



Marie's House

“In hilly Clive Vale a home to a Reverend, a retired civil servant from the Raj era in India, and bedsits in the 80's”



census
2021

MY PLACE THROUGH TIME

*** GODWIN ROAD**

History of the area

* GODWIN Road is located in the Clive Vale area above Hastings Old Town. The Clive Vale Estate originated from the 60 acre Clive Vale Farm which grew to 140 acres by the 1880's

The area consisting of Ashurnham Road, Harold Road and Godwin Roads was approved for development in 1871 after the purchase of land previously owned by Frederick North, MP.

*** GODWIN Road—The House**

Horace Ditch, a builder from Halton Cres bought the land in 1871 from the British Land Corporation as soon as it was released as above. It appears that he bought the land for no 6 and no 4.

Horace Ditch took out a mortgage in 1880 and repayed it 1889.

Inhabitants

Horace Ditch then died in 1901. The house was named Fulwood and was let to the **Reverend Srrangways- Rogers**.

The **1901** Census states that the Reverend's children: Arthur (aged 1) and Dorothy (aged 3) lived in the house with a domestic housemaid and domestic nurse. We could not find The Reverend in any search but the 1911 census shows that his wife and children lived in Tower House East Sutton Kent. Young Arthur died in battle during the First World War. He was 19 and buried in Fran

In **1902** Horace Ditch's son, William, sold the house to **Alexander Murray Macgregor** and his wife Gertrude who lived in the property until they died According to the 1911 census, They lived in the house with Mary A Budgen cook and Gladys E Relfe, Servant. Previously they lived in Paddington

Alexander Macgregor was born in Madras, India and although Gertrude was born in England all her siblings were born abroad: West Indies, Australia and Canada. Alexander was retired from Straits Settlements civil service. The Straits Settlements were a group of British territories located in Southeast Asia. Originally established in 1826 as part of the territories controlled by the British East India Company, the Straits Settlements came under the British Raj control in 1858 and then under direct British control as a Crown colony in 1867. The census describes Alexander as being a retired Indian Civil Servant.

The Macgregors were living in Paddington at the 1901 census but Alexander is not traceable in any previous census although Gertrude (married) was living with her siblings in 1881 in Kensington. It may be that Alexander was living abroad until he retired and moved to England.

SECOND LIEUTENANT A. E. F. F. STRANGWAYS-ROGERS
3RD BATTALION GRENADIER GUARDS *School House*

ARTHUR EDMUND FREDERICK FILMER STRANGWAYS-ROGERS was the only son of the Reverend Arthur Strangways Strangways-Rogers, and of Helen Marguerite his wife, of Tower House, East Sutton, Maidstone, and nephew of Sir Robert Filmer, Bart., M.C., Grenadier Guards, who died of wounds on January 27th, 1916.

He entered the School in 1913 and left in July, 1917. He then joined the Guards Cadets and received his Commission in February, 1918. He went to France on September 22nd, and was shot through the heart by a machine-gun bullet at Preux-au-Sart, dying almost as soon as he reached the aid-post, November 4th, 1918. He was buried on November 5th at Villers-Pol, south-east of Valenciennes. Age 19.

His Commanding Officer wrote:—
“During the short time Strangways-Rogers has been out I have been very pleased with him, and he certainly showed a great courage and a good deal of judgment on the 4th, before he was wounded. He showed very great promise.”

One who knew him at Rugby wrote:—
“He was one of the most conscientious workers, and most modest-minded boys, I ever had to deal with, and to these qualities he added a perfect frankness combined with the truest courtesy, which made me proud to have won his friendship. No one who knew him here could forget him, or fail to regret that such a sterling character had no scope to show its value in maturity. Yet we may be thankful for another example of a high-minded, duty-loving English gentleman, as a beacon to those who will come after.”

In **1923** Alexander Macgregor bequeathed his house to **Fanny Davidson**. Cannot find any relationship or connection.

In **1923** Fanny Davidson sold the house to **Cecily Lucy Olive Halyes** for £1250

In **1924** Cecily Hayles converted the house to 2 dwellings and doesn't seem to have lived in the house. In fact none of the owners lived in the house until the present day.

In **1930** **Thomas Frederick Hough** sold the house to **Marjorie Cotton**

In **1954** Marjorie Cotton sold it to **Theresa Agnes Staples**

In **1983** TA Staples sold it to **Karen Alun Thornton**

In **1987** Karen Alun Thornton sold it to **Nick Casey**. Karen Thornton was married to the then Mayor of Hastings, David Thornton. They lived in what is now the White House on Godwin Road. The House had been converted to 8 bedsits and a holiday flat.