

# The Arthur's of Capel

Ancestors and Descendants  
of Arthur Cheeseman

by

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## The Arthur's of Capel

Nearly two thousand years ago there was a farm located near the Roman military road that ran from Regnum, near what is now called Chichester, on the English Channel to the Roman city of Londinium<sup>1</sup> on the River Thames. Because of its convenient location about a hard day's journey from either city, travelers would frequently stop overnight in the vicinity of the farm. The owner of the farm eventually built a small chapel for the spiritual benefit of travelers. Some time later an inn was built near the farm and chapel to provide food, drink and overnight shelter for the more affluent travelers. The small village that grew up near the farm was called Capel (now pronounced **Cape'-ul**) from Capella, the Latin word for chapel. A church dedicated to St. John the Baptist eventually replaced the small chapel. Today the old Crown Inn stands on The Street, the main street in Capel, adjacent to St. John the Baptist Church. Remains of the Roman road, called Stane<sup>2</sup> Street, can still be seen in the Capel area and it is the base for the main street of Ockley which lies just to the west of Capel .



*St John the Baptist Church  
Capel, Surrey, England*

On 30 May, 1815, **John Arthur**, my great-great-great-great grandfather, married **Mary Worsfold** in St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Capel, Surrey. John was born about 1791 somewhere in the County of Surrey, possibly in the village of Betchworth which is located five or six miles north of Capel and a mile or two east of the town of Dorking. His bride, Mary Worsfold, was probably the daughter of **Thomas Worsfold** and **Mary Bristow**, who was baptized in Capel on 15 May, 1791. After their marriage, John and Mary Arthur lived at Broomell's, a farm located about three quarters of a mile northeast of the Capel village center. John was no doubt employed as a farm laborer by the owner or tenant of Broomell's Farm. On 17 September, 1815, less than four months after their wedding ceremony, John and Mary Arthur<sup>3</sup> baptized their first child, **Rebecca Arthur**, in Capel. John and Mary had at least three other children, all of them girls. Mary died in mid-June, 1826, and was buried at Capel on 25 June, 1826. She was only thirty-five years old.

About 500 years ago a farmhouse was built about two thirds of a mile to the east-

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<sup>1</sup> By the ninth Century AD, Londinium was being called Lundenwic by the Saxons, and later became London, at one time the most populous city in the world.

<sup>2</sup> "Stane" is an old English word for Stone and the term was used to distinguish the Roman stone paved roads from other, unpaved roads

<sup>3</sup> Rebecca's surname was shown as "Archer" in the church baptismal records, but there is a note in the church records indicating that Arthur, Arter, Artyer and Archer were all variant spellings of the same family name. This suggests that the name may have originally been pronounced "Ar'-tyoor" or something similar and gradually changed to "Ar'-tur" before becoming "'Ar'-thur". The name is spelled variously as "Arter", "Arther", "Arthor" or "Arthur" in the different Censuses.



## Aldhurst

as it may have appeared in the mid 19th Century

southeast of St. John the Baptist Church in Capel. The farm and its house were named “Aldhurst”.

In the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Aldhurst Farm was owned by a wealthy landlord, Thomas Dann, who also owned several other farms in Surrey and Sussex. For some reason the tenant farmer who had been working Aldhurst gave up the lease on the farm in 1826 and it was leased to a young man from Sussex named John Dale. John was required to pay the departing tenant £342 for the labor he had invested in cultivation and for the stacks of Hay, Straw, etcetera, that

were left on the farm. John also had to pay the landlord a yearly rent of £45 which was due in two installments, one in March and the other in October. In addition, John was required to pay a tithe (one tenth of his gross produce) to the Anglican Church which amounted to about £23 a year. The farm contained about eighty-eight acres of land and included an old farmhouse called Hatchland, just across the lane from Aldhurst House, and “Rushet Cottages”, an old farmhouse which had been subdivided into two or three smaller apartments and which was located a quarter mile or so south of Aldhurst on Temple Lane. John Dale was raised a Quaker and when his first wife died a year and a half after their marriage, he married Mary Sayers, a Quaker lady from nearby Crawley, Sussex. The descendants of John Dale and Mary Sayers have been the tenants of Aldhurst Farm since 1826, and members of the Dale family still operate the farm<sup>4</sup> and live in the original Aldhurst farm house and in Hatchland. John and Mary Dale were very actively involved in their Quaker religion and applied its teachings and philosophy to their daily lives and their dealings with their fellow man. They provided work and shelter for many of the “deserving poor” of the parish, and members of the Arthur and Worsfold families were prominent among the benefactors of their compassion.

The day the census was taken on 7 June, 1841, in addition to John and Mary Dale and their four young children, John Arthur was enumerated as a widower living at Aldhurst Farm with his four daughters and two grandchildren. Also living at Aldhurst were John’s older brother, **Samuel Arthur**, and his wife **Rebecca**. Samuel was born in Betchworth in 1781. His wife was born somewhere in Surrey around the same year. In addition, George Worsfold and his wife and three children and four farm laborers and a middle aged woman were all shown as being residents of Aldhurst. In all, twenty-five people were listed as occupying Aldhurst! Given the size of Aldhurst House at that time it seems highly unlikely that all twenty-five people occupied the one house and some of them probably lived in other buildings on the farm, including Hatchland House which was located across Temple Lane from Aldhurst. Samuel and John Arthur and their

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<sup>4</sup> The Dale family may now own the farm since it was for sale in 1989 and the Dale’s are said to have talked of purchasing it at that time.

families probably actually lived at Hatchland where they were living at the time of the 1851 Census.

In addition to the twenty-five people enumerated as occupying Aldhurst, William Worsfold, aged sixty-five, and his wife and a grown son lived in one of the Rushet Cottages. Another of his sons, William Worsfold, Jr., also lived at Rushet, apparently in the same cottage, with his wife and seven children.



The other Rushet Cottage was occupied by John Palmer and his family. James Worsfold and his family of five occupied a cottage at Lodge Farm which was located a short distance from the Aldhurst farmhouse, and may have also been situated on Aldhurst Farm land. It seems likely that all the Worsfold families at Aldhurst were related to Mary Worsfold in one way or another. All the men, other than John Dale, were enumerated as farm laborers and undoubtedly worked on Aldhurst farm.

Samuel Arthur's wife, Rebecca, died in the spring of 1847.

My great-great-great-great grandfather, John Arthur, died early in May, 1849, and was buried at St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 9 May, 1849. He was reported to have been fifty-eight years old when he died.

At the time of the Census at the end of March, 1851, John Arthur's brother, Samuel, was the head of the household at the Hatchland farmhouse where he lived with his niece, Rebecca (my great-great-great grandmother), and her second husband, Charles Ede. Rebecca's young sons, Arthur Cheesman and Henry Ede, also lived at Hatchland, but her two older children, James and Mary Cheesman, were living in Capel village with Rebecca's sister, Mary, and her husband, William Arthur<sup>5</sup>. Both Samuel Arthur and Charles Ede were working as farm laborers.

By 1861, Samuel Arthur no longer lived at Hatchland, but was living with Charles and Rebecca Ede and their children at Obrooks<sup>6</sup> farm which was located about two miles southwest of Aldhurst. Charles Ede and Arthur Cheesman, Rebecca's fifteen year old son, both worked as agricultural laborers, probably on Obrooks Farm. Samuel's age was shown as eighty-two and his occupation was "Formerly Ag Lab".

A few short years later, around 1863<sup>7</sup>, Samuel Arthur was dead.

John Arthur and Mary Worsfold had at least four daughters;

**1. Rebecca Arthur**, my great-great-great grandmother, was born at Broomals

<sup>5</sup> It is not clear whether James and Mary Cheesman were living with their aunt full time or just happened to be on a short visit when the census was taken.

<sup>6</sup> The farm was called "Obrooks" in every census from 1841 to 1891. In 1901 it was identified as "Osbrooks". An 1879 Ordnance Survey map calls it "Upbroke's Farm" and the 1929 Ordnance Survey map labels it "Osbrook's Farm".

<sup>7</sup> Two Samuel Arthur's died in the Dorking Registration District during the period when Samuel died; one during the December quarter of 1862 and the other during the June quarter of 1864.

Farm near Capel, Surrey, presumably sometime after her parents' marriage on 30 May, 1815. Her name was recorded as "Rebecca Archer" (sic) in the St. John the Baptist Anglican Church Parish record of her baptism on 17 September, 1815. Rebecca continued to live with her parents at Broomals until her marriage to **William Cheesman** in February, 1837.

**[See Rebecca Arthur and Her Descendants on page 7]**

2. **Mary Arthur** was probably born at Broomals in the summer or fall of 1818. She was baptized in Capel on 11 October, 1818. In the spring of 1846, Mary married **William Arthur**<sup>8</sup>. William was born in Capel around 1818. William Arthur worked as a farm laborer, and sometime after they married they moved to Clarke (probably Clark's Green), next to Plaistow Farm, where they were living in 1851. At the time of the 1851 Census, Mary's sister, Rebecca's, two children by her first husband were living with Mary and William.

Sometime after 1851 Mary and William moved into a house on The Street in Capel Village where they lived for the rest of their lives. At the time of the census in 1861 a young man, Richard Worsfold, from Warnham, Sussex, was a lodger with the family. Mary Arthur died during the summer of 1892. William Arthur died early in 1900.

Mary and William Arthur apparently had only one child;

- a. **John Arthur** was born in Capel in late February or early March, 1851. He was reported to have been one month old at the time of the 1851 Census on 30 March. John lived with his parents in Capel until after the death of his mother in 1892. Like most young men in Capel, John started working as an agricultural laborer at an early age, but sometime in his twenties he became a baker. In the spring of 1893, at the age of forty-two, John married **Mary Ann Rackham**. After his marriage John continued to live in Capel Village on Capel Street. By 1901 John was no longer earning a living as a baker and was working as a "Grocer's Porter".

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3. **Elizabeth Arthur** was born in Capel, possibly at Broomals, early in 1823. She and her twin sister were baptized in St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 16 March, 1823. Elizabeth married **David Bassett** of Cheam, Surrey (near Ewell) in the spring of 1851. David was born in Cheam about 1825. He was the son of a Bricklayer, Thomas Bassett, and David also became a bricklayer. David and Elizabeth lived in Cheam after their marriage, at first on Cheam Street and then, by 1871, they had moved to High Street where they continued to live for the rest of their lives. In addition to their three children, a boarder, John Pye, also lived with them in 1871. Although Elizabeth was about three years older than David, she apparently told him she was only a year older.

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<sup>8</sup> It is not known at this time whether William Arthur was related to Mary. He may have been a cousin.

This was reflected in her reported age in 1861 and 1871.

David Bassett died during the spring of 1879 when he was about forty-six years old. In 1881 Elizabeth still lived on High Street in Cheam. On the day of the 1881 Census her four year old granddaughter, Elizabeth Smith, was staying with her. To help make ends meet Elizabeth had taken in two more boarders in addition to John Pye. John remained a boarder at Elizabeth's home for at least twenty years and was still living there in 1891. After her husband's death, Elizabeth admitted to being born in 1823 and reported her age accordingly in 1881 and 1891. Around 1888 Elizabeth's daughter, Emma's, husband, Frederick Smith, died and shortly afterward Emma and her five children moved in with Elizabeth where they were living in 1891.

Elizabeth Arthur~Bassett passed away late in 1896.

Elizabeth Arthur and David Bassett had three children;

- a. **Emma Elizabeth Bassett** was born in Cheam, Surrey, in the spring of 1856. Emma married Frederick Smith in Cheam in the spring of 1873 when she was just seventeen. Frederick was born in Mitcham, Surrey (near Wimbledon), around 1850. In 1871 he had lived in Cheam at the house of William Thorns, a butcher, and learned the butcher's trade. After their marriage, he and Emma lived in Merton, Surrey, not far from Mitcham and Wimbledon. Frederick listed his occupation in the 1881 Census as "Inn Keeper and Butcher". Frederick Smith died sometime between the conception of his youngest son in the summer of 1887 and the time of the Census near the end of March, 1901. He may have been the Frederick Smith who died in the last three months of 1888. After Frederick's death, Emma and her five children moved back to Cheam and lived with Emma's mother. After her mother's death in 1896 Emma apparently continued to live in her parents' house. In 1901 she lived on High Street and took in laundry to earn a few shillings. Three of her children and a granddaughter, Evelyn Smith, were living with her at the time of the Census.

Emma Bassett and Frederick Smith had five children;

- i. **Frederick Sidney Smith** was born in Cheam, Surrey, in the summer of 1873, within six months after his parent's marriage.
- ii. **Arthur Ernest Smith** was born in the summer of 1875 in Cheam.
- iii. **Elizabeth Mary Smith** was born in Cheam during the first three months of 1877.
- iv. **Edith Emma Smith** was born in the summer of 1879 in Cheam.
- v. **Charles Adam's Smith** was born in Cheam in the spring of 1888. His father died when Charles was quite young, perhaps as young as six months.

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- b. **Mary Ann Bassett** was Elizabeth Arthur and David Bassett's second child. She was born in the spring of 1858 in Cheam, Surrey.
- c. **Arthur Robert Bassett**, Elizabeth and David's third child, was born in Cheam during the spring of 1861.

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- 4. **Kitty Arthur** was one of four daughters of John Arthur and Mary Worsfold. She was born early in 1823 in or near Capel, probably at Broomals, and was the twin sister of Elizabeth Arthur. The twins were both baptized in St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 16 March, 1823. Kitty and her siblings were living at Aldhurst Farm with their father and their uncle, Samuel Arthur, in 1841. In 1851 she was enumerated as Kate Arthur, still living with her uncle and her sister, Rebecca Cheesman, at Hatchland. I have been unable to trace her whereabouts after 1851.

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## Rebecca Arthur and Her Descendants

My great-great-great grandmother, Rebecca Arthur, was born at Broomals Farm, in the spring or summer of 1815. Broomals is located about three quarters of a mile northeast of Capel Village center. She was baptized in Capel on 30 May, 1815. Her parents apparently remained at Broomals until after her marriage. Rebecca married **William Cheesman**<sup>9</sup> in Capel on 4 February, 1837. Rebecca was twenty-one and her husband was only about nineteen. William Cheesman was born about 1817, possibly in Warnham, Sussex, a short distance from Capel. Their first child was baptized two months after their wedding. Rebecca and William Cheesman may have moved to Aldhurst farm immediately after their marriage, or they may have lived elsewhere for a couple of years. Tragically, William Cheesman died only two years after their marriage and he was buried in Capel on 8 February, 1839. At the time of his death Rebecca was pregnant with their second child who was baptized five months later.

Rebecca Arthur and William Cheesman had two children;

1. **James Cheesman** was born within two months of his parents' wedding and was baptized at Capel on 2 April, 1837. James spent the first several years of his life on Aldhurst farm. Probably around the time of his mother's second marriage in 1850, he went to live with his aunt, Mary, and her husband, William Arthur, at Clarke's Green, a farm located about a half mile to the southwest of Hatchland. At the age of fourteen James was working as an agricultural laborer at Clarke's Green. By the time he was twenty-four, James Cheesman was living at St. Martin in the Fields, Middlesex, a part of the London metropolitan area. He found lodging there with a constable, Edward Marsh, and his wife. James worked as a warehouseman in London. He does not appear in the 1871 and 1881 census, but by 1891 he was living alone at St. Martin in the Fields and working as a bank messenger.

James Cheesman died at St. Martin in the Fields during the spring of 1900.

2. **Mary Cheesman** was born a few months after her father's death and was baptized at Capel on 28 July, 1839. She lived with her mother, grandfather, great uncle and aunts at Aldhurst and Hatchland until she was about eleven years old and her mother remarried. In 1851, she and her brother, James, were living with her aunt, Mary, and uncle, William Arthur, at Clarke's Green near Capel. Mary does not show up anywhere in the 1861 Census, but late that year she married **Peter Stanbridge** in Capel. Peter was the son of a miller, James Stanbridge, and his wife, Mary. Peter was about the same age as Mary and had also been born in Capel. Ten years after their marriage Peter and Mary were living next door to Mary's mother at Obrooks Farm where Peter worked as an agricultural laborer. They had five young children by the time of the census. Mary and Peter Stanbridge lived and worked at

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<sup>9</sup> The family name was usually spelled "**Cheesman**" in the earlier records, and in later British Census records it was spelled both as "**Cheesman** and **Cheeseman**". It wasn't until after some of the family moved to Canada that they consistently spelled the name "**Cheeseman**". Family members still living in England spell it "**Cheesman**".

Obrooks for the rest of their lives together. Around 1888 Mary's mother, Rebecca Ede, came to live with them after her husband, Charles, passed away. She was living with the Stanbridge family in 1891, and probably remained with them until her death in 1895. Peter Stanbridge died during the summer of 1908.

Mary Cheesman and Peter Stanbridge had seven children;

a. **Mary Stanbridge** was born in Capel during the summer of 1862. In 1881, when she was eighteen, she was still living with her parents at Obrooks, but she was working as a "General Domestic Servant" for a family which lived nearby. By 1891, Mary had moved to London in search of work and a better lifestyle. At the time of the Census she was working as a domestic servant and living at the home of a widower, Arthur B. Worthington, who was financially self sufficient. Mary does not appear in the 1901 Census and may have married, died or emigrated. She may have been the Mary Stanbridge that married Thomas Peters in the Dorking area during the June quarter of 1902.

b. **Emma Stanbridge** was born early in 1864 in Capel. In her teens she worked as a "General Domestic Servant" while living with her parents at Obrooks in Capel. She apparently lived with her parents until she was twenty-five. Early in 1899 she married **Joseph Still**, a local boy four years younger than she was. Joseph was born in Capel early in 1868 and was the son of a Gamekeeper, Stephen Still, and his wife, Ann. Joseph was working as a plumber when he was thirteen years old. He eventually became a "House Decorator" and painter. Emma died in Capel during the summer of 1890 when she was twenty-six years old, only about a year and a half after her marriage. It seems likely that she died during childbirth. At the end of March, 1891, Joseph Still was a lodger at the home of the widow, Louisa Worsfold, who lived next door to Emma's uncle, Henry Ede, and his family. Mrs. Worsfold took in a number of boarders so it seems likely that Emma and Joseph lived at her house after their marriage.

About seven years after Emma's death Joseph Still married for a second time to Harriet Alice Hayler. In 1901 Joseph and Harriet Still and their two young children were living in Betchworth, Surrey.

c. **Kate Stanbridge** was born in Capel early in 1866. By the time she was fifteen she no longer lived with her parents, but was working as a live-in "General Servant" for Charles Edwards and his large family. Charles owned a Brick and Tile company in Capel and employed eight laborers. Kate's primary duties probably involved caring for the younger Edwards children who ranged in age from two months to six years.

In 1891, when she was twenty-five, Kate was working as a "Parlor Maid" for a retired brewer, John Young, and his wife and daughter. Sixteen year old Fanny Worsfold, possibly a cousin, was also working for the Young family.

Kate cannot be definitely identified in the 1901 Census and was probably married by that time. A Kate Stanbridge married **Thomas Sturges** in the Dorking Registration District (which includes Capel) in the December quarter of 1895. They lived in Dorking in 1901, but her birthplace was shown as Dorking instead of Capel.

- d. **Annie Stanbridge** was born in Capel sometime in 1869 according to all the censuses in which she appears. Apparently her parents failed to register her birth in a timely manner because it wasn't registered until the summer of 1870. By the time she was twelve Annie had dropped out of school and was "Helping at Home". Ten years later, in 1891, Annie was working as a cook for a widow, Mary A. Charrington, and her four children in Sutton, Surrey, about twelve to fifteen miles north of Capel near Epsom Downs. By 1901 Annie had moved back a little closer to Capel and was working as a cook for John A. Finlayson and his family. Mr. Finlayson was an Indian Produce Merchant in Reigate, about 8 miles north-northeast of Capel.
- e. **James Stanbridge** was born around late January or early February, 1871, in Capel. He apparently lived with his parents until he was at least thirty. As a child he attended school in Capel, and then worked as a farm laborer, probably starting when he was twelve or fifteen. Sometime before he turned thirty he got a job driving a donkey cart on a farm in the Capel area.
- f. **William Stanbridge** was born in Capel in the spring of 1874. At the age of sixteen William lived with his parents, his brothers and his grandmother in Capel. By that time he had apparently discontinued his schooling and was working as an agricultural laborer in Capel. By the time William was 26 he had left home and was working as a "Garden Laborer" in Rustington, Sussex, which is on the coast between Brighton and Portsmouth about twenty-five miles south of Capel. At twenty-six years of age he was still single and was a boarder in the home of Henry Standing, the manager of a coal yard. William may have married in the Brighton area in 1901.
- g. **John Stanbridge** was born in the summer of 1876 in Capel, Surrey. He attended school as a child, but by the time he reached his teens he was working as an agricultural laborer. In 1901 he was boarding at the home of William Moore and working as a "Carter on a Farm" driving a horse drawn cart.

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After William Cheesman's death, Rebecca and her two young children lived with her father and sisters at her Uncle Samuel's home at Aldhurst Farm, probably at

Hatchland. Rebecca stayed with her Uncle at Hatchland for at least ten years and was still living there when the Census was taken at the end of March, 1851. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 1846, Rebecca gave birth to an illegitimate son. He was baptized **Arthur Cheesman** at St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 3 May, 1846. His father's name was not listed in the baptismal record. Arthur Cheesman was my great-great grandfather. **[See Arthur Cheesman and his Descendants on page 15]**

About a year after her father's death in the spring of 1849, Rebecca married her second husband, **Charles Ede**, an agricultural laborer. The Wedding took place on 3 April, 1850, at Holmwood, Surrey, a small village about two or three miles north of Capel. Charles was eleven or twelve years older than Rebecca and had been born in Ewhurst, Surrey, around 1803. After their marriage, Charles and Rebecca continued to live with Rebecca's uncle, Samuel Arthur, at Hatchland for a few years. By 1861, Rebecca and Charles had moved to Obrooks Farm, and Rebecca's uncle, who was too old to work in the fields by then, moved with them. The Ede's stayed at Obrooks for at least ten years and possibly as much as twenty or a little more, then, when Charles felt he was too old to work as an agricultural laborer, he retired and they moved into Capel Village. It is not clear what Charles and Rebecca did for income after he retired, because a pension plan for agricultural laborers did not exist. Perhaps they had somehow managed to save a few pounds from Charles' meager earnings. They supplemented whatever resources they had by renting a bed in their house to lodgers. In 1881 they had a lodger named George Penfold who worked on the Rail Road. Their son, Henry, also lived with them and undoubtedly helped support the family with his earnings as a bricklayer.

Charles Ede died around the middle of February, 1888, and was buried in Capel on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. After her husband's death, Rebecca lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Peter Stanbridge. The 1891 Census shows that they lived at "Streets" but its sequence in the Census suggests it was probably Obrooks where they had lived in the previous census and where they lived in the next census. "Streets" had never been used as an address in any previous census and Obrooks was not mentioned in the 1891 Census. Rebecca probably lived with her daughter's family for the rest of her life. Rebecca Arthur~Cheesman~Ede passed away in Capel on 16 September, 1895. She was buried in Capel on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

Rebecca Arthur and Charles Ede had two sons;

1. **Henry Ede** was born at Hatchland Farm during the late summer or early autumn of 1850 and was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. Henry's parents moved to Obrooks Farm when he was a young boy, and he lived there through the rest of his childhood and teen years until he was well into his twenties. When his parents moved into Capel Village he moved with them and was still living with them in 1881 when he was thirty years old. Like most teenagers and young men at that time and place, Henry worked as an agricultural laborer when he first entered the work force. Later, he worked as a "Bricklayer Laborer", a job he was working at in 1891.

Sometime in the first three months of 1883, at the age of thirty-three, Henry Ede married **Harriett Blake**. Harriett was from Birchanger, Essex, and was about a year younger than Henry. In 1891 they were living on Capel

Street in the village of Capel. By then they had three children; two sons and a two year old daughter, Kate Mary Ede. Henry was then working as a general laborer. Living next door to Henry and Harriet in 1891 was Joseph Still, the twenty-three year old widowed husband of Henry's niece, Emma Stanbridge. In the summer of 1893 tragedy struck the family. Their four year old daughter, Kate Mary Ede, died. By 1901, Henry was back working as an agricultural laborer. The family still lived in the village on Capel Street and they had another young son. Henry Ede died in the spring of 1914 in Capel when he was 63 years old.

Henry Ede and Harriett Blake had four children;

- a. **Henry Ede, Jr.** was born in Capel, Surrey, about 1884.
- b. **Frank W. Ede** was born in the summer of 1886, in Capel.
- c. **Kate Mary Ede**, Henry and Harriett's only daughter, was born in Capel during the last three months of 1888. She died in the summer of 1893 when she was only about four and a half years old.
- d. **John "Jack" Ede** was born in Capel in July, 1892. As an adult Jack operated a grocery store in Horsham, Sussex, a short distance from Capel. Jack is said to have been married but he and his wife had no children. He may have been the John Ede who married **Lizzie K. Walters** in Hambleton Registration District during the December quarter of 1911.

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2. **William Ede**, the second son of Rebecca Arthur and Charles Ede, was born at Hatchland Farm early in 1854 and was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 5 March, 1854. He married **Jane Northlands Baker** at the Dorking Register Office on 9 December, 1878. It is possible that they also had a religious ceremony in Capel.

Jane Baker was born in Warnham, Sussex, on 11 February, 1855. Her parents were **James Baker** and **Sarah Potter**<sup>10</sup>. James Baker was born about 1824 in Horsham, Sussex. He married Sarah Potter early in 1848 in Horsham. James Baker died during the summer of 1872, probably in North Horsham. Sarah Potter was born in Newington Green, Kent, around 1827. After her husband's death, Sarah may have remarried. In the spring of 1885 a Sarah Jane Baker married Harvey Brown in Horsham. If that was our Sarah, she became a widow again very shortly. A Harvey Brown died in Lincolnshire during the last three months of 1885. In 1891 a widow, Sarah Brown, was living in St. Margaret, Kent. She was born around 1828 in

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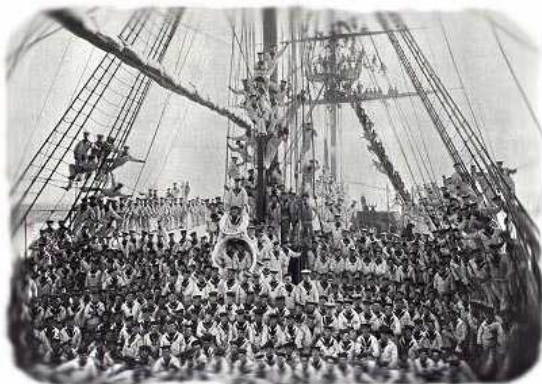
<sup>10</sup> According to information supplied by Peter Ede, Jane Northlands Baker's parents were **Thomas Baker** and **Jane Potter**. However, William and Jane's marriage registration identifies Jane's father as James Baker (deceased). The only Jane Northlands Baker that appeared in any British Census was the daughter of James and Sarah Baker living at Warnham, Sussex, in 1861.

Newington, Kent. She appears to have died in the December quarter of 1894 in the Woolwich Registration District which includes parts of Kent, Surrey and London. Peter Ede reports that his grandmother died about 1895.

. After their marriage, William and Jane Ede settled down on Capel Street in Capel Village where they continued to live through the time of the 1901 Census on 31 March, and quite possibly for the rest of their lives. William Ede was a brick maker at the time of his marriage, but he enumerated as a General laborer in the next two censuses. In 1901 he was working as a farm laborer.

William Ede and Jane Northlands Baker had six children;

- a. **Charles Ede** was born in Capel late in 1879. By the time he was eleven years old he was working as a general laborer in Capel. Charlie apparently was apprenticed to a bricklayer, probably in Capel, and by 1901 he was working as a bricklayer in North Horsham, Sussex, where he was one of two boarders with the Robert Diprose family.
  
- b. **Emma Ede** was born during the first three months of 1882 in Capel. When she was nineteen she worked as a cook for the Vicar, Arthur J. Howell, and his wife and lived at the Vicarage in Capel. Emma apparently relocated to the area of Dunsfold, Surrey, sometime in the next few years. She married **Archibald Harry Waller** there late in 1905. Archibald Waller was the son of Henry and Annie Waller. Archibald was born in Chidingfold, Surrey, in April, 1880. Archibald's mother died before he was ten years old, and it appears that he was raised mainly by his father after her death.
  
- c. **Reuben J. Ede** was born in Capel in the summer of 1884. When he was about sixteen he joined the Royal Navy and at the time of the Census at the end of March, 1901, he was undergoing training aboard HMS Lion in Devonport.



*Royal Navy Trainees aboard HMS Lion*



*The Lion was an old, Vanguard Class, eighty gun sailing ship that was launched in 1847. In 1859 it had been converted to auxiliary screw propulsion. After 1871 it was used as a*

*training ship for new seamen and its homeport was Devonport Harbor, Cornwall.*

In the spring of 1914 Reuben married **Kezia Stone** in the Weymouth, Dorset, area. Kezia was born in Wyke Regis, Dorset, late in March, 1888. Kezia was the daughter of a merchant seaman, Thomas Stone, and his wife, Elizabeth. Kezia was being called “Kate” by her family in 1901 when she was thirteen. By the time of her marriage she was using “Kazie” as her name.

- d. **William Thomas Ede** was born in the spring of 1887 in Capel, Surrey. He may have been the William Ede who married **Beatrice L. Parish** in Guildford Registration District in the December quarter of 1912.
- e. **Edward George “Ted” Ede** was born in Capel during the summer of 1893. He and his brother, “Bob” started a hauling business which they called Ede Bros.
- f. **Walter John “Bob” Ede** was born on 21 June, 1896. Bob and his brother, Ted, started Ede Bros. hauling business in May, 1926, during the disastrous English General Strike in support of coal miners whose wages had been arbitrarily cut by as much as twenty-five percent. Bob and Ted had bought two adjacent parcels of woodland acreage called Nightless Copse and Strood Copse about a mile south of Capel on which they built houses for themselves. They also cleared land and planted gardens for their own use. The remainder of the woodland provided wood products which they sold in conjunction with their hauling business. They also sold gravel. In the early years of the company much of their business consisted of hauling their gravel and wood products to customers on flat bed trucks. Occasionally they would get a job moving household goods, and they would attach a canvas “tilt”<sup>11</sup> to the flatbed truck to protect the furniture from the weather and road hazards.

Bob Ede married **Gladys Elizabeth Barber** in July, 1929, probably in Capel. Gladys was born on 25 November, 1907, in Denton, Huntingdonshire. Her parents were Alfred Barber and Emma Rhoda Killingworth.

Walter John Ede died in Capel on 2 December, 1978. His widow, Gladys Barber, died on 11 August, 1987, in Capel.

Walter Ede and Gladys Barber had two children;

- i. **Peter James Ede** was born in Capel early in the Great Depression. In his early twenties, Peter joined Ede Bros. The demographics of the

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<sup>11</sup> “Tilt”: noun; a cloth covering or canopy for a boat, stall, cart, etcetera. [from Middle English “telte” which came from Old English “teld” which meant “tent”].

country had changed significantly since the nineteen twenties, and instead of most people living in the same house for several generations, it became common for people to relocate several times during a single lifetime. As a result, a much higher percentage of Ede Bros' business involved moving household goods. Peter gradually phased out other aspects of the hauling business and focused it into moving household goods exclusively.

Peter married **Mary Jean Parr** in 1964. Mary Jean is a school teacher, who was born in Surrey. She is the daughter of George Edward Parr and Jane Smith Fraser. Peter and Mary now live in Strood Copse.

Peter Ede and Mary Parr have two sons;

- **Norman James Ede** was born in Surrey, in 1966. Norman joined the family business in 1984 and helped expand Ede Bros.' operations into Europe and other international areas. In addition to moving vans, the company is now involved in overseas shipping both via sea and air, and also has a storage business. Although it has grown to be a company with International operations, Ede Bros. still operates from the original site in the tiny village of Capel. The original woodland of Strood and Nightless Copse still provides wood and forest products which are sold to support a woodland and wildlife management program.

Norman Ede married **Georgina Louise Wyborn** in 1996. Georgina is the daughter of John Cope Wyborn and Sally Georgina Phillips. She was born in Surrey in 1971. Norman and Georgina live in Nightless Copse and Georgina operates the Nightless Copse Bed and Breakfast, a remodeled Cottage detached from their main house.

Norman Ede and Georgina Wyborn have two sons;

- ◆ **Joseph Robert Ede.**

- ◆ **Henry James Ede.**

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- **David John Ede** was born in Wiltshire in 1968. He was adopted by Peter Ede and Mary Parr.

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- ii. **Robert John Ede**, Bob Ede and Gladys Barber's second son, was born in Capel on 8 September, 1932. Bob never married. He died in Capel on 21 August, 1990.

§§§

## Arthur Cheesman and his Descendants

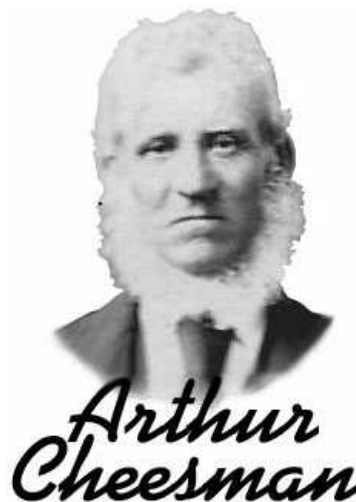
Arthur Cheesman, my great-great grandfather, was the illegitimate son of Rebecca Arthur~Cheesman. Arthur's mother had been a widow for seven years at the time of his birth. Arthur was born in Capel, Surrey, on 17 March, 1846, probably at Hatchland Farmhouse where his mother and her two other children were living with her father and his brother Samuel and Samuel's wife, Rebecca. Arthur Cheesman was baptized in St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Capel on 3 May, 1846. The space reserved for his father's name in the Parish Baptismal record was left blank.

When I first saw a copy of Arthur Cheesman's baptism record sometime in 2003 or 2004, I realized that the chances of ever learning the identity of Arthur's father were extremely small. Still, I had hopes that perhaps the civil registration of his birth might reveal his father's name. However, after many hours of futile searching of the on-line Birth, Marriage and Death Index for The United Kingdom I resigned myself to the fact that I had hit one of those proverbial brick walls that pop up frequently in genealogical research.

In the fall of 2006 I made contact with Jacqui Longhurst through a genealogical website. Jacqui is the wife of Stephen Longhurst who is a great-great grandson of Arthur Cheesman and is my third cousin. Imagine my surprise when on the evening of 10 January, 2007, I received a message from Jacqui stating that she had received a copy of Arthur Cheesman's birth registration. It shows his father's name was Richard Worsfold.

As it turns out, there were two Richard Worsfold's who lived or may have lived in Capel in the spring of 1845 when Arthur was conceived, either of whom could have been his father:

**Richard Worsfold**, who was born in Capel about 1818, lived in Rushett Cottages about a quarter mile down Temple Lane from Hatchland where Arthur's mother, Rebecca Cheesman, lived. Richard lived in Rushett from before 1841 until after the 1871 Census. In 1841 and 1851 he lived there with his parents, William and Sarah Worsfold. William was born in Capel about 1771. His wife, Sarah, was born in Shipley, Sussex, about 1776, the year the American Revolution started. William Worsfold died sometime between 1851 and 1861. After his father's death, Richard continued to live at Rushett with his mother. Late in 1854 Richard Worsfold married Mary Ann Baker who was born in Chiddingstone, Kent. Richard's mother, Sarah, appears to have died by the summer of 1863. Sometime after the 1871 Census was taken, Richard and his wife moved from Rushett, left Capel and settled a few miles away in Warnham, Sussex, where they lived at a farmhouse called Stone Farm and where Richard was put in charge of managing the farm. Richard Worsfold was buried in Capel, Surrey, on 22 April, 1890. It is not clear whether Richard died in Capel, or if he



died in Warnham and his body was transported to Capel. The Capel Parish Burial Record indicates he was from "Stone Farm, Warnham, Sussex". Richard's Widow, Mary Ann Worsfold, was still living in Warnham in 1901, but she had moved to smaller quarters following the death of her husband.

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Another **Richard Worsfold** may have also lived in Capel in 1845. He was born in Warnham, Sussex, about 1828. At the time of the 1841 Census he lived in Warnham with his parents, **Richard** and **Hannah Worsfold**. Richard Senior was born in Capel about 1789. His wife, Hannah, was born in Ockley, a short distance to the west of Capel, about 1794. Sometime between 1821 and 1825 Richard and Hannah moved to Warnham, Sussex, where at least three children, John, Richard and Ann, were born. At an undetermined date between 1841 and 1851, Richard and Hannah and at least two of their sons moved back to Capel. In 1851 Richard and Hannah were living by the School House in Capel at the intersection of The Street and Vicarage Lane, just across from the Crown Inn. Their elder son, John, lived next door with his wife and children. They continued to live in Capel for the remainder of their lives. Richard Worsfold, Senior died early in 1867 at the age of seventy-seven. His wife, Hannah, then lived with their son, John, and his family until her death in the spring of 1886. She was ninety-two years old when she died. In 1851, their son, Richard, lived at Temple, about a mile away from the school, and worked as a "Farm Servant". Temple Farm was located about a quarter of a mile beyond Rushett and was about a half mile from Hatchland. In 1861, Richard Worsfold, Jr. was a lodger at the home of Rebecca Arthur's sister, Mary, and her husband, John Arthur. In 1871 Richard lived alone in a small cottage or apartment on The Street, the main street in Capel (sometimes referred to as Capel Street). Between 1871 and 1881 Richard finally married a woman about eight years older than he was, and they lived on The Street in 1881 and 1891. In 1891 Richard's eldest brother, William Worsfold, was a lodger at Richard's house, and he probably continued to live with him until his death at eighty-five in 1906. Richard's wife, Eliza, died during the summer of 1898. Richard Worsfold Jr. died late in 1910. He was eighty-three years old.

\*\*\*

So, we now have a name for Arthur Cheesman's father, but we cannot be certain which of the two Richard Worsfold's he was! The first Richard is known to have lived a five minute walk away from where Rebecca Arthur lived in 1845; the second Richard lived only about five minutes further away from Rebecca's home in 1851. He may or may not have lived there or anywhere else in Capel in 1845. Richard (I) stayed in the vicinity of Hatchland, where Rebecca lived, for many years; Richard (II) was living with Rebecca's Sister's family in Capel in 1861. Both men were younger than Rebecca; Richard (I) would have been twenty-seven years old in 1845 when Rebecca was thirty; Richard (II) was only seventeen when Rebecca was thirty. That seems like quite an age difference, but not so much as to eliminate him as a possible candidate.

In the end, we do not know which of the two was actually Arthur's father. Right now all we can do is speculate and hope for another clue to appear sometime in the future.

Arthur's mother married her second husband, Charles Ede, in 1850, and it was probably shortly after their marriage that Arthur's older half-brother and sister went to live with Arthur's aunt, Mary Arthur. Less than six months after his mother's marriage to Charles Ede, Arthur Cheesman had a new baby brother. Four years later, he had another brother who was born at Hatchland, and it was probably around that time that Rebecca and Charles Ede and their extended family moved to Obrooks Farm. Arthur probably attended school when he was a young child. The school house was only about half a mile from Hatchland by foot path. The village school was about two miles from Obrooks Farm, which was still within walking distance. Whether Arthur continued to attend school after his family moved to Obrooks is not known, but as an adult he appears to have been illiterate. By the time he was fifteen Arthur Cheesman was working as an Agricultural laborer and contributing to the financial support of his family. He continued to work as an agricultural laborer for most of his life except for a short period around 1881 when he worked as a brick maker at one of the Brick and tile works in Capel.



Sometime around 1866 James Lindfield, a widower who had been living at Warnham, Sussex, moved to Capel with five of his children<sup>12</sup>. The Lindfield family found a place to live on The Street near the center of Capel Village, just south of the Capel House Farm and the Kings Head Pub. Arthur Cheesman took a liking to one of James' daughters, **Harriet Lindfield**, and the two were probably married sometime in 1867<sup>13</sup>. After their marriage Arthur and Harriet lived at Pikefield Cottages, about a quarter mile west-northwest of St. John the Baptist Church in Capel. By 1871 they lived in a small cottage next door to Harriet's father on The Street.

Sometime in the next ten years or so, Arthur and Harriet Cheesman moved away from the center of Capel and in 1881<sup>14</sup> they were living at what looks like "Radgate Fields" on the census. According to Mary Day, a local historian, there is no such place name and she thinks they probably lived in a group of cottages by the railroad track just north of Ockley Station called "Roagate Cottages". The sequence of addresses on the census form supports that idea<sup>15</sup>. Arthur had a job as a brick maker at one of the several Brick and Tile Works businesses in Capel, probably the

<sup>12</sup>

[see **The Lindfield's**]

<sup>13</sup> My "guesstimate" of their marriage year is based on the birth date of their first child. I have not been able to locate an official marriage record for Arthur and Harriet, either in the government Marriage Registration Index or in the Capel Parish records. It is possible that they married in another, nearby parish, and failed to register their marriage. It is also possible that they never had a formal marriage ceremony and that theirs was a "common law marriage".

<sup>14</sup> The 1881 Census is the only one on which Arthur's surname is spelled "Cheesman".

<sup>15</sup> The Capel Parish Records clearly show the Cheesman family living at Radgate Fields over a period of several years. Perhaps that was an alternative spelling for the Roagate Cottages.

one by Ockley Station less than a half mile from Roagate Cottages. Harriet's father, James Lindfield, was living with them in 1881. At sixty-nine James was still working in the fields as an agricultural laborer. Two years and a month after the 1881 Census, James Lindfield died and he was buried in Capel on 30 April, 1883. Arthur and Harriet continued to live in the same cottage for at least seven more years. By 1891 Arthur had lost his job as a brick maker and was back working as a farm laborer. Sometime after the 1891 Census was taken, Arthur and Harriet Cheesman moved to Woolpack which was located in the vicinity of Seamans Green, an area on Capel Street about three quarters of a mile north of the church in Capel. Arthur was still working as an agricultural laborer.

Before 1928, probably after all their children had left home, Arthur and Harriet Cheesman moved into #2 Sunnybank Cottage, one end of a small house that had been subdivided into a duplex. Sunnybank Cottage is located on The Street a short distance north of Capel House Farm and the Kings Head Pub. Arthur and Harriet lived at Sunnybank Cottage for the rest of their lives. Harriet Lindfield-Cheesman died in mid-November, 1928, and was buried in Capel on 21 November. Arthur Cheesman continued to live at #2 Sunnybank Cottage for a little more than two years after his wife died. He passed away in January, 1931, and was buried in Capel on 22 January.



*A. Cheesman at Sunnybank Cottages*

Arthur Cheesman and Harriet Lindfield had

ten children;

1. **Ann Cheesman** was born in Capel, Surrey, during the first three months of 1868. She was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on Easter Sunday, 12 April, 1868. At the time of her birth her parents were living at Pikefield in Capel. By the time she was thirteen, Ann was working as a domestic servant for the family of Thomas W. Loxley, a farmer of one hundred thirty acres, who lived at Capel House. When she was twenty-three, Ann was back living with her parents in Capel and working as a kitchen maid for a nearby family.



*Aunt "Nann"*

The widow, Annie Hoad, lived next door to the Cheesman family that year. Mrs. Hoad was "living on her own means" according to the census, but she also generated a little income by renting out a room in her house. A young railway porter named George Harris was a lodger at Mrs. Hoad's house in 1891. Sometime in the next ten months, George received a promotion to signalman for the railroad.



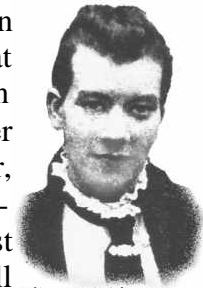
*George Harris  
& Ann Cheesman*

Ann Cheesman and **George Cromwell Harris** were married in Capel on 27 January, 1892. Ann's sister, Mary, was one of the witnesses at the marriage. Ann and George Cheesman lived in various locations in southern England for about fourteen years, then, sometime around 1904, they and their children immigrated to Canada. Ann Cheesman died

near Vancouver, British Columbia, on 2 March, 1952<sup>16</sup>.

2. **Mary Cheesman** was born very early in 1870 in Capel, Surrey. She was baptised in Capel on 13 February, 1870. Mary learned to cook, and by the time she was twenty-one she had a job as a live-in cook for Charles R. Walter and his family in Streatham, London. Mary married **Walter Fish** in Capel on 31 December, 1894. Walter Fish was the son of Charles and Martha Fish and he was born in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, about 1871. In 1891 he had been a lodger with twenty-two year old William Chandler in Ockley, just across the railroad tracks from Capel. Walter was a Gardener in 1891 and was still working in that job when he married Mary Cheesman. By 1901 Walter was a “Carman” delivering coal. He and Mary were living in the Crown Inn in Capel at the time of the 1901 Census.

3. **Harriet Cheeseman**, my great grandmother, was born in Capel, Surrey, England, on 22 July, 1872. She was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 8 September, 1872. In April, 1881, eight year old Harriet was living with her newlywed aunt, Charlotte, and her husband, William Cooper, in Ifield, Sussex, a village located about six miles east-southeast of Capel. It is not clear whether Harriet was just visiting, or if she was living with her aunt and uncle on a full time basis to relieve the crowding at her parents’ home in Capel where her five siblings and her grandfather lived with her parents in a small cottage. By the time she was nineteen, Harriet had found a job working as a domestic servant for a school board clerk, Bentley Roll, and his family in Hackney, about two and a half miles north of the center of London.



*Harriet Cheeseman*

Somehow Harriet met **William James England**, a general laborer and/or an assistant Pub operator who was living in Tadworth, Surrey. Harriet married William England in Capel on 18 August, 1897. After their marriage, William and Harriet lived in the rooms above the Bricklayers’ Arms Pub and their first two children were born there. Another child was born in Haywards Heath, Sussex.



*William & Harriet  
England Cheeseman*

Around 1905 William England sailed to Canada and homesteaded a farm near Melville, Saskatchewan. Harriet and her three children joined him there in September, 1906. Their fourth child was born at their homestead near Birmingham, Saskatchewan.

Near the beginning of The Great Depression, around 1933, William and Harriet moved their family to Ladner, British Columbia. Harriet Cheeseman~England died in Ladner on 4 December, 1935, her husband’s sixty-fourth birthday. Her remains were cremated and her ashes are interred at Boundary Bay Cemetery in Delta, British Columbia, Canada.

Harriet Cheeseman and William England had four children<sup>17</sup>;

16

[See **Descendants of William & Maria Harris**]

17

[See **“The England’s of Chideock”, page 41**]

- a. **Daisy Ellen England**, my grandmother, was born on 3 June, 1898, in the family quarters upstairs in The Bricklayers' Arms Pub in Tadworth, Surrey, England. Daisy married **Hugo Benjestorf** then later divorced him. She married again to **Ralph Osborn**. Daisy England~Osborn died on 6 June, 1977, in Loma Linda, California<sup>17</sup>.
- b. **Kathleen "May" England** was born on 22 June, 1899. Like her older sister she was born in Tadworth at The Bricklayers' Arms. Kathleen married **Edward Benjestorf**, Hugo's brother. Kathleen England~Benjestorf died in San Bernardino, California, on 13 October, 1986<sup>17</sup>.
- c. **Alfred William England** was born in Haywards Heath, Sussex, on 15 December, 1903. Alfred married **Marjorie M'Faul**. Alfred England died on 20 March, 1986, in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada<sup>17</sup>.
- d. **Marjorie Grace England** was born on 16 June, 1909, in Canada in the tiny settlement of Birmingham, near Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada. Marjorie married **Franz "Frank" Huetter**. Marjorie England~Huetter died in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, on 22 May, 1971<sup>17</sup>.

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4. **Arthur Cheesman**, the fourth child of Harriet Lindfield and Arthur Cheesman, was born on 11 May, 1875, in Capel. Arthur was a twin. Both boys were baptized at Capel on 13 June, 1875. When he was five years old, Arthur attended the village school which was about three quarters of a mile from his home. Arthur probably dropped out of school when he was about twelve and started working as a farm laborer to help with family expenses. In any case, by the time he was fifteen he was enumerated on the census as an



*Police Constable  
Arthur Cheesman*

agricultural laborer. Sometime before he was twenty-five, Arthur got a job as a Police Constable for the London Metropolitan Police. In the summer of 1900 Arthur Cheesman married **Alice Cann** in the Strand Registration District which includes parts of London and Middlesex. Alice was two years older than Arthur. In 1901 Alice and Arthur Cheesman lived in a two room flat in Lambeth, near the center of London. There were a number of other Police Constables living in the same area. Arthur is said to have made a career of being a "London Bobbie".

Arthur Cheesman and Alice Crann had five daughters;

- a. **Marjorie Cheesman** was probably the Marjorie Annie Cheesman whose birth was registered in the Kingston Registration District in the spring of 1903.



*Marjorie Cheesman*



*Arthur Cheesman, Jr. & Alice Cann*



*Nancy Cheesman*

b. **Nancy Cheesman** may have been the Nancy Grace Cheesman born in London early in 1907.



*Mary Cheesman*

c. **Kathleen** Cheesman could have been the Kathleen Gladys Cheesman whose birth was registered in Tonbridge, Kent, during the spring of 1908. Kathleen married Donald Howlett on 4 June, 1927.



*Kathleen & Donald Cheesman & Howlett*

d. **Mary Cheesman** may have been the Mary J. Cheesman whose birth was registered in the Croydon Registration District in the September quarter of 1910.



*Dorothy Cheesman*

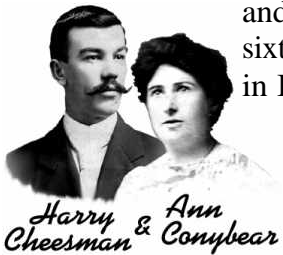
e. **Dorothy “Doff” Cheesman’s** birth was registered in the St. Olave Registration District in London in the first quarter of 1914. Doff married on 14 July during the mid or late 1930’s. Her husband’s name is unknown at this time.

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5. **Harry Cheesman**, Arthur’s twin brother, was also born in Capel on 11 May, 1875. Harry and his brother were baptized on 13 June, 1875. Like his twin brother, Harry also attended school as a child and was working as an agricultural laborer by the time he was fifteen. Also like his twin brother, Harry became a Police Constable for the London Metropolitan Police around 1900. In 1901 he and another “Bobbie” were boarders at the home of a sixty-six year old widow, Elizabeth Jones, on Bruce Road in Bromley on the southeast side of the London metropolitan area. Several other Police Constables made their homes in the same area. Toward the end of 1907 Harry married **Anne Frances Conybear** near Bromley.



*Harry Cheesman*



*Harry & Ann Cheesman & Conybear*

Anne Conybear was born in Chelmsford, Essex, during the spring of 1877. Her parents were **William J. Conybear(e)**<sup>18</sup> and his wife, **Sarah**. William and Sarah probably married around 1874, possibly in Scotland where their first child was born. For many years William Conybear was a London Metropolitan Police Constable. William was born sometime around 1846. The exact place of his birth is something of a mystery since he reports a different birth place on every census on which he appears! His wife, Sarah, fairly consistently shows that she was born about 1848 in Midhurst, Sussex. William and Sarah appear to have been highly mobile during the first few years of their marriage with children born all over the British Isles, including one in Scotland. Sometime around 1879 they finally settled down in the area of Bromley and Bow in the Poplar District of London and probably

<sup>18</sup> The spelling of **Conybear** is from Anne’s granddaughter, Anne Lambert~French. William’s surname was usually spelled **Conybeare** on the various censuses, and on Anne’s birth registration.

lived there for the rest of their lives. Harry Cheesman undoubtedly met Anne Conybear through a job relationship with Anne's father.

Anne Conybear died on 22 November, 1910, less than a year after her second child was born.

Harry Cheesman and Anne Conybear had two children;

- a. **George Cheesman** was born in Manor Park in the Poplar District of London, England, on 8 August, 1908. On 3 June, 1934, he married **Clara Defriend** in London. Clara was born in London on 27 January, 1912. Clara died in the county of Essex on 17 August, 1989. George Cheesman died in 1993 in Essex.



George Cheesman and Clara Defriend had two children;

- i. **Alan Cheesman** was born in Manor Park, London, on 13 December, 1937. Alan married **Ann Pedley** on 13 June, 1964. Ann was born on 29 December, 1941. Alan Cheesman died on 10 January, 2002, in Essex. Alan and Ann Pedley had a son;

➤ **Craig Cheesman**. Craig married **Trudy** in 1993. Craig and Trudy have two daughters;

◆ **Jessica Cheesman**.

◆ **Devon Cheesman**.

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- ii. **Carole Cheesman**, the second child of George Cheesman and Clara Defriend, was born in 1942. Clara married **Robert**. Carole Cheesman and Robert Rand had three children;

➤ **Susan Rand**. Susan married **Richard Drew**. Susan and Richard have two daughters;

◆ **Sarah Drew**.

◆ **Emily Drew**.

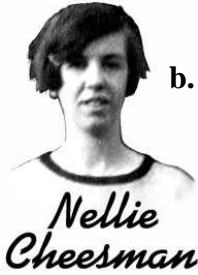
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➤ **Tony Rand**.

➤ **Steven Rand**. Steven married **and they have a daughter**;

◆ **Natalie Rand**.

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b. **Nellie Cheesman**, the second child of Harry Cheesman and his first wife, Anne Conybeare, was born in the London area in 1910. She was probably born in Manor Park during the first three months of the year. Sometime around 1938 Nellie married **Arthur Lambert** who was born in 1911. Arthur Lambert died in 1983. Nellie died in 1998.

Nellie and Arthur Lambert had a daughter;

i. **Anne Lambert**. Anne married a **Mr. French** sometime in the late 1950's. Anne is involved in genealogy and has provided me with almost all the information I have about the descendants of Harry Cheesman.

Anne Lambert~French and her husband had two children;

➤ **Lorraine French**. Lorraine has two children:

◆ **Daniel French**.

◆ **Thomas French**.

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➤ **Steven French**, Ann Lambert~French's second child, was born in 1968.

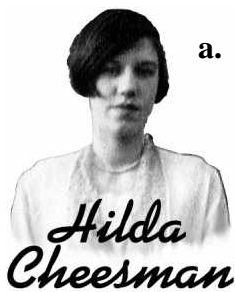
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About a year after Anne Conybear~Cheesman's death Harry Cheesman married his second wife, **Olive Miriam "Daisy" Jane Robson** who was born in Bow, London, on 3 July, 1886. Harry continued his career as a Police Constable for twenty-five years. In 1925 or 1926, after his retirement, Harry moved his family to Teston, Kent, about twenty miles east of London. In Teston Harry worked part time as the steward of the Teston Working Men's Club for many years. "Daisy" Robson~Cheesman died in Teston on 28 November, 1959. Harry died less than a year later in the village of Nettlestead, Kent, a small village about a mile southwest of Teston.



Harry Cheesman and "Daisy" Robson had two children;

a. **Hilda Mary Cheesman** was born in Manor Park, London, on 14 October,



1912. Hilda married **Ashley Ashbee** in Teston, Kent, on 31 October, 1936. On 5 November, 1974, Hilda and Ashley immigrated to Australia with their daughter, Maureen, and her family. Ashley Ashbee died on 5 May, 1988 in Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory. At the time of this writing in 2007 Hilda was ninety-four years old and still living in Australia.

Hilda Cheesman and Ashley Ashbee had a daughter;

- i. **Maureen Olive Ashbee** was born in Teston, Kent, England, on 22 February, 1940. Maureen married **Frits van Scheepen** on 19 December, 1968, in Teston, Kent. Frits was a Dutchman who was born in Den Hague, The Netherlands, on 25 January, 1941. After their marriage, Maureen and Frits lived in Barming, Kent, about midway between the center of Maidstone and Teston.

On 5 November, 1974, about six years after their marriage, Maureen and Frits and Maureen's parents immigrated to Australia.

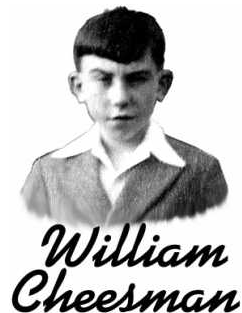
Maureen Ashbee and Frits van Scheepen had a daughter;

- **Kirsa van Scheepen** was born in Barming, Kent, on 18 February, 1969. When Kirsa was five years old her parents moved to Australia. She married **Glenn Veal** on 28 November, 1993, in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Glenn was born in Melbourne on 10 June, 1962. Kirsa and Glenn lived in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Kirsa van Scheepen and Glenn Veal have three children;

- ◆ **Lachlan David Veal** was born on 21 April, 1993, in Mt. Waverley, Victoria, Australia.
- ◆ **Jacinta Louise Veal** was born in Mt. Waverley on 6 October, 1995.
- ◆ **Bradleigh James Veal** was born on 9 February, 1998, in Ferntree Gully, Victoria, Australia.

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- b. **William Cheesman**, the second child of Harry Cheesman and "Daisy" Robson, was born in Manor Park, London, England, on 25 February, 1917. William married **Sheila Honeysett** in West Farleigh, Kent, near Teston, on 22 August, 1949. Sheila was born in Nettlestead, Kent, on 16 November, 1927. William Cheesman died on 2 March, 1989. His widow, Sheila, died at Maidstone on 26 March, 2006.



William Cheesman and Sheila Honeysett had three children;

- i. **Jane Cheesman** was born on 5 August, 1967, in Maidstone, Kent. Jane married **Lorenzo Gonzalez** in Maidstone on 10 May, 1967. Lorenzo was born on 21 January, 1945. Jane and Lorenzo now live in the Canary Islands.

Jane Cheesman and Lorenzo Gonzalez have a son;

- **Karl Gonzalez** was born in Maidstone, Kent, on 8 September, 1967. Karl met **Yvonne**, in Ireland, and they were married in Dublin, Dublin Region, Eire (Ireland), on 10 March, 1995. Karl and Yvonne settled in the Dublin area.

Karl and Yvonne Gonzalez have three children;

- ◆ **Taylor Gonzalez**, a daughter, was born in Dublin, Eire, on 5 July, 1994.
- ◆ **Shaun Gonzalez**, a son, was born on 28 April, 1996, in Dublin.
- ◆ **Christopher Gonzalez** was born in Dublin on 12 June, 1999.

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- ii. **Godfrey Cheesman**, the second child of William Cheesman and Sheila Honeysett, was born in Nettlestead, Kent, on 19 February, 1953. Godfrey married **Susan Reynolds** on 25 May, 1974.

Godfrey and Susan had four children;

- **Thomas Cheesman** was born on 9 May, 1980.
- **Mathew Cheesman** was born on 12 February, 1983.
- **Emma Cheesman** was born on 9 April, 1987.
- **Jack Cheesman** was born on 10 May, 1992.

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- ii. **Simon Cheesman**, William Cheesman and Sheila Honeysett's third child, was born on 1 May, 1961.

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6. **Fanny Cheesman**, the sixth child of Arthur Cheesman and Harriet Lindfield, was born on 15 July, 1877, in Capel, Surrey, England. She was baptized at St. John



*Fanny  
Cheesman*

the Baptist Church on 9 September, 1877. Fanny was attending school, probably a nursery school, in 1881 when she was only three years old. By the time she was thirteen she no longer attended school but still lived at home and was not employed. Sometime in her teens or early twenties Fanny got a job as a Parlor Maid for Arthur C. Brown and his family in Nutfield, Surrey. Mr. Brown was an insurance underwriter for Lloyds of London and was independently wealthy. Fanny Cheesman was one of four servants who worked for the family. Nutfield is a small village about twelve miles northeast of Capel and about seven or eight miles east of Dorking.

At the end of March, 1901, when the Census was taken, Fanny Cheesman was at Nutfield working for the Brown family. In the meantime, back at Capel, a twenty-six year old blacksmith named Thomas Ockenden was a boarder with the Edward Pratt family which lived on Capel Street some distance from the Cheesman residence in Woolpack.

Thomas Ockenden was born in Findon, Sussex, near the end of 1874. He was the son of Charles Ockenden, a wheelwright and carpenter, and his wife, Ruth Mitchell. Charles Ockenden was born in Washington, Sussex, about 1837. His wife, Ruth, was born in Findon, Sussex, about the same year. Her parents were Thomas and Sarah Mitchell.



It is not clear how Fanny met Tom Ockenden. He may have lived in Capel for several years and met Fanny before she left town to work, or Fanny may have met him while visiting with her parents on a day off from her job. Fanny Cheesman married **Thomas Ockenden** in Capel on 27 June, 1901. Arthur and Alice Cheesman were witnesses at the marriage. Arthur was probably Fanny's brother and Alice was probably Arthur's wife, although she may have been Fanny's sister.

Fanny's address was shown as Woolpack, her parents address, on the marriage register. Thomas lived on Capel Street. The couple continued to live on Capel Street after their marriage.

Thomas Ockenden died quite suddenly shortly after forming a partnership with a mister Tullet and buying out another blacksmith's business. He was buried in Capel on 20 December, 1923. Fanny Cheesman~Ockenden died in the mid-1960's.

Fanny Cheesman and Thomas Ockenden had at least eight children and probably nine;

- a. **Arthur Charles Ockenden** was Fanny Cheesman and Thomas Ockenden's first child. He was born in the Dorking Registration District during the summer of 1902. He was named after both his grandfathers. Arthur was in the army at the beginning of World War II.



- b. **Harry Ockenden** was born in the Dorking Registration District during the summer of 1903. It seems likely that he was Fanny and Thomas Ockenden's son. Henry Ockenden was a



Tree ~ July 2007



The

witness at the marriages of two of Fanny and Thomas' daughters<sup>19</sup>. Henry's wife's name was Agnes. Henry Ockenden died on 6 November, 1971.

- c. **Norah Ockenden** was born in the spring of 1905. Norah married **George Crockford** sometime around 1926.  
Norah Ockenden and George Crockford had three children;
- i. **Jean Crockford** was born about 1927.
- ii. **Alan Crockford** was born about 1931.
- iii. **Enid Crockford** was born about 1933.

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*Edward  
Ockenden*

- d. **Edward Ockenden**, the fourth child of Fanny Cheesman and Thomas Ockenden, was born in the Dorking Registration district in the first quarter of 1907.

- e. **Florence "Flossie" Ockenden** was born in the spring of 1909. Flossie married **Ruben Chenery**.



*Flossie Ockenden  
& Ruben Chenery*



*Dorothy  
Ockenden*

- f. **Dorothy Ockenden** was born about 1912. Dorothy Ockenden was twenty-eight years old when she married **Harry Oscar Holland** in Capel on 18 May, 1940.

- g. **Ivy Ockenden** was born about 1915. Ivy married **Ronald Budgen**.



*Ivy Ockenden*

- h. **Nellie Ockenden** was born around 1916, probably in Capel. When Nellie was nineteen years old she married **George Henry Mayne** in Capel on 31 August, 1935.



*Kitty  
Ockenden*

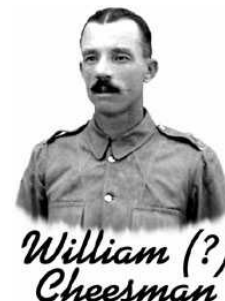
- i. **Kitty Ockenden** was born about 1919 in Capel, Surrey. When she was twenty-one she married **Charlie James Kitchener Killner** in Capel on 23 March, 1940. I visited Kitty and "Kitch" at their home on The Street in Capel sometime in 1965 or early 1966. I had lunch with them and they showed me pictures of their Ainsworth cousins in Canada. Kitty and Lucy Ainsworth apparently corresponded on a regular basis. Kitty and Charlie had a young son (or perhaps a grandson) at home with them at the time of my visit. I have not been able to recall his name or to find it in any available data bases. It seems likely that Kitty and Charlie also had

<sup>19</sup> Thomas Ockenden had a brother named Henry, and it may have been he who was the witness at the marriages.

older children.

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7. **William Cheesman**, Harriet Lindfield and Arthur Cheesman's seventh child, was born in Capel, Surrey, early in 1880. In 1891 William was attending school. By the time he was twenty-one, William worked driving a horse drawn cart on a farm in or near Capel while living with his parents. William seems to have served in the British military somewhere in the tropics; perhaps in India.



8. **Ellen Cheesman** was born in Capel, probably in December, 1882, or very early in January, 1883. She was baptized on 14 January, 1883. Ellen attended school in Capel, but by the time she was eighteen she was neither in school nor gainfully employed. She listed her occupation in the 1901 census as "Mother's Help". Ellen Cheesman married a brick layer, **John Herbert Francis**, in Capel on 7 April, 1904.

John Francis was born near Betchworth, Surrey, early in 1880. He was the son of a shepherd, William Francis, and his wife, Caroline Weller. The Francis family moved to Ockley, just across the railroad tracks from Capel, around 1886. In 1901 they were living at Hill House in Capel where William Francis worked as a shepherd. Hill house was adjacent to Broomalls Farm.

Ellen Cheesman was probably named after her aunt, Ellen Lindfield. My grandmother, Daisy Ellen England, probably owes her middle name to her aunt, Ellen Cheesman.

9. **George Cheesman** was born in Capel on midsummer's day (21 June), 1884. He was baptized in Capel on 10 August, 1884. By the time he was sixteen, George had finished his formal education and was working as a "Brick Layer's Laborer" in Capel while living with his parents. George Cheesman married **Martha Wood** in Capel in the late spring or early summer of 1906.

Martha was the daughter of Benjamin Wood, a carpenter, and his wife, Sophia Elliott, who lived in Newdigate; a village located about a mile and a half northeast of Capel. Martha was born in Newdigate, Surrey, about 1886. In 1901 she was working as a domestic servant at the Crown Inn in Capel. That same year, John and Amelia Fowler were operating the Dukes Head pub which was located about a mile and a half from The Crown Inn on the northern extension of The Street. Their son, Lewis, was about one year older than Martha. It seems likely that Lewis Fowler was the father of Martha Wood's illegitimate daughter, **Beatrice Fowler Wood**, who was born in Capel in the spring of 1905.

George Cheesman and Martha Wood had three children;

- i. **Doris Evelyn Cheesman** was born around February, 1911, probably in Capel.

- ii. **George Cheesman, Jr.** was born in Newdigate, Surrey, on 26 November, 1918. George was born just two weeks after hostilities ended in the Great War. When World War II started in 1939 George joined the British Army. He was assigned to the 113<sup>th</sup> Field (Artillery) Regiment which was attached to the 56<sup>th</sup> (London) Infantry Division “Black Cats”. George’s unit stayed in England until about 1943 when they were sent to the Middle East and then to North Africa where they participated in the Battles of Enfidaville and Tunisia in Tunis. They were not involved in the invasion of Sicily, but did participate in the Battle of Salerno which marked the start of the allied invasion of mainland Italy. The Black Cats and the 113<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment were involved in most of the major battles in Italy as the allied forces slowly and painfully tried to force the German army out of Italy. During his service in Italy George’s life may have been saved by a carrier pigeon named “G.I. Joe”:

*G.I. Joe was hatched at the US Army Pigeon Section in Algiers, Algeria, on 24 March, 1943. The British 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was scheduled to attack the German unit occupying the village of Colvi Vecchia on the morning of 18 October, 1943. Fortunately, the Germans pulled out of the village leaving only a small rear guard detachment which allowed the 56<sup>th</sup> to easily occupy it well ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, the Germans were expected to provide tough resistance, so the US Air Support Command was scheduled to bomb the village prior to the start of the infantry attack to soften up resistance. Once the 56<sup>th</sup> was established in Colvi Vecchia numerous unsuccessful attempts were made to contact the American forces by radio to cancel the bombing raid. Finally, in desperation, G.I. Joe was released with a message to the Americans less than thirty minutes before the bombers were scheduled to take off from a base twenty miles away from the village. G.I. Joe averaged sixty mph on the trip and arrived twenty minutes after his release just as the bombers were warming up for take off. It is estimated that about a thousand British soldiers, and many civilians, would have been killed by “friendly fire” if the bombing raid had not been cancelled. G.I. Joe continued to serve as a carrier pigeon for the remainder of the war then returned to Fort Monmouth New Jersey. In November, 1946, G.I. Joe was shipped to London, England, where he was awarded the **Dickin Medal for Gallantry** by the Lord Mayor of London. G.I. Joe is the only US bird or animal to ever have received this award which is awarded to service animals for unusual gallantry. G.I. Joe returned to Fort Monmouth and remained there at the Churchill Loft with twenty-four other pigeons until March, 1957, when he was retired to the Detroit Zoo. He died in Detroit on 3 June, 1961. He was just over eighteen years old.*

George married his first cousin, **Mildred Stroud**, sometime around 1940 while his unit was still based in England. Mildred was born in Newport, Gwent, in Wales, on 8 November, 1913 and was five years older than George. She was the daughter of Harry Stroud and George Cheesman's aunt, Anne Wood.

George Cheesman and Mildred Stroud had two children;

- **Michael Cheesman** was born around 1941.
- **Hilary Cheesman** was born in Dorking, Surrey, England, on 7 October, 1943. Hilary married **Michael John "Mick" Longhurst** around 1970.

Mick Longhurst was born on 2 September, 1943, in Cold Harbour, Dorking, Surrey. His parents were George Longhurst and Dorothy Ede.

Hilary is involved in genealogy and has contributed information on the Descendants of George Cheesman.

Hilary Cheesman and Mick Longhurst had two sons;

- ◆ **Christopher "Chris" Longhurst** was born in 1978.
- ◆ **Stephen "Steve" Longhurst** was born in Dorking, Surrey, on 13 August, 1974. He married **Jacqueline Heymans** in Southampton, Hampshire, on 4 September, 2004.

Jacqui was born in Gloucester, Gloucestershire, England, on 26 July, 1974. She is the daughter of John Phillip "Phil" Heymans, a retired school teacher, and his wife, Sylvia Joan Celeste Nuttall. Sylvia was a Nursery Nurse until her marriage.

Jacqui is involved in genealogical research and has provided me with most of the information about George Cheesman and his descendants.

Steve Longhurst is a computer programmer.

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10. **Alice Cheesman**, the youngest child of Arthur Cheesman and Harriet Lindfield, was born on 19 December, 1886, in Capel, Surrey. She was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church in Capel on 13 March, 1887. Alice was attending school at the time of the 1901 Census when she was fourteen.

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*Harriet Lindfield at Woolpack (?) farmhouse*



*A. Cheesman at Sunnybank Cottages  
ca. 1910*



*Sunnybank Cottages, Capel, Surrey  
September, 2004*