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Charmouth Stores (Nisa), The Street, Charmouth

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THE WEB  FRESHFORD SITE



What you see today is the work of Giles Pryer, a Mason living in the end house, who rebuilt it after a devastating fire in 1864. He was to call it "Prospect Place", a board with this name used to hang above the Stores entrance. No photographs or paintings exist of the earlier thatched structure, the only record we have to go on is the Village's Tithe Map of 1841, which is quite detailed, and shows a structure covering almost the same area. But the layout is different with the middle section subdivided into two units in what is today - Rupert House and Breeze. In the same year, a Census was carried out for the country and it has been possible combining the information with the map to find out a great deal about the occupants. To go back further in time becomes more difficult, but in Charmouth's case we are fortunate that there is a continuous Poor Rates listing from 1805 until 1832 and Land Tax receipts from 1780 until 1832. Other records include Jury Lists, Wills, Directories and Deeds which are very useful, and more recently many Newspaper archives have been placed on line by the British Library. The Dorset Family Centre has an especially informative website produced under the auspices of [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk). It was after ploughing through their large collection of Wills for Charmouth that I came across one for William Edwards for the year 1757. This was to prove to be the missing link in understanding the early history of Prospect Place and the family that lived there. For William describes himself as a Common Carrier, with a wagon for delivering goods. His family owned the 3 Crowns, now the Coach and Horses opposite, which was a stop off for Coaches and Wagon from London to Exeter and would have supplied him with his trade. His Will is surprisingly detailed and shows him having seven children. He leaves a number of fields which he had purchased from Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Ffloyers to his offspring. He also distributes his clothes and possessions, including "Seven Cyder Casks" to Thomas Edwards. But most important to my research was the line: **"I give to my wife, Margaret Edwards the House that was her Fathers', Samuel Cornelius for her natural life only and after her death to my Daughter, Dinah Edwards"**.

This was a revelation as in that sentence was the clue to its early history. For I knew from the Land Taxes that William Edwards had a substantial property in the village and after his death in 1767, his wife, Elizabeth is shown briefly as owner, but then I lost track. But with Parish Records and other information was able to build up a family tree linking the various families to the Edwards.

It would seem that the building is indeed associated with the family called Cornelius. Their earliest reference is in 1641, when Alexander Cornelius appears on the Protestation List for the village. His son Samuel is born in 1672 and the Parish Records show him marrying Mary Street in 1706. The following year a daughter, Margaret is born to them.

Margaret Cornelius goes on to marry William Edwards in 1739 and they have a large family. On the death of her father, Samuel, in 1745, Margaret inherits the family house. She brings up her family there with her husband, William. This is the house that is referred to in the Will, and on her death in 1784, it had indeed been inherited by her daughter Dinah, who was married to an Excise Officer from Dalwood in Devon, with the unusual name of Crout, which appears in the record books. They were to have two children, Robert and Elizabeth. It was the latter in 1799 who was to inherit the property on the death of her father - Robert. Two years later she married the twenty three year old Francis Bradbeer. He was the son of Joseph Bradbeer, who had originally come from Blandford Forum and was for a number of years the Landlord of "The Three Crowns" opposite. It would seem that there was to follow a devastating set of events. In 1804 tragedy struck the family when Joseph lost his Wife Mary, his daughter Maria Richards as well as her husband. The following year it was to be his son Francis, who was to mourn the loss of his wife, Elizabeth. As a result he decided to make a fresh start and moved to Woolwich to join his brother, Joseph jnr. who was based there in the Artillery. He was to re-marry shortly after and open a Tailors shop there before moving with his family to Salisbury. It is his father's name, Joseph that now appears in the Poor Rates Lists. They show that the property was in two parts at that time and what is the Charmouth Stores (Nisa) formed the smaller area and the other part was let separately. In 1806 it is shown that Mr. Osborne occupies this part, but more importantly the other section was to be the Post Office and Store which Joseph



Bradbeer was to open in that year, the start of over 200 years of trading from the same site. Indeed, some of the original building is incorporated today in the rear of the property. This was to be a momentous year, for he is to marry his third wife, Lydia Margrie who is 25 years younger and together they run the Post Office and Store. He is still renting the Three Crowns from William Edwards but soon after gives up the lease after 20 years as landlord there. The Royal Mail would pass through the village each day and stop briefly at the Inn. The letters would have special hand stamps, some of these letters have survived from this time. Until the Penny Black appeared in 1840, People would often refuse letters as they would have to pay on receipt, unless prepaid. This is shown by an advert in the Western Gazette in the year 1809 which mentions the Charmouth Post Office as the forwarding address for a property to let by a Mr. Jerson, who makes it clear that "only post-paid letters will be attended to". A Census for the village in 1812, describes Thomas Browning, who occupies the west part of the building as a "Coach Man" and Joseph Bradbeer, who is in the east part as a "Post Master". On his death in 1821 at the age of 71 he leaves his estate to his wife, Lydia, which includes a small cottage that used to stand in the grounds of the church and was at one time Stables for the Manor House opposite. She continues running the shop and letting the other part and its stables. It is interesting seeing Thomas Galpin Carter renting part, as he was the Artist for many of the early images and prints of the area. She is later described as a Shopkeeper in the General Post Office Record Book when she takes on the role of Post Mistress. The Pigot's Directory for 1830 lists her as a Shopkeeper and dealer in Sundries. Her life is to change again in 1832, when at the age of 57 she marries the local school teacher, William Dodson Watts. In the same year, she lets the western part of Prospect Place to John Carter, who is a Carpenter, with a workshop in the building which houses "The Pharmacy" today. He later opens a shop in his part of Prospect Place. Unfortunately Lydia's marriage is a disaster and her husband a spendthrift soon gets through her legacy. There is a reference to William Watts being dismissed by the Post Office in 1839 and John Carter, Grocer becomes the Post master. William finally leaves Lydia and she has to sell all her property to clear his debts. I have been fortunate to locate the advert for the Auction in May 1841, which describes the lots in detail. She even loses the freehold of her shop where she is living when it is bought by the wealthy Wootton Fitzpaine Farmer, Benjamin Swaffield. Lydia later moves her business across to the small cottage that once stood in front of the church, where she stays until selling her interest in 1860 to the trustees, who demolish it to extend their yard. Sadly she loses her eyesight and dies a pauper at the age 89, six years later.

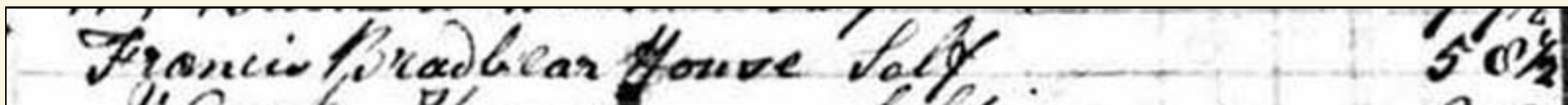
The auction of 1841 gives some of the tenants the opportunity to buy their premises, and both Giles Pryer and John Carter become freehold owners and prosper. But in 1864 there is a devastating fire that sweeps through the building and almost destroys the surrounding properties as well. The newspaper's report at the time are quite descriptive about the thatched roof and how after initially being put out by the Lyme Regis Fire Engine, the fire returned the following day, even more destructive. It is rebuilt in brick and tiles by Giles Pryer who divides it into four units which are named: Charmouth Stores, Ashyford House, Rupert House and Stanley House. They are numbered 1 to 4 Prospect Place and I have endeavoured below to provide a potted history.

**Charmouth Stores No. 1 Prospect Place**

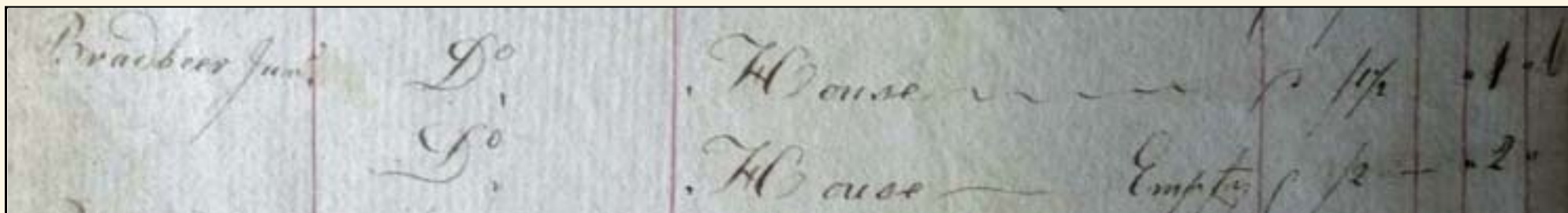
This was to be a Post Office as well as a Stores for its first hundred years and was one of the earliest in the country. For the Royal Mail as we know it today was initiated by John Palmer of Bath in 1787 with its first fast service from Bristol, via Bath to London. The following year he began running his coaches from Exeter to London and they would have passed through the village. The Three Crowns was to become a Coaching Inn, owned by William Edwards but run by Joseph Bradbeer from that time, for almost twenty years. The trade was so important that it was renamed "The Mail Coach Inn" and subsequently the "Coach and Horses". He opened the Post Office in part of the present building in 1806, which due to a tragic chain of events already described was inherited by his son, Francis. On Joseph's death in 1821, the business continued with his wife, Lydia who rented part of the building to John Carter, who opened a shop there in 1832. After a disastrous second marriage to William Watts, she loses her properties, which are auctioned in 1841. The Tithe Map and Census for the same year, show her, now single, running a shop in what is now Charmouth Stores, with John Carter taking over as Post Master, in the central section of the building. Directories of the time advertise the business as that of a Grocers, Post Office and Builders. Sadly John was to die young in 1855 and leaves the shop, three houses in Catherston and a house in Sea Lane (Lower Sea Lane) to his wife who continues running the business with the son, John William (born 1841) who later takes it over.

In 1862 the Post Office and Stores is in the hands of John Hawkins, who advertises: *Teas of the Finest Growth and Flavour, Superior Coffee and Superior British Wines*. He continues for a while, but by 1870 George Mortimer is the owner and is described as a Linen & Woollen Draper, Grocer, Tea Dealer & Provision Merchant, China, Glass, Earthenware & Brush Warehouse and Post Master. He eventually sells the business to Edward Archer Vince in 1888. Old Photos of the time show a massive hoarding on the side of the building with a long list of all the goods and services that were offered inside. John Baker from Steyning in Sussex succeeded Edward in 1896, but by then George Holly was the new Post Master running this business from Wistaria on the Street, where it was to remain for the next 40 years. Times were to be hard for him, especially with a severe downtown in trade during the First World War and he eventually put the business up for sale in 1918.

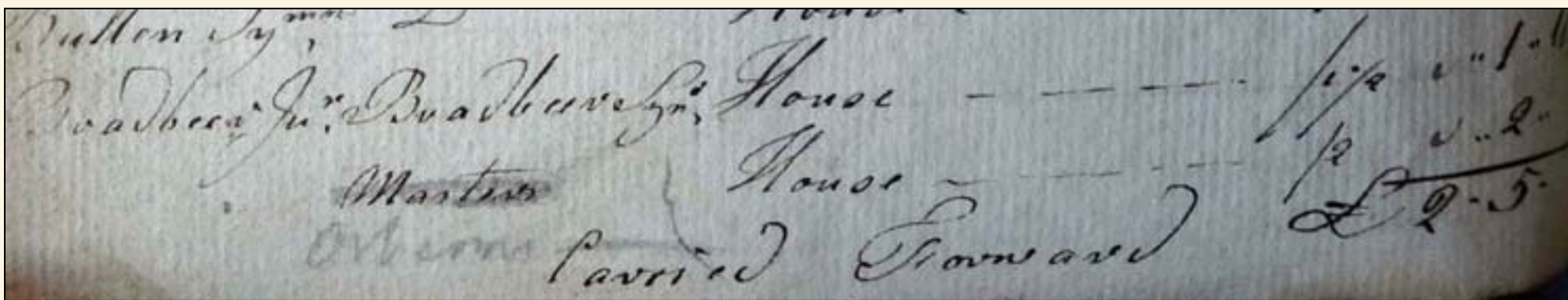
It was to be purchased by William John Dampier who had been a Grocery Clerk for the Department Store of Boons and Sons of Dorchester. His son, Donald was to follow him into the business and take over in 1954 and in due course his grandson Ronald joined them and eventually ran it from 1970 until 2000. The business has evolved with the times and provides Villagers and Visitors today with a wide range of goods. It is now over 200 years old and would have opened at a time when Nelson had just won the Battle of Trafalgar for the country. The earlier building goes back to at least the 17th century when it was owned by the Cornelius family. Part of this structure is believed to be incorporated in the rear of the property.



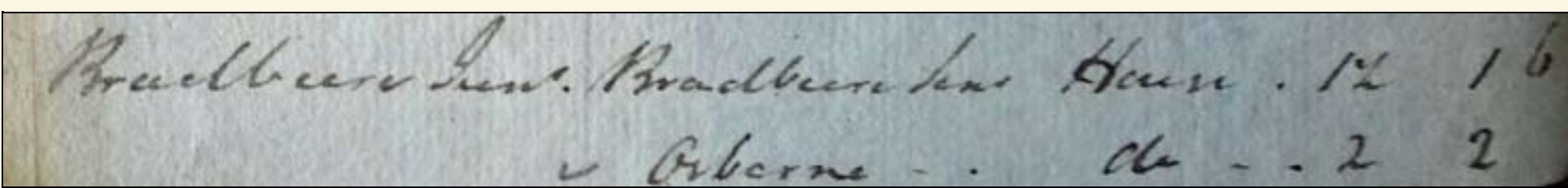
**1803** Land Tax showing Francis Bradbeer, son of Joseph and husband of Elizabeth Crout showing House with himself living there (5/8 1/2)



**1805** Poor Rates showing Bradbeer Jr. (Francis), son of Joseph and husband of Elizabeth Crout. showing House(1/6d) and House - empty (2/-)



**1806** Poor Rates showing Bradbeer Jr. (Francis), as the owner and his father Joseph Bradbeer (Snr.) renting part of building (1/6d.) and Osborne taking the other house previously rented by Martin. (2/-)





**WANTED, to RENT, FURNISHED or UNFURNISHED,** for a small family,—A detached **HOUSE or COTTAGE**, standing in a Lawn or Garden, and from ten to twenty acres of Grass Land, situated near a town or village, either in the counties of Hants, Dorset, or Somerset; the house must consist of not less than two good sitting rooms, three or four best bed chambers, and servants' rooms; coach-house, stabling, dairy, and convenient offices, with good water on the premises.  
 Letters (post paid) directed to **M. N. Post-office, Charmouth, Dorset**, will be attended to. [5609

1809 This advert which appeared in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal on the 20th November 1809 is the first reference I have found of the Post Office in Charmouth.

Bradbeer Francis Browning	House	2	-	2	0
Bradbeer J. for Bradbeer	House	1 1/2	-	1	6

1811 Poor Rates showing Bradbeer Jnr. (Francis), as the owner and his father Joseph Bradbeer ( Snr.) renting part of building (1/6d.) and Osborne taking the other part (2/-).

Bradbeer Jnr.	Do	House & Garden	2 1/4
Do	Tho Browning	Do & Orchard	4 1/4
Do	Stephens	Stable Coach house etc	2 1/4

1813 Poor Rates showing Joseph Bradbeer ( Snr.) owning and occupying part of building (2 1/4.) and Thomas Browning taking the other part (4 1/4) and Thomas Stephens renting the Stable and Coach House,etc ( 2 1/4). Thomas Browning is a Coachman, probably working at the Coach and Horses Inn opposite. William Stephens is the Landlord of the Coach and Horses and eventually opens the Star Inn in the Coach House and Stables he is renting from Joseph Bradbeer.

Bradbeer Joseph	de	House &c	4 1/4	4	3
De Legg	de		2 1/4	1	2
Stephens		Stable &c	2 1/4	1	2

1815 Poor Rates showing Joseph Bradbeer ( Snr.) owning and occupying part of building (4 1/4.) and David Legg taking the other part (2 1/4) and Thomas Stephens renting the Stable and Coach House,etc ( 2 1/4) . Davis Legg is working for Joseph and is mentioned as such in his Will.





This is a painting of how the Mail Coach would have looked as it stopped at the Coach and Horses opposite Bradbeers Post Office and Stores.



This is a painting of how the Mail Coach would have looked as it stopped at the Bradbeers Post Office and Stores at the end of the day to pick the days Post.

**1816** Description of neighbouring property known as Yandover and operated as a Sail Cloth Making Factory by Jacob Ridley Kitt who went bankrupt in 1815 . Part of the property was bought by James and Stephen Atkinson of Beaminster who built the Limes (Charmouth Lodge) on the site of two warehouses. Ann, daughter of Jacob Ridley Kitt opened a shop in what is Little Lodge today and William Stephens an Inn in what was the Star House today. The deeds to Charmouth Lodge in 1816 describe Joseph Bradbeer as having a house and garden adjoining these properties.

*All that new Long house , formerly 2 houses with newly erected warehouse and plot of ground behind the same and also a workshop standing on the plot and adjoining the wall which separated the same from the close or meadow , afterwards described, and all the warehouse etc to be abutted and bounded on north by the wall which separate the same from the close. On the east by a road leading to Wootton on the south by the street and on the west by messuage belonging to Ann Kitt. And by a wall which separates the plot from the garden of Ann Kitt. Also all the range of old buildings parallel with the northern end of the garden of Ann Kitt and the garden of William Stephens , Inn Holder and extending from the northern end of the wall which separates the plot from Ann's Garden up to the piling adjoining the garden of Joseph Bradbeer and which said range of buildings contained in length from east to Weather and also that meadow containing about 3 roads abutted and bounded on the north by land belonging to the Rev. Brian Combe. on the east by road to Wootton on the south by a wall which separates the close form the plot of ground by the range of old buildings and on the west by the orchard of Joseph Bradbeeer. All these premises are in the tenure of James and Stephen Atkinson or their tenants. and James Atkinson and Stephen have caused the house with Warehouse and workshop to be pulled down and on the site hav erected 2 new houses. thses houses and gardens are bounced on the North by a wall.*

**I Joseph Bradbeer** of Charmouth in the County of Dorset  
 do hereby bring word of sound mind memory and understanding praised be  
 God for his name to make publick and to shew this my last will and Testament  
 in manner following that is to say I give and devise all my freehold  
 estate consisting of a Stable Coach house and dofts standing near the Church in  
 the parish of Charmouth in the said County of Dorset and all other my Real Estate  
 labour and wherever situate unto my Dear wife Lydia Bradbeer and her  
 assigns for and during the term of her natural life and from and immediately  
 after her decease I give and devise the same unto my Grandson Francis Henry  
 Esq: and his assigns for ever I give and bequeath unto each of my two

Granddaughters Elizabeth Ditchards and Sarah Ditchards One hundred and fifty  
 pounds Consolidated long annuities to be paid or transferred to them by my  
 Executor with the Dividends due thereon within six months next after my  
 decease I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph Bradbeer One hundred and  
 fifty pounds Consolidated long annuities to be paid or transferred to him by  
 my Executors with the Dividends due thereon within six months next after my  
 decease I give and bequeath unto my son Francis Henry Bradbeer One hundred and  
 fifty pounds Consolidated long annuities I give and bequeath unto my Grand  
 son Francis Henry Bradbeer All my remaining Apparel plate and except one servant  
 Brian Swatroat which I give and bequeath unto my Dear wife I give and  
 bequeath All my Shop Goods and all Bills debts due and owing of money due  
 to me for shop goods sold unto my said Dear wife she carrying her part All my  
 Shop debts I also give and bequeath unto my Dear wife all and whatsoever sum or



sums of money may be due to me from the Post Office at the time of my decease  
 And also all the household Goods and Furniture in the house wherein I now  
 dwell save and except the fixtures therein namely in the Kitchen next to the  
 Shop one grate one boiler one stove one Dipper in the Back Kitchen one grate  
 Roasting Fork one Dipper in the Parlour one grate in the Bedroom and grate all  
 which I do give and bequeath unto my six old Servants  
 whom it is my desire shall carry me to the Grave namely William Cousins  
 William Roper William Oliver John Hoskins Richard West and David Legg the  
 sum of five shillings each to be paid by my Executor immediately after my  
 funeral and further I do give and bequeath unto my said Dear Wife Lydia

**1819** I **Joseph Bradbeer** of Charmouth in the County of Dorset, **Postmaster**, being now of sound mind, memory and understanding praised be to god for the same, do make and publish and release this my last Will and Testament in manner following, that is to say, imprimis I give and devise all my **Freehold Estate consisting of a Stable, Coach House and Lofts standing near the Church in the village of Charmouth in the said county of Dorset and all my Real Estate whatsoever and whenever situate unto my dear wife, Lydia Bradbeer** and her Asigns for a during the term of her natural life and from and immediately after her decease I give and devise the same unto my **Grandson, Francis Henry Bradbeer**, his heirs and assigns forever. I give and bequeathe to my **two granddaughters, Elizabeth Richards and Sarah Richards, £150.** I bequeathe unto my **son, Joseph Bradbeer £150.** I bequeathe unto my **son, Francis Henry Bradbeer, £150.** I bequeathe to my **grandson, Francis Henry Bradbeer all my wearing apparel.** I give and bequeathe all my **Shop Goods and all Bills, Debts and money** owing for goods sold unto my dear wife and **all sums of money I give to her from the Post Office** at the time of my decease. And also all household goods and furniture in the house wherein and fixtures therein mainly in the **Kitchen, next to the Shop.., one Boiler, one Stove.. in the Back Kitchen. Ine Grate, Roasting Fork,.. ..in the Parlour, one grate in the bedroom.** All which I give and bequeathe unto my six old Servants whom it is my desire shall carry me to the Grave, namely: **William Cousins, William Roper, William Oliver, John Hoskins, Richard West and David Legg**, the sum of five shillings each to be paid by my executor... signed by a mark by Joseph Bradbeer. **18th September 1819.** Witnessed by **Willaim Juson, Gentleman, Willaim Burnard, Merchant. Peter Burrell, Solicitor, Lyme, proved 13th April 1821.**



Erected to the memory of **JOSEPH BRADBEER** late of this place died 28\* March 1821 Aged 69 years.





Joseph Bradbeer's Grave used to be at the front of the Church next to his second wife whose stone can be seen on the right.

Bradbeer	<del>J. Bradbeer</del> <sup>garden</sup>	1-4-
Do	<del>J. Legg</del> <sup>House</sup>	2-4-6
Do	W. Stephens <sup>Stable &amp; Coach House, etc</sup>	2-4-6

1821 Poor Rates showing Joseph Bradbeer ( Snr.) owning and occupying part of building (4 1/4.) and David Legg taking the other part (2 1/4) and Thomas Stephens renting the Stable and Coach House,etc ( 2 1/4)

Bradbeer Mrs	herself	House & garden	4 1/4	8 6
Do	D Legg	Do	2 1/4	4 6
Do	herself	Stables	2 1/4	4 6

1822 Poor Rates showing Lydia, wife of Joseph Bradbeer, who had died the previous year owning and occupying part of building (4 1/4.) and David Legg taking the other part (2 1/4) and showing her now with Stables ( 2 1/4)

Bradbeer Mrs	Self	do do do	10
do	Welch & Binstead	do	4 1/2
do	Galpin	do do	4 1/2

1825 Poor Rates showing Mrs. Lydia Bradbeer, owning and occupying part of building (10.) and Welch, Binstead taking the other part (4 1/2) and Carter Galpin, the famous Artist renting the other part and garden ( 4 1/2)

Charmouth	Lydia Bradbeer	15 Decr 1827	Shopkeeper	On the Establishment of the Office
	127-160			

1827 Lydia Bradbeer -Lydia described as Shop keeper in post office record book with the establishment of Post Office on 15th December under her name

Bradbeer Mrs	Herself	do do	10	13 4
do	Welch & others	do do	4 1/2	15 -
do	Galpin	do do	4 1/2	15 -

1828 Poor Rates showing Mrs. Lydia Bradbeer, owning and occupying part of building (10.) and Welch, Binstead taking part (4 1/2) and Carter Galpin, the famous Artist renting the other part and garden ( 4 1/2). The figures alongside are the estimated rentable values.

Mrs Bradbeer	do	10	15 -
do	Jos Darke	4 1/2	2 3
do	C Galpin	4 1/2	6 9



1830 Poor Rates showing Mrs. Lydia Bradbeer, owning and occupying part of building (10.) and Joseph Darke (1 1/2d) and Mr. Carter Galpin, the famous Artist renting the other part and garden ( 4 1/2). The figures alongside are the estimated rentable values.

Moore William (music) Broad st  
**SADDLRS & HARNESS MKRS.**  
 Baker James, Broad st  
 Benstead John, Charmouth  
**SHOPKEEPERS & DEALERS**  
**IN SUNDRIES.**  
 Amor Richard, Cobb  
 Bradbeer Lydia, Charmouth  
 Cozens Joseph, Charmouth  
 Felstone John, Charmouth  
 Harris Ann, Broad st

1830 Pigots Directory shows Lydia Bradbeer as Shop Keeper and John Benstead, one of her tenants as a Saddler and Harness Maker

William Dodson Watts of this Parish  
Bachelor  
 and Lydia Bradbeer of this Parish  
widow  
 were married in this Church by License with Consent of  
 this fourth Day of  
January in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty two  
 By me Thomas Snow Curate  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us { William Dodson Watts  
Lydia Bradbeer  
 In the Prefence of { John Carter  
Willmet Carter  
 No 75.

1832 Lydia Bradbeer( aged 57) marries William Dodson Watts, a School Teacher, John Carter and his wife are witnesses

Town	Deputy	Nominated	other Occupation	late Deputy	cause of vacancy	Date	£
Collumpton	Jenny Pannell-Sp	23 Dec <sup>r</sup> 1832	Widow	her sister	deceased		500
Presteign	Mary Askey 206 Sp	3 Jan <sup>r</sup>	Shopkeeper	her sister	dec <sup>d</sup>		200
Charmouth	William Watts	10	Schoolmaster	W <sup>m</sup> Bradbeer	married him	11	200

1832 Post Office records show William Watts as Postmaster after marrying Lydia in January 1832

John Carter Bachelor of the Parish  
of Areaminster  
 and Willmet Beer Spinster of this Parish  
 were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of  
 this fourth Day of  
September in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty one  
 By me Wm Lockett Officiarius Cur. of Blackfordon  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us { John Carter  
Willmet Beer  
 In the Prefence of { William Watts  
Lydia Bradbeer  
 No. 72.



1831 John Carter of Axminster marries Willmet Beer of Charmouth on the 4th September 1832. William Watts and Lydia Bradbeer are shown as witnesses as the Carters were later to be witnesses to their own marriage in January the following year. They are all shown to have been married at the Independent Church in Charmouth.

1833 To be sold by Auction, by Mr. Keyes, at the Mail Coach Inn, in Charmouth, on Saturday, the 4th day of July 1833, at four o'clock in the afternoon (unless in the mean time disposed of by Private Contract), - All that Substantial Freehold Dwelling House and Butchers Shop, situate on the south side of Charmouth Street, and near to the church-yard of Charmouth. The above Premises will be sold subject to the Life Estate therein of Mrs. Lydia Watts, now aged about 60 years.

**COUNTY OF DORSET, To Wit.** } **THE Return of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of CHARMOUTH, in the Hundred of Whitechurch Canoniorum, of Men qualified to serve on Juries.**

Boyle, Michael Walford . . . . .	Gentleman . . . . .	Poor Rate
Burnard, William . . . . .	Manufacturer . . . . .	Freehold
Cookney, Charles . . . . .	Yeoman . . . . .	Poor Rate
Cousens, Joseph . . . . .	Shop-Keeper . . . . .	Poor Rate
Culverwell, Samuel Coade . . . . .	Gentleman . . . . .	Freehold
Carter, John . . . . .	Carpenter . . . . .	Poor Rate
Diment, Benjamin . . . . .	Blacksmith . . . . .	Freehold

1833 Voters List shows John Carter as a Carpenter.

**COUNTY OF DORSET, (TO WIT.)** } **The Return of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Charmouth, in the Hundred of Whitechurch Canoniorum, in the said County, of Men Qualified to serve ON JURIES.**

Parish.	Names.	Title, Quality, Calling, or Business.	Nature of Qualification.
Charmouth	Bragge, William	Gentleman	Poor Rate
Charmouth	Bidwell, Thomas	Gentleman	House Assessment
Charmouth	Boyle, Michael Walford	Gentleman	House Assessment
Charmouth	Burnard, William	Merchant	Poor Rate
Charmouth	Carter, John	Grocer	Poor Rate
Charmouth	Cozens, Joseph	Grocer	Poor Rate

1834 Voters List shows John Carter as a Grocer

**CHARMOUTH, DORSET.**  
**TO** be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. KEYNES, at the Mail Coach Inn, in Charmouth, on Saturday, the 4th day of July next, at four o'clock in the afternoon (unless in the mean time disposed of by Private Contract).—All that Substantial FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE and BUTCHER'S SHOP, situate on the south side of Charmouth-street, and near to the church-yard of Charmouth.  
 The above Premises will be sold subject to the Life Estate therein of Mrs. Lydia Watts, now aged about 60 years.  
 To be viewed by leave of the tenant, and further particulars obtained at the Office of Mr. Housman, solicitor, the Close, Salisbury. 1843





No 1883 App. 491"  
Charmouth. No. 1  
 Carter app. postm.  
Subrafer. 29 Oct. 1839

"In the Postmaster General"  
 "Have written to the Surveyor accordingly"  
 31 Oct. 1839. Mell  
 Lichfield  
 31 Oct.

See from Mr Brafer  
 stating that the name  
 of Mr Carter is John  
 Knot Thomas

Minute cancelled  
 See decision in  
 Fifth Schedule.

In 1839 John Carter is appointed Postmaster in Charmouth

**Names, Residences and Professions.**

Bedwell Miss	Ladies Boarding School
Bragg John	Stone mason
Bragg Joseph	Stone mason
Burnard Wm	Sail-cloth manufacturer
Churchill Miss	Ladies Boarding School
Coles John	Baker
Cozens Joseph	Shopkeeper
Carter John	Grocer, Builder, and the Post Office

**Post Office.**

Mr. John Carter . . . . . Postmaster

Letters arrive from London at 9 morning, and are despatched for London at 4 afternoon.

**Coaches to**

Exeter, Royal Mail, from the Mail Coach Inn, daily, 9 a.m. returns 4 p.m.

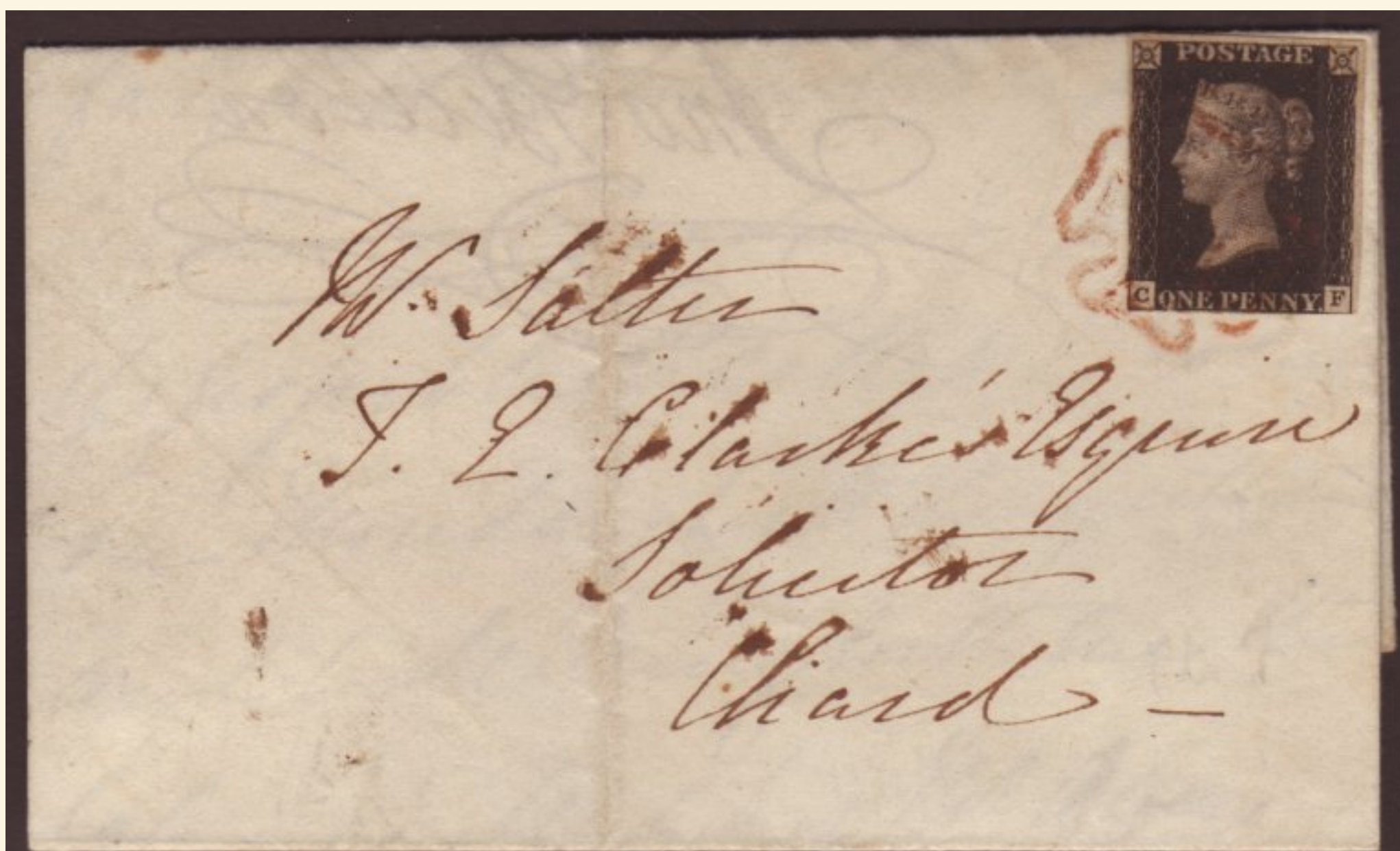
Exeter, Herald, from the Mail Coach Inn, daily, 1 p.m. returns 11 a.m.

Exeter, Red Rover, from the Mail Coach Inn, daily, 6 p.m. returns 11 a.m.



Edward Smith	1	Edmund Smith	54	Innkeeper	+	7
		Joe Powell	30	Wearer	+	7
		Chas. Quarter	30	Horsekeeper		m
		Elizabeth D	30			m
	1	Ann Clancy	50	Wearer		7
		Mary D	10			7
		Wm Jeffrey	6			7
		Elizabeth D	7			7
	1	Sally Bellows	30	Horsekeeper		7
		Susan D	30			7
	Elizabeth D	6			7	
	Ann Clancy D	39 months			7	
Lydia Watts	1	Joe Jeffrey	37	Ag. Lab	+	7
	1	Lydia Watts	40	Food	+	7
John Carter		James Hedge	20	Carton	+	7
	1	John Carter	38	Grocer		m
		William Carter	30			7
	Joe Jeffrey	50	Food	+	7	
Gyles Pryer		Sarah Sugg	21	F. L.	+	7
	1	Gyles Pryer	30	Provision	+	7
		Elizabeth D	20			7

1841 Census

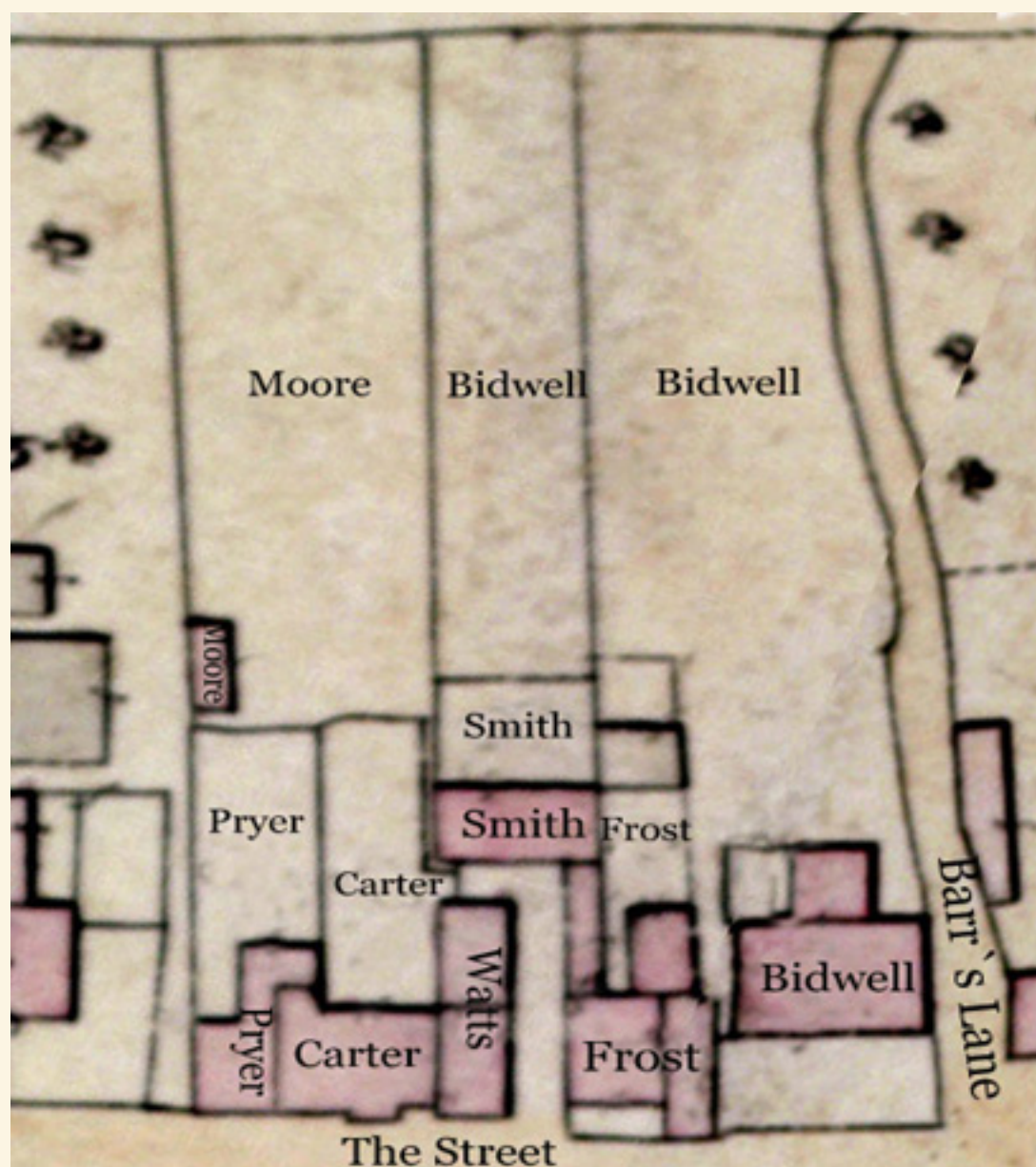




The Churchwardens of Charmouth  
 1840  
 April 22 - Dr W. Salter

May 11	1 Bottle Ink			6
	Writing Paper			3
12	2 Long Brushes	$\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{2}{2}$	5' - 8	
	1 Hammer &c			1 - 10
June 12	2 lbs Tea Lemons	$\frac{2}{8}$ -	5' - 4	
				13 - 7

J. A. D. Carter



1841 Map showing the building prior to the 1864 fire.



1926 Map showing Prospect View after the rebuilding.

DORSET.—CHARMOUTH AND BOTHENHAMPTON.  
 Votes for the Borough of Lyme Regis.  
 Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Property,  
 TO be SOLD by Auction, by Mr. R. FOWLER, at the  
 MAIL COACH INN, in Charmouth aforesaid on THURS-  
 DAY, the 27th day of MAY next, at 5 o'Clock in the afternoon,  
 subject to such conditions as shall be then produced, and either to-  
 gether or in such Lots as may be agreed on at the time of Sale.  
 Lot 1.—All that MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, with  
 the Garden behind the same, efigibly situate in the centre of the  
 Village of Charmouth, opposite to the Mail Coach Inn, now in the  
 occupation of Mr. Giles Pryer, as a yearly tenant, at the rent of £12  
 per annum.  
 Lot 2.—All that MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, ad-  
 joining the above, with the commodious and old established  
 Grocer's Shop thereto belonging and adjoining, and the Garden  
 and Warehouse immediately behind the same, now in the occupa-  
 tion of Mr. Carter, at a yearly rent of £24, under a lease of which  
 4½ years is yet unexpired.  
 Lot 3.—All that MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, ad-  
 joining the above, now used as a Lodging House, together with the  
 newly erected Messuage or Dwelling House, now let as two distinct  
 tenements, adjoining to and behind the Lodging House, all  
 which said last mentioned premises are in the occupation of yearly  
 tenants, and are of the yearly value of £20.  
 Lot 4.—All that well known and much frequented PUBLIC  
 HOUSE, adjoining close to the last mentioned premises, called or  
 known by the nome of the STAR INN, now in the occupation of  
 Mr. E. Smith, as a yearly tenant, at a rental of £18 per annum.  
 Lot 5.—All that COTTAGE and DWELLING HOUSE, to-  
 gether with the large and productive Piece of Garden ground in  
 which it stands, comprising considerably more than a quarter of  
 an acre, situate at the back of the premises previously adverted to,  
 and now in the occupation of Mr. John Jeffry, as a yearly tenant,  
 at a rental of £10 per annum.  
 The above Premises are partly Freehold and partly Lease-  
 hold for 2000 years.



Lot 6. - All that MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, on the south side of Charmouth Street and adjoining to the Church-yard there, lately occupied by Mr. John Love, as a Dwelling House and Butcher's Shop, at a yearly rental of £20.  
 N.B. These Premises are held for the Life of a person aged about 65 years, and a Life of nearly the same age is insured in £380. in the West of England Insurance Office, to the benefit of which the Purchaser of this Lot may, if desirable, become entitled.  
 Lot 7. - All that FREEHOLD HOUSE and GARDEN, situate in the Parish of Bothenhampton, now in the occupation of Mr. Roberts, as a yearly tenant, at a rental of £10 per annum.  
 For viewing the Premises, and for further particulars, apply to Mr. Carter, Grocer, on the Premises, Charmouth, Mr. HILLMAN, Lyme, or  
 Dated May 1st, 1841, Mr. WARING, Solicitor, Lyme.

**1841 Dorset- Charmouth- Votes for Borough of Lyme Regis**

**Valuable freehold and leasehold properties**

To be sold by auction by Mr. R. Fowler, at the Mail Coach Inn in Charmouth aforesaid on Thursday the 27th day of May 1841, at 5 o' clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions that will be produced, either together or in such Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of the sale.

**Lot 1** - All that Messuage or dwelling house with the Garden behind the same, eligible situated in the centre of the village of Charmouth, opposite to the Mail Coach Inn, now in the occupation of Mr. Giles Pryer, as a yearly tenant, at the rent of £ 12 per annum.

**Lot 2** - All that Messuage or dwelling house, adjoining the above, with the commodious and old established Grocers Shop thereto belonging and adjoining, and the Garden and Warehouse immediately behind the same, now in the occupation of Mr. Carter, at a yearly rent of £ 24, under a lease of which 4 1/2 years is unexpired.

**Lot 3** - All that Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining the above now used as a Lodging House, together with the newly erected Messuage or Dwelling House, now let as two distinct tenements, adjoining to and behind the Lodging House, all which said last mentioned premises are in the occupation of yearly tenants, and are of the yearly value if £ 20.

**Lot 4** - all that well known and much frequented Public House, adjoining close to the last mentioned premises, called or known by the name of the Star Inn, now in the occupation of Mr. E. Smith, as a yearly tenant, at a rental of £ 18 per annum.

**Lot 5** - all that Cottage and Dwelling House together with the large and productive Piece of Garden ground in which it stands, comprising considerably more than a quarter of an acre, situate at the back of the premises previously adverted to and now in the occupation of Mr. John Jeffrey, as a yearly tenant at a rental of £ 10 per annum. The above Premises are partly Freehold and partly Leasehold for 2,000 years.

**Lot 6** - All that Messuage or Dwelling House, on the side of Charmouth Street, and adjoining to the Church Yard there, lately occupied by Mr. John Love as a dwelling house and Butchers Shop, at a yearly rental of £ 20. N.B. These Premises are held for the Life of a person aged about 65 years, and a Life of near the same age is insured in £ 380. In the West of England Insurance Office, to the benefit of which the Purchaser of this lot may, if desirable, become entitled.

**Lot 7** - all that Freehold House and Garden situate in the Parish of Bothenhampton, now in the occupation of Mr. Roberts, as a yearly tenant, at a rental of £ 10 per annum.

For viewing the Premises, and for further particulars, apply to Mr. Carter, Grocer, on the Premises, Charmouth, Mr. Hillman, Lyme

John Carter	Head	21	20	Postmaster, &c	Devon Colators
Willmet do	Wife	18		do Wife	Dorset Symondsburg
John W do	Son	7		do Son	do Charmouth
Frederick do	Son	3		do do	do do
Alfred G. Carter	Son	1		Postmaster's Son	Dorset Charmouth
Willmet Carter	Son	10		House - Surveyor	do Whitchurch

1851 Census shows John Carter (aged 47) and Willmet Carter (aged 40) and their children - John W. Carter (aged 7) Frederick Carter (aged 3) and Alfred G. Carter (aged 1)

**POST OFFICE AND MONEY ORDER OFFICE at John Carter's.** Letters are delivered at 8 and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m, Letters are despatched to London at 7 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Taunton at 3 30 p.m. and Exeter at 7 a.m.

Austen Mrs. E. M.  
 Autridge Lieutenant, R.N.  
 Banfield Mr. John  
 Bowdler Charles, esq.  
 Breton Rev. Edw. R. M.A. (vicar)  
 Bullen John, esq.  
 Bullen Lieut. Charles, R.N.  
 Bush Mr. Thos. Walter  
 Cleane Mrs.  
 Clyde Mr.  
 Cull Miss Frances  
 Forward Samuel, esq.  
 Freeman Mrs. Elizabeth  
 Gordon Thos. esq.  
 Greenslade Rev. William  
 Griffith Miss Louisa

Smith Rev. Fred. (Independent minister)  
 Symes Mr. Joseph  
 Templer Mrs.  
 Uhthoff Mr. Henry  
 Ward Mr. John  
 Welch Mrs. Susanna

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Atkens Mary, grocery dealer  
 Bartlett Thos. H. baker & confectioner  
 Board Daniel, coal dealer  
 Board Daniel, lodging house keeper  
 Carter John, grocer and builder & house agent  
 Chard Wm. blacksmith



Henning Miss Eliza  
 Kennaway Mrs. Sarah  
 Liddon Miss Sophia  
 Ludlam Mrs. & Miss  
 Mitchell Miss Amelia  
 Prior Mrs.  
 Sheppard Mrs. Sarah

Coles John, baker, &c.  
 Cookney Mary, lodging house  
 keeper  
 Cozens John, lodging house keeper  
 Crabb George, shoemaker and  
 grocery dealer  
 Denning Charles, grocer & draper

1851 Directory showing John Carter operating a Post Office as well as being a Grocer, Builder and House Agent. Charles Denning was running a similar business on the other side of the passage that lead to the Star Inn.

Reverse of CHARMOUTH.  
 Post of J. Carter,  
 Tea-Dealer, Grocer, &c.  
 January  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Mary Clark's order - 2 " 7  
 12 - William (sic) order - 1 " 1/2

1836 Bill Head.

No 1883 App. <sup>491</sup> "To the Postmaster General"  
 Charmouth. No. 1  
 Carter app. postm. =  
 Subrafer. 29 Oct. 1839  
 20 Oct. 1839.  
 Lichfield  
 31 Oct.  
 "Have written to the Surveyor accordingly"  
 "Minute cancelled"  
 "See decision in"  
 "Fifth Schedule."  
 Letter from Mr. Beafer  
 stating that the name  
 of Mr. Carter is John  
 Knot Thomas

Charmouth P.O.  
 Mrs. Wilmoth (Carter)  
 (Widow)  
 No.  
 2410 cont?



Carter Willmet (Mrs.), grocer & post-mistress	Holly George, Commercial inn & post
Chilcott George William, miller	Hunt F. (Mrs.), loc
Coles John, baker & confectioner	Hunter Jonathan, pleasure boat own
Convalescent Home (Mrs. Caroline Languet, matron)	Lamb Edward, dra
Cook James Reuben, stonemason	Love Edward, butel
Crabb George, shoemaker	Love James, butche
Dark William, shoemaker	Lugg James, stone
Dean Reuben, shopkeeper	Lugg John, boot &

POST OFFICE.—Mrs. Millmet Carter, postmistress. London mail arrives at 6.41; delivery commences 7.50 a.m.; but letters are obtained at the window at 7.10 a.m.; office remains open until 10 p.m. except Sundays, when the office closes at 10 a.m.; dispatched at 6.19. Taunton & Western mail arrives at 8.10 a.m., dispatched at 4.10 p.m. Money orders are granted & paid at this office

1859 Directory shows Mrs Willmet Carter as Postmistress and Grocer.

POST OFFICE, CHARMOUTH.

: *July* 1857

*At Churchwardens of Charmouth*

**BOUGHT OF W. CARTER,**

**GROCCER AND TEA DEALER.**

<i>July</i>			
<i>13</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Brush</i>	<i>1 -</i>
		<i>Sauces</i>	<i>- 4</i>
		<i>Terr. Scales</i>	<i>- 3</i>
<i>Dec 19</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Coarse Fibre Mats 5/6-1/6</i>	<i>12 -</i>
<i>1858</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Brush</i>	<i>1 3</i>
<i>Jan'y</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Hand Terr. Scales</i>	<i>- 2</i>
			<hr/>
			<i>" 15 3</i>
			<hr/>
<i>July 13</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Scrubbing Brush</i>	<i>- 9</i>
			<hr/>
			<i>16</i>
			<hr/>
		<i>W. Carter</i>	
		<i>Aug 18<sup>th</sup></i>	





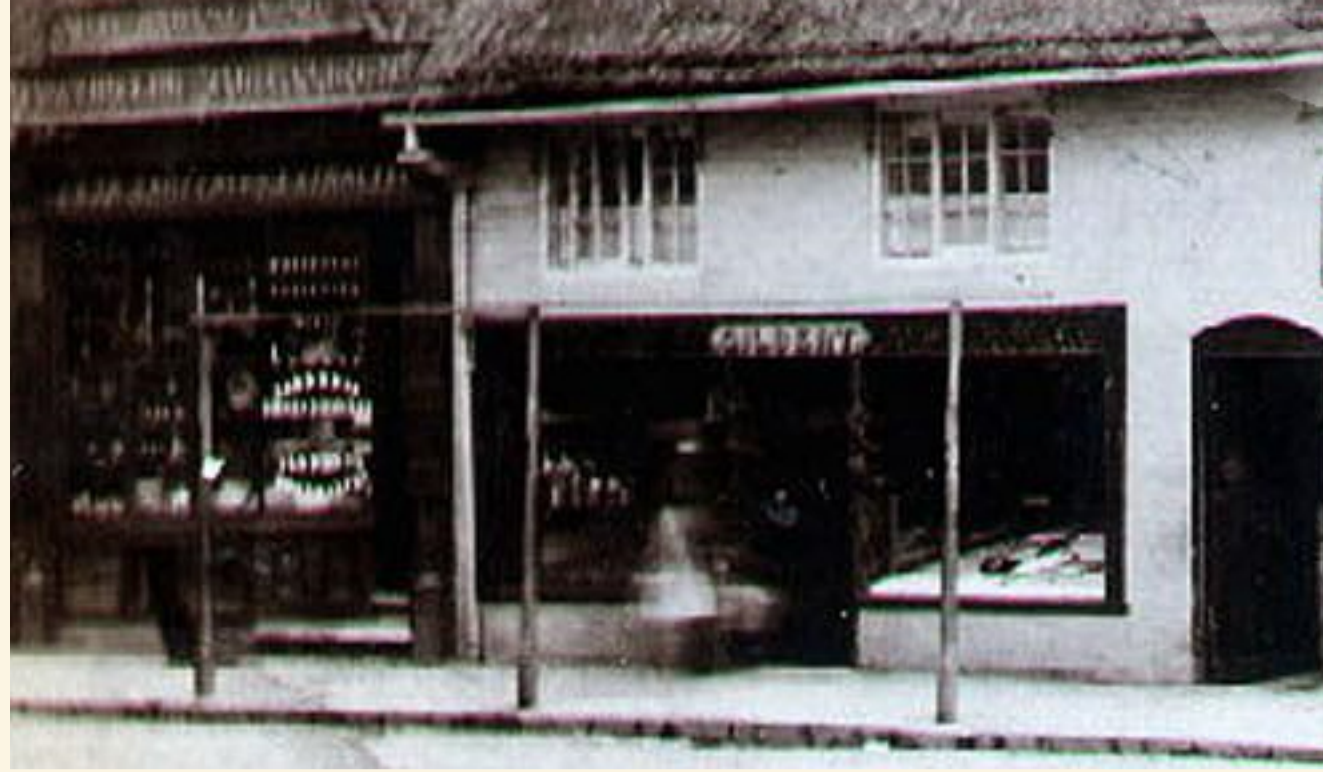
In memory of/JOHN CARTER/who departed this life/April 20\* 1855/Aged 51 years/Also of GEORGE son of the above/who died Sept 19\* 1857/Aged 3 years/Also of HENRY BEER CARTER/who died June 26\* 1862/Aged 19 years/Also of WILLMET CARTER/wife of the above JOHN CARTER/who died April 4 th 1863/aged 54 years.

John William Carter	Head	Man	39	Grocer, employing 3 men	Great Charnock
Clara	Wife	do	30		John Lidmouty
Charles P. do	Colo	Youn	9		Devolan Warwick's Rugby
Clara	Girl	do	6		do do
Annie	do	do	2		do do
Alice	do	do	6 mos		do do
Edw Bradshaw	Port	do	15	General Serv. Domestic	Northants' Rugby

John William Carter, born in 1843, is shown in 1881 as a Grocer in Rugby employing 3 men.







No. 47 Church Street, Rugby on the left where John Carter's son, John William ran a Grocers shop after leaving Charmouth



Pre 1894 View looking down the Street with Little Lodge on the left

Post Office Char <sup>th</sup> 1	Willmot Carter	Head	Wid	48	Atmistress	do Lymanbury
	John William do	Son	Un	19	Grocer &	do Charmouth
	Tom Hall Carter	Son	Un	16	Scholar app.	do Charmouth
	Frederick do do	Son		13	Scholar	do do
	Alfred C. do	Son		11	do	do do
	Wick Carter	Son		9	do	do do

1861 Census shows Willmot, Widow of John Carter described as a Post Mistress running the shop with her son John William Carter (aged 19), shown as a Grocer.

**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.**—On Saturday evening and the whole of Sunday last this village was kept in a state of excitement in consequence of a most alarming fire that destroyed four houses, belonging to three different persons—namely, one to Mr. Giles Pryor, mason; one to Mr. John Carter, grocer, &c., Post-office; and two to Mr. T. Swaffield, yeoman, Wootton Fitzpaine, inhabited by Mr. R. Wild, tailor, and Mr. Samuel Byles. The fire broke out first in the roof near the chimney of Mr. Pryor's house about 10 o'clock on Saturday night. The West of England fire engine from Lyme was procured as quickly as possible and by taking off the thatch and using every means the fire seemed quite extinguished



and all danger past, and the engine was sent back again to Lyme by 12 o'clock; but unfortunately all danger was not over, for on Sunday morning between eight and nine o'clock the breeze freshened up and the fire, before unobserved, burst forth anew and raged most furiously until the whole four houses were burnt to the ground. Immediately on the fire breaking out on Sunday morning the engine was again sent for from Lyme, but by the time it arrived it was quite useless so far as regarded saving the houses as they were nearly all burnt down. A large concourse of people were present and every effort to extinguish the flames were used but to no purpose. Nearly the whole of the inhabitants of the place were on the spot and all worked most nobly, carrying water and rendering other assistance, both men and women, ladies and gentlemen,—the ladies especially, some of whom were seen carrying water, and others giving tea, coffee, and refreshments to those engaged in working. Such confusion continued that it was late in the afternoon before the fire could be got under, and the houses were burnt down. Fears were also entertained that the houses near at hand would be caught by the flames, but by taking the thatch off part of Mr. Ryall's house and throwing water over the Coach and Horses Hotel this was prevented. We are happy to find that nearly all the sufferers were insured, although in some instances much under value. Three of the houses were thatched, and it is certainly a great pity that there should exist thatched houses in crowded villages and towns. People in such houses everywhere should always take the precaution to insure them and their goods, otherwise they may lose all, and in many cases be ruined. Of course there was no service at the parish church either in the morning or afternoon, for both minister and people had joined in rendering assistance to stay the raging element; but there was an evening service at 6 o'clock, at which thanks were returned to Almighty God for preventing the calamity.

1864 Fire

J. HAWKINS,  
SUCCESSOR TO  
J. W. CARTER,  
Grocer, Tea and Coffee Dealer,  
POST OFFICE,  
CHARMOUTH.

TEAS OF THE FINEST GROWTH AND FLAVOUR.

SUPERIOR COFFEES, &c.

SUPERIOR BRITISH WINES.



## CHARMOUTH.

**POST-OFFICE.**—Mr. James Hawkins has just been appointed postmaster at this place, *vice* Mr. J. W. Carter, resigned.

1866

DORSETSHIRE.  
*IMPORTANT SALE in the Fashionable Village of*  
**CHARMOUTH.**

Valuable, Substantial, and recently Built FREEHOLD PROPERTY, situate in the Centre of CHARMOUTH.

**M**R. JOHN JERRARD is honoured with instructions TO SELL BY AUCTION, on MONDAY, the 19th day of NOVEMBER, 1866, at the COACH and HORSES INN, CHARMOUTH, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will then be produced, and in one or more Lots as may be determined upon,—The undermentioned FREEHOLD PROPERTY:—

Lot 1.—A Freehold Dwelling-House, comprising a Grocer's Shop and the Public Post-office, now in the occupation of Mr. Hawkins, as tenant. The premises also include a large parlour and sitting-room, three bed-rooms, two large attics, good store house, with kitchen, suitable offices, court yard, &c.

Lot 2.—A very convenient Dwelling-House adjoining, comprising sitting-room, front and back parlours, three large bed-rooms, dressing-rooms, two large attics, kitchen, and offices, court yard, garden, &c.

Lot 3.—The adjoining Dwelling-House and Shop, now occupied by Mr. Wellman, including two sitting-rooms, three bed-rooms, two large attics, kitchen, and all suitable offices, with court yard, &c.

To view apply to the said Mr. HAWKINS, and for further particulars enquire of Mr. JERRARD, the Auctioneer, or at the Offices of Mr. HILLMAN, Senr., Lyme Regis. [1972

1866 Auction of Carter's Properties

**CHARMOUTH, DORSET.**

**T**O BE LET, a new HOUSE, consisting of five bedrooms, drawing, dining, and breakfast rooms, kitchen and offices, with walled garden. The House adjoins the Post Office, and can be seen on application to Mr Hawkins, grocer, &c., Charmouth. Further particulars of Mr H. Bridle, West street; or Mr J. Gerrard, Barrack street, Bridport.

1868- To be let, a new House, consisting of five bedrooms, drawing, dining, and breakfast rooms, kitchen and offices, with walled garden. The House adjoins the Post Office and can be seen on application to Mr. Hawkins, grocer, &c, Charmouth.

Post Office	1	George Mortimer	Head	Mar	28	Post Master & Shopkeeper	Devon	Morchard Bishop
		Mary Ann	Wife	Mar	26		Devon	Do
		John	Brother	Unm	15	Shopman in General Shop	Devon	Do
		Christiana	Wife's sister	Unm	19	Assistant	Devon	Do
		Christiana	Head	Unm	21	School Mistress	Somerset	Crewkerne

1871 Census shows George Mortimer (aged 28) originating from Morchard Bishop in Devon as a Post Master and Shop Keeper. He is married to Mary Ann (aged 26) from the same village. His brother, John is a Shop man in General Shop and the wife's sister is also an assistant in the General Shop.

1	George Mortimer	Head	M	28	Shopkeeper	Do	Do
	George	Son		14	Shop boy	Do	Do
	John	Do		4	Scholar	Do	Do
	Elizabeth	Daughter		2		Do	Do
	Mary Woodman	Servant	Unm	36	General servant	Do	Do



In 1861 George Mortimer is described as a Shop Boy working for his widowed Mother. Sarah in her shop in Murchand Bishop in Devon.





1870 photograph of the newly built stores on the corner of what was named "Prospect Place".



Charmouth Stores in 1870



Prospect Place c.1880 when Charmouth Stores was run by George Mortimer, who is seen in the doorway with his staff.



CHARITY. CHARITY. CHARITY.  
 IF YOU HAVE A CLUB TICKET, GO TO  
**G. MORTIMER'S,**  
 POST OFFICE, CHARMOUTH,  
 You can purchase every class of Drapery at LONDON PRICES.  
 A LARGE STOCK OF  
 BLANKETS, WINTER DRESS GOODS, MEN'S CLOTHING,  
 CALICOES, &c., &c.,  
 AT A  
 SPECIAL REDUCTION FOR CHARITIES OR CLUB TICKETS.  
 An extraordinary, full flavoured GENUINE TEA, at 2s. 8d. or 3lbs. for 7s. 6d.—TRY IT

1873

**YOU WILL SAVE MONEY**  
 BY PURCHASING YOUR  
**DRAPERY, GROCERY, PROVISIONS, AND EARTHENWARE,**  
 AT  
**G. MORTIMER'S,**  
 POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE, CHARMOUTH,  
 Where you can always select from a large and well-assorted stock, at  
**LONDON PRICES,**  
 Hence saving delay and expense in Carriage.  
*The Trade supplied.*

An Advert in Bridport Times from 1873

John Hodges died in 1874, and in his will left Clarence Villa to his two unmarried daughters Eliza and Ellen. Beech house was left to Richard Hodges, his son, and was let to Robert Manley. In 1877 the two sisters sold the house to George Mortimer, who ran Charmouth Stores opposite. He eventually sold it in 1909 to George Hodges, from Portland, in 1909.

**MORTIMER GEORGE,** linen & woollen draper,  
 grocer, tea dealer, & provision merchant,  
 china, glass, earthenware, & brush warehouse,  
 post master, the Post office (see advt).

1874 Directory Listing for George Mortimer.

**POST OFFICE**  
 Charmouth, *Widder* 1879  
*Mr Ravey for bunch of*  
**DR. TO G. MORTIMER,**  
**WINE, SPIRIT AND BEER MERCHANT,**  
**WHOLESALE DRAPER & GROCER.**  
 AGENT TO THE SUN FIRE OFFICE.  
 These goods are supplied at Ready Money prices, and are due on delivery or first journey. Interest at the rate of five per cent. charged if payment is delayed.



Aug 12/1878 2 Soap 4 8  
 19 Brunswick BK 6  
 19 Taps 3  
 1879 Feb 14 House Flannel 6

A letterhead from 1878 for George Mortimer.

1	George Mortimer	Head	Mar	38	Merchant Employing 9 Hands	Morchard Bishop Devon
	Mary Ann	Wife	do	38		do do
	Shura Reed	Sister in law	Mar	29	Drapers assistant	do do
	Louise	do	do	22	do do	do do
	Henry	Brother in law	do	26	Working Jeweller	do do
	Mary Paul	Servant	do	23	Domestic Servant	Acaminish Street
	Henry Radford	do	do	18	Grocers ass't	Hampden Street
	George Ashton	do	do	19	do do	Thermouth

1881 Census shows George Mortimer (aged 38) originating from Morchard Bishop in Devon as a Merchant employing 9 hands. He is married to Mary Ann (aged 38) from the same village. His wives sisters, Shura and Louisa Reed are Drapers Assistants and her brother, Henry is a Working Jeweller. He employs Henry Radford and George Ashton as Grocers Assistants.

809	do	1	George Mortimer	Head	M	45	Grocer	X	do	Morchard Bishop
			Mary Ann	Wife	M	47			do	do
			Thomas Wilkins	Boarder	R	23	Grocers Assistant	X	do	Exmouth, Exmouth
			Stanley Bromrose	do	S	21	do	X	do	Long Sutton
			Matilda Taylor	Serv	S	28	General Serv (Domestic)	X	do	Wickfield
			William Stephens	Boarder	S	26	Grocers Assistant	X	do	Wickfield
			Thomas Lane	do	M	27	do	X	do	Wickfield
			Edward Huxman	do	S	19	do	X	do	Wickfield
			George Newton	do	S	22	do	X	do	Wickfield

The Census for 809 Fulham Road in 1891 shows George Mortimer as a Grocer with his wife, Mary Ann and a number of assistants living with them

R	16	Mortimer, George	106, Richmond road, Earl's court, Kensington, Lon-	Freehold House and Land	Clarence Villa, Charmouth street
---	----	------------------	--	-------------------------	----------------------------------

1888 Electoral Register





809 Fulham Road where George Mortimer opened his new Grocers Store is today today a Starbucks Coffee establishment.

George Mortimer	do.	64	Widow			Retired wine merchant	0	Dorset	merchant
Elizabeth Mortimer	do.	53	Single					Dorset	merchant

Bournemouth 1911

24 Mortimer, George .. .. 21, Gwendolen avenue, .. .. Freehold house .. .. Clarence villa, Charmouth street Putney

1915

59	11	Robert Case	Edward Archer Vince	George Mortimer	Building and Land	130			
61			<del>George Mortimer</del>	George Mortimer	Garden	85			26
		Amy Alexandria Lewis	George Mortimer	George Mortimer	House and Garden	85			2
62	1	Francis Glyde	George Mortimer	George Mortimer	House and Garden		Charmouth Street		23
63		William Mcfill?	George Mortimer	George Mortimer					17
64		Uriah Gordge	George Mortimer	George Mortimer					1
65		Frederick Bridle	George Mortimer	George Mortimer					10
66		John Samuel Larcombe	George Mortimer	George Mortimer					10
									5
									35
									15
									2
									31
									20

58 Edward Archer Vince George Mortimer Building and Land Charmouth Street  
 59 Robert Case? George Mortimer Garden Charmouth Street  
 60 Amy Alexandria Lewis George Mortimer House and Garden Charmouth Street  
 61 Francis Glyde George Mortimer House and Garden Charmouth Street  
 62 William Mcfill? George Mortimer House and Garden Charmouth Street  
 63 Uriah Gordge George Mortimer House and Garden Charmouth Street  
 64 Frederick Bridle George Mortimer House and Garden Charmouth Street  
 65 John Samuel Larcombe George Mortimer House and Garden Charmouth Street

1895 Rating :List showing that George Mortimer still owned a number of properties in Charmouth, despite moving to London.

41	No. Wealdstone Ho.	1	Edward A. Vince	Head	M	42	Postmaster Grocer & Draper	X	Worset, Hingham
			Catherine Do	Wife	M	45	Do		Do, Boston
			May Do	Daughter	S	14	Scholar		Middlesex, Harrow
			Wilfred Do	Son		10	Do		Do, Do
			Frederick Do	Son		8	Do		Do, Do
			Leonard Do	Son		6	Do		Do, Do
			Mary Grease	Assistant	S	19	Rev Postal Clerk	X	Somerset, North Curry
			Ella Brown	Assistant	S	20	Draper's Assistant	X	Worset, Bridport
			Helenes Geron	Housekeeper	S	19	Housekeeper (Domestic)		Cambridge, Ely
			John Virgin	Assistant	S	18	Grocer's Assistant	X	Worset, Thorncombe
			Alfred Chard	Assistant	S	19	Do		Somerset, Chard
			Sarah Barrett	Serv.	S	20	General Servant (Domestic)		Worset, Punctknowle

1891 Census shows Edward A. Vince (aged 42) Postmatser, Grocer and Draper living with his wife, Catherine (aged 45) and 4v chilren and shop assistants at Wealdstone House, which is no doubt nos. 1 & 2 Prospect House.







Charmouth Stores c.1890, then owned by Edward Vince





How the shop may have looked in Victorian Times.







1890 Photograph of a traffic less street apart from a Horse and Cart.



Edward Vince

**M**AN WANTED to attend to horses and for coal and  
warehouse work.—E. VINCE, General Supply  
Stores, Charmouth. [51128]



**N**ANNY GOAT (fine) FOR SALE, in full milk, with two kids at foot.—Apply E. VINCE, General Supply Stores, Charmouth. [53821]

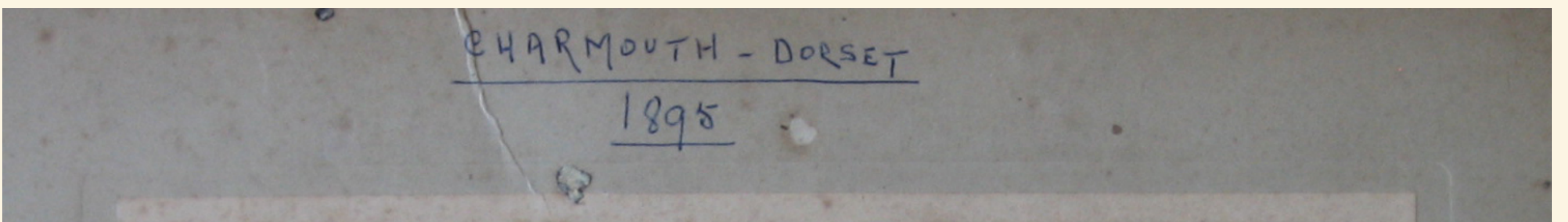
1895

Edward Vince was born in Hingham in Norfolk to a family of Grocers and Drapers who had a shop in the Market Place. By 1881 he was running the Supply Stores in Bridge Road in Harrow with his wife, Catherine (nee Youngman) He retires to Reading in Berks where he is shown aged 62 living with his daughter, Florence Louisa Vince.

Longs shop was once owned by vince. The photo is of chard and Pigeon the postman.



Edward Vince Compliment Card for 1896







Standing: WILFRED BURKE VINCE - EDWARD ARCHER VINCE (Father) FLORENCE (FLOSS) LOUISA VINCE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row ETHEL ROSE VINCE CATHERINE ANN VINCE (Mother) MAY ELIZABETH VINCE  
FREDERIC HAROLD VINCE - LEONARD JAMES VINCE

P.T.D.







CHARMOUTH,

189

M

Delicious MAZAWATTEE TEA.

Bought of E. A. VINCE,  
GENERAL SUPPLY STORES.

97

To 7 pints

Try & Sell Cash Petro

to Mrs. Forester

Vince



Vince Victory  
 or the  
 Biography  
 of a  
 Poor Law Guardian  
 EAST WARD.  
 by his  
 Devoted Daughter.

Board of Guardians Bye Election

Mr. S. A. Vince. 76 Hamilton Rd.  
 Reading.

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> 1913.



Opposed by Dr. Guilding Clarke Craven Rd

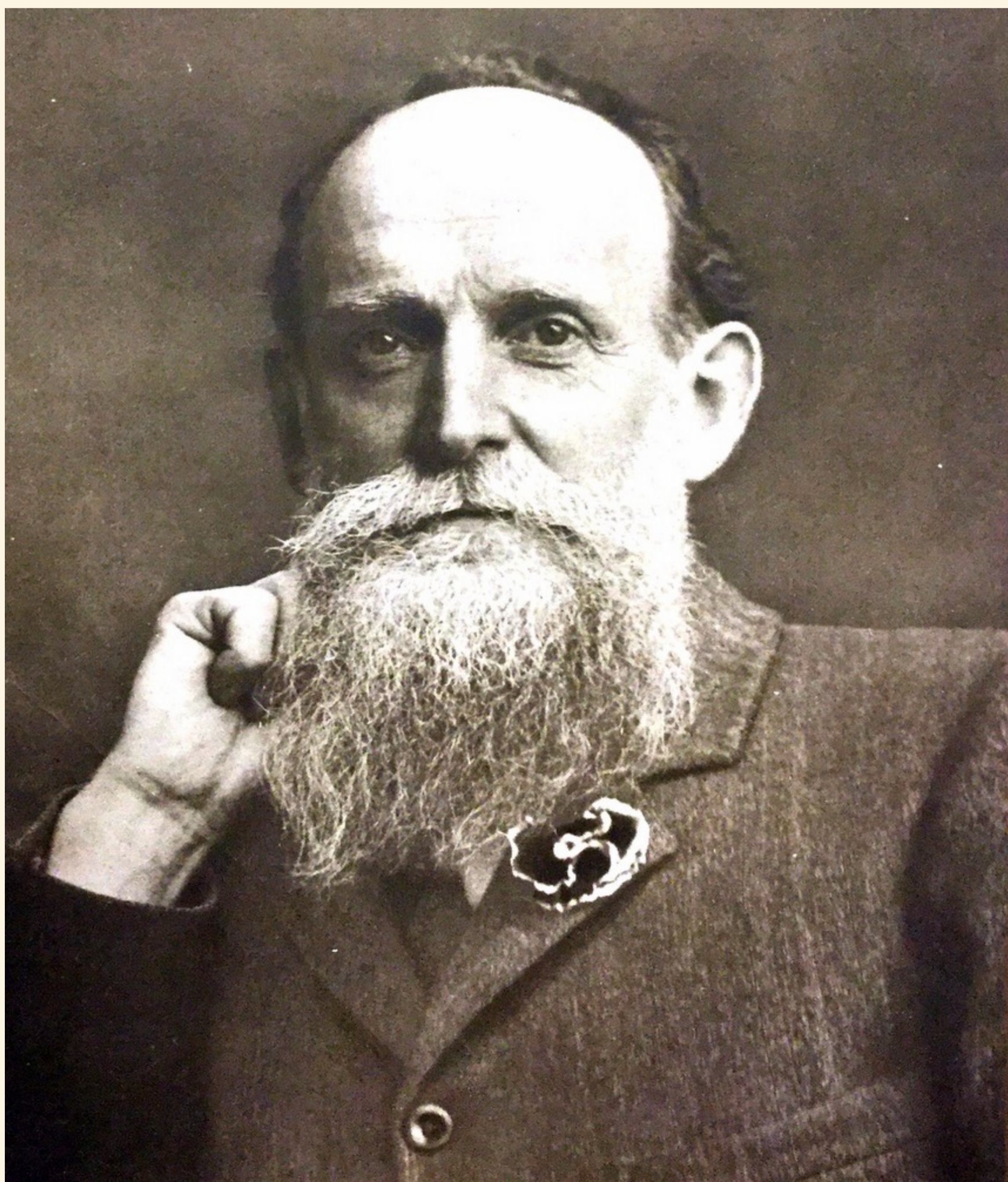
Result

VINCE.	790
CLARKE.	<u>727</u>
Majority	63.





Edward Vince





Edward Vince



Edward Vince

**CEYLON TEA**

IS FREE from all those INJURIOUS PRODUCTS which conduce so much to Indigestion in all its forms, and which are present in all Other Teas but those of CEYLON, and can be daily enjoyed by those with whom all other Teas disagree.

To be had of the following local AGENTS:—

Axminster .....	J. SMYTH.	Dunster .....	JAMES RIDLER.
Bradpole .....	CHARD & SON.	East Coker..	JOHN P. COLLINS.
Bruton.....	FRED E. STROUD.	Ilchester .....	E. J. HAND.
Bridport.....	MEECH BROS.	Ilminster .....	E. WHEADON.
Beaminster..	T. H. BEARD & CO.	Lyme Regis....	W. H. BURGE.
Broadwinsor....	C. M. MEECH.	Loders.....	D. STROUD.
Burt'n Bradste'k	W. STEPHENS.	Langport .....	J. T. KNIGHT.
Chard ....	GEORGE A. BROWN.	Maiden N'wton..	FREKE & SON.
Charmouth.....	E. A. VINCE.	Merriott .....	MARK MERRITT.
Chideock ..	{ G. F. OXENBURY	Odcombe .....	JOHN CAVE.
	& SONS.	Ryme Intrinsic	E. SMITH.
Chinnoek (East)..	J. ANDREWS.	Sherborne .....	H. DURRANT.
Chinnoek (West)	LEVI PATTEN.	Somerton .....	E. A. WATTS.
Cattistock.....	J. T. ROGERS.	South Petherton	W. C. WHITE.
Colyton ....	MESSRS. FOLLETT.	Seaton .....	MESSRS. FOLLETT.
Corscombe .....	R. REYLAND.	Uplyme .....	F. SAUNDERS.
Crewkerne.....	JOHN TILLEY.	West Coker .....	JOHN CAVE.

And of Leading Grocers throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

1891 Advert with E.A. Vince of Charmouth





John Baker originated from Steyning in Sussex where his father, James was a Draper and Grocer in the High Street employing 10 assistants. By 1891 he is still single and working as a Grocery assistant in Tunbridge Wells in Kent. Both his parents had died by 1901.



A Photograph of the time when John Baker had it with the name on the side changed from E.A. Vince.

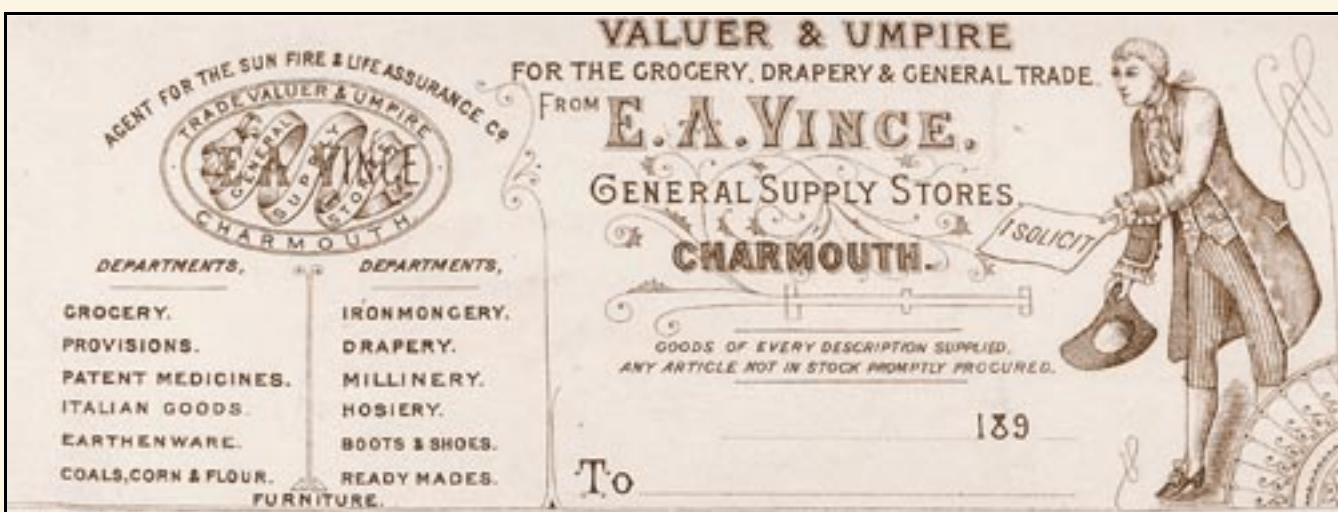
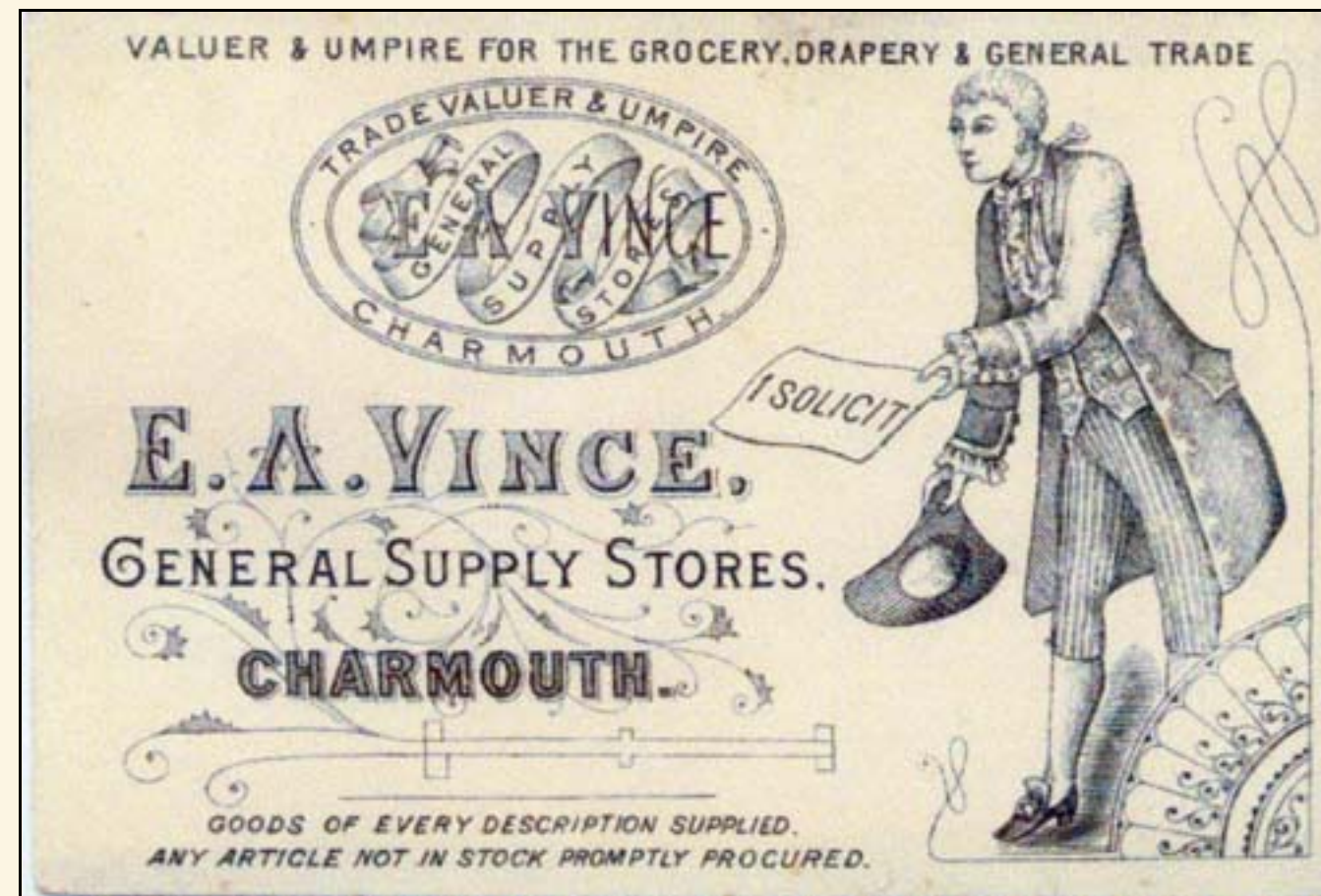
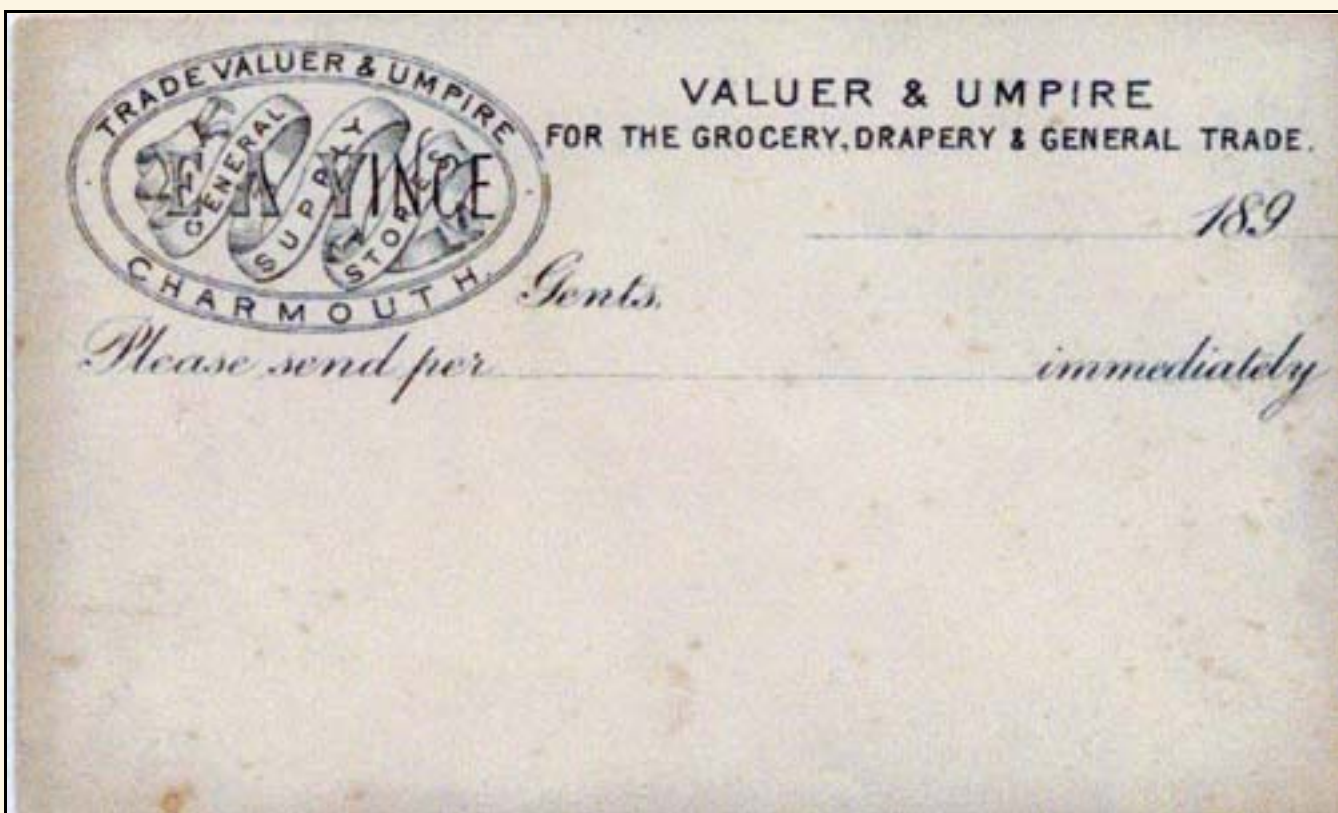
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
John Baker	Head	40	Married	4					Grocer & Draper	320	England	2	Steyning, Sussex	1850	
Martha Mary Baker	Wife	38	Married	11	2	2	0		School	390		0	Charmouth, Dorset	1850	
John Norman Baker	Son	10											Charmouth, Dorset	1890	
Robert Alan Baker	Son	6											Charmouth, Dorset	1896	

1911 John Baker (aged 40) is a Grocer and Draper living with his wife Martha (aged 38) and children - John aged 10 and Robert aged 6 who were both born in Charmouth. It would seem that he has returned to Steyning where he grew up after running Charmouth Stores and is living at Osborne House. He married Martha Mary Norman at Steyning in 1900.





Charmouth Stores in 1911,



**UMPIRISM**

- Practical Knowledge
- Sound Judgment
- Well Qualified
- Attentive Valuer
- Shrewd Man.
- Highest Integrity

E.A. Vince kept the General Supply Stores during the 80's & 90's of last century. The reference to "Umpirism" arose this way. The usual practice when a business changes hands is for the Vendor and Purchaser each to appoint a valuer to value the stock and fixtures and agree a total between them, which was binding on the Purchaser. Vince's idea was to meet the Vendor and Purchaser on the spot and go through the stock together and in any dispute as to value he acted as "Umpire". It also meant only one valuer to pay; the cost to be shared between them.



Bill Head for the Charmouth Stores c.1890, then owned by E.A. Vince



W. J. DAMPIER,  
HIGH-CLASS  
Grocer and Provision Merchant,  
CHARMOUTH.



W. J. DAMPIER,  
HIGH-CLASS  
Grocer and Provision Merchant,  
CHARMOUTH.

This was to be a Post Office as well as a Stores for its first hundred years and was one of the earliest in the country. For the Royal Mail as we know it today was initiated by John Palmer of Bath in 1787 with its first fast service from Bristol, via Bath to London. The following year he began running his coaches from Exeter to London and they would have passed through the village. The Three Crowns was to become a Coaching Inn, owned by William Edwards but run by Joseph Bradbeer from that time, for almost twenty years. The trade was so important that it was renamed "The Mail Coach Inn" and subsequently the "Coach and Horses". He opened the Post Office in part of the present building in 1806, which due to a tragic chain of events already described was inherited by his son, Francis. On Joseph's death in 1821, the business continued with his wife, Lydia who rented part of the building to John Carter, who opened a shop there in 1832. After a disastrous second marriage to William Watts, she loses her properties, which are auctioned in 1841. The Tithe Map and Census for the same year, show her, now single, running a shop in what is now Charmouth Stores, with John Carter taking over as Post Master, in the central section of the building. Directories of the time advertise the business as that of a Grocers, Post Office and Builders. The next family to own the shop were the Carters who were to be there for the next 30 years. John Carter who came from Axminster, is described as a Carpenter on the list of Charmouth Citizens who could stand for Jury Service in 1833. He had a workshop on the corner of Lower Sea lane where the Chemist is and a yard, which would have been where the parade of shops are today. By the following year he is shown as a Grocer probably running it from the same premises. He goes on to purchase the shop from Samuel Aplin in 1838 and continues to advertise himself as a builder. He was also the Village Postmaster right at the beginning of the Penny Post in 1840 when the Penny Black was introduced as the first Postage Stamp. The 1841 Census for which he the Village Enumerator describes him as being aged 38, living with his wife Willmet, aged 30. They were to have a son, John, who was born in Charmouth in 1842. Directories of the time advertise the business as that of a Grocers, Post Office and Builders. Sadly John was to die young in 1855 and leaves the shop, three houses in Catherston and a house in Sea Lane (Lower Sea Lane) to his wife who continues running the business with the son, John William (born 1841) later taking it over. The Kelly's Directory of 1859 details the opening hours for the Post Office which stretch from 7.10 in the morning until 10 pm at night. In 1864 the Carters business was to dramatically change after a fire broke out in Pryer's roof. The fire engine came from Lyme Regis and put it out, but it started up again the following morning and spread to the other adjoining buildings which were burnt to the ground. The houses when they were rebuilt were called "Prospect Place". The house on the westward end of Prospect Place is named "Stanley House" and was left by Pryer to his son Henry William on his death. His workshop and yard were on the corner of Sea Lane, where the group of shops are today and had previously been John Carter's Premises. The following year John William Carter is back in business and advertising in the local directory as Grocer and Postmaster. He continues for awhile, but by 1870 George Mortimer is the owner and an advert a few years later reveals the wide range of goods he can offer. He is shown as a Linen & Woollen Draper, Grocer, Tea Dealer & Provision Merchant, China, Glass, Earthenware & Brush Warehouse and Post Master. The same directory shows Charmouth having six other Grocers as his competition - how times have changed! The 1871 Census for Charmouth has George aged just 28, married to Mary aged 26. He is described as a Postmaster and Shop Keeper. It is interesting to see that his brother, aged 15 and wife's sister aged 19 are living with them as shop assistants. By the 1881 Census he is described as a Merchant employing 9 hands, most of whom seem to be living with them.

He eventually sells the business to Edward Archer Vince(1849-1917) in 1888 who continues trading in the same style as is shown in a Directory of 1889. Old Photos of the time show a massive hoarding on the side of the building with a long list of all the goods and services that were offered inside. The door to the Post Office appears to be where the small long window was on the front of the building with a wooden sign above it.

According to Reg Pavey the shop was much smaller than the present day store. A counter was on the left as you entered for the drapery department and the grocery and post office on the opposite side. By the late 1880's customers were able to telegraph from the premises when a wire was laid to Lyme Regis for it. The 1895 Poor Rates listing show that Edward was renting the premises from Henry Burrough, who in due course was to sell the freehold to Alfred Gapper Pass, who owned a large number of properties in the vicinity, including Wootton Fitzpaine and Monkton Wyld.

John Baker from Steyning in Sussex succeeded Edward in 1896, but by then George Holly was the Post Master running this business from Wistaria on the Street, where it was to remain for the next 40 years. John is shown as being just 30 in the 1901 Census living with his wife Martha and 2-month-old son, John with 3 young shop assistants above the shop. Times were to be hard for him, especially with a severe downturn in trade during the first World War and he eventually put the business up for sale in 1918. It was to be purchased by William John Dampier who had been a Grocery Clerk for the Department Store of Boons and Sons of Dorchester. He was encouraged by his former Employer who helped him with the finance that he needed. For almost the next century the business was to be family run and very well regarded by villagers. William was born in 1878 and with his wife Laura had two sons and three daughters. His son, Donald was to follow him into the business and take over in 1954 and in due course his grandson Ronald joined them and eventually ran it from 1970 until 2000. It is Ron, who still lives in the village that I have to thank for assisting with this article and providing the magnificent photo shown here of William with his staff standing outside the shop with its original Victorian Front in 1935. From the left it is believed that the people shown are Percy Larcombe (young assistant who lived next door), Cecil Bugler (Assistant), Sammy Smith (Delivery Man), Peter Oldworth (Provisions), Donald Hubert Dampier (son), Gladys Frampton (daughter), William John Dampier (Owner). Not long after the shop front was updated to the one that can be seen today. The Dampiers also ran their business from the adjoining premises and the seat that was outside was very popular and there are usually people to be seen sitting on it on the old postcards. The Dampiers ran a successful business and in due course extended it back and purchased the freehold of the premises from the Pass family. An interesting anecdote regarding the personality of William was revealed in correspondence that Ron still has relating to the famous author, G.K. Chesterton of Father Brown fame. It seems that he and his wife were frequent customers and especially enjoyed the Marmalade that he made and sent to them. One of the verses he was famous for was "The Wicked Grocer", which reflected badly on the trade, so much so that he felt that he must right the wrong after the impeccable service he had received from the Dampiers at the Charmouth Stores. So as recompense he penned a new verse in 1929 which he dedicated to William called the Good Grocer that is full of his praises. The family still have a signed copy from Chesterton of this verse as a souvenir. Another photograph shown here is of Donald, back in the 1950's standing behind the original mahogany counter with the shelves behind him piled high with teas and canned fruit. The shop has always kept up with the times and in due course joined various buying groups and the name above the shop changed from APT to VG and then Londis. It is now under the Nisa banner, which allows it to have the same competitive prices as many supermarkets. The owners, Phil and Carol Tritton continue the traditions of the past by offering a wide range of products and services. The residents of the village are very fortunate to be able to still shop in a building, which started as a Grocers in the year Queen Victoria came to the throne.





A







Cattle on their way to the nearby Backlands Farm behind the Street







The Poster was produced for John Baker, who ran Charmouth Stores in 1901. It shows him as both a Draper and Grocer, as well as selling Hardware.

Prospect Place	1									
2	1		John Baker	Head	30	Grocer & Draper	Shopkeeper	Employer	Steyning	Sussex
			Martha M. Baker	Wife	28				Devon	Axmouth
			John M. Baker	Son	2 mo				Dorset	Charmouth
			Edwin M. Thomas	Partner	13	Assistant	Domestic	Worker	Devon	Colyton
			Ernest J. Wilson	Servt.	21	Grocers	Assistant	Worker	Somerset	Roadwater
			William W. Murch	Servt.	18	Grocers	Assistant	Worker	London	N.W. Kenton

1901 Census shows John Baker as a Draper and Shopkeeper and it would seem that he occupies both 1 & 2 Prospect Place. He is aged 30 and originates from Steyning in Sussex and his wife, Martha aged 28 is from Axmouth in Devon. They have a son, John who is only 2 months and was born in Charmouth. They have 2 Grocers Assistants living with them.

John Baker and Robert Morgan, grocers, drapers, and general warehousemen, Charmouth. Robert Morgan will continue the business.

20th February 1905

CHARMOUTH, Dorset.—Well-furnished Apartments, near sea, tennis court, and golf links; May, June, to July 20th, also September. Mrs. Morgan.

1907

USEFUL MARKET CART FOR SALE, or would EXCHANGE for SMALLER. Suitable for pony.—Apply Mrs. R. MORGAN, Stores, Charmouth, Dorset. [13764

1908





1906 Robert Morgan is advertsing his Drapers and Grocery Store

**L**AD (respectable) Wanted as APPRENTICE.  
—Apply, Mr. R. Morgan, Grocer, Char-  
mouth.

1906

**A**PPRENTICE.—WANTED, a respectable LAD as  
APPRENTICE.—Apply **ROBERT MORGAN**, Grocer,  
Draper, and Provision Merchant, Charmouth. [91300]

1906

Charmouth	Morgan, Robert	Grocer and Draper	Occupier of houses and land	82	54
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1907

Charmouth	Morgan, Robert	Hotel Keeper	Occupier of house and land	74	65
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1909

Robert Morgan	Head	36	Married	Six	—	—	—	Railway Bus Contractor Carriage Proprietor	Employer at home	Kenilbury, Berkshire	By birth
Laura Emma Morgan	Wife	42	Married	Six	—	—	—	General Servant	Domestic	Barford St. Martin, Wilts.	By birth
Laura May Pagan	Stepdaughter	19	Wife	—	—	—	—	Companion	Help	Ullington, Bridport	By birth
Jack Leslie Pagan	Stepson	16	—	—	—	—	—	Brush maker (unemployed)	Worker	Charmouth, Dorset	By birth

1911 Robert Morgan (aged 36) is now shown as a Railway Bus Contractor and Carriage Proprietor married to Laura Emma (aged 42) and Stepdaughter Laura Pagan and Stepson Jack Pagan. They are living at n0.1 Coastgurad Cottage in Lower Sea Lane. Laura was previously married to Alexander Pagan who ran the Coach and Horses who had died in 1903. He took over the Axminster Bus from William Holly and started the first Motor Bus.

1	Ann Thorne	Housekeeper	66	Widow	—	—	—	Housekeeper	Domestic	Bridport	By birth
2	Florence Maria Hallett	Servant	14	Single	—	—	—	General Servant	Domestic	Bridport	By birth
3	Mary Caroline Butler	Boarder	24	Single	—	—	—	Draper's Assistant (Shop)	Shop	Bridport	By birth

1911 Census shows Ann Thorne (aged 66) as a widow and Housekeeper born in Bridport. Mary Caroline Butler, who is living with her is described as Drapers assistant. She is living at Ashyford House, now Breeze. She was married to George Thorne (born 1855) and they had 3 children. He was originally an Turning Mill Mechanic living in Barrack Street, Bridport

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
31	Charmouth Street	Private House	Mr. Puffer	1				1	2	3
	"	"	"		1					
32	"	"	Mr. Thorne	1					3	3
	"	"	Dieter's Shop & Stores				1			

1911 Census leaves out Charmouth Stores as no one is living there at the time, but Mrs Thorne ia showing living at Ashyford House. Robert Morgan, Perrott and sons are shown as Grocers.













1911 Census shows William John Dampier (aged 33) living with his wife, Laura (nee Pinnick) (aged 33) and their 11 month old son, Edward George at 20 Sydney Terrace Dorchester. He describes himself as Clerk (Grocery). It also shows that they were married in 1905. He originated from Stonehouse in Plymouth and his wife from Dorchester.

81	R	O	Dampier, William John	The Provision Stores
82	H O	H O	Dampier, Laura Susan	The Provision Stores

1921 Electoral Roll for Charmouth shows William Dampier is running Charmouth Stores (no.1 & 2)



Charmouth Stores in 1923



A close up of Charmouth Stores in 1923



## EMPIRE TARIFFS.

On Monday evening well-attended meetings were held at Charmouth and Lyme Regis. The speakers were Mr. George F. Chappell, the prospective Liberal candidate for West Dorset, Mr. Edward Baker, prospective candidate for Howdenshire, and Mr. S. Mortifee.—The chair was taken at Charmouth by Mr. W. J. Dampier and at Lyme Regis by Mr. F. J. Tomsett.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Chappell referred to the result of the last election in West Dorset. He said that the Liberal vote was magnificent considering that no Liberal had previously fought the seat for nineteen years, and that they had practically no organisation. Adding the Liberal and Labour votes together, it was clear that a majority of the electors in the Division desired a change from the present Conservative representation.

The country was still faced with the tragic

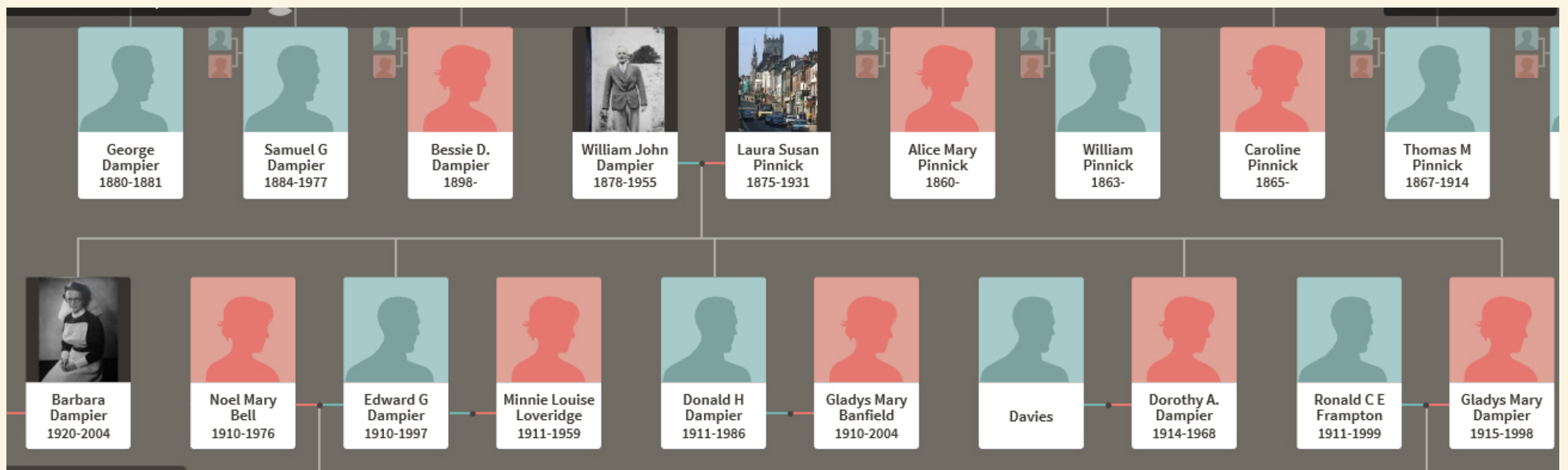
1930







William Dampier (1878-1955)



Family Tree for Dampiers



Percy Larcombe, Bill Bowditch, Doug Smith, Jimmy Cable, Donald Dampier, Gladys Dampier and William Dampier





**THE GOOD GROCER**  
(An apology)

Babes, when I too was young and always right  
And tangled in that not unrighteous fight  
Beneath the wooden flag, the painted sign,  
We poured our blood --- or anyhow our wine ---  
For feast of all our fathers, and liberties;  
Not having Charity before my eyes  
I cursed a Grocer v..... saying that he, by fault,  
Put sand in sugar and no salt in salt,  
Trapped men with stinking fish that lept from tins;  
And rising to the toppling top of sins  
Discouraged Pubs and spoilt the English Inns.

The Heavens, I learn as still I linger and live,  
Punish more generously than men forgive,  
No grinning Grocer slew me with a sweet  
I writhed across no tins of poisoned meat;  
Only v..... where far in the warm western shires  
Sleep steeping woods are dipped in sunset fires  
The children told me that, aloof, alone,  
Dealt the Good Grocer whom I had not known.

Ah not forgotten, the children that I knew,  
Not if they died--- not even if they grew ---  
How their locks flamed and limbs like arrows sped  
And faces shone with the wild news they said  
The Fairy Grocer --- his were magic sales  
His books might have been filled with fairytales  
He might have tipped sardines back in the sea  
Given all his goods away with a pound of tea;  
Sanding no sugar, on the other hand,  
Have spread his sugar o'er the shores for sand;  
Till children came unto those yellow sands  
And there took hands --- and handfuls in their hands  
And mouthfuls in their mouths; stuffed more and more  
Till they had made erosion of the shore,  
Bit bays and inlets out of all the coast  
Like giant bites out of titanic toast.

To you, dear children of old days I send  
This apologia to your early friend,  
You know, though I said salt was dust in mirth,  
Our dust can still be salt, and salt of the earth;  
A wizard is an easier thing to be  
Than being a Good Grocer, as is he.

*G.K. Chesterton*

G.K. Chesterton's Story of "The Good Grocer" he gave to William Dampier and still in the families possession.

## DEATH AT CHARMOUTH OF MR. W. J. DAMPIER Member of Rural and Parish Councils

CHARMOUTH this week mourns the death of Mr. William John Dampier, aged 78, who in addition to being the proprietor of the village stores for the past 36 years has taken a leading part in the life and welfare of Charmouth.

He came to Charmouth from Dorchester in 1919.

For practically the whole of that period he was a member of the Parish Council and he represented the ratepayers for a long period on the Rural District Council. He became one of the first members of the Charmouth Playing Fields Committee and the fact that they have provided such a wonderful amenity, is in no small measure due to the energies he has expended in this direction.

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The Congregational Church will lose by his death a valuable worker. For the greater part of his life he was a lay preacher and during his time in Charmouth has, in turn, been secretary and treasurer of the Church.

It was at about Christmas time that there was a noticeable decline in his health and he virtually retired from the business which is now being carried on by one of his sons, Mr. Donald H. Dampier.

He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

The funeral will take place on Friday at 2 o'clock at the Congregational Church.

Death at Charmouth of Mr. W.J. Dampier, member of Rural and Parish Councils

Charmouth his week mourns the death of Mr, William John Dampier, aged 78, who in addition to being the proprietor of the village stores for the past 36 years has taken a leading part in the life and welfare of Charmouth. He came to Charmouth from Dorchester in 1919. For practically thw whole of that period he was a member of the Parish Council and he represented the ratepayers for a lomg period on the rural District Council . He became one of the first members of the Charmouth Playing Fields Committee and the fact that they have provided such a wonderful amenity, is in no small measure due to the energies he has expended in this



direction

Letter concerning a bequest made by Charles Hodges, deceased for the purpose of purchasing a playing field. 1932



The new shop front



Close up of New Shop Front.



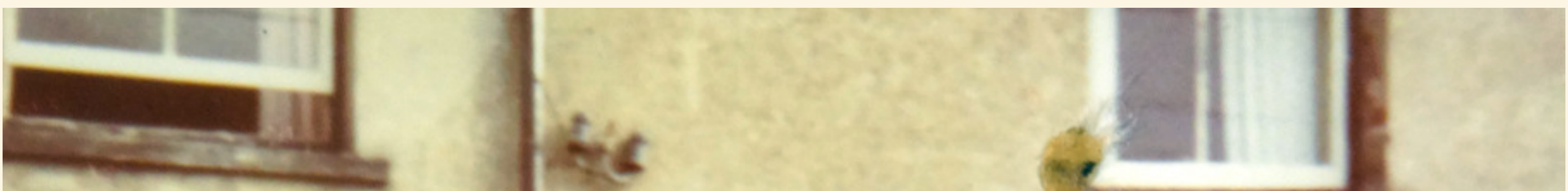




An early photograph of the shop window piled high with cans of fruit and soups.



Donald Dampier behind the shop counter c.1950







Donald is seen here filling up his apple display at the front of the shop.





A Supply Van is seen here parked in front of Dampiers Delivery Van



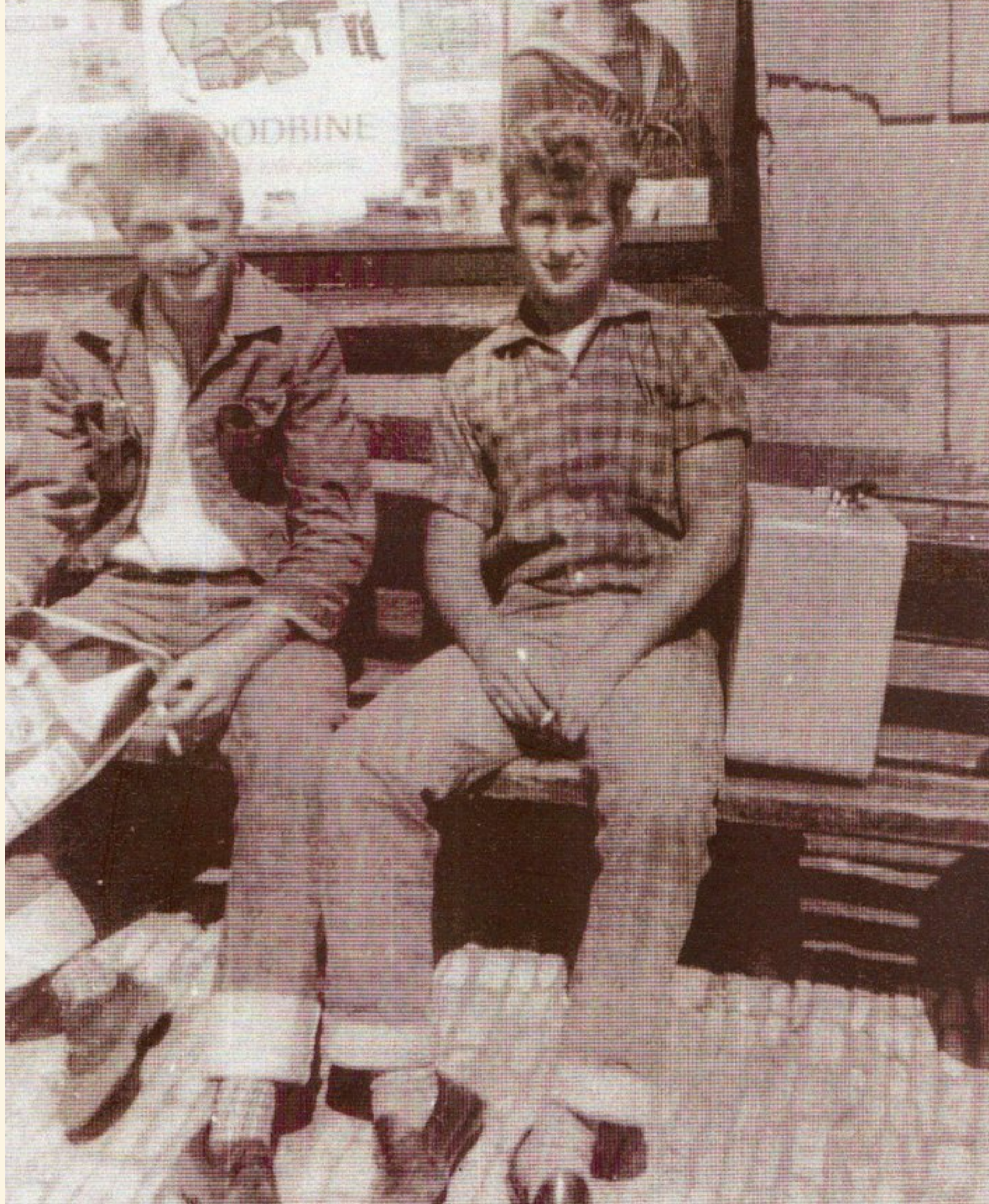
A lively scene outside this hop in the 1940s











Noel Frampton and Dave Spurdle outside Charmouth Stores.











Ron and Jean Dampier in their shop.

**DAMPIERS of**  
**CHARMOUTH**  
*LICENSED GROCERS*  
*PROVISION MERCHANTS*  
COFFEES ROASTED ON THE PREMISES

★  
HIGH QUALITY BACON

ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL CHEESES

★  
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

★  
**OFF-LICENCE DEPT.**

for a wide range of  
WINES, SPIRITS, BEERS, CIDERS, Etc.

★  
Telephone: CHARMOUTH 304



Telephone: 4

# DAMPIERS of CHARMOUTH

GROCERY AND PROVISIONS  
GREENGROCER - FRUITERER

*Coffee Roasted and Blended  
on the Premises*

*Birds Eye Frozen Foods*

*Harris's Bacon and Sausages  
Schweppes Minerals*

*Walls Ices*

**In Courtesy, Helpfulness and Good Service, we try  
our best**

***to make Shopping a Pleasure***

REGULAR DELIVERIES IN THE DISTRICT







William Dampier is seen here in the centre outside the Community Hall in Charmouth





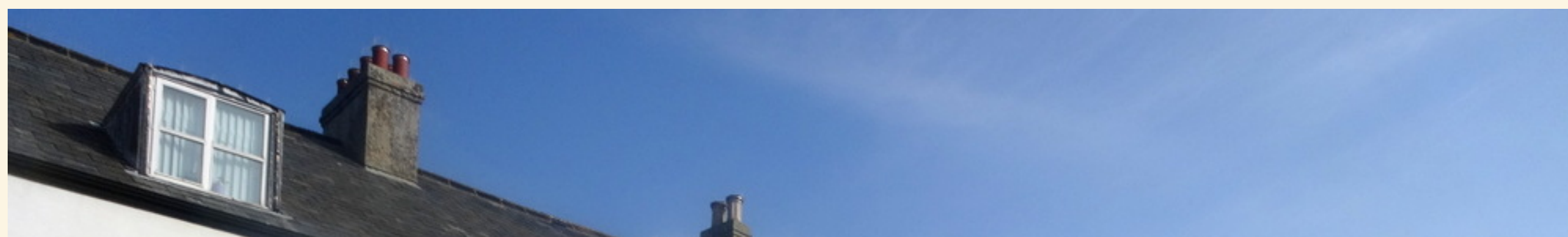
1953 Guide It records that W.J. Dampier who ran the Charmouth Stores was the Rural District Councillor and the population was 719 for the year 1931, a number that has doubled since then

129	Cook, Maud Eva, 5 Higher Sea Lane
130	Copp, Beatrice M., Highfield House
131	Cow, Dorothy M., Beech House
132	Crapper, Mabel, Cliff House, Old Lyme Road
133	Crookston, Lily M., The Poplars, Higher Sea Lane
134	Dampier, Donald H., The Stores
135	Dampier, Gladys M., The Stores
136	<b>S</b> —Dampier, Ronald G. J., The Stores
137	Dancy, Albert, 2 Holly Bank, Higher Sea Lane
138	Dancy, Gertrude, 2 Holly Bank, Higher Sea Lane
139	Daniells, Frideswide M., Flat 2, Elmsworth, Lower Sea Lane
140	Daniells, Herbert William, Courtfield
141	Daniells, Mrs. G. H., Courtfield

1961 Electoral Roll showing Donald and Gladys with son Ronald Dampier at The Stores.



Charmouth Stores Today under the Nisa Banner







Charmouth Stores Today under the Nisa Banner





The Star Inn can be seen in the background of this photograph.



Donald Dampier when he was in the army

**Dampier—Bennett, Exeter.**

The wedding took place at St. Thomas Parish Church, Exeter, April 9th, between L.A.C. Ronald Eric Arthur Dampier, R.A.F., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Dampier, of Sea View, Charmouth, and Aline Hilda Bennett, only child of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bennett, of 39, Parkway, St. Thomas, Exeter. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Kenneth Martin. Mrs. N. H. Mather, aunt of the bride, was at the organ, and played Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

The bride, given away by her father, wore a model gown of moon blue, with hat to match, wine colour shoes and gloves, and a corsage spray of wine carnations and lilies of the valley. She carried an ivory-bound Prayer-book, the gift of the groom.

Mrs. R. Oglethorpe, matron of honour, wore a frock of floral silk,



with black hat, black shoes and gloves and a spray of white camelias. Her gift from the bridegroom was an ivory Prayer-book.

Sergeant Oglethorpe, R.A.M.C., was best man.

The sprays worn by the bride and her matron of honour as well as those of the guests were supplied by the City Florist, 21, Queen-street; the wedding cake was from Messrs. Hill, Palmer and Edwards.

17th April 1942

#### Began Shop Keeper

- 1806 Joseph Bradbeer (1752-1871)
- 1821 Lydia Bradbeer (1774-1869)(Widow)
- 1832 Lydia Watts (remarried)
- 1834 Lydia Watts/John Carter
- 1841 John Carter (1804-1855)
- 1855 Willmot Carter (Widow) (1809-1863)
- 1863 John William Carter (son) (1844-1911)
- 1866 James Hawkins
- 1871 George Mortimer (1843-1929)
- 1888 Edward Vince (1848-1917)
- 1898 John Baker (1871-)
- 1905 Robert Morgan (1875-)
- 1919 William Dampier (1878-1955)
- 1954 Donald Dampier (1911-1986)
- 1986 Ronald Dampier
- 2000 ?
- 2005 Phillip Tritton

#### List of Shopkeepers







Edward Vince`s sons and Howard Dawkins (with Bike) outside Clarence House(Carrium) where they lived in 1896

Edward Vince married Catherine Youngman at East Walton in 1874

Children: Elizabeth May 1876-1960,Ethel Rose 1877-1932,Florence Louise 1879-1968,  
Wilfred Burke 1880-1967,Frederick Harold 1881-1982,Leonard James 1884-1957







Miss Crease - Post Office assistant to Edward Vince c.1895



Charmouth Street in 1895





The top of the Street in 1895







Charmouth Stores when it was run by Edward Vince in 1890







A comparison with William dampier and his staff and family with Phill Tritton and their staff and family today.



Breeze (the shop to the left of Charmouth Stores) today with its original Victorian Shelving.







Charmouth Stores today



Charmouth Stores today