

Journey from Gembling, Nr Driffield, Yorks to Catley Park Cambridgeshire in 1894 (as recalled by James Edwin Green 7th February 1950 to Owen Gibbon)

It would be about the year 1894 when my Uncle Henry Green left a farm at Gembling to come to Catley Park Farm.

The team consisted of 5 horses, 1 wagon, 1 cart and a drill. The team left Gembling on the Monday morning in charge of the foreman Tom Burkett and Harry Nurse a lad of 18 and got as far as Bubwith Nr Selby. I was to go to Bubwith by train (from Highfields Farm Caldecote) and meet the team there and take charge and Tom Burkett was to return home. Unfortunately, the horses had not been shod and owing to the rough state of the roads in those days the horses were getting footsore and we could not go any further than Doncaster. There we had to have them all shod and we got to Bawtry for dinner. (I remember they gave us a real good meal of hot boiled beef off a big joint). Our next stop was at Tuxford. These were the worst quarters we had, both for the horses ourselves.

Then on to Grantham the next was our longest day and we had difficulty in getting through Stamford as it was market day and streets were very narrow. It was getting late when we got to Stilton but we managed to get in. The next day, Saturday, was easier and we landed at Highfields (Caldecote) in the afternoon complete with the team. And then on to Catley Park Farm on the Monday.

It was an experience, neither of us were more than 18 and we had no one to find our lodgings. Three vehicles and 5 horses were a responsibility that would not be allowed these days.

This is a correct a record as I can remember.

J Edwin Green