



Mrs M Stone



MEMOIRS OF MRS MARGUERITA HONE, NEE HOWE.

I came here to live in 1919. My mother was an Eastbourne lady, and she was married in Eastbourne. When her father had been demobbed from the services after the Boer War he had come to Eastbourne from Suffolk where his family were farming folk in a little village outside of Stowmarket, by the name of Framston.

I was born in Yelvertoft, just outside of Rugby, where my father was Coachman to the old Sir Harry Welshman. His daughter Marguerita was my godmother, and I was named after her. I also had a brother Bob, who was two years younger than me, who later married May.

When my father was called up for the first World War we were living in a flat in Cavendish Place in Eastbourne, and I went to St Phillip's school.

When my father was demobbed he wanted to work in the country, and he applied for work with Neville Perch at Mill Hill with the result that we came to live at Mill Hill and we were there for several years. Later we moved down into Westham

NEVILLE PERCH lived in the White House at the top of Mill Hill (where Micheal Henderson now lives) It was a lovely old, white weatherboarded house, with Hollies growing up the three steps. To the left was the Roundel where Crisford's Mill used to be. This was blown down in 1886. Mr LEAVES, who took over as head-cowman for Neville Perch lived there when Neville Perch had the bungalow built on the otherside of the road. I remember he had a wonderful artichoke bed there. The Leaves had four children, in our family there was myself and my brother Bob, and later on my brother Norman was born.

Neville Perch had a friend come to live in The Cottage, and he moved back into Eastbourne, and his son TOM PERCH, who lived at Polegate, came here and took over the farm. Mr Leaves left, and Mr MARCHANT (who was known as Todger Marchant) came with his wife and two daughters, and they lived in The Cottage. Mr Marchant was head Trombonist with the Stone Cross Brass Band, of which there were about twenty members.

There was DICK BAILEY, who is now 84, he was only 14 when I came. He used to drive my brother and I into Eastbourne twice a week on the pig-wash cart to collect the pig-wash from the Hotels in Eastbourne. That was when I first knew him.

DICK GURR. I only saw him once, as he was very eccentric. He used to wander over the Marshes. He always had a rope tied around his waist, and he lived in a shabby place, covered with sacks and corrugated iron sheets on the last bend of the lane before going on to the Marsh. The only time I saw him I said 'Hello Mr Gurr.' and he said 'Hello!' and that was the only word I ever heard him say. He was probably something to do with Gurr's Barn and Gurr's Farm. He lived in the hut for years, until he was found dead one day, and was buried on the Parish.

Some people confuse him with a MR GANDER. At the end of MAJOR WELBY'S garden, on the corner coming from Mill Farm Drive, there was a wooden

building with just the roof and two or three walls and part of the floor left. This old man, who lived at Hailsham with his German wife, used to come through regularly. He slept there many times. He dealt in old iron, and rags. He always had a sack, cut in half, put over his head like a cape, and he used to 'Tot' from House to House down Mill Gill to Westham. He would call at my mothers' for her to brew a can of tea. He was a marvellous old man, and we used to call him 'Sacky Gander'. His wife was a little dumpling of a German woman, but she spoke good English

EDIE RIGG.

I remember her very well. She always wore men's boots, an old raincoat (again tied with string around the middle), and an old black beret. She lived next to Corner Cottage with her old father. They had a tricycle, and sometimes one would see Edie pedalling along with her father hanging on the back. The remains of the house is now the wall next to Corner Cottage. She used to go out and cut and layer hedges. She was a marvellous lady.

COL OWEN. He lived at 'The Horns'. The first Mrs Owen used to drive a small brown trap, and on Saturday mornings my brother and I would purposely sit on the wall at home, because she would stop and ask us in we would like a lift to Westham. She would then take us in the trap and park by the Horsepond. We would wait while she did her shopping, then she would drive us back home. After she died he married the eldest of the three MISS HOPLEYS, they were the Vicar's daughters, and lived in The Cottage Tea Rooms in Hankham Street.

When we first came here the Rev LUCAS lived at Hankham Lodge, that was the Vicarage at that time. The WALLIS Family lived in one of the cottages, next to them were WILFRED AND BERTHA MORLEY with their children, Betty and Harold. Next door was the older Harold, Wilf's brother, and their elderly mother. Later Wilf moved to Milton Street.

MAJOR AND MRS WELBY lived at Mill Hill House (Now called Haunter's Lodge). They were London business people and were a charming family,

Next door at Pateena lived Mr and Mrs BAKER with their two daughters. He also was a London business man. One daughter, Kathleen, was a Concert pianist, very clever, the other married Jack SELMES the Builder from Eastbourne.

Orchard Cottage was owned by TOM WATSON, who had the small farm in Rattle Road.

On the corner was WILMSHURST the builder.

At Horns Cross Paddock lived MR AND MRS FOWLER with their twin sons, and two daughters. Mrs Fowler later moved to Rose Cottage, opposite Hankham Lodge, which was owned by Mrs L. BONIFACE. Previously the WINTER family had lived there with their six children. When Mrs Fowler went it was knocked down and Mrs Boniface had a new bungalow built there. Mrs Len. Boniface had inherited Hankham Lodge

MRS WHOLEY had lived at Hankham Lodge, then the SILLETOES. Mrs Wholey was a sister of TED HUNTER who lived at Peelings Manor.

When I married I moved into Harvest Cottage, and about that time two American ladies bought Peelings Manor. MISS STONEY AND MIS EDWARDS.

The BRIDGEWATERS lived at Montague, and then the WHEELER FAMILY.

MR ALFRED AND MISS ROODS lived at Whychehurst in Hankham Street

At Windy Ridge lived the BAVINS.

At Holly Bank Cottages near Pear Tree Cottage was where the BAILEY family lived. Dick Bailey was born there. The CHRISTMAS family lived there too.

The row of cottages next to the Tea Gardens was where the REEDS, BROOKES, CRICKS, AND LEAVES families lived. The one with the porch was where the Reeds lived, and was the Post Office.

The two houses next to these was where GEORGE PAUL lived, with his father SILAS next door. Later when DOROTHY (called Babs) PAUL married WESLEY GEERING, they lived there.

Many different families have lived in the Dog House, including the STREETS, BARNES, PURDOMS, KENWARDS, MARJORIE GEERING. This was when it was in four cottages.

Different people have lived in the Fostel Cottages. One family was the CHUMMS. MISS WEBBER lived in the first one which was the sweet shop. Archie Wilmshurst and myself used to come from Westham along the footpaths across the fields to the Horns to get eggs, and we would walk back by Miss Webbers' so that we could buy our sweets.

In Montague Cottages were farmhands who worked for ALF WESTON. In one was Mr AND MRS TESTER, and in the other MR AND MRS ANDREWS. When Alf Weston died the Andrews moved down into the village, and the Testers went back to Hailsham.

St Micheals at the top of Foords Lane was the Vicarage for MR DAVIES who was the Pastor at the Tin Church, called Tin Heaven. That was where Sunday School was held.

The cottage next to St Micheals was where Mr AND MRS WHITE lived with her mother MRS MESSAGE. The White's son still works on the Southdown buses.

The cottages which used to be next to them is where the Winter family moved to from Rose Cottage. One of the Reed boys lived there and the Huggets, and Purdoms.

Jubilee Cottage. MAJOR GOODE had it built. He was in partnership with MR HARRISON who married BEATTIE GAUSDEN. Wherever Major Goode went Harrison was there, and he was called Major Goode's Man Friday.

MES HARRISON lived at The Croft. this was built when I was about fifteen. Her first husband died while they were on their honeymoon. Mr

Shaw from Hailsham he is buried just outside the Church door at Westham. She was a sister of TIZER GAUSDEN of Beggars Lane, whose mother, the former Ruby Martin was born at Montague. Ruby was proposed to in the Shepherds peep in Montague garden, and when she died her ashes were scattered there.

Hankham Hall was owned by BILL ELPHICK. He lived there with his second wife, who had been a Mrs HAMMOND. She was a beautiful woman, and looked like Queen Mary as she dressed her hair in the same style. They were a mixed family as there was her family, his family and their family. DORRIE HAMMOND married a MR GARRETT, and their son married the daughter of the Rev Robinson, vicar of Pevensy. Her sister MRS COLTON later married LT. COL GILLETT who lived at Marling Close. When he died she went to live in Pevensy, and the WREFORD BROWNS then moved in.