

Ralph Edgar Street – Head Gardener at The Lodge

RALPH FRANK WALLACE and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER

Ralph Edgar Street, born a Devonian in 1878, arrived in Effingham as a young man at the turn of the 20th century and, apart from a brief spell soon afterwards in Leicestershire, lived in Effingham for the rest of his long life. He became the head gardener at The Lodge, being employed there firstly by the Pauling family and then by Surrey County Council. For nearly half a century he and his wife Helen lived in the north-western corner of the grounds in a small and rather rudimentary bungalow, long since demolished, known as 'Corner Bungalow' or 'Lodge Gardens Cottage'. Ralph quickly became one of Effingham's most well-known and respected residents, deploying many talents and immersing himself in the village's social and sporting activities. This article concludes with a set of personal recollections of Ralph written by the first author, his grandson.

Family Background

Ralph's ancestry is here traced back to his great-grandfather John Street. John's precise birthplace and date of birth are somewhat uncertain. It is probable that he was born in Somerset in the 1790s and was shortly afterwards brought to Devon. His recorded ages in the censuses were as follows: 45 in 1841, 56 in 1851, 73 (!) in 1861 and 79 in 1871. When he died in 1875 his age was registered as 84 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 46, 1875 (Q2)]. He may have been baptised on 20 October 1799, some years after his birth, at Broadclyst (or 'Broad Clyst') in east Devon [LDS: Film No. 916761-916762]. The latter record, contained in the Devon Bishop's Transcripts, names the mother as Mary but does not name the father. Broadclyst is just over a mile east of Poltimore in which John would live for most of his life.

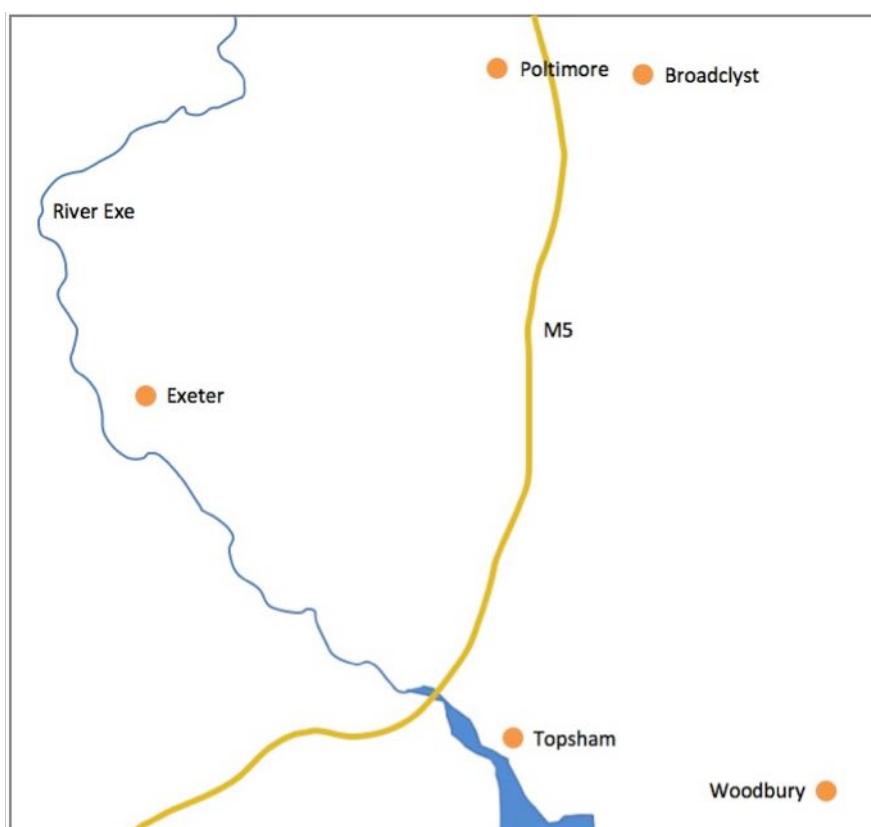


Figure 1 Outline of the Exeter and Topsham area of Devon in which Ralph and some of his forebears were born.

John worked throughout as an agricultural labourer. He married at Broadclyst on 25 December 1818 to Ann (née) Baker. Marriages on Christmas Day were common in that period because the parties could marry on that day without losing wages. Ann had been born at Broadclyst to parents Abraham and Ann, and was baptised there on 17 November 1799 [LDS: Film No. 916761-916762].

The first known child of John and Ann was John (Jnr) Street, baptised at Poltimore on 20 May 1821 [LDS: Film No. 916928]. He was one of at least nine children born to them. The 1841 Census finds John and Ann living in Poltimore with six children; the 1851 Census finds them with just two children, the 1861 with three and the 1871 with just one, the latter being their first-born John (Jnr) who had remained unmarried. In all these census returns their address is given simply as some indeterminate cottage in Poltimore. John died aged 84 in 1875 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 46, 1875 (Q2)].

The second son of John and Ann appears to have been Abraham Street, presumably named after Ann's father. Abraham, who would become Ralph's grandfather, was baptised at Poltimore on 3 May 1829 [LDS: Film No. 916928]. Abraham married at Woodbury Salterton (about a mile north of Woodbury) on 5 January 1851 to Anna Maria (née) Ware [GRO Ref: St Thomas 10 377, 1851 (Q1)]. Anna had been born to parents Thomas and Betty, and baptised at Woodbury on 10 May 1829 [LDS: Film No. 917557]. The 1851 Census finds her in Woodbury, with Abraham, in the household of her parents. Thomas was described as a farmer of 19 acres, Abraham as a butcher and Anna as a lace maker.



Figure 2 Abraham Street, Ralph's grandfather.



Figure 3 Abraham's wife Anna Maria.

A mention was made of Abraham in a newspaper article reporting a case against two lads heard at the Ottery St Mary Sessions [*The Western Times* (Exeter), 21 August 1858]. They had been trespassing and poaching. Abraham appeared as a witness, stating that on 17 July he had seen them engaged in that activity. He was described as a 'gardener to Mr Hall, of Woodbury'.

In 1861 Abraham was still occupied as a domestic gardener, as recorded in the Census of that year which finds him living with his family in Globe Road, Woodbury. However, the 1871 Census finds the family, including five children, a little further afield in the hamlet of Gulliford, nearly three miles south of Topsham where Abraham was now occupied as an agricultural labourer. Five years later he was mentioned in another article [*The Western Times* (Exeter), 9 May 1876] about a case at the Woodbury Petty Sessions. On this occasion he gave evidence concerning a labourer alleged to have taken an egg from a pheasant's nest on property at Woodbury belonging (in the past) to Sir Francis Drake, on which estate Abraham was occupied as an assistant keeper. Abraham was mentioned in the same newspaper yet again, on 23 November 1880, when he had once more been a witness – described as a gamekeeper – at the Woodbury Petty Sessions in a case concerning the setting of gin traps on Woodbury Common. His occupation as gamekeeper is confirmed by the 1881 Census which finds him with Anna and three children living in Woodbury at Black Hill House. They were still at this address in the 1891 Census, but Abraham was then described as a farmer.



Figure 4 Abraham's home Black Hill House in Woodbury, Devon.

A year later he was described as gamekeeper to the Hon. Mark Rolle in an article [*The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, 15 March 1892] when he gave evidence in court against two trespassers in pursuit of game. Rolle is described in *Wikipedia* as follows:

'Hon. Mark George Kerr Rolle (1835–1907; né Mark George Kerr Trefusis), of Stevenstone, St Giles in the Wood, Devon, was High Sheriff of Devon in 1864, a Deputy Lieutenant of Devon and High Steward of Barnstaple. Due to an inheritance from his uncle by marriage, John Rolle, 1st Baron Rolle (1750–1842), he became the largest private landowner in Devon, and according to the Return of Owners of Land, 1873 his landholdings, of which he was life-tenant under his uncle's will, extended to 55,000 acres. He was a prolific philanthropist and builder and restorer of churches, farmhouses and cottages, the latter for his estate workers.'

In 1891 Abraham and Anna had two children with them, an unmarried daughter Eliza aged 28 and a 2-year-old grandson Walter whose parentage is not known. By 1901 Abraham was widowed and alone, living by himself at 18, Little Bicton Place in Littleham, Exmouth and still working as a domestic gardener. Anna had died aged 70 on 17 December 1899 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 31, 1899 (Q4)]. Abraham died on 18 August 1907 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 20, 1907 (Q3)]. He and Anna lie buried together in Littleham churchyard, their grave marked by a fine headstone.

Abraham and Anna had produced at least seven children, the first of whom was Walter born in 1852 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 48, 1852 (Q1)]; he was baptised at Woodbury on 22 February 1852. Walter would become Ralph's father.

The 1871 Census finds Walter living in Holy Trinity, Exeter in 'The Bothey [sic] attached to Gardens of J C Bowring Esqr'. He was employed there as an under-gardener, as were the three other persons present with him. Their employer Bowring was a serious naturalist and botanist, described in *Wikipedia* as follows:

'John Charles Bowring (24 March 1821 – 20 June 1893) was a Hong Kong businessman, a partner in the firm Jardine, Matheson & Co., and a keen amateur naturalist and JP for the County of Devon. He was the eldest son of Sir John Bowring (1792–1872), of Exeter, Devon, Governor of Hong Kong, and accompanied him on some of his travels. He was brother of Lewin Bentham Bowring and Edgar Alfred Bowring. Bowring was a passionate botanist and entomologist (more specifically a coleopterist; a student in the study of beetles). Throughout his travels with his father, Sir John Bowring, he studied, took notes, and collected certain rare plants and beetles whenever the opportunity presented itself. In 1852 Bowring brought from Hong Kong ferns, mosses, and flowering plants back to England ... His sons included Sir Charles Calvert Bowring, Governor of Nyasaland [and] Rear Admiral Humphrey Wykeham Bowring.'

Walter married in 1875 to Mary Ann (née) Avery [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 132, 1875 (Q1)]. She was nearly a decade older than him, having been born at Topsham in 1843 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 10 237, 1843 (Q2)].

They produced at least six children: Maggie (1876), Ralph Edgar (1878), Albert George (1879), Florence Mary (1881), Edith Maud (1882) and Hettie (1884), all born in Topsham.



Figure 5 Walter Street and his first wife Mary Ann, Ralph's parents.

By 1881 Walter had progressed significantly, being now a 'Gentleman's Gardener' residing at Newcourt Lodge belonging to Newcourt House in Old Rydon Lane, Topsham. This rather lovely old mansion dated from the late 18th century (being today Grade II listed and in the hands of the NHS) and was one of several residences – including Bradfield House in Uffculme, about 20 miles north of Topsham – owned by the Walrond family. It had 52 acres of lawn, parkland and fields, with its own home farm. When Walter took up his position there the estate had been long in the ownership of Sir John Walrond Walrond, 1st Baronet of Bradfield and Sheriff of Devon. By his marriage in 1845 to Frances Caroline (née) Hood, Sir John had produced five children, the first being William Hood Walrond of whom *Wikipedia* states the following:

'William Hood Walrond, 1st Baron Waleran, PC, DL, JP (26 February 1849 – 17 May 1925), known as Sir William Walrond, Bt, between 1889 and 1905, of Bradfield House, Uffculme, Devon, was a British Conservative Party politician who sat in the House of Commons from 1880 until 1906 when he was raised to the peerage. He served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury between 1895 and 1902 and as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster between 1902 and 1905. Walrond was also an active cricketer. He was in the Eton first XI in 1866 and 1867 and played for numerous amateur teams for many years subsequently including Quidnuncs, I Zingari, Gentlemen of Devon and Marylebone Cricket Club.

He played one game for MCC in 1868 which was classified as first-class. Walrond was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) for East Devonshire in the 1880 general election and held the seat until 1885 when it was replaced under the Redistribution of Seats Act 1885. In the 1885 general election he was elected MP for Tiverton which he held until 1906. Walrond served as a Junior Lord of the Treasury from 1885 to 1886 under Lord Salisbury, and from 1886 to 1892 under Salisbury and then under Arthur Balfour. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip under Balfour from 1895 to 1902 and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from 11 August 1902 to 1905. He was sworn of the Privy Council in 1899. In 1889 he succeeded his father in the baronetcy and in 1905 he was raised to the peerage as Baron Waleran, of Uffculme in the County of Devon.'

Newcourt House and its grounds had been advertised in 1870 as to be let [*The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, 22 April 1870]. It was described at that time as having two lodges, capacious dining room, drawing room with adjoining camellia house, breakfast room, library, housekeeper's and butler's apartments and servants' hall. The gardens were extensive and well stocked, with hot and cold greenhouses, conservatory, enclosed yard, stabling and coach houses. Surrounding all this were 28 acres of first-class pasture. Whether it was let out or not, the situation changed a year later because in April 1871 Sir William married Elizabeth (née) Pitman and made it known that after their honeymoon they would take up residence at Newcourt. Therefore, Sir William was the 'Gentleman' for whom Walter was working as gardener in the 1881 Census. When Walter had first arrived at Newcourt is not known.



Figure 6 Newcourt House in Topsham, Devon where Walter Street was head gardener.

The 1891 Census finds Walter and Mary Ann living in 'Newcourt Mansion' (the main house) whilst their six children were living in one of the associated lodges. Walter was described as a gardener but also 'in charge', whilst Mary Ann was occupied as the housekeeper. The Walrond family was not present – two years previously Sir William's father had died, whereupon Sir William and his wife took up residence instead at Bradfield. In 1890 they had put the Newcourt estate up for sale, but a purchaser had not come forward straightaway. It was advertised again in 1894 [*East and South Devon Advertiser*, 8 September 1894] and three weeks later the house's furniture and other effects were put up for auction [*The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, 29 September 1894]. The house may not have sold even then.

The 1901 Census finds Walter, Mary Ann and three children – Maggie, Albert and Hettie – living in the Lower Newcourt Lodge, his occupation still given as domestic gardener. Newcourt House was uninhabited.

The next owner of Newcourt of whom we know was General Richard Harrison who, after a highly distinguished military career, was in 1898 made Inspector-General of Fortifications. In 1903 he was nominated as Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Engineers and was also knighted. In that same year he purchased Newcourt [*The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, 27 March 1903], and thereby became Walter's new employer.

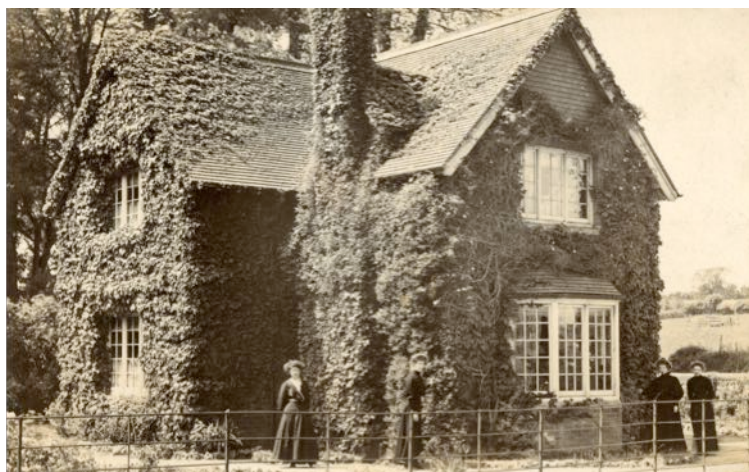


Figure 7 Lodge at Newcourt where Walter's family lived.



Figure 8 Ralph's sister Hettie Street.

ELHG has a postcard dated 5 Sept 1906 addressed to 'Mrs Street' at Newcourt Lodge. By 1911 Newcourt House was inhabited, the Census showing there the wife Emma Henrietta and two children of John Archibald Iver Macpherson, a coffee plantation owner in India. He was not present, and was probably in India (where he died on 1 December 1919). We do not know whether the family was renting the house from General Sir Richard, or had purchased it from him – Sir Richard was at this time living with his wife Amy, a daughter and ten servants at 66, Pont Street in Chelsea. Walter, now widowed, was still on the estate, employed as head gardener and accompanied by only his daughter Hettie who was occupied as his housekeeper; they were living in the 5-room 'Newcourt Higher Lodge'.

Walter's wife Mary Ann had died in Topsham in late 1905. On 10 April 1911, eight days after the Census, he remarried to a widow Mary (née Bulley) Tapper [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 153, 1911 (Q2)]. She was occupied, on her own account, as a dairy keeper at the Monmouth Dairy in Topsham; at the time of the 1911 Census she had two of her children living there with her. She had been born in Kennford, a village lying a few miles south of Exeter, in 1855 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 71, 1855 (Q3)] and on 22 May 1879 she had married in Topsham to a railway carrier Henry Albert Tapper [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 131, 1879 (Q2)]. Henry died in 1908 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 26, 1908 (Q4)].

Walter died on 11 January 1918 [GRO Ref: St Thomas 5b 38, 1918 (Q1)]. His Probate Register entry describes him as a lodging-house keeper, giving his address as 'Tredegar', Alexandra Terrace, Exmouth and his effects valued as £543. Probate was granted on 22 March to Ralph and to Mary's son Albert Ernest William Tapper. Walter was buried with Mary Ann in Topsham Cemetery, where their headstone survives in excellent condition.

Mary remained in Alexandra Terrace for over three decades until her own death at age 94 on 27 August 1949 [GRO Ref: Devon Central 7a 284, 1949 (Q3)]. She left effects valued at £4,217.



Figure 9 Walter's second wife Mary (née Bulley).

Ralph's early years

Ralph was born on 27 February 1878 and lived at Newcourt during his childhood into at least his early teens. In 1890 he received a 'present from the Clyst St Mary Sunday School Xmas Tree'; this was a book (in which the latter details are written) entitled *The Best Things*, written by Rev Dr Richard Newton. In the following year, on 12 August 1891, he was awarded '2nd Prize for Wild flowers at Winslade Park', this being

a copy of William Howitt's work *A Country Book*. Winslade Park in Clyst St Mary was a few miles north-east of Topsham, consisting of a very fine mansion with extensive gardens and pleasure grounds. The winning of this prize at age 13 shows Ralph's early interest in botany.



Figure 10 Ralph at school in the early 1880s; indicated by the star and inset at top-right; earliest photograph of him.

In the 1890s Ralph worked at Parker's Well House in Topsham and at Wexham Park in Slough; from his surviving notes we believe he undertook some training with the Veitch nursery firm between the latter two employments. On 30 May 1895 at age 17 he passed the 'Elementary Stage of Botany' examination set by the Department of Science and Art and was awarded the ornate certificate shown in Figure 12.



Figure 11 Ralph, probably in his teenage years.



Figure 12 Ralph's botany certificate, 1895.

By the time of the 1901 Census Ralph had become a domestic gardener in the employ of a widely respected and significant figure in Carmarthenshire, William Joseph Buckley. Buckley was the County Sherriff, a JP and the Chairman of the Board running the immense Buckley's Brewery in Llanelli, founded by his father Rev James Buckley. He had an immense range of interests and capabilities, amply acknowledged in an obituary published on his death in 1905 [*Western Mail*, 20 January 1905]. His principal residence was the substantial property Penyfai in Llanelli, and it was in the nearby cottage Penyfai Fach that we find Ralph, with two other domestic gardeners, in the 1901 Census. The main Penyfai mansion stood about a mile north-east of the centre of Llanelli near the western side of the road known today as Pen-y-Fai Lane, whilst Penyfai Fach was a little further north up the lane, at the roadside. At this time Buckley was in residence at Penyfai with his wife, two sons and six servants. Associated with the property was Penyfai Farm, occupied by a large Ballantine family, whose head was the estate's bailiff, and Penyfai Lodge accommodating the family of the estate's coachman and groom. So altogether this was a significant position for Ralph to have entered. On the Census schedule his age was transcribed mistakenly as 34 – he had probably given it as 24, although he was actually 23.

Quite soon after this Ralph was to take up employment with George Craig Saunders Pauling, a wealthy contractor who had made his career in large civil engineering projects such as the building of railways and dams in various parts of the world, especially in Africa. In 1897 Mr Pauling had acquired The Lodge in Effingham and taken up residence there with his second wife Edith Kate (née Halliwell) whom he had married in Wandsworth a decade earlier on 1 November 1887. Ralph would become head gardener for Mr Pauling, but not only at The Lodge.

Both Ralph and Mr Pauling are associated strongly with The Lodge in the minds of those in Effingham acquainted with our local history, but the reality was more complicated than that. This is because in 1902 Mr Pauling acquired another large estate, many times grander than his one in Effingham [*Exploring a Productive Landscape* by Dr Chris Stoate, publ. by The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Hampshire, 2010]. This was Alexton Hall in Uppingham, Leicestershire, located a few hundred yards west of the village of Allextion (which, like the Hall, is today spelt with two 't's). The stone-built Hall is Elizabethan and when it was put up for sale by auction in the spring of 1901 its estate came with 800-900 acres of 'beautifully disposed valuable agricultural land and woodlands' with park-like surroundings, trout stream and a 'well-known fox covert' [*The Field*, 20 April and 4 May, 1901]. All this land was of a much greater extent than that associated with The Lodge in Effingham.



Figure 13 Alexton (Allextion) Hall, Leicestershire in the early 20th century when owned by Mr Pauling.

The Allextion Hall estate apparently did not find a buyer until Mr Pauling came along in 1902. The extensive sporting and hunting opportunities it afforded would have suited Edith very well, she having already gained widespread renown as a hunter of big game in Africa, India and other parts of the world. Edith was a very characterful and interesting woman and it is a pity that in our present time we cannot

divorce our study of her from our knowledge of her regrettable liking for the gratuitous slaughter of wildlife. In Leicestershire she quickly established a reputation as a keen huntswoman with the Cottesmore Hounds and Mr Fernie's (Billesdon) Hounds. By September 1902 Mr Pauling was evidently well-embedded in local affairs, being a prize-winner at the Market Harborough Horse Show [*The Northampton Mercury*, 19 September 1902]. In December he made a notable appearance at the Uppingham Christmas Fat Stock Show where he made a humorous speech and was welcomed for having contributed to the organising Market Committee 'a handsome subscription' [*The Grantham Journal*, 13 December 1902]. In 1904 he made major additions to Allextion Hall, as he had done also to The Lodge; whether he came to regret the former action as much as he later professed to have regretted the latter one, we do not know. He also became Lord of the Manor of Allextion, as noted in the 1912 issue of *Kelly's Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland*.

These considerations of Allextion Hall have a bearing upon what we can say of Ralph's movements after leaving the employ of Mr Buckley in Carmarthenshire. In the 1960s local Surrey newspapers published some quite long articles about Ralph, stating that he had arrived in Effingham in 1902; the same was repeated in an obituary when he died. One report, however, claimed that Mr Pauling had met Ralph at the latter's place of work, Veitch's Nurseries in Chelsea, and had 'taken a fancy to him and persuaded him to come to Effingham'; it further states that this meeting took place when Ralph was aged 26, which would put the year at about 1904 [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 4 April 1964]; however, that detail about his age is evidently inaccurate, as entries in Ralph's own notes state that he went to Veitch's in February 1902, to The Lodge in Effingham in March 1902 and then to Allextion Hall in November 1903.

On 31 March 1904 Ralph married to Helen Amelia (née Dunkley), the daughter of another gardener Henry Dunkley who had married Jane (née) Richardson at Spratton on 19 July 1858. Ralph and Helen married in the village where she had been born and raised, Church Brampton in Northamptonshire, a little under thirty miles south of Allextion. Their marriage certificate [GRO Ref: Brixworth 3b 139, 1904 (Q1)] gives Ralph's occupation as gardener and his place of residence as 'Alexton, Leicestershire'. He had passed his 26th birthday just a few weeks previously.



Figure 14 Helen Amelia (née Dunkley) who became Ralph's wife.



Figure 15 Helen's parents Henry and Jane Dunkley.

Helen and her much younger sister Kate Eliza had been employed by Mrs (Edith) Pauling at least as far back as 1901, when the Census finds them in Effingham at The Lodge and occupied as housemaids. However, they may soon afterwards have gone to Allextion Hall with Edith once that estate had been acquired. Postcards sent to the Streets from abroad by Edith show (by their addressing) that the Streets were at Allextion Hall through 1904 and up to at least February 1905. There was a small lodge on each side

of the Hall's front gates and the one on the left hand side was where Ralph and Helen resided during their time in Allextion after they had married.



Figure 16 Ralph and Helen outside their lodge by the gates of Allextion Hall (at right, out of view), about 1904-05.



Figure 17 A postcard sent in July 1907 from a presumed friend 'A. D.' addressed to Ralph at The Lodge, Effingham having on its reverse side the message 'I have sent you your old house hope you and family are quite well.'

Another postcard sent by Edith to Ralph from Egypt postmarked 30 December 1905, wishing him a Happy New Year, was initially addressed to him at The Lodge in Effingham but then amended to the London Hospital in Whitechapel where he was being treated for a hernia and having to lie upon a water bed for a long time. This confirms that during 1905 he had returned from Allextion Hall to The Lodge and is also consistent with what we know about other gardeners employed by Mr Pauling, as follows.

In 1891, before Mr Pauling came to Effingham, the Census shows the head gardener at The Lodge to have been Oscar Hamlin. He was apparently occupying the 'Gardener's Cottage', being the bungalow in the north-western end of the grounds, opposite the school at the corner of Lower Road with Church Street. Later in the 1890s Hamlin evidently moved to 1, Church Street. When Mr Pauling arrived he retained Hamlin's services, as shown by a newspaper report in 1900 about one of the major local events, the 24th Great Bookham Flower Show [*The Dorking Advertiser and County Post*, 4 August 1900]. On that occasion:

'Mr Pauling, of The Lodge, Effingham (gardener, Mr Hamlin) also exhibited a beautiful collection of crotons, coleus, ferns, orchids and a variety of stove plants.'

Hamlin served on the Flower Show's committee and was also one of its judges. He left Effingham soon after this event, the 1901 Census finding him as a gardener living at Beenham Lodge, Berkshire with his wife Louisa.

In 1901 one of the gardeners employed at The Lodge was James Batty, who was occupying the 'Gardener's Lodge'. This dwelling stood in the grounds of The Lodge just off Lower Road and next to the short section of carriage drive extending north-eastwards from the main house to a gated entrance at the roadside, next to a large pond and almost opposite Our Lady of Sorrows. (In the 1930s it was two separate dwellings but in later times was converted into a single one, whilst the carriage drive there became today's road entrance into Effingham Place.)

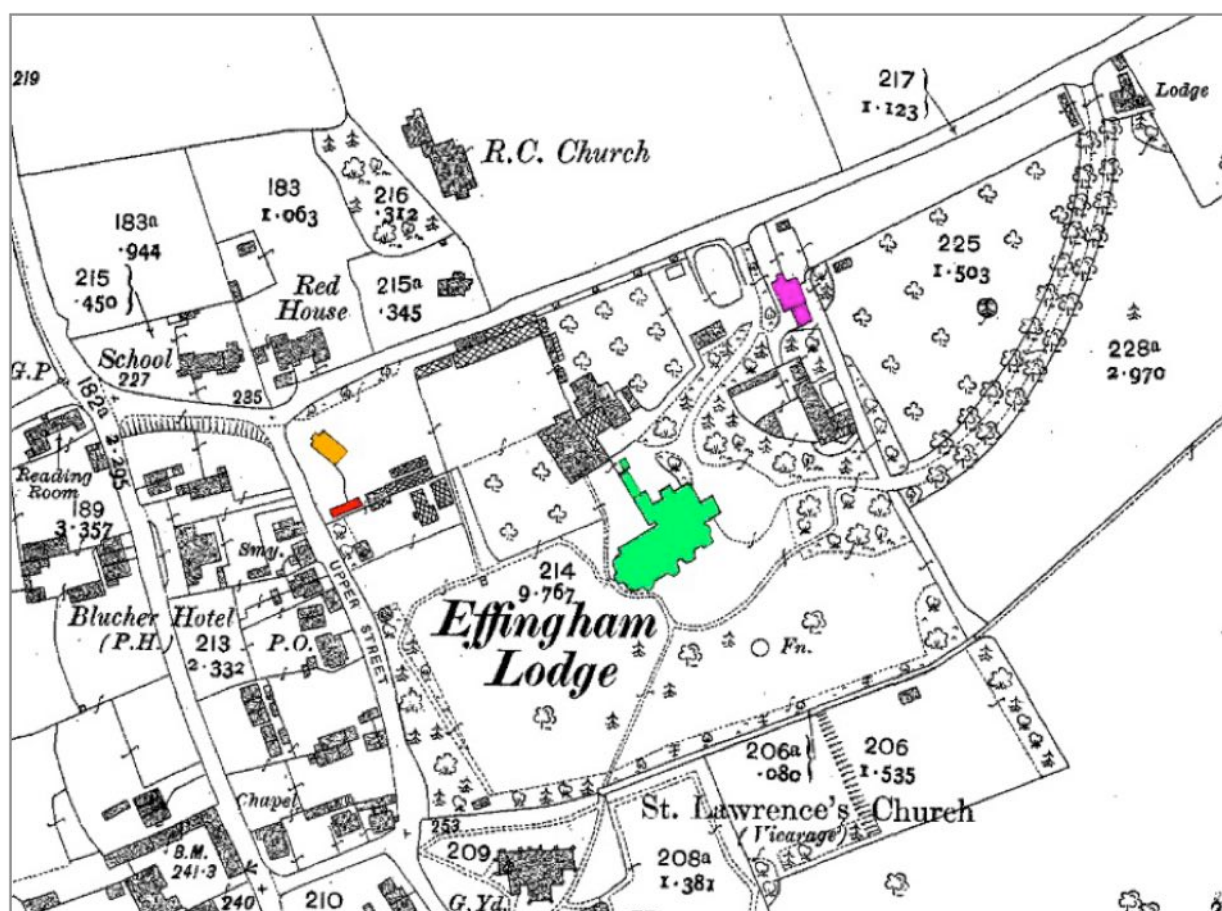


Figure 18 The Lodge and its grounds as shown on the 1912-13 Ordnance Survey map;

- the main house;
- the 'Gardener's Cottage' or 'Lodge Gardens' or 'Corner Bungalow' in which Ralph's family lived;
- the 'Gardener's Lodge' in which other gardeners (like Mr Batty) lived from time to time;
- the potting shed.

In 1901 three other gardeners were living in the afore-mentioned Gardener's Cottage, the bungalow in the north-western corner of the grounds; they were head-of-household Sydney Charles Trowbridge aged about 28 (but mis-recorded on the schedule as 'Sydney Wrowbridge' aged '23') with his wife Esther (née Chitty) and two younger gardeners boarding with them. Trowbridge seems to have left Effingham quite soon afterwards, as his daughter Winifred Esther was born in Dorking in November 1902.

The above account of the locations of these two distinct dwellings in which Mr Pauling's various gardeners were living in 1901 agrees precisely with the sequence of dwellings in the Census schedule.

The Electoral Register shows James Batty living in the Gardener's Lodge up to 1904, but from 1905 he was at Avenue Cottage in Beech Avenue, perhaps then working instead for Mr Lambert of Effingham House; from about 1907 he worked as a gardener at Ashted Park, living in its North Lodge.

In respect of the 27th Great Bookham Flower Show in 1903, it was reported that one of the floral 'groups of exceptional merit' was that sent by 'Mr Pauling (gardener, Mr W Blencome [sic])'. This gardener was actually William Blencowe. The 1904 Electoral Register, misrendering his surname as 'Blenchowe', gives his address as 'School corner' which must surely have been referring to the Gardener's Cottage. Blencowe probably left Effingham in 1904, as the 1905 Electoral Register records him living at Tyting Lodge in Guildford.

Thus, there was a succession of gardeners employed at The Lodge during 1900-04 but no mention of Ralph in the Electoral Registers of that period.

As for Allexton Hall, in the autumn of 1905 it was announced that the property was to be leased during the coming winter by the Duchess of Hamilton and Lady Mary Hamilton [*The Gloucester Citizen*, 4 October 1905] although two months later it was further announced that this would not be the case after all [*The Gloucester Journal*, 9 December 1905]. It may be that the Paulings were by now reducing their use of the property.

Living and working at The Lodge in Effingham

A postcard sent from India (by an unidentified person 'R. M.') postmarked 5 February 1906 was addressed to 'Mrs Street' at The Lodge, and so Helen was clearly in Effingham by that date, and we know that Ralph was too. Just a few weeks later Edith died at The Lodge, on 15 March 1906. Three years previously Helen and her sister Kate Eliza had accompanied Edith on a trip to South Africa and doubtless would have established a strong personal connection to her.

In May 1906 Ralph was listed as one of the members of the Effingham cricket team playing at Effingham on 19 May against Little Bookham [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 26 May 1906].



Figure 19 The Lodge as shown on a postcard franked in September 1906 and sent to Ralph's mother in Topsham.

Ralph was also listed among the Committee of the Effingham Working Men's Club in its Rule Book, printed probably not long after a revision had been made to the rules in October 1906. The club's President was Charles Edward Lambert of Effingham House and Mr Pauling was one of the thirteen Vice-Presidents.

The Great Bookham Show of 1907 was acclaimed as being the best there had ever been. This time it was Ralph's turn to be acknowledged [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 10 August 1907]:

‘... Mr G Pauling, Effingham Lodge (gardener, Mr R E Street) staged an effective group of humeas, campanulas, crotons, liliums, caladiums, carnations and streptocarpus ... The prizes were distributed by Mrs Pauling, to whom cheers were heartily accorded, and also to Mrs Arthur Bird for collecting the ladies' prizes, for the subscribers, Mr Pauling, Dr Fisher and the hon. secretary.’

The ‘Mrs Pauling’ referred to here was Mr Pauling's third wife Dolores (‘Lola’) López (née Guibara) whom he had married on 17 November 1906.

Ralph's first appearance in Effingham's Electoral Register does not occur until 1908, when his abode was recorded as ‘School corner’ (i.e. Gardener's Cottage).

In May 1909 Ralph sent a postcard to his father at Newcourt in Topsham describing the picture it bore, this being a photograph of two football teams, ‘The Lodge’ and ‘The Village’. Ralph wrote on the postcard that he had captained the former team which had beaten the opposition by 3 goals to 0.



Figure 20 The Lodge vs The Village – postcard sent by Ralph (standing left of centre) to his father in May 1909.

The first child, Rosa Helen, of Ralph and Helen was born on 1 June 1910 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 185, 1910 (Q3)]. The 1911 Census finds her at age 10 months living with her parents at ‘The Lodge Gardens’ (presumably in the Gardener's Cottage), Ralph now being Mr Pauling's head gardener. Helen's parents Henry and Jane were meanwhile still living in Church Brampton together with Helen's unmarried sisters Annie Maria (an ‘invalid’) and Kate Eliza, besides a 13-year-old grandson Leslie William. Henry too was occupied as a domestic gardener. He and Jane had produced 15 children of whom all but one were still living.

The second child, Lewis Ralph, of Ralph and Helen was born on 19 January 1912 [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 362, 1912 (Q1)].

At an Ordinary Meeting of Effingham Parish Council on 20 February 1912 one of the Councillors, Mr R W Rowe, tendered his resignation as he was leaving the neighbourhood. It was proposed that Ralph be elected in his place, which was approved unanimously. Ralph therefore became a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.



Figure 21 Family gathering at Newcourt, Topsham in 1911 following the birth of Rosa Helen; Ralph is standing at the right next to his father Walter whilst Helen is holding Rosa and sitting next to Walter's second wife Mary who is the second from left of those seated.



Figure 22 Ralph and Helen with their children Lewis Ralph (left) and Rosa Helen; about 1913.



Figure 23 Lewis and Rosa, perhaps about 1915; on the left at the back, perched on the tree stump, can be seen the Congolese parrot that Edith (Mrs Pauling) had given to Helen.



Figure 24 Ralph (at right) with eight of his gardening staff at the potting shed (see Figure 18); probably 1910s. This is one of two postcard photographs taken on the same occasion. Some of these lads appear also in the football photograph shown in Figure 20.

By 1914 Ralph had joined the Committee of Effingham Cricket Club (founded in 1881), as shown on the front cover of its Rule Book for the 1914 season. Mr Pauling was the Club's President. A newspaper report in 1968 claimed that Ralph had played cricket for Effingham in 1902.

On 17 June 1914 an inquiry was held at Effingham's Village Hall by a committee of the Dorking Rural District Council [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 20 June 1914]. Its purpose was to assess the need for more cottage accommodation in the village. Ralph, the school's headmaster Joseph Stewart Adams and the Parish Council's Clerk Arthur John Killick all spoke about the matter. Ralph pointed out that no houses had been built in the village in the past five or six years and that building just half-a-dozen new houses would give a better chance of working men being accommodated here. At present, some of those working in Effingham had to live outside it. The village had been unable to have a married policeman stationed here because of the shortage. He said that some of the labourers had to live rough as the rent for even a very small cottage was 5s per week.

On 27 July 1916 the East and West Horsley and East Clandon Cottage Gardeners' Society held its 53rd Annual Horticultural Show [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 31 July 1916]. It took place in the grounds of Horsley Towers by permission of the Earl of Lovelace and Ralph was one of the principal judges.

Ralph was involved in an odd incident on 2 August 1916. A newspaper report about it [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 5 August 1916] described him as Mr Pauling's bailiff and stated that, on advice from another keeper, he had gone to Lee Wood at about 8.30 in the evening and heard some shooting. The shots were being fired by one of Mr Pauling's under-gamekeepers Arthur Biles, who lived at Lee Wood Cottage. Ralph later saw Biles in the custody of a PC Over who took him to Leatherhead Police Station. In the morning Ralph went to Biles' house and found a dog that had been shot and killed. He was told of another dog that had been shot in the nearby woods. He found this one severely injured but still alive, and despatched it himself with a gun. Both dogs were retrievers belonging to Mr Pauling. Ralph told all this to the magistrates when Biles was brought to court on 3 August. Biles claimed he could remember nothing of the event and said that he had suffered from 'water on the brain' since birth. The magistrates adjourned the case to allow Biles to be medically examined.

Helen's father Henry Dunkley died in November 1916 [GRO Ref: Brixworth 3b 146, 1916 (Q4)].

We do not know how the Great War impacted upon Ralph. As for many others engaged in farming and estate work, a case was made (presumably by Mr Pauling) for his exemption from being called up to join one of the so-called 'agricultural battalions'. His case was considered by the County Appeal Tribunal sitting at Guildford on 17 January 1917 [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 24 January 1917], at which it was stated that these agricultural battalions would be formed to help farmers, who were suffering much from loss of manpower, cultivate their land. Ralph's case was dismissed, but the consequence of that for him is unknown.

At the 54th Annual Horticultural Show of the East and West Horsley and East Clandon Cottage Gardeners' Society in July 1917, held in Fulk's [or Fulke's] Meadow in West Horsley, Ralph was again one of the judges [*The Surrey Times*, 24 July 1917].

We may presume that in early 1918 Ralph would have journeyed to Exmouth to deal with the death on 11 January of his father Walter and to deal with the latter's estate of which he was co-executor.

Ralph was a court witness again in early 1918 when a case was heard at the Dorking County Court. Mr Pauling wanted to re-possess one of his properties, Fir Tree Cottage (today, called White Cottage, on Chapel Hill) because the tenant Mr J Gray had been in rent arrears for many weeks, as attested by Ralph in his capacity as bailiff [*The Surrey Mirror*, 15 February 1918]. The judge made an order granting possession within two months.

On 10 February 1919 Ralph's employer Mr Pauling died, at The Lodge, of pneumonia proceeding from his having caught influenza in London. His death must have come as a profound shock to the Pauling family, to all those who lived and worked on the estate and to the much greater number of friends and colleagues in the Pauling company and around the world. We do not know what practical impact this event may have had upon Ralph's working life, but he must have felt the loss at a personal level. Presumably Dolores now became his *de facto* employer.

In March 1919 Ralph was re-elected as Parish Councillor when nine candidates had stood for the seven seats available [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 29 March 1919].

On 19 July 1919 Effingham held its Peace Celebrations in the grounds of The Lodge. The day's events began with a long procession which assembled initially near The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel and made its way firstly to the grounds of Effingham House (today's Golf Club), where photographs were taken, and then through the village, visiting the war shrine at St Lawrence Church before proceeding to The Lodge for the main activities. Behind 19-year-old Corporal Edward Dench MM, who led the procession, was the Effingham Drum and Fife Band. A band of that name had existed in Effingham since at least as far back as 1883. One of its incarnations had been established by Arthur Archibald Stovell (according to his daughter)

who was described in the Peace Celebrations Programme as the Bandmaster. A photograph of the band on this occasion shows a figure near the rear whom we are almost certain was Ralph, wearing his customary bowler hat and playing a fife. He had been in the band for many years – we know this because of a photograph that shows him, when clearly much younger (probably in his late twenties), wearing the band's uniform of which the cap bears the initials EFDB, presumed to stand for 'Effingham Fife and Drum Band'. The Programme also named Ralph as one of the stewards.



Figure 25 Ralph (second from left) playing his fife at Effingham's Peace Celebrations on 19 July 1919.



Figure 26 Ralph (at left) with members of the Drum and Fife Band.



Figure 27 Ralph in the carnation house.

Helen's mother Jane died in 1920 [GRO Ref: Brixworth 3b 107, 1920 (Q3)].

On 12 April 1921 Dolores remarried, to an army officer in the Middlesex Regiment, Captain Frederick Charles Booth, VC [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 405, 1921 (Q2)].



Figure 28 Ralph (at left) with Effingham's Drum and Fife Band in 1920; occasion unknown.

The 1921 Census finds Ralph living with his family at The Lodge and described as the head gardener. Boarding in his household was a domestic servant Rosina Virginia Russell aged 19. His employer was recorded as Captain Booth.

On 2 November 1921 the annual meeting of Effingham Cricket Club was held at the Working Men's Club (in the Village Hall) [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 5 November 1921]. Dolores was re-elected as its President and was thanked for having allowed the Club to use The Lodge grounds for their playing during the past season. Elected to the position of Captain was George Alma Cox, aged about 26, who occupied the Bothy at The Lodge and was probably working in the gardens under Ralph. Ralph was thanked for his services as the retiring Chairman of the Club.

By 1922 Dolores and Captain Booth had taken a house near Holland Park in London, 34 Phillimore Gardens W8, and were perhaps spending more time in London than they were in Effingham. We do not know whether these changes in the structure and locales of the Pauling family were unsettling for Ralph or whether he took them all in his stride.

Ralph was one of the judges at the annual show in July 1924 of the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society. It was held in the field adjoining the Old Rectory in Rectory Lane, Little Bookham, the home of the Willock-Pollen family. In a report of this event [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 21 July 1924] Ralph was described as gardener to 'Mrs Booth', rather than to Captain Booth, reflecting the fact that Dolores and Booth had formally separated in 1923.



Figure 29 Ralph's fife, kept by the family.



Figure 30 Postcard showing Ralph on the lawn outside The Lodge.

In early 1925 Ralph's involvement in Effingham's Whist Drives was noted in the local newspaper [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 9 February 1925]. A drive had been held on 6 February at the Working Men's Club with the aim of raising funds to re-cover the Club's billiard table. Dolores ('Mrs Pauling', as she now called herself) was among the prize-givers. Ralph was reported as having 'acted as driver', the meaning of which is unclear.

Almost a year later he served as Master of Ceremonies at the annual Christmas party of the Effingham Women's Institute held at the Village Hall on 30 December 1925 [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 8 January 1926]. His wife and daughter were evidently members of the Institute – at one of the monthly meetings they were both mentioned as assisting with the serving of tea [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 23 October 1926].

By 1927 Ralph had become Chairman of the Effingham Men's Working Club, under the presidency of Miss Effie Jane Ross, as shown on the Club's printed balance sheet for 1927.

On 19 February 1927 Mrs Pauling's elder daughter Dolores Angela married from The Lodge, to Richard Herbert Coombs [GRO Ref: Dorking 2a 322, 1927 (Q1)]. The ceremony took place at Our Lady of Sorrows, the Effingham church that had been built by the bride's father. ELHG holds an undated cutting about the wedding from *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* which mentions that 'The Lodge' had been profusely decorated with flowers and plants from the gardens by Mr R Street, head gardener'.

The departure of Dolores Angela may have provided the impetus for Mrs Pauling now to decide upon moving permanently from The Lodge. She had intended five years previously to sell the house with 74 acres of land, when in 1922 it had been advertised for sale by auction at her direction (as 'Mrs Booth') [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 23 September 1922; *Country Life*, September 1922], but for reasons unknown it had not been sold at that time. Perhaps she had changed her mind or had been unable to procure an offer at the price she wanted. In 1924 a large quantity of stock, both animals and equipment, belonging to her farm (on the northern side of Lower Road) had been advertised for sale [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 10 October 1924]. Now, just two days after her elder daughter's wedding, Dolores with her younger daughter Jane Josephine left The Lodge as their place of residence. As Jane wrote in her diary, 'This is the day (Monday February 21st 1927) on which we left dear Effingham never to return again to live.' Soon after this Dolores advertised the sale by auction on 17 March of further farming stock, including cows, poultry, hay stacks, bees and many pieces of equipment [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 25 February and 4 March 1927]. She mentioned this in a letter to Jane on 19 March, writing 'The Farm Sale went off awfully well, one cow

sold for £34 & Bartlett thinks we must have made about £350. They said people came for miles around to buy.' At this time she was staying at the Park Lane Hotel in Piccadilly and writing often to Jane, who was possibly away at boarding school, besides periodically visiting Effingham to sort out belongings at The Lodge.



Figure 31 The Lodge advertised as 'For Sale the Freehold Residence with 74 Acres of Land' by a notice in the garden of Ralph's home; the view is from the corner of Lower Road with Church Street – note the entrance through the flint wall from the road into the garden; the photograph could have been taken in the winter of 1922/23 but, given the heavy snow, more probably in the winter of 1927/28.

Later in 1927 Ralph was reported as the winner of a special prize 'for the premier Japanese bloom ... a fine specimen of Red Majestic' at the two-day Chrysanthemum Show of the Guildford and District Chrysanthemum Society (founded in 1884), held during 2-3 November in the Borough Hall [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 5 November 1927]. Several other prizes under various classes were won in the name of Mrs Pauling, for both flowers and vegetables. As one of the prizes was ascribed to 'Mrs Pauling, Effingham (R. E. Street)' we may conclude that in November Ralph was still in her employ and that The Lodge was still in her possession.



Figure 32 Chrysanthemum and vegetable prizes won by Ralph.



Figure 33 A particularly fine portrait photograph of Ralph, perhaps 1920s or earlier.

It is probable that at some point during 1927-28 The Lodge and its land were advertised for sale, but so far no such advertisement in the newspapers has come to light. However, we do know that by early May 1928

the house with 14 acres of grounds had been purchased by the Corporation of the Royal School for the Blind (formerly the School for the Indigent Blind) in Leatherhead [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 4 May 1928]. It was to be used as a home for up to 50 blind girls unable to earn their own livings who, at The Lodge, would ‘do such work as they can manage in order that they may be occupied’. The home would be named ‘The Home for Unemployable Blind Women’. By 1930 it housed 47 such women.

Mrs Pauling still had a lot of unsold land in Effingham. As far as we know, she had not yet sold the farm land to the north of Lower Road. She had certainly not yet sold the 31 acres of park land lying to the south of The Lodge that would become, a few years later, the King George V Playing Fields.

In early 1929 Ralph was still active in the local whist community, again acting as the ‘driver’ for a drive and dance at Bookham's Barn Hall held on 13 March [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 16 March 1929].

Later that year his daughter Rosa served as bridesmaid at the wedding on 16 October at St Lawrence of Effingham residents Ellen May Ottaway and Reginald (‘Dick’) Cecil Lamb, at which the Best Man was Henry Edward (‘Ted’) Tyrrell.

The 38th Chrysanthemum Show of the Guildford and District Chrysanthemum Society of 1930 was again held in the Borough Hall, on 5-6 November [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 8 November 1930]. Ralph won a prize in the cut blooms category, under the name of ‘The Royal School for the Blind (R E Street)’, indicating that his employment at The Lodge had been continued by the RSB when Mrs Pauling had left.



Figure 34 Rosa as ‘Queen of the Night’ for a fancy dress competition in 1931.



Figure 35 Ralph ice skating on ‘Wisley Lake’ (Bolder Mere).

Further upheaval was to come, for the RSB decided to yield up its position at The Lodge in 1932, after just four years operating there. It was going to take up new premises in Leatherhead. The Lodge with its 14 acres was advertised for sale by auction on 28 June ‘unless sold before’ [cutting held by ELHG, date and source unknown], being described as ‘admirably adapted for institution or school’. At this time Surrey Country Council owned a Palladian villa known as ‘The Oaks’, part of the Oaks Estate in Woodmansterne. It was being used to accommodate about fifty epileptic women. The Council decided to sell this estate to Carshalton Council for £41,800 and to re-house the epileptics at The Lodge in Effingham, which it would purchase from the RSB (together with all the 14 acres of land and other buildings) at a cost of £5,000

[*The South of England Advertiser*, 7 July 1932]. At the RSB's annual concert in Leatherhead on 5 July the Principal, Rev E H Griffiths, noted that 'The Lodge, Effingham, had been closed and the 50 blind women transferred to Leatherhead' [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 9 July 1932]. According to Deeds held at the Surrey History Centre, The Lodge was conveyed by the RSB to SCC on 23 August 1932 [SHC Ref: CC432/1]. Later that year 'The Minister of Health was reported to have issued his sanction to the use of The Lodge, Effingham, as accommodation for female sane epileptics' [*The Surrey Mirror*, 2 December 1932]. It would continue to accommodate epileptic women until 1972.

So, in 1932 Ralph's employer had changed yet again, this time to Surrey County Council, which had invited him to continue working at The Lodge. We do not know whether his terms, conditions and remuneration were affected, but he continued to occupy the Corner Bungalow free of rent.



Figure 36 Ralph (second from left) playing bowls in the grounds of Effingham's Yew Tree House.

The 58th Annual Show of the 'four villages' Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society took place on 1 August 1934 in the gardens of Southey Hall School, Eastwick Park. Ralph was now serving on the organising committee. Additionally, in the Open Classes category he won first prize for 'water lily in a bowl', first prize for 'fruit' and other separate prizes (mostly first) for tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, onions, cauliflowers, runner beans, peas and marrows.

From about 1935 until 1939 the other gardener's dwelling in the grounds, mentioned previously and named in the early 1900s as the Gardener's Lodge, was occupied by gardener Ernest John Hawes and his wife Martha Ellen, as shown by the Electoral Register and the 1939 National Register. By the 1930s it was referred to as 'The Lodge Cottage'. Confirmation that this is where Mr Hawes was living in this period was supplied to ELHG by the late Mary Elizabeth (née Procter) Dyer who in her childhood in the 1930s had lived in the stable block of The Lodge. In her later life she wrote a highly informative and engaging account of her life there, including a very detailed annotated map of the grounds and their many features made by her friend Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley. According to this account Mr Hawes had come 'with the epileptics ... as their own gardener'. Whether he worked under Ralph's direction to any extent we do not know.

A significant local community event took place in 1935, namely the village's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. The nation and the Empire were celebrating the 25th anniversary of King George V's accession to the

throne and the day appointed for this was Monday 6 May. The schedule of activities in Effingham had been arranged by a small 'Effingham Silver Jubilee Committee' under the chairmanship of Joseph Stewart Adams (headmaster of the village's Effingham Council School, later known as St Lawrence School), this committee having been formed at a public meeting on 11 March.

The activities were set out in a very nicely designed and printed four-page Programme of Events on the first page of which Ralph was named as the Marshal. In this role he would be responsible for maintaining adherence to the schedule and, especially, leading a long procession of villagers along a prescribed route from the school, up to the Shrine in St Lawrence churchyard and then through the heart of the village down to the Pit Carn Field (also known as 'Madge's Field'). ELHG is fortunate to possess several photographs of the Celebrations in which Mr Street's prominent role is evident.



Figure 37 Ralph (at centre) outside the school about to lead the Jubilee procession; 6 May 1935.

On 3 June 1935 an amicable letter was sent by Stewart Adams to Rosa expressing his good wishes in the light of her 'Silver Jubilee Birthday', that is, her 25th birthday two days previously, describing her arrival 25 years ago as 'a bright gleam of sunshine' which he still remembered.

Just over a year later, on 4 July 1936, Rosa married at St Lawrence to a Fetcham gardener William Frank Wallace. He had been born at Green Street Green near Farnborough in Kent on 8 October 1907. Rev Harold Arthur Floud officiated. The witnesses were Rosa's father Ralph and William's mother Grace. An account of her wedding appears in a newspaper (identity unknown) cutting which is transcribed in Appendix I.

An intention for further change at The Lodge was mooted in February 1937 when a meeting of teachers, school managers and parents in West Horsley was informed of a proposed scheme by the Surrey Education Committee to reorganise the county's schools and, in particular, to transfer children aged over 11 from the local school to a new Central School (later, the Howard of Effingham School) which would take pupils from Effingham, the Bookhams and the Horsleys [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 6 February 1937]. There appears to be little or no further mention of this scheme in the Press until its accomplishment in 1939. The land used for the school consisted of 4.4 acres making up the eastern section of the grounds of The Lodge, traversed by the long, curving carriage drive lined with lime trees whose eastern-most extremity was the 'Little Lodge' entrance on Lower Road. Of the original 14.2 acres purchased by Surrey County

Council from the Royal School for the Blind, 9.8 acres would then remain for Ralph and other gardening staff to maintain.



Figure 38 Wedding of Rosa and William; left to right – William's mother Grace, Lewis, William, Rosa, bridesmaid Helena Mary Stevens (future wife of Lewis), Ralph and Helen; in the grounds of The Lodge.



Figure 39 In the 'Greek Temple' in the Rose Garden.

Effingham was soon celebrating again, this time on the occasion of the Coronation of King George VI on Wednesday 12 May 1937. A fine four-page printed Programme of Celebrations was produced and its first page listed the members of the organising committee of which Ralph was a member. He also had an active role to play in the day's events, being now the leader of the Effingham Drum and Fife Band. Following services at St Lawrence and Our Lady of Sorrows, the Band, in the morning, led a Children's Fancy Dress Procession from the Effingham Council School to the lawn of Yew Tree House where the children were judged and given prizes by that property's owner Mrs Nina (née Lambert) MacNair. Many further activities then took place in the afternoon, both at the school and on the Pit Carn Field. A detailed report of the event [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 15 May 1937] ended by stating that the Band, described as 'Mr Street's', had been 'resuscitated for the celebrations after a lapse of over 20 years'; this was clearly somewhat inaccurate as only eighteen years previously the Band, under Mr Stovell (who was still a member of it at this 1937 event), had performed at the Peace Celebrations in 1919; moreover, ELHG's archives hold a photograph (see Figure 28) of the Band on some other occasion bearing the date 1920.



Figure 40 Ralph (at left) with his Drum and Fife Band at Effingham's Coronation Celebration; 12 May 1937.

The other band members seen in Figure 40 are, from left to right, Arthur Archibald Stovell, Frank Pole, Henry Sawyer (with the large bass drum), Frank John Patten, Reginald Cecil Lamb and Alfred Lucas.

At this time Mr Stovell, boot repairer and harness maker, was living in Forge House, Church Street – the former Blacksmith's Arms. Mr Pole was living at 1, Plough Cottages in Orestan Lane, one of a terrace of cottages standing just east of The Plough Inn. Mr Sawyer also lived in that terrace, at No. 3. Frank John Patten, who appears in many sports club photographs during the inter-war years – especially for cricket – lived in High Barn Cottages near the top of High Barn Road. Mr Lucas was another resident of Orestan Lane, living at The Elms, the house that Ralph would later purchase and (even later still) occupy. Mr Lamb lived in Great Bookham at a house named Sunny View in Dowlans Road.

By mid-1938 Ralph was aged 60 and looking a few years ahead to his retirement. He decided to acquire a property that he would rent out while he was still working but which he would use as his own home once he had stopped working. The house he settled on for this purpose was The Elms in Orestan Lane. This was one of 39 houses and bungalows offered for sale at an auction staged by Messrs Cubitt and West on

20 June 1938 [*Surrey Mirror and County Post*, 24 June 1938]. Only a few were sold at this time but one of them was 'The Elms' which Ralph purchased for £500. Mr Lucas had already vacated the house. Ralph rented it straightaway to Drury Thomas Ivey, a nurseryman, for 18s per week.

Ralph remained active in whist in this period, being recorded in March 1939 as winning a prize at the Bookham Ratepayer's Association's last whist drive of the season at the Old Barn Hall [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 18 March 1939].

The 1939 National Register finds Mr Ivey at 'The Elms' with his wife Mary Ethel Blanche (née Sink), one of their two sons Albert, their married daughter Rita and the latter's husband Norman. Ralph and Helen were still in 'The Lodge Gardens' together with their son Lewis who was occupied as an electrician. Rosa and William were living at 1, Hansard Cottages in Little Bookham Street, he being occupied as a kitchen gardener.



Figure 41 Ralph and his immense sweet peas.



Figure 42 Ralph on Lewis Ralph's motorcycle.

At the 63rd Annual Show of the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Cottage and Amateur Garden Society staged in late July 1939 Ralph was awarded one of the Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medals for having won (in this show) the greatest number of money prizes [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 29 July 1939]. He had won such prizes in thirteen categories altogether, ranging across various plants, fruits and vegetables.

When the Second World War got underway these annual shows naturally diminished somewhat in scale, but continued valiantly on. In the 65th Annual Show on 30 July 1941 Ralph was pronounced to be one of the show's two most successful exhibitors, but he was not eligible under the rules for a Banksian Medal on this occasion because he had been awarded such a medal in each of the previous two years [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 2 August 1941]. However, at the 66th Annual Show on 29 July 1942 he was eligible once again and was indeed awarded another Banksian Medal [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 1 August 1942].

On Saturday 12 June 1943 Ralph's son Lewis Ralph married at Little Bookham Parish Church to Helena Mary ('Mollie') Stevens [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid-E 2a 509, 1943 (Q2)]. She had been living at Dawes Cottage in Little Bookham and occupied as a supervisor at the Great Bookham Telephone Exchange. Reverend Arthur Leonard Drinkwater, Rector of Little Bookham, officiated [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 19 June 1943].



Figure 43 Ralph's son Lewis Ralph Street.



Figure 44 Wedding of Lewis and Helena; 1943.

Meanwhile, Ralph had been excelling at bowls, playing with the Bookhams Bowling Club. By the close of the 1943 season the Club had played 19 matches, winning 11 of them, and now played a final match between the prizewinners and runners-up versus 'the Rest' [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 16 October 1943]. The outcome of this was that Ralph won the Men's Brotherhood Championship Trophy. The Bowling Club also ran whist drives and Ralph's attendance at these was noted in several newspaper articles over the period January 1944 to March 1945.

On 30 November 1946 Ralph was the winner of the Coronation Cup with the Bowling Club [*The Surrey Advertiser*, 7 December 1946]. After this date there are few, if any, reports of his social activities. However, in March 1950 it was reported that he was a goal scorer in a football match between Effingham (who lost) and the Dorking British Legion [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 24 March 1950].

He was ready to retire at age 65, but at that time the War was in progress and Surrey County Council asked him to continue working for them, to which he agreed. By the end of the War, however, he had decided definitely to retire and wished to occupy the house in Orestan Lane he had bought in 1938 using the bulk of his life's savings. It was still occupied by the Ivey family and they now declined to move, despite the fact that Mr Ivey had originally signed a statement that he would 'quit the premises when the landlord required them'. Ralph therefore sought remedy through the courts. His application for possession was heard at Dorking County Court on 9 March 1950 [*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser*, 10 March 1950]. He explained the background to the judge and pointed out that the Lodge Gardens cottage in which he was living had no indoor sanitation, no bathroom and no hot water, whereas The Elms had all these amenities. (From this account it is clear that he and his family had put up with poor living conditions, by modern standards, for nearly half a century.) Mr Ivey, described as a market gardener, stated that he did wish to leave the house and was 'very sorry for Mr Street' but had nowhere to go despite his having tried to find

another place for 3½ years. Nonetheless the Judge ordered that possession be given to Ralph within a month. This must have taken effect since the Electoral Register for 1951 shows Ralph and Helen at The Elms, whilst Mr Ivey and his wife had moved to West Horsley.



Figure 45 The Elms in Orestan Lane; home of Ralph and Helen from 1950 onwards.

At the autumn show in 1951 of the East and West Horsley Gardening Society, Ralph was one of the two judges for the Open Classes category [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 15 September 1951].



Figure 46 Ralph and son-in-law William at the Bookham Flower Show in 1953.

Ralph was the subject of a newspaper article in 1960 bearing the title 'The Doyen' and describing his long career in horticulture [*Reporter and Advertiser*, 19 May 1960]. It stated that he had served on the committee of the Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham Garden Society for 50 years and had first begun judging at shows 40 years ago. His winning of the Royal Horticultural Society's silver jubilee medal in 1935 had been the highlight of his career. He was an associate member of that Society and a specialist in carnations. At The Lodge he had been in charge of eight under-gardeners and tended 20 large greenhouses. It was his habit to wear a different flower or plant in his buttonhole every day. Two comments in the article were made about his early years; one was that he had come to Effingham in 1902 and the other (which was clearly mistaken) was that 'He left Effingham in 1905 but returned to the district ten years later'.



Figure 47 Helen's 86th birthday on 8 August 1959, with Ralph and Rosa.

Ralph's and Helen's Diamond Wedding Anniversary was reported at length in 1964 [*The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, 4 April 1964]. It mentioned that he had created a nine-hole golf course in The Park (of The Lodge) and a velvet turfed bowling green. He remembered 'the grand parties of young people who thronged the roller skating rink and heated swimming pool, the water of which he had to change weekly'; the pool was still being used by the district's school children. (ELHG's member the late Mary Alfreda Rice-Oxley once noted that the swimming pool 'used to have a dance floor and Mr Street used to resent having to call up all his men to lay this down and take it up again when needed'.) Besides his garden work 'his duties included being bailiff on the farm, with its seven cows, sheep, pigs and chickens, and keeper in the woodlands'. The article mentioned that when Mrs Pauling gave up The Lodge she presented Ralph with a gold watch, which he still treasured, and a cheque for £50. He had 'continued working for Surrey County Council until 1954' (suggesting that he had not, in fact, fully retired in 1950).



Figure 48 Ralph and Helen in 1964, the year of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



Figure 49 Ralph in Rosa's greenhouse in Little Bookham; the last photograph of him, in 1967.

In 1965 Helen, Ralph's wife of 65 years, died aged 91 on 17 July [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid-E 5g 57, 1965 (Q3)]. She was buried in the Effingham Parish Council Burial Ground. Her Probate Register entry states that she died at Epsom District Hospital and that her effects were valued at £163.

Ralph survived her by just two years. He died aged 89 on 19 November 1967 [GRO Ref: Surrey Mid-E 5g 99, 1967 (Q4)]. His Probate Register entry states that he died at 55, Little Bookham Street (being the home of Rosa Helen) and that his effects were valued at £1,474. He was buried with Helen, his funeral officiated by Reverend Ernest William Lees May.

A long obituary for Ralph was published in a local newspaper, probably *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times*, of which we possess just the undated cutting, transcribed in Appendix II. It relates that Ralph came to Effingham in 1902. It mentions many other details not given in earlier articles, including that he played the violin as a hobby, had been a champion billiards player at the Working Men's Club, had led that Club's teams for many years in billiards, cards and draughts matches and had until the age of 50 been the champion shove halfpenny player at The Sir Douglas Haig Hotel. He had played bowls beyond the age of 80, having won almost every competitive trophy at the Bookhams Bowling Club. He had been elected honorary Vice-President of the Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham Garden Society which had named its 'Ralph E Street Cup' after him.



IN
FONDEST
MEMORY
OF
RALPH EDGAR STREET
DIED 1967 AGED 89
AND OF HIS WIFE
HELEN AMELIA
DIED 1965 AGED 91

Figure 50 The grave of Ralph and Helen; the headstone was installed only after both had died.



Figure 51 Demolition of the Corner Bungalow in the 1960s.

Lewis Ralph died aged only 59 on 17 March 1971. His Probate Register entry states that he had been residing at 'Craig' in Eastwick Road, Great Bookham and that his effects were valued at £13,353.

Rosa Helen died, like her mother, at age 91 on 25 July 2001 [GRO Ref: Forest of Dean 42/4821 Entry No. 26, 2001 (July)].

Personal notes and recollections, by Ralph Frank Wallace

I was the first of the two children born to Rosa Helen after she had married in 1936 to William Frank Wallace (whose preferred forename was Frank). After marrying, my parents took up residence at 1, Hansard Cottage (later assigned No. 55) in Little Bookham Street, just outside the parish of Effingham. After my father died in 1966, my mother continued to live in this house until 1982 when she moved to Coleford in the Forest of Dean in order to be nearer to me.

As our home in Little Bookham was only a few minutes walk away from The Lodge, we were able to visit my grandparents Ralph and Helen regularly in their Lodge Gardens corner bungalow. Ralph was already aged about 63 when I was born and consequently he has always been an old man in my memory. Looking back, I can see him puffing on his pipe or saucering his tea. He would carefully pour the tea into the saucer then wipe the bottom of the cup on its edge. That was 70 years ago; does anyone do that today, I wonder? At age 6 I had one particularly long spell staying in that bungalow with my mother, in the winter of 1947 when she gave birth to my younger brother Roger. Owing to the snow we were trapped there for six weeks. Ralph made visits to Mr Killick at West Lane Farm to obtain milk and thereby somehow kept us fed during that period. I still have the jug that he used.

Ralph's notebooks and diaries (the latter spanning the period 1952-67), which are now in my possession, contain some entries which potentially help to clarify, or at least suggest, some of his movements as a young man. I believe these were written down by him in later years, not on the actual dates of the events to which they refer. One of the earliest concerned a walk he made at Newcourt on 11 April 1892, aged 16. During this walk he heard a cuckoo and ever afterwards he referred to that date as 'Cuckoo Day'. An entry for January 1894 says 'Parker's Well House', a property that used to stand on the Topsham Road near Exeter, but was later destroyed by a bomb; he had been employed as foreman there for two years. He also notes that at that time he went into lodgings at 9s per week. It appears from his notes that he then did a spell at Veitch's.

Two events are noted against October 1897. One is his going to Wexham Park in Slough and the other is the arrival in Effingham at The Lodge of his future wife Helen, in service to Mr Pauling's second wife Edith Kate. At Wexham Park (which was later demolished in about 1961), according to his records, he was employed in the gardens for a year.

As described earlier, Ralph was in Penyfai, Carmarthenshire at the time of the 1901 Census, working for Mr Buckley. This is consistent with an entry 'To Wales' in his notes for the date 20 January 1900, where he was employed as foreman for two years.

An entry for 1 February 1902 says 'To Veitch's' and another, a month later, for 6 March says 'The Lodge Effingham'.

It was common practice for Veitch to send their trainee gardeners out to the big estates to learn from different head gardeners. The company had its beginnings in Exeter and it is plausible that Ralph's father Walter had been a customer of theirs in the course of his head gardener work and that this is how Ralph became acquainted with them.

Ralph always said he that he first met Helen on his first visit to Effingham – presumably, in March 1902 – and that she was still working there when he visited a second time. On that occasion she had been away so he took the horse and trap and went to collect her from the station.

Another of his notes says 'Allextion Hall' with the date November 1903. Helen may also have gone to Allextion Hall, before, on or after that date; however that may be, they married near Allextion four months later, at the end of March 1904. Their first home together was at Allextion in one of its gate lodges. We then see a note 'The Lodge' with the date September 1905, consistent with the addressing of the above-mentioned postcard that Edith sent to him from Egypt in December of that year.

One of the memories I have of his own early memories is that as a young boy he had 'skated with flaming torches' down from Countess Weir along the Exeter canal.

When the First World War broke out he went to Guildford to enlist but was told that he was needed on the land – perhaps Mr or Mrs Pauling had made a representation. However, he did have a hernia (treated at



Figure 52 Wexham Park: by courtesy of Matthew Beckett, Lost Heritage (www.lostheritage.org.uk).

Whitechapel Hospital) and so may have been medically unfit anyway. He received a day's pay when he made that attempt to enlist.



Figure 53 Ralph (at rear, second from right) at Wexham Park, Slough; about 1897-98.

He must have been a strong man in his younger days. He was a very good swimmer who played football and cricket and loved skating. In his later years he was a champion at billiards and shove ha'penny. Even at age eighty he hadn't lost his touch. He was difficult to beat at draughts, whilst bowls and whist were among his interests in old age.



Figure 54 Ralph (at rear, third from left) in Effingham Cricket Club in about 1926; sitting in the middle at the front is his son Lewis Ralph.



Figure 55 Ralph on the croquet lawn at The Lodge; perhaps 1920s or earlier.



Figure 56 The Corner Bungalow, probably in the same winter as seen in Figure 31.



Figure 57 The Corner Bungalow photographed in April 1960.

On Sunday mornings he would cycle down to visit us in Little Bookham. On his way back my father and I would join him for a drink at The Windsor Castle: we sat outside and I enjoyed a glass of lemonade. Ralph could remember when beer had cost a penny a pint. One day, somewhere along the Lower Road, he was knocked off his bicycle; he was bruised and shaken up but no bones were broken. That was his last ride.

Much has already been recorded about his prize-winning flowers and vegetables. I do remember, at The Lodge, the chrysanthemum house with pots of huge blooms and the scented freesia house. In the Kitchen Garden was a greenhouse where figs, peaches and nectarines were grown. I can recall grandfather standing on a step ladder thinning out the grapes or picking a fig for me to try. He once waited for me to come out of school and beckoned to me from over the gate where he fed me strawberries dipped in sugar.

I remember him taking me to the fruit room to throw out bad apples and dead mice from the traps. The drums from the fife band were kept there and I loved banging the bass drum. On one occasion he tied string onto the side drum so that I could suspend it from my neck and play it; I marched down to the bungalow to show Grannie. A very early memory is when I fell down the steps of the stoke hole there and landed in the coke; I can still see him now, framed in the doorway and asking 'are you alright?' He had a telling off from Grannie over that.

I recall that we did once go into the main house (The Lodge) and up onto the roof to reach the flag pole, the operating of which was another of Ralph's duties. We also went across the road to visit Mr Stovell in his workshop.

Ralph spoke in a broad Devon dialect and when his sisters Florry and Hetty visited there was much laughter among them over childhood memories. A word I do remember was 'acky', it was always used for the great tit. Grannie would say 'there's my acky ringing his bell'. She trained both robins and great tits to come to her hand and I have done the same. Helen's word 'acky' was short for 'ackymal', a term in old Devonshire dialect denoting the four common British tits (great, coal, blue and marsh).

As described previously, Ralph had purchased The Elms in Orestan Lane in 1938, but even before that he had purchased two other houses. These were called Myrtle Cottages and they stood on the eastern side of Little Bookham Street. They were in much better condition than his corner bungalow and he received rental income from them for the rest of his life.

Holidays were spent in Exmouth at 'Tredegar' in Alexandra Terrace where Ralph's father Walter and step-mother Mary (known as 'Steppie') lived.



Figure 55 Ralph on holiday in Exmouth with Rosa; at the rear is Alexandra Terrace where they stayed.

Following their successful application through the courts in 1950 to gain a possession order for The Elms, the Streets left the Lodge Gardens on 24 May and moved into their new home – again, a bungalow – in

Orestan Lane. During that move I was given the bird table to carry on my shoulder.

For the first time in nearly fifty years of marriage they had hot water from a tap, electricity and a bathroom. One wonders why the Paulings (and Surrey County Council) had apparently not felt any responsibility to my grandparents for improving conditions at their former home in the Lodge Gardens.

At The Elms the front lawn had been unmown for months. I was given the task of pulling the mower whilst Grandfather pushed; it was a long job. The long piece of lawn alongside the house was used for bowls which we played with billiard balls and a golf ball for the jack. If there was a dispute over which ball was closest, Ralph would produce from his waistcoat pocket his special device for measuring the distance from jack to ball.

Christmas at Effingham was a very special time. The most important one for me was in 1953 when I first picked up a violin. My uncle brought along a spare violin for my grandfather, who had taught himself to play when he had been working in Wales and now wanted to join his son and daughter playing carols; he had already Lewis taught the violin and Rosa the piano. The violin was in the open case on the table; it invited me to take it out and put fingers on the strings. I decided I would like to learn how to play and in the days after Christmas I sat with my grandfather in front of the stove plucking my first notes while he gave me his thoughts on my intonation; it was his violin from Wales that I was using.



Figure 56 Ralph Frank Wallace (at left) with his grandfather Ralph and uncle Lewis Ralph; 1950s.

On 2 January 1954 my uncle gave me the violin I had first tried, together with a music stand and an ancient tutor. My violin journey had begun; now, 70 years later, I am still travelling. By Christmas 1954 I was able to join in the carols having taught myself from the book. I had lessons at Leatherhead School of Music and in 1959 won a place at The Royal Academy, London. After five years at the RAM I went to Italy to study with Alberto Lysy, the renowned Argentinian-Ukrainian violinist and conductor who, having been awarded a Rockefeller Foundation grant on the recommendation of Yehudi Menuhin, subsequently studied under Menuhin as his only personal pupil, thereafter performing with him for many years. After that chance happening, I have enjoyed a life of playing and teaching. Some of the highlights were playing under the baton of Barbirolli and Boult, performing with Jacqueline du Pré and Peter Pears and performing the Brahms and Elgar concertos. I played in a master class to Louis Persinger who taught Yehudi Menuhin and was himself taught by Eugène Ysaÿe. I like the thought of being one handshake away from the great violinist. My grand-daughter is the 6th generation of string players in the family.

Figure 57 Ralph Frank
at age 16.



Figure 58 Ralph Frank (at rear) with Jacqueline du Pré in Sermoneta, Italy; 1963.

In 1964 Ralph and Helen (who was often called 'Nell') celebrated their Diamond Wedding. Grannie refused to be interviewed by the reporter and took herself off to bed, so only Ralph's photograph appears in the newspaper.

Helen Amelia died in 1965 and Ralph Edgar in 1967. They are buried together in the Effingham Parish Council's Burial Ground next to St Lawrence churchyard. Their grave is at the bottom end by the flint wall in ground that had formerly belonged to The Lodge, where they had lived and worked for so many years.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures 1, 18, 50: supplied by C J Hogger

Figure 20: lent by the former Effingham Playing Fields Association Ltd

Figure 25: lent by the late Winifred Annie (née Stovell) Hall

Figure 28: donated to ELHG by Effie Jean (née Morgan) Francis

Figure 29: fife loaned by Ralph Frank Wallace and photographed by C J Hogger

Figure 40: donated by the late Mary Alfreda (née Bridger) Rice-Oxley

Figure 52: by courtesy of Matthew Beckett / Lost Heritage (www.lostheritage.org.uk)

All others: supplied by Ralph Frank Wallace

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are expressed to Matthew Beckett for kindly permitting us to display his photograph of Wexham Park in Figure 52.

APPENDIX I

Reporting of Rosa Helen's wedding: July 1936
(in newspaper unknown)

EFFINGHAM.

PRETTY WEDDING.— A pretty wedding was solemnised at St Lawrence Parish Church, Effingham, on Saturday, when Miss Rosa Helen Street, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ralph E Street, The Lodge Gardens, Effingham, was married to Mr William Frank Wallace, only son of Mr and Mrs F J Wallace, Worple Cottage, Cobham Road, Fetcham. Mr J Tyrrell, of Beare Green (a cousin of the bride) was at the organ and the Vicar of Effingham (the Rev H A Floud) officiated at the service. Given away by her father, the bride wore a charming dress of georgette and lace with veil and wreath of orange blossom and carried a shower bouquet of white carnations. Her attendant was Miss H M Stevens (a friend), who wore a pretty dress of pink georgette with organdie frills with halo and shoes to match. She carried a bouquet of mauve and pink sweet peas. Mr Lewis E [sic – F] Street (brother of the bride) was the best man. A reception was held at the bride's home. Mr and Mrs Wallace were the recipients of many useful presents.

APPENDIX II

Reporting of Ralph Edgar's death: November 1967
(in newspaper unknown)

For 63 years he was 'Mr Effingham'

Mr Ralph Edgar Street, a leading figure in Effingham village life, has died in his 90th year.

He had lived at Effingham for over 63 years, and his activities there ranged from chairmanship of the parish council [this is not correct, but he *had* been a member of the council] and working men's club to a variety of sports, in which he gained championship honours, and gardening in which he won many awards.

Mr Street, who died at the Little Bookham Street, Little Bookham, home of his only daughter, Mrs Rosa Wallace, worked for many years at the Lodge, Effingham, before it became a home for the blind and later for epileptics, and he afterwards lived at Orestan Lane, Effingham. At the Lodge, he was employed by the late Mr George Pauling, the then owner, as head gardener and bailiff.

A Devonian, Mr Street moved to London to work at Chelsea Nurseries before moving to Effingham in 1902.

Mr Street, who played his violin as a hobby until two years before his death, formed the former Effingham Drum and Fife Band, and taught its instrumentalists.

As a champion billiards player at Effingham Working Men's Club, he won a rose bowl – the only billiards' trophy awarded there. He was MC in years gone by at the club's whist drives, led its teams in inter-club

billiards, cards and draughts matches, and until he was nearly 50 was champion shovehalfpenny player at the Douglas Haig Hotel, Effingham.

BOWLS AT 80

A bowls player until he was over 80, Mr Street won practically every Bookham Bowling Club's trophy open to him for competition.

For many years he was in the congregation at Effingham Parish Church, and was a member of the St Lawrence Over Sixties' Club.

Mr Street was a member of the Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Effingham and Fetcham Gardens' Society for over half a century, represented Effingham on the committee, and in later years was elected an honorary vice-president.

He was an exhibitor at the society's shows for about 30 years, and won all the cups open to him – in the open classes – and many Banksian medals. The society's Ralph E Street Cup was named after him.

Between 1925 and 1930 he exhibited with conspicuous success at the Guildford Borough shows when they were held in the then theatre in North Street.

WED 61 YEARS

Mr Street leaves a son, Mr Lewis Frank Street, a daughter, Mrs Rosa Wallace, and two grandsons, Mr Ralph Wallace, who teaches music at Brentwood School following five years at the Royal Academy of Music, and Mr Roger Wallace, who is a constable in the City of London Police.

He had been married for 61 years, and his wife, Helen Amelia, died two years ago.

The funeral service took place on Thursday last week at Effingham Parish Church. The vicar (the Rev E W L May) officiated, and the arrangements were carried out by L Hawkins and Sons, of Leatherhead.