

FARMING - HOME FARM, EYNSFORD

From 'A FARMING CENTURY - The Darent Valley 1892-1992'
by William G.G. Alexander (Quiller Press 1991)

1892 - James Alexander moved from Scotland with his family into Home Farm.

1908 - His son, William, took over the farm from his father.

He increased the size of dairy herd.

By 1912 - Leasing 158 acres from the Lullingstone estate.

First World War - With the increased demand for food he grew cabbages and savoys, as well as cereals and potatoes.

Profits went to investment.

1915 - He leased a further 56 acres, making a farm size of 214 acres.

1917 - He purchased Little Mote with 6 acres, 2 bungalows and a large barn.

The land at Little Mote gave extra summer grazing for his dairy herd, and the barn provided winter accommodation for more cows.

1918 - William Alexander expanded further after the War and started a retail milk round.

HOME FARM - EYNSFORD: STEPHEN FRIEND'S DIARY, CHRISTMAS 1918

Dec 20th Milking, Ploughing, Carting
out manure. Digging trees, Plowing
between trees etc.

Dec 21st

Milking, Carting straw home &
putting it in barn for cows, Plowing
trees, Digging trees, Covering up seed
potato clumps, etc.

Dec 22nd

Milking, Cleaning out sheds
& feeding Cattle etc.

Dec 23rd

Milking, Cultivating potato
ground & harrowing it for oats
Cutting cabbage for market &
putting them on rail, Spreading manure
& Digging trees, etc.

Dec 24th

Milking, Plowing trees, Digging
trees, cutting down stalks, spreading
manure, Carting manure, etc.

Dec 25th

Milking, Spreading manure.

Carting Woolwaste out between trees
& spreading it, Plowing trees & Digging
trees etc.

Dec 26th

Milking, Digging & plowing trees,
carting out manure between apple
trees, Carting cow manure water out
on grass lands, etc.

Dec 27th

Milking, Digging & plowing trees,
Carting out manure for potatoes,
Spreading manure, etc.

Dec 28th

Milking, Cutting out hay for
cows & horses, Carting manure from
yard out for potatoes, plowing
& Digging trees etc.

Dec 29th

Milking, feeding Cattle &
cleaning out sheds, etc.

Dec 30th

Milking, Harrowing potatoe
ground ready for oats, Carting

Stephen
Friend's diary
for Christmas
week, 1918,
working on
Home Farm,
Eynsford. He
was 41 years
old.

HOME FARM - EYNSFORD: STEPHEN FRIEND'S DIARY, CHRISTMAS 1918

Stephen Friend, then aged 41, worked for the Alexanders at Home Farm. The 12 day entries (see photograph on separate sheet) show the range of tasks he undertook:-

For Livestock

Milked cows daily
Carted straw to put in the barn for the cows
Fed the cattle
Cut out hay for the cows and horses
Cleaned out the sheds
Carted out manure

For the fields

Ploughed
Cultivated potato ground
Harrowed for oats
Cut cabbages for market and took to station
Spread manure

For apple orchard

Dug trees
Ploughed between the trees
Spread wool waste for the trees
Carted water to the trees



Loading dung by the long thatched barns at Home Farm, Eynsford. From 'A Farming Century' by William G.G.

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Home Farm, Eynsford, 1993