

# Hunt, Hounds and Horses



Hunt Stables about 1910 [North Stafford Railway photo - Private collection]

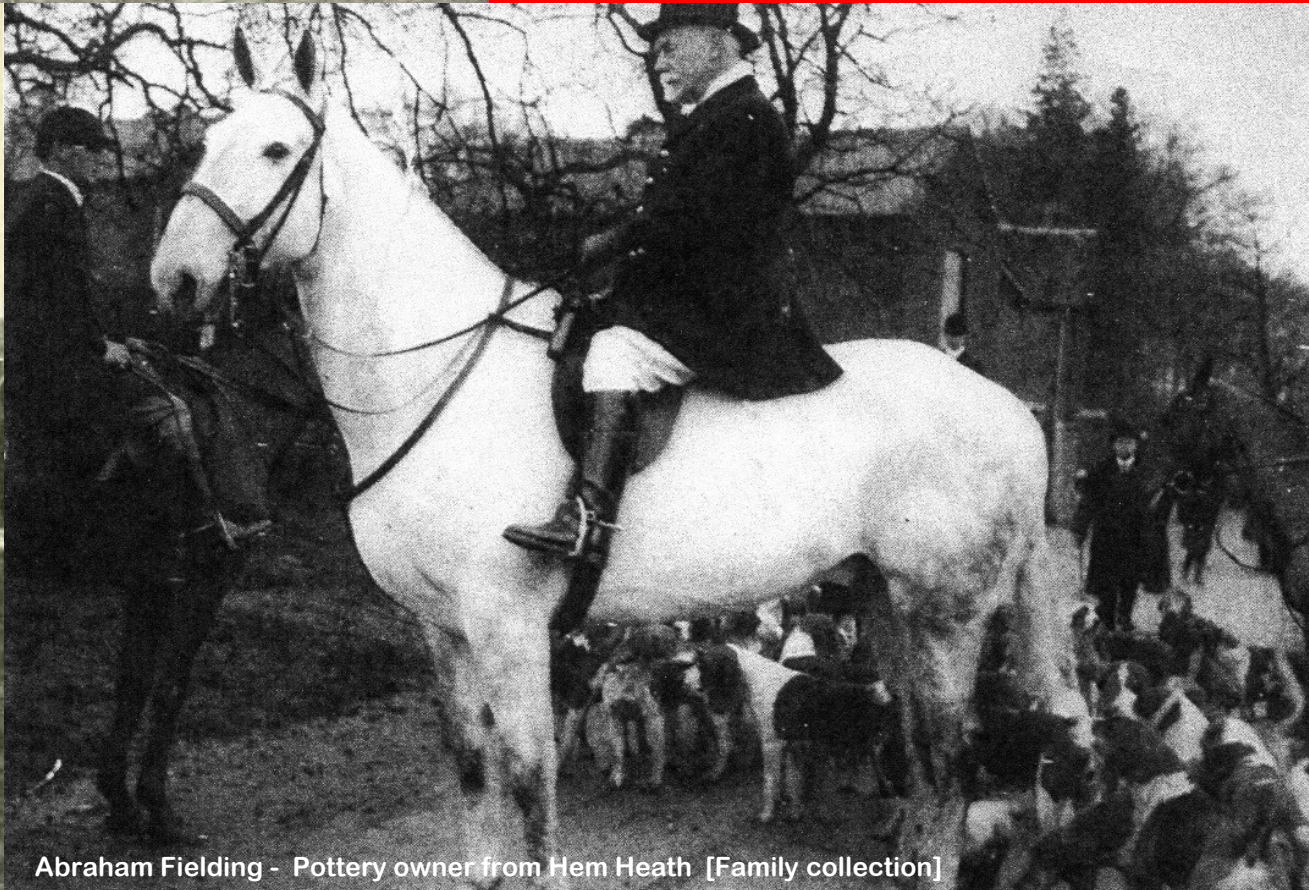
## Hunt stables

The hunt stables occupied a prominent position on the Stone Road. The North Staffordshire hunt moved to Trentham in 1862 and its employees were maintained at the expense of the Duke of Sutherland. Up to 60 hunters were stabled there and a pack of 50-60 hounds kennelled nearby. In the 1890s the hunt met four times a week, often with His Grace in attendance. Col. Dobson of Seighford Hall was master of the hunt from 1907 and is credited with keeping the hunt together during the First World War.

The 1911 Census recorded six resident grooms in addition to the head groom and his family. William Jones worked as a huntsman at Trentham for four years before enlisting at Stoke in 1915. He was killed in action at Delville Wood, one of the engagements in the Battle of the Somme, on 3 September 1916. He is remembered on Trentham War Memorial.



North Staffordshire Hunt [Source: A history of the North Staffordshire hounds and country : 1825-1902, Charles J. Blagg]



Abraham Fielding - Pottery owner from Hem Heath [Family collection]

## Hunt kennels

The kennels in Whitmore Road were built in the 1840s by the Marquis of Stafford, eldest son of the second Duke of Sutherland. In 1862 the kennels were enlarged : fox hounds were accommodated on the ground floor, with sleeping accommodation for some of the hunt servants above. The former gamekeepers' cottage was taken over by the huntsman.

The census of 1911 lists four households on the site, including that of William Wheatley who took over the kennels in 1903 and continued until his retirement in 1925. All the buildings except one cottage have since been demolished.



Will Wheatley



Hunt Kennels, Dog Kennel Lane [1919 Auction Catalogue for Trentham Estates]

**GOOD HORSEMEN** are required for Army Service Corps Remounts and the Army Veterinary Corps.

The **ARMY SERVICE CORPS** particularly require a Large Number of **BAKERS** and **BUTCHERS**. Men who are Organically Sound will not be refused.

**MEN WHO ARE NOT TRADESMEN.**

Do Your Duty Also and Enlist in the **ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY**, **ROYAL ENGINEERS** as Drivers. Also **FOOT GUARDS** or Any **INFANTRY REGIMENT**.

Do Not Wait to be Asked, but Volunteer. There is a Vacancy for You and a Duty to Fulfil.

G. R.  
**WANTED**  
**MEN FOR THE**  
**ARMY REMOUNT DEPT.**  
FOR DURATION OF WAR.



**AGE 25 TO 40**  
**PAY:** 1s. 5d. to 1s. 8d. A DAY, EVERYTHING FOUND (while Serving in England).  
3s. A DAY, EVERYTHING FOUND (while Serving Overseas).  
Separation Allowances at Usual Army Rates.  
ONLY MEN THOROUGHLY ACCUSTOMED TO HORSES REQUIRED.  
APPLY:

**GOD SAVE THE KING.**

## War horses

Purchasing of the large number of horses required for the Great War was the responsibility of the Army Remount Service, a department of the War Office. Trentham Hall Stables became a Remount Unit, with an outpost at Butterton. Records indicate that it was a very well run establishment which could handle "500 -1500 horses at a time, or even more!" Here, "Far sighted business methods" were used in running the unit, and "Every penny of profit expended on improving facilities."

Public Record Office Ref WO107/26

Local men were employed to work with the horses: Trentham Agency Records for 19 November 1914 refer to (Will) Boxall as the Stud Groom in charge of Canadian remounts. Tom Furnival and his son Arthur, of Crown Cottage, on the Stone Road, also worked with remount horses.