

Place Names in Galleywood

by Pauline Potts

FOR the past six years I have been helping as a recorder for the Essex Place Names Project, recording field names in Great Baddow (of which Galleywood was formerly a part).

The recording started with the tithe map dated 1838. For each numbered field on the map the name was recorded, together with details of size, shape, land use, ownership, abuttals etc. Many of the fields in Galleywood had boring names such as 'The Meadow' or 'Four Acres' but others were much more interesting, such as 'Shoulder Mutton Piece', 'Hobgoblin's Hole' and 'Pint Pot'. Some gave indications of former uses of the land such as 'Claypit Field', 'Sawpit Field', 'Malting Field' and 'Tile Kiln Bottom'

I was interested to note that some of the modern roads in Galleywood had been named after former fields. 'Kirkham's Land' was situated near Kirkhams road, but 'Home Mead' and 'West Lawn' were near the Common and not where the present roads are.

After I had finished the tithe map, I moved on to the 18th and 19th century estate maps. I found this the most enjoyable part of the recording because the estate maps were picturesque and showed details such as gates, trees and hedges. From the map of an estate at Galley End I discovered that Galley End was not where we know think of as being but by the White Bear. The map showed the land taken by the government for the fortifications where Chelmer Park is now situated.

In 1768 Mr Thomas Shuttleworth owned two farms adjoining the present Beehive Lane, the oddly named Spaines, Wightes and Ready Lands (in 1671 this was Hedglands) and Leather Cut Farm (the present Lathcoats). The bridleway through Carlton Riding Stables was marked as Hammonds Lane and Deadmans Lane as Leather Cut Lane. (although it was called Deadmans Lane in 1671). Interesting fields names included 'Turtles', 'Long Gubbins' and 'Small Gains'.

Some of the farms owned strips of meadow in Baddow Mead which was shown separately in a corner of the map. I was puzzled as to how the owners could confine their cattle to a small strip of land until I read John hunter's book 'The Essex Landscape'. He explained how the strips were used to grow a hay crop and after hay-making in June, the whole area would be used for common grazing until the autumn.

The book also refers to 'springs' which were narrow strips of woodland along the boundaries of fields. There was one in Galleywood near Parklands Farm which was named 'Spring' on the Tithe map. It is still there today although John Hunter said that few remained in Essex.

At the moment I am working on a manorial survey of 1671, when Anthony Cox was the occupier of the newly erected mill on Galleywood Common and had built a house adjoining. His yearly quit rent was one fat capon at Christmas. Many of the farms named in the survey are still there or have disappeared in living memory.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 2

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Record Office goes online

IT is now possible to inspect much of the vast amount of information stored at the Essex Record Office from the comfort of your own home. Much work is yet to be done, but increasing chunks of stuff are being prepared for access via – <http://eesopessex.essexcc.gov.uk/> their new website. Not quite the same excitement as holding in your hands an original document, inscribed in immaculate copperplate pen by some workhouse overseer, but certainly convenient. And what's more, you avoid the £2.70 charge in the Council car park outside their door.



picture from the Ron White collection

Essex Chronicle
May 17th 1765

To be SOLD by Auction by Thomas Brown of Chelmsford On Monday 27th instant at SEABRIGHT'S FARM, by Galleywood Common near Chelmsford The Household Furniture of a Gentleman who has lately quitted the Said Farm, consisting of exceeding good Bedhead, with Furnitures, Goose Feather Beds, Blankets, Quilts, an Eight day clock, Mahogany and other Tables and Chairs, Chefts of Drawers, Pier and Sconce Glaffes, and Variety of Kitchen Furniture and Brewing Urenfils. The faid Goods are in very good condition, being chiefly new. The Sale to begin at precisely eleven and to be sold in one day.

WE think this picture of Seabrights Farm was taken around 1850. This would make it the oldest photo in Ron White's collection. The mass produced camera was still quite a novelty at that time so this is quite a rare picture. The farm was up for sale in 1765 as our extract from *The Chronicle* shows. Maybe the family that bought it were living there when this picture was taken.

The narrow strip of land along the Stock Road which features in our story on the next page has another interesting story attached to it. It almost amounts to a mystery and, with any luck, we may reveal all in our next issue. Watch this space!

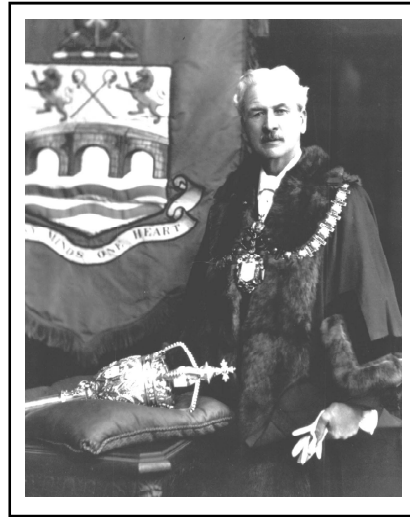
Our next meeting

'The World of Fred Spalding'

A presentation by
CHRIS LAMBERT

from the Essex Record Office

FOR the Victorians, photography was one of the key inventions of their era, bringing distant places, people and events into sharp focus for the first time. Now it allows us to glimpse the past through their eyes. From the 1860s until the Second World War the leading commercial photographers in Chelmsford were the Spalding family. Fred Spalding junior, born in Duke Street in 1858, became latterly the grand old man of Chelmsford past, a member of the Borough Council for 54 years and a living repository of local history.



Essex Record Office



Wednesday 4 June 2003
Keene Hall
Watchouse Road
at 8 pm

This slide presentation uses images from the firm's photographic archive, held at the Essex Record Office, to depict the Spalding's vanished world.

DATES for your Diary

- 24 September 2003** The windmills of Essex
An illustrated talk by Geoff Wood
Mills Support Officer for Essex County Council
- 19 November 2003** History of the Essex Police
Speaker from the Essex Police Museum
Annual General Meeting of the Society



Broomfield Road at the time and my husband sent one of his staff up to Galleywood and said 'Go and find me a place so I can build a bungalow.' He came back and said he couldn't see anything very good, but there was a little copse on the Stock Road. We went and had a look and I said, 'Good gracious, that's no good we can't build there, look at all the trees; but my husband said, 'I think that's got possibilities.' So the local builder, Brunning, was given the job.

The project was supervised by the late George Brunning assisted by his son, William who had just left school. Will is now Director of the firm which has been renamed Galleywood Construction Ltd. The foreman in charge was Fred Lemon who lived in 'Bexley' in Goat Hall Lane. He was assisted by David Allen of Ship Cottages, West Hanningfield and Bert Smith who lived in Well Lane. The ground worker was George (Darky) Sutton who lived in The Street. The carpentry was carried out by Charlie Wyatt of Mill Lane, Stock with the help of his apprentice George Johnson of Watchouse Road. Ernie Smith did the plastering with his wife Mabel acting as labourer. They were supported by their two sons who still work for Brunnings.

Catherine recalls how Stock Road has changed dramatically over the intervening years. 'It was lovely in those days. You could go out at almost anytime without seeing a car. The total cost was £2,108 and we were there about twenty years. I sold it in 1975 for £7,500 to some people who eventually emigrated to Australia. I'm sorry it's been pulled down because it was very well built. Mr Brunning used to come along and say 'I don't like that, take those bricks out and do that again!' The plot is currently being offered for sale with planning permission for two detached houses.

I remember . . .

I didn't know anybody with a flush toilet in my childhood...there was no electricity and our radio was powered by batteries. I remember the long walk from my grandmother's home at Galleywood End to Wasketts garage (now Helix) with the battery to get it recharged. We got our milk twice a day from Seabrights farm and the cowman would hand-milk the cow straight into the churn for which we would pay two pennies. During the summer we would go swimming in the large pond at Marven's brickworks on the Common and fish for Sticklebacks in the Millpond.



NORMAN BAYES

Extract from 'Galleywood Remembered as a Child' by Norman Bayes in the Society's archives