

Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

Local History Note 12



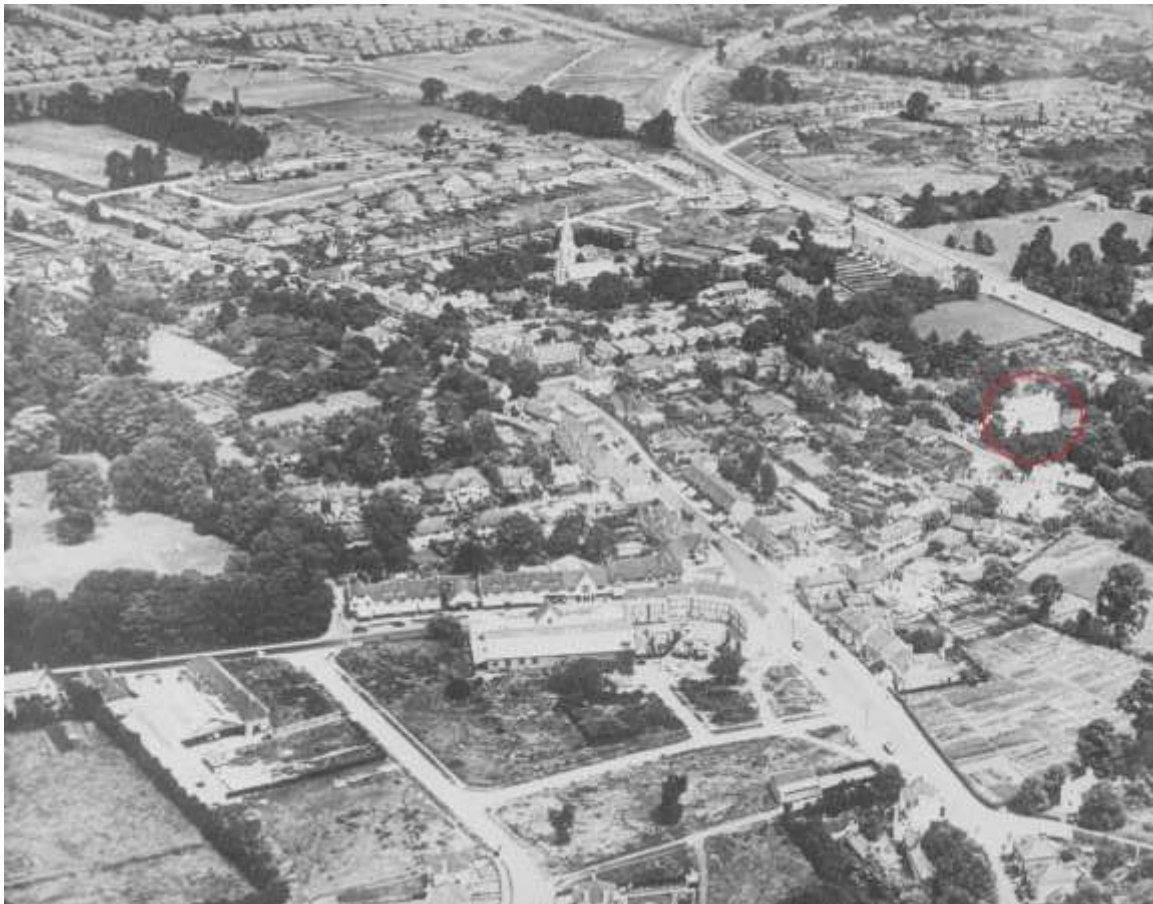
The Story of The White House (in Cheam)

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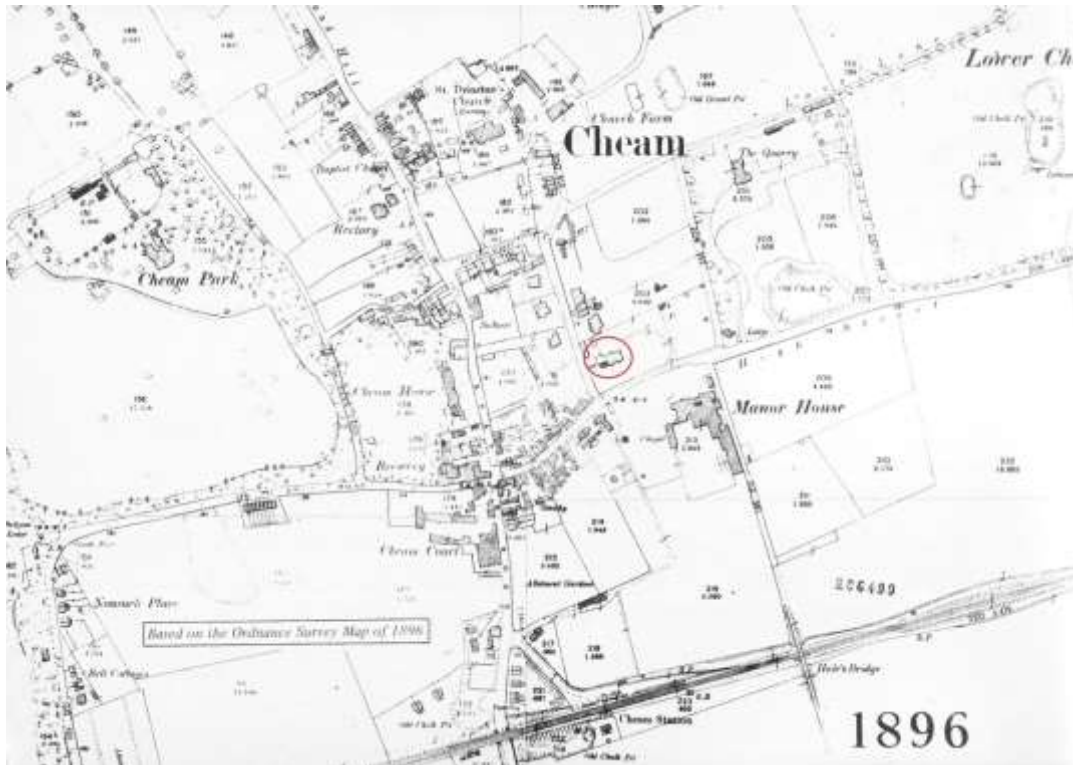
Introduction

My recognition that *Benfleet Hall* in Benhill Wood Road, Sutton, had been an auxiliary hospital in World War 1¹ led me to wonder whether there had been other such hospitals in our Borough. I found two – *The White House Hospital* in Cheam and the *Wallington Red Cross Hospital*, Woodcote Road, Wallington². *The White House* stood on the east side of the High Street end of Park Road from 1901 to 1935.³ Its presence was confirmed by an aerial photograph of 1932, which shows the house facing High Street, with its garden extending as far as the newly-built bypass.⁴ So its plot occupied the site of what is now *Farnham Court*.



Aerial photograph of Cheam in 1932, looking north-east⁴. *The White House* is ringed in red, and the by-pass can be seen top right.

Although the name dates from 1901, the building itself appears to be much older. The Ordnance Survey map of the area surveyed in 1894-95 and published in 1896 shows a house in this location, oriented east-west with bay windows in the south front and a curved drive running from an entrance in High Street round to the north front of the house. The plan of the south front matches what we know from photographs of the house.⁵ The earliest detailed O.S. map of the area (surveyed in 1866-67) shows a large rectangular house in the same orientation and location. Neither map gave the house a name; without a name *Pile's Directory* cannot help us.



Ordnance Survey map of Cheam, 1896. *The White House* is ringed in red.

So I turned to the Censuses of the 19th century: 1891 listed a house in Cheam Street, Cheam; 1881 a house in Park Street, Cheam; 1871 a house in Sutton Road, Cheam; and 1861 one at number 1 Lion Street, Cheam. But as all were occupied by the same family (the Becks, see below), and all were adjacent to *The Cottage* and beyond that to *Stafford House* (first known as *The Rosery*, occupied by Eliza Stafford), I took them all to be the same house. There are three sources of potential confusion: (1) the house could be regarded as standing either in High Street or in Park Road, because it stood on the corner, (2) this part of High Street was variously known as Cheam Street and Sutton Road in the 19th century, and (3) Park Road was originally known as Red Lion Street (because of *The Red Lion* pub), though the name Lion Street here is unusual. The 1851 Census was a disappointment, because the address part of the Census return is not visible in the digitised version for this part of Cheam, but as the Becks lived in this area (north of High Street and east of Malden Road) it's reasonable to assume that they lived at this address. The 1841 Census, however, does not show any Becks living in Cheam, so they probably moved here between 1841 and 1851. We can do slightly better than that: the Beck's eighth child was born at Norwood in 1846⁶ and the ninth at Cheam in 1848,⁷ so it seems likely that they moved to Cheam in about 1847. There is no direct evidence that they moved to *The*

White House in that year, but as it was one of the few houses large enough to accommodate a well-off family of their size, it seems very likely.

The history of *The White House* went back much further than I had expected, although it only acquired that name in about 1900. The earliest reference I can find is to 1699, when it was occupied by Samuel and Ann Pierson, the founders of *Pierson's Charity*. Samuel died in 1699, and in the 18th century the house passed to the Kempson family. By 1810 it was in the hands of the Penfolds, who reputedly passed it to Simon Beck, the first of the Beck family to live in Cheam.⁸ My story will start with the Becks, as I have so little information about any of the previous families who lived here.

How important would *The White House* have been in Cheam village at that time? One approach would be to look at its 'footprint' in comparison to other houses in the village. The 1896 O.S. map shows it to be one of a handful of large houses: *Manor House*, *Cheam House*, *Cheam Park*, *Cheam Court*, the *Rectory* and *The Quarry* are all mentioned by name on the map, and appear to be larger than *The White House* and *Whitehall*, which are not. Coming into Cheam from Sutton, the traveller's eye would first be caught by the *Manor House* on the left (part of which would later be demolished for the by-pass, and most of the rest for Tabor Gardens). Then on the right *The White House* would catch the eye, just before the descent down the High Street to the cross-roads. It would have been quite a distinctive marker to the start of the village.

For a comparison, I looked at the rateable values in the Sutton Rate Book for 1912.⁹ Top of the list was *Manor House* at £645, followed by *Cheam Park* at £298 (I couldn't find *Cheam House* or *Cheam Court*). Next, rather oddly, came Cheam Railway Station at £275, followed by *The Quarry* (which stood in its own grounds to the north-east of *The White House*, roughly where Sears Park is today) at £210, *The White House* at £173, and *Stafford House* (also in Park Road) at £150. The *Rectory* was valued at £85 and *Whitehall* at only £48. Most houses fell into the £8-£20 range, with shops and pubs ranging up to £30 or £40. So *The White House* fits into the top of the scale, but not at the very top.

To sum up and look ahead, I here list those who lived in *The White House* from about 1847 to its end around 1935. Simon Adams Beck lived there with his family until his death in 1883,¹⁰ when his surviving son, Ralph Coker Adams Beck, moved back from Beddington Lane and stayed until about 1900.¹¹ From 1901 until 1914 the house was occupied by Edward Ogston Barry,¹² although the ownership remained with Ralph until at least 1912.¹³ The war years saw the arrival first of Belgian refugees (1916-1918) and later of *The White House Auxiliary Hospital* (1918-1919).¹⁴ Lieut.-Col. John Gibson Fleming came in 1921 and stayed until 1935 – the last recorded occupant.¹⁵

The Beck family

Simon Adams Beck was born in 1803 at Lythwood Hall in Shropshire; his father was James Beck of Allesley Park near Coventry.¹⁶ In 1829 Simon married Sarah Ann Price,¹⁷ the second daughter of Ralph Price, who became Master of the Ironmongers' Company for 1834-35, with implications for Simon's career.¹⁸ The Ironmongers' Company was one of the great City of London livery companies, but by this date it appears to have been mainly a charitable institution, proud of its almshouses for the widows of Company members in Kingsland Road, Shoreditch (now the Museum of the Home).¹⁹ Simon pursued a career as a solicitor, which profession was given in each of his census returns until his last in 1881. In 1834 he was elected to the post of Clerk of the Ironmongers' Company,²⁰ perhaps no surprise as he has married the Master's daughter a few years before. He held the post for nearly

50 years, retiring shortly before his death in 1883.²¹ This role was only a small part of his business activities, as we shall see later, but first let's look at the domestic side of his life.

Simon and Sarah had nine children in a span of 18 years (1831—1848), born in at least four different locations. They were:

James Price Beck, born January 1831 in the St Pancras district,²²

Charlotte Sarah Beck, born March 1833 at Doughty St in the St Pancras district,²³

Charles Henry Beck, born 1834 at Ironmongers' Hall, Fenchurch Street,²⁴

Gertrude Lucy (or Savery) Beck, born 1836 at Ironmongers' Hall,²⁵

Mary Henrietta Beck, born 1837 at Ironmongers' Hall,²⁶

Margaret Jamima Beck, born 1839 at Ironmongers' Hall,²⁷

Louisa (or Laura) Sophia Beck, born 1842 at Ironmongers' Hall,²⁸

Constance Frances Elizabeth Beck, born 1846 at Norwood,²⁹

Ralph Coker Adams Beck, born 1848 at Cheam.³⁰

I was at first puzzled by the mention of births at Ironmongers' Hall, as this seemed unlikely for a City livery hall, but there was a Clerk's House within the Hall, the located in Fenchurch Street, and Simon and Sarah may well have lived there until the size of their family made a move necessary. The 1896 O.S. map at the Five Feet to the Mile scale, sheet VII.65, shows the Ironmongers' Hall to be a large building around a central courtyard, and included residences for the Clerk and the Beadle. All of the family, except for Simon and James, were recorded at Park Mansion House, Allesley, Warwickshire, where James Beck (Simon's father) was head of household, in the 1841 Census. The births of Constance at Norwood in 1846 and Ralph at Cheam in 1848 suggest that Simon moved to *The White House* around this date to accommodate his ever-growing family.

So far I have a picture of a well-established City solicitor in a settled post with a livery company, but that is only a small part of the story. For example, from at least 1842 until 1851 he was a director of the Mutual Life Assurance Society.³¹ More significantly, *Grace's Guide* listed him as a 'gas industrialist'. How did that come about? To follow this up, we need to look at the story of the Gas, Light and Coke Company (the GLCC).³²

The gas supplied for lighting and heating purposes in the 19th and much of the 20th century was not the natural gas (methane) that we know, but coal gas, which consisted of a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide. It was manufactured in gasworks by heating coal to a high temperature in the absence of oxygen. The effect was to drive off the gaseous and liquid components of the coal, leaving almost pure carbon in the form of coke. The gas had to be purified, first by the removal of tar and other liquids, and then by the removal of other gases such as ammonia and hydrogen sulphide. The purified gas could be stored in gasholders (known as gasometers), to be piped to wherever needed. The coke was useful as a light-weight, almost smokeless, fuel, free of the components which made coal unsuitable for some industrial processes; the by-products such as tar and ammonia could be used for other purposes.

The first gasworks in London (and indeed in the UK) was built by the GLCC, founded by Frederick Albert Winsor in 1812 to supply gas for street lighting in Westminster. Many rival companies were set up in and around London to supply gas for their neighbourhoods. Competition was fierce and take-overs and amalgamations were common. Into this story steps Simon, who stood for election as a Director of the GLCC in 1848,³³ as Deputy Governor in 1852³⁴ and Governor in 1860,³⁵ remaining in

that post until he retired in 1876.³⁶ He appeared to realise that success in this competitive market could be achieved by (i) manufacturing coal gas on a larger scale, and (ii) being as close as possible to the source of its raw material, the coal which had to be shipped down the North Sea and up the Thames. His solution in 1868 was to construct a large gas-works on the Barking Marshes (owned by the Ironmongers' Company) on the north bank of the Thames just east of London. This gave the GLCC easy access to larger colliers coming up the Thames, and ample space to manufacture coal gas on a large scale.³⁷ The site was up-and-running by 1870, and gradually expanded until it was larger in area than the City of London itself.³⁸ Houses had to be built for the workers, and the area became known as Beck's Town, shortened to Beckton. Beckton remains to this day, but little of the former industry can be seen. The GLCC absorbed many smaller companies, right up to the time when it was nationalised in 1949.

The GLCC was not Simon's only interest in the gas industry. In 1862 he became Chairman of the newly-founded Ottoman Gas Company,³⁹ which built a gasworks to serve the Turkish city of Smyrna (now called Izmir), and survived until electricity became the usual form of street lighting.⁴⁰

I don't want to give the impression that Simon was just a diligent lawyer who kept the affairs of the Ironmongers' Company in order for nearly 50 years, or an astute businessman who brought economies of scale into London's gas industry. A less obvious side of his character was revealed his membership of the *Woodmen of Arden*.⁴¹ This led me to see Simon as a Victorian historical re-enactor, recreating the medieval era of the long bow in a special uniform. This may have come as welcome relief from the very formal business dress expected at that time. To set this in context, we need to digress into the story of the *Woodmen of Arden*.

The Woodmen of Arden

The late 18th century saw a revival of the ancient sport of archery, often under the name of 'toxophily' (from the Greek 'toxicos' meaning 'bow', and 'philos' meaning 'love'). The reason for this revival is debatable: one author ascribes it to "the lull of prosperity which the country experienced between the close of the American and the outbreak of the great French war". The loss of the American colonies may have had something to do with it, prompting people to look back to a medieval past when the British longbow men dominated the battlefields of France. I wonder if it relates to the gothic revival in architecture. Whatever the reason, several societies of archers, bowmen, or toxophilites as they called themselves, were founded from the 1780s onwards, for example:

- The Toxophilite Society (London) in 1780, later to become the Royal Toxophilite Society,
- The Society of Kentish Archers in 1785,
- The Royal British Bowmen in 1787,
- Robin Hood's Bowmen (in Holloway!) in 1787,
- John of Gaunt's Bowmen in 1788,
- The Broughton Archers in 1793,

and so on.

Of particular interest to us are the *Woodmen of Arden*, founded at Meriden, Warwickshire, in 1785 by Heneage, fourth Earl of Aylesford. James Beck senior, his son Simon Adams Beck, and his sons James Price Beck and Ralph Coker Adams Beck (whom we shall meet later) were all *Woodmen*. The *Woodmen* appear to be typical of the regional societies that were springing up at this time. They

were an exclusive body; membership was limited to 75 (later 80) and was by election only. The members were almost all local gentry or clergymen, and several family groups can be seen in the membership. For example, Simon's younger brother Cadwallader Coker Beck, and his son Thomas Coker Beck, were also *Woodmen*. The most famous *Woodman* was Sir Robert Peel (elected *Woodman* 1835, Prime Minister 1834–35 and 1841–46, died 1850).

The *Woodmen* set up a programme of three competitive meetings (called *General Targets*) a year, in Easter week, late June, and late August, of which the third was known as the *Annual Target*, and coincided with the annual business meeting, known as the *Wardmote of Meriden*. In the early years there was also a dinner in London, but this seems to have been discontinued. The *Woodmen* had a uniform, consisting of a green coat, white waistcoat, and breeches, "in which every member shall appear at the shooting of every Target, and at every meeting". There was a strict order of precedence: The Warden, the Master Forester, the Secretary, the Senior Verdurer, and Verdurers "in order as they obtain that dignity". There were several annual *Honours* or prizes, such as The Bugle-horn, the Silver Arrow, the Master Forester's Gold Medal, the Senior Verdurer's Silver Medal, the Captain and Lieutenant of Numbers Medals (Gold and Silver), The Warden's Medal and the Arden Medals. The criteria for winning *Honours* are not at all intuitive. For example, the title of Master Forester and the accompanying gold medal were awarded annually to whoever scored the first 'gold' (i.e. bullseye) in a *Target*, regardless of their performance throughout the rest of the event. The Bugle-horn and the Silver Arrow appear to be among the leading *Honours*, though I have not yet been able to master the intricacies of the scoring systems. There were also prizes for the ladies, which appear to be for drawing the number of a winner of a man's medal.

I have identified six members of the Beck family who were *Woodmen of Arden*. They are:

1. James Beck (Simon's father), ?–1848. Elected 1810, resigned 1843. Was Senior Verdurer in 1824 and won the Arrow in 1819.
2. Simon Adams Beck, 1803–1883. Elected 1827. Was Master Forester in 1845, 1849 and 1863, and won the Arrow in 1871.
3. Revd. Cadwallader Coker Beck (Simon's younger brother), 1819–1893. Elected 1840. Was Master Forester four times, Senior Verdurer six times, won the Arrow seven times, the Bugle seventeen times, was Captain fifteen times, Lieutenant twelve times, won the Warden's Medal nine times and the Arden Medal once.
4. James Price Beck (Simon's oldest son), 1831–1871. Elected 1853, resigned 1870. Was Master Forester in 1855 and won the Bugle in 1853.
5. Ralph Coker Adams Beck (Simon's youngest son), 1848–1935. Elected 1872.
6. Thomas Coker Beck (son of Cadwallader, so Simon's nephew), 1852–1885. Elected 1874.

The achievements of our branch of the Beck family are clearly dwarfed by those of Cadwallader. Among the ladies of the family, Laura won the Gold Arrow in 1865 and Florence (who had married Ralph in 1873) won the Gold Bugle in the same year. Three of the 'Misses Beck' attended in 1865 (probably Laura/Louisa, Mary and Constance), and two of them in 1869. Gertrude and her husband, Canon Samuel Lysons, were present at the *Grand Target* in 1873. It would be good to know for long family involvement with the *Woodmen of Arden* persisted, but unfortunately the published records end in 1885.

Some of Simon's *Honours* were won while he was living in Cheam, and James Price's *Honours* were won while he was probably living here. These successes strongly suggest that the Beck family must

have practised their archery in or near Cheam throughout the year, but where? Was there, perhaps, a society of toxophilites in or near Cheam? My searches revealed three possibilities:

The Nonsuch Bowmen, who flourish in the area, but must be ruled out because they were founded as recently as 1954,

The Surrey Bowmen (who met in Epsom) seemed more promising, as they had been founded in 1790, but they lapsed between the Napoleonic War and 1937, so they too must be ruled out.

The Beddington Park Archers, who were active in Beddington Park from at least the 1870s, and possibly earlier.⁴² This may perhaps explain why Ralph Coker Adams Beck moved to Beddington Lane after he married in 1873 (see below).

Was there somewhere more local where they could practice? They would have needed a large area, as a usual shooting range was 100 yards, but it could be 200 yards or even more. The area south of the High Street, opposite the grounds of *The White House*, was apparently known as *Butts Close* in the 17th or 18th century, but this must be a red herring because by the 19th century the buildings of Cheam School were located here.⁴³ A quick search of 19th-century maps did not indicate any obvious possible locations.

The next generation of the Beck family

As mentioned above, Simon and Sarah had nine children: three boys and six girls. It is unusual to record that only three of them (Gertrude, Constance and Ralph) ever married, and that both daughters married clergymen. Let's look at them in order, starting with the sons.

James Price Beck was born in the St Pancras district in January 1831,⁴⁴ possibly in Doughty Street, where Charlotte would be born in 1833.⁴⁵ He was absent from the 1841 Census, I guess away at boarding school. He studied at Rugby School⁴⁶ and then at Oriel College, Oxford, acquiring a 1st class degree in Classics in 1853.⁴⁷ He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1858,⁴⁸ and by 1861 he was back with the family in Cheam, described as a barrister at law.⁴⁹ In 1871 he was recorded as a visitor at Ironmongers' Hall, described as a retired barrister;⁵⁰ he died there that September at the age of only 40.⁵¹ He was buried at the family church of St Dunstan's, Cheam.⁵²

Charles Henry Beck was the first of the family to be born at the Ironmongers' Hall, in November 1834.⁵³ In 1841 he was at Allesley with Sarah and four of his sisters.⁵⁴ From 1849 to 1853 he was educated at Winchester College.⁵⁵ In 1853 he was commissioned as Lieutenant in the Warwickshire Militia,⁵⁶ but the outbreak of the Crimean War led to his transfer to the 23rd Regiment of Foot (Royal Welsh Fusiliers) in 1855.⁵⁷ He was severely wounded in the attack on the Redan, Sevastopol, on 8th September, and died of his wounds on board the transport ship *Robert Lowe* on 29th. He was buried at Scutari (near Istanbul).⁵⁸

Ralph Coker Adams Beck was the only Beck child to be born in Cheam, in November 1848.⁵⁹ Like his father he was educated at Rugby School.⁶⁰ He was recorded with the family in the 1851, 1861 and 1871 Censuses; in the last he was described as an articled clerk and solicitor. In 1873 he was admitted as a solicitor⁶¹ and in July he married Florence Amelia Moore in Hove, Sussex.⁶² She was six years older than him, having been born in Moulton, Lincolnshire, in 1842.⁶³ They had nine children:

Mabel Florence Gertrude Beck, born 1874 at Southend, Essex,⁶⁴

Evelyn Frances Adams Beck, born 1875 at Ironmongers' Hall,⁶⁵

Kathleen Margaret Beck, born 1876 at Beddington,⁶⁶

Sybil Ursula Beck, born 1878 at Beddington,⁶⁷
Phyllis Edrica Beck, born 1880 at Beddington,⁶⁸
James Francis Adams Beck, born 1882 at Beddington,⁶⁹
Florence Selina Beck, born 1883 at Beddington,⁷⁰
Phoebe Winifred Beck, born 1884 at Beddington,⁷¹
Maurice Graeme Beck, born 1887 at Cheam.⁷²

The family seems to have moved to Beddington Lane in about 1876. Phoebe's baptism at St Dunstan's in 1884⁷³ suggests that by then they had moved back to Cheam, probably to be with Sarah after Simon's death in 1883. Ralph followed his father to become Clerk to the Ironmongers' Company.⁷⁴ Sarah herself died in 1889,⁷⁵ and by 1891 Ralph and all his family were together at the house that would become *The White House*.⁷⁶

By 1901 Ralph and his family had moved to a more prestigious address: 13 Park Crescent, near Regent's Park.⁷⁷ Evelyn was recorded as visiting the Wingfield family in Kensington (John Wingfield had been a visitor to the Becks at Cheam in the 1891 Census).⁷⁸ The next ten years saw several marriages in the family: Evelyn to Charles Wriothsley Digby in 1904,⁷⁹ Phoebe to Noel McGrigor Phillips and Sybil to Herbert Lindsley Richardson (both in 1905),⁸⁰ Phyllis to John Kenelm Foster-Mellior in 1906,⁸¹ James to Elsie Foster-Mellior in 1907,⁸² Mabel to Maurice Edward Wingfield in 1909⁸³ and Maurice to Gladys Darling Andrew in 1910.⁸⁴ All the weddings from 1904 to 1907 took place at St Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon; Mabel's was at St Paul's, Knightsbridge and Maurice's at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Shanghai. So by 1911 Ralph's household had shrunk to Florence, Evelyn (Charles Digby had died in 1908),⁸⁵ and Kathleen, and had moved to a smaller property in Observatory Gardens, Kensington.⁸⁶ Changes continued: in 1911 Mabel petitioned for divorce (case dismissed),⁸⁷ and Evelyn re-married to Cecil Edward George Woollcombe-Adams.⁸⁸

Florence died at Observatory Gardens in January 1912⁸⁹ and was buried at St Dunstan's.⁹⁰ Ralph retired as Clerk to the Ironmongers' Company and was succeeded by his son James.⁹¹ Surprisingly, Ralph married Elizabeth (Eliza) Louisa Hodgkinson (née Moresby) in Delhi on Christmas Day 1912 (he was 64 and she 52).⁹² Their movements in the war years are not clear, but in 1919 they emigrated to British Columbia,⁹³ travelling from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia, then on to Vancouver and Victoria B.C.⁹⁴ I can last trace them together at Ketchikan, Alaska, in 1920,⁹⁵ after which their marriage seems to have failed.⁹⁶ Ralph was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1923,⁹⁷ in recognition of his work for the Ironmongers' Company, and died at Dorking in 1935.⁹⁸ He too was buried at St Dunstan's.⁹⁹ By contrast, Eliza's career was just starting. She took Canadian citizenship and wrote novels and other works under several names: Lily (or L.) Adams Beck, Lily Moresby Beck, E. Barrington, Eliza Louisa Moresby and Louis Moresby.¹⁰⁰ She appears to have travelled widely¹⁰¹ and died in Kyoto, Japan, in 1931.¹⁰²

I do not intend to tell the stories of Ralph's children here, but will go back to his sisters. The first to marry was Gertrude (b. 1836). She lived in Cheam until 1872, when she married Revd. Samuel Lysons, MA, Rector of Rodmorton and Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral, at St Paul's, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge.¹⁰³ He had been born in 1806, and had previously married Eliza Sophia Theresa Henriette Moore (1816–1846) in 1834 and Lucy Curtis Hayward (1807–1871) in 1847.¹⁰⁴ So when Gertrude married him he was 66 with four sons and two daughters, and she was 36, slightly younger than his oldest daughter, Alice Elizabeth (b. 1834).¹⁰⁵ They had two more children (Gertrude Teresa Lucy in 1874¹⁰⁶ and Nigel Lucius Samuel in 1876)¹⁰⁷ before he died in 1877 at the family home of

Hempstead Court, Gloucestershire.¹⁰⁸ Gertrude and her children were living in Tormoham, Devon, in 1881,¹⁰⁹ and Gertrude was living in Bournemouth in 1911,¹¹⁰ where she died in 1912.¹¹¹ Nigel was killed in action in October 1914.¹¹² Gertrude junior married Revd Joseph Alfred Pattinson in 1899 at St Mary Abbots, Kensington.¹¹³ He was thirteen years older than her,¹¹⁴ and a vicar from Chorley, Lancashire, where they lived until 1903, when he became Rector of St Bartholomew's, Salford.¹¹⁵ In 1910 they emigrated to Australia, so that Joseph could take up an appointment as the first Dean of the new Cathedral of Brisbane.¹¹⁶ He died in 1919.¹¹⁷ Gertrude travelled widely in the 1920s;¹¹⁸ I can last trace her in November 1932, when she sailed from Southampton to Singapore, apparently intending to settle in the Dutch East Indies.¹¹⁹

The other sister to marry was Constance (b. 1846). Like Gertrude senior, she lived at home in Cheam until she married, in her case to Revd Humphry Davis (aka Davies) at St Dunstan's, Cheam, in December 1879.¹²⁰ He had been born in 1849 at Twyford, Berkshire.¹²¹ His initial career was as a missionary, working in the 'colonies'. They appear to have had three children:

Hermione M. Davies, born 1891/2 at Kokstad, Kaffiria, South Africa,¹²²

Hugh Ralph Humphry Davis, born 1892/3 at Auckland, New Zealand,¹²³

Alethea B. Davis, born 1894/5 at Auckland, New Zealand.¹²⁴

By 1901, they had returned to England and were living at St John's Vicarage, Cradley, Herefordshire, except for Hugh, who was recorded at Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire (his age appears to be 18, but is not clearly legible on the Census return).¹²⁵ Humphry and Mildred (presumably Hermione) were recorded at St Just's Rectory, St Mawes, Cornwall in 1911, while Constance was visiting Gertrude in Bournemouth.¹²⁶ Hugh died in 1912,¹²⁷ Constance in 1932¹²⁸ and Humphry in 1933.¹²⁹ I cannot trace Hermione/Mildred or Alethea further.

That leaves us with Charlotte (b.1833), Mary (b.1838), Margaret (b.1839) and Louisa/Laura (b.1842), about whom I have discovered little after the 1871 Census. Mary died in 1926 at Chiswick House;¹³⁰ Margaret lived in Dorking in 1901 and 1911, where she died in 1929;¹³¹ Louisa was visiting Ironmongers' Hall at the 1871 Census, and died in 1889 in Cannes (while living in Kensington).¹³² We briefly see Constance, Mary and Laura together at the Epsom Cricket Week Grand Ball in 1867.¹³³

A very suburban family

When Ralph Coker Adams Beck moved to Park Crescent, Marylebone, in about 1900, he retained ownership of *The White House*,¹³⁴ renting it to the Barry family, who lived there from 1901 to 1914.¹³⁵ Initially, the household consisted of just the newly-married couple Edward Ogston Barry and Lydia (née Morley).¹³⁶ Their only child, Dorothy, was born in December 1908.¹³⁷ In the 1911 Census this small family was recorded living in this large house with six servants.

Edward had been born in April 1866 at Ash, Kent,¹³⁸ and educated at Dulwich College,¹³⁹ where he was awarded a prize at Speech Day in 1882.¹⁴⁰ He then lived at 11 Acacia Grove, Dulwich, while the Morley family (including Lydia) lived at number 23.¹⁴¹ In October 1884 he was admitted to Trinity College Cambridge, giving his home address in Upper Norwood.¹⁴² He achieved the degrees of BA and LLB, was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1887, and called to the Bar in 1890.¹⁴³ This seems to be the start of a successful career working for Mason & Barry Ltd. He was recorded as making a trip to Lisbon in 1892.¹⁴⁴

Lydia had been born in July 1867 at Effingham, Surrey,¹⁴⁵ but by the 1871 Census she was living with her grandparents in Dishforth, Yorkshire. The 1881 and 1891 Censuses show her living in Acacia

Grove, Dulwich, with her parents William and Elizabeth, her brother John and sisters Eliza and May. The banns of her marriage to Edward were read at Christ Church, Norwood, in December 1899,¹⁴⁶ and they were married in January 1900 in Westminster.¹⁴⁷ Their only child, Dorothy, was born in Cheam in November 1908 and was baptised at St Dunstan's in January 1909.¹⁴⁸

I cannot trace the family during the War Years; my next evidence dates from 1921, when the Barrys were recorded as visitors to Bath, staying at the *Grand Pump Room Hotel* (demolished in 1959), giving their home address as Kingston.¹⁴⁹ I have doubts about 'Kingston', for reasons given below. In the same year, Dorothy displayed a collection of pressed flowers at a Natural History Exhibition in Redhill.¹⁵⁰ From the early 1920s, or perhaps slightly earlier, until 1935, the Barry family lived at *Pilgrims Holt* (sometimes wrongly called *Pilgrims Halt*) in Lower Kingswood.¹⁵¹ It still survives in Margery Lane. They appear to have been an epitome of a middle-class suburban family – taking a full part in village life and joining in (and sometimes leading) a wide range of social activities. They joined the local church, St Andrew's Kingswood, and both served on the PCC (Parochial Church Council) of Kingswood, Edward being elected vice-chairman in 1924 (which suggests that they had already lived there for a few years) and serving as the local representative on various diocesan Conferences.¹⁵² Politically, they were Conservative, Lydia being elected Honorary Secretary of the Kingswood branch of the Conservative Association in 1929.¹⁵³ They played their part socially: Lydia joined the Kingswood WI (Women's Institute) and became its President in 1931, hosting meetings and events at *Pilgrims Holt*,¹⁵⁴ while Edward joined the Kingswood village men's club,¹⁵⁵ and was vice-president of the Kingswood and District Silver Band in 1934.¹⁵⁶ Dorothy, or Poppy as she was sometimes known, took part in charitable and social activities, such as becoming Secretary of the newly-formed Lower Kingswood branch of the Children's Union of the Waifs and Strays Society (now the Church of England Children's Society) in 1926,¹⁵⁷ collecting for Poppy Day (a very important event in that era),¹⁵⁸ and performing in concerts at the Kingswood WI and in Walton in 1933.¹⁵⁹ General regret was expressed by the Kingswood WI when Lydia and her household left the district late in 1935.¹⁶⁰ The family found time to take holidays, for example in 1927 all three visited Bath together, this time staying at the *Empire Hotel* (built in 1901 and now a Grade II listed building, divided into apartments and a restaurant; it was described by Michael Forsyth as a 'monstrosity and an unbelievable piece of pompous architecture').¹⁶¹ They were recorded as coming from Lower Kingstown [sic], not Lower Kingswood, which makes me think that the 'Kingston' recorded in 1921 (see above) may be wrong. More ambitiously, they visited Lisbon together in 1929.¹⁶²

By this time Poppy was in her mid-20s, so it's no surprise that in 1933 she announced her engagement to Harold Robert Norman Rickett (more on him below), who lived nearby at Kingswood Manor (now a stately home wedding venue).¹⁶³ They were married at St Andrew's Kingswood on 3 February 1934.¹⁶⁴ Their daughter Elizabeth (as far as I can tell, their only child) was born in November that year.¹⁶⁵ They were living at Worplesdon Hall, near Guildford, in 1936.¹⁶⁶ By the 1939 Registration Edward and Lydia had moved to Worthing, where Edward died in 1950.¹⁶⁷ Dorothy and Harold were living at Fords Farm, Pirbright (near Guildford) with Elizabeth.¹⁶⁸ Lydia was recorded as living there when she died in 1964 (at the age of 97)¹⁶⁹ and Harold died there in 1969 following a heart attack.¹⁷⁰ Dorothy reputedly died in Ewhurst in 2009 (which would have made her age 101), but I cannot verify this.¹⁷¹

Harold was born in July 1909 in the Paddington district,¹⁷² and in 1911 he was living with his parents, Alfred and Jessie Rickett, in Bayswater, together with his younger brother Brian.¹⁷³ He went to

Cambridge to read for a Law degree, where he rowed for the winning Boat Race team in 1930, 1931 and 1932, and became Captain of the Boat Club.¹⁷⁴ He rowed in the 1932 Olympics at Long Beach, California, in August 1932,¹⁷⁵ apparently travelling *via* Quebec (outward) and Montreal (return).¹⁷⁶ He finished fourth in his event. He subsequently followed his father as a stockbroker,¹⁷⁷ but made his name managing the sport of rowing, for which he was said to have ‘written the rule book’, using the knowledge gained from his degree in Law. He directed the Henley Regatta for fourteen years, and on his retirement in 1965 he was awarded the CBE for services to rowing.¹⁷⁸ His strangest claim to fame comes from a photograph which showed him playing cricket on skis on a snow-covered mountain top in Mürren, Switzerland.¹⁷⁹ He would have been aged 17 at the time. Incidentally, Mürren later featured in the James Bond film *On Her Majesty’s Secret Service*, though I cannot find a connection between these two events!

The White House during the War years (1914–1919)

The White House had a dual career during the War: first as a hostel for Belgian refugees (1916–1918), and later as an auxiliary military hospital (1918–1919).¹⁸⁰ *The White House* was a very small hospital – only 20 beds,¹⁸¹ compared to 60, rising to 100, at *Benfleet Hall Hospital*¹⁸² – and also it functioned for less than a year (May 1918 to February 1919). It may have been set up in response to the German spring offensive which started in March 1918. Its size is reflected in the level of staffing, with 28 nurses, mostly part-time, assisted by 14 general service members, all part-time.

Management came from Mrs Kate Cordelia Owens, who held the roles of Commandant, Matron and Administrator, which would have been taken by three different people in a larger hospital. She was assisted by Mrs Catherine Arnold, Assistant Matron, and Mrs Blanche McGeary, Pharmacist, who also doubled up as dispenser and masseuse (these roles were held by different people at *Benfleet Hall Hospital*). There were also a Chaplain, Revd Herbert Wesley Dennis, Rector of Cheam, Hon. Canon of Southwark Cathedral, and Principal of St John’s Training College for Male Students, Battersea¹⁸³ (the first Teacher Training College in England, founded in 1841),¹⁸⁴ and an Assistant Chaplain, Revd Zante Webb Lawrence, who lived with the Owens family in Worcester Park. One general service member (Mrs Ellen Stevens) served as detachment cook, and there was also an emergency cook (Mrs Ethel Dawes). I must also mention Mr Keast the builder, who did repairs as needed, and Mrs Sergeant (aged nearly 80) who helped to raise money for the hospital.

Almost all the nurses had worked at other hospitals before coming to *The White House*. Some had previously worked at *Queen Mary Hospital*, Carshalton. By contrast, only two the general service members had previous hospital experience, both at *Queen Mary Hospital*. The others all seem to have been recruited locally when the hospital opened, or soon afterwards. The fact that several nurses also took part in Air Raid Work is an interesting reflection of the bombing threat in the final years of the War. Several were commended in their service cards, for example: “Miss Dawes has been a most earnest and devoted member of Surrey/136”; “Mrs Gladdens’ work has been magnificent”; “Mrs Stevens has been a most devoted General Services member. She helped the Commandant teach the V.A.D. members how to cook, as well as helping in the kitchen”. More sadly, we read “Miss Buck’s work has been splendid, her health has broken down again and again, but she worked on for 3½ years” [not all at *The White House*], and “Mr Candy [sic, actually Miss Rose Candy] had been a most devoted worked until his health broke down”. A slightly make-shift feature of the arrangements is hinted at by a note that Mrs Ina Harrower of *The Cottage*, Park Road (next door to *The White House*) allowed the V.A.D. detachment to use her phone. Two of the nurses (Miss Emma Buck, see above, and Mrs Evelyn Smallman) also lived with the Owens.

Kate Cordelia Owens was born Kate Cordelia Brunskill in 1871 at Cavan, Ireland,¹⁸⁵ and married John Switzer Owens on Portsea Island, Hampshire, in 1896.¹⁸⁶ They appear to have had no children. In 1901 they were living near Cork,¹⁸⁷ but by 1911 they had moved to Hurst Cottage, Hemingford Road, North Cheam (then part of Worcester Park),¹⁸⁸ where she lived throughout the War. Her service record says:

June 1915 got up "First Aid" and "Nursing" lectures at Cheam- Sep: 1915. Formed V.A.D. Surrey/136. Sep : 1915 to present administered V.A.D. as Commandant. Aug:1916 to last Air Raid 1918, attached to Sutton Police ("First Aid") for Air Raid work. Attended all Raids. Feb: 1918 opened The White House Auxiliary Hospital, Cheam, (20 beds) acted as Commandant, Matron & Administrator till Feb: 1919 when hospital closed.

For this work, she was awarded the Roll of Honourable Service. She continued to be Commandant of Surrey/136 for many years, being awarded the Voluntary Service Medal for "15 or more years of efficient service" in 1932,¹⁸⁹ and was still in her role in 1941.¹⁹⁰ She died in 1942 at Daphne Cottage, Wordsworth Drive, North Cheam.¹⁹¹

The question arises – how did Kate gain the medical knowledge needed for this post? For an answer, we must look at the life of her husband, Dr John Switzer Owens, who had a triple career in medicine, coastal defences, and atmospheric pollution.¹⁹² Born in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, in 1871,¹⁹³ he went to Dublin University in 1887, graduating with the degrees of B.A., M.D, and B.Ch. by 1892.¹⁹⁴ In 1897 he gave up his career as a doctor and became an apprentice while studying engineering at the Durham College of Science.¹⁹⁵ In 1899 he got a job working on coastal defences,¹⁹⁶ and by 1904 he was in business on his own account, which included advising East Sussex County Council on schemes for coastal defences.¹⁹⁷ In 1905 he published a paper on 'A Study on the Causes of Coastal Erosion', and was soon recognised as an expert on the subject.¹⁹⁸ His career broadened in 1912, when he started to study atmospheric pollution, which he investigated for nearly 30 years, publishing a book on *The Smoke Problem of Great Cities*, and related papers.¹⁹⁹ At the same time he maintained his business as a consultant engineer, frequently travelling abroad, usually with Kate.²⁰⁰ He was known as one of the very few qualified engineers to hold a medical degree, and it was this which I believe enabled him to support and encourage Kate in her career. He also had a link with *The White House*, because he was consulting engineer to Mason and Barry, whose managing director, Edward Ogston Barry, had lived there from 1901 to 1914 (see above).²⁰¹ He died in 1941, a few months before Kate. Both were buried at St Lawrence, Morden.²⁰²

The Crown Agent

The last character in the story of *The White House* is Lieutenant-Colonel John Gibson Fleming, who was recorded as living there from 1921 to 1935,²⁰³ although he may have moved away a little earlier. He was born in 1880 at Glasgow,²⁰⁴ where he lived until at least 1891.²⁰⁵ He was educated at Haileybury, Hertfordshire, and then at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.²⁰⁶ From there he was appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1899,²⁰⁷ and fought in the Boer War until 1902.²⁰⁸ He must have stayed on after the end of the war, because in 1903 he married Blanche Mabel Déglon at Barbeton in the Transvaal.²⁰⁹ He finally returned to Britain early in 1906,²¹⁰ but their first child, Sarah Annie, was born in Middleburg, Transvaal, in March of that year.²¹¹ Perhaps Blanche stayed behind rather than risk the journey at an advanced state of pregnancy. Promotion followed for John: in 1907 he became a Captain and was appointed as an Assistant Instructor at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham.²¹² In 1909 he joined the Pentangle Lodge of Freemasons in

Chatham,²¹³ and later that year Blanche had a second child, William James.²¹⁴ In 1910 John was promoted to the position of Lecturer and Instructor at the School of Military Engineering,²¹⁵ and was also elected an Associate of The Institute of Civil Engineers.²¹⁶ The 1911 Census showed him living in the Royal Engineers Barracks in Chatham, though later that year he was posted to Jersey,²¹⁷ where their third child, Elizabeth, was born in May 1913.²¹⁸ However, their fourth and final child, Blanche junior, was born in the Medway district in December 1915.²¹⁹

The evidence for John's war service is confusing, leading me to wonder if I was dealing with *two* John Gibson Flemings. The salient points are:

(from Forces War Records)

1916 John Gibson Fleming, Major, Royal Artillery, awarded D.S.O.

1916 John Gibson Fleming, Major, Royal Engineers

1916-17 J G Fleming, Royal Engineers

1918 John Gibson Fleming, Brevet Lt.-Col., War Office

1919 John Gibson Fleming, Brevet Lt.-Col., Royal Engineers

1920 John Gibson Fleming, Brevet Lt.-Col., Royal Engineers, Experimental Establishment Battalion

*(from obituary)*²²⁰

Major John Gibson Fleming badly gassed [date not given],

1918 Major John Gibson Fleming led critical defence during the 'big retreat'.

"He will be remembered as the organiser in March 1918 of a scratch force of batmen, labourers, orderlies and others who, in a critical moment of the big retreat, kept the Germans back."

(from other sources)

1916 Major John Gibson Fleming awarded D.S.O.²²¹

1917 Major John Gibson Fleming reported wounded, now living in Gillingham, Kent.²²²

1919 John Gibson Fleming appointed C.B.E.²²³

1916 Fleming, John Gibson, Captain R.E. at Royal Engineers Office, Rouge Bouillon, Jersey, appointed A.I.C.E. [Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineer].²²⁴

'Brevet' means that he was paid the rate for a lower rank, presumably Major.

After the War, John's life became easier to follow. From 1921 to 1935, *Pile's Directory* listed him as Lt. Col. J G Fleming, living at *The White House*, Cheam. In 1924 he retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel,²²⁵ was promptly appointed Secretary to the R.E. Board, and later to President.²²⁶ He retired from this post in 1931,²²⁷ and in 1932 was appointed Fourth Crown Agent and Engineer-in-Chief.²²⁸ Wikipedia tells us that "Crown Agents originated in the 18th century to conduct financial transactions for British Colonies. In 1861 the office was renamed Crown Agents for the Colonies. Crown Agents' responsibilities on behalf of colonial governments included accounting for Treasury grants, purchasing supplies, recruiting certain staff and raising capital on the markets. Crown Agents also oversaw specific colonial projects, such as certain stamp issues and some infrastructure construction." It seems likely that, as an engineer, John was mainly concerned with the last point. He was present in 1936 when Blanche launched the *Pomeroon*, a river steamer built by Ferguson Marine of Glasgow for the Crown Agents' use in British Guiana (the Pomeroon is the name of a local river).²²⁹ With a length of about 40m and weighing about 200 tons, it is still in use today (2022).²³⁰

The Flemings seem to have been a well-travelled family. In 1924 Blanche, accompanied by Sarah Annie, Elizabeth and Blanche junior, returned to London from Delagoa Bay on board the *Durham Castle*.²³¹ Delagoa Bay is now known as Maputo, in Mozambique. It was the nearest port to both

Barbeton (where John and Blanche were married) and Middleburg (where Sarah Annie was born), so I envisage this trip as a delayed visit to friends and family, and taking the children back to their roots. In March of the following year, John and Sarah Annie left Southampton for Algiers on board the *Koningin der Nederlanden*.²³² I can find no record of their return. In 1930 Blanche took Sarah Annie and William on a trip from Southampton to Buenos Aires, travelling on the *Asturias* in both directions, sailing out in mid-February and back at the end of March.²³³

Sarah Annie married John Raymond Roberts-West at St Dunstan's, Cheam, on 20 August 1931.²³⁴ He was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and by coincidence just four days older than Sarah Annie.²³⁵ I cannot locate his place of birth, but it may have been in India. In October 1933 Sarah Annie and her daughter Jane left Southampton for Malta,²³⁶ where her husband was presumably stationed with the Royal Navy. In 1934 John senior and Blanche visited Madeira, sailing from Liverpool; they recorded their home address as 4 Ashburn Place, Kensington,²³⁷ although *Pile's Directory* had them still living at *The White House*. Presumably, *Pile's Directory* was slow in updating its records. Also, John dropped off the Electoral Roll for Cheam in 1934.²³⁸ It is likely that as the size of their family shrank, John and Blanche decided to 'downsize' to somewhere more suitable than the large *White House*.

John died at Ashburn Place on 14 September 1936,²³⁹ and was apparently buried in Glasgow. *Findagrave.com* records a Colonel John Gibson Fleming dying on 14 September 1938 and buried in Glasgow,²⁴⁰ but as this record gives his date of birth as 9 January 1880 (the same as our John Gibson Fleming's) they must be the same man, and the date of 1938 must be a typo. John's Probate details²⁴¹ resolve any remaining doubts: 'our' John, whose widow was Blanche Mabel (Déglon), had been awarded the D.S.O. and made a C.B.E. I believe that the record of the award of D.S.O. to Major John Gibson Fleming, Royal Artillery, to be a mistranscription, R.E. being misread as R.A.

Blanche and Elizabeth visited South Africa again in 1939, sailing from London to Durban on the *Umtali*; they gave their home address as 74 Kensington Church Street,²⁴² where Blanche was also recorded in the 1939 Registration. John Roberts-West died in November 1941 when *HMS Barham* was torpedoed;²⁴³ Sarah Annie survived him by over 50 years, dying in Guildford in 1999.²⁴⁴ Blanche Mabel had died in 1973,²⁴⁵ after an apparently final visit to South Africa (*via* Southampton and Cape Town) in 1956.²⁴⁶



The White House shortly before its demolition. (Sutton Archives)

By this time *The White House* was a distant memory, having been demolished in the late 1930s to make way for a block of flats, *Farnham Court*.

Acknowledgements

I thank John Phillips and Andrew Skelton for their useful comments on an early draft of this Note.

¹ Clive Orton, *Family home, Hospital, School, the Story of Benhill House (later Benfleet Hall) in Sutton*, CADHAS Local History Note 9 (2021).

² See vad.redcross.org.uk.

³ *Pile's Directories*.

⁴ Frank Burgess, *Old Cheam* (1978), inside back cover.

⁵ Sutton Archives, ref. SBFC728.

⁶ 1871 Census.

⁷ London, England, Freedom of the City Admission Paper, 1681-1930.

⁸ C. J. Marshall, *History of Cheam and Sutton* (1936), p.56-7.

⁹ LG/18/2/1.

¹⁰ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966; gracesguide.co.uk.

¹¹ 1891 Census, *Pile's Directories*.

¹² *Pile's Directories*.

¹³ Sutton Poor Rates, ref. nos LG18/2/1 to 4.

¹⁴ *Op cit* note 8, p.57.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, *op cit* note 2.

¹⁶ 1861 Census; gracesguide.co.uk.

¹⁷ London, England, Church of England Marriages and banns, 1754-1936.

¹⁸ John Nicholl, *Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers* (1851), p.491.

¹⁹ See ironmongers.org/charitable-trusts.

²⁰ *Shoreditch Observer*, 21 Apr 1883, p.3.

²¹ gracesguide.co.uk.

²² London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920.

²³ England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975; 1871 Census.

²⁴ [winchestercollegeatwar.com/Roll of Honour](http://winchestercollegeatwar.com/Roll_of_Honour).

²⁵ 1871 Census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920.

²⁶ London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1920.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ 1871 Census.

³⁰ *Op cit* note 7.

³¹ See, for example, *The Atlas*, 20 Aug 1842, p.15; *Kentish Mercury*, 4 Oct 1851, p.1.

³² See gracesguide.co.uk/Gas_Light_and_Coke_Co.

³³ *The Atlas*, 20 Aug 1842, p.15, and many others.

³⁴ *Globe*, 14 Jan 1852, p.1.

³⁵ *Globe*, 7 Jun 1860, p.1.

³⁶ gracesguide.co.uk/Simon_Adams_Beck.

³⁷ *Op cit* note 32.

³⁸ A detailed description of the gasworks is in the *Illustrated London News*, 2 Nov 1878, p.8. Unfortunately, it does not appear to be illustrated!

³⁹ *London Evening Standard*, 13 Jun 1862, p.1.

⁴⁰ *Morning Herald (London)*, 5 Jun 1862, p.1.

⁴¹ *Records of the Woodmen of Arden From 1785*, by William Kirkpatrick Riland Bedford (1885); facsimile edition by Palala Press (2016). The following section is based in information from this source.

⁴² Beverly Shew, *Archery in Beddington Park*, CADHAS Local History Note 3 (2020), p.2.

⁴³ The origin of the name Butts Close is unclear; Cheam School was rebuilt on the south side of Cheam High Street in 1719, and remained there for 215 years, see cheamschool.com/528/about-cheam/history.

⁴⁴ *Op cit* note 22.

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- ⁴⁵ *Op cit* note 23.
- ⁴⁶ *Globe*, 9 Nov 1850, p. 3; *London Evening Standard*, 9 Nov 1850, p.3.
- ⁴⁷ *Evening Mail*, 14 Dec 1853, p.2.
- ⁴⁸ *Morning Advertiser*, 8 Jun 1858, p.4; *Oxford University and City Herald*, 12 Jun 1858, p.8.
- ⁴⁹ 1861 Census.
- ⁵⁰ 1871 Census.
- ⁵¹ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995.
- ⁵² Sutton, Surrey, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985.
- ⁵³ *Op cit* note 24.
- ⁵⁴ 1841 Census.
- ⁵⁵ winchestercollegeatwar.com/Roll of Honour.
- ⁵⁶ *Globe*, 8 Apr 1853, p.1; *Morning Post*, 9 Apr 1853, p.7.
- ⁵⁷ *Op cit* note 55.
- ⁵⁸ *Ibid*.
- ⁵⁹ *Op cit* note 30.
- ⁶⁰ E. Walford, *The county families of the United Kingdom* (1919) 59th edition, p.92.
- ⁶¹ *Ibid*.
- ⁶² England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973; *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*, 25 Jul 1973, p.4.
- ⁶³ England and Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915; 1851 and 1861 Censuses.
- ⁶⁴ 1881 and 1891 Censuses.
- ⁶⁵ Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1913.
- ⁶⁶ 1939 Registration.
- ⁶⁷ 1939 Registration; 1901 Census.
- ⁶⁸ 1939 Registration.
- ⁶⁹ 1939 Registration; 1911 Census.
- ⁷⁰ Sutton, Surrey, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1915.
- ⁷¹ *Ibid*.
- ⁷² *Ibid*.
- ⁷³ *Ibid*.
- ⁷⁴ *Op cit* note 60.
- ⁷⁵ Sutton, Surrey, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985.
- ⁷⁶ 1891 Census.
- ⁷⁷ 1901 Census.
- ⁷⁸ *Ibid*.
- ⁷⁹ Surrey, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1937.
- ⁸⁰ *Ibid*.
- ⁸¹ *Ibid*.
- ⁸² *Ibid*.
- ⁸³ *Grantham Journal*, 9 Oct 1909, p.4.
- ⁸⁴ UK, Foreign and Overseas Registers of British Subjects, 1828-1969.
- ⁸⁵ *Op cit* note 51.
- ⁸⁶ 1911 Census.
- ⁸⁷ UK Civil Divorce Records, 1858-1914.
- ⁸⁸ London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1936; *Nuneaton Observer*, 5 May 1911, p.3; *Kenilworth Advertiser*, 24 Dec 1910, p.3.
- ⁸⁹ *Op cit* note 51.
- ⁹⁰ Sutton, Surrey, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985.
- ⁹¹ *Op cit* note 60.
- ⁹² *Ibid*; wikipedia.org/wiki/L._Adams_Beck.
- ⁹³ Wikipedia.org/wiki/L._Adams_Beck.
- ⁹⁴ Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865-1935.
- ⁹⁵ Alaska, U.S. Arriving and Departing Passengers and Crew Manifests, 1906-1963.
- ⁹⁶ cwrc.ca/islandora/object.
- ⁹⁷ *Op cit* note 7.
- ⁹⁸ *Op cit* note 51.

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- ⁹⁹ *Op cit* note 90.
- ¹⁰⁰ *Op cit* note 93.
- ¹⁰¹ See, for example, New York, U.S. Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1957.
- ¹⁰² *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹⁰³ *Stroud Journal*, 9 Nov 1872, p.4.
- ¹⁰⁴ Ancestry family tree, unverified.
- ¹⁰⁵ *Op cit* note 65.
- ¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰⁸ *Op cit* note 51; see *Stroud Journal*, 7 Apr 1877, p.6 for obituary.
- ¹⁰⁹ 1881 Census.
- ¹¹⁰ 1911 Census.
- ¹¹¹ *Op cit* note 51; *Gloucester Journal*, 28 Sep 1912, p.7; *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 28 Sep 1912, p.2.
- ¹¹² UK, Soldiers Died in Great War, 1914-1919.
- ¹¹³ *St James's Gazette*, 4 Apr 1899, p.4; *Clifton Society*, 6 Apr 1899, p.12.
- ¹¹⁴ England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915; 1871 Census.
- ¹¹⁵ *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 29 Jan 1903, p.8.
- ¹¹⁶ *Dartmouth and South Hams Chronicle*, 19 Dec 1909, p.3.
- ¹¹⁷ *Manchester Evening News*, 11 Jun 1919, p.3.
- ¹¹⁸ UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960.
- ¹¹⁹ UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960.
- ¹²⁰ *Surrey Advertiser*, 3 Jan 1880, p.8.
- ¹²¹ 1871 Census.
- ¹²² 1901 Census.
- ¹²³ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁴ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁵ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁶ 1911 Census.
- ¹²⁷ *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹²⁸ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁹ England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007.
- ¹³⁰ *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹³¹ Surrey, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1997.
- ¹³² *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹³³ *Sussex Agricultural Express*, 17 Aug 1867, p.6.
- ¹³⁴ *Op cit* note 13.
- ¹³⁵ *Pile's Directories*.
- ¹³⁶ England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915; *York Herald*, 18 Jan 1900, p.4; *Leeds Times*, 20 Jan 1900, p.16.
- ¹³⁷ England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915; 1939 Registration.
- ¹³⁸ 1911 Census.
- ¹³⁹ 1881 Census.
- ¹⁴⁰ *South London Press*, 5 Aug 1882, p.3.
- ¹⁴¹ 1881 Census.
- ¹⁴² Cambridge University Alumni, 1261-1900.
- ¹⁴³ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁴⁴ UK & Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960.
- ¹⁴⁵ England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915; 1939 Registration.
- ¹⁴⁶ London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1936.
- ¹⁴⁷ *Op cit* note 136.
- ¹⁴⁸ Sutton, Surrey, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1915.
- ¹⁴⁹ *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 9 Jul 1921, p. 25.
- ¹⁵⁰ *Surrey Mirror*, 25 Nov 1921, p.4.
- ¹⁵¹ *Surrey Mirror*, 22 Oct 1926, p.15 to *Surrey Mirror*, 22 Nov 1935, p.10.
- ¹⁵² For example, see *Surrey Mirror*, 24 Apr 1925, p.8.

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- ¹⁵³ *Surrey Mirror*, 22 Nov 1929, p.5.
- ¹⁵⁴ *Surrey Mirror*, 22 Nov 1929, p.5; 20 May 1932, p.8; 22 Jul 1932, p.8.
- ¹⁵⁵ *Surrey Mirror*, 14 Mar 1924, p.8.
- ¹⁵⁶ *Surrey Mirror*, 4 Jan 1935, p.7.
- ¹⁵⁷ *Surrey Mirror*, 22 Oct 1926, p.15.
- ¹⁵⁸ *Surrey Mirror*, 16 Nov 1928, p.8.
- ¹⁵⁹ *Surrey Mirror*, 24 Feb 1933, p.8; 24 Mar 1933, p.11.
- ¹⁶⁰ *Surrey Mirror*, 22 Nov 1935, p.10.
- ¹⁶¹ *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 2 Apr 1927, p.24, Michael Forsyth, *Bath* (Pevsner Architectural Guides) (2003).
- ¹⁶² UK & Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960.
- ¹⁶³ *Daily Mirror*, 8 Jun 1933, p.3.
- ¹⁶⁴ Surrey, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1937.
- ¹⁶⁵ 1939 Registration.
- ¹⁶⁶ London, England, Electoral Register.
- ¹⁶⁷ *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹⁶⁸ 1939 Registration.
- ¹⁶⁹ *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁷¹ Ancestry family tree, no citation.
- ¹⁷² 1939 Registration; Civil Registration Birth Index 1837-1915.
- ¹⁷³ 1911 Census.
- ¹⁷⁴ *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, 10 Feb 1934, p. 37.
- ¹⁷⁵ John Durack, George Gilbert and John Marks, *The Bumps: An Account of the Cambridge University Bumping Races, 1827-1999*, Google Books (2000), p.ii.
- ¹⁷⁶ Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865-1935; UK & Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960.
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- ¹⁷⁸ *Times*, 1 Feb 1969, p.9; *Reading Evening Post*, 1 Feb 1969, p.16.
- ¹⁷⁹ *The Sketch*, 12 Jan 1927, p.13.
- ¹⁸⁰ *Op cit* note 8; the source of my information about *The White House Auxiliary Hospital* is provided online by the Red Cross at <https://vad.redcross.org.uk/>.
- ¹⁸¹ See Mrs Owens' Service Record (below).
- ¹⁸² *Op cit* note 1.
- ¹⁸³ 1911 Census.
- ¹⁸⁴ See Britannica.com/topic/Saint-Johns-College-Battersea-London.
- ¹⁸⁵ 1939 Registration.
- ¹⁸⁶ England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915.
- ¹⁸⁷ 1901 Census.
- ¹⁸⁸ 1911 Census.
- ¹⁸⁹ *Surrey Mirror*, 1 Jul 1932, p.12; *Surrey Advertiser*, 2 Jul 1932, p.4.
- ¹⁹⁰ *Surrey Advertiser*, 1 Feb 1941, p.4.
- ¹⁹¹ *Op cit* note 51.
- ¹⁹² Clive Orton, *The man who could weigh fog: John Switzer Owens of North Cheam*, CADHAS Local History Note 11 (2022).
- ¹⁹³ gracesguide.co.uk/John_Switzer_Owens; 1939 Registration.
- ¹⁹⁴ UK, Mechanical Engineer Records, 1847-1938.
- ¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁹⁶ gracesguide.co.uk/John_Switzer_Owens.
- ¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁹⁸ *Belfast News-letter*, 18 Jan 1906, p.4; 22 Mar 1906, p.5; 19 Apr 1906, p.5; 5 Jun 1906, p.8; *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 7 Jun 1906, p.6.
- ¹⁹⁹ *Op cit* note 196.
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- ²⁰¹ *Op cit* note 196.

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- ²⁰² Surrey, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1997.
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- ²⁰⁴ *The Scotsman*, 16 Sep 1936, p.10.
- ²⁰⁵ 1891 Census.
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- ²⁰⁷ *London Gazette*, 17 Jan 1899, p.1374; *Army and Navy Gazette*, 21 Jan 1899, p.17.
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- ²⁰⁹ *Ibid*.
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- ²¹¹ *Daily Mirror*, 5 Apr 1906, p.2; *Globe*, 5 Apr 1906, p.5; *Dublin Daily Express*, 5 Apr 1906, p.1; England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007.
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- ²²³ *The Scotsman*, 8 Apr 1932, p.8; *Belfast Telegraph*, 8 Apr 1932, p.6.
- ²²⁴ UK, Civil Engineer Lists, 1818-1950.
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- ²²⁶ *Op cit* note 220.
- ²²⁷ *Ibid*.
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- ²³² UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960.
- ²³³ *Op cit* notes 231 and 232.
- ²³⁴ Sutton, Surrey, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1946.
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- ²³⁶ *Op cit* note 232.
- ²³⁷ *Ibid*.
- ²³⁸ Sutton and Cheam Electoral Register 1934.
- ²³⁹ *The Scotsman*, 16 Sep 1936, p.20; Scotland, National Probate index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories), 1876-1936; *op cit* note 51.
- ²⁴⁰ See www.findagrave.com/memorial/198389549/john-gibson-fleming.
- ²⁴¹ *Op cit* note 239.
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- ²⁴³ UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921 and 1939-1947; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966.
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