



Frank Campion and farm workers with tools, Bourne End Farm, Bletsoe, c1914

Seated centre is Frank Campion (1881-1965) who occupied and managed Bourne End Farm, the lease of which was held by his elder brother Edward until the latter's premature death in 1916. Frank then took over the tenancy until 1931 when the farm fell victim to the agricultural recession and was sold by the St John Estate. The name Frank Campion also appears on a wartime land usage map of WW2 (ref. BARO WW2/AC3/108) regarding a field adjacent to and south of Bletsoe Brick Yard in Bourne End Lane. Seated to the right of Frank and holding a long whip is the horse-keeper Joseph York (1850-1920), and to his right holding a scythe is Ben Croot. The man at back row left is Joe Barker; he is holding a gathering rake, used for gathering scythed crops into sheaves. In 1954 this photograph was provided by Miss Kate Campion, (sister of Frank & Edward) via an intermediary (see Z171-30-b), possibly the then County Archivist, to the editor of Bedfordshire Magazine. Identification of Joseph York is by comparison with York family group at Bourne c1912. Other identities confirmed by Desmond Campion, son of Frank.

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