

Gibbshaven Farm

Gibbshaven Farm is situated between Crawley Down Road and Furnace Wood in Felbridge, and is sited on what was once part of the manor of Hedgecourt. Historically there were close links between Gibbshaven Farm and a property known as Little Gibbshaven that abutted Gibbshaven to the south, and although the two properties are closely connected, this document will concentrate primarily on Gibbshaven making reference only to Little Gibbshaven when considered appropriate to the development of Gibbshaven Farm.

Gibbshaven – origin of the name

The first derivation of the name appears as Gybbes afen in 1530 with the presentment of the death of John at Fenne who held 'lands called Gybbes afen and Culyncroft' recorded in the Court Roll for the manor of Hedgecourt. The early entries of Court Books for the manor of Hedgecourt refer to the property as Gybbes afen, however by 1597 it is recorded as Gibbs at ffenne and by 1647, Gibbs at Fenne. Outside of the court, the property was referred to by slightly different spellings and in 1582, it appeared as both Gybbesafen and Gybbesaven in the will of John Bysshe, gentleman, who died seized of the property in 1582.

Judith Glover writing in *The Place Names of Sussex*, believed the name to have originally been a reference to some kind of '*haven or shelter*' for a person named Gybbe. Indeed, the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1524 records John Gybbe in the Hundred of Lyndefeld Arch, formerly the Hundred of Buttyngehulle, the hundred in which Gibbshaven was at that time situated.

However, referring to the Court Book entries, an implication could be that the name was originally a reference to a person named Gybbe who held or resided at an area known as '*ffenne or Fenne*', equating to '*fen*' in modern English, and in Old English, '*fenn*', used to describe '*low, flat, swampy land, a bog or a marsh*'. If the origin of the name Gibbshaven is this second option, with '*a fen*' an abbreviation for '*at fen*', this could also be written as '*a ven*' or '*Aven*' because the letters 'f' & 'v' were interchangeable.

Turning to the Court Books for the manor of Hedgecourt, a pre-cession of owners for Gibbshaven appears in 1609, which lists 'Roger at ffen, before Simon at ffield'. It has already been established that in 1530 John at Fenne held Gibbshaven, and in 1535 Roger Aven, yeoman, granted land in Worth, south of Gibbshaven, to John Gage, knight, lord of the manor of Hedgecourt. Using the same principle as above, '*Aven*' would be a derivation of '*at fen*', and a family of 'atte Fenne' [later Fenner/Venner] can be traced back to Hugh atte Fenne, which according to the index to pedigrees and arms contained in the Herald's Visitations of 1530, confirms that there was a Gilbert atte Fenne of Worth, living in 1367. Gilbert was the son of John atte Fenne who appears in the Lay Subsidy Roll for the village of Burle (Burleigh Arches) in the hundred of Buttyngehulle in 1332.

Historically, the name Gybbe/Gibb was used as a pet-name for Gilbert so it is possible that the name of Gibbshaven derives from ownership by Gilbert atte Fenne. As for Simon at ffield, the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1332 also records a Symone atte Felde, in the Hundred of Buttyngehulle, and there are several references dating to between 1332 and 1376 of Symon atte Felde acting as witness to documents in the 'villat of Cok' [Cuckfield area], but no other information has yet emerged to confirm whether he was connected with the property.

The most likely origin of the name Gibbshaven, based on the documentary evidence available as discussed above, would suggest that the name derives from ownership by Gilbert atte Fenne, but in all probability the absolute origin will never be known. However, charting the more recent derivations of the name, the property appears as Gives Aven in 1649, Givssiven in 1748, Gibs A Ven in 1760 and Gibbs Aven in 1780. It is not until 1795 that the current spelling, Gibbshaven, appears, and it is not until 1851 that 'Farm' was added to the end.

Gibbshaven area in 14th and 15th Centuries

The Court Books of the manor of Hedgecourt record that the site of the current Gibbshaven was held as freehold of the manor of Hedgecourt, and that it was originally connected with a freehold property that was located to the south of Gibbshaven that became known as Little Gibbshaven. Later court entries connect the two properties with the Fenner family, an anglicised form of 'atte Fenne' as discussed earlier.

Fenner Family

The Fenner family of Sussex, according to the index to pedigrees contained in the Herald's Visitations, descend from Hugh at Fenne, no other details given. The next in descent, but not connected is John at Fenne, again no details, but he is followed by Gilbert atte fenne of Worth who was recorded as living in 1367. Gilbert at Fenne must have been a man of some wealth and importance as in 1366 he was commissioned by King Edward III, along with Richard Aske, to arrest Thomas Newebigging, for 'contempts and rebellions against the King in parts beyond the sea' and 'who now refuses to stand trial and has withdrawn and lurks in diverse parts'.

The earliest mention of an 'at Fenne' so far found in Sussex records dates to 1317, in a fine between Ralf Atte Fenn and Julian daughter of Robert de Therle [possibly Ralf's wife], and James son of William Atte Fenne for 'a messuage and 3 acres of land in La Niwebrugge'. Other early references to the family appear in 1332 with John atte Fenne appearing in the Lay Subsidy Roll in the villat of Burle [Burleigh] in the hundred of Bunttyngehulle, the hundred in which Gibbshaven was located. The Lay Subsidy Roll records that John atte Fenne was paying 2/- rent, a similar value to that for Gibbshaven at 2s 6d in later records. Descending from Gilbert atte fenne of Worth is his son Gilbert, either of which could have given their name to the property known as Gibbshaven.

In 1400, John ate Fenne acquired 'a messuage and six acres in Worth', from William Mortymer and Agnes his wife. John is probably John at Fenne of Worth, great grandson of Gilbert at Fenne of Worth, who appears on the Herald's Visitations Fenner tree. Later entries found in the freeholder's Court Books of the manor of Hedgecourt for 'a messuage and six acres' can be attributed to Little Gibbshaven, it is therefore reasonable to believe that this is an early reference to the property that became known as Little Gibbshaven. This John had a son Thomas who was titled 'of Crawley' and married Agnes Blast, the daughter and heir of William Blast of Ifield in Crawley. William Blast was the son of Thomas Blast who had purchased property from William Dencombe the iron-maker in 1367. Thomas and Agnes at Fenne had a son Thomas and it is from this son that the name of 'at Fenne' is replaced by the name of 'Fenner'. This line also takes the arms of the Fenner family and continued the family's connections with the iron industry of the area.

The line of the Fenner family that remained in Worth and held Gibbshaven descend from John at Fenne, who was probably the son of John at Fenne of Worth and brother of Thomas at Fenne of Crawley. John acquired the 'messuage and six acres' from his father John at Fenne of Worth, which passed to John's son Roger att fenne in 1530. In 1530, Roger att fenne is recorded as also holding the freehold property on the site of Little Gibbshaven, then known as Honyscroft, alias Culyncroft. Culyncroft suggests that it may be a derivation of Coulyngle as discussed above in the derivation of Cuttinglye, dating to before 1365 and pre-dating the name of Honey.

It is possible that the use of 'Little' implied 'Old', in the context of pre-dating Gibbshaven rather than 'Small' in the context of the size of the two properties. Unfortunately Little Gibbshaven burnt down in 1908, however a local newspaper article described how it could not be saved as the fire had taken hold of the large beams, implying that it was of timber frame construction although it was described in the sale catalogue of 1895 as an 'old-fashioned brick-and-tiled Farmhouse' with a 'copper and small baker's oven'. Gibbshaven was described identically in the same catalogue although it is now known that the façade was hiding a much older structure.

In 1530, the Court Book for the manor of Hedgecourt records that apart from holding Honeyscroft alias Culyncroft, John at Fenne had been holding the freehold property of Gybbes afen and as such was the most likely person responsible for extending the house at Gibbshaven.

Gibbshaven in the 16th and 17th Centuries

In January 1535, Roger Aven (atte Fenne) granted the croft of land called Honneys, as well as a croft of land called Warnetts (located to the east of Honneys), to John Gage, lord of the manor of Hedgecourt. Four years later in 1539, the Court Roll records the alienation of Honey's alias Cuhling Croft, late of Roger att fenn, to John Payne, gentleman. Unfortunately there are several John Payne's in the area (including the Lord of the manor of South Malling- Lindfield) and it has not yet been possible to determine which one acquired the property.

In November 1542, John Payne holding Gybbes at fenne, sold six acres being part of Gybbes at fenne to John Jewell de Lymfield. These six acres probably refer to the property formerly known as Honey's alias Cuhling Croft (later known as Little Gibbshaven). Twenty years later in 1562, the Court Book for the manor of Hedgecourt records John Bysshe paying rent for Gibbs Att ffen, containing twenty acres at that date, but unfortunately it has not yet been possible to determine when John Bysshe succeeded John Payne at Gibbs Att ffen.

John Bysshe

John Bysshe was born some time between 1520 and 1525 the son of Robert Bishe of Worth who married the daughter of Mr Bostock. John Bysshe married Catherine (Mary) Glymin, the daughter of Thomas Glymin of Burstow, who was born some time between 1525 and 1530. John and Catherine had at least four children, John born in 1554, and Matthew, William, and Anna, no birth dates known.

It is known that by 1562 John Bysshe had acquired Gibbs Att ffen but it has not yet been possible to determine the exact date. However, in 1561, John Bysshe was acquiring land from Elianor Fenner, the widow of John Fenner (descended from Thomas Fenner of Crawley), and so it may be that Gibbs Att ffen was acquired around this date. John Bysshe held Gibbs Att fenn until 1582 as his will records that he had settled the property on his son Matthew on the condition that he allowed his father John to 'enjoy the premises' during his life and that Matthew and his heirs should not alienate any part of the premises without license in writing from his father John or brother John or his mother Catherine or the heirs of John's father after the death of his father John. John Bysshe died on 26th June 1582 so Matthew must have acquired Gibbs Att fenn before June 1582.

At the time of the death of John Bysshe, Gibbs Att fenn was in the tenure of Andrew Stone and was described as 'a tenement and certain parcels of land, meadow, pasture and wood adjoining in Woorth containing by estimation 26 acres called Gybbesaven' 'held of John Gage esquire as of his manor of Hedgecourt by fealty and rent of 18d and is worth 20s'. It is not known how long Matthew Bysshe held Gybbesaven but by 1597 the Court Book for the manor of Hedgecourt record Thomas Thorpe paying the 2s 6d rent on Gybbesaven worth 20/-.

Thorpe/Saxby family

The Thorpe family arrived in the Hedgecourt area around 1527 when John Thorpe of Cudworth leased the manor of Hedgecourt from the Gage family, and together with John French and John Fawkner established the blast furnace later known as Warren furnace in Myll Wood (Furnace Wood). John Thorpe had married Alice Bowett and they had at least seven children, John born about 1560, Richard born in 1562, Maria born in 1564, Thomas born about 1567, Nicholas born in 1574, Gyles born in 1577 and Frances, date of birth not known. It was John's son Thomas who acquired Gybbesaven from Matthew Bysshe some time before 1597 and it is through this line of descent that Gybbshaven remained part of the Thorpe family until 1672.

Thomas Thorpe married Elizabeth Hamden, the daughter of Jasper Hamden of Eaton Bridge [Edenbridge] sometime around 1590 and they had at least five children, John born in 1593, Richard born in 1595, William born in 1598 and George and Alice whose dates of birth are unknown. In 1593 Thomas Thorpe was recorded

as a yeoman of Horne and by 1597 appears as holding Gibbs at Fenn in the Court Books for the manor of Hedgecourt. In 1603 he was recorded as living at Gibbs at Fenn, but on his death in 1608 he was recorded as Thomas Thorpe, gentleman of Hedgecourt, Gibbs at Fenn and an interest in the manor of Hedgecourt passed to his son Richard.

In 1605, Richard Thorpe is recorded as 'gentleman of Gibbs at Fenne' implying that he had taken up residency at the property. He married, although the name of his wife has not yet been established, and they had at least three children, George born in 1618, Richard born about 1622 and Elizabeth, date of birth not known. On the death of Richard Thorpe in 1647, Gibbs at Fenne passed to his son Richard. However, from a grant made in 1649, it would appear that Richard Thorpe junior did not reside at the property as the grant, for an annuity of £21 per annum to be paid to his sister Elizabeth Thorpe of Lingfield, was to come 'out of a messuage called Wooton in Fowkington, Sussex, and 200 acres of land belonging, in occupation of John Staples, and 40 acres of meadow and pasture called Avery Land in Worth in occupation of Thomas Ridley and 20 acres called the Venn lands in Worth in occupation of Mercy Martyn, widow. The said rent to be paid at the dwelling house of William Saxby called Newplace in Lingfield'.

The details of the grant are quite interesting with regards to Gibbs at Fenne, as it shows that Avery Land (later Avy Land) and Gibbs at Fenne were still held by the same owner but were occupied by two separate people at this date, and that Gibbs at Fenne contained twenty acres and was occupied by Mercy Martyn. Unfortunately it has not been possible to determine who Mercy Martyn was. However, by 1664 Richard Thorpe appears as gentleman of Gibbshaven, Worth, implying that he was residing at the property by this date.

Richard Thorpe not only owned and occupied Gibbshaven, he and his brother George also owned several properties in the area including the 'Forgeman's House', 'Woodcock pond' and 'Furnace lands' in the Wiremill area, and East Grinstead, although in 1651 they had lost their interest in the manor of Hedgecourt through seizure by the Sheriff for debts of £50 with £3 costs.

On 19th September 1672 Richard Thorpe of Gibbshaven and his brother George (both gentlemen) sold Gibbshaven to William Saxby of Lingfield, gentleman. The indenture described the property as, 'all that messuage, tenement and farm with the barns, stables, outhouses, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, and trees, seedlings, [illegible], tenements and hereditaments there unto belonging commonly called or known by the Gibbs Aven containing by estimation 100 acres now or late in the tenure or occupation of Richard Thorpe his assignee or assigns.' The one hundred acres mentioned here was probably made up from the site of Gibbshaven being about twenty acres, Little Gibbshaven being about eight acres, Avery Land being about twenty-three acres and Avery Land Wood being about twenty four acres, leaving approximately twenty-five acres as yet unidentified. William Saxby was no doubt the same 'William Saxby of Newplace in Lingfield' who was to receive the annuity payment for Richard and George's sister Elizabeth Thorpe in 1649.

William Saxby was born about 1600 and in about 1624 married Ann Thorpe, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Thorpe of Lingfield, (later Cudworth and Hurstpierpoint), brother of Thomas Thorpe who acquired Gibbshaven some time before 1597. Before her marriage in 1624, Ann Thorpe had been working as a 'servant' for Mercy Turner née Thorpe, her great aunt, at Newplace in Lingfield.

William Saxby was probably related to the John Saxby that appears in the Court Books of the manor of Hedgecourt from 1670, although no relationship has yet been conclusively established. In 1641, William held seventy acres and two crofts of land in the manor of Hedgecourt, acquired three quarters of the manor of Starborough Castle in Lingfield from Lord Thomas Richardson some time around 1642, acquired Gibbshaven in 1672, and the final quarter of the manor of Starborough Castle in 1675.

On the death of William Saxby, his nephew William Saxby inherited his lands including Gibbshaven and these continued to be held by William until his death in 1735.

Gibbshaven in the 18th Century

As previously determined, at the beginning of the 18th century, Gibbshaven was held by William Saxby, nephew of William Saxby. However in 1703 the Court Book for the manor of Hedgecourt recorded that it was 'foredue a heriot worth 3/- and rent of 2s 6d' on the reported death of William Saxby. From the Court Book records, no courts were held for the freehold properties of the manor of Hedgecourt between 1670 and 1703 making 1703 the first opportunity to report the death of the William Saxby. There is then another gap between 1703 and 1719 so it was not until 1719 that the court received payment of the heriot due on the death of William Saxby by his nephew, William Saxby, gentleman, who was recognised as his successor being admitted to Gibbs at Fen, described as a 'messuage and garden with land adjoining containing by estimation [blank] acres'.

It is not known for how long William Saxby held Gibbshaven as there is also a gap in surviving court records between 1719 and 1760. However, William Saxby, the nephew, died in 1735 and was succeeded by his son, William, who died about 1744. Therefore it is possible that the deaths of either William could have prompted the sale of Gibbshaven. What is known is that in 1747 William Gage, the lord of the manor of Hedgecourt died and the trustees sold the Gage family's interest in the area to Edward Evelyn, incorporating it as part of his already established estate at Felbridge. As such the emphasis switched from Hedgecourt to Felbridge, although Edward Evelyn still retained the title of lord of the manor of Hedgecourt.

In 1748, Edward Evelyn commissioned the Bourd map, a survey of his estate at Felbridge that describes the area of Gibbshaven and Little Gibbshaven as 'Mr Green's land', suggesting by 1748 'Mr Green' had acquired the freehold of both Gibbshaven and Little Gibbshaven from one or other William Saxby. This is confirmed in the records of the first court of the Evelyn family held by James Evelyn, son of Edward Evelyn, in 1760. The first entry is for the presentment of the death of Francis Green who held the 'messuage or tenement and certain lands called Gibbs at Fen containing by estimation twenty acres', 'late the lands of William Saxby and before Thorpe'. This was followed by the presentment of his son, Edward Green, to whom he had left Gibbshaven by his 'last will and testament'.

Green/Cranston Family

Francis Green was probably born in the last quarter of the 17th century, although it has not been possible to ascertain exactly when, or who his parents were. On 17th February 1707, Francis Green married Ann Head at Hartfield in Sussex. Ann was born in 1685, the daughter of Edward Head, a mercer of East Grinstead, and Susanne his wife. Francis and Ann had at least six children, Thomas born in 1709, Anne born in 1710, Mary born in 1712, Thomas born in 1714 (implying that their first son had died by this date), Jane born in 1716 and Edward born in 1719, all christened in East Grinstead. Sadly, Francis' wife Ann died young, and on 19th September 1721, he married Catherine Pickering at Withyham. Catherine was born in 1691, the daughter of Edward and Barbara Pickering of Cuckfield, Sussex. Francis and Catherine had two children, John born in 1724 and a daughter Catherine whose date of birth has not yet been established.

Francis Green amassed a considerable land holding in Surrey, Sussex and Kent during his life, including Mascatts Estate in Marefield from Francis Godman after the death of his father Edward Godman in 1707. The Mascatts Estate was inherited by Francis Green's son Edward who bequeathed it to his daughter Catherine, the wife of John Cranston in 1786. The lordship then descended in the Cranston family. Other local holdings include Estcots Farm and Frampost. Estcots is situated near East Court and Frampost is situated between Dunning's Mill and Saint Hill, both in East Grinstead. In 1721 he also acquired Worsted Farm in East Grinstead and thirty acres of land in Keymer in Sussex from Edward Head, father of his wife Ann. Francis Green later sold Worsted Farm to William Cranston, gentleman of London, on 16th June 1748.

William Cranston was born in 1706 in Hastings, the son of Rev. James and Mrs Cordelia Cranston. James was the Rector of St Clements and All Saints church and Cordelia, was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Delves, Rector of Bexhill. William was the last of seven children born to James and Cordelia, the other six children being, James born in 1691, Cordelia born in 1694, Mary born in 1696, Thomas born in 1697 although he must have died as an infant as a second Thomas was christened on 3rd February 1701, and Elizabeth born in 1699. As a

point of interest, William's sister Mary Cranston was the second wife of John Collier of Hastings who was related to Frances Gatty of Felbridge Place, and William Cranston was the London partner of the solicitor's business that John Collier directed.

William Cranston married Mary Swaysland in 1730 and they had Henry born on 31st December 1730, James born in 1732, who went on to become a captain in the Royal Navy and married Catherine Green the daughter of Edward Green, Thomas born in 1734 and John born in 1736, who followed in his father's footsteps and became a solicitor, all the children christened in London. William's wife Mary died young and he married Anne White on 16th June 1747 at Lincolns Inn Chapel, Holborn, in London.

On the death of Francis Green in 1754, part of his holdings in Surrey, Sussex and Kent, including Gibbshaven and Harts Hall in Felbridge passed to his widow Catherine Green for the remainder of her natural life. On 8th November 1759 Francis Green's daughter Catherine married John Cranston, the second son of William Cranston. At first the couple lived in London where John was working as a solicitor, but in 1763 they moved to 39, High Street, East Grinstead, before moving to Frampost on the death of Catherine's mother. John and Catherine Cranston had two children, Edward born on 11th January 1761 in Holborn and Catherine born in East Grinstead and christened on 3rd November 1764.

Catherine's mother Catherine Green died in 1763, although her will was not proved until 3rd February 1768, in which Gibbshaven, along with much land in Surrey, Sussex and Kent passed to John Cranston as husband of Catherine, only daughter and sole heir of Francis and Catherine Green, as her only surviving brother, Edward, had also died in 1763. In 1768, whilst living at Frampost, John Cranston embarked upon the construction of large family home called East Court in East Grinstead, as he had inherited both Worsted Farm from his father William Cranston and Escots Farm through Catherine's inheritance. Unfortunately John did not enjoy his new home for long as he died in his early forties in 1781 and was succeeded by his son, Edward Cranston.

Edward, who had attended Westminster School and Pembroke College, Oxford, married Harriet Newland on 22nd April 1797. Harriet was born in 1775 in Racton, Sussex, the daughter of Charles and Ann Newland, being one of four children born to Charles and Ann, the other three being Charles William born in 1773, Mary Ann born in 1777 and Sarah born in 1785, although the large gap between Mary Ann and Sarah would suggest there could have been other children who were not recorded.

Edward and Harriet Cranston had five daughters, Harriet Catherine born in 1798, Mary born in 1802, Cordelia born about 1804, Emma in 1810 and Caroline in 1812. Mary married Charles Nairn Hastie on 29th October 1839, who was born in 1809, the son of Charles and Frances Hastie of Placelands in East Grinstead, and was a solicitor. Cordelia married Rev. Charles John Paterson, former curate of East Grinstead and vicar of West Hoathly, on 10th November 1836 and they had Cordelia Isabella born in September 1837 in East Grinstead. Cordelia Isabella married Rev G H Marriott. Sadly, due to failing health Rev. Paterson unfortunately died on 22nd January 1837 and never saw his daughter. On the death of Cordelia on 13th November 1847, Cordelia Isabella inherited her mother's portion of the Cranston estate.

On the death of Edward Cranston on 7th January 1841, the name of Cranston died out in the East Grinstead area and Edward's property was held in trust for his five daughters. Gibbshaven was to remain as part of this trust until 1895 when it was put up for auction by the trustees.

It is unlikely that during the ownership of Gibbshaven by the Green/Cranston family, the property was occupied by them, it would have been leased out, although the a tenant is not known until 1780 when the property was under the ownership of John Cranston. This tenant was Richard Taylor who was recorded as paying 2/- rent for the property in the Land Tax records between 1780 and 1807, except for 1802 when William Taylor paid it. Unfortunately, nothing conclusive is known about either Richard or William Taylor.

Gibbshaven in the 19th Century

During the 19th century, Gibbshaven continued to be leased by the Cranston family to a series of tenants and in 1808 Richard Taylor was succeeded by Thomas Stone. The Land Tax records that Thomas Stone paid the rent on Gibbshaven between 1808 and 1811, then John Stone between 1811 and 1816, and Thomas Stone between 1816 and 1827.

Stone family

Thomas Stone was born in 1750 in Worth, the son of Thomas and Mary Stone, other siblings were Mary born in 1749 and Ann born in 1759. Thomas married Ann Lock on 14th February 1775, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Lock, one of seven children. Ann's siblings include, Sarah born in 1743, although she may have died as an infant as a second Sarah was christened on 3rd March 1744, John born in 1746, Elizabeth born in 1748, Rachel born in 1751 and Thomas born in 1758. Thomas and Ann Stone had five children, John born in July 1775, Sarah born in 1777, Elizabeth born in 1783, Mildred born in 1789 and Thomas born in 1793.

It is probable that John Stone, paying the Land Tax between 1811 and 1816, was Thomas's son, reverting to Thomas in 1816. It also seems likely that John Lock, John Stones' grandfather, was the 'Mr Lock' who appears in 1803 as part of Messrs Lock & Co paying the Land Tax on Hedgecourt Mill, being succeeded a year later by his son-in-law Thomas Stone. Thomas continued paying the Land Tax for Hedgecourt mill until 1814 when his son John took over payment until 1832. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to link this Stone family with Andrew Stone who occupied Gibbshaven in 1579.

Edward Creasey

Edward Creasy took over the tenancy of Gibbshaven from Thomas Stone in 1827 and in 1839 the Worth Tithe records Edward Creasey at Gibbshaven and Henry Creasey at Little Gibbshaven, as yet no links can be made between Edward and Henry. At this date Little Gibbshaven and Gibbshaven were both still owned by Edward Cranston, the son of John and Catherine Cranston, but were leased separately.

Edward Creasey was born in 1788 in East Grinstead, the son of Edward and Mary Creasey, one of nine children. Edward senior was born in 1756, the son of George Creasey and his wife Mary née Card, and married Mary Collins on 7th April 1779 in East Grinstead, Mary being the daughter of Abraham and Mary Collins. Apart from Edward, Edward and Mary had, Ann born in 1779, John born in 1781, Mary born in 1783, Sarah born in 1786, Susan born in 1792, Catherine born in 1794, Elizabeth born in 1797 and Philley born in 1799, all christened in the parish of East Grinstead.

Edward Creasey of Gibbshaven married Amelia Stone on 25th September 1813 in Southwark. Amelia was born about 1788 in Horne, and may be related to the Stones who occupied Gibbshaven before Edward Creasey, although no definite links have yet been established as there are no baptisms recorded in the Horne Parish Registers between 1787 and 1789, other than a few that were later proffered on request. Edward and Amelia Creasey had six children, Thomas born in 1814, Edward born in 1817, Louisa Frances born in 1820, Emily born in 1821, James born in 1823 and Ann born in 1825. Their first child was christened in East Grinstead, and the last two were christened in Brighton, all the others were christened in Worth. However, there is a John Stone christened in 1811 in East Grinstead, the son of Amelia Stone, so it is possible that he is also connected to the family.

There is a possibility that Edward Creasey acquired Gibbshaven through a family connection between Amelia Stone and Thomas and John Stone who occupied the property until Edward took over in 1827, although this cannot be proved.

In 1839, during the time that Edward Creasey occupied Gibbshaven, the Worth Tithe was produced giving a detailed break down of the land held, and its usage, which recorded that Gibbshaven comprised of seventy-two acres, consisting of:

Field	Name	Use	Acreage
176 E	Wood	W	05. 01. 03
177	Acre and a Half	A	01. 02. 39

178	Three Acres	A	03. 02. 30
179	Four Acres	A	04. 03. 39
180	Three Acres of Wood	A	03. 03. 13
181	Six Acres	A	06. 01. 37
182	Two Acres at Garden	P	02. 00. 15
183	Long Meadow	M	04. 02. 01
184	Pond Field	A	06. 02. 18
185	Wheat Stubbles	A	04. 02. 02
187	House Plat	P	01. 00. 35
188	Homestead and Orchard		01. 01. 29
189	Kiln Plat	M	00. 01. 26
190	Barn Meadow	P	02. 02. 18
347	Heavy Land Field	P	03. 02. 27
358	Barn Field	P	04. 00. 02
375	Three Acres	P	03. 01. 16
376	Arable Field	A	06. 00. 06
388	Six Acres	A	06. 01. 38
Total			72. 03. 34

In addition to Gibbshaven, Edward Cranston was also recorded as owning and occupying Little Gibbshaven consisting of 8a 2r 8p and field no. 357E known as Heavy Land Wood (a derivation of Avy Land Wood) in 1839 consisting of 24a 2r 9p, situated to the south of Hophurst Farm and abutting Burleigh Farm.

An analysis of the whole of Gibbshaven in 1839, including the detached section, shows that the house, farm buildings and yard took up 1% of the farm. 61% of the land was used for arable, 24% was used for pasture, 7% was used as meadow land and 7% of the land was woodland. For a more direct comparison of the part of Gibbshaven that later equates to Gibbshaven Farm in the 20th century, the house, farm buildings and yard took up 2%. 65% of the land was used for arable, with 12% was used for pasture, 10% was used as meadow land and 10% of the land was woodland. The make up of the farm suggests that it was a mixed farm with both crops and livestock, although it is not known if it was cattle or sheep.

The large percentage of arable land suggests that the soil was either very fertile or had been well enriched over the years with fertiliser. It is known that the Gibbshaven had its own lime kiln that produced quick lime, a favoured fertiliser from at least the 18th century. The position of Gibbshaven's lime is identified by the field name 'Kiln Field', located on the bend of Hophurst Hill, now part of the garden of The Croft, formerly the milking parlour built at Gibbshaven Farm during the 1950's as well as being marked on the 1878 Ordnance Survey map.

Edward Creasey not only occupied Gibbshaven but also held land in his own right including Common Field, plot no. 186E, abutting Gibbshaven Farm to the north, as well as four acres with a cottage and garden, plot nos. 380M – 385M, which was occupied by William Charman in 1839.

In 1841, Edward Cranston died and, as already established, his estates including Gibbshaven and Little Gibbshaven were held in trust for his five daughters. By this date it would appear that Gibbshaven had been divided with Edward Creasey and his family residing in part of the property, along with Samuel Goring whose age was given as fifteen, and Samuel Goring and his wife Sarah living in the other part.

Samuel Goring

There are few details about the Goring family except that Samuel was born in 1787 in East Grinstead, the son of James Gorridge, [the name of Goring seems to be interchangeable with Gorridge and Goringe], and his wife Amy née Taylor. Samuel was one of seven children who also included, John born in 1775, Elizabeth born in 1778, Ann born in 1782, Hezekiah born in 1784, Phebe born in 1789 and Thomas born in 1792, all christened in the parish of East Grinstead. Samuel Goring married Sarah Maynard on 2nd February 1807 in Worth, who had been born about 1787. Unfortunately, no records have yet come to light about any children of Samuel and Sarah Goring although it is possible that Samuel Goring living next door with Edward Creasey was connected to them, and

that David living with them and aged seven in the 1841 census may be a son. However, it is known that by 1871 Samuel's nephew was occupying Gibbshaven and further details on his family follow later.

It is not known when Edward Creasey and Samuel Goring left Gibbshaven, but by 1851 Edward had moved to Copthorne where he was farming a property of eleven acres. It is also in 1851 that Gibbshaven was known for the first time as Gibbshaven Farm, being in the sole occupation of Henry Stanbridge and his wife Jane, along with two servants, James Deacon born in Godstone in 1837 working as a farm labourer, and Caroline Tibbles born in Lingfield in 1835 working as a house servant.

Henry Stanbridge

Henry Stanbridge occupied Gibbshaven Farm from sometime around 1851 until between 1859 and 1861. He was born on 27th January 1802 in Tatsfield in Surrey, one of seven children of Henry Stanbridge and his wife Jane née Boorer. Henry's siblings include, Jane born in 1793, Mary born in 1796, Sarah born in 1798, Catherine born in 1807 and Thomas born in 1812, all the children were christened at West Hoathly except for Mary who was christened at Ardingly and Sarah and Henry who were christened at Tatsfield. Henry Stanbridge senior was born in 1764 in West Hoathly, the son of Walter and Mary Stanbridge, and was one of thirteen children that included, Thomas born in 1757, Mary born in 1759, Jane born in 1760, Walter born in 1762, Susanna born in 1766, Elisabeth born in 1768, Ann born in 1770, John born in 1772, Sarah born in 1774, Catherine born in 1776 although she may have died as an infant as a second Catherine was christened in 1778, and Hannah born in 1779.

Henry Stanbridge living at Gibbshaven Farm in 1851, had married Jane Langridge on 18th June 1831 at Horsted Keynes. Jane was born about 1804 in Horsted Keynes but it has not been possible to determine her parents as there are two possible candidates born around this date. It is also not known whether Henry and Jane had children as to date none have been found.

By 1841, Henry and Jane Stanbridge were living at Selsfield Common, Henry working as a carrier but by 1851 Henry and Jane had moved to Gibbshaven, Henry described as 'a farmer of 50 acres employing one man and one boy, presumably James Deacon, who was also living at Gibbshaven with Henry and Jane, was the boy as he was recorded as a farm labourer.

Henry Stanbridge continued to live and work at Gibbshaven Farm until between 1859 and 1861, as he appears annually in the local Post Office directories up until 1859. However, by 1861 James Gorringer had succeeded Henry Stanbridge at Gibbshaven Farm.

James Gorringer

James Gorringer occupied Gibbshaven Farm from around 1860 until between 1881 and 1891, and was the nephew of Samuel Goring who had occupied Gibbshaven Farm in 1841. James Gorringer was born about 1823 in Worth, the son of Hezekiah and Jane Gorringer. Hezekiah Gorringer married Jane Tidy on 19th October 1807 in Horne, who had been born about 1788. James was one of six children who included, Mary born in 1808, James born in 1814, although he appears to have died as James who was occupying Gibbshaven Farm in 1861 was christened in 1823, William born in 1818, John born in 1821 and Hezekiah born in 1827.

In 1841, James Gorringer was living in the Hedgecourt area, working as an agricultural labourer. Five years later he married Mary Ann Wilkins on 5th September 1846 in Worth, the daughter of John and Jane Wilkins, who had been born in 1822 in Worth. By 1851 James and Mary Gorringer had moved to Southwark and were living with James' youngest brother Hezekiah, working as a coal carman. In 1852, they had a daughter Mary Jane and in 1855 a daughter Elizabeth Ann, also known as Amy. By 1861, the Gorringer family had moved back to the Felbridge area and were living at Gibbshaven Farm.

In 1871, James Gorringer was recorded as 'a farmer of 40 acres at Gibbshaven Farm' but by 1881 James and Mary Ann Gorringer had moved to Little Gibbshaven. Living with them were their two daughters who, in 1874, had both married a pair of Webber Brothers. Mary Jane had married Thomas Webber of Parkfields, Crawley Down, and Elizabeth had married James Webber. It is not known when the Gorringer family moved to Little Gibbshaven or when James left the property, but in 1905 James Gorringer was recorded as a 'retired farmer' living at The Firs, London Road, East Grinstead.

By 1881 Gibbshaven Farm was occupied by Thomas Mitchell and his family who had moved there from Little Gibbshaven presumably at the time that James Gorringer and his family moved to Little Gibbshaven.

Thomas Mitchell

Thomas Mitchell occupied Gibbshaven Farm from around 1881 until sometime before 1891. He was born about 1813 in Worth, the son of Henry and Jane Mitchell, and married Ann Terry on 16th November 1833 in Worth. Ann had been born in 1816 in Worth, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Terry, being related to the Terry family who occupied Parkfields and later Acacia Cottage, Crawley Down Road. Thomas and Ann had seven children, Harriet born in 1834, Thomas born in 1836, James born in 1838, William born in 1841, Mary Ann born in 1843, Ellen born in 1846 and Henry born in 1849, the first three christened at East Grinstead and the remainder christened at Worth.

In 1841, Thomas was working as an agricultural labourer and the Mitchell family were living in the cottage next to Shepherds Hole in Crawley Down. By 1851 the family had moved to a cottage between Parkfields and Hophurst Farm and by 1861 they had moved to a cottage in the Snow Hill area before moving to Little Gibbshaven by 1871 and Gibbshaven Farm by 1881 where Thomas was recorded as ‘a farmer of 62 acres, employing one boy and one man’.

It is not known when Thomas Mitchell left Gibbshaven Farm but by 1891 Gibbshaven Farm was occupied William Richard Young and his family.

William Richard Young

William Young occupied Gibbshaven Farm from sometime before 1891 until sometime before 1901. William was born in 1849 in Lingfield, the son of John and Sarah Ann Young, one of six children who included, Jane Penelope born in 1845, Henry born in 1853, Charles born in 1855, Gertrude born in 1853 and Thomas born in 1860, all christened in Lingfield. William Young married Mary Jane Holman in 1885 and had at least six children, Easty Annie born in 1876, John born in 1888, Archibald born in 1890, Edward born in 1894, Aubrey born in 1897 and Lydia born in 1899, all christened in Worth.

In 1871, William Young was working as a butcher but by 1881 he was living at Miles Farm, now Michaelmas Farm, off Copthorne Road, recorded as ‘a farmer of 37 acres’, and by 1891 William Young and his family had moved to Gibbshaven Farm. The 1891 census records that living with the Young family was Mary Jane’s brother, Arthur Edward Holman, aged twenty-one working as a farm servant, as well as two visitors, Joseph Dean aged fifty-four and Job Dean aged forty-two, recorded as wire worker and tin worker respectively.

In 1895 Gibbshaven Farm was put up for auction by George Head of Brook House, East Grinstead, and Joseph Turner of Moat Place, East Grinstead, as trustees of Edward Cranston who had died 1841, on behalf of his descendants. Gibbshaven formed Lot 2 of ‘Two Small Farms’ totalling nearly fifty-four acres, Lot 1 being Little Gibbshaven. Gibbshaven was described as ‘A Very Useful Farm’ and consisted of:

Pasture, Arable, and Woodland, situate on the opposite side of the road to Little Gibbs Haven, and also possessing a very extensive frontage to the main road. The House, which is built of brick and partly tiled, and tiled roof, contains on the

First Floor – Three Bedrooms, large Landing, and numerous Cupboards.

Ground Floor – Living Room, Kitchen, Dairy &c.

The Farm Buildings comprise Large Barn, with corrugated iron roof, Six-stall Cow Pen, Two-bay Cart Lodge, divided Yard with 4-Stall Ox-Stall, Two Cart Lodges, 3-Stall Stable, Toolhouse, Workshop, Implement Shed having Granary over, and Two Pigstyes.

Accompanying the farmhouse and outbuildings were nearly fifty acres of land, some twenty-two acres less than in 1839, which was divided as follows:

No. on Plan	Description	Acreage
185 & 186	Meadow	04. 03. 33
187 & 193	Meadow	05. 00. 09
189 (small part in Lingfield parish)	Wood	05. 01. 28
809	Arable	03. 03. 10

810	Arable	06. 02. 02
811	Meadow	02. 01. 32
812	Meadow	04. 02. 16
813	Pasture	06. 02. 17
814 & 825 (part of)	Pasture	05. 01. 15
827 (part of)	Meadow	02. 01. 13
828 & 826 (part of)	Meadow	02. 03. 09
826, 827 & 825 (part of)	House, buildings, Land, &c.	00. 03. 37
Total		49. 03. 21

The land was described as ‘in good heart and condition’ and it was stated that ‘it is not often that farms of this size come onto the market in this neighbourhood, and the sale offers a good opportunity for investment’.

At the time of the auction the property was tenanted by William Young, paying a rent of £50 per annum, with a Land Tax of £2 4/- per annum. It is interesting to note that at the time of sale the property was subject to an annual quit rent of 13s 8d, a herriot on death or surrender, and was believed to be Copyhold of the manor of Framfield. It is unclear why it was believed to have been held of the manor of Framfield by this date and, field 189 is partially in the parish of Horne not Lingfield.

A comparison of farming activity can be carried out between the details of 1895 and 1839, this shows that by 1895 the detached area of Heavy Land and Heavy Land Wood had been removed from the acreage of Gibbshaven Farm in its sale. Based on the removal of the detached land, Gibbshaven Farm was of almost effectively the same size in 1895 as it had been in 1839.

In 1895, arable land had dropped to just 20% of the farming activity compared to 65% in 1839. Pasture had doubled in 1895 to 24% compared to just 12% in 1839, and meadow land had increased to 44% in 1895 compared to just 10% in 1839. Woodland and the house and yard area remained unchanged between 1895 and 1839. The increase in meadow land is indicative of the farm being used for livestock, either for sheep or cattle, with the meadow being used to provide hay for winter feed for the livestock. The increase in pasture also supports this with livestock using it as summer feed.

It is not known when William Young left Gibbshaven Farm but by 1901 he was living at Little Gibbshaven Farm, so potentially he may have moved at the time of the auction in 1895. In 1901 Edward Marden was recorded as occupying Gibbshaven Farm and may have been the purchaser of the farm in the 1895 auction.

Gibbshaven Farm in the 20th century

As already established, Gibbshaven Farm had left the ownership of the Cranston family with its auction in 1895 and that by 1901 Edward Marden was occupying the property and may have purchased the farm in 1895.

Edward Marden

Edward Marden was born in 1854, in East Grinstead, the son of Henry and Rebecca Marden. Henry was born in 1824 in East Grinstead, the son of Harry and Marianne Marden. Henry Marden married Rebecca Jeaner (Jenner) on 20th June 1845 in East Grinstead. Marianne was born about 1822 in East Grinstead, one of seven children of Richard and Jane Jenner, who included, Jane, christened on the same date as Rebecca in 1824, Henry born in 1826, Sarah born in 1829, Mary Ann born in 1832, Martha born in 1834 and Eliza born in 1836, all christened in the parish of East Grinstead.

Henry and Rebecca Marden had six children including Edward, Richard born in 1848, Eliza Jane born in 1850, Hannah born in 1852, John Henry born in 1857 and Martha Sarah born in 1860, all christened in the parish of East Grinstead. Edward Marden married Alice Elsey in 1887 in East Grinstead but she sadly died in 1882, and Edward then married Sarah Ann Smith on 3rd August 1884 in Kent. Edward and Sarah had five children

including, Kate born in 1886, Lillian M born in 1888, Percy Alfred born in 1889, Thomas Edward born in 1892 and Dorothy Mable born in 1894. Kate and the last two children were christened in East Grinstead and Lillian and Percy were christened in Lingfield.

In 1881 Edward Marden and his family were living at Croft Cottage, next to Halsford House at North End, Edward working as a labourer. By 1891, the family had moved to 4, Windmill Lane, East Grinstead, Edward still working as a labourer. In 1901 the family were living at Gibbshaven Farm and Edward Marden was recorded as a farmer, and again in 1915, although by that date he had set up a nursery/market garden off Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, later known as Felbridge Nurseries, and by 1941 he was living at The Chestnuts, Crawley Down Road.

It is not known when Edward Marden left Gibbshaven Farm but he was succeeded by Alfred Searle sometime around 1915 and remained there until 1924.

Alfred Searle

Alfred Searle was born about 1873 in Copthorne, the son of Job and Mary Ann Serles. Job had been born in 1828 in Amberley, Sussex, and married Mary Ann Terry, on 19th October 1867, who had been born in 1835 in West Hoathly, Sussex. At the time of their marriage Job was recorded as a colt breaker but by 1867 he was recorded as a [game] keeper.

Alfred Searle was one of at least four children born of Job and Mary Ann, his siblings included, William Thomas born in 1869, Eliza Ann born in 1870 and Thomas born in 1875, the first child christened in Burstow, the next two including Alfred christened in Worth and the last christened in Crawley Down.

Alfred Searle married Mary, who had been who was born in 1876 in Worth. Alfred and Mary had five children, Mary born in 1894, Ellen born in 1896, Beatrice born in 1900 and Alfred and Albert born after 1901, the first three children were christened at Copthorne. In 1901, Alfred Searle was working as an engine driver and by 1915 he and his family had moved to Gibbshaven Farm, Alfred working as a farmer. From family information, Alfred's son Albert helped to run the farm and Alfred also used POW's, camped in nearby Cuttinglye Wood, as labour to help run the farm during the war years. Alfred and Albert also ran a haulage business from Gibbshaven Farm using a cart and the two shire horses that they owned, called Boxer and Jamie.

Gibbshaven Farm was put up for sale in 1920 by W H Martin, unfortunately it is not known when he purchased the farm and nothing is known about W H Martin except that he sold off Wards Farm in Felbridge at the same date. Evidence suggests that Alfred Searle who had been occupying Gibbshaven Farm from at least 1915, purchased Gibbshaven at this date and remained there until 1924 when he too sold up, and eventually settled at Rashes Farm in Turners Hill.

The sale catalogue of farming stock 1920 gives an insight into the type of farm Gibbshaven was at the time of auction. The dead stock included hay rakes and knives indicating that some of the land was put to meadow for hay for winter feed for livestock. There was also a root pulper suggesting that turnips, mangolds or swedes may have also have been grown, again indicative of winter feed for livestock. There was a large variety of dairy equipment including a milk separator and butter worker implying that the farm was run as a dairy farm. This was confirmed with the list of livestock up for auction:

Cross-bred cow in milk, stocked October for 5th calf
Large-framed Shorthorn cow, empty
A 3-year old Cross-bred cow, stocked July
Shorthorn heifer that calved in October
A 14-month old Shorthorn heifer [young cow]
21-month old Shorthorn heifer
Weanyear heifer

Also advertised was an active brown gelding that was regularly worked at all farm work, forty pullets and ten hens. Selling at the same time was a selection of carting equipment being sold by Mr Nickalls who was giving up carting work (possibly a carter working at Gibbshaven Farm), which included a dung cart, two trollies, horse harness and a 9-year old 'powerful and active black cart mare' that had been bred by Mr Nickalls.

In 1924, Gibbshaven Farm was again on the market and the sale catalogue of farming stock reveals that the farm was still predominantly run as a dairy farm, although 150 new sheep wattles were offered for sale which may imply there were some sheep on the farm. The catalogue also details a large selection dairy equipment including cream bowls and squeegee, as well as butter boards and milking pails. Also being sold with the farming stock were two stacks of 1923 'prime meadow hay' and just over an acre of growing swedes and one and a half acres of growing mangolds.

There were also seven Rhode Island Red hens and one cockerel and eight White Leghorn hens, all reared in 1923, plus twelve Runner ducks. Also advertised were a Terrier dog pup and five ferrets. There were also twelve dairy cows and one steer for auction, all named and including:

- Dumplin – mixed-bred cow, calved with 4th calf in August
- Her heifer calf, (un-named)
- Brindle – mixed-bred cow expected to calve before the Sale
- Buttercup – mixed-bred cow stock January for 6th calf
- Bubble – mixed-bred cow stocked January for 2nd calf
- Strawberry – mixed-bred cow stocked February for 2nd calf
- Spot – mixed-bred cow stocked June for 2nd calf
- Lady – mixed-bred cow stocked July for 2nd calf
- Titch – mixed-bred cow stocked July for 2nd calf
- Pansy – mixed-bred cow stocked July
- Tulip – mixed-bred cow stocked July for 4th calf
- Red roan cow, empty
- 14½ -month old Steer [castrated male ox]

In 1924 Gibbshaven Farm was purchased from Alfred Searle by John Prevett who was to remain there until he retired from farming in 1946.

John Prevett

John was born in 1869 in Copthorne, the son of William and Jane Prevett. William Prevett was born about 1839 in Burstow and worked for most of his life as an agricultural labourer. In 1863, William married Jane, who had been born about 1843 in Worth, and, apart from John, they had five other children including, Emily born about 1865, Elizabeth born about 1866, George born about 1871, Rosa born about 1883 and Richard born about 1884.

John Prevett married Catherine [Kate] Killick in 1890, who had been born about 1870 in Worth. John and Catherine had at least six children including, Jane born in 1890, George born about 1892, Julia born in 1894, Kate born in 1906 and Annie born in 1908, all registered in the East Grinstead district, and possibly up to eight children with James [Jim] and Jack, dates of birth unknown. In 1891 John Prevett was a farm labourer living at Duke's Head Cottage but by 1901 he was working as the farm bailiff at Boyles Farm in East Grinstead, and in 1924 purchased and moved to Gibbshaven Farm.

A little is known about the lives of some of John and Catherine's children, George Prevett married Emma Lynch on 5th October 1929 and they lived at Furnace Farm, Furnace Wood, in the 1930's. Edith married Arthur Edward Tingley on 16th April 1938 who was a gardener of 11 Bowers Place, Crawley Down. Annie married Albert James Luxford in 1936 and lived at The Star Cottages, Copthorne Road, Felbridge. James lived at The Spindles in Furnace Wood and he and his brother George worked Furnace Farm and helped work Gibbshaven Farm. During the ownership of the Prevett's, Gibbshaven Farm was run as a dairy farm although with free-range chicken and pigs, as well as some crops.

In 1946 John Prevett retired from farming and Gibbshaven Farm was put up for auction. The sale catalogue confirms that the farm was still run as a dairy farm but that it had grown significantly since 1924, although the war years and the need to produce more food may have influenced the output of the farm. Along with the basic dead farming stock required for making hay, there were several ploughs and a potato digger suggesting that crops for human consumption were also being grown. Hay and straw for livestock feed included a part stack of 1945 meadow hay of about 1½ tons, a full stack of 1946 meadow hay of about 4 tons and another of about 10 tons, plus a part stack of oat straw.

In the 1946 sale, cattle included a 4-year old Roan Shorthorn bull described as ‘a good stock getter’, and twenty-one cows, almost double the number of the 1924 sale, and included:

- Brooker – red Shorthorn cow stocked August for 4th calf
- Roamer – red Roan Shorthorn cow stocked June for 4th calf
- Buttercup – cross Guernsey cow stocked February for 5th calf
- Bluebell – blue Roan Shorthorn cow stocked May
- Grannie – cross Guernsey cow stocked May for 5th calf
- Tiny – cross Guernsey cow stocked April for 4th calf
- Fattie – red and white Shorthorn cow stocked December of 3rd calf
- Jennie – cross Guernsey cow stocked August for 4th calf
- Star Poley – red and white poll cow, empty
- Poley – red and white poll cow stocked March
- Roan Shorthorn cow (un-named) calved March and suckling two calves
- Her Roan heifer calf (un-named)
- Two black and white weanyear heifers (un-named)
- Three cross Shorthorn weanyear heifers (un-named)
- Two cross Guernsey weanyear heifers (un-named)
- One black and white weanyear heifers (un-named)
- One blue and white weanyear heifers (un-named)

Gibbshaven Farm was purchased by Mr Dickenson in 1946, a green grocer from the East End of London. Mr Dickenson did not reside at Gibbshaven Farm and tenanted it out to Wilfred Cleverley and who remained at Gibbshaven Farm until 1964 when Mr Dickenson decided to put the farm up for sale.

Wilfred Cleverley

Wilfred Cleverley took up the tenancy of Gibbshaven Farm in 1946, moving with his family from a farm in Danehill. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to find much information on the Cleverley family other than Wilfred Cleverley married Dorothy sometime around the 1920's and they had five children, Doris who grew up at Lavender Platt on Ashdown Forest where Wilfred was working, Walter James, known as Jim, who was born about 1923 and who sadly died at the age of forty-one in 1967, Janet, and twins Mary and William Michael, known as Mick, who were born at Groombridge.

In 1964 Gibbshaven Farm, by then in need of much renovation and improvement, was purchased by Stanley and Freda Ainger. Over the years the Aingers sympathetically restored the old house, barn and outbuildings and in 1983 the house was given a Grade II listing, along with the large barn. The description of the house given as follows:

Half H-shaped building. The whole building is timber-framed. The east wing is 15th century with a Crown-post roof, the west wing is 16th century. The latter has some timbering exposed with plaster infilling in its west front, but otherwise the building has been refaced with painted brick on ground floor and tile-hung above. Hipped tiled roof with pentice [a small pent roof, one on a side of a building that is often restricted to the area above a door] to north-east. Casement windows. Two storeys. Three windows in each wing.

The description of the barn given as follows:

Restored 17th century timber-framed building with red brick infilling, partly refaced with tarred weather-boarding. Hipped tiled roof with pentice to east, west and south, the south face replaced by corrugated iron, painted red.

It is now known that the oldest part of the house pre-dates the date of 15th century date proposed in the listing, being the only surviving bay of a four or five bay structure dating to the last quarter of the 14th century, and the later section pre-dates the 16th century being originally built as a stand alone kitchen.

Whilst under the ownership of the Ainger's, Gibbshaven Farm was a working sheep farm, with a few geese and a couple of riding horses. As a consequence, the land usage was divided between pasture and meadow used as feed for the sheep. The farm continued to be a working sheep farm until 2006, when after forty-two years of living at Gibbshaven Farm, Mrs Ainger sold the property and moved to smaller premises.

A full list of references will be provided.

Researched by Jeremy Clarke 2007