

THE HISTORY OF WHYTSTREET FARM

INTRODUCTION

Whytstreet Farm sat in the north-west corner of the tithing of Kinvil (Kingfield), at what is now the corner of Wych Hill and Triggs Lane. However, there are geographical and family links with both Oaks Farm and Lysse Farm.

The name has appeared, variously, as White Street, Whit Street and Wych Street.

The farm was converted, in the 1890s, into a private house called The Shrubbery, later, Evergreen, Drum and Drum House.

In the 1970s, Drum House was converted into flats.

Whytstreet Farm, then Drum House, was demolished for the construction of the Wych Hill Park housing development.

Origins

The earliest depiction of Whytstreet Farm, is on John Remnant's 1719 map of the Manor of Woking.¹ The farm and its adjacent land comprised the farmstead and 9 fields, totalling 36 acres.

Whytstreet Farm also appears on John Rocque's 1768 map of Surrey (right, circled). The building shown is not named on either map.



Figure 1. John Rocque's 1768 map

In the Woking Tithe Apportionment of 1840, the farm is shown on the accompanying map² (below), the farmstead recorded as 'yard and buildings'. The farm was then owned by The Honourable Peter John Locke King and occupied by Eldred Nunns.

Whytstreet Farm was a copyhold property, held of the Lord of the Manor of Woking. An annual rent was due to the Lord of the Manor – also, 'Heriot when it shall happen³, Suit of Court⁴ and other Services and Customs therefore formerly due and of right accustomed'.

¹ SHC, G97/5/63/1, *Map of the Manor of Woking, surveyed by John Remnant 1719*

² SHC, 6198/13/107, Woking Tithe Map, 1840

³ When a copyhold tenant died, a tribute was due to the Lord of the Manor, usually the 'best beast'

⁴ Copyholders were required to attend meetings of the Manor Court

Plot	Plot name	Acres	Roods	Perches
449	Turning Oak	6		21
454	Heathcocks	3	3	
458	Heathcocks	3	2	28
460	Heathcocks	6	2	2
463	Turning Croft	5	3	14
464	Upper Hilly Field	11	3	37
465	Great Oak	6		15
466	Wych Street Six Acres	6	3	1
467	Wych Street Ten Acres	9	3	5
470	Cottage & gdn		1	10
471	Wych St Plat		1	35
472	Yard & Bdgs			36
		61	2	4

Table 1 Extract from 1840 tithe apportionment



Figure 2. 1840 Woking tithe map

JOHN INWOOD

Prior to his death in 1697, Whytstreet Farm was owned by John Inwood. On his death it passed to his eldest son, also named John.⁵

John Inwood junior held the farm until his death in 1715, when it passed to his son Richard.

⁵ SHC, G97/5/41, *Court book of the manor of Woking: (1680-1752)*

RICHARD INWOOD

Richard Inwood inherited Whytstreet Farm on the death of his father, John, in 1715. Richard was only three years old at this time and so, at the Manor Court, when Richard was admitted to the property, his mother, Mary (née Scotcher), was admitted as guardian.⁵

In 1754, Richard Inwood surrendered (sold?) the farm to William Rapley. By this time, Richard had left Woking and was living in Croydon; he had probably left in 1753 as in January that year he was granted licence to let the farm to James Martyr, a farmer of Woking.⁶

WILLIAM RAPLEY

William Rapley was admitted to Whytstreet Farm at a Court Baron, held for the Manor of Woking, in October 1754, by 'yearly rent of six shillings and two pence, Heriot, Suit of Court and other customs and services'. He paid a fine to the Lord of the Manor, on admittance, of £38.⁶ The farm then comprised the messuage and 'seven closes of land (now made into nine closes)', containing thirty four acres.

William Rapley held Whytstreet Farm until 1802. Between 1780 and 1786, James Collyer is listed as the occupier; from then until 1791, William himself was the occupier.⁷

GARMENT FAMILY

William Garment was admitted to Whytstreet Farm at a Court Baron, held for the Manor of Woking, in May 1803. At the same court, he then surrendered all his copyhold property 'to the use of his Will'.⁸ This was the same William Garment who then held Oaks Farm; as such, he almost certainly resided at Oaks Farm and let out Wychstreet Farm house, possibly to some of his workers.

William Garment died just a month later, in June 1803. In his will, he left all his real estates to his brother, John, for the term of his life, at a rent which his executors would use to support William's widow, Ann.⁹

John Garment died just two years later, in 1805, and the farm reverted to William's executors. William's will instructed his executors to rent out his property during the life of his widow. Ann survived until 1830.

From 1806 until 1821, William Garment's estates were occupied by William Collyer⁷ (who had married William Garment's widow). He also probably resided at Oaks Farm and sub-let Wychstreet Farm house.

⁶ SHC, G97/5/42, *Court book of the manor of Woking: (1752-1761)*

⁷ Surrey Land Tax Records, 1780-1832

⁸ SHC, G97/5/45, *Court book of the manor of Woking: (1793-1803)*

⁹ TNA, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Series PROB 11; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 1402

In 1823, the farm passed to William and John’s surviving brother, James Garment.¹⁰ James lived in London, but held both Oaks Farm and Whytstreet Farm until his death in December 1831.¹¹ Oaks Farm was administered by James’s steward, William Hill¹²; it is likely that Whytstreet Farm was also.

Following James Garment’s death, his estate passed to his nephew, John Garment, eldest son of his brother, John, deceased.¹³

An early proposal for a railway from London to Southampton came from Robert Johnson and Abel Rous Dottin, member of parliament for Southampton in 1830. A prospectus was published on 23 October 1830.

The London and South Western Railway Act 1834 (4 & 5 Will. 4. c. lxxxviii) received royal assent on 25 July 1834. The line cut across both Oaks Farm and Royal Oak Farm, both immediately north of Whytstreet Farm.

THE HONOURABLE PETER JOHN LOCKE KING

At the time of the 1840 Tithe Apportionment, Peter King owned and Eldred Nunns occupied both Oaks Farm and Whytstreet Farm. He had probably purchased them in the late 1830s, from John Garment. It is not known if Eldred Nunns, who resided at Oaks Farm, operated the two farms together or as separate concerns.

William Smither

The 1841 census appears to show brothers William and Edward Smither working and residing at Whytstreet Farm, so Eldred Nunns may have sublet it or employed them to farm it for him.

Name	Age (M)	Age (F)	Profession/ employment	Born in Surrey
William Smither	67		Farmer	Y
Stephen “	20		Nephew Labr	Y
Hannah Barrett		54	F.S.	Y
Edward Smither	58		Farmer	Y
Sarah “		53		Y
Isaac “	13		Printer	Y
John “	11			Y
Henry “	8			Y

Table 2 1841 Census return for Whytstreet Farm

¹⁰ Surrey Land Tax Records, 1780-1832

¹¹ Surrey Land Tax Records, 1780-1832

¹² *Flemings British Farmer’s Chronicle*, 14 March 1825

¹³ SHC, G97/5/48, *Court book of the manor of Woking (1830-1843)*

In 1845, the Guildford branch of the railway cut across Whytstreet Farm, separating the farmhouse and yard from most of the associated arable land.

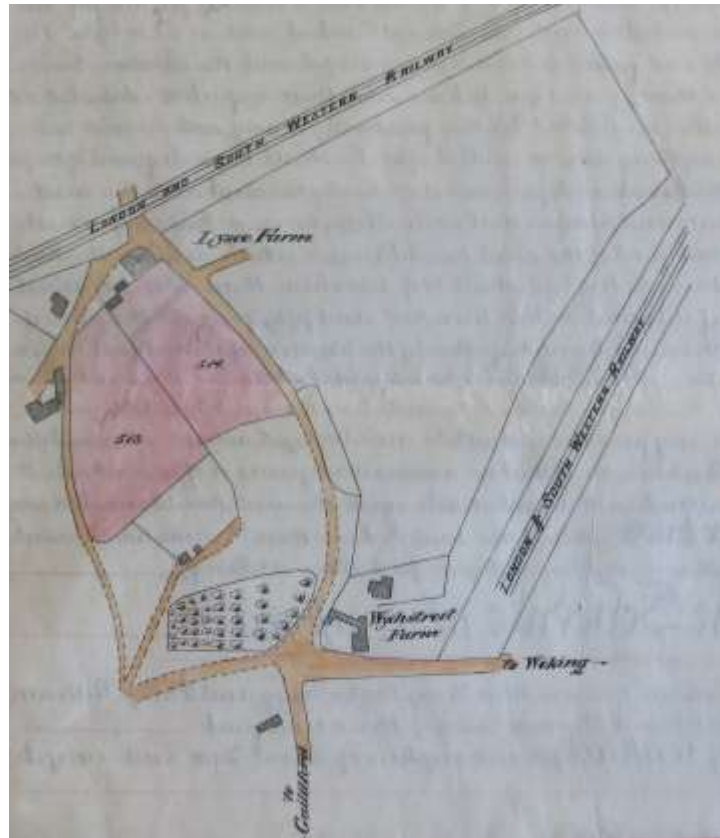


Figure 3. Surveyor's map

At the time of the 1851 census, Edward Smither, still described as a farmer, was living in Grove Cottage. William Smither was residing at the farmhouse.

Name	Relation to Head	Marital status	Age (M)	Age (F)	Profession/employment	Where Born
William Smither	Head	Widower	76		Farmer of 8 acres, 1 labourer	Surrey, Woking
Stephen	" Nephew	Mar	30		Labourer	Do.
Harriet	" Wife	Mar		28		" Pepper Harrow
William	" Son		6		Scholar	" Woking
Stephen	" Son		4			Do.
John	" Son		10m			Do.
Tho.s Courtnage		U	53		Vagrant sleeping in the barn	Surrey, Thursley

Table 3 1851 Census return for Whytstreet Farm

Edward Smither died in 1860. By the time of the 1861 census, it appears that Whytstreet Farm was no longer a going concern. William Smither, who by then would have been 86, had retired and moved out and his son, also William, was residing at the farmhouse, described as an agricultural labourer.

Name	Relation to Head	Marital status	Age (M)	Age (F)	Profession/employment	Where Born
William Smither	Head	M	47		Ag Lab	Surrey, Woking
Mary A “	Wife	M		39		London
William “	Son		16		Ag Lab	Surrey, Woking
George “	Son		14		Ag Lab	Do. Do.
Christian “	Daur			10	Scholar	Do. Do.
Ruth “	Daur			8	Do.	Do. Do.
Jimia “	Daur			5		Do. Do.
Sarah Elz ^h “	Daur			3		Do. Do.
Allis E “	Daur			1		Do. Do.

Table 4 1861 Census return for Whytstreet Farm

Matthew Willoughby

By the time of the 1881 census, Matthew Willoughby aka Matthew Searle, agricultural labourer, was occupying the former farmhouse.

Name	Relation to Head	Marital status	Age (M)	Age (F)	Profession/employment	Where Born
Matthew Searle	Head	Mar	49		Ag Lab	Surrey, Woking
Sarah Searle	Wife	Mar		54		Do. Cranleigh
William Searle	Son		5		Scholar	Do. Woking
Edward Balchin	Son in law	Unm	31		Ag Lab	Do. Cranleigh

Table 5 1871 Census return for Whytstreet Farm

Name	Relation to Head	Marital status	Age (M)	Age (F)	Profession/employment	Where Born
Mathew Sails	Head	Mar	60		Ag Lab	Kent, Maidstone
Sarah “	Wife	Mar		63		Surrey, Cranley
William H “	Son	Unmar	15			Do. Woking

Table 6 1881 Census return for Whytstreet Farm

Matthew Willoughby died in February 1891. His son, William Henry, who had married in 1888, then lived in the house with his young family, until 1896. Then a plate-layer with the railway company he moved into one of the Railway Cottages in St John's.

Name	Relation to Head	Marital status	Age (M)	Age (F)	Profession/employment	Where Born
William H Willoughby	Head	Mar	25		Labourer	Surrey, Woking
Edith “	Wife	Mar		30		Cornwall, St Hew
William H “	Son	S	2			Surrey, Woking
Emily E	Daur			1m		Surrey, Woking

Table 7 1891 Census return for Whytstreet Farm

A PRIVATE HOUSE

In 1897, John Orlando Law, a company director, took up occupancy. He no doubt updated the house considerably and he renamed it The Shrubbery.

In 1921, the house was renamed Evergreen by the then occupant, Daniel Lane; in 1932, William Dawson, a chartered accountant with the Bank of Scotland, renamed it Drum.

Following the second World War, Colonel Donald Fraser Brown moved in and changed the name, slightly, to Drum House.

The house currently named Trentham was built within the grounds of Drum House, in the mid-1960s.

Colonel Brown was killed in a road accident in November 1963.



Figure 4. Colonel Donald Fraser Brown O.B.E RE (1898-1963)

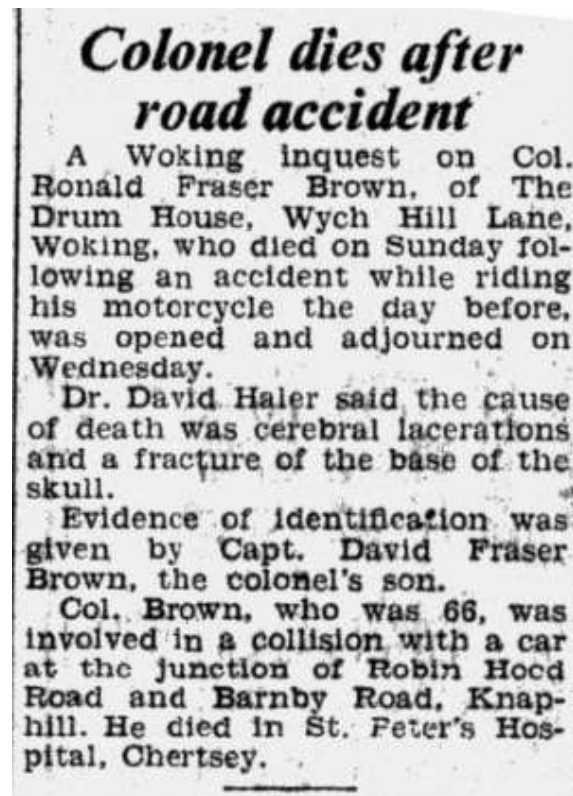


Figure 5. *Surrey Advertiser* 30 Nov 1963

In about 1974, Drum House was converted into a number of flats (likely five¹⁴). It was later demolished for the construction of the Wych Hill Park housing development, in the early 1980s.

¹⁴ References have been found to flats numbered 1-5 but no higher

Dates	Owner	Occupier/Tenant
	John Huntingford	
<1696-97	John Inwood	
1698-1715	John Inwood junior	
1715-53		
1754		James Martyr
1754-79	William Rapley	
1780-86		James Collyer
1787-91		William Rapley
1792-1802		
1802-03	William Garment	
1803-05	James Garment	
1806-21	Executors of William Garment	William Collyer ¹⁵
1823-31	James Garment	James Garment ¹⁵
1832-38	John Garment	
1838-40	The Honourable Peter John Locke King	
1841		Wm Smither/Edw Smither
1851		William Smither
1861-70		William Smither junior
1871-85		Matthew Searle aka Willoughby
1885-89	Hugh Fortescue Locke King	
1890-96		William Henry Willoughby
<i>Converted to private house</i>		
1897-1900	Hugh F L King	
1901-18		John Orlando Law
1919-20		Thomas Marrian
1921-24		Daniel Henry Lane
1927-31		Miss Phoebe Allen
1932-36		William Romanis Dawson
1944-45		Mrs Elizabeth Alison M'Farquhar Yates
1946-63		Col Donald Fraser Brown
1967-72		Mrs Joan Scott
<i>Converted to 5 flats</i>		

Table 8 Owners and occupiers of Wychstreet Farm & later house

¹⁵ Almost certainly sublet, or the house used for farm workers' accommodation

INDEX

A

Allen, Miss Phoebe, 8

B

Balchin, Edward, 6
Bank of Scotland, 7
Brown, Colonel Donald Fraser, 7, 8

C

Collyer, James, 3, 8
Collyer, William, 3
Cornwall, 6
Courtnage, Thomas, 5
Cranleigh, 6
Croydon, 3

D

Dawson, Romanis William, 7, 8
Dottin, Abel Rous, 4
Drum, 1, 7
Drum House, 1, 7

E

Evergreen, 1, 7

G

Garment, James, 4, 8
Garment, John, 3, 4, 8
Garment, Mrs Ann, 3
Garment, William, 3, 8
Great Oak, 2
Grove Cottage, 5
Guildford, 5

H

Heathcocks, 2
heriot, 1, 3
Hill, William, 4
Huntingford, John, 8

I

Inwood, John, 2, 3, 8
Inwood, Mrs Mary, 3
Inwood, Richard, 2, 3

J

Johnson, Robert, 4

K

Kent, 6
King, Hugh Fortescue Locke King, 8
King, The Honourable Peter John Locke, 1, 4, 8
Kingfield, 1

L

Lane, Daniel Henry, 7, 8
Law, John Orlando, 7, 8
London, 4
London and South Western Railway Act 1834, 4
Lysse Farm, 1

M

Maidstone, 6
Marrian, Thomas, 8
Martyr, James, 3, 8

N

Nunns, Eldred, 1, 4

O

Oaks Farm, 1, 3, 4

R

Railway Cottages, 6
Rapley, William, 3, 8
Remnant, John, 1
Rocque, John, 1
Royal Oak Farm, 4

S

Scotcher, Miss Mary, 3
Scott, Mrs Joan, 8
Searle, Matthew, 6, 8
Smither, Edward, 4, 5, 8
Smither, William, 4, 5, 6, 8
Southampton, 4
St Hew, 6
St John's, 6
suit of court, 1, 3

T

The Shrubbery, 1, 7
Thursley, 5
Trentham, 1, 7
Trigg's Lane, 1
Turning Croft, 2

Turning Oak, 2

U

Upper Hilly Field, 2

W

Whit Street, 1

White Street, 1

Willoughby, Matthew, 6

Willoughby, William Henry, 6, 8

Wych Hill, 1

Wych Hill Park, 1, 7

Wych St Plat, 2

Wych Street, 1

Wych Street Six Acres, 2

Wych Street Ten Acres, 2

Y

Yates, Mrs Elizabeth Alison M'Farquhar, 8