

## History of Clanfield.

Hilda Wellfare lived when she was a child from the time she was born at 128 Clanfield now called Chalton Lane. This house is directly opposite the village pond. The pond was recently renovated and landscaped by Brian Ahern and a band of volunteers from the village. Hilda told how the pond used to be much bigger and deeper, in the winter there used to be lots of snow that melted and flooded the road. When she was a child she fell in at the age of about seven or eight and Mr Davis from The Elms, now called Pond Lane, pulled her out.

The Welsh Guards were stationed in the barn in readiness for the start of the Second World War.



Her maiden name was Blanks and the Uncle she never new was killed in action a week before the Armistice was signed, he was buried in France. His name Archibald James Jacobs is on a plaque in the village church, St. James's, together with Roy Merritt and Frank Pearce.



Hilda's Great Grandparents lived in a thatched farm cottage in North Lane which burnt down in the seventies. Her Grandmother's married name was Jane Griffin.



The top left photo is Ivy Farm House today. Hilda worked there doing housework from the age of fifteen or sixteen to when she was nineteen. Once the Gran above, and Hilda's Mum Francis May Blanks had a room each in Ivy Farm House when the house was let out into rooms and her mum was first married. Hilda's brother was born there.

Fred and Dora Jacobs were her Uncle and Aunt. He was in the Home Guard.

These are some of the village children  
in front of Rose Cottage, the Old Post Office  
in North Lane.

Hilda's Grandad and Aunt lived on the  
corner of North Lane at number 132..



Her father worked as a tractor driver on Manor Farm and two of Hilda's Uncles were carters.



The Home Guard kept their weapons at Violet Cottage, Drift Road, and the ammunition in other locations for safety.



This cottage was opposite the church in South Lane. Left to right are; Joyce Jacobs, Hilda's cousin, the daughter of Fred and Dora, Mrs Worthington, Pete Jacobs another cousin, who lived with Hilda's family for fourteen years at one time and who at the age of seventy-five died in Hilda's arms. Next to him, another cousin Joan Jacobs and a friend Evelyn Comben, who died at the age of fourteen from T.B. and was buried where the church hall stands today, then Hilda and lastly a young girl staying in the village at the time.



Hilda did War Work at Nimmo's in New Road which was an extension of Airspeed in Portsmouth. She was 19 when she started cable making and eventually engraving plates for De Haveland. She worked there from 1942 until 1948. There were three buildings and one still exists, below are the workers photographed behind the buildings.

Mr Nimmo is  
the right hand  
man in the front  
row.



Pearl Hutchinson worked at Nimmo's and Hilda can recall the day that the telegram came to say that Pearl's husband William was missing in action, feared killed.

Hilda and  
Betty her  
friend.



Hilda is in the middle.



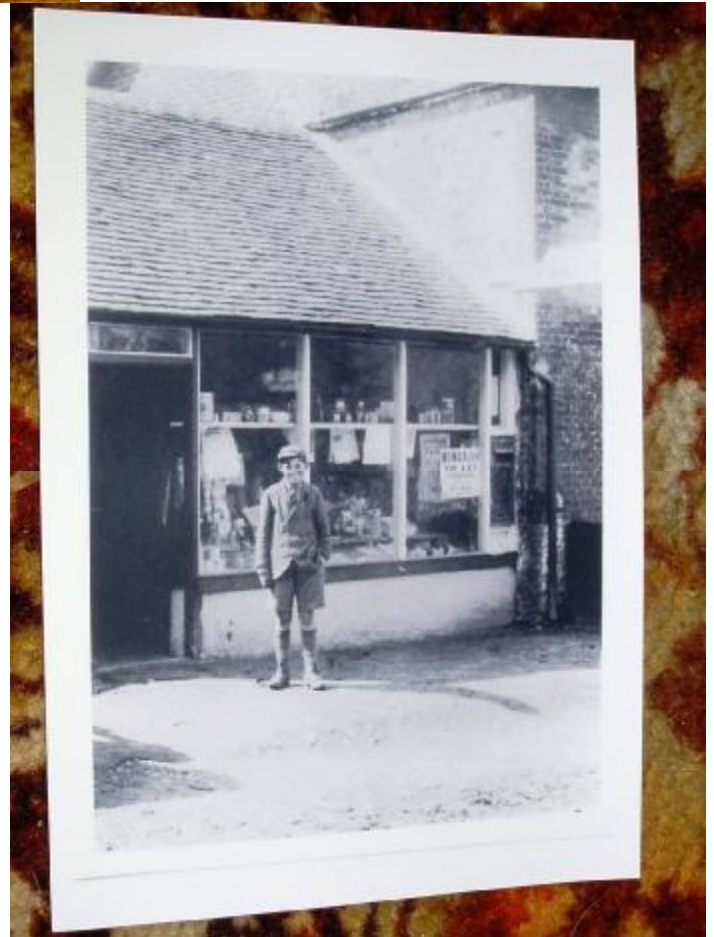
Hilda is on the left with Betty Hall her friend.





This is a photo of Hilda in 1947 in front of old Mr Nimmo's bungalow which is not there now in New Road.

This is Tom Coles outside the Shop and Post Office. The building is now the Pottery Shop. The photo is pre-war and Tom went to school with Hilda as they were about the same age.



This is Hilda's father, Albert Edward Blanks, outside his house opposite the pond with one of his own paintings. The pub in the background was pulled down in the 60's.

He was in the Fire Service and their H.Q. was the Old Forge opposite.



Private Cyril Ernest Cannings died 14<sup>th</sup> January 1944 aged 28 and Donald John Patrik Macdonald died on the 7th. December 1940 aged 24, and are both buried in St. James's Churchyard. Donald lived in the big house on the corner of Bramble Lane.



**Old Scenes of Clanfield in the 30's.**

The left hand building is the pub and at the back of it was the shop. Next door to it were the Stables, then the Tea Rooms with Tea on the lawn and beyond the right hand house is North Lane.

All of these buildings are on the site of today's pub.



There is no mistaking the Clanfield Well below.



John Symonds

Former History Teacher at Churchers Collage, Petersfield.

Wrote; Forgotten Heroes.

He found six names of the Wartime Dead for Clanfield and two are buried in St. James's churchyard.

