

VICTORIAN HISTORY OF MOSTON



Title	The Croft, Plant Lane, Elton
Type	Cottage & Land
Date Produced	18 th 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

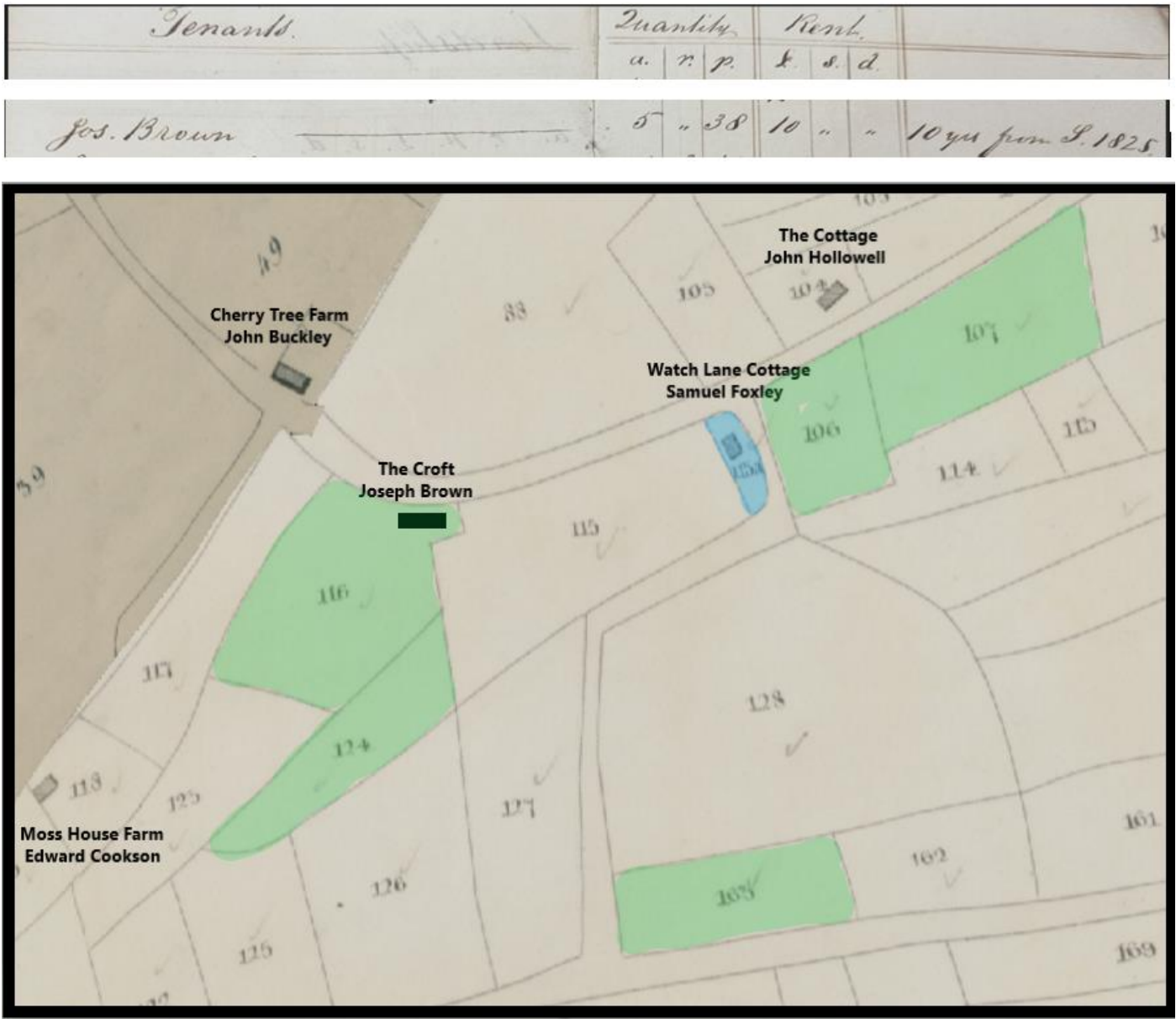


The Croft 2022



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



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	Ⓒ	Penpinner	Y
Hannah do	62			Y
John Warton	36		Labourer	Y

John Warton would be a relative probably her son from a previous marriage of Hannah whos maiden name he shared. In the 1851 census, Joseph was recorded as a Greenwich Pensioner which would confirm that his 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

Source : Crewe Estate Rent Books 1846-1856

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 4th January 1852. Joseph himself moved to Ettiley Heath where he died seven years later at a grand age for the time.

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.

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 Labourer

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's Brecons	1853	12
		1856	10.0.0
		1857	10.0.0
		1858	10.0.0
		1859	10.0.0
		1860	10.0.0
		1861	10.0.0
		1862	10.0.0
		1863	10.0.0
		1864	10
		1865	10
		1866	10
		1867	10
		1868	10
		1869	10
		1870	10
		1871	10
		1872	10
		1873	10

The Rate of Elton applies for the above Place

Margaret Lewis for do. from Lady day 1869

Adam Lowe for do. from Lady day 1871

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.	17 September.
Effects under £1,000.	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	Dep son	W	21	Joiner
	Ann Sykes	Servant	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	M	39	Bricklayer's Laborer
Louisa do.	Wife	M	36	
James do.	Son	M	12	Scholar
Charlotte do.	Daughter	F	10	Scholar
Annie do.	Daughter	F	7	Scholar
Henry do.	Son	M	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	M	50	Farmer 5 acres	Staffordshire
	Louisa do.	Wife	M	44		do
	Charlotte do.	Daughter	F	9	Scholar	Cheshire
	John do.	Son	M	7	do	do
	Eliza J. do.	Daughter	F	5	do	do
	Fisher do.	do		3		do
	Lucy B. do.	do		11/12		do

1891 England Census for Adams Lewe

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > District 18

4	Adams Lewe	Head	M	64	General Labourer	
	Louisa do.	Wife	M	54	Wid. worker	
	John do.	Son	M	14	Scholar	
	Lucy B. do.	Daughter	F	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.	-do-	S	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

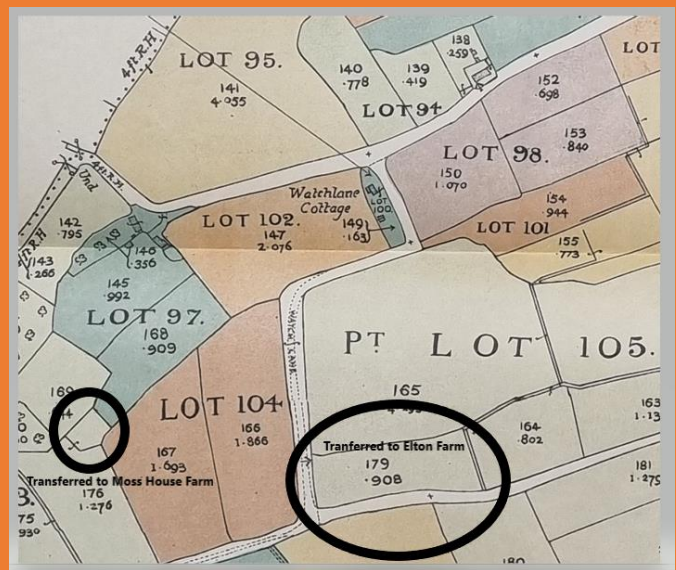
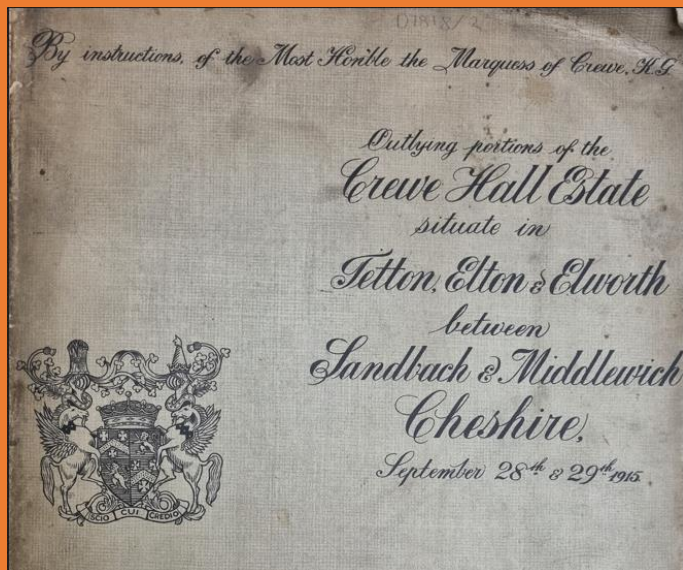
Name	Years Lived	Place Lived	Occupation
James	1858-1885	Moston House Farm, Oakwood Lane, Moston.	Agricultural Labourer
Charlotte	1861-1941	Higher Delacres Farm, Booth Lane, Kinderton	Farmers Wife
Annie	1863-1935	Plant Lane, Moston	Labourers Wife
Henry	1866-1933	Moss House, Plant Lane, Elton	Farmer
Henrietta	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.



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.

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

Source : Crewe Estate Sale Brochure 1915

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.

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

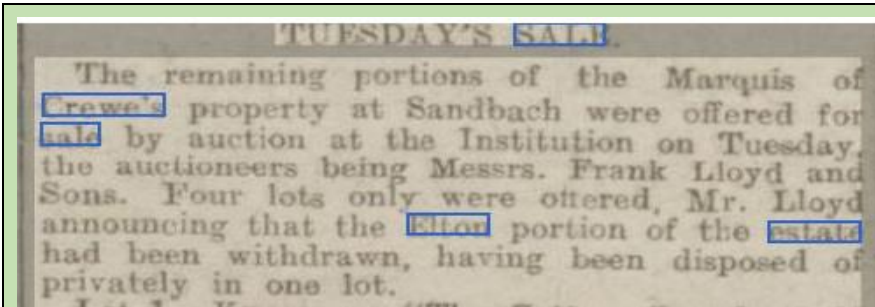
Adam Lowe at this time also leased a field just south of Watch Lane (Opposite the junction with Red Lane) which meant at the time of the sale he and his son Henry were farming roughly 17 acres between them. This can be seen in the Congleton Borough Council rates return. This field was sold as a separate 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	The Moss	4	0	0	6	10	-
		Land		9	22		18	10	-
28	Lowe Adam.	House & Buildings					6	15	-
		Land		7	3	4	10	10	-

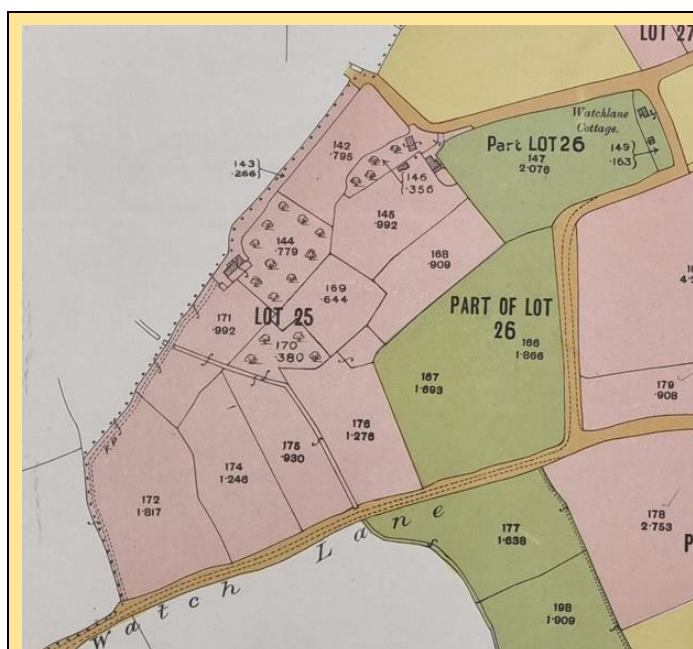
Source ~: Congleton Borough Council Rates 1914



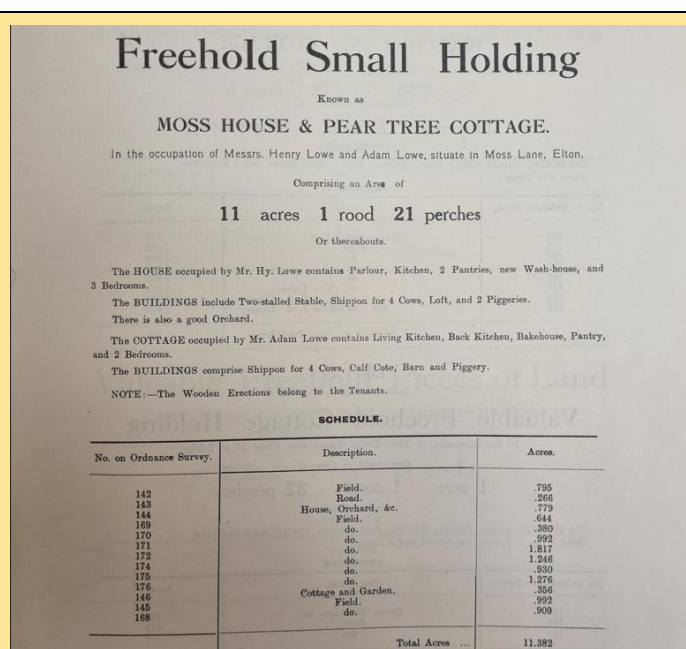
At the 1918 auction, the Elton part of the estate was withdrawn before the auction and then sold to Mr F J Poole (now Poole Alcock Solicitors) who in general sold the properties back to the tenants with no doubt a nice markup in price for his own cut

Source : Crewe Chronicle 3rd August 1918

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 10th 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



Source : MI Warmingham

Unfortunately, this arrangement didn't work out as intended because between the original sale and completion, on 27th 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.

Friday, May 9th, at 1.30 o'clock.
PEAR TREE COTTAGE, ELTON MOSS.
 One mile from Sandbach Station.
JOHN W. HILDITCH is favoured with instructions from the Representatives of Mr. Adam Lowe, deceased, to **SELL BY AUCTION** the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, including excellent pianoforte in rosewood case, chest of inlaid mahogany drawers, mahogany chiffonier, oak corner cupboard, sewing machine, oak 2-leaf table, bedsteads, 2 feather beds, crockery, glass, cutlery, house linen, &c., outside effects, consisting of pig turnel, wheelbarrow, shandry, 3 ladders, small tools, wood shed, 15ft. x 8ft., constructed of sleeper posts; open shed, 12ft. x 9ft., with double-span corrugated roof, &c. (c-13)

Source : Runcorn Guardian 2nd May 1919

Henry Lowe continued to occupy the premises up until 1931 when he put the Moss House up for sale which included The Croft. The purchaser was a James Ernest Davies, a builder who lived on the Wirral. The Croft was soon after sold to James Chadwick (Moss House being sold to Ellen Barnes).

It is likely that at this time, The Croft was demolished and rebuilt at a later date. as the bungalows on the far side of Plant Lane.

Although it retained the Pear Tree Cottage name, it was also named 14 Plant Lane. There is no entry for the 1921 census and Henry Lowe was paying rates for the land at that time.

In addition, in the 1931 sale, James Davies paid £925 for the combined Moss House but sold Moss House and 4 acres the next day for £750. This would suggest what was left was just land value.

FOR SALE, 300 PULLETS; Rhode Island Reds, White and Black Leghorns x Rhode Island Reds.—Apply J. Chadwick, Pear Tree Bungalow, Plant-lane, Elton, Sandbach. p192

Source : Crewe Chronicle 2nd Nov 1935

1939 England and Wales Register

Cheshire > Congleton Rd > Lgfj

Pear Tree Bungalow, ditto	56	1st July 87	M	1st July 87	M	Pauline Farmer own assn
10 191 2 2 29		1st July 87	M	1st July 87	M	Pauline Farmer
		1st July 87	M	1st July 87	M	Pauline Farmer

Source : National Register 1939

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
 Appliances are in excellent order.
 Cards from the Auctioneer.
 Offices: 19, The Square, Sandbach.
 Tel. 48. c338

Source : Crewe Chronicle 17th 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 30th May 1953

ELTON SANDBACH.
WITH VACANT POSSESSION.
 A Delightful Modern Detached Freehold
BUNGALOW HOLDING,
 known as
THE CROFT
14, PLANT LANE, ELTON
 The property comprises a modern de-
 tached 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 29th Oct 1955

OLD ENGLISH GAME for Sale; most
 colours.—E. Holland, 14, Plant Lane.
Elton Moss, Sandbach. cc1/70
 Market

Source : Nantwich Chronicle 1st 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 1st 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	