

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 64

Ottways Lane, Ashtead



15 Ottways Lane, circa 1916



16 Ottways Lane, 1950s

A noticeable feature of the church registers, manorial court records and rent rolls of Ashtead is the frequency with which certain family names constantly appear through a succession of many generations.

Pride of place must go to the Otway (or Ottway) family. The earliest record dates from 1401, when a William Otway was mentioned in a Collectors Account. Because of the repetition of christian names, it is difficult to be precise, but at least a hundred Ottways can be identified, and the total almost certainly exceeds this.

The spelling of the name has many variations including Otwey, Ottwaie, and Otwaye, and they figure prominently as tenants, jurors, churchwardens, farm labourers (and even poachers). My interest in the family is that I married into it, my mother-in-law's maiden name was Elsie Otway, a direct descendent. Her family can be traced back to Henry Otway who was born in Chertsey in 1685 who came to live in Ashtead where he met and married Hannah Buck in 1712. There are still Ottways living in the district.

Goff Powell - Extracted from Bygone Ashtead, Ashtead 'A Village Transformed' with additions.

For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours

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