

THE HJSTORY OF

1-3 BLUNHAM ROAD MOGGERHANGER

Also known as

THE OLD POST OFFJCE AND SHOP

Chris and Dorothy Bashford

The house particulars were:



Page 2

3, BLUNHAM ROAD, MOGGERHANGER, BEDS

PORCH with lattice work panels and two porch seats.

DINING HALL with large open fire place with brick chimney breast exposed wall and timber beams.

KITCHEN AREA 20' x 13' with comprising inset stainless steel double bowl sink unit with mixer tap. Inset four ring electric hob with oven under, extractor hood over in a single base cupboard, Double base cupboards under sink, corner base cupboard. Refrigerator with fitted cupboards, one single base cupboard , four door unit with work top surface with a peninsular breakfast bar. Glazed fronted wall cabinets.

Open tread staircase leading to the first floor. Radiator, wiring for 2 wall lights and spot lighting, GPO point.

LOUNGE 17' x 17' with most attractive deep inglenook fireplace with large beam, Stone fireplace and open grate with back boiler serving domestic hot water and radiator central heating. Display alcoves. Exposed walls, beams and ceiling beams, windows and doors to the side gardens, wiring for three wall lights.

REAR LOBBY with door out to the rear garden.

UTILITY ROOM 9'4 x 8'7 with a stainless steel single drainer sink unit plumbing connections for automatic washing machine. Exposed ceiling beams. Door leading through to.

BATHROOM Bath, pedestal wash basin, low flush W.C. single radiator, tiled shower cubicle with Signet electric shower

Staircase leading from the Dining Hall to :-

LANDING

BEDROOM 1 13'8 x 17' with most attractive ceiling rafters and dormer windows, built in deep storage cupboard to side of the Inglenook chimney breast.

EN-SUITE CLOAKROOM low flush WC, wash basin and Handy electric water heater. Heated linen cupboard with factory sealed copper hot water cylinder, fitted immersion heater.

Very low door to:-

BEDROOM 2 10' 5 x 10'10 Radiator, window overlooking the front elevation, exposed wall and ceiling beams.

Leading to:-

BEDROOM 3 10'2 x 10'10 Radiator and exposed wall and ceiling beams.

Page 3

3, BLUNHAM ROAD, MOGGERHANGER, BEDS

OUTSIDE

To the side of the property there is a SINGLE GARAGE with wooden up and over door, electric power and meters.

Concrete yard leads to the rear and a foot path leads to the most attractive cottage gardens, laid to lawn with shrub borders and backing onto farmland.

Adjacent to the property is the old POST OFFICE/GENERAL STORE which could be converted to another dwelling or be reinstated as a Village Store.

SHOP 23' x 13'3 deep bay window, security post office counter.

Door leading to :-

STORE ROOM 12'3 x 9 with stainless steel sink unit with Sadia water heater over, worktop surfaces, marley tiled floor.

STORE ROOM 2 13' 9 x 13'3

TOILET with wash basin, low flush WC and Sadia water heater.

ASKING PRICE £159,000 FREEHOLD

VIEWING By appointment through: Browns Land & Estate Agents (0767) 291122

OPENING HOURS Monday - Friday Saturday Sunday 11.00am - 4p.m.

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> TO FIND OUR MORE ABOUT THIS FREE SERVICE ASK FOR Mr Anthony Smith NOW OR TELEPHONE SANDY (0767) 291122

FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO SUIT YOU.

We moved to Moggerhanger in Angust 1989. Thrilled to be living in such an ancient building, we set out to try to trace some of its history.

Visits to the County Record Office in Bedford revealed some maps and photographs which are displayed here.

We also inspected the Census Returns for the village between 1841 and 1891 to try to identify some of the people who lived here.

We hope yon will enjoy our delve into the past. Jf anyone has more information about our house, please let us know.

This map on the next page is dated 1799. "A Plan of Blunham Parish in the County of Bedford" Surveyed by Thos. Thorpe and J G Maxwell. Map was drawn to show enclosures.

The honse is clearly shown on land which had already been enclosed (shaded areas of the map).

It was drawn on parchment, decorated around the edge and with a cameo of two haymakers in an oval.

The original is in the County Record Office Ref: MA10



The next section comprises extracts from the Census Returns for 1841 and 1851 in "Muggerhanger".

The highlighted entries are those for families who we believe lived in the three cottages which once stood here.

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly the residents of each of the three properties because there are no house numbers.

However, if we take an entry for "Snmmerfield" we can follow it throngh.....

On page 6 of the 1841 census (see next page) there are entries for:

John Summerfield Age 40

No profession is mentioned but all other entries on the page are for Agricultural labourers

And

Eliza Summerfield Age 30

Both were born in Bedfordshire.

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TOTAL in Page 6		5.		16	19			

Jn the 1851 census, page 7 shows (see next page):

John Summerfield Head of family; Married; Age 51 Occupation – Ratcatcher Born at Jckwell, Beds

> Eliza Summerfield Wife; Age 41 Born in Muggerhanger

Sarah Summerfield, Daughter; Age 9

George Summerfield Son, Age 7 Both born in Muggerhanger and described as being "at home".

In 1857 the Moggerhanger Estate was sold by anction in London on 4 Angust.

As well as Moggerhanger Honse in its richly-timbered park, two Public Honses (the Gninea and Beeston Cross), and a water corn-mill, the 29 lots included

"numerous laborers' cottages and enclosures of accommodation & market garden land"

Particulars for the auction are shown on the next page.

Our house can be identified as one of these cottages.



On the map accompanying the sale particulars (see next page), our house is clearly shown as No 130A (Part of Lot 1).

It is described on the Schedule (see page after map) as:

"Three cottages and Gardens in five Tenements.

The tenants' names were:

John Simms Thomas Stanford J Summerfield* D Ashwell W Bywater



LOT ONE-continued.

A well-accustomed Public House,

Known as "The GUINEA," at Moggerhanger,

With Stable, Coach House, Brew House, Barn, Open Shed, Pigsties and 16 a. 1r. 24 p. of Rich Grass Land,

Let to Mrs. ANN FISHER, a Yearly Tenant, under Notice to Quit at Old Michaelmas Day (11th of October) next.

A portion of the South Mills Farm,

Consisting of 65 a. 1r. 33 p. of Productive Arable Land,

Let with other Lands to Mr. WILLIAM BROWN, under a Lease, of which three years will be unexpired on the 11th October, 1857. The apportioned rent on this portion being £124.

Also numerous Laborers' Cottages,

AND SEVERAL PLOTS OF ACCOMMODATION LAND,

MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING

SCHEDULE.

No. on Plan.	Description.	Cultivation.	Quantity.	Tenants.
	IN THE PARISH OF BLUNHAM.		A. B. P.	
130	The "Guinea" Inn and Close	Grass	814	Mrs. Ann Fisher
135	Grav's Close	22	8 0 20	22
130	The "Guinea" Inn and Close	Ulasa	$1 \ 1 \ 12$	Mr. William Brown
135	Gray's Close	11	8 0 20	
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78	Twenty Acres		20 3 14	,,
79	Lamb Pits	"	19 2 16	"
72	Chalton Close	Grass	1 2 19	Mrs. Sarah Bonest
24	Cottage and Close	22	5 1 36	} Elizabeth and George
132	Parren's Close	"	2 2 33	S Albone
37	Pound Piece	Arable	4 3 30	Widow Little
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31	Cottage and Garden in two Tenements		0 2 34	James Bone
				John Emery
.33	Ditto ditto	- 1	0 1 12	Wm. Tatman
100-181				(Joseph Simms
34	Cottage and Garden in three Tenements		0 1 1	George Ashwell
10.1	Cottage and Garden in three renements	_	U I I	James Bowles
36	Cottage and Vard	_	0 0 4	Joseph Cooper
37	Cottage and Yard Cottage, Blacksmith's Shop and Garden in two Tenements,			(Thomas Simms
	including site of Pound	_	0 1 13	Thomas Hill
222			0 1 24	Mary Haines
71	Cottage and Garden in two tenements	_	0 1 24	(Jane Brocket
				/ James Emery
			0 1 29	Wm. Bland
73	Cottages and Gardens in four Tenements	- 1	0 1 29	Jesse Woods
				(James Watts
74	Cottage, Garden and Orchard		0 2 26	James Tatman
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	IN GREAT BARFORD PARISH.			
54	Ozier Bed	-	0 1 16	William Gurney.
54	Ozier Bed	-	0 1 16	William Gurney.

The whole of the above Premises are let on Yearly Tenancies (except as to Lands now part of South Mills Farm).

On page 11 of the census for 1861 (see next page), we see:

John Summerfield Head of family; Married; Age 60 Occupation: Ratcatcher

> Eliza Summerfield Wife: Age 51 Occupation: Lace Maker

George Summerfield Son: unmarried; Age 17 Occupation: Ag Labourer

We wonder what happened to Sarah (who would have been aged 20). Had she got married perhaps?

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By the 1871census (see next page), both children were no longer living here as the only entries are:

> John Summerfield Head of family, Married; Age 71 Occupation: Ratcatcher

> > Eliza Summerfield Wife; Age 59 Occupation: Lacemaker

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By 1881, the census records that Eliza was living here alone as the entry, under Morhanger cottages, (see next page) reads:

Eliza Summerfield Head of Family; Widow; Age 71 Born in Morhanger



Jn the 1891 census (see next page) the entries were more detailed.

Eliza Summerfield Head of Family; Widow; Age 81 Born in Muggerhanger

George Summerfield Son, Single, Age 45 Occupation: Ag Farmer Laborer

We think it likely that the previous four entries also relate to this group of cottages, ie

John Sims and family; Joseph Brown & family; Maryanne Ashwell & danghter; Thomas & Eliza Seymonr

At the 1901 census the house was occupied by George Daniels (more information about him later...)

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00	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms }	00	0		✓ Total	Total of Males and Females.	1	9 14			

The following maps were copied at the County Record Office

One of them is dated 1902 but we are not sure about the other two!

Note that the school has changed its site between the first and second maps, the row of honses further down Blunham Road appears in the second but not the first map, and West Way does not appear on either!







We found a wonderful "Book of Valuations" in the County Record Office, dated 1910.

We think we have identified our property as one of five listed as belonging to Jarvis & Co (the Brewers who owned The Guinea and the fields adjoining).

It is frustrating to see reference to a map – because no map is to be found now...

We Gelieve that George Daniels was the tenant of our house (see following entries). Another rich source of information was from a Rating Assessment carried out in 1925. This time there is a map too...

Our house is clearly entry No 146. By that time George Daniels owned the house (two cottages knocked into one) and it is described as a House, Shop and Post Office. The description is fascinating.

We are sorry that when we bought the house the wash-house and barn were gone, but we are glad that the water closet is no longer a 2-bay shed in the garden!

We have also copied the details of the other two cottages, Nos 147 and 148.

In 1921 the honse (actually two cottages in the occupation of Mr Daniels and Mrs Dora Agnes Street) was sold by Mrs Olive Melton to George Daniels for One Hundred

George Daniels for One Hundred Pounds.

On the Indenture, there is reference to a previous transaction on 4 September 1917 Between Mary Jarvis and Henry Young on the on part and the Vendor (presumably Mrs Melton) on the other...

We assume that this was when the property was sold by the Brewery.

1931 – George Daniels died and the property passed into the ownership of Jane Ann Daniels who died in 1940 Leaving it to her danghters Alice Martha Daniels and Ann Emma Lilburn. Alice Daniels purchased the title in 1941.

The House and Shop then changed hands quite frequently: 1953 – J M Bennett 1956 – J M Jackson 1956 – E G & H A Eldridge 1960 – D W Green 1964 – Mr & Mrs D E Hammond 1965 – F J Sutton 1971 – Mr & Mrs A F Flack 1976 – Mr & Mrs D A Green 1984 – Mr & Mrs C E Mason

1989 – Chris & Dorothy Bashford

PHOTOGRAPHS



We know this photograph was taken before the fire in December 1954 which destroyed the other cottages..



What year was this? The Mini might give us a clue!



The house was re-thatched in 1987.
The following photographs were taken by the Beds CC Photographic Unit (we believe in 1979)









When we removed the shower from the bathroom we found what appears to be the remains of a bread oven.

(There is a large inglenook fireplace on the other side of the wall)

























FJNALLY : A PUZZLE

One of the County Archivists came to visit us in 1991 after we had paid several visits to the County Record Office. We still wanted to know how old our house was.

He drew us a plan of how the house might have looked when it was built (in 1563 or thereabouts). He thinks it could have been a "hall house" with one floor up to the roof with the first floor being created in the 17th Century. The need for stairs to the first floor would explain the odd position of the outside door in our sitting room. The front of the house would have been a more modern addition (18th or 19th Century!)

What do you think??

