

Mrs. Foster, Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount. 2nd April, 1987.

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I was born in 1913. In the 1931-39 period Wallington's lived at the first one down, joined to the Stert, Mansel's were at Shepherds Close, The school teacher lived at the bungalow right down at the bottom as you turn right for Sydenham. Fowler the farmer had the house which was at the end of the cottages. When I was young it was Mr. Delafield, Mr A Church was my uncle and he lived in one of those cottages, his name was Archibald. Herbert Fowler was the last one to farm there, he married Ken Pullen's aunt Susie. Mrs Angelina ~~WANKIN~~ Church was my Grandmother, they used to have a small-holding in Parson's field, this is down behind the school, in AR. and they lived, do you know where Colonel Richardson used to live in the house past the pillar box, she used to live in the top one of those as it used to be two cottages, and Dad used to live in the one next door, he moved in after the Munday's moved out. This was when I was only tiny, I was actually born over the other side of the road. My father was born, bred and died in Kinston Stert. His name was Ernest, and he was on Aston Rowant Parish Council. He was 91 when he died, and he has been dead nine years. Grandparents were Alfred and Angelina Church. There was a family of ten on my fathers side, six boys and four girls and the house next door to them had ten in as well. They only had two bedrooms. I don't remember the pub ever being open. The Barley Mow was on the left going down. Joshua and Elizabeth Church were my uncle and aunt they also kept the Catherine Wheel at Crowell. They were in the 1881 census. My mothers maiden name was Rogers, there was also ten on her side, she came from Chinnor. In 1871 we had Joshua & Elizabeth Church, Jane Alfred and Sarah that must be my great grand-father. Mrs Ada Church my mother was born in 1890. My father was born in 1887. My fathers brothers and sisters were Harry the eldest, Nance, Em, Alfred, Archibald, Ernest, Lou, Bet, Josh, and Fred. I would have expected the children to be on the 1881 census. Grampy Church was a big church man, he would not go to church in Sydenham, he always walked to Kingston, he also wouldn't go to the pub at Sydenham but preferred the Cherry Tree in KB. The children from the Stert always had to walk to Aston to School, but I went to Sydenham to school. They had to walk to Aston and do the pen for the sheep before going in to school. I remember my father telling me that the school master sent them home with homework, with a slate and pencil, his father turned him round and walked him back to Aston and returned the homework and told the master that he had work for his son to do.

He said what they cannot do at school must be left to the next day. Before the First World War Dad worked on his own, he used to go round thatching, Mum used to go with him. I have got two younger sisters there was 8 years between me and my middle sister and thirteen years between me and my youngest sister.

There was one shop in Sydenham. My mum & my aunt used to push bike into Thame to do their shopping. There used to be a carriers cart, which came from Stokenchurch through. He used to pick you up and take you into Thame.

Croxford the coal merchants were down here by Rose Cottage, he had a coal yard there, it was not at the Donaldson's house, I should ask Bill Seymour, but I think they may have brewed beer there. My husband was a Londoner, he came down to Kings Sutton down by Banbury during the First World War. I can just remember Liberty Buckland, he used to have a little cottage just round here, He had a work shop there, we used to call it skimmers, they were flat things with holes in with a long handle used for straining things from saucepans, he used to make these.

My uncle Arthur's wife was born in one of the Old Croft Cottages her name was Townsend. I work for the lady that lives at Moat Manor. I can remember the Watlington Doctors coming ~~XXXX~~ to the Blight's house. I went to work at the young ladies school in High Wycombe, there was a small-pox scare, I had to be vaccinated and that's where I had to go, after the surgery moved to Wakelin Cottage. That was when Dr. King Edward was the doctor at Watlington. I just remember Brazells being at the shop, there was also a shop where Hugh Reid lives. I can also remember the bakers up at Vine Cottage, I can also remember Baker Oakley. There used to be a butcher's shop round where Parker's is in Brook Street, I can't remember the man that had it, but I do remember the man who worked there it was Mr. Blackwell, he got killed up Aston Hill on a motor bike. I am 74, that must have been in the 20's. The butcher's shop along the High Street which was Chapmans and then Hattons took it over, the Hattons went over to Watlington, one of the young Hattons was killed in the war, it was either his father or one of his brothers which picked up Anthrax. Hattons had the butchers shop in Watlington. A lot of people from round here, walked to Thame Park to work. There were three cottages at Old Croft Close. The photo of the sheep-shearer I think is Sam Ghown that used to live in that little cottage along Chalford Road, my sister lives there at the moment. There used to be two cottages there, and half of the building was in Aston Parish and the other half was in Sydenham. The white cottage

directly opposite the Stert turning was in Aston Parish so they swopped the two over.

My father was in the Coldstream Guards . He went right through the war until he got wounded, when he was sent home, Uncle Josh was in the Flying Corp, which is of course the Royal Air Force today. Uncle Fred was in the Camel Corp out in Egypt, he was kicked on the hip by a camel and got TB Hip he had to be in a wheel-chair. There were six Munday boys and six Church boys, all went into the war and they all came back. Some had been wounded, and some caught TB. During the War we went to Chinnor to live with my Grand-parents, Dad had got a small-holding down the Stert Road, and allotments, pigs and things, so Mum had to come over on her bike and do all the gardening and she used to pick up Maggie Bill's and her sister's shoes, when they lived where Reid's live now, she used to take the shoes home at night to mend and bring them back so that they could go to school in them the next morning. When I was a little girl, we used to have an apple and an orange, a sugar mouse and if you were lucky you had a little present in your stocking for Christmas, we used to really look forward to Christmas. We always had a present on our birthday, not a lot of course. I can always remember Thame Show, my Uncle Fred bought me a china doll which was about a foot high, and I thought it was marvelous, to have a real doll. Unfortunately my middle sister got it and broke it, I was really upset over that.

We used to go to the allotments in the morning of Thame show to work, and then my dad took us to the show as a reward. While I was still at school, we had so much work to do on Saturday mornings, before we could go out to play. We had the knives to clean on a knife board with bath brick, no stainless knives then. We also cleaned the forks and spoons, we used to do the potatoes had to go to the shop at Sydenham, and what was left of the day was my own. We used to wear a plain white apron to school and one with ribbon across for Sundays. Although white is totally impracticable, the habit of wearing an apron has still stuck by me.

Of course during the war I worked on the land, I went with dad to work for Mr. Browning at Chalford. Mum and I did dig up 3 acres of potatoes during the war by hand. This was of course during the summer months. It made it better for us as we got extra rations, extra bread and sugar and cheese.

I have got this scrap book of cuttings about the WI. We used to have a super flower show every year. Mrs Hill embroidered the banner, I think it was in 1922.

That photo is of Maggie Bill's mother Adelaide Sadler, aged 88 years. In another photo were Mrs. John Clerke Brown, the Colonel's mother, my mother Mrs. Church and Mrs. Horwood, they were the three founder members of the WI. in 1921.

One of my daughters lives in Aylesbury, one lives in Thame and my son lives in Park Lane. ERNIE FOSTER

Bob Preston used to work up at Kingston House. Surman's started off with a shed up Crowell Lane, doing bikes, he worked for Joe Hill, so he had somebody in to do the work on the bikes and then he got a garage along Oakley Road. Surman Buses.

I used to use the railway a lot, I used to go down to my husband's home on the railway, I used to ride a bike from the Stert, and Mrs Jarman used to put it in her yard, used to catch the Watlington Donkey, we used to go to Princes Risborough and change on to the Banbury line. Then they took the train off, and we had what they called a train/bus on but that didn't run for long. Then we had a bus through to Thame on tuesday (Surman's) and we had buses every day from High Wycombe which came down Aston Hill and through the village and on to Thame and the Oxford Bus from Stokenchurch every day bar Monday's and thursday which also went on to Thame and Oxford.

People mainly shopped in the village, there was plenty of custom for two shops. I always used to go to Sydenham for everything when I was younger as it was nearer and I had gone to school there. I have got some school photographs somewhere. You can borrow my scrap book to photocopy anything you are interested in.