Fulney Lane, Spalding.



This photograph, believed to have been taken in the 1890's, shows William Lowden and his wife Sarah, and their nephew George William Chatterton. They are recorded in the 1891 Census for Fulney Lane, Spalding:

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Ten years earlier, in the 1881 Census, they were living at the addresses shown below:

Dwelling: 46 Holbeach Road

Census Place: Spalding, Lincoln, England

Source: FHL Film 1341764 PRO Ref RG11 Piece 3203 Folio 83 Page 11

Marr Age Sex Birthplace

William B. LOWDEN M 38 M Spalding, Lincoln, England

Rel: Head

Occ: Farmer 169 Acres 4 Men 5 Boys 1 Woman

S.A. LOWDEN M 33 F Spalding, Lincoln, England

Rel: Wife

Dwelling: 2 Stow Lane

Census Place: Horbling, Lincoln, England

Source: FHL Film 1341762 PRO Ref RG11 Piece 3196 Folio 93 Page 15

Marr Age Sex Birthplace

William CHATTERTON M 41 M Old Bolingbroke, Lincoln, England

Rel: Head

Occ: Miller & Baker (Corn) (1 Man)

Mary J.P. CHATTERTON M 36 F Spalding, Lincoln, England

Rel: Wife

Occ: Miller & Baker Wife

George W. CHATTERTON 11 M Spalding, Lincoln, England

Rel: Son Occ: Scholar

Emily A. CHATTERTON 9 F Spalding, Lincoln, England

Rel: Daur Occ: Scholar

From "The Spalding Free Press" of 22nd June, 1915:

Old Landmark Disappearing

"Another historic landmark is disappearing from our midst. It is the old windmill near Fulney Church, which has stood on the same site for nearly 400 years, and which continued working up to last year. The erection had become unsafe, and Mr. Lowden, of Low Fulney, the owner, decided it would be better to have it demolished. He sold it to Messrs. Stead & Rivett of Boston, who have bought and razed scores of old mills in the county. They are now at work on the old structure, and have removed the sails and windshaft. The sails are some forty odd feet in length, and the wind shaft weighs two tons. The central post is a huge piece of oak, 2ft. 6in. square - a fine solid oak rock, invaluable to an antique dealer for repairs &c. In all there is about forty tons of oak in the building, which was a fine specimen of the early form of windmill in this county. Most of the original cogs still left are of wood. Apparently some 150 years ago brick pier supports were erected to replace the original wood props, which, no doubt, were beginning to give way. As to the age of the mill, the only record available is a date inscribed on one of the posts, and which is 1526 - 389 years ago. For the past twenty years, Mr. Lowden has owned the mill, and before that the late Mr. Reynolds was proprietor for a great number of years."

(The above article and the picture below are from 'Aspects of Spalding' by N. Leveritt and M. Elsden)



Lowden's Post Mill, Fulney.

From a pencil sketch by George W. Bailey (1880-1955) Spalding Gentlemen's Society.

Both the Chatterton and Lowden families were millers. William Chatterton was shown in the 1868 Post Office Directory as a Miller living in Red Lion Street. In 1881 he was a Miller and Baker in Horbling. George Lowden, William Lowden's father had once owned the Tower Windmill on Roman Bank, Spalding. The 1868 directory lists William Lowden as a Farmer living in Holbeach Road. He married Sarah Ann Perkins in the Spring of 1875. By 1881 he was farming 169 acres and living at 46 Holbeach Road, Spalding. In about 1895, he acquired an ancient post mill in Holbeach Road, Spalding, from a Mr Allen Reynolds. However, it seems that William Chatterton took over the actual running of the mill and bakery. His son George W had already moved in to the Lowden household in Fulney Lane, as shown in the 1891 Census. The mill became unsafe and was demolished in 1915 (see article above). Sarah Lowden died on 12th July 1917 aged 70, and William died on 6th August, aged 74, less than one month later. They had no children, therefore probate was granted to George Charlesworth Bimrose, retired workhouse master, George William Chatterton, farmer, and Henry Edward Lowden, engineer's clerk.

George W Chatterton arose from being a labourer and lodger with his Uncle and Aunt, to becoming a farmer himself occupying Fulney House, which up until her death in 1903 was home to Sarah Everard, the widow of Captain Welby Everard. In the Summer of 1905, George married Lucy Kent Proctor, daughter of a prominent local farmer. He was eventually made an Alderman, and also became Chairman of the South Lincs Water Board. His name is commemorated on the large square water tower built in the centre of Spalding in the mid 1950's. Lucy did not live to see all of George's achievements; she is believed to have been killed as a result of a motoring accident, and died on 24th December 1945. She had tried to close the rear 'suicide' door of their large Armstrong Siddeley car whilst it was travelling along, but was pulled out by the slipstream.

The farmstead in Fulney Lane was now owned by George William Chatterton and then occupied by Alfred and Matilda Bateman, after Alfred had become an employee of Mr Chatterton. The date at which Fulney House and Lowden's farm came under the ownership of Mr Chatterton is not known, but since he was named in Probate after his uncle William Lowden died in 1917 it is probably then.

After the death of George Chatterton on 15th November 1958, the farming was continued by his son, Hugh, until 1960 when the Fulney House estate, including Lowden's Farm, was sold and the Chattertons moved to Bovey Tracey in Devon.

The photograph at the beginning of this article shows George William Chatterton looking out of the window of what was, or became, a bathroom. Mrs Lowden is standing in front of the washhouse door, with William Lowden at the garden gate.

In the 1940's and 50's there was a hand pump in the washhouse which could be used to pump water up to a bath installed in the room above. Water, obtained in buckets from a large cistern at the rear of the house, could be heated in a 'copper' in the washhouse. Either hot or cold water could then be pumped up to fill the bath, providing the fire under the copper had been lit a couple of hours before. There was also a drain off tap in the washhouse for emptying the bathwater into a bucket. In Alfred and Matilda Bateman's time, the washhouse contained a hand operated washing machine, and the usual wooden mangle, together with a dolly-tub and dolly-peg. There are two other doors on the front of the house, as though at some stage the property may have been two, or perhaps three, separate cottages. The five upstairs rooms interconnected, which did nothing for privacy. Downstairs at the front there was the living room and 'front room' which each had an outside door. At the rear was the kitchen, and off this and at a lower level, the 'dairy'. This was always cool, and housed the milk separator and butter churn, which were used when they kept a 'house cow'. The toilet was a very primitive (and smelly!) earth closet which can just be seen behind the tree at the side of the house. Butting up to the other side of the house was the crewyard for over-wintering Lincoln Red bullocks. Mains water was piped into the kitchen in the late 1940's, prior to this drinking water was drawn from the cistern and filtered through a charcoal type filter.

Mains electricity finally arrived in 1953, when the hand powered washing machine was superseded by a 'Hotpoint Countess' electric washing machine, and paraffin lamps and candles were no longer needed for lighting. Until this time, cooking had been done on a 'Valor' bottled gas stove, or on the range in the living room. The range also provided hot water from a back boiler, which had to be carried through to the kitchen for washing or cooking. Again, a fire had to be lit and maintained every day for this to be possible. A 'Belling' electric cooker was also purchased, along with a 'Swan' electric kettle. Hot water could now be had at the flick of a switch, with no need of a fire. Immediately before the arrival of mains electricity, they had low voltage electric lighting, provided by a Lister petrol engine in the barn driving a dynamo to charge some lead acid accumulators. Only the downstairs was lit in this way, and even then there was insufficient power for all the lights to be used at once. To light your way to bed, you had to use a candle. The arrival of electricity had brought considerable improvements to Alfred and Matilda's life, as it did to other residents in Fulney Lane.



October 1958, Matilda having died in 1956.

This is a view of the rear of the house, was taken in about 1957. The plain window in the end of the house is for the stairs. The building attached to the house is part of the crewyard, and had a cattle stall where the 'house cow' was milked. The small lean-to was used as a wood shed. The double height chestnut paling fence was needed to keep the (Muscovy) ducks, geese and chickens away from the back door.

The house ceased to be occupied following the death of Alfred in

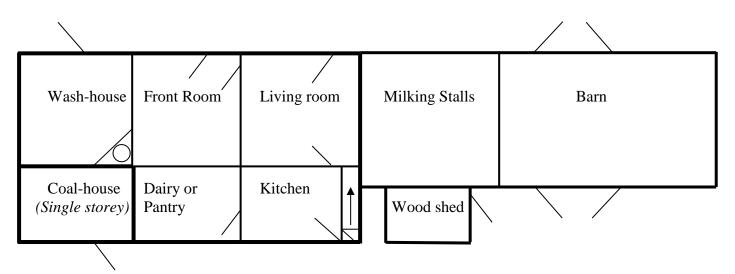


A view of the front of Lowden's Farm, taken in the 1930's or 1940's

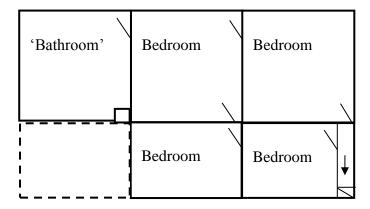


Alfred and Matilda Bateman in the front garden in about 1948.

Alfred Bateman 1952



Ground floor Plan of the house and buildings



First floor rooms



The rear of the house in 2007.

Inside view above back door.

The farm buildings have been converted into art and craft studios, known as Unique Cottage Studios. The house has now been demolished and replaced with a new building to be used as further studios and café facilities. This has been sympathetically designed to replicate the exterior of the old house.



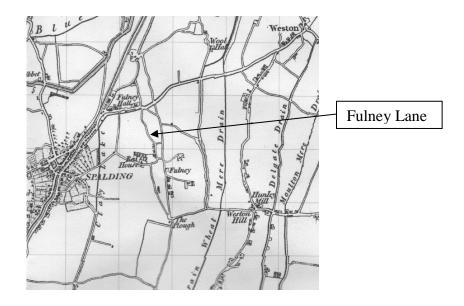
The re-built house and buildings in 2014

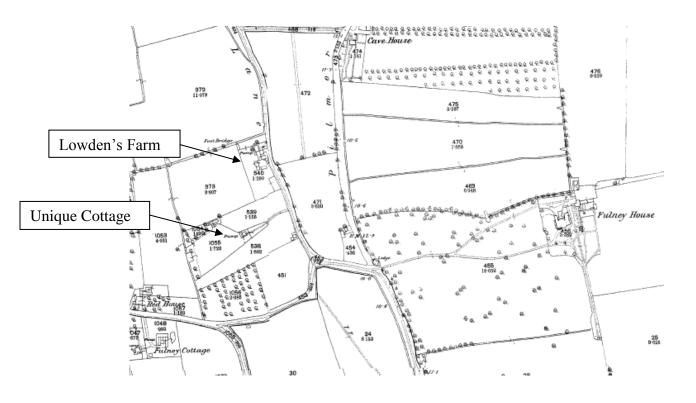


Fulney Lane at the junction with Holbeach Road, (The Turnpike) circa 1890.



A Rural Scene in Fulney Lane, circa 1930. (near Lowden's Farm)

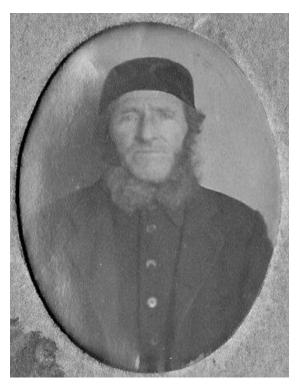




Fulney Lane 1903

Unique Cottage, Fulney Lane.

Lowden's farm was situated next to Unique Cottage which was the home of David and Hannah Bakeman, Alfred Bateman's uncle and aunt (some branches of the family used a variation in the spelling of the surname). Their daughter, Phoebe, remained at Unique Cottage after their deaths in 1908 and 1925 respectively to become a smallholder and bulb grower. Phoebe died in 1950 unmarried, when the smallholding was taken over by Stanley Pickersgill, who lived in Green Lane, Spalding. Unique Cottage was occupied by his daughter Grace, who was married to Horace Miles. The exterior of the cottage was painted in a red colour, and was set back from Fulney Lane by about 100 yards. A modern chalet style house now stands on the site and still retains the name 'Unique Cottage'. A nearby pit could have been the source of clay for the making of the bricks used in the construction of at least some of the buildings in the vicinity.



David Proctor Bakeman 1839-1908

David Proctor Bakeman, born 1839, occupied Unique Cottage, Fulney Lane, from about 1875 until his death in 1908. He was married to Hannah Jinks, who survived him until 1925. They had eight children, including twins Phoebe and Lydia. In various Censuses, his occupation was given as Cottager, Labourer, and Gardener.

Following David's death, Hannah continued to live in Unique Cottage and became a bulb grower, which was a thriving local industry at that time.



Phoebe Bakeman 1872-1950

After her mother died, Phoebe carried on the bulb growing tradition at Unique Cottage until her death in 1950. She remained a spinster.

Her twin sister Lydia, married Martin Tebb in 1894 and died in 1949.

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