

The following deeds are concerned with property in Farm Close Lane and in the surrounding area. They have been supplemented by recent research on the periods of the 1900s and 2000s by Lorne Hanks

Probably refer to Nos 1-3, at the back of Farm Close Lane, now The Croft, Mulberry Drive (Sourced from Pat Jeff's collection of deeds). 1895 entry below probably refers to another property in Farm Close Lane

- 1734 Elizabeth Simpson (widow) passed on the property to Robert Barrett.
- 1754 Hannah Barrett, widow of Robert Barrett, sold the property to William Gardiner, Tailor, for £18. He allowed her to remain for her natural life. The property was described as * New messuage or tenement in Wheatley with garden plot..... half-acre arable land lying in Nether Reid in certain furlong there called Chilworth. Two lands or half-acre of land and also common pasture for 10 sheep in the common fields."
- 1772 William Gardiner bequeathed the property to Elizabeth Gardiner, his wife, and, on her death, to daughters: Elizabeth (who had married Robert Boulter in May 1758), Mary (who had married James Vaughan in May 1769), and grandsons - John, Thomas, and Samuel.
- 1773 William Gardiner's will was proved.
By 1807, William Kennedy, Shopkeeper, had possession & land was farmed by Thomas Vaughan.
- 1807 John Bull Gardiner (only son of John Gardiner, coach wheelwright, and Elizabeth Bull), of Wormwood St. London. Surveyor, had inherited.
Sold to Henry Sadler of Oxford who, with his brother Thomas, were Grocers, Chemists and druggists with a shop on the High Street.
- 1826 The Sadlers were declared bankrupt. Property in the hands of
- 1845 Owner - Charles Wilkins of Wheatley, Butcher, m. Mary Ann Chapman of Oxford, who was the daughter of Sarah Chapman (nee Fryday) and the granddaughter of James Fryday & Susannah.
(More cottages had been built (or re-built?) by now and cottages in the occupation of William Price, ? Merrett, John Hayward and Mrs Kerwood)
Sold to Stephen Jones
- 1856 Sold to Frances Norgrove (from Summertown), spinster (died December 1857)
- 1858 Inherited by Catherine Charleton, Sister of Frances Norgrove
- 1860 Sold to William Charles Gardner (sp?) of the Parish of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford, Billiard Table Keeper
- Prel863 In the ownership of Thomas Brown, Perth, Australia
- 1863 Will proved by Eliza, Thomas Brown's wife.
- 1867 Trustees of the estate changed. Now Samuel Waterman Viveash (sp?), and Robert de Burgh.
Administered by Albert Stone, Solicitor in Perth.

1895 Auction held at The Crown Inn of a stone built and tiled freehold cottage with garden and outbuildings in Farm Close Lane in the occupation of Richard Clements at the weekly rent of 3s.

Bought by Charles Elderfield for £110 (He was licensee of The Bell). His widow married Charles Clements and they lived in the cottage.

1910 The Revaluation Survey shows The Croft as parcel number 326 (accessed from Farm Close Lane) owned by Joseph Stowe of Headington (who also owned Rectory Farm in Wheatley and several other farms in Oxford and Oxfordshire). The three cottages were then let to Reginald Stamp, John Washington and Walter Hilsdon.



1924 Before dying in October 1923 (and, in 1926, his trustees bequeathing Rectory Farm to Magdalen College) Joseph Stowe appears to have sold parcel 326 to Alfred Funge who, in June 1924, sold it to Lionel Munro Hawkins, whose daughter Margaret Munro Hawkins inherited it and had married Thomas Frank Alderman, some 30 years her senior, in 1932. They were living in 1939 at 1 Park Hill.

1946 The three cottages (then occupied by Clara Shepherd, William Alsford and Louisa Funge) were then sold for £110 to Mary Ellen Hanks (married to George Joseph Hanks) of Farm Close Cottage (aka Hanks Cottage, now 1 Crown Square) in 1946.

1950 The occupation of Number 3 was conveyed by Louisa Funge to her daughter, Beatrice Eileen Funge, who was then living here.

1955 Mary Ellen Hanks sold Number 1 to her son George Thomas Hanks of 4 Miller Road, for £120. He extended it, and remained living here until his death in 2007.

Later Number 2 was bequeathed by Mary Ellen Hanks to her husband and, on his death in 1963, it passed to daughter Eileen Hanks, Numbers 2 & 3 were then converted into one house. Eileen and her husband moved to a new house, 54 Beech Road, and rented the property to Mr and Mrs P Martin Smith, who eventually purchased it.

2008 The Martin Smiths also purchased Number 1.

2011 After a number of unsuccessful planning applications involving demolition, they sold to Woodeson Developments, who carried out a renovation and also built a new house on the Farm Close Lane frontage, now 1 Farm Close Lane.