

James Ring and The Firs
Added to acc 697

James (father was Thomas, a shopkeeper) was born in Watlington and Frances/ Fanny (nee Robbins, but no info about her parents nor does she appear in Wheatley Genealogy records) in Yarnton. They married at Waterperry in 1844 and in the 1851 and 1861 census they were living in Shotover parish. They had one daughter (Hannah Frances) and James was a farmer of 40 acres (living as tenant at Shotover Farm House, see archive number 1366) and keeper of a beer shop.

By 1871 the family had moved into Wheatley and James was working as a carrier. Then by 1881 the family seem to have split up as Fanny and their daughter had moved to Forest Hill. James remained in Wheatley until his death and is buried at St Mary's. Their only daughter died before her parents and was a spinster so they have no direct descendants.

James Ring died on February 25, 1894. His executor was Edwin Bird, minister of Wheatley Congregational Church 1875-1887. James Ring had been the owner of 'The Firs' (north-east corner of Holloway Road and Church Road) which had been let by an agreement dated 24 June 1893 to David Bryden (see court case reported in Oxford Journal 9 February 1895, David Bryden plaintiff v. Edwin Bird, defendant, represented by Mr McCarthy). James's now-separated wife, Fanny, claimed possession of the property, through Edwin Bird as executor of her husband's estate, on account of her marriage. After David Bryden had failed to pay the rent of £5 2s 0d, for the quarter ending 25 March 1894, Edwin Bird's agent, William Taylor entered the house and seized goods belonging to David Bryden. The case turned on ownership, which was found to be undoubted by Fanny Ring and damages of 10 guineas (£100 had been claimed plus the rent which had been paid under protest) which were awarded to David Bryden

We do not know if James or Fanny are connected to the other Ring and Robbins families who were living locally. An apparently-unconnected David Ring (archive number 2279) had been publican of the Chequers in 1869, and had been married to Elizabeth Armborough. Another James Ring is shown in archive number 2434.