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Farnham

Nineteenth Century Policing of a Surrey Market Town

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The Parish Constable

During the fifteenth and much of the sixteenth centuries the Parish Constable was still pre-eminent amongst the four principle annually elected officers of the parish, others being, Churchwarden, Surveyor of the Highways, and Overseer of the Poor. He held this position in some small towns and rural areas until the nineteenth century and in some parts of Surrey until the 1870s. Many men bought their way out of serving as parish constable, an honorary office, as there were significant commitments associated with the role taking up much of the time that he could have spent making a living from his regular employment. It was also not without risk of injury, risk of upsetting or offending neighbours and the risk of breaching laws they were ignorant of, ending up before the magistrates they served.

A constable's duties were based upon common law, (custom since time immemorial) but were extended by Parliament. The oath taken by the Parish Constable read:

> "You shall swear that you shall keep the peace of our Lord the King well and lawfully according to your powers, and shall arrest all those who shall make any contest, riot, debate or affray, in breaking of the said peace, and shall bring them into the house or Compter of one of the Sheriffs. And if you shall be withstood by strength of such misdoers you shall raise upon them hue and cry, and shall follow them from street to street and from ward to ward until they are arrested. And you shall search at all times when you shall be required by scavenger or bedel, for the common nuisances of the ward, until they are arrested, and the faults you shall find, you shall present them unto the Mayor and to the offices of the said town ... so God help you and the Saints".[2]

In practice this meant that the nominated parish constable had to set the nightly watch in the town. He would take over prisoners from the watchmen and place them in the stocks or lock-up. In many instances he would keep them in his own cottage until he was able to deliver them to a Justice of the Peace. With his staff of office in his hand, the constable was to initiate the 'hue and cry'. This 'hue and cry' demanded that every citizen should assist the constable in the pursuit of an offender; to fail to assist the constable was, and still is, an offence. This 'hue and cry' later became a document, which, since the eighteenth century, has become known as a warrant. His staff or baton was his symbol of authority (also available as a weapon of defence) might have hung outside the cottage door, often ornately decorated. He wore no distinctive uniform of any kind. [3] The parish constable wore no distinctive uniform of any kind. Charles Dickens in David Copperfield describes how the parish constable in Canterbury hung his staff of office outside his shop when he was there.

The constable would carry out the affairs of the manor under the authority of the magistrates, unpaid but able to claim a series of customary fees and expenses. The role was filled in rotation amongst all parishioners. Because of the reluctance of some to take their turn at being the constable, particularly by the wealthy, tradesmen and farmers, the practice of paying deputies developed and also that of deputies paying

[2] The Story of Scotland Yard Sir Basil Thompson 1936: page 73
[3] http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/RB1/Pt1/pt1Context.html Robert Bartlett

deputies. The deputy deputies were often unemployable and were used and paid to keep them from being a charge on the parish.

The office of constable could be onerous being under a legal obligation to bring before the jury of the court leet that appointed him or, later the Quarter Sessions, reports and presentments on oath of all who had offended against the law:

> All blood-shedders, affrays, outcries, rescues and other offences against the King's Peace
>
> Failure to maintain a bridge or road
>
> Refusal to serve in one of the parish offices or negligence when doing so
>
> "Idle and will not labour and cannot give account how they get their living"
>
> Suspicious persons, whores and nightwalkers, mothers of bastards
>
> Such bakers who put light bread for sale
>
> Keeping hogs to the annoyance of His Majesty's subjects[4]

Parish constables in Surrey sometimes undertook duties for lengthy periods so it can be assumed it was not all bad and there were opportunities to earn a reasonable living from rewards and fees. A so-called "good arrest" could generate almost a year's pay. Long serving constables included James Stedman at Pirbright from 1812-1837. As the 19th century progressed there were paid constables at Shere and Thomas Williams, with Peter Pearce at Shamley Green both supervised by Superintendent Biddlecombe of Godalming police. There were also paid constables stationed at Farnham, Dorking, Chertsey, Chobham, Thorpe, Windlesham and Nutfield who in time joined the Surrey Constabulary not that many survived very long within a disciplined service.

Inspector Donaldson who was murdered in Haslemere had served as superintendent of in the Dorking town police before joining the new Surrey Constabulary in 1851 on its formation.[5] Donaldson a Scot had previously served in the Metropolitan Police as a constable.

Night Watch

The parish constable had a level of support, which in many areas may have not been overly beneficial. Almost all towns sooner or later employed a nightly watch, which was the law since 1275. In wealthier areas day constables were also employed. [6] [7] In some areas local residents were persuaded to act as amateur inspectors of these "police" and if resources permitted a senior man might be appointed to take charge of a group of services with some such title as superintendent of the night watch.[8]

[4] A History of England and Wales TA Critchley Constable 1979 page 12
[5] A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951; Durrant 1951 page 3
[6] A History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 25
[7] A History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 26
[8] A History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 26

In March 1844 following the Murder of a gamekeeper at Wonersh a member of the investigation team was named as Charles Jenkins, described as an Inspector of Police stationed at Shere who accompanied the Chief Constable of Godalming, William Biddlecombe. Jenkins was no doubt a so-called volunteer inspector.[9]

In some towns members of the night watch were sworn in as constables, some old and unsteady or ailing, equipped with lamps and rattles calling the hour as they patrolled; sometime men who had done a full days work sleeping frequently during the night. [10] The watchmen might not have been the brightest or most effective but they served a preventative purpose particularly in smaller communities where the less law abiding would be well know. Inexorably a realisation developed that the existing policing system was not good enough for modern times and the idea of a paid police was gaining ground.

The parish constable set the nightly watch in the town. He would take over prisoners from the watchmen and place them in the stocks, lock-up or cage such as that in Castle Street in Farnham. In many instances the constable would keep prisoners in his own cottage until he was able to deliver them to a magistrate who was also referred to as a Justice of the Peace.

Following a crime its detection remained primarily a matter for the victim, although depending on the location, he or she might be able to call on the assistance of various officials. The parish constable, the watchman and the magistrate (sometimes referred to as a justice of the peace) and, particularly in and close to London, might be able to interest a thief taker one of the Bow Street Runners if there was a reward or a fee involved.[11]

The parish constable was under a legal obligation to bring before the jury of the Quarter Sessions, reports and presentments on oath of all who had offended against the law. Here is the origin of the local authority and the dominance of the magistrates sitting at the Quarter Sessions. The constable was required to take action against:

> All blood-shedders, affrays, outcries, rescues and other offences against the King's Peace
>
> Failure by a resident to maintain a bridge or road
>
> Refusal to serve in one of the parish offices or negligence when doing so
>
> "Idle and will not labour and cannot give account how they get their living"
>
> Suspicious persons, whores and nightwalkers, mothers of bastards
>
> Such bakers who put light bread for sale

[9] The Morning Post (London, England), Thursday, March 28, 1844
[10] A History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 26
[11] Policing a Short History Phillip Rawlings Willan Publishing2002 page 112

Keeping hogs to the annoyance of His Majesty's subjects[12]

During the 19th century the wealthy continued to pay gamekeepers to protect their property and slept with arms near to hand; middle-class tradesmen formed voluntary protection societies such as the Felons Society in Guildford whilst the poor simply managed the best they could.[13]

The criminal justice system and infrastructure within Surrey evolved over many years with very little changing quickly. In 1604 a new gaol was built in Quarry Street, Guildford. It was rebuilt in 1765, and pulled down and rebuilt on a higher site on South Hill in 1822. This prison was closed in 1851, the prisoners being removed in April of that year to the newly built House of Correction at Wandsworth. Kingston gaol was closed at the same time.

Debtors used to be confined under the town hall in Guildford and in the building across the street where the judges sat in circuit. The judges sat in this house or in a hall, which had been part of the old Red Lion Inn in Market Street, bought and altered for this purpose by Lord Onslow and Lord Grantley in 1789. There is an old print of a man being hanged on a scaffold in the street there; but the more usual place of execution was at Henley Grove on the slope of the Hog's Back to the west of Guildford. The County and Borough Hall in North Street, where the Assizes were held, was built in 1845.[14]

By the early 19th century the rural parish constables seemed to have few friends left being denounced by all as "manifestly defective and no feeling of security, either for person or property can be associated with it."[15] Gradually, slowly probably inexorably the need for change in policing Surrey was evolving, waiting for a trigger that would lead to an almost immediate establishment of the Surrey Constabulary in 1851.

For all the failings of the system there was no one but the parish constable to deal with most of the crime and there are numerous examples from Farnham that they did. There are many examples of vagrants being arrested and taken before the quarter sessions, where the justices of the peace met as commissioners of the peace for the county of Surrey. Trampers and vagrants were a problem. They stole to survive and put many people in fear by their threatening look and behaviour. When the level of rewards payable for an arrest are realised it can be seen that arresting vagrants is "a nice little earner" at five shillings a time. To arrest a burglar or robber could yield a year's pay.

Surrey Court of Quarter Sessions Records 1780-1820

Some of the rewards available:

- Highway Robbery £50

[12] A History of England and Wales TA Critchley Constable 1979 page 12
[13] A History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 28
[14] http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43019
[15] Quoted in Policing a Short History Phillip Rawlings Willan Publishing 2002 page 124

- Burglary £40
- Housebreaking – daytime £50
- Counterfeiting gold or silver coin £40
- Counterfeiting copper coin £10
- Stealing from premises over 5/- £10
- Horse stealing £20
- Stealing cattle or sheep £10
- Wounding or killing a Revenue Officer £50
- Person returning from transportation £20
- Apprehending a deserter from the Army £1
- Apprehending idle and disorderly person £0. 5s[16]

Initiating a prosecution – Parish Constables: The victim was responsible for reimbursing the costs incurred by the constable during any investigation and arrest. Charges included travel, accommodation and the costs of transporting any prisoner to the prison and courts. If there was a prosecution the prosecutor i.e. the victim could end up paying all the costs involved. By the eighteenth century a victim's costs were increasingly expensive and the less well off settled most of their cases without recourse to the law.

> During the eighteenth century: "… Not only assaults by virtually all thefts and even some murders were left to the general public. That meant that responsibility for the initial expense and entire conduct of the prosecution was thrown on the victim and his or her family... As late as the mid 19th century no public official was responsible for ensuring that even the most serious offences were prosecuted." [17]

Victims would know most offenders if they are seen but with elementary policing methods, inexperienced, untrained parish constables, watchmen and magistrates unused to dealing with the more serious offences a murder or serious crime would benefit from outside help. Once an arrest was made the role of Justice of the Peace (magistrate or JP) was to decide whether there was a 'case to answer' following a complaint from the victim. The constable did not as they do today, investigate and interview witnesses and possible defendants other than in a cursory way before detaining suspects and going off to the local magistrate with the victim, and the witnesses to see what was to be done.

[16] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 213
[17] Hay and Snyder 1989: 27)

The accused would be held in the local 'lock-up' or cage until a magistrate could examine them. In Elizabeth Gaskell's "Cranford" a poacher is locked up in a small cage on the market square where he is guarded by one of the parish officials before he is brought before the magistrate. It is clear that for poaching there was a fixed fine way beyond the means of the poacher to pay so the intention was he should be imprisoned. The victim would call his witnesses to appear before the magistrate. At this time, statements or depositions may be made and signed or in most cases a mark made.

It was up to the magistrate to decide what to do with the accused. He had three options:

- If he felt there was no case to answer, he could discharge the suspect.
- If the case was a minor one, he could have the offence 'summarily' tried before two magistrates at Petty Sessions.
- If he felt it was a serious (that is 'indictable') offence, he would commit them to be tried either before a judge at the Assizes or a bench of magistrates at Quarter Sessions. [18]

The decision to commit a defendant for trial was made by the magistrate. To which court they were sent, depended on the type of offence committed. By the eighteenth century, a code was in place that defined the functions and powers of magistrates. The county Quarter Sessions and local Petty Sessions were the normal place of trial; which one you were sent to, would depend on whether the crime was classified as a summary or Indictable offence.

After the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1848, all summary trials had to take place at formally constituted Petty Sessions, before at least two magistrates. Meetings became more regular and laws passed that required the proceedings to be recorded. The courts sat on a regular basis; the frequency would depend on the level of crime in the area. As today, the court had the power to remit more serious crime to a higher court for sentencing or trial.

Summary offences: If the offence before the magistrate was a minor or summary offence (being drunk, minor theft, some assaults or causing a disturbance), the magistrate could try them. There were no courthouses and so this was normally undertaken in the magistrate's home. If not two magistrates tried the defendant at the Petty Sessions (like the magistrates' court today). This would be a speedy process and involve no jury with both the verdict and sentence pronounced by the magistrates.

Charles Dickens has an excellent presentation of the differing entry levels to the criminal justice system: George Nupkins Esquire the principal magistrate and Mayor of Ipswich

21 June – midsummer – Mr Nupkins was in a state of the utmost excitement and irritation, for there had been a rebellion in the town; all the day-scholars at the largest day-school had conspired to break the windows of an obnoxious apple seller and had

[18] http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/page11376-making-an-arrest-in-the-early-19th-century.html

hooted the beadle, and pelted the constabulary – an elderly gentleman in top boots who had been called out to suppress the tumult, and who had been a peace officer man and boy, for half a century at least.

The Mayor to Miss Witherfield: Do you happen to have heard ma'am, that I rushed in to a prize ring on the 4th of May last, attended by only sixty special constables; and, at the hazard of falling a sacrifice to the angry passions of an infuriated multitude, prohibited a pugilistic contest between the Middlesex Dumpling and the Suffolk Bantam?

To Grummer the constable: If the authority of the king's officer is set at nought we must have the riot act read. "If the civil power cannot protect these windows, Grummer, the military must protect the civil power and the windows too.

The mayor on receiving a complaint from a witness of an impending dual, issues warrants for the arrest of the suspected participants. "Grummer procure assistance and execute these warrants with as little delay as possible.

Grummer went to the inn where Pickwick and his friends were and entered the room where Grimmer produced from his breast pocket a short truncheon surmounted by a brazen crown. "My names Law, "law, civil power and executive; thems my titles; here's my authority" On receiving objection the constable opened the door and called "Dubbley". At the word of command a dirty-faced man something over six feet high, and stout in proportion, squeezed himself through the half open door and entered the room. "Is the other specials outside Dubbley?" On a nod of assent Grummer: Order in the division under your charge Dubbley"

Half a dozen men each with a short truncheon and brass crown flocked into the room Mr Pickwick and Mr Tupman squeezed themselves into an old sedan chair; the specials surrounding the body of the vehicle with Grummer and Dubbley marching triumphantly in front. [19]

Indictable offences: If the magistrate thought the prisoner had committed an indictable offence (a more serious offence), he could 'indict' (send him or her to be tried) at one of two courts. The offence could be tried at the Quarter Sessions (fairly serious offences) in front of a bench of magistrates or before a judge at the assizes (very serious offences). At these courts a jury (a 'petty' jury) decided on the verdict, and the judge or magistrates formulated and pronounced the sentence.

An Act of 1842 laid down the limits of the respective jurisdictions: Assizes could try any indictable offence; Quarter Sessions could try any indictable offence except:

- Those for which the death penalty could be imposed (including treason and murder),
- Those for which a first offender could be sentenced to transportation for life,

[19] Pickwick Papers Nonesuch edition – page 326 et seq

- Certain specified offences, including blasphemy, perjury, forgery, bigamy, libel and bribery. [20]

This Act consolidated what had been the custom for over two centuries; Quarter Sessions did not try capital cases or their equivalent in degree of seriousness. Quarter Sessions tried far more of the indictable offences than Assizes did. Assizes tended to try only the more serious of the indictable offences e.g. murder, homicides, burglary, rape, robberies with violence, assault accompanied by wounding. Quarter Sessions tried the less serious and more common of the indictable offences - larcenies, housebreaking, assaults, robberies not accompanied with serious violence, frauds.[21]

There was a great extension of the magistrates' powers of summary jurisdiction in the early nineteenth century, especially in the 1820's. The Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1848[22] consolidated and improved the holding of Petty Sessions, which had been held to try cases summarily for a considerable time before that. On the whole, those offences, which were tried summarily, were the less serious ones. But this distinction was not absolutely observed - Poaching was a summary offence, except for the case of armed night poaching, but the theft of an article of the tiniest value continued to be an indictable offence.

Some offences could be tried either summarily or on indictment, depending on the seriousness of the particular act in question. Thus, for assaults or riot offences, the magistrate at the preliminary examination could choose either to try the accused summarily directly, or commit him for trial at Quarter Sessions or Assizes; if the latter was chosen, then the accused, if found guilty, was likely to receive a heavier sentence than from a summary trial. In examining men for participation in the same fight or riot, the magistrate could choose to commit some of them for trial on indictment (because he felt their conduct constituted a more serious offence) and try the others summarily.[23]

Basically, all serious offences were indictable offences, though not all indictable offences were necessarily serious offences.[24]

As the century progressed, and the need to deal with the mounting number of prosecutions grew, summary jurisdiction was further increased; Juvenile Offenders Acts of 1847 and 1850, and the Criminal Justice Act of 1855, which allowed minor larcenies, under certain conditions, to be tried summarily. The offences themselves remained indictable offences; it is simply that there was now the option of having them summarily tried.[25]

Felonies and Misdemeanours: The distinction between felonies and misdemeanours dates back to the Middle Ages, when felonies were the crimes for which men could forfeit their lives and goods, while misdemeanours were minor offences. By the

[20] 5 and 6 Vict c. 38
[21] Crime and Authority in Victorian England-Black Country 1835-1860 by David Philips
[22] 11 and 12 Vict. c. 43
[23] Crime and Authority in Victorian England-Black Country 1835-1860 by David Philips
[24] Crime and Authority in Victorian England-Black Country 1835-1860 by David Philips
[25] Crime and Authority in Victorian England-Black Country 1835-1860 by David Philips

1830s, the legal distinction still existed, and technically, a felony was a more serious offence, though this distinction had been eroded in fact. It is true that any capital offence such as murder, was a felony; but so too was theft of 6d worth of goods; while a serious assault, obtaining goods by false pretences, and perjury, were all misdemeanours leading to the distinction between felony and misdemeanour having no clear-cut validity as regards the seriousness of an offence.

It is important to note that these two distinctions of indictable and summary offences, and felony and misdemeanour, do not coincide. All felonies were indictable offences and could only be tried on indictment, except where statute expressly permitted their summary trial; but a number of misdemeanours were also indictable offences, and many assaults, riots, cases of obtaining by false pretences, perjury, etc. were tried on indictment.[26]

Statements: Prior to any charge being brought, the victim, the witness and the accused would provide statements under oath in front of the magistrate. The statements or testimonies of the victim or witnesses were known as 'Depositions' and the statements from the accused as 'Examinations'. The disposition hearing (where the decision is made about charges should be brought) would usually take place at the residence of the magistrate and be written down by a clerk for use in court at a later date. If the magistrate thought the offence to be serious, and there was sufficient evidence of guilt, the accused was bailed or held in custody, and a formal indictment issued. The witnesses were then 'bound' to appear in court.

After hearing statements from the various parties, the magistrates were required to commit the accused to await trial, and 'bind' over the victim (and sometimes the witnesses) to appear in court to prosecute the case. This meant, if they did not appear they would have to pay the amount they were bound over for, usually £20-£40 a significant amount. Increasingly over the course of the 19th century, however, magistrates dismissed weak cases and only committed the accused to prison if they felt the evidence was sufficient to merit a trial. Before 1826, accused felons were rarely bailed; those accused of misdemeanours were normally bound over to appear at the next meeting of the Quarter Sessions, to answer the charges against them. Anthony Trollop in “The Last Chronicle of Barset”, writes about the legal process in great detail when the penniless Reverend Josiah Crawley, Perpetual Curate of Hogglestock. is charged with theft and is subjected to the magistrates then the Assizes.

In more modern times the process became the committal proceedings before the magistrate’s court when the prosecution evidence was heard and the defendant either discharged or committed for trial at the Assizes or Quarter Sessions. At some stage in this became a “paper committal” where written witness statements were entered in evidence to the court who would then commit to trial the defendants. This could only be undertaken with the support and agreement of the defence. The defendants were committed on indictment to the higher court.

Remand or Bail: While they were waiting for trial, prisoners could be remanded in custody or given bail usually requiring the recognisance of one or two people who

[26] Crime and Authority in Victorian England-Black Country 1835-1860 by David Philips

guaranteed the appearance of the defendant before the court. Most stayed in gaol because they were too poor to pay into the court any bail money or know anyone with sufficient resources to provide the recognisance. The Gaol was usually very overcrowded just before an Assize. [27]

Prisoners on remand were still legally innocent so their treatment in prison varied from other groups. They could not be forced to work and had better food rations.[28]

Grand Jury: Given the inexperience of the parish constables and many of the magistrates in rural counties, many alleged offenders were committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions and Assize courts where the bill of indictment was first placed before the Grand Jury who reviewed the case before it came before the court. If it was decided that there was a case to be answered by the accused, the indictment was declared to be a 'true bill' (billa vera); if not it was 'no bill' (ignoramus - meaning we do not know). In the former case, the accused then went forward to a full trial.

Until 1889, the Quarter Sessions administered much of what we now understand to be local government outside the Boroughs i.e. Guildford and Reigate. As the administrative burden increased their administrative functions were transferred to the newly created County Councils. **[29]**

Assize Court: Before 1842 the line between Assize and Quarter Sessions cases was rather blurred; an Act of that year consigned all capital offences and also cases with sentences of life imprisonment, for the first offence, to the Assizes.

As the workload increased, by the middle of the 19th century, in some counties the court was sitting three times a year, and each session could last several weeks. The assize circuits had their own Clerks of Assizes, who kept all the records of the cases and sentences.

In 1834 the Central Criminal Court, popularly called the Old Bailey where there already existed a court, was established for the metropolitan area of Greater London; it was an Assizes Court and not infrequently took cases from the rural parts of Surrey possibly as an administrative expedient to equalise workloads.

The monarch or ministers routinely reviewed death sentences passed at the Assizes, and had the power to award free or conditional pardons. Some 60% of those sentenced to death in the eighteenth century were pardoned, and this figure rose to over 90% in the 1830s. Judges could also temporarily suspend other types of punishments until the monarch or ministers heard the case.[30]

The number of confirmed executions, 337, have been traced during the period 1780-1820 in Surrey together with a further 14 possible ones. These were carried out at several locations, principally on Kennington Common but also at Kingston and

[27] http://vcp.e2bn.org/gaols/page30304-remand-or-bail.html
[28] http://vcp.e2bn.org/gaols/page30304-remand-or-bail.html
[29] http://www.londonlives.org/static/Pretrial.jsp
[30] Drawing Up the Charges http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Trial-procedures.jsp

Guildford and at least one in Godalming.[31] (These figures are not just for rural Surrey but for the whole, up to the Thames.)

National figures for convictions and executions

	Capital Convictions[32]	**Executions**	**% Pardoned**
1826-30	6679	307	95%
1831-35	4984	207	96%
1836-40	1180	51	96%

1826-1830 - 89 Executions from Old Bailey 29% of total in the country Convictions

	1805-1818[33]	**1819-1832**	**Average per annum**
Murder	202 19%	193 19%	14.8
Attempt Murder	49 5%	58 6%	4.46
Rape	47 4%	55 6%	4.2
Burglary/h/breaking	216 21%	203 21%	15.6
Robbery	116 11%	160 16%	12.3

At the **Central Criminal Court** from late 1793 to 1800, 4262 prisoners committed by the Grand Jury for trial were acquitted. If convicted invariably petitions for a pardon were drawn up and presented. Frequently men were pardoned if they joined the army or navy, which they did then they deserted! [34]

Judges obliged to pass death sentences but by tacit consent it became the practice in all cases, other than murder, to order the sentence “to be recorded”, which had the effect of a reprieve.[35] The last hanging for other than a murder in Surrey was in 1835 was for a burglary in Chipstead

Under the vagrancy laws, Magistrates could order the punishment of beggars, "idle and disorderly" persons, people who had no means of subsistence and refused to work, and those who did not stay in the parish to which they had been removed by the settlement laws. The lack of definition of some of these offences, notably "idle and disorderly" conduct, contributed to the passage of the 1744 Vagrancy Act, which specified that those convicted should have committed one or more specific "acts of vagrancy". Further statutes extended the definition of vagrancy to those suspected of theft and other felonies. The detention of vagrants was routine and regular with the

[31] http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org/home.html
[32] Phil Gatrell Hanging Tree
[33] Phil Gatrell Hanging Tree
[34] The Story of Scotland Yard Sir Basil Thompson1935 reprint Kessinger Publishing Rare Reprints page 93
[35] The Story of Scotland Yard Sir Basil Thompson1935 reprint Kessinger Publishing Rare Reprints page 94

parish constables and probably the watchmen receiving his 5 shillings reward for every arrest. And there were many in the Farnham area and so there was money made.

In 1792 the Middlesex Justices Act (which excluded the City) was passed with little opposition, radically changing the role of Justices of the Peace in the metropolis but was to have an impact on Surrey as far out as Farnham. This was a very important development for the Surrey law enforcers. The Act set up seven public offices (the first police stations) in addition to Bow Street, to which three salaried Justices each were attached. The Justices were paid £400 a year, but were not entitled to any fees.

Six men were appointed as constables in each office, and given the power to arrest any suspected persons and reputed thieves they found on the streets. Like Bow Street, the new offices held pre-trial hearings and exercised the powers of summary jurisdiction.[36] One of these offices was Union Hall in Southwark that had jurisdiction for the whole of the county of Surrey including Farnham. The men were referred to as police officers and the senior was known as the chief constable.

In 1827 on the 3 September at Surrey Quarter Sessions three men were charged with violently assaulting John Grossmith an officer of Union Hall in the execution of his duty, with intent to recue two persons in his custody. The prosecution said that the officers had a very arduous and dangerous duty to perform and unless protected the consequences could be truly fatal.[37] Grossmith was active in the rural parts of Surrey being a key investigator in the 1826 double murder at Fetcham and was to be appointed a sergeant in the new Metropolitan Police in 1829.

Within the county of Surrey the Court of Quarter Sessions was held 4 times a year over a number of days, in different locations in the county in rotation, Southwark, Guildford, Reigate, and Kingston. If the amount of business exceeded the allotted time, an adjourned session would be held. The sessions took place in the weeks around the dates of Epiphany (6th January), Easter (moveable), Midsummer (24th June) and Michaelmas (29th September) and took their names from those dates.[38]

Assize Courts: Surrey: The Lent Assizes were held at Kingston-upon-Thames except in 1738, 1742, 1744, 1747 and 1750, when they were held at Guildford; 1745, 1748 and 1743 when they were held at Croydon.

The Summer Assizes were also held at Kinston-upon-Thames in the periods 1735 - 1743 and 1745 - 1751, in 1753 and 1756. They were held at Croydon in 1744, 1749, 1755, and 1758 and in odd-numbered years from 1761 to 1803. They were held at Guildford in 1752, 1754, 1757, and 1759 and in even-numbered years from 1760 to 1799.

Census starting with1841[39]/[40]

[36] Thomas Rowlandson, Bow Street Office, from The Microcosm of London, 1808. © London Lives
[37] The Standard Saturday October 26 1827
[38] Surrey Quarter Sessions 1780-1820 Surrey History Trust 2011
[39] The Story of Scotland Yard Sir Basil Thompson1935 reprint Kessinger Publishing Rare Reprints page 100
[40] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 339

Census	Population	Number of commitments	Proportion per 100,000
1841	15,914,148	27,760	174.6
1851	17,927,609	27,960	156.2
1860		15,999	
1861	20,066,224	18,326	91.3
1862		20,001	
1863		20,818	
1871	22,712,266	16,269	71.6
1881	25,974,239	14,704	56.6
1891	29,002,525	11,605	40.0

There follows an extensive list of convictions from the Quarter Sessions records of Farnham cases held at the county archives in Woking and presented on a CD brought together by the Surrey History Trust. It must be remembered that parish constables and local magistrates dealt with all these offences before deciding to commit for trial. Many more cases would have gone to the Assizes and more dealt with locally by the magistrates. There were large numbers of cases of vagrancy and family matters dealt with by the magistrates but below there is a concentration on the criminal cases. Many of the accused in the examples below would have seen the inside of The Cage in the Market Hall in Castle Street! There is mention of a magistrate the Rev. Dr Locke. This was not unusual with a high proportion of the upper social echelons of the clergy acting as magistrates.

Session: 1780 Midsummer Actual date: 25/07/1780
HILL Lydia
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy Offence details: Committed the 13th Day of May, 1780, by Thomas Baker, Esq; a rogue and vagabond, was this day found wandering and begging in the Parish of Farnham in Surrey, not having obtained any legal settlement there.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction

Session: 1780 Michaelmas Actual date: 03/10/1780
BAILY John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Stay-maker
Type of offence: Bastardy/ maintenance Offence details: Committed the 19th day of July, 1780, by Thomas Baker, Esq being a person able to work and maintain himself and his family, hath lately run away from the said parish of Farnham, and left his wife and three children chargeable to the said parish.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: Discharged

Session: 1780 Michaelmas Actual date: 03/10/1780
SHANNON James
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence; Offence details: Committed the 15th day of September, 1780, by Peck Williams, Esq. charged on the oath of John Cooper, constable of Farnham in the county of Surrey, did violently assault, beat and ill-treat him the said John Cooper about nine o'clock this morning in Farnham aforesaid, without any provocation.

Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: No Indictment Brought; Discharged

* Last week we reproduced a view of Castle Street, looking to the hill and castle. It was probably taken at about the time this opposite view was taken — 1850 — with a rich selection of structural differences from the Borough junction we know today. It wasn't many years before the 300 year old market house (and "lock-up") was pulled down. So much change was ahead. Our appreciation to Frank Pullinger for kindly letting us share this marvellous scene.

WE continue with our extracts from Gordon Home's writings about Farnham of a century ago . . . picking up our story at Farnham Castle, and the grounds:

Outside in the grounds again it is interesting to follow the defences of the fortress.

The Market House in Castle Street had a cage as an early lock-up used by the watchmen and parish constables but this was demolished in about 1860, along with the Market House. By this time the Surrey Constabulary had been formed and had a new police station in Bear Lane, Farnham.[41] (Bear Lane, called Park Lane in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, ran north from its junction with the Borough and East Street. It then turned west through what is now known as Park Row but was then a continuation of Park Lane, into Castle Street.[42]).

Session: 1781 Epiphany Actual date: 09/01/1781
CONNER Abigail
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy
Offence details: Committed the 11th Day of December, 1780, by Thomas Baker, Esq; a rogue and vagabond, was this day found wandering and begging in the Parish of Farnham in Surrey, not having obtained any legal Settlement there.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: Discharged

Session: 1781 Easter Actual date: 24/04/1781

[41] Letter to Robert Bartlett June 2014 from Mr. Jo H Futcher late Surrey Constabulary
[42] St Polycarp's Catholic School, Tricia Knight, Farnham and District Museum Society 2013 Page 23

HEYWARD Mary
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy; Offence details: Committed the 24th Day of February, 1781, by Thomas Baker, Esq as a rogue and a vagabond, was this day found wandering and begging in the Parish of Farnham in Surrey, not having obtained any legal Settlement there.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: Discharged
Sentence: Discharged And Passed

LEE George
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy; Offence details: Committed the 25th Day of February, 1781, by Thomas Baker, Esq as a rogue and a vagabond, was this day found wandering and begging in the Parish of Farnham in Surrey, not having obtained any legal Settlement there.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: Discharged
Sentence: Discharged And Passed

Session: 1781 Easter Actual date: 24/04/1781
POTTS Joshua
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy; Offence details: Committed the 28th Day of February, 1781, by Thomas Baker, Esq. was this day apprehended in the Parish of Farnham, in Surrey, as a loose Idle and disorderly person, and not giving a good account of himself.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction; Outcome: Discharged
Sentence: **Discharged And Passed**

Session: 1781 Midsummer Actual date: 10/07/1781
BIDDLE William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Victualler
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 23rd day of May 1781 by Thomas Baker esquire, charged on the oath of William Crook of Farnham aforesaid labourer, is afraid that William Biddle will beat, wound, maim, kill or do to him some bodily harm or mischief, having threatened so to do, he hath therefore prayed surety of the peace against him.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction; Outcome: No Indictment Brought; Discharged

Session: 1781 Midsummer Actual date: 10/07/1781 I
ROGERS Henry
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Post Chaise Driver
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal; Offence details: Committed the 30th day of June 1781 by Peckham Williams esquire, charged by and on the oath of James Knight of Farnham aforesaid, post chaise driver and of David Hawkes of Farnham aforesaid, post chaise driver respectively with the feloniously stealing, taking and carrying away from and out a stable, belonging to the Bush Inn in Farnham aforesaid, a pair of

buckskin breeches and nankeen waistcoat the property of him the said James Knight and also a pair of boots, the property of him the said David Hawkes.
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Entered With A Proper Officer To Serve His Majesty As A Sailor.
Other information: Also described as labourer. David Hawkes described as the younger. Henry Rogers attempted to sell waistcoat to William Hankon of Farnham, postilion, at Warnford, Co. Southampton.

Session: 1781 Michaelmas
ATTFIELD John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 29th day of September, 1781, by Peck Williams Esq Charged on the oath of John Nowles of the Grange Farm in the Parish of Farnham Yeoman, with feloniously stealing, taking and carrying away from the said Grange Farm two geese, the property of him the said John Nowles.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty: On Trial Acquitted
Other information: Charged with William Herd, Valentine Howell, Daniel Grange and William Bixley

Session: 1781 Michaelmas
BIXLEY William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Blacksmith
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 29th day of September, 1781, by Peck Williams Esq by his own confession with stealing taking and carrying away together with William Herd, John Attfield, Valentine Howell, and Daniel Grange, all of Farnham aforesaid labourers, from and out of the Grange Farm yard in the Parish of Farnham aforesaid, two geese the property of John Nowles
Prison: Guildford House of Correction Outcome: Discharged?
Other information: William Bixley also confesses to theft of flowers, apples, grapes, cucumbers and gooseberries over the past 3 years from various gardens in Farnham. Handwritten note on Calendar 'Made evidence against the last four persons'

Session: 1781 Michaelmas Actual date: 02/10/1781
PHILLIPS Thomas
Alias: PHIILIPS
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 15th day of September, 1781, by Peck Williams Esq Charged by and on the oaths of John Beverly of Farnham, heel-maker, & of **William Taphouse, High Constable,** respectively with having behaved in a very violent, disorderly and outrageous manner, and having assaulted and ill-treated him the said **High Constable, in the execution of his said office**, and which said Thomas Phillips hath now greatly misbehaved himself, and also **insulted me in the execution of my office as a magistrate**

Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction Outcome: To Remain In Prison Until Sureties Found Sentence: Committed For Want Of Sureties
Other information: Articles of the peace taken out against Phillips

Session: 1782 Epiphany Actual date: 15/01/1782
MAY George
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Ash
Occupation: Carpenter
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 24th Day of December, 1781, by Thomas Baker, Esq; Charged by and on the oath of Joseph Garfath of Farnham on Suspicion of feloniously taking Stealing, & carrying away from and out of the Buildings belonging to his Dwelling house in Farnham aforesaid, five Cheeses, his property.
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction: Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted

Session: 1782 Epiphany Actual date: 15/01/1782 (See also 2 October 1781)
PHILLIPS Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 15th Day of September, 1781, by Peck Williams, Esq; is charged by and on the oaths of John Beverley of Farnham, heel-maker; & of William Taphouse, High Constable, respectively with having behaved in a very violent, disorderly and outrageous manner, and having assaulted and ill treated him the said **High Constable, in the Execution of his said Office, and hath now greatly misbehaved himself; & also insulted me in the Execution of my Office as a Magistrate.**
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction: Outcome: Unknown
Other information: Articles of the Peace.

Session: 1782 Michaelmas Actual date: 08/10/1782
WHITE Mary
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 2nd day of September, 1782 by Peckham Williams, Esq. charged on the oath of Frances Cooper, that she saw the said Mary White pick her Brother's pocket of a Silver Watch, the said Mary White did not deny the same.
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction: Outcome: Indictment **Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged**
Other information: Theft took place at Wheatsheaf Alehouse

Session: 1783 Midsummer Actual date: 15/07/1783
MARTIN Timothy
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Timothy Martin a negro, committed the 14th day of May, 1783, by Peck Williams, esq, a loose idle and disorderly person, and charged by and on the oath of Thomas Cooper of Farnham aforesaid Miller, with concealing himself behind a mill stone in a mill called Bourne Mill in the parish of Farnham aforesaid, being under the same Roof with the Dwelling house there, with intent as he suspects to have committed a Felony therein

Outcome: Indictment **Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged**

Session: 1783 Michaelmas Actual date: 07/10/1783
ALSOP Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Tailor
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Thomas Alsop, of Farnham, in the said County, Taylor, committed the 3rd day of September, 1783, by Peck Williams, Esq; charged on the oaths of John Boxall, and William Cook of Farnham aforesaid, with suspicion of feloniously Stealing taking and carrying away from out of the Dwelling house of the said John Boxall being the Lion and Lamb Inn in Farnham aforesaid, a silver Tea Spoon marked with the Letters (T.B.) the property of him the said John Boxall.
Outcome: Indictment Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged

Session: 1783 Michaelmas Actual date: 07/10/1783
GALLEY Robert
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Robert Galley, late of Kingston upon Thames in the said County, Labourer, committed the 19th day of September, 1783, by Peck Williams, Esq; charged by and on the oaths of John Dickins of Farnham aforesaid Inn Keeper, and James Hutchins his Servant; with suspicion of feloniously Stealing two Fowls the property of the said John Dickins in the George Inn in Farnham aforesaid (together with William Hill not yet taken).
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction
Outcome: Indictment Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged
Other information: Tried together with William Hill.

Session: 1784 Midsummer Actual date: 13/07/1784
GATES Edward
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Guildford
Occupation: Servant
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: committed the 29th day of June 1784, by Peckham Williams Esq., charged on the oath of William Aylwin of Guildford post chaise driver, with the feloniously taking, Stealing, and carrying away from and out of the post chaise stable belonging to the Red Lion Inn in Guildford aforesaid, a pair of Boots, and a pair of post chaise reins, the property of the said William Aylwin, and also a loose great Coat, the property of his Master John Allen of Guildford aforesaid, Post Chaise keeper
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned For 3 Months
Other information: Gates late of Fareham in the County of Southampton. **Boots and reins found in his possession at the Lion & Lamb, Farnham**

Session: 1784 Midsummer Actual date: 13/07/1784
STOVELL Henry
Alias: STOVOLD Henry
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham

Occupation: Yeoman
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Assault upon Simon Swanborough, a collector of a Turnpike Road
Outcome: Indictment Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged
Other information: Simon Swanborough a collector of a Turnpike Road

Session: 1785 Epiphany Actual date: 11/01/1785
WOOD John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 24th Day of December, 1784, by Thomas Baker, Esq, charged on the oaths of James Stevens, Gent, of Hale, in the Parish of Farnham, in the County of Surrey, and James Butler of the same Place, Gent. upon a violent Suspicion of having killed a Hen Turkey, the Property of him, the said James Stevens, and a Game Hen, the Property of him, the said James Butler, at Hale, with an Intent to have feloniously taken, stolen, and carried away the same.
Examinations: Prison: Surrey County Gaol
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: **Publicly Whipped At Farnham** The 27 From The Bush To The Wheatsheaf.

Session: 1785 Easter Actual date: 05/04/1785
STEDMAN John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 25th Day of January, 1785, by Thomas Baker, Esq. Charged by and on the oath of Mary the Wife of William Luff, of FARNHAM, with a strong Suspicion of having feloniously stolen, taken, and carried away one red and white silk Handkerchief, and also Four Shillings and Six-pence in Silver, and Two-pence halfpenny, her Property.
Examinations: Prison: Guildford House Of Correction
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Ordered To Be **Publicly Whipt** At The Carts Tail On Thursday 14th April From The Lyon And Lamb At Farnham To The Market House And Back Again And Then Committed To Hard Labour For Three Months In Mr. Bentons Custody
Other information: William Luff, labourer, lived near the Bells Alehouse, Farnham.

Session: 1785 Michaelmas Actual date: 04/10/1785
BRADLEY Francis
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Compton
Occupation: labourer
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 29th day of August, 1785, by the Reverend James Weller**,** D.D. for an assault on Thomas Chapman
Examinations: Guildford House Of Correction
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Fined One Shilling and Committed Till Said Fine Be Paid.

Other information: Charged with George Ede, **John Peyto otherwise Spitter,** George Vincent with setting a dog on Thomas Chapman of Holy Trinity, Guildford, as he was going to **Farnham to pick hops**, and seizing his bundle.

Session: 1787 Easter Actual date: 17/04/1787
ELLINGDON William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Domestic Violence
Offence details: Committed the 19th Day of January, 1787 by Thomas Baker, Esq; for refusing to find sufficient sureties to be bound with him in a recognizance for his personal appearance at the next general Quarter Sessions, and in the mean time to keep the Peace towards our said Lord the King, and all his liege People, and especially towards Ann Ellingdon his wife, of the Parish of Farnham in this County
Outcome: Articles Of The Peace
Sentence: Articles. Continued To Adjournment Or Until He Finds Sureties To Said Articles.
Other information: 17 April 1787 committed until he finds sureties 3 November 1787; entered into a Recognizance to keep the Peace

Session: 1788 Epiphany Actual date: 15/01/1788
HARRIS Hannah
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation:
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 2d Day of November, 1787, by Thomas Parker, Esq. and James Fielding, Clerk, Charged by, and on the oath of John Cook, Shop keeper, with having stolen one yard and a quarter of Camblet, one pair of worsted Stockings, and one cotton Handkerchief, in the Parish of Farnham, in this County.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Ordered To Be **Publickly Whipt** At The Carts Tail Til Her Back Is Bloody On Thursday The 24th Instant Between 12 & 2 From The Market House At Farnham To The Castle There Back Again And Then Discharged.
Other information: Hannah Harris a single-woman. Tried together with Mary (Mercy) Wheeler. Camlett was brown and orange

Session: 1788 Epiphany Actual date: 15/01/1788
WHEELER Mary
Alias: WHEELER Mercy
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 2d Day of November, 1787, by Thomas Parker, Esq. and James Fielding, Clerk, Charged on the oath of Thomas Cook, Shop keeper, with stealing two pieces of worsted Binding, the property of himself and James Lamport, of the Parish of Farnham, in this County.
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Ordered To Be Publickly Whipt At The Carts Tail Til Her Back Is Bloody On Thursday The 24th Instant Between 12 & 2 From The Market House At Farnham To The Castle There Back Again And Then Discharged.

Other information: Mary the wife of George Wheeler, labourer. Tried together with Hannah Harris. Described as "of Worplesdon" in Information

Session: 1788 Michaelmas Actual date: 07/10/1788
COLLIER Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: labourer
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: For an assault upon John Terry, gamekeeper in due execution of his office
Outcome: Indictment Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged
Other information: John Terry was gamekeeper to the Bishop of Winchester

Session: 1793 Easter Actual date: 09/04/1793
BEAGLEY Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Riot: Offence details: For a riot and a**ssaulting William Bennett, Tithingman**
Examinations: Prison:
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: 16/07/1793 John Gantlett, Michael Page, Richard Spreadborough, and James Springer all pleaded not guilty

Session: 1793 Easter Actual date: 09/04/1793
BETTS James
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Butcher
Type of offence: Disorderly/ indecent conduct: Offence details: **Disturbing a Dissenting Congregation**
Examinations: QS2/6/1793/EAS/2 Prison:
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty. 16/07/1793 On Trial Acquitted
Other information: James Brown, James Luff, James Young and James Butt all tried for a misdemeanour in disturbing a Protestant Meeting House in Dogflood Street, Farnham

Session: 1793 Michaelmas Actual date: 08/10/
BRYANT Lydia
Alias: BRIANT
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 21st of August, 1793, by the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Middleton, charged on suspicion of feloniously stealing, taking, and carrying away, from and out of a field, of and belonging to George Beldham, of Wrecclesham, in Surrey, farmer, ten sheaves of wheat, the property of the said George.
Prison: Guildford House Of Correction
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: Charged together with Elizabeth Sewell. Lydia Briant and Elizabeth Sewell both spinsters of Wrecclesham, Farnham

Session: 1794 Midsummer Actual date: 15/07/1794
ELSON Hannah
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 20th of June, 1794, by William Woodroffe, Esq charged on the oath of Anna Jane Cook, with feloniously stealing and taking away, in the county of Surrey, one apron and one pair of cotton stockings, the property of the said Anna Jane Cook.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: To Be **Privately Whipped** And Discharged.

Session: 1798 Easter Actual date: 17/04/1798
MILLS Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 15th of March 1798, by R. W. Wood Esq charged on suspicion of feloniously stealing, in the parish of Farnham, in the said county, a quantity of bacon, some halfpence, and a linen gown, the property of Robert Seward.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty

Session: 1801 Epiphany Actual date: 13/01/1801
COLEBROOK William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Grocer
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: For an assault upon Thomas Baker.
Outcome: Pleaded Guilty
Sentence: Fined One Shilling Paid Sheriff And Discharged. Release Filed.
Other information: 14 April 1801 pleaded not guilty. 14 July 1801 withdrew plea.

Session: 1801 Midsummer Actual date: 14/07/1801
STAPELEY William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 27th of June, 1801, by R.C. Smith, Esq for want of sureties to keep the peace towards our sovereign lord the King and all his liege people, and especially towards William Hall and James Bennett, constables of Farnham.
Outcome: Discharged

Session: 1801 Midsummer Actual date: 14/07/1801
WILLIAMS Hannah
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 29th of May, 1801, by R.W. Wood, Esq charged on the oath of William Wakely, of Farnham, with having feloniously stolen, taken, and carried away a felt hat his property.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted

Session: 1801 Michaelmas Actual date: 06/10/1801
DAVIS James
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Send

Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 5th of August, 1801, by the Rev GW Onslow, Clerk, charged on the oaths of George Brown and another, with feloniously stealing a goose, his property
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: No Prosecution. Hannah Williams a single woman; William Wakely, of Farnham, servant to the Marquis of Lothian

Session: 1802 Michaelmas Actual date: 05/10/1802
STAPLEY William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 2d of August, 1802, by R.W. Wood, Esq charged on the oath of James Goodyer, of Farnham, with having assaulted him. - For want of sureties.
Outcome: Discharged
Other information: Marginalia 'Discharged (illegible word) Evidence for Crown'

Session: 1804 Epiphany Actual date: 10/01/1804
FRY Henry
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 22d of October, 1803, by R.W. Wood, Esq charged on suspicion of felony, in stealing a lead weight, of the value of one shilling and upwards, the property of Samuel Stevens
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned And Kept To Hard Labour For Three Calendar Months

Session: 1805 Epiphany Actual date: 15/01/1805
RUSSELL William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 22nd of October, 1804, (brought into custody the 24th of October, 1804) by the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Middleton, charged on suspicion of feloniously stealing three pecks of barley-meal, at Bagshot (Badshot?), the property of James Arundel.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: **Transported For 7 Years.**
Other information: James Arundel and James Billinghurst, servant to Arundel, both of Badshot, Farnham: accused William Russell of Aldershot of breaking into a storeroom adjoining Arundel's shop with the intention of stealing three quarters bushell of barley meal.

Session: 1805 Midsummer Actual date: 16/07/1805
MARTIN Mary
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal
Offence details: Committed the 30th of May, 1805, by R.W. Wood, esq. charged on suspicion of felony, in stealing five muslin handkerchiefs, and a quantity of ribbon, of the value of five shillings, the property of Ann Jane Cook, of Farnham
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty

Sentence: Imprisoned And Kept To Hard Labour In The House Of Correction At Guildford For 6 Months.
Other information: Mary, the wife of James Martin, labourer. Examinations of James Johnson and Anna Jane Cook, linen drapers of Farnham: accusing Mary Martin, wife of James Martin of Farnham, of stealing muslin handkerchiefs from Johnson and 5 muslin handkerchiefs and a quantity of ribbon of the value of 5s from Cook.

Session: 1805 Midsummer Actual date: 16/07/1805
WHITE John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Felony (unspecified): Offence details: For a felony.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Transported For 7 Years
Other information: Examinations of John Stapley of Farnham, tailor, and William Luff of Farnham, butcher: accusing John White of stealing a striped Manchester cotton boy's jacket and trousers, a partly made boy's coat, 2 pairs of shoes, a girl's white petticoat and other articles, the property of Sophia Stapely. (Dated 15 July 1805).

Session: 1807 Epiphany Actual date: 13/01/1807
STONARD Daniel
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 20th of October, 1806, by the Right Hon Lord Viscount Middleton, charged with feloniously stealing, in the parish of Farnham, two sacks, containing barley, of the value of twenty shillings, the property of Thomas Cooper.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For 3 Calendar Months
Other information: Information of **James Billinghurst of Badshot, Farnham (?constable)**: stating that he **searched the house** and out house of Daniel Stonard of Aldershot and found sacks of barley, amounting to two bushels, one labelled D Arundell. Information of Thomas Cooper of Badshot, Farnham: accusing Daniel Stonard of stealing sacks of barley from his farm.

Session: 1809 Midsummer Actual date: 11/07/1809
GELDERING Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 20th of May, 1809, by JM Molyneux, esq, charged on the oath of Ann Jennings with assaulting her at Farnham. - For want of sureties
Outcome: Discharged: Sentence: Discharged By Proclamation (Discharged by proclamation because no evidence presented against the accused, or no witnesses able to testify against the accused)

Session: 1810 Easter Actual date: 01/05/1810
EAST Mary
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham

Type of offence: Vagrancy: Offence details: Committed the 21st of January, 1810, by J. Martyr, Esq convicted on the oath of John Budd, of being a rogue and vagabond, found lying in outhouses, and not giving a good account of herself
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Taken To Kempton And ... To Grandmother
Other information: **Budd, constable of Farnham,** found Mary East in the outhouses of the Green Man public house in Farnham, kept by Anthony Smart, victualler, in the company of soldiers; Budd followed East to Guildford and arrested her as a vagrant

Session: 1810 Michaelmas Actual date: 02/10/1810
MILBURY Charlotte
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy: Offence details: Committed the 30th of August, 1810, by the Rev. S. Locke, charged by George Mason, **governor of the workhouse** of Farnham, with behaving in a riotous disorderly manner, in the said workhouse. - To be imprisoned two months
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Imprisoned Two Months - Continued Time.

Session: 1812 Epiphany Actual date: 14/01/1812
HANKINS Richard
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal
Offence details: Committed the 16th of December, 1811, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of James Darwell, with feloniously stealing, in his shop, at Farnham, two pair of worsted stockings, his property.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For Six Months.

Session: 1813 Epiphany Actual date: 12/01/1813
BROOKES Thomas
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 21st of November, 1812, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged with feloniously stealing a waistcoat, the property of Henry Ratford, of Farnham.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned And Kept To Hard Labour For Three Calendar Months

Session: 1813 Midsummer Actual date: 13/07/1813
ELLIS James
Alias: ELLIS Joseph
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer And Constable
Type of offence: Neglect of public duty: Offence details: For a misdemeanour in allowing one John Astlett being in his custody as constable on a charge of felony to escape
Outcome:

Other information: John Mills and James Ellis charged together. 12 July 1814 plea in abatement that his name is Joseph 18 Oct 1814 judgement of acquittal

Session: 1813 Midsummer Actual date: 13/07/1813
GARDINER William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Elstead
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 7th of June, 1813, by the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Midleton, charged on suspicion of feloniously stealing four geese, the property of Richard Stovold, of Elstead.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: William Knight, James Jones, William Gardiner and (in info only) Isaac Jones accused together. Richard Stovold a farmer, George Edwards of Charles Hill, Farnham, a labourer.

Session: 1813 Midsummer Actual date: 13/07/1813
MILLS John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer And **Constable**
Type of offence: **Neglect of public duty**: Offence details: for a misdemeanour in allowing one John Astlett being in his custody as constable on a charge of felony to escape
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: John Mills and James Ellis charged together. 12 July 1814 plea not guilty 18 Oct 1814 on trial acquitted

Session: 1813 Michaelmas Actual date: 05/10/1813
HOLT Richard
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 25th of August, 1813, by the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Midleton, charged on suspicion of feloniously stealing five sheaves, value three shillings, the property of Joseph Pisely, of Farnham, Miller
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For Three Calendar Months
Other information: Jointly charged with James Skeat. Process book lists a second offence. Informations of Joseph Pisely of Thornton, miller, James Moore, constable of Compton, and William Goddard of Compton, butcher. Skeat was a bargeman. [Dated 24-25 Aug 1813]

Session: 1814 Midsummer Actual date: 12/07/1814
CHANDLER John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 10th of May, 1814, by the Rev Dr Locke, charged on the oath of John Stovold, with feloniously stealing, at Farnham, two elm planks, his property
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted

Session: 1814 Michaelmas Actual date: 18/10/1814
BAKER Richard
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Puttenham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 26th August, 1814, by the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Midleton, charged on the oaths of Richard Hack and others, on suspicion of feloniously stealing at Puttenham, two hogs, the property of Mary Valler.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Transported For 7 Years
Other information: Budd a labourer of Puttenham; Elizabeth the wife of David Coles of the Bourn, Farnham; Hack of Prun Common, a labourer.

Session: 1814 Michaelmas Actual date: 18/10/1814
SMITH William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 12th of September, 1814, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of James Harding, of Farnham, with feloniously stealing a hop pole, his property.
Outcome: Indictment Rejected By Grand Jury; Discharged

Session: 1816 Epiphany Actual date: 09/01/1816
BINFIELD James
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: For grand larceny.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For 6 Months

Session: 1816 Epiphany Actual date: 09/01/1816
DUTTON Reliben
Alias: Reuben?
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: For grand larceny.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty. On Trial Found Guilty: Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For 6 Months.

Session: 1816 Epiphany Actual date: 09/01/1816
MILLS William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Coining & Related Offences: Offence details: For unlawfully uttering counterfeit coin twice within the space of ten days.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned In County Gaol For Six Months & To Find Sureties For Good Behaviour For Six Months Longer. Other information: Found guilty of 2 counts.

Session: 1816 Midsummer Actual date: 16/07/1816

COAT Elizabeth
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Frensham
Type of offence: Receiving stolen goods: Offence details: Committed the 3rd of June, 1816, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of Richard Hammond, with offering for sale a silver watch, the property of his son, knowing the same to have been stolen.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty. On Trial Acquitted: Other information: The wife of John Coat of Farnham, labourer. See also Michael Connally.
Session: 1816 Midsummer Actual date: 16/07/1816
CONNALLY Michael
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Frensham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 3rd of June, 1816, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of Richard Hammond, with feloniously stealing from his dwelling house, at Frensham, a silver watch, the property of his son.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For Six Months In The House Of Correction At Kingston. Other information: See also Elizabeth Coat. See also QS2/6/1816/MID/89d. Informations of Richard Hammond, farmer, of Frensham, and Elizabeth Coate, wife of John Coate, of Farnham, rag gatherer

Session: 1817 Epiphany Actual date: 14/01/1817
USHER William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Godalming
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 17th of December, 1816, by the Right Hon Lord Viscount Middleton, charged with feloniously stealing, at Godalming, a great seal, the property of Williams Stevens
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour for Six Months
Other information: Process book gives **parish as Farnham**. Examination of Usher and information of William Stevens, post chaise driver

Session: 1817 Easter Actual date: 15/04/1817
HALL Henry
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy: Offence details: Committed the 26th of March, 1817, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of James Masden, with being **disorderly, in the poor house a**t Farnham, and injuring his property. - To be imprisoned two months.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Imprisoned Two Months - Continued Time

Session: 1817 Midsummer Actual date: 15/07/1817
ARNOLD Adam
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 19th of April, 1817, by J.M. Molyneux, esq. And the Rev. G. W. Onslow, charged on the oaths of John Budd and another, with having taken and carried away from his pits, at

Farnham, eight bundles of oziers, his property. - To be imprisoned three months and publicly whipt.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: Imprisoned Three Months And Publicly Whipt.
Other information: Jointly charged with James Gouldby

Session: 1817 Midsummer Actual date: 15/07/1817
ATTFIELD John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 7th of July, 1817, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of John Smith, with feloniously stealing, at Farnham, a quantity of cabbages, his property. - To be imprisoned one month.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: Imprisoned One Month

Session: 1817 Midsummer Actual date: 15/07/1817
FAWCETT George
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal
Offence details: Committed the 27th of June, 1817, by the Rev. L. W. Eliot, charged on the oath of Samuel Reed, with feloniously stealing, at Farnham, a basket containing various articles, his property.
Outcome: Discharged: Sentence: Discharged By Proclamation.
Other information: Examination of Thomas Padwick, aged 10 and information of Samuel Reed of St Cuthberts, Wells, Somerset accused George Fawcett of stealing a basket containing muslin, lengths of cotton, neck handkerchiefs, sewing cotton, a tea caddie, hair combs, table spoons and other items. (Dated 27 Jun 1817).

Session: 1817 Midsummer Actual date: 15/07/1817
GOULDBY James
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 19th of April, 1817, by J.M. Molyneux, esq, and the Rev. G. W. Onslow, charged on the oaths of John Budd and another, with having taken and carried away from his pits, at Farnham, eight bundles of oziers, his property. - To be imprisoned three months and publicly whipt
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: Imprisoned Three Months And Publicly Whipt. Other information: Jointly charged with Adam Arnold

Session: 1817 Michaelmas Actual date: 14/10/1817
DEAN John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 11th of October, 1817, for stealing five turkeys, five ducks, and a chicken of John Undershell.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty: Sentence: Imprisoned And Kept To Hard Labour For Three Months

Session: 1817 Michaelmas Actual date: 14/10/1817
HAYNES Dennis

Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Committed the 27th of September 1817, by the Rev. Dr Locke, for want of sureties for his appearance at the next general Quarter Sessions, and in the mean time to keep the peace, especially towards Richard Hack, of Farnham..
Outcome: Discharged: Other information: Discharged by Proclamation.

Session: 1818 Epiphany Actual date: 13/01/1818
TAYLOR John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Godalming
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed by the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Midleton for stealing at Eashing a quantity of apples, the property of H.S. Gill, Esq
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Imprisoned & Kept To Hard Labour For Three Calendar Months.
Other information: Also detained for the assizes. Informations of Jesse Warner, servant to Henry Streater Gill, Esq John Budd, high constable of Farnham, and Stephen Barnes of Eashing, gardener to Henry Streater Gill, Esq and John Fairmaner. Also the examination of John Taylor, late of Putney

Session: 1818 Midsummer Actual date: 14/07/1818
BAKER William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Bagshot (Possibly Badshot)
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 8th of April, 1818, by the Rev LW Eliot, charged on the oath of James Hart, with feloniously stealing from the granary of John Williams, Esq at Bagshot, seven cheeses, his property
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: Process book gives parish as Farnham. Informations 110A-D. Informations of James Avenell, tithingman of Badshot; James Hart of Badshot, Farnham, bailiff to John Williams of Badshot; William Baker, labourer, of Hungry Hill, Farnham; and **William Paterson, the constable of Farnham**

Session: 1818 Midsummer Actual date: 14/07/1818
BARNETT Henry
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 11th of April, 1818, by the Rev Dr Locke, charged on suspicion of stealing a hop surplice, the property of John Williams, Esq at Farnham
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Found Guilty
Sentence: Transported For 7 Years

Session: 1818 Midsummer Actual date: 14/07/1818
RADCLIFF William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham

Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 23rd of April, 1818, by the Rev Dr Locke, charged on suspicion of stealing a linen sheet, the property of Joseph Patrick, of Farnham
Outcome: Discharged

Session: 1818 Michaelmas Actual date: 20/10/1818
SMITHER William
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy: Offence details: Committed the 9th of September, 1818, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of George Mason, one of the overseers of the poor of Farnham, with being repeatedly **disobedient to the orders of the governor of the workhouse** of Farnham, he being a pauper therein. - To be imprisoned two months.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Imprisoned 2 Months - Continued Time.

Session: 1819 Epiphany Actual date: 12/01/1819
BURGESS John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Committed the 31st of December, 1818, by the Rev. Dr Locke, convicted on the oath of George Mason, with having on the 11th day of May last deserted, and **carried away from the workhouse** of Farnham 2 round frocks and 2 pair of stockings, the property of the said parish. To hard labour for three calendar months
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Hard Labour For Three Calendar Months - Continued According To Commitment

Session: 1819 Epiphany Actual date: 12/01/1819
HURD John
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy: Offence details: Committed the 28th of December, 1818, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of James Maiden, with being **riotous and disobedient to his orders, in the workhouse** at Farnham, to hard labour for one month.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Hard Labour For 21 Days - Continued According To Commitment.

Session: 1820 Easter Actual date: 11/04/1820
CORNEY Philip
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Vagrancy: Offence details: Philip Corney, aged 21, Committed the 3rd of April, 1820, by the Rev. Dr Locke, convicted of being a rogue and vagabond, wandering abroad and begging at Farnham. - To be imprisoned twenty days.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Imprisoned Twenty Days.

Session: 1820 Midsummer Actual date: 11/07/1820
CROSBY Charles
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer

Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Aged 23. Committed the 21st of April 1820, by the Rev. Dr Locke, charged on the oath of Mary Goddard, with feloniously stealing, at Farnham, a knife, her property.
Outcome: Pleaded Not Guilty; On Trial Acquitted
Other information: Also separately, the subject of Articles of the Peace exhibited by William Mellersh of Farnham.

Session: 1820 Midsummer Actual date: 11/07/1820
CROSBY Charles
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Occupation: Labourer
Type of offence: Assault & threatened violence: Offence details: Articles of the Peace exhibited by William Mellersh of the same place, meal-man: Outcome: Unknown
Other information: Also tried on a separate charge of theft

Session: 1820 Michaelmas Actual date: 17/10/1820
KEEN Edward
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Game Laws Offence: Offence details: Aged 32. Committed the 26th of July, 1820, by the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Middleton, charged on the oaths of James Hewitt and another, with having unlawfully used, at Farnham, certain nets to kill and destroy game; for which he is adjudged to forfeit twenty pounds; and having no effects, is ordered to be imprisoned three months.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Imprisoned Three Months - Continued Time.

Session: 1820 Michaelmas Actual date: 17/10/1820
SMITH James
Parish and county of residence / occurrence: Farnham
Type of offence: Theft or Intent to Steal: Offence details: Aged 40. Committed the 27th of July 1820, by R. Sumner, Esq charged on the oaths of George Mason and another, with having **absconded from the workhouse** of the parish of Farnham, and carried away with him certain articles of wearing apparel, the property of the said parish. - To be imprisoned three months.
Outcome: Sentenced Prior To Session: Sentence: To Be Imprisoned Three Months - Continued Time.

The above cases give some understanding of the nature of the work of the parish constables and the watchmen before the town of Farnham moved to a more formalised response to keeping the peace in 1830.

The appointment of parish constables was a formal affair and a part of the evolving structure of local government. An example from Dorking in 1828 when the Court Leet met in the Red Lion Hotel to appoint parish constables the perils and dangers to which they were frequently exposed rendered the offices the reverse of being coveted.

The Parish constable appointed by the Court Leet in Dorking was charged with the duty of arresting offenders and taking them when summarily convicted to the

treadmill at Brixton, or when committed for trial to some other county prison. [43] This would have course also be so in Farnham when prisoners were sentenced or remanded they had to be conveyed to a suitable prison.

The post of high constable was usually appointed in small towns of more than one parish being in most areas an annual appointment just as the parish constable. However in Dorking one high constable became practically permanent as James White served from 1833-1873 a total of 40 years. White continued in the role even after the Surrey Constabulary was formed, retaining what today would be seen as local government tasks. High constables had a mace as a symbol of office; parish constable a small staff a few inches long with royal arms emblazoned. The Dorking men were armed for self-defence with a large staff and sometimes pistols.[44]

19th Century Britain – Population – the key to change

In the 19th century Britain became the world's first industrial and urban society. By 1851 more than half the population lived in towns. The population of Britain increased rapidly during the 19th century and people cause problems, inevitably require more policing. So as the population expands the problems grow and the police play catch up but inevitably are behind the curve. Some major points are:

In 1801 the population of England and Wales was about 9 million.

1815 that population had reached 13 million[45]

In the 1840s many people came from Ireland, fleeing a terrible potato famine leading to large number of trampers and people living on commons and heathland in Surrey

1850 half the population lived in towns and London had more than 2 million inhabitants.

1901 the population had risen to about 41 million in addition there were many immigrants who may have not been recorded.

The population of England almost doubled from 16.8 million in 1851 to 30.5 million in 1901[46]

It is essential to understand the part population growth plays in the development of policing. For Guildford and possibly Farnham, it may account for the growth and level of violence associated with the Guy riots as there were always large groups of young, many moving into or close to the towns seeking work and a better way of life than was offered within isolated villages. The young are known to be hot headed and prone to violence and crime – the more mature person adapts his way of life to take account of increased responsibilities of family and work.

[43] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 38
[44] Memories of Old Dorking 1977 reprint Charles Rose 1878 page 38
[45] http://www.uk.filo.pl/uk_history_9.htm
[46] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era

As towns grew and law enforcement became more necessary with intervention more frequent, the role becoming complex and difficult as laws, regulation and practice became formalised. The one-year only untrained, amateur constable fulfilling a civic duty, often at great financial loss, encouraged the search for alternative methods. The formation of the Metropolitan Police in 1829 gave another model but the rural parts of the country were not yet ready for such dramatic and potentially costly change. Government were to legislate, cautiously and with great care as there was opposition to police, particularly when not under the direct control of the magistrates and hence the county gentry. They feared a loss of control.

The first compromise was to give the Vestry the powers and authority to enhance the watchman cover, to appoint a supervisory board. The Watchman appointed under the new Act would have the powers of a constable.

Population of the larger towns of rural Surrey

Location	1841	1851	1861
Farnham	6651	7264	9278
Frensham	1583	1559	1750
Seale	428	508	669
Dorking	5638	5996	6997
Chertsey	5347	6025	6589
Egham	4448	4482	4864
Godalming	4328	4657	5778
Guildford	4506	5171	5425
Merrow, Guildford	252	278	363
Stoke next Guildford	2054	2507	3797
Reigate	4584	4927	9975[47]

When recording the population of the county of Surrey and relating that to policing is difficult. There was no general and recognisable policing system in Surrey as a whole before the Metropolitan Police were formed in 1829 encompassing the north of the county, including after 1839 as far out as Epsom. When the Surrey Constabulary was formed in 1851 it did not police the northern more urban parts of the county; this pleasure was delayed until 2000.

As previously established policing in Farnham was the responsibility of the local magistrates who were directly linked to the Quarter Sessions where for a great deal of the century magistrates dispensed justice, assisted by a grand jury who reviewed all cases before they went for trial. There was some professional help however, from the Bow Street Runners and from the police officers attached to Union Hall court at Southwark. There half a dozen men were charged with investigating crime in the whole of Surrey. They were not detectives as such as the term had not been invented.

Population for the whole of Surrey up to the Thames[48]

[47] www.wsfhs.org
[48] www.ons.gov.uk 200 years of census in Surrey

Census Year	The whole of Surrey
1801	269,043
1821	398,658
1841	582,678
1861	831,093
1881	1,436,899
	Surrey County Council area
1881	266,200
1891	319,600
1991	1,000,900

Additional pressures upon policing came from the growth in population density, the coming of the railways from 1830 leading directly to the growth of new towns at Woking and Redhill. For Farnham the development of the Camp at Aldershot was from the evidence contained in this paper, to have an effect on the levels of violence. Added to these problems were a number of agricultural depressions in a county where the number of agricultural labourers formed a high proportion of the population. Amongst other policing issues were the criminal gangs, many itinerant, many living on the heaths and woodlands of the county, including Farnham. More will be set out later of a criminal gang operating from West Surrey that burgled and murdered in the 1840s and the start of the 1850s.

Examples from the Quarter Sessions have been set out above and a few from the Assizes follow. Again remember inexperienced parish officers and magistrates not likely to have experience investigating of top-end crime, would have dealt with these significant cases.

1809 May 18: Moulds was convicted of the murder of William Turner who was shot on the road near Farnham. The killer was a deserter from the 52nd Regiment based at Winchester and was walking with two young women. They met Turner who offered them a bed in his brother's barn that night. Turner walked a little ahead and Moulds shot him in the back with his musket. However the wounded man had enough strength to flee and make his way to the home of a surgeon. He was able to describe his attacker and a perty of soldiers went searching and detained Mould. He was taken to Turner's bedside and was identified shortly before the injured man died. With the evidence of the two women walking companions Mould was convicted and hung. [49]

1815 December 28: Attempted murder Farnham: Attempted murderer hung 22 April 1816. A farmer on his way home at 9pm came across three men who ordered him to stop his horse. He rode on and a shot was fired which startled his horse making it stop. He saw the three men run off. The farmer offered the enormous sum of £1000 as a reward but nothing was heard until George Whiting a notorious criminal was arrested and faced a number of capital offences. To save himself he offered evidence relating to the attack on the farmer. Whiting had called at the house of John Hammond where he also found James Ratford and was told they were armed and intended to undertake a robbery. They went out and soon came across the farmer Whiting expressing astonishment that Hammond had fired his gun at the fleeing

[49] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoley Amberley 2011 page 27

farmer. Hammond and Ratford were arrested and stood trial, Hammond being found guilty and hung.

1816 June Murder: In our last we stated that George Chennell, junior of Godalming, and William and George Chalcroft, is associates had been committed to Horsemonger Lane gaol upon suspicion of two murders, one of old Mr Chennell and his housekeeper at Godalming, and the other previously of a man named Searson within a quarter of a mile of Petersfield. We have now to add the particulars of a third barbarous murder supposed to have been committed by young Chennel and his associates. About June 1816 an elderly man named Stilwell who possessed a cottage and a few acres of land in the parish of **Frensham, upon the borders of Holt Forrest,** which is situated within four miles of Farnham and about nine miles from Godalming was found by a neighbouring farmer lying in the passage of his house having been horribly butchered. His body was cut and mangled too dreadful to describe to describe accurately. Nearly thirty wounds were discovered on the body most of them of such a nature as it was supposed would have been sufficient to have caused almost instantaneous dissolution.

The deceased was a very extraordinary character, penurious in the extreme; and had hoarded by his own labour some one hundred pounds. He was a married man but had been separated from his wife on account of a disagreement between them from her disposition being opposite to him. After the separation he never suffered a female to come near his home. He kept several cows, poultry and other things connected with husbandry. He was the sole and entire manager of every thing. He milked the cows, churned the butter, tilled the ground and regularly every Thursday he went with the produce of his small farm to Farnham market. By his exceeding penurious mode of living he acquired considerable property and so careful was he to secure it from robbers that might attack him by day (for he lived at a considerable distance from any other house) or by night, that he always kept his doors locked and his windows fastened, and if any person went to pay or receive money from him, they had to wait until he unlocked the door, and the moment he admitted them in the house he invariably locked the door and fastened them in his house before he proceeded to business with them.

The day proceeding that upon which he was found murdered he had been to a friend of his, a butcher, at Farnham to ask him if he knew any person who wanted a few hundred pounds on interest and was willing to give to give him good security for the money. This friend informed him that he did not know of any such person but he would enquire before the next market day. He also went to one particular public house in Farnham where he confined himself to half a pint of bee; he on that day conversed with several persons and was generally known to have a heavy purse. It was supposed that that he was dodged to his own house from Farnham, by a seafaring man, whom he was seen in conversation with, but from circumstances that arose during the investigation before the Coroner, such suspicion seemed, not at all confirmed, but on the contrary, disproved. The witness who was examined before the Coroner stated that he found Mr Stilwell's front door open, a circumstance never before known by him, which gave him considerable surprise.

When he entered the passage he found a stream of blood on the floor, which lay in clots along the ground from the front to the back door at which place the lifeless body

of the old man lay weltering in his own blood. The corpse was quite cold and life appears to have been extinct for some hours; it was therefore the general opinion that he was murdered on the preceding night. The witness found in Mr Stilwell's garden two knives with common wood handles, such as are used by shoemakers for cutting their leather; they were covered in blood, and appeared to be the weapons used by the murders for dispatching the old man. From there being two knives it appeared that there must have been than one person concerned in the atrocious deed. That the villains broke into the house before Mr Stilwell arrived from market was the general opinion, and waited in the house until he returned; and it is supposed that when he entered the front door and locked it they attacked him, and that he struggled with them from the front door along the passage to the place where he fell near the back door, as there was a track of blood from one door to the other. After he was dispatched the boxes on which he kept his money were broken open and all the bills and gold, which Stilwell had hoarded were carried off

On returning from the house they threw the knives into the garden. The back window of Mr Stilwell's house was found to have been the place where the assassins entered the premises, from it being broken open with an iron crew. Two persons were seen about the neighbourhood but they could not be traced and the sailor who was suspected was discharged. Subsequently a man named Jefferies was apprehended and examined on suspicion of being the murderer but he proved himself innocent and he was discharged. From that period not a single event had taken place until the apprehension of young Chennell and his companions that could in the least tend to elucidate this mysterious murder and robbery.

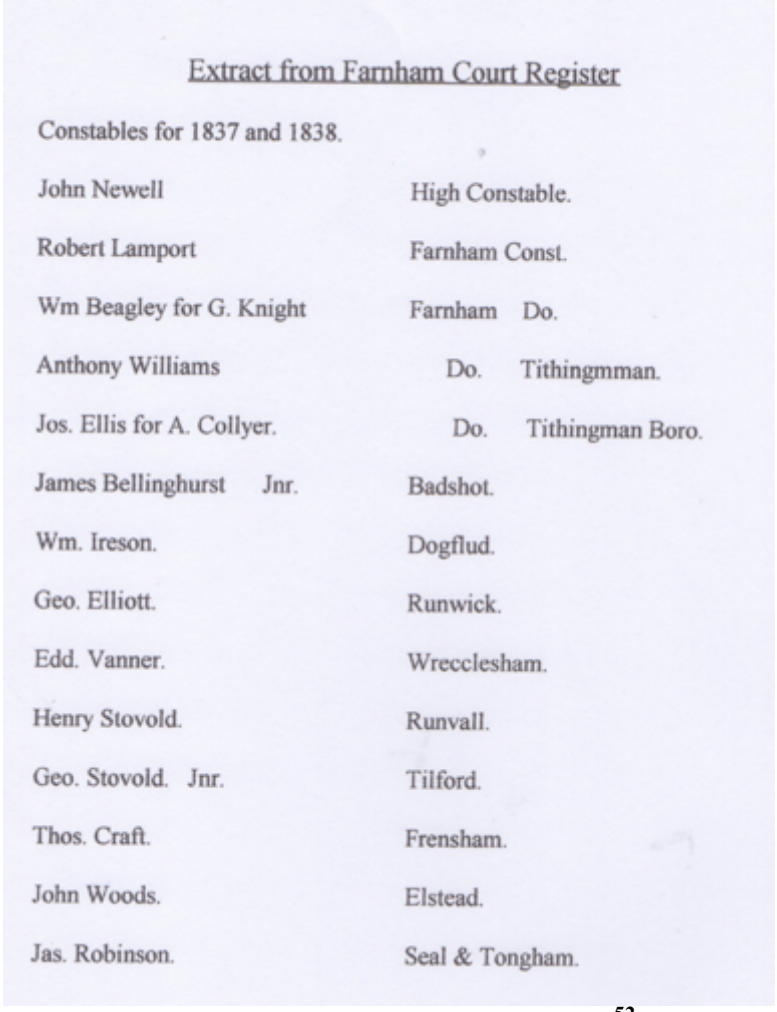
Since the committal of G Chennell junior, and the Chalcrofts by Lord Middleton, and the investigation having taken place relative to the murder near Petersfield, another investigation has, at the instance of his Lordship, been proceeding into the mysterious murder of Mr Stilwell. The house of Mr Stilwell is on the borders of a forest called Holt Forest. At the time the murder was committed the younger Chennell and Chalcraft were at work in the forest in the employ of Mr Marshall of Godalming. Upon reference to Mr Marshall's books it appears they were timber carting, that is they were drawing timber from Holt Forest to Godalming. The knives stained with crimson gore, found in old Mr Stilwell's garden were produced before his Lordship.

A man who was in the employ of old Mr Chennel at the time Mr Stilwell was murdered was examined; upon looking at the knives he said that he would not swear that they were old Mr Chennell's knives but it was his firm opinion that they were. The place where Chennel and Chalcroft were at work was not more than two-thirds of a mile distant from Mr Stilwell's house and from two strange men being seen near the house on the night Mr Stilwell returned from Farnham market – from Chennell and Chalcroft being at work so very near the house - and from two knives being found, such as are used by shoemakers, and which are believed to have been the property of old Mr Chennell – they are suspected of being the perpetrators of this murder and robbery, in addition to the black catalogue already enumerated. We have stated merely plain facts (having avoided all extraneous matter that might tend to prejudice the parties at their trials) the accuracy of which we can vouch for.

We understand that Chennel junior and the Chalcrofts will be tried first for the murder of George Chennell senior and his housekeeper and if the evidence should not be

sufficiently conclusive to convict them, they will be put upon their trials either for the murder of the young man at Petersfield or of Mr Southwell.[50]

1826 December 21: Theft of Sheep Farnham executed: Solomon Aslett alias Charles Clark was indicted for stealing at Farnham on the 10th August, a flock of fifty seven sheep owned by Edward Cobden. The sheep were part of a larger flock in Heriod in Hampshire. The stolen sheep were driven to Farnham and sold. No defence was offered and he was sentenced to death with no hopes of mercy held out. [51]



Extract from Farnham Court Register

Constables for 1837 and 1838.

John Newell	High Constable.
Robert Lamport	Farnham Const.
Wm Beagley for G. Knight	Farnham Do.
Anthony Williams	Do. Tithingmman.
Jos. Ellis for A. Collyer.	Do. Tithingman Boro.
James Bellinghurst Jnr.	Badshot.
Wm. Ireson.	Dogflud.
Geo. Elliott.	Runwick.
Edd. Vanner.	Wrecclesham.
Henry Stovold.	Runvall.
Geo. Stovold. Jnr.	Tilford.
Thos. Craft.	Frensham.
John Woods.	Elstead.
Jas. Robinson.	Seal & Tongham.

Extract from the court register[52]

[50] The Hull Packet and Original Weekly Commercial, Literary and General Advertiser (Hull, England), Tuesday, December 16, 1817;
The Morning Post (London, England), Friday
[51] Morning Chronicle Thursday Dec 21 1826:

[52] From Joe Futcher to Robert Bartlett in June 2014

Agricultural Disturbances

Some Swing events in Surrey

The agricultural nature of Surrey and the surrounding counties with little competition from developing industries for workers with ever increasing numbers entering the labour market drove down farm worker's wages. This was a major driver towards the agricultural unrest across the south known as the Captain Swing riots after a mythical leader of the disorders. Government and gentry along with the farmers were frightened by these events and punishments for those caught were harsh. Some examples in the county follow, mot of which were thrown onto the responsibility of local magistrates and parish functionaries to resolve, with if lucky, some military assistance.

1830 2/3 August Portley Farm near Caterham: Arson: £2000 damage to a barn caused by rioters. The whole farm was reduced to ashes but it was noted that it was the thatch of the barn housing the threshing machine that had first been set alight. Conflicting rumours had it that it was a reprisal for the employment of Irish labourer and alternatively, that it was the Irish labourers themselves that had fired the barns. To add to the mystery the previous occupant of the farm a former businessman said to be highly respected in the neighbourhood, was the only suspect brought to trial several months later and discharged for lack of evidence at the Surrey summer assizes in 1831.[53]

1830 3 November Swing arson at Caterham, Englefield on the 11th, Albury 14th and Ockley on the 14th there were three fires.

1830 11 November Swing arson at Englefield Green

1830 14 November Arson at Albury:
On 10 January 1831 James Warner was hung for arson. James Franks the owner of a corn mill next to his house in Albury awoke to the sound of fire and saw a man in a brown frock coat run off. After local enquiries James Warner was soon identified following rash claims made in drink. Local magistrate Henry Drummond ordered a search of Warner's house where a gun was found and a brown frock coat. Warner had worked for Franks but had been laid off two years earlier. He was convicted and hung. [54]

1830 16 November Swing arson at Egham,[55] Wallington and two at Woking

1830 19 November Tithe meeting riots at Ockley, Wooton, Woking and Norwood (probably the area south of Leigh) overnight 19th and 20th [56]

1830 Radical handbills were circulated in **Dorking**. On the 19th November, The Times reported "an immense multitude of peasantry" assembled at Wotton to compel

[53] The Times 18 April and 10August 1830
[54] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 56
[55] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3
[56] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3

the rector the Rev. J E Boscawen, to reduce his tithes. Some of the demonstrators claimed to have been forced to do what they did by men from Horsham. "-whom they durst not disobey." A part of the crowd moved off it was alleged towards Dorking following a leader "dressed in a smock frock" and the riots that followed three days later at Dorking and Walton when the justices were besieged and assaulted in a public house appear to be inspired from the same quarter.[57]

1830 24 November Dockenfield a wage meeting riot[58]

1830 25 November: Swing arson at Egham [59] and Limpsfield

1830 29 1830 Banstead Arson: A haystack was set on fire and as people rushed to dowse the flames a farm was also set on fire on the other side of the village. But the early arrival of a fire engine stopped any serious damage. Letters had been received at the farm allegedly from "Captain Swing" the mysterious "leader" of the agricultural disturbances of the day. There was also arson at Merton on this day **60** [61]

1830 30 November: Albury Swing arson and riot [62]

1830 6 December: Oxshott Swing arson [63]

1830 12 December: Cheam Swing arson [64]

1830 18 December: Oxted and Woldingham Swing arson [65]

1831 6 January Albury: Tithe riot [66]

1831 January: A few days after the execution of Warner shots were fired through the windows of the institution's master of the workhouse in Guildford and a note left:
"Warner is murdered; Franks, Drummond and Smallpiece shall die. I could clear him at the place, you fake swearing villains. We fired the mill. Starving and firing shall go together" [67]

1831 23 October there were two Swing arson offences near Guildford, the last recorded in the county there being only five more incidents associated with these disturbances in the country in the following days. Finally it was over and the retribution could continue.

The numbers of swing related incidents in the rural parts of the county totalled: arson 23, wage riot 1, tithe riots 4, with one "riot assault" totalling 29 incidents far less than

[57] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 page 86
[58] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3
[59] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 App 3
[60] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 56
[61] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[62] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[63] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[64] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[65] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[66] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 3
[67] Surrey Executions Martin Baggoly page 58

in the surrounding agricultural counties.[68] In the county this resulted in 20 cases heard in three courts where 11 were acquitted, eight jailed, one sentenced to death and 8 transported.[69] Beyond a wage meeting riot in Dockenfield in November 1830 Swing does not seem to have impacted greatly on the Farnham area but policing changes were beginning to come from government.

Lighting and Watching

In 1830, the year after the formation of the Metropolitan Police and during the agricultural disturbances there was a legislative change, which had far reaching effects on local policing. The Lighting and Watching Act of that year could be adopted locally by ratepayers following a simple procedure of calling a properly constituted meeting and appointing Inspectors from their number. They were then empowered to levy a rate and, among other things, to appoint patrolling watchmen as paid constables. These paid constables would be controlled and directed by the elected inspectors. This Act was adopted in a great many places, usually where the system of Parochial Constables was failing to meet the needs of the community. As the Act only provided for local inhabitants to pay for their own policing there must generally have been some problem in existence which residents were prepared to pay to solve.

Farnham were early adopters of the Lighting and Watching Act of 1830 and appointing the necessary inspectors.

At a vestry meeting called on the authority of the Churchwardens at Farnham church on the 2 August 1830, it was decided to hold a public meeting to consider the adoption of the Act. Those in present at that public meeting on the 18 August 1830 voted in favour of implementing the Act and agreed a level of rate not to exceed one shilling and four pence to pay for the requirement of the Act then adopted. A number of local men were elected to serve as Inspectors for the purposes of the Act and on that evening, six of the inspectors resolved that William Beagley and Thomas Cole be appointed as Watchmen and Night patrol "for the proper protection of the inhabitants, houses and property, streets and other places within the limits of this market town at the weekly wages of twelve shillings each." James Steer was also appointed and employed in the same capacity and at the same wages during an emergency or in the case of illness or absence of either Beagley or Cole. It was ordered that the Watchman's duties should be to patrol the town of Farnham every hour from the 25th March to 29th September from eleven o'clock at night till four in the morning and from 29th September to 25th March from eleven at night till five in the morning.[70]

> That one of them shall patrol once at least every hour, West Street and through the Church Yard by Captain Prescott's to Longbridge, over the bridge to Sir George Barlow's gate and into Red Lion Lane, and back by Longbridge to the Borough – occasionally to go from West Street by Muss Willmer's through the Meadows to the Church Yard and occasionally from Longbridge by the Meadows to the end of Dogflood, and to cry the hour in an audible voice.

[68] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 1
[69] Captain Swing Hobsbawn and Rude Penguin Books 1985 Appendix 2
[70] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 2, 3

> And that the other Waychman shall in a like manner patrol Dogflood and Bear Lane to Castle Street, from thence through the Borough to the end of Longbridge and back to the Borough – occasionally to go from the end of Dogflood through the Hop Ground into Castle Street and thence behind the Lion and Lamb to the end of West Street.[71]

With the introduction of the night watch there was the additionally security provided by the development of about sixty oil lamps lit from dusk of the 1 September 1830 to continue every night until the 31 March 1831[72]

The inspectors appointed for a three year term were empowered to employ as many watchmen "as they shall think sufficient" and regulate their work hours and wages, subject to overall financial limits set by the ratepayers. The watchmen were to have the same powers as a constable. . Once adopted the new scheme could only be abandoned after three years. [73] There was difficulty in many areas with implementation of the act because of the costs but Farnham acted quickly and were no doubt persuaded by the threat of crime and disorder in and around he town.
This Act was of little permanent value and is worthy of note as the first attempt to provide day police outside the metropolis. [74]

The Act was aimed gently to encourage greater levels of rural policing without challenging local autonomy but the extent to which permissive powers were adopted depended on levels of local anxiety about crime and disorder and a willingness to fund reform. [75]

James Steer was added to the rota of watchmen during the emergency of the hop-picking season. Hats were ordered for the watchmen at 5s 6d each. At a special meeting on the 8 October 1830 the inspectors investigated the conduct of watchman Beagley in not having apprehended two loose characters whom he had seen in the street just before one o'clock that morning and who had been into Mr James Lamport's garden. Beagley was suspended for one month to be reinstated only on the production of a strong recommendation from the inhabitants in his favour. William Hughes was appointed for a month to fill the gap. Beagley acquired the right number of recommendations and was reinstated and Hughes remained on the strength as a supernumerary watchman. All four men were put on special duty on Guy Fawkes Night, "to prevent tumult or riot in the town."[76]

Beagley Steer and Hughes resigned in 1832 and were replaced by William Stannard and William Roe who were instructed to report all public houses and beer shops found open after hours.[77]

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[71] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 3
[72] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 274
[73] Policing – A Short History; Philip Rawlings; Willan Publishing 2002 page 128
[74] History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 274
[75] Brundage, Anthony, 'Ministers, magistrates and reformers: the genesis of the Rural Constabulary Act
[76] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 4
[77] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 4

Under the County Police Acts of 1839 and 1840 the government could subsidise 25% of the costs of new police forces one of the conditions being that there should be sufficient police stations with holding facilities. In August 1846 there was discussion locally when concern is expressed over the amount of additional drainage a police station (still referred to as a lock up) would add to the system. [78]

In April 1833 a second Lighting and Watching Act was placed on the statute book, repealing the 1830 Act, and so the town had again to opt into a level of formalised Lighting and Watching. At a public meeting on the 27 September 1833 there was not total support for the proposals but following a vote, two thirds of the ratepayers were in favour. On the 1 November with John Hollest of Leigh House in the chair, nine new Inspectors of Lighting and Watching were elected. They met on the 4 November at the Savings Bank and the old order was resumed with John Newell a constable, was employed to patrol the streets on the 5 November "for the purpose of preventing mischief by fire."[79]

1835, September 6 Watchman Stannard was making his rounds between eleven and twelve o'clock when he saw Richard Young, George Young and Charles hack near the Market House in castle Street. George Young had a ferret in his hand, which the watchman endeavoured to gain a sight of believing it to be stolen. He was thrown down by Richard Young and on getting up, the watchman defended himself against an attack by Young who was hit by the watchman's staff and knocked to the ground. When placed before the bench the culprits promised never to strike the Watchman again. Stannard was bought a new coat and cape costing three guineas by the Inspectors. At the same meeting when the clothing was agreed, the Watchmen were admonished for not having cried the hour (pleading hoarseness) and were commanded to so every hour in future. [80]

Following further legislation John Newall a constable was appointed **Superintendent of the Watch** at £5 a year "to have an eye of the Watchmen at least twice a week and keep a report book regarding the regularity or otherwise of the watchmen." Henry Downes and Steven Scarlett joined as watchmen in place of Roe. [81] The appointment was no doubt part time given the salary, a similar solution to that in Guildford where a High Street baker was appointed.

The treasurer of the Vestry was authorised in the event of neglect or supposed impropriety of conduct on the part of the Watchmen to suspend them and withhold their wages. They were an unreliable lot and yet it was these men dressed in uniform, armed with staves and patrolling their lonely beats in the ill-lit, streets through the long hours of the night[82] were key to the future evolution of policing in the countryside and small towns.

The reference in the book Victorian Farnham is the first seen to date, that the men of these small nascent police forces wore a uniform. More work need to be undertaken in Dorking and Godalming to see if there are references to a uniform.

[78] Letter to Robert Bartlett June 2014 from Mr. Jo H Futcher late Surrey Constabulary
[79] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 5
[80] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 6
[81] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 7
[82] "Victorian Farnham" Edward Ewbank Smith, Page 7

The Guildford Borough Police formed in 1836, wore the uniform of the London Metropolitan Police that included a tall stovepipe hat, a long frock coat and dark matching trousers. The coat was buttoned by a row of white metal buttons to the throat and the buttons bore the coat of arms of the Borough. Worn on the stand up collar were the white metal numbers the derivation of the term collar number for the number allocated to every recruit before the computer age and cries of "Data Protection" changed that practice. A leather belt was worn with the universal army pattern white metal locket fastener with the Guildford Arms on the tongue. It may be that this practice was followed in the other small market town police forces.

1836 September 17: Theft Farnham: Thomas Ely aged 39 was indicted on suspicion of stealing at Farnham a pony the property of Samuel Stevens. He was acquitted[83]

1838 Dorking Police: Inspector William Donaldson led a small police force in Dorking from 1838-1851. He held the title of superintendent and maintained a log of their activities, known as the Occurrence Book of which the volumes covering 1838 to 1849 survived and have been bought by Surrey County Council in May 2014 and lodged in the Archives Centre at Woking. [84]

Dorking must have been a similar town to Farnham and the problems faced by the new police were no doubt the same and so the type of incidents below were no doubt comparable to those faced by the Farnham constables.

1840s Dorking: In reading these examples one has to remember the superintendent was on duty alone most of the time. If there were other officers about he could not summon them easily, and he had to rely on his own resourcefulness.

> Two men arrested for assault were being marched off to the Cage. A crowd followed, obviously intending to release the prisoners and one of them was also arrested for attempted rescue. The magistrate clearly did not view this as serious and fined all three 3/-. [85]
>
> The superintendent was breaking up a group of fighting men, when the main culprit "laid hold of me at the same time being surrounded by his own companions, after scuffling about for some time I was obliged to let him go as his father came and took him with him". A week later he had to be bled on account of the bruise he received. [86]
>
> "I had one of my ribs split assisting the Constable of Capel with a man that he had up for assaulting Mr. Anderson. I had my staff broken through the middle while using it against him." [87]

[83] 1836 September 17: Theft Farnham: London Despatch
[84] "Policing Dorking, Surrey 1838-1849" Document May 2010 from the Author Chris Atkins
[85] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 15
[86] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 41
[87] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 43

A short entry records that a shoemaker was taken to the justice for "being drunk and assaulting me in the execution of my duty on the Ball night" – fined 12/-.[88]

Two navvies were arrested for "creating a disturbance in West Street and assaulting PC Briggs by throwing a great flint at him". They were bound over to keep the peace. [89]

PC Briggs arrested a William Percival and took him to the justices for assaulting him in the discharge of his duty. He was discharged with a good reprimand

He gave a lengthy description of a disturbance to which he was summoned at the Queen's Head at 1.0am, involving a very drunken landlord who demanded, while he tried to break down a door, that a guest be evicted. Meanwhile a great crowd of onlookers had gathered outside. The superintendent refused to evict the guest, causing the landlord to complain that "it was very hard that he should be paying to support me and not have my assistance when he wanted it", a cry still heard today. The superintendent left to the sound of the rowing landlord and his wife carrying on the night. [90]

Godalming took advantage of the Municipal Corporation Act 1835 to establish a police force that was formed in January 1836 later to be incorporated within the county constabulary in 1851. The Force was re-established in1858 leaving the constabulary but again amalgamated with the county on the1 April 1889. In 1841 William Henry Biddlecombe was appointed superintendent of the Godalming police a man who was to play a crucial role in the investigation of crime before the Surrey Constabulary was formed. When the new force was created, Biddlecombe was appointed chief superintendent of that Force and is the first to appear on the nominal roll. In 1841 a police station was built and the two regular policemen (Biddlecombe and a constable named Lindsey) lived on the premises. The station house was in Moss Lane and contained three cells capable of handling nine prisoners. The borough then petitioned to have its own court, which was granted in 1847. Records for the 12 months to the end of November 1848 showed that 63 cases had been dealt with involving 87 prisoners.

However, a report to the Quarter Sessions in 1849 mentioned that Dorking parish had spent £167.15s on its police force, a total exceeding all other Surrey parishes outside the Metropolitan Police area **except Farnham.** (There are opportunities for research within the records for the policing of Farnham mid-century). The Dorking policed occurrence books reveal nothing of their uniform, but they did carry a staff, handcuffs, a rattle (precursor of the whistle), a lantern (or 'lantron') bought from a local shop, [91]perhaps fuelled from the oil delivered to the Station House, and a cutlass. The superintendent wrote that at midnight PC Briggs dealt with a disturbance in East Street by three men. "He had an up and down or two with Lovell who tore the Cutlass from the strap, drew it from the scabbard and flourished it over him, but at

[88] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 45
[89] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 204
[90] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 38
[91] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr C.A. Willeard Page 102

last gave it up". Lovell was taken on a warrant before a justice who fined him 5/6. [92] In an interesting contrast an offender at the same hearing for stealing broccoli from a garden got three months hard labour.

Again although this is a Dorking example it is likely that the same patterns of work were followed in Farnham. The hours worked varied daily, but not by much: the superintendent worked all day and the two constables covered the late evenings and nights. The duties of each were often recorded and early on the superintendent wrote that none of them was prepared to go out in the night (i.e. after dark) so that they could be out and visible during the day. But this clear policy was contradicted by the hours the constables worked, which put emphasis on evening and night patrols even though one would have thought the value of patrolling after midnight might be minimal.[93]

The circulation of information system obviously worked well and was a continuation of the handbill system where notifications of crimes were spread far and wide with some speed. A criminal with the alias "Civil John" was arrested in Dorking in possession of the stock of a clothier at Ripley three days after the crime had been committed.[94] One morning Superintendent Donaldson had information from Farnham about a watch thief, arrested him soon after and took him to the Farnham constable in the afternoon.

Guildford Borough: At a meeting of the Guildford Watch Committee on 15 January 1836 it was resolved to appoint nine constables for the borough. Three days later the appointments had been made and the officers became operational shortly afterwards. Richard Jarlett was appointed superintendent constable on a salary of £15 a year but he was only part time, as he had a job as the High Street baker!

Again this is not Farnham although not far away but is a clear example of policing by these small forces as they developed. In 1840 Peasmarsh, close to Guildford, arrests were made of two footpads. The crime involved a respectable farmer Chalcraft from Godalming. An examination was undertaken at Guildford gaol where it was recorded that Mr Chalcraft was riding home between 8 and 9 from Guildford market when three men attacked him grabbing his horse and pulling him to the ground all three pointing pistols at his head. The men rifled his pockets and decamped.

Chalcraft recovered his horse and rode to Guildford where he reported to three constables Burt, Seebrook and Mandeville who immediately took off in pursuit. They had no success but on returning to the town came across a man answering the description of one of the robbers. Two others soon joined this man and all three were told they had to accompany the constables. They walked with the constables until one declared he would be damned if he would go any further drawing a pistol and presenting it at Burt but before he could fire, Burt hit him with his staff. The others then drew their pistols and a violent struggle took place with two being secured the third running away dropping a bundle which was later found to contain three smocks similar to those worn by the robbers.

[92] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr C.A. Willeard Page 172
[93] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr C.A. Willeard Pages 3-5
[94] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr C.A. Willeard Page 168

They were taken to the cage and searched and two pistols loaded with ball were found upon them as well as a powder flask and eighteen bullets. On one was found two £10 notes of the Guildford Bank and some gold and silver. Mr Chalcraft identified the notes as being those taken from him. Mr Chalcraft asked to see one of the men in a recovered smock and the magistrate asked that he do so but he refused and a struggle ensued to get it on him but he offered desperate resistance taking six men to get it on him. When this was achieved Mr Chalcraft identified the man as one of the robbers. The men were committed. The men are believed to be wanted for other similar offences at fairs and markets.

An example of the old style watchmen
The new Acts allowed policing to develop and start on the road to professionalism

The Lighting and Watching Act of 1830 and the subsequent Act of 1833, was the first statute to deal with the establishment of paid police forces in England and Wales generally. It enabled, but didn't require boroughs to form forces along the lines of London's Metropolitan Police.

This Act was replaced by the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, which required boroughs such as Guildford to establish paid police forces. (It was not until the 1860s that Reigate became a Borough). The 1835 Act applied, initially, to the 178 boroughs that had been granted royal charters of self–government.

By 1838 only about one half of the boroughs in England and Wales had established police forces and when the first Inspector of Constabulary was appointed in 1856 it was found that 13 boroughs were still without a police force.

In 1839 the County Police Act was introduced, known as the 'Permissive' Act. While it enabled (but did not require) counties to establish constabularies, only eight such forces were formed in 1839, twelve in 1840, and four in 1841. Public opinion had become so concerned with the cost of policing the counties, that only four more forces (1844, 1849 and two in 1851) were established in the next 15 years. Interestingly enough, about half the counties did not implement the 1839 Act at all. The reluctance of many boroughs and counties to establish official police forces is clearly an indication that the absence of official constabularies did not mean that these areas were given over to mass disorder, plunder and mayhem. The absence of a modern police did not mean an absence of effective law enforcement.

Country gentlemen were opposed to change that might threaten their personal supremacy so near to home and were also concerned about the burden upon the county rate. It was argued that the county justices were relatively harmless so long as they wielded that blunt instrument the parish constable but should they be armed with a sharp weapon such as a police constable, no man could foresee the damage that would result.[95]

Thus the Act of 1839 and a further related Act of 1842 enabled extension of police role and functions in the counties, included such matters as collection of rates, road surveying, weights and measures inspection, dealing with vagrants under the Poor Law legislation as legitimate police functions.[96]

The **County Police Act 1840** provided for the voluntary merging of borough police forces with county constabularies and the levying of a new "police rate". Some of the provisions of the act were:

> A special police rate was to be levied to finance the county constabulary, instead of the cost being part of the general county rate.
>
> Boroughs were permitted to consolidate their police force with that of the county in which they were situate, and a single chief constable could be appointed for a consolidated force.
>
> Justices were empowered to divide the county into districts, each with a population of not less than 25,000. Separate police rates could be levied on ratepayers of each division. However, constables were liable to serve throughout the county, regardless of which district they were assigned to.

[95] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 295

[96] Stumbling towards Professionalism: A post-revisionist overview of the establishment of English policing in the nineteenth century By Keith Smith

> Permission was given to the justices to acquire land and buildings, and borrow money for the construction of police stations and to build strong rooms fro the temporary confinement of prisoners.

At the Surrey Quarter Sessions, Reigate on a Wednesday in April 1840, the committee appointed to enquire into the expediency of applying the provisions of the Rural Police Act unto those portions of Surrey that are not comprised within the Metropolitan Police District made a report to the court. The report stated that the committee had held meetings upon the important subject referred to them and had made considerable progress in the inquiry but having ascertained that there is a Bill at present before Parliament (The County Police Act 1840) they decided to make no report at this time. [97]

One can only imagine that the threat felt was not high, that the current system was reasonably effective and the costs of an established police force were seen as unnecessary. Overarching all these considerations are the links between the gentry and magistrates who would have had a reluctance to lose the influence and control they held over policing and people's lives if the new police were employed.

Nevertheless, the County and Boroughs Police Act 1856 compelled all counties to establish police forces, and exchequer grants were payable to forces serving populations of more than 5,000 people. Unfortunately for local accountability, many small parish and borough forces merged with other forces in boroughs with a population of less than 10,000.[98]

This was the legislative stick: the legislative carrot was that Parliament voted that central government funds would be made available to assist in the cost of policing: first at 25% of the total cost, then a quarter of a century later 50%. The Act provided that this money would be paid to Constabularies deemed "efficient", which criterion would be judged by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabularies.

1841 September 28: Charles Hollington was appointed superintendent policeman and Head Constable of the Borough of Guildford at a wage of 25 shillings a week plus a house. Hollington a former constable in the Metropolitan Police was to serve until he transferred to the Surrey Constabulary as one of the first superintendents six months after its formation in 1851 serving as the superintendent at Farnham. He was a brave capable man, ambitious and serving well with the new force although he became embroiled in a discipline issue that resulted in his move from Farnham to Chertsey after which little more is to be found.

1841 November 22: Theft Thursday Jan 6 1842: Surrey Quarter Sessions: William Hopley aged 67 and Richard Stovold aged 20 were indicted for stealing in Farnham two cows the property of Messrs John and James Knight. On 20 November two half-breed Alderney cows were turned out in a meadow belonging to Mr Knight a solicitor in, Farnham. On the 22nd the cows were missing and a reward was offered. The prisoners were seen driving the cows in the direction of Kingston and were subsequently traced to the metropolis when it was ascertained that they had offered to

[97] The Champion and Weekly Herald 12 April 1840
[98] http://www.adamsmith.org/sites/default/files/images/uploads/bulletin/An_Arresting_Idea.pdf

sell them for £15 to a publican who thought it suspicious so they drove the cattle to Smithfield market where they were purchased by a butcher for £14.10s. When **detained at the cage in Farnham by Newall a constable**, Hopley admitted the theft of the cows. An allegation was made that Newell tortured the prisoner in the cage to make him confess. The prisoners were found guilty and both were sentenced to ten years transportation.[99]

The Parish Constables Act 1842 required each county's quarter sessions to hold an annual meeting to appoint parish constables. This took the responsibility away from the Court Leet in Farnham. Only those who paid the poor rate and were aged 25-55 were eligible for appointment and those who did not take up the appointment could be fined if they failed to find a suitable substitute. Parishes could decide to have paid constables whom the justices would appoint and who would be paid by the poor rate. The constable was normally only allowed to operate within the parish to which he had been appointed. If a county force had been established under the 1839 Act he was subject to direction by the chief constable. Where a lock up was provided the justices were required to appoint a paid superintending constable who was in charge of both the lock up and the parish constables.[100]

In 1842 an attempt was made to give life to the deteriorating parochial system by an Act of Parliament which ordered Justices of the Peace to hold special sessions for appointing proper persons to act as parish constables and which authorised the employment of superintending constables to have the management of Lock-up Houses and the supervision of parish-constables within the petty sessional division of the county for which they might be appointed. Such superintending constables were to receive a salary out of the county rates. Although many of the superintendents were meritorious they were doomed to failure by the unpromising material they had to manage. The only discipline the superintendent could impose on an unmanageable parish constable was to report him to the justices who were powerless to administer anything like adequate correction. **[101]**

1846 February 7: Sheep stealing Farnham; Surrey Sessions: Edward Oxford a tailor aged thirty six was charged on indictment with stealing sheep at Farnham the property of Mr Robert Tyler Barrett. On the evening of Saturday 7 February the shepherd Mr Barrett left 119 sheep belonging to his master in a fold and on the following morning discovered there were 118. He found in the field the entrails of the missing sheep and that same morning the butcher and gamekeeper of the Lord Bishop of Winchester found the skin of the animal in a plantation. Suspicion having fallen on the prisoner an application was made to a magistrate and a warrant was obtained to search his cottage. On going with the warrant **Neville the constable** found in the prisoner's pantry part of a boiled leg of mutton and the jaw bones of a sheep and in a bedroom in the garret he also found the other parts to constitute the whole of a sheep. On this discovery the prisoner said, "I am a done man. I suppose I shall be sent out of the country". He endeavoured to run away but followed, secured and brought back. The mutton found was fitted to the skin and no doubt could exist as both being the

[99] Farnham Morning Chronicle Thursday Jan 6 1842
[100] Policing a Short History Phillip Rawlings Willan Publishing2002 page 137 and 138
[101] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 298

carcass and the skin of the sheep stolen from Mr Barrett. It took the jury an hour to find the prisoner guilty and he was then transported for ten years.[102]

1848 October 26: Theft Godalming: Quarter Sessions: Richard Smith 49, a man formerly in **extensive business at Farnham** was indicted for stealing a sixpence and a penny. The prisoner was in the habit of visiting a beer shop in Godalming kept by a man named Coles who had frequently missed money from the bar after Smith left. He accordingly marked some money on the 26 October and placed it on a shelf inside the bar while the prisoner was there and after he left the money was missing. He followed him out and tasked him with the robbery when he exclaimed "Here's your money; I only took it for a lark" at the same time handing the witness a sixpence and a penny which were marked. On being searched at the station house £4 19s was found on him which he received the same morning from the bank. Found guilty and sentenced to six months hard labour in Guildford house of correction.[103]

1849 February 10: Farnham Robbery: Daring robbery at watchmakers: Samuel Brazier 32 and William Small 51 were indicted for **stealing at Farnham** three gold watches the property of Robert Harrington. The prisoners were seen lurking near the shop and were seen to smash the glass in the shop window and seized the watches before running away. The witness a butcher living opposite pursued them and gave them into custody when the watches were found on them. Jury found them guilty and they were sentenced to seven years transportation.[104]

1850 September 27: At 3 o'clock in the morning a gang of armed burglars at his vicarage in Frimley murdered Reverend George Hollest in his vicarage in the middle of the night during the night. (The Reverend Hollest had a brother who was a solicitor in Farnham.)

This is a long and complex story involving four men who were a part of a gang the writer of this paper has called the "Isaacs Gang" after their leader. The gang was loosely made up of about 15-20 men and women many of whom lived on the heathlands of west Surrey. They came together and travelled on foot across Surrey and Sussex committing violent burglaries terrifying rural communities, culminating in the death of Hollest. This death and the arrest of a number of their team, who were well known Guildford villains, did not stop the burglaries and the violence. However, if some good can come from tragedy, the murder of the vicar in his bed led directly and within a few months to the formation of the Surrey Constabulary. The gang was unravelled by excellent and daring police work involving a number of officers from the new police forces of Guildford, Godalming and Tunbridge Wells. The gang committed crime in and around Farnham.

Mrs Hollest was later to give evidence about the night of her husband's murder when she and her husband were in bed at about three in the morning. "I noticed an increase of light in the room but could not perceive how it was occasioned". There were curtains around the bed but they were open at the foot. Reaching from her bed to ring for the servant she was grabbed by a masked man. As she tried to scream a second

[102] Morning Post Tuesday March 17 1846
[103] The Standard December 5 1848
[104] Morning Post Tuesday March 20 1849

man grabbed the Reverend and they were warned by the armed men to be silent or they would have their brains blown out. However both continued to struggle.

Mrs Hollest was forced to the floor in the narrow space between bed and wall. Unable to see her attacker she was struck by his distinctive squeaky voice. She then heard a pistol fired and she struggled to reach her husband whilst one of the burglars hung onto her around the waist pushing a pistol into her side. The burglar caught his food on the washstand and tripped and Mrs Hollest was able to ring the servant's bell to raise the alarm and the intruders began to flee.

Mr Hollest then went to his dressing room to fetch his handgun, which he always kept loaded there because of the fear of burglars. He pursued the intruders out through the front of the house whilst Mrs Hollest watched from an open window as the three men ran out to join a fourth – one turned and looked directly at her and she took fright and withdrew slamming shut the window.

A few minutes later her husband returned and calmly informed her, "The fellow has shot me." Mrs Hollest saw that he was bleeding from the stomach and her servant Giles was dispatched to fetch both the local surgeon and parish constable. Not an easy thing to do when you know out there close by was a gang of armed and very dangerous criminals. Locking the staircase door in case the men returned Mrs Hollest tried to stem the flow of blood. The injury was from the shot fired in the bedroom but so intent was the vicar on protecting his household he had not realised he had been shot.

Dr Davies found the vicar in bed, in good spirits not fearing he would die. He discovered a gunshot wound about an inch below the navel and realised the injury was very serious indeed and the doctor stayed with him until he died at 1pm the following day. Dr Davies undertook the PM and recovered a marble from the abdomen.

There was no local police force and so the local magistrates summoned Superintendent Biddlecombe from Godalming to help and the Home Secretary through the Metropolitan Police commissioner, sent Sergeant Kendall from London. Inspector Hollington became involved of his own volition. (For the press ranks were arbitrary and changed often within one story)

Given this outrageous murder and the social status of the victim, immediate preparations were made for a meeting of the Rural Police Committee of the Commission of the Peace at Reigate to consider what was to be done. "The Rural Police Committee meeting was arranged shortly after the late melancholy murder of the Rev. Mr. Hollest at Frimley, a village at the extremity of the western division of the county, which is without the protection of a constable."

The vicarage at Frimley in 2011[105]

Reverend Hollis' grave in Frimley churchyard 2011[106]

Pressure was piled upon the magistrates by the newspapers with such comment as the following:

1850 October 18: Crime in Southern England – (Extract). In the county of Surrey, the house of a clergymen is entered in the night by a party of masked burglars and the reverend gentlemen himself is shot to death in his bedroom. Everyone asks what there is to prevent it and everybody answers "Nothing". If there be any part of the country in which life and property might be supposed to be tolerably safe, it is the county of Surrey. Surrey is a very civilised county. It is a county not of mud huts but of substantial mansions, elegant villas and fine park-like grounds. It is very genteel-nay, a very fashionable county. It is full of well-to-do people. It is convenient – so accessible that the bankers and merchants of the city pitch their tents in the county of Surrey, and yet seem to be only at their counting house doors.

[105] Photograph sent to the author by retired officer Ken Clarke
[106] Photograph sent to the author by an ex colleague Ken Clarke

There is a great deal of wealth in Surrey. There are probably more men of condition in it, more men of a certain worldly standing- men who revel in purple and fine linen, in chariots and in horses, and fare sumptuously every day than in any county in Great Britain. Yet somehow or other, strange as it may appear, these wealthy and enlightened Surrey gentlemen seem, in all that relates to the protection of life and property to be living in a state of primitive barbarism.

It required the murder of a country clergyman to reveal the astounding fact to the world. It is not the state of the police is bad – it is that there is no police at all. There is a (parish) constable perhaps, in every parish; and when you have named this important functionary you have named all that there is to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants from murder and robbery in the night.

Of course in all such cases the cry is for an active police. People evoke the aid of an efficient protective force, as though a well organised, well equipped constabulary army were a thing to be had by asking for it. If they had to nothing else for it there would be no difficulty in the way. But they unfortunately have to ***pay*** for it and that they do not like at all. Protective forces are very expensive things. There is nothing more costly indeed, than the elaborate machinery, which we are compelled perpetually to keep at work for the detection and punishment of crime. The country is ground down by taxation that thieves may be caught and felons supported. Nothing costs us so much as crime. Everyone is willing to acknowledge this in word; but from few does it receive practical recognition. [107]

1850 October 25: The Rural Police Committee met at Reigate taking evidence from Superintendent Biddlecombe and the Chief Constable of Hampshire. Biddlecombe covered an area of 28,940 acres with a population of ten thousand one hundred and twenty six with only one felony in his district over the last twelve months, stealing faggots to the value of sixpence. However he had been sent for to deal with twelve burglaries in surrounding districts in the last six months. There had been no cases of felony in Godalming itself during the last five years. Considering how long it would take to establish it is worthy to note at this date he put in a bid for plain-clothes officers as detectives, but that is a long story and will be told in a further document.[108]

The Times reported that fifty Magistrates were present at the meeting with Mr T. Puckle in the chair. ------ Rural part of the county was to have three divisions, Chertsey, Dorking and Godalming and the chief constable is to reside at Dorking - the most central point. It was proposed that the various lock-up premises be repaired and that station houses etc. be erected, the estimated cost of which would not exceed £3000, which could be raised upon the security of the police rate and paid with interest in twenty-year instalments.

> Chief Constable £300 per annum with £100 for horses, travelling expenses
> Chief superintendent £170
> Five superintendents £450
> Eight inspectors £483.12s
> Seventy constables £3463.4s; allowance for clothing etc. £1227 11s

[107] 1850 October 18 Liverpool Mercury
[108] Durrant page 4

Allowances for clothing etc., £1227.11s

£6284.7s annual total to be levelled on the divisions as a rate of three pennies in the pound

Savings were laid out as a counter-balance to the cost of the new police force

The conveyance of prisoners £240
Salaries of several Inspectors of Weights and Measures whose duties can be performed by the rural police £380
Superintendents of lock-up houses £80.
Payments to constables at Coroner's inquests £74
Parish, Special and private constables at least £1800 making £2,574

Balance £3710.7s which will be much reduced after the force has been in operation for a short time--- "—that the expense of maintaining them will be, it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county, while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to it's life and property will amply repay the expenditure incurred, and that their recommendations when carried into effect will prove of the utmost advantage to all classes of the community" -- On the motion of Lord Lovaine the report was adopted and the election of the chief constable was appointed to take place on the first day of the Epiphany Sessions.

1850 November 30: The Frensham Burglary committed by members of the gang: Charles **Marshall of Frensham,** stated: I have been a shoemaker but I am now out of business. The trousers and handkerchief now produced are mine. On the last day of November a man came to my door and asked me the way to Gregory's, a beer shopkeeper. I went out to show him the way and when I got back there was a man in my house. He struck at me as I went in and knocked me down in the house. I was insensible from the blow. When I recovered my senses I missed a silver watch, two pistols, two pairs of trousers and other articles. Those produced are mine.

James Dadson who was one of the constables from Tunbridge Wells said he had found the property at the house of Edwards and he had said it belonged to Oliver and Brooks. (These are all members of the gang) Oliver was committed for trial and Edwards committed until Saturday.[109]

1850 December 2: A **special meeting** of the magistrates of the County of Surrey took place in Sessions House, Newington Causeway for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee appointed at the Quarter Sessions to ascertain the best means of extending a police force to that portion of the county **beyond the limits of the Metropolitan Police District**. The committee was arranged shortly after the late melancholy murder of the Rev. Mr. Hollest at Frimley, a village at the extremity of the western division of the county, which is without the protection of a constable.

The clerk of the peace read the following to the committee:

[109] 1851 January 22 Wednesday: Uckfield Burglaries: The Standard

" The committee think it their duty to represent to the court that they are unanimous in considering that in those portions of the county of Surrey which is situate without the limits of the Metropolitan Police District, the ordinary officers appointed for preserving the police are not sufficient for the preservation of the peace and for the protection of the inhabitants and for the security of property within such portion of the county; and that it is expedient that measures should be immediately adopted to remedy an evil of so serious a nature.

Taking this view, the committee, in pursuing its investigation with which they have been charged by the court find there are two methods already provided by the legislature for the protection of the lives and properties of the inhabitants of rural districts-

First: By the establishment of a rural police under the acts of 2 and 3 vic., cap 93, and 3 and 4 Vic, cap 88.

Second: By taking advantage of statute 5 and 6 Vic cap 109 which regulates the appointment and payment of parish constables

By statute 2 and 3 Vic., cap 03, the force must not exceed on individual for every thousand inhabitants, according to the last census, the population of certain boroughs and towns being deducted.

The provisions of the Metropolitan Police Act might also be extended to this part of the county not now under its control. This however could not be done without the assistance of the Legislature. Of these plans the first mentioned has appeared to be the best and most desirable in all respects

In considering the best method of introducing the rural constabulary into this county the committee have had to contend with the difficulty occasioned by the peculiar position in which the county is placed in consequence of the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police force extending over so important to a portion of it in respect of population and wealth; and that difficulty has been much increased by the circumstance of the boundary of the Metropolitan Police District not being coincident with the boundaries of the petty sessional divisions.

The committee therefore recommend the court to introduce into that portion of the county, which is without the limits of the Metropolitan Police District a county constabulary under the provisions of the 3 and 4 Vic c.88 s29.[110]

It was agreed to accept the report the details of the legislation and Home Office requirements were considered. There had to be divisions of no less than twenty six thousand inhabitants a requirement of statute. Having considered and consulted widely, including with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police it was agreed that ninety-six parishes would be policed in three divisions, Chertsey, Dorking and Godalming.

[110] 1850 December 3: Morning Chronicle Tuesday

The chief constable was to reside at Dorking the most central point. (Note: This did not happen and the first HQ was in Woodbridge Road Guildford, which served as a police station until the 1970s). The various lockup houses will be repaired and the station houses etc. to be erected at an estimated cost of not exceeding three thousand pounds which could be raised upon securing the police rate and repaid with interest in twenty yearly instalments. The statute says the force must not exceed one constable per one thousand inhabitants. "Therefore if from the total expenditure of £6284 7s be deducted the ascertained amount of savings, namely £2574 there remains a balance of £3710 7s which will be so much further reduced after the police force shall have been a short time in operation; that the expense of maintaining them will, it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county, while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to life and property will simply repay the expenditure incurred; and their recommendations when carried into effect will prove of the utmost advantage to all classes of the community.

On the motion of Lord Lovaine the report was adopted and the election of the chief constable was to take place on the first day of the Epiphany Sessions."[111]

The following is the proposed number of constables and their salaries &c.: Chief Constable £300 per annum with £100 for horses, travelling expenses &c., chief superintendent £170, five superintendents £450; Eight inspectors £483.12s; and 70 constables £3463.4s; allowance for clothing &c., £1227 11s; making an annual sum of £6284 7s to be levied on those divisions by a rate of three pence in the pound which will produce £6377 11s 9d.

Against that expenditure the following savings will be effected by the force. The conveyance of prisoners £240: the salaries of several inspectors of weights and measures whose duties may be informed by the rural police £380: superintendents of lock up houses £80: payments to constables at Coroner's inquests £74: parish, special and private constables at least £1800; making altogether £2574.

A great saving may also be effected from diminution in the number of trampers and vagrants who infest the county and consequently in the amount of contributions levied by them on the charitable; a result which would immediately ensure if the Poor Law unions within the proposed rural division adopt the urgent recommendation of the committee and appoint the police to act as assistant relieving officers in such cases. The success of this measure has been fully established in Essex, and a very large amount of saving has been effected.

Therefore if from the total expenditure of £6284.7s be deducted the ascertained amount of savings namely £2574 there remains a balance of £3,710 7s, which will be so much further reduced after the proposed police force have for a short time in operation, that the expense of maintaining them will it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county; while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to life and property will amply repay the expenditure incurred, and that their recommendation when carried into effect will prove the utmost advantage to all classes of the community." Signed by authority of the committee Lovaine, Chairman

[111] 1850 3 December: The Times

Lord Lovaine: ----- **Most of the crimes were committed by tramps and vagrants** and were concocted in the beer-houses in these secluded places (remote villages of the county) He observed in the report a saving of £1800 on parish constables but he knew it would be £400 more as many parishes sent no return.

Mr T Alcock MP: --- he did not like Dorking as it would have been fairer to choose Reigate, which was of more importance in a public point of view being in proximity to the junction of the Brighton, Dover, Ramsgate and other important railway stations. Reigate ought to be the headquarters of the divisions as it was the chief place in eastern part of Surrey and all the others were in the western division. He proposed that as an amendment that Reigate be substituted for Dorking. The Hon Locke King JP supported this amendment but Lord Lovaine said the members were on the committee when Dorking was chosen when it was resolved to be one of the districts. They had considered Guildford but thought Dorking much better. Sir W Jolliffe thought Reigate preferable to Dorking. Mr Alcock said it was his sole object to see Reigate the residence of the Chief Constable not Dorking.

Sir W Jolliffe spoke of only six horses being recommended to deal with all the duties of the force. They could not perform it. There would be removing prisoners and other duties besides their being wanted by the superintendents. In a very short time prisoners for hard labour in the county would be removed to a new house of correction at Wandsworth. Look at that distance from some places. Someone said "There is the railway." Sir W Jolliffe: Then there will be no saving. Some of the constables will eight or ten miles apart and the inspectors who visit them must require horses constantly.

Sir R Fredericks Bart thought it a heavy tax on the rate-payers who had not been asked who should pay the rate. The tenant farmer would be the man and it would be a great hardship on him, as the great landlord would hardly pay anything

Mr Alcock: ------ There were a number of secluded villages about there unprotected and he should not like a repetition of the Frimley murder.

The report without amendment was carried and forwarded to Sir George Grey the Home Secretary.

1850 December 7: This morning the clerk of the peace intimated to the bench at Quarter Sessions that he had received a communication from the Secretary of State of the Home Department relative to the proposed extension of the Surrey rural police which was resolved upon on Monday last at a special meeting of the magistrates. The learned gentlemen said that according to the provisions of the act of Parliament he had forwarded the resolution signed by the magistrates on Tuesday last for Sir George Grey's approval. This has been agreed and the magistrates will appoint the police on the 1st January next.[112] It is true about the Victorians. Thewere decisive and not frightened to initiate large projects and drive them through at a pace.

1851 January 1: Three months after the murder of the Reverend Hollest the Surrey Constabulary became operational with an establishment of seventy police officers,

[112] 1850 7 December Morning Chronicle Saturday

including five superintendents. The first chief constable, Captain Hastings, was aged thirty-eight years and was appointed on the 31 December 1850.

"At the Surrey Quarter Sessions yesterday the rural police committee submitted their report relative to the appointment of a Chief Constable and the headquarters of the force. Captain Hastings H.E.IC.S., was recommended as a fit person for the duty; and after some discussion amongst the magistrates it appeared that the adoption of the report was carried by a majority of two, the numbers being 20 and 18. Captain Hastings was accordingly elected." [113] It does seem to have been a close run decision having been successful by just two votes. It was the norm to appoint former military officers of the same class as the magistrates. He was one of them! Hastings aged 38, was the son of Colonel Sir Charles Holland Hastings. Educated at Eton he entered the East India Company's service[114].

The chief constable required the men to be honest and sober, less than thirty years of age and at least five feet seven inches tall. There was no minimum age - one constable was appointed at the age of fourteen and another at fifteen. The first county headquarters was in the old Guildford Borough Police Station at the Corn Market House but this was only until the new headquarters was completed in Woodbridge Road in 1854. County police stations were established in Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and **Farnham** and new stations were built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, and Reigate. The original station at Chertsey was sold because of its poor condition and a new one built. Five superintendents were stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters.

One thing that need not be addressed was the name of the ranks to be introduced. The names chief constable, superintendent, inspector and constable were already in use. There was no rank of sergeant in Surrey although there was in London, which does not appear in the records until 1865. There were four classes of constables with newly appointed officers starting at class four and moving through the classes on promotion. They were required to work seven days a week and granted twelve days leave a year, which had to be taken in summer as no leave was permitted during the winter. It was not until 1853 that an Instruction Book was provided to give guidance on policing matters, although the system of General Orders began on 30 January 1851. The first order related to the taking of leave.

1851 January 1: William Henry Biddlecombe the Head Constable of Godalming aged 36, was appointed to the new force as a superintendent and was number one in the appointment book.[115]

[113] 1851 January 1: Morning Post Wednesday
[114] "A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary" 1951 Durrant page 4
[115] Durrant page 5

PC Carpenter Surrey Constabulary 1857
Note the collar number 88 a name used for police officers number up until the 1990s

1851 January 5: A new police force in Surrey but the burglars and robbers from the county were still active in Sussex where there was a police force of 19 for the whole of East Sussex.

Uckfield Burglary Saturday: The gang of burglars: The Uckfield Burglary – six men and a woman were examined in Tunbridge Wells also with a man named Edwards and his wife charged as receivers. Property belonging to the Misses Farncombe was recovered from the Edwards and Oliver was arrested and more property recovered. Two watches found on Oliver were the proceeds of burglary belong to the Rev. O E Vidal whose residence in Sussex was broken into in September. The other articles answered the description of valuable stolen from the house of the Rev. J H Stewart at **Lingfield** on Monday fortnight. The police are now engaged in an active search for two of the burglars who are now missing and are wanted for an extensive robbery at **Farnham.** They and the gang are suspected of two other burglaries in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells. [116]

In February 1851 now four months had passed since the murder of the Reverend Hollest, the Surrey Constabulary were moving into the towns. In this case it was Dorking but no doubt there was a similar display in Farnham.

[116] 1851 January 5: Uckfield Burglary; the Northern Star

"Rural Police: —-- The new rural police made their entrée into this town on Tuesday morning last, 12 in number, including the chief superintendent. They all seemed to be young men. They are to be drafted to the different neighbouring villages, with the exception of two, and the superintendent, who are to remain at Dorking. We sincerely hope that the new police will have as little to do, except perambulating the town, as our last respected police officer, Mr. Donaldson, who has lived amongst us upwards of 12 years, and to his credit be it stated, not a single robbery has been committed in the town during his sojourn; and he has left here much to the regret of the inhabitants" [117] (Robbery was the generic term for crime. It seems as if the writer was suffering a little from a rosy-glow picture f the past!)

1851 February 23: Extract from a national newspaper editorial on the current state of crime which if not directly referencing the Isaacs gang implies there were more hardened and dangerous criminals operating in groups across the land. But a few years ago the perpetration of a single murder, either in town or country would from the comparative infrequency of this most terrible of crimes arouse a simultaneous shudder of horror as it were throughout the realm; now it is absolutely rare to take up a daily paper without reading the sickening details of *several*. In proof of this let us only take the record of the past week. With a police force more than double Napier's army of the Indus, how difficult is it found to keep the roving hordes of plunderers and villains of every description at bay. Let the police reports and our crowded gaols and the necessity for a new gaol speak for the crime of the metropolis. The police as a force, to do them justice, do their best. ------ Highway robbery accompanied by violence worthy of a hundred years ago when the guilt-steeped woman decoyed and the ambushed bully violently plundered or murdered the wayfarer with impunity, is now the common work of the night. Then turning to the country; no longer do the burglars concoct by twos or threes their midnight marauding; now organised in large gangs they lay a whole county under tribute, as it were at will, terrifying every district.[118] There was much to be done by the new police.

1851 April 19: Execution of the Frimley murderers: There were 7-8000 people present for the execution of Levi Harwood and Samuel Jones alias Burbridge at Horsemonger-lane Gaol in Southwark. The executioner Chalcraft had to pull their legs to complete the execution. These were two of the Isaacs gang that were to receive the ultimate sentence.

Reverend W S Rowe the chaplain informed the press that both men made a full confession. Jones: There was in the room at the time of the murder, Smith, myself and Levi Harwood. I had Mrs Hollest around the waist. I had a pistol in my hand and might have shot her but never intended to do it. I believe Mr Hollest was stooping to pick up the poker and Levi Harwood was the man who fired the shot. I am certain of that. Smith and Levi Harwood both ran from the room leaving me the last person in it, I followed as soon as I could get away from Mrs Hollest. I immediately left the room and overtook them just on the other side of the turnpike gate. All four namely Levi Harwood and Samuel Harwood, Smith and myself came together. After I had left the premises and got to the main road, I heard the sound of firearms as from the house of

[117] "The Surrey Standard" February 1851 photocopy of a note from Chris Atkins June 2010
[118] 1851 February 23: The Era

Mr Hollest. The account given by Smith of what happened in the room is quite true and Mrs Hollest is mistaken in swearing as to her belief it was Levi Harwood who held her as it was me. ---------- In the Rose and Crown, Levi Harwood was with Mary Crowder the lady he lived with. Jerry Campbell a policeman had previously looked in and had gone out again and in ten minutes Hollington came with three policemen and apprehended us.(The were members of the Guildford Borough Police)

Hiram Smith the Approver (the old term for informant – turned Queen's evidence and would have been given a deal!) will be tried for a **burglary at Farnham** where he committed the offence in company with Samuel Harwood and the parties who were executed.[119]

It is beyond the scope of this paper to go into all the detail surrounding the arrests of the Isaacs gang. They committed more violent burglaries in Surrey and Sussex until there was a breakthrough and the police office for Tunbridge Wells arrested a number that led to Guildford and so on until the team was rolled up. Guns were drawn, knives found, violent arrests took place. The team were based around Farnham, Woking, Guildford and beyond living separately, coming together to go on criminal expeditions travelling very long distances on foot.

1851 April 24: Isaacs gang trial: Hamilton: On the second day after the Kirdford (6 June 1850) shooting Isaac and John Jones came to me again at **Farnham Common** and agreed for me to meet them at the Dorking, Holmwood Common. Isaacs brother Ned and also John and James Jones; we all went to an old man's house – a farmer near Horsham. They had heard he had a great deal of money. We all went – two at a time from Holmwood. Six of us met in a wood at Captain Broadwood's Lodge and we went from there to the farmer's house, one got in the window and let the rest in the back door but they were disturbed by the occupants and made off.

1854 6 January: Theft Farnham: William Garrod formerly a porter of the South Western railway Company was indicted for stealing three ropes or cords, called communication cords, from his employers. The cords were the only ones used by railways and go under each carriage to allow for the guard to communicate with the engine driver. The London and South Western Company was the only one, which had them. The defence was that the cords were taken to bind hay and would have been returned. The jury returned a verdict of guilty with no felonious intention. This was in effect a Not Guilty verdict and the prisoner was discharged.[120]

1854 28 March: Robbery Spring Assizes Kingston Frederick Mathews was indicted for highway robbery with violence in Farnham upon Caroline Payne and stealing a gold watch, £5 banknote, a gold chain and silver money of the value of £2 15s 9d.The injured person was **walking in Farnham park** not far from the town on the 13 March when she received a blow with a stick rendering her unconscious and whilst in that condition was robbed. The prisoner was seen going towards the park not long before the robbery and **Biddlecombe and Everett** searched the suspect's room and found the stolen property. The man was arrested found guilty and sent to prison for fifteen years. Biddlecombe and Everett were by now members of the Surrey Constabulary.

[119] Leeds Mercury Saturday April 19 1851
[120] 1854 6 January: Theft Farnham Morning Chronicle

There were no detectives; in fact Surrey was not to have a CID until 1930s. It was therefore the responsibility of the local Superintendent to investigate all crimes.

1854 June 10: Murder Frensham: A meeting was held at the White Horse public house near Frensham Pond on Saturday (week) by the members of a club to make arrangements for the annual club dinner. Several of the members attended the meeting; amongst them were George Fullock, John Burrows and Henry Winter. After the meeting broke up the before-named persons proceeded in company with some others, home; but they had not proceeded very far before Fullock and Winter got into an altercation which was succeeded by Fullock striking Winter and both of them commenced to fight. Winter is a man rather in years and not very well able to stand fighting with Fullock who was only 23 years of age. This being the case Burrows interceded for Winter and prevented Fullock from knocking him about, when Fullock took his knife out of his pocket and with great force made a desperate lunge at Burrows, and struck him in the stomach causing a wound of about two and a half inches in length and so great that the man's intestines protruded. Burrows lingered until Wednesday when he died after great suffering. An inquest was held on Thursday and after a lengthened enquiry the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against George Fullock.[121]

1857 22 September: Assault and Robbery by a soldier Farnham: William Murphy 21 a private in the 22nd Regiment of Foot stationed at Aldershot was indicted for feloniously assaulting Henry Smith at Farnham and stealing from his person two

[121] The Morning Chronicle (London, England), Monday, June 12, 1854

shillings and two half-pence, his property. The prosecutor who was a farm labourer stated that on the evening of the 13th instant he was in a public house in Farnham with several other persons and after partaking of some refreshment in the presence of the prisoner, he left the house. He had at that time two shillings and two half pence in his pocket. He proceeded towards home and when in the road leading towards the camp at Aldershot the prisoner came up to him and pushed him down. They then had a scuffle on the ground and when he recovered the prisoner ran off. The money was missed straight away and he gave information to a constable who went with the prosecutor to the camp where the prisoner was identified and taken into custody. This was half an hour after the robbery. The jury found the soldier guilty and sent to the House of Correction at Wandsworth[122]

1858 June 8: Theft Farnham: Friday: James Benfell 33 was indicted for stealing at Farnham a quantity of lead the property of William Duke. The prisoner was seen carrying the led away from the prosecutor's premises by a policeman. Found guilty and sentenced to six months hard labour.[123]

1857 Farnham: Pilgrim Marshall who was age 16 was indicted for **breaking and entering** the dwelling house of John Marshall of **Frensham** near Farnham with intent to steal therein. **Number 77 of the Surrey Constabulary** said that on the evening of the 8th instant he was employed to watch the prosecutor's house and about eleven o'clock he heard someone unlock the door and then proceed to the cellar. The witness left his hiding place and met the prisoner coming from the cellar when he apprehended him for stealing the key and entering the house. The prisoner said he found the key in a ditch close by. A quantity of butter and cheese was missing from the cellar. Guilty – sentenced to four months hard labour.

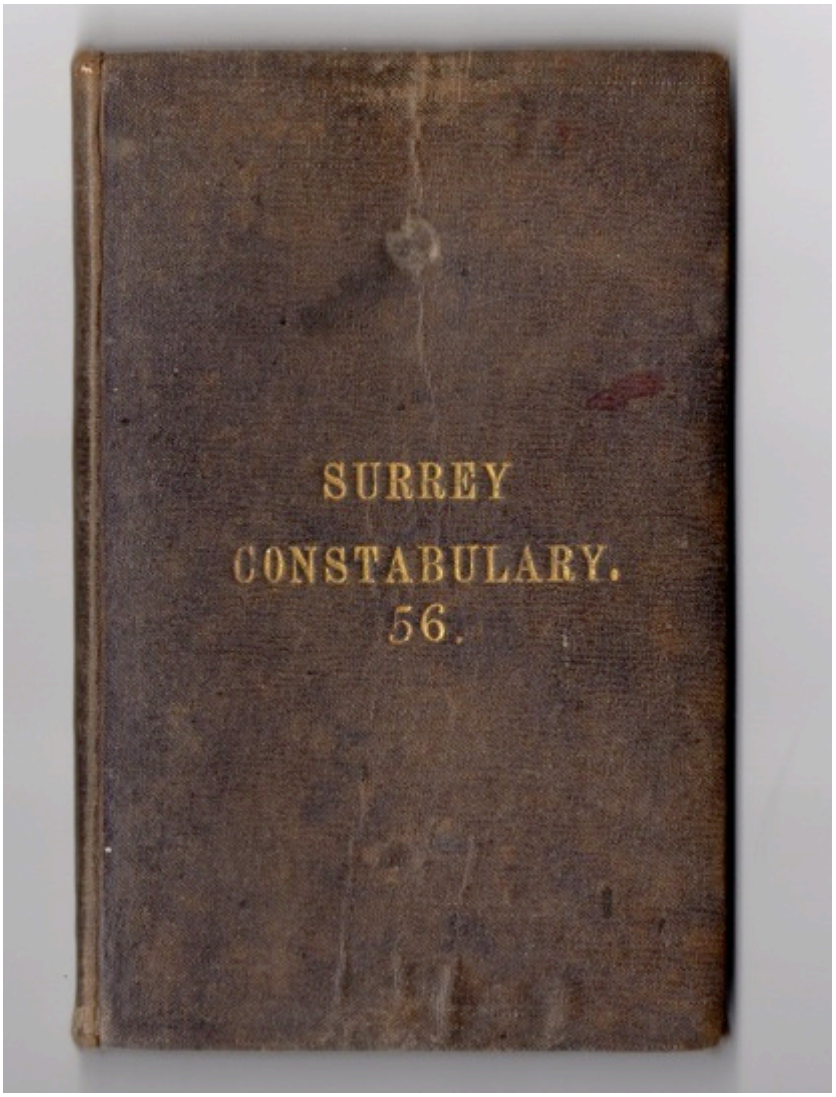
1858 December 22: Theft Dorking and Farnham: Surrey Sessions: James Bristow pleaded guilty at Dorking to stealing a coat and was sentenced to three years penal servitude.[124]

The arrest of a Colonel resident in Farnham: This is a most extraordinary case, which saw the all, yes all of the police officers stationed at Farnham moved away, including the superintendent. This was Hollington of the Guildford Borough Police who joined the new constabulary as a superintendent. **1862: July 18: Mistaken arrest of a Colonel at Farnham:** The excitement caused in the neighbourhood of Farnham and Aldershot by the arrest of Colonel the Hon. H. H. Clifford when out for walking exercise on Friday morning last on suspicion of being a deserter continues unabated. Police Constable Larke whom the colonel accused of having acted with rudeness and incivility after he had disclosed his name and rank, and pointed out his residence in Castle Street, has been dismissed the force. He was previously considered to be one of the most active (a newspaper term for a good detective) and efficient members of the Surrey Constabulary although he had only been in the force about two years/ Police Constable Ryland who assisted on the above occasion and who had been about twelve years in the service had been reduced to the pay of a third class constable and removed from Farnham to Godstone district.

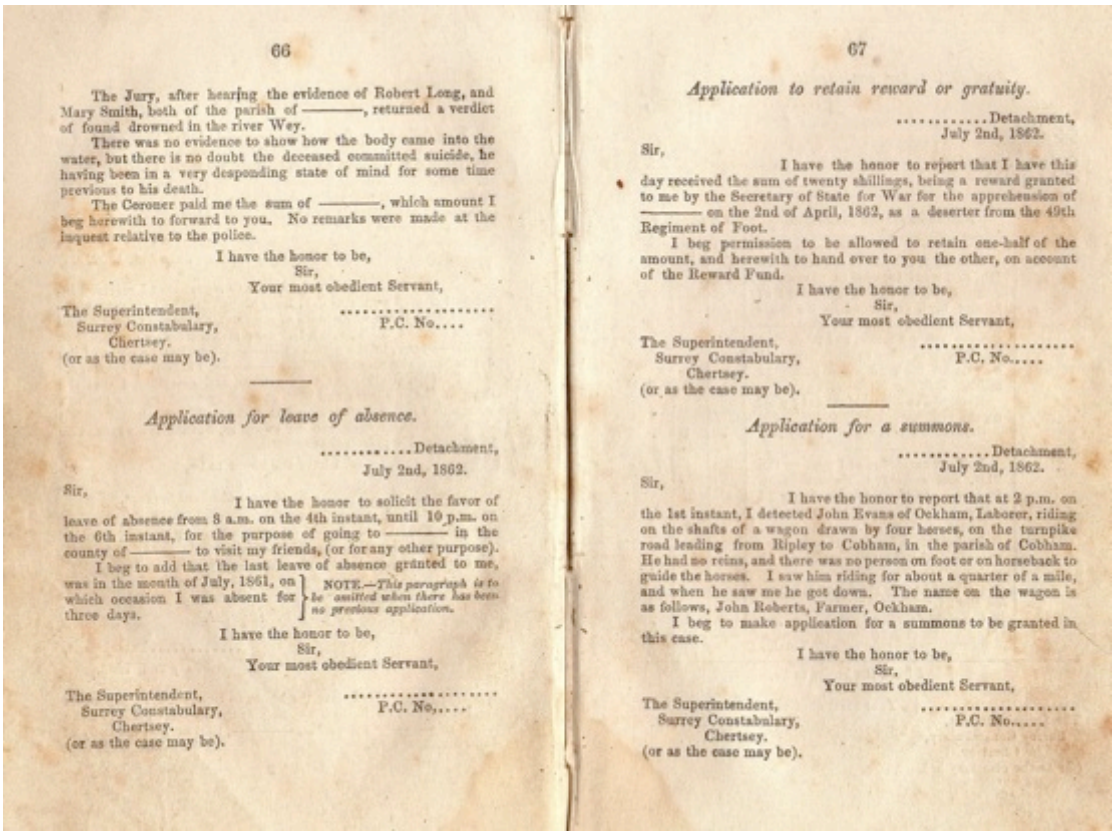
[122] 1857 22 September: The Standard
[123] 1858 8 June: Theft Farnham; The Standard
[124] 1858 December 22: Morning Chronicle

Superintendent Hollington by whose directions the colonel was taken before the military provosts, and who is described as a very experienced officer has been transferred to Chertsey and the **remainder of the Farnham Police are also about to be transferred** to other places in the county. Colonel Clifford presented a written statement of the case before the Chief Constable of Surrey on Saturday and that gentleman made known his decision on the following Monday. The men were **not permitted to render any explanation** of the conduct pursued by them in the matter.

1862 July 19: Surrey Constabulary **General Order:** PC James Larke was dismissed and PC William Ryland was reduced from third to second class constable and to be removed at his own expense from Farnham to Lingfield. The two men were charged with "Apprehending on suspicion of being a deserter, Colonel, **The Hon. H.H. Clifford, Assistant Quartermaster General** at Aldershot without any reasonable grounds whatever on the 18 July" (day before). (**Note:** Is this the origin of the Camberley to Caterham scam or the reverse for upsetting the chief constable?)



The first instruction book issued to all members of the Surrey Constabulary setting out orders and instructions on how to deal with crimes and incidents



66

The Jury, after hearing the evidence of Robert Long, and Mary Smith, both of the parish of ———, returned a verdict of found drowned in the river Wey.

There was no evidence to show how the body came into the water, but there is no doubt the deceased committed suicide, he having been in a very desponding state of mind for some time previous to his death.

The Coroner paid me the sum of ———, which amount I beg herewith to forward to you. No remarks were made at the inquest relative to the police.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

The Superintendent,
Surrey Constabulary,
Chertsey.
(or as the case may be).

.....
P.C. No....

Application for leave of absence.

.....Detachment,
July 2nd, 1862.

Sir,

I have the honor to solicit the favor of leave of absence from 8 a.m. on the 4th instant, until 10 p.m. on the 6th instant, for the purpose of going to ——— in the county of ——— to visit my friends, (or for any other purpose).

I beg to add that the last leave of absence granted to me, was in the month of July, 1861, on which occasion I was absent for three days.

NOTE.—*This paragraph is to be omitted when there has been no previous application.*

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

The Superintendent,
Surrey Constabulary,
Chertsey.
(or as the case may be).

.....
P.C. No,....

67

Application to retain reward or gratuity.

.....Detachment,
July 2nd, 1862.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have this day received the sum of twenty shillings, being a reward granted to me by the Secretary of State for War for the apprehension of ——— on the 2nd of April, 1862, as a deserter from the 49th Regiment of Foot.

I beg permission to be allowed to retain one-half of the amount, and herewith to hand over to you the other, on account of the Reward Fund.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

The Superintendent,
Surrey Constabulary,
Chertsey.
(or as the case may be).

.....
P.C. No.....

Application for a summons.

.....Detachment,
July 2nd, 1862.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that at 2 p.m. on the 1st instant, I detected John Evans of Ockham, Laborer, riding on the shafts of a wagon drawn by four horses, on the turnpike road leading from Ripley to Cobham, in the parish of Cobham. He had no reins, and there was no person on foot or on horseback to guide the horses. I saw him riding for about a quarter of a mile, and when he saw me he got down. The name on the wagon is as follows, John Roberts, Farmer, Ockham.

I beg to make application for a summons to be granted in this case.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

The Superintendent,
Surrey Constabulary,
Chertsey.
(or as the case may be).

.....
P.C. No.....

Some of the guidance from the first instruction book

1862 July 21: Arrest a mistake: A **strange affair occurred at Farnham** on Friday morning, which has supplied gossip there and at the camp ever since. It appears that a somewhat serious robbery having been committed at Aldershot the Farnham police were on the lookout for the perpetrators, who were supposed to be soldiers. Yesterday morning at 4 o'clock, two suspicious fellows were observed approaching Farnham from the direction of the Camp, and a policeman who met them on the road immediately jumped to the conclusion that these were the men who were "wanted". Accordingly he made his suspicions known to a comrade and with his assistance succeeded in arresting the men. While conveying them to the station they espied another person walking at a rapid rate and although he was in civilian's costume anyone could have seen with half an eye, that he was a soldier.

As he was about to pass one of the men in custody exclaimed, "There goes a chum" whereupon the constable concluded that the stranger was an accomplice in the robbery or, at all events, a deserter and they accordingly arrested him. The stranger declared that he was Colonel Clifford, Assistant Quarter-master General and he was out that early for the purpose of training as he was about to share in the divisional field sports shortly to take place in Aldershot. The explanation the police treated as a capital joke and it is stated that they behaved with additional rudeness in consequence of it.

At all events they marched the prisoners to the house of Superintendent Hollington where he made the same statement. The superintendent who was in bed and communicated with the men through his window did not recognise the distinguished

prisoner and he was ordered to be taken before the military provost who were stationed at a neighbouring inn. On the way there he recalled some circumstances to the minds of the policemen which satisfied them that he really was the Honourable Colonel Clifford, and they immediately volunteered to release him, but he now refused to accept their offer. He had been arrested and ordered to the provosts and to the provosts he would go. Here things were very soon explained and the colonel was released. We understand that Colonel Clifford with characteristic generosity does not blame the police for arresting him and thinks that they may only acted in the performance of their duty in doing s, but that he does complain of the incivility and rudeness to which he was subjected after he had stated name and rank. An enquiry will doubtless take place into all the circumstances.[125]

1869 June 1: Farnham: Joseph Deadman aged 22 was indicted at Croydon Assizes for **shooting at police Superintendent George Newman with intent to murder him.** On the morning of the 1 June the Superintendent and two constables went to the house of the father of the accused to arrest Joseph for extraordinary conduct the previous day. On entering the room immediately the defendant discharged one shot from a six round pistol wounding the superintendent in the arm not inflicting serious injury. The prisoner then aimed the revolver at a constable at the very time of firing the superintendent his defendant with a stick, which diverted the weapons so that the bullet struck the wall. The officers then closed with the prisoner and after a violent struggle succeeded in securing him and searching him finding on him a single barrel pistol, some bullets and gunpowder. Before the magistrate the defendant said "I did it when they all rushed in I was frightened and fired the pistol and I am sorry for it." Evidence was given of extraordinary behaviour over a number of weeks, which was accepted by the jury who found him not guilty, on the grounds of insanity. He was sentenced to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure[126]

1871 Deserter Farnham: A Solitary deserter – As yet only one instance of desertion directly attributable to the Autumn Manoeuvres has been recorded. This is the case of a private soldier named David Laughlin was taken before Farnham Magistrates charged with desertion from the 100th Regiment. **Police Constable Bowyer of the Surrey Constabulary** on the previous morning saw the prisoner lying under a hedge in a field at Runfold between Farnham and Seale, and finding that he was absent without leave as well as improperly dressed, he took him into custody. The prisoner said he deserted three or four days previously to evade the heavy duty of the manoeuvre having at the commencement of the operation been ordered an hours pack drill after marching ten miles. He was returned to the depot to be tried by court martial.

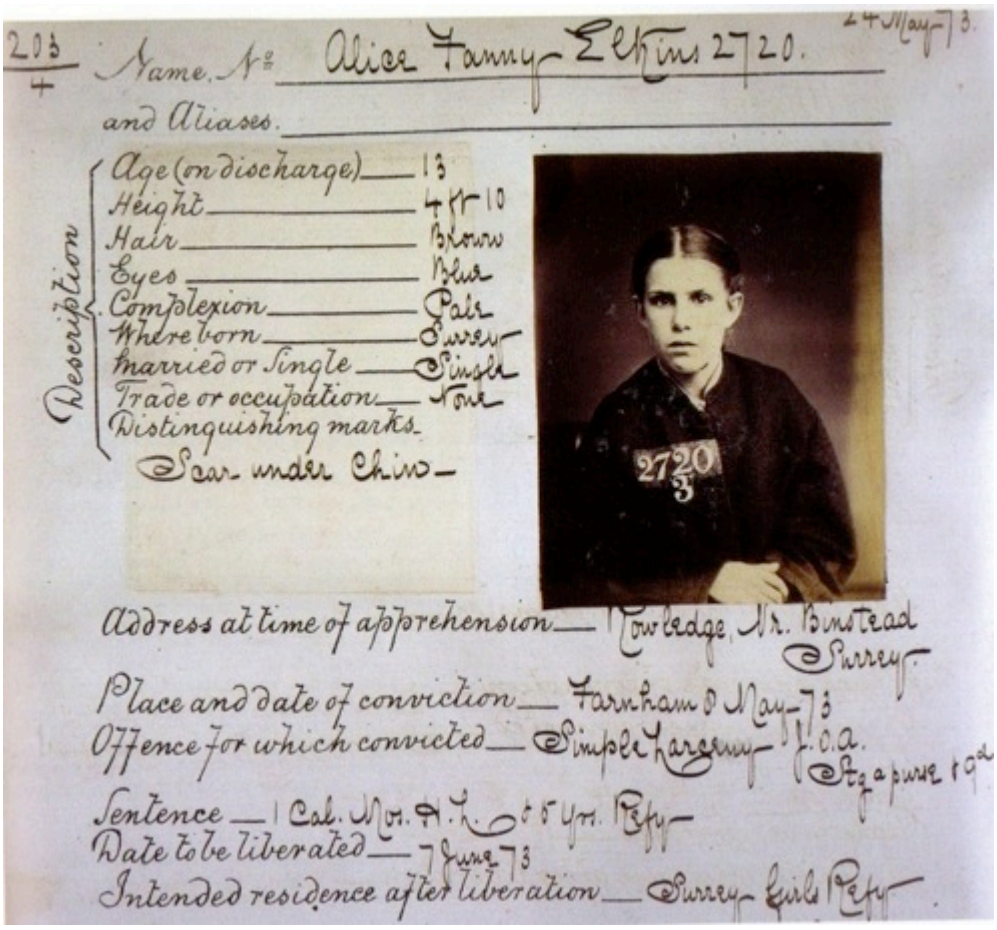
1871 March 7: GO 226: Smallpox outbreak – all police officers to be re-vaccinated [127]

1871 August 26: Attempted Murder and attempted Suicide Farnham: At Churt lived a man and his wife with a great disparity in their social position. The wife had a military lover for about five years. The lover Rodway following the severance of the association took lodgings at the Devils Jumps Inn and wrote two letters. Rodway went

[125] The Times (London, England), Monday, Jul 21, 1862 from West Surrey Times
[126] Daily News 5 August 1869
[127] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

to his lover's house knowing the husband was not there and there was an argument with his former mistress. The mistress Mrs Carrington left the room and in the hall she was stabbed several timed by Rodway with a clasp knife. She ran from the house to go to the Inn but being pursued by her attacker she took refuge in a house. After receiving medical treatment she was taken home and is in a parlous state. Rodway then stabbed himself several time but was well enough to be taken into custody by PC 22 Finch and taken to Farnham police station where he was handed to Superintendent Newland. In 1872 at Kingston Assizes, Rodway was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. [128]

1873 May: Alice Elkins convicted of larceny of a purse and 9d aged 13 when living at Rowledge, Farnham 1873 sentenced to one month in prison and 5 years at the Surrey girl's reformatory[129]



1878 July 3: Farnham alleged assault by a policeman: Petty Sessions Benjamin Stanley **PC53 of the Surrey Constabulary** was summoned for assaulting a lad named Charles Blackham by striking him on his head with his fist and severely shaking him. Blackham was one of a group of youths playing cricket at Weydown Mill and were approached by the officer who sought their names and addresses. Blackham being frightened ran off with the constable in pursuit and was caught,

[128] The Lancaster Gazette, and General Advertiser for Lancashire, Westmorland, Yorkshire, &c. (Lancaster, England), Saturday, August 26, 1871; pg. 3;
[129] From The Victorian Criminal by Neil R Storey, Shire Library 2011

knocking Blackham down and tearing his shirt. There were two girls who corroborated his story but it did not appear that the lad was in any way hurt beyond the damage to his apparel. The officer denied striking the youth and said that the shirt was torn when he caught hold of him and started to twist violently trying to kick the officer. The officer was discharged but cautioned as to his future conduct! (Not Guilty but do not do it again!) [130]

1878 July 15: Murder: In a lime pit close to **Farnham** Obed Usher a 44 year old pensioner of the Army Service Corps employed as a lime burner. He **murdered his daughter** aged twelve in a dispute over food and drink she had brought to him. He hit her with a ten-pound hammer on the head. He then went into Farnham and where he saw a police constable and admitted to the murder. The girl was found unconscious but died in the Union Workhouse.[131] At Guildford Assizes was charged on indictment with the wilful murder of his daughter. Thomas Barber a constable from the county constabulary was in The Borough in Farnham when approached at 11 0'clock by Usher who said, "Here policeman, I've got a job for you. Lock me up. Lock me up. I am a murderer" When asked who he had murdered, " My own child. I knocked her down with a hammer and killed her. You will find the body close to the furnace." He continued, "If you do not believe me, look at this." He then held up his right arm and there was blood on the wrist. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

1878 August 9: The Farnham Murder: A respite during Her Majesty's pleasure has been granted to Obed Usher who was convicted at the recent Surrey Assizes at Guildford before Mr Justice Mellor, of the murder of his daughter a child eleven years of age, by smashing her skull with a heavy coal hammer.[132]

1880 May 24: Robbery with violence: Taken from the trial at the Central Criminal Court; Henry Barnett aged twenty seven and John Barnett aged thirty four, robbery with violence on Henry Blake, and stealing from his person a pair of boots, a handkerchief, and a. hat, his property.

Henry Blake: I am a blacksmith and live at Hungary Hill, Farnham. I went into the Wellington public house on the 26th April, about 8 o'clock p.m. and the two prisoners came in about 20 minutes afterwards. They called for some beer and I joined them in drinking it. We then tossed up to see who was to pay. There was another man, Cole, who tossed as well. While the beer was being drunk I had occasion to go into the taproom, and while I was there the prisoner Henry Barnett came in and brought some boots in. I identify these boots (*produced*) as those he brought in. He asked me if I wanted to buy a pair of boots. I said "No," but afterwards I agreed to give him four shillings for them, and for the purpose of paying him I changed a sovereign with the landlady. I tied the laces together and put the boots over my shoulder and kept them there till I left the house. When I had drunk some beer I paid for the boots with three shillings and two sixpences. I left the house about 9.58, and walked across the road by myself. I subsequently saw the prisoners standing 6 or 7 yards from me, and we all went up Alma Lane together from the house, that is in the direction of my home, but not in the direction of the home of Henry Barnett. When we had got about 250 yards Henry Barnett Struck me a blow on the right side of my head with his fist, muttering

[130] Hampshire Telegraph 3 July 1878
[131] 1878 July 15: The Times
[132] The Leeds Mercury (Leeds, England), Friday, August 9, 1878; Issue 12584

"I'll have it," which caused me to-fall is the hedge. He held me down, and as soon as I was down he took the boots from off my shoulder and held me down while the other prison, John Barnett, commenced rifling my pockets. We had a struggle, and I afterwards got up, and threw Henry Barnett from me, and ran for assistance. Besides the boots I missed my handkerchief and hat. I am almost sure this (*produced*) is my handkerchief. Next morning I gave information to Bowyer, and went with him to the Wellington public house and saw John Barnett. I did not recognise him at first because he had his cap pulled over his face. When he was spoken to he was all of a tremble. On the same day, Tuesday, the 27th, I went to Aldershot with Bowyer, and recognised Henry Barnett, with a lot of men, and gave him in custody. I heard a conversation about some boots; the policeman asked Henry Barnett "What about the boots?" and he said, "What boots?"

Benjamin Bowyer (Surrey Constabulary 57) On Friday, 27th April, about 10 a.m., the prosecutor came and made a communication to me at my house. I went with him to the Wellington beer house, and found Job Barnett sitting behind the door of the bar. The prosecutor and I went into the back room together. About 10 minutes afterwards we came back to the front of the bar, and the prosecutor and John Barnett began talking to one another. I called them into the taproom, as the conversation was running high. John Barnett had a billycock hat over his eyes then, but when we went in it was in its proper position. He was not charged, but when the prosecutor questioned him he was all of a tremble and shake. I asked the prosecutor whether that was the man and he said, "I am almost sure, I am almost certain." That was in John Barnett's hearing, who replied "I was not there, I was tossing here with you last night." I afterwards went to some work in Martin Webb and Co.'s brickfields, and found 400 or 500 men working there. I went to the part where he was working, and when I was about 200 or 300 yards in front of the prosecutor he said "Hold hard, Bowyer, here is the man, stop" and he pointed out Henry Barnett. I saw one of the firm, who sent for Barnett, and when he came up he said "What do you want Bowyer?" I said, "I have come about those boots". He said, "What boots?" I said, "I suppose you know nothing about them," and I said to Blake "Is that the man that assaulted you last night?" and he said "Yes." I said, "Are you sure?" He said, "I am perfectly certain he is the man." Barnett said "I bought a pair of boots at Ned Stranger's last night and they are at Borne now" The prosecutor said "That is the man I bought the boots of" Henry Barnett said "What boots? I bought a pair at Ned Stranger's last night and they are at home now, but I never sold them to you" I took Henry Barnett in custody, and searched him and found these three separate shillings, about three pence in new coppers, and this handkerchief (produced), with three other pocket-handkerchiefs. I accompanied the prosecutor to Henry Barnett's lodging about 6.30, and he identified the boots. They were not actually handed to me, but he said, "Those are the boots" Cross-examined by Henry Barnett. You said that you bought the pair of boots at Nod Stranger's, not at Mr. Angel's; you never mentioned Mr. Angel. Blake told me that he was almost certain you were the man I did not say "That will do you, Barnett" I said "That will do with you, Barnett, for the present."

Henry Barnett's defence: On Monday I went to work, and knocked off at 11 o'clock on account of the door breaking, and I went down to buy a pair of boots, and gave 12*s*.9*d* for them. I went to the public house at 1.16. I gave 2*s* 6*d* for a pair of boots, and went and had some beer, and went to work again till 6.15, and then we went back again till 8.30. They went into the taproom and I went in the bar. I had a glass of ale

with them. I never see Mr. Blake that night at the bar. I stopped there till 25 minutes to 9, and never took the boots out of my pocket. I got sixpenny worth of eggs and was down at the canal at 6 minutes to 9. I got up next morning and went to my work. As to seeing John Barnett that night I did not. I was about seven yards from this man; he passed me and said nothing. They went to the foreman, and he said, "You are wanted." He said "Did not you buy a pair of boots yesterday?" I said "Yes, two pair; one pair are on my feet and one pair are at home." Mr. Bowyer said "You will have to go to the police-station with me." I said "very well." They searched me, and I had three handkerchiefs on me. Mr. Blake took up the white one and said that he could not swear to it.

John Barnett's Defence: On the evening of 6th April I went home to my lodging at 9.10 and stayed there all night, and next morning I went to the Wellington and had a pint of beer, and a constable came to the public-house and asked the landlord some questions, and he came back and looked in the bar, and called me on one side and asked Blake whether he thought he could swear to me. He said "No." He went away for half an hour and came back with another policeman; called me into the taproom, and he said again "I cannot swear to him." On Wednesday evening at 11 o'clock I was at the police-station after all the public-houses were shut up, and they came and swore to me and said I was the man. I can swear I was at home at 5 minutes to 10 on 26th April, and as for seeing Henry Barnett I did not see him from 8 o'clock on Sunday evening.

Henry Barnet guilty: He then pleaded guilty to a former conviction at Guildford in 1874, when he was sentenced to seven years penal servitude for sheep-stealing, which sentence had not yet expired, he being out on a ticket-of-leave: Four Months' Imprisonment, to commence after the expiration of his former sentence.

John Barnett guilty: He then pleaded guilty to a previous conviction at Aldershot in March 1880: One Month's Imprisonment

1880 October 18: A trial at the **Central Criminal Court** Henry Meredith aged thirty nine, **Breaking and entering** the dwelling-house of Joseph Kitching, and stealing four coats and a hat, his goods

Joseph Kitching. I am agent to the London and South-Western Railway at Farnham. I reside close by Farnham Railway Station. On Monday, 6th September, I closed the house and went to bed about 10.30 p.m., and left hanging up in the passage a new overcoat, a felt hat, a child's jacket, and a child's Ulster. This property is mine. I did not notice the scullery window, but I believe it was closed; the fastening had been broken a day or two before. At 7 a.m. the next morning the servant told me the house had been robbed and I then saw the scullery window; it was open. I gave information to the police.

Joseph Hibbert. I am Superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Farnham In consequence of Mr. Kitching's statement to me on 7th September I went to his house near the railway station. I examined his house and garden and I found the coat and hat (produced) in the garden, also some footprints leading across the garden. I covered them up. On 8th September the prisoner was brought in, in the evening. He was shown the coat and hat (produced) He said that they were his. His boots were

taken off, and I accompanied the constable on the next morning to compare the footmarks with his boots. They resembled the prints in every particular, especially one of the soles, which shows the packing or strips of leather.

Andrew Cook. I am a police constable stationed at Farnham, Surrey—from information I received I went to some hop-gardens at Red Hill, Farnham. I charged the prisoner with being in Mr. Kitching's house and he made no answer. I searched the barracks and I found these articles (produced), a boy's pilot jacket, mackintosh, and hat. The prisoner said they belonged to him. On the way to the station he said he did not go there for those things, he went for money, but he could not get the b— safe open. I said "There is another coat missing" He said "Yes, I sold that to a man at the Prince of Wales, in Farnham, on the 7th, for 6*s*.;" and he said "The little Ulster I have laid on the shelf in the barracks" I went there and found it concealed in a copper in the barracks. The following morning I went to the Prince of Wales, where I received the coat produced from the landlady. It was left there by another man. I went with the last witness to compare the footprints. I got the boots for comparison off the prisoner's feet; he was wearing them when I apprehended him and they corresponded exactly with the prints. He asked me if I had found the Ulster, and I said, "Yes."

Guilty - twelve months' imprisonment

1883 July 3: Murder: At **Farnham police court** yesterday Corporals John Lee and William Gatting and Private Jesse Taylor of the Coldstream Guards were charged with assaulting a labourer named Brown on Saturday last. According to the evidence Brown and his wife were leaving a public house and the former asking the prisoners to allow them to pass, they knocked him down, kicked him and jumped upon him. Brown died yesterday afternoon in great pain.[133]

1888 September 6: At Aldershot yesterday a company of the 1st Royal Dragoons mutinied on parade through some feeling of discontent and although the cavalry gates were closed, most of the men escaped. Fifteen made their way to the Shepherd and Flock, Farnham where **PC Halliday of the Surrey Constabulary** who communicated with the military police detected them. After a sharp fight the dragoons were overpowered and taken to Aldershot where they will be tried. [134]

1889 December 16: Burglary Farnham: Trial at the **Central Criminal Court**: William Jones 25 burglary, 16th December 1889: indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of David Isaac Hinge, and stealing therein six coats, two ounces of tobacco, and a looking-glass, his property. Second Count: for feloniously receiving the same

David Isaac Hinge: I am a retired veterinary surgeon in the army, and reside at Heath End Cottage, Heath End, Farnham, in the county of Surrey. On Wednesday, the 13th November, at five minutes past six am my servant ran upstairs to me and made a complaint, in consequence of which I immediately dressed and went downstairs. I heard my groom calling out, and I at once went out to him, and together we went down over my lawn and meadow, in pursuit of a man who I saw running; in

[133] The Times (London, England), Tuesday, Jul 03, 1883
[134] York Herald 6 September 1888

consequence of the morning being so dark and foggy I lost sight of him. I then went for the police, and on returning to the house I examined the outside of it, and I noticed that the window of the carriage-house had been forcibly opened, and someone had been inside the carriage-house. An empty box had been placed under the window, and a rope passed round the window; one of the panes of glass was broken. I also found that wire gauze of the pantry window had been ripped up about seven or eight inches by some instrument, such as a knife. The kitchen window had been forcibly opened; the woodwork was broken away from the bottom. Just outside the window I found six coats, a pair of shoes, and a pair of trousers, which were my property. On going into the house I found the doors of the drawing room, morning room, and cloakroom all open. They had been locked the previous evening. In the morning I found my papers lying all about the room. On my desk I had left two letters ready for the post, but without stamps, and those letters were taken from that room. In the dressing room I found that a small-carved wooden box had been opened, and my pipes had been taken from a bracket, and were lying in an armchair, with some tobacco. One pipe was missing, and my tobacco-jar had been emptied. I afterwards identified a pipe and case as my property. The case is marked "D. I. H." this (*produced*) is my pipe and case. Here is also some tobacco exactly similar to that I lost, and which had been in my jar. I had heard a noise in the night, previous to my servant calling me. In the cloakroom I found clothes lying on the floor, all over the place. The six coats, the shoes, and the pair of trousers had been taken from that room—these are the things that were found outside the kitchen window. About three-quarters of an hour after I had given information to the police, Constable Halliday brought the prisoner to my house. He was charged with breaking and entering my house.

William Williams: I am groom, in the employ of Mr. Hinge. I was aroused on this morning, about five minutes past six I came into the cottage, and rang the gate bell. I heard somebody running along the path leading from the kitchen window. I tried to see who it was, but I could not; the gate was too high. The last witness opened the gate to me, and I called my master, and he and I ran after the man across the lawn and the meadow. He was a tallish man, with a black hat on. I lost him in the fog. I then went and gave information to Police Constable Halliday.

Jesse Halliday. I am a member of the **Surrey Constabulary, No. 68,** and stationed at Heath End, Farnham. About a quarter-past six on the morning of 13th November I was called. I received information, in consequence of which I went to Major Hinge's house. I found that the premises had been broken into. I found these coats lying on a flowerbed outside the kitchen window. Subsequently I searched the neighbourhood to try and find the prisoner, and about a quarter to seven I met him coming across the fields towards the prosecutor's house. I stopped him, and said, "Where do you come from?" He said, "From Portsmouth." I said, "This is not the way from Portsmouth." He said, "Oh, I have come from Cornwall." I said, "Where do you belong to?" He said, 'Battersea" He said he had left Battersea about five weeks previous. I was not satisfied with his explanation, and I detained him, and took him to Major Hinge's house with a view of getting him identified by the servants; he was not identified. I found on his **clothing some dust and chaff,** like that which had covered the window that had been broken into. There was also a blotch of green on the leg of his trousers, which corresponded exactly with that on the fence over which he had jumped, at the bottom of the lawn. I found this burnisher in his side-pocket; the groom identified it at once. This looking glass was also found on the prisoner later on, after a further search

at Farnham. I took him to the Farnham Station, searched him there, and in his pockets I found this pipe and case, which have been identified by the prosecutor as his property. I also found two knives, some tobacco, and a small looking glass, which has been identified by the groom. On 17th November, in consequence of what I heard, I went to a cottage at the back of the Half-way House at Heath End, and I found these trousers concealed at the back of the pigsty; the prosecutor has identified them.

Prisoner's Defence: The servant cannot recognise me as the man that broke into the house; it appears that it was light enough to see that the man had a dark hat on therefore it was certainly light enough for her to recognise me. If the man saw me once, I flatter myself he would know me again. As regards the things that Major Hinge owns, I would not for a moment say they were not stolen. I left Portsmouth five days before I came to Farnham, in company with two other men; they went into Aldershot the night previous, and met me at six o'clock the following morning, and they gave me these things. I left them, and immediately afterwards I was apprehended. If I was the man they chased away from the house, surely I would not have gone directly back to the house, knowing that the police were there; it stands to reason that a man who had been there would know that the police would be there.

Guilty: Nine Months' Hard Labour. Although nothing was known of the prisoner, the police stated that eight burglaries had recently taken place in the neighbourhood, but none since the prisoner had been apprehended.

1890 May 19: Attempted murder at Farnham: On Saturday morning a woman named McLean the wife of a tailor living in the Bourne, Farnham, attempted to murder one of her children aged about three years by cutting its throat. The woman has been very despondent lately. **Superintendent Pike of the local police** was passing at the time of the occurrence and at once took the woman into custody. The child is not expected to live[135]

1893: The Godalming Division was formed with a population of 21,109 and there were twenty-one constables. The Guildford or Headquarters Division had a population of 35,018 and thirty-nine constables including eleven stationed at HQ where there were no civilian clerks. **Farnham** with a population of 24,767 had twenty-six constables.[136]

1894 May 21: Burglary at Farnham: Weybourne House, Farnham the address of Captain Burns, Aide de Camp to the Duke of Connaught was entered on Wednesday night by burglars who stole jewellery of the value of £1,500. The burglary was a daring one and carefully planned and there is little prospect of catching the thieves. The latter entered the bedroom allotted to Mr and Mrs Pelham Clinton, Captain Burn's guests, and Mrs Clinton's case was rifled but the burglars were evidently disturbed for Mr Clinton's belongings were untouched. Some officer's servants are suspected and their arrest is probable.[137]

[135] The Yorkshire Herald, and The York Herald (York, England), Monday, May 19, 1890
[136] Durrant Page 21
[137] 1894 May 21: The Morning Post Monday

1895 Farnham: John Knight successfully built his own petrol-driven car and triumphantly drove it through the streets of Farnham at eight miles an hour. He was promptly arrested and **fined for speeding.**[138]

1898 March 6: Body found in ditch: A young single woman named Alice Trigg was arrested at Aldershot on Tuesday night in connection with the case of alleged **child murder at Farnham**. The body of the child was found embedded in the mud of a ditch and it is alleged that the accused was seen paddling with her hands there. She was remanded.[139] **Tuesday March 22 1898:** At Farnham yesterday Alice Trigg was committed for trial at Guildford Assizes on the charge of murdering her female illegitimate child aged one year and nine months on the 6th inst.[140] **Sunday, June 12, 1898**; Yesterday at Surrey Summer Assizes held at Guildford before Mr Justice Wright, Alice Trigg aged 21 a servant living with her grandfather at Whitmore Bottom, was indicted for the wilful murder of her daughter Edith Mary Alice Trigg aged two years. (The father was not present as " he was away as he was wanted for some other thing") Summary: The girl lived with her grandfather as her parents refused to have her. When this was said in court there was slight applause! Trigg was a devoted mother. A cowman on his way home from a drink at the Shepherd and Flock came across a woman paddling in a stream. He spoke with her but went home but having some premonition that something was wrong went back and found a bay's drinking bottle and the police were told. They found the body of the child in the water the next morning. The jury after an hour's deliberation acquitted the prisoner and the judge immediately ordered her discharge. The verdict was an occasion for an uproarious scene. No sooner had it been delivered than the people both in the court and outside with almost one accord, commenced cheering. Trigg was apparently highly pleased with the verdict and was escorted to the police station by a sympathetic crowd.[141] [142]

1900 October 14: Assault on superintendent in Farnham: At Farnham three members of a gang of Aldershot lads were summoned for assaulting **Superintendent Simmonds of the Surrey Constabulary**. In private clothes in South Street at quarter to nine in the evening the superintendent saw the defendants and other making a disturbance and using obscene language. He told them who he was and cautioned them as to their behaviour. The y moved off but came back and he took Adams into custody but he threw the superintendent down and escaped. A member of the public who then helped the superintendent to take him to the police station caught Adams. The prisoner continued to be violent and his friends returned starting to beat the police officer and the member of the public with their canes, Adams striking the police officer in the face. Because of their youth the lads were fined 30s each and costs or one month's hard labour. The member of the public who helped the police officer was awarded 30s for his expenses and damage to his trousers. Superintendent Simmonds informed the bench that every Sunday night gangs of lads came from Aldershot to Farnham to cause annoyance to the inhabitants. [143]

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[138] "The Making of Modern Britain" Andrew Marr 2010 page 94
[139] Dundee Courier Thursday March 17 1898
[140] The Morning Post Tuesday March 22 1898
[141] Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper (London, England), Sunday, June 12, 1898;
[142] 1898 June 12: Lloyds Weekly Newspaper Sunday
[143] Illustrated Police News 27 Oct 1900

1901 January 4: Charge of abduction: Yesterday at Farnham police court before Mr George Goodall and other magistrates a man named Carter was charged with abducting Annabella Simon aged 16 years from Farnham Castle on October 13. The girl had been in the service of the Bishop of Winchester for a poor law school at Hartley Wintney. The prisoner was a carpenter employed at the castle from where he took the young girl away with him in a cab. They drove to Aldershot and nothing was heard of them until they were detected in Southampton, where it is alleged they had lived together. The prisoner who is said to have a wife and large family in London stated he took the girl away intending to find a situation for her. He thought she was 19 years old. He was committed to the Assizes.[144]

1901 September 20: A charge of furiously driving a motor car: "An Austrian Nobleman, Count Soilern, residing at Frensham Place, Farnham, was summoned yesterday before the Farnham Bench for furiously driving his motor car on August 3rd and 4th between Farnham and Frensham. The case had been adjourned for a fortnight to allow of the attendance of two witnesses for the Count; but Mr Samuel Fleming, counsel for the defence, stated that one of the witnesses, the Comte du Pre, was in Paris, and the other, Mr Goldschmidt had been summoned that day to the War Office. In these circumstances he was instructed by Count Soilern to say that he would not defend the cases, because he was of the opinion that if he went into the box and gave evidence he would not be believed. The Chairman, Mr Mangles, said 'I cannot allow a remark of that kind to be made in Court'. Mr Fleming said he was further instructed by the Count to say that he did not regard himself to be the subject of prosecution but of persecution. Mr Ernest Crundwell, who prosecuted for the Surrey county police, said such words were absolutely uncalled for. Constable Carter stated that on August 3 the Count's car travelled from Firgrove Bridge to Gravel Hill, between Farnham and Frensham, in 45 seconds. The distance was 700 yards. He believed the speed worked out at over 24 miles per hour. Superintendent estimated that the speed was about 30 miles per hour. The Count was fined £10 and costs in each case and, in the first case the solicitor's fee in connexion with the first hearing. Mr Fleming intimated that a writ of certiorari would be applied for in the High Court[145]

Police Stations in Farnham

With the formation of the Surrey Constabulary in 1851 came the requirement for police station and cells and it is likely that around this time the cage in the Castle Street would have been closed

In 1851 county constabulary police stations were established in Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and **Farnham** with new stations built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, and Reigate. The original station at Chertsey was sold because of its poor condition and a new one built. Five superintendents were stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters. This seems to indicate that the police station that existed in Farnham was suitable for use by the new force; at least it lasted for over 30 years.

[144] The Times (London, England), Friday, Jan 04, 1901
[145] 1901 September 20 The Times

The first police station was in Bear Lane, Farnham built some time after 1846 and was closed by 1888 when a new station was opened in Union Road. This building served until July 1963 when it became the magistrate's court and the police moved to the grand building in Longbridge. The severe cuts of the policing budget for Surrey in the early part of the 21st century led to the sale of most of the police stations in the county, including Farnham.[146] [147]

The first police station in Farnham

Why was a new police station built in Union Road on the north side of Farnham? It was time of considerable growth for Farnham with its neighbouring town of Farnham in 1864 a mere hamlet of 600 souls expanding to tens of thousands in a few years. There was no railways station in Aldershot for the first 16 years of the Camp and so Farnham station was used by the military. This close link with Aldershot led to the building of South Street and the development of a number of pubs between the two towns with military and heraldic names. [148]

[146] Email to Robert Bartlett in 2014 from Rose Murray late Surrey Constabulary
[147] St Polycarp's Catholic School, Tricia Knight, Farnham and District Museum Society 2013 Page 7
[148] Email from Joe Futcher late Surrey Constabulary to Robert Bartlett June 2014

The room above the central arch of what was once the police station in Union Road that became the magistrate's court is easily identified

The police station is no longer in use and for sale after a new one was built in 1963 and was given over to the court becoming known as "The Old Court House."

The main picture of the Bear Lane police station is taken from a postcard of about 1914.[149] It shows both the police station, which is on the left and the double front house in the centre, which was the superintendent's house. The archway on the left of the picture is the access to the yard for horses, carts etc. It is know that there were two cells as they were clearly identifiable when the building was demolished in 1962. [150]

One of the Superintendents of the Surrey Constabulary

When Superintendent Arthur Simmonds and his the family moved to the Union Road, police station in Farnham in 1897, there were six cells, five large and one small, and the children would lie in bed at night and listen to the drunks down below who shouted after being locked up. [151]

In the 1881 Census Arthur Simmonds was recorded as a 22-year-old police constable living at Guildford Police Station in Woodbridge Road, Guildford. By the time of the 1901 Census he was a police superintendent living with his wife, Julia Ann, and their children at the Police Station in Union Road, Farnham. At the time of taking both the 1901 [31 March] and 1911 [2 April] censuses, there was a prisoner in the cells that could well keep the family awake! [152]

On 3 June 1886, Arthur and Julia married at the church of St. John the Evangelist at Stoke-next-Guildford. He is shown as Police Constable Arthur Simmonds of the County Police Station and he married Julia Ann, the daughter of Alfred Warner, of 2 Auckland Villas, Merrow Road.[153]

He had four daughters and one son. Evelyn (Jo) was the youngest of the girls and was more of a tomboy than the others, being the best of friends with her young brother Tom.

The registration of birth, date of Christening, and full names of their children are: Ella May, March 1888 at Fetcham[154]; Julia Amy 1889; Mary, 16 August 1891[155]; Arthur Thomas, 1893 and Evelyn Emma 27 February 1895[156]. It may have been that Mr. Simmonds was stationed/living at Leatherhead when his first daughter was born although the force records do not indicate this.

[149] Postcard by W H Applebee of Ashford, Middlesex circa 1914
[150] Letter to Robert Bartlett June 2014 from Mr. Jo H Futcher late Surrey Constabulary
[151] From Rose Murray a retired officer of the Surrey Constabulary 2014 to Robert Bartlett
[152] Family history material from John Molyneux retired officer of the Surrey Constabulary
[153] Surrey History Centre entry 123, on page 62, of the relevant Marriage Register
[154] Q1 1888, c 4
[155] Q3 1891, c
[156] Q1 1895, c 27 February 1895

Superintendent Simmonds formerly of Farnham believed taken in 1918 upon award of King's Police Medal

Superintendent Simmonds had served in Guildford before transferring to Farnham on January 1st 1898. On leaving Guildford he was presented with an engraved biscuit barrel and a bureau/bookcase with an engraved plate on it.

When the family moved to the Union Road, Police Station in Farnham there were six cells, five large and one small, and the children would lie in bed at night and listen to the drunks down below who shouted after being locked up.

In June 1906 Superintendent Simmonds was involved in a serious accident when the fly he was travelling in with a Metropolitan Police detective overturned whilst investigating a murder in Camberley. He severely crushed a leg and developed a blood clot on his brain. His doctor ordered that leeches be brought down from London to suck the blood from the clot. Mr. Simmonds had to be kept quiet and so the magistrates ordered that at their expense, straw was strewn in Union Road to deaden the noise of the horses hooves on the road and all doors and knockers at the police station were muffled so that he was not disturbed. He made a recovery and returned to

work.

This is the Godalming superintendent and groom in his fly

During his service the superintendent was highly regarded and for his services during the First World War, in 1917 he was awarded the King's Police Medal for services rendered during the war and for long and meritorious service. The role of the police in the two world wars is given little credit. Being a body of fit men many were drawn to the colours and in most wars significant numbers died. Those left behind worked long and hard hours. It is a calumny to believe as many writers make out, that these men were slow-witted and not very bright. Many lacked formal education but particularly during the Second World War a significant proportion were commissioned achieving high rank, and at least two were awarded the DFC and Bar as pilots and another DFC by a bomb aimer. These high awards were given to men who before the war were beat constables.[157]

The Chief Constable received from the Home Office the following letter on Feb 28 1918:

[157] http://www.old-and-bold.info/ROH/RoH25.pdf Robert Bartlett

> I am directed by the Home Secretary to say that Col Kell CB MI5 War Office has expressed to him his appreciation of the good work done by the members of your police force in connection with the numerous inquiries & reports as to aliens and suspected persons [?] persons which have been of the greatest assistance to him in carrying out the duties of his department, & in particular has brought to his notice the names of the following officers as having rendered very useful service
>
> Supt Arthur Simmonds
> ---

I am to request that you will convey to your officers the Home Secretary's satisfaction in receiving this account of their work & that you will cause a note to be made in the records of the officers who are named by Colonel Kell as deserving of special commendation

(**Note from author:** Colonel Kell was the head of MI5. The police during both world wars had considerable contact with the Security Service and established specialist departments to undertake the significant volume of security related duties.)

Superintendent Simmonds retired on pension in October 1921 after 42 years service on a pension of £306.13.4 a year. He died in 1926 at a house he had built in Firgrove Hill, Farnham where his daughter Jo lived until the 1980s.[158]

Members of the Farnham division at the rear of the Union Road Police Station, Farnham about 1901

[158] From Rose Murray a retired officer of the Surrey Constabulary 2014 to Robert Bartlett

On 12th December 1889 a French priest, Reverend Father Matthew Gerin was placed in charge of Farnham Catholic Mission. On 26th January 1890 he opened a small church named St Polycarp in Bear Lane (then known as Park Lane). The word "church is rather a grand word to describe what was in fact a small chapel in the upstairs part of the disused original police station. This was also the site of the original St Polycarp's School.

The first church of St Polycarp in Bear Lane; the interior of the first police station[159]

Interior of the old church 1908[160]

[159] St Polycarp's Catholic School, Tricia Knight, Farnham and District Museum Society 2013 Page 7
[160] St Polycarp's Catholic School, Tricia Knight, Farnham and District Museum Society 2013 Page 8

Policing Farnham from the 1960s was in relatively luxurious accommodation

February 2013 coming to the end of the line for Farnham police stations