

## PEBSHAM FARM

Held of the Abbey of Treport after the Conquest c1196 transferred to Robertsbridge Abbey 1539 held of Robertsbridge Manor 1324 the Manor of Pebsham c1674 held by the Pelhams under Crowhurst Manor

### DETAILS OF PROPERTY (NGR TQ 7657 0898)

The name Pebsham means Pyppel's settlement (OE Pyppels Ham, Papelsham c1197, Pepplesham alias Pupplesham 1263, Pepplesham alias Pebsham 1738) Pebsham Bridge at Herstmonceux is recorded in 1541 as Pepshambridge taking its name from that of a family that originated from Pebsham. (1)

The site of the farm as it is today was the old Manor of Pebsham. It was included in 1086 in the estate of Bollington (Bulverhithe), the whole of which was held in the time of Edward the Confessor by Levenot.

The great part of the property was granted after the Conquest by Robert, Count of Eu, to the Abbey of Treport, which he had founded in 1059. About 1196 all the property of this Abbey in the Rape of Hastings was conveyed to the Abbey of Robertsbridge, but as Robertsbridge Abbey had difficulty in paying for it, the transaction was not properly completed until 1290. In 1254 John de Pepelsham held the Manor from the Abbey of Treport subject to the payment of £4 to the Abbey of Robertsbridge. The Manor remained in the family, and the names of Robert, William and Simon de Peplesham appear in the Subsidy Rolls until 1338, but in 1411 the Manor had passed to John Halle (or Haule), whose wife was heir to the Pepleshams. It then passed to the Devenishes.

The Manor remained in the hands of the Abbey until the dissolution, when the Abbey lands, including the Manor of Pebsham, were granted in 1539 to Sir William Sidney and Agnes his wife. From this date Pebsham was held of the Manor of Robertsbridge until the end of the 17th century.

The first sub-tenant in Pebsham is John son of John de Peplesham, who in 1254 held the Manor from the Abbey of Treport, subject to a payment of £4 to the Abbey of Robertsbridge. John de Peplesham is mentioned in the Subsidy Rolls for 1296 and was succeeded in 1305 by his brother Robert, who in 1324 settled on himself and his wife Joan, the Manor of Pebsham.

William de Peplesham is mentioned in the Subsidy Roll 1332, but the Manor to have passed by 1338 to Simon, son of Simon de Peplesham of Crowham, since it was held soon after by his daughter and co-heir Joan. Joan later married Richard de Hurst and the Manor passed to their son Richard who died seized of it 1401, holding it jointly with his wife Margery, and leaving two daughters Maragret and Philippe. On the death of Margery, Pebsham was inherited by Margaret and her

husband John Halle, who was holding it in 1411, the Manor then being worth £10. On the death of John Halle, sometime after 1432, Margaret conveyed the estate to Trustees, whose refusal to restore it at her request on her marriage to her second husband John Devenish, led to a law suit. She had recovered it by 1439.

In 1465 Pebsham was again in the hands of the trustees, who held it for John Devenish, son of John and Margaret. He married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir Thomas Hoo and their son Richard Devenish died seized of Pebsham 1534, leaving a son Thomas, who in 1541 granted the estate to Thomas Goslyng for a yearly rent of £30.

In 1545 Thomas Goslyng conveyed it in trust to Henry Hardson and Barbara his wife to sell to Anthony Pelham 'together with the salt houses and all furnaces belonging to the same'. At Anthony's death 1566 his son Herbert Pelham succeeded the Manor then being worth £20. Being in difficulties in 1613, his son Herbert with Elizabeth his wife, mortgaged, and two years later sold the estate, with reservation of services by the vendor, to Sir Thomas Pelham of Laughton, who in 1622-3 received pardon from the King for acquiring it without a licence. Sir Thomas died in 1624 when the property passed to his son also Thomas, whose widow was in possession in 1674.

From this date Pebsham descended in the family of Pelham in the Manor of Crowhurst, but records of it are lacking after 1738. (2) (3)

The farm today (<1990's>) is owned by Hastings Borough Council. The land is let to Mr Worssam of Kitchenham Farm, Ashburnham. Many of the buildings are used for and let to horse owners for livery. The large barn built c1150 was burnt down in 1985.

## OWNER/TENANT DETAILS

- <1727-1736 William Cramp tenant (4)
- 1736> Samuel Cramp tenant (4)
- <1843> John Cressett Pelham owner with John Barton as tenant (5)
- <1855> Arthur and Thomas Barton tenant (6)
- <1861> Pennington Gorrington aged 30 farming 600 acres emp. 8 men, 3 boys (9)
- 1891 Pennington Gorrington aged 60 (9)
- <1878-1891> Pennington Gorrington tenant (6)
- <1896> Henry Pye Ratcliffe tenant (6)
- 1920 Sep 29 Henry Pye Ratcliffe of Pebsham purchased the farm from the Papillon family of Crowhurst along with land in Hollington cont. 564 acres in all. (7)
- <1930-1950> Matthias Catt tenant with Peggy & Tom Cossor (dau & son-in-law) (8)

1943 Matthias Catt moved to Pebsham from Worsham, he was tenant of both

Note on Henry Pye Ratcliffe. Born 1853 died 1933. He was living at Standard Hill farm Ninfield when he married. He built Little Pebsham in Pebsham Lane in 1920.

## SOURCES

- 1 Place Names of Sussex by Judith Glover
- 2 Victoria County History Volume 9
- 3 Arms of Sussex Families by J.F. Huxford
- 4 ESRO 5641/2 Rev Ott Tithe Book
- 5 ESRO TD/E 141 Bexhill Tithe Award
- 6 Sussex Directory
- 7 ESRO AMS 5828/10
- 8 Mrs Peggy Cossor
- 9 PRO Census Returns



Pebsham Farmhouse May 1989



Henry Pye Ratcliffe tenant of Pebsham 1920's



Haymaking at Pebsham 1920's

Pebsham Farmhouse



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**PEBSHAM AREA FROM DIRECTORIES**

**1890** **Pebsham Farm** occ Pennington Gorringe, farmer

**Pebsham Cottages:**

Moses Trill

Jonathan Hampner

George Freeman

Thomas Hakerst

Thomas Miller

Thomas Eastwood

George Freeman jnr

Jessee Stevens

**1901** **Sand Hole**

Samuel Isted, William Campney

**Pebsham Cottages** (not sure to which ones these refer)

John Winchester, Samuel Wood

**Pebsham Farm**

Henry Pye Ratcliffe

**1906** **Pebsham Cottages**

John Winchester, Samuel Wood

**Sand Hole**

M. Isted, Alfred Crust

**1918 Pebsham Cottages**

Trying to find the odd cottages near the Bull Inn Bexhill Road

Entry reads:

**New Cottages**

P.W.Gosbee, Edward Earnest Wilson

Then after this the Bull Inn

( were these the other Pebsham Cottages?)

**1926** still called **New Cottages** in Bexhill Road

**1930 Pebsham Lane** was called **Private Road** in 1930

**Sand Hole**

Thomas Hammer

**Pebsham Farm**

Mrs Perry, farmer and J.P.Ratcliffe

**Pebsham Cottages**, William Smith, Earnest Watson

**1956 Sand Hole**

Thomas Crosser

1, **Pebsham Cottages**      Robert Drumbrill

2, **Pebsham Cottages**      Reginald Webb