

THEODORE JAMES MOISEY
WR/319/45/77

At the beginning of World War II, Britain needed to increase home food production, and the area of land under cultivation was rapidly increased. County War Agricultural Executive Committees and district committees under them had exceptional powers to determine the direction of farming at a local level. Once the short-term objective of increasing food production had been met, thought was given to implementing a more general National Farm Survey with the purpose of providing data to form the basis of post-war planning. Census forms were sent out on 4th June 1941 for the farmer/market gardener to complete. In addition, every farm and holding of five acres (ranging from large farms to market gardens) received a visit from an inspector who surveyed and classified according to the physical condition of the land. These records may be viewed in the MAF 32 category at The National Archives, Kew; a team of Badsey Society members visited The National Archives in January 2013 and took copies of the records.

Theodore James Moisey (1882-1969), known as Jim, lived at 7 Pitchers Hill, Wickhamford, and was a full-time market gardener who was a tenant of the Lord & Parker estate, whose agent was Raymond Webb in Evesham.

Jim Moisey occupied around 52 acres of land at Wickhamford, 8 acres of which he had occupied for 30 years, 40 acres for 15 years and 3¼ acres for three months. He claimed to employ only one male casual seasonal worker. He grew oats, potatoes, turnips/swedes for fodder, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, onions, runner beans and asparagus and kept 11 cattle and six pigs. He had one horse used for agricultural purposes; he did not have a tractor.

As the holding was over 5 acres in size, Form B496 needed to be completed by inspectors. The inspector, R W Sidwell, judged the farm to be 33.3% good, 33.3% fair and 33.3% bad, moderately laid out, on soil which was 100% heavy, when he visited on 2nd January 1943. There was no farmhouse. The situation in regard to road was good; the situation in regard to railway and the condition of buildings, farm roads, fences, ditches and field drainage was considered fair. There were no infestations of any kind; there were 15 acres of derelict fields. There was a roof water supply for farm buildings and a well supplying water to the fields; there was no electricity.

Management of the farm was classed as A. The condition of arable land was good with adequate use of fertilisers; the condition of pasture was fair with fertilisers used to some extent.



*Jim Moisey with cut
asparagus grown at
Whitfurrows.*