

# Redlynch & District Local History Society

## Mary Ann Noake

Continuing my article on Mary Ann Noake which appeared in July's magazine, I have discovered that William Atkey, her younger son, lived in a property in Morgan's Vale called Hillside in 1911, together with his family and a servant. Hillside is the property which became the Vicarage for St Birinus Church (I believe it was purchased for that purpose in about 1915) and is now a private house. Prior to William Atkey's occupation, it was rented by Herbert Smith of the New Forest Ironworks and the census shows that he was certainly there in 1891. Quite who originally built it I have not yet discovered but in 1822 Thomas Mitchell owned the land and after in 1838 James Frith who was a yeoman. The 1911 census shows that William Atkey was a brick manufacturer and an employer. He enlisted in 1915 when trustees were appointed to deal with his financial affairs here, according to the 1915 Kelly's directory.

During the last few years I have been collecting copies of old deeds round and about the village and one of these has revealed that up until 1950, when it was purchased by Stuart Mitchell, the brickworks, where part of the Vicarage Park development is built, were run and owned by William Atkey. I believe that William also built the pair of large brick and tile houses on The Ridge which back on to this land. The site of these houses formed part of Mary Ann Noake's estate. It seems that they were originally owned by William but they were eventually sold by William's brother Bertram, who was an author of some repute, as Mortgagee in Possession. Bertram also served in the First World War.

Mary Ann Noake's will included all the properties and land on the west side of The Ridge from about the position of St Birinus Road down to the site of Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall, which wasn't built until 1921. The only exception was Ridge House which occupies the original site of The New Forest Ironworks. There was then a good deal of undeveloped land along this part of The Ridge when Mary Ann Noake made her will. It is likely that included with these properties was the land upon which the brickworks were developed. The 1838 Tithe schedule shows that the brickworks land was then owned by William Cooper who was Mary Ann Noake's maternal grandfather. Before that it belonged to William Cooper's grandfather Ralph Cooper who owned many properties in the vicinity. It appears that William Cooper also owned Whiteshoot Farm and this property must have been inherited by Mary Ann through him since her son William inherited it from her. It is also therefore likely that the brickworks land was also inherited from this source.

William Atkey's Probate record shows that he did not have the business acumen that both his great uncle William Plaskett and his mother had, since he only left £57 in 1955!

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