

## EARLY FARNBOROUGH SCHOOLS

In 1818, 30% of the children of England went to school and in 1831 there were something like 12,000 "National Schools" which were sponsored by the Church of England.

After Mr Greene came to live in Farnborough he started a school (between 1820 and 1839) at the Cove end of the parish. - there were eventually separate schools for girls, boys and infants under the charge of Mr, Mrs and Miss Taylor who lived at 'Green Croft'. This attracted lots of Farnborough children and some from Hawley and Cove. Mr Greene died in 1887.

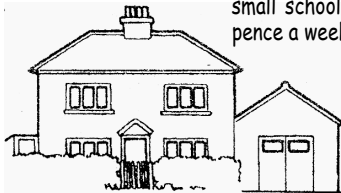
About 1830, at the Farnborough Street end of the parish, Mrs Cook ran a dame school next to her house. The school was set up by voluntary subscription as a result of Mrs Morant's (of Farnborough Place) initiative. 2 pence a week was paid by each scholar. Mrs Cook was paid £30 a year. She had been Mrs Morant's maid. After she got too old to work Mrs Cook's school was run by Miss Hicks but Mrs Cook lived in the school house until she died.

There is mention of a Miss Joyce running a small school, in two rooms, which charged 6 pence a week!

There were no further developments in education in Farnborough until 1868, when the parish got its National School. This was two years before the Education Act of 1870 placed a school within reach of every child in the country at a very low cost, and 12 years before primary education for all children became compulsory.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL WHICH WAS OPENED IN FARNBOROUGH STREET IN 1868

MRS COOK'S HOUSE, STILL IN RECTORY ROAD, WITH HER SCHOOLROOM NOW USED AS A GARAGE



### THE CLAYTON FAMILY

John Henry Clayton was Rector of Farnborough 1839-62. His cousin, Mrs Alexander, was the wife of the Bishop of Derry. She wrote many hymns, especially for children. She visited her cousin at Farnborough frequently and was godmother to two of the Clayton children. The hill from the old Rectory to the church may well have inspired her best known hymn "There is a green hill far away".

A grandson of the Farnborough rector was P.B. (Tubby) Clayton who, with Neville Talbot, founded Toc H.

The graves of John Clayton, his wife and two of their children are by the north wall of the church near the porch.

Original G.L. Hunt 1971  
Update P.R.Allan 2009

### THE GROWTH OF SOUTH FARNBOROUGH

During the second half of the 19th century the growth of the new South Farnborough began to overshadow the old Farnborough Street. It led to the building of a daughter church, St Mark's, consecrated in 1881 and completed in 1889. By 1901 the population of the parish was 11,500.

Until almost the end of the century the Vestry was the local government authority although it was subject to a number of other authorities like JPs, the Board of Guardians, the School Board, the Highways Board and others. It dealt with assessment of railway properties for rates, lighting of the parish roads, authorisation of gas works construction and a host of other like matters until the Local Government Act of 1894 brought into being the Farnborough Urban District Council and the Vestry could once again restrict itself to church affairs.

## Farnborough Parish Church THE PARISH IN THE 19TH CENTURY

This was a century of change. Slow, steady development over earlier centuries produced a pattern of life which prevailed at its opening. Manual skill and effort were still the dominant factors in material production, travel on land relied greatly on the horse and at sea wind and sail provided motive power.

The Industrial Revolution changed this dramatically. Steam provided the power to operate factories, drive trains and propel ships. Electrical power was in use when the century closed. Factory made goods were cheap and plentiful. A steady population drift built large, crowded towns.

Despite all this change, Farnborough might have remained a backwater but in mid-century the Army came to North Camp and a new community was started.

### FARNBOROUGH ABOUT MID 19TH C

The first inn name was the "Royal Anne" in honour of the largest ship in James II's navy. The name became "The Ship" at the beginning of the 19thC.

Windmill Hill was replaced by FARNBOROUGH HILL, enlarged later by Empress Eugenie whose associations are remembered in road names on the Empress Estate. It is now a girls' school.

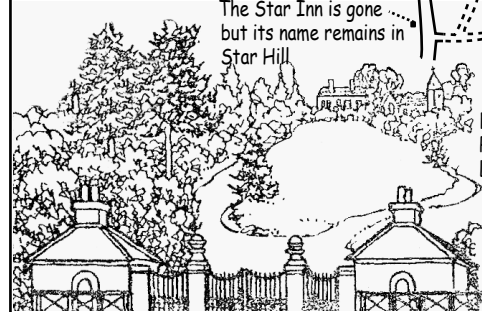
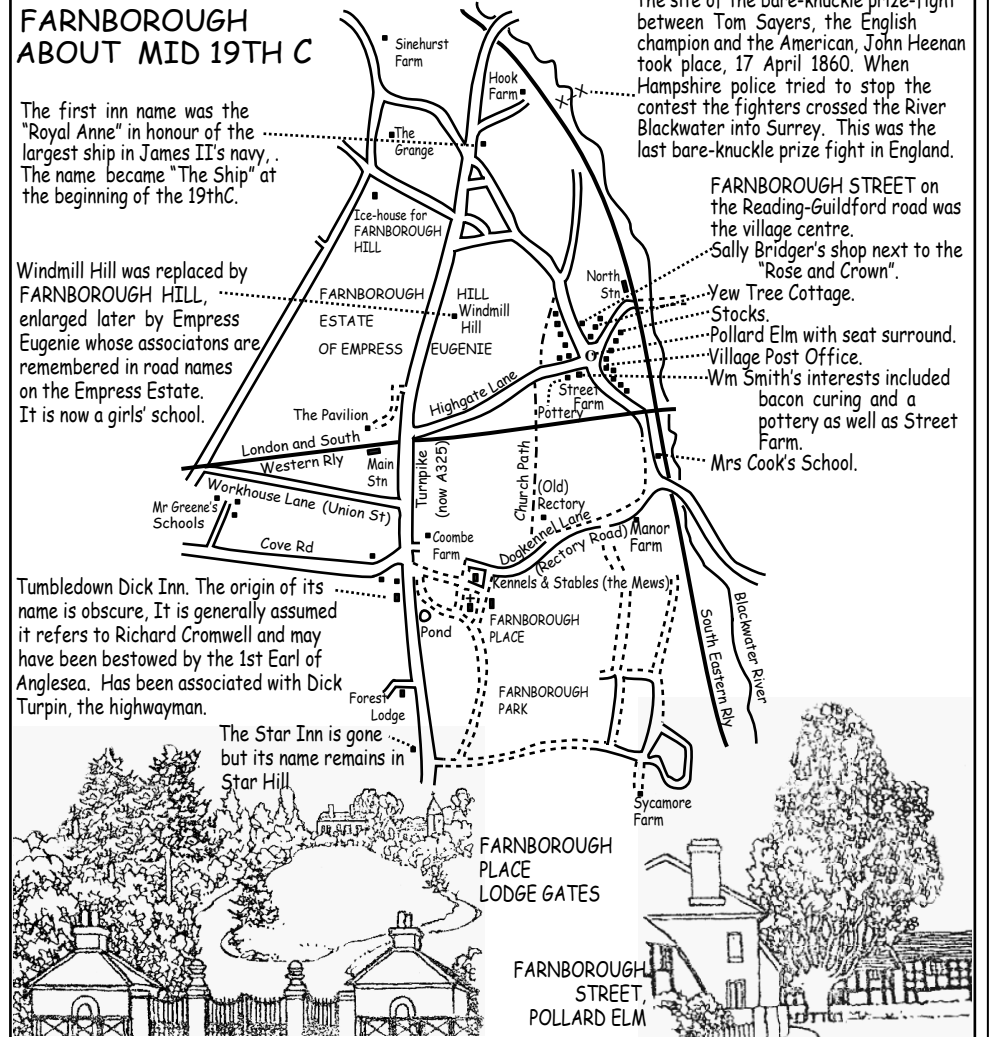
Tumbledown Dick Inn. The origin of its name is obscure. It is generally assumed it refers to Richard Cromwell and may have been bestowed by the 1st Earl of Anglesea. Has been associated with Dick Turpin, the highwayman.

The Star Inn is gone but its name remains in Star Hill

The site of the bare-knuckle prize-fight between Tom Sayers, the English champion and the American, John Heenan took place, 17 April 1860. When Hampshire police tried to stop the contest the fighters crossed the River Blackwater into Surrey. This was the last bare-knuckle prize fight in England.

FARNBOROUGH STREET on the Reading-Guildford road was the village centre. Sally Bridger's shop next to the "Rose and Crown".

Yew Tree Cottage. Stocks. Pollard Elm with seat surround. Village Post Office. Wm Smith's interests included bacon curing and a pottery as well as Street Farm. Mrs Cook's School.



FARNBOROUGH PLACE  
LODGE GATES

FARNBOROUGH STREET  
POLLARD ELM

## THE POOR AND ..... NOT SO POOR



Emigrants awaiting medical examination prior to departure. In 1849, 299,498 people left the country

The first book recording Farnborough Vestry meeting proceedings covers 100 years from 1726 to 1826: its notes are brief. Towards the end "Payments to the Poor" are more frequent, reflecting the general distress among the poor early in the 19th century. The Napoleonic Wars created violent price movements: Afterwards the Corn Laws of 1815 kept bread prices high. Enclosures gave greater farming efficiency but landowners and tenant farmers were main beneficiaries. The Industrial Revolution concentrated manufacture in urban areas and rural cottage industries closed down. The trend was for villagers to become just poorly paid hands of local farmers.

Our Parish Registers show occupations for some periods but not others. Despite this limited information, it is noticeable that the descriptions "yeoman" and "husbandman" appearing in the 18th C have all but disappeared in the 19th and are replaced by a new name "labourer". Potters and shoemakers (or cordwainers) are found in the first half of the century but Farmer Smith's pottery could not compete when the new Doulton ware was introduced.

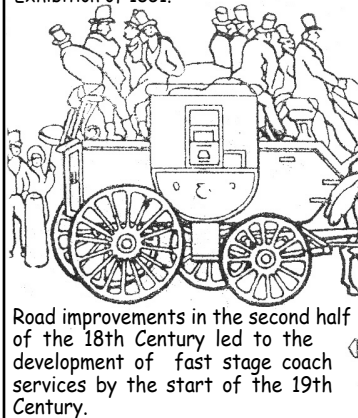
From Lady Day, 1831, the second book of Vestry records gives more detailed notes. On 20 April, 1835 it was resolved that "all aged and infirm persons requiring Parish assistance should be allowed 1s 6d per week". Three married couples, one widow and three old men qualified. On 29 January, 1836, Richard Reeves applied to the Parish for coffins for two of his children. His request was refused. In view of his heavy expenses because of sickness and loss of work he was given £1 but he had to meet all funeral expenses. On 17 May, 1847, a vestry meeting discussed "what measures should be resorted to in order to relieve the present pressure on the poor in consequence of the high price of provisions" but the meeting was declared illegal, for what reason the record does not say.

In April, 1831, Mr Davies of York Town contracted to attend the poor of the parish (inclusive of midwifery and medicines) for £9-9s per annum. Twenty years later he was still doing the work but at a fee of £12. How long this parish medical service continued is not certain. After mid-century the records make little mention of the poor.



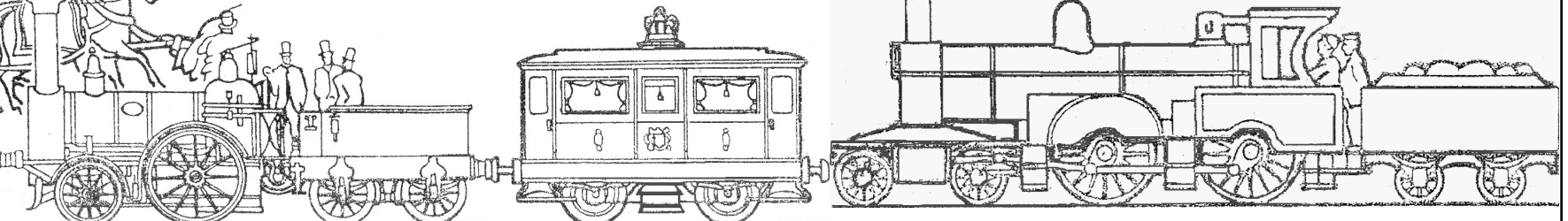
Country people on an excursion to London to the Great Exhibition of 1851.

The stage coach era was short-lived. Before it was really fully exploited the coach was superseded by the steam locomotive. London & South Western trains ran to Basingstoke in 1839 and in 1849 South-Eastern ones to Reading



Road improvements in the second half of the 18th Century led to the development of fast stage coach services by the start of the 19th Century.

Below is shown the royal railway carriage and an engine of 1843-44. On Oct 8, 1844, King Louis Philippe of France landed at Portsmouth on his way to visit Queen Victoria who sent her royal train to bring him from Gosport to Farnborough. Carriages took the royal party on to Windsor.



By the year 1901 locomotives like this were pulling express trains through Farnborough Station

The things which led to distress amongst the poor brought prosperity to the middle and upper classes who built large houses with some of their wealth. In 1800 the Grant family owned Windmill Hill above Farnborough Street and built a house of that name on it, which was later bought by a Mr Foreman. His wife's brother, the Dean of Chichester, persuaded her to build a bungalow (The Pavilion) for her nephew, Mr Greene, a subaltern at the battle of Waterloo, to live near her. Later Mr Greene became an educational pioneer in Farnborough. The Pavilion was later renamed "The Lodge".

In 1859, Thomas Longman, the publisher, bought Windmill Hill, demolished it and built the mansion, Farnborough Hill, on the site. One of the many who visited the Longmans was the historian, J.A.Froude, whose wife was the sister of Charles Kingsley, rector of Eversley, who often found his way to Farnborough Hill. In the grounds was a cricket pitch and matches now played between Eversley and Farnborough church teams may be successors to the games played in the time of Kingsley. In 1882 Empress Eugénie came to live at Farnborough Hill; her first works were to erect a mausoleum to receive the bodies of her husband, Emperor Napoleon III, who died in 1873, and son, the Prince Imperial (Louis Napeoleon), killed in the Zulu War in 1879, and to establish St Michael's Abbey on the hill between Farnborough Hill and St Peter's. Farnborough Hill is now a girls' school.

The Grange was, at first, a small house built by Mr Timms. His widow sold it to Mr Sherwin who enlarged it. In 1886 Mr & Mrs Sherwin paid for the church's new chancel, reredos and east window. Next at the Grange were Mrs Sherwin's niece and her husband Major Holt. Mrs Holt became Lord of the Manor and was succeeded by her son Col. Harold Sherwin Holt, who gave the church its lychgate as a memorial to his parents.

At the other end of the parish something quite different and far-reaching happened in 1854 during the Crimean War, when Aldershot military camp was established. With the advent of North Camp a new Farnborough was created. Between 1851 and 1861 the population of the parish rose from 477 to 5529 (3929 military) and has grown ever since. The military influence is still of major importance although later it was in the special sphere of aeronautical research that Farnborough gained world-wide renown.



Charles Kingsley Rector of Eversley 1844-69

Florence Nightingale in the Crimea, 1855