

LIFE IN HOOK GREEN AND BELLS YEW GREEN,

1904 – 1929

The Recollections of Stanley Randall

Stanley Randall was born in 1917, the third child of George Lancaster Randall (1875-1945), who worked 1904-1929 as private secretary to Lord Camden (1872-1943, 4th Marquis, of Bayham Abbey), and Annie Harriet Randall nee Mott (1874-1958). Stanley had two older siblings, Lilian, born 1903 and Lewis, born 1907. George had worked as a solicitor's clerk for Farrers at Lincoln's Inn Fields before joining his father in a mineral water business. This venture being ultimately unsuccessful, he worked as a motorcar demonstrator at D Napier & Son and MMC before returning to Farrers, where he met Lord Camden, a client of the company, who was looking for a private secretary who could also drive. George was clearly seen as the man for the job and duly appointed. Park Cottage, Hook Green, a tied house, was built for George and his family in 1904 by George Sands the estate builder. When Lewis was badly affected by whooping cough as a small child, the family bought a property by the sea, in St. Leonards, and it was there that Stanley was born. The family then divided its time between St Leonard's and Hook Green. In 1925 they moved from Park Cottage to Lowfield, in Bells Yew Green.

Life at Park Cottage and in Hook Green, 1904 - 1925

Stanley tells how Park Cottage had no electricity but had a good well. There was a copper boiler in the washhouse. Water was hand – pumped up to a roof tank to feed the bathroom and toilet and a drain ran to a septic tank in the garden. The bathroom had not been in the original specification for the house but George insisted on its installation. All visitors were encouraged to give a few pulls on the pump, which was located in the kitchen! Washing up after the evening meal was done the following morning when you could see what you were doing. Not much personal washing was done during the week, but on Friday night the fire was stoked up and plenty of hot water was available for the whole family to have a decent bath, but all using the same 'core' water topped up with hot. By Stanley's turn, it was pretty soupy! Instead of draining the water away, he used to keep it in the bath for the rest of the week so he had somewhere inside to play with his model boats. Little was wasted in those days. The pig farmer would ask the women of village households not to use soap in the first washing-up and give them the dirty water, collected in buckets, which went into pigswill. Households would use the soot from chimney-sweeping to put round lettuces against slugs.

The house was lit by oil lamps which were carried from room to room and by candles. A fire burned all day and evening in the wood-fuelled kitchen range, though many other cottages relied on a primus stove for cooking. Cooking at Park Cottage was all done on this range. The range had a small oven on the left, fire box in the middle and a 'lazy boiler' on the right. The top of the range was used as a hot-plate. Hot water was obtained by pouring cold in at the top of the 'lazy boiler', which displaced hot water at the front. There was also a paraffin kettle boiler. Paraffin was stored in a 50-gallon metal drum with a pump in the shed. When the family moved to Lowfield in 1925, the range there was too big and too much trouble to light for periodic cooking, so a 3-burner 'Valor Perfection' cooker was used instead. Mr Bach

had an even better Aladdin 2-burner cooker which gave a tall blue smokeless flame, very hot.

George Randall would get up about 7am, light a candle then go downstairs to light the fire in the range. The Randalls invariably burned wood, so the fire would always need re-lighting in the morning. Wood was plentiful, as heavy coppicing was carried out on the estate, much of the wood being used for fence making. The chestnut trees were coppiced when the shoots from the boles were about 15 feet tall. Chestnut paling off-cuts were a good source of fuel. Stanley and Lewis were sent out regularly to go "wooding" with other village lads, many of whom had carts. The Randalls, however, had none and were obliged to carry wood home.

As the family was not always in residence in Hook Green, no livestock was kept. Stanley remembers turkeys being farmed opposite the Elephant's Head. Eggs were bought locally but protein generally could be hard to come by. However it was well known that the game-keeper had a fondness for the races and it was always possible, by tactful questioning, to discover when he would be away! Much illicit meat for the pot – rabbit and pigeon - was then obtained by locals using ferrets, airguns or catapults but the Randall's could not join in with this, given George's position. A meat joint once a week came from Frant butcher 'Porky' Morris. Fish could supplement the diet and George fished for trout in the local streams feeding the Teise & Win, and occasionally for eels in Bayham Lake with Lord Camden's permission. Eels were not easy, however, as one had to compete with the pike, which ate eels 'off the hook' when caught on a night-line. In the garden there were fruit trees and gooseberries, which the dog also ate. Some vegetables, such as potatoes and brassica, were grown in the garden, whilst others could be bought from local people. Stanley recalls buying scarlet runner beans from their neighbour, Mr Bach. These were sold by the pint! Such vegetables were supplemented by foraging in the wild for such things as chestnuts, hazelnuts, beech mast, and sloes. Couch grass stems were also tasty and Stanley recalls enjoying dandelion and sorrel sandwiches. Pig nuts were also sought – an underground nut rather like a hazelnut, with a minty, spicy taste. These could be found if you went through the white gate to Bull Lane, 20 yards up the track on the left. Bread was delivered by van from the baker in Lamberhurst. As his mother was afraid of this going too quickly, it was never eaten when freshly delivered and Stanley has a lasting memory of bread always tasting stale. Breakfast was plain fare; bread or toast with butter, occasionally dripping from the weekend joint, tea. Stanley was rationed to half milk, half water. He cannot remember any fat villagers in the 1920s; people were invariably lean as a result of physical activity, scanty plain food and lack of heating leading to higher calorie burn. With no refrigerators, food was kept under a meat cage with a covering kept damp to create evaporation. The Misses Looker sold dry goods only; otherwise you had to go into Lamberhurst.

Bayham House had an extensive vegetable garden, including bushes of white currants. The farmers grew mangolds on the low-lying damp ground for winter cattle food.

Stanley remembers that his brother Lewis was interested at one time in the Hayes Diet which was gaining prominence at the time. This was nothing to do with weight loss, but about improving digestion by telling you what you could eat with what. One bad aspect of this was the advice that you should not drink after a meal because it

diluted the digestive juices. The consequence for those who followed it was bad teeth because a hot drink would otherwise have helped to rinse away food debris.

Reading at night could be done by candlelight or an oil reading lamp. The only radio in Park Cottage was a cat's whisker built by Stanley that required Ericsson headphones, bought from Halfords in Tunbridge Wells. BBC radio programmes stopped before 10pm with the Epilogue. The Dutch station Hilversum played dance music till midnight. Radio was tuned to long wave (1500m). The BBC Daventry station gave a stronger signal in Hook Green than BBC London.

Post was delivered once a day by the Lookers who ran the post office, where you could also send a telegram. The Randalls did not have a daily paper; occasionally a Saturday paper would be bought in Tunbridge Wells on a shopping trip. Apart from the baker's van, there was also a laundry van which moved at a pace slower than walking. As a small boy, Stanley enjoyed lying flat in the gutter to look up at the underside of the vehicle with its gears and shafts, and remembers to this day the scowl with which the driver responded!

Periodically George would write to a petrol company (Shell, Pratt etc) asking for a delivery of 60 gallons to the house. This would come in 30 x 2-gallon cans embossed with the price: 2/6. The cans were just chucked off the back of the lorry onto a soft dumping area. The deliverer would take away the empties from the previous delivery. An invoice would arrive with the petrol, paid by cheque. Motor oil was bought in 1 or 2 gallon cans from Tunbridge Wells. George ran a variety of cars: 1904 to 1911 an MMC, 1911-1920 a 15hp Darracq bought from Lord Camden and in the early 1920s a 1914 Humber. The macadam road surfaces meant that all vehicles trailed large clouds of dust in dry weather; George's huge dust cloud could be clearly seen at the top of Cemetery Hill from Lowfield, signalling his return from a trip to Tunbridge Wells with exciting shopping.

In 1924 the bus fare from Tunbridge Wells to Lamberhurst was 9d single and 10d return. This was a 23hp Ford vehicle with 2 trembler ignition coils on the dashboard for starting. The driver started the motor with a handle, then rushed to jump in the cab and slow the engine down, which was racing 'fit to bust'.

In the 1920s there were no petrol-engined lorries about; only steam lorries (Fowler, Sentinel and Foden) with solid tyres. None had windscreen wipers. An unusual event c1927 was the arrival of a lawyer from London by train at Frant station who unfolded a very small motor-scooter and drove it up the hill to Highfield.

Stanley did not attend the Hook Green School but remembers going to a tiny school on Guest's Farm near the Brown Trout. He was walked there by the maid and was one of four pupils. Whilst Stanley was only six, the other three were all 14 years old. Lunch was often taken at the George and Dragon in Lamberhurst. Mr Guest was the farmer and Mr Johns the teacher. Stanley recalls the household attempting to make a crystal set type 'wireless' from an old copper kettle with wires soldered to it to make a proper 'earth', which was due to be buried near the front door of the farmhouse. Even at the age of 7 he was well aware that it was not the best arrangement! Could it still be there?

There was no noise or light pollution at that time and the sounds Stanley recalls are of birdsong: the cries of the rooks, the call of the pigeons, the crowing of the cock pheasant and the loud song of the thrush. Occasionally, as now, in the right conditions, one was aware of the railway. An evocative sound was the clapping noise of the 'horseman's gates' across the estate carriageways. The gates had a tall opening lever that a rider could reach from horseback. After the rider had gone through the gate, it swung decreasingly backwards & forwards until the closing latch fell into place. Other interesting wildlife that Stanley remembers was a colony of large, aggressive wood-ants in the woods just off Furnace Lane, opposite the Bartley Mill turning. About half an inch long, with a black head and red thorax, they lived in 3ft high mounds and gave off strong venom if trodden on. In the early 1920s, Stanley also recalls spotting a red squirrel running along a fence opposite Park Cottage.

George had an office attached to the domestic offices at the main Bayham Abbey house. He had odd working hours, as Lord Camden spent the mornings visiting his tenant farmers and liked to go through all his mail and other business with George after 3pm. This meant that GR often came home in the dark. The way home was via the bridge over the river near the old abbey ruins and up Bull Lane, which was pitch black at night time. The bridge was often submerged during wet weather (in spate only the top rail of the bridge was visible) and George would have to wade across, clad in breeches and brown leggings and carrying a large storm lantern in the winter. Stanley remembers that he would often arrive home very muddy. One summer's evening he arrived home covered in the white mud of Bull Lane (a mixture of sand and clay), having fallen, in the dark, over a sleeping cow.

At George's request, the "Elephant's Head" Shield, depicting the Camden crest, was carved out of oak from the Bayham Estate in about 1907 by Stanley's maternal grandfather, Charles Mott, a professional London wood-carver. This substantial object was wrapped in paper and carried from Kentish Town, where Mott lived, via Charing Cross and train to Frant, then on foot for three miles to Park Cottage. The wood came from the open-ended store at the rear of the estate carpentry and cabinet-making shop where Stanley's elder brother Lewis was apprenticed for a time in the 1920s, under the supervision of George Barham the estate carpenter, who lived at Little Bayham.

Otherwise, George seems to have kept a low profile locally, avoiding the Elephant's Head, where he was fearful of being harangued by some estate tenant over problems in his tied cottage.

Lowfield had unusual fireplaces. There was no grate, and a solid base with a 'blower' like a super-powerful 'register' full width of the fire-pit. This operated violently and quickly made a white-hot fire, very good for boiling a cast-iron kettle. Far too hot for a copper one!

Stanley, aged about 7, riding his bike in a rain-squall full-tilt with his head down, ran straight into the back of a farm cart, which somewhat modified his face.

Lewis Randall and his pal David Wilson were lethal with catapults. They were very accurate and recovered nearly all their lead balls, which were cast in a bullet-mould, from the bodies of their prey. 'Kills' (mostly small birds) were boiled in a can suspended from a tripod until the skulls were clean and then impaled on a boundary fence. This was not a popular activity with the adults and was eventually stopped by

George Randall. David Wilson, after farm management in Tangiers and Madeira, went on to become an adventurer and explorer, famous for leading an expedition to try to trace Colonel Fawcett who had disappeared in the Amazon jungle.

Life in Bells Yew Green, 1925 – 1929

The village children had a variety of activities centred on the Bells Yew Green village green, which was very active at the weekends. Cricket was played on a flat, rolled pitch and football was also popular. Children played with hoops controlled by a stick with a nail through it; they pulled each other about on home-made trolleys or sledges in winter, and flew model planes. Stanley had a model electric boat and a steam-powered one, fired by burning twigs, made by his father. He tried them at various locations such as streams, the pond at Home Farm but it wasn't entirely satisfactory due to the weeds and the problem of getting near enough to the bank to control or recover the boat. The millpond at Bartley Mill was also a good place to sail model boats. It was fed from a very long dyke coming all the way from Higham Farm. On Sundays between 11-12am everyone was supposed to be at church. If not, you made sure you were not seen or heard doing any kind of work, including gardening or repair and maintenance activity.

The village dogs frequently fought on Bells Yew Green. Stanley had been taught by his elder brother Lewis how to stop a dog-fight. You should wait until a 'top dog' had emerged from the conflict and had the 'under dog' pinned down, then take off your right shoe and hold it by the toe. The trick then was to wade in and grasp the top dog very firmly by the scruff of the neck and use the shoe to tap it on the nose, harder and harder, for quite a long time. This would make the dog go 'wuzzy', until it let go. Then the dog should be flung away from the fight as hard as possible, and threatened with the shoe should it try to return. There was a vicious Airedale hound that attacked one of the Randall's' dogs, and Stanley used the above technique with perfect results. A feral cat lived in the woodland near Lowfield, that would challenge any dog or dogs that entered its territory. Stanley had to rescue it from attack by a pack of dogs on one occasion. The cat got its revenge on one of the Randall's' terriers by lying in ambush and dropping on it from an overhanging branch. The resultant screams from the dog brought the villagers out of their cottages.

Stanley also recalls walking his dog at Benhall Lake. This lake drained into a vertical brick 'chimney' with a drop of about 15 feet, and then the water was carried under the road in a conduit. The Randalls had a dog that was obsessed with water, and on one occasion Stanley aged about 9 was looking at the drain when the dog climbed onto the top of the brick chimney, lost its footing and disappeared down the 15ft shaft. Stanley assumed the dog would be trapped and die a lingering death, but it was swept right through under the road and emerged none the worse on the other side. Stanley never took it back to that place!

The Fernden Fencing Company was located beyond the Brecknock Arms on the road towards Frant Station. It had a steam engine to power the saws to cut wood for making fences. It also had an electric light in the office. It had its own timber yard. Wood was also stacked along the side of the road leading to the station, where the firm had the use of a covered loading bay rented from Lord Camden. Traction engines pulled whole tree trunks out of the woods into Turner's larger yard, moving at walking speed. The sawmill was powered by an ex-coalmine compound steam-

engine, about 70hp, with a deep fire-box for burning offcuts and sawdust. The stack had a spark arrester and we (privy to engine lore) could tell at a glance the size of cut. At Frant Station, a lot of shunting activity took place in the early hours of the morning. The shunters carried Duckwick lamps which gave off a long smoky flame. The station had ground set aside for growing vegetables or flowers, as was generally the practice, giving the station staff something productive to do in between train activities

Wood was delivered to 'estate staff' households by horse and cart. This wood was typically the remains of chestnut hop-poles that had become rotten or brittle, or offcuts from the timber yard. There were also occasional coal deliveries by Sentinel steam wagon. Traffic to the coast was noticeable only at weekends. The roads in the 1920s were macadamized but not tarred until about 1928, including the road from Winbridge, and Hawkenbury Road. Gravel would be periodically steam-rolled onto the surface. This would over time migrate to the edges of the road, and there would be a two foot wide gutter on each side full of soft, loose gravel and dust. As the roads dried out after winter, the wind and passing traffic would start to raise puffs of dust. The locals would comment on this as a sign of seasonal change, as in 'I saw the March Dust today; spring's on its way'. For a period, every Saturday morning the Turner's steam traction engine would move from the woods where timber was cut, along the road from Bayham to Bells Yew Green past the Randalls house Lowfield and up a rise back to Turner's Sawmill. The engine had two gears, high and low. It would make the run along Furnace Lane in high gear, but when it came to the rise to Turner's Yard it always stalled with frantic blowing of the boiler safety valve and had to be re-started in low gear. This was a big job, involving pushing one gear wheel out of the way, pinning it and shoving the other gear in. Stanley could never understand why the driver didn't change into low gear before the rising turn to the Mill.

Another recollection of Stanley's is of a twin-engined biplane (probably a Vickers Vimy) force-landing in a field on the far side of the railway line from Lowfield, in the mid 1920s. The farmer complained bitterly about the damage done to his freshly-sown field by the landing and subsequent disturbance required to remove it. There were no phones in the village; if you had to make call you cycled into Tunbridge Wells and used a public box.

Stanley recalls that there were notably ferocious thunderstorms in the summer when he lived in Bells Yew Green. His explanation for this phenomenon was a geological belt that ran roughly in a line from Wickhurst Farm diagonally to Bells Yew Green and over Frant to Withyham / Hartfield.

Stanley has seen a photo in the Brecknock Arms that indicates at one time the pub was located in the semi-detached house occupied by Mr Adamson in the 1920s. Ditmar Bassett (known as Ditty), father of Otto, lived in the other semi and had a forge in a shed nearby. This was abandoned when he took over the tenancy of the Bayham Forge, partnering later with Charlie Boorman.

The Apsion family: Mr Apsion married Dorothy Peto of Peto & Radford, makers of lead acid accumulators. Mr Apsion was immersed in his richly-equipped big wireless

set, with 3 tuning knobs to light upon a broadcasting station. There was a son, Robert Apsion, born 1920, who went to Rose Hill and Tonbridge School.

Life and Work on the Bayham Abbey Estate, 1904 – 1929

The Carpenters' Shop

This was located near the forge, on the opposite side of the road, in a complex of buildings which also included the seasoning store, the saw mill, the laundry and the generator plant. The carpenter's workshop was on two floors, delicate work being undertaken upstairs. It was a wood framed building, thatched and clad in pine off-cuts, the bark still on and heavily tarred. Several large, medium-paned windows, much of them glazed in bottle-glass made over the road at the Forge. The estate always seemed to be short of money and it was easier and cheaper to melt down a broken bottle (on a well-used flat steel plate) and trim it to size, than to walk into Tunbridge Wells and buy a glass pane. Lighting was by candles. Work started at 6am. In a quiet corner, where the temperature was steady, Stanley remembers a farmer's barometer. This was made from a thin-necked bottle pushed down into a fat-necked bottle, with the right amount of water. It worked and the Randall's made one at home.

The Seasoning Store

Beyond the workshop was the seasoning store, with a hand crane and hard standing. At the age of 8 (1925) Stanley enquired about a huge oak trunk, already cross-cut and re-stacked. (Thick planks were taken from the middle.) He was told it was seasoning, had been there for 25 years undisturbed, and after a further 75 years would be ready for use. 22 years later (1947) he called back at the store and the big tree, with all the other stacked oak, had been sold.

The Saw Mill and Generating Plant

Across the track from the timber-store was the saw mill with two big circular saws, a cross-cut saw, 2 rotary planers (these were dangerous) and saw maintenance machines. Adjoining was the electricity generating plant, 80hp steam, 220 volt DC. This was always a warm and exciting place to visit! The electricity heated and lit both the Abbey and the church.

The Forge

Lewis Randall was apprenticed at the Bayham Forge from 1923. He generally left Park Cottage about 6.30-7am, 6am in summer. Most villagers were away to work by 7am; farm workers often much earlier. The forge was run by Otto Bassett in partnership with the younger Charlie Boorman, both of whom were very good at calming horses. Otto did the shoeing. Amongst other things they made brackets and did repairs on carts. One quiet day, Stanley heard them discussing a wheel on a customer's cart which they had noticed was looking worn and starting work on a replacement. They clearly had no doubts that the custom would come their way! They could always be relied on to help out and deal with all kinds of

problem. They made iron tyres and also did woodwork. In the lower part of the forge they kept a supply of different woods, including oak and hornbeam. It appears that they rented the premises but Lord Camden had first call on their time and expertise. Stanley remembers that there were two anvils, a worn one and a new, a huge bench with an array of vices and a large hand-powered pillar drill.

Originally they also had a grindstone powered by a treadle which took a lot of time and effort to use. ('Grindstone' was always pronounced 'grinnst'n'). Charlie Boorman created a much more powerful one by mounting a big emery wheel to a disused motor cycle engine, thus putting treadling firmly in the past. Stanley recalls that Charlie Boorman was a fine mechanic. He owned a bike and sidecar in which he sometimes took his wife to Hastings for a "run out". He had been known to dismantle the engine, removing the cylinder heads, and then reassemble it on the day before the trip, just to make sure everything was working as it should!

For many years at the Forge there was a derelict Fowler traction engine. The chimney had rotted off. One day 3 recovery men came in a van and had it turning over. Stanley saw it heading off to the breaker's yard under its own steam, with the water tank leaking badly; a sad end.

Water Supplies

There was a water wheel on the outlet of the lake, driven by the head of water in the lake down to the tail race. The wheel drove a three cylinder Henry Berry force pump. In addition there was a double impulse pump. Water ran down a pipe, building up speed, and was then suddenly blocked off by a poppet valve, creating a powerful pulse in the liquid column. This pulse forced water up a side pipe. Such pumps used no power and were very low maintenance.

Elsewhere than the Abbey, there being no mains water, everyone was conscious of the need to carry water on them to slake their thirst. Whilst water for flushing came from one of the tributaries of the Teise, drinking water was taken from wells and springs. If a house had a well, it was acceptable to call in and ask for water. Mr Adamson, the wood reeve, who lived opposite Lowfield, had a good well with good quality water. When the Randalls lived at Lowfield, Stanley and the maid would go across with three jugs in the morning to fill them up. There was a chalybeate spring in the Bayham Abbey gardens but, Stanley recalls, the water did not taste good. Stanley remembers still the advice he was given as a child about where it was safe to drink. If drinking from a spring it was advisable to check the weed first. If freshwater shrimps were clinging to it, it was not considered safe to drink, as shrimps thrive on household effluent. On the other hand, anything that a horse was seen to drink could be considered safe!

People

Francis Albury Wemys Bach, Estate Engineer

One of the most memorable Bayham Abbey workers was Francis Albury Wemys Bach, the estate engineer. A man of little formal education, he had first entered

the army after leaving school. He lived with his wife Hilda in the right hand cottage of the pair opposite the forge where, in addition to a well, there was also a pump in the kitchen. There was an outside privy, the contents of which, in common with other villagers at that time, would have been dug into the garden as far as possible from the house. FAWB had a waxed military moustache and always referred to his nose as his 'conk'.

At work he was responsible throughout the estate for all electrical items and the maintenance of things mechanical. He would need to go into the laundry if any machinery needed repair, but it was a place he otherwise preferred to avoid, perhaps seeing it as a place where the woman was boss! He also maintained the gas cracker. This had been installed when Lord Camden had acquired a new cook who had agreed to come to the Abbey only if she could cook on gas. In response he built a gas cracking plant which ran on tractor vaporising oil. This oil was heated until it gave off a vapour – the gas -- which, Stanley remembered, was particularly foul smelling. Bach was a master electrician, dealing with dynamos, switchgear and batteries. He never laid cables as these involved digging and expense and money was always short. Instead he used ordinary wires. He would also charge up batteries for the villagers. He was an expert mechanic and looked after the steam engines, which had to be examined every two years by the Board of Trade. Another task assigned to Bach was the drilling of the lake when it iced over to check the safety for skating. Stanley remembers him saying that cracks in the ice were not necessarily unsafe but to keep off if the ice bent! Yet another of his duties was the maintenance of the paraffin engine used to pump water from the Win to Wickhurst Farm. At the farm, dairymaids cooled the milk from the cows by pouring it over horizontal water-filled pipes. The crown wheel of Bartley Mill had teeth made of elmwood (more rot-resistant than oak) and individually screwed in. When these wore out, Mr Bach would make and fit new ones, in the gloomy water-drenched wheel pit.

Rev Lydekker, Vicar of Bayham Church

The Rev Lydekker was a colourful character who Stanley remembers as very sporty, enjoying football and boxing.

Mr Tom Whiley, Landlord of the Brecknock Arms

Tom Whiley was a very large and strong man who had reputedly carried half a ton weight on his back for a few steps as a challenge. Whiley's son won a VC in the 2nd World War, and latterly ran a greengrocer's shop at the Carr's Corner end of Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Other Village Characters of the 1920s

- Mr Curtis the foreman at the sawyard
- Mr Holwell the policeman
- Mr Shepherd the chauffeur
- Messrs Wigley, Gifford, Pike & Underwood the gamekeepers
- Mr 'Fishy' Eeles the land-agent (most senior member of Camden's staff; lived at Highfield. Decorated in 1st War & Colonel in 2nd War)
- Mr Collins the drains supervisor

- Mr Adamson the woodreeve
- Mr 'Porky' Morris the butcher (Frant)
- Mr Dudgeon, the vicar of Frant Church
- Mr Ferguson the farmer at Buckland Hill
- Mr Stripp the manager of Turner's Sawmills
- Mr Crump the night-watchman
- The Looker sisters, grocers and mail delivery (Hook Green)
- Mr Dick Welfare the timber haulier
- Miss Hudson, Miss Fripp & Miss Hile the teachers at Hook Green School
- Mr Frank Pearce the landlord of the Elephant's Head
- Mr Tolhurst the farmer at Home Farm
- Mr Pomfret the farmer at Rushlye Farm
- Mr Larkin of Winbridge Lodge. He had 2 sons; Tom the elder and Dennis the younger who had a gammy leg but was a feisty boy. Stanley remembers him aged about 7 beating up a wasp's nest with a big stick and then running off up the hill 'ollerin' as the nest mounted an attack
- George & Reggie Ware the brewers
- Mr Akehurst the stationmaster at Frant
- Mr Doug Veitch the farmer at Wickhurst Farm
- Mr Sands the bricklayer
- Mr Spackman the farmer (also taught Stanley the violin and ran a dance band)
- Mr Thirkell the vet
- Mr William Pratt the farmer
- Mr Crithel the thatcher
- Mr Parks the signalman
- Mr Stockley the coachman
- Mr Mantle the butler
- Mr FAW Bach the engineer. He had a gastric ulcer probably aggravated by worry about his work responsibilities.
- Mr Haaken (pronounced locally "Aaykin", the assistant engineman
- Messrs Bassett the blacksmiths. Otto Bassett subsequently became senior partner of the forge with Charlie Boorman
- Messrs Boorman the farmers, millers and blacksmith
- Mr Octavius Pitson the woodcutter & fence-maker
- Mr Tom Pitson, son of Octavius. A general workman skilled in several trades. Had an excellent war record and died in 2010 aged 94
- Mrs Collins the housekeeper at Bayham House
- Mr George Barham the carpenter and sometime miller (in 1936 he received an award from Camden for 58 years service)
- Mr WJ van Winsum the scoutmaster. He drove an open Buick, 3 seater plus dickey seat
- Mr Austen of Whitegates
- Mr Montague Longhurst the foreman of the Building Yard
- Mr Botting the verger of Bayham Church
- Mr Bob Wilson, amateur boxer at bantamweight, died aged 24
- Mr Swaffer the carpenter
- Messrs Watts & Jenner the bricklayers
- Mr Hayler the painter

- Jack Manktelow born about 1915. A bit of a tearaway. He was mate on a freighter carrying a load of wood that shifted in a storm and turned the ship on its side until the funnel was under water. Jack and the skipper refused to abandon ship and stayed on board until the ship was berthed at Falmouth
- 'Old Brown': ill with the shakes and lived in a sentry box at the entrance to Bartley Mill

The Hop-pickers

The men dressed in serge suits. They built shelters with thin hazel branches bent into hoops and covered with bracken, which was also used as a floor covering, and lived in these throughout the picking season.

The Sheep-Drover

Flocks of sheep were driven along Furnace Lane towards Lamberhurst, where they were grazed near the abattoir. While Stanley was at Park Cottage one day, the drover spotted his little fire in the garden and stopped to fry sausage and eggs on it in an army mess-tin, carefully packing the meal away for later consumption. While this was going on, his dog held the flock in place on the road.

The Ashbys

Were comfortably-off farmers with a farm off Cemetery Hill, opposite the cemetery. They had horses that Lilian Randall used to exercise when she was home for the holidays 1925-29.

The Rifle Butts

The Camdens were strong supporters of the Government move in 1908 to form a Territorial Army. Lord Camden was a Major in the West Kent (Queen's Own) Yeomanry, and appointed in Sept 1909 as Honorary Colonel of the 4th Home Counties (Howitzer) Brigade. In April-June 1909 Lady Camden published appeals to 'The Ladies of Kent' to raise funds to provide 4 county regiments with their colours. Around this time, and certainly by 1914, Camden organised the construction of Rifle Butts on land at Court Lodge Down, between Frant Station and Benhall Mill Farm. The firing line was across the Teise.

These covered an area about 50 yards wide by 300 yards long, with a bank dug out at the target end. By the 1920s they were unused, but had reverted to being a wildlife haven with snakes, interesting insects and wild strawberry plants making use of the target area bank.

The Camdens

The Camdens were generally reckoned to be good employers, in an old-fashioned paternalistic way. Every July they organised a Sports Day for the village children, with quite generous prizes. At Christmas, there was the Village Children's Party at Bayham House, with spectacular decorations. Every child

received a present. At Christmas also there was the Servants Ball, which Lillian Randall attended with her cousin Ted Liddiard. Lady Camden rode a magnificent chestnut mare, and Lillian was lifted onto the back of this once as a small child by a groom at the Stables. 'Milady' as she was known visited the homes of the estate staff at least once a year. Stanley remembers her coming to Lowfield for tea with Mrs Randall, and he would show off his latest model construction. He received a good Christmas present from the Camdens: an 'Erector' set, German-made cheaper version of Meccano. If one came across a member of the Family, curtsying, cap-lifting or forelock-tugging was obligatory. The Camden household was reputed to run 9 cars, but the only one in evidence was a 9hp Fiat, dark blue open 4-seater used for runs to and from Frant station

The Camdens had 4 children:

- Lord John 1899-1983, married 1920, divorced 1941, remarried 1942 and again in 1978, who became the 5th Marquis
- Lady Irene 1906-1976, married 1926 into the Cubitt family of building fame, divorced 1933, married again 1933 to Clark, divorced 1937, married again 1937 to Crawford. She was known as a bit of a 'wild child', fond of a drink and short-fused but very kind to the village children. She reportedly slapped the face of a policeman who stopped her in London for driving under the influence.
- Lady Fiona, 1911-1985, married Fleetwood Fuller 1931, divorced 1944, married again 1944 to Welbore Ellis Agar. She was reckoned to be the nicest of the 4 children.
- Lord Roderick, Earl Brecknock, 1915-1997, married 1945, known as 'Brecky', went to Eton, keen on motor sport and spent a lot of time at Brooklands with Earl Howe. Later became president of the Aston Martin Owners Club.