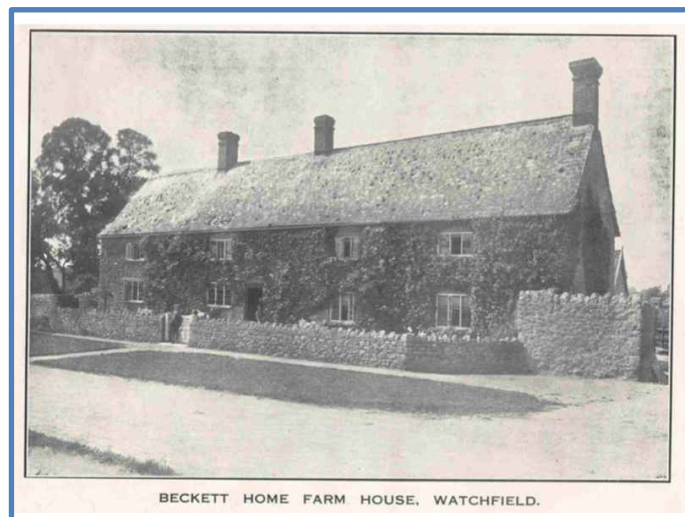


The Grange - High Street, Watchfield

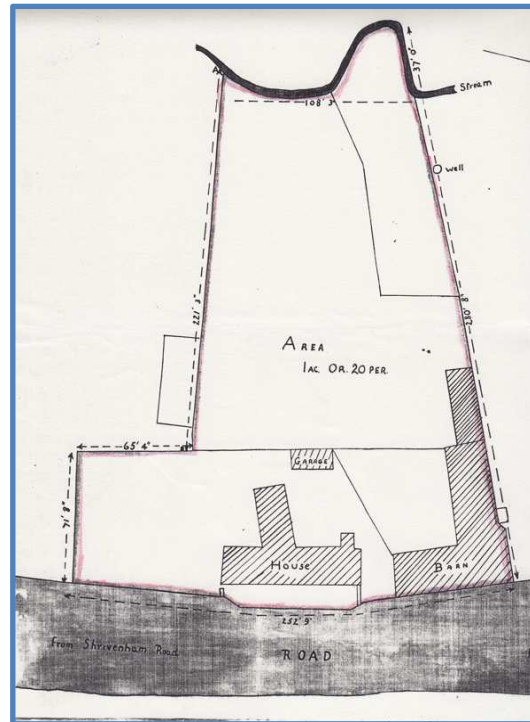
(Formerly Beckett Home Farm)



This property was part of the Barrington Estate of Beckett and was a farm of 160 acres. The main house that still exists today is a long building that stands parallel with the high street of Watchfield and is known as The Grange. It was entered into the first sale of the Estate that took place on 16th October 1922, but it didn't sell. It was entered into the next sale that took place on 27th June 1927, but as a much smaller farm of 68 acres and didn't sell either. The census of 1911 gave the information that William Jefferies and his family occupied the house and the sale brochure of 1927 listed that he was still the tenant.

We are grateful to the previous owners of the property, Robert & Janet Mawer (1984 - 2007) for providing us with copies of documentation that allowed study of the continuation of the line of occupation from this point. A schedule within a conveyance gave the information of when the property left the Beckett Estate, when Walter Barrington (9th Viscount), on 12th October 1928, sold it to Ernest William Smith Bartlett. On 24th June 1929, Ernest Bartlett sold it to George James Hedges Wilson, but we don't know the sale prices of either of the above two transactions. There then followed a double deal that involved a middleman called William Baker Driver of Cirencester. On 6th July 1931, Aubrey John Godfrey Porter of Wokingham Lodge, Coate, Swindon, a Retired Grocer, paid £575 to George Wilson of The Grange, Watchfield, and £65 to William Driver in order to take possession of *'all that*

messuage or dwellinghouse situate and known as Beckett Home Farm House in the Parish of Watchfield, with the barn, stables, yard, garden and meadow lands belonging thereto.'



Aubrey Porter didn't stay long at The Grange, but the year before he left it, he managed to get himself a fine for allowing his motor car to be stationary without proper lights and it cost him 10 shillings (50p. North Wilts Herald 22nd Jan 1932). A conveyance dated 20th March 1933, provided the information of when the name of the property was changed. Mr Walter Edward Jefferies of Sheepphouse Farm, Charney, Berkshire, who was described as a Farmer, purchased for the sum of £1250, '*all that messuage or dwellinghouse situate at Watchfield, formerly known as Beckett Home Farm House, but now known as The Grange, Watchfield etc.*' Aubrey Porter had managed to double his money in two years! It is likely that Walter Jefferies had a family connection with William Jefferies who had occupied the farm at Watchfield for over 20 years. The census for 1911 recorded that William was born in Goosey which is very close to Sheepphouse Farm and Charney Bassett.

William James Jefferies in 1911

1911 Census For England & Wales
 Watchfield Shrivenham, Watchfield, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England

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Household members (6 people) Copy to clipboard

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
William James	Jefferies	Head	Married	Male	40	1871	Farmer	Goosey Berks
May Swaffield	Jefferies	Wife	Married	Female	37	1874	-	Bourton Berks
Edward	Jefferies	Son	-	Male	1	1910	-	Blunsdon Wilts
Violet Mary	Jefferies	Daughter	-	Female	0	1911	-	Watchfield Berks
Ada Mary	Cook	Sister in law	Single	Female	40	1871	Private means	Bourton Berks
Gladys Kate	Newport	Servant	Single	Female	17	1894	General servant domestic	Blunsdon Wilts

Show 1 fewer row

Walter Jefferies died on 9th November 1939 and in his Will he appointed as his Executors his wife Ethel Mary and Henry Broom Vines of Lower Farm, Bourton. Probate on Walter's Will was granted on 4th January 1940, but it was a further two years before Ethel Jefferies decided to move on. A conveyance dated 17th September 1942 sold The Grange to Daisy Liddiard Longland, described as the wife of Frank Longland of 95 Holly Lane, Erdington, Warwick for £2300. When she sold the property in 1950, the conveyance gave more information about her when she was described as a Registered Medical Practitioner. On 10th July 1950, Daisy Longland from South Point, Cirencester, sold The Grange to Muriel Emily Binns, also a Registered Medical Practitioner, of 9 Adelaide Terrace, Portishead, Bristol for £5000. The price of the property had been literally doubling every few years.

With the property attracting the attention of medical practitioners, the trend continued with the next occupier who was Dr Peter Frank Anthony Watkins of 2 Church Place, Swindon. But unlike the trend of increasing value, the property was sold for £4000. The conveyance was dated 11th August 1954. Dr Tony Watkins, as he preferred to be called, was a medical officer for the railway company in Swindon and moved to Watchfield to be a partner with Dr Ernest Algernon Sparks of Shrivenham, who's practice would expand to become Elm Tree Surgery that exists today. He turned part of The Grange into a waiting room and

surgery and practised there for many years. It seemed to work well with Dr Sparks covering Shrivvenham and Dr Watkins, Watchfield. Dr Sparkes moved on and the practice was purchased by Dr Barry Dumughn in 1965. In 1973 Dr Tony Watkins decided to semi-retire and move to Devon where he could continue to research his specialist interest in skin diseases and partake more of his love of fishing.

From Devon, Alison Eirene Watkins, widow of Dr Tony had a conveyance drawn up dated 30th October 1975. Her address was given as Weir Mill, Drewsteignton, near Exeter, Devon. She sold The Grange to Violet Marian Thompson, widow, for £20,000 and it's likely that Violet was a direct relative of Alison as she was also living at Weir Mill.

It was the conveyance that placed The Grange into the ownership of Violet Thompson that caused the property to be entered in H.M. Land Registry that was dated 4th December 1975. The Schedule on a Land Registry document listed that the next owners were Derek Courtney and Diane Witts who purchased it on 11th January 1978. The same Schedule listed that Robert James and Janet Susan Mawer purchased The Grange on 12th November 1984 and moved out in June 2007, selling it on to Mr & Mrs David and Becky Ridgeway

There have been many changes at the The Grange, formerly Beckett Home Farm, mainly with the land that was once part of it being sold and developed with new housing.

Further research into the earlier history of the house.

Looking at the premises from the main street there are numerous points to suggest that it has had structural alterations and could be made up of smaller units. The Willington map of 1758 showed a building of similar shape and distance from the street, but there is no way to ascertain its construction. The extract from the map below stated that No 13 was the property of Mr Russley.



The Watchfield Census for 1841 listed William Addison with his family at Watchfield, but as is usual with the census' of that period, it does not describe where in the village. But there are two important pieces of evidence that makes it more certain that he occupied Beckett Home Farm. Firstly, the Addison listing is located within the listing immediately after Watchfield House and the farmhouse was the next property along. Secondly, a newspaper article dated 1846 gives details of a sale by auction of the farming stock and implements of Mr Addison who is retiring.

City or Borough of _____
 Parish or Township of Watchfield, Berks Enumeration Schedule.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born.	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
Watchfield Farm		1	John Archer	25		Carriage Maker	Y	X
			Charles Burt	30		M. S.	Y	
			Elizabeth Burt	35		F. S.	Y	
			Benjamin Turner	30		M. S.	Y	
Watchfield		1	Jane Burt	30			Y	
		1	William Addison	50		Farmer	W	
			Elizabeth Addison	55			W	
			Elizabeth Oliver	45		Ind.	W	X
			Samuel Oliver	20		Ag. Lab.	Y	X
		Henry Gooding	20		Ag. Lab.	Y	X	
		Jane Dobson	20		F. S.	Y	X	

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£ Lynham, held under subject to such con-
flock precisely, on the
year, and in the follow-
Gardens, in the several
Lorelock, and Job
jardens, in the respec-
William Clark.
in the occupation of
m of the Public to the
sements are in thorough
ants. The Horses are
and the above specified
by the attention of the
the Cottages, apply to
; or to the Auctioneers,
Seven o'clock, in conse-

AUCTION,
M. MARLBOROUGH,
commencing at Eleven
ODERN
FUTURE
removed from Dunley
venue of Sale?—
ar-post bedsteads, with
and furniture in moreen
sling window curtains,
a, feather beds, blankets,
; tables, glasses, double
tings; handsome maho-

beginning with the Live Stock. No reserve.

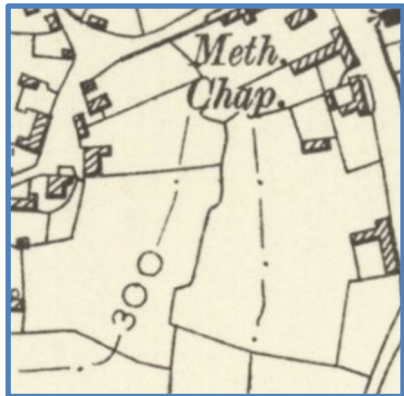
NEXT THURSDAY.
DAIRY AND FARMING STOCK,
WAGGONS & IMPLEMENTS,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.
By Messrs. FEDEL & DOLE.

On THURSDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1846, on the Premises
of Watchfield, near Shrivenham, Berks.—
ALL the Prime STOCK of DAIRY COWS and
GRAZERS, 19 HORSES and COLTS, 150 SHEEP,
CORN, PIGS, IMPLEMENTS, DAIRY UTENSILS, and
other Effects, of Mr. ADDISON, who is retiring from business;
—Comprising more particularly 8 dairy cows and calves, 7
grasses, 10 cart horses and mares, a capital three-year-old strong
rag colt, a two-year-old ditto, and yearling ditto, all three by
the celebrated horse Jack Tier; 100-down wether tops, 30 long-
wool ditto, and 14 half-bred ditto; 22 store pigs, 3 sows and
pigs, a rick of excellent pulse, rick of beans and vetches, 30
quarters of barley and the seeds, 100 sacks of potatoes.
The Implements and Dairy Utensils include 3 excellent nar-
row-wheel waggons, 4 six-inch wheel ditto, 2 Scotch carts, 1
market ditto, 12 sets of harness, 6 harrows, 8 ploughs, oak rol-
ler, sheep troughs and racks, 2 turnip cutters, winnowing ma-
chine, pig troughs, ladders, hurdles, and barn tools; excellent
barrel churn, small ditto, capital lever cheese press, and wood
ditto, cheese tubs and stands, 4 milk and whey leads, 4 pairs of
milking pails and yokes, milk warmer, cream and milk tins,
double stack of cheese shelves, large mash tub with false bot-
tom, good beer casks, and other effects.
Catalogues may be had at the King and Queen Inn, High-
worth; Barrington's Arms Inn, Shrivenham; and of the
Auctioneers, Farington and Swindon.
An early attendance is particularly requested.
A Person will attend with Refreshments.
To Timber Dealers, Builders, Carpenters, and Others.

Pigs a slow sale,
Of the Price of Br
made up from the
Taxes in South
West ending
Field
—21.....
Mar. 7.....
—14.....
—21.....
Aggregate Averag
Duty on Foreign Co
COUNTY W
Wilt
Somerset.....
Dorset
Gloucestershire ..
Berks
Herts
CIRENCESTER
Account of the Qu
under Market, &
Dealers in the s
perial Measure
Wheat 7
Barley 3
Beans 1
Peas 1
Rye 1
GLOUCESTER
Wheat 1
Barley 1
Oats 1
Peas 1
Rye 1

It is fairly certain that the Addisons moved to Medlar Cottage in Shrivenham. See SHS Listing No N945 for further details. It's likely that William decided to retire because of poor health as he died in 1848 and was buried in St Andrew's churchyard on the 8th May.

A study of the census lists suggested that it could have been a small farm of 34 acres occupied by Richard Anger in 1851 to 1871. Below is an extract from a map of circa 1900 and an extract from the census records for 1851. More research needs to be done to confirm this.



Richard Anger in 1851

1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Watchfield, Faringdon, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England

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Household members (2 people)

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First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Richard	Anger	Head	Unmarried	Male	51	1800	Farmer of 34 acres	Watchfield, Berkshire, England
Mary	Davis	Servant	Unmarried	Female	39	1812	Housekeeper	Watchfield, Berkshire, England