

Historic Towns & Villages

Simpson

Simpson houses – Simpson people



One of the earliest dwellings in what is now Simpson was the farm (tun) of the Saxon, Sigwine. Over the centuries Sigwine's tun morphed into Simpson. When the Domesday Book was compiled in 1089 there were about 25 villagers living here.



Parts of the Old Bakehouse (opposite the Plough Inn) can be traced back at least to the 17th century. Bread was produced here until the 1950s, latterly by the Stevens family. A horse-drawn cart delivered to Milton Keynes Village and Bow Brickhill.

Simpson House, the largest building in the village, was built by Charles Warren in 1823. In 1936 it was bought by Warren Dawson, an Egyptologist who was a leading

authority on mummification techniques. He also produced a catalogue of the correspondence of the famous naturalist Sir Joseph Banks.

In the early years of the 20th century Olde Warfe House, beside the canal in what is now Tinkers Bridge, was home to a daffodil nursery. Christopher Bourne was a bulb breeder with a national reputation and his prize-winning daffodils were distributed all over the country.

White Cottage is probably the oldest house in Simpson. In 1939 it was home to Harry Hinsley, a Cambridge University student recruited to Bletchley Park at the age of 21. He was a key figure in Hut 4 where German naval codes were decrypted. By 1944 he was aide to the Director and in the 1980s wrote the definitive five-volume *British Intelligence in the Second World War*.

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