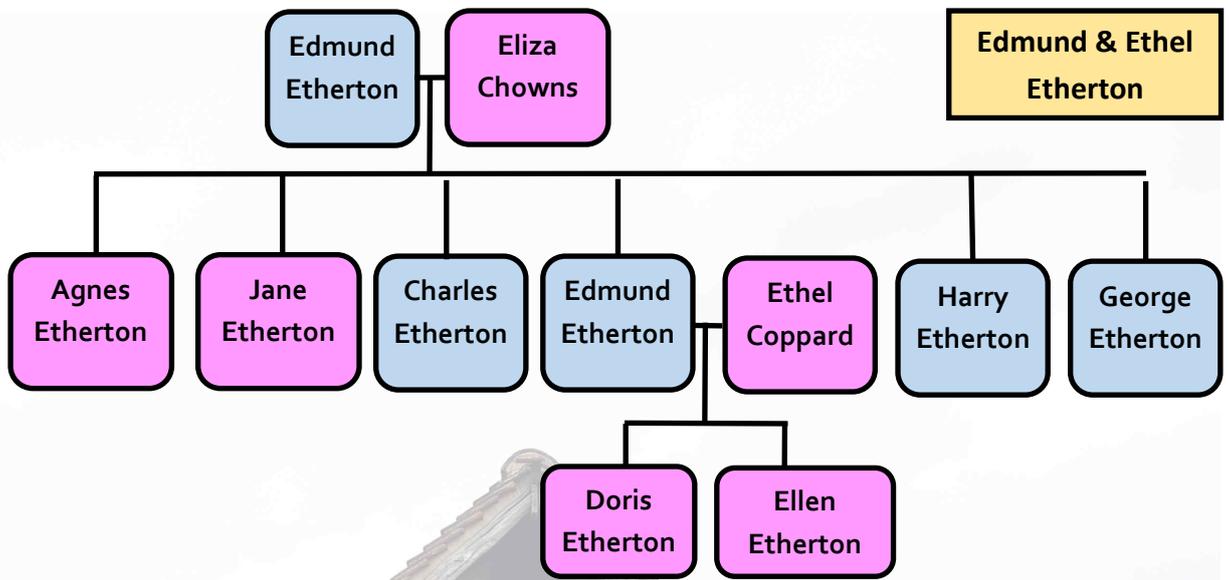


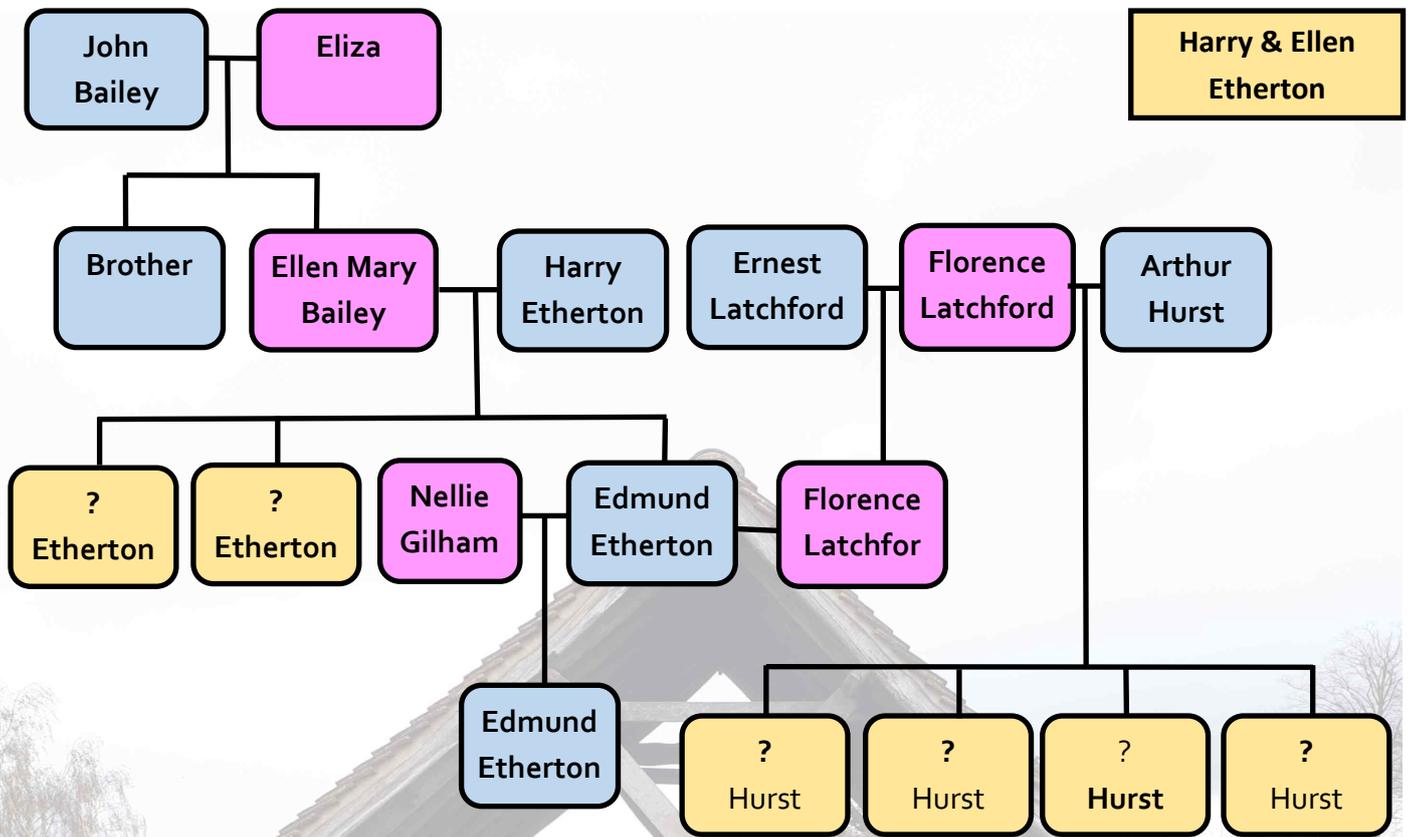
**Ethel Etherton  
(nee Coppard)**



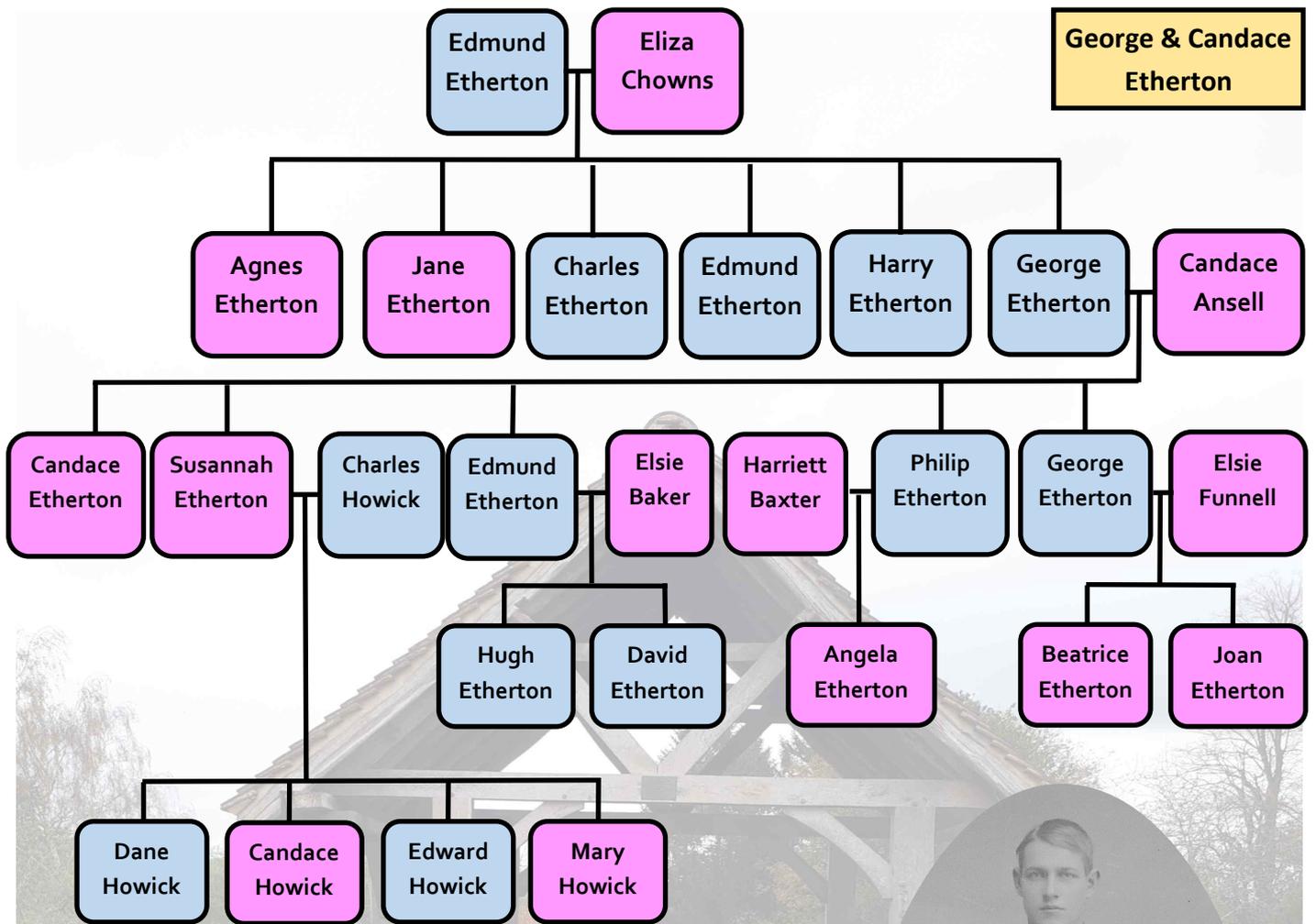
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George & Candace Etherton



George Etherton (snr)



Philip Etherton



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## Harry Etherton

**1863 - 19 May 1949**

Harry Etherton was the brother of George Etherton who moved to Danehill in 1900 to take over The Forge. Like his brother, Harry was born in Felpham in 1863 to Edmund Etherton (1827-1900) and Eliza Chown (1830-?).

In 1891 he married Ellen Mary Bailey at Westhampnett. In the 1901 and 1911 census's they are living in Croydon where Harry is a Blacksmith. Their only child to survive into adulthood was Edmund, who was born in Croydon in 1901. Records show there were two other children.

By the time of the 1939 Register, Harry and Ellen had retired to live next to his brother at Ivy Cottage in Danehill. (This is the white cottage between The Forge and The Vicarage). Harry died here on 19th May 1949, aged 87. He was buried in Danehill cemetery on 23 May 1949

## Ellen Mary Etherton (nee Bailey)

**1872 - 4 March 1962**

Ellen Mary Bailey was born in Thornton Heath, Surrey to John and Eliza Bailey. John was a shoemaker but Ellen's older brother was a blacksmith so this may be how she met Harry.

Ellen married Harry Etherton at Westhampnett in 1891. In 1911 census's they are living in Croydon where Harry is a Blacksmith. Their only child to survive into adulthood was Edmund, who was born in Croydon in 1901. Records show there were two other children.

By the time of the 1939 Register, Harry and Ellen had retired to live next to his brother at Ivy Cottage in Danehill. (This is the white cottage between The Forge and The Vicarage). Harry died here in 1949. Ellen carried on living in Ivy Cottage after Harry's death until her own death on 4th March 1962, aged 89. She was buried in Danehill cemetery on 10th March 1962.



Harry is buried with his wife, Ellen, at Danehill Cemetery



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# Edmund Thomas Etherton

**1 December 1882 - 13 March 1918**

Edmund was born on 1st December 1882. He was the son of Edmund & Eliza Etherton of Lewisham, his father, was a brother to Danehill village blacksmith, George Etherton. On 8th September 1912 at Danehill Edmund Thomas Etherton, aged 30, a postman of Peckham, married 20 year old Ethel, daughter of Walter Coppard, one of the witnesses was the bride's brother, John Coppard.

Edmund enlisted at Streatham. He was a Sergeant in the 18th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, PS 1795.

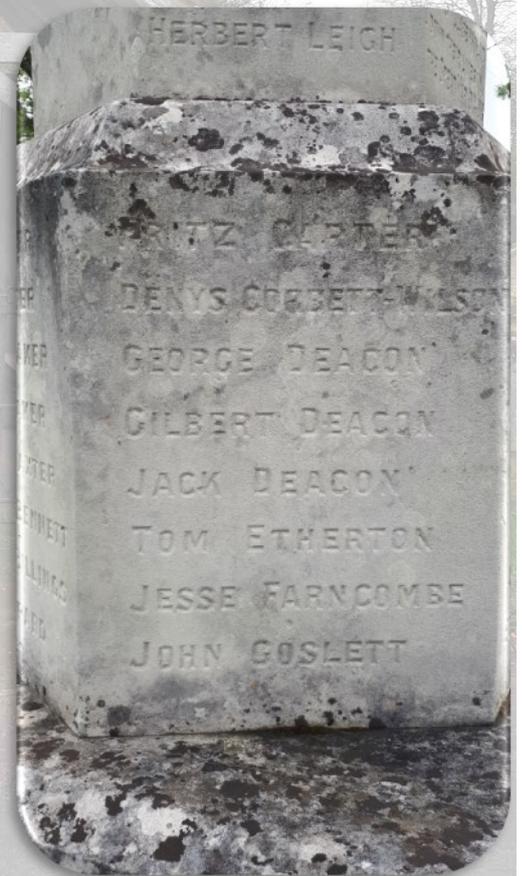
He was killed in action on 13 March 1918, aged 35, at St. Quentin. His name is on the Ploegsteert Memoria in Belgium. His name also appears on the Danehill memorial as Tom Etherton



**Edmund Etherton**



**Left: Edmund Thomas Etherton with his wife, Ethel probably taken at the time of their marriage in 1912. Right: Their two daughters, Doris Violet (L) and Ellen Maud (R)**



**Edmund Etherton is remembered on the Danehill war memorial as 'Tom'**



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# Florence Bessie Etherton

1902-1976

Florence Bessie Latchford was born, in 1902, in Broadstairs to Ernest William Latchford, a Post Card Cutter, and Bessie Latchford. In 1923 she married Arthur Hurst and went on to have 4 children with him. Arthur died sometime between 1923 and 1961, the year she married Edmund.

Florence was the second wife of Edmund Etherton, son of Harry and Ellen. Edmund appears to have lived in the same house all his married life in Croydon after he married Nellie Gilham in 1923. Edmund and Nellie had a son, also called Edmund, in 1924 but no further children. Nellie died in 1949.

Her plaque says "Wife and Mother" which is true but not the mother of any Etherton's. Edmund died in 1983 but I cannot find where he is commemorated. One idea is that he was buried with his first wife, but I cannot prove this.

**Florence Bessie Etherton's ashes are interred in Danehill Garden of Remembrance**



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## George Etherton (Jnr)

**11 July 1896 – 2 March 1976**

George Etherton was born in, in Scaynes Hill, 1896 to George (1866-1931) and Candace (1856-1937) Etherton. He was the fourth of five children, the others being Philip (1892-1973), Susannah (1893-1977), Candace (1895-1958) and Edmund (Tim) (1900-1985). The family lived in Scaynes Hill until the end of the 19th Century when George senior bought the Forge in Danehill



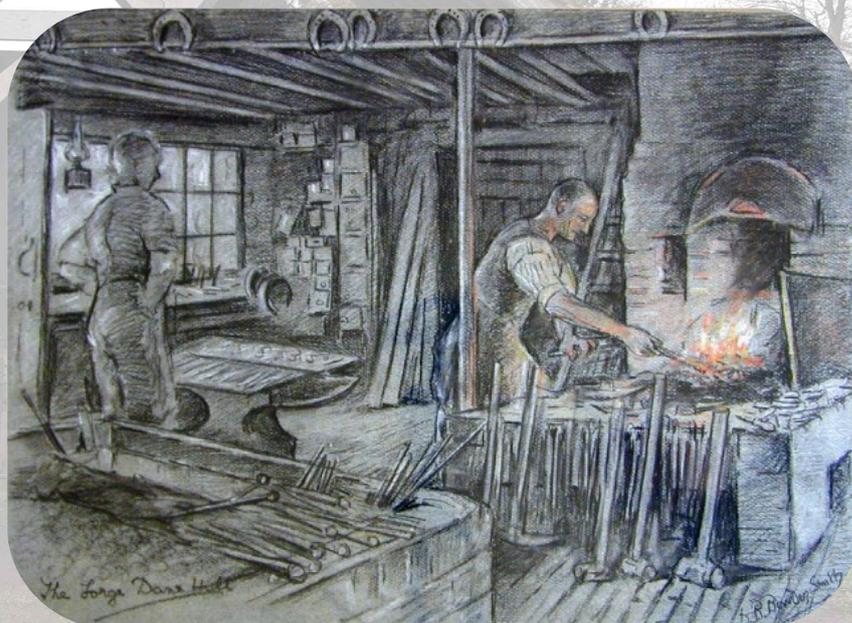
**George during the war**

Together with his three brothers George served in the Sussex regiment as a blacksmith in WWI. George was the blacksmith in Danehill. Examples of his work could be seen at the entrance to All Saint's church. He created the 'Coronation' gates for the church grounds, these have subsequently been removed and are currently in storage.



**George with Beattie and Joan**

Forge with his family. After his retirement from and the sale of the Forge he and the family moved into 1 Fairview.



A chalk drawing by Mrs Bowden-Smith (1937). The brothers are making the 'Coronation' gates for their entrance to All Saints Church, George is working at the forge, Edmund (Tim) is contemplating the gate laying on top of the anvil. This beautifully drawn and detailed picture gives a good idea of the interior of any Blacksmith's shop and they tools they used. The drawing was owned by Beatrice Cundy, George Etherton's daughter. He son, John, now owns the drawing.

[Description of painting taken from the Danehill Parish Historical Society Magazine Vol 6 No 8 (May 2001)]



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They all lived at 1 Fairview until Joan married James 'Alan' Sharvell in 1949 and moved away and Beattie married James Cundy and moved into 2 Fairview in 1951, after getting married 28th October 1944. George and Elsie remained in 1 Fairview until she had a stroke in 1970s when she moved into number 2 Fairview. George stayed in 1 Fairview until his death in 1976, when the house was sold. His ashes are in Danehill Cemetery with her wife Elsie.



**The Jubilee gates—  
held in storage**



**Left to right: George (Jnr) and Elsie Etherton, George (Jnr) and Philip (brother) taken in the First world war in France, George Etherton (Jnr) on a horse taken in The First World War**



**Left: George (Jnr) and his two brothers Edmund (Tim) and Philip. Right: George (Jnr) and Elsie in the front room of 1 Fair view taken for their 50th wedding anniversary (1972)**





Farriers of 1922—George is pictured at the centre back



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## Elsie Etherton (nee Funnell)

July 1897 – 1 October 1984

Elsie was born in 1897 in Danehill the only child of Trayton and Beatrice. She lived and grew up with her mother and father in Danehill. She met George, married in 1922 and moved into the Forge in Danehill where he was the blacksmith for many years.

They had two children Beatrice, named after her mother, born on 16th March 1926 and Joan, a year later in 1927



**Elsie Etherton with her two children Beatrice and Joan**

After George's retirement and the sale of the Forge she moved into 1 Fair view with her mother and father (until he died in 1942 aged



**Elsie Etherton**

(80).

Elsie lived in the house with George after her mother's death in 1976, until she has a stroke in the mid 1970s when she then moved into 2 Fairview with her daughter Beattie and son-in-law Jim until she died on 1 October 1984, aged 87. Her ashes are in Danehill Cemetery with her husband George.



**Left: George and Elsie in the garden of 1 Fair View**

**Below: Elsie in her later years**

**Right: Their memorial stone in Danehill grave yard and below right: the replacement one installed in November 2021**



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## Edmund 'Tim' Etherton

**1900 - 1985**

Edmund Etherton was the youngest child of George Etherton and Candace Ansell and the only one of their children to be born in Danehill. His 4 older siblings, Philip (1892-1973), Susannah (1894-1977), George (1895-1976) and Candace (1898-1958), were all born in Scaynes Hill before their parents bought The Forge in Danehill at the very end of the 19th century.

Edmund was always known as Tim, and was educated at Danehill school before joining his father and brothers at The Forge. The three boys all served as blacksmiths in The Sussex Regiment during WW1.

In 1927 Philip and Edmund emigrated to Australia to work in a tractor factory in Melbourne. Philip stayed there, with his wife Harriet, and became a successful farmer in western Australia.

Edmund returned to Danehill and married Elsie Baker, where they had two sons Hugh born in 1928 and David born (1933 - 2023).

Edmund and Elsie bought The Cottage, Danehill, behind the Crocodile pub, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

During WW2 metal became scarce so George senior and George junior ran the Forge and Edmund went to work on Bogey Awcocks farm, where he remained until his retirement. Towards the end of his life, he was a well know figure in the village with his long grey mac and green beret walking down Freshfield Lane whatever the weather.

## Elsie Etherton (nee Baker)

**1904 - 1980**

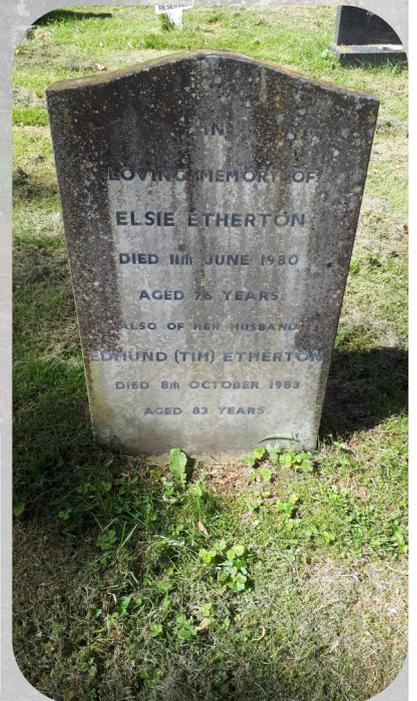
Elsie Baker was the youngest child of Lewis Baker and Jane Turner and had two older siblings Walter Lewis (1901-1973) and Edith (1902-1964).

Elsie Baker married Edmund in Danehill, where they had two sons Hugh born in 1928 and David born (1933 - 2023).

Edmund and Elsie bought The Cottage, Danehill, behind the Crocodile pub, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Elsie died in 1980 and is buried in Danehill cemetery with her husband Edmund.

The ashes of their son, David, were scattered on their grave in Danehill Burial Ground in 2023 following his death that year aged 89.



**Above: Elsie and Tim at a wedding at Danehill Church in the 1960s. Right: Edmund is buried with his wife Elsie in Danehill cemetery**



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An article about George Etherton senior was published in the Danehill Parish Historical Society Magazine Volume 6 No 8 (May 2001). The second part of this article can be found in the biography for the Langridge family

## The End Of An Era - by P.G. Lucas

### The last Blacksmith and Wheelwright working together in Danehill

This article deals with two craftsmen plying their trade in Danehill village up to the 1930s. These were the last to work here together in their respective businesses, generations of the families had been in these trades since the 17th century.

**George Etherton (1866 - 1931) .Written with the assistance of David Etherton, his grandson.**



**George Etherton (Snr)**

George Etherton was born at Felpham in West Sussex, his father, Edmund was the blacksmith there. He had 4 brothers and 3 sisters. All the brothers were blacksmiths, there were at least five generations of Ethertons who were Sussex blacksmiths and farriers.

In 1891 George married Candace Ann Ansell of Scaynes Hill, her father was the landlord of the Anchor Inn. George was the blacksmith at Scaynes Hill, where he may well have worked with his own grandfather, Edwin Warnett, the wheelwright there at the time.



**Candace Etherton**

George and Candace came to Danehill in 1897 to take over the blacksmith's business, Sudan and Candace, and two sons Philip and George, when they moved to Danehill. The Youngest son, Edmund (Tim) was born in Danehill. The three sons followed their father's trade. His son's Philip and George, volunteered for the Army early in the Great War of 1914-18, serving as 'Shoestring Smiths'. George returned to work for his father. Philip emigrated to Australia. After the war the nature of the business changed, petrol and lubricating oil was sold, an early tractor was purchased for contract work on local farms, with sons George or Tim at the wheel. George senior was one of the first car owners in Danehill, very proud of his De Dion Bouton.

In addition to the traditional work of the village blacksmith, the shoeing of horses, which were still in use on many farms and delivery vans, George senior used his skills in a creative way. The best example of his artistic abilities, the 'Butterfly gates' can still be seen in front of the old house where he lived and close to the forge where he worked. George designed and made beautiful gates, which he exhibited at Olympia. George died 2nd December 1931, the business in Danehill was carried on by his sons, George and Edmund (Tim) with help from their uncle Harry. Together they designed and made new gates for All Saints church to mark the coronation of King George VI in 1937. The business closed down in 1965.



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An article about George Etherton senior was published in Sussex County Magazine in February 1932 (page 110). This was reproduced in the Danehill Parish Historical Society Magazine Volume 6 No 8 (May 2001).

### An Artist in Ironwork

By C.E. Tritton

Sussex is the poorer by the death last December of Mr. George Etherton of Danehill. He was genuine craftsman of the old school, worthy of dignity and honour of the name, such as it is all too rare today, to him, indeed, the designation of artist is inappropriate.

He came of an old Sussex family, and his forge was known for miles around as a place where good workmanship was assured. Specimens of his handicraft have been exhibited all over Sussex and many a country house has some of his work in it—fire backs, fire dogs and baskets, door latches and knockers—no two alike, and adorned with flowers, fir cones, birds or family crests.



The 'Butterfly Gates' outside the Forge, Danehill



George Etherton (Snr)

At the wonderful "pageant of Ashdown Forrest" in 1929 his skill as chief smith brought him into great prominence. Here is what the Duchess of York wrote after to Mr Hambro, of Kidbrooke Park: *"I should be glad if you would tell Mr Etherton of Danehill how much I appreciate the rose he wrought in iron for me. I think it was very clever for him to do a lily and a bird during the performance for you and Lord Edward Gleichen."*

How did this village blacksmith acquire his exceptional skill? Of course he "had it in him" as one says, from his youth as a lad, and working, as all smiths did years ago, from six in the morning until seven of a summer's evening, with an extra three hours making new horseshoes out of old ones in the winter, he was never satisfied with the ordinary routine work. Neither long hours nor poor pay damped his ardour for metal work, and he experimented in all sorts of ways and made all sorts of articles, beginning at the age of ten with a small steam engine.



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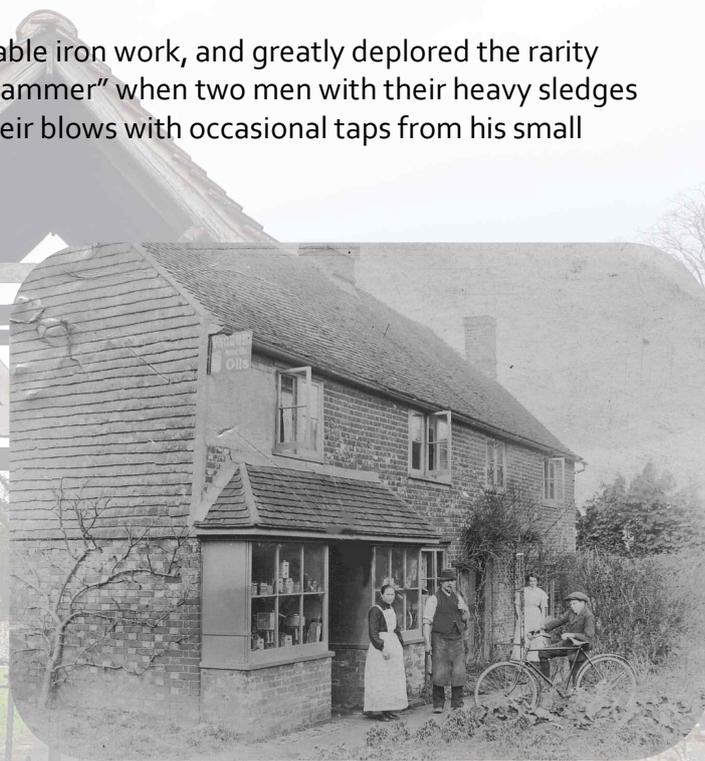
He was entirely self taught as far as design and artistic work went, and usually worked "out of his head" without models and at most, a rough pencil sketch. If he were given an idea of what was wanted he would produce it with great dexterity. He attributed his skills to his experience, many years ago, as a coach builder, which demanded a very high standard of iron work, and, above all, to the work of work making new shoes from old in those winter evenings.

He maintained that since smiths have ceased to make these, the trade has ceased to make real smiths, because it was by "taking heats" -that is by bringing the old metal to the exact temperature required for welding it nicely and securely together—that they become masters of their art.

He had a fine scorn for machine-made and malleable iron work, and greatly deplored the rarity nowadays of the beautiful music of the "double hammer" when two men with their heavy sledges struck the hot iron in turn while smith directed their blows with occasional taps from his small hammer.

But while lamenting the passing of old methods, Mr Etherton paid high tribute to work of the Farriery Instructors who, since the war, have been appointed throughout the country. Had it not been for the help he received from this direction, he said that he would not have carried off the championship cup and medal at the Hastings Agricultural Show in a two day contest.

The trade at present does not attract keenest and most capable workers and of George Etherton's type and skill can ill be spared.



**Ironmonger's shop at the Forge, Danehill. George Etherton wearing his blacksmith's leather apron stands with his wife at the shop doorway, their youngest son Edmund (Tim), leans on his bicycle. Paraffin cooking stoves are among the items on display in the shop window**



**Left: George Etherton (snr)**

**Right: George Etherton outside the Forge**

