

Mrs. Ross. Hesters Cottage, High Street, K.B. 25th March, 1987. (748)

Miss Hester who lived in the house on her own was moved into another cottage in the village, by the Clerke Browns's who wanted to live actually in the village during the war. The Hesters of Hester & Clark in Princes Risborough are the same family. Farm was let to Mr. Barnet who lived at Hill House, he rented the land on Clerke Brown's Farm and Tom Janaway worked for him.

Mitraney may have moved in, in 1928 when Clarke's moved back to The Grove.

Mrs. Ballard was grandmother's sister-in-law. Sister to grandfather and she lived at the Grove.

Grand-mother was Mianie Clerke Brown died 1948/9, she always had a hat on or had it on a table near by her. During the first war she was Commandant at Swyncombe Hospital, she and another lady took it in turns to go there for two or three weeks at a time. She got the M.B.E. for doing that. She was quite good at it I think. As I remember she was quite a severe "old lady, she liked boys but she didn't like girls very much.

Somewhere I have got a photo of myself with this little girl Pam, standing outside a Wendy House. I can find you a photo of the Grove. The house on the right as you go up the lane behind the Cherry Tree, is owned by the Clerke Browns and is lived in by the Plumridges. They used to live at Horseleys Green, we had some land up there and when my father died those awful death duties have to be paid all that land was sold and they came to live in KB. Her husband having already died. She had six children. It is now just a house, the farm being run by the tenants, Mr. & Mrs. Stevens who live near the Grove. Jimmy Clark being tenant of the other part. (Park Lane)

The Hillock Gardens was given to the village in exchange for stopping having the right to go and cut wood up ^{Kingston} ~~Chinnax~~ Hill. I thought that the land up Crowell Hills was what was called 'Lord of the Manor' which meant that people had the right to go on it but that it belongs. If you go straight up from Crowell, the whole of the woods to the right all belong. If you go right to the top and meet the road at its bend there are two cottages on the right which also belong. I do not know if these still belong to the estate. The farm up there where the Wylies lived was sold for death duties. Also at the top of Kingston Hill there is a farm on the left which used to belong, there are two cottages which belong. The farm is lived in by the Hodges. This was also sold off when my father died in 1959. The Hodges had been tenants for many years, and as sitting tenants they bought it. Lesley Hodges used to live next to Wakelin Cottage until his wife left him and then he moved. (Eustace Cottag

Have you been to see the Tullen's, old grand-father Tullen used to be a Blacksmith. His relatives live at the Rise. He had his shop at David Booth's Barn when I was quite small, then he gave it up and he had it up at the building behind the big house. He must have used the barn after John Barnett who used to be the blacksmith before, and who lived at the Royal Oak. This was the same man who eventually lived in Hill House. I only remember the one shop, which was round the back next door to Yew Cottage. There was of course the butcher's shop near here. Mr Baker/^{May} I think lived in Mrs. Green's house ~~ix~~ on (Oak) The Green. He later moved to Vine House. He was baker there during the war at Vine House. We used to have to take our coupons with us. Mr. May actually lived at Elizabeth Villa at one stage and he ~~may~~ have had a shop there too. This house (Hestere Cottage) was in fact three cottages. You should go and see the Lambournes.

I only remember back as far as the Dashwood's at A.R. House. I can remember Mr. Britnell who lived at the Red Lion, he used to work at the farm at the Grove. I am sure Arthur would let you have a look at the Charities Book. It seems a little un-necessary to still be running it now, as people do not really need it anymore. Because it is a trust the amount cannot be changed to meet today's needs. Perhaps it should be put all together to give the old people a party.

At the Grove we had electricity in about 1936. It does not seem all that long ago, I can remember clearly the candles and the oil lamps. We had our own water supply up at The Grove, I don't know when it came to the village, but when we moved down here in 1940 it was here.

The Chapel next door has been redundant for about 20 years. The land was given by my father, and the village put up the money, but when it is sold the money does not go to the parish but to the church coffers. It was build because people did not have transport and they did not want to walk all the way over to Aston Church. A lot more people went to church in those days. Then when Crowell was joined with Aston Church, one could not have three churches under the care of the same vicar so we were forced to give it up. Quite a lot of Kingston People are chapel. My daughter Nicola was taken to Sunday School there by my mother.

The back part of Kingston House is about the same age as this house, about 200 years old, and made of brick. The front part was added in about 1854, of drab grey Oxfordshire Stone. I don't know if there was any other building there before that date.

I do not know how old the Grove is, the middle part is very old, that is made of flint. Then someone added bits of gothic and thatch, with a verandah. It is a lovely house, but it needs to have more people living in it. Kingston House has got a flat at the back where Cathy Hipkin's sister lives. My brothers daughter and her husband live in the main house. Their daughter Amanda has just started at Aston School, they also have a son of 2½ years. They do not use the front of the house just heating the kitchen and sitting room at the back.

I believe that a Mr. Chapman lived at The Firs when I was young. Cathy Hipkin's mother was Mrs. Heath and she came to help my mother when she was at the Grove and then we moved to Kingston House after the war they moved to Lavengo (The Old Tudor House). Mrs Hatton lived there before. Cathy's father's uncle wrote Lavengo. Mrs Croxford lived down Pleck Lane past the barn, they were coal-merchants.

I think the house where the Baxendale's live was a laundresses, or it may have been the Graffey's. It would have been for the house. We used to look after Joan Selby Lowndes' horse for a while and she sent us a super christmas card for looking after the horse.

It is terrible that the Post Office has been closed, we have always had a post office here. I remember the Doctor coming over from Watlington and holding his surgery at the Davies' house (Wakelin Cottage). Mrs. McQueen lived there with her brother Jack Lambourne, and her son Ken McQueen lives in the first house in Icknield Close. The doctor always had the front of the three downstairs rooms. Mrs. Stevens of Aston Rowant now and Mrs. Kent from Baker's Piece her late husband gardened at Aston House when he was a boy. The Turner's and Kents lived in the cottages where Ernie Foster lives now, up the lane. Mr Kent was in his nineties when he died, he did also garden at Kingston House as well, then he worked on the farm for many years.

My husband was a manager of a big farm down in Hampshire, and when he died I had to come home. The address of my Aunt who never actually lived here, but visited a great deal, is High Beeches, Nails~~or~~h, Glos. Miss Jean Brown. Mrs. Lane runs the House. Go down the A40, then the A46 to Stroud. turn left to Minchenhampton, the first sign you see for Nails~~or~~h do not take, go on to M. Common turn left right in the middle of the Common for Nails~~or~~h. You turn back on yourself and go right down to the bottom, the house is on the right just before you get to the cattle grid. She lived at the house during the first world war.