

Tigh Rhu History

A William Footman was christened on 28 April 1818 at Lutterworth. His parents were Thomas and Ann Footman. In the 1881 Census he declared his occupation to be a Wine and Spirit Merchant. He wrote a will in 1879, and amended it in 1892 and again in 1900, essentially passing on his goods and lands to his wife Louisa Footman. When William Footman died on 28th September 1900 his estate was valued at 15,359 pounds 18 shillings and 9 pence.

Louisa Footman survived her husband until 4th November 1917, passing on her estate to her daughters Mary and Grace Elizabeth, including her 'lands, tenements and hereditaments' at Shearsby.

On 17th May 1939 John Sumpter a 70 year old Lutterworth accountant who had known the Footman family for many years declared on oath that he was 'well acquainted with the site of the demolished cottages and garden ground in the village of Shearsby... which now belongs to Mary and Grace Elizabeth Footman. The property to the best of his knowledge formerly belonged to William Footman.

Two days later (19th May 1939) the property, amounting to 550 square yards on which two cottages formerly stood, was sold by the daughters to Douglas Edgar Ward of Walton by Kimcote for £5.

The land was sold again on 25th May 1939 to Harry Williams of Water Lane, Shearsby for £12.

On 15th February 1962 Harry Williams, now of Back Lane, Shearsby, sold the land to Ronald Hilary Bishop of Wigston for £8. This completed a transaction originally begun in May 1940 between Mr. Williams and Walter Stuart Bishop of The Gables, Shearsby. The price had been paid by W.S. Bishop, but the conveyance was never completed. W.S. Bishop died 17th April 1960 without leaving a will. W. Bishop was a blacksmith.

It was W. Bishop who entered into an agreement with the East Midlands Electricity Board permitting the supply across the land of electricity to the house of A.J. Goding (now Field View, Main Street) on 16 April 1952.