



FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

"To save Fulbourn's past for the future"

NEWSLETTER NO. 37

Spring 2013



TOO MANY CHIEFS AND NOT ENOUGH INDIANS ?? Pictogram depicting composition of FVHS committee as at April 2013 showing Officers and Committee members.



At our last meeting in March, Elizabeth Wright announced she would be retiring from the Committee of Fulbourn Village History Society. On your behalf, we offer her a BIG THANK YOU for the very helpful contribution and support she has given over the past few years.

This 'loss' now means that for the first time, the Officers on the Committee of F.V.H.S. outnumber the committee members! Although this might lead to the conclusion there are 'too many Chiefs and not enough Indians', I wish to re-assure members that this is not how we 'operate'. Everyone on the Committee has their own areas of personal interest and can devote as much time to this as they, personally, feel able to contribute. Furthermore, we all help each other when, and where it is needed.

So what exactly, do we do? Well, for a start the Society could not function without some person or persons being responsible for:-

Administration eg. Minute taking, responding to enquiries.

Finance eg. Banking, bill payments, receiving subscriptions/keeping membership details up to date.

Fund Raising eg. organising Coffee morning, Cake stall, Raffles and Grant applications. MORE IDEAS VERY WELCOME!

Arranging Speaker Programme eg. Finding suitable subjects and booking talks.

Publicity eg. Designing and producing posters advertising events, editing Newsletter.

Then, of course, there is the FUN and FASCINATING tasks involved when we follow the F.V.H.S. constitution's objective to 'research keep and maintain records of all aspects of the village's social and historical development'.

This includes:-

Record Keeping eg. Accessioning new material and storing documents and artefacts.

Research eg. Assisting with enquiries relating to local/family history research by locating relevant documents etc.

Developing Information Technology eg. Updating our Web-site, Database and Digital Image Library.

Staging Exhibitions eg. Research and Display, to the general public, documents etc. held by Fulbourn Village History Society. *

Could you be part of our very sociable and productive team? Committee meetings last only about 1½ hours and are held bi-monthly (we do not insist everyone comes, every time!). If so, please enter your name on the enclosed nomination form. We can arrange a 'seconder' if necessary. Do not be deterred if you are a new(ish) resident to the village or member of Fulbourn Village History Society. Your current Secretary had only lived in Fulbourn one month before becoming a member and was on the Committee two months later!

N.B. You do not need to be on the Committee to participate in the 'activities' listed. Should anything in particular take your fancy, please talk to a member of the Committee.

* Our **Exhibition at Fulbourn Feast 2013** will be on 'FULBOURN FARMERS & FARMING' (draft title). If you have any photographs, documents, artefacts you feel might be relevant and you have not already had these copied or deposited with Fulbourn Village History Society, please contact Ursula Lyons (C.881039), Pat White (C.290158) or Tony Goodall (C.880401) or come along to our *Archive Store in the Fulbourn Centre, open Monday or Wednesday from 10.00 until noon.*

(Note the fine drawings on both sides of water birds, the swan and heron, and of plants such as bullrush and marsh orchid: there is a further playful reference to Fulbourn's watery past in the logo devised by the artists found on the side of the Wall - the wavy lines of the postal franking stamp surmounted by a crown).

The time line below the heading starts with the Neolithic to Bronze Age from 8000-800 BC, through the modern age (which is given as starting in 1600) to the year 1790 when the population is given as 640, up from the Domesday population figure of 491. Then there was a dip in the population, so that while in 1377 it had reached 570, in 1600 it was down again to between 400 and 450 and was not to start growing again until after the Plague of 1665/6.

As for the images, a map shows the line of Fleam Dyke, the defensive earthwork dating back to Anglo Saxon times and included as a reference to the Anglo Saxon origins of Fulbourn. The two 12th century churches of All Saints and St Vigor's are shown standing next to each other - as depicted in an engraving found in William Coles' manuscript work on Cambridgeshire. As is mentioned in the time line, the older church of All Saints was demolished in 1775 after its spire fell down in 1766. Also from the 18th century is an image of the Fulbourn Manor fire engine.

As for the two manor houses, Fulbourn Old Manor, dating back to the 16th century, is sketched as well as the more substantial 18th Manor House as it appeared in 1910 before restoration work. Although it is a 20th century building, also included on this side is Fleam Dyke pumping station, and a water stand pipe, both important developments in the modernisation of services in Fulbourn.

Images from Fulbourn's past include the Horse Pond, in Cow Lane, which was constructed near the former pumping station of the Cambridge Water Company (depicted on the

other side of the Wall) for the use of farmers and their horses and cattle who might have suffered a loss in water supply on the construction of the pumping station; and the Meeting Tree, an elm called the Bird Tree on the pre Enclosure map of 1806, which stood on the corner of Shelford Road and Cambridge Road and was so called because it was where courting couples were said to have met. It is no longer but survives in people's memories.

Owing to the constraints imposed by space on the two sides of the wall, also included on this side is the 20th century War Memorial. (Note, too, the references to Fulbourn as an agricultural community in the form of cattle and pigs, and of the saffron crocus which was cultivated here as in other parts of East Anglia up till the early 18th century).

Side Two is headed FULBOURN 2012. The time line below starts with the year 1801 when the population was 702. A hundred years later that was to grow to 1771 but by the final date, 2011, the figure has leapt to about 5000.

Key dates for Fulbourn here include the Enclosure Act of 1806, the introduction of postal services, the coming of the railway and the opening (and closing) of the railway stations, the emigration of 30 residents to Australia in 1854, the opening of the Church of England School, the introduction of piped water and of street lighting, the laying of electricity mains and the building of the first council houses.

Dates of national significance include references to the introduction of radio, TV and the internet, as well, inevitably, to the two World wars.

The central image is a map of the village indicating the location of the Wall. A lot of the buildings shown date to the 19th century and earlier - hence another picture of the church of St. Vigor's. Specifically 19th century buildings shown are the windmill, rebuilt in 1808; the

Some then strolled down the High Street to no.2 and 4, Pierce Lane, to see the site of a grocery and drapery store run by yet another Tyrrell, George Tyrrell, and then by his widow and daughter, from 1927-1975. (The daughter, Felicity Knight, nee Tyrrell, did know about Tyrrells living in the village and her sister was a member of the Tyrrell Society, but she did not know about the Tyrrells who were Lords of the Manor 500 years ago). These 20th century Tyrrells do not appear to have any connection with the Lords of the Manor Tyrrells.

The next stop was Fulbourn Manor where the party was welcomed by the present Lord of the Manor, Richard Townley, and his family. Judith Townley had very kindly provided refreshments in the hall, after which Richard gave a talk in the dining room

about the direct links between the Tyrrells/Daltons and the Townleys: the manorial court rights had been bought c.1730 from a daughter of the last Tyrrell Dalton, and in 1787 the Manor House was bought and has since been in the Townley family's hands.

Richard had prepared many interesting documents which were laid out for inspection, including a legal book written by Michael Dalton in 1628. He first outlined the history of the present Manor House and discussed whether the Tyrrells lived there or in the Old (16th century) Manor house, and then described some of the family portraits, including those connected to Tyrrell Dalton. The Tyrrells were then invited to walk through the grounds to view the Old Manor House, after which photographs were taken.



The Tyrrells in front of the Manor

After lunch, which was taken at the Fulbourn Centre, Ursula Lyons, Chair of the Fulbourn Village History Society, gave a talk about Fulbourn and its history. She asked the Tyrrells to recall their journey from Cambridge to Fulbourn so that she could mention the history of some of the buildings that they had passed, such as the Fulbourn Hospital and the Windmill. She went on to highlight some of the other historical sites such as the five manors that formed the basis of Fulbourn in the past, and the row of 18th century thatched cottages in Stonebridge Lane. These were originally agricultural labourers' cottages, with long gardens so that farm workers could grow their own vegetables, and perhaps keep a pig, too.

Rosemary Tristram outlined the results of the archaeological dig at Stack Yard Court, where the

skeleton of a second century body had been unearthed. Pat White opened up the Fulbourn History Archives so that the Tyrrells could look at photographs and important historical documents as well as maps and other items of interest.

The Tyrrells held their AGM after tea and cakes. Following on from this visit, it was decided that we would open next season's (2013-14) Thursday talks with one from Bethan Featherby (who is a Tyrrell on her mother's side and who helped arrange the visit) and her husband, Rupert, who offered to give a talk (wearing Elizabethan costume!) on where the Tyrrells originated and how they came to Fulbourn.

Rosemary Tristram

3. THE CHAPLIN FAMILY

Before the Enclosure Act of 1806, the largest “farmers” in Fulbourn were the Hancock and the Oslar families (the term “farmer”, as J. Hanmer points out, “covers a large social band, from the publican or shopkeeper, who farmed ten acres in addition to his other work, to the really large farmers who, by the 1860s, were living in a style similar to the local gentry”). At the beginning of the nineteenth century, there were still Hancocks farming in Fulbourn - notably Thomas Hancock of The Great House in Home End. It is possibly he (or his father) who is described in 1766 as “a considerable farmer of Fulbourn” when he married “a lady with a handsome fortune”; and when Mr Hancock “the elder” died in 1786, he, likewise, was described as a “respectable and opulent farmer.” But after Thomas Hancock’s death in 1811 at the age of 71, the Hancocks ceased to be involved in farming, his son John having predeceased him. (There is a reference to a Hancock in Kellys 1869 Directory where he is described as a farmer, but no farm is named).

As for the Oslars, their heirs died young; their land was heavily mortgaged and was eventually sold to the Chaplins. Thomas Hancock having died without a direct heir, he left his farmhouse and land to a cousin, John Chaplin of Clare, who was also chosen by him to inherit an interest in his farm known as ‘Whiskins’ [Hanmer], the same name of the aunt, Margaret Hancock, (nee Whiskin) to whom he was related on his mother’s side. Farms were often inherited through the female line, so we find John Chaplin being again left land in 1816 by his ?aunt Sarah Hancock. And in 1847, his son, Joseph, was to inherit from another aunt, Jane Hancock, who “assigned to Mr. J[oseph] Chaplin all her Estate and Effects”. John Chaplin’s sons became millers and maltsters as well as farmers and in the course of the next hundred years built up a substantial business.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, according to the 1851 Census, 16 families were farming 2510 acres, employing over 200 men. Second only to James King of Shardelowes Farm, with his 777 acres, was JOHN HANCOCK CHAPLIN of Home End, (he was living at Ludlows), who employed 36 men on his 700 acres. By the end of the century the Chaplin family was listed in Kelly’s Directory as the most substantial landowners in the village, alongside the Townleys, the Lords of the Manor.

Like the Wright family, [see Newsletter 35], the Chaplins date their first appearance in Fulbourn to the beginning of the nineteenth century, when major changes were taking place both in land ownership and in the landscape, following the Enclosure Act of 1806. In the course of the next hundred years, they prospered to the extent that in

the 1901 Census there are 14 Chaplins listed as all living in the Home End area within a stone’s throw of each other - the Great House, Ludlows, Flendyshe House and The Bury, four of the most substantial houses in Fulbourn. As for farms with which they have been associated, whether as owners or occupiers, in the course of the five generations of Chaplins who have farmed in Fulbourn up to the present day, these number at least half a dozen farms.

JOHN CHAPLIN, the first Chaplin to farm in Fulbourn, first appears in the records in the Enclosure Award of 1806, where he is shown as having a share in the Whiskin estate and as having allotted to him some 16 acres of properties, mostly in the Home End area. In 1808, he is credited with the building of the present day windmill, now a prominent feature of the village. He must already have been considered a considerable landowner and farmer, as it was he who was allotted one acre on which to build both a mill and a miller’s cottage on Mill Hill, so called already in 1496 before and since when there have been several mills, of which little is known.

There had been a windmill (of which traces are occasionally visible in the field beyond the New Burial Ground) not far away but at 15 m. above sea level as opposed to 30 m on Mill Hill, there had been insufficient wind to work it. In 1876 it was advertised as “to be let, sold or removed” and it is then that it must have been removed. As for the manorial water mill, which was even lower down, after the Enclosure of the parish, together with the drainage and the drawing up of new boundaries, there was a reduction in the level of water in the upper reaches of the Great Wilbraham River on which it was situated and it, too fell into disuse. In 1808, the machinery of this watermill, was put up for sale and the new - wind - mill was built, replacing both it and the other windmill. On 11 July, John Chaplin recorded, “I laid the first brick of my mill,” and on 15 December, “Began grinding”. (The actual construction of the mill was by Thomas B. Hunt of Soham). [See T.H. Simms: Fulbourn Windmill] Ownership of the mill remained in the Chaplin family for the next 112 years, until 1920 when it was sold by Howard Foster Chaplin. It ceased working in 1937.

Two years later, in 1810, John Chaplin helped in the financing of the United Reform Church (or Congregational Chapel, as it was then known), built by Thomas Hancock. He also planted 52 walnut trees in the meadow on what is now the site of Geoffrey Bishop Avenue.

As for when and where John Chaplin first took up residence in Fulbourn, it must have been before the Enclosure Act of 1806 - and the probability is that he went to live in The Great House, home, until the

death 3 years later, of his relative Thomas Hancock. He would have been 30 years old in 1802 and may have married late, as his first son was not born until 1811, after his arrival in Fulbourn. John was a devisee of his cousin, another Thomas Hancock, and both he and his son were left land and property by Hancock aunts, as mentioned. But as we have seen, the Hancock line died out and the Hancock wealth passed to the Chaplins.

John Chaplin was born in 1772, the son of Abraham Chaplin of Tilbury Juxta Clare. John's aunt was Margaret (nee Whiskin) Hancock, wife of Thomas Hancock of the Great House Homestead, and he is known to have lived in the Great House, which must have passed to him on the death of Thomas Hancock, until his own death in 1838. He bequeathed all his freehold, copyhold and leasehold property to his three as yet unmarried sons, who together went on to form the firm of "Chaplin brothers, farmers, millers and maltsters". It is his two sons, Abraham Thomas and Joseph, who went on to marry, (John Hancock Chaplin remained a bachelor), and whose descendants can be followed by the houses in which they went to live and the farms with which they were associated.

HOUSES

1 THE GREAT HOUSE HOMESTEAD (its original name) 1, Home End



**Three ladies in front of The Limes, August 1911
(?Gertrude Martha Chaplin, her niece Mabel and their maid, Nellie Scrivener.)**

From 1892-1929 it was known as THE LIMES, after which it became THE OLD HOUSE which is its present name.

The first of the Chaplin houses, it was originally a hall house of 15th century origins and with its one

time barns and out buildings was the farmhouse from which the Hancocks farmed before the arrival of the Chaplins. John Chaplin's six children will have been born here but it is his second son, Abraham Thomas Chaplin (1816-1866) and his descendants who lived here until 1960. The 1861 Census describes him and his wife Martha Elizabeth as "landed proprietor and farmers, millers and maltsters of the firm of John Hancock, Abraham Thomas and Joseph Chaplin".

So here we have the first mention of the Chaplin family firm. Abraham Thomas' older brother, John Hancock Chaplin, (who did not marry but was living at nearby Ludlows) is similarly described in the previous Census of 1851 but with the additional description "farmer of 700 acres, 36 men, maltster". Abraham Thomas was followed in The Great House by his son Abraham Basil Joseph (1853-1912) (whose sister Gertrude Martha also lived there until her death in 1934) and grandson, Abraham Basil John (1880-1960), who, in 1928, moved back there from Church View where he had been living since 1916. On the latter's death in 1960 the house was sold, thus bringing to an end some hundred and fifty years of Chaplin occupation.

In the course of their occupation, The Great House Homestead was not exempt from the frequent farm fires which are recorded in the Fulbourn Chronicle. Two fires on Chaplin farms are mentioned, one during the lifetime of (Abraham) Basil Joseph and one just after his death. In November 1889, there was a fire "on the premises of Mr. Basil J. Chaplin", (at next door Flendyshe House - The Great House was now the home of the widow of Abraham Thomas) in the course of which five barley stacks, two clover stacks and a wheat straw stack were burnt down but the buildings were saved. A more dramatic fire, described at length, occurred in August 1912 in a barn "adjoining Mrs B.J.Chaplin's residence" which was completely destroyed after being struck by lightning. It was eventually put out, using water from "the fishpond in Mr Chaplin's meadow, almost a quarter of a mile away," after a hose connected to the Manor found insufficient water there. This happened in August 1912, only 3 months after the death of her husband, (Abraham) Basil Joseph, which must have been a double blow.

2 LUDLOWS, Ludlow Lane

Like the Great House Homestead, Ludlows is an open-hall plan house dating back to the 15th century, though timbers inspected by Oliver Rackham are said to date back to the 14th century. With its attendant buildings - barn, dairy, and maltings - it fits the definition of a homestead: "a dwelling house with outhouses, and enclosures immediately connected with it." The reference in the Fulbourn

Chronicles to a fire in the granary in November 1859 describes how, thanks to the presence of the labourers, the cattle were removed and the fire was confined to the roof of the stables - which would imply numerous farm buildings, among them the Maltings, dating from the 17th century, and Maltster's Cottage.

The original owners of Ludlows are unknown ["Ludlows in 1806 was in the hands of the impropiators for tithes and it may have been purchased from them by either Thomas Hancock who owned much of the adjoining land between Ludlows and School Lane or by John Chaplin at the time of the Enclosure" - Crane]. John Chaplin's eldest son, John Hancock Chaplin, moved there in 1841 and in the 1851 Census is still living there together with his younger brother Joseph, born in 1821, and two of their three sisters, Martha and Elizabeth.

In 1854 Joseph went on to marry (Esther Foster) and moved after that to nearby Flendyshe House where their two sons, Francis Joseph and Howard Foster were born. It could be during this time that, in an attempt to improve the household's sanitation, he had built in the grounds of Flendyshe House the rather superior 3 seater (or rather 2 ½ seater) earth closet (described in Newsletter 31), suitable for both grownups and young children! In the 1861 Census, he is living there with his two sons aged 4 and 6.

On the death of his father, Joseph, in 1905, Francis Joseph, who had been living at The Bury with his wife Jane, moved back to Ludlows where he lived until his death in 1950 aged 95. Their only son, Joseph Graves, born in 1904, later married and went to live in The Bury where he brought up his three children, Mary, Adrian and Peter. After the death of his father Francis Joseph in 1950, Joseph Graves and his family moved back from The Bury to Ludlows.

As a child, Mary Chaplin can remember fetching milk from the dairy at Ludlows when her grandfather Francis Joseph was still alive and living there with his wife Jane and two of his four daughters. She also remembers the blacksmith, Bill Webb, whose smithy was in Ludlow Lane.

As for the Maltings, they had long ceased to process the malt needed for the production of beer. Adrian Chaplin remembers this long, low 17th century building being used for storing and chemically dressing the seed corn. The lower floor was also used as a deep litter chicken house. During the first World War the top storey, with its

concrete floor, was even used as a rifle range - "the butts for shooting are still there". The concrete floor was where the grain would be thrown down and "chitted", which was part of the malting process which had all but ceased by the time of the first World War.

Joseph Graves died in 1978, (his wife Florence died in 1960), and two years later, in 1980 it was sold. By then both Peter and Adrian had moved out and were farming in Fulbourn, while Mary went to live in the nearby Maltsters Cottage behind the Maltings. Ludlows thus passed out of the hands of the Chaplin family. They had occupied it for over hundred and forty years, and with its sale, the Chaplin family ended their connection with Home End.

3 FLENDYSHE HOUSE, Ludlow Lane

This house, across the green from Ludlows, dates from the early 17th century and from at least as early as 1860 until 1940 was lived in by various members of the Chaplin family. ["According to the pre Enclosure map of 1806, the house and farm buildings belonged to Thomas Hancock who died in 1811 at the age of 71. It passed into the possession of the Chaplin family, though it is unclear who its first occupier was before Joseph Chaplin, brother of John Hancock Chaplin" - Crane].

Possibly after Francis Joseph moved back to Ludlows, his cousin Abraham Basil Joseph moved in, as he is found in the 1891 and 1901 Censuses as living in Flendyshe House with his wife Sarah Kate, two sons and a daughter. He died in 1912 but his widow continued to live there until her death in 1940. The army occupied the house from 1940 until the end of the war, whereupon it was sold. After some 120 years, it, too, passed out of Chaplin hands. As the house is adjacent to The Old House Homestead, with its barns and outbuildings, it could be considered all part of the one farm, under the name of Home Farm. A barn remains in the present grounds of Flendyshe House.

As well as the flint building housing the privy, there remains another curious memento of former inhabitants of the house in the form of initials and dates carved into the stones of the boundary wall : the dates that can be clearly identified are 1756, 1843, 1861, 1876, 1905 and 1907. The last date is accompanied quite clearly by the name A. Chaplin - which could have been either the father or the 27 year old Abraham Basil John, both living there at the time.

4 THE BURY, Home End

The origins of this fourth Chaplin house and its name are unclear - all Crane says of it is that it was "owned for many years by the Chaplin family." It would appear to date to at least the 18th century as it is found on the 1814 post Enclosure map where buildings on the site are marked as belonging to Thomas Oslar: he may have lived there or at nearby Meldreth Farm (known as the Whiskins Homestead).

Another Oslar, John Alfred, described as a farmer of 148 acres, is recorded in the 1861 Census as living on the other side of The Bury in the house on Dogget Lane known as Beechwood (when it was built c. 1835 it was known as Dogget's House) where he died in 1865. When they lived at The Bury has yet to be established, but the Oslar family disappears from the Fulbourn scene at some point in the 19th century: in fact, the Fulbourn Chronicle records that in 1881 the 37 year old Thomas Oslar (Thomas being a common Oslar name) perished at sea, together with his wife and four children as they sailed to South Africa where they had hoped to settle.

However, the Oslars did not disappear entirely from the scene but may have lingered on in the form of a *ghost*. Mary Chaplin remembers being told how when her aunt Esther (born 1900) was small and lay in her crib, the maid was supposed to have once seen a form leaning over it. Other people felt uncomfortable in that room and would not sleep there. When, after a fire in the farm buildings in the 1920s, her great uncle Howard Foster, who was living in The Bury, was told that he would get rid of the ghost if he took the roof off the old building, he raised the roof when extending the house. The extra courses of brick can still be seen from the road side facing the White Hart.

Thus at some stage late in the century The Bury passed into the hands of the Chaplin family. In 1901 we find Francis Joseph living there with his wife and one year old Esther, the first of his four daughters. In 1904 their one son Joseph Graves, was born but by 1911 the family had moved to Ludlows while Howard Foster and his wife, Elizabeth, moved in to The Bury. After the death in 1930 of Howard Foster, Joseph, went to live there when he married in 1931, and it was there that his three children, Peter, Adrian and Mary were born. Until his death in 1930, it was also the home of Francis Joseph's brother Howard Foster, who married Elizabeth Morton (who died in 1926). On the death of their grandfather Francis Joseph at Ludlows in 1950, Joseph Graves and his family sold The Bury and moved in to Ludlows. The Chaplin connection with The Bury had lasted some 50 years.

FARMS

If tracing the occupancy of their houses seems confusing enough, then this is nothing to the problems of identifying the farms owned or occupied by the Chaplins in the course of a century and a half.

We start with HOME FARM: "home farm" is the name given, according to the dictionary definition, to "the farm attached to or near to a large house." In the case of the Chaplin farms, it could refer either to The Great House Homestead or Ludlows, but also possibly at some time to Flendyshe House. In 1884, a fire occurred at "Joseph [sic] Chaplin's Home Farm at Home End," described as being near to the Crown and Thistle "beerhouse" which escaped damage. However, "the large farm [sic] was razed to the ground", the Fulbourn Chronicle reported, but "the farmhouse, occupied by Samuel Chapman, was damaged". Samuel Chapman was a publican, the licensee from 1856-63 of the nearby White Hart, and was probably living in a farm cottage nearby. As the 64 year old Joseph was then at Ludlows and his 31 year old nephew Abraham Basil Joseph was at Flendish House, it is unclear exactly where the fire occurred.

After the death in 1912 of Abraham Basil Joseph, a sale is recorded at Home farm of "the whole of the live and dead stock farming stock, by direction of exors of late B.J. Chaplin, on account of the land being taken for smallholdings."

Leaving aside Home Farm, the original homestead in Home End from where John Chaplin started farming, there are several other farms associated with the Chaplin family. John Chaplin, as well as inheriting farms, went on to buy up both freehold and leasehold land both in the village and elsewhere (notably Burwell) - a policy followed by his three sons. The Chaplins rented land when it was convenient to do so but they bought land whenever something suitable came on the market [Hanmer].

Thus, according to references in the Fulbourn Chronicles, in 1865 they acquired both VALLEY FARM and QUEENS COLLEGE FARM. Queens College Farm was then described as "this valuable farm...comprising a respectable farmhouse near the church, with farmyard, stable capital barns, and 238 acres of arable and pasture land, is tithe free and held under a lease from the President and Fellows of Queens College, Cambridge". As for Valley Farm, this was owned by St. Thomas's Hospital until 1919 when it was sold to Cambridgeshire County Council.

In the same year, both HILLS FARM AND LOW FARM were also bought by the Council off Howard Foster Chaplin when he retired from farming. Another farm with Chaplin associations is HEATH FARM, where a fire occurred in 1870 when “in the occupation of Mr. Chaplin, which destroyed all the farm buildings except a cottage, and the corn, the produce of 74 acres”.

RECTORY FARM is another farm with Chaplin associations. Built in the early 19th century after Enclosure in the middle of land allocated to the rector of Fulbourn, it passed into Chaplin hands and was later sold, in the 1940s, to Lewis Wombwell, whose family still farm there.

The two remaining farms have clear Chaplin ownership - NORTHFIELD FARM and NEW/GRANGE FARM.

In 1925, Northfield Farm, known until 1912 as Chafy's, was bought by Francis Joseph Chaplin. It was a long, narrow farm which ran northwards from near the church. It stayed in the family until his death in 1950, after which it was sold (in 1953), with “101 acres, farmhouse, buildings, field and block of 4 cottages” to the White family. In 1968 they sold it to John Lacey who demolished the farmhouse but farmed the land that went with it.

GRANGE FARM is a relatively new farm. After the fire at The Bury, new farm buildings were erected off the Babraham Road and these came to be known as Grange/New Farm. Francis Joseph's son, Joseph Graves, continued to farm these two farms while living first, at The Bury and then from Ludlows. He was followed by his sons, Peter and Adrian, who ran the family firm, now know as Chaplin Farms. With the sale of Northfield Farm, the sole farm now remaining in Chaplin hands is Grange Farm which Adrian farms from no. 7, Dogget Lane, the house built in the 1980s on the south side of Dogget Lane, next door but one to Beechwood, and next door to no. 9, the cottage where the Chaplin horsekeeper, Albert Peachey, lived until the death of Francis Joseph Chaplin in 1950.

The Chaplins in the Community

Prosperous/large farmers, such as the Chaplins, played a leading role in Fulbourn society, serving as parish officers, administering charities, contributing to good causes and “engaging in lively debate about agricultural improvements.” Fulbourn farmers “worked together, intermarried, played cricket and engaged in charitable activities” [Hanmer].

We have seen how John Chaplin was responsible for the construction of Fulbourn windmill. He and his successors were much involved in the Congregational

Chapel, erected in 1810 on Hancock land adjacent to the Great House Homestead. In 1841 it was enlarged, partly “at the cost of the then proprietors, Messrs John Hancock, Abraham Thomas and Joseph (Chaplin)” - John's three sons. In 1862, the Chapel was rebuilt, “the Messrs Chaplin having generously transferred the old chapel and site to the congregations and liberally contributed to the new.”

For more than twenty years, as recorded in 1865, it had been the annual practice of Messrs Chaplin to provide the beef and plum pudding at the Treat for the Sabbath School children. In 1881, a new schoolroom was erected on a piece of ground “generously given by Mr. [Abraham] BASIL J[oseph] Chaplin”, John Chaplin's grandson, who was then living at the Great House. On the wall of the Chapel there is a memorial tablet to the latter's uncle, JOSEPH, who died in 1905, on which is written “For 60 years deacon of this church and for 50 years superintendent of the Sunday School”.

There are 2 more Chaplin memorial tablets, one, “erected by his afflicted widow”, to John Chaplin who died in 1833, and the other to Francis Joseph Chaplin and his wife, Jane Elizabeth - grandparents of Mary, Peter and Adrian. Outside, in the graveyard, are further Chaplin tombstones and also three chest tombs, mostly from the 19th century.

Among Joseph's many public roles recorded were: surveyor at Bottisham Petty Sessions, member of the Grand Jury at the Cambridge Quarter Sessions, and, like other members of his family - in 1937 three members of the Chaplin family were elected to the committee of the Parish Council - he also served on both the District and Parish Councils.

Joseph's son, HOWARD FOSTER, played a leading role in the Fulbourn Temperance Society and Band of Hope (started in 1875): at a celebration in the Congregational Chapel in 1896, he was described as “the indefatigable leader of the movement.” The cottages which became known as Hope Terrace were built for him and it was in Hope Hall, built in 1909, that meetings of the society were held. Also, in 1912, the Liberal Association held its annual meeting there with Howard Foster in the chair.

Matters agricultural were not neglected: in 1928 an Agricultural Discussion Society was set up, with FRANCIS JOSEPH as vice-president. Membership of the Society was to be open to all engaged or interested in agriculture.

As for JOSEPH GRAVES, who died in 1978, he is commemorated by Chaplin's Close, a group of 33 bungalows for the elderly and handicapped, built in 1982, and so named for his role as parish and district councillor, trustee of the Almshouses and churchwarden for many years.

The Chaplins as “farmers, millers and maltsters”

Today, two hundred years after the first Chaplin came to Fulbourn to farm, John Chaplin’s great great grandson Adrian is the sole Chaplin still farming here. Farming has seen many changes in these two hundred years and in particular in the fortunes of the Chaplins as farmers. For a start, they can no longer be described as either *maltsters* or *millers*, nor, unlike their forebear, Abraham Thomas (who died suddenly at the age of 51 while attending the Corn Exchange in Cambridge, “as was his custom,”) as *corn merchants*.

At the turn of the 20th century the Chaplins, as we have seen, were considered second only to the Townleys, Lords of the Manor, as landowners. Two World Wars as well as mechanisation and changes in farming practices have left their mark and the numbers involved in farming the land are vastly reduced, as have the land farmed and properties owned by the Chaplin family.

Adrian, born at The Bury, remembers the two farms owned by his father, Northfield and Grange farms. With the sale of Northfield in 1953, only Grange Farm was left in Chaplin hands. In his father and grandfather’s time, there was plenty of livestock - cows, horses, pigs and sheep. Adrian’s father prided himself on the flock of pedigree Suffolk sheep he built up - “they looked beautiful... They had some very good lambs... The sheep were folded on arable land”, not on permanent grass. They used to be moved from one farm to another, in the early hours, on roads which had been pre-prepared with hurdles. “It was always very hard work with the sheep. In real sheep country you see a lot of hills, you see them grazing, though they are restricted by some sort of fencing. But these had to be folded and all the hurdles had to be taken down and put up again on to new folds.”

Undersown in the cereal crops were turnips, swedes, sainfoin, on which the sheep were folded - “there were no sprays in those days so you did have green in the bottom of the crops”. Usually lambing took place where the sheep were folded. A lambing yard would be built by putting straw between two hurdles (this was before the introduction of bales). Making up these sheep yards and pens was hard work. The sheep would later be shorn in similar pens (but without straw in the hurdles). He recalls the shepherd by the name of Brown Human (“an old Fulbourn name”) who, together with an assistant by the name of Alfred Missing, worked from a shepherd’s hut. The hut, which used to be on Valley Farm from where it was dragged across the fields when the farm changed hands, still exists, though in need of restoration. “There’s quite a lot of history in there”, in the form of

carvings created, no doubt, to while away the time. Inside the hut was a stove and Adrian remembers the men at Grange Farm gathering in it for their “docky” - what others would call “elevenses”. In the 1950’s the sheep farming came to an end.



Shepherd Brown Human, 1914

As for horses, Adrian can remember there being about 7 or 8 horses when he was young, Shire horses at first, stabled at Grange Farm. Then his father changed to Suffolks which were stabled at Northfield Farm. “They were strong horses, gentle giants,” which as a boy of 8 he used to lead at harvest time so that the men could load the sheaves on to the tractors and carts. But of course they eventually gave way to tractors and other machinery. Adrian says his grandfather (Francis Joseph) was still farming with his father and “he was a little bit slow in trying to mechanise. He’d only have tractors to do the work on what the horse couldn’t. It wasn’t until he gave the farm over to my father that we started to mechanise.” But it wasn’t until the 1950’s when combines were coming in that they started to combine barley and cut the wheat by binder as they did not have corn storage. It wasn’t until the late 1950’s that everything was then combined.

Changes occurred, too, in the growing of crops. Before the introduction of the sprayer, a fifth of the farm was left fallow. “We used to clean up and the muck used then to go on during the summer.” Then came green manuring which they would plough it all in in the autumn, “which is a good way of keeping the land clean of weeds and disease.” But that way of farming is no longer sustainable.

During World War 2, like all farmers the Chaplins had to use every bit of land to produce more and more food. All their land was already in production but tight regulation of what was grown meant that in addition to the cereal crops and sugar beet which they had been growing, they now had to grow potatoes. The government committee, known as The War Agricultural Committee (WARAG), controlled everything, whether the crops that were needed or the machinery: machines were rationed - "You had to put your name down if you wanted a new tractor or replacement machine" - as most of the steel went into the war effort, for tanks and aircraft." Working on the land were prisoners of war - Italians and Germans - and Adrian remembers a German captain - "obviously well read, well educated" - who would manage his men. They would help in the drainage of the fens, digging drains. The water had to be pumped out into the Fulbourn river New Cut, between Fulbourn and Great Wilbraham, by means of a petrol driven pump.

Like the other farming families we have described, the Chaplin family has seen many changes - and in particular, in the last half century - since John Chaplin came from Suffolk to farm in Fulbourn at the beginning of the 19th century. With the sale, in 1953, of Northfield Farm, the Chaplin family was left with just the one farm - Grange Farm - and part of that is now let out to another farmer. Mechanisation, and the introduction of fertilisers, are among factors contributing to the need for a much smaller work

force: a combine harvester can cover a field of 30 to 40 acres in a day, when at one time it took weeks to get the harvest in.

Consequently farmers have had to diversify, so that the very concept of "farmer" has undergone a radical change. With the need to use every acre they have in order to produce something to sell, farmers like the Chaplins now talk about "growing" such "crops" as caravans, car boot sales, golf driving ranges, although the growing of soft fruit, helped by Pick Your Own arrangements, at least helps restore the original definition of "growing". It's now all about *managing* the land. The farmer has become a manager and farming a business.

Ursula Lyons, with grateful thanks to Mary and Adrian Chaplin

(To be continued)

Research into the Chaplin family has revealed more about the origins of the Stonebridge Lane/Broad Green cottages. [See Newsletters 29 and 30]. The most important discovery was that it was indeed the Chaplins who owned the cottages, which were allotted to John Chaplin at the time of the 1806 Enclosure, (before that they were most likely owned by the Hancock family, into whose history further research is needed) and that they were only acquired from them by the Rev. C. Townley as late as 1913.

FULBOURN VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY DIARY DATES

Thursday, 18th April 2013: Meeting at The Fulbourn Centre, Doors open 7.30 p.m. when John Goldsmith will give a Presentation about Oliver Cromwell and also talk about the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon, of which he is Curator. Please note change (slight!) to advertised title.

Thursday, 16th May 2013: F.V.H.S. Fourteenth Annual General Meeting at The Fulbourn Centre, Doors open 7.30 p.m.. Your chance to provide feedback about the running of our Society.

Sunday, 30th June 2013: Fulbourn Feast. We will be holding an Exhibition (provisionally entitled) 'Farming in Fulbourn' in the History Tent.

Saturday, 20th July 2013: Fund-raising and Social Event. Coffee Morning at Hall Farm, by kind permission of David and Elizabeth Wright. We will also be selling Home Made Cakes etc.

A Message to all those Fulbourn Village History Society Members who through our Society, applied and became Life Members of the Fulbourn Institute in 2006 for a one off fee of £2.50.

The Institute is now installing a till system which requires new membership cards to be issued. However, these are quite expensive to produce and they would prefer to provide them only to those members who will use them! If you want to obtain the updated cards, please contact Janice Brown by telephone (07594427681) or e-mail janicebrown99@hotmail.com