

## **Obituary: John Stimpson**

It is sad to report the loss, just before Christmas 1988, of Mr John A.B. Stimpson, a prominent farmer and land owner.

Mr Stimpson of Hackford Hall, Reepham, was born at Park Farm, Bixley, where his father farmed. It was from Bixley that he joined the army. This was in September 1940, serving with the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers. In 1941–42 he served in the Western Desert, before becoming ADC [aide-de-camp] to General Leese, Commander of the Eighth Army in Italy. During 1944, Mr Stimpson was with General Leese, when the General was made Commander-in-Chief of ALFSEA [Allied Land Forces South East Asia] in the India/Burma Theatre. Mr Stimpson left the forces in April 1946 with the rank of Major. He was mentioned in the 1947 New Year's honours list, for services rendered during the Second World War, being awarded the MBE.

From 1946–50 Mr Stimpson managed Park Farm, Bixley, famous for its herd of Large Black pigs, which won many prizes at the County and Smithfield Shows. In 1950 he took over the management of the firm's transport company, Stimpson & Sons, which he improved with more up-to-date lorries. Mr Stimpson moved to Hackford Hall in 1952 and was married to Mrs Rosemary Packard in March the following year. Mrs Stimpson had a son, Michael, and a daughter, Frances, by her previous marriage. Following their marriage they had a daughter, Mary, and a son, Hugh, now both married.

Mr Stimpson took great interest in the local affairs of Reepham, serving on the parish council and as a church warden. He also served as a magistrate at Reepham and later at Dereham where he became chairman. He also had a great interest in the Royal Norfolk Show, of which he was honorary director from 1960–66 and 1973-80, a total of 15 years.

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