

2 BUTT'S COTTAGES



Having looked at the story of the Russell family at No. 4 Butt's Cottages (now our home - 166 High Street, Old Woking), and the Worsfold's and Pratt's at 168, I now want to move on to look at the story of the other Butt's Cottages, starting with Number 2, what is now 170 High Street.

As noted before, it appears from the electoral registers that Alfred Butt built the terrace of three cottages (later 164-168 High Street) first - sometime between the spring of 1908 and 1909. By the summer of 1909 the other two cottages were probably complete, as the electoral register for 1910 lists Thomas David Cottington at 1 Butt's Cottages (172) and Frederick Cole at 2 Butt's Cottages (170)¹.

The census of 1911² gives the address for the Cole family as simply 'Butts Cottages', and notes that both Frederick (49) and his wife Emma (47) were born in Guildford. They had been married 28 years³ and had had ten children, only five of whom were still alive - four of whom were living at home at the time of the census, Eva (21), John (18), Frank (16) and Manfred (7).

Frederick is recorded as a caretaker at the schools, whilst Eva was a 'folder' at the printing works where Frank was also an 'errand boy', with John recorded as a butcher (Manfred being at school).

Looking back through the census forms for Old Woking, I found in 1871 a Frederick Cole (9) at Shackleford in Woking, the son of Matthew Cole (46) a 'Corn Merchant Foreman', who was born in Woking, with his wife, Sarah (42) a 'foreman's wife' (born in Billingshurst)

and Frederick's four siblings Charles (12), Eva (6), Henrietta (5) and Jessie (1)

By 1881⁴, Frederick (19) was a 'groom', living in Priors Croft with the Robini family, Edward (25) a house decorator, his wife Emily (26), and their two sons Frederick (4) and Edward (3 months). Frederick Cole is listed as the 'Brother in law', his sister Emily having married Edward Robini in 1879.

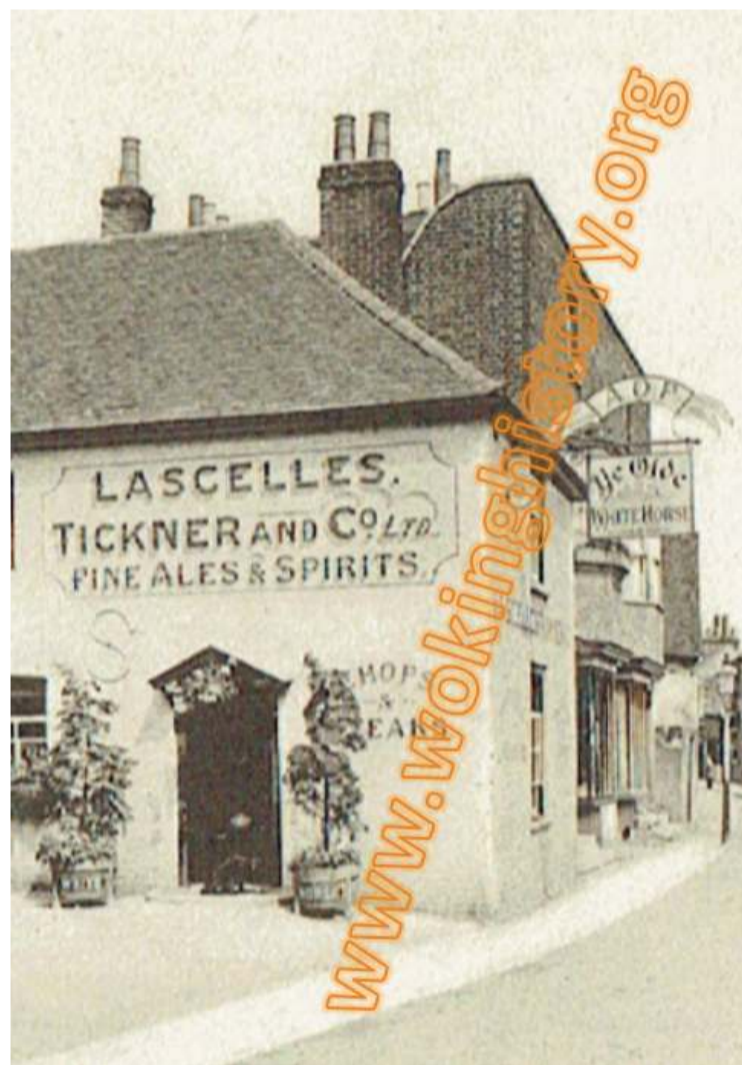
On the 3rd February 1883 at St John's Church, Frederick Cole married Emma Jane Wheeler (19), the daughter of John Wheeler, a bricklayer - Frederick being recorded as a 'labourer' and his father, Matthew, a 'corn merchant'.

The following year, Frederick appears to have been involved in a potentially serious accident. On the 8th July 1884 he attended an anniversary dinner of the 'Foresters' at the White Horse Hotel in Old Woking, after which the men 'entered the grounds of Mr Wainwright' (at Hoe Place). Frederick was 'cantering a horse across the meadow when he was thrown heavily, the horse apparently trampling on his body. Much alarm was occasioned at first, as it was feared that he was killed. After a short interval of unconsciousness, however, he recovered and did not appear to have received any serious injury.⁵

Almost eighteen months later, however, tragedy did strike the family with the death of their first child, Annie Alice, who died on the 31st December 1885, aged just 2½⁶.

The 1891 census⁷ reveals that his wife Emma was born in Worplesdon, but it gives her age as 24 rather than 27! They were living in Church Street, Old Woking, with three children Walter (5), Clara (3) and Lydia (1) - Frederick then employed as a house painter.

They were still in Church Street ten years later⁸, although it appears that 'Walter' was now called 'Frederick' (15) listed as a newspaper vender, and 'Lydia' was now known as 'Eva', with three other children - John (9), Frank (6) and Kimberley (11 months) also recorded at that time - Clara (who would then have been 13) possibly being another of the Cole children lost by 1911, along with Kimberley (who also does not show up on the 1911 census), with another son, James William Henry, dying in 1899 at the age of just eleven months⁹.



The White Horse Hotel in Old Woking, meeting place in 1884 of the Ancient Order of Foresters.

¹ SHC CC802/21/4

² TNA RG14/3037/153

³ SHC WOKJ/2/2 on the 3rd February 1883 at St John's, Woking, the marriage register showing that Frederick's father, Matthew, was a Corn Merchant, whilst Emma Jane's father, John Wheeler, was a Bricklayer.

⁴ TNA RG11/772/72/17

⁵ Surrey Advertiser, Monday 14th July 1884, page 3

⁶ West Surrey Times, Saturday 2nd January 1886, page 5

⁷ TNA RG12/555/87/7

⁸ TNA RG13/597/9/9

⁹ West Surrey Times, Saturday 20th May 1899, page 1

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The 'Printworks, Old Woking' (Unwin Brother's at Woking Mill) where in 1911 the younger Frederick Cole worked alongside his sister Eva (who was a 'folder') and his brother Frank (who was an 'errand boy').

Frederick (now 25), would almost certainly be the fifth surviving child, listed in Church Street in 1911¹⁰, with his wife Lizzie (21) and their 9 month old son, Cecil (both born in Ripley) – this Frederick now working as a labourer at the Printing Works (alongside his younger brother and sister).

In 1914 Frederick Cole was briefly in the army, his papers¹¹ showing that he joined up on the 7th November 1914, but was discharged on the 22nd January 1915. He was again enrolled on the 29th June 1917, but was dismissed again on the 13th October 1917 as 'no longer physically fit for war service'!

In 1918¹² Emma Jane Cole was eligible to vote for the first time as a result of her husband's occupation, but also recorded at the house as 'Naval or Military' voters were Arthur John Cole and Frank Cole – although an 'a' next to their names indicates that they were both 'absent' at the time. I believe 'Arthur John' was the 'John', in the 1911 census above.

They were all still listed in the spring of 1919¹³, but whilst Frank Cole is still in the military at the time of the autumn list, Arthur John is not, an 'R' next to his name denoting that he is entitled to vote as a resident. By the following spring¹⁴, Frank is also listed as a resident, whilst Arthur John had evidently moved on – and so it stayed in the electoral registers until June 1926 when Frederick Cole died, aged 64¹⁵

The autumn 1926¹⁶ electoral register does, however, record that John Cole had briefly returned to the household, just Emma Jane and Frank appearing from 1927¹⁷ to 1929¹⁸, with Emma on her own in 1930¹⁹ and Arthur John returning again in 1931²⁰ alongside his wife, Marion Ruby Cole.

The Cole's last appear in the electoral registers in 1934²¹, with Albert Edwin and Miriam May Canon taking over 170 High Street in 1935²².

¹⁰ TNA RG14/3037/178

¹¹ TNA WO364/737

¹² SHC CC802/27/4

¹³ SHC CC802/28/4

¹⁴ SHC CC802/30/4

¹⁵ SHC WOKP/5/2 – buried 26th June 1926

¹⁶ SHC CC802/3/4

¹⁷ SHC CC802/44/4

¹⁸ SHC CC802/46/4

¹⁹ SHC CC802/47/4

²⁰ SHC CC802/48/4

²¹ SHC CC802/51/4

²² SHC CC802/52/4

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According to the National Register²³, Albert was born on the 8th September 1902, with his wife Miriam born on the 15th May 1905.

He was the son of Albert Horace and Amy Canon, of the Brox Pottery in Ottershaw, his father's occupation being listed as a 'nursery labourer' in the baptism registers of St Paul's Church in Addlestone²⁴.

She was the daughter of James and Anne Elizabeth Evans, of Lock House, St John's, her father's occupation being listed as labourer in the baptism registers of St John's Church²⁵

In October 1921 Albert Edwin Canon signed up in Woking for the army, the Enlistment Register of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment²⁶ noting his trade was as a 'bottler'.

They were married on the 23rd July 1932 at St John's²⁷, Albert Edwin Leslie Canon then being listed as a 'cellarman' (his father being then a labourer) with Miriam's father being listed as a gardener.

Again, according to the National Register in 1939²⁸, they had two children Leslie J (born 21st June 1933) and Jan (born 18th June 1939), - with Albert working as a 'brewers cellerman' with the note 'heavy worker' in brackets.

Albert was not included in the electoral register of October 1945²⁹, but was back on the list in 1946³⁰ onwards, with Leslie joining in 1955³¹, but moving on again the following year³² and Horace J Canon joining the register in 1961³³ (probably the 'Jan' of 1939).

I don't know when the Canon's moved out of 170 High Street, although I do know that Albert died in June 1977, with Miriam passing away in February 1988 - by which time I know she was definitely not at 170 as we moved into 166 in 1987.

²³ TNA RG101/1933E

²⁴ SHC ADD/1/4 - baptised 22nd September 1902.

²⁵ SHC WOKJ/1/3 - baptised 6th August 1905

²⁶ SHC Surrey Regimental Rolls 7791/1/1/4

²⁷ SHC WOKJ/2/5

²⁸ TNA RG101/1933E

²⁹ SHC CC802/56A/5/3

³⁰ SHC CC802/57/5

³¹ SHC CC802/66/10

³² SHC CC802/67/10

³³ SHC CC802/72/10