West Dean Village History Trail NUMBER 4

For many years Miss Henrietta Crook lived in this house. She had a somewhat unusual occupation, perhaps best described as baby farmer or child boarding house keeper, although on the 1911 census she described herself as Nurse Domestic.

At the time of the 1911 census she had six boarders, only two of them related to each other and none of them born locally. They were Rodney aged 11, Arthur aged 8, Stanley aged 5, sisters Marjorie and Ethel aged 4 and 2 respectively and Edith aged 2. How they came to her was a mystery to many of the villagers and continued to be so in the 1920s by which time she was elderly and had cut her intake down to one child at a time, changing them every few years.

The house is a listed building dating from the 18th Century. It's description includes a four panel door in a rustic timber porch and on the first floor two 2 or 3-light eyebrow dormers.



NUMBER 4 AS IT AS IT WAS IN 1968AND AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN IN HENRIETTA CROOK'S TIME