

JOHN HUNT in conversation, August 10th 1992.
 in an Andover Nursing Home.
 Born May 21st. 1908.

The farm on the top of the hill was ours, the Buildings, when I retired I sold it to John Dent and Gerald Lambert, they bought it between them. John Fairey tried to buy but later on I think he bought some. The whole farm up the lane to the Buildings was John Dent and up the top was Lambert, they shared it out between them.

My father came to Broughton in 1897, he was there right till he died, he lived long enough to see peace, he died almost immediately after it was declared.

I remember playing about on the farm because I lived there on [Roake] farm right up until I was married, then I moved to Rookery Farm House; got the man out who was in there, he had a few sheep, few cows, he had milk, a dairy there, he had to go when I needed it. I can't remember his name, not Nutland - he was there quite a while, they were tenants the man I turned out; Dad turned him out because I wanted the farm to live in. Yes, it was something to do with horses, he rode horses, not race horses but heavier horses, he had to go.

My wife died in nineteen, oh gosh, my memory has gone.

When Dad came to Broughton he had Roake Farm, rented it from - before the Briscoes, before Fairey; only Roake Farm - 230, 240 acres, might have been 250. I was born there, brought up there. He came to the new farm house that was built by the man who built it first, forgotten his name now, was it Stone or something. He didn't have it insured you see, he was broke, it ruined him, lost his all there.

[Rookery Farm?] First of all my father took on the management of Rookery Farm because there was a tenant farmer there who got turned out for not being a good farmer, Briscoe turned him out. Dad didn't rent it, he managed it for Briscoe. In the end he managed the whole estate for Briscoes, right down to Pittleworth. Yes, it was [a huge job], I used to help him do that.

[The Buildings Farm] We bought that, from Briscoes as far as I remember, about 2 or 300 acres. Rookery Farm was part of that 300 acres wasn't it. the main farmyard was Roake Farm, everything went out from Roake Farm. The man living at the Buildings. Davis - no not Davis, Smeeth was another man up there. Dad's foreman, can't remember his name. Smeeth used to be the shepherd up there, then his son carried on as tractor driver.

[Before tractors] Horses, some were at Roake Farm, five or six; some were down at Coolers too, three horses down there, to pull the plough and that sort of thing. We rented Coolers. [So your father had Roake Farm, Coolers Farm, Rookery Farm, Buildings Farm - a lot.] Yes, it is, I always thought we owned most part of the village.

[Michelton ?] No, I haven't heard that, they used to talk about the Manor of Roake.

My father was an excellent farmer though I say it myself; he really was a good farmer. He learnt his farming? He followed his father's footsteps, just below Salisbury they had a farm there, six hundred acres, but he got married and came up to Broughton to live. His wife died. My brother Stan, she died almost as soon as he was born there, at Roake Farm. Then he married my mother.

My mother was a governess then, up the hill, going up to the cross-roads up there, not Hildon, not Queenwood, the main road this way further. Sorry! Then I came along and Dorcas, two children they had.

I didn't know father was a photographer, Dorcas may have.

We did very well on the farm, father taught me, I didn't go away to learn, I worked with my father. I got married and we lived at Rookery Farm, round in Rookery Lane, my wife and myself. I have heard of Philip Emmott, he had a bit of a farm there, didn't he. Rookery Farm House was quite a young farmhouse.

The main crop was sheep, my father was a sheep farmer really; we grew roots and things like that for the sheep. Barley was one, wheat was another and oats; oats was for feeding the animals with, horses. My father was a sheep farmer, my grandfather was a sheep farmer, he died about 65 of cancer, just the other side of Wilton. We had some very good arable land, I think it was some of the best arable land in the district, for growing our crops.

I don't remember Carter at the Fluttering Duck. Lisa Leigh was a man who used to buy and sell cattle, I don't remember much about him. One of the old characters in the village was an old man who did thatching for us. Not Kelly, he was much younger, he lived down by the ford.

Stone built the new farm house, it broke him, it wasn't insured, but I don't know if he was told what to build, he had to rebuild the farmhouse, built it the other side of the road. The one that was burnt down was a thatched place. When my father came to Broughton he came to the new house, in 1897 I think. Then my brother Stan was born there and soon after he was born there his mother died, I suppose my mother brought Stan up to some extent.

My mother was a governess, she used to teach the children at that place - on the Romsey Broughton road --! Not Hildon, Briscoes were at Hildon when I remember, they left after after somebody robbed them of their money, they lost most of their money, some fellow down Romsey somewhere. He invested their money for them and lost a great deal of it. Mr. Briscoe and the rest of the family went over to, - - oh dear! [Dunwood]. He was a J.P., he was quite a famous man, very severe but he was honest. Yes I knew him [Nice chap?] Sort of; he was well respected. Mrs. Briscoe used to do a lot in the village. They lost a daughter, she died of flu or something, I don't know what it was. She used to work on the land there, anyway she was taken ill and died and that was the end of them really.

Manor Farm, yes Waters was there and somebody else came there. I can't remember but Ray took it on quite early in life. Yes my father farmed all the land except Manor Farm, more or less. All there land was across there towards Down Farm and - .

The Buildings. We had no cows up there at all, all sheep and lambs. They went to Salisbury, well, we didn't drive them, we did if there was a large amount, mostly somebody like Ray would take them in their lorry, we sent in 25 or 30 at a time, sometimes for sale and sometimes for slaughter, mostly for sale I think.

There was no road out from the Buildings Farm to the Stockbridge road, that has only been built there since, whose got it now? John Dent, oh yes. The road came up from behind Broughton House, I don't think it went any further. That was all done before my father took

it over. I can always remember going up to the Buildings on that road that came up from Dennis Lane. Mostly all sheep, it was all sheep in those days.

I remember a Darfield, about nine or ten acres if I remember, just along there from the Buildings. From behind the house [Rookery Farm] we had only a footpath. The footpath from Houghton to Broughton ran along the back of those houses along there. In front of the house was nothing but just fields, marshy, all belonged to us.

The Mill, the grinding mill? I used to go down there when I was quite a small boy with, what was his name, he lived in a house a little further down, up on the bank there [Highfield]. When he was going to do some grinding I used to go up there and help him, move some sacks, somebody would come in with a load of wheat or barley. All driven by water, used to work when the water was good enough; he used to bottle up the water until it was right up in that big place, the mill race. When it was high enough he let it go, used to grind this meal with it. Used to work day and night if the water was there, he always used to be praying for it to rain. I didn't hear of people complaining about him holding up the water, I suppose the river was big enough to take it away.

I heard of the mill at Manor Farm but I never saw it. I believe it is still there; water under the road comes down from Wallop, through the farmyard and that's where he used to do his grinding. Not in my day though.

The Mill House was some big man up in London, Sale was it. I don't remember him. Scaramanga was at Broughton House but I don't remember him. Then Dents and they have been there ever since, haven't they. Well Dent at Manor Farm and Dent at Broughton House died but I don't know who followed him when he died. I remember the man with the dogs but can't remember what his name was. Now Mrs. Macpherson lives there on her own, doesn't she; she was Macpherson's secretary or something. When he died she carried it on, it's left to her during her life.

Bert Bevis, was a great character, I know we had a wireless didn't work and he came down, fixed it up and made it work, when I was living with my father and mother at Roake Farm. He was a wireless man in the Navy. Very useful man to have around. He was interested in that sort of thing and had a clear memory, if anybody wanted to know anything, go round and see Bert Bevis and he'll be able to tell you! He used to help an awful lot of people like that.

Reverend Daubeney, I knew him quite well, I used to play quite a lot of tennis at the Rectory but other than that I didn't have much to do with him. Dr. Hobbs used to play, Mrs. Love, not so much Miss Grimaldi as the rest of them. My interest was farming and that was it. My wife was a landgirl. Norah Golden too, she worked for John Bright. At various occasions we had two landgirls but some were unsuitable, we got down to one girl who was my wife; sometimes two and sometimes one.

Some of the land towards Bossington belonged to us and the rest to Bossington farm, Deverell was landowner, Bright or before him produced an awful lot of milk. The same man always used to buy his cows for him. Not Lisa Leigh, he was not so straight, I think I am right in saying Lisa Leigh was not a very straight man. A Romsey man it was, forgotten his name.

We used to keep sheep on our land, with hurdles, all the way along as the road was unfenced, we used to move them on, six by twenty hurdles and move them on each day to six by twenty. That was the shepherd's job really. We had only one shepherd at a time. We had one who stayed with us all his life, the rest of his life anyway. I can't remember his name, not Smeeth. Bert Mason worked for John Bright.

If I wanted a local drink I used to go in the Brewer's Arms, his mother used to keep that, didn't she. The bar was in the living room more or less. You walked in the bar and the kitchen was at the back. There was a board we used to play darts on. There were Waldrons living there, one died didn't she? She must be getting on a bit now.

I'm eighty odd now. I enjoyed living in Broughton, with my father and mother on the farm, then I got married and moved down to Rookery Farm. I can't remember since the stroke, it's all down this side, it's useless. If I live to the year 2000 I shall be alright.

George Butler, Pat went up to his house and found him dead on the stairs, didn't she. Captain Judd, he was the character of the village. And the man who used to do our thatching for us, he came up from Houghton to live there when he died, forgotten his name now.

The buildings at Rookery Farm, still there, we used them as a rule, we always used to make a habit of buying heffers and let them calve down with their first calf and then I used to take them into Salisbury market and sell them. I used to do about 60 of them every year, I had a man who did it for me, you know, his name was Smith, Bob Smith, had a boss eye, lived at Hell Corner. Kept them in the buildings across that little paddock. Lived in the cottage with the overhanging thatch, shame it's gone, it was a historical place.

Transcribed 12 August 1992. R.P.

? Name of 1st Thatchers

? Government where

? Father came from

? Name of shepherd at Broughton