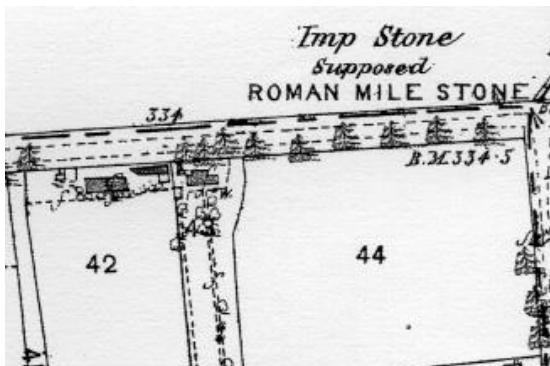
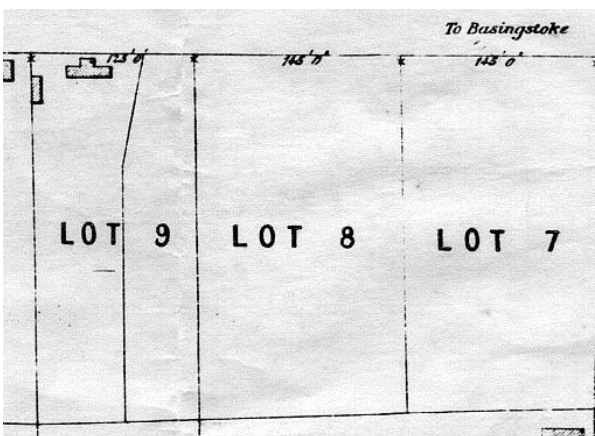


History of Littlefold House, Pamber Heath

The land was originally heathland or common land. In 1827 it was owned by Wither Bramston Esq. and in 1839 by William Hicks Beach Esq. and he was not renting it out at the time. As time went on the landowner divided his land into allotments for rent and these were used by tenants for small-scale farming or as a smallholding. There was no further documentation or maps produced that gave any information on this plot until the Ordnance Survey map of 1872. This shows the plot as number 44 and much larger than it is now as can be seen in the map shown below.



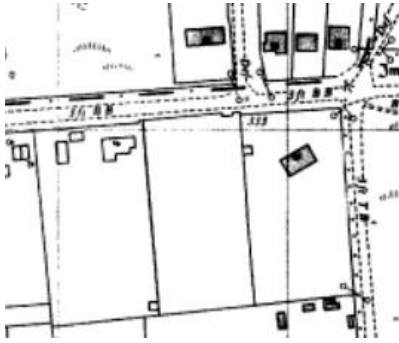
No further information was available about this plot until the 1896 Ordnance Survey map was produced. That showed no change. In 1897 the landowner William Wither Bramston Beach Esq. M.P. decided to put up all his land in Pamber Heath for auction and a map and sale particulars were produced for prospective buyers. Below is an extract of the map showing Lot 7, which we are interested in. The sale details showing the tenants at the time are also given:



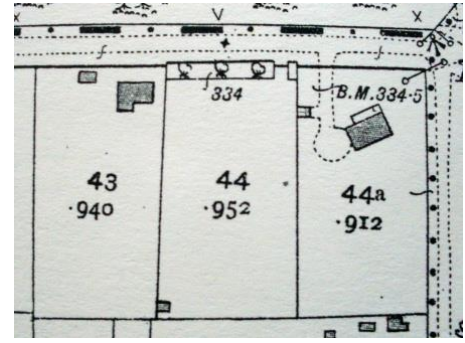
Lot 7 - Mr. WHISTLER & Mr. SMITH

⌘ Valuable Plot of Building Land at Pamber Heath, having a frontage of 145 feet to the main road and a return frontage to Silchester Common. 1 acre or thereabouts. Purchaser to erect a strained wire fence, 4 feet high, on the West side. Apportioned rent is 14/- per annum. The auction took place as advertised and Lot 7 was purchased for £85 by Mr. Whistler. You can see the original plot had been divided, some land being given to plot 43 and the remainder divided into two equal size plots. Lot 7 was where Littlefold would be later built.

The house was definitely built between 1897 and 1909. In 1909 Ordnance Survey surveyed the area for the 1911 map publication. As there is no trace of the house's existence in the 1901 Census, I think that it was probably built between 1901 and 1909. No sale papers or documentation have been found so far. It is likely to have been built by Henry John Whistler, carpenter and builder of Silchester as he leased Impstone Cottage (the original name of the house) to Arthur Thomas Martin of London for 6 years in 1921.



The Ordnance Survey map of 1911 shows the house (pictured right). You can see that the adjacent plot in Silchester Road had not changed.



The map on the left here is the Ordnance Survey map of 1968 showing the plot unchanged. The Pamber Heath village plan of

1965 had identified areas for development and in the early 1970s a developer purchased part of the rear garden of Littlefold (about 50%) so that a road could be built for a housing development. Land was also purchased to the side of the plot reducing the plot size substantially overall. The road was named Knollys Road after Major Vernon Knollys who had lived at Littlefold for many years. You can see from the 1968 map on the previous page that the adjacent plot was still undeveloped and I am told that it was just a field and ponies were kept there. It became part of the Knollys Road development.

The 1977 Ordnance Survey map on the right here shows the area after development of the Knollys Road estate and this is how the plot has stayed until the present day. The entrance drive was changed from one side to the other at some stage. In the early 1900s the location was known as Impstone Corner and the house had no number until 1958 when the number 48 was allocated. This followed a complaint from the postman at the time (Robert Brown) who was finding it difficult to deliver letters in the village. Electricity was not supplied to the village until about 1948. Until then people had to use paraffin or oil lamps or even candles.



OCCUPIERS (Dates approximate and some were tenants rather than owners):

1910 – 1921 Caroline Waldron, widow. She was born Caroline Maria Deane on the 29th of September, 1849 in Middlesex, London and married Clement Waldron, a solicitor, in 1882 in the Bath, Somerset area. After marriage she resided at Llandaff, Glamorgan, Wales. Clement died in 1906 and she moved to Impstone Cottage, Pamber Heath around 1910 with her daughter Edith. At the 1911 Census, she stated that she had 2 domestic servants and the house had 10 rooms. Edith was 27, single and an art student. Caroline moved to Broadhalfpenny House in Tadley with her daughter in 1921 where she spent her last years. She died in 1932. Probate was granted to her daughter Edith.

In January, 1914, there was an interesting incident concerning a friend of Caroline Waldron who was staying with her at Littlefold. Miss Emily Maria Eardley Childers, a lady artist of London, was sketching in a lonely wood on the Aldermaston Parish side of the Silchester Road when she was confronted by a man who was said to be Albert Rampton of Pamber Heath. He made improper advances to her and as he had a gun he threatened to shoot her if she did not agree to his proposals. The brave young lady took hold of the gun and pulled the trigger to discharge the shot. There was a tussle and she struck him with a hatpin. She managed to get away but was much distressed. When the case came to court, the jury decided he was not guilty (he had stated he was not in the vicinity at the time) but whoever the man was, the woman certainly fought him off bravely.

1921 – 1927 Arthur Thomas Martin. He was born in New Barnet, Hertfordshire in 1878, the son of Thomas Martin, civil engineer and Sarah Martin. In 1911 he was a boarder at a house in Radlett, Hertfordshire and a New Zealand merchant. In October of that year Arthur married Christine Shaw, who had been born in New South Wales, Australia in 1883. The marriage took place at St. George's, Hanover Square, London. In 1921, he was living in London when he leased Impstone Cottage from Henry John Whistler for 6 years. In 1927 Arthur moved a short distance away to the White House in Impstone Road where he lived until at

least 1948. He was a company manager when his wife Christine died in 1945. She was quite a wealthy lady in her own right.

1928 – 1933 Harry Merrill Colebrook J. P. He was born in Reading in 1863, the son of George Colebrook, butcher and Esther Colebrook. In 1890 he was a commercial traveller in the employ of a large firm of corn merchants in Southampton. He married Elizabeth Grace Ridley in 1893 at Reading. At the 1911 Census he was living at Twyford, Winchester, Hampshire with his wife and son Leslie and an importer of foreign corn. It seems he was now in business on his own account. He was living at Liphook, Hampshire for many years before moving to Littlefold, Pamber Heath about 1928. The name of his house at Liphook had been Upperfold and it seems that he decided to give his new house a similar name. He spent the final years of his life at Littlefold and died on the 16th of April, 1933.

1933 – 1934 Elizabeth Grace Colebrook, widow of Harry Merrill Colebrook. She was in London in 1937.

1934 – 1939 Mary Kate Bassett (pictured as a young woman) was born on the 14th of May, 1845 in Ipswich, Suffolk. She married Henry Bassett, a consulting chemist, in 1879 in Ipswich, Suffolk. She lived in Islington, London for many years. Henry died in 1920 and she was living with her daughter at a large house named Little Oakley, Dockenfield, Farnham, Surrey at least from 1929 until about 1931. Mary was an elderly widow when she arrived at Littlefold. Her daughter Rose Kate Bassett was still living with her. Mary moved away around 1940 and died at the age of 96 in 1942 at Reading, Berkshire. Probate was granted to her son Henry Bassett, a professor of chemistry at Reading University.



1940 – 1945 Unknown.

1945 – 1950 Captain Cyril Lankester Paul. He was born on the 2nd of June, 1891 in Ipswich, Suffolk, the son of William Francis Paul, corn merchant, and Ida Florence Paul (formerly Lankester). The family home was Orwell Lodge, a grand house in Ipswich with several domestic servants. At the 1911 Census he was a visitor at a house in Harrow-on-the-Hill, London and stated that his occupation was a clerk in the tobacco trade. On the 9th of May, 1912 he was indentured as an apprentice to Joseph Causton of London for a period of 7 years. He married Rachel Gwendolen Middleton Phillips on the 1st of December, 1915 at St. Mark's, Church, North Audley Street, London. In 1917 they were living in London when daughter Rachel was born. His residence became Stapenhill, Broughton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. He enlisted to serve in the First World War and joined the Royal Field Artillery with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He was on active service on the 24th of May, 1915. He was promoted to the rank of Major and after the war was awarded 3 medals. His occupation in 1923 was maize importer when he left the UK for Capetown, South Africa on the 15th of June, presumably a business trip as he was alone. He arrived back in the UK on the 15th of October, 1923. He continued to live at Stapenhill until 1926 when the house was put up for sale. In 1927 daughter Patricia was born in Marylebone, London. He was at Littlefold in 1945 and probably before then but as the war was on records were rare. He was not listed on the Electoral Register around 1946 but was probably away serving in the forces. He left Littlefold about 1950. His whereabouts are unknown until he moved to Esher, Surrey in the mid 1970s. Rachel died in 1978 at the age of 83. Her birth date was the 1st of March, 1895.

1950 – 1951 Mrs. A. Franks.

1952 – 1970 Major Vernon Cyprian Knollys. He was born on the 4th of March, 1898 in Swarraton, Hampshire and at the 1911 Census was a boarder at a preparatory school in Winchester, Hampshire, aged 13. As a young man he enlisted to serve in the First World War. He joined the Rifle Brigade and had the rank of Lieutenant. He served in France from the 31st of May, 1917 and was awarded 2 medals. He married Dorothea Susan Gull in the Bradfield Registration district, Berkshire on the 17th of April, 1923. He served in the Second World War and was captured and became a prisoner of war. The record shows he had the rank of Major with the Rifle Brigade and was held in a German prisoner of war camp at Spangenburg bei Kassel, near Rotenburg, Germany. He moved to Littlefold around 1952 and played an active role in village life, becoming a Pamber parish councillor. He seems to have moved away around 1970 and died in Newbury, Berkshire in 1973. His wife lived until 1980 and died in the Reading area.

1970 – 1972 David Cyprian Knollys. He was the son of Vernon Cyprian Knollys and born on the 8th of May, 1925 in London. He married Pamela Jane Sharman on the 17th of May, 1952. There were 7 children . 6 girls and 1 boy. He died in 1996 at Chichester, Sussex.

1972 – 1984 Ronald. J. Carter. He was probably there well past 1984 but that is the last record I have of him. Jacqueline J. Carter also lived there and may have been his wife.

Researched, written and published by Raymond West, May, 2014. Updated July, 2014.