

PAGES FARM

Freehold and copyhold of the Manor of Bexhill, originally called Whites.

PROPERTY DETAILS (NGR TQ 7320 0729)

On old documents such as the Bexhill Manor Rentals, this farm was called Whites. A little further to the west along Collington Lane there was a farm called Pages which later became Burchington farm. Whites later became Pages.

OWNER/TENANT DETAILS

<1673>	Thomas Colman (as Whites) House, barn and lands (1)
<1802>	Thomas Deudney (as Whites) Messuage, barn and 30 acres (2)
c1808	Thomas Deudney owner/occupier freehold 24a copyhold 80a Tent & lands (3)
1819-1824	Thomas Deudney owner, George Thomas tenant (4)
1820-1830	The limekilns were let to Samuel Coleman (4)
1828-1832	Thomas Deudney owner, Samuel Coleman tenant (4)
1823	Manor Rental shows Thomas Deudney with 15acres of freehold land and 30 acres of copyhold land called Whites. (7)
1832	Thomas Deudney owner, his son James Deudney tenant (4)
1839	Thomas Deudney died (4)
1840	James Deudney sold to Moses Fielder (4)
<1843>	Moses Fielder owner, James Fielder tenant with 130 acres (6)
1851	James Filder (sic) farming 119 acres residing at Pages Cottage (9)
<1855-1870	James Fielder (died 9 April 1870 born 9 Feb 1814) (5)
1861	The Pages, originally the farmhouse was uninhabited also Pages Cottage, Pages Lodge housed the shepherd, James Spray (10)
1871	The Pages uninhabited, Pages Lodge James Spray aged 81. (11)
<1878>	Herbert Wall Filder (as Pages) (5)
<1890>	Captain Hyde (5)
1891	The Pages, John Page annuitant aged 48, Pages Lodge Edward Cornford, groom and gardener, (12)
<1898>	Miss Pages (as The Pages) (5)
<1900>	Empty (5)
<1900>	Pages Lodge, Edward Cornford (5)
<1913>	J.W.Webb owner, W.G.Duke farmed 30 acres (8)
<1927>	Miss Bengel, Prep School (5)

A report of a Court case on rights of access give us a better picture of the lie of the land. Pages farmhouse stood about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the sea. The farm was bounded on the coastal side by a bank with a hedge on top and a gate was in the hedge almost opposite Venus Gap. The bank was 7 or 8 feet high against the gully of Venus Gap (a gap in the cliff which gave access to the beach). The road went up to the house from the sea, it divided at the house, one way led to Bexhill the other to Little Common. Both led to the public road from the house (Collington Lane). A person could go down the farm road to the gate but then had to cross a long strip of land belonging to Bexhill Manor, Earl de la Warr's land, to get access to the beach to collect goods which were delivered by sea such as chalk for lime burning, coal etc. Earl de la Warr charged five guineas a year to cross his land. At Venus Gap on Pages farm land there were three lime kilns and a cottage for the lime burner. There was at one time a lime burner called Venus, could this be how Venus Gap got it's name? Lime ceased to be burnt here after 1847 as the London Brighton and South Coast Railway had been built across this land and it was easier and cheaper to bring goods in by rail. This report gave much information on the dates of ownership and tenants at the time. (13)

SOURCES

- (1) ESRO ADA 49 and 58
- (2) ESRO RAF Box
- (3) ESRO AMS 5819
- (4) Bexhill Chronicle 21 and 22 March 1867. Report of the Right of Way Case between Earl de la Warr and J. Moses Fielder.
- (5) Bexhill Directory and James Fielder's tomb stone for his birth and death dates in St Mark's Churchyard
- (6) ESRO TD/E 141 Tithe Award
- (7) Bexhill Museum Manor Rental 1823
- (8) Bexhill Observer 23 Aug 1913
- (9) 1851 Census
- (10) 1861 Census
- (11) 1871 Census
- (12) 1891 Census
- (13) Bexhill Chronicle 21 & 22 March 1867