of the Tenants of this Manor at the date of the last Court, with the lands held by them and the said Manor distinguished by the numbers on the Lords plan and the Ordnance Map hereinafter stated.

(Here follows a detailed list)

This plan is still in existence and is headed as follows :—

Plan of the Manor of Cove in the Hundred of Crondal in the Parish of Yateley in the County of Southampton Christmas 1886. It is signed by Thomas Siggery Goddard, John Robins Hazell, and Edward Nash, also by W. Etherington, Bailiff.

18th Decr., 1894.

NOTE.—This Court was held at the Anchor Inn, before 1823 called The Jolly Farmer.

22nd Dec., 1925. L. F. Callingham, Esq., M.A., LL.M.

NOTE.—A detailed account of this Court appears in a later Chapter.

The following Rental Lists also exist :—

1792, 1814, with account of Quit Rents; 1823, 1831, 1845, 1851, with account of Quit Rents, 1869, 1874, 1879, 1884 and 1889, list of Tenants and Particulars of holdings. 1894, list of Tenants and Particulars of holdings. 1895, Rent Roll.

Check against
Church deposit
from H.R.O.
did they
survive
fire!

The following Leases also exist:—

11 April 1750. George Pitt to John Vinden (Weaver).
24 Feby 1766. George Pitt to Thomas Goddard (Coles Cottage).
4 January 1773. George Pitt to Thomas Ives (Potter) (Purseys Cottage).
29 June 1782. Lord Rivers to William Yeomans other wise Evans. Fine £1 1 0. Rent 1/-.
16 May 1877. R. Taylor (as Agent) to George Williams. Farm Bailiff.

The following large skin parchment Indentures also exist :—

10 Octr. 1792. (4 skins) Assignment of a term of 500 years in the manor of Cove in trust to attend the inheritance made between William Hamilton James Farrer (1) The Hon. Thomas Erskine (2) the Rt. Hon. George Lord Rivers and the Hon. George Pitt his only son and Heir Apparent (3) and James Lawrell (4) and William Birch (5).
9 Octr. 1792. Same parties. Lease for a year.
10 Octr. 1792. (5 skins) Same parties. Release and Conveyance of the Manor of Cove and other hereditaments in the County of Southampton to James Lawrell.
10 Octr. 1792. Same parties. Covenant to produce title deeds.

This last deed comprises a long list of documents including Probate of the Will of George Pitt, of Stratfieldsay, 28th October, 1693, and all and every the accounts books and entries of the Receiver or Receivers of the Rents of the family estates of the said George Lord Rivers, from the year 1756 to the date (1792) of the above mentioned Indenture, testifying any receipt of Rent for the Cove Estate, or for the Peat Moor in the Manor of Cove, or otherwise tending to prove any acts of ownership in or upon the said Peat Moor or other the wastes of the said Manor.

The following are the parcels (description of the property) contained in the above mentioned Deed of Release and Conveyance dated 10th October, 1792 :—

"ALL THAT the Manor or Lordship of Cove in the County of Southampton with the rights, royalties, rents, hereditaments, members and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise

appertaining, AND ALSO all that capital messuage or Manor House and farm called Cove Farm, with the lands meadows pastures feeding grounds woods underwoods rights members and appurtenances thereunto belonging, now in the tenure or occupation of George Hawkins his undertenants or assigns, containing together by estimation 125 acres or thereabouts little more or less, situate lying and being in the Hamlet of Cove in the parish of Yateley in the said County of Southampton AND ALSO all that the full and absolute power and privilege of digging and cutting peat in upon from and out of all and singular the Moors, Mosses, wastes, and waste grounds of and within the said Manor or Lordship of Cove, and of selling and carrying away the same at and to all places whatsoever TOGETHER with all Courts Leet, Courts Baron, views of frank pledge, profits, and perquisites of Courts, deodands waifs, estrays, heriots, escheats, wastes ways, waters, watercourses, canals, reservoirs of water, and the ground and soil thereof respectively, trees, woods, underwoods, fishings, rents, quit rents, services, royalties, liberties, privileges, franchises rights, benefits, profits, emoluments, advantages, and appurtenances whatsoever belonging or appertaining to the said Manor or Lordship, and other the premises hereby granted and released every or any part or parcel thereof or therewith now and at any time heretofore held used occupied or enjoyed."

The following is a copy of the commencement of one of the Minutes :—

Liberty & Mannor of
Cove in Hampshire

{ Court Leet and view of frank pledge with
the Court Baron of George Pitt, Esq.,
Lord of the said Mannor there held on
Wednesday the 12th day of August in
the year of our Lord 1752 by William
Joanos Gentleman Steward.

Bailiff of the Mannor—John Holloway appeared.

HOMAGE.

William Birt
Thomas Rowland.
John Edmunds.
John Naish.
John
John Shotter.

} Sworn.

John Bagout
William Rowdon.
William Kelsey.
Thomas Stroot.
Richard Hawkins.
John Knight.
Robert Walter.

} Sworn.

The Jury and Homage above named upon their oaths 'do present that Arthur Bishop hath taken in about 2 or 3 rods of ground from the waste.

They also present that John Goddard hath taken in like manner about 1 rod and half to make a cartway.

They also present that John Gates hath sold his estate to John Holwy Gentleman who is the Lord's next tenant.

They also present that William Bagout to have dyed since the last Court seised of a freehold Estate and that John his son is next heir thereunto.

Etc. etc.

The following are examples of various presentments by the Homage chosen from several of the minutes to illustrate the business transacted at these Courts in more recent times :—

(1) 1739. That the several Tenants above named that is to say the Right Honourable the Earl of Anglesea and others do owe suit and service to this Court and have at this time made default in not appearing to do such suit and service and are therefore amerced 2/- each.

The above amercement of two shillings each from the favour of this Court is reduced to two pence.

(2) 1762. They present Stephen Saunders for cutting the Herbage of the Tenants and felling it, and Oha Harriner for the same to the injury of the Tenants of the Manor.

(3) They present that William Gunner is the purchaser of John Bagents estate and was sworn fealty.

(4) 1814. That Mrs. Pottinger who held of this Manor a Farm and Lands called Hook Farm is dead and that the same hath descended to the Countess of Bridgwater and Richard Pottinger Esq. who are the Lords Tenants.

(5) 1814. That the Hon. James Everard Arundell who held within this Manor a piece of meadow containing about 8 acres died since the last Court seized thereof and that the Rt. Honble. Lord Arundell is the Lord's next Tenant.

(6) 1823. That Peter Serle Esq. who held within this Manor a Messuage Farm and lands called Broomhill alienated the same since the last Court to Valentine Henry Wilmot Esq then Lord of the said Manor.

(7) 1851. That Holland Coles has cut down several fir trees growing on the waste and carried them away.

The common rights of Cove Common were extinguished by purchase by the War Department in 1856 and the greater part of the Government Land Area was purchased by the War Department in 1861.

A small annual sum is distributed each year in coal in lieu of the right to take peat, which was the chief fuel in olden times.

The question is frequently asked what exactly is meant by View of Frank pledge. This was an ancient institution founded by Alfred the Great, whereat all the freemen within a Manor were obliged to appear and were then mutually pledged for the good behaviour of each other. It cannot be regarded correctly as synonymous with the Court Leet, but they were usually held together.

The actual view of frankpledge has been in total disuse for centuries and the name is only preserved in the style or title of the Manorial Courts.

CHAPTER V.

THE TITLE AND DESCENT OF THE MANOR OR LORDSHIP OF COVE.

"We see which way the stream of time doth run."
Shakespeare II., K. Hen. IV.

As has been described previously the first recorded mention of Cove Manor occurs in Domesday Book where it is stated that Itchel and Cove which had been held by separate owners by Lewin and Ulward in the time of Edward the Confessor were then in the possession of Germanus who held both Manors of the Bishop of Winchester.

From this time Itchel and Cove descended together for nearly five centuries.

Cove Manor, after Domesday, passed into the possession of Walkelin, probably a son of Germanus. He died before 1166 in which year his son Robert de Itchel was returned as holding two knights fees.

The next recorded mention appears in 1230 when Cove Manor with Itchel was in the possession of William de Coleville (14 Hen. III.m.11). He died in 1236 and was succeeded by his son William, who in 1243 is stated to be holding two knights fees in Itchel and Cove.

A few years later the property was acquired by Walter Giffard son of Sir Hugh Giffard who acted as guardian of Edward I. and brother of Sir Alexander Giffard, wounded in the Holy Land, 1249, at the battle of Mansowra. On 22nd May, 1264, Walter Giffard was elected Bishop of Bath and Wells, and subsequently became Archbishop of York.

In 1271 there is mention of an order of Henry III. to his warden of the forest of Aliceholt to provide 4 stags and 8 does for Itchel Park.

Walter Giffard died in 1279 and was succeeded by his son Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester. (The Armorial coat of his uncle the said Sir Alexander Giffard to this day are the arms of the See of Worcester).

In 1302 on the death of Godfrey, Cove Manor passed to his nephew John Giffard (Inq. p.m. 30 Edward I. No. 41, who died in 1319 leaving a son John (Inq. p.m. 13 Edward II. No. 15).

This latter John Giffard in 1320 joined the Earl of Hereford and other Barons in their league against the Despensers, and his lands, in consequence thereof, were forfeited and committed by the King to the custody of Robert Lewer.

In 1322 Robert Lewer rebelled against the King, placed himself at the head of an armed force, and entered the Manors of Cove and Itchel and carried away the King's goods; subsequently he was taken prisoner and put to death.

In 1324 Edward II. granted the custody of Cove Manor to John de Alton bailiff of Odiham.

John Giffard however appears to have regained possession before his death for he died seised in 1327 (Inq. p.m. I. Edward III. No. 46) and was succeeded by his infant son John.

The custody of the Manor during John's infancy was entrusted to Thomas de Bradestan.

In 1349 John Giffard granted a lease to Sir John de Wyngsfeld.

On the death of this John Giffard (date uncertain) Cove Manor passed to his widow Eleanor who died in 1360 (Inq. p.m. 34 Edward III. No. 74).

On her death her daughter Elizabeth became entitled under the custody of William de Edendon, but she died less than a year afterwards without issue (Inq. p.m. Edward III. No. 91).

The next heir to the estates was John Giffard the son of William, a younger brother of John Giffard (the grandfather of Elizabeth).

On the death of this John Giffard (date uncertain) the estate passed to Mary Giffard (probably his widow) who afterwards married John Southworth (Inq. p.m. 6 Henry V. No. 51).

In 1428 the Manor had passed to another John Giffard who died 10th June, 1444, and was succeeded by his son and heir Robert. (Inq. p.m. 22 Hen. VI. No. 37).

In 1446 Robert died without issue (Inq. p.m. 25 Hen. VI. No. 12) and the estate in Cove was held in dower by his widow Joan until 1478 (Inq. p.m. Edward IV. No. 44). The Itchel estate appears to have gone to his brother John.

In 1509 the estates on the death of Joan and John passed to William Giffard the son of John.

In 1549 William Giffard was succeeded by John (the son of his son John who had predeceased him).

In 1563 John died, and was succeeded by his son and heir George aged 10.

In 1579 shortly after George Giffard attained the age of 21, the Manor of Itchel was purchased by Henry Wriothesley (second Earl of Southampton).

At this period the Manor of Cove became finally separated from that of Itchel.

In the same year Cove estates and Manor were sold by George Giffard to Thomas Brabon (Close 21 Elizabeth pt. XIII.).

In 1580 the Manor passed by purchase from him to Robert White (Close 22 Elizabeth pt. III.) who died in 1599, when it passed to his daughter Ellen, the wife of Richard Tichbourne.

Ellen died in 1612 leaving Cove Manor to her daughter Amphyllis who married Lawrence Hyde (see note infra).

Mrs. Lawrence Hyde died in 1632 leaving an infant son Robert and 3 daughters, Amphyllis, Anne, and Ellen who became co-heirs. Ellen married a John Lowe of Shaftesbury, and the Manor appears subsequently to have been settled on their son Lawrence Lowe.

In 1689 Cove Manor was conveyed by Lucy, widow of Lawrence Lowe, and others to Thos. Freke, who died without issue in 1698 leaving his estates to Thomas Pile and Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Freke, of Hannington, Wilts, for life, with reversion to George Pitt, of Strathfieldsaye, the husband of Lucy (Lucy being the widow of Lawrence Lowe).

George Pitt died in 1734 leaving the Manor in trust for his infant son George.

NOTE.—This Mrs. Lawrence Hyde was a first cousin by marriage of Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, her husband being the eldest son of Sir Lawrence Hyde of Heale. She took an important part in assisting the escape of Charles II. and acted as his hostess. The last representative of the Heale branch of the Hydys was Mrs. Windimore (nee Hyde), grandniece of the hostess of Charles II., and this lady having lost her fortune in the South Sea Bubble, was living in 1788, aged upwards of 100 years, in the almshouse of Lady Dacre at Westminster. At her death it was notified that she was a distant cousin of Queen Anne, whose mother, Ann Hyde (daughter of Lord Clarendon), was James II.'s first wife (*vide* Allen Fea's "Flight of the King," Second edition).

In 1745 George Pitt junior died leaving the Manor to his son George, created Lord Rivers of Stratfieldsaye, 20th May, 1776.

Lord Rivers on the 10th October, 1792, conveyed the Manor to James Lawrell, and in 1814 it passed into the possession of Valentine Henry Wilmot of Farnborough. He died in 1819 leaving the Manor to his widow Barbarina with reversion to his daughter Arabella Jane.

Barbarina afterwards married Lord Dacre.

On the death of Lady Dacre the Manor passed to Mr. Wilmot's daughter Arabella Jane, whose husband the Reverend Frederick Sullivan of Kimpton is mentioned as Lord of the Manor.

Mr. Sullivan died in 1873 leaving the Manor to his third son Captain Francis William Sullivan, who afterwards succeeded his cousin as sixth baronet in 1899, and subsequently became Admiral Sir F. W. Sullivan.

In 1896 the Manor was sold by Sir Francis to Mr. H. J. E. Brake. The Manor subsequently passed to his son Mr. H. W. Brake, from whom it was acquired in 1924 by the present owner L. F. Callingham, Esquire, of Broomhill, Cove.

CHAPTER VI.

THE HOLDING OF THE MANORIAL COURTS.

Lux Gentium Lex.

It is proposed to include in this chapter an interesting account of a time honoured ceremony which took place at Broomhill on 22nd December, 1925.

Mr. Callingham gave a short address showing how the Feudal Manors were inextricably bound up with the legal and economic history of England, and explained how after the Law of Property Act, 1925, came into operation, the old Customary Court would be finally abolished, and though the Court Leet, and according to the best authorities the Court Baron, would not be abolished, yet under the working of the Act they would gradually lose all practical effect and become obsolete.

No more fitting time could be found for putting on record the ancient ceremonial and quaint phraseology which are already becoming fast forgotten.

Those who attended were greatly interested in the proceedings, and after passing out into the wintry night, felt regret that few such Courts would be held in the future, and pondered over the long line of bygone Lords, Stewards, Bailiffs, Jurymen and Constables, who had so ably assisted in upholding the ancient traditions of England in the past.

The following is a copy of the Court Minutes recorded on this occasion:—

MANOR of COVE
in the County of
Southampton

The Court Leet View of Frankpledge and Court Baron of LAURENCE FREDERICK CALLINGHAM, Esquire, M.A., LL.M. (Cantab.), Lord of the said Manor, held in and for the said Manor at Broomhill on Tuesday, the twenty second day of December in the year of Our Lord 1925 before Thomas Light Sullivan, Gentleman Steward.

Honorary Bailiff of the said Manor, Sir Alexander Roger.

The Notice summoning the Court was read as follows—

Notice is hereby given that the Court Leet, View of Frankpledge and Court Baron of Laurence Frederick Callingham Esquire lord of the Manor of Cove in the County of Southampton will be holden by or before Thomas Light Sullivan, Gentleman Steward of the said Manor, on Tuesday the 22nd day of December 1925 at Broomhill within the said Manor, at the hour of 8 o'clock in the evening.

Dated this 14th day of December 1925.

T. L. SULLIVAN,
Steward.

The Proclamation was then read by the Steward :—

" OYEZ, OYEZ, OYEZ. All manner of persons that do owe suit and service to this Court Leet and law-day now to be holden in and for this Manor of Cove, or to this Court Baron of L. F. Callingham Esquire now to be holden in and for the said Manor, draw near and give your attendance thereby saving your amercement."

God Save the King and the Lord of this Manor."

The Steward then called the Jury and the Homage and gave his charge as follows :—

" You good men that are returned to enquire for our Sovereign Lord the King and you good men that are returned to be of the homage answer to your names."

JURY.	Richard Perrin	}	Sworn.
	John Yeomans		
	Edward Blunden		
	Alan Roger		
	Neil Roger		

The Homage of Court Baron.		}	Sworn.
S. Grove			
Arthur Goddard			
Charles Southgate			
Alistair Roger			

The Steward then administered the following Oath to the Foreman of the Jury, Mr. Richard Perrin, " You as Foreman of this Jury with the rest of your fellows shall enquire and true presentment make of all such matters and things as shall be given

to your charge, the King's Council your own and your fellows you shall well and truly keep; you shall present nothing out of hatred or malice nor shall you conceal anything out of fear favour or affection, but in all things you shall well and truly present as the same shall come to your knowledge."

The Steward then administered the following Oath to the rest of the Jury as follows :—

" The like oath that Mr. Richard Perrin your foreman hath taken on his part to observe and perform, you and each of you on your respective parts shall observe and perform."

The Steward then administered the following oath to the Foreman of the Homage, Mr. S. Grove.

" You as Foreman of this homage with the rest of your fellows shall enquire and true presentment make of all such matters and things as shall be given to your charge, your own Council and your fellows you shall well and truly keep: you shall present nothing out of hatred or malice, nor shall you conceal anything out of fear favour or affection, but in all things you shall well and truly present as the same shall come to your knowledge."

The rest of the Homage were then similarly sworn.

Mr. John Yeomans was then sworn as Constable as follows :—

" You shall well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King and the Lord of this Leet in the office of constable in and for this Manor of Cove until you are discharged according to due course of law, you shall well and truly do and execute all things belonging to your office according to the best of your knowledge."

Mr. Edward Blunden was then sworn as Hayward as follows :—

" You shall well and truly serve the Lord of this Manor in the office of hayward for the year ensuing or until determined by course of law, you shall duly execute all such process as shall be directed to you from this Court, you shall from time to time signify and present all such pound breaches as shall happen to be made during the continuance of this office, and in all things well and truly demean and behave yourself in the said office."

Mr. Charles Southgate was then sworn as Affeeror as follows :—

" You shall well and truly affeer and affirm the several amercements here made and now to you remembered. You shall spare

no one out of love, fear or affection nor raise or enhance any one out of malice or hatred, but impartially shall do your duties herein."

Presentment of the Homage.

(1) The homage on their oath present all the tenants of this Manor who have not appeared at this Court to do their suit and service and amerce them 6d. each (which fine was reduced to 1d.).

(2) The declaration of Mr. Edward Paice, dated 29th July 1925, was then produced which *inter alia* set out the following quit rents as being due and payable as on that date—

(Here follows a list of Quit Rents).

(3) The Steward then stated that presentments as to encroachments of the Manorial waste or other appropriate matters should be made.

The Steward then the following Oath of Fealty to be made previously sworn fealty:—

come a true tenant to the lord of this which you are admitted. You shall from perform and discharge all such rents, therefore due and of right accustomed; be ordered and justified in all things olden in and for the Manor of Cove as nor for their estates are, shall, or ought things demean yourself as a faithful

T. L. SULLIVAN,
Steward."

CHAPTER VII.

MINLEY MANOR AND THE FLEET PONDS.

*"Some things they knew that we know not,
Some things we know by them unknown,
But the axles of their wheels were hot
With the same frenzies as our own."*

Money Coutts.

The Manor of Minley and the Fleet Ponds are so close to Cove and so frequently connected in the records with Cove, that it will not be considered out of place to give certain extracts concerning them.

In 1516 an interesting document was compiled describing the Bounds of Minley as follows:—"The Bounds of Mynley as Robert Baker a man of a hundred years douth saye 'First to begin at Ludshut and thence to Bromyshe hedge corner and over the water and from thence to a bushe and besydes the bushe groweth a yold oak and leave the bush upon the right hand and from thence Penyehill and leave hit upon the right hand and from thence to westley corner and so uppe alonge the hedge to the foxholes and from thence to Wyendmyll hill and leave hit on the right hand and so straight to a waye to Hallie (Hawley) along to Hornynlye and when you come to the heyght waye torne downe upon three acres bred upon the right hand to the bottome and there alonge the dyche and from thence to Foxleye corner--All these boundes I the sayd Robert have seen bounddid out two or three tymes fyrst by Robert Peres and the second tyme by John Flodder, this man's father that is now dwelling at Yateley, that hath the evidence of Mynley'."

There is also an interesting account of fishing rights in Fleet Ponds dated 18th January 1505-6. It is "the indenture of William and John Gyfforde for the pasture of Flete and the fishery of the same" and it delivers to the said William and John Giffard, eldest son of the said William, the two ponds called Flete Pondes, together with the fishery of the same and also a certain pasture called Le Flete." They had to render yearly to the Prior "twenty three shillings and fourpence of lawful money of England" and "a hundred of the fishes, to wit in English, pykes, tenches, perches,

1516.

The Bound of Mynley
as Robert Baker a man of a
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(Here follows a list of Quit Rents).

(3) The Steward then stated that presentments as to encroachments of the Manorial waste or other appropriate matters should be made.

The Steward then read the following Oath of Fealty to be made by Tenants who had not previously sworn fealty:—

"You shall swear to become a true tenant to the lord of this Manor for the estate to which you are admitted. You shall from time to time bear, pay, and perform and discharge all such rents, duties, services, and customs therefore due and of right accustomed; you shall from time to time be ordered and justified in all things at the lords Courts to be holden in and for the Manor of Cove as other tenants of the said Manor for their estates are, shall, or ought to be, and you shall in all things demean yourself as a faithful tenant should.

T. L. SULIVAN,
Steward."

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brences and roches, in a good and fresh state in Lent." It was also to be lawful for the said Prior and his steward and treasurer and their successors "as often as they shall please to fish with the nets and boats of the said William and John in the aforesaid ponds and to take and carry away the fish captured there."

In 1536 a similar lease was granted to George Poulet, Esq., but he was to pay twenty shillings a year instead of the hundred fish.

In 1567 a great storm carried away the head of one of the ponds—apparently the lower one extending to Pondtail Bridge, and in order to avoid expense the tenant was allowed to convert the site of the pond into pasture.

CHAPTER VIII.

BUILDINGS, RESIDENCES, ETC.

"A little peaceful home bounds all my wants and wishes."
Francesca di Rioja.

There are not many buildings and residences of great interest in Cove and it is a little difficult to find out very much about some of the old houses that are left.

The Church is a modern building, standing on a small hill and is now unfortunately some distance from the centre of the village, which has grown up largely near the Farnborough end of the place. When it was built, it was nearly in the centre of the scattered agricultural village which was separated from the Parish of Yateley. Interesting documents are extant as to the building of it. The 600 inhabitants, headed by Mr. Robert Mason of Whitehall Farm, Mr. Etherington of the Home Farm, Mr. Richard Yeomans of Chilton Farm and others, saw the need for a church at Cove, and petitioned the Bishop that it might be made a separate parish. The district in the deed forming Cove into a parish is described as "the entire Tithing of Cove and all that part of the Tithing of Hawley in the same parish of Yateley as lies on the south of the high way from Cove through Minley to Yateley, and also as much on the north of the same public road as is bounded on the east by the Tithing of Cove, and on the west by an imaginary line drawn from the north west corner of the same to Bramshott Lane end."

The building of St. John the Baptist, Cove, was begun in 1843 and finished in 1844. There are many old letters, documents and plans in the Church safe, the most important being the printed appeal for funds dated March 10th, 1842. It sets forth that the parish contains 600 people who have expressed the most earnest desire for procuring the erection of a church and the permanent services of a clergyman: "they have volunteered the use of their teams and personal exertions." It is calculated that it will cost £1000 and £1000 for endowment. The first Meeting was held on November 22nd, 1841, Committee consisting of representatives of Yateley, Hawley, Cove and Farnborough. The Cove representatives were Mr. William Brown and Mr. George Gosden. The Revd. J. Randell was Treasurer, and by 1842 £600 had been collected.

From old letters it appears that there were delays and difficulties—all overcome by the earnest efforts of the men who had undertaken the work, and the church was consecrated by the Bishop in 1844.

It is a stone building in early English style. It is very simple, and contains a War Memorial erected by public subscription and dedicated in 1923.

In 1917 it was obvious that a new church was needed in the centre of the village. Owing to the war it was only possible to erect a temporary building, but £700 was collected in a few months, with the help of other parishes in the Deanery and generous friends, and St. Christopher's Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Winchester on June 29th, 1918. At the same time a piece of land, now part of the Vicarage garden, was purchased as a site for a permanent Church, which it is hoped will be built in the not distant future.

A list of the Vicars of Yateley beginning from 1636 is of interest:—

1636—1667.	Revd. Robert Scott	..	..	36 years.
1667—1694.	" J. Waller	..	..	27 "
1694—1703.	" S. Smith	..	..	9 "
1703—1707.	" R. Cobden	..	..	4 "
1707—1730.	" J. Thomas	..	..	23 "
1730—1756.	" W. Nunns	..	..	26 "
1756—1767.	" J. Price Jones	..	..	11 "
1767—1802.	" J. Richards	..	..	34 "
1802—1804.	" C. Marshall	..	..	2 "
1804—1814.	" R. C. Caswall	..	..	10 "
1814—1815.	" W. Hancock	..	..	1 "
1815—1821.	" A. A. Hammond	..	..	6 "
1821—1874.	" R. Lewin	..	..	53 "
1874—1885.	" H. J. Sumner	..	..	11 "
1885—1905.	" C. D. Stooks	..	..	20 "
1905—1917.	" J. Beardall	..	..	12 "
1917—	" A. J. Howell	..	..	—

The Vicars of Cove are:—

Revd. J. Laurell, perpetual curate, 1844—1851.
" J. H. Hopkinson perpetual curate, 1851—1854.
" F. Sotham, 1854—1901.
" J. Bowen, 1901—1912.
" W. R. Williams, 1912—1917.
" A. M. Watson, 1917—

The Primitive Methodist Chapel was erected in 1924. It stands on the main road, adjoining the former chapel which is now used as a hall, class rooms, etc.

The old Church School, originally a tiny dame school—was built in 1856. In 1913 it was enlarged to form a Church Room and it was opened by the then Bishop of Winchester, Bishop Talbot. It is in constant use for meetings of all sorts—Sunday School, Women's Fellowship, Scouts, Guides, G.F.S., S.S. and entertainments, etc.

A great deal of Cove is quite modern but the remaining old houses are full of interest and many are of great beauty. There do not seem to be many records of the history of most of them, but with the kind help of the present owners or occupiers the following information has been collected, the houses being arranged in alphabetical order.

BROOMHILL, a very old house dating from the 13th Century. It is frequently mentioned in the records and full details appear in the next chapter. The present owner is L. F. Callingham, Esq.

CEDAR COTTAGE is very interesting. It is still exactly as it was built and there used to be old barns and a blacksmith's shop on the land. The cedar tree from which it takes its name is comparatively modern. At one time it was occupied by Mr. William Etherington.

CHILTON FARM is another very old house. It was originally called Chilton Cottage and the front part was a malt house. About 60 years ago this part was converted into four rooms, two upstairs and two downstairs, and out-buildings were added and it became a farm. The first tenant was a Mr. Carpenter and he was succeeded by Mr. Prince, and about 42 years ago the farm was bought by Mr. Richard Yeomans whose family still owns it.

COLD HARBOUR FARM, occupied by Mr. John Yeomans, is another old fashioned building with an old chimney oven and oak rafters. The origin of the name, which is very ancient, and is found in many parts of the country, according to the opinion of some antiquaries, signifies resthouses for Roman troops. They are usually found within short distances of Roman roads, and it may be that a branch of the Roman London to Silchester Road went through Farnborough. It seems probable that these resthouses

were used by the Anglo Saxons after the Romans had evacuated Britain.

COVE COTTAGE is a very old house which has been enlarged and altered. Part of it dates back to at least the 14th century, and part of it is Elizabethan with some very fine barge boards and oak beams. The interior is exceedingly quaint and interesting with a winding staircase and uneven floor levels and some beautiful oak panelling. It was originally called Hook's Farm and stood on Coles Moor. It was once owned by the Countess of Bridgewater and is now the property of G. Wilson, Esq.

COVE COURT was formerly the Vicarage. It was built about the same time as the Church and the contract with the builder is among the old papers preserved from that time.

The original house on the site was an old farm building, part of which was built into the present house. It was called Fuller's Farm. The most interesting thing in the house is the old oak, one room being beautifully panelled, and the hall and staircase and doors are all of oak. There are big chalk fire places and some old theodosite glass in the front door. In the cellar is a well with very worn steps, which must be very old. The gardens are well laid out and very picturesque. The house is now owned by Major R. R. Grubb.

CRIPLEY FARM, situated in Cripsey Moor, is another very ancient dwelling, and not far distant was "Outsheet Farm," now demolished. The term "Outsheet" applied to a building signified that the occupier was excused, on the ground of distance, from attending the Parish Church for Divine Service, and also the Archery practice.

DOGLETTS is a very old farmhouse, which has been in the possession of the Youmans family for at least 200 years. It was once a bakehouse and grocer's shop, and peat was the fuel used for the oven. In 1881 a fire occurred and burnt all the outbuildings. Adjoining the farm there are some old cottages which were once used as potteries. When the Church was built Robert Murrell, an old tenant who worked on the farm, helped to cart stone from Frimley for the building.

In 1921 the house was sold and enlarged and it is now occupied by Colonel H. M. Wilson. Dogletts is frequently mentioned in the old records of Crondal Manor.

IVELY FARM is frequently mentioned in the records and was purchased by the War Office in 1893. It is now used as the kennels for the Aldershot Command, and the Command Beagles with their well known Huntsman and Whip, Mr. Eli Cranston and Miss Cranston, are remembered by soldiers all the world over, with happy recollections of days spent with the Beagles under their skilful direction. There are several other old houses and cottages situated on Cove Common.

JOBS FARM has been owned by the Goddard family for many years—it is situated at Hill Corner with Jobs Cottage and there are some other old farms and cottages near by in Sandy Lane.

THE MANOR HOUSE, has been the residence of Mrs. Northcote and her family since 1896. The oldest parts of this house date back many centuries, probably to the Tudor period; in some parts the oak beams still remain, but various alterations have been made from time to time, the porch is of Queen Anne period and the top storey has been added subsequently, probably in the Georgian era. During recent alterations a stone pitcher was found of the kind which it was customary to bury in the Tudor period when a house was being built. In 1896 many of the old original lattice windows were fitted with blown glass some of which still exists in the drawing room.

OAK FARM, owned by Mr. A. Hitchcock, is an old house on to which he built, but the original farm is a cottage near by, occupied by Mr. F. Clements. This house, bearing the date of 1744, has all the signs of an old farmhouse, and is very interesting.

Next to it is Silverdale, where Mr. H. M. Hitchcock has his well-known poultry farm.

TRUNK HOUSE is a beautiful old house—a farm built on to again. The kitchens are the old part, and there are wonderful old barns and outbuildings. The interior is quaint, with a good deal of oak panelling and uneven floor levels. It is now owned by Major J. S. M. Corrie.

THE PRESENT VICARAGE dates from 1741. It was formerly the Home Farm. It is a small house standing in 2 acres of ground and the old brickwork and oak roof and beams are in an excellent state of preservation. In the old days it was surrounded by corn-fields and hop gardens, and some old hop kilns were only recently destroyed.

WEST HEATH FARM. The deeds relating to this property, which belongs to Mr. Edward Blunden, go back a long way. The oldest document is a Release dated the 12th day of December in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne A.D. 1705, made between Mary Sheet and Edward Bartholomes. There is also a lease of a part dated 2nd April, 1706, made between George Pitt, Lord of the Manor of Cove, to Edward Bartholomes of Cove, Yeoman, for 900 years. This deed recites two Courts Barons held in 1700 and 1705, authorising the leasing of certain parts of the Lords Waste. In 1799 part of the property was conveyed by Richard Mason of Basing, Yeoman, and Alice his wife, to Thomas Mason of the tything of Cove in the Parish of Yateley, Potter.

WHITEHALL FARM has an interesting old kitchen with a bacon loft. It is a quaint old house standing in a typical farmyard and was formerly owned by Mr. Robert Mason, who enlarged it. Mr. Mason also owned Iveley. In March, 1915, Whitehall was bought by the Government.

WHITE HOUSE, a fine modern house standing in pleasant grounds, which are famous for two magnificent oak trees. It is the residence of Mrs. Montgomery.

WOODLEY at first was just a cottage, on the site of what is now the stables. It was occupied by a man named Young. After that a small house was built and was occupied by people named Ames, one of whom was the tallest officer in the Army and headed one of the Jubilee processions. Later a Mrs. Dick, whose husband was connected with the laying of the first Atlantic cable, lived there. Then Miss Annie Sotham, sister of the Vicar, bought it and enlarged it. After her death, the Vicar, thinking of retiring, added the dining room and later his brother went to live there and completed the house as it now stands. The old Vicar and his brother were very keen gardeners and the flowering shrubs and rhododendrons are a great feature of the garden. It is now the residence of Mrs. A. V. Gibson Soote.

One building—not actually in Cove—must not be omitted. The Farnborough & Cove War Memorial Hospital.

After the Great War it was decided that the local memorial to the men who had given their lives for their country should take the form of a Cottage Hospital. An immediate response was made to the appeal for funds and in 1920 the Hospital was opened by Earl Haig. Under most excellent and careful management it has

been a great success, and is very highly valued by those who have been patients and by their friends. The names of the Cove men who fell in the Great War are:—

Charles Appleton
William Barker
William Brant
Walter Brown
Arthur Brown
George S. Brown
Charles H. Christopher
Harry Cooper
Arthur Cooper
Frederick Cracknell
William Eade
William T. Gates
Albert J. Goddard
Henry Green
William A. Gregory
Ivo T. Gunter
Percy E. Gunter
Frederick G. Hall
Frank E. Herage
William Hoare
Charlie Knight
Thomas Knight
Walter J. Lammass
Richard J. Matthias

Sidney Yeomans

Albert G. May
George H. Millard
Felton J. Mitchell
Edward Mitchell
Albert E. Nash
Herbert J. New
George Barons Northcote
William C. Oliver
George Parsons
Joseph A. Payne
William C. T. Perrin
George Powell
Albert W. Pickett
Charles Rance
Alfred G. Shore
William H. K. Siggery
Percy H. Siggery
Charles H. Silver
William Silvester
William Soane
Lawrence J. Stevens
Harry Webster
Harry Woodason
Oliver A. Woodland

CHAPTER IX.

BROOMHILL.

"Only the old house watches and remembers."

Rosamund Watson.

This very old house, some parts of the present structure dating from the 13th century, was originally a yeoman's dwelling, examples of which are more frequently found in the Counties of Surrey and Kent. As is usual in houses of this type it is constructed of oak framing and timbering, the spaces in between the timbers externally, being filled in with herringbone brickwork of divers patterns. This feature was discovered during the recent alterations, the brickwork having been either tiled or cemented over owing to the bricks deteriorating through their great age.

The beautifully mellowed tile roof supported by oak beams and rafters was of the usual ridged type, with small hipped ends and a long slope to the west. Originally there was a stone-paved passage running along the west side of the building, which in houses of this description often formed the dairy, and there was another staircase from the kitchen.

Owing to the very considerable alterations and extensions made in 1921, a part of this roof had to be cut into, but otherwise the general characteristics of the building were preserved without detriment, old materials from an ancient Barn which stood where the stable yard now is being utilized for the purpose.

During the alterations some very interesting oak wattle and daub plaster work was discovered, also some coins 150 years old.

A very interesting and somewhat unusual feature is the old chimney, with its ingle nook and double open hearths back to back; the oak timbers throughout are particularly fine and generally in splendid condition.

There are 3 wells in existence one being very ancient and made of rough stones. The name Broomhill appears to have remained with but little alteration through the centuries and it is frequently mentioned in the records.

The site on which the house stands is a rather prominent hill and happens to be one of the boundary marks of the ancient hundred of Crondal. The earliest recorded mention appears in the

Deed of Gift by King Edgar to the Old Monastery A.D. 976 as follows:—

"oonon ut on oone haeofeld on fugelmere swa on bromhyrst
oæt andlang burnan on Bedecanlea"
(Thence out upon the heathfield to Fugelmere so to
Bromhurst and along the bourn to Bedicanly).

The next mention occurs in 1261 as follows:—

In that year Henry III. granted to Imbert de Muntferant all the land of Broomhill and Cove which had fallen to him by the death of Aymer Bishop Elect of Winchester (Cal. Chart. R.11. 35).

This land was held of William de Coleville lord of Itchel, and had been bought by Aymer from John Lisle. (Inq. p.m. 45, Hen. III. No. 45).

Possibly no house existed in those days, but a house existed in 1279, called Bromhulle, the occupier of which appears to have been of some local importance, serving on Royal Inquisitions in the district. It would appear established beyond doubt that it has been called Broomhill or Bromhulle consistently since that date, for in April, 1279, we find the owner is mentioned in an Inquisition taken in obedience to a Royal writ addressed to Ralph de Sandwich, one of the King's Stewards at Westminster, 7 Edward I.

This Inquisition was made on the oath of (among others) Nicholas de Cheyne, Robert de Clere, Nicholas de Depehale, William de Bromhulle Who say on their oath that he (Walter Gyffard late Archbishop of York) held the Manor of Ichulle and Cove with appurtenances of Nicholas Bishop of Winchester and that it is worth £40 in all its issues.

Another mention is in an inquisition on the death of Sir John Giffard Knight, taken February, 1327, before Simon de Bereford the escheator of the lord King, on Saturday in the 2nd year of the reign of King Edward the Third from the conquest, by the oath of (among others) John atte Berghe, Robert de Cleyre, Thomas de Bromhulle

The shed now used as a wood shed was within the memory of Arthur Goddard called a turf house, and was used for the storage of peat.

A very large barn used to stand where the stable yard now is, but it was considered structurally unsafe and pulled down.

The following are a few of the old names of the fields adjoining viz.: Kiln Field, Hatch Field, Pond Moor, Cripsey Moor, Alder Meadow, Common Hindell, Crabtree Meadow, Chalkey Field, Calf Plat Row.

CHAPTER X.

OLD NAMES AND PLACES.

" Memories sweet link past and present."

In going back beyond 1843, when Cove became an Ecclesiastical Parish separate from Yateley, it is a somewhat difficult matter to sort out names connected solely with Cove, because up to that time Cove people are quite rightly entered "as of Yateley Parish." The Revd. A. J. Howell has very kindly searched the Yateley Registers for names of old Cove families, some of which also appear in the old Crondal Customary in 1547. Some of these are as follows:—John Wattes, John Crainston, James Wattys and Alice his wife, John Heather, William Sone, John Terrye, Thomas Frost, George Nash, John Goodyer, John Kynge, John Alexander. In the Yateley Registers the following names constantly occur under Cove Parish:—Ecles, Yeomans, Youmans, Murrell, Knight, Nash, Siggry, Sigary, Siggory, Weston, Hedgcock, Ellis, Yates, Denyer, Goddard, Sone, Terrye, Heather, Williams, White, Blonden, Blunden, Kingston, Moth, Harwood, Maynard, Cranham, Bedford, Mylway (otherwise Pears). In the Manorial Records the following names appear (many of them frequently) between the dates of 1739—1889:—Rowlands, Edmunds, Naish, Thrift, Mason, Weaver, Crundel, Knight, Pratt, Shorter, Bagout, Williams, Bristow, Goddard, Watts, Burt, Bonham, Brown, Hawkins, Pottinger, Rowden, Antrim, Holloway, Weaver, Carter, Hudson, Hammond, Chitty, Kelsey, Collins, Bailey, Howard, Kallaway, Haynes, Pitt, Ridges, Gates, Hare, Hall, Barfoot, Gunners, Pasher, Bailey, Lewcock, Baker, Ives, Denton, Drake, Lunn, Hitchcock, Etherington, Powderham, Dickenson, Callaway, Gosden, Kingston, Youmans, Siggery, Maynard, Smith, Tanner, Larsam, Lord, Wilson, Meads, Clark, Hazell, Green, Hart, Coleman.

An interesting feature of some of the neighbouring place names is the variation in spelling. Strangely enough Cove is the one name that does not appear to have altered in the slightest from Domesday Book till the present time. The derivation of the name is uncertain, but it probably means "the hollow in the hills."

COVE—OLD AND NEW.

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Other places vary from time to time almost beyond recognition. The following are a few examples taken from the various records:—

Aldershot, Alreshute, Alreshete, Alresshate, Alreschate, Aldrisshot, Haldershutte.

Bramshott is written Brambeshate, Bramshete, Brambeishate, Bramsete, Bremshette.

Crondall, Crondal, Crondellan, Crundale, Crundalle, Crundel, Krundele, Crundele, Crondale.

Crookham, Crokeham, Crocham.

Dippenhall, Dupenhale, Depenhale, Dippenhaull, Dyppnalle, Dipnall.

Eweshot, Ichehurst, Iweschate, Eweshott, Ushott.

Hawley, Hawleye, Hallee, Halle.

Itchel, Ichulle, Dichulle, Ichelle, Ticelle, Hichulle.

Southwood, Suwode, Suthwode, Suthwde, Southwode.

Yateley, Hyatele, Yateleghe, Yatche, Yatelighe, Yeatley, Yeateley, Yateleghe.

Ively, Battes Iveley, Knapp Iveley,

Fleet, Flete, Le Flete, Fleate.

One or two odd items of information are interesting.

In 1418 Thomas Giffard of Cove was one of the trustees of the will of Richard Bannister, of Yateley, who left "one parcel of land arable and pasture and meadow called Waterlands containing 15 acres in Sandhurst" for the benefit of the poor of Yateley and Sandhurst.

In 1470 Peter South, gent, left 11 acres of land at Finchampstead, half of the rent to go to Yateley, and the other moiety to be divided between Cove and Hawley.

In 1640 Mr. Arundel, of Cove, aged 100 years, was buried at Yateley.

Col. Thomas Blood, a distant relation of the Castlemaine family, on 9th May, 1671, attempted to steal the Crown and Regalia from the Tower of London, disguised as a clergyman. He lived at Minley Warren and was arrested at the Crown and Cushion Inn.

CHAPTER XI.

OLD MEMORIES.

*"The air is full of memories, none knows what
One half forgot—*

The living echo of dead voices fills the unseen hills."
John Phillimore.

There are several people still living in Cove who can remember it 50 or 60 years ago, when it was a little old world village off the main track, and still retaining much of the life of old England, and many thanks are due to Mr. J. Andrews and the late Mr. C. Yeomans and others for their help in describing Cove as they remember it in their youth.

Before 1750 the only road into the village was Union Street, so called because the Union or poor house (now Wilmot House) stood there. Union Street was a quagmire in wet weather, and at the end of the fields which lie where Victoria Road is now was a gate to prevent the Farnborough cattle from straying into Cove, and the Cove cattle into Farnborough. Victoria Road was made about 150 years ago. It is interesting to try to picture what the village looked like. Between Cove and Aldershot were fields and common land—no houses or streets at all. On reaching Cove on the south side of the road there were the old houses behind Mr. Leeming's school and one behind what is now Mr. Chiles' shop (then an old baker's shop) and a little old house where the cottages occupied by Mr. Lynch are now—then Mr. Norman's pottery—an old house—and the village shop kept by Mr. Siggery where Mr. P. R. Instone's garage is. This was the shop of the village where bread, bacon, groceries and drapery could be obtained. Everybody had a pig and generally sold it to Mr. Siggery in exchange for anything they required. Then came the Old Home Farm with a pond at its gate, and the old house at the end of West End Place which was a blacksmith's shop, and then Cedar Cottage. After that came Hook Farm, now Cove Cottage, which was surrounded by Cole's Moor, an impassable swamp till it was filled in with gravel from what is now Fleet Road in 1852. The Poplars got its name from two immense poplar trees that stood in front of it, and was then two cottages. After that there were fields and hop gardens except for Doglets, Whitehall and Trunk House and an old farm, Murrell's

Farm, near the Reservoir. On the north side of the road were four old cottages, pulled down within living memory, and a sawmill. There were two more old cottages at the back of a blacksmith's shop, the Alma Inn and the Anchor Inn, and then where Highfield is now, two fields with 4 stiles to negotiate. There were two cottages next to the Potter's Arms, which was also there, one of which was a blacksmith's shop again. Then there were West Heath Farm and Pottery surrounded by heath and common—Woodley, with a few old cottages again—the Vicarage, the Church and the Plough Inn. Further north Broomhill Manor House and cottages and Chilton Farm. In Prospect Road there was an old house on the site of what is now The Gables—the old barn—the old cottage known as Stake Cottage just beyond the bridge—the Thatched Cottage and one or two more, and Oak Farm in its old shape. An old man who was a village "curiosity" lived in a van and sold pots and pans. Hops were grown everywhere. Hazeldene, Whitehall, Eelmoor, the Home Farm and Murrell's farm all grew hops.

Opposite the gate of the Home Farm were at one time the village stocks and old Mr. Etherington, who died in 1908, could remember seeing them occupied by disorderly reprobates placed there by the local constable; and waiting for a magistrate's order for release. He also remembered the Annual Cove Fair on December 5th, at which thousands of cattle changed hands.

Marrowbrook Lane was called Lion Lane.

The few children were taught by Mr. Edward Greene at a house which was afterwards used as a bakery by Mr. Bickerstaff.

Cove Reservoir was a meadow called Alder Green and had a stream flowing through it.

Besides agriculture, the great industry was pottery. There were 13 kilns in Farnborough and Cove. The clay had to be brought from Old Park and Wreclesham and the probable reason of the industry was the plentiful supply of peat—the best of which came from Frimley Common. When the ware was finished it was taken by barge to London until the main road was sufficiently good for it to be taken by waggon.

The waggon left after dinner one day and reached Hounslow the same evening. As there was a law that carts might not unload or load after 12 o'clock in London streets, the men in charge put up at Hounslow for the night and very early next morning went on to London. They disposed of their pottery and loaded up with any commodities that were needed in Cove, and made the return journey the same day. Mr. Arthur Yeomans, of Chilton Farm, remembers this journey which he first made with his father and uncle when he was a little boy of 7, and when he was 15 he went alone.

The establishment of Doultöns and other firms in London put an end to the trade.

Cove owes a great deal of its progress to the deep religion and sense of public duty of one man, Mr. Green. Mr. Green was an officer who fought and was badly wounded at the battle of Waterloo. After the war, his aunt who lived at Farnborough Hill, built a house for him—now occupied by Mrs. Ewen. Mr. Green was saddened by the state of things he found around him, and he started schools and devoted himself to the education of Cove and Farnborough children. He was very fortunate in finding very able teachers in Mr. Mrs. and Miss Taylor. Mr. Taylor taught the boys at the Oaks, Mrs. Taylor the girls at Greencroft, and their daughter was head mistress of the Infant school at the Beeches. The children were admitted at 3 years of age, and passed on from the infant school at 7, and left school at 14. Mr. Taylor was a strict disciplinarian and rather fond of the cane, but he was a wonderful man, and a very fine teacher, and many children in Cove owe a deep debt of gratitude for the loving care of Miss Taylor, and the splendid teaching and training, and especially the grand example of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. Mr. Green paid frequent visits to the school and watched the work in every detail, and every three months he and his nephew, Mr. Ewen, had an examination at the school, and prizes were given to those who obtained the highest marks.

When Board schools were started Mr. Green kept on his schools for those who liked to go still. He died in about 1887 and was buried at Farnborough. 128 children attended the funeral and many men and women—old scholars—were there to show a last mark of respect to one who had done so much for Cove and who by his gentle loving nature had won the love of all.

Mr. Taylor, in addition to his duties at the school was Choir Master at Cove Church, and Miss Taylor was organist for more than 30 years. Mr. Taylor also held a Sunday School at his school, and a long line of school children marched in couples from the school to Cove Church. Often in the winter, after heavy rains, when the roads were flooded, the children were marched to the Railway Bridge in Prospect Road and walked down the line to West Heath Bridge. The services at Church were at 11 and 3 o'clock, and Mr. Taylor had a Bible Class in his schoolroom at 6 o'clock, at which there was always a large attendance.

The ancient book of the Vestry meetings from 1845 to 1890 also affords some interesting information. The meetings were held at the Anchor Inn.

In 1845 John Goddard was chairman, and apparently a different chairman was elected at each meeting for he was succeeded by

Henry Hawkins, William Murrell and James Lunn, all in the same year. On several occasions "no one attended," and on several others "only William Murrell attended." At another meeting it was resolved that "William ——— should maintain his family" and that several widows should be allowed "4,000 turf." One or two people were given 1/- a week during illness.

The following Charities are mentioned:—

Money invested in Consols received from the sale of Cove Common to the Government 1857, the interest, about £27 per annum, to provide coal for the sick and deserving poor of Cove as the Committee may determine—money received from the Yateley, Cove and Hawley Charities (see Balance Sheets).

In 1860 the Vestry met at the Anchor Inn to consider the necessity of building a bridge over the brook in Cove House Lane, the depth of water causing it to be dangerous and often impassable to the public.

In 1852 it was resolved by all present to "go on as usual at the workhouse, and not to conform with the orders of the Poor Law Board," and in the same year not to repair the road through Coles Moor. Both these decisions had to be reconsidered, and the orders of the Poor Law Board were complied with, and the road was repaired.

"Way wardens" and constables were appointed by the Vestry.

The first entry is that "it is agreed that the widows should set up with widow ——— in their turns and if they do not go their loaf to be taken off."

The conditions of life even in the middle of last century were very different from to-day. Most people lived on bread with lard, dripping or perhaps butter, and cold bacon. Meat was eaten once a week as a rule, and the children were sent to Murrell's Farm with buckets which were filled with skim milk for 3d. They had little basins of Cove pottery, with bread scalded with boiling water and skim milk poured over it. There were no holidays except the annual club day and the school treat.

The present Church Room was the old Church School and Mrs. Lunn was the mistress.

In 1887 the first school board was formed, the members being Messrs. Mason, Nash, Etherington, Currie, and Wyatt. The centre room and the headmaster's house were first built and the other rooms added. Mr. Davis was head master for 40 years, and was succeeded by Mr. Richards, the present Headmaster is Mr. B. W. Bartram. The Infant School was built in 1909 and Tower Hill School in 1918.

CHAPTER XII.

COVE TO-DAY.

*"There's life alone in duty done
And rest alone in striving."*

In recent years Cove has seen many rapid changes. In 1914 the Government bought many acres of land, including the Home Farm Lands, Whitehall, and Hazel's Farm for the Royal Aircraft Establishment and aerodrome, and immediately the parish began to alter in character and to grow rapidly, till to-day it is the size of many a country town. Problems of all kinds arose, increased school accommodation, shops and many new houses (not, alas! enough for the growing population) were all needed, and in 1917 the Government built 250 houses for the Aircraft employees. They were built during the war, and a good deal of labour used was that of German prisoners, who were accommodated in huts on Tower Hill. The village is in an interesting transitional period—neither town nor country—and it is no doubt certain to develop rapidly in the near future. Few people who knew it 50 or 60 years ago would recognise it to-day. The growth of the population in recent years is remarkable, and a list of the census returns for the last century will show how rapid the development has been in the last twenty years. The census only includes the civil parish of Cove. The Ecclesiastical parish includes South Hawley, and in 1921 the population was 3,750. The neighbourhood is an interesting one. Aldershot is within easy reach and the life of the headquarters of the Army is constantly in evidence. The Aircraft Establishment is largely an experimental station and interesting experiments in aircraft development are continually taking place. There is easy access to places round by means of the Omnibus service of the Aldershot Traction Company, and the train service is good. There is a good water supply from Frimley, and of gas and electric light from Aldershot. The facilities for sport are second to none in England and every taste can be satisfied.

There is hunting with the Garth and H.H. Hounds and the Aldershot Command Drag Hounds and Beagles.

Ascot, Hawthornhill and Twesledown Race Courses are within easy reach. There is golf at Camberley Heath, Bramshot, North

Hants, and the Aldershot Command Links, and first rate polo at Aldershot and Fleet. The Army teams provide first class football and cricket matches against the foremost clubs, and there are plentiful facilities for rowing, running, shooting, swimming, boating, tennis and hockey.

The Searchlight Tattoo and the Aldershot Command Horse Show bring many visitors to the district every year.

The following table shows the growing population of Cove:—

1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.	1851.	1861.	1871.
357.	363.	403.	443.	443.	473.	671.	706.

1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
785.	979.	1,258.	1,751.	2,997.

(or including South Hawley 3,750).

It is a far cry from the 2,000 acres of waste land, from the little agricultural village of 800 people, to the Cove of to-day—but changes come and history shows us that it is good that they should. "The old order changeth, yielding places to new, and God fulfils Himself in many ways, lest one good custom should corrupt the world." Change is a law of life, and the wise man faces it with courage and hope, finding in new conditions new opportunities of good, new chances of work for his fellowmen in his generation.