

191 Canterbury Road

"Westfield"

In 1886 the Rev. H.A. Thorne (a non-conformist minister) discovered that the well behind his home at 191 Canterbury Rd had an entrance to a large cave half way down the shaft. He noticed that the bucket mysteriously disappeared for a moment as he lowered it. With the help of some friends he climbed down to investigate and found an extensive cave with a long passage leading off towards Epple. He and a friend went down the passage to its end. It seemed the original diggers aimed to get to Epple, but had not accomplished this.

Close by, at the rear of 191, there once stood an old lime kiln, which probably helped hide the evidence of the diggers' excavations. The large cave must have made an ideal hiding place for booty.

The story was reported in the London Illustrated News and included the drawings included in the article.