

**Castle House,  
Castle Road, Horsell, Surrey GU21 4ET**



Castle House © Jenkinson 2000



Rear of the house ©Jenkinson 2000



Marguerite Howarth Pen and Ink drawing of Castle House  
©the Howarth family

*The house is locally listed by the Borough Council as a Building of Architectural or Historic Significance.*

The original 1978 DBRG (see p15 for details of this group) report describes the house as:

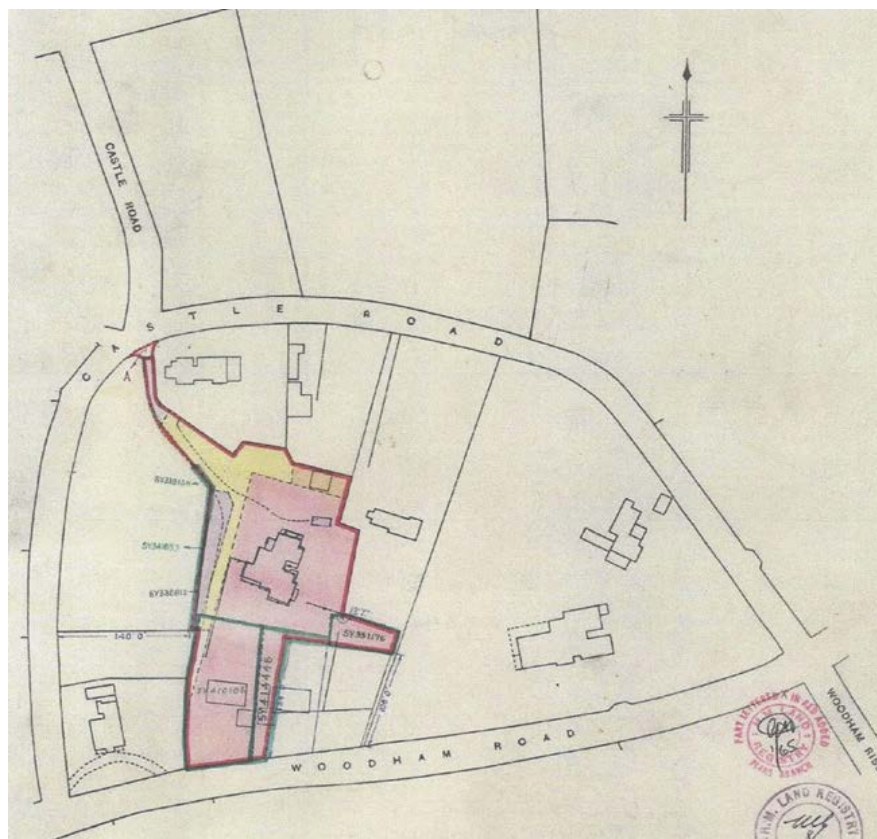
*Late 16c parlour wing with 17c kitchen wing probably replacing earlier hall. Victorian additions masking many older features.*

Joan Harding (one of the authors of the report) is quite clear that the parlour wing has a crown post roof and as this feature normally relates to buildings in the 1450 – 1550 time bracket the house may well be older than initially judged and possibly the oldest dwelling in Horsell.

Two other authorities in the County refer to the house. The Surrey Sites and Monuments Record Reference Number: SHHER\_18996 has the house as *Castle House. Hall House. Extant range 3 bay cross wing probably to earlier hall house (crown post roof of interest in this part of Surrey). Obscured by later extensions and facades.* Also Surrey County Council's Antiquities of Surrey 1965 mentions Castle House as *17C and later.*

Castle House was part of the Horsell Grange Estate a development of *Superior Residences* by The National Land Corporation Limited at the end of the 19th century including both building plots and existing properties such as Castle House, Potters Corner, Exalls and Kettlewell. The developers were obviously keen to preserve the idea of an estate of *superior residences* by

insisting that only private dwelling houses be erected at a minimum building cost of £600. Any existing farm buildings were to be taken down within three months.



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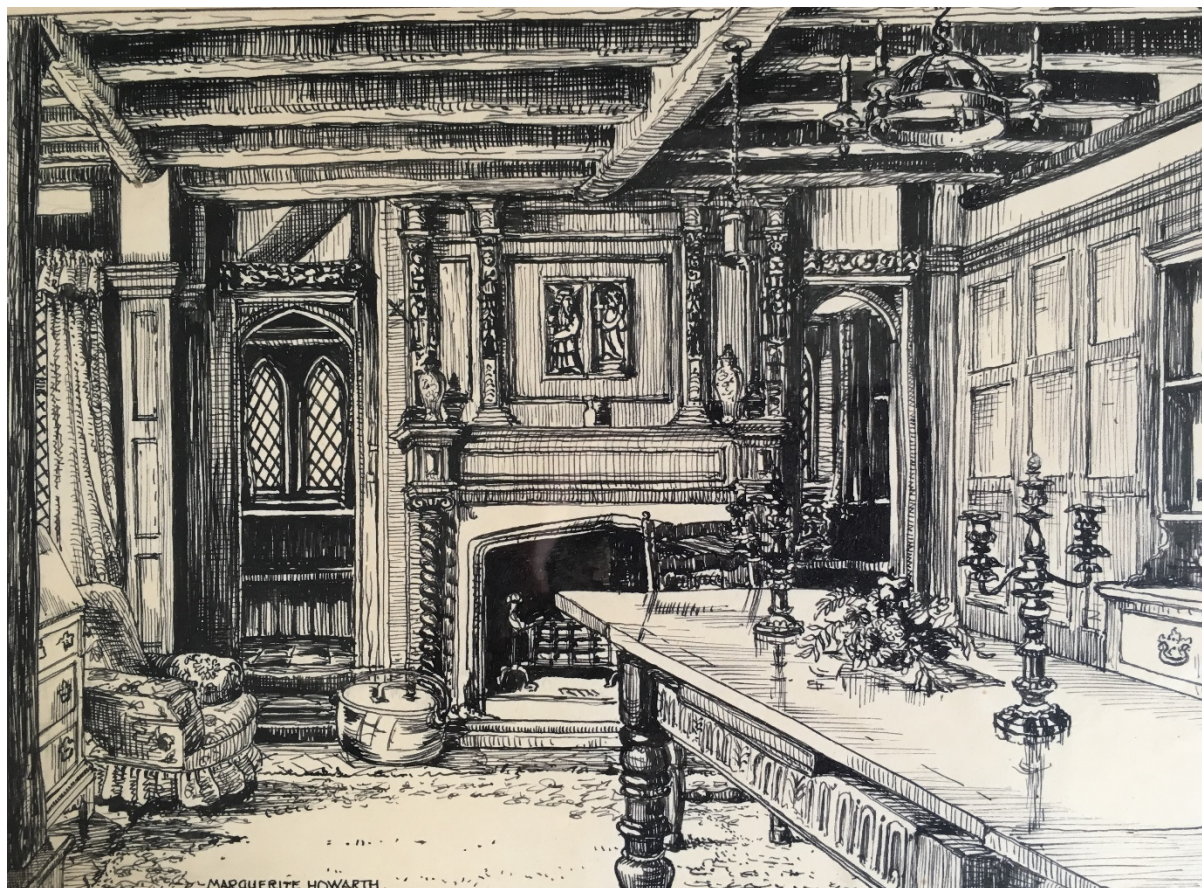
A certain amount of in-filling has taken place since the above plan was drawn in 1964. The house no longer has a frontage to Woodham Road and the land tinted pink and numbered SY351176 probably now belongs to Castle Cottage.

The Land Registry official copy of the register of title shows the Proprietor holding the title absolute of the property from 1st November 1996 as John Alistair Clemence and Wong Chi Lam of 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA.

Before DBRG visited the house in 1978 there had been a couple of visits by the Surrey artist, Marguerite Howarth in 1958 and John Baker in 1968. Mrs Howarth's visit was in order to draw the following picture of the dining room and her earlier drawing of the front of the house.

The article accompanying this drawing of the dining room in the Woking Review of October 1958 commented *On either side of the fireplace in the oak-panelled dining room are two small doorless cupboards or closets with leaded glass windows looking out onto the garden. Their original function is a mystery, but it seems most likely that they were powder-closets, for being smothered in powder, scent and perfume was the Tudor period equivalent of having a good bath.*

Also the Review added *When the then owners, Mr and Mrs Jenkinson, were having central heating installed, workmen uncovered the remains of the original front door, which is at what is now the back of the house.*



Marguerite Howarth Pen and Ink drawing of the dining room  
©the Howarth family

Following John Baker's visit in 1968, the Surrey Advertiser published an article by him on the house which reported *The original house at least the oldest part now remaining on the left of the house looking at the front includes the dining room and a small drawing room on the ground floor and the main bedroom on the first floor. The building here is a timber frame construction and in the bedroom, the tie-beams are visible dividing the length of the structure into bays of about 10ft each. At the end, there is a chimney stack flanked with small recesses some 3ft square on either side of the fireplaces in both the upper and the lower rooms, the origin or purpose of these has been obscured by the restorations.*

### Tracing the history of the house

This involves a trip back through the years involving the owners and tenants of the house starting with when it became part of the Horsell Grange Estate at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The standard means of tracing the owners and occupiers are the Census returns 1841-1911. For the purposes of the period from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century we will just initially take the returns for 1901 and 1911 leaving the years 1841-1891 until later.

### Censuses 1901-11

#### 1901

Castle House is now one of the desirable residences on the new Horsell Grange Estate. The new owners and occupiers are George H Dorrell, barrister at law, his wife Martina and their

daughter Phyllis and sons Harold and Evelyn as well as a private governess, Sophia Stoggell, cook, Eliza Allen, parlour maid, Annie Hersey and housemaid, Marie from Brittany. George Dorrell is living in The Temple 1908-10 and 1912-15 and at Southcote in 1911. Southcote was demolished in the 1960's to make way for the estate in the road called Southcote (off Kettlewell Hill and Church Road).

## 1911

In 1911 the census reveals the house has 15 rooms excluding kitchen and Castle House is home to:

Ernest Hill having private means, his wife Emilia Maria, their sons Ernest Reginald and Richard (Thorne) plus cook Esther O'Brien, parlour maid Mabel Stevens, housemaid Elizabeth Stevens and gardener John Turner and wife, Elizabeth Ann.

**1939 Register** (These details are available from Find My Past only)

Castle House	Bond	Edgar M	publisher	M	7 Aug 1875	Chairman law printer & publisher
	Bond	Hilda C		M	21 Nov 1883	Unpaid domestic duties
	Casey	Enid MB		M	Sep 1906	Unpaid domestic duties
	Cullum	Harriet E		S	7 Feb 1897	Cook in private service
	Wey	Annie R		M	11 Jan 1909	
	Wey	Brian E		S	1939	Under school age

Edgar Morten Bond was living at Castle House at least during the years 1924-51 and moved to Southcote in Church Road in 1952 where he died in 1953.

Mr and Mrs Jenkinson were the owners in 1958 and Mr and Mrs Renton in 1978.



Plan of Castle House with nearby Potters Corner Farm 1884/90  
©Surrey History Centre

The above plan shows the layout of Castle House in 1884/90. It is interesting to compare this with the layout in the Land Registry Map of 1965 when the farm buildings have been demolished.

### **Censuses 1841-1891**

These show the Roake family as the tenant farmers at the house. For details of the owners see Edward Ryde 1851 Map and 1834 Survey of Horsell (p7)

#### **1841**

John Roake farmer (died 1847), his second wife Lettie (Letitia) his first wife Sarah died in 1827 and sons William, John and Jonah.

William Ellis and Margaret (probably a separate household).

#### **1851**

John Roake farmer 55 acres (son of John above), his wife Harriet, his son John and sister in law, Eliza Knowls.

#### **1861**

John Roake, farmer 65 acres employing 2 men 2 boys, his wife Harriet, son John and daughters Sarah (died 1863) and Harriet

In 1861 John's brother Jonah is living in Cheapside (Jonah Roake, farmer 25 acres employing 1 man 1 boy, his wife Martha and daughters, Celia, Louisa and Phoebe.)

When John above died in 1867 at Castle House he was succeeded at the farm by his brother Jonah. His wife Harriet had died in 1866. Jonah's wife Martha died in 1868 at Chertsey.

#### **1871**

Jonah Roake, farmer of 65 acres employing 8 men 1 boy and his daughters Phoebe and Alice and son William

#### **1881**

Jonah Roak farmer employing 2 men 2 boys, daughter Celia and son William

#### **1891**

By 1891 Jonah has left Castle House and is living on his own means in Cheapside with his daughter Celia and son William, a builder. Jonah died in 1895 aged 73.

Henry Gaylard is the new farmer at the house with his wife Mary, son Frank and two daughters Mabel and Lilly.

### **St Mary's Horsell churchyard** (another source)

The Roake family are buried in Section C of the St Mary's Horsell churchyard at the rear of the church to the left. Sections B and D are immediately behind the church

Richard and Sarah son and daughter of John and Sarah (Roake) also Sarah wife of John died 29th October 1827 aged 46. John died 3 July 1847 aged 74. Letitia second wife of the above died 13 Mar 1873 aged 84. The following have separate graves:

John Roake died 29 Jan 1867 aged 54 also Harriet wife of John Roake died 15 Apr 1866 aged 46.

Sarah daughter of John and Harriet Roake died 10 Sep 1860 aged 10.

Martha infant of Jonah died 4 Dec 1868 aged 47

Jonah Roake died 3 Aug 1895 aged 73.

Alice Jane Roake died 24 Nov 1889 aged 27.

### Edward Ryde 1851 Map

Owner	Occupier			A	R	P	
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	137	Maltimum	arable	2	0	20
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	139	Calves Close	arable	5	1	0
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	140	Brickwall Field	arable	3	3	32
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	141	Upper Shot	arable	6	3	16
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	142	Barn Field	arable	4	3	0
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	143	Castle House Homestead		1	3	27
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	144	Black Ditch	arable	6	2	34
Cole Francis Sewell	John Roake	145	Warren Field	arable	4	3	31

This John Roake (a son of John who died in 1847) was the tenant farmer of the house not the owner, the owner being described above in the 1851 map as Cole Francis Sewell. This owner was a marriage settlement made in 1849, between Francis Sewell Cole esq of Childown and Julia Crawshay of Ottershaw Park relating to property in Chertsey, Horsell and Pyrford including Castle House. (SHC 2650 1-22)

A further settlement was made in 1853 but the marriage was dissolved in 1863. It is not known who the later owners were before the house became part of the Horsell Grange development.

### 1834 survey of Horsell.

This earlier survey shows the occupier as John Roake, the names and acreage of the fields and homestead and the references in the later Edward Ryde survey of 1851

	Occupier		A	R	P	Ryde
Castle House	Roake, John	Calves close	5	0	32	139
Farm		Brickwall Field	3	3	26	140
		Upper Shot	3	2	04	141
		3 Acres	3	0	25	
		Maltinums	2	0	16	137
		Barn Field	4	2	22	142
		Little Piddle	1	0	18	
		Black ditch	6	2	04	144
		Warren Field	4	3	18	145
		Homestall	2	0	02	143

			37	0	07	
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## Land Tax from 1780

The Land Tax was first introduced in 1692 along with a number of other personal taxes to raise revenue by an Act for taxing personal estate, public offices and land. The tax was voted annually from 1692, and from from 1702 the annual legislation became known as the Land Tax. In 1745, an act specified that freeholders should be entitled to vote only if they were assessed for the Land Tax and in 1780, a further act reinforced this requirement. As payment of this tax qualified landowners to vote in parliamentary elections, Clerks of the Peace in each county were required to keep copies of the parish assessments to make up the poll books at parliamentary elections. Most counties therefore have a good run of Land Tax assessments between 1780 and 1832.

Surrey including Horsell has such a run for the period 1780 – 1832 which can be found at Surrey History Centre. This provides the names of the Proprietor (Owner), Occupier, a Description of property and the tax paid. Names of the various properties are not given but can often be deduced from the names of the owners and occupiers.

In 1798, the Land Tax Redemption Office was created under a registrar and the Land Tax became a perpetual charge which could be redeemed by payment of a lump sum. These records can be useful sometimes.

The following is a summary of the Horsell Land Tax returns for Castle House 1780-1832

Years	Proprietor (Owner)	Occupier	Tax
1780-2	George More <sup>1</sup>	John Roake <sup>2</sup>	£4.10.10d
1783-4	Sir Thomas Sewell	John Roake <sup>2</sup>	£4.10.10d
1785-8	Thomas Sewell	John Roake <sup>2</sup>	£4.10.10d
1789-1803	Thomas Sewell	John Roake <sup>2</sup>	£4.10.06d
1803-6	Thomas Sewell	Damaris Roake <sup>3</sup>	£4.10.06d
1807-32	Thomas Sewell	John Roake <sup>2</sup>	£4.10.06d

<sup>1</sup>George More was baptised at St Mary's Horsell on 20 August 1724 the son of Henry. Two of his siblings were also baptised there, Mary on 9 August 1723 and Charles on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1732. Moreover, their mother (a widow with no name) was buried at the church on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1762. Their father Henry and his brother Thomas were baptised on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1697 and 8<sup>th</sup> May 1696 respectively their father Charles being described as Rector of Worplesdon 1762. John Aubrey says Charles was nephew to Sir John Moore Lord Mayor of London in 1681.

<sup>2</sup>Although John Roake features as the occupier during the entire period from 1780 to 1832, this is obviously not the same person but a sequence of Johns all named after their father. The St Mary's Horsell registers record the marriage of John Roake to Damaris Hone of this parish on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 1770. This was probably the John recorded as the occupier of Castle House at the beginning of the Land Tax returns in 1780 possibly he who was baptised at St Mary's on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1741.

<sup>3</sup>Damaris Roake the Occupier from 1804 to 1806 was probably the bride of that name who married John Roach at St Mary's in 1770. This would mean that her husband had died although I have found no trace of his burial. There were four possible children of the marriage all



*baptised at St Mary's, Mary in 1771, Elizabeth in 1773, John in 1776 and Damaris in 1778. This John would be he who became Occupier in 1807.*

### **Association Oath Rolls 1695** (see Appendix A)

The names of tradesmen who signed an oath of loyalty in 1695 to King William of Orange after a series of assassination plots. The mainly protestant signatories of the Oath rolls swore their fidelity and vowed to revenge the King should the need arise. The principal effect here is to identify who was living in the parish at that time

### **Hearth Tax 1664**

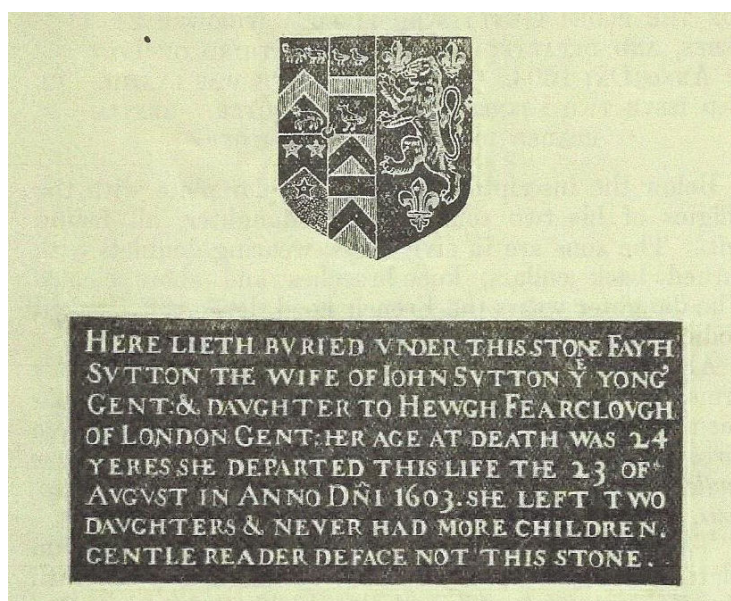
Castle House is mentioned in the Lady Day return for the Hearth Tax in 1664 where it is recorded as having 10 hearths. This is considerably more than the other houses in the village. Only one house occupied by John Collyer contains just 6 hearths and there are four houses with five hearths occupied by Richard Roake senior, George Freeland, widow Frances Love and Charles Dell (or Mrs Grove). Most houses are in the 1-4 hearth range. Castle House is, therefore a large house in a poor village.

### **Free and Voluntary Gift to Charles II 1661**(see Appendix B)

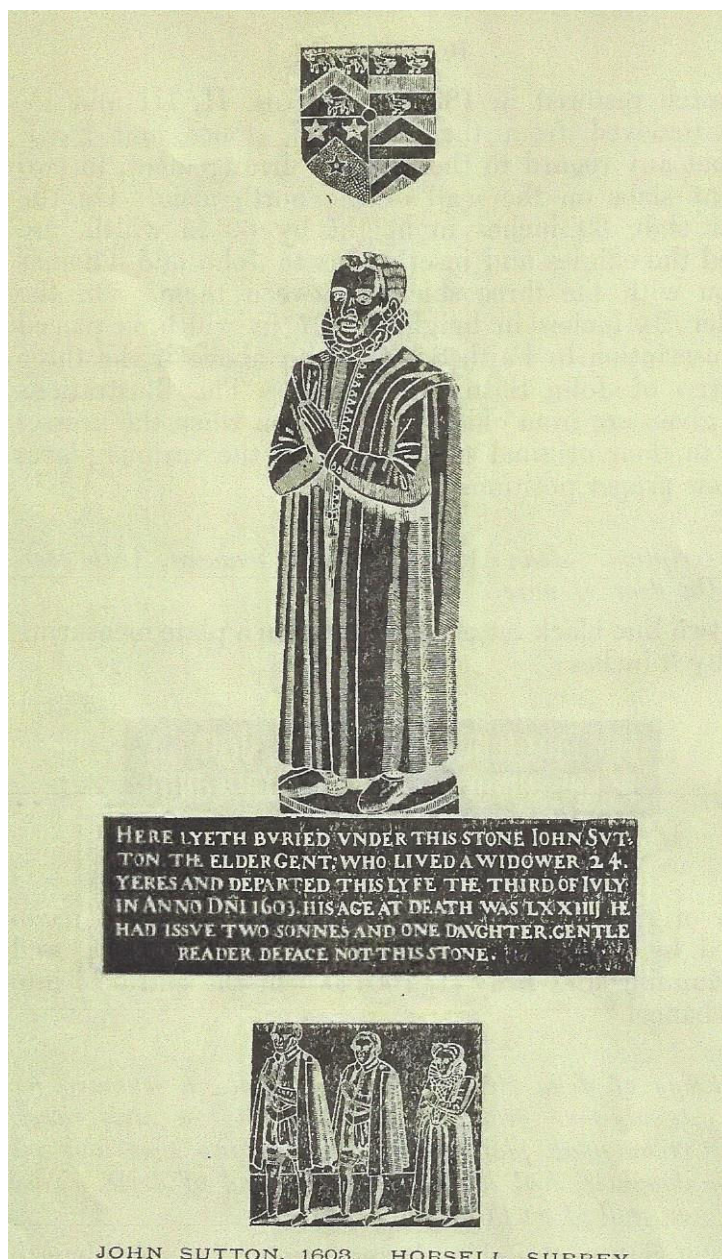
This is the record of an oath of protestant loyalty taken by all males over the age of 18, organised parish by parish. The oath was used as a way of establishing the number of Roman Catholics in England in order to tax them more heavily. The oaths were effectively a census of all adult males. The local minister or churchwarden recorded the names and then returned them to parliament. Again, this identifies those who were living in the parish in 1661.

### **The Sutton family**

This is as far back as the house can be traced in the parish records. However, the parish church does contain monumental brasses relating to the Sutton family all in 1603 (probably a plague year) but which have been moved away from their original place in the chancel and can now be seen in the North aisle. According to John Aubrey these are:



Shield and inscription in respect of *Faith daughter of Hugh Fairclough of London, gentleman, the wife of John Sutton the younger, gentleman, she departed this life the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 1603 aged 24, left two daughters (Faith and Elizabeth) and never had more children,*



Next, shield, effigy, inscription and three children of *John Sutton the elder, gentleman who lived a widower for 24 years and died the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 1603 aged 74 and had issue two sons (Thomas and John) and one daughter (Elizabeth Browne),*



*Thomas Sutton, gentleman, eldest son of John Sutton the elder a bachelor aged 38 years died the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1603 on the same slab as his brother John.*

The Sutton family appear to have been fairly prosperous in that they were described as gentlemen and were buried in the chancel (nearer to God) where they remain and it is not surprising to find that they lived at the largest house in the village, Castle House. John Aubrey says of the family *a family who live at the Place called Castle-House.*

### **Woking Review**

The article in the Woking Review of October 1958 accompanying Marguerite Howarth 's black and white drawing of Castle House suggests that the house was *probably built as a hunting lodge or a home for a courtier or court official of some kind.* This suggestion is invariably made where a house dates back to Tudor times and is within the original bounds of Windsor Forest but in this instance George Castell was probably the owner and occupier as ranger of the forest. (see p12)

## Origin of house's name

There was no known castle in the area which would account for the name of the house. The house may alternatively have been named after the Castle family. (*James Castell of Horsell, gentleman made his will 29th July 1558 proved 26<sup>th</sup> 1558. Elizabeth Castell, widow of James Castell gentleman made her will 15th October 1558 proved November 1558 both Surrey Archdeaconry.*) James and his wife, Elizabeth may have been living at the house at the time of their deaths.

The Surrey History Centre's website [www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk](http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk) has an entry *Letter from George Castell to William More of Loseley. The bearer, John Hone, has asked Castell for a small plot on which to build a house. Castell is sure it would not be any hurt or annoyance to the forest game, but sends Hone to ascertain More's pleasure. No date but marked before May 1576. Certificate of residence 1590 to be liable for taxation in Berks previous area of tax liability Surrey National Archives catalogue and*

*Draft letter by Willian More to Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester recommending George Castell as ranger of Windsor Forest in the bailiwick of Surrey. This entry has a note Castell was in post before 1576 and*

*Petition to William More, esq by Thomas Wright, curate of Horsell, defending himself against a complaint by George Castell that Wright is denying him communion. No date but marked pre 1576. George must be living in Horsell. Thomas Wright witnesses a Horsell will in November 1569 and was in the parish for the 1568 visitation.*

This George was very likely the son named by James and Elizabeth in their 1558 wills.

## Woodham tapestry map

Again, the Tapestry map of Woodham parish made in 1951 includes the house with a note *In 1575 a hunting lodge for Windsor Forest stood here.* The source of this comment is unknown but if George Castell was living at Castle House as ranger in 1575 the comment would make sense.

## Conclusion

I think we can say with a degree of certainty that Castle House was built for a prominent local dignity, probably George Castell, in the sixteenth century or before and that the building was sufficiently important to necessitate the services of a carpenter experienced in the construction of Crown post roofs. Strangely Castle House is not nationally listed. Such listing would seem essential to protect the building for posterity. Dendrochronology would help establish its age.

The Sutton family certainly lived at the house. Perhaps Charles More, Rector of Worplesdon and his family lived there too in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (see p8)

## My special thanks

My special thanks must go to the Jenkinson family for sharing their memories of Castle House and allowing me to use their photographs without which this paper would have been the worse.

**Appendix A**  
**Association Oath Rolls Horsell 1695**

Tradesmen who signed an oath of loyalty in 1695 to King William of Orange after a series of assassination plots. The mainly protestant signatories of the Oath rolls swore their fidelity and vowed to revenge the King should the need arise.

18 Horsell

Charles Moore, clerk	Robert Christmas
Richard Roake	Edward Hone
John Scotcher	William Daburn
Richard Bonsey	Henry Smith
John Fenn	William Wheeler
John Woods	John Collyer
Richard Roake jun	Richard Collyer
Richard Fenn	William Collyer
Richard Lipscombe	Henry Collyer
George Woods	John Inwood
John Woods jun	William Freeland
Joseph Roake	Richard Collyer
John Roake	John Goaring
Robert Roake	Henry Teeme
Henry Steare	James Field
Robert Clowzer	Edward Tanner
Thomas Hone	John Symmons
William Hone	Richard Wallden
John Slifield	Daniel Phillips
Henry Dakins	William Heward
Henry Smith	Henry James
Henry Underwood	William Linwood
Richard Wallden	John Rawlings
John Cobbett	John Gilles
Nicholas Walker	Henry Edmead
Edward Wallden	John Cobbett
William Wallden	Nicholas Matthew
Thomas Roggers	William Hone
John Dalley	William Massey
Robert Weebe	John Simmons
Richard Wallden	John Cobbett
David Warner	John Tickner
Walter Warner	James Tayler
Richard Scotcher	Henry Millest
David Sayer	Robert Wallden
John Hone sen	John Christmas
John Hone jun	William Edmead
Richard Snelling	

Richard Wallden

**Appendix B**  
**Horsell Free and Voluntary Present to Charles II**

18 September 1661 at Chertsey

Sarah Symonds	20/	
Richard Roake	20/-	
John Inwood	10/-	
John Millist	10/-	
William Meade	10/-	
Henry Collier	30/-	
Richard Bonsey	30/-	
Richard Fenn	10/-	
John Wapshott	10/-	
Henry Smyth	10/-	Yeoman
William Scotcher	10/-	Yeoman

16 October 1661 at Chertsey

Arthur Sares	£1	Yeoman
Richard Bonsey sen	10/-	
Richard Grove sen	10/-	Yeoman

20 November at Chertsey

John Goringe,	15/	Yeoman
Richard Roake	10/-	Yeoman
Robert Roake	10/-	Yeoman
Christopher Davye	7/-	Yeoman
George Fenn	5/-	Yeoman
John Freeland	5/-	Yeoman
John Symons	5/-	Yeoman
Henry Mathew	2/6	Husbandman
Henry Smith	2/-	Carpenter
Richard Scotcher	2/-	Husbandman
Walter Warner	5/-	Yeoman
John Ticknor -	5/	Yeoman
Thomas Stone -	5/	Yeoman
John Eliot	1/-	Yeoman
Henry Millest	2/-	
Eliz Walden	2/-	Widow
Thomas Rogers	2/-	Husbandman
John Sayer	3/-	Yeoman
William Freeman	2/6	Husbandman
Henry Millist	5/-	

31 December 1661 at Chertsey

John Millist	Husbandman	5/-
Robert Emmet	Husbandman	2/6
Daniel Dally	Labourer	1/6

Total £15/15

#### DBRG Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey)

An independent group of volunteers founded by the late Joan Harding in 1970 engaged in the study and recording of traditional domestic architecture. They study, by invitation, old houses, cottages and other domestic and farm buildings, mainly in Surrey, and have recorded over 4,000 buildings. Each owner receives a report consisting of scale drawings and sketches of the structural and decorative features of the building, together with a page or two of comments on its origin and developments. The report is free of charge but they are grateful for small donations to help with the costs of photocopying, stationery and their publications fund.

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#### Sources

A List of Monument Brasses in Surrey by Mill Stephenson 1921

Ancestry.co.uk

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Census returns 1841-1911.

Dr Richard Christophers

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Findmypast.co.uk

Free and Voluntary Gift to Charles II 1661 *WSFHS*

Hearth Tax Lady Day 1664

Horsell Land Tax Redemption (available on Ancestry)

Horsell Land Tax returns 1780-1832 (magazine of the Friends of the National Archives Vol. 22 No. 3, December 2011).

Claire Jenkinson and Tricia Sturgeon

Land Registry

Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey by John Aubrey 1673-92

Edward Ryde Survey of Horsell 1851

Surrey Advertiser February 1968

Surrey History Centre

Survey of Horsell 1834.

John Sutton's will *PCC 5 Harte* made 20<sup>th</sup> June 1603 proved 6<sup>th</sup> January 1603/4

Thomas Sutton's will *PCC 5 Harte* made 20<sup>th</sup> June 1603 proved 6<sup>th</sup> January 1603/4

Woking Review October 1958.

The Guildford Collection *WSFHS*

The Woking Collection. *WSFHS*

Tapstry Map of Woodham Parish 1951.