

**Setting the Scene**

Monarchs - King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI.

Prime ministers Ramsay MacDonald, Stanley Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain.



Two major events rocked the Nation during the 1930s. Firstly, in January 1936, King George V died, succeeded by his eldest son Edward VIII. Edward was never crowned and abdicated that year, later becoming the Duke of Windsor. Edward's younger brother Albert then became the next monarch, King George VI, crowned on 12 May 1937.

Secondly, on 3rd September 1939, Neville Chamberlain made an announcement on the wireless that the United Kingdom had made a declaration of war on Germany, following the German invasion of Poland two days earlier. National Service was introduced for men age 18 to 41. BBC Television shut down until 1946 and the BBC Home Service began on the wireless.

**The Royal Arms Hotel, Heath End**

It is ten years since we last visited The Royal Arms Hotel with Clarence Robinson (1893-1984) being the publican (Chapter 5 Part 1 page 88). There is no 1931 census for England and Wales to peruse since it was destroyed a fire in 1942 in Hayes, Middlesex. Therefore, only Electoral Registers and newspapers are available for research.

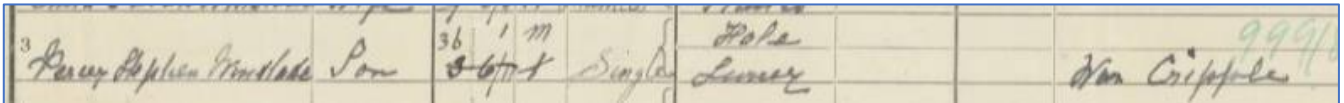
Prior to being at The Royal Arms Hotel, Clarence was previously licensee at Uncle Tom's Cabin, 3 High Street, Aldershot (to the left of Queen Hotel). Clarence had taken over Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1915 prior to joining the Army, leaving his wife in charge. He was decorated with the Military Cross for bravery in the Great War before being demobbed in 1919. Clarence returned to Aldershot as publican supported by his wife Winifred Frances née Byrne (1889-1958) and her brother Richard Robert Byrne.

One small story from October 1920 was when Clarence Reginald Robinson, licensee of Uncle Tom's cabin was summoned to court for permitting drunkenness on the premises. He was fined £3 and 3 shillings by the magistrate who stated that this was not to affect the licence application when it came up the following year.

Moving on to 1924, Clarence Robinson took over the Royal Arms Hotel, Heath End from bankrupt Edward Robinson, (of no relation) and by 1930, he and his wife Winifred were well settled at Heath End, with Winifred's relatives helping run the business.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Clarence Robinson				
<small>Farnham &gt; 1930</small>				
880	R	O	Robinson, Clarence Reginald—J	The Royal Arms, Heath End
881	Rw	Dw	Robinson, Winifred	The Royal Arms, Heath End
148	Rw	—	Byrne, Kathleen	The Royal Arms, Heath End
149	Rw	—	Byrne, Betty	The Royal Arms, Heath End

By 1934, Percy Stephen Winslade (1883-1962) had moved in to the Royal Arms. Percy was a local man, from a Hale family. Age 16, Percy was living with his large family and was a sign writer. By 1911 he was a house decorator living at 1 Nelson Road, Heath End with his parents Taplin and Emma Winslade. (Taplin Winslade had been a labourer at Hale Laundry then became a gardener.) Percy served in the First World War with the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment. In the 1921 census, he was out of work and living with his parents in Nelson Road. He was referred to as a war cripple.



In 1930 Percy's elderly father died followed by the death of his elderly mother in 1933. Percy, then age 51, moved just across the road in 1934 from Nelson Road to the Royal Arms, but not necessarily with employment, because in the 1939 register he was referred to as a disability pensioner.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Percy Stephen Winslade				
<small>Farnham &gt; 1934</small>				
1227	R	—	Winslade, Percy Stephen	The Royal Arms, Heath End

The next generation of the Robinson family entered the scene when daughter Gladys Winifred Robinson became of age and helped out as a barmaid at the Royal Arms. Gladys was born in Rathdown, South Dublin in 1913, a year after her parents' marriage at Ballybrack, Ireland, ten miles south of Dublin. Her father had served with the British Army in Ireland as a machine gunner. By 1939 Gladys had become a typist in the Civil Service.

Clarence and Winifred had two further children. Clarence Edwin Benedict Robinson, born in 1915 in Ballybrack, Ireland and Dorian Gerard Robinson born in Aldershot in 1920. The family were living at the public house Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1921, which had the address of 3, High Street, Aldershot. The Queen Hotel, next door on the High Street corner, in 1921 had the proprietor, eight guest boarders and ten staff as residents, so it was sizeable.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Betty Byrne				
<small>Farnham &gt; 1931</small>				
164	Rw	—	Byrne, Kathleen	The Royal Arms, Heath End
165	Rw	—	Byrne, Betty	The Royal Arms, Heath End

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, war was declared in the United Kingdom. A Register was taken in England and Wales on 29 September 1939 and was used to produce identity cards. Once rationing was introduced in January 1940, it was used to issue ration books. The listing for the Royal Arms Hotel, Heath End showed the Robinson family.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Royal Arms Heath End Hotel	90	1	Robinson Clarence	M	17 May 93	M		
		2	Robinson Winifred	F	10 Oct 89	M		
	9.11.44 DML M	3	Robinson Gladys W	F	12 Sept 13	S		
		4	Robinson Dorian G	M	5 Sept 20	S		
This record is officially closed.								
		6	Byrne Kathleen	F	4 Oct 06	S		
		7	Winslade Percy S	M	10 June 83	S		
		8	Byrne Robert	M	9 Mar 84	W		

The register showed Rows 1-4 Clarence Robinson, his wife Winifred Robinson, daughter Gladys W. and son Dorian G. Line 5 was redacted for son Clarence Robinson because he was serving in the Royal Navy. Line 6 showed Winifred's niece Kathleen Byrne. Next was Row 7 resident Percy Winslade and lastly Winifred's brother Robert Byrne. The Robinson family lived and worked in the Royal Arms for many years so we will meet them again in the 1940s.

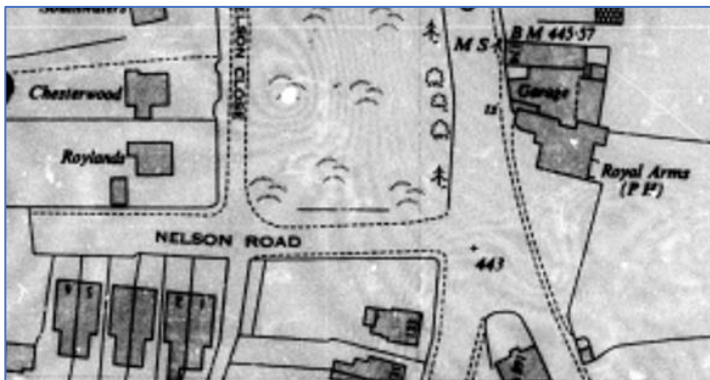
### Auxiliary Fire Station

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, Germany invaded Poland and two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. Amongst countless changes to living, there were blackouts for every street and household after twilight. A fine of fifteen shillings was given if there was evidence of a breach of blackout regulations. As well as Air Raid Precautions ARP, there were Auxiliary Firemen. Heath End had its own No. 3 Section, Farnham A.F.S. for men who lived locally such as Cecil Negus, the grocer from the Heath End crossroads.

GROCCER. (Shopkeeper) Auxiliary Fire Service

The fire station was the old stabling and garaging of the Royal Arms which had been turned into a commercial repair garage by Kenneth Common around 1935.

Kenneth Edward Common (1905-1989) was a local man, a motor mechanic, with three addresses: Roylands in Nelson Close, The Bungalow on the corner of Nelson Road and Farnborough Road, and in 1938 at 1 Roseberry Villas on the opposite side of the road. His father, William Ernest Common, a motor repairer, had run a motor repair shop called E Common & Son, in Victoria Road, Aldershot and together they set up a similar repair garage and filling station, in the old stabling block of the Royal Arms.



Tel. Ald. 543 Est. 1925

**E. COMMON AND SON**

**HEATH END - FARNHAM**

Motor and General Engineers

- ★ "Castrol" Servicing and Lubrication Bay
- ★ Agents for White Cross Insurance
- ★ Cycle and Motor-cycle Repairs a Speciality
- ★ Guaranteed Fully-charged "Ediswan" Batteries in Stock
- ★ Aladdin Pink Paraffin Stockists

Large Stocks of Accessories of all kinds

Common E. & Son, Motr Engrs, Farnborough rd Heath End, Aldershot 1039

Some names for local Auxiliary Firemen were: Norman Alan Chandler, Albert James Knowlden (Section Leader), Sydney Reginald Pharo and Albert Edward Varney. Other names were F Wallis, J A Day and S R Fowler.

Chandler Norman A	-	M	16 Oct 19	S	Nurseryman	Assisting father Heavy work	Auxiliary Fire Service
Knowlden Albert J		M	20 Aug 00	M			Auxiliary Fire Service
Pharo Sydney R	-	M	26 Sept 08	M	Plumber		Auxiliary Fire Service
Robinson Clarence		M	7 May 93	M	Hotel Proprietor		Voluntary Air Raid, U.S.
UMDEKWOOD Betty L	-	F	10 Apr 25	M			A.F.S. Farnham
VARNNEY Albert E	-	M	5 May 10	M	Comptroller & Joiner		A.F.S. Farnham

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1939, disaster struck the small Heath End fire auxiliary station when fire broke out.

**FIRE STATION BLAZE**  
**HEATH END GARAGE GUTTED.**

Instead of going to a fire, auxiliary firemen at Heath End had the fire brought uncomfortably to their own station, in the middle of the night on Tuesday, when their auxiliary station was involved in a big blaze which gutted the adjoining garage. It was their first practical experience of fire-fighting as an independent unit, and the auxiliary firemen did excellent work until the arrival of two engines from Farnham. The Auxiliaries, by their own efforts, saved their two trailer pumps and other valuable equipment.

The garage is a building fronting on the main Farnborough-road, where Mr. K. Common, of Nelson-road, Heath End, carried on business, and is situated between the "Royal Arms" and the Heath End Nurseries. Under the same roof is a small garage used as a fire station by No. 3 Section, Farnham A.F.S., and immediately behind it is a small room used by the members of the section as an office and rest-room. This was undamaged.

There was obviously no chance of saving the garage itself, and flames shot into the air when the roof fell in. The firemen concentrated on the petrol pumps and oil store at the corner of the building, in order to save the underground petrol tanks, and in this they were successful. They were working altogether for about three hours.

A large quantity of machinery and tools were destroyed, also a car belonging to Mr. Common, a motor-cycle and several bicycles, including his little son's machine. Mr. Common's chief regret, however, seemed to be the loss of a model electric railway which ran round the wall of the building and represented five years' spare-time work as a hobby. A quantity of stock was also destroyed and the garage itself was completely destroyed, the damage to the adjoining fire station being confined chiefly to the roof.

The irony is not lost that the fireman attended a fire at their own station;



Auxiliary fireman Albert (Bert) Edward Varney | Air Raid Precautions team: back row middle: Kenneth Common, front row middle Clarence Robinson of the Royal Arms

## Heath End Nurseries

After the unfortunate commotion at the fire station, time to visit next door at the Heath End Nurseries. On our last visit we asked the following "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?" Well, they did.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Thomas Myhill Fletcher					
Farnham > 1929					
316	R	O	Fletcher, Thomas Myhill	Heath End Nursery	
			—J		
317	Rw	Dw	Fletcher, Viola	Heath End Nursery	

Heath End Nurseries Ltd.....Aldershot 170

**DAINTY DAFFODILS & TULIPS IN COLLECTION.**  
 Daffodils 5 different named varieties:— 5/- for 100; 3/- for 50. Tulips 10 different named varieties:— 5/- for 100; 3/- for 50; 100 Bulbs, 50 of each collection 5/-, carriage paid.—The **Heath End Nurseries Ltd., Farnham Surrey.**

In 1909, Thomas Myhill Fletcher had received a bankruptcy notice when he was running a business in Llanrwst, Denbighshire, Wales.

September 24th. victualler, September 24th.—**Thomas Myhill Fletcher, and George Hugh Chisholm** (carrying on business under the style or firm of Fletcher and Chisholm), Commerce House, Station-road, Llanrwst, auctioneers and nurserymen, September 24th.

Thomas survived financial difficulties and by 1929 was in Heath End Nurseries. The family were still in this location in 1930 but by 1934, they were settled in Battersea, London. The answer to the previous question is that the Fletcher family stayed about two or three years.

It is difficult to know who took over the nursery but the business continued to trade. It was listed in the telephone directory in 1935 and advertised its business. The Commercial listing gave no names, just "nursery-men".

British Phone Books, 1880-1984 for End Call Heath  
 1920-1939 > 1935 > Norwich / Cambridge / Essex / East Suffolk / East Hertfordshire / South Midland / Guildford /  
**Heath End Nurseries,**  
 Farnborough rd Heath end.....**Aldershot**

**W**REATHS, Crosses, Bouquets, made  
 shortest notice; ring Aldershot 1  
**Heath End Nursery** (next to Royal Arm  
 Farnham. 749

Hallacre Chas. boot mkr  
**Heath End Nurseries Ltd. (The), nursery-**  
 men. T N Aldershot 170

In 1935 at the Aldershot Flower Show, the Heath End Nurseries business was exhibiting. It may have been run by the Chandler family, nurserymen, who ran Heatherfield Nursery, which was established in 1904. After the family left College Road, father John Boswell Chandler lived at Heatherleigh and his son John Norman Chandler lived at the adjacent house at Lynwood on Farnborough Road. Sadly, John Boswell Chandler died suddenly in December 1939; he had been working at his nurseries on the day of his death.

Farnborough Road, Heath End  
Chandler's Nursery

1935 at the Aldershot Flower Show



### THE FLOWER SHOW

In common with the other exhibitions at the Aldershot Show, the flower show was "bigger and better" than ever this year, and despite the very warm weather the flowers retained their beauty and fragrance until the end of the last day.

A particularly attractive little rock garden was the centre-piece of the Heath End Nurseries exhibit.

There was certainly living accommodation on the grounds of Heath End Nurseries and in 1933, the widow Lizzie Day née Smith had moved in to Nursery Cottages with her daughter Kathleen Florence Day. It is possible that these were on the Heath End Nurseries grounds because in 1946, Heath End Nurseries Ltd had a court order to gain possession of these cottages. Mrs Day and Kathleen stayed in these cottages until 1937 then moved into Cranleigh, Farnborough Road, Heath End. Kathleen Florence Day later married Clarence Edwin Benedict Robinson, son of the Royal Arms licensee.

#### Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Kathleen Day

Farnham > 1933

304	Rw	—	Day, Kathleen	Nursery Cottages, Heath End
305	Rw	Ow	Day, Lizzie	Nursery Cottages, Heath End

If the Chandler family did run the Heath End nurseries, they certainly did not live on the premises. The 1939 entry for Heath End Nurseries was for a married man Hans Rasmussen, born in 1873. He was a nurseryman and a "heavy worker". If there was a floristry section, it wasn't Hans who did the delicate floral arrangements. In 1902 he had been part of a market garden co-operative in the Sunderland area, which had gone bankrupt.

#### THE CLOUSDEN HILL GARDENS.

Yesterday at Newcastle Bankruptcy Court, a receiving order was made, on a creditor's petition, against Hans Henrik Emil, Marius Rasmussen, Rudolph Wunderlick, and Hans Rasmussen of Forest Hall, nurserymen and market gardeners, trading as the Clousden Hill Co-operative Nurseries Company.

#### FAILURE OF A COMMUNIST EXPERIMENT

For some years past there has been a Communist experiment in farming at Clousden Hill, near Newcastle. Yesterday, at the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court, a receiving order was made on a creditor's petition against Hans Henrik Emil, Marius Rasmussen, Rudolph Wunderlick, and Hans Rasmussen, the surviving partners in the experiment, who trade as the Clousden Hill Co-operative Nurseries Company, nurserymen and market gardeners.

After 1939, nothing more is known about Hans and there were no election lists during the war.

A path has been spotted going to the two cottages in Rowhills, from the Heath End Nurseries. We have never taken this route before. Who lives in the cottages now and why is there a path to Rowhills?