

It was ever there



Evidence of a Bronze Age settlement was unearthed only recently

Froyle's Early History

The small village of Froyle lies, tucked away, in the north east corner of Hampshire. You might be forgiven for missing it, as you hurry by on the busy dual carriageway A31 between Alton and Farnham, but pause a while and you will discover a rural community, proud of its history, but which is ever looking to the future.

The village is made up of two parts, Upper Froyle, centred around the Church and Manor House, and Lower Froyle, which grew up around the farms.

We know that it has a long history. Stone Age and Bronze Age implements have been found in the area and there are the remains of a Roman Villa at Coldrey on the southern edge of the parish. Some twenty years ago, a dig found evidence of a round barrow, along with a great deal of broken pottery ranging from the Bronze Age to the Romano-British period (around 55 B.C.)

But we will begin with the country's earliest public record, the Domesday Book. The entry for Froyle, translated, reads:-

Froli in NEATHAM HUNDRED.

Land of St Mary's Winchester.

The Abbey itself holds Froli. It was ever there.

Before 1066 it answered for 10 hides, now for 8 hides.

Land for 10 ploughs. In Lordship 3 ploughs.

15 Villeins and 23 smallholders with 8 ploughs.

A Church; 10 slaves; 2 mills at 22s 6d; meadow, 8 acres.

Value before 1066 and later £12; now £15, however it pays £20 of revenue.

Prior to this time Froli was a Royal Manor held by Edward the Confessor "in his own person." His Queen, Editha, held the manor of Alton (Awelton). With the Conquest, Froli came into the hands of William the Conqueror who gave it to the Nuns of St Mary's Abbey, Winchester, known then as Nunnaminster, and it was held by them until the dissolution of the nunnery in 1540.

But let's just go back to that Domesday entry for a moment and look at it in a little more detail. First, the name, 'Froli', as it was then. There are two schools of thought with regard to the meaning of this name. The first is that it derived from Froehyll or Frija's Hill. Frija was the Norse goddess of Love and one of Odin's wives; she protected men's marriages and made them fruitful. If this is the case, then the hill referred to has been suggested as Saintbury, but there is no documented proof that this hill has ever borne any name that would confirm this. The second school of thought, according to the extensive research undertaken by the late Theo Beck is that it comes from Mediaeval English 'frow' translating as 'swift' and Old English 'wiell(e)' - 'spring or stream.'

This 'stream' he sees as "the Ryebridge stream rising in the Combe Field opposite Blundens House and known for generations as 'Newmans Spring' which flows continuously, but at a season of the year becomes 'lavant' and swollen by water gushing from the adjacent ground, floods the stream, overflows the culvert and floods the road with a swiftly flowing stream." Mr Beck also adds, "With reference to Ryebridge Stream, it is interesting to note that in West Sussex the word 'Rithe', Anglo Saxon, is a fountain; well; rivulet. A small stream, usually one occasioned by heavy showers of rain. (A Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect, by the Rev W.D.Parish, 1875)."

But whatever the origin of the name, it is interesting to trace its transition from 'Froli' to 'Froyle'. In 1086, as we have seen, it was Froli; Frolia, 1166; Froila, 1167; Frolia, 1196; Frohill, 1199; Froyles, 1229; Froyle, 1236; Froille, 1236; Froile, 1237-1242; and the Froyle that we are so familiar with came into use around 1316.

By far the largest class of the population at the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book was that of the villeins or villagers; these occupied nearly everywhere the greater part of the lands of the manor, and the lord depended mainly upon their labour and services for carrying out the agricultural work on his estate.

The average holding of a villein in addition to his homestead, the messuage with toft (a place where a house formerly stood) and croft (a small piece of pasture land near a house) in the village, was a virgate or yard-land, being about 30 acres, consisting of a number of acre and half acre strips distributed through three arable fields, generally ten or twenty strips in each field. The distinctive feature of these holdings was that the strips were not collected together in one plot but lay interspersed in the several fields; one in this furlong or shot (shoot), another in that. Hence we have Indentures, like this one in 1760, between William Draper and Adam Blunden, who we shall meet later, which contain pages of references to the fields owned:

".....In Burrowfield thirteen acres and a half dispersedly in eight pieces (to wit) one piece upon Reed by Reed Close one acre; one other piece butting to Bonhams ground two acres; one other piece called the Rainbow acre one acre; one other piece called the White Ditch five acres; one other piece that goes across the way that goes to New Close two acres; one other piece by late Forders half an acre one acre; one other piece near the field Gate half an acre and one other piece butting to Hill Close one acre....."

Looking at Froyle today it is hard for us to visualise that the whole village

consisted of just these three fields at the time of Domesday and for many years to come. But their names are, perhaps, quite familiar to many of us -Combefield, Coxfield and Burrowfield.

But by the 1800s the Enclosure Acts had put an end to this open farming and Froyle looked very different. In the Froyle Archive is a copy of the Tithe Map of 1847, painstakingly traced by a Froyle resident, Mrs Sue Clark, which, along with its accompanying Apportionment Book, gives us a snapshot of the village 153 years ago. We know who all the landowners were and who rented the land from them and there before us are all the names of every field in the parish. In all, there are 478 field names. Many are simply 'cottage with garden' or 'The five acres', but some have interesting names and I have included a few of my favourites. I have also tried to describe the position or modern name.

Lucerne Paddock	Opposite Rose Cottages
Adams	The Bungalows
Hither Cullum Bottom	Opposite Sylvesters
West Stillions	Bottom of the Sheep Drove
Horse Nail	Crest Hill Farm, Well Lane
France Coppice	On Long Sutton parish boundary
Butter field	Opposite the turning to Isington
Yarnham's Foxes	North West of Yarnham's Farm
Hilam Milam	South of Yarnham's Farm



Looking towards the Beeches, from what is now the Recreation Ground. At the time of the Tithe Map these fields were known as 'Flood Piece', 'Butt Piece' and 'Bambrass Down'



Downland on the outskirts of Lower Froyle photographed in 1912. The wooded area to the left was known as 'The Common' until the late 1940s. In the Tithe Map it was 'The Twelve Acres'. The field in the foreground was 'Barland' and the downland with the grazing sheep was 'Murvils'

While the Tithe Map tells us about Froyle 153 years ago, it is the Court Rolls that we turn to for the village's earliest recorded history.

These Court Rolls are the Minutes, if you like, of the Manorial Courts which enforced the customs of the Manor. They were usually held at the Manor House and every male over the age of 12 was obliged to attend. The Court met at least twice a year and its main business was to deal with transfers of land, the management of commons, and the rights of the Lord and his tenants. It also appointed various officials, who we will meet later. Here is just one example of a section from a Court Roll of the Froyle Manor.

“The presentments of the Homage for the Court there houlden the seventh daie of June Anno dom 1647. We present Nicholas Wheeler (and) Robert Vinden for not appearing att the Lords Court on paine of 4d each of them 4d.We order that noe geese shall be kept in the fields or common nor in the lands after the first of August next following on paine of sixpence for everie goose soe taken to be paid by the owners of the said goose....We order that all hogges that goes abroad shall bee Ringed by mid somer next....”

And I wonder what this means:

“We present William Newman.....the turning of the Swattes out of his course from newsom to the spoyling of the hieway”!

The Officers and Servants of the Manor by Theo Beck

“The following descriptions of some of the principal officers who superintended the work of the manor applies to manors generally, Monastic or otherwise, and are mainly drawn from the work of Sir Walter de Henley.

THE STEWARD. The steward’s duty is to hold the Manor Courts and there to enquire if there be any withdrawals of customs, services and rents or of suits to the Lords, courts, markets and mills, and as to alienation of lands. He is also to check the amount of seed required by the reeve for each manor for, under the steward, there may be several manors. On his appointment, he must make himself acquainted with the condition of manorial ploughs and plough teams. He must see that the land is properly arranged, whether on the three field or two field system, and the ploughing regulated accordingly. Besides the manorial ploughs and plough teams, he must know how many tenant or villein ploughs there are, and how often they are bound to help the Lord. He is also to enquire as to the stock in each manor whereof an inventory indented is to be drawn up between him and the reeve, and as to any deficiency of beasts, which he is at once to make good with the Lord’s consent.

THE REEVE. The best husbandman is to be elected by the villeins as reeve, and he is to be responsible for the cultivation of the arable land. He must see that the ploughs are yoked early in the morning - both the demesne and villein ploughs - and that the land is properly ploughed and sown. He is a villein tenant and acts on behalf of the villeins, but is overlooked by the Lord’s bailiff.

THE BAILIFF’S duties are stated to be: To rise early and have the ploughs yoked, then to walk in the fields to see that all is right. He is to inspect the ploughs, whether those of the demesne or the villein or auxiliary ploughs, seeing that they be not unyoked before their day’s work ends, failing which he will be called to account. At sowing time, he and the Reaper must go with the ploughs through the whole day’s work until they have completed their proper quantity of ploughing for the day, which is to be measured and if the ploughman has made any errors or defaults and can make no excuses the Reaper is to see that such faults do not go uncorrected or unpunished.

THE HAYWARD is to be an active and sharp man. He must arise early and look after and go round and keep the woods, corn and meadows and other things belonging to his office, and he is to superintend the sowing. He is to look after the customary tenants that may come and do the work they are bound to do. In hay time he is to overlook the mowers, and in August assemble the reapers and the labourers and see that the corn is properly gathered in. Watch early and late

that nothing be stolen or eaten by beasts and spoilt. In some Manors he attended to the fences and hedges and was answerable for stray cattle which it was his duty to impound. This office was often combined with that of Beadle, the verger of the Manorial Court. He was accustomed to superintend the work in the hay and harvest fields, carrying his rod or verge.

THE PLOUGHMAN is to be a man of intelligence, and should know how to repair broken ploughs and harrows and to till the land as well. He should know how to yoke and drive the oxen without beating or hurting them, and he should forage them well. He must ditch the land so that it may be drained and he must not carry fire into byres for light or warmth, nor have any light there except from a lantern.

THE WAGGONER must know his trade and keep his horses and curry them, and he must not overload, over-work or over-drive them. He must know how to mend the harness and the gear of his wagon, and he shall sleep every night with his horses, as does the Oxherd with his oxen.

THE COWHERD must be skilful, knowing his business and keeping his cows well, and foster the calves from the time of weaning. He must see that he has fine bulls of good breed, pastured with the cows to mate when they will; and no cow to be milked or allowed to suckle her calf after Michaelmas, for the cows will thus become weak, and mate later the next year. Every year from each vaccary the old cows and the barren, and the young that do not promise well, have to be sorted and sold.

THE SWINEHERD should only be kept in manors where swine can be kept in the forest, woods, wastes or marshes, without sustenance from the grange.

THE SHEPHERD must enclose his fold with hurdles and keep it in good repair. He should sleep in the fold, he and his dog, and he should pasture his sheep well, and keep them in forage and watch them well so that they be not killed by dogs, stolen or lost; not let them pasture in bogs or moors to get sickness or disease. He should not leave his sheep to go to fairs, markets, wrestling matches, wakes or the tavern, without putting a good keeper in his place that no harm may arise. The shepherd could be a hired servant but more usually was a tenant who gave his service as rent for his holding with certain allowances being allowed; a lamb or fleece and often had the Lord's fold on his land for twelve days at Christmas for the sake of the manure. He had occasional use of the Lord's plough, fifteen sheep in the Lord's fold and their milk if mother sheep. His wife was dey or mistress of the dairy, and he had to find a milkmaid. Walter of Henley recommends the Lord to watch if the sheep are scared at the approach of the shepherd, for if so

he is no good shepherd.

THE DAIRYMAID should be of good repute, and keep herself clean and know her business well. How to make cheese and salt cheese and to save and keep the vessels of the dairy that it need not be necessary to renew them every year. She should help in the winnowing of the corn when available, and take care of the geese and hens and answer for the returns.

THE TITHING MAN, HEADBOROUGH or CONSTABLE was another of the officers chosen by the tenants themselves at the Court Leet, his duty was to summon fines, arrest vagabonds and nightwalkers, distrane on the goods of defaulters and preserve in his district the King's Peace.

THE ALE-TASTERS or CONNERS were appointed similarly to see that brewers within their district brewed beer of the requisite strength and purity, that they did not sell at excessive price or use false measures and to see the Assize of Beer was not broken in their locality. The Assize of Beer and Beer was a franchise conferred on the Lords of Manors from a very early period, frauds being severely punished.

THE CARPENTER and SMITH were generally tenants who gave their service in exchange for rent. The carpenter had to make a plough and harrow out of his own timber and assist the tenants in making their carts. The smith, in addition to helping the carpenter in making ploughs, was to shoe certain of the Lord's horses. If one died he was allowed the skin for making bellows and a dish of butter to grease them. He had to sharpen the scythe of the mowers in hay time and to bind with iron hoops certain wooden vessels.

THE SURVEYOR OF HEDGES was required to see that the temporary hedges erected at certain seasons around the holdings of the tenants were duly erected and kept in repair. The surveyor of ditches and watercourses had to see that they were kept open and scoured.

THE KEEPER OF THE POUND fulfilled his ancient office as did the Hayward and Woodward, or Woodreeve. Under the rule of the Abbey and extending into post suppression times, the Woodward to the Manor of Froyle was a most important officer and is specifically referred to in Henry VIII grant after the suppression and where the exact rate of this officer's pay is set out."

Having met the Officers of the manor, let us take a look at a typical year in medieval Froyle.

Work in the Manor by Theo Beck

“Michaelmas, the period after harvest, was the natural commencement of the farming year, when new leases were entered upon and the then universal system of husbandry necessitated the sowing of the winter field. The first work was the ploughing of the wheat field while the other two fields lay in stubble. At its completion the sowing of the winter wheat and rye was taken in hand.

The cattle at the completion of the ploughing were brought in from their pastures and stalled in their sheds for the winter, to be watched over by the ploughmen whose duty it was to fill the oxbins with hay and keep them well watered and throw out the manure. The duties of the swineherd at this season was to bring in from the swine pens in the woods all the weaker animals and sows that had littered and move them into the pig sty of the Manor.

The preparation of food for the winter required the slaughtering of cattle and swine and the curing of the carcasses. Threshing was also carried out in the winter, grain, peas and beans were all threshed for which purpose flails were used and the winnowing carried out by hand for which procedure women were often employed. Wheat and rye were the ordinary foodstuffs, malted barley being used for brewing.

February saw the beginning of the main work of the year with the spring ploughing of the second field in preparation for the spring sowing of peas, beans and vetches or barley and oats. The ploughing was the work of the customary tenants covering a period from Candlemas to Easter. The stubble since August reaping had provided the feeding of hens, geese, sheep and other stock. Except in heavy ground, eight oxen would be the normal team. There was a driver and a leader of the team to each plough. In Froyle the ploughing was probably shallow, the rude construction of the plough and the high price of iron would make it unlikely there would be really effectual overturning of the soil or deep ploughing. This would account, together with modern farming practises, for the obliteration of any crop markings or traces of the old strip field pattern.

All tenants were found something to do including work in the Lord's demesne. The Manor possessed a garden, a part given over to pleasure flowers, arbours and an orchard and the equivalent of a vegetable plot, the latter producing leeks, onions and peas; a list of these could be compiled from Bailiffs accounts. Apples were largely grown for cider and references to the latter are found for Froyle.

Two out of the three Common Fields have been dealt with and the Third Common Field is in fallow, and work on it begins in May or June. Any waterlogged parts were ditched to drain off excess water, and the whole area dressed with manure from the cattle pens. Where stiff soils were involved lime was also used and there is

evidence of this at Froyle where many chalk pits of varying size still abound though many of them have been filled in, some at the time when the dual carriageway of the A31 was being constructed.

In the summer months weeding was put in hand and, after Midsummer, washing and the shearing of the sheep was undertaken by those of the tenants best fitted for the task, including the women. Sheep played an important part in the Froyle economy, at least three shepherds being employed in the 13th century, and a fulling mill existed in early times. This was the time when building operations were carried out, each tenant was bound to keep his dwelling in proper repair or ran the risk of being presented and fined at the Manor Court. It was customary for the tenants to be allowed their 'Estovers' in the Lord's woods, permitting the felling of timber and cartage of the same and also a certain allowance was made to the wheelwrights and carpenter for the making of ploughs, carts and tools. From the woods and coppices come the material for the setting up of folds and pens at this time and maintenance of the weirs for the two water mills of the manor and mill-gear.

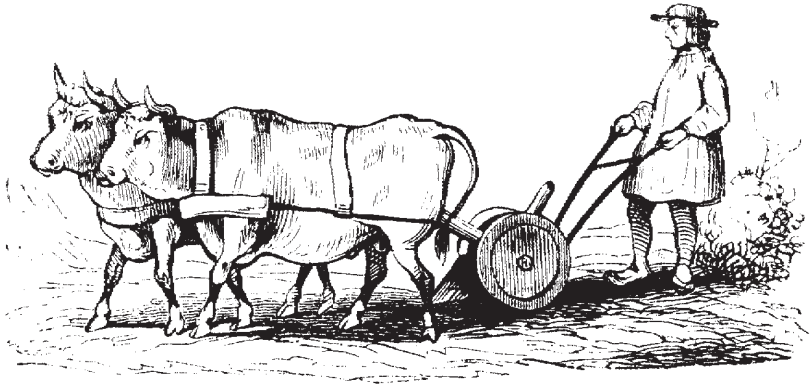
The mill was a vital feature of every estate and at Froyle on the river Wey we have two water mills, Froyle mill and Issinghurst or Isington mill. The mill was generally farmed out by the Lord, the miller taking his toll of the tenants for whom it was compulsory to bring their grain there to be ground.

August, September and October were the important months for gathering in the crops, reaping and mowing were the priorities taking advantage of weather conditions. The hay harvest, of all times in the farming year, is the jolliest, providing the weather holds good. The hay was mowed by the customary tenants as one of their services, assisted by hired labour in cases of urgency. In the old days 'haysil' came second only to harvest in the jollifications of the summer. Barley, oats, peas and beans were also mowed, and these crops having been cleared, the work of the harvest began at the end of July by the reaping of wheat and rye. These were cut rather high on the stalks with sickles leaving the stubble to be mown after the crop was gathered in.

For the celebrations and thanksgiving for harvest home, food, beer and cider were consumed and, during the work, refreshment in certain quantities was allowed, according to the custom of the Manor. The harvesting would take a month to six weeks, according to weather conditions. However the feasters' enjoyment was probably tempered by the fact that the ale which formed the major feature was brewed from malt which they had unwillingly contributed and that they were paying for the (compulsory) privilege of consuming their own produce. Here again Froyle was fortunate in having as its Lord the more kindly disposed Abbess of St Mary's. Tenants on other manors were often less fortunate, for it

was at the hands of the officials, the hosts of the Stewards, bailiffs and the like that the peasants, yeomen and smaller gentry suffered. These men, secure in the protection of a chain of superiors stretching back to some great noble, lived on their neighbours, extorting money from them on every or no pretext.

One never ending and most important duty of the tenants, and constantly referred to in Court Rolls, is hedging, a routine for spring, summer and autumn. The hedging was of two types, permanent hedges and their maintenance and those which had to be cattle proof but of a temporary character, but nevertheless entailed a considerable amount of labour. During the early part of autumn these hedges were completely or partly removed and the cattle were allowed to wander over the stubble. We have noted the relief from monotony at harvest time but the church enjoined relaxation from work at her festivals, for example in harvest a full week before St Mary's Mass (September 8th)"



Two early wise decisions of the Nuns of St Mary's contributed greatly to the stability of the Manor. The first of these was to keep under their close control the best land in the Manor. The second was to allow the tenure of a large proportion of the rest to pass into the possession of two powerful families; the Husseys and the Brocas, thus producing two sub-manors and it is these we will look at first.

Husseys

This is first mentioned in 1262, when a Walter Heuse (Hussey) held the Manor of Husseys, which was described as “a messuage, mill and carucate of land.” The Husseys held the land until at least 1414, when they sold the property, but remained as tenants, as Nicholas Hussey is returned as tenant in 1415, of seven virgates of land and two mills, rent 61/-.

In a Court Roll of 1545 the Manor of Husseys is listed with many others in a marriage settlement between Mary Wriothesely and Sir Richard Lyster, Chief Baron of the King’s Exchequer, who held this manor for a further ten years. On 21st December 1555 he sold Husseys to John Gyfford of Northolt in Middlesex. He, in turn, sold the manor to John Fitzwilliam, of Kingsley, the following year.

On 1st June 1560 Sir William Jephson, who had already purchased the chief Manor of Froyle in 1538 from the Crown following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, also acquired the Manor of Husseys for the sum of four hundred and fifteen pounds “of food and lawful money of England”.

Husseys remained part of the chief Manor until 1652, when it, along with the whole estate, was sold to John and Richard Fiennes, sons of Lord Say and Seale. Lord Say and Seale was the Commander of Cromwell’s Blue Regiment, and, according to his contemporaries, was “to have a hand in all the evils of the time.” They in turn sold Husseys four years later to Bernard Burningham on or about



the 10th May 1656 for a down payment of two thousand one hundred pounds and a firm guarantee of two further yearly payments of £214. The Burningshams were to remain at Husseys until 1906.

The Burningshams of Froyle

The Burningsham family came to Hampshire from Ireland and Peter Burningsham moved into Cattleys Farm in Upper Froyle in 1608, living there until 1612, when he moved to Malms Farm in Binsted, which was adjacent to his fathers land at Stean Farm. On the death of his father in 1620 Peter took over the running of both farms as a business venture until his own sudden death in 1623 as a result of a fall from his horse. He died a wealthy man. Cattleys Farm was purchased by the family and became a key factor in their estate, being in Upper Froyle and opposite Froyle Place, the chief Manor House. It was on the site of Cattleys in 1820 that Thomas Burningsham, Esquire, built Froyle House in a vain attempt to rival the Miller family.

But let's return to Peter's son, Bernard Burningsham, who has just purchased Husseys. At the time of his father's death he was just a small boy of eight, and, according to the Burningsham family historian, Walter Philip Burningsham, writing in 1979, he inherited only 5/-. However, in 1637 he married Ann, the eldest

Froyle House at the turn of the last century. It was built in 1820 on the site of Cattleys Farm



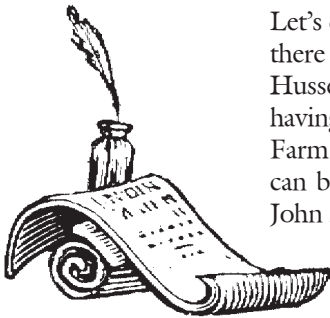
daughter of Henry Wheeler, the owner of the Fulling Mill at Millcourt on the River Wey in Binsted parish. Even so, Mr Burningham believed that Bernard still had trouble in paying the final two instalments for Husseys, because for some reason he did not purchase the manorial rights at the same time. This oversight, if it was that, was to prove an embarrassment for Bernard's son Henry, who took over Husseys from his father.

The Froyle Burninghams were fast developing into the status of the 'Landed Gentry' and Henry appears to have acted accordingly! In 1678 he refused to attend the Court Leet of Froyle Manor and pay his dues of three shillings and six pence. He sent a message back to William Horner, the Steward, written in a bombastic manner, saying that he refused to recognise the overlordship of Samuel Gauden, the then Lord of the Manor of Froyle! He considered Husseys a manor in its own right, which, unfortunately, it was not.

Henry Burningham was tried by the Earl of Danby in the Court of Common Pleas, found guilty and ordered to pay up, with damages! According to Mr Burningham, Henry, "started grovelling and immediately climbed down."

The first Burningham entry in the St Mary's Church Registers is in 1670, when Henry's son, also named Henry, was born. He married Ann Baldwin in 1698, a marriage which ensured that Baldwins Farm became an integral part of the Burningham's estate and would have greatly pleased Henry Senior.

Henry died in 1736. His son, John Baldwin Burningham, was probably responsible for the Georgian front which was added to Husseys in about 1764, along with the unusual group of four oast houses behind the house, symbolic of the prosperity brought by wheat and hops at that time. In 1820, as we said earlier, Thomas Burningham made the move to Upper Froyle, where he built Froyle House.



Let's digress briefly here to look at Baldwins. Today there is no sign of the house, which stood opposite Husseys, the present residence bearing that name having been built in 1938. But in its hey day Baldwins Farm was obviously quite an important property, as can be seen by the Inventory taken at the death of John Baldwin in 1661.

Inventory of Baldwins Farm, 6th January 1661

Inventory taken of the goods and chattels of John Baldwin of Froyle in the County of Southampton, yeoman, late deceased as it was prised the 6th day of January 1661 by those whose names are herewith subscribed

	£	s	d
Imprimis his wearing apparell and money in his purse	10	0	0
It(em) In the hall one long table and frame Two joined forms Three Clocks Two cupboards and settle Six join stools Two pairs of andirons	3	0	0
It In the chamber above the hall Two bedsteads with two feather beds with all that doth belong unto them One great chest and press Two trunks Two little chairs and table and frame	8	5	0
It In the little chamber within the hall One Join bedstead with one feather bed with all that belongs there unto Two old chairs Two old coffers Two boxes and trunk with Two old tables	5	5	0
It In the chamber over the little chamber Two bedsteads one feather bed with all there to belonging Two old coffers one great chest one little box	2	10	0
It In the great chamber within the hall Two low bedsteads one feather bed one flock bed with all things there unto belonging one great chest with other old lumber	3	0	0
It In the kitchen one table and form Three chairs Four iron spits one pair of Andirons Two pairs of pots	1	3	0
It In the milk house one pair pails Thirteen trays with other pots and other old lumber	0	15	0
It In the Buttery three hogsheads five butterolls three tubs one... one... trough with other lumber	2	2	0
It In the well house one leaden pump Two tubs with other lumber	2	0	0
It In the Brewhouse one...one Brewing vat seven tubs seven... one cheese press with other lumber	4	10	0
It In the Malt loft one quarter of malt and one table with other lumber	1	6	0

It	In the Cheese loft sixty cheeses			
	Three old chests with other lumber	2	10	0
It	In the Smoke loft twelve fitches of bacon with other lumber	10	0	0
It	In the loft above the Buttery one malt quern two tubs with other lumber	1	0	0
It	In the garret loft four barrels of apples	1	0	0
It	for the Pewter dishes	4	10	0
It	for the brass vessel and two iron kettles	3	6	0
It	for the linen	3	10	0
It	the wagons dung-pots wheels ploughs and ploughshares and harrows	15	10	0
It	six cows and two calves at Lower Froyle	20	0	0
It	six young heifers	2	2	0
It	the wood boards and timber and faggots with other lumber	2	0	0
It	the horse and harness bridle pannier and saddle	40	0	0
It	the hay and other fodder with the corn in the barn	130	0	0
It	the Sheep	30	0	0
It	the corn upon the land in the fields	62	0	0
It	of debt due upon bond	10	6	0
It	Six heifers or Rother beast at Upper Froyle	12	0	0
It	all the goods in the house at Upper Froyle	6	10	0
It	Also	0	12	0
Sum is	400	12	0	

Andrew Baldwin
Thomas Warner

Notes:-

1. 'Rother' is West Sussex dialect for a horned beast.
2. Henry Wake, whose name appears at the bottom of this inventory, is probably the Henry Wake who is shown in the Church Registers as having been, "taken to Alton like fish in a barrel" in 1674. This man was a Quaker and his body had to be taken to the Quaker burial ground in Alton.

Let's now look at the other sub-manor, Brocas.

Brocas

John de Brocas was one of three brothers educated at the Court of Edward II. They were sons of a Gascon knight, Arnald de Brocas, and John was 'valetus' to the King in 1314. In 1337 Sir John de Brocas was chief Ranger of Windsor and Warden of Nottingham Gaol, as well as Master of the Horse, and he was given the estate of Froyle as a reward for loyal services to the King. But the Brocas who cut his name highest on the pinnacle of fame was Bernard, Sir John's third son. He married, as his second out of three wives, Mary des Roches of Roche Court, and he acquired another manor, Beaurepaire, near Basingstoke. He was a friend of the Black Prince and of William Wykeham. He took part in the French Wars, was Constable of the Aquitaine, Master of the Buckhounds, Constable of Corfe Castle, Warden of Episcopal Parks, Controller of Calais, Chamberlain to Queen Anne, Captain of Sandgate Castle, and, in Hampshire, he was a Knight of the Shire and Commissioner for Defence. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was succeeded by another Bernard, his son by his second wife, Mary des Roches. This Bernard was executed at Tyburn for his part in the plot to kill the King, Henry IV, at Oxford in 1399.

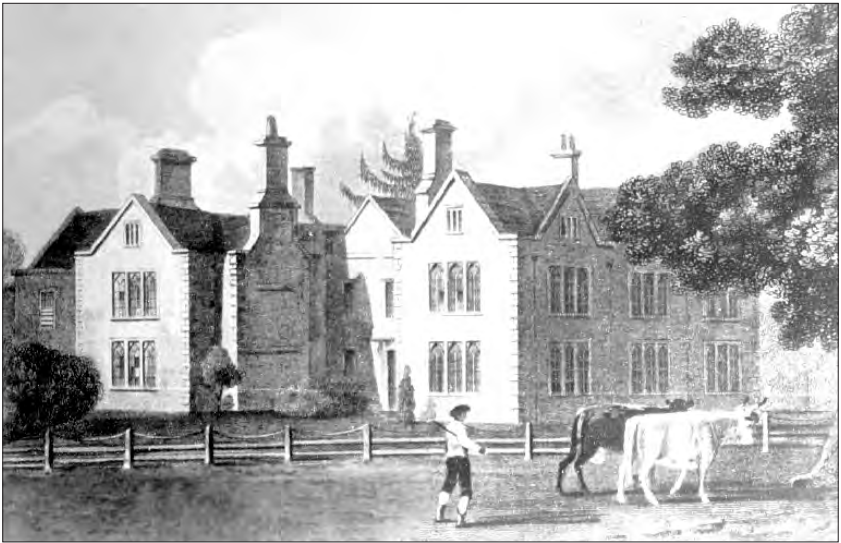
This sub-manor was held by the Brocas family until 1539. In 1659 it belonged to Henry Burningham and he sold it that year to William Newman for £710, no doubt to help him finance Husseys. These two families became closely linked by Henry's marriage to Ann Newman, for the Newmans were also an able and ambitious family.

Brocas Farm in 1915



The Manor of Froyle

From early times the manor house was the centre of the life of the community. It was often a building of very simple pretensions and was generally sited next to the Church. Many of these houses still remain though long since turned into farm premises or devoted to other uses. In the case of Froyle, the site of the early house in Upper Froyle was extended and the imposing Jacobean mansion of 1620 erected by the Jephson family. It was here that the Manor Courts were held. Grouped around a courtyard were the granaries, sheds for cattle, the dairy, a dovecot and other buildings.



A drawing of the manor house of Froyle, Froyle Place, in the late 1600s

Henry VIII had sold the Manor to William Jephson in 1538, for the sum of £1,505 17s 4d and an annual rent of £4 13s 5d.

“The King by Letters Patents grants the Manor of Froyle, the lands called Isinghurst and several other messuages and lands in Froyle, and the Advowson of the Vicarage of Froyle unto William Jephson and Mary, his wife, to hold the said Manor and premises (except the Rectory and advowson) to the said William and Mary and the heirs of William and to hold the said Rectory and advowson to the said William and his heirs...” 23 June 1538.

The Jephsons held the Manor until 1652, when they sold it to John and Richard Fiennes. They, in turn, disposed of it in 1666 to Samuel Gauden of Lincoln's Inn. In the early 1950's a dovecot was demolished at Froyle Place, bearing a stone marked S.G.1686.

In 1695 the estate consisted of "34 messuages, 10 tofts, one water mill for grain, one dovecot, 44 gardens, 1600 acres of arable land, 100 acres of meadow, 120 acres of pasture, 300 acres of wood and £41 rent for property in Binsted and also the rectory of Froyle and the tithes in Froyle."

In 1693 Samuel Gauden died and was succeeded by his son Jonathan, who died in 1705. He, in turn, was followed by his nephew Gauden Draper. This was a period of affluence for the Manor; hops had been introduced in the 17th century and the soil in Froyle was proving suitable for producing crops of the highest quality. But Gauden Draper was not to be able to enjoy this wealth. Following his premature death in 1710, the estate was run by his wife, Mary, and her advisers, until her son William could take up the duties as Lord of the Manor in 1719 at the age of 21.

William had a Dowry House built in Froyle Park for his mother, on the other side of the Church. Although there has not been a house there within living memory, we are fortunate to have a drawing of it, below, in 1836.



It was on the death of William in 1765 that the main changes of ownership in Froyle took place. Up until that time the Lord of the Manor, in this case William Draper, owned practically all the estate, apart from Cattleys and Husseys. But from 1768 onwards, William's daughter, Mrs Mary Nicholas, who had inherited the estate, sold the majority to Sir Thomas Miller, 5th Baronet and Member of Parliament for Chichester, and other parts to Henry Burningham, Joseph Westbrook and others. She kept the Dower House and part of the Park for herself, and she and her descendants, the Moodys, lived there until 1860.

Sir Thomas now became Lord of the Manor of Froyle with control of its Court Leet and Court Baron, the right to present his own clergy for a Benefice and rights regarding tithes and extending to Hunting, Hawking and Fishing. He was therefore able to set up his eldest son Thomas Combe as Vicar of Froyle in 1811. Thomas Combe Miller became 6th baronet on his father's death in 1816. Born in 1778, he married Martha, eldest daughter of Rev Thomas Holmes, of Brooke Hill, Norfolk, in 1824, and the couple had six sons and four daughters. The eldest of those sons, born in 1829, was Charles Hayes Miller. In 1856 he married Katherine Maria, the second daughter of James Winter Scott Esq. of Rotherfield Park, and they had two sons, Charles John Hubert and Cecil Walter Nicholson, and three daughters, Margaret Catherine, Gertrude Teresa and Constance Caroline.

Rev Thomas Holmes



Lady Miller





Sir Charles Hayes Miller



Lady Katherine Maria Miller

Sir Charles Hayes Miller became the 7th Baronet, following the death of his father in 1864, but he was not to hold the title long, dying in 1868. His brother, William Uvedale, also died in the same year.

We are very fortunate to have these photographs of the Miller family, taken we believe in 1866. Little did the small boy standing in the photograph on the right realise that within two years he would become the 8th Baronet, and Lord of the Manor of Froyle!



*Charles John Hubert Miller
and his younger brother, Cecil*



Sir C.J.Hubert Miller, photographed here in September 1928, on his 70th birthday. He was the last Lord of the Manor of Froyle

Sir Charles John Hubert Miller was just a small boy of nine years old when his father died. His mother took the children and left Froyle soon after her husband's death and from that time until 1940 Froyle Place was let to various tenants. In due time Sir Hubert, as he chose to be known, joined the Coldstream Guards and in 1892, at the age of 34, retired as a Captain.

He came back to Froyle, but never returned to live at Froyle Place. Instead he took up residence at The Shrubbery, a charming Georgian house built in about 1740 on the main road near the Hen & Chicken Inn. It was originally a river keeper's cottage, which had been enlarged by several of its previous owners. Sir Hubert, himself, extended it and someone was heard to remark, after Sir Hubert's death in 1940, "If Sir Hubert had lived a few years longer The Shrubbery would have reached the river."

Sir Hubert was a devoted High Churchman and Tom Knight tells us that "his avowed intention in Froyle was to wake the Church up." It is thanks to him that St Mary's Church has some of the most beautiful vestments in England, as well as some very fine silver. These days this is kept in the Bank and only brought back to Froyle on very special occasions.

Sir Hubert in the garden of The Shrubbery with his gardener, Gerald Robinson, in about 1895



The Shrubbery, known today as 'Shrubbery House'



Sir Hubert is also responsible for the reason that Froyle is known as.....

“The Village of Saints”

From about 1900 Sir Hubert Miller would spend some of his time in a villa he had in Venice. Sometimes he would stay away from Froyle for six months of the year. But, when he returned, he would bring with him, not only the vestments and silver as I have already mentioned, but also small statues of saints. These were placed in the niches and under the eaves of the houses and cottages belonging to the estate in Upper Froyle; and here they stand today, even though the estate has long since been split up.

Possibly, most people’s favourite of the nineteen saints dotted around the



village is St Hubert, standing over the entrance door of Old Post Office Cottage. The patron saint of hunting, St Hubert is shown with the stag which led to his conversion. Legend tells that while hunting in the forest on Good Friday, he came upon a stag which displayed a crucifix between its antlers and he was thus converted to a better life.

On either side of Old Post Office Cottage, pictured below, are houses with St Anthony of Padua, St Christopher, several with St Joseph, and a charming group of the Holy Family adorn Jasmine and Myrtle Cottages.



Blundens House, a 14th century timber framed building, has, in a niche over a bedroom window, the statue of St Peter holding the 'Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.' Other statues include St Katherine, with her wheel, The Virgin Mary and The Holy Shepherd.

If you look back at the photograph of The Shrubbery, you will be able to make out the saint in his niche in the middle of the front of the house. This particular saint is St Michael, slaying the dragon.

All the saints are well preserved, considering their age, but one of the most splendid must surely be St Paul (right). He stands, with his sword and book, on a specially erected plinth, gracing the front of what used to be the Vicarage.

When the property was sold and a new name sought for the elegant house, what could be more fitting than 'St Pauls'.

One saint that visitors to the village will not see is St Joan of Arc, for she is the only 'inside saint' as far as I know. She stands with her sword and shield in the window of a charming little cottage, where she is protected from the effects of the weather on her painted finish.



Sir Hubert Miller was very much the Squire; sending his tenants baskets of fruit when they were ill, handing out sweets to the schoolchildren and providing them with Christmas treats.

He often invited groups of people to tea at The Shrubbery. The bellringers were one such group. Sir Hubert was well known for his trips abroad and one member remembers him hurrying home from Paris by Imperial Airways in order to attend the 'Ringing Tea'. The members enjoyed walking round Sir Hubert's lovely gardens. They were always amazed at the choice of blends of tea which were on offer.



He died on 4th October, 1940, at the age of 82, leaving his estate to his niece, Mrs Olive Mary Loyd, who sold the property to the trustees of the, then, Lord Mayor Treloar College.

Lord Mayor Treloar School

Sir William Treloar, Lord Mayor of London in 1906-7, launched his 'Little Cripples Fund' to build a hospital in the country air for young children suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. His fund was oversubscribed within a year and the hospital was built in Alton. Soon afterwards a College was added to it for the education and training of older boys. In 1948, when the National Health Service took over the running of the hospital, the trustees of the College bought a site at Froyle, Froyle Place, for the boys. The College opened its doors in 1953. A similar establishment, The Florence Treloar School for Girls, was founded at nearby Holybourne in 1965. In 1978 the two schools were amalgamated, with Froyle as the lower school and Holybourne developing as a further education college. In 1995 the School and College were separated in order to better reflect the changes taking place nationally.

This aerial view of the College, as it was then, was taken about 1956. Froyle Place is at the top left and you can see all the new buildings which provided classroom and boarding facilities.



In our next chapter we will take a trip through the village of Froyle, looking at a number of the older houses.