

Milling At Wootton Courtenay Mill

Architectural Description

Since many of my ancestors worked the Mill at Wootton Courtenay, it is probably best if at this stage I give some background information about the Mill and Milling generally. The existing Mill House in the village was built in c1500 on the foundations of a much older structure.



Figure: The Mill House at Wootton Courtenay in 1992.

The foundations of the original structure have survived to a certain extent. Some of the masonry work at the lowest level resembles Celtic high walling and upon it rests fine Norman masonry work. We know that the site itself is very old. According to the Domesday Book of 1086, 'Otone' was held by William de Falaise and it already possessed a mill. Perhaps, the foundations of the present structure go right back to the mill listed in Domesday Book and maybe earlier.

Some of the timbers in the centre of the Mill House have been dated to around 1350. Because of its age, a survey was done on the building in June 1983. The report produced by the surveyor, Mr E.H.D. Williams, reads as follows:

“The house stands at the foot of the hill to the east of the village. To its south beside the leat are detached buildings (now pottery shop) which were presumably the mill. A low one and a half storey non-domestic wing extends from the upper end of the house (east) towards the leat. Externally the house shows no early features; windows and doors are modern, walls plastered, roof slated. But its plan of single room width (with lean-tos along the back (north)) indicates a date not later than early 17th century. It has undergone considerable change and early details are also sparse internally, but a three room and cross passage plan is discernible.

A front door has been inserted at junction of hall and inner room; the latter is featureless. The partition between these rooms is heavy stud and plank screen (16” planks, 11” studs) of very crude construction without refinements. Close to it at the back are stairs (rebuilt) in a turret, now within a lean-to. The latter extends behind the inner room and encapsulates its lateral fireplace. Part of hall wall is 30”, internal width 15’. Hall fireplace is rebuilt; its stone stack is seen to be straight jointed to a cob wall. Length of hall from face of stack is 13’. A second door enters direct into outer room, which is 9’ 9” long; the door is opposite another into a lean-to suggesting a cross entry but back of the stack protrudes 15” into the outer room between the doors. Three axial ceiling beams have step and run stops; position of a boundary beam shows a 27” wall has been rebuilt 22”, same as the gable. A lateral fireplace at the back has an oven.

Roof ridge is now c.5’ above the top of a surviving tenoned jointed cruck at the upper end of the hall; apex is tenoned, ridge in a V notch, collar is tenoned, it is blackened. Purlins are trenched. Walls are raised c.4’. Date of origin is probably c.1500.”

Past Occupants Of Wootton Courtenay Mill

From my research, I know that the Mill was occupied by a William Barryman in the early 17th century until his death in 1640 when a John Oliver inhabited the property. The leasehold agreement between John Oliver and Sir Hugh Stewkeley (junior) still remains intact and from it I extracted the following information:

John Oliver, it appears, was more of a farmer than a miller and probably used the Mill House as a Farm House. Included in the leasehold agreement for 36 shillings and ten pence (payable in four equal portions each year) and an initial down payment of 40 shillings were (i) the messuage tenement and Grift Mill (ii) the herbage, pasture and pummage of one wood called Lymebeare Wood and (iii) all adjoining houses, courts, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, commons, watercourses, ways, paths, brakes, bushes and shrubs.

For each meadow that he ploughed up, John Oliver was to pay Sir Hugh an extra 40 shillings per year. He was bound to protect the property even including items such as gates, rails, posts, hedges, ditches and fences. Interestingly, Sir Hugh specified in the agreement that he would be allowed to fell timber in Lymebeare or Ridgewood as long as he didn't spoil the property. In such cases, it was agreed that he could bring servants, workmen, horses, carts, plows and carriages onto the land and could fell the following types of tree: Oaks, Ashes, Elms and Cribbles(whatever these are?).

From 1641 to 1757 there are no conclusive records of the occupants of the Mill House and surrounding buildings. As mentioned previously, it is highly likely that Westcotts occupied Wootton Courtenay Mill as far back as the late 17th century although the earliest reliable record of a Westcott occupant is given in the church accounts of 1758 where Thomas Westcott (1720 - 1803) received a payment for helping in the repair of the church. Successive occupants were all direct descendants of Thomas up to 1873, when the lease of the property passed from Robert Westcott (1842 - 1923) to Robert & Ann Greenslade who were also millers by occupation.

Milling As An Occupation In The 18th And 19th Centuries.

For the period that we are interested in, milling was a busy and financially reliable occupation since in the 18th and 19th centuries, the introduction of a whole range of new farming techniques led to increased productivity and hence more grain for the miller to grind. The miller at that time must have been keenly aware of his position. A good miller was an important asset to an estate, for, in addition to his other skills, he could provide useful information on the farming abilities of tenants. Often he used his observations on which farming techniques led to better quality grain to his own advantage. This is clearly evident in the Westcott family history - many Westcotts moved out of the mill and rented farm land to grow their own grain. Indeed, William Westcott (1816 -) even farmed the land surrounding the Mill from 1839 and either lived in or next door to the Mill itself (- not surprisingly the land he farmed was known as Mill Farm).

Disadvantages of milling at that time included 'Soke Rights'. Soke rights were, in effect, a restrictive covenant giving the landowner the right to insist that all corn grown on his land be milled at the manorial mill. Normally, the miller who leased his property from the lord of the manor was allowed to take a toll, usually a sixteenth of all the flour he produced. This often led to disquiet amongst the farming tenants for two reasons. Firstly, they felt that they had a right to take their corn to that mill which offered to grind it at the lowest price. Secondly, they frequently felt that the miller was being dishonest. This was because the miller himself determined what was a sixteenth of the flour he produced. Many things affect the density and content of corn, and no one possessed the necessary experience to judge how much flour the miller should take for his own bin. With experience, a miller could gauge the quality and condition of grain by testing it between thumb and forefinger. From this he judged how much flour could be produced. The complaint was that he regularly falsified the figure, allowing him to take more than his due.

In an attempt to ease the accusations of dishonesty, the right to make financial payments in lieu of tolls was placed in the Statute Book in 1796. The only effect was to lead to prosecutions relating to over charging in monetary terms!

It is also important to note that the miller in the 18th and 19th centuries was affected by movements in the import and export market and any relevant legislation. For example, during the American War Of Independence (1775 - 1781) the export market for corn was considerably weakened and those who were dependant upon it blamed the monarchy for his disruption of Anglo-American relations. Indeed, the present occupier of Wootton Courtenay Mill found a couple of coins hidden behind the rafters which dated from 1776 in the reign of George III. Holes had been punched through the head of the monarch. This could have been the late Thomas Westcott (1720? - 1803?) venting his frustration over the British involvement in America.

After the American War Of Independence, the export and home markets for corn and flour improved. In 1815, the landed classes passed the famous 'Corn Law' which excluded foreign corn from the home market when the price was at or under 80s per quarter. This effectively reduced the competition from foreign imports but unfortunately, for the miller, the urban working classes created a tremendous outcry over the increase in prices of bread and the 'Corn Law' was removed from the Statute Book in 1846.

Anyway, milling in the lovely, narrow valley at Wootton Courtenay cannot always have been easy if recent experience is anything to go by, for in the wet summer of 1987 lack of water was an unexpected problem; over the hill on the north-facing slopes there was a surfeit of water. Also, towards the end of the 19th century, the profitability of running a small Watermill must have taken a sharp about turn due to the arrival of Roller Mills. In the (London) Exhibition of 1862, a workable Roller Mill, already in use in the continent, was demonstrated. The Roller Mill ground corn between two iron rollers rather than between two stones as in the case of the Watermill. It therefore produced flour which was whiter in appearance and kept longer than wholemeal flour. By the 1880s, there was a general move from stone grinding to the new roller grinders.

The Mill Today

For the above reasons, the production of flour at Wootton Courtenay Mill ceased sometime in the 1890s. It remained redundant until a university graduate, Michael Gaitskell, decided to repair the old mill and use the power that it generated to run a potters wheel. The location of the mill was moved from its original position at the east end of the Mill House to a new site. Michael replaced the old overshot wheel, which was now beyond repair, with one made entirely of fibre glass. Some of the parts for the electric machinery came from a Fordson Tractor that Michael got from Plymouth Royal Naval Dockyard. Mill Pottery is currently open to the public and various items of pottery may be purchased there.



Figure: The Mill at Wootton Courtenay in 1992.

Biographies Of The Later Wootton Courtenay Westcotts

Thomas Westcott (1720 - 1803):

Thomas Westcott is the earliest PROVEN miller at Wootton Courtenay, his name and occupation being recorded in the church accounts of 1758 where he received a payment for helping in the repair of the church. Parochial registers suggest that he married a Betty Roberts in September 1751. Perhaps the marriage was forced because Betty was already pregnant at that time. She had a baby boy in November 1751 who unfortunately died after a two month struggle for life. Her grief didn't prevent her from having other children and in 1754, she gave birth to a girl and named her Susannah. Susannah was followed by John in 1758, Sarah in 1761, Betty in 1763 and Thomas in 1769. The girls married and left home, leaving only Thomas junior and his elder brother John to assist their father at the Mill.

Obviously, little is known about Thomas Westcott's (1720? - 1803?) character except from the coin punching story in the section on milling where we can infer that he was possibly anti-monarchy.

John Westcott (1758 - 1847):

John married an Elizabeth Baker in 1785 and it appears that in 1791 he moved out of the Mill and leased some farm land to the west of the village from the lord of the manor at that time, Lord Stowell. John's holdings varied throughout the years but the names of some of the strips of land that he leased at one time or another were Winters, Rawles, Crockfords and Wheddons. According to the Tithe Map of 1844, by that time, the extent of John's farm land had dwindled down to simply that piece of land called Rawles. This was probably a result of old age, though it must be noted that Rawles still covered 144 acres.

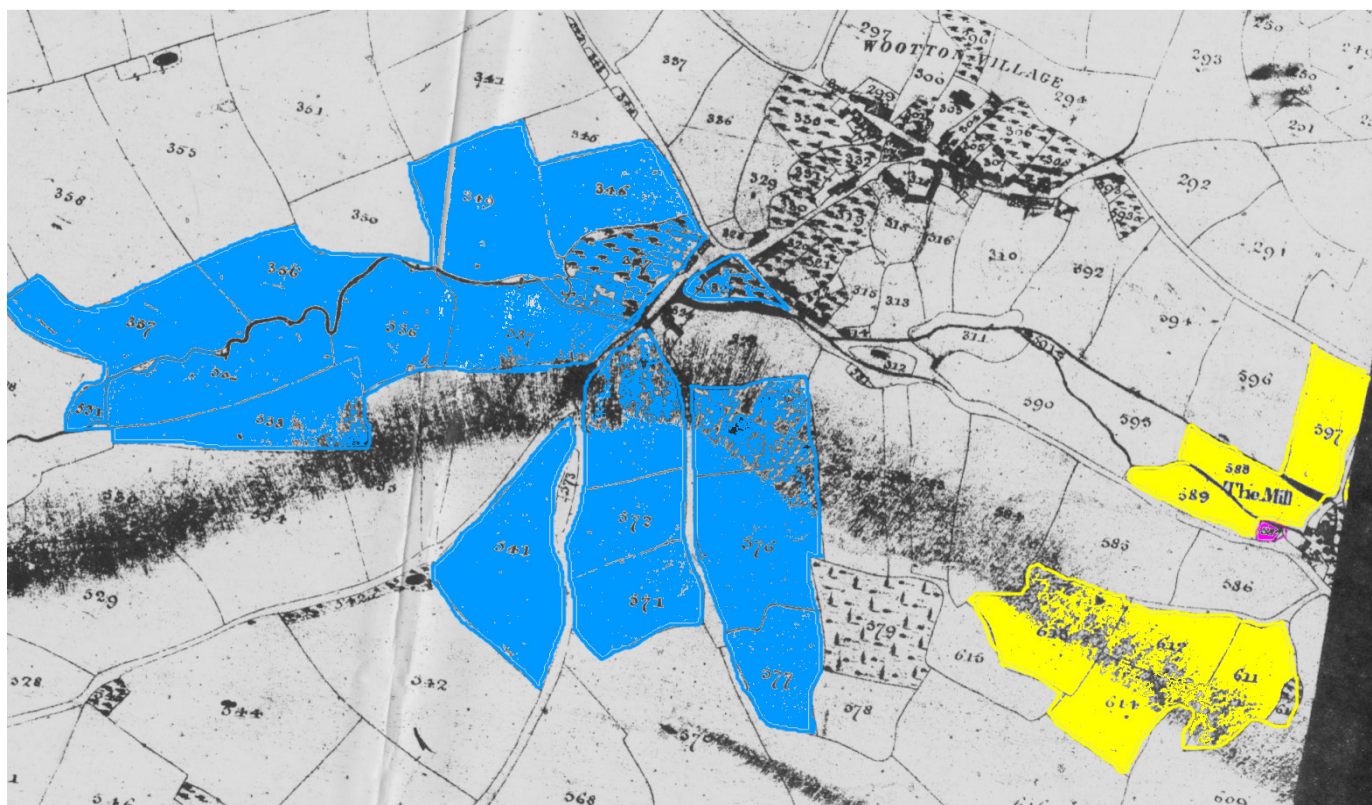


Figure: A map of the land rented by John Westcott (1758-1847) from Lord Sherbourne according to the 1844 Tithe Map. The land is called 'Rawles' and the strips of it are coloured blue. The pieces of land which were rented by William Westcott (1816-c1873) and encroach on this map are coloured yellow.

The 1841 census demonstrates that John was fairly wealthy in his latter years. For example, besides himself and his wife Elizabeth, Thomas Roberts and family, John Couch and William Williams inhabited the farm house. All these people were employed by John as indoor servants.

Apart from his wealth, John must have been a person of some standing in the local community since he was the church warden from 7th May 1799 to 23rd August 1800. Unfortunately, his wife was not capable of having children and therefore when he died at the respectable age of 89 in 1847, there were no descendants to inherit the farm.

Thomas Westcott (1769 - 1849):

Thomas Westcott (1769 - 1849) worked at the Mill for the major part of his life and became the sole miller when his father passed away in 1803. He had married a Sarah Pulsford in September 1794 who bore him three children: John in 1796, Elizabeth in 1798 and Charlotte in 1800. Sadly, in December 1800, Charlotte and her mother contracted some disease and they died within eight days of each other.

Life was inevitably rough for Thomas following the death of his wife for he had to simultaneously run a mill and attend to the needs of two young children. In 1801, fate turned his way and he fell in love with Sarah Hole (1783 - 1863), the daughter of Michael Hole of Hunscoth farm. Due to Sarah's youth (she was only eighteen at the time) permission for marriage had to be granted from her father and on receiving this she married Thomas by License in 1801.

Sarah bore Thomas eleven children, five of which died in infancy. In 1805 she gave birth to a boy who died after twenty days, in 1811 she had a girl who died after ten months and in 1818 she had triplets, all of whom died within a week. Despite all this, her surviving children were very fruitful. These were Mary Ann in 1802, Harriot in 1806, Lucy in 1808, Thomas in 1813, William in 1816, Sarah in 1820 and James in 1823. Unfortunately, it was obvious that life still wasn't devoid of tragedy when Mary Ann died in 1813 at the tender age of ten.

All of this didn't affect Thomas' work and commitments. He took up the position of church warden between 19th July 1809 and 16th May 1810 and ended up being the collector and assessor of Land Tax right up to its abolition in 1833. He retired to a cottage in the centre of Wootton Courtenay sometime before 1841 after actually buying the Mill together with the Mill Farm and surrounding land from Lord Sherbourne, the lord of the manor at that time. The use of the Mill was passed to his eldest son John and his second youngest son William, occupied the Mill Farm in 1839.

From the census returns of 1841, we gather that Thomas shared his cottage with several other people besides his wife and some of these people were lodgers rather than servants. They included his youngest son James Westcott, John Clatworthy (a carpenter from Selworthy) and Robert Sage (a labourer). (NB. John Clatworthy plays an important role in the later chronicles of this family history.) James Westcott trained as a carpenter and married in 1848.

Thomas eventually passed away in 1849 at the age of eighty. The bereaved Sarah (1783 - 1863) moved back to Hunscoth farm where she died in 1863.

John Westcott (1796 - 1860):

This is the one pivotal character in the family tree that I know surprisingly little about. Like his father, Thomas (1769 - 1849), John inhabited and worked the Mill for the major part of his life. He married a pregnant Elizabeth Hole (1806 -) in February 1827. Elizabeth bore many children for John of whom only two died in infancy: Sarah, born in July 1827, died after only four years and Elizabeth, born in 1834, died after only nine days. Those who survived were Anne in 1828, Mary in 1830, Sarah in 1832, Lucy in 1835, Elizabeth in 1838, John in 1840, Robert in 1842, Thomas in 1845 and finally James in 1849. A significant amount of information has only been accrued about John and Robert Westcott.

William Westcott (1816 –c1873):

William Westcott was John Westcott's step brother and there was an age gap of about twenty years between them. He married a woman called Elizabeth in c.1835 who bore him five children: Sarah in 1836, Mary Ann in 1838, William in 1840, Lucy in 1842 and James in 1844.

William was initially a farrier in Wootton Courtenay until 1839 when he agreed to take on the lease of Mill Farm from his father, Thomas. The farm land was simply that surrounding the Mill and was mainly arable. Irrigation would not have been a problem since water could have been obtained from the stream flowing past the Mill. The farm definitely prospered under William - the amount of land he tended increased from 26 acres in 1861 to 40 acres in 1871. The censuses at the time indicate that he was wealthy enough to employ farm servants. For example, the 1851 census records him employing a 16 year old boy called William Baker and the 1871 census actually records him employing two female domestic servants: Elizabeth Priscott (aged 14 years) and Grace Burnell (aged 16 years).

William and his family occupied Mill Farm until sometime in the 1870's when the leasehold was transferred to George Reed, a farmer/thatcher, and his wife Mary Ann. What happened to William after this time is unknown.

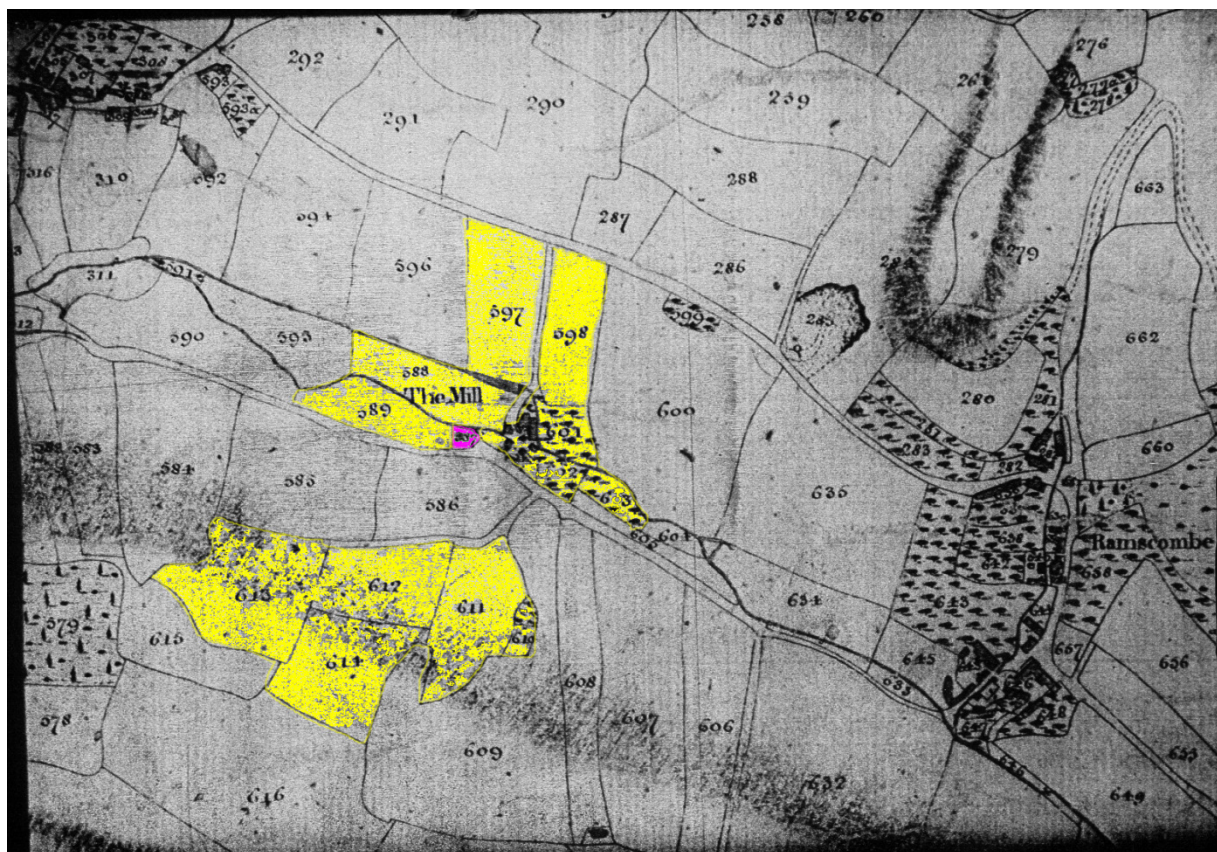


Figure: A map of the land covered by the Mill (coloured pink) and the Mill Farm (coloured yellow) according to the 1844 Tithe Map. The key to this map follows below.

A Key To The 1844 Tithe Map Of The Mill And Mill Farm

Landowner = Thomas Westcott

<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Plan No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>State Of Cultivation</u>
John Westcott	587	THE MILL Dwelling House Malthouse/Cottage and Baston	
William Westcott	588	MILL FARM - Poud Meadow	Meadow
	589	Pond Meadow	Meadow
	597	Wester Clove	Arable
	598	Mill Clove	Arable
	601	Higher Orchard	Orchard
	602	Lower Orchard	Orchard
	603	Nursery Orchard	Orchard
	610	Wood Gardens	Arable and Orchard
	611	Lower Wood	Arable
	612	Middle Wood	Arable
	613	Gouden Wood	Arable
	614	Higher Wood	Arable

John Westcott (1840 - 1907):

In his youth, John helped his father John senior (1796 - 1860) at the Mill. Sometime before his 21st birthday, he joined the Marines at Portsmouth. He trained there for several years before marrying a woman called Elizabeth at Wootton Courtenay church in c.1868. I know that Elizabeth had a child called Laura Annie in 1869. John and Elizabeth may have had more children but unfortunately the parish records of baptisms at the county record office in Taunton only go back to 1871. To get the more recent parish records, I would need to contact the church warden at Wootton Courtenay directly.

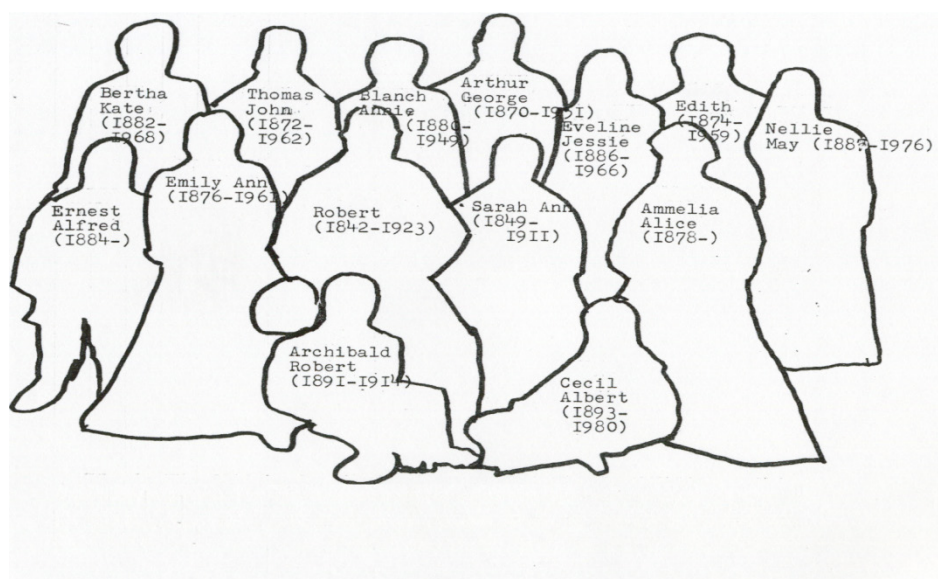
Interestingly, sometime after 1891, John moved to Eastcott farm and assisted his brother, Robert Westcott (1842 - 1923) , with the every day chores. Robert's daughter, Nellie May Westcott (1887 - 1976), always said that she had an uncle who had travelled all around the world and on returning home had said that from his experiences, Porlock and surrounding areas were the most beautiful places of all. This 'uncle' was probably the John Westcott that we have been talking about.

John died at Eastcott Farm in 1907.

Robert Westcott (1842 - 1923): The Last Westcott To Mill At Wootton Courtenay



Figure: The Westcott Family at Thomas John Westcott's (1872-1962) wedding, Summer 1901. The key is given below.



Robert Westcott (1842 - 1923):



Figure: Robert Westcott (1842 - 1923) outside Eastcott Farm in c1910.

Robert was born at the Mill in Wootton Courtenay in 1842. Throughout his youth, he remained at the Mill and worked it together with his father John (1796 - 1860). When his father died in 1860, the leasehold passed into the hands of his mother, Elizabeth. The 1861 census indicates that at that time Elizabeth ran the Mill with help from her son Robert. Robert's younger brother, Thomas, also lived there. In addition, Elizabeth had two visitors from Plymouth: Sarah Tarr and her two year old daughter.

Sometime before 1866, Robert was old enough to run the Mill himself and the leasehold was transferred into his name. He is recorded as employing a 13 year old miller's boy called John Court in 1871. Extra hands were probably needed because by then, Elizabeth must have been reaching retirement age and her fitness to run a mill must have been questionable!

In c.1869, Robert married a Sarah Ann Clatworthy (1849 - 1911), the daughter of an aforementioned labourer called John Clatworthy (1820 - 1892). Sarah gave birth to two children in Wootton Courtenay: Arthur George in 1870 and Thomas John in 1872. Running a mill in the 1870s could not have been all that easy because of the growth of the new Roller Mills coupled with the general decline of the small watermill (see section on milling). Perhaps for this reason, in 1873, Robert passed the lease of the Mill to Robert and Ann Greenslade and moved to Eastcott Farm near Porlock.

The 1881 census returns show that at that time Robert farmed 81 acres of land, a greater amount than many of his predecessors. This may seem a lot but Robert was helped by his two eldest sons and sometimes after 1891, his brother John (1840 - 1907) joined him at the farm.

At Eastcott, Robert's wife Sarah Ann bore many more children. The surviving ones were Edith in 1874, Emily Ann in 1876, Ammelia Alice in 1878, Blanch Annie in 1880, Bertha Kate in 1882, Ernest Alfred in 1884, Eveline Jessie in 1886, Nellie May in 1887, Archibald Robert in 1891 and Cecil Robert in 1893. There were only two infant deaths: the twins Winifred Ruth and Cecil Robert who died after only 20 days of life in 1890.



Figure: Robert Westcott's luncheon party at Alderman's Barrow in c1910.

This was not the only tragedy that Robert had to face. His wife died in 1911 and in 1914, his son, Archibald, hung himself in one of the barns at Eastcott after an unsatisfactory love affair. The grief resulting from such incidents could not have been borne by a stronger man than Robert - he was physically stout and mentally firm. Robert was a large attractive man with a great bushy beard and bright blue eyes. Despite his coldness and authoritarian attitude, he was well respected by the local community. His daughter, Blanch (1880 - 1949), used to say that he would roar like a lion when enraged and that at such times, Sarah Ann would whisper to the children and tell them what to do. His surviving grand daughter Ruby also remembers that Robert used to tease her - he would promise to give her a half penny and ended up giving her a button.

A great deal more can be implied about Robert's character by mentioning some of the tales concerning him that are still told. Apparently, when Bertha was born in 1882, he arrived at the registry office unsure of what to call her. Picking up a convenient list of names, he leafed through and after a short pause, picked the name 'Bertha' out at random, saying 'Ah! Bertha! That'll do'. It is also rumoured that in 1881, he carried his first six children to bed in one go. To do this, he had to go up the stairway at Eastcott, along the corridor and down a stairway at the end. Apparently, to achieve this marvellous feat, he had to carry the youngest child, Blanch, in his teeth.

Robert's will was made out on 30th October 1918. It basically stated that on his death, his two youngest sons, Ernest and Cecil, should run the farm as partners. He wanted them to pay legacies of between five and sixty pounds to the remaining sons and daughters whenever the farm was in profit and those sons and daughters needed the money to marry or set up in business. If neither Ernest or Cecil could take on the responsibility of running the farm, it was agreed that Tom from Birchanger would maintain it under the same conditions.

It is interesting to note that Edith, Emily, Ammelia, Blanch and Bertha were offered the choice of having an Exmoor pony each in return for a lower share in the monetary legacy. If the chosen pony had a foal on foot that was under twelve months of age, then it was decided that the foal could be taken as well. In the possible circumstance that a daughter wanted to relinquish a pony that she had chosen, she could either sell it back to Eastcott farm or failing that, sell it at the Bampton Pony Fair.



Figure: The gathering of the Exmoor Ponies (lunchtime at Alderman's Barrow) in c1910. Robert and Sarah Ann Westcott are at the back on the far left.



Figure: The hunt from Hawkcombe Head to Birchanger Farm in c1912. Robert Westcott is on a horse on the centre right of the picture.

Robert specifically stated that if either Ernest or Cecil wanted to leave the partnership, then the abstaining partner was entitled to:

- (i) the first twenty ewes (female sheep) through an open gate where the whole flock has been brought into the yard or field.
- (ii) a fresh milk cow and calf.
- (iii) fifty bushels of seed corn.
- (iv) four weanling (young) calves: two after one year and two after the next.
- (v) a legacy of £50.

When Robert died in October 1923, his effects totalled £1,101. His son Ernest took over the running of Eastcott and Cecil relinquished his hold on the partnership according to the terms laid out above.

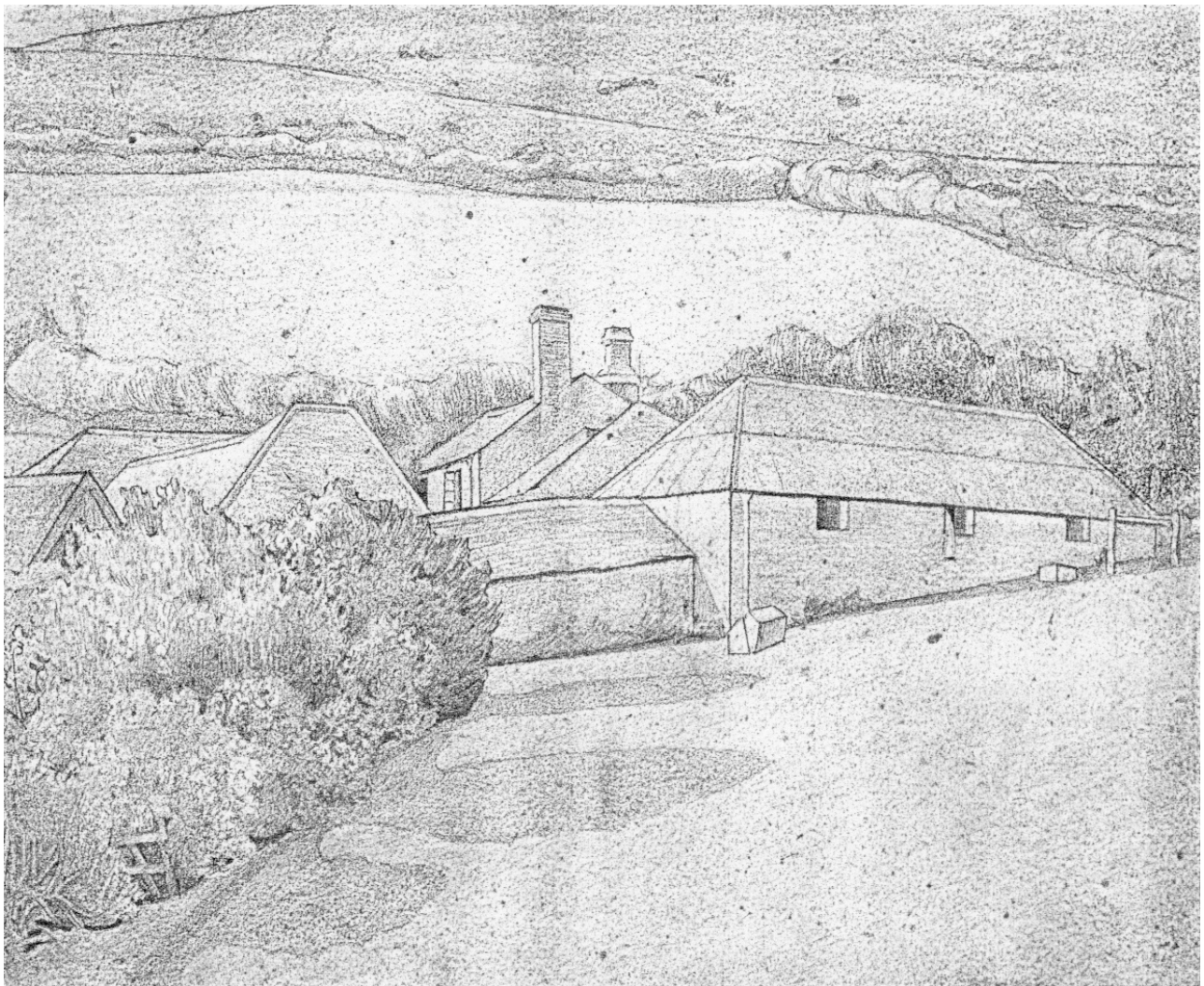


Figure: A pastil drawing of Eastcott Farm in c1905 by William Westcott (1886 – 1974).

This is a detailed black and white topographical map of the Portland, Maine area. The map shows the city of Portland, including the Old Port and the harbor, with numerous streets and buildings depicted. Surrounding the city are several hills, including Mt. Liberty, Mt. Adams, and Mt. Washington, each with its elevation marked. The map also shows the surrounding water bodies, including the Portland Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. A compass rose is located in the upper right corner, and a scale bar is in the lower left corner. The map is oriented with North at the top.

Robert Westcott's (1842 - 1923) Will

OFFICE COPY
VALID ONLY IF BEARING
IMRESSED COURT SEAL

utors. This is the last Will and Testament of me Robert Westcott of Eastcott Farm Porlock in the County of Somerset Farmer. I hereby revoke all former testamentary instruments made by me and I appoint my three sons-in-law Sidney Anker Mox Ball and William Westcott (hereinafter called 'my Trustees') to be Executors and Trustees of this my Will I give devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate unto my Trustees their heirs executors or administrators according to the nature thereof. Upon Trust as to my household furniture and effects and my farm stock implements and farming effects to permit which one of the two of my youngest sons Ernest Alfred Westcott or Cecil Albert Westcott shall in order of seniority exercise the option hereby given them of carrying on the business of the farm the free use and possession thereof for the purpose of carrying on my business as a farmer. Provided always that that son shall keep up the value of the said farm stock implements and farming effects to the value as existing at my decease that he shall for a period of twelve calendar months from my death maintain the farm as a home for any of my children as shall have a holiday and that he shall pay out of the profits of the said business the legacies hereinafter bequeathed such legacies to be paid in the order and at the time as my Trustees shall in their absolute discretion think fit to the intent that the credit and capital of the business of the farm shall not be crippled or injured in any way so that if necessary two years must be allowed to elapse after the payment of a legacy not exceeding in amount thirty five pounds and three years after the payment of a legacy not exceeding in amount sixty pounds before the next payment shall be required and demanded and that the necessity of the legacies and not their seniority shall be taken into consideration in settling the order and final payment so that a son or daughter of mine who shall marry or require to be set up in business shall be paid the amount of his or her legacy in priority to the others or other I declare that if neither of my two youngest sons shall exercise the aforesaid option to carry on the business of the farm under the provisions and conditions as aforesaid it is my earnest wish and desire that my son Thomas John Westcott now of Birchington shall carry on the business of the farm on the same conditions and subject to the same provisions as in the case of either one of my two youngest sons would

have done had he exercised the option given him by this my Will
And I declare that notwithstanding the postponement of the time of
payment of any of the said legacies for the reasons aforesaid no
legatee under this my Will shall be entitled to any interest on
his or her legacy And I declare that if hereafter during my lifetime
I shall give to or for the benefit of any son or daughter of mine upon
his or her marriage or to herwife for his or her advancement in life
any sum of money the legacy hereinafter given to such son or
daughter shall abate by the amount of such sum accordingly but in
no case shall any legacy so given be reduced to less than a sum of
Five pounds or any repayment of such sum be so advanced as
aforesaid or any interest thereon be required or demanded whether
it does or does not exceed the amount of the legacy given by this my Will
I direct that if any son or daughter of mine shall die in my lifetime leaving
no issue the legacy hereinafter bequeathed to him or her shall lapse and
fall into my residuary estate I give and bequeath the following pecuniary
legacies videlicet To each of them my sons Arthur George Westcott and Thomas
John Westcott Five pounds To each of them my daughters Caroline Jessie
Westcott and Nellie May Westcott Sixty pounds To each of them my said son
Ernest Alfred Westcott and Basil Albert Westcott Fifty pounds I give and
bequeath to each of them my said daughters Edith Lucy Anstey Emily
Anna Westcott Amelia Alice Westcott Blanche Annie Ball and Bertha
Kate Westcott the sum of Thirty five pounds each sum to be reduced to
twenty five pounds in case of any one of such five daughters who shall be
able and elect to take an Exmoor pony to be chosen by my said daughters
in order of their seniority from amongst those belonging to me at the time
of my death If any such pony shall at the time of choosing have a foal
at foot not being above twelve months old such foal shall go with and
form part of the gift and I direct that if any of my said daughters shall
be unwilling or unable to maintain such pony and foal (if any)
the same shall be offered by them to my son carrying on the business
of the firm as aforesaid who shall have the option to purchase the
same for not less than the sum of Eight guineas and the proceeds
of such sale shall go and belong to the daughter so entitled to the
pony and foal (if any) If that son shall not be willing to buy the
pony and foal (if any) at such price or if no higher price can be

agreed then I direct that such pony and foal (if any) shall be sold at the next ensuing Hampton Pony Fair and that the net proceeds of such sale shall go and belong to the slaughter so entitled to the pony and foal (if any) I desire that my said Son Ernest Alfred Westcott and Cecil Albert Westcott shall carry on my business in partnership on equal terms conditionally on their carrying out the terms of this my Will. If at any time the partnership is dissolved I desire the outgoing partner to have Twenty cows not to be selected but the flock to be collected in a field or yard and such outgoing partner to have the first twenty through the gate also a fresh milch cow and calf fifty bushels of earl corn and four weaning calves two the first year of leaving the partnership and two the following year all such gifts to be in addition to and not in substitution for the legacy of Fifty pounds hereinbefore given to my son. It is my wish and desire that none of the farm goods shall be sold subject to the foregoing legacies I give devise and bequeath all the residue of my real and personal estate to my Trustees Upon Trust for that son who shall elect to carry on my farming business as aforesaid for his own use and benefit absolutely. In Witness whereof I have to this my Will set my hand this thirtieth day of October One thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Willed by the Testator Robert Westcott as and his last Will and Testament in the presence of both being present at the same time who is request in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed my names as Witnesses.

Robert Westcott.

E. B. Newbery,
Minchworth, Somerset, Solicitor.

W. H. A. Thorne,

Clerk to Messrs Ince & Newbery Solicitors, Minchworth.

On the 30th day of October 1923 Probate of this Will was granted at Chancery to Sidney Ansell, Messrs Ball and William Westcott, the Executors.

14 folios.

was with original.

