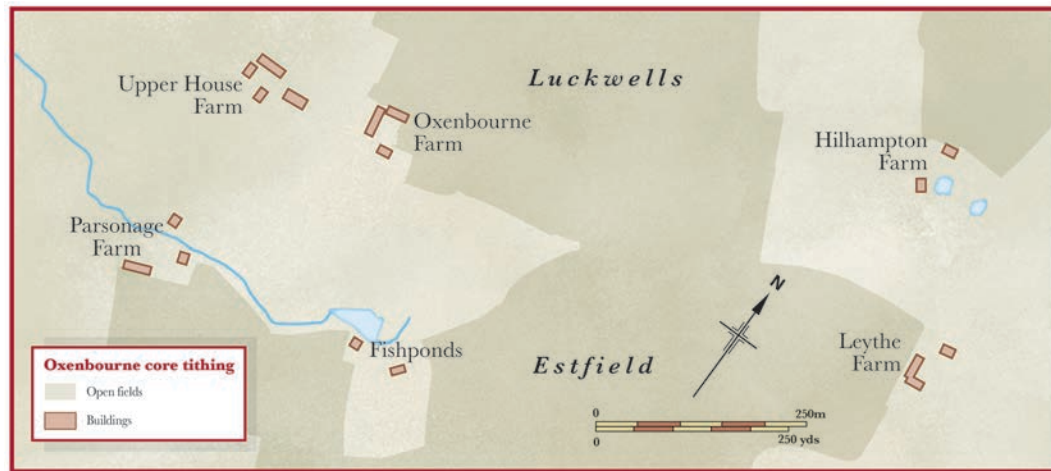


Oxenbourne Tithing

By Michael Blakstad, East Meon History Group.



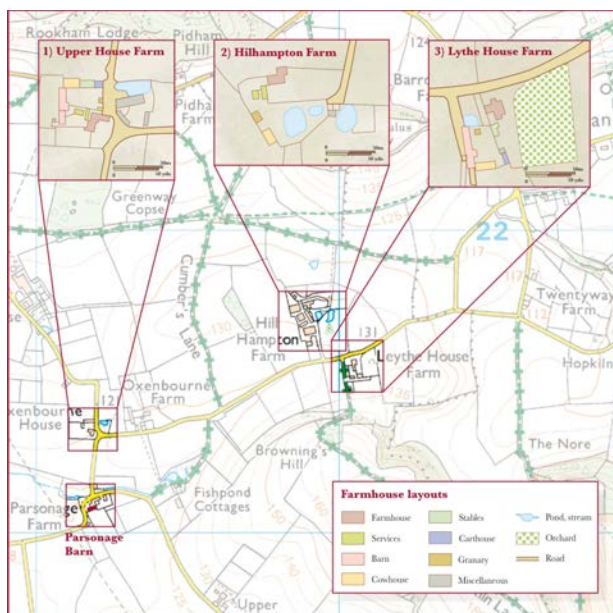
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Summary

Oxenbourne is one of a dozen tithings in the Hundred of East Meon. It lies to the east of East Meon village and its history is typical of small agricultural settlements throughout England. It graduated from open field cultivation in the Middle Ages to enclosed fields, mostly in the nineteenth century, from tenant and serf labour under church ownership to wealthy lay landlords and eventually to owner/farmers, from manual tillage to mechanisation, from single-cell dwellings to farm 'households' to country houses. Bishop Peter des Roches installed *vivaria* for breeding fresh fish at Fishponds in the early 13th century and in 1479, Bishop Waynfilet of Winchester gave land in Oxenbourne to Magdalen College, Oxford, which he had founded, to help finance the institution.

The history of Oxenbourne is traced through the farmers and their farms, based on primary sources including the Winchester Pipe Rolls, Tudor Rentals and Stuart surveys, on deeds and testaments. Nineteenth century Tithe Apportionments and estate sale maps have enabled us to track changes of ownership and change of land use. These sources are referenced and the appendices include transcriptions of some. Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and to the Hampshire Record Office's georeferencing initiative, we have been able to map the tithing and its farms from conjectural charts of medieval open fields up to detailed analysis of land ownership in the past 150 years.



This map highlights three farms whose history has been researched in depth, including the development of their farm buildings. Parsonage Barn was a tithe barn among other farm buildings until the 20th century

Map 1. Selected Oxenbourne Farms which have been researched for this report. (Upper Parsonage Barn is to the south of this map, and was not a farm.)

The settlement

At the heart of Oxenbourne tithing lies a cluster of three farms, Upper House, Oxenbourne and Parsonage Farms (*Map 2*).



Map 2 shows the core settlement of Oxenbourne tithing. These are the houses and farm buildings listed in the 19th century Tithing Apportionments, clustered around Oxenbourne and Upper House farms; this had probably not changed since the Middle Ages. Luckwells and Estfield were open fields. Hilhampton was a separate farmstead belonging to Magdalen College Oxford; Leythe Farm was probably built in the 17th century.

The settlement which today comprises Giant's Cottage, Parsonage Farm and Fishponds housed farm workers, equipment, animals and grain for Upper House and Oxenbourne Farms; throughout the Middle Ages, the men would have walked out each day to work in open fields surrounding the settlement. Parsonage Farm was a cluster of farm buildings.

The Middle Ages

From Saxon times, the two manors of East Meon and Meon Ecclesia belonged to the Bishops of Winchester, forming the largest of their Hampshire landholdings. Oxenbourne was listed at different times as part of Meon Ecclesia and of Meon Manor. In the Winchester Pipe Rolls of 1409 – 1410 it is listed (along with the tithings of East Meon, Drayton, Riplington, Coombe, Ramsdean, Bereleigh, Tyggehale and Iteden) as part of the manor of Meon Ecclesia and a source of tithes from apples and corn¹.

¹ Page, Mark (ed) *Winchester Pipe Rolls 1409 – 1410* Hampshire Record Series



Map 3 – Open Fields & demesne land (grey) in East Meon and Oxenbourne

Farmers rented 'lands' from the diocese – strips of arable ground in open fields; they rotated their crops in unison with other tenants and shared grazing on the common. *Map 2* on the left shows both open fields and the 'demesne' land owned and farmed by the Church. The system allowed the poorest husbandman to plough his lands alongside the richest tenant farmer. The Bishop's reeve, a local man, was responsible for collecting rents from tenants of the open fields, and for the crops grown on demesne land which were tilled by tenants and servii

(serfs) who owed 'labour services' as part of their rent. The reeve also collected the greater, or rectorial, tithes, one tenth of all crops and other produce; the Bishop was the rector and the grain was delivered to tithe barns. There were two in Oxenbourne, one at Parsonage farm near the main settlement and the other in the south of the tithing, now called Upper Parsonage barn (*Fig 1*). There was no church or chapel in Oxenbourne; the lesser tithes, taken from the produce of gardens and of animals kept in them, went to the vicar of East Meon.



Fig 1. Upper Parsonage Barn, in which the greater ('rectorial') tithes were collected.

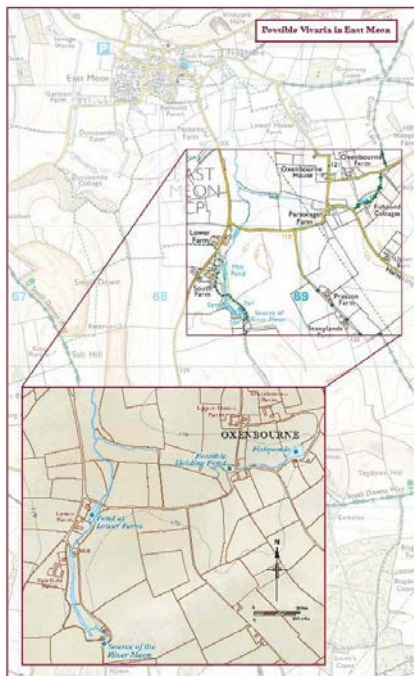
Fishponds

In the Middle Ages, most fish came from the sea and were salted or cured; eating fish was regarded as a penance, hence the Church's ban on eating meat on Fridays or during Lent. Fresh fish were a delicacy, bred in ponds owned by nobility or royalty and reserved for special occasions. The Bishops of Winchester maintained a handful of vivaria, ponds designed for keeping pike, perch, bream, roach and pike. We know there were fishponds in East Meon because the Pipe Roll of 1208/9 records a 'new pond' built by order of the Bishop, Peter de Roches; another in 1231 records that the vivarium was 'broken' (drained) and five feet of mud dug out; in 1244, ten men spent forty days carrying mud away on stretchers and twelve wheelbarrows; Master Nicholas, the Bishop's fisherman, supervised the operation. 'Fishponds' is the name given to the house alongside the two ponds, originally a 16th century

farmhouse, which lies on the outskirts of the medieval settlement of Oxenbourne.

Does the name 'Fishponds' indicate that this was the original *vivarium*? Most such names are modern but East Meon's Tithe Apportionments survey of 1851 lists 'Fishponds Paddock' next to the pond and as far back as 1567 a Rental survey records that Alice Suggatt held a *messuage and 4 acres in Oxenbourne vocat Fishewers* or 'fish weir' (HRO 11M59/A1/3/6)².

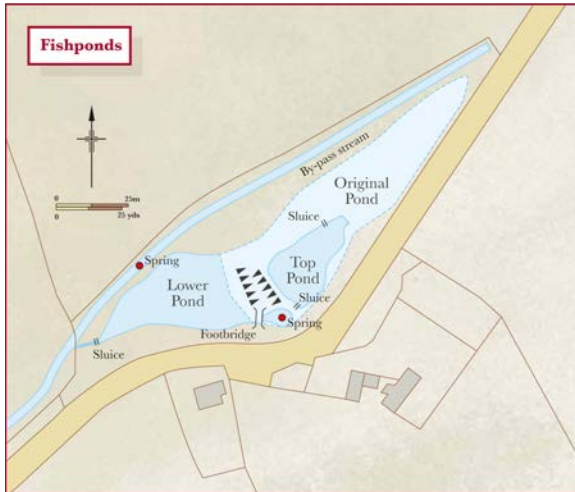
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Vivaria tended to be constructed close to the source of a river or stream, because the water is purer. Fishponds is fed directly by water running off the fields, and its waters form a tributary of the River Meon. The source of the Meon is nearby, and might itself have been the site of a *vivarium*, as might Lower Farm, half a mile downstream, which has evidence of earthworks to widen the stream and form a sizeable pond. Finally, there is a sizeable hollow in the field a quarter-mile downstream of Fishponds, next to Giant's Cottage, which might have held a *vivarium*. Four possibilities in all; each much smaller than the Bishop's other *vivaria* in Hampshire and there may have been more than one. Fishponds remains the most likely candidate, and carries traces of the layout of a typical *vivarium*.

Fig 2. Map showing possible sites for vivaria in East Meon

² There is no indication in the Rental as to the precise location of this property



Map 3. Layout of Fishponds, in Oxenbourne, showing today's ponds and the probable area of the original vivarium..

varia were carefully designed and managed. They were located near the source of a stream or river where the water is purer. Because they had frequently to be cleared of the silt from the fields, a bypass stream allowed the water to flow during the operation. The fish were then stored in a *servatorium*, a smaller pond; wattle hurdles or sluices prevented the fish from escaping. The bypass stream was used to drain the pond or divert flood water: wattle hurdles or sluices prevented fish

escaping.



Fig 3. The main pond at Fishponds today



Fig 4. The upper pond today, largely silted up.

The water level at Fishponds today is lower than the original, which would have come up to the level of the fence, and would have included what are today both the upper and main ponds. Centuries of silt has filled much of the area originally under water.



Fig 5. Seine fishing in the Middle Ages

When a royal visit or an important feast day approached, fishermen from the coast would often be imported to help with the catch, for which a long seine net was taken out by boat then brought back in an arc to the shore. Most episcopal ponds were within a day's journey by cart to the Bishop's palace at Wolvesey; the fish were wrapped in wet grass and carried alive in sacks so that they were fresh for the feast. In 1240, Henry III commanded that the ponds at Alresford, Bishop's Waltham and Menes were to be fished without



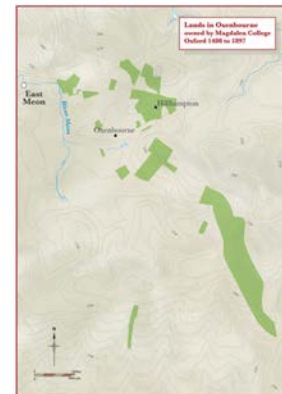
Fig 6. The central section of the house at Fishponds, the herringbone brickwork probably dating from the 16th century and its occupant must have been a yeoman farmer .

elay, the pike salted and others put in *pane* (paste) and sent to Westminster in time for Christmas celebrations.

fishponds, the house overlooking the Oxenbourne vivarium, built in the 16th century, was the home of a substantial yeoman farmer and his predecessors may have played a role in supervising the *vivarium*. However, it was managed by the Diocese's fisherman and it is unlikely that any resident of East Meon ever tasted the fresh fish bred in its fishponds.

Magdalen College lands

A separate study has been conducted of land around Hill Hampton (today's spelling) which belonged for five hundred years to Magdalen College Oxford³. Documents in the archives of Magdalen date back to the 14th century; Hilhampton appears to have been a sub-manor of East Meon, which the Diocese of Winchester administered on behalf of Magdalen. Below (fig 6) is an entry in a 1567 Rental which records that the college paid rent on a farm at 'Hellhampton'. The later history of the farm is described on pages 7/ 8; the lands were finally sold in 1897 .



Map 5. Lands owned by Madgalen College

Early Modern Oxenbourne

Records reveal the names of some residents of Oxenbourne in the 16th and 17th centuries, but where they lived is not indicated. In 1567, in an assessment of its finances following Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries, the diocese of Winchester conducted a survey of rentals from its lands in East Meon, of which the Oxenbourne entries are attached as Appendix 1. Its entries for the tithing of Oxenbourne show that by far the largest tenant was still Magdalen College (Fig 2), which paid an annual rent of £2. 13s for the messuage of Hilhampton and the lands which went with it. Some tenant farmers had acquired substantial holdings, notably John Knight (rental £1. 12. 6d), John Steele (£2. 0s 1d) Nicholas Pinke, (£1.12s 3½d), and George (19s.10d) and Alice Suggatt (19s 6½d) some of whose names will recur. The tithing of Oxenbourne is recorded as having four 'messuages', meaning a house with some land around it and possibly outbuildings, along with a number of cottages, usually with a garden or at least one acre of land.

³ Blakstad, Michael *Magdalen College's property in Oxenbourne*, EMHG library 2017

Luckwells is the open field in which most tenants held lands, George Suggatt farming as many as 14 acres there.

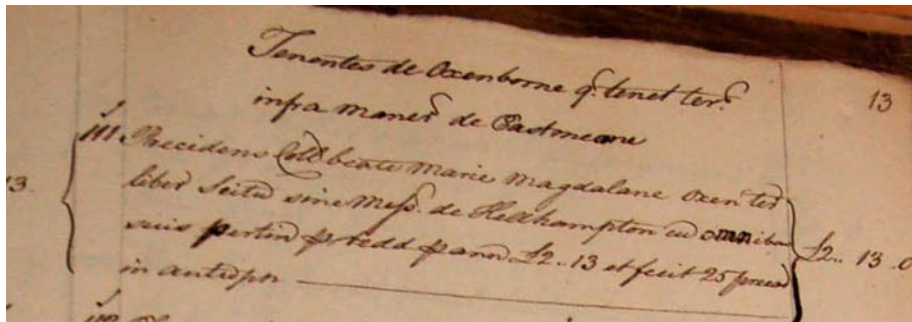
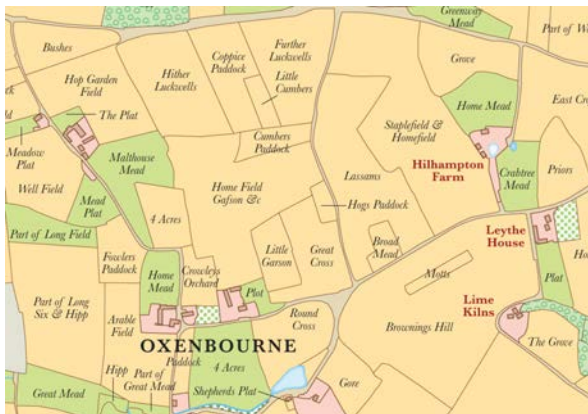


Fig 6 Excerpt from 1567 Rental for Tithing of Oxenborne. 111 Showing that the 'President of the College of the blessed Marie Magdalene Oxford' Oxford paid rent of £2.13 for the messuage of Hellhampton

East Meon's Rental lists all the occupants of open fields in the Decenna (Tithing) of Oxenbourne & Eccl[es]ia⁴. The occupants of Estfield and Luckwells, to the east and south of the tithing, are listed in Appendix 2.



Map 6. We know the location of Luckwells because the Tithing Apportionments, conducted in 1852, show that the name had survived in two fields located between Hilhampton and Oxenbourne farms.

Lay Subsidy, 1586

Two decades after the Rental survey of East Meon, a tax was raised on prosperous landholders. Some were rated on their possessions, some on the lands they rented. The name Pink appears once more, Nicholas as a landholder and John as the owner of, presumably, a house in the tithing.

Table 1 Lay Subsidy, Oxenbourne, 1586

Oxenbourne Lands	Thomas Foule 30s; Hugh Hoomes 30s; Thomas Stiggen 20s; Nicholas Pincke 20s	Parliamentary Survey 1647 After the Civil War, diocesan land was
Oxenbourne Goods	Edward Haycroft £9, John Pincke £9, Thomas Hooker £7	

confiscated from the diocese and largely reassigned to supporters of Parliament. A survey was conducted in 1647, recording the legal ownership of

⁴ HRO 11M59/A1/2/10 Rental survey Available as a PDF on www.eastmeonhistory.org.uk.

lands; a selection of entries for Oxenbourne is attached as Appendix 3. The name 'Pinke' is there again, with the wife of the younger Nicholas Pinke paying the largest rent in the tithing; Bulbeck and Longe also appear, and these names appear among the signatories to a dramatic contract which enclosed lands in Oxenbourne in 1661.

Enclosure 1661

After the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, the manors of East Meon were re-assigned to the Diocese of Winchester, while the lands were granted by the king to his supporters. In the early modern period, as the population of England grew and as towns and cities demanded more food, efficient farmers responded by improving their equipment and introducing techniques including improved irrigation and fertilisers, new crops and methods of crop rotation, and better farm equipment; it was more productive to cultivate enclosed lands than open fields. Although the process of Enclosure had been taking place gradually through the later Middle Ages, only four Enclosure contracts survive for the parish of East Meon, three of which relate to lands in Oxenbourne. The first is dated 1661, immediately after the Restoration of Charles II in which a group of prosperous yeomen are permitted by the Diocese of Winchester to move their less successful neighbours to other locations so that they could enclose fields for their exclusive use; the documentation is analysed in Appendix 4. Those who yielded their land were moved to less well-located or fertile plots, or were reduced to becoming agricultural labourers working for hire.

Hearth Taxes, 1665

Four years later, a survey was made of the number of hearths in houses in East Meon Hundred which lists those who lived in each tithing.

Table 2 Hearth Taxes for Oxenbourne 1655

Tenants	Hearths
Thomas Pooke	4
Widow Aburrowe	3
John Pooke	2
Thomas Ayleward	2
William Baker	3
John Hebb	2
Nicholas Pincke	1
Anthony Long	3
Anthony Brewton	1
Michael Jay	2
William Prickler	2
Richard Knight	1
Widow Ayleward	1
Thomas Booker	9
Mister Charles Bramly	4
Anthony Bulbeck	4
Nicholas Bulbeck	2
<i>Hearths not charged</i>	
Thomas Page	1
Ann Smith	1

From the Hearth Tax assessments we can estimate the population of Oxenbourne tithing at approximately 230, compared with Ramsdean at 320,

Langrish at 200, and East Meon tithing at over 570⁵. The houses ‘not charged’ Hearth Tax were occupied by paupers, and Oxenbourne had a smaller percentage of impoverished households than any other tithing in the manors except Bordean. . By contrast, almost a third of the households in East Meon and Langrish tithings were exempt, and almost half in Riplington.

The farm ‘household’

As a result of Enclosures new farmsteads appeared in the midst of fields⁶. These were built around brick fireplaces and chimney breasts which enabled separate rooms, staircases and corridors to be built to accommodate the farmer’s family, the ‘farm servants’ and work spaces. Farm servants were unmarried young people of both sexes who lived and worked on the premises; when they married they had to set up their own homes and became ‘agricultural labourers’, working for hire. Leythe House Farm was probably built at around this time; existing farmhouses were rebuilt to accommodate their households.

One example of such development is Hill Hampton. In the 1567 and 1647 surveys of Meon manors it is listed as ‘a messuage’; the present farmhouse was built in the late 18th century, from local malmstone, probably by Dr Edward Bentham, Dean of Christchurch College Oxford, who rented the Magdalen lands.



Fig 7. Hill Hampton farmhouse from the south, probably Georgian, built of malmstone



Fig 8. From east, with extension



Fig 9. Fireplace in the original kitchen where family and servants

⁵ The population figures are calculated by multiplying the number of hearths and exclusions by 4.3 Andrew Hinde *Calculating Crude Birth and Death Rates for Local Populations During the Parish Register Era*. p90 Local Population Studies. Paupers who lived in their own houses were exempt from Hearth Tax

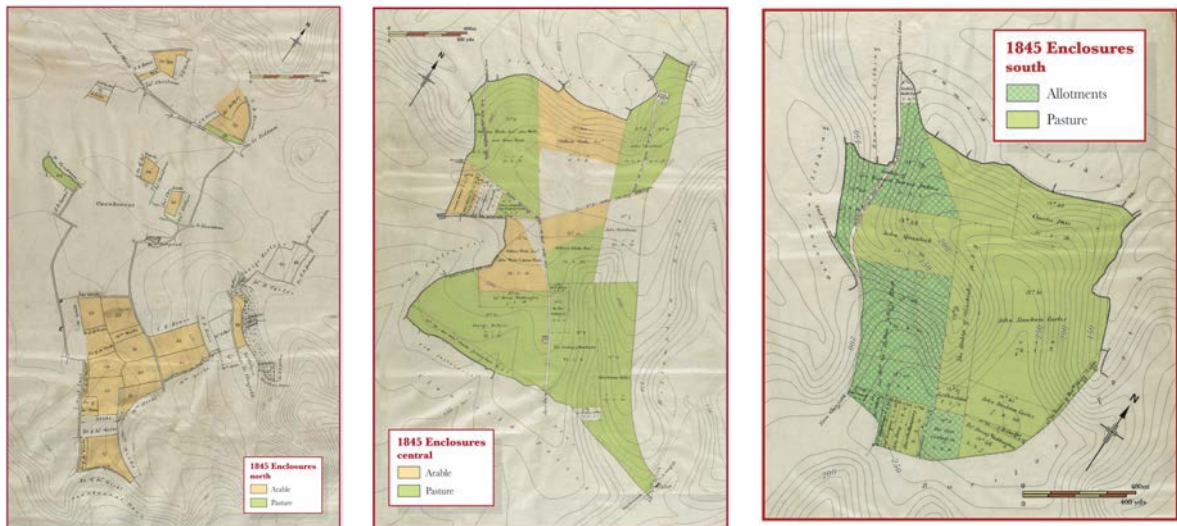
⁶ Hoskins W.G. *The Making of the English Landscape* Little Toller Books 2013p188

*prepared and ate food.is now the
sitting room*

Bentham and his heirs never lived in Hampshire; the new farmhouse was designed to attract well-off tenants and higher rents. It housed not only the farmer's family but farm servants, male and female; the whole household would have prepared and eaten their food in the kitchen, and the usual services would have been under the same roof – dairy, pantry (*paintrie* or bakery), buttery (*bouteillerie* or brewery), possibly a kill-house.

Parliamentary enclosures

Between 1750 and 1850, 4,000 Acts of Parliament were passed enforcing Enclosures in England, appropriating in all 6.8 million acres. One such Act received Royal Assent in 1839: *An ACT for Inclosing certain Open and Common Downs of Sheep-Walks within the several Tithings of Oxenbourn and Ramsdean* ...It enclosed 1,395 acres mainly of downland and 'sheep walks'. The Enclosure Act which appropriated and allotted the most farmland was passed in 1845.



Maps 7 – 9 depict the 1845 enclosure of fields in Oxenbourn and adjacent tithings, from the north (left) to the southern end of the tithing (right).

Both common and arable land was enclosed, downland pasture, open fields and wasteland. The largest allotments were made to wealthy landlords, including gentry such as John Bonham Carter of Adhurst, Steep and Sir William Hylton Joliffe, and successful yeomen including William Weeks and John Christmas; the bishop of Winchester also retained land. Lesser farmers such as Blackmore, Berry and Humphrey were allocated small strips to the south of the tithing (Map 9). Closer to the village (map 7), similar strips were allotted to prominent villages such as the doctor, George Pink, shopkeeper John Nathaniel Atkins, and the miller of Frogmore, John Lillywhite. These may have been 'allotments' in the modern sense, ground on which they could grow vegetables for their families' consumption

⁷ Appendix 9, HRO 57M78/E/T399 /19. *An ACT for Inclosing certain Open and Common Downs of Sheep-Walks within the several Tithings of Oxenbourn and Ramsdean*

To alleviate the plight of poor farmers who had been forced off their land, two *“allotments or parcels of land on Oxenbourn Down”* were awarded *“for the growth of furze and fuel to be cut and used by the occupiers of small cottages not exceeding the annual value of four pounds”*, and a second strip *“for purposes of exercise and recreation of the neighbouring population.”* A charity was formed, named the ‘Oxenbourn Fuel and Recreation Ground Allotments’

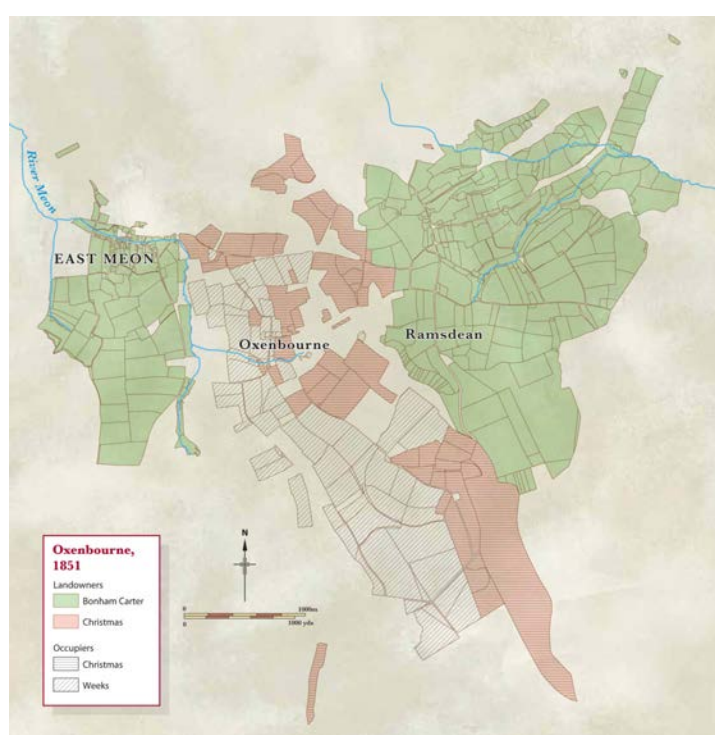
1851/2 Tithe Apportionments

In 1836, Parliament had responded to growing displeasure at the system of tithes, whereby the Church exacted one tenth of the produce of the land, stock and goods from every farmer and tradesman in the country. Parliament finally passed a ‘Tithe Commutation Act’ which converted the payment of tithes from kind to cash; in order to assess the sums involved, it commissioned a detailed survey of all property in England. East Meon’s was Tithe Apportionment was completed in 1852, and shows that large landowners now held the majority of land in the parish.

Because the Diocese of Winchester were still lords of the manors and nominal owners of the land in East Meon, the categories of ownership are complicated. The 'lessees' were the big landowners who had 'appropriated' the greater, or rectorial, tithes from the Diocese. They designate an 'owner' and an 'occupier' to each property, the former being the tenant and the latter the person who lived in the property and/or farmed the land. Hilhampton, for instance, is listed as 'owned' by Thomas Bates Rowse, yet 'occupied' by John Christmas).⁸

Landowners & farmers

Many of the major landowners were 'designated' as gentlemen or aristocrat, including Viscount Gage of Westbury House, George Forbes of Bereleigh, John Bonham Carter of Adhurst in Steep and Sir William Hylton Joliffe, Bart, all of whom lived in stately homes, most of them outside the hundred.



By contrast, two families of yeoman farmers, John Christmas and the Weeks family, occupied (i.e. farmed) most of Oxenbourne. (To complicate matters, John Christmas is listed as a *lessee*, and had acquired the rectorial tithes of most of the land he farmed.)

Map 10. Landowners and occupiers (farmers) listed in the Tithe Apportionments

John Christmas, Hilhampton & Oxenbourne Farms

John Christmas was the 'lessee' of the rectorial tithes of much of Oxenbourne and is listed as owner and occupier both of Oxenbourne Farm (940 – 942) and of Hilhampton Farm⁹. He died in 1876 and most of his estate was bought by one of the large landowners, John Bonham Carter.

John Christmas the elder originally lived in Selborne. First the father and then the son accumulated land in Oxenbourne and at some point moved to the tithing. Indentures drawn up between 1790 to 1800 record that the Bishop of Winchester had allocated the 'greater tithes' for lands owned by the Diocese

⁸ Appendix 5 Extract from Tithe Apportionments

⁹ There is more information about John Christmas, father and son, in the report on Hilhampton Farm.

to John Christmas of Hillhampton¹⁰. (In the 1790 Indenture, this John Christmas is described as 'of Blackmore in the parish of Selborne', and as 'aged about thirty nine years' and as father of 'John Christmas... an Infant aged about six years'.) The sum of £7 was to be paid to the Bishop twice a year for the right to claim the rectorial tithes. John Christmas the older died in 1805 and his will is Appendix 7. (There is a probate note, 17th December 1805, stating 'that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased do not amount to the sum of Five Thousand pounds as they verily believe...' so John did not have as much money to bequeath as he thought.)

His son, also named John Christmas, is named in the Tithe Apportionments, though Thomas Bates Rowse, the heir of Edward Bentham, is listed as 'owning' Hilhampton, yet it is 'occupied' by John Christmas (who appears to have lived at Oxenbourne Farm, so presumably kept staff and equipment at Hilhampton). Christmas expanded his estate between the censuses of 1851 and 1861, from 392 to 726 acres, partly through a subsequent Act of Enclosure. His name appears in 1870 as churchwarden of All Saints in East Meon on a wall plaque commemorating the refurbishment of the church. In the 1871 census, Oxenbourne Farm was occupied by Eli Collins, Farm Bailiff, and his family, presumably managing the farm on behalf of the now-elderly John Christmas. His burial is recorded in East Meon's parish register in 1876; he was aged 81; the daughter/sister named in the 1805 will of the senior John Christmas, Elizabeth, had been buried in 1846 aged 53¹¹. He had no wife or children and left his land to his cousins David Turvill, William Ray and Henry

Chalcroft who sold the estate later that year. (There is an intriguing entry in the 1881 census which records 'Albert Chrismas' [sic] aged 41, farmer, living at Hilhampton with his wife and child.) A Jeremiah Christmas, probably no relation, worked on the Leydene estate in the 1930s and was the father-in-law of Herbie Goddard, famed as the 'Mayor of East Meon' in the 1960s and '70s.



Map 11, Estate of John Christmas sold in 1876

William Weeks, Lower House Farm

In the 1851 census, 73-year-old William Weeks senior lived in Lower House Farm; although it is in the tithing of Ramsdean, three generations of Weeks farmed much of Oxenbourne including Parsonage, Stony Land, Upper House Farms and Harvesting Barn (now Upper Parsonage Farm); overall, they were the fourth largest farmers in the whole parish,.

¹⁰ HRO [11M59/D1/9 page 118](#) Lease by Winchester Bishopric Estate to John Christmas of tithes of corn and grain in the tything of Oxenbourne in the parish of East Meon

¹¹ Appendix 6 Registered copy will of John Christmas of Oxenbourne, East Meon, gentleman

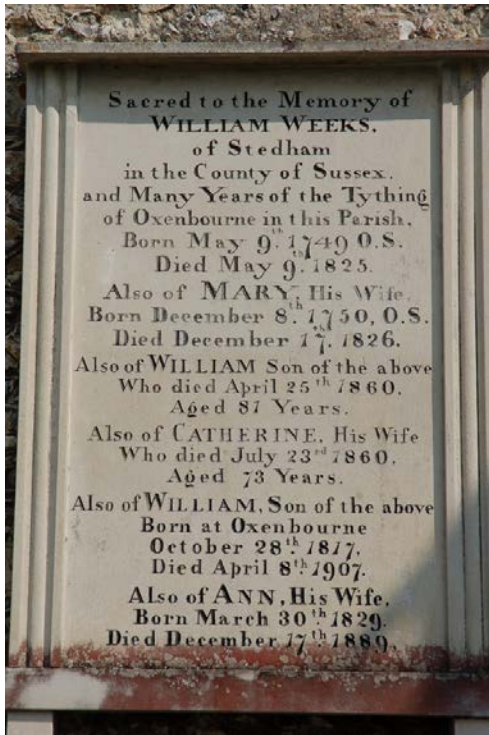


Fig 10. Weeks family plaque on outside wall of south transept of All Saints Church

A plaque at All Saints Church records three generations of William Weekses. The first William was born in Stedham, Sussex, spent many years of his life in *'the Tything of Oxenbourne'* and was buried in East Meon church in 1825; his son William was born in Oxenbourne and died in 1860 at the age of 80; the third William was born in 1817 and lived even longer – until 1907. He is recorded in the Tithe Apportionments as farming 599 acres, of which 489 were arable; in the 1871 census he states that he farmed 600 acres. A fourth William was born in 1854; his daughter Mary was born in 1869 and in 1890 she married Henry Berry, a farmer then living near Whitchurch but whose siblings were living in Oxenbourne Farm.

Farmhouses

The 1891 census (Appendix 8) shows only one farmhouse in the tithing was now occupied by a working farmer. Most farmsteads had by now been divided into several dwellings, to accommodate relatives and farm workers. Oxenbourne Farm now housed Charlotte and Richard Berry, sister and brother of 'the Farmer'¹², with a single domestic servant, while William Weeks Senior [Farmer] was an old man, living at Lower House Farm with his daughters Anne [Housekeeper] and Emily. Upper House Farm is occupied by William and Emma Vokes (he is a 'Farm Servant') with five children and one grandson, two of the sons listed as 'Agricultural Labourer' (aged 17) and 'Carter Boy' (aged 15). Hillhampton has been divided into three cottages, one occupied by Thomas Merritt, another 'Farm Servant', and his wife and three young children, and Sarah Snelling, Anne's mother, the other two by Edwin Money, Farm Servant, with wife, son and boarder, Henry Hall, and by William Blackman (Farm Servant) and wife. Lythe House, on the other hand, has farmer Richard Harrison in residence with his wife, four children and two female servants, as well as separate accommodation for William Weeks, Coachman. At the turn of the century, several of these farmhouses underwent another conversion, enlarged to accommodate prosperous businessmen as their country homes. One example was Upper House Farm.

¹² See p15 for the Berry family of Oxenbourne Farm

Upper House Farm/Oxenbourne House

In the Middle Ages, Upper House Farm, along with its neighbour Oxenbourne Farm, had formed the core of Oxenbourne tithing. Its farmhouse was built in the 17th century and still forms the core of what is now Oxenbourne House. Its 17th century barn survives, along with 19th century stables.

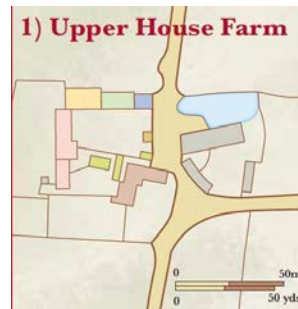


Map 12 Tithe Apportionment showing Upper House and Oxenbourne Farms

The Tithe Apportionment map (*left*) shows the 17th century farmhouse (936), described as a 'homestead', with farm buildings extending from it, and an orchard and rickyard to the west (937); on the other side of the lane there are more 'buildings', possibly dwellings (938), a large pond and orchard (939). 940 and 946 are Oxenbourne Farm.



Map 13. 1870s map of the two farms



Map 14 Layout of Upper Farm, showing types of buildings (legend, below)

An 1870s map (13) shows the building and orchard on the east side of the lane more clearly and another orchard to the west of the garden of Upper House. The farmstead enclosed an almost square yard (*map 14*).




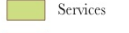


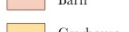
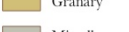


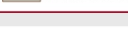
Farmhouse layouts					
	Farmhouse		Stables		Pond, stream
	Services		Carhouse		Orchard
	Barn		Granary		Road
	Cowhouse		Miscellaneous		



Fig 11. Upper and Lower House Farms sale, 1883



Fig 12. Ramsdean estate sale 1908, Lot 1 Upper House Farm

In 1883, Lower & Upper House Farms were sold, (*Fig 11*) and bought by John Bonham Carter but continued to be occupied by William Weeks and William Vokes respectively. In the first two decades of the 20th century, Upper House Farm changed hands twice. The first sale was in 1908, selling extensive lands belonging to the Bonham Carters including Ramsdean and Lower Farms and other smaller properties in Ramsdean, and Hyden and Coombe Woods, Hyden and Lower Farms in East Meon¹³.

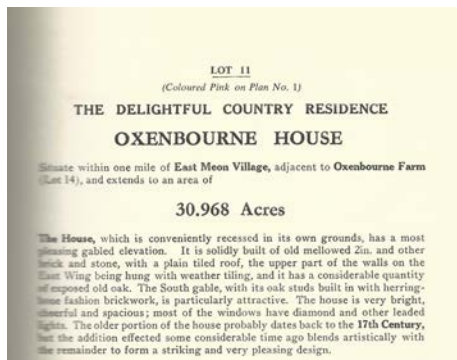
Upper House Farm was Lot 1, (*Fig 12 above*) and the house and some fields were occupied by Mr Richard Green, while other pasture was rented by Mr James Deadman. The farmstead is described as '*a desirable small holding, a well-built brick stone and tile residence containing 3 sitting rooms, kitchen, pantry, larder and cellar with 5 bedrooms and garden, a timber and thatch cart house and a timber and slate granary*'. The farmhouse had already been enlarged from the original 17th century building, but it was about to be rebuilt by the Arts and Crafts architect, Geoffrey Lupton.

The estate was bought by Lord Hotham, who was responsible for installing a water supply, with a pump at South Farm and a reservoir at Salt Hill. According to a later owner, Lady Phyllis White, Upper House Farm was occupied by a 'Mr Liddell', but the 1911 census shows that Thornton Hassell, a retired bank manager, lived there with his wife, his 85-year-old mother and two domestic servants¹⁴. Kelly's Directory of 1921 also shows Thornton Hassell as the resident of Oxenbourne House. Presumably, therefore, it was Hassell who engaged Lupton to refurbish the farmhouse. (Lupton was one of the original pupils at Bedales School, and remained in Steep after leaving school; he designed the iconic Red House, on Cockshott Lane in Froxfield for the poet Edward Thomas, and worked with Ernest Gimson to build the Library and Lupton Hall at Bedales School). In the 1920s, Lupton's friend and associate Edward Barnsley opened his carpentry workshop, also on Cockshott Lane, and he probably produced the woodwork at Oxenbourne House, including the handsome staircase as well as the wooden pillars supporting the South Gable.

¹³ For images of the catalogue, which belongs to Michael Atkinson at South Farm, go to http://www.eastmeonhistory.org.uk/content/catalogue_item/farm-estate-sales/ramsdean-estate

¹⁴ Lady White's note, Appendix 10, was written to Stephen and Lucy Rock who bought Oxenbourne House in 2006.

When Lady Peel died in 1953, the whole estate was sold, including what was now named Oxenbourne House. Photographs from the sales details show the extent of Lupton's re-building, and the house was sold with vacant possession (though the cottage was rented by Mr J Broadway). The sales description refers to the '*pleasing gabled elevation,*' the '*South gable, with oak studs built in with herring-bone fashion brickwork*' and '*windows with diamond and other leaded lights*'. It states that '*the older portion of the house probably dates back to the 17th century but the addition effected some considerable time ago blends artistically with the remainder to form a striking and very pleasing design*'. This presumably reflects the Arts and Crafts re-design by Lupton. This was now a very substantial and elegant country house.



Figs 16 – 19 & Map 16. Extracts from Leydene Estate Sale, 1953.

Lythe House

Another farmhouse which became the residence of a well-off middle class man was Lythe House Farm, south of Hill Hampton. Since 'Lith' or 'Lithe' was a common place name, usually a wood, it is impossible to know whether medieval names such as Richard atte Lithe (Hampshire Tax List 1327) or Josceline at Ligh (1301 Pipe Roll) locate these individuals in an earlier dwelling in this location, which might have housed workers at Hill Hampton.



Fig 20, Lythe House today



Fig 21. The 18th century barn

There are traces in today's Lythe House of a seventeenth century farmhouse, and the barn was built in the 'long 18th century', but the bulk of today's house was built in the 19th century. At the time of the Tithe Apportionments it was a working farm.

As lessee, John Christmas received the greater tithes, which he had purchased from the Diocese of Winchester, the Bishop being the rector of East Meon parish. He was at the time the largest land-holder in Oxenbourne, living at and farming Oxenbourne Farm. Appendix 10 contains notes from the censuses from 1851 to 1891 which tell the story of successive occupiers of Lythe House (variously spelled), mostly working farmers.



Map 17 Tithe Apportionments 1852

Tithe Apportionments listing for 'Leythe House', 1852

Lessee, John Christmas
 850 Owner & Occupier George Hillyer¹⁵ Homestead
 851 ditto Orchard
 852 ditto Home field pasture
 854 ditto Part of Oxenbourne Lith Wood



Map 18 Estate sale 1876



Map 19, the layout of Lythe House in the late 19th century: the farmhouse now has its back to the farmyard.

Lythe House was converted in the late 19th century, separating the farmhouse from the farmyard and providing the owners with views over open countryside; the farmyard was now behind the house, and farm servants no longer lived under the same roof as their employers. Farmers wanted the same comfort and privacy as their opposite numbers in towns and cities

¹⁵ Listed in 1851 census as 'Farmer's wife' of 150 acres employing 4 men.

When John Christmas died in 1876, Messrs Rutley of Canon Street, London, placed on sale, on behalf of John Bonham Carter, the 'Copyhold and Part Freehold Estates known as Oxenbourne and Lythe House Farms'¹⁶. Lythe House was lot 4 and the lands farmed from Lythe House Farm were Lot 6 (green), and those from Oxenbourne Farm as Lot 7 (pink).



Map 20 1876 estate sale detail, Lythe House lands

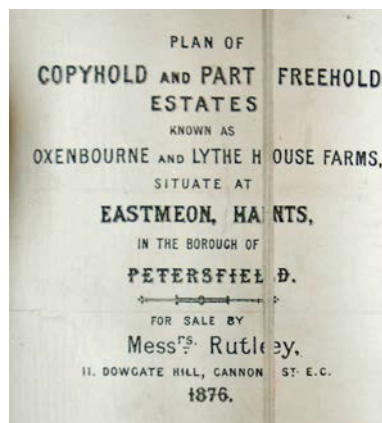


Fig 22 Estate Sale particulars

No.	ROAD, STREET, No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Occupation	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Working at Home	WEEKS BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
167	Lythe House		Margaret do do Gerald Kingsbury 29 Emma Kay 46 Total of Males and of Females... 13/7	Wife Husband Servant	29 46	Farmer Housekeeper	do do		London Portsmouth	
168	Lythe Cottage		Rose Simes Thomas Merritt 38 Annie do 42 Thomas do 17 Charles do 13 Felix do 9 Susan do 5 Alice do 17	Wife Husband Wife Son Son Daughter Daughter	17 38 42 17 13 9 5 17	Domestic Foreman on Farm Boy on Farm Shepherd Boy	do do do do	Battersea London Portsmouth Portsmouth Battersea do do do do		

Fig 23. 1901 census detail for Lythe House and Lythe Cottage

Lythe House is now occupied by a single man, Gerald Kingsbury, 29 years old, described as a farmer, who had been born in London. His housekeeper, Emma Kay, came from Portsmouth, and a domestic servant, Rome Simes, 17, from Battersea, London.

(Lythe Cottage was occupied by Thomas, 38, and Annie Merritt, 42, and their five children, aged between 17 and 9. Thomas Merritt is described as Foreman on Farm, and two of the sons as 'Boy on Farm' and 'Shepherd Boy'.)

Kingsbury was evidently prosperous since in 1902 he donated a Litany Desk and Fauldstool to All Saints Church, his contribution to the refurbishment by Sir Ninian Comper under the Reverend Thomas Heywood Masters. It was dedicated to his brother, Walter Bridgemen Kingsbury, who had died that year aged 38 years. The dedication reads: By G.F.Kingsbury of Lythe House together with his mother brothers and sisters in memory of his brother.

¹⁶ HRO 92M72/E/B170 Sale of Christmas estate



In 1904 the wife and children of William Joseph Kingsbury 'of Lythe House', dedicated the magnificent Comper oak lectern to his memory; he had died in January that year. The dedication is carved on the side of the lectern.



Figs 24 & 25. Lectern & dedication 'In Loving Memory of William Joseph Kingsbury, January 9th Ao Dni 1904'

The same names appear in the dedication of a 'whole bound book of the Litany in black morocco' donated by Mrs Kingsbury in 1905.

The Berry family of Oxenbourne Farm.



Fig 26. Oxenbourne Farmhouse

In October 1891, Mary Weeks married Henry Berry of Oxenbourne Farm (*left*), uniting two prominent farming families¹⁷. In that year's census, Oxenbourne Farm was occupied by Henry's younger sister and brother, Charlotte and Richard, and Henry is described as the farmer of Oxenbourne, Hill Hampton and Preston farms.

By 1900, Henry Berry was farming 1500 acres, and lived at Manor Farm, Langrish, while his son Philip took over Oxenbourne Farm. Their stock included 150 Hereford beef cattle and two bulls, and 500 sheep, partly Suffolk, partly crossed. Henry belonged to the Hampshire Down Sheep Society and bred prize-winning sheep, some of which were exported the Argentine and Czechoslovakia; he also kept as many as 15 shire horses of which he sold one or two each year at Petersfield's Taro market.¹⁸ Philip was badly wounded at Gallipoli and his brother Richard died on his way back rom Gallipoli and was buried in Italy. In War II Philip served in the Home Guard.

¹⁷ The baptism of Mary Weeks is registered in 1869, the daughter of William [Farmer] and Ann Weeks of Oxenbourne Farm.

¹⁸ Appendix 16 *F.G.Standfield interviews with Berry family. HRO 58M99/25*

The Berrys were prominent figures in the East Meon community and Jean Berry provided the History Group archive with an extensive collection of newspaper clippings and photographs showing various members of the family taking an active part in the Home Guard during World War II, Coronation celebrations, the Village Institute, cricket and soccer and a music group, as well as organising motor cycle events at Oxenbourne Farm¹⁹. They leased the land from Sir Robert, later Lord, Peel, and subsequently from Sir Dymoke White, from whom they bought it in 1954.



Figs 27 – 30. From the Berry collection. Top left, Edwardian farming scene, right 'Greetings from Oxenbourne Farm, middle left, John, Pat, Jean, and Dick Berry on Coronation float, right, motor cycle race at Oxenbourne Farm, bottom left, Little Folk group including, second from back row, Ian and Teresa Berry, and front row, Gillian Berry.

The Joneses of Hillhampton Farm

Through most of the 20th century, three generations of Joneses owned and farmed Lower House, Rookham and Hillhampton farms, which George Edward Jones bought in 1918. In the 1980s, Stanley Eli Jones wrote a memoir, Appendix 10, in which he describes how his father bought the three farms, passing on to him Hillhampton which originally comprised 95 acres, but he owned 120, and rented a further 300 acres. He ran it as a mixed farm, with cattle and sheep. His son Richard Jones sold Hillhampton to the present

¹⁹ http://www.eastmeonhistory.org.uk/content/catalogue_item/collections-2/jean-berry

owners, Sasha and Nigel Brooks and bought Hyden Farm. Freddie Standfield wrote in 1994 that the '150-acre Hilhampton Farm ... plus about 300 acres of rented land in an adjoining parish, is farmed by Stanley Jones and his sons. They keep a Friesian milking herd, and some Longhorn beef cattle – one of the oldest English breeds. They also kept about 300 breeding ewes, Welsh half-breeds (Suffolk Cross) as well as a small lot of pedigree Hampshire Downs'²⁰.

Sir Robert & Lady Peel



Fig 31. William Robert Wellesley Peel



Fig 32. Eleanor Dowager Countess Peel

After the death of John Bonham Carter in 1906, Robert and Lady Peel accumulated 100,000 acres of East Meon lands, the largest holding since the bishops of Winchester. Robert was a descendant of Sir John Peel and a rising politician, subsequently to become Secretary of State for India under Lloyd George, Lord Privy Seal, and Chairman of the Peel Commission which recommended the partitioning of Palestine. He had married in 1899 the daughter of Lord Ashton, a multi-millionaire who had made his money from the manufacture of linoleum. Ashton settled on Eleanor the sum of £800,000 – tens of millions in today's money. The built at Leydene an imposing country house, larger, according to L.H.Tyrode, than any private house in the previous half century. Oxenbourne was just one part of their estate, and it was during their ownership that Oxenbourne House was enlarged and improved.²¹.

Sir Dymoke & Sir Lynton White

Sir Dymoke White was MP for Fareham from 1939 to 1950 and vice chair of Hampshire County Council. When Lady Peel died in 1953, the Leydene Estate, 10,309 acres of land, was auctioned in London; Sir Dymoke White, the tenant of Oxenbourne House, cashed in all his shares in Timothy Whites and Taylors, the chemist (which was subsequently bought by Boots); he put half his money into Defence Bonds and used the rest to buy the Leydene estate, approximately 4,000 acres of farmland in the parishes of East Meon, Clanfield, Horndean and Hambledon.

On Sir Dymoke's death it passed to his son Lynton White who had worked as an architect before serving as a gunner in World War II. He had been captured by the Japanese in Hong Kong and effected a remarkable escape from Shamshuipo camp: with three others, he crawled through a lengthy surface drain pipe, then swam across Kowloon Harbour. *"I was the weakest swimmer*

²⁰ Standfield F.G *Ibid* p82

²¹ For more about Lord and Lady Peel, <http://www.eastmeonhistory.net/leydene-house/>

of the party, and became separated from the others. When I at last struggled ashore, I was so exhausted and disoriented that I walked the length of the main street in Kowloon but there was not a single Japanese there and I was able to continue to a spot in the nearby hills where the four of us had arranged a rendezvous. Then, after walking for 5 days, we took the risk of making ourselves known to the local Chinese, who proved helpful and enabled us to complete our escape.”



*Fig 33 Sir Lynton White
Chairman of Hampshire
County Council 1977*



Fig 34. Sir Lynton White, second from left, at the departure in 1984 of the vicar of All Saints, Rev Rodney Smith, photographed with the Hon. William Douglas Home (left) and Dick Berry

Sir Lynton was a respected member of the East Meon community, and his part in guaranteeing the financing of the new Village Hall in 1973 is described in the EMHG report on the History of the Institute and Hall²².

Two tithe barns

Barns have always been the aristocrats of farm buildings and because they have been large enough to accommodate at least some modern machinery have often survived where others have been demolished. The most recent trend in adapting farm buildings started in the last quarter of the twentieth century, the conversion of existing barns into up-market houses or hospitality venues.

Two Oxenbourne barns carry the name ‘Parsonage’; the bishop of Winchester was parson of East Meon, as he was rector, and these were almost certainly tithe barns, to which farmers were obliged to deliver one tenth of the grain and other fruits of their cultivation and where it would have been threshed during the winter. Close to the heart of Oxenbourne tithing was Parsonage Barn, which has been converted into a substantial residence.

Parsonage Barn

Edward Roberts has dated Parsonage Barn to the ‘long’ C18 - i.e. 1680-1830’. The builders who moved the structure found, under one of the columns, a coin dated 1695, probably placed there to mark the year of its construction.

From the Tithe Apportionment listings

²² <http://www.eastmeonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Village-Institute-and-Hall-report.pdf>



Map 21. Parsonage 'Farm' in Tithes Apportionments, 1852

- Lessee John Christmas
- 837 Buildings and yard Owner and Occupier John Christmas
- 838 Garden Owner John Christmas Occupier Henry Acock
- 839 Cottage and Garden ditto

There was no 'homestead' at Parsonage 'Farm', though Christmas 'occupied' the farm buildings, presumably including the barn.

As 'lessee', John Christmas held the lease of Parsonage Farm from the diocese of Winchester; he had bought the greater, or rectorial tithes from the diocese so he derived both rent and tithes. Since tithes were now commuted to money payments, the barn was now used for storing and threshing his grain.

In 1994/5, Alan and Ceanna Collett bought the barn at Parsonage Farm; its exterior had been replaced with modern cladding, but the original framework survived. They moved the structure 30 yards to the south, and built an imposing new house around it (Figs 35 - 40). The original woodwork is visible within the new building.



Fig 35 The modern barn, on the right



Fig 36 The framework of the old barn



Fig37. Interior under construction



Fig 38. The new house nearing completion



*Fig 39 (left)
Post and up-
braces
in today's
sitting room,
with tie
beam and
purlin*



*Fig 40. Ceiling of today's sitting room, showing collar
above tie beam and purlin*



*Fig 41 Tie beam and queen strut in second
bedroom*



Fig 42 Ceiling of second bedroom



Fig 43. Roof of third bedroom

Upper Parsonage Barn



Map 22. Oxenbourne tithing with Upper Barn (830)

'Upper Parsonage Barn' was built in the 18th century, presumably replacing an earlier tithe barn; it is located at the southern end of Oxenbourne tithing, *left*, and until the 1980s it stood alone, to receive the tithes from Estfield, the large open field below it. It bears no name in the Tithe Apportionments.

In the 1980s, Sue and Nick Atkinson built a new farmhouse next to the barn, which they named Upper Parsonage Farm. Nick and his brother Matthew manage South Farm on behalf of their father Michael. Sue and Nick run a bed & breakfast business at Upper Parsonage Farm and they converted the barn as a tea room and event venue.



Fig 44. Upper Parsonage Barn from the south



Fig 45. Interior Upper Parsonage Barn

Conclusion

More information on subjects covered here can be found in separate reports, available as PDFs on www.eastmeonhistory.net. More research is being conducted into the history of farm buildings and of agricultural techniques.

There were no diarists or letter-writers in Oxenbourne, or indeed in the whole of East Meon, so the history of this tithing is drawn from official reports tax lists and legal documents. The tithing in the Middle Ages was, as it is now, a cluster of dwellings and farm buildings around Oxenbourne Farm. Open fields were replaced by hedges and walls surrounding enclosed fields. Farmsteads appeared among the fields and accommodated working households, some of which in turn were divided into accommodation for labourers and relatives, and finally converted into country houses for middle-class owners. After the Civil War, the bishops of Winchester were replaced as feudal lords and landowners by lay landlords, mainly absentee, until the twentieth century when farmers were finally able to buy their own land. Typical of thousands of such rural tithings throughout England, it is a cameo of social and economic history.

Appendices

Appendix 1. 1567 Rental survey

Tenant	Property	Rent
President of Magdalen College	Messuage of Hilhampton	<i>£2.13s</i>
Elizabeth Adcocke	3 acres vocat <i>Luckwells</i>	3s
Robert Holmes	Messuage & 1 acre vocat Smithland	5s 10d
	Cott & 7 acres vocat Longland	5s 10d
Thomas Hooker	8 acres voc. <i>Luckwells</i>	7s. 10½d
	1 toft & 1 virg	10s 7½d
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>18s 6d</i>
Joanne Aburrow	Toft & 1 acre	6s.
	Voc Waterborrows (?)	1s 10½e
Johes Knight	1 messuage & 10 acres vocat ???	6s
	1 toft & 1 acre	6s
	1 toft & 1 acre	6s
	3 voc <i>Luckwells</i> 6 acres	4s 6d
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>£1 2s 6d</i>
Johes Steele	1 cott & garden & 1 acre	3s 4d
	1 toft & 3 acres	17s 8d
	1 messuage 2 cot & 2 acres voc ?Lonnetts	12s
	1 mess & 1 virgate voc Hydens	6s 7d
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>£2.0s 1d</i>
Nichus Pincke	1 cl voc Longlands	2s 4d
	1 toft & 1 acre voc (?) Clauneker	6s
	1 cl voc <i>Luckwells</i>	5s
	8 acres voc Potters Plott	1s 3½ d
	1 cottage & 10 acres	6s 8d
	1 toft cottage & 2 acres	2s
	1 toft & 15 acres	9s
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>£ 1.12s 3½d</i>
Johes Dabrose	1 cot & Curtilage 2 acres	4s 6d
Georgius Suggatt	14 acre voc <i>Luckwells</i>	14s
	2 acres voc Mocombesdene	10d
	1 cl voc Turnes	6d
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>19s 10d</i>
Martin Younge	1 mess & 1 acre	6s 4d
	1 croft	1s
	1 croft voc Smarts	6d
	1 ? voc Skinners	2d
	12 acres and 1 rood in common fields	4d
Alice Suggatt	1 messuage & 4 acres voc Fishewers 3 acre voc <i>Luckwells</i> 1 toft and curtilage and 12 acres voc <i>Luckwells</i> & 8 jac in common fields	<i>19s. 6½d</i>
	8 acres & 1 rood in common fields	1s 8d
Richard Compton	8 freemen 16 acres in common fields	10d

Appendix 2. tenants of Open Fields listed in 1567 Rental

Estfield

'Eastfield' was the largest of the open fields in Oxenbourne, spreading from the core settlement up gentle slopes towards Butser Hill.

Fig A1 1567 Rental book, tithing of Oxenbourne, listing tenants of Estfield.



'Beginning next to the tenement of Thomas Hooker is a certain furlong called Worthing Long leading from the E[a]st towards the West on the north part of the said furlong towards the south.'

Left hand column: Joan Aburowe holds 3 acres' The same, 3 acr. Robert Hemes 1 acre. John Knight 1 acr called peked acre above the Lynch at the south part of the furlong

Furlong called the Motes the south ... The pres of the college owsn one acre under the Lynch. Robert Eames holds 1 rod Thomas Hoker holds 1 rod John Stele holds 1 acre under the hedge

Right Hand Column Presedens Coll holds half an acre with the east end Gore Barres. John Stele held 1 rod under the Lynch in the north part.

Est is the same parcel of waste called Browning Hill running East West. Martin Young holds half running east abutting on the black hedge. Nicholas Pink holds 1 acre. Presedens Coll holds 1 acre and a half. John Knight holds 1 acre. John Steele holds 1 acre at the south part of the furlong

Luckwells

Under 'Lands in Oxenbourne' the Rental Book entry for 'Luckwells' confirms that Luckwells was an open field rented to several farmers (Fig A2). Note Helhampton in the RHS column. The numbers on the right refer to detailed entries (below, Figs A3 – A7)

Fig A2 1567 Rental, Lands in Oxenbourne

Fig A3 112, Elizabeth Adcocke, 3 acres, 113 Robert Homes 1 messuage & 1 acre called Smithland, 3s 6d in labour services, 2s church scot, 114 idem (the same) 1 cottage and 7 acres of land and 14 acres of purpestore called Langlands 115, the same, 7 acres called Luckwells, 116, Thomas Hooke 8 acres of land called Luckwells

Fig A4 122 John Knight 3 acres called Luckwells and 6 acres of purpestore for pannage

Fig A5 129 Nicholas Pink 1 acre of land called Luckwells

Fig A6 134 George Suggatt 14 acres called Luckwells

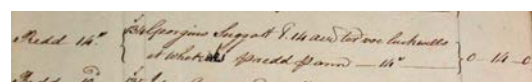
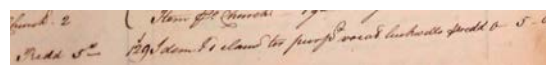
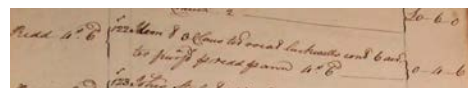
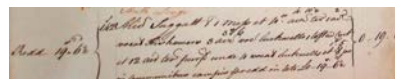


Fig A7 142 George Suggatt 1 message and 14 acres called Fishewers 3 acres called Luckwells and 8 in common land



Appendix 3. Parliamentary Survey 1647 Copieholds of Inheritance

Selected tenants	Property	Rent
Anthony Longe & Mary his wife	Lands called Luckwell	£1 1s4d
Anthony Bulbeck	Toft of land called Whitewoods & Lands called Luckwell by surrender of Thomas Bulbeck his father	13s
	1 toft 20 acre called ?Lowlands ... bondland by surrender of Robert Lambert	12s 3d
	Field of Sheepwash, message and bondland by surrender of John Ponsall	18s
	2 cottages & bondland of 20 acres called Bennetts by surrender aforesaid	12s
Elizabeth wife of Nicholas Pinke		£4 0s
Nicholas Pinke the elder	Plots of land to him and his heirs	1s 3d
	(and his wife Harriet)	4s 3d
	(and his wife Harriet)	2s 4d

Appendix 4. Enclosure contract for lands in Oxenbourne, 1661

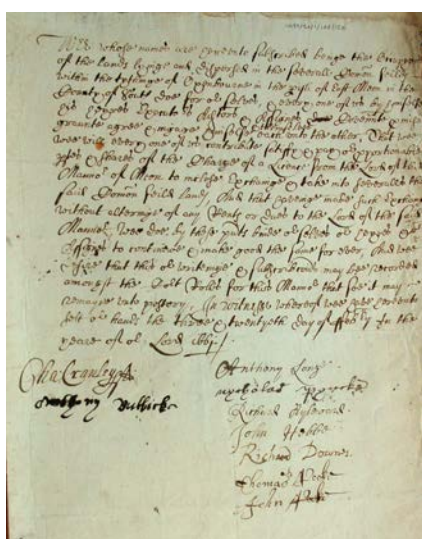


Fig A8. Enclosure contract, 1661, for land in the tithing of Oxenbourne²³. 'We whose names are hereunto subscribed being the copyholders of the lands lying and dispersed among the several common fields in the tithing of Oxenbourne .. do for ourselves and everyone of his heirs and executors ... assign, covenant, promise and agree and engage himself ... one to the other that we will everyone of us contribute ... pay a proportionate share of the charge buying a license from the lord of the manor to enclose, exchange and take into severals the said common field lands ... ancient exchange won't alter the rents to the lord ... set unto manor rolls .. witness unto ... The signatures are of better-off yeoman farmers, Charles Cranley, Anthony Bulbeck, Anthony Longe, Nicholas Pyncke, Richard Aylward, Johon Hobbs, Richard Downes, Thomas and John Adcocke

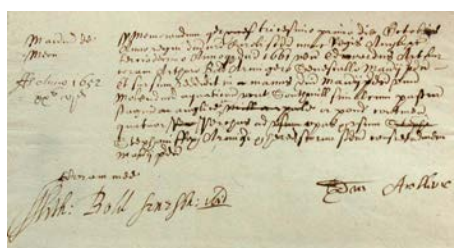
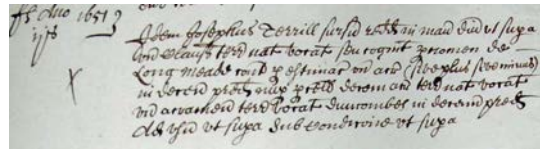
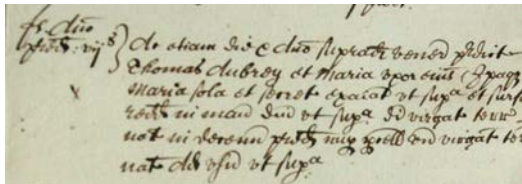


Fig A9. This section is signed by Arthur Bold Esq., the bishop's steward at the manor court and surrenders the message into the lord bishop's hands for the use of Alice Pinke during her lifetime and afterwards to remain with the said Roger Smith and his heirs.

²³ HRO 1M59/C611/108/138 1661 Enclosure in the tithing of Oxenbourne, East Meon Agreement

In *Fig A8*, nine copyholders promise to pay the lord of the manor for permission to enclose common lands and convert them into separate ownerships without any loss in rents or dues to the lord [bishop]. The beneficiaries are better-off yeoman farmers. The paragraph in *Fig A9* is signed by Arthur Bold Esq, the bishop's steward at the manor court, and surrenders a messuage (a farmhouse and land) to Alice Pinke.



Figs A10 & A11. Xs marking the agreement to surrender of Thomas Aubrey & Joseph Terrill

Those who agreed to have their land enclosed were, for the most part, illiterate, and signed with a mark ... *Figs A10 & A11* show the crosses of Joseph Terrill and of Thomas Aubrey and his wife. The dispossessed were assigned lesser lands and perhaps a cottage.

Appendix 5. PROB11/1023 Will July 20 1776 Oxford, The Rev Edward Bentham,

Doctor of Divinity Prerogative Court of Canterbury

Glory be to God ... I Edward Bentham Dr of D and Canon of Ch Ch .. many tokens of divine goodness granted unto me ... being of sound mind ... do now make this my last will and testament In grtitude to the principal ... do give and bequeath to the Dean and fellows of Ch Ch Oxford &c &c all that little estate contiguous to the Rectorial Close and garden at (?) Oxfordshire ...also to the said Dean and Chapter for public use fifty pounds to the Provost and Fellows of Oriel College twenty pounds to the President and Scholars of Corpus Christi College ... many bequests to family ... (p2) I give and bequeath to my said dear wife all that my Leasehold Estate held under Magdalen College Oxford at Hillhampton in East Meon Hampshire together with the Freehold and Copyhold during her natural life hoping that she will carefully renew the said Leasehold estate from time to time as usual and after her decease to my son Thomas Bentham. ... continues

Appendix 6. Prerogative Court of Canterbury PROB11/1398 Will Sept 17th 1803 Elizabeth Bentham

The only daughter of the late Rev Dr Edward Bentham, the land came to her via her mother's will 9 Mar 1791

Glory to God Creator ... &c I Elizabeth Bentham of the City of Oxford ... only daughter of the late Rev Doctor Edward Bentham Regium professor of Divinity and canon of Christ Church in the University of Oxford so make this my last will and testament with humble and unfeigned thankfulness to Almighty God I recollect the many gracious and merciful dispensations

manifested to me &c will graciously please to pardon all my sins ... As to the property I may sit possessed of some of which was left me by my excellent parents having (?) theirs from their relations and my ffathers station increased by their kind care to enable them to come to us their children what might be our comfort and support some of my property was unhappily devolved to me by the death of my brother the Reverend Thomas Bentham's wife also of Christ Church College Oxford ... sustain in this world God gran I may make sure our rise of all as I would wish could I know god's will in his having permitted it to fall into my hands and first I trust that all my debts and expense of my funeral which I desire may be only plain and (?) and the costs of proving this my will may be paid as soon as conveniently after decease and give and devise my Leasehold Estate at Hillhampton in the parish of East Meon in the County of Hants held under Magdalene College Oxford and my ffreehold or copyhold of inheritance Estate of Kingsway in the same County unto John Thurlow Dering of Crowhall near c John Thurton Dering William Bentham and William Buckle near Titsworth (?) in the County of Oxord and whichsoever of them their heirs and assigns in trust and to and for the intent and purpose that they so raise ... *rest missing, but HRO notes state that*

Appendix 7. HRO 29M82/356/1 Court papers 1804

The case in Chancery concerning the will of Elizabeth Bentham of Oxford Between John Thurlow Dering Esq and others (William Bentham & William Buckle) and James Bentham and others (Philippa Bentham, Thomas Bates Rouse, George Rous). The name Thomas Bates Rous appears on the tithe apportionment map, along with George Rous, possibly his son.

P4. First, the testatrice has devised her Leasehold only at Hilhampton in the parish of East Meon in the county of Hants - but she was also at the time of making he Will and her death, seised of certain freehold & copyhold closes of land in the tithings of Oxenborne & Church Meon in the same parish of East Meon which were and are held and occupied by the testrice at one entire rent of £130 & she had surrendered the copyhold to the use of her will. The questions on this point are:

1. Whether the limitations of the leasehold in favour of the children of Thos Bates Rous, & in favour of the eldest son Henry Peter or either of them are not void as being too remote.
2. Whether the limitations of the leasehold in favour of the children of Thos Bates Rous, & in favour of the eldest son of Henry Peter or either of them are not void as being too remote
3. Whether the freehold & copyhold are not at all events liablr to the sum of the Annuity of £100 first given to (?) Mrs Bentham, the testatrice having subjected all her Hampshire property to the payment of their and theother Anny of £100 given to her by the Will - But
4. If there is a deficiency to pay this anny – whether it be owing to the leasehold only being charged with it – or that the rents of the freehold, together with the leasehold, will not be sufficient for the payment of it - the deficiency will, we apprehend, be a charge of the personal estate,

as, for the reason hereafter given, the Binsted & Kingsley estate will not be liable to it – and as Mrs Bentham is greatly distressed by the delay in payment of her annuity, we hope the court will allow the trustees to pay her immediately as the rents of the leasehold are deficient to pay.

Appendix 8. HRO 27A01/C13/1 Indenture, 1830

Between The Reverend *Martin Joseph Routh*, Doctor of Divinity, President of the College of St Mary Magdalene at the University of Oxford and *The Scholars* of the said College of the one part and *John Thurton Dering* of Crowhall in the County of Norfolk Esquire *William Bentham* late of Lincoln's Inn but now of Upper Gower Street in the County of Middlesex Esquire and the Reverend *William Buckle* of Pycton in the County of Oxford, Clerk, (surviving devisees and Trustees named and appointed in and by the last Will and Testament of *Elizabeth Bentham* late of the City of Oxford spinster deceased ad which said Elizabeth Bentham was the sister and Next of Kin and also Administrator of all and singular the goods chattels rights and credits of the Reverend Thomas late of Christ Church in the University of Oxford Clerk deceased the other part **Witnesseth** that the said President and Scholars for and consideration of the sum of *Three hundred and thirty one pounds fourteen shillings and sixpence* of lawful money of Great Britain to them in hand paid by the said John Thurton Dering William Bentham and William Buckle at or before the sealing and delivery of the Presents (the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged) and for divers other good causes and considerations, have demised leased set and to farm let and by these presents *Do* demise lease set and to farm let unto the said JTD, WB and WB *And* that their Capital Messuage in Oxenborn within the Parish of East Mean in the County of Southampton commonly called Hillhampton with all the lands meadows pastures and commons to the said messuage belonging together with all tofts and messuages with the appurtenances situated and being in Oxenborn aforesaid Langrish and Ramden to the said Chief messuage belonging or appertaining. All which premises were late in the tenure or occupation of Alexander Robinson Gentleman since of Thomas Bates Esquire his assigns or undertenants and always reserved with the said President and Scholars and their successors and all manner of Timber and other Trees with the lops tops and shred thereof now growing or being or which hereafter shall grow or be in and upon the said demised premises or any part thereof with free liberty of Ingress Egress and Regress to fell cut down and carry away the same at all convenient times during he present demise. **To have and to hold** the said Capital Messuage and all and singular other the premised hereby demised the thair and every of their appurtenances (except before excepted) unto the said JTD WB and WB their executors and administrators (in trust as aforesaid) from the making hereof unto the full end and term of *Twenty Years* from thence and ensuing and fully to be complete and ended *So* that the said JTD WB and WB do not substitute or make any undertenant or undeertenants nor grant over their estate to any person or persons... *&c, without the consent of the President and Scholars ...Yielding and paying* therefore yearly at or in the Great Hall of the said College the rent or sum of *Thirty seven shillings and nine pence* of lawful money & on the tenth day of October and the fifth day of

April by even and equal portions a *Gallon of Good Sweet Malt* to be delivered the said college yearly on the said days *Or else* the just price and value thereof in money after the rate as the best Wheat and Malt shall be sold in the Market of the City of Oxford... *Yielding and Paying* yearly during the said term ... over and above the yearly rent of money and coin before reserved the further and additional rent of *Thirty pounds* for every acre of meadow or Pasture parcel of the premises hereby demised and formerly ploughed with the said JTD, WB and WB shall Plough Sow or convert into tillage at any time during the term hereby granted and so proportionally for any greater or lesser quantity than an acre the first payment thereof to begin and be made on each of the days of payment aforesaid as shall next happen to ensue after such Earing (?) Ploughing Sowing or Converting into Tillage... and the aforesaid JTD, WB and WB ... do hereby covenant promise and agree to and with the said President and Scholars ... shall at their own proper costs and charges ... Sufficiently repair uphold maintain and keep the said Capital Messuage and all the Barns Stables and other edifices ... all kind of reparations stuff and workmanship (except Great Rough Timber on the Stem which shall be had by the assignment &c ... if any be growing in and upon the preises) and also shall fence hedge and ditch all the fences hedges and ditches belonging to the said demised premises at all times &c ... and so at the end thereof the same shall have and yield up in good repair and well fenced hedged and ditched And also shall and will at their like proper costs and charges bear pay and discharge all and all manner of taxes quit rents and charges and payments whatsoever issuing due and payable out of the said demised premises &c... and shall yearly and every year during the said term contribute and pay towards the charges of the said President and Scholars &c coming into Hampshire in the Progress of the said *College Fifty Five Gallons and half of a Gallon of good sweet Whate* or the value thereof in money after the rate aforesaid at the option of the said College And shall and will yearly & every year &c ... plant set and nourish up or cause to be planted, set and nourished up in and about the hedgerows belonging to the said demised premises or any part thereof seven young trees of Oak elm or Oash And shall not nor will fell cut lop or top any of the Timber or other Trees now or hereafter to be growing in and upon the said demised premises ... upon penalty or forfeiture of the sum of ten pounds for each and every tree which shall be so felled &c ... (except such trees as shall be assigned as aforesaid for the repairs of the said Premises). **And** the said President &c do hereby for themselves &c covenant and agree to find and allow sufficient Rough Timber for the said repairs And also Housbote Hedgebote Firebote and Ploughbote growing upon the premises at all convenient times during the said term to be taken by Assignment of the said President &c yearly riding thither in the Progress of the said College **Provided always nevertheless** that if it should happen that the said yearly rent of money and sum in manner and form aforesaid shall be behind or unpaid &c ... then and thenceforth this Indenture and every clause article covenant and condition ... be absolutely void .. **In Witness I** ...

Appendix 9. HRO 57M78/E/T399 Enclosure Act 1839

An ACT for Inclosing certain Open and Common Downs of Sheep-Walks within the several Tithings of Oxenbourn and Ramsdean ... Royal Assent 14 May 1839

Whereas there are within the several Tithings of Oxenbourn and Ramsdean certain open and common Downs, or sheep-walks, called Oxenbourn and Ramsdean Downs, containing in the whole by estimation One Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety-five acres: viz the said Oxenbourn Down containing One Thousand and Three acres, or thereabouts, and the said Ramsdean Down containing Three Hundred and Ninety-two acres

And whereas the Lord Bishop of Winchester ... is Lord of the said Manor of East Meon, and as such is entitled to the `lord's rights in the Soil of the said Common Downs within the said Tithings within the said Tithings of Oxenbourn & Ramsdean.

And whereas Sir Samuel Clark Jervoise, Sir Richard Jackson, John Bonham Carter Esq, Daniel Quarrier Esq, William Weeks, and George Hellyer, Sen, and dives other persons, are the Owners and Proprietors of divers Lands and Hereditaments within the said Tithings respectively, and in respect thereof are entitled to certain Rights of Common in over or upon the said Open and Common Downs, or one of them:

And whereas an Act was passed in the Forty-first year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Third ... and an act in the Second Year of (*George IV*) intituled 'An Act to Amend the Law respecting the Inclosing of open Fields, Pastures, Moors, Commons and Waste Lands in England:'

And whereas it would be highly advantageous to the several persons interested in the said Open and Common Downs, if the exercise of Right of Common over the same were to be extinguished, and if the same were to be divided and inclosed, and if specific parts and shares thereof were to be allotted to the several persons interested therein, according to their respective rights and interests: BUT such extinguishment, division, allotment and inclosure cannot be effected without the Authority of Parliament;

May it therefore please your MAJESTY,

That it may be enacted ... that *Charles Osborne of Hayling Island* is appointed the Commissioner for setting out dividing, allotting and inclosing the said open and common downs or sheep walks

... That the said Commissioner may ... widen any of the public roads or highways... and to make full compensation for the value of the land or ground to be taken for the widening ... and to make good and substantial fences ... and authorised to discontinue, stop up, divert turn or alter any of the carriage-roads, highways, bridle-roads or footpaths..

... and be it further enacted That the said Commissioner shall and is authorised to ... allot and award any part of Oxenbourn Down not exceeding Fifteen acres for the use and occupation of small cottages not exceeding the annual value of Four Pounds each in the said Tithing of Oxenbourn .. *ditto Ramsdean Down not exceeding Ten Acres ...* and to allot to the lord of the manor land not exceeding Two Acres (*of each Down*)... for the purposes of recreation and exercise of the neighbouring population.

...Further enacted that the said Commissioner after setting out the allotments ... shall divide, set out, allot and award all the residue and remainder of the said open and common downs intended to be divided, allotted and inclosed ... unto and amongst the several persons ... who at the time of such division and allotment might be interested therein ... in full compensation and satisfaction for their several rights and interest in and upon the said open and common downs hereby directed to be divided and enclosed.

... that the several allotments ... shall be inclosed, hedged, ditched and fenced at the expence of the respective proprietors ... for the purposes of shortening or rendering straight or otherwise improving any boundary fence/s between the lands and grounds to be divided...

Appendix 10. 1857 HRO Q23/2/41 Enclosure text 1856

Text includes: *Inclosure of Stroud Common, Sheets Common and three small adjaacent pieces numbered 537, 530 and 459 in the Tithes map.*

The boundary lies between the Tithing of Ramsdean and the Manor of East Meon and the Tithing & Manor of Langrish, commences at the southwestern corner of the old inclosed premises & brick kiln in the Tithing of Langrish whereof John Berry is the owner (Marked A on the map) extending thence in a south-westerly direction across the adjoining stream and across the Turnpike road from Petersfield to Winchester having the Manor of East Meon and the Tithing of Ramsdean on the North side In a straight line and terminates at the south-eastern corner of Inclosures whereof Sir William George Hylton Joliffe is the owner, no 444 on the Tithes map...

Carriage and occupation road twenty-four feet wide from turnpike road and thence in a westerly direction across Stroud Common (no 46, or 590 and 591 on Tithes map), several allotments and old enclosures ... to be maintained by owners... another private carriage and occupaaton road belonging to John Bonham Carter (17 – E) allotments 15, 16, 17 ... Rothercombe farm belonging to JBC,... privae carriage and occupation road (40) belonging to C.J. Manning.

Appendix 11. 1852 Tithe Apportionment listings for Hilhampton

914 Owner & Occupier George Hillyer Priors arable
913 Owner Thomas Bates Rowse Esq, Occupier John Christmas²⁴ Esq East Croft arable
915 ditto Crabtree mead pasture
916 ditto, Hilhampton Homestead
917 ditto Home Mead pasture
918 ditto Grove arable
919 ditto Staplefield and Homefield arable

Appendix 12. HRO 1805B/8 1876 Will of John Christmas

This is the last Will and Testament of me **John Christmas** of Hillhampton farm in the Tithing of Oxenbourne ... Yeoman, whereby I commend my soul to God ... **First** all my just debts and Funeral Expenses be first paid and justifiedd **Also** I give and bequeath all my Fuel Liquor and Provisiions that shall be in and about my house at the time of my Decease unto my beloved wife Elizabeth ... **also** I make nominate constitute and appoint **Geoge Inwood** of Holybourne in the County of Southampton Yeoman and **John Trimmer of Holybourne** ... Maltster, **Daniel Inwood** of Binsted ... yeoman **Executors and trustees...** **Also** I give devise and bequeath unto my son **John Christmas** all my Estate and Interest in **All those** the Great Tithes arising renewing and increasing from lands lying and being within the aforesaid Tything of Oxenbourne with all the Hereditaments &c which I hold under a Lease for these Lives under the **Bishop of Winchester and also all that** my copyhold barn and about seven acres ... or arable land ... with the Hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging within the Tything of Oxenbourne ... **To hold to him my said son John John Christmas** his Heirs &c according to me Estate and Interest therein **Subject** nevertheless subject to the Countroul entire management and Direction of the said George Inwood, Daniel Inwood and John Trimmer until my said son shall arrive at and attain the full age of Twenty five years, and I hereby empower the said George Inwood, Daniel Inwood and John Trimmer and the Survivor of them to demise and let the said Tithes and Barn and Seven Acres of Land for the most improved yearly value unti me said sone &c and also to let and compound for the said Tithes of Oxenbourne or not as they in their Discretion shall think proper. They my said Trustees rendering a just account of the Rents Issues and Profits of the same on his attaining his said agebut in case my said Trustees should not have sufficient money in their hands arising from the said Tithes then I authorize them to make up and Deficiency there may be out of my personal Estate. **Also** I give devise and bequeath unto mysaid son John Christmas **All that** my Messuage Tenement or Dwellinghouse Together with the Barn Hopkiln and about Eight Acres (more or less) of Land now in the Occupation of my tenant Kish Christmas situate lying and being in the parish of East Worldham ... **And also That** my Messuage Tenement or Dwellinghouse and garden ... now in the Occupation of John Daws **To Hold** to him my said son John Christmas ... **Also** I give and bequeath all my household Goods plate

Linen China and Furniture of every description ... to permit and suffer said wife to take such part thereof as she shall think fit to and for her own use for and during the term of her natural Life and to sell the Remainder ... and after the Decease of my said wife **Upon Trust** to divide my Goods in the possession of my said wife at her Death equally between all my Children by my present wife then living share and share alike **Also** I give and devise and bequeath unto the said George Inwood Daniel Inwood and John Trimmer the Sum of **Two thousand and Three hundred Pounds** of lawful money **To hold** to them the said George Inwood Daniel Inwood and John Trimmer... eithr to continue or to place out at interest the said sum of £2,300 upon Government of such other Security or securities as they in their Discretion shall think fit, and to pay the Dividends proceed and produce of £2,000 part of the sume of £2,300 to my said wife Elizabeth for and during her natural Life in Case she shall so long continue my widow and unmarried, But in case my said wife shall marry again **Then upon Trust** to pay the Sum of **Fifty pounds** a year only and to apply the Remaining Interest in such manner as the Residuum of my effects is directed ... and expend the Interst and Produce of £300... so to be placed out at interest on my natural Child Hannah the Daughter of Hannah Banks now Mrs Wright the wife of Edward Wright a Laborer at Farnham ... until my said natural child shall arrive at the Age of Twenty five years**then upon Trust** to pay the said sum of £300 to my said natural child to and for her own use ... **And** from and after the Decease of my said wife **upon Trust** to divide the said sum of £2,000 between my said son John Christmas and my Daughter Elizabeth Christmas share and share alike But in case I should have any other child or children by my said wife Elizabeth ... (*divide equally among all children*)... **Also** I give and bequeath unto the said George Inwood Daniel Inwood and John Trimmer **All** my Monies Securities for money farming Stock, crops and all other my peersonal Estate and effects of what nature ... **Upon trust** to carry on my farming Business as long as they in their Discretion **And upon further Trust** to pay unto my said Daughter Elizabeth the sum of **One Thousand Pounds** ... upon attaining the age of **Twenty five years** ... *more stipulations in the event of any other child of his being born ...*

Appendix 13. 1891 Census Data for Oxenbourne

Dwelling	First	Last	Mar	Age	Se	Rel	Occupation	Birth parish
Oxenbourne	Annie	Lintott	Wid	51	F	Head		East Meon
	John	Lintott	S	29	M	Son	Groom	East Meon
	Charles	Lintott		6	M	Son		East Meon
Lower Farm	William	Weeks	Wdr	73	M	Head	Farmer/Maltster	East Meon
	Annie	Weeks	S	31	F	Dau	Housekeeper	East Meon
	Emily	Weeks	S	25	F	Dau		East Meon
Oxenbourne	George	Newport	M	46	M	Head	Ag Lab	East Meon
	Sarah	Newport	M	47	F	Wife		
	William	Newport		18	M	Son	Ag Lab	East Meon
	Ernest C	Newport		11	M	Son		East Meon
	Edith A	Newport		8	F	Dau		East Meon
	Annie R	Newport		1	F	Grand dau		East Meon
Upper Farm	William	Vokes	M	54	M	Head	Farm Servant	Sutton Scotney

	Emma	Vokes	M	54	F	Wife		Bullington
	Agnes	Vokes	S	22	F	Dau		Barton Stacey
	William	Vokes		17	M	Son	Ag Lab	Upper Clatford
	Albert E	Vokes		15	M	Son	Carter Boy	Upper Clatford
	Laura K	Vokes		13	F	Dau		Upper Clatford
	Edith M	Vokes		8	F	Dau		Upper Clatford
	William B	Vokes		2m	M	Grand son		East Meon
Oxenbourne	James	Dance	M	31	M	Head	Ag Lab	Andover
	Emily J	Dance	M	29	F	Wife		Upham
	Charles E	Dance		6	M	Son		Warnford
	William	Dance		2	M	Son		Kilmeston
	James	Dance		1m	M	Son		East Meon
	Alice	Nutley		12	F	Vis		East Meon
Oxenbourne	George	Ham	M	28	M	Head	Ag Lab	East Worldham
	Susan	Ham	M	29	F	Wife		Alresford
	Ernest G	Ham		10	M	Son		Alton
	Silas W	Ham		6	M	Son		Alton
Oxenbourne	James	Rutter	M	35	M	Head	Ag Lab	East Meon
	Jane	Rutter	M	34	F	Wife		East Meon
	Mary J	Rutter		10	F	Dau		East Meon
	James W	Rutter		9	M	Son		East Meon
	Charles H	Rutter		6	M	Son		East Meon
	Albert J	Rutter		3	M	Son		East Meon
	Edith M	Rutter		1	F	Dau		East Meon
Oxenbourne	Henry	Merritt	M	44	M	Head	Gamekeeper	East Meon
	Emily	Merritt	M	48	F	Wife	Laundress	East Meon
	Mary J	Merritt		21	F	Dau	Laundress	East Meon
	Agnes E	Merritt		11	F	Dau		East Meon
	Bessie	Merritt		9	F	Dau		East Meon
	Hubert J	Merritt		7	M	Son		East Meon
Oxenbourne	Edward	Phillips	M	45	M	Head	Shepherd	Westbourne
	Jane	Phillips	M	44	F	Wife		Westbourne
	William	Phillips		15	M	Son	Ag Lab	Bedhampton
	Harry	Phillips		12	M	Son	Under Shepherd	Bedhampton
	Charlotte	Phillips		11	F	Dau		Bedhampton
	Herbert	Phillips		6	M	Son		Bedhampton
	Ada Rose	Phillips		4	F	Dau		Funtington
Oxenbourne	James	Grant	M	70	M	Head	Ag Lab	East Meon
	Harriet	Grant	M	67	F	Wife		East Meon
Oxenbourne	Isaac	House	M	57	M	Head	Shepherd	Kings Sombourne
	Mary	House	M	67	F	Wife		Wooten
Stonylands	George	Cook	M	67	M	Head	Shepherd	Alresford
	Elizabeth	Cook	M	69	F	Wife		Steep
Down Farm	George	Coles	M	35	M	Head	Farmer	Clanfield

	Jane	Coles	M	38	F	Wife		Islington
	Edith J	Coles		9	F	Dau		East Meon
	Ernest G	Coles		7	M	Son		Clanfield
	Gilbert L	Coles		5	M	Son		Clanfield
	Frederic W	Coles		3	M	Son		Clanfield
	Florence K	Coles		1	F	Dau		East Meon
Oxenbourne Farm	Charlotte E	Berry	S	24	F	Sister	Farmer's Sister	Weston Patrick
	Richard J	Berry	S	18	M	Brother	Farmer's Brother	Weston Patrick
	Elizabeth	Leach	S	14	F	Serv	Gen Dom Serv	East Meon
Hillhampton	Thomas	Merritt	M	28	M	Head	Farm Servant	East Meon
	Anne E	Merritt	M	31	F	Wife		Thursby
	Annie O	Merritt		5	F	Dau		Wallops Wood
	Thomas H	Merritt		5	M	Son		Wallops Wood
	Charlie	Merritt		3	M	Son		East Meon
	Sarah	Snelling	Wid	72	F	Mother		Chalton
Hillhampton	William	Blackman	M	39	M	Head	Farm Servant	East Meon
	Sarah	Blackman	M	49	F	Wife		East Meon
	Edwin	Money	M	30	M	Head	Farm Servant	Bishop's Sutton
	Annie	Money	M	22	F	Wife		Midhurst
	Edwin W	Money		1	M	Son		Midhurst
	Henry	Hall	S	15	M	Boarder	Farm Servant	Priorsdean
Lythe House	Richard F	Harrison	M	45	M	Head	Farmer	Enfield
	Caroline F	Harrison	M	41	F	Wife		
	Daniel T	Harrison		15	M	Son		
	Harriet M	Harrison		12	F	Dau		
	Caroline F	Harrison		10	F	Dau		Harvard
	Jesse E	Harrison		5	F	Dau		East Meon
	Belinda E	Virtue	S	25	F	Vis		Redbridge
	Annie	Culverwell	S	18	F	Serv		East Meon
	Kathleen	Merritt	S	14	F	Serv	Domestic Servant	East Meon
Lythe House	William	Weeks	S	26	M	Head	Coachman	East Meon

Only Lythe [House] Farm is occupied by a working farmer, although Oxenbourne Farm houses Charlotte and Richard Berry, sister and brother of 'the Farmer', with a single domestic servant, while William Weeks Senior [Farmer] was living at the time at Lower [House] Farm with his daughters Anne [Housekeeper] and Emily. Upper [House] Farm is occupied by William and Emma Vokes (he is described as a Farm Servant) and five children and one grandson, two of the sons listed as Agricultural Labourer (aged 17) and Carter Boy (aged 15). Hillhampton has been divided into three cottages, one occupied by Thomas Merritt [Farm Servant] and his wife and three young children, and Sarah Snelling, Anne's mother, the other two by Edwin Money,

Farm Servant, with wife, son and boarder, Henry Hall, and by William Blackman [Farm Servant] and wife. Lythe House, on the other hand, has farmer Richard Harrison in residence with his wife, four children and two female servants, as well as separate accommodation for William Weeks, Coachman.

Appendix 14. Oxenbourne House

Lady Phyllis White wrote these notes in the 1990s

Oxenbourne House was probably built in the early 1600s. There are no deeds to provide a firm date. It was originally a small farmhouse with two quite large rooms on the ground and first floors, a semi-basement dairy room and a large attic space under the roof, which was probably thatched. The fabric of the house was the local malmstone from Langrish, with lath and plaster interior walls and chaff for infilling and insulation.

The outbuildings, barn and stable block, are thought to have been built in the eighteenth century. The stable block was thatched until it was set on fire in 1905. A few of the burnt rafters remain. There was probably a farm-yard pond or midden in the centre of the present grassed area with the circle of evergreens. The footings of a building, and its presence on an old map hard up against the wall of the area across the road, were visible some time ago. It may have been a small cottage or a barn.

Oxenbourne House was previously known as Upper House Farm until about 1910 – 12 when it was bought and turned into a gentleman's residence. Various rooms and alterations had been added and made before then. The different roof lines can be seen in the roof space. The purchaser in 1910 was a Mr Liddell²⁵ who employed a well-known local architect, Lupton²⁶ to improve the building in Arts and Crafts style. Lupton's original work can be seen at the Red House, Cockshott Lane, Froxfield, at the top of Stoner Hill. He worked in conjunction with Edward Barnsley who made all the doors, &c, at the Red House and probably made the handsome oak staircase at Oxenbourne. New windows with leaded lights were inserted instead of the existing sash windows except where the original windows with the diamond panes were already in situ, or transferred from elsewhere as in the 'breakfast' room. The kitchen wing was added by Lupton as a scullery on the north side and wooden walled partition or pantries of storefooms on the south side and a very small, dark sitting room for domestics at the end with a fireplace. The floor of the scullery was bare bricks on the earth and the brick walls were unplastered, and only whitewashed or painted. The original lantern on the roof had open louvres and provided light for the passage between the pantries and the scullery; also cold air and rain at times.

²⁵ See p3. The 1911 census shows that Thornton Hassell lived at Upper House Farm then, and Lady White may have mis-remembered the name..

²⁶ Geoffrey Lupton, see p3.

The present storeroom under the back stairs was a dairy until 1975. There were three steps down to the floor, on two sides were black slate slabs resting on brick uprights. There would have been a sluice for disposing of water in the wall overlooking the path outside. On this path is a stone slab which would probably reveal the drain running into the drainage system. Under the brick path there is a water channel for the cistern under the path near the present drain from the sink in the kitchen. Water can be heard running into it sometimes in heavy rainfall. The wall in the dairy showed some weakness and water used to run into the dairy and flood the floor. In 1975 the space was filled with large pebbles from the beach at Hayling Island and brought to the level of the passage outside. A proper membrane, screed and floor covering was put down in the store and the adjoining lavatory, taken from part of the space available ... (more about the problems of damp)

Water for the kitchen would have been provided by the hand pump on the brick slab (not ivy-covered) from the cistern below. There is also a large cistern behind the stable block and the relic of the pump. There is also a well in the garden on the south side under the large concrete slab near the garden steps, under the plants.

The bow window in the study and (present) dining room and the stone arch to the front gate were all added by Lupton

Appendix 15. Lythe House from the censuses, 1851 - 1891

1851: 'Leith House' was occupied by George and Henrietta Hellyer. George was not there on the night of the census, and 62 year old Henrietta was described as a farmer's wife of 150 acres employing 8 labourers. Their 40 year old son William was a baker & grocer, and their 19 year old daughter also lived in the house along with a 6 year old grandson. Two agricultural labourers also lived with them, a 25 year old from Froxfield and 18-year-old William Titheridge from the village.

1861: 47 year old master mariner John Smire from Portsmouth lived in 'Leith House' with his 45 year old wife Jane.

1871: 27 year old carter George Carpenter from Froxfield lived in 'Lythe House' with his 26 year old wife Elizabeth and their daughter born in 1871. Elizabeth (nee Knight) had been born at Leith yard, where her father was a shepherd. She was listed in the census as being in charge of Leythe House.

1881: Robert Thomson, a 62 year old farmer from Happisburgh, Norfolk, lived at 'Leythe House' with his 60 year old wife Maria and his two daughters, aged 29 and 23. They had a 23 year old friend visiting and one servant, 17 year old Ann Eames from the village. The 1880 Harrod's directory listed Robert Thompson (sic) as a farmer at Lythe Farm.

1891: 45 year old Richard Harrison, from Enfield, Middlesex, was the farmer at 'Lythe House'. He lived there with his 41 year old wife Caroline, who had been born in the USA, as had their three oldest children. The fourth child, aged 5, was born in 1885 in East Meon, so the family had been in the house for at least six years. They had two domestic servants, 18 year old Annie Culverwell and 14 year old Kathleen Weeks, both from East Meon.

Appendix 16 HRO 58M99/25 F.G. Standfield papers about the Berry family

i. Newspaper clipping July 1975. Philip Berry

Mr Philip Henry Berry of Oxenbourne Farm, East Meon, has died at the age of 83. Mr Berry, who was born at Oxenbourne, had lived there and neighbouring Langrish all his life. His family have farmed there for the past 150 years and there are records of his mother's family, the Weeks, dating from 1719 in East Meon Church.

Mr Berry served in the First World War in the Hampshire Yeomanry and was severely wounded. In the Second World War he was an officer in the local Home Guard.

In 1920 he married Phyllis Franklyn Baker of Alresford and he spent his life farming on the family farms. He was a member of the Hampshire Down Sheep Society and bred prize-winning sheep, some of which went to the Argentine and Czechoslovakia. He was also a member of the NFU.

He leaves a wife, three sons, John and Richard who farm at Oxenbourne, and Robert who has a farm at Kilmeston; two daughters, Mrs Eleanor Tucker of Oxenbourne and Mrs Evelyn Trimmer of Privett; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, nearly all of whom live in the East Meon area.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at East Meon Parish Church followed by interment of the ashes in the Week's family vault.

*ii) Statement by John Inwood Berry of Oxenb. Farm, b 5/7/24
Richard Henry Berry of Grants Farm, East Meon, b 21/8/30
Eleanor Bessie Tucker of 1, Fishpond Cottages, EM ... jointly state ...*

We are the children of Philip Henry Berry and Phyllis Berry late of Oxenb Farm, EM. There are two other members of our family, Robert Franklin Berry and Evelyn Trimmer.

Our great-grandfather John Berry came to East Meon from the Andover area. He was a farmer, and married Emma Morgan. Their son, Henry Berry, was our grandfather. He too was a farmer and in the early years of this century was farming about 1500 acres. He married Mary Weeks, whose family had been in Oxenb. Since the 18th century. Their son Philip Henry who married Phyllis Baker was our father.

Our grandmother's family came from Stedham in Sussex. According to a prominent memorial tablet on the outside of the South transept of East Meon Church:

- i. William Weeks of Stedham, Sussex, and for many years of the Tything of Oxenb., b 9/5/1749, d 9/5/1825

- ii. Mary his wife b. 8/2/1750, d. 17/12/1826
- iii. William, son of the above, d 8/12/1760 aged 87
- iv. Catherine his wife d 23/7/1860 aged 73
- v. William son of the above d 23/7/1860 d 8/4/1907
- vi. Ann his wife b 30/3/1829 d 172/1889

About the turn of the last century, William Weeks Jnr (father of our grandmother Mary Weeks, and therefore one of our great-grandfathers) was living at Lower House Farm, East Meon, where he was a farmer and maltster. There was a tax of excise duty payable at that time on malting barley. There came a day when a customs and excise official arrived in East Meon on horseback with the intention of calling unannounced at Lower House Farm to check the quantity of dutiable malting barley there. But he made the mistake of lodging himself and his horse the previous night with Jim Hobbs of Ivy House, EM, who was a friend of Weeks, and, during the evening's conversation, mentioned his destination for the following morning. Jim Hobbs plied his visitor with sufficient drink to make sure he would sleep soundly, and as soon as he had seen him safely to bed dashed off to warn Weeks of the unexpected visitor. They then set about moving some tons of malting barley to a hiding place and after working during most of the night, succeeded in their object of enabling the maltster to escape the duty which would otherwise have been payable.

The Berrys have always been great sheep farmers and our father and great grandfather bred Hampshire Down sheep. Father and grandfather also bred Shire horses, and had as many as 15 working on Oxenb. Farm. When showing their Shires there was a keen but friendly rivalry between the Berrys and the neighbouring Atkinsons. The Berrys invariably had one or more Shires to sell at the Taro fair held annually each October on The Heath at Petersfield.

Our father served in the Army (Hampshire Yeomanry) in WWI and was severely wounded in the back. His brother, Richard Inwood Berry, also served in the Army and died on the way back from Gallipoli, being buried in Italy.

Our grandfather was one of the original members of East Meon Parish Council I 1895 and served continuously until his death 32 years later in 1927.

Our father was a keen cricketer and ran an Oxenb team, whose ground was in the field opposite Ox. Farm.

The origin of Pill Meadow becoming the East Meon Recreation Ground was its being settled on a trust known as The Oxenb Trust with a view to income derived from its letting being used to provide fuel for poor people. This was to compensate local inhabitants for losing their commoners' rights to collect fuel from certain areas including Hogs Lodge Lane.

The Weeks family farmed at Lower House Farm at one time and also at Upper House Farm (now Oxenbourne House) and they were also publicans at The Square Brewery in Petersfield.

During the years our family were tenants of Countess Peel we found her to be a good landlord, in the sense that her repairing liabilities were carried out to a very high standard.

iii) Letter from Bessie Tucker 28.1.82

From the time the Council took over roads in the 1880s till the second war there was a demand for flints for metalling, and apparently a never-ending source along the downs so flint-picking became a steady casual job, paid as piece work, and all transactions were by the cubic yard, and it was commonplace to see pyramids of flints in lines just inside the perimeter fences, awaiting council demands.

Gypsy caravans were a common sight too on the verges of Harvesting Lane, or more often at the end of Fishpond Lane; they often drew in when the wife was about to 'go upstairs' (their expression), so the first we knew of them was a call from the district nurse cadging clean water and old sheets. They were not well received by my father or grandfather: hedges were mutilated for first, horses turned to graze on grass laid up for hay, curses and paper flowers distributed among the superstitious cottages and mounds of litter left behind.