

From David Mullard 21st June 2015

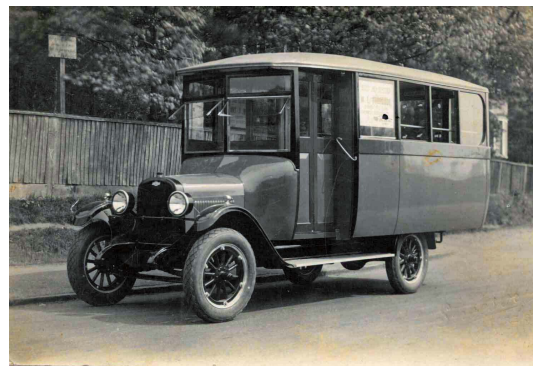
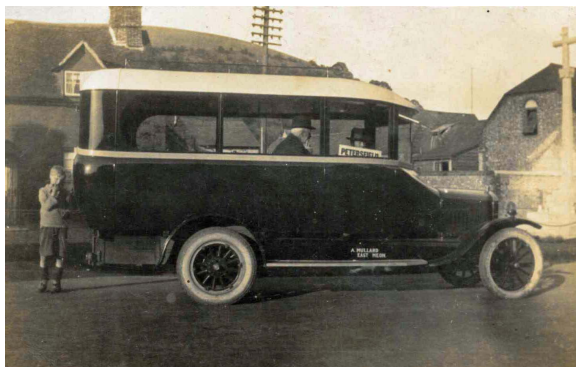
Good morning, I recently found your web site and found it very interesting as East Meon was an integral part of my Grandparents and Father's lives from 1906 through to the early thirties. My grandfather (Albert Richard Mullard) was already living and working in East Meon when he and my grandmother (Mary Ann) were married in 1906 and the teenage couple were living at Hyden cottages when their first daughter Agnes was born In 1907. By 1909 when son Albert was born they were living at Frogmore, grandfather was still working as a cowman/farm labourer. In 1911 when my father Arthur George was born they were living and working at Park Farm Hambledon but by 1913 when a second daughter Mabel Rose was born they were back in East Meon at Farm Lane. It would appear that they left the village for the duration of 1915 and this could be while my grandfather was recuperating from being gassed in the trenches during the early part of the war, I know he was sent to a sanitarium in the north of England. In 1916 they were back at Frogmore and when Agnes died in 1919 they lived in the High Street. A third daughter arrived in 1923, Olive by which time grandfather was wheeling and dealing rather than farm work. The entrepreneurial spirit really took off and by the late twenties he ran the first bus service from East Meon to Petersfield using buses built on Model T chassis which my father and his brother drove, they were now in their late teens, this continued until they were run off the road (almost literally) by Hants and Dorset. By now they were living in the Square and the next business was coal delivery and they were one of three coal companies operating out of West Meon station, then in the early thirties they moved to West Meon. Finally to the bit which may be of interest to you I have some photos of the buses and the coal lorry which if you wish I will endeavour to get copies to you.

From Michael Blakstad 21st June 2015

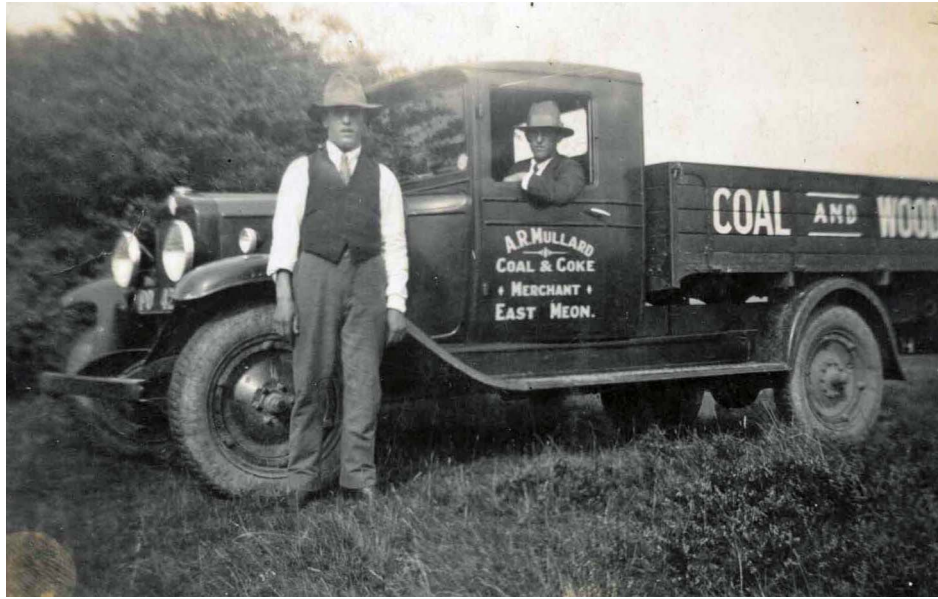
Thanks so much for getting in touch. It would be fascinating to see the photos of the buses and coal lorry ... have you the means of scanning and emailing them, or would you prefer to mail them

From David Mullard 21st June 2015

Hello Michael, I will scan the photos to you later in the week, in the meantime I will forward you a snapshot of the three, the two young men with the lorry would be my father and his brother, circa 1930



The East Meon/Petersfield bus service operated by the Mullard brothers in the late 1920s. The bus was built on a Model T Ford chassis



Arthur George Mullard and his brother, now coal and wood merchants c1930

From David Mullard 22nd June 2015

Please use any pictures and information as you wish to. I can't remember too many details about the buses that my father told me except that they were on Ford model T chassis and he drove one and his brother the other as my grandfather never drove, also as I said yesterday they would have been in their late teens then, 17 & 19.

I forgot to answer your question of where I am, I live at Wolverton near Kingsclere in the north of the county although having been brought up in Exton I am still a Meon Valley boy at heart despite leaving there 51 years ago at 15. I will at some point consult my daughters about the photos but possibly the younger one may wish to keep them as she was quite close to her grandfather.

After my immediate family's departure from the village there was still a Mullard presence with my grandfather's brother George Henry and his wife Lottie who both saw out their days there, and their daughters Vera (Giles) Winifred (Boisclair) were still there in the sixties.

From Michael Blakstad 18th July 2015

You might be interested in the photographs I have attached. The first is of the dedication, in 1921, of the War Memorial in East Meon. Above the doorway on the left can be seen the plaque of A. Mullard, carrier to Portsmouth. The Kelly's Directory for 1920 lists Mullard, Albert, carrier, so not necessarily a relative. There is no sign in the 1920 Directory or the 1930 one of your father as either bus operator or coal merchant, but that might be because he declined to pay to be included.



David Mullard to Michael Blakstad, August 2nd 2015

Albert Mullard would be my grandfather, and any business reference would have been for him, my uncle was also Albert (William) but was always known as Bert or Bertie, I often refer to him as my Father's brother rather than my uncle because he died some seven years before I was born, leaving a widow and three children under four. I don't know much about the 1920 business but this would have been the time when grandfather starting his entrepreneurial career, I am assuming this was a horse and cart carrier service as motor vehicles were still rare then and I was always under the impression that he never drove, which is why Bert and my father drove the buses and lorry for him, I believe they both worked for him on leaving school at fourteen in 1923 & 1925 respectively.

I would like to clarify that the brothers only drove the buses (there are two different ones) and the coal lorry, the business belonged to their father, the time frame would have been late twenties when the boys were old enough to drive to the early thirties when they moved to West Meon. The bus operation ceased when Hants and Dorset started a service through to Petersfield and I was told the relationship between grandfather and H&D was rather acrimonious.

Kind regards

David