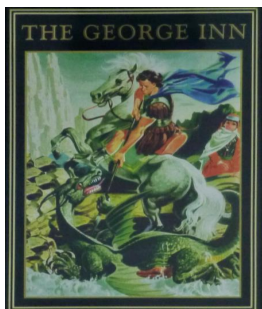


# The Inns and Public Houses of Rowland's Castle, Durrants, Redhill, Finchdean, Forestside and Stansted.

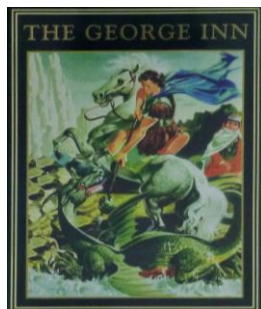


The George, Finchdean, April 2013. *Author*

Steve Jones  
023 9247 3326



£6



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Paul Marshman, the font of all knowledge when it comes to Rowland's Castle, for his generous help with facts and figures relating to the public houses of Rowland's Castle. Also to Ralph Cousins and Richard Brown who have put in a tremendous amount of work in editing and publishing the many booklets in the series. Also Alf Harris for kindly allowing me to use many of his postcards.

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# PREFACE

## Inns and Public Houses An Early History and General View

In the Saxon period *Tabernae*, wooden huts or booths, were built at the roadside and advertised themselves by means of a long pole. An evergreen bush was attached if wine was available together with ale. This custom may have originated from the Romans. Ale and mead were probably brewed and sold on the premises.

Monasteries were established after the arrival of Christianity and these were required to provide for travellers with the building of hospices close to the abbey, monastery or where travellers came together. From these establishments, inns and hotels have their roots. During the eighth century houses were set up by the public to provide food and refreshment and were known as Taverns, derived from the Latin *taberna*. They were more upmarket than local drinking places which became to be known as alehouses.

By the sixteenth century taverns and alehouses were recognised in law by the way they were licensed and obligations on the licensee. However there were regional variations. In the north and parts of the west, most premises were called inns and their licensees called innkeepers. After Charles II came to the throne alehouses gradually became known as public houses and the less successful inns and taverns went into decline.

In common with other tradesmen of the time, inns, taverns and alehouses advertised their business with a sign hanging outside. From the fourteenth century inns and taverns hung out a pictorial sign by which they could be identified in this illiterate age. In the sixteenth century many alehouses followed suit. The tradition has continued for licensed premises, since they were exempt from the Georgian restrictions on hanging signs. The earliest signs used motifs drawn from heraldry but by Georgian times there was greater variety.

By the mid-eighteenth century larger alehouses were becoming common, while inns beside the major highways grew in grandeur and new ones sprang up in this coaching era. The term alehouse was gradually replaced by public

house during the eighteenth century. Taverns meanwhile were being replaced by or converted into coffee houses as social centres for the wealthier classes. The first English hotel was built in Exeter in 1768, but the term was rare before 1800.

From the late eighteenth century brewers were beginning to acquire licensed premises as an outlet for their products, thus guaranteeing reasonable sales of beer. This came to a head in the mid nineteenth century due to the 1830 Beerhouse Act, brought in to combat the rise in spirit drinking, which resulted in a growth of the number of beerhouses opening and brewing their own wares. This and the 1869 Wine and Beerhouse Act, which brought stricter control of licences, caused brewers to revise their policies. After the date of the last Act the majority of drinking establishments, be it beerhouses, taverns or inns, were then affiliated to, or for the most part, owned by the brewing companies themselves.

With the coming of the railways a number of hotels were built close to railway stations. Some of the grandest were beside the great London terminuses, such as the Midland Grand Hotel (1874) at St Pancras Station, Euston Road, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811–1878) in the Gothic Revival style. Coaching inns declined, though some were able to mutate into public houses or hotels, which flourished in the later twentieth century along with the motor car, one fine local example being the Bear Hotel in Havant and to some extent the Heroes or Waterloo Hotel in Waterlooville.

Much has been made of what was an inn, tavern or an old fashioned alehouse. Most at the end of the day served the local population or passer-by with alcoholic refreshment and certainly by the mid-nineteenth century the exact meaning of each establishment came under the general heading of a public house. Many of course offered a meal or a bed for the night or acted as a coaching stop or post-house which set them apart from their rivals. It is too easy to confuse the difference between what was an inn or a more upmarket beerhouse because many offered the same services. Bedhampton, for example, had the Belmont Tavern but this in the true meaning of the word was no more than a mid-nineteenth century beerhouse offering stabling and probably a meal for its customers.

*Beer! Happy produce of our isle,  
Can sinewy strength impart,  
And, wearied with fatigue and toil,  
Can cheer each manly heart*

Reverend J Townley

*When you have lost your inns, drown your empty selves,  
for you have lost the last of England.*

Hilaire Belloc

*The English beer is best in all Europe...  
it was necessary to drink two or three pots of beer during our parley;  
for no kind of business is transacted in England without  
the intervention of pots of beer.*

Jarevin de Rochefort, 1672



## The Public Houses of Durrants and Redhill

Although both Durrants and Redhill now form part of Rowland's Castle, and come under the control of East Hants District Council, both areas were originally part of North Havant. Both Redhill, and especially Durrants, have been for the best part of two hundred years inexplicably linked to the old Leigh Park Estate, and the inns and beerhouses of this area are no exception. In 1824 Sir George Staunton is reputed to have acquired a public house at Durrants, which was almost certain to have been the old Robin Hood Inn, formerly known in recent years as the Olde Forge Pottery.

Within the area of Durrants and Redhill three public houses have thrived, although only one now survives and this no longer carries its historical name. It may be the case that other alehouses or beerhouses have gone unrecorded in this part of Rowland's Castle. James White, who died at Durrants in 1815, is recorded as an innkeeper but it is unclear where his establishment was, although it was more than likely to have been the old Robin Hood Inn at Durrants.

### STAUNTON ARMS

Named after Sir George Staunton, who did so much to create and develop the Leigh Park Estate, the Staunton Arms is now part of the Harvester national chain of restaurants. Situated at the crossroads leading from Durrants to Redhill the property itself dates from the early 19th century. Early maps and illustrations show the inn and stables as separate buildings, although it was a popular stopping off point for travellers it was never a coaching Inn but more of a place to change horses.<sup>1</sup>

In 1826 the inn is first recorded as the Staunton Arms when the *Hampshire Telegraph* recorded the inn as a meeting place for the start of the Hambleton Hunt. One of the first innkeepers recorded is that of James Tolman in 1830 but after him the Port family ran the inn as tenants for over thirty years. The 1841 census records Mary Port as innkeeper at the Staunton Arms but

<sup>1</sup> Hampshire Treasures Vol. 6 East Hampshire, Staunton Arms, 19thC. 2 storeys. Plaster faced brick and rubble. Double hipped slate roof. Sash windows with glazing bars. Wing to west. Carriage entrance under upper storey at east end. H.C.C., 2007.

shortly afterwards her husband Peter is recorded as the innkeeper at the property.<sup>2</sup> The Tithe Award for 1842 records the ownership of the Staunton Arms under George Whicher with the occupier as Peter Port. Along with the actual inn itself a meadow of over one acre, known as the Staunton Arms Meadow, is also recorded.

Carrying on from Peter Port, the Plyer family acted as innkeepers for over a further twenty years. Henry Plyer is recorded as a licensed victualler at the Staunton Arms after the death of Peter Port in 1863. Unfortunately Plyer died rather young at the age of 47 in April 1877 when he was succeeded at the inn by his wife Martha and son Thomas who ran the inn until May 1889.<sup>3</sup>

As local newspaper reports confirm the Staunton Arms during the mid-nineteenth century had a reputation for drunkenness, fighting, and other unsavoury business. One example from March 1855 shows a rather a sad outcome after a stop at the Staunton Arms for refreshment:

#### FATAL ACCIDENT

*On Wednesday last, Mr Thomas Amery, of Steep, near Petersfield, sent his waggon and team to Emsworth, after a load of coals, in the care of a carter, by the name of Joseph Barrett, and a lad named John West. It appeared that they arrived at Emsworth, took up their coal and returned to the Staunton Arms on their way home, at which place they partook of two quarts of ale, and one quart of gin-hot. This had such an effect on the carter he got into the waggon and went to sleep, leaving the horses in the care of the boy. As they were entering Horndean, the boy was discovered by Mr Yewlett, the butcher, lying in the road senseless; he was immediately removed to the Red Lion, but from injuries received he expired soon afterwards. An inquest was held by C.B. Longcroft, Esq., on Friday last; and from evidence there is no doubt but the boy got up in the waggon to ride and fell headlong out and pitched on his head. Verdict – Died from a compound fracture of the skull. Hampshire Telegraph, 3 March 1855*

<sup>2</sup> Peter Port died 1863 aged 65. The 1851 census for the Staunton Arms records Peter Port as innkeeper and horse dealer. The 1861 census records Peter Port as a Publican.

<sup>3</sup> On the 18 January 1877 an outbreak of swine fever was found at the Staunton Arms and six pigs belonging to Henry Plyer were destroyed.



Until the time of his death in 1848 the Staunton Arms had come under the control of Emsworth brewer, George Whicher. After Whicher's death his executors retained ownership of his brewery and certain public houses including the Staunton Arms which they put up for sale in May 1861:

FREEHOLD BREWERY, EMSWORTH, HANTS

*Mr. Edward Wyatt is instructed by the Revisees in Trust of the late Mr. George Whicher, to OFFER for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, in the month of May next, - All that FREEHOLD BREWERY, with stores, stabling, and offices, situate in South Street, Emsworth; and THREE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSES, known as the "Staunton Arms," the "Kings Arms," Emsworth, and the "Royal Oak," Hermitage, in the several parishes of Havant, Warblington, and Westbourne. Full particulars will be advertised in due time.*

*Chichester, April, 1861*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 13 April 1861*

It was not until September 1866 that the brewery of the late George Whicher was finally sold off and it was acquired from his trustees by Albert George Hipkin who would trade as the Emsworth Brewery in the brewery premises in South Street, Emsworth:<sup>4</sup>

*Albert George Hipkin begs to inform his friends and the public in general that he has purchased the Brewery etc., at Emsworth, of the trustees of the late Mr George Whicher, and hopes that he may meet with the patronage which has been for so many years extended to his predecessors. Emsworth 3 September 1866.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 5 September 1866*

<sup>4</sup> *Hampshire Telegraph*, 5 September 1866. George Whicher (1767–1848) is first recorded as a brewer and maltster in Emsworth in a directory of Emsworth in 1792. He was later recorded as a brewer, maltster and spirit merchant. He also traded as a Coal Merchant in partnership with William Hipkin who carried on the business after George Whicher's death. Whicher was a well-known local family, mainly associated with butchery and Havant Thicket. Whicher's Gate Road on which the Staunton Arms is situated is named from the family. The 1851 census records Emily, daughter of George Whicher, age 47, unmarried, as a brewer at Saffron Hill, Emsworth

It is unclear if the Staunton Arms was sold off at the time of the earlier sale or that it remained under the banner of the Emsworth Brewery of Hipkin & Co. who supplied the premises with beer. In 1898 the Emsworth Brewery was acquired by the Kinnell & Hartley who took over the Emsworth Brewery. Kinnell & Hartley certainly supplied the Staunton Arms with its beer as a photograph of the public house in around 1920 clearly shows.<sup>5</sup>

What is clear is that the Staunton Arms was put up for sale in February 1889 by Thomas Plyer,<sup>6</sup> suggesting that probably the ownership of the Staunton Arms was acquired by Henry Plyer from the Whicher Estate. Certainly Henry Plyer is recorded at the premises after Peter Port's death in 1863. The brief and rather terse advertisement for the sale of the Staunton Arms in the *Portsmouth Evening News* for the 26 February 1889 read:

#### THE STAUNTON ARMS, LEIGH PARK

*Mr T. Plyer has instructed me to procure a purchaser for this old established and well known business. Same hands 52 years. Good meadow and garden about two acres. Good proof trade. Books to prove. Inventory and further particulars of Charles Hoad, Auctioneer & Valuer, 50, Brunswick-road, Southsea*

So who was the new proprietor of the public house? In May 1889 the licence of the Staunton Arms passed from Martha Plyer to Thomas L. Priest who appeared to be at the premises only for a short time. By 1890 George Bothroyd is recorded as innkeeper and proprietor of the establishment. It was probably George Boothroyd who placed the following advertisement in the *Portsmouth Evening News* in May 1890:

<sup>5</sup> In 1883 the Emsworth Brewery of A.G. Hipkin was acquired by Messrs Henry Nourse Newton & Frederick Howard Fairclough who traded as Hipkin & Co. By 1893 the Emsworth brewery was run by Charles Henry James Emery and Harry William Treacher. In 1929 the Emsworth Brewery of Kinnell & Hartley was acquired by Chichester brewers Henty & Constable. In 1955 Henty & Constable were brought by Tamplins Brewery (Watney's) of Brighton.

<sup>6</sup> Henry Thomas Plyer (1855–1927) Farmer, Emsworth Road, Durrants. Son of Henry & Martha Plyer. Martha Plyer was the daughter of Peter and Mary Port.

STAUNTON ARMS, *near Rowland's Castle, has good accommodation for School and other parties. Beautiful meadow, stabling etc. Refreshments and tea provided at reasonable charges. Swings, bat and ball and cricket materials.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 17 May 1890*

Interestingly the advertisement records the Staunton Arms as Leigh Park and not Redhill or Durrants; secondly the advertisement states that the inn has been in the 'same hands' for 52 years and that was certainly the case with the Plyer and Port family. The advertisement also states that a meadow of two acres was also associated with the Staunton Arms; this was situated behind and to the east of the property, taking in what is now the car park area towards St John's school.

As the above advertisement endorsed George Boothroyd kept up the tradition of accommodating various groups and societies who visited the Staunton Arms and the surrounding countryside. Some groups visited annually and stopped at the Staunton Arms for teas and dinners, including cycling clubs from Portsmouth and one such society known as the Lord Palmerston's Social Club who visited on an annual basis. One highlight of the Staunton Arms social calendar was the ball which George Boothroyd gave annually at the premises. The one held in May 1892, as the *Portsmouth Evening News* reported, was a great success:

### BALL

*On Monday night Mr Boothroyd gave his annual ball at the Staunton Arms, Durrants. The company, which numbered about a hundred, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mr H. Barnes officiated as M.C. Mrs White presided at the piano, and the decorations of the room were tastefully carried out by the Misses Boothroyd.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 17 May 1892*

It appears that the local community of Redhill and Durrants were a close-knit community; many of course were associated with the nearby Leigh Park Estate for work and accommodation. One heart warming example of this can

be found in a series of concerts held at the Staunton Arms in 1895 in aid of one of the resident's, William Penn:

*The second of a series of concerts was held at the Staunton Arms, Redhill, on Monday evening for the benefit of William Penn, of East Durrants, who has been compelled to keep to his bed for three years, through a painful illness. By the sale of tickets and by donations £2 17s 6d was raised.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 20 September 1895*

Following on from George Boothroyd the Thomas family ran the public house until around the start of the First World War, firstly James, who died in 1905, and then Louisa, his wife.

With its strong connections to the nearby Leigh Park Estate the Staunton Arms hosted various sales of underwood and timber from the estate and even the sale of bricks from the Leigh Park brickyard, as for example in 1877 and 1880. As with many public houses the inn held coroner's inquests<sup>7</sup> with three very sad cases standing out.

The first concerned a young lady, Elizabeth Mans, aged 22, whose parents lived at Durrants, close to the Staunton Arms. This tragic case happened on Coronation Day (28 June), 1876, when woman's clothes were found on the bank of the Upper Lake at Leigh Park. After the alarm was raised Henry Richardson, the Steward of the Estate, managed with help to bring to the shore the dead body of Elizabeth Mans, a domestic help in a house in Portsea. The body was taken to her mother's house at Durrants where she was pronounced dead. The inquest, held at the Staunton Arms on 31 June 1876, recorded that Elizabeth Mans had previously lived with Mrs Martha Plyer at the Staunton Arms for seven years. Mrs Plyer's evidence suggested that Elizabeth had suffered in the past from mental illness, even staying for a period at Knowle Hospital, Fareham, the county asylum. The verdict of the inquest was that she committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> County Court Inquests were nearly always carried out at the nearest public building and in most cases the nearest public house to the actual event in case.

<sup>8</sup> *Hampshire Telegraph*, 1 July 1876.

The second inquest concerned Martha Plyer herself, the former landlady of the Staunton Arms, as the *Hampshire Telegraph* of the 29 August 1899 recorded:

### AN OLD LADY'S FATAL FALL

*An inquest was held on Wednesday morning at the Staunton Arms, Durrants, by Mr E. Goble, County Coroner, with reference to the death of Martha Plyer, 66, who died at East Durrants, on Monday morning. Deceased had kept the Staunton Arms for many years, and several years ago had retired from business and went to live with her son. Evidence was given to the effect that on July 29th, the deceased fell down between the front and hind wheels of a brake at the Staunton Arms and was injured in the stomach by one of the wheels. She was carried to her home on an ambulance stretcher, and Dr. Every Clayton from Emsworth attended her till her death. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental death.*

The third inquest, and probably the saddest, concerned the drowning of four year old Edward Cecil Burt who drowned in two feet of water in his father's well at East Durrants in May 1901:

### DROWNED IN 2 FEET OF WATER

*An inquest was held today at the Staunton Arms, Durrants, relative to the death of Edward Cecil Burt, 4, son of Walter and Charlotte Burt, of No. 1, East Durrants. It appears that on Wednesday evening, at half past six, Mr Burt's daughter went to a well to get some water, and left the lid off. Half an hour later the child Edward was found in the well, apparently dead and floating on the surface. The child's father pulled him out, and artificial respiration was at once commenced by the Rev. Marriott who was present. The attempt to restore life was also continued by Dr Clayton on his arrival, but without effect. The well was only about 4ft deep, being merely a water catch-pit made in a brook, and had only about 2ft of water in it at the time of the accident.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 24 May 1901*



Redhill School with the crossroads and the Staunton Arms. *Alf Harris.*

During the latter period of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth the inn played host to various coach and charabanc visitors from Portsmouth and further afield on their visits to the gardens of William Stone and Sir Frederick Fitzwygram at Leigh Park. One such visit was the annual outing of the St Clair Masonic Lodge in July 1891:

### MASONIC OUTING

*The annual outing of the St Clair Lodge took place on Thursday, the members starting from the Freemasons Hall, Landport, at 9.30 a.m., in Mr Wellstend's well-appointed brakes, and driving through Emsworth, Westbourne and Rowland's Castle, to Durrants, where an excellent dinner was served by Mr Boothroyd, proprietor of the Staunton Arms. An adjournment was made to Leigh Park, where some of the party indulged in fishing and others in the terpsichorean art, while all revelled in the delightful scenery of the estate and its surroundings. The party returned to the Staunton Arms for tea, finishing an enjoyable day with harmony and dancing to the strains of a string band. The arrangements for the day reflected great credit on Messrs. Woodrow and Webb, who were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 25 July 1891*

It was also said that the public house was also popular with race-goers going to Goodwood from places such as Cosham, Fareham and Portsmouth who came this way, changing horses at the Staunton Arms and collecting them on the return journey. Former local residents, as late as the 1930s, could remember this with apparently the Staunton Arms doing a roaring trade in breakfasts. Into the twentieth century the Staunton Arms played host to various organisations with teas and dinners again provided by the various licensees. In August 1900 James Thomas provided the refreshments for the annual outing of the Portsmouth and District Lancastrian Association:

### LANCASTRIANS' OUTING

*The members of the Portsmouth & District Lancastrian Association had their annual outing on Saturday. The party proceeded to Havant by train, thence to Emsworth, Westbourne, Compton, Finchdean, Rowland's Castle, and the Staunton Arms, Redhill, where they spent a most enjoyable evening. Mr Thomas, of the Staunton Arms provided a poultry tea. Mr Vernon was in the chair. The programme was contributed to by Miss Leary, Mrs Plumridge, Messrs Burton, Beard, Fidler, Whittaker, Phelps, Travis, Haigh, Love and Russell. Mr Gill ably presided at the piano.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 28 August 1900*

After the death of James Thomas in 1905 his wife, Louisa, carried on as the licensee at the Staunton Arms before the licence was acquired before the start of the First World War, and held for many years, by Henry Taylor. At the start of the Second World War the licensee was Walter Barnes.

Many changes have been carried out at the Staunton Arms over the last one hundred years; early maps show the inn and stables as separate buildings, this can be clearly seen in Charles Rogers Cotton watercolour view of the inn painted in 1862/3. The old archway, clearly seen in old photographs was filled in the 1960s, a period when the Staunton Arms became more of a diner rather than a standard public house. During the 1980s and 1990s the Staunton Arms went through various refurbishments and renovations and today the Staunton Arms has become one of many in the Harvester chain of public houses and restaurants.



The Staunton Arms in 1863 from a watercolour by Charles Rogers Cotton. Note the stable block as a separate building. *Cecillia Fitzsimmons*.



Naval personnel on a charabanc trip outside the Staunton Arms, c.1920.





The Staunton Arms circa 1920. Note the carriage entrance to the Leigh Park Estate on the left. *Alf Harris.*



The Staunton Arms circa 1930. *Alf Harris.*



The Staunton Arms circa 1940. Note the policeman on duty at the crossroads. This was probably connected with the war work going on at Leigh Park at this period. *Alf Harris.*



The Staunton Arms in 1950. *Alf Harris.*



The Staunton Arms circa 1955. *Alf Harris.*



The former Staunton Arms sign, which was removed when the public house was converted into a Harvester restaurant.



The Staunton Arms in 2009.



The Staunton Arms in 1988.

## THE ROYAL OAK

Situated at 58 Whichers Gate Road and facing the common at Durrants, the Royal Oak beerhouse closed its doors as a public house for the last time in 1925. The last landlord, George Carpenter, was also recorded as a wood dealer at Durrants. After closing as a public house the premises became a farmhouse and the attached buildings became a dairy under the control of Mr. Frank Pescot who rented the premises from the Leigh Park Estate. In later years the house was divided into two dwellings and even then, occasional tricks of the light would sometimes reveal through the limewash the painted out name and sign of the Royal Oak. The old property was demolished and six modern houses were built there in the 1970s.

The Royal Oak beerhouse is first recorded as part of the Leigh Park Estate of William Henry Stone in September 1872. At this time George Young was paying rent annually of £15 4s. for the beerhouse and pasture land of seven acres. Young remained at the property until his death in 1901 when for a short period afterwards his wife Elizabeth ran the beerhouse. By the time of the census in 1911 Woodus Bannister, a naval pensioner and formerly of the Sailors Rest beerhouse at Stockheath, was recorded at the property as publican.

It is almost certain that the premises were originally part of Sir George Staunton's estate at Leigh Park and probably acquired by him. In 1908 it was recorded under the ownership of Sir Frederick Loftus Fitzwygram Bt., with Biden Sea Horse Brewery, Gosport (Bidens Prince of Wales Brewery, Havant) leasing the building from that year until 1922. For the last few years of its life the beer was supplied by the Portsmouth United Brewery.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Biden & Co. Sea Horse Brewery, Gosport also held the Cygnet Brewery, formerly the Prince of Wales Brewery in West Street, Havant. It is probably from the Havant brewery that the beer for the public house came from. Biden & Co, the last brewery to operate in Havant, were acquired by Portsmouth United Brewery in July 1922.



The Royal Oak, 1929. At this date it was the Royal Oak Dairy. Mr. Frank Pescot and his wife are seen standing in front of the building.

#### Census Records for the Staunton Arms

1841 – Mary Port age 40 Innkeeper

1851 – Peter Port age 53 Horse Dealer & Innkeeper

1861 – Peter Port age 65 Publican

1871 – Henry Plyer age 41 Licensed Victualler

1881 – Martha Plyer age 47 Licensed Victualler

1891 – George Boothroyd age 56 Innkeeper

1901 – James Thomas age 62 Licensed Victualler

#### Census Records for the Royal Oak Beerhouse

1881 – George Young age 35 Licensed Beerkeeper & Seller & Dealer

1891 – George Young age 45 Farmer, Dairyman & Publican

1901 – George Young age 55 Publican

## THE ROBIN HOOD INN

For many years the cottage which was once the Robin Hood Inn was associated with a blacksmiths forge and later a pottery and glass workshop. The cottage, next to the former forge in Durrants Road, dates back to about 1610 and although known as the Robin Hood Inn it was probably no more than a beer or ale house. Because of its age legends and stories abound of its role as the haunt of smugglers and a stopping off point for soldiers on their way to war. One other theory is whether it was the elusive New Inn used by Chater and Galley before they were viciously murdered by smugglers at Rowland's Castle.

In November 1824, Sir George Staunton paid £200 for a public house at Durrants, and it was almost certainly the Robin Hood Inn. One suggestion is that the public house was for a short period known as the Staunton Arms before the inn of the same name was built at the crossroads. Unfortunately this fact cannot be verified.<sup>10</sup> When the Robin Hood Inn actually closed as a public house is unclear. Few facts are known about this elusive public house although it is recorded on an early map of around 1800. One particular early guide to Britain's roads, Captain Daniel Patterson's: *British Itinerary Being A New & Accurate Delineation & Description of the Direct & Principal Crossroads of Great Britain*, written in 1785, records the Robin Hood Inn on the road between Horndean and Havant, whether as a stopping off point for travellers is unclear.

Unfortunately there is not a great deal of written documentation relating to the Robin Hood Inn surviving to give us a clear picture of the inn. One of the earliest and probably one of the last relates to August 1823 when an inquest was held at the Robin Hood in the sad case of James Clements, a thirteen years old boy, who hanged himself in Havant Thicket:

*A Coroner's Inquest was held at the Robin Hood public house, near Rowland's Castle, before Mr. Longcroft, on view of the body of James Clements, a labouring boy, under thirteen years of age, who was on that*

<sup>10</sup> Sir George Thomas Staunton acquired the Leigh Park Estate in a sale of December 1819 from the previous owner William Garrett.

*day found hanging on an oak tree, in a very unfrequented part of Havant Thicket. It appeared in evidence that, on Saturday the 2nd inst. The deceased was at work with other boys in a field, and he said to one of them "I wonder if it would hurt much to kill oneself, I do not think it would hurt to hang oneself." He continued his work, and in the evening turned his horses out in the field, as he was accustomed to do, and having taken the halter from the horse he rode, he was seen to go towards the Thicket, for the purpose, as was supposed, of getting a nitch of fern; and not returning to his home in the evening, every search was made for him, without effect, till Wednesday last, when he was found as above described, suspended by the halter he had taken from the horse. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased, not being of the age of discretion, but being an infant under the age of fourteen years, did kill himself.*

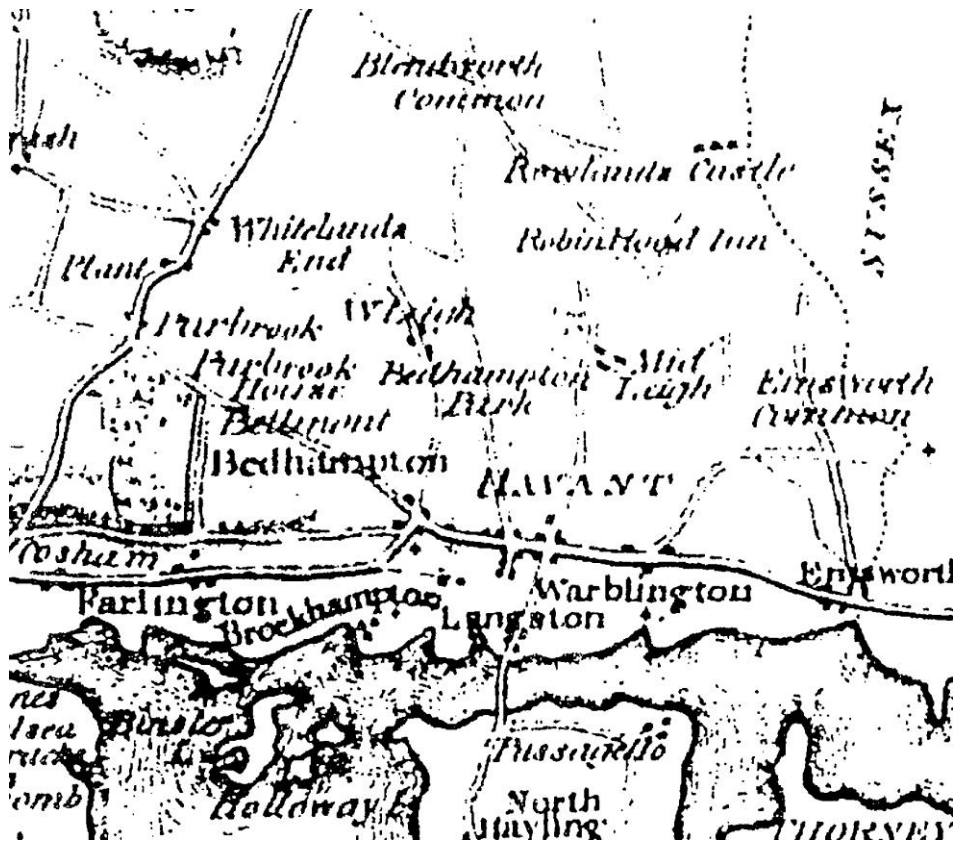
*Hampshire Telegraph, 25 August 1823*

Charles Rogers Cotton, the watercolour artist from Rowland's Castle, painted the building in 1862 when it was a farm under the tenancy of Robert Lasham and belonging to the Leigh Park Estate. Cotton described the building as: *'Formerly, it was the Robin Hood public house, one of the places of resort for smugglers and gipsies who at that time infested this part of Hampshire.'*

In the 1970s the property was extensively restored, the original features are a large inglenook fireplace and the original flagstones on the floor of what was the main bar. One room is known as the Soldiers Room, reputedly where soldiers stopped on their way to the Peninsular War. However, a previous owner of the pottery, Mr. Clarke, held papers showing that the place was required, by law, to house one sergeant and two soldiers for the protection of the road from London to Portsmouth and Havant – in the Soldiers Room maybe?

The forge itself is estimated to be about 170 years old and was later used as a smithy by the Leigh Park estate. The property is now a private residence.





Map circa 1800 showing the Robin Hood Inn at Durrants.

## The Murders of William Galley and Daniel Chater

In February 1748 in what was to become known as “the inhuman and unparalleled murders” of a Custom Officers and shoemaker took place in Rowland’s Castle. As a result seven members of the gang including members of the notorious Hawkhurst gang were judicially hanged near Chichester.

It appears that William Galley, a Customs Officer, and Daniel Chater were on their way to see the Sussex magistrate Major Battine at his home in East Marden in connection with evidence Chater was going to give regarding the robbery of tea, about 1,300 hundred weight, from the Customs House at Poole that took place in October 1847. Chater had recognised the leader of

the gang, John Diamond (Dymer), who threw Chater a bag of tea when they stopped at Fordingbridge on their way back to Rowland's Castle.

On the way they stopped at the New Inn at Leigh where they asked for directions and were taken to the White Hart at Rowland's Castle kept by Elizabeth Payne, who had two sons who were smugglers. She was reported to have said: *'she was afraid that these two strangers were come to do the smugglers hurt.'*

Galley and Chater were induced to stay the night after being plied with rum and fell asleep. In the middle of the night they were awakened by seven members of the gang, tied to a horse after, being beaten by the gang, with their legs under the belly, and were viciously whipped. They were taken to Lady Holt Park where Galley was shoved from his horse and thinking him dead from a broken neck they buried him in an enlarged fox hole. When the body was found his hands were covering his eyes indicating he was not dead at the time of the burial.

Chater, still alive, was taken to another public house, where fourteen members of the gang met to decide what to do with him. All agreed he must be disposed of. They forced Chater to kneel, while one of the men drew a knife across his eyes and nose, almost cutting both of his eyes out, and cutting quite through the gristle of his nose. One account says they cut off his genitals. Then they put him on a horse and headed for Harris's Well, near Trotton, whipping him cruelly all the way, while his blood soaked into the saddle.

Once there, they tied a rope around his neck and pushed him into the well, but he grabbed the sides, and hung there for a quarter of an hour. They pulled him out, still alive, and beat his head against the wall of the well, then threw him in head first. He continued to groan from the bottom of the 20 or 30-foot deep well, so they threw down two large logs of wood and some stones until he stopped making any noises.

The bodies were recovered in the autumn of 1748 and eventually at a special Assize held in Chichester on 9 January 1749 seven men were tried and convicted for the murder of Galley and Chater, three as principals and four as

accessories to the murder. Five of the men were to be hanged in chains including William Jackson, the son of Elizabeth Payne, the landlady of the White Hart but he died in his cell the night



The Murder of Daniel Chater.

before the executions. The other six were hanged at the Broyle, just outside of the city of Chichester where a memorial stone was erected in 1749 detailing the gang's heinous deeds. Eventually other members of the gang who broke into the Customs House at Poole were arrested and tried with other hangings taken place. William Jackson was buried near where the executions took place and a stone was erected in 1749 to deter other would be smugglers. The inscription reads:

*Near this place was buried the body of William Jackson, a prescribed smuggler, who upon a special commission of oyer and terminer held at Chichester on the 16th day of January 1748-9 was, with William Carter, attined for the murder of William Galley, a custom house officer and who likewise was together with Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond,*

*Richard Mills the elder and Richard Mills the younger, his son, attained for the murder of Daniel Chater. But dying in a few hours after sentence of death was pronounced upon him he thereby escaped the punishment which the heinousness of his complicated crimes deserved and which was the next day most justly inflicted upon his accomplices. As a memorial to posterity and a warning to this and succeeding generations this stone is erected A.D. 1749.*



The Smugglers Stone, Broyle Road, Chichester

## THE PUBLIC HOUSES OF ROWLAND'S CASTLE

The village of Rowland's Castle nestles in a perfect spot between the ancient Forest of Bere and the entrance to Stansted Park and sits quietly on the edge of the Hampshire/West Sussex border. Although a small village the Romans during their four hundred years of occupation realised the importance of the Rowland's Castle area as being on the route of the local harbours such as Chichester and Langstone from whence salt was obtained. Evidence of Roman influence and occupation is today common throughout the area. Farmsteads and small villas for example have been found at Mays Coppice Farm and at Wakefords, the site of Staunton Academy School, and closer to

the village. An abundance of brick earth was responsible for their establishing a local brick, tile and pottery industry, an industry which continued and flourished in the village until the twentieth century.

The earliest reference to the name of Rowland's Castle appears to be in the time of Edward II (1307-27) when there is a mention of the place Rolokasscastel. The more romantic legend has a giant called Roland being building a castle here. There certainly was a castle, a motte and bailey castle, one of many fortifications that were probably built following the Norman invasion. What remains of this fortification is now within the grounds of Deerleap House, opposite the Green.

It was not until around the early to mid-eighteenth century that the village, especially around what would become the Green, started to enlarge with cottages and small holdings starting to appear. One of the first buildings recorded is that of John Smith who was given permission by Lord Dormer, the then lord of the manor of Idsworth, to erect a cottage and brew house on waste in what became the centre of the village. It was probably this property that was advertised for sale on the 29 April 1811:

### ROWLAND'S CASTLE

*TO be SOLD by AUCTION, BY C. Parry, on Monday the 13th day of May, 1811, on the Premises, between the hours of three and five o'clock in the afternoon. A Leasehold Estate, in two Lots, held under the manor of Idsworth, for a term of years, of which 448 are unexpired.*

*Lot 1. All that Dwelling-House, Kitchen, Wash-house, Brewhouse, Stables, Corn-pens, and other Out-buildings, large Garden and Orchard, well stocked, situate in the pleasantest part of Rowland's Castle, about three miles from Havant and nine from Chichester, a fine sporting country; late in the occupation of Mr William Pierson. – Immediate possession will be given.*

*Lot 2. All those two tenements, nearly new, and adjoining the above Premises, with a good Garden and out-buildings, now, or late in the occupation of Messrs Whitlock and Knight.*

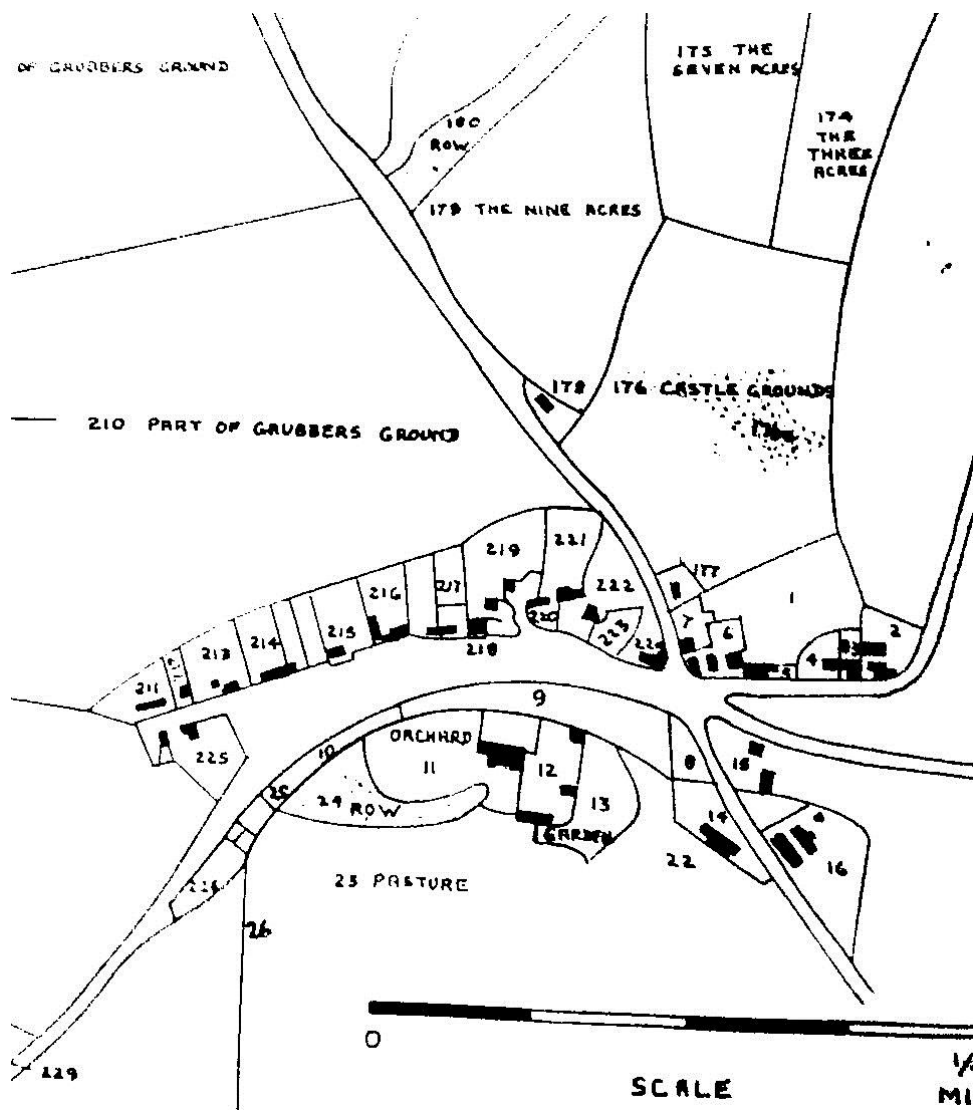
*Hampshire Telegraph, 29 April 1811*

It has to be noted that the Green, or waste, was much larger than it is today and was more of an "L" shape, extending beyond the Railway arches. The earliest recorded inn was that of the White Hart which stood between what is now the Castle Inn and the arches and is first recorded in 1784 in connection with the Galley and Chater murders. For an inn to be there at that date it must have meant that there were enough properties and customers to make it viable.

The village was once famous for a large cattle and horse fair held twice a year on the 12 May and 12 November until 1873. There was one person however, a Mrs Lewis from Stockheath who up to that time, always erected a stall here on the green opposite the Fountain Inn for the sale of her ginger bread, in memory of the fair. The village at this time had been somewhat improved by the building of a brewery, stabling for horses and an assembly room which latter attracted a vast number of pleasure parties in the summer season to this place chiefly from Portsmouth. During the year 1862 for example 10,000 persons, including a number of schools, were brought into the village by the railway and other conveyances.

There appears to have been no charter applicable to the origin of the fairs but protection must have been through the lords of the manor. The coming of the railway in 1858 changed the look of the village and from this time onwards the village started to prosper. Close to the Green three public houses now stand, at one time stopping off points for the many travellers who passed through or came for a day out in this beautiful part of Hampshire. Today Rowland Castle is a parish in its own right but prior to 1933 it was part of the parishes of North Havant and Idsworth.

There have been four public houses close to the Green in Rowland's Castle and possibly another in Woodbury Lane, near or opposite Beechwood House, although no details remain of this.



Warblington Tithe Map 1841 showing the village of Rowland's Castle.

The White Hart/Castle Inn is shown on plot 7 before being demolished for the railway in the late 1850s. The Fountain Inn is shown on plot 216.



View through the arch of the Railway Hotel and the Fountain Inn. *Alf Harris.*



The Fountain Inn, Railway Hotel and the Green circa 1920. *Alf Harris.*



## THE FOUNTAIN INN

The Fountain Inn, with its prominent position overlooking the Green, has stood on this position for over two hundred years. It is unclear when the public house was first built but sales documents record the inn as *'Leasehold for 480 years, from Michaelmas 1799.'* One suggestion is that the site may have been connected to the building recorded in a deed of 1740 which gave John Smith permission to erect a cottage and brew house.

What we do know is that sometime before his death in 1812, the inn had come under the control of Emsworth Brewer Thomas Rosewell. By this time it has to be remembered that the ownership of the public house, and other property in the village, came under the ownership of Jervoise Clarke-Jervoise, the lord of the manor of Chalton and Idsworth.<sup>11</sup>

An Estate map of the Clarke-Jervoise holdings in 1815 gives the occupier of the Fountain Inn as Rosewell, this being Elizabeth Rosewell, the wife of Thomas who had died in 1812. Thomas Rosewell owned the Emsworth Brewery, later to be known as the Dolphin Brewery along with several public houses including in Emsworth the Dolphin and the Crown Hotel, the town's principal house. During the years following his death the business appears to have carried on by his wife and son with various sales of his property advertised in the local press. One such sale in July 1831 advertises his brewery at Emsworth, along with Dolphin public house and the Fountain at Rowland's Castle:

### TO BREWERS, CAPITALISTS, & OTHERS

*FOR SALE by PRIVATE CONTRACT, by direction of the Trustees of the will of the late Mr Thomas Rosewell, - A valuable convenient BREWERY, with excellent cellars and stores, a large and very superior Malthouse, with capacious stores, good stabling and cart houses, a Cottage and Garden, and all other requisites for an extensive business in the Beer, Malt, and*

<sup>11</sup> In 1780 Jervoise Clarke-Jervoise acquired the manor of Chalton and in 1789 acquired the manor of Idsworth. See footnotes under the George Inn, Finchdean, for further information.

*Spirit Trades, eligibly situate at Emsworth, eleven miles from Portsmouth and seven from Chichester.*

*An old established and well frequented Public House at the foot of Emsworth Bridge, called the Dolphin, with stabling and Garden, and two tenements adjoining. And a commodious and desirable Public House, called the Fountain, with a good Garden, situate at Rowland's Castle, within four miles of Emsworth.*

*The premises may be let to a respectable tenant, at an advantageous rent. For further particulars apply, if letter, post-paid, to Mr. Smart, Solicitor, Emsworth.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 11 July 1831*

In June 1833 a similar sale of the brewery and public houses was advertised with the Fountain being recorded as:

*A PUBLIC HOUSE, called the FOUNTAIN, situate at Rowland's Castle, within three miles of Emsworth, with a good Garden and requisite Outbuildings. – Leasehold for 480 years, from Michaelmas 1799.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 27 May 1833*

The next owners of the property after the Clarke-Jervoise family were Richard and Charles Gatehouse, brewers of Chichester who had acquired the Emsworth Dolphin Brewery from the Trustees of the Rosewell family.<sup>12</sup> It appears that the Fountain stayed under the umbrella of the various members of the Gatehouse family until July 1869, when the Emsworth Dolphin Brewery and six public houses owned by the brewery were put up for sale. The Fountain was described at this sale as: *The Fountain Inn, with large pleasure garden, situate at Rowland's Castle. Leasehold for a term of 480 years.*<sup>13</sup> At another sale in August 1881 the Emsworth Dolphin Brewery, afterwards known again as just the Emsworth Brewery, was acquired by

<sup>12</sup> Richard Covey Gatehouse (1796-1874), Charles Gatehouse (1788-1839). Two other brothers George Covey Gatehouse (1789) and John Gatehouse (1789-1837) were also involved in the brewing business. Sons of George Gatehouse, brewer of Chichester. The 1841 Tithe Award for Warblington has the Dolphin Brewery owned by George Gatehouse.

<sup>13</sup> Hampshire Telegraph, 26 June 1869. In 1878 Alexander Clarke is recorded at the Dolphin Brewery, Emsworth. It is not clear if he was the owner or tenant.

Albert G. Hipkin. Along with the sale of the brewery were six public houses, including the Fountain Inn.<sup>14</sup>

One family who had huge connections with the Fountain Inn, and Rowland's Castle in general, were the Rook family who were first recorded at the inn as tenants in 1816 when Thomas Rook's household furniture and other implements were sold by auction at the Fountain Inn on 22 November 1816:

ROWLAND'S CASTLE, HANTS.

*To be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, by Mr King, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of November, 1816. – All that HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, etc. and Booth complete, a strong wagon, Cart, Mare and Colt, one Plough, quantity of potatoes, etc., belonging to Mr Thomas Rook, at the Fountain Inn.*

*The Household Furniture consists of feather beds, four post and other bedsteads, and bedding, dining tea and chamber tables, drawers, china, glass, spirit jars, beer barrels, tubs, 30 hour clock, pier and swing locking glasses, copper and iron boilers, pewter measures, mugs, etc. Sale to begin at 12 o'clock precisely.*

*All persons having any claim or demand of Thomas Rook, or to whom may be indebted, are desired to send their Accounts in immediately to Mrs Rosewell, of Emsworth.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 25 September 1816*

It would seem that Henry Rook, the son of Thomas Rook, took over as publican at the Fountain Inn after his father.<sup>15</sup> This is borne out by the fact that at the time of his wife Ann's death in October 1864 she was recorded as being landlady of the Fountain Inn for 48 years. In July 1831, the new Pastor of the newly erected Independent Church on the Green at Rowland's Castle was publicly inducted into the church, giving the village its first church. A report of the event stated that 'a good dinner was provided in a marquee on the Green by Mr Henry Rook of the Fountain Inn'.

<sup>14</sup> For history of the breweries connected to the Fountain Inn see Staunton Arms.

<sup>15</sup> Henry Rook (1786-1842) married Ann Outen (1796-1864), 23 Jan. 1812, Chalton, Hants. Ann Outen was the eldest daughter of the second marriage of Richard Outen (landlord of the Castle Inn) and Ann Catchlove.

At the time of the 1841 census for Rowland's Castle, Henry was recorded as a publican at the inn, along with his wife and eight of his twelve children. The following year Henry died aged 56 and the *Hampshire Telegraph* recorded his obituary: *At Rowland's Castle, on the 28th of April, 1842, Mr Henry Rook, aged 56 years, a man much esteemed. He has left a widow and 12 children to deplore their loss.*

After the death of Henry Rook, his widow Ann remarried in 1846 to Henry Carpenter, who took over the running of the Fountain Inn until his death in 1860. Henry Carpenter, in some directories, was recorded as a publican and shopkeeper, probably carrying out that side of the business in the shop next door. Ann Carpenter died in October 1864 with the *Hampshire Advertiser* recording an obituary for her: *On Saturday the 1st inst. Ann wife of the late Henry Carpenter aged 68 years, 48 of which she was respected landlady of the Fountain Inn.*<sup>16</sup>

The third generation of the Rook family to act as landlords of the Fountain was Samuel Rook, the grandson of Henry and Ann Rook. Samuel was the son of Samuel Rook who acted as a grocer, baker, and postmaster at Rowland's Castle. In a directory of 1878 for Rowland's Castle Samuel Rook, the younger, was advertised as a Victualler at the Fountain Inn, Tea Garden Proprietor and Charcoal Merchant.<sup>17</sup> The tea gardens were presumably at the rear of the property and were accessed via a door to the gardens.

Two episodes, both recorded by the *Hampshire Telegraph*, show Samuel Rook falling foul of the local police during his tenure as landlord of the Fountain Inn. The first one is due to him keeping the inn open after hours; the second at first seems quite comical but is more serious:

<sup>16</sup> Hampshire Advertiser 8 October 1864

Henry Carpenter (1808-60). A directory of 1855 records Henry Carpenter as a publican at the Fountain Inn and a Shopkeeper.

<sup>17</sup> Samuel Rook (1842-1914) the son of Samuel Rook (1819-87). Rook's Stores and Post Office was situated at the Arches end of the village green and was carried on well into the twentieth century by the Rook family.

## PETTY SESSIONS

*On Tuesday, before the Hon. J.J. Carnegie (Chairman) and J. Waddington Esq., Samuel Rook jnr., was charged with keeping his house open after hours. – P.C. Johnson deposed that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November last, about twenty minutes to twelve at night, he went to the Fountain Inn, at Rowland's Castle, which is kept by the defendant, and there saw three men raffling for a bottle of gin in the landlord's presence. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £1 and 11s 6d costs, which he paid. The Chairman, in passing sentence, remarked that he hoped this case would act as a warning to alehouse keepers at this season.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 7 December 1867*

## ASSAULT

*Samuel Rook, the proprietor of the Fountain Inn, Rowland's Castle, was charged with assaulting William Hobbs, who travelled with cocoanuts, and was fined 2s 6d., with 11s costs. Hampshire Telegraph, 21 July 1888*

By the time of the 1891 census William Craddock was recorded as a publican at what was known then as the Fountain Hotel. Samuel Rook at this time was carrying on his business as a Charcoal Merchant in Rowland's Castle. William Craddock kept up the tradition of hosting dinners and celebrations for local organisations; one such was the local Friendly Society who celebrated their 55th anniversary with a dinner at the Fountain on the 13 June 1892:

## ROWLAND'S CASTLE FRIENDLY SOCIETY

*The 55th anniversary of the Society was celebrated yesterday by a dinner at the Fountain Hotel, when a capital spread was provided by Host Craddock, to which about 60 sat down. The chair was taken by Mr S. Rook. The report shows that the funds in hands at the beginning of the year 1891 were £205. During the year a sum of £45 was expended in sick pay, and one death occurred, for which £5 was paid out. The contribution receipts for the same period were £36, and the balance at the end of the year was £190 19s., of which sum £180 is invested in the Post Office Savings Bank. The club numbers 35 members, with an average value of about £5 9s.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 14 June 1892*

Certainly, by the time of the 1891 census, the Fountain Hotel looked a little different from the building we now know. An early photograph of around 1890 shows the building as just as the public bar area; the door and windows are about the same, and above is a parapet with the Fountain Hotel written on it. The roof is double hipped – a common enough style – and that can still be seen from the back. The bay window of what is now the Indian restaurant is also obviously the same; the one above is now flush with the wall. Most, if not all, of the chimneys can still be seen, even if not in use today. In the middle is a small building, most likely a shop belonging to the Rook family. Quite when this was replaced by the archway and the rooms above is unknown but it must have been sometime around the turn of the century.<sup>18</sup>

Photographs of the Fountain in the early twentieth century show the building as almost of what we see today. The archway which led to the garden at the rear now leads to parking for visitors. There are four matching windows on the front floor and the parapet goes all the way across, reading: *Family & Commercial Hotel. The Fountain.*

In 1898 the Emsworth Brewery (Hipkin & Co.) was acquired by the Gosport brewers Kinnell and Hartley who carried on brewing at Emsworth. They in turn were acquired by Chichester brewers Henty and Constable in 1929 with the Fountain, as a 'tied' house, being part of the deal. In 1955 the national brewers Watneys acquired the inn along with the Henty & Constable brewery.<sup>19</sup>

Later landlords of the inn have included in the 1920s and 1930s William Passells and John Theodore Van Hooydonk who kept the Fountain at the start of the Second World War. Another licensee, William Guy Gilbert who kept the Fountain in the 1950s was believed to have been an early fighter pilot in WW1. In 1987 Dave Pullar, along with his wife and mother and father, took over the tenancy. Dave was a former professional footballer who played for Portsmouth, Exeter and Crewe Alexander. It was the Pullar family who made significant alterations to the interior of the inn. They changed the inn into one large bar, removing the snug bar which was entered via the doorway

<sup>18</sup> Paul Marshman, *The Fountain Inn.*

<sup>19</sup> Since then the brewers have been Phoenix and Greene King.

through the arch and moving the bar into the centre. They also added a bed and breakfast to the rooms upstairs as well as advertising excellent home cooked meals. In 1997 the then landlords Ron and Jackie Hargest established a restaurant in the room across from the archway naming it the Three Coins.



The Fountain Hotel and Railway Hotel circa 1890. *Alf Harris.*

The present landlord Herbie Armstrong, a professional musician, played with Van Morrison, Them, Fox, and Yellow Dog, as well as performing as a solo performer. Herbie carried on the tradition started by an earlier landlord of live music at the Fountain, even on many occasions performing himself, and turning the inn into one of the foremost live music venues in the area. It is Herbie who has also established the On the Green restaurants in the former living quarters of the inn by enlarging the restaurant area started by Ron and Jackie Hargest. Initially the restaurant under Herbie Armstrong was called Armstrongs, followed by a Thai restaurant called Thaigar on the Green. Later restaurants were known as Fresco's, Mediterranean Bistro and Wine Bar and Sienna's Bistro until 2011 when a very popular Indian restaurant was opened called Taste of India, with the sub-title On the Green.

The inn has reputedly a ghost. It is claimed that two generations of people who lived here were troubled by the appearance of a dark, curly haired young girl. Two generations would no doubt have been the Rook family, but there is no record in that family of such an event, or reason for it. An article,

written in 1984 goes on to say she is 12 to 14 years old and walks the long corridor, perhaps looking for the rooms that have disappeared. The present landlord Herbie Armstrong has experienced it, and so has more than one guest, each describing the young girl, even to the point of a touch, light enough to waken.<sup>20</sup>



The Fountain Inn and S.G. Sig: R.E. (T) 1913. *Alf Harris.*



The Fountain Inn and Railway Hotel with wounded sailors and soldiers on a motor trip to Rowland's Castle in 1916. *Alf Harris.*

<sup>20</sup> Paul Marshman, *The Fountain Inn.*





The Fountain Inn and Railway Hotel circa 1920. *Alf Harris.*



The Green from the railway arches. *Alf Harris.*



Whittington Bros stores with an advertising sign for Gilbey's wines early 1900s. *Alf Harris.*



After a few drinks in the local public houses! Comic postcard early 1900s. *Alf Harris.*



Horse drawn charabancs at the Fountain inn. *Alf Harris.*



King George V celebrations at the Fountain Inn. *Alf Harris.*



The Fountain Inn and Railway Hotel circa 1920. *Alf Harris.*



The Fountain Inn and Sienna's Bistro, 2007.



The Fountain Inn and Taste of India Restaurant, March 2013.

### THE ROBIN HOOD (THE RAILWAY HOTEL)

The Robin Hood public house, standing on the edge of the Green in Rowland's Castle, more or less owes its existence to the coming of the railway to Rowland's Castle in 1858. The public house was originally opened as the Rowland's Castle Tavern Tea Gardens and Assembly Rooms sometime around the late 1850s with John Marshall being granted a new licence for the property in August 1859. In 1862 Charles Rogers Cotton, the well-known local watercolour artist, wrote of a visit to Rowland's Castle:

*An enterprising individual in the village is doing all he can to promote the liveliness of the place by inducing parties to come to his house, designated the Rowland's Castle Tavern and Tea Gardens, with bands of music, where they pic-nic, have tea, and dance about on the green, till its time for them to return. A spacious Assembly Room has lately been added to the building capable of holding 100 people, which was opened on Valentine's Day*

*Thursday 14th February 1861, when a Ball was given on the occasion and dancing kept up to late.*<sup>21</sup>

In May 1863 we get the first recorded mention of the property when the Rowland's Castle Tavern and Assembly Rooms, under the ownership of the proprietor John Marshall, was put up for sale. Interestingly the sales particulars include a small brewery attached to the property:

#### ROWLAND'S CASTLE, NEAR PORTSMOUTH

*Very Valuable Brewery and Tavern Property, close to the Railway Station, known as the "Rowland's Castle Tavern and Assembly Rooms," with Dwelling House, capital Stabling and Pleasure Grounds, detached.*

*Messrs. C.B. Smith & Davies have received instructions from Mr John Marshall, to SELL by PRIVATE CONTRACT, the very valuable and compact Property known as the "Rowland's Castle Tavern and Assembly Rooms," occupying an excellent position, close to the Railway Station, comprising a newly built three quarter Brewery, fitted with plant and apparatus. Spacious Assembly Room. Dwelling House, Tavern, and Pleasure Grounds.*

*The increasing popularity of Rowland's Castle, and its short distance from Portsmouth, renders the above Property well worth the attention of Brewers, Publicans, and others, desirous of developing a large and remunerative business. The Proprietor will continue to carry on the business till the property is disposed of.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 23 May 1863*

In June 1864 the property is again put up for sale, this time at auction, presumably after no private sale had taken place the previous year. Interestingly the brewery is advertised as having an inexhaustible supply of water, presumably from a bore hole or well at the premises:

<sup>21</sup> A Visit to Rowland's Castle, Charles Rogers Cotton, 1862. Sketches and jottings around the Rowland's Castle area. Havant Museum.

PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT, ROWLAND'S CASTLE, THE  
ROWLAND'S CASTLE TAVERN TEA GARDENS & ASSEMBLY ROOMS

*Messrs. C.B. Smith & Davies have received instructions from Mr John Marshall to SELL by AUCTION, at their Property Sale Rooms, 166, Queen-street, Portsea, on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1864, at Three o'clock precisely, the above valuable property, with immediate or deferred possession, affording to brewers, publicans, or seekers for investment an opportunity seldom offered.*

*The premises are too well known in the county to need any description in this advertisement. The brewery attached comprises a three to four quarter plant has an inexhaustible supply of the best water for brewing purposes, and being situate within three hundred yards of the railway station possesses every advantage for carrying on an extensive brewing trade. The premises have a frontage of upwards of 150 feet, and are held for an unexpired term of nearly 400 years at a nominal rent, which is in every respect equal to freehold.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 4 June 1864*

Two important points arise from the above advertisements, one is that John Marshall was selling the property and the other is that brewing was being carried out at the premises. John Marshall also acted as the landlord of the Rowland's Castle Tavern as well as being the owner of the property and it is almost certainly that the business was started by John Marshall himself. The census of 1861 records him as a brewer at the premises along with his wife Catherine and four sons.<sup>22</sup>

With the coming of the railway to Rowland's Castle the village was becoming a well-known place for excursions from Portsmouth and other localities with all three of the public houses in the village laying on an assortment of refreshments for the visitors. The Railway Tavern and Tea Gardens, the name it was beginning to be known as, was a very popular stopping off point as the following newspaper report from the 25 June 1864 testifies:

<sup>22</sup> John Marshall (b.1821) age 40, Catherine (wife) age 40, John (son) age 8, Thomas (son) age 5, Field (son) age 3, Roland (son) age 1.

## LAKE ROAD CHAPEL

*On Tuesday last a number of the members of the congregation at Lake-road Chapel, accompanied by the Rev. R.G. Gange, the pastor, made their annual excursion to Rowland's Castle. The friends were conveyed from the Sunday school-room to Rowland's Castle in omnibuses and other conveyances. By the permission of H.W. Stone, Esq., the party alighted at the gate of Leigh Park, having passed through the conservatories and grounds proceeded to the tea gardens at Rowland's Castle where they partook of refreshments, and took part in a variety of amusements. During the afternoon about 100 other friends, who had been unable to leave Portsmouth in the morning, joined the party, and an excellent tea was provided by Mr. Marshall, after which the whole party adjourned to Stansted Park.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 25 June 1864*

It was probably at the sale of June 1864 that the Railway Tavern came into the hands of Henry Blake, the new landlord and proprietor. It appears that soon after he acquired the property extensive alterations were carried out on the premises. One suggestion is that the brewery building adjoining the public house seized producing beer at the premises around this time and the building was used as further tea rooms.

## RAILWAY TAVERN AND TEA GARDENS, ROWLAND'S CASTLE

*The extensive alterations and improvements lately effected at the above Tavern render it second to none for the accommodation of parties of every description to this delightful part of the county; pic-nics, tea parties, schools, etc., accommodated on the most reasonable terms. Private apartments. Ales, Wines and Spirits of the first quality. A large room to accommodate 300 persons.*

*H. BLAKE, (late Marshall), Proprietor*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 15 February 1868*

Henry Blake carried on where John Marshall left off, playing host to the various visitors and excursions that came to Rowland's Castle in the summer



months. One sad event at the Railway Tavern was the hosting of a lunch by Henry Blake for the mourners who attended the funeral of the great Victorian actor Charles John Kean who died in London on the 22 January 1868. Kean, who owned Keydell House, near Horndean, the home of his mother, was buried at Catherington church, the coffin being conveyed from Rowland's Castle Station to the church.

Henry Blake, it appeared, did not always keep to the straight and narrow for in March 1869 he was fined 5 guineas, along with Thomas Blanchard of Rowland's Castle, for assaulting Stephen Windebank, the landlord of the Ship Inn at Emsworth. The assault came about after a disagreement over ownership of certain land at Emsworth. In September 1872 Blake applied for permission to keep open the Railway Tavern till twelve o'clock during the months of July, August and September. The magistrates refused stating the licensing laws permitted ten o'clock closing for beerhouses and eleven o'clock for licensed ale houses.<sup>23</sup> As well as acting as landlord of the Railway Tavern Henry Blake also advertised his services as a posting house, after obtaining parcel rights, and agent to the railway.

By 1878, and following on from Henry Blake, the next landlord was John Hutchings. The ownership of what was becoming known as the Railway Hotel at this time is unclear. Certainly, sometime before the turn of the nineteenth century, if not earlier, the property came under the umbrella of the Portsmouth brewers: Pike, Spicer & Co., one of the oldest breweries in Portsmouth. At one stage during the mid nineteenth century it was thought that this particular brewery owned more than half the public houses in Portsmouth.<sup>24</sup>

With the name change to the Railway Hotel it appears that the establishment was catering for guests on a longer stay as well as for the usual excursionists

<sup>23</sup> At the same licensing session the Railway Tavern, as part of a newly formed 'The Petersfield District Licensed Victuallers Association', applied for permission to keep open their premises to 10 o'clock on Sundays and eleven o'clock on weekdays without curtailment. *Hampshire Telegraph*, 21 September 1872.

<sup>24</sup> Pike, Spicer & Co. founded in Portsmouth in 1720 by Will Pike.

who visited in the summer months as the *Hampshire Telegraph* reported on the following two school outings:

#### HIGH STREET UNITARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

*The annual excursion of the schools was made to Rowland's Castle on Thursday, when 141 children and adults enjoyed the outing. The tea, which was provided by Mr Hutchings, of the Railway Hotel, gave general satisfaction. The party returned about 10 p.m.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 14 August 1880*

#### WHITE'S ROW RAGGED SCHOOL OUTING

*On Monday last the children, numbering over 300, were mustered in the school room, Albion-street, at 11.15 a.m., by Mr Tilly, superintendent, and headed by the Union band marched to the Town Station, and by special train proceeded to Rowland's Castle, where all received a hearty welcome from Mr and Mrs Hutchings, of the Railway Hotel, who provided the children, teachers, and friends with a good tea, after which cricket, games, and races were the order of the day.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 18 July 1885*

FOR SALE – bargain – circular-fronted Brougham, first class order, with pole and bar complete.

Railway Hotel, Rowland's Castle

*Portsmouth Evening News, 20 April 1883*



The Railway Hotel circa 1911. *Alf Harris.*



The Railway Hotel circa 1920. *Alf Harris.*

The census of 1891 for the Railway Hotel records John Hutchings, age 40, residing as a Hotel Keeper at the Railway Hotel, along with his wife Eleanor, age 39, and two sons and a daughter.<sup>25</sup> One of the last engagements carried out by John Hutchings was hosting a dinner at the Railway Hotel for the staff of the nearby Brick and Tile Works in February 1892:

### ROWLAND'S CASTLE. EMPLOYEES' DINNER

*On Thursday night Mr Bastin, proprietor of the Rowland's Castle Brick and Tile Works, entertained the whole of his employees', with their wives and friends, at dinner at the Railway Hotel. The entertainment, which was carried out on temperance principles, is an annual affair, and tends to cement good feeling between the employer and his workmen. The catering of Mr Hutchings was well carried out, and about eighty gathered around the festive board. After dinner a varied programme was gone through, each item being well rendered. Mr Bastin, who resides at Kingston-on-Thames, brought several friends to assist in entertaining the company.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 12 February 1892*

Sadly both John and Eleanor Hutchings died in 1900 at relatively young ages and soon after the time of the above dinner the license of the Railway Hotel had passed to Richard Willis, the brother-in-law of John and Eleanor Hutchings.<sup>26</sup> Wallis appeared to be a community minded gentleman, even acting as chairman of the Parish Council and holding parish meetings at the Railway Hotel. He is first recorded at the Railway Hotel in June 1893 when an advertisement for the Railway Hotel appeared in the *Portsmouth Evening News: Richard Wallis, the proprietor advises the finest accommodation in the county for Outings, Dancing, and Picnic parties. Separate arrangements for School treats. The best of catering on the most reasonable terms.*<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> The youngest son Walter was to die in 1919 age 28. He was a private in the Canadian Infantry in WWI and is buried in the cemetery at Redhill church.

<sup>26</sup> John Hutchings died at Rowland's Castle on the 29 March 1900 aged 48. The 1901 census records for the Railway Hotel Richard Willis (age 50), Deborah, his wife (age 48). Also recorded are four daughters and one son, Walter, daughters and son of John and Eleanor Hutchings. The two eldest nieces are occupied as barmaids.

<sup>27</sup> *Portsmouth Evening News*, 1 June 1893.

The following year Richard Wallis gave his annual tea and entertainment to about 150 children of the village. It was recorded that: *a substantial meal was provided, after which the little ones adjourned to the gardens where a variety of outdoor games and sports were indulged.*

Under Richard Wallis further changes and alterations were made to the Railway Hotel. In around 1902 the large bar, once the public bar and now the restaurant of the Robin Hood, was built replacing an older building. This particular bar which stands out closer to the road was built using bricks and tiles from the nearby Rowland's Castle Brick and Tile Works. A photograph of around 1900 shows the building how it was before the alterations. A sign for Wallis's Tea Gardens can clearly be seen. Also displayed on the walls of the Railway Hotel was a sign welcoming the many cyclists who passed through the village who stopped for refreshments in the public bar or tea-rooms.

### PORTSMOUTH LIBERAL CYCLING CLUB

*The members of this Club visited Rowland's Castle on Saturday afternoon, driving out from Portsmouth in a couple of brakes, and putting up at the Railway Hotel, where the evening was spent in harmony. The party which included ladies, numbered about fifty. A circuitous drive through Emsworth and Westbourne had been arranged, but owing to heavy showers of rain the journey had to be curtailed, and the pleasure seekers proceeded direct to Rowland's Castle, where tea was served on their arrival by Host Wallis, whose catering gave complete satisfaction. When the tables had been cleared the company re-assembled in the ball-room, and a programme comprising songs, instrumental music, and dancing was successfully carried out, Miss Shawyer presiding at the piano, and Messrs Clarke and Rogers officiating as M.C.'s.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 3 July 1899*

Following on from Richard Wallis a succession of licensees held the Robin Hood, including John Wilkins, William Ladd and Ambrose Cook, who was landlord at the start of the Second World War.

In October 1895 a serious accident occurred close to the Railway Hotel resulting into a serious injury to a carter passing through Rowland's Castle.

Richard Wallis, along with a Mr Raymond of the Brick and Tile Works went to the injured man's aid as the *Portsmouth Evening News* duly recorded:



The Railway Hotel circa 1900. Note the sign for Wallis's Tea Gardens. Photographed before the large new bar was built.

### ROWLAND'S CASTLE. A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

*On Tuesday afternoon, James Yalden, a carter in the employ of Mr C. Pullen, corn merchant of Havant, was in charge of a horse and cart loaded with grain, etc., for Idsworth. While passing through Rowland's Castle he fell off the cart, and the wheel passed over his right shoulder and across his chest. Mr Richard Wallis and Mr Raymond, of the Brick and Tile Works, went to Yalden's assistance, and quickly unloading about 15 cwt of grain, etc., which was in the cart. The man was sent back to his home in Havant in the cart, and was afterwards attended by Dr Bannister. It is feared there may be some serious internal injury.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 23 October 1895*

In 1911 the Pike Spicer brewery was amalgamated with the larger Portsmouth brewery of Brickwoods, trading under the name of Brickwoods. The merger left Brickwoods with 333 licensed premises, including the

Railway Hotel. In 1965 Brickwoods came under the Whitbread umbrella until it was finally acquired by the Whitbread brewery in 1971. Brickwoods themselves later made alterations to the Railway Hotel, in 1922 changes were made to the bar areas and further alterations were carried out by Brickwoods in 1934.

During the war evacuees from London were brought to Rowland's Castle with many taking their school lessons in rooms at the top of Fountain Inn or the Railway Hotel in the village. One such evacuee remembers being marched down in file from the top of the Railway Hotel to the cellar for air raid practise.

In 1969 the Railway Hotel changed its name to the Robin Hood, the name it still retains. It appears that the name change was due to the fact that the Robin Hood at Forestside closed at this time. Why the name change occurred is unclear.

Over the last 30 years many changes have taken place at the Robin Hood including the demolition of the former stables and in 2007 a complete refurbishment was carried out. Today the Robin Hood, now part of the Hall and Woodhouse stable of public houses, with its fine restaurant, in what previously was the public bar, has a good reputation for good food and like its predecessor in name the Railway Hotel caters for locals and visitors alike.



The Robin Hood in March 2013.

## THE WHITE HART and THE CASTLE INN

The White Hart is probably the most historic of all the public houses of Rowland's Castle and this is due to its links with the notorious gang of smugglers who used the inn. In 1748 the White Hart was under the control of Elizabeth Payne, a widow, who had two sons who were part of the gang of smugglers known as the Hawkhurst Gang. The story connecting the White Hart and the dreadful murders of Daniel Chater and William Galley are recorded elsewhere in this booklet and need not be repeated.

Soon after the murders of Daniel Chater and William Galley the inn was renamed the Castle Inn, a name associated with a public house at Rowland's Castle for over 250 years. Luckily a sketch of the old White Hart/Castle Inn survives, drawn by Rowland's Castle artist Charles Rogers Cotton in around 1857 shortly before its demolition to make way for the coming of the new railway.<sup>28</sup> The White Hart stood almost where the archway and embankment of the railway is now situated. The replacement public house, built in 1853, was built to the east of the old inn in what is now Finchdean Road but what was formerly known as Castle Lane.

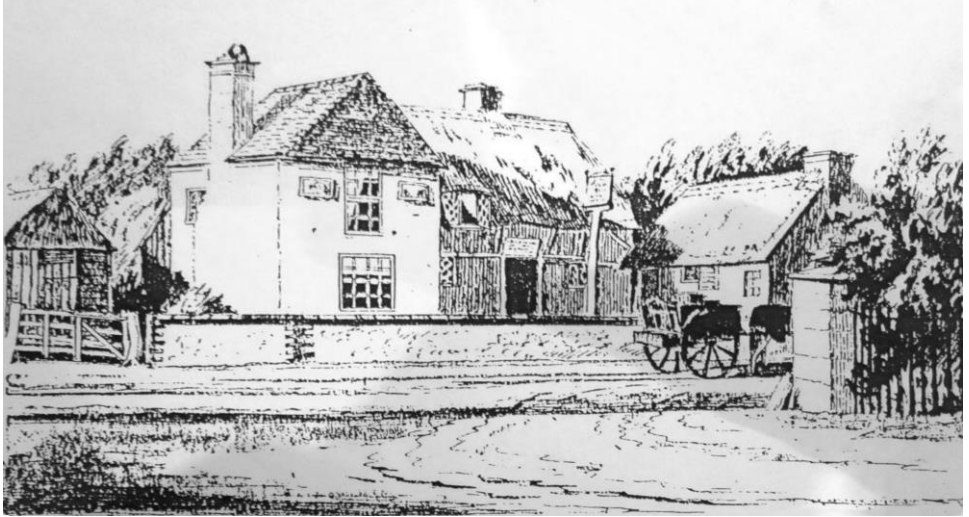
One family stand out in connection with the Castle Inn and that is the Outen family who are reputed to have kept the inn for almost 200 years until just before the start of the Second World War. The history of the Outen family and the Castle Inn starts with Richard Outen who died in November 1820 at the age of 68. It is believed that Richard himself took over the running of the inn from his father although records pertaining to this are rather sketchy. Charles Rogers Cotton, writing in 1857, in his rather prosaic manner, described the Castle Inn and the Outen family in his *Rowland's Castle and Its Neighbourhood* as:

*The Castle Inn, which is contiguous, is kept by a man named Outen, who was born in the house fifty eight years ago; his father kept the house before him; his grandfather previously. The three generations having held it upwards of a century. In the garden behind the inn stands an apple tree of*

<sup>28</sup> It is reputed that the Railway Company paid George Henty £600 for the demolition of the old White Hart/Castle Inn.

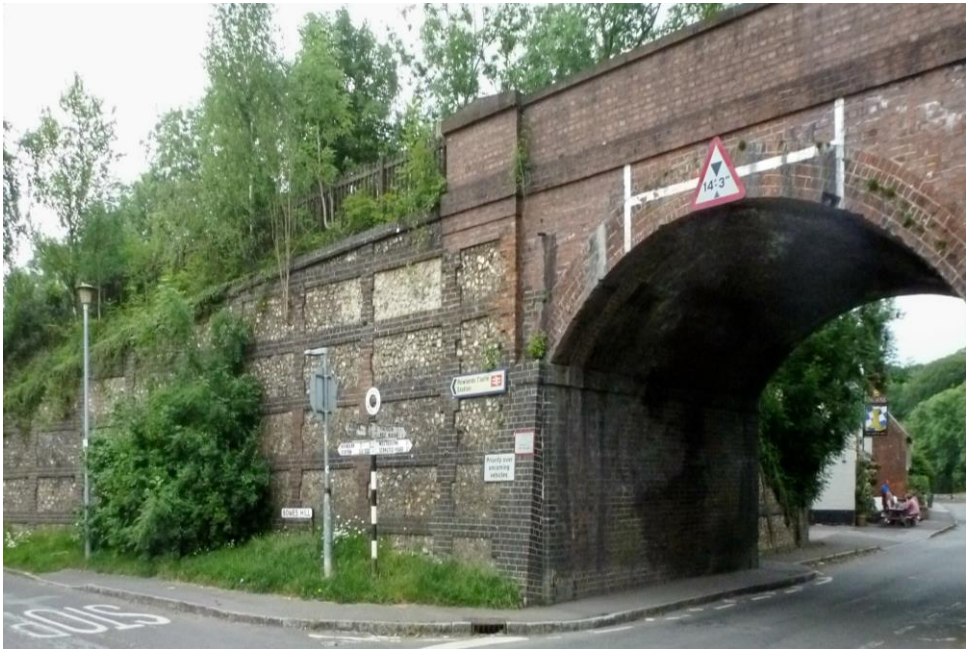


great age, having been growing there previously to the memory of the oldest inhabitant. It has existed nearly in the same state on which it is at present for the last century; the trunk of the tree is quite hollow, and this cavity has been used by the present occupier of the inn and his father before him for the purpose of keeping their garden tools in.



The White Hart/ Castle Inn circa 1857 drawn by Charles Rogers Cotton. *Havant Museum.*

What Cotton is describing is the old White Hart/ Castle Inn and not the present building and the 'man named Outen' is George Outen, born 1799, the son of Richard Outen who is previously mentioned. What Cotton's article does tell us is that Richard Outen's father kept the inn before him, the first of the many members of the Outen family and their connections with the Castle Inn. Interestingly this probably takes us almost back to the time of Elizabeth Payne at the White Hart and the horrific story of the smugglers.



The site of the old White Hart/Castle Inn.



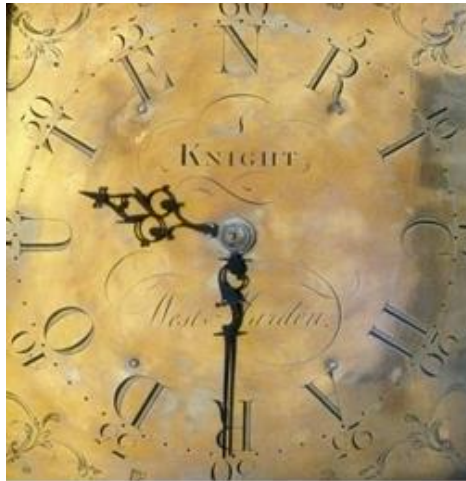
The Castle Inn circa 1930. *Alf Harris.*



A Walking Match passing the Castle Inn. *Alf Harris.*



The Castle Inn, photographed in 2011 by Peter Outen, a great nephew of the former Outen landlords.



The face of Richard Outen's oak cased long shanks clock with his name inscribed at the numbers on the dial. It was made by Knight of West Marden in about 1770-1778. Knight was a father and son business who made clocks to order. It is thought the son made this clock. *Photographed by Paul Outen, a distant descendant of Richard, who now owns the clock.*

Little is known of Richard Outen prior to his death, the only facts are that he was born in November 1752 and died in November 1820. In 1778 he married Elizabeth Wilson and had six children with her. Elizabeth died in 1792 and Richard remarried in 1796 to Ann Catchlove and had a further nine children with Ann. It appears that George Outen took over the Castle Inn after his father's death in 1820. George would have been twenty one at the time of Richard Outen's death, making him quite young to take on the responsibility of running an inn. George's sister, Ann, was the landlady of the nearby Fountain Inn for 46 years and if George continually kept the Castle Inn until his death in 1863 the combined years of service by the brother and sister to the inn trade of Rowland's Castle amounted to almost ninety years. If the landlords and tenants of the inn are recorded quite well the actual ownership of the Castle Inn is shrouded in mystery. The inclosure award of 1815 records Cornthwaite John Hector as the owner who owned various inns around the area including the George at Finchdean and the Red Lion,

Chalton.<sup>29</sup> It appears that June 1844 the inn was acquired by George and Robert Henty, brewers of Chichester who supplied the Castle Inn with its beer. In 1921 George Henty & Sons merged with G.S. Constable of Arundel and Littlehampton who traded as Henty & Constable until being acquired by the Friary Meux Brewery in 1955.

The new inn, similar in design to the George Inn at Finchdean, was probably built by George Henty to a general design. It was built with a central passage with two smaller rooms or bars either side. Perhaps catering for a different clientele than the Fountain Inn and Railway Hotel the Castle Inn would be fair to say best described as a beerhouse which served the local community. As with any public house occasional rowdiness by drunken customers occurred as this newspaper report from March 1860 recorded:

### WILFUL DAMAGE

*Thomas Carpenter, of Rowland's Castle, appeared before the Bench charged with wilfully damaging the property of George Outen, landlord of the Castle Inn, Rowland's Castle. It appeared that Carpenter and others were at the Castle Inn on Sunday night, the 4th inst. and were very drunk and noisy. They were refused beer by Outen, and afterwards commenced to fight, and went out of doors. Outen then shut the door and fastened it. They then began kicking the door and broke it in, doing damage to the amount of 6d. Ordered to pay the damage, and 10s 6d costs; and also cautioned not to come before the bench again.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 17 March 1860<sup>30</sup>*

In July 1863, after the death of George Outen, the licence of the Castle Inn passed to John Day, nephew by marriage to George Outen and devisee of George's will. John Day had married Charlotte Outen, the daughter of

<sup>29</sup> See further information on Cornthwaite John Hector see the George, Finchdean. In 1805 Joseph Eyles, brother-in-law of Cornthwaite John Hector was admitted to land around about the present site of the Castle Inn after acquiring the site from Thomas Mason and Henry Mullens. It would appear that the ownership issues almost mirror that of the George Inn at Finchdean.

<sup>30</sup> It is unclear if this Thomas Carpenter is the son of Henry Carpenter, the former landlord of the Fountain Inn who died in 1860. In April 1868 Thomas Carpenter was charged with being drunk at the Staunton Arms and fined 8s including costs.

George's brother David and his wife Mary. Although no direct link this amounted to the fourth generation of the Outen family connected to the Castle Inn.<sup>31</sup>

Things did not always run smoothly for John Day during his stay at the Castle Inn as the following two episodes explain:

#### ASSAULT IN A PUBLIC-HOUSE

*Stephen Locke, brickmaker, was charged with having assaulted John Day, publican, Rowland's Castle. The defendant went to the Castle Inn and created a disturbance. The complainant had heard he was coming and got a policeman ready at the door. The defendant threatened, and the policeman heard the threat to punch the landlord's head, and offered to fight him for the sum of 5/- (25p). He also called complainant a "big bee." He was fined 2s 6d and costs.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 14 March 1868*

#### PETTY SESSIONS

Friday 30 July. – Present J. Deverell Esq., and the Hon. Capt. Pakenham.

*John Day, the keeper of the Castle Inn, Rowland's Castle, was summoned for selling beer without a proper licence, at Leigh Park, on the recent occasion of the Forester's fete at that place. – Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he had a licence, and went twice to Capt. Pakenham's to get it signed, but that magistrate was not at home, and as he had got his booth and everything on the ground, he did business without it being signed. Defendant also urged in mitigation of the penalty, that he had handed 5/ over to the Society for the Widow and Orphans Fund out of his takings at the fete. Under these circumstances the defendant was only fined 5s and 7s. 6d costs, which he paid.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 7 August 1869*

In May 1871 the licence of the Castle Inn passed to Richard Outen, Charlotte Day's sister and son of David and Mary Outen, becoming the fifth member of

<sup>31</sup> George Outen (1799–1863) mar. Mary Ann Wiggins, 1831.

John Day married 10 March 1863 Charlotte Outen, Portchester. Charlotte Day died March 1880 age 39.

the family to keep the inn. Interestingly the 1871 census for Havant, shortly before Richard Outen took over the Castle Inn, records Mary Outen as a beer retailer at the Speed the Plough public house in South Street, Havant, with Richard, her son, recorded there as a railway porter, aged 26.<sup>32</sup> After leaving the Castle Inn John Day embarked on a complete change of career becoming a police constable in Merstham, Surrey, and then later a gardener in the same village.<sup>33</sup>

As under George Outen and John Day occasional trouble reared its ugly head at the Castle Inn during Richard Outen's tenure. One such incident involved a police constable being assaulted, interestingly again by brickmakers from the Rowland's Castle Brick Works, as this example from May 1886 testifies:

#### PETTY SESSIONS

*On Wednesday a couple of charges were disposed of by J.E. Cox Esq. and Captain Boyd, the prisoners being William and John Miles, brothers, who had lately been employed as brickmakers at Rowland's Castle, and they were charged with being drunk, refusing to quit the Castle Inn, at Rowland's Castle on the 19th inst., and with assaulting P.C. Smallbones while in the execution of his duty. It appeared that in the course of the morning the prisoners had been in the house, and in consequence of their misbehaviour the landlord, Richard Outen, declined to serve them and ordered them to leave, but this they refused to do, and on the arrival of the constable he put them out by force. The prisoners then became very riotous, and they struck and kicked the constable several times. Mr Outen, the landlord, corroborated, and he added that the language which the prisoners used was outrageously bad. The Magistrates said that such conduct would not be tolerated, and that licensed victuallers must be protected in the difficult trade in which they were engaged. They sentenced each prisoner to three months imprisonment with hard labour – one month for the refusal to quit and two months for the assault.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 1 May 1886*

<sup>32</sup> David Outen (1809–57), father of Richard George Outen of the Castle Inn, Rowland's Castle is recorded on the 1851 census as an Agricultural Labourer at Whicher Gate, believed to have been Little Leigh Farm.

<sup>33</sup> John Day (1838–1892) Died Merstham, Surrey.

Being close to the railway arches caused problems at time, especially for passing horses with the noise of the locomotives passing the archway frightening them on occasions. One such incident in November 1892 even caused damage to the Castle Inn itself:

#### FRIGHTENED BY A LOCOMOTIVE

*On Monday afternoon three horses attached to a wagon, belonging to Mr Thorpe of Aldsworth, were returning from the Railway Station at Rowland's Castle when they became frightened by the noise of an engine passing the archway, and bolting, ran against the front wall of the Castle Inn, damaging about a yard of the brickwork, and breaking one of the shafts of the vehicle. The men in charge of the team had a narrow escape from serious injury.*

*Portsmouth Evening News, 30 November 1892*

Since 1863 and until 2000 the Castle Inn was used for meetings of the local branch of the Ancient Order of Foresters. Annually a lunch or dinner was provided by the landlord of the inn. In July 1892, the 29th anniversary of the A.O.F. Richard Outen provided the refreshments as this example shows:

#### ROWLAND'S CASTLE. FORESTERS' ANNIVERSARY

*The 29th anniversary of Court "Idsworth and Stansted United" (No. 3,797), A.O.F., Portsmouth District, was held on Thursday at the Castle Inn, where a capital spread was provided by Host Outen. About 55 members and friends were present. Captain M.P. O'Callaghan, R.N., presided, and was supported by Mr S. Smith, Secretary, Mr S.A. Pridham, District Secretary, and others. It was stated that the total receipts in the sick and funeral fund for the year amounted to £177 4s 1d., while the expenditure of £135 9s 2d. included £101 9s 8d. for 147 weeks sick pay. This report showed a steady increase of funds, and was considered highly satisfactory. During the day the Finchdean Brass Band attended and played a selection of music in the village. In the evening the company assembled in the Court-room, where they were joined by 16 members of the Portsmouth District, and the evening was devoted to harmony.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 16 July 1892*



At some time, certainly before 1911, Richard Outen<sup>34</sup> retired as landlord of the Castle Inn, passing the mantle onto his son, Richard George Outen, who became the sixth member of the family to keep the inn. Richard George Outen kept up the family tradition of landlords of the Castle inn even to the point of having R.G. Outen painted on to the side of the inn which can be seen in many photographs of the Castle Inn taken in the early twentieth century.

Richard George Outen died at the Castle Inn in March 1937 after a short illness, the licence having passed a few weeks earlier to Robert Knox. A newspaper obituary published after Richard Outen's death, although slightly questionable, relates how liked and respected he was in the local community and is worth recording:

### LICENSEE OF FAMOUS INN DIES A SMUGGLERS HAUNT

*A link with the days of notorious smugglers of 200 years ago has been severed by the death of Mr Richard George Outen, who was until recently the licensee of the Castle Inn, Rowland's Castle. Unlike the smugglers, Mr Outen was very highly respected and his death is deeply felt over a wide area. The family have held the licence for the past 200 years. It was in this inn that smugglers hatched their plot for the murder of a customs official, who was beaten almost to death and buried alive in the famous well at Lady Holt Farm, a few miles from the inn.*

*Mr Outen who was 61 years of age, deeply felt the loss of his wife about six years ago, and a few weeks since he gave up the license to Mr Knox. On Sunday last he remarked to a friend that he would like to spend his last days at the inn. The new licensee gave him every facility and allowed him to live there, although he could have taken up residence elsewhere. Now, Mr Outen has passed away after a very short illness in the room adjoining that in which he was born. He had suffered from bronchitis, and heart failure supervened.*

<sup>34</sup> The 1911 census for the Castle Inn records Richard George Outen, age 35, Publican; Alice Outen, wife age 37; Richard Outen, father, age 66; Amelia Outen, mother, age 68 Richard Outen died at Rowland's Castle age 73 in 1918.

*The famous table, over which the smugglers deliberated in their murderous frame of mind is no longer at the inn. It was recently purchased by a well-known local resident. The late Mr Outen leaves one son and three daughters to mourn his loss.*<sup>35</sup>

The death of Richard George Outen in 1937 and the licence being transferred to Robert Knox brought an end to an almost unprecedented link to one public house by one family for so many years. However one legacy of the Outen family remains, Richard Outen had his name spelt out on the face of a long-case clock. The clock, dating from 1770-80, was made by the firm of Knight of West Marden and was removed when the family left the inn. However, it was later acquired by Paul Outen, a family member, and it now has pride of place in his home.

Sadly, Robert Knox committed suicide in 1950 by walking up a path at the back of the inn and standing or jumping in front of an oncoming train. On a brighter note the Castle Tug-O-War team regularly won the annual event at the village fair and at other fairs and fetes in the neighbourhood. A photograph of the winning 1925 team was displayed in the bar for many years along with various trophies. It is said that the team was responsible for the increased popularity in the sport throughout the area.

In 1955 the Castle was acquired by Friary Meux from Henty & Constable who held the inn until it was acquired by George Gale & Co. in July 1990. Today the public house is part of the Fullers group of public houses.

<sup>35</sup> Undated. Paul Marshman collection, Havant Museum.

Richard George Outen (1876–1937) Alice Outen, wife of Richard George Outen died at Rowland's Castle, aged 54, in 1928.

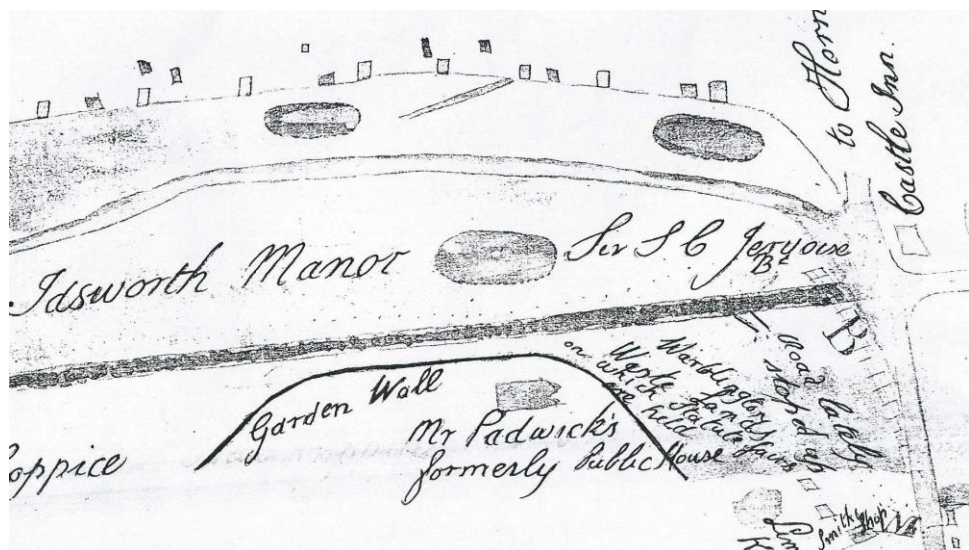


The Castle Inn circa 1920. *Alf Harris.*



The Castle Inn circa 1955. *Alf Harris.*

## ROWLAND'S CASTLE'S LOST PUBLIC HOUSE



1787 map of Rowland's Castle showing the position of the former inn and original White Hart/Castle Inn.

Apart from a map reference of 1797 not a lot is known of the other inn that was situated close to the green. The map, part of the manor of Idsworth Estate map, records a large building behind a garden wall which would appear to be part of what is now the Deerleap Estate. The only other clue is the record of 'Mr Padwick's formerly public house' recorded on the map.

It is unclear who this particular Mr Padwick was as the family were well known in the locality, especially around Catherington, Blendworth, Warblington, and Finchdean. One suggestion is that it may have been Thomas Padwick of Finchdean, who was described as a maltster and farmer. It would appear that Thomas rented at certain times Heberdens Farm at Idsworth, a farm at Woodhouse Ashes, and Finchdean Farm from the Idsworth Estate. He also rented land at Rowland's Castle from the Clarke-Jervoise family. He died in November 1808 aged 56. Later the site became the Deeleap Estate, a large Victorian house and garden created in the mid nineteenth century and the home of the O'Callaghan family.

## FORESTSIDE AND STANSTED

Forestside is a small hamlet of scattered properties on the road from Rowland's Castle to West Marden. In February 1856 Forestside and Stansted became a separate ecclesiastical parish when Christ Church was built. Previous to that it was attached to the parish of Up Marden and Stoughton. In 1857 a school was built next door to the church which could support 125 pupils. The area has been over the past two centuries or more linked to the nearby Stansted Park Estate or to the Idsworth Estate of the Clarke-Jervoise family.

Stansted Park began as a hunting lodge 800 years ago. Royal visitors are recorded from Henry II to the present generation. After several owners, and a calamitous fire in 1900, the mansion was rebuilt in 1901 on the exact footprint of the 1688 house, and became the family home of the Ponsonbys, Earls of Bessborough, in 1924.

## THE ROBIN HOOD

Situated at the sharp bend on the road From Rowland's Castle to West Marden the Robin Hood at Forestside, not to be confused with inns of the same name at Durrants and Rowland's Castle, was first mentioned as a beerhouse in September 1886. Prior to this the property appears to have been formerly an off license under the control of the Farlow family. Robert and Moses Farlow were Wood Dealers close to the property which became known as the Robin Hood.

In September 1886 Mr Farlow, presumably Robert or Moses, applied for a licence to sell beer at the property as the *Hampshire Telegraph* recorded:

## COUNTY LICENSING MEETING, CHICHESTER

*The annual general licensing meeting for the Chichester Petty Sessional Division was held on Saturday. Mr Janman next supported an application by Mr Nance, brewer of Havant for a license to the beerhouse at Forerstsides, Stoughton, kept by Mr Farlow, which at present was only an off-licence. There was no opposition, and the Bench acceded to the*

*application on condition that certain structural alterations are carried out.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 4 September 1886*

Arthur Nance, the Havant brewer, had acquired the Prince of Wales (Sutton Bros.) Brewery of West Street, Havant, in March 1880, renaming it the Cygnet Brewery. In 1906 the brewery then named the Havant Cygnet Brewery was acquired by Gosport Brewers Biden & Co. who supplied the Robin Hood with its beer until 1922 when Portsmouth United Brewery took over the entire Bidens brewery business at both Havant and Gosport. A photograph of around 1910 shows the Robin Hood with a sign clearly advertising 'Bidens Fine Ales'.

Not too much information relating to the beerhouse is known, the 1891 census records Matilda Porter, aged 28, as a beer retailer at the property. By the time of the 1901 census the Robin Hood is occupied by George Lewis who is recorded as a woodman, possibly on the Stansted Park Estate. The 1911 census summary books record George Lewis at the Robin Hood where it is described as a public house and carpenters shop.<sup>36</sup> It would appear George Lewis kept the Robin Hood until sometime in the 1930s.

The Forestside Cricket Eleven played home games at the field behind the Robin Hood, no doubt using the Robin Hood to either celebrate after a win or to drown their sorrows after a defeat. The highlight of the cricketing year was the match against local rivals Finchdean which was only a short walk over the hill to each other's ground. It was following the closure of the Robin Hood at Forestside in the late 1960s that the Railway Hotel in Rowland's Castle was allowed to change its name. Today the property still remains, now a private house known as Robin Hood Cottage.

<sup>36</sup> Sussex directories from 1905 through to 1930 record George Lewis as a beer retailer at Forestside.



The Robin Hood, Forestside, in 1957. *Photograph by Michael Edwards.*



The Robin Hood, Forestside, circa 1910. Note the sign for Bidens Fine Ales on the side of the building. *Alf Harris.*

## THE PACK HORSE INN

If one public house in the district is clouded in mystery and legends it is the Pack Horse Inn. Reputedly the haunt of smugglers there has been at least two inns with this name in the area.

The first inn was demolished sometime probably in the mid-eighteenth-century and lay just to the west of the track leading past Sindles Farm and south of Park Lane, the bridleway linking Stansted with Racton.

The old inn was replaced with the new Pack Horse Inn which was situated at the edge of Westbourne and Racton Commons, on the corner of the long straight road which passes in front of Stansted House, and the bridle way which passes Holme Farm. The source of this information is a map dated 1785 held in West Sussex Record Office in Chichester. A pottery now occupies the site but it is unclear when the building of the second Pack Horse Inn was demolished.

Being quite isolated the Pack Horse Inn appeared to have been an ideal place to keep smuggled goods. The following sworn statement by Thomas Gloge, the Chief Boatman at Hayling was forwarded to the Board of Commissioners at London in March 1792 in regard to letting smuggled goods come in to the harbour at Hayling and no doubt end up at the inn:

*Gentlemen, this is to inform you that on the 23rd March 1792 Mr Morgan Waters the Boatswain of the Fortune convict ship in Langstone Harbour came to me at the Watch House at Hayling and desired me to come on board to-morrow morning at ten o'clock that he had something very particular to say to me. I suspecting it to be an information went on board at the Pointed Time and Mr Morgan conducted me to his cabin and shut the door after him. Discoursing a little while he said I had a large family and my pay but small that he was ordered by Mr James Hunt who keeps the sign of the Pack Horse at Stanstead to agree with me to let smuggled goods to come in at our harbour. I told him that it was against my conscience to suffer such a thing. Damn Conscience you are not sworn to that. I did not see that it was better to be paid for being at Home than being out at night and if I would agree with him to lay at Home and not look out, I should be*



*paid £50 a year or to name my sum, and it should be made agreeable to me but I told him there was Boatmen to look out, he said that if I would bide at Home he was well assured that the Boatmen would be glad to be at Home. I said there was Cutters Boats that would be liable to take the goods, he said I should not be blamed for that, and if I would go with him to the Pack Horse at Stansted to Mr James Hunts all things should be made agreeable to me and no one to know the secret but him and Mr Hunt I told him I would sooner have my right arm cut off. He has been a Rider to Mr James Hunt and he told me he lived in Southsea Caste and he had cava ties in the cellars in the Caste for near 1,000 casks but this was filled up. He has been Boatswain of the Fortune for nearly 2 years and said we have been flashed off four times this month and the wind blowing so hard southerly that we could not go outside and the Wadeway being dry nearly 7 hours out of the 12 the boats have landed in Chichester Harbour. Thomas Gloge.*

The reference to "flashing" could mean that homeward-bound boats had signalled the Fortune to send a boat to take off contraband but conditions had been adverse. (Flashing was made illegal in 1820, penalty £100 and a year's imprisonment. For "hovering" within eight leagues of the coast a boat could be confiscated.)

Unfortunately there is not a great deal of information relating to the inns but what we do know is that Edward Daun was left the Pack Horse Inn, with a cottage and meadow, in the will of Richard Barwell, the owner of the Stansted Estate, in 1804.<sup>37</sup> This clearly shows that the inn was formerly part of Barwell's holdings at Stansted. By 1808 Daun had built a wall in front of the inn, erected a messuage and other buildings and enclosed part of the highway and waste of the manor (Stoughton) between the inn and cottage (Pound House). He was censured for encroachment at the Manor Court.<sup>38</sup> It would appear that by the time of Richard Barwell's death in 1804 the inn had ceased trading as a public house and Edward Daun was using it as a

<sup>37</sup> Richard Barwell (1741–1808) Politician in British India, acquired the Stansted Estate in 1781.

Edward Daun, executor and Trustee of the will of Richard Barwell. Also held other land formerly belonging to the Barwell Estate.

<sup>38</sup> Havant Museum Local Studies Collection.

residence, as a sale of the household furniture belonging to the inn in August 1804 presumably testifies:

### TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY MR WELLER

On the Premises, on Monday the 6th of August, 1804.

*THE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE belonging to the Pack Horse Inn, Stansted: consisting of four post and other bedsteads, with harateen, calico, and check furnitures, goose and poultry feather beds, blankets, counterpanes and quilts; mahogany dining, tea, and Pembroke tables, and chairs; an eight day clock, in a mahogany case; pier and dining glasses; china and glass; kitchen Range, Bath Stoves, and smoke jack; large brewing copper, and utensils, with tubs, and dairy implements. The sale to begin at eleven o'clock.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 23 July 1804*

## FINCHDEAN

Finchdean is a small village on the Hampshire/West Sussex border around a mile from its neighbour Rowland's Castle. Finchdean now comes under the umbrella of the East Hants District Council but originally it was part of the Hundred of Finchdean, which included the parishes of Blendworth, Buriton, Catherington, Chalton, Idsworth Chapelry, Clanfield and Petersfield Borough. Later the village would become closely linked to Idsworth Estate of the Clarke-Jervoise family with many cottages in the village being built by the family and showing the family crest. Once famous for an Iron Foundry, founded in 1816, the village is now mostly made up of older properties with the George public house as its centre point.

Famous locally for the Lavant floods which periodically rise up with water bursting out from the nearby Downs, the floods can cause horrendous flooding at its height almost cutting off the village completely. The reason for this sudden inundation lies in the construction of the South Downs. The hills are made of chalk, but curving under them is a layer of clay. Chalk absorbs water like a sponge, until it is completely saturated. A huge mass of water is then left sitting in a bowl of non-porous clay. One final downpour and the

store of water begins to siphon over the edge of the clay bowl. The result is that the Downs, in effect, flushes like an old-fashioned cistern.

## THE GEORGE

It is true to say that there has been a public house under the name of the George for over 200 years at Finchdean. The earliest record relating to the George is from an Indenture of Lease, dated the 4 April 1792, between Henry Coles, a brewer of Hambledon and Elizabeth, his wife, and Henry Mullens of Hambledon who acquired the property for the sum of £12 1s. The document goes on to say that:

*All that Public House called or known by the name or sign of the George, situate at Finchdean in the said County of Southampton and all Outhouses, Houses, Orchards, Gardens, Lands, Heriditaments and Appurtanances to the said Public House belonging or in anywise appertaining and also all the Estate Interest, Use, Trust, Possession, Property Claim and Demand whatsoever of him the said Henry Coles of into or out of the said premises and every part and parcel thereof by virtue of a certain Indenture of Lease by which the same premises are held under Jervoise Clark Jervoise Esquire for the remainder of a long lease of years yet to come and unexpired or otherwise howsoever together with the same Indenture and all benefit and advantage thereof to have and to hold the said Public House and Garden and all and singular other the premises hereinbefore mentioned or intended to be hereby assigned and every part and parcel thereof with their and every of their appurtanances unto the said Henry Mullens, his executors, administrators and assigns from henceforth for and during all the rest residue and reminder of the said term in and by the aforesaid Lease demised or granted yet to come and unexpired and for and during all such other Estate and Interest whatsoever as he the said Henry Coles is entitled to in the same premises subject as hereinafter mentioned and this Indenture further.*

Hampshire Record Office 50M82/1-4

What the indenture does tale us is that the George at this time was under the ownership of Jervoise Clark-Jervoise who had acquired the nearby Idsworth

Estate and manor in 1789.<sup>39</sup> Elizabeth Mullens, the wife of Henry, was the daughter of Henry Coles so the lease of the George stayed within the family.<sup>40</sup>

In 1805 Henry and Elizabeth Mullens conveyed the George to John Eyles and Cornthwaite John Hector.<sup>41</sup> Cornthwaite John Hector, a wealthy banker, brewer and later M.P. for Petersfield had the lease and ownership of several public houses and inns around the area including the Bat and Ball at Hambledon and the Anchor at Horndean. Hector was related by marriage to both Henry Mullens and Joseph Eyles retaining the family links with the George Inn. In the conveyance of 1805 he was admitted to the copyhold consisting of the house, cellar and outbuildings.

Cornthwaite John Hector died in 1842 and in 1844 the George was conveyed to the new owners George and Robert Henty, brewers of Chichester who supplied the inn with its beer for many years. By 1855 George Henty already owned about a hundred properties in West Sussex and Hampshire, and the firm was incorporated in 1893 as George Henty and Sons Ltd. Interestingly, the family connections do not stop there; George Henty, brewer of West Gate, Chichester, had married in 1833 Maria Hector, the daughter of Cornthwaite John Hector.

By the time of the 1851 census Thomas Powell was recorded as a Licensed Victualler at the property, aged 38. It is believed that the Powell family took

<sup>39</sup> Jervoise Clarke-Jervoise (1734–1808) His son Rev. Samuel Clarke-Jervoise Bt. was created a baronet in 1813. In 1780 Jervoise Clarke-Jervoise acquired the manor of Chalton and in 1789 acquired the manor of Idsworth. The present Idsworth House (on the Finchdean-Horndean Road) was built to replace Idsworth Manor House which stood 300 yards to the South of St Hubert's Church adjoining the present 'Old Idsworth Gardens' facing up the avenue of limes. The old Idsworth House was demolished about 1850, (when the railway was laid), except for the stables and coach house which have been converted to form the existing residence.

<sup>40</sup> Henry Mullens married Elizabeth Coles at Hambledon, Dec. 1783

<sup>41</sup> Cornthwaite John Hector (c.1773–1842) of Stodham Park, Liss, Banker, Brewer and MP for Petersfield, 1835. In 1800 he married Ann Matilda Eyles the daughter of Richard Eyles, Deputy Lieut. of Hampshire and Mayor of Petersfield and Anna Maria (Mullens), the sister of Henry Mullens. Reputedly died penniless after collapse of his bank.. Joseph Eyles also held the Red Lion at Chalton according to the Inclosure Award of 1816 which gives him as late. It is unclear if this is the Joseph Eyles who died at East Meon in 1815 aged 29.

out a 99 years lease on the property in around 1847 and the family connections with the George Inn continued for over eighty years and three generations. The George, like most rural public houses was often used for local property sales. One such, in May 1852 advertised properties for sale at nearby Dean Lane End:

### TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION

*by Mr Edward Wyatt, at the George Inn, Finchdean, in two Lots, on Tuesday, the 4th May, 1852, at two for three o'clock in the afternoon precisely, subject to conditions and stipulations to be then and there produced, - The following property,*

*Lot 1 – Two Copyhold Messuages and Gardens, situate at Dean-Lane End, in the parish of Chalton, in the respective occupations of William Willis and William Betteridge, held of the manor of Idsworth, in two copies, subject to an annual quit-rent of 2s., the usual fine and two heriots on death or alienation.*

*Lot 2 – Two Freehold Messuages and Gardens, situate at Dean-Lane End, in the parish of Stoughton, in the respective occupations of George Gibbons and the Widow Powell.*

*The above premises may be viewed by leave of the respective tenants, and further particulars obtained on application to the Auctioneer, or to Messrs Longcroft & Son, Solicitors, Havant.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 17 April 1852*

With the coming of the railway, which ran at the rear of the George, the inn was, on the 2 June 1853, used for a meeting by the Portsmouth Railway Company in pursuant of compensation due to the land used by the Railway Company. The inn at this time sat back nearer to the railway line than it does now. If building or land connected to the George was acquired by the coming of the railway it is unclear. A watercolour painting of Finchdean village by Rowland's Castle artist Charles Rogers Cotton in 1862 certainly shows the George Inn set a little further back than the present building, but not too much it would appear to interfere with the railway line.

By the time of the 1871 census Thomas Powell is described as a Licensed Victualler and Grocer at the property, indicating that the George was being used as the village store as well. It would appear that by August 1876 major alterations had been carried out at the property for on the 29th August Powell applied for a new licence '*to the recently erected house and premises situate at Finchdean, adjoining or adjacent to the said premises called the George Inn.*' The full application stated:

*To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Idsworth in the County of Hants, and to the Inspector of Police for the Division of Petersfield, in the said County, and to all it may concern.*

*I THOMAS POWELL, of the George Inn, Finchdean, in the parish of Idsworth, aforesaid, Innkeeper, Hereby Give you Notice, - That it is my intention to apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, in the said County, on Tuesday, the 29th day of August, 1876, for the REMOVAL OF THE LICENCE authorising me to sell Beer, Wine, and Spirits by retail, to be consumed on or off the house and premises called the George Inn, situate at Finchdean, aforesaid, now in my occupation and belonging to Messrs George Henty & Son, to the recently erected house and premises situate at Finchdean, aforesaid, adjoining or adjacent to the said premises called the George Inn, for which I am at present so licensed, as aforesaid, and which said newly erected house and premises I intend to keep for the sale of Beer, Wine and Spirits.*

*Dated this 24th day of July, 1876. Thomas Powell.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 9 August 1876*

In the October of 1876 a new wine and beer licence was applied for by Thomas Powell: '*for the George Inn, now being rebuilt*'. The license was granted but Thomas Powell unfortunately did not live too much longer to enjoy his new premises for in November 1876 he died at the George, aged 65. He was succeeded at the George by his son, Mark Powell.<sup>42</sup> Mark Powell also acted as a blacksmith next door to the George. The 1881 census records him age 37 as an Innkeeper and Blacksmith with the following census up to 1911 recording the same. He also conducted the Finchdean Brass Band which

<sup>42</sup> Mark Powell (1844–1917)

became very popular at local events in the area, with no doubt the band practising at the George.

The George Inn was a popular destination for town folk from Portsmouth and other areas on excursion into the country side as the following two examples from the late nineteenth century record:

### FORESTERS' OUTING

*The outing of the members of the Juvenile Branch of the Portsmouth District of Foresters took place on Saturday last, when about 500 parents, friends, and members proceeded to Finchdean. A special train was arranged by Mr Heather, agent to the London and South West Company, which at 1.30 started for Rowland's Castle, at which place the party was met by the brass band of Finchdean. The excursion was arranged by the officers of the district, and the Management Committee, assisted by the Secretaries of the juvenile branches. All kinds of amusements were provided, and as the weather remained fine a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. The task for catering for this small army was very successfully carried out by Mr and Mrs M. Powell, of Finchdean, with a large staff of assistants. After tea running matches and amusements were indulged in.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 24 August 1889*

*On Wednesday the employees of Messrs S. Knight and Co with their wives and families to the number of about 30, had their second annual outing. The party proceeded to Finchdean in a brake, and, the weather being fine, an enjoyable holiday was spent. Cricket, baseball, and other games were played, and tea was served at the George Inn.*

*Hampshire Telegraph, 28 July 1894*

During the nineteenth century and into the twentieth the George became the focal point of the village, any business associated with Finchdean would be discussed at the inn and the meadow at the back would be used for sport and games. In the winter months smoking concerts were held in the "big room" with no doubt music from the brass band. At Christmas Mark Powell, kept up the tradition started by his father, of providing a 50lb joint of prime beef to which one and all were invited to partake. Also the local Finchdean cricket

team were based at the George, playing their home games close by and no doubt enjoying a pint or two after their games.

Mark Powell died in 1917 and his wife Emily carried on running the inn after his death, an unmarried daughter, Annie, who was recorded in the 1911 census as '*assistant in business of Licensed Victual*' probably helped her mother in the running of the George. At the time of Mark Powell's death his eldest son, Robert, known as Walter or Wally, was acting as a shoeing smith in the village and it was Robert who took over the George Inn after the death of his mother in 1923. Certainly by the outbreak of the Second World War, if not earlier, the licence had passed to Barnard Lloyd, ending almost one hundred years of the Powell family's association with the George Inn.

The public house itself is now much changed from its original interior design. It once had a central passage with two smaller rooms either side with possibly a snug bar attached, very similar in design to the Castle Inn at Rowland's Castle with probably designs by the same architect.

Now with a good reputation for dining the George has had a large conservatory added onto the rear of the building to enlarge the restaurant area where diners can now look out towards the large beer garden and glorious views of the West Sussex countryside beyond. Today the George is a traditional country pub situated in a quiet corner close to the Hampshire/West Sussex border where families and visitors can enjoy a quiet drink in a typical English country pub or sit outside in the sheltered garden area or large field at the rear.





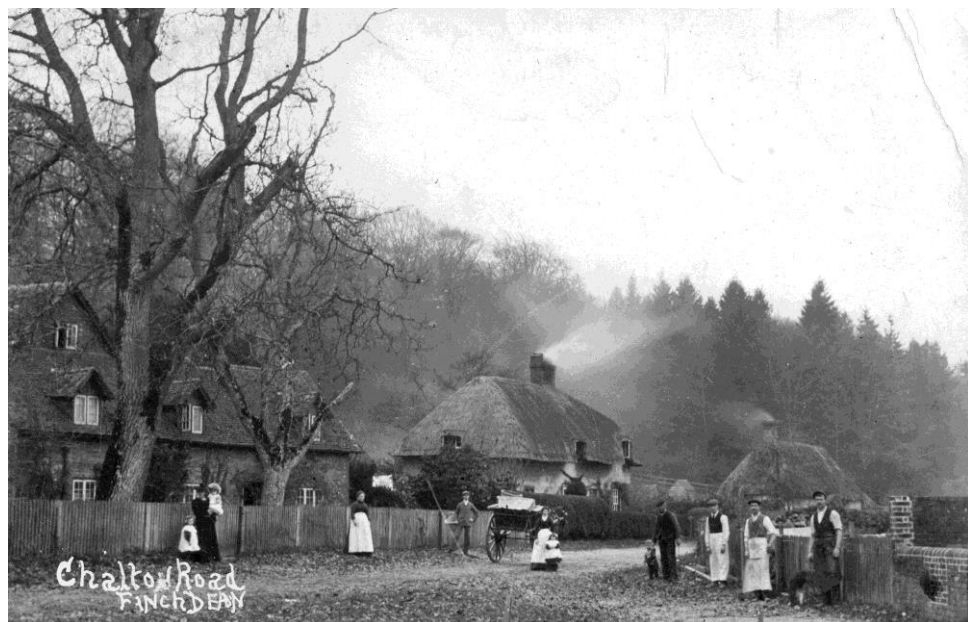
The George with the Finchdean foundry on the left c.1910. *Alf Harris.*



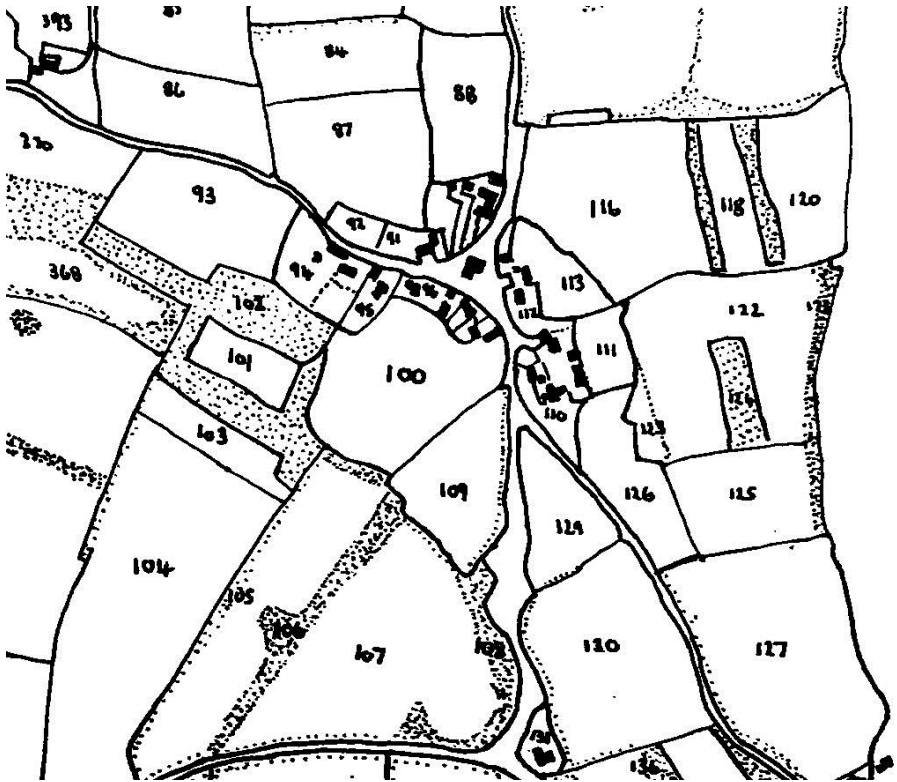
Chalton Road, Finchdean. *Alf Harris.*



The George circa 1910. *Alf Harris.*



Chalton Road, Finchdean, early 1900s. *Alf Harris.*



Part of the Idsworth Inclosure Map showing the village of Finchdean, 1816.

#### Inclosure Award List of Occupants, Finchdean, 1816

- No. 89 Thomas Padwick Freehold House, Garden, Malthouse
- No. 90 James Marshall Freehold House, Garden
- No. 91 Arthur Marshall Freehold House, Garden
- No. 94 Elizabeth Aldred Copyhold House, Garden
- No. 95 William Atherley Copyhold House, Garden, Barn, 15ac.
- No. 96 John Gard Leasehold House, Garden
- No. 98 Charles Earwacker Freehold House, Garden
- No. 99 William Suett Freehold House, Garden
- No. 112 late Joseph Eyles Copyhold George Inn
- No. 114 Charles Earwacker Freehold House, Garden
- No. 115 Charles Earwacker Leasehold Smith's Shop

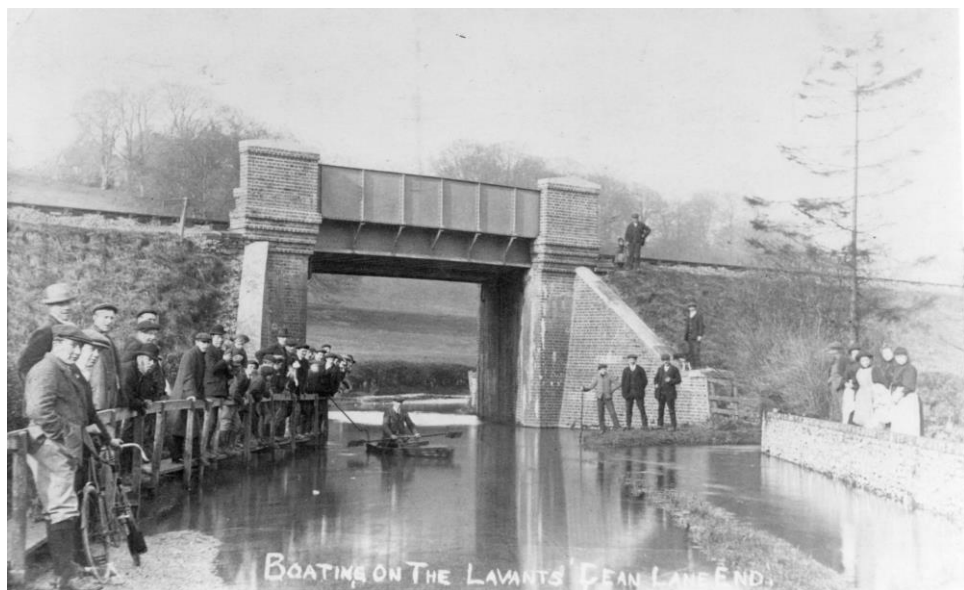
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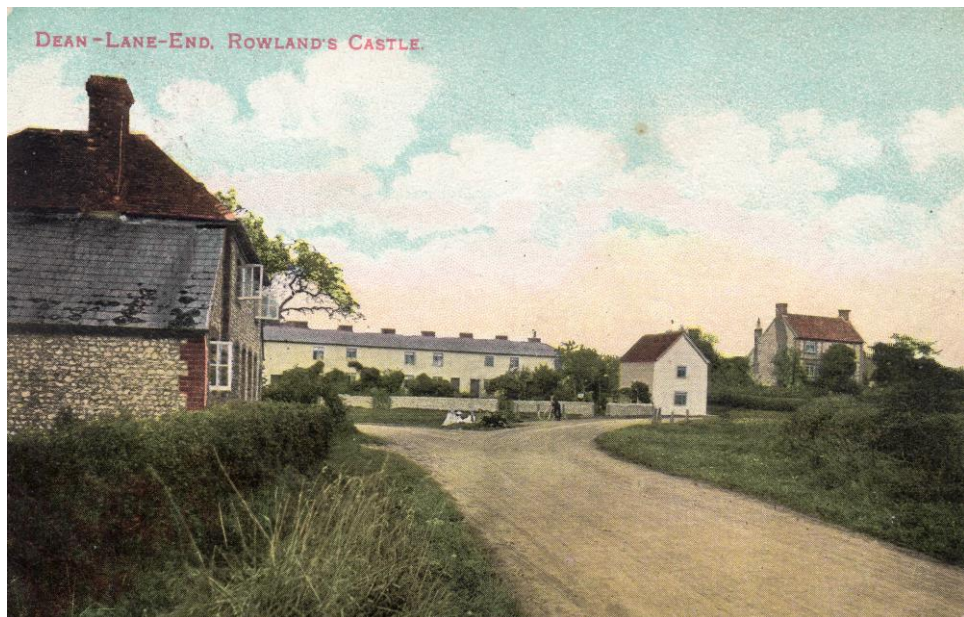
The George circa 1910. The name of the landlord Mark Powell can be seen above the entrance door. *Alf Harris.*



Finchdean Village circa 1930. *Alf Harris.*



The road to Finchdean flooded at Dean Lane End early 1900s. *Alf Harris.*



Dean Lane End, early 1900s. *Alf Harris.*



Finchdean Village in 1895. *Hampshire Record Office 29M57/18.*



The Forestside stores. *Alf Harris.*



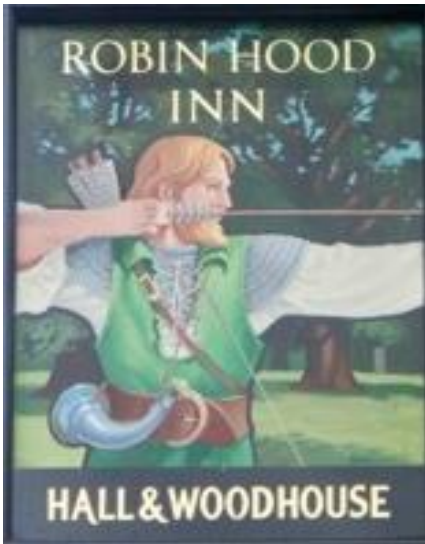
Enjoying a rest at Finchdean. *Alf Harris.*



**THE FOUNTAIN**



**THE GEORGE INN**



**ROBIN HOOD  
INN**

**HALL & WOODHOUSE**



**THE CASTLE INN**