

# Personal Stories

*from* Our Parish



## Down Your Way - Winterslow Part 1

When my mother Edna Macdonald passed away I unearthed a couple of gems in the form of paper cuttings about Winterslow in her possessions. From those articles in "Down Your Way" I have been able to produce a snapshot of Winterslow as depicted in the articles dated January 1987.

In 1987 the landlord and lady of the Pheasant Inn on the A30 were Joan & Alan Moss and at a request you could view the Barrington Bramley painting of the lioness attack on the Exeter Mail Coach in 1816. In 1984 a commemorative postage stamp was issued depicting the attack.

In January 1774 Winterslow House, located in Livery Road in the field known as the Pleasure Green, burnt down to the ground whilst a theatricals group in the barn was entertaining the family and locals. Lady Mary Fox is said to have rushed into the house to save her baby Henry Richard Fox.

Henry became the 3rd Barron Holland and was responsible for providing Winterslow with an infants' school. The fire resulted in the Lords of the manor relocating outside of Winterslow, with the running of the Parish falling to the Rector the Rev Brodie, who was in post for 37 years. His son-in law, Mathew Marsh, succeeded him

Having bought the Old Lodge in 1871, on what is now a bombing range on Porton Down, Major Robert Poore, a soldier and Anglo Saxon Scholar, purchased Coopers Farm in 1892 (189 acres for £1,500). He became, as a result, the person who turned Winterslow into a community of small holders with parishioners owning and controlling their own land. He sold off 77 acres and split the remaining 112 acres into 47 smallholdings varying in size from an acre to six acres. At this time labourers did not purchase land, however, Major Poore allowed 39 parishioners to do just that at two and three quarter per cent interest on their loans over fifteen years. The Land Court managed the finances right up until the 1960's. So the Major needs recognition for ensuring, by 1914, that Winterslow was a parish of independent smallholders, with an expanding population, when others were failing. The land Court houses, which were originally built from cob (mud, chalk, horse hair, flint and straw) by a professional "Mudwaller" at a cost of £100, were selling for £35,000 in 1987.

Winteslow had links with the Nelson family, hence the Lord Nelson Public House in Middleton. The Nelson family resided in Winterslow occupying Roche Court until 1920 when they sold it.

Worthy of note, for their connection with the Parish, are the Annetts (See the WW1 & WW2 Personal Stories), Yeates (See WW2 Personal Stories), Judds (See WW2 Personal Stories), Thistlewaites and Mompessons.

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