



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### Lynwood & Sharrow

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John Thomas Ankers k/as Jack at Lynwood

Jackie Riches (Ankers) tells us:

“Esther and Richard (often known as Jack) Ankers, had the land known as Rocks Ground, which was to the right of the Evesham Road council houses from the front. On this they had an apple and plum orchard and also grew Brussels sprouts and salad veg in season. The apples would be picked and put into pot boxes and transported back to Lynwood by horse and cart for sorting and onward transmission to Birmingham Central Market or sold locally. Produce was put into chip baskets or pot boxes and crates and left by the roadside for collection by one of the local transport companies, (Marshalls is one I remember, also Langston’s of Marlcliffe) to be taken to the above market. Business was conducted on trust and payment arrived in due course from the market. Dad was still using a horse and cart in 1954 and the cart horse, “Old Bill” was still being used to plough the land, including the fourteen or so acres in Hoden Lane. My granny did not like change which made life extremely



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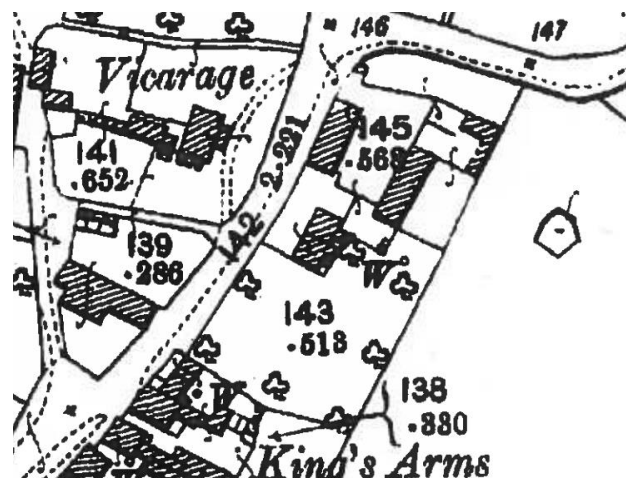
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difficult as the years went by. They grew asparagus, strawberries and cultivated blackberries, along with the usual wheat and cabbage etc. The bower from the asparagus was cut and bundled and sent to Market to be sold for use in flower arranging.

Hope this is not too boring but not sure what you want to know.

Lynwood was built for Clara Ankers and was situated in what was essentially a farmyard. I am not sure if the double gates are still at the top of the drive but these blocked the farmyard from the road and village and were very effective as they were quite large".



There was a huge tin and wood structure attached to the back wall of Sharrow, just inside the gates, and this was used to house the cart, trap, various bicycles, farm implements and cradles for asparagus and loads of other items. The farmyard ran right across the back of Sharrow, out to the Bidford road (I believe the stable block can still be seen from the road. The cows were brought in either from Hoden Lane of Sett (or Dead) Furlong, which was at the end of Quarry Lane and milked in the stables, where the swallows returned each year. There was a chicken house (which included Bantams) pigsties, a harness and tack room and



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the trap house. A wood pile and a midden, all hidden behind Lynwood. There were ducks and geese in the orchard to the right on the house a lovely place for a child.

My parents left Lynwood in 1949 I think and rented a cottage from Mrs Sadie Edwards who lived at Kemises (Spelling) Cottage opposite the village shop. The cottage was named Hill crest (now Almond Cottage I believe). It was very old and had a twisting, stone staircase, a lot of woodworm (mum always said she could hear the death-watch beetles ticking in the beams. I seem to remember there was a door in the wall of the entrance passage and seeing Mrs Taylor (who ran the shop) coming through the door in her bathrobe to have a bath in the bathtub which stood in the middle of the kitchen (covered with a large wooden board which mum used as a table). There was an outside bucket lavatory which dad had to creep out to in the middle of the night and empty into a hole which he had to dig!

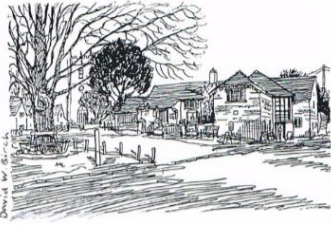
Mr Stevens had an orchard which ran under my bedroom window on the right as you look at the cottage in which he kept goats (the smell was awful, just like old fashioned fish paste- Yuk).

I could go on for hours but hope I have not bored you stiff.

When Clara and Eli were the innkeepers at the Kings Arms they would let the village people use their large ovens to cook food to save fuel (they were green even then). They also had a very good off licence business (cider) which was made at the cider mill next door. Pigeons were kept in the dovecote above the barn for use in the kitchen.

When I was growing up there was an Eli Ankers who lived in Nightingale Lane, along with his wife, they were childless. Eli's sister Rose also lived with them.

She lost her sweetheart during the First World War and had what we would term a breakdown. She was put into a local mental hospital for



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many years and Eli had a great deal of trouble obtaining her release because she was such a good worker. She was an absolute delight, childlike in a sweet and gentle way - everyone loved her. It would take a while to put the Ankers family tree on here for you but I can have a go if you wish in the future.

I have a lot of memories of people in the village, Mr Welland, Mr Vickerage, etc. I do not want to bore you so let me know if you would like any more info - like dad I can go on and on.

Please be in touch

Jackie

**Chroniclers note: Jackie kindly has given us the photos in this article**



Richard John Ankers [often known as Jack]



Molly & Jack Ankers