

Charmouth Local History Society

The Village Echo

"Glimpses of Charmouth's Past"



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The Village Echo is the Journal of the
Charmouth Local History Society
(The Pavey Group of Charmouth)

www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk

We are pleased to offer you here the latest publication from Charmouth Local History Society with four articles we hope you will enjoy. These articles illustrate again the rich and diverse history of Charmouth's people and buildings.

The draw of Charmouth as a place of choice to move and live is not a new phenomenon. I also wonder whether the cannons from Charmouth battery are still under the car park on the sea front.

The front cover picture shows that you don't need "lycra" to ride a bicycle.



The new website can be accessed in the normal way by browsing:

www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk

or by scanning the QRCode shown here on the left.

ARTICLES: Charmouth History Society is always looking for interesting articles for the Echo. You need not worry about how long the article is, layout or proof reading: this we can do. The important thing is to send your suggested story along with illustrations and photographs. Should you wish to contribute an article please contact us via the website contact page or email us on: *info@charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk*

SPEAKERS: If you have a topic you wish to present to one of our evening events please contact us as above. We can organise everything from the venue to the technology to help you.

RESEARCH: Charmouth History Society has a wealth of information in its archives available for anyone researching family, their house or local history.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership of Charmouth History Society is open to anyone for a low annual fee per household. Membership provides you with a free copy of the Echo, support for any research you are undertaking and helps us preserve our unique archive. Contact us as above for an application form.

Helen Parker, Chair

Front cover image: Tom Long, the village postman with 3 other cyclists outside The George.

Back cover image: Cannon ball from the Pavey Room collection.



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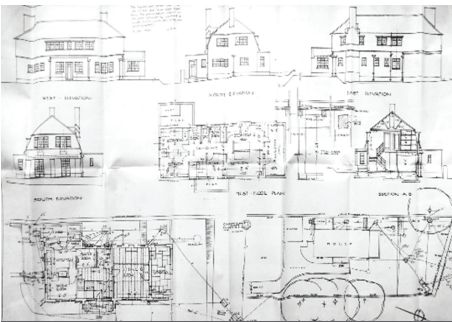
Courtfield



Outside of Courtfield



Aerial view of house



Original plans of Courtfield



1841 Tithe map

Some time back Phil Tritton asked me to research a house that his son, Alex and wife Maria, who manage Nisa (Charmouth Stores) were about to purchase. I had great fun tracing back its fascinating history and with their permission publish it in this issue of the Village Echo.

'Courtfield' is rather a mystery to most people as its position at the end of a long drive by the War Memorial makes it difficult for the passerby to see. It was built in 1933 for Sebastian Moreton White, who the year before had bought 'The Court'.

He had instructed Bridport Architect C.K. Jupp to update 'The Court' and design a completely new house on the ground opposite to be known as 'Courtfield'. We are fortunate that the original plans have survived and are held today at the County Record Office at Dorchester.

Sebastian would have been a widower, aged 65 at the time and after a successful career in the motor industry was to retire there. He left his daughter, Muriel Buck with her husband Frederick, to run a Hotel which he had set up in 'The Court'.

The plot of ground 'Courtfield' was to be built on has a fascinating history which I will outline here. Its name gives us a clue to its origins in its description of a field belonging to 'The Court'. The field was originally part of the grounds of a former coaching Inn called 'The Fountain' that stood on the corner of the Street at its junction with Higher Sea Lane. The field was in fact part of a larger one called 'Fountains Mead' after the Inn.



Charmouth House today

'Fountain Inn' is now called 'Charmouth House' and has a history stretching back to the times when the village was owned by the Abbott of Forde Abbey.

A detailed description of the boundaries from 1297 can still be seen in the ancient Cartulary kept there. An extract reads: *"thence along the road ascending to le pillory and then to the cross which stands on the road to Lyme above Radehorne, on the west side of the vill as far as le Shoete by the corner along the ditch to the bank adjoining Sevenaker on the north side".*



Charmouth House in 1900

The Shoete refers to a small conduit by the road, which would have sent its water on to a stream. Even today the remains of a stream can be located in places along 'Higher Sea Lane' leading to the sea. It was this 'Shoete' which was to give the building its original name of 'The Fountain' from which it was known for centuries.

The 'Fountain Inn' had a long history and it wasn't until 1811 when it was bought by Thomas Gordon and his wife, that it closed, and they were to live there. In St Andrew's Church there can be seen a memorial to Thomas Gordon and his wife. He lived to the magnificent age of 95 and died in 1855, the same year as his wife.

They were to leave the house and lands to their nieces Marianne and Louise Power Short who lived in Exmouth. Surrounding the house was the large 5 acre field known as 'Fountains Mead' and in 1864 they sold a strip of this opposite 'The Court' to Mrs Mary Napier Stuart (nee' Schalch), She had been married to the businessman Daniel Stuart. Born in Edinburgh, he went on to London and purchased the Morning Post in 1795 which was to eventually have the largest circulation after the Times. He was to employ famous writers such as Samuel Coleridge, Robert Southey and William Wordsworth. He made a fortune and the family would divide their time between Wyckham Park, near Banbury and 106 Harley Street in London.

After his death he left her a large number of properties around Banbury, Oxford and London. Although she kept her house in London she decided to move to Charmouth where her brother, Philip Schalch was the owner of Backlands Farm. In 1855 she purchased a group of 3 cottages on The Street, in front of her brother's farm and rebuilt them into one property which she called 'The Court'.



The Court today

She would have been 55 at the time and almost totally blind, she lived there with her daughter Catherine. Unfortunately the house was not as she wanted it as the entrance faced on to the ancient dilapidated almshouses and though she could see the sea she needed to safeguard the view over fields on the other side of the Street.

Thus begins an interesting saga that ultimately provided her with what she wanted. For she purchases a field in 1864 on which stood a cow shed belonging to John Hodges a butcher and goes on to build two almshouses to accommodate six poor people. The site is on the east side of Lower Sea Lane by the old School. This new building replaced the old one next to her house, which was then demolished, and a Coach House constructed on part of it. Both buildings stand today, though the Almshouse has long since been converted into housing.



The Court in 1900

She then buys part of Fountain Mead opposite 'The Court' so she can have a view of the sea from her library, from Miss Short, the owner of Charmouth House. It later became known as Court Field and was the site for many years of the Village Club Fair held every Whit Monday.



The field where the War Memorial was built

This is the house behind the War Memorial that bears that name today. In due course she becomes the largest landowner in the village by paying £2350 to John Purlewent of Milverton, Somerset for her brother's former farm, Backlands in 1870. John is the son of Frances Purlewent, one of the five nieces of Rev. Brian Combes who inherit substantial property in the village.

By the time of her death in 1872, aged 77 she is shown as also owning Stonebarrow Farm, the East Cliff and several fields in the Lower Sea Lane. Her daughter, Catherine, then aged 54, inherits her substantial wealth. But her mother ensures she continues residing at 'The Court' by stipulating that she must not marry and spend at least four months a year there.

A number of memorials exist to the family in Charmouth church. These include a window on the birth of Christ by Mrs Stuart of 'The Court', and two others in memory of her brother Philip Schalch Esq.

The Font has a plaque in memory of Mary Napier Stuart - "*widow of Daniel Stuart of Wykham Park, Oxon. Erected by her daughters Mary & Catherine Stuart and Lady Baynes*".

Her daughter continued to own The Court until her death. She had intended leaving her estate to her nephew Vernon Hugh, son of her brother, Major John Schalch. But he had died in 1877 and it was his widow, Anna Martha Schalch who was to inherit the property in 1891. She had five children and it was to her daughter Mary Elizabeth that she in turn was to leave her property to on her death in 1915.



The Court is on the left

Mary lives on for another 8 years after her mother died and it then passes on to her sister, Annie. The property should have originally been left to James Schalch, their brother, but he was not expected to live after his return from India. Instead he lived for forty years with his sisters and died in 1929 aged 72.



Rider Haggard

Another daughter of Vernon Hugh married Alfred Haggard, brother of Rider Haggard, author of King Solomon's Mine who was a frequent visitor at 'The Court'. When he required names for two of his characters for the novel 'She', that he was writing in 1886, he chose Leo Vincey after Edward Vince the owner of Charmouth Stores (Nisa today) and L. Horace Holly after William Holly, the owner of Wistaria who operated the Axminster Bus from there.



1880 O.S. map

It was in 1873 that Alice Schalch married Alfred Haggard at Fort William in Calcutta, India where he was a barrister with the Bengal Court of Sessions. They had five children, including Admiral Sir Vernon Harry Stuart Haggard, who became Commander-in-chief of the America and West Indies station, as well as diplomat Sir Godfrey Digby Napier Haggard.

In 1880 Alfred and his family arrived back from India and he took on the job of Secretary to a London Hospital. By 1888 he was renting the Limes (now

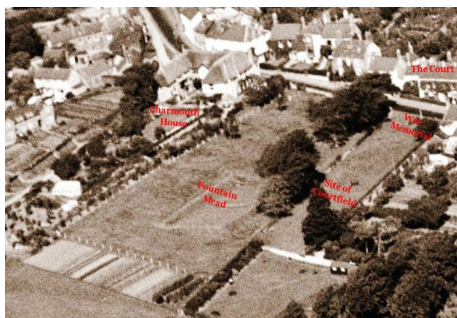
Charmouth Lodge) on the Street. After he died in 1916 his wife, Alice lived at the Court for a while then moved to nearby Beech House where she died aged 74 in 1925.



The field where the War Memorial was built is on the right

In 1922 she kindly gave the village the piece of land on which, Charmouth, Stone Mason, Harry Pryer was to construct the War Memorial.

The Court after Mary Elizabeth, died in 1924 was inherited by her sister, Anna Vernor (Daisy) Schalch who on her death in 1932 ended the long era of ownership by the family.



Aerial view of the Court and Charmouth House in 1927

It was Sebastian Moreton White who was to purchase it the following year and have his daughter, Muriel run it as a Hotel with her husband, Frederick.

She would have been 32 at the time and her husband, 42. Sadly he was to die in 1942 and she continued to live there until her own death in 1960. It was then sold to the Kohrings.



The Court when it was a hotel run by Ken and Pat Stapleton

It was later bought in 1969 by Ken and Pat Stapleton who ran it for a number of years as The Court Hotel. In 1984 it became a residential home run by Jill Smith and Ross Tuck.

Then in 2000 it was auctioned and purchased by former house-builder Gordon Hathaway and his Norwegian wife Bodil (Bo).

Part of it is now occupied by a number of small businesses.

Returning back to the history of the field that the house was to be built on. It would seem that it was the equivalent to the Recreation field and popular with Villagers.

The highlight each year was the Annual Village Club Day held on Whit Monday.



Annual village club day in 1896

We are fortunate in that a photograph of the event was taken in 1896 shown here.

The distinctive shape of 'The Court' can be seen in the background. The Village band and a forerunner of the Black and White Minstrels can be seen in the foreground.



Early aerial view of Courtfield

Sebastian would have been aged 70 when he moved into Courtfield. The 1939 Census show him living with his youngest daughter, Viola, aged 33 who acts as his housekeeper. It also shows another daughter, Gwendoline living with her husband, Charles Moore, who is described as an Artist. His third daughter, Muriel is shown with her husband and staff in the Court Hotel opposite in the same Census. Unfortunately he was to die the following year.

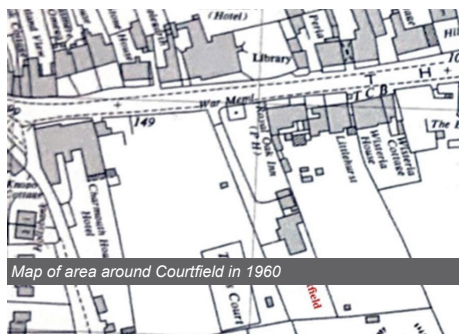
His obituary makes for interesting reading as it outlines his earlier life and is as follows:

"Much regret was expressed in Exeter and district on Friday at the news the death of Mr. Sebastian Morton White at his home in Dorset. He died suddenly in an air-raid shelter at his home on Thursday of last week. He went to the shelter after his daughter, Miss Viola White, had left the house to carry out her duties as a V.A.D. nurse. On her return, about half an hour later, she found her father sitting in chair in the shelter apparently asleep. On attempting to rouse him she found he was dead.

"Mr. Moreton White, who was born at Winchester, was 71. He was apprenticed as a coach body-maker to the firm in which his father was a partner. In 1895 he acquired the coach-building business of Messrs. Godbeer and Son, Queen-street, and in 1901, having purchased the business of Standfield and Co., Sidwell-street, amalgamated the two concerns under the title of Standfield and White. He was of an inventive turn of mind and keen on the quest for improvements, ranking as one of the successful pioneers of the motor industry. He was on the Council of British Carriage Manufacturers and was associated with several automobile associations, and was a valuable member of the Council of the Exeter and District Chamber of Commerce.

"Mr. Moreton White became a member of Exeter City Council about 30 years ago, succeeding the late Mr. W. H. Tarbet. He was Sheriff in 1916, during the third term of the late Sir James Owen's mayoralty, and presented the city with the Sheriff's State coach used for 100 years by Exeter Sheriffs. When he retired from the managing directorship of Standfield and White, 1919, he went to reside at Bournemouth, where his wife died. He removed to Dorset about six years ago. Much sympathy extended to the son and three daughters."

Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a set of deeds with the property and I have attempted to cover its more recent history as best I can from research in the Dorset Record Office. Sebastian left his estate valued at £10,752 to his three daughters, Muriel, Gwendolin, Viola and his son, Francis Moreton White. The Electoral Roll shows Marjorie Everest Dean residing at Courtfield after the war. Horace Fittingley Oxley, aged 70, is the next occupant of the house when he moves in with his wife, Olive in 1953.



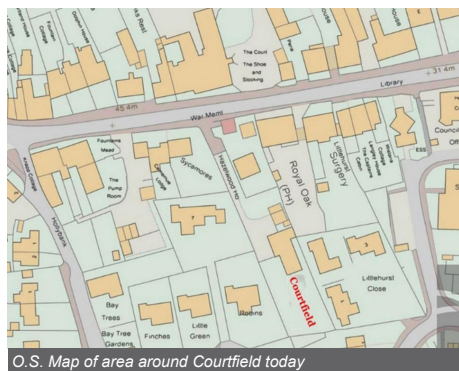
Map of area around Courtfield in 1960

The house is later sold to another retiree, William Herbert Daniel, aged 72 in 1960. He was to die in 1967 and Margaret Gregory-Smith was to live there until 1980, when she moved to 'Swans Mead' in the village. The next owners were Alexander and Agnes Allison who sold it to Frederick and Vera Titmus in 1999. She was to die in 1999, aged 84 and her husband was to live on his own there until his own death in 2007, aged 85.

His obituary reads as follows:

"Mr Titmus, who lived in Charmouth for the past 18 years, died on March 16, aged 85. Known as a very generous man, Mr Titmus helped lonely and needy people throughout his time living in Charmouth by supplying the public with a low-cost garden centre for many years, all the proceeds of which went to charity.

"For the last six years, he supplied elderly, lonely and needy people with a free Sunday lunch and fellowship, which would entail a roast dinner, plus dessert and wine, for between eight and 14 people every week"



O.S. Map of area around Courtfield today

In 2010 the Electoral Roll for the village shows Lotus Hannon and John Miles living at Courtfield. More recently Paul and Kim Oatway have resided there. Both were very active in the village. Paul was a village councillor and a Director of the Heritage Coast Centre.

It was in 2022 that they were to sell it to Alex and Maria Tritton, who successfully manage the Charmouth Stores, known as Nisa.

Just go to my website: www.freshford.com, if you wish to find out more about this and other buildings in the village.

Neil Mattingly

Charmouth Artillery Volunteer Corps

In the late 1850's Britain again perceived a Napoleonic threat- not from Bonaparte who had died in 1821 but from Napoleon III, his nephew. He had founded the 2nd French Empire and was aiming at expansion and increased influence. The British had for centuries been confident in the strength of the Royal Navy to keep all invaders at bay, but in 1859 the French launched the first ironclad ship *La Gloire*, against which the wooden hulled ships of the Royal Navy had no defence.

As a result, two things happened: firstly, a Royal Commission on the Defence of the United Kingdom was set up by Lord Palmerston. It sought to build a series of coastal defence forts to guard the south coast of England. However, this was a plan which took more than twelve years to put into effect.

The second thing which happened was at a more grass roots level. England had for a long time had a tradition of militia, yeomanry and other volunteer forces, and the middle classes had their own response to this perceived threat from abroad. There was an upsurge in the formation of local companies of rifle volunteers in all areas of the country, called Rifle Volunteer Corps. In coastal counties Artillery Volunteer Corps also were formed, keen to protect their home and livelihoods from the seaborne threat. The first four Artillery Corps in Dorset were set up from 1859 at Lyme Regis, Portland [2] and Bridport.

Individuals intending to form a corps had to apply to the Lord-Lieutenant of the county who passed the requests to the War Office, and then it had to be accepted by the Queen. The date of this Royal acceptance letter formed the basis of the precedence order e.g., 1st Dorset Artillery Volunteer Corps etc. On 31st January 1868 a 5th company was started at Charmouth and then a 6th at Swanage

in 1869. All these Corps were funded locally, with no central government contribution.

At the beginning of 1860 the War Office found that due to the number of independent corps, organisation of training, uniform, discipline should be standardised and organised on a higher basis, though the financial support remained local. Administrative Brigades were formed, and in rural areas sometimes one county's corps would be administered by a neighbouring county and so it happened that Dorset's Artillery Corps were administered by a Brigade based in Devon from 1866, this being changed to a similar arrangement with Hampshire in 1873, before Dorset's corps gained their 'independence' in 1886, through burgeoning recruiting. The various corps became known as companies or batteries.

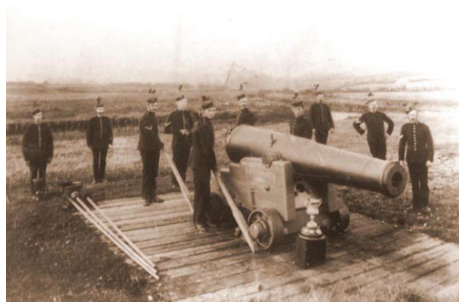
The Charmouth Corps drilled on the flat land in front of the cement factory [now Dorset Heritage Coast Centre] near the foreshore.

Initially the men would have trained with old cannons, firing cannonballs of which we have one in the Paveway room. In May 1868 they appear to have received two guns of 18 pounder 38 hundredweight. At that time, they were also noted to have drill sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Later they would have used 32 and 68 pounder smooth bore guns before being supplied with guns which had undergone a Palliser conversion. This was a process of rifling an existing smooth bore gun i.e., have a spiral groove made within it to accept a shell, thus giving much greater accuracy. A 64 pounder Rifled Muzzle

loading gun would have had a gun team of 9 or 10 men.

Each gun team had a leader, called no 1, and each other member had a number, and was assigned specific tasks. The most junior man was the highest number, usually given the job of carrying the projectiles - initially cannon balls later cartridges and extremely heavy shells.



In the photo we can see the Charmouth gun team around their gun which is situated facing seaward. The two men beside the gun are using halfpikes, to lever the gun carriage into position. We have one of these in our collection, in the Pavay room. The other tools lying alongside would be a rammer, a sponge and a worm. When the gun has been fired, the sponge soaked in water is pushed down the barrel of the gun to quench any burning embers. The worm is a corkscrew shaped implement again pushed down the barrel and twisted to remove any remaining elements. Then the projectile is rammed down.

In 1869 and 1870 there were 80 men enrolled in uniform. Annual camps were held from 1870 for all the companies to come together for drill and training, these events usually ended with a competition. In 1870 twenty rank and file of the Charmouth corps, commanded by Captain Norris and Quartermaster Stevens, attended the first camp at Woodbury Common near Exmouth for all the 800

Dorsetshire and Hampshire volunteers. Lyme Regis also attended but Bridport did not, their officer having been called away.

In 1873 the Charmouth Corps attended a Brigade Field Day at Bridport along with all the Dorset units. They paraded through the streets to a carnival atmosphere with a band from the Portland Corps. Captain Norris, instructing Sergeant Peddar, Sgts Hodges and Coles, 1 trumpeter and 28 rank and file were reported to comprise the Charmouth contingent. All the companies underwent exercises and Brigade drill before a splendid dinner accompanied by 'grog'.

In May 1891 the battery are reported in the Bridport News as having their own rifle competition, so they obviously drilled with individual weapons as well as the 'big guns'. Many of the traditional surnames of the village show in this article.

CHARMOUTH.

Copies of the *Bridport News* may be obtained in Charmouth of Miss Wellman, news agent.

VOLUNTEER FAIR SHOOTING.—The annual prize shooting in connection with the Charmouth Battery of the 1st Dorset Southern Division Royal Artillery Volunteers took place on Monday, when the ranges were at 300 and 300 yards. The bad weather experienced on that day considerably interfered with the shooting, which was carried out under the superintendence of the Drill Instructor Sergeant Moore. The following is the list of prize winners, with the number of points made by each:—1st prize, 184, Gunner H. Bowditch, 44 points; 2nd, 174, Gunner J. Oliver, 33; 3rd, 154 G.I. Trooper T. Clarke, 38; 4th, 144, Bandman S. Taylor, 37; 5th, 124, Sergeant H. Stamp, 36; 6th, 104, Gunner T. Gardin, 33; 7th, 84 G.I. Sergeant W. Powell, 32; 8th, 74, Gunner W. Love, 30; 9th, 64, Gunner A. Love, 26; 10th, 54, Bandman H. Hopkinson, 25; 11th, 44, Bandman W. Newlin, 21; 12th, 34, Corporal H. Hodges, 21; 13th, bottle of gin, Gunner E. Golep, 20; 14th, 24, Gunner H. Larcombe, 18; 15th, 14 G.I. Gunner G. Bagley, 18; 16th, 14 G.I. Corporal W. Hann, 18; 17th, 14, Gunner H. Smith, 17; 18th, 14, Gunner A. Childs, 15.

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In June 1891 the Charmouth Volunteers attended the annual camp at Swanage and won the shooting cup. They scored 3 direct hits in a fast time, the accuracy being way ahead of the other teams. In the photo you see them proudly posing with that rather splendid cup.

Clare Thomson

Springfield House

Springfield House located at the top of Charmouth on the Axminster Road is, like so many houses in Charmouth, hiding a long history in its walls and its people. This article is not a chronology of who's who, it is I hope an illustration of how much information is easily obtained that will spur you on to investigate your own home.



Springfield House (left) today. Note the recessed doorway, the windows internally also recessed, the undulating roof and door with symmetric windows all indicative of a property of some age.

Reginald Pavey in 1968 refers to Springfield House as being about three hundred years old and the downstairs room having a Jacobean fireplace. There are several features that support that the original footprint of Springfield House dates back to the mid-late 1600's. The large open hearth

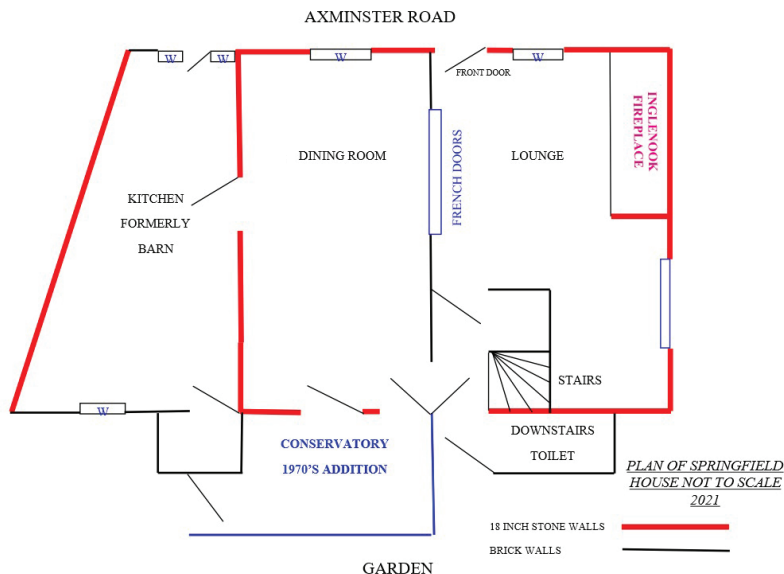
(Inglenook) which has remnants of a bread oven and salt recess has changed little over time. This can be seen from an amazing photograph from 1920's to one today.



The stairs although replaced in the 1980's were described as a tight newel staircase very steep and at one time with a door at the bottom. The stairs were purely for use - this style being introduced in England in the Tudor period. We know from accounts of visitors in the 1940's (billeted service men) that these stairs were very steep and tight as they queued for breakfast.

The plan below shows an open floor plan of the downstairs (in red) with solid stone walls averaging 18 inches (46 cm) thick, ignoring the kitchen area as this was until recently a barn. The upper floor was originally open plan prior to the

1980's partitioned into five rooms. This array of stud partitions of various ages were removed along with the old impractical staircase being replaced with a more contemporary layout. In short an original building long hidden, given more substance in the middle 1700's with a Georgian frontage and the assimilation of the barn into the property in the early 1900's. 1920's re-purposing of the upper floor added more rooms for letting/business potential.



Fortunately Springfield House was photographed around 1890 as seen on the left with the same view today, to the right. The photograph shows Springfield House with what is now an open space at this time, being a Butchers shop, 'Loud of

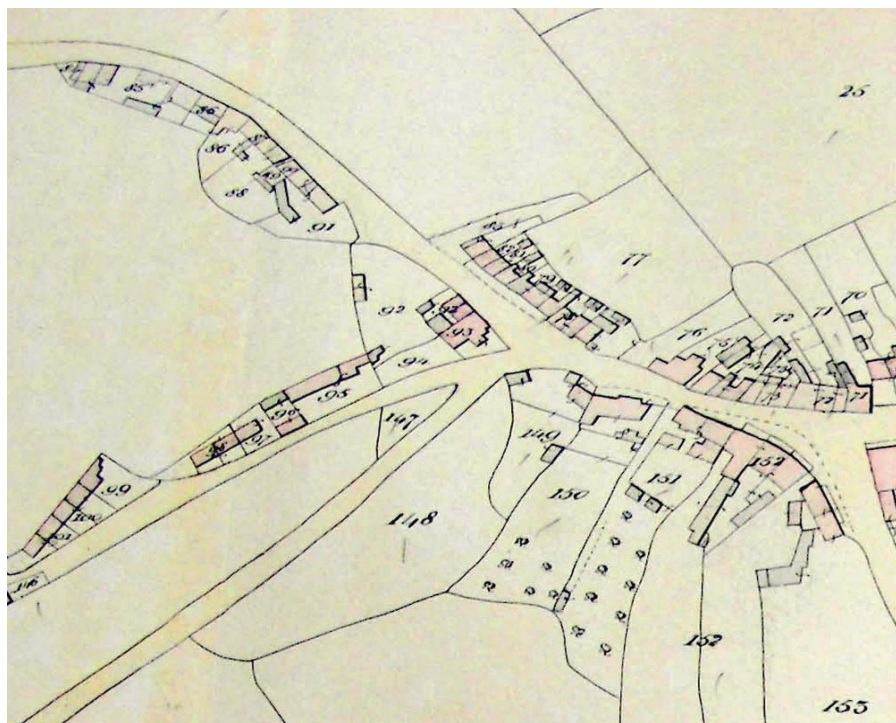
Axminster' at one time and a coal merchant's yard run by Gallop. What has also disappeared is a small cottage behind.

Springfield House at various times in the past was known as Grange, Grange House, The Grange and Spring Cottage.

*following I give Bequeath and Devise unto my son James Cousins
all that part of my Cottage called Grange situate in Charmouth aforesaid
consisting of a Dwelling House with the back Room adjoining and a garden in
front of the same being to the South of the said House — Also I give to my*

James Cousins will above reads amazing clearly in a very good hand “....all that of my cottage called Grange situate in Charmouth”. Other cottages in this row were left to other family members.

The will of James Cousins (there are many deviations in this spelling 'l', 'z', 'e' - we are using Cousins) leaving Grange Cottage to his son, also known as James, both land and property owners in Charmouth. The birth 1734 and death 1811 of James Cousins may well indicate that the origins of Springfield House lie within this family. There is a lost map of Charmouth dated 1783, only the index survives where an entry reads '110 James Cousins Grange House'.



Why the change in names? I think the sequence is in part other developments in 'Cousins' land and property acquisitions. Behind Springfield House is Grange Mead a field which was part of Lilly Farm. The name Grange Mead is recorded on the 1841 Tithe Map. To the edge of this field is a spring, a natural aquifer known as 'Grange Spring' which Pavey records at times of high water a stream would run across the road and down the hill. This has been reoccurred several times flowing out of the garden into the road in times of excessive rainfall. This natural spring was first captured in the early 1800's and then again under the design and patronage of Sir John Hawkshaw who, in 1864, built a reservoir and which became part of the first standpipe water supply system to Charmouth. Shortly before this he had purchased Lilly Farm. Not long afterwards he sold it once more.

The 1841 Tithe map entry Lot 91 which is Springfield House, shows James Cousins as Landowner and a Thomas Wilmot as occupier. However this does not match the 1841 census. Thomas Wilmot in 1841 was actually at Lilly Farm, another property in the ownership of James Couzens.

The actual occupants were the Cook family of whom Amelia Cook, who's occupation was a laundress, was probably assisted by the abundant water supply. Even today the rear garden is easily waterlogged.

The property is called Grange Cottage on the 1841 census in a rare notation. This is not to be confused with a building of a similar name further up the Axminster Road which was built in the 1820's.

113	No. Grange Cottage	1	Henry W. Cook	Son	Wid.	31
			Amelia Cook	Head	Wid.	38
			Amanda W.	Wid.	S	38
			Kate Jeffery	Serv	S	18

With the demise of the owner James Cousins and the selling of Lilly Farm, a Mr Darby of Lyme Regis purchased several properties related to the Lilly Farm's sale in 1867 and Springfield House was probably now owned by the Darby/Osborn's (James Darby married twice). James Darby died in 1891 leaving a considerable property portfolio in Charmouth and the surrounding area, and Selina Darby was in receipt of an weekly income of four shillings. Springfield House moved into the ownership of Selina Darby, spinster of private means, who was living at 47 Broad Street, Lyme Regis until her death on the 15th May 1912. Then the whole fortune and property portfolio went to Henry Osborne, "Gentleman", the nephew of Selina Darby and totalled £14,000 with various annuities. Earlier he inherited £1,600 from James Derby. However, the end of the whole estate was protracted with final probate in 1914 resulting in him being wealthy gentleman of private means to a value equivalent to over one million pounds in today's money.

Amelia Cook was recorded living in Springfield House from 1841 until her death in 1895 and always her occupation was laundress. The next occupant in the 1901 census was Frank Clark and family. The Clarks were in residence for over twenty years. The property was recorded as Spring Cottage. The 1911 census records the property as Spring Cottage as can be seen in the two following pictures.

Frank Clarke	Head	M	43	Boxmaker and Domestic	Worker
Alice M. D.	Wife	M	40		
Lusan Brunkney	Boarder	Wid	47	Book Binds	
Charles D.	Boarder	S	25	Wid. Domestic	
James Burchell	Boarder	M	46	Household Furniture Pack	Worker
George Taylor	Head	S	46	Boxmaker	Domestic at Home
Archibald D.	Wife		9		

Name of Head of Family or Separate Occupier.	Frank Clarke
Postal Address	Spring Cottage Charmouth Dorset



If we look again at another photograph from the 1890's you can see from the picture above with an empty property on the right having smashed windows and the row of houses by this time being in decline. This gave an opportunity for new occupants, new money and energy to come in and regenerate.

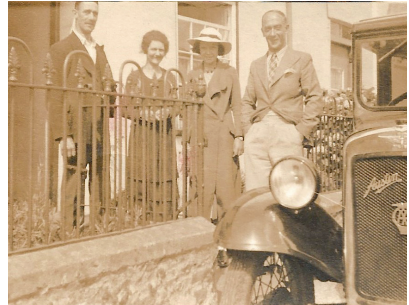
Frank Clarke moved to The Retreat in the 1920's but eventually was recorded as living in Bridport in 1939 and a Royal Navy pensioner. The next occupant through most of the 1920's was Albert E Cox who is recorded on the electoral roll as living in Springfield, Axminster Road.

90	R	O	Copp, Leonard	Hillcote, Old Lyme Road
91	NM	—	aCox, Albert Edward	Springfield, Axminster Road
92	R	O	Cox, Fred	Wisteria Cottage

Then in the early 1930's Springfield House is sold to George and Mabel Webster who ran the property as a Guest House with the name finally, until this present day, being Springfield House. Through the 1939-1945 War the house was used to billet various service men from Canada and America along with offering them a Sunday tea. The Springfield House guest house and later Bed and Breakfast was run by the Websters until the early 1960's when George Webster passed away.



1930's Front view of Guest House



Phone Charmouth 140

SPRINGFIELD
Guest House

BOARD RESIDENCE
BED AND BREAKFAST

Excellent cuisine. Personal attendance. 3 minutes from Beach. Hunting, Golf, Tennis. Fine panoramas of Dorset from all windows. Garage.

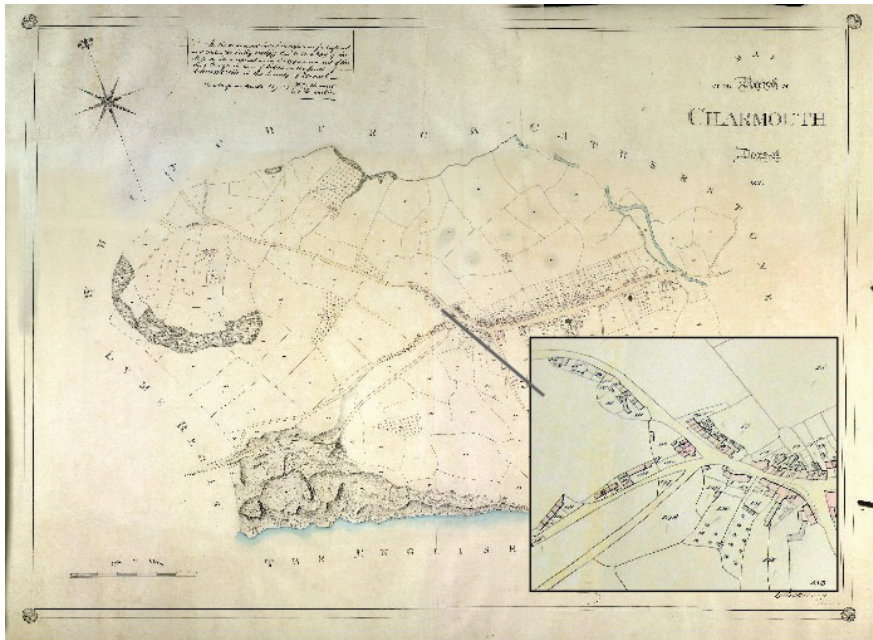
CHARMOUTH, DORSET

Proprietor: M. T. WEBSTER

advertisement dated 1953



L to R: Mabel Webster, Winnie Winnert (Marshall), Maisie Webster, Joyce Webster and George Webster



Today a hint of the 1841
Tithe Map entry number
92 can be seen from a
satellite picture



Springfield	165	1. Webster George E	- M	7 May 90	Mr Footman
		2. Webster Mabel J	- F	6 Feb 91	Ms. Howard Domestic Duties
		3. Webster Wilfred H	- M	10 Nov 11	St. L. Hauffeur (domestic)
		4. Bennett Mary J E	- F	25 Feb 00	St. Milliners Assistant

Springfield entry in the 1939 population survey above prior to World War 2.



Like many houses in Charmouth the ownership of the property did not reflect who lived in it. Home and land ownership was not common until the 1950's and until then it was in the hands of the few. Hence you will see the same names recurring, owning and leasing buildings and land, being able to vote and dispense local justice. For many residents it was a day-to-day existence tied to the owners of the land and the house you occupied. You could not easily move outside of your village, being removed under a Poor Law Removal order and taken back to whence you came. In short you were stuck with the ever-present risk of destitution through ill health or lack of work.

Springfield House illustrates how property names change over time. The recurring theme here is that of the natural water supply. Its footprint on maps over time is very distinctive and much unaltered.

This is not the end of the research - there is more to do. We have the bare bones (See Echo 47 page 27) and the next phase is to delve deeper into the archives in the county depository. Hopefully, we have given you some ideas about how to start looking at your own home.

Helen Parker

Charmouth's Captive Heart

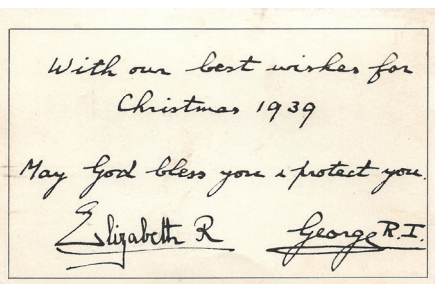
Harry Marshall joined the Royal Artillery on the 29th December 1928 and was in Charmouth in 1939 helping make preparations for defences along the coastal area. He was billeted at Stanley House. Maisie Winnert lived with her mother at Springfield House then a guest house. This is where they met no doubt as during the whole of WW2 Springfield House offered a refuge to servicemen for Sunday lunch or afternoon tea (A taste of home). We will return to Harry and Maisie later.



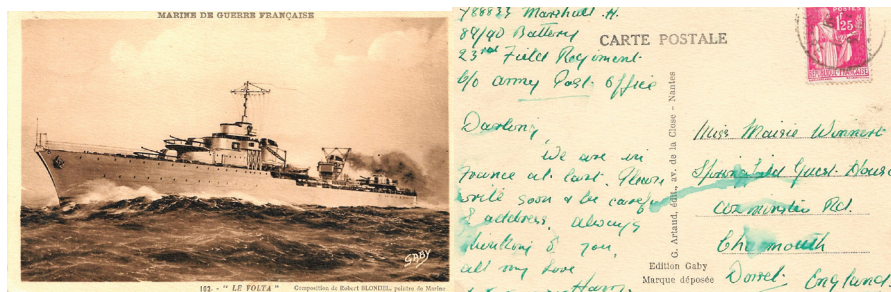
On the left, Springfield House as Harry and Maisie knew it and, on the right, Springfield House today



Harry Marshall (Harry) was redeployed as part of the British Expeditionary Force in late 1939 and found himself in France. He even received a Christmas card from the King and Queen.



Harry for his part was able to send a post card to Maisie.



Harry was like much of the BEF not prepared for the speed of the German advances and found himself at St. Valéry-en-Caux with no hope of reaching Dunkirk and Major General Fortune having decided this small unsuitable port was where they would try to be collected by the Royal Navy.



This was no lines of men out to small boats. Here was hard face-to-face fighting with a formidable German frontal attack led by General Major Rommel. Accounts bear witness to standing with the fallen at your feet and your back to the sea. After two days of fighting on 12 June 1940 surrender was given. The next day France capitulated and Paris was declared an open city. For Harry with over a 1000 comrades killed and 4000 wounded his war was over. The 8,000 captured soldiers were quickly marched away into captivity.

Initially Harry was listed as missing on the army list post Dunkirk it was not until later he would be listed as a POW. He would now change from his Army No. 788833 to his POW No.18747. Things were now going to get much harder for the next five years. Harry ended up at Stalag XXA 20B which was on the outskirts of Marienburg, now called Malbork which is 25 miles south east of modern day Gdansk. At first this camp held Polish prisoners then those from Dunkirk and later Russian prisoners with at its peak housing around 10,000 prisoners. Prisoners were distributed to sub-camps where the lower ranks like Harry worked on state farms, diaries or in factories.

Listed as missing

1. <u>Expeditionary Force</u> (Contd.)		<u>Date of Casualty</u>	
(a) <u>France</u> (Contd.)			
<u>Rank</u> (Contd.)			
<u>Royal Artillery</u> (Contd.)			
✓ 1455289	MARSHALL, Gur.	J. 20/5/41	A.T. Regt.
✓ 725702	MARSHALL, Gur.	J. 77	Regt.
✓ 576597	MARSHALL, Gur.	(over 1/0) J. 23	Regt.
✓ 1071222	MARSHALL, Gur.	J. 65	Regt.
✓ 1069461	MARSHALL, Gur.	(over 1/0) J. 65	Regt.
✓ 788333	MARSHALL, W/Lt.	J. 23	Regt.

Listed as POW

1. <u>Expeditionary Force</u> (Contd.)	
(a) <u>France</u> (Contd.)	
<u>Prisoner of War</u> (Previously reported as Missing) (Contd.)	
<u>Royal Artillery</u> (Contd.)	
The following were previously shown on Casualty List No. 273 as Missing.	
✓ 788333	MARSHALL, W/Lt. 23 Pd Regt.

Harry like the rest of the POWs in the camps lived in tents until all the wooden huts were built. You bathed monthly and food was in short supply. They were weakened and exhausted with various diseases being prevalent - including dysentery, diphtheria, tuberculosis with many suffering from depression. They also witnessed judicial executions of Polish and Russian prisoners along with harsh treatment of forced labour workers. It was not a 'Boys Own' adventure - it was a hard relentless, ever-present state of hunger and anxiety.

Bunks and Cells at STALAG XXA



There was one unique element to these camps - they were allowed football, theatre and books. Red Cross Parcels and letters from home were ways of keeping in touch with the world outside. For Harry it was that Maisie was waiting for him and was sending him parcels and letters through the Red Cross.

THE RED CROSS & ST. JOHN WAR ORGANISATION,
PERSONAL PARCELS CENTRE,
14, FINSBURY CIRCUS,
LONDON, E.C.2



Picture on left Harry (LHS) with two fellow POWs from STALAG XXA 20B and above a theatre production for fellow POWs. These cards were all posted to Maisie.

[illegible]

Harry's Army Tracer Card with key service dates

In 1945 Harry had now an even bigger challenge - to stay alive and get home. He knew the war was coming to an end. As the Russians advanced the Germans were liquidating camp prisoners and force march the POWs back into Germany. Accounts of these forced marches had POWs witnessing German soldier's judicial executions of the local populace. When intercepted by Russian soldiers they witnessed the execution of the German guards and in one instance a group was liberated by American Soldiers who also wanted to shoot the guards. The POWs present refused to allow this to happen.

By 22nd April 1945 Harry was back on the army list and on the 19th October 1945 he was released from the Army. Harry returned to Charmouth and on the 23rd October 1945 Harry and Maisie were married. They purchased the Singing Kettle Dairy from Mrs. Gallop and ran this as a Tea House. They then expanded their horizons to becoming the landlords of the New Inn in 1950 and for the next 25 years were the landlords. Harry died in 1975 with the New Inn closing in 1976 and Maisie (May Iris Evelyn Marshall) passed away in 2006.



The Singing Kettle



The New Inn



Harry and Maisie met in Charmouth and remained living here for the rest of their lives with Springfield House, The Singing Kettle and the New Inn all within sight of each other. They were Charmouth's Captive heart(s).

The picture to the left shows Harry and Maisie outside the New Inn



Sam Kydd

THE CAPTIVE HEART Historical Note: British actor Sam Kydd was a prisoner in Stalag XXA 20B. Returning to Britain after the war, he applied for the film The Captive Heart, he got a part as an advisor cum actor. The Captive Heart is a 1946 British war drama about prisoners of war over 5 years and locations included the prisoner of war camp Marlag near Westertimke which had remained largely intact after the end of the war the previous year.

Sources: The original and research material for this article is now archived with CLHS.

Helen Parker

Many thanks to all our supporters and loyal membership.

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Cannon ball - 70 mm in diameter

This cannon ball, which is in the Pavey Room, is said to be dated from 17th century may well have come from the Siege of Lyme Regis in 1644.

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