

## Chapter 1 The 1880s

Heath End Hill, Heath End Nursery, The Warren, The Army College

### Setting the Scene

Queen Victoria on the throne, Prime Minister: William Gladstone (Liberal), Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury (Conservative). Robert Louis Stevenson's novel Treasure Island begins serialisation; Postal orders issued for the first time in Britain and the General Post Office starts a parcel service; the first electric railway opens, the Volk's Railway at Brighton; Representation of the People Act extends the franchise uniformly across the U.K. to all male tenants paying a £10 rental or occupying land to that value, and restricts multiple voting.

### Heath End Hill

There is no better date to start the history of Rowhills than with the 1881 census. Census data had been collected in the country every ten years since 1841 but the addresses on the 1871 census for Weybourne and Hale were vague. Locally, Hale with a population in 1878 of 2823 might well have regarded Heath End as an adjacent hamlet.

The 1881 census for the end of the hamlet of Weybourne next continues with Heath End Hill. The census data shows three distinct properties at what is now Farnborough Road but in 1881 was called Heath End Hill.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										116	Page 21
Civil Parish, (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of				
Farnham				Heath End		Farnham	Hale				
No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES No. of Inhabitants (Males & Females)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic		
87	Heath End Hill	1	Sarah Jones	Wife	Mar.	22		York York			
			Robert Woodrow	Visitor		15	Genl Labourer	Basel Farnham			
88		1	Edward Beare	Head	Mar	56	Gardener Down	Hants Aldershot			
			Hannah Do	Wife	Mar	47		Surrey Horsell			
			Catherine Champion	Sister	W	61		Hants Aldershot			

Two modest cottages, unnamed but later Cottage 1, Cottage 2 and later still 2, Rowhills and 4, Rowhills are currently the combined property of Rowhills Cottage. The original date of the cottages is likely to be much earlier but currently unknown. Little is known about the wife Sarah Jones and her visitor but it is possible her husband was a woodsman or local worker.

In the adjoining cottage lived Edward Beare (1825-1910), his wife Hannah née Alderton (1834-1921) and Edward's sister Catherine Beare who had married Thomas Champion, a shepherd. Edward, born in Aldershot, had been working as an ostler in 1871 in Chertsey. By 1881, he was a domestic gardener.

Next door to the cottages, heading towards Hale, was the very successful Heath End Nurseries with the widowed father and two grown-up children.

Heath End Nursery	1	William H. Charman	Head	Wid	63	Nurseryman & Florist	Sussex Worthing
		Caroline Do	Daughter	Mar	36	Do	Warrickshire Studok
		William H. Do	Son	Mar	32	Nurseryman and Florist	Do Do

William Heath Charman (1818-1891) was a nurseryman and florist employing 6 men and 1 boy; from the maps, the nursery was a sizeable site. It included what is now Carters Walk and the current garden of Wentwood.

William, born in Worthing, Sussex had been a gardener at Studley Castle in Warwickshire in 1871. His daughter Caroline (1847-1926) had been born at Studley and she made her living initially as a seamstress then as a book-keeper. Son William Henry Charman (1849-1917) also worked as a gardener and then became a nurseryman and florist. Hard work and being astute with business, the Charmans had clearly developed a flourishing trade.

Finally, next to the nursery was the Royal Arms.

The Royal Army	1	John Langfield	Head	Man	54	Licensed Victualler	Somerset Long Sutton
		Sabra	Wife	Man	50		Do Do
		Elizabeth	Daughter	Woman	25		Devon Exeter

John Langfield (1827-1886) from Long Sutton Somerset had worked as a Publican at Netley Abbey, Hampshire before he moved to Heath End. The record from the list of Electors becomes a very useful way of tracking who lived in a property and in 1878 John Langfield was a registered voter.

Polling District of Farnham—Parish of Farnham—contd.					
Origin for Voters' Objectors	No.	Christian Name and Surname of each Voter at full length.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, Lane, or other like Place in this Parish (or Township) and Number of House (if any) where the Property is situate, or Name of the Property, if known by any, or Name of the occupier (tenant); or if the Qualification consist of a Rent charge, then the Name of the Owners of the Property out of which such rent is issuing, or name of them, and the Situation of the Property.
	4014	Keen, John	Runfold, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	Runfold
	4015	King, William	Downing street, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	Downing street
	4016	Knight, John	Hoghatch, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	Hoghatch
	4017	Knight, John	Borough, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	Borough
	4018	Knight, Samuel	East street, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	East street
	4019	Langfield, John	Heath end, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	Heath end
	4020	Lee, James	East street, Farnham	Occupation of tenement	East street

John Langfield made his way into the Post Office Directory for 1878 as did the Charman family, entered as Heath Charman William and Son.

UK, City and County Directories, 1766 - 1946 for John Langfield		
England > Surrey > 1878 Post Office Directory		
Newcome Miss, Hale place	Green Frederick, baker, Heath end	Upper Hale
Owen Chas. Ward, Park cot. Hale road	Green George, grocer, Badshot Lea	Rawlings Jas. grocer & bakr. Badshot Lea
Rows Rev. David [vicar]	Green Mark, Grenadier, Heath end	Rogers James, grocer, Upper Hale
Simmonds Mrs. Bourne place	Harrington Emanuel, farmer, Lady-house, Upper Hale	Ruff John, beer retailer, Weybourne
Smitier Miss	Harrington John, beer retailer	Sanders William, grocer, Badshot Lea
Ward Owen, Hale road	Heath Charman William & Son, nurseryman, Heath end	Simmonds William, miller, Bourne mill Farnham
Westropp Capt. John Thomas, Heath End villa	Higlett Wm. blacksmith, Upper Hale	Sly & Grover, coach builders, Hale road
<b>COMMERCIAL.</b>	Hunter John, Cricketers' Arms, Badshot Lea	Smither Stephen, baker
Arnold Wm. market gardnr. Badshot Lea	Jacobs Elijah, grocer & post office, Upper Hale	Spreadborough Thomas, bricklayer, Upper Hale
Bailey Benjamin, relieving officer for north district, Hale road	Kelly Michael, Six Bells, Hale road	Spriggs Chas. Fras. surveyor, Bute ho
Baker Andrew, Cricketers, brick maker	Kenton Charles, plumber & glazier, Upper Hale	Stevens George, Alma
Bance John, Iron Duke	Knight George Vernon, farmer & hop grower, Hale farm	Stroud Alfred, Shepherds' Flock, Bourne
Belton Arthur, blacksmith, Upper Hale	Lambden Charles, Greyhound, Hale rd	Swansborough John, butcher, Up. Hal.
Bide Samuel, nurseryman	Langfield John, The Royal Arms, Heath end	Todman Daul. mrkt. garden. Weybourne
Billinghurst William & George, farmers, Badshot Lea	Leonard John Hy. draper, Upper Hale	Turner Charles, Black Prince, Up. Hale
Blake Wm. Hy. inland revenue officer		Varney Robert & Alfred, builders, Upper Hale
Bone Tho's. boot & shoe maker, Up. Hale		Wignmore John, Crown, Badshot Lea
Bradley Abraham, Halfway House, Heath end		Williams John Thomas, potter

Having established one end of Rowhills, this local history now turns on its head to another world - one of wealth, large properties and land. An advertisement in the "London Gazette" dated 13-Aug-1877 had the title Rowhills Coppice.

*Wooded and arable land sold with 5 cottages and 103 acres of land.*

Looking at the maps in Appendix A, it can be seen that this copse part of Heath End was heavily wooded although at this stage it is not known who were the land owners. The 1881 census for Weybourne showed that John Henry Knight of Weybourne House was a land-owner of 420 acres but where exactly were his lands? More research needed here.

What is known is that a large property called The Warren on 2.75 acres of land was built about 1887. This estate is now occupied by houses and gardens in a road currently called The Warren. In 2018, the Surrey history centre in Woking received the following email:

**George Shaw**

March 23, 2018 at 11:03 am

My name is George Shaw and I live in Johannesburg. I am transcribing a "Cash Book" written by a great uncle, Col. Wilkinson Jocelyn Shaw (1834-1911). He built a house in Heath End which he called "The Warren". An entry in his Cash Book reads, "Our new house "The Warren" at Heath End. On 14 September [1887] the house was inspected by the surveyor, Mr Howard Martin — We then made preparations for moving in but the workman still had things to finish & we were delayed thereby — On the 12th October we finally took possession". Does this house still stand? If so what is its street address? Is it possible for me to get a photograph of the house? I would be very grateful for any information and or assistance you can provide.

Sincerely

George Shaw

Sadly, no postcard, sketch or photograph has yet been unearthed for The Warren but the 1877 house and outbuildings for carriages and stables will have been sizeable.

The correspondence from above stated that The Warren was built for Colonel Shaw. Colonel Wilkinson Jocelyn Shaw (1835-1911) was born and baptised in Chelsea, London. His father was Sir Frederick Shaw, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet, an Irish Conservative MP for Dublin City (1791-1876) and a distant relative of the writer George Bernard Shaw. His mother was Thomasine Emilia Jocelyn (1796-1859) the daughter of Hon. George Jocelyn, MP, of Newport, co. Tipperary, Member of Parliament for Dundalk. The family home was Kimmage House, county of Dublin with another family residence in Terenure Castle.

Wilkinson Shaw had married a lady in 1873 in South Kensington, whose names just trip off the tongue - Lavinia Mary de Fontblanque. A son Jocelyn Frederick De Fontblanque Shaw (Major 1874-1936) was born in Aldershot in 1874. Clearly this family needed somewhere to live. Initially the family lived in Kensington, London then in a house called Cranmore, Heath End, Hale. (A little confusing because there was a Cranmore House in Aldershot.)

Colonel Wilkinson Shaw (late of 102<sup>nd</sup> Fusiliers) had joined forces on a commercial basis with a Colonel Berdoe Amherst Wilkinson (1827-1895) and now is the time to meet this gentleman.

Berdoe, born in Middlesex and baptised in Suffolk had entered into the Army at the age of 18 at the Royal Military College in the Royal Engineers Unit. (For more details, see Appendix C Military Personnel.) Berdoe Wilkinson served abroad for 6 years, surveying in Canada and for 16 years was in charge of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland as Director of the Ordnance Survey. In 1848 in Ipswich, Berdoe married Frances Neal (1825-1889) and seven children followed, some born in Canada or Ireland.

A home was set up for the Wilkinson family, a (modest?) six-bedroomed house, Seaforth House, Heath End but at various times, this was rented out. Seaforth House was in Heath End village, on the other side of the road from The Wellington, near what is now a junction of Farnborough Road and Alma Lane. Later Seaforth House became the White House and then the White House Hotel (these words can still be seen on the roadside wall, at a blocked entrance).

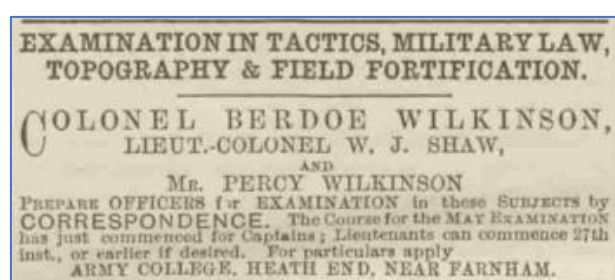
In 1869 an advertisement appeared for his property: "*House to be let furnished with stabling for four horses and coach houses for three carriages, pleasure grounds and gardens, Well fenced in and private. Apply To Mr Curran, Messman, 67th Regiment, West Cavalry Barracks, Aldershot*" and then in 1870 in the Aldershot Sandhurst Military Gazette, "*to be let, furnished or unfurnished, also cottage for groom, stabling for four horses and houses for three carriages, pleasure ground and garden. Well fenced in and private. Apply Mr T White, Union Street, Aldershot.*"

September 1876, at the tender age of 48, Berdoe was permitted to commute his retired full pay. This was £365 per annum, to start in April 1877. By 1878, Colonel Wilkinson and Colonel Shaw had set up a private tutoring Army College at Darmstadt, Hesse in what is now Germany. (Darmstadt is approximately 25 miles south of Frankfurt and 40 miles north of Heidelberg.)

The purpose of the college was to prepare young gentlemen students for military examinations required to become Officers. (It is thought that Queen Victoria visited this college.)

Now returning to the family of Colonel Shaw, by 1883, the Shaw family had moved to Darmstadt, Germany and daughter Esme Mary Shaw (1883-1967) was born there. Wilkinson Shaw, with an M.A. qualification was possibly one of the lead tutors.

Back in Rowhills, Berdoe and Wilkinson had privately purchased land adjacent to The Warren (the current Recreation ground) and land opposite. They had reckoned that an Army College was needed to be established to provide a "crammer" for boys who were to take the entrance examination for the Royal Military College at Sandhurst or the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, to obtain commissions. Its origins to be that of the Military College from Darmstadt where the principles were established. It was called Army College but was nothing to do with the British Army, since fees were paid privately.



The Post Office Counties Directory for 1887 showed the Shaw family back in Surrey,

Shaw Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson J. M. A. Cranmore, Heath end, Hale, Farnham

and the 1887 Polling information (erroneously saying William not Wilkinson) showed two properties, one Cranmore in The Crescent, Hale and the other being The Warren, Heath End for Colonel Shaw.

Polling District of Farnham (E)—Parish of Farnham—contd. (part forming the Farnham Rural County Electoral Division).  
Occupation Voters (Division 1.)—Parliamentary Voters and County Electors.

E* 1448	Shaw, William Jocelyn	Heath end, Farnham	Dwelling house, successive	Hale crescent and Heath end
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"On 12th October 1887, we finally took possession." was written in the Shaw family cash book for The Warren. Oh, but we need servants .....

*Surrey Advertiser - Saturday 03 December 1887*

**WANTED, useful Maid to take charge of child of four, and assist in light housework; not under 24; good reference necessary from last place.—Mrs. W. Shaw, The Warren, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey.**

*Surrey Advertiser - Saturday 25 February 1888*

**WANTED, about middle of March, a really good Plain Cook; small family; no housework; only a steady, well recommended person, over 25, need apply; wages £20.—Mrs. S., The Warren, Heath End, Farnham.**

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Mrs Wilkinson Shaw, an educated woman will have been reading the local newspapers regularly, essential reading to follow when Her Majesty Queen Victoria was visiting Aldershot.

*Morning Post - Monday 11 July 1887*

**ROYAL PAVILION, ALDERSHOT, FRIDAY.**  
The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Beatrice, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Grand Duke of Hesse, and Princess Irene, the Hereditary Grand Duke, and Prince Louis of Battenberg, and attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Hon. Evelyn Boscawen, Major-General...

16 July 1887

**GRAND REVIEW AT ALDERSHOT.**  
**PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.**  
The Queen held a grand review at Aldershot on Saturday of a force of nearly 60,000 men of the army and reserve forces in the Long Valley. Her Majesty arrived at Aldershot on the previous evening from Windsor, and stayed the night in the Royal Pavilion overlooking the valley. Many thousands of visitors flocked to Aldershot, and among those present were members of the Royal family, many peers and members of Parliament, who were accommodated with seats near the Royal stand. The force was drawn up in two lines, and consisted of cavalry, artillery, guards, infantry, yeomanry, and volunteer corps.

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In scouring the Aldershot News, it will not have escaped Mrs Shaw's attention, that the name of a certain Mr Henry Wells kept appearing. He was writing letters, he was advertising his business, he had a hotel, many properties, land, was a magistrate and essentially fingers in a lot of pies. It didn't stop him bringing to court at Aldershot Petty Sessions a scallywag for stealing a clothes' prop worth threepence.

Berkshire Chronicle - Saturday 15 April 1871

**—Charles Brannan was sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment with hard labour for stealing a clothes' prop, value 3d., the property of Henry Wells, at Aldershot.—Chas.**

We might start following Mr Henry Wells and see if his name crops up again.

The 1880s ended with Rowhills well established and was often referred to as Rowhills Estate. It had hard working families at one end of the road and a life-style of carriages, grooms, butlers and parlour maids at the other end, and hopefully students with their heads in books for their next examinations on Tactics, Topography, Fortification and Military Law,