

Fifield Residents Early 1900s

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View down Green Lane, Fifield, 1900s

The Matthews family lived at The Gables from the end of the 1890s until F. W. P. Matthews's widow left in 1930. The bridge over Green Lane from The Gables Garden to the fields, was built with a high arch to allow loads of hay to pass under it to the Manor Farm rickyard. Emma Matthews used to cross it to feed her hens and Frederick to get to his hunters.



Arthur Gee, Fifield, early 1900s

This small, thatched cottage of one room with a stone floor downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs was the home of Mr & Mrs Gee and their four daughters and four sons. It was demolished in the 1930s.



The Green, Fife, early 1900s

Standing in front of Sidney Arthurs' cottage, since demolished, are Tom Manders with his spaniel and Mr Houlton on the left with an old English sheepdog. Sidney Arthurs was gamekeeper to the Baileys at Foxholes and Bould Wood. Mr Houlton was the Matthews' farm manager and Mr Manders their groom.



William Arthurs, 1930s

The Arthurs family have a long history in Fife and are mentioned in the Manor Court rolls in the seventeenth century. From 1856, their occupation was given as hurdlemakers, which they continued until William retired in 1955. A good maker could complete ten hurdles in a day, using willow and ash cut into three lengths and split in a primitive but efficient stand.



Maria Matthews, 1930s

Born in 1864, Maria died on 8 June 1963, two days before her 99th birthday. An intellectual, she never had the academic education she would have enjoyed. Instead she devoted her time to housekeeping for members of her family, and photography. Her photographs illustrated *Three Centuries in North Oxfordshire* by M. Sturge Henderson, published in 1902.