



The Rose Family

Farmers in Bluntisham, Tim Rose - Heath Farm

Farmers in Bluntisham

In 1906 my Grandparents, Harry & Susan Rose, began farming at Priors Field Farm just over the old railway bridge on the Needingworth Road, Bluntisham. They grew arable crops and kept pigs, cows and chickens. They provided milk for the inhabitants of Bluntisham and delivered it by pony and trap. The photo above shows Harry Rose and Robert Chapman delivering milk. The Saracens pub is on the right and the workhouse is on the left. The boy on the trap is Cecil Rose who was Harry's eldest son. Cecil was born at the farm in 1909.

Harry and Susan Rose had two sons - my father Cecil and my Uncle Bill, and two daughters, Auntie Sis (Emily) and Auntie Joyce. Emily became a state registered nurse and eventually returned to Bluntisham to become a District Nurse and midwife in this area.

Most of the farm work was done with heavy horses and Harry kept several. The photo on the left shows my father Cecil as a small child with his father, Harry and two of the farm horses.

Grandfather farmed in Bluntisham for over 50 years. He went to St Ives Cattle market every week, travelling from Bluntisham





to St Ives by pony and trap. He farmed his land very well and paid a lot of attention to land drainage. When it rained heavily he could be seen walking round checking the drains, dykes and ditches. The photo on the left shows Harry Rose with son Cecil (on pony trap) Robert Chapman holding the pony. The milk was delivered in churns and measured into jugs. Photo c1913



He was a Fen Reeve in Bluntisham from 1918 until 1927. In 1958 he was awarded an MBE for services to agriculture. The photograph shows Harry with his award with Auntie Sis and my father Cecil.



My Grandfather Harry died in 1959 and his two sons continued farming the land as two separate farms. Bill remained at Priors Field Farm and continued farming until he died in 1984. Uncle Bill's family remained farming Priors Field Farm until 2005 when the farm house was sold. It is now a private residence but some of the original farm buildings remain. The building on the north, bordering Needingworth Road, is the old dairy.

My father Cecil farmed the land to the north of the old railway line and built Heath Farm on The Heath. He died in 1981 and I live at Heath Farm and continue farming the land.

Picture Cecil Rose, Tim Rose, Sally Rose & cousin loading fruit to send to Walter Game. C1955



These photos show the Massey Harris combine driven by Keith Chessum (known by everyone as Wimp). Wimp worked on the farm with Cecil & Tim from the early 1950's until 1984. The photo above shows Cecil Rose driving the potato crawler. From left to right on the planter: Brian Offer, Tim Rose, "Wimp" Chessum, Sally Rose, Chris Hill. Taken c.1954.

The Massey Harris combine cut the corn, threshed out the grain into sacks. One sack took the grain and a second sack took the chaff and tailcorn. Once a sack was filled it had to be tied with string and put down a chute into the field to be collected up. The person(s) in charge of the sacks had to be alert and quick and were fully occupied with getting the sacks in place on the combine, removing them and tying them when full, as well as operating a rope to release them down the chute off the combine into the field. Somewhat different from today's machines where the driver has an air conditioned cab, GPS and a range of computers!





Some of the cattle at Priors Field Farm. Photo early 1900's

The photo below is in the farmyard between the farmhouse and farm sheds.



*Harry, Cecil & Bill Rose. Priors Field Farm
Early 1920's*

*Doug Birch (left) Alan
Chapman (centre) Tim
Rose (right) 1986*



Thanks to Mr & Mrs Rose for the photos and content.