

West Dean Village History Trail

NUMBER 2 RIVERBANK COTTAGE

No 2

At one time this was the home of Mr George Marsh, the manager of the milk factory (see further information about the milk factory on the board by King George's Hall).

Mr Marsh's son, Wallace, served in the First World War and was badly wounded, losing both legs. On his return from the war he was taught shoe-repairing to enable him to continue to earn a living. He then needed a workshop and one was built for him in the garden with the help of the Norman Court Estate.



MR GEORGE MARSH (ON LEFT), HIS DAUGHTER OLIVE FORDER (SECOND FROM RIGHT) AND TEAM AT THE MILK FACTORY C1925



WALLACE MARSH (LEFT) SHOE AND BOOT REPAIRER

The war service tradition of Number 2 was continued when it became the home of Mr Frank Forder and his sons in 1941. Mr Forder, brother-in-law of Mr Wallace Marsh and formerly a regular in the Royal Marines, had rejoined when the Second World War began. The Brewer's Arms at East Dean, which he had been running, was burnt to the ground in 1941 by a fire raiser and his wife, Olive, died about the same time. Accordingly his sons came to Number 2 to live with their grandmother and other family members together with their father when home on leave and after he left the Marines in 1947.

In more recent years, probably in the 1980s or 1990s, the former workshop has been incorporated into the house but the earlier photograph attached shows how it looked before this happened.



NUMBER 2 WITH THE WORKSHOP ON THE LEFT