

The Oldacres Family in Carlton

The recent sad death of Norman Oldacres has brought to an end a long association of the Oldacres family name with Carlton.

To date, the earliest mention of an Oldacres in Carlton was found in the publication '*A Truly Honest Man*' [ISBN 0 9531504 0 2] which is based on the diaries of Joseph Moxon over the period 1798 to 1799. It refers to James Oldacres (Oldakers) 1728-1801 paying rent to the Dixie family for land he farmed in the village. That James Oldacres was buried in Carlton churchyard in 1801.

The 1841 census also refers to a James Oldacres 1808-1869 occupying Stone House Farm which was then part of the Bosworth Estate. His father, also James, lived from 1780 to 1869. However, it seems that they are not direct descendants of earlier James (born in 1728) but it is likely that each of the three farmed at Stone House for some period.

Two marriages were recorded in Carlton near the turn of the 18th century: the first for Sarah Oldacres in 1791 and the second for Hannah in 1792. Probability favours these being sisters and perhaps older siblings of James born in 1780.

By 1851 the family had moved from Stone House Farm to Home Farm (7 Main Street). At that time this property was owned by the Market Bosworth Grammar School Foundation which used the rental income to support local schools including Carlton. They later sold it to the Oldacres family as sitting tenants. In 1909 Home Farm was occupied by brothers Ralph and Harry Oldacres. Ralph move to the Malt Shovel but Harry and his wife, Elizabeth, continued to live there until his death in 1946 and her death in 1956.

Like most families the Oldacres family continually expanded and occupied other properties in Carlton and further afield. Being a farming family their children tended to marry into other farming families. However, they were also business people and were prominent with several businesses in the village. For over 15 years they kept the Malt Shovel Inn; Ralph doubling as landlord and wheelwright using the buildings between

the village shop and the Malt Shovel. Previously, John Oldacres ran the village shop before passing it on to his daughter Rosa and her husband Fred Alcock soon after the turn of the 19th century. Consequently, after a second generation of the Alcock family they could claim to have kept the village shop for nearly a century.

By the early 50's there were only three family groups bearing the name Oldacres in Carlton. Two of these families produced no children and the third only one daughter who moved away. However, in earlier years several Oldacres daughters married local men including my grandmother, Harriett Partner, and continued to live in the village.

Norman was the last of a long line stretching back over two hundred years.

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