

Times Past

Issue No. 29, Spring 2008

Storrington & District Museum

Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

“SUSSEX BORN AND BRED”

True, false or just confusing?

At a recent meeting at the Old School the lecturer asked how many in the audience had actually been born in Storrington. He probably included Sullington, but the result was the same - one! There was a demand that West Chiltington, Washington and Thakeham should be included but they were still a minority of the audience. It has been half a century of migration to the South-east but historically this has not always been so.

The second World War started a pressure on Sussex that has never stopped since and is due to rise even further when the quota of new homes is enforced. Gatwick airport is probably the main employer in West Sussex and new-town Crawley and old-town Horsham are the principal towns of residence. Additionally, the government's firm hold on over-populated London has encouraged other service employers, like Sun Alliance and others to take advantage of lower costs in Horsham.

We used to hear in the Thatcher days of "Essex man", an East-ender who found a new and better life and gratefully thanked Mrs. Thatcher for it by abandoning his traditional allegiance to Labour. Like most such beliefs it has more than a shade of truth and it illustrates the universal and timeless fact that people will always tend to move from where they are to where they would rather be: usually where they can improve their standard of life. This being so we should accept that -

WE ARE ALL MIGRANTS IF WE SO CHOOSE; not necessarily Immigrants (those who come from another country) or emigrants; those who, for similar reasons, prefer to leave it.

Sussex, for long densely forested and muddy, with roads notoriously impassable for much of the year was not a county of net immigration; in fact many

took the opportunity to move North when the Industrial Revolution came, plus the enclosures of the land which for centuries had been the basis of peasant life. It is also believed that Sussex was the last county to be converted to Christianity. Hardly surprising!

The censuses (or should it be "censi" ?) for the 19th Century make a clear picture of population changes between 1801 and 1901, but we should bear in mind the rather crude assessment facilities available in the earlier part of the century. This did not improve much until mid-century. When we examine some of our local figures we should know that various Acts of Parliament changed boundaries sometimes as well the qualification of persons whose heads were being counted, for example, where you were on census day, were you in prison or the services or - and most common - in a Union workhouse? (The word "Union" in this context means that where villages were too small to afford a workhouse of their own, they combined with neighbouring parishes.)

A few examples from our own area will illustrate change of population, if any, from 1801 to 1901. Storrington rose from 846 to 1016; Sullington fell from 256 to 250; Thakeham fell from 539 to 408; Warminghurst fell from 112 to 81; Washington rose from 512 to 735; Pulborough rose from 1,344 to

1,725; Horsham rose from 3,204 to 12,994; Worthing rose from 1,126 to 21,236, It is significant that the last three towns had railway stations, Worthing in particular gained to the extent that it became a rival to Brighton as "London by the sea," In *real terms*, most areas in Sussex had a down-turn when set against county and national figures. In the 19th Century; population in Sussex alone rose from

159,000 to 605,000 - roughly by 3.5 times. The figures for England and Wales are 8,893,000 to 35,538,000 - about 4 times.

So we may conclude that we live in area that has been passed over by the 19th Century. May that continue in the 21st !

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ONE FARM - THREE GENERATIONS - TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

That briefly describes the record of a Bury family - the Kilhams who, grandfather, father and son worked at Manor Farm for four different farmers; their combined working lives totalling almost two centuries.

The picture below, one of George Garland's best, might, with a change of clothing, have shown how seed was sown countless years ago. But would this method have been used in the 20th century, and would the seed have been sown directly on recently ploughed soil? (answers to the Editors. please!) The subject of the

photograph would certainly have known for he spent more than 70 years as a farm worker. He was Charles Kilhams, the second of the family whose Continuous service may well be unique.

Charles started work as a ploughboy at the age of six-and-a-half under the care of his father - a carter for 66 years. Charles was paid two shillings and 6 pence per week for the first four years. He never went to school in those years but after work was over he walked a mile to an evening class run by the Vicar. This was not uncommon in rural communities before the Education Act of



George Garland at work in the fields

1870, when every child had to go to a local school, usually a church school, before being able to work. Charles was one of eleven children in his family and even half - a - crown helped the family income.

At the end of his regular work at Manor Farm, Charles found a new friend, John Galsworthy, who lived in Bury for the last four years of his life. They usually met when Galsworthy was out on a ride on the downs above Bury. The famous writer assumed a role of squire and was noted for his generosity. Once, when Charles was off work with an injured hand, he pushed a £ 5 pound note into Charles's other hand "to tide him over".

The third Kilhams to be examined here was William. His speciality

was with horses. Horses were, until the 1930's and beyond, the main source of tractive power on farms, especially for ploughing and carting. They were grouped as a team and would usually work only for one man.

These "heavy" horses are a rare sight in these days of motorised power were Captain, Jolly, Prince and Steamer. William

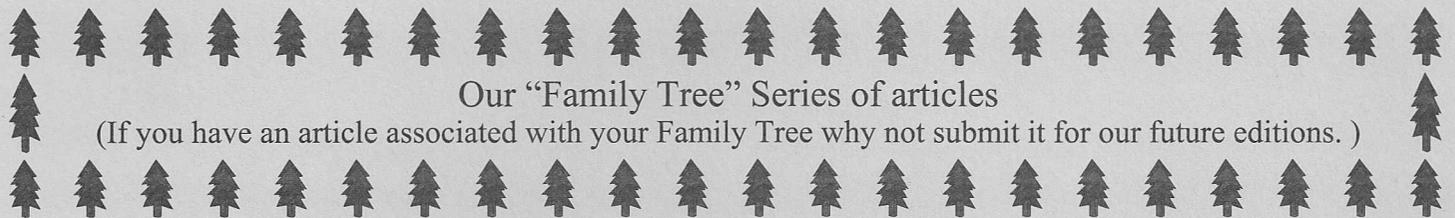


George Garland in retirement!

said that his team would show him their affection whenever he approached them.

The 2nd World War saw a rapid switch from true horse power to that of tractors and William took over the role of tractor driver and, in his spare time, doubled as er but can sometimes be seen at ploughing matches where they contrast markedly with hunters and race horses.

William's a special constable. A remarkable member of a remarkable Sussex family.



JOHN CHARMAN, who died early this year, was a generous supporter of our Museum. His life, as described by his close friend, Ron Ham, was full of achievement in many fields. In later years he researched the Charman family history. In the process he discovered an ancestor whose life was worthy of the following article which John gave to Ron a little before his death. He called it

FROM POORHOUSE TO PARADISE

This is the story of George, the son of John and Lydia Charman, born in Sullington in 1814. The family came from a long line of Charmans dating back to the 16th century at Thakeham. John was a labourer but was recorded as a pauper at various periods of his life. In 1814 all of his six children are recorded as being either in the workhouse or boarded out to other villagers.

In 1829 a Colonel Peter August Latour of the 11th Light Dragoons sent out, along with one Thomas Peel Latour, 230 indentured servants to the first non-penal colony, at Swan River, Western Australia. There were 23 men, women and children from Sullington, including George Charman, aged 15, and his sister Louisa (by then married to William Woods) and their four children. They sailed from Portsmouth on the "The Lotus", which also carried 44 steerage passengers and animals and provisions to set up and maintain the colony.

After arriving in Australia nothing is known about what George did although his sister sent to her father that George was "doing well". From this point he seems to disappear but, from what occurred later, it can be assumed that he returned to England, as he signed on as crew on

the whaling ship "James Colvin" under Captain Joseph Maughan at Deal in Kent,

A year later the ship was in the Pacific, well north of the Hawaiian islands. On October 26th, 1837, exactly a year since embarking, the cook went mad, set fire to the ship and cut his throat. His body was thrown overboard and the crew spent the next four days trying to save the ship. They gave up and then took to the boats. All 14 were taken aboard the American ship the "Catawaba", under Captain John B. Colman of Nantucket and were later transferred to another American ship, the "Canton" under Captain Abraham Gardner of New Bedford, Massachusetts. On November 4th, half the crew were taken to the island of Oahu, but George remained aboard the "Catawaba" and sailed on to the island of Maui, arriving on November 12th, 1837. This was a major whaling port where ships and their crews came for rest and repairs.

After some time there he decided that he would like to marry and settle down and, in keeping with Hawaiian laws, he had to become a citizen of that kingdom before he could apply for a licence to marry. On the 9th of November, 1844, he was granted citizenship as a subject of Hawaii. On the certificate he declared himself a native of Brighton, England, and went on to live on the islands of Kapaia and Kauai for the next 55 years.

During the course of this life he married four times, the first probably Hawaiian girls. A Mr. Rowell presided at the ceremonies but began to demur at the frequency of the ceremonies. George is reported to have said, "Well now, Mr. Rowell, you mustn't be too hard on me; the first one up and died, and the other two ran away, but now I've got a half white girl. I guess she'll stick." This turned out to be true and his marriage to Lydia Mary Hobbs, known as "Mele", the daughter of John Hobbs, a harness maker and sailor from Bridgewater, and his Hawaiian wife Kamanolau, a member of the royal lineage, lasted until his death. They had three children - Lydia A.B., William K. and Henry Kulamanu, who also married into the royal line. Between them, they gave George and Lydia 36 grandchildren but, despite William K. surviving until 1935, the name of Charman died out, the present generation all having Hawaiian names.

George, or "Old Keoki", as he was known to the natives was well-remembered for going about his business with a short clay pipe constantly clutched in his mouth, so that there were worn notches between his teeth. He also wore a pair of gold earrings which were thought to prevent eye disease.

Whilst living on Kapia he kept a pair of Clydesdales which he took with him when he moved to Koloa on the island of Kauai where he acquired the "Old Tobey" plantation. He planted sugar cane and erected a mill, driven by a horse, to process it. During this time, and after he had given up the mill, he cut and supplied firewood to the ships and to Honolulu. He appears to have been an out-going and gregarious man, acting on behalf of the local merchants in their trade with the ships' captains. At the same time he was selling sheep at 3 dollars a head and goats for 1 and a half as well as potatoes. In 1865, the Confederate privateer "Shenendoah" sank 24 of the whaling ships thus affecting George's potato trade, so he turned to his sugar cane and other businesses.

Among the many things for which George was famous was his introduction of the first carriage in Koloa. It was a two wheeled chaise which he had bought from the Bishop of Tasmania. It was substantially built and hung on heavy straps. On its arrival it was the centre of much admiration and was christened "Ke Kaa Holo" - "The carriage that runs secretly". He used it frequently and it came to be known as Charman' chaise.

George introduced the art of salting beef describing it in these terms; "First you gets a barrel and puts a stone in the bottom to hold it steady. Then ye puts in some beef and salt and another stone 'case there be a wind blowing. Ye know, them stones gives it a fine flavour!"

He was not a member of any church but was a generous donor to any cause.

In 1865 he is shown, on a subscription list, as Captain George Charman, to raise money for a

melodian. The local newspaper, reporting his death at Koloa, on January 5th, 1892, referred to the many stories about George's life as Old Keoki, and noted that he left a widow, three children and 19 grand children. He spent 55 years on the islands, nearly all at Kaloa. "Just before he died he received a lock of hair from his brother who now glories in his 92nd year."

Like many others of his ilk, George proved that, given the opportunity, he had the intelligence and moral strength to make his mark; had he remained in this country he would probably have been "kept in his place" by the caste system that then prevailed, before going to his unmarked grave. He helped to build the world as we know it today.

(Extract from the "The Daily Bulletin ".the local paper, of 11 th January, 1892).:-

"We have to record the death of Mr. George Charman, who passed away quietly from us at Koloa, Kauai, on January 5th at 10 minutes to 4 a.m. There are no doubts that there are a good many stories told by Old Keoki, and we feel sure that he will be deeply lamented by all that knew him. His generosity was boundless and he will be greatly missed by all at Koloa where he has left a widow, one daughter Mrs..Lydia A.B. Miller and two sons,

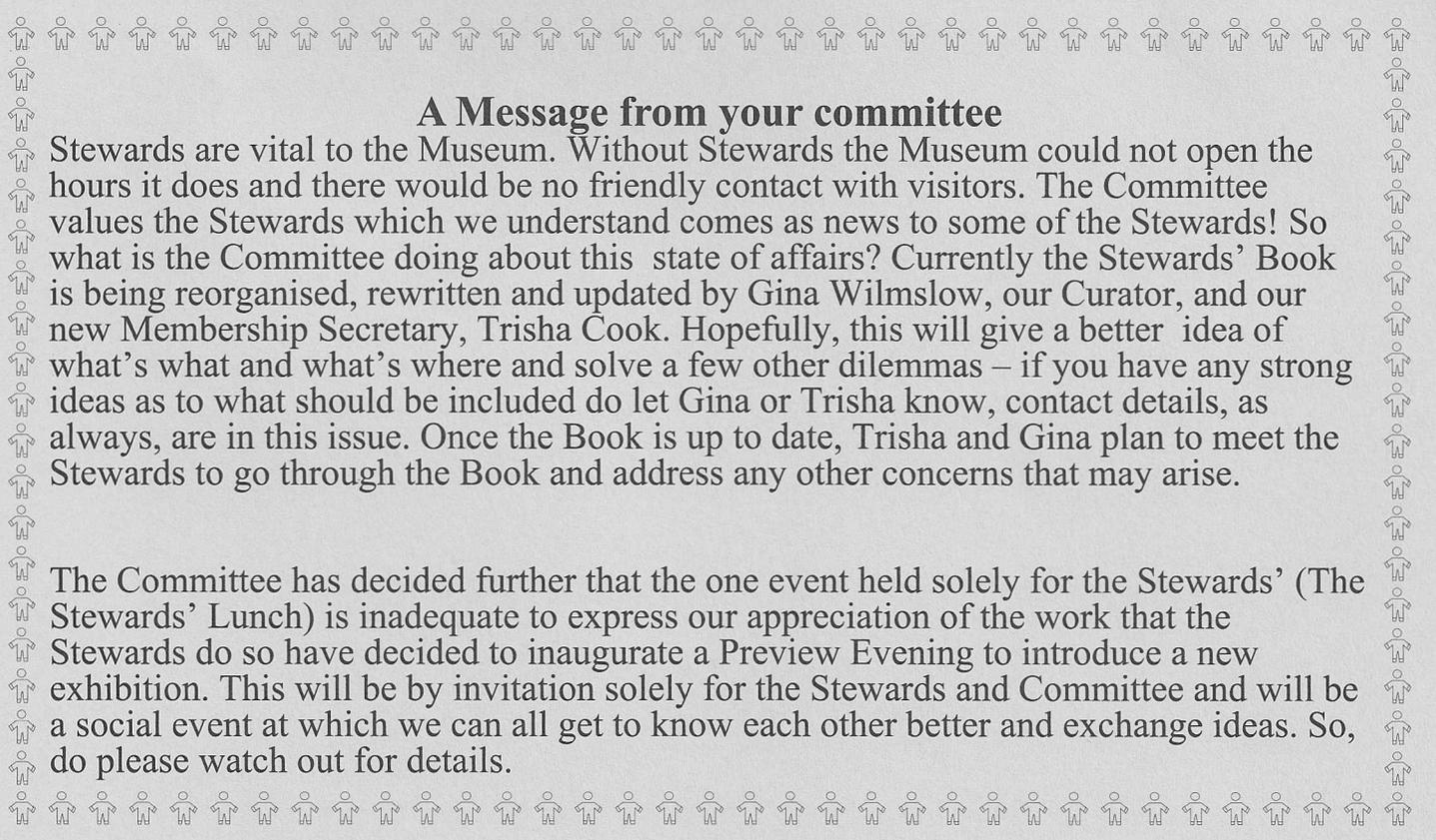
Henry and William, and 19 grandchildren. His death was occasioned by pneumonia. He was not a long sufferer, however, being taken sick on Wednesday, December 30 th, and was ill only a week at the time of his death. We believe that he came to the islands somewhere about 1837 or 1838 and was about 55 years on the islands, having spent nearly all his life at Koloa. Old Keoki came from a long lived family and only last week he received a lock of hair in a letter from his brother who now glories in his 92nd year. Although he was not a member of the church, he followed it regularly and his pocket was always open for its good purposes"

Koloa, January 8th, 1892. J.H.C.

Ron Ham described John's life in these words:

"John's childhood was not a bed of roses; his mother died when he was a boy. At 17, he joined the 9 th Lancers where he served for 7 years spending time in Egypt, Germany and Scotland After leaving the army, John worked as a postman in Petworth before joining the Metropolitan Police, and was based at Carter Street in South London.

While a policeman he was very proud to be invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of his work for the local community""



A Message from your committee

Stewards are vital to the Museum. Without Stewards the Museum could not open the hours it does and there would be no friendly contact with visitors. The Committee values the Stewards which we understand comes as news to some of the Stewards! So what is the Committee doing about this state of affairs? Currently the Stewards' Book is being reorganised, rewritten and updated by Gina Wilmslow, our Curator, and our new Membership Secretary, Trisha Cook. Hopefully, this will give a better idea of what's what and what's where and solve a few other dilemmas – if you have any strong ideas as to what should be included do let Gina or Trisha know, contact details, as always, are in this issue. Once the Book is up to date, Trisha and Gina plan to meet the Stewards to go through the Book and address any other concerns that may arise.

The Committee has decided further that the one event held solely for the Stewards' (The Stewards' Lunch) is inadequate to express our appreciation of the work that the Stewards do so have decided to inaugurate a Preview Evening to introduce a new exhibition. This will be by invitation solely for the Stewards and Committee and will be a social event at which we can all get to know each other better and exchange ideas. So, do please watch out for details.



The Storrington & District Museum Society

now has its own website, namely :-

www.storringtonmuseum.org

upon which we can keep members updated regarding our activities and associated functions.

Your Chair's Annual Report 2007/8

I am pleased to be able to report on some very positive happenings in my first year as chairman of the Storrington and District Museum Society.

Work has continued to find ways to fund the indemnity insurance, which is essential if the Museum is to meet the criteria to secure the license, which will lead to our accreditation. We would like to thank Kate, our secretary, for her valuable advice and hard work on this subject, as well as the every day tasks the job of Secretary entails.

The Museum itself has had a facelift; the windows have been opened up with the artefacts now visible from the outside. A local artist, Alison Milner-Gulland has very kindly volunteered to paint the new blinds which are being installed.

This year saw the first major award from "Awards For All", a lottery funded grant. John, our Treasurer, must be congratulated for putting in such a successful bid. This money is vital as local Government is increasingly reluctant to fund the Museum; so to fill the gap we have to search for funds in other places. John has acquired the services of Beatrice Hobson MBE, who has expertise in approaching various bodies that may be able to contribute funds for specific projects, e.g. setting up the web site and indexing all the collection. Your committee has for the first time prepared a budget for the forthcoming year, which has concentrated on expenditure as income is somewhat variable. This will enable us to run the Museum in a more cost effective and business like way and help us to understand what the true cost of running the Museum is.

2007 saw the launch of the Museum's own web site giving details of all its activities and with links to all relevant organisations. This will give the Museum greater authority and make its collection and activities available to a much wider audience. In time, we hope to have a database of the entire Museum's collection displayed on the web site for access by the general public.

Our members are very important to us as they provide valuable funds which help us in the day to day running of the Museum, also very importantly, they are our ambassadors. We would like to increase the membership and your committee is looking at ways to do this. Jean MacWhirter, who has been our Membership Secretary for many years, is retiring. As well as

being Membership Secretary, she has organised the distribution of "Times Past" and posters advertising lectures. Jean has worked tirelessly with great insight and efficiency and I would like to thank her most sincerely on behalf of us all. I should also like to mention Ian, her husband, and thank him for all the beautiful "Events Cards" he has produced for us over the last eight years.

We are very pleased that Tricia Cook has kindly agreed to become our new Membership Secretary, we wish her well.

We have been without an Education Secretary since Sue Chiswell resigned on leaving to live in Devon, but we are very pleased that Jill Atkins has now agreed to take up that position.

The year's events have all been well attended - the summer outings, the stewards' lunch, the winter lectures and the Christmas Dinner. We would like to congratulate Pauline Archibald on organising such an enjoyable and successful programme.

In July we held a Saturday morning market with a shop window display competition organised by Gina. The market gave us a presence in the Village and the competition had a good take up by the local school children. October saw our first Family History Day, organised by Joan, which was a success, and we now hope it will become an annual event.

I would like to thank Gina, our Curator and Joan, our Archivist, for all the hard work they do, without them the Museum would not function. They have provided us with informative and interesting exhibitions as well as continually working on the collection. We have acquired 166 new artefacts and papers for the collection during the year, including 60 books for the library and 14 prints, pictures and drawings; the item of note being the inkwell used by John Galsworthy donated by Bury Parish Council.

Michael Taylor continues to do a wonderful job in scheduling the Stewards list, however, a subject of concern is the number of volunteer stewards we now have available to call on. As you know, the Museum has been able to open 2 hours a day, six days a week since its opening. Stewarding is a vital role in the Museum's network of jobs and it is a hope that extra people will be found to fill the vacancies now accruing. Your committee is aware of the concerns raised by the Stewards and is looking at ways to address these. We would like to thank most sincerely the following stewards who are now retiring - Eric Hues, Alan Wheeldon, Geoffrey and Edna Robinson, Betty Jelsbak and Arlette Slade.

Last but by no means least; the Museum would like to say a big thank you to all the Committee Members, Stewards and other friends of the Museum, all of whom have made valuable contributions during the past year.

We now look forward to next year. It will begin with a major exhibition on Parham, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary of its opening to the public.

Meg Everitt

Museum Society Committee:-

Chairman: Meg Everitt (Contact No. 01903 745051)

Secretary: Kate Wise

Treasurer: John Wharmby

Programme Secretary: Pauline Archibald

Membership Secretary: Trisha Cook (01903 746276 & trisha@trishacook.co.uk)

Education Officer: Jill Atkins (jilli-kins@hotmail.co.uk)

Web Master: Michael Leeming

Members: Philip Beaumont, Trish Colebrook, Gena Grenney,
Jean MacWhirter, Michael Taylor, Cindy Waters, & Helen Whittle.

Curator: Gina Wilmshurst (Contact No. 01903 892210)

Archivist:- Mrs Joan Ham

Future Activities:-

May 17

Village Quiz Night at Storrington Village Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets @ £8 include Fish & Chip supper; contact 01903 746276

June 9

Downland Walk with County Archaeologist, John Mills. 6.30 to 8.30 pm. Meet at Kithurst Hill Car Park. Cost £2

July 14

Visit to Warminghurst with Rodney Gunner. 6.30 p.m. cost £3.50. Contact 01798 813987

July 28.

Stewards' Summer Lunch

Future Exhibitions:-

April - June: "Parham House"

June - September: Local Archaeology

EDITORIAL TEAM

Copy Editor: E. P. Beaumont • *Production Editor:* J. S. Wharmby

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