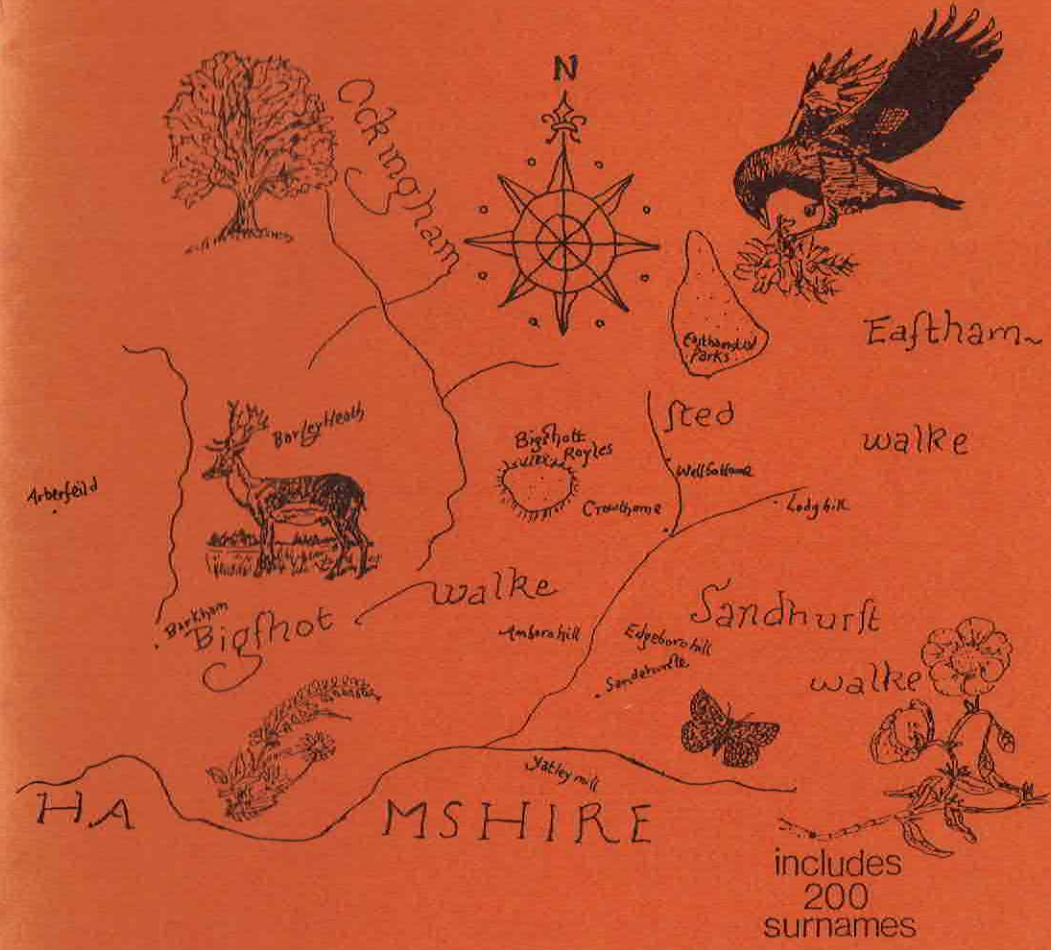


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WHAT HAPPENED IN

DOWTHORNE

BEFORE 1900



Maze Productions

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J.A. WATKINSON

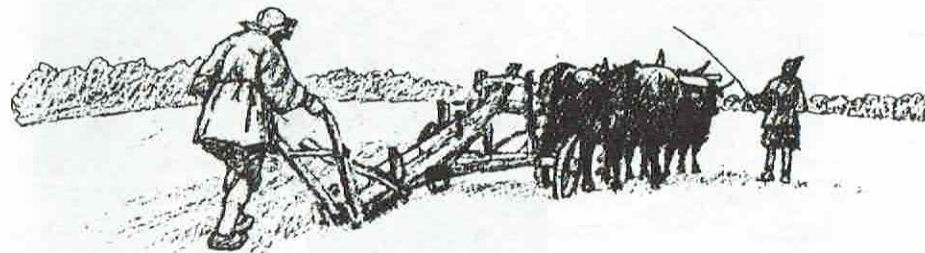
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NATURAL HISTORY

Geography and Agriculture

Most of this part of Berkshire lies on London Clay with outcrops of Bagshot Sands. This combination creates poor sandy soil and a tendency for pools to form and stagnate. Certainly this is not conducive to bumper harvests. In his book "Agriculture of Berkshire" (1860) JB Spearing described the plight of many local farmers- "in wet seasons the crop yellows and does not yield well". Forty years previously Windsor Forest had been described "a barren and villainous heath". One of the first pupils at Wellington College in 1859 described the surrounding countryside as "a wild world of heather and very little else". Other such quotations as "This blasted heath" occur regularly in old history books. Advertisements in the Berkshire Chronicle appeared as early as 1840 for fertilisers; wealthier landowners were taking advantage of the new Great Western Railway and having chalk brought to Berkshire from Bristol and Bath, to be dug into their soil "Three waggon loads to the acre". The Wokingham and District Agricultural Society was founded in 1835. After the Apportionment of Tithes Act of 1839, the Society did much to further the progress and morale of local farmers, starting up customs such as ploughing matches which the area had not previously experienced, encouraging higher standards of land and soil improvement and better conditions for labourers.



PRE-HISTORIC CROWTHORNE

In earliest times, this area was the territory of the Belgic tribe, the Attribates, from whom Silchester's Roman name Calleva Atrebatum was derived. A visit to the area around Crowthorne will reveal a number of pre-historic sites. There are Bronze Age barrows (ie. burial mounds) at Bill Hill, Woden Hill and Swinley. Nearer still, Ambarrow and Edgbarrow are possible tumuli, although it is more likely that they are natural features of the land, and that "barrow" in this case has its alternative meaning, "hill". The high spur of land on which Broadmoor Asylum was built is close to another pre-historic (Iron Age) settlement, which has been mis-named Caesar's Camp. This is one of many "Caesar's Camps" in the country, probably attributed to him in Medieval times. Hand axes and pre-Roman coins (one found in 1600 bears the head of Cunobelin, Shakespeare's legendary Cymbeline) suggest that the site was inhabited for a lengthy period. At that time the site was known as "Windmill Hill Fort". At the turn of the century within the village was found a large stone, thought possibly to be a "graven image", showing all the structural features of similar stones found along the Giants Causeway. It still survives in Crowthorne, as part of a rockery in Lower Broadmoor Road.



ROMAN CROWTHORNE

The main Roman Road from Silchester to London runs directly through what is now Crowthorne; it was on the junction between this road and that from Sandhurst to Bracknell that the original solitary tree named Crow Thorn stood. Known as "The Devil's Highway", the Roman Road is now a mere unmade track from Finchampstead to the Station roundabout, and from Brooker's Corner westward. It was originally a Roman military road, linking Londinium (London) to Pontes (Staines) and Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester). Two Roman milestones still survive in the area, and a number of Roman coins and artefacts have been discovered, some at Wickham Bushes near Caesar's Camp, and others along the Devil's Highway. Various Iron, Bronze and Roman pieces were discovered early this century by G.A. Kempthorne, a local historian and archaeologist. These are deposited in the Wellington College museum.



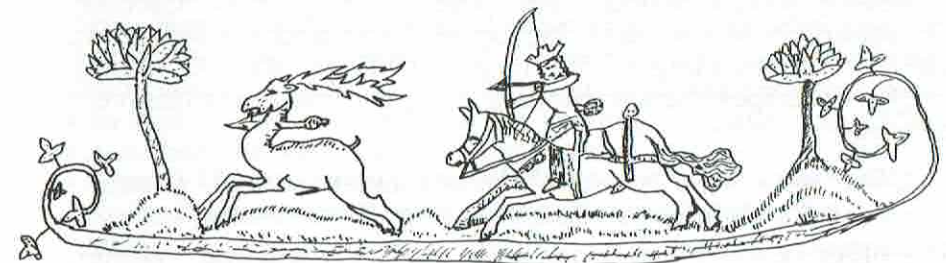
"Crow Thorn" junction as it looked 100 years ago

THE ROYAL FOREST OF WINDSOR

Looking around our "silicon valley" today, it is hard to imagine that just 200 years ago, most of Berkshire was still a wild wasteland of heath and forest. From the time of the Norman invasion in 1066 until 1800 Crowthorne lay within the boundaries of the Royal Forest of Windsor, claimed by William the Conqueror and kept in order for his hunting pleasures. At its greatest expanse the Forest covered a 120-mile circumference, from Hungerford in the west to Guildford in the south east and parts of Buckinghamshire to the north. However there were continuous encroachments of the boundaries, and by 1600 it had a mere 75-mile perimeter, having lost the entire bailiwick of Surrey. The Forest was divided originally into three bailiwicks, and each bailiwick was sub-divided into deer "Walkes". Crowthorne came within the bailiwick of Finchampstead, which contained sixteen Walkes. The map on the front cover, taken from John Norden's (The King's Surveyor) Survey of the Honour of Windsor, commissioned by James I and dated 1607, shows that Crowthorne lay at the junction of three Walkes, namely Bigshot, Easthamsted and Sandhurst. The map is the earliest in existence to name and site Crowthorne; the original is part of the Harleian Manuscript collection at the British Library (Ref: Harley MS 3749). The name Crowthorne appears to refer to a solitary tree (or thorn bush?) sited at what is now Brooker's Corner, at the junction of the Bracknell to Sandhurst Road (A3095) and the Old Wokingham Road opposite the Roman "Devil's Highway".

Inhabitants of the Forest were subjected to strict laws regarding its upkeep, designed principally to protect the wildlife and game, or "vert and venison" as it was described in the 16th century, meaning all that bore green leaves (it was therefore forbidden to cut down any trees) and deer. As late as the mid 17th century, a man was heavily fined for erecting a windmill and frightening deer. There was a hierarchy of men in charge of keeping these laws, a Head Forester, Sub-Foresters, Verderers (Forest officials) Regarders (usually local gentry), Woodward and Keepers, Tithemen and Sidemen. Basically the forest dwellers would have used the streams for water and fishing, and hunted for rabbits, hedgehogs, birds and their eggs,

berries, nuts and grains. They used rushes for thatching and bracken to feed their pigs. What wood they could get they used for burning and cooking. It was a poverty-stricken land, and things got worse for its people and wildlife as time went on. In 1731 there were approximately 1300 deer in one bailiwick, and by 1866 in the same area only 318 deer, described as pitiful creatures, starving for want of food.



King William I hunting ~ from The Bayeux Tapestry

The Enclosure of the Forest

With the Enclosure Act of 1813 the ancient forest suddenly ceased to exist. All its laws were repealed, and it was changed from a vast unenclosed wasteland into a multitude of separate freehold allotments. Within only a few years it was transformed by private ownerships, their boundaries defined by straight ditches and turf banks. For its few inhabitants it remained a very poor place, its wildlife still starving. But gradually little communities built up and livelihoods were made. One anonymous local poet noticed an improvement with the enclosures and wrote:-

*"Dubbut look at the waaste Theer warnt not feed for a cow
Nowt at all but bracken and fuzz But loook at it now!"*

THE NAME CROWTHORNE

The name Crowthorne appears to have been in existence for over 1000 years. It appears in an Anglo-Saxon Charter for Hampshire as "Crāwan-Thorn". In Berkshire's Domesday Book (1086) a Crowthorne Farm appears within the holdings of the Royal Forest of Windsor, although its precise location is not clear.

Rocque's map of 1761 shows the site as Crow Thorn; H. Walter's map of 1823 gives the name Crowthorn and also shows two dwellings, a small house on the corner and another in nearby Cox's Wood. This latter is Edgbarrow Cottage, Crowthorne's oldest surviving house. In an account written in 1861 of the building of Wellington College, Rev. C. Penny briefly describes the surrounding area, and mentions this very cottage-

"There was a sort of tea or grub shop in the woods kept by a keeper's wife, which flourished under the name Honeywoman's".

The other is the White Cottage on the "Crowthorne" corner, once occupied by a Mr. Brooker, after whom the Corner and adjacent Row have been named. It was not until the 1870's that Crowthorne became a separate ecclesiastical parish. By then it had a population of over 700. In 1894 it became a separate civil parish, and it was around this time that it was officially named. The Powers-that-be had decided to name the new village "Albertville" after Prince Albert and it was only thanks to a protest headed by Dr Benson, Head of Wellington College, that the preferred old woodland name was saved. If the protest had not succeeded, the name would almost certainly have been lost by now. The local fable that Mrs. Benson once saw a crow sitting on a thorn bush and named the village accordingly has, I hope, been dispelled! A number of campaigns have been set up to plant a new "Crowthorne" tree as near as possible to the site of the original. An article appeared in the Wokingham Times on November 3rd 1969 titled "A village without any real centre". A local lady generously offered to pay for the planting of such a tree on the green triangle opposite Brooker's Corner; sadly as yet this act has not transpired- would anyone like to have another go?

NAMES WITHIN CROWTHORNE

Much of Crowthorne has been named after the first Duke of Wellington (Arthur Wellesley 1769- 1852) When he died, Queen Victoria wished to honour the great man with a national memorial. She approved the building of a school for the orphaned sons of British Army Officers and named it Wellington College. The College was built in 1856 and opened in 1859. The Duke's great achievements and his name are echoed in Crowthorne's roads and inns - Duke's Ride, Waterloo Road, Wellesley Drive, The Iron Duke, The Wellington Hotel, The Waterloo Hotel and Wellesley Stores among them. Benson Road is named after the first Headmaster of Wellington College, Dr. E.W. Benson. The Prince Alfred public house was named after Queen Victoria's second son, who laid the foundation stone for Wellington College in 1856, not Alfred the Great as the sign painter supposed! Wiltshire Avenue, like its namesake in Wokingham, refers to the detached parts of the County of Wiltshire which existed as tiny islands in this part of Berkshire until the mid-nineteenth century.



Crowthorne's only claim to a "village green" - outside the

Prince Alfred at the turn of the century

EARLY INHABITANTS:-

THE ROYAL FORESTERS AND THEIR TENANTS

Going back to the sixteenth century, and returning to the Royal Forest and its laws and governors, we have an opportunity to read the names of those involved by referring to Court Rolls. Held regularly were Swaincotes, a local inferior court, but periodically were held Assizes by the Justices in Eyre for the Forest, dealing with the registration of "vert offences", inquests on dead deer, burnt heath or timber and "dilapidation of Walkes". At one such in 1586 references to the area show a close proximity to Crowthorne. The following details are recorded:-

Those present:-

Sir Henry Nevile (Head Forester)

Richard Lovelace Esquire (Verderer)

Thomas Bullocke Esquire (Verderer)

John Atrith (Sub-Forester, Bigshot Walke)

Thomas Cheslake (Sub-Forester, Sandhurst Walke)

Francis Broughton (Sub-Forester, Easthamsted Walke)

- ◆ *ITEM ...Est Mill Bridge and Grene Mill Bridge... both defaulte. William Coxe, Tythyngeman of Sandhurst; Rafe Bullock, Thos. Alexander, Will Giblet, Sydemen.*
- ◆ *ITEM ...iij coppes in Sandhurst felled by Richard Geale and John Geale*
- ◆ *ITEM...One stagge which died the xxiiiith of June found by the keeper and viewed by Humphrey Taylor one of the Regarders...but noe hurt that could be founde upon him. William Smith, under-keeper of Sandhurst Walke.*
- ◆ *ITEM...I doe present Martin Shonke for driving and fetching his cattell dwelling in Hampshire to the great disturbance of his Ma.. game. John Y. Clarke, tyghyngman; John Atrithe, sideman.*

Local and family historians will be interested to see in this excerpt at least three well-known Crowthorne names, Giblet, Geale (now Gale) and Atrithe (Attride). Giblet(t)s or Jubelets were in the area in 1449, and Giblets worked at Sandhurst Farm since the time of Henry VII. A William Jobelet died at Longdown Lodge in Sandhurst in 1649. A James Giblet was Wellington College's first groundsman, where he worked for over 50 years!

THE BROOMDASHERS

A mile or so north of Brooker's corner, at Heathlands, now part of the nomansland between Crowthorne and Wokingham called St. Sebastian's, lived a community of broomdashers, described as heathens who lived a semi-underground life. Some refer to them as Crowthorne's "aborigines". In the 1840's there were apparently about 10 families living here (the 1841 census shows only one family, that of James Parker, aged 66). The community produced 120 brooms and besoms a day, which they bundled head-to-tail in dozens and had sent by road to Reading and by rail to Bristol. Thus they made a living from the heath and forest. It is reported that outside their ramshackle dwellings they erected piles of peat into which they put broken pieces of china and glass as embellishment. Some say these were a form of primitive altar before which the broomdashers worshipped. Although they were generally regarded as heathens, there are a number of recorded marriages and baptisms at All Saints Church in Wokingham. In 1862, following a heath dweller's request to have his child baptised, a local curate began visiting the neighbouring cottages. Shortly afterwards a school was set up by Capt. Sawyer, who also raised £385 for a church. St. Sebastian's was consecrated in December 1864.

On Sundays they indulged in drinking and boxing and patronised the four local public houses, The Spotted Cow, The Pig and Whistle, The Crooked Billet (built around 1840) and The Who'd a Tho't It. The last two survive to this day. Perhaps it was an ancestor of one of the broomdashers that ran an alehouse and was able to offer a drink to the thirsty Duke of Wellington, who was returning to Stratfield Saye after a hot

day's hunting in Windsor Forest (around 1800) The Duke is claimed to have said in surprise "Well, who would have thought it?" and a corruption of his words have named the present pub which was built on the site of that old alehouse.

THE GROWTH OF MODERN CROWTHORNE

The village has grown up around Wellington College and Broadmoor Asylum, both built in the 1850's. The College opened its doors on January 20th 1859 and the Asylum closed the doors on its first inmates on May 27th 1863.

H. Walter's map of Windsor Forest dated 1853 is our best insight into what existed in the area just prior to the building of these two institutions which were to alter Crowthorne beyond recognition within the next twenty years. The map shows some fifteen dwellings in the immediate vicinity, and a further fifteen within a 3-mile radius of Brooker's Corner. These are:-

White Cottage (at Brooker's Corner)

Edgbarrow Cottage (in Cox's Wood) off Crowthorne Road

A Verderer's Cottage (later named "Windy Ridge") on the east boundary of the TRRL

A structure at the junction of Hatch Ride and Old Wokingham Road

Crowthorne Farm (nicknamed "Starve-All Farm")

Hennekin's Lodge (at Ravenswood)

Another house at Ravenswood (now the site of Waverley School)

Two cottages on what is now the East Berkshire Golf Course

A house north-east of the present Station roundabout
Broadmoor Farm

Four cottages at the brickyard near Ambarrow Hill

Six houses at Scotland Hill, Sandhurst Road

Nine dwellings at St. Sebastian's

Some of these buildings still survive; a tour of the area to search for them among the 20th century developments makes an interesting exercise.

EARLY BUILDINGS IN THE "NEW" VILLAGE

An influx of population requires housing, shops, traders and services, and with the opening of two large institutions, there was a sudden desperate need for all these things. It was during the 1860's that the hamlet, still a part of the parish of Sandhurst, began to develop midway between the College and Asylum. The railway station opened in 1860, after a £500 donation by the College. Previously there was a small halt just north of the Kiln bridge on the Little Sandhurst Road, and a siding built for the purpose of supplying building materials for Wellington College. The new station was named "Wellington College for Crowthorne" from its opening until 1928 (although the old sign remained in position until 1939 when it was removed so that enemy parachutists would not know where they had landed).

By 1866 a considerable number of houses had gone up, one of the first being Ifould's, a bakery and grocery, on the corner of the High Street. The Iron Duke Inn was already a thriving concern, the proprietor being Mr George Goodfellow. It was Crowthorne's first inn, and, in his account of the building of Wellington College written in 1861, Rev C. Penny explained "There was but one wayside inn, The Iron Duke, to which a chance visitor might resort, with a small rough three-stalled stable being the only place where a visitor's horse might be put up for a few hours". In 1868 the schoolroom at Broadmoor opened to cater for Crowthorne's first generation of working-class children.

CROWTHORNE'S PARISH CHURCH

It is perhaps the story of Crowthorne's Church, St. John's, that will give the best insight into the development of village society in 19th century Crowthorne. First we must return to Mr Ifould's shop, where, in 1865, the Rev. H.S.N. Lenny gave the first "cottage lectures" in the kitchen, for the village. He was then a curate from Sandhurst, under Rector Rev. Parsons. On February 3rd 1867 the first regular evening service took place, in the sitting room. As the congregation began to swell, they moved to the loft above the bakery, which was accessed by a long wooden ladder. Mrs. Ifould later recalled how the elegant crinolined ladies from the College struggled to climb non-too-gracefully to the top! In 1868 they moved again, to the recently-opened schoolroom at Broadmoor, but by now the need for a regular church was recognised. At a public meeting in the school on July 7th 1868, Rev. Parsons announced that Mr. John Simonds had offered the site for a temporary church, and that £1500 had already been promised for the endowment of a new ecclesiastical district. A wooden building, provided by Mr. Leveson-Gower, was erected on the site behind Mr. Lloyd (the painters) shop on the junction of Broadmoor Road and the village street. The first committee was set up and appointed:

Rev. Parsons (Rector)

Rev. Lenny (Curate-in-charge)

Dr. Benson (Headmaster, Wellington College)

Dr. Meyer (Superintendent, Broadmoor Asylum)

H.P. Lance Esq.

A. Hill Esq.

J. Dowson (Prof. of Hindustani, Staff College)

Four years later that building was sold. It was bought by Mr. Over, who now owned Mr. Ifould's premises opposite the building. He had it moved across the High Street on rollers sometime in 1873, turned around and used as a corn store! (Later it became Bell's electrical shop). A new church was put up opposite - "a black painted erection with a door opening directly onto the High Street". However, it was obvious that a

long-term solution was needed, and it was back in 1870 that Mrs. Gibson of Sandhurst Lodge offered a permanent site and liberal contributions toward the building of a permanent church for Crowthorne. Thanks to her, Mr. Arthur Blomfield was able to submit plans in 1872 for a 300-seat brick-built church which would be capable of future extension if necessary.

Crowthorne's population by 1871 was over 700 and rapidly rising. John Walter III (of the Walter dynasty of Bearwood) being a wealthy local landowner, presided at meetings and headed the list of subscribers with his opening donation of £200. By the end of June 1872 the sum of £1473 had been raised. In July Wellington College and Broadmoor Asylum donated another £100 each, and by the end of August a contract had been drawn up with Mr. James Pither, a builder from Sunninghill "For naves and aisles of a new church at Crowthorne". The price was £1934, 19s. Mrs. Walter laid the cornerstone on September 27th 1872. The east wall was of temporary construction, to be removed later for the chancel. A few modifications had to be made- for instance the doorway had to be widened when they realised it could not accommodate a full-width coffin.

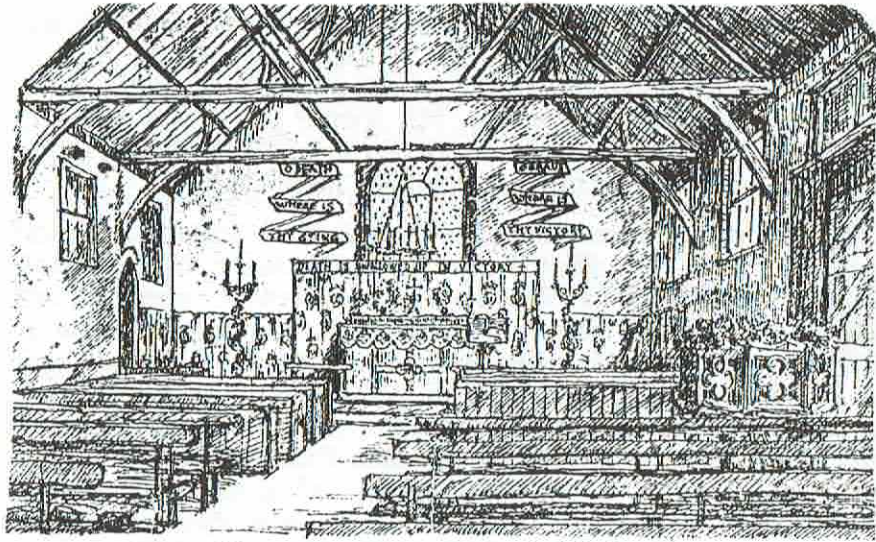
The new Church of St. John the Baptist was consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford on May 7th 1873, with great ceremony, from whence Crowthorne's parish records began. Among the first entries in the registers were the following:-

◆ BAPTISMS

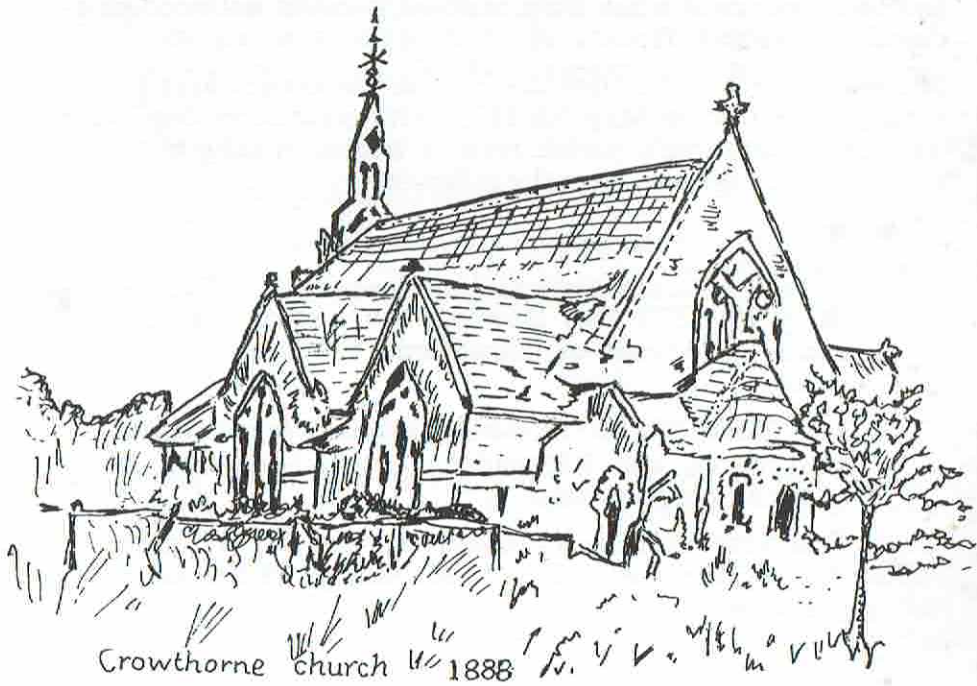
May 7th 1873 Amy Dowson, daughter of Henrietta and John Dowson of Crowthorne, Professor at Staff College

May 22nd 1873 David Gavin Campbell-Johnston, son of Frances and Alexander Campbell-Johnston of Crowthorne, gentleman.

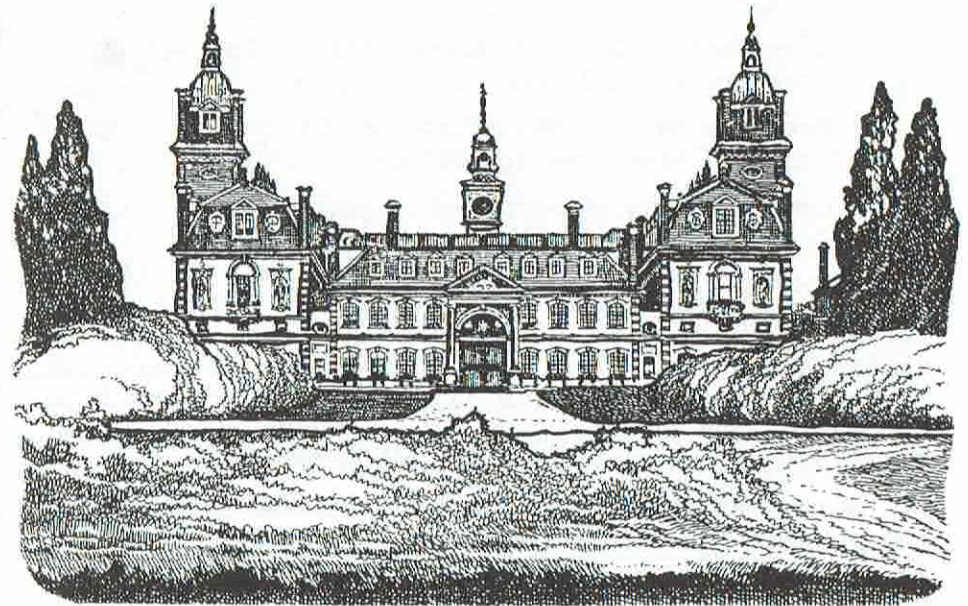
June 29th 1873 Henry, Clara and Charles Willmott, the children of Mary and Henry Willmott of Crowthorne, engineer.



The temporary church 1871



Crowthorne church 1888



Wellington College

◆ MARRIAGES

September 15th 1874 Edward Jones (27) and Maria Chaplin (22) both of Crowthorne

April 7th 1875 William Hitchman (28) of Shinfield (Wheelwright) and Maria Ford Reely (28) of Crowthorne

◆ BURIALS

November 29th 1873 Mary Frances Lediard of Crowthorne, age 2 days

December 13th 1873 Charlotte Emily Magellan Crisp of Crowthorne, age 11 months

One other early entry is worthy of a special mention, that of the baptism of Gerard Ainslie Kempthorne on June 7th 1876 (son of Annie and Philip Kempthorne, Clerk in Orders, Wellington College). Mr. G.A. Kempthorne became Crowthorne's first and most distinguished historian, writing the earliest articles on its history for the Berks. Archaeological Journal as well as histories of Sandhurst and other localities. He was a keen archaeologist and deposited a number of Roman artefacts in the Wellington College Museum.

Mr. Benson had recently resigned and become Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral. His successor was the Rev. E.C. Wickham. And sadly Dr. Meyer had died; his place on the committee taken by William Orange CB, Medical Superintendent, Broadmoor Asylum.

Among the graves in the churchyard are those of three survivors of the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade". Two stones can still clearly be read- that of William Sheppard, who enlisted with the Light Cavalry in 1853 at the age of 15. Badly wounded, imprisoned, released and discharged without a pension because he was under-age, he returned and took up residence in Crowthorne, married three times and had sixteen children! The other headstone is that of David Grantham, "One of the Light Brigade" who survived the horrific battle in 1854 to become a Crowthornian. He died in 1898.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE

As previously stated, the College was built as a national memorial to the Duke of Wellington, providing a school and home for the orphaned sons of British Army Officers. Building began in 1856; the foundation stone laid in the presence of Prince Alfred, second son of Queen Victoria. The area was chosen for its wealth of wood and brickworks, the vicinity of the railway, and cheap land. Mr. Gibson of Sandhurst Lodge gave 12 acres and sold another 130 for £10 per acre. Later in 1856 he sold them another 18 acres of stagnant marsh which was excavated to form the spectacular ornamental lake.

Wellington College opened in 1859 to 76 orphan boys. On the first day, the boys met their tutors then were given bread, cheese and beer in the dining hall and sent to bed. That night there was an exceptionally bright moon and at 3 a.m. the boys awoke and thought it was morning. They dressed and assembled down in the quadrangle as instructed. The Headmaster Dr. Benson had not yet retired and was in his study when Mr. Donne, a master, rushed in shouting "The boys are running away!", Dr. Benson coolly replied "Where on earth can they be running to?". The surrounding land was, in the words of a pupil, "a wild world of heather and very little else". The first uniform was designed by Prince Albert- an extraordinary green outfit with large brass buttons and a postman-style cap bearing a crown. A College prospectus for the end of the century boasted the following features:-

"Grounds of 430 acres, 20 acres turfed as a playing field

A noble double avenue of Wellingtonias and monkey-puzzles

Four artificial lakes for bathing and skating

The attached Cadet Corps of the 1st Volunteer Battalion (Princess Charlotte of Wales' Royal Berkshire Regiment)

The nearby Wellington Hotel, erected principally for the use of the friends of youths at the College, and providing stabling for gentlemen living distantly and hunting in the neighbourhood"

BROADMOOR ASYLUM

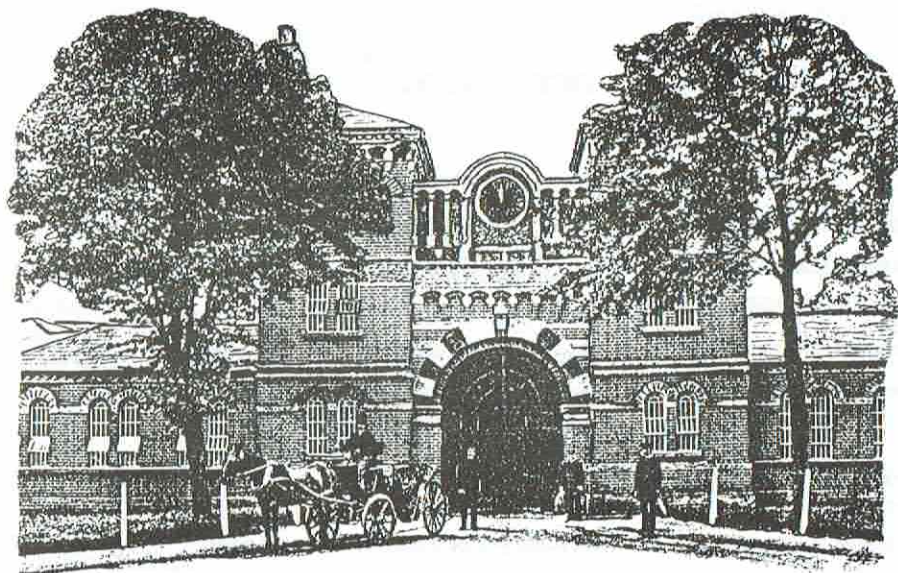
Originally known as Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, the hospital opened in 1863. Its impressive frontage was designed by Sir Joshua Jebb, after the style of his Pentonville Prison in London. The site for such an institution was chosen (rather ironically!) for its remoteness and sparse population, and for its accessibility by road and rail to London. The Asylum was built as a result of a campaign led by the Earl of Shaftesbury that the state should be providing for "criminal lunatics" ie. those who carry out crimes but are judged to be lunatics and not accountable for their crimes. In 1800 one James Hadfield tried to kill King George III and was confined until his death in 1841. It was his example that helped to pass the Criminal Lunatics Act, and from thence to give such cases special legal status. New wards were added to Bethlem Hospital (known as Bedlam) and Fisherton House in Salisbury was converted into the first Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Broadmoor was built at a final cost of £200,000; the estate included 14 acres for men, 3.5 acres for women and 170 acres of farmland. The first inmates in 1863 were 95 women; the following year men arrived from Bethlem and Fisherton.

Early Asylum records show that the inmates ate well! Each person (including staff) received a weekly ration as follows:-4 lbs meat, 1/2 lb bacon, 8 lbs bread, 1/2 lb butter, 1/2 lb cheese, 4 lbs potatoes, 3/4 lb sugar; tea, coffee, cocoa, beer, and... 50 lbs a year each of rhubarb grown in the grounds (Purgatives were thought to be medicinal!)

In the first 7 years there were 15 escapes so in 1870 the surrounding wall was raised to 16.5 feet. In 1877 there were 481 inmates, detained as follows:-

- 338 for murder, attempted murder or manslaughter;
- 34 for arson;
- 21 for larceny;
- 19 for burglary and housebreaking;
- 19 for insubordination (these were all soldiers)
- the remaining 50 for 19 other offences.

The second Medical Superintendent, Dr. William Orange, introduced the pay scheme for patients' work. No visitors were allowed until well into the 20th century.



CROWTHORNE - NEW VILLAGE

Who were Crowthorne's first village residents?

Where did they come from?

What were their occupations?

It must have been widely advertised that there was a prosperous new village, bringing new opportunities, in Berkshire, for the first residents of the village hailed from far and wide. Domestic servants, labourers and the like tend to be more local, mostly from within the Hampshire and Berkshire borders. Obviously, a number of Broadmoor and Wellington College workers and their families lived in the village. A look at the 1871 census, showing names of householders and their profession and birthplace, is probably the best record of the residency of "new" Crowthorne. Notably, there was only one uninhabited house. Few properties had names or numbers at this time.

THE CENSUS 1871

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	OCCUPATION	BIRTHPLACE
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Dukes Ride:-

Samuel Chowling	Stone mason	Devonshire
Abraham Liddiard	Gardener	Wokingham
Frederick Sale	Ag. Lab.	Yateley
George Brant	Attendant, Broadmoor	Wokingham

Prince Alfred Public
House:-

Edward Richardson	Bricklayer & Publican	Reading
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Sandhurst Road:-

Sarah Cockran	Dressmaker	Barbados
John Godwin	Bootmaker	Gloucestershire
Thomas Nixon	Carpenter	Putney
Henry Watkins	Bootmaker	Reading
Charles Lyford	Carpenter	Hampshire
John Taylor	Carpenter's lab.	Isle of Wight
William Pool	Bricklayer	Devonshire
George Bedford	Bricklayer's lab.	Newbury
William Bruce	Bricklayer's lab.	Essex
William Barnes	Carpenter & Joiner	Ringwood
James Webb	Bricklayer	Norfolk
William Mills	Tailor	Reading
Owen Hickey	Attendant, Broadmoor	Ireland

Charles Searle	Labourer, Join Works	Yateley
John Newport	Highway Labourer	Gloucestershire
Sarah Milcham	Needlewoman	Barkham
Henry Mahon	Draper	"Dubling" Ireland
Harry Lloyd	Painter & Glazier	Ellesmere Salop

Barkers Cottages:-

Charles Harbour	Attendant, Broadmoor	Kent
George Lunn	Shoemaker	Wokingham
Henry Baker	Blacksmith	Finchampstead
Edwin Ifould	Grocer & Baker	Wokingham
Gertrude Cornell	Governess	Kent
William Spear	Carpenter & Methodist Preacher	Devonshire

Henry Ifould	Butcher	Wokingham
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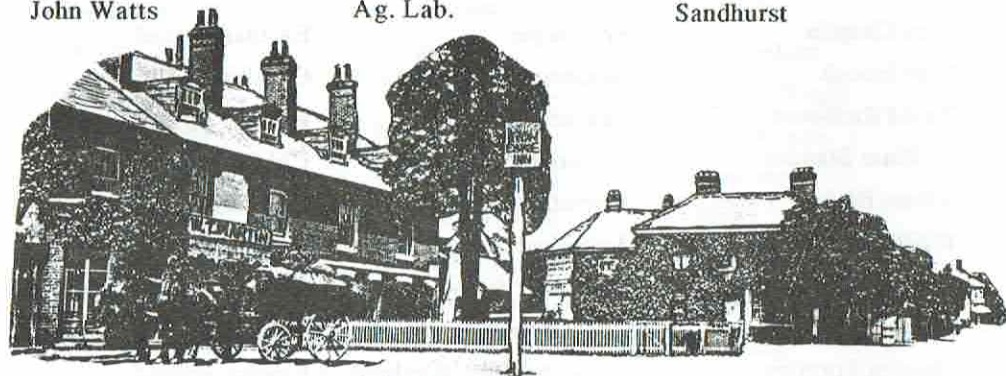
Apsley Cottage:-

William Hazell	Wellington College Servant	Aldworth
Joseph Shephard	Baker & Confectioner	Reading

Anglesea Place:-

John Chaplin	Bricklayer	Easthampstead
John Hough	Engineer, Wellington	Cheshire
David Radbourn	Engine Driver	Hurst
William Standen	Attendant, Broadmoor	Chichester
Albert Blake	Attendant, Broadmoor	Leatherhead
William Philips	Attendant, Broadmoor	Nr. Birmingham
George Hill	Carpenter & Joiner	Wolverhampton
Daniel Piercey	Coachman & Domestic	Shinfield
Charles Spratley	Groundkeeper, Wellington	Finchampstead
Thomas Nightingale	Bricklayer	Hurst

William Robertson	Attendant, Broadmoor	Oxford
William Longhurst	Bootmaker	Warfield
Alexander Keith	House Carpenter	Scotland
Waterloo Place:-		
No.1 Henry Lenny	Curate	Ramsgate
No.2 Uninhabited		
No.3 Maria Thompson	Daughter, Army	Guernsey
No.4 Philip Haines	Grocer	Gatscombe Regis
Bracknell Road:-		
Iron Duke Inn:-		
George Goodfellow	Publican	Scotland
Edgbro' Cottage:-		
Josiah Cox	Woodman	Oxon, Northleigh
George Parker	Attendant, Broadmoor	Winkfield
Robert Searle	Ag. Lab.	Frimley
George Cox	Ag. Lab.	Yateley
Reynold Tucker	Artist	
Robert Parker	Ag. Lab.	Hants
Henry Piper	Commercial Clerk	Dogmersfield
John Watts	Ag. Lab.	Sandhurst



The Iron Duke Inn

The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 shows that there were at least thirty buildings in the centre of the village by this time, exclusive of Wellington and Broadmoor. Among these were "Windy Ridge" on the Bracknell Road; the White Cottage, Chalfont Cottage and Havelock Cottage at Brookers Corner. Mr. Chowling's house and monumental mason business (now No.15 Dukes Ride) and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel stood on the same road. In Dukes Ride West stood West Lodge and farm and the Station Bookshop, opened in 1871 by Mr. Bishop, a former writing and music instructor at Wellington College. In the High Street were the Prince Alfred pub, Gaddiel Cottages, Higgs' cornstores (now Scott's ironmongers), the temporary black church, Sunny Cottage and The Bungalow, Lilley Cottages, Money's butchers shop, Newman's shoe shop, Rose Cottages (now Newman's saddlers), the temporary Anglican church (now the site of the Fire Station) which became Bell's electrical shop, currently a gift shop, having been moved on rollers across the High Street in 1873, and finally Elston's (originally Ifould's, later Over's, Demus' and Wellesley Stores).

In Church Street there was Hill's butchers shop (later Martin's butchers and slaughterhouse, now Anstee's), Stephen's green-grocers (now Lowmans and Swift), and on the opposite side of the street Waterloo Terrace, Watts' Decor, Cheung's fish+chips, Douglas' stores (the original Post Office, demolished in 1975). In Waterloo Road stood The Wellington Hotel and Heatherley (now Talbot House). Also Towers School which was demolished in 1938. On the Sandhurst Road was Waterloo Place (previously houses, now shops), the Iron Duke Inn, and several College-owned houses, now called Vaughans, Heathcote, Upcott, St. Patrick's, Douro, The Cottage and Edgbarrow Lodge. There have been few demolitions in Crowthorne, perhaps the most obvious being three houses in the High Street between Gaddiel's Cottages and Heath Hill Road, two shops where the Parish Hall now stands, Anglesea Place (nicknamed "The Barracks", now the site of the main car park), The Wellington Hotel, Tower's School and East Lodge at the College.

In 1874 Crowthorne became a separate ecclesiastical parish, and Sandhurst's "daughter parish" was thriving. Crowthorne now had an official hamlet of its own. Owlsmoor, formerly a remote village, had prospered with the growth of Crowthorne; in 1881 its population was 179. [nb. In 1984 Owlsmoor was handed back to the parish of Sandhurst when Broadmoor Hospital closed the through road from Crowthorne to Owlsmoor, for security reasons]

In 1875 the Church Of England School, built by John Walter, opened. School records go back to the previous year, when the first committee was set up. It was agreed that they would advertise for "one certified male teacher with his wife or sister to take Infants and needlework". The salary to be offered was £40 per annum; extra salary was offered for choir training and playing the harmonium in church. The accepted application was that of Mr. Arthur Kemp and his sister Susannah, who began work when the school opened on January 18th 1875, with 72 children. The first school fees were as follow:-

"Parents earning less than £1 per week to pay 2d each week for two children, and 1d a week for further children. Parents earning more than £1 per week to pay 4d each week for two children, and 2d a week for further children. Reductions in special cases of poverty."

In 1883 it was added that:-

"Children of gentleness should pay 9d each week, unless they only come to learn needlework, in which case 6d."

One of the first pupils to attend the school deserves a special mention. She was a Miss Louisa Goddard. She later became a Monitor, a Pupil-Teacher, an Uncertified and finally a Certified Teacher, and stayed for 56 years! She died in Crowthorne in 1965, at Pinewood Hospital.

In 1877 the vicarage, a gift from the Bishop of Oxford, was built for Rev. Lenny.

By 1881 the population had swelled to 1,365 and was still increasing rapidly. (One hundred years later it was over 8,000!)

EARLY TRANSPORT

Trains from "Wellington College for Crowthorne" station went to Reading in the west and to Guildford in the east, from 1860 onwards. Mr. Munday's horse-bus operated during the 1870's and 1880's between the Iron Duke Inn and The Wellington Hotel, from whence it was a short walk to the station. A short-lived service from Crowthorne to Camberley proved unprofitable. However, a Bracknell-based company set up a horse-bus service from the Prince Alfred to Reading. This was later taken over by Thames Valley Bus Co. and incorporated into their Reading to Camberley service, which remains to this day.

The first car in the village belonged to Mr. Lovick, who ran a horse carriage, haulage and cartage business at the site of today's Crowthorne Motors. It was an open tourer, and he acquired it around 1915.

AS THE CENTURY CLOSES...

The chancel and bellcote were built onto Crowthorne's church in 1888 for a cost of £2000. The east window, which represents scenes from the life of St. John the Baptist, patron saint of the church, was added in 1893. In 1894 Crowthorne's 2nd vicar took up residence- the Rev. C.F. Coleridge MA. In 1891 the population was 2,254, which included 629 people at Broadmoor Asylum (Staff and inmates) and around 500 at Wellington College. Over 400 were boys on roll, 80 of these being orphaned sons of officers who were supported by the College foundation. Crowthorne's rateable value that year was £9,013.

The National School by now had 85 boys and girls, with a further 60 mixed infants in the newly built Infant schoolroom, built by Mr. Spurling, Head of the village preparatory school.

Crowthorne was made into a civil parish in 1894. The same year the Rev. H.T. Morgan conveyed by indenture the Public Reading Room and Young Men's Club and three acres of land for recreational use- still known as the Morgan Recreation Ground.

The village High Street bustled with a wealth of tradesmen and shopkeepers. Crowthorne's most prominent commercial residents at the end of 1899 included:-

Attride Brothers	Ironmongers
Mr. Aylett	Proprietor, The Iron Duke
Mrs Beeton	Laundress
Mr. Barnes	Boot and shoe maker
Mr. Bartlett	Farrier
Mr. Bishop	Printer and bookseller
Mr. Chambers	Confectioner, Wellington C. Stn.
Mr. Chowling	Stone mason
Mr. Clarke	Stationmaster, Wellington C. Stn.
Mr. Collins	Insurance Agent
Mr. Cook	Corn merchant
Mr. Cox	Farmer and dairyman, Edgbro Co..
Mr. David	Watch and Clock maker
Mr. Dean	Confectioner
Mr. Donnelly	Baker and confectioner
Mr. Douglas	Shopkeeper
Miss Duckett	Newsagent
Mr. Elmer	Carrier (to Reading)
Mr. Forbisher	Barber\Hairdresser
Mrs. Franklin	Dressmaker
Mr. Goddard	Hairdresser
Mr. Godwin	Newsagent
Mr. Hanks	Tailor
Heelas Sons	Tailors
Mrs. Hewett	Apartments
Mr. Hill	Coal Merchant
Mr. Hill	Draper and Postmaster
Hills Brothers	Butcher
Mr. Hookham	Tailor
Mr. Howard	Ironmonger

Mr. Hunt	Bookseller
Mr. Ifould	Waterloo Hotel
Mr. Ives	Grocer
Mr. James	Butcher
Mr. James	Wellington Hotel
Mr. Knight	Chemist
Mr. Lake	Grocer
Mr. Langley	Carman
Mr. Lilley	Carpenter
Lloyd Brothers	Painters
Miss Lloyd	Dressmaker
Mrs. Lloyd	Draper
Mr. Longhurst	Boot and shoe maker
Mr. Lovick	Shopkeeper
Mr. Martin	Blacksmith
Mr. Munday	Boot and shoe maker
Mr. Newman	Saddler
Mr. Over	Grocer and Postmaster
Mr. Rogers	Baker and grocer
Mr. Satchell	Chemist
Mr. Simonds	Banker (open Tue.& Fri. 11-3)
Mr. Spurling	Headmaster, "The Towers"
Mr. Sworder	Fruiterer
Mrs. Waite	Laundress
Mr. Walls	Builder, carpenter and decorator
Mr. Watkins	Boot and shoe maker
Mr. Wilkinson	Tailor
Mr. Wilmott	Gas fitter
Mr. Youlden	Newsagent

Private residents in 1899 included:-

Henry Armstrong
Joseph Bevis M.A. and Mrs Bevis
The Misses Blair (Heatherley, Wellington College)
G. Blundell B.A.
Miss Boyle (Red Lodge, Wellington College)
Richard Brayn, Engineer, Broadmoor
Rev. W. Brown M.A. (Wellington College)
Henry Brougham M.A. (Brougham House)
Albert Chavasse M.A. (Edgebarrow)
Percy Christopherson B.A.
Rev. Coleridge M.A. (Vicarage)
W.G. Collett M.A.
John Colthurst (The Firs, Wellington College)
Bernard Deane (Sherwood Cottage)
Robert Deane (Holly Bank)
E. Earle B.A. (Wellington College)
Edward Elton M.A.
H. Purefoy Fitzgerald B.A. (Wellington College)
Michael Forster M.A. (Woodhill)
Dowager Lady Freeling (Heatherside, Wellington College)
H. Hagreen B.A.
Arthur Haverson
Lt-Col John Hardy (late R.A.) Heathcote
Mrs. Huntington
John Isaac M.D. Broadmoor
J. Jones (Pinehurst)
Rev. T. Jones (Baptist- The Croft)
Rev. P. Kempthorne M.A. (Wellington College)
Thomas King (High St.)
Miss Lavie
Edmond Lawless M.D. (Broadmoor)

Rev. T. Lemmy B.A. (Wellington College)
Peter McCabe (Woodside)
C. MacDowall (Wellington College)
Col. Monckton (Whitecairn, Wellington College)
Reginald Noot M.B. (Broadmoor)
Edwin Pearson
John Pearson M.A.
Charles Phelps (Broadmoor)
Miss Phillips (Inglemere, Wellington College)
Edward Purnell M.A.
Samuel Saunder M.A.
A. Sayer (Broadmoor)
William Spear (The Woodlands)
Miss Toye
William Toye M.A.
C. Wells B.A.
Rev. Hugh Wood M.A. (Chaplain, Broadmoor)

What has happened in Crowthorne since 1900 is equally as astounding,

... but that's another story!

Acknowledgements to:-

Major Kempthorne; The Berkshire Record Office and Local Studies Library;

The O.S. and great cartographers of the past.