

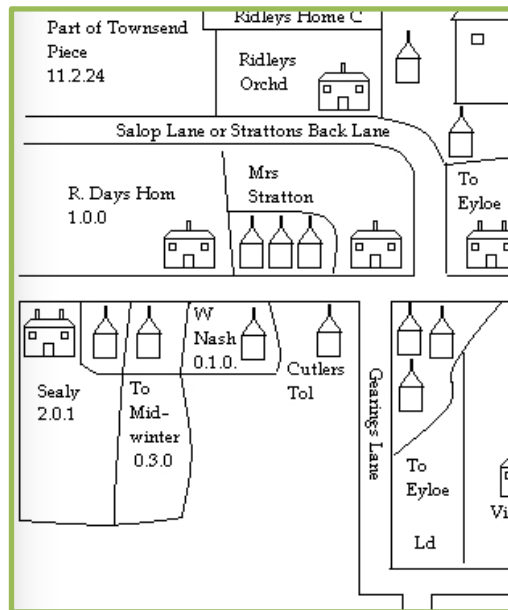
Ivy House -High Street – Shrivenham

A general history by Neil B. Maw



The building that is Ivy House today stands on the site of what would have been a farmhouse. Anciently, it was a farm in the middle of the village, with the farmhouse set back from the street and the fields attached to it at the rear. And it wasn't the only one. Across the road where the school now stands, was the Stratton family farm and also behind it, the fields that belonged thereto.

The earliest piece of documentary evidence we have for this site, is from a Quarto Survey book of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell of Coleshill. (BCA D/Ex 192/10). The book consists of a series of simple, line drawn maps dating from 1730 - 1753. The whole purpose of the maps is unclear other than to assume they are about rents and tythes, but below we can see that the Ivy House site was occupied by Mr or Mrs Cutler with the open fields to the rear.



A transcribed copy from the Quarto Survey book

The Barrington Estate map of 1815 shows no buildings at the site of Ivy House, signifying that the estate had no interest there and the whole of the open area to the rear was marked, John Blagrove Esq. The Blagraves were a significant land-owning family, but we do know from the letters of George Merryweather that they were struggling with debt in 1817 - 20. The Tithe survey of 1844 (Below) showed the Ivy House site and listed John Blagrove still as the owner with the description of a, 'House, Malthouse and Garden,' in the occupation of William Streat (SHS No N239).



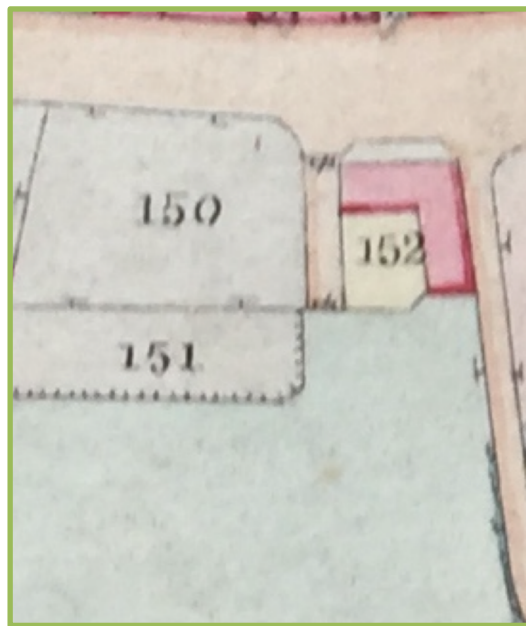
The census of 1851 showed that William Streat, aged 30, was still operating from the property as a farm of 70 acres and he employed two men and two boys. With him was his sister Sarah who was unmarried aged 31, and his brother Edwin, aged 24, also single.

The next occupier of Ivy House was Dr Richard Gulston Wollaston, a Physician from Hereford. We don't have an exact date when he came to Shrivenham but he was certainly in the village by the end of 1858. A newspaper article informed that he had instigated a court action at Faringdon to recover a debt that was due to him from George Frankling, a shoemaker from Ashbury. Frankling claimed that a medical diagnosis on his son's broken arm was not correct, but the court found for Wollaston the plaintiff.

It was also from 1858 that we learn of the reason that Dr Wollaston was in Shrivenham. He had been elected by the Board of the Guardians of the Faringdon Union (Poor Law) as the chief Medical Officer, replacing Thomas Atherton Kennard. Dr Wollaston had been admitted as a surgeon in 1837 and an Apothecary in 1841. He had studied in London and in Paris hospitals, had practiced in Bishop's Castle for 15 years and been a Chief Magistrate there for two years. (Reading Mercury 24th Dec 1858 and Wilts & Glos Standard 17th July 1858). The census for 1861 below, showed that Richard Wollaston had a large family household.

Wollaston	Richard	46	Licentiate of Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. In practise as a General Practitioner. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons & Apothecary	Hereford
Wollaston	Mary	47	Wife of Richard	Montgomery
Wollaston	John	20	Son of Richard	Montgomery
Wollaston	Mary	18	Daughter of Richard.	Bishops Castle
Wollaston	Richard	16	Son of Richard.	Bishops Castle
Wollaston	John	13	Son of Richard.	Bishops Castle
Wollaston	Parve	11	Daughter of Richard.	Bishops Castle
Wollaston	Mary Jane	11	Daughter of Richard.	Bishops Castle
Wollaston	Emily	9	Daughter of Richard	Bishops Castle
Wollaston	Clara	7	Daughter of Richard	Bishops Castle
Orchard	Elizabeth	18	Servant of the Wollastons	Ashbury

The walk order of the commissioner for the above census doesn't make much sense, and it seems that he walked out of the Vicarage and went straight to Ivy House, by-passing the buildings in between. However, the Barrington Estate Map for 1866 clearly showed that the property was then owned by the Barrington Estate and that Dr Wollaston was the occupier of the house, premises and gardens that is Ivy House. The census showed that William Streat was still somewhere nearby operating the farm, but the acreage had dropped to 52.



Extract from Barrington Estate Map of 1866

The Wollaston's were still there according to the census of 1871, and confirmation that the doctor was still there in 1873 comes from a statement he made concerning the supply of milk in the Shrivenham District. Dated 13th October 1873 from Shrivenham, to the Aylesbury Dairy Co Ltd, London, he assured them that he had visited all the dairies in the area and that the water supplies were such that no sewage could leak into the milk being supplied to them. (Pall Mall Gazette 8th Dec 1873). Very shortly after this, Richard Wollaston left Shrivenham for Lyme Regis, Dorset where he gave advice to the local people on sanitation and the abuse of tobacco. (Exeter Flying Post 29th Dec 1875). But sadly, he ended his days there when he died on 1st September 1878. (Illustrated London News 14th Sept 1878).

It's likely that Henry Richens took over the farm after the Wollaston's left in 1874/5, and the census of 1881 listed the farm much bigger at 200 acres. It seems likely that he also occupied Ivy House as well with ten people in his household – see below.

Record Transcription:
 1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census
 Swindon Street, Shrivenham, Faringdon, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England
[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members ⓘ

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Henry	Richens	Head	Married	Male	41	1840	Farmer 200 Acres Employing 6 Labourers And 1 Boy	Highworth, Wiltshire, England
Jane Ann	Richens	Wife	Married	Female	44	1837	-	Highworth, Wiltshire, England
James	Richens	Son	Single	Male	16	1865	Farmers Son	Highworth, Wiltshire, England
Frederick	Richens	Son	Single	Male	14	1867	Scholar	Highworth, Wiltshire, England
Albert	Richens	Son	Single	Male	8	1873	Scholar	Highworth, Wiltshire, England
Laura	Richens	Daughter	Single	Female	10	1871	Scholar	Highworth, Wiltshire, England
Annie	Richens	Daughter	Single	Female	5	1876	Scholar	Longcot, Berkshire, England
Florence	Richens	Daughter	Single	Female	4	1877	Scholar	Longcot, Berkshire, England
Jane	Richens	Daughter	Single	Female	3	1878	Scholar	Longcot, Berkshire, England
Sarah	Lawrence	Servant	Single	Female	22	1859	Domestic Servant	Shrivenham, Berkshire, England

The Kelly's directory for 1887 recorded that Frederick Hill was the farmer at Ivy House. Henry Richens had moved to Pennyhooks Farm and showed up as such on the census for 1891. But by the time of that census, James Saunders was occupier at, '*Ivy House Farm,*' and that is what it was called by a newspaper advertisement two years later (see below). The advert was for James Saunders selling his live and dead stock and about 80 acres of grass keeping, up to 29th Sept next, a usual lease date called Michaelmas. This would indicate that the farm was still being rented or leased, and still formed part of the Beckett Estate. (Faringdon Adver 1st April 1893).



Record Transcription:

1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census

House, Shrivenham, Faringdon, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England

[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members (i)

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Henry	Hutt	Head	Married	Male	46	1855	Farmer	Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, England
Emma	Hutt	Wife	Married	Female	42	1859	Farmers Wife	Denchworth, Berkshire, England
Henry	Hutt	Son	Single	Male	16	1885	-	Buckland, Berkshire, England
Jessie	Hutt	Daughter	Single	Female	14	1887	-	Buckland, Berkshire, England
Kathleen	Hutt	Daughter	-	Female	11	1890	-	Buckland, Berkshire, England
Dennis	Hutt	Son	-	Male	9	1892	-	Buckland, Berkshire, England
Edith	Hutt	Daughter	-	Female	7	1894	-	Buckland, Berkshire, England
Hilda	Hutt	Daughter	-	Female	6	1895	-	Shrivenham, Berkshire, England
Elsie	Hutt	Daughter	-	Female	5	1896	-	Shrivenham, Berkshire, England
Hubert	Hutt	Son	-	Male	3	1898	-	Shrivenham, Berkshire, England
Ivy M	Hutt	Daughter	-	Female	2	1899	-	Shrivenham, Berkshire, England
Thomas	James	Servant	Widower	Male	65	1836	Cattle Man	Faringdon, Berkshire, England
William	Johnson	Servant	Single	Male	22	1879	Carter	Castle Eaton, Gloucestershire, England

The picture below is the Hon. Ivan Campbell, Captain in H.M. Bodyguard. The census for 1911 shows that he was in residence at Ivy House, along with his wife Lady Margaret Campbell, son Iain and several servants. He was a decorated military man and had seen service with the Cameron Highlanders in Egypt, being present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He was also in the South African (Boer) War and became a member of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms. He was the brother of the Marquis of Breadalbane and was due to inherit the title. He married Lady Margaret Elizabeth Diana Agar, daughter of the third Earl of Normanton in 1884. The likely reason they chose to move to Shrivenham was that they had relatives nearby. Margaret was the daughter of Caroline Susan Augusta Barrington, the fifth child of William Keppel Viscount Barrington (6th).



Capt. Ivan Campbell. Photo courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery Ax39167

By 1912 they decided to let the property and held an auction on the premises for the contents of their house. (See below. Faringdon Adver 24th Aug 1912). This was then followed by the sale of more of the furniture on the instructions of Lady Margaret Campbell, *'who is leaving the district.'* (Faringdon Adver 18th Sept 1915). The Captain would very likely have been busy on account of the war that had been declared a year earlier.

Ivy House, Shrivenham, Berks,

About a mile from the Station on the G.W.R.

DYKE, JACKSON & CO.

ARE favoured with instructions from Captain the Hon. Ivan and Lady Margaret Campbell (who are letting the Residence), to Sell by Auction, on the premises, on Thursday, September 12th, 1912, at One o'clock p.m., the remaining portion of the

CONTENTS OF THE RESIDENCE,

(To avoid storage), viz., A very choice SPANISH EBONY CABINET with Interior Drawers and Silver Mounts, Beautifully-toned SEMI-GRAND PIANOFORTE (by H. Hansen, Berlin), Pair of French Mirrors, Costly DECORATIVE CHINA, including Crown Derby, Rockingham, Dresden, Chinese, Worcester, Lowestoft, Delft, Spode, Foley Ware, Mortlock's, and other Excellent Specimens, Exquisite CUT GLASS, Brass Dutch Bowl, Large Chinese Bronze, Massive Hanging Brass Candelabra, OIL PAINTINGS, Landscape and Animal Subjects, one believed to be by Peter Nasmyth; CHOICE COLOURED ENGRAVINGS and WATER COLOUR DRAWINGS by Samuel Cousins, G. S. and S. J. Facius after Sir Joshua Reynolds, Henry Graves after Edwin Landseer, I. Smith after Kneller, J. R. Smith after Morland, Robert Cooper after Shelley, F. Bartolozzi after Benwell, L. Schiavonetti after R. Cosway, Lemparner after Reubens, and others; Bound Vole of Punch (1886 to 1900), Copper Culinary Requisite, and many other items.

Descriptive Catalogues of the Auctioneers, Faringdon and Abingdon, Berks.

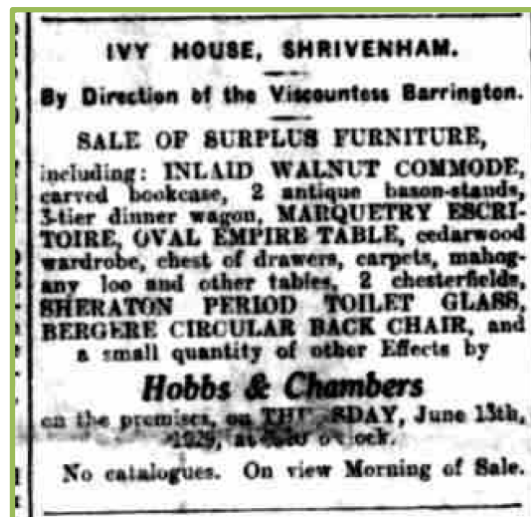
It was at this time, just over a century previous, that the UK was gripped by an Influenza Pandemic. (This article being written during the Covid pandemic of 2020/1). Sadly, the Captain contracted the extremely transmittable influenza virus that developed into pneumonia and he died in March 1917. (Aberdeen Press & Journal 20th March 1917).

Within the historical collections of photographs that we have at the Heritage Centre, we have an image of a lady that is labelled Ivy House 1910, but it was not known who she was. When the images are put together, Caroline Barrington (left), and the lady at Ivy House, the facial resemblance is very similar, therefore it's quite likely that she is Lady Margaret Campbell nee Agar.



At this point in time, we can only assume that Ivy House was still in the possession of the Barrington Estate. The first sale of the Beckett Estate took place in 1917, when five farms and various cottages and outlying lands were sold off, but there was no mention of Ivy House. The next sale took place in 1922 and again there was no mention of Ivy House. The death of Lord Barrington's youngest daughter, Lady Hilda Margaret Curtis, provided another piece of information. At the end of the article covering her funeral at Shrivvenham, it was stated

that, 'Lady Curtis had intended coming to reside at Ivy House, Shrivenham permanently at the end of this month.' This clearly showed that the property was still owned by the Barringtons. In June of the same year the advert below appeared, where it looks as though Charlotte Barrington was clearing the house as it specifically notes, 'By direction of the Viscountess Barrington.' Shortly after this, Lord and Lady Barrington moved to Rickmansworth Park in Hertfordshire. A buyer had been found for Beckett House and we can only assume that Ivy House was sold by private treaty around this time.



North Wilts Herald 7th June 1929

We have very little information from this point onwards. From the memories of Len Knapp, (SHSN1239) he spoke of a Major & Mrs Marshall, with their daughter Brenda as occupying the house in the 1930s. He also noted that the main part of the house was offices but there was a family flat. We also have an advertisement from 1987 by a company called QCA Ltd who occupied Ivy House, and were extolling the virtues of their, 'new computerised ticketing system.'

One more piece of information comes from the Electoral Register of 1958-9 when listed at the property is William G. Thomas.

If you have any further information on Ivy House, please contact us at info@shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk

Ivy House is a Grade II Listed building and is private property. The listing description is from Nov 1966: *'Early c19 of rubble stone and bonder brick dressings and quoins with gabled stone tiled roof and 3 brick stacks. 2 storeys. The north roadside façade reveals the original house of 3 bays with the western addition of 1 bay. 3 light, 8 pane casements to the upper windows apart from one 2 light casement above the door. Similar ground floor windows. 6 panel door with a rectangular fanlight with diamond patterning set centrally in the original section.'*