

January 1987.

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Mr. Clark, Town Farm, Kingston Blount.

1893 Father took over the farm from William Fletcher, he had 3 wives and lived to be 96. Thomas Turner lived in the cottage which was pulled down next to Brookside.

Jane Turner did their washing. William Watkins lived in the farm before the Fletchers.

The Hattons had the farm next door and they found the name inscribed in the stone on the floor.

Photo's. Hayrick. Dad, John Dover, George White, possibly another White. Horse called Colonel.

Mrs Nell (Ellen) Clark his mother, father Edward Clark. Photo taken between the wars prob. 1932. Mother died in 1940, father died 1934. Cheese School: Mrs Meeks, Mrs Ballard, Mrs Clerke Brown (Present Colonel's grandmother) Kathleen Clark.

Motorbike 1922. They were married in Thame church.

Family photo: Mr. Clark's sisters and one child that the sister was nanny to, other child was Mrs Graham, second sister's child.

They were very friendly with head gardener of Aston House during Plowden's time.

Grandfather & Grandmother: Mr & Mrs Keen. Grandfather's sister lived at Chinnor in one of two new houses between Chinnor and Oakley.

Tape

Butcher's shop, Chapman's, they put a chap in who helped Chapman as a boy but he wasn't very good. Then Beddows? Next war he went and left only his wife after which it closed.

Two other butchers between ~~wars~~ Dodwell and Gibbs. Dodwell lived at the house in front of Parkers, had sheds for a shop. Thought other butcher's shop on the other side of the road further up. Reeds? Shop until during the war a general shop selling everything. The Clarks shopped in Thame, went once a week to bank to get wages, went on Tuesday, Market Day. When war started, Clarke kept local shop and they got groceries there during the war. Never went by train, had horse and cart until after first world war and then had a car. In 1922 had a motorbike.

He was born in the house 83 years ago, his father started in 1893. Mother came from Aylesbury - Wendover. Married from the Hale. Came straight to the farm after they were married. 150 acres when they first came, all down road on the left towards Stert. Then on right as well from 1906. Morris before father, before that Pritchard, before that North (must refer to additional land?) Hatton had it before that. The Hattons died out. Wine and Spirit

2.

Merchants, two sons, Cleland and Maurice. It was Maurice who had helped Chapman and he took over when Chapman died. Messrs Hatton had three sons, twins and a single one, the latter was killed in the second World War. Others moved to Watlington and had a business there.

Mr Clark himself had four older sisters, two married farmers. Eldest sister lived locally, one was in London as a Nanny until she retired and came to live with her mother. Mother built house along the main road in Aston in 1936 - Wychelm. She went there when Mr. Clark got married. When she died the eldest sister did not have very good health and they moved her to a bungalow in Chinnor and sold the house.

Mr. Hailey who owned the stud sold part of his land to his mother for her to build the house. The first one along there was built for Mr. Hailey himself and one on the corner for his man. One other chap named Hurst had one built. The Piddington family worked at Aston.

The Blacksmith's - Barnett was next door to the Royal Oak, the building in front of The Royal Oak and to the side was pulled down but was probably a bakers. Barnett had a son who was a baker and they carried on baking long after the blacksmith's shop had closed.

The family used to be friendly with Mr. Abbott the head gardener of Aston House.

Mr Clark has several copies of Kelly's directories, we saw 1903 directory. Liberty Buckland is in it as a brazier.

The Red Lion on the corner of Kingston Hill was a Coffee House. Clerke Brown bought it and didn't want it as a pub, so he didn't renew the licence and they sold coffee instead.

Mr Ludlow lived in Brookside, came to work as shepherd in about 1912. He used to live in red cottages down the road. Left in 1927. They had nine children. They went up to Spriggs Alley. When they came back he worked for Walter Meeks at the coffee house. He stopped there until Mr. Meeks died. Mr Meeks farmed a bit of land around. Mrs Ludlow's first child his sister looked after, then she had eight more. Bread was 1d a loaf at the time.

The butcher and carpenter only sent in his bill once a year. Mr Chapman was quite well off.

Town Farm was built about 1850. When he was a child an old boy came round to buy milk and he said that he could remember the house being built. He was probably 80 and could have been called Quartermaine.

3.

Billy Fletcher lived to be 96. He gave up the farm when he was 76. He went up to live where Parker's is now.

Old Mr. Fletcher had a son George who worked for his father, he had a son Jack who went to war and came back, he had a son Billy who lived in Postcombe and Mrs Turner. Mr Turner lived in cottages which were pulled down around the corner. There were two cottages there which were both pulled down at different times. The Turner's was the last one. A man called Maynard lived in the tumbled down old place. Julia Surman lived in it after that. She did his mother's washing. Bob Irwin (they called him Surman) lived there with the old girl one night he burnt his bedroom.

Miss Green was school mistress at Aston. She lived at the end house in Brook Street and stayed there after she retired. There was also Miss Briggs. When Miss Green retired there was a schoolmaster for a little while.

on May 1st 1914 Mr Clark went to Thame School.

From the map he only remembered Pleck Lane as a track to Sydenham. 1834 it was a road, it changed when they built the new Stert Road. The field to left of the lower Ickniel Way wide path they made for the children to run up the field. Both his sons are farmers, one here and the other one farms in Thame.

Wakelin, the carpenter - family shown on map. Oakley House named after Oakley the baker. Shoulder of Mutton looked as if it didn't have a drive on the map.

John Brown came to Kingston as a single man and married Miss Clerke. Didn't know if she had a brother. Clerkes were in Aston.

Baker Sid May has not been dead long, Barbara Porter saw him. Goger - on carpenter's bill - what is it?

Mr Clark has a copy of his great, great, great grandfather's will and he has an old cheque book 1854 which belonged to his grandfather. The will was dated 1834. There is a witness called Hatton on the will - is it a local name?

Lady knocked on his door one day - Mr & Mrs Goodson, wanting to know about the farm. They were distant relatives and they brought him a copy of the will. Family always lived around Aylesbury.