

## **NOTES ON BATTS & THE KNIGHT FAMILY**

Some research was carried out by Dr. H.F. Squire who lived at Batts in the 1950s. He found out that in the Survey of the Manor of Stretham October 1638 a cottage called Batts was occupied by Ralph Dunstall. In the survey of April 1647 it was occupied by Thomas son of Ralph Dunstall. From Combers Sussex Genealogies for a period up to 1798 it was owned by John Wood of Twineham (he was a big landowner in the area). 1798-1801 it was owned by Sarah Soper nee Martin. 1801-1815 it was owned by Frances Stamford nee Martin (sister of Sarah Soper). From 1815 to unknown date it was owned by John Matthew, or Matthews, a Yeoman who bought it for 1620 pounds. These were the owners but not likely to be also the tenants. From the 1845 tithe map Henry knight was the owner and Sidney Street the occupier. It is possible that Thomas Wisden was the next owner and occupier. In 1868 the Tithe List gives the occupier as Charles Lamb. About 1888 the occupier was Mr Hudson. 1897 occupier was Col & Mrs Wisden. 1930 Mr & Mrs Flux. 1934 Major Grant. 1936 Fabian E. Waite. 1954 Dr. H.F. & Mrs Squire. You would need to contact the West Sussex Record Office at Chichester to search the Court Rolls of Stretham Manor which would record each change of occupancy.

In the 1851 census Sidney and Elizabeth are alone at Kidders, which would be in Kidders Lane just south of Mockbridge. Elizabeth was possibly also there in 1871, or perhaps at Bottings Farm, which is close to the riverbank just to the west of Mockbridge.

I have looked up the baptism dates for the children of Henry and Elizabeth Knight from the church registers which are as follows:

William 26/10/1817

Emily 16/4/1820

Eleanor 13/1/1822

Henry 12/10/1823

Mary 18/6/1826

John 3/2/1828

Matthew 21/2/1830

Stephen 1/1/1832

Mark & Luke (twins) 2/3/1834

At the baptisms of William through to Mary, Henry Snr was listed as a farm labourer at Moke Bridge, or as we know it now Mockbridge. After this he is listed as a farmer.

I couldn't find the christening of Martha who is one of the children mentioned in the will of Henry. From looking at the will Elizabeth was allowed to own the property following the death of her husband until her death or future marriage at which point it passes to the children. I would think on her marriage it passed to her son Henry. I cannot think why any other Henry would have taken it over. Again the record office could probably research this for you. They used to offer a free research service for I think about the first 30 minutes.

Looking up some of the deaths of the children from the headstones in the churchyard. Stephen died on the 15/10/1857 aged 25 yrs. Matthew died 19/2/1857 aged 27 years. Emily died 8/3/1842 aged 22 yrs. Eleanor died 26/4/1844 aged 22 yrs. Emily and Eleanor's names appear on the headstone of their parents which says "In memory of Henry Knight who died January 13<sup>th</sup> 1835 aged 43 years. In memory of Elizabeth widow of the late Henry Knight who died September 3<sup>d</sup> 1876 aged 84 years." It's strange that Elizabeth wasn't given the name Street. Sydney Street's headstone reads. "Sacred memory of Sydney Street who died 10<sup>th</sup> July 1864 aged 48 years."

The marriage of Sidney and Elizabeth took place at Henfield on the 7/10/1840. The father of Sidney was Charles, and a witness at the wedding was Clara Street.

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*January 2021*