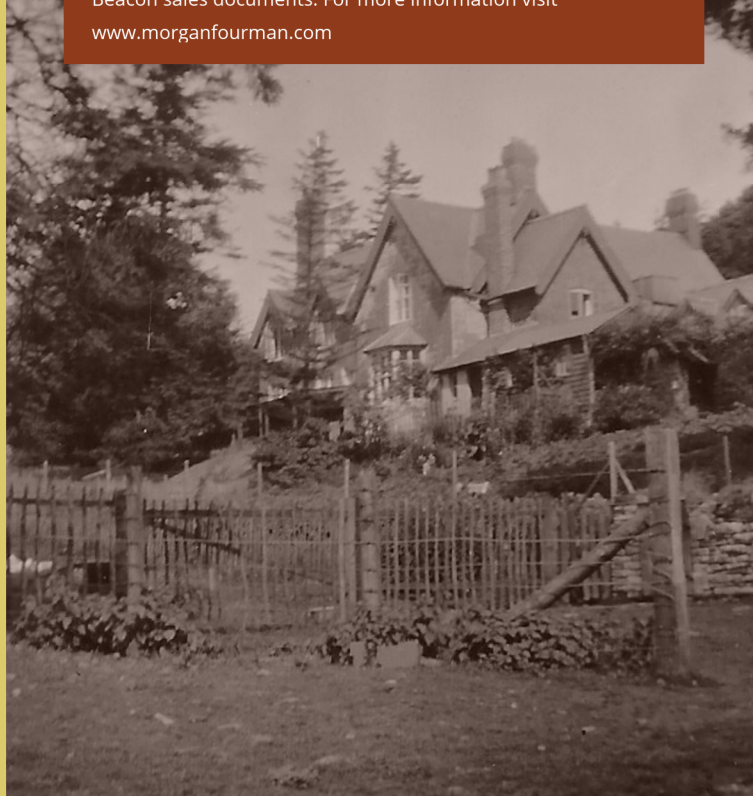


GLORIOUS TWELFTH at the Beacon

Downing Descendants Picnic
Sunday 18 August 2019
at 12.00 onwards

© Extracts from Molly Downing's Diary, 1934-38 photos, the Beacon sales documents. For more information visit www.morganfourman.com



THE BEACON 1910 - 1944

Beacon Lodge was purchased by William Edmund (Ted) Downing in about 1910 as a shooting lodge.

Half the building was inhabited by a farming family, latterly the Griffins, who lived there permanently, keeping pigs and chickens. They acted as housekeepers for Ted who was actively shooting and fishing certainly up until August 1937, aged 88 (pictured above).

The records show that the young family of Ted's son Noel made at least annual day trips from their home in Edgbaston a trip of about 65 miles. These trips would coincide at or shortly after the Glorious 12th August, the opening day of the Grouse shooting season.



Sunday 22 August 1937

GLORIOUS BEACON DAY

Gorgeous. Hot. Blue. Sun

A lovely morning for 8 o'clock breakfast. All 6 of us ready for car at 9.10. Good run to Elnel's mill and Mortimer's Cross [...] Arrival. Purple heather. Poney walk. Glorious. All riding in turn. Lunch 8 of us. Out after. Trout tickling. Good hot sun. Lovely 14 trout. Home. Tea. Wander. Bathing boat. Home [...]

(From Molly's Diary. Six arrived from Edgbaston were Noel, Molly, Pam, Hazel, Jill & Glynn Williams. Grandfather W.E. Downing and Aunt Mary joined at the Beacon for lunch, etc.)



Saturday 12 August 1939

BEACON

Fine all day

Off at 7.30 in car. Lovely morning. Picking Mr J. [Jackson] at Blakedown. Nice sunny run. No stop (save for plums). Arrival 11.10. Picnic. Plan. Off at 11.30. 2 guns (1st a pheasant!) Long uphill tramp in big heather. Stanthin Hill and Black Mountain Sweeps. Sun. Hot. Lovely. Lunch in heather (arrived on poney) On again uphill. Stream. Ponies wild! Wild duck. Stop on one beat round Pool-hut. Hot. White heather. Long sweeps. Home (Beacon) tea 5. Slack in sun. Leave 6. Good uneventful run to Springbrook [Blakedown]. Dinner with the Jacksons. [...] Home 10. Bed

(From Molly's Diary. Glorious 12th day visit from Edgbaston to the Beacon. It would seem the three daughters stayed at home)



UPPER FERLEY, LLANGUNLLO, RADNORSHIRE

Valuation Report

I have this day inspected the above freehold Farm which comprises a small Farm House, Buildings, together with 87.845 acres of land, 50.920 acres of which is enclosed hill land. The property is let to Mr. Price Reynolds at a rental of £50 per annum.

The property is a high hill Farm rising to about 1,400 feet. The approach is by a cart track which lorries can only negotiate during dry weather. The hill land is mainly covered with fern and heather, and it is questionable if the land is worth the cost of boundary maintenance. A certain amount of repairs to roofs are necessary.

I estimate the Freehold value at the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS (£800).

Russell, Baldwin & Bright Ltd., Auctioneers & Valuers, Tenbury, Leominster, Hereford & Hay
2 November 1944

