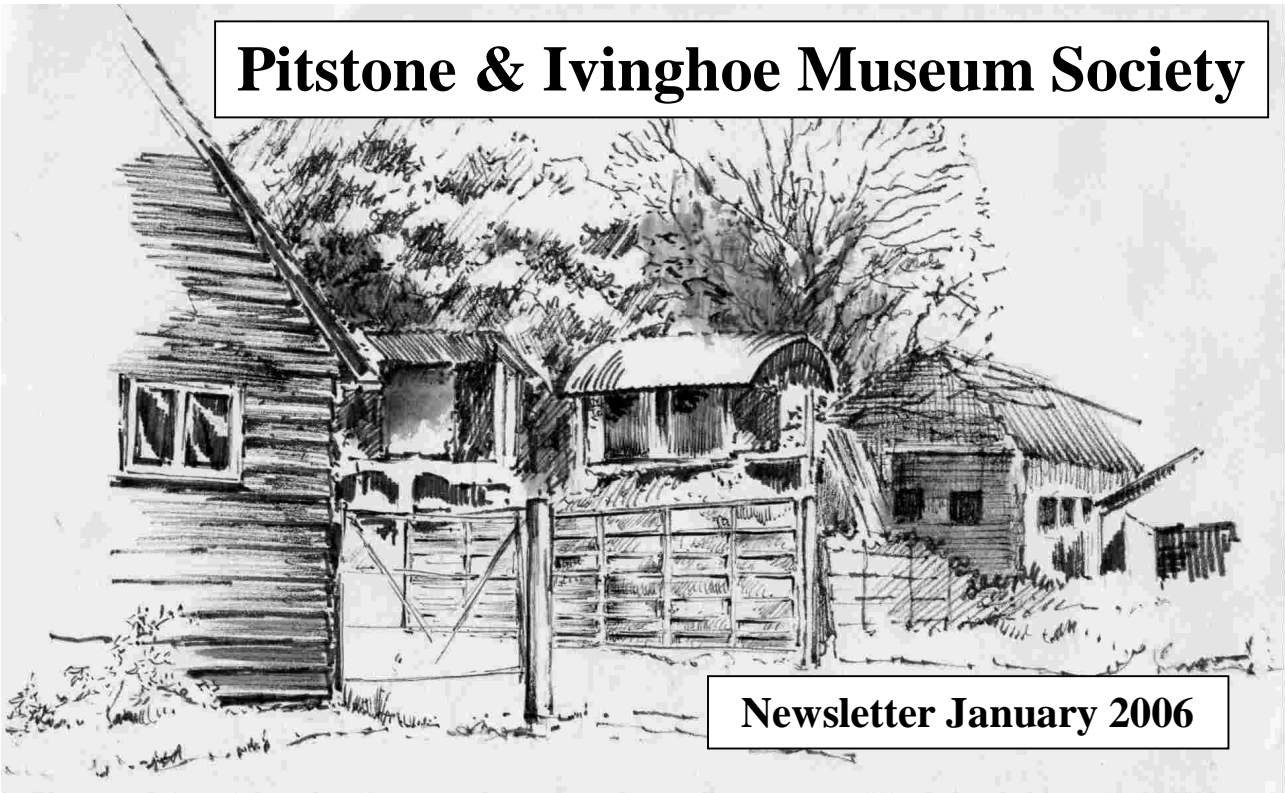


Pitstone & Ivinghoe Museum Society



Newsletter January 2006

Picture by B. Wright (01296 668083)

From The Chairman

Firstly, I would like to wish you all an extremely happy and prosperous 2006.

We have a wonderfully dedicated team and hopefully, will have an even better year than last, particularly with regard to the Open Days.

The start of a new year reminds me that we are all getting older so perhaps the following observations will make you smile.

- 1) You look for your glasses for half an hour and they were on your head the whole time.
- 2) You sink your teeth into a steak - and they stay there.
- 3) You give up all your bad habits and still don't feel good.
- 4) You have more patience but it is actually that you just don't care any more.
- 5) You finally get your head together and your body starts falling apart.
- 6) You wonder how you could be over the hill when you don't even remember being on top of it.

Keep smiling -

Kit Kite

Museum Report – January 2006

This time we can sum up by saying there has been slow but steady progress on all fronts. There are just four items which are worthy of mention in addition.

We have had a water leak on the museum site. Its location and repair has taken up the efforts of several

of our volunteers for a considerable time. Five holes have been dug down to the pipe; three of these have been backfilled, and the other two have been fitted up as inspection holes (manholes). For those with technical, or plumbing, knowledge our water comes from a well and is piped underground around the site in $\frac{3}{4}$ " galvanised pipe. Where we have uncovered it, it has seemed to be in quite good condition, except at the one place where the leak was and the pipe there was rotten. The depth of the pipe is well under that specified for all new building these days, and consequently is more likely to freeze up in very cold weather.

On a more cheerful note, we have successfully applied for and been given a grant of £2000 from the Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire Museum Development Service (BOB MDS) to enable us to fit a shutter door to the entrance to the Grain Barn, and to re-clad that face of the building. When this is completed (work is underway at present) this will enable us to keep dust, leaves, rain and birds out of the barn, and will also allow us to store artefacts of greater value in there.

We are in the process of erecting a ride on railway in the woodland to the rear of the Grain Barn. Of course this is not strictly part of the Museum collection, but we hope it will prove to be an attraction for the public, particularly for children. At first there will be just a straight run alongside one boundary fence, but later it can be extended to follow the boundary along two sides of the Museum site. Plans are also underway for the Gauge '1' model railway in the Nissen hut to have an outdoor circuit for steam trains.

We had hoped to complete the transfer of the Archaeology room to its new location before the first open day on Easter Monday 17th April. It is looking increasingly doubtful that we shall achieve this now, but it should not be too long after that before the job is complete.

Finally, as I am sure most members of the Society will by now be aware, Ford End Watermill has, for its own reasons, chosen to secede from PIMS. Effectively this happened on 31st October last year when the Society's lease of the Mill expired, and the new group have called themselves the Ford End Watermill Society (FEWS). Pitstone Green Museum would like to take this opportunity of wishing them well in their independent venture.

Peter Keeley, Deputy Museum Manager

Archives and Artefacts.

When the Society started collecting local artefacts and documents in the 1980's, an archive was started which involved the cataloguing of items in a book or a card filing system. When the society applied for Provisional Registration there was a requirement to enter all of the museum artefacts onto a computer system called Catalist. Since then some 2000 items have had an identifying reference number written on them and then entered into Catalist. This has also been carried out on the many hundreds of photographs that are stored at the museum. Catalist has certain drawbacks however, one being that only myself and one or two others have ever used it and the other is that it is not the easiest programme to extract information from, in a form that is easy for others to use. With the help of Sandra and her husband Bill we have extracted the information contained in Catalist and rearranged it so that others not familiar with computers can use. This will be shortly available both for the artefacts and the photographs held at the museum. One task that we are looking for help with is to check the contents of each room against lists that we are producing to ensure that all items are correctly documented and in the location shown on Catalist. If you can help with this project please get in touch.

We also have a vast collection of documents, publications, manuals, books, papers, maps, newsletters, reports etc stored in cabinets in the office and the loft and these we are trying to re-arrange such that they are easily accessible without resorting to computer knowledge. We have purchased new document files and are busy labelling both filing

cabinets and contents to make the items easier to find. The task is going to take time as we can only find a couple of hours a week, but hopefully by this time next year we should have an improved and workable system.

N.G.

Help! Help! Help!

At the end of October 2005 the Watermill lease expired and the only two active sections of the society are now the museum and the monthly meetings. One of the reasons we could not continue with the Watermill Lease, even if it was offered to us, was that we could find no one in the Society to take on David Lindsey's job of manager for the foreseeable future. Could we be facing this problem at the museum in a few years time? When I joined the society in about 1991 we had a large committee of about 10 members. We were then in a position that if one member dropped out for whatever reason, someone was there to step in the breach. The committee has now decreased to only eight members and many are doubling up on the tasks requiring to be carried out. Sandra Barnard has taken over the job of archivist but cannot spare the time that Gill Arney put in and hence cannot serve on the committee. I am working with Sandra and Kit our Chairman to sort out the office, which is proving to be a big job. We lost our Newsletter Editor many years ago, never to be replaced, with other committee members stepping in to provide Sandra, who puts it all together, with material. We are in the position now that if one committee member were unable to continue their duties we would be in serious difficulties. I would like to give up the Treasurer's job at the end of this financial year in March but who would replace me? I would still need a certain financial input, as the museum has by far the largest income and expenditure but many of the other Treasurer's tasks are time consuming. Most of our newsletters have had an appeal for help but it always falls of deaf ears. Unless we can find members that are willing to carry out administration duties, or at least join the committee to gain experience for possible future duties, the future for the society look a bit bleak. When you read this newsletter please do not assume that someone else will come along, ask yourself, can I help in any small way and please contact one of the few remaining committee members. The tasks are numerous, for the society in general, for the open days and for the museum. Two of our members recently resigned saying that the museum had been taken over by 'Hobbyists' and that local history was

being ignored. I assume that the word 'Hobbyist' referred to myself and some 15 to 20 others that work hard at the museum for up to 20 hours a week in some cases, to maintain the site, preserve and restore the artefacts. The term 'taken over' should have said 'the only ones left' as, apart from Mike and Jean Morris, we have no one who appears to have an interest in Local History, sufficient to come down and help us. We need people to clean and look after the museum rooms and displays, to create perhaps new displays, come up with new ideas and to be able to implement them. We have had several Local History Groups visiting the museum and they are always envious of the fact we have such a marvellous site and are in complete control of the site. It does surprise me sometimes that we cannot attract more of the members to take an active interest in the displays at the museum.
N.G.

Membership

PIMS subscriptions are due on the 1st April 2006, prior to the date that you will receive your next Newsletter. At the AGM last November, some changes were announced regarding the amount to be paid. As we only send out one newsletter and issue a joint membership card to a couple at one address, the payment will only be £10 for that Family or Joint Membership. All other single subscriptions will be £6.00. The reason for doing this was to make the job of the Membership Secretary easier, to save the Society unnecessary printing costs and to pass on those cost savings to the members. We no longer differentiate in the subscription costs between senior citizens and others. As Ford End Watermill is no longer part of PIMS there will be free entry for members and any of their children under 14, to Pitstone Museum only. This will apply to both joint and single membership subscriptions.

Single person membership: - £6.00

Family or Joint membership at one address: - £10.00
Cheques payable to PIMS. Membership may be renewed at the monthly meetings, at the museum or by post to the Membership Secretary at 39 Periwinkle Lane, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 3NP. Please do not send in subscriptions prior to mid March 2006.

Norman Groom

Catering

On Saturday 4 February at 11.00am there will be a Catering meeting/lunch at the Museum to thank the people who helped in 2005 and to plan 2006. Should

there be anyone who would be interested in joining the team this year please either phone Helen on 02076 255588 (answer phone) or Norman 01582 605464.

Moat Farm

When I come down to the museum from Dunstable nowadays I always turn at the bottom of the hill from the Beacon taking the upper Icknield Way towards Tring and then turn into Vicarage road as this avoids the bumps through Ivinghoe and Pitstone. About 100 yards into Vicarage road, on the right, there is a sign and entrance to Moat Farm. I thought it was a strange name but thought little more about it.

Back in August 2005 I received an email from a lady in Denmark, Alette Bertelsen who was looking for information about, strangely enough, Moat Farm. Although I have been at the museum for quite a few years my knowledge of local history was somewhat limited so I passed the email to the 'font of all local knowledge', our Secretary, Brenda. Brenda has been in contact with the Bertelsen family exchanging information and photographs. Alette Bertelsen's Grandmother, now 93, lived at Moat Farm in the late forties. Her Grandfather was working as a Danish Engineer at the local Cement Works. Alette was asking about the story and history of the house and what was it now being used for. The following is part of an email that Brenda received from Alette's Mother Anne Christiansen, giving details of the families history at Pitstone.

In 1939 my parents: Anne Marie Ditlevsen (born 1912) and Leif Ditlevsen (1907-1994) and their baby son Peter (1938) went to Pitstone where my father was going to work for F.L.Smith as a Chemical Engineer. At first they lived in a small house: Tunnel Cottages no.2, near the Cement Factory. Then the war came, and for the next 5 years my parents had very little contact with their family in Denmark. They had to send letters home to Denmark through Sweden. In those years my father also joined The Homeguard in Pitstone and Tring. On April 22, 1940 my sister Elisabeth was born, and I, Anne Birgitte, was born on Oct.17, 1942 – both in Luton at a Nursing Home there. In 1946 (after the war ended) we were lucky to rent Moat Farm – a nice big house compared to the little cottage where we lived before: 2 adults, 3 children and often friends from London – coming to stay in the safe country-village during the war. It was like Paradise for children to live in Moat Farm, especially in the summer when we could play in the garden and orchard and the dried-out moat.

We lived there until 1949, when we returned to Denmark, and my father continued to work for F.L.Smith in Valby, Copenhagen. I remember him talking about Mr. Ulrich and the other engineers you mention in your mail. It is exciting, that you have worked at The Tunnel Portland Cement factory too.

Following on from this correspondence Brenda thought it would be nice idea to send them a photograph of Moat farm as it is today. Fortunately Brenda also knows the present owner John Briggs and arranged for herself, Peter Keeley, who has a nice digital camera, and myself to visit Moat Farm. John made us very welcome and showed us around the site and also in the house. What amazed me was the moat. You associate moats with castles not with other residents and one also assumes that any moats have by now degenerated into a shallow ditch. Not so at Moat Farm. The moat, although nowadays is virtually always dry, is some 20 to 30ft wide and 6 to 8ft deep with steep sides and a flat bottom. The house goes back to Elizabethan times and strangely enough is not in the centre of the moat. The house is towards the front of the moat with grounds extending some 50 yards to the rear through a wooded area. The moat was fed from a spring at the rear of the property, the stream continuing out at the front of the site after passing though the moat. The stream

continues though the adjacent field but is now running in underground pipes. It eventually passes under the orchards at Pitstone Farm and emerges near the roundabout at the end of Vicarage road.

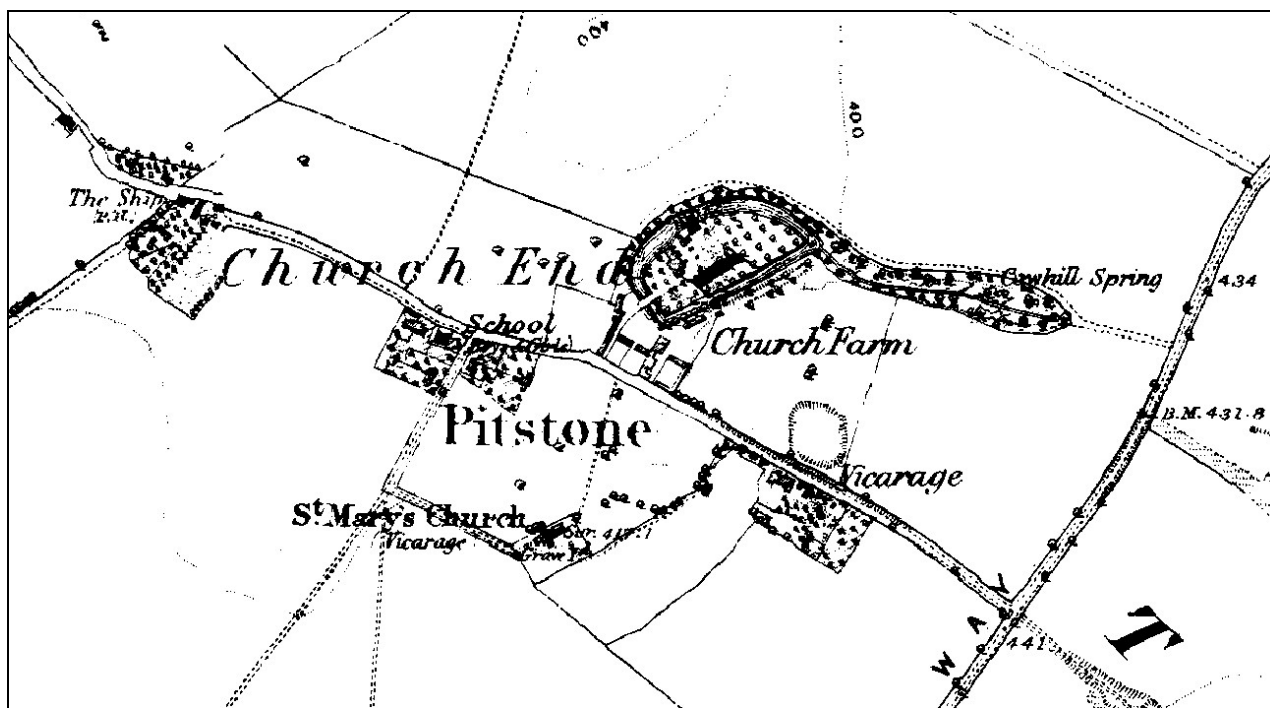
Sandra has produced an article about the occupants of Moat Farm back in the last century as you will read next. Look at the map of the site, first Sandra's 1880's map and then the later one from a 25inch to the mile one of 1925. Nothing appears to have changed much although the house itself looks in a slightly different position on the earlier map. There is no sign of the stream leaving Moat Farm on either map, the line roughly where the stream is thought to flow appears to just be a boundary line between two fields and it must have been re-routed underground very early on. It is amazing what one can find in the area, Moat Farm to me was just a strange name. Does anyone else have any interesting stories about the area that we can publish in the Newsletter.

Norman Groom.

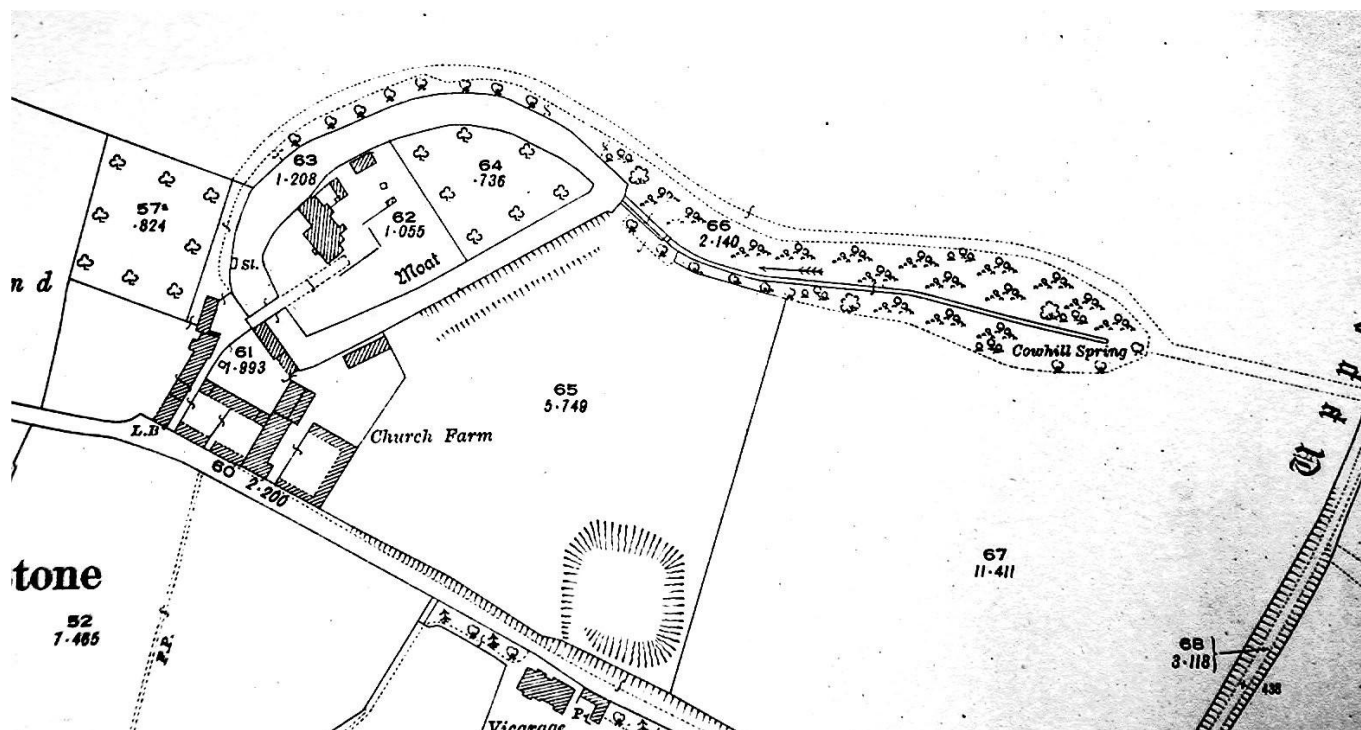
Snapshot of Pitstone

Moat Farm previously, Church Farm

Below map dated 1882-1884 shows the moat.



Map 1882-1884



taken from the 25 inch to the mile map of 1925

History from the censuses 1851 to 1901.

The Census of 1851 was taken on Sunday 30th March. At that time, James Proctor from Ivinghoe Aston was running the farm. He was 41 and his wife, Anne, born Herts. Hemel Hempstead, was 37. James describes himself as a "Farmer of 358 acres employing 22 labourers" Anne says she is a "Farmer's wife". There was one daughter Frances Anne aged 11 a "scholar" and was born in "Bucks Ivinghoe". There were also four servants living with them. Hannah Lane 19 born in Watford and Jemima Bramil (or Brazil) 17 born in Bucks Quainton, were general servants. Henry Brown 19 born Bucks West Wycombe and David Collier 20 born in Pitstone were agricultural labourers.

More Colliers lived at Church cottage near by, James born Pitstone, 46 an "Ag. Lab." and his wife Sarah 48, from Cirencester Gloucestershire. Two daughters Ann 18 born Tring and Sarah 16 born Pitstone, were "straw plaiters".

Their next neighbours were the Jellis family at Church End. William 51 born Pitstone says he was a "Publican" His wife Ann was from Edlesborough. They had four children. Two boys David 22 and Stephen 18 were agricultural labourers and unmarried. A younger son George 14 and their daughter Ann 9 were "straw plaiters". All the children were born in Pitstone.

(from Public Record Office Census:-

HO 107/1716 page 233)

In 1861 the census was taken on Sunday 7th of April. James Proctor is now 51 and still the farmer of Church Farm. He now says he has 420 acres and employs 20 men and 10 boys. His wife Anne is 47 and there is another daughter in the household Maria Deacon 24 born Ivinghoe, as well as Frances Anne who is now 21 both are single. Another person who lived at the farm was John Russell 23 unmarried a "visitor". He says he was an "army officer retired" and was born in Beaminster Dorset. Also at the house was Jane Rawley 26 their cook. She was single and from Northamptonshire, Marston St Lawrence.

This page of the census also details two other farms. Little Barley End run by Joseph Simmons 71 born in Pitstone and a farmer of 120 acres of land employing 4 men and 1 boy. Dunscombe

Farm run by William Bigg 70 a farmer of 510 acres employing 14 men and 4 boys.

Here we can also see details of the Pitstone "Parsonage". Charles R Hutchinson 33 and born in Ealing, was the "Curate". He lived with his widowed mother Annette M Briant 56 and sister Annette S Briant 14. There was a "pupil" Frederick Vigne 17 and 2 servants Mary Edmonds 35 was cook and Mary Ann Hazlegrove 22 was the housemaid.

(from Public Record Office Census:-

RG 9/842 page 45)

In 1871 the date for this census was Sunday the 2nd April. James Proctor is now 61 and still runs Church Farm. He now says it is 395 acres and he employs 15 men and 3 boys. Anne is still "farmers wife" and there is a "visitor" Daniel Buckley aged 6 born Middlesex London. There were 3 servants, a cook, Sarah Veasey 24? from Bucks Cadmore End, a housemaid Agnes Thompson 24 from Middlesex, Shepherds Bush, and a dressmaker, Eliza Slowman 29 a widow, born in Ireland. There was also a lodger living in an outhouse at the farm, Thomas Clements from Totternhoe?, 42 unmarried. He was working as an agricultural labourer on the farm.

In a private house near by is Elisha Proctor 33, and wife Maria L 33. He states his occupation as "farmers son" and place of birth as Slapton Bucks. They have a son James E D aged 10 born Pitstone.

At the vicarage, Charles R Hutchinson now 43, has a wife Mary Isabella 25, born in Leicestershire Woodhouse Eaves. They have 2 sons Basil 1 and Arthur 1 month., both born in Pitstone. There is another pupil Godfrey R W Sandford 18 born in Dublin Ireland. The family have 4 servants, Louisa J Frost 23, nurse, Sarah A Tompkins 24, cook, Sarah E Humphrey 30, Laundry maid and Mary A Elkerston 19, housemaid.

(from Public Record Office Census:-

RG 10/1390 page 5)

Sunday 3rd April 1881 was census time again. There have been changes at the farm!

(Below Extract from free web site

www.familysearch.org)

Household Record

1881 British Census

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Disability
John WILLIAMSON	Head	M	Male	60	Gt Gadsden, Hertford, England	Farmer (600 Acres Empl 17 Men 6 Boys 2 Sons	
Elizabeth WILLIAMSON	Wife	M	Female	54	Marsworth, Buckingham, England	Farmer Wife	
Mary Ann WILLIAMSON	Daur	U	Female	34	Cheddington, Buckingham, England	Farmer Daughter	
Thomas WILLIAMSON	Son	U	Male	22	Cheddington, Buckingham, England	Farmers Son	
Edward WILLIAMSON	Son	U	Male	20	Cheddington, Buckingham, England	Farmers Son	
Maria WILLIAMSON	Daur	U	Female	19	Ivinghoe, Buckingham, England	Farmers Daughter	
Florence WILLIAMSON	Daur		Female	13	Ivinghoe, Buckingham, England	Farmers Daug ((Son))	
Sarah Ann STEEL	Serv	U	Female	19	Kempston, Bedford, England	General Servant	

Source Information:

Dwelling Pitstone Church Farm
Census Place Pitstone, Buckingham, England
Family History Library Film [1341351](#)
Public Records Office Reference RG11
Piece / Folio 1447 / 56
Page Number 18

The Parsonage house in 1881 was uninhabited.

The Census of 1891 was on Sunday 5th April James Reeve who we find running Moat Farm in 1901 was the publican at the Half Moon at Wilstone. Living with him was his wife Eliza and children. The oldest daughter was Mary Ann 17. Elizabeth was 13, Walter 11, John 8, Albert W 7, Lucy 3, Minnie 2 and Flora 5 months old. James describes himself as "Hay and Straw Dealer and Licensed Victualler"

Church Farm is now run by Alfred G Williamson. Looking back through the censuses it can be seen that he is John's son. He can be seen with his father in the 1861 census aged 4 and at school in Northampton on the 1871. He is running the farm with his brother Frank 23 born Ivinghoe. His sister Sarah E lives with them. She is "living on her own means". They have 2 servants, Eliza Chappel 14 born Bucks Hollingdon and Maria Hawkins 18 from Beds Studham.

The next entry on the sheet shows the vicar of Pitstone was now Frank Heath 50 married and born in Islington London. There are no entries for a wife or children, but 2 servants, Ruth Twigg 18, housemaid born in Pitstone and Ellen S Tompkins 18 born Ivinghoe, was the cook.

On this page we can see Barley End Farm run by Charles Jellis 47, his wife Lucy and children.

(from Public Record Office Census :-
RG 12/1127 page 16)

From the Census in 1901 taken on 31st March, James Reeve 51 is the Farmer and Employer at Church Farm. He was born in Aston Clinton. His wife Eliza was 50 and came from Buckland. They had 2 sons, John 18, (Albert?) William 17 both born in Herts Wilstone. Their occupation was given as "Farmers son", workers. An older sister Elizabeth 23 was born in Buckland like her Mother, She gives her occupation as "Housework" at home. There were 2 more younger sisters, Florry (Flora?) 10 and Beatrice 8 both born at Wilstone and described as scholars. All the children were unmarried. They had a domestic servant, Margaret Welduck aged 16 single and from Bucks Drayton Parslow. Nearby in Stank Lane lived their eldest son George Reeve 29, with his wife Mary Ann 27. He was born like his Father in Aston Clinton, his wife Mary, Wilstone. He gives his occupation as "Farmers Son", worker. They have 5 children, Alice 6, John 4, Lucy 3, George 2 and Elizabeth 5 months old. They were all born in Bucks Pitstone.

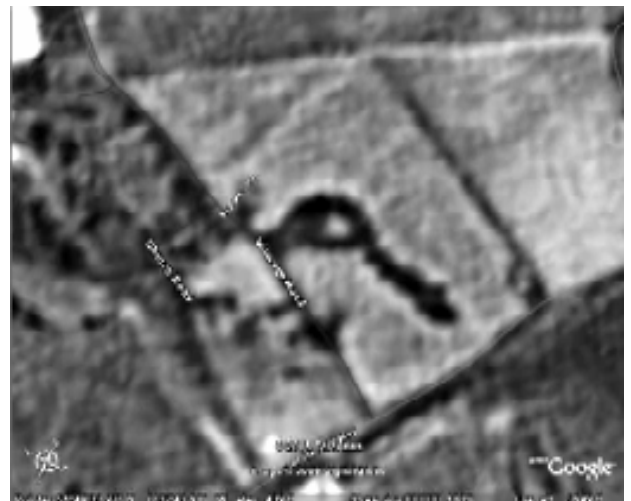
(from Public Record Office Census :-
RG 13/1330 page 34)

Note:-

The word STANK is believed to have come from originally a pool or pond, made by damming up a water-course, thence (a verb) to dam up. Stank-lane in Pitstone is so called from being close to an old pond now filled up.

"Records of Buckinghamshire" by Alfred Heneage Cocks, M.A, between 1897 and 1909.

Picture of Moat Farm from Space today.



The road at the bottom of the picture is the Icknield way, coming off it is Vicarage Road.

Note:-I have tried to use the wording as written by the enumerator on the censuses. This may sometimes look ungrammatical.

Sandra Barnard

Natural History Demonstrations

Kathleen Haran, our Crafts Organiser has acquired two very nice stereo microscopes that we can use at the museum for demonstration purposes. They were discarded and in need of repair, when a company moved to another site and they were rescued from a skip. I have repaired, rebuilt and modified them such that they can be used for demonstration purposes. Several years ago a friend of mine put on demonstrations of natural history subjects using his own microscopes in my radio room but unfortunately he died two years ago. These demonstrations proved extremely popular, especially for the children and I am hoping to put on a similar exhibition with our own microscopes. These could be held in our meeting room on the museum open days.

I have a problem however in that I cannot do everything myself, as I am already fully committed

on the open days. Is there a member or members in our society that are interested in natural history, pond life, plant life, insects etc that could run such an exhibition on one or more of our open days? Even everyday items under a microscope can reveal a hidden world. The microscopes are stereo zoom ones of very high quality and one has an attachment for a TV camera, allowing the use of an adjacent TV screen to point out items of interest. If you have never used a microscope before, I can give instructions and suggest and demonstrate the various displays that would be of interest. Microscopy is a fascinating subject and it opens up another world that is hidden to us in our every day life. If you are interested and would like to talk about the possibilities, please give me a ring or see me at the museum.
N.G.

Memories of Prunes - Reg Jellis

My first memories would be in the late forties when Prunes were still a profitable crop. In fact, for many people who only had a small orchard or two in Pitstone or Ivinghoe, they were their main income, other than keeping poultry and an odd pig or two.

The old growers would say that the prune trees had about twenty five years to grow, twenty five to live and twenty five to die. They would only have a good crop about every three years; enough to feed you when alive and warm you when they died. To get the best out of the trees required a lot of husbandry in the winter. Dead branches had to be cut out and suckers removed with a stock axe keeping the best in a tree nursery for replacements.

Then in late spring came the spraying, an awful job. I think (I may be wrong) that one of the main ingredients was sulphur, an awful smelling yellow mixture. I used to go with my father, grandfather and uncle Jack Wilson spraying our own and other people's orchards in the village. The spraying machine was originally pulled by a horse then later by a tractor. It was hard work turning the handle to work the pumps so you took turns. When the prunes became worthless, I brought the machine to the museum. It is still in Jeff's barn but all of the pipes, lances and brass fittings have gone missing since being there.

The trees were susceptible to all sorts of bugs and disease. This meant another time consuming job plastering a treacle like substance called Bandite Tanglefoot for a width of about nine inches all round

the trunk about six feet up from the ground. It was important to get it into all the crevices on the rough bark. It prevented the bugs climbing up into the branches.

The picking in late September and October was not an easy job and some of trees were old and lot of the fruitful branches were at the top and very brittle. My grandfather used to set the ladders for the pickers. My aunts and uncles and other men and women from the village helped in their spare time.

As a boy, being lighter, I would be sent up to some of the outreaching branches. Grandfather would hold the bottom of the ladder. He'd say "Don't worry if the branch breaks, you'll only fall into the tree". This was OK if the ladder didn't spin over. Fruit picking ladders are narrow at the top to help prevent this happening.

You had to be careful picking them and try not to pull any twigs off at the ends where next year's growth would be. It was important not to rub the bloom off the plum or they would not look so good for selling.

When I first started helping to pick the fruit, it was put into sives of ½ bushel, mostly called halves. Prunes, gages, and Victorias went into halves, apples into bushels, while damsons and other small plums went into Quarters. Later they went into boxes and sives disappeared.

The bit I liked most was going with my father to the markets, either Covent Garden or Brentford. We would leave about 10pm to be at Covent Garden at midnight or 4a.m., to be in the queue to unload at Brentford at 6a.m.

John Groom used to go every night except Saturday with his lorry, as he carried them to Covent Garden for a lot of small growers. They could make up to 30/- (£1.50) per sive less 9d (3p) carriage and commission.

We didn't go every night as we only took our own prunes from out of our own orchards and orchards that my father used to 'buy'. 'Buying the orchard' meant that for that season my father had bought all the fruit that was on the trees before picking and then took a chance on the crop and what the price in the market it would be at the time. Father, John Groom and many others used to say that the best times were in the Thirties when they would sell the prunes for making dye and a lot were exported to Germany. Buyers came over to Covent Garden for them.

The family accounts show that in the Thirties the price of halves varied from 2/- (10p) to 9/- (45p). In the book for the 1890's it shows that in 1896 they were 3/6 (17p). At that time a worker's hourly wage was 6d (2½p). Transport from Pitstone to London was 9d (3p) per . The agent also stopped 5% of all sales. Even so, they were a pretty valuable crop.

By the mid Fifties, when I was old enough to drive a lorry myself, sales were dropping off. Prunes had always sold well because they were one of the late fruits and people used them for jam and preserving, but many imported fruits had started to come in all through the winter and no one wanted prunes. By 1957/58 growers were getting bills for disposing of them. That was the end of what had been a profitable business for 100 years or more.

For these who are interested, there certainly seems to have been a climate change since those days. I remember going with father one night at the end of October beginning of November when the lorry engine froze up before we got to Tring Station and we had to limp back and thaw it out. At other times the fog from New Ground to the Watford by-pass, especially through Bourne End, was so thick that I rode on the lorry wing in places signalling how far from the kerb my father was. He couldn't see it from the cab with the lights that you had in those days.

In October 2005 a contestant on Master Mind said that his Grandfather, a Swede, came over to England during the 1st World War and bought Prunes that he exported to Ireland, from there they went to Germany where they were used for Dye Making, used to Dye the uniforms for the U Boat Crews. The conditions in the U Boats was so poor that they only usually survived for one trip. So this seems to prove it was correct what my Father, [Charles Jellis], John Groom, and others had said had happened obviously, and before their time as well.

Orchard owners in the forties and fifties

Cheddington Rd - From the Railway Bridge
 Left side - Mr H Reeds, (Previously Mr Horn Orchard Farm); Mr Snellings, later E J Stone;
 Mr A Blake, (Sparrowthatch);
 Mr John Tompkins (Greenacres);
 Pitstone Town Lands Charity;
 Fred Messenger;
 and R Jellis and Son (Old Farm)
 Right Side - Mr H Williamson
 Chequers Lane - From the Chequers

Left Side - E Blake and Sons

Right Side - C Jellis and J Wilson;

Mr Hayes and Ken Hallet

Vicarage Rd

Left Side - L J Hawkins and Sons

Right Side - L J Hawkins and Sons; Mr B Plummeridge; London Cement, Moat Farm

Marsworth Rd - From the Railway Bridge

Left Side - Mr S Arriss; R Jellis and Son;

Mr W Rogers; Mr J Groom; Mr J Hurford;

Mr L Williamson; Mr W Dell

Right Side - L J Hawkins and Sons;

Mrs J Treacher; Mr Fred Jellis

Queen St - From the shop

Left Side - W Rogers; followed by Mr S Kempster; then C Jellis (frontage also on Marsworth Road);

Mr Houghton; Mr J Groom

Right Side - Mr E Blake and Sons; Mr J Groom;

Mr P Mardell

Albion Rd - From Marsworth Rd

Left Side - Mr J Teagle; J Groom; Mr P Mardell

Right Side - Mr J Teagle; Mr Albert Turney;

M and H Williamson

Some orchards were large, others small. Quite a lot of people had one or two trees in their gardens.

Reg Jellis

Note:- sive is the correct spelling.

Programme 2006

All meetings are held in the Education Room in the Pitstone Green Museum at 8.00 pm.

Thursday 19th January 2006

One Foot in the Water, One Foot on the Land

Runnells Davis, our speaker for the evening, is a writer, photographer and lecturer on the English canal system. His talk will focus us on the wildlife, architecture and history of the Grand Union Canal as it travels through Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire and it will be illustrated by slides taken from both his boat and the towpath.

Thursday 16th February

What's in a name?

Marlene Lee, archivist of Cheddington History Society has done much research into the ancient field systems of Cheddington and into the field names. She will bring with her copies of old maps to illustrate her talk.

Thursday 16th March

Pehr Kalm, a Finnish visitor to the Chilterns

Professor Bill Mead has visited us before with a talk on 'Ridge and Furrow' and this time he will be talking about Pehr Kalm, a Finn who visited the Chilterns in 1748 on his way to America. He was a favourite disciple of the Swedish botanist Linnaeus and stayed in Little Gaddesden for three weeks. Professor Mead has studied this eminent man for many years and has recently published a book about him.

Thursday 20th April

Artefacts from the Distant Past

Dave Chennells and Tony Seabrook are both fanatical about their hobby; metal detecting. William Hawkins has given them permission to search the fields around the farm so many of the artefacts they bring to show us will have come from our local area. Through these objects they will take us back in time, in some instances into pre-history.

Dates for your diary

The BBC 'Flog It' programme will be filming at Tring Market Auctions on **16th/17th February**.

'Cheese Wine and Antiques Evening' with **Stephen Hearn** will be on **Thursday 15 June**

'Hobbies Evening' **Thursday 17 August**

Help Needed

We always need a short item of interest to fit alongside the AGM in November. Ideally we would like a member to give a short talk about anything that really interests them - maybe an extension of the conversations some of you had during the 'Hobbies Evening' last July. Do please contact Sue Lipscomb if you feel you could help us with this.

Sue Lipscomb, Programme Secretary

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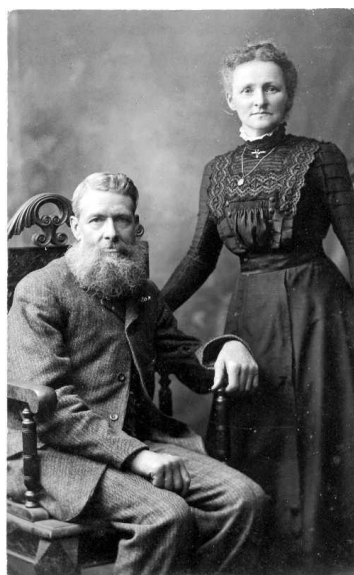
01582 792895

Newsletter

Sandra Barnard

Museum Website:-

<http://website.lineone.net/~pitstonemus>



Photograph held at the Museum.

Who are these people?
Do you recognise them as your ancestors? If so please contact Brenda Grace so we can put a name to the photograph.