

# Sowley Iron Works

Emma Page



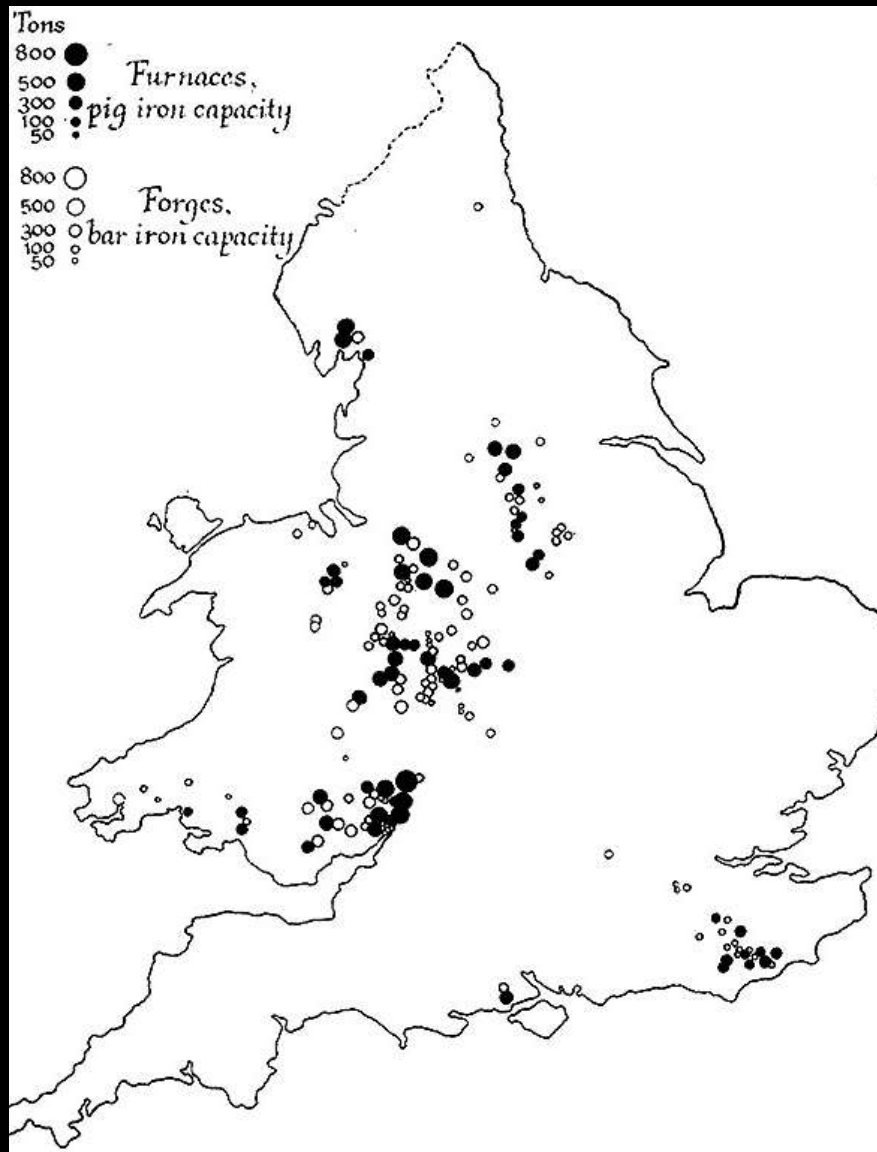


You can compare this with the map of Sowley from 1820.



Here is a map of Sowley in 1820 which doesn't actually mark anything as iron works.

However the field to the south-east of Sowley Pond is called 'Great Furnace Close'.



Here is a map of the iron furnaces and forges in England and Wales in 1717.

You will notice that one of each are shown at Sowley but most are either in the Weald, in Sussex or Kent, or in the north and west, close to coal fields.

So the question I'd like to address today is:

**WHY WAS THERE IRON MAKING AT SOWLEY AND WHY HAD IT CEASED BY 1820?**



The Cistercian monks at Beaulieu Abbey set up their first iron works in 1270 but there is no evidence that it was at Sowley.

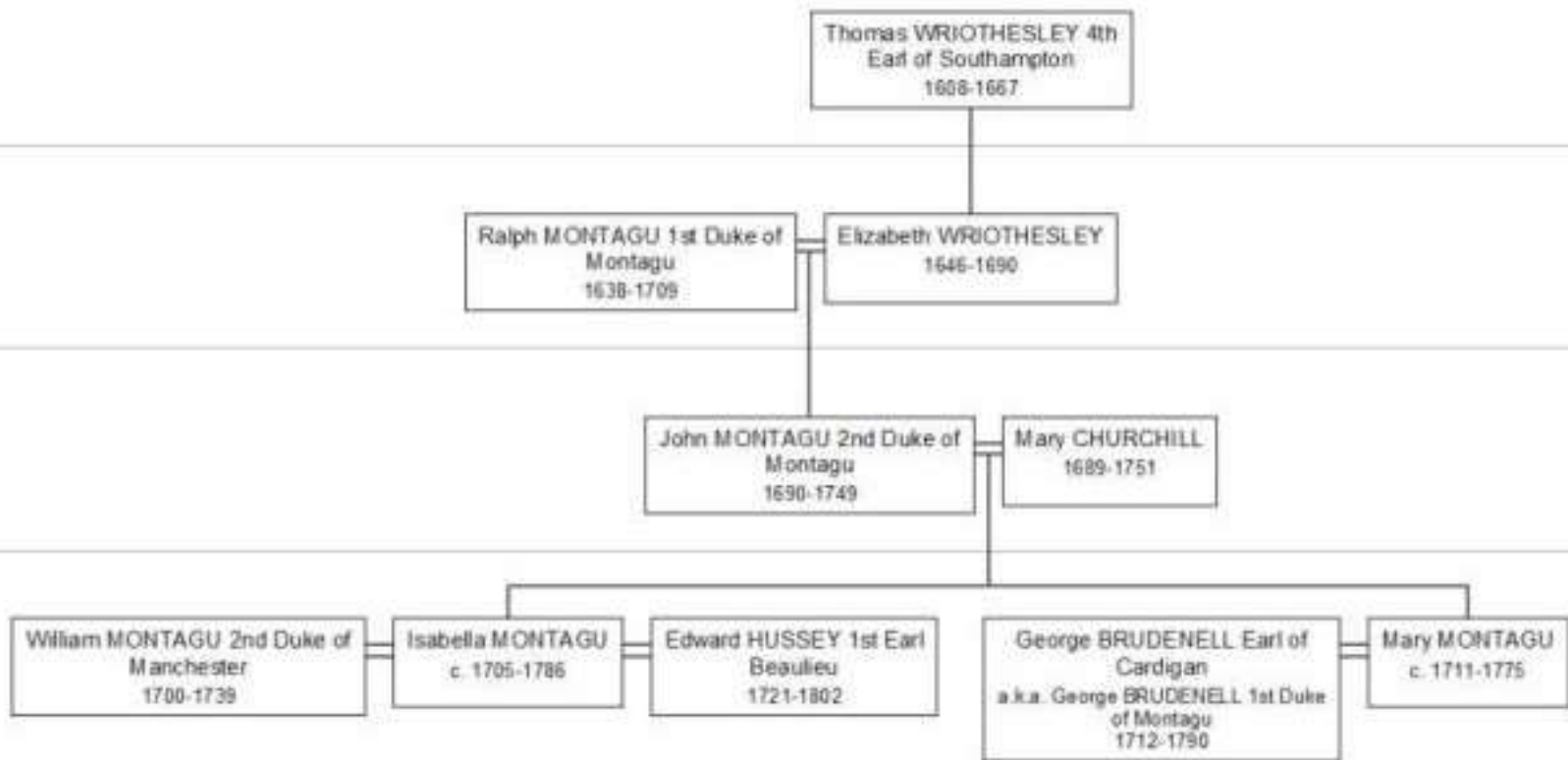
Sowley was one of their farms and, like Otterwood, which we visited last year, had a grange.



The Cistercians built a causeway to create the 'great pond' at Sowley, originally used for fishing.



At the dissolution of the monasteries, Beaulieu Abbey was partially demolished and some of the stones were used to build Hurst Castle.



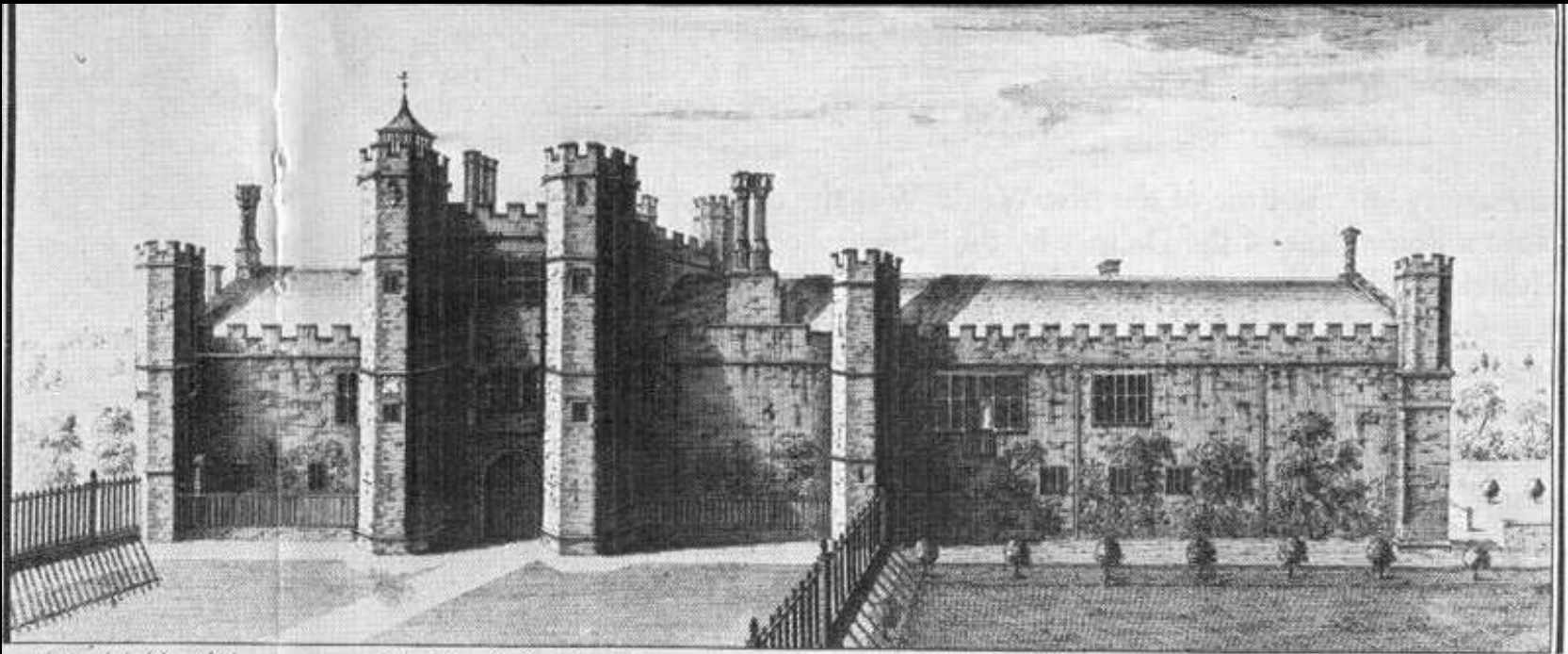
The Abbey was granted to Thomas Wriothesley, later 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Southampton.

The lands passed down the male line to Thomas, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Southampton but then went down the female line to John Montagu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu and then on down the generations from his daughter, Mary Montagu.



Why is this relevant to the Sowley iron works?

The 4<sup>th</sup> Earl's grandfather, Anthony Browne, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montagu, had set up an ironworks in West Sussex by 1585



*Titchfield. Abby. was founded by Peter de Rupibus Bishop of Winchester, in y. 16<sup>th</sup> of R. H. 3. for 12 monasterien Canons. The Marriage of R. H. 6. with Margaret of Anjou was here solemnized. It was y. Seat of Wriothesley Earl of Southampton; but he dying without Issue. It came by Marriage of his Daughter, to Edward 1. Earl of Gainefborough; and for want of Issue Male again to two Daughters. The*

And the Earls of Southampton's main seat was not Beaulieu but Titchfield, close to the iron industry in Sussex.

The first evidence of iron works at Beaulieu was:

- A reference in 1605 to 'the newly erected ironworks at Bewley and Titchfield' which were leading to a scarcity of wood
- A lease in 1625 of iron works at Bewley and Titchfield to Stephen March, who lived on the Isle of Wight but also had an estate at Battramsley

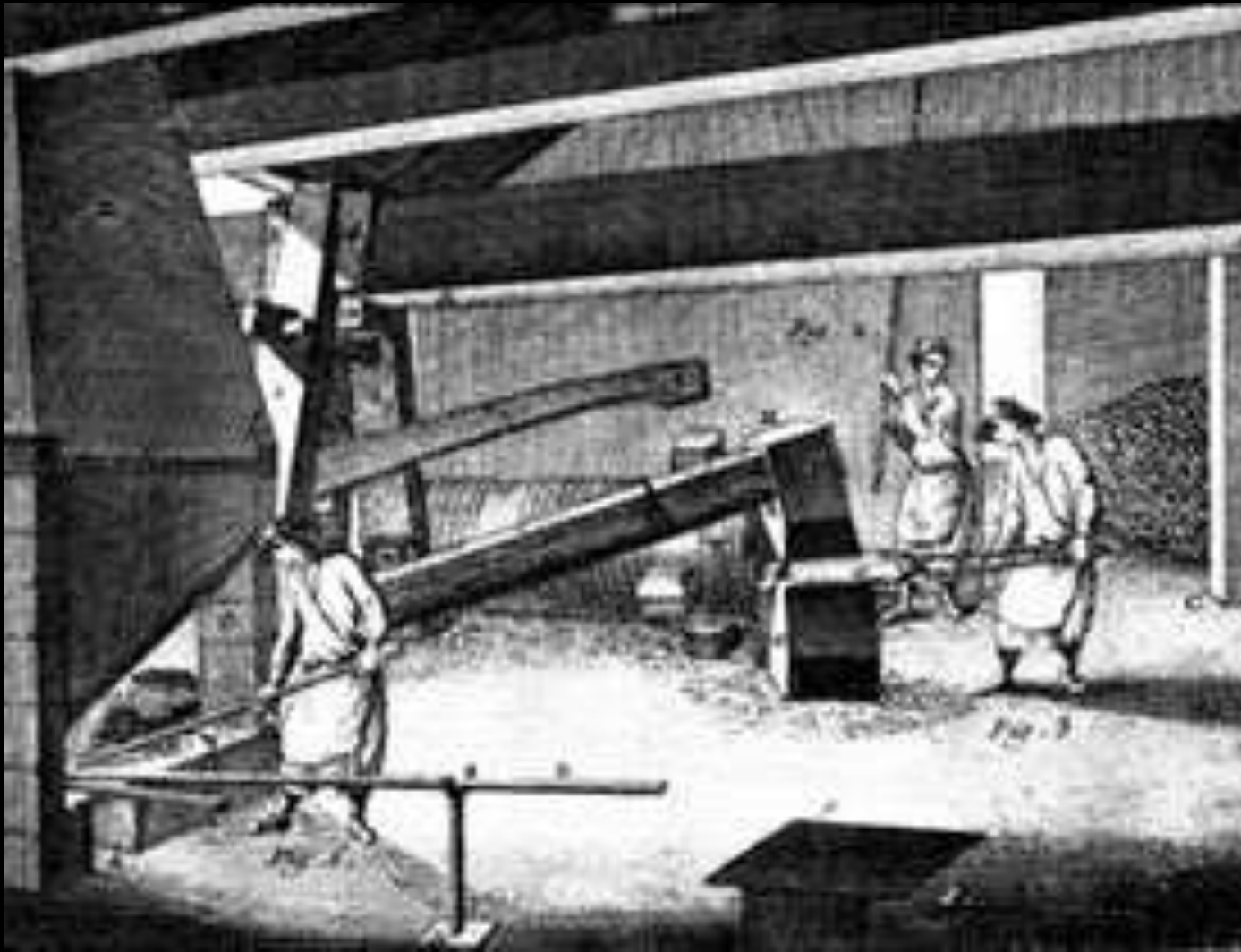


What did iron works look like?  
By the sixteenth century, iron was made by the Walloon process.

The first stage was to produce pig or cast iron in a Blast Furnace. Here is a photo of one somewhere else.

This process used iron ore, charcoal and limestone.

Later charcoal was replaced by coal.



The next stage was to use hammers to beat the cast iron into bar iron.

So why was there iron making at Sowley?



There are five things you need to set up a successful iron works.

First is a supply of iron.

This lump of haematite was found in the grounds at Sowley.



And you can see evidence of iron deposits – the iron coloured sheen - in pools in Sowley.



There was also iron at Hordle cliffs and iron was also shipped in to local ports from Spain and Sweden.



Second you need a reliable supply of water to drive the bellows of the furnace and power the forge hammer.

Beaulieu, with its tidal pond, could not provide this.

Sowley Pond, on the other hand, with its stream running down to the Solent could.



Third you needed fuel to heat the furnace and charcoal to make cast iron.

That meant that you needed a forest which you could coppice.

Beaulieu was unique in that it was within the perambulation of the New Forest but exempt from Forest law as this map of the Beaulieu Estate in 1718 shows.

It was also exempt from the New Forest Act of 1698. This was designed to turn the forest from a hunting ground into a source of timber for the navy. This Act prevented coppicing

# In summary you need

1. Iron
2. Water
3. Fuel in the form of charcoal or better still coal
4. Also a market for the end product
5. Money to keep the furnace and forge in working order



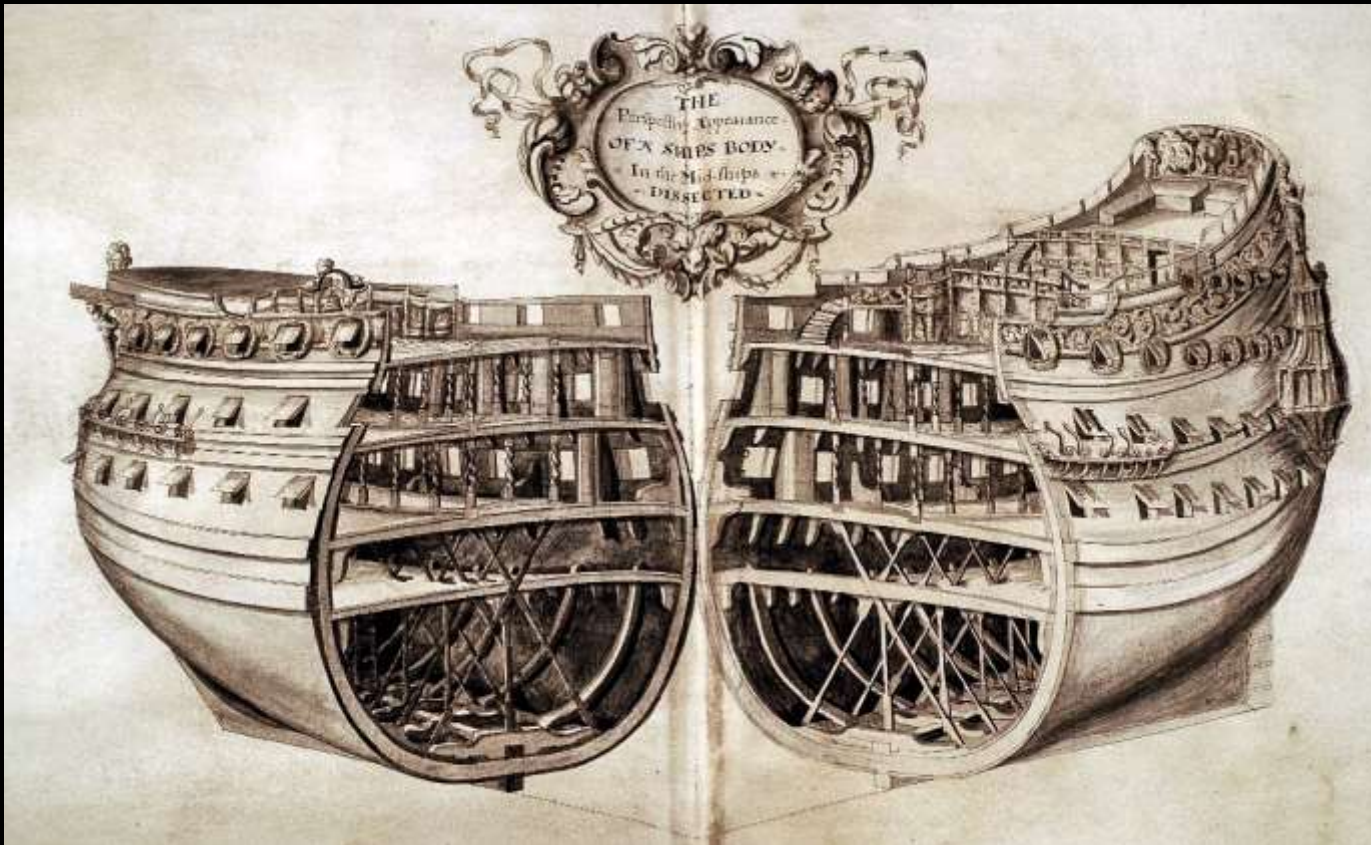
The Dukes of Montagu provided both the market and the money.

At the end of the seventeenth century, Ralph, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Montagu spent about £2,000 (equivalent to over £150,000 in 2005) building a new forge at Sowley and repairing the existing furnace.

In 1700, he leased the iron works at Sowley, as well as several properties in Beaulieu to Henry Corbett.

Corbett was a master blacksmith and ironfounder originally from the city of London.

He had been commissioned by Edmund Dummer, the Surveyor of the Navy, to design and build the new iron gates for the dockyard at Portsmouth.



Edmund Dummer was a skilled draughtsman and here is a drawing he did towards the end of the seventeenth century.

Dummer also appears to have put his own money into developing the iron works at Sowley.

However this was not a financial success.

# Henry Corbett's Inventory 1701

- Palace Farm, Beaulieu
  - Smiths' shop, foundery house & carpenters' shop
- Wharf
  - 4,480 cwt broken guns, 50 tons stones for repair of wharf
- Sowley
  - 1,200 loads charcoal, bellow, 5 hammers
- Portsmouth
  - Smiths' shop & yard

Corbett supplied anchors and other iron goods to the navy but they were slow to pay. Therefore in 1701 he had an inventory drawn up with the intention of assigning his assets to Dummer and the duke in settlement of his debts. [See slide]

He ran into further problems after the great storm of 1703 when the Navy Board complained that some of their anchors had failed because they were made of local bar iron and not the superior Spanish or Swedish iron as specified in the contract.

Although he continued to trade and supply the Navy, he died intestate in 1709.

In the probate taken at his death he was described as 'Henry Corbett of Beaulieu' and had assets, including payments due from the navy, of over £3,000 (about £250,000 in 2005 money)

Dummer immediately obtained a writ to seize his goods to repay debts owed to him.



*Engraved by J. Kaye del. by G. Kneller*

*London, 1741*

FLEET PRISON.

*London, Feb. 17. 1741. del. by G. Kneller. Engraved by J. Kaye.*

However, Dummer's other business had run into difficulties.

One of his ventures was to build packet boats for the navy and two of these were built in the Beaulieu River and tallowed on the beach at Lepe.

He also operated a packet boat service, starting in 1702, from Falmouth to the West Indies.

This was a risky business. Ten of his 19 packets were captured by privateers and two were wrecked.

In 1711, he was declared bankrupt and committed to the Fleet prison [see slide], where he died in 1713, leaving his wife and daughters destitute.

The ironworks at Sowley were taken on by his brother, Thomas, who operated the works until 1716 when he left in a hurry, leaving four years rent unpaid.



This is a close up of the Beaulieu Estate map in 1718 showing Sowley just after Thomas Dummer had left it.



Edmund Dummer, the naval architect, is often confused with another Edmund Dummer.

The second Edmund Dummer, probably a distant cousin, was a lawyer and also the Montagu's Steward of Beaulieu.

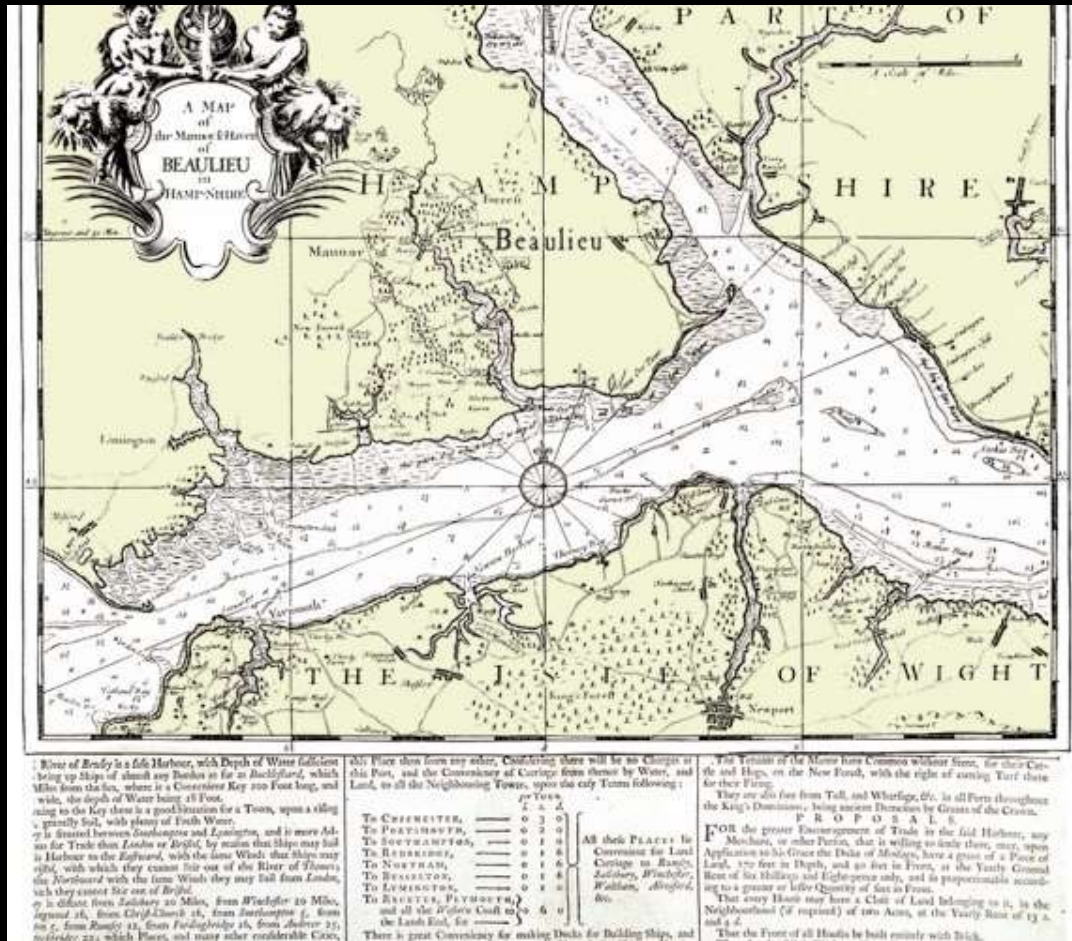
He was rather more successful.

When he died in 1724, a large marble memorial was erected in his memory at St Mary's Church, South Stoneham, near Portsmouth.



By now the Sowley Ironworks were owned by John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu.

He had ambitions to develop his own 'Montagu Town' on the Beaulieu River.

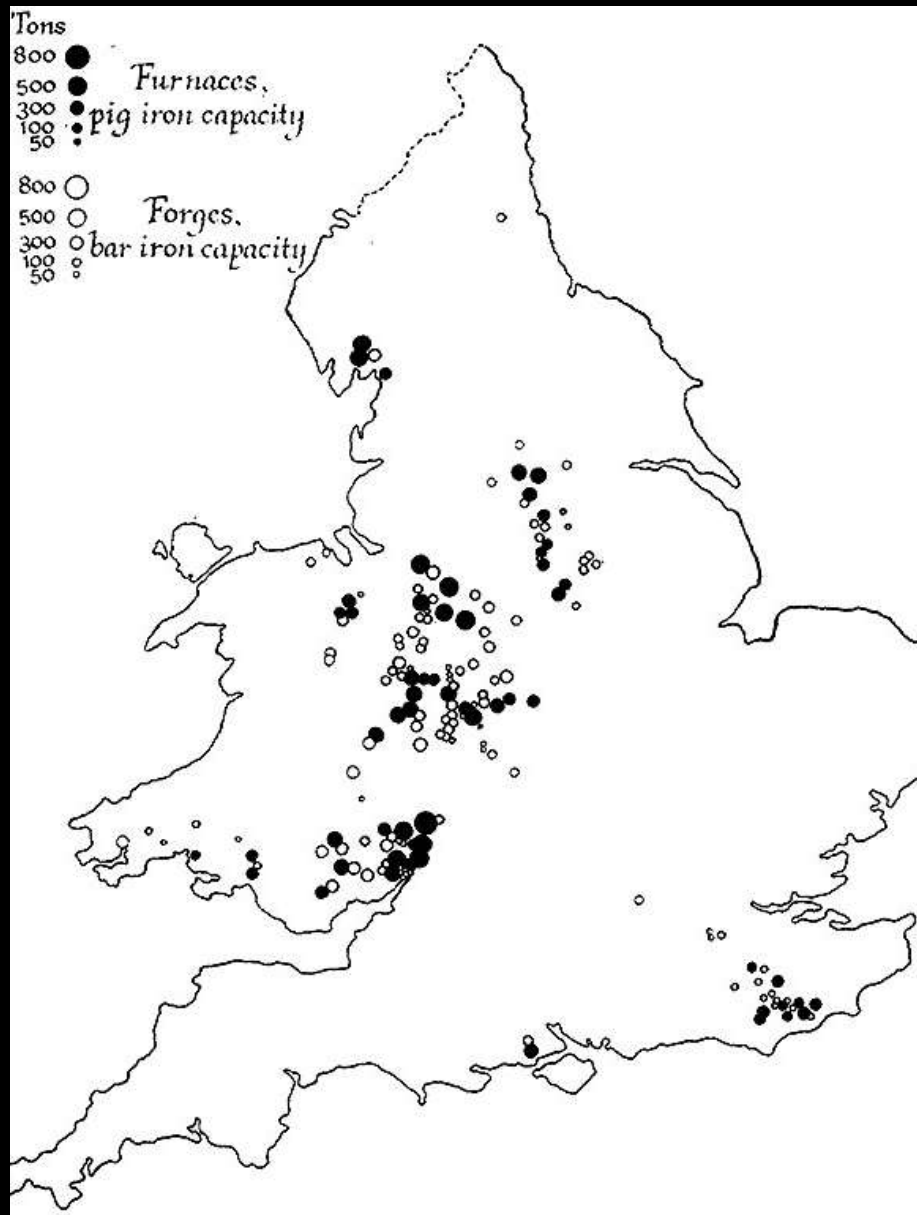


He intended it to be a free port for the import and export of sugar from the West Indies where he planned to develop colonies and sugar plantations.

It was laid out in symmetrical blocks of land, either side of the 80 foot wide street designed to be used for fairs and markets.

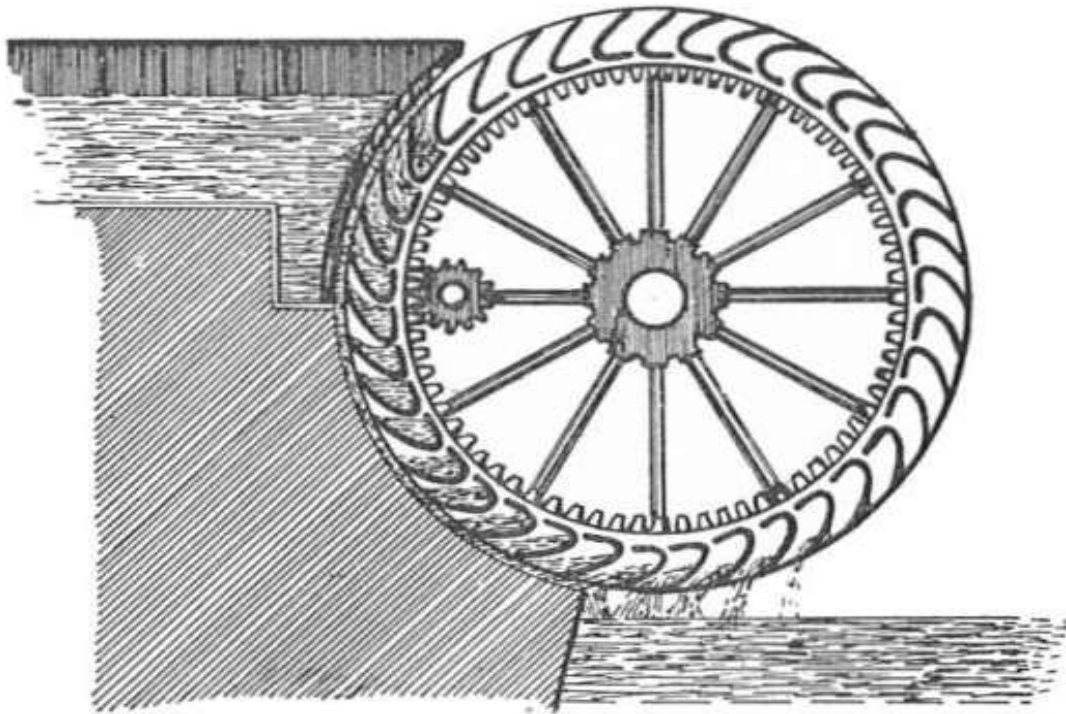
A prospectus was issued in the 1720s offering plots of land on a 99 year lease for 6s 8d.

However, the Duke's colonising enterprises failed and by 1731 only seven houses had been built.



If you remember the map of English and Welsh iron works in 1717 shows that Sowley was in a very unusual location.

John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu supported it partly because he thought it would be useful for Montagu Town.



But it was expensive to maintain.

A new 'breast' water wheel had to be built in 1720 as well as a new wheel pit.



Getting orders for Sowley iron was not usually the problem.

There was a constant demand for iron from the navy, not only for guns which were made from bar iron (iron that has been forged) but also pig iron which was used as ballast.

The Kingston (like the ship on the slide) carried 65 tons of pig iron in 1732.

But getting paid wasn't easy and payment in 'old guns', rather than cash, was not unusual.

# Excuses, excuses in 1740

We have no coppice to cut

The water wheel is freezing

The moulds did not arrive on the coach

My ship has been seized by a Spanish privateer

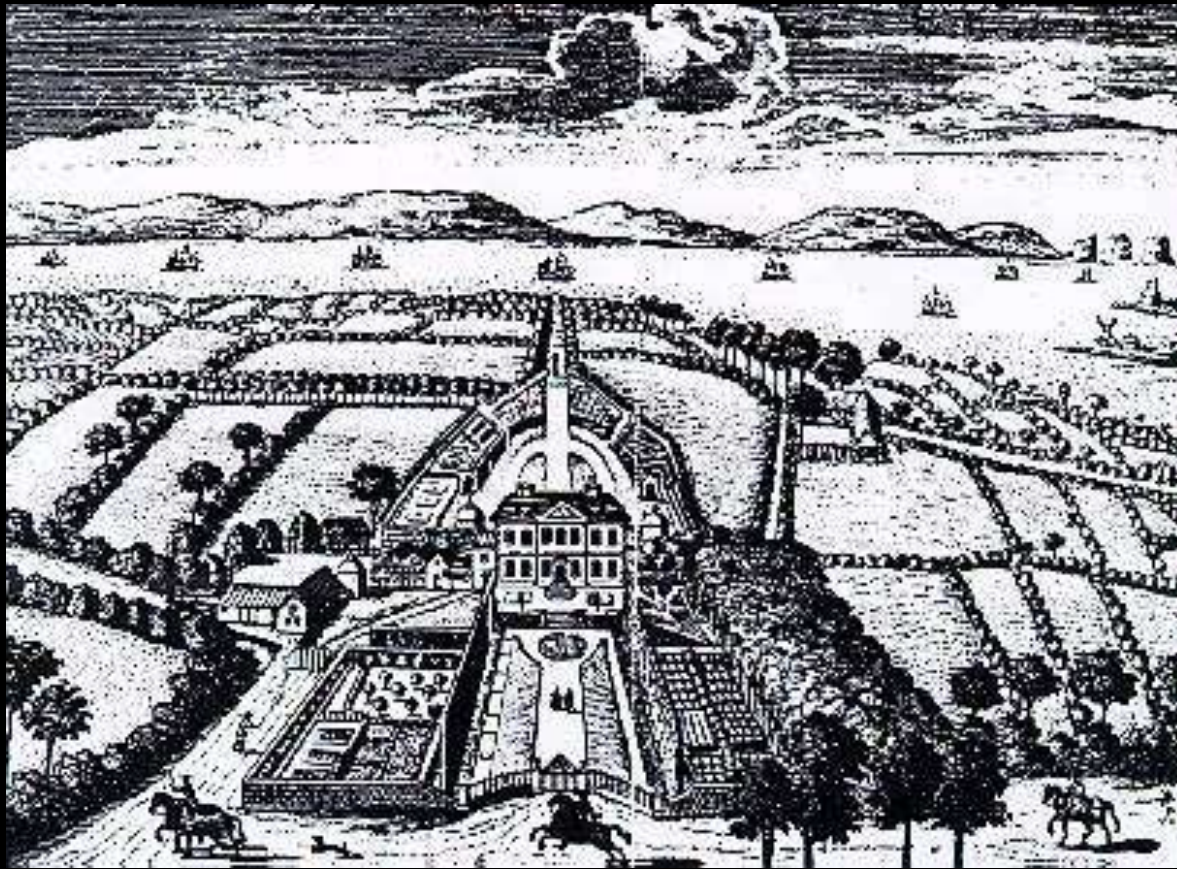
The dry weather is causing a 'want of water in the pond'

My workers have smallpox

But the Navy was not always at fault. In 1740, the tenant at Sowley, Miles Troughton, gave numerous excuses for not fulfilling navy orders including:

- The furnace won't be in blast for another three years because 'we have no coppice to cut'
- 'Fires are needed each side of the wheel to prevent it freezing'
- The moulds did not arrive at the coach office at Southampton
- My ship has been taken off the Lizard by a Spanish privateer
- 'the long continuance of the dry weather makes me apprehensive of a want of water in the pond ... and if the rain do not fall in a month [we shall be] forced to stop up.'

In about 1745 there was an extensive outbreak of smallpox and some of the skilled iron founders became ill.



In 1755 one of the partners in the Sowley Ironworks, John Stephens, went bankrupt and his share was bought by Abel Walter for £1,200.

Abel Walter already owned the Pylewell Estate [See slide]

He thought it was worth investing in because:

- He owned Pitts Deep which was in effect the port for Sowley
- War with France was imminent – and war meant more orders from the Navy

# Abel Walker 1755

- Gunfounder called 'Drunken Bets'
- New furnace and 'troff' needed
- Loans from Beaulieu
- Couldn't meet Navy demands
- Died 1767

But the war also caused a shortage of skilled labour

Abel Walter's gunfounder was known as 'Drunken Bets' and was said to have cost '£600-700 in government guns' – because the guns were refused proof

In 1758, further refurbishments were required

- A new air furnace

- A new 'troff' to carry water from the pond to the forge

In 1758 Walter wrote to the Board of Ordnance asking to be released from his contract for supplying guns

The works were only kept going by large loans from the Beaulieu Estate which wanted an outlet for the timber

But relations with the local inhabitants and the parish worsened – with disputes about who was responsible for maintaining roads



Abel Walter died in 1767 and the estate sought a new tenant by advertising in the Salisbury Journal

The works were described as being 'in good repair ... with commodious houses for the undertaker his agents and workmen with or without a good farm at the option of the tenant.'

In 1763, the farm was rented by William Ford for £96 pa and the ironworks for £40. However, the estate steward allowed £35 for repairs, so the effective rent was £5.

The farm lands were described in a survey of the estate in 1767 as 'cold and hungry'.

The profit on the coppices was estimated at only 2s per acre. The wood was only usable for the ironworks because of the difficulty transporting it elsewhere for use as firewood.



## An iron forge in 1772

The iron works at Sowley continued but it was increasingly difficult to make a profit.

In 1790 the ironworks were let to Charles Pocock, Gent, of Reading who had a manufactory making piano wire in Reading



The bar iron was sent from Sowley to Reading and turned into iron nails which were used in shipbuilding at Bucklers Hard.

Here is a scene which is reproduced in the Bucklers Hard museum. The caption reads:

Landlord Joseph Wort is stood at the bar; behind him are barrels of ale brewed in Beaulieu by the Westbrooks and shop goods. Charles Pocock, who ran the nearby ironworks at Sowley, is stood next to him, talking business with Richard Smith, one of two blacksmiths at Buckler's Hard.



# Henry Adams

In 1795, Charles Pocock of Reading's son, Charles Pocock of Sowley House, married Lucy, the daughter of Henry Adams the shipbuilder at Bucklers Hard. They had a son, Henry Pocock, in 1797. However, by 1817 the Pococks owed nearly £1,000 for rent and coppice wood.

Charles Pocock entered into a bond to pay off the arrears at £50pa but was allowed £160 for building a new house at Sowley.

So it looks as if Sowley House dates from about 1817.

The arrears were never paid and the tenancy was ended in 1822. From about 1820, Sowley ceased to be an ironworks and became a group of houses, cottages and a separate farm.

The estate paid a bricklayer £4 12s 6d to take down 'the old buildings at Sowley late part of the forge'.



## Taylor's map 1759

So where exactly were these ironworks?

On Taylor's map of 1759, the word 'Furnace' appears to the east of the stream running from Sowley Pond to the Solent.

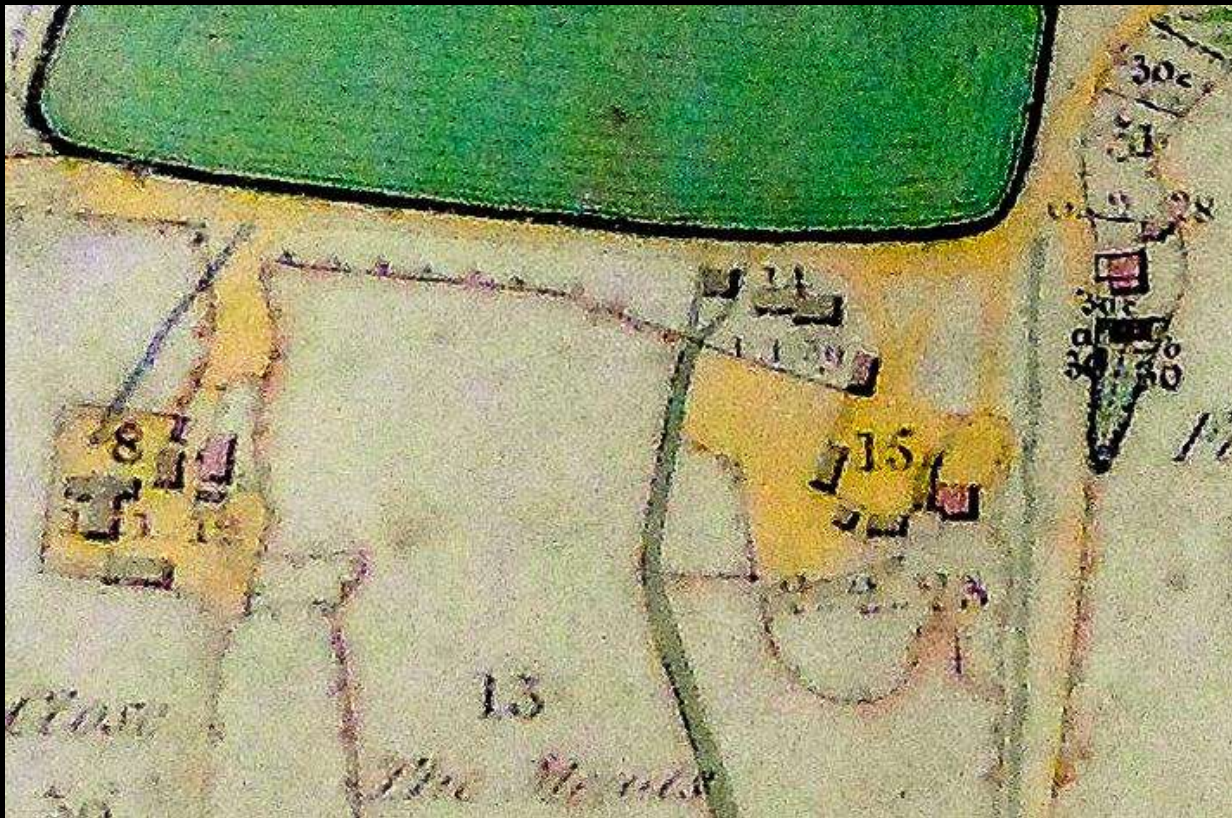


Milne's map of 1791 marks the Sowley Iron works as to the east of Sowley Lane.

But the buildings are close to the road and lie to the east of the stream.

There is a house to the west of the stream.

## Milne's Map in 1791



## Sowley in Beaulieu Estate Map in 1820

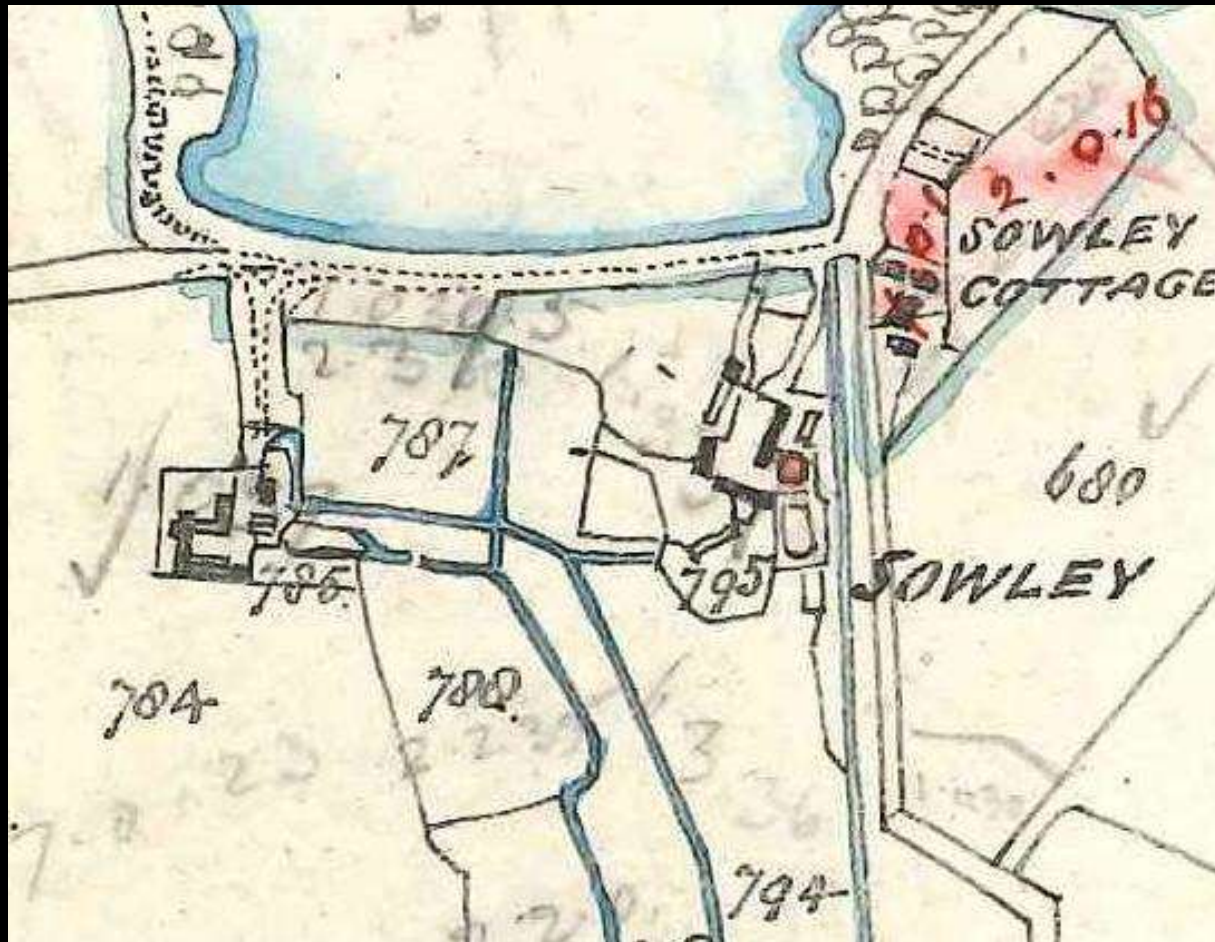
By 1820 there is no mention of the iron works on the map.

There appears to be a house on the right of the stream and a shaded triangular area which could be related to the iron works.

The field to the east of this group is called Furnace.



**Ordnance Survey Map of 1855**



## Estate map of Sowley in 1867

In this 1867 map there is no mention of Sowley Iron works and the houses to the east of the stream are labelled Sowley Cottages. In this 1867 map there is no mention of Sowley Iron works and the houses to the east of the stream are labelled Sowley Cottages.

Life after the ironworks

County of Southampton  
City or Borough of Southampton  
Parish or Township of Beaulieu

Enumeration Sheet

| PLACE           | SEVEN<br>of each<br>Household | NAMES<br>of each Person who shall dwell<br>in the dwelling House | AGE<br>and<br>SEX |         | PROFESSION, TRADE,<br>EMPLOYMENT,<br>or of<br>INDEPENDENT MEANS | Where Born |                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
|                 |                               |                                                                  | Males             | Females |                                                                 | Abroad     | England, Scotland, or Wales |
| Sowley          | 1                             | L. J. Pocock                                                     | 35                |         | Yeoman                                                          |            |                             |
|                 | 2                             | J. J. J.                                                         | 25                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 3                             | L. J. J.                                                         | 25                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 4                             | J. J.                                                            | 18                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 5                             | The Station                                                      | 18                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 6                             | J. J.                                                            | 15                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 7                             | Henry Pocock                                                     | 10                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 8                             | J. J.                                                            | 10                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 9                             | J. J.                                                            | 10                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 10                            | J. J.                                                            | 10                |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
| TOTAL in Page 1 |                               |                                                                  | 15                | 10      |                                                                 |            |                             |

County of Southampton  
City or Borough of Southampton  
Parish or Township of Beaulieu

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| PLACE           | SEVEN<br>of each<br>Household | NAMES<br>of each Person who shall dwell<br>in the dwelling House | AGE<br>and<br>SEX |         | PROFESSION, TRADE,<br>EMPLOYMENT,<br>or of<br>INDEPENDENT MEANS | Where Born |                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
|                 |                               |                                                                  | Males             | Females |                                                                 | Abroad     | England, Scotland, or Wales |
| Sowley          | 1                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 2                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 3                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 4                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 5                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 6                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 7                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 8                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 9                             | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
|                 | 10                            | J. J.                                                            |                   |         |                                                                 |            |                             |
| TOTAL in Page 2 |                               |                                                                  | 13                | 2       |                                                                 |            |                             |

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# 1841 Census

We can find out more about what was happening at Sowley by looking at the censuses which were taken every 10 years.

However the details are not always accurate and it is difficult to compare one year with another.

The 1841 census shows that Henry Pocock, aged 35, yeoman, was living at Sowley with three servants. He later moved to Curtle House in Beaulieu.

| Parish or Township of<br><i>Beaulieu</i> |                                                          | Ecclesiastical District of                                                                   |                            | City or Borough of |           | Town of  |                                 | Village of              |                                 |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| House No.                                | Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House | Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851 | Relation to Head of Family | Condition          | Age of    |          | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born              | Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb |
|                                          |                                                          |                                                                                              |                            |                    | Males     | Females  |                                 |                         |                                 |
| 8                                        | <i>Sowley Cottage</i>                                    | <i>Charles Hewitt</i>                                                                        | <i>Head</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>22</i> | <i>—</i> | <i>L.G. Labourer</i>            | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Jane Hewitt</i>                                                                           | <i>Wife</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>23</i> | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Charles Hewitt</i>                                                                        | <i>Son</i>                 | <i>—</i>           | <i>2</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Sarah Hewitt</i>                                                                          | <i>Daughter</i>            | <i>—</i>           | <i>1</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
| 9                                        | <i>Sowley Cottage</i>                                    | <i>James Goshie</i>                                                                          | <i>Head</i>                | <i>Widow</i>       | <i>44</i> | <i>—</i> | <i>L.G. Labourer</i>            | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Ann Goshie</i>                                                                            | <i>Wife</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>22</i> | <i>—</i> | <i>Do</i>                       | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Francis Goshie</i>                                                                        | <i>Widow</i>               | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>32</i> | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>George Goshie</i>                                                                         | <i>Son</i>                 | <i>—</i>           | <i>4</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Sarah Goshie</i>                                                                          | <i>Daughter</i>            | <i>—</i>           | <i>6</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Charlotte Goshie</i>                                                                      | <i>Daughter</i>            | <i>—</i>           | <i>2</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Mary Goshie</i>                                                                           | <i>Daughter</i>            | <i>—</i>           | <i>2</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
| 10                                       | <i>Sowley Hammer</i>                                     | <i>James Snook</i>                                                                           | <i>Head</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>63</i> | <i>—</i> | <i>Innkeeper</i>                | <i>Woodset Haythorn</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Jane Snook</i>                                                                            | <i>Wife</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>54</i> | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Gosport</i>  |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>John Snook</i>                                                                            | <i>Son</i>                 | <i>—</i>           | <i>9</i>  | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Gosport</i>  |                                 |
| 11                                       | <i>Sowley Pond Cottage</i>                               | <i>William Beard</i>                                                                         | <i>Head</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>46</i> | <i>—</i> | <i>L.G. Labourer</i>            | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>Louisa Beard</i>                                                                          | <i>Wife</i>                | <i>Mar.</i>        | <i>33</i> | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
|                                          |                                                          | <i>John Beard</i>                                                                            | <i>Son</i>                 | <i>—</i>           | <i>10</i> | <i>—</i> |                                 | <i>Stour's Beaulieu</i> |                                 |
| Total of Persons                         |                                                          |                                                                                              |                            |                    |           |          |                                 |                         |                                 |
|                                          | <i>14</i>                                                | <i>U</i>                                                                                     | <i>B</i>                   |                    |           |          |                                 |                         |                                 |

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## 1851 Census – The Sowley Hammer

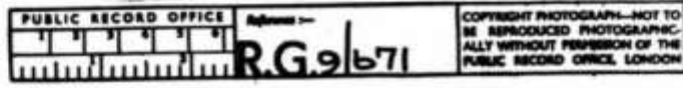
Ten years later, James Snook, head of household, aged 63, an innkeeper, was living at the Sowley Hammer

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 19

| Parish (or Townships) of |                                     | City or Municipal Borough of | Municipal Ward of               | Parliamentary Borough of   | Town of   | Hamlet or Tything, &c., of | Ecclésiastical District of      |                |                                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Worshipful               |                                     |                              |                                 |                            |           |                            | London                          |                |                                  |
| No. of Schedule          | Street, Lane, &c., and No. of House | Number of Inhabitants        | Name and Surname of each Person | Relation to Head of Family | Condition | Age of                     | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born     | Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb |
| 96                       | Sowley Lane                         | 1                            | John Gosling                    | Head                       | Mar.      | 54                         | Ag. Lab.                        | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Jane                            | Wife                       | Mar.      | 57                         |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Oliver                          | Son                        | Un.       | 10                         | Scholar                         | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Eliza                           | Daughter                   | Un.       | 7                          |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
| 95                       | Public House                        | 1                            | John Gosling                    | Head                       | Mar.      | 54                         | Ag. Lab.                        | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Isaac Dodds                     | Head                       | Mar.      | 47                         | Farm Proprietor                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Isaac Dodds                     | Wife                       | Mar.      | 47                         |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | John                            | Son                        | Un.       | 21                         | Scholar                         | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Frederick                       | Son                        | Un.       | 18                         | Scholar                         | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Henry                           | Son                        | Un.       | 17                         | Scholar                         | North, Brandon |                                  |
| 94                       | Sowley                              | 1                            | Henry Gosling                   | Head                       | Mar.      | 52                         | Ag. Lab.                        | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | William Gosling                 | Wife                       | Mar.      | 45                         |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
| 97                       |                                     | 1                            | Isaac Dodds                     | Head                       | Mar.      | 47                         | Farm Proprietor                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Isaac Dodds                     | Wife                       | Mar.      | 47                         |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | William                         | Son                        | Un.       | 2                          |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Eliza                           | Son                        | Un.       | 2                          |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
| 98                       |                                     | 1                            | Isaac Dodds                     | Head                       | Mar.      | 47                         | Ag. Lab. & Wife                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Isaac Dodds                     | Wife                       | Mar.      | 47                         |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Joseph                          | Son                        | Un.       | 24                         | Farm Labourer                   | North, Brandon |                                  |
|                          |                                     |                              | Colina                          | Son                        | Un.       | 17                         |                                 | North, Brandon |                                  |
| Total of Houses...       |                                     | 5                            | Total of Males and Females...   |                            | 129       |                            |                                 |                |                                  |

1861 Census



In the 1861 census, John Gosling, head of household, 54, an innkeeper, was living at [an unnamed] public house in Sowley Lane.

Isaac Dodds, head of household, aged 47, was a farmer of 235 acres employing 8 men and 3 boys living at Sowley Farm.

Page 26] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

| Civil Parish (or Township) of |                                            | Municipal Borough of            |                            | Parliamentary Borough of |        | Town of                                 |                        | Village or Hamlet &c. of           |    | Local Board, or (Incorporated) Commissioners, District, of |  | Sanitary District of |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Brantham                      |                                            |                                 |                            |                          |        |                                         |                        |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
| No. of Houses                 | ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE | NAME and Surname of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family | CON- DITION              | AGE of | Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION         | WHERE BORN             | Whether Deaf-Blind, Blind, or Lame |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | Charles White                   | son                        | /                        | 5      |                                         | Orsett Spittlebury     |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | Edward do                       | son                        | /                        | 13     |                                         | Orsett Bodel           |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | Mary S. do                      | daughter                   | /                        | 1      |                                         | Orsett Bodel           |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
| 577                           | Sowley Farm                                | Henry Wheable                   | Head                       | Mar.                     | 46     | Farmer 200 ac. employing 9 Men & 2 Boys | do. Nitchelmarsh       |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | Ann do                          | Wife                       | Mar.                     | 42     |                                         | do do                  |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | William M. Wilton               | Platner                    | Single                   | 22     | Student of Medicine                     | Wapping, Surrey Kenton |                                    | 59 |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | Eliza Supper                    | girl                       | /                        | 14     | Cook at Orsett Farm                     | Waully Granton         |                                    | 25 |                                                            |  |                      |  |
|                               |                                            | Elizabeth Flower                | girl                       | /                        | 12     | General dom. domestic                   | do do                  |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |
| Total of Houses..             |                                            | Total of Males and Females..    |                            |                          | 44     | 44                                      |                        |                                    |    |                                                            |  |                      |  |

\* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

# 1871 Census

In the 1871 census, Henry Wheable – a farmer of 200 acres employing 9 men and 2 boys was living at Sowley Farm

Cf Daniel Stone - a farmer of 582 acres employing 12 men and 3 boys living at Park Farm Or Herbert Salt – a farmer of 450 acres employing 13 men and 4 boys living at Thorns Farm.

John Gosling, an agricultural labourer, a widower aged 69, was living at Sowley Cottage

The underenumerated houses are situated within the boundaries of the [Page 13]

| Civil Parish (or Township) of | Name or Municipal Borough of                | Municipal Ward of        | Parliamentary Borough of                                                                                         | Urban or Village or Hamlet of | Urban Sanitary District of | Rural Sanitary District of | Metropolitan Parish or District of     |                  |                                                                    |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Prantice                      |                                             |                          |                                                                                                                  |                               | New Forest                 |                            | Berwick                                |                  |                                                                    |  |
| No. of Inhabitants            | ROAD, STREET, Lane, or No. or NAME of HOUSE | NUMBER of HOUSES at 1881 | NAME and Surname of each Person                                                                                  | RELATION to Head of Family    | SEX                        | AGE last Birthday          | Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION        | WEAKS DONE       | 1) Deaf and Dumb<br>2) Blind<br>3) Imbecile or Idiot<br>4) Lunatic |  |
| 73                            | White Horse Cottage                         | 1                        | James Heping                                                                                                     | Head                          | Male                       | 32                         | Ag Lab                                 | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Leah                                                                                                             | Wife                          | Female                     | 47                         |                                        | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | William                                                                                                          | Son                           | Male                       | 79                         | Ag Lab                                 |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Harry                                                                                                            | Son                           | Male                       | 12                         | Farmer's boy                           |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Rest                                                                                                             | Daughter                      | Female                     | 11                         | Scholar                                |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | George                                                                                                           | Son                           | Male                       | 8                          | Scholar                                |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Thomas                                                                                                           | Son                           | Male                       | 5                          |                                        | New Forest Union |                                                                    |  |
| 74                            | "                                           | 1                        | Michael Nixon                                                                                                    | Head                          | Male                       | 68                         | Ag Lab                                 | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Ann                                                                                                              | Wife                          | Female                     | 70                         |                                        | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Ann                                                                                                              | Daughter                      | Female                     | 16                         |                                        |                  | Crippled                                                           |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | James                                                                                                            | Son                           | Male                       | 13                         | Farmer's boy                           |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Elizabeth                                                                                                        | Daughter                      | Female                     | 11                         | Scholar                                |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Robert                                                                                                           | Daughter                      | Female                     | 6                          | Scholar                                |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | William                                                                                                          | Son                           | Male                       | 3                          |                                        |                  |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Henry                                                                                                            | Son                           | Male                       | 1                          |                                        |                  |                                                                    |  |
| 75                            | Sowley                                      | 1                        | John Gosling                                                                                                     | Head                          | Male                       | 81                         | Farmer of about 10 acres               | None             |                                                                    |  |
| 76                            | "                                           | 1                        | Henry Gifford                                                                                                    | Head                          | Male                       | 27                         | Black Man                              | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Emma                                                                                                             | Wife                          | Female                     | 27                         |                                        | None             |                                                                    |  |
| 77                            | Sowley farm                                 | 1                        | Henry Wheable                                                                                                    | Head                          | Male                       | 55                         | Farmer 226 ac employing 8 men & 2 boys | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | Elizabeth                                                                                                        | Wife                          | Female                     | 68                         |                                        | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | John                                                                                                             | Son                           | Male                       | 20                         | Servant domestic                       | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               |                                             |                          | John                                                                                                             | Son                           | Male                       | 19                         |                                        | None             |                                                                    |  |
|                               | Clash farm                                  | 1                        | Temporarily unoccupied, but under repair, occupies 47 acres returned by Mr. J. C. Pitt to Leonard farm Prantice. |                               |                            |                            |                                        |                  |                                                                    |  |
| 57                            | Total of Houses                             | 5                        | Total of Males and Females                                                                                       |                               | 12                         |                            |                                        |                  |                                                                    |  |

1881 Census

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE Reference: RG 11 1203

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In 1881, Henry Wheable, head of house, aged 55, a farmer of 226 acres employing 8 men and 2 boys living at 'Sowley Farm'.

John Gosling, head of house, a widower aged 81, a farmer of about 10 acres living at 'Sowley'.

Administrative County of Hants. The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish of Beaulieu Municipal Borough of Beaulieu Municipal Ward of Beaulieu Urban Sanitary District of New Forest Rural Sanitary District of New Forest Parliamentary Borough of Beaulieu Ecclesiastical Parish or District of Beaulieu

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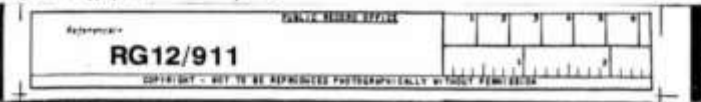
| Date of Enumeration                                                 | No. of House                                               | NAME and Address of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family | SEX                        | AGE last Birthday | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION   | WEEKS SOBER |    |    | Total of Males and Females |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----|----|----------------------------|
|                                                                     |                                                            |                                 |                            |                            |                   |                            | 12          | 13 | 14 |                            |
| 66                                                                  | Sowley Cottage                                             | Nelle Gosling                   | daur                       | F                          | 12                | Scholar                    |             |    |    | Beaulieu, Hants            |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Frederick                       | son                        | M                          | 40                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | John                            | do                         | M                          | 12                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Annie                           | do                         | F                          | 12                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
| 67                                                                  | do                                                         | William Cross                   | Head                       | M                          | 35                | Labourer                   |             | X  |    | H. K.                      |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Elizabeth                       | Wife                       | F                          | 30                |                            |             |    |    | Belvoir, Newland           |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Mary A. Dolman                  | Wife                       | F                          | 30                |                            |             |    |    | Alton, Hants.              |
| 70                                                                  | do                                                         | Joseph Keeping                  | Head                       | M                          | 39                | Labourer                   |             | X  |    | Beaulieu, Hants.           |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Elizabeth                       | Wife                       | F                          | 35                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
| 71                                                                  | Sowley Farm                                                | Isaac Beaven                    | Head                       | M                          | 42                | Farmer                     |             | X  |    | West Ashton, Wills         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Isabella                        | Wife                       | F                          | 40                |                            |             |    |    | Beaulieu, Wills            |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Frederick                       | Son                        | M                          | 10                |                            |             |    |    | Beaulieu, Hants.           |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Ada T. Gosling                  | Servant                    | F                          | 15                | General Servant (Domestic) |             | X  |    | London, Middlesex          |
| 72                                                                  | Sowley Cottage                                             | Thomas Couch                    | Head                       | M                          | 38                | Carter, Farm               |             | X  |    | Bolton, Hants.             |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Alfred                          | Son                        | M                          | 24                |                            |             |    |    | Beaulieu, Hants.           |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Samson                          | Son                        | M                          | 20                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
| 73                                                                  | do                                                         | William T. Keeping              | Head                       | M                          | 41                | Farmer                     |             | X  |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Annie                           | Wife                       | F                          | 30                |                            |             |    |    | Mrs. Wills.                |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Ada                             | Daughter                   | F                          | 12                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Flore                           | Daughter                   | F                          | 7                 |                            |             |    |    | East Bold, Boldre, Hants.  |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Sarah T.                        | Daughter                   | F                          | 12                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Victoria E.                     | Daughter                   | F                          | 12                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Thomas W.                       | Son                        | M                          | 13                |                            |             |    |    | Beaulieu, Hants.           |
| 74                                                                  | Thomas Farm                                                | Michael Beaven                  | Head                       | M                          | 43                | Carter on Farm             |             | X  |    | East Boldre, Hants.        |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Ann                             | Wife                       | F                          | 37                |                            |             |    |    | Beaulieu, Hants.           |
|                                                                     |                                                            | William                         | Son                        | M                          | 13                | Labourer (H.)              |             | X  |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | John                            | do                         | M                          | 11                | Scholar                    |             |    |    | do                         |
|                                                                     |                                                            | Sarah                           | Daughter                   | F                          | 11                |                            |             |    |    | do                         |
| End of Enumeration District No 7 - Part of Civil Parish of Beaulieu |                                                            |                                 |                            |                            |                   |                            |             |    |    |                            |
| 6                                                                   | Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms | 6                               | 2                          | Total of Males and Females | 13                | 15                         |             |    |    |                            |

Note.—Do not put through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

# 1891 Census

In 1891, Isaac Beaven, aged 42, a farmer, was living at Sowley Farm with one servant Frederick Gosling, aged 40, a farmer, was living at Sowley Cottages with no servants

As you can tell from these examples of pages from the census, there is great variability in descriptions of locations and occupations.



Administrative County Hamphshire The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the Page 28

| Civil Parish                                 | Ecclesiastical Parish | County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District | Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District | Rural District | Parliamentary Borough or Division | Town or Village or Hamlet | HOUSE             |                   | Name and Surname of each Person | RELATION to Head of Family | Age last Birthday   | PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION | Employed, Worked, or Own account | If Working at Home | WEEKS BORN | (1) Dead and Dumb Blind (2) Lame (3) Infirmity, Deaf-mute (4) Infirmity, Deaf-mute |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | No. of Houses     | No. of Persons    |                                 |                            |                     |                          |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| 75 <u>Sowley House</u>                       | 1                     |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Charles H. Braun  | Head                            | 33                         | Living on own means |                          |                                  | Constance Sowley   |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Edmund H. Braun   | Wife                            | 31                         |                     |                          | Constance Sowley                 |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Geoffrey C. Braun | Son                             | 11                         |                     |                          | Joseph Rowland                   |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Mary L. La Sells  | Butler                          | 26                         | Living on own means |                          | Mrs. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Francis Rowan     | Servant                         | 29                         | Butler              | Worker                   | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Lloyd Shipley     | Servant                         | 16                         | Footman             | Worker                   | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Mary Bobby        | Servant                         | 47                         | Wid. Selwyn         | Worker                   | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Elly Taylor       | Servant                         | 35                         | Cook                | Worker                   | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Annie Clayton     | Servant                         | 30                         | Wid. Selwyn         | Worker                   | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | Ellie Ansell      | Servant                         | 16                         | Wid. Selwyn         | Worker                   | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| Annie Hill                                   | Servant               | 20                                                   | Wid. Selwyn                                    | Worker         | Wid. Selwyn                       |                           |                   |                   |                                 |                            |                     |                          |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| 76 <u>The Stables</u><br><u>Sowley House</u> | 1                     |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | John White        | Head              | 31                              | Coachman                   | Worker              |                          | Sol. of Night Rider              |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Alice White       | Wife              | 32                              |                            |                     | Luray Brydson            |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | John Arthur White | Son               | 3                               |                            |                     | Sol. of Night            |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| 77 <u>Sowley Farm</u><br><u>Cottage</u>      | 1                     |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Thomas Crowl      | Head              | 68                              | Ordinary Agriculture       | Worker              |                          | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Alvin Crowl       | Son               | 36                              | Ordinary Agriculture       | Worker              | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | James Crowl       | Wife              | 37                              | Ordinary Agriculture       | Worker              | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| 78 <u>Sowley Farm</u><br><u>Cottage</u>      | 1                     |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | William Keeping   | Head              | 40                              | Ordinary Agriculture       | Worker              |                          | Wid. Selwyn                      |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Annie Keeping     | Wife              | 40                              |                            |                     | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | John Keeping      | Son               | 15                              | Wid. Selwyn                | Worker              | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Ellen Keeping     | Son               | 13                              |                            |                     | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Tom Keeping       | Son               | 11                              |                            |                     | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Mary Keeping      | Son               | 9                               |                            |                     | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
|                                              |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           | Mary Keeping      | Son               | 4                               |                            |                     | Wid. Selwyn              |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| Mary Keeping                                 | Son                   | 1                                                    |                                                |                | Wid. Selwyn                       |                           |                   |                   |                                 |                            |                     |                          |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |
| Total of Males and of Females                |                       |                                                      |                                                |                |                                   |                           |                   | 11                | 15                              |                            |                     |                          |                                  |                    |            |                                                                                    |

Note—Draw your pen through each word of the headings as are inapplicable.

1901 census

The 1901 census tells us that a person by the name of Charles H Braun, aged 33, lived here, on his own means, with seven servants including a butler and a footman.

In the stables, now Sowley House Cottage, lived John White, aged 30, as the coachman.