

### 3 BUTT'S COTTAGES



Having looked at the owners and occupiers of our house (166 High Street, 4 Butts Cottages), I want to now turn to the story of our neighbours – starting with 168 where our youngest daughter, Denise, and our first grandchild (Alfred) lived until April 2021.

I discovered from the 1909 electoral register<sup>1</sup> that James Pullen was probably the first occupier of our property, but the registers also listed a John Wright at number 3 Butt's Cottages – the name originally given to 168 High Street.

Unfortunately, like Pullen, Wright had moved on by the 1910 register was drawn up<sup>2</sup> – moving across the road to 6 Market Cottage (another of Elizabeth Ogden-Smith's properties) before evidently moving again by the following spring (there are three John Wright's in the Woking area in the 1911 census<sup>3</sup>, although he could, of course, have moved out of the area altogether).

All I do know is that he was replaced at 3 Butt's Cottages by John Bonner in 1910<sup>4</sup>, who from what I can tell lived previously at '3 Church Street, Old Woking'<sup>5</sup>, and by the census of 1911 had moved along the High Street – where we discover he was a house painter, aged 47, living with his wife Sarah (46) and three children Frederick (14, a painter's assistant), Sidney (10) and Ellen (7) – I will come back to Bonner in a later article.

The 1911 census<sup>6</sup> shows that the new occupant of 3 Butt's Cottages was Percy Worsfold (39, originally from Ockham), a labourer, with his wife Kate (42) described as a 'domestic', living with their four sons and two daughters – William Henry (11), Bertie James (10), Alfred (7), Dorothy Rose (5), Jack Edward (4), and Victoria (3 months) – all born in Woking except the youngest who was born in Guildford.

But as well as the family of eight, there was also Kate's mother, Sarah Russell, by now a widow of 82. She is, of course, also the mother of 'our' Alfred Russell at 4 Butts Cottage (I will return to the family of James and Sarah Russell at a later date), who died on the 15th August 1914 aged 84, and was buried in Old Woking cemetery<sup>7</sup>.

Percy Worsfold married Kate Russell on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1898 at St Peter's, Old Woking<sup>8</sup>, with Ernest and Ellen Russell as witnesses. The registers show that Percy was then aged 26, a 'waterman', the son of Henry Worsfold, a labourer (Kate's father, James Russell also being listed as a labourer).

The 1911 census<sup>9</sup> shows that the Worsfold's had seven children, one of whom had died - that being Victor Percy Worsfold, baptised 25<sup>th</sup> May 1902<sup>10</sup>, who died on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1903, aged 15 months old<sup>11</sup> (buried on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1903)<sup>12</sup>.

The Parish Registers show the Worsfold's were then living in Church Street, where they stayed until 1910<sup>13</sup> before moving to 3 Butts Cottages, but they were only here for a few years, as 1915 is the last time that Percy Worsfold is listed in the electoral register<sup>14</sup> at 168 High Street – with Walter William Pratt being the occupant from 1918<sup>15</sup> onwards, and Agnes Pratt, his wife, joining the electoral register in the Spring of 1919<sup>16</sup>.

I suspect that on occasions during the 1920's, the Pratt's took in lodgers – at least that is the only explanation I can think of for an advertisement in the Staffordshire Advertiser that I found, giving 168 High Street, Old Woking, as the address of a H Bignall, a 50 year old married man with one boy, advertising his services as an 'experienced cowman' seeking a 'situation on Gentleman's Home Farm: six or eight cows preferred: good Milker and Calf-rearer'<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> SHC CC802/20/4

<sup>2</sup> SHC CC802/21/4

<sup>3</sup> John Henry Wright (37), a Grocers Warehouseman in Boundary Road; John Wright (56) a Blacksmith at Sunnyside Terrace in Knaphill; and John Alfred Wright (17) a Bank Clerk in the Ridgeway, Horsell (although the latter seems unlikely)

<sup>4</sup> SHC CC802/21/4

<sup>5</sup> SHC CC802/20/4

<sup>6</sup> TNA RG14/3037/151

<sup>7</sup> SHC WOKP/5/2

<sup>8</sup> SHC WOKP/3/6

<sup>9</sup> TNA RG14/3037/151

<sup>10</sup> SHC WOKP/2/5

<sup>11</sup> West Surrey Times, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1903, page 1

<sup>12</sup> SHC WOKP/5/2

<sup>13</sup> SHC CC802/21/4 – Percy Worsfold being listed as 7 Church Street

<sup>14</sup> SHC CC802/26/4

<sup>15</sup> SHC CC802/27/4

<sup>16</sup> SHC CC802/28/4

<sup>17</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 1923, page 1

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The Pratt's appear to have moved to Old Woking from Baynards, near Rudgwick, where in 1911 Walter (45) was the Head Gardener<sup>18</sup>. He came originally from Horsham as did all their three children (Agnes aged 19, a dressmaker: Walter James, 18 a grocers assistant: and Horace Charles, 17, an under gardener), with his wife, Agnes (46), being born in East Grinstead.

Sadly, Agnes died in April 1919, and although she was not listed on the electoral register the following spring, there appears to have been an error in the autumn 1920<sup>19</sup> register as her name was once more included.

It is not until 1929<sup>20</sup> before the name Agnes Pratt next appears on the electoral register for 168 High Street – this time the daughter Agnes. She was joined by an Emma Smith from 1930<sup>21</sup> until 1933<sup>22</sup>, and a Florence Pratt in 1932<sup>23</sup> to 1933<sup>24</sup>, but what relationship (if any) these ladies have, I have not been able to ascertain for certain.



Of all Butts Cottages, No 168 has probably undergone the most alterations, with the door changing position and the window openings completely altered. Inside too, the layout is quite different from our house, next door, with an open-plan ground floor and no longer any fireplaces.



Baynards, on the West Sussex border between Rudgwick and Cranleigh, where William Pratt worked before moving to Old Woking

At the start of the Second World War the National Register<sup>25</sup> records not just Walter W Pratt (still employed as a gardener), and his daughter Agnes (performing unpaid domestic duties), but also Mabel M Pratt, Agnes M Pratt (although here the name Pratt is crossed out and replaced by Tyler) and Doris M Harding (although again the surname is crossed through and the name Pratt written beside it).

Mabel M Pratt is almost certainly Mabel Maria Pratt (nee Knight) who married Walter James (the grocer's assistant) in November 1914<sup>26</sup>, with Agnes M Tyler (nee Pratt) being their daughter, but who Doris M Harding/Pratt is, I have not been able to work out (could she be a daughter-in-law to Mabel Maria?).

Walter William Pratt died in October 1943, leaving just his daughter Agnes registered at 168 High Street thereafter (with the names Leslie W Herridge and Peggy J Herridge joining her in 1950<sup>27</sup>), making the Pratt's, like the Russell's, one of the constants in the old Butt's Cottages.

From Mrs Ogden-Smith's point of view it must have been great to have tenants that remained at her properties for so long, but I guess the fact that so many of the occupiers of these cottages remained, is also testament to how good a landlady Mrs Ogden Smith must have been!

In the next articles, I will look at the occupiers of 170 High Street (2 Butt's Cottages), and then 172 High Street (1 Butt's Cottages) before looking at the occupants of 164 High Street (5 Butt's Cottage).

<sup>18</sup> TNA RG14/5277/56

<sup>19</sup> SHC CC802/31/4

<sup>20</sup> SHC CC802/46/4

<sup>21</sup> SHC CC802/47/4

<sup>22</sup> SHC CC802/50/4

<sup>23</sup> SHC CC802/49/4

<sup>24</sup> SHC CC802/50/4

<sup>25</sup> TNA RG101/1933E

<sup>26</sup> LMA P77/JN/027

<sup>27</sup> SHC CC802/61/10