

BANKS FARM

Copyhold of the Manor of Bexhill

PROPERTY DETAILS (NGR TQ 7340 1048)

This has not been known as Banks for many years. The last owner called it Spring Farm as there is a spring on the property. Banks presumably got it's name from the 17th century occupier John Banks. Hackwoods Farm (P5/18) should be read in conjunction with Banks because Hackwoods became known as Banks in the 19th century. Banks was only a small holding of just over 5 acres which included a track running up from Watermill Lane as the access. There are and have always been only two fields, mainly of scrub. This has always been a seperate unit and still is.

OWNER/TENANT DETAILS

- <1567> This may have been in the ownership of Thomas Typett as part of Dalies and Prestons (1)
- <1673> John Banks was Messuage and 6 acres (2)
- <1740> Richard Easton tenant (3)
- <1802> Stephen Middlemas, as Dalies and Banks (4)
- <1808> Stephen Middlemas, House lands and 5 acres (5)
- <1823> Richard Sinnock Middlemas, Dalies and Banks. tent and 6 acres (6)
- <1831> A Farm Plan shows this as 'Morley's Land' (7)
- <1843> George Robinson owner, Thomas Morley, tenant as Banks house and garden and 2 fields, just under 5 acres. (8)
- <1861> Thomas Morley farmer 6 acres (13)
- <1892 Oct 4 Lord Brassey, owner, George Noakes of Sidley, butcher tenant. It was decided that the cottage was to be pulled down. George Noakes was operating a slaughterhouse from here (9)
- <1901 Mar 19 Amelia Noakes agrees to give up possession of slaughterhouse and land. (10)
- 1901 Mar 28 Lord Brassey leases same to Harry Ockenden, Butcher of Station Road, Sidley (11)
- <1916> Mr Carter operated this slaughterhouse and the older folk still remember this as Carter's Slaughterhouse. James Donne, local historian remembers it being well established by 1916. It had a fairly large orchard which may, at one time, been the kitchen garden of the old Banks Farmhouse. At the far end was a cess pool used in connection with the slaughterhouse. The slaughterhouse ceased being in use for butchers during World War Two but continued as a knackers yard for elderly animals until the 1950's.

Mr Donne describes the building as being in two sections, one for keeping animals, the other in which they were killed. Well built with nine inch thick brick walls (including the party wall) rising to their peak about 20 feet. The orchard still there but almost impenetrable. (12)

- 1920 Oct 18 Hugh Sydney Egerton of Mountfield Court and others to Mr H Carter of 31 Devonshire Road Bexhill..... and all those parcels of land etctogether with the slaughterhouse and buildings erected.....
- 1947 Feb 3 Harry Carter of 31 Devonshire Road but later of 'Heatherdene' The Highlands Bexhill retired Butcher (vender) and Mr and Mrs V Hastings Pet Shop Proprieter of 10 High Street Bexhill (purchaser) for the sum of £450. All that land together with the slaughterhouse and buildings erected thereon. (Mortgage of £3250)
- 1951 Nov 12 Mr and Mrs V.L. Hastings, Slaughterhouse Proprieter of 10 High Street and Earnest J.E. Pilbeam of Diplocks Farm Chalvington Slaughterman..... All that 5 acres 3 perches... with slaughterhouse and buildings erected.
- 1972 Apr 12 Earnest Pilbeam of Diplocks Farm Chalvington to Rodney R Sargent of 'Woodlands' Collington Lane West. All that Etc with buildings thereon. (Note. There is no longer any mention of a slaughterhouse)

SOURCES

- 1 Maidstone Record Office KAP U269 M20
- 2 ESRO ADA 49 & 58 Manor Rental and Court Book
- 3 ESRO DR/B33/1 Poor Rate 1740
- 4 ESRO RAF Box Manor Rental
- 5 ESRO AMS 5819 Duke of Dorset's Survey
- 6 Bexhill Museum Bexhill Manor Rental 1823
- 7 Bexhill Museum Farm Plan
- 8 ESRO TD/E 141 Tithe Award
- 9 ESRO A5634/1/58/5
- 10 ESRO A5634/1/58/4
- 11 ESRO A5634/1/58/7
- 12 Bexhill Museum Letter from Mr Donne 31 July 1964
- 13 Census Returns