

Daniel Manser – Living at Frogs Hole


Daniel and Harriet Manser and their family lived for several years at Frogs Hole in Jarvis Brook. From various pieces of evidence, I believe we can identify exactly where they lived; on a property or farm called Knowle.

On their daughter Ruth's birth record in 1864 it states that their residence was Knowle in Rotherfield and her father was a farmer. The Parish of Rotherfield at that time included Jarvis Brook and Crowborough.

Superintendent Registrar's District		Uckfield									
Registrar's District		Rotherfield									
1864		BIRTHS in the District of		Rotherfield		in the County of		Sussex			
No.	When Born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth	
246	Seventeenth August 1864 Knowle Rotherfield	Ruth	Girl	Daniel Manser	Harriet Manser formerly Rogers	Farmer	Harriet Manser Mother Knowle Rotherfield	Second September 1864	J. Cristall Registrar		

Much later a newspaper article describing the Golden Wedding Anniversary of another of their daughters, Fanny, describes her as "... the second daughter of the late Mr Daniel Manser, of Knole Farm, Jarvis Brook.."

GOLDEN WEDDING AT CROWBOROUGH.



Mr. and Mrs. Owen Paine, of Northdene, Crowborough, recently celebrated their Golden Wedding, and were the recipients of a number of useful presents from relatives and friends. They were married at

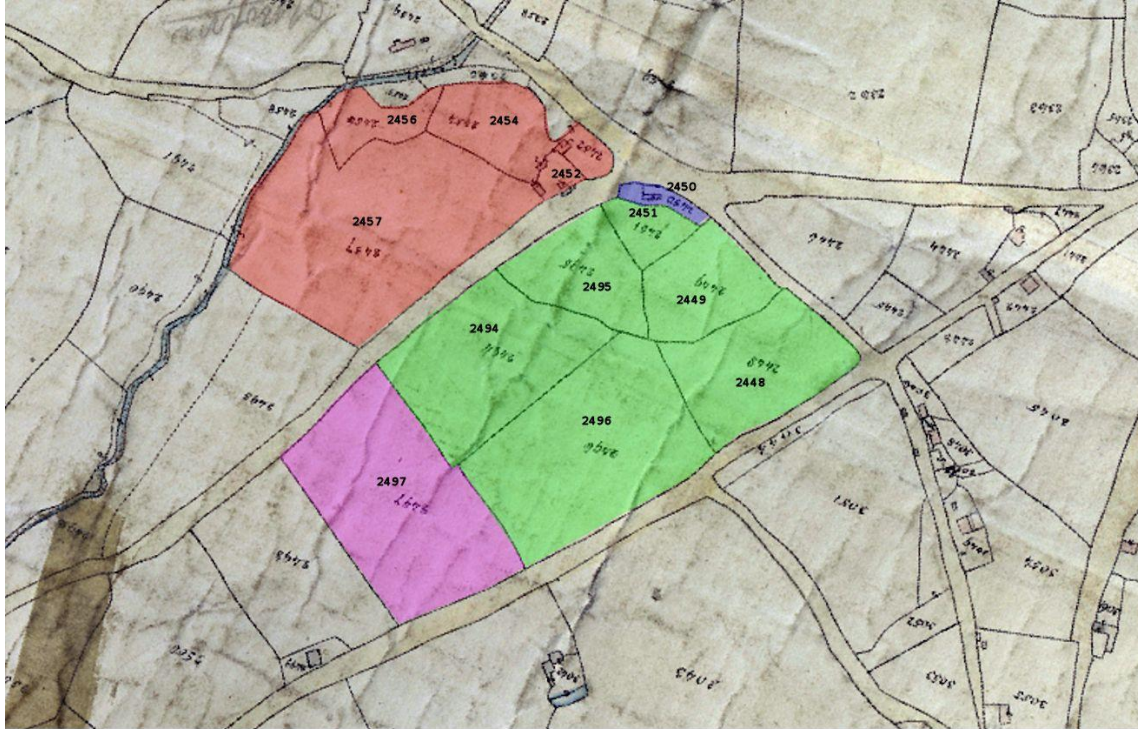
the Providence Chapel, Rotherfield, on the 9th of January, 1873, by the late Mr. Eli Paige (Pastor of the Chapel), and on the 50th anniversary of the wedding they held a reception at their residence, which was attended by members of the family, relatives and intimate friends. Mr. Paine is the elder son of the late Mr. John Paine, builder, of Church-road, Crowborough, and formerly of Jarvis Brook, while his wife is the second daughter of the late Mr. Daniel Manser, of Knole Farm, Jarvis Brook, and afterwards of Mayfield. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Paine have one daughter living, viz., Mrs. Eli Godley, who is a widow, and two grandchildren. They have unhappily lost by death three sons and two daughters. Their grandson resides at Scaynes Hill Post Office. Mr. Paine succeeded to his father's business, and continued it for many years. His hobby is gardening, but owing to failing eyesight is unable to follow it to any appreciable extent. Mr. and Mrs. Paine were married when they were each 20 years of age, and have resided at Northdene for 20 years. Mr. Paine was for a few years a member of the Crowborough Parish Council, and is a member of the Crowborough Allotment Holders' Association, and has exhibited at various Shows since its formation.

The Courier January 19 1923

These are the only two direct references to the family living at Knowle Farm, all other references record them living at either Frogs Hole or Jarvis Brook. However, putting together several pieces of evidence enables us to be confident that Daniel began his transition from Bricklayer to Farmer at Knowle Farm.

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In the 1842 Tithe map of the Jarvis Brook there is a Henry Paine, who owns and occupies several plots of land including a Homestead which is on the corner of what is now Western Road and Crowborough Hill/Rotherfield Road. This is shown as plot 2452 on the map below. Although the farm name is not given in the apportionment two of fields; 2494 and 2496 are named Lower and Upper Knowl Field.



- Land owned by Henry Paine in 1842 tithe map. Occupied by Levi Midmer
- Land owned and occupied by Henry Paine in 1842 tithe map. Occupied by Daniel Manser 1857 - 1874. Sold for house building 1874
- Land owned and occupied by Henry Paine in 1842 tithe map. Occupied by Daniel Manser 1857 - c 1880
- Land occupied by Daniel Manser in 1874. Sold for house building 1874

Knowle Farm, Jarvis Brook 1842 Tithe Map

Plot	LandOwner surname	LandOwner first name	Occupier surname	Occupier first name	Farm name	Land Description	Cultivation	
2448	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Wood Field	Arable	1/2/8
2449	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Small Field	Arable	0/3/39
2450	Paine	Henry	Midmore	Levi			Cottage and garden	0/0/22
2451	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Orchard	Orchard	0/1/12
2452	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Homestead	House and buildings	0/1/24
2454	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Hop Garden	Meadow	0/3/11
2456	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry			Orchard and Wood	0/2/0
2457	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Barn Mead	Meadow	3/3/11
2494	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Lower Knowl Field	Arable	2/0/24
2495	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Pasture Field	Meadow	1/0/0
2496	Paine	Henry	Paine	Henry		Upper Knowl Field	Arable	3/0/5
2497	Penfold	George Saxby, Rev	Allcorn	William		Starvall Field	Pasture	2/3/35

Knowle Farm, Jarvis Brook 1839 Tithe Apportionment

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Henry Paine was a carpenter and his family appear as the first record in the 1851 census for the area around Jarvis Brook. His residence is given simply as Frogs Hole but it can be assumed he was still living at Knowle Farm (plot 2452)

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House		Name and Surname of each Person who abate in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851		Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Lame
1 Frogs Hole		Henry Paine	Head	Mar	15		Carpenter	Lower Rotherfield	
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	46			Lower Rotherfield	
		John	Son	Mar	22		Carpenter	Lower Rotherfield	
		James	Son	Mar	20		Carpenter	Lower Rotherfield	
		George	Son	Mar	15			Lower Rotherfield	
		Henry	Son	Mar	13			Lower Rotherfield	
		David	Son	Mar	11			Lower Rotherfield	
		Thomas	Son	Mar	9			Lower Rotherfield	
		George	Son	Mar	2			Lower Rotherfield	
2 Frogs Hole		James Harman	Head	Mar	35		Brick-Layer	Lower Rotherfield	
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	32			Lower Rotherfield	
		John	Son	Mar	9			Lower Rotherfield	
		David	Son	Mar	5			Lower Rotherfield	
		Henry	Son	Mar	2			Lower Rotherfield	
		Elizabeth	Son	Mar	6			Lower Rotherfield	
3 Frogs Hole		Elizabeth Pyle	Head	Mar	44		Wg. Suburban	Lower Rotherfield	
		John	Son	Mar	11			Lower Rotherfield	
		Henry	Son	Mar	20			Lower Rotherfield	
		Elizabeth	Son	Mar	12			Lower Rotherfield	
Total of Houses		Total of Males and Females		11		19			

Henry Paine 1851 Census Frogs Hole, Rotherfield

Daniel Manser and his family also appear as the first record in the census for the area around Jarvis Brook in 1861 and the second record is the same family, James Harman, in both censuses. It also appears that the census enumerator was the same. In which case he is likely to have carried out the census in the same order both times.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

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Parish for Township of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclesiastical District of			
Rotherfield						Rotherfield			
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES In which Persons are Registered	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Lame
1	Frogs Hole	1	Daniel Manser	Head	Mar	33	Brick Layer	Lower Rotherfield	
			Harriet	Wife	Mar	36		Lower Rotherfield	
			George	Son	Mar	11		Lower Rotherfield	
			Thomas	Son	Mar	8		Lower Rotherfield	
			Charles	Son	Mar	6		Lower Rotherfield	
			Elizabeth	Son	Mar	5		Lower Rotherfield	
			Charles	Son	Mar	1		Lower Rotherfield	
2	"	1	James Harman	Head	Mar	13	Stone Mason	Lower Rotherfield	
			Harriet	Wife	Mar	41		Lower Rotherfield	
			James	Son	Mar	14	" "	Lower Rotherfield	
			Harriet	Son	Mar	11		Lower Rotherfield	
			William	Son	Mar	10		Lower Rotherfield	
			Elizabeth	Son	Mar	8		Lower Rotherfield	
			Elizabeth	Son	Mar	6		Lower Rotherfield	
			David	Son	Mar	4		Lower Rotherfield	
			Elizabeth	Son	Mar	2		Lower Rotherfield	
			Charles	Son	Mar	1		Lower Rotherfield	
3	Jarvis Brook	1	Frederick Pyle	Head	Mar	46	Wg. Sub.	Lower Rotherfield	
			David	Son	Mar	14	" "	Lower Rotherfield	
			Frederick	Son	Mar	11	" "	Lower Rotherfield	
			Edward	Son	Mar	10	" "	Lower Rotherfield	
			Elizabeth	Son	Mar	12	" "	Lower Rotherfield	
4	"	1	Joseph Pyle	Head	Mar	44	General Carpenter	Lower Rotherfield	
			Harriet	Wife	Mar	34		Lower Rotherfield	
4	Total of Houses...		Total of Males and Females...			12 13			

Daniel Manser 1861 Census

Daniel Manser – Living at Frogs Hole

Henry Paine died in 1857 and was buried in St Denys' Church, Rotherfield on 23rd January.

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BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Rotherfield</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i> in the Year <i>1857</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Henry Paine</i>	<i>Rotherfield</i>	<i>Jan 23</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Wm Dawes</i>

No. 582

Henry Paine Burial, St Denys' Church, Rotherfield 1857

Henry was a carpenter and Daniel was a brick layer, so it is quite likely they knew each other from working together on buildings. In later years there was a family connection because Daniel's daughter Fanny married Henry's grandson Owen.

So I believe Daniel and his family moved from the Crowborough Common area to Frogs Hole in 1857 shortly after Henry's death. Certainly they were living in Frogs Hole in November 1859 when their son George Edwards Manser was buried.

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BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Rotherfield</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i> in the Year <i>1859</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Philadelphia Bridges</i>	<i>Union House Wickfield</i>	<i>Nov 14</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>Wm Dawes</i>
<i>George Manser</i>	<i>Frogs Hole Rotherfield</i>	<i>Nov 19</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Wm Dawes</i>

No. 793
No. 794

George Edwards Burial St Denys' Church, Rotherfield 1859

It would appear that Daniel rented the farm house and maybe all or some of the land from Henry's widow. In the 1871 census she is living with her sons in Crowborough and is recorded as an Annuitant, in other words she has an income from property or investments.

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ROTHERFIELD, SUSSEX.—Valuable Freehold Building or Accommodation Land, in all about 11½ acres, situate within five minutes' walk of the railway station, and about seven miles from Tunbridge Wells.

MESSRS.

Debenham, Tewson, & Farmer

WILL SELL, at the ROYAL SUSSEX HOTEL, Tunbridge Wells, on **FRIDAY, Feb. 27, 1874,**

At 4 for 5, in Three Lots, about 11½ acres of FREEHOLD LAND, in the parish of Rotherfield, having an undulating surface and extensive frontages to the road leading from Rotherfield Station to Uckfield, and to a road in the rear. The land is now let to Mr. Daniel Manser, at an agricultural rent, but early possession of the whole, or any portion, may be obtained if required for building.

Particulars of WALTER SPROTT, Esq., Solicitor, Mayfield, Sussex; at the place of Sale; the Railway Hotel, Rotherfield; and of the AUCTIONEERS, 80, Cheapside, London.

The Kent & Sussex Courier 13 February 1874

Certainly by 1874 Daniel had taken on the farm land associated with the property because in an advertisement for the sale of some of the land it says, "The land is now let to Mr Daniel Manser..."

From the description in the advertisement I believe the land referred to is the parcels coloured in green and mauve in the above map. At that time Crowborough station was called Rotherfield station. The more recent Rotherfield station was on the Eridge to Polegate line which did not open until 1880. So the "road leading from Rotherfield Station to Uckfield" would be Western Road and the "road in the rear" would be Tubwell Lane.

Presumably the land was being sold by the executors of Henry's will and his children were the beneficiaries. Certainly his eldest son, John, started a successful building company, at one time he employed 200 people. So it is possible that the sale of this land not only provided the funds to set the company up but also provided the land for building houses.

MAYFIELD.

OBITUARY.—About mid-day on Sunday, the 9th inst., Mr Daniel Manser, an old and respected inhabitant of the place, and who had prior to 1980 been tenant farmer at Great Freeman's Farm for about 20 years, died at his son's residence in High-street at the good old age of 87 years (had he lived four days longer). The funeral took place in the Churchyard on the Thursday following, Mr Robert Brooker, of Tunbridge Wells, being the officiating minister of the Baptist Chapel. There were many mourners, and Mr J. Hedges acted as undertaker.

The Courier 21st September 1906

We know that Daniel moved from Frogs Hole to Freemans Farm in Mayfield. From his obituary we can see that he was at Freemans for approximately 20 years up to 1900. So we might assume that he left Knowle Farm around 1880.

However, we know from a farm sale advertisement that George Edwards left Freemans Farm at Michaelmas 1876. George was the younger brother of Mary Edwards who was Harriet's mother. There is confirmation that Daniel was on good terms with George because in the 1871 census his daughter, Fanny, was working at Freemans as a domestic servant.

THURSDAY, October 5th, 1876.
FREEMAN'S FARM, MAYFIELD, SUSSEX,
near to Five Ashes, and about 2½ miles from Rotherfield Station. — Prime fine upstanding Draught Horses and Colts, a very handsome grey Cob, prime Dairy Cows, pair of Sussex Oxen, strong yearling Steers and Heifers, weanyear Calves, Southdown Lambs, Swine, a few lots of Furniture, Dairy, and Brewing Utensils, and the whole of the Agricultural Implements, &c.

Mr. Hy. J. AUSTEN
HAS been favoured with instructions from Mr. George Edwards, who is retiring from farming pursuits, **TO SELL BY AUCTION, on the Premises, Freeman's Farm, Mayfield, Sussex.**
On THURSDAY, October 5th, 1876,
At Twelve o'clock precisely, the following valuable **LIVE STOCK, IMPLEMENTS of HUSBANDRY, &c., &c.:**—
HORSES.—A very powerful fine upstanding grey mare, "Diamond," eight years old; a ditto grey cart gelding, "Captain," eight years old; a bay gelding, "Boxer," three years old; a black gelding, "Prince," six years old; a brown mare, "Darling," six years old; a bay brood mare, stunted to Mr. Bridger's entire horse; a very handsome grey cob, quiet to ride and drive; handsome grey yearling filly; a very fine weanyear colt by Mr. Bridger's entire horse.
The above will be found worthy of attention to those requiring good seasoned horses, being well adapted for town or country work.

SOUTHDOWN SHEEP.—24 ewe and wether lambs.
SWINE.—A very prime large fatting hog.
DOGS.—A good bred sheep bitch and a beagle.
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c. will comprise a nearly new strong well built 4½in. wheel waggon, with double and single rods, a ditto ditto, with extra axle for timber carrying, a 6in. wheel waggon, a nearly new narrow wheel waggon, four manure carts, strong light spring cart and plated harness, riding saddle and bridle, hay tedding machine by Williams, Bedford, iron, round, turnrise, strike, wheel, and other ploughs, patent clod crusher, wood land rollers, 11-share corn drill, hop nidgets, large fallow nidget, large and small harrows, corn drill, two timber carriages, patent corn bruising machine by Cheale, Lewes, timber pulley, blocks and ropes, strong chain and coiler harnesses, and the usual barn and coast implements, with a variety of small husbandry tools and minor other small implements, &c., usually found on a farm.
Also a portion of the **FURNITURE** and dairy utensils, &c., &c.
Luncheon at Eleven o'clock, Sale to commence at Twelve.
Catalogues may be obtained at the principal Inns in the neighbourhood; on the Premises; or of the Auctioneer and Valuer, Marling Place, Wadhurst, or at his Stand in the Tunbridge Wells Corn Exchange.

Kent & Sussex Courier September 29 1876

A record in the valuation book of Watsons the auctioneers indicates that George passed the farm to someone called Eldridge.

Freemans Farm, Mayfield

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Title:	Freemans Farm, Mayfield
Date:	4-6 Oct 1876
Repository:	East Sussex Record Office
ESRO reference:	ATN 3/85/50
Level:	Item
Description:	George Edwards to Eldridge
Creator(s)	Watson and Sons of Wadhurst, Auctioneers and Valuers
	Biography [show]

Hierarchy

ATN: ARCHIVE OF E. WATSON AND SONS OF WADHURST, AUCTIONEER... (1805-1967)

ATN 3: Valuation books: second series (1871-1914)

ATN 3/85: Valuation book 85 (1876)

ATN 3/85/50: Freemans Farm, Mayfield (4-6 Oct 1876)

Now Daniel's second wife, Lucy's, maiden name was Eldridge. She was the daughter of James Eldridge and from his will we know that he left about £1500, about £180,000 in today's money, to his children. So it may have been that Lucy's brother, John, who was a farmer may have taken on Freemans Farm in his name. Certainly in the 1881 census Daniel and Lucy are living at Freemans and Daniel is recorded as a Bricklayer and Farmer of 107 acres employing 1 man and 3 boys.

So I believe it's reasonable to assume that Daniel left Knowle Farm in 1876 and moved to Freemans Farm in Mayfield. Certainly if the land mentioned above had been sold off and Daniel had aspirations of being a 'proper' farmer he would have been looking for a bigger farm.

Daniel Manser – Living at Frogs Hole

SUSSEX, NEAR CROWBOROUGH STATION,
IN THE PARISH OF ROTHERFIELD.
MR J. PLUMER CHAPMAN has been
favoured with instructions to SELL by
AUCTION, at the Swan Hotel, Tunbridge
Wells, on SATURDAY, 27th July, 1895, at
Four o'clock, the following, viz. :—
Lot 1.—A valuable FREEHOLD GROUND
RENT of £60 per annum, in one payment,
amply secured upon the "Hermitage," a
gentleman's residence, gardens, stabling, glass-
houses, several cottages, and 8½ acres of build-
ing land, occupying a charming situation near
Crowborough station, and in the occupation
and ownership of F. Ince, Esq., with reversion
to the rack rentals (of at least £200 per annum)
in 46 years.
Lot 2.—Also near the above property, a
picturesque old THATCH COTTAGE, covered
with ivy, known as "Clackhams," with good
garden.
Lot 3.—Also near, a corner piece of garden
or BUILDING PLOT, 0a. 2r. 18p. in extent.
Lot 4 comprises the old established FREE-
HOLD SHOP PREMISES, and POST-OFFICE,
situate at Jarvis Brook, known as "Knowles,"
together with the Farm-house, stabling, numer-
ous Buildings, Cottage, and nearly six acres of
Land attached, producing a gross rent of £54 a
year, the whole offering a first-class invest-
ment.
Particulars of James Philcox, Esq., Solicitor,
Burwash; or of Mr J. Plumer Chapman, Land
Agent, Auctioneer, and Valuer, Walshes Farm,
Crowborough, or 63, High-street, Lewes.

The Kent & Sussex Courier July 12 1895

From a sale advertisement in 1895 we can see that whoever took the farm on from Daniel must have established a shop and post office on the site. It also indicates that the land on the north side of Western Road remained with the property.

There is further evidence that Henry Paine's property is the one that Daniel moved to in the present day through the continuation of the name Knowle.



Approximate boundary of plot 2452

Jarvis Brook 2020 Aerial View

In the present day the building on the north western edge of the plot identified as 2452 on the tithe map is called Knowle House. There is also a cottage on the site of plot 2452 known as Knowle Farm Cottage. This is a very similar position, shape and orientation as the building on the southwestern edge of the plot on the to the map.