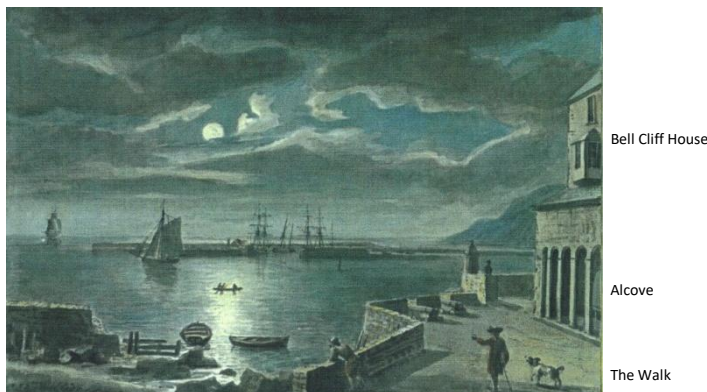


The Alcove, No.1 Marine Parade, Lyme Regis

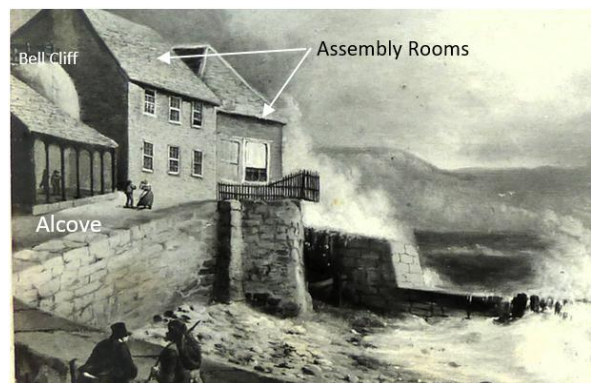
Graham Davies, August 2026



The Alcove, as it is today, began as Alcove Cottage. It was designated a Grade II listed building in 1974 when it was described as an early 19th century core with additions. The cottage was named after the original Alcove, a narrow, roofed and glazed recess at the base of Bell Cliff, popular for summer dancing, a predecessor of the Assembly Rooms. This Alcove is shown in the two paintings.



The Cobb by Moonlight 1784 - C W Bampfylde ⁽¹⁾



The Walk 1815 – Reed ⁽²⁾

The Walk was the brainchild of Thomas Hollis (1720-1774), the major benefactor in the town's recovery from decline by promoting tourism. He envisaged a 'Walk' for the gentry, both local and visiting, extending westwards from Cobb Gate to the old western fort (1771). Through purchase and demolition, Hollis cleared the congested southern part of Middle Row (1772-73) to open up the space below Bell Cliff to prepare the way for the new Walk. He purchased the Cobham warehouses, on the site of today's Cobb Gate car park, and gifted them to Lyme Regis Borough (1773). Hollis died suddenly in 1774. In 1775 the Corporation granted to a syndicate of local residents a lease of the Cobham Warehouses, with the adjoining Walk, as far as the Alcove, for 99 years at a rental of £5 per year. The warehouses were demolished and the Assembly Rooms built, with the said residents becoming the first proprietors of the Rooms (1777).



Alcove Cottage was the earliest house on the Walk. These plans suggest a build date of circa 1825, if not before. The original Alcove had survived over 50 years by 1825, but the date of its closure as a venue for dancing has not been ascertained. It is thought likely to have been shortly after the opening of the Assembly rooms in 1777. Osborne's survey of 1856 shows its replacement, a forerunner of today's Old Boathouse which occupies the site.

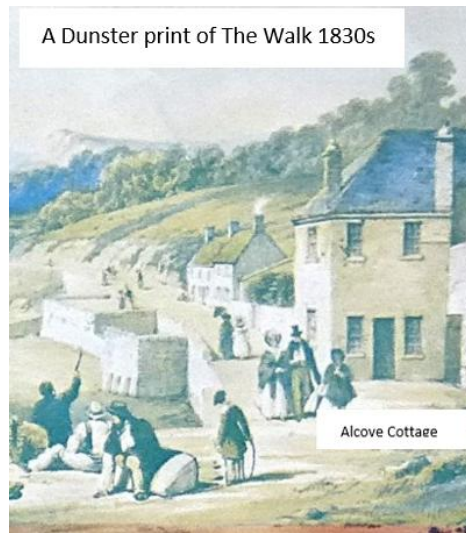


Timeline of Residents

1839-48 William Pasmore, Painter & glazier
 1848-55 Samuel Paul, Painter & gilder
 1861 William Porter, Stone & Shipping Agent
 1872 Capt. H J Wellington RN
 1881 Eliza Chubb, Lodging house keeper
 1883 Mrs Richard Pulsford
 1891 Mary Curtis, Lodging house keeper
 1894-1906 Archibald T Bruce, Fund holder
 1907-11 Laura Bruce, widow, private means
 1918-21 John A P Robinson, Major
 1922-25 Miss Louisa Jane England

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.

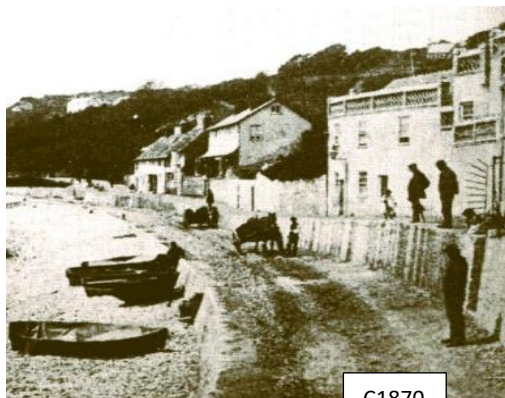
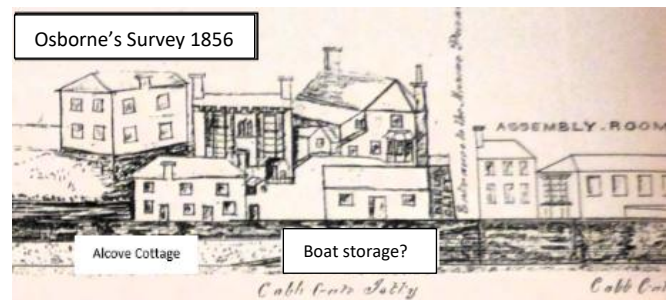
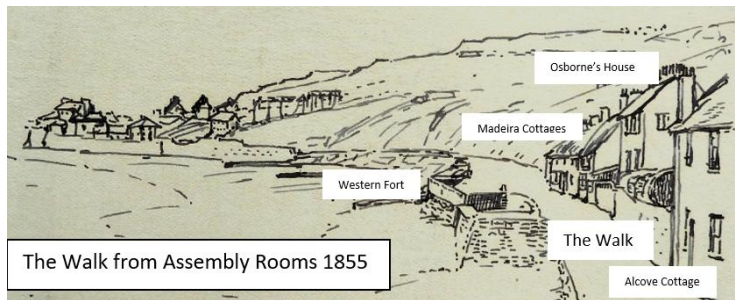
A Dunster print of The Walk 1830s



Lyme Regis, Dorset
 Valuable Property for Sale
 For public auction at Cups Hotel on
Friday 12th July 1839 at 4 o'clock.
 Belle Cliff House
 Dwelling House and Garden, for many
 years the residence of the late J Donne.
 Also **Alcove Cottage**
 Genteel Residence on Marine Parade
 comprising a parlour, Kitchen and
 back kitchen with 3 good bedrooms
 and other requisite offices.
 Auctioneer Charles Walker
 Owner Mr Stroud
 Exeter & Plymouth Gazette 6 July 1839

Bell Cliff House & **Alcove Cottage**
 For auction at Bell Cliff House on
Friday Oct 2 1857
 Bell Cliff being run as a Lodging House.
 Auctioneer Mr J Jerrard
 Owner Miss Stroud

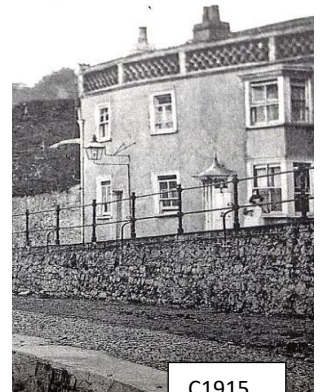
Dorset County Chronicle 1 Oct 1857



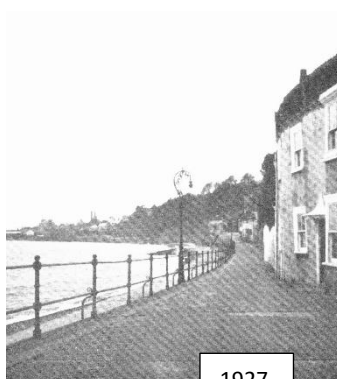
C1870



1900



C1915



1927

Alcove Cottage

For sale by auction at premises
Nov 30 1927, 1.30

Freehold Marine Residence situated on
 Marine Parade comprising
 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Sitting room,
 and Offices. Fitted with electric light.
 House contents sold at Two o'clock.

Auctioneers Radford & Radford, Lyme Regis
 Solicitor C S Mossop, Ottery St Mary
 Western Gazette 25 November 1927



Before 1936

The Alcove Cottage of November 1927 comprises ground and first floors. The above photo shows an extra floor, which was added before the demolition of the cement works chimney stacks in 1936. (Two chimneys visible in distance)

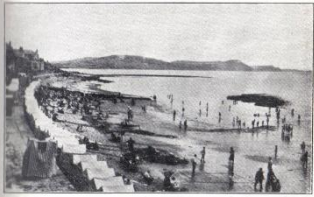
Timeline of Residents (cont.)

1928-34 Mrs Florence Harris, Proprietress
 1935-38 Alfred Forty
 1939-55 Mr & Mrs King, Proprietors
 1961 Lieut-Commander & Mrs R Bulkeley, Resident owners
 1964-74 Major Stanley Nicholson, Proprietor

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.

THE ALCOVE

THE House is situated on the Promenade. Facing due south it commands an uninterrupted view of the Sea, Harbour and Coast Line from every window.



View from all windows.

Hot and Cold Water in all Bedrooms and Electric Light.

★

Separate Tables. Best English Food.
 Excellent Cooking. Cream Daily.

Proprietress: Mrs. F. HARRIS.

1933-34

The ALCOVE PRIVATE HOTEL

The house is situated on the Promenade and is only a few feet from the sea. Facing due south it commands an uninterrupted view of the Sea, Harbour and Coast Line. Every room a sun trap. NOTED FOR GOOD FOOD AND HOME COMFORTS.



Hot and Cold Water in all Bedrooms and Electric Light. Separate Tables. Best English Food. Excellent Cooking. CREAM DAILY.

Proprietors: Mr. & Mrs. KING. Page 13

1939-40

Telephone 228

THE ALCOVE PRIVATE HOTEL

Lieut.-Commander and Mrs. R. BULKELEY
 Resident Owners



Comfortable accommodation Good food
 Facing South right on sea shore Beautiful views
 Fitted basins

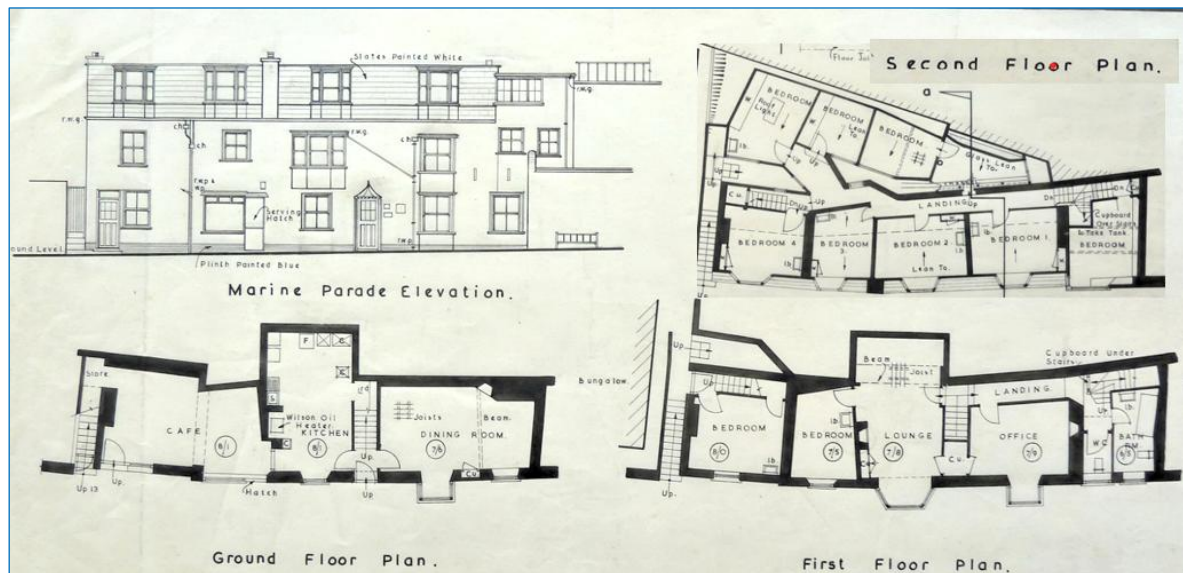
OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND SPECIAL WINTER TERMS
 OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS

ALSO OPEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

"THE BOOMERANG CAFE"

Attractive and cosy
 MORNING COFFEE SALAD LUNCHEES AFTERNOON TEAS
 HOME-MADE CAKES and SCONES

1961



Existing plans of Alcové Hotel & Café in 1964

The Alcové Gift Shop

Marine Parade, Lyme Regis Tel: 2709

VISIT THE ALCOVE ON THE SEAFRONT FOR GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

BRASS, COPPER POTTERY, PORCELAIN OIL LAMPS, NOVELTIES FINE SELECTION OF MODERN FASHION JEWELLERY Many collectable items. OPEN DAILY



1984

THE ALCOVE

MARINE PARADE, LYME REGIS
 Telephone (02974) 2709

FOR SCALE MODELS & KITS INCLUDING B6 URAGO, POLISTIL, CORGI, MAMOD YESTERYEAR, ETC.

Also: Extensive Gift Shop and Souvenirs
 Many lovely collectable items

DON'T DELAY
 CALL IN TODAY!



1990



2006

Alcove Miscellany

Fatal Accident at Alcove Cottage

Mr Loggin, coroner, held an enquiry on Wednesday following the death of Captain H J Wellington RN who had fallen down stairs at his residence, Alcove Cottage, the previous evening, fracturing his skull and dying shortly after. Mrs Wellington stated that the deceased was going to bed and that when he nearly arrived at the top of the stairs, he fell backwards. Mr W Porter and another man named Alford came in and placed him on a sofa, and a doctor was immediately sent for. Dr Hay stated that he found the deceased with a fractured skull, and that he remained with him until he died – about half-past nine o'clock. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Southern Times & Dorset County 14 December 1872

Mr Archibald Turing Bruce Alcove Cottage

Mr Bruce died in August 1906; He was 76 years of age, and came to Lyme between 30 to 40 years ago. He was a kind friend to the fishermen and old people in need. He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

He was buried in Lyme Regis cemetery on 27 August 1906. A number of the deceased's friends and fellow townsmen followed the cortege to the grave, and blinds were drawn at all the business and private houses along which the funeral procession passed.

Exeter & Plymouth Gazette 31 August 1906

Charlie Chaplin comes to Town

Mr Charles Chaplin, the famous film star, and his wife visited Lyme Regis last week and took tea at the **Alcove Hotel**, Marine Parade, owned by Alderman A F King, a former Mayor of the borough, and Mrs King served tea to the visitors.

Wiltshire Times 2 May 1953

Alcove Cottage up for auction third time in 44 years

Radford & Radford will sell by auction at the Royal Lion Hotel on December 10, 1883 at 5 O'clock,

Freehold Marinre Residence known as **Belle Cliffe** and that attractive cottage, situate on the Marine Parade, known as

Alcove Cottage, consisting of reception, 3 bedrooms, attic, kitchen, and general offices, in the occupation of Mrs Richard Pulsford, at the annual rent of £15
Bridport News 7 December 1883

Bay Window at Alcove Cottage

Mr Bruce applied to the Town Council for leave to put a bay window to extend over the parade from Alcove Cottage to extend 2ft 6in outward and to be 5ft long. Application granted, Mr Bruce to pay annual quit rent of 2s 6d to Corporation and usual legal expenses for deed and stamp.
Bridport News 23 Feb 1894

PERSON (steady, respectable) REQUIRED,

Not under 25, to undertake the work of a very small house in a gentleman's family of three.

Boy does boots, knives. Must cook well.

Comfortable situation, Good wages.

Mrs BRUCE, **Alcove Cottage**, Lyme Regis, Dorset

Taunton Courier & Western Ad 21 September 1898

Protests at Bombing

Lyme Regis has been shaken and residents alarmed by inshore bombing and rocket firing on January 30 & 31. Mrs L S Bonning, Mayor of Lyme Regis, has sent a telegram of protest to Mr S Wingfield Digby MP for the town and Civil Lord of the Admiralty.

The RAF, which uses an area of the sea off Lyme Regis for testing experimental planes and weapons, has promised the Town Council that the planes would not fly so close inshore and not over the town.

Mr A F King, an alderman and proprietor of the **Alcove Hotel** on the sea front said the explosions shook the whole building. "What I can't understand is why they should fly on a Sunday," He added

Bradford Observer 4 February 1955

Lyme Regis Visitors' List

Printed weekly in local newspapers, they served as a social registry to track who was 'in town', allowing genteel society to know which aristocrats, professionals and gentry were vacationing at the Dorset coast.

Example: Bridport News 8 Aug 1890

BROADWAY HOUSE – Mr & Mrs F Philpot and family

SWISS COTTAGE – Miss Barfoot

HOPE COTTAGE – Mrs Sromeyer and Miss Stromeyer

THE RETREAT – Mt & Mrs Hains and family, Dr Potter and family, Miss Hensley

ALEXANDRIA HOUSE – Mr & Mrs Hervey and family

CLARENCE HOUSE – Mr Homeuleano

SEA VIEW – Dr Guthrie & Mr Guthrie

MRS WILSON'S – Mr & Mrs Sims and family

ROYAL LION HOTEL (Mr Grove) – Mr & Mrs Godwin and nephews, Mr Goddard, Mr Moore and son, Mr Davis, Mr Vernon

MRS COOMBES' – Mr R S Cole; Nawal Wasif Ali Mirza, Nawal Naseer Ali Mizra (Indian Princes)

MRS C RADFORD'S – Mr & Mrs Hasluck and family

ALCOVE COTTAGE – Mr & Mrs Thompson and family

SUNNY BANK (No.1) – Mrs Hingeston, Miss Roscoe

SUNNY BANK (No.2) – Mrs Mitchell and family

MARINE TERRACE (No.2) – Miss Watkins

MADEIRA COTTAGE – Mrs & Misses Castell, Miss Lambert

MARINE COTTAGE – Master & Miss Radcliffe, Miss Bland

ARGYLE HOUSE – Mr & Mrs Blake and family

LIBRARY COTTAGE (No.2) – Rev Mr & Mrs Rowland and family, and Miss Hobden

LIBRARY COTTAGE (No.1) – Captain Rudyard, Mr Twabey

PARADE VILLA – Mr & Mrs Matthew and family

APSLEY HOUSE – Mr Heal and family

COBB HOUSE (No.1) – Misses Frith

COBB HOUSE (No.2) – Miss Smith, Miss Ashmore, Mr Ashmore, Mr How, Mr & Mrs Gordon, Miss Gordon

VALLETTA COTTAGE – Mr & Mrs Eustace and family

HILLSIDE HOUSE – Mr & Mrs Streatfield and family

WESTFIELD – Mr & Mrs Cotton and family, Mrs Hooper

HOLME LEA COTTAGE – Misses Heath

HOLME LEA TERRACE (No.1) – Mr & Mrs Denis de Vitro and family

HOLME LEA TERRACE (No.2) – Mr & Mrs Allen and family

HOLME LEA TERRACE (No.3) – Mr & Mrs Emile Cannot

IVY COTTAGE (No.2) – Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Livett, Mr Cooper

THE GROVE – Sir G Tilley

HIGH CLIFF - Mr S Fox

KEENE HOUSE – Mr Shilliton

GIBRALTER LODGE – Mrs Waring and family

STILE HOUSE – Mr & Mrs Morris and family

MRS DOLLIN'S – Mrs and Miss Pechell

MRS STEVEN'S' – Mr & Mrs Ellis and family

MALABAR HOUSE – Mrs England and Miss Saunders

MRS STOWARD'S – Mrs Sission and daughter

Sources of Information

LRM Research Team Digital Archive

Lyme Regis Museum archives

FindmyPast Newspaper archives

⁽¹⁾ Victoria & Albert Museum

⁽²⁾ Lyme Regis Museum