

## Museum of English Rural Life

### TR BEE

#### BEEBY BROS.

1861-1965

The records of Beeby Bros., are of particular note in that they relate to a firm of cultivating and threshing contractors, who prior to the second World War specialised in the use of steam machinery and whose work moreover was held in quite high esteem. The main body of material as well as the most significant items are the account books [TR BEE/AC] which include the private ledger for 1906-1950 [TR BEE/AC1/1] containing useful financial business summaries together with profit and loss accounts, 1907-1910 and 1912-1929. There were originally eight contracts ledgers of which three are preserved in the Institute's custody, namely:

- i. Cultivating, 1915-1917
- ii. Cultivating, 1918-1922 [TR BEE/AC1/2]
- iii. Cultivating, 1922-1933 [TR BEE/AC1/3]
- iv. Threshing, 1918-1922
- v. Threshing, 1922-1933
- vi. Threshing, 1933-1947
- vii. Threshing, 1948-1952
- viii. Cultivating, 1933-1962; Threshing, 1953-1962; General, 1937-1962. [TR BEE/AC1/4]

The contracts work cash books [TR BEE/AC2/1-4] survive as a broken run for 1906-1911 and 1920-1952 and there are also farm cash books [TR BEE/AC2/5-6] for 1908-1911 (petty cash income only) and 1919-1921. The most detailed entries naturally occur in the day books [TR BEE/AC3], which can be used additionally as registers of work done by particular sets of cultivating and threshing tackle. The most notable of these reveals the operations of a set of Fowler tackle, bought as new, during 1918-1947 [TR BEE/AC3/5], including a pair of BB1 steam ploughing engines, an anti-balance plough, a turning cultivator, a mole draining plough, a land press, a large living van and a water cart. (A turning harrow and another mole draining plough were added later). There are also detailed day book entries for general work (i.e. other than cultivating and threshing contracting) for 1937-1965 [TR BEE/AC3/6]. The remaining records include an accumulation of various papers concerned with the regulation and taxation of motor vehicles, 1861-1937 [TR BEE/AD5], including copies of acts of parliament and government statutory rules and regulations; three bulky wholesalers' catalogues of engineering supplies for the 1930's [TR BEE/P2/B1-3]; servicing literature for Ransomes' and Rustons' threshing machinery owned by Beebys [TR BEE/P2/B4-6]; three early photographs [TR BEE/PH3] and six sales particulars and catalogues, 1910-1963 [TR BEE/SP1] for the auction of local personal and real estate.

47 Documents

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**TR BEE  
AC1/1**

PRIVATE LEDGER, Beeby Bros.  
1906 - 1950

Includes the following accounts: personal - George Beeby; personal - Edward Beeby; investment; plant and machinery; purchase of yard; gardens; horses; H.M. Treasury; loans to employees; bad debts reserve; motor cars; telephones; travelling expenses; cultivating wages; bank charges; repairs; rates and insurance; legal and accountancy charges; charges for work done; coal, coke, oil and waste; contract purchases; stamps, stationery and office expenses; sundry expenses; employees' income tax; home wages, including threshing and repairs; interest; salaries; cattle; Messrs. Burrows; annual profit and loss accounts as at 30 Nov, 1907-1910 and 1912-1929. The following papers are in the rear of the volume:

- i. 1948(30 Nov). Working papers for 1948 balance sheet and list of sundry debtors.
- ii. 1949(30 Nov). Draft of balance sheet.
- iii. 1950(30 Nov). Draft balance sheet.

There is an alphabetical index to the accounts at the front of the ledger.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC1/2**

CONTRACTS LEDGER. Cultivating, including ploughing.  
1918 - 1922

The entries per customer comprise acreage cultivated, rate per acre, discount and beer money (where applicable). There is an alphabetical index of customers at the front of the ledger.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC1/3**

CONTRACTS LEDGER. Cultivating, including ploughing.  
1922 - 1933

As for TR BEE/AC1/2 above, including index.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC1/4**

CONTRACTS LEDGER.  
1933 - 1962

Cultivating from 1933 onwards, general work 1937 onwards and threshing 1953(Jul) onwards. The entries include details of work done, including amount of time taken and/or rates of work and beer money and food money (where applicable). There is an

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alphabetical index of customers at the front of the volume.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC2/1**

CASH BOOK. Contracts work.  
1906(Oct) - 1911(Oct)  
Expenditure entries divided into contracting [labelled `cultivating'], gardens [to 1907(Oct) only], discounts and bank. Income entries divided into contracting [labelled `cultivating'], gardens [to 1907(Oct) only], sundries and bank. There are also annual expenditure analyses as at 30 Nov.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC2/2**

CASH BOOK. Contracts work.  
1920(Oct) - 1929(Sep)  
As for TR BEE/AC2/1 above, except the garden entries and yearly analyses are omitted.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC2/3**

CASH BOOK. Contracts work.  
1929(Sep) - 1940(Nov)  
As for TR BEE/AC2/2 above.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC2/4**

CASH BOOK. Contracts work.  
1940(Dec) - 1952(Sep)  
As for TR BEE/AC2/2 above.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC2/5**

PETTY CASH BOOK - Farm (?)  
1908(Sep) - 1911(Oct)  
Income entries only.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC2/6**

CASH BOOK. Farm.  
1919(Oct) - 1921(Jan)  
Income and expenditure entries.

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Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC3/1**

DAY BOOK. Contracts work. Threshing.  
1908(Sep) - 1955(Mar)

There is only one set of tackle listed at the front of the volume: a Ransomes 7 h.p., two-speed traction engine, no. 12136, built 1898 and purchased second hand; a Rustons threshing machine, no. 25553; a Ransomes chaff engine with five knives, no. 3948, purchased as new 1911(Nov). The entries presumably represent therefore the operations of this set of tackle over 47 years. Entries include customer, address, type of work done (i.e. threshing, elevating, binding, pitching, chaff cutting, grinding) amount of time taken and food money (where applicable). The volume comprises running balanced accounts up to 1911(Apr), providing details of payment. Thereafter the format is that of a day book. Ledger postings start in 1918 when the series of threshing contracts ledgers commenced not extant and from 1953(Aug) are to the general contracts ledger [TR BEE/AC1/4]. Entries for 1911(May) - 1917, include occasional notes of payment.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC3/2**

DAY BOOK. Contracts work. Threshing.  
1911(Oct) - 1945(Nov)

The following tackle is listed at the front of the volume: a Burrell steam engine, no. 1436 crossed out; a Clayton steam engine, no. 44103; a Ransomes A54 threshing machine, no. 21705, purchased second hand; a Ransomes chaff engine with six knives, no. 3855, purchased as new 1910(Feb); a Case LA 45 h.p. tractor, purchased as new 1945(Sep). A new balata driving belt was bought for the threshing machine in 1917(Oct). Entries include customer, address, type of work done, amount of time taken and food money (where applicable). Ledger postings start in 1918 when the series of threshing contracts ledgers commenced not extant. Pre-1918 entries include occasional notes of payment.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC3/3**

DAY BOOK. Contracts work. Threshing.  
1954(Sep) - 1968(Feb)

The only machinery listed at the front of the volume is a Ransomes threshing machine, no. 61374, with the short end of the beater shaft to the double pulley side. Entries include, customer, address, type of work done, amount of time taken and

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food money (where applicable). The postings prior to 1962(Jan) are to the general contracts ledger [TR BEE/AC1/4]. The first two pages of the volume comprise day book entries, 1917(Jun-Oct) for cultivating and ploughing, including details of customer, address, acreage cultivated, rate per acre and beer money (where applicable), the postings being to the first cultivating ledger also not extant.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC3/4**

DAY BOOK. Contracts work. Threshing and cultivating.  
1907(Jul) - 1957(Feb)

The volume is in two parts:

i. 1907(Jul) - 1936(Sep). Cultivating and ploughing. Includes details of customer, address, acreage cultivated, rate per acre and beer money (where applicable). Running balanced accounts for 1907 only, providing details of payment. Thereafter the format is that of a day book. Ledger postings start in 1915, when the series of cultivating ledgers commenced [extant for 1918-1962 cf TR BEE/AD1/2-4]. 1908-1914 entries include occasional notes of payment.

ii. 1941(Oct) - 1957(Feb). Threshing. Includes details of customer, address, type of work done, amount of time taken and food money (where applicable). The pre 1953(Jul) postings are to the threshing contracts ledgers [not extant] and thereafter to the last contracts ledger [TR BEE/AC1/4].

The following machinery is listed in the front of the volume: a Ransomes 7 h.p. two-speed traction engine, no. 21745, built 1909 and purchased second hand from 'Moore'; a Ransomes threshing machine, no. 11556 purchased second hand from 'Jackson'; a Marshall tractor, no. 2671, purchased as new 1946(Nov); a Ransomes threshing machine, no. 52161, purchased 1951(10 Apr).

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC3/5**

DAY BOOK. Contracts work. Cultivating  
1918(May) - 1947(Nov)

Including ploughing and land draining. The machinery listed at the front is a set of Fowler steam tackle, all purchased as new, 1918(Apr) and the entries therefore represent its operations over 39 years. The tackle comprised: a BB1 compound ploughing engine right hand, no. 15146; a BB1 compound ploughing engine left hand, no. 15147; a 5/6 furrow, anti-balance plough, English type, no. 13262; an 11/13 tyne, 4.25 x 1.25" turning cultivator, no. 13016; a large living van, no. 13013; a two wheel, 5 x 3', steel frame water cart, no. 13163; a six ring land press, no. 12995; a mole draing plough, no. 13219. Two further Fowler

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items were subsequently purchased second hand, both made in 1918; a 15' turning harrow, no. 13075 made for T. Powers and a mole draining plough, no. 13492, made for M. Radford. Entries include details of customer, address, acreage cultivated, rate per acre and beer money (where applicable). The postings are to the series of cultivating contracts ledgers [TR BEE/AD1/2-4].

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC3/6**

DAY BOOK. Contracts work. Cultivating and general.  
1907(Apr) - 1965(Nov)

The volume is in two parts:

- i. 1907 - 1925, 1928, 1932 - 1934. Cultivating including ploughing. Includes details of customer, address, acreage cultivated, rate per acre and beer money (where applicable). Running balanced accounts for 1907 only providing details of payment. Thereafter the format is that of a day book. Ledger postings start in 1915, when the series of cultivating contracts ledgers commenced [extant for 1918-1962 cf TR BEE/AD1/2-4]. 1908-1914 entries include occasional notes of payment.
- ii. 1937(Mar) - 1965(Nov). General work. Most entries are detailed, including amount of time taken and/or rates of work. Postings are the last contracts ledger [TR BEE/AC1/4] prior to 1962(Jan).

There is no machinery listed at the front of the volume.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
AC9/1**

INSTRUCTIONS to creditors concerning proofs of debt  
1925

With regard to the Bankruptcy Act, 1914. As remitted to creditors by official receivers. Pp 2. Probably retained by Beeby Bros., when received in connection with a bankrupt customer.

**TR BEE  
AD3/1**

PARLIAMENTARY BILL, 14 and 15. Geo. 5, no. 179.  
1924

`A bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1924'. Pp 3. Retained by Beeby Bros., due to the bill's provisions to include agricultural labour as subject to unemployment insurance.

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**TR BEE  
AD5/1**

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 24 and 25 Vict. CAP LXX.  
1861(1 Aug)

`An act for the regulating of the use of locomotives on turnpike and other roads; and the tolls to be levied on such locomotives and on the waggons and carriages drawn or propelled by the same'. Pp 533-540.

**TR BEE  
AD5/2**

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 28 and 29 Vict. CAP LXXXIII.  
1865(5 Jul)

`An act for further regulating the use of locomotives on turnpike and other roads for agricultural and other purposes'. Pp. 737-742. `The Red Flag Act'

**TR BEE  
AD5/3**

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 61 and 62 Vict. CAP XXIX.  
1898(2 Aug)

`An act to amend the law with respect to the use of locomotives on highways, and with respect to extraordinary traffic'. Pp 11.

**TR BEE  
AD5/4**

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 10 and 11 Geo. 5. CAP XVIII.  
1920(4 Aug)

`An act to grant certain duties of customs and inland revenue (including excise), to alter other duties, and to amend the law relating to customs and inland revenue (including excise), and the national debt, and to make further provision in connection with finance'. Pp 52. Retained by Beeby Bros., due to part 1 - customs and excise, section 12 - duty on licences for mechanically propelled vehicles.

**TR BEE  
AD5/5**

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 10 and 11 Geo. 5. CAP LXXII.  
1920(23 Dec)

`An act to make provision for the collection and application of the excise duties on mechanically-propelled vehicles and on carriages; to amend the Finance Act, 1920, as respects such duties; and to amend the Motor Cart Acts, 1896 and 1903, and the Development and Road Improvement Funds Acts, 1909; and to make other provision with respect to roads and vehicles used on roads, and for purposes connected therewith'. Pp 19.

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**TR BEE  
AD5/6** PROPOSALS of the County Councils Association  
1920  
So far as they affect heavy locomotives, namely size and weight of locomotives, their use in frost, and their wheel construction, licences and permits, chain couplings and traffic regulation. Pp 1.

Two copies

**TR BEE  
AD5/7** MEMORANDUM concerning taxation of mechanically propelled vehicles  
1921(Jan)  
As under the provisions of the Finance Act, 1920[TR BEE/AD5/4], with reference to licences and their display. Ministry of Transport, Pp 2. One sheet of drawings.

**TR BEE  
AD5/8** CIRCULAR LETTER from The National Traction Engine Owners & Users Association  
1921(28 Jan)  
London S.W.1., concerning the illegality of certain local authorities demands of a £2 tax on heavy locomotive trailers. Also that certain employees of engineers and steam plough, motor plough and threshing contractors do not come within the reference of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920. Pp 1.

**TR BEE  
AD5/9** LEAFLET reprinting Ministry of Transport regulations  
1921(Mar)  
Concerning the weight of heavy locomotives, as specified in the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licencing) Regulations, 1921(9 Mar). The Steam Cultivation Development Association, London S.W.1. Pp 1.

**TR BEE  
AD5/10** APPLICATION FORM Blank specimen for licencing and registration of road locomotives  
1921  
Tractors and agricultural engines. For return to local authority



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taxation departments. Form R.F.5.

Four copies

- TR BEE  
AD5/11** LETTER TO E. Beeby, Rempstone from The National Traction Engine Owners & Users Association  
1925(26 Feb)  
London S.W.1. concerning the interpretation of licencing weight limits for traction engines with wagons under the Heavy Motor Car Act Amendment Order, 1921.
- TR BEE  
AD5/12** STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS [Draft] to be titled the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations  
1936(May)  
Made by the Ministry of Transport under the powers of the Road Traffic Act, 1930. Pp 27.
- TR BEE  
AD5/13** STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1937, no. 229.  
1937(24 Mar)  
Issued by the Ministry of Transport under the power of the Road Traffic Act, 1930. Pp 32. Final version of above draft, TR BEE/AD5/12.
- TR BEE  
AD7/1** CIRCULAR LETTER from Leicestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee, Leicester  
1947(20 Aug)  
Concerning threshing work charges agreed for the 1947-1948 season, commencing 1947(6 Aug), between the National Farmers' Union and the Threshing Proprietors' Association.
- TR BEE  
P2/B1** CATALOGUE of wholesaler's range of merchandise  
1932  
In general engineering components and fittings and asbestos sheeting. Bell's Asbestos & Engineering Supplies Ltd., Slough, Buckinghamshire. Branch warehouse: 90 Moor St., Birmingham.  
Pp 548 plus adhesive errata sheets.

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**TR BEE  
P2/B2** CATALOGUE of wholesaler's range of engineering merchandise  
c.1930's  
In small tools and hoisting tackle. George Hatch Ltd., Upper  
Thames Street, London E.C.4. Pp 302.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
P2/B3** CATALOGUE of wholesaler's range of engineering merchandise  
c.1930's  
In general store items and machine tools. George Hatch Ltd.,  
Upper Thames Street, London E.C.4. Pp 355.

Bound volume

**TR BEE  
P2/B4** PARTS LIST for hay and straw baling press.  
1944(Jul)  
Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd., Orwell Works, Ipswich. Pp 9.  
PN 14001H. Attached is:  
i. 1947(21 Feb). Letter to Beeby Bros., from Ransomes, Sims &  
Jefferies Ltd., remitting above parts list.

**TR BEE  
P2/B5** PARTS LIST for threshing machine.  
c.1910  
Ruston, Proctor & Co., Ltd., Lincoln. Pp 3-36 only.

**TR BEE  
P2/B6** PARTS LIST of oil bath bearings for threshing machines.  
c.1910  
Ruston, Proctor & Co., Ltd., Lincoln. Pp 3-7 only.

**TR BEE  
P2/B7** BLOTTER advertising cattle cake and meal  
1913  
With photographs of cattle and useful dairying information.  
Intended for storage of miscellaneous papers by the recipient.  
R. Silcock & Sons, Liverpool. Agent: W. Scott, 367 Aylestone  
Road, Leicester. Pp 20.

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- TR BEE  
PH3/1** PHOTOGRAPH of employees of Angrove & Burrows  
1890's  
Steam ploughing contractors, Rempstone, with six steam  
ploughing engines, all Fowlers, in the background. The firm was  
taken over by Beeby Bros., in 1906.
- TR BEE  
PH3/2** TWO PHOTOGRAPHS of Fowler steam cultivating tackle  
1918(Apr)  
As newly delivered to Beeby Bros., including engines, turning  
cultivator, living van and water cart. The full tackle is detailed in  
TR BEE/AC3/5.
- TR BEE  
SP1/1** CATALOGUE for the sale by auction of the contents of Bunny  
Hall  
1910  
Near Nottingham, 1910 (22-25 Feb), on the instructions of Sir R.  
W. Levinge, Bart., vendor of the estate. Auctioneers: J.H.  
Bradwell & Sons, Nottingham. Various items have pencilled  
prices. Pp 61. Pl 5.
- TR BEE  
SP1/2** PARTICULARS for the sale by auction of the Gotham Estate  
1918  
Gotham, Nottingham, c. 1172 acres and including 6 farms, 3  
smallholdings, accommodation, pasture, arable, 2 fully licensed  
free inns, allotments, 52 cottages with gardens and several  
building sites, on the instructions of the Rt. Hon. the Earl Howe,  
1918(31 Jul). Auctioneers: Knight, Frank & Rutley, London and  
Edinburgh in conjunction with Willmot, Willmot & Pinney,  
Birmingham, land agents. There are various pencilled notes of  
sale prices and purchasers. Pp 41. Two coloured plans, one of  
the Gotham estate, the other of Gotham village.

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**TR BEE  
SP1/3**

PARTICULARS for the sale by auction of the freehold residential, sporting and agricultural estate of Whatton Manor 1919

Whatton, Nottingham, c. 1575 acres with an annual rent roll of c.£2,616 and excluding the mansion and woodlands, 1919(30 Apr). Auctioneers: J. H. Bradwell & Sons, Nottingham. There are various pencilled notes of sale prices and purchasers. Pp 40. Two coloured plans, one of the Whatton estate, the other of Whatton village.

**TR BEE  
SP1/4**

PARTICULARS for the sale by auction of a large portion of the Belvoir Estate 1920

Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, situate in the parishes of Granby, Plungar, Waltham, Thorpe Arnold, Scalford, Melton Mowbray, Goadby Marwood, Wycomb and Chadwell, Barrowby, Muston, Sedgebrook, Bottesford, Redmile, Eaton, Eastwell, Strathern, Harby, Hose, Stonesby and Ancaster, c.13,300 acres and including dairy and cheese farms, smallholdings, sporting and residential properties, licensed inns, accommodation, arable, pasture, cottages and fox coverts, 1920(3-6 Mar), on the instructions of His Grace, The Duke of Rutland K.G. Auctioneers: Escritt & Barrell, Grantham. There are various added notes of sale. Pp 284. Pl 20. Nineteen coloured plans, including a key plan to the estate and the following plans, numbered 1-18: 1 - Granby and Plungar; 2 - Granby; 3 - Plungar; 4 - Waltham and Stonesby; 5 - Waltham; 6 - Melton Mowbray; 7 - Goadby and Harwood; 8 - Casthorpe; 9 - Muston, Bottesford and Redmile; 10-11 - parts of Bottesford Parish; 12 - Muston; 13 - Goadby, Marwood, Eastwell, Easton and Stathern; 14 - Eastwell; 15 - Eaton; 16 - Stathern; 17 - Hose and Harby; 18 - Hose

**TR BEE  
SP1/5**

PARTICULARS for the sale by auction of the Pierrepont Estate 1941

Near to the City of Nottingham, 5,465 acres and including 23 farms, numerous cottages and smallholdings, accommodation, pasture, gravel, building plots, Trent-side meadow, detached houses, Holme Pierrepont Hall, building sites in the City of Nottingham, totalling a gross annual income of £8,650, 1941 (3-4 Dec), by direction of The Earl Manvers, M.C. Auctioneers: Turner, Fletcher & Essex, Nottingham. There are various pencilled notes of sale prices. Pp 91. Three plans: 1 - Holme Pierrepont Estate; 2 - Holme Lane, Holme Pierrepont,

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Bassingfield, Clipston, Radcliffe-on-Trent and Nottingham properties; 3 - Cotgrave.

**TR BEE  
SP1/6**

PARTICULARS for the sale by auction of 'The Paddock'  
1963  
24 Brook Street, Wymeswold, a detached residence with one  
acre of paddock, 1963(25 Sep), by the direction of Miss C.  
Burrows. Auctioneers: Gartons, F.A.I., Loughborough. Pp 3. Ph  
1.