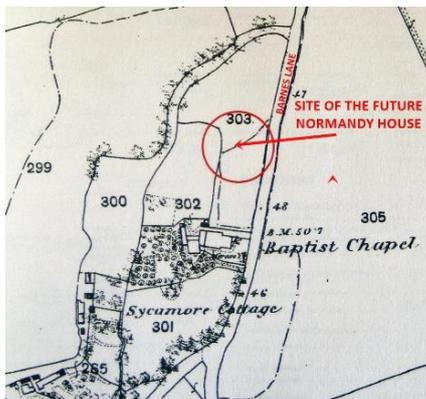


NORMANDY HOUSE

The Baptist church in Barnes Lane was built in 1816 following the Western Schism. This was when the curate of Milford, James Evans, left the Church of England and established the Baptist Church in Barnes Lane, taking a large proportion of the congregation with him.

At that time the land around the church was mainly farmland apart from Sycamore Cottage on the south side.

1868



2018



Ordnance Survey maps show that this was still the case in 1898; it wasn't until the map of 1908 that a house is shown next door to the Baptist chapel.

This piece of land was part of the Whitby family estates but was sold by Colonel Cornwallis-West to W. E. Cove on the 8th July 1903. The Reverend William Earle Cove was the Baptist minister in Milford between 1901 and 1907, living at the Manse in Barnes Lane, which was attached to the chapel.

By the time of the 1911 census Reverend Cove and his wife had moved to Mount Clear, now Normandy House, and built on the plot adjacent to the Baptist church. In 2017 another house, Old Orchard, was built between the church and Normandy House.

Kelly's directory of 1915 showed that the Cove family had moved again, this time to Pless Road.

The House had been renamed Harlington, and Mrs Harriet Shaw was living there. Mrs Shaw was the widow of Ferdinand Albert Shaw, an Indigo planter who had retired to Carringtons about 1906. He was a founder and committee member of Milford-on-Sea Historical Record Society in 1909. It was Mrs Shaw who made the first proposal for a "War Shrine" to be erected to acknowledge all those Milford men who served in WW1. The suggestion was carried

through, and the shrine was erected on the Bakehouse wall in 1917.

The 1928 Village directory revealed that Mrs Shaw had been joined at Harlington by one of her sons, Harold Arthur, and his wife.

Major H. A. Shaw MC had served in the regular army [Royal Garrison Artillery] between 1910 and 1921. After leaving the army he became a teacher at various prep-schools until 1928. He then started a prep school in Harlington for army entrants, referred to locally as a crammer. During WW2 Major Shaw served in the RAF for 3 years, following which he returned to prep-school teaching Harlington having been requisitioned by the army.

Harlington was bought by Colonel and Mrs Paterson in April 1956.

Following Colonel Paterson's Death in 1979 Sir John Curtiss bought the house and changed the name to Normandy House.

John Curtiss served in the RAF as a Navigator, flying Meteors and Javelins, and in the 1950's would bring his family to stay with his mother in Lymington. He loved the area and bought his first house in Hordle in 1974.

By 1979 when he was the Commandant of the RAF Staff College in Bracknell the family moved to Normandy House.

Having enjoyed the views of the Solent and the Isle of Wight from his mother's house, he would tell his grandchildren that he could see the Solent from the attic windows in Normandy House which was really wishful thinking! The house is currently owned by his daughter.

Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss lived in Milford-on-Sea until his death in September 2013. Following his retirement from the RAF he was very active in the local community, especially with Oakhaven Hospice and the British Legion.

He had a very illustrious career and his story will be told in more detail at Milford-on-Sea Historical Society's lecture, 'More Voices of Milford', in November 2020.

For further information visit the MOSHRS website which is a core part of its Bringing History Home project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Milford-on-Sea Parish Council.

website www.milfordhistory.org.uk