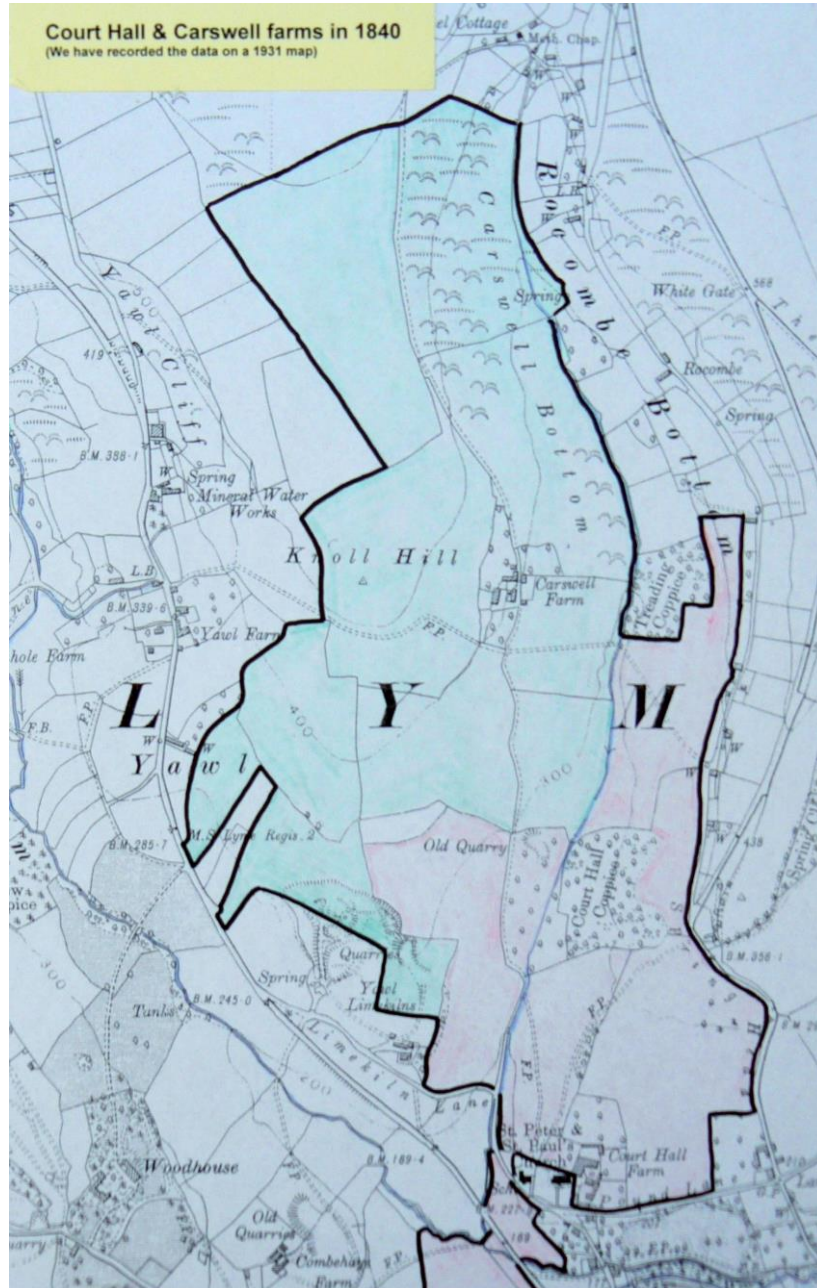


Court Hall Farm, Uplyme - The Ethelston Connection

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The Rev Charles Wicksted Ethelston is remembered for being curate (1825-42) and rector (1842-72) for the parish of Uplyme, and providing a school for the community in memory of his wife.

Perhaps not as well known is that the Ethelston family were major landowners in the parish owning the Court Hall and Carswell farms from the 1840s to 1921.

The Ethelstons originated from Shropshire, marrying into the Wicksted family from Cheshire, with the family base at Wicksted Hall, Whitchurch, Shropshire.

To the left, information from the 1840 Tithe map relating to Carswell (green) and Court Hall (pink) has been transposed onto a 1931 map. This shows the extent of the land (c190 acres) purchased by the Ethelstons in the 1840s.

In March 1847, Isaac William Lillingston and others conveyed to the Rev Charles Wicksted Ethelston a messuage, farm and lands called Carswell, of approx. 120 acres.

In the year 1844 the Rev C.W. Ethelston purchased 73 acres of Court Hall estate from Edward Donne and others. The title deeds state that this property was previously owned by Edward Donne, William Gratton, Henry Denshim & William Drew Patterson (father & son).

William Drew Patterson Snr, who was in possession about 1786-1813, also owned Lane End farm. His son inherited these properties, but being fond of hunting and gambling, ran through his money and sold Court Hall Farm, moving to Lane End until that was sold to the Talbot family.

Tenants at Court Hall Farm

1840	William Gratton
1878-83	Alfred Turner
1889-97	William Newberry
1902	John Swain
1909-23	Thomas Manfield

The above timeline refers to known dates that a person(s) occupies a property. Unless stated, no distinction is made between owner and tenant. Occupations may well extend beyond the known timeline.

Following the death of Rev Charles W Ethelston in 1872, the farms were managed by the trustees of the Ethelston family. The electoral registers for 1913/1915 show that Herbert Wicksted Ethelston, Wicksted Hall, Whitchurch, Salop, owned Court Hall & Carswell farms.

Documents at the Devon Records Office give information of a tenancy agreement in 1909 between Herbert Wicksted Ethelston, of Wicksted in the parish of Whitchurch, Cheshire, and Thomas Manfield of Undercliffe farm in the parish of Axminster, Devon.

The tenancy was to begin on the 25th March for that farm called Court Hall and Carswell, with house and buildings. The farm consisted of about 193 acres; Carswell 123 acres, and Court Hall 70. Annual rent was £125, payable quarterly.

The detailed agreement specified who was financially responsible for what, and also set down guide lines for approved levels of husbandry for the fields, crops and orchards.

In 1921, Thomas Manfield purchased both farms.

References

- Court Hall farm deeds and documents.
- Devon Heritage Centre, documents relating to Court Hall & Carswell farms, ref 3030A/PZ6.
- Devon Heritage Centre - Uplyme Parish Documents.
- Kelly's Directories for Uplyme.
- Lyme Regis Museum - Farming in the Lim Valley research project, 2007-09.
- Uplyme Tithe map and apportionments 1840.