

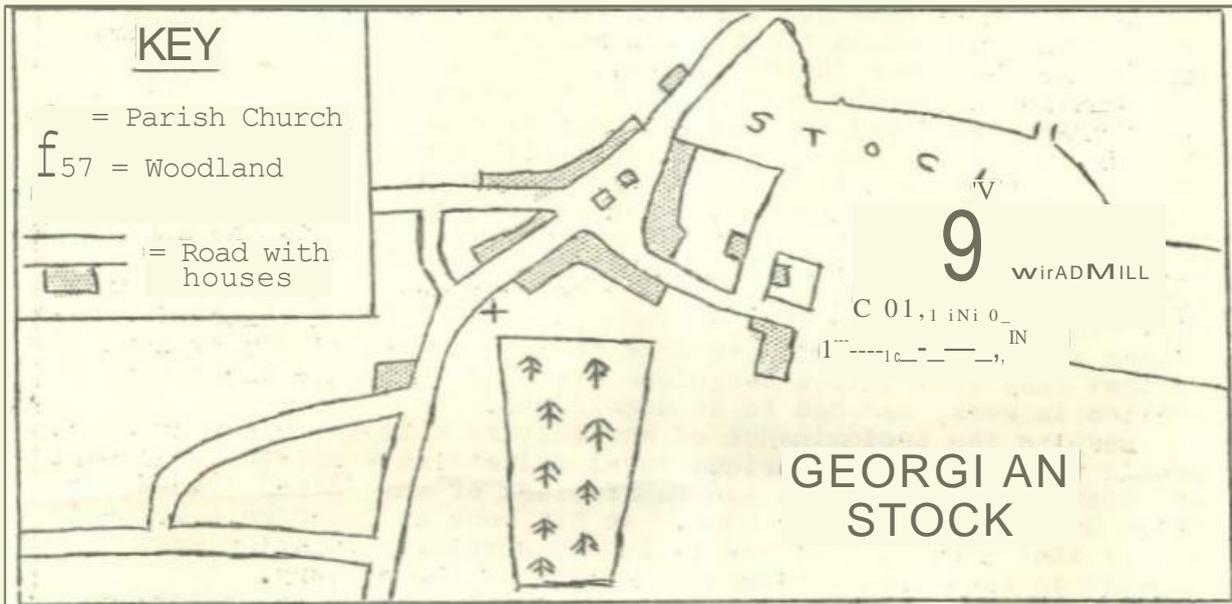
Part 1, A Short History of the Parish, continued.

The brickmaking and pottery seems to have developed in the Stock area as an industry because of the suitability of the loam, and clay for brickmaking,

An old malting used to stand near the Post Office. This was pulled down towards the end of the 19th century. Piggot's Directory of 1839 refers to a malter called John Clark at Stock.

There were also potash works in the Stock area, at Whites Tyrells, and in between Billericay and Stock, where Potash Road now runs.

An excellent idea of the extent and layout of Georgian Stock may be obtained from Chapman & Andre's atlas of Essex, originally published in 1777, and now reprinted by the Essex Records Office, Chelmsford, at 8/6d.- The relevant portion of the map is reprinted below, on a larger scale than the original. Of particular interest is the large extent of Stock Common,



In 1888 the Great Eastern Railway decided to construct a railway from a junction with the main line at Ingatestone, through Stock, Ramsden, and Wickford, and thence to Southend. This route would avoid the construction of a deep cutting at Billericay, thus saving a great deal of expense and time. It was proposed that Stock Station should be constructed at the Wash, at the foot of Stock Hill. Such an outcry was raised against this scheme by Stock landowners, that the G.E.R. was forced to drop the scheme, and the railway was eventually built through Billericay. If the line had been constructed through Stock it is doubtful if Stock would be a charming, small village today; indeed Billericay would have probably declined into a small village, and Stock would have grown into a large town.

Public transport did not come to Stock until 1913, when the National Steam Car Company, forerunner of the Eastern National, started a daily bus service between the village and Chelmsford, which was later extended to Billericay.

During the 1914-18 year troops of the Warwickshire Regiment were stationed in the village for a time. In 1920 public subscription raised the sum of £400 for a War Memorial, and this was erected on the village green.

About this time the telephone exchange was opened. Another major improvement was the construction of a bridge in 1924 over the Wash. Previously, this had often been flooded in the Winter months, and consequently communications with Billericay were hindered.

Today, Stock is one of the most charming villages in South Essex. It possesses a number of buildings of historical and architectural interest, which add great charm to the appearance of the village. Let us hope that this beauty will never be marred.

END OF PART 1.