

Break up of Thame Park Estate 1917.

The break up of Thame Park Estate on Mr H W Wykeham-Musgrave Esq. instructions at a sale by Hampton & Sons at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford on 24th and 25th September 1917 was in 58 lots. Lots 1 to 9 were the only parts of Chinnor in the sale. Mr Derek Nixey has kindly allowed me to photocopy and reproduce his grandfather's catalogue of the sale. The hand written notes are the prices paid for each lot in the sale and written by his grandfather. The total of the land in Chinnor came to £6365!

The description of each lot makes interesting reading, giving the tenants name and the rent they were paying at the time, the Tithe (where paid) and the area of the land in acres, roods and perches.

Explanation; -

1 Perch	=	30¼ square Yards	=	25.29280 square Metres.
1 Rood	=	40 Perches	=	10.11712 Ares.
1 Acre	=	4840 square Yards	=	0.40468 Hectare.

Lot 1 was the cottages at the corner of Church Road and High Street including the car park and village centre garden. Lot 2 is opposite Chairmakers. Lot 3 was on Lower Road backing onto what we now know as the playing fields.

Lot 4 the land where the Village Hall now stands and the houses in Church Lane. Lot 5 is the land where Musgrave Road, Rectory Meadow, Lime Grove, Leverkus House, St Andrews School, Library, Doctors and the council houses on Station Road are. Lot 6 is now the playing fields. Lot 7 is Chinnor Turf.

Lots 8 and 9 are on Chinnor Hill and these are Chinnor Hill Manor and Manor Farm respectively.



Lot 1 – all of these cottages were sold for just £400.

OXON AND BUCKS.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD Agricultural and Residential PROPERTIES

EXTENDING TO ABOUT

3,300 Acres

BEING THE OUTLYING PORTIONS OF

THE THAME PARK ESTATE

Situate in the Parishes of Thame, Attington, Sydenham, Lewknor, Aston Rowant, Chinnor and Haddenham and including

FIFTEEN EXCELLENT DAIRY AND CORN FARMS,

Varying in extent from 61 to 255 acres.

ACCOMMODATION LANDS, CORN MILL,

NUMEROUS COTTAGES, VALUABLE WOODLANDS,

ALSO

THREE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, viz., "Chinnor

Hill," "Graysmead," Thame, and "SCOTSGROVE

HOUSE" and Farm. A charming old House of Tudor character

in its well timbered Park and Farm, together about **340 Acres.**

HAMPTON & SONS

Are instructed by H. W. WYKEHAM-MUSGRAVE, Esq., to Sell the above by Auction,

AT THE RANDOLPH HOTEL, OXFORD,

On Monday and Tuesday, 24th and 25th September, 1917,

At TWO o'clock precisely each day. **IN 58 LOTS.**

Vendors' Solicitors:—

Messrs. MEYNELL & PEMBERTON, 30, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Resident Agent:—

C. A. WYKEHAM-MARTIN, Esq., Thame Park Estate Office, Thame.

Particulars with Plan, Views and Conditions of Sale may be obtained of the Auctioneers,

HAMPTON & SONS, 3, Cockspur Street, London, S.W. 1.

General Remarks.

See also the Conditions of Sale.

The plans are based on the most recent Ordnance Survey and with the areas stated are believed to be correct and shall be so accepted by the Vendor and Purchasers and no error, mis-statement or omission therein or in the particulars, nor any discrepancy in the quantities in the Ordnance Survey and the Title Deeds shall annul the sale or entitle either party to compensation.

The valuable growing timber, timber like trees, plantations and underwood and the iron or other fencing the property of the Vendor, will be included in the sale of the respective Lots.

All minerals underlying the Estate which are the property of the Vendor will be included in the sale.

All fixtures, the property of the Vendor, will be included in the sale.

The rents and outgoings have been informally apportioned by the Auctioneers for the purposes of the sale.

The shooting over Lots 15 to 58 inclusive is let (with other property) for a term of ten years from Lady Day, 1914, determinable by the tenant at Lady Day, 1919.

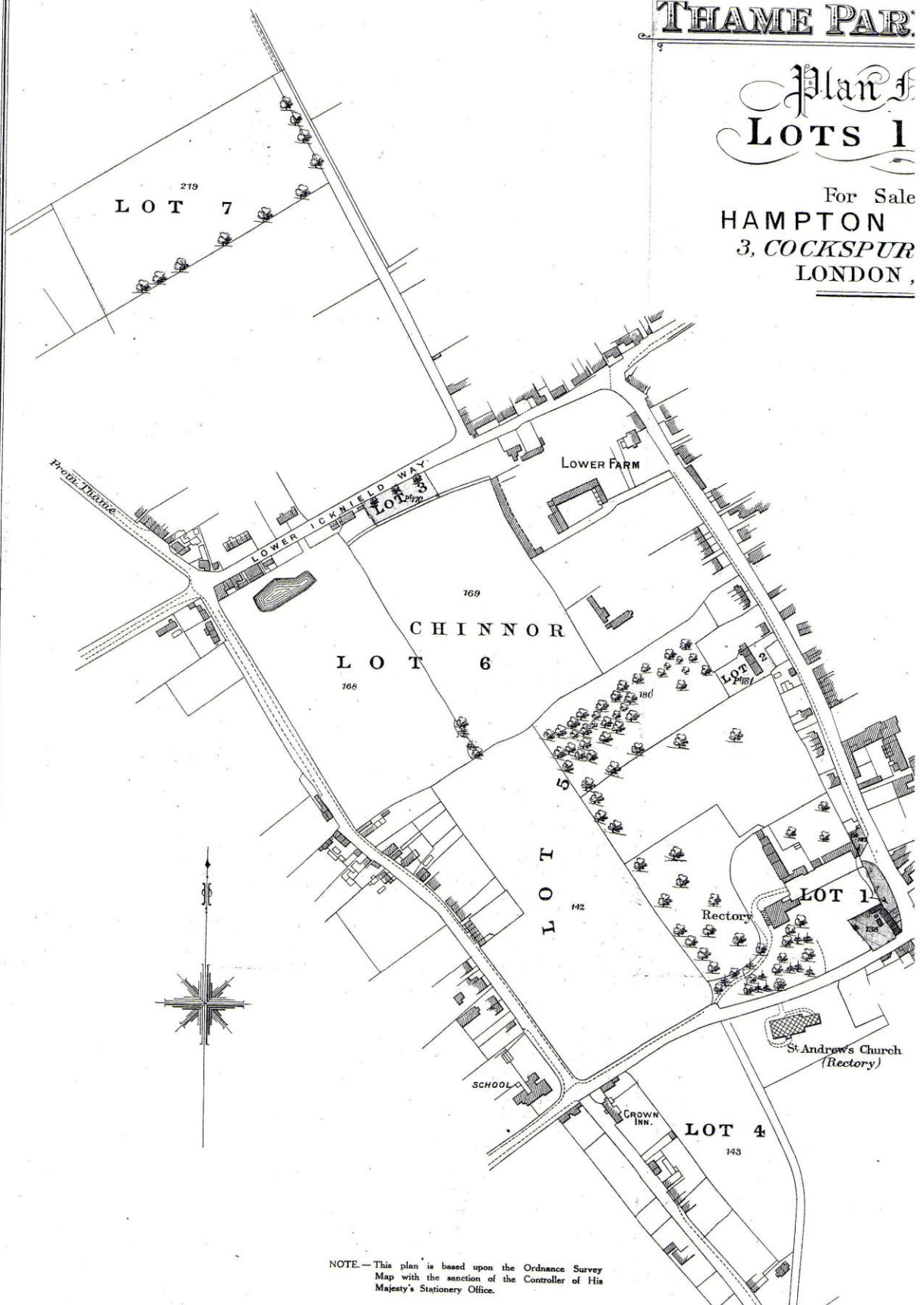
If desired part of the purchase money not exceeding two thirds thereof may be left on Mortgage at 5 per cent., as provided by the Conditions of Sale to be issued separately.

At the request of Purchasers notices to quit will be served on the tenants so that possession of the various farms, etc., may be obtained at Michaelmas, 1918.

THAME PAR.

Plan of LOTS 1

For Sale
HAMPTON
3, COCKSPUR
LONDON,



NOTE.—This plan is based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office.

LOT 1

(Coloured *Pink* on Plan No. 1).

CHINNOR PARISH.

FOUR FREEHOLD COTTAGES

with GOOD GARDENS situate in the Village of Chinnor adjoining the Rectory Grounds. The Cottages are Brick and Flint, and Tiled, three having Three Rooms upstairs and Two down while the fourth has Two Rooms upstairs and Two down. Large Gardens. Water from Well.

Tenants.			Rents.		
Wade	...	...	£6	0	0
H. Marriott	...	...	4	0	0
J. Clark	...	...	4	11	0
A. King	...	...	5	0	0
			£19	11	0

£400

Nos. on Plan 138 and pt. 182. Area, 1r. 21p.

LOT 2

(Coloured *Yellow* on Plan No. 1).

A Pair of Freehold Cottages

with GARDENS situate in Chinnor Village, Brick Built and Tiled. Water from Well

Tenants.			Rents.		
Mrs. Witney's Representatives	...	...	£4	0	0
Mrs. Redrup	...	...	2	12	0
			£6	12	0

£150

No. on Plan pt. 181. Area, 39p.

LOT 3

(Coloured *Blue* on Plan No. 1).

Freehold Orchard and Garden

£100

situate in the Village of Chinnor, well stocked with Fruit Trees of good sorts, being part No. 170 on the Plan. Area, 1r. 3p.

Let to Mr. H. Hill, a yearly Michaelmas Tenant, at £2 2s. per annum.

LOT 4

(Coloured *Purple* on Plan No. 1).

Nearly Three Acres of Freehold Accommodation Land

in Chinnor Village, opposite the Church with Extensive Frontages to Two Roads and close to the Station.

No. on Plan 143. Arable. Area, 2a. 3r. 9p.

£260

Let with other Land to Mr. R. W. Eggleton, a yearly Michaelmas Tenant, the Rent apportioned to this Lot being **£5 10s.**

Tithe (value for 1916) £1 3s. 9d. Land Tax Free.

LOT 5

(Coloured Green on Plan No. 1).

About Nine-and-a-Half Acres of Valuable Freehold Accommodation Land

situate in the Village of Chinnor a few minutes' walk from the Station with Frontages to Two Roads. The Paddock, No. 180, is heavily Timbered with well grown Walnuts and Elms.

No. on Plan		SCHEDULE.				Area.		
						a.	r.	p.
142	Arable	...	...	...		7	0	1
180	Pasture	...	...	...		2	2	5
						A. 9	2	6

£750

Let with other Land to Mr. R. W. Eggleton, a yearly Michaelmas Tenant, the Rent apportioned to this Lot being £19 10s.

The valuable Growing Timber is included in the Sale.

Tithe (value for 1916) £3 14s. 6d. Land Tax Free.

LOT 6

(Coloured Red on Plan No. 1).

Two Freehold Accommodation Pastures of about Eleven Acres

situate in Chinnor Village adjoining the last Lot, Well Watered and Timbered.

No. on Plan		SCHEDULE.				Area.		
						a.	r.	p.
158	Pasture	...	...	...		5	2	16
169	Ditto	...	...	...		5	1	35
						A. 11	0	11

Let with other Land to Mr. R. W. Eggleton, a yearly Michaelmas tenant, the Rent apportioned to this Lot being £22.

Tithe (value for 1916) £3 18s. 5d. Land Tax Free.

LOT 7

(Coloured Brown on Plan No. 1).

Freehold Arable Field over Four-and-a-Half Acres

situate close to Chinnor Village.

No. on Plan 219. Area, 4a. 2r. 18p.

Let with other Land to Mr. R. W. Eggleton, a yearly Michaelmas Tenant, the Rent apportioned to this Lot being £9. The Growing Timber included.

Tithe (value for 1916) £1 17s. 3d. Land Tax Free.

£280

1925

12006

LOT 9

(Coloured Green on Plan No. 2).

THE CAPITAL FREEHOLD
CORN AND SHEEP FARM

KNOWN AS

"The Manor Farm," Chinnor Hill,

under a mile from Chinnor Station, extending to about

137a. 1r. 29p.

Of Productive Arable and Pasture Lands,

and including Benwells Wood which contains well grown Beech Timber; there are a number of fine Sites on the Farm commanding extensive views.

The Farmhouse

brick, flint and tiled, consists of Two Sitting Rooms, Three Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry, etc., good Garden and Orchard. Six Large Water Storage Tanks.

Ample Farm Buildings

mostly timber and slated, consisting of Stabling for nine horses, Loose Box, Large Barn, Engine House and Granary, with cake breaker, chaffcutter, bean mill and shafting. Cattle Shed and Yards, Five Piggeries, Two Cowhouses; also Two Boxes, Corn Store, and Two Gig Houses now let with "Chinnor Hill," Lot 8.

Two Modern Brick and Slated Cottages

one included with the Farm and the other let to Mr. Nixey at £5 per annum.

SCHEDULE.		Area.		
No. on Plan	Description	a.	r.	p.
CHINNOR PARISH.				
50	House, Buildings, etc. ...	1	2	10
51	Pasture ...	1	1	34
49	Arable and Two Cottages ...	12	3	37
45	Arable ...	30	2	11
40	Ditto ...	14	3	22
28	Ditto ...	2	3	2
25	Ditto ...	21	1	1
22	Ditto ...	8	2	9
23	Ditto ...	22	3	22
32	Pasture ...	2	1	21
30	Ditto ...	5	3	28
CROWELL PARISH.				
38	Pasture ...	7	0	15
<hr/>				
		132	1	12
CHINNOR PARISH.				
24	Benwells Wood ...	5	0	17
		A. 137	1	29

The Farm is let to Mr. J. T. Nixey a Yearly Michaelmas Tenant, at the moderate Rent of £90 per annum, plus £5 for the extra cottage, and £5 is apportioned in respect of the buildings occupied with "Chinnor Hill," Lot 8, making a rental of

£100 per annum.

Benwells Wood and the Shooting are in hand.

A Right of Way for all purposes over the road between the points A and B will be conveyed to the Purchaser of this Lot, the expense of maintaining the road being borne at the joint cost of the owners of Lots 8 and 9.

Tithe (value for 1916) £29 9s. 4d. Land Tax Free except on No. 38 Crowell Parish, on which 5s 3d. is paid.

LOT 8

(Coloured *Pink* on Plan No. 2).

CHINNOR PARISH.

THE VERY PICTURESQUE FREEHOLD RESIDENCE

beautifully placed at Chinnor Hill about one mile from Chinnor Station, G.W.R., known as

“Chinnor Hill,”

It stands about 800 feet above sea level sheltered on the North by well grown Beech Woods and surrounded by delightful Gardens from which the MOST GLORIOUS VIEWS OF GREAT EXTENT are obtained.

The House is approached by a Carriage Drive, is Brick Built, Tiled and Gabled, and contains the following accommodation:—Porch, SQUARE ENTRANCE HALL with fireplace, CHARMING DRAWING ROOM with South and West aspects with tiled fireplace (the oak mantelpiece is claimed by the tenant), DINING ROOM with tiled fireplace, STUDY, SIX FAMILY BED ROOMS, Two Box Rooms, Two SERVANTS' BED ROOMS, Kitchen, Pantry, Scullery and Dairy; Earth Closet.

THE DELIGHTFUL GARDENS

include shady Lawns, Tennis Court, Rose Garden with climbing roses on arches and trellis, Shrubby, productive Kitchen Garden with Potting Shed, Beechwood, and Two Paddocks, in all about

21½ acres

N.B.—The movable Stables, Coachhouse, Cowhouse and Two Glasshouses are the property of the Tenant.

SCHEDULE.				Area.		
No. on Plan	Description			a.	r.	p.
52	Beechwood ...	...	...	5	1	7
53	House and Gardens ...	...	...	2	3	18
54	Pasture ...	...	...	7	1	34
39	Ditto ...	...	...	5	3	17
				A. 21	1	36

Let to Mrs. Mansell, exclusive of No. 52, a yearly Michaelmas Tenant, holding over an expiration of lease at

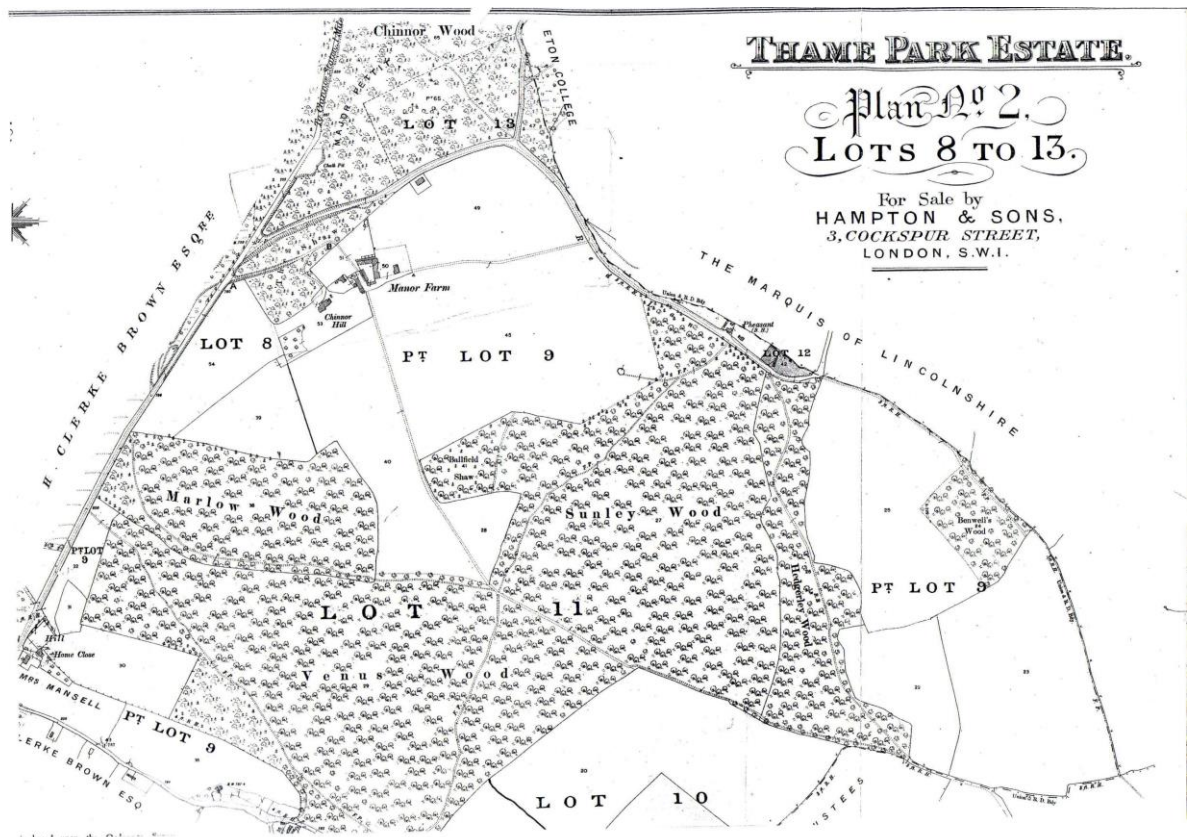
£76 . 6s. 8d. per annum.

This tenancy includes the use of Coachhouse and Cowhouse, etc., part of the Manor Farm Buildings, and a Rent of £5 is apportioned to the Manor Farm in respect of these Buildings.

The Growing Timber is included in the Sale.

Between the points A and B on the Plan a Right of Way for all purposes over this Road is reserved for the occupier of the Manor Farm, Lot 9; the repair of this road to be at the joint expense of the owners for the time being of Lots 8 and 9.

Tithe (value for 1916) £2 19s. 4d. Land Tax Free.



You can see from this map that large parcels of land in the surrounding area were owned by H Clerke Brown Esq., Eton College, the Marquis of Lincolnshire and Major Pettit.

*Prices paid for property sold
 in Chinnor in Sept. 1917*

Lot 1	4 Cottages & Gardens	£400
" 2	2 Semi detached Cottages	£150
" 3	Orchard	£100
" 4	2 3/4 Acre Field Church Lane	£210
5	9 1/2 Acres	£750
6	11 Acres	£1000
7	4 1/2 Acres	£280
8	Chinnor Hall Manor	£1425
9	Manor Farm	£2000

Hill Farm.

In the Women's Institute history of Chinnor written in 1927 they have the Keene family as owning Hill Farm for 300 years. I have seen documents to disprove this but they may have farmed it as tenants for that time. I have no evidence to prove one way or the other if they did, but they certainly were tenants until the late 1800's.

When the Inclosure Act of 1847 was implemented in Chinnor his Grace the Duke of Grafton K.G. (the 7th Duke – Augustus Charles Lennox Fitzroy – born 22nd June 1821) who together with joint Mortgagees consisting of:-

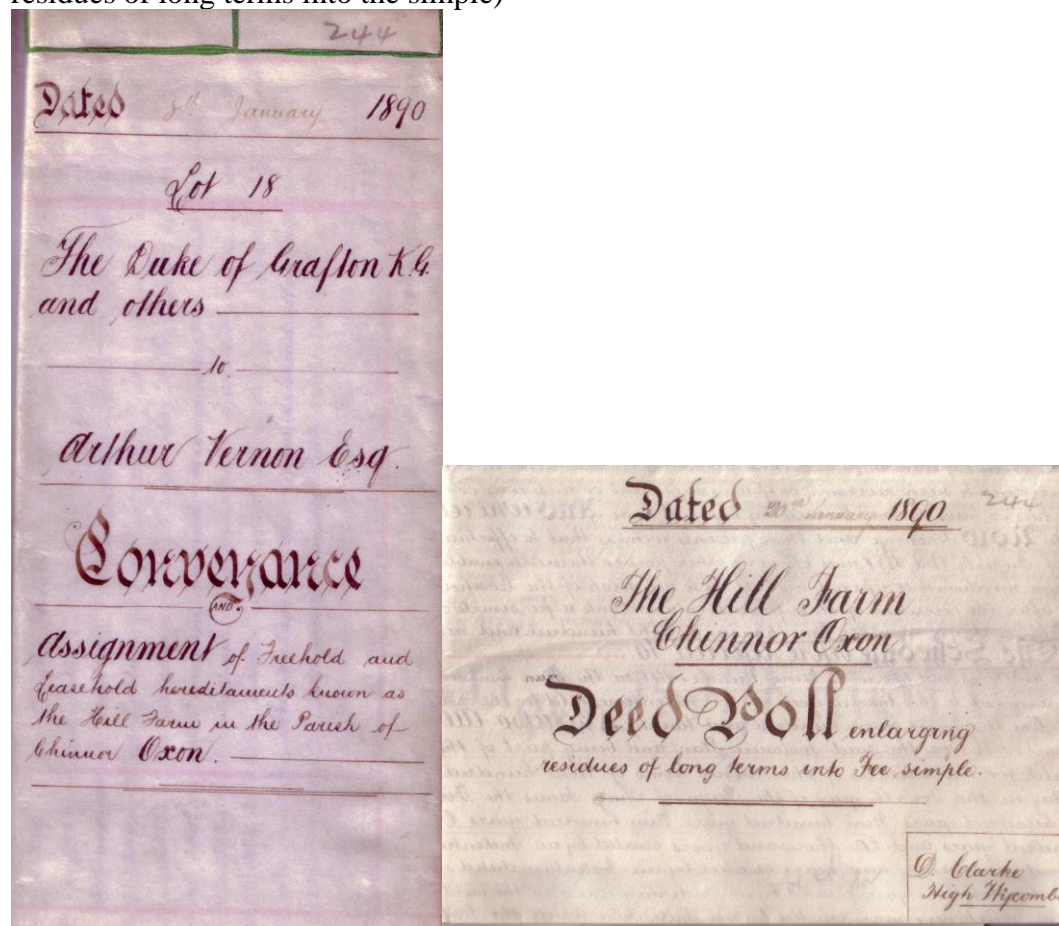
The Right Hon. Edward Gordon Douglas Baron Penrhyn

The Hon. & Rev. Augustus Frederick Phipps

William James Farrer

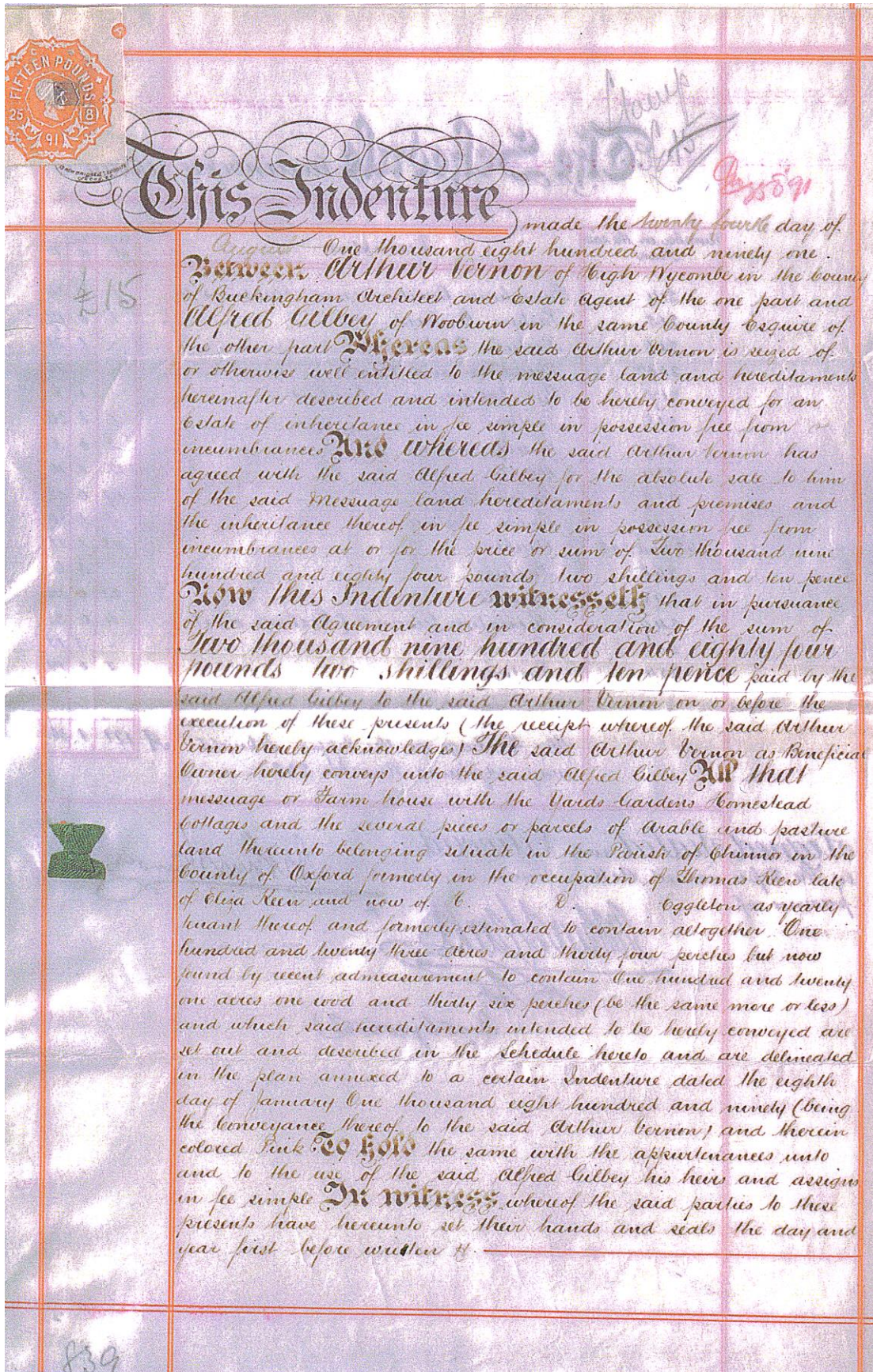
became the owners with the existing tenants being left in place.

Their interest in the farm lasted 43 years when it was sold to Mr Arthur Vernon of High Wycombe on the 8th January 1890. The deeds were so complicated and contained many pages that a further document was drafted (Deed Poll enlarging residues of long terms into the simple)



The deeds of the sale for Hill Farm to Arthur Vernon on 8th January 1890.

Arthur Vernon sold Hill Farm to Mr Alfred Gilbey of Woburn on 24th August 1891 for the sum of £2984 2s 10p. This included the farm of 121 acres 1 rood 36 poles and gave rights to graze the herbage on the Recreation Ground (now known as the Top Rec.) and the Upper Icknield Way adjoining one of the fields.



Copy of the deeds of transfer from Arthur Vernon to Alfred Gilbey.



The Schedule hereinafter referred to

Number on the said Plan	Description	Quantity		
		A	R	P
214	Garthouse Gardens yards buildings &c	1	0	34
215	Pasture Orchard	1	0	17
216	Pasture Orchard	-	1	33
216 ^a	Buildings and Yard	-	-	16
217	Two cottages and Gardens	1	8	-
218	Pasture	1	3	20
219	Orchard	2	0	3
224	Orchard	12	1	10
239	Rough Pasture	19	0	33
240	Rough Pasture	5	1	26
242 and 245	Orchard	48	1	11
246	Pasture	-	3	6
248	Orchard	52	0	30
249	Recreation Ground (Orchard only)	4	1	33
252	Pasture	3	13	-
254	Pasture	2	1	18
The Orchard on the Upper School way adjoining Number 242		A	121	1 36

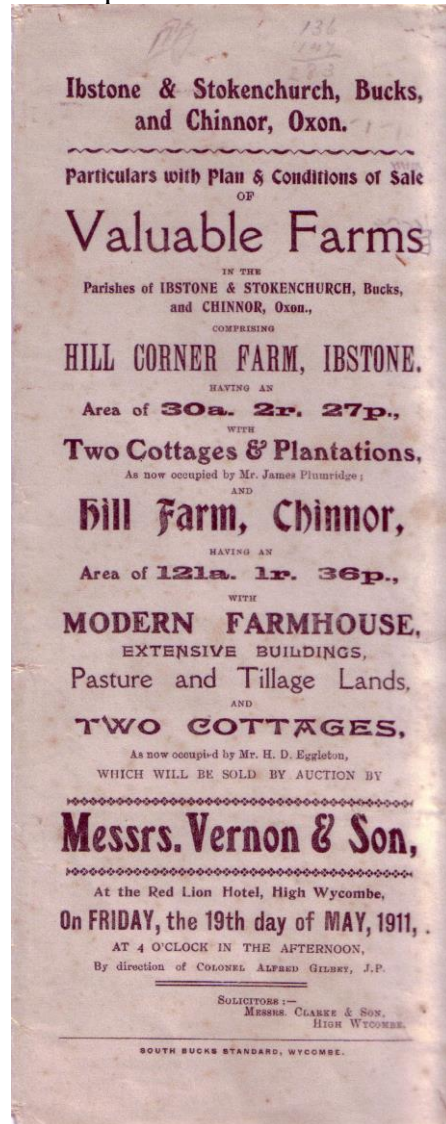
Signed Sealed and Delivered
by the before named Arthur Vernon in the
presence of

Arthur Vernon

Robert Clark

Notary Public

Thomas Keen and Eliza Keen were tenants of Hill Farm up until Eliza's death in the late 1800's when Henry David Eggleton became the tenant. He continued as the tenant until he purchased the farm on 21st June 1911 for £2852 10s 0d from Alfred Gilbey. At this time there was a discrepancy on the size of the farm as it was described as being of 123 acres 34 perches but after measuring was found to be only of 121 acres 1 rood and 36 perches.



Henry David Eggleton remained the owner until his death on Christmas Day 1915, leaving his estate to his four children, Thomas Henry Eggleton, William Robert Eggleton, Frank Eggleton and Bessie Clark in equal shares. They became the legal owners from 7th January 1916 but probate was not finalised until 9th September 1917.

William continued to work the farm as the other siblings had careers elsewhere. Thomas was a commercial traveller, Frank was in the army and sister Bessie was married to Edward William Clark who was a farmer from Chilborough House near Aylesbury.

Further complications came when Frank was killed in Belgium on active service on 21st October 1917. He left his share of the estate to his mother Annie Brigenshaw Eggleton and probate was granted on 11th May 1918. A copy of his will and probate appears below.

IN HIS MAJESTY'S HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

The District Probate Registry at Oxford.

BE IT KNOWN that FRANK EGGLETON of the Hill Farm Chinnor in the County of Oxford Major Royal Field Artillery who at the time of his death had a fixed place of abode at Chinnor aforesaid within the District of the Counties of Oxford, Berks and Buckingham died on the 21st day of October 1917 in Belgium on active service.

AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that at the date hereunder written the last Will and Testament (a copy whereof is hereunto annexed) of the said deceased was proved and registered in the District Probate Registry of His Majesty's High Court of Justice at Oxford and that Administration of all the Estate which by law devolves to and vests in the personal representative of the said deceased was granted by the aforesaid Court to Thomas Henry Eggleton the Brother of the Deceased and Edward William Clarke the Executors named in the said Will.

And it is hereby certified that an Affidavit for Inland Revenue has been delivered wherein it is shewn that the gross value of the said Estate within the United Kingdom (exclusive of what the said deceased may have been possessed of or entitled to as a Trustee and not beneficially) amounts to £2578. 3. 1.

And it is further certified that it appears by a Receipt signed by an Inland Revenue Officer on the said Affidavit that £57: 16: 3 on account of Estate Duty and interest on such duty has been paid.

Dated the 2nd day of February 1918.

(Sgd) John T. Lewis.

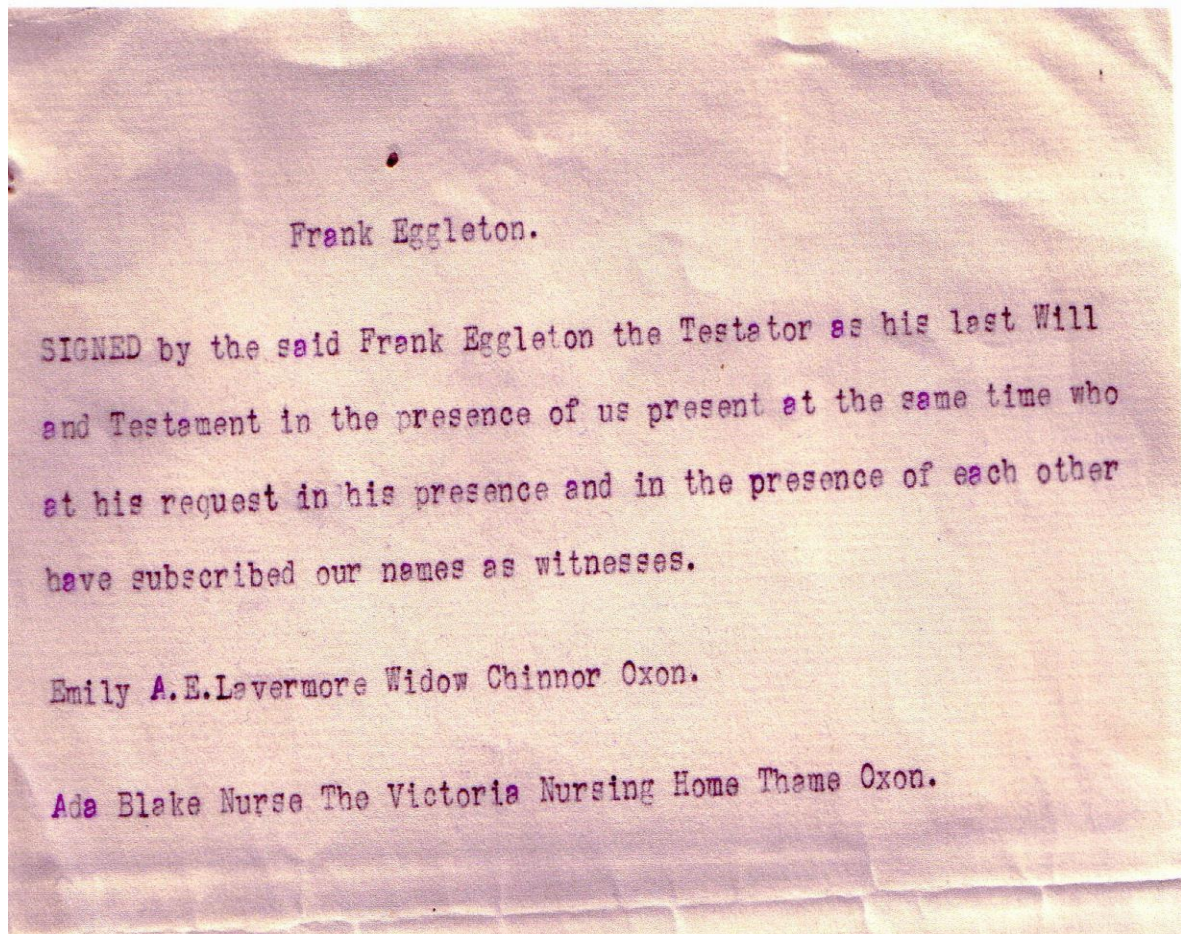
Stamp.

District Registrar.

Extracted by Lightfoot & Lowndes, Solicitors, Thame.

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me FRANK EGGLETON of
The Hill Farm in the Parish of Chinnor in the County of Oxford
Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery I APPOINT my brother
Thomas Henry Eggleton and my brother in law Edward William
Clarke EXECUTORS of my Will and I give to them each the sum
of Ten guineas I DEVISE and BEQUEATH my interest and share
in the real estate of my house the property known as The Hill
Farm in the Parish of Chinnor in the County of Oxford to my
Mother Annie Brigenshaw Eggleton or in the event of her
predeceasing me then to my brothers Thomas Henry Eggleton and
William Robert Eggleton and my sister Bessie Clarke in equal
shares In the event of either or any of my brothers or
Sister aforesaid predeceasing me then I BEQUEATH his or her
share to the children of such deceased Brother or Sister in
equal shares I GIVE to my brother Thomas Henry Eggleton my
gold watch chain I GIVE to my brother William Robert
Eggleton my Griffith's Steel Sale and I GIVE to my sister
Bessie Clarke my War diaries and all my cameras and
photographic materials absolutely I GIVE subject to the
consent of my uncle Thomas R. Judson my Microscope to my
nephew Reuben Thomas Eggleton I DEVISE AND BEQUEATH the
residue of my property both real and personal to the
following in such proportions as are written down next
following their respective names TO my brother Thomas Henry
Eggleton one Fifth To my brother William Robert Eggleton
one Fifth To my Sister Bessie Clarke one Fifth To my niece
Violet Mary Clarke one Twentieth To my nephew Edward Keene
Clarke one Twentieth To my niece Olive Annie Eggleton one
Twentieth To my nephew Reuben Thomas Eggleton one Twentieth
To my niece Margaret Elizabeth Eggleton one Twentieth and
To my nephew David Henry Eggleton one Twentieth I REVOKE all
former Wills IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my
hand this Twenty third day of March One thousand nine hundred
and seventeen.

*Altogether as
for as here*



In 1921 Annie sold her share to the remaining children for £700 0s 0d. They in turn sold their shares to William for £1600 0s 0d (£800 each) on 9th January 1923. William continued to farm the land until he sold to David Henry Eggleton on 25th July 1953 for £1800 0s 0d.

Lower Wain Hill Farm, in Hempton (Henton), rented by Arthur and Annie Babb was owned by Magdalen College, Oxford and sold to them on 25th July 1953 for £37,000. They then sold it on to D H Eggleton who merged it with Hill Farm.

In 1970 Mr Eggleton made several attempts to develop Hill Farm for Shops, Housing, Public Buildings and even a car park opposite our present Post Office. All were refused, but he then got Bryant Homes Ltd involved to develop the sight for residential purposes in 1972, this was again refused.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's he began to sell off parcels of land to Niels Christian Bergeson (about 35 acres). Further land was sold to Graham Ridley and the Pakenham Family at Wain Hill.



The wedding of David Eggleton to his wife Trudy.

In 1982 Mr Bergeson sold the piece of land alongside Keens Lane on which two detached houses and barn conversion now stand plus the Vets Surgery.

All the remaining land of Hill Farm now belongs to Derek Nixey of Manor Farm.

Hill Farm had electricity installed in 1931 having taken 4 years to install from the date of application and consent forms being signed. The Borough of Aylesbury was responsible for erecting and maintaining the lines, this however was taken over by Eastern Electricity in 1951 under the Electricity Act of 1947.

Farmers are entitled to receive rent for electricity poles and pylons on their land which are paid yearly on 31st December each year. In 1931 the rent was 2/6 for each pole or leg on arable or mowing land and a 1/- in all other cases (inclusive of stays if required).

By 1951 these rents had changed considerably: -

Payable to the owner of land.

Single pole	1/-
H or A poles	2/-
Each stay	1/-
Underground cables	1/- per 100yds
Line over property	1/-

Payable to occupier or tenant for interference with agriculture.

Arable land.

Single pole	4/-
Each stay to single pole	4/-
H or A poles	5/6
Each stay to H or A poles	5/6

Mowing grass or meadow land.

Single poles	2/-
Each stay to single poles	2/-
H and A poles	3/6
Each stay to H or A poles	3/6

Garden or orchard.

Single pole	2/-
Each stay or strut	2/-

For poles or stays so placed as to cause inconvenience

Up until the middle of the twentieth century there were two cottages and a thrashing barn adjacent to Keens Lane, in the field on the left as you face the crossing gates. One of these cottages was the home of Mabel Howlett when she was a child.

These buildings were demolished after two cottages were built on the opposite side of Keens Lane adjacent to the railway line, and are still there now. These cottages were for the workers of Hill Farm until they no longer needed them and were then sold.

Farm Tithes.

A system of taxing farms (Tithe) was introduced in medieval times where every farm in the parish paid 10% of its produce each year to the church. In 1836 this was reduced to a much smaller charge based on the size of the land. As the industrial changes began to take place in the land farmers became more angered at what they saw as a tax on their business that was being not being paid by any other industry.

Many farmers in the 1930's saw this tax as the final straw when faced with pending bankruptcy they refused to pay. With court orders being issued for none payment and live stock being seized and sold to pay the debt, farmers began to protest using violence, to resist the seizure. This often resulted in pitch battles with the authorities as they became more and more mob handed to get the stock. Realising that they were not winning the farmers changed their methods and started to bid silly prices for stock being sold making it very difficult for the sales to proceed. Eventually Tithes were discontinued.

Extracts from WI History of Chinnor written in 1929.

Flocks of 600 to 800 sheep were driven along the Upper Icknield Way from Ellesborough to Newbury Market in the 1800's often stopping at the Lethern Bottle at Wain Hill over night.

Farm workers were hired at the annual Thame Fair when it was held each October. Carters held their whips up to announce their jobs. Milker's stood with their buckets and stools waiting to be hired. In living memory of 1929 no milkmaid had ever worked in Chinnor, the milking always being done by men.

Wages for people who worked on the land in the 1800's were 9/- per week for a single man and 10/- per week for a married man. Boys started work at 10 years of age, scaring crows using clappers and would earn 1/- to 2/- a week for this. They were supervised by the very old labourers who enforced discipline with a small whip they kept in the strap hitching their trousers at the knee.

It was common for regular labourers to be given pieces of bacon when a pig was killed. They probably had to pay for this a little per week out of their wages especially in summer when their earnings were higher.

Farm hands who worked up the hill lived in the farm house from Monday morning to Saturday night when they would come home again.

Sir William Musgrave, Rector, was also a farmer and had a large farm up on the hill which he visited on a daily basis. (Manor Farm?)

An old farm worker used to describe how he took a load of wheat to High Wycombe in the winter of the Crimean War. He took two days and a night with four horses with snow and mud up to the axles of the cart to complete the journey of about ten miles. The wheat fetched £100 0s 0d and he earned 1/6 for the journey.

When a union was started for farm workers in 1872 wages improved. This is now called the National Farmers Union.

The Donkey mans cottages consisted of four two bedroom cottages with mud and lath walls. (An example of this type of building can be seen in the Chilterns Open Air Museum) There were gardens and a single well. The cottages were demolished in about 1910-1913. The donkeys grazed in the lane and often wandered off and ended up in the pound.

According to the author all the land around Chinnor was owned by Mr Thomas Taylor of Aston Rowant House, a cotton magnet, but lost his money in the Lancashire cotton famine so the land was split up. (I have doubts about this as certainly Hill Farm was never owned by him as was stated)

In 1850 Basket making was a small cottage industry in the village. The osiers (willow branches) used to make the baskets were collected from Cunnygar Pond behind the British School.

Recollections of a farming childhood.

My earliest recollections were of the smells of the countryside; newly ploughed earth, haymaking and the smell of the threshing machine when the driver was getting up steam in the early morning, the fields of buttercups, moondaisies, cowslips rattles and

cornflowers and the like. The cornfields would be full of poppies and charlotte, and scarlet pimpernel, which opens in the sun, grew around the paths in the fields. The rickyards were full of corn and hayricks and the cattle yard came to a few feet from the house. The few pigs we had would have been Tamworth or Gloucester Spots, now classed as rare breeds. The cattle were Shorthorns and these are rarely seen nowadays. We had one tractor, an International 1020 chain drive with iron wheels, now only seen in museums, seven work horses and six men: Carter, Ploughman, Shepherd, Cattle and Pig man and a Casual man for hurdle making, sheep sheering, pig killing , butchering and thatching, all of this was done by the same man. At least one pig a year was killed for home consumption and all the pig was used except for its squeal! Everything seemed to taste better from our own pig. Free range hens roamed around scratching at the manure heaps, eating maggots and insects – all giving the colour and flavour of lovely free range eggs.

Machines – The main machines at the time were the binder for corn cutting, the mower for cutting hay, some hay turners and an elevator for putting the hay and sheaves onto the rick. As a boy I was always out in the fields if at all possible and used to love to help, as I thought with the haymaking. The elevator was powered by a slow moving pony walking around and around turning the gear that was connected by universal joints to the elevator. I was about 9 years old and was keeping the pony moving and clearing the hay from the gearing points when my clothes got caught in the joints and got slowly wound up into the gear and got rather bruised before the pony was stopped. There were no guards on things in those days.

Private Enterprise – I was always keen on a bit of private enterprise and as boy when there was a plague of mole, my father supplied me with traps and I caught and skinned 100 and sent these to London for about 6d (old) each. There seemed to be more mushrooms about and I used to pick them in the season before cycling to school and sold them to parents of my school friends in Thame. Later I was able to keep some poultry and was selling eggs at 3 shillings (or 15 new pence) for 20 in 1933. At that time I stated shearing sheep and went on to shear sheep for many of our neighbours.

Horses – Although we had a tractor, there were few machines, except a plough that had been made to be used with it, so the horses did a lot of hard work. Although they looked picturesque they were having a hard time pulling heavy loads for long hours particularly at harvest and haymaking time. Three horses pulled the binder round the cornfield for long hours which was very tiring. Shocking and stoking corn all day, day after day, gave the men sore and aching arms and I for one am glad those days are gone.

The Farm Worker – In the late 1920's the married workers lived in cottages in the village of Sydenham. They had large gardens or allotments and usually had two pigs in a sty – one for home consumption and one for selling, possibly a few hens and a rabbit in a cage for food. A large amount of vegetables were grown and some surplus sold. The Head Carter's basic wage would be about £1 10s 0d a week plus milk and firewood free. He would get the horses in from the field at 6am in summer but in winter when they were inside he would clean them out, feed them and give them water. He would then go home for breakfast and would be back at work for 7am when the other men would arrive. If it were ploughing time they would harness the horses

and set off to the fields with 2 or 3 teams of 3 horses. By the time the teams were hitched to the plough it would be after 8 am. The plough would take a 9 inch furrow and each team would plough about half to three quarters of an acre a day. The horses were very intelligent and would follow the furrow without guidance and turn to the left or right on command. At about 11 am the lunch break was taken for about half an hour – a top of a cottage loaf (round loaf with a smaller round on top) with fat bacon was washed down with cold tea. Ploughing would go on until 2.30 when the teams would wend their way home and the horses would be given water and feed. One hour for dinner and then he would return to clean up the stable. (The carter's grandson is now a herdsman earning £100.)

Hedging – Hedging was a major job in the winter, a skilled job but as a rule a lonely one. I sometimes helped with this and one day on one hedge near our boundary with Chinnor and Henton there were a lot of wild plants in the hedge. The hedger told me this was Daneweed. He said it only grew where the blood of Danes had been spilt after the battle of Ketcham Field. This was some 90 acres on the Henton side. How he got to know about this I don't know (because if it did happen, it must have happened about a 1000 years ago). It is recorded that Danish soldiers were camping in Thame in the year 921 AD so who knows.

Hoeing - there were no chemical weed killers in those days and one job was hoeing weeds and thistles in corn fields. One day I said to my father that the men seemed to be working very slowly; so next day he gave me a hoe and told me to help them. Four of us worked in line and after a day of this back-aching work I never complained about the rate of work again.

Thame Market – All the fatstock was sold in Thame Market. The cattle were driven there and the lambs and pigs were taken by horse and wagon and sold in the Upper High Street every Tuesday. The market was a meeting place for all the farmers, dealers, butchers and corn merchants from a large area including London. The pavement was chained off along the street by the Swan Hotel. All the fat cattle were held up beside it by drovers while waiting in turn to be sold. The sheep, pigs and calves were penned in hurdles in the centre and the other side of the street.

Corn Merchants – The corn merchants stood outside the Spread Eagle in Cornmarket. The bolts that held their shelves can still be seen under the windows of the hotel. Farmers brought their samples of corn after they had been thrashed and sold them or tried to sell them to the dealers.

Thame Station – After market all the fatstock that had been bought by butchers from any distance away was driven up the town along Park Street and put on rail at station. There would be some hope of getting them up there today!

Poultry – At the market there was a weekly poultry and egg sale and in 1938 at the Christmas Fatstock Show of Poultry I took the first prize for a pen of fat cockerels. The first prize was 10 shillings and the cockerels were sold for 6s 8d each.

The market moved from its street location in 1954 to a site in North Street.

Threshing – Before the thrasher arrived a load of coal had to be brought and a load of water put in place for the Steam-Engine. There was no water laid on and it was carted from a near-by pond. The day the thrasher arrived was exciting for us children. The engine came pulling the thrasher and elevator with much puffing of steam and smoke into the rickyard. To set up the tackle in line and level so that the driving belts ran straight was a very tricky job. There was no concrete road but just a very uneven farmyard floor. For thrashing 8 or 9 men were required. The sheaves of corn were fed into the machine, with the straw coming out to the elevator to make a rick which would be used for thatching, bedding or feeding. The grain came out of the other end and graded and it was collected in sacks containing 4 bushels each – just over two and a quarter hundredweight each. These were carried into the barn on a man's back. Today this would be illegal as it is not allowed to carry more than 1 cwt. Indeed the safety officer of today would have had a fit to see all the fly wheels and belts whizzing around without guards. The steam engine would puff away all day, eating coal and drinking water that had to be carted to it. With 9 men to pay this was an expensive operation.

Vermin – There were usually plenty of vermin about when the rick was nearly finished and the dogs and boys would have great fun in killing them.

Modernisation – In 1930 the farm was sold to Magdalen College and a big modernisation programme was started. The late owner, Philip Wykham, had let the farm get in a very bad state. An engine was installed to pump water from the well into new storage tanks put under the roof of the house, a bathroom was built in the house, and water piped to the new cowshed and dairy holding 16 cows. The yard had no hard surface and was filled with old elm tree trunks and clinkers, a steam roller used to consolidate this. A new Dutch barn was erected at the cost of £100 plus £20 for two covered sides. This was charged at £6 per year on the rent.

Milking - At this time I left school and we started milking shorthorn cows. This milk was sold to Nestles of Aylesbury for 6d (old) per gallon. Soon after this the Milk Marketing Board was started which was a great help as they sold all the milk and collected all the money. At this time there were 13 farmers producing milk in the parish – now there is one.

Depression – As with all businesses, agriculture was very depressed in the early 1930's but with the threat of war, the government began to give support to farm prices and grants paid to farmers who ploughed up pastures. Later, compulsory orders were made to plough up more pastures. This was when many of the old meadows with wild flowers were lost.

First Milking Machine – In 1945 a milking machine was installed but it still took 2 men to milk 30 cows, but this was the start of a great change, in fact the greatest change yet, leading to one man being able to milk 200 cows.

T.T. – In 1948 a scheme to eradicate Tuberculosis in cattle was started and we were soon free of this disease and wearable to sell tuberculosis tested cattle to other breeders. This was a great benefit to the cattle and of course to all the people of the country. The breed of cattle was changed to Friesian and I started to buy a few pedigree calves to start a pedigree herd. In about 1950 I bought my first combine

harvester – another great step forward. Gone was the shocking, carting, rick building, thatching, thrashing which was now done in one operation. Soon after the war an artificial insemination service was started by the Milk Marketing Board. This was a great benefit to the farmer who could have the use of the best bulls in the country. All the time the herd and yield were expanding slowly.

In 1963 the landlord offered to sell the farm to me. After much thought and professional advice I arranged to borrow what seemed to be a large amount of money for the mortgage and if I lived until the year 2003 and keep up the payments this will be paid off. This sparked off more expansion. 60 cows were milked in a parlour and a refrigerated milk tank was installed. One man could milk these on his own.

In 1972 my son David came home having been to agricultural college and abroad for about 10 years. Now with an extra household to support and new management the farm really took off.

Today the herd has 180 milking cows giving a yield of up to 1000 gallons a day at peak periods, with 100 young stock and 100 acres of grain. Silage has taken the place of hay. With modern machinery this is a very easy operation.

Looking back – As I look back, I feel I had a very happy childhood but times were hard for all those who worked on the farm at that time. The great steps forward in farming, I think, have been the coming of the milking machine, the combine harvester and the A.I. service and then the milking parlour.

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Extracts from the history of Oakley.

Contemporary opinion on the effects of mothers supplementing earnings by going out to work was very mixed. Three Bucks clergymen commented to the 1867 commission: -

“I think that females employed constantly in field labour become untidy and generally speaking, rough in manner and their absence causes confusion in domestic affairs.”
(Vicar of Shabbington)

“When mothers are in the field, both their morals and those of their families, with home comforts for the husband, are likely to suffer”. (Vicar of Bierton)

Whilst more down to earth the Vicar of Worminghall said “Considering the rate of wages of the labourers generally, I think it would be a great hardship to place restriction on employment of females in this parish”.

As for children working, a common view came from Mr John Linnell from near Buckingham. “I consider that the discipline they are under when at work is beneficial, that the habit of labour is best acquired when young, and that they are far better at work than being contaminated by the evil talk in the village street”.

Harvest was of course the time when whole families planned for work. The harvest made less uncertain the labourers struggle to support their families.

Of the 148 people of all ages living in Oakley in 1861, 79 claimed to be in employment even though over 1 in 3 (38%) were under the age of 12. The 79 workers divided up as follows: -

Agriculture	27
Lace making	26
Woodworking	14
Other work	10
Servants	2

The hours of work were very long, although outdoor workers could only be sure of wages if the weather allowed the work to be done! In the report made by George Culley based on interviews in Bucks in 1867, the normal hours of work for males were from 5am to 6pm in summer and from 6.30am to 5.30pm in winter. Women worked a shorter day, from 8 or 9am to 4pm. When work started before 7am, half an hour was allowed for breakfast, one hour was allowed for the midday meal and some times 15 minutes respite at about 10am and 4pm.

None the less, hours could be even longer and a Carter Boy (i.e. the boy who held the horses at the plough and usually drove the farm carts) in Berkshire reported that he started work at 4am when he 'baited' (fed) the horses. Between 6 and 7am he took breakfast, between 7am and noon and 12.15 to 3pm he drove the team. Between 3 and 4pm he had an hour for dinner and then, between 4 and 6pm, he did up the horses in the stable. For this work, six days a week plus time on Sundays, tending the team, he received 5 shillings a week with a Michaelmas bonus of £1 to £1 10s.

Agriculture was the principle source of employment in Oakley. It is likely that all the labourers so described found their work on one or other of the local farms. The larger farm, Oakley Farm stood on a slight eminence on the northern side of the road: in 1861 it covered 100 acres and employed 8 workers, two of whom lived in. The farmer was the redoubtable Mrs Elizabeth Eustace, known as Betty Eustace, whose tombstone in the churchyard of Chinnor records that she was the mother of 22 children. Aged 63 in 1861 she had been a widow for 5 years – her husband, William Eustace, had died aged 67 in 1856. Betsey herself died in 1879, aged 88. Both of them were stalwarts of the Methodist cause.

The other farm stood diagonally opposite on the southern side of the road, and although slightly smaller at 87 acres still employed 8 workers also. The farmer here, James Eustace was a son of William and Elizabeth, and a pillar of the community deeply involved with public life – he was Overseer of the Poor, Overseer of Highways (as well as a successful Roads Contractor), Constable of the Parish as well as a leading light in the Chapel. He also had a vote in the Parliamentary Election of 1862. Earlier William and Elizabeth had held both farms as one unit but either Elizabeth had ceded part to James or the division of the land between the son and the widow of the late landlord, Thomas Greenwood forced the change.

In addition to the two main units, Edmund Keen – who also exercised a vote in 1862 – held some 10 acres as a small holding which he ran with the help of his son, Robert.

Ancillary trades dependent in varying degrees on the farms, included a watercress grower, a butcher and a duck breeder.

In 'Rural England before the Industrial Age' the note is made that one man could manage 25 to 30 acres of arable or 50 to 60 acres of pasture land. The Oakley average was 1 man to about 10 acres – proof that agriculture was still very profitable here at this time: the rapid increase of the population in the towns together with the improvements in transport to reach them, meant that there was a ready market at good prices for all that could be produced, particularly in the Midlands and the South. To earn a living growing watercress so far from a town would have been unthinkable at an earlier time.

Although the repeal of the Corn Laws had opened the gates to the import of foreign food, in fact the dreaded influx from the continent had not occurred, whilst the opening of the prairies was still in the future. It was still the golden age of what contemporaries called 'High Farming', characterised as the control of hedges, the cleaning of ditches, the draining of land and the use of organic and inorganic manures – in other words the application of a scientific approach to farming involving the investment of money and knowledge in a way impossible in pre-inclosure days. Land was exploited intensively rather than as in the old days, extensively.

Not that this new attitude was without its critics – William Johnson, ten years earlier wrote in words which have a familiar ring to us: -

"In order successfully to compete with foreign farmers who are now free to bring their produce into English markets as English farmers are, scientific agriculturalists declare that it is expedient to make our fields larger and more open to sun and air, by removing hedges and fences, that to keep pace with the advancement of agricultural knowledge and to meet the activity and competition of the age, the hedgerows which have heretofore been considered the beauty of England rising from considerations of utility be abandoned".

The long trauma of the Inclosure of Chinnor had been ended in 1854. As a result of the award, 27 landowners had been reduced in the Oakley area to 14, but effectively the majority was still with the same three people – Samuel Turner of Greys Inn, The major land owner in Chinnor proper, Mrs Anne Elizabeth Greenwood who owned Oakley Farm and her stepson Charles Greenwood who owned Lower Farm. All three were non-resident (the Greenwoods lived in Wallingford) and appeared to look on their holdings purely as an investment. By 1873, the total number was down to 7, with Samuel Turner and Charles Greenwood as the principal holders.

Machinery was beginning to be more available – Mr Daniel Ponting, owner of the South Oxfordshire Agricultural Implements Repository in Thame advertised in the Thame Gazette in September 1860, that he would demonstrate on the 4 October 'Steamploughs, Turnip Cutters, Chaff Engines, Root Graters, Oat & Bean Mills, Corn dressing Machines, Corn Screens and Blowers, Winnowing Machines, Turnip Drills, Oilcake Crushers, etc.'

However machinery was still unreliable and with low wage rates, expensive compared to hand labour; its dangers were increasingly recognised, but even so accidents still happened.

(Thame Gazette 6 Feb 1860) “An accident of a fearful nature occurred to John Rodgers, a labourer in the employ of Mr. Douglass, Manor Farm, Henton. His hand became entangled in a 4hp chaff cutting machine which was drawn between the compression rollers, the hand was cut off near the wrist.”

The injury was too severe for Mr. Martin the local surgeon to handle so John Rogers was taken to the Oxford Infirmary by Mr. Douglass “despite the inclement weather.”

William Stevens took up watercress growing some time after the 1851 Census when he had been described only as an Agricultural Labourer. He prospered sufficiently to continue until certainly after the 1881 Census when he was still described as a Watercress Grower. He probably grew his cress in the brooks which ran through the fields in Lower farm and along the Lower Icknield Way.

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Pest control.

The 1566 Act for the “Preservation of Grayne” declared a range of species to be pests. This act enabled Church Wardens to pay a bounty on the corpses of species killed in their parishes.

St. Andrews church wardens used to pay a reward of 2/6 for each Pole Cat killed. This was last paid in 1850 when they were presumably extinct in the area. A penny three farthings was paid for each dozen of sparrow killed and thousands of heads were collected. Black and white mice were once reported in a hayrick.

The farms past and present locations.

New Farm is situated on the left of Thame Road just before the 30MPH signs. This belonged to Whites but is no longer a working farm as the land has been sold off and the buildings used for other things.

Lane Farm off Elderdene is still farmed by Brian Lacey but he contracts the work out. It was arable and beef in the 1970's but changed from beef to sheep because of BSE. Now mainly arable but one field is let for grazing sheep and horses.

Dairy Farm on the High Street. No longer a working farm, but John Neighbour still retains one field to the rear of the Congregational Church.

Upper Farm was in the High Street next to the Manor house. No longer used as a farm, but until recent years was rented and farmed by Brian Lacey in addition to Lane Farm. Belonged to the Sireys' whom may still retain some of the land.

Crowell End Farm has been in the Hill family for over three hundred years and is still farmed by them now. It is situated on the B4009 in Crowell on the right hand side as

you travel towards Kingston Blount and is currently having its barns converted into houses. Farmed as an arable farm today, growing crops like rape, broad beans and corn.

Lower Farm Oakley, at the junction of Oakley Road and Oakley Lane, now a riding school with stables and limited grazing for horses.

Middle Farm is in Mill Lane in what was Oakley and is still farmed by the Saw's. It is an arable farm with sheep and beef cattle. Our village butcher buys lamb and beef from this farm.



Middle Farm as it is in 2006.

Lower Farm Chinnor, on Lower Road opposite The Royal Oak, no longer a farm but some barns still exist.

Glebe Farm was located near to Chinnor Stert, but no longer exists.

Hill Farm was at the top end of the village in Keens Lane but no longer exists. It was farmed by Mr Keen (hence Keens Lane) and then passed to David Eggleton who was the last to farm it in its entirety. Hill Farm Court now stands on part of the farm. The workers cottages were next to the railway in the field to the left as you face the crossing looking towards Wain Hill. There were two houses and a thrashing barn alongside the lane. Mabel Howlett and Gwen Ginger's parents lived in one of the houses and their father worked on the farm for many years. The remaining land of Hill Farm is now owned and farmed by Derek Nixey.

Manor Farm on the top of Chinnor Hill is farmed by Derek Nixey and his son. The farm was rented in 1913 by Tom Nixey who came to Chinnor from Sussex when his brother, the Miller at Brill Mill, told him there was a farm to rent in Chinnor. The farm he had been renting in Sussex was no longer available. He then purchased the farm in 1917 on the break up of Thame Park estate. It has been in the family's hands

ever since. Mr Derek Nixey runs the poultry side of the business and his son looks after the arable (650 acres) and the beef herd.

Crowell Hill Farm in Sprigs Alley (was also known as Town Farm) belonged to the Webb's before the Wise family purchased it. All 100 acres is now "set aside" land under the EEC policies which has resulted in the return of many species of birds and flowers.



Manor Farms first diesel tractor, a Fordson Major in 1954.

Henton Farms.

The six farms in Henton were own by Magdalen College, Oxford. On the 12th August 1953 by authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries acts of 1889 and 1919) in the matter of the Universities and College Estate Act 1925. The President and Scholars of the College of Saint Mary Magdalen in the University of Oxford proposed the sale of "The Hempton Estate" comprising of six farms and farm cottages, roadways and one beer house (now the Peacock Inn), a common, one cottage and garden and the site of a mission church, extending in all to 877.715 acres or there a bouts in consideration of a sum of £37,000 & £6,000 for Manor Farm. The purchasers being David Robert Lamdin of London SW1 and D A Grange who purchased Manor Farm (126.293 Acres).

Dennis Aubrey Grange purchased a further 206.282 Acres from D R Lamdin one year later. Further land was purchased by A L Grange and D A Grange. The latter then sold land to Andre Joseph Desere, Sophie Marie Steylaers, Iris Furlong and Phyllis Maud Hayden.

Manor Farm is today owned and farmed by John Grange and has been in their family 67 years and is now 101 acres. The farm is now all grazing land but in common with all the farms in Henton, did until the mid part of the last century, have a mixture of pigs, cattle, poultry and a small area of arable land.

In more recent times John has kept about 20 head of cattle (Hereford cross) comprising of one bull and cows with calves, the latter being sold on at Thame Market. These are now no longer kept and the only livestock are approx 200 sheep which are brought in during October to fatten and then sold on in March. He still lambs about 50 ewes every year. This is down from 150 – 200 in the past. All sheep on the farm are Suffolk /Texel cross the latter is renowned for its carcase meat.

Manor Farm house and yard were surrounded by a moat; this was filled in when the sewer farm was built at the bottom of Henton village. All the soil removed in the construction was used as the filling.

All the other farms in Henton, with the exception of College Farm, were all farmed by relatives of John Grange.

Upper Farm was farmed by his two uncles Ebenezer and Ho

Other things that would be seen on the farm.

Trees when planted young had to be protected from the animals both domestic and wild to stop them eating or trampling it under foot.

Rabbits would have been kept out with wire netting on metal fencing but would probably have been a problem prior to that as they may have been able to get through the gaps in the fence.



Metal fence of 1800's and 1900's

Wooden style fence prior to metal.

The Chaff cutter was used by placing hay or straw into the wooden trough and fed through the spikes to the cutting knives which were operated by the wheel being turned by hand.



Chaff cutter.



General purpose cart.

This machine enabled the farmer to mix poor hay or straw with good quality hay and feed it to the cattle and horses. If the hay was uncut they would just eat the better hay and leave the rest to be wasted by treading in under foot. This they could not do with fodder that was cut in one inch pieces which ensured that the winter feed went further. Chaff cutters were also used to slice mangles before they were fed the cattle.



Russet's fine old English apples.

The Tawny Owl nests in hollow trees.



One of the wells that existed in Chinnor.



Preparing for a days work with the cart.



Hay being loaded on to the Elevator to lift it to the top of the hayrick at Manor Farm.



Raking the hayfield on Manor Farm.



Cow and calf being moved on the farm.



Loading the corn.

At rest between loads.



Ears of wheat.



The binder for cutting corn.



The author with his father showing an interest in farming at an early age.



Early balers at work baling straw after the combine harvester.



An early combine harvester in use in 1940.



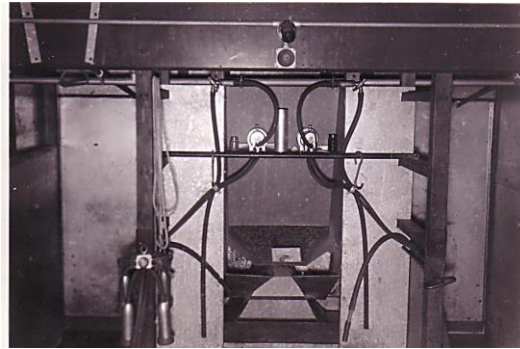
A newborn Red Poll calf with mother.



Guernsey cows on Crowell Hill Farm.



Pressing the air out of a silage mound.



An early example of a milking parlour.



Ploughing.



Seed drilling.

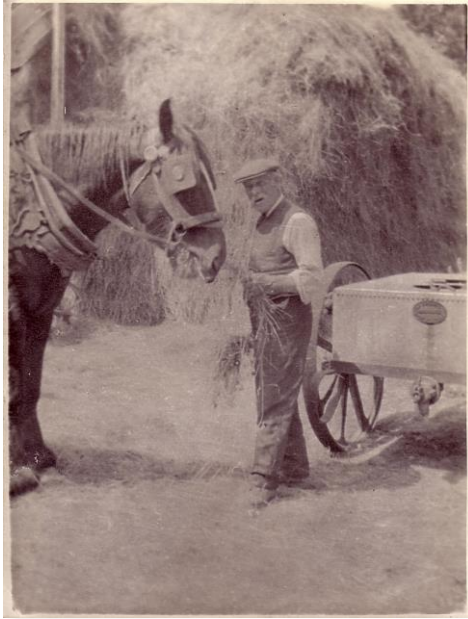


Jack Wise driving the tractor.



Old tractor and potato planter on Crowell Hill farm.





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Dear Sirs,
We enclose a photograph of three cows of our herd which we think will interest you. "Dairymaid" on the right gave 10,305 lbs. in 308 days and had been calved five months before recording started. "Dolly 9th" in the centre gave 10,234 lbs. in 336 days with her first calf. "Queenie" on the left gave 11,508 lbs. in 280 days.

This is the first year we have recorded officially and for 14 full time cows, we averaged 9,113 lbs. We have been recording for our own benefit for some years and have now decided to start grading up our herd through the Grading Register of the Dairy Shorthorn Society. Six animals have been accepted last month.


We have always kept good pedigree Shorthorn bulls as is shown by the fact that the blood of the following bulls is represented in our herd: Forge Hunter, Lord Leicester, Pinkneys Trojan, Pennbury Rowland, Clevedon Imperial.

We have been using your Dairy Cake for ten years and your Calf and Rearing Nuts also, and the results have been improving each year. All our cows are home bred except three and the general health is and has been very good.

Finally, we would like to say that we keep cows for a living and not for a hobby and we use your cake because we think it is the best value on the market.

Yours truly,
A. GRANGE.

*"We keep cows
for a living"*



SILCOCK'S H.Y. Dairy Nuts



Four generations of the Grange family.



Corn from the combine harvester.



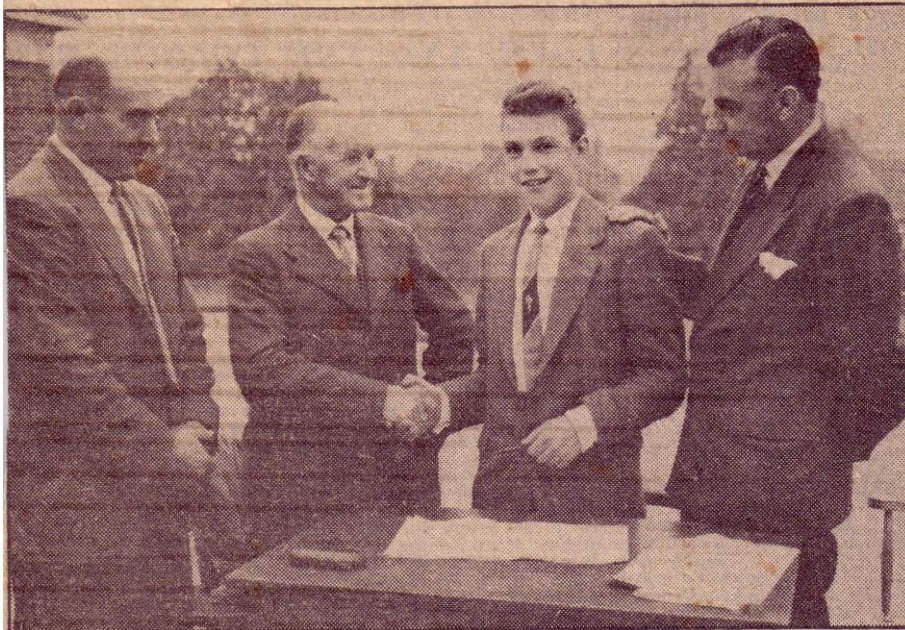




Removing the hair from a pig before butchering it.



IMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1958



Mr. J. E. Fennimore (chairman of the Agricultural Apprentice Committee) shaking hands with Andrew Orsler after the signing of the latter's apprenticeship deeds. On the left is Mr. D. A. Grange, of Chinnor (the employer), and on the right is the boy's father, Mr. R. J. Orsler.



Modern farmer rounding up his cows for milking.



Alpacas are another diversification.

Other points of interest.

i) The public houses of Chinnor that acted as inns all had meadows that belonged to them, these were used to keep the horses in when a carrier was passing through the village and needed to rest his horses. If he required fresh horses these were hired out and his own returned on his homeward journey. The Unicorn's field was to the rear of the property and will soon have houses built on it.

The Red Lion's field was on land at the rear and adjacent to the B4009, which now contains a few houses and a service road. The Old Nelson had its field at the rear and now forms part of their garden. The area behind the Crown used as a car park and where the village hall now stands was theirs.

These public houses also had cottages attached to them (they now form part of the main buildings) where the person responsible for the well being of the horses lived.

ii) If you pass over the crossing in Keens Lane and continue towards the hill you will see a small area of disused land with some old fruit trees on it. The undergrowth also hides the ruins of what was the "Donkey Man's" house and stables, hence the lane is called Donkey Lane and not Keens Lane as it should be.

iii) When the windmill was demolished and sold off in the 1920's the oak sail structure did not go with the rest of the structure to East Anglia but was sold to the cement works and never left Chinnor (they recycled in those days).

iv) Brian Lacey's grandfather, Lucy Lacey's father, who lived in Station Road purchased land for his four children to give them security later in life. The land was divided into four, one piece for each child. Lucy Lacey kept her piece of land but two of the children sold their share to Fannie, Lucy's sister. Most of this land was sold for building and now is known as the Glynswood Estate. Brian's cousins the Croxford boys still own a field adjoining Glynswood.

v) Thame cattle market was and still is an important outlet for Chinnor farmers live stock, both for selling and purchasing. It also served as a social point for farmers to exchange ideas and gossip. The market is still very vibrant and is used by about 100 farms and continues to grow. To bring it up to date there are plans to move it to the Thame show ground.

vi) Harry Blake sold the land to Mr. W Benton for the cement works in 1912.

vii) Watercress was grown in Henton on a watercress bed.

viii) Planning permission was granted for a council house estate on 138 acres of land at Emmington opposite The Inn at Emmington adjacent to Thame Road (on left as you come from Chinnor) in May 1953.

ix) Web sites that may be of interest to others:

x) Boundary stone marked the Icknield Way through Chinnor.



This example is outside the Red Lion.

Farming websites.

www.farm-direct.co.uk

www.daff.irlgove.ie

www.merl.org.uk

owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Chilterns Conservation Board.

Chilterns Open Air Museum.

The Science Museum.