

SNOWDROP COTTAGE,

Bucklebury Slade,

READING, Berks.

R G 7 6 T H.

31. 8. 98.

Dear Mrs. Harrison,

I have lived in the Slade since 1955 and knowing how interéstered I am in the old ways Mrs. Cairns gave me your letter to read. Long ago a lady came to look at Snowdrop Cottage, the thatched part was her Grandmothers, so I wonder if the lady was you? The one part which is four rooms is now Tiled, and Mrs. Rumbold who lived here when we came still lives here, the Mays owned it before, then went to a property behind Peaches Stores, (Longgrove). We have put in Mod. Cons. a dinning room with bedroom above as we needed three bedrooms. So from a two up two down it makes it a three up three down with one family, before being one up one down, one up with sort of landing bedroom one down, for two families, I did not believe what is my kitchen with bedroom above till I went to a museum and saw what I call a rick ladder, which was the way to bed.

All the names you mention I have heard, you are right about Sis Froud nee Good enough, her Nephew now lives at Eling Farm, his Wife Ann and their two Sons, one has moved back to Parsonage Farm just along the Pange Valley.

Moving back to the Slade, Joe Paulin lives at Beechlyn (top of the hill) Morgan Briggs at Cintra up the Green, Stan Green City Path, I believe there was a cottage called Pear Leaf in this area, but was taken down some time ago.

The butter you mention in the Sellwood larder was made at Holly Farm, a real treat, I was lead to believe. The Well at Ferndale is the one now under Mrs. Cairns Cooker. Mrs. Lil Sellwood told me her Father (a Fisher) would not have any other water than from Blind Johns Well So each day they had to go along Spring path and as you say some used a Yoke for carrying. It is still a good well and we would use it in an emergency, rather than the one we have at Snowdrop, we use it to water the garden. There are no Septic tanks draining down the hill on the Common.

Mrs. Mary Paulin her Husband, Sid, Lil and Bert Sellwood, Kate Paulin and her husband know as Furzy Paulin are all buried in the Upper Common Cemenry, I attended all th their funerals. I think Mrs. Briggs and her Husband George are There Too. When the Lipscomb left, what was the Sellwoods cottage where Janet and Hazel were born, Mrs. Briggs pulled it down, her Son In Law, Brother of Stan built a garage and she used it as we used to use the old wash houses, (a very proud lady was Mrs. B.) Now a Mrs. Addis lives there, she has made several changes, but it still has only two bedrooms.

Mrs. Butler had Mrs. Cairns Cottage whe we came here, before that she rented the cottage the other side of the Chapel (now called Slade Cottage) A room was always kept for the owner, but I cannot remember the name, but I expect it is one you mention.

Back to Snowdrop. What was your Grandmothers name?. I think it is the name I have tried finding out. We bought the cottage from Bernard Fisher, he had decided to sell having moved Mrs. Nora Booker to a prope rty they owned in Newbury. Mrs. Hole who owned the Tudor Cafe'e in Newbury Had had it as a weekend home before this and my Husband was brought to visit, as his Aunt was a fried of Mrs. Hole (1928) He did not remember it, the walk

over the Common, ³⁰ He was fourteen years of age. The Fishers were here before this and I think Berard was born here. Then Dad ^{fisher} built Haycroft, Bernard built Lyndhurst when he got married, he had bought the land at Hopgoods green.

You Celia ^{mention} Millson, her husband told me he served his Apprenticeship under the Fishers in the big shed which is still here. I have an idea the two daughters were of the Plymouth Brethren. They went to live on the Cold Ash road. Molly Dennis as she was has ~~now~~ recently gone to live at Shaw, but Shelia Kent (nee Dennis) still lives at Tuffets, Turners Green, she looks after the Chapel, she has Two Sons and a daughter. The second cottage up from the green in the Slade has been altered a lot. It was the Nook with Mr. and Mrs. Brewer in residence till he died, then she left. My Goats lived in the meadow it being a water meadow full of wild flowers they loved all the different herbs etc., Now ~~all~~ as all gone, it is grazed by a horse. Joe Paulin has Grandchildren now who live a very different life, but the Slade weaves patterns between people that have strange turnings, and the mystic of it all is I find people ~~turn~~ up in all sorts of places that have had associations with it. My Godmother had visited Bucklebury to see friends many many years ~~be~~ before we came here. You live in Worcs. We lived at Great Witley for two years before we came to Berkshire, it took us four years to find Snowdrop and thought we would not be able to buy it, it did not reach its reserve price, Mrs. Lipscomb told me the house Keeper of one of the people would not come to such an isolated place. Long gone are those days of pony and trap rides to Newbury, though Joe Paulin comes back up the Slade with the little cart all ribbons and bows having taken the Bride to Church. George Lailey was still working at Turners Green that is how I come to have plates and bowls. His Bow ^{LOTHO} ~~Table~~ and I believe his hut is at Whight Knights Park, Reading Museum.

I must type this letter so that you can ^{read} it, I am still remembering things, Eddie was Stan Greens brother ~~maid~~ to Betty Briggs. Hazel Sellwood had the curved spine, I was told her Mother Lil Selwood fell down the stairs at the cottage. It was an awkward ~~st~~ stair. Mrs. Addis's stairs are just as dangerous to come down. Hazel died when we had the Flu outbreak. Janet has two Grandchildren her Daughter Josephine married a boy from Brightwell come Sotwell. I do ~~not~~ know about the two Sons, but Janet still lives near the Blade Bone, Chapel Row.

I really must stop, my Husband has come back from Bird Watching so it is on with the breakfast.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Mann.

P.S. Bert Selwood was killed in 1972, he was on his way to Gards the owner of the Chapel Row P.O. Shop. A van hit him & I knocked him from his bicycle.