

BUNKERS OR BUNCHERS FARM
(Extracts from the Leverstock Green Chronicle,
Compiled by Barbara Chapman from her records Saturday, 23 May 2009)

16th Century William Ibgrave, embroiderer to Henry VIII, had obtained Hyde manor in 1545 (that is the lands and pastures to the north of Toms Lane, which had been seized from the manor of Abbots Langley in 1066); by now owning Hyde as well as Chambersbury, William Ibgrave had increased his holding and would seem likely that at this point the land between Bunkers Lane and Chambersbury Lane was also owned by William Ibgrave. [VCH vol2 p.326; S32 p.143; S 86 p.21 -22.] (See entry for October 29th 1555.)

18th Century: Associated with **Bunkers Farm** this century were the How (or Howe) family. [S262]

23rd December 1715 - Joseph, son of John How of Bunkers, died aged 29. He was presumably Elizabeth's stepson. [S262]

14 August 1721 - John How senior of Bunkers (spelt Bynkers on the memorial inscription), died, aged 79. [262]

1768 - A survey, both cartographic and written was undertaken of the estate of James Lord Viscount Grimston. The map of the estate, [HALS D/EV/P.2], on the large scale of 20" to 1 mile, is coloured and measures 102" x 140". The associated reference book to go with the map [HALS D/EV.M39], lists all the individual field units with names, former names, land use, and acreage.

[S167, p.131]

From the Tithe survey we know therefore, that working towards Pimlico from Chambersbury, Messers Chad and Ragsdale owned the orchards next to Chambersbury, and then William Field held the field up to Bunkers Lane. James Greenhill had the land the other side of Bunkers Lane, with William Howe having the area just beyond the entrance to Well Farm.



1835 - Ann Field, nee Pope, and widow of Thomas Field, late of Chambersbury, died at Kings Langley. She gave the copyhold of Bunkers to her son John. [S366]

1840 The tithe apportionment of 1840 shows Samuel Reynolds Solly to hold the tithes for all the lands connected with Northend Farm, Bunkers Farm, Well Farm and Highwoodhall Farm, as well as part of Chambersbury. In fact most of the lands held by William Ibgrave in his manors of Chambersbury and Hythe in the 16th century.



Tithe Owner	Landowner	Occupier	Property	Quantity
S. Reynolds Solly	John Field	Himself	Pt. of Chambersbury	126/2/10
S. Reynolds Solly	John Field	Himself	Pt. of Bunkers Fm	81/0/4

16 February 1844 - John Field of Chambersbury died aged 50. In the 1841 census he had been listed as a farmer. In his will he left his money, household goods, **and** newly built house in Sibley's Orchard, and a three acre meadow to his wife Zilpha Dover Field. All other copyholds were to be sold by auction. These were Bunkers, Newhouse, farms and lands called Chambers and Chambersbury some of which had been Freehold purchased from the Court of Chancery and lately owned by William Fellowes. The resulting monies were used as legacies for all his nephews and nieces. As John Dickinson owned Chambersbury and Bunkers Farm by 1850 when his daughter and son-in-law moved in it seems likely he purchased the Leverstock Green end of the estate following the death of John Field in 1844. Dickinson had already been in possession of the Nash Mills end of the estate by the Tithe Survey of 1840. [S262, S366]

Jan 1886 – advert in Gazette for sale of hay;

June 3rd 1897 - Mr. Ford, the village schoolmaster, recorded that;

*"Dr. Steele of Hemel Hempstead called and informed me that **Marjery and May Daniels of Bunkers** were suffering from diphtheria, that Caroline and Horace Eames (sister and brother of Mabel) were in the Fever Hospital with the same disease."* [S73]

19 June 1909 - The issue of supplying water to three cottages at Bunkers Farm was reported in the Gazette. Watford UDC were prepared to supply the water, but at a price too high for the residents of the cottages. It was finally decided by the council to put the matter before the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Water Co. for their observations. [Gazette 19 June 1909 p.8]

25th May 1901- *AN OLD INHABITANTS DEATH*- In the death of **Mrs Maria Cooper of Bunkers Cottages** the village has lost one of its oldest and most respected inhabitants. Deceased, who was 88 years of age had had her full share of the troubles of life, having lost her husband and the majority of her large family, but her weight of care was totally buried beneath her genial and happy disposition, which had made many friends.

WESTWICK ROW & BUNKERS FARMS

Near Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead

Orchard & Proctor

As favoured with instructions from Mr. Joseph Bailey, to sell by auction at the Well Farm homestead, on Friday Jan 29th (immediately after the sale of Mr Alfred Orchard's Hay)

A RICK OF FIRST CLASS CLOVER HAY, About 40 loads well got and secured in glorious weather, standing in the rickyard at Bunkers Farm, also a RICK OF FIRST CUT SANFOIN HAY, about 30 loads, and stump of ditto, about 25 loads, well got and secured from the weather, standing at Westwick Row Farm.

Note, intending purchasers are requested to view these ricks prior to the auction.

Conditions will be produced at the time of sale. The usual credit will be given on approved security. Catalogues obtained of Mr Joseph Bailey, Chambersbury, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead and of the Auctioneers, at Gt. Berkhamstead, Herts, & Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

August 17th 1914 - The 1st Battalion Queen's Westminster Rifles arrived at their war station in Leverstock Green, having been sent to the St. Albans area as part of the 2nd London Division of the Territorial Army. The Division had assembled in Hyde Park the day before, and marched 12 miles down the Edgware Road where it had bivouacked for the night; marching a further 10 miles on to its final destination on the Monday (17th). The weather was exceptionally hot and the men were carrying full packs.



On arrival the Battalion's Headquarters were established in the village school, and the headquarters mess at a house called "Pancake" (roughly where Bartel Close is today,) then the home of Viscount Verulam. The companies were billeted in various farms in the neighbourhood with A & B at Bunkers Farm.

28th March 1927 - Some of the children from the village school visited "*Mr. Bailey's Farm at Bunkers...to witness wheat sowing.*" [S73] This was Joseph Bailey who held Chambersbury, which included Bunkers Farm.

27th April 1927 - Another visit by the senior children at the village school to Bunkers Farm, this time "*to note Beet sowing.*" [S73]

1927 onwards: Mr. Sidney Dollimore, who came to live in Leverstock Green at the age of 14, in 1927, had very vivid recollections of life in "The Green" in the 1930's. The Dollimores lived at 7, Bunkers Farm Cottages, as Mr. Dollimore senior was Head Horsekeeper and late Foreman to Joseph Bailey of Chambersbury House. *Joseph Bailey of Chambersbury House was a fairly well known farmer. Farming land from Cats dell to Bunkers Lane. He owned both Bunkers and High Street Green farms, and rented Westwick Row Farm from the Earl of Verulam.*

27th November 1928 - Mr. Ayre once more recorded a trip to a local farm: "*Senior Class visited Bunkers Farm 11-12 to watch the dressing of Mill Stones.*" [S73]