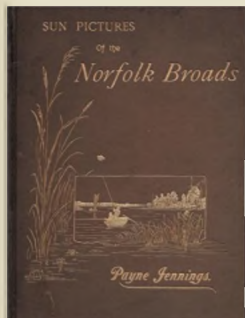


Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 61

John Payne Jennings 1843 - 1926 - Photographer



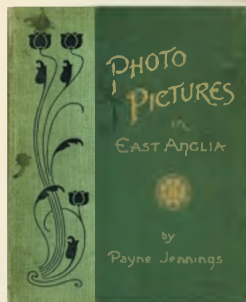
John Payne Jennings was the son of William John Jennings who came to Ashted sometime around 1880 with his family. Following the death of Mary Howard, who owned most of Ashted, in 1877 and severe agricultural depression at the time, the land was sold in smaller areas in 1879. By 1881 a large house 'Meadowbank' had been built with records showing William at 'Meadow Bank' in 1882.

John Payne Jennings lived at Gayton House, Park Road, off what is now Greville Park Avenue and was an excellent photographer. An example of his work is 'Sun Pictures of the Norfolk Broads'. The book, which was reprinted at least 3 times, was first published about 1890. It contains 99 excellent photographs, any of which could be mistaken for a painting. The book concludes with a Great Eastern Railway fares from Liverpool Street or St Pancras to, amongst other places, Norwich, Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Another example is 'Summer Holidays in

North East England'. This time it is for the North Eastern Railway Company. This book contains over 140 of his photographs. He also produced photographs to accompany the works of famous poets such as The Works of Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1889). He was a member of the Royal Photographic Society from 1878 to at least 1887 and a member of Ashted's first Parish Council of 1894. His 1911 book *Some Beauties in Surrey and Sussex* contains a good view taken from the front of Gayton House looking north towards the common, with laurels and poplars framing the scene.

The Ashted base for this commercial activity was the Greville Works where he built his own studio. He became a considerable owner of property and land, including the entire Greville Park Estate. He was still living in Gayton House, in the Estate, at the time of his death in 1926. The house still stands today, though now split into three residential units.

Goff Powell - with acknowledgement to *Bygone Ashted*, *Ashted 'A Village Transformed'* also *A History of Ashted* and various websites



For Information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours contact:

Leatherhead & District Local History Society,
Leatherhead Museum, Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street,
Leatherhead, KT22 8DP

Tel:

01372 386348

mail to:

staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Website:

www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk