

### Furnace Pond, Slaugham

Travelling folk used the Common as a camping ground. The village nurse lived with us. One day a traveller came for nurse as his wife was in labour and there were no other women near to help her.

Nurse was away at the other end of the parish; it was seven miles long and she walked all her rounds. The rector's wife and mother went back with him to see if they could do anything to help.

The first thing they had to do was to rid the tent of a number of children who seemed to be swarming everywhere. The woman was simply lying on some bare sacks on the ground.

They made her as comfortable as they could and assisted at the birth of a boy.

It remains in my memory because it was the first time that I had heard the term "hare lip", and the expression fascinated me. The baby was born with a hare lip.

They were very glad to hand over their responsibility to nurse.

Mrs Ethel Margaret "Meg" Carter (née Kensett) (1893-1951)