

Teffont Evias.... a date line of Events.... Notes taken from The Bounding Spring.

Tef: Old Frisian word for Boundary. Font (Fontana), Latin for Spring. Ewyas... Sheep Valley in Welsh.

The Devonian Period, 395 million years ago; The land was under a sea, not even at our present latitude, below the Equator. During the next 150 million years there were many changes to a hot dry desert in the Permian and Triassic Periods, to becoming mountainous, then back to a sea in the Jurassic period when the Purbeck stone was laid down entrapping the creatures that we find fossilised in our quarries and fields.

250,000BC it's reckoned that Pre-Historic man first ventured into Wiltshire, but, arctic conditions in 25,000BC are thought to have driven him away, *not to return until 8,300BC when higher temperatures meant a rapid thaw, the melt down creating much of the topography of the landscape we see today.*

Jumping through the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age we come to the Romans who had some sort of Look out post or Shrine, now in the Upper Holt wood, above the village, which at the time was thought to have been open ground. Pottery & Coinage dating from 268 to 354AD has been found together with the footings of a Roman building in The Glebe. The Teffont Archaeological Project is ongoing with a dig happening most summers.

1377 It was Sir Thomas Hungerford, then in 1461 Robert Hungerford at The Manor, the latter was executed when the Manor was seized by The Duke of Gloucester but later in 1485 was reinstated to Sir Walter Hungerford, much later Lord Hungerford into the 15th Century.

In 1692 Christopher Mayne purchased the Manor. It's from him, the present owners are descended. John Thomas Mayne inherited in 1821. He was responsible for extending The Manor to 3 storeys adding the towers and Gothic porches in 1824 he upgraded the medieval church, the spire being added by architect George Gilbert. Inspired by a tour of Switzerland he rebuilt the cottage now known as Howards House with the roof style of a Swiss chalet.

1852 Emily Mayne is bequeathed The Estate, described as being "As hard as flint" was very much the business woman She established the kiln to convert rubble into lime and sold stone from the quarry. The trade was revived by the Salisbury to Yeovil railway, the spoil from its cuttings used to dam the stream to create the lakes. She also built a pair of Alms houses in 1884 and set up the school (The Old School House), in 1858 30 to 40 children were recorded in attendance by the Education Enquiry Inspector. Emily married William Fane de Salis in 1859.

1893 Piped water from the spring head in Teffont Magna was laid on.

1896 Margaret Mayne inherits the Manor from her sister, entrusting The Estate to the dodgy lawyer, Morley.

1904 Goldens Cottage is re-built into Goldens House using stones from the burnt out mill for £500.

1907 Henry Howard takes on the lease of The Cottage and creates the garden. In the 1930s his widow opens it to paying guests and has become known as Howards House.

1905 Margaret's sister, Ellen inherits; Married to an Irish barrister, Maurice Keatinge. In 1907 her eldest son, Richard inherits, puts the manor up for sale, but his brothers buy it and Gerald Keatinge became the new Lord of the Manor. On his return from India in 1912, he leases The Manor, takes up residence in Goldens, sells Ley Farm and does a lot of tree planting.

1932 Electricity is laid on in the village, Gerald Keatinge's brother in Law happened to be Alexander Trotter who for many years was the Electrical advisor to the Board of Trade

1939 June. Methods of increasing soil fertility were discussed at a conference attended by 1000 farmers. The Principle speaker was Sir George Stapleton, an international authority on grassland ecology. Implementation of his methods were said to have contributed greatly to avoid national starvation during the war. In the autumn, The Manor was requisitioned by the War Office and temporary billets were found for Dunkirk survivors in the Manor buildings including Howards House.

1941 The USA enters the War and a detachment of the US 8th Air Force was posted at Teffont. Evidence of their encampment, mainly Nissen huts (one still standing) remain in Park Wood. By 1944 Teffont was part of a vast equipment park spread over South Wiltshire as preparations were made for D-Day. After the war it came to Sir Edgar and his wife Kitty to clear up the mess with meagre compensation from the War Office.

1947 The Manor is converted into flats, 1948 Howards House is renovated and in 1963 water mains are installed.

1966 Brian Wilde takes on Home Farm as Tenant. 1993 he went out of dairy farming.

1999 The Shallcross farming complex from Tisbury takes on the Home Farm tenancy.