

About the year 1740 T. Winter yeoman-of-Dorking bought 7 acres of uncleared land in the manor of Westcott and. built a small house, this was called by his neighbours in the hamlet of Westcott Winter's Haw, Presumably as he had enclosed the ground by a hawthorn hedge.

It was his successor Edmund Stillwell - gardener who planted the land as a cherry orchard; the first in the district which was copied by neighbours and became famous throughout East Surrey. (The last cherry tree died in 1920).

Edmund Stillwell died in 1758 leaving the property to his widow Mary and his son Edward. The deeds state "All that messuage and gate room, orchard garden with the appurtenances as known by the name Winter Haws situate within the Lordship of Westcott and parish of Dorking..... bounding on the high way towards Coombe on the west, upon the land thereof called the Furlong on the east and. upon the land of John Wood called Bushby Hawe on the south together with Common rights and. pasture the latter being paid. for by a peppercorn rent."

In 1763 Mrs. Stillwell sold to Edward Lambert the elder for £200 and at his death in 1774 the property went to his son Edward Lambert the younger on condition that his widowed daughter be paid an annuity' of £3. In 1796 Edward Lambert junior died and. the estate passed to his son James - a miller - on condition that one bed and furniture for one room be given to his wife and. £5 to his son-in-law John Giles.

James improved the property by building a wooden cottage, 2 barns and stables on the land which is now North Street; but he wished to continue to live on his mill in Dorking so sold in 1800 for £250 to Mathew Johnson - gentleman - who changed the name to Winter Shawe. As the property had now increased in value the Lord of the Manor demanded quit rent 3/- per year. Mathew died within the year leaving it to his widow on condition she lived in it and. did not sell. On her death in 1819 the whole passed to her grandson Joseph Toft who built an underground passage from the floor of the house across the yard and the public road to end in the cellar of the small house opposite. A well was sunk in the passage. The purpose of it is unknown but it was blocked and turned into a wine cellar in 1888 and in 1939 used as an air raid shelter. In 1821 Tofts sold to Charles Could - warehouseman - with the addition of water rights for a peppercorn rent.

In 1824 Charles Could let to George Arrowsmith for one year and again the house had its name changed to Winter Hawe. At the end of the year George Arrowsmith bought the house for £355 and. in his deeds was the first mention of the owner having "turbay rights" meaning the digging of turf' from the Manor's ground.

Later Arrowsmith installed pipe water and sewage in 1841 and let it to Benjamin Hinds Esq., for 21 years at £60 per year. Hinds called the house Wintershaw and installed dovecotes, an outward sign of gentility: peasants did not keep doves. At the end of his lease - 1860 - the younger Arrowsmith let the house to Miss Sophie. Bolton for 21 years at £60 per year to include the waste ground in front.

Arrowsmith died and left the property to his daughter Margaret Jane, unfortunately there was a Chancery Court action over his will so that she and her fellow trustee had to mortgage the house and 2 acres of garden to Thomas Clifford in 1881, while selling a wooden cottage, 2 barns and stabling for £1570.

Later the mortgage of house and garden was taken over by Mr. Clifford; it was let to Mrs. Fuller until

1888 when Mr. Stewart bought for £2200. Mr. Stewart wished to keep a carriage so had a coach house and stable with groom's room and loft above and a bricked yard. built for him by the side of the house, the builder being Mr. Canter. When one of the original barns had been pulled down in North Street to allow the building of three red brick cottages the roof tiles were bought by Mr. Canter, those he used for the roof of the stables creating the impression that the building was of Georgian origin.

Mr. Stewart died in 1902 leaving the freehold to his niece Miss Carmichael, after letting for eight years the house was sold to Miss Pringle in 1910.

A letter dated 12 September 1904 in the David Knight collection of ephemera in Dorking Museum Library requests Attlee's to supply a bushel of barley, and another of buck wheat to Wintershaw. The order was written by W Lander apparently on behalf of P Taylor Esq. (In 1901 W Lander was described as a groom & Gardener living in Institute Road.)

Miss Pringle, left the district in 1952 when building in the Paddock opposite Wintershaw necessitated widespread tree-felling. Lady Lawrence lived there for three years, and in 1955 the property was divided into three lots. The main house was bought by Mr. Winter, who converted it into two flats. The coach house and stables were pulled down and Pound Cottage, owned by Mr. Johnson, was built on the site. In the orchard a third house, Pound Place, was built and divided into two flats. Pound Cottage and Pound Place take their name from the village Pound, which is adjacent to the estate. Once used for enclosing stray animals, and sometimes "drunks", it is now used by the village roadman to store his cart and implements.

Miss A.M. Johns writes: For some years after she came to Wintershaw, Miss Pringle worked for Sir John Kirk on his "Ragged School" project. Sir John then lived in Westcott Street. She was on the Westcott Nursing Committee before it was taken over by the National Health Service, and a School Manager and Billeting Officer in the second world war. She was connected with the W.I. from its beginning, and was also interested in animal welfare work. She rescued injured birds, especially rooks, tamed them and took them out on her arm. She refused to allow rook shooting or tree felling on her property. She had a goat for a time which was sometimes grazed on the Green, and she usually had a dog of rather unusual breed - Borzoi, a deer hound. etc. She planted daffodils in her orchard until it was a sea of bloom in the Spring. Now small and wild, they still persist in spite of buildings and gardens.

Mrs. and Miss Pringle were some of the last people here to use a horse and carriage.

The house is still divided into two apartments. The upper one is occupied by the owner; Stewart Petrie.



Wintershaw



Wintershaw, Pound Cottage and the Pound



The garden at Wintershaw