

*Handwritten note, " Whitecliff – Brading".*

This Indenture made the twentieth day of December in the Year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and fifty one Between Sir Graham Eden Hamond of Norton Lodge in the parish of Freshwater in the Isle of Wight, Baronet, of the one part and William Aylward of the parish of cattle Wymmering in the County of Southampton, Brickmaker, of the other part, Witnesseth that in consideration of the Rent and Covenants hereinafter reserved and contained, the said Sir Graham Eden Hamond doth hereby demise and lease unto the said William Aylward, his Executors, administrators and assigns All that piece or parcel of Land situate at Whitecliff in the parish of Brading in the said Isle adjoining the seashore as the same is more particularly described by the Plan thereof drawn in the Margin of these presents on part of which said piece of Land there was formerly a Brick Kiln in the occupation of Cooper Together with full liberty to erect Kilns, Sheds and other Erections upon the said piece of land and to dig and get upon the said piece of land Brick-Earth, Loam, Sand, Chalk and Flints and to make and manufacture the same upon the said premises and not elsewhere into Bricks, Tiles and other articles for the purposes of Sale and to sell and dispose of the same when so manufactured, but not otherwise, Together also with all ways, paths, waters, profits, privileges and appurtenances to the said piece of land belonging .....

..... And also that the said William Aylward, his executors, administrators and assigns will within six months after the date hereof erect upon some parts of the said piece of Land in a good and workmanlike manner a substantial Kiln and all other Erections and Buildings necessary for the manufacture of Bricks and Tiles and will from time to time during the continuance of this demise at his and their own Costs, repair, maintain and keep in good and tenantable repair the said Kiln, Erections and Buildings and at the End or other sooner determination .....

..... And also that the said William Aylward, his executors, administrators and assigns shall not dig or remove from the said demised premises any Earth, Loam, Sand, Chalk or Stones except for the purposes of his Trade or Calling of a Brickmaker nor sell or dispose of the same otherwise than in a manufactured condition, Provided always and it is hereby agreed that if the .....

Miscellaneous

*From: 1771 Fleming Estate Map*

Map ref.

At Heasley	108	Brick Close	17a. 1r. 6p.
	130	Close Brick Close	3a. 1r. 39p.

*From: 1771 Edgcombe Survey*

Manor of Wroxall (North part continued.)

XXX1 Hill alias Bordwood

Elizabeth Brown. Tenant.

1. House, yard, garden etc.

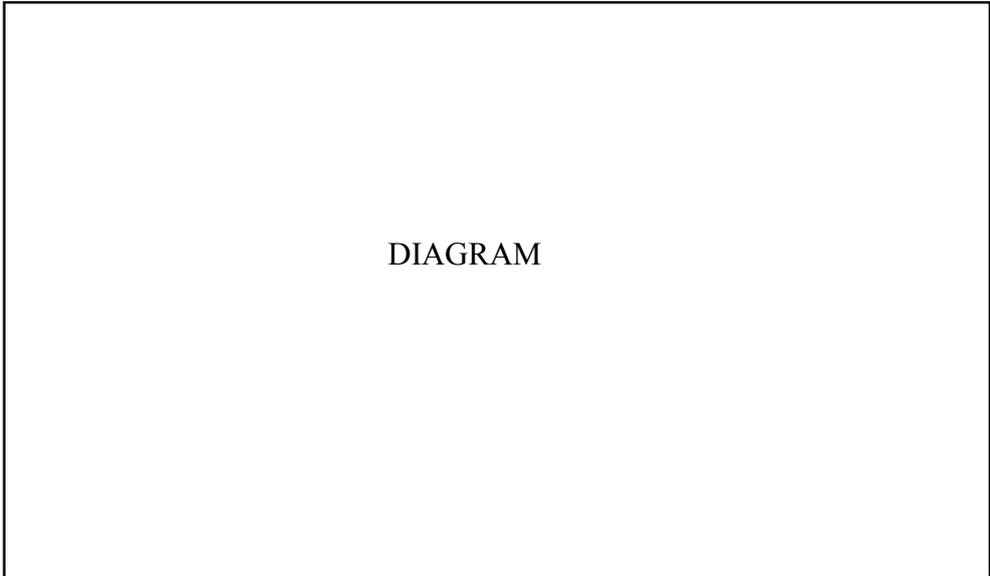
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12. Ground below House.

13. Brick Kiln Ground.



DIAGRAM

1777. August 25<sup>th</sup>.

JER / PROB / 34

A "Samuel Richards of Newport, Brickburner" is mentioned in "Richards" section of classified name card section.

Also mentioned in Emanuel Grislock's will, (1760). His daughter had married Samuel Richards of Newport.

Emanuel Grislock of Newport, 1760.

In the name of God Amen. This 12th day of May in the year of our Lord 1760, I, Emanuel Grislock, of Newport in the Isle of Wight in the County of South'ton, Butcher, being weak in Body and of sound and disposing Mind and Memory (praised be God) to make and ordain this, my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, (that is to say) -

First I commit my soul to God and my Body to the Birth to be decently interred at the Direction of my Executor hereinafter named and as for mine worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, I dispose thereof as followeth. ????? Imprimis after my debts and Funeral Expenses are paid and satisfied I give and dispose as follows I give, devise and bequeath to my Eldest Son Emanuel Grislock of Portsmouth in the County of South'ton, Butcher, the Messuage or Tenement Garden and Outhouses Hereunto adjoining and belonging, Situate lying and being in the High Street in Newport aforesaid, in the Isle of Wight in the County of South'ton, afd, wherein I now give to him and his heirs for ever immediately after my decease, And I give to my daughter, Frances, the now wife of Benjamin Nelmes of Newport aforesaid, Grocer, One shilling immediately after my decease. Also I give to my Grandson John Odell, son of John O'Dell of Newport, afd, Stonemason and immediately after my decease. Also I Give and bequeath to my Daughter Mary, the now wife of Samuel Richards, of Newport, afd , Brickmaker, and to my Daughter Sarah, the now wife of William ????? of Grace Church Street, London, Cheesemonger and to ????? ?????, the now wife of Daniel ????? , Carpenter, ??? belonging to the Palace Frigate and to my Daughter Ann Grislock of Newport afd, Spinster, The Messuage or Tenement Outhouse and Garden Situate, standing and being in Bolt Street in Newport aforesaid now in the Occupation of John Hobbs,

*(Handwritten note - "Samuel Richards brickmaker. Son-in-law of Emanuel Grislock of Newport. Newport Unitarian Church Records.")*

Hobbs, Glazier, equally to be divided between them, share and share alike. And all the rest, residue and Remainder of my Goods, Chattels and personal Estate, whatsoever and wheresoever, I dye possessed of at the time of my decease, I Give and bequeath unto my afd Daughter, Ann Grislock, immediately after my decease. And I do hereby nominate and appoint my said Son, Emanuel Grislock, to be whole and sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament, revoking and making void all former and other Wills and Testament by me heretofore made.

In Witness whereof I, the said Emanuel Grislock, have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year first above Written.

Emanuel Grislock.

His mark.

Signed, Sealed published and declared by the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us who have Subscribed our name as Witnesses hereunto in his Presence and at his Request (the Razior in the 16 and 17 Line being first razed and filled up before those present were executed.

}

John Denton, Jun.

Will'm Angell.

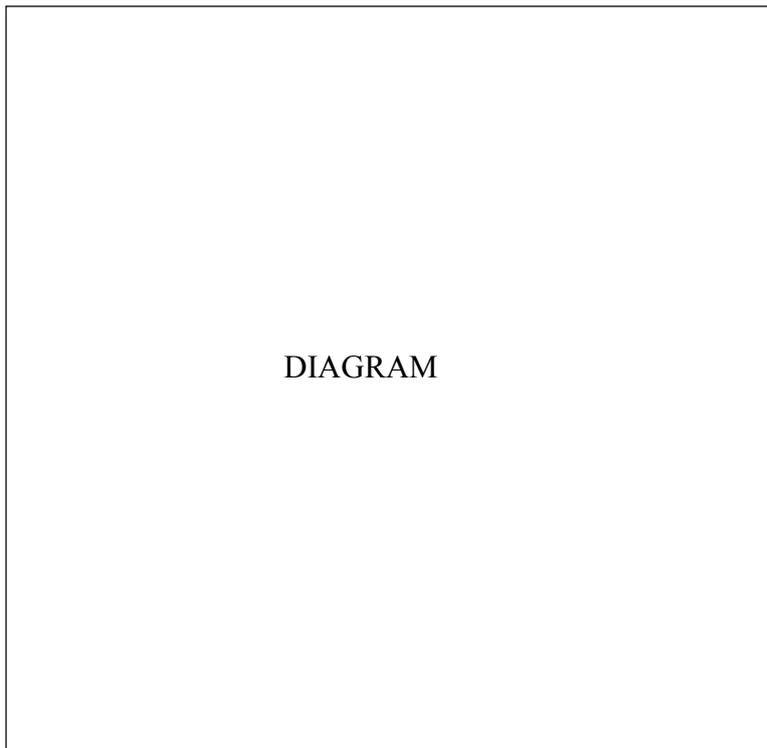
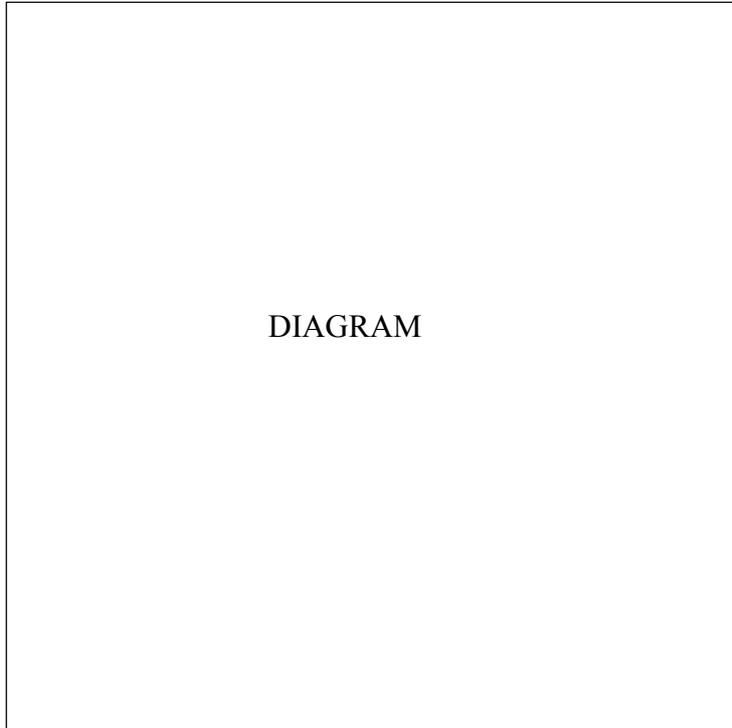
Richard Deacon.

Proved July 5th at Winton on Oath of Executor

Poor Rate Books for Carisbrooke Parish. (No. 9)

4 April	1657	Occ. of Brick Close	00 01 00
5 May	1679	Capt. Chestle for Brick Close	00 02 00
April	1689	Capt. Chestle for Brick Close	00 02 03
	1691	Capt. Chestle for Brick Close	00 01 07
26 April	1704	Rice for Brick Close	00 02 00
17 April	1705	Rice for Brick Close Rice for Reynolds Rice for field called Ruffins Rice for Odars	00 02 00
25 March	1706	Rice for Field called Ruffins Rice for Odars Rice for Reynolds Rice for Brick Close	00 02 00
18 May	1707	Rice for Brick Close	00 02 00
	1708	Rice for Brick Close	00 00 08
	1709	Rice for Brick Close	00 02 00
	1720	William Harrison for Brick Close	00 02 06
	1721	William Harrison for Brick Close	00 02 11
	1722	William Harrison for Brick Close	00 03 00
	1723	Fr. Gregory for Brick Close	00 03 00
	1724	Fr. Gregory for Brick Close	00 03 00
2 April	1725	Francis Gregory for Chambers	00 03 00
(1s. in the £.)		for Brick Close	00 03 00
		for Town land	00 05 00
25 Feb.	1725	Francis Gregory for Chambers	00 00 06
(2d. in the £.)		for Brick Close	00 00 06
		for Town land	00 00 10

Carisbrooke Parish Tithe Map :



1726	Mr. John Urry for Chambers		00 03 06
		for Brick Close	00 03 06
	1727	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	00 03 06
		for Brick Close	00 03 06
	1730	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	00 04 00
		for Brick Close	00 04 00
	1731	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	00 04 00
		for Brick Close	00 04 00
		Henry Trattle for Brick Close	00 02 08
	1734	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	00 03 00
		for Brick Close	00 03 00
		Henry Trattle for Brick Close	00 02 00
	1736	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	
		& Brick Close	00 05 00
		Henry Trattle for the Brick Close	00 02 00
30 April	1745	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	00 04 06
		And for Brick Close	00 03 00
		Stephen Sanders for Brick Close	00 03 00
2 April	1746	Mr. John Urry for Chambers's	00 04 06
		And for Brick Close	00 03 00
		Stephen Sanders for Brick Close	00 03 00
20 April	1747	Mr. John Urry for Chambers's	00 04 06
		And for Brick Close	00 03 00
		Stephen Sanders for Brick Close	00 03 00
30 March	1749	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	
		& Brick Close	00 05 03
		Stephen Sanders for Brick Close	00 03 06
	1750	Mr. John Urry for Chambers	
		& Brick Close	00 05 00
		Stephen Sanders for Brick Close	00 04 00
3 Nov.	1751	Madm.Urry for Chambers	
		& Brick Close	00 05 00
		Mr. Sanders for Brick Close	00 04 00

27 May	1752	Madm. Urry for Chambers & Brick Close	00 08 00
		Mr. Sanders for Brick Close	00 04 00
	1753	Madm. Urry for Chambers & Brick Close	00 07 00
		Mr. Sanders for Brick Close	00 03 06
	1754	Madm. Urry for Chambers & Brick Close	00 08 00
		Mr. Sanders for Brick Close	00 04 00
	1755	William Cook for Chambers & Brick Close	00 08 00
		Mr. Sanders for Brick Close	00 04 00
		Mr. Moor for Smith's Brickill	00 14 00
(Additional rate)	1756	Wm. Cook for Chambers & Brick Clos	00 01 04
19 April	1756	Wm. Cook for Chambers & Brick Close	00 08 00
		Mr. Stephen Sanders for Brick Close	00 04 00
		Samuel Richards for his Brick garden	00 08 00
		Mr. More for Smith's Brick kiln	00 14 00
7 March (I s. in the £)	1757	William Cook for Chambers & Brick Close	00 04 00
		S. Saunders for Brick Close	00 02 00
		Samuel Richards for his Brick Garden	00 04 00
		David More for Smith's Brick kiln	00 07 00
(4 d. in the £)	1757	Mr. Saunders for Brick Close	00 08 00
		Samuel Richards for his Brick Garden	00 01 04
		Mr. Mares for Smith's Brick kiln	00 02 04
16 April	1757?	Wm. cook for Chambers & Brick Close	00 10 00
		S. Saunders for Brick Close	00 02 06
		John Hasten & Trattle for the Brick kiln	00 02 06
		Benjamin Neim's for late Trattles land	00 07 06
		Samuel Richards for his Brick kiln	00 10 00
		David Moore for Brick kiln	00 17 06

15 April	1762	Richard Barlow for Brick Close	00 05 00
		John Hastings for his Brick kiln	00 05 00
		Samuel Richards for 2 Brick kilns	00 10 00
		Samuel Richards for other Brick kilns	00 12 06
24 Jan.	1764	Leigh Trattle for his Brick kiln	00 01 06
		John Cottle for Brick Close	00 01 00
		Samuel Richards for his Brick kiln	00 02 00
		Samuel Richards for his Brick kiln and other Field	00 02 00
11 April	1765	Leigh Trattle for his Brick kiln	00 06 00
		Benjamin Nelmes for Brick kiln and field	00 15 00
		Samuel Richards for his Brick kiln	00 12 00
		Samuel Richards other Brick kiln	00 15 00

A true and perfect account of the Disbursements of James Harvey and William Edwards, Overseers of the poor of the parish of Brading for the year 1741.

Disbursed by James Harvey.

pd. for 14 Buslls Lyme for the use of the Parish House	00-07-0
pd. Sr. John Oglander 1400½ of Bricks	00-14-6
pd. for Beer for the Carters that brought the Wood and Faggots to the Parish House	00-01-6
pd. for carting Bricks, Log and Sand 2 days to the Parish House	00-13-0
pd. for Straw for the Parish House	00-15-0
pd. for a furnace for the Parish House	03-00-0
pd. for 2 pd. of Hopps For the Parish Tubb	00-01-6
pd. for Tobacco and Pipes att the Parish Tubb	00-01-6
pd. for carting Lyme from Newport	00-06-0
pd. the Glaziers Bill for the Parish House	00-06-3
pd. James Midlane's Bill for Iron Work at the Parish House	00-03-9
pd. James Hunt's Bill for work done at the Parish House	00-18-6

pd. John Hatchman a Bill for work and Materialls done and used about the Parish House as by particulars appears	}	02-10-0
pd. Wm. Punch the Thatcher for work done about the Parish House	}	00-13-0

Disbursements to 1746.

pd. for 1000 of Slates, 500 of Laths, 300 of Bricks, 8 Buslls of Lyme and for carting it from Newport. Sand from St Hellens and Dung to the Poor House Garden.	}	02-02-6
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Disbursements 1726.

Paid Wm. White for Making of Bricks for Henry Chessell.	}	00-01-06
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Disbursements 1727.

Spent upon the Officers and Willm. White when went after Old Chessell	}	00-05-0
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Spent when the badges were put on the Poore people	00-03-6
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Pd. for a certificate for John Meades	00-02-6
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Expended in taking Thomas Meades att Portesmouth and other places and in obliging him to ???? ?? ???	07-13-6
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NELMES

ACC / 85 / 89 / 22

1777 Sept 30 Lease for 21 years

Close of arable land, part of a close called Twelve Acres, lying in p. Carisbrooke, cont. 4a.3r.8p. bounded on E. with land of Benjamin Nelmes, on N. with other part of Twelve Acres now in possession of Mary Cottle, widow, and by her used as a garden, on W. with other part of Twelve Acres, now in possession of Thomas Jones, and on S. with lands of [blank] Stark, yeoman, part of Porters land now in possession of Richard Drake, for 21 years or as long as the estate of (1), in the same, lasts (being copyhold of the manor of St. Cross, parcel of the lands of Winchester College)

- (1) Rev. John Oglander, D.D., Warden of New College in Oxford
- (2) Richard Taylor of Newport, bricklayer

NELMES

FF HANTS

Michaelmas 1753 Benjamin Nelmes (of Newport, I.W., peruke maker) v. John Trattle (of Newport, grocer) and Arabella, his wife  
3 messuage, 3 cottages, 3 gardens, 10a. land, 10a. meadow, 10a. pasture in Carisbrooke and Whippingham, I.W.  
(3 messuages in Nodehill and 1 stitch in Crasland and St. Mary's Croft (3a. 3r.) all in Carisbrooke and Caesar's land on south side of Pole Lane, now Staplers Road.)

/9

1753, Feb 19 & 20.

Attested copy of indentures of lease and release

Parrocke of ground called Graysland (1 stich) in, a certain ground called St. Mary Croft, on the south side of Deadmans Lane in p. Carisbrooke, formerly in occ. of one John Alexander and now of Daniel Sheath.

Also the close called St. Mary Croft (3a.3r.) formerly in possession of George Bowler and now of said Daniel Sheath, in the p. Carisbrooke, bounded with land formerly William Rudyard, gent., on the south, the highway leading from Newport towards Shide Bridge on east, with Deadman's Lane on north and with lands formerly of said Edward Trattle on west.

Also 3 messuages and gardens on east side of the street called Nodehill, p. Carisbrooke but near and adjoining to Newport bounded with tenement.

P.T.O.

NELMES

*BD AC.81 / I 27 / 9*

– 2 –

- (1) John Trattle of Newport, grocer, 1 of the 2 sons of Edward Trattle of Newport, maulster, deceased and Arabella his wife.
- (2) Benjamin Nelmes of Newport, peruke maker and barber

Enclosed

1753 Michaelmas

Final Concord

Benjamin Nelmes, plaintiff v. John Trattle and Arabella his wife, def.

3 messuages or cottages and gardens and 10a. land, meadow and pasture, p's. Carisbrooke and Whippingham.

( handwritten note) " Filed under 9 CARISBR. ( Cosham St Nicholas)

1.

Lease for 21 years. 1738, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Bedman's Lane, (sic), Parrock, p. St Nicholas, Isle of Wight, part of Cosham farm.  
Also marl pit in Carisbrooke field.

(1). Michael Boyster of Cosham, Isle of Wight.

(2).. Stephen Sanders of Newport Isle of Wight }  
Stephen Trattle of Newport Isle of Wight. } Butchers

2.

1771, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Lease - " Henry Trattle of Newport, Butcher".

3.

1745, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Lease for 1000 years,

" Henry, Senior, Trattle, Butcher.  
Henry, Junior, Trattle, Butcher".

1777, September 18th. Lease for 16 years.

Parcel of land (1a. 1r. 32p.) lately taken out of the close called Twelve Acres, part of Porterlands in p. Carisbrooke, bounded with a brick kiln and lands in possession of Leigh Trattle on E., lands in possession of John Tucker on N., other part of Twelve Acres on W. and S., and is now in possession of (2) and used by her as a garden.

(1). Rev. John Oglander, D.D., Warden of New College, Oxford.

(2). Mary Cottle of Newport, widow.

1797, June 20th. Lease and Counterpart of lease for 16 years.

1 parcel of arable (1a. 1r. 32p.) Some time since taken out of Twelve Acres Close, portion of Porter's land held of College of St Mary, Winchester. Which demised piece is bounded by a brick kiln and lands late in the occupation of Leigh Trattle on E., lands late in possession of John Tucker on N., and with other part of Twelve Acres on W. and S.

(1). Jane Mary Oglander of Elmsfield, ???, Oxford, widow.

(2). John Cottle of Newport, Gardener.



21 November. 1736

BRIG / 2 / 85

Counterpart lease for 14 years of Ways Bargain, consisting of 1 messuage, yard, backside, garden and orchard on the east side of Ryde Street in Ryde, ( parish of Newchurch, I.W. ) now in tenure of Francis Allen and Thomas Mitchell and several parcels of land belonging in occupation of (2) , that is, one close or parrook of land (1a.), lying behind the messuage of John Mew called The Pasture Ground, Lynches Close, (3a.), 2 closes adjoining together called Stains, (4½ a.), Pound Coppice, (½ a.) Also Speed's Bargain consisting of I messuage and garden in occupation of Thomas Oglander in Ryde and several closes of land, viz. Bears Green Field ,(1¼ a.), I close of meadow adjoining Monkton Mead, (¾ a.), Long Ground and a small coppice of hedgerow adjoining at lower end of \* Brick Kilne Lane (3a.), 1 butt of meadow lying behind the Starr Inn, (1a.), 1 parcel of ground called The Moor, late in the possession of John Allen, (4a.), all now in occupation of (2) reserving to (1) out of Ways Bargain 1 parrook in occupation of Roger Swettman and 2 tenements in occupation of Robert Roberton and late Widow Groves and now Richard Deacon and out of Speed's, 2 fields lying near the sea in occupation of John Coose. Rent £ 20.

- (1) William Player of the Navy Office, London, Esq.
- (2) William Urry of Ryde, Yeoman.

\* Handwritten note in margin, "*Star Lane*".

**WARD LEASES**

WARD / 839 Letter offering tender for supplying bricks for Weston Manor, Freshwater. Charles Reason of Freshwater Brick yard. Copse Lane?

WARD / 416 1825, March 11. LEASE.

Land part of Chawton Farm, Northwood, for erecting the brickworks. Rent two shillings per 1000 bricks.

(1) G. Ward

(2) William Wheller and William Sweetman, West Cowes, brickmakers.

WARD / 74 9 LEASE. Thorness Farm, Northwood - mention

Brick, Earth and Clay Pitts, reserved.

WARD / 750 1870, 22 November. LEASE for seven years.

Brick field near Medina, Northwood.

(1) G. Ward.

(2) Thomas Wheeler of Cowes, Brickmaker.

WARD / 751 Skinner's Farm, Northwood, except the Brick field. 1861.

WARD / 754 Brickfield with reservoir built in.

WARD / 845 Letter. 1870, stating writer's brother would be glad to make bricks for new mansion at Freshwater, Weston Manor.

Thomas Foster, 5 Grosvenor Terrace, Fratton.

WARD ESTATE LEASES.

(19.)

NORTHWOOD.

- WARD / 390 1746. House. "Brick Kiln".  
(1) Edgecumbe.  
(2) James Robey. Newport. Grocer.
- WARD / 377 1746. 3 tenements, Brick Kiln, houses. West Cowes.  
(1)  
(2) James Robey. Newport. Baker.  
Henry Hollis, (36), Mary Robey, wife, (30), William Robey, (12).
- WARD / 381 1749. House and land. "Brick Kiln".  
(1)  
(2) George MacKenzie. East Cowes. Merchant.  
Ann Mackenzie, wife, (43).
- WARD / 360 1773. 2 houses. "Brick Kiln Tenements". West Cowes.  
(1)  
(2) James Robey. Newport. Gent.  
Edward Trattle, (25), Joseph Trattle, (25), Robey Eldridge, (6).
- WARD / 366 1785. Land. "Brick Kiln". West Cowes.  
(1)  
(2) John and William Clarke, Newport. Brewers.  
Catherine Macauley, (60), John Clarke, (40), William Clarke, (36).
- WARD / 527 1785. LEASE.  
2 ½ plots of land. Brick Kiln Ground, West Cowes.  
(1) Lord Mount Edgecumbe  
(2) John and William Clarke, Carisbrooke. Brewers.

WARD / 1465 1716. Lease for lives.

North moiety (Whole 1a..) of Brick Kiln Ground, in or near West Cowes formerly occupied by John Hollis.

(1) Richard Edgecumbe of Mount Edgecumbe, Devon, Esq.

(2) Thomas Williamson of West Cowes, gent. and Catherine, his wife.

WARD / 1468 1716. Lease for lives.

South moiety of Brick Kiln ground (Whole 1 a.) West Cowes formerly in occupation of John Hollis.

(1) Richard Edgecumbe of Mount Edgecumbe, Devon, Esq.

(2) Thomas Williamson of West Cowes, gent. and Catherine, his wife.

WARD / 1469 1719. Mortgage in £40 - Security.

Brick Kiln Ground, West Cowes (North moiety mortgaged 11 June 1719, South moiety now added for better Security.)

(1) Thomas Williamson of West Cowes, gent. and Catherine, his wife

(2) George Pratt of West Cowes, Mariner.

WARD / 1497 1765. Lease for lives.

2 northernmost messuages and gardens called Brick Kiln Tenements and 1a. Orchard, West Cowes in occupation of Welch and William Shackley.

WARD / 1498 Lease for lives.

Southernmost of three messuages and gardens called Brick Kiln Tenements, West Cowes.

(1) George, Lord Edgecumbe.

(2) William Masters of West Cowes, joiner.

WARD / 1502 1766. Lease for lives.

2 moieties of Brick Kiln ground, 1a.. West Cowes with houses etc. formerly in occupation of George MacKenzie, now ( 2)

(1) George, Lord Edgecumbe.

(2) James Gill, of East Cowes, gent.

WARD / 754 1848. Lease for 14 years.

Brick field, Northwood, (5a. 3r. 32p.), in part of which a reservoir has been constructed.

(1) G.H.Ward.

(2) William Drover of West Cowes, merchant.

Medham Brick Kiln site leases. WARD / 1128 - 1154.

First mention :

WARD / 1137. Lease and Release. December 11 and 12, 1730.

Messuage and 48 a. :- Medome and Medham, Northwood, with new erected Brick Kiln.

(1) Matthew Phripp of Nighton in the parish of Aldingham, Sussex.

(2) Elizabeth Rooke of Cowes, spinster.

Consideration - £500.

Last mention – 1808 ?

Harcourt-Powell Leases (Northwood Parish).

11 Oct, 1756.

*HAR / POW / 3 / 104*

Counterpart lease for 21 years of the Brick kiln, Brickhouse Cottage and garden ground (8a.), parish of Northwood, parcel of Moore Farm.

- (1). Thomas Powell of Bedford Row, Middlesex, Esq.
- (2). William Storey of Newport, brickmaker.

15 March 1758.

*HAR / POW / 3 / 105*

Counterpart lease for 21 years of Moore Farm, parish of Northwood, late in tenure of Joseph Barter, except the premises lately granted to William Storey

- (1) Thomas Powell of Bedford Row, Middlesex, Esq
- (2) Robert Cole of parish of Northwood, yeoman.

15 June 1784.

*HAR / POW / 3 / 106*

Counterpart lease for 21 years of Moore Farm, parish of Northwood, except the Brickkiln, the garden, the grove and the meadow (8a.), let separately.

- (1) John Harcourt-Powell of Argyle Street, Middlesex.
- (2) Robert Cole of Parish of Northwood, yeoman.

10 March 1808

*HAR / POW / 3 / 108*

Lease for 6 years of 2 messuages, barn, stable, yard and garden (1a. 2r. 26p.), Coppice Ground (6a. 28p.), brickyard ground, (2a. 30p.), Egypt Acres (10a. 17p.), part of Coney Burrows, (4a.), Heath Six Acres (6a. 2r. 31 p.), ground to east of same (15a. 3r. 15p.), part of Moore Farm, parish of Northwood..

- (1) John Harcourt-Powell of the Friary, near Bury, Suffolk, Esq.
- (2) Thomas Kelieway of Cowes, biscuit maker.

10 March 1808.

*HAR / POW / 3 / 109*

Lease for 6 years of Brick kiln Ground (5a. 3r. 32p.), Grove (4a. 1r. 32p.), parts of Moore Farm, parish of Northwood.

- (1) John Harcourt-Powell of the Friary, near Bury, Suffolk, Esq.
- (2) Joseph Harrington of Cowes.

(handwritten note) "Northwood 19. COWES INNS AND PUBS.  
See Over for Brickyard".

VII Three Trumpeters.

Edward Ware, tenant.

1. The House and Garden, Meadow, Quay etc..
2. St Mary Mead.
3. Orchard.
4. Mill Ground.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

VIII The Starr.

James Gill, tenant.

1. House, Yard, Orchard, etc.

IX Houses, Buildings, Yards, South End of Cowes

1. At Point. John Cleaver, the House and Garden..
2. At Point. James MacKenzie, Quay and Storehouse.
3. At Point. James Day, a House and yard.

Houses, Buildings, Yards, Gardens, etc South End of Cowes

4. Salt Pans. James Day.
5. Birmingham Hall, James Day, Two houses and Garden  
Ropewalk, Beach, and sundry tenements and  
Storehouse upon the Quay.
6. Carpenters. South part . Peter Bannister, one Tenement.
7. Carpenters. North part. John Winsey, Three Tenements.
8. Atwicks. South part. William King, Two Tenements.
9. Atwicks. James Day, One Tenement and Storehouse.
10. Giles's Quay. James Day.
11. Stallards. South part. Joshua Horwood, One Tenement.
12. Stallards. Middle part. Mary Stewart, One Tenement.
13. Stallards. North part. And Harris, One Tenement.

14. Bakers. Richard Smart, one Tenement.
15. Metfords. William Grossmith, one Tenement.
16. Lacey's. South part. William Grossmith, One Tenement.
16. Lacey's. North part. Linthorn Ratsey, One tenement.

N.B. All the foregoing Tenements, buildings, etc are on the east side (of) the street at the South End of Cowes and followed in regular succession from the Point.

Houses, Buildings, Yards, Gardens, etc. South End of Cowes (cont'd).

17. Muffetts. North part. Frances Rose, One Tenement.
18. Muffetts. Middle part. William Stevens, One Tenement.
19. Muffetts. South part. Elias Rayner, Three Tenement.
20. Bull's. North part. Richard Smart, One Tenement.
21. Bull's. Middle part. Michael March, Two Tenements.
22. Bull's. South part. Mary Hoskins, One Tenement.
23. Giles's in hand.
24. Brick Kiln, North part. Two tenements, William Master, tenant.
25. Brick Kiln. South part. Three tenements, James Robey, tenant.

JER / HBY / 42 / 1

Ningwood Farm. p. Shalfleet.  
28th and 29th April, 1817.

" ..... Tenements or cottage with the Brick and tile Kiln etc. Lately built by (1) on part of Horse Close, now in occupation of Messrs Smith and Pritchett ...."

(1). William Keech, late of parish of Shalfleet, but now of Blackbrook near Fareham, Hants, gent.

1839.

Vectis Directory. Carisbrooke.

Wheeler, Charles, brickmaker, Gunville.

(Card index.)

Charles Yeates m. Elizabeth, Ryde. St Thomas 28 July, 1864,  
carpenter of Newport Rose, Ryde.  
1870-1871 described as Builder of Ryde.  
Charles and Diana Yeates - father of Charles above?

HAR / POW / 3 / 104

10th October, 1756.  
William Storey of Newport, Brickmaker, .... Parcel of Moore Farm.

WHP / 251

1774. Land. Brick Kiln Butts. Wootton.

- (1). John Dunning. Wootton. Yeoman.
- (2). John Abraham. Whippingham.

(Card Index.)

Eric Barton, son of Peter and Alan Barton, of Brading, brickmaker.

Ellen Barton, daughter of William and Sarah Barton of Arreton,  
brickmaker,

21st July, 1872.

Extracts from Churchwarden Account for Whippingham Parish.

Parish of Whippingham, 1811.

A rate of four pence in the Pound for sundry Repairs and other Expences incurred on  
account of the Parish Church from Easter, 1810 to this date.

North Quarter.

Rated			
Auldjo, Thomas. Esqr.	House	28	00-9-4
	Land	12	00-4-0
	Tithe	3	- - -
	Thorolds Brick store	15	00-5-0
	Loft over ditto	-	- - -
	Large Brick store	15	00-5-0
	Loft over		
	Butchers store		
	Thorolds wooden store		
	Loft over		
	Large wooden store	21	00-7-0
	Count'g House store	10	00-3-4
	Shed	1	00-0-4
	Water	10	00-3-4
	Wharves, etc.	10	00-3-4
Godsell, Rich'd.	House	4	00-1-4
	Ropewalk	5	00-1-8
Gerrans, Nich's.	House	12	00-4-0
	Ropewalk	15	00-5-0

Unemployed	Mitchell, W'm.	House	15	
		Slip and Quays	10	
		Timber Yard, etc.	10	
		Model Loft	10	
		Smith's Shop	6	
Nash, Jn. Esqr.	House	40	00-13-4	
	Land	40	00-13-4	
	Tithe	4		
	Timber Pound (void)	5		
Roberton, W'm.	House	8	00-2-8	
	Ferry	20	00-6-8	
Roberton, John.	House	8	00-2-8	
	Boathouse	5		

South Quarter.

*(Fairlee)*

Taylor, R. Read.	Land	6	00-2-0
	Tithe	1	
	Kiln & Yard	12	00-4-0
	Timber and Stone Yard	15	00-5-0
	Dawneys Garden	14	00-4-8

Whippingham Church Rate of three pence in the Pound for the Repairs of the Church etc. 1815. March 28th.

South Side.

Taylor Rd. Rd.	Kiln & Yard	18	00-4-6
----------------	-------------	----	--------

Yard and Quay	16	00-4-0
Dawneys Garden	16	00-4-0

JER / HBY / 93 / 5

14th November. 1799.

Counterpart lease for 16 years of messuage, tenements and Farm called Woodhouse Farm, parish of Whippingham, Isle of Wight, with closes, etc. called :-

Long Ground	15a. 0r. 10p.
Eight Acres	10a. 2r. 10p.
Brick Kiln Ground	5a. 0r. 11p.
Old Orchard, etc.	8r. 0r. 18p.

1774.                    Survey of the Worsley Estate.                    (JER / WA / 33 / 36)

*(Book that lists all properties in Worsley estate in 1774, also includes maps)*

Newtown.(p.101.)

Doberrye.	Farm, yards, etc., in the Marsh.	
	Marsh.	
	A. Further Green Close.	
	B. Hither Green Close.	
	C. Brick Kiln Ground.	waste excluded - 2a. 3r. 33p.
		waste included - 3a. 0r. 23p.

Woodhouse Farm

Yards, Garden, Orchard, etc.

Arable	(1) Brick Kiln Ground	waste excluded - 4. 3r. 13p.
		waste included - 5a. 0r. 11p.
Woods	(2) In Brick Kiln Ground	waste excluded - 5a. 0r. 3p.
		waste included - 4a. 2r. 13p.

7th May, 1777.

*WHP / 409*

Counterpart lease of the Southern part of Great Colecrofts in Fairlee in the Parish of Whippingham, containing 2 acres, upon which (1) has built a brick kiln which said 2 acres are bounded with the road from Fairlee to Newport on the East, with a mead belonging to William King, Butcher, on the South, with Newport River in the West, and the residue of Great Colecrofts on the North, which Great Colecrofts is part of the lands which William White father of (1) leased from Queen's College, Oxford, on 26 January, 1769.

(1). John White of Fairlee, parish of Whippingham, Isle of Wight, Esq., son and executor of Will of William White of Newport, Esq., deceased.

(2). Henry Perkins of Newport, mason, on the lives of James Hobbs, (22), John Hobbs, (20), son of James Hobbs of Chale, stonemason, and Richard Foguett, (17), son of Richard Foguett of Newport, gent.

BLACHFORD

8M57 / 59

Money Received.

1777.			
June 13.	To money rec'd of Thomas Dashwood for 30 feet of Ash at 1s. per foot.	}	1-10-0
July 25.	To money for Marl taken from Bowcombe Pit.	}	1-14-0
1779			
March 16.	To money rec'd of Farmer Dore by Poor of Newport for 1 ton and a half of Stone at 12.	}	0-18-0
	for 1000 of Bricks at 15s.		0-15-0
	for 8 Bush. Of Lime.		0-04-0
	for 10,000 Bricks.		7-10-0
	for 500 Do.		0-07-6
1780			
June 7.	To Monies rec'd for 2100 bricks sold to Cox.		1-11-6
July 3.	By money of my Brother George being received by him of Thos. Perry for 20,000 bricks.	}	15-00-0
1783			
April 29.	By 6000 Bricks sold to Capt Thorn at 19 s.		5-14-0
1788			
September 9.	By Porter for bricks at 20s. per thousand		11-0-0

Whippingham Church Rate Two pence in the pound for the Repares of the Church, etc., from Easter, 1817 to Easter, 1818.

South Division.

Rate				
Taylor, Rd. Rd.	Quay and Yard	16		00-02-8

*No more mention of "Kiln".*

*"Quay and Yard" taken over by Chiverton, John.*

*First mention of "Gasometer"*

Church Rate of four pence on the Pound for repairs and expences of the Parish Church of Whippingham, Isle of Wight, 1823.

South Division.

		Lands.	Tene- ments.	Annual value.	Assessed.
Twigg, Adam	Gasometer	-	£50	£50	0-2-8

In the same year entry but for North Division is Joseph White's first mention.

White, Joseph.	House	-	£15	£15	0-5-0
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Poor Rate Book for the Parish of Whippingham.

First mention of Taylor, Rd. Rd.

Midsummer Quarter, 1805.

Taylor, Rd. Rd.	Land	£30	£0-15-0
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Michaelmas Quarter

Taylor, Rd. Rd.	Land	£30	£0-15-0
-----------------	------	-----	---------

A Rate of        pence on the Pound for the support of the Poor for the present Quarter.

Rd. Taylor.	Dawneys Garden	14	} 15
	Timber Yard and 3 Sawpits		
	Keys and Stone Yard.		

(handwritten note)  
*"These bits, written in  
later in very squashed  
handwriting".*

Read. Taylor, Rd. Rd.	Land	6
	Kiln and Yard.	12

*Handwritten note, "The writing in blue was added later and squashed in between other entries before and after the one for " Taylor, Rd. Rd..")*

8M 57 / 59

Blachford.

1777.

March 26.	To Taylor for catching moles	0 0 9
	To do. For 100 witheys	0 0 6
March 29.	To Young for six luggs of Draining at 7d.	0 3 6
April 2.	To Peddar, ye Cooper's Bill for Tubs, etc.	3 13 0
April 4.	To Farmer for 4 days Ploughing	1 10 0
April 5.	To Garden seeds	0 2 6
April 8.	To Farmer Dunning for 800 furze faggots } delivered to my kiln at 4/6d. per hundred }	1 16 0
May 3.	To money paid to Taylor for brick burning } and making. }	1 13 0
	To John Faulkner for work	0 4 8
	To Do. for making 300 faggotts	0 4 6
May 5.	To Knapp for making 275 faggotts	0 4 1½
	To Numman in payment for making Faggotts	0 4 0
	To Cottell's Bill for Flower Pots	0 15 0
	To do. for Glazing Bricks	0 4 0
10.	To John Taylor on account for brick-making } and Burning }	2 2 0
20.	To Taylor for Brick making and Burning	2 19 0
24.	To my Gardener, John Gun, on acc't for wages	3 3 0
31.	To John Taylor for Brick Burning	3 1 0
June 12.	To Money pd by Do. To John Taylor for } Brick-burning }	4 4 0
	to Farmer How for 2 loads of Straw for } ye Kiln }	2 5 0
14.	To John Taylor for Brick-making and Burning	4 4 0
June 21.	To Money paid John Kumman for carrying ½ a Hund. of Faggotts to ye Shore	0 0 4½
	To Do. for bringing Do. Up ye Cliff	0 0 4½
	To Do. for making 100 of Thorn Faggotts	0 2 0
25.	To 3 Bus. of Salt	0 13 0

28.	To Taylors for brick-making and Burning	3 1 0
July 8.	To Freight of 8000 Tiles from Fareham } by Nathaniel Knail.	1 0 0
	To John Taylor for brick-making	3 4 8
14.	To ye Mowers of my Hay.	0 10 8
18.	To James Day's Bill for Timber for } ye scaffold	7 14 0
26.	To John Taylor for Brick-making	3 15 0
27.	To 2 pds. Tea	1 1 0
Aug 9.	To John Taylor for Brick making on account	1 11 6
11.	To --- Webb, of Fareham, for 8000 Tiles	8 0 0
	To John Taylor for brick-making and burning	2 7 0
	To Benj. Spanner, Mason	2 3 3½
Sept 6.	To Jas. Serle for digging Marl	0 2 0
20.	To Hobbs, ye Glazier's Bil.	0 14 6
22.	To Farmer Abraham for 6 loads of Straw	6 6 6
29.	To ½ a year's Windows Tax of Osborne } to Lady day, 1777	2 2 0
	To Capt Peters for 32 Tons of Plymouth Stone	6 16 6
Oct 8.	To ye Highway Composition for Lisle's Meadow	0 6 0
	To ye Poor Rates for do	0 5 7½
10.	To John Taylor on account for brick-making	2 2 0

1780. Money Expended.

Jan 20.	By Money to John Taylor in full	0 13 9
	5 15 6 pd. before, being	
	For 10 lugs and ½ of sunk fence at 3s.	1 : 11 : 6
	30 Do. and ½ of Ditching at 1s.6d	2 : 5 : 9
	making 200 faggots and getting Bonds	0 : 4 : 6
	Two days Labour himself and Boy	0 : 3 : 6
	Burning a Kiln, Beer and Labour } about putting in Chalk	1 : 14 : 0

	Digging 20,000 brick Earth	<u>0 : 10 : 0</u>	
1780.			
Jan 20.	By Money to J. Faulkner in full 10 : 8 pd. before, being for	0 8 3	
	for making 330 faggotts	0 : 4 : 11½	
	for cutting 500 Bean sticks	0 : 0 : 10	
	for Do. 1200 Pea sticks	0 : 2 : 0	
	for Do. 15 Doz. of stakes	0 : 1 : 3	
	for Do. 200 Spar rods	0 : 0 : 4	
	for cutting 106 lugs of Copse	0 : 8 : 10	
	for Do. of 14 Poles	0 : 0 : 7	
April 1.	By Jas. Foy for making 5 Doz. and ½ } of Hurdles		0 16 6
	Do. for 200 Bavins.		0 3 0
	Do. for 6 Doz. of Sowles.		0 0 6
May 25.	By Allan's Bill for a Water Closet		13 7 0
June 25.	By J. Taylor, Brickmaker, in full		2 19 8
July 8.	By Money to John Taylor on account } For Brickmaking		6 6 0
15.	By J. Taylor for brickmaking		1 13 0
26.	By Reuben Clarke for steining and cleaning } a well at Reeves		2 2 0
27.	By J. Taylor on acc't of brickmaking		1 1 0
Aug 5.	By J. Taylor for Brick-burning in full		3 15 0
Sep 2.	By J. Taylor on acc't of brickmaking		2 2 0
28.	By J. Taylor on acc't of brickmaking		2 2 0
Nov 2.	By John Taylor in full for brickmaking } and burning		3 7 3
Nov 25.	By Taylor for Labour		0 11 7
	Do. for draining		0 16 10
	Do. for making faggotts		0 8 9
1781.			
Jan 6.	By digging 60,000 brick earth		1 10 0

Oct 1.	By ½ a pack of Straw for ye Brick Kiln	0 10 6
Oct 24.	By 3000 furze faggotts for ye Kiln } At 2 : 5 : 0 pr. Thousand }	6 15 0
1782. Jan 4.	By ½ a years rent of ye Brick Kiln and } Roads to Do. }	1 10 0
Dec 27.	By ½ a years rent of ye road to ye } Brick Kiln }	1 10 0
1783. Jan 24.	By J. Taylor for digging Brick Earth	0 15 0
1788. Nov 3.	To Wm. Harvey for 6 B. of Salt	1 8 0

Isaac Barton.

- father = Isaac Barton.
- married Mary Ann Annabel Scriven, 21 November. 1857.  
(Bride's father = John Scriven)

- Isaac and Mary and Barton, contractor, Ryde.

Baptism of Selina }  
Alice } February 18, 1872. All Saints, Ryde.  
Agnes }

- Isaac and Mary Ann Barton of Ryde, builder.  
Lydia - born March 22, 1874.  
Albot - born May 30, 1876.

1879. Hill. (Directory)

"Barton, Isaac, builder and contractor,  
contractor for the War Department of  
the Eastern Division of the Isle of Wight,  
Beverley Villa, Partlands Avenue,  
Swanmore."

1886. Kelly's Directory.

Ashey Road. WEST SIDE.

Moody, Henry, brick ma.  
Hawkins, George, man. Ashey Common brickworks.  
Phillips, Mrs. Emily Jane.  
Guy, Charles.  
Barton, Isaac, brickmaker.  
.... Here is Bettsworth Road ....  
Johnson, Chas. S. (Fairlawn)

Partlands Avenue. Swanmore Road to Pellhurst Road.

NORTH SIDE.          Barton, Isaac. (Beverley Villa)

("Post-it" note attached reading,) *Not yet added to B ' WORKERS WDB. KELLY'S "*

1886. Kelly's Directory (cont'd.)

Swanmore Road, continuation of High Street to Asheby Road.

EAST SIDE

44, Barton, Isaac

Lendrum Rev. Alexander George Hope, (curate of St. Michael and All Angels) (Woodville)

Eagle, Mrs. (Hollington)

..... Here are Asheby Road, Upton Road and Partlands Avenue.

1888 – 9 Pike's

Asheby Road. ( From Swanmore Road leading to Asheby.)

..... Here is Smallbrook Lane .....

Morgan, Luke

Rosemary Branch, Trickett R.

.....

St. Augustus, Lovell, Mrs.

Guy, Charles

Barton's Brickyard. (Cutlers)

Dallimore, Arthur, jobbing mason and bricklayer

1904. Kelly's

Asheby Road, continuation of Swanmore Road.

.....

WEST SIDE

Barton, Isaac, Brickmaker,

Trueman, Charles, manager of Asheby Common brickworks

(No mention of Barton's brickworks before Bettesworth Road.)

1886. Kelly's Directory.

Bettesworth Road, Henry Frampton.

Play Street. Thomas Saunders, brickmaker.

1855. Post Office Directory.

Frampton, Henry, Farmer, Warwick Street.

Cutler, Josiah, Builder, Lind Street.

Hilyer, Henry Thomas, Bouverie House, Melville Street.

Post Office Directory, p. 1373.

Frampton, Henry, Shopkeeper, Warwick Street.

1837. Vectis Directory.

Cutler, builder, Lind Street.

1879. Hill.

William Taylor, Colemans Wood.

1855. Post Office Directory.

Brading & Sandown section  
Eggleton, Joseph, Brickmaker

West Cowes.  
Thomas Wheeler, builder, brick and tile  
merchant, Newport Road.

Niton.  
Stone, William, farmer and brickmaker,  
Kingates.

Wootton.  
Cooper, Thomas, merchant, shipowner,  
brickmaker and farmer.

1871 Census.

46 Weeks Road. Jeremiah Toogood. Head. Married. Brickmaker. Yaverland.

1891 Census. St Helen's parish.

Cherrygin	Charles Taylor. Head. M. 26. Brickmaker
No. 10	Emma Taylor. Wife. M. 22.

Westridge	Henry Scovele. Head. M. 29. Brickmaker
No. 1	

## **1. ATHERFIELD**

Location

a) Grange Chine. O S Ref.: SZ 421821.

Ref.: Isle of Wight Village Book. Publisher: Isle of Wight County Press. July 1974.

Quote: -

"In the early part of the century, the Military Road, which was originally made as part of the defences against Napoleon III was reconstructed. The viaduct which crosses Grange Chine was built of bricks which were made and baked on the site."

## **1. ATHERFIELD**

Location

b) Atherfield. OS. Ref.: SZ

Ref.: A reference catalogue of artists who painted scenes in the Isle of Wight. One refers to a watercolour entitled "Atherfield Brickworks," dated 1808. I have not seen this. Andy Butler told me of it.





## 2. ARRETON

### Location

a) Downend O.S. Ref: SZ 535879

(Interview with Martin Moore, Master tape No. 3:20)

### NAME AND DATES

Downend Brick Manufacturing Company was formed in 1926. It took over a small brickworks that was established in 1835. The Directors of the Limited Company were Frank Moore; his son Martin Moore; W.C. Smith, of Smith & Whitehead, an engineering firm in Newport; Frederick P. Spencer, a sportsman of Newport and G. Cooper, manager of Wood and Company, Coal Merchants of Newport, who lived in Sandown. The Company sold out in 1957.

### MECHANIZATION

Prior to 1926 all bricks were handmade. When the Company was formed the yard was modernised. New machinery was installed to produce wire cut bricks, nine at a time. Eight evenly spaced taut wires descended on to a block of extruded clay and cut nine brick sized blocks. These blocks had no frogs. They were known simply as "wire cuts" in the trade. This machine revolutionised production as the most that one man could produce working flat out was on average 1000 bricks a day. The new machine turned out 1200 bricks per hour.

### MANPOWER AND MANUFACTURING

When the Company took over the works there were four brickmakers who worked only in the summer months from April to October. They produced approximately 400,000 bricks per season allowing for inclement weather.

Bricks produced at Downend fired red. The clay was located in a huge, thrown up ridge or face which was about 50 feet long and 10-12 feet high. It was yellow before firing and rocklike, never plastic as some clays are. A fork was used to dig it; a spade was hopeless. It was immensely hard work pronging the clay into the hoppers. Before wire cutting machinery was installed, the clay was piled high in huge mounds to over-winter so that the elements could break it down. Frosts were particularly useful to aid in this process.

Handmades. (1835-1926).

Once the clay had over-wintered, it was "pecked" down on a long soak and then fed into the pug machine. At Downend the pug mill was set with perpendicular knives which ground the clay. Water was then added and the clay came out of the bottom in a plastic form ready to be used in the mould. "Pug" boys collected it and carried it to the brickmaker's table to save the brickmaker stopping. Once a brickmaker had got into a rhythm nothing bar the weather was allowed to stop him.

Downend used skeleton moulds so called because being made of sheet steel they were very much lighter and less bulky than those made of wood. These were ordered

from Brightside Foundry, Sheffield and would last very much longer than wooden ones, usually about three years. Wooden ones were cumbersome and 48 weighty and were constantly having to be renewed.

Clay was thrown into the mould, the surplus was removed with a metal bow, a pallet board placed on top and then with a deft movement the brick was turned upside down and the mould removed. It was placed on the bearing off barrow and the process began again. Handmades had "DE" impressed in the frog.

## Workforce

In 1926, sixteen men were employed working on piece rates of pay. One man dug clay and two men loaded it into trucks. A winch man winched the hoppers up onto the stage where it was tipped into wet pans which added water and fed it into huge rollers to crush the rocklike clay before more water was added to make it into a plastic consistency ready to be extruded under pressure in the correct section for the wires to cut into bricks. The man in charge of the machine placed the "green" bricks on bearing-off barrows, which were wheeled away to the drying hacks by three other men. The rest of the work force was employed in stacking the kilns for firing and unloading afterwards. The bricks were run out from the hot kilns to waiting lorries.

## Drying

Drying was always a problem. At first bricks were dried outside in the sun on long racks, or hacks, as they were known. These were usually seven layers high and held approximately one thousand bricks. During drying these had to be protected from excessive wind which would dry them unevenly and cause cracking. In the Isle of Wight, hazel hurdles were used to protect the sides of the hacks. These were thicker and more robust than ordinary sheep hurdles. The tops of the hacks were covered with a solid wooden pitched roof to prevent rain from spoiling the drying bricks.

In 1926 the Company built the first drying room which was barn-like in appearance and heated under the floor. At each end of the building there was a torch hole which enabled a flue to be packed with coal dust and ignited. The flue stretched the entire length of the building and heat rose through the perforated floor to dry the bricks stacked on it. A thousand bricks weighed three tons when wet. This greatly facilitated the amount of bricks that could be handled and extended the season to a year round operation.

## Fuel

From 1920 coal for firing was delivered by lorry from Newport railway depot by Wood and Company. Downend used, on average, 20 tons a week. This was bought wholesale and delivered via Medina wharf to Newport Railway station where it was shunted into a siding which was rented by Downend. Best house coal was used for firing the best quality bricks, but coal dust was also used and this was purchased for ten shillings a ton, delivered. To get it at this price the Company had to buy twenty tons. Fortunately there was plenty of room for storage at Downend as the site covered about seven acres.

The breeze that was mixed with clay for the clamp bricks was obtained from a number of places. The best breeze came from Shanklin Gasworks in Landguard Road. Firing time depended on the quality of the breeze used. As it was of little use to the

Gasworks after the gas had been extracted, it was cheap and widely available. However good quality breeze was much sought after by brickyards. Often Downend would pick up a load of 49 breeze from the nearest gasworks after delivering bricks to a building site. Once Mr. Moore delivered a load of bricks to a Shanklin builder who was building some new houses in Green Lane and picked up a load of best breeze on his return home.

## Firing

In 1926 there were two grate kilns and one Scotch kiln. The largest grate kiln had several chambers each holding 20,000 bricks. The advantage of a grate kiln was that it could be fired one chamber at a time so that the second chamber could be packed and the next emptied simultaneously thus allowing continuous firing. One great advantage of this method was that the heat from the firing chamber could be used to thoroughly dry the stacked bricks in the next chamber. Some of these grate kilns were very large; for example, the Pritchetts had one which had twenty two chambers, each chamber being 9 ft x 9ft x 9ft. The largest grate kiln at Downend took three days to fire and it was fueled with best steam coal through wicket doors which had to be stoked continuously day and night. Seger cones were used to ensure accuracy when firing. These cones were designed to heel over when they reached the temperature of 1600C.

The Scotch kiln was smaller than the grate kilns, having just two chambers which held 1800 and 1200 bricks respectively. This was useful when there were insufficient bricks to warrant firing a grate kiln.

The bricks that were fired in these kilns were known as facing bricks as they were high fired and hard, and were more durable than clamp bricks which had breeze mixed with them. Facing bricks were used for outside walls whereas clamps were generally inferior and used for inside cavity walls or walls that were to be cement rendered.

## Clamps

One or two clamps were built during the summer when the yard got "jammed up with dry bricks," however there were snags attached to these. Once a clamp was started it had to be continued regardless of weather. Dry bricks had to be protected from rain and big ground sheets were used to cover the partially built clamp. Firing time depended on the quality of the breeze used in the manufacture of the bricks. 20-50,000 bricks; the average was about 25,000. Stacking bricks before firing was hard work. They were transported on crowding barrows which held 60 bricks on the run from hack to clamp. Sometimes larger crowding barrows held 60 or 72. It is interesting that they were counted in dozens although sold by the thousand. Clamp bricks fired unevenly, varying in colour from grey to bright red. Usually dull, greyish red.

## Transport

Transporting bricks was always a headache for those yards without a railway siding. Downend being on the top of the downs was at a particular disadvantage. Before 1920, bricks were delivered by heavy horse and cart. Most of Downend's output went to Newport builders. At the end of the First World War, Mr. Moore's father bought a

Foden and a Ford truck. This greatly facilitated deliveries. An average house required 15,000 bricks. There was always more demand than supply. Mr. Moore lived in a house next to the Chapel in Arreton built by his grandfather. He described it as a "fair sized house" and it took 40,000 bricks. 50

### Other Products

In the mid 1800's, an Act of Parliament required all agricultural land to be drained properly through terra-cotta land drainage pipes. Downend in common with many other yards manufactured more drainpipes than bricks. One form of drain was known as the "horseshoe" pipe. It was made in two pieces having a deep, round-sectioned, horseshoe-shaped piece which stood on a flat base. This allowed air to flow, thus drying out boggy ground. It was, however, not very successful. Previous to this, land had been drained by digging open ditches across fields but these, although effective, held up ploughing and were often inadvertently filled in by the plough. Later ditches were lined with stones and then filled in. This method was quite good but when the Land Drainage Act was passed they were superseded by terra-cotta drainage pipes.

One by-product of this was a special order from Minchin's, a large nursery in Havenstreet, which specialised in growing carnations. Downend made thousands of two-inch diameter pipes for the carnations to grow through to ensure perfectly straight stems. No fancy-ware or glazed pots were ever made at Downend.

### Semi-Glazed Bricks

Downend produced a lot of semi-glazed or salt-glazed bricks and many of the chequered houses of Newport are made with "Downend salt glazes." Kilns had to reach a temperature of 1600°C. before handfuls of salt were added. When the kiln was set, or packed, the bricks were stacked with the "heads" facing the fire hole. The salt reacting with the natural elements of the clay glazed the heads of the bricks. In Newport the courses are always laid with salt headers followed by stretchers of natural red. Sometimes headers were cut in half for the outside wall. Quite often bricks sagged under the weight of those stacked on top of them when firing and these were often used for garden walls or other places where appearance did not matter. This usually occurred when the kiln was too hot. At Downend it was easy to see where the salt glazed bricks were being fired, as the hedge at the side of the kiln was scorched brown by the salt that settled on it.

### Houses

Ryde and Shanklin Town Halls were built of Downend brick. Both of these were gutted by fire and had to be virtually rebuilt from scratch. It was, in Mr. Moore's words, "a hell of a job to keep up with the demand for bricks." The Seely Library in Upper St. James Street took well over 70,000 bricks, all of which were supplied by Downend. As well as these major undertakings small builders still needed to be supplied and the works worked many overtime hours to just keep ahead. Houses in Caesars Road, Lugley Street, Crocker Street, New Road, and Trafalgar Road. etc. were built with Downend brick.

51.

Addition. (From Mr. Toogood).

Mr. Willoughby- Burden owned Carpenter's Yard (a Builder and early Speculator).

George Vessey served his apprenticeship at Carpenter's.

Mr Willoughby-Burden used lots of clamp bricks in the 1920's and pebble dashed them!

2 Kilns (Scotch).

One large coal store.

Railway siding to yard which was next to coal yard. (Run by Faithful?)

#### 4. BRADING

##### Location

b) Carpenter's Lane, St. Helen's. OS. Ref.: SZ 621884.

Ref.: Mr. Bucket of Station Road, Brading.

Owner was Mr. Jack Gregory and before him, Mr. Faithful. The latter saved hard as it was his ambition to buy Barnsley farm. (He may have been a tenant farmer). All the money he got making bricks he hoarded, as he didn't trust banks. He eventually had enough to buy the farm and he paid for it in buckets of sovereigns. A good story even if, perhaps, exaggerated. His great grandson still lives at Barnsley Farm.

##### Site

A large part of a Scotch kiln or square bottle type still stands. Buttressed, with very thick walls of very dark brick indicating that it has been fired many times. At present used as a cow stall. Site has some time been a tip as happened to so many disused clay pits. Another wall, possibly of a shed, still remains, built of old bricks in many colours, some of which look like rejects. Slides have been taken of these.

Mrs. Morton of Ryde told me: "In approx. 1900, the Brickfield was owned by Mr. Oliver Faithful. Mr. Barton from Brading worked there with Oliver's son, Mr Hinton Faithful. They were helped by Mr. George Plumbley. Mr. Alf Williams married Oliver Faithful's daughter, Una, she and he used to deliver the bricks to the surrounding area by horse and cart and they were good quality red bricks and most of the old buildings and village houses in St Helens and Bembridge were made from Carpenter's Lane bricks."

Tiring. Men stayed up all night to stoke the kilns. Two remaining grandchildren of Oliver Faithful - Miss Doris Faithful (aged 90). In home at Bembridge. Mrs Edna Squibb (83, mother of Mrs. Morton) lives at Pallance? in own home.

Faithful's also ran coal yard next to the brickworks. Also had bred ovens and dairy. They supplied the area with bread and butter and milk as well as coal and bricks! (Bit like Reed's of Queen Bower) when Mrs Morton's mother was a child (1910).

Pug mill with horse.

Doris said it finished just after the First World War, maybe early 1920's. Mrs. Squibb was a child then and thinks it closed mid-1920's.

54.

#### **4. BRADING**

Location

c) Carpenter's Lane, north side. OS. Ref.: SZ

1909 OS Map shows "Old Kiln" in field opposite Carpenter's Lane. Could be lime kiln or brick kiln

54 a.

Mr. Moore.

" Carpenter's had clamp – a big one. Downend bought the lot? to take to Shanklin Town Hall when it was rebuilt."

## 5. COWES WEST.

Location

a) Egypt Hill. OS Ref.: SZ 484963

Ref.: Francis Pritchett in his book tells the story of young George Pritchett in 1805 walking from Bierley to Cowes to fire an end of season kiln for fellow brickmaker who was sick. Quote from George (manuscript used by Francis) "my people at Bierley received an urgent request from a Cowes brickyard whose proprietor had been taken ill, asking that a suitable person be kindly sent over to Cowes to undertake the burning of the last kiln of bricks for that season, in the late Autumn for the sick fellow brickmaker."

George was dispatched and upon arrival he carried out the burning of the kiln, a task of at least a week's duration and then walked back to Bierley.

Francis tries to locate this yard and having walked round the Ward Estate walls decided that it was situated at the top of Egypt Hill in Baring Road. In 1939 he says that "Kiln Cottage" still stands to mark the home of this fellow brickmaker that George so kindly helped. He also says that the clay pits are now, "enclosed by the Park stone wall but are still clearly visible."

Egypt House on the front at Egypt Point is made entirely of brick. It was built for the Ward family of Northwood House who clearly preferred a sea view and who moved there soon after it was completed. Not sure when this was built but can find out. Is it possible that the brickyard at the top of Egypt Hill was opened for the purpose of building this house? Or was it a Ward Estate yard producing bricks for maintenance work? Or was it leased from the Estate?

## 5. COWES, WEST

Location

b) Shamblers. OS Ref. - SZ 498947.

"Shambles" or "Shamblers" was the old colloquial name for West Cowes. In Newport the term applied to an area of the town where the butchers were located and since "Shambles" is a medieval word for a butcher's shop, it seems likely that this was probably true of Cowes also.

Shamblers is still the name of a road and also a copse in Cowes. The brickyard must have been situated near them, possibly on a rough piece of land near the river. In approximately 1846 Edmund Pritchett took over the management of Shamblers Yard where he remained for several years. His two eldest sons, William and Frank, worked with him. They were mainly concerned with transporting bricks by lighter up the river. This tantalising statement makes no mention of where they went with them. Was Medina Wharf in existence at this time? No. Medina wharf was constructed in 1877 by the Ryde and Newport Railway to facilitate the unloading of coal shipped from the mainland. So it is reasonable to assume that the bricks were taken up river to Newport quay where local builders would collect them. It is likely that the returning lighters would bring a load of coal or coke breeze, for firing, back with them. If the yard was still in existence after 1877, brick may have been moved by goods train from Medina Wharf? The facilities would have been there for unloading from lighter and packing into wagons.

A little anecdote of life in the yard comes from Francis and concerns the younger of the two sons, Frank. One night when he was on duty, kiln watching, he felt a bit hungry and remembering that his mother had made a rhubarb pie that day, he crept in to the house which was next to the kiln, took the pie and retreating to a secluded spot, ate it. In high spirits he paraded round the kiln with the empty dish on his head. Unluckily for him his mother happened to glance out of the window and saw him. A belt round the ears almost certainly followed and the next morning the hapless young man was sent into town to buy some more fruit out of his wages!

Map Surveyed 1861 – 2, published 1863, shows Shamblers Yard.

Map Surveyed 1896 – 7, published 1898, shows no brickfield there.

57.

Portland Inn, Gurnard (Tuttons Hill – Worsley Road junction) was once called Elim House. Could this be the house that Edmund built for himself?  
This was told to me by Mr. Taylor, 297971, who came into the Heritage Centre 30/7/91.

## Location C.

c) Elim, Jordan and Luck, Gurnard Marsh OS Ref: SZ 472 955 (Elim) 479 958 (Jordan)

## Elim

Started by Edmund Pritchett about 1850 when land became available for development from the Ward Estate. Speculative builders were deterred by transportation of building materials costs. George and his son Edmund (who at this time was still running Shamblers\*) decided to open a couple of yards at Gurnard thus offering bricks at the site and enabling building costs to be kept down. Edmund bought some land on the new Gurnard Building Estate where he set up his yard. He built a good-sized house for himself, his wife and their ten children. As Edmund was an enthusiastic and sincere non-conformist and also a local preacher his yards had Biblical names. Jordan Close probably took its name from the brickyard nearby.

## Jordan

All Gurnard bricks fired red. The yard was opened at about the same time as Elim and as well as supplying bricks for local building, Edmund, with an eye to the main chance as always, realised the potential of transporting bricks by sea and offered his bricks for the building of Fort Albert and Victoria near Yarmouth. He built a jetty off Gurnard for lighters or barges to take on bricks which his sons operated. There were jetties at the forts for unloading building materials and military equipment. Presumably many brickyards were needed to supply the thousands of bricks needed in the building of these fortifications.

## Luck

Another yard was opened by George Pritchett, father of Edmund with the help of his grandson, William. It is described by Francis as on the lower part of Gurnard Farm close to the river crossing the marsh that flows into the Solent. This creek is said to have been a small haven before the bridge across it was built at the end of the last century, so it may be possible that barges could have collected bricks and transported them to Yarmouth for the building of the forts from here also.

George was in his late seventies when he and his grandson began this yard. The work of firing the kilns was divided into watches, the younger man taking the night watch and George taking day shift. William being young and innovative had modified the kilns so that they were better insulated requiring less stoking and also reducing fuel consumption. He gave his grandfather implicit instructions on stoking when the latter took over from him one morning soon after the second season had begun. George either through ignorance or pigheadedness didn't follow his grandson's instructions. According to Francis, he "exceeded the temperature of the kiln greatly", causing the bricks to melt into two solid masses that were useless. George was a man of few words and when William came on duty at the end of the day, he said, "I have done in two of them. Goodnight." What William said doesn't need much imagination. This seems to imply that there were more than two kilns firing at the time, and perhaps

only two had been modified, presumably the other one/ 59 two were successful. If they were clamps, which seems most likely, it was clearly too much effort to make two new sites and the yard was abandoned.

\* Shamblers Yard was called "West Medina Brick and Tile Works." Owned by Thomas Wheeler. Offices were in York Street. Edmund Pritchett was probably Foreman / Manager.

Quote: - "Wight Magic" by Philip Ward.  
Published by Oleander Press, Cambridge. 1990.

"The Luck stream at Gurnard, now narrow and silted up, is believed to have been wider in mediaeval times and navigable at least to Hart's Farm on Rew Street, where a mooring ring has been unearthed during ploughing."

## 5. COWES - WEST

### Location

Northwood, Wyatt's Lane. O.S. Ref: S Z

Ref: Interview with Mrs. Enid Cheek, daughter of Harry Pritchett whose wife's maiden name was Maggie Bull.

Wyatt's Lane yard came into being in 1919, on October 24<sup>th</sup>, at 3.10pm. Francis Joseph Pritchett brother of Harry turned the first sod to open the yard. He was accompanied by his son, Francis William, newly returned from the war and his younger son, George Edgar. Virtually penniless after the collapse of Gunville (see 8a) the family started from scratch. After the war, building materials were in short supply so a brickyard was a good proposition and one of the few things that did not need a lot of capital to start with. Turves were used as building materials for the first shed which was thatched with reeds from Gurnard Marsh. Even the first kiln was made from turves and Francis gives us a detailed description of how it was constructed. The poles of the roof for the shed were cut from the copse. Even in 1929 when T.C. Hudson took photos of Harry's models, the buildings were still very primitive with mud walls and thatched.

In the space of one year the Pritchetts were producing field drains and trial samples of roofing tiles. This, we are told, was made possible by the kindness of a fellow brickmaker who loaned them a small "hand power machine." The small output of the yard was readily bought as there was still an acute shortage of building materials. The government of the day implemented a Housing Scheme called the Addison Housing Scheme. Loans were provided to enable people to purchase their own homes and this greatly increased the demand for cheap building materials. Local Councils adopted the scheme and made grants available to small builders to enable them to build as quickly as possible. Orders for bricks and roofing tiles poured in and the Pritchetts began to think of expanding. However money was still tight and it was the generosity of a fellow brickmaker who was closing his yard and who offered them his equipment at a very low price that enabled the Pritchetts to meet the increased demand with little capital outlay. He sold them an engine, some shafting, a clay mill, two tile and pipe machines (power operated) and a manually operated pipe machine. The family returned the borrowed equipment with great gratitude.

At this time, 1922, there was still only one kiln and with extra output and a huge demand for building materials, a second more suitable down draught kiln was added (probably a beehive?). At this time Harry Pritchett, who had been farming at Pallance Farm with William, his father, joined the firm. It fast became a regular supplier to the building trade and a commodious drying shed was added.

Harry was an artistic man like his father and his considerable talents brought a whole new range of "enrichments" or decorative embellishments, such as roof finials, plaques, decorative window arches and garden ornaments. T.C. Hudson who was to become a lifelong friend, first met Harry when on a camping holiday at Northwood. He watched Harry modelling the incredible creatures that Harry's imagination brought forth. The yard was at this time still fairly primitive (this was in 1928)

although by then Francis describes it in glowing terms. It would seem that the old thatched sheds were still in evidence and most 62 of the photos that he took of Harry's work are against mud walls of a thatched shed, possibly a drying room.

In 1924 Francis was looking in other directions for expansion possibly because clay reserves were running low, or the yard was not central enough. Transport was always a problem for yards that were not near or on a railway line. Rookley was found to have an excellent supply of very good clay that was close enough to the surface to warrant excavation. The story of this yard is filed under ROOKLEY 11b.

Harry continued running Northwood until it was eventually absorbed into Rookley Yard in about 1936. It seems to have specialised in land drain pipes and tiles more than in bricks latterly. It also produced a lot of Harry's "special orders."

After Mrs. Cheek's divorce, she lived with her mother in Wyatt's Lane. The house that they lived in was the family home that had been built by the Pritchetts and it was lavishly decorated with 18 of Harry's terra-cotta plaques, all of which disappeared one dark night.

Harry was fascinated by pre-history and was an amateur scholar in his own right. He was a close friend of Mark Norman, another enthusiastic amateur, who lived in Ventnor and the curator of Sandown Geological Museum. Mrs. Cheek can remember experts from the British Museum coming down to look over Harry's latest finds, usually about once a month. She was made to wear a clean frock that she hated. Much of the rare finds of Harry's collection are in the British Museum. (See CP. cuttings on Harry's find of Bronze Age urns). There are a lot of specimens that Harry collected in Sandown Geological Museum. Young Enid adored being with her father and eagerly joined him in his expeditions. In those days they walked everywhere and thought nothing of walking from Northwood to Newtown and back. She remembers trudging back from a fossiling expedition with great chunks of rock that her long-suffering mother had to put up with. There were fossils everywhere; on the window sills, the floor and worst of all in the sink!

Enid like her father had her own wheel on which she used to throw pots. Harry made these and used to throw a lot of flowerpots and garden urns. She also vividly remembers being taught how to handle a gun at the tender age of 5 years. In winter, when work was slack or weather inclement, she accompanied Harry and his workers on a rabbit shoot in the copse behind the yard.

It was not uncommon for boys to escape from the Borstal institution at Camphill and they invariably made for the brickworks where it was warm and where, the grapevine had informed them, there was a friendly brickmaker. When the maroon sounded, which was the signal that a boy had gone missing, Harry would say to his wife, "Put up a bit of extra nammet. I expect they'll come down to us at the yard." If the kilns were firing at night the boy would have a warm and a sleep and be taken home by kind hearted Harry for breakfast before the authorities reclaimed him.

## Buildings

By 1928 there were 8 sheds, a pug mill (power driven) 1 large Scotch kiln, and 1 very one which was much smaller. During World War II, the Scotch kiln, which was then no longer used, was converted into an air raid shelter and was used by many of the inhabitants of Wyatt's Lane.

Fuel for firing the Scotch kiln was delivered by lorry. Alfred Rann from East Cowes drove for many years and used to deliver bricks etc. for the brickyard to building sites. There were eight brickmakers at Northwood at its height and all of

them moved 63 with Harry when he came from Hillis. These were second generation brickmakers and four cottages were built for them and their families near Pallance Farm.

The account in the County Press of Harry's find of Bronze Age urns was probably in February 25th 1939 (See reprint overleaf).

### **50 Years Ago**

From the County Press of February 25th, 1939.

Thanks to the keen eyes and skillful researches of two Islanders, two discoveries of great interest were made in the ancient borough of Newtown.

Mr. H.E. Pritchett, of Northwood, a patient excavator in the area for several years, uncovered a perfectly preserved cinerary urn of the early Bronze Age, which had been undisturbed for about 3,000 years.

Captain J.S. Cottrell, of Wayside, Bouldnor, searching the beach at low tide near Saltmead Ledge, between Thorness and Newtown, discovered the fossilised frontal skull bones of a European bison. The wild ox, as it was also called, had been extinct in Britain for many thousands of years and could now be found only in the wilds of the Caucasus.

### **50 Years Ago**

From the County Press of March 4th, 1939.

Two boys escaped from Camp Hill Borstal Institution but were found by Cowes police only a few hours after the breakout.

The boys were caught trying to escape to the mainland in a stolen motor launch.

Mrs. Wray of Wyatt's Lane, Northwood has some little carts made by Harry at Northwood or Hillis; also a photo of Wyatt's Lane yard in the 1920's; also a pair of shoes made at Hillis.

16. NORTHWOOD. No. 5.

WEST COWES

Location

Hillis - Marks Corner. OS Ref: SZ 471939

Ref: Francis Pritchett's book. Interviews with Ray Flux of West Medina, Werrar brickyard. Mr. Barton of Shalfleet (taped). Mr. Phillips. Mr. Atrill. Cliff Matthews of Whitwell.

Francis says that there was a government order sent out that all agricultural land had to be drained. He says it was enforced in 1856. It may be the same Act that Martin Moore spoke of which he called The Land Drainage Act, passed in 1880. This needs researching. Whenever it was, the edict was that land had to be drained in order that more land might be available to produce food and good grazing. The Ward Estate which owned a great deal of land in northwest Wight decided to open their own yard to produce drainage pipes. Edmund Pritchett was invited to advise and establish a pipe-making works at Hillis Farm, one of the farms of the estate near Marks Corner. Edmund recruited his son, William, as manager and for the next ten years they produced agricultural pipes for the Ward Estate. Once this work was completed and all the land owned by the estate had been drained, the works was put on the market to let. No one came forward so the Steward asked William if he would consider taking it on. This was in 1866. William accepted and moved his family from Gurnard, disposing of his house there. At this time he had one son, William Edward, his only daughter having died some years previously at the age of 4 years. William's grandfather, George, had died six years earlier at his cottage next to the old church at Gurnard.

No sooner had they moved than William's wife died leaving him to bring up his young son William Edward. He struggled on "reduced to a condition of complete domestic and financial limitation." However this condition was gradually overcome and on the 25th September 1873 he married Jane Woodford of Cowes. She was four years younger than William and by strange coincidence had been born at street "lace Farm within sight of Eades Farm, Newbridge, birthplace of William. It seems that with his marriage came an upturn in William's fortunes. He began to receive orders from local builders and he also supplied large quantities of bricks and other things for the Ward Estate who were his landlords. They had many houses and farms on the estate that had to be kept in good repair and at this time new buildings were also going up. In the course of time a son, Francis Joseph, was born to William and Jane and later a second son, Harry Edmund and a daughter, Bessie Agnes.

William's father Edmund who had gone to the mainland some time previously now returned to Hillis with his wife and son, George Henry. The two families lived together at Hillis and pooled their skills in brickmaking.

## Mechanisation

Hillis had clays that fired white and red. The white bricks were always in great demand. Young George had a mechanical turn of mind that was a great advantage to the yard as he was able to adapt some of the processes that he had seen in brickyards on 65 the mainland for Hillis. Hillis was the first yard on the Island to install wire cut machinery in about 1870. Mr. Moore remembers his father going to see it to consider whether it was worth ordering for Downend. The productivity of the yard was transformed by this process for it meant that the brickmakers were no longer needed and they could be used for casting or other work.

## Transport

Transportation was one problem that dogged all yards which were not on a railway siding. Before the advent of the petrol engine, traction engines were used and before that a pair of shire horses and a heavy cart. Unless a yard could afford to own their own horses and carts they had to hire them from a neighbouring farm. This was an unsatisfactory arrangement as the farms were in need of all the transport they could muster at haymaking and ploughing and this coincided with the busiest building time. Not only did the bricks and other materials have to be delivered to the building sites but coal for firing and breeze had to be delivered to the yard. With such heavy loads only the strongest team of horses could be used.

William saw that the only way to solve the problem of transport was to find a farm that he could lease so that he would have enough grazing land to maintain a team of horses and to provide housing for the carts. He was fortunate in being able to obtain the tenancy of Pallance Farm which was 120 acres and adjoined Hillis. In 1879 William moved his family to Pallance with his father Edmund and mother Elizabeth as they were now stricken in years. It is possible that some of William's brothers continued at Hillis as there, ten children were born to Edmund and Elizabeth and some of them undoubtedly worked in the brickmaking business.

## Farming and Brickmaking.

William combined farming with brickmaking, as brickmaking was essentially a summer occupation although clay digging could be done during autumn and spring. During the slack times brickworkers reverted to farm labouring. Later when the Wyatt's Lane yard was organised, the labourers that went with Harry were second generation brickworkers who were skilled in the trade and did nothing else.

William's brother, George Henry was a great help to William in running the yard and continued to advance methods of manufacture by mechanising wherever possible.

In 1890 Edmund died having been actively engaged in brickmaking up to a few months of his death. Just before this, George Henry decided to leave Hillis and concentrate on his career in engineering. He returned to the mainland and took a job as a motor mechanic with a large garage in Wimbledon. This was in 1889, the same year that the young Francis Joseph joined his father William in the firm. At this time Hillis was producing a general range of goods in total about 273,000 items per annum.

At this time there were at least 30 yards to compete with, all making similar items for the building trade in the areas in which they operated. At that time it was normal to supply builders working within a day's horse and cart turn about.

### Mechanisation.

With the advent of motor transport and mechanisation, the yard changed radically. Horses were no longer needed to drive the pug mills or to deliver bricks. The brickmaker's role <sup>66</sup> also changed as wire cutting machinery made the handmade brick more expensive to produce.

In 1892 an order was obtained from a prominent Island architect for a specific type of roofing tile. This tile had to be machine made and William asked young Francis to see if he could design a machine that would do the job. After much thought he did and the tiles that were produced were pronounced by the architect to be satisfactory. The yard became well known for these tiles and also for ridge and quarry tiles.

Ray Flux says that Hillis was re-opened by Ball's in the 1950's and that the last firing was in 1954. Werrar used to "buy in" bricks, when they were short, from Hillis to make up their orders.

Mr. Barton of Shalfleet who was in later years the foreman of James Ball, Builders, of Cowes, can remember when Ball's bought Hillis yard, together with Lee and Bouldnor. He worked at Hillis and made bricks there. He was a brickmaker and he helped to build an extension at Ryde Hospital, Calthorpe Ward. Ball's took over the yard at Hillis about 1924. This ties in with letter headings to J.S. Bailey and H. Cawte on printed, headed paper but with handwritten "James Ball and Son" and address dated April, 1925. White bricks were brought from Hillis on a steam wagon pulled by a traction engine, and were loaded onto a goods train at Gunville where there was a railway siding.

Mr. Phillips described a terra-cotta plaque commemorating the birthplace of Thomas Arnold, Headmaster of Rugby School. Two of these were made and one cracked in the firing. The good one was placed on the correct site in Medina Road Cowes and the cracked one was placed on the office wall! Both are still in situ. Made by William, most likely, but could be Harry's work? Also plaque for Gould, Hibberd and Randall in Newport. Now in Church Litten, removed from the original factory in St. Thomas' Square when the firm moved.

Mr. Attrill of Rookley is equally sure that the latter was made at Rookley and is certain that it was modelled by Harry Pritchett.

Mr. Barton says that handmades were always frogged, wire cut in early days until they were re-pressed with a frog much later on. No clamp bricks were made at Hillis, all down draught kilns, beehives, when Ball's took over.

Cliff Matthew's father built his own house with Hillis bricks at the junction of Drake Road with Albert Road, Newport, a double fronted house of white brick, using different grades of brick; best whites for front and slightly multi-coloureds for sides which were not so good and therefore cheaper.

Hillis annual output in 1903 was 1,650,000 items.

Jim Gladdis was resident manager for J. Ball in 1930. Lived in bungalow on site.

## HILLIS BRICK &amp; TILE MANUFACTURERS

1850 Edmund Pritchett (who managed Shamblers Brickyard in Cowes) was approached by the Ward Estate who wanted to take advantage of the recent Public Money Drainage & Improvement of Land Act 1850. This act approved the advance to the Treasury of £2,000,000 in Great Britain and £22,000 in Ireland for Drainage & Other Improvement of Landed Property. The Ward estate asked Edmund if he would consider managing an agricultural drainpipe yard at one of their farms, Hillis Farm.

1856 William Edmund's son takes over the running of Hillis Pipeyard. Output of drainage pipes for the estate was completed in ten years.

1866 Hillis put up for tenancy at the end of the drainage quota. William was invited by the steward of the Ward Estate to take on tenancy. He accepted and moved his family from Gurnard (where Edmund had two brickyards in operation) to Hillis. William's wife Caroline dies leaving young son William Edward (b. 1862).

1879 William secures tenancy of Pallance Farm adjoining Hillis Farm and Brickyard.

1897 William and his wife Jane (2nd marriage) and sons William Edward and Harry Edmund, (b. 1876?) and Francis Joseph (b. 1872) together with Edmund, his wife, Elizabeth, and son, George, move to Pallance Farm. Used farm horses for delivery of bricks. The family all worked together at Hillis. W Martin Moore of Downend Brickyard recalled that Hillis was the first yard on the Isle of Wight to install wire cut brickmaking machinery (capable of making 1,000 bricks per hour) in 1870.

1889 George opts out of the brickyard. Goes to London and becomes involved in motorcar and motor cycle production at Wimbledon. Francis Joseph enters family business at Hillis. Production: 273,000 goods per annum. 1 Scotch kiln 1 Grate kiln. Deliveries by team of horses and carts.

1890 Edmund dies.

1892. Eminent architect demands machine made bricks and roofing tiles. Francis and team invent machinery for making roofing tiles (both red and white clay).

1894 Introduction of pottery, garden sculpture. Suppliers to Osborne Estate and Palace Gardens. Supplied large cargoes of flowerpots for Guernsey. Harry took over this side of the business as he was particularly good at modelling clay figures etc.

1896-1900 Period of great growth and progress. More machinery installed. Pressing and Re-pressing Plant driven by steam. Additional kilns built. Five beehives in operation. William Pritchett in charge with Harry and Francis working 68 alongside him. Transportation still a big problem. Pritchett's view Gunville which has great advantage of railway siding. Lease acquired from owner of Gunville Brickyard.

1903 Output this year was 1,650,000 items.

1906 Hillis still in Pritchett ownership. Goods mainly delivered to Gunville for railway shipment.

1910. By this date James Ball & Co. had taken over Hillis together with Afton and Lee Brickworks. (See photo).

1939-45 Closed.

1947. Were open again by this date. (See invoice). Ray Flux from Werrar Brickworks remembers them re-opening about this time. It is believed that the yard closed about 1955.

HILLIS.

(Taped 9 / 6 / 92. Buckingham Road, Ryde).

William Ball. Son of James Ball.

Apprentice with firm in the 1950s. Built larger beehives kiln at Hillis. Three layers of bricks on "skin" of kiln. The first two layers of bricks laid in clay. The outside layer made with cement. Bands of metal holding it.

1954 - 55. Small beehive kiln.

Uncle (Ball) Father's brother was running Brickyard but he got caught up in one of the belts - smashed him up a bit.

London Brick Company ousted the smaller yards. Too much waste in firing to be economical.

Sixpence each for ECP bricks second-hand - much sought after - good bricks.

70.

1760's.

Pritchetts (origin Salisbury, then in New Forest) came to Isle of Wight. Joseph Pritchett contracted to supply bricks for House of Industry (St. Mary's Hospital pond site).

1770.

Completed. Then Kitbridge to supply bricks for Parkhurst Barracks. Then in various other yards including Gurnard, Shamblers, Cowes.

1856.

Edmund (grandson) asked by Ward Estate to advise and open up Hillis as agricultural drainage.

1866.

William, son of Edmund takes over lease.

1879.

Secures tenancy of Pallance Farm adjoining Hillis. Moves from Hillis to Pallance. Son's Francis and Harry and William (chemist dies early 50ish).

1900.

Retains Hillis. Lease on Gunville (railway siding).

1905.

Highest output, 5,600,000 pieces. (Hillis and Gunville combined).

1914.

Sells out. (Liquidation). (Gunville and Hillis).

1919 - 20.

Acquired by Building Contractor, James Ball of Cowes. Sold in 1940's after World War 2. Brickmaking ceased.

1925.

G.W. Ball owned Hillis. Parklands, Park Road, Cowes to Edward Hill, 1st Jan 1930 - cottage and garden called Hillis Gate and fields.

1930.

Balls rented out, 26 March, to Henry Gladiss of Cockleton. (Of Captain Hudson) stabling at brickyard.

Mr. Humber intended to quit land, January 21, 1929.

Wages, March 1926 £722 per annum.

## S. COWES WEST

### Location

h) Werrar. West Medina. OS Ref: S Z 50592.9

Ref: Mrs. Barbara Symes of Werrar Farm.

Residents refer to Werrar as "Whirl." Werrar or Werror is noted in Domesday Book. The land on which the farm of Werrar stood is known to have belonged to Queen's College Oxford in early medieval times. The College has in its archive details of its farms and acreage. It is possible that the College was endowed with lands that were owned by ecclesiastical foundations perhaps the Abbey of the Trinity at Tiron in France represented by the priory of St. Cross in Newport or by the Abbey of Lyre whose priory was established at Carisbrooke. Barbara spoke of the Abbey Farm of Werrar. If it were an Abbey farm this would account for the oral tradition that it was inhabited by monks. It is just possible that it was owned by the Benedictine Abbey of Wherwell near Andover as this Order owned large tracts of land in the Ryde, Binstead, Ashe and Heaseley area. It is unlikely that it would have an order at Werrar but it is tempting to wonder whether the pronunciation of Werrar could be a corruption of Wherwell -Whirl.

The information above was gleaned from S.F. Hockey in *Insula Vecta*.

Appendix B of aforementioned book states:

" About 25 water mill sites can be recovered from the Domesday Book. We give a list below of medieval references for all mills encountered during these researches; hence the list does not pretend to be complete."

Werrar (tide) Queen's College, Oxford. 5D48.

Barbara Symes thinks that name may be derivation of "weir." This would tie up with the fact that there was a mill here in medieval times. A tidal mill must have a reservoir of water to work the mill when the tide has dropped i.e. wooden sluices to contain water in the lake at the back of the bridge. There must have been a good-sized pond to work the mill at low water. Possibly this would be part of the little creek at the side of the old quay area maybe the weir stretched across the creek mouth wherever it was, it would probably out last the timber mill and thus give the area its name. The word weir derives from the Anglo-Saxon, "werian," to defend. My own view is that the weir did not span the river Medina. Wayne Pritchett tells me that at low water on a spring tide a bit further up towards Newport it is still possible to walk across. Barbara seems to think that the monks of Quarr used Werrar ponds for their supply of fresh fish. I don't. Wootton was much nearer and also they owned a mill at Binfield so they would have access to plenty of good fishing grounds without coming across to Werrar. Have changed my mind on early brick works there i.e. 16<sup>th</sup> Century although it is still a possibility that now we have established a mill here that would account for the large pits and ponds as well as the old clay workings. At Werrar water is about 5 ft deep at low water.

Queen's College, Oxford owned the land until well into this century. Ray Flux can remember it being sold off; must ask him when?

73. Interview with Raymond Sydney Flux, 56, Victoria Rd., Newport. August 1990.

Albert Edward Flux was Ray's grandfather. His father was Sidney Albert (born 7/2/1903). Ray born 1926.

### Raw Material

Clay was dug on the site. Yard established by Albert Edward in 1866. When it was commenced there were three people involved. Ray can't remember the names of the other two. Possibly local businessmen from Newport or even local builders. There are remains of a number of pits some of which were used in Albert Edward's day. At first there was a lot of clay but gradually as wire cutting machinery was introduced and production was stepped up new pits were opened to keep up with the demand until by the middle of the forties clay had to be dug right the way along the river bank this had a certain amount of river mud mixed with it. One of the old clay pits was back filled with rubble from the digging of foundations for Albany prison. There was a small pit near to the Cement Mills which provided clay for the "Handmades." There was a little lighter or small barge that was used to load the clay into when river clay was dug. Apparently clay digging from the middle of the river was not allowed, however it seems towards the end they were desperate for clay and they had to dig further and further out from the bank. The clay was dug at low water and taken ashore in the lighter at high water. On the quay this clay was mixed with the superior clay from Cement mills and used for handmades. Right up to the fifties all the clay was dug by hand there was no mechanisation (only machinery for brickmaking). The work around the yard was mostly horse power even after lorries were used for deliveries. The only concession after the war was an ancient lorry to move the clay across the yard from the pit or quay. Before the war (2nd WW) there was a light railway from the clay pit right into the brickworks. The rails were on a float (moveable?) Loaded wagons were winched up out of the pit and up to the pugging area. Once unloaded the empty trucks rolled back down the hill to the bottom again. If they didn't go we used to give 'em a shove! Gravity did it.

We produced mainly red bricks. We could make yellows or 'whites' but latterly the clay was very deep for whites and this was time consuming which made them expensive. Ray remembers in the fifties having to dig deep to match up some bricks to build a low wall opposite the drill hall in Newport.

In the spring after the clay had been weathering for the winter, the bricks would fire whitish as if they had a crisp frost on them. People said it was because there was salt in them. It lasted for a few years and then would disappear. Albert Edward had it analysed by a chemist and it was found to be a natural chemical which was inherent in the clay.

There was a tidal pond which was probably an old clay pit. Large enough for young Ray to have a little flat-bottomed boat to play around in. This pond had a calvert under it very old. Anything to do with the tidal mill?

The water supply came from the river until mains was laid on to Werrar Farm and the brickworks in 1945.

The brickworks land was not part of the farm, although all the land was owned by Queen's College Oxford. It stretched from West Cowes to Parkhurst farm.

## Description of Yard and Equipment.

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The yard was seasonal one operating only in the summer months. Few buildings. The only work done during winter was clay digging. Enough clay was usually dug during the winter to last the summer season. Drying sheds were open-sided with a roof. Occasionally if there was a mild spell an extra kiln of bricks was made - a bonus! Hacks didn't have hurdles at the sides maybe no hazel nearby? Lewes were on legs with struts along the sides. Bricks had to be covered when there was a likelihood of frost. Grandfather (Albert Edward) had wonderful weather sense and would read the sky very accurately. It was nothing for him to appear at Ray's door at half past ten at night and say "Come on let's cover 'em up, there's going to be a frost tonight." Bricks were covered with up with Wood and Jolliffe coal sacks. We'd go out in the dark with all the old sacks and cover them up but even so we still lost them sometimes. In one night of hard frost you could lose 30-40,000 green bricks. There was nothing that we could do about it except to put them all back on the clay heap and recycle them all.

The workshop was where the tools were kept. Wire cutting machinery was installed in the other shed. Also this was where the handmades were made. Stacking ground was behind the quay area ready for shipment by barge /lorry.

Ray and his father lived at the site in two cottages built by father when Ray married, have been demolished since. Grandfather had house built for him on corner of Stag Lane opposite the pub in 1934-5 The total cost of it including the land was £800.

Built of Werrar brick and was first house built there.

## Firing

Main kiln was grate kiln; there was also a Scotch kiln which wasn't used much in Ray's day. The grate kiln had one big chamber with a capacity of 40,000, and a fortnightly firing cycle or "turn round." Fired handmade facing bricks mainly or wire cuts. Ray can't remember clamp firings at all, although some bricks had breeze mixed with them and these were packed at the top of the grate kiln to help self-fire the kiln. The grate kiln had fire flues right through from one side to the other. These flues were about 16 ft long. An archway led in for about 7 or 8 ft on each flue and then it opened out into one large chamber. Bricks were stacked with air spaces in the centre chamber which constituted the flue "trench" and matched up with the flue arch on the other side of the chamber. (Did these trenches go right up to the ceiling?) The kiln had an arched roof which occasionally had to be renewed. Wooden formers were made to build the brick arch upon. Once when Ray was doing this he fell from the top to the ground and landed on his head. He still has the bump to show for it! The grate kiln took three days and two nights to fire. The first day we would light it and bank up the fires with best house coal. When it was thoroughly alight we would stoke more coal until it was blazing the entire length of the flue. Someone always had to kiln watch at night when we were firing and be prepared to stoke to keep the temperature constant. The Scotch kiln took about the same length of time to fire. The main difference was that it had no roof. Breeze bricks were packed at the top of the kiln as previously mentioned to help self fire it. When Ray first worked there the Scotch kiln was used as a store as it was not needed and was old. However they had a lot of orders to fulfill

and so they renovated it and used it again. The Scotch kiln, like the grate kiln, had flues under it. There were eight a side. 75.

### Fuel and Transportation

Jim Williams (grandfather of the present Mr. Williams) had a barge called "The Exchange." Williams Shipment still in Southampton. (Check this; any old invoices?). Jim brought coal from Southampton to Werrar and took Werrar bricks to mainland on return voyage. A lot of Werrar bricks went to mainland. One major undertaking was for Fawley Oil Refinery holding tanks which required thousands of bricks. A second barge was bought the "Will Vernier" which was easier as they could load both ways as it were. Jim Williams was a great friend of Albert Flux and they worked closely together on transport. Coal (best house coal) was brought over to Werrar and bricks were taken to customers in Southampton. Virtually all of early transportation was by barge. Some Island deliveries were made by horse and cart either to Cowes or Newport; seldom any farther than this.

The first lorry was bought in 1920 and was a Maxwell with solid tyres (see 5h slide). It greatly improved deliveries as bricks could now be sent to more places. The railway was never used by Werrar, there was no siding but there was an unofficial arrangement with one or two of the goods train drivers who operated out of Medina Wharf that coal could be delivered to the yard in the wee small hours along the track by Werrar gate crossing from the side of a wagon! Then it was carted to the kiln by heavy horse. This was in Albert's day. Later, coal was obtained from Newport railway sidings and transported by lorry to the yard.

When Ray was a youngster all the work around the yard was done with horse and cart. When he went to work at the yard his father had an old Bedford truck. Albert Edward had a passion for cars and bought an old Wolsey after the 1914-18 war which had been used as a staff car. A beautiful old car. (see Slide 5h).

To shelter the quay from the wash of boats going up river to Newport three old hulks were placed off the brick quay (see photo 5h). One of these was the hulk of the ketch "The Bee"(see cutting County Press July 17th 1954. Filed under 5 H) The hulk was placed there by Albert Flux approx. 1925 when she finished her active trading life (see slides filed 5H of last remains at Werrar).

### Landlords and Site

Site owned by Queen's College. Soon after, Werrar decided to close. The College offered all the land between Cowes and Newport that it owned. It was put up for Auction. The only bit that sold was the one least expected to sell, Werrar, as it had river frontage. This would be about 1958.

### Brick and Artifact Production

If Werrar couldn't fulfill all the orders for bricks it sometimes "bought in" from other yards. Hillis was the nearest yard and in the '50s they would buy from them. They also bought from Downend. When Downend closed Werrar bought most of the unfired bricks that were there and fired them at Werrar.

Albert used to make a lot of things besides brick. He made agricultural drains, ridges, and any number of "specials" bricks for various building functions. No chimney pots though. Made "bullnose" and "double bullnose," (examples of which are to be seen in

Werrar farmhouse garden wall). He also made flowerpots on the side and lots of ornamental stuff. He would also make moulds for special orders provided that the customer could provide him 76 with a sample. This may account for a lot of copying by yards of each other's lines i.e. Burgess Hill finial Dragon could be a copy of Pritchett's or vice versa!

### Buildings

Store on Newport Quay now called "Jacks" built with Werrar bricks. Old kiln at Little London had Werrar bricks in the walls. Lots of bungalows at Pondwell built by Ratsey Brothers (builders) of Werrar brick. A terrace of houses in Shanklin. Albert's own house in Stag Lane (cost #800 to build). Burt's brewery House rebuilt after the war (it was bombed). Albert had to make special bricks for the special work on it.

### Names of Workers

In 1950 two brickmakers were: Ern Salter from Apse Heath. Ern was in R.A.F. during the war and came back to it after the war. He was a trained brickmaker before he came to Werrar. He trained at Apse Yard before the war. Used to cycle from Apse Heath to Werrar in all weathers.

Lester Bailey worked at Rookley before coming to Werrar. Both were trained brickmakers.

Albert lived for the yard; nothing else mattered. Established 1866. Total commitment. In the 1950s there were 7 men working there. Very hard work; some couldn't stick it and left after a month. Ray worked there for twelve years before becoming a driver for Cheeks.

Mr. Les Flux (farmer at Bowcombe) told me that his grandfather ran Werrar farm and his Grandfather's brother ran the brickworks. Old Uncle worked very hard for very little; "used to be out there at 3am stoking the kiln. There weren't no money in it, that's the trouble." Wheel barrow the clay, wheel in the bricks, wheel out the bricks. Phew!"

Before the war Bob Parsons made handmades, with Adam Warne. When Park house (Park Farm) was built, bricks were 8/- per 1,000; made from Werrar bricks. Mr. Loader fired the kiln.

**THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - SATURDAY, July 10, 1954.**

*Jill, Picture removed to save memory space. Still safe on my computer.*

This hulk, lying on the Medina mud at Werrar, once held the distinction of being the oldest British trading vessel afloat. She was placed in position 29 years ago to form a breakwater, and retains her shape, although other and younger vessels have gone to pieces in a much shorter period alongside her. She was the Bee, built in 1801 at Hansen's Shipyard, Cowes as a ketch-rigged cargo vessel. Manned by the crew of three she was in regular service for Messrs. Shepard Bros., of Newport for 124 years, trading between the Island and Southampton. She was replaced by a motor ship in 1925, and has been in her present position ever since. Through Mr A.W. Bishop, of Newport, whose firm, Messrs W.W. Bishop and Son, maintained the Bee from 1883 to 1925, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich have taken in interest in her and are sending experts to record her lines for posterity. The Bee was a victualling ship for the fleet at Spithead before the battle of Trafalgar.

**THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - SATURDAY, July 17, 1954.**

THE KETCH BEE, formerly belonging to Crouchers, Ltd, Newport, as she appeared when she was the oldest trading vessel afloat. She was built at Hansen's Shipyard, Cowes, in 1801, and continued her voyages to the mainland and back until 1925. Her hulk now lies on the mud at Werrar on the River Medina and the National Maritime Museum is sending experts to record her lines for posterity. She was a victualling ship to the Navy at Spithead before the Battle of Trafalgar.

*Jill, Picture removed to save memory space. Still safe on my computer.*

(Photograph lent by her former skipper, Mr. T. Edmonds, of 31, Fairlee Road, Newport).

## GENERAL STRIKE

Called by TUC. in 1926 to Support resistance of the Miner's Federation to a proposed wage reduction, followed the withdrawal of a subsidy from the mining industry by Baldwin Government and announcement for its support for the coal owner's decision to cut wages by 13½ %. Started May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1926; the strike caused one quarter of organised workers of Great Britain to cease work. Was pronounced illegal. TUC capitulated on 12th May 1926. Although the Government recruited volunteers to run public transport or serve as Special Policemen, there was no violence. The miners' strike continued until the following December. In 1927 the Government passed a Trades Dispute Act, declaring sympathetic strikes illegal. This was repealed by The Trades Disputes and Union Act of 1946.

2. ARRETON.

Location

b) Long Lane. OS. Ref: SZ 522887

Reference: Mr. Martin Moore.

Mr. Hobbs ran this yard together with one at Shide and also Chipperwell, where he lived. Martin can remember it as a young man. Thinks that it closed about 1920 or possibly earlier. OS Map, Carisbrooke, 1866 (See note OTC map).

Shows "brickfield" no mention of kiln - probably clamp only.

Officer's Training Corps map, (based on OS 1929) shows Long Lane Brickfield, so must have been working then.

2. ARRETON

Location

0) Heasley. OS. Ref: SZ. 544857

Ref: Fleming Estate Map, 1771. (Guildford, Cumbley, Duxmoor, & Heasley farms)

Field directly in front of Heasley Manor fronting the main Newport road called "Brick Close."

### 3. BEMBRIDGE

#### Location

a) Howegate. OS. Ref: SZ

Ref: Francis Pritchett's list of brickyards copied by Mr. George Vessey, date unknown.

Refers to Howgate Lane Bembridge. Presume this list was compiled in this century before 1939 when Francis published his little family history. Mrs. Vessey says that Francis used to talk with her husband George when he was foreman of Rookley. Suspect that this list was probably drawn up after 1924 when Francis came to Rookley.

*Note Attached: -*

" MRS. ----- (*Can't read, AS*)

"La Coquille."

HOWGATE LANE

Site of clay pit. Infilled. House right on corner.

Empty field.

Next to that La Co.

White.

Opening.

### 3. BEMBRIDGE

Location

b) Peacocks Hill. O.S. Ref: SZ

Ref: Francis Pritchett's list of brickyards.

Refers to Peacocks Hill, Bembridge. Owned by Dean Brick Company.

#### 4. BRADING

##### Location

a) Cement Works. OS. Ref: SZ 614874

Ref: Own visit to site.

The site is so called because there was large cement works here until the 1950's. Lime and sand bricks were made here as well as cement bricks or blocks. Mr. White of Station Road, Brading confirmed that sand and lime bricks were made here, but is unsure if burnt bricks were ever produced.

The little lane running down to the works used to be called Quay Lane. Until 1880 the Haven was a stretch of water which was navigable at high tide. The remains of the quay wall are still visible and this is where the sailing barges and small fishing boats would tie up. It is possible that there may have been brickworks here earlier than the cement works and that delivery could have been by sailing barge to the mainland. A brickyard by the quay being ideal for shipment and also for receiving coal for firing.

Mrs. L. Price, the present owner of the site, took Mr. Frank Basford (IWCC Archaeological Section) and an old worker from the cement factory to the site in 1989. The worker said that the site had been set up for the manufacture of burnt brick but that it had never produced any.

- Need to know
1. When cement mill was established.
  2. Is brickyard on any old maps?
  3. If yes to 2., did cement mill and brickyard run concurrently?

Example of cement and lime bricks to be seen in garage opposite Farleigh's Stores at junction of Madeira Road with High Street. Mr. Jim Whittington of Wroxall, of cement and lime bricks built this after the 2nd War from Brading.

*(Hand-written Notes).*

CEMENT MILLS. BRADING

Brading.

Mr. Gatrell worked there? 1949. Three months.  
30. 5. 95.

Auto clamp 30 ft. by 8 ft. diameter. Lime/sand bricks stacked on trolleys. Steamed at high temperature all night, possibly longer. Big kilns for burning chalk fuelled by faggots of wood. Iron bars as floor grate under faggots. 30 ft. long kilns. Plank to wheel wheelbarrow of chalk/coke. Fuelled by 1-ft. layer of coke then a 1-ft. layer of chalk in layers to the top. Burnt for one week. At the end had to rake out all the lime (burnt chalk) "hot lime."

If it rained the lime dust would burn one's skin. Then it went into a roller and then it was flaked with the water to make the "proper" lime. Then it went through a process where it was mixed with sand in a big rotating drum with blades inside and then came out through the brickmaking machine. Mr. Gatrell's job was to lift them off very carefully, as they were very soft and crumbly. Then they were stacked on trolleys. This was a ten-day process from start to finish. "Green" bricks then went to the auto clamp to be steamed. They were steamed at high temperature then unloaded onto lorries for delivery.

A pair of cottages - (right-hand side, opposite The Angler's Inn) 86 made with these. They were durable bricks. Some of the men that worked with Mr. Gatrell (those about 60 years old) used to make "proper" red-fired clay bricks. When the clay supply was exhausted the firm started making lime/sand bricks. (Same size as bricks). Probably ended early 1950s.

Red bricks, pre 2nd WorldWar. The 60 year old men worked there as young men and returned after the war and came back to make lime/sand bricks. Called them "new fangled" bricks. Between the end of the manufacture of burnt bricks and the making of lime/sand bricks, they made cement, possibly for 20 years or so.

After the first War, the red-burnt brickyard was set up until about 1939.

90, 91, 92.

**A SUMMARY**  
**OF**  
**THE VARIOUS WORKS**

**PROPOSED AND EXECUTED**

**THE OSBORNE ESTATE**

From 1845 to 1861 inclusive,

**BY DIRECTION OF**

**H. R. H. THE PRINCE CONSORT**

With continuation to the end of 1879.

**MDCCLXXX**

1845.

Tile kiln and Drying Hacks put up at the junction of the Newport and Ryde roads. The Brick kiln begun building by Mr Cubitt.

1846.

621,500 drain tiles made. Between 50 and 60 acres drained in different parts of the estate.

1847.

528,000 drain tiles made. 228,000 used in draining different parts of the estate - namely, 35 miles of covered drains.

1848.

528,000 drain tiles made. 289,000 used in the year. 35 miles of covered drains.

1849.

315,000 drain tiles made. 445,000 used in draining. The length of covered drains laid this year 39 ½ miles.

1850.

564,000 drain tiles made and use within the year. 494,000 in different parts of the estate; the length of drains, 46 miles, the average depth, 4 feet.

1851.

585,000 drain tiles made, 166,000 used; 13 miles of drain laid.

1852.

598,000 drain tiles made; and used in the course of the year, 135,000.

1854.

The cliff all along the sea wall deeply drained, several of the drains to the depth of 27 feet.

1856.

Drained and levelled the ground behind the sea wall.

1861.

Mentions old limekiln by the side of Cliff Drive, overlooking the sea.

1862.

Drained and levelled the old gravel pit at Ludham and in front of the Alverstone four gable cottage. Enclosed it for gardens.

1864.

December. The total area of the Osborne estate is 2080 acres; the covered drains are upwards of 362 miles in length, with many miles of open drains throughout the woods.

1866.

The drainage of three fields on Kingston farm containing 23 acres completed the year at a cost of £110.7s.2d. or £4.17s.9½d. Per acre.

1867.

A barrel drain constructed in East Cowes Park for the use of the Stables at Osborne Cottage.

1869.

The new drain laid down to carry off the wastewater from Victoria Cottage to the main sewer.

1876.

A filter has been constructed in connection with the new reservoir (at Barton). Drains have been laid and the water conveyed to Osborne House. The drainage of Heathfield Farm to the extent of 145 acres completed. 265,000 2-inch pipes have been used in the drainage, the expense of which, including the grubbing up of bushes and road making amounts to £1214.14s.3d.

Sibbicks were getting their bricks from Petticoat Lane brickyard, Newport.

They invested in a traction engine to haul their goods - and a trailer load was 1250 bricks. When these arrived on site it was all hands to unload. The bricks were thrown three at a time from man to man to make a stack. Leather or rubber was wound across the hands to protect them. Compare this with one man and a Hi-ab today to unload in two minutes.

Houses for sale.

In the mid 1930's the Council began offering mortgages at 3½ %. This was very good value, and it spurred a few people on to buy their own homes instead of renting. Wartime difficulties put a stop to further building, and it was not until much later in the late 1950's / early 1960's that the building trade for the individual buyer picked up.

East Cowes Park Brickyard Reference - an original letter

*Letter from Solicitors "Set forth a full, true and particular account of all brick and pottery clay got from the said East Cowes Park Estate and of all bricks tiles pipes pottery ware and other articles whatsoever manufactured out of such clay by or for the order or for the use of the said Thomas Augustus Gibb and John Skinner or either of them or the Defendants Thomas Jones Gibb, John Darby Gibb & Catherine Skinner or any of them specifying the quantities....  
And for what sums of money the same have been sold or for what purposes they have been used also the Blue lias limestone and gravel got from the estate etc. etc.*

It appears that there was an argument between different members of the Gibbs and Skinner families as to what monies they should have been receiving from the brickyard. Unfortunately the letter does not state to whom the letter is addressed, nor the date.

*(With other papers dated 1863 / 1869).*

" Set forth a full, true and particular account of all brick and pottery clay got from the said East Cowes Park Estate and of all bricks, tiles, pipes, pottery ware and other articles whatsoever manufactured out of such bricks and pottery clay by or by the order or for the use of the said Thomas Augustus Gibb and John Skinner or either of them or the Defendants, Thomas James Gibb, John Darby Gibb and Catherine Skinner or any of them specifying the quantities in which the same were or have been from time to time and the times at which the same were or have been so got and manufactured and the like account of the rate and application thereof and when and in what manner and to whom and for what sum or sums of money the same have been respectively sold or for what purposes the same have been respectively applied and when from whom any such moneys arriving from the sale of the said Bricks and Pottery Clay respectively or arising by way of Royalty for the same respectively or arising from the sale of the said Bricks, Pipes, Tiles, Pottery Ware or other articles manufactured thereof have been received by or by the order or for the use of the said Thomas Augustus Gibb and John Skinner or either of them or by the Defendants Thomas Jones Gibb and John Darby Gibb and Catherine Skinner or any of them - And the like account of the application of the moneys so received as aforesaid. And also a like account of all blue lias limestone and of all gravel got from the same said Estate by or by the order or for the use of the said Thomas Augustus Gibb and John Skinner or either of them or the Defendants Thomas James Gibb, John Darby Gibb and Catherine Skinner or any of them and of the date or application thereof and when and in what manner and to whom and for what some of sums of money the same have been respectively sold or for what purpose the same have been respectively applied and where and from whom any such moneys arising from the sale of the said Blue Lias Limestone and the said Gravel respectively as aforesaid or arising by way of Royalty for the same are or have been received by or by the order or for the use of the said Thomas Augustus Gibb and John Skinner or either of them or the Defendants Thomas James Gibb and John Darby Gibb or Catherine Skinner or either of them and unlike account of the application of the moneys so ....."

This 18th century yard is shown on a 1759 map and is also recorded on the 1862 OS Map.

## SHAMBLERS

This was a large concern established in 1846 by Thomas Wheeler of Cowes. He employed Edmund Pritchett as his manager. It closed in the mid 1890s.

The wall built of the small bricks was discovered 2 ft below this boundary wall in March 1996.

Copy of pages from the Account Book of Robert P. Blachford, owner of the Osborne Estate in the 18th Century.

It would seem that the brickyard supplying bricks for the estate was set up in 1774. It included, as did all small brickyards, a weatherproof thatched sand house to keep the sand, used as a mould release, absolutely dry.

Richard Brown, the brickmaker, was paid 3s.6d. (17½p) per 1000 bricks. He employed help to build and also to fire the kiln which was fuelled by furze (gorse) faggots. As they were bought by the thousand it must have taken a great number to get the kiln up to the acceptable temperature of 1000°C. The kiln would need stoking frequently for at least twenty four hours. Robert has to pay £3 a year rent for the kiln and also upkeep for the road leading to it.

We know of four 18th century brickyards in the East Cowes area. The most likely would seem to be either one on New Barn Farm ground or possibly the forerunner of Queen's Yard at Alverstone near Whippingham.

## 6. COWES EAST

### Location

b) Queen's Yard Alverstone. OS Ref: SZ 522921.

Ref: Martin Moore remembers Queen's Yard. In 1912 he and his wife bought two plant pots and saucers there. Paid one shilling each for them and bought them as a present for his wife's mother on her birthday. On the latter's demise they were given to Mrs. Moore and her sister. Sister broke hers early on but Mrs. Moore still has hers. (See slide no 6b). All Queen's Yard bricks had VR in frog. Hence name Queen's Yard. The brickmakers made flower pots as sidelines for tourists. Queen's yard had superior conditions for working in as it had been set up by Prince Albert to produce bricks to build the model houses and farms of the Osborne estate that was so dear to his heart. Albert's concept of the "model" estate extended to the facilities of the brick yard and provided earth closets and washrooms for the men, an unheard of luxury compared to other yards of the day. He also provided very good worker's accommodation for the brickmakers in a row of good-sized cottages. (See slide 6b)

S.E. Saunders who owned both Gunville and Afton lived near Alverstone probably in Padmore House, as it was in his possession when he died in 1933/4. His head Office for Gunville and Afton was simply "Whippingham." I don't think that there is any connection between Alverstone and S.E. Saunders, as it would have been mentioned in the probate report if he had owned or leased Queen's and there is no mention of it. On billhead dated 1934 the manager's name changes to H.S. Saunders, SE's son perhaps?

### Buildings

Coburg Cottage built for Prince Albert in the form of a Bavarian Hunting lodge was built of Queen's Yard brick. Every brick impressed VR. Glazed ridge tiles also marked VR. Bears out what Martin Moore says. Coburg Cottage built 1853 to house servants and also as "resting place" for the Queen when she was riding or driving. On each side were residences for the estate workers and the central part had a high wood-panelled sitting room with a bathroom for Her Majesty. During the Silver Jubilee celebrations in Portsmouth a 25 cannon salute was fired. On lighting the touchhole, the Sergeant at Arms was killed when the cannon exploded. The Queen on hearing of this gave part of Coburg cottage to his widow and children for the rest of their lives. I assume that most of the red brick buildings on Osborne Estate are built with Queen's Yard brick.

## EAST COWES PARK

1857. Thos. Augustus Gibb, Merchant London, and John Skinner.

30th May 1849. Public Auction at Garroways Coffee House, London. No bidding was made.

Gibb & Skinner purchased East Cowes Park, 143 acres, for 9,20,000.

Comprising:

Shamblers Farm House, Blacksmith's shop, Tabbs, by a small rivulet. Street to be called Gerrans Street, East Shamblers Brewhouse, converted to a dwelling, Reek yard butt, Pond Close, the Hesline Ground, Shore Ground, Mud, The Four Acres, the Malm Pitts, Shamblers Wood, Rope Walk Ground, the Six Acres, the Four Acres, Lower March Green, Fognetts Mead, Upper March Green, North Close, The Light Acres, Barn Close, Little Mead, Homestead and Yard.

29th December 1853 - Gibbs and Skinner had disposed of land and buildings and made and sold bricks.

"They were severally desirous to continue to improve the parts remaining undiagnosed of by building on them, and selling, leasing, disposing of the same as occasion should offer mutual benefit."

29th September 1868. John Skinner died. (He had been a merchant of Canton in China. Firm of Gibb, Levingstone & Co. of China). In a lease of two houses it stated "Shall not nor will dig, break or raise, or permit to be dug, broken or raised any clay, loam, gravel or soil upon or out of the said piece of land hereby demised, for the purpose of making bricks or tiles, nor sell or dispose of any such clay loam gravel or soil to any person or persons."

## 6. COWES EAST

### Location

- a) East Cowes Park. OS Ref: SZ 503946 (Afterwards Minerva Brick and Tile Works.)

Ref: Map surveyed 1861-2. Published 1863. Named East Cowes Park Brick works.

Map surveyed 1896-7. Published 1898. Named Minerva Brick and Tile Works.

Book: "Memories of a Cowes Born Lad" by Harry Guy says that the Minerva Boatyard was built on the site of the brickworks run by Tommy Langley. Harry spent many hours working the machinery. David Stotesbury (Ventnor) says that the site of the yard was right on the edge of the river and at high tides the clay pit at the end of its life was submerged. This, eventually with the working out of the clay, caused its closure. Bricks were larger than most and stamped in the frog "ECP." It would seem from this that the Minerva yard kept the old moulds and continued to mark them with the old lettering.

Mr. Sibbick, 68 St. David's Rd., East Cowes. Tel: 291209 knows a lot about the history of East Cowes and may know something about the brickyard.

*(Hand-written Note)*

Truckles cottage was a farmhouse, part of Osborne Estate.

Alverstone Farmhouse built 1850's for Royal Estate Bailiff.

2 ext on back as small Barracks to house troop of soldiers.

Troop was Escort for Queen Victoria and to respond should trouble arise.

Nearest Barracks were Albany.

Farm privately owned.

(The Royal Archives, Windsor. Westland Aerospace)

Almshouses were the farmyard of Truckles Farm, built 1866, by Cubitt Ltd on the instructions of Queen Victoria as houses for royal retainers who were employed at Osborne House.

The windows of the almshouses (cottages as they are now known) "gothic design."

End cottage room used by Queen Victoria as rest room after walking or while waiting for Albert practising organ in St. Mildred's. Cottages stand on Crown land and Royal coat of arms in the centre.

## 7. FRESHWATER

### Location

a) The Avenue O.S. Ref: SZ 331874

Ref: Mr. Bill Mayne who works for Cliff Matthews and lived at Shalfleet, said that there was a brickyard near The Prince of Wales pub near the Common Colwell. He could have been talking about Copse lane or The Avenue.

Mr. Blackmore, 4 Hurst View, Eden Rd., Totland (Tel 753748) has written a piece on this yard.

This yard may be Mr. Doughty's yard. Halfway down the Avenue at the back of a small clothing shop opposite No 25, Craigwind is a new estate being built by John Hall, builder, of Freshwater. John Hall has documents of lease etc. of brickfield, which he may be willing to show me. Area known as Westlands. Terry Toms believes that there may have been two yards. Clay pit visible from top end of site near Jameson Road. Land very clayey and on a slope. Mr. "Buff" Kent showed me the site. It was whilst digging the foundations for the new estate that workmen found 14 brown Stoneware jugs about 5 inch high and 3 inch diameter at neck. A thick brown glaze covers the jug. Could possibly have been made on this site as a sideline to brickmaking? Bricks fired red but body of cream jug grey white.

## 7. FRESHWATER

### Location

b) Tennyson / Clayton Road. OS Ref: SZ 335871.

Ref: Mrs. Patchett daughter of brickmaker who worked yard. Clayton Road used to be called "Clay Lane." Her grandfather, Mr. Cook lived in a house in Clay Lane and ran the brickyard. Mrs. Patchett's father George and his brothers, Charlie and Albert Cook worked with their father. They had a gate at the bottom of their garden, which led straight into the brickyard. The kilns they used had chimneys (possibly draught beehive?). Bricks fired rusty red. Sand for mixing with the clay came from Colwell Bay. In 1910-15 bricks were 8/- per 1,000. Working day began at 6am and finished at dusk. Mrs. Patchett couldn't remember when the yard closed. Her father, George Cook, used to walk to Gunville in connection with the brickworks but she doesn't remember why he went there. It may be that the smaller yards bought materials from larger yards or "bought in" bricks to meet their customer's requirements if the yard was short at the end of the season.

### Buildings

The row of houses in Clayton Road were built from this yard's brick.

## 7. FRESHWATER

### Location

c) Copse Lane. OS Ref: SZ 344879

Ref: Interview with Mr. "Buff" Kent of Freshwater. Mr. Collis worked Copse Lane. There were two brothers Jasper and Norman. It was a big works. Some time after the Second World War the large boiler and some of the machinery remained on the site. It was then used as a Council tip and the derelict machinery was buried. Buff remembered the yard when he was a boy over 60 years ago and the fact that there was a tunnel under the road about 5ft high where the trucks of clay were pushed to the other side on light rails. The kiln and brickmakers and pug mill were all sited on the east side of the road. There could have been more than one yard here.

The land where the clay was dug was part of Mr. Kingswell's farm and the Collis brothers probably had digging rights.

### Buildings.

Buff said that he was told by workers of the yard that when Golden Hill fort was built, the bricks from Copse Lane were carted across the fields to the site.

One of the Collis brothers is still alive and lives on the mainland.

## 7. FRESHWATER

### Location

d) Middleton. OS Ref: SZ 331866

Ref: Buff Kent of Freshwater. Situated near Trevelyan's Crescent, Trevelyan's Way, off Summer lane, Middleton. Now a quiet cul-de-sac of new bungalows and houses. On the left hand side as one enters the cul-de-sac are a few older cottages in brick, one pair of which are called "Brickfield Cottages". The site is partially covered with new buildings and gardens. Next to these is a very lumpy meadow presumably part of the old yard. Buff remembers this yard and thinks that it probably closed late 1920's or early 1930's.

See book "West Wight Remembered" by Alec Toogood. Mention made of brickyard. Maybe this one?

## 7. FRESHWATER

Location

e) Colwell

Ref: Not sure if this yard is the same as The Avenue site? (See 7a) Need to check this. Martin Hammond gave me a reference from 1907 OS map showing yard in between The Avenue, Warden Rd., and Colwell Lane. This sounds remarkably like The Avenue site.

7. FRESHWATER

Location

f) Tapnell (Afton) OS Ref: SZ

See Probate Valuation attached. This yard owned by S.E. Saunders in 1934. He also owned Gunville.

9<sup>th</sup>. Feb 1934.

The East Afton Brickyard near Freshwater, is freehold and lies on the South side of the main road from Freshwater to which it has a frontage.

The Buildings comprise

Small brick and tiled office by entrance.

Range of corrugated iron and timber drying sheds.

Corrugated and timber engine house for handmaking department. Brick kiln of moderate capacity.

Detached corrugated and timber engine house, No.2 for wire cut department.

Drying shed, pottery shed.

This is a very small concern compared with Gunville and in our opinion, as a separate concern in competition with the larger works, could not be run successfully. There is a good depth of clay all over tile front portion, a part of which has been exhausted.

The back portion from the working clay boundary is let from year to year to Messrs. Burford & Son for purposes of grazing and cultivation and is very poor and rough, part being arable and part withy, and worth only a nominal rent. The area of the whole is about 26 acres. Water laid on. Sand available.

The Works are let together with the Gunville Brickyard as before mentioned at a rental of £300 per annum. (handwritten entry) *which in our opinion is much too high.*

There is a Land Tax of 14/- per annum and the Tithe Rent charge is £5. 15s. 2d. per annum.

We value the Afton Brickworks at the sum of (handwritten entry) *Four hundred and sixty six pounds.*

"See adjoining note for origin of details."

Plant and Machinery at Freshwater Brickworks.

10 hp Hornsby Oil engine, portable. About 40 years old and used about 150 hours per year. No selling value.

10. 0. 0.

25/30 hp Blackstone Crude-oil engine. About 30 years old. Later types are greatly improved. Kept in work owing to small output of works.

50. 0. 0

John Whitehead wet clay grinding pan. Cost about £270 two years ago.

150. 0. 0

Horizontal Brick Machine and Table. This machine was bought second hand for £10 in 1922.

5. 0. 0

Pug Mill, bought second hand.

3. 0. 0

Hack Covers, 250 at 8d. each.

8. 6. 8

Lewes, 208 at 8d. each.

6. 18. 8

16 various barrows at 10/- each.

8. 0. 0

6 various planks at 1/-

6. 0

Iron plates, 1 ton (say about 60 @ 1/-)

3. 0. 0

---

£244. 11. 4

Detail from Inventory of S.E. Saunders Estate, valued for Probate.

Addressed to G.W. Colenutt.  
Solicitor.  
18, Belvedere Street,  
Ryde.

Dated 9<sup>th</sup>. February 1934.

## NATIONAL GRID REFERENCES FOR IOW. BRICKFIELDS,

\*:Map JR.(1/6000 & 1/2500)            Revised :  
NRO: Newport Record Office Reference No..

### 1. ARRETON.

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. 1. *Downend OS 1862, 1908           | SZ 535 879 NRO 95/7  |
| 1.2. *Highwood Rookley OS 1862/96 1908 | SZ 501 845 NRO 95/14 |
| 1.3. Main Road Rookley                 | SZ 510 841 (Estl924) |
| 1.4. *Staplers OS 1862/96 1908         | SZ 522 888 NRO 95/3  |
| 1.5. * Haseley 1771 (Fleming)          | SZ 544 856 (Field N) |

### 2. BEMBRIDGE.

- |                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 2.1. *Howgate OS 1908 | SZ 649 873 |
| 2.2. Peacocks Hill    | SZ 635 863 |

### 3. BINSTEAD.

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 3.1.*Brickfields (horses) OS 1862,1908 | SZ 571 913 NRO 91/13 |
| 3.2.*Ashlake OS 1862/98 1908           | SZ 551 924 NRO 90/12 |

### 4. BONCHURCH.

### 5. BRADING.

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 5. 1. Carpenters                         | SZ 621 886           |
| 5.2. Carpenters S                        | SZ 621 884           |
| 5.3. Cement Works                        | SZ 614 874           |
| 5.4.*Street End A (N West) OS 1862, 1908 | SZ 594 848 NRO 96/14 |
| 5.5.*Street End B (N East) OS 1862, 1908 | SZ 595 848           |
| 5.6.*Street End C (Mid E) OS 1862, 1908  | SZ 595 847           |
| 5.7.*Street End D (S East) OS 1862, 1908 | SZ 595 846           |
| 5.8. Fort Mews OS 1862                   | SZ 629 849           |
| 5.9. New Farm Nunwell (1773 Estate Map)  | SZ 597 877           |

### 6. BRIGHSTONE.

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| 6.1. Grange Chine | SZ 421 821 |
|-------------------|------------|

### 7. BROOK.

## **8. CALBOURNE.**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 8. 1. *Lower Elmsworth OS 1907         | SZ 426 921 NRO 89/11 |
| 8.2. Fish Point                        | SZ 418 918           |
| 8.3. *Brambles Br Kiln Cl. Mallet 1768 | SZ 424 908           |

## **9. CARISBROOKE.**

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 9. 1 . Apes Down                 | SZ 456 877          |
| 9.2. *Gunville OS 1908,          | SZ 478 887 NRO 95/1 |
| 9.3. Old Priory                  | SZ 488 884          |
| 9.4. Kitbridge(18th C)           | SZ 485 896          |
| 9.5 Petticoat Lane OS 1908       | SZ 492 892 NRO 95/1 |
| 9.6 Parkhurst(18t                | SZ 494 903          |
| 9.7. *Blackhouse Quay            | SZ 501 900 NRO 95/2 |
| 9.8. *St. Johns OS 1862,         | SZ 498 885 NRO 95/2 |
| 9.9. *Shide Pottery OS 1862      | SZ 500 884 NRO 95/6 |
| 9.10 *Shide Sidney Lodge OS 1862 | SZ 502 883 NRO 95/6 |
| 9.11 *Westminster OS 1908        | SZ 494 892 NRO 95/1 |
| 9.12. Coleman's Lane (P'field)   | SZ 455 901          |

## **10. CHALE.**

- |                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| 10. 1. Chale Terrace | SZ 484 772 |
|----------------------|------------|

## **11. FRESHWATER.**

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 11.1. Tapnell                       | SZ 369 864           |
| 11.2.*Copse Lane OS 1862,           | SZ 345 879 NRO 93/7  |
| 11.3. Golden Hill                   | SZ 342 876           |
| 11.4. Clay/Tennyson Rd              | SZ 335 871           |
| 11.5. The Avenue                    | SZ 331 874           |
| 11.6.*Middleton SW Sheepwash OS1862 | SZ 331 866 NRO 93/11 |

## **12. GATCOMBE**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 12.1. Field name (Frank Basford's Field-name Map) |  |
|---|--|

## **13. GODSHIL.**

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 13.1. *Sandford OS 1867 | SZ 547 818 NRO 98/8 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|

## **14. KINGSTON.**

## **15. MOTTISTONE.**

### **16. NEWCHURCH NORTH.**

16.1.*Stroudwood OS 1908	SZ 579 905 NRO 91/13
16.2.*Kemphill OS 1908	SZ 575 905
16.3.*Tyrol, Asheys OS 1862 1908	SZ 589 896 NRO 96/1
16.4.*Asheys Rents OS 1862	SZ 585 890 NRO 96/1
16.5.*Rowlands OS 1862	SZ 570 889 NRO 96/1
16.6.*Haylands OS 1862	SZ 585 915 NRO 91/13
16.7.*Cutlers OS 1862	SZ 589 912 NRO 91/13
16.8.*Rosemary Farm OS 1862	SZ 910 590 NRO 91/13
16.9.*Smallbrook OS 1862,1888	SZ 594 914 NRO 91/14
16.10*Ivy Cottage OS 1800/20/40/62/ (lease Potts)	SZ 594 915 NRO 91/14
16.11 *Oakfield OS 1908	SZ 596 918 NRO 91/14
16.12 *Preston Farm OS 1908	SZ 599 914 NRO 91/14
16.13 *Old Kemphill OS 1908	SZ 574 905 NRO 91/13
16.14 *Old Asheys 1771 (lease 1620)	SZ
16.15 *Troublefield 1771S	SZ 604 912

### **17. NEWCHURCH SOUTH.**

17.1. *Queen's Bower,OS 1908	SZ 568 846
17.2. *Apse Heath OS 1908	SZ 562 831
17.3. Winstone, nr. Wroxall	SZ 556 810
17.4. Yarborough, Wroxall	SZ 551 803
17.5. *Borthwood (Edgecombe Survey 1771)	SZ 575 850

### **18. NITON.**

18.1.*Beirley OS 1862/1908	SZ 511 781 NRO 98/14
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### **19. NORTHWOOD.**

19.1. *Egypt Hill (Edgecombe Survey 1771)	SZ 484 964
19.2. *Elim, Gurnard OS 1862	SZ 480 953 NRO 90/1
19.3. *Jordan, Gurnard OS 1862	SZ 475 956 NRO 90/1
19.4. . Luck, Gurnard	
19.5. *Hillis OS 1862, 1908	SZ 471 937 NRO 90/9
19.6. Wyatts Lane	SZ 485 935
19.7. *Place OS 1907	SZ 486 950 90/6
19.8. *Shamblers OS 1862/97, 1908	SZ 499 947 NRO 90/6
19.9. *Medham OS 1862 1759	SZ 501 937 NRO 90/10
19.10 *Werrar OS 1862, 1908	SZ 505 929 NRO 90/10
19.11 *Thorness	SZ 459 929 NRO 89/12

## **20. ST. LAWRENCE.**

### **21. ST. HELENS.**

- 21.1.\*Appley OS 1862 SZ 606 923 NRO 91/10
- 21.2. Priory Bay
- 21.3. Pondwell (C.P.)
- 21.4. Uplands
- 21.5. Nettlestone OS 1908 SZ 629 906

### **22. SHALFLEET.**

- 22.1.\*Lower Hampstead OS 1833/62 SZ 414 912 NRO 89/14
- 22.2.\*Bouldnor Cliff OS 1862,1908 SZ 378 904 NRO 89/13
- 22.3. Lower Dodpits SZ 406 884.
- 22.4.\*Ningwood OS 1862 SZ 402 880 NRO 94/2
- 22.5.\*Bouldnor Copse OS 1908 SZ 380 902 NRO 89/13

### **23. SHANKLIN.**

- 23.1. Batts Ground SZ 577 814
- 23.2. Cliff Farm SZ 562 812
- 23.3. Landguard
- 23.4. Lower Hyde

### **24. SHORWELL.**

- 24.1. Atherfield SZ 453 753

### **25. THORLEY.**

- 25.1. Lee SZ 384 891

### **26. WHIPPINGHAM.**

- 26. I.\*E.C.Park OS 1862/74/96, SZ 502 947 NRO 90/6
- 26.2. King's Quay OS 1862 1908 SZ 535 935
- 26.3. Folly OS 1862 SZ 509 932
- 26.4. \*Alverstone 1862,1908 SZ 522 920 NRO 90/11
- 26.5. \*Mornhill OS 1862, SZ 518 884 NRO 95/6
- 26.6. \*Chipperwell OS 1896 1908 SZ 508 883 NRO 95/6

### **27. WHITWELL.**

**28. WOOTTON.**

- 28. 1. \*Bridge OS 1862, 1908
- 28.2 . \*Lamblease OS 1898 1908
- 28.3. \*Shore Copse OS 1908

SZ 546 921 NRO 90/12  
SZ 549 927 NRO 90/12  
SZ 562 932 NRO 90/12

**29. YARMOUTH.**

**30. YAVERLAND.**

**Carisbrooke Brick, Tile and Pottery Works.**

Note that headed stationery says, "Works: Gunville, Carisbrooke, Afton, Freshwater, Rookley." Site, right-hand side going up Carisbrooke High Street. Raised Mall. Gate in the wall. In around the back of there. Mr. David Stotesbury remembers buying roof tiles from this firm in 1950. He confirmed that this was not Gunville. Mr. S.E Saunders bought this firm or possibly actually opened it up, however, called, "Gunville Brick and Tile Works, Carisbrooke."

November 1926: F. J. Mursell - Manager

Head Office and showrooms, January 1927, was at 110, High Street, Newport. The manager was Mr. F. J. Mursell.

By July 1931 there was a London showroom - 15, Gamage Buildings.

Head Office and showrooms had moved to 12, St. Thomas Square, Newport. The owner was (letter signed by) Mr. S.E. Saunders. (First time mentioned on billheading.)

Manager Mr. F.J. Mursell.

Works: Newport and Freshwater (Afton?)

By August 1934 the Head Office was: "The Estate Office, Whippingham". (No manager mentioned or owner.)

1934. Device added, "National Scheme for Disabled Men." Signed by H.S. Saunders, Manager. Notepaper has crossed out, "Owner S.E. Saunders" and printed, "Manager" H.S. Saunders. (Possibly a son?)

No. 95. Carisbrooke (Large Scale) OS, 1866 shows a field, "Phillips Croft" (present site of Carisbrooke High School) "clay pit", Ref. SZ 488 884, so this seems to bear out what David Stotesbury said, that it lay to the north of Carisbrooke High Street, behind the church. (There is a brick wall round the meadow, also a pond - could be old clay pit?) Was it is still producing in 1950?

BRICKS:

1707. November 12<sup>th</sup>. From the Will of Timothy Lucas, Gentleman of Newport, Isle of Wight.

..... “My two places of land called the Brick Kilns Grounds with the appurtenances.... now in the tenure of John Smith, James Smith and William Grigory .... Situate lying in the Parish of Carisbrooke, purchased by me of the said Thomas Wavell (Thomas Wavell was Timothy Lucas’ brother-in-law.)

From “Farmhouses and Cottages of the Isle of Wight”, page 51,

“Poor Rate Books for the parish of Carisbrooke.... In 1755.... Mr. Moor for Smiths Brick Kiln - 14s. ... “ IWCRO/CAR/PR/5. Rate Book, 1746 - 1757.

From (JER/T/78) Tithing Map and Book for Carisbrooke. 1843.

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Taylor late Richard Read. Trustees: Henry Hackett Taylor and Thomas Hoskins Esq		Brickyard and Meadow	3a 3r 24p

(Location: Field No 118 on Tithe Map. Page No. 39 of Tithe Book.) due east of Carisbrooke Castle. (Shide?)

NOTES

Don Vincent (extract) Bound Book - 3 dates Railway Company Minutes:  
September 1898 - Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newport Railway “decided to install a siding at Gunville. “  
August 1900. “Siding at Gunville now in use.” August 1904. “Gunville sidings extended.”  
November 1892. “Wellow siding installed. (Incoming traffic - coal. Outgoing traffic bricks.)  
Entry 1878 - Railway company proposal to build Medina Wharf. Paid E5 to Isle of Wight Oyster Fishing Company to compensate. Medina Wharf opened November 1878 following objection by Newport Corporation. 1912. Only way to oyster beds by river. Ward built road to oyster beds.

**BIERLEY SZ 511 78 1.****18:1**

(Farmhouses and Cottages of the Isle of Wight, compiled by Marion Brinton.)

(Alison Gale -page 52, top paragraph.)

“Bierley Yard laid over gault which burned to a pale colour, the resulting yellow bricks became especially popular from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.” Not so. They fired a bright orange-dark red. Mrs. Vesey’s father worked here. Beautiful red brick, 8 x 2 ½ x 4 inch, as Mrs. Vesey remembers. Site on Parish of Niton Map, 1909.

Geology. T.W. Shore (1890).

Gault clay 100 ft thick in Compton Bay and is worked for brickmaking at Wroxall and Bierley.

T.C. Hudson: Bierley (Beach Copse) N.B. Wroxall bricks were red also. Francis Pritchett, George Pritchett, son of Mr. Pritchett who worked at Kitbridge in 1798 as a young man perhaps 14 years on from his parents coming to the Isle of Wight, circa 1805, worked at Bierley, Niton. Story from George Pritchett “my people at Bierley received an urgent request from a Cowes Brickyard (Egypt Hill?) whose proprietor was taken ill, asking that some suitable person be kindly sent over to Cowes to undertake the burning of the last kiln of bricks for the season in the late autumn.” George Pritchett was entrusted with this. He walked from Bierley to Cowes, carried out the arduous task of burning the kiln (possibly a clamp? Most likely) and then when it was finished, sometime later, walked back to Bierley.

This yard, Francis thinks, was at “the back of Cowes at Baring Road just before reaching Egypt hill.”

Comment (page 4). Bierley works and house were situate, 113 (in 1805) on the east side of the main Road, the ruins of the kiln being clearly seen (1939). The present Brickyard (still operating in 1939) opened much later and is on the west side of the road.

NB. George although a young man of 21 in 1805, must have been fairly experienced in kiln firing for “them” (maybe his father?) to have sent him to Cowes. He also says, “my people at Bierley...” Could this be a reference to his parents? Strong possibility that Mr. Pritchett (George’s father) actually started Bierley after leaving Kitbridge with son George who would have learnt the trade at Kitbridge. It is reasonable to suppose the Bierley yard operated from approx. 1802 - 1939.

Article. “Mercury” October, 1888. Percy Colenutt.

Percy was born at Kemming Road, Whitwell in 1872. His father, Windsor Colenutt, owned Bierley. Was small builder. Possibly Pritchett only leased Bierley. Maybe from landowner Colenutt or that Colenutt bought land and took over brickyard. Colenutt much earlier lived at Strathwell, in fact Strathwell was built for the Italian Count “de Cole Nette.” Possibly owning land on which Bierley operated very close to Strathwell. So probable that Colenutt always owned land. Leased to Pritchett in 1800. When the Pritchetts moved on, Colenutt took over Yard. Colenutt worked and owned the yard in 1852. Possibly Windsor inherited it from his father. Percy ran the brickyard up to and through the 1920s and possibly until the mid-1930s.

Angela Buckland said that she had heard from James Pritchett (grandson of William, stepbrother to Francis and Harry) that Mr. Pritchett who settled in the Isle of Wight in 1798 had come to Bierley and opened up the brickfield sometime between 1798 and 1805. Angela lives in the red brick cottage on top of Bierley. The house is about 150 to 175 years old.

**Perce Colenutt.**

## Whitwell Characters

Percy Colenutt was born in Kemming Road, Whitwell in 1872. His father, Windsor Colenutt, was for many years sub-postmaster at 'Montrose' and was variously described in trade directories of the period as 'brickmaker', 'grocer' or 'builder'. Windsor also owned a brickworks at Bierley and Perce carried on the whole business on his father's retirement, in about 1904. Kelly's Directory for 1910-11 has him as 'brick merchant and shopkeeper', although he must have closed the shop in Kemming Road and gone to live next door to the Vine Inn at Bierley soon thereafter.

Brickmaking was evidently carried on, on the north west side of the then main Niton to Newport road, from the early nineteenth century. The trade persisted until the 1920's. It is perhaps significant that the Vine Inn was situated nearby and was prosperous for about the same period of time as the brickyard. The amount of traffic along the road must have been greater than the present day and the various carters and wagons no doubt dropped in for nammet and some beer.

Perce attended Whitwell School while John Petchley was Master. He must have gained the average sort of education to be had at the time and left at the age of 12 to work for his father at Bierley. He learned all about brickmaking and small time building; we would have expected him to be capable of earning a good living. However, such memories as survive of Perce are of a scruffy looking, working man, scratching a living selling bricks, doing bits of building and maintenance work and spending a lot of time in the Vine, or the other pubs of the locality.

Why was Bierley, the only brickworks in the south of the Island, not more prosperous in the period immediately after the First World War? The lack of prosperity can be explained by the nature of brickmaking itself at that time. The industry had always been very local but the development of rail transport and the introduction of more mechanised brick manufacture made it possible for the industry to become more concentrated. Local kilns such as Bierley declined in the immediate post war period. Perce must have found it difficult to keep going in the depression of the 1920's when coal was very expensive and competition from more efficient operators was very keen.

Perce Colenutt therefore inherited his father's brickworks at a time when it had known better times. He was able to survive quite well at first but he never married and the temptations of the Vine and the 'Kicker' were always strong. The Bierley works was fairly typical of local brickworks, which were labour intensive and in the nineteenth century merely moved their operations to where there was a demand for bricks and a supply of clay. Brickmaking undoubtedly involved hard labour as the clay had to be dug by pick and shovel and shaped to make the bricks which were then fired. There was then the problem of transporting this heavy cargo to its destination by horse and wagon. Bierley must have been a fairly bustling, active place in its heyday.

*(Jill, The original newspaper article includes a cartoon drawing of Perce Colenutt.)*

**ROOKLEY MAIN ROAD.**

SZ 510 841

**1:3**

In 1924, Harry and Francis Pritchett obtained a lease on land at the main road site at Rookley. In the spring of this year, Francis and Harry arrived with a few tools and erected a temporary shed. They set to work to build a down-draught kiln.

1924-5. They took on some "hands" to help with this. They erected "open" drying sheds and stabling for a pug horse. In the autumn of 1924 the first bricks were produced but not fired until the spring of 1925 as the kiln was not completed until then.

1926-7. Equipment installed - a crude-oil engine, 34 Hp, 20 kW DC current generator (this enabled the waste heat from the kilns to be utilised for drying sheds); another brickmaking machine; a Wootton hand-powered brick press (in order to make another class of facing bricks, depressed facing bricks for engineering buildings, much favoured by architects); and the erection of a 16 chamber Hoffman Kiln. Electricity was also used for electric lights in all buildings.

1928. March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Francis' wife died (aged early 50's).

1928-30. Francis has "serious illness" and is unable to work. Brickyard was managed by Harry Edmund and Francis William and George Edgar.

1930. September 6<sup>th</sup>. Francis marries Emily Olive, daughter of Captain H. Dawkins of Elmsworth and Cowes.

1930. Three varieties of bricks made:- 1. Sand-faced, hand moulded. 2. Plastic, machine-finished goods. 3, Semi-dry common bricks.

1930. Lower greensand deposit was used to regulate colour when fired. More added gave a darker colour; less added gave a lighter colour

By 1930, range increased. Flowerpots made by Harry Pritchett on potter's wheel. Also models for finials, fountains, decorative ridge tiles etc.

1936. December 1st. Rookley Brickworks becomes a private limited company, "F. J. Pritchett and Sons Limited." Francis William (son of Francis Joseph) became Representative and Sales Director. George Edgar (younger son of F. J.) became Director responsible for Works Management. George made a study of new innovation and visited "first-class works on the mainland" to get new ideas.

Harry Pritchett concentrated on Northwood Brickworks and worked on models which he fired at Northwood (Wyatt's Lane) and then brought to Rookley.

1959. By the late 1950s, the Pritchett family were no longer the major shareholders. Francis died about this time and the company was sold.

1970. The supply of clay was exhausted. Excavations were made to try and find another seam.

1974. Rookley Brickworks closed. The last working brickworks on the Island. (See County Press article.)

**Island Brick Firms Enterprise.  
DEVELOPMENTS AT ROOKLEY.**

Bricks are number one news in these days of acute shortages in building materials. The gravity of the position is illustrated by the present importation of Belgian bricks under a government scheme, but undoubtedly the cost to the country, if not to the builder, is far in advance of the price for which local bricks could be supplied. In these circumstances it is more than good news to be able to state that, thanks to the enterprise shown by an Island firm, the brick shortage will definitely be at an end here by the autumn of next year.

This week one of our representatives was able, by courtesy of Mr. H.S. Saunders, chairman and managing director of Island Bricks, Ltd., to see developments which are taking place at Rookley where, with sufficient clay available for something like 80 year's production, the firm has commenced a £45,000 scheme for one of the most modern brickmaking plants in the South. When completed, its capacity will increase the company's total weekly output at Rookley to a figure approaching 350,000, sufficient to build 15 to 17 average-sized houses.

While looking to the future, the company has not neglected any means of increasing their urgently needed current production. They have decided to install at Rookley, plant removed from the Afton brickworks, Freshwater. This will, in about six to eight weeks time, raise the present weekly production of 90,000 to 100,000 bricks to about 140,000.

The plant now being constructed is on a new site adjoining the existing works. It is hoped to be able to commence production in September, 1947, and in contrast with the present works, where a considerable amount of hard manual work is involved in handling, the new plant has been designed to make the fullest possible use of mechanical aids. Clay will be dug from a new pit by a mechanical excavator, loaded into "dumpers" and conveyed direct to the beginning of the "production line" where it will be dealt with by the latest type of Bradley and Craven double auger machine capable of producing 6000 bricks an hour ready for drying and burning. The bricks will be transferred automatically to a drier of the most modern type, and thence by semiautomatic means to the monster kiln, 206 ft long and 66 ft wide. This kiln, which is now taking shape, will be one of the biggest in the South and will be capable of burning bricks and files of all types. Technically known as a 24-chamber super-Staffordshire kiln, it has a planned capacity of 200,000 bricks a week. Altogether, 950,000 bricks and 240,000 firebricks of various sizes will be required for its construction. The contract is being executed by Messrs. Lloyd Jones, Ltd., of Buckley, Cheshire, well known kiln experts.

Rookley is admirably situated in the geographical centre of the Island to supply bricks to any area, and the company claims that the anticipated output will be sufficient to supply all Island demands. Island Bricks, Ltd., will welcome anyone interested who cares to visit their works and see for themselves the effort is being made to supply a vitally needed commodity.

*Jill, there was also a hand-written précis of this. I have not included it.*

Letters.

St. Brelades, 74, High Street, Wootton. PO33 4PR. 882021. May 26th, 1996.

Dear Mrs. Reilly, my sister-in-law Mrs. Jean Smith of Ryde said that you were interested in old brickyards on the Island. Some time ago I spoke to Brian Evans of Rookley and told him about my father who used to make bricks at Highwood Lane Brickyard at Rookley but unfortunately he died before he could get more information from me. My father, Mr. A.B. Saunders of Godshill, who died in 1986 at the age of 92, was the builder and operated from Briar Dale, Newport Road, Godshill, most of his life. From approximately 1920-1927 he rented the Highwood Lane Brickyard at Rookley which at the time, I believe, was the only brickyard at Rookley. During his time at Highwood Lane he had several staff working at the brickyard together with two horses. In 1924 he started building his own house, Briar Dale, at Godshill with bricks made at the brickyard. On the front of the house there is a plaque built in, saying "ABS. 1924." For your information I enclose a photocopy of his billhead. I hope this information will be of use to you. Please do not hesitate to phone me if you wish. Yours sincerely, Raymond Saunders.

*(Hand-written note: "Raymond's wife and Jean Smith are sisters.")*

D.J Attrill. The Bays, Niton Road, Rookley. PO38 3NR. December 4, 1988.

Dear Madam,

I note in the "Mercury" your letter asking for information on Island brickyards. I have lived in Rookley for 59 of my 60 years and in my schooldays explored the small brickyard at Highwood Lane. I lived in one of the cottages in Highwood Lane (my parents still do) and remember it well. There were two kilns, each with its own separate, tall chimney with an underground flue. There was a round building sunk into the ground in which two or three men made "hand-made" bricks in a mould, one at a time. An old horse walked in circles on the roof, working the "pug mill", a sort of large mincing machine, which mixed the clay with sand to a suitable consistency for brickmaking. The yard was in production until the 1939 war but closed soon after and was never reopened. It was started in the late 1800's by the Woodward family who lived in Highwood House (now Highwood Lodge). In later years it was run by the owners of Gunville Brickyard who built a shed and installed machinery for "wire cuts" and the bricks were impressed with the word "Gunville." I am not so familiar with the larger "Pritchett's" yard but remember the terra-cotta sculptures arranged in a group near the office. They included Christ on the Cross, a large eagle, and busts of famous people. In the wall of Gould, Hibberd and Randall in Church Litten, Newport is an example, with the donkey and well at Carisbrooke Castle. I can add to your list of Island brickyards. There was one at Lynn near Arreton, where the council tip now exists, and one near Alverstone Farm, between Fairlee and Whippingham. I have also heard that a tiny one existed behind the Mormon Church at Shide, which made tiles or drainpipes and that a small yard existed near the Medina at Little London, Newport. Finally, the yard at Werrar on the banks of the Medina, made bricks until after the 1939-1945 war. Due to the salt content from the tidal river, the bricks used to "sweat" in damp weather and acquired a white encrustation in time. I hope these notes may be of used to you. If you need any more information I will be pleased to help if I can. Yours sincerely, Douglas Attrill.

**ROOKLEY BRICKWORKS. MAIN ROAD.**

1:3

Highwood Lane Brickworks. SZ 501 845

The field next to the pair of brick cottages in Highwood Lane and between them and the iron Women's Institute Hall.

Census 1861.

39, Little Pidford	}	Robert Reed, 19	Unmarried	Brixton	Brickmaker
		William Reed, 17	Unmarried	Brixton	Brickmaker

Smith's Hampshire Directory, 1866-7

Woodward, J., Brickmaker, Rookley. (Highwood Lane.)

Mr. Woodward was also a Coal and Lime Merchant.

Kelly's Directory, 1875.

Woodward, Richard, Brickmaker, Rookley (Highwood Lane.)

Kelly's Directory, 1914.

Woodward, Richard, Highwood Lane Brickworks.

At this time, 1875, the Highwood Brickyard was a small yard having two brickmakers. One brickmaker circa 1900 was Mr. Woodger. Another brickmaker in the 1920's was Mr. Arthur Robbins who lived at Chillerton.

OS 6" map 1862 shows the clay mill and one kiln. There is no house (Rob Marshall's house) yet shown on map.

Letter from Raymond Saunders dated 26 May, 1996.

States that Mr. A. B. Saunders (his father) rented the Highwood Lane Brickyard from approximately 1920 to 1927. By this time he had "several" men working for him. He also had a pug (clay) mill and two horses. In 1924 he built his own house, "Briar Dale," Godshell, out of Highwood bricks.

Letter from Douglas Attrill dated December 4, 1988.

Douglas lived in one of the cottages in Highwood Lane with his parents as a child. He describes the Brickyard (circa 1928) "there were two kilns each with its own separate tall chimney (I guess these were beehive kilns) and underground flue. There was a round building sunk into the ground in which two or three men made handmade bricks. An old horse walked in circles on the roof of this building, working the pug

mill, (see illustration) a sort of large mincing machine which mixes the clay with sand and water to a suitable consistency for brickmaking.

The yard was in production until the 1939 war. It closed then and was never re-opened."

Douglas goes on to say that, "in later years it was run by the owners of Gunville Brickyard. They built a shed, installed machinery for "Wire-cuts" (a system of 9 wires, steam driven or petrol engine driven, which cut and extruded a section of clay into ten blocks or bricks). The bricks were imprinted "GUNVILLE. "

Mrs. Vessey. (Wife of George Vessey, foreman of Highwood Lane Brickworks)

Mrs.Vessey told me that Highwood was taken over by Gunville Brickworks sometime in the late 1920s. This may have been after Mr. A.B. Saunders gave up the lease.

The fact that both have the same name has led to some confusion, but it now seems clear that Sam Saunders (of Saunders-Roe) bought Highwood Brickyard sometime in the 1920's. George Vessey worked as a brickmaker, making bricks by hand, carting clay in carts, using horses, and digging clay by hand and wheelbarrowing it to the cart. Later he became foreman when Mr. S. E. Saunders modernised the yard.

The foreman during Mr. A. B. Saunders time was Mr. Butcher.

*Jill, Vessey is spelt Vesey in other notes. Which should it be? Alan*

**ROOKLEY. No 1.** Highwood Lane. SZ 501 845

1:2

(Information from Mr. Whittington). Mr. Richards owned this. He was a Shanklin builder. He could have leased it from Gatcombe Estate. Howard Richards of Moncrieff Farm, Wroxall, is the son. Howard is prepared to talk to me. He will remember when the brickworks closed. Mention Jim Whittington's name. Site right behind corrugated iron "Chapel" or Women's Institute, in the field next to brick cottages.

(Letter, Mr. Attrill, Rookley.) "There were two kilns, down-draught kilns, each with its own separate tall chimney (I guess these were beehive kilns) and underground flue. There was a round building sunk into the ground in which two or three men made handmade bricks. An old horse walked in circles on the roof of this building, working the pug mill (see illustration) a sort of large mincing machine which mixes the clay with sand and water to a suitable consistency for brickmaking.

The yard was in production until the 1939 war. It closed then and was never reopened. It was started in the late 1800s by the Woodward family who lived in Highwood House (now Highwood Lodge).

Douglas goes on to say that, "in later years it was run by the owners of Gunville Brickyard. They built a shed, installed machinery for "wire-cuts" (a system of 9 wires, steam driven or petrol-engine driven, which cut and extruded section of clay into ten blocks or bricks). The bricks were imprinted "GUNVILLE ". Colour: red.

George Vesey was foreman. Mrs. Vesey told me Gunville Works took over Rookley (No 2)? in 1924. They worked with horse and carts and dug clay by hand and loaded it into carts. George made bricks by hand until he became foreman. The chair in the lounge of Mrs. Vesey's was the office chair in 1924 at Gunville and was taken to Rookley for Mr. Saunders to sit in. When George retired and the Brickyard closed, they gave it to George. Mrs. Vesey has a photo of her husband at Rookley brickworks and also a plate made at Rookley. Was it Mrs. Vesey who told me that they lived in Highwood House (now Highwood Lodge) or Rob Marshall? A cousin of Mr. Bucket lived in Highwood Lane - lost first born son - drowned in clay pit.

"Isle of Wight Villages Book" page 46.

The Women's Institute Hall was originally the church but this was the building purchased by Rookley Women's Institute in 1960. Behind the Hall is the site of the first Brickyard. The man in charge of this, Woodward, was also the local coal merchant. In those days Rookley was noted for gravel digging and any gravel dropped by the way, was known as "golden nuts".

The Brickyard was replaced by a much larger one on the Godshill Road where the bricks made were considered to be of excellent quality. The tall chimney erected in 1933 was quite a local landmark, but now the brickyard has been closed, chimney demolished, and the site is to be used for light industry.

Mr. Moore.

A family called Woodward ran the yard. The brickmaker was called Woodgers. Small yard. No machinery. Two brickmakers. Hand-mades. Closed before Second

World War. 1912-39? Doesn't tally with Mr. Attrill's letter. Probably correct as Rookley No 2 started about 1924. Mr. Arthur Robbins, Chillerton, used to work at Highwood Brickworks.

On the OS map (No 95) large scale of Carisbrooke, dated 1862, there is a map of brickyard 1, "kiln" and "clay mills" written directly behind the two cottages on Highwood Road. Map reference for site of kiln is 501 845. So perhaps Woodward started this earlier than Mr. Attrill believes. Mr. Moore remembered that Mr. Woodward ran it in the 1920's or earlier. The Brickyard certainly existed in 1866. Mr. Attrill wouldn't be able to remember back as far as the 1914-18 war so it is safe to assume that this yard didn't close until 1939.

## **Brickworks close due to rising oil costs.**

The rising cost of oil has caused the closure of the Island's only brickworks at Rookley. Most of the 26 workers involved are to receive redundancy pay, said the managing director this week.

It's been largely uneconomic since we took over last June, anyway," said Mr. Robert Lloyd, "and the rising cost of oil has been putting prices up and up." He said that in May, the average cost of producing 1000 bricks was £24. They had to steadily increase costs because of oil prices, and in October the price was £25. The company spent over £40,000 on improvements and originally planned to spend another £30,000. Now the company's price would be about £35 per 1000 bricks. "We would need to produce and sell about 30,000 a day to be economic," said Mr. Lloyd who lives at Park Farm, Wootton.

The works closed in the week before Christmas when, he said, they were told they were not a "continuous process" industry under the emergency regulations.

### **SINCE 1939.**

Workers were paid for the Christmas period and told to report back on January 3rd. After that they worked for only a week and are now being paid off. Some are long service employees. One has been at the works since 1939.

About £9000 redundancy pay will be shared among the employees.

"To sum up, the production and sales figures made things unrealistic," said Mr. Lloyd. His company has planning consent for factories, offices and a craft centre on part of the site. Other parts of the site could be used for further development, he said. It would be suitable for light engineering. Several hundred people would be employed in the new development, said Mr. Lloyd.

The old brickworks is being sold to Inter Europe Finance of London for development.

*Part of unpublished Thesis written (1959) by*      *Mr. Leslie Herbert Gustar,*  
*4, Glebe Gardens,*  
*Wootton Bridge.*  
*P033 4QG.*

ANNEX I TO CHAPTER 11 - BRICK EARTH QUARRIES.

The Hamstead Clays are very prominent over much of the north of the Isle of Wight and have been quarried for many years for local brick and tile works.

As was stated in Chapter II. 3 (a) the brickworks at Gunville and Westminster are no longer in use but as brick earth from quarries in the study area is extracted and conveyed to the very modern brickworks a few hundred yards outside the area, and as the majority of the employees reside in Newport, it was decided to include this mineral and its associate industry in this local study, for the sake of completeness.

Bricks are made from a special type of "blue" gault and from the clays of the Hamstead beds but as the majority of the output consists of raw materials from the former mineral, the process of brickmaking described briefly here, is one which produces quality goods.

Island Bricks Ltd. is a progressive firm. Its main works are at Rookley, just outside the southeast edge of the town map, but with quarries within it. It specialises in quality production of bricks which, despite the transportation costs of export to England, can still compete advantageously with mainland firms. In fact, it relies upon its exports and is the only Island firm which I have so far investigated which does this.

Of the 700,000 bricks it makes every month, over a quarter of a million are shipped to the mainland. The extremely obliging manager, Mr. Gale, proved this by showing me an order received that day for 400,000 bricks for Southampton, to be used for a building literally on the doorstep of a brickworks in the city!

There is a staff of 32, including clerks and lorry drivers. Quality bricks made here are £9-0-0 per thousand at works, and as these are all sold - the factory is working to capacity - the weekly income, if one allows a reduction for production of a small proportion of lower quality goods, can scarcely be less than £1400 but the kiln men are on piecework and there are several very highly paid specialists. Naturally, it was impossible for me to ask for confidential figures but, when I suggested that I should write that the shareholders probably received a steady 8%, the manager laughed and remarked that I could double that amount without fear of contradiction.

Bricks made here are valued for their "high crushing strength" but are not popular in the Island where my fellow countrymen demand a cheaper brand, most of which are imported.

The process of brickmaking is fascinating and worthy of a small digression

More than 85% of the total number of bricks made in the Island are manufactured in this factory, mostly from clay dug on site. I have written earlier that they are made from a special type of "blue gault". The strata hereabouts is particularly dry and is 22 ft thick. There is enough in the bed now being worked to last for about 30 years and there is more in the immediate vicinity although the latter lies under a fairly thick layer of sandstone and some lighter clays which will make it more expensive to extract when the time comes.

The brick earth is extracted by a Michigan Fork shovel and loaded by the same motion onto rail wagons driven by a Ruston locomotive.

The train transports it to a "Box feeder" where, because it is "short gault", i.e., plastic, it is "grogged" with sand to assist its breakdown. From thence it is conveyed upwards to the top of the "wet" pan. (There are, apparently, two types of pan - a "wet" adds water; a "dry" extracts it). The clay is subjected to water spraying before being rolled under five ton rollers and is squeezed through to the Bradley and Craven "de-airer" (which extracts the air) before being passed on as a continuous "roll" of the correct length and width of the brick-shape, via a sand-facer, if that type of brick is being made, to the wire-cutting portion of the automation process which completes the cut and places the now correctly shaped bricks onto wooden slats. These are automatically loaded for transportation to the drying rooms.

Here they stay for three days, heated by furnace air piped back from the kilns. At the end of this time the bricks are taken by piece-workers to the "24 Chamber, Transverse Arch Kiln", each chamber of which is capable of "cooking" 15,000 bricks. The men who fill these chambers are specialists, even though they are on piece-work, for one of the secrets of good brickmaking is the way the bricks are placed in the kiln, being spaced at certain intervals and formations to allow for an even distribution of the heat. The bricks remain in the sealed kilns for about a week (actual time was not disclosed) at a temperature of 1050 degrees. After this time the fires are allowed to die down.

Cooling takes several days. The kiln is then unsealed and the bricks are taken out (an extremely hot and uncomfortable job as I found out personally!) by pieceworkers. During the cooking process, the colour changes from grey-blue to a deep brick-red.

The 24 kilns are fired in strict sequence and cunning manipulation of the fire in one kiln enables it to be transferred by forced air and "pattern" feeding to the next in line, and so on, in a continuous and never ceasing rotation. The kiln fires are fed from the top, through small holes through which it is possible to view the white-hot furnace, which demands feeding every 20 minutes of the hour, 24 hours a day and every day, week, month and year. Two men do this and are dedicated to their job, working 12 hour shifts. One man has been doing this for five years, with very few days off. (What a salary they can command, but what a frightful life!) Special small coal ("Northern smalls") is used, at the rate of 12 tons a week.

As the company relies so much upon its exports, it has evolved a method of packing, which affects a considerable economy and is unique to the Island. The bricks are strapped in bundles of 50 and hand-trucks, specially designed for this load, are used to move the bundles to the loading ramps which are sunk, so as to allow the trucks to be

wheeled directly onto the three lorries which the company uses. At the quayside a specially designed loading crane is fitted with a device which enables the bricks to be handled aboard 450 at a time. This reduces to one the five men hitherto employed. Bricks are ready for export in 2 ½ weeks.

*Jill,*

*There are two more pages of this document, numbered, by me, 127 and 128, which consist of some not terribly good photostats, of what look like excellent photographs, with accompanying text. In the fullness of time, I would be happy to re-compose the pages using the original photos if you have access to them, rather than the photostats.*

*Extract from a handout, dated May 7th, 1975.*

ISLAND NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY GROUP

Albany Steam and Industrial Museum, Forest Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

The Group was formed in April 1972 to purchase the 2' 0" gauge railway system at Rookley brickworks. This formerly ran out to the two main pits, a total of about a quarter of a mile. The train of side-tipping wagons was hauled by No. 1, a Ruston & Hornsby diesel now known to be the oldest survivor of the 16/20 class.

There was another similar Ruston diesel that had been stripped for spares and a derelict Hudson Hunslet locomotive. The track lengths were of the pre-formed "Jubilee" type, with 20 and 25 lb. per yard rail, fastened to corrugated and trough-section steel sleepers and in turn, spiked to full-length ex-BR wooden sleepers buried in the clay.

Since transferring the railway to the Albany Steam and Industrial Museum, a further five locomotives have been shipped over from the mainland.

Graham Morris  
47, Park Lane,  
Cowplain, Hants.  
Waterlooville 56126

Giles  
Newport IOW. 3009.

*(Jill, The handout is accompanied by a useful drawing showing the track layout at Rookley, as at April 19 72. I could tidy it up and re-draw it for you, in the fullness of time, if you need it )*

**ROOKLEY (No 1)** Cont'd. SZ 510 841

Francis' sons George and Francis worked for the brickworks. Granddaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of Bembridge is very interested in her great-uncle Harry. Must meet her.

The four cottages across from Mallard's Inn turning were built by Pritchett for their brick workers. Eagles on manager's house chipped off when the recent owner left it took them with him. Mrs. Cheek has one bust of Queen Nefertiti (Egyptian Queen) still at home. Harry also did hundreds of woodcarvings. At Pallance, one room was completely full of carvings.

When they moved to "Upton", the house Harry built in Wyatt's Lane, they had a 6 feet painting that Harry had done of a pastoral scene. Had to sell it. Long working day.

Mrs. Cheek was married in 1947. Likely that Rookley Brickworks was sold in 1951. (See early note – hand-made bricks until 1951.) Not sure at all about this.

Cliff Matthews. - Outside, Rookley works had terra-cotta statues. Can remember a "vulture". Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) busts. Father bought a lot of stuff. See photo.

Margaret (nee Matthews - sister of Joyce, Shanklin) and Niger Peck built "Ponders End" at Rookley. Old works (Rookley, Main Road) still running. Three kilns and one beehive used to be called the Monastery as it had a crucifix and big urns and no end of other things (remnants of Harry's work perhaps?)

**ROOKLEY.** Main Road (top of hill) 131

Father and three brothers - George, Francis, Harry Pritchett. Contact Fred Reed, Newport Road, Ventnor. Used to work at Rookley.

Produced some clamp burnt and some kiln burnt. Bricks were handmade until 1951. Mechanised then and built new kilns (presumably instead of clamp kilns?) Mr. Butcher worked at Rookley for some time when Mr. George Vesey was foreman.

Graham Attrill (East Cowes in phone book) also worked at the brickworks. Mr. Attrill (Rookley) remembers the terra cotta sculptures arranged in a group near the office. They included Christ on the Cross, a large eagle, and busts of famous people. Mr. Whittington remembers the bust of Gandhi. In the wall of Gould, Hibberd and Randall in the Church Litten is an example of Rookley work in the form of the trademark of Gould, Hibberd and Randall of donkey and well at Carisbrooke.

Mr. Marshall., Albert Henton, R. Dabell, and Reuben Reed etc. owned Cheeks and Downend and also Rookley Brickworks. Changed from coal firing to oil-fired. Lloyd bought works from the consortium but never ran it. George Vesey was working there at the time. Mrs. Vesey has a small red book with names and addresses of all brickworks on the Island (hand written history of these). Mr. Marshall took photo (slide) of Gunville. Has lent me slides of Rookley before the chimney was demolished.

Sand pit as well as clay here. Clay pit now a pond. "Mallard's Inn " has aerial photos of site when it was the brickworks.

Stenbury Manor, Audrey Russell, has terra-cotta urns etc. in garden. Maybe made at Rookley?

### Rookley. (Cont'd) No 2. 132

Mrs. Cheek (nee Pritchett) moved to Rookley from Gunville. Harry and Francis started the brickfield behind what is now the garage and part of the Leisure Park. The big pit, which is now a pond, was the clay pit, which was exploited by Harry and Francis. They manually dug the clay there and found good clay. Red-brick Quarr Abbey was built with bricks from Rookley. Harry Pritchett was responsible for all the different types of brick used in its building. Mrs. Cheek can remember, as a little girl, (about eight years old) going with her father one Sunday to the Abbey site. She was not allowed in the buildings and had to play outside while her father discussed the brothers' requirements for the building. At lunchtime, the brothers brought out a wooden platter with a crust of bread and a small amount of cheese and a mug of water. She didn't think much of it! Harry was there all day working out all the bricks needed.

Harry did modelling at Rookley during the last war and was there when it was taken over in the early fifties (1951) by Mr. Corney. Once, Harry modelled Snow White and the Seven Dwarves (at Rookley). Did these and hand coloured them. (Not glazed). As he was finishing, a car drew up with an American in it who promptly offered to buy them. Harry wasn't sure that he wanted to sell them. However, he did, and they were crated up and sent to America. After his death, Mrs. Cheek had a parcel of a magazine. On the cover was a photo of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and the American or his son had traced it back to the Isle of Wight and to her. He had written an article about the brickworks inside. Unfortunately, when she left her Wyatt's Lane home to move to Newport, it disappeared. She wonders if her brother? has it. 133

### Rookley. (Cont'd) No 2.

(Hudson) Pritchett's bought Rookley in 1924. (This corroborates what Mrs. Vessey told me, but which new yard?) Ask Enid Cheek how many children were in the family - assumed she was only child?

George Vessey must have left Highwood when it closed in 1939 or thereabouts and joined the "new yard" and became foreman. Very likely explanation as brick workers constantly moved around and if Highwood closed it would be natural for him to go to the new yard for work.

Mr. Wayne Pritchett. Just before the war in 1938, got other people to invest in Rookley (Wayne's father died in 1945 when Wayne was aged two. Grandfather died, Francis, 1951 or 1953 (aged about 80 years or 79). They took stock when grandfather (Francis) died. Harry was still alive and he and the other Pritchetts realised that the other members of the consortium, who were not Pritchetts, owned more of the yard than the family, so the family had no say. Wayne's mother was called to a meeting after Francis died and was told that as she was living in a company house she would have to leave. She left and the family moved to Newport. (Wayne was then two years old). The house was used for the new manager. Brother at the time eight years old and

sister 14 years old. Mother went back to live with her mother in Sea Street and on her side the family were all (1747 onwards) connected to the Quay. Wayne is the eighth generation working on the Quay. Even his mother (Pitman) grandmother Leigh. (*sic*) (Leigh Thomas. Sam Leigh, great-grandfather, died 1928. Wife two years before.) Went into business with James Thomas, millers of Newport. "Ash and Thomas" millers, 1880s. Samuel had money left to him so he bought a barge called the "Gazelle" and worked for James Thomas, sailing corn over and was a shareholder in the company. 134. Called his son Leigh Thomas, after his friend Samuel.

1990, Towngate Mill being demolished. Tied up with chap on mainland. No rates had ever been paid on it. Rating Office didn't know the owner. Wayne has a good collection of barge pictures. A lot of his forebears (notably Leigh Thomas) shipped beer to Southampton for Mew Langtons for donkeys' years.

Dav (*sic*) Morey, 11, Trafalgar Road, Newport, said that John Boswell owned Rookley yard at the end. Ken Gill worked for him at Rookley Brickyard and lives at Little Budbridge Farm.

*(Can't translate next six or seven lines. Alan)*

John Wilmott's Marina used to be Margin's Pond. When the foundations were dug they came across masses of bricks - site of ECP yard. Cemetery, Island Oils and Power Station, yellow bricks. Person who ran the yard lived at the corner of Kingston Road in a house built of ECP bricks.

John Perkins (family) connected with Shamblers Farm. (Was another yard there) map of East Cowes shows yard site.

*(Jill, adjoining page 134 is a diagram of an Island made brick, from a bungalow in Newport Road, Chale Green)*

Site on Parish Map 1909. Opposite Smallbrook junction was the second old brickfield of Meaders Yard owned by Wheelers. Was in use in 1900. Disused in 1925.

Cont'd from John Cogger (86 years old) interview:

For a short while the yard (between 1925 and 1929) had a pug mill with a horse but it wasn't very successful. The brickyard closed because the clay had to be dug closer and closer to the house gardens and people wouldn't allow it to be dug.

Council houses on the right-hand side up Harding Road were all made with Meaders Yard brick. A big-engined loader was brought down to the yard and loaded with bricks. A man named Sadler was the contractor. Wheelers actually built all these houses.

Working hours were very long indeed. A thousand bricks had to be made every day by each brickmaker if he wanted "full pay".

A clamp took 8 weeks from start to finish. 1. Clear a site. 2. Put a nine inch wall all round, size 15 feet by 12 feet. 3. Leave a hole in the centre for firing. 4. In the middle put eight rows of bricks, three bricks high. In between rows, fill up with wood, smother ashes to a depth of three inches as "bed " of clamps.

When the clamp was built it was smeared with loam paste (loam mixed with water). 136. This made it air and watertight so the draught could be controlled at the main vent at the base. There was a nine inch brick wall, 4 feet high and, "a brick on edge to break joints". (I think he meant that virtually the whole clamp was sealed. I think he meant that the "wall" bricks were already fired, thus actually building a kiln wall i.e. almost a Scotch kiln, although he called it a clamp.) Altogether, the clamp was eight feet high. 20,000 in the clamp.

Cover the hacks with wooden covers but didn't cover the clamp because if you put corrugated iron on top, the steam would go down into the bricks and spoil them. The top had to stay open.

Used to make ordinary bricks and squint bricks for bay windows. Bricks were not sent by train in John Cogger's time; the sidings were "all finished" by then.

The old shed where the wire cutting machinery was, is still standing but very little is left of the original site as the Scrap Yard (Ball's) above it gave way one bad winter and the soil completely covered the brickyard site.

The heyday of the yard was 1900 when Ryde was beginning to become a resort. 50 ft square deep pit. Clay digging all winter into one big heap. Barrows used to take the bricks to the clamps. Crowding barrows had steel plates with 60 bricks on and, my goodness, they took some handling! They would slip off the metal plates if you weren't careful. Had to get the balance right.

#### MISC. NOTES:

No 134 on the 1800 map Ryde. Down Brick kiln (now Weeks Road). See lease, 20th December 1771 to James Potts (Liberty to take earth for making bricks). RYD 2/7 21/4. IWCRO.

When was Wheelers established? Two before Wilmur Wheeler. Ian Snow's father, Bertram Snow, worked for Wheelers for 40 years. Clerk. Clive Wheeler, grandson of Wilmur, 62339.

Ryde. (St. Johns) SZ 596 918

**16. 1**

Meaders Yard. Mr. White. On the right-hand side as you run into St. Johns Station. Wheelers owned this. Wheelers Builders (Son - Monkton Street, Ryde. Grandfather was brickfield owner and producer.)

1908 Map (see over) two brickfields sited. Also on 1909 Parish Map. Kelly's Directory, 1875, lists Isaac Pope at Oakfield. (which is St. Johns.) John Cogger, 45, Old London Hotel Flats, Well Street. Ryde. 614370, worked for 46 years for Wheelers (builders) of Ryde who owned the brickyard in which he worked. He worked in Meaders Yard for six years until it closed and then went on to general building (roofing).

Interview with John Cogger The name of the yard was "Meaders Yard " and it ran along the edge of the railway track on the engine-shed side. When John first went there to work, there were the remains of two large Scotch kilns, which were so "clapped-out" that they had to be abandoned. In his time, "clamps" were the only kind of kiln used. The owners of the yard (in 1925) were Mr. Edward and Mr. Wallace Wheeler. They employed one man, full-time, Mr. Hegrum and three brickmakers with their pug boys, of which Mr. H. Taylor was the foreman and the other two brickmakers were F. Wright and Mr. F. Cotrell. They worked on a piecework basis, being paid twelve shillings per thousand bricks (an average day's work). Out of this, the brickmakers paid their pug boys, "youths", as Mr. Cogger put it, four shillings per thousand. The man on full-time worked eight hours a day. Brickmakers worked from 5am. to 6pm.. A pug boy received four shillings per day.

Ryde Borough Council used to bring all the town's rubbish to the brickyard and Mr. Hegrum's job was to sort through it all and screen it for household ashes. The sieved ash was used (a 3" layer) for the clamp, but not in the clay mixture for the brick (at least they did mix ash with the clay before it was tempered). 138. A lot of machinery in a hut in 1925, when John Cogger was there, was obsolete. It had been used for making bricks (possibly a wire cutting machine?) Yes it was, John confirmed. The yard was in its heyday in about 1900 and by 1925 it was really almost at the end of its working life. As builders, it behoved Wheelers to keep brick production going for their house building, so they carried on making clamps when the Scotch kilns were no longer viable. "Scintilling" (sic) bricks as Noel Pyecroft explained to me, Mr. Cogger also did the same. Dried shore-sand was used to dust out the moulds to stop the clay sticking. The dry sand was collected from St. Helens beach and put into the dustbin. The sand was dried / kept dry in a dustbin, which was surrounded by bricks and between them sand was piled into a dome shape. The sand was used to act as a release agent for the brick mould and to keep the table swept clean.

Hand tempering (preparation of clay). The clay was dug on site. Very good clay fired red. The clay was "hand-tempered" each day. This meant cutting enough clay for the next days work (about 1000 bricks worth) in a big heap, sprinkle it with ashes and let it soak all night covered with sacks. In the morning tread it down to mix it and make it plastic and well mixed. Then take the sacks off. Move it to another place with the bottom stuff on the top and then place sacks on it again and tread it again then it would be ready for use. This would take about two hours. (Sieved ash used instead of breeze.) 139. Thirty bricks were on the "bearing off" barrows (very wet) to hacks. The

building opposite, "The Old London", was a Methodist Church. (In 1931 they were married in that church).

MISC. NOTES.

(Mr. Toogood). At the bottom of Harding Road, Oakfield, was a brickyard run by Bill Ball, (Any relation to Ball's of Cowes?)

Edmund Smith (42) worked at Oakfield as brickmaker in 1851 (Census). His two sons, Edmund (16) and William (13) worked with him. Edmund may have been the Operator at this time. (By 1861 he had moved to Binstead)

Bertram James Snow, 23 Daniel Street, Ryde. Wheeler Brothers. Dibben Brothers (Removals). (Father) Arthur, sons Wilmur and Gerald Wheelers.

Mr. Taylor. 297971. Meaders were builders in Cowes. (Land where the police station stands, 1888. CP) Terrace of houses built by shopkeepers in Cowes (they put up the money .

*Transcript of two hand-written sides of notepaper.*

Meaders Yard. Clamp bricks. Owners of the yard were Mr. Edward and Mr. Wallace Wheeler. Employed one man, full-time. Name, Mr. Hegrum. Three brickmakers: Mr. H. Taylor (foreman) also Mr. F. Wright and Mr. F. Cottrell who worked piecework. Each man employed one youth each. Pay those days were brickmakers, twelve shillings per thousand bricks. They would pay the youth four shillings a day. Of course, for this pay a thousand bricks would have to be made. The man on full-time worked eight hours a day. For quite a long time the Ryde Borough would deposit all their house refuse in the yard. Mr. Hegrum's job was to sort and screen for the ashes. That was used for firing the clamp to bake the bricks. All the winter, clay was dug. Enough to last all summer. All clay which was very good had to be ??? (*word obscured*) tempered, which meant in the evening we would cut enough clay out and soak enough for 1000 bricks, cover them with sacks and then in the morning we would temper the clay. This job would take about two hours. While the brickmaker was taking the fresh made bricks to the hack, one youth's job was to see enough clay was put on his table for the next load. Of course, we had to have dried shore-sand to keep the clay from sticking to the brick mould and also to keep the table clean. The sand was dried in the dome. This was made by using a dustbin and building bricks around, leaving enough room to put sand around the bin to dry. After the bricks on the hack are dry enough to handle, each brick is turned around to receive more air. When dry enough, the bricks are wheeled to form a clamp for the bricks to be baked. The clamp would hold up to 20,000 bricks. They stopped making bricks because the clay was slipping from the houses near Oakfield High Street. I worked there for approximately six years then went to building work for Mr. Wheeler.

## AREA 12. RYDE

No. 12 d. STROUDWOOD. SZ 568 904

**16:1**

Notes from tape of Mr. David Langdon. Site visited 18th July 1990.

Langdons, the builders, started in 1806. There was a brickfield lower down than the site that we were investigating, beyond the cottage on the left-hand side of the road. This did not belong to Langdons. Langdons bought the land in 1909, which had Stroudwood Pottery and Tile Works on it. It is interesting that in the building trade the term 'pottery' did not mean small pots and household items but, rather chimney pots, therefore the title implied that it made roofing requirements. This was not always so as the term 'pottery' in the title for Gunville meant fancy pottery such as flowerpots, butter coolers and also domestic ware such as jugs, mugs, etc.

Stroudwood closed in the 1960's. It was still a hand-made brickfield as David remembers there was no sophisticated machinery for brick making but there was a stone crushing machine, also a diesel operated pug mill. A narrow gauge railway existed to bring the clay and sand from the large pits at the back of the site to an enclosed area where the brickmakers worked and where the pug mill was housed in a small shed. The engine and the shed still stand. Two large square pillars about 4 ft square, where the railway came down to the workers, are still standing. The beehive (possibly?) kiln was located opposite the brickmakers. Remains still stand of a thick-walled structure with walls that are curved. It could be that these are part of the walls of a beehive down-draught kiln, as David remembers that the kiln had a domed roof. Alternatively, this may be the base of a Scotch kiln and the beehive could have been located somewhere else. David Stotesbury of Ventnor remembers vividly collecting 'clamps' from this yard so it is possible that they employed three types of firing. The bricks that are in the sand house wall do not seem to be clamps. (Check Photo)

David has original lease document when the family took over the land in 1909 and is prepared to let me photostat it. He may also have billheads etc. as he has recently moved from Player Street in Ryde to a new building and has cleared out ledgers etc. 143. Bricks fired red. On one side of the site is a building, which David remembers as housing the horse (pug mill). On inspection it seems likely that this was a sand house rather like the Apse Heath one as it had a fire place in it with which to dry the sand that was added to the clay to give it 'body' and enable the bricks to be fired at a higher temperature ensuring a good hard brick for facing. In front of this building was a good-sized flat area which may well have been the base for the "Clamps". It would also have been a good idea to have placed the sand house near the clamps so that the night stokers would have had some shelter from which to look after the kilns. Outside the sand house was a huge stone lintel (two in fact) strategically placed for a bench. One could see the workers eating their nammet or kiln watching on a warm summer evening from this bench!

Before the advent of mechanization, a horse-powered pug mill operated. Mrs. Brading who once lived at Stroudwood Dairy and who now lives in a brick house right opposite the turning to the yard can remember, as a young wife, walking to the yard with her husband for a yarn with the brickies and watching the horse turn the pug mill. She thinks that there were two or three brickmakers, however, Cliff Matthews and David Stotesbury emphasized that it was a small yard. Possibly it had as many as three brickmakers in its heyday.

Six months ago, the Cultural Department of the IWCC (Mr. Mitchell) removed machinery, the pug mill, some railway track, a stone crusher, and bogeys of trucks and took them to Westridge Heritage Centre to set up there. Will try to arrange a viewing. David wishes to join Brian and I when we go. (See Langdons. 623289 yard)

#### Buildings,

14, Bath field, Ryde, built with Stroudwood brick, also Cliff Matthew's house, "The Keel", at Wootton. Also Player Street builder's office.

Small brook that eventually reaches the sea at Ryde near the Canoe Lake, rises above Stroudwood clay pits. Thus the brickfield had its own water supply which was trapped and piped and had a valve to turn it on, when needed, at the bottom of the clay pit. Very useful. Water was pumped up for other needs. All the bricks from Stroudwood were handmades, it was never mechanised, hence David Stotesbury's recollection of getting hand-mades in the early 1960's.

#### 2nd August

Met Fred Avery from Burgess Hill. Told me about a type of "bottle" *144* kiln which had a square base, 12 feet x 12 feet and on top, a domed top about eight inches from the ground.

At the top it had a metal damper to control the draught. Could this be what David remembers of his Grandfather's kiln? These were quite common in Sussex.

Upton Brickworks. Ryde. Stroudwood.

16:1

Upton (near old windmill) down steep hill. Haylands. Langdon, builder. Burnt clamp bricks. Mixed the fine coke breeze into clay mix - building material in-built. Stacked in (open hollow stack) drying "hack" bricks stacked so they didn't touch except one edge. Fired from the middle and the whole brick burnt. Beautiful, flat-faced bricks. No frogs. Wonderful colour. Very porous, used internally mainly. Gorgeous bricks misshapen, often "crooked".

The site on the left just past the last brick cottages in the copse. Little left. Two walls of clamp (possibly Scotch) kiln left and one motor shed which housed the engine for the pug mill. Prior to this, donkeys were used to turn the wheel to pug clay. Mrs. Brading, who lives opposite to the turning to the brickworks, can remember when the works were operated. She remembers that donkeys in the horizontal wheel; also the bricks being fired in a clamp. Brick found at the track edge, presumed local, is frogged. Red bricks. Mrs. Brading's house and all the houses at Upton were built of local brick. She thinks that the works probably closed about 30 years ago.

Langdon, builders, in Ryde still own Upton brickfield copse. Ask for Mr. Peter or Mr. David, (not Mr. John), 44, Player Street. 62328, Yard 613790, Home.

The council took the pug mill, some railway track, stone crusher and bogies of trucks away to museum.

Site on the Parish Map, 1909.

Cliff Matthews can remember Stroudwood. Clamp bricks. When Cliff built the house "The Keel", he wanted bricks and he went there to get some. 145. It is interesting that this yard had a stone crusher. Clearly, the clay in this area was very hard and rocklike and needed to be crushed roughly before being "watered-down" and used in the pug mill.

Stroudwood (No 2).

Older than No 1. On the same side of the road (on the left, going to Havenstreet) just past the cottage. Now seems to be a worked woodland for logs and hurdle-type wands, etc.

Mrs. Brading says the site was not working 54 years ago when she came. Probably worked out before No.1 came into operation? May be the clay was not so accessible so they moved quarter of a mile up the road. Was it owned by Langdon, too? (Probably was). Presumably the clay seam ran out so they moved it up the road.

East of Aldermoor Farm.

Site on Parish Map, 1909. Small pond (possibly the clay pit) marked on map.

April 1st, 1990. Talked to Mr. Record, (man on bike at Smallbrook Comer). Lower Bettesford. Past Swanmore School, then first left.

Aldermoor Brickyard. People's name was Corney. Mr. Corney-Coke (the later relative) used to keep pigs there after the yard closed. John Cogger said that there was a brickyard off Bettesford road. He can remember it, in 1925, in action. Turn left by farm.

148 a.

Whitefield. (Smallbrook).

Site shown on the 1909 Tithe (Parish) Map.

149.

Binstead. (Brickfields Equestrian).

Mr. Lavers has a brick mould operated by his grandfather, Mr. Boyce, who rented it from Fleming's Estate.

Nettlestone. (Seaview).

Site shown on the 1909 Brading Parish Map between Coastguard cottages (station) and Nettlestone Point.

*Note attached - " Priory Bay, between Nettlestone and Seaview. Ring Mr. Roy Henley, 613230. (Eric Burden's friend.)"*

151.

Gatcombe Estate Map dated 1843. SZ 503 855.

**12 :1**

Field name, Brick Kiln Ground. North of Champion Farm. No "map" of brickfield so it was obviously not working in 1843. Probably earlier than this. Maybe Gatcombe House brickmaking made here? Find out when Gatcombe House was built and what it is built of.

*Letter: -*

3, Stenbury View,  
Wroxall,  
Isle of Wight.  
P038 3DB.  
Tel: 853305.

December 4th. 1988.

Dear Jill,

Whilst reading your request for information in connection with brickfields of the Isle of Wight in the Ventnor Mercury, I recalled the following: -

In the early 1920's, I was living in Sandown and had a smallholding in Jeals Lane, close to the railway line, and on the eastern side there were two Brickfields which manufactured Clamp Bricks, which were burnt in huge clamps for finish (*sic*).

Later on, in the Twenties, they closed and rendered obsolete (*sic*) and, as far as I can recall, it put about ten men out of a job.

I know that one of the operators who owned the business was Mr. George Kent. The other owner I cannot recall.

Hoping this information will prove helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. H. J. Bartrum.

*Hand-written note, "The White brothers worked for George Kent".*

Two brickfields on eastern side. Clamp brick, no kilns. Began early 1920s? (I think earlier) and closed in the late 1920's. When they closed, it put ten men out of work. One of these was operated by Mr. George Kent (Derek Kent's Uncle Charlie's father) on the Sandown to Newport railway line. (Jan Kent's great father (*sic*) was Jacob Kent of Shanklin Batts Garden). The brickyards were on the right-hand side (going to Newport) before Newchurch. Past them was Jeals Lane, which actually crossed the railway line. It was a very active brickyard in the early 1920s. Mr. Bartrum's smallholding was on the opposite side (across railway line). Chaps used to stand there banging clay into the brick moulds, then stream it off, put them onto boards to dry outside and then built into big clamps and burnt for several weeks (underneath flues). Colour : clayey grey. Used in the main for internal courses. 1908 map shows kiln on right-hand side at "turn off" to Newport - siding rail to yard. Mr. Mew's father ran brickfield here. (Ernest Mew.) Clamp bricks. There were three brickfields. When did Sandown Brickfields close? Late 1920s? Mr. Derek Kent's great-grandfather owned of brickfield in Sandown (also Shanklin). ??? Kent's cousin is still alive, 80 years plus, Charlie. Western Road, Shanklin. He would know more than ??? Kent (on the phone). Technical College library has an excellent reference library. Good information on Island bricks.

Uncle Charlie Kent - Robert (Jan's Dad) Kent, 22, Western road. 862035. The Kents were all builders and probably built Western Road. Descendants of the original Mr. Kent still live there.

Mr. Marshall. Can remember these yards when he was a boy, 60 years ago. Just beginning to get grown over. Closed in the 1920s.

154. Derek Kent's great-grandfather worked at Sandown brickworks (possibly one of three near the railway station.)

Mr. White. Two on eastern side (I nearest station 2 next to it and one to the North of Jeals Lane, No 3.) No 3 was run by a Mr. Gustar. (See duplicate letter "Sandown Brickworks" dated June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1934.)

19 Broadway.

No 4. was on ground that is now a caravan site, Jeals Lane. Horses and carts came to transport bricks etc. although there was a railway siding to the brickyard. Mr. White's father worked in Gustar's yard and Mr. White worked there in his school holidays. Two brickmakers and one man to prepare and dig clay. Clamp bricks. Red bricks. Mr. White has photos of Gustar's Brickfield, next to George Kent's yard, that he might lend me.

**Page 144, "Newchurch Remembered".**

Mr. Alfred Corney, (Alf) born in 1882. (See Queen Bower Yard notes.) As a young man, around 1900, he worked as a brickmaker at Sandown, Apse Heath, Upton and Gunville, cycling daily from Borthwood (Stroudwood).

Geology, T.W. Shore.

Sandown bricks made of Wealden Shales and from Atherfield clay of the Lower Greensand age which lies above it.

Mr. Guy. Sandown Brickworks was owned by Mews of Apse Heath. (Maybe Gustar took over from him?) The brickmaker was Fred Roach who had worked previously at Apse Heath.

Mrs. White. The painter doing Mrs. White's house can remember "going up the brickfields to play". Lived in Fort Street, (could this be Street End? No. Street End was at the top of Jeals Lane) now called Sandham Castle Pleasure Ground and the back of White City Amusements, The Home Guard used to practice here (1938 to 1945) and left live ammunition including a hand grenade. A little boy picked it up and said, "Oh, look", and pulled out the pin and threw it into the air, away from the little group of children, fortunately. A small boy sustained holes in his legs. All the children were forbidden from playing there again.

Photos. George White, left. George Kent (owner) middle. Arthur, extreme right.

Mr. Hutchings. Mr. Mew from Apse Heath Brickyard ran the Brickyard in Jeals Lane next to Gustars. Sometimes Apse Heath men were required occasionally to work. Mr. Roach (Albert Road, Lake) ran Sandown Brickyard and was the foreman. Apse Heath men used to walk to Sandown to work in the yard. All clamps at Sandown. Chiverton Shute and along Fairway. The hurdles in the photograph were stood behind the table, if it was windy, to stop the sand blowing in the brickmakers' faces.

Photo of Michael Mersh (*sic*) of a man with a lump of clay - he could be fashioning a "waulk" - brick dummy, ready for mould.

Question: Did the Mews take over from Alfred Kent when he sold it?

See article by Hedley Guy on Apse Heath Brickyard. D (Blue file)

Interview with Mr. Ronald Ernest Mew, 52, Shide Road, Newport. June 25th, 1995.  
(Father's name was Ernest; Grandfather's name was Ernest John. Grandfather's brother's name was Herbert Marston.)

Mr. Barton gave Mr. R.E. Mew the billhead. Sandown yard was all under the name of Apse Heath Brickyard. Sandown made only clamp bricks. Apse Heath Brickyard made both clamp and kiln-fired (facing) bricks.

Kiln - Scotch. Eight fire holes each side. The last firing was at the start of the war in 1939 and they had to cover it down to prevent the fire being seen (blackout regulations). 30,000 bricks in the clamp. Coke ashes mixed with clay to help fire them. Household "ashes" obtained from Ventnor rubbish tip (Upper Ventnor. Coming from Wroxall, two fields on the right before Transatlantic Plastics - horses in the field, near the house on the right-hand bend by Rew Lane) and also some from "Tinker's Hole" in America Woods, up by Cliff Bridge.

Ralph Mew (brother of grandfather) had a china shop in Newport. He opened the brickyard in Asheby - not successful. (Ponda Rosa or the other one? Nearby). Herbert Marston eventually pulled out of the brick yard (he was a partner with Ernest John) and concentrated on his fancy goods shop in Sandown.

Names of workers: Frank Peach (brother-in-law of Ernest John), Jack Lavers (wife's brother). Lost his parents when very young (worked for years ????? ??? ???) and he moved to Apse Heath and lived with his aunt and uncle (Frank Peach and wife).

Joe Whittington. Jack Lavers came from Binstead. Another uncle ran/worked Binstead yard. 156. Joe Whittington worked at Apse Heath (came from Carisbrooke) when Ernest was young.

#### Firing.

Ten tons of best Yorkshire (Shiltstone?) coal. Apse Heath Brickyard would buy a truck from / through Shanklin Coal Yard at the Station.

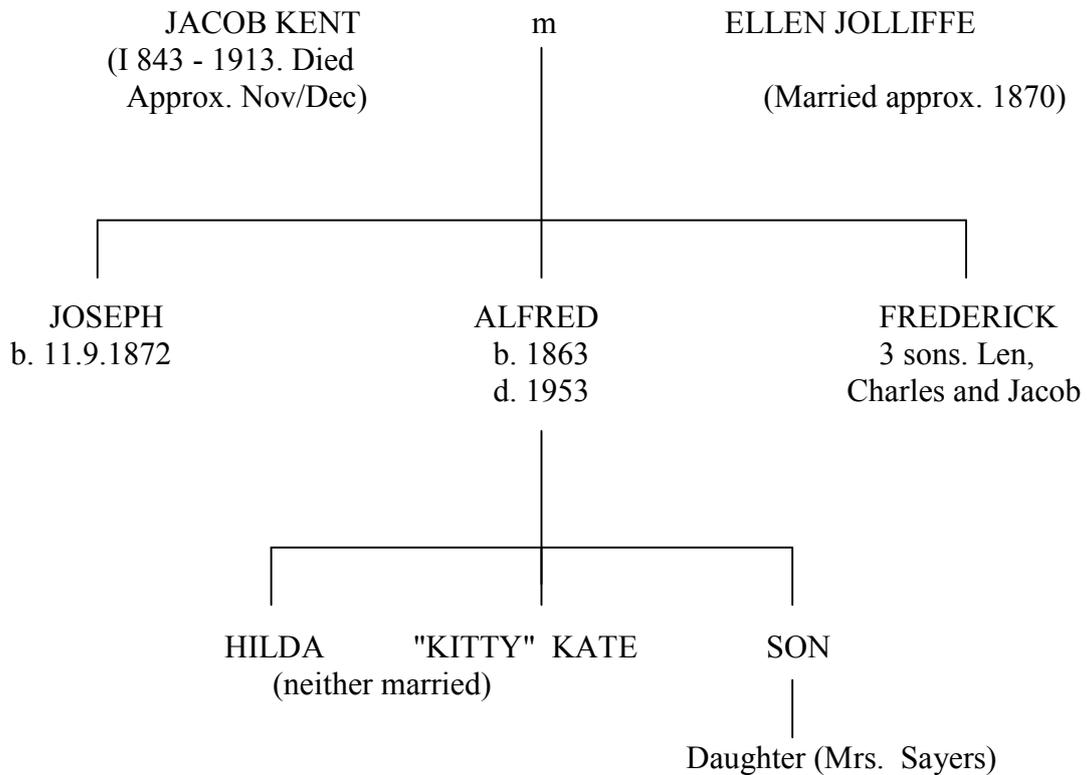
A Mr. Kent had a yard at Sandown, also a Mr. Gustar.

When Apse Heath had a special order for "whites" they would go down to Cowes and buy clay to make them. (This suggests that Wheelers, as well as Pritchett, used the same seam of clay. In the winter, they dug the clay and laid it in long heaps. One man was employed wheeling the clay into the mill and peck it all down with water to get the right consistency. Horse-powered pug mill.

Ernest reckons the yard was started soon after the First World War. (This may be borne out by the fact that I haven't found it on any of the older maps.)

Retail, bricks were twelve shillings per thousand in 1938. The brickmaker got eight shillings per thousand bricks and the pug boy got four shillings per thousand bricks. One man on the table at Sandown (no pug boy - did his own clay collecting and running out to hacks, so the Sandown picture I have is of three brickmakers probably, and may be Apse Heath Yard.)

Mr. Roach was the foreman. Man who worked at Sandown for years, Raymond Whittington.



Nephews were L. and C. Kent.

Nieces were Mrs. D. Bartrum.

Alfred also had Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Smith, half-sisters.

Jacob may have had brothers? George Kent who ran Sandown could have been Alfreds cousin?

*Jill, there is some writing which I can't decipher under the name "Frederick" Alan.*

**Interview, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1991, with Derek, and son, Raymond, Kent.**

George Kent had son George. 1847 -, brother of Jacob Kent. Four yards at Sandown, Jeals Lane. Possibly George ran a separate yard to Jacob. Gustar ran a yard and Mew of Apse Heath. This accounts for all four. Three on the east side and one on the west (now holiday chalets).

Jacob built the reservoir at Shanklin (Ray has County Press article)

. Lady in Lake has photo. Can't remember her name. Try and find out where she lives.

A lot of Kent's bricks built Shanklin, Batteries, 1850, Regent Street: Seinde? Crescent: Shanklin Church of England School (102 years old). Made of Jacob's bricks.

Jan Toms has photograph of group of Kents. (See if I can take copy).

\*Jacob photo at time of reservoir building.

\*Joseph, Derek's grandfather, on extreme left of photo, front row.

\*Kent's shop front.

Kent's Provision Merchant, established 1883. Tel. 55.

Regent Street was known as Station Road.

Note: Sandown Farmhouse originally a hunting lodge before a Farm. Part of original Royal Forest of Bordwood (sic)? Nunwell House connection. Slaver's ships owner owned Osborne land estate.

*Jill, there is another family tree following this item. It appears to be a fuller version of the previous one. I can do it, if required, but it would need redrafting by you to make it clearer for me. Alan.*

**THE KENTS OF SHANKLIN.**

Local builders often set up their own yards in order to supply themselves with bricks for building houses in the rapidly expanding towns. Such a man was Jacob Kent of Shanklin. During the summer months he made bricks and in winter he and his brothers built houses.

In 1869 he leased a piece of land known as Batts Ground from the White-Popham Estate and set up his brickyard next to the slaughterhouse on the edge of town. It was usual for brickyards to be situated away from the centre of emerging towns as the risk of fire was considerable and the pollution and smell of the natural chemicals in the fumes was, to say the least, extremely unpleasant. Most towns had by-laws forbidding brickmaking and other unacceptable practices, such as slaughtering, from taking place within a given distance of dwellings.

The Batts Ground yard must have been fairly successful, as by 1900 Jacob was running another yard at Cliffe Farm and also one in Jeals Lane, Sandown, which stood at Street End and was adjacent to the railway, having its own siding. He was, by now, a respected businessman.

When he died in 1913, one of his three sons, Alfred, took over the Sandown and Cliffe yards, the lease on Batts ground having expired earlier. Alfred was 50 years old when his father died and was a man of standing in the community. He was the proprietor of a high class grocery and provisions business in Shanklin High Street as well as being a member of the Sandown and Shanklin Chamber of Trade and a prominent Freemason who was a founder member of the Chine Lodge. He was also a pillar of St. Saviour's Church, being a people's warden for eleven years.

That he was able to take over the running of the brickyards as well as all his other commitments points to a man of self discipline and great organisational ability. He rose at 5.30 am, a habit he attributed to the fact that in his young days he had to drive a pair horse cart to Yaverland from Shanklin each day, before school, to collect a load of lime; for his father, as well as being a brick merchant, also supplied his customers with lime for mortar.

He attended to all the brickyard transactions himself and personally answered all the mail as well as running his thriving grocery business, which required a great deal of paperwork. He continued to run the latter until well beyond retirement age, after which, his unmarried daughter Kate assumed responsibility. Cliffe brickyard probably closed before World War I, but the Sandown yard continued until the late 1920's as a letter exists, written by Alfred, to a customer as late as 1927. It is likely that the years of depression which followed made the price of fuel and transportation rocket, and hand-made brickmaking became an uneconomic proposition.

## Kent of Shanklin.

Jacob was one of thirteen children born to the Kent family, who were builders in Shanklin. In 1869 he leased a piece of land from the White-Popham Estate, on the outskirts of the town, known as Batts Ground and set up a brickyard next to the slaughterhouse. It was not unusual for builders to make their own bricks, as transportation was a difficult and costly business.

Yards were sited as close to the building activity as possible, although town by-laws did not allow firing to take place near houses because of the risk of fire. Jacob and his brothers made bricks during the summer and built rows of houses in the rapidly expanding town in the autumn and winter.

The Batts Ground yard must have served its purpose well. By 1900, Jacob was running another yard at Cliffe Farm. He had also opened a yard at Sandown in 1880 which was situated at Street End, a triangular piece of ground lying between the two railway lines near Sandown Station. This yard had the advantage of a siding, which solved delivery problems as bricks could be dispatched by rail to any Island station.

Jacob died in 1913 and Alfred, one of his three sons, took over Sandown and Cliffe yards. By this time the lease had expired on Batts ground and was not renewed.

Alfred was 50 years old when his father died and was already a prominent business man, being the proprietor of a high-class grocery and provisions store in Shanklin High Street. He was also a member of the Sandown and Shanklin Chamber of Commerce and one of the founder members of the Shanklin Freemasons' Chine Lodge. He worshipped at St. Saviour's Church and was the People's Warden for eleven years.

That he was able to take over the running of the brickyards with all his other commitments points to a man of self-discipline and organizational ability. His obituary states that he rose regularly at 5.30 a.m. This habit he attributed to his youth when, before attending school, he had to drive daily to Yaverland to fetch lime to make mortar for bricklaying. This was a round trip of eight miles, which must have taken at least two hours.

Alfred attended to the brickyard transactions himself and personally answered all mail as well as running his grocery business, which also required a lot of paperwork.

Cliffe yard probably closed before World War 1, possibly after Jacob's death in 1913. The Sandown yard continued until the late 1920s, as there is a letter written by Alfred to a customer, dated January 1927.

In the years of depression following the General Strike, transportation and fuel costs soared. This, coupled with mass mechanization, made hand-made brickmaking uneconomic and Alfred sold his remaining yard about 1930.

Street End Yard, Jeals Lane, Sandown.

5.

From ledger loaned by Mr. Lavers. Jacob Kent.

It would seem that the yard was either taken over or begun in August 1901, which is when the Sandown ledger begins. The headed note paper of Alfred Kent states, "Established 1880"; he would be 43 years old then. The brickmaker was a C. Jolliffe. The total for 1901 was 421,881 for "digen, maken, burning and delivering" bricks. There is a little entry at the end of the 1901 financial year; "Clay left in yard by Pragnell - £8-0-0d. This could indicate that the yard had been taken over by Jacob Kent from Pragnell or Pragnell may merely have carted the clay and that was the balance left at the end of the year.

The total for 1902 - Bricks made: 372,175, by C. Jolliffe.

In the Sandown, the "clay digen and maken bricks" is not distinguished so we cannot tell when clay taking began or ended but it seems that it was all done by C. Jolliffe. It must, therefore, have been a smaller yard than Cliffe unless those names were farm workers at Cliffe as well as brick workers, rather as the early labourers were at Hillis.

In April 1904, 406,225 bricks were burnt and delivered.

In May 1905, 489,933 - a good year. Perhaps the weather was kinder. C. Jolliffe was still the only brickmaker. It was also specified that C. Jolliffe dug clay and sifted ashes twice, as well as making bricks.

In October 1904, bricks were made at twelve shillings per thousand.

In June 1906, 536,075 bricks were made and delivered after 2000 "wasters" had been deducted.

In October 1907, 530,000 bricks were burnt and sent away by cart - a comparable year to 1906. 163. 1908 was a very uneven season - still 12/6d per 1000, 25/- per 2000, 47/6d per 3000 and £3 per 4000.

In the week ending the 13th of July, C. Jolliffe made nearly 11,000 bricks earning £8-2-0d., but many weeks he only averaged £4 a week, making only half that, i.e. 5,500 bricks or less than 1,000 a day. At the end of the year, bricks burnt and sent away totalled 410,500.

Hand-making continued at Street End it would seem. No machinery was introduced and gradually competition, or lack of clay, or skilled labour made it uneconomic. In 1910 the total brick output was 374,295.

In June 1911, the six-month total was 289,984. (12/6 per 1,000 - no inflation it seems) In September 1911, another 169,000 was added making the years total up to a respectable 458,984.

In August 1912, there seems to be some discrepancy, possibly due to illness or something. From September 1911 to July 1912 only 266,238 bricks were made. A different hand tells of 273,264 total bricks made, up to 13th of December 1913, "For, and on behalf of, the Executors of the Late Jacob Kent, deceased", and (*sic*) a letter from C. Jolliffe, 8, Roseberry Terrace, Sandown, addressed to Mr. A. Kent, Jacob's son, who took over from his father and ran the yard, as well as his business, until beyond 1927.

C. Jolliffe spent a lot of the winter months making covers (50 of them in one week in March), sifting breeze and mending covers. The job of sifting ashes 164 was a back-aching job. C. Jolliffe did it solidly for two weeks, working 56 hours one week and 60 hours, the other. Ashes were even sifted twice, presumably to save every bit of coke. Loads of ashes were bought in - perhaps from the Gasworks? Twenty loads of ashes were 16s 8d. (Could be household ashes like Meaders Yard in Ryde.) Each household had an ashbin as well as a dustbin

Another job at Sandown was levelling the ground for hacks, as at Shanklin. Mr. Kingswell made hacks and set potatoes ? for C. Jolliffe. Jolliffe stacked the bricks in trucks, 24,000 at a time and cleared out the pond, mended the road (this took twelve hours), delivered four loads of brickbatts (*sic*) to F. Colenutt, put rubble under the clamps, cleared out the waterhole (a bit like Downend - a natural water supply), moved earth to make room for (still more!) ashes, cut bushes for road, mended the barrow wheel and cleaned out the rubbish heap.

There is one entry for 1913, " March 22nd - paid C. Jolliffe for pulling down kiln". (An old clamp or Scotch kiln?). Last before Alfred Kent took over running yard.

An entry for 1912, June 10th, " Paid George Kent for (old) brick mould 2/6d". (Does this imply George Kent ran the yard adjoining Street End?)

Did C. Jolliffe also run a farm?

Another possibility is that Jacob Kent took over the yard in August 1901, having bought out Pragnell and that Pragnell started in 1880.

Derek Kent's great-grandfather worked and owned this. Indentures and leases of this yard would allow me to photocopy. A lot of brickmakers in the family. Shanklin bricks may have been yellow, Mr. Kent thinks so. Mr. Moore is doubtful about yellow and thinks they were red. Mr. Lavers has a ledger on Shanklin brickfield with accounts, prices and deliveries etc. and has promised to dig it out for me a bit later on.

Lease for Jacob Kent, Batts Ground (end of Furzehill Road, Shanklin) dated 30th September, 1903 - 1910. (Second lease) (7 years). The first lease was from December 30th, 1869 - 1883. (14 years). Presumably there was a "middle one" to take us from 1883 to 1897 (14 years or two of 7 years each?) 1897 to 1903/4? (7 years).

In 1869, the lease was for the brickfield and two kilns standing on it (Scotch?) Therefore it must have been going prior to 1869.

It is interesting that a C. Jolliffe was the brickmaker at Jeals Lane Yard, Sandown from 1900 to 1913 (for certain) and possibly had a daughter or sister, as Jacob Kent married an Ellen Jolliffe prior to 1872 when Joseph, their son, was born.

Jacob Kent died sometime around December 1913. The executors wound up the Estate and Alfred Kent, who took over at about this time, must have started a new ledger. He ran the Sandown Brickyard as well as his "High Class Provisions" business in the High Street, Shanklin, after his father's death in 1913. He was still running it in 1927 and personally signing letters. It seems likely that the Sandown yard closed at the end of the 1920s, perhaps 1929. George Kent was running the yard at this time. Relation?

Possibly the Shanklin Batts Yard lease was not renewed after 1910 (worth checking White-Popham estate records).

As well as Street End, Alfred possibly ran Cliffe Yard as C. Jolliffe, brickmaker from Street End wrote to him after Jacob died to send the receipt and account of brick making for the year ending December 1913.

Cliffe Yard seems to have folded or to have been discontinued around 1907. Perhaps Jacob concentrated on Street End as it had a railway siding. Jacob may have been a tenant farmer at Cliff Farm as books indicate that workers also loaded seaweed (for manure?) and did hay making. (Go and see Mr. and Mrs. Parsons opposite Bob Wilkinson, who used to run Cliff Farm.)

*Jill,*

*I'm not sure whether I should be putting "Batteries" or "Batts". Is one an abbreviation of the other? Do make sure I'm using the right word in the right place.*

*There are multiple references in the text to 'Jaels Lane', I'm sure this should be "Jeals Lane " so I've altered them. Alan*

Cliff Farm. SZ 568812

**28: 2**

Site right opposite Apse Manor turning, on Shanklin - Whiteley Bank Road. Right by railway bridge. 1909 Brading Parish map.

This I believe to be Cliff Brickyard. Site near Cliff Farm. Run by Kent who also ran Jeals Lane, Sandown. Could it be Jacob Kent, Alfred's father? George Kent (a relative of Jacob brother maybe?) ran this perhaps.

*Hand-written note, " Yes it was. See executor's note. "*

Cliffe Yard.

(Information from ledger loaned by Mr. Lavers, Apse Heath).

Owner / Proprietor: - Jacob Kent.

Men / Workers: - Snudden, Silsbury, T.Whitter (brickmaker), W.Whitter, Linington (spelt Lington). These names crop up in 1900 - 1907.

"Day Work" makes interesting reading. The "chores" of running a Brickyard without any kind of mechanisation are clear. There were only horses and carts for transport, spades and forks for "diggen" and no "wire cut" machinery.

Some of the jobs listed are :-

1. Clay "diggen" and wheeling rubbish.
2. Making hacks and digging sand (probably Apse sandpit).
3. Going after pug horse (what stories lie behind this?).
4. Mending kiln (suggests a Scotch kiln rather than clamp?).
5. Sifting 16 loads of ashes (twice).
6. Mending covers.
7. Making extra "squint" bricks, nearly always in thousands.
8. Mending fence.
9. Cleaning up the field and mending barrels.
10. Wheeling out to loads of breeze.
11. Carrying out and sifting five loads of ashes.
12. Cutting grass (9 hours).
13. Mending the kiln during the summer (could this mean stoking the kiln?)
14. Making wooden covers for hacks.
15. Mending barrel? (Pug mill barrel?) . 169.
16. Mending the road. (I bet it needed it with the heavy loads it had to bear).
17. Spreading gravel.

One of the most time-consuming jobs was sand and clay digging. The ledger gives the number of hours worked in a week and one can see when the weather was bad from the number of hours the men were able to work. In a good week they would put in anything from 53 to 56½ hours and for this they would be paid £ 1 to £ 1-1-2d. in 1901. Sometimes they were paid 4½d. per hour (October to November) and sometimes only 4d. Presumably, during the winter months, pay fell. It is interesting that before Christmas most men were working at least a 53-hour week, whereas the week after Christmas, no one did more than 29 hours and one of the best workers, Silsbury, did only 19 hours. Linington (Lington) achieved 59 hours one week and took home the amazing sum of £1-2-1½d. It is interesting that this was in February when daylight hours were still short.

Work like clay digging was the only sort of work of consequence that could be done during the winter. Sand seems to have been used a lot and it is graded into "table" sand (presumably for the brickmaker's table for releasing the moulds) and "plain cliffe", which I take to be coarser or not such fine, clean quality.

In March there is an entry for T. Whitter for a week's work "making hacks." These were probably wooden covers or "floors " to take the rows of bricks. They may have even been hurdles, woven from hazel, from the nearby copse. Mr. T. Whitter seems to have spent the whole of March making and mending covers, which were vital, if the summer brickmaking months were wet. However, in March, we find two or three entries for work (five hours) in the garden. Perhaps the garden 170 of Cliffe Farm was planted with vegetables for the summer.

Two kinds of breeze seem to have been bought - "coarse " and "fine". It may be the "coarse" was to fire clamps or Scotch kilns and the "fine" was to mix with the clay.

Another job which seems to have taken a lot of man-hours during October, November and early December, is "levelling". Perhaps this applied to the field where the hacks were set up for drying. Most derelict yards are fairly apparent because of the large area of level ground which was needed, either to build the clamps on, or to dry the bricks. In all, it took 264 hours and cost Jacob about £10 in wages.

During the summer, all the time was taken up in brickmaking. There seems to have been only one brickmaker at Cliffe in 1900 - 1907, a Mr. T. Whitter, who made 9000 bricks in one week, and in an exceptional week, 15,000 bricks, for which he earned £7-5-0d. This must have been a seven-day week, making over 2000 bricks a day. This was on July 10th, when the daylight hours were long. On September 18 (week ending) he earned £8-5-0d. which meant that he made 16,000 bricks in the week. August 1903 was a bad month - he made just over £20-0-0d. for the whole month so when the weather bucked up, he obviously "made brick while the sun shone".

In a season, (1904) for example, the yard made 432,266 bricks, "made, burnt and sent away". In 1902 they made 466,486 - obviously a good summer. In 1901 they made 460,000.

Another expense was the carting of bricks to the building sites. For the years 1901 to 1907 the carters were Hookey and Stephens who seem to have 170 worked exclusively for Cliffe Yard.

The wages for carting were 15/6d. per week plus "house rent" 5/6d. The total was one guinea a week for the heavy and often extremely dusty job. Up to 1905, Hookey worked with Stephens but after April 1905, Mr. Hookey took over and the wages were halved. Presumably Mr. Stephens found a better job or maybe set up on his own. Mr. Hookey carried on, on his own, until 1907 when the accounts cease.

In 1901, Hookey was paid 15/6d per week and rent of 5/6d per week and Stephens 14/6d per week and rent of 5/6d per week.

In March 1902, Stephens was paid extra for "horse and cutting chaff" until the beginning of May.

In August 1902, Hookey and Stephens for "extra haymaking".

In November 1902, Hookey and Stephens got 6d extra for looking after pug horse. In 1903, March, Hookey wasn't well and had less pay. During April to October, Hookey and Stephens looked after the pug horse.

In November 1903, Stephens carried coal and was paid extra.

172.

Sandown (Off Broadway) Alfred Kent.

**5: ?**

Mr. Marshall. Yellow bricks. On the same side of Broadway as the school. Beyond Station Avenue, Grove Road; hundred yards further on from that, towards railway line, a large area of rough ground (probably built on by now) where the brickworks were.

Mr. Bucket, Brading, next-door neighbour of Mrs. White. Opposite Chatsworth Laundry at the bottom of the Broadway was College Farm. Mr. Jones? had this Farm. There were four brothers - one was a coalman and another used to hire out horses and carts to the council. They all worked on their parents' farm. Fields ran up Broadway. Sandown football field was at the back of what is now Morey's Yard. Contact Janes Sandown for details of grandfather's farm (is this Venner's farm?).

Most of Apse Heath belonged to Lord Alverstone's estate. Daffodil Farm area, known locally as "Gallie Horn", belonged to the Church of England church. It was acquired in Victorian times by Admiral Swinburne, uncle to Algernon Swinburne. The original name may have been derived from "Gallie", an old French word used in land measurement, and "horn", referring to the shape of the land behind the farm. Another suggestion is that it referred not to the landscape, but to the "gallie" or gathering horn used by the farmer to gather in the cows at milking time, shades of which are to be found in the nursery rhyme, "Little Boy Blue come blow up your horn, the sheep are in the meadow, the cows are in the corn".

The brickworks, at the end of its working life, was in the hands of Mr. Ern Mew. It was a fairly small concern compared with Hillis or Rookley works and there were large Scotch and clamp kilns.

Clamp kiln. The bricks were fired in an open topped kiln made of unfired bricks which formed the walls, with tunnels or flues left so that the fire could permeate the pile and reached the required temperature. Natural elements, such as wind, gave good flue action. Mrs. Steward who lived close to the site can remember how the sky was lit up by the flames when the bricks were fired. The process would have lasted three weeks.

This method of firing was doomed at the commencement of World War 2. The blackout regulations made open-firing impossible and the cost of constructing a covered kiln was beyond the declining works. To add insult to injury, the large lorry used to transport bricks to building sites was commandeered, or sold at the time of the Dunkirk landing, to transport troops. At about this time, the Pritchett family, from Rookley, bought the brickworks. They *174* did not work them but clearly wanted their brick supplying monopoly to continue. These works were closed in 1939.

It will be appreciated that with such a primitive form of firing, temperatures were often uneven. This gave a tremendous variety of colours. The lower the temperature, the paler the brick. "Best cherry-reds" (the highest fired and therefore hardest and most durable bricks) were used to build "Fairfields", the house almost next door to the brickworks. Sadly, this house, built in 1939 (?) was the last one to be built of "Gallie Horn" bricks.

All that remains of these works is the motor shed (use?) and two small offices at the entrance to the site. The main working area is now a builder's store and yard. (Fence posts - area for storing fired brick prior to transporting? Check). The pits from whence the clay was dug were left and eventually, in 19--, the Steward family, who by that time owned them, dug out the remaining "walls" and the whole is now a large pond of outstanding natural beauty. The pond owes its existence to the dedication of the Stewards and Mr. Dummer, who preserve it, along with part of the brickfield, as a conservation area.

Mr. Hedley Guy worked at Apse Heath. He latterly delivered bricks to sites. Mention Jim Whittington's name also Mrs. Steward. Mr. Guy - article in "Newchurch Remembered". Apse Heath bricks were mainly wire-cut.

Apse Heath turned out both sorts of bricks - kiln and clamp fired. Scotch kiln without chimney - last firing 1939.

Fuel : Best Yorkshire coal was used to fire the kiln bricks. The clamp bricks had coke breeze (cinders) mixed with the clay. 33,000 bricks in clamp. Light a fire at each 175 corner and once the fires are going well, cover the fire with dirt (earth) and let them smoulder for three weeks. The kiln bricks were three day fired. (Red.) Clamp bricks were either red or black, great variation in colour. Mr. Guy used to set kilns for Mr. Mew's father. Bricks were only made in the summer. Clay was dug in winter and put into a heap to mature. Horse-powered pug mill (knives and grinders to reduce the lumps in the clay).

Mrs. Mew (Mr. Mew's mother) still lives in Aps Heath. Janet Tom's (nee Kent) uncle by marriage, William Horsford, born in Aps Heath. At the age of nine he was apprenticed to the brickmaker (maybe Aps Heath?) and was very unhappy. His job was to drive the oxen round and round to work the pug mill. He was desperately unhappy and ran away and the "master" came to take him back, about 1900. (Probably a pug boy).

Mr. Guy. "Scotch" kilns - 40,000 bricks loaded by hand. (See notes from "Newchurch Remembered). Clamp bricks also. "At Aps Heath, we dug black clay for clamps and yellow clay for kiln bricks (better quality). Dug out at face, carted by wheelbarrow, off-loaded onto a big heap near the brickmaking tables, ready for the brickmaking season. As the clay was dug, the distance to the main heap grew and the barrows had to be wheeled along planks laid on wooden trestles. In the middle it was very "springy"!

Sand came from Aps Heath and brick workers helped to dig it out and cart it to the brickyard. When the danger of frost had passed, brickmaking would begin with groups of two or three brickmakers at separate tables. Each individual brickmaker had a pug boy to help him. The pug boy's job was to carve out lumps of clay as it oozed out of the pug mill and carry 176 them to the table where he had to mould them into well shaped lumps, rather like a loaf of bread, then dust the mould with sand (acts as a releasing agent), stand them on edge for the brickmaker to pick up and slam into the metal mould. Pug boys were kept on their toes by the brickmakers. Many local boys, when they left school, got their first job of work as a "pug boy". It was a steady source of employment. The brickmaker having thrown clay into the mould, the base of which was screwed to the table, with removable sides, then scraped off the surplus clay with a wooden scraper dipped in water and with the aid of two boards, (slightly larger in area than the bricks) turned the bricks out of the mould onto a long barrow made of lengthwise slats, known as a "bearing off" barrow which held 32 bricks, and these were wheeled out to the hacks to dry. Wooden covers, shaped like a house roof, were put on top of the bricks to keep them dry and at night hurdles (like sheep hurdles but heavier and which were made at Havenstreet) were placed along the side.

The pug mill was worked by a horse, which went round and round, encircling the mill, pulling a long shaft, which turned the mill shaft slowly, churning up the clay and making it workable. The mill was served by the last member of the team who worked on the clay heap, watering it down each day to keep it malleable and then refilling the mill.

In the early 1930s, the brickmakers were paid 12/6d (62 ½p) per thousand bricks. In a ten hour day, starting at 6:30am, they would reckon to make a thousand bricks. Out of their pay, the brickmakers had to pay their pug boys.

"Old" Ern Mew, the boss, was a quiet man rarely losing his temper - we all worked very well as a team. 177

Apse Heath brickmaking. "Newchurch Remembered" (notes from Mr. Hedley Guy)  
No bricks made during winter months. Clay digging instead or if stormy, general maintenance such as mending the wooden hack covers which kept the rain off the drying bricks before they went into the kiln.

Hedley Guy from Arreton worked on the kiln and clamps when Mr. Guy took over driving the lorry. He was very strong and once wheeled 200 bricks in a "crowding" barrow, a short, finely balanced barrow with a small iron wheel, used for loading and unloading the kiln. The brickmakers were Frank and Edward (Neddy) Peach, both of whom could tell the time of day within a minute without a clock and seemed to be able to smell rain coming long before there were any visible signs. This was very useful in giving a warning to cover the hacks before rain fell. Ernest (Bim) Young and George Squibb worked on the clay heap and looked after the old mill horse, who was just as used to the routine as the men and would do exactly enough to keep the mill going and no more.

George Squibb worked for a winter or two up at the sand pit (Apse Sandpit) but had a bad fall when working on top of the pit and was out of action for several months. Dud (ley) Mew, one of Ern's sons, was one of the greatest leg pullers. Young Ern (another son) once threw a thunder flash into the tunnel under the railway at Apse Corner as Hedley Guy was taking two mill horses (Sandown and Apse Heath horses) over to Apse Manor Farm for their winter rest.

Mrs. Joan Tutton, (Newchurch Remembered) remembers 178 that "my mother was an Attrill (born at Canteen Cottage, approx. 1873) and moved to "Poplar", Sandown Road, Apse Heath, when she was three years old and lived there until she died, 89 years later. (Page 58) The only houses in Apse Heath when my mother was young were the Lodge Chapel Cottages and Brickfield Cottage. Grandmother's sister lived in Brickfield Cottage. Her name was Reeves (of the Reeves family from Langbridge) who had married William Thompson who was the man I understand first worked Apse Heath Brickyard. Alderman Thompson. Mr. Ern Mew lost two of his sons, Charlie and Jack, in World War I (1917-18). (Page 61) Ventnor Road was, in 1902, known as Brickyard Road. "Pug boy" for Apse Heath Brickyard, W. A. Hutchins, 12, Cypressus (*sic*) Avenue, Winford, last one left. Just moved back to the Island from the mainland. 865762.

Mrs. Hunt. Chimneys on Lodge rebuilt; each brick numbered. Very thin glass. She is absolutely certain that the bricks came from Apse Heath. (Original house 1600 and something). I don't think they came from Apse Heath as the chimneys have embossed animals around the top. Possibly the same as Lisle Combe, St. Lawrence?) Mrs. Hunt believes that her home is one of Appuldurcombe's estate Lodges. The bricks are more likely to have come from Newtown or Ningwood or Hillis.

*Added note:* - The chimney bricks came from Newtown not Apse Heath. I believe this cottage to be the boundary lodge of Apse Manor.

*Jill, Should it be Hutchins or Hutchings?*

**RED FILE.**

**PART TWO.**

PAGES 179 TO END

Mr. Hutchings (pug boy at Apse Heath brickworks)

Educated at Newchurch School. In 1931, aged 14, went to work for Apse Heath Brickyard. Lived at Branstone, opposite farm. Only one of the three cottages left. Ernest Mew lived in Victoria Villas (practically opposite Brickyard entrance). Two sons, Ern & Dudley, lived in semi-detached "Inverary" "Ross Spey" next to father. Where bungalows are now (left-hand side of Ventnor Road) is where the bricks were dried. Main gates still there. Brickyard Cottage on left as you go in the main entrance. Before Brickyard Cottage was built, there were stables and a smallholding. Gave owner stables for a club for the men of Apse Heath.

Sand house - sand dry. Fireplace to keep sand dry. All handmade bricks.

Stile - over stile, go straight across, there were two tables with two brickmakers. Frank Peach (Jack Laver's Uncle) was brickmaker and Bill Hutchings was his pug boy (at 14 years) when he first went there. Frank lived in what is now Mr. Moore's house, "Fox Run". Fred Lavers brought up by Uncle and Aunt (so probably inherited it?). Jack Lavers has a photograph of Bill when Bill first worked there.

The "wheeler in" put the clay into the mill (two levels) bottom level prepared, top where it was mixed with water) (*sic*). Horse to drive pug mill. Clay came out in reasonable condition ready for brickmaking. Consistency vital to good brickmaking - too soft bricks "sat down" when lifted (dropped) from mould; too hard - bad shape wouldn't "fit" mould.

Mould table - "frog", rectangular piece of wood secured to bench, screwed at each corner. The pug boy's job was to carry the clay from the mill to the brickmaker and shape it up. The mould (in the form of a loose-sided wooden box without a top or bottom) was placed over the frog. (*Drawing in margin.*) 180

Scotch kiln. As large as an average bungalow. Four walls about four foot thick with six flues. Burnt brick walls. Open top. When the bricks were loaded the fires were lit - best house coal. Small fires to start with, gradually built up to a peak of three or four feet high. The smell was terrible and no chimney! The top was open until three days firing was finished then burnt brick used to cover top and fire holes covered to prevent bricks splitting as they cooled with cold air.

Bricks from Apse Heath. School Lane, Newchurch top of the Lane (shop side) 6 (3 semi detached) cottages all built with Apse Heath bricks. Bill, as a schoolboy had lifts on the "brick" lorry so he remembers them delivering brick (about 1927-8.)

Hand made bricks have "sand folds " on them. These were caused by over-sanding of the mould. The moulds were wetted by hand and then dipped in a fine layer of sand. The pug boy made a "waulk", a dummy brick.. Pulled off clay from the heap banged it down onto the table and pulled it towards you, pressed in the sides, slightly tapered, turned it round, dropped it again and stood it up. Rough size. Brickmaker used "striker" to remove excess. Pug boy had to catch this and return it to pile. If over sanded then the brick "took up" the sand in thin lines and when burnt, the bricks wouldn't show this, but once built, the weather would take out the sand and leave thin ridges or "sand folds". Pug boys were told off if this happened. (Look at the cottages in School Lane. They have them.)

Another thing - four screws had to get these absolutely level (in the frog) otherwise the brick would be wedge-shaped. Sometimes this can be seen. (*There is a diagram in margin*) Frog smaller than mould. 181. Bricks at Apse Heath weren't marked.

Hurdles made of split hazel were used to protect drying bricks from rain also to stop sand blowing in brickmaker's face, as he worked.

Once the bricks had been made, they were put on a "bearing off barrow " - a long barrow with one wheel in centre-front and two handles, twelve foot or so, at back. This could carry two rows of bricks and it was wheeled to where they were dried. From the mould - pick it up quickly, holding it sideways (as there was no top or bottom) bring the mould onto the bearing off barrow on the brickmaker's left, place a board on bottom where frog was turn mould back to the correct side, lift the mould off and there it was on the bearing off barrow, which held sixteen a side - thirty-two all told. Then wheel barrow to hack. Place a board on top, pick up underneath with top board - like sandwich. Turn it sideways place on hack (about 1000 bricks in one hack) leaving half an inch between (the width of the board roughly, so place on next to neighbouring brick and then slide out board. By the time the bottom (or end of long hack was reached) the bricks at the other end would be dry enough to support the next layer. Seven layers high. On top of hacks placed covers and hurdles all way down the sides, *(There is a diagram in the text.)* 1. to protect from rain . 2. to allow wind/air to dry bricks.

On bearing off barrow of 32 bricks, couldn't wheel it too fast, if you did the bricks "sat down" and got thinner. Also the barrows would "whip" as they were so long. Pug mill with horse; at the bottom, level with 182. horse's feet was the pug hole where prepared pug came out. Inside the pug mill was a shaft with four large blades chopping up the clay. Pug hole about 18 inch square. Tool 18 inch long on bottom an arch, used to push it down to catch it and then carry it to the brickmaker's table. The "wheeler-in" (man who put clay into pug) had to add just the right amount of water otherwise clay was too wet (bricks "sat" or too dry (wouldn't mould properly). At Apse Heath was just water (for kiln bricks) and for clamps one barrowload of clay and breeze shaken on top and mixed by pug mill. Some yards added sand to clay if necessary.

**Queen Bower Yard. SZ 568847**

Old track to Yard off road leading to Winford at Queen's Bower. Not exactly sure of location yet. 1909 Newchurch parish map.

Four cottages "Corney's Corner" built of Queen Bower brick.

("Newchurch Remembered" under "Sandown", see Mr. Alfred Corney, born 1882, brickmaker (possibly a builder later). Maybe built "Corney's Corner" houses.

T.C. Hudson - Skinner's Grove, Newchurch - very close to Queen Bower, might be the same one? Skinner's Grove may be at the end (Queen Bower) of Skinner's Lane. We approached it from Borthwood Lane. There is a "Grove" or valley-like dip in the woods at this point, very close to Borthwood Kennels. Maybe this is the site? No. Opposite bungalows Alverstone side of Queen Bower Dairy. Mr. Hutchings thinks Queen Bower Brick Yard probably preceded Apse Heath Yard.

12.3.90. Radio Solent broadcast from Queen Bower dairy. Mr. Jack Reed, the owner, said that his grandfather ran the brickyard which is on the side of the dairy - Queen Bower Brick Yard. (Phone him first). May have photos of Yard.

October 1990. Interview with Mr. William (Jack) Reed. Run by Mr. William Reed (Jack's grandfather) round about 1890's or earlier, finished 1919-20. Mainly clamp bricks made here. Jack's father was a brickmaker and also a slaughterman. Jack is the fourth generation of dairymen to have lived and worked at Queen Bower. The farmhouse is very old and has associations with Isabella de Fortibus. The present farmhouse was her hunting lodge and was called after her (as "Queen of Island") Queen Bower. The Reed family were tenant farmers of Lord Alverstone. It was part of the Alverstone Estate. The Alverstone Estate was sold in 1919 so the yard probably ceased in about 1925 or slightly earlier.

Jack's grandson (also William) is fifth generation. All the bricks that were used in chimney linings, footings etc., garden walls, all came from Queen Bower (and, I suspect, many other yards.) for the Royal National Hospital at St Lawrence.

Carted the coal for firing from Ventnor Street? in horses and carts (probably hired carters out to Queen Bower and take a load of bricks back in return for the hospital, early 1870's. Had two kilns (square with flues) Scotch presume, for facing bricks but the majority were clamps. Dug clay actually in brickfield. Had their own 90 feet well for water supply. The dairy yard had another. Very pure water. (93 feet deep).

The brick kiln left a slight dip in the field (base of clamp?). Reed family ran the Brickyard as a family business. Grandfather started it and the son took over (Jack's father). He too was a brickmaker and also a slaughterman at other times. Brickmaking was a summer occupation. Worked it in with farm work. A lovely story of Jack's father. He visited lots of farms as a slaughterman and used to take young Jack with him in the cart. One Christmas, they went over to 185. Branstone Farm. Invited father in to have a drink of mead (made with honeycomb) which was very potent. It was nice and warm in the farmhouse. Eventually they went out to look over the pigsty. Father says to the farmer, "Which one do you want me to kill?" This was the effect of the mead! There was only one pig in there. So he went home and came back another day! The farmer laughed, "There's only one pig in there, you fool!"

Made brick and drainage tiles - has given me a sample. Size of a brick but roughly hollow. Jack thought it must be a field drain but I reckon it is more likely to be an air brick for house building. Very hard fired indeed. Hand-mades only.

When the estate was sold, presumably Jack's father bought the farm - not sure could still be rented? Showed me an estate map of 1920 of Lord Alverstone's estate and the lots to be sold coloured in various colours. It shows the site of the two wells and the dairy.

Up until a few years ago they had a lot of the old machinery and moulds; however, they got thrown out. Jack regrets that now. They never had any machinery for wire-cuts. Only simple stuff. I forgot to ask him if they had a horse-operated pug mill or merely used to tread it. No moulds left. Bricks? They are demolishing pigsties, probably made of their own brick.

A lot of farm buildings were built by Linington's of Wroxall who did a lot of work for the Alverstone Estate for Lord Alverstone. Jack thinks that Queen Anne was Isabella de Fortibus (is this right?) Or maybe related to her. Ask Tom Witherby for his paper on her. If not she might well have been 186. known as the "Queen" of the Isle of Wight. She had a hunting lodge down the road on a hill called Bower Hill about 1260. She moved the lodge to the site of the farmhouse and built a lodge there which is now Queen Bower Farmhouse, to which a brick wing has been added (the original being white chalk and local stone). That's where the name comes from.

Jack has been a dairyman for 55 years and began as a boy. He left school at the age of ten years old and went out with a bucket of milk on a bike and sold four pints the first day. From then until now, he worked up the dairy to a 100 head of cattle. Six men worked for him on three rounds. Sheer hard work. Up at 4:30 am even today.

The brickyard had two brickmakers who worked night shifts for kiln stoking and then went on to do a days work on the farm. Half a night shift each.

Photograph of Jack's cousin's wedding (cousin lives next door) in 1917, shows all the Reed family. Grandfather Reed died in 1917 and the yard continued under his son.

In the photos, the man on the extreme left (sitting) is Jack's father. Grandfather is the third one, second row, with his wife sitting in front, on the left.

Possibly the extension to the house was built about this time for the young couple?? If so, then it would be built of Queen Bower brick. The other elderly couple on the right-hand side were uncle Arch's mum and dad.

Corney as families are all Queen Bower people (sic). 187. Alfred Corney? Skinner's Farm owned by W. A. Corney now called Hilltop. Grandson now running the farm. He had a blacksmith's, never heard that he had any thing to do with brick making. (The name of Corney was told to me by Mr. Record as the member ran Bettesford Road Yard at Ryde). There is also an allusion to Alfred Corney as a brickmaker in "Newchurch Remembered".

Ralph's father was a blacksmith, nothing to do with bricks. Could be Corneys at Sandown? Maud Redstone of The Briars, The Broadway, now 100 years old, is the last of the Sandown Corneys who used to have the newsagents.

The clay was dug from the pit during winter and left in a large heap to weather. Also, clay was dredged out from the bottom of the well and put in a separate pile and that he would soon be covered with charlick! Seed from down the bottom of the well. They didn't put breeze in, only in clamps, not in "Scotch" fired brick. Just local clay.

## **BRICK MAKING IN WOOTTON**

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As many local gardeners are all too well aware, there is a great deal of clay earth in this area. The “Geology of the Isle of Wight”<sup>1</sup> refers to considerable deposits of sandy clay on the West Bank of Wootton Creek, in some places up to 30 feet deep, as well as other deposits on the Eastern Bank. This clay was highly prized as brick earth and we may well believe that bricks have been made in this area for some centuries.

The first documented evidence of brickmaking in Wootton is dated 1703. A lease of that date between Thomas Jolliffe and John Lisle, for Wootton Farm <sup>2</sup>contains a clause permitting the tenant to let 2 acres of land for brickmaking. This implies that in fact some brickmaking was already in progress, though possibly not as a business. In 1775 we find a reference to a brick kiln in an Assignment of land to one John Dunning. A later Indenture referring to the same property describes its location. The borders of the property were, on the South, Bridge Mead, and on the West, Brick Kiln Butts. Bridge Mead was the site where the Old School in New Road was built, which puts Brick Kiln Butts close to the School, possibly at the foot of what is now St Edmund's Walk, and probably to the West of what is now New Road, neither of which existed then.

No brickmakers appear in the 1841 Census returns for Wootton, but by 1851 two brickmakers, Stephen Wright and Stephen Thompson are listed. A William Light, lodger at Wootton Bridge Post Office, is recorded as a brickmaker's labourer, as are John Mew and James Mackett. At least one brickyard big enough to employ nine men existed. John Bignell appears to have been the owner or foreman. The tenant of Wootton Farm owned a brickyard, though its location is unknown. The Churchwarden's Account Books for this period record that, from 1853-1856 the tenant Thomas Cooper was paying Church Rate on a brickyard, as did the next tenant, William Groves, from 1857-1859.

This was a period when Wootton began to expand, with presumably a demand for bricks to build with. By 1861 <sup>3</sup>there seems to have been one main brickmaking firm, Hobbs and Co., which may have employed the eight men recorded as brickmakers. According to the 1871 Census returns Hobbs and Co. were employing three men, and by 1881 ten men. The 1862 Ordnance Survey map shows widespread activity. There was a clay mill and kilns on the green to the rear of the Mill, clay pits to the West of what is now New Road at its Southern end and more clay pits and a brick and tile works at Lamblease Coppice on the site of what is now Little Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> Bristow 1889

<sup>2</sup> Wh/P 2207

<sup>3</sup> 1861 census

189. By the end of the century the site at the southern end of New Road was occupied by housing. Though the population of Wootton remained small by present day standards at 134, it had still doubled between 1850 and 1900. The new houses would most probably have been built with local brick. The brickyard at Lambslease Coppice was still operating, as was the one at Ashlake on the eastern side of the Creek. This still existed in 1909, as the bricks used to construct St. Mark's church came from there.

An elderly resident writing in the 1970's, in the Parish magazine, recalled that in the early part of the century the brickyard was run by two brothers named Cotton<sup>4</sup>. The 1871 Census records a John and Harry Cotton, brickmakers, working for Hobbs and Co. The Cotton brothers possibly took over the brickyard on the death of William Hobbs in 1903 (Parish Register).

The 1908 Ordnance Survey shows brickyards at Ashlake and Lambslease Coppice, but by 1912 the New Road site may have closed. Kelly's Directory for 1912 lists only Edgar Jenkins at Ashlake. There is no mention of brickmaking in Wootton in subsequent editions, though an article on Little Canada states that brickmaking was still being carried on in the 1920's, the brick being laid out to dry around the area of the present swimming pool.<sup>5</sup> The brickyard was certainly defunct by 1923. When George Burgess, the last owner, died in January of that year, his obituary stated that the brickyard was no longer operating<sup>6</sup>. The site is listed as the Old Brickworks in a 1927 sales catalogue for the Holford estate, to which it still belonged. The site, both the old brickworks and the rest of Lambslease, was bought in 1927 by a Mr. Bertram Hill.

By 1930, however, this use of the site had definitely come to an end when a Mr. Howarth bought the site and began to build holiday lodges.

Jill Billingsley and Doreen Gazey, for the Wootton Millennium Project

*Note attached, "Doreen Gazey is the Archivist for Wootton."*

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<sup>4</sup> Old Wootton Bridge  
<sup>5</sup> Old Wootton Bridge  
<sup>6</sup> County Press 6.1.1923

Wootton (either Shore Copse or Lambslease)

**28.2 or 28.3**

Crunches. Cliff Matthews confirms that there was one here.

Fred Wheeler, Dore's Hill, (Bridlesford) Wootton. Contact him (friend of Cliff's). He would know if there was another one above the Bridge in the Wootton area. Mr. Edward Class, New Road, Wootton, would know about King's Quay. (He owns King's Quay, I think.) Cliff remembers King's Quay when he was a boy. He can't remember any signs of an old brickyard, it would have been a long time ago. He can't remember a lane or a "way in".

Mr. Moore - marked on the map "Ashlake" and Crunches.

Wootton brickmakers - see Hilary Lloyd's list filed in metal box file.

1851. Mill Brickworks, operator - John Bignell, employing nine labourers.

1871. William J. Hobbs, operator, employing three men and one boy.

1895. William J. Hobbs still there. New Road, Wootton Bridge.

Spreets. (Wootton)

Site on Parish of Binstead Map, 1909.

Cliff Matthews was one at Spreets - confirmed.

Mr. Moore confirmed.

Not working in Mr. Moore's time so it must have closed about 1910, certainly before the First World War. However, as Mr. Moore can remember Ashlake closing in 1910 it would seem that it closed before this. He remembers it as a derelict yard in 1910.

Ashlake. (Wootton.) SZ 551 924

3.2

Site on Parish of Binstead map, 1909.  
T.C Hudson (known as Ash Lodge in 1862.)

Cliff Matthews

Chris Matthews knows Ashlake Farm people. He will contact owners. Possibly some traces of yard left.

Mr. Moore.

Edgar Jenkins, a builder from Newport, ran this. He was a builder for the new Abbey and Quarr Abbey. Probably some of the bricks came from here. Closed in 1910.

Contact Mr. Alfie H. Sheath of Ashlake Lane. He may know about the brickyard.

King's Quay.

26 . 2

On Parish map, 1909, "Brick Kiln Copse" is noted.

T.W. Shore, 1890 "Osborne Beds of 100 feet thick green and red clay, and marl, exposed at Whitecliff Bay, Seaview , King's Quay and other parts of the Isle of Wight... the only localities in which these clays appear to have been used for brickmaking is near Newtown.

Maybe the brickworks was already disused by 1890.

Isle of Wight Observer, July 6th, 1867.

**17 . 3**

Opening of the Winstone brick pits and siding. Details of a dinner at Marine Hotel, Shanklin. (Not much about brickmaking.)

Winstone.

## 17.3

These works go back a long way. Situate beyond Winstone Farm. The lane leading to them turns under the railway embankment through the beautiful brick bridge and onto the side of a hill. Here are the clay pits of the Winstone works. These are now owned by the Isle of Wight County Council and were used in 19--? as a dumping ground for rubbish and filled. There is no evidence of any buildings and the whole site is overgrown with brushwood. Yet this site once supplied brick for buildings several miles away.

Daffodil Farm in Apse Heath is a collection of old stone buildings which, like so many in the Isle of Wight, have bricks incorporated with the stone. Two of these buildings began life as a farm labourer's cottage and a Carter's cottage. The mason's initials, W.R., (William Russell) and the date of 1766 are clearly visible. Research has revealed that the brick used in these cottages came from Winstone brickworks. This being the case, it is reasonable to assume that the splendid brick railway bridges found in the vicinity of Winstone, were built of brick from these works.

Harry Booth thinks that the brickworks were closed about 100 years ago and that there was a railway siding to it?

Winstone clay pits was used as a rubbish dump until Nettlestone was opened. The area around Winstone was known as "Woodlands".

Winstone brick in pillar of edge of railway bridge is 8 x 4 x 2½ inches. Normal size in main bridge.

Mr. Moore can remember Winstone Brickyard before World War I. It closed long before 1914. He can't remember Wroxall Yard at all. The house next to Mr. Moore is built of Winstone bricks. 196 Lots of houses in Apse Heath are built of Winstone brick. (Horse and cart delivery) 3 tons is the approximate weight of 1000 bricks. It took a long time to cart bricks before lorries and the railway.

Mr. Moore.

Apse Heath house next to Mr. Moore's was built of Winstone bricks. It was going strong quite early on in the century, or the late 1800's. Can't remember when it closed.

Wroxall SZ 551 803

17.4

Harry Wallis, who lives in Yarborough Road, told me that he could remember when Yarborough Road was a much shorter road than it is today. When Harry was a boy, (he was born in 1905) he recalls leaning on a five-bar gate at the end of an unmade track and looking at the remains of the brick field which he thinks must have closed down in about 1900. Bricks were fired in open kilns in the field near the clay pits. Harry remembers seeing a square patch in the middle of the field where the bricks were piled up for firing. (Clamp, I suspect.)

Sadly, there are no buildings left, cows graze the meadow and the small development of houses covers the pit where the clay was dug.

Mr.s Jefferies

She can remember, as a child living in Yarborough Road, being sent to play "down the brickyard". It was disused then but the ridges where the clay was dug are still visible. (Check where the clay pit was.) Her grandfather used to talk about the yard.

Geology. T.W. Shore, (1890) ... "the gault clay is 100 feet thick at Compton and is worked for brickmaking at Wroxall and Bierley.

Newbridge. (Possibility)

(Mr.s Joan Roberts) It is likely that there was a brick field here. The houses are all brick in the village. Joan's cottage is 17th-century brick.

Near Dodpits Farm? See Pritchetts black file, Ref: white clay dug at Quarry Lane.

*Loose note found adjacent to this page:-*

Mr. Sloper - Apes Down Brickyard. Four men – two brickmakers and two pug boys and Mr. Sloper, aged 14.

For three weeks in the summer holiday he worked there, in 1924. It was a Scotch kiln. It closed because the clay had too much chalk mixed with it. Not very successful bricks. His brother worked there.

Ningwood.

22 . 4

Cook's Copse, Ningwood, site identified on 1909 Shalfleet Parish Map. It had a railway siding to the yard. Mr. Barton is sure that Mr. Dowty ran this. (Possibly manager rather than owner?) Owners, as yet, unknown.

Mr. Moore. Second yard to have wire-cut machinery in around the 1870's or 1880's. Very big yard. Mr. Dowty, from Freshwater, ran Ningwood.

Francis Pritchett. 1939. (From manuscript.)

George Pritchett between 1830 and 1840, carried on a successful business at Ningwood (presumably the proprietor or lessee). The yard is easily discernible by its well built house, it's brick built entrance and the old clay pits ... indicating, by the extensive excavation, the amount of business which passed through it. George Pritchett married, around 1812 or 1813, Nancy Hallett of Warlands Farm. They had two sons and two daughters. White bricks were in much demand on the Island and also on the mainland. Bricks were taken by road to Yarmouth (the Freshwater to Newport Railway was not opened until 1889). They were loaded onto barges and shipped to Shoreham Harbour and then carried by road to Brighton to build seafront hotels.

The first machine to make agricultural drainpipes in the Isle of Wight came to Ningwood about this time, around 1840. Up until then they had been made by hand-moulding, in two separate parts and were known as "horseshoe" drainpipes and tiles.

Ningwood bricks also built the first prison on the Isle of Wight, at Horsebridge Hill (now demolished).

Transportation of bricks and the availability of coal for firing 200 were major problems. Horses and wagons had to be hired from nearby farmers. Coal had to be transported from Yarmouth Quay to fire the kilns (it doesn't sound as though they burnt clamps?). Eventually, the problem was solved, through the fortuitous marriage of George's son, Edmund. Edmund, at the age of 19, married Elizabeth Long, daughter of John Long of Bonchurch. Elizabeth's father died at the age of 44 and she was brought up by her uncle, who was an officer in the army and lived at Span Farm, Wroxall. She used to visit Warlands Farm at Shalfleet, and there she met Edmund, who lived at the nearby Brickyard house.

George Pritchett at this time, around 1835, took over the tenancy of Eades Farm, Newbridge. Edmund and Elizabeth moved there and undertook the management of the farm. They had a fine team of working horses which were used for allowing. They were also used to transport bricks from the brickyard. A lovely story – Edmund's team of horses to load of 1000 bricks in a wagon from Ningwood to the prison building at Horsebridge Hill. At the end of the journey, they were the only team of horses strong enough to draw this load from the road, across the intervening soft field, to the prison site!

It was at Eade's Farm on November 18th, 1836, that their son, William, was born to Edmund and Elizabeth. In the course of the next ten years, whilst living at the farm, another son, Frank and three daughters were added to the family.

The Ningwood Brickworks, during this period, had set a very high standard of quality of white brickmaking. The elder Mr. Pritchett (George's father) died. He had

come to Ningwood from the neighbourhood of Salisbury, to visit George and his family and also his daughter who was the wife of the foreman of Exbury Brickyard, near Beaulieu. 201 however, illness overtook him and he died and was buried in Exbury churchyard.

Isle of Wight Village Book (page 37)

"From 1905 to 1929, Dowty's Brickyard was working on a site on the northern edges of the village. Its tall chimney was demolished when war was imminent, as being too clear a landmark for enemy planes. Now all that remains are two large, overgrown ponds where the clay was dug."

Mr. Moore.

Mr. Dowty ran Ningwood and supplied a lot of bricks when Freshwater was being developed. It had a siding and very modern plant and machinery.

Apes Down, Calbourne. SZ 456 877

9.1

Ref. Mr. Les Flux of Bowcombe.

Mr. Marsh of Christchurch managed this brickyard. He worked for Swainston Estate, on whose behalf the yard was opened. It opened in 1932 and worked until 1937 but was never financially viable.

Raw material.

Came from site. Clay pit on edge of brickfield.

Workers.

Mr. Marsh was the manager. Several chaps from Gunville worked here; Jack Bradley, Tom Ash. All manual labour. Very little machinery. Dug clay by spade and carted in barrows.

Firing.

It was probably a Scotch kiln as it was built into a bank. Bricks were loaded from top. It had tunnels, or flues, underneath where they put the coal to fire it. When Les Flux (upon whose farmland it had been placed) demolished the kiln in 1955, it was still full of unfired bricks that had been there since 1937. He buried them all in the old clay pit which was used as a rubbish tip. This was situated directly behind the barn (that is still standing there, 1991). "When we dug all the bricks out, in the bottom was a mass of adders which had made their home among the cracks and fallen tunnels." 203

Tenancy.

Part of Swainston estate. Park Farm left to Mr. Les Flux. The Estate Manager told Les that they needed to take part of his field to use as a brickyard as there was a good supply of clay there and it was near the road. It may have been opened just for the building needs of the estate, or maybe as a profitable venture. However, it wasn't a commercial success. There were not more than four workers. Possibly a 12,000 brick chamber.

Mr. Woodward used to work here. (Ref: Mr. Easen, brickmaker).

Bouldnor Copse.

22 . 5

Information from John Paton, September 1996.

1903 OS map shows "disused" brickworks (inland).

A stone and brick pier was built at Bouldnor around 1899 by De Morgan, an entrepreneur, who bought and advertised land for sale. It was described in 1898 as "Bouldnor by the sea".

Shipped from London to the Isle of Wight, 400 people, offering them land at £400 to £500 per acre. The "ultimate luxury estate" to be built. There were few, if any, takers. Ancient antler picks have been found here. Were they manufactured on the beach like Wootton?

Personal.

Joe Whittington worked at Gunville in the 1930s.

Mr. Eric Reynolds (526094) knows a lot about Rookley machinery - needs a visit with a tape recorder.

Mr. Butchers looked after the brickmaking machine. He had an accident and lost an arm.

205 An old Tudor shipwreck in Osborne Bay lies at Barton boundary with Wootton. John tied a red plastic bucket to the tree opposite. Exposed between high and low water (at dead low Spring).

John Paton has a photo of the stone pier at Bouldnor, 50 years ago. It shows remains of an old brick buttress and a kind of platform, spanning the pier and the remains of "prop".

The 1843 Tithe map shows the owner of the land to be Philip Edward Farnell (rent for brickyard).

Bouldnor Brickfield, Shalfleet.

Site taken from parish map, 1909 (Mr. Barton). The builders, James Ball Ltd, had an interest in this brickyard. There used to be a landing quay on the beach. Parts of the stone wall are still visible. Coal barges brought fuel (coal and coke breeze) and took away loads of bricks. \*This yard was established by the Pritchett's of Hillis, etc. in 1866. It was probably taken over by James Ball when they bought out Hillis.

"Island Life" July 1990. Article on Bouldnor brickyard.

Cranmore. (Airfield Area)

\*as above.

*Accompanying note on piece of paper:-*

*"Peter Kingston, of Kingston and Grist, Yarmouth, (grandson?) of Frank Kelly who worked at Bouldnor brickyard?"*

*Mr. Roland Bundy - grandfather and great-grandfather worked at Bouldnor brickyard (1850)."*

207.

North of Lucketts Farm.

1909 Shalfleet Parish Map. Disused even in 1909.

Brickmaking.Materials.

Bricks are made chiefly from clay and shale. Clay is a plastic earth which is constituted largely of sand and alumina and may also contain chalk, iron, manganese dioxide etc. Shale is a layered deposit of clay rock which is capable of being reduced to a plastic condition when broken or ground up. Bricks have, in the past, come in many sizes largely due to being hand made. However, with the exception of early bricks such as Roman and Medieval, the approximate size was governed by convenience of handling, and most bricks were of a size that could be easily held in one hand. They were usually about nine inches long and half as wide and approximately  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick.

Although burnt clay bricks were the norm, sand and lime was sometimes used to make bricks which were of a reasonably durable nature. These were often called "white" bricks, being a dark cream colour.

Manufacture.

Bricks are moulded, either by machinery or by hand. With the advent of fast tunnel kilns and constant demand, very few bricks are now hand-made except in exceptional circumstances. The processes are still the same as in the 19th century, only the methods have changed. The basic processes are: 1. preparation of the brick earth, 2. moulding, 3. drying and 4. burning.

Preparation.

Clay is always improved by maturation which is achieved by excavating it and leaving it to the elements. Frost and rain breaks up the clay. In the 19th century, the maturing clay was worked over repeatedly with a spade, large stones were picked out and it was tempered into a plastic, homogenous paste, before being placed, in the Spring, into the pug mill. Sometimes, the excavated clay was crushed in a stone crusher to reduce it to better condition for the maturing process. The pug mill consisted of a cylinder, having rotating knives or cutters working spirally and pressing the clay down to the bottom of the cylinder. This thoroughly mixes the clay and "de-airs" it, thus increasing its plasticity. The prepared clay was conveyed by rollers and forced through an opening of the required size, in a solid, rectangular stream, which was cut into bricks by wires working transversely. Sometimes the wire cutting was done by hand.

"Rubbers" are bricks made from pure clay, specially refined, and are "rubbed" into wedge shapes for arches. Mr. Barton used to have to rub these down when he worked at Hillis (Newchurch Remembered, page 104).

Bricklayer's rates (after four years apprenticeship) in 1928:- £1.10s 0d (£1.50) a week. "Wet time" was docked. Whilst apprenticed, wages were 4s 6d per week (22½p).

Mortar was mixed on-site and made of lime and sand. Bricks were delivered on the site by carts or lorry and had to be carried to the bricklayer by his labourer who would use a carrying hod. Scaffolding was made of wood.

Mr. David Stotesbury.

Ref chimney building :- circular chimneys. Animals and birds on the header end. Fine examples on Lisle Combe chimneys. Harbour Master's old office, South Gable chimneys with cows, sheep etc. etc. Tapered.

Bricks. General information.

(Ref Collins Field Guide to Archaeology, Eric S. Wood, FSA. Collins, 1963 page 275.)

1. Roman bricks were made in many sizes and variations were inevitable. Shrinking of 10 percent of dimensions apart from the effect of hand making. Ordinary, small bricks are  $5 \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 1$  to  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  inches. Wall courses were often  $17 \times 11$  inches and other shapes were quadrants and hexagons. Roman bricks have a smooth, rather soapy feel, being fired less hard (high-temperature) than modern ones. Brickmaking died out with the Romans and was reintroduced from Flanders in about 1220. Flanders sizes initially were  $10 \frac{1}{2}$  to  $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 5$  to  $6 \times 1 \frac{3}{4}$  to  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  inches. Later, they became smaller,  $8$  to  $9 \frac{3}{4} \times 3 \frac{3}{4}$  to  $4 \frac{1}{4} \times 1 \frac{3}{4}$  to  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Dutch bricks, from about 1400, were  $6$  to  $8 \times 3$  to  $3 \frac{3}{4} \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$  to  $1 \frac{3}{4}$  inches. Until the 16th century there was no particular standard and the brick described as Tudor was in use until the 18th century. Several attempts were made to regulate brick sizes and to increase them. 1571 -  $9 \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{3}{4}$  inches. 1625 -  $9 \times 4 \frac{1}{4} \times 2 \frac{1}{4}$  inches. 1725 -  $9 \times 4 \frac{3}{4} \times 2 \frac{3}{4}$  inches. The size cannot, however, be reliable evidence of the date. The present size (1963) is usually  $9 \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$  inches, but there are still variations - length now  $8 \frac{3}{4}$  inches, width  $4 \frac{3}{16}$  inches but thickness varies,  $2 \frac{5}{8}$  inches in the South,  $2 \frac{7}{8}$  inches in the North and from  $1 \frac{3}{4}$  to  $3 \frac{3}{8}$  inches in Birmingham and up to  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  inches in Scotland. Small yellow bricks were  $6 \times 3 \times 1$  inch in the late 17th century.

2. Odham's Practical and Technical Encyclopaedia, Odham's Press (no date, approx. 1935).

Most type of bricks have a frog or a hollow on one surface, intended to hold the mortar and form a better key for building purposes. (Check modern brick today. Two frogs?)

Common Bricks. Large selection - machine pressed, wire cut, and hand made (such as stocks, Flettons and local bricks of many varieties). Bricks of this kind may either be clamp burnt or kiln burnt. Facing bricks can be sand-faced reds, purples, 211 greys and multicoloured bricks made from malm or prepared marl and used for facing walls.

British Standard Specification, No 657 (1936). Dimensions of Clay Facing and Backing Bricks. The standard sizes of bricks may be taken as  $8 \frac{3}{4} \times 4 \frac{1}{16} \times 2 - 2 \frac{5}{8}$ , or  $2 \frac{7}{8}$  inches in height with a toleration of  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch in height and width and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in length. The best pressed bricks and wire cuts weigh from 7 to 8 lb. each, common stock bricks from 6 to 7 lb. each and Fletton bricks from 5 to 6 lb. each. Engineering bricks (hard baked, vitrified Staffordshire blues. Southwater and Accrington types - damp resistant).

The arrangement and massing of bricks in such a manner as to make them into a continuous wall by lapping them over each other, is known as a bond. The principal kinds of bond are:

1. English Bond consisting of alternate courses of headers and stretchers.
2. Flemish Bond (double) consisting of headers and stretchers (alternate) in the same course, on both sides of wall.

*Jill, there are some pencil drawings to illustrate the bonds.*

3. Flemish Bond (single) consisting of headers and stretchers (alternate) in each course on the outside face of wall and alternate courses of headers and stretchers on the inside of the wall.

4. Rat Trap for garden walls. "Brick on edge" bond for nine inch garden wall. Bricks laid on edge with intervals of headers.

\*Mortar in brickwork is not so much for bonding as for evening out differences of brick size to enable a level course to be laid. Mortar to keep the bricks apart.

"Rubbers". Handmade bricks large for segmental arches, cut to size after firing. 14 - 15 inches long, diagonal corner to corner.

"Soaps" used at foundation level under plinth around the house. 6 to 6 ½ inches wide on bed.

Limekilns. (Mr. Barton, Lime Merchant)

Mersley, Newchurch - Gilbert and Ted Barton, top of hill leading to Mersley Down.

Brading. (Cement Works)

Carisbrooke. (Nunnery Lane area)

Whitepit Lane. (Top caravan site)

Shide. (Under St George's Down)

Northwood.

Shorwell.

Brighstone.

Ventnor. (Pit Farm, Wroxall Road)

Ventnor. (Folly Cottage Garden)

(From Newchurch Remembered, page 68)

Mersley, Newchurch - Percy Bucket burned the lime and Dicky Dove, who lived in the lower of the Mersley cottages, drove the lorry delivering the lime.

Burning process: first, a layer of wood was put in the kiln, then a layer of coke and then a layer of chalk followed by successive layers of coke and chalk until the kiln was full. The wood was fired and the kiln would burn for about four days, after which the lime was drawn out from the bottom. The process went on for weeks on end.

Notes (continued) from "Dwellings. The House Across the World".

More efficient and much larger is the Bull's trench type of kiln. Unlike the clamp type of kiln which often needs re firing and which has to be totally dismantled to obtain the bricks, the trench kiln operates continually. A deep channel, roughly circular in plan, takes the bricks, which are stacked so as to permit the flow of air. The bricks are removed as they are fired and fresh ones, ready for firing, are stacked in turn. Fuelled from above, through holes in the covering clay layer, the fire travels slowly round the trench, a light chimney, made perhaps from oil drums, being manually moved above it. As the trench is, in effect, a ring, this can be an unending process. A daily output of 10,000 bricks is not unusual in northern India.

Notes from "A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. (Edited Pamela Moore. Publisher: Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group. 1984)

The Hoffman Kiln.

Much larger than a Scotch kiln. It is made of burnt brick with steel supports banded with iron straps. It contains a series of chambers to which, by means of "baffles", the fire can be introduced in turn. A Hoffman kiln is shaped like an elongated circle with a number of "ports". As the heat travels round, it is used to dry "green" bricks awaiting firing.

Dome Kiln.

Dome shaped, downdraught variety is still in use at Michelmarsh (Hampshire). Nowadays, oil fired. Approximately 20 foot in diameter, holding between 35-38,000 bricks at one firing. 215.

More Notes on Clamp Kiln. (From Pamela Moore, "A Guide to Industrial Archaeology".

The clamp is a pyramidal erection, consisting of one large stack of "green" bricks with a cover of burnt bricks to keep the heat in. The lower courses are set out in a honeycomb pattern and the spaces between the bricks are filled with "live" ash (charcoal maybe?) to burn the bricks. The clamp is ignited from one end and the fire gradually burns through the stack. When white smoke appears first from the top of the stack, this means that the ash has caught fire and the starting fire should be damped down to get it drawn through the clamp. The manufacture is still practised at Hayling Island at Mr Pyecroft's works.

Coal and Rail Notes. (From "A Locomotive History of Railways on the Isle of Wight", D. L. Bradley. Published by The Railway Correspondence and Travel Company, 1982.)

Railway siding built. 1877. Bill to Parliament. "Short branch south of Mill Hill to wharf on the West Bank of the Medina River. Wharf opened November 1878."

1879 ... growing importance of Medina Wharf.

1892. "Good quality steam coal averaged 17s.11½d. (89 ½p) per tonne landed on the quayside at St Helens. On a small railway the price availability of good steam coal was critical. This was also true of brickyards.

1903. Converted an engine to oil burning. (Petroleum Products Ltd of Southampton converted free of charge.)

At the outbreak of World War I (mid-1915) the loss of men to the Armed Forces and 216 an acute shortage of steam coal necessitated the introduction of an emergency timetable (train).

#### Brick Sizes.

British Standard size 215 x 102.5 x 65 mm.

#### Brick Names.

##### District.

Staffordshire Blues

Leicester Reds

London Stocks

#### Flettons.

These bricks are pressed four times in one cycle of the process and go to the kiln in a green state for firing. This type of brick is made in the Peterborough, Bedford and Buckingham regions. (Bricks of this type may be subdivided into Commons and Facings.)

#### Stocks.

Originally, a "stockbrick" referred to a brick made by hand on a stock - a piece of wood fixed to the motor's table and which served to locate the mould. In some cases the term is often rather loosely used to describe bricks carried in stock. One use of the term is "London Stock" which applies to a yellow brick made, in fact, in Kent and Essex but widely used in the London region.

#### Brick Tax.

First imposed in 1784, increased in 1794, and again in 1803 and not finally repealed until 1850. (Brick tiles, "mathematical tiles", 217 were not subject to the brick tax. Brick tiles were in use before the tax and widely used during the tax period. They were either attached to battens or boards, nailed onto timber house supports, or else the whole wall was rendered and the brick tiles were bedded into the plaster (this was usually the case where the original walls were pebble or rough stone).

Often, brick tiles were used to waterproof porous or badly worn stone, or where the stone (flint random stone) was unfashionable or poor quality. In spite of not being taxed, "mathematical" or brick tiles were still confined to the South and the South East.

In and around Brighton, the black, glazed brick tiles were used to afford protection against a salt laden atmosphere. They were laid in "header" bond fashion.

#### Cement/Mortar.

?????'s cement was much used by the Adam brothers from 1773; Parker's Roman cement was used from 1796; Dehl's mastic from 1815; Hamelin's mastic from 1817; Portland cement from 1824.

*(Text out of sync for two pages. I have corrected the sequence so we now go to page 220 and then back to page 218.)*

#### Types of Bricks.

##### Handmade.

(From "Brickwork", Teach Yourself Series, E. L. Bradley, Eng. University Press Ltd, London. 1955.)

Handmade bricks are usually made by "slop moulding" or "sand moulding" and the difference between the two methods is not apparent to the layman, although it is to the professional. In the former method, water is used to prevent the clay adhering to the sides of the brick mould, whilst in the latter, sand is used instead.

Trained bricklayers can tell the difference at a glance. The proper term for sand moulding is "sand-faced brick". A good bricklayer should be able to classify almost every kind of brick in common use in his locality.

One feature of hand-made bricks is the cracks that appear in the corners of the bricks. They are not really cracks, but faults caused by the clod of clay being thrown into the mould in such a way that the corners are filled last.

Sand faced, handmade bricks are the best of all types of brick. 218 The brick receives its size and shape by moulding and allowance has to be made for shrinkage, so the mould is larger than the finished brick. In handwork, much depends upon the skill with which the mould is thoroughly and equally filled with clay. If moulded with a sanded mould, the brick is placed upon a pallet for removal to the drying-ground. If slop moulded with a wetted mould, it is carried in the mould to the drying place direct. The true lines and edges of a handmade brick depend upon the skill with which it is handled in the mould. The vigour and muscular energy of the moulder are reflected in the toughness as well as in the shape of the finished brick, the squareness and edges of the brick depending upon the knack with which the surplus clay is struck off and the mould lifted off the table.

The surface texture of the brick is derived from its contact with the mould. If the mould is dipped in fine sand (to prevent the clay sticking to the mould) the surface of the brick retains the sand and becomes "sand-faced". This method produces the best result in the finished brick, both in texture and colour by the use of sand. No difference of substance is created between the surface and the material of the brick itself.

If the mould is dipped in water instead of sand, which is the practice with some clays, the texture produced is slightly closer and cleaner on the surface than in the body. (As in the Winstone example).

Handmade bricks have one frog. The frog is moulded in wood and screwed down onto the brick maker's table on a little wooden plate, by four screws at each corner. The box mould is placed over the frog. With hand moulding the clay is pressed into the 219 mould with the fingers to fill the mould completely and the slab is levelled off

by a wood fillet or a piece of wire drawn across the top. The slab is then removed and finally taken to the kiln, dried and burnt.

In hand moulding, the brick receives on its undersurface, from the base of the mould on the moulding table, an indent or "frog" which often bears the maker's mark. The raised "kick" in the mould which forms the frog has the effect of increasing pressure in the centre of the brick in the moment of moulding, as the clay has to be forced below its level to the lower edges of the mould. This extra compression compacts the brick, making it harder at the centre and preventing air holes or bubbles in the core. This is also an advantage in building. Laying frog upward in the wall permits the setting of edges of the brick evenly over each other and it also assists the strength of the wall by forming a wedge-like key of mortar on each brick. 220

#### Wire Cut Bricks.

**The term "wire cut" describes the process of manufacture. First comes the raw material, often boulder clay or carbonaceous shale. The former does not produce such a good brick as the latter, although the raw material is ground to a very fine state. Boulder clay especially, needs fine grinding as it contains a large proportion of lime or magnesium, in the form of nodules, which must be reduced.**

**Boulder clay bricks often contain burnt lime (it having been fired with the brick) which slakes when wet i.e. it causes the lime to heat up and crumble by the action of the water. 221 the lime will expand and force the clay structure apart, thus blowing away large pieces of brick from off the face of the brick. To prevent this, the clay has to be washed so that all the larger stones and pebbles detach themselves and settle at the bottom of the tanks. The clay, when settled and partly dried, is now the consistency of butter and is now in a condition suitable for feeding to the machines. Although passing through this stage, the clay may still contain lime or magnesium, which ultimately will cause decay in the brick.**

After washing and partially drying the clay, it next goes into a pug mill which forces it through a die that is slightly larger than the bed area of the brick. The orifice, or die, through which the clay is extruded is proportionately larger than the finished (burnt) brick according to the shrinkage percentage of the clay, so that the finished brick will be the correct size.

As the extruded, column of clay is pushed out of the die, it is carried by rollers to a "cutting off" table, where it is cut by wires which are spaced at a distance of three inches apart, or so, according to the required thickness. This will produce as many as from four to eight bricks at a time.

From the "cutting off" table, the bricks are carried away on pallet boards to the drying shed. Here they are set down upon the ends to dry for about a week until the water of manufacture is thoroughly dried out. It is during this time that any salts that may be found in the raw material are brought to the surface, and deposited upon the brick as scum. 222 Bricks are subjected to thermal movement. In summer, the higher the temperature, the greater the expansion i.e.. A 10 metre length of wall varies about 2 mm longer in summer than in winter. (*Can this be right Jill? 2mm is only about an eighth of an inch.*) (Vertical expansion may be up to 1 ½ times the horizontal value.)

#### Moisture movement.

Moisture movement occurs in bricks in the form of an irreversible movement, which takes place soon after manufacture, or there may be some reversible movement

which continues throughout the life of the building. Very occasionally, there can be a third type, occurring as a continuous expansion in which bricks expand upon drying and expand again on wetting.

Clay bricks begin to expand as they pick up moisture after coming from the kilns. The magnitude of this movement varies according to the type of brick. Fortunately a considerable portion of the expansion takes place quite quickly, probably at least half occurring within a few days. The remainder may take place slowly over a considerable period. Because of this, bricks should not be delivered straight from the kilns and immediately used. The general recommendation is a delay of two weeks. If this is adhered to, subsequent slow expansion will be unlikely to exceed 0.02 percent.

#### Weight.

The weight of standard size bricks varies appreciably. The range is approximately from 2 to 3.2 kg. 223

#### Plastic Wire Cut Bricks (Cont'd)

After drying, the bricks are "set" in the kiln and burned steadily for the necessary time (see firing). Shale bricks are made in the same way, except that when shale is quarried, it is rock-like and must be allowed to break down, or weather, during the winter months by being left out in the open. In some more modern works, it may be pulverised and reduced to a plastic condition by grinding and soaking.

Grinding was often effected by a horse, plodding round upon a rough bank, harnessed to a tub, having revolving blades on an internal axle and is "still a familiar sight in smaller brickfields". (Quote from page 70 of "Building Construction" Vol. 1, by Beresford Pite FRIBA.) Et al. The Library Press Ltd, 26 Portugal Street, London, EC1916.) Wire-cut bricks have no frogs.

Pottery and Ceramics, Pelican, 1952. In the plastic wire-cut process, a body of maximum plasticity is used, the moisture content being 15 percent to 20 percent. This method is especially adapted to forming bricks from the lowest grades of clay. Its greatest use is for the manufacture of the common red building brick. The clay employed for this type of product is usually surface clay. The fundamental difference between the plastic wire cut process is that in other methods, moulds are used. Here no moulds are necessary. See figure 8. No 1 is the hoist gear, which hauls the wagons of clay from the pit to the plant. No 2 and 3 show Edge Runner Plastic Grinding and Mixing Mills, where the material is crushed and mixed. No 4 is a Pug Mixer where the crushed material is thoroughly mixed and pugged. No 5 use the Brick making Extrusion Machine and No 6 is the Cutting Off Table where the brick column is cut off in suitable sizes of bricks before being taken to the drier. 224

#### Pottery and Ceramics.

##### Machine Moulded/Pressed. Stiff Plastic Process.

Machine moulded bricks have a smooth texture with a semi-glazed appearance, due to boiling the moulds during use. The surface of these bricks will sometimes show a tendency to flake on exposure to the weather and to smoky atmospheres, the surface in contact with the oil being slightly different in nature and porosity to that of the body of the brick.

There are many different types of machines for moulding bricks by pressure. The simplest is worked by hand and the larger by steam power. The former consists of a metal box the size of the brick, containing the clay slab, which has been wire-cut. The descending metal plate exerts pressure upon the clay to consolidate it and then it is

removed. As a rule, a pressed brick has two frogs. The larger type of machine consists of a rotating table containing 12 or more boxes or dies, each being the size of a brick. As the table revolves, each die in turn is brought under a hopper containing the prepared clay or shale. A plunger operating in the hopper descends and forces the clay into the die after which the raw brick (or slab of clay) is pushed out as the table rotates.

In the stiff plastic process, the water content varies from 10 percent to 15 percent depending upon the clay use and the type of product to be formed. The raw materials are ground and mixed and the plastic body is then forced by a pug mill into a closed mould (clot box) and when the moulded is full, the body is discharged. This pre-formed piece of clay (clot) is then fed to the press. Modern presses very often consist of two eccentric presses, which press the bricks alternately. 225 Whilst one presses discharging, the other presses exerting its pressure. In the stiff plastic pressing it is important that the pressure is maintained on each brick for a considerable time.

#### Repressing.

When highly finished bricks (i.e. facing bricks) are required, they are repressed in a follow press. The bricks coming from the first press are lifted into a position from which, by means of a pusher, they are accurately placed in the mould of the follow press, which is driven at the same speed as the first press.

The arrangement of the machinery in the brick making plant using the stiff plastic process is illustrated in Figure 9. The shale or marl is carried in small trucks on an endless chain hoist (1) to the perforated grinding mill (2) where the material is reduced to dust, lifted by an elevator (3) and discharged over a screen (4). Its meshes pass the required grade of material to the mixer, sending back the oversized material for further processing. No 5 is the double-shafted mixer where a little water is added, if necessary, and the material thoroughly mixed. From the mixer the material drops into the brick-making machine which pugs, moulds and presses the bricks automatically. (For best facing bricks a repress is provided, as described above). The bricks are delivered on to the table ready for taking to the kiln, if the material is such that no intermediate drying is required. 226

#### Semi dry Process (semi plastic).

Uses clay, consistency midway between dry and plastic. 228

Clamps. (*You have crossed this word out, Jill.*)

Are made from "soft mud". The process is an adaptation of the hand making method with improved productivity obtained by machine forming of the bricks by mechanically forcing the clay into moulds. These have similar properties to handmaid types, although not the same character of surface finish. Chalk, lime, or breeze or other combustible material can be added to the clay at the mixing stage. Soft mud bricks often have one frog.

The above came from a modern book and I imagine that the clamps made on the Island were hand made, although interestingly, clamps here do not always have frogs. The "soft mud" method is used by Mr Noel Pyecroft.

*(These notes are accompanied by a sketch of the Plastic brick making plant.)*

## 229. Notes On Methods of Firing.

*(Hand drawn sketch here "Aerial View of Scotch Kiln".*

Apse Heath described by Mr Hedley Guy in "Newchurch Remembered".  
The Scotch kiln at Apse Heath held 40,000 bricks.

### Loading or "Setting".

Best quality "green" bricks first. Then the top part filled with clamp bricks (with breeze added) six layers, then the top sealed with burnt brick.

Firing. 6 fires built in. Filled with Welsh silverstone coal. Tended day and night by firewatchers, brickyard employees, for three days and nights. The watchers sat in the sand house.

Cooling. Took a week to a fortnight to cool. When the fires were put out, each of the 12 fire holes was sealed with pug to prevent the cold air cracking the bricks as they cooled. 230.

### Clamp Bricks Firing.

- (1). Layer of ready burnt bricks laid on ground.
- (2). Layer of cinders spread over it with each end of the layers slightly raised.
- (3). The layers of clamp bricks built on this base in a pyramid fashion, bringing in the breadth and width by one brick until the pyramid reached a height of ten foot.
- (4). The pyramid covered at the top with boards and pieces of galvanised iron until the fire was well underway.
- (5). The kiln burnt for two or three weeks without any attention once the fires had started. The breeze in the brick kept them burning.

The clamp held 33,000 bricks (at Apse Heath). (Pycroft's 70,000)

*(Hand drawn sketch here.)*

Quote from "Dwellings. The House across the World". Paul Oliver. Publisher Phaidon Press Limited. 1987. (£30). Page 84.

Indian village description: - "One of the commonest forms of kiln is the clamp or "paza wah", where the bricks that are to be fired formed their own kiln. They are stacked in ways that accommodate the fuel and permit igniting and stoking and which circulate the heated gases. The entire structure is covered with a thick layer of mud which, after the firing, is broken off to expose the burnt bricks. Because of the heavy consumption of timber, other fuels are also used: from large quantities of rice husks in Indonesia to a mixture of cow dung and cold cinders in parts of India."

## 231. Tape of Mr Pycroft of Havant. September 1989.

The new clamp is set up on the base of cinders and breeze. Sq. 21 bricks high, edgewise, with headers stacked outwards. Under-fired bricks were used on the edge of the clamp. Three weeks to fire, this time because of weather (sometimes). 4 to 5 weeks to burn normally. Ashes out of boilers that have taken about five weeks to accumulate, not "breeze" as such, but cinders (commercial) cheaper. In Wales, the cinders come from the burnt remains of a type of anthracite. Fine like dust. Thus much better to work in with clay. Twelve barrowloads to the thousand (of clay) (two cubic yards). It works out at twelve barrowload of cinder to 1 yard. 4 to 5 barrowloads of ash to a barrowload of clay, approximately 20 percent of ash to clay. "Fuel" in the bricks to self-burn. Heat - 1100 degrees. 900 degrees-1100 degrees but some to 1600 degrees. Clay comes from various areas. Some as far as ten miles away. Clay "weathered" sometimes as long as six years. Pug and brick making machine all in one.

Utilise unskilled labour by not having to "hand make". Very skilled long apprenticeship.

Household refuse (cinder based) from army camp at Whitney, Surrey. Canadian army.

Boiler ash from good steam coal from Eastney Barracks. Because of the coal strike two years ago, the industry largely turned over to oil thus cutting Mr Pyecroft's supply of ash from industry. Old dumps now are best. They have sufficient reserves for about six years. Nowadays they can buy ash ready-made for brickmakers, crushed coke. N.T. Lamb at Godstone - brickmakers who let Mr Pyecroft have what they didn't want so he has a fair bit put by. However, it is gradually becoming harder and harder to find ash for the clamps. Not plentiful anymore. 232. "Brotherhood" among brickmakers. Sieve for ash. Some ash bought during "Scargill's strike" has volcanic lumps in it. Poor quality imported coal. Nottingham coal ash from railway at Alresford (not steam coal though). Only five generations of brickmakers on Mr Pyecroft's father's side, but on grandmother's (on mother's side) in 1870 his maternal grandfather's firm of brickmakers had been making bricks for 200 years (then!). Often brickmakers families married brickmakers families as in his family's case.

Short wooden barrow with iron supports (as slide) is called a "crowding barrow" and carries 60 bricks on a run. On long hacks carries 72 or 84. Barrow balanced. Made of teak from the dockyard at Portsmouth and blacksmith made iron.

Grandfather, great-uncle and two boys moved in 21,000 bricks in a day into the clamp. 70,000 in clamp. Actually made 65,000, the rest were re fired or were wasters.

7000 in hacks - one long hack. Wooden covers and stacked on boards which have air between them and bricks about one inch apart. Herringboned to catch the wind to dry. Long barrows are bearing off barrows, which hold 32 green bricks. Kathmandu, 100 brickyards but not like us. Persia "trench kilns of Asia Minor".

Clamp started off with wood. Mr Pyecroft knew a man who prepared his own clay and bear off 1700 bricks a day, tread his own clay and run them off on barrows to hacks.

1000 a day average (7 am until 7 pm). 2200 (two men) in one day. Tom Foster, 1700 per day.

233. Clamp. Start "head" of clamp at 80 bricks and finished finishing head 100 bricks. To get a "fall" on the clamp, the bricks have to "lay in" towards the middle. Mr Pyecroft thinks that his grandfather may have had something in this. If you dry breeze it dries much quicker (and therefore ignites quicker) "in the valley" rather than on a heap shape. Fire: two little fire holes, sometimes four if weather (sic). (One fire hole burn hundred 50,000 bricks in clamp. A different brickfield referring to. Not his.) Mr Pyecroft's great-grandfather made clamps with flues (like Africa). He can't remember how many. As a child 1840 (born 1831) of nine years. Said that's how it was done then. However, this was before there was breeze put into bricks (self-fuelling) so it needed more fuelled heat from the bottom. Burnt wood, coal, or furze. West Wellow used kiln furze. Mr Hunt of Nyewood used everything, blackberry bushes, ferns, furze, straw, coal and wood faggots. Ashburnham used cordwood (good wood). Red brick with black end, clay-sand (oxide in) gave colour. Black headers threw salt or magnesium dust used at Nyewood. Tiles made the way. Mr Pyecroft's father, in 1936, tried different types of chemicals for company to produce colours. Gessling other side of four oaks or three oaks other side of Rye moulded bricks in sawdust (instead of sand) as release agent and as "colourant" would burn a different colour. Mr Pyecroft tried it but couldn't get the bricks out of the moulds.

"Skintling": the bricks turned to dry (herringbone). They have to be turned every day until dry. Skintling in a herringbone pattern shows that they have been turned. Straight rows when first put on the hack. Skintled NE/SW to allow the prevailing wind to dry them. 234. Mould made of Burmese teak and softwood bottom with metal strips to prevent wear on the edges and riveted together.

1936 Machine. Sand mould first a consecutive action. (sic) Six moulds. Put into position. Machine then fills mould, then another, on mini conveyer about. The hacks didn't always have wooden "floors" or duckboards. Some brickyards used heather or wheat straw or bracken. Bricks that were first placed on this took up an impression of straw etc. The "herbage" was placed on the ground in order that the first row of bricks should have air passing under them to dry them and the straw kept bricks off the soil or hard-packed earth.

"Top side out" = "rat trap" Bond.

Books.

(1). "George Barge Brick Esq" by Richard Hugh Perks, "the story of George Smeed, the brick and cement king". Publisher Meresborough Books 1981, 7 Station Road, Rainham, Kent, ME8 7RS.

(2). Bricks and Brickies. FG Wilmut (written, unobtainable).

(3). Survey of Bedfordshire: Brickmaking, A History and Gazetteer. Bedford County Council. Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. Publisher, Bedford County Council, November 1979.

#### Conversation about Cats and Nightingales.

"You shot a cat yesterday Mr Pyecroft".

"No, Mr Hunt".

Shots in the low? leg ? and hack are quite new and it hasn't rained. I can tell. I'm an observant man. I've never seen hairs 235 on a rabbit like that before but I've seen plenty on cats. Father said, "well, they (cats) damage the bricks, Mr Hunt". "Ah, Mr Pyecroft, we haven't got to worry about bricks. Bricks are man-made, nightingales aren't". Nightingales feed on insects and the insects get in sand and clay and in the hacks and the cats kill them. So I'd shoot every cat that existed near a brickyard to protect the nightingales.

Bearing off barrows always "whip" a bit. There's a knack in wheeling them. Thirty-two bricks on a barrow. Turn round in three minutes. Average wage £150 today. Up 500 percent. Black redstart also a bird around brickyards. Survey of brickyards in Hampshire (would that be Shore, I wonder?) Letter from man who owned a brickyard - summary of expenses for the year. Mr Pyecroft hasn't anything written down. Talked to hundreds of people. Mr Pyecroft gets clay within a ten mile radius. He has digging rights. Machine - 600 an hour, now runs at 500 an hour. Valerie used to do the work. Coke sieving. Skintled for air SW to NE, prevailing wind first brick. Thumb prints when skintling.

#### 236 Clamps. (Noel Pyecroft)

When the gasworks had used coke for sale very cheaply, clamps were useful and cheap to fire. Good quality breeze fired the bricks from the centre to the outside. "Spent" or "scavenged" breeze, obtained through household or factory rubbish and saved and laid aside for at least five years to allow the "rubbish" i.e. vegetable matter to rot down, was not such an effective burning agent. Often, the clamp "would not

burn through to the outside". A firing with a lot of under-fired bricks would have to be refired. The rubbish was first sieved and left in a large pile, usually in part of the used clay pit, or stored at the side of the yard. It was usually covered in earth or brick earth and allowed to "mature" so that the rubbish rotted. It was very smelly in the summer and it was an unpleasant job working with it.

Clamps as a firing method (the way the Pyecrofts fired) were really a fairly modern way of firing, dating from the availability of coke. (When were the gasworks established? Ryde was in operation in 1866. Find out when the gasworks were built at Ventnor, Shanklin, Sandown, Freshwater and Newport.) Before this, the recognised kilns were usually a "Scotch" type. (Does the name have any bearing on Scotland?) Noel calls any kiln with an open top a Scotch kiln.

The Romans used a form of kiln rather similar to the small clay ovens of Cyprus. Little domes set into the hillside with a pit beneath, to catch the water, which was then baled out.

237 They were usually no more than 1 metre or so across. They were fired by gorse, cordwood, faggots (bundles called baffins). The roof of these kilns (which were made of local clay) gradually acquired a natural green glaze from the salts in the bricks. They were not built with bricks, just layers of clay, which gradually, with constant firings, formed a "shell". The bank had moisture in which, when the kiln was being fired, created more oxygen for firing. (Check this with a chemist.) Noel thinks that the kilns at Freshwater could be lime kilns (Roman?) as they are very close to the chalk downs.

Scotch kilns were often fired with cordwood, bundles of furze tied tightly together and faggots (hazel wood branches probably left over from hurdle making). His forebears (grandfather) used anything to fuel the kiln! In his grandfather's day, clamps had flues running through them (Malawi) to allow wood to fuel them (before the availability of coke).

## 238 Pittsham Brickyard near Midhurst

1<sup>st</sup> Yard Kiln Bricks. Tony Merritt, Doug Moody and Barry Drickman.

19 tons of coal (one load) fuels two kiln firings. Average of 21 - 22000 bricks per firing. 11,000 bricks needed for a small bungalow. 18000 will do a house, four up and four down plus a double garage.

Clay pit right up the road. Track through woods. Clay brought and placed in a pit outside the pugmill house. All the clay has coke or breeze added whether for clamp or kiln bricks. The breeze is broken coke about the size of a conker or smaller, sprinkled on top of the clay in the pit. The clay is about three foot deep and the breeze layer perhaps two inches or less deep. The plug man digs out the clay with a really large shovel, (each shovelful must be really heavy) and throws it in through a "window" in the side of the wooden building which houses the pugmill.

The pugmill is a "?????" run on a very long belt from a stationary engine with a huge flywheel. It wasn't possible to see the knives, or whatever, chopping it up. The clay was fed down into some sort of pit and thoroughly mixed with water and sand. It was then fed onto a covered conveyor belt, which crossed the yard and went through the wall into a drying shed where it was deposited onto the brickmaker's table. After a short while there was a huge mound ready for the brickmaker to use.

The heating in the drying shed is from both an oil fired central heating system and also via large pipes from the top of the kiln so all the excess heat is used in the drying. There are two drying shed is, each with the brickmaker's table at one end so there is minimal moving of the newly made bricks. The bearing off barrow has a double layer of 239 bricks when full. One load is 50 bricks. I tried to lift it when it was half loaded and I couldn't even get it of the floor. It was very heavy indeed and very difficult to wheel having only one wheel in the middle.

Brickmaker's rate per day, 1000-1200. (1300 is pushed.)

Clamp Yard. Two clamps of 100,000 bricks each, per year. Clamps bricks tended to be too dark so the boss reduced fuel then the bricks haven't burnt so well. With a large clamp like this, there seems to be a lot of wastage, bricks misshapen, too hot and warped. Some were underdone but far more overdone. Fantastic colours in the stacks; primrose yellow, purple, brown, green, as well as mid terracotta.

The hacks, these days, are enclosed in large polythene tunnel "greenhouses" such as nurseries use. Very light. Colour of clay before firing, bright, almost daffodil yellow. The clamp standing was about half built with soft underdone bricks (fired) on the outside and the middle seemed to be full of green bricks, which had spoiled with the rain. I couldn't make up my mind whether it had been fired and underdone or else not yet fired at all. Not so easy to see the bed of coke as Noel Pyecroft's. All the bricks at

Pittsham have breeze added, both clamp and kiln, to give them a darker colour. Otherwise, they are very raw terracotta.

All in the middle of a copse. There are no houses near, except the farmer and one cottage occupied by Doug Moody (foreman). Doug has the dubious privilege of having to stoke the kiln with house coal (brought from Coventry) every 45 minutes all through the night.

There were eight wickets. Inside, a hollow "chimney" of bricks carried the heat from the coal upwards where the barrel roof shepherded it down a hollow chimney left in the centre block of bricks back down to the floor. It is a downdraught kiln. <sup>240</sup> the "floor" is made up of herringboned bricks with large spaces. There is no slotted floor such as the smaller Scotch kilns have. Every six firings or so, the whole floor is cleared right out and all the brickdust and ash swept out and it is relaid. (*Hand drawn diagram here.*) the heat rises through the flues and outer chimneys to the top of the kiln and is deflected by a curved roof down through the centre flue, or chimney, back to the original flue and then upwards again. Hence it is of the downdraught type. Temperature 1050 degrees to 1100 degrees centigrade. Six men work in the kiln yard and clamp yard. Boy, his father and other brother, (i.e. father and two sons) work at the clamp yard, and Doug, Tony and Barry work in the kiln yard.

These three have to do everything between them, from setting and drawing the kiln to "pug man" and bundling bricks on pallets ready for delivery (all in polythene). There is work all the year in the kiln yard, but the clamp men only work for six months of the year. A collapsed brick (clamp) is known as a "burn over rough" (in the Isle of Wight - "clench").

The size of the kiln bricks surprised me. The "standard" sized ones were very much thinner than the ones from the Isle of Wight, almost like paviers. Before it was a brick works (1865), it was a tile works, so possibly this is the reason for them being so shallow? There is also a big production of "fireplace" bricks, very much smaller.

There are normally two brickmakers, but one is on holiday at present. The marks in the frog, two bars, is the brickmaker's mark. The other lad has no mark. Pittsham do not <sup>241</sup> mark their bricks in the frog.

In the brick shaping "yard" where there is brick cutting machinery, there were lots of piles of bricks with the names of other yards. These come here to be cut and shaped as it is the only yard left that cuts bricks to order for other yards. It is a "goldmine" of other yard bricks; Selbourne (Hants), now in liquidation, Otterham (Kent) HH Funton. There were many more, one ending in "ham," Pittsham perhaps? Mr Lamb who owns (leases from Cowdrey estate) yard is now 83 years old. He used to run Pittsham and worked from 5.30 till 9 pm in summer.

"Rule of thumb" One inch of sand and scatter of breeze on top of clay. Doug shovels in into pug mill. Three foot deep.

Very sandy mixture and very sandy brick rather soft fired, not such good quality as Isle of Wight bricks. Barry Drickman (brickmaker) works from 7 am till 6:30 pm daily in summer and winter. Barry has worked at Pittsham for 18 months. Doug works from 6:30 am till 5 pm every day. He is also responsible for stoking the kiln every 45 minutes all through the night. The brickmakers are both young and on piecework so they work whatever hours they choose and can have Saturdays off if they wish.

The old kiln at Pittsham was lower, barrel roofed with three holes at the top with slabs as closers at the top. To draught the fire you had to move the slabs and, of course, lose a lot of heat.

Thirty-five years ago they built the new kiln. At that time (late 1950s) there were very few people who could remember how to build a brick kiln. An old man and his son took photos of the existing kiln 242 which had collapsed with a split roof. You can patch walls but once the roof splits, it has had it.

The builders made the new chamber barrel roofed, but too high. Bricks are stacked 24 high. It leaves too much space. The old kiln only had one foot of wasted space. This kiln could take more bricks but if you put more in you would have to burn for an extra day and cost wise it wasn't worth it.

Duration of firing: 50 hours.

Stoking: every 45 minutes, day and night.

Setting: two good blokes, a day and a half, but as it is with just Tony, all week.

Drawing: the same. Four days if on piecework!

Capacity: 20,000 bricks.

Fuel: 8 tons per firing.

Now the bricks have to be placed on pallets ready for the four lift trucks and wrapped in polythene. It takes much more time and "loose stacking" ready for loading into carts or trucks.

When Tony first started at Pittsham in 1963, the kiln was set two bricks thick "double baulk". It took 70 hours to fire, using more coal. They decided to try "single baulk" and got a quicker firing time and better fired.

The coal came from Coventry. It was the only place to buy from. Coke was too difficult to get. It comes from Barnsley in Yorkshire. Nottingham coal was always used in the past. The nuggets were no bigger than golf balls; beautiful stuff, burned very well, but made a lot of smoke. The Coventry stuff has very little smoke and good heat; approved by health inspectors. When Tony first worked there (at Pittsham) he would go home "black as the ace of spades" 243 because of the smoke and pollution. In 1963 there were eight workers.

Mr Lamb, 83 years old, who owns the yard, one of firm. His father used to go round buying up little, ailing yards and if he couldn't make money out of them, he would close them, sell the land or develop it himself. Cogmorehill Pulborough had yard which closed at the beginning of the war (1939-45) and never reopened afterwards.

Mr Lamb's family have always owned brick works. He can remember a great number of Sussex yards. "When I was a boy, I started work at 6 am and finished at seven or 8 pm at night and then I would have to push bike home". Yard - tile yard, 1869 up to present day. Ash Farm and Selbourne (in the hands of liquidators) closed. Lambs have closed their ??? with them. Beehives (near Sudbury, Suffolk) still fired with coal. Four or five years Small Industries Commission encouraging.

"Are you financially sound?"

Tony replies "Well, we are part of a multi company".

And they say, "If you ever need it, we'll give you a grant. Don't ever close".

"Nice isn't it, that people still want the yard to flourish".

Pittsham. Second visit, October 20th 1994. Iris, Brian Evans and Audrey Grimwood

The kiln is now at the end of its working life. We are, perhaps, witnessing its last firing. A new kiln is envisaged, possibly a "Scotch" kiln. Tony Merrit says the kiln was rebuilt in 1970, (in the first notes he says 1960 approximately). This time he

seemed certain that it was the winter of 1970. (I asked him twice during the visit.) 25 years is reckoned to be the average life of the kiln, allowing for being fired once a month.

The yard is about to be reorganised; not greatly, mainly just the new system of burning. Mr Lamb senior is still nominally in charge, although his son and grandson now run sections, i.e. the clamp yard and the "Rubbing and Cutting yard".

The clamp yard is also to be changed. At present, it produces red bricks. At least a raw terra cotta (average colour) to a dark plummy Brown (hard fired). As there is a greater demand for yellow stocks, the yard, next year, will be producing these. The colour "London yellows" is obtained by mixing powdered chalk with the local terracotta clay which produces a buff-yellow speckled brown, the typical colour of the home counties and inner London houses of the last century and early 20th century. The kiln particulars are on the other sheet. Additions: four foot solid brick walls then a 4½ " baffle skin of fire bricks to deflect the flames and heat upwards. If the roof cracks, the kiln is finished!

The fire goes over the top of the bricks, then down through the bricks via the middle flue and then along a flue at the base. The chimney pulls the heat down through the flue. A draught kiln.

The first day it pulls masses of steam and smoke up all of the chimney and high into the atmosphere. Even airliners fly through it at a high altitude. The coal used is "long flame" coal and comes from Coventry. Years ago 245 it came from Nottingham, a place called Eversley. Had to be closed down as the coal produced was so high in gas. For example, Tony would take a shovelful and as he put it into the (fire) hole, it would instantly ignite. It was fine for burning bricks, but no good for domestic consumption and highly dangerous for men to mine. The mines lay on either side of the down, with the tunnel connecting them. It lasted 80 years before being considered too dangerous to continue mining. It was one of the first mines to be closed for this reason.

Weather breaks down the coal quite quickly and it has to be sorted again to get rid of the dust. No dust must be used, only good coal. Each day, as the ash builds up, bricks are used to slightly close the fire hole both to prevent burning coals from falling out and to cut the draught down. By the third day, the fire holes are no more than 2-3 brick width "slots". After the last stoking, the final bricks are placed in the fire hole and thus, the kiln is sealed and allowed to "soak" in the heat and eventually to cool down. The "slide" or damper in the chimney is dropped down to further reduce draught.

Ten days will pass before a hole is knocked in the door. The darkest kiln bricks are the hottest ones. All bricks have furnacite added to the clay. The darkest are known as "Margate Mixture", so named because the firm (Lamb and company) built a major development in the centre of Margate ( Norforts - shopping centre, library etc.). The architect will look at the bricks and specify them on his plans. "English Tudor" another variety - old size 2 ¼ x 8 ½ x 4 1/16. Standard Imperial 9 x 4 ½ (Pittsham Imperial Red). No marks except a bar in the frog for one brickmaker or none for other brickmaker. "Steve" and young brickmaker. Some pure red bricks have no furnacite dust added. It is easy to see which are which as the latter have "explosions" of coke on them. 246 The colour is either "red" or "biscuit" . For any other colour, some burnable waste must be added. At Pittsham it is furnacite or "tip waste". It has to be something that makes sulphur to produce the colour.

Mould size of 10 1/8 inch makes 9 x 5 1/16 – 4 1/2 finish. Pugmill in the shed, comes on belt to table, ready for brickmaker. Rolled sand, very fine, for mould called ??? Comes from Allbury, near Guildford. (Asphalt?)

The bow to cut off clay is made from a yew stick with piano wire attached. Get a green yew stick, scrub the bark off, bend him over and tie a string round him for about a week. Hang him up to dry the sap out of it. Then put the wire on it. It'll never go back, once dry. Some yards used a wet stick to "strike" off.

The pit by the pugmill has a drain in the corner. The clay is kept covered with water until it is to be used. The drain is covered with a clod of clay. To drain off water, a shovel is dug in by the drain and the water disappears, leaving the clay soft enough to be dug and thrown into the pugmill through a gap in the shed wall. Any "old" or bad bricks are returned to the pit. The furnacite dust is sprinkled over the wet clay to be dug. Chalk added to the clay turns the bricks yellow with red speckles. RL (Robert Lamb) in the frog. "Pressed" bricks (impressed) clay comes directly from the ground and is dry pressed into the moulds. Makes a very hard, very dense brick. Bricks that are "rubbed " or cut for special purposes are always numbered or lettered so the brickmaker is can assemble them as the craftsman intended. All the carving and rubbing used to be done in Horley in Sussex. Then it was moved to Pittsham. The land on which they worked was sold to Gatwick Airport authorities.

Clamps put in base of crushed coke, leave small flue hole to base. 247 Fill up with brushwood and coal/coke and just keep pushing hot ash in until the coke base catches light. The clamp had just been lit and had begun to spread along the base. The lower levels showed a very dull red between the bricks. Made a "grill " spaced burnt brick "grid" on top of coke. Three men who worked the clamp yards then packed the green bricks. Use plastic tunnels (60,000 per tunnel). Can leave their "hacks" under plastic until they are ready for firing. Much better than leaving them in the open under the elements. The base burns for 6 to 7 weeks, then has to cool down. A long drawn out affair. The two clamps that we saw will not be unpacked until next spring. In a good year (as this year has been) four clamps might be fired. Eventually, in the spring, the clamps will be stripped right down and the bricks graded and stacked. Tony has known times when the clamp was still burning at one end and he has been unpacking the other end - due to an urgent order to be fulfilled!

The "substandard" bricks are sold off for garden walls, barns, etc. etc.

Robert Lamb. When Mr Lamb, senior, goes, his son and grandson plan to alter the clamp yards a bit. For a start, they will level the ground and they will put in lots more plastic tunnels and erect a modern building for brickmaking etc. At present, the brickmaking shed has an open front and is virtually only a "lean to" on the side of the Dutch barn type building. It is very cold work in the winter especially when it is frosty. (The copse stands fairly high on Midhurst common.) Then they will be able to make bricks all year round, (like what are burning in the bottom of these clamps) i.e. yellow stocks. At present, terracotta bricks but next season, yellow stocks are to be tried and to do this powdered chalk will be added to the existing clay to turn them a speckled yellow in firing. As an experiment made 2 – 300 and stuck them in the middle of the clamp that is just being fired now. Depending on the results, we'll think about turning over the whole clamp yards to yellow stocks. The demand for them 248 is much greater than for "red". There is nowhere else in the country that can make 'em (compared with the hundreds of small yards who used to). The old Imperial size bricks are also extremely scarce as everyone has "gone metric". The fact that Mr Robert Lamb has refused to change has been his yard's salvation. They are now in huge demand for renovation and "rescue" building packages.

Robert Lamb still lives in the past, this to him, should be working as it was when he first started 70 years ago. (Sic)

Lord Cowdrey leases the land to the Lambs for the express purpose of brickmaking. Every so often they sign a new lease. At the same time they have to renew planning permission. Although Pittsham is well away from dwellings and right down in the woods, they are still scrutinised by environmentalists. Trees must not be cut "too low", only allowed to "thin out" so wildlife can run in it. No nightingales! (The only yard I found without them. Maybe because there is no outdoor hacks and rows of spider webs. Check.) Plenty of goldfinches and woodpeckers.

Pluckley, Kent (Maidstone) has opened up an old brickyard again. A farm that put up some new buildings found, when digging footings, loads of clay (25 years worth) so the farmer got permission to make bricks. The farmer and workers came to Pittsham to find out how to build and fire bricks, picked Pittsham's 249 brains and then set up in opposition!

3000 bricks come from one yard (cubit) of clay. They dig about 1000 yards of clay up there, a year. This makes a brick turnover of 3 million bricks per year. All handmade. When Tony was a lad, the clay was dug very near the clamps up to where the plastic tunnels now begin.

Bricks burnt with hazel faggots often came out of the kiln "wood glazed", a deep bottle green. Pittsham tried to simulate it by dipping bricks in salt but the result was not successful. Some of the kilns which burnt wood were very small, no more than the height of the men who stoked them. There was an old one up at Didland (where the chap that works in the cutting shed used to live). He said that the remains of that (it's gone now) you could only just walk in without hitting your head. It had a fire hole at each end and stacked about 5000 bricks at a time. They were packed "head on" or "stretcher on", facing outwards so that the wood flame would glaze them. (*Diagram here*) This was a small woodburning kiln, stoked most probably with hazel (or maybe coke) and in Ebernoe Church there is a decorative row of green glazed bricks. Hazel was coppiced and that not suitable for hurdle making was bound into "baffins" (bundles) for burning( bricks? (My thoughts) or anything else. Charcoal?)

#### Clay Pit.

Clay diggers, using a curved, bladed, spade, dig 20 - 30 barrowloads an hour. Each barrowload is well over a hundredweight. It is wheeled across the field, on a narrow metal strip, to the top of the clay heap and along it's "backbone" to the end where it is tipped off. This is very near the lean to, where the brickmaker's tables are. It is probably about 1/8 mile. 250 Clay diggers work nine hours a day and then go to bed early! The "pit" is simply a field that has had the top skimmed off. In six years, about 16 layers, one spit deep, have been taken off. Clay digging will go on for a number of winter months (most of the winter, I think). Brickmaking, at present, is a summer occupation. All of the clay diggers are also brickmakers and also clamp setters and drawers; Jacks of all the brickyard trades. There are three men working at the clamp yard. One is Robert Lamb's son, another is his grandson and the third, is a young man, Steve, who gave up his job as a chartered accountant to make bricks.

#### Cutting Yard.

The driver of Robert Lamb's lorry for delivering cut/rubbed brick says that there are "very few" people (firms) who can cut brick or sculpt it nowadays. Material - original Thomas Lawrence of Bracknell makes the bricks and "blanks" for cutting and sculpting. "Rubber" clay - very fine and without impurities. The firm also uses Pittsham bricks when they are suitable. Big blocks 8 TLBHCP. (Thomas Lawrence,

Bracknell, Hampton Court Palace). SP (St Pancras station). Chichester Cathedral, St James's Palace, London (Queen Mother's house), Marlborough house are some of their clients. Only four masons work here. Uppark House Sussex.

Brickwork is delivered as far away as Germany. A German Prince - all very arches (*sic*) and a big plaque. In England, Yorkshire is as far north as he has been. Gainsborough, Nottingham and of course, London. Also Gloucester.

Some brickwork cut here was sent to the Isle of Wight to builders at Ryde. (Possibly the Law Courts in Newport?) 25/ Second-hand bricks, London Stock, are bought in by Lambs, cleaned up and resold. Each brick must have one reasonable double-header and stretcher; it doesn't matter about the other sides.

Pittsham Main Yard.

All brickmaking is done by piecework. The new kiln may be a Scotch kiln or even a kind of enclosed "clamp" with four permanent walls. It takes one year to become a brickmaker and a lifetime to be a brickworker! The two lads who work with Tony have been with him for six years each. One lad came straight from school on "work experience", one day a week, and is now a fully competent brickmaker; but not a kiln firer. Okay, but he doesn't have the experience of Gary, 22 years old, (an accountant first).

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00 03 06.....7  
1. 2, 14, 23, 36, 42, 43, 82, 103, 104,  
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135, 153, 161, 180, 181, 182, 183

1. At Point. John Cleaver, the House  
and Garden.....23  
1. The House and Garden, Meadow,  
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1. House, Yard, Orchard, etc.....	23	1746. 3 tenements, Brick Kiln,	
10 March 1808 .....	22	houses. West Cowes. ....	19
10 March 1808.....	22	1746. House. ....	19
10.....	23, 34, 35, 104	1747 .....	7
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11 Oct, 1756.		1751 .....	7
HAR / POW / 3 / 104.....	22	1752 .....	8
11.....	18, 23, 35, 104, 105, 145, 153	1753 Madm. Urry for	
11. Stallards. South part. Joshua		Chambers .....	8
Horwood, One Tenement.....	23	1753 Michaelmas.....	13
12. Stallards. Middle part. Mary		1753, Feb 19 & 20. ....	13
Stewart, One Tenement.....	23	1754 Madm. Urry for	
13. Stallards. North part. And Harris,		Chambers .....	8
One Tenement.....	23	1755 William Cook for	
14.....	24, 34, 35, 105, 154, 173	Chambers .....	8
14. Bakers. Richard Smart, one		1756 .....	8
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15.....	24, 36, 105, 154	1765. Lease for lives. ....	20
15. Metfords. William Grossmith, one		1766. Lease for lives. ....	21
Tenement.....	24	1771, October 5th. Lease - .....	14
16. Lacey's. North part. Linthorn		1773. 2 houses. ....	19
Ratsey, One tenement. ....	24	1774. ....	25, 28, 90
16. Lacey's. South part. William		1774. Land. Brick Kiln Butts.	
Grossmith, One Tenement. ....	24	Wootton. ....	25
1657.....	5	1777, September 18th. Lease for 16	
1679.....	5	years. ....	15
1689.....	5, 31, 33, 36, 46, 64, 124, 125,	1777. ....	3, 30, 33
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17 Line being first razed and filled		JER / PROB / 34 .....	3
up.....	4	1779 .....	30
17. Muffetts. North part. Frances		1780 .....	31, 35, 36
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1705 Rice for Brick Close		Expended. ....	35
00 02 00.....	5	1781. ....	37
1706 Rice for Field called		1782. ....	37
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1719. Mortgage in £40 - Security. 20		1785. LEASE.....	19
1721 William Harrison for		1785. Land. ....	19
Brick Close 00 02 11.....	5	1788 .....	31, 37
1745.....	7	1788. ....	37
1745, September 20th. Lease for 1000		1797, June 20th. Lease	
years, .....	14	and Counterpart of lease for 16	
1746.....	5, 7	years. ....	15

18. Muffetts. Middle part. William Stevens, One Tenement. ....	24	25 Feb. 1725	Francis Gregory for Chambers	00 00 06
1825, March 11. LEASE.....	18			.....5
1839. Vectis		25. ....		24, 34, 107, 120
Directory. Carisbrooke.....	25	25. Brick Kiln. South part. Three tenements, James Robey, tenant. ...		24
1848, January 25. Lease for 4 years ACC / 85 / 89 / 31 .....	16	26. ....		35, 36, 41, 107
1857, December 9. Lease for 5 years. ACC / 85 / 89 / 32.....	16	27. ....		35, 36, 37, 107
1870-1871 described as Builder of Ryde. ....	25	28. ....		34, 36, 107, 166
1870, 22 November. LEASE for seven years. ....	18	28th and 29th April, 1817.....		25
1871 Census. ....	41	3 3 0 .....		34
1879. Hill. (Directory) .....	38	3 messuage, 3 cottages, 3 gardens, 10a. land, 10a. meadow, 10a. pasture in Carisbrooke and Whippingham, I.W. ....		12
1886. Kelly's Directory (cont'd.).....	39	3 messuages or cottages and gardens and 10a. land, meadow and pasture, p's. Carisbrooke and Whippingham. ....		13
1886. Kelly's Directory. ....	38	3. 14, 19, 23, 31, 33, 59, 80, 81, 82, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 128, 143, 153, 162, 168, 180, 183		
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