

199-201 HIGH STREET (BETWEEN THE WARS)

As mentioned in the last article, members of the Elliott family occupied a number of the Market Cottages, with three brothers, Emery (at 205 and then 207 High Street), Frederick (197 High Street) and James (201 High Street).

The latter and his family moved here at the start of the First World War, when we find in the local newspaper that he was fined for not sending his children to school¹.

According to the registers of St Peter's church James Elliott (26) a carman, the son of Thomas Elliott, married Fanny Rosina Sadler (24) the daughter of Charles Sadler, a stockman' at the church on the 1st September 1900².

The census the following year³ records them at Tice's Farm in Westfield – his place of birth being identified as Ringmer in Sussex, with Fanny Rosina coming originally from Northchapel, Sussex. They already had a seven month old son, called William (born in Woking).

Ten years later the 1911⁴ census notes that James (40) was a carter on a farm (giving his birth place as Sutton Green), with Fanny Rosina (now somehow 37 and known as Rose), being born in Petworth (of which Northchapel is a district).

It also noted that the couple had eight children, one of whom had died (a girl called Fanny Rosina who was baptised on the 19th November 1903⁵, but buried just a week later - although the burial record indicates that she was then ten weeks old⁶) – the others being William James Henry (10); William George (9); Thomas Charles (6); Arthur (5); Albert (3) Henry (1 year 5 months); and Robert (4 months).

In 1912 another son was born, Bert⁷, with a daughter, Elsie May⁸, being born in 1915, and Michael John being added to the long list of Elliott lads in 1918⁹.

The electoral registers show James and Rose at 201 High Street from 1918¹⁰, with George (presumably William George) joining them in 1929¹¹ along with Arthur and Albert (William James Henry presumably leaving home before then). George and Albert only appear in the registers for one year, Arthur two, with Henry Elliott included in the list from 1932¹² to 1934¹³ - when his mother also last appeared on the list.

Bert appeared in the electoral register in 1935¹⁴ with an Ann Kathleen Mary Elliott (his wife), who in the National Register of 1939¹⁵ is listed as just Mary (performing unpaid domestic duties) – the entry listing James and William Elliott as retired labourers (old age pensioners), Bert as an 'agricultural tractor driver' and Michael as a 'builder's labourer'.

Between 1931¹⁶ and 1934¹⁷ the electoral registers also lists a Henry Mitchell at 201 High Street, but I have not been able to positively identify him from any other records.

I mentioned in an earlier article the Voneshen family at 4 Market Cottages (199 High Street), with Jerome, or John, or Joseph Voneshen, coming originally from Switzerland and marrying Eva Jane Wright in July 1906 at Croydon, just a couple of months after her second son (Frederick John Wright Voneshen) was born.

The couple were listed in the 1911 census¹⁸ in part of 4 Market Cottages, with Eva's eldest child, Victor Wright as well as Frederick John and seven month old William Wifred (born in Woking) - another child Walter Edward mysteriously missing on census night.

I also mentioned that two daughters, Ethel Eva and Alice Daisy were born in 1912¹⁹ and 1915²⁰ respectively, with a son Robert G born in 1918 followed by a daughter, Florence M, in May 1920²¹.



¹ Surrey Advertiser, Monday 13th December 1915, page 1

² SHC WOKP/3/6

³ TNA RG13/597/22

⁴ TNA RG14/3038/19

⁵ SHC WOKP/2/5

⁶ SHC WOKP/5/2 26th November 1903

⁷ SHC 7692/1/1, born 19th October 1912

⁸ Her marriage on the 31st October 1936 stating that she was twenty-one, the daughter of James Elliott, farm labourer of 201 High Street, Old Woking, with her husband, George Henry King (21) a labourer of 14 St Mary's Road, Horsell, being the son of Harry King a council labourer.

⁹ SHC 7692/1/1, born 29th September 1918.

¹⁰ SHC CC802/21/4

¹¹ SHC CC802/46/4

¹² SHC CC802/49/4

¹³ SHC CC802/51/4

¹⁴ SHC CC802/52/4

¹⁵ TNA RG101/1939E

¹⁶ SHC CC802/48/4

¹⁷ SHC CC802/51/4

¹⁸ TNA RG14/3037/161

¹⁹ SHC 7692/1/1, born 3rd August, baptised 13th October 1912

²⁰ SHC 7692/1/1, born 22nd January 1915

²¹ SHC 7692/1/1, born 22nd May 1920

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For some reason, however, between 1915 and the autumn of 1920, the Vonsehen's are missing from the electoral register at Old Woking, but both John and Eva Jane join the list in 1920²².

Between 1922 and 1928 it appears that another four children were born, Albert Alan²³, Violet G²⁴, Barbara Mary, and John – the latter dying two days after his birth (being buried at St Peter's on the 1st September 1928²⁵), with his mother, Eva Jane, possibly dying from complications following the birth (at Surrey County Hospital, Guildford) and being buried also at St Peter's on the 18th September that year, aged just 41.

The following year the widower Jerome Voneshen is joined in the electoral registers²⁶ at 199 High Street by Frederick John Voneshen, Walter Edward Voneshen and Victor Wright – the three siblings probably helping Jerome to raise his young family.

Sadly Robert (born in 1918) died in 1931 with Jerome himself passing away in October 1932.

The following year Victor Wright is replaced in the electoral register²⁷ by Wilfred Fowles, who in April 1933 married Ethel E Voneshen (born in 1912) her name apparently erroneously appearing in the electoral register in 1934²⁸ as Eva Jane (rather than Ethel Eva).

On the 27th January 1934²⁹, Walter Edward Voneshen (26) married Ellen Cheeseman (23) the daughter of Albert Cheeseman a nurseryman of 1 Khartoun Cottages, West End, Chobham – Walter being listed as a 'stockman' of 199 High Street, Old Woking, although it is clear from the Electoral register that he moved out of the house upon his marriage – just Wilfred and Eva Ethel Fowles being listed at 199 in 1935³⁰.

In December³¹ that year Eva's sister, Alice married Ernest Fowles (Wilfred's brother?), 199 High Street being given as Alice Daisy's address with her husband (25) listed as an upholsterer, the son of Louis Fowles a turner of Birmingham. Frederick J Voneshen (who was also married in 1935) was one of the witnesses.

This is the last time that a Voneshen is listed at 199 High Street. Frederick J Voneshen is listed in the National Register of 1939 at 82 Station Road, West Byfleet (an aircraft painter) along with his wife Dorothy³², whilst Walter E was a cowman at 101 High Street, Old Woking with his wife Ellen³³, and William W, an aircraft worker, was a lodger at 43 St Peter's Road³⁴. Ernest and Alice Fowles were living in the downstairs rooms of a house in Unstead Villas, James Road, Guildford³⁵, whilst Wilfred and Ethel Eva Fowles had also apparently moved away (to 10 Westfield Way³⁶) with a John Sturt (born 29th January 1913) a general labourer and his wife Winifred Sturt (born 14th May 1917), occupying 199 High Street by the start of the Second World War³⁷.

²² SHC CC802/31/4

²³ SHC 7692/1/1, born 4th November 1922

²⁴ SHC 7692/1/1, born 2nd November 1924

²⁵ SHC WOKP/5/2

²⁶ SHC CC802/46/4

²⁷ SHC CC802/50/4

²⁸ SHC CC802/51/4

²⁹ SHC WEND/3/3

³⁰ SHC CC802/52/4

³¹ SHC 7692/1/4

³² TNA RG101/1926J

³³ TNA RG101/1933C

³⁴ TNA RG101/1933F

³⁵ TNA RG101/1933D

³⁶ SHC CC802/54/4

³⁷ TNA RG101/1933E