

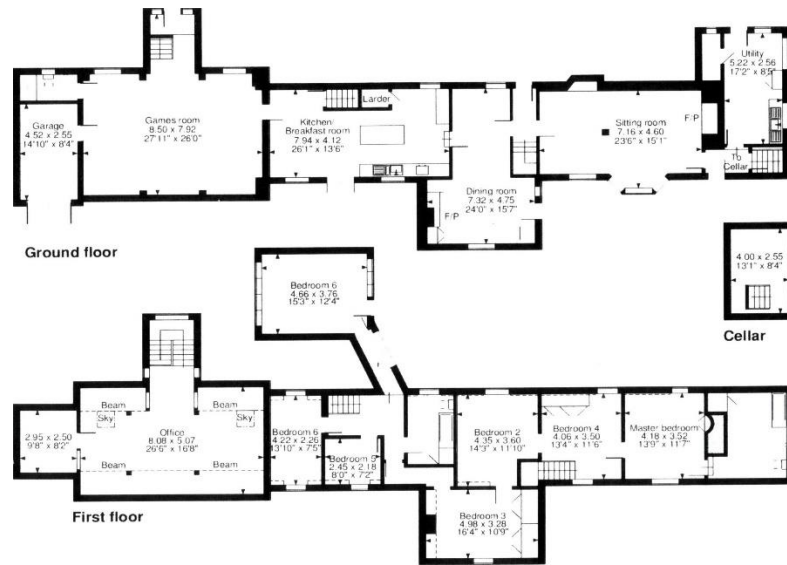


**Historical Notes, Timeline and Previous Occupants of
Upper Goddards Farm, Skirmett**

December 2020 (v13)

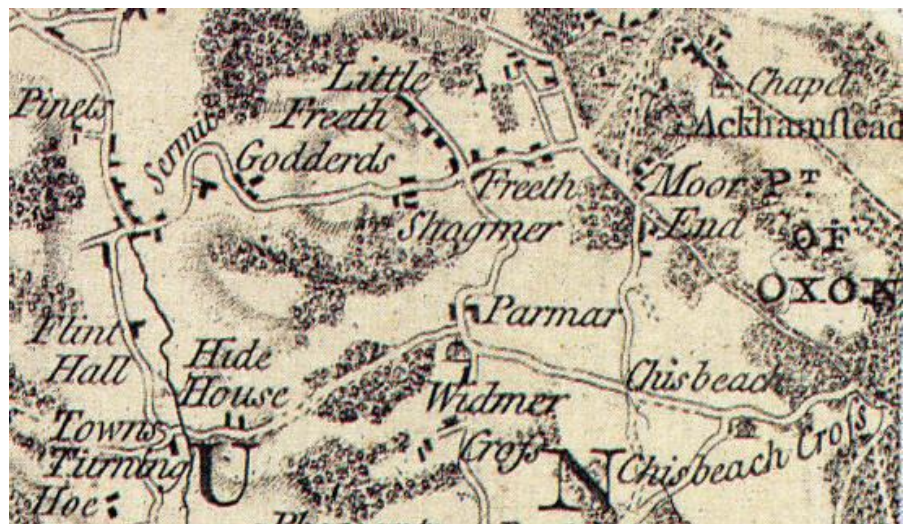
Historic England Listing for Upper Goddards Farm (UGF)¹: The listing is Grade II and the details are summarised as follows: House, C17, altered and refronted C18 – C19 and C20. Rear has lower walls of flint with timber framing and whitewashed brick infill above. Front rebuilt in brick at various dates. Old tile roof, chimney of thin brick between the right bays, another brick chimney to rear. C19 gabled flint and brick projection to front.

Floorplan of Existing Main Building:



Origin of Name: Goddard is an ancient Norman name that arrived in England after the Norman Conquest of 1066. Variants exist in France, Holland and Germany ². Why it was originally used for Upper & Lower Goddards is not known. The HE website gives 275 listed buildings in England using the name Goddards.

Early Records Used: We have identified records at The National Archives (TNA) referring to 'Goddards' going back to litigation in the mid-1500's. Again in the early 1600's certain Deeds refer to '*the ancient farm of Goddards Farm*'. The earliest formal parish registers date from 1538 after the split from Rome and local registers at Hambleden date from shortly that time. However addresses are not normally included. Wills if made can be very informative and may well include addresses and family relationships. After 1838 civil registration records are available and from 1841 census details with addresses can be consulted. The latest census available is for 1911. A range of genealogical sources have also been consulted.



Part of Jefferey's Map of 1770

The earliest map of the area including a reference to Goddards

appears to be the Jeffereys Map of 1770³. This shows a local settlement outside Sermit (or Skirmett) of 2 substantial complexes described here as Godderds. This name is placed adjacent to what is now Upper Goddards Farm but probably referred to both Upper and Lower Goddards. The map shows a number of buildings at each location but the details appear to include some artistic licence.

‘Goddard’s Farm’ is included in ‘Monuments of Buckinghamshire’ published by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments and this can be identified as Lower Goddards Farm (LGF). It is described as ‘built in the late 16th or early 17th Century and the Historic England (HE) listing⁴ refers to C16-early C17. An external plaque at LGF refers to 1585.

The HE listing for Upper Goddards Farm refers to 17th century so HE consider that the latter was developed a little later than Lower Goddards.

Neighbouring Properties shown in the 1770 Map:

- Shogmer, now Shogmoor Farm: The HE listing for the house and cottage refers to C17, altered C19 and C20. The listing for the Barn is given as mid-late C18.
- Pinets, or Poynetts Farm, now Poynants. The name is derived from the Poynants who were the 14th C. holders of Skirmett Manor.⁵
- Parmar, later Parmoor House and Farm, the home of the D’Oyley/Doyle family from 1603 and from 1860 Henry William Cripps QC and later his third son Charles Alfred Cripps, QC, who was created Baron Parmoor of Frieth in 1914⁵
- Flint Hall (still present but not listed). We assume that this property would then have included what is now the adjacent Arizona Farm and barns which are listed.

Other properties are shown in or near what is now Shogmoor Lane but not named:

- Crooked Chimney Cottage: HE listing refers to C16 with C20 additions
- Peartree Cottage: HE refer to C17/early C18, part rebuilt in C19.
- Stud Farmhouse: HE listing refer to mid-C18.
- Elmdown Farmhouse and Barn: The HE listings refer to C17/early C18 and extended C.20. The timber framed barn is early/mid C18.

The oldest properties in or near Shogmoor Lane according to the HE listing details appear to be Crooked Chimney Cottage followed by Lower Goddards Farm, with others including Upper Goddards and parts of Elmdown Farm thought to date from C 17. The earliest reference that we have found for ‘Upper Goddards Farm’ *per se* is in 1805. Earlier references are to Goddards.

The Parish and Local Churches

Upper Goddards is in the parish of Hambleden, which is in the Hundred of Desborough. It is a large parish with the village containing several early 17th century cottages and a Manor House dating back to 1604. The ancient parish included the villages of Skirmett,

Frieth, and hamlets of Parmoor, Colstrope and Mill End. The neighboring ancient parishes on the northern side near UGF were Fingest, Turville and Ibstone.

The history of the area as at 1925 is given by British History Online⁵. The nearby villages are briefly as follows:

Hambleden: The parish church is St. Mary the Virgin dating from the 14th Century some 3 miles away from Skirmett.



St. Mary the Virgin, Hambleden

The population of Hambleden parish was estimated from the BMD registers to be 460 in 1600 – 1619, increasing to about 900 in the period 1730 – 1769⁶. In 1712 another estimate was '*140 families and about 500 souls*'. By 1796 a further estimate gives '*30 farms, 154 cottages and about 970 inhabitants*^{6, 7}. By the 1901 Census this had increased to 1517.

The ancient manor of Hambleden passed to the Scrope family and for many generations they occupied the manor house and the last Lord Scope rebuilt it on a new site in 1604. After a number of owners it was bought in 1803 by Robert Scott of Danesfield House. Another manor in the parish was Greenland or Ewden/Yewden owned by the ancient families of Chowne and Shipwash and it later passed to the Doyleys. Greenland House was a seat of the Doyleys in the early 1600's. Parmoor House was later the seat of another branch of the Doyleys of Greenland House.

Skirmett: Some flint artefacts from Paleolithic or Neolithic times have been found in the area. The village developed along the road from Hambleden to Fingest with a number of listed buildings dating from the 16th C. Skirmett Manor (Skirmot in C14) was held by Thomas Poynant in 1302 and thereafter other Poynants⁵. A reference to Skirmett occurs in 1416 but the manor had then been dispersed among various owners. Part of the manor was sold in 1572 as Poynants Farm⁵, now Poynants House to the north of the village.

Skirmett was Skirmot in 1347, then Skyrmote in 1412, later Skyremot and Schiremote as below, as noted below.

*Skirmett or Schiremote: a meeting-place for the shire. Thinghurst (Fingest) implies the same 'The meeting in the wood,' (Cocks) The 'Scir' (or Shire) commemorated in the name was probably a group of Hundreds with a common court (Mawer and Stenton, *Place Names of Buckinghamshire*).*

The history and key buildings in the Conservation Area are detailed in a Character Survey by Wycombe DC⁸. In 1881 there was a school-chapel and a small Congregational chapel which was licensed for non-conformist use on 28 Apr 1807 and later became the Parish Rooms. It is now the Village Hall. In 1886 All Saints Church was built as a chapel

of ease to St. Mary the Virgin at Hambleden and was intended for use of local villagers who could not easily reach the parish church. There were '144 sittings'. It was closed and sold in 1976 and is now a private house (Mr. D. Poppy).

Nearby is The Old Chapel built in 1896 and with a stone tablet above the porch carved Skirmett Gospel Mission Hall. A course of stone tablets shows the names of the builder and of subscribers which includes Mr. E. Denham (one of a large local family as noted later). This became a private house in 1976. An infant school was built in the mid-1800's for 30 children and was opposite the Congregational Chapel (adjacent to Ramblers) but closed pre-1911⁸

Frieth: The village is thought to have developed from a group of cottages from ca. 1550³ and the villagers either walked to Hambleden for Sunday worship or attended the old Ackhampstead chapel demolished in 1849 and now lost in the woods near Moor End. St. John the Evangelist was built in 1848 as a chapel of ease to replace the Ackhampstead chapel and to save those villagers a long walk to and from Hambleden.

Turville: St. Mary the Virgin dates from the 12th Century with a 14th century tower. There is a plaque on the internal south wall referring to the burial nearby of *'Richard East of Goddards in the Parish of Hambleden, who died Sept. 7 1795, aged 73 years, also Elizabeth East wife of the above who died March 19 1805 aged 83 years'*. See also p. 11.



1st Mary the Virgin, Turville



The East Memorial Plaque

Fingest: This is an adjacent parish but surrounded by steep hills and woodland. St. Bartholomew has a Norman tower dating from the early 12th Century. This village and church do not appear to have many links to Goddards.



St. Bartholomew, Fingest

Construction of Upper Goddards Farm: The lower walls at the rear are flint with a timber frame above and brick infill. We found a layer of Chalk rock as part of the inside of the flint wall when the lounge walls were renovated. The front of the building was refaced with both brick and flint. Clay tiles are on the roof.

Old brick and tile kilns are known to have existed at Bolter End, Lane End and Cadmore End. The bricks used for the 19th Century refacing at Upper Goddards may well have come from the brick and tileworks at Cadmore End, around Kiln Cottage. This was the brickyard of the Parmoor Estate in the 19th Century until ca. 1918 when the site was sold. The clay was worked out by 1939 and the site closed.

The bay on the east side was added later as can be seen from the external brickwork and a cellar added. An extra external chimney was included for this area and a new chimney was also built for the current lounge fireplace and the original chimney taken down to below the roof line.

Our out building on 9 staddle stones (the Granary) is assumed to have been used for storage of grain and other crops but its age is not known. If milling of grain was required, the local mill would have been either the water mill at what is now Hambleden Lock or the old wind mill at Ibstone. Cobstone Mill at Turville was only built in 1812. The old triangular orchard at UGF dates back to at least 1838.

Water: The winding gear for a well at Upper Goddards is shown in the 1946 photo (on page 22). This is by the stable door and the brick pavements have always shown a depression here. Recent excavation confirms traces of the surrounding structure and a filled-in well. A tank/well is located in the yard of the adjacent Barn and Cowshed. Mains water was made available in 1935 and electricity in 1948⁹.

The Ordinance Survey (OS) Map of 1866 (see p. 18) shows a Well at Lower Goddards but not at Upper Goddards. We understand that this well has since been filled in but that there are 2 further wells, which are still available for use. The Frieth village history website³ includes memories of an elderly villager who refers to collecting water from *'the well at Goddards at times of drought and short supplies in Frieth'*.

Summary of Past Owners/Occupants of UGF

- The earliest reference to Goddards found to date is 1556-1558 with the Chowne family involved in a dispute with the Old(e)man family over the alleged detention of deeds of *'one house or tenement called Goddard'*, and the Old(e)mans being expelled from the house and land of some 200 acres. The Chownes were Lords of the Manor at Yewden Manor, alias Greenland at Mill End. The outcome is not clear. Whether this refers to Upper Goddards or Lower Goddards is not established.
- Further references to Goddards have been found in deeds of the mid-1600's relating to the transfer of property including *'an ancient farm called Goddards Farm'*. The buyer was Robert Sheepwash, connected to the Sheepwash family of Yewden Manor at Mill End prior to its destruction in the Civil War and later owned by John Green, Lord of the Manor at Greenland in the late 1600's. The farms at Goddards would probably have been let to copyholders (tenants with a copy of the title to the land owned by the Lord of the Manor).
- 'Goddards' was then leased in 1680 by John Greene to one of the Dynhame's/ Dinham's (=Denham's), a very large local family in the 17th and 18th C. This refers to what is now Upper Goddards Farm as we know that a branch of that family owned and lived at Upper Goddards from 1682 to 1823. Elmdown Farm was also owned by this branch of the Denhams. We also know that brewing equipment from Upper Goddards Farm was auctioned off in 1805.

- The Will of John East dated 1712 refers to his lease of '*Goddards Farme*' and as '*his dwelling house*'. This is believed to be Lower Goddards Farm which was inherited by his son Thomas and then his grandson Richard East (1722 – 1795) who has a memorial plaque in Turville church. The will of Richard East dated 1790 refers to '*my furnace standing in my now dwelling house*', otherwise a kiln which implies drying of malt on site.
- A small estate in Skirmett with a Malthouse and Bakehouse was sold in 1793 by a different branch of the Denhams. This is almost certainly not UGF but may have been either LGF (with a son of John East described as a Malster on his burial record), Poynatts (the home of Zachary White, who was described as a malster in 1801, and his father who was trading malt in 1779), or Shogmoor (linked to the part of the Denham family with William Denham described as a malster at his burial in 1763).
- In 1822 UGF and Elmsland (aka Elmdown Farm) with 75 acres were let to Richard Lord
- James Moody a malster and property owner in High Wycombe bought the Upper Goddards estate including Elmdown in 1823. After his death and a High Court case his trustees were ordered by the High Court to sell the estate in 1858 and the existing tenant Richard Lord promptly bought it. His son James Lord (who became the son in law of the late James Moody) was the next occupant and Richard Lord went to live at Poynatts Farm.
- Upper Goddards Farm was then sold to Joseph Muskett Yetts, a wealthy London Solicitor in 1854. He managed the farm with his son and tenants until the sale in 1897/1900 to the Cripps family at Parmoor.
- The Parmoor Estate leased the property to various tenants including the Webb family until the estate was broken up and sold in 1946. Upper Goddards was sold as 2 cottages with 64 acres for £2000.
- Upper Goddards was then owned in turn by ex-servicemen Kenneth Bowler and later Cdr. George Nelson.
- In 1953 it was sold as a 5 bed house and farm with 38 acres to Robert Sinkler Darby. He married Mary Bosanquet who was famous for riding across Canada by herself in 1939-1940 and published a number of books.
- In 1958 the property was bought by Elizabeth Adela Crawley-Boevey, twice widowed and who lost a son in 1943. She died in July 1972 and UGF was then transferred to her daughter Adela Hope Allain.
- In 1976 the Max Stanton and his wife bought Upper Goddards Farm.
- In 1983, the house and 9 acres were sold by the Stantons to Joe Brown, the Rock & Roll musician, later awarded MBE for services to music. Field 87 (west of the bridleway) with 11 acres was sold to Tom Ryland of Dovers Farm, Frieth.
- The Stantons retained and converted the adjacent Barn and later the Cowshed. They also retained 18 acres behind the Barn. Field 87 and the bridleway were later bought by D. Poppy in Jan. 2005

- In 1989 the 4 Bay Garage/Cart Shed was converted into an integral Garage and a large leisure Room downstairs with an Office/Studio above.
- In 2009 the present owners Evelyn and Nigel Salisbury bought Upper Goddards Farm with 9 acres and added a Garage, Greenhouse, Pond and Wildflower Meadow.

The history of Upper Goddards Farm goes back to at least the early 16th C. at a time when the English feudal system was ending and the role of the Lord of the Manor and manorial courts was declining. Security of tenure was uncertain as demonstrated by the early history of '*the ancient farm called Goddards*'. Subsistence farming for the Lord of the Manor was followed by the growth of Yeoman farmers either owning or leasing land with increasing holdings, such as the large Denham and Toovey families in the Hambleden area in the 17th and 18th C.

There is also evidence for local on-farm malting through the 1700's, probably at Lower Goddards Farm and on-farm brewing at Upper Goddards Farm until 1805.

Detailed Timeline with Past Owners/Occupants & Historical Notes:

The late 16th Century

This period saw considerable turmoil in English history. Henry VIII died in 1547 and Edward VI a minor acceded to the throne with Protectors who in turn were later executed. Edward VI died in 1554 and Lady Jane Grey then ruled for 9 days. Mary I the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon then acceded to the throne and England became reconciled with Rome. In 1554 Mary married Philip of Spain and Protestants were persecuted in 1555. Mary I died in 1558 at St James's Palace² and the Elizabethan era begins with the succession of her Protestant half-sister, Elizabeth daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. The Protestant church was restored in 1559 and England broke away from Rome².

Enclosures: After the costly wars against France and Scotland price inflation threatened landowners' wealth who then needed to become more efficient. The enclosure of small landholdings into larger farms became more widespread and supported by a legal process of Enclosure Acts. Land use changed from arable to pasture usually as sheep farming which required less labour and became more profitable with a boom in the woollen industry. Enclosures resulted in the loss of common rights by villagers and declining rural populations. The rising overall population required more arable land and displaced angry tenants were in conflict with the land owners. Agrarian revolts swept the country, eg. The Kett's Rebellion of 1549 caused by opposition to enclosures and the dislike of new religious policies. Laws were then passed to combat enclosures in 1547 and again in 1563.

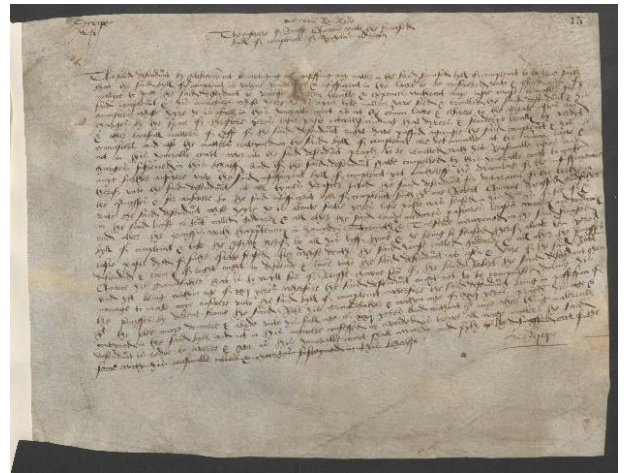
However the impact in South West-Bucks is believed to have been modest. Indeed the Wycombe district has large concentrations of ancient woodland in the Hambleden Valley and Stokenchurch area. In 1925 it was estimated that the Hambleden parish was ca. 33% woodland and 20% permanent grass with the cultivated balance to wheat and barley⁵.

1556 – 1558: The TNA records include a case of Litigation¹⁰ concerning 'a House called Goddards in Hambleden', as below:

14-15 Nicholas OLDEMAN of Henley-on-Thames, son and heir of Thomas Oldeman and of Elizabeth his wife, v. Ralph, grandson and heir of Robert CHOWNE.
House called Goddards (in Hambledon), with lands in Hambledon, Skirmett (in Hambledon) and Turville. Bucks.

Summary of Early Chancery Proceedings 1553 - 1558

The defendant was Ralph (Rauffe), grandson and heir of Robert Chowne, Lord of the Manor at Yewden. The plaintiff was Nicholas Old(e)man of Henley on Thames, son and heir of Thomas Oldman and his wife Elizabeth. Nicholas Oldman submitted a claim for the return of deeds detained by Ralph Chowne and for continued use of the property. The claim shown on the rhs was addressed to Nicholas Heath, Archbishop of York from 1555 and Lord Chancellor from 1555 – 1558 when Elizabeth I assumed the throne.



Copy of Parchment Document at NA referring to Litigation re House called Goddard,

A transcript of the 2 manuscripts referring to Goddards is given in App. 1 (with a summary and commentary).

Nicholas Oldman's claim included the statement:

His mother held property of 'one house or tenement called Goddard with divers lands, meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods ... comprising 200 acres or thereabouts of the yearly value of £7, being in the towns of Hambleden, Skyrmoth and Turfelde in Co. Bucks.'

He states that after occupation of the property by the family for many years, he was expelled and entry to the property had been refused by Ralph Chowne. This will lead to 'his utter ruin'.

Ralph Chowne counter claims to Lord Scrope (the Lord of the Manor at Hambleden until 1646) that the complaint is 'untrue', is brought 'by malice', and is 'without just cause'. He claims that the Oldmans have raised this issue over 60 years without success and that it should be dismissed and his costs should be refunded.

The outcome is not known but a large Oldman family appears in the early 1600's in the parish registers at Lavendon near Milton Keynes. One is a Nicholas Oldman who was baptised in 1622 and died in 1632. He was the son of a Drew Oldman who died in 1635 but his parents are not known. If he is descended from the same family it appears that they failed to regain possession of Goddards. A further uncertainty is whether or not the reference to Goddards means Upper or Lower or both.

TNA have records of 2 other cases involving the Old(e)man family, one in 1554 – 1551 concerning rent for a windmill in Hambleden and the other in 1515 – 1518 for detention

of deeds for a property in Henley. The family appear to be keen on litigation! Other records show that similar claims for detention of deeds were quite common.

Robert Chowne had previously defended a claim for rent of property in Hambleden, (but not Goddards) in 1544 - 1551. We know that at least a little later the Chowne family were Lords of the Manor of Ewden, (=Yewden), aka Greenland Manor⁶.

It is clear that a settlement at Goddards dates from before the 1550's and a claim of Tudor origin for the buildings is therefore reasonable (as the Tudor period is from 1485 to 1603). The HE listings therefore need to be amended to early/mid 16 C.

The 17th Century

The **English Civil War** (1642–1651)² was a series of civil wars and political machinations between Parliamentarians ("Roundheads") and Royalists ("Cavaliers") principally over the manner of England's governance. The first (1642–1646) and second (1648–1649) wars pitted the supporters of King Charles I against the supporters of the Long Parliament, while the third (1649–1651) saw fighting between supporters of King Charles II and supporters of the Rump Parliament. The war ended with Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651.

The outcome of the war was threefold: the trial and execution of Charles I (1649); the exile of his son, Charles II (1651); and the replacement of English monarchy with, at first, the Commonwealth of England (1649–1653) and then the Protectorate under the personal rule of Oliver Cromwell (1653–1658) and briefly his son Richard (1658–1659). In England, the monopoly of the Church of England on Christian worship was ended,

The Restoration². On 4 April 1660, in the Declaration of Breda, Charles II made known the conditions of his acceptance of the Crown of England. Monck organised the Convention Parliament, which met for the first time on 25 April 1660. On 8 May 1660, it declared that Charles II had reigned as the lawful monarch since the execution of Charles I in January 1649. Charles returned from exile on 23 May 1660. On 29 May 1660, the populace in London acclaimed him as king. His coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on 23 April 1661. Charles II died in 1685 and was succeeded by his brother James II of England.

1663/64: The second earliest mention of Goddards found to date is in Deeds¹¹ proving the title of William Denham to a farm in Hambleden, namely Goddards Farm.

As part of this process a Deed dated 20 Jan 1663/64 refers a potential transfer of John Green Esq. of Mill End, Hambleden, Gentleman and Mary his wife to George Greene of St. Martin in the Fields, Middlesex, Gentleman and Francis Taylor of Hambleden, Gentleman. The property includes '*Sheepwashes Place in Skirmott*', various parcels of land and in addition '*Hillwood of 20 acres, with 4 acres of arable, a cottage..... , one acre of arable in Lordsfield* all '*parts of an ancient farm called Goddards Farm*'. Hillwood is now Hill's Wood, (east of Hatchett Wood towards Parmoor), Lordsfield is adjacent to and north of Elm Down Farm, and the cottage is near Fingest. The Deed refers to Goddards Farm being purchased by Robert Sheepwash from Ralph Chowne and George Chowne. Yeoman. The Deed refers to rent being paid for tenements in Skirmett by among others Thomas Tovey (=Toovey) and Nicholas East, whose family names recur later. However confirmation of that transfer by a release/conveyance is not shown.

T. Langley in 1797 refers to a Deed (but with no date given) transferring Yewden Manor/Ewden/Greenland Manor at Mill End from George Chowne to Robert Shipwash/Sheepwash⁷. This must have been before 1598 when George Chowne was buried at Hambleden.

There are Shipwash brasses in Hambleden church (1457 – 1500) and the name Shipwash occurs in the Parish Registers from 1576 – 1663, namely Robert, Adrian, Ralph, Thomas, Catherine, Elizabeth and Frances. Mrs. Ann Shipwash widow of Mill End (i. e. Yewden) was buried at Hambleden in 1663⁶.



The Shipwash Brasses in Hambleden Church

Sheepwashe Place is an ancient 17th C. Manor House and the site is located in the field at the rear of the phone box in Skirmett¹², otherwise Lords Field. In 1633/34 Robert Sheepwash of Mill End made a Marriage Settlement for his life time use of Sheepwashe Place in Skirmote and various lands and woods (including Harchard Wood (= Hatchetts Wood). By 1680 Robert Sheepwash had died and it was leased by John Greene to Francis Dynhame (=Denham) (1637 – 1711) of Skirmote, and whose descendents later owned UGF.

The original Greenland/ Yewden Manor House was demolished following a siege by Parliamentary forces in 1644 during the Civil War¹³.

1680: A further Deed¹⁴ specifies the Lease of the property defined in 1663 and which included '*the ancient farm of Goddards Farm*' by John Green Esq. of Mill End and Mary his wife to Francis Dynhame (= Dinham) of Skirmote (Skirmett), Yeoman.

John Greene/Green (1624 – 1687) owned Yewden Manor at that time and was buried at Hambleden Church on 1 Feb. 1687, aged 63. He has a memorial in the north transept and it starts with '*John Greene Esq. Lord and purchaser of the Manor of Ewden alias Greenland*'. His son, also John, died in 1688 leaving 2 sisters as co-heirs⁵. The Greenland part of the estate was sold in 1719 and the Mill End part was later owned by Richard Lane of Poynetts in Skirmett and who died in 1785.⁵



Memorial for John Greene Esq. at Hambleden Church

1682: Another Deed¹⁵ shows that John Greene and Mary are now selling the property defined in 1663 and 1680 and including '*the ancient farm of Goddards Farm*' to Francis Dinham of Skirmote (Skirmett), Yeoman.

The Family Tree of the Denhams¹⁶ includes Francis Dinham (bapt. 1637, bur. 1710/11). He married Agnis/Agnes/Alice Lane (bur. 1716/17) at Hambleden on 7 Oct. 1669⁷. They

had 3 children, Robert (bapt. 1673, bur. 1741), William (bapt. 1678, bur. 1710) and Thomas (bapt. 1683, bur. 1706) later of Ibstone. Part of the Denham family tree with more detail is given in App. 2 to show this branch of the family.

The family tree also shows that an uncle of Francis Denham (=Dinham), that is Thomas Denham (bapt. 1605) married Elizabeth Shipwash in 1631 and who was a descendant of the Shipwashes of Mill End and Skirmett. Another uncle was Edward Dinham (bur.1702) of Chesbeece (=Chisbridge Farm). A brother of Francis Dunham was at Shogmore.

The Hambleden Church Registers were summarised by AH Stanton in 1927⁶ and the following remarks included:

'From 1600 – 1650 we find many more familiar names such as Denham,,Toovy, Janes,.... Webb,etc.'

He notes that several yeomen are listed from 1640, including Denham and explains that the term was used for a free peasant farmer whether holding freehold, copyhold or leased land. The Toovey family is shown later to be connected with Goddards (believed to be Lower Goddards Farm) and also Shogmoor Farm.

1699: As a Marriage Settlement dated 10 Nov. 1699¹⁷ Francis Denham (1637 – 1711) the father of Robert Denham (1673 – 1741) conveyed to *'John Warr and Richard Lane to hold in trust for Robert and Mary Denham and their heirs'* certain areas of land including *'.....1 acre arable in Common Lords Field (part of Goddards Farm), all in Skirmett'*.

Robert Denham (1763 – 1741) of Skirmett, a Yeoman, was to marry Mary Warr (1678 – 1750), daughter of John Warr of Hambleden, Yeoman¹⁷ who was one of the Trustees of the Marriage Settlement. It appears that Francis Dinham/Denham was the freeholder of Goddards Farm.

The 18th Century

Agriculture in Late 17th & early 18th Century²: Agriculture became more efficient with crop rotation, investment in buildings, by the growth of larger more efficient farms and further by enclosures. The traditional Open Field system was based on common land divided into strips supporting subsistence farming for individual owners and cottagers. With the growth of the population demand for food increased and enclosures accelerated through the 17th Century. Small owner-occupied farms were increasingly taken over by large estates with tenant farmers employing landless labourers. The industrialisation of agriculture was being implemented but at a social cost of dispossession of the cottagers and squatters.

1702 – 1714: Queen Anne, the last of the House of Stuart prior to the Hanoverians.

1703: Alice Warr spinster of Hambleden confirms that Robert Denham has paid the £150 due under the Deed of 1699.

It seems reasonable that for some time before 1710 Robert Denham lived at Goddards, having inherited the home of his parents. This is believed to be Upper Goddards Farm as discussed later. See also the Denham Family tree in App. 2.

1710: The will^{18a} of Edward Denham (bapt. 1634, bur. 1711) of Chesbeeck Hambleden written in 1710 and proved in 1711 refers to '*my kinsman Robert Denham of Goddards in the parish of Hambleden the like Sum of five pounds*'. Chesbeeck refers to the existing Chisbridge Farm near Fিন্নamore Wood and the beneficiary is his nephew Robert Denham (1673 – 1741), (but described later in the Will as '*Cousen*').

1714 – 1727 George I, of the House of Hanover. At this time the population of England & Wales was just over 5 m. and by 1811 this had doubled ².

1712 – 1717: The will of John East (Abt. 1640 - 1717), Yeoman of Hambleden, was dated 2 Feb 1712 and was proved on 3 Dec 1717. It states '*I John East of Goddards Farme*' and refers to this as '*his own dwelling*'. He makes cash bequests to his sons John East (bapt. 1665, bur. 1717), and Richard East (bapt. 1688) and to his daughter Elizabeth Toovey (bapt. 1663, bur. 1743, Turville). The second daughter Mary (bapt. 1674, bur. 1719) receives bedding and his Old Testament and is the Executrix. He also bequeathed '*to my son Thomas East my lease of Goddards Farmeand terme of yeares therein and also my furnace standing in my now dwelling house*'¹⁹. Thomas East was baptised in 1671²⁸. The full transcript of the will is in App. 3.

One of the Executors is '*my neighbour William Walker the Elder of the parish of Hambleden*' but he cannot be identified further (as discussed in App. 3). Richard Greene is one of the witnesses, presumably descended from John Greene of Yewden Manor.

This will almost certainly refers to Lower Goddards Farm (LGF). We show later that the descendants of the Denhams are at UGF until 1822/1823 and we also know that the descendants of Elizabeth East, later Elizabeth Toovey, lived at LGF at least until the census of 1841. The reference to a furnace is interesting as it implies a kiln which would have been used for production of malt as discussed later and in App. 4.

1722: Robert Denham voted in the election for the Member of Parliament for Chipping Wycombe, and is assumed to be Robert Denham (1673 – 1741) at UGF. He cast his votes for Sir Thomas Lee who was re-elected and for Fleetwood Dormer, the previous MP who was not returned.

1727 – 1760: Reign of George II

1740: The will^{18b} of Robert Denham was written in Sept. 1740 and proved in 1741. It refers to '*the House where I now dwell situated at Goddards in the Parish of Hambleden*'. He describes himself as a Yeoman and leaves £18 pa to his wife Mary Denham (bapt. 1678, bur. 1750 at Hambleden) and a life interest in the house. His son William Denham Sen. (1716 – 1790) was executor and inherited all the rest of the property, and presumably including 'Goddards' after the death of his mother Mary in 1750.

1754: William Denham Sen. married Hester Golder (1728 - 1798) in Hambleden in 1754 and they had 3 children, Thomas Denham (1755 – 1790), Mary Denham (1760 – 1790)

and William Denham, (ch. 24 Apr., 1762, bur. 27 Apr. 1805¹⁶. They were all baptised at Hambleden.

1760 – 1820: George III

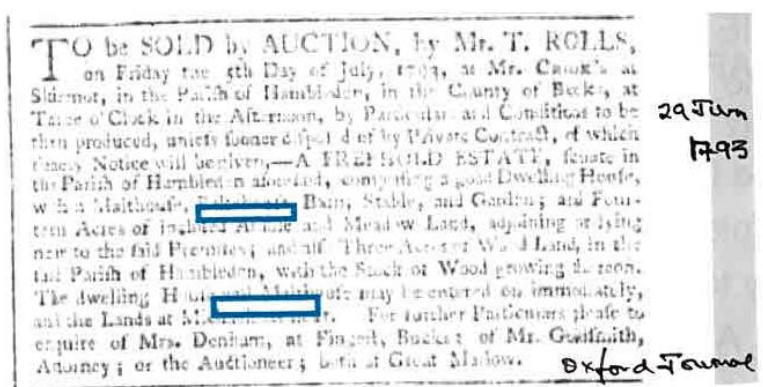
1781, 1786: A William Denham of Hambleden paid Duty for the Indentures of an Apprentice Thomas Hobbs as a cordwainer (a shoemaker of new shoes, not as a repairer or cobbler). He also paid Duty for an Apprentice Daniell Lewis as a Cordwainer in June 1786. This is presumably one of the many relatives of William Denham Sen. of Goddards.

1784: William Denham voted in the election of Apr. 1784 for the Knights of the Shire, presumably William Denham (1762 – 1805), Yeoman and as a freeholder at UGF.

1790: This was a bad year for this branch of the Denhams. William Denham Sen. died in Apr. 1790 without leaving a will. Two of William and Hester's children died later that year: Mary died in June (having married John Cornish in 1784) and Thomas died in Aug. The only surviving child was then William Denham Jun. (1762 – 1805). Hester lived until 1798 and William until only 1805. We can reasonably assume that the family lived at 'Goddards' as both the father Robert and the son William referred to 'Goddards' as their respective homes in their Wills. The reference to Goddards almost certainly is to UGF.

1793: The Oxford Journal carries an advert for the auction at 'Mr. Crook's in Skirmett' of a Freehold Estate with '*a good Dwelling House, with a Malthouse, Bakehouse, Barn, Stable and Garden; and 14 acres of enclosed Arable and Meadow land*' and 3 acres of Woodland. The contact is '*Mrs. Denham at Fingest*'. This is almost certainly Jenny Denham (1740 – 1804), the widow of William Denham (1736 – 1792) of Fingest whose Will was proved in April that year.

Which property in Skirmett is for sale is not clear, but it cannot be UGF as William Denham Jun. (1762 – 1805) inherited his father's property in 1790 and the Land Tax records show that he was the owner in 1798. The location of the Malthouse is considered further in App. 4.



The reference to Mr Crook in Skirmett is interesting. William Denham's will of 1805 refers to his illegitimate daughter as Mary Crook/Denham, the daughter of Lucy Crook.

1795: Richard East 'of Goddards' died aged 73 as shown on the plaque at Turville church (see p. 5). He inherited 'Goddards' from his father Thomas East who died in 1760 and had married Elizabeth White in 1763. His will dated 3 Apr. 1790 gives his address as Goddards Farm. His wife Elizabeth was living at Goddards Farm at the date of her will on

27 May 1799. She died in 1805.

*Elizabeth East
of Goddards Farm in the Parish of Hambleton in the
County of Bucks widow being in good health of Body*

We believe that the East family lived at what is now Lower Goddards Farm.

1798: The Land Tax Redemption records show that Mr. Toovey owned 'Goddards Farm'

Mr. Toovey	Smith's Shop	8				Mr. Toovey	Geo. Richardson for house and garden	6		
Mr. J. Brooks	Rich ^d . White for Tenement and garden	8				Mr. Toovey	John. Coarish for D ^o	6		
Mr. Walker	himself for a house	4				Mr. Toovey	Thos. Hallwood for D ^o	6	6	
Mr. J. White	Mrs East for land	1	4			Mr. Toovey	W ^m . Denham himself for houses & land	1	11	
Mr. Toovey	Mrs East for Goddards Farm	8				Mr. Toovey	D ^o late Harlows	9	6	
Mrs East	for house & land	4	16	8		Mr. Toovey	W ^m . Denham himself for Goddards Farm	7	7	4
Mr. J.	Mr. James for house & garden		8			100b27	J. Osborn Esq	W ^m . Denham for Turville Court Meadows	2	4
Henry Hatchman	himself for house & land		14			Mr. White	herself for house and Malt house		10	8
Mr. Toovey	himself for D ^o	1	12			Mr. Hussey	himself for house & land	1	16	
						Mr. R. Hayward for				

with Mrs East (now a widow) as the occupant. This will be Lower Goddards Farm as discussed later. She also owned 'house and land' with tax due of £4 16 s. (i. e. at 4 s. per acre this is some 22 acres) and received rent for House and Garden of £4 8s from Jas. Janes. Mrs. East also occupied land owned by J. White who was her brother.

The Land Tax records also show that William Denham, then aged 36, owned and lived at 'Goddards Farm' He paid £7.7s corresponding to ca. 37 acres. This will refer to Upper Goddards Farm. He also owned and occupied other (low value and unnamed) houses and land taxed separately. William Denham also rented land at Turville Court Meadows. A William Denham is listed as the occupier of a fairly low value house and land in Skirmett owned by Vernal Hobbs who married into the Shogmore branch of the Denham/Toovey family. This may be the illegitimate son of William Denham, as explained below.

The major landowner in the Hambleton parish was Sir Robert Clayton who owned Hambleton Manor and considerable woodland but also tenanted properties including Hambleton Mill and Wharf, Flint Hall, Luxters, Colstrup Farm, Mill End Farm, Huttons Farm, and Freeth Farm (now Colliers Farm).

1798: The Posse Comiatu was a list of able bodied men residing in the parish, between 15 and 60 and not in military service. The list was drawn up in case of a French invasion.

The list for Hambleton²⁰ is given as part of the list for the ancient Hundred of Desborough which is one of the three Chiltern Hundreds. The Hambleton list shows 218

men of which 20 are Farmers (from 13 different families), 91 are Labourers and 61 are Servants. It includes:

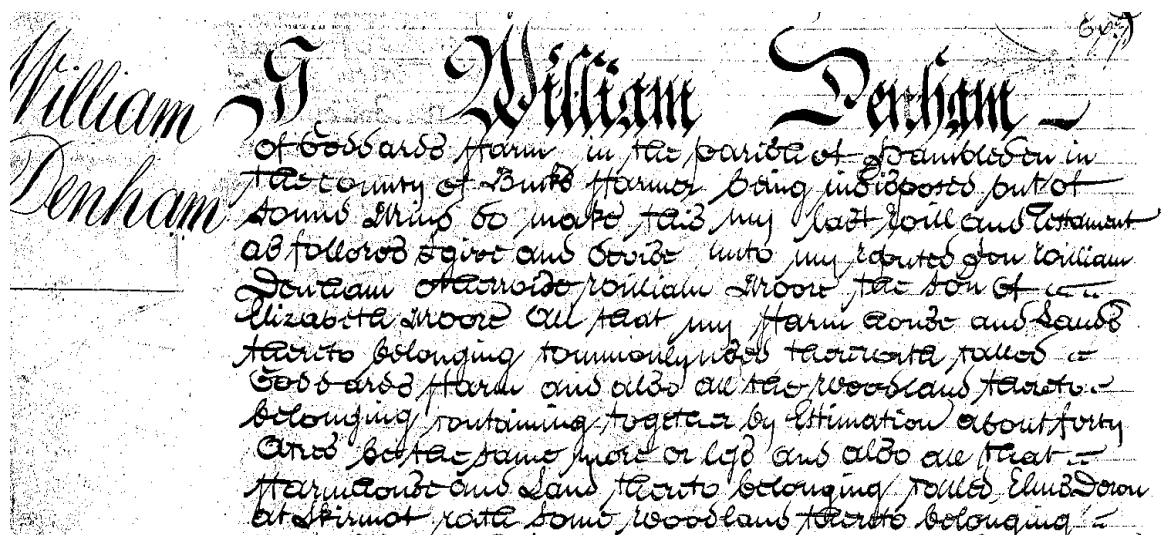
- William Denham, farmer with 4 horses, 2 wagons and 2 carts. (Note: This must be William Denham Jun. (1762 – 1805) at UGF)
- Another William Denham with only 1 horse and cart. (Note: This might well be a young William Denham/Moore as explained below)
- Mrs East (see above and at LGF) with 8 horses, 2 wagons and 3 carts.

William Fisher at Medmenham Mill was one of the largest local owners of draught horses with 10 Horses, 4 Wagons and 3 Carts.

The 19th Century

1804 Protective duties on corn were introduced to protect the landed interests after the collapse of the high prices during the Napoleonic Wars and the French Revolution. The Corn Law Act of 1815 prohibited the import of corn unless domestic prices had reached a certain level. As a result bread prices were higher than necessary and the Act was repealed in 1846 after the Irish Potato Famine.

1805: William Denham died in April aged 43 and was buried at Hambleden. His will^{18c} was written in Mar 1805 and proved on 25 May 1805 and starts 'I William Denham of Goddards Farm in the parish of Hambleden....'. The farmhouse and lands 'called Goddards Farm' and the woodland were estimated to be 40 acres. He also bequeathed the farmhouse and land 'called ElmDown at Skirmett' adding up to 30 acres.



William Denham
of Goddards Farm in the parish of Hambleden in
the county of Bucks Heretofore being indebted but of
sound mind do make this my last will and testament
as follows to wit and give unto my reputed son William
Denham otherwise William Moore the son of
Elizabeth Moore all that my Farm house and lands
tenants belonging to my only wife's estate called
Goddards Farm and also all the woods and tenants
belonging containing together by estimation about forty
and betwixt some more or less and also all that
Farmhouse and land tenants belonging called ElmDown
at Skirmett with some woods and tenants belonging

Part of the Will of William Denham written 18 Mar 1805

Other pieces of land in the area amounting to a further 12 acres are mentioned including 1 acre in 'Hartchets Wood'. The common ownership of both Upper Goddards and Elmdown is confirmed again in 1822 and supports the belief that William Denham and his ancestors lived at Upper Goddards Farm and owned both properties.

The beneficiary of the houses and land was 'my reputed son William Denham, otherwise William Moore the son of Elizabeth Moore'. The proceeds from the sale of cattle, farming implements, household goods and furniture were to be passed with three

cottages and 2 shops in Skirmett to 'my reputed daughter Mary Denham otherwise Mary Crook, the daughter of Lucy Crook'.

June 1805: The Trustees of the Will are selling up part of the estate of William Denham Sen. (1762 – 1805) in line the terms given. Here in the Oxford Journal advert is the first mention of UGF as such.

The advert refers to '*All the Live and Dead Farming Stock, Implements, Household Furniture and Effects of the Late Mr. William Denham of Upper Goddards Farm, Hambleden, comprising 58 Sheep, 7 ewes, 10 Couples, a Bull and 8 Cows and calves, 4 Cart Horses, 8 pigs....*'. It also specifies waggons, dung carts and machinery plus Household furniture such as Four –post Bedsteads. In addition there are '*Brewing Copper, Seasoned Mash Tubs, Coolers, Wort Tubs and Casks....*'.

The proceeds of the sale were left in the will to Mary Denham/(Cook) but the properties of UGF, Elmdown Farm and other lands were to be retained by William Denham/Moore.

The Denham family is also associated with Shogmore²¹, with Robert Denham (1630 – 1687) as

Yeoman of Shogmore, and later his son Thomas Denham (1674 – 1757). He in turn gave Shogmore Farm to his son Thomas Denham (1700 – 1771). There were numerous other Denhams in the Hambleden area but we have not traced with any certainty William Denham/Moore and Mary Denham/Crook.

We know that William Denham/Moore was less than 21 years of age in 1805 and therefore born in the period 1784 – 1805. As shown below he retained UGF until 1822, presumably when he attained the age of majority. He was therefore probably born around 1800-1801 but certainly after 1784 and died sometime after 1822. See App. 2.

1820 - 1830: George IV

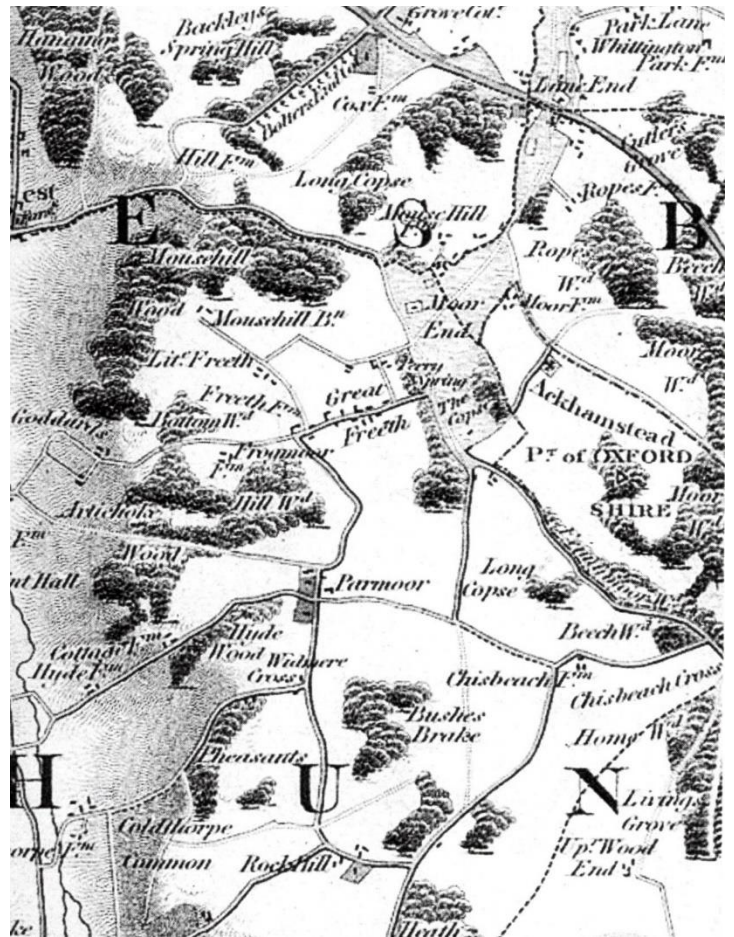
1822 Ordnance Survey: This shows both Goddards (= UGF) and Lower Goddards

1822: A Lease is assigned by William Denham of Ibstone, Gentleman to Richard Lord of Hambleden, Farmer for 7 years for Upper Goddards Farm, cottage, barn and buildings called Elmsland and 75 acres of land. The rent was £75 pa with an extra £10 for every acre he additionally ploughed. In March 1822 William Denham borrowed £800 from Richard Lord who wanted to buy the estate. The deeds for completion of this transaction have not been found.

Upper Goddard's Farm, near Hambleden, Bucks.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Messrs. TOWTHWAITE and WIGHTWICK, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 2d and 3d Days of July, 1805, — All the LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS in HUSBANDRY, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and EFFECTS, of the late Mr. WILLIAM DENHAM, of Upper Goddard's Farm, near Hambleden; comprising fifty-eight Sheep, seven Ewes, ten Couples, a Bull, eight Cows and Calves, four Cart Horses, eight Store Pigs, two Waggon, two Dung Carts, Land Roll, four Harrows, one Plough, Stump of Hay, Cart and Plough Harness, Barn Tackle, Sacks, Hurdles, &c. &c. — The Household Furniture comprises Four-post Bedsteads and Furnitures, Feather Beds and Bedding, Chest of Drawers, Tables, Chairs, and Glasses, two Clocks, Quantity of Pewter, Brewing Copper, seasoned Mash Tubs, Coolers, Wort Tubs, and Casks, Stone Roll, Kitchen Requisites, Men's and Women's Wearing Apparel, Linen, &c. &c.
 May be viewed the Day preceding, and Mornings till Time of Sale, which will begin each Day at Eleven o'Clock. — Catalogues may be had in due Time, at the Place of Sale, and of the Auctioneer's, Bell Street, Henley.

1823: Richard Lord, described as a Seedsman borrowed £800 from James Moody (1759 – 1838) of Chepping Wycombe, Malster, on security of Goddards Farm with land and woodland in Skirmett and Hambleden with £900 owing. Richard Lord had married Ann Lindsey at Turville in 1805 (under Licence) and they had a son James Lindsey Lord (b. Dec. 1805). The Hambleden Parish Register show that in 1825 Ann Lord of 'Goddards' had died and was buried at Hambleden.

1825. Bryants Map³ shows Goddards with a track included between what are now Upper and Lower Goddards Farms. Note that the woods to the north are shown as Mousehill Wood, later to be Adams Wood. The existing bridleway from Skirmett to Parmoor is clearly shown with buildings at its junction with Shogmoor Lane. The current bridleway to Goddards/Adams Wood is not shown. Shogmoor Farm is shown as Frogmore Farm and Hill Wood (now part of Hatchets Wood) is adjacent. At the top of Shogmoor Lane is Freethe Farm which is now Colliers Farm.



Bryants 1825 Map

1826/27: James Lindsey Lord married Sarah Moody in Wycombe in 1826 and they had a daughter Sarah Elizabeth in 1827. The Bishop's Transcript (BT) records their residence in 1827 as 'Goad? Hambleden' (i. e. this should be Goddards). Sarah Moody was the daughter of James Moody and we assume James and Sarah Lord (nee Moody) were then living at Goddards (believed to be Upper Goddards).

1830 – 1837: William IV

1831 - 1866: Cholera pandemics spread by contaminated water supplies. This affected Hambleden with the Rector moving to Lane End in the belief that it was safer, although he later died of the disease³.

Tithes Maps 1836: Tithes were the arrangement from medieval times to pay 10% of the value of the annual produce of land to the parish church. They were a major source of dissent and were liquidated from 1836 onwards with Tithe Maps being produced across the country to assist the process.

1837: James Lord, Farmer and Sarah had a son Richard Moody Lord in 1837 (bapt. 16 Feb. 1837 at Hambleden). The BT's gives the Residence as Goddards Farm (= UGF), Hambleton (= Hambleden).

CR Smt Murray o.c.
- by James Perry.
Tooley family (Samuel & Henry)
- by Thomas Hussy
- at himself.
Trustees of James Tooley etc.
o.c. by Richard Wood.

The annual tithe payment to the Rector at Hambleden by the Trustees was £17 12 s. pa. (ca. £1800 pa as at today). The local area owned by the Trustees is shown above in yellow.

The other large landowner on the east side of Skirmett and mainly south of Shogmoor Lane was the Toovey family with Henry Toovey (b. 1830) at Shogmoor Farm with 177 acres and Samuel Toovey the landowner and Henry Toovey as the occupier at Lower Goddards Farm with 143 acres. Their land adjacent to Goddards is shown in pink above. Interestingly 'Goddards Meadow' is listed but is adjacent to what is now Arizona Farm.

1841 Census: There are 4 farmers listed in Skirmett as follows:

- Upper Goddard Farm: James Lord (b. 1805, Hambleden, d. 1880), a Farmer, his wife Sarah (b. 1805) and their son Richard Moody Lord, b. 1837. Two domestic servants Rachel and Emma Gunnell, aged 27 and 17, are also listed.
- Goddard' Farm (i. e. Lower Goddards Farm): The Toovey family are listed with Henry Toovey (b. 1801) shown as a farmer. Also present are his wife Sarah (b. 1801) and 3 children. Two young servants are also listed.
- Shagmare (Shogmoor Cottage?): Jonathan Teesey (= Feesey) (b. 1771, bur. 8 Mar. 1848) is listed as an Independent (Farmer), with his wife Sarah Gray, (b. 1771, d. 4 Jun. 1842) and son George (b. 1829) and 2 young male servants. This was probably a tenancy as Henry Toovey owned the site in 1838 and was farming there in 1854.
- Pognats (= Poynatts Farm): Richard Lord Sen. is shown here, now aged 55, but his wife Ann is not listed. She appears have died in either 1825 or 1832.

What is now Shogmoor Lane is described as Goddards Lane.

The occupations given for the ca. 150 people with Skirmett addresses are interesting, namely Agricultural Labourers (22), followed by Labourers (3), Carpenters (2) and Grocers (2). Apart from the 4 Farmers the list shows a Wheelwright, Schoolmistress, Cordwainer, Grocer, Blacksmith, Butcher, Sawyer, Lacemaker, Land Measurer and Apprentice.

1846- 1895: We understand⁹ that in this period Goddards might have been connected to the Scott Murray family from Danesfield House and later Hambleden Manor. However the 1841 and 1851 Censuses show the Lord family at UGF whilst the 1861 Census lists Alfred Muskett Getts (= Yetts), a son of Joseph Muskett Yetts. The latter is described in 1884 as the owner and occupier of Upper Goddards Farm (see p. 23). Other adverts at that time refer to Joseph Yetts as the main contact and the 1861 – 1891 Censuses show the occupants as a Farm Bailiff including his son or as a Farm Manager. Further the Deeds of the Danesfield Estate from 1687 – 1896 have been checked. Flint Hall is the only substantial part of that estate shown near Skirmett and there is no mention of Goddards. The Tithe Maps of 1838 show that Charles Scott Murray owned some 2500 acres in total in the area including a small number of fields at the bottom of Shogmoor Lane plus land around Crooked Chimney Cottage and to the east of the main road

through the village. He also owned Freethe Farm (=Colliers Farm) let to Edmund Dean, tenant farmer³, at the top of Shogmoor Lane. The Scott Murray family does not appear to have had an interest in either LGF or UGF.

1851 Census: The record for Upper Goddard Farm show James Lindsey (Linsey) Lord (b. 1805 Hambleden), his wife Sarah (b. 1805, High Wycombe) and their daughter Elizabeth Ann (b. 1834. N. B. This should be 1844). The occupation of James Lord is again given as a Farmer.

At Lower Goddards, Henry Toovey Sen. (b. 1800), the son of Richard and Sarah Toovey, who are now at Shogmoor Farm, is shown as a Farmer with 132 acres employing 7 Labourers. His sister Mary Ann (b. 1833) and brother, Richard (b. 1835), are living there with 2 servants.

At Shogmoore there are now 2 families:

- Shogmoor Farm: The older Toovey's with Henry (b. 1797 - 1870), a farmer with 180 acres employing 8 outdoor Labourers, 6 Men and 2 Boys. His wife is Sarah (b. 1800) and the children are Sarah (b. 1829) and John (b. 1837).
- Shogmoor (Cottage): Here are Daniel Feeseey (b. 12 May 1805 at Medmenham, d. 17 Feb. 1873) an Ag. Lab. and his wife Sophia Norris (b. 1807) a Lacemaker and their children Jonathan (b. 1835), another Ag. Lab., Sarah (b. 1838), William (b. 1840) a Lacemaker and Sophia (b. 1848). Daniel is the son of Jonathan and Sarah Feeseey, both of whom had now died and is assumed to be a tenant of the Tooveys.

Richard Lord Sen. is shown at Poynants Farm as a Widower and Farmer with 240 acres and employing 9 Labourers and a Housekeeper. He died in 1855 and was buried at Hambleden. The Lord family estate has expanded with UGF and Poynants whilst the Toovey family have also become a large landowner in the area

1853: Musson & Craven's Directory of 1853 lists James Lord as a Farmer at Goddards, His father Richard Lord is listed as a farmer in Skirmett and Ann Lord (his daughter?) is mistress at the Infant School at Skirmett with 30 children. Henry Tovey (=Toovey) a farmer is also listed at Goddards (which must refer to LGF).

1854. The PO Directory shows Henry Toovey farmer at Shogmoor and Henry Toovey Jun., farmer at Goddards which refers to LGF. Richard Lord, farmer is also listed for Goddards, (although living at Poynants Farm). From below we know that this refers to UGF.

1854: An ad in Reading Mercury dated 2 Dec. reads 'For Sale on the land of Upper Goddards Farm Hambleden about 10 acres of Good Swedes and 15 acres of Green Round Turnips'. Richard Lord of Hambleden is the 'contact to view'.

1855: In May an ad in the Berkshire Chronicle lists R. Lord as selling farm equipment, plus 2 cart horses, and a '*useful black nag mare*' and also some household furniture.

1856: An advert in the Reading Mercury refers to the sale of Farming Stock and machinery at 'Goddards Farm Skirmettby order of Mr. Henry Toovey who is leaving the Farm'. This must refer to Lower Goddards Farm but the house and land is not for sale. A tenancy has presumably been arranged.

1858: The Times and the Bucks Herald include adverts in June as an Order of the High Court arising from Moody vs. Payne. This offers for sale 'A Desirable Freehold Estate' known as Goddards consisting of two Farm Residences with 85 acres of Meadow, Arable and Woodland. As a result of the same High Court Order an auction in four lots was arranged for houses, shops and cottages in High Wycombe and including a Bakehouse and a Malthouse (White Hart St.).

Clearly the freeholds were up for sale and the Moody family had retained ownership of UGF. James Lord as the tenant is assisting the viewing on the premises.

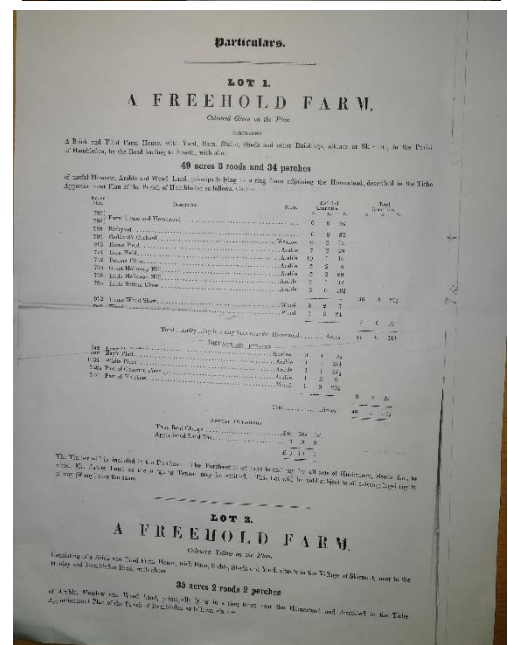
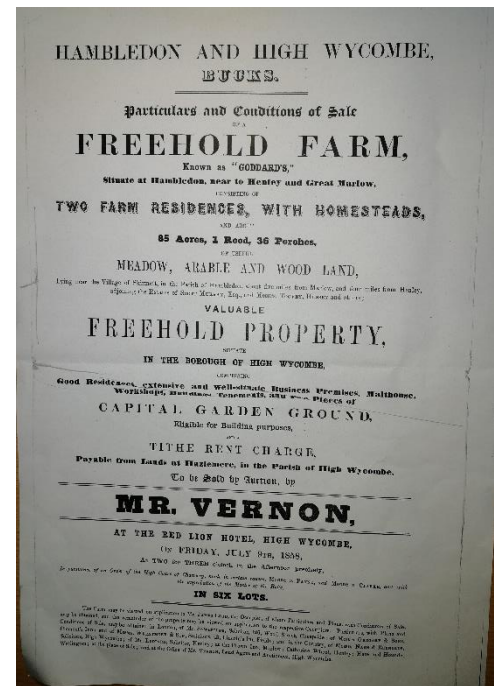
Lot 1 is Upper Goddards Farm with 41 acres and 5 other detached pieces of land adding a further 8 acres and including part of Hatchetts Wood. Lot 2 is what is now known as Elmdown Farm with 31 acres plus 3 acres of Goddards Meadow near Flint Hall.

The sale prospectus has been obtained and part is on the rhs. Plans are also included showing field names, the names of the owners of adjacent properties, etc. but these have not been copied here. The details included explain the reason for the High Court Order. It states that on the death of James Moody in 1838, 'the title deeds came to the hands of George Payne, a Trustee, who has since gone abroad and taken the deeds with him or deposited them with some one unknown to the Vendors'.

The Vendors confirm that for Lots 1 and 2 the title starts with the will of Wm. Denham who died in 1805. The mortgage of 1823 (by Richard Lord) and its repayment is also mentioned.

Lot 1 (and as becomes clear later also Lot 2) was bought by Joseph Muskett Yetts (1818 - 1906). He was a solicitor in Hackney in 1851-1871, a Solicitor at Lincolns Inn Fields and later in Lambeth from 1881 - 1901. He was a substantial and wealthy landowner.

One of his 12 children Alfred Muskett Yetts appears to have operated the farm initially but later Joseph Yetts seemed to be more closely involved.

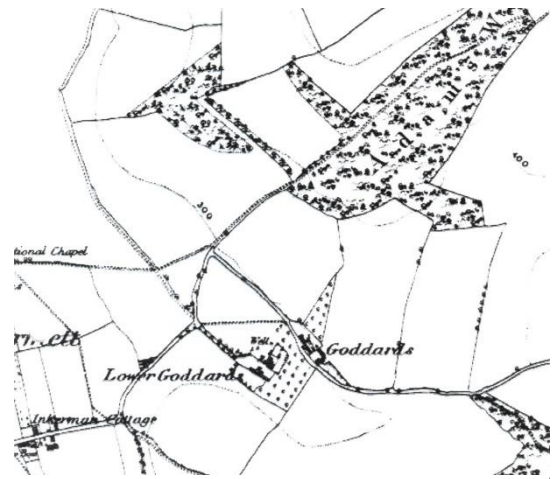


1861 Census: This shows Alfred Muskett Getts (s/be Yetts) living at 'Goddarell' (s/be Goddards or as now Upper Goddards Farm) with his sister Eliza M. Yetts (b. 1841) and a General Servant aged 15. Alfred Yetts is a Bailiff farming 86 acres with 4 men and 2 boys. The acreage stated confirms that both UGF and Elmdown Farm were bought by JM Yetts. A Bailiff was the person employed by the landowner (here Joseph Yetts) to manage the farm operations. By 1861 James Lord had retired to Rotherfield Greys

This census also shows 'Goddarell Farm' with William Chickard and wife farming 100 acres with 4 men and 2 boys. The family of 7 has 2 servants. That location must be Lower Goddards Farm. The family name might well be Clinkard who advertised their livestock for sale in 1863 prior to leaving 'Goddards' Farm.

1864: The Post Office Directory shows Joseph Yetts, farmer at Goddards and Wm. Clinkard, farmer at Lower Goddards, but these listings are always retrospective. Skirmett was listed as a hamlet and without a parish church. Wm. Clinkard is also shown as a grocer at Cadmore End.

1866: The OS map shows Goddards and Lower Goddards. Note that our triangular orchard was shown at that time. There is an open field in what is now Goddards Wood.



Part of Local OS Map 1866

1866, Sep.: The Bucks Herald includes adverts stating that *'The auctioneer is instructed by J M Yetts Esq. to sell by auction on October 2nd 1866 at Upper Goddards, Skirmett Live & Dead Agricultural Stock'* including *'4 Young and Powerful Cart Horses, Handsome Young Grey Cob, quiet to ride and drive, a Black Pony 5 years old'*, and a small number of cattle, 40 head of poultry, farming machinery, *'an orchard of apples'*, a rick of fine trump wheat, 3 carts and carriages, etc. It appears that a new tenant (L. Simmons) is bringing his own equipment.

1871 Census: The record for 'Goddards Farm' shows 2 families:

1. Lewis Simmonds (b. 1811 in Risborough) and his 4 children, Mary Ann (b. 1850), Joseph (b. 1852), Henry (b. 1857), Emma (b. 1867). Lewis was shown as a Farmer of 84 acres employing 2 men and 1 boy.
2. George Eggleton (b. 1822 in Turville), and his wife Elizabeth (b. 1843) and 2 sons, James (b. 1865) and William (b. 1868) and Sarah (b. 1871). George was a Carter Ag. Labourer.

The census enumerator may have been less precise than needed and appears to have referred to both Upper and Lower Goddards. In fact the Simmonds family occupied the former as noted below.

1873: The Reading Mercury includes an ad: *To be Let, a Farm-Upper Goddards at Skirmett. Apply to view to the tenant, Mr. Simmons. For terms apply to JM Yetts at Lincoln's Inn Fields.*

1877: Kelly's Directory list a range of commercial activities in Skirmett, namely a Carpenter, Grocer & Baker, Butcher, Shoe Maker, 2 Blacksmiths, 2 pubs, the Crown (also a bakery) and King's Arms, a Harness maker and a Grocer & Beer Retailer. James King is shown as a farmer at 'Goddards Farm', but this must be Lower Goddards Farm as Lewis Simmons is at Upper Goddards.

1881 Census for Upper Goddards: Thomas Jamp (=Joiner) (b. 1821 in Chesham) and his wife Eliza (b. 1822 in Chesham) with granddaughter Sarah Jane (b. 1868 in Amersham) and grandson Denis (b. 1880 in Skirmett) plus a lodger. Thomas Jamp was a Farm Bailiff. At Lower Goddards there was the Snaithe family with William Snaithe as Huntsman and his son as Assistant Huntsman.

1883: Kelly's Dir. shows Thomas Joiner as Farm Bailiff for Joseph M. Yetts Esq. at Goddards Farm.

1884. The Henley Advertiser of 10 May reports at some length a County Court case brought by Joseph Muskett Yetts who stated that he was '*the owner and present occupier of Goddards Farm*'. The claim was for damage to a hedge and meadow by a fire engine brought in to extinguish a burning hay rick. The article refers to Mr. Thomas Joiner as living at Upper Goddards Farm and acting as a bailiff for Mr Yetts. Damages of £1 were awarded instead of £10 claimed. Another hayrick belonging to Joseph Yetts caught fire in 1886 but this time at Elmdown Farm.

1890: JM Yetts advertises in the Reading Mercury that Upper Goddards Farm is to be let with 84 acres.

1891 Census: The listing for UGF gives James W. Balls (b. 1865 in Suffolk) with his wife Mary S. Balls (b. 1863 also in Suffolk) with their 3 children born in Skirmett, Florance (b. 1888), James (b. 1889) and Archabald (b. 1891). James was a Farm Manager and the family has a living in General Servant, Effie Barnes aged 16 from Skirmett.

1891 3 Oct: Advert in Henley Advertiser for Auction at Upper Goddards and Elm Down Farms Farming Stock and Orchard of Fruit. The details include 4 'young powerful active' Cart Horses, Farm wagons and Machinery. The sale has resulted from the farm being let.

The **Great Depression of British Agriculture**² occurred during the late nineteenth century and is usually dated from 1873 to 1896. Contemporaneous with the global Long Depression, Britain's agricultural depression was caused by the dramatic fall in grain prices that followed the opening up of the American prairies to cultivation in the 1870s and the advent of cheap transportation with the rise of steamships.

Between 1871–75 and 1896–1900, the importation of wheat and flour increased by 90%, for meat by 300% and for butter and cheese by 110%.¹ The price of wheat in Britain declined from 56s 0d a quarter in 1867–71 to 27s 3d in 1894–98. The nadir came in 1894–95, when prices reached their lowest level for 150 years, 22s. 10d. On the eve of the depression, the total amount of land growing cereals was

9,431,000 acres (3,817,000 ha); by 1898 this had declined to 7,401,000 acres (2,995,000 ha), a decline of about 22%. During the same period, the amount of land under permanent pasture rather than under cultivation increased by 19%. By 1900 wheat-growing land was only a little over 50% of the total of 1872 and shrank further until 1914. The depression also accelerated Britain's rural depopulation. This led to the sale of smaller farms and their consolidation as part of larger estates

1893, Feb.: An auction of Farming Stock and Implements is advertised at Shogmoor Farm by the instructions of Mr. Henry Toovey who has let the farm. Five Cart Horses, 9 Cattle, 25 pigs and 200 poultry are mentioned.

1897, 1900: Conveyances in two parts were made between Joseph Muskett Yetts and Charles Alfred Cripps (1852 – 1941), the first Baron Parmoor of Frieth, and Arthur Devereux Cripps. (1858- 1903), one of the 11 siblings of Charles Alfred. This supports our earlier conclusion that the Scott Murray family were not the owners of Upper Goddards in the mid to late 1800's.

UGF was now owned by the Parmoor Estate. For some 200 years from 1603-1800 Parmoor was owned and occupied by one family, the D'Oyley family. After John D'Oyley died without issue in 1800, the Parmoor houses, farms, woods and lands were eventually sold by "his heirs and successors" to 'Mr. Cook of London'. Mr. Henry Cripps, Q.C. who had already been a tenant since 1860 then purchased the property during the 1860s.

Alfred Henry Seddon Cripps wrote in 1970 a history of his family and of Parmoor House for the Frieth Village Society³, parts of which are relevant here:

Parmoor House had belonged to the D'Oyleys, who had been large landowners in the district, and then (1860) consisted of rather less than 400 acres.

Our father, Charles Alfred, later took over Goddards and Shogmoor farms and, later still, the Moor, Beacon and Cutlers farms, with the adjacent woodlands, from our grandfather. These, with Flint Hall and Luxters farms, which he purchased, with his Cadmore properties must have increased the total acreage of the estate from less than 400 acres to a little short of 4,000 acres.

He at first farmed the land adjacent to the house and later included Shogmoor, Flint Hall and Luxters in the Home Farm which he farmed with the assistance of his bailiff, Mr. Thomas Jess, who first came as gardener and lived with his wife in the cottage on the opposite side of the drive. He stayed with us as farm bailiff for the rest of his life.

There were also Hunt Breakfasts at Parmoorthe Hambleden Vale Harriers, which my grandfather had kept at Goddards and which I later resuscitated and kept at Shogmoor. He had Snaith as kennel huntsman....

At the same time as Joseph Yetts was selling his properties in the Hambleden valley the Danesfield Estate owned by the Scott Murray family was also being sold off in 1895. This estate included the neighbouring farms of Flint Hall in Skirmett and Luxters Farm.

The 20th Century

1901 – 1910 King Edward VII (House of Saxe Coburg Gotha)

1901 Census: Two families making 11 people in total are listed at Upper Goddards:

1. Owen Furler (b. 1861 in Hambleden), with his wife Elizabeth (b. 1860) and 5 children: Fred, (b. 1882), George (b. 1885), Alice (b. 1895), Annie (b. 1897) and Clara (b. 1900). Owen was an Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, Fred was a domestic gardener and George was an Assistant Game Keeper.
2. Edward Webb (b. 1850 in Turville) and wife Barbara Ann Webb (b. 1854 in West Wycombe) and 2 children, Mabel (b. 1887) and Milly (b. 1891). Edward was an Ordinary Agricultural Labourer

They would be tenants of the Parmoor Estate. It is interesting to note that Edward Webb and family were at Lower Goddards in 1891 with Edward then as a Carter. Clearly the Webb family moved into part of Upper Goddards between 1891 and 1901.

At Lower Goddards there were also 2 families, William Belcher and his wife on parish relief and Jesse Rylands, a Farm Carter and his wife.

1906: Joseph Muskett Yetts died 9.8.1906 in Lambeth. Probate was £146K (equivalent to over £17 million today) and granted to one his sons William Musketts Yetts, an accountant and a solicitor. Alfred Yetts received only £26 pa on a codicil added in 1899 to his father's will dated 1897.

1910 – 1936: King George V (House of Windsor)

1911 Census: Two families are listed at UGF, (and would be tenants of the Parmoor Estate):

1. Mr. Webb Sen. Edward Webb (b. 1850 in Turville, d. 1924) and Barbara Ann Webb (b. 1854 in West Wycombe). Edward was a Farm Labourer.
2. Mr. Webb. Frederick Webb (b. 1891 in Hambleden) and Mabel Webb (b. 1887 in Hambleden) with daughter Phyllis Mabel Webb (b. 1911 in Hambleden., Frederick was a Farm Labourer.

At LGF there was the Frederick Coker, a Game Keeper, his wife and 3 children.

1931, 1935, 1939: Kelly's Directory shows Chas. Gilford as a Farmer at UGF. At LGF Harold Hanson is shown as a farmer.

1936 - 1952: King Edward VIII, King George VI

1939 -1945: WW 2

1939: A Register was carried out for the issue of Identity Cards and two Households were listed at UGF:

1. Hubert Marrington Turton b. 1889 in Skirmett and shown as a General Labourer. He was the son of William John Turton (b. 1859) who in 1911 was the Baker, Grocer and

Sub-postmaster in Skirmett. At that time Hubert was a postman living at home (William) Sydney Turton, (b. 1890 in Skirmett) and shown as a Road Labourer. He was one of 2 brothers of Hubert all living at home In 1911 in Skirmett but with no occupation shown for him.

2. Gilford, Charles (1885 – 1960)	Farmer
Gilford, Ellen, (1887 – 1963)	Wife
Harris, William, b. 1911	Farm Labourer
Gill, Walter, b. 1862	Farm Labourer
Wells Ronald, b. 1926	Scholar

They would have been tenants of the Parmoor Estate. The house was very full with 7 occupants. Charles Gilford died in 1960 was buried at Pishill Parish Church.

1942: Hubert Marrington Turton dies at Upper Goddards Farm, aged 53 on 4th April from Bronchopneumonia and Flu. His brother Sydney of the same address was present.

1946: Sale of Parmoor Estate includes Upper Goddards as Lot 22 with 64 acres. A photo in the sale brochure shows the winding gear of a well by the stable door, no soil pipe from our main bathroom but a soil pipe(?) on the gable extension, and a boiler chimney at the rear of our Utility Room. There appears to be a barn door into the current kitchen area, 2 black wooden beams (?) in that wall and no dormer window above. The left hand section of the building must have been rebuilt after 1946.

The weather vane seen on the granary was found in the orchard in 2009 and restored. It is now mounted on our garden room.



The brochure describes Upper Goddards as 'The old Tudor Brick & Tiled Farmhouse, divided into 2 cottages', Cottage 1 (i. e. the RHS) is let with the farm and comprises Parlour, Kitchen with Range and Sink, Larder, Washhouse with Copper and three bedrooms. Store Shed and Coal Store. A 4 bay cart shed adjoins the Farmhouse

Cottage 2 (i. e. on the LHS) comprises Parlour, Kitchen, Scullery, and 3 bedrooms. Let on a Quarterly tenancy to Mr. S. Turton at £9 15 s. pa

The claim of Tudor origin implies pre-1603 and this appears accurate as noted earlier.

The land is described as mainly arable with orchard and let to Mr. H. Hanson for £93 pa. Our cesspit in Lower Goddards (which was Lot 27) and an easement for access is mentioned. There is no woodland included in the details, mainly arable land.

The Sale Price is noted as £2000. The buyer was Kenneth Wilfred Bowler who also bought and occupied Lower Goddards Farm⁹ for £2300.

1947 – 1948: Upper Goddards was occupied by the Burr family. The son Oliver Burr was the maternal grandson of Harold Hanson, the tenant of LGF²².



Upper Goddards Farm, ca. 1947 (O. Burr)



Evelyn Burr (d. of Harold Hanson) and unknown boy at UGF ca. 1947 (O. Burr)

1948, Oct: Lower Goddards Farm was advertised for sale in the Bucks Herald as a small Mixed Farm with 42.5 acres and a Period Farmhouse. It was sold (13.12.48) to Wing. Comm. Charles Alec Harris who had received a DFC as a RAF Flying Officer in 1942. An advert in the Bucks Herald of 29 Oct. 1948 stated that the property had been sold before Auction. We understand that the Bowlers then moved to Upper Goddards Farm⁹.

1949: Messrs Heterington & Secret report in the Uxbridge Gazette of 5 Aug. that Upper Goddards Farm has changed hands. The details are not given but we understand that K. W. Bowler owned and lived in Upper Goddards Farm from 1948 until 1952⁹.

1952: The property must have then been sold to Comm. George Nelson but the details of the sale have not been found. We know that in 1947 he was elected President of the Conservative Association in Kimble and lived nearby with his wife. He served in Minesweepers in WW 2 and was born in 1901 and was awarded a DSC in 1945.

20,000

LOT No. 22.
(Coloured Blue on Plan.)

UPPER GODDARDS,

Area of about
64 a. 1 r. 10 p.

Sited on the road between Parnoor and Skirmett.

The Old Tudor Brick and Tiled Farmhouse
is divided into TWO COTTAGES.

No. 1 Cottage is let with the Farm, and comprises: Parlour; Kitchen with range and sink; Larder; Washhouse with copper; and three Bedrooms.
E.C. Store Shed. Coal Store.
Main Water is connected.

No. 2 Cottage comprises: Parlour; Kitchen; Scullery; and three Bedrooms.
E.C.

Let on a quarterly tenancy to Mr. S. Turton at a rental of £9 15s. 0d. per annum.

FARM BUILDINGS,

A 4-bay Cart Shed adjoins the Farmhouse. The remainder of the buildings are situated on two sides of an Open Cattle Yard, and comprise: Granary, weather-boarded and tiled roof, brick and tiled Cowhouse, partly weather-boarded and slate roofed Barn, Bull Pen and various Store Sheds.

Ordinance No.	Description.	Acres.
89	Arable	7-813
200	Orchard	928
201	Homestead and Buildings	418
90	Arable	9-171
91	Ditto	8-905
53	Ditto	8-201
40	Grass	17-957
Pt. 87	Arable	11-149
Pt. 71	Woodland	0-84
Total		A. 64-317

Let, with other Lands, to Mr. H. Hanson on a yearly Michaelmas tenancy at an apportioned rental of £93 per annum.

This Lot is sold with a benefit of an easement for drainage to a cesspool on Lot 27, the Purchaser being responsible for all maintenance.

OUTGOINGS—Tithe Redemption Annuity: £11 8s. 10d. per annum.
Land Tax: £2 13s. 6d. per annum.

21

1952 – Present: Elizabeth II

1953: Sale of Upper Goddards Farm by Comm. George Nelson (RN) as shown on the sale details²³.

The land then amounted to 38 acres. This comprised 11 acres to the west, i. e. field 87, the bridlepath and access to Goddards Wood, (all now owned by D. Poppy), some 19 acres, which are the fields at the rear of The Barn, Upper Goddards Farm and the 9 acres for our current paddocks, orchard and house.

The house is described as Upper Goddards Farm of 16th Century origin which we believe from this study to be correct. It has 5 beds, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms and farm buildings for Pig & Poultry.

Photos in the Sale Brochure show that their Lounge is now our Dining Room, their Drawing Room is now our Kitchen and Dining Area, their Dining Room is now our Lounge and their Kitchen (with an Aga and boiler) is now our Utility Room. The '4 bay barn' now the Games Room and Integral Garage was used as a garage for 4 cars.

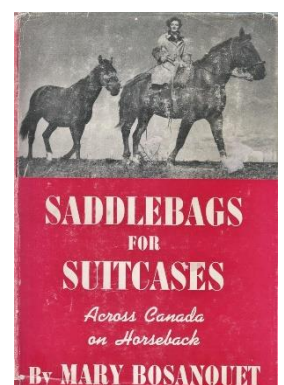
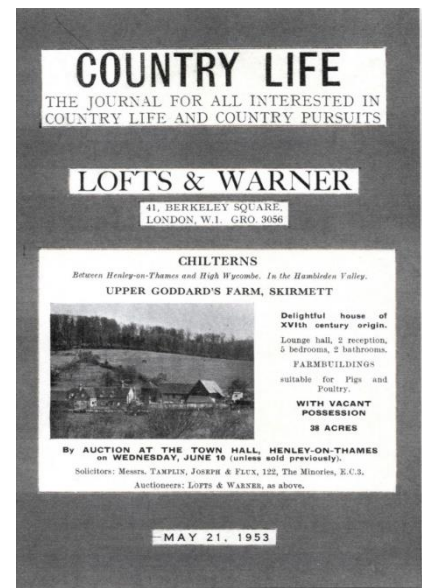
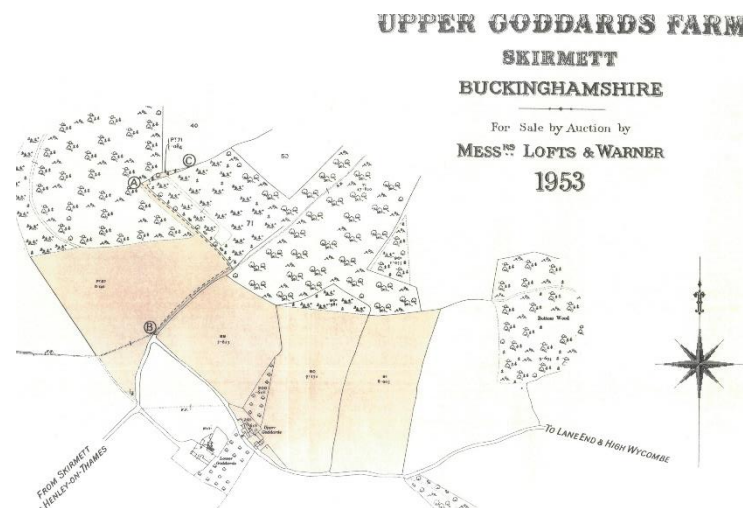
The farm buildings held '*a large head of poultry, several breeding sows and 20 fattening cattle*'.

The sale was also advertised by Lofts & Warner of London in Country Life dated 21.5.1953.

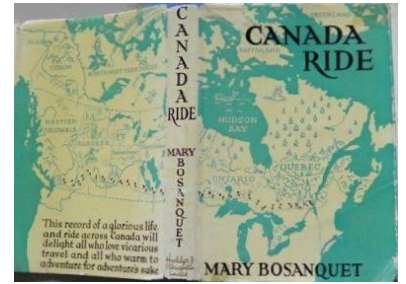
Close inspection of the picture shows that the dormer windows on the western side had flat roofs, with tiled ridges added later as revealed during our re-roofing in 2009.

1953: Purchase of Upper Goddards Farm by Robert Sinkler Darby (1919-1997). He was an English electrical engineer with an American father and English mother.

He married Mary Bosanquet (1913 – 1999) from Basingstoke who left Southampton by boat in Feb. 1947 to be married in Princeton, Mercer, New Jersey, USA. There were 3 children Maryanne, Jonathan and Catherine, born between 1947 and 1955. Maryanne was born in Dec. 1947 in Oxford when both mother and father were living at Marlborough and Mary was a student of Economics at Oxford University.



We were told that Mary Dorothy Bosanquet (or Darby) lived at Upper Goddards Farm, kept horses and had ridden across Canada by herself writing a book on her experiences. This is correct and we have identified 2 books on the ride, namely *Saddlebags for Suitcases* by Mary Dorothy Bosanquet, published 1942 and *Canada Ride: Across Canada on Horseback*, published in 1945.



The ride took place over 1939 – 1940 with a budget of £80 and she had to replace her first horse during the ride. She was 25 – 26 years old at the time and as the daughter of a diplomat she had lived in Germany and spoke German.

In Canada she was suspected by the Canadians as being a German spy. After the ride, she returned to England and assisted the war effort. Her second horse Jonty was left behind very unhappy and later escaped from his new owner.



Mary Bosanquet and Jonty

Mary Bosanquet went back to Canada in 1947, found him and the *People* newspaper arranged a subscription of £400 from its readers to bring Jonty to England to rejoin her at her home in an 'Oxfordshire hamlet'. Sadly however Jonty became too ill to travel and was put down in early 1948.

Mary Bosanquet wrote other memoirs, *Journey into a Picture* (1947), *Man on an Island* (1962) and a biography of Christian Dietrich Bonhoeffer the anti-Nazi German 'martyr', *The Life and Death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, 1968. Her address on her return from Canada to England at Bristol in 1943 is given as Beechingstoke Manor, Marlborough, Wilts., her mother's address. Mary Dorothy Darby died in 1999 in Lichfield.

1958: Robert Sinkler Darby sells Upper Goddards Farm to Elizabeth Adela Crawley-Boevey (1892 – 1972), the widow of Col. Crawley-Boevey and previously the widow of Lt. Col. Daniell who was killed in action in 1917. The daughter from her first marriage was Adela Hope Daniell who was born in April 1918. From her second marriage she had 3 sons. One of them, Tim was lost with HMS Tigris in 1943. Elizabeth Adela died in July 1972 at UGF and her estate was worth £75K.

The daughter Adela Hope Daniell became Adela Hope Allain and she sold UGF in 1976 and died in 2007 in Henley on Thames.

Robert Darby moved to Oxford and died in 1997 at a nursing home in Somerset. His Will dated August 1991 shares his estate between his 3 children but there is no mention of his wife Mary. The probate value was £284K.

Dec. 1976: Our 1983 Conveyance²⁴ show that Adela Hope Allain sold Upper Goddards Farm to Max Otto Alfred Stanton and Diana with a price of £235K. Max Stanton was an engineer and a director of an electrical company until 2005.

1983: Sale by the Stantons of Field 87 (historically known as Old Croft) to Tom Ryland of Dovers Farm who also owned part of Mousells Wood. In June 2005 it was sold by the Trustees of Tom Ryland to D. Poppy. He later bought the adjacent Goddards Wood West from Michael Wong Sun Sung in 1997 and the bridleway from the Stantons²⁵.

1983: Joe Brown and family bought Upper Goddards Farm but without the Barn and the Cowshed and the land to the rear. He was one of the original Rock & Roll Stars from the UK and at one time had the Beatles open shows for him. He had numerous Gold Discs for record sales over 100,000 and played at the tribute concert for his friend and Beatle George Harrison. He recorded one album at his home studio, now our office. He was awarded an MBE in 2009 for services to music and still continues to tour playing guitar, mandolin and ukele. His children are Pete Brown (also a musician and a record producer) and Sam Brown, (a ukele band leader and player).

1983: The Stantons retained, converted and moved into the Barn and in 1994 also into the Cowshed.

1986: Listing of UGF as Grade II. This includes the bridge passage between the first floor and converted outbuilding, our Garden Room.

1989: Conversion of 3 Bays of Garage/Barn to Playroom with Studio above

1999: Sale of The Barn and Cowshed by the Stantons to Simon Moyle and Silvana Turner²⁶. The Bridleway and Track to Goddards and Adams Wood was sold to D. Poppy²⁵.

June 2009: The current owners, Evelyn and Nigel Salsbury, bought Upper Goddards Farm with 8.6 acres of fields and what was then a disused orchard amounting to 9 acres²⁷.

2009: 4 Paddocks with post and rail fencing were created in the main field and mains water troughs installed. The disused orchard was cleared and later replanted.

2009: The property was renovated both inside and outside using lime plaster/mortar where necessary. The poor drainage from the rear of the house was corrected by a French drain and pipe through the cellar to a new soakaway in front of the house.

2010: Detached Garage built by Ridgway Oak, using green European Oak, second hand hand-made clay tiles with cast iron gutters, staircase and upper floor for storage, power for lighting, etc.

2011: Use of Land (the Orchard) for domestic purposes and as a garden area approved.

2012: Greenhouse by Alitex with cold frames, blinds, automatic roof vents, power for thermostatted tubular heating, lighting, etc., rain water tank and pump and mains water supply.

April 2012: Circular lily pond with butyl liner and automatic top-up installed.

Recent Images:



Nigel Salsbury

December 2020

References and Acknowledgements

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11. Bucks Record Society Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Deeds of Property in Hambleden, 1655-1693, Ref. D-BAS/22/342/2.
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16. Family Tree of the Denhams kindly forwarded by Paul Cunningham at catseyes@classicfm.net.
17. Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Abstract of Title of William Denham to a farm in Hambleden, 1641 – 1823, Ref. D66/7
18. Various Wills for Denhams transcribed and kindly forwarded by Paul Cunningham at catseyes@classicfm.net.
 - 18a: Edward Denham dated 1710
 - 18 b: Robert Denham, dated 1740
 - 18 c. William Denham, dated 1805
19. Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Will of John East of Goddards, dated 2 Feb. 1713
20. Posse Comiatus, 16 Feb. 1798. See <http://www.bucksrecsoc.org.uk/BRS-VOLUMES/brs-vol-22.pdf>
21. E-mails from Paul Cunningham dated 15.6.19, 29.5.20 and others, with many thanks
22. E-mail and images from Oliver Burr dated 18.8.2020 for which many thanks.
23. Historic England Archives, 10.6.1953, SA 01356
24. Conveyance dated 2.12.1983
25. Private Comm. from D. Poppy with thanks
26. HM Land Registry, BM 242239
27. HM Land Registry, BM159437
28. Will of John East. C/A/We/55/212 & D/A/Wf/69/85 Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and e-mail dated 10.3.20 from Sally Mason (Archivist).
29. E-mails from Kevin Sutton dated from 22.11.20 who kindly suggested some corrections relating to the East and White families.

A range of Genealogical sources have also been used.

**App. 1: Litigation referring to Goddards in documents held by TNA
(transcribed by Dr. Stephen Miles, Henley Arch. & History Soc.)**

TNA, C 1/1458/14-15: Oldeman v. Chowne

14:

To: Nicholas, archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor

Your poor orator Nicholas Oldman of [faded text, which would almost certainly be visible under uv light]... Elizabeth Oldman, orator's mother, was lawfully seised in her demesne as of fee.... [of] one house or tenement called Goddard with divers lands, meadows, pastures, leasues, woods, and underwoods with the appurtenances thereunto belonging containing 200 acres or thereabouts of the yearly value of £7, being in the towns [i.e. townships], fields and parishes of Hambledon, Skyrmoth and Turfelde in co. Bucks, and she did quietly enjoy and take to her own use the commodities and did take unto husband one Thomas Oldeman, your said poor orator's father, according to the law of ?England.... By reason whereof the said Thomas Oldeman said orator's father into the said premises with the appurtenances did enter and was thereof seised unto his demesne as of fee in right of his wife and did quietly take profits without interruption or contradiction of any person, and they had issue between them of their bodies lawfully begotten – your said poor orator, their son and heir and ?for and in consideration of? the great costs and charges which your poor orator had been at and sustained by them and should be every day more and more with them being in their extreme age and impotence and for divers other good causes and considerations them thereunto moving and for the natural love and good.... Which they bear to your said poor orator have their right title and interest surrendered to the said ?supplicant.... the deeds, charters and evidences come into the hand of one Ralph Chowne who by colour of the having thereof hath wrongfully entered unto all.. the premises and from them have utterly expelled your said orator... said orator has divers times required Ralph Chowne to allow poor orator to enter, which he refuses contrary to all right,

equity and good conscience, and because he detains the deeds the dates of said deeds unknown, so that poor orator knows not to whom the sum was given nor how to convey to the said Anne [sic] from whom he claimeth during her life time certain title for to recover the sum by the due course and order of the common law but thereby is clearly remedyless and so like to lose the same contrary to right, equity and good conscience and to the utter ruin of said poor orator.... May it please your grace etc, requesting remedy in high court of chancery.

15:

Scrope

West

In the court of [coram] Ri[chard] Rede

The answer of Ralph [Rauffe] Chowne to the surmised bill of complaint of Nicholas Oldman

The said defendant [Chowne] not acknowledging or confessing any matter in the said surmised bill of complaint to be true says that the said bill of complaint is untrue and insufficient in the law to be answered and presented only of malice to put said defendant to his trouble and expense without any just cause or matter for the said complainant and his ancestors whose heir he is upon like malice have sued and troubled the said defendant and his ancestors whose heir he is as well in this honourable court as at the common law and elsewhere to the great costs and charges by the space of three score years last past notwithstanding that divers and sundry trial by verdict and other lawful matters of proof of the said defendant's right have passed against the said complainant and his ancestors and also the matters contained in the said bill of complaint are determinable at the common law and not in this honourable court whereunto the said defendant prays to be remitted with his reasonable costs and charges sustained in this behalf and if the said defendant shall be compelled by this honourable court to make any further answer unto the said insufficient bill of complaint yet nevertheless the advantage of the insufficiency thereof unto the said defendant at all times hereafter saved the said defendant for declaration of the truth in the premises and for answer to the said insufficient bill of complaint says that one Robert Chowne deceased grandfather of the defendant whose heir he is about 40 years last past was seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the said house or tenement called goddard[s] and all other the said land, meadows, pastures, leases [leys], wood and underwood and other the appurtenances in hamylden [Hambleton], Skyrmoth and Turfelde mentioned in the said surmised bill of complaint and took the profit thereof by all his lifetime and he being so seised thereof about ten years last past died of such estate seised after whose death the house called goddard and all other the premises descended and came and of right ought to descend and come unto the said defendant as cousin and heir of the said Robert Chowne his grandfather, that is to wit son of Ralph Chowne son of the said Robert, the said defendant then and yet being within the age of 21 years wherefore the said defendant ought not to be compelled during his nonage to make any answer unto the said bill of complaint wherefore the said defendant being in possession of the premises by descent from the said Robert his grandfather and within age of 21 years prayeth his age and yet the plea may demur and abide unto his full age of 21 years and without yet any other thing material contained in the said bill and not in this answer confessed or avoided is true, all which matters the said defendant is ready to aver and prove as this honourable court shall award and prayeth his [he] be dismissed out of the same [court] with his reasonable costs and charges sustained in this behalf.

Scrope

My Commentary

The case was raised in 1556 – 1558 and submitted to Nicholas Heath, Archbishop of York from 1555 and Lord Chancellor from 1555 – 1558 (when Elizabeth I assumed the throne) .

The issue was the retention of deeds and it appears that numerous claims were made at that time for detention of deeds. The plaintiff here was Nicholas Oldman son of Elizabeth Oldman and Thomas Oldman. He claimed that his mother held property of 'one house or tenement called Goddard with divers lands, meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods ... comprising 200 acres or thereabouts of the yearly value of £7, being in the towns of Hambleton, Skyrmoth and Turfelde in co. Bucks.'

The Oldmans appear to have passed the title deeds to Ralph Chowne who had retained them and had then entered the premises and expelled Nicholas Oldman.

The defendant wants to obtain the deeds in order to obtain and transfer the title of the property from Anne (the wife of his grandfather also Thomas Oldman and therefore his grandmother, as shown in a separate case in 1515). Ralph Chowne has refused entry to Nicholas Oldman and the latter claims that this will lead to his 'the utter ruin' and he requests a remedy in the High Court of Chancery.

Ralph (Rauffe) Chowne is the grandson and heir of Robert Chowne, the Lord of the Manor at Yewden. His counter-claim addressed to Lord Scrope, presumably Ralph Scrope (1529 – 1572). The Scropes were Lords of the Manor of Hambleden until 1646 and also acquired Wormsley in 1574 and held it until 1714.

Ralph Chowne responded to Lord Scrope in the court of Richard Rede (?) that the complaint by Nicholas Oldman 'is untrue' and is brought 'by malice', 'without just cause', that the Oldman family has raised this issue over the past 60 years without success in common law and that his expenses should be refunded.

He claims that Robert Chowne, his grandfather who died 40 years earlier (ca. 1510), held the property and this should have come to the son of Ralph Chowne (in turn the son of Robert Chowne) who in spite of being under 21 years old requests that the case is dismissed and his reasonable costs are paid.

Other cases of Litigation at TNA referring to the Old(e)mans but (without a transcript being obtained to check if an address is included) are:

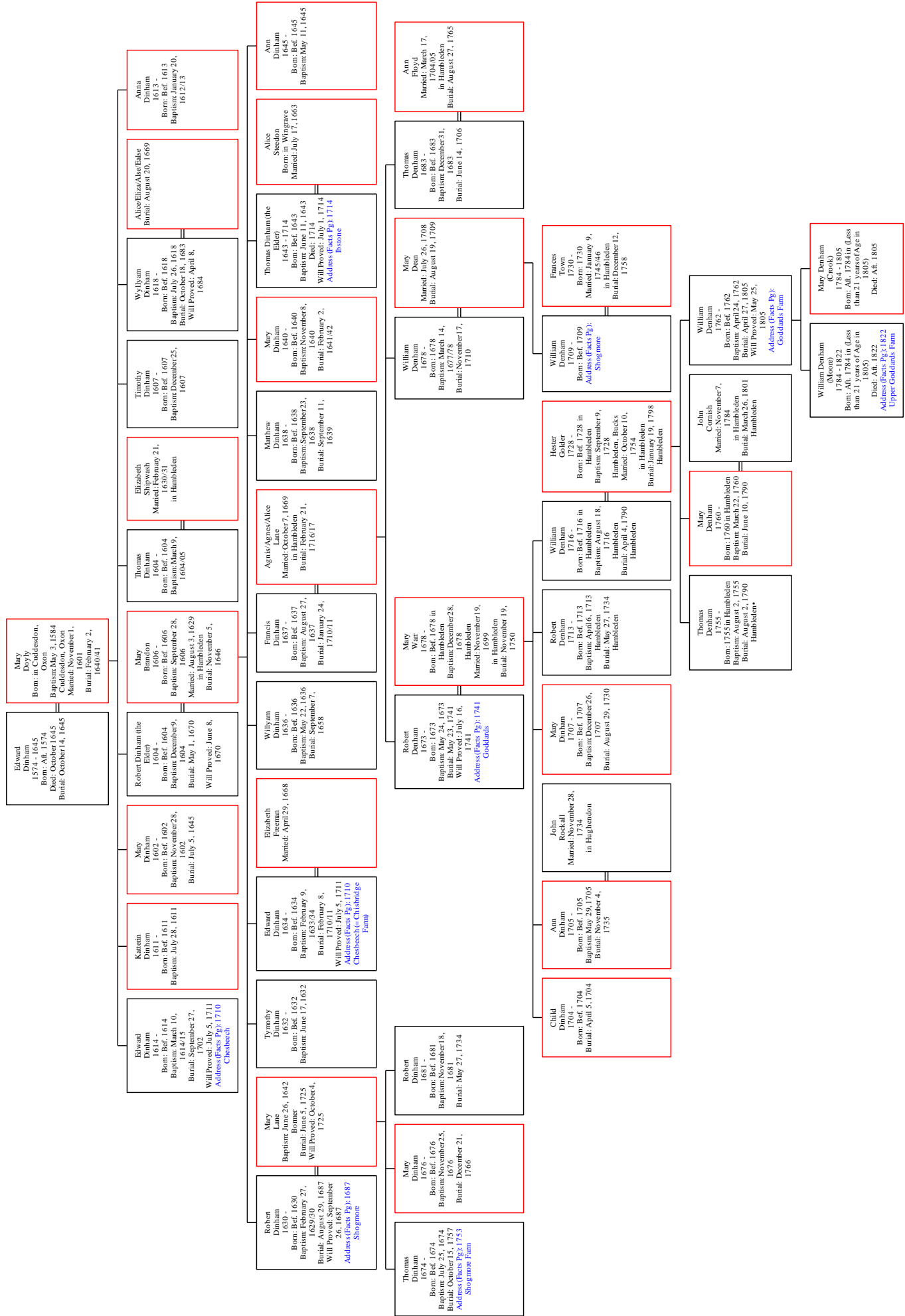
- 1515 – 1518: Oldman v. Rycheman
- 1515 – 1518: Rychemond v. Chowne
- 1515 – 1518: Sely v. Rychemond. Thomas Old(e)man and Anne his wife with Nicholas Rychmonde and Elizabeth his wife claim retention of deeds for a property in Henley by John Sely.
- 1524:1538 – 1544: Oldman vs. Fowle
- Dormer and Oldman v. Nicholas Richemonde
- 1544 – 1547 Rychemond , Oldman
- 1544 – 1551: Oldeman v. Chowne. Thomas and Anne Oldeman with Thomas Rychmonde charged Robert Chowne son of Henry Chowne over rent of a windmill in Hambleden. The details in the summary reveal that this was owned by the late John Wagge and Elizabeth his wife and parent of Anne Oldeman
- 1558 – 1603: Oldman v. Caslon. James Oldeman and his wife sue Isabell Caslon over a 'personal matter'.

Nicholas Old(e)man and his parents have not been traced. However the parish registers of Lavendon Bucks show Drew Oldman and his family in the period 1596 – 1633. One of the sons is Nicholas (bapt. 1622, bur. 1632) and that name might be derived from his grandfather as was the custom. If this is the same family it implies that the case for repossession of Goddards failed!

We have found the Will of Ralph Chowne of Ibstone dated 1619 and who died in 1626. He requested burial at Hambleden but there is no mention of Goddards. See

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=or%2f493%2f528%2f3482%2f0004>.

The will of Henry Chowne (dated 11 Jan 1626, probate 1627) of Hambleden has been checked but again there is no mention of Goddards.



**App. 3. Transcript of Will of John East of Hambleden, made 1712, proved 1717
(transcribed by Sally Mason, Bucks Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies)²⁸**

In the name of God Amen the second day of February in the eleventh yeare of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lady Anne by the grace of God of Great Britaine France and Ireland Quene defender of the Faith etc Anno Dom. 1712

I John East of Goddards Farme in the parish of Hambleden in the County of Bucks yeoman aged weake and infirme of body but of sound and perfect minde memory and understanding thanks be given to Almighty God for the same and calling to minde the mortality of my body and not knowing how soone my change may bee and being willing to settle things in Order Doe therefore make and declare this my Last Will and Testament in manner and forme followeing

And first and principally I bequeath my soule unto the handes of God my Creator And my body I commit to the Earth to be buryed in decent and Christian buryall att the discretion of my Executrix herein after named And as touching my temporall estate such as God in mercy hath bestowed upon me in this world I doe hereby order give bequeath and dispose thereof in manner and forme following

And First I will that all just debts which I owe to any person or persons be well and truly paid within convenient time after my decease by my Executrix herein after named

Item I give and bequeath to my sone John East the sume of five pounds of good and lawfull British money to be paid to him within three months next after my decease and my great old Bible

Item I give and bequeath to my sone Richard East five shillings

Item I give and bequeath to my sone Thomas East my Lease of Goddards Farme and all right title interest and terme of yeares therein and also my furnace standing in my now dwelling house

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Toovey five shillings

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary East my bed and bedding and all furniture to it now standing in the parlour two paire of sheets and my Old Testament

Item I give and bequeath to all my grandchildren twenty shillings a peice to be paid to them or to their fathers in trust for them within one yeare next after my decease

Item all the rest and residue of my goods chattells bills bonds mortgages and my moiety or halfe of the stock upon Goddards Farm credits and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever not before bequeathed I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary East and doe hereby make and ordaine her sole Executrix of this my Last Will and Testament paying my debts and legacies and discharging my funerall expenses

Provided alwayes and upon condition that if my said daughter Mary doe and shall within one month next after my decease and before the probate of this my Will at her owne charges enter into bond to my two well beloved friends my sone Richard East and my neighbour William Walker the elder of the parish of Hambleden aforesaid yeoman in the penalty of two hundred pounds conditioned that she shall and will at the time of her death (in case she dye a single woman and unmarried) leave and dispose of all my goods chattells and personal estate then in her hands and power unto and amongst my four other children her brothers and sister (namely) John, Richard, Thomas and Elizabeth equally amongst them or amongst as many of them as shall be then living and that she shall not dispose of the same to any other person or persons whatsoever save for her owne use livelyhood and maintenance only

And in case she shall refuse or neglect to give such bond as aforesaid Then I give to her the said Mary the sume of fifty pounds and the bed and bedding to her before bequeathed And all the rest and residue of my goods chattells money and personal estate (after her legacie of fifty pounds paid and my funeral expenses discharged and my debts and other legacies before mencioned discharged and paid [in the original will this is the end of the first sheet and has the mark of John East] and my Executors herein after named satisfied and paid all such moneys charges and expenses as they shall expend or be put unto in the execution of this my Will or in respect of the same) I give and bequeath to my said four children (namely) John, Richard, Thomas and Elizabeth equally betweene them or to as many of them as shall be then liveing

And in such case I doe hereby make and ordain my two loveing friends my said sone Richard East and my said neighbour William Walker sole Executors of this my Last Will and Testament in Trust to pay my Executrix first above named my funerall expenses and her legacie of fifty pounds and all other charges which she shall expend or be put unto for or in respect of the same and all my debts and other Legacies afore mentioned

And Lastley I doe hereby revoke and make void all former and other Wills and Testaments by me made or declared and doe hereby declare this to be my Last Will and Testament in manner and forme afore written

In witnesse whereof I the said John East the Testator to this my Last Will and Testament conteyned in two sheets of paper have set my hand at the bottom of the first sheet and my hand and seale to the last sheet the day and year first above written

John East, his mark [capital E] with small red wax seal [device impossible to distinguish]

Signed sealed published and declared by the above named John East the Testator to be his Last Will and Testament in the presence of

Edward Butler [signature]

Richard Greene his mark [capital R]

John Davis [signature]

Note of probate in Latin, not transcribed in full:

Will proved 3 December 1717, in the Court of the Archdeacon of Buckingham, by the Executrix Mary East

[References: D-A/We/55/212, D-A/Wf/69/85]

My Commentary: John East (1665 – 1717) was baptised in Hambleden on 30 Dec. 1665 and was buried in Hambleden on 7 Oct. 1717. His parents were John East and Elizabeth who lived at Goddards Farm (=LGF) in 1712. The son Thomas (bapt. 1671) inherited the lease of Goddards and marr. Mary and they had a son Richard East (b. 1722, bapt. 27 Dec. 1726, bur. 1795). He appears to be the Richard East who married Elizabeth White in 1763 and who was buried at Turville in 1795 with the memorial plaque referring to Goddards, believed to be LGF. Clearly the property had stayed within the family for 3 generations.

The reference to his friend and joint Executor William Walker the Elder as ‘my neighbour’ is interesting. There is a will written by William Walker the Elder dated 20 Jul 1721 and proved in PCC on 20 May 1726 in which he describes himself as Yeoman in the parish of Hambleden. The will requests burial in his father’s grave in Hambleden (believed to be Gulielmi= William Walter with probate in 2 Aug. 1659) and makes bequests to his son William Walker and his daughter Ann Walker but his wife and home are not revealed. A William Walker of Hambleden voted in the 1722 general election.

This is probably William Walker and Mary of Hambleden with children Ann (bapt. 29 Sep. 1680), William (bapt. 19 Dec. 1685) John (bapt. 14 Jul, 1688) and Elizabeth. The Denhams were at UGF so the next nearest neighbour would have been at Shogmoor.

App. 4. Where was the Malthouse & Bakehouse in Skirmett?

As noted in the text above (p. 13) a Mrs. Denham advertised in 1793 the auction in Skirmett of a Freehold Estate with a Dwelling House and a Malthouse and Bakehouse and approx. 15 acres plus woodland. I believe that this is not relevant to UGF and the supporting evidence is as follows:

1. William Denham (1709 - 1763) was shown as a malster at his burial in Hambleden in 1763 and his will shows that he was living in Skirmett at that time, but without further details. He wills his farm equipment to his son William D. (1736 -1792) and his grain etc. and household goods to his daughter Rebecca. His wife had died earlier that year. There is no mention of a Malthouse and its equipment.

As shown in the section of the Denham family tree below, he was the 3rd son of Thomas Dinham (1674 – 1757) who owned Shogmore House. On the death of Thomas Denham this property passed to the eldest son, Thomas Denham (1700 – 1771). This is a different branch of the Denham’s who owned UGF.

2. The will of the son William Denham (1736 – 1792) written in 1777 and proven in 1793 refers to living in Fingest and his wife Jenny but there is no mention of a Malthouse being gifted. The residuary estate passes to his wife. Note that a Trustee of the Will is a Zachariah White.
3. The advert by Mrs. Denham of Fingest on July 1793 selling an Estate in Skirmett with Malthouse and Bakehouse immediately follows the proving in April 1793 of the Will for William Denham (1736 - 1792) by his executor and wife Jenny Denham of Fingest.
4. The will of John East (1640 – 1717) dated 1712 refers to the lease of Goddards (which I have shown separately must be LGF) being passed to his son Thomas East (1671 – Aft. 1712). A furnace (= kiln) is specified at the property, implying that the site includes a Malthouse and potentially a bakery. Indeed Richard East (1669 – 1718) the son of John East was described as a Malster on his burial record²⁹.
5. The son of Thomas East is Richard East (1722 – 1795) who married Elizabeth White in 1763. Richard East and later his widow Elizabeth were in occupation at LGF at the date of her will in 1799 and no doubt

until her death on 1803. Note that the 1798 Land Tax records show that a Mr. Toovey owned the property.

6. The 1798 Land Tax records for Hambleden refer to a Mrs. White owning a House and Malthouse. It seems reasonable to assume that she and/or her family was the buyer at the 1793 sale by the Denhams.
7. In 1801 Zachary White (1773 – 1839) was described as a Malster when he married Letitia Deane at Hambleden in 1801. He was the son of Zachary/Zachariah White (1744 – 1780) who married Ann Deane (1743 – 1810) in 1764. Ann White as a widow in 1798 and she must be the owner of the House and Malthouse listed in the 1798 Land Tax records.
8. The will of Zachariah White (1744 – 1780) was dated 1779 and gives his home as Poynatts. It refers to *'his stock in the Business of Malting'* as well as his farming equipment and related stocks of grain, etc. The 6 children receive cash payments. One of the Trustees is *'my good friend Richard East of Goddards'*. Another Trustee is Francis Dean (1727 – 1809), brother of Ann Dean. Note that the mother of Francis and Ann Dean was Mary Denham (1704 – 1773) who married Daniel Dean (1693 – 1773) of Colstrop in 1726.
9. Zachary White was a witness at the wedding in 1763 of Richard East to Elizabeth White. He must be her brother Zachary White (1744 – 1780)²⁹
10. The 1805 auction at UGF included brewing equipment but not malting equipment. This may have related to a farm brewery or cider making operation but a cider press is not mentioned.

I understand that until the early 1800's a farm malthouse supplying local inns and breweries was quite common. On the Hambleden Valley area the Parish Registers show malsters in the local villages at around that time. For example, the Marriage Registers show Abraham Dean as a malster when he married in Turville in 1765, Richard Brown as a malster in Ibstone in 1741, Robert Butler as a malster in Fawley in 1740, and a little further away William Heather at Watlington in 1801. John Mole from Hambleden was a malster at the baptism of his daughter in 1755.

By the 1840's malting was carried out at the mill at Mill End. No doubt this had replaced the various local on farm operations assisted by the much increased rates of Malt Tax around 1800. After the demise of farm malthouses the cistern and kiln would be removed and the building used for storage of grain, animals, etc. and its previous use lost.

Malting was carried out in the winter season to use surplus farm labour and at a cooler time of the year to assist the germination process. The barley would have been soaked in a tank (the cistern) on the ground floor, and after germination spread on to the upper growing floor. After a few days the malted grain would be placed above a 'furnace' built adjacent to the cistern to develop colour and flavour and for drying. The malt is then sieved and stored until use.

In conclusion we know that

- In 1712 a furnace or kiln existed at LGF
- William Denham (1709 – 1763) of Skirmett was a malster at the time of his death.
- The burial record of Richard East (1669 - 1718) describes him as a Malster²⁹ and his father lived at LGF.
- A Farm malthouse and bakehouse existed on a small estate in or near Skirmett from at least the mid-1700's until 1793. At that time it was associated William Denham (1736 – 1792) and in turn his widow Jenny Denham until its sale in 1793.
- A House and Malthouse was owned in 1798 by Mrs. White, believed to be Ann White (1743 – 1810) at Poynatts. Her son Zachary White (1773 – 1839) was described as a Malster in 1801 and his father at least traded malt.
- The House and Malthouse cannot refer to UGF and/or Elm Down Farm as the various wills in the line from Francis Denham show ownership by his branch of the Denhams, in particular by William Denham (1762 – 1805) and later by his illegitimate son William Denham/Moore until 1823.
- UGF did not have a malthouse but had a small farm brewery for beer and perhaps cider, presumably in the Barn.

It is clear that Zachary White Sen at Poynatts was trading malt up to 1779 with his son continuing as a malster until at least 1801. Production might have been elsewhere. We know that there was a kiln on-site at LGF in 1712 and that there were close links between the East's and the White's. Separately we know that William Denham

(1709 – 1763) was described as a malster in Skirmett in 1763 and his part of the Denham family was connected with Shogmoor.

The Skirmett malthouse deserves to be the subject of a separate study. Clearly the local families of Dean's, Denham's, East's, White's, Hussey's and Toovey's were much interconnected at these times.

Descendants of Robert Dynham/Dinham/Denham (as relevant to Shogmoor)

