

EPPLE BAY ROAD – ‘Thirds’

“THIRDS” - This property first appeared in 1915 and stood on the south side of the road. It was later renamed ‘Stanley Villa’ by 1929. It is now numbered **14 Epple Bay Road**.



In 1915 it was occupied by the two unmarried sisters of the great cricketer, W. G. Grace, who used to come down to Birchington to stay for holidays in a guest house in Beach Avenue, just around the corner from Epple Bay Road.

Pam Coare has a post card, dated 1917, to ‘Miss Clara Kavanaugh,’ (who was her grandmother), at ‘Thirds’, Epple Bay Road. Pam thinks her grandmother, who was about 17 or 18 years old at this time, was in service with the two ladies. The post card came from a Miss Edith Young, who came from Ash near Canterbury. Edith may have been in service at ‘Bel Air’, which was perhaps why she asks “How are things at ‘Bel

Air”“(No: 19), which is almost directly opposite ‘Thirds’. The occupant here was Mr F. Varian Barrows at this date. The two girls may have become friends because of the proximity of their employers.

In the 1930s or ‘40s, one of the two Miss Grace sisters had moved across the road, after her sister’s death, and shared a home with her two friends, Mrs Jones and Miss Morton, at 15 & 17 Epple Bay Road. The two houses had an interlinking door between them during this period. The houses



had originally been listed under Miss Morton at No 15 and under Major Jones at No: 17, in 1932, then in 1933 under Mrs Jones, after the death of her husband.

During WW2, when a German fighter pilot was shot down over Birchington, he parachuted down and landed at the corner of Epple Bay Rd and Rossetti Rd. Miss Grace marched out, armed with

Epple Bay Rd	- 15	17	19	21
North side			‘Bel Air’	

a pitchfork and captured him. Apparently he was young and very frightened. She took pity on him and walked him back to her house where she liberally dosed him with whisky. When the military officials arrived to take him away, he had to be carried out of the house!

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By 1955, Mr and Mrs Everall, with their daughter Gillian and her older brother Michael were living in no: 21 Epple Bay Rd (the 4th gabled bay window of the photo above). Michael and his father were told the story of the German pilot by Miss Grace herself and it made a big impression on Mike as a ten-year-old schoolboy, remembered to this day.