

Early Photography & Postcards

Postmarked
1904

All early cards had to be sent through the post enclosed in an envelope at full letter rate of 1 penny.

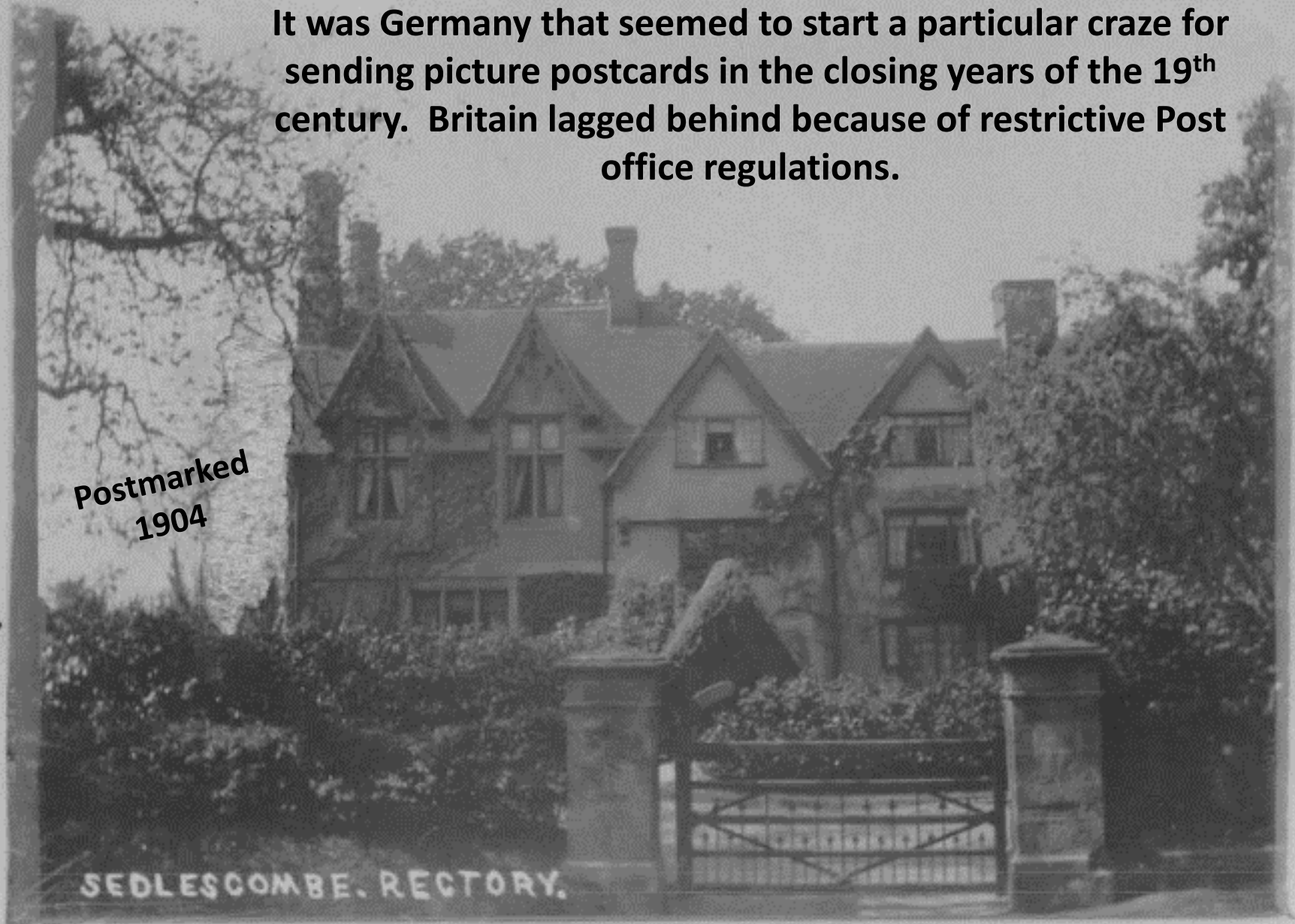


The Pump & Village Sedlescombe.

so where we had our tea where I marked the cross. Goodbye from M.

185

is it this
good of
the rectory. I
saw mother
last night
& they all
send their
love to you
& there is a
little extra
from dad.
He has had
to have the



Postmarked
1904

It was Germany that seemed to start a particular craze for sending picture postcards in the closing years of the 19th century. Britain lagged behind because of restrictive Post office regulations.

doctor but is better now please write soon Harrie.

This is a copy of a very early envelope which was sent to Oaklands from Battle.

It is date stamped 1843 and bears a One penny Victoria stamp as well as being franked by the “Seddlescombe Penny Post”.

Just a few years later, there is an entry in the 1851 Post Office Trades Delivery stating that “*A Penny Post to Bexhill, Sedlescombe & Westfield at ½ past 6 a.m.*”



The Penny Red stamp was introduced in 1841, succeeding the Penny Black. According to Wikipedia, the colour was changed from black to red because of the difficulty in seeing a cancellation mark on the Penny Black.

In 1894, the British postal authorities bowed to public pressure and agreed to accept cards for delivery bearing adhesive half penny stamps. Even then, until 1902, they would not allow any message to go on the stamp side of the cards, but all writing had to share the side with the picture.



Postmarked 1904

With twenty greetings & all
best wishes for a very happy
birth day —
Very many thanks
for paper — What a present!

We always think of the picture side as the front of the postcard but this message sent on a postcard postmarked 15th December 1904 makes it clear that the picture side is the back of the card!

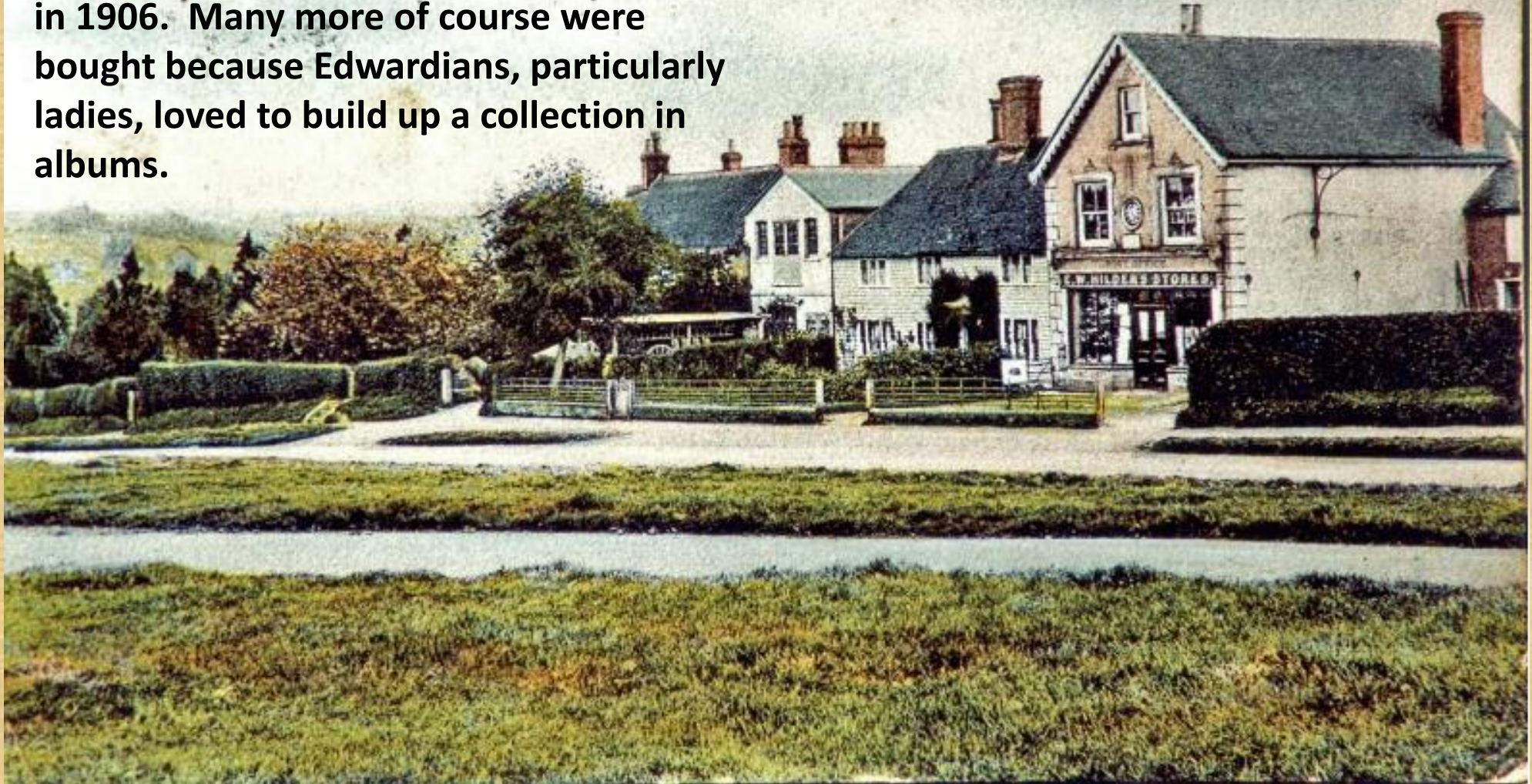
Queen Victoria died in 1904, and so her eldest son Bertie (aka Edward VII) is on the stamp.



Post Office, Seddlescombe, Sussex.

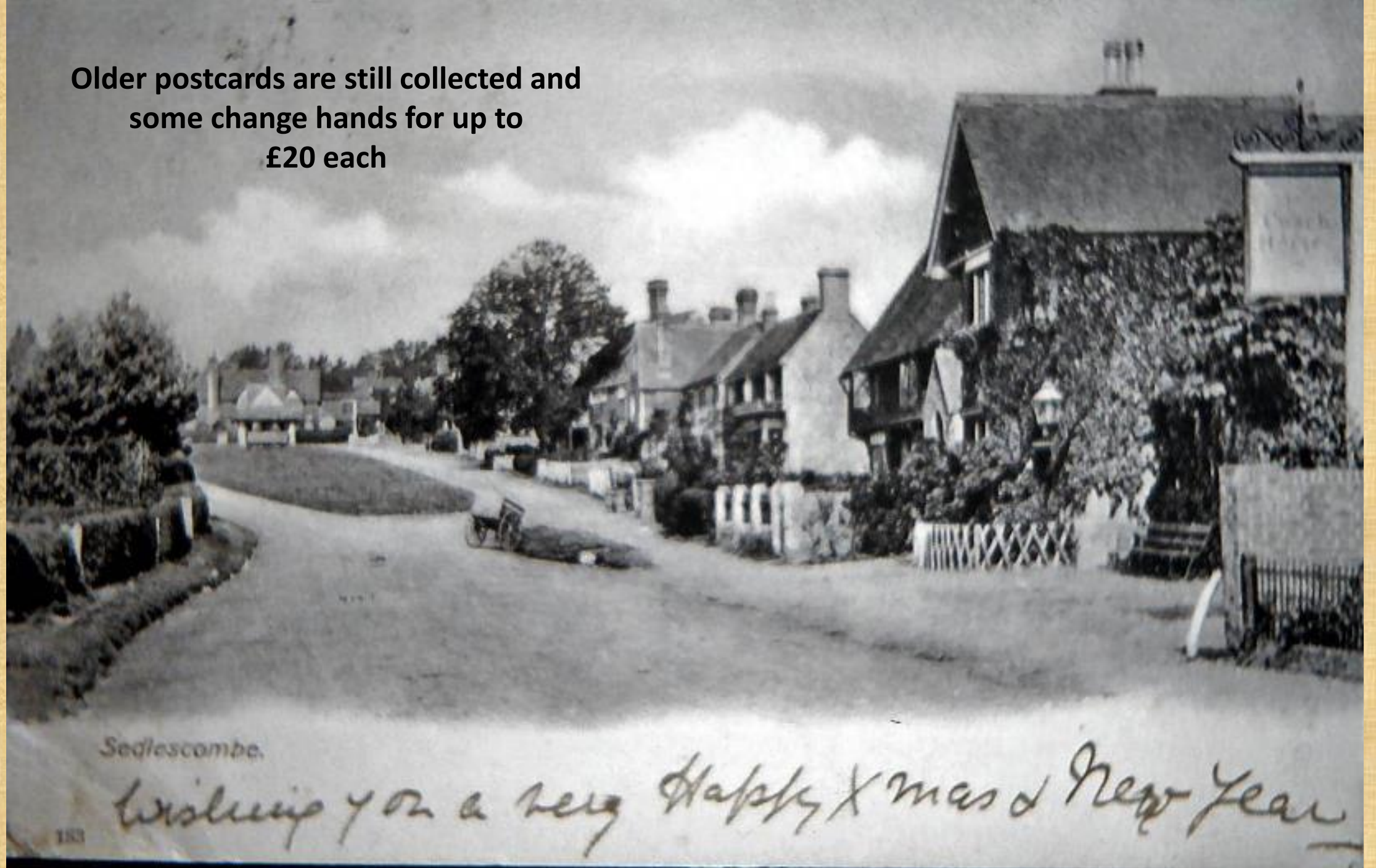
Picture postcards became very popular and it is recorded in Picture Postcard Monthly that 264 million cards were sent in 1906. Many more of course were bought because Edwardians, particularly ladies, loved to build up a collection in albums.

*With Best Wishes
For Christmas.*



This Sedlescombe card was overprinted with Christmas Greetings

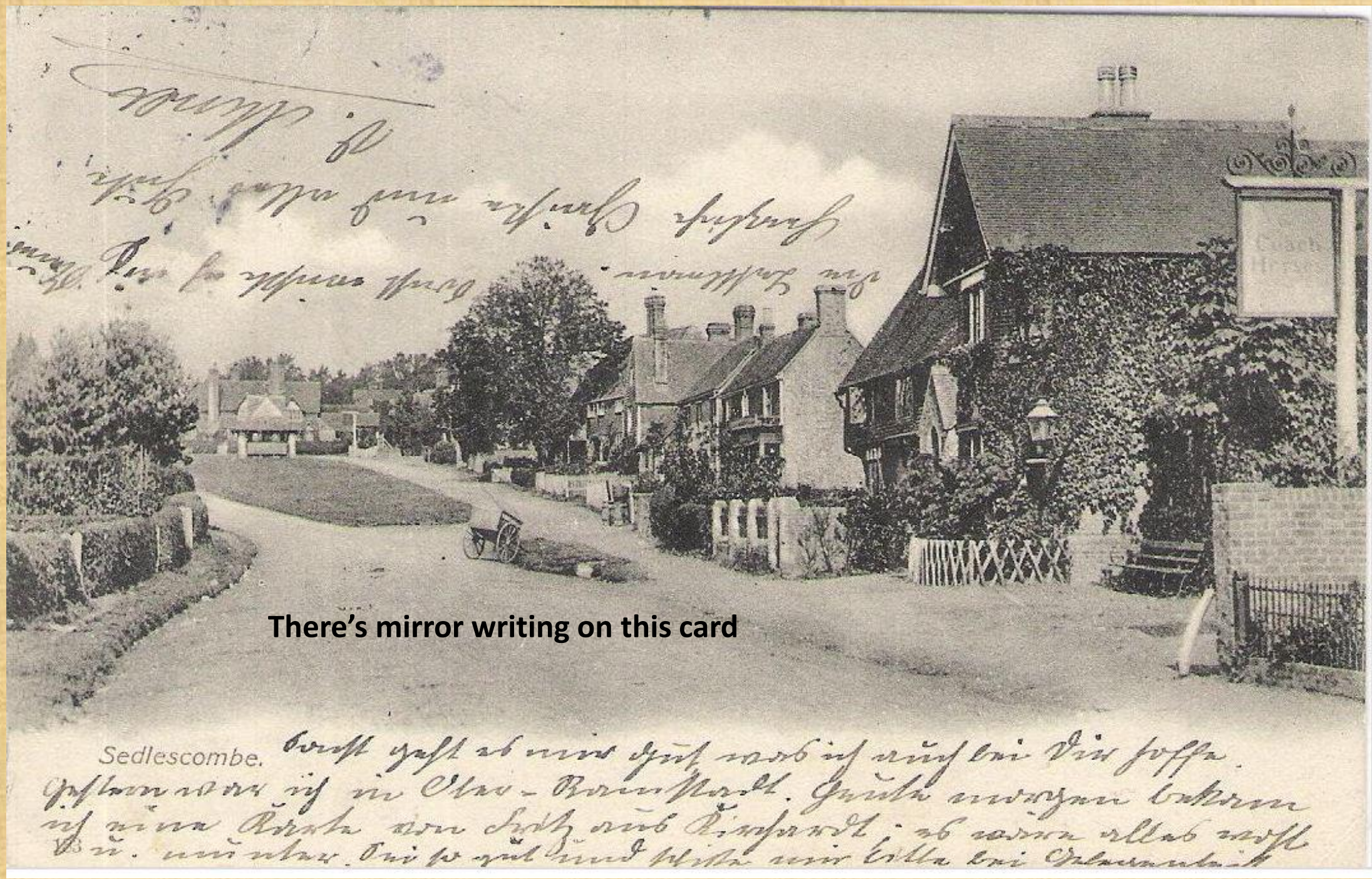
Older postcards are still collected and
some change hands for up to
£20 each



Sedlescombe.

Wishing you a very Happy Xmas & New Year

1883



*Don't write of my friends
Largest number of my friends
P. Thorne*

There's mirror writing on this card

*Sedlescombe. Don't write of my friends
Largest number of my friends
P. Thorne*

This postcard by "Hilder" was probably produced soon after Edward Hilder took over the "Clockhouse" grocery stores in 1903 as it is numbered "2".

Clockhouse Grocery run by E
W Hilder 1903 to 1923



Sedlescombe. 2.

Pub. by
Hilder
Sedlescombe.

SELLENS AND CRAMP

Samuel Sellens photographed outside his shop at the bottom of Sedlescombe Green in 1898. Note the donkey cart.

With few people having their own cameras, there was a growth in professional photographers.

This super photo, which came from Samuel Sellens' family, is marked PEARSON Hastings. It is thought that George Pearson would knock on doors asking people if they would like their photos taken.



PEARSON,

Photographer,

HASTINGS

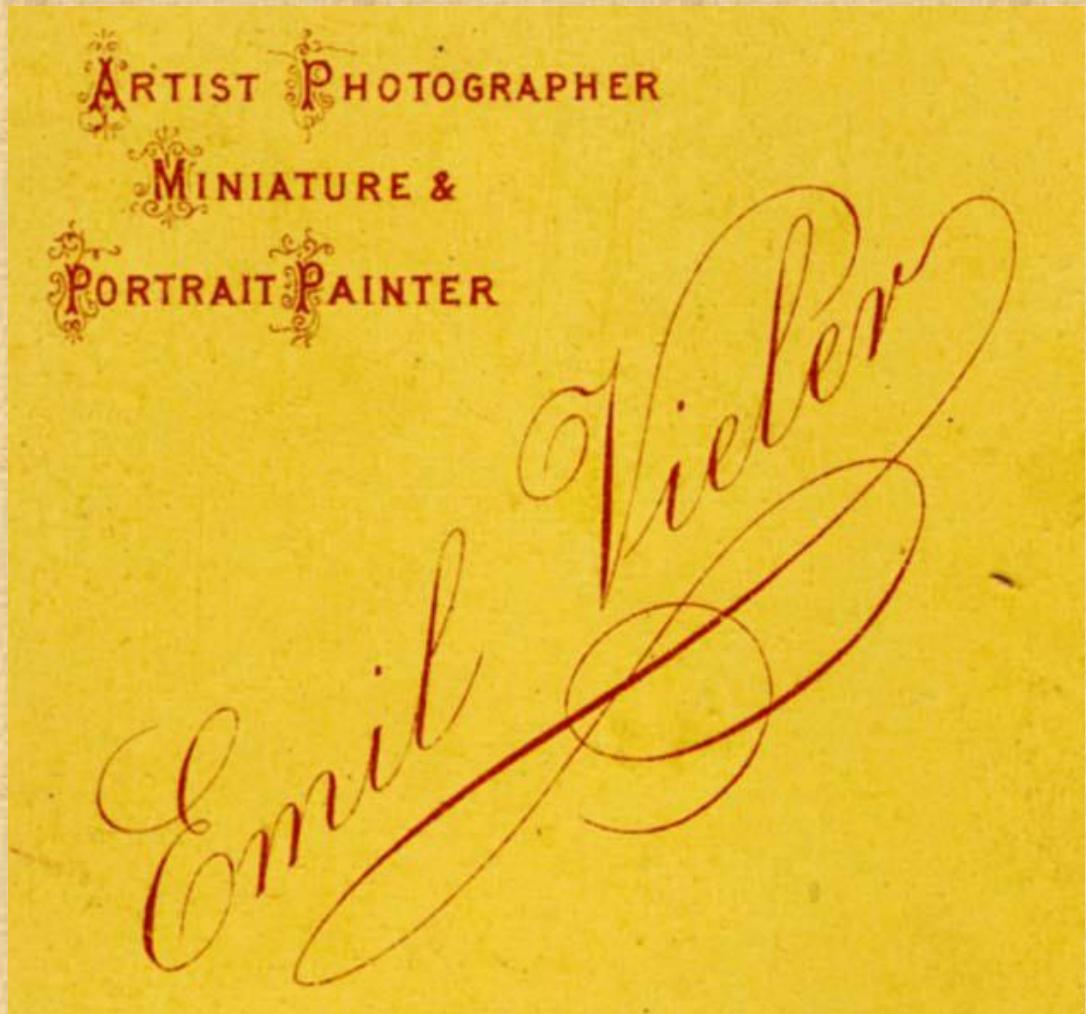
Taken about 1898
with 7 year old
Frederick Sellens
and his fierce
looking
grandmother
Frances Cramp.

The 1901 census
tells us that
Frances had a
tumour in her leg
and she appears
to be resting it on
a chair in this
photo.





Sellens & Cramp



A couple of years before Frederick Sellens' photo with his grandmother was taken, he posed with his mother in front of Emil Vieler's camera for this studio portrait.

**This was an interesting local advertisement
in the early days of Photography**

PORTRAITS ARE TAKEN IN A FEW SECONDS

With astonishing truth and exactness by MR. BEAUFORD, who has introduced a novel system in this respect into these towns and has been for some time pursuing his art at the St. Leonards Assembly Rooms. The method requires but a short sitting, and so unerring is the impression stamped by the power of the lens on the prepared plate which is inserted by the artist, that the portrait presents a faithful transcript of the individuality which each person naturally possesses in the expression of the countenance, and which it is so difficult to convey by the ordinary process.

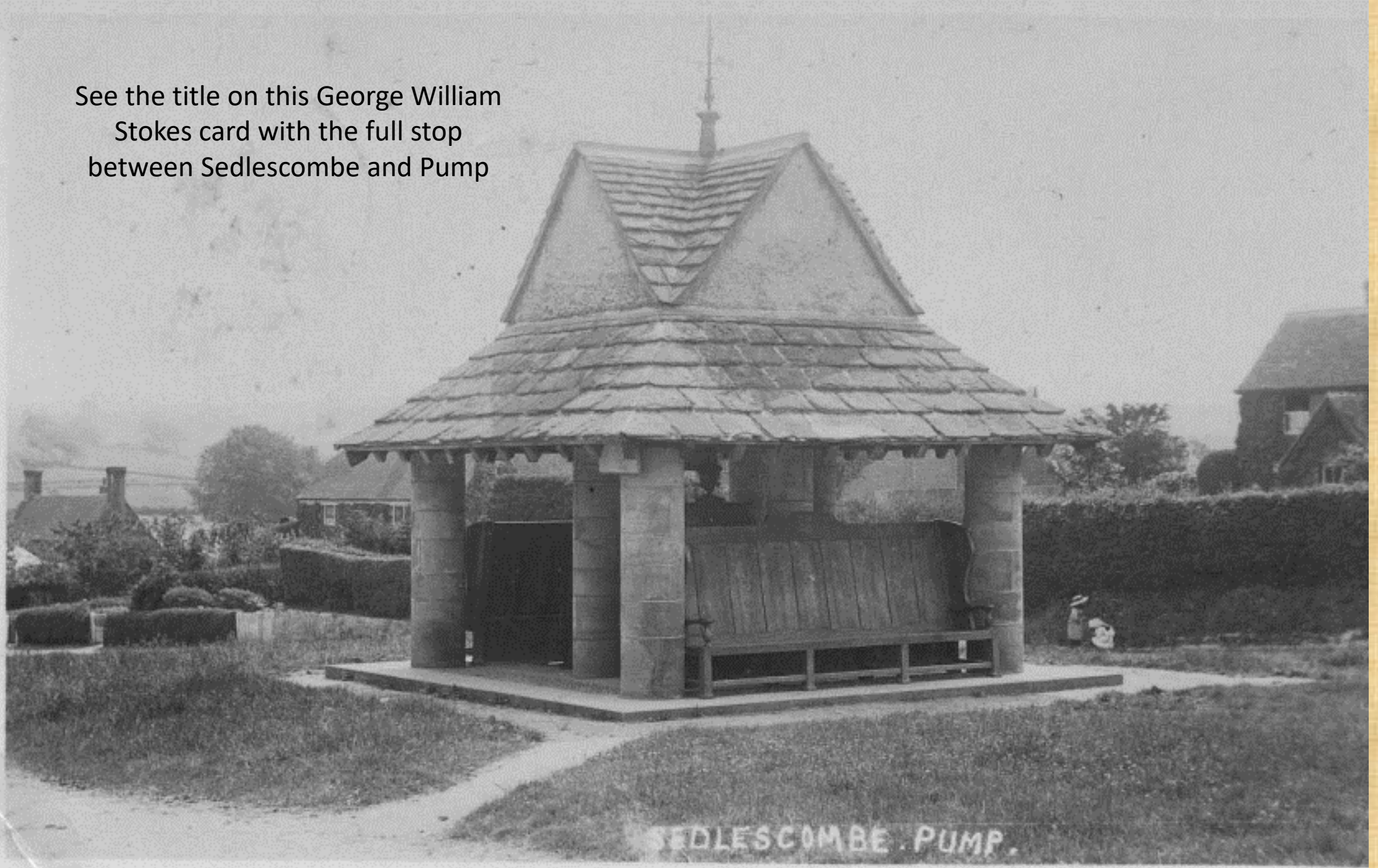
MR. BEAUFORD is in attendance at the Assembly Rooms, St Leonards, from Eleven till Three.

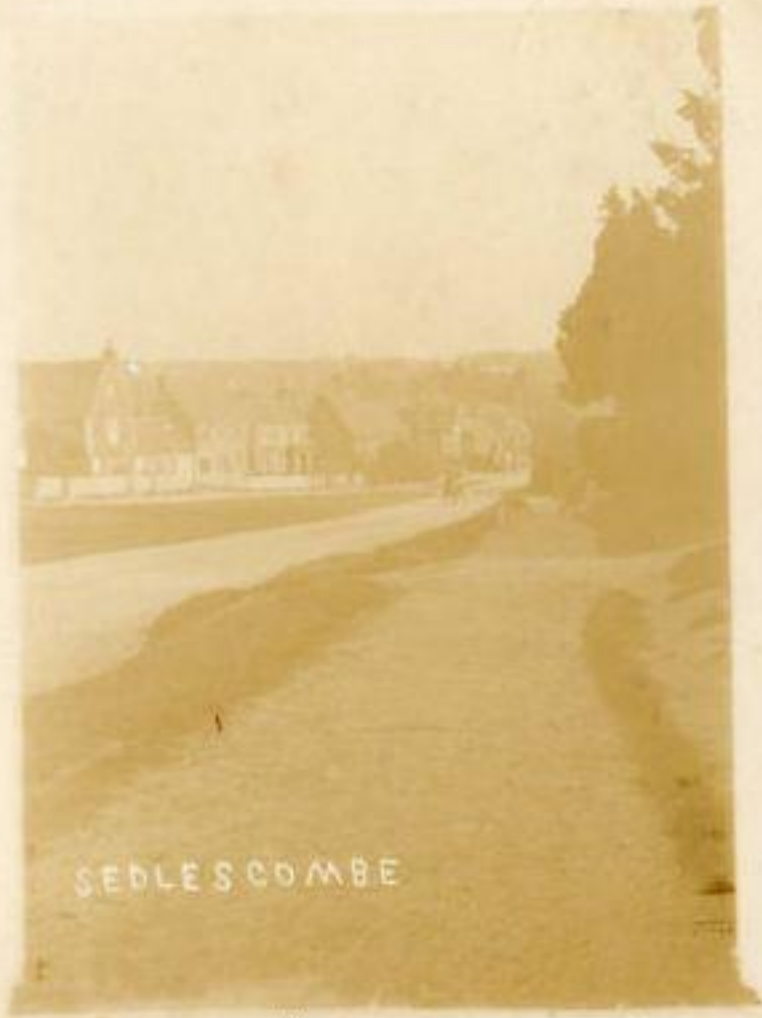


This postcard of the Queen's Head is by George William STOKES. He did not often put his name on his cards but see the initials G.S. in the bottom left hand corner of this picture.

Look out for his other cards taken in the early years of the 20th century. You can be pretty sure they are by Stokes if you see the title in capital letters with a full stop between words.

See the title on this George William Stokes card with the full stop between Sedlescombe and Pump





*My kind remembrances to her.
Do you not think this is
pretty? Will do for your Album*

“My kind remembrances to her.

Do you not think this is pretty? Will do for your Album.”

Young George Stokes was a prolific producer of Sedlescombe postcards in the early years of the 20th century. Unfortunately, the process he used has not stood the test of time and some are badly faded but still on sale on E-bay.



SEDLSCOMBE. RECTORY



Rectory maids
From postcard postmarked
1909

THE END

**PART OF THE 2020 SEDLESCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY VIRTUAL EXHIBITION
COLLECTION ADDED TO BATTLE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE 2024**

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