Chapter 5 Part 1The 1920sThe Royal Arms Hotel, Heath End Nurseries

Setting the Scene

Monarch – King George V. Prime ministers David Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald,

Conscripts to be replaced by a volunteer army of 220,000 men. Compulsory hand signals to be introduced for all drivers. Police patrol London on motorcycles for the first time. The British Legion is founded. The first women jury members in England are empanelled. The Irish War of Independence comes officially to an end. Ernest Shackleton sets sail on his last expedition to Antarctica. First hunger march sets out, from Glasgow to London. First outside broadcast by the British Broadcasting Company, Liquor Act makes it illegal to sell alcoholic beverages to under-18s. Archaeologist Howard Carter unseals the burial chamber of Tutankhamun. Frigidaire becomes the first make of refrigerator marketed in the UK. John Logie Baird successfully transmits the first television pictures. General Strike begins in support of the miners' strike. Electricity (Supply) Act creates the Central Electricity Board to set up the National Grid. Britain's first automatic traffic lights are deployed. The voting age for women is reduced from 30 to 21. Heinz Baked Beans are manufactured in the UK for the first time. Alfred Hitchcock's Blackmail the first British sound film.

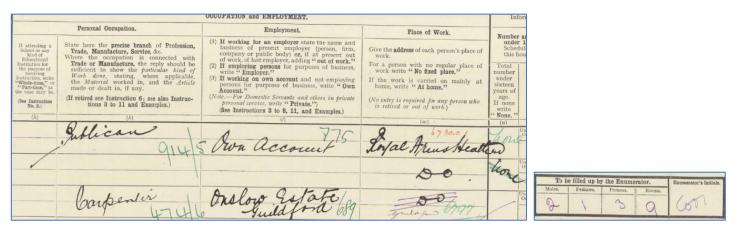
Wilfred Owen's collected Poems (posthumous). Richmal Crompton's children's stories Just William. Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot novel, The Murder on the Links. A. A. Milne's children's book Winnie-the-Pooh. Evelyn Waugh's satirical novel Decline and Fall.

Royal Arms Hotel, Heath End

Here we are in 1921 with the Great War in the past but for some who lost loved ones, the pain is still very much in the fore. This Rowhills history has been tracking Heath End residents close to Rowhills starting at the Royal Arms and going clockwise around Rowhills.

E	NAME and SURNAME :	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household. AGE. SET	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD.	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY.
CENSUS, ENGLAND, 1921. SCHEDULE. Prescribed by Regulations under the Course Aer, 1920, as the form to be used in England (scalading Monmouth), for the purpose of returns in respect on (a) Private Households, (6) Hotels, Chuka Sharding Houses, or Coursino or other	 of every person who is alive at midnight on the night of Sunday, 29 kth April, 1921, and who, whether as member of the family or resolution of the system of the system (1) passes that night in the dwelling of the household or establishment, or (2) arrives and is received into the house- hold or establishment, or (3) arrives and is received into the house- hold or establishment, or (4) not one of the much system of the household or establishment, or (5) Arrives and the received into the house of Monday. 29th April, not having already between the size of the size of the size of the no need hereol.) 	State whether "Head," or "Wohter," 's Son," "Doughter," and "Generative States," "Benefor," or office Telasive, "Berefor," or "Servan," or "Servan," (See Telasive, "Servan," (See Telasive, "Servan," (See Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, State Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, State Telasive, Servan," (See Telasive, State Telasive, (See Telasive,	e "Single, ''.' Mariel, ''.' "Willowed, '' w'i' marriage dissolved by divorce write "D,'' " For children aged mader 15 write "Both Allwey " " Eather Deat"	 If born in the United Kingdom, write the many of the County Parish. If born outside the United Kingdom, With the Kingdom, this the nume of the State, Province "Attanised Farming". Watanised First, e.s., "Watanised First, or "Matanised First, or "States, "Astance". Watanised First, States, "Watanised First, or "States, "Astance".
Lodging Houses, and (c) Other persons in respect of whom no other form o schedule is prescribed.		(h) (c) (d	(e)	(f) (g)
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34 3 Name of person Mr. Bollen	2 Charlotte Bollen	loife 53 12 7	marria	Dorset Down
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In 1921 Frederick James Bollen from Portland, Dorset was still the Publican at the Royal Arms, on his own account. He was living with his wife Charlotte Gertrude née Burt, managing the 9 rooms. We met them before in Chapter 4 Part 1. Frederick had been a Sergeant Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps. His son 28-year-old Frederick William Bollen was also living at the Royal Arms and had been born at Shorncliff Army Camp, near to Folkstone in 1891. This camp was a staging post in Kent, readying troops for the Western front. By 1921 son Frederick was a carpenter working on the Onslow estate in Guildford but he later married and moved to Kent.



The Bollen family had had a funeral in 1920 when son Wilfred Charles Bollen had died aged 22 at Roehampton hospital. Wilfred, like his father served in the Royal Army Medical Corps but he had enlisted in 1912 in Aldershot aged 14 years 4 months and was referred to as a 'boy'. He had been acting Corporal by 1917, sustaining an injury, then later discharged with 100% incapacity. He had suffered a fracture of the lumbar vertebrae.

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The family address was Royal Arms Hotel. Wilfred was awarded a War badge, discharged in 1919 and died in 1920.

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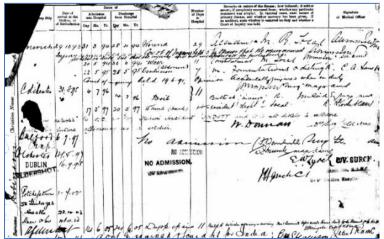
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By 1923, father Frederick Bollen and his wife had moved to Dapdune Wharf, Guildford and then by 1939 they were retired and living in Brighton Road, Aldershot.

The new 1924 Publican at the Royal Arms was again an Army pensioner Edward Robinson (1875-1954) of Stamford hill, London, married to Beatrice Mary née Fox. Edward had been in the 1st Kings Dragoon Guards and in 1904 when his daughter Eileen May Robinson was baptised at All Saints Garrison Church in Aldershot, the family address was West Cavalry Barracks, Aldershot. Edward was an 18-year-old labourer when he enlisted in London into the King's Dragoon Guards in October 1893 and was stationed in Colchester, Dublin and Aldershot.

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It is extremely difficult to read all the medical notes but presumably the Army medical staff could make sense of the records. Edward spent twelve days in hospital in Umballa, North India and it was here that his daughter Iris Mary was born in 1911.



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Name of	Hospital.			Hospital			Disease	Number of days in	
Hospital	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year		Hospital	
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After 18 years of service, Edward was granted an army pension at Aldershot in 1914 but reenlisted aged 39 years and finally left the Army in 1919. His wife Beatrice and family were living at Hanover Gardens, Kennington but then moved to Heath End.

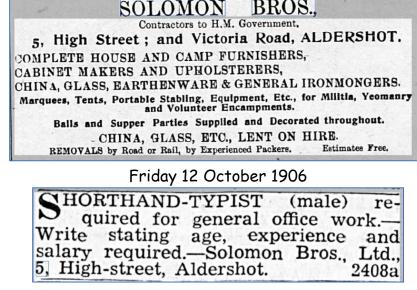
In 1921, this Robinson family of mother and three daughters had been living in Roseberry Villas, Heath End but it is not known exactly where that was. One neighbour was at Stream Cottages and then the next neighbour was living at Hale Reed, off Weybourne Road. Where in 1921 was Edward Robinson and his son William Edward Robinson?

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The 1921 census differed from the 1911 census by not giving the number of years married but it did provide more employment details. The document above gives some insight into the occupation of the two employed Robinson daughters. 20-year-old Ivy was working as a Book Keeper at Messrs Solomon Bros, House and Lamp Finishers at 5 High Street, Aldershot. Her sister 16-year-old Eileen was a Pastry Cook at the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, Aldershot (N.A.A.F.I.).



The advertisement of Solomon Bros on the top left is from 1966 but is an indication that from the 1900s to the 1970s, the store thrived and survived at the same address.



Friday 25 August 1939, Aldershot News

24 Dec 1909, Aldershot News

By 1921, parents and elder son William Edward Robinson were registered for voting and living at Roseberry Cottages but father Edward was marked as an absent voter, Military in 1921.

R == Residence qualification.
B P == Business premises qualification.
O == Occupation qualification.
H O == Qualification through husband's occupation.
N M == Naval or Military voter.

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ev. Er	nglar	ıd. E	lectoral Registers, 183	2-1962 for William Edward
,,,	-0	, -		921 Spring
1765	HO	HO	Robinson, Beatrice Mary	Rosebery Cots., Heath End
1766	NM	0	aRobinson, Edward	Do. do.
1767	HO	HO	Robinson, Florence Kate	Heath End
1768	R	0	Robinson, Henry	Heath End
1769	R	-	Robinson, James	Albert Cott., Upper Hale
1770	R	0	Robinson, Richard	Weybourne
1771	0	Ō	Robinson, Ruth	Laburnum Villa, Hale Reeds
1772	HO	HO	Robinson, Sarah	Weybourne
1773	R	_	Robinson, William Edward	Roseberry Cots., Heath End

1924

l, Ele	ectora	Il Registers, 1832-1962 f Farnham > 1924 Spring	for Edward Robinson
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1922	
nd, Electoral Registers, 18 Farnham > 1922 Au	32-1962 for Edward Robins
Robinson, Beatrice Mary Robinson, Edward Robinson, Florence Kate Robinson, Henry Robinson, Richard Robinson, Ruth Robinson, Sarah Robinson, William Edward	Rosebery Cots., Heath End Rosebery Cots., Heath End Heath End Weybourne Laburnum Villa, Hale Reeds Weybourne Rosebery Cots., Heath End

Why the Robinson family only stayed at the Royal Arms for one or two years appeared unknown until the 1924 Surrey Advertiser newspaper was examined. Suddenly all was explained.

HOTEL TENANT'S FAILURE. Liabilities amounting to £1,214 17s. 4d., and assets £331 5s. 2d., and a deficiency to creditors of £883 12s. 2d., were disclosed by the statement of affairs of Edward Robinson, licensed victualler, of the Royal Arms Hotel, Heath End, Farnham, who appeared for his public examination at the Guildford Bankruptcy Court before the Deputy-Registrar (Mr. G. T. Potter) on Tuesday. The examination was adjourned to June 3rd for closing.

Well, that explains that.

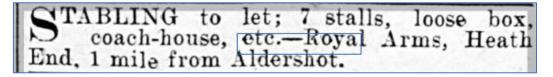
By the Autumn of 1925, a different local Aldershot/Farnham family had moved in, also of the surname Robinson but of absolutely no relation. The new publican was Clarence Reginald Robinson (1893-1984), married to Winifred Frances née Byrne (1889-1958). This time this family settled and stayed - for 34 years!



Clarence Robinson had been the publican at Uncle Tom's Cabin, High Street, Aldershot (to the left of The Queen Hotel) for 9 years from 1916-1925 so will have been used to a full range of military and local drinkers. Clarence said it was not unusual for a man to drink 6-8 pints in a night!!!

Su	rrey, E	ngland, Electoral Register Famham > 1926 Autumn	s, 1832-1962
R	0	Robinson, Clarence Reginald—J	The Royal Arms, Heath End
но	НО	Robinson, Winifred	The Royal Arms, Heath End

Before we move next door to Heath End Nurseries, it might be worth reflecting on the stabling at the Royal Arms Hotel. There had originally been stabling for 7 horses because it was an important establishment on the London Road but, by 1911 there were no grooms living on the premises and the 1904-1907 advertisements in the Aldershot News showed that stabling was no longer required:



Clearly by the 1920s, a hotel was not needing stabling due to the growth of motor transport so maybe turn the stabling into a garage on the Aldershot turn-pike road might be a possibility?

Heath End Nurseries

Let's do some gardening next and move along the main road. We first met the Charman family at the Heath End Nurseries from 1876 when they took over from a landscape gardener William Dean. This nursery covered many acres and originally had been used for growing hops. William Henry Charman had died in 1917 leaving a widow Louisa to carry on the business. Their son William Edward married to Ella Marjorie Stewart was a motor mechanic, after he returned from serving in France, and seemed to have no interest in the floristry/nursery business. So where was Louisa Charman in 1921? She was in the same location with the same servant.

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1921

District.	Sub-District.	District.
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1911 Florence Williamson

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The accommodation had 6 rooms.

1921 saw widowed 63-year-old Louisa Charman still working as a florist but with loyal Florence Williamson to help her as a general domestic servant. Florence had been with the family since at least 1911. Was it time for Louisa to retire?

By 1922, Louisa was still at the Nursery but her son and daughter-in-law were living at College Villa, 2 College Road (now Upper Weybourne Road). Grandchildren were Marjorie Babette Charman born 1916 and William James Charman who had been born at Kings Norton, Warwickshire in 1920 but sadly died in Heath End in 1922.



Louisa Charman eventually retired in 1923 and 'went under the radar' but re-appeared in the Surrey voting in the 1930s. We'll meet her another time and discuss her son again in chapter 5 Part 3. So now a change in Heath End Nurseries and this time, it was a horticulturist with a completely different background and set of business skills - Stephen Capon (1877-1945).

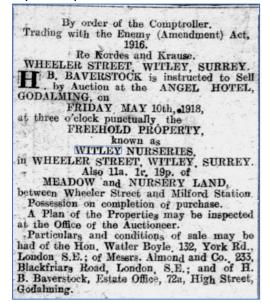


Stephen started his career in Kent with a 5-year apprenticeship specialising in grapes, hardy fruits and specimen foliage plants. He then went to Wimbledon, (specialising in orchids) followed by Coventry, Chelsea and Elvetham Hall, Hampshire. Then he worked for Lord Calthorpe in Ryde by 9 years working on walled fruit and kitchen gardens. Wargrave Manor, Berkshire came next followed by Hethrop, Oxfordshire (from where grapes were sent to the troops in France). Apthorpe, Northamptonshire was followed by Witley in Surrey. Witley Nurseries, Wheeler Street, Witley, (3 miles from Godalming and 8 miles from Farnham) were well-established, and famous for their roses. In 1826, the business was advertised as 40 acres. The 1916 owners Kordes and Krause were regarded as 'the enemy' since the country was at war. Hence, Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act 1916. The nurseries went under the hammer in 1918 and in stepped Stephen Capon.

1823 F	Five Da	ys Sale
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	FIVE DAYS SALE.
	NURSERY STOCK, WITLEY SURRY.
	TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
	By MESSRS. PEACOCK,
On t	he Premises, on MONDAY, 13th of OCTOBER, 1823, and Five following Days, by order of the Trustees,
P	HE ENTIRE STOCK of this Extensive NUR-
e of	SERY, which for the covenience of purchasers, will fered in small lots, and comprises a great variety of
ude id si	d, seedling, and potted plants, larch, Scotch spruce,
cam.	trained and untrained peaches, nectarines, apricols,
nes.	, and cherries, apples, pears, medlars, quinces, grape- gooseberries, and currants, rhododendrons, azalias,
agn	olige andromedas, red cedars, cedars of Lebanon, ar-
pani	sh and horse chesnuts, walnuts, elm, ash sycamore,
aci	a, and beech of various sizes, striped nony, noney-
arie	es, roses, evergreens, and flowering shrubs, in great ty, with several acres of potatoes.
	The Sale to begin each day at Eleven.
Cat	alogues to be had Ten Days before the Sale, atth
	the principal linns at Kingston, Epsom Dorking, Ri r Leatherhead, Farnham, Arundel, Horsham, Petworth
'41CI	Dester, Guildford; at Lasham's, Willey Nursery ; and cuctioneers, Godalming.

Saturday 27 April 1918



By 1923, Stephen and his wife Lucie Eliza née Holley moved from Witley to Heath End but they weren't to stay long.

rrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Stephen Cap		Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Stephen Capo			
Guildford > 1921 Autumn		Farnham > 1923 Autumn			
R O Capon, Stephen	Wheeler Street	HO	HO	Capon, Lucie Eliza	Heath End Nurse
HO HO Capon, Lucie E.	Wheeler Street	R	O	Capon, Stephen	Heath End Nurse

The lure of working in large estates proved to be too compelling and four years later Stephen Capon and family left Heath End for the gardens of the Earl of Pembroke in Salisbury and finally to Goodwood, Chichester under three successive Dukes of Richmond and Gordon.

Who would follow in Heath End Nurseries? After all the stability with the 40 years of the Charman family, it was all change again.

George Holmes and his wife Louisa Annie Holmes arrived in 1926. Their daughter Doris Holmes married Geoffrey Woodward in 1928 and he ran the nursery from 1927 to 1929.

7, En	ıgland,	Electoral Registers, 18 Farnham > 1926 Auto	32-1962 for George	Woodward,	Geoffrey	Heath End 1
R HO	ОНО	Holmes, George Holmes, Louisa Annie	Heath End Nurserie Heath End Nurserie	woodward,	Geomety 1	O-1- Cott D

Next in 1929 came nurseryman Thomas Myhill Fletcher, and his second wife Cornelia Harriett Viola née Bond with his two daughters, who had lost their mother in 1926. Will they stay longer?

We can tarry awhile on the corner of Rowhills watching the horse-drawn vans and the motor vehicles approach us up the hill. Our next stop will be at the Rowhills Cottage in Rowhills to visit the adjoining neighbours, the Eltringhams and Hunters. Let's hope they are at home.