

## *JOHN AGG JUNIOR*

### *WR/319/45/2*

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

John Agg Junior (1906-1971) lived at Mill House, Murcott, Broadway, and was a full-time market gardener who was a tenant of the Lord & Parker estate, whose agent was Raymond Webb in Evesham. John's father, John Agg Senior (1877-1944) had been a tenant of the land at the time of Lloyd George's 1910 Land Valuation Survey; the land of which he was a tenant was described then as Pitchers Hill allotments, Further Hill (OS Field No 69) and Murcott Allotments, Murcott Road, Flax Leaze (OS Field No 71)

John Agg Junior had 6 acres of land, 5¼ acres of which he had occupied for 13 years and ¾ acre he had occupied for three years; he worked the land on his own with no assistance. He grew potatoes, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, carrots, parsnips, turnips/swedes, beetroot, onions and asparagus and had 75 chickens. He had wheel tractor for field work: a 2 horsepower Gravely.

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 100% good, conveniently laid out, on soil which was 100% heavy, when he visited on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1942. There was no farmhouse. The situation in regard to road and the condition of fences and ditches was considered good; the condition in regard to railway and the condition of buildings, farm roads and field drainage was fair. There was infestation with insect pests and no derelict fields. There was no water supply and no electricity.

Management of the farm was classed as A. The condition of arable land was good with adequate use of fertilisers; there was no pasture.