



COTTENHAMS

‘Cottenhams’ is a small road in Blindley Heath. Where does the name come from?

To find the explanation, we have to start in the Village of Tandridge.

In 1834, Sir William Weller Pepys purchased Tandridge Court and the Southlands estate. He belonged to an old family from Cottenham in Cambridgeshire where the earliest record of the family dates from 1290. In the 18th and 19th centuries they worked mainly in the law. The diarist Samuel Pepys was a seventeenth century member of the family. His branch pronounced their surname ‘Peeps’ but members of the other branches, including all those mentioned here, pronounced it ‘Pepiss’.

Sir William was the second baronet and, as well as his title, he had inherited a considerable fortune from his father with the proviso that it must be largely expended in buying landed property. He therefore bought Tandridge Court as a residence and the Southlands estate as an investment.

The construction of the mansion ‘Southlands House’ had been started by the previous owner. Sir W W Pepys completed this between 1834 and 1839. Sir William Weller Pepys died in 1845 aged 67 and is buried in quite an impressive tomb in Tandridge Churchyard.

As he had not married, his estates passed to his younger brother, **Charles Christopher** who was created **Earl of Cottenham in 1850**. He was an energetic lawyer and active politician who served as Lord Chancellor in Whig governments from 1836 to 1841. He was appointed as Queen Victoria’s first Lord Chancellor in January 1836 with the title Baron Cottenham. One report says that he is best remembered in connection with the enunciation of the McNaghten Rules on the relation of insanity to criminal responsibility, another quotes him as having made an important contribution to the statute-book with the Judgements Act 1838 which amended the law for the relief of insolvent debtors. It seems that he did not spend much time in Tandridge. In 1831, he bought ‘Prospect Place’ in Wimbledon and its 250 acre estate, where he lived with his wife and 15 children. Shortly before his retirement in 1850, due to ill-health, he had been created Viscount Crowhurst as well as Earl of Cottenham. He died in 1851 and was buried in Hertfordshire – not Tandridge.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, **Charles Edward, the second Earl of Cottenham** who spent much time in Tandridge Court. He died in 1863 aged 39 and was buried in his uncle’s tomb.

The second Earl's estates passed to his younger brother, **William John, the third Earl of Cottenham** who died in 1881 and was succeeded by his son, **Kenelm, fourth Earl of Cottenham**, aged 7 years. On attaining his majority in 1895, he almost immediately sold his Tandridge estates to M Michaelis who, in turn, sold these estates to the Greenwell family of Marden Park after the first World War.

What is the connection with Blindley Heath?

Apart from their Tandridge estates, Sir W W Pepys and the Earls of Cottenham owned land stretching over Crowhurst, the Blindley Heath and Horne area to Felcourt and Felbridge but also as far as Warlingham and Chelsham. On a separate page are listed the estates that they owned in the RH7 area.

The **History of St John's Church, Blindley Heath – 1842 to 1992** gives the following information re 'Cottenhams':

'The estimate for the new parish of Blindley Heath, to be composed of parts of Tandridge, Horne and Lingfield, was for it to serve a population of about 500. The land to be allotted (then within the parish of Godstone) would cover an area of '4 roods and 45 perches (=just over 1¼ acres). This would be made up from two grants of land, one, **for the church and burial ground to be 'part of a certain field called 'KILN FIELD' given by Sir William Pepys** and the second, for the parsonage, being 'part of a certain farm known as 'Marles Farm' given by the Earl of Liverpool.'

Also:

'One of the leaders of the parish, Richard Forman who resided at The Mount, foresaw the need to replace the Assembly Room with a more substantial building to serve as the hub for village interests and activities. On the death of his widow, Fanny, plans came into being, based on a legacy of £2,000 which she left to be spent on the new building, to be known as the **'Forman Institute'**. **And so, the Trustees of the Fund, with the generous help of the landowner, the Earl of Cottenham, acquired a suitable portion of land at a central site in the village.'**

Cottenham Terrace

It was originally planned as a row of shops in view of the proposed railway extension from Caterham which did not mature. The shops comprised two front doors, one giving access to living accommodation and another to the shop area (the front room). The building at the west end of Cottenham Terrace, which in fact was Kelly's shop, was originally intended to be the Railway Hotel.

During the 1950s, Cottenham Terrace and 'the Blocks' (terraced houses) were demolished to make way for the present houses there. The hard core from the demolition was used to fill in the village pond at Gibbs corner during the 1950s – the village pond was renewed in time for the Millennium.

Not only did Sir William Weller Pepys donate land for the church in Blindley Heath and the Forman Institute. In February 1862, a deed was drawn up between the Hon William John Pepys and the church ministers and church wardens of Crowhurst to

purchase a piece of land to build a National School. This was built in 1864 at a cost of £518.11.4p and in 1865 he gave land for the building of the vicarage at Crowhurst. He succeeded to the title **3rd Earl of Cottenham and Viscount Crowhurst in 1863.**

Pepys Baronets, of Juniper Hill (1784):

Sir Lucas Pepys, 1st Baronet (1742-1830)

Sir Charles Leslie, 2nd Baronet (1774 – 1833)

Sir Henry Leslie, 3rd Baronet (1783-1849)

Charles Pepys, 4th Baronet (from 1849) (1781-1851)

was created 1st Baron of Cottenham in 1836

3rd Baronet of London (inherited in 1845)

1st Earl of Cottenham and Viscount Crowhurst in 1850

Pepys Baronets, of London (1801)

Sir William Pepys (d. 1825)

Sir William Weller Pepys, 2nd Baronet (d. 1845)

Sir Charles Christopher Pepys (1781 – 1851)

Earls of Cottenham (1850):

Charles Christopher Pepys, 1st Earl of Cottenham (1781 – 1851)

Charles Edward Pepys, 2nd Earl of Cottenham (1824 – 1863)

William John Pepys, 3rd Earl of Cottenham (1825 – 1881)

Kenelm Charles Edward Pepys, 4th Earl of Cottenham (1874 – 1919)

Kenelm Charles Francis Pepys, 5th Earl of Cottenham (1901 – 1922)

Mark Everard Pepys, 6th Earl of Cottenham (1903 – 1943)

John Digby Thomas Pepys, 7th Earl of Cottenham (1907 – 1968)

Kenelm Charles Everard Digby Pepys, 8th Earl of Cottenham (1948 – 2000)

Mark John Henry Pepys, 9th Earl of Cottenham (b. 1983)

The Heir Presumptive is the present holder's brother, Hon. Sam Richard Pepys (b. 1986)

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The following members of the Cottenham Family are buried in Tandridge Church Yard:

In the large Tomb – the inscriptions read:

Sir William Weller Pepys, Bart. of Tandridge Court who died 5th October, 1845 aged 67 years

Also to the memory of his beloved sister Maria Elizabeth Pepys likewise of Tandridge Court who died 28th July, 1850 aged 70 years

Sacred to the Memory of Charles Edward, Earl of Cottenham, born 30th April, 1824 died 18th February, 1863

[2nd Earl of Cottenham]

To the Memory of Colonel Gerald Leslie Pepys, CB, DSO Indian Army
Born 30th January, 1879 died 23rd February, 1936

And of his wife Charlotte Helen Pepys born 24th November, 1877
died 21st February, 1965

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Below the Tomb are three small grave stones with the following inscriptions:

John Evelyn Leslie Pepys - 1911-1981
Beloved husband of Zita

Zita Pepys - widow of John Pepys - 16th January, 2001

Pepys (Tom) - beloved husband of Nadine - 29th October, 1999

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To the South of the Church are a row of graves with the following inscriptions:

Patricia – beloved second wife of Kenelm Charles Edward, 4th Earl of Cottenham –
1894 - 1962

(with a large cross):

“In the Morning - Then Ye shall see - The Glory of the Lord”

In loving memory of Kenelm Charles Edward - Fourth Earl of Cottenham –
Born 18th May, 1874 - died 22nd April, 1919

Davina Rose Kleinwort - 9th February 1940 - 5th March 1973
[A later member of the Cottenham Family]

John Digby Thomas - 7th Earl of Cottenham - Born 14th June, 1907 -
died 12th May, 1968

Angela Isabel Nellie - Countess of Cottenham - beloved wife of John -
Born 3rd August, 1910 - died 26th May, 1980

Mary Isabel - beloved eldest daughter of Earl and Countess of Cottenham - Born
18th October, 1934 - died 4th June, 1958

In St. Peter's Church, Tandridge:

The West Window was given in memory of the 1st Earl of Cottenham who died on
29th April, 1851 by his widow and his children.
[he was not buried in Tandridge Church Yard]

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The Sale in 1896 of the Tandridge Estates included:

Tandridge Court
Tandridge Hall
Southlands
Stonehall
Connemara

COTTENHAMS

Hall Hill
 Perrysfield Farm
 Brook Farm
 Newhouse Farm
 Church Farm
 Pound Farm
 Court Farm
 Mansion House Farm

(in all 2,200 acres)

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**SUMMARY OF THE SALE IN 1907 OF THE PROPERTIES HELD BY
 THE EARLS OF COTTENHAM IN THE RH7 AREA**

	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>P</u>	
Snouts Farm	154	3	16	
Woods and Plantations	2	1	10	Tandridge
Mitchells Farm	125	0	31	Tandridge & Lingfield
Shaws Farm	165	1	16	Tandridge
Woods and Plantations	34	0	28	Tandridge
Hodge Horne Farm	99	1	8	Tandridge
Woods and Plantations	36	0	0	Tandridge
Anchor or Blindley Heath Farm	321	1	28	Godstone
Gate House Farm	102	3	39	Godstone
Woods and Plantations	14	0	26	Godstone
Newchapel Greenhouse and Meadows	5	1	37	Godstone
Cottage at Blindley Heath	---	---	---	
Chartham Lands	17	3	0	Lingfield
Felcourt Farm	129	2	19	Lingfield
Old Felcourt Farm	97	3	3	Lingfield
Felcourt House & Lands	76	2	5	Lingfield
Part of Felcourt Heath	24	0	0	Lingfield
Felcourt Lodge	13	1	39	Lingfield
Oaklands	5	0	16	Lingfield
Angleside	7	0	35	Lingfield

COTTENHAMS

Rose Bank and Cottage Woods and Plantations	178	3	29	Lingfield
Whitefoots Farm	36	1	31	Godstone
Jenkinsland Farm	181	3	29	Godstone & Horne
2 Cottages				
Colboy's Farm	61	3	21	Godstone

Also sold in 1907 "Blacksmith's Head" & Garden, Bassett's Middle & Further Mead.

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Sources:

Mrs Daphne Collard

Mr G L Walkden of Tandridge Court

Notes on the Architecture and History of Tandridge Church compiled by

G L Walkden

A Short History of the Parish of Blindley Heath

Records at Surrey History Centre, Woking

Wimbledon Past by Richard Milward – Historical Publications

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