

West Hill Farm, Woodhouse Lane, Uplyme

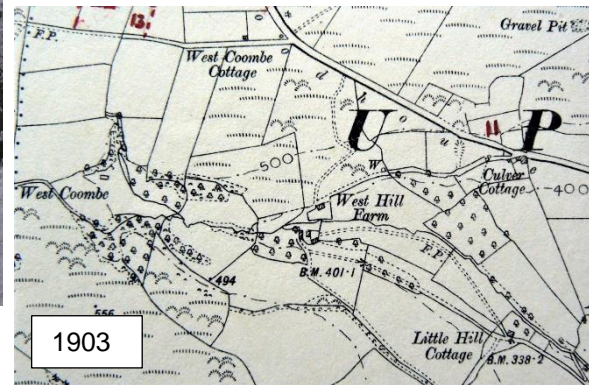
Graham Davies, June 2020

This article is based on one of the 70 display boards in the *Farming in the Lim Valley* exhibition held in Uplyme Village Hall in May 2008. The exhibition was researched and curated by Museum volunteers Ken Gollop, also a trustee, and Graham Davies, a retired veterinary surgeon.



1940s

West Hill farm nestles below Woodhouse Hill at the head of Holcombe Valley with a tributary of the River Lim separating the house from the farm buildings; some of which originate from the early 1800s, if not earlier.



1903

West Hill Farm – 1840 Tithe map

The Moor	Pasture
Yonder Moor	Arable
Plantation & Furze	
Orchard & Garden	
Orchard	
House Garden & Rickyard	Homestead
Higher Mead	Meadow
Long Mead	Meadow
Lower Mead	Meadow
Coppice	
Great Close	Arable
Lower Orchard	Orchard
Part of Lower Orchard	Coppice & Orchard
Sidelong	Arable
Hanging	Arable

The Tithe map of 1840 tells us that the farm is just over 21 acres and the landowner is Thomas Lisle Follett with James Holman as tenant.

Previously the farm was part of the estate of TL's father, Thomas Follett, which also included farms in the parish of Stockland and houses in Monmouth Street, Lyme Regis.

Thomas Follett (1744-1818) fought in the American War of Independence, and was wounded during the action at Bunker Hill in June 1775 when captain of a light infantry company.

In 1870, William Marshall, late clerk and sexton at Uplyme Church, as was his father and grandfather before him, commented that he 'knew West Hill farm, which had been occupied by the Holman family as long as he could mind, and from hearsay for a century', confirming the long-time association between the Follett and Holman families.

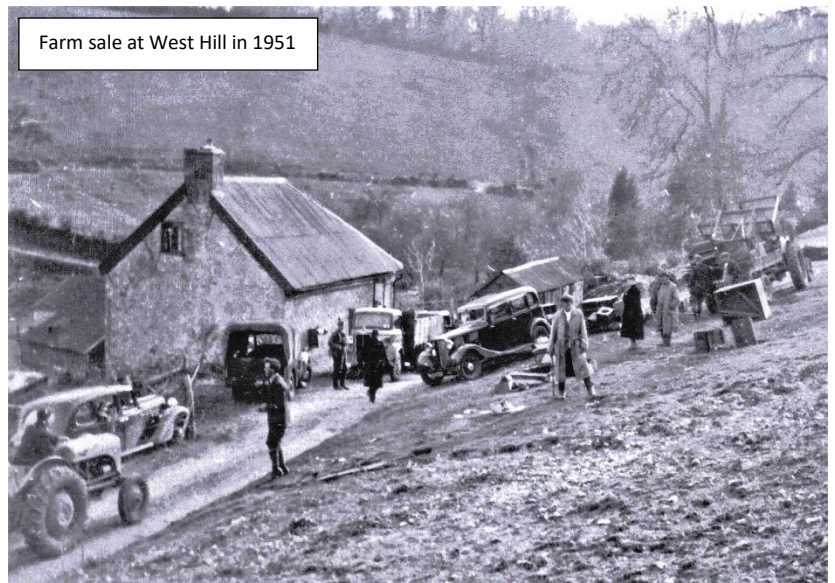
Thomas Lisle Follett, barrister at law, is recorded in 1828 as living at Lincoln's Inn, Middlesex and Uplyme Devon. He continued to use West Hill as his local address until living at 'Monmouth House' in Lyme from the late 1840s, as his father had done before him.

To be sold by auction by Messrs R & C Snell at the Bell Hotel, Axminster at 3 for 4 o'clock in the afternoon, June 23, 1898, that freehold farm and lands, known as West Hill Farm, in the parish of Uplyme, now and for many years past in the occupation of the owner, Mrs Northover, and containing 36a 1r 9p. The property lies in a ring fence and is well supplied with water with a stream running through the estate, with a substantial and well-built dwelling house and ample out-buildings. It is an excellent sporting property. A right exists to depasture six head of cattle on Ware Cliff.
(Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Friday 17 June 1898)

Timeline

<1800-1840+	Holman family
1883-1910	Mrs Caroline Northover
1914	John Spencer
1919-20	James & Eliza Copp
1923-26	Edwin & Mary J Harris
1930-35	Albert & Ethel Wheadon
1939	Frank Hodder
1945-51	Terence & Dorothy King
1951-56	Christopher Marlow
1961	George & Madeline Bowden
1967-84	Gerald & Diane Swete
1984-2003	Ron & Sheila Skinner

The above timeline refers to known dates that persons occupy a property. Unless stated, no distinction is made between owner or tenant. Occupations may well extend beyond the known timeline.



Farm sale at West Hill in 1951

The farm sale in 1951 refers to the selling of livestock and machinery/implements by auction on site when an owner is selling up or a tenant is retiring; very important for the latter and their pension fund. Neighbouring farmers would support the sale and the vendors would provide refreshments. The author remembers being taken to such sales in the 1950s when a teenager in South Wales.



Farm Sale 1951



Ron and Sheila Skinner kept store sheep and made hay from the meadows which they sold to local horse owners. They also rented keep for cattle and sheep farmers. Gerald Swete built an extension on the house. The Bowdens and Kings were mixed farmers which included sheep, pigs and cattle

A reminder of past orchards. West Hill had 2 acres of orchards in the 1840s. The apples were used for eating, cooking and making cider. The exhibition team estimated from the tithe map that there were 147 orchards in Uplyme covering 100 acres.



The stream continues to flow past those old buildings