

Elm Tree House - Shrivenham

What is known so far 1704 - Present

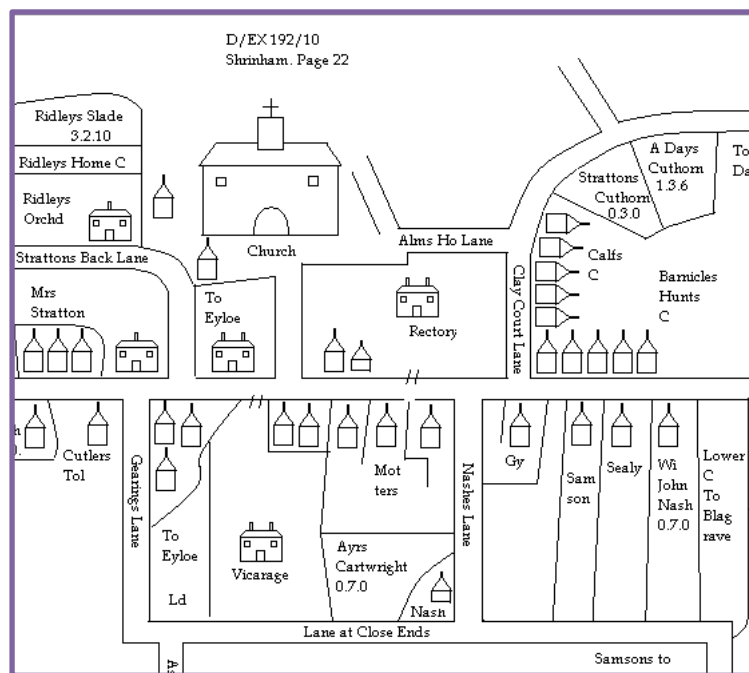
By Neil B. Maw



The family name Eyloe was common in Shrivenham in the early 17th century, but the spelling was not consistent, with Ellow, Eilow and Eloë, being used. It seemed to settle down in the latter half of the century to Eyloe. What was consistent was that they all kept Alehouses or Taverns. (Shrivenham Salop Hundred Court Meetings books BCA D/EEL Series). However, we cannot be certain that those Eyloes were directly related to the Eyloes that are associated with Elm Tree House.

Our Eyloe research begins when in 1664 Thomas Keble acquired a moiety of the Rectory of Southrop in Gloucestershire (A share of the income from an estate). He gave that moiety to his daughter Elizabeth when she married Richard Eyloe of Shrivenham in 1686 at Lechlade. (VCH Glos Vol 7, Southrop). They had first a daughter Mary and then a son Richard who was baptised in Shrivenham on 16th February 1687. Father, Richard passed the moiety of Southrop to his son when he married Mary Thruston at Shrivenham in 1716. (See Schedule in SHS Listing No: N943)

Richard Eyloe the elder, who died in 1728, was described in his Will as a, 'Gentleman,' that is to say that he was sufficiently wealthy to have no need of work to maintain a living. It is highly likely that he was the Richard Eyloe that appeared on the Hearth Tax list of 1662 as having four hearths. From the Shrivenham Parish Register for Baptisms 1575 - 1812, there are extracts from registers at the beginning, and we discover two concerning Mr Eyloe. One states: 'It appears by some painted glass that the house at Shrivenham Gate, Mr Eyloes was built in the year 1704.' A second note corroborates the first, but will need further explanation later, 'The house at Shrivenham, the property of the late Mr Eyloe and which was devised by him together with his estate at Shrivenham to the Vicar of Shrivenham, but which was rendered void by the Statute of Mortmain, was built in 1704.' And to complete this identification of the property as that being Elm Tree House, we refer to the Quarto Survey Book of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell of Coleshill, that may be found at the Berkshire County Archives (D/Ex 192/10). The book consists of a series of simple, line drawn maps dating from 1730 - 1753. The whole purpose of the maps is unclear other than to assume they were about rents and tythes. By studying the map below, it is clear to see that in the middle of the 18th century the property that is Elm Tree House today belonged to, 'Eyloe.'



Transcription copy section of the Quarto Survey Book

To summarise what the above confirms is that Richard Eyloe lived in a house in Shrivenham in 1662 that had four hearths for which he duly paid the tax. In 1704 he demolished that house and built a new one, the property we see today as Elm Tree House. The full historical survey that was carried out by Oxfordshire Buildings Record in 2019 included this sentence in their conclusion: *'The List description (DofE Listed Buildings) suggests the front range was built against an existing building, however, from our work the evidence strongly supports the conclusion that the existing building is essentially of a single primary build.'* This is in unison with the documentary evidence known so far and here presented. (The full survey is available on request to SHS).

The Will of Richard Eyloe, the younger, requires some further explanation. (PROB 11/781/435). He died on 8th August 1750. It would seem that he had no children. In his Will he devised that all his property should go into the hands of his friends and trustees named in the Will. Firstly, all the revenue and profits generated by his lands and properties should be for the benefit of his wife Mary Eyloe and we assume that she continued to live at Elm Tree House. He further directed that after the death of his wife the trust should go into the hands of Benjamin and Henry Baldwin of Faringdon, and the revenue and profits generated should be for the benefit of their sister Mary Keble. (See above for the Keble connection). His Will further directed that after the death of Mary Keble his property and income generated from it should go to the Vicars of Shrivenham and Southrop, Gloucestershire, near Lechlade, where he had connections. His wife Mary died in 1762 and Mary Keble died in 1790, but the law concerning charitable gifts to the church, that had its origins in the Statute of Mortmain, declared Richard's Eyloe's Will void. (VCH Glos Vol 7 Southrop). The 13th century statute was passed in the reign of Edward I to prevent land from passing into the hands of the church, creating a tax payment loophole. (Info from Wikipedia). This ties up with the extract from the Shrivenham Parish Baptism Register above. The Eyloe estate then went into the hands of Richard's heirs, Thomas Tyler of Minchinhampton and Sarah, wife of Daniel Mills of Chalford, (it is unclear as yet, just how they are connected). This was the start of a long and complicated legal battle, with mortgages being taken out and not repaid, litigation involving the High Court of Chancery, Bankruptcies and Deaths. In summary, it was a 15year mess. In 1805 it came to a conclusion with the Barrington's purchasing Elm Tree House and the money from that and the sale of the land to the Fairthornes, satisfied the other parties involved. (For more information on the 11-part Indenture see SHS Listing No: N943.)

This situation must have created turbulent times for the occupation of Elm Tree House. There could have been numerous occupiers from the death of Mary Eyloe in 1762 onwards. It is possible that Mary Keble could have resided there until her death in 1790 but we have no evidence of that. But could it be more than co-incidence that an advertisement appeared in the newspaper the following year?

TO be SOLD by AUCTION,
By Mr. R U D D E R,
At the Barrington-Arms, Shrivenham, Berks, on Thursday
the 5th Day of May, 1791, in Seven Lots,—All that desirable
FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate, lying and being in that most
delightful Village of Shrivenham aforesaid, and now in the Oc-
cupation of Mr. Thomas Dodwell, at the Annual Rent of 75l.
—of which a convenient well-built Mansion House, with two
good Parlours, and suitable Bed Rooms and Appurtenances; a
good Garden inclosed with a Fruit Wall, and about Five Acres of
Meadow or Pasture Ground, will constitute the first Lot. This
Lot is extremely eligible to a reputable Family, not only in itself,
but from its Situation in a genteel Neighbourhood; and the
Purchaser of it may accommodate himself, if agreeable, with
about 25 Acres of Land from the other Lots.
Printed Particulars of the whole Estate, which is free from
Tithe (except about Half an Acre) may be had of Messrs. Carter
and Gill, Attornies at Law, in Cirencester and Cricklade; at
the Principal Inns in Fairford, Lechlade, Faringdon, High-
worth and Swindon, and of the Auctioneer at Cirencester. —
Dinner on Table at Two o'Clock, and the Sale to begin pre-
cisely at Three.

Oxford Journal 23rd April 1791

We do have to exercise some caution here as Fern House, located just around the corner in Manor Lane, was going through changes of ownership at the same time as these events for Elm Tree House. However, the letters of George Merryweather, the Steward for the Beckett Estate from 1815 – 1821, are of great importance with their detail, and enable a better distinction between the two properties.

At this period, it was becoming more fashionable for large houses to be used as private schools. Although the advertisement below is some 20 years later, it could give a clue as to the use of the house in the years previous.

SHRIVENHAM, BERKS.

M**R****S.** **TUCKEY** returns her most sincere and grateful thanks to her friends and the inhabitants of Shrivenham, for the high patronage and very liberal support she has experienced since the opening of her **SCHOOL**, and hopes, by an unremitting attention to the health, morals, and improvement of her pupils, to merit the approbation and support of those parents whose Children are confided to her care.

Terms:—For boarders above ten years of age, Sixteen Guineas per annum; under ten, Fourteen Guineas per annum; Washing, Two Guineas. No extra charges. Weekly and Day Boarders accommodated. Parlour Boarders at Twenty-five Guineas per annum; and superior accommodation for Parlour Boarders, thirty Guineas per annum. French, Music, Dancing, and Drawing, on the usual terms.—The House is very large, and in the centre of the beautiful, healthy, and pleasant village; the rooms are lofty and spacious, the Garden extensive, and the premises are in every respect replete with conveniences for a Boarding Establishment.

Vacations, Midsummer and Christmas, one month each. After the present Vacation the Duties of the **SCHOOL** will recommence July 22. [238]

Salisbury & Winchester Journal 8th July 1822

When we consider the buildings that could fit the description, or had been available, to suit the above school, this could only have been Elm Tree House. And whereas in the advertisement below, we have no description of the premises, it is quite likely that it was also Elm Tree. There were many such private schools being established in Shrivenham and the immediate area, and a separate study has been carried out on this. (See SHS N1550).

SHRIVENHAM SEMINARY
FOR YOUNG LADIES,
Conducted by the Misses **AKERMAN**,
SHRIVENHAM, BERKS.

THE Misses AKERMAN, in expressing their grateful acknowledgments for the liberal support they have experienced, respectfully solicit the attention of Parents and Guardians to the Terms of their Establishment, assuring them that while they remit no attention calculated to facilitate the improvement of their Pupils, they are alike solicitous to promote their happiness by liberal treatment and maternal kindness.

TERMS. *Per Annum.*

Board, and Instruction in the English Language, grammatically, Writing and Arithmetic, History and Geography, with plain and fancy Work ...	} 15 Guineas.
Under 10 years of age	14 ditto.
Weekly Boarders	12 ditto.
Day Boarders	6 ditto.
Washing, extra	2 ditto.
The French Language, Music, and Dancing, each	4 ditto.
Drawing	3 ditto.

A limited number of Day Pupils are received, and instructed as Boarders in the Establishment, on very moderate terms.
Writing and Arithmetic are taught by a Master, who has had several years' experience in London, where he attended many Families and Seminaries of high respectability.

N. B. Young Ladies finishing their education at this Seminary have the advantage of being taught the Lancasterian system of running hand, free of any additional charge.—A quarter's notice, or the equivalent, is expected previous to the removal of a Pupil.

Bills to be punctually discharged half yearly.

The duties of the Establishment will be resumed on Tuesday the 6th of July.

Oxford Journal 26th June 1830

With the property being used for business it makes more sense of the entry for the Tithe Survey of 1844, where the house and property next to it (now Surgery) is listed as a Warehouse and Garden, as belonging to Lord Barrington and all, 'Unoccupied.'



Elm Tree House site 1844

HOUSE TO BE LET AT SHRIVENHAM.
—A large Roomy & Gentlemanly RESIDENCE,
with good GARDEN, STABLE, &c. ; stands quite
detached, and although situate in the centre of the Village,
the premises are not overlooked. The House contains
dining, drawing, and small breakfast rooms, six or seven
bed-rooms on the chamber floor, with water closet, and
several good attics. May be entered upon at or before
Michaelmas next.—Would be well adapted for a first-rate
LADIES SCHOOL.—Particulars may be known by
applying to Mr. Ferris, Shrivenham, Faringdon, Berks.

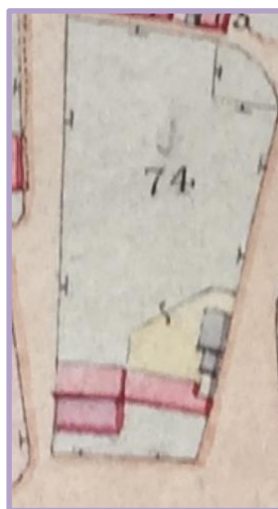
Reading Mercury 23/3/1850 - note the emphasis on the,
'Ladies School.'

The Census for 1851 offers a clue if we study the likely, '*walk order*' of the commissioner and the status of the people listed. On page 18 of that census, the Rev. Charles Calley, Curate of Coleshill, is listed with his wife and daughter and several servants. Directly after this listing is Daniel Day the Baker, whom we know owned and occupied the corner shop by the Cross Trees at this time. With this positioning in the census walk order and the high status of Charles Calley, it is highly likely that he occupied Elm Tree House. Sadly, he lost a daughter on 22nd April 1851 called Diana Julia, his only child, aged three years and ten months. (Wilts & Glos Standard 29th April 1851). But more happily another was born four years later. (Cheltenham Chron 13th February 1855). With the evidence above and the description below, offering the house to be let, this confirms that it is Elm Tree House. An advertisement for Medlar Cottage, which is at a similar distance from the church was also described as, '*within three minutes walk.*'

TO BE LET, at SHRIVENHAM, a highly respectable, good looking HOUSE, Unfurnished; containing dining and drawing rooms, small breakfast room, capital kitchen, convenient offices, four best bedrooms, three suitable servants' apartments; altogether well adapted for a retired gentleman's residence; good garden, rich dry soil; within three minutes' walk of the church; at present in the occupation of the Rev. C. B. Calley, but possession may be had at Michaelmas, or before if required.—Particulars of Mr. Ferris, Shrivenham.

Reading Mercury 2nd July 1859.

The Barrington Estate Map and survey of 1866 shows Elm Tree House on a huge piece of land that takes in where the Surgery now stands, right the way up to the churchyard. It is owned by Lord Barrington and occupied by Misses' Burke and described as House, Garden and Offices. The Dutton Allen & Co Directory for 1863 listed a C. Bourke at Elm House. This is likely a corruption of the spelling Burke. The Valuation List of 1868, on which the contribution to the poor was made, listed Miss Lucy Bourke as the occupier. (SHS N340).




Elm Tree House site 1866

A newspaper advertisement in 1870, announced that Elm Tree House was to let and would be available at Lady Day next. (Reading Mercury 8th Jan). The Faringdon Advertiser for 5th Feb

1870 carried an advert to say that Mr J. Dyke was to carry out an auction on the property of Misses' Burke, who are leaving the neighbourhood.

The Census of 1871 confirmed that the house was occupied by John Skurray and his family, and he was described as a, '*London Cow Keeper.*' Altogether with servants and a visitor, there were eight people at the house. The Skurrays were still there according to the Kelly's Directory of 1878, but they must have left soon after this as by early 1880, the house was being advertised to be let, with the contact as William Warren who was the Steward for the Barrington Estate at that time. (Reading Mercury 6th March 1880) The census for 1881 has no listing for the house and it's likely that it was still unoccupied. Another advert three years later offered the house to let again, but only from December of 1884 until April the following year. (Morning Post 13th August 1884).

 **Record Transcription:**
1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census
Elm Tree House, Shrivenham, Faringdon, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England
[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members ⓘ

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
John	Skurray	Head	-	Male	34	1837	-	Wiltshire, England
Maria	Skurray	Wife	-	Female	30	1841	-	Berkshire, England
Charles C	Skurray	Son	-	Male	3	1868	-	Berkshire, England
Margaret M	Skurray	Daughter	-	Female	1	1870	-	Berkshire, England
Charles	Greenwood	Visitor	-	Male	19	1852	-	Berkshire, England
James	Prowse	Visitor	-	Male	18	1853	-	Berkshire, England
Ann	Taylor	Servant	-	Female	20	1851	-	Berkshire, England
Emma	Roseblade	Servant	-	Female	30	1841	-	Berkshire, England

The census for 1891 listed Elm Tree House by name as, '*Unoccupied.*' Three years later it was being advertised again as To Let, '*For one, three, or five years, with immediate possession,*' but it also added that it was then in the occupation of Colonel Morgan. (Reading Mercury 24th November 1894). By 1901 it was occupied by the Huntingfords.



Record Transcription:

1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Elm Tree House, Shrivenham, Faringdon, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England

[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members ⓘ

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Mary	Huntingford	Head	Single	Female	38	1863	Living On Own Means	Littlemore, Oxfordshire, England
Agnes	Huntingford	Sister	Single	Female	35	1866	Living On Own Means	Littlemore, Oxfordshire, England
Ettel	Brereton	Sister	Married	Female	32	1869	-	Littlemore, Oxfordshire, England
Ettel	Huntingford	Sister-In-Law	Married	Female	27	1874	-	India
Dora	Mead	Visitor	Widow	Female	42	1859	Living On Own Means	Ireland
William	Thompson	Servant	Married	Male	57	1844	Domestic	Foxearth, Essex, England
Sarah	Thompson	Servant	Married	Female	58	1843	Domestic	London, Middlesex, England
Ellen	Thompson	Servant	Single	Female	30	1871	Domestic	Littlemore, Oxfordshire, England
Percy	Thompson	Visitor	Single	Male	18	1883	-	Barnwell, Northamptonshire, England
Christopher	Quincey	Boarder	-	Male	5	1896	-	Little Irchester, Northamptonshire, England

It is not known how long the Huntingfords were in occupation, but the next newspaper advertisement below gives the information that a Mr J. Hart had been in residence, but was leaving and selling much of his furniture beforehand.

Elm Tee House, Shrivenham.
THURSDAY NEXT, MARCH 23rd, 1911.

SALE OF SURPLUS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and OUTDOOR EFFECTS.
Including walout drawing room suite upholstered in tapestry, pianoforte by Tolkein in walnut case, oval walnut table, Brussels and pile carpets, drawing room settee, sewing machine, mahogany side table, corner cabinet, brass breakfast warmer, brass and iron bedsteads, wool and hair mattresses, mahogany prie-dieu chair, 3 lounge wicker chairs, Windsor and other chairs, walnut overmantel, painted chests of drawers and kitchen utensils, garden light, wire arches, roll of Rose St drum, tennis net and poles, greenhouse lamp, pair of carriage lamps, stable and garden tools, set of harness, side saddle and other effects, which

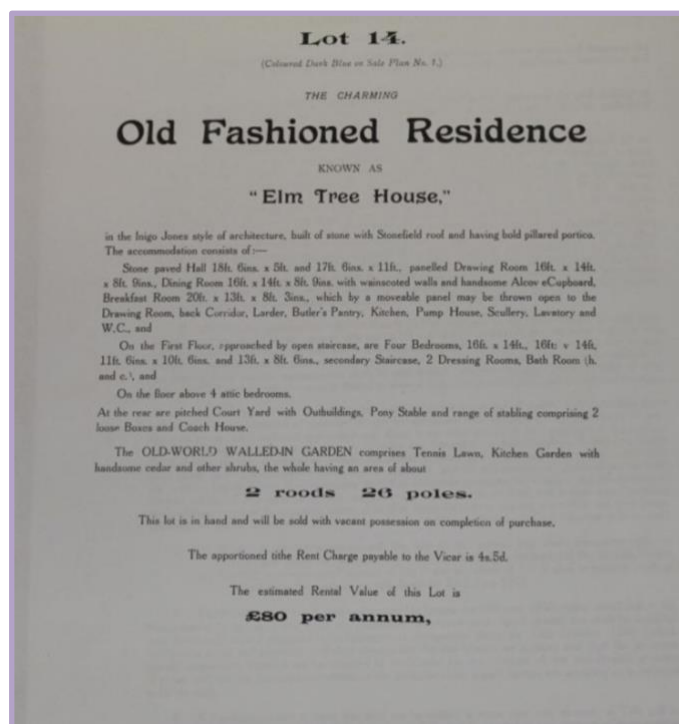
FERRIS & BONIFACE

ARE favoured with instructions from Mr J. Hart, who has left the neighbourhood, to **Sell by Auction**, upon the premises, on the above date.

Sale to commence at two o'clock sharp.
On View morning of Sale. No Catalogues.
Auction and Valuation Offices: Swindon.

Faringdon Adver 18th March 1911

The Kelly's Directory for 1915 listed that the occupier was Walter C. Stanton and it is likely that he was the last tenant of the Beckett Estate. As the First World War raged on, many of the great estates throughout the country were coming to an end, and Beckett was no exception. The income from the farms and buildings had, for some considerable time, been unable to meet the running costs, and it was inevitable that much of the estate's assets would need to be sold off. The first of three auctions took place in September 1917.



Elm Tree House was sold to Charles Henry Eady of Eastbourne on 31st December 1917, and this is now the start of what is known by the current occupiers that will bring it up to the present day. Mary Ethel Chandler, daughter of Charles Eady, sold the house to Dr Albert Perse Macnamara in 1925. He in turn sold it to Dr Ernest Algernon Sparks in 1945. Doctors D.B. and M.E Dumughn purchased the house in 1965. And finally, Dr Tony and Diana Crockett purchased the house in 1996 and are the current occupiers.

We thank Tony and Diana Crockett for allowing us sight of their household papers and documents, and for maintaining their house that is such a prominent landmark in the centre of the village.

If any reader has any further information on Elm Tree House, please get in touch with us:

info@shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk

