



Burnt House in 1821 (After a painting by Samuel Bellin)

THE FAMILIES OF BURNT HOUSE

**THE HISTORY OF A COUNTRY
HOUSE AND ITS RESIDENTS**

1800 to 1970

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First Edition 2025

Introduction

The house that was carved out of the south wing of Burnt House in Pudding Lane, Chigwell in the early 1970s has been my home for nearly 20 years. During that time, I have often wondered about the people that lived here, in times gone by and the lives they would have lead, when Burnt House was a single residence and home to a succession of affluent families and their staff. To satisfy my curiosity I have, at different times searched through on-line records, gathering various snippets of information, pictures and random details about the house, its residents and the surrounding area, filling a sizeable notebook in the process.

In this booklet I have pulled together everything I have found about the house and the people that lived in it, from the turn of the 19th Century until its demise as a single family home in the early 1970s. The story of the subsequent 5 decades, following the house's rebirth as 6 separate homes is, perhaps a future project.

Amongst its many colourful past residents, Burnt House lists a prominent artist, lawyers, doctors, military commanders, an inventor and a tea merchant, not to mention talented cooks, gardeners and housemaids.

The house itself is believed to have inspired Dickens, who wrote of a burnt house called "The Warren" in his novel, Barnaby Rudge, set in 18th Century Chigwell.

This booklet is written for the benefit of present and future residents of Burnt House and dedicated to the memory of those that lived here before us.

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Pudding Lane

Pudding Lane has existed since the late Middle Ages, although records show that it was originally known as Patershalls or Patsalls Lane. The “History of the County of Essex” notes that the lane, like others in the area was, in its early days gated at the Hainault Forest end to keep out stray animals. It mentions that, amongst the houses known to have existed in the 15th century, were “Martins” (now Marchings) and “Brownings”. These farms still remain between Pudding Lane and Gravel Lane, it also refers to “Pettits and Barns” (which subsequently became “Fullings” and is now Fulhams farm). There was also a manor house known as “Barringtons” on the land that later became the Rolls Park Estate, extending from the northern boundary, of what is now Burnt House, up to the Woolston Estate. The first reference to a building on the site of Burnt House was in records of 1671 which mention “Clarks Tenement” at this location. This would have been one or more cottages occupied by tenant farmers.

Careys Map of 1786 shows the configuration of Pudding Lane at that time to be virtually the same as it is now, some 240 years later





This 1830s watercolour sketch of Pudding Lane at the cottage known as Patsalls (which still abuts the lane to this day), was by James Paul Andre the Younger.

From the collection of Epping Forest District Museum.

Burnt House

There is no record of precisely when the present house was built but, it is fair to assume that, at some point Clarks Tenement (or a subsequent building on the site) was destroyed by fire and the locals came to know the ruins as “The Burnt House”. The builders of the present house clearly retained the name.

Although it has changed substantially since it was constructed there are surviving features that point to the house being of mid-Georgian design. The red-brick porch, which is largely original, contains a vaulted ceiling, fashionable in that period. The mansard slopes and configuration of the chimney stacks all reflect features popular in the latter part of the 18th century. The “Carey’s” Map shown above, dated 1786 clearly shows a substantial building on the site. All of this points to the present house being constructed circa 1775 to 1785. A century later, in 1883 an extension was completed to the north end of the house and there is a stone plaque on the present north wall of the house bearing this date. The house ceased being a single family residence in the early 1970s when the structure was converted into 6 self-contained homes.

In Dickens’ novel, Barnaby Rudge, set in the Village of Chigwell in the late 1700s a mob burnt down a country house called “The Warren” said to be 1 mile, across fields from the “Maypole Inn”. In the book, Dickens merged the “Maypole” name with the location and description of the “King’s Head” Inn in Chigwell Village. Burnt House is reputed to have been one of the houses in the area that served as Dickens’ inspiration for “The Warren”.

The original porch and vaulted ceiling



The families of Burnt House

From various sources, details have been pieced together about the families that lived at Burnt House from the turn of the 19th Century up to the early 1970s, when the building was reconfigured as 6 houses. Prior to 1841 no formal records of the house occupants exist. The first national census was produced in 1841 and these were carried out every subsequent 10th year thereafter. Due to the 100 year confidentiality rule the last cyclical census that is presently accessible is the census of 1921. The 1931 Census for England and Wales was, very unfortunately destroyed in a fire in December 1942. The last accessible national census was the 1939 Register, which for some reason was not subject to the same 100 year restriction and was published in 2010: This was an emergency national census carried out by the government on the eve of World War 2 to take stock of the population as part of the preparations for war. It recorded the people in residence throughout the country on 29th September 1939. No Census was produced in 1941 due to hostilities and the next Census was not taken until 1951. These records, along with Electoral Registers and Genealogical websites have provided invaluable information as to the occupiers of the house at various times.

1. Bellin family:- (Burnt House from c.1800 - 1845)

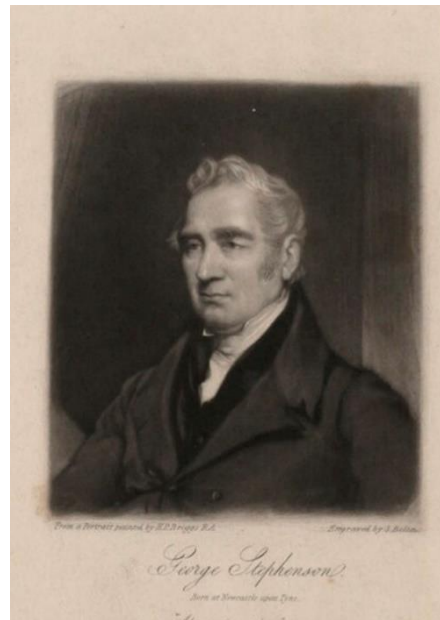
John Bellin & Ann Bellin (nee Mott) are the first recorded owners of Burnt House. They were married on 9th September 1786 and are thought to have acquired Burnt House in the early years of the 19th Century. Records show that they had at least 6 children: John (born 1787), Ann (1795), Robert (1796), Benjamin (1797), Samuel (1799) and William (1801).

It was their 5th child, Samuel who would go on to become, probably the most illustrious former resident of the house.. He was born in London on 13 May 1799 and spent his early years at Burnt House. As a talented young artist he trained under the eminent artist and engraver, James Basire the Younger (a mentor of William Blake) before spending several years in Rome, where he studied with the artists William Turner* and Joseph Severn, amongst others.

{*It may, or may not be coincidental that one of William Turner's most famous paintings, "The Fighting Temeraire" records the 98 gun leading warship of Nelson's fleet at the battle of Trafalgar, which was captained during the battle by Sir Elias Harvey. The Harvey family owned the Rolls Park Estate adjoining Burnt House and Sir Elias Harvey grew up there in the mid to late 1700s.}

Samuel developed a remarkable talent in copying work and after returning to England in 1834, devoted himself to mezzotint engraving. He exhibited many of his works at the Royal Academy and was chiefly known for architectural, portrait and figure engravings of works by many of the leading artists of the day. He is recognised as one of the leading engravers of the Victorian era

Samuel's works include portraits of leading personalities of his day, including The Duke of Wellington, Prince Albert, Florence Nightingale and George Stephenson. Many of these are held at the National Portrait Gallery in London



Portraits of (Left)
Prince Albert of
Saxe-Coburg and
(Right) George
Stephenson

Two of the over
50 Samuel Bellin
engravings in the
collection of the
National Portrait
Gallery, London



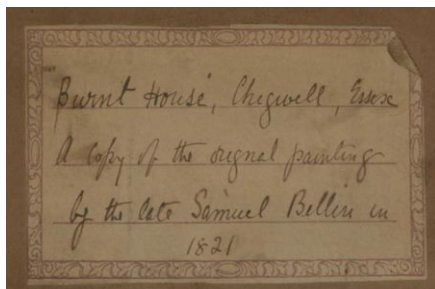
Blue plaque, displayed at the front of 1
Burnt House, commemorating Samuel
Bellin

Samuel married Susannah Southgate in Chigwell on 28th December 1835 and they had six daughters; Susannah (1836), Fanny (1842), Augusta (1843), Alice (1845), Eleanor (1846), Ada (1850) and a son, Arthur (1853) who would go on to become an eminent artist in his own right.

Tithes, historically were taxes payable by landowners to the Church and the 1838 Tithe Register for Chigwell (Essex Record Office D/CT 78a) shows that Samuel had by that time become the owner of Burnt House with 5 plots; a homestead (Burnt House) and 4 fields described as “Hinder Mead, Home Mead, Burnt House Mead and a “Further Pasture” (which is believed to refer to 2 fields behind Burnt House).

The occupier of the house and 4 plots is shown as a tenant of Samuel Bellin, Mary Wright although nothing is known about her occupation of the house. We know, from the 1841 census, that by then Samuel and his family were living in Marylebone along with Samuel’s father, John who was, by then 80 years old. Samuel retired in the early 1880s, and died on 29th April 1893 at his residence in Regents Park Road, Primrose Hill.

The painting on the front cover of this booklet is a 1950s watercolour copy of the painting of Burnt House by Samuel in 1821. The location of the original is unknown but the 1950’s copy is presently displayed at 1 Burnt House. The fading inscription below was on the back of the copy



Samuel also produced an oil painting of Patsalls in Pudding Lane, shown here. The original is now in a private collection in Australia



The image on the right is an original example of Samuel Bellin's work, presently displayed at 1 Burnt House: A colourised Mezzotint Engraving "The Brunette" from 1851, after the painting by Thomas Webster, the original of which is shown below.



John Bellin's eldest son, also called John, married Ann, second daughter of Robert Brockholes of Chigwell Row in 1816. In the 1838 Tithes Register, the younger John Bellin was shown as the occupier of 6 plots in the area. In each case the owner of the land was shown as "Trustee of Brockholes". Records show that his father in law, Robert Brockholes died in 1823 and his estate was presumably held in Trust with John and Ann Bellin having rights of occupation. Two of the plots relate to "homesteads", one of which is referred to as the "Great House". This house, accessed from Chigwell Row, by what is now Grove Lane, off Lambourne Road would have been a substantial mansion. It no longer exists and the Thames Water reservoir now partially covers the Estate that had been occupied by John & Ann Bellin.

Robert Bellin married Hannah Rose and they had a daughter, also called Hannah, in 1825. Benjamin Bellin became a doctor and in the 1841 census was living in Norfolk with his wife, Mary (nee Field). They had 3 children; William, Percy and Ann. In 1866, he was re-married to Sarah (nee Garrod). William Bellin was married to Elizabeth (nee Chapman) and settled in Canterbury, Kent where his death was recorded in 1874. Aside from a record of her birth in 1795, no other record of John and Ann's only daughter (also called Ann) has been found.

DEATH OF MR. SAMUEL BELLIN.

An announcement appears in the *Athenæum* of the death of Mr. Samuel Bellin, one of the last links with the art of the beginning of this century. Born in 1799, he would have completed his 94th year if he had survived till the 13th of the present month. He was the son of John Bellin, of Burnt House, Chigwell (the Burnt House of "Barnaby Rudge"). In his early manhood he studied painting in Rome, where, in company with Turner, Catherwood, Severn, and others, he made rapid progress in his studies, displaying a wonderful faculty for rapid and accurate drawing, and producing some remarkable copies of the more notable old masters which enrich the Eternal City. Returning to England, Samuel Bellin devoted himself to mezzotint engraving, and soon took a position in the foremost rank in his profession, which he held till his retirement some 30 years ago. He was a friend of Landseer, Leslie, and David Cox, and engraved some of their pictures with marked success. Like his contemporaries—Cousins, Pye, Robert Wallis, and Thomas Landseer—he lived a quiet, abstemious life, with the result that, like them, he reached an unusually great age.

The above obituary for Samuel Bellin appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* on 6 May 1893. It makes reference to Burnt House and, interestingly confirms the local belief that it is the "Burnt House" of Dickens' novel, *Barnaby Rudge*.

2. Rippington/Pearce Family:- (Burnt House from c.1845 -1878)

We know, from the Tithe Register, that Samuel Bellin owned Burnt House in 1838 although it was occupied by a tenant. We also know that he and his family were living in Marylebone by the time of the 1841 Census. However, it is not known exactly when Burnt House was sold to the next owners; William and Catherine Rippington.

William Rippington was born in Woodeaton, Oxfordshire in 1774 to Richard and Elizabeth Rippington. William married Catherine Bulford (born in Horton, Oxfordshire in 1785) on 26th October 1811, in Beckley, Oxfordshire. They had 3 children: Elizabeth (1812), Anne (1815) and son, Crews (1818). At some point after the birth of their son, the family moved from Beckley to, what was then rural Harlesden Green in Willesden, Middlesex where, sadly the Rippington's second daughter Anne died in 1834. In the Census of 1841, William's occupation was shown as "Farmer". In 1844 William and Catherine Rippington were living in Aldenham in Hertfordshire but by the time of the 1851 Census, they had moved again: They are shown in the second entry on the extract of the 1851 Census shown overleaf, which gives Burnt House as their address, with William's occupation shown as "Formerly farmer". Aside from William and Catherine, a 20 year old housemaid named Charlotte Bales was also in residence at that time.

22

66

Parish or Township of <i>Chigwell</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
No. of House, or Place, or Suburb, or Hamlet, or Village, or Township	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb
					Males	Females			
72	<i>Melbury Lane</i>	<i>Thomas Bales</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>48</i>		<i>Farmer of 54 Acres</i>	<i>Essex. Waltham</i>	
		<i>Mary A. Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>48</i>		<i>Do. Chigwell</i>	
		<i>Thomas Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>24</i>		<i>Farmer Son (employed at home)</i>	<i>Do. Do</i>	
		<i>Elizabeth Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>U</i>		<i>21</i>	<i>Farmer Daughter</i>	<i>Do. Romford</i>	
73	<i>Melbury Lane</i>	<i>William Rippington</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>78</i>		<i>Formerly Farmer</i>	<i>Oxfordshire Woodstock</i>	
	<i>Burnt House</i>	<i>Catherine Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>		<i>66</i>		<i>Do. Do. Hertford</i>	
		<i>Charlotte Bales</i>	<i>Serv</i>	<i>U</i>		<i>20</i>	<i>Housemaid</i>	<i>Essex. Th. S. P. H. S.</i>	

Extract of the 1851 Census showing William and Catherine Rippington in residence at Burnt House

William died between 1851 and 1861 and by 1861 Catherine had moved back to the Willesden area. However the family's connection with Burnt House did not end there: Matthew John Pearce was born in 1813 in Swalcliffe, Oxfordshire, the son of Thomas Pearce. He married the Rippington's elder daughter Elizabeth on 1st January 1840 in St. Dionis Backchurch, Fenchurch Street in London.

1840. Marriage solemnized by License in the Parish of <u>St Dionis Back</u> in the County of <u>London</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
23	Jan ^y 1	Matthew John Pearce	of age	Bachelor	Tea Dealer	Philpot Lane	Thomas Pearce	Farmer
		Elizabeth Rippington	of age	Spinster		St Pancras	William Rippington	Farmer
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by me, <u>Thomas Heath</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Matthew John Pearce</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>Wm. Rippington</u>		
		<u>Elizabeth Rippington</u>				<u>John Holley and his</u>		

Registration of the marriage of Matthew Pearce and Elizabeth Rippington on 1st January 1840

As can be seen from the extract of the 1861 Census below, Matthew and Elizabeth were shown as residing in Burnt House, with Matthew's occupation noted as "Tea Dealer". On the day of the Census they had a guest staying with them, Creus Eppington, a 41 year old clerk. There were 3 resident staff members, Sarah Danes (32), Housemaid from Brecknock, Ann Stickles (26), Housemaid from Suffolk and Charles Matheson (25), Servant from Stafford. No information has been found to suggest that Matthew and Elizabeth had children. The 1874 Post Office Directory of Essex Residents listed Matthew Pearce at Burnt House and he was resident there at the time of his death on 8th December 1877.

Extract of the 1861 Census showing Matthew and Elizabeth Pearce in residence at Burnt House

101	Burnt House	1	Matthew J. Pearce	Head	Mar	48	Tea Dealer (London)	England (Swalcliffe)
			Elizabeth Ho.	Wife	Do	46		Do (Do)
			Creus Eppington	Visitor	Un	41	Clerk	Do (London)
			Sarah Danes	Do	Do	32	Housemaid	Brecknock (Lancashire)
			Ann Stickles	Do	Do	26	Housemaid	Suffolk (Malden)
			Charles Matheson	Do	Do	25	Servant	Stafford (Codsall)

3. Kemp Family:- (Burnt House from c.1878 - 1895)

The residents of Burnt House changed again, towards the end of the 1870s and the next family to live there would have a major and lasting impact on the property by extending the main house and building additional houses on the plots fronting the lane.

Ebenezer Chapman Kemp was born in 1771 in India, into a family heavily associated with the prominent East India Company. He became a ship's Captain with the Company, ferrying cargoes between India and Great Britain. He married Sarah Margaret Rice (Born 1784) and the couple had 6 children: It was their eldest son, Alexander Davidson Kemp who was destined to become the owner of Burnt House. Alexander was born in Calcutta in 1828, around the time that his father drowned in a shipping accident. He trained as a Solicitor. On 26th August 1862, in Charlecombe, Somerset, he married Anne Webster (Born 1841), daughter of Major Thomas Webster and Selina (nee French) of Walmer, Kent.

At the time of the 1881 Census they occupied Burnt House with 7 children, namely:

Alexander Davidson Kemp (Born 1865 and confusingly given the identical name as his father), Geoffrey Chicheley Kemp. (1868), Mary Selina French Kemp. (1869), Helen Webster Kemp (1872), Fleming French Kemp (1874), Hugh Galifred Duplex Kemp (1877) and Isabel Clementina Binny Kemp (1880). Records show that they had 6 other children at that time, who were not at Burnt House at the time of the Census:- Annie Sophia Kemp (1863), Thomas Webster Kemp (1866), William Edelman Kemp (1870), Ralph Olantigh Kemp (1873), Sybil Graham Kemp (1875) and Selina Theodosia Kemp (1878, but died that same year). By 1881 they therefore had had 13 children, of which one daughter had died very young. A 14th child, Dorothy Abigail Kemp was born in 1882 and appeared in the Census of 1891 (see below).

The first children were born in Charlcombe, Bath in Somerset but by 1874 the family was residing in South Kensington in London. The youngest child, Isabel was born in Chigwell. From these dates (and the date of Matthew Pearce's death) it can be deduced that the Kems moved to Burnt House between 1878 and 1880.

At the time of the 1881 Census there was a guest staying with the family, Emily E. W. Low visiting from Kensington. Emily was the daughter of Charles Rathbone Low and his wife Catherine Charlotte (nee Boileau). Charles had been an officer in the Indian Navy and the navy of the East India Company and Catherine was born in Simla, Calcutta in 1841.

There were also 9 servants at Burnt House:- Six of them were living in the main house:- Leah L. Lloyd (Born 1861 in Norwood, Surrey) – Governess, Eliza A. Luder (Born 1818 in Harwich, Essex) – Lady Maid, Eliza Stacey (Born 1826 in Stogursey, Somerset) – Cook, Sarah A. Henwood (Born 1854 in Everton, Lancashire) – Nurse Maid, Julia Stich (Born 1861 in Weeting, Norfolk) – House Maid, Eliza Wilson (Born 1864 in Ely, Cambridgeshire) – Assistant House Maid,

On the census form there is reference to three Burnt House cottages and the other 3 staff members occupied 2 of those cottages. The first cottage was occupied by a married couple:- James Radley (Born 1827 in Morton, Essex) – Bailiff to A. D. Kemp and Sarah Radley (Born 1811 in Morton, Essex) - ...ury woman (text is unclear) to A.D. Kemp. Another cottage was occupied by William Faux (Born 1856 in Chigwell, Essex) – “Of no home” – Assistant Labourer. The 3rd cottage appears to have been vacant.

Soon after moving to the house, the Kemps must have decided that they needed more space to accommodate their 12 children, (with a further child due in the summer of 1882) and their live-in staff. They had a large extension, referred to previously, built at the north end of the house. From the date plaque embedded in the wall on the northern elevation of the house, the extension would appear to have been completed in 1883.



A recent photo of the 1883 extension plaque.

Extract of the 1881 Census
showing the Kemp Family in
residence at Burnt House

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Ecclesiastical Parish or District of
Chigwell New						Essex	All Saints

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (H)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf and (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or (4) Lunatic
154	Burnt House	1	Alexandra D Kemp	Head	Married	35	First class Clerk for the Navy	Calcutta East India	
			Annie Kemp	Wife	Married	40		Hunt Walsley	
			Alexandra D Kemp	Son	Unmarried	16	Scholar	Charlcombe Bath Somerset	
			Geoffrey C Kemp	Son		13	Scholar	Charlcombe Bath Somerset	
			Mary P Kemp	Daughter		11	Scholar	Charlcombe Bath Somerset	
			Hellen W Kemp	Daughter		9	Scholar	Charlcombe Bath Somerset	
			Clarence P Kemp	Son		6	Scholar	Middleham South Kensington	
			Henry G D Kemp	Son		4		Middleham South Kensington	
			Isabel C B Kemp	Daughter		7 months		Essex Chigwell	
			Emily E W Low	Visitor	Unmarried	17	Lieut Daughter India Navy	Middleham Kensington	
			Leah L Lloyd	Governess	Unmarried	20	Governess	Surrey Norwood	
			Eliza A Liden	Servant	Unmarried	63	Lady Maid	Essex Harwich	
			Eliza Hailey	Servant	Unmarried	55	Cook	Somerset Hogsmead	
			Sarah A Hemwood	Servant	Unmarried	27	Nurse Maid	Lancashire Overton	
			Julia Hill	Servant	Unmarried	20	House Maid	Northampton Wisting	
			Eliza Wilson	Servant	Unmarried	17	Assistant Housemaid	Cambridgeshire Ely	
155	Burnt House Cottage	1	James Radley	Head	Married	51	Bariff to A D Kemp	Essex Norton	
			Sarah Radley	Wife	Married	40	Wife to James Radley	Essex Norton	
156		16							
157			William Paine	Head	Unmarried	25	Improved Age	Essex Chigwell	
							Age 25		

Total of Houses...

2

Total of Males and Females...

4

19

Sadly Anne died, in childbirth when Dorothy was born in the summer of 1882. The 1891 Census shows that Alexander Davidson Kemp (Senior) was the, now widowed, Head of Household, again with 7 children but this time William and Dorothy were in residence and the 2 eldest sons, Alexander Davidson and Geoffrey Chicheley had left. They had a 13 year old visitor, Helen D Martin. The compliment of staff had changed; **Eliza Stacey** (64) Lodge Maid, **Elizabeth Brimhall** (22) cook, **Susannah J C Love** (22) parlourmaid, Frederick Hobbs (62) gardener and Eliza Hobbs (57) “helping with poultry”. There are no longer references to cottages and it is assumed that with the house extension all the staff members could now be accommodated in the main house.

It is not clear when the Kemp family sold Burnt House but it can be assumed that the house was sold to the next owners in the mid to late 1890s. Alexander died in Charlecombe, Bath in 1901

It is interesting to note that the middle names of several of the Kemp children preserved various aspects of the family’s ancestry. The seat of the Kemp/Kempe family in medieval times was the “Manor of Olantigh” in the village of Wye near Canterbury in Kent and the first holder of the Manor was Ralph Kempe (c1283-1313). The medieval house survives and until some 15 years ago was the home of Wye College. Not only did the Burnt House Kems give their son, Ralph, the middle name of Olantigh, but they built a house with the name “Olantigh” on Burnt House land and it still exists, with that name a short distance from Burnt House, southward along Pudding Lane.

Curiously, the map on the right dating from 1888 shows the whole of Burnt House and its adjoining buildings bearing the name “Olantigh Hall” at that time. This was no doubt linked to the desire of Alexander Davidson Kemp to retain the name of the Kemp ancestral estate in Kent. The name was presumably dropped once the Kems left.



Administrative County of Essex

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish

Municipal Borough

Municipal Ward

Urban Sanitary District

Town or Village or Hamlet

Rural Sanitary District

Parliamentary Borough or Division

Ecclesiastical District

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

of Chingwell

Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		Number of persons occupying it last Census	NAME and Surnames of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Whether employed	WHERE BORN	(1)	(2)
	<u>Chingwell Lane</u>														
65	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Alexander D. Kemp</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>General Late butchery &c.</u>	<u>+</u>			<u>London East India</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Mary S. F. Kemp</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>Home</u>				<u>London East India</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>William L. Kemp</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>Undergraduate at College</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Edwin W. Kemp</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>Home</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Edmund F. Kemp</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Schoolboy</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>August F. Kemp</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>Schoolboy</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Isabel L. M. Kemp</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Schoolboy</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Christina L. Kemp</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>Schoolboy</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>William H. Martin</u>	<u>Visitor</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Schoolboy</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Edison H. Kemp</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Large House, Tipton, Essex</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Elizabeth H. Kemp</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Large House, Tipton, Essex</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Thomas H. Kemp</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Large House, Tipton, Essex</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>William H. Kemp</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Large House, Tipton, Essex</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Frederick H. Kemp</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Large House, Tipton, Essex</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		
	<u>Warrant House</u>				<u>Edison H. Kemp</u>	<u>Servant</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Large House, Tipton, Essex</u>				<u>London South Kensington</u>		

Extract of the 1891 Census showing the members of the Kemp Family and their servants, in residence

Stories of some of the Kemp sons & daughters

Geoffrey Chicheley Kemp (1868-1936) pursued a military career, attaining the rank of Brigadier-General. He was wounded in action in 1918, during World War 1, near St. Julien. His son, with the identical name (1890-1976) followed in his footsteps and attained the rank of Major-General in 1942 during World War 2, serving in the Royal Artillery. He was awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry.

Ralph Olantigh Kemp (1873-1951) :- Ralph had a varied career: In 1900 he was listed in Lloyds of London as a "Ship's Captain (no voyages)". That same year he married Dora Parkin in Stepney. By 1906 he had become a farmer and then a builder in 1908 and thereafter a market gardener and pig farmer. At least one of his sons, Robert Parkin Kemp was born in Toronto, Canada. However Ralph died in Taunton, Somerset in 1951.



Photos of two of the Kemp daughters c.1905: Left, Mary Selina French Kemp (born 1869) and Right, the youngest daughter, Dorothy (born 1882). The connection with India was preserved when, on August 22nd 1892 Mary married Charles William Field in Calcutta.

The marriage of Mr. Reginald Francis Knollys, second son of Colonel Knollys, late commanding 93d Highlanders, grandson of the late General Sir William Knollys, K.C.B., and Annie Sophia, eldest daughter of Mr. Alexander Davidson Kemp, of Chigwell, Essex, took place on Thursday, October 18, at St. John's Church, Belize, British Honduras.

Announcement of the marriage of Annie Sophia – 1888

The eldest daughter Annie Sophie was married in 1888 in British Honduras (see above)

KEMP.—Private Hugh Galfrid Duplex Kemp, 7th Battalion 1st British Columbian Regiment, killed at Ypres on the night of 26th April, seventh son of late Alexander Davidson Kemp, Exchequer and Audit Dept., and grandson of the late Major Thomas Webster.

The following extract from the Chigwell School Register details 2 of the Kemp sons attending the school in the 1890s.

Page 77

Kemp, Hugh Galfrid Duplex,
son of A. D. Kemp of Burnt House.,
Chigwell, b. 26th Jan., 1877.

Mids., II.; Lent, 1893,

Page 79

Kemp, Fleming French,
son of A. D. Kemp of Burnt House,
Chigwell, b. 22nd Sept, 1874.

Lent ; Lent, 1891. XI. C.

1890 ; XL F. 1890.

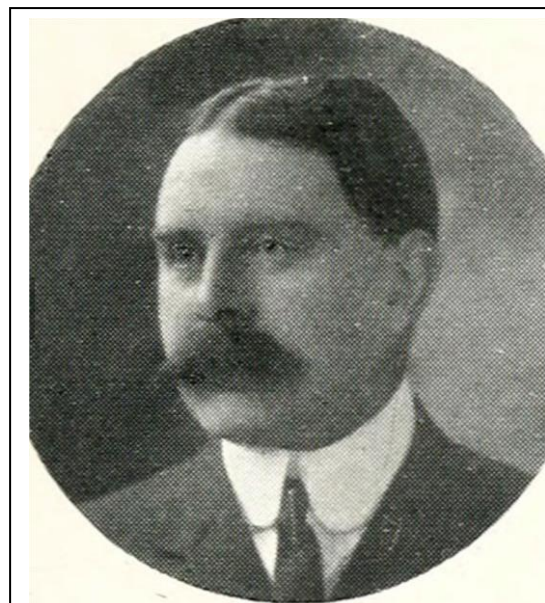
Hugh emigrated to Canada in 1903 but, was killed at Ypres in 1915, serving with the 1st British Columbian Regiment. His name is recorded on the Menin Gate. He was given a full obituary in the Times, as through his mother's line, he was a cousin of Field Marshal Sir John French, the Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force in Europe. (See left)

4. Howard Family:- (Burnt House from c.1895 - 1929)

Alfred Gravely Howard was born in November 1861 in Tottenham, the third of the six children of Joseph Howard M.P. (Born 1834) and Ellen Howard (Nee Waterhouse, born 1835). He was educated at Tonbridge School and served in the 1st Essex Artillery, appointed a Lieutenant in March 1884.

He married Edith Caroline Hare in Great Elm, near Frome on 28th August 1890. She was the daughter of Reverend Henri Bassano Hare and his wife, Jane (nee Chapman) and was born in Fiddington near Bridgwater in Somerset on April 8th 1869. She had attended Raiford Ladies College in Whatley, Somerset and was in residence there at the time of the 1881 Census

Alfred was elected to the Fellowship of the Chemical Society on December 7th 1882. His address in the Register of Fellows of 1901 is shown as Burnt House (See extract below). The Chemical Society, was an eminent body of scientists formed in 1841, which 7 years later was granted a Royal Charter. Alfred Howard is noted as a "Chemical Manufacturer".



Alfred Gravely Howard c 1900

xxii THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. [Jan. 31, 1901.]

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1889. Horton, William, 44, Cable Road, Hoylake, Cheshire, Analytical Chemist. | O.M. Hunt, W., Hampton House, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Chemical Manufacturer. |
| 1892. Hosie, G. H., 136, Cambridge Drive, Kelvinside, N., Glasgow, Technical Chemist. | 1897. Hunter, Prof. A. G. Kidston, (subs.) c/o John Hunter, 18, Great Clyde Street, Glasgow; and (Journals) P.O. Box 164, Dunedin, N.Z., Prof. of Chemistry. |
| 1890. Hoskins, A. Percy, 25, Cromwell Road, Belfast, Analytical Chemist. | 1893. Hunter, Prof. Matthew, Rangoon College, Rangoon, Burmah, Prof. of Chemistry. |
| 1899. Hoskins, Wm., Room 55, 81, South Clark Street, Chicago, Ills., U.S.A., Chemist. | 1892. Hunter, Sidney H., 202, Bow Road, E., Mechanical Engineer. |
| 1897. Hotson, Arthur E., 147, East 125th Street, New York City, U.S.A., Chemist. | O.M. Huntington, Prof. A. K., King's College, Strand, London, W.C., Prof. of Metallurgy. |
| 1899. Houlder, Bertram E., 10, Ossulton Villas, Southall, Middlesex, Chemist. | 1897. Huntington, Dr. Harwood, The Buckingham, 2, East 50th Street, New York, U.S.A., Consulting Chemist. |
| 1892. Houston, John, 26, Princess Street, Manchester, Drysalter. | 1884. Hunzinger, A., Dinting Vale Printworks, Dinting, Derbyshire, Calico Printer. |
| 1888. Houston, Robt. S., Hawkhead Road, Paisley, N.B., Analytical Chemist. | 1900. Hurd, Geo. E., 72, Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ills., U.S.A., Food Products Manufacturer. |
| 1891. Hovenden, Fred., Glenlea, Thurlow Park Road, West Dulwich, S.E. | 1894. Hurry, E. H., Bethlehem, Pa., U.S.A., Mechanical |
| O.M. Howard, A. G., Burnt House, Chigwell, Essex, Chemical Manufacturer. | |

Evidence of Alfred's other local interests are provided by the Register of members of the Essex Fields Club, which lists A. G. Howard of Burnt House, who joined in 1895. In Kellys Trade Directory of 1912 covering the West Ham area, Alfred Howard of Burnt House is shown as a Borough Justice of the Peace.

At Stratford Police-court on Saturday, Mr. Philip Savill, of Chigwell, a magistrate, was fined £5, and his coachman, William Salter, £2, for feeding a horse with cereals contrary to regulations. Similar penalties were imposed on another magistrate, Mr. Alfred Gravely Howard, also of Chigwell, and his groom, George James White, for a like offence.

In 1918, Alfred had a minor brush with the law, having been found guilty of feeding his horse with cereals as noted in this extract from the Essex Newsman 11th May 1918

Alfred and Edith had 2 sons: Claude Felix (also known as "Felce") Howard born in August 1891 and Eric Spencer Gravely Howard born May 1894. They were both born at Holmebury in Charteris Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

The 1901 Census noted 3 members of the Howard family living at Burnt House, Alfred G Howard (then 39), Edith C Howard (31) and Eric Howard (6). Claude was at Boarding School in Birchington, Kent at this time. They were well served, with 5 staff members in residence: Rachel Trory (34) Cook, originally from Norfolk, Sarah Smith (27) Housemaid, from Devizes, Wiltshire, Edith MacGregor (25) Parlour Maid, from Glamorgan, Wales, Anna Dunn (28) Nurse/Domestic from Renfrew in Scotland and Horace Green (24), Groundsman from nearby Woodford Bridge.

Extract of the 1901 Census showing the members of the Howard Family and their servants, in residence

155	Burnt House	1			4	Alfred H Howard	Head	M	37	Chemical Manufacturer	Employer	Stokenham, Middlesex
	Widening Lane					Edith E Howard	Wife	M	35			Stokenham, Somerset
156						Eric Howard	Son	M	19			Widford, Essex
		X				Gertrude Fry	Serv	F	36	Cook	Domestic	Stamhall, Norfolk
						Gertrude Fry	Serv	F	24	Housemaid	Domestic	Bevington, Wilt
						Edith Macgregor	Serv	F	25	Parlour Maid	Domestic	Chigwell, Essex
						Anna Dunn	Serv	F	28	Nurse	Domestic	Gloucestershire
						Frances Green	Serv	F	24	Housemaid	Domestic	Widford, Essex
159		1				Samuel Freshwater	Head	M	34	Labourer		Chigwell, Essex
						Marion Freshwater	Wife	M	37			Chigwell, Essex
						Walter Freshwater	Son	M	21			Chigwell, Essex
						Minnie Freshwater	Daughter	F	14			Chigwell, Essex

The 1911 Census also noted 3 members of the Howard family living at Burnt House; Alfred and Edith along with their son, Claude (now 19). This time it was Eric who was not in residence. The compliment of live-in staff had reduced to three: Gertrude Rayner (35) Cook, from Postwick in Norfolk, Kate Bucke (24) Housemaid, from Mountnessing, Essex and Edith Gearing (25) Parlour Maid, from Chigwell. There was a guest staying at the house on the date of the 1911 Census; a theological student named Geoffrey Herbert Crump. In the First World War, Geoffrey Crump attained the rank of Major in the 4th Battalion, Essex Regiment and subsequently that of Colonel. He went on to become an author, poet and an authority in the art of public speaking.

Eric was at Boarding School and his name appears in the 1911 Census records for Preshute School, in Marlborough, Wiltshire. He went on to serve in the military during World War 1 and by 1919 held the rank of Captain, Royal Field Artillery. He married Frances Davidona De Winton in June 1935 and settled in Kent. They had 3 children. At some point they moved to Stroud in Gloucestershire where Eric died in March 1977 and Frances, in 1999.

The 1911 Census showing the members of the Howard Family and their servants, in residence.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.														
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.														
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.														
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—			Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."
				Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7).	Children born alive to present Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7).								
(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or														
(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.														
No one else must be included.														
(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)														
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1. Alfred George Howard	Head	49	Married						Manufacturing Chemist	18	1	Tottenham Middlesex	241	
2. Edith Louisa Howard	Wife	41	Married 20	2	2				18	1	Brighton Sussex	140		
3. Claude Felix Howard	Son	19	Single						Student	380	0	Woodford Green Essex		
4. Geoffrey Herbert Crump	Visitor	19	Single						Theological Student			Leicester Cambridge	340	
5. Gertrude Palmer	Servant	35	Single						Cook (Domestic)	110		Portsmouth Norfolk	170	
6. Kate Buckle	Servant	24	Single						Housemaid (Domestic)			Worcester		
7. Edith Gearing	Servant	25	Single						Housemaid (Domestic)			Worcester		
8.														
9.														
10.														
11.														
12.														
13.														
14.														
15.														

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—

(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.

(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.

(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: *7*

Total.		
Males.	Females.	Persons.
3	4	7

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

19

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Alfred G Howard*

Postal Address: *Burnt Ash Lane, Epsom*

Claude, like his father was a manufacturing chemist. On 21st June 1921, at St. Pauls Church in Hampstead, he married Margaret Alice Howes (Born March 1894 in Ealing). They also had 3 children; Carol Erica Felce (1924-1994), June Elizabeth (1927-1990) and a 3rd, (unknown name). Claude died in November 1947 aged 56 and his death was registered in the Brentwood area. Margaret died in February 1979 in Horsham, Sussex.

The 1927 Electoral Register showed Alfred and Edith, still in residence at Burnt House. There is no electoral Register entry for the house in 1928 and by the following year, we know that a new family was in residence:

Alfred & Edith moved to Barham House in Hailsham and we know that Alfred died just before his 90th birthday on October 17th 1951, in Eastbourne, just a few months after the death of his wife, Edith in April 1951.

5. Smith Family:- (Burnt House from c.1929 - 1938)

The Smith family moved to Burnt House in 1929 and first appeared on the Electoral Register, at Burnt House in 1930. William Ernest Smith (born 1877) was married to Helena Florence (born, 1881, maiden name unknown) of Gravesend, Kent. At the time of the 1911 Census they were living in Westcliff-On-Sea, Essex with their 3 children. William was the Managing Director of a family owned Marquee manufacturing company.

Electoral Register records show that the family had been living in Great West Hatch, Chigwell immediately before moving to Burnt House in 1929

William and Helena's children were; Ronald William Graeme Smith (born 1904), Eileen Helena Smith (1907) and Dudley John Malcolm Smith (1910)

Eileen Helena was married very soon after the family moved to Burnt House, as wedding records show that she was in residence at the house on the date of her marriage, on June 6 1929 at St. Mary The Virgin Church in Chigwell to John Ivor Williams (born 1898) of 10 Renford Road, Manor Park E12, a "Physician's Surgeon.

Dudley John Malcolm Smith was at Boarding School in Uppingham, Rutland at the time of the 1921 Census. A few years after the family moved to Burnt House, he was married in Kensington in 1933 to Edith M. Webster. During World War 2 he served in the Essex Regiment, in North Africa, where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on January 28th 1943, shortly before being promoted from Lieutenant to Captain.

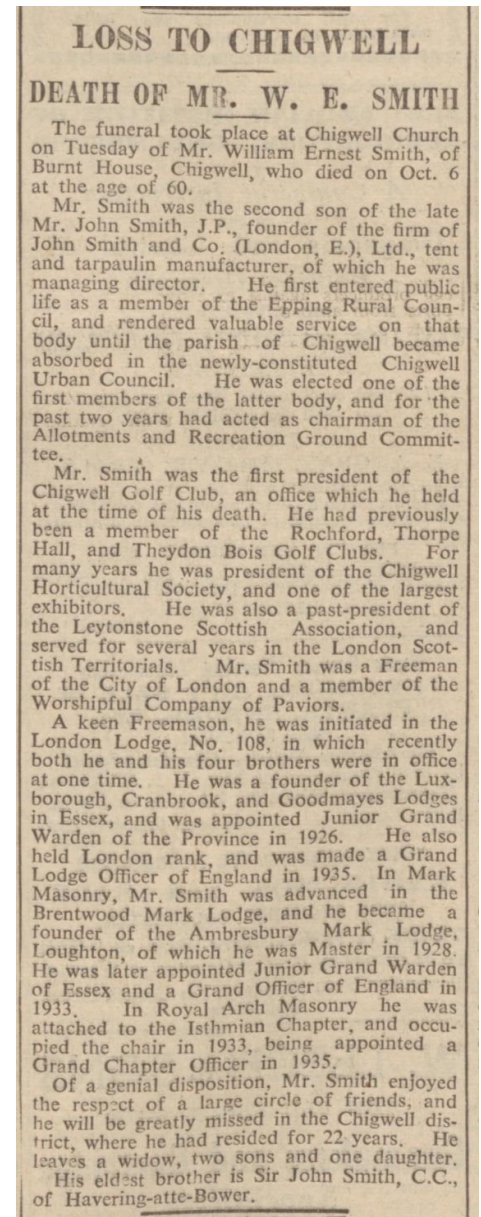
Ronald William Graeme Smith was living with his parents at Burnt House in 1931. By the time of the 1939 Register he was shown as Single and living in Caterham, Surrey. He was described in the Register as "Incapacitated". Little more is known about him and he died in Caterham in 1967

The Electoral Register lists William Charles Gregory and Jessie Gould in residence at Burnt House in 1930 & 1931. It is assumed that these were servants to the Smith family.

William Ernest Smith died in October 1937 at the age of 60 and his comprehensive obituary in the Chelmsford Chronicle is displayed on the right.

Helena Florence died in February 1959, by which time she was living in Forest Road in Chigwell.

Following the death of William in late 1937 and with 2 of her children married and living elsewhere, Helena must have decided to sell Burnt House and it changed hands at some point in 1938/39.



Obituary for William Ernest Smith
Chelmsford Chronicle 15th Oct. 1937

6. Thomas Family:- (Burnt House from c.1938 - 1970)

The Thomas Family moved to Burnt House in the late 1930s and the earliest references to their occupation of the house appeared in the 1939 Register.

From information in the 1939 Register and other sources, we know the following:

Charles Edward Thomas was born on February 23rd 1875, in London. He was noted to be an “Electric Lamp Manufacturer (Direct)” in the 1939 Register. In 1896, in Stoke Damerel in Devon, Charles married Ella Beatrice Fowler, the youngest of the 11 children of William Louis and Rhoda Cecilia Fowler, born on October 12 1873 in Devonport, Devon.

In the 1901 and 1911 Censuses they were recorded as residing at 125 Upper Clapton Road in Hackney. By September 1939 they were living at Burnt House. They had 5 children and it is interesting to note that at least 3 of them pursued Medical/Dentistry careers:-

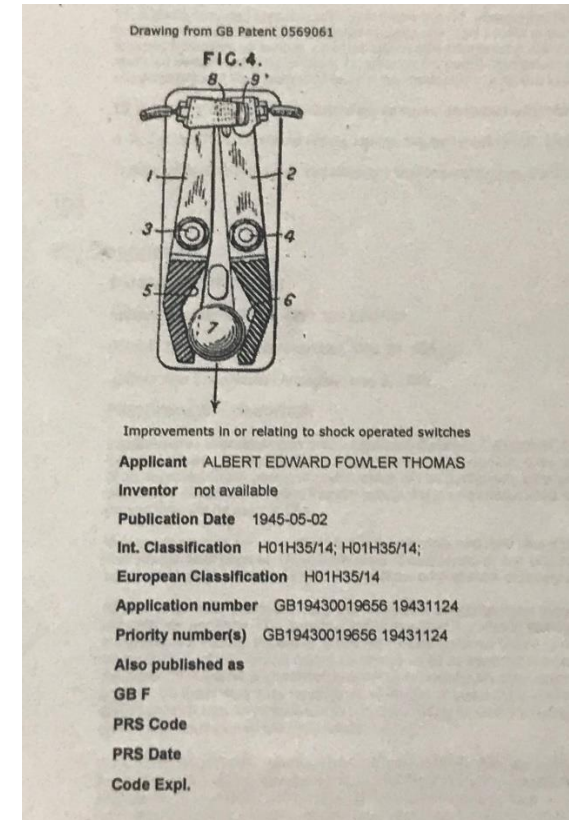
- Charles William Fowler-Thomas OBE (1899-1978). Born in Hackney, he married Audrey Winifred Ditcham (1901-1998) in 1924. He was a prominent dentist and awarded the OBE. The portrait on the right was painted in the 1970s
- Constance Phyliss Fowler-Thomas, (1901-1993). Resident at Burnt House in 1939 and noted to be “Single” and a Medical Student
- Ella Beatrice Fowler-Thomas, born 1907. Resident at Burnt House in 1939 and noted to be “Single”
- Albert Edward Fowler-Thomas (1904-1897). He was not resident at Burnt House in 1939, explained perhaps by the announcement in the London Gazette of July 18th 1939 that he had been promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th



Portrait of
Charles William
Fowler-Thomas
OBE c. 1975

Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. On 24th November 1943 he gave his address as Burnt House on an application he made to the Patent Office in relation to an “Inertia Switch” that he had invented and wished to patent. Details from the Patent Application are shown on the right and below. This was an ingenious device, that would have clearly had military use: It was intended to be attached to a load dropped by parachute from a plane and would then, upon impact on the ground, activate a light that would enable the drop to be spotted from a distance, in the dark. We do not know whether this device was ever manufactured but it does seem to be loosely connected to Albert’s father’s trade as an electric lamp manufacturer. Albert gave his address at Burnt House again in January 1949 when he registered a property in Wansford Road, Woodford at Land Registry. There is no record of Albert marrying and he died in 1987 in West Somerset.

- Claude Victor Fowler-Thomas, (1909-2005). Resident at Burnt House in 1939 and noted to be “Married” and a Dental Surgeon. He gave Burnt House as his address in 1950 when he registered a property at Carnarvon Road, E18 at Land Registry. He died in Salcombe, Devon in 2005



PATENT SPECIFICATION

Application Date: Nov. 24, 1943. No. 19656/43.

569,061 Complete Specification Left: Dec. 27, 1944.

-g Complete Specification Accepted: May 2, 1945.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Shock Operated Switches I, ALBERT EDWARD FOWLER THOMAS, a British subject of Burnt House, Pudding Lane, Chigwell, in the County of Essex, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows: This invention relates to shock operated switches, and has for its object the provision of an improved shock operated switch which will be particularly suitable for attaching to, various goods to be dropped from aircraft, so that when the goods strike the ground the switch will respond thereby energising a small associated lamp. Thus, if the goods are dropped at night they will not be visible while falling, but when on the ground they will be easy to find.

Details from the 1943 Patent Application by Albert Edward Fowler-Thomas relating to an Inertia-Switch for wartime use during military parachute drops

The 1939 Register notes a C. Fowler in residence with the word “Croydon” in brackets. His trade is shown as “Progress Man Electrical”. It is assumed he was a visiting family member.

Two staff members were also recorded in 1939: Gladys Frisk (Born 1896) and Mary A. Robertson (1915). Both are recorded as “Single” and performing “Paid Domestic Duties”.

Charles Edward Thomas died in 1940 in Lewisham. His widowed wife, Ella Beatrice was to remain in residence at Burnt House for more than 30 years until her death at the age of 99 in 1972. Following her death, Burnt House was sold to developers who drew up plans for the renovation of the house and its conversion into 6 individual houses.

Over 50 years have passed since the conversion and the photos below show how the property looks today:-



The following article by Charles Shea, written circa 1975, describes the renovation of Burnt House by local developer Mr S. G. Jefcoate. Leases of the 6 houses were granted for a term of 999 years and numerous residents have come and gone in the 50 years that have passed since then.

New life brought to an old mansion near Chigwell

FOR many years an 18th century mansion, Burnt House, stood empty and neglected among the cornfields not far from the village of Chigwell in Essex, but it has now been brought back into use for the requirements of a modern day and, while retaining all its characteristics of appearance and exterior style, has been added to and refurbished in an extremely pleasing way.

The work of rehabilitation and conversion has taken some 18 months. From the outside there is little overall constructional change apparent in the structure, although in fact one whole new wing has been added in matching style.

The project was undertaken by a Chigwell resident, Mr. S. G. Jefcoate, and although it is strictly speaking a commercial enterprise, it has had the wholehearted approval of the planning office of the local authority, because it has helped to bring back into use a "white elephant" on the winding lane which links Chigwell Row to the village road. In rehabilitating the house, Mr. Jefcoate has in fact had it redesigned so that it forms six dwelling units, or separate homes. Although this is hardly apparent from the exterior, where the harmony of line is completely maintained, and some linking features emphasised, with the addition of the new wing the former slate-tiled mansion has indeed been adapted into half a dozen self-contained dwellings.

Density considerations might have applied, but the mansion stands virtually alone for half a mile or so in each direction, and with regard to traffic use the plans have included the provision of proper standing for cars and garages for the occupying families.

One distinctive feature of the rehabilitation has been the provision of landscaping, a swimming pool and tennis courts in the ten-and-a-half acres of grounds. Throughout, the architectural device has been adopted of incorporating a linking motif in the structure, a recurrent run of wooden arches, the shape and proportions conforming to such a theme which was found in the detail of the original building. Even the garages, behind their screening wall have been given this feature, as well as have new porchways.

A fine conservatory at the original northern wing was retained, and now in fact forms part of the hereditament of the outermost dwelling on that side.

The original boundary wall has been retained, together with the nameplate in Gothic lettering, and where new walling has been built it has been run the length of the northern boundary in a low scalloped relief. Mr. Jefcoate and his family will make their home in one of the two cottages encompassed within the grounds.

The original chimneys have been retained, although modern heating will be incorporated in the new dwellings fashioned inside the structure, and much of the prime brickwork has been scrubbed down to bring out the original colour. Some rendering has been done, and Horsham tile style adopted for the upper parts of the structure, setting off the deep-recessed windows painted white. All the windows have been retained and the front bricked porch also..

Although situated in the green belt, the conversion of the mansion was welcomed by the planning authority as giving new life to a rundown and impoverished Essex feature which for many years had stood as something of a reproach in the countryside, which at his point is gently undulating and open and sweeping. Permission for the conversion was "gladly given", and all in all, the results of the rehabilitation, carried out by an Essex firm under the direction of Loughton architects, has shown a means of providing "homes for more" in an Essex setting while bringing back to life, skilfully and with grace and taste, a "white elephant" from former times of more spacious and richer living.

CHARLES SHEA