

ROWLANDS CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STANSTED TAPES

**MRS PEARL HOUSE (nee PIERPOINT)
6 WOODBURY LANE
STANSTED**

Recorded 7 September 2004

Housekeeper to the Earl of Bessborough.

In 1949 my husband came out of the Royal marines and became chauffeur to the 7th Earl of Bessborough 10 years and after that to 10 Earl. We lived under the clock tower. In 1962 had twin sons, one died at ten weeks. Bernard was my husband for 46 years there were three chauffeurs at Stansted and all had twins. The dowager duchess said that it was nothing to do with the house. I believe it was something to do with the job.

I worked in the house part time until the twins were born. When the Earl died the Countess moved to London. I worked for 43 years retiring in 1991. Bernard died in 1992.

Three women did the housework; Mrs. Kenchenton, Mrs Pat Hardy, Joyce Churchill came as well. Our job was to clean the house. I took breakfast into the Dining Room to Lord Bess borough.

I unpacked for lady guests and took breakfasts up to them. I packed when the family went away. Each night I shut up the house after the butler had departed.

(In reply to my question on famous guests) Princess Alexandra and her husband, the King and Queen of Greece, president Johnson and his daughter, and ladybird his wife. Lord Halifax. The guests were very nice indeed and treated you, Butler, cook and footmen with great respect.

(In response to my question on Lord Bessborough's macaws) Lord Bessborough went to South America and purchased 6 macaws and asked me to look after them because he said 'I was very good with birds'. There were 2 huge beech trees in the Old theatre they were housed there. Also an outside aviary. One day Lord Bess borough opened the aviary and they all flew out I was worried sick but they all returned. One pair had a baby. They were nicknamed the Red Arrows and used to dive bomb the cricketers Children loved them. They went as far as West Marden and Compton. I named the macaws: the affectionate one was Petsy, Rio was blue and yellow, and Bluey and Rebel were also blue and yellow. Mother was Mumsie and the baby Ponsonby. Local teams played on the cricket pitch and the pavilion was under the clock tower.