

WESTWOOD



NORMANDY

The story of a Surrey estate



Part of John Norden's map of Surrey 1594. The earliest map to show Westwood.

WESTWOOD
NORMANDY

The story of a Surrey estate

by Pat Ashworth and Jack Kinder

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by Westwood Place Management Ltd
2nd Georgian, Westwood Place, Normandy,
Guildford, Surrey GU3 2JE

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Front: *Westwood Place today*
Back: *Coussmaker/Woodyer Arms in St Mark's Church, Wyke*

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CONTENTS

Preface	5
Acknowledgements	6
Notes	8
List of figures.....	9
List of photographs	10
1 Prologue	13
2 The early Coussmakers	19
3 The later Coussmakers	33
4 The house	47
5 The estate	61
6 Decline	73
7 New beginnings	90
8 Epilogue	102
Sources and bibliography	104
Index	110

PREFACE

‘This is the story of a House, a house which was born in more spacious days and sat placidly for many years like a white bird in a green nest . . .’

With these words Warwick Deeping began his novel – *Laughing House* – which was published in 1946. It tells of the mixed fortunes of the House during the Second World War when it was requisitioned by the army; then how it was given a new life when its elderly owner, with the help of young friends, opened it as a small country hotel after the war.

Warwick Deeping frequently visited Mrs Irene Coussmaker at Westwood during the 1940s and he used Westwood as the setting for his story. Perhaps he also wondered what the future might hold for Westwood. Westwood however was never wholly requisitioned during the war and it continued to be the home of its owners for another 15 years afterwards. Eventually though, it too like the Laughing House, had to face change. In 1961 it was sold and converted into separate apartments, but by taking on a new existence it also survived.

What follows is the story of Westwood. Unlike *Laughing House* this is a true story, not only of the house but of the estate, its owners and the many other people who played a part in it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We could not have been produced this work without the help of many others.

Our first thanks go to John de Lannoy Coussmaker for allowing us total access to his family papers and for his patience and forbearance in answering what must have seemed our endless stream of questions. We are also very grateful to him and to Kenneth Dean for reading the text and for their comments and advice.

We should like to thank secondly the present owners of Westwood Place for their encouragement and financial support; also for allowing us to peer into nooks and crannies in their homes, tap walls, climb into the roof, and even rearrange their furniture in order to secure the best possible viewpoints for our photographs!

We have been very gratified by the number of people who have come forward and given us the benefit of their own particular expertise or professional skills. Many are acknowledged by name elsewhere but we should like to mention here the contribution of our photographers, the late Kevin Shaughnessy and Roy Drysdale. From the very early days of our project Kevin worked with us making copies of the old photographs and also taking photographs, especially the interior of Westwood Place today, which were invaluable for our research. His sad and untimely death robbed us not only of a friend but a valued colleague and team mate and we are grateful to Roy who took over the remainder of the photographic work.

In our quest for information on more recent events we have knocked on many doors in Normandy, especially the doors of other properties once associated with the Westwood estate, and we should like to thank everybody who kindly gave us their time and whose names will be found opposite.

We have also drawn on the work of fellow members of The Normandy Historians, especially the accounts of people's memories which were recorded in the early days of the Society. The names of those who related memories of Westwood in bygone years can also be found opposite.

Our research has been greatly assisted by the staff of The Surrey Local Studies Library in Guildford. They have been a mine of information and a constant help and their support over the years we have worked on the project has been exceptional. We should also like to thank their colleagues at the Guildford Muniment Room and the Surrey Record Office in Kingston who have on more than one occasion set us on the right path of enquiry when we had almost given up hope of finding what we were seeking.

Several times our enquiries have taken us further afield. The list of sources and bibliography at the end of this book will give an indication of the material we have consulted in other libraries and record offices but we are also extremely grateful to the staff of those establishments which we did not visit but who responded to our written requests for information; also to members of other local history societies. These include:

The British Library, Oriental & India Office; British Red Cross Archives; Christ Church College Archives, Oxford; Essex Record Office; Hackney Archives Department; Hammersmith & Fulham Archives and Local History Centre; House of Lords Record Office; Lambeth Archives Department; Macclesfield Museums Trust; Norfolk Record Office; Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Library; Trinity College Archives, Oxford; the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society.

Finally there is somebody who has never failed to provide help and inspiration and at busy times has kept the 'home show' going. Many a time he has come home to find the table, not set with his dinner but covered with paperwork and a meeting still in progress. It so happens that his is the first name in the following alphabetical list.

Our very sincere thanks go to all these and to everyone who has helped the Westwood project in so many different ways:

Mark Ashworth; Keith Baldrey; Keith & Geraldine Bales; Roger Black & Elsa de Vassoigne; Michael Blackman; Peter Blakiston; B J Brimfield; the late Violet Brown; Charles Bunce; George & Val Chant; Maidie Chattaway; Peter & Sue Cook; Tony Coomber; S Cradock; M D Crouch; Joyce Davis; Phyllis Dedman; Ruth Drysdale; the late Joe Duffy; Joan Dyson; Rita Ensing; Sydney Foster; Brian Fuller; Barry Gardiner; Randolph Gardiner; Harry Goold; Ted & Mary Gray; Bob Hammond; Alan Hardcastle; Dick & Gilly Hart; Sally Helm; John Janaway; Tony Kellerman; the Rev Andrew Knowles; Keith Lamont; Diana Lockyer-Nibbs; Anthony Lofts; Chris McDermott & Alison Axon; Chris & Corrine McLaughlin; Diana Marchant; Winifred Mason; John Milne; Duncan Mirylees; Janet Nixon; Hilda Noldart; Audrey Olley; the late Bill Olley; D Ottridge; Peter & Shirley Padley-Smith; the late Doris Page; Cyril & Doris Prangnell; Doug Roberts; Marianne Rutherford; the Rev Michael St John-Channell (St Mary's Church, Staines); Dennis Scowen; Janet Seeley; Stan & Edie Sharp; Jane Shaughnessy; John & Clare Sherwood; Sally Sherwood; John Squier; Bernard & Ann Stutt; Isabel Sullivan; David & Monica Taylor; Peter Trevaskis; Ethel Turner; Judy Turner; Tom Turner; Maggie Vaughan-Lewis; Clare Windsor.

PFA/JWK

September 1998

NOTES

Place names

Several of the place names which feature in our account have changed over the centuries. This is especially so with places on the continent. We have used the name currently in use and for the foreign places, the anglicised form and spelling where this exists. The one exception is Steinwerk where the Westwood branch of the Coussmaker family originated. This earlier form of the name of Steenvorde is perpetuated on the family monument in St Mary's Church, Staines, and for this reason we have preferred to retain it.

In contrast, when referring to places and properties on the Westwood estate for the first time we have used the name by which they were known at that time, and where necessary have included a note of the present day name to aid identification. Some names however, have changed many times. In these instances to have cited every subsequent name would have required further explanations which would have made the text unwieldy. Where the original name has changed more than once we have tended to refer to it subsequently by the name in use today.

Personal names

Until this century there was no commonly accepted form of spelling and the Coussmaker family records contain many different variants even for the same person. We have retained the Flemish form for the names of John de Coussmaker's ancestors and his children and have used the same spelling throughout when referring to the same person. However where several different members of the family were given identical names it has sometimes been useful to employ different spellings of the name in order to distinguish between them. Also, to avoid confusion we have tended to refer to many of them by both their first and second names when perhaps in their day they were known by only their first or a single name.

Dates

The reformed Gregorian or New Style calendar with the year commencing on 1 January was adopted by the Protestant United Provinces of the Low Countries in 1700 but not in England until 1752. Dates in our text have been rendered in the New Style.

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Normandy today	12
2. Account of payment to the Lord of the Manor of Wyke 1880	14
3. The Low Countries in the mid 17th century	18
4. The ancestors of John de Coussmaker	21
5. The descendants of John de Coussmaker	25
6. Descendants of Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker	37
7. The half-timbered house as it may have appeared at its greatest extent about 1700	48
8. The Tudor Cottage roof structure	49
9. Stages in the development of Westwood	51
10. Plans of Westwood about 1880	55
11. The grounds of Westwood about 1880	59
12. The estate in 1723 from a survey by Hiatt and Lannon	60
13. The estate in 1802	64
14. The estate in 1844 with the exception of the outlying Common Allotment	67
15. Ordnance Survey map of 1915 showing the Coussmaker railway siding	69
16. The estate at its greatest extent in 1856 showing the outlying Common Allotment	70
17. Sale of livestock 1882	75
18. The estate in 1912 showing the land retained by the Coussmakers and the land assigned to Westwood Farm	77
19. The sale of Westwood 1935. First page of catalogue	81
20. , showing the division of lots	82
21. Lot 1, Weekwood Cottages	84
22. Lot 13, New Cottages, Westwood Lane	85
23. Lots 18, 19, 20, (Spinney Cottage, Tabeel, Freemoor)	86
24. Lot 24, (Purse Ryde Cottage)	87
25. Land held by the Coussmaker family 1940	88
26. Westwood Place 1967, by John Baker	92
27. Westwood Place today, by Ann Stutt	102
 3, 8-14, 16, 18, 20, 25, by Jack Kinder. Computer graphics enhancement by Alison Axon and Chris McDermott	
4-6, by John Squier	
7, by Kenneth Dean	
2, 17, reproduced by courtesy of John de Lannoy Coussmaker	
19, 21-24, reproduced by courtesy of Tony Kellerman	
26, reproduced by courtesy of John L Baker and John de Lannoy Coussmaker	

LIST OF PLATES

Part of John Norden's map of Surrey 1594	Frontispiece
1. Elizabeth Mary de Vassy, wife of John de Coussmaker	i
2. Diploma of the Free Economical Society of Russia 1789	ii
3. Coussmaker Arms. Patent of Confirmation 1780	iii
4. The Coussmaker monument in St Mary's Church, Staines	iv
5. Mary Anne and Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker, 1838	v
6. William Henry Coussmaker's drawings of the Gardener's Cottage 1863	vi
7. The Rev John Octavius Coussmaker	vii
8. Guildford Union Workhouse outing to Westwood 1921	viii
9. The 'Agawam' and its attendants 1908	ix
10. Colonel Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker	x
11. Colonel Lannoy John Coussmaker	xi
12. Rear of The Tudor Cottage today	xii
13. Rear of Queen Anne House today	xii
14. Westwood staff about 1880	xiii
15. Entrance to Westwood about 1880	xiv
16. The Regency ballroom 1880	xv
17. The boudoir 1880	xv
18. Westwood farmhouse about 1875	xvi
19. The cottages at High Bridge, Westwood Lane, about 1915	xvi
20. Wyke Lodge with St Mark's Church about 1880	xvii
21. Croquet game in front of Westwood about 1885	xvii
22. Rear of Westwood about 1885	xviii
23. Rear of Westwood and the gardens about 1885	xviii
24. The poultry farm in the 1930s	xix
25. Mr James Rice, the gamekeeper at Westwood, with the young John de Lannoy Coussmaker	xix
26. The Regency drawing room 1961	xx
27. The Regency drawing room 1961	xx
28. The hall 1961	xxi
29. The dining room 1961	xxi
30. Front of The Tudor Cottage today	xxii
31. The Regency extension of Westwood today	xxii
32. Philip Hepworth's drawings for the conversion of the stable block into Buckhurst about 1961	xxiii
33. The Coussmaker monument in the chapel of St Mark's Church, Wyke	xxiv

12, 13, 31, 33, by Kevin Shaughnessy
4a, by Pat Ashworth
4b, by Kenneth Dean
30, by Pat Ashworth
Frontispiece, reproduced by courtesy of the Surrey Local Studies Library,
Guildford
7, reproduced by courtesy of Mary Dean
8, reproduced by courtesy of George Chant
19, reproduced by courtesy of Doug Roberts
26-29, reproduced by courtesy of Howard Morley & Sons and John de Lannoy
Coussmaker
1-3, 5-6, 9-11, 14-18, 20-25, 32, reproduced by courtesy of John de Lannoy
Coussmaker

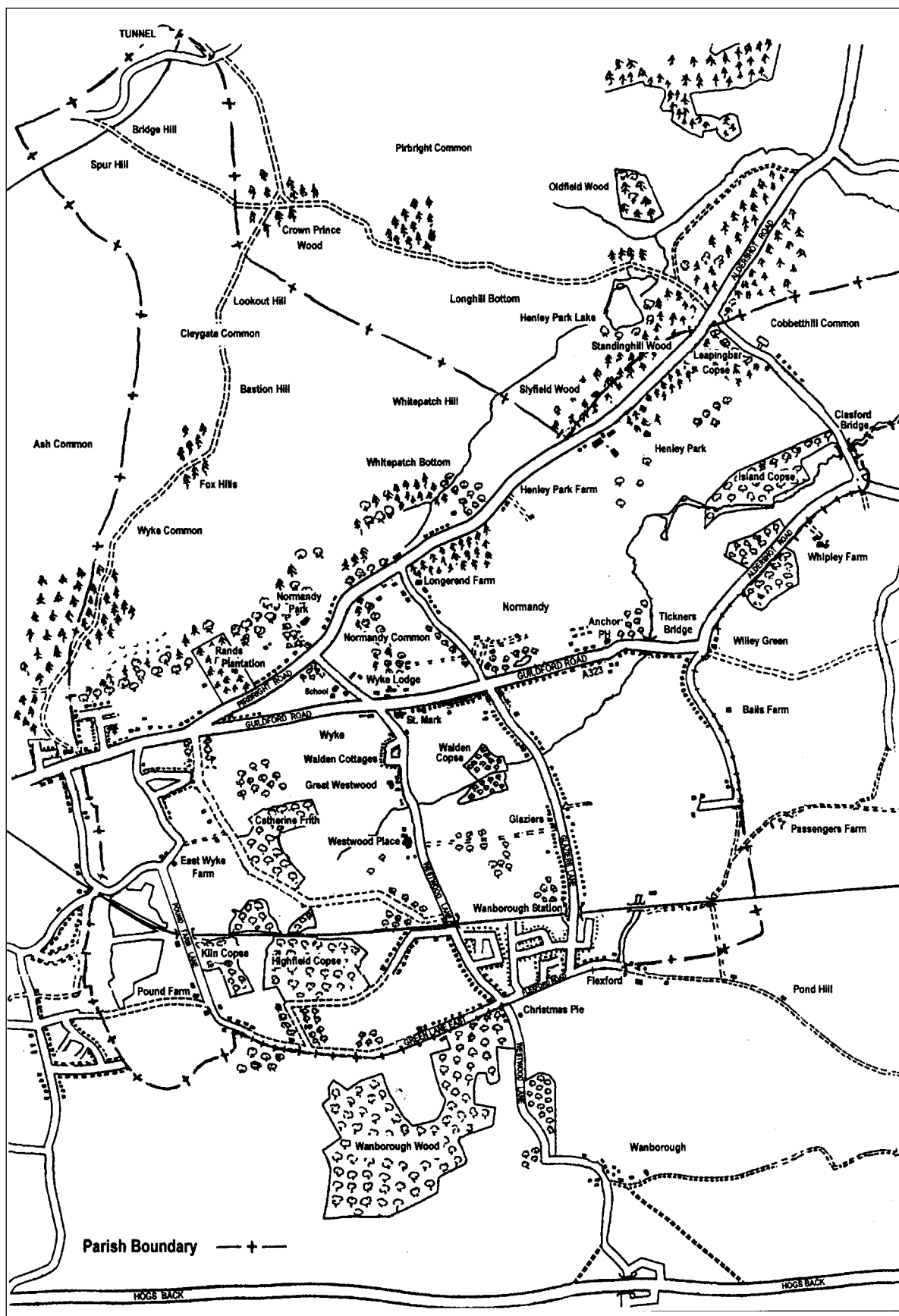


Figure 1. Normandy today.

CHAPTER 1

PROLOGUE

The parish of Normandy in Surrey lies six miles to the west of Guildford and two miles north of the Guildford to Winchester road which runs along the ridge of the Hog's Back. The road which leads north from the Hog's Back and becomes Westwood Lane, winds through the small hamlet of Wanborough and at the crossroads at Christmas Pie enters Normandy.

After descending a hill the road passes under a railway bridge near to which on the south side there used to be a private siding for the use of the Westwood estate. On the north side in the lee of the embankment is Purse Ryde Cottage, one of the cottages of the former estate. The road continues north for another mile before reaching the Guildford to Aldershot road at Wyke crossroads. Along this last stretch it is bordered almost all the way by fields which were once part of the Westwood estate. Midway on the left it passes The Lodge and South Lodge, also built for workers on the estate. It then passes the imposing building of Westwood Place, the former mansion house of the Coussmaker family who owned the estate for over 200 years. Beside it, but not visible from the road, is Buckhurst which was converted into a residence from the old coach house and stables.

Further north lies the Parwood Equestrian Centre at Great Westwood, formerly Westwood Farm and part of the Westwood estate. Then come Walden Cottages on land which once belonged to Westwood and on the bend on the opposite side of the road, a pair of semi-detached cottages. These were known for a long time as the New Cottages and also originated as accommodation for employees of the Coussmakers. Finally at the road junction and partially screened by trees, stands the small church of St Mark, Wyke, whose foundation owes much to the Coussmaker family and which was built on land donated from the estate.

Westwood has not always been in Normandy but was formerly in Wyke or Worplesdon. The old name for this area is Wyke which was a detached tithing of the parish of Worplesdon until 1880 when it was added to the parish of Ash for local government purposes. Until 1847 when St Mark's Church was built, the church of St Mary at Worplesdon was the parish church of the Coussmaker family of Westwood. In addition, until the reform of the land law in 1922 which effectively put an end to the powers and privileges of the lord of the manor, Westwood was held of the Manor of Wyke. Whenever a new owner succeeded to the property payment had to be made to the lord of the Manor of Wyke

Manor of Wyke, Surrey

Account of Fines & payable to the
Lord by the Estate and the Heir of Lammey
Arthur Coussmaker Esquire deceased.

Two Reliefs for two moieties of Buckhurst on the coming of age of Lammey Arthur Coussmaker in 1831	"	10.	0
Fealty	"	2..	0
Relief for a messuage next Highbridge called Oskal Haws on the same occasion	3..	15.	0
Fealty		1	
Relief for Mithwood on the same occasion	5..	5..	0
Fealty		1..	0
Heriot for Leaschold messuage held for unexpired term of 500 years on death of Lammey Arthur Coussmaker in 1880	30..	0..	0
Two Heriots for two moieties of Buckhurst on same occasion.	60..	0..	0
Two Reliefs for two moieties of Buckhurst by Heir of L. A. Coussmaker deceased	"	10.	0
Fealty	"	2..	0
Relief for Mithwood the like	5..	5..	0
Fealty		1..	0
Relief for Oskal Haws the like	3..	15.	0
Fealty		1.	0
Acknowledgment of Tenure for Leaschold messuage the like.	.	2..	6
Fealty		1..	0
	£	109..	11. 6

Received of the Representatives of the late
Lammey Arthur Coussmaker the above sum of one
hundred and nine pounds Eleven shillings and
six pence in full discharge of all claims for Heriots
Reliefs Fealty & in respect of the lands and
hereditaments of the said Lammey Arthur Coussmaker
within the Manor of Wyke, in the County of Surrey.

Dated the 30th day of August 1880.

Fredrick  Christen

Figure 2. Account of payment to the Lord of the Manor of Wyke 1880.

who in 1880, as can be seen in the document reproduced in Figure 2, was Frederick James Chester whose seat was Poyle House on the Hog's Back.

Normandy was a tithing of the parish of Ash and in 1799 land in Normandy was added to the Westwood estate when the property of Glaziers was purchased by Lannoy Richard Coussmaker. Glaziers was held of the Manor of Cleygate and when his son Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker succeeded to Westwood on his majority in 1831 he was also required to render payment and fealty to the manorial court of Cleygate. At the beginning of the 20th century the name of Normandy, which had originally referred only to the area around The Anchor Inn and the common, gradually began to assume greater importance as the community grew in size and spread away from its original nucleus. At the same time the name of Wyke gradually ceased to be used in connection with Westwood in favour of the name of Normandy. This change became 'official' in 1955 when the civil parish of Normandy was formed out of the parish of Ash.

The route of Westwood Lane is a very old one. From the earliest times it was probably always an important trade route crossing another ancient way at Christmas Pie (now Green Lane and Flexford Road) before joining the prehistoric route along the ridge of the Hog's Back. In medieval times it was part of the King's Way between Farnborough and Godalming and was used as a drove road to the tanneries at Godalming. Nothing is known about the estate at this time nor do we know when buildings were first erected at Westwood. However the existence of this important thoroughfare must, at a very early date, have influenced the location of a farmstead here. The site is at almost the lowest point in the road and must have also been selected because there was a good source of water nearby. Traces of an ancient watercourse were discovered when the house was being converted in 1961 and Clasford Stream, which passes under the Guildford Road at Tickners Bridge and runs through Henley Park, rises a little north of the house.*

The name of Westwood may derive from a wood west of the ancient route which became Westwood Lane. On the early Ordnance Survey maps what is now Catherine Frith Wood is called West Wood but whether the estate derived its name from the lane or the lane from the estate is not known. William Bray, in Volume 3 of his history of Surrey, cites a deed of 1306 he had seen in the papers of Mr Woodroffe, lord of the Manor of Wyke, in which a certain Henry de Westwode was witness. This Henry was probably the owner of the estate at this time and took his name from it. The English Place Name Society volume for Surrey cites two earlier references of Westwude in documents dating from the

* We have since been informed by those who have made a study of the subject, that the house at Westwood lies on an ancient ley line which, it is believed, runs through the Sarsen Stones at Tower Hill, Cove, then through Farnborough and the earthwork on Normandy Hill. After Westwood it continues through east Flexford and across the Hog's Back, then through Compton, Bramley, Rowley, and Cranleigh.

reign of Henry III. The first appears in the 'Pleas of the Forest of Windsor', the second in the 'Assize rolls' of 1272, both unpublished documents held at the Public Record Office. We have not read any original documents from this early period. William Bray, when he compiled his account of Wyke and Westwood which was published in 1814, had access to the papers of William Woodroffe. These papers, which we believe to be the manorial records of Wyke, cannot now be traced. The rest of this chapter therefore relies heavily on the work of William Bray and other secondary accounts.

According to the Domesday Book, the tenant in chief of this area in 1086 was Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, who held the land in Woking Hundred from the King. In turn, a certain Thorold held it from Earl Roger, and a Godric had one hide (about 120 acres) of Thorold's land which was called Wucha. There were four villagers, three smallholders and one slave. There was woodland for three pigs. The Manor of Wyke appears to have originated in this hide as it is mentioned that in it there was a hall which belonged to the manor before 1066. It is tempting to assign the location to Westwood but there is no evidence to support this.

It has not been possible to separate the history of Westwood in medieval times from that of the Manor of Wyke, the descent of which is somewhat tortuous but which is described by William Bray in his history. However in the reign of Henry VIII the estate of Westwood is known to have belonged to the Cresswell family. According to Bray, in a lease in the possession of Mr Woodroffe dated 1536, a John Cresswell demised the estate for a term of years. The Cresswells were prominent Surrey landowners and in 1544 William Cresswell was to be one of two captains appointed to command a force in the general muster of the County of Surrey. However by this time the family no longer owned Westwood because in another deed, dated 1539 and cited by William Bray, Henry Vyne and Joan, his wife, were the owners.

In 1599 their son Ralph Vyne conveyed it with other estates to John Farrer. According to Lord Farrer of Abinger Hall writing in 1930, John Farrer was a rich London merchant and he and his son Henry had a passion for building country houses. He therefore believed that they might have also built at Westwood. If this is so it might have been the Farrer family who converted the medieval aisled barn into the timber-framed farmhouse, part of which survives today in Westwood Place as The Tudor Cottage. The period of their ownership certainly makes this a possibility but we have no proof and other evidence suggests a date prior to 1500 as we explain in Chapter 4. However it is interesting to note that Lord Farrer had also discovered that many of Henry Farrer's children were baptised at either Worplesdon or Ash, leading us to believe that he made a home at Westwood.

About 1643 after the death of Henry Farrer, the estate was sold to a

Robert Terry who in 1657 devised it to his nephew, also Robert. In 1669 this Robert Terry conveyed it to his eldest son John. In 1677 John Terry with his mother Ann made a settlement of the estate on his marriage to Peace, the daughter of Richard Watts. According to William Bray the settlement appears to have been vested in Morgan Randyll Esq and Richard Coldham, an attorney in Guildford, and in 1702 they conveyed the property to the Reverend Charles Moore, the Rector of Worplesdon. Finally in 1720, Charles Moore sold the estate to John de Coussmaker, a native of the Low Countries who had made his home in England some 20 years previously.

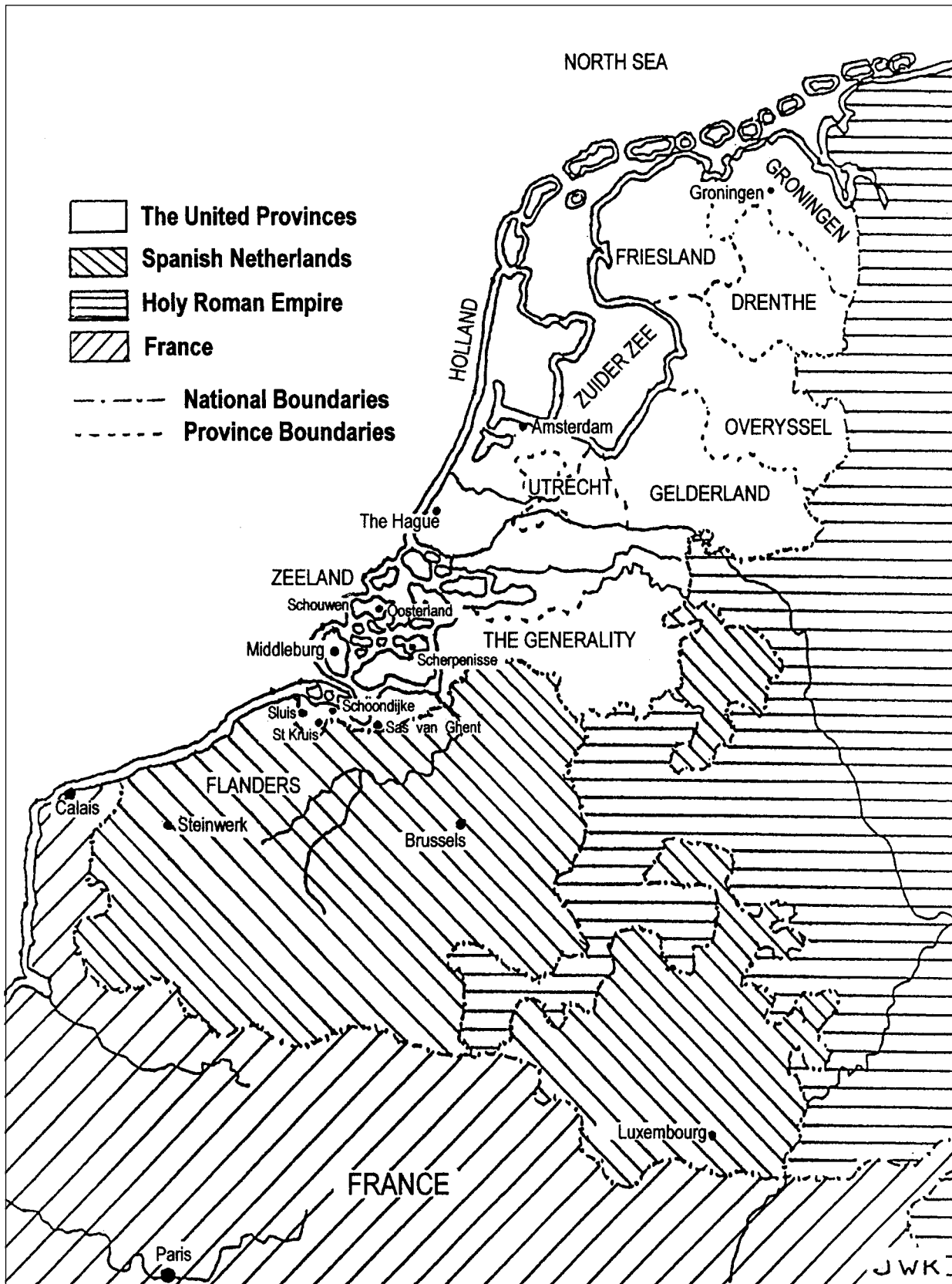


Figure 3. The Low Countries in the mid 17th century.

THE EARLY COUSSMAKERS

On 5 November 1688 William III, Prince of Orange, the principal Stadtholder and leader of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, landed on the south coast of England near Torbay with an expedition of some 50 warships and an army of 14,000 men. In his entourage of Dutch and English followers, so we are told, was a young fellow countryman by the name of John de Coussmaker.

William was the posthumous son of William II, Prince of Orange, and Princess Mary, the eldest daughter of King Charles I of England. In 1677 he in turn had married his cousin, another Princess Mary, the elder daughter of the Duke of York. On her father's accession to the English throne as King James II in 1685, Mary had become the heir presumptive. William came to England at the invitation of leading men of both principal political factions in the realm who had become increasingly alarmed and alienated by the measures of James II to re-establish Roman Catholicism in England. Their hopes of an eventual Protestant succession had been dashed earlier in 1688 with the birth of a son to James by his second wife. When in February 1689 William and Mary accepted the throne of England which had been declared vacant on the flight of James II, tradition has it that John de Coussmaker also decided to remain in England and make it his home.

John de Coussmaker came from a branch of a very large and long established Flemish family. Records in the family go back to the middle of the 16th century to Pieter, son of Jacques de Coussmaker, who was born in 1550 at Steinwerk, West Flanders (now Steenworde in northern France). The family was a wealthy one and, although the early records with only one exception are silent on the subject, we have every reason to believe that they were merchants who had built up their fortune in trade. It is stated that Pieter was a brewer at Steinwerk but as was so often the case, this may have been a secondary pursuit taken up in later life. The Low Countries at this time were still one of the leading centres for the woollen industry and export of cloth to Europe. They had not yet been eclipsed by the rise of the English cloth industry and so it is tempting to believe that some of the Coussmakers were associated with one or more aspects of it. Subsequent history would seem to support this theory as does the origin of the name of Coussmaker. Pronounced as in 'housemaker' the spelling of the family name has varied but in Dutch, *kous* is stocking and *maken* is to make. Hence the name of Coussmaker probably derives from 'stocking maker'.

The Coussmaker family was also an extremely devout family and we know that at least three of them became ministers of religion. The 16th and 17th centuries were a period of great political and religious upheaval in the Netherlands, at this time under Spanish rule, and this had a great bearing on the fortunes of the Coussmaker family. According to the inscription on the family monument in St Mary's Church, Staines, the branch from which John de Coussmaker was descended left Steinwerk 'at the Reformation'. However, when the Reformation spread through the Netherlands in the early 16th century they did not immediately embrace the new faith. Nor did they move north in 1585 when, following the revolt led by William the Silent of Orange, the seven Protestant provinces of the north broke away from Spanish domination to become the United Provinces.

Pieter de Coussmaker had 15 children by his second wife Jeanne, daughter of Jacques de Près. Not all of them survived childhood but the youngest, born at Steinwerk in the Spanish Netherlands in 1603, was Boudewyn, the grandfather of John de Coussmaker. It is with him that our story really begins. An account in the family papers tells us that he 'studied under the Jesuits at Belle* but afterwards he became of the reformed religion on finding a small Psalm book in the highway which he privately read & by that, & by reading a reformed Catechism which was bound up with it, he was convinced of the falshood of the Romish religion'. In order that he could continue his theological studies at Geneva he obtained money from his mother who was inclined to the reformed faith. After Geneva he first went to Sedan in France and then, possibly in the mid 1620s, he moved to Groningen, the most northerly of the Dutch Protestant Provinces, where he became a preacher.

In 1628 Boudewyn de Coussmaker married Isebeuw van de Walle at Middleburg in Zeeland, also in the United Provinces. He went on to become a minister at Scherpenisse on the island of Tholen in Zeeland and then afterwards at Sluis where he died. Sluis was in that part of Flanders known as Dutch Flanders, which by this time had also been joined to the United Provinces as a result of the war of 1621-43 against Spain. Boudewyn and Isebeuw had five children. Their second son Boudewyn, who was to become the father of John de Coussmaker, was born at Scherpenisse in 1632. He also became a minister and was married three times. At the time of his second marriage he was minister at Schoondijke in Dutch Flanders. After his third marriage in 1667 he became the minister at Oosterland on the island of Schouwen in Zeeland and was finally the minister at Sas van Ghent in Dutch Flanders where he died in 1696. His younger brother David was also a minister and at the time of his death was at St Kruis in the same province.

Despite the political and religious upheavals the United Provinces

* Now Bailleul in northern France.

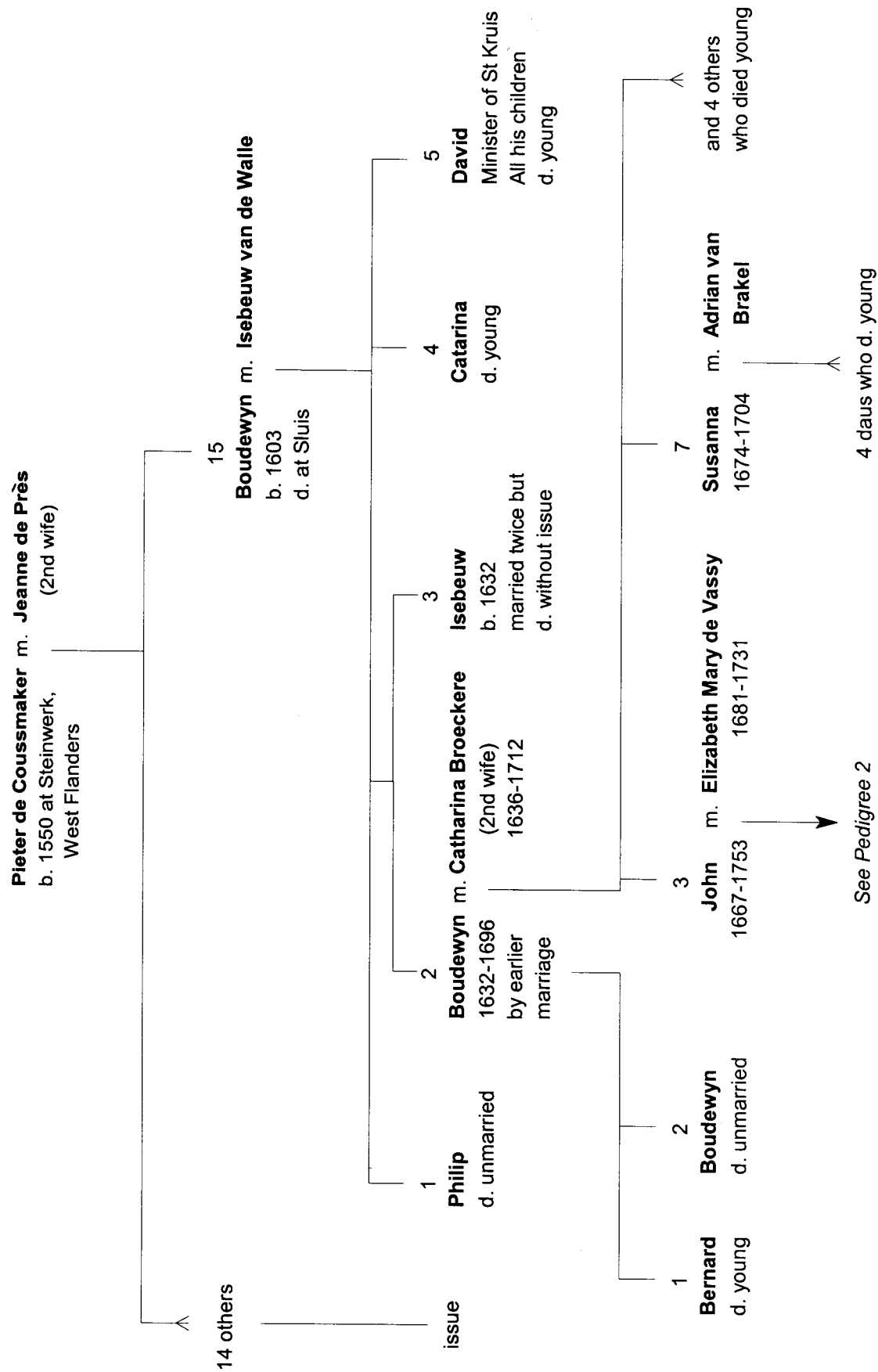


Figure 4. Pedigree 1 – the ancestors of John de Coussmaker.

emerged at the beginning of the 17th century as a major trading nation and centre of culture. That they were able to sustain their long struggle against Spain for independence was due in a great part to their growing economic strength. Their economic superiority may have also influenced the Coussmakers to make the move north and to cast in their lot with the House of Orange. It has been said that the second most profitable factor for the Dutch cause in their fight against Spain was the vast influx of Calvinist immigrants from the Southern Netherlands. The Coussmaker family not only brought their wealth but we understand also became closely associated with the House of Orange at the court in The Hague.

John de Coussmaker was the first son of Boudewyn by his third wife Catharina Broeckere and he was born in 1667 at Schoondijke. He had two older half brothers, both of whom may have died before their father. It is interesting to note that the second, another Boudewyn, died in India where he may have had connections with the Dutch East India Company. Four more children were born to Boudewyn and Catharina but only one other, their daughter Susanna born in 1674, survived to adulthood. Susanna became Maid of Honour to Princess Mary at the court in The Hague and then at St James' Palace in London.

John de Coussmaker was 21 when, according to tradition, he accompanied William of Orange's expedition to England. He had no doubt been eager for the challenge and adventure but, as far as we know, had no profession at this time. It is also unlikely that he possessed the financial means in 1688 to set up a home in England and we have found no evidence that he did so. It has been suggested that he may have lived at court and chosen to travel between England and The Hague with his future brother-in-law Adrian van Brakel, who was a courtier and moved in the royal circle. However, he may also have chosen this time to follow the family tradition and enter into the merchant business, so availing himself of the new trading opportunities especially in the cloth trade where England was now pre-eminent, and which had been opened up for his countrymen by William of Orange after his accession to the English throne. According to one of his grandsons, the agriculturist and writer Arthur Young, when John de Coussmaker came to England he brought with him a fortune of £80,000. This was a vast sum in those days (he bought the Westwood estate for £4,900) and although he may have accumulated this from his own activities as a merchant, he is more likely to have acquired the bulk of it on his father's death.

His father died at Sas van Ghent in March 1696 and in the following August John, by now aged 29, married Elizabeth Mary de Vassy (Plate 1) the 15 year old daughter of the Commandant of Sas van Ghent. Their first child, a daughter, was born at Sas van Ghent in June 1697 but she lived only a month and was buried in her grandfather's grave. In May 1698 John's sister Susanna married Adrian van Brakel at Sas van Ghent and the following month a second daughter was born to John and Elizabeth Mary. It was soon after this that we believe the

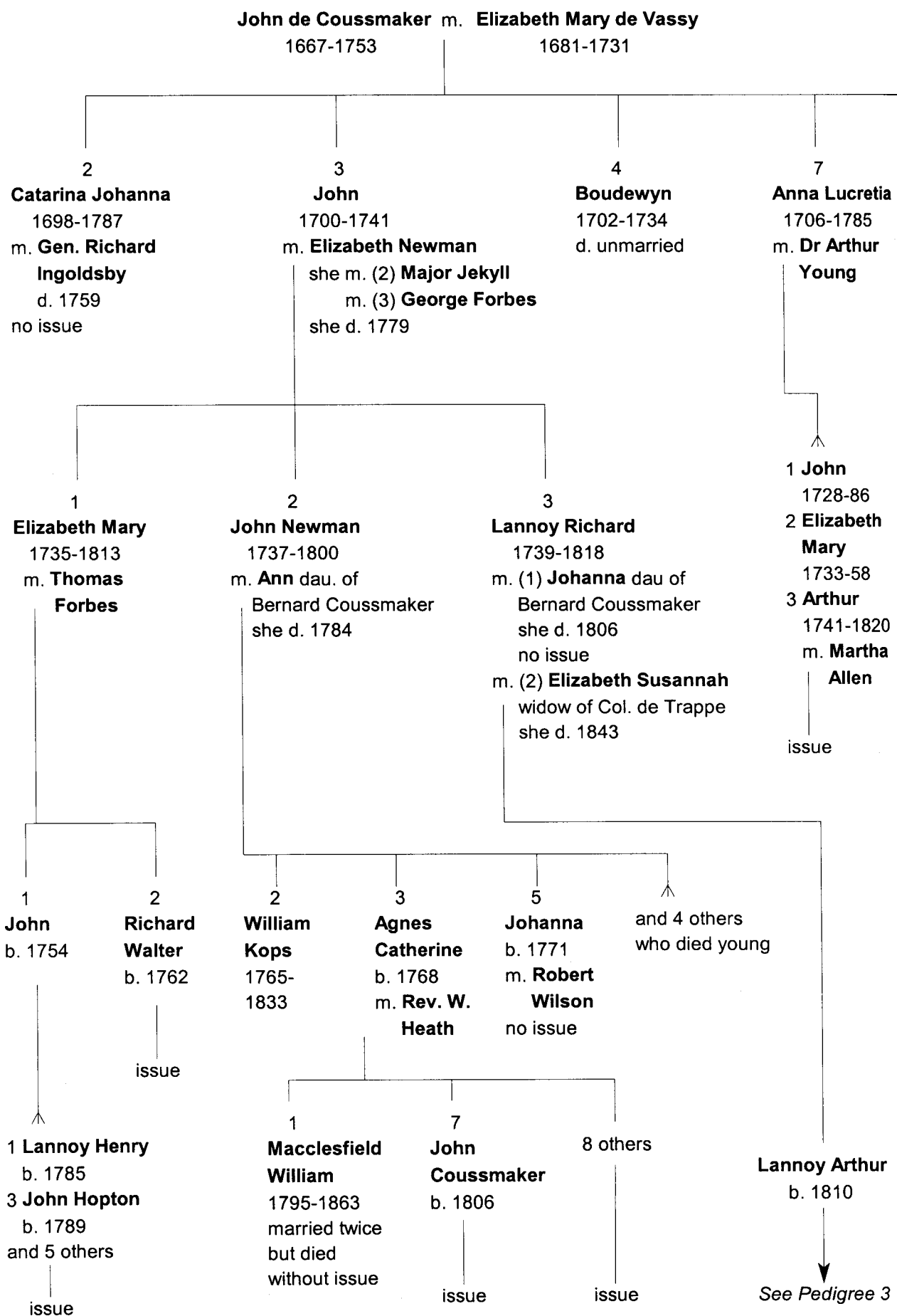
two families, with their widowed mother Catharina, left the Netherlands to join other Dutch followers of the King and make England their permanent home. They first settled in Westminster where John and Elizabeth Mary's third child and eldest son John was born in the parish of St Martin in the Fields in June 1700.

John and his family changed their London home several times but throughout his life he maintained a residence in Westminster close to the court of St James. However, as was the custom of the day, he soon set about putting some of his wealth into land and he acquired several properties in London, Middlesex and Surrey. These in turn became another source of income but more importantly, by becoming a landed proprietor, he enhanced his social position. In 1718 he bought a family house in Weybridge, a very desirable area where several important personages of the day had country residences. This house was on the Earl of Portmore's estate. The Earl was closely associated with the King and had spent much of his early life in Holland serving in his army and was another who had accompanied him to England in 1688. Sir Edward Hopson, the brother of Sir Thomas Hopson who had played an important part in the War of the Spanish Succession in 1702, lived in the house next to the Coussmaker family. The names of both these men together with that of John de Coussmaker are mentioned in connection with alterations to the old church of St Nicholas at Weybridge where John de Coussmaker also served as a churchwarden.

Then in 1720 John de Coussmaker bought the estate at Westwood. Unlike the house at Weybridge this was not acquired in order to provide another home for his large family but for the opportunities it offered for hunting and sport. It is said that he decided to purchase it because it was near to his friend Arthur Onslow, who had Wanborough Manor. Arthur Onslow, the cousin of Baron Thomas Onslow of Clandon Park, entered parliament as the member for Guildford in 1720 and in 1728 became Speaker of the House of Commons and one of the most famous and influential men of his time.

John and Elizabeth Mary had 15 children in all but such were the hazards of childhood at this time that seven of them died in infancy. As already mentioned their first child was buried at Sas van Ghent but the others who died young were interred at St Margaret's, Westminster (either in the Chapel of St Margaret's or in the New Chapel) where their aunt, cousins and grandmother were also laid to rest. The death of John's sister Susanna van Brakel at the early age of 30 was especially sad. She had already lost three infant daughters and contracted smallpox while carrying her fourth. She died soon after giving birth and her baby daughter only lived a few more days before following her mother to the grave.

Of the eight children of John and Elizabeth Mary who reached adulthood, five married into well connected families. Their eldest daughter Catarina Johanna, who had been born at Sas van Ghent in 1698, married Captain Richard Ingoldsby of Hartwell, Buckinghamshire. His great grandmother



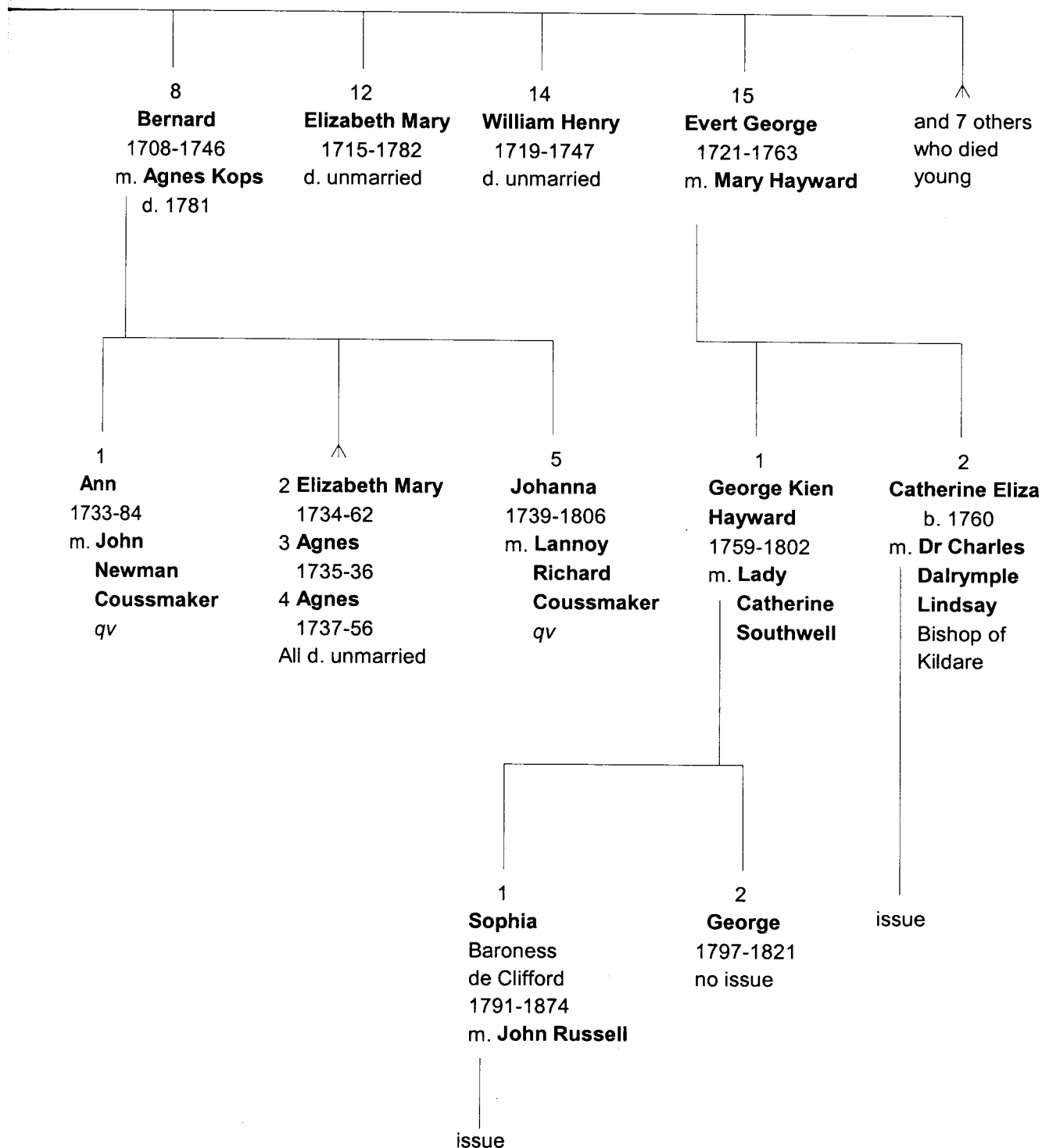


Figure 5. Pedigree 2 – the descendants of John de Coussmaker.

had been the daughter of Sir Oliver Cromwell, uncle of the Lord Protector. Unfortunately Caterina's life was to be saddened by subsequent events when her husband, then a Major General, was involved in the British defeat by the French at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745 and was wrongfully accused of disobeying his commander's orders. He was brought before a court-martial, found guilty and was suspended from pay and duty.

Her sister Anna Lucretia, born in 1706, married at the age of 19 the Reverend Dr Arthur Young, Rector of Bradfield Combust in Suffolk. She had two sons and a daughter. Her younger son, born in 1741, was the Arthur Young already mentioned and his godfathers were the Bishop of Rochester and Speaker Arthur Onslow, to whom his father was chaplain. Anna Lucretia is reputed to have been a beauty and was also very religious. According to her son Arthur, she brought a fortune to his father, the amount Arthur knew not but on his father's death 'it was sufficient to demand the settlement of the Bradfield estate upon her for life'.

The youngest daughter Elizabeth Mary, born in 1715, also settled in Bradfield but never married though, according to Arthur Young, she received 'several advantageous offers'. She was also very devout and on her death in 1782 left him her house and farms for life.

Despite, or perhaps we should say in addition to his position as gentleman and landed proprietor, John de Coussmaker did not abandon his mercantile activities. In later life he is listed as a brewer in the London directories. Brewing has been described as the 'most gentlemanly and least demanding of all businesses' and we believe this was a new venture which he set up with his youngest son Evert George. Of his sons who reached manhood, none would appear to have taken up positions in the army, church or entered politics, the most favoured careers of young gentlemen of this time. They continued to be associated with commerce and trade. We know little of the second son Boudewyn, born in 1702, but a note in the family papers states that he died at St Helena in 1734. St Helena at this time was occupied by the East India Company.

The third son Bernard, born in 1708, allied himself to a wealthy banking family when he married Agnes Kops in 1731. Her father William Isaac Kops had left Amsterdam with his family some time in the 1720s to set up business in London and the Kops & Coussmaker merchant bank, which was to be associated with the Coussmaker family until the 1830s, may owe its origins to this marriage. The only Kops son had died in 1727 and Bernard may have been taken into partnership by his father-in-law. William Isaac Kops and his family lived in Hackney which in the 18th century was delightfully rural and very select. Being only a short distance from the City and Westminster it was a favourite place for both nobility and rich merchants who built houses for themselves there. Bernard and Agnes lived at St Margaret's, Westminster. Five daughters were born to them

but only the eldest, Ann born in 1733, and the youngest, Johanna born in 1739, were to live beyond 1762. In that year these two sisters forged a further link in the family business connections and dynastic ambitions when, in a double ceremony at St John's Church, Hackney, in August 1762, they married their cousins John Newman and Lannoy Richard, the sons of John Coussmaker the younger.

John Coussmaker the younger, the eldest son of John and Elizabeth Mary, had married Elizabeth Newman in 1734. This marriage was the subject of a very long and detailed settlement in which the Westwood estate formed a major part. It is a typical example of how the landed classes, to which the Coussmaker family now belonged, ensured that adequate provision was made for any widow and children of a marriage. All the Coussmaker brides were to bring substantial dowries to their marriages. John the younger's bride was the only daughter and heiress of William Newman of Baconsthorpe who held several estates in Norfolk. Her mother had been Ann de Lannoy, a daughter of Sir Timothy de Lannoy, a wealthy and influential Levantine merchant whose home was the Great House on the riverside at Fulham, later to be known as Brandenburg House. Elizabeth brought to her marriage a dowry of £4,000 and the elder John surrendered to her settlement his estate of Westwood which then comprised some 223 acres, plus all its buildings, also 50 acres and buildings at Chertsey known as Porters Rydens and about 16 acres of land at Esher. Under its terms, John the younger received the lands at Esher as life tenant on his marriage, while he was to inherit life interest in Westwood and the estate at Chertsey on the death of his father. If he died before his wife then she was to have life interest in all the property after which any children of the marriage were to inherit in equal shares. Another condition of the settlement stipulated that in the event of the younger John dying before his father, his widow was to be paid a yearly sum of £200 and John made a covenant to purchase additional lands in Surrey or Norfolk the income from which, together with that of the above properties, would provide this sum. He also surrendered his own copyhold estate at Chertsey, called the Burrows, to the uses of his marriage settlement.

John the younger and Elizabeth settled in Wandsworth and in 1735, in accordance with the marriage settlement, purchased a property by the Thames at the mouth of the River Wandle. Since the end of the previous century this area had been associated with Huguenot and Dutch immigrants who had settled here and established several industries, including scarlet dyeing and the making of hats. It is said that the former was particularly successful due to the quality of the water of the Wandle. The younger John Coussmaker is described in various documents as a scarlet dyer and his new acquisition comprised a dyehouse with a yard and foreman's house and a tenter ground for drying cloth at the back. There was also a larger house and garden for the owner but we have been unable to establish whether he and Elizabeth lived here or somewhere else in Wandsworth. They had

three children: Elizabeth Mary born in 1735, John Newman born in 1737 and Lanny Richard born in 1739. At the time of his death in 1741 John was a Justice of the Peace.

Financial and social considerations must have also been behind the alliance of the elder John when at the age of 29 he had married the 15 year old Elizabeth Mary de Vassy. However, in spite of this and as was so often the case, theirs was an extremely happy union. When Elizabeth Mary died after a short illness her husband paid her the following tribute:

'Elizabeth Mary de Vassy my beloved wife died 15 July 1731 at Tunbridge aged 50 years 5 months & 26 days after being married to her 34 years 11 months & 12 days which time we passed together in complete happiness & love, thro God's blessing.'

She was the first of the family to be laid to rest in St Mary's Church, Staines, of which her husband had purchased the rectory in 1725. He disposed of the house in Weybridge in 1733 and according to his grandson Arthur Young, continued to live a pious life until his death at Westminster in 1753 in his 86th year.

We are indebted to Arthur Young for several descriptions of his mother's relatives though he may not always be a wholly reliable witness. He does not seem to have had a good opinion of some of his uncles who, he said, dissipated much of their father's fortune. However he could have hardly known them personally. Boudewyn died, as we have already mentioned, in 1734, Bernard in 1736, John in 1741 (the year of Arthur's birth) and William Henry, of whom we know nothing except that he may have been named after the late King, in 1747. He had, however, nothing but praise for his grandfather and amongst other tributes wrote:

'If ever there existed in human form an Israelite without guile, it was this worthy man; and it gives me great pleasure to reflect on the extreme respect and affection which were always felt for him and my dear mother.'

More simply the death of the elder John de Coussmaker was reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine* as follows: 'John de Coussmaker, Esq, who came over with William III, father of Mr Coussmaker the brewer, to whom his fortune descends.' He had outlived all his sons except Evert George and was buried in the vault at Staines where several of his family had by now been laid to rest.

Evert George, the 15th child of John and Elizabeth Mary, was born at Weybridge in 1721. He did not survive his father by many years, dying in 1763. He married Mary Hayward, daughter of Gervase Hayward of Sandwich, Kent, in 1758. We know little else about her except that her second husband was Sir Thomas Hales of Howlets, Kent. Evert George and Mary had a son and a daughter both of whom made very good marriages. Their son Colonel George Kien Hayward married Lady Catherine Southwell, daughter of the 20th Lord de Clifford, and their daughter Catherine Eliza married the Honorable Charles Dalrymple Lindsay, who was the son of the 5th Earl of Balcarres and

30th Lord Lindsay of Crawford, and became Bishop of Kildare. Colonel George is perhaps best known today because a portrait of him, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. He and Catherine also had two children, Sophia and George. Sophia married John Russell, nephew of the Duke of Bedford and became the 22nd Baroness de Clifford in her own right when her uncle died without issue. George had a military career like his father before going on to become the Member of Parliament for Kinsale, County Cork. He did not marry and the Coussmaker name in this branch of the family died with him in 1821. By this time there would appear to have been very little contact between this branch and the rest of the Coussmaker family who were slower to move away from their commercial origins.

Elizabeth, the widow of John Coussmaker the younger, married secondly Major Jekyll of the Dragoons. His portrait once hung at Westwood but we know no more about him except that he must have died quite soon afterwards because, in 1745 at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Elizabeth married for a third time. Her new husband George Forbes was a merchant in London. In 1753 her daughter Elizabeth Mary married Thomas Forbes of Waterdown, County Aberdeen. He was also a merchant and we feel confident that he must have been related in some way to his wife's stepfather but we have not found anything to link them.

In 1762 Elizabeth, upon whom the powers of appointment had devolved when John Coussmaker the younger had died intestate, apportioned the various family properties amongst her children as follows: to John Newman went the estates in Norfolk which had been purchased by his father after his marriage together with all the other estates in Norfolk which were part of his mother's inheritance and a cottage at Chertsey; to Lannoy Richard went the farm and lands at Westwood together with the property at Wandsworth, subject to his mother's life interest in them; and to Elizabeth Mary went the properties at Chertsey and Esher. In August 1762 Westwood and Wandsworth became part of Lannoy Richard's marriage settlement when he married his cousin Johanna. At the same time the succession to Westwood was laid down by entail, a legal arrangement much favoured by the landowning classes to prevent the break up of estates. It specified the order in which property should descend and meant that the current owner was simply a life tenant with a duty to preserve the property intact for his heirs. Westwood was Lannoy Richard's for the duration of his life; if Johanna survived him it then went to her and then in turn to any children and their heirs. Johanna brought to her marriage a dowry of £3,000.

The double marriage in 1762 of John Newman Coussmaker and Lannoy Richard Coussmaker with their cousins must have also been the occasion of their entry into the family business as partners with William Isaac Kops, their wives' grandfather. Soon after this date the combined name of Kops & Coussmaker appears for the first time in the London directories. Trade was now

expanding rapidly and with the opening of new markets at home and abroad their affairs prospered. Unfortunately we do not know the nature of their business but with John Newman now a substantial landowner in Norfolk, a centre of the flourishing English woollen industry, there is the strong possibility that the brothers dealt in the export of woollen cloth. Indeed the woollen industry of Norfolk may have been behind the marriage alliance not only of their father, a scarlet dyer, and their mother, heiress to estates in Norfolk, but also of their grandparents when in 1703 Sir Timothy de Lannoy negotiated the marriage between his daughter Ann and William Newman of Baconsthorpe. We do however have a clue as to where they traded. Several letters amongst the family papers are addressed to them at Batsons Coffee House in the City and an advertisement in one of the London directories tells us that it was frequented by the 'Russia and Swedish merchants in general and the banker owners and commanders of ships &c'.

William Isaac Kops died in 1774. In 1793 the name of William Kops Coussmaker, the son of John Newman, joins those of his father and uncle in the London directories at the address of Kops & Coussmaker, although he may have been associated with them earlier than this. During the 1780s trade flourished between England and Russia and there exists in the family papers a 'Diploma of the Free Economical Society of Russia' granted to William Kops Coussmaker in 1789 (Plate 2).

The growing wealth of John Newman and Lannoy Richard, who remained very close, was reflected in their style of life. John Newman moved to Hackney soon after his marriage and Lannoy Richard also lived there for a while. Ann Coussmaker bore John Newman seven children of whom three, William Kops Coussmaker mentioned above, and two daughters, Agnes Catherine and another Johanna, reached adulthood. Lannoy Richard and his wife Johanna did not have any children. It is not known if the two brothers had any connections at court like their grandfather but their cousin the Reverend Dr John Young, the elder brother of Arthur, was killed in 1786 whilst hunting with King George III. Arthur himself spoke as highly of his cousin John Newman as he had of their grandfather. John Newman earned Arthur Young's gratitude and approbation when he ensured that Arthur received the legacy from his aunt Elizabeth Mary Coussmaker, as she had intended after she had mistakenly made her original will null and void by altering it with her own hand. Under the laws of the land her estate would have otherwise lapsed to John Newman.

We do not know whether John Newman concerned himself with the running of his estates in Norfolk. Lannoy Richard on the other hand, as we shall see in Chapter 5, took an increasingly active part in the management of Westwood and became personally interested in all matters relating to agricultural improvement and innovation. In this he was following the fashion of the day but we wonder whether he was later influenced by the example of his cousin

Arthur Young. He also became more and more involved in local affairs and became an influential member of the community. In 1767 together with Solomon Dayrolles of neighbouring Henley Park, he was a member of a meeting held at the Kings Head Inn, Chertsey, to consider an application to Parliament for the making of a turnpike road from Chertsey to Guildford and Farnham. Whilst his mother lived the accommodation at Westwood remained relatively modest but about 1780 he started to extend the house and to transform it into a country mansion to match his growing wealth and social aspirations.

The greatest symbol of family pride and social importance was the right to bear a coat of arms, and when John de Coussmaker came to England it is said that he had to adapt his existing arms by adding three strawberry leaves or trefoils in order to distinguish them from arms already held by an English nobleman. After their mother's death John Newman and Lannoy Richard applied to have the arms used by their mother, who had been an heiress, quartered with their arms. Accordingly they drew up their pedigree and made a submission to the College of Arms and the new arms were confirmed at the end of 1779. They are illustrated on the Patent of Confirmation (Plate 3) and can be seen on the family monument in the church at Staines and in the memorial chapel at St Mark's, Wyke. The description on the Patent of Confirmation reads as follows:

'Quarterly First and Fourth Azure on a Cheveron between three Mulletts Or as many Trefoils Slipped Vert. Second and Third Azure two Cheveronels braced one inverted seven Estoiles interspersed Or. And for the Crest on a Wreath of the Colours An Estoile Or.'

Ann Coussmaker, the wife of John Newman, died in 1784 and joined her infant children and ancestors in the vaults of the church at Staines, the Great Tithes of which were now held jointly by her husband and his brother. Towards the end of his life, John Newman was cared for by a nurse. He died in 1800, aged 63, and was also buried at Staines. He left the greater part of his real estate to his son William Kops Coussmaker. This included the Manor of Callis and properties in Guestwick, Thurning and Wood Dalling all in Norfolk, and also a moiety of all his properties in Westminster. In addition his son inherited tithes within the parishes of Staines and Iveny in Middlesex. His daughters, Agnes and Johanna, received money bequests and in addition a third share each of the residue of his real and personal estates.

In 1779 Lannoy Richard had also inherited the property at Wandsworth outright on his mother's death. He increased this holding by purchasing additional land but leased out all the property. Then about 1800 he sold up completely. However it is probably here that he first became associated with William Bray of Shere, who was the steward of Viscount Midleton, Lord of the Manor of Dunsford to which part of the Wandsworth property belonged. Later, William Bray was to base the final part of his account of Westwood in his history of Surrey on

information communicated to him by Lannoy Richard. It would appear that Lannoy Richard at about the time of his brother's death, partially withdrew from active business and spent more and more time at Westwood where he increased the size of the estate with several new acquisitions. He no longer had a house in Hackney and instead, about 1795, bought a town house in Upper Gower Street. This part of London had only recently been developed and was still surrounded by countryside. According to the actress Sarah Siddons, one of its earliest residents, it was 'delightfully pleasant' but it was also ideally situated for Lannoy Richard being close to the family business in the city.

Johanna Coussmaker died in February 1806 leaving Lannoy Richard a widower at the age of 67 but with a new chapter in his life about to begin. One private customer of the family bank was a certain Colonel George de Trappe, a Holsteiner who had served in the Russian army but was now retired and living in Heidelberg. In his mid 50s he had married as his second wife Elizabeth Susannah, daughter of Colonel von Heideman of the Hanoverian service, who was over 30 years younger than him. Soon after their marriage, which we think took place about 1796-98, they had made at least one visit to England and had become personally acquainted with Lannoy Richard. The Kops & Coussmaker bank had been appointed joint executor with Elizabeth Susannah of the Colonel's will. Colonel de Trappe died in November 1806. In the last years of his life he had been a sick man and had been nursed devotedly by his wife. In the summer following her husband's death, Elizabeth Susannah made a return visit to England on her late husband's affairs and once again she met Lannoy Richard, then also widowed. They were married in September of the same year at St Pancras Old Church, London. As two independent persons, mutual affection and the desire for companionship must have been prime considerations behind their alliance. However, it also offered Lannoy Richard a last chance to become a father and his advanced years may be the explanation for their short courtship. In April 1810 when Lannoy Richard was 70 years old, a child was finally born to them, a son, who was given the name of Lannoy Arthur.

THE LATER COUSSMAKERS

No contemporary description of Lannoy Richard Coussmaker survives but he left many papers of his own. These show the meticulous care he took in all his transactions. They also reveal a degree of ruthlessness in his public life proving him to be very much a man of his time. He did not hesitate to distrain upon the goods and chattels of a tenant at Wandsworth who had defaulted on his rent and he was prepared to take stern measures with poachers on the Westwood estate. We also believe that he was much more a business man than his elder brother John Newman and he was probably the more dominant of the two.

Lannoy Richard was also an ambitious man. It was he and not John Newman, who applied to have the Coussmaker arms certified in 1779 and it was probably he who had been the moving spirit behind having it redesigned to incorporate their mother's arms. The wording of the patent of confirmation bears all the hallmarks of his influence and social aspirations. Their grandfather John de Coussmaker is described as 'of Westwood'. As we explain in the next chapter, Westwood was little more than a farmhouse and hunting box at the time of John the elder and he would never have described himself in these terms. Westwood had no relevance as far as John Newman was concerned but Lannoy Richard, on the other hand, was from the 1780s engaged in enlarging the house and estate and enhancing his standing in the local community. It is not difficult therefore to imagine the pride and joy that the birth of a son and heir so late in life brought to a man of his character. However the birth of Lannoy Arthur was doubly significant for the dynastic fortunes of the Coussmaker family. William Kops Coussmaker, the only surviving son of John Newman, never married and the family in England had been in danger of becoming extinct.

Following John Newman's death in 1800 and the partial retirement of Lannoy Richard from business affairs, William Kops Coussmaker had assumed a more leading role in the family firm. After 1810 Lannoy Richard relinquished even more control. His sister's son John Forbes was taken into the partnership and the firm now became known by the name of Kops, Coussmaker & Forbes. Elizabeth Mary Coussmaker, who had married Thomas Forbes in 1754, had two sons, John and Richard Walter, who were always closely associated with their two uncles and acted for them in various capacities. Later they were to become the executors and trustees of the wills of both Lannoy Richard and their cousin

William Kops, but we know very little else about them. John Forbes was a merchant in the family tradition, and so too was his his eldest son Lannoy Henry, who later joined the firm, but Richard Walter may have been a lawyer.

In the last years of his life Lannoy Richard and his family spent more and more time at Westwood where his mode of living and interests became almost entirely those of a landed gentleman. Lannoy Arthur remained an only child and he was eight years old when his father died in 1818. In his will Lannoy Richard laid down very precise instructions concerning his funeral. He directed that he should be buried at Staines in the family vault and that a 'neat plain family Monument (in case I dont do it in my life-time) be set up in the said Church at Staines the expense of which shall not exceed one hundred pounds.'

The old church of St Mary, Staines, with the exception of its reputed Inigo Jones tower, was pulled down in the 1820s and the Coussmaker monument is mounted high up on the north wall of the chancel of the present church (Plate 4). In white marble backed by a black marble slab, it is very impressive and the largest monument there. On it are inscribed the names of John de Coussmaker and 13 other members of the family. It has a plain pediment embellished with the Coussmaker arms picked out in colour with a six pointed estoile and wreath of colours and the family motto *Deo fretus sum* which may be loosely translated as 'God is my strength'. The pediment stands on an ogee moulded frieze with carved scallop shells on either side and is flanked by moulded borders on which are vertical scrolls with foliated loops. These scrolls stand on moulded and coffered bases and these and the inscribed tablet, stand on an ogee moulded base with leaf decoration on either side. It states that the ancestors of John de Coussmaker quitted Steinwerk at the Reformation but, as we have explained in Chapter 2, this is not exactly what happened. Again we find John de Coussmaker described as 'of Westwood', another example of how Lannoy Richard sought to enhance the importance of his family even in death. Amongst the family papers there are several drafts for the inscription and notes of all who had been buried at Staines. Unfortunately some names were left off the monument including that of Elizabeth Mary de Vassy, the wife of John de Coussmaker, who was the first to be buried there.

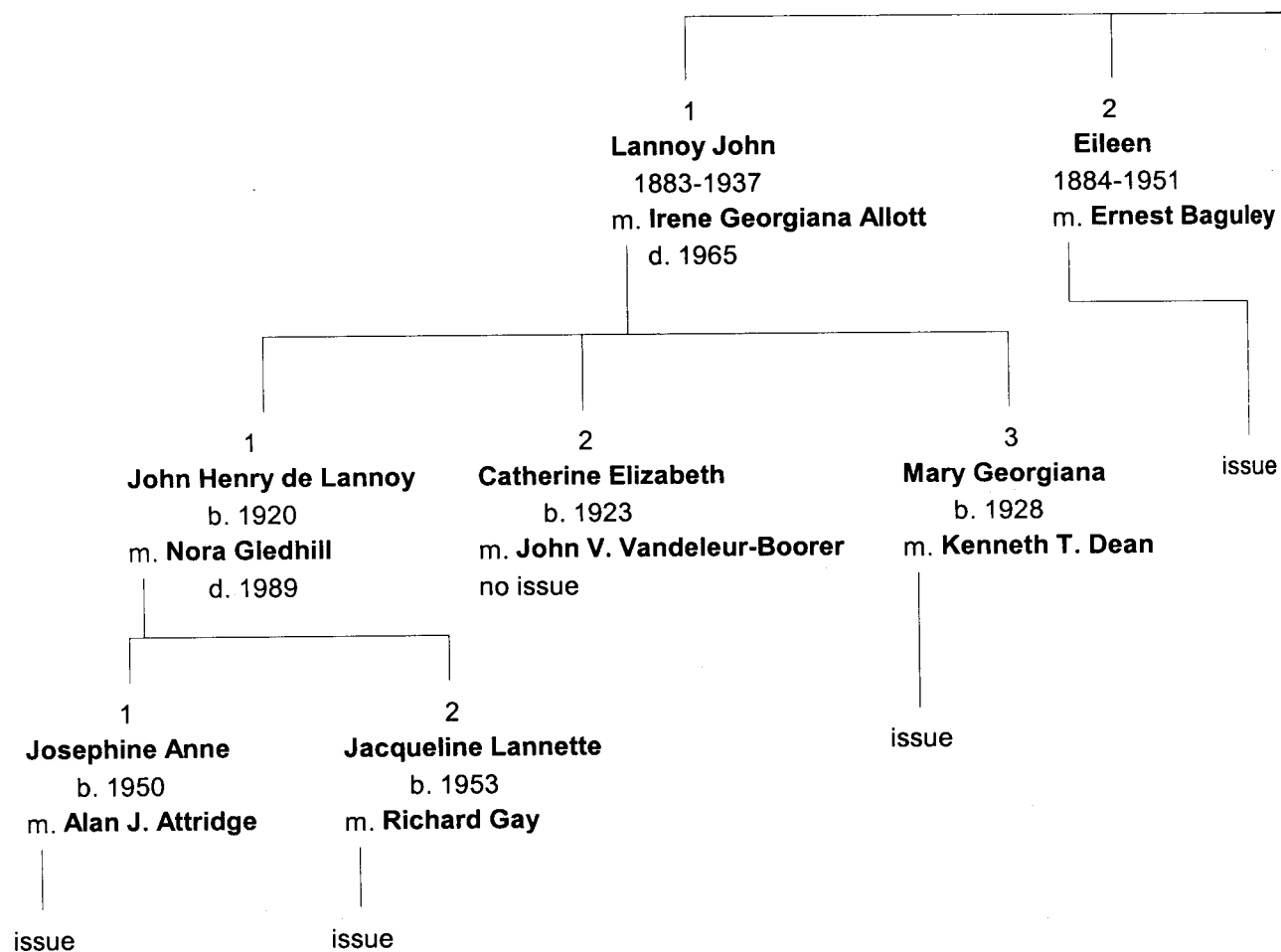
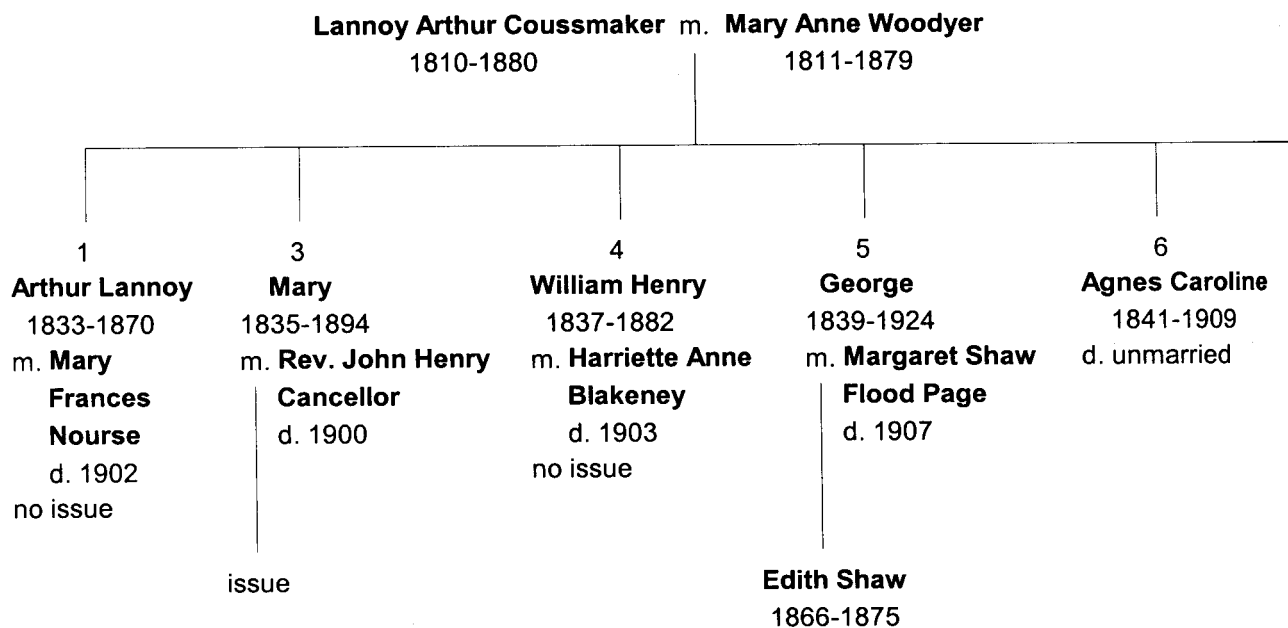
Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker's upbringing was very much that of a privileged gentleman's son and after Lannoy Richard's death the affairs and education of the young boy were managed by his mother Elizabeth Susannah, and his cousins John and Richard Walter Forbes, the trustees of his father's will. Very much in the tradition of the time he completed his formal education at university. He attended Worcester College, Oxford, and matriculated in June 1828 at the age of 18. He went down without a degree and it would seem that no further training to equip him for a profession was considered at the time. He took up the pursuits of a gentleman of leisure and independent means, adopting a club life and a

fondness for racing. His journals of 1831 and 1832 describe such activities as riding, hunting, shooting, walking, paying social visits and dining with friends and acquaintances. However on several occasions he stayed at Westwood and there are also some references to tree planting and other management matters. Gradually it would seem he was coming round to the idea of running the estate for himself and making his home at Westwood when he married. There was no further involvement in the family firm. About 1831 a close associate of the family and public notary, Arend Jacob Guitard, became a partner. William Kops Coussmaker died in 1833 but the firm continued to be known by the name of Kops, Coussmaker and Guitard until about 1855 when it was taken over by F H and A Collier, merchants.

In February 1832, within a year of attaining his majority, Lannoy Arthur married Mary Anne Woodyer at Holy Trinity Church in Guildford. She was the daughter of Caleb Woodyer, a successful local surgeon of Allen House, 1 High Street, Guildford, and Mary Anne Eleanor, eldest daughter of Henry Halsey of Henley Park. Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker was later to write that Elizabeth Susannah had become a little concerned about her son's lifestyle after he came down from Oxford and had made efforts to find him a wife. She had thought one of the Miss Austens of Shalford Park 'might do' but Lannoy Arthur, meeting Mary Anne Woodyer, another choice of his mother, preferred her and they married and settled at Westwood (Plate 5). This marriage too was the subject of a financial settlement but with a difference. The sum of £8,000 was placed by Caleb Woodyer but he insisted that if his daughter died childless, this sum should revert to his family after Lannoy Arthur's death due to the disproportion of their fortunes. Lannoy Arthur agreed to this condition but Mary Anne more than abundantly rendered it void. In a long and happy marriage of over 47 years she was to present her husband with 14 children of whom all but three lived to adulthood.

Westwood remained the sole home of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne and when his mother died in 1843, he sold his father's London house in Upper Gower Street. As the years passed and his family grew so also did his standing and the respect in which he was held. He soon surpassed his father in the management of the estate which he farmed to maximum efficiency. He became a member of the Central Farmers' Club and was later unanimously elected its chairman. These were good years and are recalled for us by his fourth son Macclesfield Forbes who, towards the end of his long life, wrote in his memoirs describing his childhood at Westwood:

'My father was a typical country squire, residing in his country home and farming the Estate. A thorough gentleman, liked and respected by all his neighbours, squires like himself residing within 20 miles of Westwood. He took an active part in the control of local affairs, he was a keen sportsman,



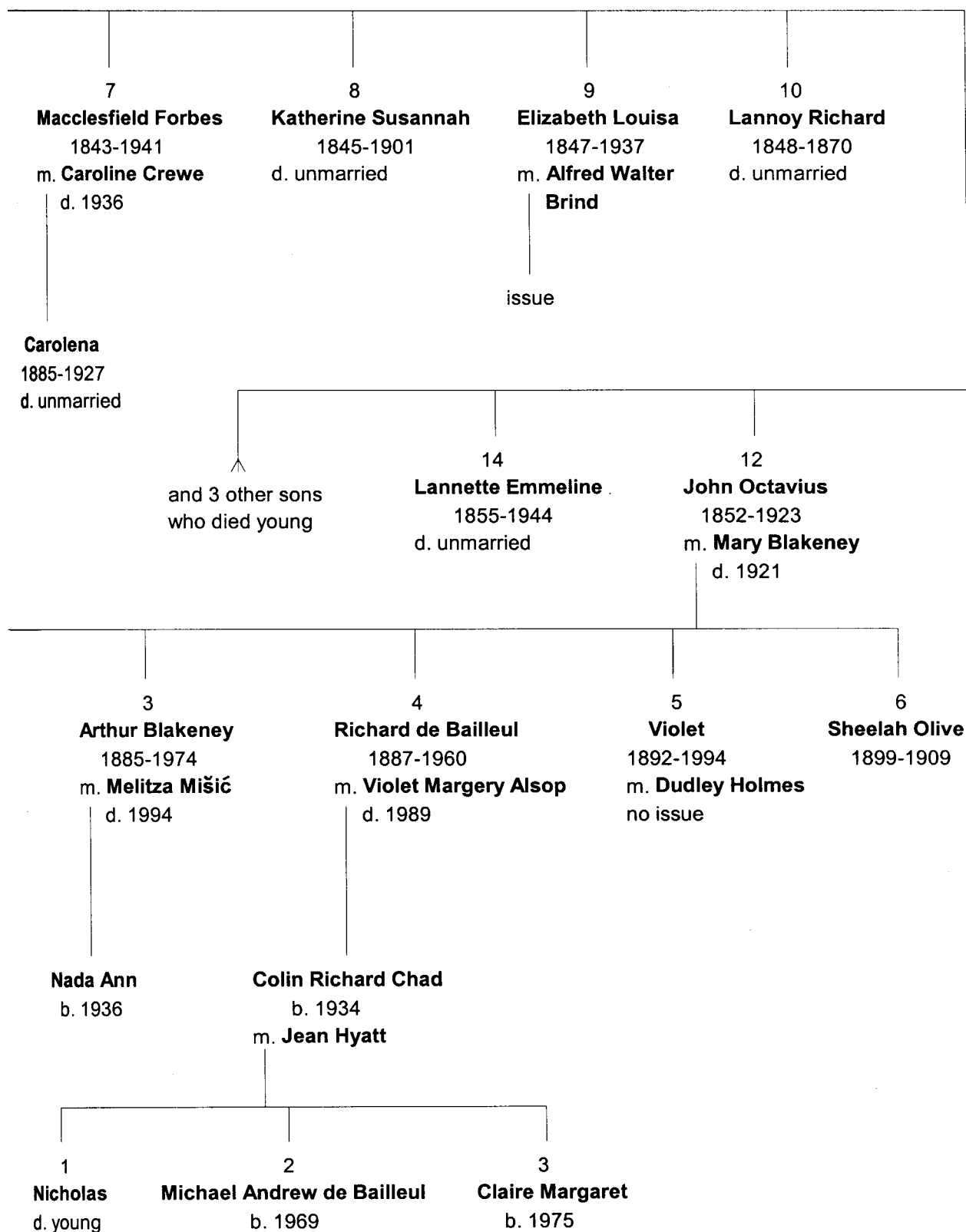


Figure 6. Pedigree 3 – the descendants of Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker.

hunting three days a fortnight and shooting over his own property and with his neighbours. He had a very strong will, and was rather a terror to us young children who saw very little of him. He had a habit of usually refusing to give us anything we ventured to ask for, but as he generally gave it to us two or three days afterwards as an original idea of his own we were content to wait for it . . .’

All the children devoutly loved their mother who was of a very gentle, sweet disposition and a devoted wife.

Macclesfield went on to describe how from the age of four until he went to his first school at Brighton at the age of eight, he picked up what education he could from his sisters’ governess. He used to recite short lessons in Latin grammar to his father whilst he was dressing and when he did not know it, which he admits was often the case, Lannoy Arthur knocked his knuckles with the church doorkey, ‘a formidable weapon a foot long that hung inconveniently handy’. Lannoy Arthur kept two hunters and ponies for the children and would ride into Guildford every Saturday afternoon, taking with him as many children as there were ponies in the stable – usually two or three. They rode through Wanborough to the Hog’s Back and had a good gallop on the broad margin of the highroad to Guildford.

The older children of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne Coussmaker were baptised at St Mary’s Church, Worplesdon, the parish church which was some five miles distant from Westwood. In 1846 Lannoy Arthur with his high standing in the community, played a major role in the establishment of the new church of St Mark at Wyke. As the population increased in the 19th century there was an upsurge in church building and the creation of new parishes. Worplesdon was a large parish and the creation of the consolidated chapelry at Wyke was certainly due in part to the need to provide an additional place of worship. However it owed as much to the personal influence of Lannoy Arthur who wanted a church nearer to his family home at Westwood. He made a gift of the land for the church and its churchyard and with H W Halsey of Henley Park, his wife’s uncle, subscribed the greater part of the cost of £1,300 required for its construction. There was a further family connection in that his wife’s younger brother was the architect Henry Woodyer, who had only recently begun to practice independently, and it was he who was given the commission to design the church. In 1843 he had already designed the restoration of the church at Compton but St Mark’s Church, Wyke, was his first complete church commission. A chapel was also built on the south side of the chancel and nave in the same style as the church and entirely at Lannoy Arthur’s expense. It had its own entrance from the outside and was intended to serve as a private mortuary and memorial chapel for him and his family. The church was completed towards the end of 1847 but it was not until February 1849 that the first family event took place there when Lannoy Richard Coussmaker, the fifth son, was baptised.

Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne were to see two of their five daughters married and six sons established in professions. In 1859 Mary, their eldest daughter, married the Reverend John Henry Cancellor (whose parents were family friends) at St Mark's Church. From 1863 until 1874 he was curate of St Peter's Church, Ash, and they resided at Ash Rectory. In 1874 he became the rector of Hamble-le-Rice in Hampshire until his retirement in 1891. He and Mary had three sons and one daughter. He was highly regarded by Lannoy Arthur and was one of the trustees of his will. After Mary's death in 1894 he returned to Surrey and lived on the estate at Wyke Lodge. Elizabeth Louisa, the fourth daughter of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne, married Alfred Brind at St Mark's in 1871 and they had one son and five daughters.

Four sons of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne took up a military career. Arthur Lannoy, the eldest born in 1833, entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in 1847 and was commissioned without purchase into the 3rd Regiment of Foot (The Buffs) in 1849. He rose to captain in 1855 and in 1856 he joined the 85th Regiment of Foot by exchange. He saw active service abroad in Malta, Greece and the Cape of Good Hope and married Mary Frances Nourse in South Africa in 1857 but they had no children. Lannoy Richard, the fifth son, entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1866 at the age of 18. He became a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in 1869 but in February 1870, at the early age of 21, he died at Wynberg, Cape of Good Hope, and was buried in the cemetery at Cape Town. Another tragic blow was to befall the family the same year. Arthur Lannoy retired from the army in 1858. In December 1870 at the age of 37, he died at Westwood after an illness of three years.

George and Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker, the third and fourth sons born in 1839 and 1843, who were both to succeed to Westwood under the terms of the entail, joined the army in India. They were educated at Weybridge in what Macclesfield described was a very practical sort of school. George continued his education at sea where he served as an ordinary seaman and midshipman for three years from 1854 to 1857 before joining the Bombay Staff Corps in 1858. In a career lasting 25 years he rose from ensign to lieutenant colonel and was in the Bombay Revenue Survey for 20 years. Later he was to write that there had been a family plan to marry him to one of his Heath cousins but he was not consulted and it fell through. In 1864 he married Margaret Shaw, daughter of the Reverend Samuel Flood Page, at Poona in India. They had one child, a daughter Edith Shaw, who was born in 1866. She died of diphtheria at the age of nine in 1875 at the home of her mother's relatives in Selsley, Gloucestershire.

At the age of 16 Macclesfield passed into the Military Seminary of the East India Company at Addiscombe. He was nominated by Ross Mangles, formerly of the East Indian Civil Service and a friend of his father. He had a taste for engineering and had hoped to qualify for the Indian Engineers, but soon

afterwards the European regiments in India became part of the British Army and there was a change in the rules as a result of which Addiscombe cadets could henceforth only enter the infantry. Very disappointed he left after a year and was given a commission as ensign in the Indian Army. He was first attached to the 1st Europeans and then to the 23rd Native Light Infantry to which his brother belonged. He was in India for some 28 years and had a very adventurous and successful career which he described in his memoirs. He also rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1874 he married Caroline Crewe in India. She was the daughter of Colonel Willoughby Crewe of the Madras army. Their only child Carolena was born in England in 1885.

After his older brother's death in 1870, William Henry Coussmaker, the second surviving son of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne, who had been born in 1837, became his father's heir. He did not have a strong constitution and was asthmatic. We know very little about him and absolutely nothing of his early life, but from what we have been able to discover he comes over as a very determined man who was conscious of his position. Perhaps he felt disadvantaged by his military brothers who had taken up a more socially acceptable career for men of their position. He became an architect, an unusual choice for a gentleman at that time until we recall that his uncle was Henry Woodyer. We feel sure that his choice must have been influenced by Woodyer and that he may have even been his pupil and worked for him but they were both intensely private men and left few papers.*

Anthony Quiney, in his article on Henry Woodyer, cites his obituary in the *Church Times* which described the dilemma in which Woodyer found himself on leaving Oxford when he had to decide upon a career that would be appropriate to his 'social status, religious convictions and gentlemanly attitudes'. He came to the conclusion that architecture would enable him to keep 'close to the Church, satisfy his artistic leanings and allow him to move among the gentlemen he had grown up with'. Some of these considerations must have also weighed with William. Similarly, if his choice of profession was unable to maintain him as a gentleman then the family wealth could buttress him. In order to keep clear of anything that seemed like full professionalism and to maintain his gentlemanly status, Woodyer never sought membership of any professional society, an example that seems to have been followed by his nephew.

The first indication we have of William's choice of profession is in 1863. His drawings and specifications for the Gardener's Cottage (now The Lodge) on the Westwood estate survive in the family papers (Plate 6). He also designed the other cottage (now Purse Ryde Cottage) built at the same time. His work is

* We have since discovered that William Henry Coussmaker was Henry Woodyer's Clerk of Works on at least two of his church commissions, that of Millbrook, Hampshire, in 1872-74 and Panteg, Monmouthshire in 1876. This encourages our belief that William was probably always closely associated with his uncle though he may have set up a practice of his own later in the IOW.

characterised by steep gables and distinctive window heads (the latter not dissimilar to those used by Henry Woodyer in some of his secular buildings) and we believe we have detected evidence of his style in the original section of Normandy Park House, built about 1867, and at Wyke Lodge. He may have also designed the ballroom at Westwood, the main feature in Lannoy Arthur's extension which was also built in the 1860s, but unfortunately no drawings or papers survive to support or disprove this supposition. Subsequently Henry Woodyer was to advise on the construction of its verandah.

Lannoy Arthur had originally acquired Wyke Lodge, then known as Wyke Cottage, in 1847 for the use of the incumbents of the new church, but it would seem that sometime in the 1860s or 1870s he made it over to William, so William could very well have been responsible for the extension which was carried out at about this time. The occasion for the gift may have been his marriage. In 1872 at Epsom he married Harriette Anne Blakeney, a lady several years his senior. She came from a long established Anglo-Irish family, whose seat was Abbert in County Galway, and she was the sister of his friend Major Robert Blakeney. We have been unable to find out whether the couple lived at Wyke Lodge at this time because not long after their marriage we know that William was working in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight and in 1876 they set up home there in Bloomsbury Villa, Palmerston Road, bought by Lannoy Arthur. Here William was to continue to practise until the death of his father. It is interesting to note that on his marriage certificate he gave his profession as civil engineer. In the 1881 census returns for Shanklin he is described as 'surveyor' and entries in the Hampshire directories list him as an architect also practising as a surveyor.

John Octavius Coussmaker (Plate 7) the eighth son born to Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne and the sixth and youngest to survive into adulthood, never inherited Westwood but the fortunes of the estate were to owe much to him. Also he alone, of all his brothers, produced sons to continue the Coussmaker name, the eldest of whom, Lannoy John, was to succeed to Westwood in 1924. John Octavius was born in 1852 and was a kind and considerate man, very popular with the workers on the estate who made a collection for him on the occasion of his marriage in 1881 to Mary Blakeney, the niece of Harriette Anne, his brother's wife. He chose the Church for his calling. He was educated at St Andrew's College, Bradfield, in Berkshire. He matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1871 where he took a third class honours degree in theology, receiving his BA in 1875 and his MA in 1877. From 1875 to 1877 he was curate of Leek Wootton in Warwickshire. Then in a strange coincidence of name, he became the vicar of Westwood near Coventry where he remained until 1884 although he gave up his living for six months in 1879 in order to return to Surrey to help his sick father. Afterwards he went on to become the rector of Hamstall Ridware in Staffordshire for 37 years until his death in 1923.

Lannoy Arthur's fortunes had closely mirrored the age in which he lived. He had extended his estate and generally prospered. He had a private family chapel in the local church and he had achieved all his objectives without the same ambition which had driven his father Lannoy Richard. The mid 19th century was the golden age of Victorian England epitomised by the opening of the Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition in 1851 and it was in this same spirit that he had enhanced his house and built the splendid ballroom. However by the 1870s, the beginning of the agricultural depression and other social factors had started to take their toll of country estates. He and his trusted foreman and right-hand man Isaac Taylor were getting old and no longer enjoyed good health. They were finding it more difficult to manage the estate. William was in the south of France on account of his health, George and Macclesfield were with the army in India, and so it was John Octavius who stepped into the breach with help and also ensured that Westwood passed intact to his elder brother William by entail.

Lannoy Arthur died in March 1880, nine months after Mary Anne, and was laid to rest in the family vault at St Mark's, Wyke, with his wife and eldest son and two other sons who had died in infancy. All the Coussmakers were kind and considerate to their retainers and left them bequests in their wills. Lannoy Arthur left a legacy of £50 each to Isaac Taylor and George West who had been in his service for over 50 years. However when Taylor died in 1899 he left his £50 back to the owner of Westwood as part of the property of the estate, demonstrating the high regard and esteem in which he held his late master and his family. The trustees of Lannoy Arthur's will were his sons, William Henry Coussmaker (now the tenant for life of Westwood) and John Octavius Coussmaker, his friend Dodson Haydon, and his son-in-law John Henry Cancellor.

It had been William's great ambition to succeed his father as a landed proprietor (one of the few letters of his to survive shows his great interest in crops and plants) but he did not live long enough to enjoy it. He died at Wyke Lodge at the age of 44 just two years after his father. Henry Woodyer was one of the mourners at his funeral which took place at St Mark's. The most enduring reminder of William's tenure is a portfolio of photographs of the house and its grounds in 1880. He probably had these taken in preparation for letting the house, but for us they are a unique and highly valued record of Westwood at this time and the two interior views have been reproduced in this book. Although William and Harriette never had children, George could not have expected to find himself the owner of Westwood quite so soon. He retired from the army the following year so cutting his military career prematurely short.

There are still people in Normandy today who remember Colonel George and his wife, for his tenure of Westwood was to last for 42 years. They were to play a major part in the life of the village and Westwood became the focus of many of the social events of the day. People still recall the annual fêtes which took place in

the grounds with marquees for exhibits of horticulture and needlework. There was also entertainment, including country dancing and demonstrations of tent-pegging by the army, and people came from miles around to be there.

The Coussmaker family, together with Lady Roberts of Henley Park and Sir Philip and Lady Henriques of Normandy Park, also played a leading part in setting up many new activities in the village. Colonel George started the Men's Institute in the long building at the side of North Wyke Farm. There was a gymnasium and a boxing ring, and the first scouts also met there. The Cricket Club which was founded about 1895, played its matches in a field off Westwood Lane north of the house and continued to play there until it moved to grounds off School Lane after the 1914-18 War. Mrs George Coussmaker was known for her charitable works. She was especially kind to families on the estate. For example, she helped one of the households at High Bridge when the mother was confined after childbirth, going in early in the morning and getting the older children ready for school and then setting everything ready for their return. Each winter, at least three times a week, there was soup available at Westwood for all who went and there were many who took up the offer. And of course many in the village were in the employ of Colonel Coussmaker and owed their livelihood to him.

From 1897 until 1900 Colonel George served on the Ash Parish Council as one of the three councillors for the Wyke and Normandy Ward. As early as 1897 there was a bid to split the parish council and to create a separate and independent council for Wyke and Normandy and he took a leading role in this. However it was unsuccessful because the population of Wyke and Normandy, then about 700, was considered too small. Colonel George also took an active interest in the affairs of St Mark's Church like his father before him, and served as churchwarden for many years. In 1901 he gave the land on which the first vicarage was built and in 1906 sold an additional piece of land for the first extension of the churchyard.

Behind the scenes at Westwood, as we describe in Chapter 6, everything was not going so well. Colonel Macclesfield retired from the army in 1889 on health grounds and set up home in Guildford with his wife and daughter. In 1898 he replaced his brother-in-law John Henry Cancellor as a trustee of his father's will and thereafter the three brothers, George, Macclesfield and John Octavius, were constantly in communication with one another seeking solutions to the ever increasing problems of maintaining the house and the estate. None of them had had any specific training in estate management but George carried on the family tradition and took a serious and active interest in it and is recorded as being a member of the Farmers' Club. He maintained a military bearing but was a slightly eccentric character, perhaps another legacy of his life in India, and this trait became more pronounced in his later years. One of his hobbies was botany and he had a collection of pressed ferns which he kept in a large leather portfolio which is now in the Herbarium at Kew Gardens. While in India he became very interested

in the cultivation of the silkworm and wrote a pamphlet on the tussur silkworm which was published by E & F N Spon of London in 1873. He continued this interest when he returned home and planted mulberry bushes in the orchard at Westwood in order to feed his silkworms. We believe that the photograph (Plate 9) which he labelled 'The Agawam and its attendants' is of the mulberry bush enclosure. A copy of his pamphlet, together with specimens of the process of silk manufacture, were later deposited by the family in the Silk Museum at Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Colonel Macclesfield Forbes was also a colourful character especially in his later years (Plate 10) and was very similar in many respects to George – they shared a common experience in India. However he was also much more practical and methodical, especially where paperwork was concerned. It was he who sorted through all the family documents making copies and inventories of them and but for his efforts, many records might not have survived. Macclesfield was clever with his hands. His hobbies were woodturning and marquetry and he also made artificial limbs for medical mission hospitals in all parts of the world.

All three brothers were intensely interested in the history of their ancestors. They made numerous enquiries, copious notes and compiled a genealogy of the English branch of the family founded by John de Coussmaker. In his travels abroad in the 1870s Macclesfield made contact with some members of the Coussmaker family on the continent where the name was spelt *Cousse-maker*. During the 1914-18 War he also met another very distant relative who was a refugee from Belgium and he learned of yet another, a soldier in the Belgian army who had been wounded and was convalescing in a military hospital near York. Macclesfield corresponded with him in French and when he recovered and returned to service in France, Macclesfield acted as an intermediary forwarding letters to and from his wife in Belgium because at that time it was not possible to send letters direct between France and Belgium. All these connections were very distant and their common origin dated back several centuries before John de Coussmaker came to England. It is interesting to note that another member of the Cousse-maker family on the continent was the distinguished academic and French musicologist Charles Edmond Henri de Cousse-maker, who was born in 1805 in Bailleul where there is a street named after him.

Colonel George Coussmaker died in 1924 in his 85th year and was the last of his family to be interred in the vault below the chapel in St Mark's Church. Under the terms of his father's will, Colonel Macclesfield was the next son to inherit Westwood but he was 81 years old. An agreement was drawn up with his nephew Lannoy John, the eldest son of John Octavius and now the next in line to inherit, his father having died the previous year. Under this agreement Colonel Lannoy John (Plate 11) came to live at Westwood with his family and took over the running of the estate. He was the last member of the family to do so.

He was born in 1883 and grew up in Hamstall Ridware in Staffordshire where his father was the rector. Interestingly, because of the tradition now in the family (one of his Cancellor cousins having also taken up architecture) he became an architect by profession and began to practice at Burton-on-Trent in the early 1900s where his commissions included work for Bass, the Burton brewers.

Also following in the family tradition, he had a distinguished military career and received several decorations. When the 1914-18 War broke out he was in the North Midland Division of the Territorial Army. He crossed over to France in 1915 as second-in-command of a Field Company of the Royal Engineers. In the same year he was awarded the Military Cross and was mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in the Field. In 1918 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed Commander of the Royal Engineers of the 59th Division. In 1918 he was again mentioned in dispatches and the following year was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. After the end of the war he was appointed Commander Royal Engineers (CRE) of the Highland Division of the Army on the Rhine and on demobilisation in 1920 he was appointed CRE of the North Midland Division at home, an appointment he held for five years. He subsequently retired with the rank of full colonel.

Lannoy John married Irene Georgiana Allott in 1917 and they had one son John Henry de Lannoy, born in 1920, and two daughters, Catherine Elizabeth born in 1923, and Mary Georgiana born in 1928 after the family had moved to Westwood. The Sunday morning procession along Westwood Lane when the Colonel and his family and all the household walked from the house to the church with the nanny bringing up the rear pushing a beautiful white pram, became a familiar sight at this time.

At first Lannoy John continued to practice as an architect in the Midlands during the week, coming home to his family at Westwood at the weekends. He was then able to set up a branch of his firm Messrs Coussmaker & Armstrong above a small tailor's shop at 36 Guildford High Street just below the Guildhall, where he continued to practice while also carrying on the affairs of Westwood. His work at this time included the offices of the former Hambledon Rural District Council in Bury Fields, Guildford, now offices for Guildford Borough Council. He also brought his professional skills to the estate. It was he who designed the bay windows which were added to the back of the cottage of Glaziers. Although John Baker, the Surrey artist and local historian, has said that perhaps this should not have been done, he nevertheless considered that they enhanced the building and provided a good focal point.

Lannoy John also designed several houses in Normandy. These included the present Wyke Cottage on the Guildford Road, and Orchard Cottage and Orchard House, a pair of semi-detached houses on the Pirbright Road on the western boundary of Vokes. Very similiar to these were two pairs of semi-detached

houses (Meadow View, October House, Littlefield and Little Meads) which were built on his own land in Glaziers Lane and were intended to form part of a large housing estate. Another of his designs was the house in Westwood Lane now known as Alloway which he also sold with a small plot of land attached. He went on to design and build three more houses on his land fronting the Guildford Road. Originally known as 1, 2 and 3 Freemoor Cottages, their names are now Spinney Cottage, Tabeel and Freemoor. A few years before he also designed the new bungalow which was built next to The Lodge off Westwood Lane. Like The Lodge this has been known by various names but is now called South Lodge. Mr George Kirsch, who lived here in the 1930s, was the manager of the poultry farm, Colonel Lannoy John's major innovation at Westwood.

The Colonel also took an active part in local affairs and was appointed a JP for Surrey sitting on the Farnham bench. He always led the Normandy Remembrance Day parade of ex-servicemen. Westwood continued to host many village events and celebrations as it had in Colonel George's day and the Gardening Club held its annual show in the field opposite the house. In 1937 Colonel Macclesfield fell ill with pneumonia and Lannoy John spent several nights with his uncle at his home in Edgeborough Road, Guildford. He himself was also not a well man and was suffering from sleeplessness, headaches and abdominal pain. Sadly one morning in May he was found dead at the edge of the lake in the grounds of Westwood, having taken his own life while his mind was unbalanced. The funeral took place at St Mark's Church and the former vicar the Reverend F N Pickford officiated together with the Reverend E Logan Hunter and the Reverend S Goodban. There was a full choir and many people came to pay their last respects including representatives from all walks of life in Normandy. After the service a solemn procession made its way to the centre of the new graveyard (the land for which had been gifted by the Colonel some eight years previously) where the interment took place.

Colonel Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker died in 1941 in his 98th year. Although he had lived in Guildford for the previous 50 years, he had maintained many associations with Normandy and was in the habit, well into his 90s and despite failing eyesight, of taking a walk around the lands of the former estate. Many in the village also attended his funeral and sent flowers. He was laid to rest in the same grave as his daughter and wife in the southern extension of the old churchyard at Wyke. Three years later his sister Lannette Emmeline Coussmaker, the youngest and sole surviving child of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne, died in Guildford at the age of 88. She was also brought back to Wyke and is buried in the old churchyard in the same grave as her two unmarried sisters. She was the last to have known Westwood in its heyday and her passing in the penultimate year of the Second World War marked the end of an era. Henceforth there could be no more looking back, only forward.

CHAPTER 4

THE HOUSE

Today Westwood Place stands in grounds of about 2 acres divided into attractive gardens for the owners of the present five apartments. Immediately to the north in its own grounds stands Buckhurst, the former coach house and stable block, which was converted into a home for Mrs Irene Coussmaker when the main house was sold in 1961.

The house is set in a slight hollow and is aligned north south. It has a frontage, facing east, of 115 feet and a maximum depth of 70 feet in that section now known as Queen Anne House. It has grown and changed over the centuries but its style remains predominantly Georgian. Most of it is built of brick and the greater part of the east façade is stuccoed and painted in a pale grey. The majority of the windows are multi-paned sash of classic proportions. The roofs are tiled, those of the main part of the house being partially concealed behind a parapet.

In the early part of this century, John Octavius Coussmaker wrote in an account of Westwood that the house once had a moat around it but that his father Lannoy Arthur filled in the last stretch which lay between the stable block and Westwood Lane. If indeed this was a moat, it would seem to suggest the existence of a fortified site of long habitation. However a more probable explanation is that it was part of a drainage system for the low-lying area here.

The oldest part of today's house is at the north end, now known as The Tudor Cottage. There survives here, in its main part aligned east west and in its short wing at right angles at the east end, a large portion of the original farmhouse which John de Coussmaker acquired in 1720. These parts are timber-framed but underbuilt with brick and with brick infilling between the timbers except at the east end which is tile hung. There is however evidence to show that the original house was larger than this. A survey of surviving ground floor ceiling beams undertaken by Robert Milton, an architectural student, around the time of the conversion of the house in the 1960s, indicates that the building had wings at its east end to both the north and south. Some of the beams of the former south wing, which was longer and wider than the north wing, continue into the Georgian extension on the ground and first floor, though most are now concealed.

At a conservative estimate the original structure of The Tudor Cottage must date from before 1400. The roof of the oldest and main part is constructed with massive rough hewn oak rafters about 9 inches square, spaced at 18 inch intervals and set at an angle of 50 degrees and strengthened with collar-beams and

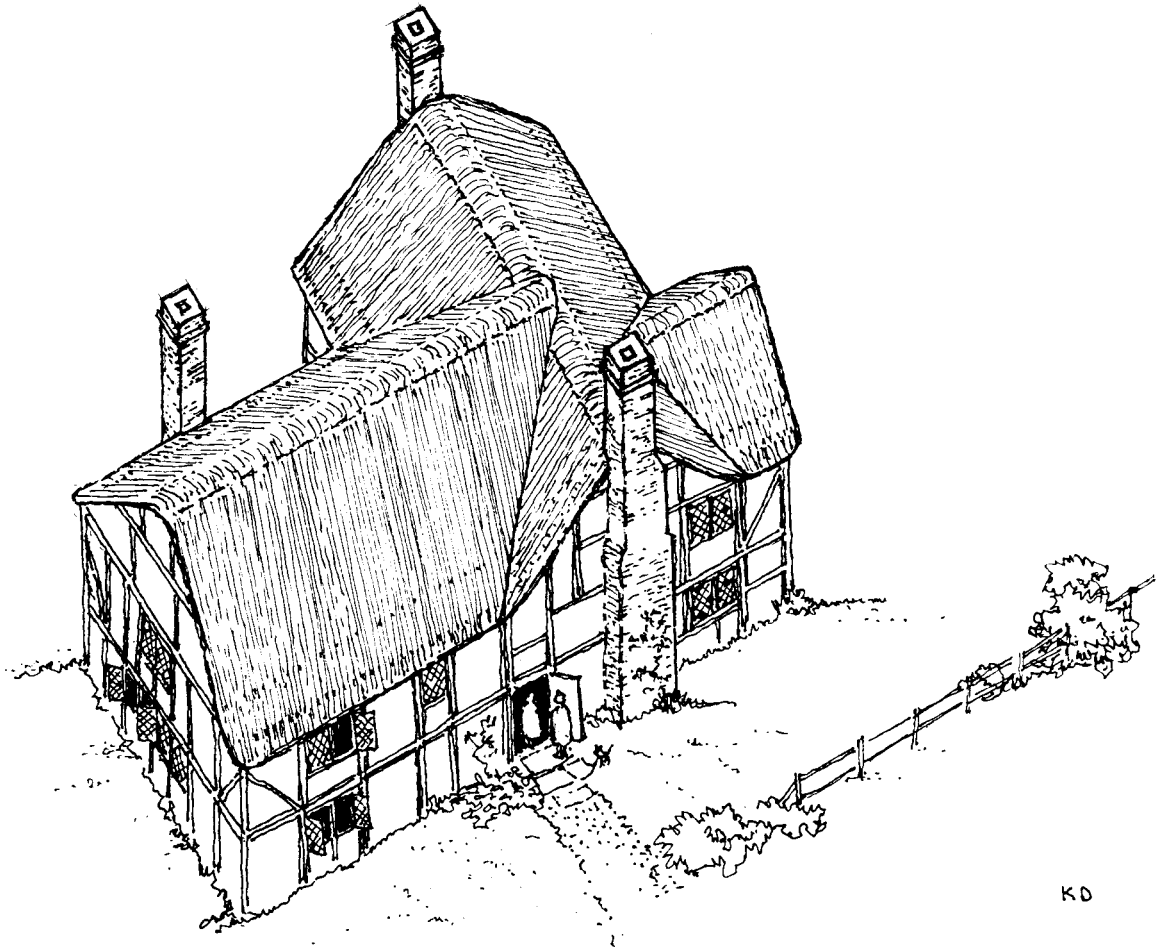
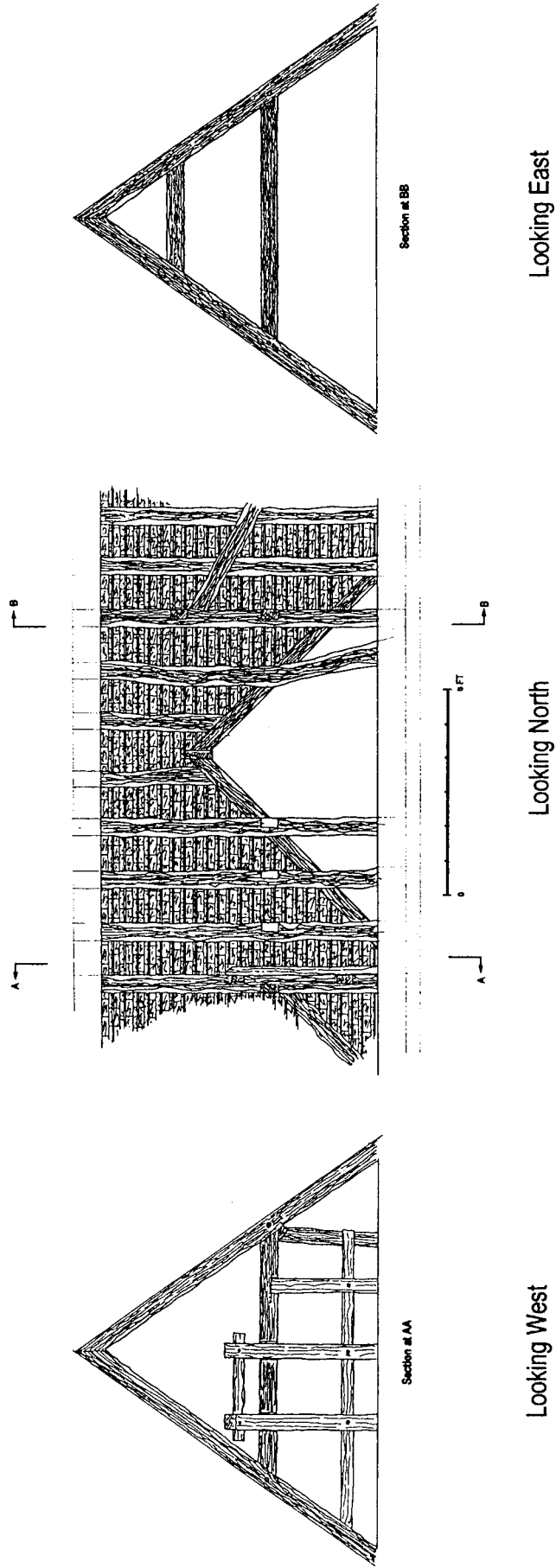


Figure 7. The half-timbered house as it may have appeared at its greatest extent about 1700.

a few wind braces. There are no purlins or ridge-piece. Across the middle of the house is a massive arched tie-beam with arched braces. Queen-struts stand on this beam and support the middle collar-beam. The tie-beam shows no sign of having been reused from a previous building and a few notches on the underside are clearly relics of an earlier, lower ceiling. The form of the roof with the rough rafters and the slope of the rear portion extending down to within 9 feet of the ground suggests that the building originated as a two-bay aisled barn (Plate 12). When the barn was converted at a later date into a dwelling the structure was altered by the addition of two wings which destroyed the eastern ends of the aisles. The roof of the surviving north wing has renewed timbers with side purlins, collar-beams, tie-beams and queen-struts. It is difficult to date this part of the roof with certainty except to say that it is later than the main roof. Probably at the same time as the conversion from the barn, a floor was inserted making the house two-storeyed. At the time of the 1960s conversions a blocked up newel staircase was discovered in the north-west corner next to the fireplace which indicates a date prior to 1500 for this part of the house.



JWK

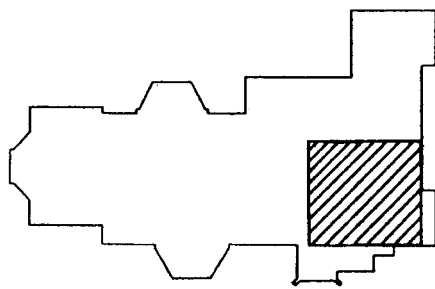
Figure 8. The Tudor Cottage roof structure.

There is no sign of soot in the roofs so the method of smoke disposal must always have been by chimneys. Therefore the existing chimneys at the east and west ends must either be contemporary with the conversion of the barn or represent later rebuilds. Later still the whole structure was underbuilt with bricks, probably because of rotting or undermining of the lower timbers. As the bricks are laid in Flemish bond this cannot be earlier than about 1680. The angle of the rafters of both roofs implies that they were originally thatched. By the end of the 17th century Surrey yeomen were starting to alter their half-timbered farmhouses by applying tile-hanging to the original framing and it is about this time that the east façade of The Tudor Cottage took on its present appearance.

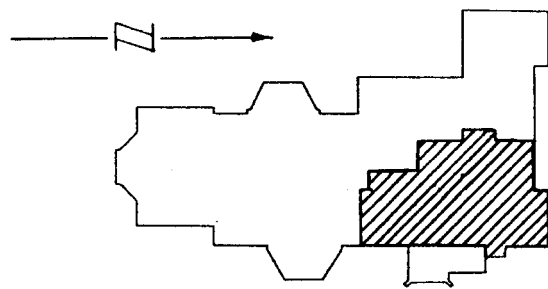
What is today the lounge of The Tudor Cottage was formerly the kitchen with its large fireplace under the western stack. When the present owners took possession in 1975, they found this bricked in and fitted with a modern grate. They opened this up and revealed a large cavity with an original ingle-nook seat on the left. They also found here a George I farthing dated 1719. Behind the kitchen was a single-storey structure which survived until 1961. This contained two rooms with a shared chimney stack. The first room was a scullery and the other, which was built on later, was the servants' hall. No trace of the scullery now exists but the walls of the former servants' hall can still be seen enclosing the present patio on three sides. These are laid in English bond indicating a date in the 18th century. Also in this area but now covered over by the 20th century extension, was found an ancient well 30 feet deep.

In 1720 when John de Coussmaker bought Westwood, the estate was being farmed by a tenant farmer John Hillman, whose lease still had 13 years to run. He was probably also occupying the original farmhouse and so it must have been very soon afterwards that John de Coussmaker started to alter and extend the house in order to provide accommodation for himself. The remainder of the south aisle was pulled down and a new block was built on to the original farmhouse at the south-west corner. The existence of old beams in the semi-basement of this extension suggests that some of the old timbers were reused from the demolished aisle.

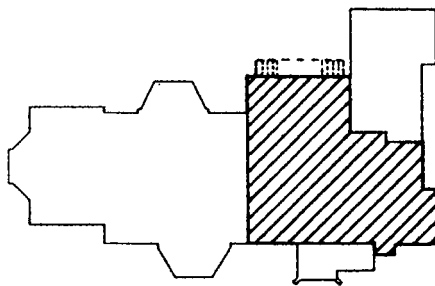
John de Coussmaker's extension now forms part of Queen Anne House. Its name, like those of The Tudor Cottage and the other apartments today, was chosen when Westwood was converted and divided in 1961-63. These names serve to distinguish the different phases of construction rather than being a strictly accurate description of architectural period and style. This new block was built in the style generally known as 'Queen Anne', which was first introduced by James Gibbs about 1680 and is best seen at Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire. It was constructed as a self-contained block utilising part of the back wall of the farmhouse with its chimney stack containing a bacon loft and there is a cavity of about 5 feet in width behind the back wall which we believe once contained the



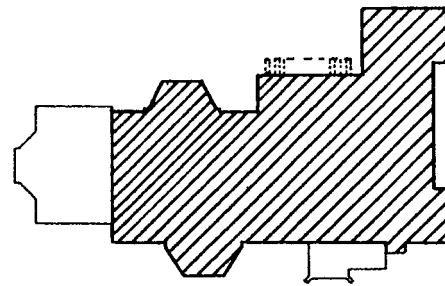
Before 1400



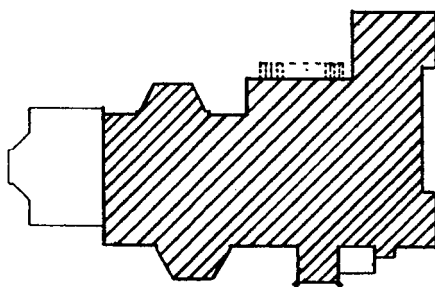
Circa 1500



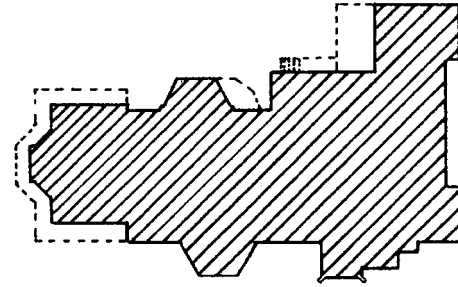
Circa 1720



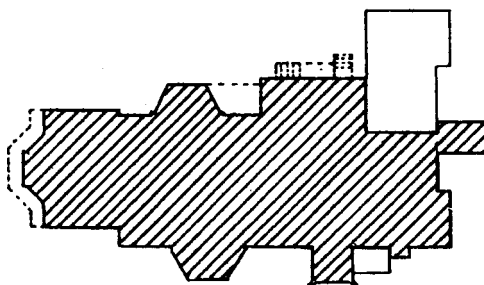
Circa 1780



Circa 1800



1863



Present Day

JWK

*Figure 9. Stages in the development of Westwood.
Outlines show the house at its greatest extent.*

staircase. It was only a single room in depth and all its windows were on the west side. It comprised a semi-basement, an entrance with one reception room on the first floor, and two other rooms (bedchambers) on the second floor. From all this we conclude that John de Coussmaker's extension was intended to be no more than a hunting box with all attendant services provided from the adjoining farmhouse. The latter must have still existed almost to its fullest extent at this time but the new west side now became the main façade. Traces of a carriage drive, which existed until the 1930s, still remain under the present lawn at the back of the house.

Even today the exterior of this part of the house retains much of its original appearance as can be seen in Plate 13. The entrance on the first floor (into the room called boudoir in the plans of the house, Figure 10) was originally approached by two flights of steps flanking both sides of the central door. The present Regency style canopy and wrought iron railings were added in the 1860s to match that of the last extension of the house. Later the northern flight of steps was demolished when a conservatory was built on to this side. A curious feature of the façade, for which we can find no satisfactory explanation, is the corbelling on the left-hand side. The lower section of the wall is recessed and laid in English bond whereas the rest of the building is in Flemish bond. This would perhaps suggest the re-use of an older wall but we do not believe this could have been so. According to family tradition an old painting of Westwood once hung in Bradfield Hall, Suffolk, the home of Anna Lucretia, John de Coussmaker's daughter who married the Reverend Dr Arthur Young. It must have shown this house, as built by her father, but unfortunately there is no trace of this painting today. Other paintings must surely have also been commissioned as the house continued to be enlarged but no contemporary pictorial representations survive until the age of the camera.

We have already mentioned that a servants' hall was added to the original farmhouse some time in the 18th century but it is unlikely that any more significant building work took place during John de Coussmaker's lifetime. He died in 1753, at the age of 85, 12 years after his eldest son John. The latter had married Elizabeth Newman in 1734. Under the terms of the marriage settlement Elizabeth, on the death of John the younger, received an income of £200 from the rents of Westwood and other properties. She also succeeded to Westwood as life tenant on the death of her father-in-law. However she may never have visited Westwood, let alone slept under its roof. Therefore the servants' hall probably formed part of the major alterations and extensions to the house which Lannoy Richard Coussmaker put in hand after her death in 1779 and which were to transform it into a gracious country residence and a family home for the first time. Lannoy Richard's first marriage to his cousin Johanna was childless but, as we have seen, the fortunes of the Coussmaker family were riding high and

Lannoy Richard, like many other landed gentlemen of the day, began to take not only a greater personal interest in the affairs of his estate but was also assuming a more important role in local affairs generally. Although his principal residence remained in London close to his commercial interests, he wanted a country seat that was more fitting for someone of his wealth and social importance.

The main central part of Westwood, the Georgian part, was built about 1780. The architect is unknown but Robert Milton considers that its appearance strongly resembles that of Asgill House in Richmond, Surrey, built by Sir Robert Taylor about 1765 for the Lord Mayor of London. Asgill House though, has large pediments on the façades whereas Westwood has parapets and cornice. Another house, remodelled by Taylor about 1770, is Sharpham House in Devon. Sharpham House has corbelled cornices but otherwise bears an even stronger resemblance to Westwood; both have similar three-storey canted bays with individual sash windows. Sir Robert Taylor (1714-88) was known as a competent but not an innovative architect. Until 1765 his designs were in the Palladian tradition but after this his work became lighter and the decoration more delicate as he gradually adopted a neo-classical approach. He was the first architect to specialise in smaller houses and it is possible that the design for the Georgian extension at Westwood was influenced by his work.

However the design of this part of the house is perhaps more likely to have been inspired by one much nearer, that of Hatchlands (1756-57) at East Clandon. Its architect Stiff Leadbetter originally intended the roofs of Hatchlands to be partially hidden by a parapet as is the case with Westwood, but this was vetoed by the owner Admiral Boscawen. Leadbetter's original part of Nuneham Park House in Oxfordshire begun in 1760, has a parapet very similar to that at Westwood. As he died in 1766 it is unlikely that he was involved in the actual design of this phase at Westwood but it is possible that a local builder adapted his plans. The brickwork under the stucco is not of a high standard, particularly in the execution of the window arches, and this supports the theory that it is local work.

The new part was joined to John de Coussmaker's hunting box and the old timber-framed farmhouse, replacing the south wing of the latter. However, instead of this wing being completely demolished, at least part of it was incorporated within the new structure. As already mentioned the old ceiling beams continue from The Tudor Cottage into the Georgian extension. On the ground floor their position can be seen in the hall where they are encased in moulded panels. A row of cupboards on the first floor landing originally contained another of these beams but it was then concealed by the conversions of the 1960s. Up to 14 rooms on three floors were added to the accommodation including the hall and a main staircase. Doors provided internal access to the former hunting box and to the old farmhouse, whose rooms became the servants' quarters.

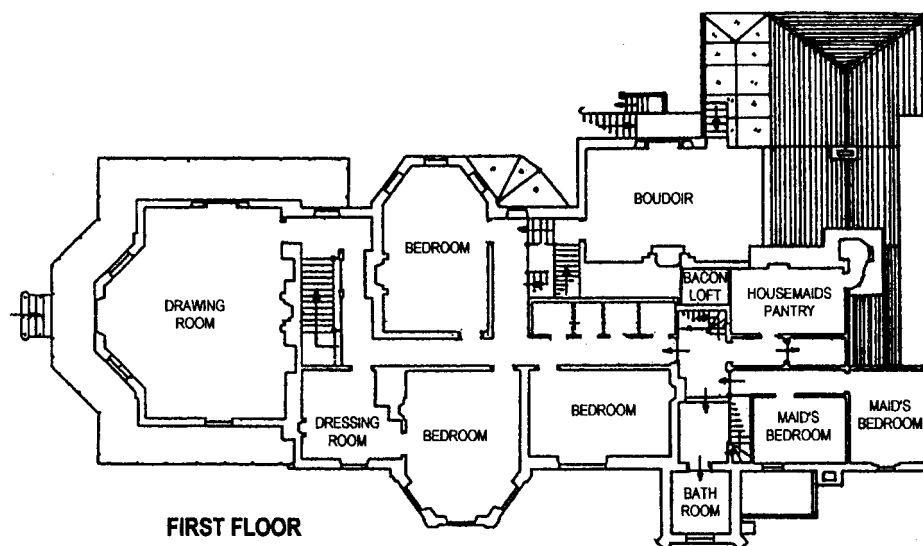
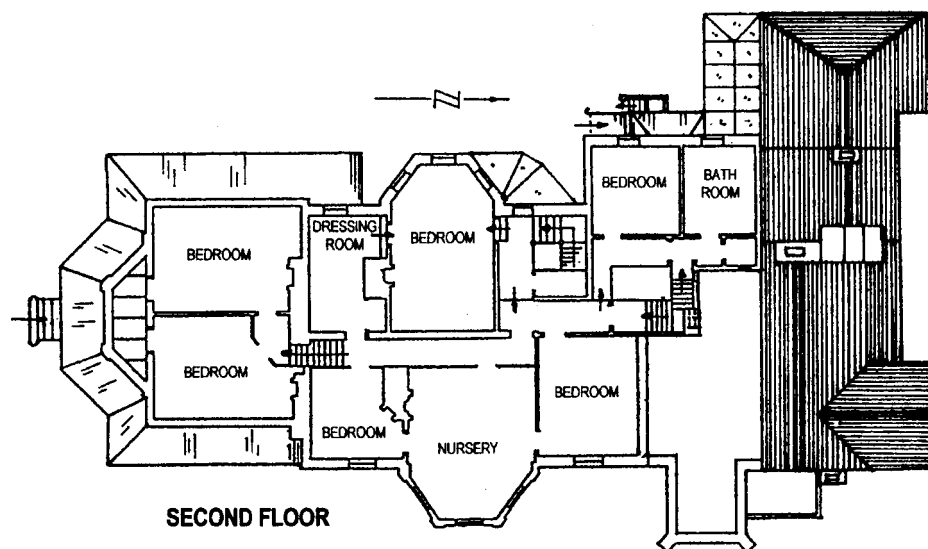
The east elevation, facing Westwood Lane, now became the front of the

house and repairs to this façade in 1995 have shown that it was always rendered. The canted bays, one at the front and one at the back, are prominent features, the appearance of the one at the front being virtually unchanged. At the back of the house, some of the windows of the bay have been replaced with a different style and the design of the string-course has been altered. The entrance tower with two floors forms a self-contained unit. In contrast to the rest of the wing, it appears to be an essay in Strawberry Hill Gothick. Horace Walpole built his villa at Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, between 1750 and 1790. The tower at Westwood could therefore be a later embellishment. It is about 15 feet square and 40 feet high and externally its two storeys are separated by a prominent ogee moulded string. The ground floor has the entrance under a four-centred arch, its double door having delicate traceried glazing bars. The upper storey, containing one room, has a two-light window with Y-tracery under a four-centred head. It is strengthened by diagonal buttresses at the front and a strange feature is a third shorter buttress on the north side.

Before Lower Westwood Farm was acquired for the estate, the house at Westwood, or Upper Westwood as it was sometimes known at this time, had around it the usual range of outbuildings associated with a farm, including stables. However we believe the stable block, now the detached residence known as Buckhurst, was built either about 1802 after Lannoy Richard acquired Lower Westwood Farm or even as late as the 1860s as part of Lannoy Arthur's improvements. It consisted of a central two-storey block flanked by single-storey wings containing two coach houses and stables. It is in Regency style and retains its central square wooden turret but under a new square ogee top.

When Lannoy Richard died in 1818 his only child and heir Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker was still a minor and it is possible that the house was let. Elizabeth Susannah, Lannoy Richard's widow, was left the London house in Upper Gower Street for life and most probably she maintained a home there for her son for the greater part if not all of the year. However on his marriage in 1832, Lannoy Arthur took up the management of the Westwood estate himself and the house became home for him and his growing family.

The last great changes to the house were made in 1863 when Lannoy Arthur put the money he realised from the sale of land to the War Office towards building the south extension which forms part of today's Regency House. It was designed to match the rest of the Georgian building. The architect is again unknown but there is a strong possibility that William Henry Coussmaker drew up the plans. Henry Woodyer also became involved. The predominant external feature was the elaborate canopied verandah on the south elevation. When this was first built it extended round on the east and west sides. In a letter to Lannoy Arthur from Grafham, dated May 7, Henry Woodyer gives advice as to the construction:



Changes in level Up shown thus →

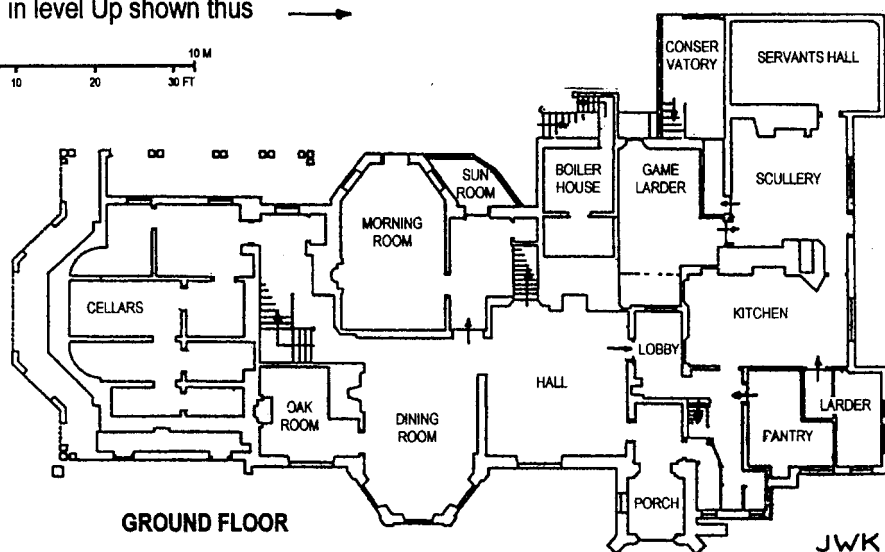
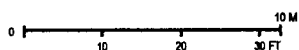


Figure 10. Plans of Westwood about 1880.

'Mr Cox and I have been talking over your Verandah, and we tell you not to lay the tiles upon wood – you will regret it if you do. Sooner or later the wood if it does not warp will rot. Do as you like but this is so – heat and cold will contract and expand – if you wish a stable job you must have a 4" brick Arch as thus ...'*

There follows a drawing and a friendly admonition, 'if you do not you will repent and I shall be glad of it'! Lannoy Arthur evidently heeded this advice as the design of the verandah supports is similar to that shown in the drawing.

The number of rooms actually added as a result of this final extension was not significant. There were cellars on the ground floor and on the second floor in the eaves of the roof were two bedrooms. These were at a higher level than the other rooms on this floor and were approached by a flight of stairs. In order to maintain the symmetrical appearance of the exterior of the house, new windows were added in line with the existing ones on this floor. However only their top portion was visible from the inside at floor level; the lower portions were false. Those at the back of the house have now been blocked up but those at the front still remain.

The first floor was entirely taken up with a ballroom (Plate 16), a tall and elaborately decorated room measuring 25 feet by 30 feet. It has been described by John Baker as a 'riot of Victorian confidence and doubtful taste' though we feel we must disagree with the latter. It is now the drawing room of Regency House and although it has been reduced in size in order to fit in a corridor on the east side, is still a magnificent room. Its ceiling has a plaster cove moulded with swags in high relief and with figures of birds in foliage at each corner. On the north wall is the original marble fireplace with its carved and gilded overmantle. The fireplace has pilasters and brackets carved in a floral design and a central motif also with flowers and foliage. On either side is a round-headed niche extending to the floor, now filled with shelves. Originally there were windows on three sides which opened on to the verandah. The bay facing south is spanned by a moulded plaster lintel supported by decorative brackets and is semi-circular on the inside with a glazed central double doorway leading on to the verandah. On the outside this bay is polygonal in shape. Accounts of 1863 survive showing the costs of the extension with its alterations and additions. These amounted to £814 with additional sums for the verandah and floor of £85.8s.9d and £6.6s.0d.

The mid 19th century was another time of prosperity for the Coussmakers and the years immediately following the completion of Lannoy Arthur's ballroom and other refurbishments mark the high point in the history of the house. Many of his large family were still living at Westwood and the whole house must have been

* George Cox was Chief Clerk of Works to Henry Woodyer.

alive with activity and every room fully used. The tower, as in Lannoy Richard's time, remained the main entrance and successive glazed doors with delicate four-centred arches, led via a vestibule into the hall, a large room panelled in oak and floored with black and white quarries. On the far wall was a large panelled fireplace and the main staircase ascended to its left. Off the left of the hall and lit by the east bay window was the dining room which was also oak panelled. Leading off the far side of this was another room known as the Oak Room and used as a study. At the back of the house off an inner hall was the morning room with its bay window and a glazed sun room both with views over the rear gardens. In the passageway leading to the cellars was a strongroom, the iron door of which is alleged to have come from the old gaol in Guildford.

To the right of the hall was a lobby or cloakroom which led into the kitchen quarters. A door off the scullery led into the game larder which occupied half of the original semi-basement of John de Coussmaker's hunting box. The other half was a coal store and boiler room and from here there was also access to the original smoke bay bacon loft above and to the side of the hall fireplace. The room on the first floor above, with French windows leading to the balcony and steps outside, was the boudoir (Plate 17) or, as it was later known, the music room. A notable feature of this room is the fireplace. Of black marble with pillars on either side, it was probably installed in Lannoy Arthur's time but the cast iron fireback is of a much earlier date. At first sight it appears to be a typical Surrey Wealden fireback of the 18th century but the subject is unusual. It shows two figures, the larger left-hand one being female and the smaller one a bearded male wearing a turban. In the background is a Turkish style building with a crescent on top and further to the right is a minaret also topped with a crescent. The border has an arched top and swags in the surrounds. The scene depicted may be from *The Thousand and One Nights*, which was first translated in Europe between 1704-12. Firebacks in this style were also cast in the Low Countries and it is possible that this one was brought over by John de Coussmaker and set here in his hunting box. To the right of the French windows a glazed door opened on to a small flight of steps leading down into the conservatory.

Other rooms on the first floor included two bedrooms and a dressing room at the front of the house and a bathroom in the tower above the entrance. There was another large bedroom at the back. At the south end was the ballroom which we have already described and which was later furnished as a drawing room. Outside the ballroom was a landing with another staircase which led from the cellars and the strong room below. This staircase was built as part of Lannoy Arthur's extension and was more ornate than the staircase leading from the hall. It was demolished in a later conversion but two square wooden pillars, each with reeding on the face, and two pilasters spanned by segmental round arches which survived from this stairwell, used to be visible in what is now the

dining room of the present Regency House. The rest of the second floor was taken up with more bedrooms including another large one with a dressing room at the back of the house. At the front of the house there was a nursery with two connecting bedrooms and another bedroom and bathroom at the back within what was part of John de Coussmaker's original house.

The old timber-framed building, served by its own staircase, housed the domestic quarters with kitchen, pantry, scullery and the servants' hall on the ground floor and two bedrooms and a housemaids' pantry on the first floor. The complement of inside staff varied but always included a cook. Present at the 1871 census were a butler, cook, two housemaids and a kitchen maid. Other servants lived out, often in cottages on the estate.

Apart from minor changes the house was to undergo no further alterations and its layout remained essentially the same until the conversions of the 1960s. The photographs commissioned by William Henry Coussmaker when he inherited Westwood in 1880, show the house and grounds not very long after the period we have just described. There are two interior views. One is of the ballroom furnished as a drawing room and the other is of the boudoir (Plates 16 & 17) which we have already mentioned.

The grounds immediately surrounding the house amounted to just over 3 acres at this time. In the front the layout was very much as it is today with a gravel drive sweeping around an area of grass and a ha-ha bordering the road. There were several large trees here including a magnificent Lebanon cedar which was several times struck by lightning. Curiously this cedar and two other trees had split trunks. The children of the family were told a story of how a poacher was caught in the mantrap and that it was he who cut off their tops in a fit of revenge when they were saplings so that thereafter they grew split trunks! The cedar unfortunately became unsafe and had to be felled in 1985. Opposite the house was an unmade track which ran between the fields to the cottage and grounds of Glaziers on the eastern boundary of the estate. This still remains today and is known as The Avenue.

At the back of the house was another gravel drive. In John de Coussmaker's time it had continued past the entrance of his house on the west side to the stable yard. The stable yard was separated from the rest of the grounds by a high brick wall with a greenhouse at the end. Beyond the greenhouse were kitchen gardens. At the rear and south of the house there were spacious lawns with clumps of trees and also to the south an avenue of conifers alternating with silver birch which ran parallel to Westwood Lane with a walled kitchen garden in between. Another ha-ha bordered the western edge of the grounds and the meadow land beyond was planted with clumps of trees perhaps following the fashion set by Capability Brown.

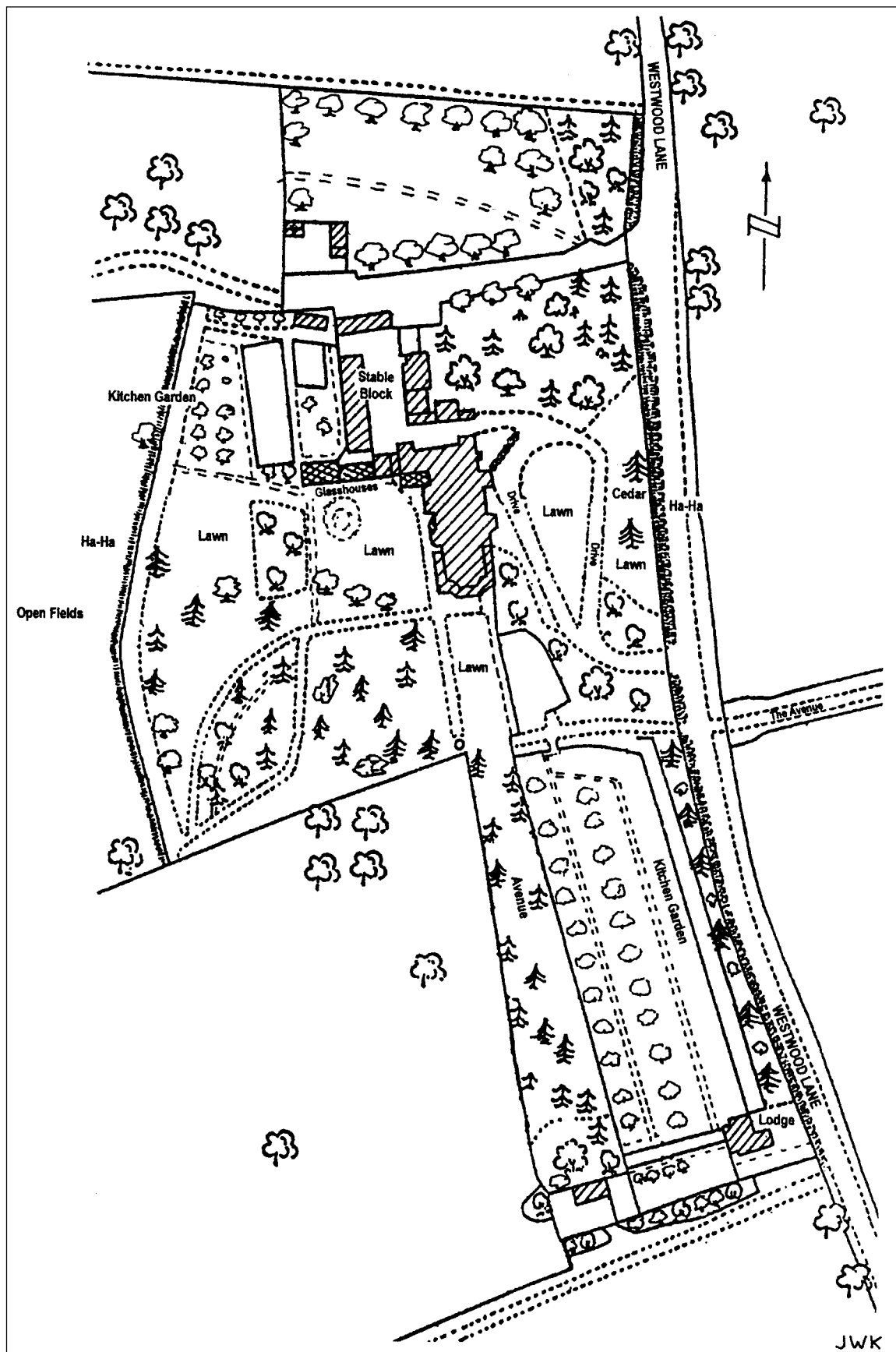


Figure 11. The grounds of Westwood about 1880.

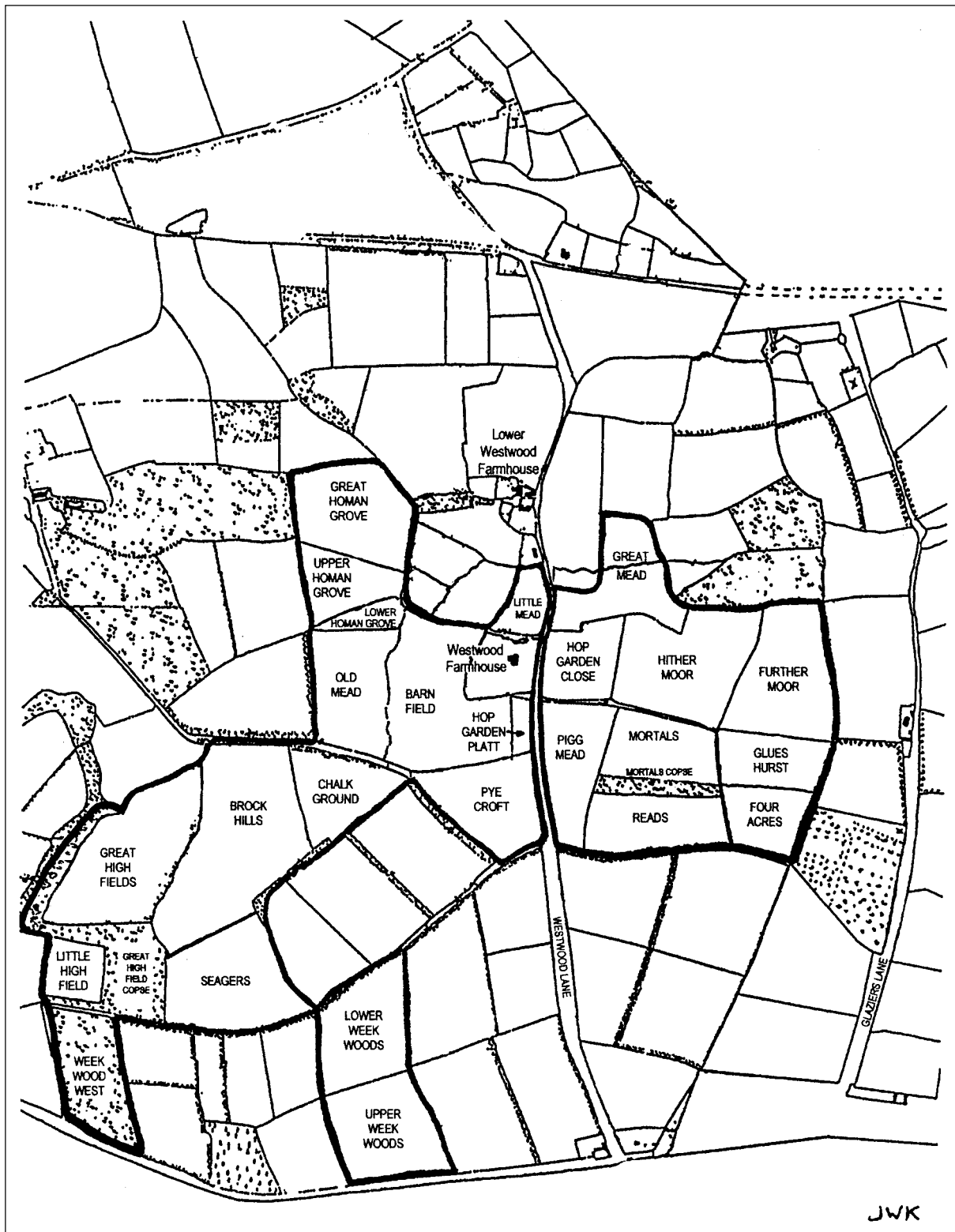
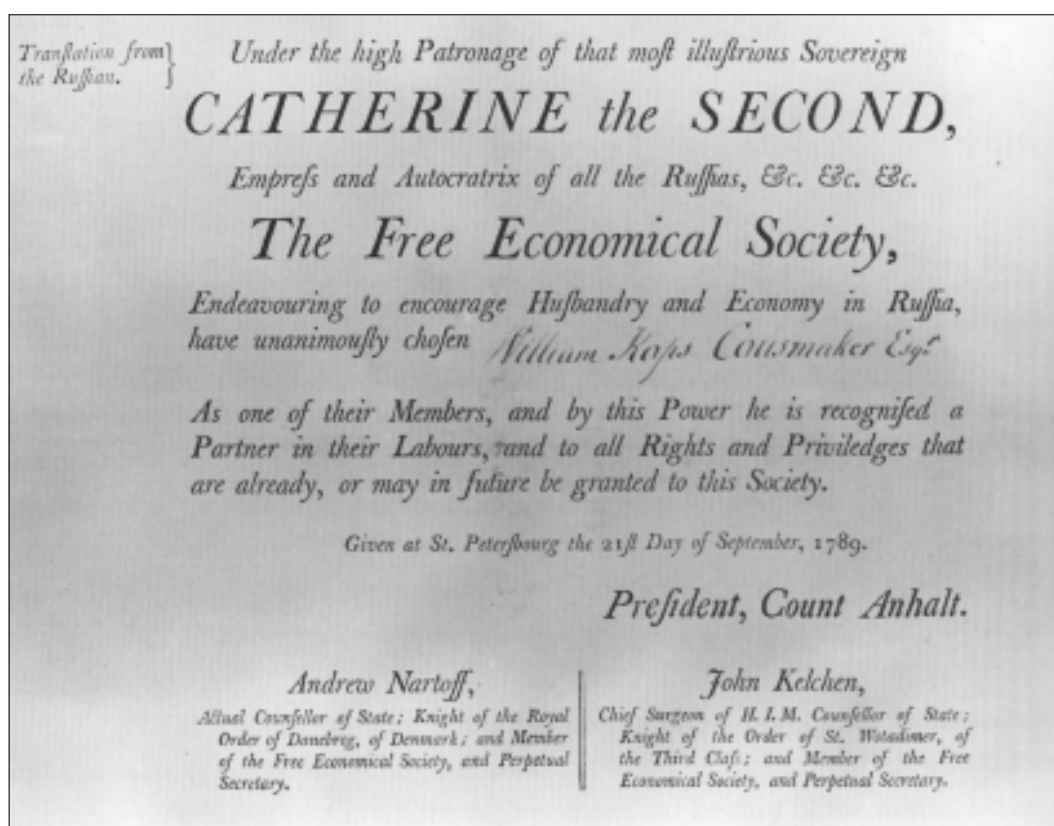


Figure 12. The estate in 1723 from a survey by Hiatt and Lannon.



1. *Elizabeth Mary de Vassy, wife of John de Coussmaker.
Artist unknown but believed to be Sir Godfrey Kneller.*



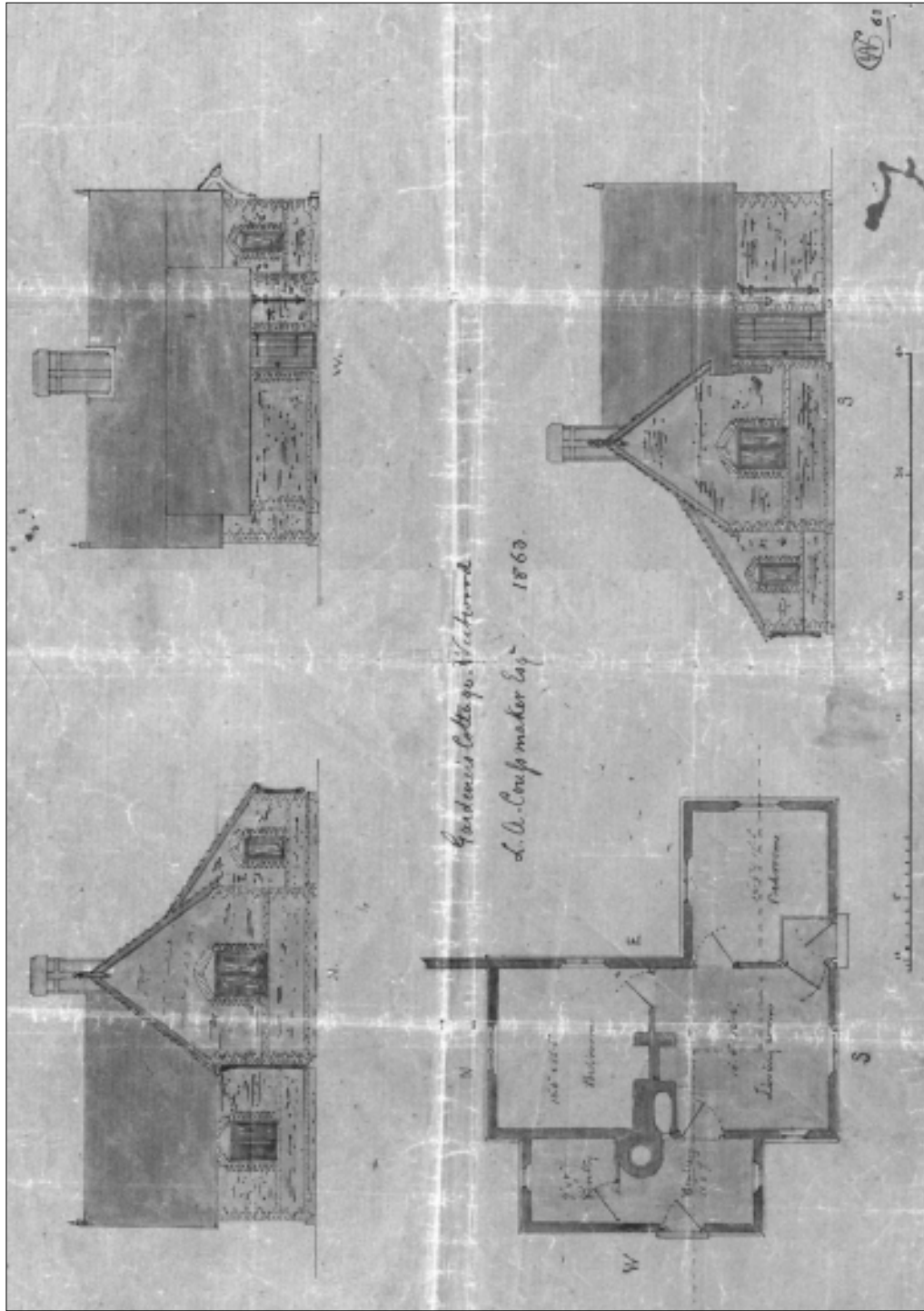
2. Diploma of the Free Economical Society of Russia awarded to William Kops Cousmaker in 1789, and English translation.



4. *The Coussmaker monument in St Mary's Church, Staines.*



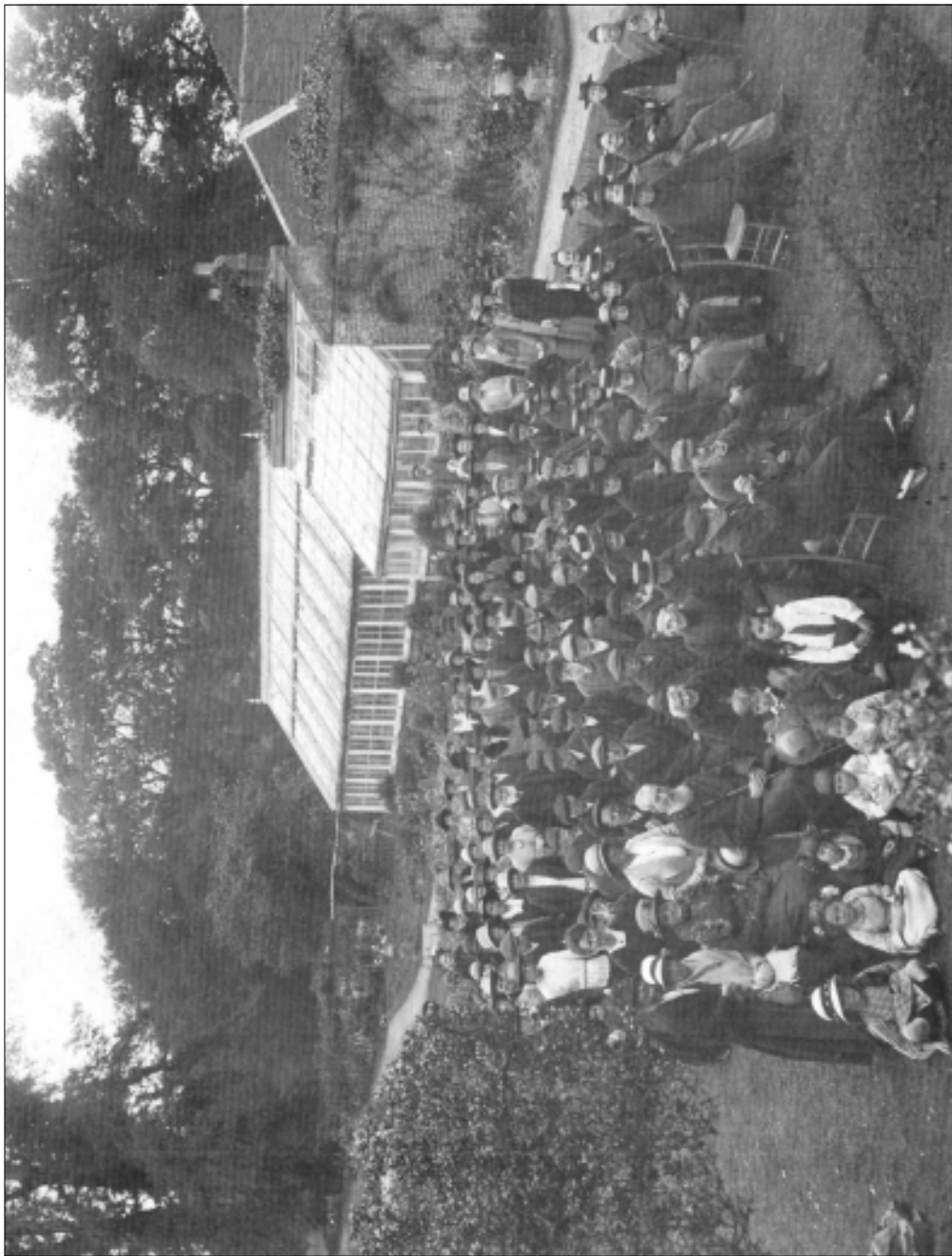
5. *Mary Anne and Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker, 1838. Artist John A Gauguin of London.*



6. William Henry Coussmaker's drawings of the Gardener's Cottage 1863.



7. The Rev John Octavius Coussmaker.



8. *Guildford Union Workhouse outing to a fête at Westwood 1921.*



9. The 'Agawam' and its attendants 1908. Believed to be Colonel George Coussmaker's mulberry bush enclosure.



10. Colonel Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker.



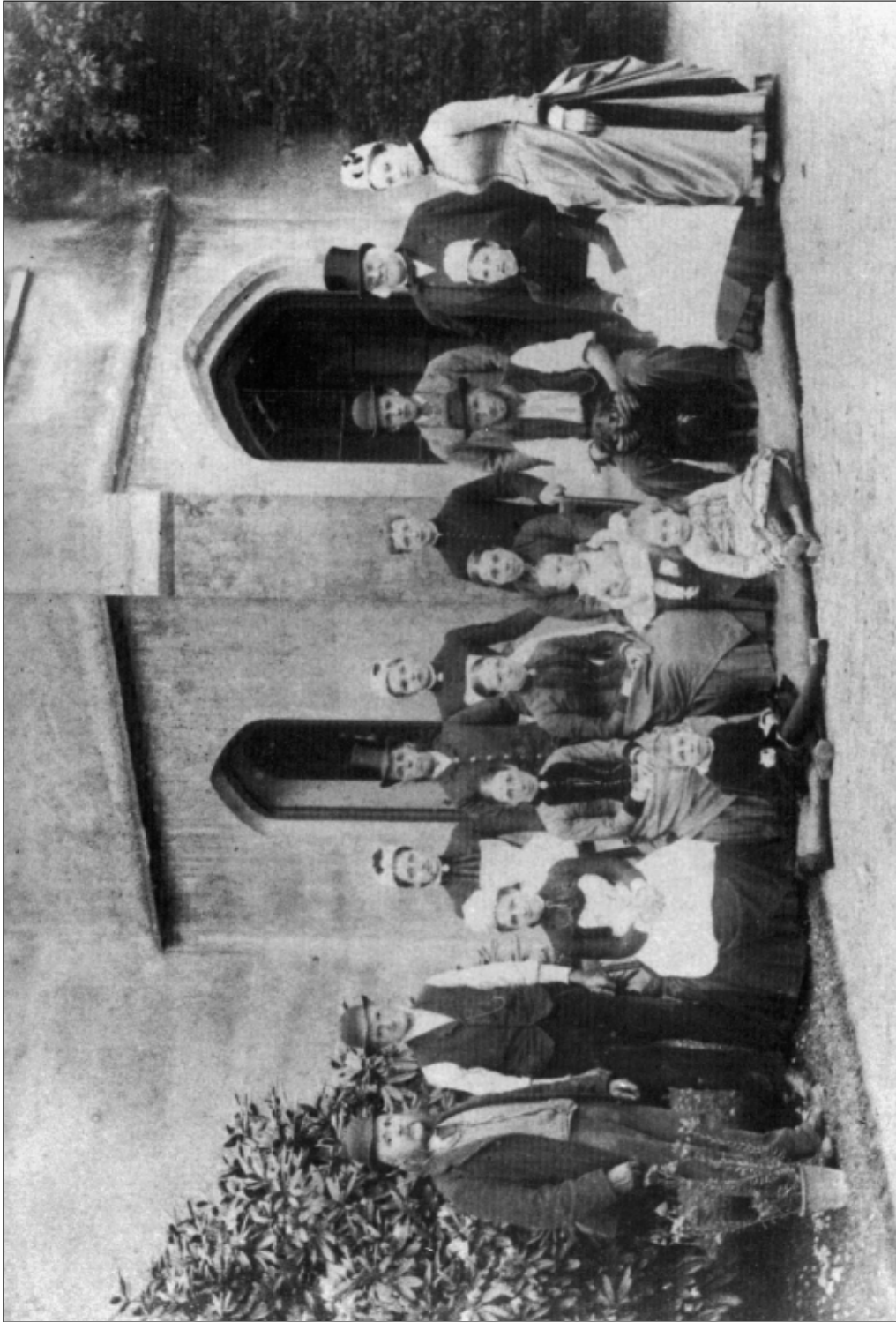
11. Colonel Lannoy John Coussmaker at the age of 34.



12. *Rear of The Tudor Cottage today, showing roof line over conjectural aisle.*



13. *Rear of Queen Anne House today, originally the front of John de Coussmaker's hunting box.*



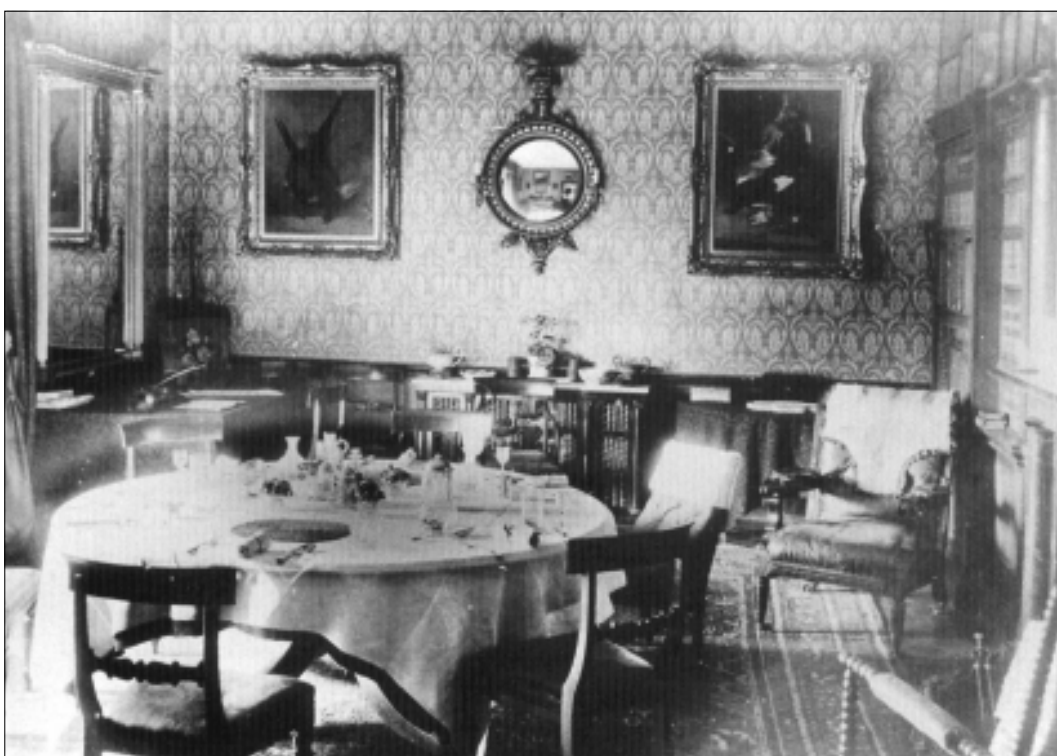
14. Westwood staff beside front entrance porch about 1880.



15. Entrance to Westwood about 1880. Later a man trap used to hang by the gate which is still remembered as an object of fear by those who as children passed by it on their way to school at Wyke.



16. The Regency ballroom 1880 looking towards the east and south windows and furnished as a drawing room.



17. The boudoir 1880.



18. Westwood farmhouse about 1875.



19. The cottages at High Bridge, Westwood Lane, about 1915.



20. Wyke Lodge with St Mark's Church about 1880.



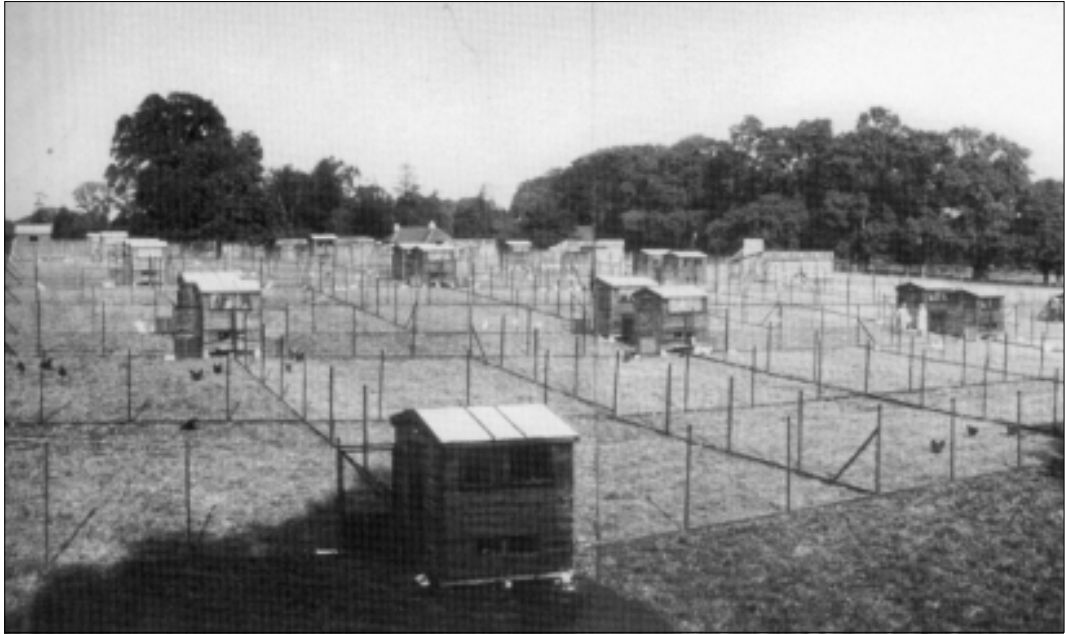
21. Croquet game in front of Westwood about 1885.



22. *Rear of Westwood about 1885. The gentleman is believed to be Colonel George Coussmaker.*



23. *Another view of the rear of Westwood and the gardens about 1885 with the same gentleman in the white suit believed to be Colonel George Coussmaker.*



24. *The poultry farm in the 1930s with South Lodge in the distance.*



25. *Mr James Rice, the gamekeeper at Westwood, with the young John de Lannoy Coussmaker.*



26. *The Regency drawing room 1961, almost identical view to photograph 16.*



27. *The Regency drawing room 1961 looking towards the west window.*



28. The hall 1961.



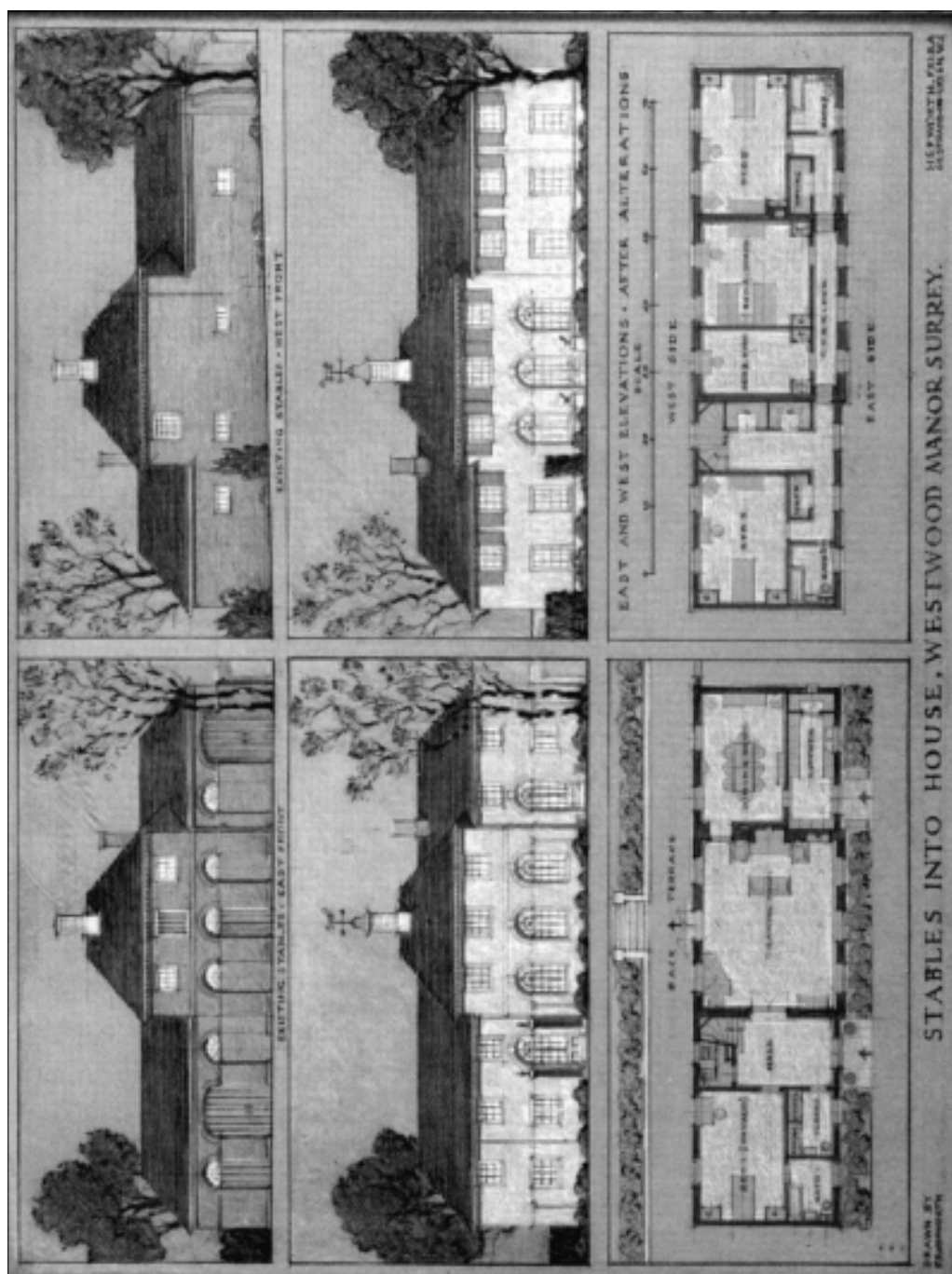
29. The dining room 1961.



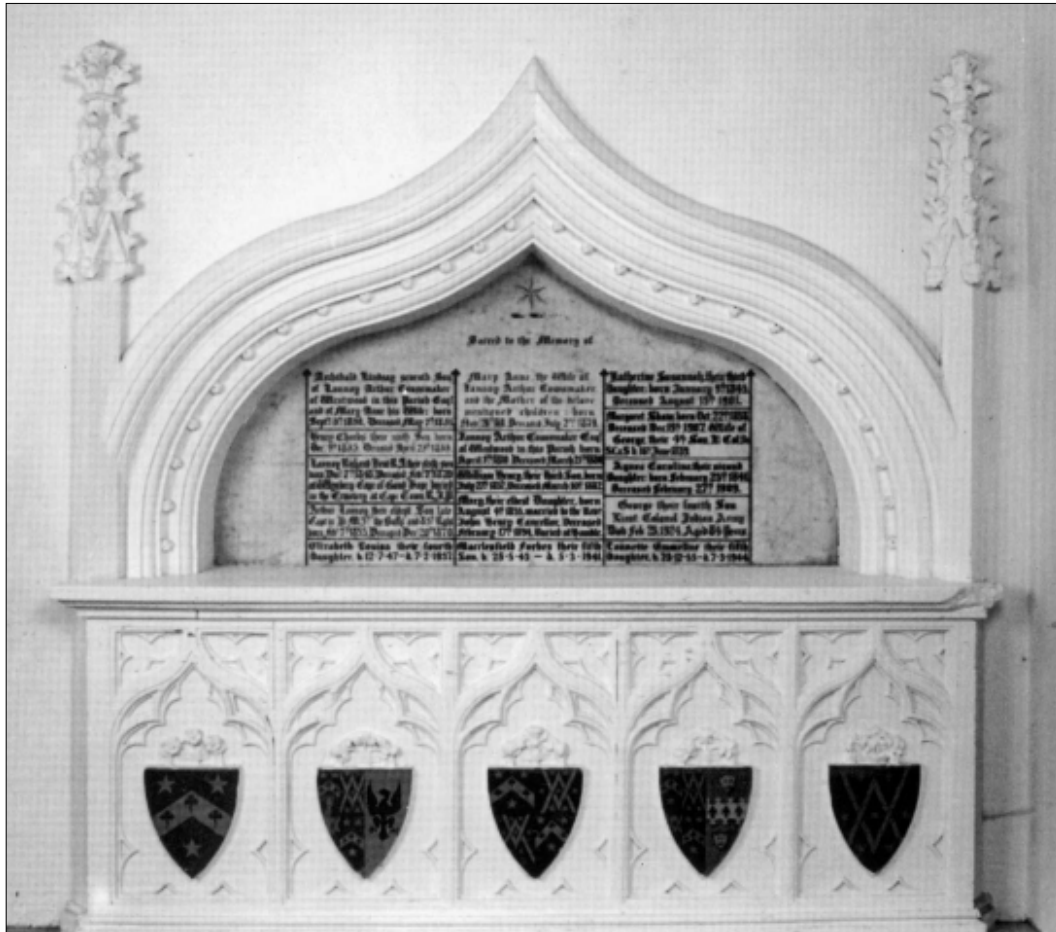
30. *Front of The Tudor Cottage today.*



31. *The Regency extension of Westwood today viewed from the south.*



32. Philip Hepworth's drawings for the conversion of the stable block into Buckhurst about 1961.



33. The Coussmaker monument in the chapel of St Mark's Church, Wyke.

DECLINE

The last ten years of Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker's life were clouded with family misfortune and ill health. In 1873 there also occurred the first of a series of bad harvests which heralded a depression in agriculture and further weakened the economic position of landowners. Outwardly however, there may at first have been little change to see at Westwood. Indeed the complimentary report of Lannoy Arthur's agricultural improvements which appeared in *Bells Weekly Messenger* of November 1878 certainly gave no hint of depression. Perhaps the very reason for the series of articles on farms was to dispel pessimism, but it has also been claimed that landowners often increased outlay on their land in times of depression in an effort to ward off reductions in rents.

As the decade progressed, growing concern was expressed by Lannoy Arthur's family that their father was becoming less and less able to cope with affairs. Despite this however, Lannoy Arthur seems to have had a more realistic understanding and appreciation of the economic situation than his sons, especially William Henry, now his heir. He considered selling both the estate and the house in order to share the proceeds amongst all his children. This idea was vehemently opposed by William, and John Octavius managed to dissuade his father from carrying it out. So in his will which was drawn up in 1879 after the death of his wife, Lannoy Arthur reinstated the entail. He also made detailed provisions for the management of the house and the estate, including terms under which the house could be let.

When he died in 1880 and was succeeded by William, the family moved out of the house and it was let to Lewis Vivian Loyd, a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards. The 1881 census shows Lieutenant Loyd, his wife and an entourage of servants including a soldier servant, in residence at Westwood. Some time after this William himself took up residence at Wyke Lodge which at this time was his personal property. Lannoy Arthur was clearly concerned about the fate of the family home because in his will he also left a legacy of £2,000 to his eldest surviving son on the condition that one half of that sum was spent on the 'Old Mansion House at Westwood and the Offices to the same' and the remainder on 'the garden and cottages and stables, farm house and outbuildings'. William drew up plans but had no chance to carry them out. Within two years of his father's death, he also was dead.

On his brother's death in March 1882, Colonel George Coussmaker

succeeded to Westwood under the terms of the entail but, as previously noted, he was still serving with the army in India. The house was at this time let to a Sir Arthur Mackworth for four years but, being 'a high-minded gentleman', according to John Octavius Coussmaker, he did not hold George to the agreement. When George retired from the army the following year and returned to England with his wife to run the estate, he took up residence at Westwood and the house became the family home again. Even the nursery was occupied as Westwood also became the temporary home for children of Colonel George's fellow officers of the Indian Army while their parents were abroad. Present on the night of the 1891 census were Colonel George and his wife Margaret, his wife's niece Mona F Page, a governess and two boarders, Helen and Benjamin Street, who had been born in Bombay and were aged five and four. There was also a nurse and eight other servants. The grounds hosted many fêtes and village events in Colonel George's time and Westwood outwardly appears to have enjoyed the sort of Indian summer experienced by many country estates in the lull between the end of the depression and the outbreak of the 1914-18 War.

However financial worries were never far away from now on and economy and retrenchment were the order of the day. Sales of livestock and deadstock at Westwood Farm took place in May and September 1882 following William's death. The sales catalogues show the high quality of the farm that Lannoy Arthur had built up and they would seem to represent a good proportion of the total livestock. Plans were also drawn up to rent Westwood Farm on a seven or 14 years' lease. It was to have comprised '127 acres of excellent arable land' and '98 acres of good sound meadow and pasture'. However on this occasion the plans to let did not go any further.

We are unable to judge whether George had the same degree of acumen in running the estate as his father but there is much to show in the family papers that he took an active part in it. In a letter of 1886, Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker remarked that the winter of 1885/86 had been especially hard and farms in hill districts were suffering hardship. George got only 50 lambs from about the same number of ewes so had been very unlucky. It appears that at this time part of the estate had been turned over to poultry farming as the letter also mentions incubators in full swing turning out batches of chicks. Geese and ducks are also mentioned. George had sold some of his two year old fat steers and had others ready to go. The last two sold at 21 guineas each. Beans fetched 44 shillings a sack. Women were paid three shillings a sack to sort them by hand. White corn though was unsaleable except at a loss. As the century drew to a close the increasing import of cheap grain from America and Canada hit the home product, whilst livestock farming in Surrey was also adversely affected when frozen and chilled meat from Argentina and New Zealand began to be imported.

More poor seasons at the end of the century continued to contribute to

WESTWOOD FARM, WYKE,

Six Miles from Guildford and about Two Miles
from the Ash Station, London and South-Western Railway.

CATALOGUE OF

5 VERY USEFUL CART HORSES,

2 Nag Horses, and a very useful Nag Filly.

The HERD

OF WELL-KNOWN AND PEDIGREE

NEAT STOCK,

CONSISTING OF

43 SHORT-HORN COWS & HEIFERS,

3 PURE-BRED BULLS,

2 STEERS AND 14 CALVES. Also 2 Berkshire Sows and
a Boar, and 20 Store Pigs.

A RICK of EXCELLENT MEADOW HAY,

A quantity of useful Converted and Unconverted Timber, and
a variety of other Effects,

Which will be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by

Messrs. MELLERSH

(Under instructions from the Executors of W. H. Coussmaker,
Esq., deceased),

On MONDAY, MAY 15th, 1882,

At ONE o'clock to a minute.

May be viewed the Morning of Sale, and Catalogues may be
obtained on the Premises, at the principal Inns in the Neighbour-
hood, and of Messrs. MELLERSH, Auctioneers and Surveyors,
Godalming, and at their Offices, 135 and 136, High Street,
Guildford.

STEDMAN. PRINTER, GODALMING.

Figure 17. Sale of livestock 1882.

the financial worries of the Coussmakers. Both Macclesfield Forbes and John Octavius, who were trustees of Lannoy Arthur's will, gave George assistance whenever they could but in 1901 there was mention again of letting, this time the whole of the estate as well as the house and also of selling Wyke Lodge which, following a provision in William's will, had been bought back for the estate after his death. Although Macclesfield and John Octavius agreed to the house being let for a 'moderate period', they were both opposed to selling the remainder of the lease of Wyke Lodge because, in the first place, the money it would fetch would not bring in half what it could be let for and, in the second place, the entailed income of Westwood would be ample for the owner of Westwood to live comfortably at Wyke Lodge if he could not afford to live in the house. In the event the house was not let again, possibly because it proved difficult to agree a high enough rent, but this time plans to rent Westwood Farm went ahead and George Brown Ewing became the first tenant farmer.

In 1901 Colonel George granted one acre of land for the building of the original vicarage and in 1905 he sold further land to the church so that the churchyard could be enlarged to the south. We have mentioned how he also planted mulberry bushes in the orchard at Westwood to feed his silkworms but this appears to have been done purely as a hobby and perhaps also as an act of nostalgia rather than having any thought of raising silkworms commercially.

By the time of the national survey of landed property resulting from the Valuation Act of 1909-10, Leonard C Morris was the tenant farmer and he held Westwood Farm on a 14 year lease from 1906. He farmed some 250 acres while Colonel Coussmaker retained approximately 100 acres. Of the latter, a smallholding of about 18 acres had now been formed at Purse rides bordering the railway line. Wyke Lodge continued to be let on a short lease. There were three tenements within the farmhouse of Westwood Farm, two at High Bridge (Plate 19), one at the Gardener's Cottage (The Lodge) south of the house, and two at Glaziers. There was also now a pair of cottages at Week Woods, built at the end of the previous century for workers on the estate, and the two more recently built semi-detached cottages on the east side of Westwood Lane just south of the church. These were known as the New Cottages and one of them still perpetuates the name today. In 1910 the rent for one of them was deducted from the occupier's wages. Figure 18 shows the land tenanted by Mr Morris and the land retained by the Coussmaker family.

Soon after the commencement of the 1914-18 War, Belgian refugees were housed in Glaziers. In a letter to John Octavius in January 1915, Macclesfield reported that they had fallen out with George because their wives thought it beneath their husbands' dignity to chop wood! As the war progressed Westwood may have benefited from the government subsidy to encourage the home production of wheat but farming became even more difficult due mainly to the

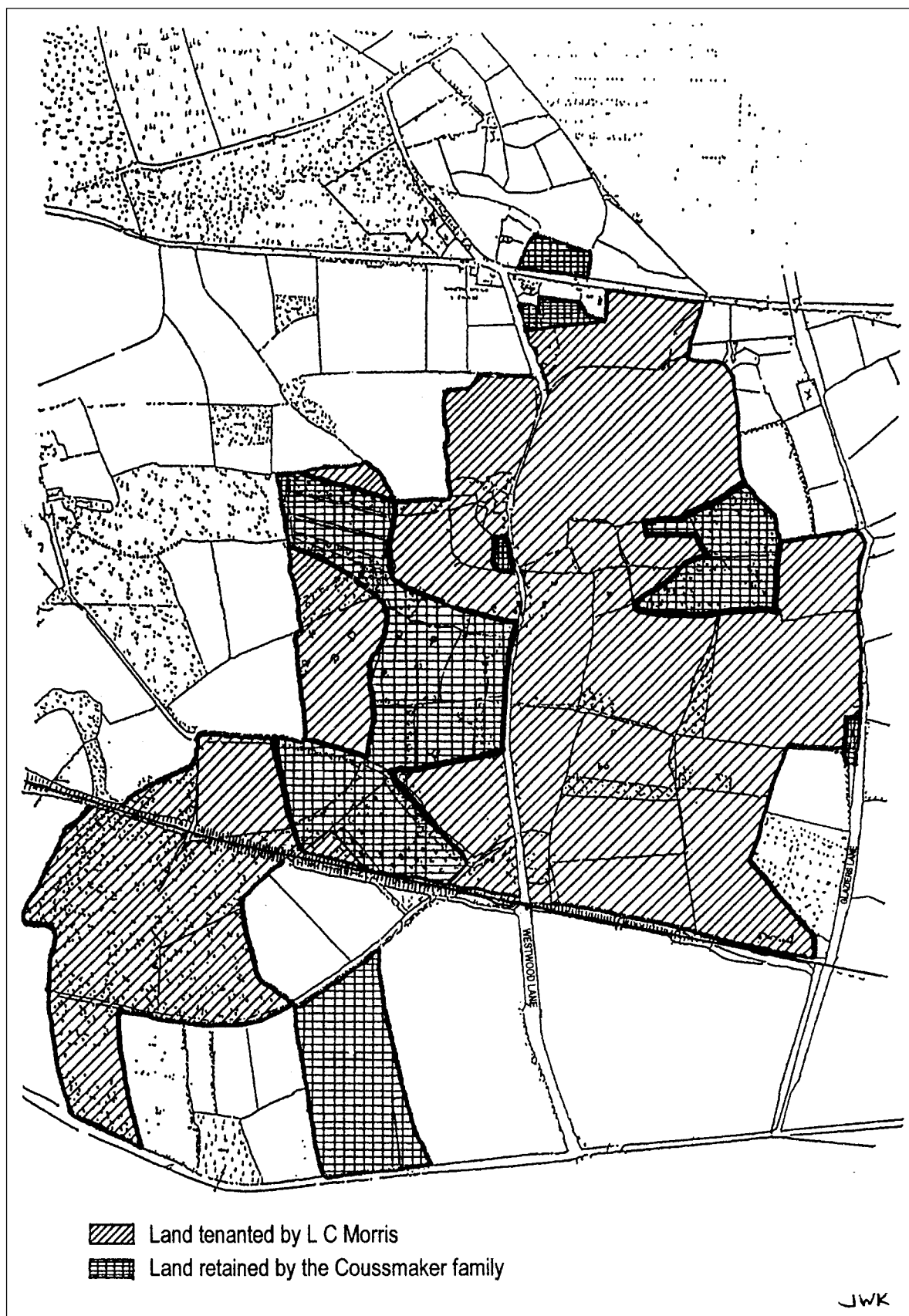


Figure 18. The estate in 1912 showing the land retained by the Coussmakers and the land assigned to Westwood Farm.

shortage of suitable labour. Goats are now mentioned as being kept at Westwood and a Land Service worker looked after them. One kid was sold at a week old for five guineas. Another of Macclesfield's letters in 1918 mentions a gardener by the name of Mullard who also looked after the pig. Old Hunt, the labourer, was responsible for the pony and donkey. There was a new goat-girl, the previous one having proved unsatisfactory.

After the end of the war concern for the upkeep of the house and the running of the estate intensified for George and his brothers. Fear of the possible effect on Westwood of the new crushing death duties imposed by Lloyd George increased their worries as all three of them were now of advanced years. More letters passed between them with suggestions for possible solutions. Writing to Macclesfield in 1920, John Octavius made several new suggestions for economies including pulling down part of the old house. He also recommended selling Westwood Farm as soon as the current tenancy came to an end and further reducing the size of the estate held directly by the family. Fortunately his suggestion for the house was not taken up but the family holding was reduced again. The family retained 42 acres with the house and the rest was leased or let, two additional smallholdings being created at Weekwood Cottages and Glaziers.

There survives in the family papers a survey of the estate undertaken by Macclesfield at about this time, which is in the nature of a stocktake. This looked at every field and relevant comments were appended. By now some of the smaller fields had been combined into larger areas for ease of working. The date of this document is unknown but it may have been drawn up in 1924 with another document, 'A schedule of real property passing on the death of Colonel George Coussmaker'. Following the entry for the mansion house, the details of this second document are as follows. The cottage (and gardens) formerly in the occupation of George West and now known as Purse rides, was let weekly to Mr Cole, but it had ceased to be a smallholding and the pasture bordering the embankment was let to Mr Palmer. Westwood Farm (a total holding now of 285 acres) was leased to Andrew Barr for a term of 14 years. The smallholding at Weekwood Cottages (about 18 acres with the double cottage) was leased to Harry Coomber for 14 years. The smallholding at Glaziers had also been discontinued. The double cottage with about one acre of land was leased to Miss Vera Flood Page, Colonel George's niece, for a term of 21 years. The whole of the property of Wyke Lodge was leased to Miss Hilda Wilson.

When Colonel George Coussmaker died in 1924 it was Colonel Macclesfield who succeeded to Westwood. However, he was now 81 years old and did not want responsibility for the everyday running of the estate so Colonel Lannoy John Coussmaker came to live at Westwood to run it as co-owner in accordance with the agreement made with his uncle. The arrival of Lannoy John with his wife and young family could have signalled a fresh lease of

life for the house and estate but the economic climate meant that the tide of decline could only be halted temporarily. Almost as soon as he took over, Lannoy John wrote to his sister-in-law Violet Allott. He invited her and his mother-in-law to live with them at Westwood but also mentioned the financial difficulties facing him. Despite these however he was able to maintain a way of life still in keeping with the house and his position as a landowner, and his son and daughters have many happy memories of this time.

There was now insufficient income from the estate to keep it going unaided. While continuing to practise as an architect, Lannoy John also considered various schemes to improve the condition of the estate. One idea was to make the gardens self-supporting and to keep only three cows and sufficient pigs and poultry for the immediate needs of the household. Another was to grow mushrooms on a commercial scale. Consideration was also given to reducing the size of the house but this was not taken up because of the outlay involved.

The decision was made to expand the poultry farm started by Colonel George and this enterprise went ahead with initial success. It was located in the meadowland to the south of the house (Plate 24) and on the opposite side of Westwood Lane, and several men in Normandy found employment here. There were between 300 and 400 chickens at any time accommodated in portable wooden buildings and the chicks were reared in incubators. Eggs and broiler fowl were produced and the plucked fowl were sent to Smithfield Market by rail from the siding. Indian Game and Rhode Island Red cockerels were raised as show birds. The workers received their wages at The Lodge. The depression of the 1930s however was to take its toll and the poultry farm gradually became uneconomic to run.

There were further setbacks. In 1927 following an ultimatum from the Thames Conservancy to stop polluting the River Blackwater, the Aldershot Borough Council had proposed a joint scheme with the Farnham Rural District Council to build a sewage farm in Normandy. Very soon after he came to Westwood Colonel Lannoy John was approached to sell land between Westwood Lane and Glaziers Lane for this purpose but the scheme was fiercely opposed by Normandy residents. Farnham Rural District Council withdrew and proposed an alternative scheme whereby the Aldershot sewerage could be treated at the Army sewage farm but the Aldershot Council persisted with the scheme in Normandy. The dispute dragged on until May 1934 when an alternative site between Glaziers Lane and Bailes Lane was put forward but eventually this scheme too was finally defeated.

Lannoy John, having failed to sell his land to the Council, then went ahead with a plan to develop a housing estate on the site. This scheme got as far as the construction of the two pairs of semi-detached houses in Glaziers Lane (Meadow View, October House, Littlefield and Little Meads) which he also

designed. They were set at an angle to the road because it was intended that they should form the entrance to the main estate but the financial climate of the 1930s and the consequent lack of demand for houses in rural areas put paid to the venture. However these houses had been sold by 1935. Another house which he designed and sold was that known today by the name of Alloway. This was built on the north-east corner of the Granary Field bordering Westwood Lane. Three more of his houses, the Freemoor Cottages, fronting the Guildford to Aldershot road, now known as Spinney Cottage, Tabeel and Freemoor, were to form individual lots in the 1935 sale.

Lannoy John continued the family's patronage of St Mark's Church and made a gift to the Parochial Church Council in 1929 of all the land lying between the old churchyard and the Vicarage so that a further large extension to the churchyard could be made. However by 1935 the costs of running the estate could no longer be sustained by the family and the momentous decision was taken to put the whole estate up for sale; not only the farm with all the land and the various cottages but also the house itself. Only Glaziers, now let to Miss Flood Page for life, was excluded. The Law of Property Act of 1925 had abolished estate holding in fee tail reducing it to fee simple absolute in possession and therefore Macclesfield Forbes and Lannoy John were free to sell. Advertised as an attractive freehold residential, agricultural and building estate of 355 acres, it was offered for auction by Messrs Hewett & Lee of Guildford, either as a whole or in lots. There were 24 lots in all as shown in Figure 20.

The mansion house with its stable block and various other outbuildings, its gardens and grounds formed one lot (Lot 5). It was described as a very attractive residential property comprising a well-built country residence with pretty timbered grounds and an orchard, pasture and woodlands extending to about 22 acres. Also included in the same lot were the three cottages situated within the grounds – The Bungalow Cottage (South Lodge) built by Lannoy John, the Gardener's Bungalow (The Lodge) next to it, and the cottage in front of the stable block.

At the time of the sale Captain Arthur Peters was occupying Westwood Farm and the greater part of the farm land on a yearly tenancy. For the purpose of the sale the size of the farm was reduced by creating several additional pieces of land which formed separate lots. The slimmed down Westwood Farm was advertised as a dairy and market gardening farm and formed Lot 4 of the sale. It included the farmhouse, a wide range of other farm buildings and the semi-detached cottages at High Bridge, and 140 acres of land.

The Weekwood Cottages smallholding of 18 acres with the pair of semi-detached cottages and other farm buildings were let at this time to Mrs Alice Coomber and formed Lot 1. The other estate cottages – the New Cottages and Purse Ryde – formed separate lots, as did the three Freemoor Cottages recently built on the Guildford Road which we have already mentioned.

By Direction of Col. L. J. COUSSMAKER.

SURREY, NR. GUILDFORD

Adjoining Wanborough Station, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Guildford and Aldershot.

The Particulars, Plan and Conditions of Sale of

THE ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD

Residential, Agricultural and Building Estate

KNOWN AS

Westwood, Normandy

EXTENDING TO ABOUT

355 ACRES

With the **GEORGIAN RESIDENCE** of 14 Bed, 5 Reception and 3 Bath Rooms, Charming Old-World Grounds.

WYKE LODGE

a picturesque House of 7 Bed, 3 Reception Rooms, etc.

WESTWOOD FARM

a Capital Dairy and Market Garden Holding, with House, Homestead and Cottages.

THREE SMALL MODERN HOUSES.

SEVEN COTTAGES

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ACCOMMODATION LANDS

EXTENSIVE VALUABLE MAIN ROAD FRONTAGES

ripe for immediate Building Development, with Company's Water, Electric Light and Gas available.

CHIEFLY WITH VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

WHICH

Messrs. HEWETT & LEE

are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction as a whole or in Lots at

THE LION HOTEL, GUILDFORD

ON TUESDAY, JULY 16th, 1935, at 3 o'clock

Particulars and Plan of the Vendor's Solicitors, Messrs. SMALLPEICE & MERRIMAN, High Street, Guildford, or of the Auctioneers, Messrs. HEWETT & LEE, 144, High Street, Guildford. Tel. 2050 (2 lines).

Stent, Clarke & Co., Ltd., Printers, Guildford

Figure 19. The sale of Westwood 1935. First page of catalogue.



*Figure 20. The sale of Westwood 1935, showing the division of lots.
The numbers correspond to the lot numbers in the sale brochure.*

Wyke Lodge, also described as an attractive freehold residence together with stable yard and outbuildings, including a coach house used as a garage, formed Lot 15. In addition there was an attractive garden of about 1½ acres. Although stated as being 'eminently suitable for private occupation' it was also suggested that it might be adapted for use again as a kindergarten school or developed as a Road House or Tea Garden. About one acre of the former garden including the tennis lawn which fronted on to the Guildford to Aldershot road, was advertised as a suitable site for building and formed another lot.

Two more lots, one of 28 acres (Lot 10) and the other of 37 acres (Lot 23), were sold as orchard and pasture land. Another two lots, Week Wood created from Old Furze Field, and Highfield Copse created from Great High Field, Great Brockles, Little High Field and Squires Field, both comprised woodland and formed Lot 2 and Lot 3. However the remainder of the lots, totalling some 50 acres, were all advertised as being eminently suitable as building sites. These included plots bordering both sides of Westwood Lane.

The auction held at the Lion Hotel in Guildford on 16 July did not go as well as had been hoped. Wyke Lodge was bought by Mr A Curtis for £1,125. The other lots which were sold fetched £4,450. Several of the building sites with frontages to Westwood Lane went to Mr Frank Gammon, house agent of Clarke, Gammon & Emerys, and another to Surrey County Council. Nine lots however failed to reach their reserve price including those of Westwood Farm and the Weekwood Cottages smallholding and for another two no bids were made at all. The greatest surprise came when Colonel Lannoy John had a change of heart. Although he received a good offer for the house prior to the auction, he suddenly found that he could not bear to part with it and Lot 5, the house and its grounds, was withdrawn from the sale at the eleventh hour.

Several other lots were sold off in the weeks that followed. Westwood Farm was carved up yet again, into three parts. At the time of the National Farm Surveys of 1940-43 what was still known as Westwood Farm with the farmhouse and other farm buildings and land of 39 acres to the west of Westwood Lane, was owned by Mr F J Cooper who lived in Spinney Cottage. He farmed it with his brother George L Cooper who lived in the farmhouse. The fields opposite amounting to some 50 acres, were owned by Mr Vick and a further 40 acres to the south were owned by Mr Henry Baldrey. Mr Baldrey had bought other lots between Westwood Lane and Glaziers Lane and his total holding of the former estate amounted to nearly 100 acres. It also included the New Cottages and Purse Ryde Cottage which he acquired as accommodation for his farm workers.

The Coussmaker family still owned the house and its immediate grounds together with the stable block, the orchard, the paddock and the three cottages, all of which had formed Lot 5 of the 1935 sale. They also held those plots bordering Westwood Lane opposite and to the south of the house and another adjoining the

N.B.—The Estate will first be offered as a whole, and if not so sold,
then as lotted.

THE PARTICULARS.

LOT 1
(Coloured Mauve on Plan)

THE CAPITAL SMALL HOLDING

KNOWN AS

Weekwood Cottages

EXTENDING TO AN AREA OF

Withdrawn
18a. 2r. 13p.

of sound **PASTURE LAND**, together with a

Pair of Semi-Detached Cottages

Brick built, with slate roof, each containing :—**Sitting Room, Scullery**, with gas stove, sink and copper, **Larder** and **3 Bedrooms**. Company's Water and Gas connected.

Outside E.C.'s and two pairs of timber built, with brick and concrete floor, Pigstyes.

The remainder of the Farm Buildings are claimed by the Tenant.

The whole is let to a Mrs. A. Coomber under a 7 years' Agreement whereby possession may be obtained Midsummer, 1938, at a yearly rent of £65.

N.B.—This Lot possesses considerable building frontage to two hard roads, with all the Company's Services available.

Tithe Apportionment for purposes of this Sale £3 15s. 2d.

Figure 21. The sale of Westwood 1935. Lot 1, Weekwood Cottages.

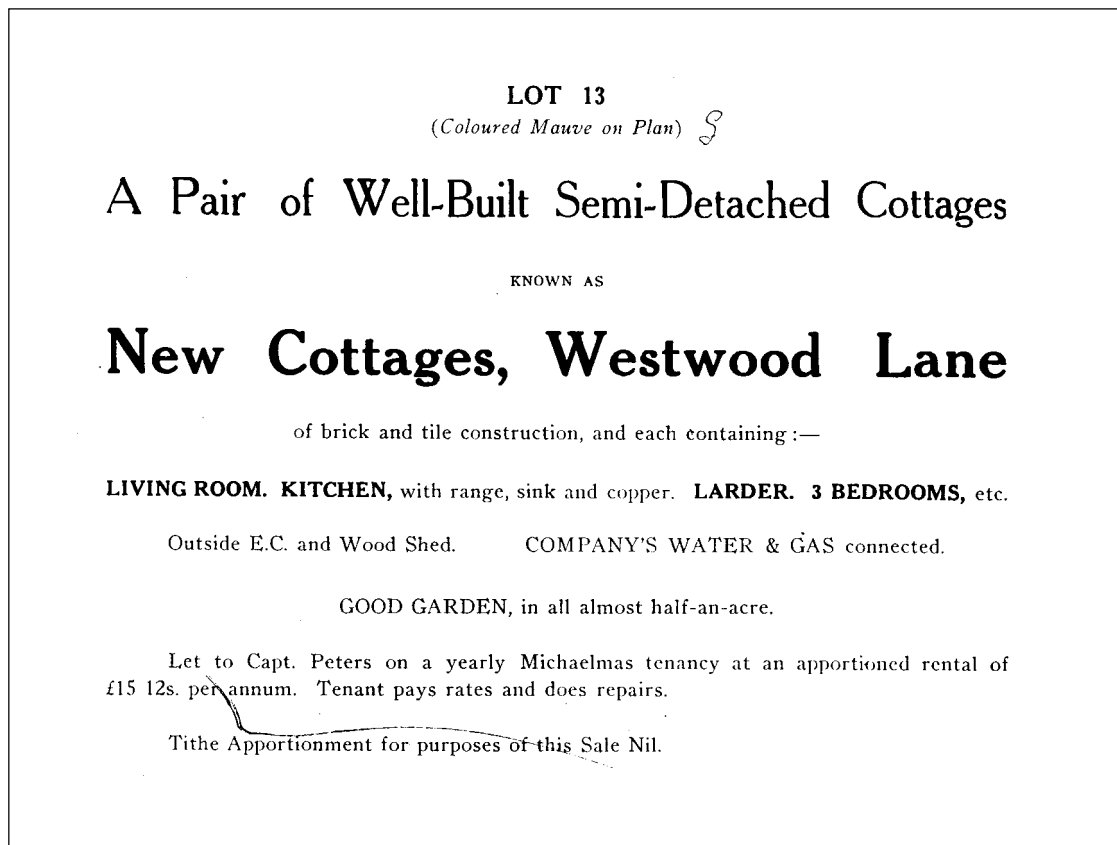


Figure 22. The sale of Westwood 1935. Lot 13, New Cottages, Westwood Lane.

railway which had not been sold. The poultry farm continued to occupy one of these but it ceased production after 1937. By 1940, as shown in Figure 25, the Sherwood Brothers (Hamilton and Edgar) of East Wyke Farm, were renting 51 acres of the Coussmaker land while the Coussmaker family retained the gardens and the immediate grounds of the house and 6 acres for grazing. The National Farm Survey recorded Mrs Coussmaker as having 10 fowls, two horses and a goat.

After the death of Colonel Lannoy John in 1937 Mrs Irene Coussmaker continued to live in the house with her two daughters and her sister Violet Allott. John de Lannoy Coussmaker's studies took him to London and when war was declared in 1939 he was immediately commissioned into the army. During the 1939-45 War Miss Allott's service with the British Red Cross, as Commandant of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, near Southampton, took her away from Westwood. Elizabeth Coussmaker also lived away from Westwood for part of the war when she joined the Land Army. For the first two years she worked for the Baker family on their farm in Elstead and for another year on the Wanborough Manor estate. Mary Coussmaker was at boarding school throughout these years and was away during term time. For a short while during the war Westwood was used as an officers' mess for a complete company of The Royal Engineers and

LOT 18

(Coloured Green on Plan) £550 *not sold*

THE RECENTLY ERECTED
Modern Detached House

pleasantly situated on the main Guildford-Aldershot Road. Constructed of brick, cement rendered and colour washed, with tiled roof.

ACCOMMODATION COMPRISES :—

DINING ROOM, 15ft. by 12ft., tiled fireplace and bay window.

SITTING ROOM, 10ft. by 10ft., tiled fireplace and bay window.

KITCHEN-SCULLERY, with "Southern" domestic boiler, sink (h. & c.) with draining boards.

LARDER.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR:

THREE BEDROOMS, measuring 12ft. by 10ft., 10ft. by 10ft.6in., and 8ft. by 8ft. respectively, two with tiled fireplaces.

BATHROOM, with enamelled bath, lavatory basin (h. & c.) and hot Linen Cupboard, and W.C.

COMPANY'S WATER, ELECTRIC LIGHT and GAS.

GOOD GARDEN, completely fenced. Frontage 100 feet, depth 200 feet.

Vacant Possession on completion.

Tithe Apportionment for purposes of this Sale Nil.

LOT 19

(Coloured Blue on Plan) £510 *not sold*

*A Property similar in all respects to Lot 18
and adjoining*

but with a smaller frontage of 40 feet.

With **Vacant Possession.**

Tithe Apportionment for purposes of this Sale Nil.

LOT 20

(Coloured Yellow on Plan)

A similar Property to Lot 19.

With **Vacant Possession.**

Tithe Apportionment for purposes of this Sale Nil.

**Figure 23. The sale of Westwood 1935. Lots 18, 19, 20,
(Spinney Cottage, Tabeel, Freemoor).**

LOT 24
(Coloured Yellow on Plan)

The Well Built Small House

situated in pretty Gardens, extending to an area of

1A. 1R. OP. £460

Substantially built of brick, with tiled roof, the accommodation comprises :—

LARGE ENTRANCE PORCH.

LIVING ROOM, 17ft. by 12ft., excluding bay window, with fireplace.

SITTING ROOM, 12ft. by 12ft., with gas stove.

KITCHEN, 12ft. by 12ft., with sink and range.

Larder and Cupboard.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR:

THREE BEDROOMS, measuring 16ft. by 13ft., 12ft. by 12ft., and 11ft. by 10ft., two with fireplaces.

Outside E.C. Wood Shed and Chicken House.

COMPANY'S WATER and GAS connected COMPANY'S ELECTRIC LIGHT available.

Vacant Possession on completion.

Tithe Apportionment for purposes of this Sale 4/8.

Figure 24. The sale of Westwood 1935. Lot 24, (Purse Ryde Cottage).

lines of lorries were parked along The Avenue opposite. The house at this time also became a refuge for a succession of family and friends and there was always sufficient produce from the kitchen gardens and orchards to feed them all. Several bombs fell in the fields around Westwood but apart from a shaking the house escaped damage.

Following Colonel Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker's death in 1941 the property was vested in Mrs Irene Coussmaker for her lifetime and subsequently in her three children, John, Elizabeth and Mary. After the war village events once more took place on land still held by the Coussmaker family. In June 1946 the Victory Day celebrations took place off Westwood Lane as did the Coronation celebrations of 1953.

In 1959 Glaziers and its garden was sold. In 1947 at the time of his marriage, John de Lannoy had considered living there but being a tall man he found when standing that he did not fit between the beams and the stone-flagged floor!

The sale of the greater part of the estate proved to be only a temporary respite for the family and it became more and more difficult to halt the decline of the house. The front lawns were always kept trim and the east front of the house, covered in Virginia creeper, was glorious in the autumn, but the general passage



Figure 25. Land held by the Coussmaker family 1940.

of time together with the restrictions of the war years continued to take a heavy toll on the fabric of the building especially the roof. Concern for what the future might hold was never far from their thoughts and had provided the inspiration for *Laughing House*, Warwick Deeping's story about a country house beset with the problems of having to adapt to a new age.

As soon as John returned to civilian life in 1946 various proposals and solutions for the rescue of the house were considered, including plans to convert it into separate apartments. In 1957 Edward Armstrong, Colonel Lannoy John's former partner, drew up a set of plans. They would have provided Mrs Coussmaker and the family with self-contained accommodation on two floors while other parts of the house were to be converted into flats, the rent for which would provide for the upkeep of the house. Nothing came of these plans because the estimated cost was felt to be beyond the means available. However with the benefit of hindsight this could now be considered a blessing. The prime aim of this conversion had been to enable Mrs Coussmaker to continue to live in the house but it would have resulted in some alterations which might have proved unfortunate in the long term.

It was finally decided to put the house on the market again and to use the proceeds from the sale to convert the old stable block into a more convenient home for Mrs Coussmaker and her family. Having failed to find any private buyer the house was advertised for auction in 1961 by Bernard Thorpe & Partners of London and Howard Morley & Sons of Guildford. There were two lots. Lot 1 was the house together with the gardens and grounds amounting to some 2¼ acres and was offered either as a private residence or for subdivision, planning permission for this having already been obtained. Also included in the sale as Lot 2 was the Bungalow Cottage (South Lodge).

It has been the fate of so many country houses this century to fall into decay and be demolished because their owners could no longer afford their upkeep. This could have easily happened to Westwood but fortunately it was saved. There was a property boom in the 1960s and in May 1961 it was bought by the property developer Windlesham Park Ltd. Two hundred and forty years' ownership by the Coussmaker family was coming to an end but a new life for the house was about to begin.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The contents of the house were auctioned at Westwood at the end of November 1961 and on 30 November Windlesham Park Ltd took possession of the empty house. The director of the company was a young man, Christopher Buxton. It was while he was at Cambridge, reading for a degree in history, that he first became aware of how many period and country houses were being lost through neglect and realised that many could be saved by converting them into smaller living units. After graduating he took a Master's Degree in Business Administration and in 1954, at the age of 25, bought his first house to restore and convert. This rescue project was a success and others soon followed. Although he had no formal training as an architect he planned the basic redesign of each conversion himself assisted by a professional design team. He also had a building manager and trained building staff and employed sub-contractors as required. Westwood was not on quite the same scale as some of his other projects but, being built at different periods and with different floor levels, its conversion presented him with a certain degree of challenge.

He divided up the main house to form four self-contained apartments. These corresponded approximately to the different periods of construction and were given names to match. Regency House, at the southern end, was formed largely from the ground and first floors of Lannoy Arthur's extension but on the first floor it also took in the two bedrooms with the front and rear bays in the central part of the house making a total of three bedrooms. Outside, the verandah and canopy on the east elevation were removed. A new front entrance and a lobby were made at the ground-floor level where there was also a dining room, kitchen and other utility rooms. The original staircase at this end of the house was adapted and provided access from the lobby to the first floor. The drawing room, the crowning glory of the old house with its windows facing east, south and west, was left unchanged.

The First Georgian and Second Georgian apartments were formed out of the central part of the house. The First Georgian, on the ground floor, included the former morning room which became the drawing room of the new apartment, while the former dining room and the Oak Room were converted into bedrooms. The rooms of the Second Georgian, approached by the original main staircase of the old house, were all set on the second floor over Regency House and part of Queen Anne House. These included three bedrooms and a dining room while the

former bedroom with bay windows overlooking the rear garden, was changed into a drawing room. A shared lobby for both the First and Second Georgian apartments was made out of the former hall which was partitioned and a front door replaced the ground floor window.

The fourth apartment named Queen Anne House, took in all the rooms on three floors which had once been part of John de Coussmaker's hunting box. The lower ground floor (the boiler room and the game larder of the old house) was converted into a dining room and kitchen. On the first floor was the former boudoir or music room which now became its drawing room. It also took in the tower which was retained as its entrance and an additional bedroom at the front of the house on the first floor. A new staircase was inserted.

The conversion was not easy but can be considered successful. Each new unit, also fitted out with a modern kitchen and luxury bathrooms, provided accommodation that was attractive, practical and in keeping with both the standards of the day and the character of the house. Many of the finer rooms of the house remained unaltered or virtually unaltered, the one regrettable but unavoidable exception being the partitioning of the former hall. Financially however, the project resulted in a 15 per cent loss on the original investment and on the day the new apartments at Westwood Place, as it was renamed, went on the market, 2 feet of water was found on the lower ground floor. We are told that it continued to flood until a water diviner traced a complete medieval culvert system underneath.

The grounds at the back of the house were also divided up to make individual gardens for each of the apartments but the ground at the front is held in common. The new apartments with leases of 200 years were put on the market in May 1963. Also included in the sale was The Tudor Cottage with a small patio garden and detached studio (the former servants' hall). As yet the cottage had not been restored or modernised but was offered for sale in its existing state with the opportunity to convert it into a fully modernised period cottage. In 1961 this part of the house had been in such a poor state of repair that consideration had been given to demolishing it. Indeed part of it was pulled down, including the scullery, but the Surrey County Council surveyor dealing with buildings of architectural interest advised that the remainder of the timber-framed building justified restoration. The apartments sold quickly and soon afterwards The Tudor Cottage was also restored and converted by Christopher Buxton. The former servants' hall was pulled down except for the outside walls on three sides which were left to form a secluded patio. The whole of Westwood Place received a Grade II listing as being a building of special interest which warranted every effort being made to preserve it.

In the years which have passed since its conversion several owners have come and gone and there have been a few more changes at Westwood Place. In



Figure 26. Westwood Place 1967, by John L Baker.

1966 Regency House was split into two apartments, the one on the ground floor going by the name of Little Regency. This particular conversion resulted in some unfortunate alterations which were out of sympathy with the character of the house. The rooms of the ground-floor apartment were small and dark whilst the value and appeal of the upper apartment suffered as a result of its reduction in size. The internal staircase was partially removed and blocked off. Access to the upper apartment was provided from the outside and it was approached by a ramp and flight of steps. A dividing wall in the drawing room was built to form a corridor from this new entrance along the front of the house. In 1986 Regency House was once more made into one apartment though with several differences from the plan of the original conversion. A new internal staircase was built to the right of the front door giving access to the corridor outside the drawing room. This last feature – the corridor – was retained and the original dimensions of the drawing room were not reinstated. Although the modification of the drawing room and the consequent loss of its eastern outlook is regrettable, it is still a magnificent room. The actual alteration was done skilfully and the change is barely obvious to the untutored eye. The former landing, now without the original staircase, was converted for use as a dining room.

At the other end of the house several alterations were made to The Tudor Cottage when new owners took over. We have already described in Chapter 4 how an original ingle-nook seat was revealed when the the fireplace of

what had been the kitchen of the old farmhouse was opened up. The number of rooms was also increased when a new single-storey studio was added between the lounge and the garage at the north-west corner of the cottage.

Westwood has shown how a house, in order to survive, must be capable of adapting to changing circumstances. The Coussmakers extended and changed their house as their needs and aspirations grew. Christopher Buxton, with his skilful conversion and the new residents with their appreciation of its heritage, have shown that it was also possible to adapt Westwood with its unique history to the needs of a less spacious age without sacrificing its character. Today Westwood Place still remains an enduring testimony to the industry and achievements of the Coussmaker family who owned it for over 240 years.

The old Georgian stable block and some 10½ acres of land did not form part of the 1961 sale to Windlesham Park Ltd and in July 1961 the Coussmaker family went ahead with the plans to convert it into a new home for Mrs Irene Coussmaker. This conversion was designed by Philip Hepworth FRIBA (Plate 32). He was a versatile architect with many notable works to his credit and he was chosen because he was considered the best neo-Georgian architect of the day. He retained the original ground plan (required by the planning authorities) but added a second storey to each of the side wings being careful to preserve its Georgian character. The round heads of the doors in the central accommodation block and the two flanking doors in the wings were retained and utilised for new windows and the main entrance doorway. Elsewhere square-headed windows of classic proportions were inserted to give a harmonious appearance to the building. The interior was planned with special attention to the needs of Mrs Coussmaker. On the ground floor was a large hall, drawing room, dining room, kitchen and a bedroom with an en-suite bathroom for her use. On the upper floor were four more bedrooms and two bathrooms. It was named Buckhurst after one of the old names of Westwood Farm shown on Willock's map of 1778 and Mrs Coussmaker and her daughters took up residence in February 1962.

After her death in 1965, the house was sold and the next owner Mr Peter Parsons carried out wide-ranging alterations. By extending the northern wing and adding to the east front a two-storeyed portion flanked by single-storeyed sections with cat-slide roofs, he spoilt Philip Hepworth's classic proportions. However his changes at the back of the house, which included the addition of two semi-circular bays, can be considered to have improved the appearance on that side. With other luxurious additions Buckhurst remains a desirable private residence and in spite of the unfortunate alterations it, like the great house next door, can still be considered part of the history of the Coussmaker family.

As far as other properties were concerned we have seen how the Coussmakers, as the need arose, also built new homes on the estate for their employees. The Lodge and Purse Ryde Cottage were built by Lannoy

Arthur Coussmaker. Weekwood Cottages and the New Cottages were built in the time of Colonel George. South Lodge was built next to The Lodge by Colonel Lannoy John for the manager of his poultry farm. However it was he who also started the process of building houses on parts of the estate with the object of selling them. Alloway in Westwood Lane, Meadow View, October House, Littlefield and Little Meads in Glaziers Lane, and Spinney Cottage, Tabeel and Freemoor on the Guildford to Aldershot road were built with this express object.

When the Westwood estate was put on the market in 1935 many of the lots, in total 50 acres, were described as eminently suitable building sites and several of them, with frontages on to Westwood Lane, went to the house agents Clarke, Gammon & Emerys of Guildford. The contemporary Town Planning Scheme allowed land on the east side of Westwood Lane to be scheduled at eight houses to the acre and the remainder of the estate at four houses to the acre. Had there not been a lack of demand for housing in the village at this particular time, the face of Normandy might have been drastically changed as a result of the breakup of the estate. The Council went ahead with building the first houses of Walden Cottages on 3 acres of the former Granary Field, the land it acquired from the sale, but with the onset of the 1939-45 War all building activities ceased. During the war most of the remainder of the land was brought back into agricultural use by the new owners and after the war new and stricter planning regulations were introduced and the rural character of Normandy was saved.

Following the end of hostilities the remainder of the 40 houses on the Walden Cottages estate were completed. In addition some more development took place in Glaziers Lane. During the war the army requisitioned a portion of the former Glaziers smallholding in order to build a searchlight station and huts for their personnel. After the war the six huts which were left were acquired by the Council to house tenants and went by the name of Glaziers Bungalows. They were demolished in the 1960s and today four bungalows (numbers 1 and 2 Glaziers Bungalows, Two Jays and Landsdown) occupy the site. Another bungalow, Little Glaziers, was later built on the southern end of the former smallholding. The old 16th century cottage of Glaziers still remains; also privately owned it has a Grade II listing.

Wyke Lodge with its land of about 1½ acres was bought in 1935 as a private residence and has remained so ever since. Wyke Lodge Cottage, abutting on to the Guildford to Aldershot road, is an addition but the plot of land alongside Wyke Lodge which was offered as a building site in 1935, has not been developed. On the opposite side of the road on the former Freemoor land, the present Church Room occupies a corner of the last extension of the graveyard. Originally an army hut it was re-erected here in the early 1950s, its predecessor a little further down the road having been demolished by a falling tree. The land on either side of Spinney Cottage, Tabeel and Freemoor has been gradually infilled

with new housing. These three original houses were for some time used to accommodate farm workers but are now privately owned. The most recent addition on the former Freemoor land is the new vicarage built in 1986 between The Old Vicarage and the Church Room. With only a few minor exceptions no other development has occurred as a result of the breakup of the Westwood estate.

After 1935 the Coussmaker family, as already noted, retained the immediate grounds of the house (about 22 acres), also the fields on either side of Westwood Lane south of the house and the other fields bordering the railway embankment on the east side of the lane, a further 55 acres. The fields continued to be let to the Sherwood Brothers of East Wyke Farm for grazing even after those by the embankment were sold in 1976. South Lodge was sold to Windlesham Park Ltd at the same time as the house in 1961 and was refurbished and then resold. The Lodge continued to be owned and let by the Coussmaker family until 1967 when it too was sold. Some land went with both these properties and the owners have subsequently been able to increase their holding when other pieces of land were sold off by the Coussmaker family. Today they are both attractive private properties the value of which has been enhanced by the addition of sizeable plots of grazing land.

We have also described in Chapter 6 how Mr Henry Baldrey, following the sale of the estate in 1935, acquired land between Westwood Lane and Glaziers Lane and also bordering the railway embankment on the east side of Westwood Lane, his total holding of the former farmland amounting to nearly 100 acres. The New Cottages and Purse Ryde Cottage, which he had also purchased in order to provide accommodation for his farm workers, were later sold off at different times. Today, modernised and adapted by their new owner occupiers, they too are now private houses. Although some of the land has also been sold off in the intervening years, the Baldrey family still holds the greater part of the land acquired in 1935 and most of it remains under cultivation to this day. The allotments in Westwood Lane were once part of the Baldrey holding. The Council acquired this land by compulsory purchase in order to build a small sewerage unit for the estate of Walden Cottages. When the main sewer was laid along Westwood Lane in the mid 1960s this became obsolete and the land was acquired by the Normandy Parish Council. In contrast to the Baldrey holding, the land immediately opposite Westwood Farm which was first acquired by Mr Vick in 1935 as a market garden, has changed hands several times. It is now used for grazing by the present owner.

The land that went with the old farmhouse of Westwood Farm, some 39 acres to the west of Westwood Lane, has also changed hands several times since 1937. It continued to be worked as a traditional farm during the 1940s and 1950s. However Albert Goodman, the next owner after the Coopers, allowed it to run down but at the end of the 1940s it was bought by the Gardiner family. Mrs Kathleen Gardiner and her sons worked hard to bring the farm back into

good condition. Mr Goodman continued to occupy the old farmhouse and the Gardiners lived in one of the old cottages at High Bridge by then known as Westwood Farm Cottages. In 1961 they were able to acquire the other cottage and the old farmhouse which they renamed Great Westwood, and it is from this time that the name Westwood Farm gradually went out of use, to disappear completely when the equestrian centre was set up by Peter Parsons. A few years later the Gardiners knocked down the two old cottages and replaced them with the present two bungalows, Stanennor and Westmead. However by the late 1960s, when Peter Parsons of Buckhurst purchased the farm, it was in a sorry state again. The old farmhouse was unoccupied and it and its outbuildings had been vandalised and were almost derelict. Peter Parsons set about getting grants for its restoration and embarked on another programme of extensive renovation with no expense spared, which completely transformed the old farm.

The grants were conditional upon proper architectural restoration of the farmhouse and this cost much more than was originally estimated. The tile-hanging was stripped off and the ancient timbers were exposed. These were restored and the infilling renovated, rendered and painted white. The interior was adapted to form a very prestigious period home. In front of the house several buildings which had screened it from the road were removed. He went on to landscape the gardens and converted the larger of the two barns to provide garage space and loose boxes for horses. A detached annexe to the house included amongst its rooms a billiards room, while other luxurious leisure facilities such as a swimming pool and tennis court were also built. The farmhouse with the large barn is also Grade II listed.

Mr Parsons' next project was to turn the farm into an equestrian centre for his 18 year old twin daughters. He built a stable complex with 30 loose boxes, stalls, a blacksmith's shop and a groom's flat but the centrepiece was an indoor riding school with viewing and judging galleries and a licensed cafeteria. His daughters named the centre Parwood – a combination of Parsons and Westwood. However within three years he sold up and moved on again. Some traditional farming was taken up by the next owners but in 1986 when the present owner took over, the equestrian centre was restarted and is today a flourishing and successful enterprise. It took Peter Parsons a year to get planning permission for the school as it was considered by some of the local councillors to be an unsuitable development in a rural area. It has meant a certain amount of development but the old fields still remain, put down to grass. With the decline in traditional farming the equestrian centre is a worthy successor to Westwood Farm.

On the southern edge of the estate the smallholding of Weekwood Cottages in Green Lane East was at the time of the sale of the estate occupied by Mrs Alice Coomber who lived in one of the cottages. The smallholding did not reach its reserve price in 1935 and was withdrawn from the

sale. It was subsequently sold privately but continued to be leased to Mrs Coomber who ran it with her son George. They raised pigs, chickens and cows for milk and George did the milk round using a tradesman's bicycle with a large basket on the front! In 1947 he acquired the property outright but when tuberculin testing of milk was introduced in the 1950s he was obliged to give up farming completely and rented out the 18 acre field as pasture. This field is still owned by the family today although the cottages were sold and renovated in the 1980s. At the same time a small amount of infilling took place at this end of Green Lane when the house called Woodstock was built adjacent to the right-hand cottage.

The rest of the former estate to the south of the railway line is still woodland to this day and is privately owned. However part of it, Highfield Copse, was the scene of a potentially detrimental and dramatically different development in the 1980s when it was chosen as a site for onshore oil exploration by the American based oil company Conoco UK Ltd. The company had the support of the then landowner Lord Frank Taylor of Hadfield, but its plans to drill an exploratory drill hole met with stiff local opposition. A first application was turned down by Surrey County Council. It then submitted alternative plans for a slightly different site in the copse. These were finally rejected by both Guildford Borough Council and the County Council but Conoco then went to appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment. The people of Normandy and Ash Green, led by the Pound Farm Lane Action Group (PFLAG), raised over £7,000 in order to fund the legal costs of opposing the scheme at the Public Inquiry which opened at the end of January 1985.

Despite these valiant efforts the appeal was eventually allowed and in the summer of the same year Conoco went ahead to prepare the site. Fleets of heavy lorries transported construction materials and then the massive plant in sections to the site along the narrow winding roads of Wyke Lane and Pound Farm Lane. A 160 foot high oil rig was raised on a shelf of land which had been cleared in the copse to make a flat site and, as reported in a feature article in *The Surrey Advertiser*, this peaceful and quiet corner of the parish became a mini-Dallas when drilling commenced at the end of February 1986. The rig could be clearly seen from the Hog's Back and to maintain a 24 hour working programme it was floodlit at night.

Conoco had also hoped to find gas. In the event it found neither oil nor gas. Soon after the drilling was completed on 2 March the company announced its decision to pull out. Analysis of rock samples had shown no significant deposits. The site and access roads were reinstated and restored and trees replaced. Today, under new and sympathetic ownership, the wood has recovered and is once more a haven for wildlife and the home of several rare plants. It is managed as a traditional coppice combined with mature trees, another feature of its management being the restoration of the traditional art of hedgelaying. Great care is also being taken to ensure the survival of the several earth banks which run

through the wood. These follow the lines of the old field boundaries and are evidence of the time when arable farming was once carried out in these parts of the former Westwood estate.

John de Lannoy Coussmaker, who now lives in Glaziers Lane, is the last male in the direct line of descent from John de Coussmaker who bought Westwood in 1720. As a young boy he was first taught by Mrs Pickford, the vicar's wife, who ran a class at Wyke Vicarage. He then went to a boarding school at Weymouth and finished his schooling at Charterhouse in Godalming. When his father died in 1937 he was 16 and his uncle Arthur Blakeney Coussmaker was to become a second father to him.

Arthur Blakeney, born in 1885, was the second son of the Reverend John Octavius and Mary Coussmaker. He became one of the world's leading authorities on platinum and had a distinguished career and an army record which was no less colourful than those of his uncles and elder brother. As a boy he was destined for the Royal Navy but by one of those curious turns of fate he was taken to Canada by one of his mother's relatives before he was due to enter Osborne. In Canada he was introduced to the foreman of a British Columbian gold mine who was told to make him 'do a day's work'. This was the beginning of his interest in mining matters and when he returned to England he decided to make this his career instead. He attended the Camborne School of Mines and his first job after completing his training was as Assayer and Junior Mining Engineer with a syndicate which sent him to Siberia. Here he undertook several assignments and made his first contact with the platinum mining industry of the Ural Mountains, as a result of which he started to build up his vast knowledge on the subject.

In 1908 he was invited to join the firm of Johnson, Matthey & Company, the Hatton Garden bullion merchants, the beginning of a long association which was to last over 50 years and was interrupted only by the 1914-18 War. In the years leading up to the war he served the company's interests abroad in a variety of different jobs. In 1913 he was commissioned into the Second North Midland Field Company, Royal Engineers Territorial Force and in 1914 he was promoted to lieutenant. In May 1915 he was specially employed by the South Wales Borderers but later the same year was severely wounded in France. In 1918 he took part in the Allied intervention in Russia and was a member of the British expeditionary force to the Caucasus, known as Dunsterforce, led by Major General Lionel C Dunsterville. Later, back in Siberia, he attempted to buy up a consignment of platinum but this was seized by the Bolsheviks. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1920 and returned to civilian life and Johnson Matthey towards the end of the same year. He gradually rose in the company to become a director and then chairman, spearheading many important decisions which ensured the company's success at a time when many other firms fell victims to the Depression.

After Lannoy John's death Arthur Blakeney often stayed at Westwood and became a great source of strength to his sister-in-law Irene and her young family. Following the disappointing estate sale of 1935 he purchased some of the land and became the owner of the fields bordering the railway embankment to the west of Westwood Lane. When John left Charterhouse in 1937 his uncle encouraged him to study for a career in Johnson Matthey and he joined the Royal School of Mines at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in Kensington. Unfortunately John was not suited to the subject and failed his first year examinations. He was about to retake them in 1939 but as soon as war was declared he joined the army. Following in the family tradition he had an affinity with military matters; at Charterhouse he had been a member of the Cadet Force and at the School of Mines he had joined the Senior Officer Training Corps gaining a Certificate B which qualified him for an immediate Commission on the first day of the war.

He joined the Royal Army Service Corps as a second lieutenant and served for seven years both at home and abroad in North Africa and Ceylon, rising to major. He was demobilised in 1946 and was then faced with the dilemma of what profession to follow as he had no formal qualifications. He knew most definitely that he did not wish to return to the School of Mines. However, while at Charterhouse and then the School of Mines he had also joined their dramatic societies, another activity which he had enjoyed, and he now decided to depart completely from family tradition and take up the theatre as his career. He set about this in a very unorthodox way by inserting an advertisement in the Personal Column of *The Times* newspaper. His enterprise paid off when he was offered a job on tour as a driver and stage manager at £5 a week plus board. This was the beginning of a very successful and happy career world wide (in which he adopted the professional name John de Lannoy, dropping the name Coussmaker) and it spanned over 40 years during which he was rarely out of work. In 1947 while in Barrow-in-Furness he married Nora Gledhill. In the late 40s he was working in the Midlands but it was always his intention to return to the south of England to be close to his mother and to help her with the ever increasing problems of Westwood. This he achieved in 1951 when he became the director for a year of a repertory company at the beautiful old Edwardian Theatre Royal in Aldershot, now no more. One of the plays he produced at this time was the World Première of *The Woman in White*, adapted from the novel of Wilkie Collins, the set dressings consisting of period furnishings from Westwood.

In 1952 John bought a cottage in Ash Green where he lived with his wife and their two daughters. From this time on he was able to keep a more watchful eye on the affairs of Westwood and sought ways of saving the house. He was not the sole heir to Westwood as his great uncles, grandfather and great grandfather had been before him. The Law of Property Act of 1925 had abolished estate holding in fee tail and we have already mentioned that when Colonel Macclesfield

Forbes Coussmaker died in 1941, a trust was set up for what remained of the property whereby Mrs Irene Coussmaker had life interest and then John and his sisters were to inherit in equal shares. When their mother died in 1965 they sold Buckhurst, the new home which had been made for her following the sale of Westwood. Mary, the younger daughter, had already left Normandy on her marriage in 1963. In 1965 Elizabeth, the elder daughter, went to live with her brother and sister-in-law at Ash Green until her marriage in 1971. For the next 27 years there was to be no member of the Coussmaker family living in Normandy but close ties were still maintained with the family church of St Mark.

The family chapel in the church was handed over to the Parochial Church Council in the 1960s and although it is now used as a vestry and the place where newly wedded couples sign the register, it remains a lasting memorial to Lannoy Arthur Coussmaker of Westwood and his family. The monument itself, of whitewashed stone (Plate 33) is on the south wall. It is in the form of a table in a recess under an ogee arch of two chamfered orders, the fillet between these being decorated with ball flowers. On either side of the monument is a pinnacle with crockets each on a base ornamented with the heads of three lions. The names of Lannoy Arthur, Mary Anne and 12 of their sons and daughters and one daughter-in-law now fill the white marble panel at the back. Above the inscriptions is the Coussmaker crest, the same estoile of six rays picked out in gold over a torse with alternate twists of blue and gold, which we have already noticed on Lannoy Richard's monument in the church at Staines. The front of the table below is decorated with five panels in bas-relief and five coloured shields representing the different coats of arms used by the family. That on the left side shows the arms borne by John de Coussmaker and on the right side are those of his daughter-in-law Elizabeth Newman. The centre shield shows these quartered and these were the arms certified in 1779 and used in turn by her sons John Newman and Lannoy Richard. On the left of the central shield is a shield showing these arms impaled with a single eagle, thought to be the arms used by Elizabeth Susannah, the mother of Lannoy Arthur, and on the other side the arms are impaled with two leopards' faces on a fess nebuly with three fleurs de lys, the arms used by the Woodyers, his wife's family.

The chapel is lit by two windows. That in the south wall beside the monument has stained glass also depicting a shield with the Coussmaker arms impaled with those of the Woodyer family. Under the window is a small monument to Caleb Woodyer and his wife, Mary Anne Eleanor formerly Halsey, who were the parents of Mary Anne Coussmaker and Henry Woodyer, the architect of the church. Below the tablet is a carved shield with the Woodyer arms impaled with those of the Halsey family (three boars' heads and a crest of two sword hilts with pommels and a helmet with a crest). The east window has glass with a floral decoration and scrolls bearing the Coussmaker motto *Deo fretus sum*.

On its right is a small brass in the form of an angel inscribed to the memory of Edith Shaw, the young daughter of Colonel George who died at the age of nine. On the other side is a plain white marble tablet to the memory of the Reverend John Octavius Coussmaker who died in 1923, his wife Mary and their youngest daughter Sheelah Olive.

There are two other memorials to the Coussmaker family in St Mark's Church. The green marble tablet with the figure of St George, erected by Miss Vera Flood Page in memory of her uncle Colonel George, was originally in the memorial chapel but was later moved to the north wall of the nave. Also in the main church is the alabaster reredos which was erected in 1882 by the children of Lannoy Arthur and Mary Anne in memory of their parents. It has a cross in the centre panel and flower decoration in the outer panels.

John de Lannoy's career often took him away from home but from 1973 until 1975, and again from 1978 until 1982, he was General Manager of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford. Nora became a prominent member of the Ash community; she was elected to the Ash Parish Council in 1966 and was successful in every election until her retirement in 1983. From 1969 until the local government reorganisation of 1974 she also served as a member of the Guildford Rural District Council, and in addition was a founding member and first chairman of the Ash Conservative Women's Circle. She died in 1989 and in 1992 John returned to Normandy. He is now semi-retired but is still very active in the world of the theatre being a Past Vice-President of the Actors' Benevolent Fund and Joint Honorary Treasurer of the Actors' Church Union and of the Combined Theatrical Charities Appeals Council.

The final act in the disposal of the Westwood estate took place in 1996 and 1997 when John and his sisters sold the last four fields which they still held on either side of Westwood Lane, so bringing to a close a long and remarkable period in the history of Normandy.

EPILOGUE

At its greatest extent the Westwood estate covered almost a quarter of the present parish of Normandy and provided a livelihood for many in the village. Many other spheres of life in Normandy benefited from it and as parts were gradually sold or otherwise disposed of, it enabled a church and two vicarages to be built and also two church rooms. Twenty four privately owned houses have also been erected on land of the former estate as well as the 40 houses of Walden Cottages and, in addition, eight former estate dwellings have been converted and taken into private ownership. Quality residences have been created out of the old Westwood farmhouse, Buckhurst, Wyke Lodge and Westwood itself. This has all happened with the loss of no more than 20 acres of farmland.

At the end of the 19th century the greater part of the land in Normandy was still held by the landowners of the large estates although parts of some of the



Figure 27. Westwood Place today, by Ann Stutt

estates had already been sold off. While the breakup of the Normandy Manor estate in 1895 and that of Wanborough Manor in 1912 resulted in the buildup and growth of Normandy, the disposal of the Westwood estate had far less impact on the residential development of the village. The changing pattern of farming is reflected in the present day use of the former Westwood land. Most of it, now down to grass, is devoted to equestrian purposes but a small amount of arable

still remains. A substantial amount of woodland also survives as a feature of the landscape. The rural character of Normandy has been preserved and many of the village footpaths pass through or by the fields of the former estate and are available for all to enjoy.

The Coussmaker family has been associated with Normandy for over two and a half centuries, far longer than any other family. It has been a major influence and each owner of Westwood has made a personal contribution not only to the estate but to the life of the village. Some historians might minimise the role of personality in history and attribute all events to the operation of social and economic forces but Normandy would be a different place today had it not been for the Coussmakers of Westwood.

Time and life go on and today is tomorrow's history. The latest plan is to replace the Church Room. The style of the proposed building is a modern one designed to meet the needs of the parish in the new millenium. However like its predecessors, it will be built on land which was once part of the Westwood estate. Elsewhere other changes will inevitably follow. These may diminish but they will never efface the memory of Westwood or its role in the history of Normandy.

SOURCES AND SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

GENERAL

Our principal source was the collection of Coussmaker family papers, the majority of which will be deposited in the Surrey History Centre, Woking, following the publication of this work. The collection consists of a wide variety of material, mostly unpublished, relating to the family, the estate at Westwood, and some of the other properties at Wandsworth and in Essex also once held by members of the Coussmaker family. The collection includes pedigrees, letters, legal documents, maps, schedules, photographs, drawings, accounts, receipts and general notes. Many are referred to in the text and the more important ones are listed opposite.

Other general collections of unpublished material we have consulted in record offices and libraries in Surrey, Hampshire and London include census returns, electoral rolls and parish registers. We have also consulted wills at the Family Records Centre in Islington (*ie* those proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury) and those proved after 1858 at the Principal Registry of the Family Division.

The papers of Ash Parish Council have been another source of information especially those relating to the meetings which took place in 1897.

Other general collections of published works have included Ordnance Survey maps, various editions, also directories especially the collections for Surrey and Guildford held at the Surrey Local Studies Library, Guildford, and the extensive collection of London trade directories held at the Guildhall Library in the City of London.

Finally the papers on Henry Woodyer collected by the late Gordon Barnes in preparation for the biography he was to have written on Woodyer and which are held at the Council for the Care of Churches, Westminster, proved of immense interest and gave us our first positive proof that William Henry Coussmaker was associated with his uncle Henry Woodyer.

COUSSMAKER FAMILY PAPERS

1. Survey of Westwood, by Hiatt and Lannon, 22 November 1723. [copy of schedule made by George Coussmaker].
2. A plan of Buckhurst, alias Westwood Farm . . . , surveyed by John Willock, 1778. [schedule and map].
3. A valuation of Westwood, Buckhurst and Glaziers farms . . . , taken by Richard Eager & Son, 25 October 1818.
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6. Lease of a house and garden at Wyke (Wyke Cottage) . . . L A Coussmaker to the Rev W A Paxton, 15 December 1848.
7. The Westwood Estate [about 1875]. Special edition of OS 25" map 1871 marked with names of fields and with other annotations added later in manuscript.
8. Grant of one acre of land by Lieut Col George Coussmaker as a site for a parsonage . . . 21 September 1901.
9. Terrier of the Westwood estate [1924]. [in the hand of Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker]
10. Schedule of real property passing on the death of Colonel G Coussmaker and comprising the Westwood settled estates [1924]. [in the hand of Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker].
11. *The parish of St Mark's, Wyke*: notes, by E S Hose. 1928.
12. Survey and report on the value of the Westwood estate, by Hewett & Lee, 1 September 1937.

Also:

13. Letters various dates, especially those of Macclesfield Forbes Coussmaker and John Octavius Coussmaker.

Sales particulars:

14. *Westwood . . . for sale by auction by Bernard Thorpe & Partners and Howard Morley & Sons. 1961.*
15. *Westwood Place, Normandy: a Windlesham Park Ltd conversion. 1963.*

OTHER RECORDS

Abbreviations: GMR Guildford Muniment Room PRO Public Record Office
 HRO Hampshire Record Office SRO Surrey Record Office, Kingston
 LMA London Metropolitan Archives SLSL Surrey Local Studies Library

1. Court Rolls of the Manor of Byfleet and Weybridge. SRO ref: 2284/1/4.
2. Weybridge Vestry Order Book, 1622-1728. SRO ref: 2384/3/1.
3. Plan of the Earl of Portmore's estate in Weybridge and Chertsey. 1732.
SRO ref: SC 180/2a.
4. Marriage settlement of John Coussmaker the younger and Elizabeth Newman [1734]. GMR ref: 1498.
5. An account of rents paid in Surrey to Mrs Forbes on account of her jointure, 1780. GMR ref: 77/9/5.
6. Rentals Manor of Cleygate and Wyke, 1790. Transcribed from the originals in the SRO by Sally Sherwood. Normandy Historians collection ref: MSS 88/2.
7. Land Tax returns, Normandy and Wyke. Transcribed from the originals in the SRO by Sally Sherwood. Normandy Historians collection ref: MSS 86/1.
8. Tithe map of Wyke, 1841 and apportionment tables. SRO.
9. Tithe map of Normandy, 1844 and apportionment tables. SRO.
10. Consent Coussmaker agst The Perpetual Curate, Churchwardens &c of St Mark, Wyke, 1848. (re the Sepulchral Chapel). LMA ref: DW/UP/1848/24.
11. Regimental Service records. Those relating to Arthur Lannoy Coussmaker. PRO: WO 76/255 f114.
12. Valuation Office records created under the Finance (1909-10) Act. Those relating to Westwood.
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INDEX

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Married women have been entered under their married name and if they married more than once, separate entries have been made under their subsequent names. The pedigrees on pages 21, 35 and 37 give details of marriages.

Figures in **bold** refer to illustrations.

- 1914-18 War** 43-5 *passim*, 74, 76, 98
1939-45 War 5, 85, 87, 94, 99
3rd Regiment of Foot (The Buffs) 39
85th Regiment of Foot 39
- Abbert**, Co Galway 41
Actors' Benevolent Fund 101
Actors' Church Union 101
Addiscombe Military Seminary of the East India Company
See Military Seminary of the East India Company, Addiscombe
Aldershot Army Camp 71
Aldershot Borough Council 79
Allotments, Westwood Lane 95
Allott, Evelyn Violet 79, 85
Alloway, Westwood Lane 46, 80, 94
Anchor Inn, The 15
- Arms**
– Coussmaker 31, 33, 34, 100
– Halsey 100
– Newman 31, 33, 100
– Woodyer 100
- Armstrong**, Edward 89
Asgill House, Richmond, Surrey 53
- Ash**
– Parish 13, 15
– Parish Council 43, 101
– St Peter's Church 39
- Ash Conservative Women's Circle** 101
Ash Green 97, 99, 100
Ash Rifle Ranges 71
Ash Wharf 65
Ashe A'Court, Sir William Pierce 63
Austens of Shalford Park 35
Avenue, The 58, 87
- Bailleul**, France 20, 44
Baker family of Elstead 85
Baldrey, Henry 83, 95
Barn Field 68
Barr, Andrew 78
Barretts Field 65
Bass Brewers, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs 45
- Batsons Coffee House**, London 30
Blackwater River 79
Blakeney, Major Robert 41
Bloomsbury Villa, Shanklin, IOW 41
Boscawen, Admiral 53
Bradfield College, Berks 41
Bradfield Combust, Suffolk 26
Bradfield Hall, Suffolk 52
- Brakel**
– Adrian van 22
– Susanna van (née de Coussmaker) 22, 23
- Bray**, William 15, 16, 31
Brewing 19, 26
Brind, Elizabeth Louisa (née Coussmaker) 39
Brock Hills 61, 68
Brockles 68
Brown, Capability 58
Buckhurst 13, 47, 54, 63, 65, 93, 100
102, **xxiii**
- Buckmaster**, Mr 62
Burrows, Chertsey 27
Buxton, Christopher 90-3 *passim*
- Calendars** 8
Callis Manor, Norfolk 31
Camborne School of Mines, Cornwall 98
- Cancellor**
– Rev John Henry 39, 42, 43
– Mary (née Coussmaker) 39
- Cape Town**, South Africa, cemetery 39
Catherine Frith Wood 15
Central Farmers' Club 35, 43
Chalk Ground 61
Charterhouse, Godalming 99
Chelsea Royal Hospital *See* Royal Hospital, Chelsea
Chertsey, land at 27, 29, 62
Cheshire, Rev H F 68
Chester, Frederick James 15
Christmas Pie 13, 15
Christmas Pie Farm 68
Clarke, Gammon & Emerys, Guildford 83, 94

Clasford Stream	15	
Cleygate Manor	15, 63	
Coldham, Richard	17	
Cole, Mr	78	
Collier, F H & A	35	
Combined Theatrical Charities		
Appeals Council	101	
Compton church	38	
Conoco UK Ltd	97	
Coomber		
– Alice	80, 96-7	
– George	97	
– Harry	78	
Cooper		
– F J	83	
– George L	83	
Coppice Field	65	
Coronation celebrations 1953	87	
Cousse-maker, Charles Edmond		
Henri de	44	
Coussmaker		
– arms <i>See</i> Arms, Coussmaker		
– motto	34, 100	
– origin of name	19	
– siding	13, 68-9	
Coussmaker		
– Agnes (née Kops)	26	
– Ann (wife of John Newman) ..	27, 30, 31	
– Arthur Blakeney	98-9	
– Capt Arthur Lannoy	39	
– Bernard	26, 28	
– Boudewyn de (born 1603)	20	
– Boudewyn de (1632-96)	20, 22	
– Boudewyn (1702-34)	26, 28	
– Carolena	40, 46	
– Caroline (née Crewe)	40, 46	
– Catharina de (née Broeckere)	22, 23	
– Catherine, Lady (née Southwell)	28	
– David de	20	
– Edith Shaw	39, 101	
– Elizabeth (née Newman,		
subsequently Forbes)	27-31 <i>passim</i> ,	
	52, 62, 72, 100	
– Elizabeth Mary (1715-82)	26, 30	
– Elizabeth Mary de		
(née de Vassy)	22-28 <i>passim</i> , 34, i	
– Elizabeth Susannah (née Heidman,		
widow of Col de Trappe) .	34, 35, 54, 72	
– Evert George	26, 28	
– Col George, MP for Kinsale,		
Co Cork	29	
– Col George (1839-1924)	39, 42-4,	
	73-8, 94, 101	
– Col George Kien Hayward	28-9	
– Harriette Anne (née Blakeney)	41, 42	
– Irene Georgiana (née Allott) ...	5, 45, 47,	
	85-89 <i>passim</i> , 93, 100	
– Isebeuw de (née van de Walle)	20	
– Jacques de	19	
– Jeanne de (née de Près)	20	
– Johanna (1st wife of		
Lannoy Richard)	27, 29, 30, 32, 52	
– John de, the elder (1667-1753)	17,	
	19-28 <i>passim</i> , 31, 33, 47, 50-2, 57, 61-2	
– John, the younger (1700-41) ...	23, 27-8,	
	52, 62	
– John Henry de Lannoy	45, 85, 87,	
	98-101 <i>passim</i> , xix	
– John Newman	27-31 <i>passim</i> , 33	
– Rev John Octavius	41-5 <i>passim</i> , 47,	
	73-8 <i>passim</i> , 98, 101, vii	
– Lannette Emmeline	46	
– Lannoy Arthur	15, 32, 33-42 <i>passim</i> ,	
	44, 46, 47, 54, 56, 63, 66-72, 73, 74,	
	94, 100, v	
– Col Lannoy John	41, 44-6, 68, 78-83,	
	85, 94, xi	
– Lannoy Richard (1739-1818)	15,	
	27-34 <i>passim</i> , 42, 52-54 <i>passim</i> , 62-6, 68	
– Lieut Lannoy Richard (1848-70) ...	38, 39	
– Col Macclesfield Forbes ...	35-40 <i>passim</i> ,	
	42-4 <i>passim</i> , 46, 74, 76, 78, 87, 100, x	
– Margaret Shaw (née Flood Page)	39,	
	43, 74	
– Mary (née Blakeney)	41, 98, 101	
– Mary (née Hayward)	28	
– Mary Anne (née Woodyer) .	35-42 <i>passim</i> ,	
	46, 100, 101, v	
– Mary Frances (née Nourse)	39	
– Nora (née Gledhill)	99-100, 101	
– Pieter de	19-20	

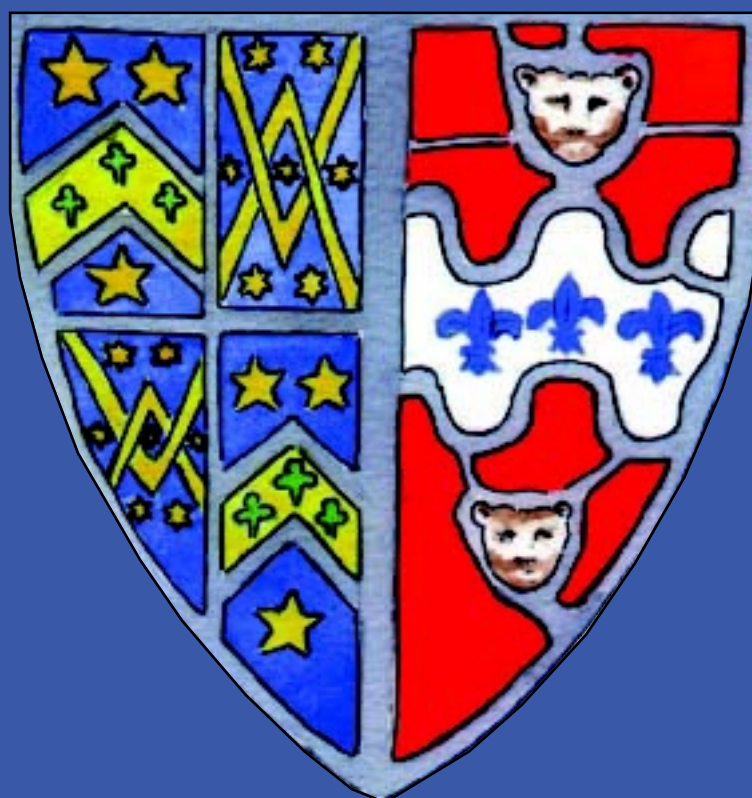
– Sheelah Olive	101	– John	33-4
– William Henry (1719-47)	28	– John Hopton	66
– William Henry (1837-82) ..	40-1, 42, 54, 58, 73, 74	– Lannoy Henry	34
– William Kops	30, 31, 33-34	– Richard Walter	33-4
Coussmaker & Armstrong	45	– Thomas	29, 33
Cox, George	56	Foster, Charles	66
Cresswell family	16	Freemoor	66, 68, 94-5
Crewe, Col Willoughby	40	Freemoor (house) Guildford Rd	46, 80, 86, 94
Curtis, A	83	Freemoor Cottages	46, 80
Dayrolles, Solomon	31	Gammon, Frank	83
Dean, Mary Georgiana (née Coussmaker)	45, 85, 87, 100	Garden Close	68
Deeping, Warwick	5, 89	Gardiner family	95-6
Ditchley Park, Oxon	50	Geneva, Switzerland	20
Domesday Book 1086	16	George III, King of England	30
Dunsford Manor	31	Gibbs, James	50
Dunsterforce	98	Glaziers ...	15, 45, 58, 63, 65, 66, 76, 78, 80, 87, 94
Dutch East India Company	22	Glaziers Bungalows	94
East India Company	26	Glaziers Lane	46, 79, 83, 94, 95
Eight Acres	65	Glues Hurst	61
Enclosure Act 1803	61, 66	Goodban, Rev S	46
Entail	29, 39, 42, 73, 74, 80, 99	Goodman, Albert	95-6
Esher, land at	27, 29, 62	Granary Field	80, 94
Ewing, George Brown	76	Great Brockles	83
Farnham Rural District Council	79	Great East	65
Farrer		Great High Field	68, 83
– Henry	16	Great Homan Grove	61
– John	16	Great Westwood	13, 63, 96
– Lord, of Abinger Hall	16	Green Lane East	15, 61, 96-7
Fêtes at Westwood	42-3, 46, 74, 87, viii	Groningen, United Provinces	20
First Georgian, Westwood Place	90-1	Guestwick, Norfolk	31
First World War <i>See</i> 1914-18 War		Guildford	
Flexford Road	15	– Christmas Shows	71
Flood Page		– gaol	57
– Mona	74	– Holy Trinity Church	35
– Rev Samuel	39	Guildford Borough Council	97
– Vera	78, 80, 101	Guildford Road	13, 45, 46, 66, 68, 80, 83, 94
Forbes		Guildford Rural District Council	101
– Elizabeth Mary (née Coussmaker) ...	28, 29, 33	Guitard, Arend Jacob	35
– George	29	Hackney	26, 30, 32
		Hackney, St John's Church	27

Hague, The	22	Knowles, Thomas	63
Halsey		Kops, William Isaac	26, 29, 30, 62
– HW	38	Kops & Coussmaker	26, 29-30, 32
– Henry	35	Kops, Coussmaker & Forbes	33
Hamble-le-Rice, Hants	39	Kops, Coussmaker & Guitard	35
Hambledon Rural District			
Council offices	45	Land Army	85
Hamstall Ridware, Staffs	41, 45	Land Tax	63
Hatchlands, East Clandon	53	Landsdown, Glaziers Lane	94
Haydon, Dodson	42	Lannoy, Sir Timothy de	27, 30
Heath, Agnes Catherine (née Coussmaker)	30, 31	Laughing House	5, 89
Henley Park	15	Law of Property Act 1925	80, 99
Henriques, Sir Philip & Lady Beatrice	43	Leadbetter, Stiff	53
Hepworth, Philip, FRIBA	93	Leek Wootton, Warks	41
Herner Grove	68	Ley line	15
Hewett & Lee, Guildford	80	Lindsay, Catherine Eliza Dalrymple (née Coussmaker)	28
High Bridge	43, 63, 76, 80, 96	Lion Hotel, Guildford	83
High Bridge Cottages	xvi	Little East	65
High Fields	61	Little Glaziers	94
Highfield Copse	83, 97-8	Little High Field	83
Hillman, John	50, 61	Little Meads, Glaziers Lane	46, 79, 94
Hog's Back	13, 15, 38, 97	Little Regency, Westwood Place	92
Homan Grove	62, 68	Littlefield, Glaziers Lane	46, 79, 94
Hop Garden Close	61	Lloyd George, David	78
Hop Garden Platt	61	Lodge, The	13, 40, 46, 71, 76, 79, 80, 93, 95, vi
Hopson, Sir Edward	23	Logan Hunter, Rev E	46
Huguenot immigrants	27	London & South Western Railway Company	68
Indian Army	39-40	Lower Barretts	65
Ingle, William	68	Loyd, Lieut Lewis Vivian	73
Ingoldsby			
– Catarina Johanna (née Coussmaker)	23, 26	Macclesfield Silk Museum, Cheshire ...	44
– Major General Richard	23, 26	Mackworth, Sir Arthur	74
Iveny, Middx, Great Tithes of	31	Main drainage, Westwood Lane	95
Jekyll, Major	29	Malt Hills	61
Jesuits	20	Mangles, Ross	39, 68
Johnson, Matthey & Co	98-9	Mary, Princess of Orange, daughter of King James II of England, subsequently Queen Mary II of England	19, 22
Kew Gardens Herbarium	43	Meadow View, Glaziers Lane	46, 79, 94
King's Head Inn, Chertsey	31	Men's Institute, North Wyke Farm	43
King's Way	15	Middleburg, Zeeland	20
Kinsale, Co Cork	29		
Kirsch, George	46		

Midleton, Viscount	31	Parsons, Peter	93, 96
Military Seminary of the East		Parwood Equestrian Centre	13, 96
India Company, Addiscombe	39-40	Paxton, Rev William A	68
Millbrook Church, Hants	40	Peak Mead	68
Montgomery, Roger de, Earl of		Penruddocke, Anne Henrietta	63
Shrewsbury	16	Peters, Capt Arthur	80
Moore, Rev Charles	17	Pickford	
Morley, Howard & Sons, Guildford	89	– Mrs	98
Morris, Leonard C	76-7	– Rev F N	46
Mullard	78	Pigg Mead	61, 68
National Farm Surveys 1940-43	83	Pirbright Road	45
National land survey 1909-10	76	Porters Rydens, Chertsey	27
Netley Royal Victoria Hospital		Portmore, Earl of	23
<i>See</i> Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley		Poultry farm	46, 79, 85, xix
New Cottages	13, 76, 80, 83, 85, 94, 95	Pound Farm Lane	97
Newman		Pound Farm Lane Action Group	
– Ann (née de Lannoy)	27, 30	(PFLAG)	97
– William of Baconsthorpe, Norfolk ..	27, 30	Poyle House	15
Norfolk, lands in	27, 29, 30, 31	Purse rides (smallholding)	76, 78
Normandy		Purse Ryde Cottage	13, 40, 71, 78, 80, 83, 87, 93, 95
– Parish	13, 15	Queen Anne House,	
– Parish Council	95	Westwood Place	47, 50-2, 90, 91, xii
– Remembrance Day Parade	46	Randyll, Morgan	17
– tithing	15	Reads	61
Normandy Cricket Club	43	Regency House, Westwood Place	54-6, 58, 90, 92, xxii
Normandy Gardening Club	46	Return of owners of land 1873	71
Normandy Manor estate	102	Reynolds, Sir Joshua	29
Normandy Park House	41	Rice, James	xix
Nuneham Park House, Oxon	53	Roberts, Lady	43
October House, Glaziers Lane ...	46, 79, 94	Rochester, Bishop of	26
Old Hunt	78	Royal Army Service Corps	99
Old Mead	68	Royal Artillery	39
Onslow, Arthur, Speaker of the		Royal Engineers	45, 85, 98
House of Commons	23, 26	Royal Hospital, Chelsea	29
Oosterland, Schouwen, Zeeland	20	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	39
Orchard Cottage, Pirbright Road	45	Royal Military Academy, Woolwich	39
Orchard House, Pirbright Road	45	Royal School of Mines, Imperial	
Oxford		College, Kensington, London	99
– Trinity College	41	Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley	85
– Worcester College	34	Russell, Sophia (née Coussmaker)	29
Palmer, Mr	78		
Pantegg Church, Mon	40		

St Kruis , Dutch Flanders	20	Terry	
St Pancras Old Church , London	32	– John	17
Sandhurst Royal Military Academy		– Robert	17
<i>See</i> Royal Military Academy,		Thames Conservancy	79
Sandhurst		Theatre Royal , Aldershot	99
Sas van Ghent , Dutch Flanders	20,	Thorpe, Bernard & Partners ,	
	22-3 <i>passim</i>	London	89
Scarlet dyeing	27	Thurning , Norfolk	31
Scherpenisse , Tholen, Zeeland	20	Tickners Bridge	15
School Lane	43	Tithe maps	68
Schoondijke , Dutch Flanders	20, 22	Trappe	
Seagers	61, 68	– Elizabeth Susannah de	
Searchlight station , Glaziers Lane	94	(née Heideman, subsequently	
Second Georgian , Westwood Place	90-1	Coussmaker <i>qv</i>)	32
Second World War <i>See</i> 1939-45 War		– Col George de	32
Sedan , France	20	Tudor Cottage, The ,	
Selsley , Gloucs	39	Westwood Place	16, 47-50, 53, 91,
Sewage farm	79		92-3, xii , xxii
Shanklin , IOW	41	Two Jays , Glaziers Lane	94
Sharpham House , Devon	53	Upper Gower Street , London	32, 35, 54
Sherwood Brothers , East Wyke		Vandeleur-Boorer , Catherine	
Farm	85, 88, 95	Elizabeth (née Coussmaker) .	45, 85, 87,
Silkworms	44, 76		100
Sluis , Dutch Flanders	20	Vick , Mr	83, 95
South Lodge	13, 46, 80, 89, 94, 95	Victory Day celebrations 1946	87
South Wales Borderers Regiment	98	Vyne	
Spinney Cottage , Guildford Road ...	46, 80,	– Henry and Joan	16
	83, 86, 94	– Ralph	16
Squires Field	68, 83	Walden , John	63-4
Staines , St Mary's Church	28, 31, 34	Walden Cottages	13, 65, 94, 95, 102
– Coussmaker monument	8, 20, 31, 34,	Waldens Coppice	65
	100, iv	Walpole , Horace	54
– Great Tithes of	28, 31	Wanborough	13, 38
Stanennor , Westwood Lane	96	Wanborough Manor	23, 85, 102
Steinwerk , West Flanders	8, 19-20	Wandle River	27
Strawberry Hill , Twickenham,		Wandsworth	27, 29, 31, 33
Middx	54	War Office	54, 71
Street , Helen and Benjamin	74	Watts , Peace	17
Surrey County Council ...	83, 91, 94, 95, 97	Webb , Mary	63, 66
Tabeel , Guildford Road	46, 80, 86, 94	Week Wood(s)	61, 68, 83
Taylor		Weekwood Cottages	76, 78, 80, 83, 84,
– Lord Frank of Hadfield	97		94, 96
– Isaac	42, 72	West , George	42, 71
– Sir Robert	53		
Territorial Army	45, 98		

- Westmead, Westwood Lane** 96
- Westminster** 23, 26, 28, 31
- Westminster, New Chapel** 23
- Westminster, St Margaret's Chapel** 23
- Westwode, Henry de** 15
- Westwood, near Coventry, Warks** 41
- Westwood, (the house)** 5, 31, 33, 41, 42,
47-58, 63, 65, 73-4, 76, 80, 83, 89, 90-3,
102, *xiv, xv, xvii, xviii, xx, xxi*
- Westwood Farm** 13, 54, 62, 63-5,
74-8 *passim*, 80-3, 95-6
– farmhouse 63, 72, 73, 76, 83, 96,
102, *xvi*
- Westwood Farm Cottages** 96, *xvi*
- Westwood Lane** .. 13, 15, 43, 45, 46, 68, 76,
79, 80, 83, 87, 94-5 *passim*, 99, 101
- Westwood Place** 13, 47, 91, 92, 102
- Westwude** 15
- Weybridge** 23, 28, 39
- Weybridge, St Nicholas Church** 23
- William III**
– King of England 22
– Prince of Orange 19, 22
- Wilson**
– Hilda 78
– Johanna (née Coussmaker) 30, 31
- Windlesham Park Ltd** . 89, 90-3 *passim*, 95
- Woking Hundred** 16
- Woman in White, The** 99
- Wood Dalling, Norfolk** 31
- Woodroffe, William** 15, 16
- Woodstock, Green Lane East** 97
- Woodyer**
– Caleb 35, 100
– Henry 38, 40-1, 42, 54, 56, 100
– Mary Anne Eleanor
(née Halsey) 35, 100
- Woollen industry** 19, 30
- Woolwich, Royal Military Academy**
See Royal Military Academy,
Woolwich
- Worplesdon**
– Parish 13, 38
– St Mary's Church 13, 38
- Wucha** 16
- Wyke** 13-6 *passim*
- Wyke, Church Room** 94, 103
- Wyke, consolidated chapelry** 38
- Wyke, St Mark's Church** 13, 38-9, 42, 44,
46, 68, 100-2 *passim*
– Coussmaker Memorial Chapel .. 31, 38,
101-1, *xxiv*
– churchyard extensions 43, 46, 76, 80
- Wyke Cottage, Guildford Road** 45
- Wyke Lane** 97
- Wyke Lodge** 39, 41, 42, 68, 73, 76, 78,
81-3, 94, 102, *xvii*
- Wyke Lodge Cottage** 94
- Wyke Manor** 13-6 *passim*
- Wyke Vicarage (new)** 95, 102
- Wyke Vicarage, The Old** 43, 76, 102
- Wyke Vicarage class** 98
- Wyke Woods** 68
- Wynberg, Cape of Good Hope** 39
- Wyndham, Henry Penruddocke** 63
- Young**
– Anna Lucretia
(née Coussmaker) 26, 52
– Arthur (1741-1820) ... 22, 26, 28, 30, 31
– Rev John 30
- Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford** 101



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