A history of

South Cottage

Compton, Surrey

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2019

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Introduction

South Cottage has played a part in the life of Compton and its people for many hundreds of years. It is a familiar landmark, for it lies at the very heart of the village in the Street and is just a short distance from the ancient church.

The building itself dates from the early seventeenth century but it is not the first house to have stood on the site. The court rolls of the manor of Compton Westbury, the earliest written record of the property, show that a previous dwelling was in the ownership of Robert Barber in the later fifteenth century. Although he was the last owner of the property to bear that name, it continued to be known as *Barber's* until the late nineteenth century.

The property was acquired by the Stovold family in the mid-1540s. For almost 350 years, it stayed in the family, passing from one generation to the next until it became a part of the Eastbury estate in the late 1870s and its ancient name of Barber's was lost. During the 1850s, the house had been divided into two when it became the rented home of farm workers. In the 1970s, now known as South Cottage, it once again became a single dwelling and individual home.

This is an updated version of the history of South Cottage that was originally commissioned by the current owners, Ken & Jean Miller, in the 1990s.

We would like to acknowledge the help of the staff of the Surrey History Service (SHC), Michael More-Molyneux for making the Loseley Manuscripts available for research, The Victoria and Albert Museum for the 1850s photograph by Benjamin Brecknell Turner, John Young for his photograph of Compton Street, Jackie Lee (née Walker) for her family photograph and Veronica Gates for her memories of Canon Hudson. Illustrations reproduced by permission of the More-Molyneux family and Surrey History Centre.

The house

The village of Compton lies on an outcrop of the Hythe Beds, a part of the Lower Greensand. Its site is dry and well drained, being just a few feet above the damp Atherfield clay that outcrops to the north-west of the Street and the house plots. It is a favourable site for settlement and there have been people living here since at least Anglo-Saxon times: the church contains Saxon work and the village name itself is of Saxon origin. Moreover, the manor of Compton is described in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and it is evident that the village and church existed prior to the Conquest. It is likely, therefore, that there have been house plots in the street and people living on the site of South Cottage since that period and possibly before.

South Cottage itself is at least the second building that has been on the site. According to the Domestic Building Research Group it dates from the early seventeenth century but we know from the manorial records that the property was in existence in the late fifteenth century.

Barber's was a copyhold property, a form of holding that evolved from the villein (unfree) tenure of the medieval period following the Norman Conquest. The right to hold land was subject to manorial custom and individuals had various obligations, including the requirement to undertake specified work for the lord of the manor. Copyhold tenants held their land by right of a title entered in the manor court rolls, a copy of which was given to them, hence the name of the tenure. Most copyhold tenures dated from early medieval times, although the surviving houses were usually built later.

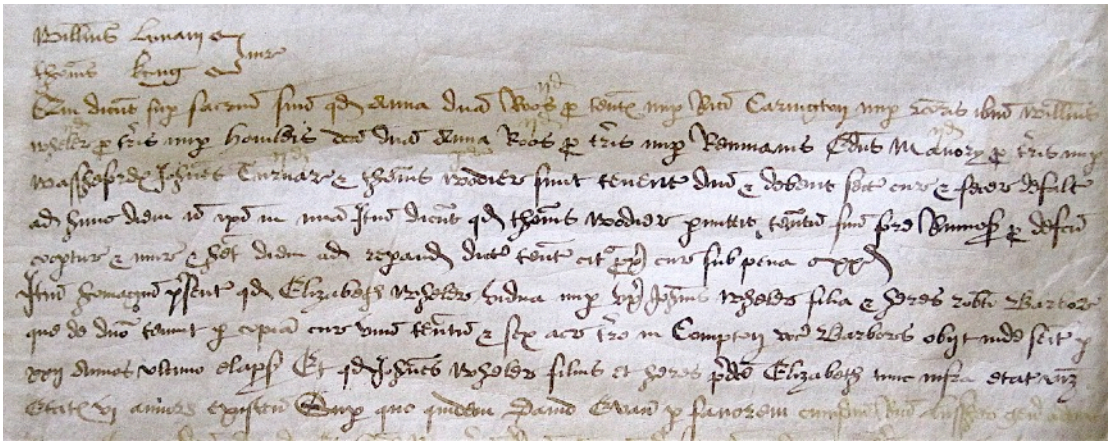
The majority of medieval houses were not as substantial as those that were built from the sixteenth century onwards. They were often poorly constructed, sometimes with timbers thrust directly into the ground, although manor records reveal that the earlier houses on the Barber's site was not as basic as that for it had a horizontal sill that supported the timber frame structure.[1]

Typically, poorer quality houses were frequently rebuilt and it is likely that they had to be replaced roughly every generation or so. Although Barber's was a better quality dwelling than some of that time, the manorial records of Westbury reveal that it was in a poor state of repair and was being patched up in the 1570s. The present house post-dates that period and was constructed in the early seventeenth century.

The Tudor cottage

Documents recording the activities of the manor of Compton Westbury date back over 500 years, from the early years of the reign of Henry VIII. The earliest written record of the house itself is to be found in the minutes of the court baron of 13th August 1515 in which David Evan is named as the holder of Barber's.[2] He also held a property called *Merehouse or Coppidhall*, which is now divided into Tyrone and Beech Cottages, and he was summoned to the court for subletting his properties without permission.

However, it would seem that there was a greater dispute that involved his ownership of Barber's for, on 25th February 1517/18, John Wheeler appeared at the court to claim that the property was his. The death of his mother, Elizabeth Wheeler, had occurred twenty-one years before and this was belatedly reported to the court.[3] She had been the daughter and heir of Robert Barber who had previously held the property.



The minutes of the court baron of Westbury manor held on 25th Feb 1517/18 recording the death of Elizabeth Wheeler:

"The homage present that Elizabeth Wheeler, widow, late the wife of John Wheeler, daughter and heir of Robert Barber who held of the lord by copy of the court [roll] of one tenement and six acres of land in Compton called Barber's has died . . ."

The minutes go on to tell an interesting story: when John Barber died sometime in the late fifteenth century he had no surviving sons, otherwise the property would have passed along the male line according to the custom of the manor. His married daughter, Elizabeth Wheeler, was his eldest surviving child and she inherited the house and land. She was the widow of John Wheeler and had at least one young child. Elizabeth died

around 1496 leaving that child, John, six years old, orphaned and heir to Barber's. However, being an infant he was too young to be admitted as tenant. Under these circumstances it was usual for an elder relation or trusted friend to act as guardian and be admitted as tenant until the child was of age. The manor records of the late fifteenth century no longer exist but it seems probable that David Evan was that person.

Evan had died since the court of 1515 and his son, also David, now claimed to be the next tenant of Barber's. He said that his father had been admitted as tenant of the property "by the favour of Richard Lusher, gentleman" who was Evan's master. This seems a doubtful claim, however, as Lusher was not the lord of Westbury Manor but was merely leasing the manor from the lord, the Abbot of Durford.[4]

Fortunately for John Wheeler, the jury decided that he was the rightful owner and he consequently paid the fine for his admission to the property and also the heriot that was owed, but which had never been paid, on the death of his mother all those years before.

These entries are interesting because, as well as the story of disputed ownership, they reveal the origin of the house name. We do not know how long the Barber family had held the property, but Robert Barber was the last. Properties were frequently referred to in manorial records by the names of previous owners and, as would happen in this case, they could sometimes remain attached to the house for hundreds of years. Also, the records give the area of land associated with the house. The property is described as a tenement and six acres of land, although it does not say where the land was situated.

The sale of Barber's

One would think that after the court's decision, Wheeler's tenure was secure but the dispute with David Evan junior continued to fester. Eleven years on, in the winter of 1528/29, John Wheeler wanted to sell Barber's so he went to the court once more to reassert his claim.[5] Evan appeared once more to state that he was the rightful heir and that the property was his. He maintained that the steward of the manor, on behalf of the lord of the manor of Westbury, the Abbot of Durford, had passed the property to his father for the rest of his life and thence to his heirs - a slightly different story to that which he gave in 1517/18 when he claimed it was Richard Lusher who had granted the tenancy.

This discrepancy in his stories may have been one of the reasons why the jury decided that Wheeler should continue to hold the property. However, John did not retain Barber's for long as it was reported to the court baron that took place the following January that he and his wife had sold the property to Robert Welles.[6]

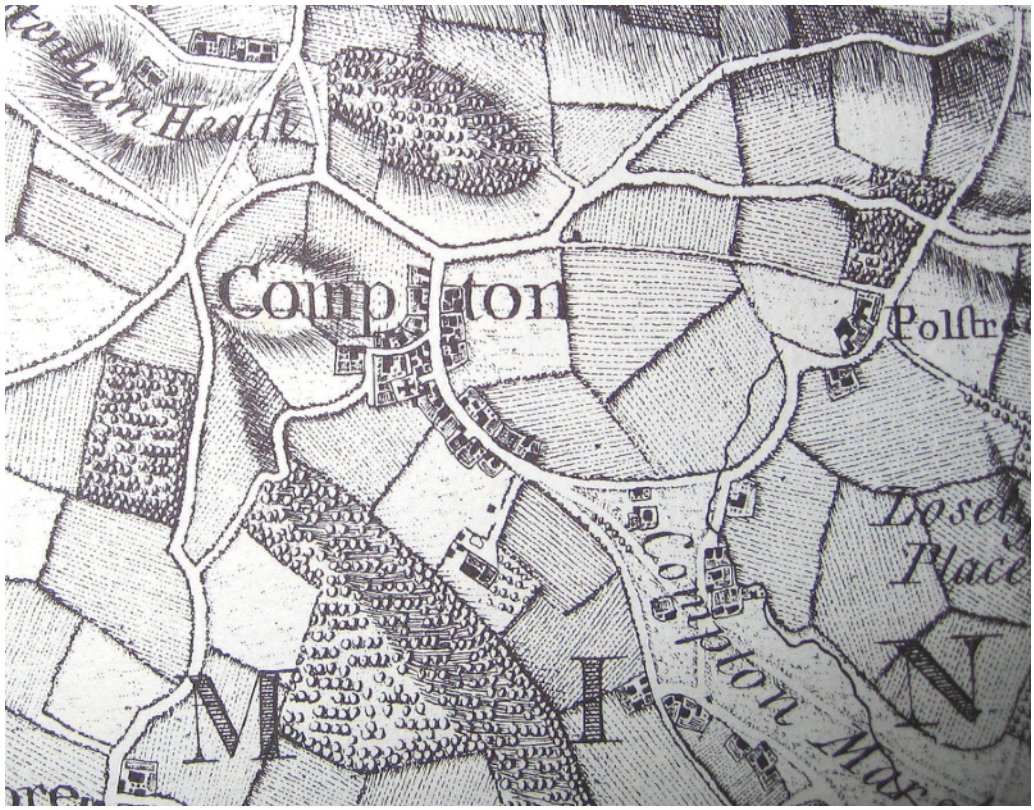
Edward Hassell's fine watercolour painting gives us a glimpse of the timber-framed houses in Compton Street in 1830. The house that was later known as Mission Cottage lies to the left of the road.

Welles was a weaver from Hambledon, Surrey, who does not appear to have lived in the house and who had probably bought it as an investment. He died in Hambledon in 1531 but the record of that event in the Westbury manor records has not survived. However, we know what happened to Barber's as, in his will, Welles left his 'house at Compton' to his wife Agnes for her life and then to whom she pleased.[7] She left no will but Barber's passed to her son, John, for it was he who surrendered the property at the court held in May 1546.[8] He had evidently sold it and, at that same court, Henry Stovold was admitted as the next tenant of Barber's. Since its acquisition by Robert Welles, the property had gained an acre of pasture and is described as *"one messuage called Barber's, one acre of pasture and six acres of arable land"*.

After this period of turbulence, Barber's would not be sold again for over 330 years. The property was to remain securely in the hands of the Stovold family, passing from generation to generation by inheritance until Henry Stovold's descendant, George Tice, sold the house to the Eastbury Manor estate during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The land

By the mid sixteenth century, the manorial holding of Barber's had seven acres of land. We don't know exactly where it all lay but it was not necessarily adjacent to the house and the evidence suggests that at least some of it was scattered around the village.

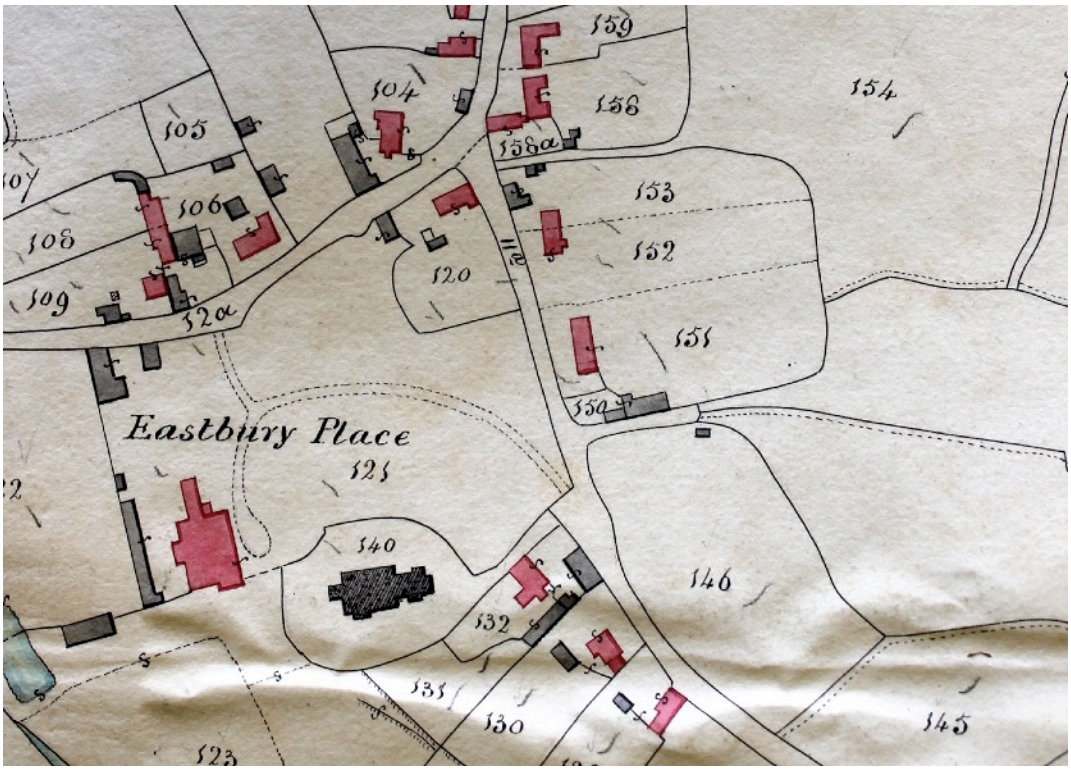


An extract from Rocque's map of Surrey c. 1760.
The positions of buildings, roads and common land are shown accurately but the field boundaries are largely symbolic. Note the buildings on what is now Eastbury manor house gardens.

In much of medieval England, particularly in the midland counties, agriculture was carried on in open fields. Villages were surrounded by two, three or four very large unhedged fields that were farmed according to a common regime and regulated by the manor court. They were

subdivided into unhedged strips of land, each one individually owned. Land owners held numerous strips that were scattered about the open fields.

There is plenty of evidence in deeds, maps and manor records to show that there were open fields around Compton and its immediate neighbours, Farncombe, Littleton and Puttenham. These parcels of land survived into the post-medieval era but they were gradually enclosed and amalgamated during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



The tithe map of 1839. Barber's is on plot 151.

Some of the land traditionally attached to Barber's lay to the south of the village in what is now Eastbury Park, an area that had been known since medieval times as the Sheeplands. A deed of 1808 describes some of the land as being '*laid to the Sheeplands of Edward Fulham being part of all that customary messuage called Barbers*', an indication that the land had been bought by Fulham and incorporated into the landscaped park that he had begun to create during the late eighteenth century.[9] Another half acre of land, called Standalls, lay on the edge of the downs just to the north of the track that runs eastwards from Watts Gallery towards Guildford.[10]

The manorial descriptions of other properties in Compton refer to land '*in the Common Field*' and this is further evidence that the fields were

scattered around the village in the usual medieval pattern. Moreover, a map of the glebe lands of 1788 shows individual unhedged strips lying in the Common Combe Field in what became the landscaped parkland of Field Place.[11]

Over time, however, this pattern of unenclosed, scattered land ownership was to change. The strips and fields were hedged round and individuals bought and exchanged their plots, gradually consolidating their holdings into more compact units. Enclosure was a piecemeal process which went on with the agreement of the other land owners, as well as the lord of the manor. It was happening during the first half of the seventeenth century and a description of 1661 from a property record in the Eastbury manor papers refers to previously open land as being '*now in divers closes separated and divided*'.[12] Indeed, the acquisition of Barber's land by Rev. Edward Fulham of Eastbury manor in 1808 was one of the last examples of this same consolidation process. By the 1840s the process was largely complete and the tithe map of 1841 shows the two landscaped parks of Eastbury and Field Place that had been created from what had been one of the medieval open fields of Compton.

The rebuilding of the house

By the later sixteenth century, the cottage was neither a hospitable nor a comfortable place. Some thirty years after acquiring Barber's in 1546, Henry Stovold's house was decaying and ramshackle and, in January 1576/77, he appeared at the Westbury manor court because he had allowed the property to fall into serious disrepair.[13] The house was at that time rented to John Stanlock and it may have been he who complained to the lord about the state of the building.

The damning court record tells us that the house was *"ruinous and in decay, both in the roof and in the walls and timbers"*. Stovold was ordered to make repairs before the next court or he would forfeit the sum of $13^{s}\ 4^{d}$. This was no empty threat: at the same court his brother Edward was similarly accused of *"causing waste"* in one of his customary tenements, Lynam's (then an ale house called the *Aum Outlet*), and as a result he forfeited his tenure.[14]

To enable him to undertake the work at Barber's, Henry received permission from the lord of the manor to cut wood to repair the house. Unusually, the court record slips from Latin into English at this point:

At this court Henry Stovold doth require to have assigned him uppon his customary lands holden of this mann[or] one Elme to make a syll to repayer his ten[emen]t of copyhold & iii pollard trees growyne in his customary lands called Shipplands to make pale posts and pales for ye repayering and amendynge of his inclosure belonginge to his copyhold ten[emen]t aforesaide & therefore it is comannded the bayly [i.e. the bailiff] to assigne ye same unto him for ye purpose aforesaid.

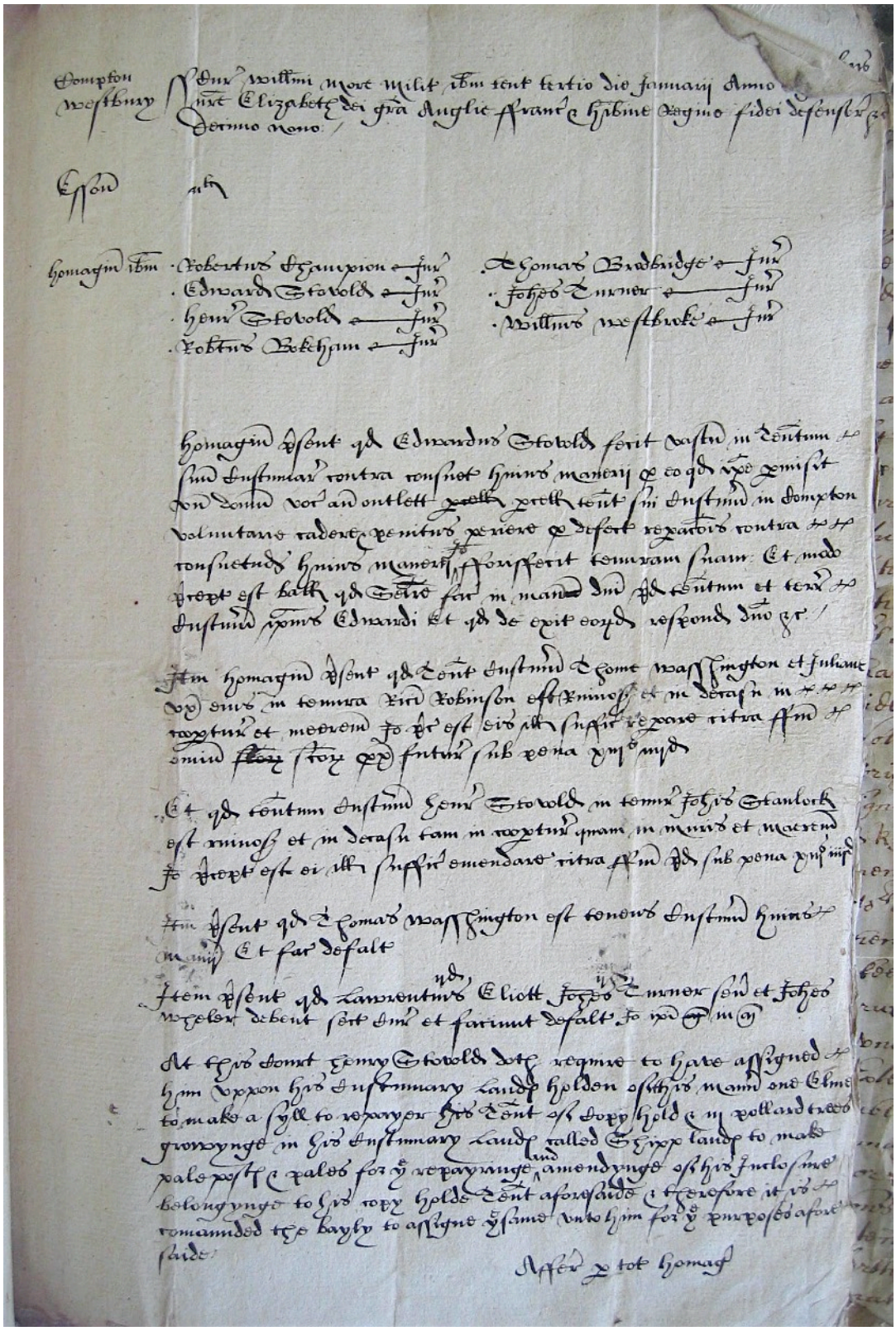
Typically, it was the sill of Stovold's house that was causing a problem. The sill is the horizontal beam that lies along the low stone foundation wall on which the structure of a timber-framed house rests. Because of its position, it is the part of the house most vulnerable to rising damp and decay. His choice of timber was significant as elm survives comparatively well in damp conditions. It was often hollowed out for use as water pipes and traditionally it was used for making coffins.

These court entries show that, although manor courts did not have the power of their medieval predecessors, they still had some teeth. Not only did the lord have the authority to eject one of his copyhold tenants but the court also had control over some aspects of the farming regime, in this case the cutting of trees. The entry shows that Henry Stovold occupied land in the Sheeplands on which he had a number of pollarded trees. Pollards were cut every seven to ten years to provide a regular crop of poles for building works or other purposes. They have been a feature of the Compton landscape for hundreds of years and a few ancient examples still survive on the common.

Henry Stovold did not live long enough to attend the next manor court. He died later that year and Barber's was formally passed to his son, Edward, at the court held in September 1577.[15] However, because Edward was just twelve years old, his uncle Edward from Farnham was admitted to the property as the child’s guardian. Edward junior’s entry to Barber's was postponed until he was of full age.

By the time of this change of ownership, the fence to the property had probably been repaired because the pollarding would have taken place during the winter. However, we cannot be sure whether Henry had been able to undertake the larger job of replacing the sill before he died, although there is no record that the threatened fine was ever paid.

Whatever happened, young Edward inherited a house that was not in the best of condition and due for major work. Certainly, it did not survive for much longer for a new house was constructed in the early seventeenth



This extract from the court roll of January 1577 records that Henry Stovold's customary tenement was in a poor condition. He was given permission to cut trees on his land to repair the building, work that had to be completed before the next court.

Above: In the medieval house, the fire burnt in the middle of the room on the floor.

Right: Plates and vessels for food and drink

Above: Beds and warm bedlinen were prized items. A curtained four poster bed was warmer and safer still.

Left: Bowls for mixing, storing or presenting food. The scullery window was unglazed.

century and built to a design that had moved on significantly from the that of its predecessor. The old house had probably been built in the early sixteenth or the fifteenth century and would thus have been of the usual medieval design with a large open hall, open from floor to roof, with a hearth situated in the middle of the room.

House design changed swiftly during the later sixteenth century, however, as did the way people lived within them. The later sixteenth century witnessed a period of dramatic change in domestic layout and, by the time that Barber's was rebuilt, homes differed greatly in style from those of their medieval ancestors. There were similarities, of course: dwellings were still built with a timber frame and the panels between the timbers continued to be made of hazel wattle and covered with a clay-based daub. Floors might still have been made of beaten earth, in the medieval manner, and the roofs were often still thatched.

However, the way in which dwellings were configured had changed, as had some of the functions that were performed within them. Some of the innovations were quite dramatic for, in complete contrast to medieval homes, the seventeenth century farmhouse had no open hall and all the bays of the house were built with an upper storey. Thus, although the new Barber's Cottage probably had a room that was called the hall, unlike its medieval predecessor it was not open to the rafters. It comprised of a downstairs room with a chamber above. This single-storey 'hall' was still a semi-public space where guests were received but it lacked the grandeur of its medieval predecessor.

Secondly, in the medieval house a fire had burned on the floor of the open hall, with the smoke finding its way out of the building where it could, an arrangement that made houses smoky, smelly and dangerous. In the third quarter of the century, smoke bays were invented as a way of channelling the fumes neatly out of the house and which allowed for a clean and comfortable source of heat. It was a design that became increasingly popular during the mid to late Tudor period.

The current Barber's Cottage, however, was built in the early seventeenth century when design had moved on still further from the open hall house. It was provided with a brick chimney stack instead of a smoke bay, which not only provided a safe and fireproof way of removing smoke, it also made it possible to install hearths in other rooms of the house, including those upstairs. The brick fireplaces with their four-centred arches are characteristic of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.[16]

Thirdly, as well as the hearth, the chimney bay also accommodated the main door to the house on the side of the house that faces the road. In medieval homes, the exterior door led directly into the hall, sometimes via a screened passage. However, by the end of the sixteenth century, a new ‘baffle entry’ arrangement emerged as the normal way of entering a house. The outside door led to a small lobby within the chimney bay from which two interior doors to the left and the right opened to rooms each side of the chimney stack, a feature that helped to keep warmth within the building.

One of the brick fireplaces with its four-centred arch construction. The photograph was taken in 1978.

The popularity of the new style of houses was observed by William Harrison of Essex in his Description of England written in the decade up to 1577:

> *“There are old men yet dwelling in the village where I remain, which have noted . . . things to be marvellously altered in England within their sound remembrance. One is, the multitude of chimneys lately erected, whereas in their young days there were not above two or three, if so many, in the most uplandish towns of the realm . . . each one made his fire against a reredos [fireback] in the hall were he dined and dressed his meat”.*

Both halves of the property in 1978. The original dwelling, Barber's, was very much a show piece of the village.

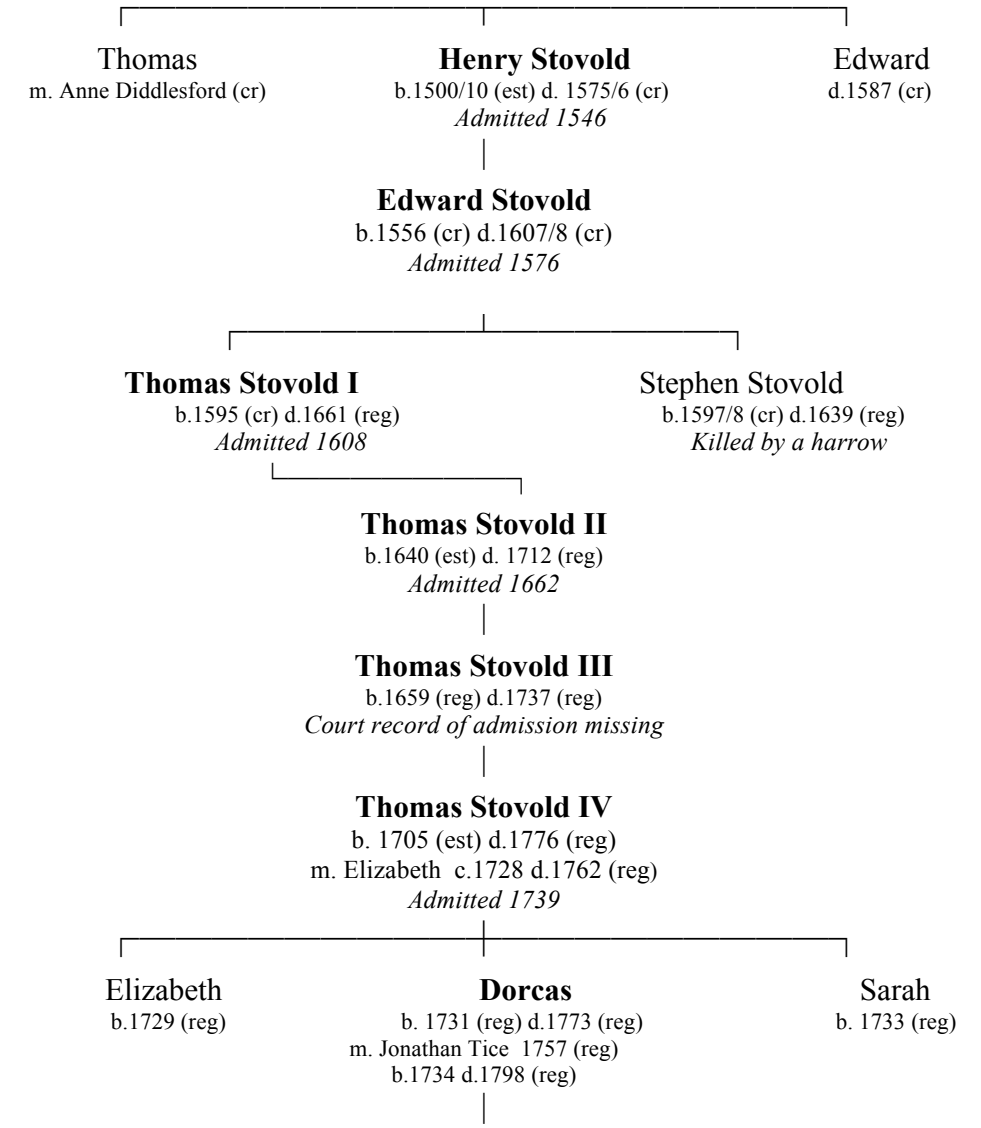
Another reason for the rapid increase in the number of chimneys was the fall in the price of bricks. Until the end of the sixteenth century, they were expensive and tended to be used for the most prestigious buildings. However, as production increased so prices fell and bricks became more commonly available, especially as brick-making was now taking place on the Pease Marsh common. As the seventeenth century progressed, bricks were used increasingly for building construction and, gradually, the tradition of timber framing began to be lost.

The new dwelling of Barber's provided an up-to-date house and one can imagine that the owners would have been proud to usher in visitors at the entrance to their new home and to see their response at its practical and ingenious new features. The house would have been quite a talking point in Compton!

As we have seen, the present building dates from the early part of the seventeenth century and it would have been either Edward, or perhaps his son Thomas, who inherited the house in 1608 who was responsible for its construction. Certainly, it had been built by 1664 as the Hearth Tax returns of that year list Thomas Stovold as being liable for payment on the three hearths of the main chimney stack that are still in place today.

Edward Stovold junior did not make old bones. When he made his will in May 1608 he was in his early forties and aware that he was probably suffering in his final illness.[17] The will does not mention who should inherit his copyhold properties but the manorial records show that the holdings passed to his sons, according to the custom of the manor, even though they were still minors and he left provision for the manorial fines due on Barber's and Lynam's to be paid from his estate. His youngest son, Stephen, aged eleven, inherited Lynam's whilst Thomas, aged thirteen, was left Barber's. The acquisition of Barber's by Edward's eldest boy implies that Edward regarded it as the principal house of the two.

In his will, Edward Stovold instructed that the fines due to the lord of the manor and other expenses should be paid out of his goods and chattels. The residue of his estate was left to his wife, Anne, who had the task of bringing up the two boys on her own *"to her best endeavour"*. Edward's instincts had been correct for he did not last the summer: his will was proved in September 1608 and he was buried in Compton churchyard according to his wishes.



The family tree of Stovold and Tice, owners of Barber's from 1546

The owners of Barber's are marked in bold type with their dates of admission as tenants to the property. The genealogical information has been derived from Westbury Manor court rolls (cr) and Compton parish registers (reg). Some dates have been estimated (est).

Copyholders and farmers

Barber's was a copyhold, a form of property tenure that originated in the middle ages when villeins held their land by custom from the lord of the manor in exchange for feudal obligations such as military service or work on the lord's land. Gradually, these customary tenements turned into copyhold, a form of tenure that was proved by reference to a copy of the manor court roll. The labour services were replaced by an annual cash payment (known as a quit rent) that was fixed by custom and that remained unchanged over the centuries.

Copyholders were seen to be inferior to freeholders but, because of inflation, particularly that of the sixteenth century, the value of the quit rent payments was gradually reduced to almost nothing. Consequently, as time went on, copyholders all but owned their land on the same basis as freeholders. In a monetary sense, therefore, they were on an almost equal footing once the difference between the two forms of tenure had virtually disappeared.

However, there were still some important distinctions between copyholders and freeholders. Freeholders, or yeomen, were considered socially superior to copyholders and they had certain privileges, such as the right to vote in elections for officers of the Hundred or the County. Indeed, they were eligible to stand for such positions themselves if they chose. But they were also liable for jury service - an privilege unlikely to have been envied by their copyhold neighbours.

In some cases, there were people whose status came into both categories, for they owned more than one property and their tenures varied. These people were, therefore, simultaneously in the position of being both a copyholder and a freeholder. Obviously, this placed them in a high social position but perhaps some of them gained a good insight into the drawbacks of copyhold ownership as well.

Because Barber's was a copyhold property every change of ownership had to be reported to the manor court. As each tenant left the place, either by death or by sale, it technically reverted to the lord of the manor who then passed it to the next holder. It is by tracing each successive entry in the manor court rolls that the descent of a property's ownership can be followed.[18]

In his will Edward Stovold described himself as a husbandman, a farmer of copyhold land, and his sons were to follow in his footsteps. Both lived by the land and it is sad to note that Stephen was to die on the land: the

parish register records that he was killed in an accident involving a harrow on 15th November 1639 when he was aged about 42 years. The inhabitants of Barber's seemed fated not to live for very long.

His brother Thomas fared better, reaching the age of 66 years and dying a few days before Christmas 1661. Thomas's will survives and it gives a little information about his family: his wife was still living but, although she was a beneficiary, her name is not given in the will. Between them the couple had five surviving children: Thomas, Amy, William, Stephen and Elizabeth.

Thomas left the bedstead and bedding to his wife.

To his wife he left their bedstead and bedding, the only personal possessions listed in his will. It was a very common bequest in a period of an increasingly cold climate. Good bedding was essential at a time when the winters were cold enough to freeze the tidal Thames. Consequently, people made a considerable financial investment in keeping warm at night and bedding, bedsteads, feather beds and covers were extremely valuable items that frequently appear as bequests wills of that time.

After the death of Edward, Barber's was to pass through four generations of Stovolds, each called Thomas. Little is known of them as their lives did not greatly bother the makers of written records. They probably continued to make their living in the same way as their fathers, farming their scattered lands. Brief entries in the parish registers mark their baptisms and burials whilst their admissions as tenants of Barber's are listed, generation on generation, in the records of Westbury manor. It would seem that they did they have enough wealth to leave to consider making a will. The house and lands were passed to the next heir according to the custom of Westbury Manor and so a will was not required.

The last of the Stovolds to own Barber's, Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth, did not produce a son but they did have three daughters: Elizabeth, Dorcas and Sarah. It was Dorcas, who by the time of her father's death

was the wife of Jonathan Tice of Puttenham, who was to inherit the property. In his will of 1760 Thomas Stovold made provision for the property to be available for the use of both his surviving daughters, Dorcas and Sarah.[19]

Dorcas had married Jonathan Tice in about 1757 when she 23 years old and over the next eleven years she bore him eight children, including one set of twins. In 1773, after sixteen years of marriage, she was dead, probably very weakened by a decade of continuous child-birth and rearing. Despite the loss of his spouse, Jonathan was still to gain the property from his father-in-law when Thomas Stovold died in 1776. Jonathan also acquired further property in the early 1790s: Groves, the house a few yards along the Street that is now named Oakcroft.

The nineteenth century

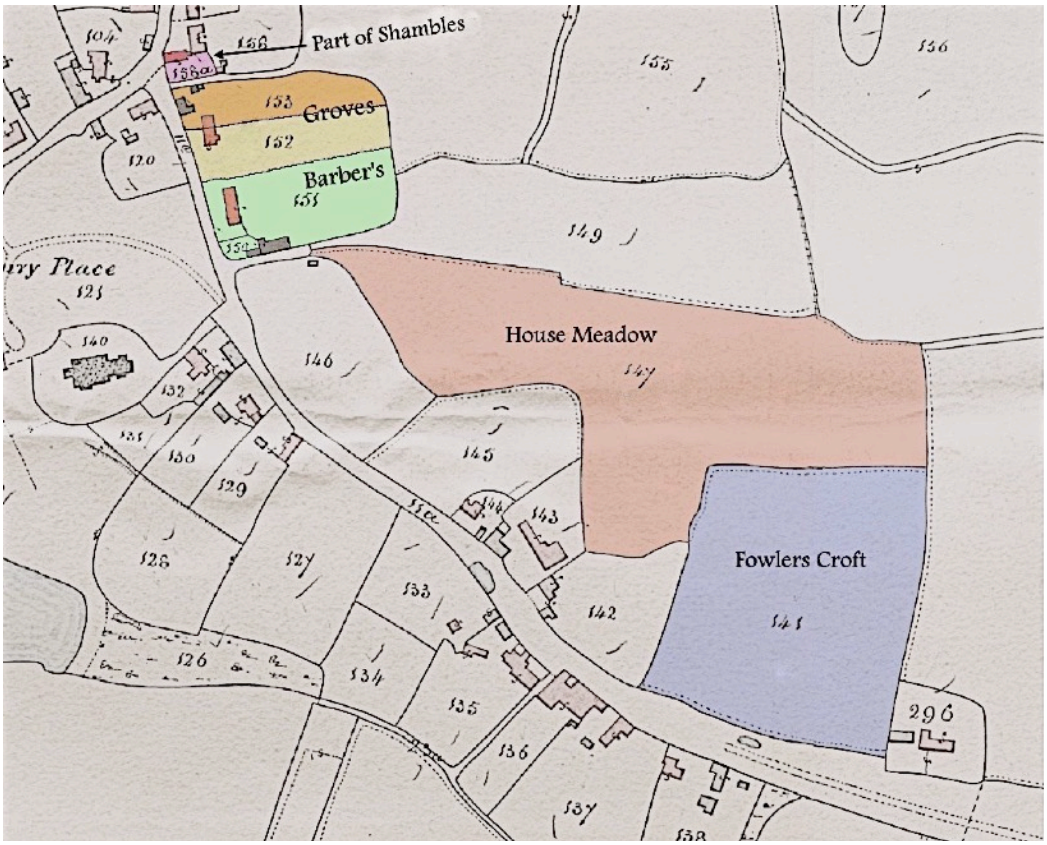
After the death of Jonathan Tice in 1798, Barber's and Grove's passed to his eldest son, William. He was not a farmer but spent his working life as a carpenter; he is described as such in the Freeholders List[20] of 1802 and in his will of 1837. On being admitted to Barber's in 1781 he immediately mortgaged the property. Did he want to raise money to finance his own business? Or was he merely profligate?

William Tice had just one pig left at the time of his death.

His choice of trade can, perhaps, be seen in the context of the changing face of farming at that time. During the eighteenth century, the agriculture of the south-east of England was rapidly moving away from a local economy of small farms towards a regional, market-driven economy led by the demands of the growing urban areas, particularly London.

Farmers were becoming more commercial in their outlook and, whilst it was possible to make an increasingly comfortable living from the land, it could only be done through the economies of scale produced by creating large

land holdings. Small farms such as Barber's were increasingly marginalised and their lands began to be absorbed by their larger neighbours. Perhaps William saw how the wind was blowing and decided to take his life in a different direction.



The properties owned by Mary Tice in 1841.
House Meadow and Fowlers Croft had been bought from the Loseley estate sometime after 1788.

In the early nineteenth century William sold some of the Barber's land, an act that can be seen as a part of this pattern of land redistribution. In 1808, he sold five of its seven acres in the Sheeplands to the Rev. Edward Fulham of Eastbury Manor and three years later he sold a further half-acre on the edge of the chalk downs to Henry Barnes, a local brick maker whose premises were on the Pease Marsh.[21] As a carpenter, William had no practical use for the land and, when he died in 1837, the manor records reveal that he had only one animal, a pig, and that was claimed by the lord of the manor for a heriot.[22] Like most of his labouring neighbours, he probably had a new pig each year, kept at the bottom of the garden and fattened for his own consumption through the winter.

In about 1802 William Tice had married Mary and they were to have three children: Thomas, George and Harriet.[23] The eldest, Thomas, never married and continued to live at Barber's Cottage with his mother. He had been well provided for as both he and his mother are described as being of independent means in the census returns of 1841. They were probably living partly on the rents derived from Grove's, which by then had been divided into two cottages, and the income from some other investments for the census returns indicate that Thomas was not working but living on an annuity in the early 1850s.[24] Barber's itself was not yet divided into two cottages and, compared to many of their near neighbours, Mary Tice and her son had plenty of living room in their house.

William died in 1838 leaving his real property to Mary. This consisted of the houses now known as Mission Cottage and (named in the Eastbury manor records as *Part of Shambles*), Oakcroft (*Groves* Westbury) as well as Barber's itself. He also owned some land: *House Meadow* and *Fowlers Croft* that had been bought from the Loseley estate at some time after 1788.[25] After the death of his mother in the summer of 1854, Thomas inherited all this property. She had been in her mid eighties at the time of her death and had lived a comfortable long life but Thomas, who was then aged about fifty, was not to follow in her footsteps. He was master of all this property for just four years before he too passed away.

According to the custom of the manors both properties were inherited by William's brother George but Barber's was not to be his home. As a younger son who was unlikely to inherit, he had moved away from Compton and was working just over the Scottish border as a butler in Dunbar.[26] Consequently, when he came into his inheritance, he rented out the houses and they became the cottages of agricultural workers.

Victorian agricultural labourers

The census returns of the nineteenth century give some insight into the lives of the inhabitants of Barber's Cottage, as it was known in 1871, and of Compton generally during the later part of the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the house in some of the returns but it is interesting to see the occupations that these people followed and picture the kind of lives that they led.

Examination of the census returns, particularly those from the middle of the century, show that the occupation of the villagers was lowly: the men were mostly agricultural labourers and, consequently, they and their families were poor. Agricultural workers were badly paid, had uncertain

Top: The barn in the early 1850s, photographed by Benjamin Brecknell Turner. (Victoria and Albert Museum).

Below: Barber's Cottage and Groves Cottage with its barn. Photograph taken before 1884. (John Young).

conditions of employment and were at the mercy of the weather and market forces. A bad harvest meant lower wages and a hard winter may have meant little work for many weeks. The work was hard physical labour and accident or illness could lose them their livelihood.

Finally, when old age or sickness prevented them from looking after themselves, the labourer and his wife would have been removed to the Union Workhouse. This was a fate that was feared more than any other amongst the labouring classes but it was a lucky man who escaped it. This was the national picture but some places were more fortunate if there was a paternalistic landowner in the parish as they often let their old estate workers remain in the cottages at a peppercorn rent.

Agricultural workers' pay was virtually static during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The standard adult payment of ten shillings a week barely covered the basic necessities of life and it took all a housewife's skill to make the best use of the household resources and her husband's meagre income. Typically, a labourer's wages were spent on the household items that could not be made or grown by the family themselves. About three quarters of an agricultural labourer's food budget went on tea, sugar, flour and beer. What little that was left over each week was put towards the occasional items of shoes and clothing.

The diet of those who lived at Barber's was plain and basic but it was supplemented and enriched by home-grown produce. Nearly every cottager grew his own vegetables. A large plot of potatoes would have been found in the gardens of Barber's Cottage and its neighbours and a good harvest made the difference between eating or going hungry over the winter.

The other important addition to the household's economy was the family pig. This would have been the family's pride and its insurance against hard times in the coming winter. A piglet was bought in the spring and then fattened on the household scraps, with the occasional treat of especially bought feed. Throughout the summer the animal was cosseted and cared for with the intention of growing it as large and as fat as possible.

There was no sentiment attached to this process for, in November, the pig was killed. The meat was salted down or turned into bacon and, for once in the year, the family had a meal with no expense spared. A part of the meat was often sold to a local butcher and the money raised would go towards buying the next piglet.

Some inhabitants of Barber's Cottage

The 1871 census returns show that Barber's Cottage was divided into two cottages. One half was the home of William Mills and his wife Harriett, who were both in their sixties. William had no occupation and he is not listed as having any form of independent income. They may have been receiving support from the Board of Guardians to stay in their home or they may have received help from their landlord or ex-employer. However, the time would surely come when they would be considered too old and helpless to look after themselves and would be sent to the Union Workhouse in Guildford.

The other half of the house was occupied by the family of Henry Cobbett and his wife, Charlotte. Henry was an agricultural worker, as were the majority of the adult males in Victorian Compton. There were four major landowners in the parish at the time and most of the men in the village were probably employed by them.

'The Last Furrow' by Henry Herbert La Thangue, depicts the hard and long working life of agricultural labourers.

Henry was born in Worplesdon whilst his wife, Charlotte, was from St. Pancras, London. Such a union would have been unlikely twenty years earlier, before the coming of the railway to Surrey, and earlier census returns show that the majority of the inhabitants of Surrey's rural parishes were born and married in their own or an immediately adjacent parish. Henry and Charlotte were married in Compton church on Christmas Eve 1857. Charlotte was working as a servant, most likely for George Best at Eastbury Manor, although there were other places in the parish where she could have been employed.[27] Compton must have seemed very quiet to Charlotte after the bustle of London.

Henry and Charlotte had been living in Compton from the early days of their marriage for the census shows that all nine of their children were born in the parish. In 1861, they were living in the Street, possibly in Barber's Cottage, but the census returns are such that many of the village houses cannot be identified.

Henry was a farm bailiff, the Victorian term for a farm manager, although in later years, he is described as ordinary agricultural labourer, which suggests that he had lost status as he grew older. We cannot be entirely sure of this, however, as the instructions to nineteenth century census enumerators to classify farm workers as agricultural labourers hides the true range of skills and knowledge required by these men.

These documents did them a disservice. Such occupations as animal husbandry, the cultivation of various crops, hedging skills, woodland management, the building and thatching of hay ricks and many other practical skills were specialised aspects of rural work which were hidden and glossed over in that catch-all term. Perhaps this instruction was a reflection of the value placed on them by society as a whole for there is an implied lack of respect for them and their work that was more overtly reflected in their poor wages and living conditions.

The family lived in the southern end of Barber's Cottage and it was a very full household with eleven people living there. Judging by the short intervals between them, Mrs Cobbett spent a large proportion of her married life carrying children. Large families were very common but this should not be seen as feckless or irresponsible. There were no effective methods of birth control but, in any case, although each new arrival was another mouth to feed, another body generated household income; the 1871 census shows that their eldest son, Henry, was out to work as an agricultural labourer at the age of eleven.

A large family also provided a form of insurance against old age. There was a system of parish poor relief, which reduced the chance of a miserable end in the workhouse. Nonetheless, at a time when there was no old age pension, there was an underlying anxiety amongst the elderly that, in the absence of any one to look after them in their declining years, that is where they would end their days. A large number of children increased the chances of having someone to look after them in their old age.

By 1881 their three eldest children had left home. Ellen and Henry were in their early twenties whilst Fanny was nineteen. The girls were almost certainly in service. This was the inevitable course for children of working class families whose parents sought to reduce the overcrowded conditions at home and reduce the number of mouths to feed. The youngest Cobbett children, Frank and William, were still walking down to the common to attend the village school each day but the remaining four were all out to work. Alfred, aged 13, and Arthur, 16, were garden

boys, Charlotte, 14, was a servant whilst the 18 year old Edward was a carpenter. They all brought much needed income into the household.

Charlotte Cobbett supplemented the household income with her dress-making skills whilst the youngest children of the family would have brought home some coppers by truanting from school and working in the fields. This was an accepted practice for years, even after the introduction of compulsory education in 1870, and it happened particularly at harvest time.

Charlotte Cobbett's skills brought in essential household income.

After the children of agricultural labourers had left home, the spare space was often taken by lodgers whose rent would have helped the family income, an arrangement that can frequently be seen in the census returns of that period. It would seem, however, that Mr and Mrs Cobbett never had to do this. In the earlier years, they had so many children that the house would have had little room for any more people, even after three of their offspring had left in 1881.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century life in the countryside had become more difficult working men. Agricultural depression had reduced their pay and opportunities and they were making more demands on the Guardians of the Poor. Many gave up the struggle and migrated to the cities to look for work and the population of Compton fell noticeably during the 1870s and 1880s. The economic importance of the countryside had been eclipsed by the cities during the previous hundred years and the skills of the countryman were of declining importance.

In 1891 the last of the Cobbett children, William, was still at home and had found work outside agriculture as a bricklayer's labourer. There was much construction work going on in Farncombe and Guildford and bricks were being produced by the kilns at Binscombe. Bricklaying was (and still is) hard work but the wages were better than those offered by the farming industry. His elder brother Arthur also found work outside agriculture and was now the landlord of the Harrow.

By the time that Queen Victoria died, the village population had recovered somewhat. New occupations had appeared and different skills were now providing an income. New people were moving to the area and the population had passed its 1861 level.

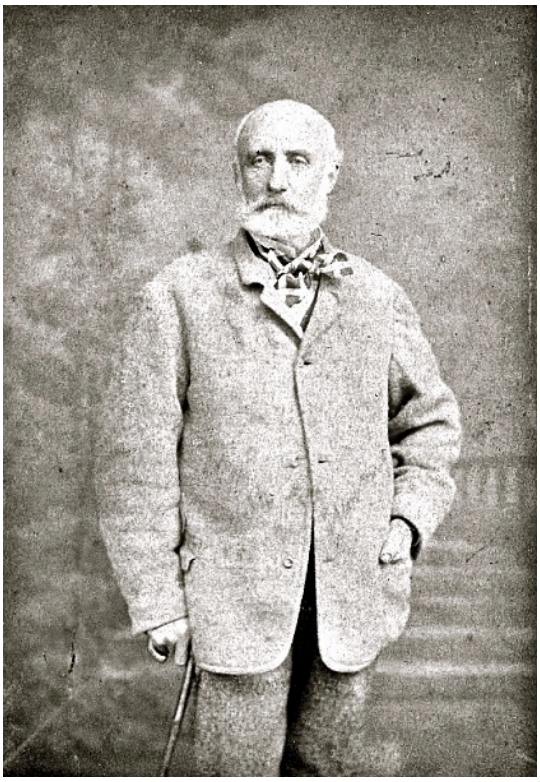
The Eastbury estate

In the late 1870s, George Tice had sold Barber's to the owner of the Eastbury estate, a sale that was just one more step in the relentless growth of the estate. From the time of Edward Fulham in the late eighteenth century, successive owners of Eastbury had rearranged the village to suit themselves, often by purchasing properties as they became available and having them demolished. This was done to increase the seclusion of their house and its grounds. In 1808, Fulham had bought five acres of land that was a part of Barber's as a part of his plan to extend the landscaped park that he was creating to the south of the house and church.

The house and its neighbours between 1884 and 1904.

The growth and influence of the estate continued under the ownership of George Best who came to Compton in 1837 and also during the time of his successor General Charles Hagart who bought the estate in 1873.

The influence of the owners of Eastbury over the village and its life grew with the acquisition of property and their power is illustrated by the diversion in 1838 by George Best of the ancient highway that ran from Westbury Lane through to Ice House Hollow. Being too close to his landscaped park and gardens, it was moved to the far side of Westbury Manor house to protect his privacy. The high wall that screens the garden from Westbury Lane probably also dates from this period.



Successive owners of the Eastbury manor estate:

Left: James McCaul Hagart
Right: General Charles Hagart in 1870

Evidence from maps and manorial records show that, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the village centre shrank significantly. There were, for instance, houses along Westbury Lane and along the Street opposite Barber's so, rather than facing the blank wall of Eastbury Manor grounds, the eighteenth century inhabitants of the cottage looked over across the Street to see houses and gardens.

Rocque's map, which was made around 1760, shows these buildings quite clearly but, by the time of the tithe map of 1840, most of them had disappeared and their gardens taken into the Eastbury Manor house grounds. One is shown on the corner of Westbury Lane and it was still

there in the early 1870s but this too had been demolished and its garden swallowed up twenty years later.[28] Houses in Westbury Lane to the west of The Dykeries were also removed, as was the old village poor house that stood on what would become Eastbury kitchen garden.[29]

Not only were houses removed from the village scene but many of those remaining in the Street were bought and used to house Eastbury estate workers. The Westbury manor court rolls show that both Best and his successors bought village houses as they became available and that George Tice sold both Grove's and Barber's to General Charles Hagart. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the estate owned most of the houses in the Street and what had once been a village of independent small farmers had become what amounted to a privately owned dormitory for the workers of Eastbury Manor.

Change extended to Eastbury Manor house itself and the old rambling building was replaced around 1874 by Charles Hagart. His new home was designed by Ewan Christian, who was a prolific architect. He was responsible for the National Portrait Gallery and a great many ecclesiastical commissions.[30] Christian's hand can also be spotted in Hagart's newly created dairy farm and bailiff's house, as well as in some details of the estate cottages that were improved to provide better living conditions for his workers.

Another improvement made by Hagart concerned the estate water supply. A borehole and engine house were situated at the bottom of Stoney Walk near Westbury Manor House. Every day, water was pumped from the hole up to a reservoir on the hill above Westbury Manor that gave a head of water. Although designed primarily to supply his house, the pipes were later extended to some of the estate houses in the Street and their inhabitants had the luxury of a water closet at a time when most labouring families had to make do with an earth closet or bucket lavatory. The water supply, with its engine house and reservoir, was still in use when the estate was sold in 1963 and the pump house and reservoir still exist.

The early twentieth century

By 1901, Henry and Charlotte Cobbett were living alone at South Cottage and Henry was working as a labourer. Ten years later, at the age of 81, he was still labouring and had been a widower since late 1902. At that time, he was being looked after by Charlotte Enticknap, a local lady who worked as his housekeeper. It is possible that Henry had the distinction of

living on the site for over fifty years. He moved away for a period before his death in 1915 and is buried in the churchyard.

North Cottage was home in the early 1900s to George and Mary Oliver, who both came from Hampshire. Like their neighbours, they were both very elderly and George too was still working as an agricultural labourer in his eighth decade. The two men had little choice at that time, for old age pensions had not yet been introduced. When they arrived in 1909 the number of recipients was not great, for women were not included at all and men had to be over the age of seventy. George and his neighbour Henry, both now in their early eighties, did at least benefit by this change in legislation.

The Street in 1918 by Henry Sage

It is not clear who was living at either cottage in the late 1910s but South Cottage, by the early 1920s was home to John and Beatrice Knight. The two were residing at the property for at least twelve years. By the late 1920s North Cottage had become home to an elderly widow, Annie Mary Walker, who had previously dwelt nearby at Priorswood. John Knight was still living next door with Beatrice but she was no longer there by the mid 1930s and during the latter part of the decade he was sharing South Cottage with his wife Evelyn. The two were to live there for many years to follow.

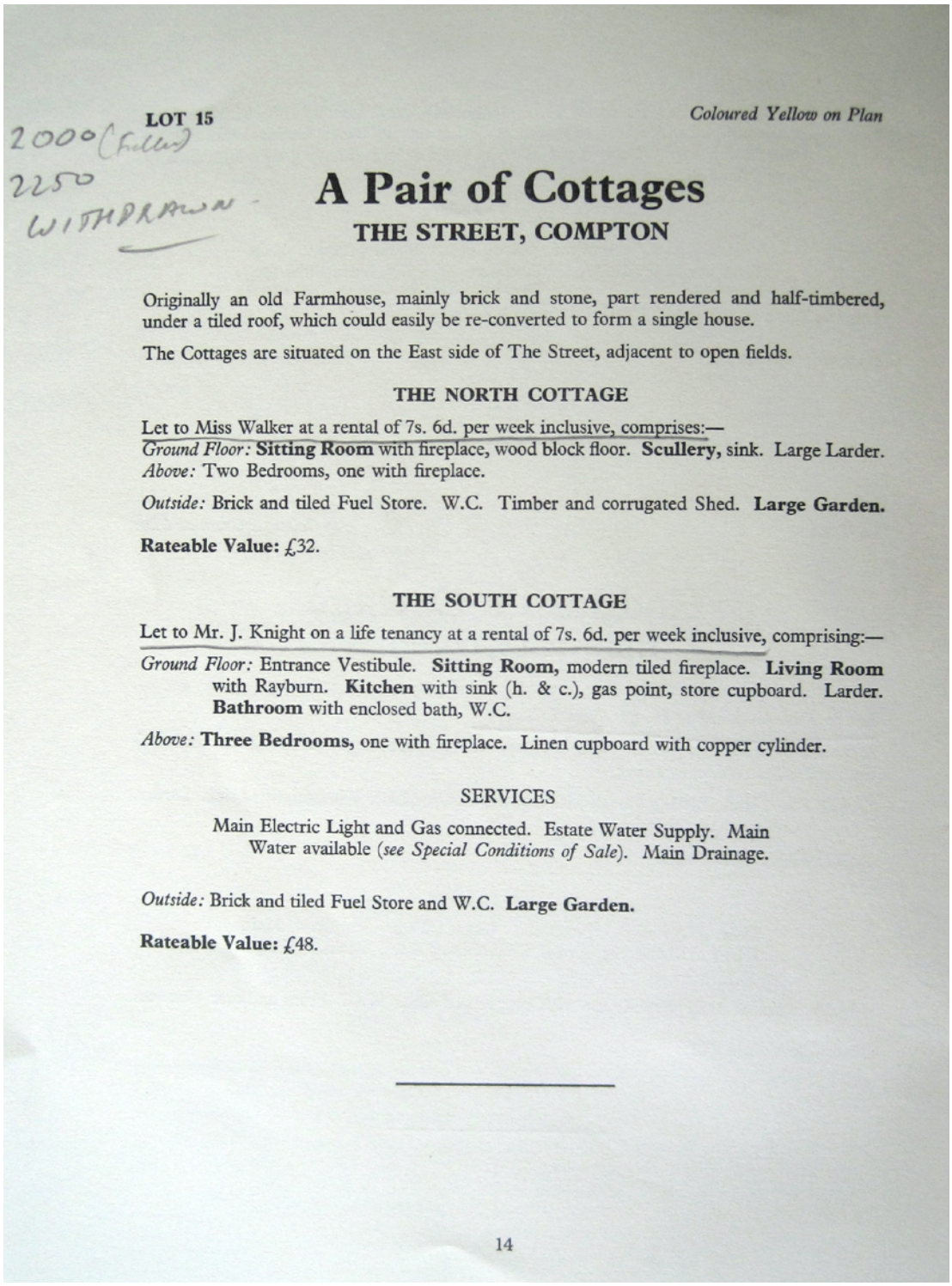
By now, the two households were not only geographically close but there were strong family ties because Annie Walker and Evelyn Knight were sisters. Many other members of the Walker family, by both birth and marriage, were dotted about the village and one can imagine that it would have been very unlikely indeed that the elderly Mrs Walker was lonely or having to struggle by herself in her simple home.

Evelyn Knight (née Walker), is on the right of the photograph. She is pictured with Annie Elizabeth Walker (left) and her sister-in-law, Dorothy Knight.

In 1939, a detailed register of households was compiled prior to the anticipated outbreak of World War II. This was swiftly carried out in an effort to see who lived in them prior to a major dispersal of their occupants. The register shows that Mrs Walker was then in her eightieth year. Despite her lack of home comforts she lived a long life and was still a resident of The Street in 1945. By the early 1950s the cottage was home to Miss Edith Walker.[31]

After the Second World War, many estates were broken up or were changed dramatically. It was, however, different in Compton. This estate village continued to exist for nearly two decades longer until Eastbury Manor and its lands and cottages were sold in 1963. The old order survived longer here than in many similar villages and was an anachronism, a Victorian survival in the post-war world.

The paternalistic atmosphere of the Eastbury regime remained. Some of the houses, such as Wood's Cottage and Goddard's Cottage, were still known by the estate workers who lived in them, names that survived until the later twentieth century. Many of the servants lived in these dwellings for decades and pace of change in Compton continued to be very slow.



LOT 15

Coloured Yellow on Plan

2000 (Sold)
2250
WITHDRAWN

A Pair of Cottages

THE STREET, COMPTON

Originally an old Farmhouse, mainly brick and stone, part rendered and half-timbered, under a tiled roof, which could easily be re-converted to form a single house.

The Cottages are situated on the East side of The Street, adjacent to open fields.

THE NORTH COTTAGE

Let to Miss Walker at a rental of 7s. 6d. per week inclusive, comprises:—

Ground Floor: **Sitting Room** with fireplace, wood block floor. **Scullery,** sink. Large Larder.
Above: Two Bedrooms, one with fireplace.

Outside: Brick and tiled Fuel Store. W.C. Timber and corrugated Shed. **Large Garden.**

Rateable Value: £32.

THE SOUTH COTTAGE

Let to Mr. J. Knight on a life tenancy at a rental of 7s. 6d. per week inclusive, comprising:—

Ground Floor: Entrance Vestibule. **Sitting Room,** modern tiled fireplace. **Living Room** with Rayburn. **Kitchen** with sink (h. & c.), gas point, store cupboard. Larder. **Bathroom** with enclosed bath, W.C.

Above: **Three Bedrooms,** one with fireplace. Linen cupboard with copper cylinder.

SERVICES

Main Electric Light and Gas connected. Estate Water Supply. Main Water available (*see Special Conditions of Sale*). Main Drainage.

Outside: Brick and tiled Fuel Store and W.C. **Large Garden.**

Rateable Value: £48.

14

Sales particulars for both cottages in 1963.
It is obvious that they were in very basic condition
and were being offered as a good investment opportunity.

The changing estate

In the early 1960s, most of the houses in the Street were still owned by Eastbury and lived in by estate workers and their families, many of whom were retired with a life tenancy. As we can see from the sales particulars, the rents were small: North Cottage and South Cottage were each let for the sum of 7/6 per week. Mrs Hilda Walker, who dwelt nearby at White Hart Cottage, had a rent free tenancy for life. Many of the houses were very basic and unimproved and their occupants lived simply.

The accommodation at North Cottage certainly came into this category. Miss Edith Walker had no kitchen, just a living room, a scullery with a sink and a large larder on the ground floor. Above this there were two bedrooms. There were no indoor bathing facilities and her WC was situated in the garden. She presumably washed herself, her pots and pans the food that she ate and perhaps some of her clothes at the sink in the scullery. She had a couple of fireplaces but no boiler - it must have been difficult to keep warm in winter and one hopes that other members of the family helped her with her laundry.

John and Evelyn Knight at South Cottage had more spacious accommodation and the comforts of an indoor bathroom. They too had some fireplaces and it is clear that South Cottage, which also had a Rayburn and an airing cupboard, would also have been much warmer. Both cottages were connected to gas and electricity and water was still supplied by the Eastbury estate.

When the 1939 register had been compiled, John Knight was sharing his home with his wife Evelyn and the couple were both still there in 1963. John worked as a gardener and perhaps this outdoor lifestyle contributed to his longevity. Certainly, a good number of the inhabitants of these two cottages, over the centuries, lived to well beyond the average age and John was to dwell there for over forty years.

By the end of the decade it was just Evelyn Knight, out of the two households, whose name appeared on the electoral register. She was now in her early seventies. The name Barber’s Cottage had been lost for quite some time and the two halves of the house had continued to be known as North Cottage and South Cottage.

Elsewhere, as we have seen, some of the properties of the Eastbury Estate were known by their current or former tenants. After the sale of 1963, as those holding life tenancies died or left their houses, the buildings were greatly improved and new owner-occupiers moved in.

This major social change occurred in the village over a very short time. The metamorphosis from Victorian tied estate village to one that was almost entirely owner-occupied took place within about ten to fifteen years. New names, faces and occupations appeared in The Street and North and South Cottages were very much a part of this change.

Canon Hudson

In the early 1970s, South Cottage became the home of a man who was very well known and respected in the village. Canon Aelfric Henry Hudson had previously been rector at St Nicholas Church for eight years, having arrived to take up this post in 1955. He was, by then, in his early sixties, with a distinguished career behind him.

Canon Hudson lived at South Cottage in the 1970s, after his retirement

Born in Brixton in June 1892, he subsequently moved to Surrey and was living in Leatherhead in 1911. After graduating from Wadham College, Oxford, he held ecclesiastical positions in Essex, Hampshire and Surrey. During the 1930s he and his wife Eileen lived at Holmbury St Mary and by 1945 Hudson was based at The Bourne in Farnham.[32] After arriving in Compton he was made an honorary canon of Guildford Cathedral from 1956, continuing as canon emeritus from 1963.[33]

He had been very much liked during his time as rector. As well as performing his duties for adults he ran services for children, where he would take his attendees round the church, pointing out parts of the building and explaining their relevance. His anecdotes were interesting and enjoyable and Veronica Gates, who lived at Limnerslease and attended the services as a girl, remembers the patient and tolerant actions of this clergyman. A man of large physique and imposing personality, his appearance may have seemed daunting but he was kind and thoughtful with his young charges and on mothering Sunday, for example, he would give a child from each family a bunch of violets to present to their mothers.

Top: A quiet day in Compton Street.
Bottom: The rear of South Cottage in 1978.

He retired to live in Grayshott in 1963 and, eight years after this, he returned to Compton to live at South Cottage for a few years. Perhaps the timing of his arrival coincided with the departure of the last sitting tenant; Miss Walker was no longer there in the late 1960s and this would have allowed a little time in between for the renovation of the property.

Canon Hudson did not serve again as rector of the church during his time at South Cottage but was still very involved with his spiritual life in the locality. Eventually, he moved to Grayshott for a short period where he died in 1974 at the age of eighty two.

In the meantime there were two ladies, Anne Blaikie and Patricia Battens, who were in residence at North Cottage. There appear to have been there for just a brief period in and around the mid 1970s but by late 1977 the property was unoccupied. It is likely that they and Canon Hudson were the last people to live in the divided house.

By the end of the 1970s, the house had new owners in the form of Paul and Janet Ashton. Again, they did not stay there for long, but their time there was very important for it was they who had the two cottages re-united. The house that had once been Barber's for so many generations was once more a single home. Now, with the the two sections of the building rejoined, only the name South Cottage remains.

By the middle of the 1980s, South Cottage was home to David and Belinda Hayler and they stayed for a few years before, in 1987, selling the house to Ken and Jean Miller, who still live there today.

Ken and Jean are very familiar faces in the village and for many years they have both been active members of the community, giving their time, enthusiasm and talents to various organisations. Ken is the current chairman of the Compton Village Association, which was founded over twenty five years ago and which plays an important part in the good quality of life for those who live in the village.

The Association promotes social functions, helps with fundraising and oversees major events such as the annual fete, which is held on the village green. Many local amenities have been supported by its efforts: the Compton Club, the village hall, the allotments in Withies Lane, the monthly production of ‘Compton News’, the running of the minibus, Compo, and the campaign for traffic safety are to name just a few.

Many years earlier, Ken was involved with another local voluntary organisation. The Elizabeth McAlmont Memorial Trust was a small conservation charity that protected areas of local land from development

in order that people could enjoy them and nature could flourish. Its work is now continued by the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

In 1991, Ken and Jean acquired the barn next to South Cottage and it has been put to very good use over the years. Jean is artistic and a group of creative people enjoy meeting inside on regular basis to paint. Frequently, it is filled to the brim with items to be sold in aid of MacMillan nurses. Jean holds annual fund raising coffee mornings for the charity and they have been always well attended. The front section of the barn houses a small, very attractive shop where one can buy antiques and bric-a-brac at reasonable cost and it's always a pleasure to drop in and see what's arrived.

The back of South cottage in the summer of 2019

South Cottage nowadays is very warm and welcoming and is much enjoyed by its owners. The house and its predecessors have been a part of the Compton scene for hundreds of years and records of its owners and occupiers take their story back to the late fifteenth century. Since then, the cottage has been the home and workplace for about eighteen generations of people. How many lived at Barber's before that time we will never know but, hopefully, there will be many more and the house will continue to be a part of the village scene for years to come.

Manorial records and the ownership of the house

Manorial records provide the local historian with a wealth of information about many aspects of parish life from medieval times onwards. The ownership and transfer of property were controlled by the manor and it is from the minutes of the manor court that successive changes of property ownership can, with luck, be traced. The ownership of South Cottage can be followed with certainty through successive documents of the manor of Compton Westbury from the 1870s back to the first quarter of the sixteenth century.

But what was a manor and why was the lord of the manor involved so closely with the sale of houses and land?

A manor was a feudal estate and, for 500 years after the Conquest, was both a unit of local government and a social and economic unit. The manor could be a part of a parish coinciding with its boundaries or it could cover a number of parishes. The lord of the manor was either the tenant of the Crown or of another lord who himself held the land from the Crown and who sub-let to the lord of the manor. The manorial lord retained a part of the manor, called the demesne, for his own use and the remainder was used as common land or was tenanted by landholders who held their land from him. The two main types of tenant were, firstly, the villeins who occupied their lands on condition that they rendered services to the lord of the manor, such as cultivating his demesne, and, secondly, the freemen who paid a money rent to the lord.

The manor was governed by the manor court, a periodic meeting of the tenants of the manor. It was presided over by the lord or his steward who was very often a man trained in the law. The two meetings of the court were the Court Leet, which appointed officers such as ale-tasters, constables or woodwards, dealt with minor offences and oversaw matters such as highway maintenance, and the court baron which dealt with property matters such as the transfer of land and houses and the management of common land.

By the later medieval period, the two forms of tenure evolved into different forms of landholding: the villein tenure becoming copyhold and free tenure, freehold. Labour services to the lord had changed to money rents. These "quit rents" were fixed by custom and did not change over the centuries, even when dramatically devalued by the inflation of the sixteenth century. Lists of the quit rents due to the lord from the manor properties were often made and these rent rolls are frequently included amongst collections of manorial documents.

Copyholders held their property from the lord of the manor and all changes of ownership had to be reported to the court. Technically, whenever a copyhold property was bought and sold, or if the copyholder died, it reverted to the lord of the manor who then passed it to the new tenant. The transaction was presented to the next court baron after the sale and was recorded in the minutes of the court (the court rolls). Usually, a fee had to be paid to the lord when there was a change of tenant: a "fine on alienation" at a sale or a "heriot" on the death of the tenant and the admittance of his heir. Copyholders were given a copy of the entry in the court roll as proof that the property belonged to them, hence the name of the tenure.

The manor, amongst other things, was a system of landholding and this aspect of their activities persisted, although with many changes, until the 1920s. The court rolls and rent rolls are an extremely important source for tracing the history of property. The changes of ownership that had occurred since the last court were presented to the Court Baron and all the proceedings were noted in the minutes in a formal and standard way. The record frequently lists the last one or two holders of the land and it is possible, therefore, to trace the change of ownership of a copyhold property from successive entries in the court roll. Theoretically there could be a series of court rolls for each manor starting at a date between 1250 and 1300 and coming down to 1925 or so. Unfortunately, in most cases complete series do not exist.

Westbury manorial records: Barber's.

1517/18 Court Baron - 25th February 1517/18
Dispute about ownership of Barber's between John Wheeler and David Evan junior following the death of Evan's father. Wheeler admitted as new tenant.

1528/29 Court Baron - Monday following the feast of the Epiphany
Continued dispute about ownership of Barber's between John Wheeler and David Evan. The court again decided in favour of Wheeler and the ownership of the property remained with him and his heirs and assigns.

1529/30 Court Baron - 14th January 1529/30
Barber's sold by John Wheeler and Margessa his wife. It was surrendered into the hands of the lord and Robert Wells was admitted as tenant.

1546 Court Baron - 28th May 1546.
John Wells passed the property to Henry Stofold (sic) who was admitted as tenant.

1576 Court held 3rd January 1576/77
Henry Stovold at court to answer charges that his copyhold property was falling into disrepair. He was assigned the loppings of three pollard trees and an elm tree to enable him to repair the house. His brother, Edward, was ejected from his copyhold for "causing waste".

1576 Court Baron - September 1576
Death of Henry Stovold presented and his son, Edward, aged twenty years, admitted to Barber's, one acre of pasture and six acres of arable land at an annual rent of 3/-. His uncle Edward was to do fealty to the lord until Edward junior was of full age.

1608/9 Summary of Court Baron entry.
Edward Stovold died holding Barber's. Thomas Stovold his son and heir aged 13 was admitted.

1617-27 Quit rental.
(No date given but bound between documents dated 1617 and 1627)
"*Of Edward Stovold Jun. for a messuage called Barber's, one acre of pasture and vi acres of arrable land in East Compton - iii*^{s}*"*

1662 Court Baron - 15 April 1662
Death of Thomas Stovold. Admission of his son, Thomas, to Barber's, one acre of pasture and six acres of arable land ... in East Compton at an annual rent of 3 shillings.

1683 Quit rental
"Of Thomas Stovold for a messuage called Barber's and lands in East Compton - iii^{s}

1739 Court Baron - 4th October 1739
Death of Thomas Stovold presented. His son Thomas admitted with his wife Elizabeth. 3/- quit rent.

1760 Court Baron - 20th October 1760
Thomas Stovall surrendered the reversion of Barber's to the use of his two daughters, Dorcas, wife of Jonathan Tice, and Sarah Stovell, a spinster, after his death.

1777 Court Baron - 4th October 1777
Death of Thomas Stovold presented and a recital of the provisions of 1760 Court Baron was made.

1777 Quit rental
Of Jonathan Tice the heir of Thomas Stovold for a messuage with appurtenances called Barber's one acre of pasture and six acres of land with appurtenances in East Compton - 3s

1781 Court Baron - 4th October 1781

1. Admission of William Tice on the deaths of Dorcas Tice and Sarah Stovold to "*All that customary messuage or tenement called Barber's and seven acres of land at a yearly rent of 3/-*".

2. Surrender of William Tice to Edward Mower of Compton (i.e. he mortgaged the property) "*provided always and upon condition that if the said William Tice his heirs . . . cause to be paid unto the said Edward Mower . . . the full sum of twenty pounds with interest on the fourth day of April now next ensuing . . .* " The interest charged was 5% p.a.

1792 Court Baron - 25th October 1792

Mortgaged redeemed.

"*At this court came Edward Mower in his own proper person and acknowledgeth to have received all principal and interest due to him on a mortgage surrender made to him by William at a Court Baron . . . on 4 October 1781*".

1808 Recorded "out of court" [usually at the steward's office] - July 1808.

Sale of five acres of Barber's by William Tice to Rev. Edward Fulham.

1811 Court Baron - Wed 23 October 1811

Sale of half an acre of Barber's by William Tice to Henry Barnes for £40.

"All that piece or parcel of this manor adjoining to land of the Rev. Edward Fulham on one part and to the land leading to Guildford on the other part (being part of the customary messuage and land called Barber's to which the said William Tice was admitted at a Court Baron held on 4th October 1781)."

Apportioned quit rents: *Henry Barnes 1d* *William Tice 11d*

1837 Court Baron - Tues 10th Oct 1837

Death of William Tice presented. One pig, his only animal, seized as a heriot. His land within the manor described:

1. Copyhold messuage called "Barber's" and two acres of land being part of a customary messuage and seven acres to which he was admitted at a Court Baron on 7th October 1781. (The residue of the said seven acres having been surrendered by Wm. Tice to Rev. Edward Fulham and Henry Barnes as presented at two Courts Baron held on 25th October 1808 and 23 October 1811). 11d rent.

2. Copyhold ... messuage or tenement, barn curtilage and garden . . . part of a customary tenement called "Groves".

William's will left Barber's to his son Thomas and Groves to his son George but not until after the death of his wife Mary.

1840 Court Baron - Tues 6th Oct 1840

Recital of death of William Tice. Admission of Mary Tice for her life, according to the will of William Tice to Barber's and Groves.

1854 Compton parish register

Burial of Mary Tice, 17th July 1854 aged 84**.**

1858 Thomas Tice died intestate without having been formally admitted as tenant of Barber's leaving his brother George as heir.

1861 Court Baron - 25 Nov 1861
Death of Mary Tice presented.
Copyhold or customary messuage called Barber's and two acres of land. Rent 11d. Heriot due but no live cattle.

1871 "Out of court" - 5 May 1871
George Tice admitted as tenant of Barber's and Groves.

1877 21 June 1877
George Tice enfranchised both Groves and Barber's for the sum of £157 5s 8d to be held as freehold thereafter. Consequently, there are no further entries for Barber's in the manorial records.

Notes and references

[1] Westbury court roll, 3 Jan 19 Eliz I (1576/77), LM/182, SHC (Surrey History Centre).
[2] Westbury court roll, LM/181, SHC.
[3] Ibid.
[4] History of Compton in Surrey Cecilia Lady Boston, London 1933, page 85. Durford Abbey was near Petersfield.
[5] Westbury court roll, LM 181, SHC. Court baron held Sunday next after the feast of the Epiphany 20 Henry VIII (January 1528/29).
[6] Ibid. Court baron 14 Jan 21 Hen VIII (1529/30).
[7] Surrey Archdeaconry Court, DW/PA/7/3 f.206r, London Metropolitan Archives.
[8] Westbury court roll, 28 May 38 Hen VIII (1546) LM/181, SHC.
[9] S6/34, SHC
[10] Copy of Westbury court roll, 5 July 1837, LM/359/43, SHC.
[11] G25/9, SHC
[12] Eastbury manor court book no.4, 70/5/211, SHC
[13] Westbury court roll, 3 Jan 19 Eliz I (1576/77), LM/182, SHC.
[14] History of Baker's Cottage, Philip Gorton, 2000. An *aum* was a large cask so the house name can be interpreted as the *Barrel Tap*.
[15] Westbury court roll, 26 Sep 19 Eliz I (1577), LM/182, SHC.
[16] Hearth Tax returns, Surrey, 1664. Published by the Surrey Record Society, Vol. XVII.
[17] Edward Stovold's will, proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Surrey, Sept 1608.
[18] In the majority of manors it is only the change of ownership of copyholds that had to be reported to the court. However, in some manors, including those in Compton, freeholders were also obliged to report changes of ownership to the court. The descent of ownership of freehold properties in these manors can be traced in the same way as copyholds.
[19] Westbury court roll, 20 Oct. 34 Geo II (1760),LM/S/1, SHC.
[20] Freeholders List, Quarter Session Records, SRO.
[21] Westbury court roll, 25 Oct. 49 Geo III (1808) and 23 Oct. 51 Geo III (1811), LM/S/4, SHC.
[22] Westbury court roll, 10 Oct. 1 Vic (1837), LM/S/15, SHC.
[23] Compton parish registers, SHC.
[24] Census returns 1851, SHC.
[25] Map of Loseley estate of 1788, ref: LM/2161, SHC.
[26] Return of the Owners of Land: Surrey, 1873. Reprint published by West Surrey Family History Society. George Tice is listed as owning 8.75 acres of land in Surrey. His home is given as Brocksmouth, Scotland.
[27] Compton parish register.
[28] Ordnance Survey maps of 1872 and 1896.
[29] Boston, op. cit.
[30] Department of the Environment listing.
[31] Electoral Registers of the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1952.
[32] Electoral Registers, 1933 - 1945.
[33] Crockford's Clerical Directory, 1963-64.