

## Leggett Family in Charsfield

*(Note: property names in brackets in the text, and on maps, are more modern names, not used at the time being described)*

Charsfield's surviving registers only go back to the late 1720s<sup>1</sup> and there were certainly Leggetts in the village at that early time – a Mary Leggett was buried 5<sup>th</sup> Jul 1728; Jeremy Legett, son of Jeremy and Sarah, was baptised by Edward Castleton (Curate) on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 1737. Subsequent multiple entries (baptisms, marriages and burials) show there must have been several families with this surname in the village during the 1700s.

Though neither were born in Charsfield, **John Leggett and wife Elizabeth (née Woods)** who provide the most interesting family to follow during the ensuing hundred years in the village (see the family tree on the next page). Their marriage on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 1766 appears in the records for St Andrew, Kettleburgh where Elizabeth was baptised some 19 years earlier on 30 Oct 1746. The groom's parish is given as Brandeston where there is a record of his baptism on 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 1742. The likely Charsfield burial record for John (19 Mar 1798) cites him as a wheelwright; the burial date for Elizabeth has not been identified. All of their children were baptised in Charsfield; three of them are of particular interest.

**Sarah** (bpt 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr 1769) was the eldest surviving into adulthood. Her marriage to Joseph Leech occurred on 15 Nov 1791 at Charsfield. In particular, son John became a thatcher; the family lived at Phoenix Cottage (Dial House) and remained a presence in the village for a long period.

**Fanny** (bpt 9 May 1773), next eldest to reach maturity, and noteworthy for running the Horse Shoes pub into her 80s after husband Stephen died in 1835. See "The Life and Family of Fanny Marjoram" in the history section of Charsfield's website<sup>2</sup>.

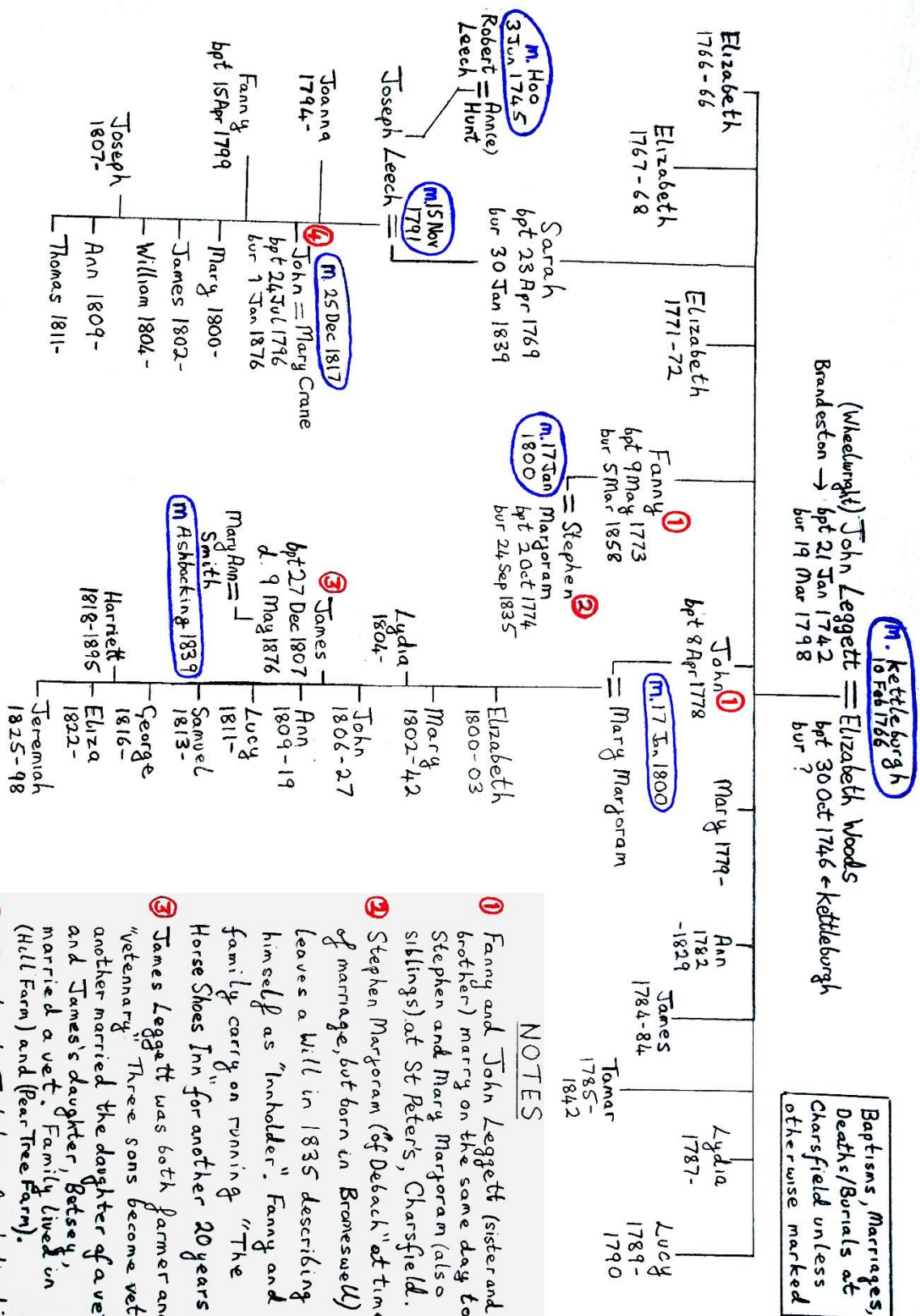
**John** (bpt 8 Apr 1778) was the sixth child, and first boy. His marriage to **Mary Marjoram**, 17 Jan 1800 at Charsfield, was on the same day and place as his sister Fanny who married Mary's brother, **Stephen Marjoram**. John & Mary's 12 children were born between 1800 and 1825. Several of the later baptisms record that John as a wheelwright like his father. However, his profession seems to later change as the Tithe Reform papers (1839) show a "John Leggatt" at **Hill House Farm** (the smallest of Charsfield Manor's farms; see later map for position). Soon after, the 1841 census has John (60, farmer) and Mary Leggett (60) at this same place (in the census called "House next to Phoenix Cottage" but that fits with its known position). By the 1851 census, Mary has died. John is cited as widower, 74 and farmer of 12 acres.

The fifth child of John & Mary was **James** (bpt 27 Dec 1807) and the most interesting one now to follow. A good starting point is the first full census of 6<sup>th</sup> June 1841 where James, with his wife and first child, can be found living just over the road from Hill House farm at what in more recent times became known as **Hill Farm**.

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<sup>1</sup> Except Hearth tax record of 1674 in which there was no Leggett surname.

<sup>2</sup> See [charsfield.org.uk](http://charsfield.org.uk)



## Leggett Family Tree – Descendants of John Leggett and Elizabeth Woods

(note – there were other Leggett families in Charsfield during the 1700s and 1800s)

## James & Mary Ann Leggett – their family in Charsfield

### Charsfield 1841 census entry:

Location: Gate House<sup>3</sup>

Occupants<sup>4</sup>: James Leggett (30) – Farmer; Mary Leggett (25); James Leggett (6 months); Samuel Hammes (25) – Male Servant.

**Mary (Ann)** is the daughter of **William and Elizabeth Smith** at (Valley Farm) which is just a short distance to the south on the Clopton/Debach to Wickham Market Road (nowadays the B1078). So, it is easy to see how the couple could have met. Mary Ann Smith was born in Ashbocking (identified in later censuses) and baptized 11 Jan 1818.

James and Mary Ann's marriage was registered as being in the district of Bosmere in the first quarter 1839, making Ashbocking the likely venue.

The map excerpt on the next page is derived from the Tithe Reform records (late 1830s) and the 1841 census. It shows the three farms so far mentioned – **Gate House, (Valley) & Hill House**. Those Tithe records also show John Martin as the previous tenant farmer at Gate House Farm, managing 39 acres. An auction notification from the Suffolk Chronicle (Sat, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 1840) announces that he is selling up, indicating that James and Mary Ann, with their young son, must have moved to Gate House Farm in late 1840 or the first half of 1841.

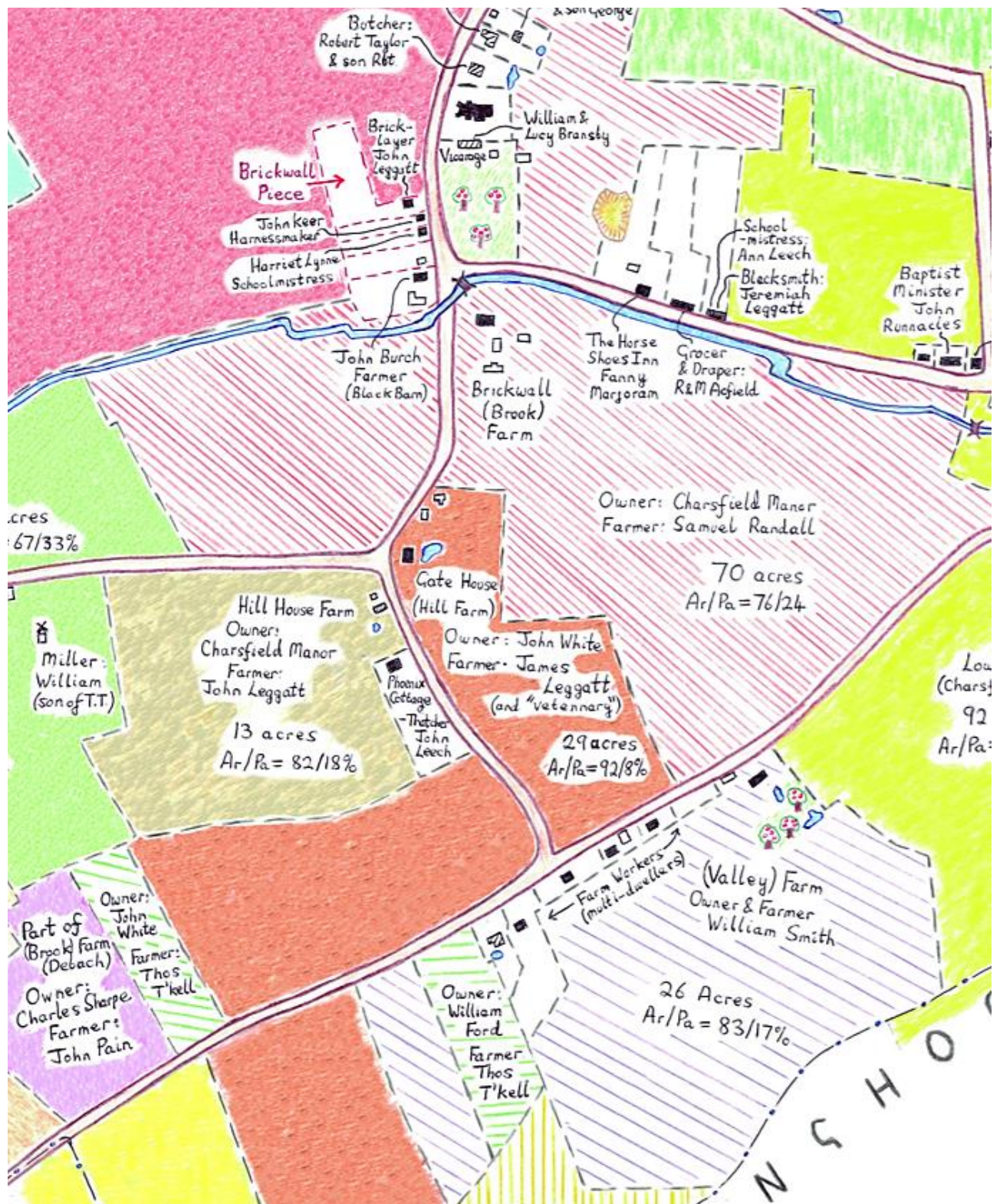
**CHARSFIELD, near WOODBRIDGE.**

On Friday, Oct. 2, 1840, at 11 o'clock,

**T**HE Farming Stock, Back-house, and Dairy Utensils, and part of the Household Furniture, of Mr. **JOHN MARTIN**, upon the Premises, at Charsfield: comprising 3 capital cows, 2 horses, 20 lambs, 22 swine, close-bucked waggon, 2 three-quarter-load tumbrils, 2-horse roll, 2 gangs harrows (nearly new), foot and double ploughs, 2-knife chaff-cutter and dressing machine, both nearly new, ladders, harness, and the usual Farming Requisites: the excellent dairy vessels, and Household Furniture, 10 elbow mahogany, cane-seated chairs, dining and pillar tables, 3 bedsteads, &c. 2 skeps of bees.

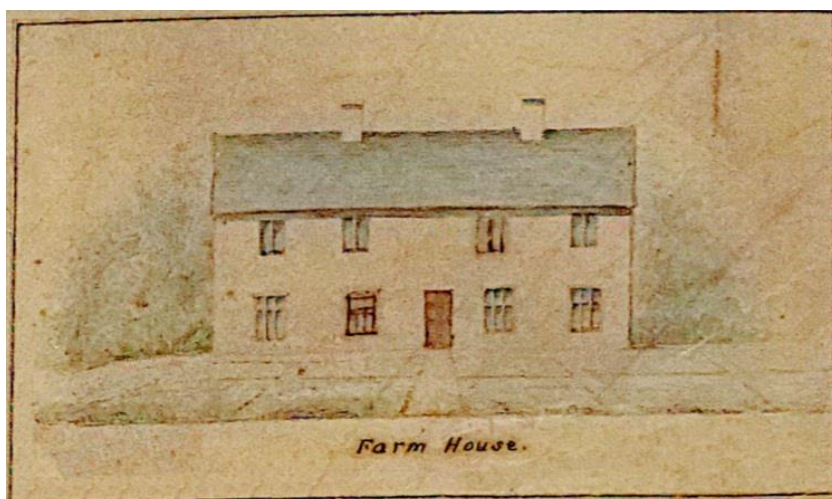
<sup>3</sup> One and only occurrence of this name. There being no other identifier for this property during this era, this text will continue to use the name "Gate House" until "Hill Farm" arises in the 1870s.

<sup>4</sup> Note, in this census, adult ages were rounded up or down (somewhat randomly) to end in 0 or 5.

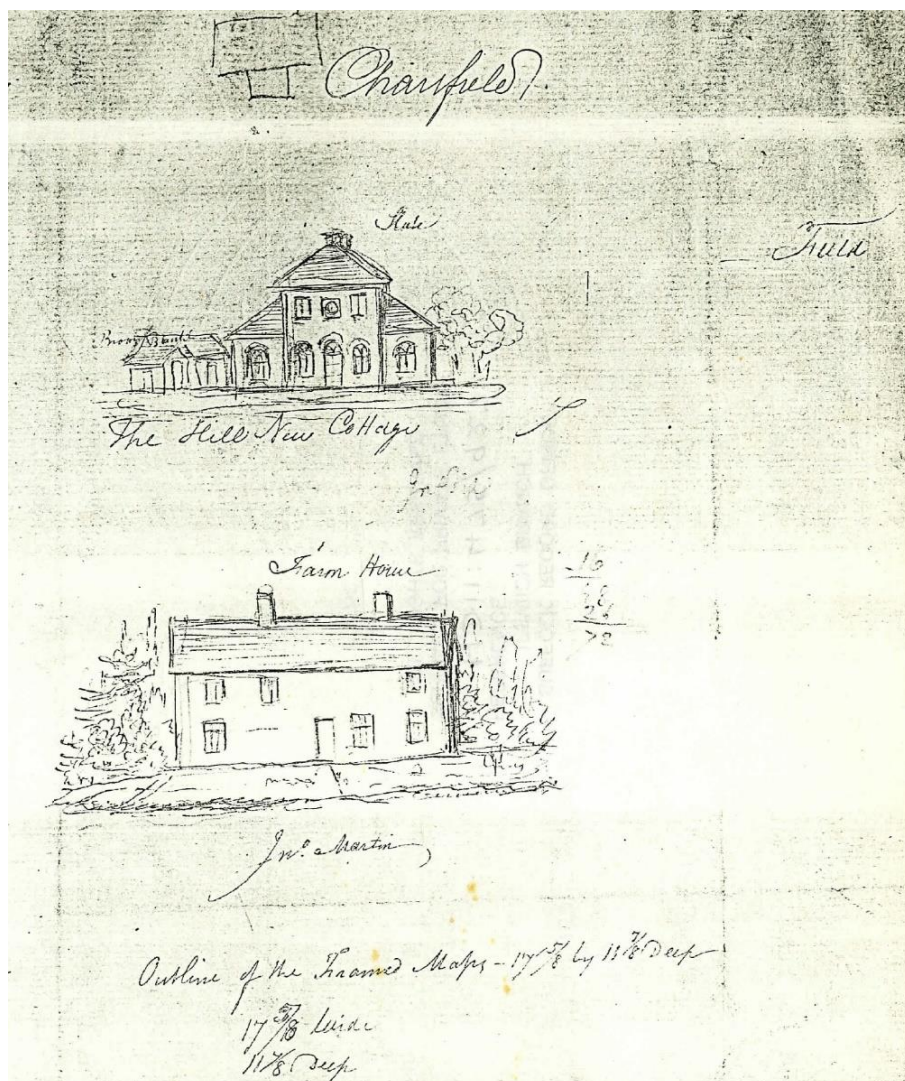


Charsfield (central and south) c.1840– shows Hill House, Gate House and (Valley) Farms

The owner of Gate House Farm at the time of the Tithe Reform (late 1830s) was **John White** who, back then, held the second largest amount of land in Charsfield, some 106 acres. However, that was a long way behind the 715 acres of **Earl Howe**, Charsfield's Lord of the Manor. A recently discovered map of John White's estate in the village (dated 1828) includes a coloured sketch of Gate House Farmhouse (right), recognizably the same as today's building. Appendix 1 further describes the considerable information we have on the ownership of this property.



Additionally, in the Suffolk Archives at The Hold in Ipswich can be found another sketch, made just a few years later on. This is shown below.



Undated sketch headed "Charsfield".

"The Hill New Cottage" is clearly recognizable as present-day Dial House and helps date the sketch because it suffered a lightning strike in 1834 and had become Phoenix Cottage by the time of the 1841 census.

The name Jn<sup>o</sup> Martin below the lower sketch indicates this is Gate House (Hill) Farmhouse and again points to the 1830s.

## 1851: 30th March – Census for Charsfield

Location: Hill Farm

Occupants: James Leggett (40) – Vetennary and Farmer of 100 acres employing 3 labourers.  
Mary Ann Leggett (36), James (10), Nathan Samuel (9), Aaron James (8), Samuel (2).  
James Sadd (19) – Farm Servant; Delilah Blanden (17) – House Servant.

Ten years on and the census entry for the family has a key difference - it directly follows that for **Red House farm**. As can be seen from the **map below**, that is where **High House Farm**<sup>5</sup> (name in 1841 census, nowadays Pear Tree) would be expected. Gate House Farm, however, is some distance from Red House.

The increased acreage now farmed by James, given as 100, matches closely with High House Farm having added 73 acres to his previous 29. Jeremiah Burch was the farmer at High House in earlier times but there is an 1850 death record for this name in Charsfield.

Both High House and Gate House farms were part of John White's estate, so the obvious conclusion is that James Leggett has recently taken on the tenancy of this second farm and the family has moved to live in High House (probably a larger property and with a greater acreage). We have here the first occurrence of "Hill Farm" in Charsfield but it is not for the property we now know by this name.



<sup>5</sup> To avoid confusion, this text will continue to refer to High House as the name for this farm during this era.

### 1861: 7th April – Census for Charsfield

Location: No name

James Leggett (53) – Farmer of 145 acres employing 4 men, 3 boys and son.

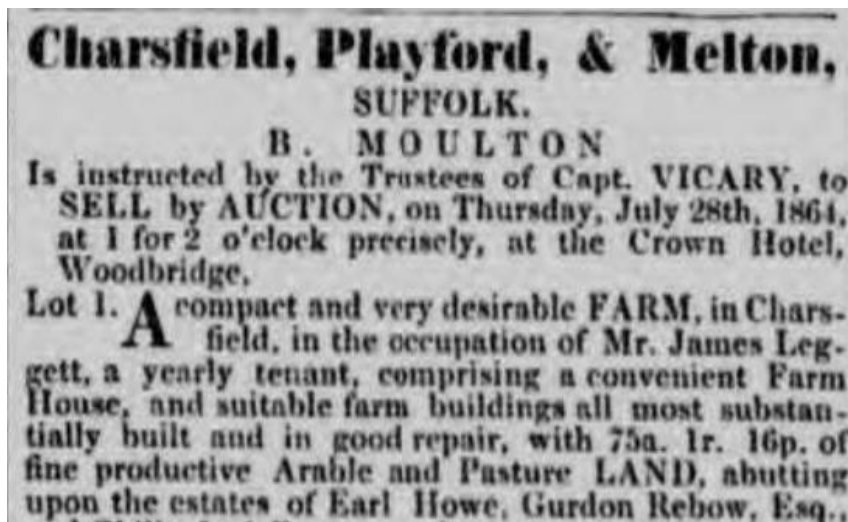
Mary Ann Leggett (4?), Nathan (19), Samuel (12), Mary Ann (4)

William Smith (82) – Father-in-law, Sarah Forster (17) – House servant

Another ten years and William Smith has now retired. His wife has died, and he was living here with his daughter's family. It is clear that James has added the fields of Valley Farm to his stewardship to get up to the 145 acres now shown in the census.

Once more, High House Farm was where the family appeared to be living, even though there are no farm names in the census records to help us. However, their position on the census form again comes just after Red House Farm (itself identifiable by its occupants and acreage), plus both entries are on Threadkell (now Monewden) Road.

**1864: Sale of High House Farm** – The following auction details appeared in the press:



Evidence that this sale relates to High House Farm is strong. Acreage of 75 matches reasonably to previous figures given and it would indeed abut onto estates of Earl Howe (Lord of Charsfield Manor). Captain Vicary, being here cited as the owner of this farm, is also in keeping with other records; originally it had been an inheritance by the captain's wife, Eliza Murray<sup>6</sup>, niece of John White (who died c.1840). Finally, James Leggett is named as current occupier, just on a yearly tenancy. Subsequent information indicates that he lost this land after the sale and that the family moved back to Gate House Farmhouse, perhaps taking the name "Hill Farm" name back there.

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<sup>6</sup> Both Eliza and Michael Vicary lived in Tasmania from 1828 to their deaths in 1865 and 1867.

### **1867: Legal dispute relating to William Smith's will and involving James and Mary Ann Leggett**

Two articles in newspapers during the year provide an account of this intriguing dispute. Mary Ann's brother, also William Smith, is pursuing a £55 legacy left to him by their father, but there was no money available because all £200 owned by William Smith senior had been earlier lent to James Leggett and he could not initially pay it back following his father-in-law's death (in 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1866).

See **Appendix 2** for more detail.

### **1871: 2nd April – Census for Charsfield**

James Leggett (62) – Veterinary surgeon and farmer of 62 acres, employing 2 men, 1 boy.  
Mary Ann Leggett (52), Betsey A Leggett (19) – Teacher.

The last census record for the family in Charsfield, though only daughter Betsey was at home. This unhelpful census has no road or property names recorded, but the position of the entry is consistent with them being back at Hill Farmhouse.

62 acres matches to an original 29 acres for Hill Farm plus 32 (cited in 1851) for Valley Farm.

### **1874 – White's Directory**

For the first time the farm is named as we now know it. Under Charsfield is the entry:

**Leggett James, farmer & veterinary  
surgeon, Hill farm**

**1876 – Death of James Leggett** – His burial was recorded as 13 May 1876 at St Peter's Charsfield. Shortly after came the probate details.

**1876.**

**LEGGETT James.**  
Effects under £450.

19 June. Administration (with the Will and Codicil) of the effects of James Leggett late of Charsfield in the County of Suffolk Farmer and Veterinary Surgeon who died 9 May 1876 at Charsfield was granted at Ipswich to Mary Ann Leggett of Charsfield Widow the Relict and Samuel William Leggett of Wickham Market in the said County Veterinary Surgeon the Son the Universal Legatees in Trust.

### Mary Ann Leggett (senior) – Her story after James's death.

The extract below from the Ipswich Journal, 27th July 1878, indicates that Mary Ann was still at Hill Farm two years after her husband's death.

JULY 27, 1878.		3
<b>E.</b> at St. Nicholas and E at the Magpie Inn, the 31st inst, at 5 for 6 D. DURRANT,	<b>TO LET,</b> <b>A</b> Convenient DWELLING-HOUSE. Garden, and Outbuildings, in the parish of Charsfield; near the Church. With possession at Old Michaelmas.— Enquire of Mrs. Leggett, Hill Farm, Charsfield.	

This notice could be her arranging to move out of her home at Hill Farm. But it would be a stretch to describe it as “near the Church”. So perhaps she has come to own one of several dwellings north of the church or opposite it.

The following year, the Ipswich Journal of 14<sup>th</sup> June 1879 has an announcement of the death of “Ellen, the beloved wife of William Burrows of the Hill Farm”. Kelly’s 1879 directory has William Burrows as a farmer in Charsfield but gives no farm name. Mary Ann has not necessarily moved out. She was likely on her own with no remaining family so could have been sharing the property.

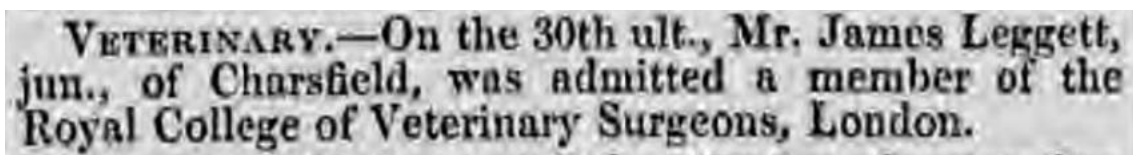
However, by 1881, Mary Ann has definitely moved. The census shows her at the Chequers Inn, Bridge Street, Wickham Market. She is listed as Housekeeper but, no doubt, she helped out in the running of the pub. Isaac Leggett (55, Widower) is shown as Head of the Household, alongside son, Isaac (22), and brother-in-law William Nickells (67).

By the 1891 census, Mary Ann was in the household of her son Samuel, his wife Bessie and 8 children, plus a domestic servant. The address is The Walnuts, 114 Broad Road, and sounds grand. Her probate record shows she died 15 Dec 1893 at Ipswich, though her address is once again Bridge Street, Wickham Market, Probate was to Sarah Rachel Leggett; her effects £100.

**First Child – James Leggett** (bn 10 Dec 1840, bpt 28 May 1841 at Ashbocking, bpt 31 Aug 1845 at Charsfield.)

James's first baptism was at his mother's home village of Ashbocking, but whether his birth was there or Charsfield is uncertain. Mary Ann's father, William Smith, is shown as owner and occupier in Charsfield at (Valley Farm) in the Tithe Reform records of 1838/39. He still owned a cottage and pightle (2 acres +) back in Ashbocking but son William was occupier there. So, Mary Ann, both before and after marriage, could have been either with her parents in Charsfield or her brother in Ashbocking.

In the 1861 census, 20-year-old James is a veterinary student lodging in St Pancras, London and the following year came a notable achievement on 30<sup>th</sup> April, as seen in this extract from the Ipswich Journal (Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 1862, page 8)



VETERINARY.—On the 30th ult., Mr. James Leggett, jun., of Charsfield, was admitted a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London.

It is likely that James, Senior, was a vet who learnt on the job and had no or limited formal qualifications. Times were changing though, and it is interesting that the son of a rural tenant farmer has been able to achieve this RCVS status. However, there are difficulties ahead for James, Junior.

James becomes a resident vet at Lavenham in west Suffolk. This is indicated by several newspaper reports of the time, plus White's 1874 Directory which shows him at Water Street. He gave evidence in 1868 at an arson trial where he was out late on business at a local farm and encountered the accused arsonist on his way home. Later, in 1873, he was involved in a case where a diseased horse with glanders had been brought to Melford Fair. This court report refers to "Messrs. Leggett and Strutt, veterinary surgeons". In August 1874, he himself is charged with minor assault on William Welham (Labourer of Lavenham), where the said William came to James's house seeking due wages which James believed were already paid. James stated - "I admit turning him off my premises and kicking him, but I had only my slippers on". James was fined 20 shillings plus 6 for costs.

In June 1875 came perhaps the first sign of things going wrong. His premises in Water Street were up for auction. In late 1876, James was summoned for refusing to give up "the accoutrements of West Suffolk Yeomanry Cavalry, he ceasing to be in the squadron" but a medical certificate stating that he "was too ill to be present" and otherwise "would give up the articles" excused him.

He had married Sarah Bigg, daughter of Samuel Bigg (late of Bridge Farm, Lavenham) at Yoxford on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep 1871. They had four children – Alice Mary (bpt 6 Jul 1873), James John (bpt 2 Aug 1874), Samuel William (bpt 11 Dec 1875) and Frederick Thomas (bpt 6 May 1877).

This obituary notice appeared in the Ipswich Journal, Sat, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1879 –

**LEGGETT.**—5th inst., aged 38 years, James Leggett, M.R.C.V.S., late of Lavenham, after a long affliction, eldest son of the late James Leggett, Hill Farm, Charsfield.

It appears James, Junior, has had serious mental and physical health problems as indicated by the following asylum record of his death on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1879:-

No. in order of Admission.	Name.	Private. Pauper.				Date of Admission.	Asylum.	Date of Discharge or Death.	Discharged.			
		M.	F.	M.	F.				Recoverd.	Rel.	Not Impr.	Died.
20102	Leggett Jas			1		13 Apr 1877	Suffolk	5 Feb 79				1

This Suffolk County asylum where James was admitted in April 1877 later became known as St Audry's Hospital in Melton. More tragedy follows - a newspaper announcement shortly after James's own passing records the deaths of his two youngest children, Samuel and Frederick, both on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1879.

**Second Child – Nathan Samuel Leggett** (Born early 1842 (registered at Woodbridge, Apr-Jun) but baptised at Charsfield when 3 years on 31 Aug 1845.)

Nathan married Lucy Wright (see below). Farmer at Monewden in the 1870s but had moved to Ipswich by 1881. Described as Farrier, Crabbe Street, Ipswich in 1892. Died 1899.

**Third Child – Aaron James Leggett** (Born early 1843; also baptised 31 Aug 1845 at Charsfield.)

In 1861, Aaron shown as apprentice to Edgar Wright, veterinary surgeon at Yoxford. Edgar's daughter, Lucy Ann Wright, married elder brother Nathan. Aaron married Henrietta Smith in 1868. She was born and bred in Falkenham which was where they appear as a family in the 1871 census, Aaron being listed as a vet. Directories in 1874, 1879 and 1888, plus the 1881 census all show him as a vet in neighbouring Kirton. The 1991 census has him by then in Grundisburgh, still a veterinary surgeon. Died 1898.

**Fourth Child – Samuel William Leggett** *(Born 1849 but another delayed baptism until 29 Aug 1852.)*

The 1871 census has Samuel already as a veterinary surgeon at 22 years and a lodger at 13 Bridge Street, Wickham Market where Hannah Threadkell, Farmer, was head of household (presume related to Threadkells of Charsfield). Married to Bessie Southgate in 1880. Family continued then to live in Wickham Market through to 1911 census. 1901 census shows them at Mill House in Mill Lane.

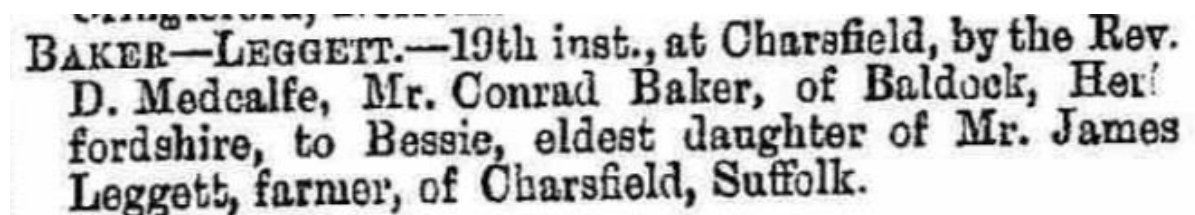
Samuel is shown as M.R.C.V.S in the 1881 census and Kelly's 1912 directory; the latter cites him as Inspector of Contagious Diseases. His death was recorded in April-June Plomesgate registry.

**Fifth Child – Betsey Ann Leggett** *(Likely the first to be born at High House in 1851. Her birth was registered in Q3, but she was not baptised until 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 1852, alongside brother Samuel.)*

The 1861 census shows Betsey to be a lodger in Seckford Street, Woodbridge, though only 9. The couple looking after her, John and Mahala Mallett, do not appear to be relatives. A plausible explanation is that she was lodged with them that Sunday night, ready to attend school in Woodbridge during the week (see next daughter for similar situation).

As shown earlier, Betsey was the only child home with her parents for the 1871 census, now back at Hill Farm. Her occupation was given as Teacher. The new Charsfield School was opened in 1863. Eliza Pemberton would still be the Schoolmistress there in 1871; Betsey could possibly be the assistant teacher there.

Her marriage in Charsfield to Conrad Baker was announced in several newspapers, including this item in the Ipswich Journal of 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1872 (where she is called Bessie):



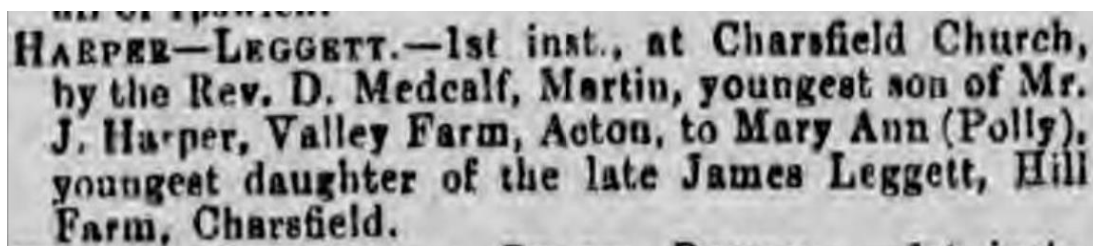
**BAKER—LEGGETT.**—19<sup>th</sup> inst., at Charsfield, by the Rev. D. Medcalfe, Mr. Conrad Baker, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, to Bessie, eldest daughter of Mr. James Leggett, farmer, of Charsfield, Suffolk.

Conrad was another vet, an M.R.C.V.S, based in Baldock. There is no evidence of him coming to Suffolk but his father, Samuel was a vet in Chelmsford, Essex and had been elected a vice president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (see Essex Standard, 21 May 1852). Given that at least two of Betsey's brothers were M.R.C.V.S, it is understandable how she might have met Conrad. Their children were all born in Wallingford, Berkshire. Somewhat curiously, Conrad later appears to have emigrated to America (without Betsey), where he died in Ohio in 1901. Betsey considerably outlived him, her death occurring in Kensington in early 1933.

**Sixth Child – Mary Ann (Polly) Leggett** (*Mary Ann was also likely born at High House. She was baptised 9<sup>th</sup> Sep 1857 at Charsfield.*)

Mary Ann's age, given as 4 in the 1861 census, implies that her birth was prior to 7<sup>th</sup> April 1857, well before her baptism. As a 14-year-old, she can be found in the 1871 census to be a pupil resident at Baldock Ladies College. This was a surprising choice of school given its distance from East Suffolk. Conrad's presence in the town might be the reason this college was chosen but, interestingly, elder sister Betsey does not marry him until 20 months later. So, alternatively, Betsey could have met Conrad whilst visiting her sister in Baldock.

Mary Ann's marriage to Martin Harper on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1879 was announced in The Ipswich Journal for Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>, as below:



HARPER—LEGGETT.—1st inst., at Charsfield Church, by the Rev. D. Medcalf, Martin, youngest son of Mr. J. Harper, Valley Farm, Acton, to Mary Ann (Polly), youngest daughter of the late James Leggett, Hill Farm, Charsfield.

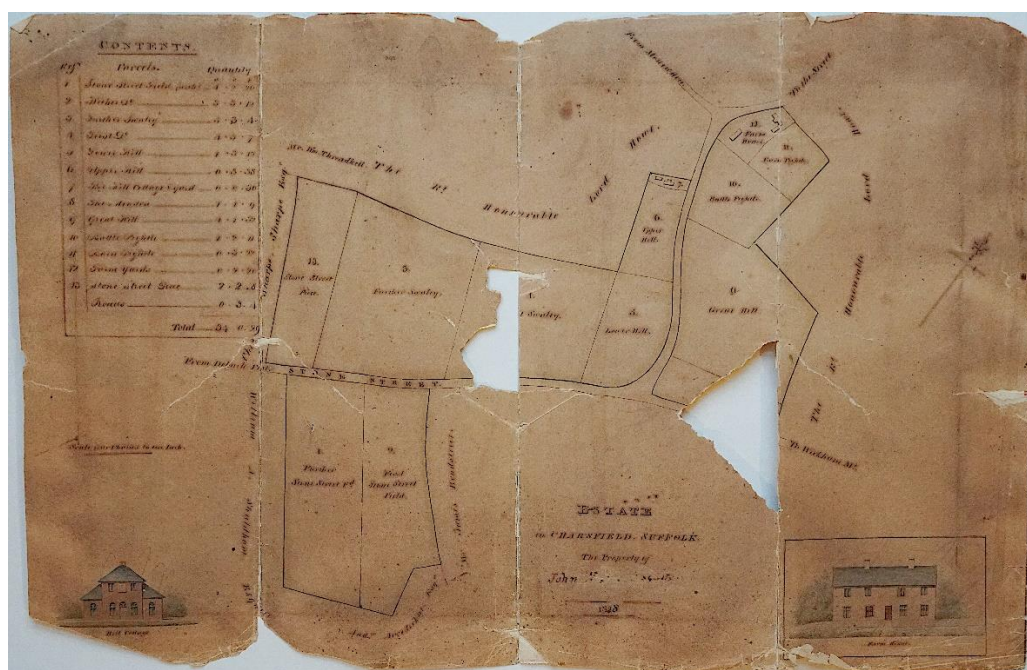
Martin's work varies (horse dealer, farm bailiff/manager) and they move several times over the years - Lavenham, Stansfield, Belchamp St Paul, Harleston and then finally Stow<sup>7</sup> where both their deaths are registered (Martin in 1927, Mary Ann in 1932).

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<sup>7</sup> All these in Suffolk, except Belchamp St Paul which is just into Essex.

## Appendix 1 – John White's Charsfield Estate

The earliest record, discovered less than two years ago, is shown below - an 1828 map found with the deeds of Battle Pightle<sup>8</sup>.



In addition to the holes, the ink has faded. A restored version on the next page makes it readable. Apart from 6 and 7, the fields match those shown as farmed by John Martin in the Tithe Reform Survey and then taken over by James Leggett in 1840/41, i.e Hill farm as it came to be known. Whether High House Farm was yet part of John White's estate is not clear, though it certainly was by the time of the Tithe Survey in the late 1830s. Some field names are the same as in the Survey (Battle Pightle, Lower Hill), others not.

Note the Clopton/Debach to Wickham Market Road was called Stone Street, a common name for a Roman Road. The modern B1078 does indeed still have many very straight stretches.

Much of the land was freehold, owned outright by John White, but some was copyhold where the ultimate owner was the Lord of the Manors, there being two Manors in fact – Charsfield Hall and Hoo Charsfield.

The oldest deeds imply John White died around 1840. He left this estate (and probably High House) to his three nieces, daughters of his sister Ann. By this date the three are:

Anna Murray

Diana, wife of Captain Richard Gorham

Eliza, wife of Captain Michael Vicary

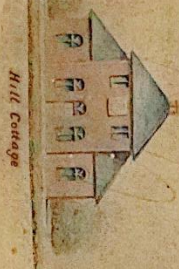
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<sup>8</sup> This field was the last to be sold off from Hill farm and so farm and house deeds going back to the 1840s appear to have accumulated with it.

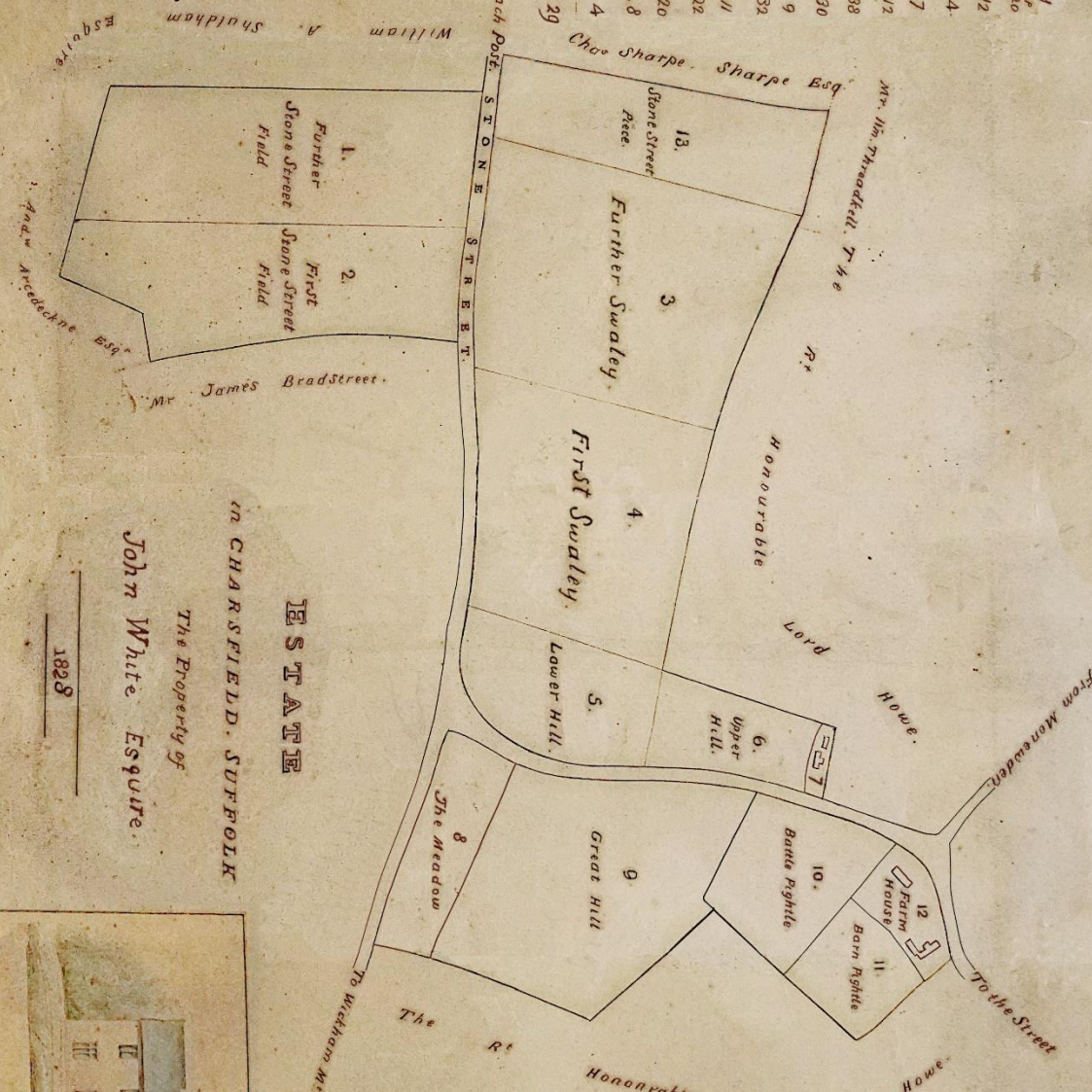
# CONTENTS

Ref	Parcels.	Quantity
1	Stone Street Field further	4 2 20
2	Higher So	3 3 12
3	Further Swaley	5 3 4
4	First So	4 3 7
5	Lower Hill	1 3 12
6	Upper Hill	0 3 38
7	The Hill Cottage & yard	0 0 30
8	The Meadow	1 1 9
9	Great Hill	4 1 32
10	Battle Pigstie	1 2 11
11	Barn Pigstie	0 3 22
12	Farm yards	0 2 20
13	Stone Street Stee	2 2 8
	Drains	0 3 4
	Total	34 0 29

Scale four Chains to the Inch.

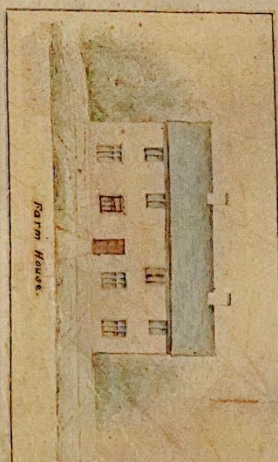


Hill Cottage



ESTATE  
in CHARSFIELD, SUFFOLK  
The Property of  
John White Esquire.

1828



Farm House

Appendix 2 – William Smith, Mary Ann's brother; his suit re their father's will.

SUIT IN EQUITY.

*William Smith, of Grundisburgh, v. W. W. Welton.*  
—This was a suit in equity in which the plaintiff, a labourer, at Grundisburgh, prayed that the Court would order accounts to be taken of the personal estate of Wm. Smith, late of Charsfield, and that the same might be duly administered under the decree of the Court. The plaintiff in his declaration stated that Wm. Smith, the elder, made his last will and testament on April 15th, 1864, and appointed his daughter, Mary Ann Leggett, the wife of James Leggett, veterinary surgeon, and Wm. Woodard Welton, as executor and executrix, and by his will bequeathed to the plaintiff a legacy of £55. Smith, the testator, died on or about August 9th, 1866, and his will was proved in the Ipswich District Court of Her Majesty's Court of Probate, by the defendant, W. W. Welton, alone, on or about February 7th, 1867. Power was reserved to Mary Ann Leggett to come in and prove the will; but she had not as yet done so. The defendant Welton had made himself possessed of the personal estate of the said Wm. Smith, the elder, and had not paid the plaintiff his legacy, and the plaintiff therefore prayed for an order of administration and for such further or other relief as the Court might think fit to order.

Mr. Pollard appeared for the plaintiff, and said that the object of the plaint was to avoid the expense of a more expensive form of litigation, as the only property was £200, which had been lent by the testator to Mr. Leggett, the husband of Mrs. Leggett, who was sister of the plaintiff, and the daughter of the testator. The money had been lent to Leggett, who gave a promissory note to the testator, promising to pay to his executors six months after his decease. He (Mr. Pollard) understood, that now the six months was past, Leggett claimed a set off, and the object of the plaintiff was to try that set off in the cheapest possible way, and he should therefore have to ask his Honour to make a decree that the Registrar should take the usual accounts, and then Leggett would have to appear and prove his claim if he had any. Then, of course, if the Registrar allowed or disallowed the claim, and either of the parties should be dissatisfied, they could come before his Honour upon that question. Mr. Pollard produced the probate of the will, and said that as there were legacies to the children of Mary Ann Leggett, the plaintiff was really fighting for them as well as for himself. There was no estate beyond the £200.

His Honour then ordered accounts to be taken of the legacies left by the testator's will; of the funeral and testamentary expenses; an account of the personal estate of the deceased which had come to the hands of the defendant or to the hands of any other person for his order or for his use; an enquiry what part, if any, of the personal estate of the deceased was outstanding and undisposed of—this would, of course, relate to the £200. These enquiries to be completed by May 15, and the certificate ready by June 1st, ready for the further hearing of the case at the June Court.

Ipswich Journal, Sat 20 Apr 1867.

William Smith's suit requires his father's will to be administered, and legacies paid, specifically the £55 left to him.

William Smith, senior, died 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 1866. William Woodward Welton (solicitor and executor) has proved the will; Mary Ann (executrix) has not yet done this. Thus, legacies have not been paid.

William, senior, had lent his whole wealth, £200, to James Leggett who promised to repay this back to the executors within six months of William's death.

James claims a set-off (i.e. expenses incurred by him to be deducted from the £200).

William Smith, Junior, in this suit is asking for this set-off claim to be adjudicated.

The judge orders the adjudication to be done and reported back to the court by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

EQUITY SUIT.

*William Woodard Welton v. James Leggett.*—This was a suit in equity, and arose out of an equity suit *Smith v. Welton*, in which Mr. Smith sued Mr. Welton as a legatee, under the will of the late Mr. William Smith, of Charsfield, of which Mr. Welton was executor, praying that an account might be taken of the personal property of the deceased. The case was reported at the time it was heard.

Mr. Pollard appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. W. Rouse for the defendant.

Mr. Pollard said the case had been settled between the parties upon the following terms, the defendant was to pay 150*l.* and the costs of the suit, 50*l.* in a month, and the balance on Oct. 11th. It appeared that the defendant, Leggett, on May 19th, 1866, gave a promissory note for 200*l.*, payable, with interest, to the executors of William Smith, the testator, six months after his decease, and on this there was now due 216*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* The defendant claimed a set off of 511*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, viz.: 433*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for board and lodging of the testator, from October, 1855, to his death in August, 1866, at 40*l.* a-year, 50*l.* paid by defendant at various times for the use of the testator, and funeral expenses 28*l.* 7*s.* The family of the defendant was entitled to receive half the estate of the testator.

Judgment was given in accordance with the agreement which had been made.

Suffolk Chronicle, Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June 1867.

The case had been settled with James Leggett agreeing to pay £150 plus costs of the suit.

With interest, James had owed £216.9*s.* 8*d.* He had tried to set off £511.13*s.* 8*d.*, the largest part being £433.6*s.* 8*d.* for board and lodging by his father-in-law who had lived with them since October 1855. However, little of this was taken into account in the final sum agreed.

From the previous year:

**SMITH.**—9th inst., at Charsfield, Mr. Wm. Smith, farmer, of the above place, aged 86 years, after many weeks suffering. \*

Ipswich Journal, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 1866