

The History of The Plough Inn, The Green, Nettleham

The Plough Inn, Nettleham, is a Grade 11 listed building built in 1690.

The Plough is a traditional English village pub built of stone, with a twist situated on the Green, in the beautiful village of Nettleham. It is said to be relaxed and yet vibrant. The single bar has low ceilings and exposed beams. The walls are adorned with brass and copper artefacts and pictures of old Nettleham. It serves cask beers and spirits. Meals are served in the bar and the restaurant upstairs.

The twist is that the landlord and chef are Greek and many Greek style menus are served on the premises.



The Plough Inn was originally a coaching inn from 1690. As late as 1906, the Coaching Inn was able to stable two horses.

The Plough was also chosen to be the Manor Court following the Demise of the Bishops Palace in Nettleham. This Court dealt with land transfers, managing the open fields, settling disputes between individuals.

The manor court was concerned only with the welfare of the manor, not with areas beyond. Crimes dealt with by the manor court were damage to property and personal attacks or fighting (assault and affray).

The building itself received some major alterations and re-fronting in the 1800s. Squared limestone rubble with coursed rubble base and gable end, pantile roof with one yellow brick gable stack. L shaped plan, 2 storey, 3 bay front with central 6 panelled door flanked by single and re small plain sashes.

To the first floor are 2, 20th century light glazing bar casements. All openings have segmental stone heads. The interior retains cased in beams.

Strangely there is not a lot of history regarding the owners of the plough Inn until 1777. However, there is the history of one Sir Francis Bernard of Nettleham.

Sir Francis Bernard was born in 1712 in Oxfordshire and educated at Christchurch, Oxford. He became a lawyer and later elected to the Midland Circuit. He was a steward of the City of Lincoln and a recorder for Boston. One of his sons was born in Lincoln suggesting he had a house there.

Sir Francis was later appointed as Governor of Massachusetts before becoming a Governor of New Jersey.

Following problems with settlers in America Sir Francis was recalled to England where he was rewarded for his work, being given a Knighthood along with being made the Baron of Nettleham.

As Baron of Nettleham he was given land which surrounded the Plough Inn, although nothing states that he actually owned or was granted ownership of The Plough Inn, apart from a book via a Mrs Florence baker, 'Nettleham' which states that the house next door, No 2, came into possession of Sir Francis Bernard after the 'Enclosure' of Nettleham (see below) around 1776, although this is suspect, but may give credence to Sir Francis owning The Plough, but keeping it quite, perhaps as he didn't want it known that he owned a Public House.

Sir Francis Bernard died in 1779. It is not known if he ever resided or even visited Nettleham as Baron of Nettleham.

The 'Enclosure' of Nettleham:

In 1776 Nettleham Villages applied for an Act of Parliament to enclose the open fields. Until that time there were just 2 large fields. The Act stated where roads should be, where new fields would be laid out and who should be given them.

The next page shows an extract regarding 2 The Green and The Plough Inn.

The Vickers Family of Nettleham

This work tells the story of the acquisition of property in Nettleham, by my wife Mollie's forbears, a branch of the Vickers family of Nettleham. It concerns the house in which we live at number 2 The Green, Nettleham; The Plough Inn next door and the farmyard behind the house, described in the Inclosure Awards for Nettlehamin 1776-1778, as an Inclosed Toft or Croft.

Mollie came into possession of the house, on the death of her mother Mrs. Alice Mary Porter, in 1983. In the course of sorting through her papers, we found a number of documents relating to past ownership of the house, the Plough Inn and the farmyard. Those that were relevant, were used to prove Mollie's title to the house and the rest were put away till later, since I had some difficulty in reading, let alone understanding the legal jargon.

Mrs. Florence Baker's book " Nettleham ", states that our house came into the possession of Sir Francis Bernard by exchange from Mrs. Jane Monk, at the Inclosure. I decided to try to discover exactly when Mollie's maternal ancestors, the Vickers family, became owners of the house. My starting off point was from references in " The Enclosure of Nettleham: 1776-1778 ".

The list headed " The Old Enclosure of The Village Proper ", shows that plot number 32 became Sir Francis Bernards's by exchange (see appendix 1). The enclosure awarded Mrs. Jane Monk plot " D "at Riseholme containing 6 acres 2 roods 17 perches (see appendix 2), in exchange for plots numbers 32 and 65, together containing 2 acres 1 rood 2 perches (see appendix 1). Plot number 30 the site of our house, adjoins plot 32 and is shown at the Inclosure, as being occupied by William Adams. This and subsequent occupancy throws doubt on the possibility of it passing to Sir Francis Bernard by exchange and proved in the article on " The House ".

Since there are 3 contributory parts to the Vicker's possessions, I have decided to deal with each individually under the following headings:-

- (1) Plot number 32, " The Toft or Croft ".
- (2) Plot number 31, " The Plough Inn ".
- (3) Plot number 30, " The House ".

as all of these were at one time, owned by the Vickers family, at the same time.

The following showing owners of the Plough from 1777 to 1843. It is now owned by Batemans Brewery. The owners of house next door, 2 The Green are also shown.

Appendix No. 20

Owners and Occupiers of The House and The Plough Inn from 1777.

2 The Green

<u>Date</u>	<u>House Owner</u>	<u>House Occupier</u>	<u>Plough Owner</u>	<u>Plough Occupier</u>
1777	Wm. Adams	Wm. Adams	John Shepherd	John Shepherd
1791	A'y. Clipsham	Mary Barnaby & M'w Shepherd	Ja's Adams now W'm Allison	John Shepherd
1795	A'y. Clipsham	Mary Barnaby & M'w Shepherd	W'm Allison	John Shepherd
1809	W'm Grundy	Dav'd Atkinson & Rich'd Goulding	John Allison	John Shepherd
1819	W'm Grundy	Dav'd Atkinson & Rich'd Goulding	Geo. Bayles	A'y. Clipsham
1825	W'm Grundy	Dav'd Atkinson & Rich'd Goulding	John Vickers	Jane Vickers. her family & John Vickers (Br'-in-law)
1836	Mary Abbott	Mary Abbott & Eliz. Burke	John Vickers	Jane Vickers her family & John Vickers (Br'-in-law)
1840 Circa	Tho's Atkinson	Thomas & Marg't Vickers (Brother of John Vickers)	John Vickers	Jane Vickers her family & John Vickers (Br'-in-law)
1841 (census)	Tho's Atkinson	Thomas & Marg't Vickers	John Vickers	Jane Vickers her family & John Vickers & servants
1843	Henry Vickers	Jane Vickers Geo. Vickers John Vickers	John Vickers	Henry & Anne Vickers & family

The following shows more owners and facts surrounding The Plough, Inn. It mentions the Jersey School, part of the Pub building to the rear. This was a school where the children did make Jerseys, to keep it going.

<u>Date</u>	<u>House Owner</u>	<u>House Occupier</u>	<u>Plough Owner</u>	<u>Plough Occupier</u>
1851 (census)	Henry Vickers	Jane Vickers Geo. Vickers John Vickers	John Vickers	Henry & Anne Vickers & family & servants
1861 (census)	Henry Vickers	Jane Vickers Geo. Vickers John Vickers Mary Walker (widow)	John Vickers	Henry & Anne Vickers & family & one servant
1871 (census)	Henry Vickers	Tho's Vickers Mary Vickers Geo. Vickers	Henry Vickers	Henry Vickers & family
1881 (census)	Henry Vickers	Ha'h Cartwright Sarah Skepper Geo. Vickers Martha Cartwright	Henry Vickers	Henry Vickers & family & one servant

Note:-The Indenture dated 1786 for the lease of the land from Thomas Bernard on which to erect the Jersey School, states that it was "now or late in the occupation of Harry Clipsham". I conclude from this that he was Thomas Bernard's tenant and was so at the time of buying our house in 1791.

Also, prior to 1844 the house was divided into two dwellings, but after this it would seem that it became one dwelling.

The Vickers family relationships

Jane Vickers' husband William died in 1820, their children were, Sarah, Hannah, George and Henry.

Henry's and Anne's children were William, Mary, John, Henry and Sarah Ann. Thomas Vickers was the brother of William (Jane's husband) and John senior (Mollie's great great great uncle).

Event Dates

1791 Anthony Clipsham was admitted Tenant to The House from William Adams.

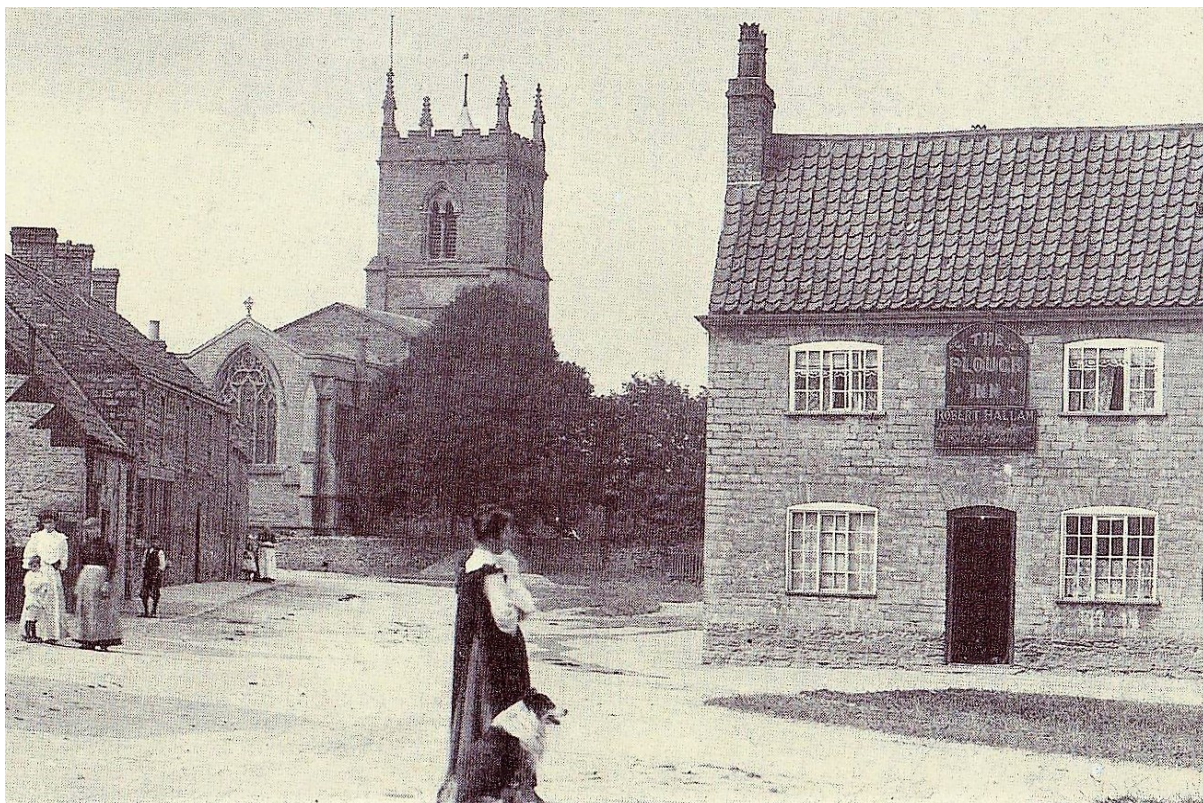
1809 William Grundy bought The House from Anthony Clipsham.

1836 Mary Abbott inherited The House from her brother W'm Grundy.

1840 (circa) Thomas Atkinson bought The House from Mary and John Abbott.

1843 Henry Vickers bought The House from Thomas Atkinson.

The following show's 3 photos of the Plough Inn, which can be seen to the right of the photos. The first early 1900's the others probably around the 1930's.





The Green, Nettleham.