



Woodford Times

Woodford Historical Society
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Editorial

The autumn/winter season is now upon us and I hope that you all had a good "summer".

I would like to thank all members who have sent good wishes and enquired after my health and Committee Members for their support. I am at home and regularly attending Whipps Cross and Barts Hospitals for tests and much less regularly for results! I am making progress slowly but it could well be a year before my recovery is complete.

I am writing this on 11th July for publication in late August. I need to explain this because a lot has been happening over the last few months - some sporting events only came to a conclusion yesterday, the Prime Minister all but changed today (11th July) - and much will happen over the next few months.

In politics, London elected a new Mayor in May. In June the country voted in huge numbers and



decided that we should leave the EU. Brexit, after four decades, became a reality with huge consequences. Markets have reacted but, after Michael Gove completely scuppered Boris Johnson's hopes of becoming Prime Minister, Theresa May, our new, female, Prime Minister may provide some reassurance to the markets. The Labour Party has yet to sort out the question of leadership although the Parliamentary Labour Party has clearly expressed lack of confidence in Jeremy Corbyn. Nigel Farage has created a vacancy for a UKIP Leader and Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, wishes to negotiate for Scotland to remain in the EU.

In sport, "The Greatest" Muhammad Ali passed away, Lewis Hamilton won the F1 Grand Prix at Silverstone; Serena Williams won the Ladies Wimbledon finals for a seventh time and Andy

Murray won the Men's Finals for a second time; Portugal won the UEFA Euro 2016 Final (Portugal v France).

Sir John Chilcot presented his long awaited report on the Iraq invasion in 2003, in July, which concluded that the UK chose to join the invasion before all peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted.

July 1st marked the Centenary of the start of the Somme Campaign. That day in 1916 was the first of the 141 day Campaign that exacted such an unprecedented toll in human life.

On 12th June the Queen's 90th Birthday was marked with a picnic lunch on the Mall and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrated his 95th Birthday on 10th June.

I am grateful to Felicity Banks, Jill Hicks, Janet Lovell and Pat Smith for arranging an interesting and varied programme of visits during the summer "recess" which was very well supported and hopefully enjoyed by members.

Everyone who asked for tickets for the 'New Year Concert' has been allocated those tickets for which they applied. No more tickets are available. If you want to check your allocation or if you need to change your reservation, please contact me (John Lovell - tel. 020 8505 3640) as soon as possible. Tickets will be distributed at our December meeting - if you will not be able to collect them, please let me have a stamped and addressed envelope.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Georgina Green for putting together this newsletter during my 'indisposition.' I really am most grateful to her for her help and support. I hope that you will enjoy the contents.

John Lovell

Remembering Dorothy Brooks & Roland Buggiey by Peter Lawrence

It's with sadness that I report the recent passing of Dorothy Brooks and Roland Buggiey, two stalwarts of our Society in the last two decades of the 20th century.

When I joined in the mid 1980s, Dorothy had taken over as Secretary after the demise of Miss Marjorie Smith who had guided WHS from its creation in 1932, through the wartime interregnum and seamlessly into the post war period and beyond. During that time she created a large archive that she stored at her home which, at her passing, created a problem of storage and care. Dorothy successfully negotiated with the then Passmore Edwards Museum at Stratford to take the collection into safe custody where it remained until the Local History facility was opened at Ilford Central Library. Dorothy loyally supported our Society until she moved away but long before that, as a token of thanks, she was made a Vice-President. Dorothy made it quite clear to me on several occasions that she was not an historian but her quiet efficiency as Secretary made her a very valuable member. I also remember when she bowed out of the Committee, how much she encouraged me to take the Society forward.

Roland Buggiey was also a member of the Committee and when I joined the inner sanctum in 1987, several meetings were held at his house in Broomhill Road. I remember being impressed with the large collection of Woodford prints and collectables. His hobbies included researching local war memorials, collecting medals and metal tokens. He gave talks to WHS on both subjects. He and Edna were members of Derby Road Methodists as was our former President, Ernest Fulcher. We had many things in common to talk about as he had lectured to Cadets at Hendon Police College and served as a Special Constable in the City of London. He organised walks in London including a memorable tour of Spitalfields which included a visit to the abandoned synagogue in Princelet Street. Spitalfields was one of Roland's favourite parts of London, as it is one of mine. Several WHS publications included his drawings and maps and as he had his own printing press, he produced the annual programme sheets and membership cards. At the passing

of our President, Ernest Fulcher, it was the most natural of progressions to make Roland the new President.

In 1995 he and Edna moved from Woodford to their large Victorian house in Diss, on the Norfolk / Suffolk borders. I remember visiting them for the first time and it was like walking into a larger version of their Woodford Green address – collectables everywhere. Those of you who follow TV programmes such as “Flog It” and “Bargain Hunt” might have seen Roland’s face pop up from time to time when the programmes used the auctions rooms at Diss where he was regular browser and buyer.

Whilst members only saw Roland at the AGM, he and Edna carried on their interest in local history in their newly adopted town and became members of the Friends of Diss Museum and Diss Methodist church where Edna continued her ministry. It’s also where I’ve given several talks over the years to groups so similar to those in Woodford and therefore kept in touch.

Whilst nothing lasts forever, it is still a sad moment when I realise that with Dorothy and Roland’s passing, for Woodford Historical Society, it really is the end of an era.

Peter Lawrence, President of WHS, May 2016

Somme Centenary

The centenary of the first day of the battle of the Somme (1st July until 18th November 1916) is being remembered this year and we are delighted that Mark Smith, well known as the Arms and Militaria expert on ‘Antiques Roadshow’ is returning to present a talk to the Society on 21st November entitled ‘Two Years in the Making – Ten Minutes in the Destroying – the story of Kitchener’s New Army on the Somme’.



Mark Smith

Redbridge and the First World War

Redbridge Museum has launched a new website to coincide with the first day of the battle of the Somme. This explores the impacts of the First World War on Ilford, Wanstead and Woodford with photographs and descriptions of all the memorials in the borough, biographical information about



the men commemorated by the memorials and a catalogue of the collections relating to the war held by the Museum / Information & Heritage. This website, supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, is the final part of the Museum’s First World War centenary programme which has included an exhibition and a recently published book *Redbridge and the First World War* by Gerard Greene.

On page 33 of the book Gerard mentions that the Rector of St.Mary’s at Woodford displayed a list of 250 men who were serving in the armed forces. He highlights Charles Cracknell of Carnarvon Road, South Woodford, who volunteered and landed in France in May 1915 and who died at The Somme aged just 20.

To find out more visit www.redbridgefirstworldwar.org.uk.

The Woodford War Memorial in front of St Mary's church was unveiled on 11th December 1920 and lists 73 men of the parish killed in the Great War.

(Photo Georgina Green)

Zeppelins by Alan Simpson

For nearly three years, gigantic airships flew above East London homes at night *en route* to bombing London. They became known as Zeppelins¹, large German military airships built around a rigid skeleton of aluminium or wood. Within this were many cells containing nearly one million cubic feet of lighter-than-air, but highly flammable, hydrogen gas. Zeppelins were able to carry loads of around nine tons, reaching speeds of up to 50 mph. Crews numbered up to 22 men.

Flying a Zeppelin was more like sailing a ship than piloting an aeroplane. The captain stood with the watch officer and control-surface operators in the command gondola. There they maintained the airship's altitude and course with two nautical-style steering wheels. The captain gave orders through a speaker tube. With no real navigational instruments, crews found their way by using maps and recognizing landmarks on the ground. They relied on railway tracks, the lights of towns, or the sheen of rivers, lakes and reservoirs to guide them towards their targets.

When the First World War broke out, no British anti-aircraft (AA) gun was capable of hitting a Zeppelin, and the country's military resources could provide no proper defence against aerial attack. However, as the war progressed, a co-ordinated defence system combining AA guns, searchlights, observation posts, barrage balloons and airfields was built up, much of it in south-west Essex.

The majority of bombs dropped by Zeppelins were incendiaries, but although these caused material damage, loss of life was comparatively light from fires. Zeppelins were incapable of targeting positions accurately. Even when airships were able to find London, it was impossible for them to aim at specific buildings. Consequently, many of their bombs were wasted, falling at random across south-west Essex.

It was on 31st May 1915 that the first zeppelin raid on London was carried out, some of the bombs falling in Leytonstone. There were several more raids in August and September, and then more in 1916. Miss Winifred Adams vividly remembers the zeppelins passing over Snaresbrook:

You could see the Zeppelins quite distinctly when they went by, especially if there was a moon up. They'd look like a big cigar in front of the moon, with a basket hanging down underneath. They'd drop their bombs from that. I remember one of the first air-raids. I was staying with my grandmother in Dunedin Road, Leyton, and a bomb came down in the next garden to ours. It made a hole about 3 - 4 feet across and everyone came to see it. It could have done quite a bit of damage if it had hit a building because of the force with which it came down. When there was a zeppelin raid you didn't get a siren warning, but a policeman used to come round knocking on the doors saying "Lights out, lights out - raid on, keep in". Later, if they thought of it, they came round and told us it was all clear. The



Photograph taken by Mr H Scott-Orr of Woodford Green on 13 October 1915 which shows a Zeppelin approximately over Ilford. Note the spire of the Congregational church in Broomhill Road. (Photo Alan Simpson's collection)

¹ There were several different types of German airship in use during the war, of which the Schütte-Lanz operated by the army and the Zeppelin by the navy were the most prevalent. All the types soon became known generically as 'Zeppelins'.

raids weren't frequent, and it was quite exciting really.²

As the war progressed, the Zeppelins faced increasing losses for diminishing returns. In 54 raids on Britain, Zeppelins dropped less than 200 tons of bombs, injuring 1,358 people, and killing 577. Only nine of these raids reached London, killing 181 people and injuring 504.

Residents across east London were witness to the destruction of the first airship shot down over British soil. This was Shütte-Lanz SL11, destroyed on the night of 2nd/3rd September 1916 by 2nd Lieutenant William Leefe Robinson flying from Suttons Farm airfield; Robinson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery. The airship crashed at Cuffley, Hertfordshire and reports suggest that when SL11 exploded, the light was so bright it could be seen over a radius of 60 miles. Harold Webster, who lived in Walthamstow, remembered witnessing this:

I have a small piece of the zeppelin that came down at Cuffley. My dad (who worked near Fleet Street) got it from one of the journalists who went there. It was brought down by a Lieut. Robinson who dropped a fire bomb on it from his aeroplane and set light to it. I was about 16 at the time and was near the Bakers Arms, looking towards the south, watching the zeppelins go over. We got one or two over most nights by then; usually they would drop their stuff and then go, but sometimes they would seem to hang still in the sky for a long time before moving off, and the searchlights would try to locate them. That night, as we watched we suddenly realised that all the windows on the other side of the street had turned blood-red. So we rushed across the road, looking back and then we saw it, all on fire with bits falling off in flames. It was fantastic the light it made.

This Cuffley Zeppelin was the first to be brought down in this country, and the sight of it on fire seems to have been remembered by everyone who saw it. To some who watched them crash it was an occasion to celebrate, others were haunted by the thought of the crewmen inside, who did not have parachutes in those days. Norman Russell, from Highams Park:

The zeppelin was slowly floating along, getting lower and lower, a long envelope of flames. It took some little time to finally come down, after it was set on fire. We thought, as boys, that the bits which were seen falling off it were members of the crew jumping out, but some people said it was bits breaking off the structure. However, I can remember a picture in the newspaper a day or two later, of where the commander of the zeppelin fell in the soft mud and made an indentation, with his arms and legs spread out. After it happened a few times, they gave up sending the zeppelins over.

Three more Zeppelins were brought down soon after. The night of 23rd/24th September 1916 was a very successful one as both L32 and L33 were shot down over Essex: L32 by 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Sowrey of the RFC; and L33 by AA fire. Then Zeppelin L31 was destroyed when shot down at Oakmere Park, Potters Bar on the night of 1st/2nd October by 2nd Lieutenant Wulstan Tempest. After this the enemy relied on aircraft to bomb London.

© Alan Simpson, 20th May 2016

Alan Simpson is the author of *Air Raids on South-West Essex in the Great War: Looking for Zeppelins at Leyton* (Published by Pen & Sword, price £19.99)

The promotional material says: "In the years since the Great War a wealth of literature has been published on London's first air raids and about the defence network that grew up around the metropolis, but what happened in the capital's eastern suburbs and the nearby Essex countryside has received less coverage. This book attempts to put that right, looking at the area which, in 1914, was part of south-west Essex, but now comprises the London Boroughs of Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Havering, Newham, and Barking & Dagenham ..."

I first came across Alan because he contacted me in 2012 and asked if he could quote from my book *Keepers, Cockneys & Kitchen Maids* (published in 1987). As he has included a fair bit of my material, Alan gave me the opportunity to read an early draft of his book in case I wanted him to

² *Keepers, Cockneys and Kitchen Maids* Edited by Georgina Green (1987) extracts quoted are on pages 45-8.

amend anything. I found it very interesting and was impressed by the amount of research he had included while still producing a readable text.

Georgina Green

Zeppelin display – Museum of London by Janet Lovell

Alan Simpson's fascinating and well researched article about Zeppelin attacks makes fascinating reading and links with a recent illustrated display at the Museum of London. Too often, perhaps, we walk quickly around the high level walkway to the entrance of the museum, failing to pay appropriate attention to the very interesting and varied displays which are attached to the walls behind the seating areas. The recent display about Zeppelins provided further insight into experiences during WW1.

The concept of the craft, developed by Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, led to the development of the war machines which were so quiet and could fly so high above our defences. The first successful raid was on 19th/20th January 1915 over Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn, but the first raid on London on 31st May 1915, referred to by Alan Simpson, hit Stoke Newington, Shoreditch, Hoxton, Stepney and Leytonstone, this led to reports of attacks on German bakers in the area. In July 1915 the Kaiser sanctioned unrestricted attacks on London.

It was known that there were navigational issues with the craft and the British Government permitted only official statements about the bombed sites, prompted by the German reports that docks had been hit, which was untrue.

The German army was equipped with 11 Zeppelins at the beginning of the war. In London, guns were mounted on the roof of the Foreign Office in Whitehall and the lake in St James Park was drained to prevent reflection lighting the way to Buckingham Palace. Our defence system grew. In September 1915 there were 12 guns in fixed positions in defence of London's built-up area, but by November of the same year there were 49. The first mobile artillery defence system was initiated, following the order for 77mm cannon from France in March 1916. By the middle of that year, England was defended by 271 anti-aircraft guns and 258 searchlights.

In relation to aerial defence, BE2c fighters were redeployed to Chelmsford and Joyce Green, Kent, in September 1915 to 'decrease the time taken to mobilise'.

The Zeppelins were flammable and unreliable, with weather having a significant impact on driving them off course, resulting in inaccuracy of bombing. June 1916 saw our fighter pilots armed with the incendiary rounds which could destroy Zeppelins by igniting the gas in the balloons, in addition to aiming at the fuel tanks. Zeppelins were in decline.

Woodford Memories of collecting Zeppelin 'souvenirs' - 1916 Salway Hill

by Clause Chester Dymoke Seggins in a letter to Reginald Fowkes in 1989.

A large house (Salway Lodge) opposite the Cricketers Public House was taken over by the Royal Flying Corps for use as a residence or billet, for their personal use. Rolestones the bakers used to supply bread and cakes for them. I was very friendly with the grandson of the founder of the business and occasionally I would help him deliver the goods using a large wicker basket. We gained access by using the public footpath which ran by the side of the lodge. Between this path and the shops, at the beginning of Elfrida Parade, the ground slopes sharply from the High Road footpath. This hollow was at one time used as a dumpsite and filled with wreckage from a shot down Zeppelin. I must confess that on our way home we put several pieces of the aluminium framework in our baskets and took them home as souvenirs and I still retain quite a number of these pieces today.

[This hollow is now occupied by the flats and houses of Clementine Walk.. - Editor]

See *Woodford Village to Suburb* by Margery Smith (1982, revised edition 2007) pages 18-19 for more information about Salway Lodge which took its name from the Salway Family, and Richard Salway who was a Turkey merchant and Director of the Bank of England. The information given here, along with new research was included in an article by Georgina Green in the WHS newsletter, Autumn 1997, pages 6-7. However, Georgina has recently come across new, contradictory, information and this is included in the following two articles.

The Robinsons' house at Woodford by Georgina Green

In February 2011 I was asked if I could help locate a house in Woodford which had been the home of the Robinson family in the 1830s. Little did I realise what a long and fascinating (not to say complicated) exchange of e-mails was starting. My correspondent was Henry Phythian-Adams of Leamington Spa who has a memoir written by his great great aunt, Isabella Newcombe Robinson, and was trying to discover where her parents had lived. As the family names are very similar I give an outline of the family tree as it is relevant to this article.

William Robinson (c.1736 - 1808)
married Catherine Tooke (sister of Sarah Pearse)
Prestigious house at Woodford

William Tooke Robinson (c.1769 - 1837)
married Isabella Straker, lived at Woodford Bridge
by 1821 moved to Water House, Walthamstow

William R Robinson (1792-1866)
married Jane Maltby
Lived at Woodford c.1835 to 1838
1838 to 1840 lived at Forest House, Leyton

Isabella, who left memoir

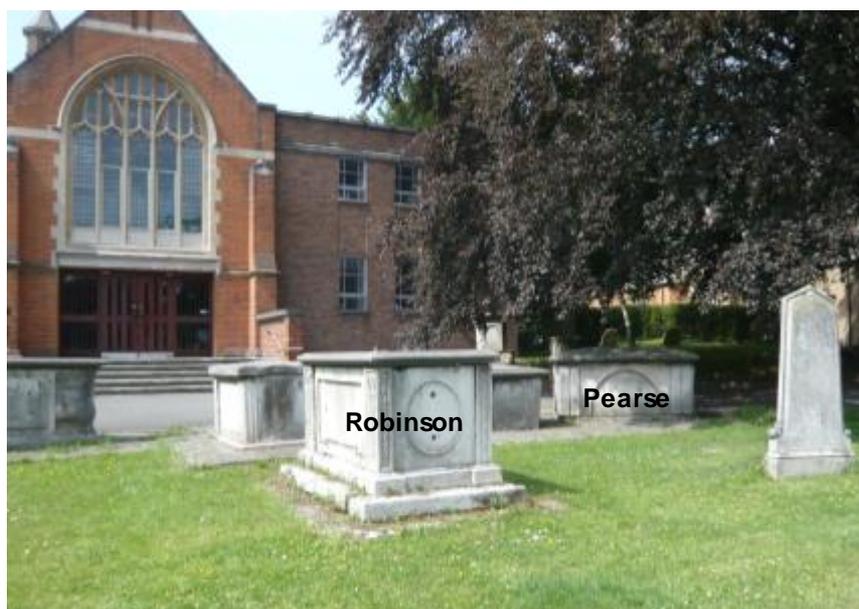
As you can see from the above, the family connections with the area go way back before the 1830s to William Robinson. His wife Catherine was the daughter of Lethieullier Tooke of London, Esq. Merchant, formerly Consul at Smyrna, though she was shown in the *Gentleman's Magazine* as "Miss Tuck of Throgmorton Street" when she married "William Robinson, Esq., a Hamburgh merchant" in 1761.

Catherine had a sister, Sarah, who married Nicholas Pearse in 1756. They had a number of children, some of whom lived at Woodford, where Monkams became the family home. Their memorial at St. Mary's Woodford records Nicholas Pearse (died 1795) Sarah his wife (died 1812), and others of the family. Their son Brice Pearse married Charlotte, daughter of William Raikes, and the inscriptions on the memorial can still be seen recording two of their unmarried daughters, Charlotte and Maria, who lived to be 84 and 62.



Robinson memorial

The plaque on the side facing the church entrance is almost worn smooth. (photos Georgina Green)



In 1804 Catherine's husband, William Robinson, (who was a church warden 1792-3) was shown as paying rates in Woodford on a "Capital brick mansion, replete with offices, walled garden and yards etc. and a hoppett (small field) of 5 acres." He was rated at £80 so it must have been one of the best residences in the parish. Catherine's sister, Mrs Pearse, was rated at £60 for her house and garden. This was situated to the east of the Green near Inman's Row, north of Twentyman Close. She also paid an additional £75 10s for 33 acres which was pasture and "Little Monkham's Grove". About 1820 her son, Brice Pearse, transferred the name Monkham's to a newer building (the site is now covered by Park Avenue), and demolished his mother's old house.

William Robinson died on 24th December 1808, aged 72 and was buried at Woodford. His widow, Catherine, died in 1820. Her death is recorded on the family memorial which stands right in front of St. Mary's church, Woodford, though much of the information has long been lost and what remains is worn away and impossible to decipher.

Henry sent me details he had transcribed from the memorial information in the 1960s. From this and other sources I can tell you that

Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late William Robinson Esq. died in April 1820 in her 43rd year, Catherine the younger/est? daughter died in April 1827

Charles Robinson Esq. the eldest son, died in his 71st year in 1836.

The north side of the memorial said:

Sacred to the Memory of William Tooke Robinson Esq. of Walthamstow,
Second Son of William Robinson, Esq. of this Parish departed this life the
14th of February 1837 in the 68th Year of his Age.

Isabella Robinson Relict of the above died July 6th 1853 Aged 82 Years

William Tooke Robinson had lived for some years at Woodford Bridge, probably in a house previously occupied by retired East India Captain Jeffery Jackson, which was approximately where Gaynes Hill Road is today. From here he moved to the Water House in Walthamstow. (This became the home of the Morris family after William Morris senior died in 1847 and they moved from Woodford Hall. It is now the William Morris Gallery.) William Tooke Robinson was the son of William and Catherine Robinson, and the father of William R. Robinson who lived in his grandmother's house in the 1830s.

William R. Robinson had married Jane Maltby and her brother, Henry Maltby, rented Forest Hall, Oak Hill, about a mile away, as well as a house in Regent's Park. William R. Robinson later lived at Forest House in Leytonstone (the site is now covered by the car park of Whipps Cross Hospital) and was a director of the Bank of England and a 'Russia merchant'.

Now you know something of the family, I'll go back to the beginning: **where was the house in Woodford which had been the home of the William R Robinson family in the 1830s?**

It was described as a "Capital brick mansion" in 1804 and this was the house left to Catherine, which was eventually inherited by William R. Robinson. At first I thought it was part of The Rookery in George Lane, as the tithe award (confirmed in 1840) shows the house as owned by William Malins, lately occupied by Robinson, but this turned out to be a different family, that of George Robinson – no relation.

After much e-mail discussion, my scanning various documents to send to Henry, and his visit to the Essex Record Office, we agreed that a house near the top of Salway Hill, on the west side south of Bunces Lane had been the home of Mrs Catherine Robinson before her death in 1820. This is indicated in Cary's New Itinerary of 1817 and is confirmed on a map by John Doyley dated 1815-6 at the Essex Record Office. The plot is shown ★ as belonging to W. T. Robinson on the map by John Doyley dated 1832 which is on display in St. Mary's church.



Woodford Parish Map at St Mary's church by John Doyley, 1832 (photo Georgina Green)

While at the ERO Henry had also consulted a parish Poor Rate Book of 1836 (which I have since seen myself) and he wrote to me "In the 1836 Overseers' rate book, following Peter Mallard's entry for his house and other properties, is:- Occupier, Thomas Gibbins, Owner, Tooke Robinson Salway House, Salway Hill, Annual Value £60, assessed at £45, plus some land." The Tithe Apportionment for Woodford, 1838, confirmed 1840, has Thomas Gibbins occupying a Mansion, Offices and Garden, two acres, two rods, two perches, and an Orchard, two acres, one rod, 17 perches ---- exactly the same sizes as Mrs. Robinson's property in 1815. The Owner of both was William R. Robinson.

It seems that William Robinson (d.1808) was living in Salway House, Salway Hill, Woodford, at least from 1804 and that this was the house he left to his widow, Catherine. In 1819 she left it to her son William Tooke Robinson and he held on to it after buying Water House and land in Walthamstow. William R. Robinson inherited it in 1837 but probably had to sell it in 1847. Thomas Gibbins appears in Pigot's 1839 Directory of Essex under ACADEMIES ~ Salway House, Woodford. In the 1841 Census he appears as Schoolmaster with his family, one assistant and 19 boys aged from seven to fourteen. I cannot find him after that.

All this is particularly interesting because the name 'Salway House' is given to another house, on the opposite side of the road between the Naked Beauty (Hurst House) and Salway Lodge, on the Ordnance Survey map of 1865 and it has long been accepted by earlier historians that this was always the case. This property is shown on the 1832 map and tithe map as occupied by Geo. Wood. It is a somewhat small house compared with the Robinson mansion, but it was greatly altered by J. R. Roberts in 1880.

By 1865 the site of the Robinson house had been built over with at least a dozen houses along the road, so it is possible the name was transferred across to the east side of the road when the house was demolished.

It is thought Salway Lodge near the top of what became known as Salway Hill was the home of Richard Salway (c.1701 – 1775) a wealthy gentleman who made his fortune trading with Turkey. Assuming Henry is right, it seems the home of Richard Salway was the (Robinson) mansion on the opposite side of the road which is much larger than either of the buildings on the east side.

So we had identified the home of various members of the family at Woodford Bridge and on Salway Hill, but given that Salway House was occupied by Thomas Gibbins, we still needed to find where William R. Robinson and his family lived. The 1836 Overseers' rate book provided a clear indication in that Wm. R. Robinson was listed at a substantial property very close to the shop owned by Geo. Liddle which was near the George Inn. I think it could be Truby House, as illustrated in *Fifty Pictures of Old Woodford*. (and shown here)

Henry sent me an account written by William and Jane's daughter Isabella. She describes how "we settled at Woodford... in an old fashioned red brick house with a row of limes outside the wall of the park. Such fruit walls we had, I remember, and our dear cow, Colly, liked the peaches as much as we did and invariably got loose when they were ripe and ate as many as she could. Then the delicious 'syllabub under the cow' as we children called it because the cow was milked into the bowl.



Here the boys kept hawks and our disgust was great at the raw meat they fed upon. Many pets we had – Dash the spaniel, Blenheim, Nott (?) the Newfoundland, who dived into all the dirty ponds, bringing up old tin kettles and other rubbish, nearly knocking us down in his wild career and covering us with mud.

Through the garden, near the ha ha, ran a little stream and the tiny bathing place, overshadowed by trees, had always a mystery for me. The dear old cedar too, where we often dined and where one day I remember my father throwing our baby boy Lucius's sugar loaf hat at our nurse Jervis. A ghost of a rocking horse, too, which always lived in the shrubbery was our great delight."

© Georgina Green, 20th March 2012

With thanks to Henry Pythian-Adams for his amazing and painstaking research.

The Salway Family by Georgina Green

Having completed my research on the Robinson's house and written it up (see above), I shelved it as I was busy trying to finish my book on Sir Charles Raymond. Now this is published I decided to go back and follow up some references I had come across about Richard Salway. I had discovered Richard had a more important brother, Theophilus, who also lived at Woodford but was not buried here so does not show up in the parish records. The further I investigated, the more complicated it became, and I discovered that some previously published information was incorrect. The article I wrote for WHS newsletter in Autumn 1997 gathered together all the information I could find about Richard Salway at that time but I now know my conclusions were based on flawed foundations.

After the devastating fire at St. Mary's church, in 1977 the Passmore Edwards Museum published a history of the church and details of all the memorials, many of which had not survived the fire and subsequent exposure, in *St Mary's Church, Woodford, Essex* by J W S Litton and F R Clark. The memorial to Richard Salway is listed on page 21 as Richard Salway, Marble ledger stone, originally in the floor of the chancel in the church of St. Mary, in 1816 moved to the west end of the south aisle; accidentally destroyed in 1972. It goes on to say that "Richard Salway was one of the principal inhabitants of Woodford and lived at Salway Lodge; he was a Director of the Bank of England and died in July 1775 at the age of 74. Salway left £100 to be given to the Rector (then the Rev John Shepard) to be 'distributed to the poor in such proportions as he should think proper.' According to the Vestry Minutes this was done. Jane Salway, Richard's daughter, married a Benjamin Booth of Middlesex at Woodford on 15th July 1760."

On page 22 there is an entry for a marble ledger stone to Mary Salway, also accidentally destroyed in 1972. It goes on to say that “Mary Salway who died on 2nd December 1783, aged 79, was the widow of Theophilus Salway, and mother of Mary Cartwright.” However there is no burial shown at St Mary’s, Woodford, for her husband.

After considerable investigation I have now uncovered some more details of the family and, unfortunately, this usually reliable source has several flaws in these entries, some repeated in the Society’s transaction *Woodford Village to Suburb*.

Richard Salway (c.1701-1775)

Firstly, the surname of the gentleman was spelt Salway in his will (PROB 11/1010) and the documents quoted below. His burial is recorded at St Mary’s on 29th July 1775, aged 74. I found an entry in the *Gentleman’s Magazine* which reported the death on July 20th, 1775 of ‘Richard Salway Esq, one of the oldest Directors of the South Sea Co.’ Newspapers reported Richard Salway’s election as a Director of the South Sea Company in 1742/3 and then again in 1760 and later. He may have been elected in the 1750s too.

While doing research into the business life of Sir Charles Raymond I looked at the archives of the South Sea Company from 1760 to check that Raymond served as a director. I can confirm that Richard Salway was also a Director from 1760 and that he was Chairman of the Accounts Committee in the years I checked: 1763, 1766, 1769, 1772 and in 1775 when he died. The records which I checked for 1767 confirm he attended 28 of the 32 meetings of the Court of Directors held that year, just missing those in April and early May, so he was certainly very conscientious in their service.

The Bank of England websites show that Richard Salway was not a Director but that Theophilus Salway served in this post for 13 of the years between 1743 and his death 17 years later. (William Hunt of Woodford Hall was a Director from 1744 until 1762 and served as Governor 1749-51.)

Theophilus Salway (c.1699-1775)

So turning to Theophilus, I found a reference ³ to him in 1746 as Theophilus Salway of Woodford, and again in his will (PROB 11/856) dated 7th May 1760 he calls himself Theophilus Salway of Woodford. However, I discovered that he had been buried at St Laurence church, Ludlow, where his memorial states he died on 28th April 1760, aged 61. I have made contact with a historian at Ludlow who has been helpful but it is a complicated family with the same names in each generation. It seems likely he was descended from a Richard Salway (1615-1688) who was appointed ambassador at Constantinople in 1654.

The father of Theophilus and Richard was Edward Salway who died on 22nd July 1731 and was buried at All Saints church, West Ham on 25th July 1731. The *London Evening Post*, July 22 – July 24, 1731 reported that “On Thursday morning died, at his house at Stratford, Mr Edward Salway, an ancient, eminent and wealthy Turkey Merchant of this City, [i.e. someone who trades with that country] whose son Theophilus Salway Esq, is one of the Directors of the South Sea Company.” Theophilus had been elected a Director of the South Sea Company in 1727 but I have not investigated this further.

A newspaper account in 1748 refers to Theophilus as an eminent Turkey Merchant and I found a reference to him being elected as Assistant in the Court of the Turkey Company in February 1733. He would have known David Bosanquet who was buried at St Mary’s, Woodford, on 15th October 1741 when he was also described as “a very eminent and wealthy Turkey merchant...” Theophilus certainly had a country seat at Woodford in 1743.

³ The British Library has the Burney 18th century newspaper archive as a searchable database. This is a wonderful research tool for discovering more about gentlemen and events in this period.

Interestingly, the will of Edward Salwey mentioned that his son Richard is 'of Aleppo' so at the age of about 30, Richard was actually living in Turkey. He may have been there for some years, in which case he could have enjoyed the company of David Bosanquet who also lived at Aleppo in the 1720s. Perhaps it is no coincidence they both lived at Woodford. Richard is recorded as 'of Woodford' in 1738.

St Mary's Church, Woodford, Essex by J W S Litton and F R Clark (page 22) also states that Mary Salwey who died on 2nd December 1783, aged 79, was the widow of Theophilus Salwey, and mother of Mary Cartwright. On page 20 it explains that Mary Cartwright was the daughter of Peter Cartwright and Mary, daughter of Robert Dennett, and she died on 27th December 1745 aged 18 and was buried on the 30th of that month. Her baptism is recorded on 20th? October 1727 at St Mary's, Leyton.

Mary Dennett had married Peter Cartwright on 20th Nov 1725 at Saint Martin Outwich (corner of Threadneedle Street and Bishopsgate) in the City. Peter died and was buried at Leyton on 6th October 1742 and the burial register shows that there were other children of Peter and Mary Cartwright. Mary married Theophilus Salwey on around 4th June 1743 when she was about 39 years old and he was about 45. Neither of these marriages are recorded in the parish registers of Woodford, Walthamstow, Leyton or West Ham. Mary and Theophilus did not have children together but no doubt young Mary was part of their household before she died two years after their marriage.

The entry on page 20 of *St Mary's Church, Woodford, Essex* by J W S Litton and F R Clark that Jane Salwey, Richard's daughter, married a Benjamin Booth of Middlesex at Woodford on 15th July 1760 is correct, the witnesses were Richard Salwey and Mary Wright, but Jane was not the daughter of Richard Salwey of Woodford. His will was made on 13th February 1772 and it is a long and complicated document (16 pages including a codicil) which shows Richard to have been a very wealthy man who was generous to his large household staff (he mentions the housekeeper, two footman, coachman and gamekeeper among many) as well as several friends. The bulk of his estate appears to have been left to several relatives, naming cousins and their children. He was also very generous to "my godson Richard Booth the eldest son of Benjamin Booth of Lincolns Inn Fields and Jane his present wife who was the daughter of Richard Salwey, late of the Moor, Salop." Benjamin Booth (son of John Booth) was a Director of the East India Company for many of the years between 1767 – 1783. He died in 1807.

On page 7 of his will Richard mentions a legal agreement made 'previous to my marriage with my wife Mary Salwey'. He quotes property at Sible Hedingham, Castle Hedingham and Witham (as mentioned in the article I wrote in 1997) which he disposed of to Jasper Kingsman of Stifford and Montague Booth. It appears they may have been appointed as Trustees for the marriage agreement. Later he refers to 'my present wife' with clauses about any male heirs but I think this was just a legal safeguard, in line with much of the way the will was drawn up. I could see nothing which named any sons or daughters and I did not see any bequests to his wife. With nothing other than the name Mary to identify her it would be very difficult to find out more. It is clear that if she was still alive they were estranged.

