

ALTON PANCRAS HOUSES SURVEY

This is a brief description of all dwellings/houses/cottages etc known to have stood in this linear village, and occasionally mentions of people known/thought to have lived in them, and an approximate 'date'.

Our *History Project* has examined all known records of the village, church and parish, census, maps and many books on aspects of Dorset history, hoping to find a village mention. We have interviewed some 150 people for their memories, not only of their time in AP but also about others they knew at the time.

Family historians are welcome to contact colinsuedean@btinternet.com if they suspect they might have had an ancestor here, but we have not set out to create family trees, merely to try and place people in houses. Thomas Hardy (who didn't live here!) wrote of the hiring fairs when farm labourers had to visit to see if they could obtain their next employment somewhere, so this small village has had hundreds of residents in its time, few of them staying long. We, like other villages, would have a very long list of *Strays*.

What follows is a 'taste' of what we tried to achieve. We published a 100-page book called *Alton Pancras; People and Houses 1841-2006, (author Colin Dean with Mike Squires)* which quickly went out of print but Dorchester lending library has two lending copies and they can be borrowed from your own library through the Inter-Library Loan System.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Voters – *Electoral Roll*


Directory – *Old Directories of Dorset*

PR's – *Parish Registers*

RCHM – *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments*

Tithe Map – *1841*

Reading from the village North to South

House-name etc	Detail of Some Occupants & (Sources)
Alton Common Dairy Farm 	Located in a detached part of the parish to the north, approached off-right of the road to Buckland Newton along Crowthorne Lane. DRAPER family 1841-1895 (census/directories) Alfred & Rosa COOKE 1921, 1934/5 (directories). Thomas Harry SAMWAYS listed as Alton Common. (voters) Alfred COOKE farmer, Alton Common 1939 (directory) Joseph H J & Irene SORRELL 1955 (voters)

W(h)atcombe Barton/Barn (1)



In the distance is Plush.

2005

NE of the village accessed by the footpath from *The Old PO* up and across Burnt House Bottom Described as *Widcombe Bottom* in the estate auction document of 1794. In 1841 this was a cottage, garden, barton and stable, owned by PHELPS of the Manor, leased to STONE the farmer and sub-let. In 1851 occupied by John Joliff 42 ag lab and wife Martha 38 both b Portesham. Of their five children, the last two, Emily 3 and James 1 were b Alton Pancras. (1851 census)

W(h)atcombe Barton/Barn (2)



Isolated position

2011



Old machinery at Watcombe 2011

Holcombe Dairy Farm



Leaving the village towards Buckland Newton, a lane on the left, then passing the barn on its right.

Occupiers include;

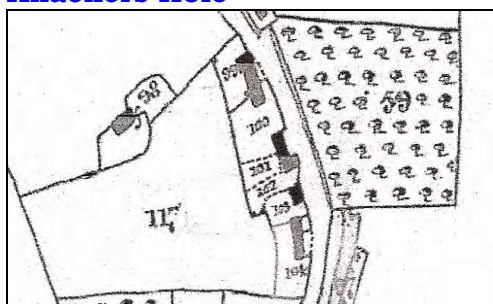
Fredk John, John Robert & Annie DIMOND 1921. (voters)

Charles Edgar & Alma Eva GRIFFIN 1934/5 (directory)

Wm FOY dairy manager to J H WATERMAN Esq, Holcombe Dairy, tel BN51 (1939) (directory)

John Harold WATERMAN conveyed Holcombe Dairy Farm in 1979 (deeds)

Knackers Hole





No 98 on the Tithe Map of 1841. No 101 is the site of today's *Little Holcombe* bungalow


In 1841 *Knackers Hole* (98) was a pair of cottages in the field north west of today's *Little Holcombe* bungalow (site number 101 on the Map). These were the northernmost dwellings of the village, with an entry gate into the field alongside where the river passes under today's main road from west to east. In 1728 Jno. HOLLAND lived in one, widow LANE in the other. (Boreal Manor Survey 1728). Alan Neades told (2005) how when he drove his grandfather Edward George JEANES (b AP 1891) past *Little Holcombe* he used to say "I was born in that field." Parents Walter JEANES & Emma nee CROAD were "occupying 3 rooms just off the main road" in 1891.

The Chequer /Travellers Rest

Site 99 on the map was an alehouse since at least 1715, run by Thomas MASTERS. The Manorial Survey of 1728 had Thomas MASTERS senior, alehouse and garden. It was first recorded as *The Chequer* in 1753, mentioned again in 1764. Richard Masters was licensee in 1769. By 1841 this was


 <p>Tree north of <i>Little Holcombe</i> marks the site.</p>	<p><i>Travellers Rest</i>, tenement & garden, beer house & land (Prebend Sale map). In 1847, as well as owning <i>Travellers Rest</i> he also held the adjoining tenement which in 1841 was occupied by James LOVEFACE. In 1851 John BROWN, brewer was here (Directory) but the premises were no longer licensed.</p> <p>* In the 1861 census, John Brown 56 & Jane Brown 52 were running the <i>Green Dragon</i> Inn at Piddletrenthide.</p>
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<p>Alton's First Post Office?</p>  <p>Artist's impression</p> <p>Site number 99 on the Tithe Map (above), the southern end of the village ale-house, has a history of its own. On the 1841 map it is shown as a tenement and garden owned by Phelps, lord of the manor, and occupied by James Lovelace. The census did not even list a profession for James, his wife Maria, or his seven children, except for William 15 being a thatcher and 10 year old George planning to be one!</p>	<p>Ten years on James had died, in 1843 aged 53 and widow Maria now 60 was a shopkeeper. More than that, one of her sons, Robert aged 29 was described as a letter carrier. This suggests that this was AP's first official post office, pre-dating <i>Rectory Cottage</i> from 1895 and the <i>Old PO</i> from 1922. Of Maria and the late James' other children, Elizabeth 33 was presumably helping in the shop, daughter Maria, unmarried and 35 was described as a pauper, William 24 was an agricultural labourer, and George 20 was already in a thatching business he was to continue in the village until his death in 1892.</p> <p>The business might not have been a huge success as in 1861 Maria was registered as a 70 year old pauper, living with her unmarried daughter Elizabeth 43, although it was good to see Robert aged 31 still delivering the mail, as he was in 1871.</p> <p>Derek Jeanes recalled (2004) his father saying something about there being a shop or PO on the site, and the late Charlie Kellaway had also heard talk of the same thing. That's useful in such research.</p>
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<p>Crooked Billet / Little Holcombe</p>  <p><i>Crooked Billet</i> facing the road, <i>Barcombe Farm Cottages</i> in the distance and <i>Barcombe</i> farm buildings behind the large tree at left.</p>	<p>A modern bungalow (<i>Little Holcombe</i>) stands on the site of this white cob and thatch cottage called <i>Crooked Billet</i>. The bungalow is right-angles to the road whereas <i>Crooked Billet</i> was right on the roadside. Occupiers of <i>Billet</i> have included widow Lydia BAZZLE & family 1841-71 (census), Martha BAZZLE/BASIL shopkeeper & laundress 1861.</p> <p>Theodore Rowland CHALDECOTT a cheesemaker at Holcombe Dairy married Florence Alice JEANES 1932 and lived here. (PRs) Fred & Eva FOY 1942 (directory). Frederick George (Jack) COLLINS married Valerie Jean LACEY 1946 and lived here.</p> <p>Demolished and replaced by <i>Little Holcombe</i> bungalow in 1972, David Victor & June A CHALKE the first occupants. (PRs)</p>
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<p>Box Cottage (1)</p>	<p>Cottage & garden, Elizabeth HANNAM 75 & Emily COX 3. (1841 census). Joseph COX 37 mason b Cerne, wife Elizabeth b Chilfrome, 6 children including Emily. Cox still there 1891 census. Arthur GODDARD, wife Elizabeth nee HARWOOD, son Fred & adopted daughter Mary Dorothy (Dot) CORNICK c1920s. Dolly was a pupil-teacher at AP school and later a cook at the Manor (interview). She married Tom AMEY who lived next door. Their daughter Hilda said (2005) that the house was</p>
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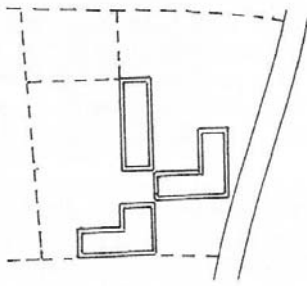
 <p>Late C17 cob and thatch (seen right in photo) with 19C extension (RHCM).</p>	<p>surrounded by a Box hedge. Kenneth Christopher (Jimmy) KELLAWAY and wife Gladys nee STONE moved there after their marriage at AP 1953, succeeding Mrs Goddard who had died. (interview).</p>
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<p>Box Cottage (2)</p> 	<p>An early photograph of <i>Box Cottage</i>, including its extension, with <i>Barcombe Farm Cottages</i> beyond, which means that the photograph was taken post 1870s.</p> <p>It appears to have a <i>Box</i> hedge, though the 1847 Prebend map describes it as a cottage and garden late <i>Cox</i>! Gladys Kellaway nee Stone remembered the cottage having just two bedrooms, one under the thatch, the other under the tiled roof, the middle one lighting the landing. Downstairs just two rooms, kitchen and dining room, and a very long garden, since shortened for the houses in Holcombe Mead.</p>
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<p>Barcombe Farm Cottages (2)</p>  <p>Two tied cottages connected to <i>Barcombe Farm</i> (directory). Built c1870, same as the farm, replacing an older carpenter's building.</p>	<p>Henry MASTERS, house, garden & carpenter's shop (1841 Tithe). William MASTERS widower 38 living there with Elizabeth DUNNING 34 born Buckland Newton & their daughter Mary, 3 months. (1851 census). In 1871 they were a married family; also there George MASTERS 57 crib-maker and wife Elizabeth. This is the last record discovered of this single house.</p> <p>In 1907 Mabel Mary HANSFORD was born to Thomas Henry & wife Alice nee WILLMENT when they were living in the north of the two, Thomas a shepherd, presumably for <i>Barcombe</i>. Farm workers came and went, Frederick & Margaret SAWYER among them. Later Fred & Eva FOY moved to the northern one from neighbouring <i>Crooked Billet</i>, while in the south one Everard John (Jack) JEANES, farm foreman & wife Alice Rose plus son William (Derek), the latter living in <i>Boldacre</i>. (interviews)</p>
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<p>Holcombe/Barcombe Mansion (1)</p> 	<p>1826 Map <Travellers Rest alehouse</p> <p>Distant; North Cottages, long demolished <Site of today's Little Holcombe bungalow <Site of today's Box Cottage <Site of today's Barcombe Farm Cottages</p> <p><Barn now converted in Holcombe Mead</p> <p>< Tudor? Mansion (red), undoubtedly Borealis Manor House < 4 –site of today's <i>Barcombe Grange</i>, its walled garden that of the previous mansion opposite.</p>
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Holcombe/Barcombe Mansion (2)



A survey of 1649 lists the Manor House of Borealis (north) and names John ARNOLD Esq in the same context as John STICKLAND Esq is of Australis (south). A survey of Manors in 1724 shows among the properties of Poole BATHURST Esq “the mansion house, garden, back side (back yard) and outhouses” in Borealis (north).

The sketch (left) is based on the the Tithe Map of 1837 (published 1841), showing the L-shape Mansion House typical of Tudor times and two farm buildings, on the site of today’s *Holcombe Mead*. The much-older Mansion House was demolished but the barns remained until the building of *Holcombe Mead*.

Holcombe Mead (10 houses)



Tithe Map 1837 shows the site of a farmhouse/mansion, believed Tudor, on the roadside west, with its walled garden on the opposite side of the road, that of today’s *Barcombe Grange*. The house was demolished c1860s.

Immediately prior to the building of *Holcombe Mead* it was known as *Holcombe Farm* but had no farmhouse, just farm buildings.

Buildings conveyed from Kathleen G E SAUNDERS of *Orchard Cottage*, AP Manor, to John Harold WATERMAN of *Barcombe Farm* 1955.

Left to JH’s son and daughter in his will. Sold for housing 1984. Planning permission granted 1986, houses to be similar in colour & texture to the barn and grain store.

Main road shown running north from lower right to top left. The entrance left into the farmyard is today’s *Holcombe Mead*. The former mansion stood across this entrance road. As it curves right around the barn (today’s 7-10) it passes the grain store, today’s No3 (*The Granary*). At top left of photo, note Crooked Billet.

Barcombe Grange (formerly Farm)



Note the bridge over the river and the decorated gate posts to what was formerly entrance to the mansion’s garden, before *Barcombe Farmhouse* was added.

Barcombe Grange* (formerly Farm)



Photographed from the site of today’s *Garth bungalow*, showing at left buildings connected with the farmyard which became *Holcombe Mead*.

Richard Billett HART owner & tenant of *Barcombe & Holcombe farms* 1839

Jn H WATERMAN farmer *Barcombe Farm* tel BN52 (1939)

John H & Phyllis G WATERMAN, 1955

John Harold WATERMAN died 1979. His wife, Phyllis Gwendoline died 1985.

John Denner Waterman ran the farm with his parents until 1974. (interview).

1974 Sold to David Boyd Alexander-Sinclair and name changed to *Barcombe Grange*. (interview)

*A *Barcombe Grange* was recorded in AP in 1596. *Grange* was the name given to outlying farms supplying a monastery. No record has been found to link *Barcombe* with Cerne Abbey.

Garth



John Harold WATERMAN conveyed 'the dwellinghouse known as *Garth* to John Denner WATERMAN 1962. It had been built on what was called *Proctor's Higher Ground*

Joanna T. RAY, spinster, of *Garth*, witnessed the letting of the tenancy of *Holcombe & Barcombe* Farms from John Harold WATERMAN to John Denner & Phyllis Gwendoline WATERMAN 1965.

1983 House bought by Raymond Allen 'Dick' COLLINS & wife Mary Durden Collins nee WALSH

(New) Barcombe Farm House



Top right. Built 1974 as a house for a/the Barcombe farmer.

Garth, *Barcombe Farmhouse* and *The Knappings* were all built on a former meadow called *Proctor's Higher* or *North Ground*, in more recent years used as allotments before the present building commenced.

The Knappings



Built 1991 on part of Proctor's Ground so that new occupants could put personal finishing touches to the interior and develop the land into attractive gardens on all three sides if they wished.

Fairview and Burnside (1)



A pair of semi-detached brick-banded, flint-faced cottages built right on the river bank. Plans were dated 1863. The north one was called *Fairview*, the south *Burnside*; the latter is a Scottish name for *beside a river*! Demolished and replaced by a row of 4 houses 1988, retaining the house name. Difficult to identify occupants but John & Mary CHURCHILL with son Charles were at *Fairview* in the 1950s, while Thomas R J SAWYER was born in one of them in 1906. Bertram & Gladys L R BRIDLE 1955/6.

The legendary Charlie and Peggy KELLAWAY nee COCKRAM at *Burnside* and Eric & Annie HAYTER at *Fairview* were neighbours for 40 years.

Fairview and Burnside (2)



Old.....



.....and New; Higher Barton in the distance

Higher Barton



1841 Cottage & garden with barn, carthouse, stable etc. (*Right-angles from the road, crossing the river*) Originally one cottage 17thC, another added post-1841, both thatched. Known as the *Barton* or *Yard*, providing workshops, sawmill and wagon stores for either or both village farms. The name James LOVELACE 1813 is carved in one such building. Cottages converted into one large house 1960s. In the modern photograph, the two lower windows shown were originally each side of the cottage entrance door. The narrow divide between the two cottages was approximately where today's front porch is shown. When Charlie KELLAWAY married Peggy in 1945 they set up home here, the start of a long period of living next door to HAYTERS.

Turning right at the bend opposite Higher Barton

Grey Thatches



18C cob & thatch cottage, large for just one cottage, situated on the road to the former vicarage, on an ancient trackway between Cerne and Milton Abbeys. Perhaps the fact that the cottage is *Thatches* plural suggests once more than one. One occupier, Marjorie CHANTER, told Frances Mallett that "there were two staircases from the days when it was two houses". In 1847 a cottage owned by Joseph CHICK and his sister Rebecca; the HILES family there in 1891 (when the census called it Cerne Road) and later a carter named BISHOP, plus BRIDLE and COLLINS later.

John Harold WATERMAN 'conveyed the cottage *Grey Thatch* to Betty Burnett GREEN' 1956. Thatch and upper floor damaged by fire 2016.

Rectory Cottage



Built for the Rector's groom c1880, Charles KELLAWAY (senior) there in 1891, and AP's first official Post Office 1895-1922. Thomas (Bill) & Florence KELLAWAY 1955. They had been at The Old PO 1934/5, meaning this one. Later occupant was Dorothy Ward, nanny to the children of Sir Michael and Lady Gillett who lived at the former Vicarage/Rectory. Her cottage became known as *Nanny's Cottage*.

Picture shows the Post Office sign above the door – Fairview and Burnside across the road in the background

Glebe Cottage



(Far left) New-build in 2007.

Centre is *Rectory Cottage*, previously an early Post Office with the rendering now removed to expose the brick and flint, the shop door now a window, and adjacent to the road, *Grey Thatches*.

Left-of-centre is the rear of the former school and village hall, nowadays *Higher Barton Hall*.

Vicarage/Beechmead/ Old Rectory (1)



The Reverend Robert SHITTLER, b Buckland Newton c1793, recorded that he built the new vicarage house, which was finished 6 April 1846, on land called *Eleven Acre Meadow*. The road between the vicarage and the main road was bought at the same time. His wife Jane was from Sussex & in 1851 their staff were Ann SHERON cook b Piddletown, Ellen GALE housemaid b Dorchester & Samuel GOLDRING groom b Winterbourne Zelston.

He was succeeded by Rev. Augustus B HANDLEY born Bombay, a widower with two children and two female staff. He was followed in 1864 by London-born Rev Edwin Curwen COLLARD, his wife and three children. Despite having a Church of England School at the end of the drive, the Rev. Collard created his own residential school in the vicarage.

The Old Rectory (2)



In 1901 the Vicarage was recorded as *The Rectory*, occupied by George Bull SOUTHWELL, 67, clergyman born Clifton, Glos (now Bristol), wife Jemima 58 b Edinburgh & housemaid Edith A KELLAWAY b Buckland Newton. A year later it was Rev. Henry & Elizabeth MORLAND, then c1926 came Rev. Percy T P KNOTT & wife Marion Kate. In 1941 it was purchased by Aubrey Frank WATERMAN of *Austral Farm* for renting out as apartments, called *Beechmead*. Several tenants came and went, including in 1955 Sir Michael C and Lady Margaret M GILLETT nee HOBBS, foreign diplomat & secretary, now buried in AP churchyard. Lady Gillett sold it in 1975.

Returning to the Main Road and heading South

Village School, later Village Hall



Main road facing south. Note the school bell at left, added in 1882.

This was Glebe land in 1841 with a 2-room cottage and garden owned by the vicarage and occupied by the families of Robert LOVELACE and William COOMBS. Another note from Rev.SHITTLER said that *he* built the schoolhouse and schoolroom, completed 1846. By 1887 the two-roomed cottage was converted to a classroom. The school manager's minute book from 1903 to closure in 1933 is housed at the Dorset History Centre, Dorchester.

It became the village hall run by a Trust made up of villagers but it was under-used and in 1976 planning permission was given to convert it to erect a dwelling. The auction catalogue described it as an entrance lobby, main hall and secondary room.

Village School



Alton Pancras School 1888. The doorway (left) was to the original cottage. Beyond the school wall is today's *Flintcumb*.



School group (undated) in playground, with view across the main road to *Grey Thatches* in the background.

Higher Barton Hall



Charles & Maria DOVE, who lived next door at *Higher Barton*, bought the school at auction and converted it for her stepfather Leonard & Elsie B CLARK. Charles had worked for many years in the jute trade overseas. As he lived at *Higher Barton*, he called the former school *Higher Barton Hall*. It was sold in 1983.

The school hall was left of the front door, the former cottage of 1841 to the right. Children group photos which still survive, were usually taken against the rear wall, with the railings alongside the river.

Flintcumb & Streamside (1)



Young Derek Jeanes (left) on the plank bridge of *Streamside*, background is *Flintcumb*

In 1840 this was just one cob-and-thatch cottage occupied by Angel GREEN and family, but he died that December aged 82. He might have shared the cottage with Mary Jane WATTS c40, Charles & Elizabeth WICKS, he c60, neither of them Dorset-born. Daniel DRAKE leased the cottage to Joseph & Ann GREEN, Andrew & Elizabeth NEW. Later it became two identical cottages, each approached over parallel plank bridges, one still remains.

Streamside (south) was known as *JEANES Cottage* when a large family of that name, (one called Levi!) lived in the northern one. In similar vein, WOODSFORDs' large family lived at *Flintcumb*. "Through the front door into the living room, fireplace on the right, through to the scullery. Steps up to the landing where there was a double bed, then through a bedroom to another one." (John Woodsford b1926.)

Flintcumb & Streamside (2)



Ethel Woodsford nee Jeanes at *Streamside*

Collins Cottage (opposite Streamside) (1)



James & Mary Collins & a daughter outside their cottage, hence the cottage name.

Collins Cottage (opposite Streamside) (2)



Opposite *Streamside* is the paddock field in front of the former vicarage, its south boundary being today's bungalows. Two old apple trees still survive, perhaps from the former garden of a cottage which once stood facing the road, reached by a couple of steps, in 1841 owned by the Manor and occupied by shoemaker James COLLINS, wife Mary or Maria nee MASTERS and four children. The photo (above right) was loaned by a descendant living at Tintinhull,

Mary Collins, wife of Dick and no relation, remembered there being a gate and flagstone step where today is the hedge. The approximate site is marked with an **X**

Brook Cottage



Looking north, Austral & Brook Cottages, Streamside & Flintcumb, Higher Barton in distance.

Bill and Elizabeth Jeanes once told their son Derek that this site had originally been three cottages destroyed by fire caused by a spark from a passing steam engine igniting the thatch roof. Derek himself knew that the two modern houses had three gardens! A PC James Searle's notebook of 1892 shows that he attended such a fire. That would explain how they were rebuilt as a pair in brick with slate roof in the late 1890s. In 1881 George BARRETT, wife Ellen nee CHURCHILL and 4 children lived there. In 1891 George appeared to have a new wife Martha but she was actually Martha Ellen! GUNDRY's lived at Brook 1945, Gladys STONE lived at Brook when she married 'Jimmy' KELLAWAY in 1953. Ivor & Jean CURTIS there in the 1960s; later Dick COLLINS married widow Mary DURDEN and they lived at *Brook*.

Austral Cottage



The southern (right hand) one of a pair with *Brook Cottage*. George & Alice Maud COLLINS there from 1929 to 1987. George received the Croix de Geurre in WW1. Maud was sister of Fred ALLEN, father Frederick was widowed and worked for Aubrey WATERMAN. They had five children one of whom, Frederick George (Jack) married Land Army girl Valerie LACEY and they lived at *Crooked Billet, Grey Thatches*, the southern one of *Barcombe Farm Cottages* and were the first occupants of 8 *Boldacre*.

Photo 2003

Four Thatched Cottages (1)



Note the different styles of the two sets of cottages, the trees of the vicarage in the background.

Originally two pairs of thatched cottages on the roadside where four bungalows now stand, though further back. In 1841 all four tenements were leased to Richard B HART of *Old Barcombe Farm* with a note that they had stood there since at least 1723. In 1841 occupiers were probably BOLLEN, POLE, CROCKER, HARDY, LOVELESS & STICKLAND. The northernmost was demolished early 20th century. WOODSFORDs lived next door 1922-30 before moving up to *Flintcumb* because the thatched cottage was damp so was demolished. That left just the two. Stan CLARK lived in the southern one before moving to the Post Office. Also believed to live there was a GIBBS, crushed to death by a cow. Three Italian prisoners of war also lived there, as did Leonard CRABB 1954-62, later of *Meadow View*.

Four Thatched Cottages (2)



A photograph of some of the WOODSFORD family, date unknown.

The top window peeking from out of the thatch indicates it is one of the pair at the northern end of the rank of four.

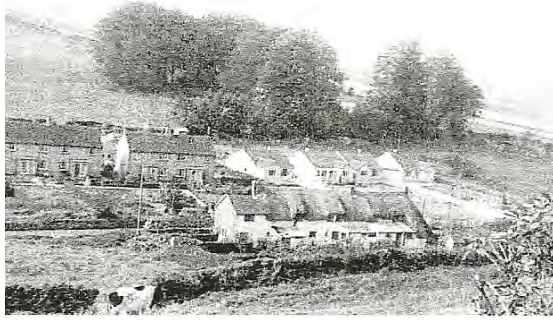
Four Thatched Cottages (3)



Leonard Crabb lived at one called *Sunnyside*, 3-bedrooms though one was really the landing. All four were referred to as *Austral Farm Cottages*. They were two pairs of semis with a narrow path dividing the two. The last pair was demolished c1963.

Postcard view shows the two sets of thatched cottages at left. Looking north can be seen on right Austral & Brook Cottages, Streamside & Flintcumb, and Higher Barton. The school is set back out of vision.

Four Bungalows



Four bungalows when new; *Boldacre* to left, rear of the cottages of *The Terrace* in foreground, and the trees of *Beechmead/Old Rectory* in background..

Built in effect in the gardens of the original four thatched houses, the land conveyed to builder Frank CLIFT for £2,065 in 1965. First to be completed was the southernmost, *Hill View*, named by first occupants William & Jean ROACH as *Wester Ross*, changed to *Hill View* by Albert & Winifred CAWLEY in 1976.

Ridgeway occupiers have included NICHOLLS, NEIGHBOUR, ALDRIDGE, GIBSON, BROWNE and CHOWN.

Hayes first occupants were TRICKEY, there until 1977.

Blades' first owners were the SIMPSONs until 1969, after which it was rented out until 1979.

Alton Barton



The tithe map showed this land as *Parsonage Plot* but no building had previously stood there. Designed and named *Alton Barton* by Manor owner Andrew Graham in a courtyard style reminiscent of traditional farm bartons, as in *Higher Barton* to the north. The two closest to the road were named *The Cottage* (north) and *West Barn* (south) while the inner courtyard has *The Farmhouse* (north) and *East Barn* (south).

Viewed from the hill behind, *West Barn* (left) and *East Barn*. In the distance *Grey Thatches & Rectory Cottage*, the *Glebe House* yet to be built.



Site of today's *Alton Barton* looking south to the *Terrace*, the old thatched cottages at right. A footbridge is marked here on an old map.



Village children on today's Alton Barton site c1944. Back; Beryl Jeanes, Jean Allen (Curtis), Gladys Sawyer, June Jeanes, Dick Collins.

Front; Jim Elsworth, - Freke?, Sheila Sawyer, Rose Elsworth (Cosh)

The Terrace (1)



A row of thatched cottages of 1755, originally two but the southern one extended c1846 to include accommodation for the school's teacher, hence *Old School House*. Owned by the Manor Farm for its workers, many different employees have lived here, among them GIBBS, CLARK, COSH/ELSWORTH, SQUIBB, CROFT, HOOK, ALLEN.

The Terrace (2)



From the south; former thatched cottages shown left



Gibbs family wedding group outside the front of No2 The Terrace 1905

Old School House, 3 The Terrace



The Terrace from Boldacre opposite; note the addition of c1846 far right to accommodate the school teacher until school closure in 1933.

The slate roofed extension was probably added around the time of the building of the new school (now *Higher Barton Hall*) in 1846. Several of the school teachers who lived there came from Wiltshire, perhaps explained by the school being under the jurisdiction of Salisbury Diocese; SIMS, KINGSBURY, BARNES, KNIGHT, BAILEY, WITHEY, FERGUSON, DERRIMAN among them. Widow Mrs TAYLOR taught at the school from 1924 to its closure in 1933.

In 1979 the CURZONs gained permission to build a bridge over the river for car access to No3.

During the early 2000's, No2 was named *Halcyon Cottage* by its then owner.

Boldacre (1)



A row of eight brick houses of varying size built by the former Dorchester Rural District Council in 1956 in what had been, since 1841, *Home Orchard*.

Freda Clark nee Trevett and her son Ken in the orchard on which Boldacre was later to be built. The Terrace in the background across the road.

Boldacre (2)



Derek & Edna Jeanes moved into No1 in 1956 and stayed for some 55 years. At the other end No8 Jack and Valerie COLLINS were first occupants.

The houses are the envy of many for their size and their substantial gardens front and rear.

Boldacre houses, numbering 1-8 south (left) to north, viewed through *Crockers Barton* (left), the former vicarage in the trees beyond.

Crocker's Barton



Opposite the buildings of *Austral Farm*, alone in a field, is a walled yard and shelter most recently used for cattle. In 1841 it was a barton owned by the manor and with a cottage on its south side occupied by George CROCKER, his wife Tryphena and 3 months old daughter, hence its name. A few of his apple trees still survive, the one shown would have fallen close to the cottage! In its time the site had a carpenter's & shoemaker's workshop along its north and east boundary walls, perhaps occupied by William and Lucy JEFFREY(s) in 1841.

Austral Farm



This photo c1936 looks east through the farm yard, across the road, and shows the orchard of *Crockers Barton*.



The same view in more modern times. No apple trees in sight. The village pound used to be in this yard on the left close to the gate.

Austral Farm House



The main entrance at the time was facing the road and river, with the path heading off to 'our' left onto the church approach. A man with a stick is at the entrance, surely the farmer of the time. DOUCH?

This was the Manor Farm for Alton Australis (south) dating from the 18th century. Viewed from the church approach, the position of chimneys give a guide to how the house expanded. In 1841 it was described as a farmhouse, plot and garden with, to the north, a granary, barton and rickyard while to the east, a barn, barton, stables, carthouse and outbuildings. It was owned by Thomas PHELPS Esq of the Manor and leased to Robert STONE, farmer with wife Elizabeth and six children. By 1847 Charles HAWKINS was described as a yeoman farmer. In 1865 Erasmus SAUNDERS bought the estate and for a while farmer and some staff lived in the Manor House and the Saunders family in the farmhouse which they then called *The Cottage*, hired to shooting parties. Not for long, but in 2015 the Austral Farm land was bought for the commercial *Shoot*, while still farmed.



Edward ELWORTHY and wife Ann sold their farm at Wiveliscombe and took the tenancy of *Austral Farm*, but he died soon after arrival, in 1872. Their son William married Jane STIBY daughter of the farmer at *Barcombe*. From 1902 to 1930 Edgar MASTERS ran the farm although Henry DOUCH described himself as the farmer. He died aged 94 in 1915 and it is possible that he is the one featured in the previous photograph. He had been a school manager and was succeeded by Edgar Masters.

Brothers Aubrey and John Harold WATERMAN succeeded their father at *Barcombe Farm* in 1923 and ran both *Barcombe* and *Austral Farms* for a while. In 1943 Gilbert RALPH and second-wife Bertha nee LARCOMBE took on the tenancy which would stay in that family until the 2000s.

The Parish Church



Dedicated to a little-known boy born in Phrygia who by the time he was 14 had lost both his parents, been educated in Rome, converted to Christianity and murdered for his beliefs. Thus the village is properly called Alton St Pancras. The church probably originated in the 12th century, its tower added in the 15C but most of the remainder was rebuilt in 1875, retaining many of its features. Entrance gate to the Manor House seen at left

The Manor House



As is typical, the *Manor House* lies close to the church, though an earlier Manor House was said to have been in the meadow opposite until deliberately burned to avoid the risk of the plague in the 1660s, hence the field's name of *Burnt House Bottom*. (see next entry). This replacement Manor House for the Lord of Alton Australis Manor was built between 1701 and 1720 The equivalent for Alton Borealis (north) had stood across what is today's *Holcombe Mead* entrance road.

Burnt (Manor) House



View of *Burnt House Bottom* from the valley's west side, showing the rear of the church and of today's Manor House (CENTRE)

The strip lynchets, which still survive, pre-date the Plague. A survey of 1649 lists the Manor House of Alton Australis (south) owned by John STICKLAND Esq. In the 1660s several plagues struck the country. The 1664 Hearth Tax Returns for AP show that Mr Arnold (Borealis Manor) and Mrs Stickland (Australis) had by far the most hearths, eleven. After Mrs Stickland's name is the word 'demolished'. The following year, 1665, came the Great Plague.

✗ on the photograph at left was roughly where both Jocelyn Mould-Graham and her son Andrew independently (2005) thought that the previous *Manor House* had stood. There may also have been a few cottages for staff along the east side of the river bank.



John ARNOLD Esq's gravestone on the south side of the churchyard.

He was Lord of Alton Australis (south) and as such would have lived in the *Burnt House*, the former Manor House for Australis.

He died in 1655.

The Manor House Stables (right) & the Old Bakehouse (centre)

Redbrick buildings now converted into three units of living accommodation. The rear of the L-shaped Manor House can be seen; the brick gable-ended part is facing across the lawn to the main road. The church is off-left of photograph.



Keeper's Cottage



(below) Wilf & Ina Shute c1926 when it was called *Manor Cottage*



Originally a single storey farm worker's cottage with dormer window attics and traditionally the home of the Manor gamekeeper. A path led from its front door straight west to the main road (see lower photo). The 1841 occupants were Ann LOVELACE c80, William c40 grocer (next door!), Elizabeth c20 buttoner as was Elizabeth BILLETT 12, and George MASTERS c20 ag lab. George and Elizabeth married in 1847. Between 1916-25 Frederick Walter & Daisy Harriett Ellen BARTLETT lived there, according to descendant Mrs Barrett of Bournemouth (2005). In 1916 Fred from Portesham saw an advert for a gardener at AP Manor House, applied and got the job, and the cottage! They later moved to Birmingham. (interview).

Walter Thomas & Jessie Emily SHUTE nee CHEDD were there in the 1930s when it was known as *Manor Cottage*. Harold Eli Frederick SAWYER and wife lived there in the 1930s. Bertie & Audrey CONDON were there towards the end of the war and it was still called *Manor Cottage* in the electoral roll of 1951 when the BATTRICKs resided there. Brian John RALPH lived there with wife Margaret nee MASTERS (no connection known to AP Masters) 1957-65. Charlie HISCOCK lived there with his wife who was cook at the Manor before Mrs HOOK! (interviews)



The Old Post Office



Note the PO/Shop far right

The *Old Post Office* is the northernmost of a three-sided square, with the modern *Kestrels* bungalow to the east and *Sunny Cottage* on the south side. The footpath which runs between PO and *Kestrels* is part of an ancient trackway between Cerne and Milton Abbeys. Ripps Lane at the time veered left around the Manor walled garden and crossed the river and emerged opposite the *Old PO* site. The 1841 census showed Hannah MASTERS c60 ag lab and family in one household, Robert Masters c45 shoemaker and family in an adjoining one.

Throughout its existence the property was owned by the Manor. Originally a cottage, extended in 1826, and added to again at its east end for the shop.



This inscription in the brickwork of the Old PO reads RMJ 1826. This surely refers to Robert J Masters who extended the original building to incorporate both a shop, run by his wife Jane and his shoemaking business.

Masters was also the manor tythingman (policeman) in 1847. The voter's list of 1851 showed Alfred Masters a grocery dealer, Robert Masters boot & shoemaker and Maria LOVELACE a grocery dealer.



By 1923 a Miss HALLETT was the village subpostmistress and Mrs Hallett the shopkeeper, it having transferred from the KELLAWAYS at *Rectory Cottage* near the rectory. By c1924 Miss Florence HOUSE ran the Post Office while WESTAWAYS ran the grocery shop. They were followed by S&F CLARK, and from 1946 to 1976 when it closed, ELSWORTHS ran the business until the impact of supermarkets caused closure.

Kestrels



Kestrels situated between the *Old Post Office* (left) and *Sunny Cottage*. Note the village telephone box

A plateau behind today's semi-bungalow was the site of a cottage and garden on the 1841 Tithe Map, probably connected with Masters' boot-making business. In 1861 and 1871 widower Silas TRIM lived there with his family, he being a shoemaker. Derek Jeanes remembered in his youth seeing remains of a building there, as did Rose Cosh nee Elsworth in her time at the Post Office.

A public footpath walks right past *Kestrels* and as you near the top of it, the plateau can still be discerned. In 1967 John Macgregor acquired the job as Manor maintenance person and moved with wife Pat into *Streamside*. In his spare time he built the handsome bungalow, moving there in 1978.

Sunny Cottage



A cottage stood on this site in 1840 and has had at least two 'makeovers' since. Inevitably Charles MASTERS and family were there in 1841, he a farm labourer. In the 1847 Prebend sale document it was held from the Manor by Robert Masters for the life of agricultural labourer James CROAD, wife Elizabeth and children Mary, Susan, James, Richard and John, with William JEFFREYs a candidate for the estate carpenter's use of nearby *Crockers Barton*, although tradition has it that it was usually the home of the Manor groom. Later school bus driver Cyril E JEANES lived there, then the CLARKs, and Buckland Newton schoolteacher Bessie DUNFORD and her bicycle!

Orchard Cottage/House



Kathleen Grace Elaine SAUNDERS, Jocelyn's stepmother lived here c1955 to 1976.

The 1841 Tithe Map shows a cottage and garden owned by the Manor and occupied by Elizabeth CROAD on Ripps Lane at the apex of the walled Manor garden closest to the river, slightly to the east of the vehicle entrance higher up Ripps Lane to *Orchard House*. The lane paralleled the river north for a short distance, then turned right across the river, past the *Cottage-in-the-Meadow* referred to, and over the main road to the *Old PO*. The cottage was probably gone by the 1880s Another *Orchard Cottage* was built further west along Ripps Lane in 1936 for Edith Marion, widow of Col. Robert SAUNDERS and when it was enlarged in the 1950s it was renamed *Orchard House*. It remains part of the Manor estate in 2015

Cottage in the Meadow



Ripps Lane formerly veered left around the Manor walled garden, crossed the early line of the river by a small bridge and emerged at the roadside opposite the approach to today's *Old PO*. Where the old river bed (still indicated by overgrowth) stood, was a cottage. It was part of Robert STONE's tenancy of *Austral Farm* and was let to one of his labourers. In the 1841 census this might have been ag lab Jesse LOCK and twenty years on a John Lock 61 born AP and wife Mary 59 born Toller Porcorum were living in this area although we cannot be precise. The cottage seemed to have disappeared from maps by the late 1800s.

Snowdrop & Cowslip Cottages



Authentic reproduction of cottages built some 200 years earlier

Two white rendered and thatched cottages completed in the 1990s for the Manor estate, designed to favourably compare with three others further south which dated from about 1750. In 1841 the land was part of the gardens of *Sunny Cottage* and *Hillside Cottage* respectively. Good to see the traditional thatched porches above the front doors.

Hillside Cottage



Neat 18th century cottage standing back from the road, traditionally the home of the Manor's gardener. Two-storeys, cobwalled, thatched roof complete with an example of a traditional woodshed lean-to at the side. Likely occupants in 1891 were Charles NEW 68, wife Elizabeth 55 and five sons all born AP. In 1871 Charles was a gardener but he had previously been a groom and had reverted to that again in 1901. In living memory *Hillside* has been associated with the GODDARDS. In the late 1920s Fred (1900-80) son of Arthur & Elizabeth of *Box Cottage* lived there with wife Emily nee MOREY (1899-1981).

West View Cottage



Third of the 1990s-built cottages, this one matching the much-older *Cherry Cottage* next door. Built in what was part of the surviving *Cherry's* garden, it incorporates the traditional Dorset thatched porch and lean-to and is a good match to its 18th century neighbour

Cherry Cottage



One of only two original 18C white-washed cob cottages not to have a thatched porch, *Meadow View* next door to the south the other. In 1841 it was divided into two households owned by Jerome FOOT occupied by "himself and others". The census for that year merely lists Joram FOOT c65, tailor, but the next census entry is for John CROAD c35 ag lab, wife Mary c35 and 6 children all "born Dorset". The Prebend sale document of 1847 says it was two tenements. In 1891 it is likely that two rooms of this small cottage were occupied by Sarah LOCK 77 widow, retired housekeeper & three other rooms by John HOLLAND 52 ag lab b North Petherton, his wife & daughter.

Meadow View



Originally a pair of 18th century cottages with adjoining front doors. A one-and-a-half storey cottage, cob walls now rendered and whitewashed. In 1841 there were households of John GIBBS c55 and children James c20, Joseph 12 & Elizabeth 14, all ag labs. Ten years on John Gibbs was a widower living in the same place but as part of the household of Thomas HOWE 28 b Portesham and wife Mary nee Gibbs 33 born Piddletrenthide, who he had married in 1848.

Charles MOGGs family were there, later came Frederick Walter BURT b 1913, Thomas R J SAWYER from 1931, Sheila Clare Sawyer married Keith TIPPING from there in 1958, while Leonard & Mary CRABB moved there from one of the thatched cottages where now are bungalows.

Two South Cottages



Artist Impression

Opposite *Cherry* and *Meadow View* cottages once stood a pair of thatched cottages, demolished well beyond living memory. They were owned by Phelps of the Manor and sublet by Robert STONE for the use of farm workers. In this area in 1841 lived Charles LOWMAN c30 ag lab, wife Mary c25, children William 3 & Charles 1, plus Abel CROAD, 47, a shoemaker. Croad plus wife Sarah nee COFFIN & children Rachel 22 & Aaron 19 were still in that area in 1851, neighbours being William HILLIAR 32 blacksmith, wife Ann 37 and five children. In 1861 Abel was still in that area, with his 13 year old grandson Henry DUNNING as his apprentice shoemaker.

Watermeadow Cottage



The cob and thatch cottage in the meadow as seen from the road near *Meadow View*. Beyond and slightly left is *Orchard House*, accessed from Ripples Lane, the south wall of the manor garden and to the left of Orchard House's chimney, the white blur is the church tower.

In the hedge opposite *Cherry Cottage*, the entry gate to this cob and thatch cottage across the field and the river via a small bridge could still be seen in 2006. It was originally built for the man who controlled the sluices in the watermeadow, hence the cottage name. Janet Burt recalled (2005) visiting there in the 1960s. "You entered from a door in the centre, turning right into the living room with its large range on the north wall. There was just one small oil lamp and no running water or electricity." Rose Cosh nee Elsworth remembered its prominent redbrick chimney stack (see photo) and Vic Ralph, who farmed the watermeadow said it had a small garden and pigsty at the front and side. Best remembered are Walter & Elizabeth SYMES. Walt did all the jobs no one else wanted, ditching, mole-catching, rat catching etc and shared his earnings with local publicans! His Dorset accent attracted people to the pubs and he would boast that he never paid for a drink – they did!

Alton Mill & Farmhouse



In 1965 Brian John & Margaret RALPH moved from *Keeper's Cottage* to farm what became the 100-acre deer park at Mill Farm, as well as still working with father Gilbert and half-brother Vic at *Austral Farm*. They stayed until 1979.

Midway between the Piddletrenthide and Alton Pancras boundary signs, this is probably the site of the Alton Mill as described in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was the Manor Mill in 1799 and the 1841 Tithe Map shows both the *Mill House* and *Farm House*. The mill leat was on the east of the house, the river Piddle diverted to pass under the entrance drive to the site. By 1851 Thomas DUNNING 46 was a miller and farmer of 14 acres and a (new?) wife Susan 32 b Piddlehinton and there were five children in the household. Future censuses list various millers and farmers. The 1945 electors at the site were Hope JEANES, Daisy ALNER with Arthur Reginald Jeanes an absent voter, away at war. Arthur JEANES managed to get leave from the Coldstream Guards in 1945 to marry Hope ALNER while her twin sister Faith married Gilbert Thomas CHALKE. Robert Henry (Harry) ALNER was dairyman at the Mill.

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