

SCOTT & BRANTON BRICKFIELDS AND IGHTHAM COTTAGES

Little is known about the brickfields in Bean other than one appears on the old 1909 map just east of the junction of Bean Lane and Watling Street. Many brickfields appeared in the early 1800s and by mid-century they were a booming industry. It was hard dirty work often employing whole families including young children. However, by the 1st World War they began to disappear. It would seem that the brickfield in Bean was short lived commencing in the mid-1890s and closing around 1915. It was owned by Edmund Scott and Frederick George Branton. Both men were originally Master Coopers, Edmund was from Suffolk & Frederick from the Old Kent Road London. In the 1901 census Edmund aged 50 was living at 1 Castle View London Road Greenhithe and his occupation was as a Master Cooper and Brickmaker employer. Frederick lived next door at 2 Castle view aged 46 and gave his occupation as a brickmaker employer and his son George Frederick Branton aged 23 was a brickmaker. Edmund died on 9 August 1910 and was buried in Stone Cemetery on 13 August. The 1911 census shows that Frederick had moved into No. 1 Castle View and was a Brick master and builder. His son George was also a Brick master and builder's clerk. By the 1921 census Frederick had given up brickmaking and moved to 33 West Hill Dartford. He was now an employer at the Grinding Mills in Greenhithe making poultry grit. He died on 17 April 1931 in Dartford.

We are fortunate to have been given the title deeds to No.2 Ightham Cottages by Frank Taylor from which we can trace the history of the house. In 1897 the land was bought from John Eastwood, the local farmer, by Frederick G Branton & Edmund Scott to build two houses for their workmen in the adjacent brickfield. The houses appear in the 1901 census as Nos. 1 & 2 Plantation Villas.

No 1 Plantation Villas Bean

In 1901 William Harmsworth was living there with his wife Charlotte and sons Walter and John. William was 55 and described as foreman in Brickfields. He had been born in Prittlewell Essex. His wife Charlotte was 55, born at Leigh on Sea, again in Essex, and his two sons Walter was 25 a general labourer and John 10 both born in Shoeburyness.

No 2 Plantation Villas Bean

In 1901 in four rooms Dixon Johncock was living with his wife Martha Herd Johncock, and two of his children, Mary Ann and Frank. Also in the household was Dixon F Johncock, described as the grandson. Dixon was 48, a brick maker. His wife was 49 and said to have been born in Gibraltar. Mary Ann E was 18, born Morden Common Surrey, and Frank was 14 born in Werburgh Kent. Grandson Dixon was 12 months old and born in Shoeburyness Essex.

Living in the same house but in two rooms was George Alfred Cross, his wife Sarah Ann, and children William Frederick and Thomas Dixon Cross. Sarah Ann was the daughter of Dixon. George was 24, a brickmaker, born High Keys Co Durham. Sarah Ann was 24 born in Strood., sons William Frederick 3, born Howden on Hill Essex and Thomas Dixon Cross 1

born In Shoeburyness. Completing the household was John Enfield, a boarder, 29, again a brickmaker born in Maidstone Kent.

During the following years a further nine houses were built and by the 1911 census were known as 1-11 Ightham Cottages.

Returning to No.2 and the deeds we see the property continued to be jointly owned by Branton & Scott and after Scott's death in 1910 by Branton solely until 5 March 1926 when he sold it to Arthur John Bowman, a coach painter. Mr Bowman held the property until 9 May 1952 when he sold it to Ernest William Cornelius. It would appear that Mr Bowman leased the property to tenants during his ownership as at the time of the sale he was living in No. 5 Ightham Cottages. Following the death of Mr Cornelius, the property was purchased on 16 April 1981 by Frank Reginald Taylor. He continued to live there until 8 May 2007 when the property was bought by Duncan Robert Wood (past Bean RA Chair). In January 2019 Highways England served a Compulsory Purchase Order on all Owners of the 11 Cottages. Duncan served a Blight Notice on Highways England and his sale was completed on 29 July 2019. With Purchase Terms and moving dates agreed with all the Owners, Highways England issued a letter dated 22 October 2020 stating that demolition works were due to start on Monday 2 November 2020 for an estimated six weeks.

When Ightham Cottages were built Bean Lane was little more than a track from Greenhithe to Bean crossing Watling Street just north of the cottages. At the time Watling Street was the main route from London to Canterbury. It was not until the 1970s when the Dartford by-pass was extended to pass between Ightham Cottages and Hope Cottages in a deep cutting with a dual carriageway that a junction beside the cottages was created to cope with the traffic from the chalk pits which closed in 1991. Further widening of the A2 took place in the early 1990s but it was not until 1997 when Bluewater was built that Bean Lane and the area facing the cottages changed dramatically. Then in 2020 with further road improvements the cottages were demolished to make way for a much larger roundabout and slip road to the A2.

For completeness we detail below the families who have lived in Ightham Cottages based on the 1911, 1921 & 1939 census.

No 1 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 this was the home of Albert Hayes, his wife Harriet and their large family. Albert had been born in Wrotham and Harriet (nee Diplock) in Surrey. They had married in St Mary's at Stone on the 21 May 1888, with their eight children being born in Greenhithe. Albert was a labourer in the Cement Factory. By 1891 they were living in Swanscombe but by 1911 they had moved to No 1 Ightham Cottages. Harriet was a general storekeeper when in Swanscombe and although the 1911 census does not mention it she could have been the first to run the shop at No.1. By the 1921 census they had left Ightham Cottages and moved to a small holding in Shellbank Lane. The smallholding is roughly where Shellbank House stands today. Harriet died on the 6 June 1938 and Albert on 5 Jan 1950, both being buried at Stone Cemetery. Alfred's death is recorded as being in the Old Post Office Bean, which was the home of his daughter Ivy Lucking, who most likely nursed him through his final illness.

The 1921 census shows George Baldock living at No.1 with his wife Mabel and their three daughters all born in Bean. George was from Wood Green London and worked a Farm labourer for Mr Eubank of Bean Farm. Mabel was from Gillingham and ran the small shop from their home.

By 1937 John Inkipin and his wife Rhoda May were living at No 1. John Inkipin was a wood hooper and splint maker, and his wife Rhoda (nee Piper) ran a retail general shop at No. 1. They moved away to Surrey, both dying in 1951, probably within months of each other. Later on, Eliza and Leonard Wells were the occupants and still running the retail business.

No 2 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 Mary Hope (the widow of Lennard Hope who had died in 1906) was living at No. 2. She had been born in Northolt Middx and the census records that she had 11 children, of whom 8 had survived. Two of her sons, George and William, aged 24 and 20 respectively, both single, both labourers in a market garden, were living with her. Mary and her family had moved around south London and Kent until they came to this area. Mary moved away and died in the Medway area during 1921.

The 1921 census shows Albert William Hayes living at No.2 with his wife Ethel Louisa and their 4 children. Albert was from Greenhithe and worked as a mechanical engineer at Vickers in Joyce Green. His wife was from Woolwich and looked after the children.

In the 1930s No. 2 was inhabited by Alfred John Sargison and Dorothy May Sargison (nee Baldock). Alfred was recorded as being a plasterer. They were still there in 1946 and had been joined by one Henry Luck. It does not seem that Alfred and Dorothy had children. Dorothy died at the young age of 47 in 1951 at Brook St Hospital, Shooters Hill and was buried at Stone Cemetery on the 20 Sept and Alfred died during 1977 in the Dartford area.

No 3 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 Walter (William) Inkipin then aged 40, Wood hoop maker at the Cement Factory was living there with his wife Rosa (nee Raines), then aged 36. He had been born in Hartfield Sussex and she in Charing Heath Kent. In the 1921 census he was working as a farm labourer for Mr Eubank on Lower Bean Farm. Walter died at Livingstone Hospital on the 7 Oct 1927 whilst still living at 3 Ightham Cottages. He was survived by Rosa who continued to live at No 3 until her own death in 1947. Both she and Walter are buried in Stone Cemetery. Rosa Minnie May Inkipin, (their daughter) continued living at No 3 for many years, and married George Robert Fleetney in 1951 at Stone Church. I think Walter and John Inkipin (who lived at No 1) were brothers, the sons of John and Sophia Inkipin, but that would take more research.

No 4 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 No 4 is called Plantation Cottages and the residents were Dixson(sic) Johncock, aged 62, a brickmaker born in Westwood; Martha (nee Hurd) his wife of 35 years was from

Hamerton in London. She was 63 at the time, and had had 4 children of whom 3 had survived. Two of their children were living with them, Frank, aged 24 who worked for Dartford Rural Council and had been born in Hoo, and their married daughter Sarah Ann Cross, then aged 32, born at Strood, with her three children, George, William and Thomas Cross. In the 1901 this house is called 2 Plantation Cottages, which leads me to believe that perhaps No 4 and 5 were built earlier than the rest of the row.

By 1912 Dixon and his family had moved to Canada, ending up in Clayburn British Columbia where they lived out the rest of their lives. Their son Frank enlisted in the British Columbia Regiment during WWI and returned to England and then to France where he died of his wounds on the 12 Aug 1917. He is buried in Calais.

Dixon Johncock dob 11 Jul 1843 in Kent died 13 Aug 1942 in Williamsons Landing, Sunshine Coast Regional District, British Columbia, Canada
Martha Johncock dob 16 Jun 1846 died 28 Nov 1928 in New Westminster, Greater Vancouver Regional District, British Columbia, Canada
Frank Johncock dob 20 March 1887 died 12 Aug 1917 and is buried Bruay-la-Buissiere, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France
Sarah Ann Cross (nee Johncock) dob 11 Oct 1876 died 15 Nov 1940 Williamsons Landing, Sunshine Coast Regional District, British Columbia, Canada
George Alfred Cross dob 23 Nov 1873 died 9 Jan 1946 Williamsons Landing, Sunshine Coast Regional District, British Columbia, Canada

By 1921 George Fleetney from Strood was in residence with his wife Mary from Betsham and their son George born in Northfleet. Also living there was George Treadwell his widowed father-in-law from Southfleet. George was an agricultural labourer for Mr Eubank on Lower Bean Farm and his father-in-law worked as an agricultural labourer for J Chambers of Manor Farm Southfleet. By the 1930s George senior was a poultryman and George junior was a general labourer for the Rural District Council. Young George was the man who married Rosa Inkpin in 1951, the girl next door.

No 5 Ightham Cottages

Between No 4 and No 6 Ightham Cottages on the 1911 census there was a house just called Bean near Dartford and I have assumed that this is No. 5. In 1911 the house was occupied by Thomas Jerman, then 45, foreman in Scott and Branton (brickmakers). He was from South Benfleet, in Essex. With him was his wife Mary Ann, then 43, and the couple had been married for 23 years, and of their 14 children, 8 had survived. She was from Leigh in Essex. The family were still there in the 1921 census and interestingly Thomas was then the foreman of the Greenhithe Brickworks Ltd (clamp brickmakers) in Bean. His son Thomas Alfred Jerman aged 15 also worked as a brickmaker for the company.

They were replaced at 5 Ightham Cottages by Arthur John Bowman (born 1895 in Watford), the son of Henry John Bowman and his wife Rosa (Ladd), Arthur was a painter and decorator, and his wife Daisy Gertrude (nee Roper) (born 1900 in Bexleyheath the daughter of Henry Charles and Frances Roper) was an elementary teacher. I think she was the

headmistress for Bean Infant School during the 1950s. Arthur and Daisy had been married on the 22 Dec 1923 at Darenth Church. Arthur died at 5 Ightham Cottages on the 31 Oct 1958. He was cremated at Eltham Crematorium and the entry in the Book of Remembrance states that Arthur had been in the Royal Garrison Artillery during WWI and had been awarded the Military Medal for an act of courage during that time. Daisy moved away to the Huntingdon, Cambridge area where she died in 1999, almost achieving her 100th birthday

No 6 Ightham Cottages

In the 1911 census No 6 was the home of John Hayes, 45, a general labourer in Whiting Factory. He was born in Wrotham. His wife of 12 years was Emily Partridge aged 46 who had been born in Higham. They were still living there in the 1921 census. The couple had married at Greenhithe Church on the 11 June 1898 and had five children, of whom 4 survived. Emily died during April 1933 and John during October 1948. By the time of Emily's death, the family home was 14 Carlton Avenue Stone, where John was also living at the time of his death. Both are buried at Stone Cemetery.

Albert Edward and Lilian Capon were one-time residents at No 6 followed by Bernard and Elizabeth Rowlands during the 1930s. Bernard Rowlands (born 1901) a ship worker of loading and cane stone (whatever that might mean) and his wife Elizabeth (nee Rumley) born 1908 were in residence at No. 6. All I can find about this couple is that Bernard James Rowlands and Elizabeth May Rumley had married in the Dartford area during the June 1929 quarter, and that I cannot find any children of this marriage. There was a Bernard James Rowlands who died in the Dartford area during the March 1966 quarter aged 64, but I cannot find any trace of Elizabeth. It is possible that she remarried.

1946 and Ethel Luck was living at No 6, seemingly on her own.

No 7 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 The Harding family were in residence. The father Thomas Harding was 67, an unemployed agricultural labourer, born in Plaxton. His wife of 23 years was Harriot then 49. The couple had five children, and all had survived. Their children were living at home, Edith 23 a nurse at Gore Farm Hospital, Arthur 19 and Herbert 17, both farm labourers, and Bysie (I think her name might have been Beatrice) a 14-year girl, described as a day girl and Ian 11, who was described as "going to school". In the previous census Thomas and his family were living at Upper Bean Cottages. Thomas George William Harding aged 80 a labourer died at West Hill Hospital Dartford and was buried at Stone Cemetery 18 December 1927. His wife Harriet Harding married woman aged 70 also died at West Hill Hospital Dartford and was buried at Stone Cemetery on the 12 May 1932. She and Thomas were buried in the same grave.

The 1921 census shows Frederick Ludlow from Darenth living there with his wife Frances and daughter Eileen. Frederick was a checking clerk for South East & Chatham Railways

By 1937 John and Henrietta Moffat were living at No 7, but by the following year John is recorded there on his own, Henrietta aged 75 having died during February 1938. She is buried at Stone Cemetery. John survived her until 1948. William Morrison and his wife Kathleen Morrison were living in No 7 by 1939; William was steam roller driver and his wife a housewife. And by 1946 George and Ann Froud were living there. Sometimes it is difficult to find information about people, they come and just as quietly they go. William and Kathleen Morrison I have been unable to trace, and all I know of George and Ann Froud, is that they married at Stone on the 13 April 1940, George was 24, Ann 20. George had been living at 9 High Street Bean. I think they had two daughters and a son, the son dying just after his 1st birthday. The girls married in the Dartford area.

No 8 Ightham Cottages

Charles Henry Johnson, aged 30, a grocer's manager was living at No 8 in 1911, together with his wife of 6 years, Evelyn, then aged 28. Charles Henry Johnson and Evelyn Olive Gibbons had married in the Maidstone area during the June 1905 quarter and had at one been living in South London for a while as their only child Charles Leslie, aged 3 at that time being born in Herne Hill. By 1939 the couple had moved to 26 Station Street Northfleet, where they continued to live until their respective deaths.

In the 1921 census Jesse Wood from Cobham was living there with his wife Kate and two children. Jesse was a carpenter working for P&S Anderson in Stone.

By 1937 Jesse Wood (born 12 May 1859) was a retired carpenter still living with his wife Kate Wood (nee Reed) b 21 July 1890 and their son Frederick F Wood born 13 Jan 1919 a general labourer at the cement factory. Also, their daughter Mahala Wood born 2 Dec 1921 who was a laundry maid and would go on to marry Arthur J Bodle. Also in the household was Betty Collins, born 10 Feb 1928 who was at school. She would marry a man called William G Monk in the Woolwich area during Mar 1950 quarter. I think this was Jesse Wood's second marriage, his first wife Elizabeth Durling having died. They would continue to live there until at least 1946 the house was occupied by Jesse and Kate Wood together with several of their children.

9 Ightham Cottages

Henry Baldock occupied No. 9 in 1911 with his family. He was 56, a general labour in Stone Grubbing, having been born at Milton. His wife Annie of 27 years was then 47 and came from Hungerford Berks. The couple had six children of whom five survived.

The 1921 census shows two families living in the house. Henry Baldock with his wife and grand-daughter and James Henry William Beck from Earls Court with his wife Ellen and son Leonard, both born in Stone. James was a packer in the Hayes Daren Flour mills in Dartford Road.

1930s and the Rook family were living there. Frederick J b 8 May 1910, a steel erector, and his wife Elsie A b 6 Sept 1912 a housewife. Frederick John had been born in Plymouth and Elsie in Norwich, which is where they married in 1937. They had moved to Dartford by at

least 1939 because all five of their children, four girls and one boy had been born in the Dartford area. Frederick died in the Dartford area during 1969, his wife having died previously in 1955.

By 1946 Isabella Ross (nee King) was living there and she lived there until her death on the 17 Aug 1990. It appears her full name was Isabella Amelia Ross and her date of birth was given as the 8 July 1904. She had been born in Southwark and had married Sidney Edward Ross during the Sept quarter of 1928, again in Southwark. She and Sidney lived at No 9 until their respective deaths, him in 1976 and her in 1990.

10 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 a police pensioner from the Met Police was living here, Edward Andrews, aged 68. He was born in Buxton Norfolk. His wife of 37 years, Emma was 59 from Huntingfield Suffolk. Of their six children, three had survived, one of them being daughter Elizabeth aged 22 who was born in Tooting Surrey. Previously Edward and his family had been living in Streatham and Tooting where he was a police constable. He must have moved around the country in the different places he was stationed and I cannot find anything about him after he left Bean.

The 1921 census shows Thomas Edward Elliott from Chatham with his wife Kate and six children. Thomas was a bricklayer for Branton Builders & Motor Haulage Greenhithe. Also living there was his eldest son's wife Doris.

1939 and John East, born 1909, an electric acetylene welder, was living there with his wife Winifred, b 1910. Son Anthony b 1933 was at school, and daughter Audrey was born in 1934. She went on to marry a man called John Joyce. There was the marriage of John East and Winifred R Wright in the Gravesend area during 1932. John and Winifred continued living there until their respective deaths, Winifred in 1964 and John in 1992.

No 11 Ightham Cottages

In 1911 George Wright aged 74 and single was living there, a labourer in a market garden, coming from Chatham. His housekeeper Sarah Ann Davies aged 68 a widow was from Borden Sittingbourne. Living in their house was George Davies aged 43, a widower who had been married 7 years, and there were two children from this marriage. George was also from Borden Sittingbourn (was he Elizabeth's son?) The last member of the household was Elizabeth Adelaide Davies aged 9 born in Dover described as a visitor, who might have been George's daughter.

By 1921 Sarah Ann Davies was the head of the household living with her three grandchildren. Sarah aged 20, William 17 & Harold 4.

1939 saw William Page, born 1876 in residence, an ex-cooper in the cement factory who had been crippled. His wife was Clara, born 1874 and daughter Mary, b 1899 was listed as a mother's helper. Daughter Clara born 1903 had no job as she was blind. Henry Page 1918

was a loco driver at the cement factory. Henry Page, I believe was Henry Hindmarsh Page (or Harry Page), after whom Page Close was named. William died in 1945 and in 1946 and Clara the mother with daughters Clara, and Mary Page were still living there. Also, there was Martha Farquar, another daughter who had married Kenneth R Farquar during the Dec 1921 Quarter in the Gravesend area. Clara died in 1952, whether or not they were still living at Ightham Cottages I have no knowledge.





