

## PARK ROAD 1841 – 1911 What the census records tell us



It has not been possible to pin any residents to particular properties until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century because none of the houses had names till then; also, the compilers of the census records were not consistent in the way they went down the street making records – they may have gone straight down one side then up the other, or started at one end one year then at the other 10 years later (thereby listing in reverse), or they may have crisscrossed at random – we

just don't know precisely how they worked.

To make things even more complicated, many of the properties that now appear as one house were originally two or even three smaller ones, thus making it impossible to work out with any degree of certainty who lived where. The result is that we have accumulated many names and have tried our best to match them up, but to quote Morecombe and Wise, they are *“not necessarily in the right order”*. Even speaking to older and past residents has not clarified things as few remember the exact same people living in the exact same houses in the exact same order.



The only exception is the cottage on the bend of Dyers Lane called *“Tally Ho Cottage”*, which is often specified in the census records from 1841 onwards. This old cottage was demolished c.1924 and a new house built in its place called *“Saviours Bank”*, though the name 'Tally Ho' lives on in a modern bungalow on the opposite side of the road.

How the cottage got that name is a mystery – maybe it had a connection with the local hunt, for the phrase “Tally ho!” dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century French “*taiaut, a cry to excite hounds to hunt deer*”. Thus in 1841 we know that “Tallio” was occupied by a 30 year old carpenter called George Tracy and his wife Ann and three young children and in 1871, there was a 33 year old “*ag lab*” called George Smith, with his wife Alice and an unmarried 56 year old lodger, John George Ward. In 1891, John Booker, a 55 year old “*ag lab*” lived there with his wife Ann and their three children - the eldest, William ('Wiggy'), was 23 and worked as a pedlar despite having lost an arm in a farming accident at the age of 14 – he lived till 1946 and is still remembered by some of the older residents of Park Road. The last record for 1911 shows it was home to Harry Lewis Wheatcroft, a 31 year old gardener, his wife, Evelyn, and two infants, Harry (3) and Lewis, less than a month old when the census was taken.

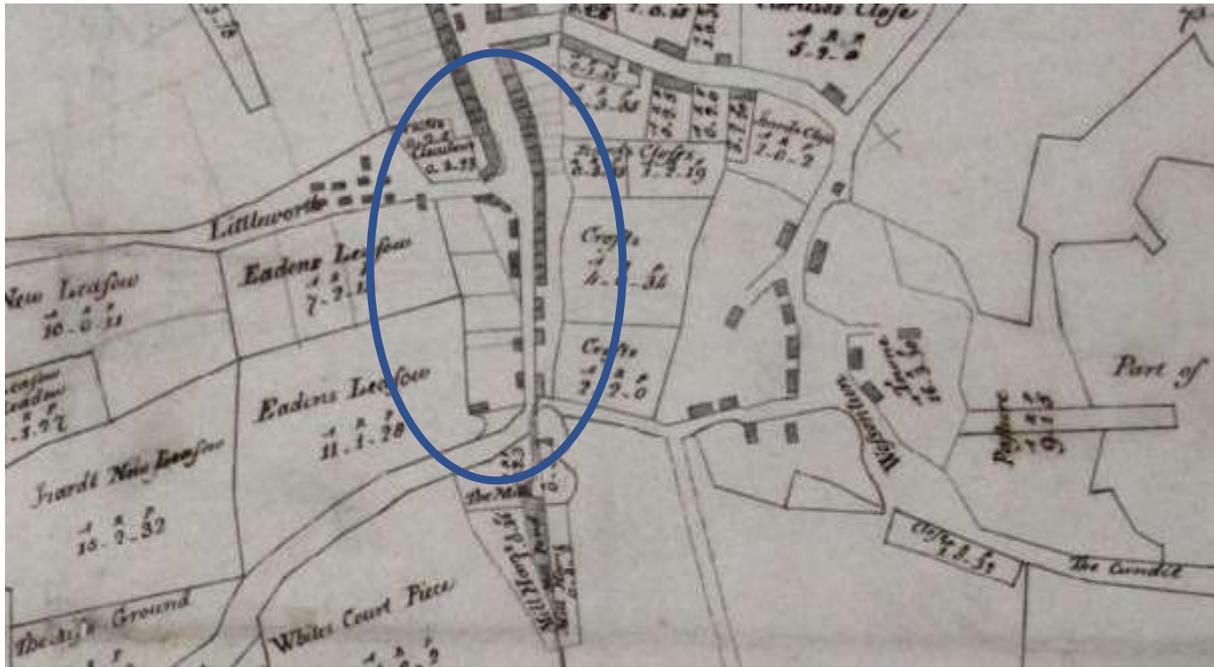
The only other property named in the early census records is adjacent to “Tally Ho” and called “Gosbury House”, but where exactly it was is a mystery. A basket-maker called Henry Turvey lived there in 1841. He was 31 years old, and lived with his wife Elizabeth, and three young children, baby Elizabeth being only 6 days old the day of the survey. No house of that name appears after this record though there are two properties on the north side of the road on the earliest maps of 1722 up till the 1923 map.



One of them must have been demolished, and the other renamed as “Yverdon”.

### **1841 census**

In earliest census, from 1841, gives a snapshot of a pre-industrial age where most of the inhabitants worked the land. There were 50 properties listed but, as was to be the case with later census records, we have no idea how far this extended into what is now Lower High Street as it includes the “Rose and Crown”: the first page has “*Littleworth Township*” written in the margin, which although confusing refers to some old cottages at the bottom of Hoo Lane. But the area featured is all counted as Victoria Street, renamed since the Queen came to the throne in 1837, and with no possible way of knowing exactly where all these cottages stood, “Victoria Street” has been studied in its entirety, assuming it mostly refers to Watery Lane.



There were 223 people listed in 1841, 107 males, 116 females, and 79 of them children of under 15 years. There were seven people who had reached their three-score-years-and-ten, the oldest being Ann Blakeman, whose age was given as about 80. She lived on till the age of 92 and her burial record shows she had been born in 1756.

There were two flax dressers working in the street then – Thomas Hobbs, aged 55, and Charles Harris, aged 66 - but none left by the next census. Back in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, flax had been widely grown around the town and a flax mill operated in 1838 employing 47 hands, but the trade died out altogether later.



Park Road in the early 1900s before the road was 'tarmaced' and probably looking as it had for 100 years.

There were a couple of tailors – Henry Fletcher (25) and a journeyman tailor called William Green (38) – and a couple of shoemakers – William Langstone (24) and Samuel Trinder (29),

whose family lived in the street for many years thereafter. There was a gardener, Benjamin Blakeman (40) and a basketmaker, Henry Turvey (31); also a carpenter, George Tracy (30), a chimney sweep, Joseph Cherry (35), and two painters, George Rough (27) and John Davey (30). The occupant of what is now the Volunteer had a sideline as a mason – this was George Tomes (49). There were two butchers, George Truby (57) and George Manton (50), and two hawkers who sold door to door – John Taylor (30) and William Plested (40). No one is listed as receiving poor relief, though this would feature in future records for several inhabitants of Watery Lane.

In 1841, no mention is made of children as “*scholars*”: their age alone is given. The church registers show that many people were unable to sign their name when getting married, even till the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so presumably there was little formal schooling available, and as soon as they were old enough to contribute to the family’s income, they would start work, either on the farms, or, in the case of girls, at the silk mill round the corner in Sheep Street, though the youngest actually listed here is 13 year old Ann Estbury.



c. 1910 Silk Mill, Sheep Street



Eleven women and girls worked here at the “*silkwork*”, as well as one man, John Blakeman (23). They would have been spinning silk thread, which was then taken to Coventry to be made into ribbons. There had been an extension to the mill in 1834 to provide space for a new steam engine of 12 horse power, so business was thriving there at this point.

#### **1851 census**

By 1851, there were 21 employees from the street at the mill, all female and ranging in age from 8 year old Mary Harris, who worked with her 10 year old sister, Hannah, to 60 year old Sarah Cooper. Among them were several women with their daughters, such as Susannah Newman (34) and her daughter Elizabeth (13) and a family of 3 sisters, Harriatt (18), Ellen (16) and Fanny (12). Some of them are referred to as “*silkwinders*”, who

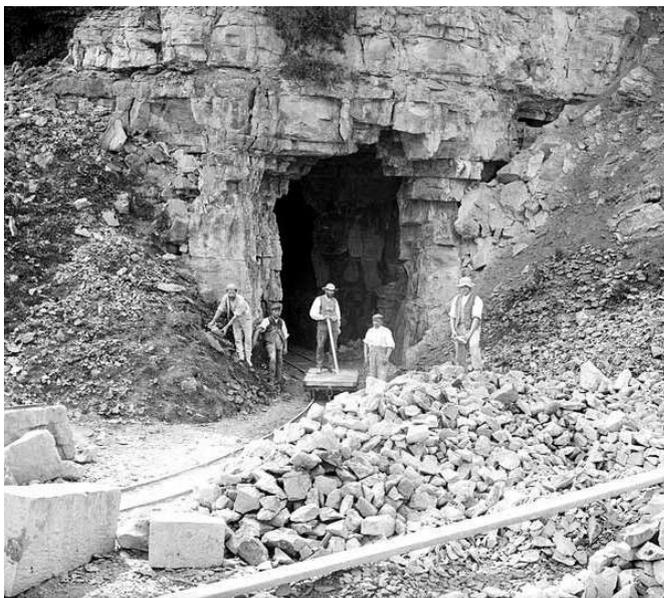
wound the silk thread onto spindles to put in the shuttles. Young girls were valued for these jobs because they had soft and nimble fingers to join together broken threads.

The population total was almost the same as it had been in 1841, but the jobs being done were changing. There were 114 males and 108 females, a total of 222, so virtually the same as before. There were eight people over 70, the eldest being 87 year-old James Brotheridge. As well as the silk mill offering employment, a new source emerged now as the railway line between Wolvercote Junction near Oxford to Honeybourne was under construction from 1849 till 1853, and it was opened on 4<sup>th</sup> June of that year. Although this provided work for younger men, we now see a total of 11 inhabitants relying in poor relief from the parish. This included two neighbouring households, the Hartwells and Brotheridges, all elderly. It is hard to imagine the misery of life in the home of 77 year old farm labourer John Wilks, whose wife Constant (79) relied on this poor money to help look after their daughter, Sarah (44), described as “*insane*”: a reminder of life among the rural poor before a national health service was able to help provide care.



The new railway provided a number of opportunities, and we see men arriving from all over the Midlands to work – Abbots Bromley, Northampton, Lutterworth, Birmingham Stroud, Market Harborough – as well as further afield – Scotland and Dublin are mentioned. Some of the men are described as “*railway miners*” or “*excavators*”, such as John

Taylor (24), George Mash (38), and William Hooper (25), others more general labourers, such as Charles Marles (26) and John Sandal (19). In some cases, fathers worked with sons – William Wilson (66) worked alongside sons James (28) and Emanuel (21), and in one household, a tailor named John Brotheridge and his wife Hannah had five lodgers all “*rail road labourers*”: James Hall (31) from Snittersfield, Daniel Smith (24) from Hook Norton, Thomas E. Bather from Harmerhill, and Henry Holding (22) and Charles Holin... (21), both from Great Haywood. There were 23 labourers in all.



The construction work required other skills too, hence a total of 9 stonemasons such as John Stanley (59) and his son Richard (21), and William Taylor (45) and his sons William (20) and Daniel (16), as well as “*stone cutters*” William Plested (53) and his son William (17), and “*brickmakers*”, Charles Wood (36), Thomas Smith (21) and John Leythorp (48).

Stonecutters at Westington Quarry

Two men were employed to work on the turnpike road – Robert James (40) and John James (35), possibly related. Robert and his wife, Sarah Plested had a son called Enoch who was still living in the street with his own family at least until the time of the 1911 census. After building the turnpike, he appears back doing agricultural labouring work before finally moving into the Almshouses by the 1891 census.

One of the householders is specifically referred to as a “*lodging house keeper*”: this was John Taylor, a 41 year old general dealer who hailed from Burton-on-Trent. He and his wife Mary (39) already had a large family of six children but must have had space to accommodate 11 lodgers, many of whom were railwaymen and their wives. Annoyingly, we have no way of knowing where this was – could it have been a property now demolished, perhaps where Brick Kiln Row was built in the 1890s?



Brick Kiln Cottages on the left, three stories high

One entry, for Elizabeth Brotheridge (40), is scarcely legible but seems to read “husband at America” – had he gone to help build railways there? Another woman is listed as a “*school mistress*”, at the age of 68, possibly working in the Infants School. There were 66 children under 15 at this point, 27 of them at school, though no doubt many were employed well before reaching this age.

### **1861 census**

The 1861 census record for “*Water Lane*”, as it now reverts to, encompasses 85 properties, an increase of 37 since 1851. Again, we do not know which properties were classed as being in “*Water Lane*”, but some were clearly included beyond the present-day road cut off from Lower High Street.

The number of inhabitants rose to 354 - 196 males and 158 females - 140 of them children aged below 15, of whom 79 attended school, including poor little Henry Stowe and William H. Brooks who were only two years old. There were now 11 people over 70, the oldest being Sarah Wilks, 83, whose husband Thomas was still working as an agricultural labourer at 71 years old; however, no-one was in receipt of parish relief at this time.

There were still around 70 men and boys working on the land (almost double that of 1851 in fact), but work on the new railway continued, with more variety of jobs being listed: there were two wheelwrights to make cartwheels - Thomas Watts (21) from Icomb in South

Gloucestershire, and local man, Enoch Shepherd (22). There was a specialist “*wrought [iron] nail maker*” from Birmingham called Benjamin Clift (46), five more carpenters, such as 56 year old John Smith from Ebrington and his son Charles (20), and Edwin Keitley (32) whose family continued in the street for many more years. Nine masons are listed and five plasterers, including brothers Charles (44) and Thomas Merryman (51), another family who also lived in the street for decades to come.

Carters were needed to move men, machines, soil and stone and we have the names of 4 of them: Joseph Harris (44) from Aston-sub-Edge, John Illman (51) from Epwell, Oxfordshire, George Finch (30) from Weston-sub-Edge, and William Timms from Ebrington, still working as a farmhand-cum-carter at 75 years old. And there are a couple of grooms to tend all the horses needed in the building work listed too –John Brooks (33) from Chipping Norton, and Job James (20).

It was in 1862 that the silk mill closed and from employing 21 females back in 1851, the

census shows only one employee from Water Lane still working there – Sarah Wilks (53) as a silkwinder. Interestingly, women now took up employment from home to earn a small amount of money - eight women are named as dressmakers, including Milisent Carter (24) from Childswickham, Sophia Howley (20) and Mary Taylor (17), all unmarried.



Glove-making tools and a sketch of a gloveress

A further 18 women worked as Gloveresses making kidskin gloves: unmarried women such as sisters Caroline (33) and Helen Troughton (30) work at this, but also married ones too, such as Mary Taylor (42) and her daughters Ellen (16) and 8 year old Mary. The women would sit outside the back door to stitch pre-cut skins into gloves. At least it didn't take up much space as they kept their work in lap cloths which could be easily rolled up when not in use. Each pair would take about 5 hours to make - they could make 2 - 3 pairs per day depending on the amount of time spent - for which they would be paid about 5d a pair, with a farthing extra of binding buttonholes.

Other services appear on the census now – three pubs are named, one of them further along “Water Lane”, known as the “Rose & Crown” run by 32 year-old butcher, Frederick Phipps from Moreton-in-Marsh – showing how people multi-tasked in those days. There was a new publican at the “Volunteer” called Richard Griffin (46) who also (somehow) operated as a both farmer and baker. The place had acquired the name since becoming a recruitment venue for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment around the time of the Crimean War. A third “*beerhouse keeper & brewer*” is listed called Thomas Dunn, aged 40, but the property is unnamed and it must have been one of the many small establishments. There was another butcher in business by now, again on what is now Lower High Street, run by Charles Ladbrook, 26, from Mickleton, his cottage still bearing the nameplate and with iron meat hanging rails on the exterior.

As well as John Taylor still providing general goods as in 1841, we find an itinerant hagler or hawker called James Cooper (53) and two bakers: William Wynniatt (41) from Stanway, and George Shepherd (19).

### **1871 census**

By 1871 however, there were three elderly residents described as “*paupers*” – James Cherry (63), Mary Esprey (75), and William Wilson: he was 78 and the joint oldest in the street along with Joseph Blakeman, who was still employed as a gardener. The total number of people living in “Watery Lane”, as it now was called, appears as 215 - 112 males and 103 females. There were 85 children, 59 of them at school. This total is a drastic reduction from the previous decade, but this is clearly due to a redefinition of the street’s boundaries, back to the similar totals for 1841 and 1851; in fact, from now on the total for each census hovers around 200.

Most of the men again worked as agricultural labourers – 53 are listed, another few having a sideline as carters – William Hands (36), and John Hillman (63) and his son, Joseph (21). Four “*gardeners*” are mentioned, probably market gardeners – Joseph Blakeman (78 – see above) and his sons Charles (27) and Henry (43), and John Goodson (67). Two “*farmers*” appear – George Goodson (52) with 7 acres and Eliza Eden (47) with 5. Only one of the railway labourers is still in the street – 39 year old Ely [sic] Burson from Kidlington – and the nailmaker, Benjamin Clift, now 54. Interestingly, a number of the men are journeymen of different trades: carpenters John Smith (66) and Edwin Keitley (42), plumber William Reeks (51), plasterer Charles Merriman (55), mason Benjamin James (66), and butcher William Manton (42). Note also the name John Hartwell, who back in 1861 was an agricultural labourer of 50, but is now listed as a woodsman – the start of a well-known family business that has continued down at Weston-sub-Edge to this day.

Of the womenfolk, there are 14 gloveresses, 5 less than previously, and 3 laundresses – Lavinia Wain (36), Sarah Lane (51), and Mary Cooper (57).

### **1881 census**

The population was virtually unchanged at 214 in 1881, 109 males and 105 females, of whom 86 were children and 64 of them at school. There were seven people over 70, shepherd James Betterton (84) being the eldest. Forty-six men and boys worked the land, with four more men doing general labouring. Samuel Harris (54) worked on the roads, and

Eli Burson, now 48, was still working on the railway. There was a wheelwright, Harry Eden (32); a mason, Benjamin James (77); a builder, Charles Keitley (35); painter William Hine (59); three carpenters – John Smith (77), James Griffin (32) and apprentice, Richard Keitley; – and a new chimney sweep from Liverpool who we know lived on the corner of West End Terrace, James Stafford (39). For more about James Stafford, see: PARK ROAD PEOPLE.



James Stafford participated in the 1896 Floral Parade, wearing a stove pipe hat to advertise his business. He had built a fire grate, mantelpiece and chimney on his dray and with a card reading:

*“Here am I the old flue faked,  
To wait on all I’m willing,  
But don’t forget, for every flue,  
I charge at least a shilling.”*

There was a baker by the name of John Castle (39) from Willersey boarding at the “Volunteer” helping publican Richard Griffin (67) make the bread, and two general dealers, Frank Andrews (28) and the previously listed John Taylor (68). There was also the street’s first Police Constable, 32 year old John C. Edwards from Chedworth.

Two of the women still worked as gloveresses – Mary Clift (50) and Mary Keough (25), with one woman being employed as a charwoman – Maria Merriman (63) and one laundress – Ellen Blakeman (37). Besides two tailors William Cherry (47) and Henry Clift (16), there was a “*bootmaker*”, Nathan James (25), and three dressmakers – Sarah A. Sharpe (34) and sisters Mary (25) and Ellen (15) Hine. But seven women [no men] are given as “*of no occupation*”, the youngest being 14 year old Sarah J. Sharpe and the oldest 78 year old Hannah Wallace.

### 1891 census

The population then dropped a little, for by the 1891 census there are 195 inhabitants, 116 males and 79 females. The oldest was William James at 75 years old. Employment patterns are clearly changing – only 18 were agricultural labourers, with a further 17 general labourers, and another three men working on the roads – William Hughes (36) and George Bylid (25) with old hand, Samuel Harris (63). There were now four masons – William Harwood (20), Joseph Williams (50), Charles Keitley (19) and John Harwood (30) - as well as carpenter John Hughes (62) and wheelwright James Williams (15). Five of the younger men were operating as carters – John Brotheridge from Birmingham (23), Joseph Blakeman (19), and Alfred Fletcher (17), with two of the specialising in agricultural work – Henry Keen (39) and newcomer from Chipping Norton, the picturesquely named Caleb Biggerstaff.

Meanwhile there were four shepherds – William Hands (56), Alfred Smith (27), Charles Hedge (26), and Samuel Henry Bennett (16) - one hedgecutter, James Keeley (69) – and a total of 5 woodmen: William Manton (62), William Blake (55), and 3 incomers from Kidderminster, David Broadhurst (35), and John and Henry Wilkes, 23 and 22 respectively.



John Harry Phipps, rural postman, outside his home.

Attention is drawn to a new miller at the watermill, Henry Bennett (43) and two entirely new types of jobs – a “*rural postman*”, 18 year old John Harry Phipps, and a “*bus driver*”, 21 year old William Hands.

Only three women continued as gloveresses – Mary Bennett (35), Anna Merriman (35), and Eliza Keeley (43), who later may have sold some in the little shop at the front of her house opposite the “Volunteer”.

The 1891 census lists a newly built row of brick 3-storey cottages, Brick Row (now Brick Kiln Cottages) so we can at least place some of the people named above. We also know now that two adjoining properties, set back from the road, both went by the name of “Orchard Cottage” and were occupied by two shepherd families, the Hands and the Smiths.

### 1901 census

Ten years on, after the turn of the new century, there were 200 inhabitants, 107 males and 93 females. 76 children are listed, but for some reason, only one down as a “scholar” – 11 year old Richard Williams. Most of the jobs relate to the land: three shepherds, 16 “*ag labs*” and a “*fieldwoman on a farm*” - Mary Ann Holloway (27) - and a woodman, but a new one is mentioned for the first time, that of “*teamster*”. There were three young men doing this job, which involved driving teams of horses for heavy haulage work – 19 year old Frederick Keyte, 15 year old Edwin R. Williams, and 13 year old Edgar Keeley.



It wasn't quite the same as “*steam plough driver*”, which was the job done by 35 year old Charles Brotheridge, who had apparently learnt to drive it from his father, also Charles. They were in demand for steam ploughing over a large area, not only in the immediate environs of Campden but across the Cotswolds and Vale of Evesham too, father Charles carrying a red flag in front of the engine to warn other travellers and pedestrians to keep out of the way.

There was a “*thatcher (house & ricks)*”, 45 year old George Stowe, and along at the mill, Henry Bennett now employed two of his sons, Enoch (16) and Roland (13), to help run the bakery.

Two market gardeners worked the nearby fields producing fruit and vegetables – William Buckland (29), and George Vinn (56) who lived at “Tally Ho” cottage. Even up till the early 1950s, when the land was bought to build houses at Littleworth, there were orchards along Watery Lane, where cherries in particular were grown.

James Aston (39) was landlord at the “Volunteer” now. We know from a Valuation of 1897 done for the Griffins that it comprised both a main bar with a deal dresser and also a “*little bar*”, a bakehouse with two moulding boards, and a kitchen with “10 iron spittoons”; there was a sitting room with pendant gas burner and globe lamps, and a number of bedrooms.

It is also noteworthy going through the census records how older people were still working at physically demanding jobs in these days before old age pensions were available: at the ages of 66 and 67 respectively, William Hands and Charles Plested were still doing general labouring, the latter employed as a “*stone breaker on the highway*”, while among the women, Ellen Blakeman at 64 is still listed as a laundress, and Selina Manton at 68 is a “*seller of coal*”.

### 1911 census

By the time of the 1911 census, the town itself had taken on a different flavour again with the arrival of Charles Ashbee’s guild of tradesmen from London in 1902. We know that it closed down some five years later, but a lot of the men had by then married and decided to settle in Campden, some of them in our street. Charles Plunkett was one: he was a French polisher from Bethnal Green and the move to the Cotswolds gave him a new lease of life after the hardship of life in the east end. At the advanced age of 56, he married local girl, Daisy Bidder, and in 1908, they had a new baby son called Len, who is still remembered by older residents before he moved to Nottingham.



The Guildsmen and company performed amateur dramatics: here 'The Fair Maid of the West'

After Charles died, in 1922, his wife rented out rooms at their house at “Pavement Cottage”, to other guildsmen, one to young printer, Herbert Finberg, who ran the Alcuin Printing Press, and another to Joseph Edward Nuttgens, a stained glass artist.



Stanfred

A few doors away, in the house now called “Stanfred”, was Guildsman and ornamental blacksmith Charlie Downer, 36, from Poplar, Middlesex, and his wife, Mary Gwin; across the road was Ernest Mark Merriman, 23, and working as an enameller of gold and silver, after being trained at the Guild. His father, William Merriman, a farm worker, had lived all his life in Watery Lane but by this time had been blind for seven years and did no work.



In 1911, the thatched house next door, now known as “Brooklyn”, was rented out to the District Nurses, Margaret A. Groom (40) from Cullercoats, Northumberland, and Mary Madden (35) from Wolverhampton. This photo shows Nurse Groom leaning out of one of the windows. She is still fondly remembered by older residents for tending their ailments and patching them up after injuries.

This is a very old property which had been in decay till bought by Ashbee and modernised for his workers to stay in. One of these was Herbert Osborne, an ivory wood worker, whose son Harry wrote an invaluable memoir of life in Campden at this time called “A Childhood in Arcadia”. This includes a photograph, plan and drawing of their cottage by F L Griggs during their time there between 1903 and 1907.

By 1911, Noah Bennett (41) had taken over from his father as cornmillier at Westington Mill, with the help of his 14 year old son, Ernest, and there were another couple of baker’s assistants too – Arthur J. Webb (25) and Harry James (19).



Five of the men worked as gardeners – George Beresford (47), Frederick Blakeman (46), Levi Surman (56), Frank Osborne (28), and Harry L. Wheatcroft (31), who lived at “Tally Ho” with his wife, Evelyn Vinn, the “girl next door” and daughter of fruiterer, George Vinn and his Swiss-born wife, Suzette Martin, who incidentally named their home “Yverdon” after the place of her birth (now renamed “Campden End”).



The street would have looked a little different now as cottages had been demolished at the end of the little orchard opposite the road up to Littleworth, and a pair of semi-detached houses, called “Park Road Villas”, had been built on the site in 1904 by local builder, Robert Smith. One of them was occupied by a William G. Morrey from Banbury, a retired grocers shop manager and his younger sister, Emma Barton (58), who was a widow.

Park Road Villas

A very interesting addition on the 1911 census was the detail of how many years the householder had been married (even if their spouse had died), and also how many children they had had, and how many of these were still living. This is helpful information for family historians as it reminds us of the high level of infant mortality in those days. The worst examples of this are Samuel and Mary Jane Davison, now in their 50s, all 3 of whose children having died, and William and Eliza Franklin from Blockley, both aged 60 and married for 40 years: they had had 13 children in all but nine of them had died.

The population of the street totaled 173, showing a drop of nearly 30 from 1901. 96 were male, and 77 female. Of the 61 children, 14 are listed as attending school. There were 12 residents over 70 and two over 80 – Henrietta Walmeby and Rose Ellen Stafford, the chimney sweep’s widow.

The 1911 census also tells us of any residents with disabilities, so we know that at that time in the street there was 26 year old Florence Howell, who had been deaf and dumb since birth, and Hubert or Herbert Blakeman, who lived at "Collett's Lodge" and had lost his sight 20 years previously. Another man, William Merriman, had been blind for 7 years, and elsewhere we hear of a charity band performance being held for his benefit.