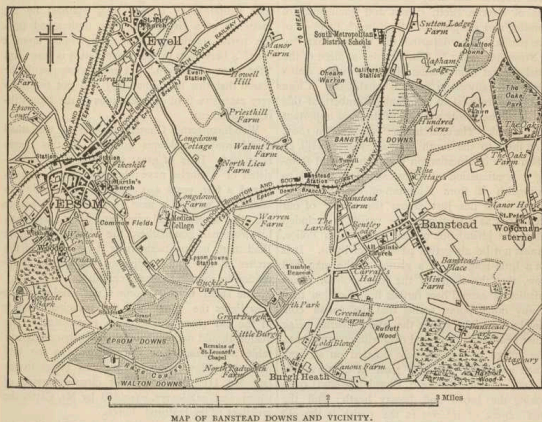


Towards the end of the seventeenth century it was owned by Mr. Leonard Wessell, who erected the mansion called Tadworth Court, on the northern border of Walton Heath, but within the parish of Banstead. After repeated changes the property was sold, in 1776, to the family of the Hudsons, who still reside there.

There are in the vicinity many other pleasant seats, among which may be mentioned Banstead House, the residence of the Lamberts, about a

dismissed by Mr. Martin Tupper as being "fair-prospected, but unhistoric." It is perhaps well to remember that there may be country seats as well as countries whose annals are all the happier for being a blank.

The village of Banstead consists chiefly of one short straggling street, and presents a neat and cleanly appearance. It stands high, being some 550 feet above the sea-level, on a patch of Thanet sand overlying the chalk. Water has to be



MAP OF BANSTEAD DOWNS AND VICINITY.

mile south-east of the church. This mansion was much altered in appearance a few years ago by Mr. Thomas Maudesley, the well-known engineer, who died here in 1864. Cold Blow Cottage was long the home of General Sir Edward Howorth. Nork House, the seat of the Earl of Egmont, in the south-west part of the parish, is a fine mansion, dating from the middle of the last century, but since much altered. It stands in a small, but picturesque, park, and the gardens are much admired. It came to him from his grandfather, Lord Arden, who purchased the estate towards the end of the last century. Nork House consists of a long central front with projecting wings, in one of which is a chapel. This mansion is curly

procured from a great depth, the wells mostly passing through upwards of 300 feet before reaching a spring.

The charities to the poor of the parish amount to about £80 annually. The parish church, at the western end of the village, is dedicated to All Saints, and is a stone and flint building in the pointed Gothic style, with two very remarkable porches. At the western end is a low tower surmounted by a shingled spire, which, from the loftiness of the site, serves as a landmark for miles round. This spire has been for many years an object of rural satire as being out of the perpendicular. In Essex it would have been laughed at as being "all on one side, like Takeley Street."