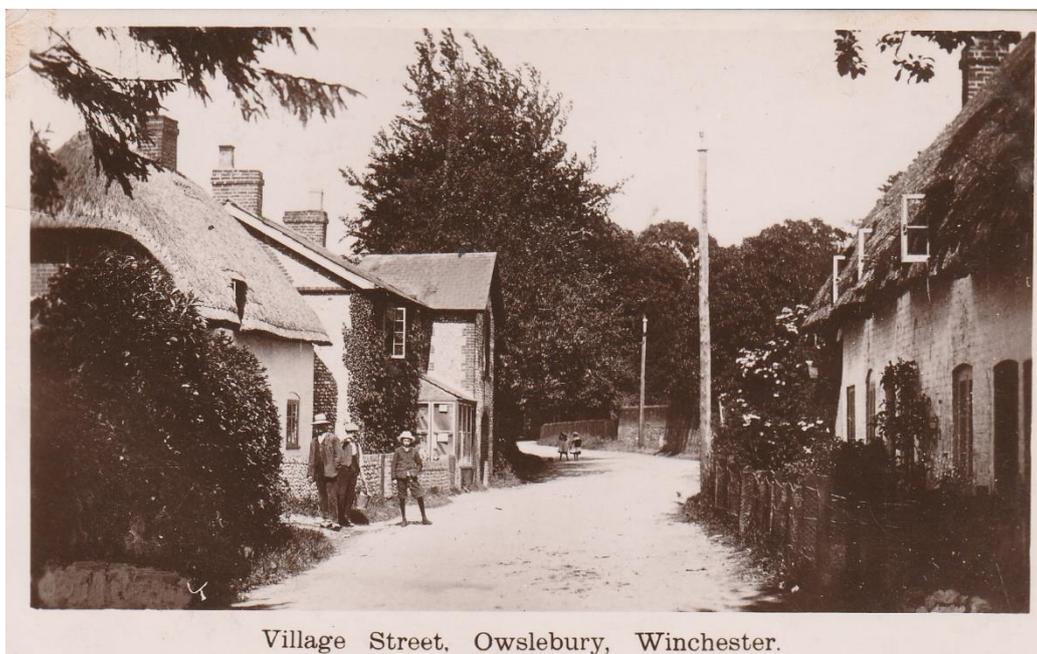

THE HAMPSHIRE POST

The Journal of the
Hampshire Postal History Society



Village Street, Owslebury, Winchester.

Cds of OWSLEBURY*/23DE/14.

The cottages on the righthand side are no longer. They still existed in the late 1950's.
The thatched cottage on the left is known as Shepherds Cottage, the house/shop was much
later the Post Office for a short period of time.

Volume 17/2

June 2019

The Journal of the Hampshire Postal History Society

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The Journal of the Hampshire Postal History Society

Volume 17/1

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Editor's Comments

Dear Members,

Once again, I have had no input from Members which I find very disappointing. I cannot get much further with postal history of the villages around Winchester because I do not have sufficient material to make a story.

Julian Jones has very kindly set up a website for H.P.H.S. which is attached to the Hampshire Philatelic Federation website. All Journals will available to download from there in future

Sadly, I do not get any help from our Chairman. It is like running a one man show and I do not get very much time to myself to do anything spectacular.

Do not forget HAMPEX 28th September 2019. Please bring some items of interest, 5, 10 or 15 sheets will suffice. There will not be an AGM as so few Members exist but all collectors of Hampshire Postal History are welcome.

Kind Regards to all Members

Peter.

Chairman's Chatter.

Owslebury

P. R. Mills.

Owslebury is a village on a hill about 5 miles south-east of Winchester, about 6 miles from Bishops Waltham. Owslebury does have history, but it is not mentioned in the “Doomsday Book”.

People who pass through the village tend to pronounce the name incorrectly, for instance, O’slebury. Another pronunciation is Osslebury or Ossleb’ry. The residents pronounce it correctly, Uzzlebry. The original spelling was Ouzelbury. This translates to Ouzel being a black bird and bury being a fort, hence we have a “Blackbird Fort”. There is evidence of habitation before or during the Roman period as artifacts were found at a “Dig” in the area.

The Parish of Owslebury stretches far and wide. It includes Longwood, Whiteflood, Baybridge, Marwell, Morestead. Morstead has its own Church as does Owslebury.

Owslebury was granted Penny Post status. The Penny Post in and around Winchester in 1834, Owslebury was not issued with a Penny Post stamp so we must assume that a Receiving House was established. It is recorded that in September 1853 an undated circle was in use at Owslebury so a Post Office was in existence here. Owslebury is also listed as having a Post Office in 1856, it is not listed in 1852. Previously to this date, the Post was delivered by a foot Postman from Winchester to addresses in and around Owslebury, in all weathers for a weekly wage of 14/6 (fourteen shillings and sixpence) 72½p in today’s money. Even when the Owslebury Post Office opened, mail and telegrams still had to be delivered to the Post Office and delivering to outlying addresses was the burden of the Sub Postmaster/Mistress. All mail and telegrams had to be delivered immediately.

On 29th August 1835 Richard Mears at the age of 29 for a weekly wage of 14/6 was appointed Rural Post Messenger from Winchester to Owslebury. He was pensioned off 26th November 1866. It was 12 years later, 1878, that the Post Office was taken over by Mrs. Fanny Hooker as the Sub Post-mistress. She held this Office for 11 years until 1889. Her daughter, Mrs. Ellen Taylor became Post-mistress from 1889 until 1911.



To Thomas Owen at Mold near Northop Flintshire. Signed *Free, A.L.Swymmer*. manuscript letter *P* for privilege post. Stamp with a two-line WIN/CHESTER and small bishop mark for 17/DE. Annotation to the side: 16th ... 1753 ALS-acknowledging my bill for 350----ans

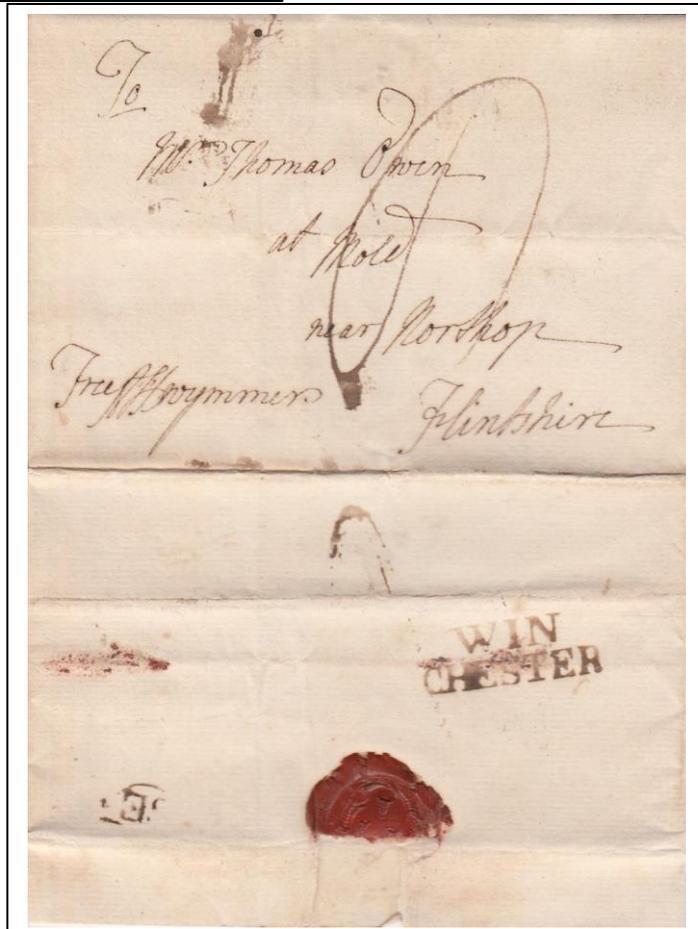
the slaves from Africa were bought and employed and this is how the family amassed their great wealth.

This second letter was written 12th September 1754 to Thomas Owen at Mold. Letter *P* and signed *Free ALSwymmer*. Two-line WIN/CHESTER and a bishop mark for 13/SE.

Dear Sir

I take the first opportunity of answering your of the 6th ins't in hopes that by giving it under my hand those will be convinced that won't take my hand, that I shall never behave so much unlike a Gentleman a man of Honour as to plead my Privilege to hinder another from enjoying his right or where a meer Matter of equity is to be determined, Had I ever attempted it, they might have again suspected I should endeavour to screen myself by such low and mean methods, but I depend upon your friendship to let every one know I despise such ... and the Man that even thinks I should make use of them, but I find that bad Men are always willing to have others like themselves or albeit to make the world believe so.

I am yrs very sincerely
AL Swymmer



This is the earliest letter/wrapper that I have seen from Anthony Langley Swymmer of Longwood, Owslebury.

The Swymmer family originated from Bristol and were of very high standing in the upper echelons of society. They had property in Bristol and other counties in the UK. Later, Flintshire, North Wales, was added as they had gained the mineral rights in the area of Mold.

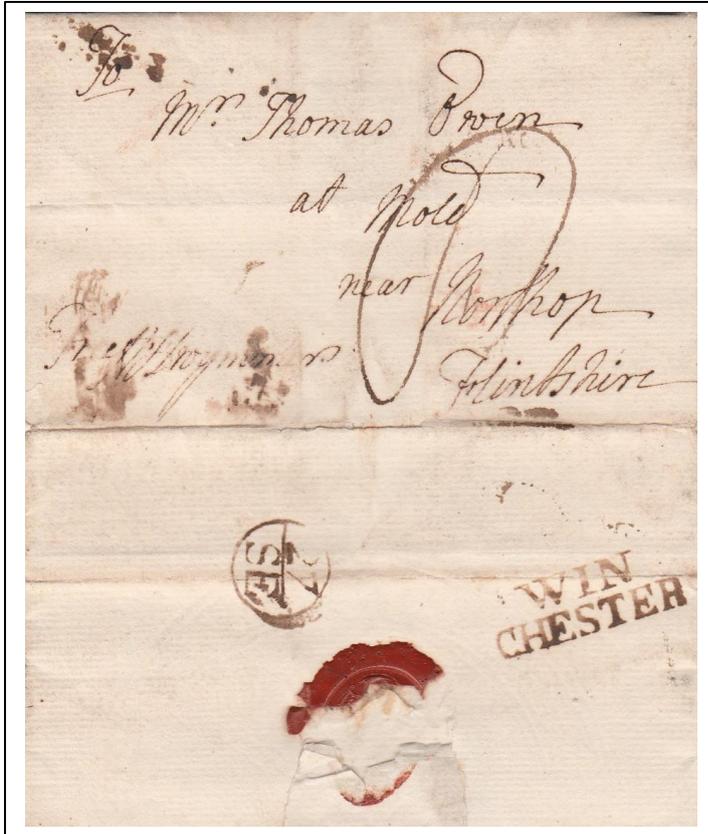
Much earlier, in the 1600's, the Swymmers' went to Jamaica to the sugar plantations where, over time they held about 10,000 acres of land. In the beginning, accredited servants of the family were assigned to do the work on the land but later

Owslebury

By P. R. Mills.

Longwood
12th of Sepr.

I shall write you farther in a post or two. ---



This being the third letter in my collection from A, L, Swymmer to Thomas Owen.

Signed *Free ALSwymmer* with a m/s letter *P* for Privilege (Post Free) stamped with a two-line WIN/CHESTER and a small Bishop mark for 27/SE. Letter was written Thursday 26th Septbr. 1754

*Dear Tom Owen,
My last signified my intention of staying sometime at Patshull but John writes me word he shall not be there for some time. I therefore shall come directly on to Mold, where I hope to be about Sunday the 6th Oct'br. I hope to find some Partridges after that we may have a little shooting. Till we meet God bless you, Adieu.*

Sincerely

A.L.S.

Longwood

Thursday 26th Sept'br.

My Chaplain come with me.

Two-line WIN/CHESTER and a Bishop mark for 10/NO. Dated 9th Nov 1755.

Another letter (removed) to Thomas Owen from A.L.Swymmer.

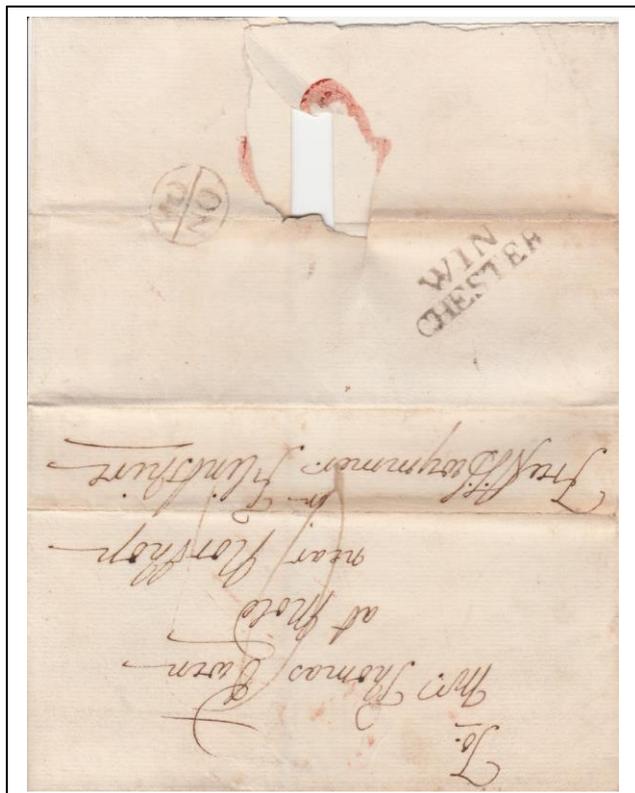
Only a brief annotation to enliven the taste buds!

9th Nov 1755 Mr Swymmer, about lodging the receipts for 200L, bills. Julias died and in answer my other 2d Just.

Anthony Langley Swymmer studied at St. Peter College, Cambridge 1744 and became an MP in 1750. He died in Jamaica 26th February 1760 without issue.

The estates were handed down to distant relatives who abused their sudden wealth and fail to reap the benefits of the estates. One such relative brought Court for debts in excess of £430,000 in the year 1813.

(How can one gamble away such a vast sum of money in so little time?)



Owslebury

Peter R. Mills

The house in the photograph below is probably where A. L. Swymmer lived at Longwood.



The next owner of Longwood was Admiral Jervis, the Earl St. Vincent.

When he died the property was inherited by his niece who was married to William Carnegie, the Viscount Northesk. Ladies were not permitted, by law, to have property of their own, Longwood was claimed by Earl Northesk. The Viscount renamed this house "Rosehill" which is one the titles bestowed upon him earlier. The first son to

be born would instantly hold the title "Lord Rosehill". All letters for posting would have been taken to Owslebury or direct to Winchester



The first single straight line WINCHESTER stamp issued in 1800. Stamped in red is the scarce Crown FREE/JUN 9/1800 and red receiving cds of Edinburgh JU/12.

*"Dear Sir,
I have received yours of the 31 May, enclosing me a draft on Messrs Coutes & Co for Two Hundred Pounds.
And I am dear Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Northesk
Rosehill, June 8th 1800"*



Straight Line WINCHESTER with a boxed 68 mileage below. 6d rated to London, deleted. Increased to 1/- to Edinburgh. A small receiving stamp in red FEB/1802/2.

*"Sir,
We received yours this day enclosing a Draft on Coutes & Co value Three Hundred Pounds which we placed to the account of the Earl of Northesk and adviz'd him by this day post. We are Your most Ob't s'vts, Edw'd & Jam's Woods
Winchester
28th January 1802"*

In 1805 Admiral Lord Northesk, Distinguished Third-in-Command at the Battle of Trafalgar. On Nelson's death he became Second-in-Command. He was awarded the Naval Large Gold Medal. Lord Northesk's eldest son was lost at sea at the age of sixteen in the Indian Ocean.

The Honourable William Carnegie was born 19th April 1758 and died 28th May 1831.

Owslebury.

By P.R.Mills

Letter from Lord & Lady Northesk of Longwood to Edinburgh dated 28th August 1821. Postage rated at 8d to London, deleted, and 1/2 to Edinburgh and the a boxed additional 1/2d Scottish mail tax. Double circular London transit date stamp E/29 AU 29/1821 in red. Also in red is a receiving office single ring cds of Edinburgh SEP/B 1 M/1821.



"Rosehill, Aug't. 28th

1821

Dear Sir,

I shall be much obliged to you to inform me if it is possible to entail my new purchase in Angus with the Estate of Ethie before it is cleared of debt, and if not clear in my lifetime if I can tie up the income after my death from it until the Debt is liquidated. I wish also to leave some check on my Sons power of cutting timber, which there was not I believe in the entail I executed. As the rents must be lowered, O presume you will not be able to send me the three hundred pounds monthly. I hope you will not allow me to run into Debt.

I am dear Sir

Yours most sincerely,
Northesk".

Also, a short note from Lady Northesk:

"Dear Sir

This month being July expenses I shall be obliged to you for the usual remittance.

I am dear Sir

Your obliged, obedient svt
N Northesk"



Circular 3 bar 888 duplex stamp WINCHESTER/C/JU 23/58.

A circular undated stamp in blue for ST. JAMES ST. is on the back

You may wonder about the relevance of this entire letter, in fact there three separate short letters within, to and from Jacob Vine at Otterbourne.

The first one is a copy dated:

"Copy
Winchester June 18. 1858

Sir,

I am instructed to apply to you for the immediate payment to me of the last half years rent due at Ladyday last to Wm. Boyes. You will oblige by giving this note your attention.

Your Obd't
Tho's Greenfield

Mr Jacob Vine
Yeoman
Owslebury"

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.

The second letter:

*“Winchester June 23 1858**Sir,**Re Boyes**On the 18th ins't I wrote you a letter, a copy of which accompanies this note. I fear it has not reached you through the mistake of directing to you at Owslebury.**I am now compelled from instructions received this day to demand payment to me of the rent in arrear on or before Saturday next.**Yours truly**Tho's Greenfield**My Jacob Vine**Otterbourne Hs.”*

Jacob Vines reply:

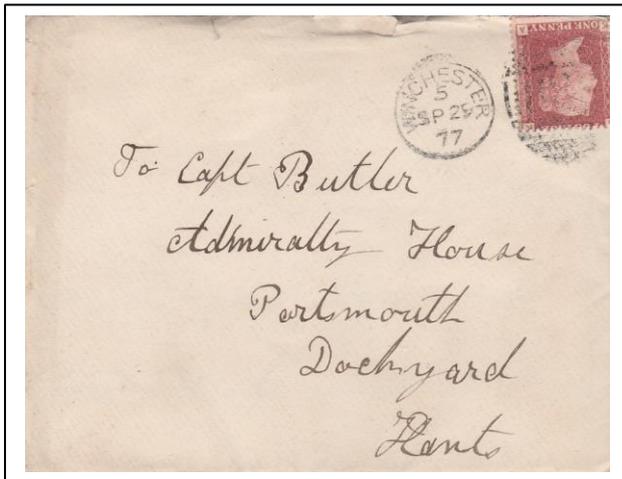
*“Otterbourne 24th 1858**Sir**I called to see you on Saturday to show the letter I had received from Greenfield you was from home I have seen Mr Leare he says I am pay it to you. I told him I will not pay it to any one until I had a Copy of the Agreement which Mr Owton promised me before he took it to you. He said he had forgotten it, therefore I hope you will get one ready for me on Saturday when I will call on you.**I am Sir Yours Truly**Jacob Vine**Bowker Esq'r.”*

On the front is the cds of Owslebury on an EVII ½d pale green label

A faded sepia photograph of Boyes Farm House Owslebury. Posted MY17/09.

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills



Captain Thomas Butler, formerly from "The Lodge, Hambledon" was married to Nina, one of the 8th Earl Northesk daughters'.

This letter is written by David Carnegie of Longwood to his Uncle at Portsmouth.



The stamp was probably placed upside down accidentally as there is no other reason for it to be

inverted. David Carnegie was 11 years and 9 months old when this letter was written therefore, should not have had any disrespect to the Queen.

The letter is short:

"Saturday

My dear Uncle Tom

Please tell Aunty Ninney that I got her letter all right and ask her to send my music which I left there.

We played cricket today It was just like summer thereupon I made a great many runs.

Last night I went out to find a ghost but found out that it was the postman. We are going to frighten him tonight.

Give my love to Aunty Ninney and Aunt Hersey and Granny and yourself and to Uncle Gerald.

From your affect nephew

David J Carnegie."

David Carnegie later became the 10th Earl Northesk.

This letter is from his wife Nina, of Captain Thomas Butler. Posted on May 6 1879 so could have passed through the Owslebury Post Office.



The Letter:

"Longwood

April 5th

My dearest Tom

The drive was very nice, and a great rest. It was such a lovely evening. Toto and Douglas bounded out on us, and through me bunches of flowers, they are in tearing spirits.

I miss you most dreadfully, and wish we were together again.

Fancy Lindsay saying before Webb, that she was very sorry Hersey Wanhope & I had come, as she was sure they did not want us! She ignores Webb entirely.

I wish Lindsay & W'm. Benson would go off together. Though I do not like to advise, still, the more I think over things the more I see you may resent leaving the army and I am very anxious you should not feel the want of employment & interest.

This a cold unsettled day. Bessy is talking so that I find it very difficult to know what I'm saying – I hope your cold is better.

I must stop.

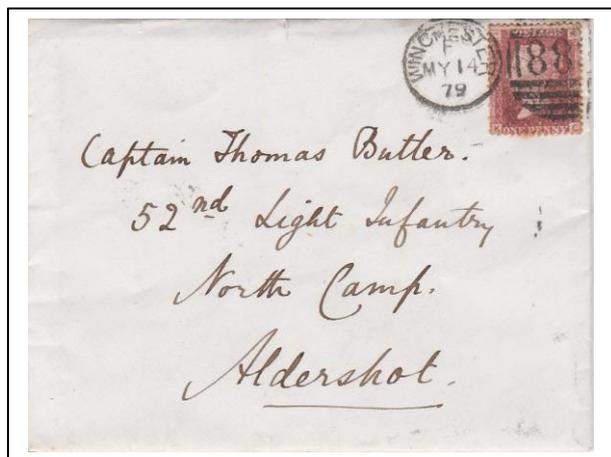
Your affectionate wife

Nina H. Butler.

Do write me a nice long letter, though I cannot say much for this one."

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.



Another Letter from Nina Butler just a week later.



WINCHESTER/
F/MY14/79 and a
4bar 888 HOS on
a plate 190 1d red



receiving office cds
for ALDERSHOT –
CAMP/A/MY15/79

"May 14th.

Longwood,
Winchester.

My darling,

I think there is a good chance of your getting an adjutancy before long, from what you say. I hope I have not upset all your plans about Sterling Villas, but I struck me that the Hotel would be the most economical plan, if any thing, & most convenient, so I you to think about unless you hear to the contrary.

I will meet you at the George about 3. On Friday. The carriage that brings me in will fetch out the Keysere at 4, so I can as well come in earlier & spend the time with you. You must let your father know.

We have had hail and thunder this morning. Yesterday Bessy & I drove to Alresford to call on the Summers, who were out. It is very pretty there.

I think I am going to tell Rosehill about Lindsay before I leave, but I cannot say how I dread & hate it.

Bessy talking of her yesterday said that she was so odd & excitable some times, she thought she was going out of her mind, & that she was very sorry afterwards & said so. Bessy thinks its her health.

Poor Toto has neuralgia in her head & is not going out.

I cannot sketch in this weather.

They are going to play a match against the Preshaw 11 on Saturday I believe, and want you, but I have told them you must shoot rooks at Bury Lodge.

Best love darling

Your aff'ate wife

Nina H. Butler

I am glad Spawls shot so well".

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.



On the 15th of May Nina wrote this letter:

“Thursday 15th

Longwood,
Winchester.

My darling

I will meet you at the station at Winchester tomorrow at 5.7. I shall probably be in Winchester an hour or so before, so that if you come there by the early train we may meet in the neighbourhood of the George. We can talk over the Hotel & Sterling Villa, but I am really inclined to think the Hotel may be the best in all ways. Mr Greville & Sir Thomas Troubridge came out for the day yesterday & staid for dinner. Sir T. is 18!! & has the deportment of 50! He is crazy about fishing & I wished you were here to talk about it with him. I think Preshaw very pretty, though it is not so pretty inside as it might be & I don't much admire the house. Bessy is talking so it is difficult to write. I am looking forward to seeing you tomorrow very much.
Your very love wife
Nina H. Butler.



Penny Lilac franked with the 2nd recut type II “squared circle” datestamp of Winchester dated F/AP13/83 (listed as Rare). Redirected to Beith with an additional penny Lilac franked with a Scottish duplex barred 131 of

11N/EDINBURGH/AP 15/83.

A long letter from Lord Northesk of Longwood.

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.

"Longwood
Winchester

12.4.83

My dear Wilson

Thanks for your long and useful letter, No doubt the Book on Glass Cases from the S. K. Museum will be very useful, and I will try to get one when in London next week; but I think we can make and fit up our own cases – adapting them to the rooms in the in the old house – at a smaller cost even than the lowest estimate given you by Proof Archer, for Deal – stained or painted – is quite good enough for my purpose; and ordinary glass instead of plate.

Besides, I propose to have Wall Cases all round as well; and to make use of every nook and corner in the Rooms set aside for the purpose.

It would be impossible to count on any particular size of flat cases under these circumstances – the cases and fittings must be put first, and the "Collection" adapted to them. When you visit here we might go to Salisbury and visit the Museum there – Hints might possibly be got there, and as South Kensington. But there is no hurry as to my Collection being moved as we are hardly yet able to put the work in hand; and I understand that the Edinburgh Museum will pack and send down the whole lot at any time. With the measurements you have taken, we can easily work out a plan when you come back.

There is also the question as to whether the "Greenwell" Collection, - (almost as large as my own, and which will come to me on the death of my dear Friend, Canon Greenwell – which I hope will be many years off) – or part of it, may not have to be provided for at the same time.

But these matters will keep.

I am glad you like Dr. Dickens. He is an A.I. Fellow – sound as steel, and true as gold, which is a good deal in these d.... and radical times. There are few men I have a greater respect for; and he has been a dear Friend to me for many years.

=

We drank – and got drunk – to your Confounded Birthday at least 3 times last month, so far as I can remember; so don't have another one if can help it just yet. You can't always be getting pretty Cards from unknown young Ladies.

All the family – except Douglas – are in Town so I have it all to myself. Muchly yours

Northesk.

Single circular post
mark of BISHOPS
WALTHAM/8.15/
AU/



This in all appearances look like the main entrance. Horses and carriages would have passed through the archway on the left and approached the main entrance door on the right.



Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.



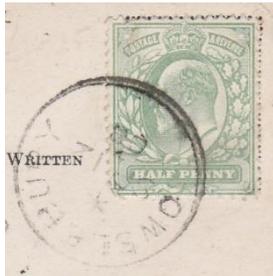
Single circular post mark of BISHOPS SUTTON/ 11.30/8SEP/17

This, I believe, is the south facing aspect of Longwood House.

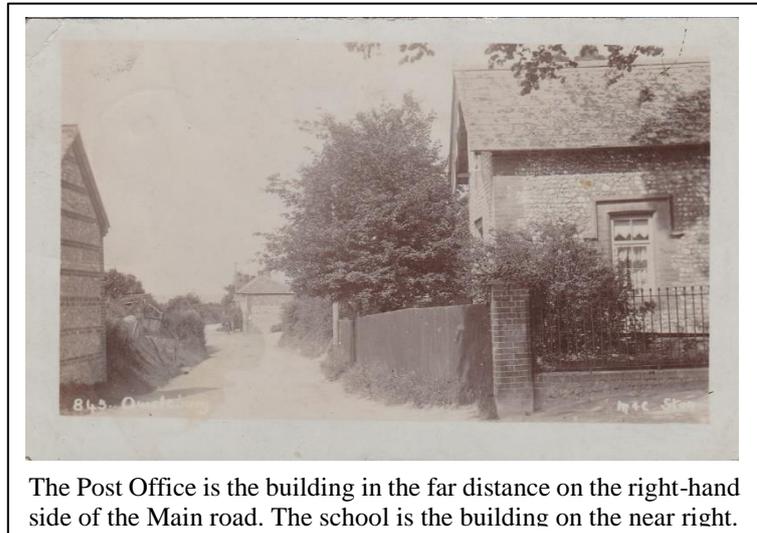
Building this very large House started in 1880. It was unfinished in 1883. There was much more work to do internally.

Sadly, the American Troops were stationed here which more or less started the demise of the place because after the war it was never re-occupied and the ruination began slowly at first. During the late 1950's and early 1960's the real trouble started. Lead thieves stripped the rooves of hundreds of tons of lead and the building had to be demolished as it was condemned as a dangerous place. The salvaged bricks were used again to build the new Estate Offices.

There must have been Receiving Houses in the early 1800's because "Rosehill", Longwood; "Whiteflood"; and "Owslebury" were granted Penny Post status from 1834. No Penny Post stamp was issued but never-the-less, it happened. The only recorded Post Messenger mention is Richard Mears from 1837 to 1875 who walked from Winchester to deliver the post to Owslebury. Owslebury is recorded as having a Post Office in 1856. It must have had an established Post Office before this and earlier than 1853 because an undated circular stamp is recorded in use in September 1853.



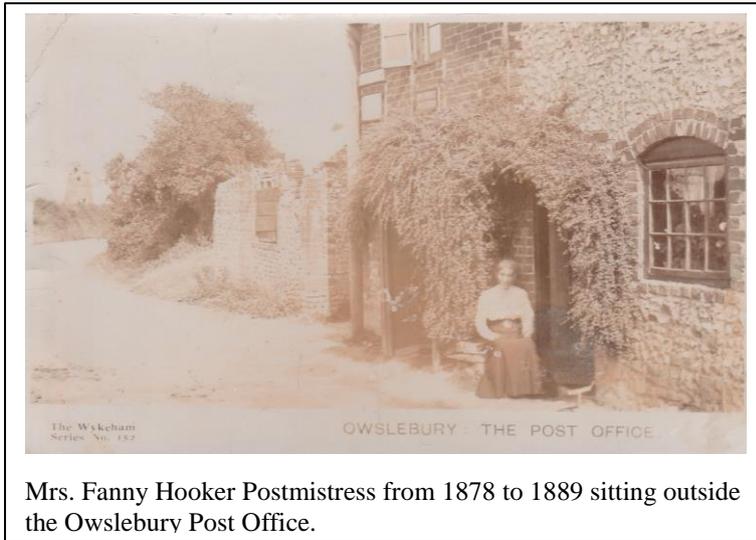
A light strike of a cds of OWSLEBURY/SEP 12/08.



The Post Office is the building in the far distance on the right-hand side of the Main road. The school is the building on the near right.

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.



Mrs. Fanny Hooker Postmistress from 1878 to 1889 sitting outside the Owslebury Post Office.



An Owslebury cds covers the E VII pale green stamp but with an unreadable. Cds of Owslebury. The double ring date stamp of Winchester is quite clear; WINCHESTER 1 /2.PM/OC 9/06.

Mrs. Fanny Hooker had a daughter, Mrs Ellen Taylor, who took over the Post Office when Fanny Hooker retired. Ellen Taylor's daughter, Mrs, Fanny Lane, worked in the post office with her mother she subsequently took over the post office. In about 1911 Fanny Lane moved the Post Office to house known as "Restholm" probably only recently built, just a few yards further towards the village centre. Mrs. Hutchings took over about 1924 and remained Postmistress until 1956. Herbert Hutchings, her husband, was the village postman until he was killed when knocked from bicycle near the "Ship Inn" in the village.

"In 1912 the village mail was placed in a letter box fitted to the front wall of the house. This was cleared by the post office staff who cancelled all the stamps manually. The letters were then placed into the mailbags which had the string ends sealed with red wax and an impression made with a special stamper. This showed the name of the village and a Royal Cypher. Letters could still bear an Owslebury as late as 1957.

In 1923 the post office was open during the week from 8am until 7pm daily. There was a half day service on Saturdays and surprisingly it was open again from 9am until 10.30am on Sundays. During the opening hour were shortened to 9am to 6pm daily but the Sunday opening continued until 1950. Until just before world war 1 there was a delivery on Sunday.

Under post office regulations all telegrams, regardless of contents, had to be delivered as soon as possible. This, sometimes made huge demands on the staff. On one occasion when the weather was terrible, the snow lying deep and drifting, a telegram was phoned through. This had to be taken to Honeymans Farm, Longwood, an isolated homestead nearly three quarters of a mile off the road. On return from an exhausting trip the poor postmistress was greeted with the news that another telegram had arrived for the same farm! Perhaps being more ironic would be the telegram received explaining that the sender could not visit the recipient as the weather was so bad. Bad as the weather was it was still a priority for the postmistress to deliver such telegrams, which might be for addresses as much as four miles away".

I wish to acknowledge my sincere thanks to Evelyn Houghton for allowing me to quote this passage in full, from her book "Owslebury then and Now".

After 1957 there several attempts to run the Post Office by different people but none lasted very long. Mrs. Harvey 1956, she moved the Post Office to the old Telephone Exchange building. Mrs. Ward in the late 1950's based at the Old Mill Stores. Mrs. J. Purnell in the early 1960's from her house in Beech Grove, The Post Office then moved to the other shop in the mid 1960's until 1981. Mrs. Oakley from 1981 to 1989 followed by Mrs. C Thompson. Business now takes place in the Village Hall every Monday and Thursday (2006).

And now for a bit of humour.

Owslebury.

By P. R. Mills.



Machine cancel of WINCHESTER ---- HANTS/8 – PM/14SEP/1959 with wavy lines on two 1d EII stamps sent to Beech Grove, Owslebury.

Miss B. Mills was my sister and “Rusty” was her boyfriend.



Machine cancel with wavy lines of WINCHESTER ---- HANTS/5.30PM/10 MAY/1963. Sent Honeyman Farm, Longwood, Owslebury.

From my memory, Mr. Bradley (Fred) worked at Longwood at this time (1963). He had two daughters, Freda and Pat and two sons, David and Laurence.



Postcard date is possibly late 1950's or early 1960's.

Winchester High Street looking towards Westgate.

End of Story!