

Good afternoon

I am after more information about Birchington Hall. Let me explain why!

I was born in March 1942 in the Farm Lodge on the left hand side of the Hall to John and Muriel Wilson who were the tenants of the Farm since about 1940. I have very clear memories of my life on the farm from an early age and here are some of them:

The Lodge, our home until 1956, was quite small with two bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, dining room and sitting room, scullery which also served as a bathroom and an outside toilet. This became too small for us by 1956 with four growing children and only half the farm left, after Surgeons built the homes in 1951 on the land we farmed.

The Hall was used as an orphanage. I remember picking up toys thrown over the wall by the young children and playing with them in the absence of toys our own. I can find no history of the farm except a reference that it was sold in 1852 and again in 1915 but to whom it was sold I cannot find. What I do know is that Spurgeons were our landlords and very good ones.

I have distinct memories of the farm and the 17th century barn which we used extensively for rearing poultry, pigs, and which also housed horses in the stables for a Mr Phillips, a tailor in Westbrook.

The barn was also used for storing sheaves of wheat and broccoli for seed. The annual arrival of the threshing tackle with a steam engine and all the trappings was a significant event that enabled us to get extra ration coupons for the purpose of buying cheese and coal to feed the men on the machines.

I have many photos of this period in my life that I could make available if you are interested. There is a painting of the barn by an unknown artist from the Margate School of Art, who used the barn as an assignment and subsequently sold, or gave, it to my father. It is now in my home in Perth, Western Australia, after my father's death about 5 years ago, at the age of 90.

I could keep on, by figured this might be an introduction. My **second** brother, Guy, lives at Red House Farm, **Nash**. He may be known to you already, as he stood for election for one of the Birchington wards recently, including the area that our Homestead Farm was built on.

I look forward to hearing from you at some suitable time.

God bless

Ken Wilson