

## **HILLCREST HISTORY**

Hillcrest which is located on the South side of the village was formerly recorded as either "Mount Pleasant" or "Mount Joy" in records from the 1940's. However it is referred to in earlier records as "Orchard Cottage of South Town Farm"

The original section of Hillcrest is believed to have been built in 1600 however the oak beams in the original part of the house are thought to be even older having been previously used in a Shippon barn. These oak beams are so hard that it is almost impossible to drive nail into them

The house became the property of Kings College during the 44th year of the reign of Elizabeth I in 1603. Kings College then sold the house, land and freehold for £50 to John Brearley of the Post Office Sampford Courtenay in 1929.

In common with many houses in Sampford Courtenay the original house was built in traditional "Devon" cob with oak beams and a thatched roof, remains of the thatch can still be seen in the loft.

There is no record of when the thatch was removed however in line with other properties in the village this was probably in the 1960's. Halfway up the stairs is a window which was originally a ground floor window. However after Geoff White negotiated ground to create a garden at the rear of the house a pathway around the house was created which resulted in the window becoming a first floor window.

The original cottage would have been one ground floor room with one room above. The ground floor room now the lounge has a deep inglenook fireplace with the original clome or bread oven. Maureen Horne informed us that when she was a little girl her Aunt lived in the house and at that time there was still a well in this room. Although now capped as you walk across the lounge a hollow noise can be heard.

When carrying out an upgrade to the bathroom in the original part of the upstairs I uncovered Lathe and Plaster walls, they are still in situ but now covered with plywood sheets and tiles.

Over the years the house has been the subject of three building extensions, which has seen it develop from a two room cottage with access to the upper floor via a ladder, to a "Devon Long House" with gardens and a garage.

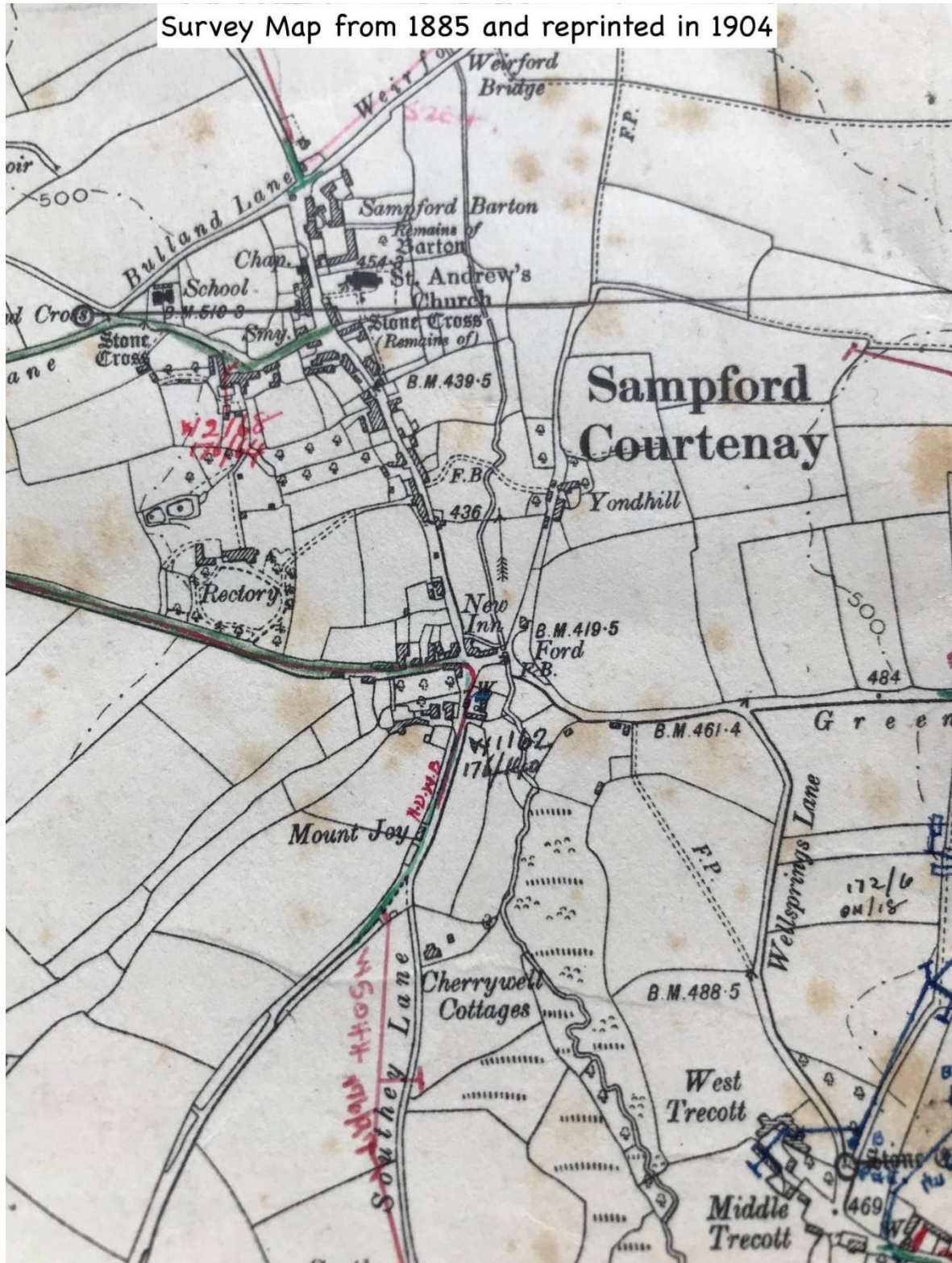
John Brearley in 1943 sold the house to Mr S. Coates of Barton Farm and at the time described it as the Cottage, garden and premises.

During 1947, West Devon Electricity Supply Company undertook to pay a rent of 1 shilling a year for an electricity pole, the house at that time was referred to as "Mount Joy". Today the pole is still there but in the 22 years we have been here we have not received even a single shilling for the pole!

Of interest whilst not on our land but just beyond the fence is a small shed building now housing sheep and livestock, but back in the day this was in fact where the Postman rested his horse.



Survey Map from 1885 and reprinted in 1904





Extract from the 1929 Conveyance

# This Conveyance

is made the *first*  
day of *October*

One thousand nine  
hundred and twenty-

nine BETWEEN THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL ALAN ENGLAND BROOKE Doctor of Divinity PROVOST of the KINGS COLLEGE of OUR LADY and SAINT NICHOLAS in Cambridge and THE SCHOLARS of the same COLLEGE (hereinafter called "the said College") of the one part and JOHN BREALEY of Sampford Courtenay in the County of Devon Pensioner (hereinafter called "the Purchaser") of the other part WHEREAS the hereditaments hereinafter mentioned and intended to be hereby conveyed were with other hereditaments acquired by the said College by Letters Patent under the Great Seal dated the twenty-third day of December in the Forty-fourth year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth AND WHEREAS under the powers conferred upon the said College by the Universities and College Estates Act One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five the said College have agreed with the Purchaser (subject to the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) for the sale to the Purchaser of the said hereditaments and premises at the price of Fifty pounds AND WHEREAS by an Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries dated the *seventh* day of *September* One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine made in pursuance of the powers vested in them by the Board of Agriculture Acts One thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine to One thousand nine hundred and nineteen and the said Universities and College Estates Acts One thousand nine hundred and twenty-five the said College were authorised to carry such sale into effect in accordance with the provisions of the said Acts AND WHEREAS in pursuance of the said Order the Purchaser has paid into the Bank of England to the account of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries ex parte the said Provost and Scholars and in the matter of the said Acts the sum of Fifty pounds as the said College do hereby admit and acknowledge NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:-

1. In pursuance of the said agreement and in consideration of such payment as aforesaid the said College in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by the said Acts and as Beneficial Owners do hereby convey unto the Purchaser ALL THAT Cottage garden and premises situate in the Village of Sampford Courtenay in the County of Devon containing

The Postmans Stable

