

John Michael Charles Lysons, 1924-2018

I'd like to share some of my father's early memories of Bulmer with you.

My father, John Lysons, was born in 1924. Shortly before his death in 2018, my mother passed on to me some of his earliest recollections which she had noted down as follows:

His home from the late 1920's to the early 1930's was Black House Farm, Bulmer. His father Oliver Charles Lysons at that time being the tenant farmer, and his wife Irene Sybil, nee Tippet. Dad had no siblings.

Early education: Gertie Allen was a 'governess' to my father and two local children. She was eventually to become governess to the young Princess Diana. He then went to Miss Poole's School in Sudbury, taken there by Ethel, their much-loved daily help, on the back of her bicycle.

My Grandmother, being a farmer's wife, had a progression of casualties from among the workers (She had been a VAD nurse during WW1). One casualty had a finger/thumb crushed by a large lump of coal used by the steam-plough engines.

Harvest-time: My father and his friend Jimmy would enjoy hearing the "Zhoom" of the drum as sheaves of corn were passed into the thresher, grain coming out into the sacks below. The straw went up the elevator and thence onto a stack- the latter, the boys thought, just made for sliding down.

Other memories include talking to the ploughman "Pudden", perched on a farm horse and going to the pond, with my father's young legs sticking out at right-angles across its broad back.

At Bulmer goods were brought to farms and houses by a carrier with his pony and cart. My father remembered one "William Humm". One day my Grandmother Lysons took William's photograph- he wore his bowler hat, and sported a long white beard. She presented him with a copy of the photo later, and he tried to pay her for it, and was amazed when she would not accept payment.



My Grandfather Oliver had been born disabled, and was forced to retire early owing to ongoing health problems. They then moved to a house at Chilton on the outskirts of Sudbury.

I hope this might be of some interest. Dad seemed to have fond memories of a happy Bulmer childhood.

Charlie Lysons December 2022