

Welcome to Time Travel Tuesdays: A Tottenham Golf Course? – sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

Tuesday 24 March 2020

Today we are sharing a little history kindly offered for our daily posts and compiled by a long-time [Friend of Bruce Castle](#), Ken Barker. Although he no longer lives in the area, his family have been associated with Tottenham for generations – they ran South Potteries on White Hart Lane. We can save that story for another time. Ken has also written a local history book '*How Rural Tottenham Disappeared*', which is how he came to research and write up this little history, which is in fact about ...'Tottenham Park' (hopefully the mention of 'golf course' got your attention!).

We have also added photographs, documents and paintings from the collection, with additional information in the captions. (For lots more detail about Tottenham Park, you can read Ken's book.)

Do enjoy exploring this now lost old house of Tottenham through our pictures and archives from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

A Tottenham Golf Course?

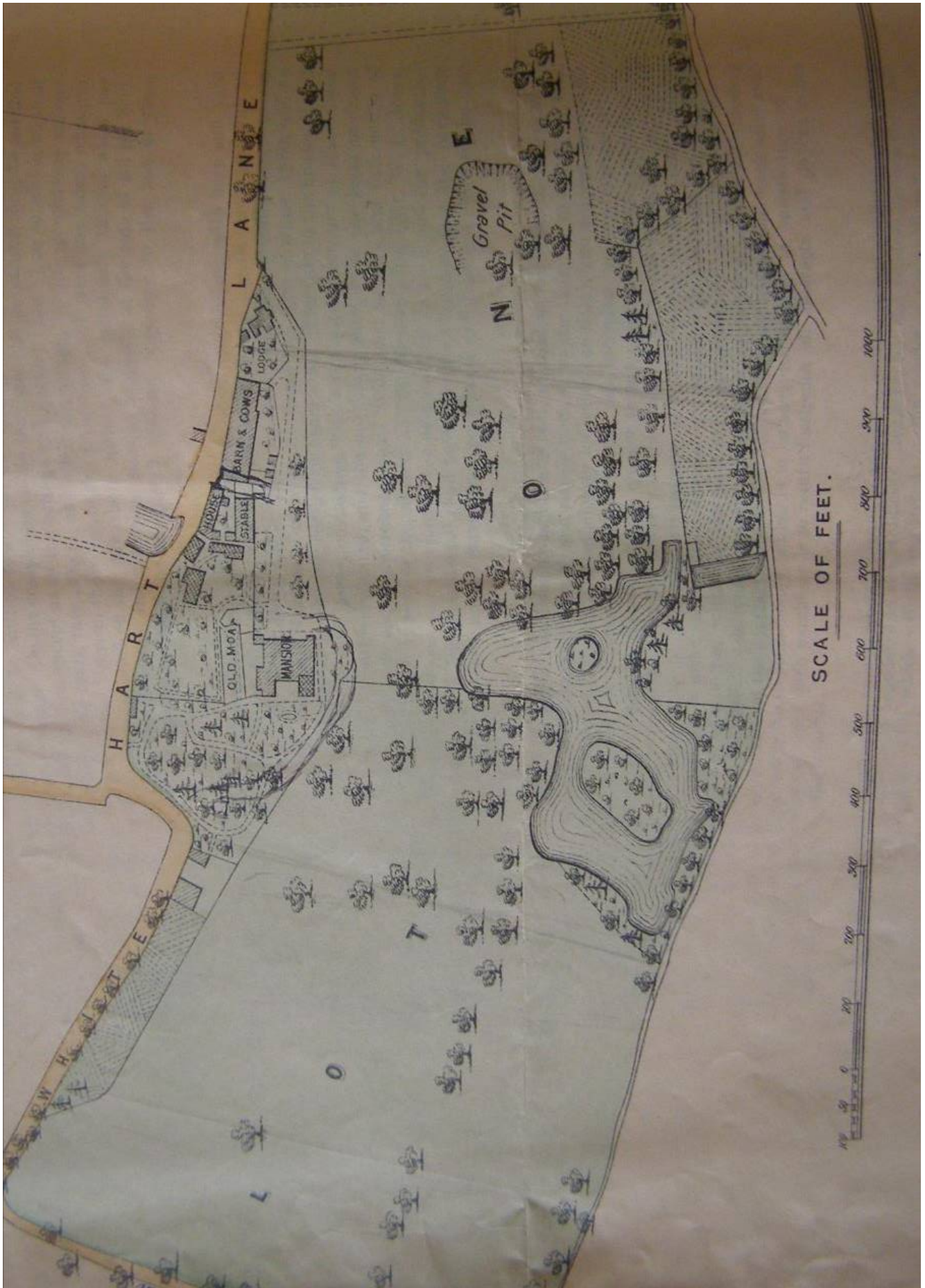
Until the mid-19th century Tottenham was a rural community with farms, unmade roads connecting little groups of houses, acres of woodland with streams and rivers meandering through open countryside. Dotted about were grand houses and estates that provided a country retreat for wealthy city merchants and businessmen. One such mansion, the Rectory, with grounds of 32 acres, stood on the site of the present-day Tottenham Cemetery just off White Hart Lane. The mansion, originally built in 1636 for a Lord of the Admiralty, was a substantial building of red brick surrounded by a 12 feet deep moat which gave rise to the alternative name of The Moated House.



Watercolour of Tottenham Park and its lake, by A. Cole in 1897
© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



Tottenham Park photographed c.1890, by Arthur Little
© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



Plan of Tottenham Park, from the Particulars of Sale, 1896
© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

From a Sales Particular of 1896 in the Archives at Bruce Castle, we learn that the front entrance of the house opened onto a large entrance hall giving access to a dining room, drawing room, morning room, billiards room and conservatory. On the first floor there were 4 bedroom suites with a further 6 rooms on the third floor providing servants' accommodation. Domestic facilities consisted of a kitchen, scullery and pantry on the ground floor with a dairy, larder and extensive wine and beer cellarage in the basement. The wide range of outbuildings included well-appointed stables, harness room, loose box and coach house. A pleasure garden and shrubbery extending to some 2 acres surrounded the house and a further half acre was cultivated as a kitchen garden with a range of glass houses. The remainder of the estate was laid out as parkland planted with walnut, sweet chestnut, oak and elm trees and featuring a large lake, extending to 1½ acres, with two wooded islands.

THE OUT-OFFICES

Are conveniently removed and comprise—

FOUR STALL STABLES with HARNESS ROOM, large COACH-HOUSE, LOOSE BOX, LOFT over and Coachman's COTTAGE of Five Rooms, Cow House, large Barn, Workshop and Sheds, and an old but substantial COTTAGE containing Nine Rooms, with Yard in rear.

At the ENTRANCE GATE is a

Picturesquely-designed Lodge of Modern Erection,

Containing Six Rooms ; there is a COTTAGE of Four Rooms and Scullery at the East end of the Estate with about 2½ Acres of Nursery Garden.

THE GROUNDS

Are beautifully planted and picturesquely laid out. They include

ENJOYABLE PLEASURE GARDEN,

AND A LARGE AND

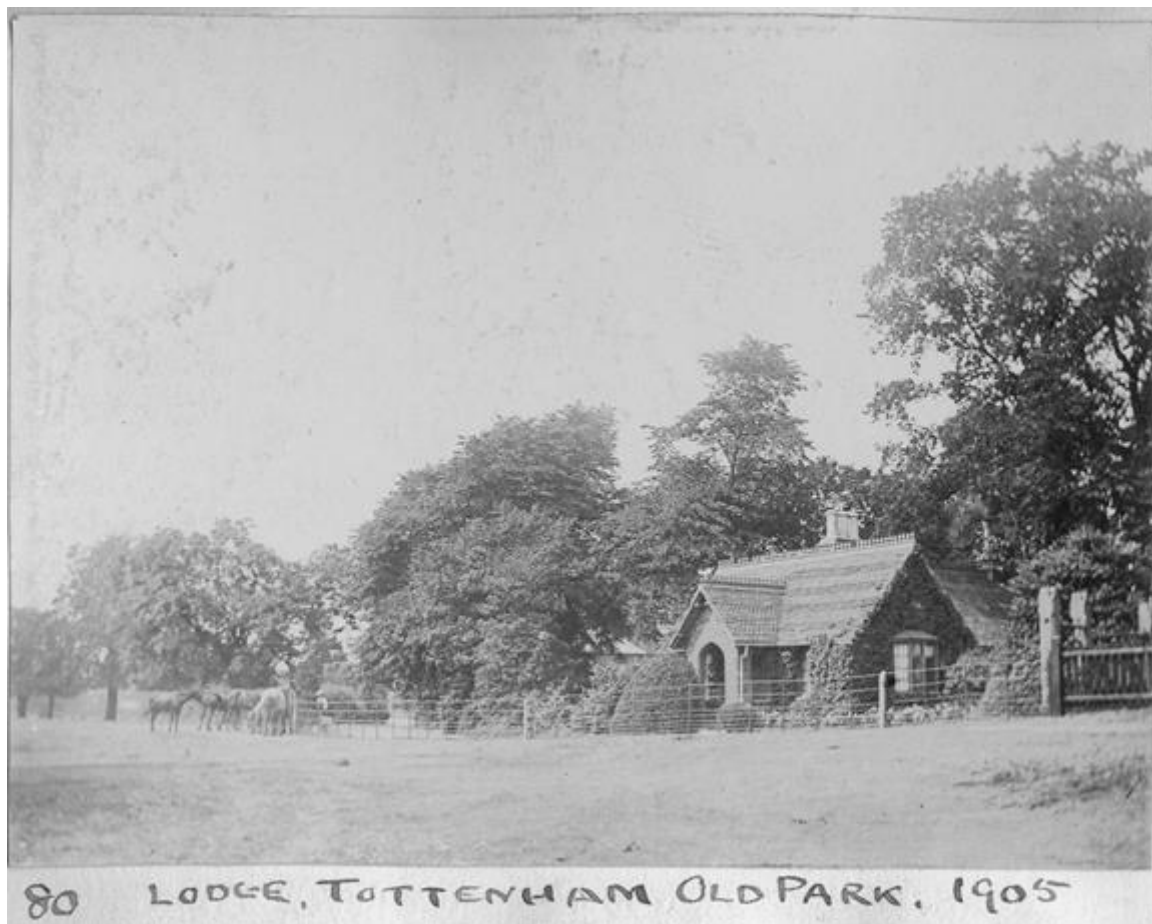
Prolific Kitchen Garden

WITH RANGES OF GLASS-HOUSES,

© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

During the 19th century the house and estate had become known as Tottenham Park and additions were made by successive owners. In 1860 William James Gillam, a Major in the Royal Dragoons, took up occupation with his wife, Leonora, and a household consisting of a footman (George Richer, aged 31), a cook (Harriet Kupell, aged 33) and two housemaids – Mary Ann Raul (aged 28) and Emma Saunders (aged 24). Major Gillam had been injured whilst on active service in the

Crimean War (1854-1856) and received life-saving care from the inhabitants of a cottage near to the battle. On his return to England he erected a lodge of similar design to that cottage at the entrance of the drive to the house as a memorial to his survival.



Photograph taken by Fred Fisk of the Lodge, built by Major Gillam
© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

The last owner of the estate was Joseph Spiers, a hat trimming manufacturer, whose money came from the day's fashion for highly decorated ladies' hats. Joseph died in 1896 and the property was offered at auction. The house was demolished in 1904 and in 1915 amongst the suggestions for the future use of the land an announcement was made that it would be a golf course. In the event the estate was given over to sports fields and allotments from 1916 until 1920 when 12 acres were acquired by Tottenham Council for its housing estate and the houses in Cavell, Jellicoe and Fryatt Roads now stand on the site. The remainder of the estate was bought by the Tottenham Burial Board the following year.



The Garden of Remembrance was opened in 1952 with Lord and Lady Morrison in attendance, standing either side of the Mayor and Mayoress of Tottenham

© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

The lake of Tottenham Park has been incorporated into the landscape of the Garden of Remembrance and the atmosphere of the former mansion grounds is conveyed to present day visitors.

By Ken Barker (Friend of Bruce Castle and local historian)

This last view was painted by local artist John Bonny (1874 -1948) and shows a cottage that once stood near to the Tottenham Park mansion house. It was known by various names – the Old Dutch Cottage, or Montague Cottage or Gillam’s Cottage, as it was owned by Major Gillam. Although it might not be this particular cottage, it is said that Philip Webb - the up-and-coming architectural designer who collaborated with William Morris – had designed a cottage for Gillam. (Webb had also just designed at this time the Red House for William Morris).



With thanks to Ken Barker for sharing his research for this little history. Hope this short travel back in time in Tottenham has been of interest – something different tomorrow.

Keep well

Best wishes

Deborah Hedgecock
Curator

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