



The History of Hinton House
Alix Hickman

Introduction

For nearly thirty years Hinton House was used by Kings Worthy Primary School as a teaching space. Initially just the oldest pupils were based there and at the age of ten I moved from being taught in the main school to the grandeur of Class 8B in one of the principal rooms of Hinton House. At that time the school only used the ground floor of the house. The first floor was occupied by Hampshire Wardrobe and dummies wearing period costume could be glimpsed on the landing. The Attics and Cellars were empty and only accessible by the unused back stairs. Occasionally we were allowed to explore the house and its faded elegance was evocative of a way of living far removed from our own experiences. We were curious about the people who used to live there and our imaginations made up for our lack of knowledge.

My interest in past lives developed into a love of history and resulted in me gaining a BA Hons History and later a Masters degree in Social History. My studies often focussed on local history and my undergraduate dissertation examined the changing use and occupancy of large country houses.

Last Autumn I started researching Hinton House to try to discover more about the house that had fascinated me so much as a child. Coincidentally the house was for sale and Helen Chambers, from Strutt and Parker, kindly showed me around. I was able to photograph the interior to record the appearance of the building before it was sold and renovated.



East elevation, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

The sales particulars included a brief history of the house which gave me a starting point for my research. Michael Edwards, Records Manager of the Worthys Local History Group, provided much encouragement and persuaded me to do a talk to the group when I finished my research. Many people were very generous with their time and told me their memories of the house and the families connected to it. David Wansbrough and Bryan Kemp also allowed me to borrow and scan their old photographs of the house, families and staff.

Thus on 12 November 2009 I presented 'The History of Hinton House' and this document is an expanded version of my talk. To begin with I will describe the method of construction and the layout of the house. I will then report on the history of how Hinton House has been used and who has lived there.

Construction and Layout

In 2000 the Hampshire County Council, supported by the Winchester City Council Conservation Officer, submitted an application for Hinton House to become listed. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport decided that, 'though the building was of historic and architectural interest, it fell just short of warranting statutory protection.' Though Hinton House is not a listed building the method of construction is unusual and worth noting. The walls were built of fist size blocks of chalk which were piled up and well bedded in mortar. The mortar was a mix of Portland cement, hydrated lime and sand. The external walls were then rendered in cement and the internal walls with plaster. The roof is pitched slate and there are full height bays on the south elevation. The building method is only obvious in the Cellar where the internal walls have not been plastered.

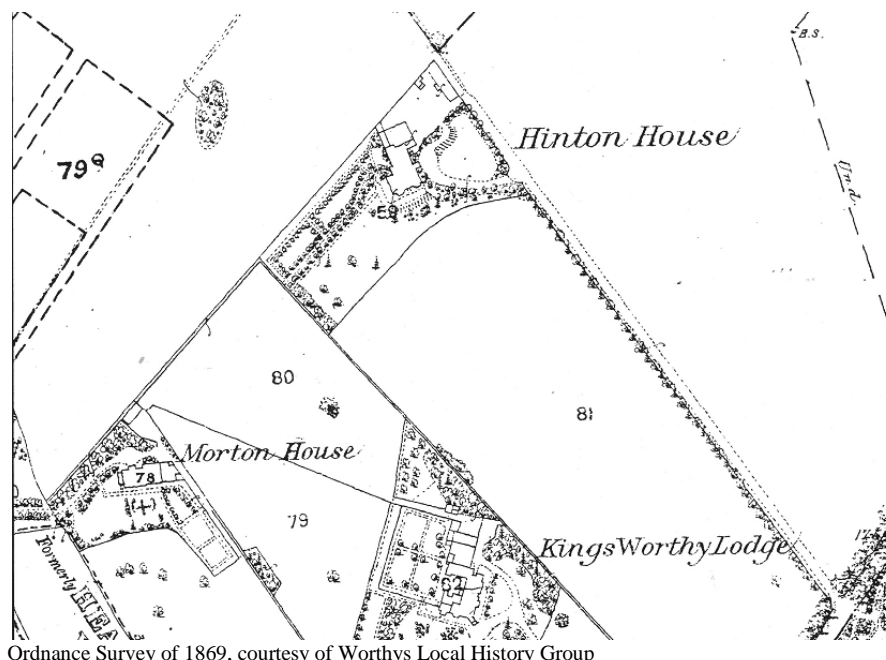


Cellar showing the building method, photo by Alix Hickman 2008



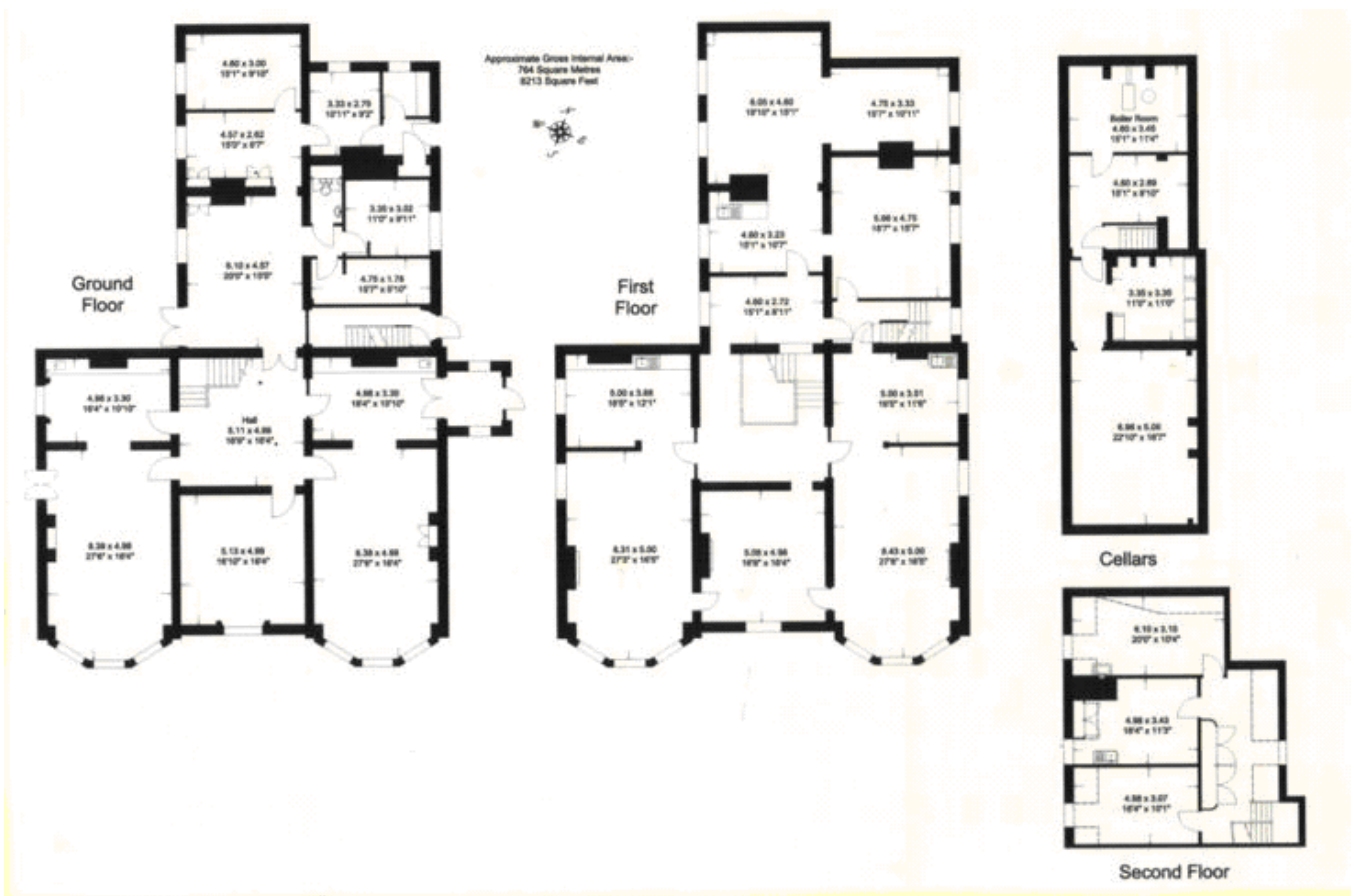
Exterior showing the rendered walls, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

Ashbourne Lodge and Winton House, on Andover Road, were built at the same time as Hinton House and were similar in appearance and construction. However, unlike Hinton House, they have been demolished. It is possible that all three houses were built by Mr James Flitcroft who used this unusual chalk building method in the mid-nineteenth century in the Winchester area.



Ordnance Survey of 1869, courtesy of Worthys Local History Group

Hinton House and its stable block (now known as the Gardener's Cottage) are shown on the first Ordnance Survey of 1869, as are two other large houses: Kings Worthy House (shown as Kings Worthy Lodge) and Morton House. The next edition of the Ordnance Survey, dated 1897-8, also shows South Lodge which was built for Kings Worthy House and North Cottage which was built for Morton House. Ironically both South Lodge and North Cottage are still occupied today but Kings Worthy House was destroyed by fire and Morton House has been demolished.



Floor plans from the sales particulars, courtesy of Strutt and Parker

Hinton House has two main floors plus Cellar and Attic rooms. The original layout had a small entrance hall which led through to a large inner hall with a staircase and domed glass ceiling. There were four principal rooms in the south side of the house; the two large ones had bow windows overlooking the garden. In the inner hall was the green baize door which separated the two parts of the house: the principal rooms for the family and the domestic offices used by their servants. The domestic offices including the kitchen, scullery and the back staircase were on the north side of the house.



View from the inner hall showing the egg and dart moulding, photo by Alix Hickman 2008



Domed glass ceiling above the inner hall, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

The principal rooms were decorated with ceiling roses and egg and dart moulding; these can still be seen in the

house today.



Ceiling rose in one of the principal ground floor rooms, photo by Alix Hickman 2008



One of the principal ground floor rooms, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

The first floor was arranged in a similar fashion with the main bedrooms in the large bow windowed rooms on the south elevation. The Cellar had four rooms, one large and three small. There were wine bins built into one of the smaller rooms.



Wine bins in the Cellar, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

The Attic comprised three small rooms. During the 1960s – 1980s it was used as a separate flat and therefore had a sink and draining board in the middle room.



The middle Attic room, photo by Alix Hickman 2008



The far end Attic room, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

Occupants of Hinton House

There were many recorded occupants of Hinton House, the first of whom was Reverend John Lake Barton.

Reverend John Lake Barton

John Lake Barton was born in Portsea in 1804, the son of John Barton, a brewer, and Mary Barton née Cooper. He studied at St. John's College, Cambridge and was ordained as a priest in 1835. Between then and 1869 he worked in East Hampshire and held positions in Clanfield, Hambledon, Portsea and Horndean. Revd Barton's style of ministering was described as, 'plain, practical, and yet thoughtful.' While he was still training he married Elizabeth Poate and they had two children: John Lawson Dennys and Eliza Harriette Olive. Elizabeth died in 1846 and soon after Revd Barton married his second wife, Alethea. They also had two children: William Ernest and Henry Charles Mitford.

In addition to his position as a Clergyman, Revd Barton also acted as a Tutor to young scholars who were hoping to enter university. In 1841 he had five pupils and by 1851 this number had grown to twelve. In 1866 Revd Barton advertised in the *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle* for a pupil, who should be at least 17 years old and who is studying for the examination to enter Cambridge University or Woolwich Academy. The terms were one hundred guineas per annum and the address was Hinton House, Horndean. The fact that Revd Barton's previous residence was called Hinton House is suggestive that it was Revd Barton who had Hinton House in Kings Worthy built or at least purchased the new house and named it.

THE REV. J. L. BARTON wishes for a PUPIL, not under 17, who intends to Read for Honours at Cambridge, or for the Woolwich Examination. Terms 100 guineas per annum. The highest references.
Hinton House, Horndean, Hants.

Advert from the *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle*, 20 January 1866

In 1865 Revd Barton was involved in a case of a disputed will. He was bequeathed £15,000 by his former landlord and friend, Richard Ring. The bequest was not in the original will, but in a codicil which was discovered at a later date. In this codicil Richard Ring also granted each of Revd Barton's children £5,000, '...in token of my great respect and esteem for the late Mrs Elizabeth Barton.' A court of probate met to decide whether this codicil was a forgery and therefore if the Barton family should receive the money. The codicil was considered to be genuine, partly on the grounds that Mr Ring, '...had been on intimate terms with Mr. Barton, who for some years was curate of the parish in which he resided, and that he used to speak highly of Mr. Barton's first wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1846.' The case must have drawn a high level of interest as it was reported in *The Times* and in newspapers as far away as Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle and Bristol.

In 1869 Revd Barton became the Rector of Wyke (now known as Weeke) and remained in this position until his death in 1877. The parish church was St. Matthew's on Stockbridge Road and Revd Barton also served St. Paul's Church in the workhouse. This position did not include a Rectory. Revd Barton's predecessor, Charles Walters, had lived in Southgate Street and his successor, Edward Firmstone, had lived in Hyde Street during their times as Rector. Perhaps this is why John Lake Barton had Hinton House built, using the money that he had inherited from Richard Ring. A large residence would have enabled him to continue to tutor young men. The 1871 census shows him living at Hinton House with his wife, Alethea, a boarder, Charles Rowen Goodwyn and five scholars. They were looked after by a Cook, Parlour maid, Housemaid and a Groom.

Alethea died on 5 March 1874 in Kings Worthy. Revd Barton was said to have lost strength and, 'His heart was wounded. His best earthly stay was gone.' Between then and when he wrote his will in 1877 it appears that Revd Barton left Kings Worthy. He spoke in his will of, 'my dwelling house and premises with the two acres of land thereto belonging situate in the said parish of Wyke and now in my occupation (but subject to the Mortgage thereon).' Revd Barton died suddenly on 21 June 1877 and the *Hampshire Chronicle* reported that, 'His Master called him to his home above, where he will meet with many whom his winning words first directed heaven-ward, and where by-and-by he will be rejoined by those whom he has left for the present here below, but who, led by his bright example and instruction, are journeying thither in all humility and yet in confidence.'

Wyndham William Knight

The next owner of Hinton House appears to have been Wyndham William Knight because on 31 December 1877 he sold the leasehold of the property to David Way of Stoneham. Wyndham was born in Chawton in 1829 but spent his adult life at Bilting House in Godmersham with his wife Henrietta and their children. He was a Magistrate for the County of Kent by the age of 32 and remained so until he retired. Despite his having owned Hinton House there is no evidence that he lived there or even in the area.

David Way

David was born in the 1820s on the Isle of Wight. His father, Henry Way, was a farmer with 390 acres and twelve labourers. David also became a farmer with considerable land and owned Stoneham Farm in the 1860s and 1870s. There he farmed 440 acres and employed sixteen workers. In 1862 David married Frances Pain of Micheldever and together they had at least thirteen children. David bought the leasehold of Hinton House in 1877 and the following year's *Whites Directory* shows that he was in residence. He only remained there a short while and sold the leasehold to Richard Turnor, of Kings Worthy House, in October 1878. The 1881 census return shows that the Way family had moved to Northgate House on Jewry Street and that David was still farming. After a brief stay in Michelmersh the family moved back to Stoneham and David died there in 1899.

Grace Stuart Williams

The next recorded occupants of Hinton House were the Williams family. Walter Williams was born in 1812 in London and served as a Captain in the 17th Lancers. He married Grace Stuart Poore in 1855 in Lyndhurst. Grace was the daughter of Sir Edward, 3rd Baronet of Rushall and his wife Lady Agnes. After their marriage, Walter and Grace remained in Lyndhurst for several years. Between 1857 and 1866 they had four children: Richard, Herbert Walter, Arthur Stuart and Isabel Maude.

In the late 1860s they left Lyndhurst and moved to Worthy Park in Martyr Worthy. The 1871 census shows the family of six living there with a total of fourteen servants. Walter died in 1880, aged 69 years. His obituary stated that, 'his unvarying kindness and liberality had won him a large place in the hearts of the people...' After Walter's death the family remained in the area for most of their lives. Grace moved to Hinton House and subsequent census returns show one or more of her children living with her. It is not clear whether the owner of Hinton House was Grace or Arthur. An agreement dated 31 December 1885 sites Arthur as having control of the Hinton House property but when Grace moved there he was only 18 or 19 and was away studying. Perhaps he was merely representing Grace in the agreement.

Grace's son Richard became a Clerk in Holy Orders and remained single. In 1881 he was working in Alverstoke and lodging with a family. He returned to Kings Worthy and in 1889 officiated at his sister's wedding. He was still living in Hinton House in 1895 but by 1901 had moved to Winton.

Arthur trained as an engineer in Kent and returned to Kings Worthy to found the Vulcan Iron Works in 1883. An advertisement of 1885 shows Arthur as the owner and the business was offering hydraulic rams for raising water and self-governing turbines for electric lighting, driving mills and so on. Arthur's brother, Herbert, was also involved and held the position of Consultant Engineer. The business appears to have been successful and the brothers were known locally as 'gentleman engineers.'



48 COUNTY ADVERTISEMENTS. [1885.]
A. WILLIAMS,
VULCAN IRON WORKS,
→: **Near WINCHESTER.** ←
HYDRAULIC RAMS,
For Raising Water for Farms or other purposes
by their own Action.
SELF-GOVERNING TURBINES,
For Electric Lighting, Driving Mills, &c.
Contractor for Water Work in all its Branches.

Advert for Vulcan Iron Works 1885, courtesy of Worthys Local History Group

In 1881 Herbert married his first cousin, Caroline 'Lina' Standly and lived at Hinton House at the beginning of their marriage. By 1891 Herbert, Lina and their three children were living in Park Road, Winchester and later moved to Suffolk.

Arthur married Isabel Maude Cumberbatch in November 1887 in Lyndhurst. In Kings Worthy the employees of

Vulcan Iron Works were given a celebratory dinner at the Cart and Horses where they drank the health of Arthur and his new wife. They honeymooned in Brighton and then lived in the Red House, Winchester. Sadly Arthur died in July 1888 and the Vulcan Iron Works was sold to Mr Vacher in January 1889. Isabel went to live at Hinton House with Grace and then married Richard Arthur Pleydell Bouverie Campbell Wyndham in October 1891.

Grace's daughter Isabel Maude married William Alexander Hunt in November 1889 at St. Mary's Church, Kings Worthy. Judging from the description in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, most of the village were involved in the festivities. This was due to the, '...esteem and respect in which they are held.' The entire route from Hinton House to the church was decorated and the bride and bridegroom received over 150 gifts, all of which were listed by the *Hampshire Chronicle*. A large reception was held at Hinton House in the afternoon with nearly 200 guests attending.

It is quite a coincidence that Grace had a daughter and a daughter-in-law called Isabel Maude and that both Isabels were born in Lyndhurst in 1866. The census returns below could easily be dismissed as having been inaccurately recorded. The census return of 1881 shows the single Isabel Maude Williams before she married William Hunt. Within the next ten years she married and left home and her brother married Isabel Maude Cumberbatch and then died. The widowed Isabel was living with Grace when the 1891 census return was completed.

76	Hinton House	1	Grace S. Williams	Head	Wid	66	No profession	Wife Isabel
			Herbert W. Do	Son	Mar	28	Do	Harriet Lyndhurst
			Lina - Do	Wife	Mar	42	Do	Wife of Cymouth
			Isabel M. Do	Daughter		15	Schooler	Harriet Lyndhurst

Census return, 1881

86	Hinton House	1	Grace S. Williams	Head	Wid	76	Living on own means	Wife Isabel
			Richard Do	Son	U	24	Blacksmith's Orders Clerk	Harriet Lyndhurst
			Isabel M. Do	Daughter	Wid	24	Living on own means	Do

Census return, 1891

In 1891 William and Isabel Hunt were living in Hartley Wintney. They moved back to Kings Worthy shortly afterwards and their first child Helen Grace was born there in October 1891. Four more children followed: William Walter Frederick, James Charles Marjoribanks, Gwendolen Mary Isabel and Richard Herbert Alexander. In 1901 they were all living with Grace in Hinton House but by 1908 the Hunt family had moved to Headbourne Worthy House. In May 1908 Isabel died while giving birth to a stillborn baby, she was 42 years old. Her funeral was held at St. Mary's Church. The *Hampshire Chronicle* noted that she would be much missed by the poorer mothers of Headbourne Worthy and Kings Worthy to whom she had shown kindness and sympathy.

A few months later Grace left Hinton House and moved in with her son-in-law and family at Headbourne Worthy House. She was intending to move to Southbourne-on-Sea where her eldest son, Revd Richard Williams, lived. However, she became ill while at Headbourne Worthy House and died on 30 September of acute bronchitis, congestion of the lungs and cardiac failure. She was 76 years old. The *Hampshire Chronicle* stated that Grace was, 'beloved by everybody' and that her life had been, 'a continuous record of good works.' She was very active in the church and took part in almost every branch of church work in the parish. Grace managed the Choir, was an organist and helped at the Sunday School. She was also supportive of children and families and was involved in the Mothers' Meetings, the Band of Hope Movement and acted as a School Manager. Every year Grace would pay for members of the Band of Hope to have a trip to Stokes Bay for a holiday.

During their time at Hinton House the Williams family had far fewer servants than the fourteen they had when residing at Worthy Park. In 1881 there was a Housekeeper, Cook, two Housemaids, a Butler and a Groom. Subsequent census returns show there were no male servants, only a Cook or Housekeeper and four maids. At the time of Grace's death Hinton House's Gardener was Edwin Cutler and he lived with his family in Mount Pleasant. The only servant who remained in their employment for more than one census return was Jane Elizabeth Fillmore. She was employed in the role of Nurse on the 1861 and 1871 census returns but by 1881 her role had changed to Housekeeper. She had retired by 1901 though she was still living with the family in Hinton House and was listed as a visitor, living on her own means.

When Grace left Hinton House it was advertised for sale and a set of sales particulars exist dated 29 July 1908. They give a detailed description of the house at the time. The property was described as a, 'Spacious country house and three acres, fifteen bed and dressing rooms, box room, four reception rooms, stabling and living room, outbuildings.' The location was described as being the, 'most elevated spot in the neighbourhood' and, 'an easy walking distance or short drive' from Winchester.



Photos from the 1908 Sales Particulars, courtesy of Worthys Local History Group



The ground floor consisted of a lobby with an encaustic tiled floor and side windows which lead to a corridor to the inner hall and an, 'excellent suite of four entertaining rooms.' The large bow windowed room at the front of the house was the Dining Room, the middle room was the Library and the other large bow windowed room was the Drawing Room. The Boudoir was situated at the end of the Drawing Room and led to a large Conservatory. There was also a passage leading to the garden door and a Gentleman's W.C. The domestic offices were, 'spacious' and 'well-arranged.' The first floor, as aforementioned, consisted of an incredible fifteen bedrooms and dressing rooms and a box room. The Cellar was described as, 'extensive' and 'well lighted.'

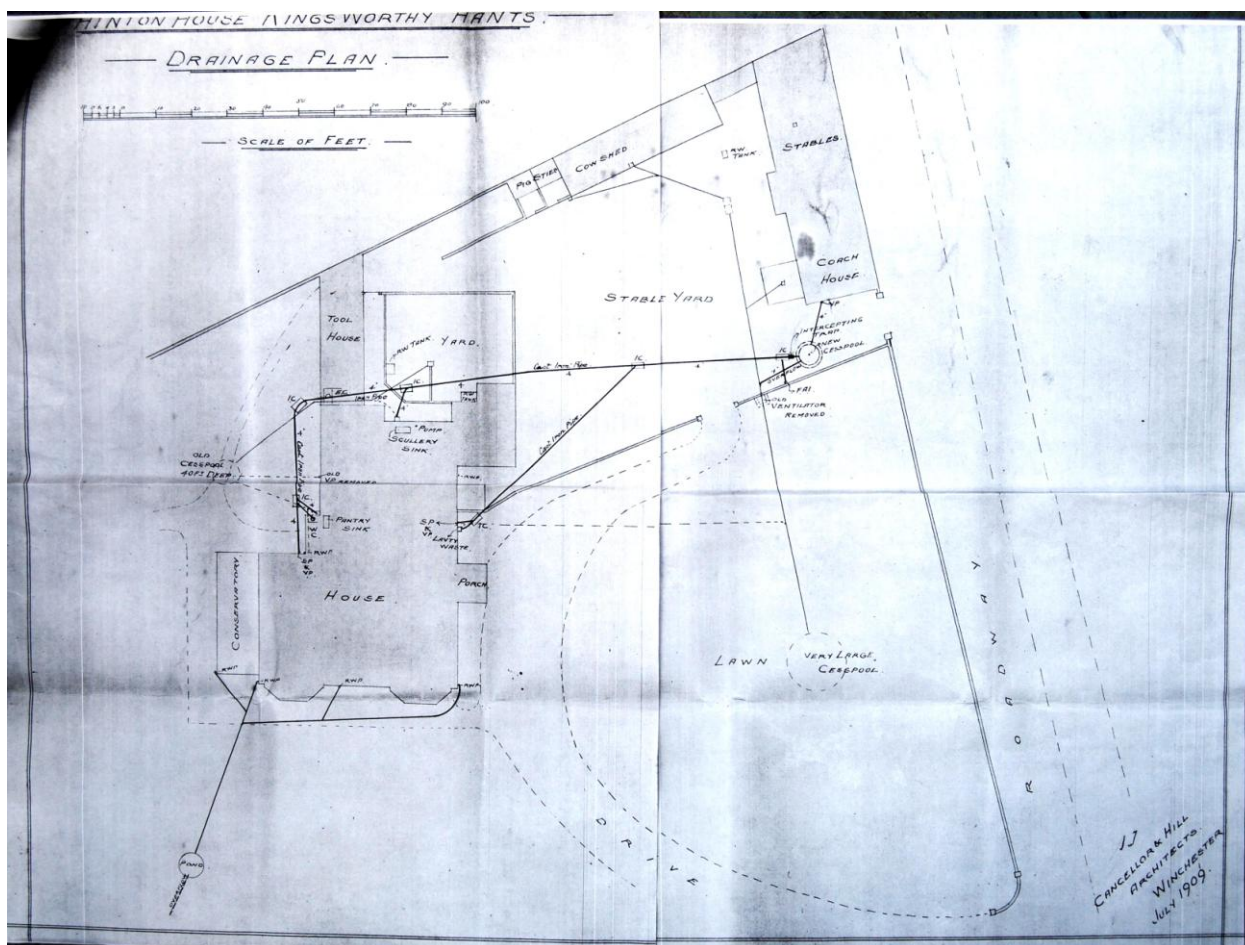
The outhouses comprised of an enclosed yard which contained a servants' W.C. and coal and knife houses. The stabling comprised three stalls and a loose box with harness room, a covered washing pitch, fodder room, a coach house and two men's rooms. There was a large yard and a cow house for four cows, a calving pen, fowl house and piggeries. In addition there was a kitchen garden with fruit trees, a forcing house which was heated by hot water pipes and a lean-to potting shed.

Finally there were the pleasure grounds which were, 'very attractive, well planted and sheltered and consist of an excellent double Tennis lawn, a croquet lawn, with broad gravelled terrace paths, shady walks, grass slopes and flower beds, and bounded on the south-east by a park-like paddock.' The price was £4,150 for a lease of fifty-three years.

Colonel Warren

The next owner was Col. P. Warren of the Royal Engineers. He was attached to the Army Postal Corps in the Boer War and was awarded the Queen's Medal with five clasps. During the First World War he served as the Deputy Director of the Army Postal Services with the British Expeditionary Force. For this campaign he won the Star and was mentioned in despatches three times. He served as Director of Army Postal Services with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force from 1916 to 1920. Col. Warren was awarded the Chancery of St. Michael and St. George in 1916 and the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1917 and was made a Commander of the British Empire in 1919. He ended his career as the Director of Civil Postal and Telegraph Services for the occupied territories of Palestine, Syria and Cilicia and was mentioned in despatches a further three times while in this position.

On 17 July 1909 Col. Warren submitted plans to the Surveyors Office for a proposed new drainage system at Hinton House. These plans show that there was a tool house and yard attached to the north of the house. There were pig sties and a cow shed along the north wall and the Stables and Coach House were in the building currently known as the Gardener's Cottage.



Application for new drainage 1909, from the Hampshire Record Office

Col. Warren's occupation was of a short duration and he sold Hinton House to Col. Bryce Stewart on 1 August 1912. However, Col. Stewart and his wife were in residence earlier than this date as they were listed on the 1911 census so they presumably rented the house before buying it. Col. Warren spent his retirement in York, serving as Sheriff of York in 1932 and 1933. He died there, aged 85, in 1952.

Colonel Bryce and Mrs Georgie Stewart

Col. Bryce Stewart was born in Tennessee on 18 June 1857, the son of Bryce Stewart and his first wife Eliza J. McClure. His father had immigrated from Rothesay, Scotland to Clarksville, Tennessee in 1830. Twenty years later he was in the tobacco stemming business, owned forty-two slaves and property to the value of \$30,000. Col. Stewart went to school in Edinburgh and in 1871 was boarding with a retired Lieutenant from the Royal Veterans. Eight years later he joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers as a Second Lieutenant and began a long and distinguished military career serving in Burma and South Africa. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with three clasps, and the King's Medal with two clasps. He was mentioned in despatches on 27 September 1901 and awarded the Distinguished Service Order.



Col. Bryce Stewart date unknown, courtesy of Katherine Gates



Georgiana Freeman Walker née Gholson, mother of Georgie date unknown, courtesy of JM Walker

In 1891 Col. Stewart married Georgie Gholson Walker on Staten Island, New York. They were distant cousins both being descendants of John Stewart and Isobel Lamont of Bute, Scotland. Georgie was born on 14 October 1860, the daughter of Major Norman Stewart Walker and his wife Georgiana Freeman Gholson. Norman and Georgiana were married in 1852 and Georgiana wore a veil made of Belgian lace which Norman had brought back from one of his trips to England. They had nine children who were born during their travels around America, Bermuda, Nova Scotia and England. Major Walker was a Confederate agent stationed in Bermuda during the American Civil War. When Georgiana left America to join her husband in Bermuda she was pregnant and was so concerned that her child should be born on Virginian soil that she took a bucket of soil with her which was placed under the bed when she gave birth. Mrs Walker kept a journal during this time which recorded the fortunes of the blockade runners who came into port at Bermuda and also the social life on the island.

Col. Stewart and Georgie's wedding was described as a, 'fashionable suburban wedding' which took place in the Church of Ascension, Staten Island and was followed by a supper at Georgie's parents' residence. In accordance with English custom, the Groom presented the bridesmaids with pins of enamelled forget-me-nots and three bouquets of daisies. The Bride and Groom left for Europe a month after their wedding. Their only child, Bryce Stewart, was born on 15 February 1894 in Marylebone. Georgie and the young Bryce were resident in Leamington Spa for the 1901 census, living with Georgie's mother and two of her sisters and five servants. Col. Stewart was away on operations in South Africa at the time.

Col. Stewart retired in 1909 and by 1911 he and Georgie were living at Hinton House. Although Col. Stewart had retired he served as the Commander of Tralee Barracks, Northern Ireland during the First World War. He remained there until 1917 when he was invalided out of the Army.



Young Bryce Stewart, courtesy of Cheltenham College Archives

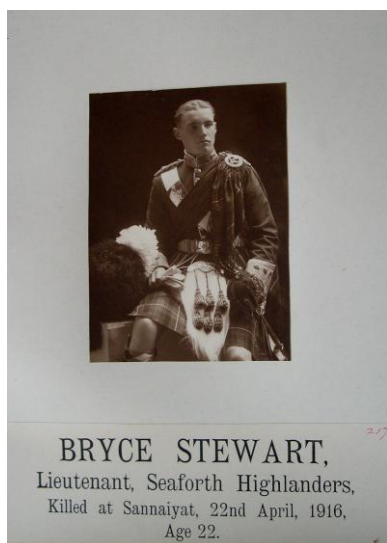
Young Bryce Stewart was educated at Bilton Grange, Rugby and in 1908, at the age of 13, he joined Cheltenham College. By design or co-incidence, he was living in the same Boarding House (Christowe) as a former Hinton House resident: James Charles Marjoribanks Hunt, the grandson of Grace Williams. Both had joined the 'Military and Civil' department of Cheltenham College, rather than the 'Modern' or 'Classical' departments.



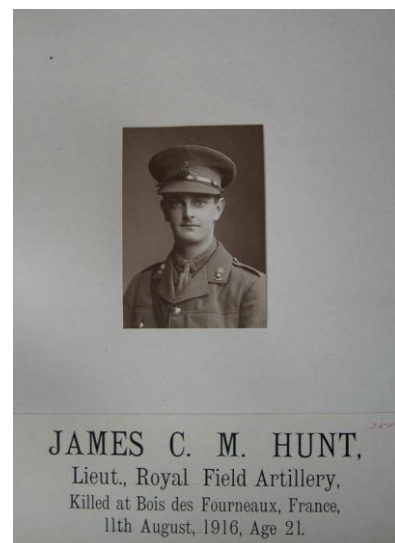
Christowe House 1910, Young Bryce Stewart is 7th from the left in the middle row; James Hunt is 2nd from the right in the top row.
Photo courtesy of Cheltenham College Archives

Young Bryce's records show that he was the best in his class at freehand drawing and he played rugby for his house. He also served as a Corporal in the Cheltenham College Officers' Training Corps and at the age of 18 applied to the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy. He received his first commission in September 1913 when he joined the 2nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders and he arrived in France on 29 August 1914. His battalion formed part of the British Expeditionary Force. Bryce was wounded at Ypres on 25 April 1915 having received a gunshot wound to his left forearm. He returned to Hinton House to recuperate and remained there until he was passed fit for service on 1 September.

Young Bryce was sent to Mesopotamia with the 2nd battalion to take part in the relief of a garrison at Kut. Losses to the 1st and 2nd battalions were so great that in February 1916 they merged to become the Highland Battalion. In March and April the battalion coped with atrocious conditions but could not get closer than ten miles away from Kut. On 22 April Lt Bryce Stewart was killed in action. He was 22 years old. A telegram informing his parents arrived at Hinton House five days later. Georgie was in residence with her sister, Edith Stewart Walker but Col. Stewart was serving in Ireland. Edith wrote to the War Office requesting that they inform Col. Stewart immediately because she and Georgie were unable to communicate with him. Young Bryce was buried near number four communication trench, fifty yards in front of the first support line, Sannaiyat position, Mesopotamia. His name is recorded on the Basra memorial and he was mentioned in despatches on 17 October 1916. He is also commemorated on the war memorial in St. Mary's Churchyard.



Photos courtesy of Cheltenham College Archives





War memorial in St. Mary's Churchyard, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

James Hunt also went from Cheltenham College to the Royal Military Academy. He was a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery and arrived in France in May 1915. James was killed in action at Bois de Fourneaux, France on 11 August 1916. In total an astonishing 675 Old Cheltonians were killed in action during the First World War.

Young Bryce Stewart did not, therefore, spend a lot of time in Kings Worthy. In contrast his parents spent many years there, remaining until their deaths in 1936 and 1940. After the First World War ended and Col. Stewart returned to Hinton House he and Georgie were set to live their lives as retired gentry.

The Stewarts were keen churchgoers and as was tradition for the gentry they had their own pew in St. Mary's Church. It is the one under the plaque in honour of their son. Both were members of the Church Council and represented the parish at conferences. Col. Stewart was also a Church Warden and Treasurer until his health gave way. In the 1930s the choirboys would go around the large houses singing carols at Christmas. One of the choirboys, Gerald Lawrence remembers sitting in front of the fire at Hinton House singing to Mrs Stewart.



Hinton House from the west elevation during the Stewarts' time, courtesy of Bryan Kemp

Alf Beacham (b.1902) reported having spent a lot of time at Hinton House with his sisters and older brother Cyril when they were children. The girls played tennis while the boys walked the grounds and they then stayed for tea and strawberries with cream. The Stewarts took a liking to Cyril and gave him their son's dress uniform as a memento. Cyril went on to become a Master Mariner, finally settling in Monmouthshire. (Sadly his son does not know the whereabouts of Young Bryce's dress uniform.) Alec Marsh (b. 1902) also remembered young Bryce often coming over to play with his older brothers though he admitted that Bryce came from, 'a rather different strata of public life.'

Georgie took an active role in the community. She was a School Manager and Alec Fry (b. 1922) recalls how she and her colleagues visited the school and that the pupils looked forward to it because they would be given a sweet or biscuit. Alec remembers Mrs Stewart as being a very articulate lady whose accent was so anglicized that he did not realise she was American. Her obituary described her work with various charitable associations including the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, St. Anne's Home and the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies in Woolwich. According to her obituary, '...it would be difficult to find any deserving cause in the village, district or county which had not benefited from her active and generous support...' Her greatest enthusiasm was for the

Mothers' Union in Kings Worthy for whom she was a very successful Enrolling Member. The obituary concluded that, 'In a personal way, too, she was always willing to help anyone in trouble, and her loss will be keenly felt by those who lived around her.'

Col. Stewart does not seem to have been as active in the community as his wife. The general consensus was that he, 'kept himself to himself' which was considered unusual for village life at the time. Alf Beacham stated that others in the village found Col. Stewart, 'a bit snooty.' In contrast, the *Hampshire Chronicle* stated that he, 'was held in the highest esteem' and, 'took a very keen interest in the various activities of the parish.' Records suggest that although Col. Stewart did not entertain the villagers in the same manner as other owners of the large houses he did support events. He volunteered to present cups at a celebration of the end of the First World War which was hosted at Worthy Park. He also provided accommodation for cricketers at Hinton House during, 'cricket week' which was again held at Worthy Park. Outside of village life Col. Stewart was a member of the Junior Services Club of Pall Mall and the Royal Munsters' Old Comrades' Association.

In terms of domestic help, the Stewarts had started life in Kings Worthy with a typical handful of servants living with them. The Housekeeper, Selina Hopkins, had been engaged by them as a Nurse soon after their son, Bryce, was born in 1894. She travelled with them to America when Bryce was only a few months old. Selina remained with the Stewarts and was listed on the 1901 and 1911 censuses as being within their employment. When Georgie died she left Selina an annuity and Hinton Cottage. Selina stayed there until shortly before her death, age 92 years old, in 1955. She is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, a short distance from her former employers.

As well as the faithful Selina, the Stewarts also had a Cook, Parlour maid and Housemaid living in Hinton House in 1911. At the time of Georgie's death in 1940 Hinton House still had Selina and 'maids' in service. They may not, however, have lived in the house as they did in 1911. Miss Brewer, who was in service at Hinton House for the Stewarts, went home every night to The Junction and later Church Lane rather than living with her employers.

In 1921 Col. Stewart had Hinton Cottage built. It consisted of two living rooms and three bedrooms. Gerald Lawrence remembers it being occupied by the gardener and his family. James Kemp, who acted as Chauffeur for the Stewarts and drove their Rolls Royce, lived in Church Lane.



James Kemp, Chauffeur with the Rolls Royce, courtesy of Bryan Kemp

In 1911 the Stewarts' Head Gardener was Edwin Cutler, who had previously worked for Grace Williams. He lived with his wife and children in Mount Pleasant so he too did not live at the house. Alec Marsh of Morton Bungalow remembered the tall, bushy-bearded Mr Cutler walking past the bungalow on the way to work every morning at 7.45am. Edwin's son Henry 'Harry' Cutler was listed as a 'Houseboy domestic' on the 1911 census, sadly it does not note which house he worked for. Harry was killed during the First World War and is listed on the war memorial in St. Mary's Churchyard. When Col. Stewart wrote his will in 1926 the Gardener was Joseph Parsons but ten years later Mr. H. Eaton was in the post and it was Eaton who arranged the flowers for Col. Stewart's funeral.



The graves of Col. and Mrs Stewart, photo by Alix Hickman 2008

On 29 February 1936, Col. Stewart died of heart disease. He was 78 years old and had been ill for some time. The funeral was held at St. Mary's Church and was well attended though few of his family were able to attend. Mrs Stewart was joined by her nephew, Mr Gerard St. George Walker and his wife and a cousin of Col. Stewart's: Mr A. Graham Glasgow. There was a strong military presence including representatives from the Royal Munster Fusiliers' Old Comrades' Association and the Worthies' Branch of the British Legion. Col. Stewart was buried in the south-west side of the church yard.

On 16 July 1940, Georgie died in Hinton House of cardiac failure and broncho pneumonia. The funeral service, which was held at St. Mary's, was quiet by her request. She asked for no flowers or mourning. None of her family were in England so the personal mourners were friends, Selina Hopkins and the Hinton House maids. She was buried next to her husband.

Col. Stewart's will reveals a rather unusual fear of his. He requested that, '...before my burial my Executors shall employ a surgeon to ensure that I shall not be buried alive by severing a principal artery in my body and any other operation for that purpose he may consider necessary or advisable...'

Col. and Mrs Stewart's wills also reveal that they were very well off. As well as Hinton House, the Gardener's Cottage, the grounds and the contents of the property Col. Stewart allocated over £7,500 and \$22,000 in various bequests. Amongst Georgie's bequests were donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for two memorial beds in a mission hospital to be named after her husband and son.

Col. Stewart's will reveals something of the arrangement of the rooms at Hinton House in 1926. It mentions a Dining Room, Morning Room, Smoking Room and the Servants' Hall. There were etchings by C. Walterer in the Smoking Room and an oil painting of Col. Stewart in uniform. The equipment listed included carriages, horses, motor cars and live and dead stock. Gerald Lawrence remembers there being two or three greenhouses along the wall which now adjoins Kings Worthy Primary School in addition to one which was next to the house and a potting shed.

Second World War

After Georgie's death in 1940 the first evidence of Hinton House being occupied was during the Second World War. Bunny Thornton was in the WRENS and worked at Worthy Down for 6-9 months at the end of the war. During her time there she was quartered at Hinton House. Bunny remembers the first floor being divided into cabins and hers was in one of the front bow windowed rooms and had views over the gardens. The cabin contained eight beds, arranged in bunks. Bunny estimated that there were forty to fifty other people quartered there. There was a Petty Officer stationed in the entrance hall who checked everyone in at night. In their spare time Bunny and a friend would often hitchhike to London from the end of Hinton House Drive. One time they were caught doing this wearing their WRENS caps and were confined to barracks as punishment. They also visited the Cart and Horses or walked around the grounds of the house.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Fell

In 1946 Hinton House once again became a family house when it was bought by Lt.-Col. and Mrs Fell. Ernest Arthur Hunter Fell was born on 9 August 1880 in East Worldham, Alton. His father, George Hunter Fell, was the Rector of East Worldham and his mother, Katharine Sophia Rickards, was the daughter of the well known lawyer, Sir George Kettlby Rickards. Ernest and his seven siblings were brought up in East Worldham Rectory.

Lt.-Col. Fell served in the 12th Bengal Cavalry (later known as 5th King Edward's Own Probyn's Horse) and by 1914 had reached the rank of Captain. In March 1916 he was made a temporary Major. His club was the Junior Army & Navy in Whitehall. On 2 April 1923 Lt.-Col. Fell married Sophie Langdon Mott, the daughter of Dr. Valentine Mott, a noted physician. They had one child, Joan Valentine Hunter Fell, who was born in 1924. In the

1930s Lt.-Col. Fell travelled extensively, visiting places such as Australia, Argentina, Mozambique and America.

The Fell family bought the leasehold of Hinton House in 1946. In 1958 the Butcharts and Fryers sold the Worthy Park estate, including Hinton House, by auction. On 19 November Hinton House and its land were transferred via a conveyance from Henry Jackson Buchart, Charles Bruce Rivers Butchart and Charles Fryer plus Katharine Eleanor Rivers Butchart to Sophie Langdon Fell. This made the Fell family the freehold owners of Hinton House and the surrounding land. The sale brochure described the ground floor as comprising a, 'Good-sized Hall with Cloakroom adjoining. Drawing Room, 27ft. by 16ft., with oak parquet floor and French doors to garden. Study, 16ft. square, with French doors. Dining Room, 27ft. by 16ft. Very good Kitchen. Pantry. Staff Sitting Room. Store cupboards.' On the first floor there was a, 'Principal suite of Double Bedroom, 26ft. by 15ft., with Bathroom adjoining, and also a Dressing Room or Bedroom, 16ft. square. Another Double Bedroom (over the Dining Room). Two Single Bedrooms, and another good-sized Bedroom with fitted basin. Second Bathroom. Staff Flat of good-sized Sitting Room, Bedroom and Bathroom, approached by a separate staircase.' There was also a Stable with two rooms over it and garage accommodation for three cars.

The Fell family employed Mr Sidney and Mrs Jeannie Staunton as domestic help. The Stauntons lived in the house and later moved to North Cottage where they remained until 1981.

Lt.-Col. Fell died on 1 February 1959 at Hinton House. In May his wife and daughter sold the house to George and Nancy Wansbrough. Mrs Fell then lived in North Cottage until 1963.

George and Nancy Wansbrough

Arthur George Wansbrough was born on 23 April 1904 in Oxford. His father, Revd Henry Wansbrough, was the Rector of Cheam and from 1916, the Rector of South Warnborough. His mother, Ida Mary Uliana Tufnell, was daughter of the first Bishop of Brisbane and from a family of substance who occupied three pages in Burke's peerage. George had two older sisters: Denise and Richeldis and one younger sister: Rosamond.

George was educated at Cheam School, Eton and King's College, Cambridge. At Cambridge he studied mathematics and economics, the latter under John Maynard Keynes. As well as achieving academic success at Cambridge, George also found time for various sports and acting with the Amateur Dramatic Club. While George was still at Cambridge he spent his holidays employed as a P.A. to George Selfridge Junior of the famous Selfridges firm. He went on to work there full time after graduating from Cambridge. At that time he also moonlighted as the Poet in a theatrical production of Sierra's Cradle Song. A theatre colleague sketched George and entitled the work 'Portrait of a young man who means to get there.' In his memoirs George wrote that, 'Till then, I had not realised that I had more of ambition than most.'



George Wansbrough at Hinton House 1960s, courtesy of David Wansbrough

This ambition resulted in George achieving a meteoric rise in the City. From Selfridges he went to work for Robert Benson & Co. Ltd. the merchant bankers for eight years, the latter part of which he was a director. In fact his distinguished career included many directorships, perhaps most notably for the Bank of England. He took over this position from his former tutor, John Maynard Keynes. In 1949 George's career took a tumble and from then on he was mostly concerned with investments and the motor industry. He was the Chairman of Jowett Cars and then in 1960 became the Chairman of Gordon Keeble Cars. His time with Gordon Keeble will be explored in due course.

As if his professional career was not enough, George was also a member of St Marylebone and Holborn Borough Councils, a financial adviser to the New Philharmonic Orchestra, a member of the governing body of Bedales School and the Joint Treasurer of the Fabian Society. He also stood, unsuccessfully, as a Labour candidate for West Woolwich during the 1935 election.

George took part in a variety of sports though his son David describes sailing as having been the major sport for

most of his father's life. George had been taught to sail by his Uncle Joe at Kinsale in Ireland and started taking it seriously in the 1930s when he bought a fast boat and a small house in Old Bursledon and began racing. Over the years he used a variety of boats and enjoyed many a race in the Solent. At Eton he also took the role of Cox for the College rowing team. In George's memoirs he remembered with humour that in 1917 the Captain of the school recorded in the College annals, 'A.G. Wansbrough – a moderate Cox, with a loud inaudible voice. Thinks he is a superb Cox.' In 1925 George was part of the winning Cambridge team at the Boat Race though it was a rather, 'hollow victory' because the Oxford team had sunk at Hammersmith Bridge. At Cheam and Eton he boxed with some success, which he put down to an, 'elevated threshold to pain' and a, 'lack of sensitiveness.' He boxed for Eton as a featherweight and the only time he was knocked out was by a heavyweight from his own College. In the years after the Second World War George frequently joined the Hampshire Hounds on Saturdays for a days hunting. He thought himself a, 'poor horseman and timid' but found immense pleasure in clearing the jumps, taking a long walk home and enjoying the delight of, 'a warm bath for one's tired but joyous body.'

In 1928, at the age of 24, George married Elizabeth Bertha Lewis, seven years his senior. Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Sir George Lewis, the distinguished solicitor and friend of Edward VII. They had two children: Miriam and Joseph. Miriam read History at Oxford University and then pursued an academic career. She married and had five children. Joseph was educated at Ampleforth Abbey, Oxford University and then studied in Fribourg, Jerusalem and Rome. He is a monk and biblical scholar and is titled The Very Reverend Dom Henry Wansbrough.

George and Elizabeth's marriage broke down and they divorced in 1938. The following year George married Barbara Kathleen Rawdon MacNamara, at Winchester. In 1942 their son, David George Rawson Wansbrough, was born. David studied at West Downs School, Winchester and read engineering at Cambridge University. He has inherited his father's passion and skill for sailing and also his interest in cars. George and Barbara's marriage ended and in due course they obtained a divorce. In March 1954 George was hunting with the Hampshire Hounds at Marelands in Bentley, Hampshire. At the end of the day he met Sylvia Nancy Joy, a daughter of the hosts; they fell into conversation and married the following year. David described his father's marriage to Nancy as; 'blissfully happy.'

Nancy was born on 22 July 1915, in London. Her father, Frank Joy, was the Headmaster of Aysgarth School in Yorkshire. Between 1908 and 1912 he played cricket for Somerset and during the First World War he served as a Captain and was mentioned in despatches. Her mother was Mona Constance Annabel Anderson, the daughter of Revd David Anderson, Prebendary of St. Paul's. Nancy was educated at Aysgarth School, Downe House and then read PPE at Somerville College, Oxford. During the Second World War she carried out intelligence work connected to Bletchley Park and also joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. After the war she worked for J. Lyons & Co. as a Personnel Officer and went on to set up the Covent Garden Bureau. In Nancy's time this employment agency found employment for two hundred people each week and is still operating today.



Nancy, second from left, at Hinton House 1960s, courtesy of David Wansbrough

The work that Nancy was most famous for was in the field of mental health and the role of returning to work in the rehabilitation process. She published four books on the subject, was a research fellow at the University of

Southampton and established both the British Institute for Industrial Therapy and the Southampton Industrial Therapy Organisation. One of these books, *Open Employment after Mental Illness*, resulted in her being awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Southampton when she was 79 years old. Friends describe Nancy as having been socially aware and public minded. They remember her and Alan Whitehead, the former head of Southampton Council, working together to improve the situation of a local group of disabled people.

Like George, Nancy enjoyed sport. She played cricket for England during the 1948-9 tour of Australia. Her average score on tour was thirty, with her highest at ninety, in the position of twelfth man out. She published a book in 1950, entitled *Maiden Over*, which chronicled the history of women in cricket and also her experiences on tour. Later in life she became very interested in religion. This led to her writing two books: *Commit Yourself: Where There's a Will There's a Way* and *Letters to an Atheist*. She was also one of the first lay women to preach in All Saints Church in London.



Members of the Wansbrough family on the steps 1960s, courtesy of David Wansbrough

During the twelve years the Wansbroughs lived in Kings Worthy they were both still working. In 1960 George became involved with the Gordon Keeble GT car. This was a high performance prototype car, designed by Jim Keeble and John Gordon. George tried to use his expertise and connections to arrange for a major manufacturing company to produce the cars but eventually had to use his own money to produce them on a smaller scale. The factory was located on the current site of Southampton Airport and the management and administration of the business was carried out at Hinton House. George's secretary, Mary Wright, sat at a partner's desk with the lady who did the accounts, in an office just off the Kitchen. George's son, David, had just completed his degree in Engineering and joined the company for a year. Meetings were held which David described as, 'usually long, robust and sometimes heated, as all concerned were determined personalities with strong and frequently differing views. So I learned a lot!' Despite the passion of George and the team the production of the cars was not viable and the company was liquidated in 1965.



Parish Fete 1960s, courtesy of David Wansbrough

The Wansbroughs were described as leading figures in the community and pillars of the Church. The Bonseys felt that the village did not know what it lost when George and Nancy moved to Otterbourne. The annual church fete was held in the grounds of Hinton House. Mr Cannons, the gardener, was involved in getting everything ready and Gerald Lawrence remembers George emerging from the Snug to officially open the fete. At one of the fetes Nancy informed the young people of the village that they would be welcome to use the tennis courts though they seemed more interested in going to Winchester than spending time in the village.

Within the village the Wansbroughs were close friends with the Bonseys and also the Gibsons of Northleigh. The Bonseys describe Nancy as robust and sporty and concerned for the underdog and George as a charismatic, charming, courteous gentleman in a style that one doesn't come across now. They enjoyed entertaining and George was always anxious that his guests were comfortable. Bryan Kemp, who delivered newspapers to the Wansbroughs, recalls the generous ten bob Christmas tip that George used to give him. George was also known for his eccentric side. Mary Wright remembers how George would think nothing of hopping into the car to go to the Post Office wearing his nightshirt, dressing gown and nightcap. This is reminiscent of his younger days when he first moved to a flat near Shepherd Market in London after completing his degree. One of the advantages was that he and his flatmate, '...could shop in Shepherd Market, even on Sunday, in our dressing gowns. It suited us well...'

George's sister Denise died in 1934 but Richeldis and Rosamond were regular visitors to Hinton House. Neither married, though Richeldis adopted a boy called Richard from a Barnardo's Home. She was a keen photographer and also wrote a book *Tale of Milton Abbas* in 1975 about the village that she lived in for many years. She died, aged 87, in 1990. Rosamond had trained as a Nurse and Dietician and worked at St Thomas' Hospital and overseas. She lived in the second floor flat at Hinton House between 1967 and 1970. By this time one of her arms was permanently in a sling owing to arthritis and/or the side effects of a pioneering medical treatment, possibly x-rays or radiotherapy. Before she died in 1978, aged 72, she was living in Dalzell on Worthy Road.

Domestic help was initially provided by Mr and Mrs Harkay. Frigyes 'Fritz' Harkay and Margit Barkovits had come to England during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. They married in Chelsea and had two children: Peter and Eve. The family moved to Hinton House at the same time or shortly after the Wansbroughs bought it in 1959. Fritz left soon after but Margit remained in post as a Housekeeper/Cook until the mid-1960s when she left to open a residential care home for the elderly in Winchester.

The Wansbroughs then employed Mr and Mrs Cannons. Mr Cannons was responsible for stoking the big solid fuel Aga and did the gardening while Mrs Cannons did the cleaning. They lived in the Gardener's Cottage and then North Cottage. Ingrid Clifford remembers that Mrs Cannons was still living there when she moved into the Gardener's Cottage in 1981. Further help was provided by Maureen Daws who lived on the Springvale housing estate.



Mr Cannons 1960s, courtesy of David Wansbrough

David Wansbrough frequently stayed at Hinton House as a young man and remembers much of the main family part of the house. The large bow windowed room at the front of the house was the Dining Room, the middle room was the Snug and the other large bow windowed room was the Sitting Room. Mary Wright described it as, 'a gracious lounge, with a fire place, which looked over the gardens.' Adjoining the Sitting Room was George's study and somewhere near the Study was the W.C. The Conservatory had been removed before the Wansbroughs lived there. Andrew Joy, Nancy's nephew, was a young boy when he visited so he does not remember much about the house however he does recall that one of the downstairs rooms had a large carpet which matched the Siamese cats that the Wansbroughs kept. The Bonseys remember a Canneletto, or a reproduction, being among the lovely pictures hung on the walls. In the north side of the house was the Kitchen in which everyone would sit around a large table drinking coffee. Off the Kitchen was Mary Wright's office, the Scullery and access to a back yard and vegetable garden.

The two large bow windowed rooms upstairs were the Master Bedroom and main spare room. The room between was used as a Dressing Room. Above the Study and Entrance Hall were bathrooms. The area above the Kitchen/domestic offices was used by the Harkays when they were in residence. The Attic rooms were a separate flat which was initially inhabited by a woman called Olive and latterly by George's sister Rosamond.

Though it was a grand house, it was not without its discomforts. Mary Wright remembers the Aga being inadequate to heat the house and the leaking domed window in the roof which required the use of buckets to catch the drips. In 1971 the Wansbroughs sold Hinton House to Hampshire County Council for £65,000 and moved to Udimore Cottage, Otterbourne. George died, aged 75, on 14 July 1979 and was buried at South Warnborough after a service at St. Mary's Church. He passed two overlapping sets of memoirs in typescript to his son David. They are a fascinating read and will hopefully be published one day. Nancy survived George by eighteen years. She died of a stroke, aged 82, on 13 August 1997 and her funeral took place in Bentley.

Hampshire County Council & Kings Worthy Primary School

Initially Hampshire County Council used Hinton House for the storage of library books. Vivien Cunningham worked for the County Library until 1974 and frequently visited Hinton House to collect books. The house was somewhat neglected though the Attic flat was let out.

In the late 1970s the first floor and Attic were leased to MARC3, an archaeological group, for space to examine their finds from a dig near the M3. Ingrid Clifford, who currently lives in the Gardener's Cottage, worked for MARC3 and was based in the Attic rooms. She recalls that, 'like the servants from a previous era, we froze in the winter, baked in the summer and used the back stairs.' Ingrid Clifford and Gerald Lawrence remember the attic flat still being let in the early 1980s. Ann McBain had a friend who worked for Social Services, called Claire, who lived in the flat c. 1982-85.

In 1979 permission was granted to change the use of the house from storage to educational purposes and the downstairs rooms were taken over by Kings Worthy Primary School. The wall between Hinton House grounds

and Kings Worthy Primary School was opened up to allow access to the house through the former kitchen area. MARC3 finished its work and the first floor was taken over by Hampshire Wardrobe. In the 1980s one of the walled gardens was preserved and the walls, which were made of chalk, flint and rubble, were to be protected. The walled gardens were then used as an educational resource. The grounds were once again used for fetes, albeit for the school rather than the church.



Entrance for Kings Worthy Primary School pupils, courtesy of Worthys Local History Group

Mr Lawrence started working as the Caretaker of Kings Worthy Primary School in 1953. He remembers the time that heavy rain caused Hinton House to flood and the teachers, either barefoot or in wellies, wading around the downstairs. Another drain was put in by the entrance near the school to ensure that it did not flood again. A lot of work was done to the house to make it suitable for use by the school and to maintain it. To combat the cold the school had oil tanks put in. Mrs Lawrence remembers the original balustrade being curved and sedate but this was replaced with a plainer square one. There was also a lot of work done to the chimneys.

In 1988 Hampshire Wardrobe left and Kings Worthy School began to use the first floor rooms as classrooms. Planning permission for this had been granted in 1985. Former pupils have fond memories of being taught in Hinton House and one describes it as being, 'one of the defining features of the school.' It is clear that many pupils heard and passed on the rumours about the house being haunted. Some pupils reported seeing a lady wearing a long red dress picking flowers in the garden. Perhaps this was the 'Lady Hinton' mentioned on Facebook on the memory board for Kings Worthy Primary School. Despite the fun aspects of being taught in Hinton House it was not without its limitations. The Head teacher, Mr Kozlowski, reported that by the end of the school's occupation the Cellar and Attic were out of bounds owing to safety concerns. The first floor was also completely inaccessible to people with mobility difficulties as there was no lift.

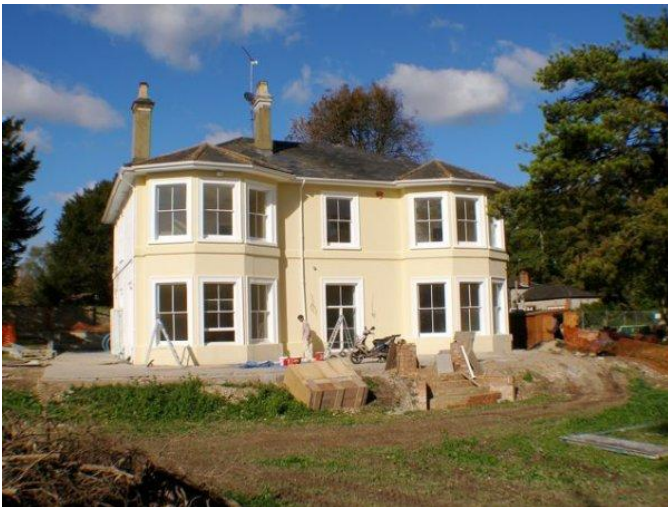
In 1991 Hampshire County Council asked the Education Committee to consider whether they needed to continue using Hinton House. Eventually the decision was made by the Planning Committee to allow the use of Hinton House to change from educational to residential use on 30 May 2007. This therefore enabled the house to be sold to help fund the building of extra classrooms attached to the school. These classrooms were to be, 'constructed to meet modern standards of accessibility and safety which this older house cannot achieve.' The Planning Application Site Plan shows that the land for sale totalled 0.5 hectares and excluded the Gardener's Cottage and garden, the old tennis courts and land to the rear and to the A33. Some of this land will be used as school playing fields and some, described as Hinton Park, has been leased to Kings Worthy Parish Council for 99 years.



Front page of sales particulars, courtesy of Strutt and Parker

Hinton House was advertised with a guide price of £800,000 through Strutt and Parker's Winchester office. They received over one hundred expressions of interest and it was eventually sold in October 2008. Renovation work began soon after with an estimated completion date of September 2009. One of the school governors was reported as saying that, 'It's in a very rickety state - you're going to have to spend around £1.2m to renovate it.' This is hardly surprising as many of its features were original including internal doors, windows and decorative features

Hinton House has been divided into two uses. The south side of the house with the principal rooms will be used by Health Etcetera as a country retreat. The north side will be used as a house.



The South Elevation 2009, courtesy of Health Etcetera



The East Elevation 2009, courtesy of Health Etcetera

Health Etcetera held an Open Day on 7 November which was an opportunity to find out more about their residential living foods centre and view the renovation work. The exterior of the building remains largely unchanged though there will be two extra outbuildings to the front and side of the house. Inside, the house has been sympathetically improved and original features have been preserved. The original staircase remains, with the balustrade which was altered in the 1970s, though it has been rotated 180 degrees. The effect is very impressive.



Ground floor room 2009, courtesy of Health Etcetera



Inner hall 2009, courtesy of Health Etcetera

Hinton House Timeline

Date	Event
Late 1860s	Hinton House was likely to have been built for Reverend John Lake Barton
1871	John Lake Barton was living at Hinton House with his wife, Alethea, one boarder, five scholars and four servants
1874	Alethea Barton died
1877	John Lake Barton died

1877	Wyndham William Knight sold the leasehold to David Way
1878	David Way was living at Hinton House (as reported in White's Directory)
1878	David Way sold the leasehold to Richard Turnor of Kings Worthy House

1880	Capt. Walter Williams died (his wife Grace and children Richard, Herbert, Arthur and Isabel Maude moved from Worthy Park to Hinton House soon after)
1881	Herbert Williams married Caroline 'Lina' Standly
1881	Grace Williams was living at Hinton House with her daughter Isabel Maude, her son Herbert, Herbert's wife Lina and six servants
1883	Arthur (and Herbert) Williams founded the Vulcan Iron Works at Kings Worthy Foundry
1887	Arthur Williams married Isabel Maude Cumberbatch
1888	Arthur Williams died
1889	Vulcan Iron Works was sold to Mr Vacher
1889	Isabel Maude Williams married William Alexander Hunt
1891	Grace Williams was living at Hinton House with her son Richard, her widowed daughter-in-law Isabel Maude and five servants
1891	Isabel Maude Williams nee Cumberbatch (Arthur's widow) married Richard Arthur Pleydell Bouverie Campbell Wyndham
1901	Grace Williams was living at Hinton House with her daughter Isabel Maude Hunt and Isabel's husband William and their children Helen, William, James and Gwendolen, one visitor and five servants
By 1908	The Hunt family had moved to Headbourne Worthy House
1908	Isabel Maude Hunt nee Williams died
1908	Grace Williams died
1908	Hinton House sold

1909	Col P. Warren had a new drainage system installed at Hinton House
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1911	Col Bryce Stewart, his wife Georgie Gholson Stewart and four servants were living at Hinton House
1911	Their son, Bryce Stewart, was living at Christowe House, Cheltenham College with James Hunt (grandson of Grace Williams)
1912	Leasehold of Hinton House was sold to Col Bryce Stewart
1914	Young Bryce Stewart arrived in France with the B.E.F.
1915	Young Bryce Stewart wounded at Ypres and convalesced at Hinton House
1916	Young Bryce Stewart killed in Mesopotamia, during the relief of Kut
1916	James Hunt killed at Bois de Fourneaux, France
1921	Col Stewart had Hinton Cottage built
1936	Death of Col Bryce Stewart
1940	Death of Georgie Gholson Stewart

1945	Bunny Thornton , one of the WRENS working at Worthy Down, quartered at Hinton House with 40-50 others
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1946	Leasehold of Hinton House sold to Col Ernest Arthur Hunter Fell, his wife Sophie and his daughter Joan
1958	Freehold of Hinton House sold to the Fell family
1959	Death of Col Fell, Mrs Fell moved into North Cottage

1959	Freehold of Hinton House sold by the Fell family to George and Nancy Wansbrough
1960	George became involved with Gordon Keeble Cars
1965	Gordon Keeble Cars liquidated
1971	The Wansbroughs sold Hinton House to Hampshire County Council
1979	Death of George Wansbrough
1997	Death of Nancy Wansbrough

1970s	Hampshire County Council leased part of Hinton House to the archaeological dig MARC3
1980s	First floor rooms were used by Hampshire Wardrobe
1980s	Ground floor rooms were used by Kings Worthy Primary School
1988/9	Hampshire Wardrobe left, the first floor was used by Kings Worthy Primary School
2000	An application to have Hinton House listed was rejected
2007	Planning Committee agreed that Hinton House should be sold

2008/9	The new owners renovated Hinton House. Its new use is a house and also a retreat for their company Health Etcetera
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