

Transcribed notes by Phyllis Crowson (nee Stubbs), given by her niece, Ann Drewery

I was born in 1917 in the large old house now known as "Wood Hall Manor". When my Grandfather bought the house about 1860 it was known as the "Old Manor House", one of the oldest houses in the village, the name it was known as until recent years. When I was young there were no houses or bungalows on Broad Wheel Road or Woodland Lea the only houses were the four stone cottages. What is now a bungalow next to the stone steps were two stone cottages converted in the 1920s to the bungalow. Our fruit orchard extended to Royce Wood where two new houses now stand. Royce Wood was then a real wood, beautiful oak, ash and many other species grew there. There were no houses on Heath Road after the stone cottage apart from Royce Wood Cottage The Grange was a huge barn, originally built by a Brewery Company to store barrels of beer in, at that time someone connected to the Brewery Company lived in the house, he lost an awful lot of money betting on "The Derby" and apparently did "A moonlight flit". Where the chalets and houses now stand on Heath Road was part of the Home Paddock.

On **Glington Road**, then known as Station Rd. there were no buildings after the Old School and Head Master's house until the Station Masters house - on the North side only the older council houses had been built following on from the stone houses which had been built by the Paper Mill, which was always busy, the four terrace houses now offices had also been built by the mill and employees lived in them.

Maxey Rd - Where the two S/D houses and the first bungalows stand was a grass paddock, next to the oldest bungalow were four thatched cottages, now two houses, "The Golden Drop" had four terraced cottages where the Rectory now stands, there was right of way through Cromwell Mews for the farmer to take his cows. The two modern houses were not there. Opposite the cemetery where a stone house now stands was two houses, stone steps up to their front doors, following on was a row of cottages all pulled down. Two bungalows now stand there. Next to the cottages was Mr Jackson's dairy and stockyard, no other buildings then apart from a bungalow now gone where the man lived who opened one set of railway gates, the Midland Railway. He was responsible always to open the gates from 11.00pm - 6.00am. The semi-detached houses over the railway were all occupied by railway workers. There was another signal box there for LNER, one man there responsible for all nights after 11.00pm.

West St. - Two stone thatched cottages stood on West Street opposite the Almshouses, no Old Folks bungalows, chalets & garage. The new school had been built, several old cottages on each side of West Street were pulled down. Where now stands houses, near the end of West Street were 6 cottages, now two houses. Red brick houses were there, four new houses were built on land which was an Orchard. There were 6 sites of Allotments in different parts of the village: Snip Green, The Foresters, Long Close, The Barrows, The Blues, cannot remember the other one.

Almost all houses had a well, we had two, one is still there. The only good water supply was an Artesian Bore drilled on the junction of Heath Road & Broad Wheel. We had 7 **Pubs in the village** - the Parting Pot only had a 6 day license & was known as an Ale House. The Queens Head - West St. Prince of Wales, Feathers, West St. Exeter Arms - Church Lane Parting Pot - near the Cross, Blue Bell Woodgate, Royal Oak Woodgate.

There were two shops, one under the same roof as the Parting Pot. The other shop where it now is, as was the Post Office. The Public Telephone was in the shop, you had to ask permission from the Post Master before you used it. There were 9 farms varying in size in the village, 5 keeping cows. My mother made butter until 1943, when the Government stopped it & all milk unless you had a milk round was collected by lorry & taken to the Co-op Dairy in large heavy churns.

Every farm had several horses, most kept pigs, rearing calves, poultry, some farms also had a flock of sheep. We had a shoe mender, he had a one ?????? duck who was always there, also a butcher. At one time we had a baker, as long as I can remember two bakers came round to the village every day, they both lived in Bainton.

Groceries were delivered every week by the Co-op and every two weeks by International Stores. A man selling Hard Ware of every description once a month, we knew who it was by the large bell he rang. There was a Railway Station, all traces now gone lovely buildings, stone & Collyweston slates, a seven day service, with quite late trains, also a seven day bus service.

The **Paper Mill** employed quite a number of people, men & women. There was a railway siding to the back of the mill, all goods coming & going went by rail, as did corn & sugar but in fact everything including coal. We had a truck of coal twice a year, all the coal had to be brought to the house by horse & cart. We had a large coal cellar in the house. About 140 children attended the School which still stands on Ginton Rd. There was a Headmaster & three lady teachers. We left school at 14 years unless we went to the Grammar School leaving there at 15 yrs.

The last two years I was at School we went for the complete term from Xmas - Easter to the Village Hall for cookery. All cooking was done on a large cast iron stove, no water, it had to be carried from the pump outside the Almshouses.

Mr Dan Crowson was an all round builder & undertaker. He had 4 sons who all had to work from an early age. He also looked after the chapel, winter lighting, oil lamps, the underfloor heating (solid fuel), gratings still under the carpet. Mrs Crowson & daughters cleaned the church. No school meals facilities, outside loo, very primitive, children walked from Etton, Woodcroft, Scotsman lodge, Brickyard farm & cottage now gone.

Resident Police opposite the old school on Ginton Rd. & later next to Osborne House Street lights sometime in the 1930 only 6 or 7 and quite useless. Two doctors, different practices from Deeping, held surgeries in front rooms 3 days a week One had water from the Artesian Bore much safer than any other water for dispensing. Electricity - 1937 Piped Water - 1938 Main Sewage - 1960 Damage to property blasting the rock Refuse collecting from dustbins started 1938, before that 4 large wooden containers Royce Wood became a dumping ground - no skips.

The Village Hall was used quite well: Fortnightly Sat evening dances cost one shilling included orange juice or tea & biscuits, from 8 pm - 12 pm. Band of three, very little trouble. Whist drives very popular & always used the Village Hall. School Xmas party always after Christmas in the New Year with a present for every child given by friend of a villager. Wedding receptions for several years.

Tennis Club, Football, Cricket team. Tennis has always been played where it is still played. Football & Cricket had the use of several fields during their time, all field now ploughed up. Scouts, Guides Cubs, Brownies, Senior S.M (Helpston School) Head Master.

Church & Chapel Schools well attended, Church Sunday School outing during school summer holidays by farm wagons to Castor Hanglands. Hanglands then had not been ploughed. Food, water, tea etc all had to be taken up there.