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History Society from the website
compiled by the late Brian Joyce.

Ellen Terry

(British actress)

On 20 March 1902, two days before actors **Ellen Terry** and **Sir Henry Irving** sailed for England after their last major tour together in the United States, aspiring American actor and playwright named **Elmer Blaney Harris** wrote from his apartment in New York City to his mother in Oakland, California:

"... Miss Terry is a corker.....Gave me her London address, and her address at Stratford on Avon, the Red House,* where she goes to play revivals of Old English comedies during the week of Shakespeare's birthday ...

* **Ellen Terry's** "idyllic retreat" in **Gustard Wood Common**, near **Wheathampstead**, England. She returned there in March to play Katherine in Henry VIII for the Shakespeare Birthday Festival.

From a small village booklet "**Wheathampstead**" issued under the auspices of the Wheathampstead Parish Council:

" A short walk across the fields brings us to **The Firs, Gustard Wood** where **Ellen Terry** was born. She and **Sir Henry Irving** frequently visited Wheathampstead to catch trout at "**The Fisheries**," which at that time (1910) belonged to **Lord Northcliffe**.

There appears to be an error above regarding the place of birth as a more comprehensive biography gives Coventry:

Dame Ellen Terry, GBE (February 27, 1847 – July 21, 1928) was an English stage actress. Terry became the leading Shakespearean actress in Britain. **Alice Ellen Terry** (she reversed her names by the time of her first marriage) was born in **Coventry**, England,

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