

JOURNAL OF THE RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD & EASTCOTE
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

Twenty-five years on.....

In 1964 Eastcote House was demolished and this society was founded. The two events were not unconnected. Mr. R.G. Edwards of Pamela Gardens, Eastcote, had noted the rapid growth of new building in the area and the destruction of many features of historic interest. Early in the year he believed that the forthcoming demolition of one of the great houses would provide a good opportunity for investigating an ancient site and he contacted people likely to be interested.

Sir Christopher Cowan of Kiln Farm, Northwood (Chairman of the Uxbridge Bench and former Chairman of the Middlesex County Council), Miss A.M. Pollard (Chief Librarian at Manor Farm), Mr. & Mrs. Edwards, Mr. C.P. Morrell, Mr. W.A.G. Kemp (author of "History of Northwood & Northwood Hills" 1957, and "History of Eastcote", 1963) and Mr. & Mrs. H.H. Crane, met at 24 Cheney Street (the Cranes' house) on 6th April and decided to start a local history society to be called "The Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society".

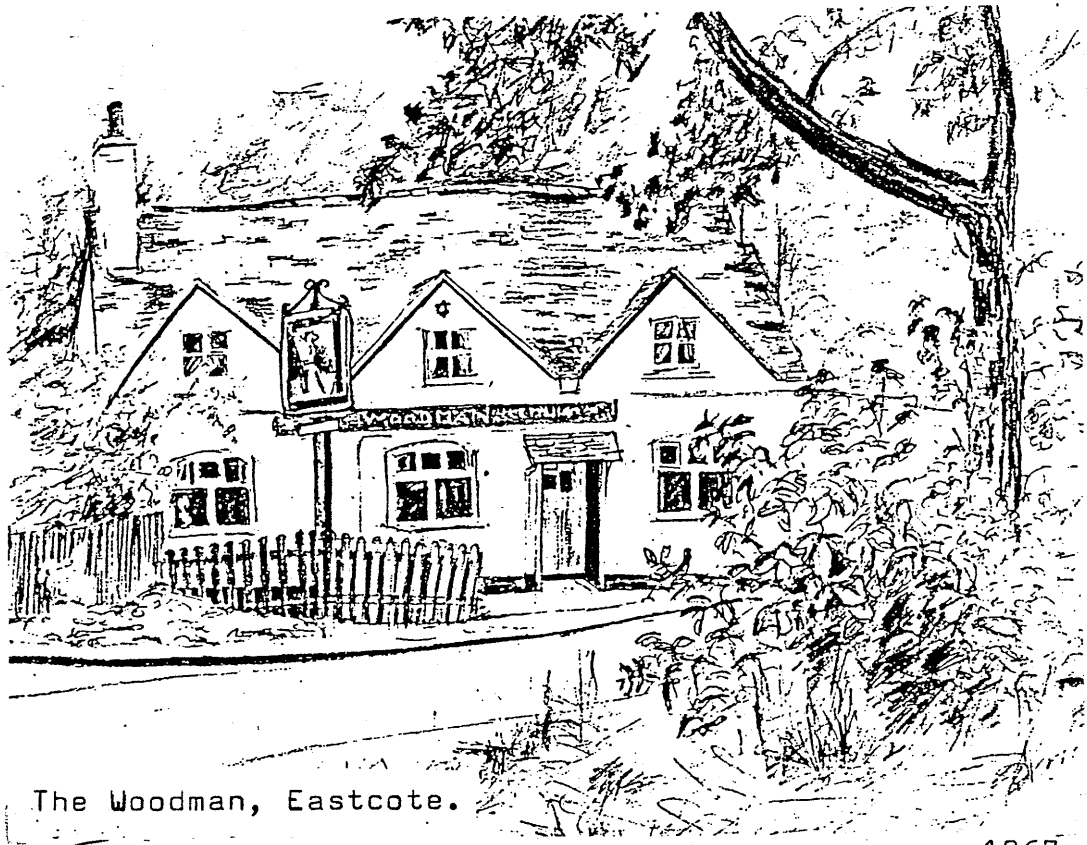
Those present formed a caretaker committee with Sir Christopher Cowan accepting the office of Chairman, Mr. R.G. Edwards that of Secretary and Mr. C.J. Morrell the Treasurer. Following publicity in the Press, Mr. L.E. Morris joined the group. He had been engaged in research on Ruislip's history for several years and had published his book "A History of Ruislip" in 1956 and numerous articles in the Journal of the Ruislip & District Natural History Society from 1953 onwards. At an inaugural public meeting held at Manor Farm Library on 22nd May 1964, he gave a talk on the general basis of local history and pointed out the many deficiencies in knowledge of the immediate area.

45 people joined and right from the start the society determined to be active in research. Working parties were formed to:- photograph the area (C.J. Morrell, leader); catalogue existing records and sources of information (L.E. Morris); survey and list memorials and gravestones (Miss M. Hoare); study the origin of street names (R.G. Edwards); and undertake archaeology (R.M. Derricourt).

The programme began with Miss B. Provan from the Middlesex County Record Office speaking of Ruislip material held there (22nd June) and the first outing (5th July) was a tour of St. Martin's and Manor Farm, led by Mr. L.E. Morris. A "dig" was begun in Parker's Field in September, where the Winston Churchill Hall was about to be built and in October the committee decided to publish "Ruislip-Northwood ; the growth of the suburb 1887-1939". by D.W. Massey, who had given a talk on the subject to the September meeting.

It was a brave beginning. Twenty-five years on it behoves us to look back and ask ourselves whether we have lived up to the ideals and aspirations set by our founder members.

by Colleen A. Cox



The Woodman, Eastcote.

Drawing by Karen Spink 1967

Public houses are amongst the most durable of British institutions, an observation which is as true for the local area as it is nationally. Although much changed in appearance and character, of the fifteen licensed premises mentioned in the mid-19th century censuses, twelve have survived and are functioning at the present time.

There were two types of establishment in this area in the last century, beerhouses and inns. The 1830 Beerhouse Act allowed any householder who was assessed to the Poor Rate to sell beer from his house on payment of two guineas to the Customs and Excise and in 1861 there were eight such beer retailers. Inn keepers required a licence granted by a Justice of the Peace, which allowed them to sell wines and spirits and a number also provided food and accommodation. In this area the census enumerators described the proprietors of inns as either licensed victuallers or publicans. By 1871 their number had increased to eight when two former beerhouses, The White Bear at King's End and The Woodman in Eastcote had become fully licensed. The occupiers in each of the census years from 1851 to 1881 have been listed together with the owners recorded in the 1863 rate book (Table I).

Most of the licensees were local men but those at The George, The Ship, and The True Lovers Knot were newcomers to the area, mostly from Buckinghamshire and other parts of Middlesex. Interestingly, John Brownhill from Hampshire, the licensee at The True Lovers Knot in 1881, had been recorded in 1871 as a general servant in the household of the vicar, the Reverend Christopher Packe, and his first wife Mary had been the cook.

TABLE I
LICENSED PREMISES 1851 - 1881

Public-house	Owner 1863 Rate book	Censuses		
		1851 ←	1861	1871 → 1881
<u>RUISLIP</u>				
Six Bells *	S. Salter	George Ive	Maria Ive	George Ive
The Plough	A.B. Smith	James Stint	Charles woodman	Thomas Watkins
The woodman	G. Harman	Joseph Hill	Joseph Hill	Joseph Hill
The George *	Reid & Co.	Matthew Ratcliffe	Henry Perryman	James G. Marshall
The Swan *	S. Salter	James Godliman	James Godliman	James Godliman
One Bell (Brick-layers Arms)	S. Salter	William Doughty	Ann Barringer	Ann Barringer
White Bear *	G. Harman	James weedon	James Weedon	Emma Weedon
Prince Albert	W. scaffold	W. scaffold		
<u>NORTHWOOD</u>				
The Gate	W. Bourne	Mary Ann Bourne	Mary Ann Bourne	William Bourne
True Lovers * Knot	S. Salter	James Weatherly	Edward weatherly	David Griffin
<u>EASTCOTE</u>				
Black Horse *	S. Salter	Hannah Smith	Hannah Smith	Joseph Churchill
The Woodman *	G. Harman		Thomas Wash	Louisa Wash
Case is Altered	Clutterbuck		Daniel Bedford	Daniel Bedford
The Ship & The Sun *	Whittenstall	Daniel Matheson	Charles Wright	George Tagg
(Field End)	W. Lawrence		Richard Eales	

* Fully licensed

Samuel Salter, a Rickmansworth brewer, owned five local premises, three in Ruislip and one each in Eastcote and Northwood. George Harman, a brewer from Uxbridge owned three, two of which were called The Woodman. The Sun and Ship (later The Ship) was owned by Whittingsalls, the Watford brewery which in 1862 became Sedgewicks of Watford. Clutterbucks of Stanmore owned The Case is Altered. Two small beer-houses were occupied by their owners. One of these, The Gate in Northwood, was owned by William Bourne but run first by his mother and later by his widow.

Not all the premises were licensed throughout the whole period and two were only mentioned in one census year. The Prince Albert at Tile Kiln kept in 1851 by its owner William Scaffold was not run as a beerhouse by his widow although she continued to occupy the house after his death. It has not yet been possible to find the exact location of the other, kept by Richard Eales in 1861, although we know that the cottage was owned by William Lawrence and was near Field End House Farm in Eastcote. These two have not survived nor has The One Bell, although the building remains next to the entrance to St. Martin's Church in Ruislip High Street. This was known for a time as The Bricklayers Arms when kept by William Doughty who was also a bricklayer. In 1851 he lived there with his brother Henry, the sexton and his widowed niece, Ann Barringer, who later ran the business.

Neither Thomas Nash nor Daniel Bedford were beer retailers in 1851 although both lived in the houses which later became The Woodman and The Case is Altered respectively. Nash was formerly an agricultural labourer and Daniel Bedford a carpenter. The Case is Altered was occupied in 1881 by Bedford's son Frederick, a journeyman bricklayer.

Several of the proprietors had more than one occupation. In addition to those at The George who also ran a butcher's shop and William Doughty the bricklayer, those at The Plough in 1851 and 1861 were also hay dealers. Others were farmers and Daniel Bedford was a grocer. A number of local establishments provided accommodation for lodgers, usually no more than one or two, but George Tagg had three at The Ship in 1871 whilst James Godliman had three men lodging at The Swan in 1861 and five in 1871. The lodgers were almost all single men usually from outside the area and employed as agricultural labourers or a journeyman learning a trade.

Although largely frequented by men, some of the licensees were women who, in most cases, had taken over after the death of their husbands. Then, as now, public-houses were the centre of social life for many but, if the local newspapers are to be believed, they too were troubled from time to time by drunkenness and disorder.

The public-houses also served other purposes in the community. Although most of the sales of property, farm equipment and crops took place at the farm concerned or at The Chequers Inn, Uxbridge, the catalogues of such sales were always available at local inns and some of the sales were held there. The Six Bells which served the close-knit community of Ruislip Common, was conveniently near the woods and was a popular venue for the regular wood sales whilst at The Black Horse, Eastcote, growing crops of grain and meadow hay were frequently sold and occasionally wood sales.

Inquests too were usually held at local inns and the coroner, Dr. Diplock, was kept busy in the area. Deaths of infants and young children were common at this time and inquests were only held after sudden, unexplained deaths or after accidents. Some were particularly poignant such as that held at The White Bear, King's End, in May 1878 which involved the sudden death of the five-month old son of the licensee, George Treacher. The examining doctor found the baby to be well-nourished with sound organs but some irritation of the brain and the jury agreed on a verdict of death from convulsions due to natural causes.

Another sad story was that of Owen Alesbury, the three-year old son of George Alesbury, the gardener to Robert Parnell of Ruislip Park. At the inquest held at The George in July 1875 the jury was told that the little boy had been playing with his brothers in the barn when he had caught his hand in the cogs of the wheel of the chaff-cutting machine. The doctor had been called and had treated the injury but a week later lockjaw developed and the child died. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Farming accidents were a regular occurrence and a number ended in deaths. Such was the case of Robert Hewitt who worked at Kewferry Farm in Northwood. At the inquest held at The True Lovers' Knot in July 1872, the jury were told that Hewitt must have been asleep under a cart laden with hay when the cart had tilted and Hewitt was suffocated under it. His body was not found until the following morning.

The following year an inquest was held at The Six Bells when William Tobutt drowned in the reservoir (Lido) whilst visiting his father Daniel Tobutt of Ruislip Common. Probably the most sensational inquest was that which had taken place earlier in the century, in 1837, after the badly-beaten body of fifteen-year old John Brill had been found in the woods near Youngwood Farm. This inquest was also held at The Six Bells but although three local men were thought to be responsible for the murder there was insufficient evidence to convict them.

The inns provided hospitality for such groups as the members of the vestry who reportedly retired to The George or The Swan after their meetings, and the bell ringers who appropriately patronised The One Bell. Some were also available for specific occasions. In January 1875, Daniel Long Junior and his wife obtained a special licence until 5 a.m. for a ball for over 50 people held at The George. This was an occasion on which, according to the local paper, "this usually quiet little village was enlivened". It is possible that Daniel Long Junior was the licensee of The George at this time as it was known that he was a butcher in Ruislip. The butcher's shop was next to the inn and usually run by the licensee. Daniel died in 1875 and his widow Julia was reported in the street directories as the licensee of The Swan in 1877 and 1878 before moving to the Black Horse, Eastcote.

After cricket matches, the teams made good use of the local inns. During the 1860s, matches in Eastcote were played either near Eastcote House or on land behind The Ship Inn. The latter was an obvious choice when Charles Wright was the licensee as he

was a keen cricketer, described in one newspaper account as "a professional underhand bowler of a peculiar pitch". The public-house was known as The Cricketer's Arms for a while during his tenancy and it was not surprising that the teams took refreshment there after the matches.

During the 1870s matches were held in one of Mr. Nash's fields at Haydon Hall Farm and the teams were later entertained at The Woodman where Mrs. Louisa Nash provided an ample repast. Matches in Ruislip were played on land near Manor Farm and William Churchill, who succeeded James Godliman at The Swan, provided the hospitality.

Matches between Ruislip and Eastcote were keenly contested and did not always end harmoniously. The following extract appeared in the local paper on September 14th, 1872 -

"After some spirited play on both sides, stumps were drawn in favour of the Ruislip team. Dinner was afterwards served up at The Swan Inn in Mr. Churchill's very best style for which he received great praise. Although the pleasure would doubtless have been enhanced had the Eastcote XI favoured the company with their presence, the evening notwithstanding passed very merrily".

The ill-feeling did not last long however and after the return match two weeks later when the Ruislip team again won, it was reported that "the whole party repaired to The Woodman where an excellent supper was served up by Mrs. Nash, the worthy hostess, to which ample justice was done and for which she received great praise. The rest of the evening passed very pleasantly in the usual harmonious way when the victors started home giving three ringing cheers for Eastcott (sic)".

Accounts in the local press of the proceedings of the Petty Sessions contained a number of references to public-houses. Some of these related to minor offences. In 1862 Edward Weatherly of The True Lovers Knot was charged with keeping open after hours but as the house had previously had a good record, he was let off with a fine of fifteen shillings. Later that year and again the following year, Joseph Hill of The Woodman, Breake-spear Road, was charged with the same offence. On the second occasion it was reported that there had been a number of complaints about this house and Hill was fined £1 including costs.

A number of accounts referred to drunkenness which sometimes put the licensee at risk. In 1864 Henry Lavender was offered the option of a £2 fine or one month's imprisonment after assaulting Henry Perryman of The George Inn. Eight years later Henry Lavender (possibly the same man) and John Bowden were charged with refusing to leave the White Bear after being asked to do so by the licensee, Mrs. Weedon, and of assaulting the policeman who had come to her assistance.

The assaults were not only carried out by customers. In March 1872 under the headline "A brutal son and a forgiving mother" was an account of the attack on Maria Ive of The Six Bells by her son Henry. Even though her face was so discoloured

from the blow that she was barely recognisable, Mrs. Ive pleaded with the members of the bench that they be lenient. Her son had previously had a head injury which she felt had affected his brain, particularly when he was intoxicated. The Chairman felt that Ive's behaviour had been brutal and inhuman and sentenced him to two months imprisonment without the option of a fine.

The Swan was frequently mentioned in the press in the 1870s when William Churchill was the licensee. In October 1872 Henry Lavender (again) and Alfred Lacey were convicted of drunkenness when on September 16th they had been found lying asleep on a form in the public-house, having spent some considerable time there! A summons was also taken out against William Churchill for harbouring the men. He claimed that he had refused to serve the men for several hours as they had already had too much to drink, but the Chairman of the Bench said that the proper course would have been to call the police to help him get the men out. The case was not considered to be a serious one, however, and although Churchill was fined twenty shillings the offence was not recorded on the back of his licence. At the same sessions Henry Lavender was summonsed for being drunk and refusing to leave The Swan on October 5th. On this occasion he was also charged with an assault on William Churchill and he, in turn, accused the latter of assault. This charge was dismissed but Lavender was convicted of both drunkenness and assault.

It was hardly surprising that in 1873 the Justices expressed their reluctance in renewing Churchill's licence because of the evidence of great irregularity in the running of the public-house. They did so however but there were further problems in January 1874 when Churchill's brother-in-law, George Ive, was charged with being drunk in a licensed house and William Churchill was summonsed for allowing him to remain there. Ive was fined five shillings with twelve shillings costs while on this occasion Churchill was fined £3 and had his licence endorsed.

Even though he does not seem to have stayed at The Swan much longer, his problems were not over. In April 1874 he issued the following notice to tradespeople - " I hereby give notice that I will not be answerable for any goods supplied to my wife Harriet after this date, unless my consent is first obtained". The notice was signed W.M. Churchill Junior, late The Swan, Ruislip.

Although there were difficulties from time to time, most of the public-houses seemed to have been flourishing businesses with some diversification which clearly met a local need. At this distance it is not possible to comment on the quality of the beer and although this may have been a factor, it is most likely that regular customers frequented a public-house that was near at hand, where the company was good and the atmosphere convivial.

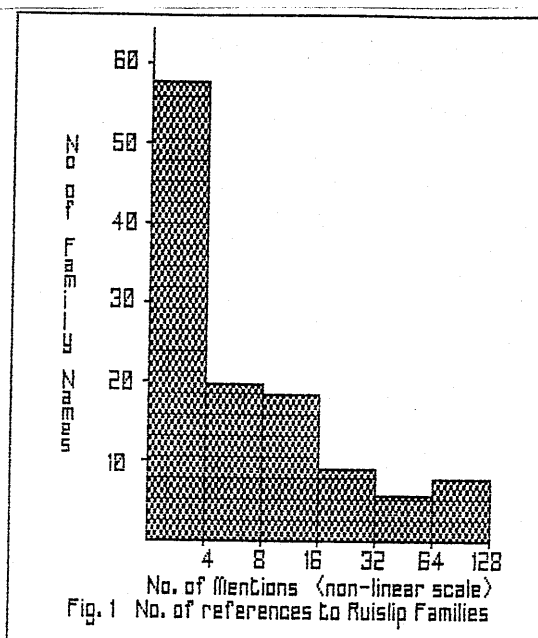
Sources

1. Censuses for 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 - copies available at Ruislip Library.
2. Rate book 1863 - transcript available at Ruislip Library.
3. Local newspapers - on microfilm at Uxbridge Library.

SOME SIXTEENTH CENTURY RUISLIP FAMILIES

by Derek Jacobs

An index of Ruislip names referred to in the 16th century wills, the 1565 Terrier and some of the 16th century Court Rolls, includes some 107 surnames. Some of these occur only once or twice while others occur much more often as is shown in Fig. 1.



Only 6 families are mentioned on more than 64 occasions and all but one of these families have members who were headboroughs at some time (Table 1). A headborough was an official appointed by the manor to carry out a range of duties which included supervision of the watch, upkeep of the stocks, dealing with criminals and riots, supervising beggars and seeing to the welfare of the poor.

Table I. Families whose names occur more than 64 times

Name	Frequency	Headboroughs
Nicholas	126	John: Robert of Hale End
Fearne	116	James: John of Wylcheres
Reading	88	John
Robins	81	none
Mower/Winchester	76	John
Nelham	69	Robert: William

The families listed will be examined in more detail and some family trees will be shown. The Mower and Winchester families are treated as a single family because most of the references to them are as "Mower als Winchester" or "Winchester otherwise known as Mower". In all family trees where no surname is given, the surname is that of the family.

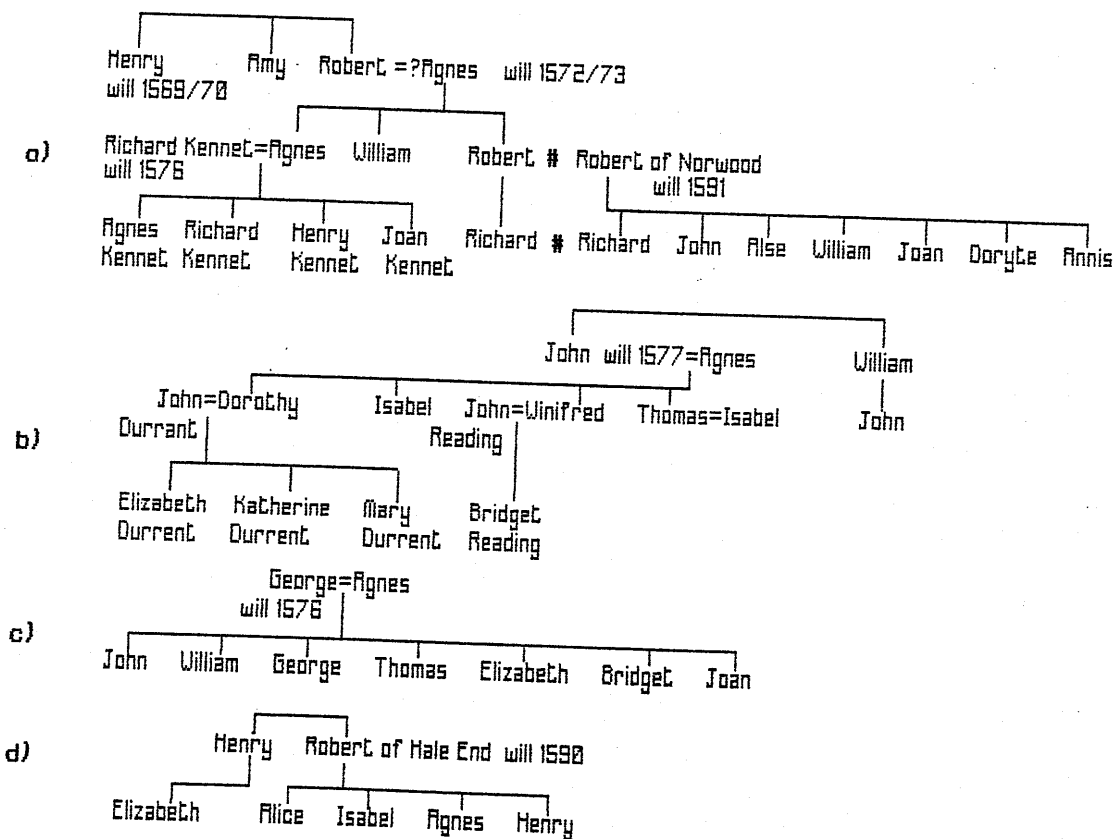
THE NICHOLAS FAMILY

Variously spelt Nicholas, Nicholles, Nicklas, Nocholas, Nycholos, Nycolas.

The earliest reference to this family is 1521 when John and Robert Nycholas were witnesses to the will of Thomas Ferne, John also being an executor. The majority of references are in the later half of the century and Figure 2 shows the family groups as far as they can be established.

The two headboroughs were John, headborough of Ascott (i.e. Eastcote) in 1575 and Robert of Hale End (the area near Highgrove) in 1576. It might have been this John (2b) who was married to Agnes and who made a will in 1577, or possibly his nephew, son of William. Robert of Hale End made a will in 1590 whilst a second Robert, referred to as Robert of Norwood (i.e. Northwood) made a will in 1591. The two were thus contemporaries which makes it difficult to link either of them to earlier families although possible linkages are shown.

Figure 2 NICHOLAS FAMILY TREES



indicates that the two names linked may be the same person

In his will dated 1569/70, Henry Nicholas (2a) left four freehold lands in Pinner to his brother Robert. Later, Robert of Norwood in his will of 1591, had a son Richard and also left four lands in Pinner. It therefore seems possible that Robert the brother of Henry was married to Agnes who made a will in 1572/73 and that her son was Robert of Norwood, especially as both had sons named Richard.

In the 1565 Terrier, a Robert Nicholas of Northwood owned the house which is now called Green End and which stands in Dene Road. In addition to the land left to his son, Robert of Norwood also made provision in his will for his daughter to receive stock from his land and some of the household goods.

Item I gyve to Alse my dayghter the black cowe Called Ringstone(?) the baye mare three weathers the best bedstead with the best bead best bolster a pillow ye best coverlet a blanquite ij^r payre of fynest sheets the best Cofer in the corne lofte the Cubord in the hall the best brasse pott the Cowdren with ij (illegible) inges one kettle one postnett ij table clothes iij platters ij porringers one saltseller one pewter candlestick a mortar with pestell one spitt a paire of cobyrons a dropping pan ij napkins ij Cushins ij barrells ij boules one tubb one kyver a littell table one stoole also I geve unto her everie yeare so longe as she shall live x s to be paid her by my sonne william by even portyons at ij several times of the yeare that is to see at the ffeast of St myhall and at the Annuncyacon of the Virgine Mary. (Michaelmas 29ch Sept. and 25th March)

Item I geve to Joane my daughter a bedstead a bed a boulster a pillowe a coverlitt a blanquite ij paire of sheets the Cubbord in the Chamber the old cofer in the Corne lofte a blacke Cowe iij wethers ij kyttles ij tableclothes iij peeces of pewter two porringers one candlesticke one saltseller ij napkins ij boules one tubb one kiver ij stooles ij Cushins a gridyron.

Item I give to Doryte my daughter a blacke cowe with a share in the forth and ij lampes iij peeces of pewter ij paires of sheets ij napkins

Item I give to Annis my daughter a bed a coverlett a blanquitte a bolster a pillow ij paire of sheetes the best Cofer in my loft(?) ye ould Cofer in the Chamber beneath one kettell one brasse pott a red cowe ij ewes and ij lambes ij tableclothes iij peeces of pewter ij porringers one candlesticke one saltseller ij napkins ij bowles one tub one kyver ij stooles ij Cushins a gridyron

In addition to the headborough, Robert of Hale End (2d), there is also a reference in the wills to John of Field End (Field End Farm near Eastcote Library). Other references in the 1565 Terrier indicate that the family also owned property in Fore Street and "a cottage on Raysons Hill called Jowles". Robert Nicholas owned the house at the bottom of Fore Street now called "Four Elms" and higher up the lane, Richard Nicholas had two cottages in the angle between the ancient park boundary and the road, which no longer stand. "Jowles" is now "White Cottage" and is reached from Harlyn Drive.

Not all the family lived in Eastcote, however, as there is also a reference to a william of Perivale, a Henry of Wyng and a John of Pinner as well as Robert of Northwood.

A further member of the family, George Nicholas (2c), made a will in 1576 in which he left his smith's shop to his wife,

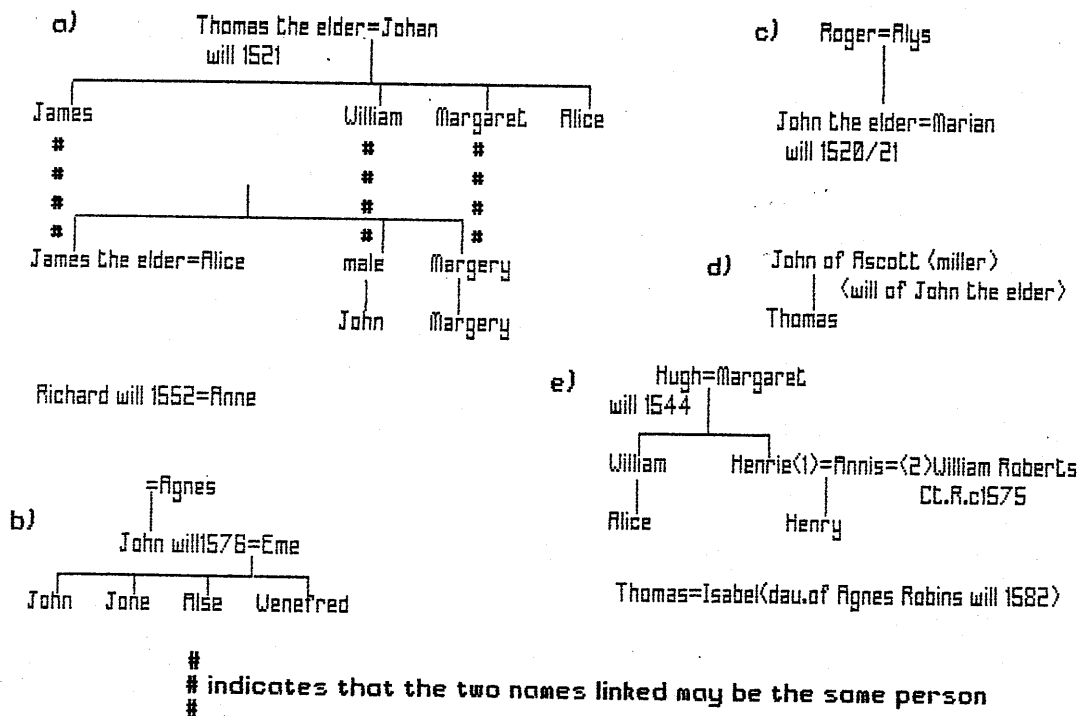
Item I geve to Agnes my wief all my goodes that belongeth unto my Shoppe of Smiths craft or science for the tearme of xij yeares in manner and forme followinge That is she shall have the use occupacion profitt or comoditie to occupie or to lett them to other duringe the saide tearme of xij yeares and at the ende and tearme of xij yeares she shall leave them to the use of John my sonne and yf he shall soe longe live as good as nowe they be and yf John my sonne fortune to die before the ende and tearme of xij yeares and havinge not yssue them to the use of George my sonne and his heirs

The Nicholas family also had marriage ties to the Reading the Kennet, the Cogges, the Edlin and the Durrent families.

THE FEARN FAMILY

Variously spelt Fearn, Fearne, Fern, Ferne.

Figure 3 FEARNE FAMILY TREES



References to this family occur regularly throughout the 16th century but the total number of individuals covered is not very great. A James Fern was headborough of Ascott in 1552 and it seems likely that this was James the elder who made a will in 1568 and who was the son of Thomas the elder (will 1521)(2a).