

MOUNT PLEASANT FARM

Copyhold of the Manor of Buckholt

PROPERTY DETAILS (NGR TQ 7242 1041)

Situated north-west of Bexhill just within the Hundred and later Borough Council boundary on the high road (A269) from Sidley to Ninfield, north of the road in an area generally called Mount Pleasant. This often confuses and prevents definite identification from some sources.

1450

Simon atte Thorne sells to William Crouche 1) a piece of land called The Hale in Bexhill with a way anciently and by right belonging to it (abuts: E the brook called Tokyesbroke; N William Crouche's land; S, W land of the abbot and convent of Battle). 2) 1a of outland in Bexhill (18).

1479

Simon at Thorne otherwise Simon Welhild of Bexhill sells all his lands and tenements, rents and services in Bexhill and Hooe to John Woode, Thomas Shosmyth, yeoman, William a Crouche of Bexhill, William Lonceford and William Cotis (17).

1816

Richard King Sampson of Hailsham, son of Richard King late of Alfriston but at the time of his death, of Willingdon, farmer came into eight properties in 1816, the first was 32a.26p of arable, meadow, pasture and wood in Ninfield. The second was a 'messuage with barns, buildings, cottages and pieces of arable, meadow, pasture and wood in Ninfield and Bexhill (160a.2r.14p) called Thorn Farm now in the occupation of Henry Holland; messuage with barn, yards, gardens and pieces of arable, meadow, pasture and wood in Bexhill, Ninfield and Catsfield (102a.2r.31p) called **Mount Pleasant**, the woodlands being in the occupation of Richard King Sampson and the rest in the occupation of John Wright (except those copyhold lands of the Manor of Buckholt, i.e. customary messuage, garden and pieces of land called **Highlands** in Bexhill (40a))'. Both Thorn Farm (Ninfield) and **Mount Pleasant** (Bexhill) were purchased by two generations of Richard Sampson's snr as well as Richard King Sampson. Part of these properties were called High Knowles, Jannells Croft or Channells Crofts Green and Maplesdens (80a) in Ninfield and Catsfield which was purchased in 1693 by Richard Sampson, the grandfather. Other parts were of 5 pieces of land (24a) called **Somers** or **Somerletts** in Bexhill [associated with Lunsford Cross Great Farm] and one messuage with malthouses, stable, garden etc called the Thorne in Ninfield and a barn and several pieces of land (63a) in Ninfield purchased by Richard Sampson in 1724. Another part is called **Langham and Hamms Hook** [**Hammons Brook** in tithe schedule below?] (11a) in Bexhill purchased in 1733 by Richard Sampson from Thomas Marchant and one further part consisting of messuage, barn, garden, orchard and 8 pieces of land called **Thorne Allies** or **Thorne Ladies** land purchased in 1761 by Richard Sampson from Richard Brooke.

The third property he inherited was a cottage with barn, gardens and pieces of land in Bexhill (24a.18p) called **Sandmares**, one piece of woodland called Sandmares or St Marys Wood in the occupation of Richard King Sampson, purchased from John Thomas in 1763. The fourth was two pieces of woodland in Bexhill, one of which was called **Augers** (8s.16p) and the other **Bushy Wood** (3a.3r.18p). Other land was in Hooe, Westham and Hailsham. It

will seen from this that the two properties The Thorne in Ninfield and The Thorn (Mount Pleasant) in Bexhill were in the same ownership and could account for the same name occurring within a short distance along the same road. The Bexhill property being an outlier to the larger Ninfield holding. Sandmares is further east along Ninfield Road towards Sidley in the area of Fuller's and St Mary's Cottages.

Known as Thorn Farm by 1865 but farmstead relocated c1870 when the site is re-used for The Thorne, a gentleman's residence with ancillary coach-house and stables. The farmhouse was also re-located to a new detached further west. See Property History P5/XXX for later details of relocated farm and P5/171 for The Thorne.



*Mount Pleasant Farm later to be Thorn Lodge
From Yeakel and Gardener Map 1778-83*

1839/41 Tithe Map & Schedule Mount Pleasant Farm listed as:

Plot no.	owner	tenant	name	use	Area (a.r.p)
1170	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Mount Pleasant Farm		1.1.4
1171	Richard King Sampson	William Erray		Orchard & garden	0.2.5
1172	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Road slip	Arable	0.1.24
1173	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Lodge field	Pasture	1.2.32
1174	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	House meadow	Meadow	4.1.24
1175	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Lucerne field	Arable	2.1.25
1176	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Foxglove field	Arable	9.0.6
1177	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Flat field	Arable	5.1.23
1178	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Part Cross field	Arable	2.0.21
1179	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Cross field slip	Arable	0.0.16

1180	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Part Lodge field	Arable	7.3.3
1181	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Marlpit field	Arable	7.3.28
1182	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Part Oak field	Arable	1.0.29
1183	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Isaac's brooks	Arable	3.2.9
1184	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Isaac's shaw	Wood	0.1.3
1185	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Boggy brook	Rough & pasture	7.0.28
1186	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Part of Shaw pit hop garden	Arable	1.2.9
1187	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Part of Shaw pit hop garden	Arable	2.2.10
1188	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Hammons brook	Pasture	1.2.18
1189	Richard King Sampson	William Erray	Road field	Arable	3.3.4

Total approx. 141acres. It will be seen that arable agriculture dominated the farm at that time. In the same ownership and tenancy was the adjoining property Shortwood Farm. This comprised of 14 plots, total 77a.3r.39p., again mostly arable but with three fields of pasture and two of woodland.

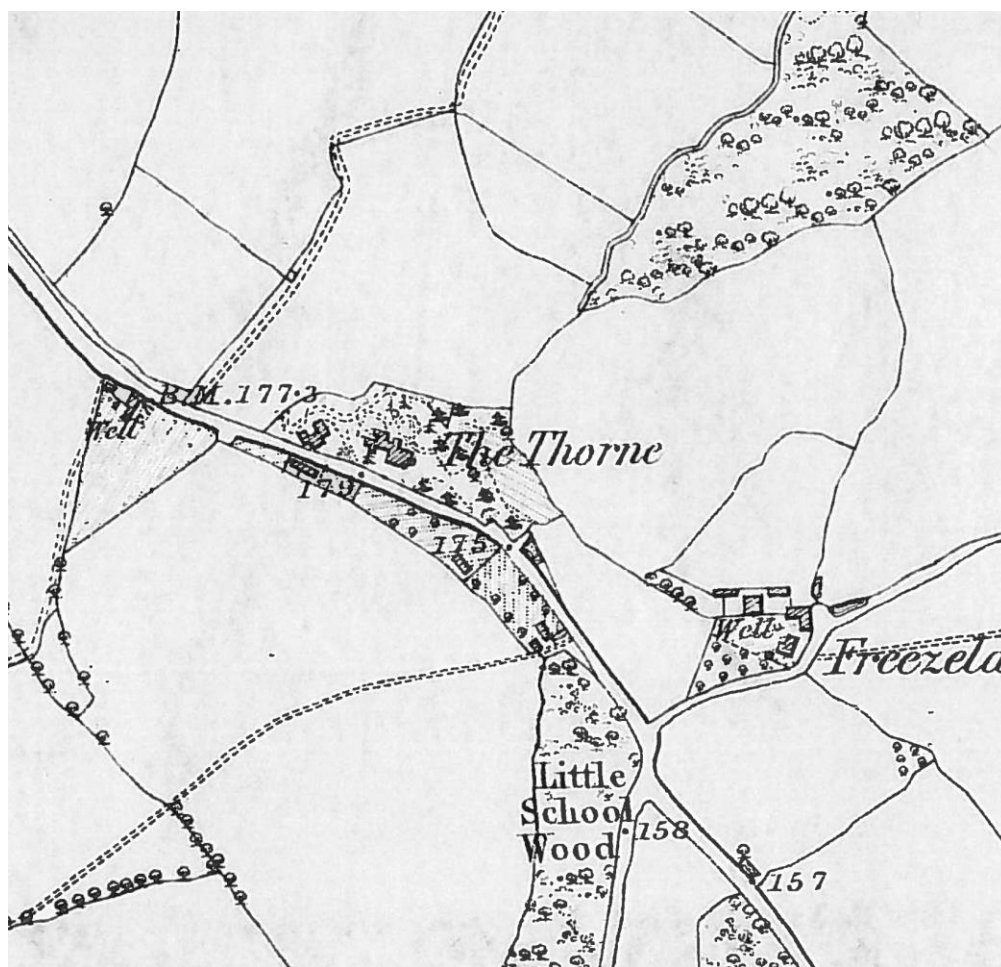


Portion of Tithe map 1839 showing the Mount Pleasant area. Mount Pleasant farmstead plots 1170, 1171 & 1172, north-east of road, farmhouse in red, outbuildings black.

1861 described as 150a in the occupation of George Parsons, farmer (8).

1865 believed to become part of Normanhurst Estate of Thomas Brassey, part of the former Park Gate Estate of Sir Palmer Acland. This extended from Catsfield where a large mansion was built, to include farm lands in Ninfield, Crowhurst and Bexhill, over 3,500 acres in total.

Farm house demolished in c1870, site becomes ancillary to adjacent property 'The Thorne', a gentlemen's residence built by Brassey from land formerly part of this farm (9). On the site of the farmhouse, a stable and coach house is erected in 1899 (10) which also contained a water tower for the main house. Some of the single storey farm outbuildings were retained later to be used as part of a dairy farm after the stables/coachhouse was extended and converted into two properties, the northern most (Thorne Lodge) owning four fields adjacent to the north.



Extract from 1873 Ordnance Survey sheet showing The Thorne with ancillary coach house & stables to the west.

Mount Pleasant Farm continued as a property holding and we believe a replacement farmhouse was constructed to the west by the Normanhurst Estate between 1873 and 1899. This was later separated from the land and today's Mount Pleasant Farm is to the north, accessed from a trackway between the later farmhouse and a modern infill house.

Mount Pleasant and Thorn Farms mentioned in leases by the Normanhurst Estate in 1871, 1875 and 1895 (13).

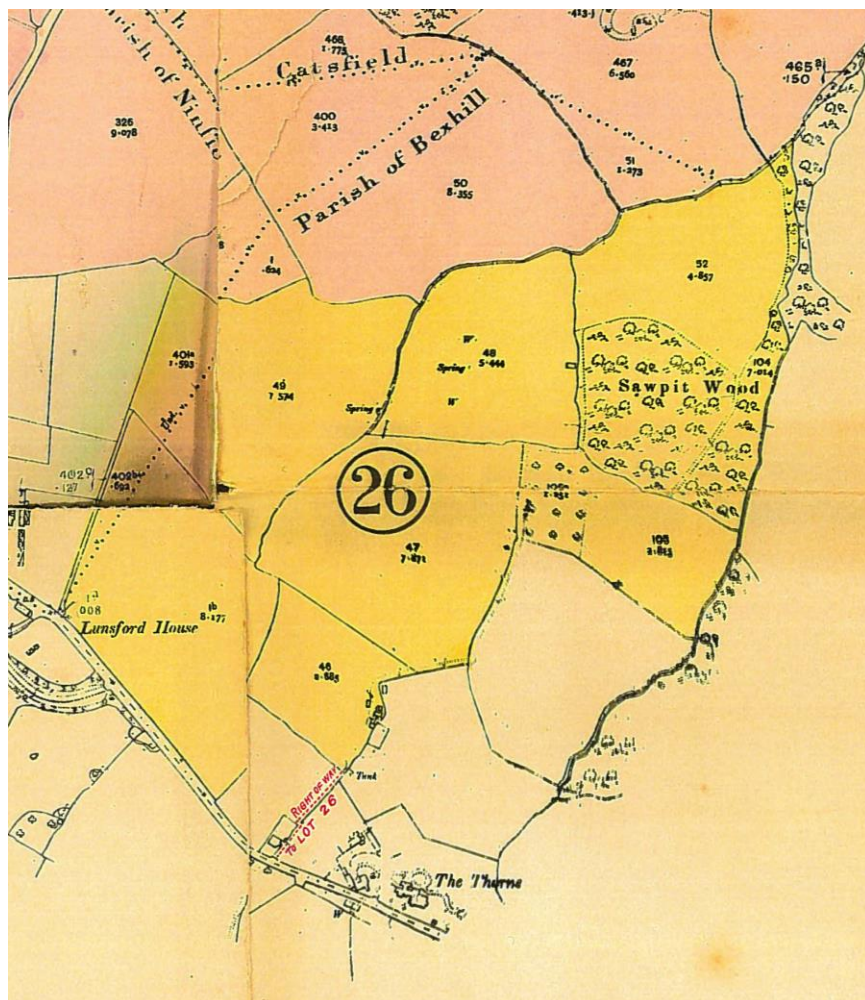
In 1879 George Morgan, tenant requests rent reduction from Sir Anchtel Ashburnham, Estate Steward to Normanhurst Estate due to the farming depression of the time. This is refused as all other tenants on the estate have managed to pay their rent and additional marsh land had been purchased by the estate in Pett specifically to improve profitability of the holding (16).

In the 1880s the Normanhurst Estate continued to expand with Shortwood Farm (97a.13p.) purchased in May 1880 and Freezeland and Banks Farms in 1883.

1897 called Mount Pleasant Farm in inventory, Normanhurst Estate (12).

Outlying parts of the estate began being sold off from 1914, we believe this may have included The Thorne house and land as this is not indicated as part of the estate in by 1920.

In 1920 the property Thorn Farm included lands in Bexhill and just over the boundary in Ninfield 48a.3r.16p but split into two tenancies, C H Ockenden having 7 plots (23.6acres) to the west and F Deeprise 6 plots (20.4a) to the east including buildings and Sawpit Wood. It formed Lot 26 in the auction on 24 June 1920 but purchaser unknown (10). By 1926



Extract from 1920 auction catalogue, Thorn Farm was lot 26.

OWNER/TENANT DETAILS

<1450-1479+	Simon at Thorne (?) (17)
<1816-1852	Richard King Sampson tenement called 'Highlands' (5), Mount Pleasant, Langham, Hamms Brooke, Thorne Allies & Thorne Ladies Land and others (17). 1839/42 Richard King Sampson recorded as owner, William Erray tenant, the same ownership and tenancy as Shortwood P5/41 (2).
1852-1861+	R K Sampson puts farm up for auction, purchased by George Parsons (6, 7)
1861	Owner Parsons, tenant Morgan (8)
<1871-1879+	George Morgan, miller & farmer of 430acres (11), property called 'The Thorne'. In 1866 Morgan rents Kitseye Farm (74a.1r.10p from Sir P Ackland for 1 year (14), rents same property from Thomas Brassey in 1871 (15).
1881	Not identified, possibly unoccupied property in census
<1891>	George Farmer tenant (4)
<1920>	Thorn Farm divided into two holdings, C H Ockenden & F Deeprise (10)
<1950>	Robin Wintersgill (4)

Census Details:

1841

William Erray aged 55 born in Sussex; wife Elinor aged 40 also born in Sussex as were all their children and servant - sons Thomas 20, Richard 15, Edward 14, Robert 8, John 7, Joseph 3; daughters Elinor 13, Ann 12, Mary 12 (twins?), Jane 5 and Sarah 6 months. Mary Erray aged 25 servant or visitor.

1861

George Parsons aged 51 Farmer 150acres, employs (?) men and 3 boys, born in Bexhill; wife Sarah aged 45 also born in Bexhill, daughter Emelia aged 12 scholar born in Willingdon. Also listed in the same house are George & Elizabeth Shoemith aged 70 and 62 respectively, occupations Milkman and dairymaid, both from Bexhill; Henry Whyborn aged 27, carter; Elizabeth Baker aged 14 domestic servant and George Veness aged 18 'Oddman'.

1871

George Morgan aged 48 Miller & farmer of 430acres employing 20 men and 6 boys, born in Hanover Square, London; housekeeper Maria Cornwell aged 42 from Newcastle, Phillis Armitage aged 33 domestic servant for New Romney in Kent, Rose French aged 14 domestic servant from Worthing and Alice Thorp, visitor aged 8, scholar from St Leonards-on-Sea.

SOURCES

1 Bexhill Museum Voters List for 1840

- 2 ESRO TD/E 141 Tithe Award
- 3 Sussex Directory
- 4 Bexhill Directory
- 5 ESRO Buckholt Manor Rental for 1842
- 6 1851 Census
- 7 ESRO BUR/2/1/15 & BUR/2/1/109
- 8 ESRO BUR/2/1/109
- 9 ESRO DR/A/1/2/X221 dated May 1888
- 10 Catsfield Village Archive Normanhurst Estate Sales Catalogue 1920
- 11 1871 Census
- 12 ESRO A5634/1/70/6
- 13 ESRO A5634/1/44 & 45
- 14 ESRO A5634/1/55/1
- 15 ESRO A5634/1/55/2
- 16 ESRO BAT2502
- 17 ESRO DUN 16/9
- 18 ESRO DUN 16/5

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