

William Peterson Auction of his Live & Dead¹ Stock and Household Furniture

Graham Davies, November 2021

The information given at an auction often provides an insight into the social history of that time.

William Peterson Jnr (1755-1821) was a significant land and house owner in Lyme and Uplyme, and mortgagee for several other properties. He was a magistrate, and a mayor of Lyme Regis on five occasions between 1790 and 1820. His estate in the parish of Uplyme included farms, messuages and lands extending to approx 173 acres.

He died in December 1821 and was buried in Lyme Regis Parish churchyard on the 11th day of that month. The Sherborne Mercury of the 24th December announced and gave details of a Mr Chaffey holding an auction sale of part of the late William Peterson's estate beginning on the 26th December.

¹ In this context dead stock refers to farm equipment.

Sherborne Mercury, December 24th, 1821

Uplyme Devon and Lyme Regis Dorset - TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION by Mr Chaffey on the 26th 27th 28th and 29th days of December, 1821.

The superior LIVE and DEAD STOCK, Hay, Corn, Cider and casks and the whole of the neat and valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE of the late William Peterson Esq deceased.

On the first day at Uplyme: sixty-four South Down store ewes, sixty fat sheep, sixty-eight chilver and pure hogs, eighteen wethers, five rams, nine good dairy cows, (several of them Guernseys) two fat heifers barrener, two year old heifers, yearling, three cart horses and harness, four colts, three pigs, waggon, put, cart, wheels and shafts, pair of drugs, roller, weys, hodkins and chains, two slide putts, slide, fan and stand, 6 ricks of excellent Hay, two mows of Wheat, one ditto of Oats, a quantity of Dung.

On the second day, at the Farm House sixteen hogsheads of cyder, upwards of sixty very good empty butts and hogsheads, two cyder presses, two apple – engines, tubs and pails, mahogany dining table, one walnut dining table, bureau, cupboard, chafra, boilers, kettlers, fire-dogs, gridiron, frying pan, saucepans.

At Lyme on the third and fourth days, one mahogany dining table with circular ends, two large square ditto, three mahogany card and two breakfast tables, two dozen and half of mahogany hair bottom chairs, one very large pier glass with gilt frame, four other ditto, six swing glasses, three mahogany bureaus, two ditto chests of drawers, mahogany dumb waiter, two carpets, fire rug, green baize. Window blinds, window curtains, fire screen, work stand, two mahogany four post bedsteads and furniture, two other four post ditto, three camp bedsteads and furniture, seven feather beds, flock mattresses, counterpanes, quilts, blankets and sheets, bed round and bedside carpets, mahogany and other dressing tables, three mahogany night tables, two other ditto, two mahogany and other wash hand stands, basins and ewers, clothes press, very handsome chimney, ornaments, pictures, prints, gont cradle, chests, boxes, stair carpeting and rods, three large china bowels, two dozen china cups and saucers, plates, a set of blue and white ware, decanters, jugs, bottles, a number of tumblers, wine and beer glasses, urn, large dresser and shelves, four kitchen tables, kitchen chairs, butlers and other trays, roasting jack, brass and other boilers, tea and other kettles, knives and forks, six water plates, one ditto dish, lot of ware, plated and iron candlesticks, warming pan, saucepans and the whole of the kitchen requisites, a quantity of old lead, old iron bricks, two water casks etc.

The announcement in the newspaper concluded by giving the times when the auction would begin: first two days at Uplyme, one o'clock, and last two days at the dwelling house in Lyme, eleven o'clock. The whole would be sold without reserve. The auction details were dated December 17th, 1821.