

# VICTORIAN HISTORY OF MOSTON



Title	The Croft, Plant Lane, Elton
Type	Cottage & Land
Date Produced	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024
Internal Reference	E29P
1840 Owner	Lord Crewe
1840 Occupier	Joseph Brown
Tithe Map Apportionments	106, 107, 116, 124, 163
1840 Area	5.24 acres



The Croft, Mid 1990's



The Croft 2022

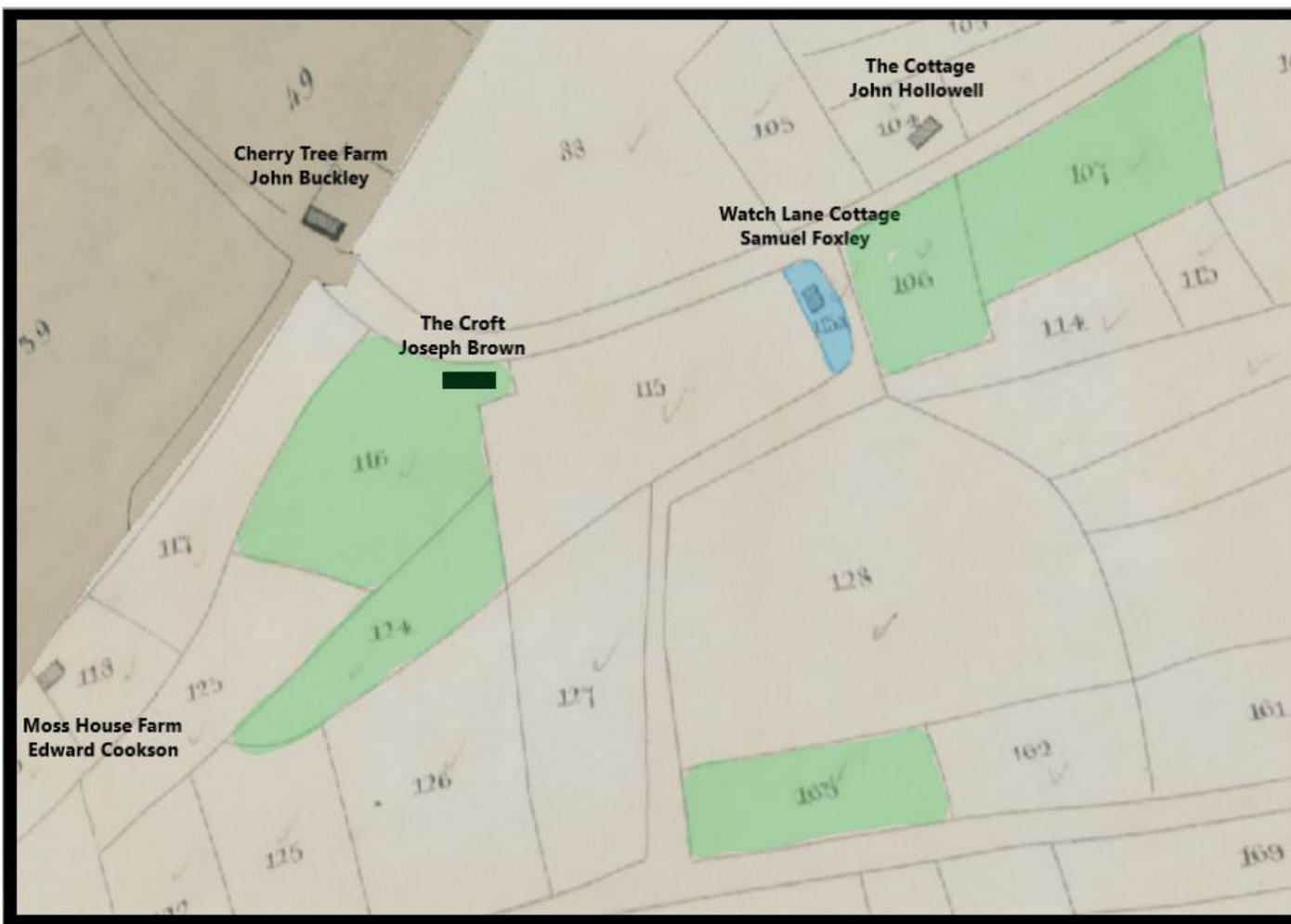


On the 1840 tithe map, for some reason there isn't a building marked on the map but the apportionment description clearly states that Joseph Brown was living in a house there. He was also renting just over 5 acres of moss in the surrounding area for which he paid an annual rent of ten pounds.

Joseph was born in 1776, to Richard Brown, a tenant on the Lord Crewe Estate and he himself also took out a tenancy in 1825 at the property currently known as "The Croft" on Plant Lane

Tenants.	Quantity.			Rent.		
	a.	r.	p.	£.	s.	d.
Jos. Brown	5	"	38	10	"	"

10 yrs from 1. 1825



Township ▲	Parish ◆	Plot ◆	Landowner(s) ◆	Occupier(s) ◆	Plot Name ◆	Land Use ◆	Acres ◆	Roods ◆	Perches
Elton	Warmingham	106	Lord Crewe	Joseph Brown	Moss Piece		0	3	38
Elton	Warmingham	107	Lord Crewe	Joseph Brown	Moss Piece		1	0	0
Elton	Warmingham	116	Lord Crewe	Joseph Brown	House and Croft		1	1	20
Elton	Warmingham	124	Lord Crewe	Joseph Brown	Croft		1	0	0
Elton	Warmingham	163	Lord Crewe	Joseph Brown	Moss Piece		0	3	20

## 1841 England Census for Joseph Brown

Cheshire > Warmingham > Sandbach > District 21

Joseph Brown	63	Ⓒ	Pensioner	24
Hannah do	62			24
John Warton	36		Labourer	10

John Warton would be a relative probably her son from a previous marriage of Hannah whose maiden name he shared. In the 1851 census, Joseph was recorded as a Greenwich Pensioner which would confirm that he spent his early life in the navy. Perhaps that was the reason Joseph and Hannah never appeared to have any children of their own.

## 1851 England Census for Joseph Brown

Cheshire > Elton > Sandbach > 13

Joseph Brown	Head	Mar	65	Greenwich Pensioner
Hannah Brown	Wife	M	70	

14 Joseph Brown for a small Tenement	1846	"	10.0.0
	1847	"	10.0.0
	1848	"	10.0.0
	1849	"	10.0.0
	1850	"	10.0.0
	1851	"	10.0.0
Charles Lewis for the above	1852	"	10.0.0
	1853	"	10.0.0
	1854	"	10.0.0
	1855	"	10.0.0
	1856	"	10.0.0

Joseph lived at "The Croft" as it is now known from 1825 until 1852 when he moved out, and the new tenant to take his place was Charles Lewis.

This move will have coincided with the death of Joseph's wife Hannah who was buried at Warmingham on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1852. Joseph himself moved to Ettiley Heath where he died seven years later at a grand age for the time.

Source : Crewe Estate Rent Books 1846-1856

Joseph Brown	Ettiley Heath	May 29	82	Amber Town
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No. 183

Source : Elworth St Peter burials 1859

Charles Lewis was originally from about a mile down the road being the son of John Lewis of Oakwood Farm on Oakwood Lane (see M16P). He married in Coppenhall in the early 1840's before moving back to Elton where he lived on Booth Lane before taking up residence at The Croft.

1843. Marriage solemnized at the Church in the Parish of Coppenhall in the County of Chester

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
30	Jan 29	Charles Lewis Mary Jones	24 24	Bachelor Maid	Joiner Labourer	Church Coppenhall Church Coppenhall	John Lewis Richard Jones	Joiner Joiner

Married in the Paul Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by me, John Rogers

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Charles Lewis in the Presence of us, Samuel Jones and Mary Jones

29	Charles Lewis for a small tenement late Joseph Browns	1873	12
		1856	10.0.0
		1857	10.0.0
		1858	10.0.0
		1859	10.0.0
	John Bates of Elton applies for the above place	1860	10.0.0
		1861	10.0.0
		1862	10.0.0
		1863	10.0.0
		1864	10
		1865	10
		1866	10
		1867	10
	Margaret Lewis for do from Lady day 1869	1869	10
		1870	10
	Adam Lowe for do from Lady day 1871	1871	10
		1872	10
		1873	10

Source : Crewe Estate Rentals 1856-1873

As a local joiner, Charles will have been a close acquaintance of Joseph Turner of Ivy House, 100m down the road, indeed they were possibly business partners to the extent that Joseph was also an executor of his will.

Joseph had a bad year in 1861 losing his daughter aged 15 then a few months later, his wife also died. Joseph died in 1867 and left £200 to his second wife Margaret who stayed on at The Croft til 1871 until she died. By then, his younger son John reached the age of 21 and could inherit his fathers wealth.

The contents of his will also showed his involvement in the building trade as he left 2 houses to his elder son Thomas & the instruction that two more should be built on his land in Bradwall for his younger son John.

106

## WILLS. 1867.

**LEWIS Charles.**

Effects under £1,000.

17 September.

The Will with a Codicil of Charles Lewis late of Elton in the Parish of Warmingham in the County of **Chester** Joiner deceased who died 9 February 1867 at Elton aforesaid was proved at **Chester** by the oaths of Joseph Turner of Elton aforesaid Builder and John Pring of Elton aforesaid Wireworker the Executors.

## 1871 England Census for John Lewis

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > 18

1	Margaret Lewis	Head	W	56	Farmer (of 5 acres)
	John Lewis	Step son	Widm	21	Joiner
	Ann Syloc	Widow	W	53	Farmer

Son after Margaret Lewis died, here stepson John moved out and went to live in Crewe where he continued the trade of his father and continued to build his own little empire of properties. The new tenant to move in was Adam Lowe who came Elton originally from High Offley in Staffordshire where he progressed from being an agricultural labourer to a farmer having his own land to tend. As with the Lewis's before him, his rent to Lord Crewe continued at ten pounds per annum.

## 1871 England Census for Aram Lowe

Cheshire > Sandbach > Sandbach > 12

Aram Lowe	Head	Married	36	Bricklayer's Laborer
Louisa do.	Wife	Married	36	
James do.	Son		12	Scholar
Charlotte do.	Daughter		10	Scholar
Annie do.	Daughter		7	Scholar
Henry do.	Son		4	Scholar

At the time of his move to The Croft, Adam Lowe was already in Cheshire residing in Ettiley Heath. His youngest son Henry was born there suggesting he moved about 1866-67. Adam was then a bricklayer so again I would be surprised if he wasn't acquainted with Joseph Turner in some way.

## 1881 England Census for Adam Lowe

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > District 18

1	Adam Lowe	Head	Married	50	Farmer 5 acres	Staffordshire Stone
	Louisa do.	Wife	Married	44		do do
	Christina do.	Daughter		9	Scholar	Cheshire Elton
	John do.	Son		7	do	do do
	Elizabeth do.	Daughter		5	do	do do
	Fisher do.	do		3		do do
	Lucy do.	do		11/12		do do

## 1891 England Census for Adams Lewe

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > District 18

4	Adams Lewe	Head	M	64	General Labourer	X
	Louisa do.	Wife	M	54	Widow/worker	X
	John do.	Son		14	Scholar	
	Lucy do.	Daughter		10		

During their time at Elton, Adam and Louisa raised 9 children, the majority of whom stayed in the area so they will have been a well known family locally.

## 1901 England Census for Adam Lowe

Cheshire > Elton > Sandbach > District 18

4/	Adam Lowe.	Head	M	70		Market gardener.	Own ap.	At Home
	Louisa .do.	Wife	M	64.	✓			
	Jane .do.	Daughter	S	25.	✓	Dressmaker	Own ap	At Home.
	Jessie .do.	-do-	S	23.	✓			
	Ruth .do.	8-do		9	✓			

Source : National Archives 1901 census

## 1911 England Census for Adam Lowe

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > 18

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Adam Lowe	Head	80	✓	Married	52	7	8	3	Farmer 100
Louisa Lowe	Wife	-	74	Married		11	8	3	
Blanca Jane Lowe	Daughter	-	35	Single					Dressmaker 280

Source : National Archives 1911 census

Name	Years Lived	Place Lived	Occupation
James	1858-1885	Moston House Farm, Oakwood Lane, Moston.	Agricultural Labourer
Charlotte	1861-1941	Higher Delacres Farm, Booth Lane, Kinderton	Farmers Wife
Annie	1863-1935	Plant Lane, Moston	Labourers Wife
Henry	1866-1933	Moss House, Plant Lane, Elton	Farmer
Henrietta	1871-1945	Kingston, Herefordshire	Cook
John	1873-1910?	Rangatira, Plant Lane, Moston	Market Gardener
Clara	1876-?	The Croft, Plant Lane, Elton	Dress Maker
Jessie	1878-1938	Marsh Green Road, Elworth	Housewife
Lucy	1880-1927	Ormskirk, Lancashire	Housewife

As the First World War came along, Hungerford Crewe who was now spending little time in Cheshire, decided to sell his estate. As with many of the great landowners at the time, it was becoming increasingly difficult to make a profit from agricultural land and a mass sale of property took off around this time.

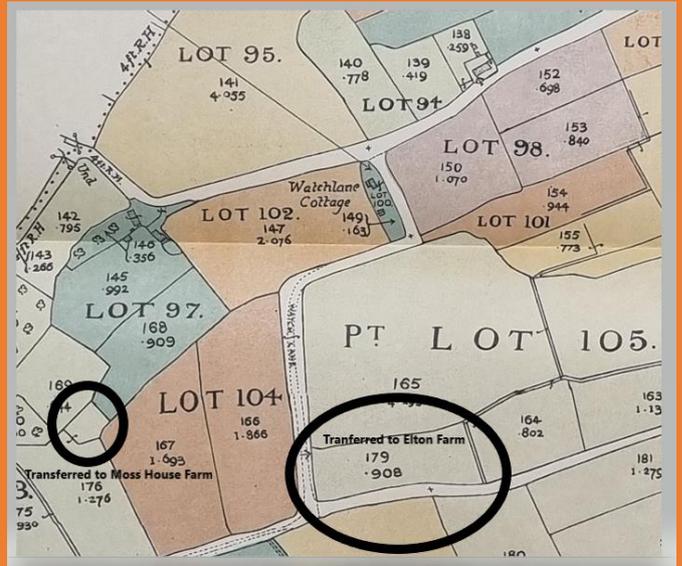
The Elton part of the Estate was first put up for sale in 1915 but much of it, including almost all the properties along Plant Lane, Watch Lane and Red Lane failed to sell.

It can be seen from the sale map that the land occupied by Adam Lowe was very similar to that in the 1825 lease to Joseph Brown and was still roughly 5 acres. A small field of nearly one acre was by then part of Elton Farm and a small patch was now with Moss House Farm.

In the sale, the property was split into two separate lots perhaps to reflect the fact that the fields weren't all adjacent to each other.

By instructions of the Most Honorable the Marquess of Crewe, &c.

Outlying portions of the  
**Crewe Hall Estate**  
 situate in  
**Tetton, Elton & Elworth**  
 between  
**Sandbach & Middlewich**  
**Cheshire.**  
 September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> 1915.

**LOT 97**  
 Coloured Blue on Plan No. 3.

**A Valuable Freehold Cottage and Land**  
 Known as  
**PEAR TREE COTTAGE**  
 In the occupation of Mr. Adam Lowe, situate in Moss Lane, Elton,  
 Comprising an Area of  
**2 acres 1 rood 0 perches**

The HOUSE contains Living Room, Back Kitchen, Bakehouse, Pantry, and 2 Bedrooms.  
 The BUILDINGS contain Shippon for 4 Cows, Calf Cote, Barn and Pigsty.  
 The Wooden Erections belong to the Tenant.

**SCHEDULE**

No. on Ordnance Survey.	Description.	Acres.
146	House, Garden, &c. Field. do.	.356
145		.992
168		.909
Total Acres ...		2.257

**LOT 98**  
 Coloured Purple on Plan No. 3.

**THREE VALUABLE**  
**Freehold Accommodation Fields**  
 In the occupation of Mr. Adam Lowe, situate in Moss Lane, Elton, close to Elton Moss Bridge,  
 Comprising an Area of  
**2 acres 2 roods 17 perches**  
 Ordnance Survey.

**SCHEDULE**

No. on Ordnance Survey.	Description.	Acres.
152	Field.	.698
153	do.	.840
150	do.	1.070
Total Acres ...		2.608

Source : Crewe Estate Sale Brochure 1915

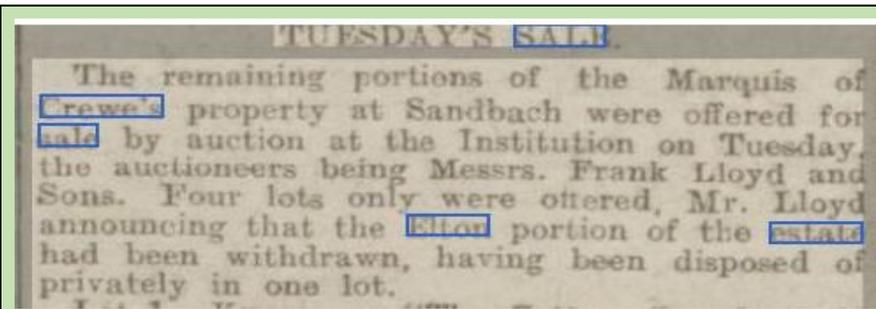
Adam Lowe at this time also leased a field just south of Watch Lane (Opposite the junction with Red Lane) which meant at the time of the sale he and his son Henry were farming roughly 17 acres between them. This can be seen in the Congleton Borough Council rates return. This field was sold as a separate lot. After Adam Lowe died, this field passed to Wesley Turner of Ivy House Farm further down Plant Lane by the canal

**LOT 117**  
 Coloured Yellow on Plan No. 3.

**A Valuable Freehold Field**  
 As occupied by Mr. Adam Lowe, situate in Watch Lane, Elton  
 Being No. 178 on the Ordnance Survey.  
 Comprising an Area of  
**2 acres 3 roods 0 perches**

No. of Assessment.	NAME OF OCCUPIER	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.	NAME OR SITUATION OF PROPERTY.	Estimated Extent.			Gross Estimated Rental.		
				A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
27	Lowe Henry.	House & Buildings Land	The Moss	4	0	0	6	10	-
28	Lowe Adam.	House & Buildings Land		9	22		18	10	-
				7	3	4	10	10	-

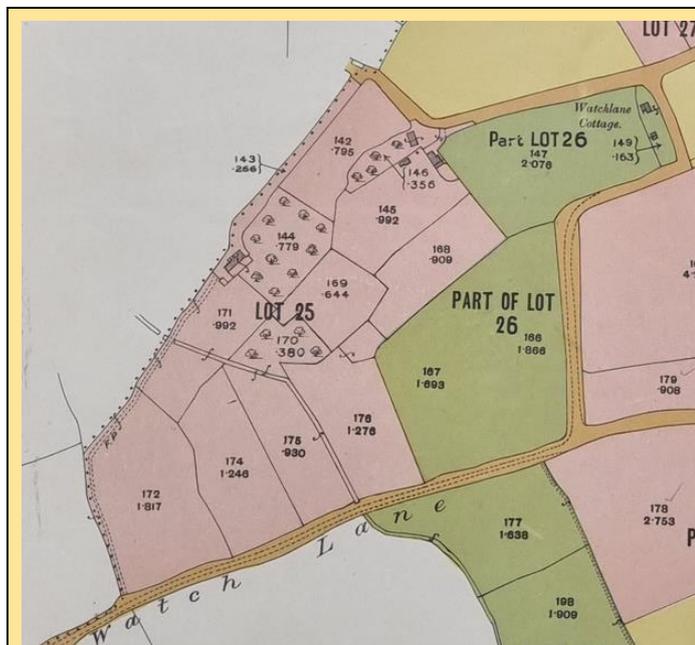
Source ~: Congleton Borough Council Rates 1914



Source : Crewe Chronicle 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918

At the 1918 auction, the Elton part of the estate was withdrawn before the auction and then sold to Mr F J Poole (now Poole Alcock Solicitors) who in general sold the properties back to the tenants with no doubt a nice markup in price for his own cut

In 1918, the organisation of the land and properties had been significantly adjusted into a more logical fashion and perhaps to reflect that Mr Poole had already agreed with the tenants how to split up the land and who wanted what. At that time Adam Lowe's next door neighbour was his son Henry Lowe and I am sure this would be the driver to combine the two properties into a single lot which was then sold to Henry Lowe with completion on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1919. The purchase price being £665 which was part funded with a mortgage of £400 from Francis Poole, Annie Foden and a James Proudlove of Fields Farm Bradwall.



Source : Crewe Estate Sale Brochure 1918

## Freehold Small Holding

Known as  
**MOSS HOUSE & PEAR TREE COTTAGE.**

In the occupation of Messrs. Henry Lowe and Adam Lowe, situate in Moss Lane, Elton.

Comprising an Area of

**11 acres 1 rood 21 perches**

Or thereabouts.

The HOUSE occupied by Mr. Hy. Lowe contains Parlour, Kitchen, 2 Pantries, new Wash-house, and 3 Bedrooms.

The BUILDINGS include Two-stalled Stable, Shippon for 4 Cows, Loft, and 2 Piggeries. There is also a good Orchard.

The COTTAGE occupied by Mr. Adam Lowe contains Living Kitchen, Back Kitchen, Bakehouse, Pantry, and 2 Bedrooms.

The BUILDINGS comprise Shippon for 4 Cows, Calf Cote, Barn and Piggery.

NOTE:—The Wooden Erections belong to the Tenants.

**SCHEDULE.**

No. on Ordnance Survey.	Description.	Acres.
142	Field.	.795
143	Road.	.266
144	House, Orchard, &c.	.779
145	Field.	.644
146	do.	.380
147	do.	.992
148	do.	1.817
149	do.	1.246
150	do.	.330
151	do.	1.276
152	Field.	.356
153	do.	.992
154	do.	.909
155	do.	
156	do.	
157	do.	
158	do.	
159	do.	
160	do.	
161	do.	
162	do.	
163	do.	
164	do.	
165	do.	
166	do.	
167	do.	
168	do.	
169	do.	
170	do.	
171	do.	
172	do.	
173	do.	
174	do.	
175	do.	
176	do.	
177	do.	
178	do.	
179	do.	
180	do.	
181	do.	
182	do.	
183	do.	
184	do.	
185	do.	
186	do.	
187	do.	
188	do.	
189	do.	
190	do.	
191	do.	
192	do.	
193	do.	
194	do.	
195	do.	
196	do.	
197	do.	
198	do.	
199	do.	
200	do.	
	Total Acres ...	11.382



Source : MI Warmingham

Unfortunately, this arrangement didn't work out as intended because between the original sale and completion, on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1919, Adam Lowe passed away and was buried at Warmingham Church.

On the other hand, by this time Adam was a very elderly gentleman and perhaps knew his time on this earth was limited and wanted to secure this one off opportunity to pass the property on to his son.

So no sooner had Henry Lowe purchased The Croft, or "Pear Tree Cottage" as it was known by at the time, he needed to decide what to do with it.



WEDNESDAY, August 21st, at 12.30.  
**PEAR TREE POULTRY FARM,**  
**PLANT-LANE, ELTON NEAR**  
**SANDBACH**  
 (10 minutes from Sandbach Station.)  
**SALE of**  
 300 UTILITY POULTRY, viz.:  
 180 Pullets, W.L. x R.I.R., R.I.R. x W.W.,  
 R.I.R., all March and April hatched;  
 107 Hens, R.I.R. W.L. x R.I.R., Brown  
 L x L.S.; 12 R.I.R. Cock Chickens, one  
 Pure-bred R.I.R. Store Cock.  
**APPLIANCES,**  
 including 12 Modern Poultry Houses, 2  
 Glevum Superior Self-turning Incu-  
 bators (150 Egg), 3 Hovers (200 and 150  
 Chick) and Outdoor Effects.  
**JOHN W. HILDITCH**  
 is favoured with instructions from Mr.  
**Spencer** Holden who is giving up Poul-  
 try-keeping to Sell by Auction entirely  
 without reserve as fully advertised last  
 week.  
 N.B.—The Poultry are a healthy Flock,  
 being well selected and the Houses and  
 Appliance are in excellent order.  
 Cards from the Auctioneer.  
 Offices: 19, The Square, Sandbach.  
 Tel. 48. c338

Source : Crewe Chronicle 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 1940

**PEAR TREE POULTRY FARM ELTON**  
 A successful sale was conducted by John  
 W. Hilditch, on Wednesday week, for Mr.  
**Spencer** Holden. The following are a few of  
 the prices realised: Brooder house, £28;  
 poultry houses, £27, £26 10s., £25 (twice),  
 £23 £9 5s., £8, £7 10s., £6 10s., £8 15s.;  
 wire netting to 22s. per roll; ladder, 26s.;  
 pullets to 26s. per couple; yearling hens to  
 15s per couple; foster mothers to 30s. The  
 small appliances were quickly sold.

Source : Crewe Chronicle 31st Aug 1940

**JOHN E. HIND & SON** beg to announce  
 that the following properties have now  
 been SOLD:—  
**PEAR TREE BUNGALOW, ELTON**

Source : Crewe Chronicle 30<sup>th</sup> May 1953

**ELTON SANDBACH.**  
**WITH VACANT POSSESSION.**  
 A Delightful Modern Detached Freehold  
**BUNGALOW HOLDING,**  
 known as  
**THE CROFT**  
**11, PLANT LANE, ELTON**  
 The property comprises a modern det-  
 ached Bungalow with 2 ACRES 1 ROOD  
 7 SQ. YDS. OF LAND.  
 Full details on application to  
**JOHN E. HIND & SON,**  
 20 32, Bradwall Road, Sandbach (Tel. 82).  
 cc53

Source : Crewe Chronicle 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 1955

**OLD ENGLISH GAME** for Sale; most  
 colours.—E. Holland, 14, Plant Lane.  
**Elton Moss, Sandbach.** ccl/70  
 Market

Source : Nantwich Chronicle 1<sup>st</sup> March 1958

**ELTON SANDBACH**  
**WITH VACANT POSSESSION.**  
 Compact Rural Two Bedroomed  
**DETACHED BUNGALOW,**  
**THE CROFT**  
**PLANT LANE, ELTON**  
 together with 2½ ACRES (or thereabouts).  
 Full particulars apply  
**JOHN E. HIND & SON**  
 20, Bradwall Road, Sandbach. Tel. 82.  
 cc184

Source : Crewe Chronicle 1<sup>st</sup> May 1965



The Croft OS Map 2022

The Croft continued as a poultry farm small holding of 2.5 acres for many years but the property itself was extended many times for its original 2 bedrooms to the substantial property it is today.

In addition, to the day the property occupies about 5 acres of land after the then owners (Probably in the late 1970s) purchased an additional field at the back of Watch Lane Cottage)

# Chronological List of Owners and Occupiers

Year	Source	First Name	Surname	Lived	Years at		Occupation	Status	Other
					Age	Property			
1840	Tithe	Hungerford	Crewe	1812-1894		0	Gentleman	Owner	
1840	Tithe	Joseph	Brown	1776-1859	64	27	Ex Navy	Tenant	1825 lease
1841	Census	Joseph	Brown	1776-1859	65		Ex Navy	Tenant	
1851	Census	Joseph	Brown	1776-1859	75		Ex Navy	Tenant	
1861	Census	Charles	Lewis	1826-1867	35	15	Joiner	Tenant	1822 lease expired 1869
1871	Census	Margaret	Lewis	1821-1871	50		Farmer	Tenant	Wife of Charles
1881	Census	Adam	Lowe	1834-1919	47	48	Farmer	Tenant	
1891	Census	Adam	Lowe	1834-1919	57		Farmer	Tenant	
1901	Census	Adam	Lowe	1834-1919	67		Farmer	Tenant	
1911	Census	Adam	Lowe	1834-1919	77		Farmer	Tenant	
1918	Crewe Sale	Henry	Lowe	1866-1933	52	0	Farmer	Owner	Son of Adam
1921	Rates	Henry	Lowe	1866-1933	62	?	Farmer	Owner	Land only? Demolished
1931	Deeds	James Ernest	Davies			0	Builder	Owner	
1931	Elector	James	Chadwick				Poultry Farmer	Owner	and deeds
1939	Nat Register	Spencer	Holden	1887-1970	52		Poultry Farmer	Owner?	
1950	Elector	Richard H	Lynch			3		Owner	Sale in 1953
1960	Elector	Ernest	Holland			5		Owner	Sale in 1965
1970	Elector	Keith	Murphy			5?		Owner	
1975	Elector	Tim	Smart			20+?		Owner	
1997	Sale	Mike & Glynnis	Gerrish			25+		Owner	