

By 1861 ten houses have become the norm. Of 15 children in six of them, ten attend school. James Stebbing, now 58, farms the whole 73 acres with three men and a boy. His grandson is too young to go to school; son John is a cattle-dealer, married with a daughter at school. The other cottages are occupied by John Snowling, a rabbit-dealer, with a wife, baby and two children at school. John Snowden is still a shepherd. His elder son has left home and his younger son has become 'shepherd's assistant'. The eldest son of another Snowden, perhaps his brother, is like his father an agricultural labourer, but three teenage siblings attend school. Poverty compels his neighbour to take his 9-year-old son with him to work on the land, but two of the four small children are 'scholars'. The 78-year-old John Hutchley is still labouring as are his son and grandson, but he can afford to send his two granddaughters to school. The widower James Lucock is a wood carter and his son an agricultural labourer, as are Smith, Ward, Collings and Crane.

A decade later the elder James Stebbing is still farming with three men and a boy. His wife has a 5-year-old grandson and a young servant. The younger James Stebbing is a labourer with a wife and seven children ranging from 13 years old to 2 months, no doubt sleeping head-to-tail in their bed. The Pipes, father and two sons, are shepherds looked after by wife Maria. Samuel Pratt is a carpenter and his wife Elizabeth a dressmaker, the sole instance in the censuses of a wife with employment outside the home. As 'dressmaker' she probably owned a sewing machine and in her spare time is likely to have inspired her neighbours with ideas and advice. Also she will have possessed the fashion-plates which radically influenced home dress-making. The widowed Lucy Clodd's son was a carpenter and a gamekeeper boarded with them. George Last gardened (no doubt at Abbey Farm) and the eldest of his four children attended school. James Snowling worked as a blacksmith, no doubt also at Abbey Farm, but his father and brothers were labourers as were the other householders.

Overcrowding in 1881 is as bad as it was forty years earlier. The contemporary O.S. map gives a misleading impression (see Illustration 1). There are eleven households. Twenty children are packed into seven cottages with a single bedroom; only the Wards have an extra bedroom for their six offspring. By 1891 the young Samuel Wolton had taken on Green Farm and worked as a farrier. His wife had a small daughter. Charles Wheeler's wife had two small children to look after. A wheelwright and the same age as Samuel, Charles probably worked in the yard at Green Farm. George Snowden was a labourer and milkman, helpful for a wife with seven children to nourish. Roy Collins (born Butley 1932) recalled in 2012 that when he was a boy Stanley Gladwin of Green Farm delivered milk to the School in a pony and trap, and this was probably the pattern some fifty years earlier. The elder James Stebbing's widow, by now aged 91, described herself as a farmer and lived with one of her daughters and a servant. All the other men were farm labourers bringing up families in the same cramped cottages without sanitation or piped water.

At the start of the 20th century little has changed: Daniel Walton, a retired shoemaker, is living with his carpenter son in one cottage; Samuel Pratt and his dressmaking wife are still there; Samuel and Harriet Wolton are at Green Farm, although Samuel now uses his wagon in the carrying business. There is a cattle stockman and his wife in one cottage and another is unoccupied. But now the younger men describe themselves as horsemen, whereas in earlier censuses they had to be categorized as agricultural labourers. Horsemen earned 10/6d per week, 6d more than labourers (as Albie Whyard born in 1905 on the Green told me proudly) and each had a team of heavy horses on one of the farms to look after and work with. Joseph Ward, a horseman, had a wife with two baby girls. Both George Pettitt and his two elder sons were horsemen, perhaps sleeping in a shed, as the two bedrooms were packed with his wife and five other children.⁷ There are two other cottages occupied by Wards; Frank senior is still a labourer at age 77 as is his son; his wife and lodging horseman complete the household; Frank junior has a 13-year-old son working on the land and there were four younger sons – and two daughters to come. The other horseman, Thomas Richardson, and his wife had four children.