



# SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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No. 29.

January 1981

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## CHIEF CONTENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Annual Reports.

The Osbornes, Farmers, and the Bakers, Brickmakers.

B.E. Osborne

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Meeting was held on 29th November, 1980 at Ditchling Village Hall. The following amendment to the Constitution was passed to authorise the election of a Programme Secretary to co-ordinate the activities of the Regional Secretaries in the organisation of the meetings and visits.

Clause 5: The first sentence of this to be amended as follows:

'The direction of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in a Committee comprising the following: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Editor of the Journal, up to four Regional Secretaries as may be found desirable, Programme Secretary and Six other members of the Society'.

Two members of the Committee, Mr W.R. Beswick and Mr. M.J. Smith resigned and Mr D.H. Cox was appointed Programme Secretary. Three Committee vacancies resulted to which Mr E.W. O'Shea, Mr. R.M. Palmer and Air Marshall Sir Frederick Sowrey were duly nominated and unanimously elected. The remaining Officers and Committee members were unanimously re-elected.

The formal minutes of the Meeting are sent with this Newsletter and the Annual reports of the General Secretary, Treasurer and Editor are given below.

The Brick Study Group had arranged an extremely interesting display covering their activities which aroused very considerable interest. In particular the thanks of the Group and, indeed, of the Society are due to Mr. John Upton who, amongst his frequent photographic work for the Society, had gone to immense trouble to take outstanding and detailed pictures of the Piddinghoe Kiln during its dismantling.

After a most luscious tea prepared by Mrs John Upton and very much enjoyed by all present, Mr E.W. Henbury gave an extremely interesting illustrated talk on the restoration of Ifield Mill.

## GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

During the past twelve months the affairs of the Society have continued to prosper and we have been engaged in many activities in the furtherance of Industrial Archaeology in Sussex.

Members of the Society have been engaged in many diverse research and restoration projects and I have endeavoured to give some indication of the range and scope of their work.

Work that is being carried out under the organisation of the Society comprises the Coultershaw Pump, Piddinghoe Kiln and Lowfield Heath Mill.

Coultershaw Pump The wheel and the pump are now in working order and the official opening ceremony took place on 4th July this year, the wheel being restarted by Lord Egremont. The work is now proceeding on the erection of 100-year-old barn kindly given by Lord March and which will ultimately become a Museum and Information Centre.

Piddinghoe Kiln The Society in association with the Lewes Archaeology Group are in the process of rebuilding the cone of the pottery kiln at Piddinghoe. The work is under the direction of Ted O'Shea and the work has involved carefully measuring the existing structure and dismantling it course by course in order to reconstruct it exactly as it was originally built.

Lowfield Heath Mill This mill is on the site of a proposed hypermarket and the Society has been consulted by the developers and has produced a report on its condition and preservation. The development has been the subject of a public enquiry, the result of which is still awaited. The developers have provided material for the temporary weatherproofing of the structure.

Work that has been carried out by members of the Society in association with other Societies and organisations are as follows:

Burton Mill This has now been restored to working order and is grinding for sale to the public. There is still work to be done in connection with the grain feed and electric transformer which is being done by the owner, who is one of our members.

Clayton Mills The main structural timbers of Jill have now been replaced by the Contractors and work is now proceeding with the cladding. Fantail design is complete and the wood for its construction has been bought. Of the £25,000 needed some £18,000 has already been raised to date by the Jack and Jill Preservation Society.

Dean's Mill This mill is being completely renovated by the present owner, one of our members, who hopes to start milling shortly. A working party of the Society members spent a day at the mill early this year cleaning out years of accumulated dirt.

Ifield Mill Work has now been carried out to renew all the windows, floors and internal boarding in preparation for handing the upper floors to the Crawley Museum Society next Spring. The Thames Water Authority has excavated to lower the bed of the tail race to enable the wheel to operate.

Oldlands Mill A Society has been formed to restore the mill which has been allowed to get into a poor state due to neglect over many years. There has been a very successful fund raising effort and work is about to start on restoration.

West Ashling Mill It is likely that the mill will be sold shortly and the Society has been carrying out a survey of the buildings and machinery.

## Visits and Meetings

The Society has had a full programme of visits and meetings throughout the year, as follows:

Industrial Archaeology in Brighton A very interesting talk, illustrated mainly with old photographs of industrial archaeology in Brighton, was given by J.S. Gray and there was an excellent attendance of members and others.

Millward's Farm, Laughton A number of our members visited Millward's Farm, Laughton at the invitation of Mr. Davis Baker to view his collection of steam and oil engines and models.

Mystery Wind and Water Mill Tour of West Sussex Frank Gregory escorted us around a number of wind and water mills in West Sussex, starting with the water pump at Arundel and finishing at Shipley Mill where the wind was just strong enough to turn the machinery.

Chalk Pits Museum and Wey and Arun Canal A good attendance of members were taken round the Chalk Pits Museum at Amberley by Alan Allnutt, one of the Museum Patrons, who gave us a very good explanation of the aims and objects and future hopes of the Museum. In the afternoon we were taken to various sites on the Wey and Arun Canal and were able to inspect work that has been achieved by the Canal Trust.

Coultershaw Pumping Station The last visit of the year was to the Society's own project at Coultershaw where we were able to see the work that has been completed. Unfortunately, due to a cloudburst the previous night, there was too much water to run the wheel. We also had an opportunity to inspect the Ice House at Petworth House and later in the afternoon we went around Burton Mill.

The Society has also been represented at various public exhibitions and in particular one held by the Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeology Society at the Winter Garden concurrently with the Autumn Flower Show. Much interest in our stand was shown by members of the public.

## Prize Essay

The Society has sponsored a Prize Essay for school pupils on the subject of Industrial Archaeology in Sussex. Six applications have been made to date; two have been received. The closing date is 31st December 1980.

## Cowshed at Exceat

The Society has recently given up the lease of the cowshed at Exceat as it was felt that it was unnecessary to retain this accommodation.

## Brick Study Group

This has continued its activities and a separate report will be given by its Chairman, Ted O'Shea.

The Society, the Committee and its Officers have continued throughout the year to promote and encourage Industrial Archaeology activities in Sussex and in this it has surely succeeded.

R.G. MARTIN.

SUSSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure for year ended 30th September 1980.

1978/79	INCOME	£
536.75	Subscriptions	639.68
57.15	Donations	87.05
40.31	Tax Recoveries under Covenants	95.24
78.74	Building Society and Bank Interest	207.64
	Ifield Restoration Fund	725.00
	Piddinghoe Kiln Restoration Fund	800.00
11.00	Coultershaw and Burton	634.67
114.28	Sale of Literature	104.30
7.74	Sale of SIH No.9	99.43
	Sale of SIH No.10	63.10
		<u>3,456.11</u>

	EXPENDITURE	
169.04	Printing and Duplicating	167.73
14.03	Stationery	55.52
50.58	Postage and Telephone	74.35
16.14	Hire of Halls	21.50
11.66	Journals and Subscriptions	18.14
	Insurance	38.50
25.00	Exceat	10.00
131.49	Coultershaw and Burton	940.34
	Piddinghoe Kiln Restoration Fund	634.31
769.46(No.9)	Sussex Industrial History No.10	394.00
71.27	Miscellaneous	34.62
		<u>2,389.01</u>

Balance in Hand at 30th September 1979	1,292.50
Income	<u>3,456.11</u>

	4,748.61
Expenditure	<u>2,389.01</u>

ASSETS

	Current Account, Lloyds, Kemp Town	70.23
	Current Account, Lloyds, Chichester	8.24
	Deposit Account, Lloyds, Kemp Town	1,054.44
	Deposit Account, Lloyds, Chichester	436.56
	Deposit Account, Lloyds, Crawley	790.13
		<u>2,359.60</u>

FUNDS

36.65	General Fund	321.98
	Paul Adorian Prize Fund	50.00
850.85	Coultershaw Restoration Fund	626.80
	Ifield Restoration Fund	790.13
	Piddinghoe Kiln Restoration Fund	165.69
<u>405.00</u>	Life Membership Fund	<u>405.00</u>
1,292.50		2,359.60

I have examined the books and vouchers for the year ended 30th September 1980, and certify that the accounts submitted are in accordance therewith.

K.W. SUCKLING, Hon.Auditor,  
17th November 1980

## TREASURER'S REPORT

It is a great pleasure to report that the assets of your Society are nearly double the figures of a year ago. This is partly due to specific funds which are set aside for certain projects but even so it is gratifying that our General Fund stands at £321 as against £36 a year ago and your Committee is pleased to confirm that it will not be necessary to make any increase in the level of our subscriptions, at least for the next year.

In the year under review our funds have benefited in particular from three factors. First, we have received two years tax relief on subscriptions paid under Covenants and I would stress the value to us of these and would ask any member who has not completed one of these to consider doing so. Secondly, high interest rates have produced a much increased income from our Deposit accounts. And thirdly we were able to produce Sussex Industrial History No. 10 at a much reduced cost compared with the previous year.

New members are very welcome and during last year we had 25 so your Society continues to grow.

J.M.H. BEVAN

## EDITOR'S REPORT

The customary four Newsletters were issued during the year, each comprising 8 to 12 pages. The Editor thanks the many contributors both of short articles which add greatly to the interest and for the News Items which, however trivial, provide an essential means of communication between the Members of such a geographically widespread Society. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Lawrence Stevens for her work in typing and duplicating the manuscripts.

Rising costs are, of course, a continuing problem. Previously I have made a request for used envelopes in good enough condition for re-use which has made some saving. This year, in view of the still further increase in postal charges, I ask for more volunteers for delivery by hand.

The 10th issue of Sussex Industrial History was published in April. The necessary typing was again done by Mrs Upton, with assistance from Mr. John Upton in proof reading and the Society is very grateful for their help. To minimise costs a different printer was employed - although the standard was not quite up to that of the previous issues it was considered to be entirely adequate. The Editor again thanks the contributors who made the Journal practicable and well worth while.

Work is proceeding on Sussex Industrial History No. 11 which it is intended to publish next April.

E. O. TAYLOR

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## GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS

Electrical Exhibition at Worthing To mark the 80th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Worthing Electricity Supply an exhibition will be opened in the Town Museum and the Central Library on 21st September 1981. It will include trade stands and displays, seminars and conferences, demonstrations, film shows, talks, school and college projects and other relevant items covering three main periods - The Past, The Present and The Future.

It is hoped that the Society will be able to assist in various ways and Members are requested to keep a look-out for any vintage electrical machinery, artefacts and letters or other printed matter that may be of interest. The Chairman and Exhibition Co-ordinator, who will welcome the offer of any appropriate exhibits or suggestions, is Mr Alan Morris, 27 Courtlands Close, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, BN12 4BT (Tel: Worthing 503062).

Sussex Archaeological Society - Historical Conference, 1981. The Society's first annual historical conference will be held on Saturday 4th April 1981 at the Priory Middle School, Mountfield Road, Lewes. The theme will be 'Sussex in the Eighteenth Century' and the emphasis will be upon changes which occurred during this important period in the county's history. Six lectures will cover agriculture, architecture, population, transport and trade, and an aspect of county politics. It is hoped that everyone who is interested in the history of their county will wish to come whether or not they are members of the Society. Details and application forms for tickets (with a stamped addressed envelope please) may be obtained from Dr Sue Farrant, 36 Brangwyn Drive, Patcham, Brighton, BN1 8XD.

Industrial Archaeology in Belgium Although we are a Sussex Society it is desirable that we should occasionally look further afield and Dr Edwin Course of the Southampton University Archaeology Group has recently sent an account of a week's field trip by their members to explore the industrial archaeology of Flanders.

Although much effort has been devoted to preserving the country's Medieval history it is only within the last ten years that serious attention has been paid to industrial history; just over two years ago the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Industriële Archaeologie (V.V.I.A.) was formed to stimulate interest in the subject.

Windmills are a common feature of the landscape but in very many cases the machinery is lacking or is inoperable; eighteen are, however, being restored while negotiations are in progress for twenty five more. Breweries are also prevalent, those in the rural areas generally being of greater archaeological interest as they are frequently attached to a farm which provides some of the ingredients.

The cotton industry of Ghent, brickmaking around the Rupel river, the docks at Antwerp, the coal mines in the Limburg region, the Tramway Museum at Schepdaal as well as much industrial housing provided many interesting relics of Belgium's industrial revolution.

The six-page account of the field trip can be loaned to any Member on application to the Editor. E.O.T.

Ice Houses A study of Ice Houses is being made by Mr R. Martin our General Secretary and he would be very pleased to have information regarding any such houses existing or known to have existed in the past in the Sussex area.

Postal Costs The Society is very grateful to those members who kindly deliver some of the Newsletters and Histories by hand. To economise on the heavy postal costs the Editor would like to extend this procedure. A list of the Sussex members whose deliveries have hitherto been by post is included in this Newsletter; the Editor would be very pleased if any member who could easily and economically deliver any one or more of these by hand would return the list to him appropriately marked.

A.I.A. Conference The Annual Conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology (A.I.A.) was held at Liverpool this year and was attended by your Chairman and Ian Dean, Director of the Chalk Pits Museum. Liverpool had been chosen as the venue to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Manchester and Liverpool Railway on 15th September 1830. Our hosts were the North Western Society for Industrial Archaeology whose recent excavations at the original terminus had exposed the foundations of the Moorish Arch and the Engine House as well as the pulleys and wheel pits for the rope haulage up from Lime Street. We had a most interesting visit to these excavations and also to the present Edge Hill Station which, built in 1836, is a Listed Building and has been sympathetically restored to its original appearance by British Rail.

A number of other visits had been arranged by our hosts after the week-end Conference was over. These included the Merseyside Maritime Museum near Albert Dock; a walk through Birkenhead Docks and the ferry terminus; a tour of the Wirral covering an old lighthouse, Bidstone Tower Mill, Port Sunlight and the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum; the Sankey Canal; Industrial Deeside; Garston Docks.

Lectures were given on - I.A. of Merseyside; the Maritime Museum; the Liverpool and Manchester Railway and the Rolt Memorial Lecture on 'The Impact of Railways on the Victorian Age'. There was also a Reception at the County Museum where 'The Rocket' (the original not a replica) was on display. In addition there were the usual contributions from members describing work in the I.A. field carried out in many parts of the country during the last year.

Altogether a very busy, energetic and worth-while visit to Merseyside.

A.J.H.

Hastings Museum Mr. D.C. Devenish, Curator of the Museum writes to say that his projected re-arrangement of the Wealden Ironwork Room is expected to be completed before the end of 1981. He would, however be very happy to see any member of our Society who may care to call to discuss the project.

Ebernoe Common Brick Works SU 979274. As a result of the purchase of the surrounding woodland by the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation it is now possible for work to proceed on the small Ebernoe brick works which is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. The remains are especially important because they include a complete updraught kiln with twin stoke holes dating to the late 18th century.

A start has been made on removal of vegetation, restoration and recording, under the guidance of the West Sussex County Archaeologist, Mr Fred Aldsworth. It is very much hoped that more members of the Society will join the one or two already assisting him. Further details may be obtained either from the West Sussex Secretary or direct from Mr Aldsworth, Chichester 785100 ext. 556 or Chichester 782904 (home).

Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley The layout of the Museum is being substantially modified to increase the size and attractiveness of the display for the 1981 season. Working parties will be operating on the following dates and they urgently need more help. Members who can join then (or work during the week) will be most welcome. Saturdays 24 Jan, 7 Feb, 21 Feb, 7 Mar, 21 Mar, 4 April.

Help is also badly needed with stewarding when the Museum opens on 12 April especially on work days. Details from West Sussex Secretary.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LATEST DATE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF COPY FOR

THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS 11th MARCH.



### FORTHCOMING VISITS

It is regretted that some of the dates given for visits in the latter part of the year must be provisional at this stage. This is mainly due to only recently agreeing to co-ordinate the programme. Full details will be published in the April newsletter or can be obtained by contacting me.

To help in planning the visits it will help me to know numbers expected so a phone call or letter of your intention to attend a visit will be appreciated. Where indicated thus \* a S.A.E. sent to me will be returned with further details of location etc.

As I am new to this position your views would be appreciated on participated, proposed or your suggested visits.

My address: D.H. Cox, 3 Middle Road, Partridge Green, Horsham, W. Sussex,  
RH13 8JA.

Home telephone: Partridge Green (0403) 711137

Work telephone: Crawley (0293) 27777 ext. 3340.

Tue. 17th March 7.30 p.m. Joint Meeting with Chichester Society, talk on "Brickmaking in the Midhurst District" by V. Mitchell at District Council Chamber No.8, North Pallant, Chichester.

\*Sat. 28th March 2.00 p.m. Visit to Ifield Water Mill (TQ 245364) Following the very interesting talk at the A.G.M. by Ted Henbery on the work carried out there, a visit has been arranged to see the mill. The mill is difficult to find so a SAE will enable me to send you a map of how to get there. It is suggested that reading the articles in S.I.H. Nos. 8 & 9 prior to the visit will be of benefit.

Sat. 25th April 2.30 p.m. The Engineerium, Nevill Road, Hove (TQ 285065). This will be a conducted tour preceded by a short talk on the Engineerium by Jonathan Minns. An entrance fee will be payable at group rate.

\*Sat. 16th May 2.30 p.m. Remains of Battle Gunpowder Works. Tour by John Upton. Meet at Peppering Eye Farm, approx. 1½ miles SW of Battle (TQ 744139).

Sat. 13th June 10.30 a.m. Mystery Tour of Central Sussex Mills. Once again Frank Gregory has agreed to lead us on this popular type of tour. Start at TQ 327455, Outwood Windmill (Not really in Sussex but well worth a visit).

\*Sat. 18th July 10.30 a.m. Visit to Southampton to Eling Tide Mill at Totton and Southampton Tramcar Restorations. Further details in next newsletter.

Sat. 5th September 10.30 a.m. Working visit to Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley. Come and try your hand at some practical industrial archaeology.

Sat. 26th September 2.30 p.m. Visit plus talk at Worthing Electrical Commemorative Exhibition. D.H.C.

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### RECENT VISITS

Coultershaw Pumping Station and Burton Mill (Saturday October 11th.) Our final visit of 1980, arranged by Mr. A.G. Allnutt was to see two restoration projects in which the Society has been involved. These have been fully reported in the Newsletters and Sussex Industrial History.

At Coultershaw, SU 973194, work on the restoration of the pump and water-wheel is almost complete but unfortunately, due to heavy rain the previous day, it was not possible to see it in operation.

By kind permission of Lord Egremont we then inspected the Ice House at Petworth (SU 976222). This consists of three irregularly-shaped chambers built in brick back to back about 20 feet deep. It is hoped later to return and fully survey the chambers. They were, of course, used to store ice for Petworth House.



After lunch we re-assembled at Burton Mill (SU 979180) where our member Mrs Ann Mills produces stone ground flour. It was most interesting to see traditional grinding powered by a 1929 turbine, with modern grain storage and elevating equipment. The home-made rolls and cakes made by Mrs Mills with stone-ground flour also "went down well". J.S.F.B.

Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley, and the Wey and Arun Canal (Saturday September 20th)  
Twenty-four members and friends attended this visit to the Southern Industrial History Centre situated in the Amberley Chalk Pits. Lime (chalk burned at 900°C) was much used in the nineteenth century as a fertilizer and for building mortar. Although there is one reference to lime burning at Amberley in the middle ages, the first positive evidence is the census of 1841 which lists a number of limeburners who transported their product by river and sea. The coming of the railway in 1863 brought a further expansion and by 1880 John Pepper had bought out all the other limeburners, installed his own railway system, linked to the main line and continued trading as Pepper & Sons until the 1960's. The site was eventually bought by West Sussex County Council in 1974 and leased to the Southern Industrial History Trust.

The visit commenced with an Audio-Visual presentation depicting the history of the site and a look at the exhibition and storage areas.

All of the plant and machinery had been disposed prior to purchase by W.S.C.C., the only remains of the limeburning activities being the kilns which are of two types - the continuous bottle type which would produce about 6 tons of lime per day, and a De Wit Downdraught kiln which consists of 18 chambers built as two groups of nine back to back, installed in 1908. The exact method of operation is being researched by schools in Belgium, providing records have not been destroyed during the two world wars. Whatever their method of operation it was obviously unsatisfactory because by 1911 they were blocked off and four bottle kilns inserted in the east side.

Current projects were then viewed including the drying shed from Petersfield Brickworks which will house the brickworks display, the progress of the narrow gauge railway, the Robey engine from Littlehampton Sewage Works which will eventually be housed in a reconstruction of its original engine house using the original fabric other than the bricks; the reconstruction of the bugging shed near the De Wit kilns which will house the Concrete Society's exhibition next year. Future projects include a "road" from Roman times to the Motorway era showing the various modes of construction and lined with the appropriate coachhouse or garage; the setting up of a printing shop; machine shop and the Hurst Green foundry. There is an enormous amount of work to do and the next few years will be vital otherwise it could become another dumping ground for industrial relics of no real significance.

Our thanks were given to our guide Alan Allnutt assisted by Gerry Nutbeam for a fascinating morning.

After lunch we re-assembled at Newbridge (TQ 069260) for our visit to the Wey and Arun Canal. By 1816 the rivers Arun and Wey had been connected by canal and this canal with its 23 miles of waterway and 26 locks is under restoration by the Wey and Arun Canal Trust. They have concentrated their efforts in the Newbridge area and a 3-mile walk upstream showed much of interest. The lifting bridge near Newbridge was provided to satisfy the requirement of a local landowner whose land is bisected by the canal and although this is easily operated, using one hand, it is marred by its overall height, about 14'0" (stipulated by the landowner). Rowner lock, TQ 069271) was the first project tackled by the trust some ten years ago and this was compared with the current project of Malham Lock (TQ 668288) and our guide Malcolm Saker provided an interesting and informative account of the work involved. J.S.F.B.

## PUBLICATIONS

Sussex Bibliography 1979 From Public Libraries in Sussex, 60p or by post from East Sussex County Library, 44 St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1SQ, 75p.

This bibliography of 50 pp was compiled at Brighton Library by Eileen Hollingdale from information supplied by librarians and archivists in East and West Sussex. It attempts, and indeed appears to have succeeded, in listing, with appropriate references all the articles concerning Sussex that have been published in 1979; the items range from major books such as 'Windmills in Sussex' by Martin Brunnarius down to relatively minor items that have appeared in our own Newsletters. The 300 or so references are listed firstly according to their subject matter, secondly according to the geographical location of the item concerned and, finally, according to the authors. Research workers and other should thus have no difficulty in locating references relating to their own interests and the compiler is to be congratulated in having so painstakingly produced this valuable addition to the earlier Bibliographies published by the East Sussex County Library. E.O.T.

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THE OSBORN'S, FARMERS FROM TELSCOMBE AND  
THE BAKERS, BRICKMAKERS, FROM PIDDINGHOE

by B.E. Osborne

William Osborn, yeoman farmer never dreamt that his great, great, great grandson would one day be documenting his settling in Telscombe during the early 19th century, or for that matter that his only daughter Mary Ann would marry into the Piddinghoe family of Bakers, renowned locally for their brick and tile making.

William Osborn's first son was born in Cuckfield in 1812 when William was farming Lucas's near what is now Haywards Heath. The first son William Souter Osborn was joined in 1816 by a second son John Souter Osborn, both sons having the Christian name Souter after William's second wife, their mother, Grace Souter who he married in 1812 in East Chilmington.

Two years later in 1818, in Keymer, William's third and last child, was born, a daughter, Mary Ann Souter Osborn.

The family moved to Telscombe and resided at New Barn Farm, later to become known as Hoddon Farm, and later still Hoddern Farm.

By 1841, William Souter the elder son had married the daughter of a local family, the Verralls. Mary his new wife, was 25 in 1841 and they lived at Telscombe but apart from the main family. William Osborn the father had by this time died and was buried in Telscombe Church yard in 1838 where his grave can still be seen.

The family continued at Hoddon with John Souter leaving to farm in East Dean at Hodcomb in the mid-1840's. Also Mary Ann left home to marry Edward Baker of Piddinghoe in 1845. William Souter continued to farm Hoddon, as it was by then named, until 1863 when he also moved to East Dean with his family, where they farmed the Gore until his death in 1885.

Returning to Mary Ann Souter Osborn and her marriage to Edward Baker in 1845, it is interesting to note that this coincided with Edward becoming involved to a major extent with his father's brick and tile works at Piddinghoe at the age of 26. The reason for this was the death of his father, also an Edward Baker, in 1845 at the age of 72. His grave together with that of his wife Winifred who died in 1858 aged 78, can be seen in Piddinghoe churchyard.

After lunch we re-assembled at Burton Mill (SU 979180) where our member Mrs Ann Mills produces stone ground flour. It was most interesting to see traditional grinding powered by a 1929 turbine, with modern grain storage and elevating equipment. The home-made rolls and cakes made by Mrs Mills with stone-ground flour also "went down well". J.S.F.B.

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This bibliography of 50 pp was compiled at Brighton Library by Eileen Hollingdale from information supplied by librarians and archivists in East and West Sussex. It attempts, and indeed appears to have succeeded, in listing, with appropriate references all the articles concerning Sussex that have been published in 1979; the items range from major books such as 'Windmills in Sussex' by Martin Brunnarius down to relatively minor items that have appeared in our own Newsletters. The 300 or so references are listed firstly according to their subject matter, secondly according to the geographical location of the item concerned and, finally, according to the authors. Research workers and other should thus have no difficulty in locating references relating to their own interests and the compiler is to be congratulated in having so painstakingly produced this valuable addition to the earlier Bibliographies published by the East Sussex County Library. E.O.T.

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THE OSBORN'S, FARMERS FROM TELSCOMBE AND  
THE BAKERS, BRICKMAKERS, FROM PIDDINGHOE

by B.E. Osborne

William Osborn, yeoman farmer never dreamt that his great, great, great grandson would one day be documenting his settling in Telscombe during the early 19th century, or for that matter that his only daughter Mary Ann would marry into the Piddinghoe family of Bakers, renowned locally for their brick and tile making.

William Osborn's first son was born in Cuckfield in 1812 when William was farming Lucas's near what is now Haywards Heath. The first son William Souter Osborn was joined in 1816 by a second son John Souter Osborn, both sons having the Christian name Souter after William's second wife, their mother, Grace Souter who he married in 1812 in East Chiltington.

Two years later in 1818, in Keymer, William's third and last child, was born, a daughter, Mary Ann Souter Osborn.

The family moved to Telscombe and resided at New Barn Farm, later to become known as Hoddon Farm, and later still Hoddern Farm.

By 1841, William Souter the elder son had married the daughter of a local family, the Verralls. Mary his new wife, was 25 in 1841 and they lived at Telscombe but apart from the main family. William Osborn the father had by this time died and was buried in Telscombe Church yard in 1838 where his grave can still be seen.

The family continued at Hoddon with John Souter leaving to farm in East Dean at Hodcomb in the mid-1840's. Also Mary Ann left home to marry Edward Baker of Piddinghoe in 1845. William Souter continued to farm Hoddon, as it was by then named, until 1863 when he also moved to East Dean with his family, where they farmed the Gore until his death in 1885.

Returning to Mary Ann Souter Osborn and her marriage to Edward Baker in 1845, it is interesting to note that this coincided with Edward becoming involved to a major extent with his father's brick and tile works at Piddinghoe at the age of 26. The reason for this was the death of his father, also an Edward Baker, in 1845 at the age of 72. His grave together with that of his wife Winifred who died in 1858 aged 78, can be seen in Piddinghoe churchyard.

The Baker's brick and tile works are still traceable and the remains can be seen at TQ 433031. The earliest reference that I can find however, to this early industry is in 1813 when Edward Baker senior was advertising for brickmakers to work at Piddinghoe where he was in a position to offer accommodation as well as employment. By the 1820's local directories were describing him as a brickmaker and potter, but he is later described in 1839 as a brickmaker and brown potter.

The 1841 census reveals that Edward Baker senior was living in Rodmell with his family and classified as a publican. His son was apparently keeping the business going and is described as a potter.

By 1851 Edward the son and his wife Mary Ann were living in Piddinghoe with his mother Winifred and three daughters, Winifred aged 4, Elizabeth 3, and Sarah Jane 1. Edward however, attempted to sell the business in this year and an advertisement duly appeared in the Sussex Agricultural Express in June 1851. In this the property was described as "a very desirable brickyard with a small cottage and a most valuable brook containing about 1½ acres and affording an excellent supply of earth for making white bricks". Three kilns, sheds etc. are also mentioned.

Edward did not in fact dispose of the business but instead diversified into whiting and burnt lime. The site is unusual in Sussex in having a supply of white firing clay and a supply of chalk.

Kelly's directory of Sussex for 1857 described Edward Baker as a white and red brick, tile, drain pipe and whiting manufacturer and coal merchant indicating the extent of his diversification doubtless as the competition brought about by improved transport placed pressures on his business.

The site of the works was convenient for water transport being situated on the River Ouse where it had its own wharf, thus providing communication with Lewes and Newhaven. No doubt water transport was used for the provision of raw materials as well as the despatch of finished goods. A tramway was also constructed for clay extraction from a large pit south of the village.

By 1861, Edward had had two further children, a son Edward making a third generation of Edward Bakers. The son was born in 1854 in Piddinghoe. He also had a fourth daughter Mary Ann and was employing six men at this time.

The firm of Jefferey and Baker (the latter no direct relative of Edward) was operating at this time in Rodmell. They were wheelwrights and general suppliers and details of this business are documented in M. Beswicks "From Ox-Cart to Steam Engine" in the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Journal 1980. Two ledgers survive from this firm and are in the possession of Mr Frank Dean of Rodmell. In these it is interesting to note the details of the Edward Baker account for the years 1878-1882. Items supplied include "brick moulds, tile moulds, wheel for loading cart, timber and thatching, a new loading cart complete, new body for whiting cart, new tile strike and leathering, ridge tile mould, new axle put into loading cart, 100 brick boards, 2½ days making board for brick kiln, new tail board for loading cart," etc. etc. One particularly significant entry is for May 23rd 1878 where there is a charge recorded of £4 for a "full trimmed coffin for deceased Ann Baker aged 60 years". This was of course his wife, nee Mary Ann Souter Osborn.

After this time the business at Piddinghoe appears to have slowly declined until in 1907 Kelly's directory lists it as whiting manufacturer only.

Today one can easily identify evidence of the Baker family business. The chalk cliffs indicative of the whiting manufacture overlook the remains of the one surviving kiln. The kiln is a conical up-draught type said to be

the last surviving example in the South East. Traces of two other kilns can still be identified on site together with what appears to be the remains of an underfired Scotch brick kiln forming an end to a house. Remains of the levitating tanks for whitening could also be identified until recently.

The surviving kiln was last fired in 1912. It is at present being restored by Mr E. W. O'Shea and team of the Lewes Archaeological Group and I am grateful to both Mr O'Shea and Mrs Beswick of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society for assistance in compiling these notes, together with Frank Dean of Rodmell for access to his ledgers.

#### Sources

Census Returns - County Records Office

Land Tax Returns - County Records Office

From Ox-Cart to Steam Engine by M Beswick - Sussex Industrial History No.9,  
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Parish Registers

Wheelwrights Ledgers 1878, 1880, Jefferey & Baker, Rodmell

"Sussex Potter" Mainwaring Baines

Newsletters Nos. 5 & 8 Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society

Osborn genealogical records

The compiler of the above notes is continuing research into the subjects covered and would welcome further information or likely sources.

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