

Taken from Kate Burley's ^{then aged 11,} record of talking with the Misses Clara & Doris Fisher, in 1970. Clara born 1902

Their father worked for Henry Coles, the village builder & undertaker. Miss Clara remembers he always looked forward to someone dying, because it meant he worked on a Sunday to make the coffin, this then meant he earned double his daily wage! The sisters have lived all their lives in the village, neither getting married ^{when they were young,} the only way of getting to either Petersfield or Portsmouth was by horse and carriage. There was a carrier who lived in the village. You had to book a lift with him 2 weeks before hand, as he was always fairly booked up. There were also waggons stationed at the pubs - The George & the New Inn (now the Isaac Walton) These were used mainly for taking people to Petersfield or West Meon to catch a train. When the 1st world war came, the horses had to go to be used in the war. Cars gradually came to the village, but there were not many people who could afford one. The main road into Petersfield was not tarred ~~as~~ ^{as} paved till the early 1920s & the bus service started about the same time. The fare was 6 ^{pence} ~~pence~~ single & 10 pence return.

Children had to walk to ^{the} school in East Meon, some walking at least 5 miles from Laydene or Coombe. If they did not arrive exactly on time they were beaten. Every evening before the children were allowed to walk home, they had to go to a service in the church. In fact

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The school was run by the Church at that time. When Christmas came, the Church gave a party for the children. They were all given presents, and the hard-working children were given books, because it was felt they deserved more. Every person in the village turned out for Church on a Sunday ^{at least once}. It was a great social occasion & their smartest clothes would be worn.

There were many more farms in the village then, each farm being much smaller than a modern farm. ~~Most~~ Mr Pink had a farm, & lived next to the Church. He owned 8 cows which grazed in the churchyard. Mr Coles was also a farmer, & lived in Glenthorne House, & kept 7 cows in the field the other side of the river. This field was ~~later~~ ^{later} turned into an estate of Council houses. Mr Coles & Mr Pink both supplied the village with milk, cream, butter & buttermilk. The milk was sold for 1 penny a pint. There were of course many other farms, but they were further from the village, & were larger. Most of the cottages in the village were occupied by farm workers. Not having today's machinery, many more people were needed to work on the farms. Most cottages had their own pigs, chickens & ~~sheep~~ sometimes a sheep or goat.

There were many more shops in the village when Miss Clara was young. 2 blacksmiths, 2 wheelwrights & general shops, one of which sold clothes & shoes. a butcher & an ironmonger. Fish was brought to the village twice a week.