

A short memorandum by Robert Kemp

I Robert Kemp worked as a boy for Mr. Daniel Baseley, four or five years in Narton in the Parish of Swanbourne; then went along with him at Lady Day up to Dodley Hill, in the year 1805. I lived there for two years and a half and drove his horses, then went to my brother William Kemp at Leighton [Buzzard] for malt-making for one season.

I Robert Kemp came to Mr. Thomas Simonds' of Mursley at the end of July or beginning of August 1809, to harvest. Mr. Simonds erected another Malting that year, so Mr. Simonds hired me for one as he had two Maltings and two Maltsters. He drove on a deal of business, made six or seven hundred pounds per year. After being with him seven years he died. Then his son came over from Hockliffe.

I Robert Kemp was Maltster for him for nineteen years, then he died and his son Thomas Simonds succeeded him.

I Robert Kemp was still Maltster for him for fourteen years, then he died on October 27th, 1849. Then still for Joseph Simonds as Executor for a time.

I Robert Kemp was Maltster for the family for forty years and seven months, and now for Mr. William Pitkin who has bought the maltings.

- This extract is taken from Robert Kemp's Bible, a New Testament volume in which he filled many of the blank part-pages at the end of each book, with family reminiscences, notes on the weather, local and national events, and poems etc. The book came into his possession on 17 March 1815, but this memorandum must have been added in around 1850.
- Robert Kemp was born in Swanbourne in 1789, the youngest of eight children born to John and Mary Kemp. He was buried at Mursley in 1855. His brother, William (mentioned above) worked at a Maltings in Leighton Buzzard, but was killed by a stampeding dray horse in 1828.
- Their sister Kitty, who married John Milburn, was the landlord of 'The Three Horseshoes' at Drayton Parslow, succeeding her husband when he died in 1836, until her own death in 1869.
- Robert Kemp's son, also Robert (1820-1868), was landlord of 'The Rose & Crown' or 'The New Crown' in the High Street, Fenny Stratford. His occupation is variously described in Directories and Censuses as: Maltster, Licensed Victualler and Sugar Baker. This Robert's eldest son, Edmund (1847-1903) also worked as a Maltster in Simpson.