

BRAGGS FARM

Copyhold of the Manor of Bexhill

DETAILS OF PROPERTY (NGR TQ 7344 0775)

Braggs Farm also known as Fatlands and previously Le Vert, has now gone. The land was claimed for building in the early part of the twentieth century. The roads we know today as Eastwood Road and Holmesdale Road are on the line of the old track which is shown on the farm plan of 1831 as 'road up to the kiln'. (13) This kiln, probably a lime kiln, as far as we can tell would have been situated near the junction with Sutherland Avenue and Collington Avenue. This old road is marked on the Tithe Map of 1839 (7) as 'droveway' as the road also gave access to the fields. It crossed the railway at Collington Halt as a level crossing but in 1920 a footbridge was built known as Braggs Lane Bridge but alas the Braggs Lane has now been forgotten. Eastwood Road was originally called Braggs Lane but was changed to commemorate a farmer of Braggs called Mr Eastwood in 1911.

OWNER/TENANT DETAILS

- <1567> Florence cotes owner with Messuage and 30 acres called 'Le Vette' (1)
- <1670 Thomas Delves who died in 1670 left the property to his son Nicholas Delves. (2)
- 1671 Jun 8 Nicholas Delves (2)
- 1673 July Nicholas Delves surrenderd to his brother Thomas Delves, cleric, as Vert als Fatlands (2)
- <1727 John Nash tenant (11)
- 1727-1737> William Sharp tenant (11)
- <1802> Catherine Cranston widow, Messuage Barn and 30 acres (3)
- <1808> Mrs Mugglestone owner/occupier with 31 acres freehold and 117 acres copyhold (4)
- <1823> Catherine wife of John Vernon Esq (5)
- <1833> William Cranston owner, Stephen Brook tenant (6)
- 1841 Jessee Barnard, farmer in occupation (14)
- 1841 Jun 21 Edward Cranston's death. Described in a Manor Court as Messuage Barn and lands 30acres called Le Vert also Fatlands paying 5s 8d also one barn and lands called Lynham being part of Fatlands 20 acres died siezed 3 heriots 3 oxen compounded at £35 6s 8d. Charles Nairn Hastie the younger, gent, admitted. Fine £54 (12)
- <1843> Owner Trustees of Edward Cranston with Stephen Barrow as tenant (7)
- <1884 Henry Reeves (15)
- 1884 Sep 24 Sale of Southdown sheep, general farming stock and dairy after the death of Henry Reeves. (15)

- 1884 Sep Mr T.O.Thwaites tenant (15)
1898 Apr 29 Indenture between Daniel Mayer of 18 Great Marlboro St Middx, Piano Maker and Alex Saxby Hurst and Charles Saxby Hurst both of Eastbourne, brewers. Danuel Mayer sold 75 acres of Braggs Farm which he earlier purchased as part of the Eastcourt Estate from Curteis and Leslie familied to Alexander and Charles Saxby Hurst of Eastbourne, brewers, for £44,000. The property was mortgaged to the London and Provincial Bank and assigned to Barclays in 1921, the mortgage was paid off in October 1929. (8) Thomas Marden, dairyman, tenant (9)
- 1939 Jul 3 Kathleen Maney Hurst and Annie Bean Hurst (the widows of A.S. and C.S. Hurst) conveyed building plots in Cranston Avenue to Bexleigh Estate Ltd on 29 August 1930, sold 3 to Frank Clark of Victoria Road, Southwick, gent. (10)

Painting of Braggs Farmhouse by Cedric Gillham



SOURCES

- 1 KAO U269 M20 (Maidstone Record Office)
- 2 ESRO ADA 58
- 3 ESRO RAF Box Manor Rental
- 4 ESRO AMS 5819 Duke of Dorset's Survey
- 5 Bexhill Museum Manor Rental 1823
- 6 ESRO Land Tax
- 7 ESRO TD/E 141 Tithe Map
- 8 ESRO AMS 5828/11
- 9 Bexhill Directory
- 10 Deeds of Dr Peter Marsden then of 8 Westville Road
- 11 ESRO AMS 5641/2 Rev Ott Tithe Book
- 12 ESRO ADA 67
- 13 Bexhill Museum Farm Plan 1831
- 14 1841 Census Returns
- 15 The Sussex Express