

The Milestone – Supplement

CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

This supplement No. 4-1 to Article 4 about the house, bakery and shop constituting 'The Milestone' – which operated on the southern side of the Guildford Road, Effingham from the early 1920s until the late 1970s – slightly revises the identifications pertaining to a group photograph of the Madge family, one of whose members (Sidney) allegedly used the Milestone premises briefly as a butchers outlet during part of the Second World War.

Occupancy by the Madge family

The photograph below is believed to show the Madge family at Sheepbell Farm with George Madge prominent at the rear next to his comparatively diminutive wife Dinah (née Splatt). In addition to them there are six males and five females. It is likely then that this photograph shows George and Dinah with all their eleven children. If this is so then the youngest child, at the centre of the front row, is May Frances born in 1894, so dating the photograph to around 1900-01. The 1901 Census shows the family at this farm.

In this photograph the oldest-looking of George's sons are (a) the one seated second-from-left at the front and (b) the one seated far right at the front. These are Sidney Madge and William Henry (né Splatt) Madge, the latter being about four years older than the former.

In the primary article it was stated, on the basis only of visual comparison with other photographs, that the right-most of these two sons was Sidney, but since then it has become much more probable that he was William Henry. This revised position relies upon the fact that all the members in the group photograph were identified by the wife (or widow) Myra Phyllis (née Lambert) of George's son Frank (the boy third-from-left in the middle row, standing directly in front of George), conveying this information verbally to her grand-daughter Penny (Penelope Anne) Easun.



The Madge family at (it is claimed) Sheepbell Farm in about 1900-01.

On the basis of Myra's identifications, then, the two oldest sons are as shown below:



Sidney Madge.



William Henry 'Madge' (Splatt)