

# VICTORIAN HISTORY OF MOSTON



Title	Flash Farm, Hall Lane, Elton
Type	Farm & Land
Date Produced	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Internal Reference	E02P
1840 Owner	Lord Crewe
1840 Occupier	Mary Hassall
Tithe Map Apportionments	Many – See Appendix
1840 Area	118.1 Acres

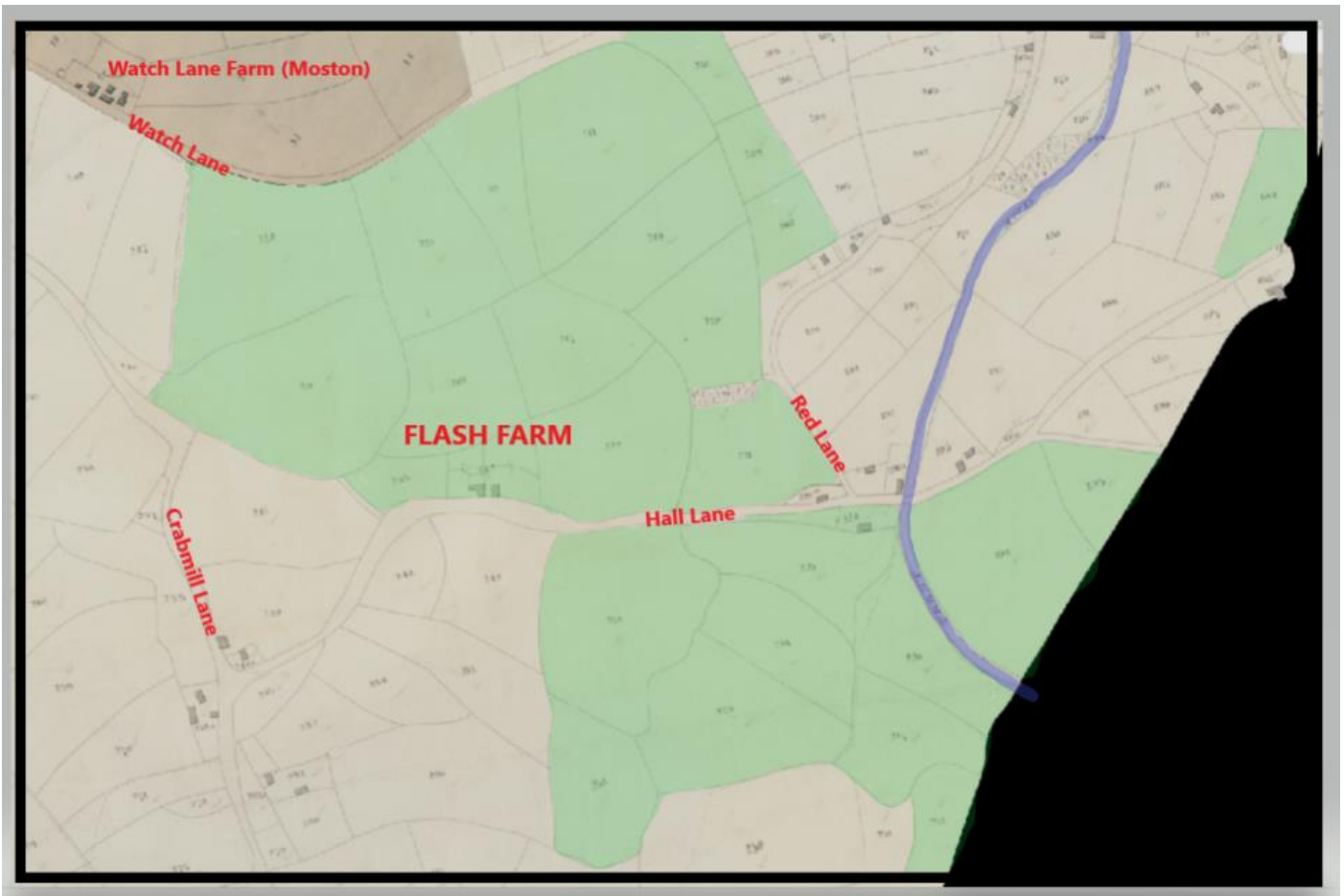


Flash Farm 1915



Flash Farm 2023



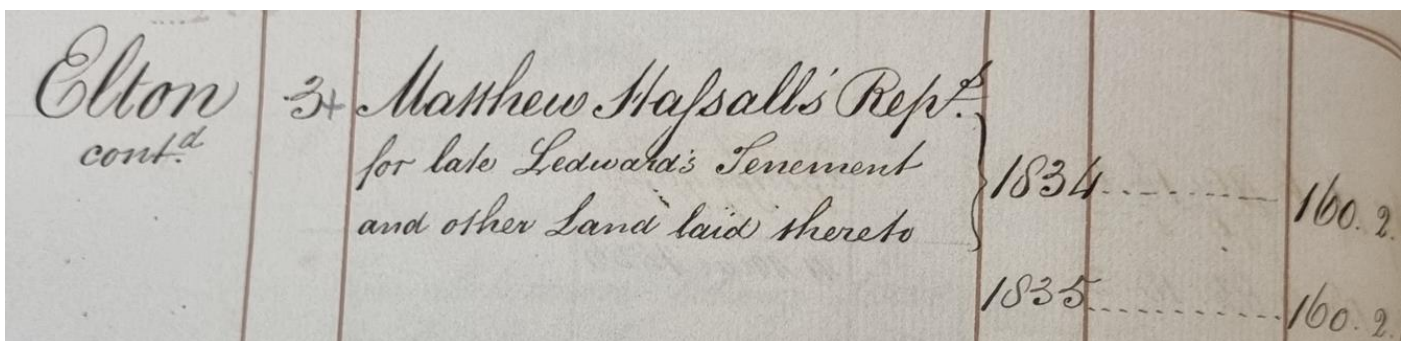


In 1840 Flash Farm was at the tithe map, as with virtually the whole of Elton part of Lord Crewe's Cheshire estate with Mary Hassall being recorded as the occupier. Mary was part of a very well known family whose ancestry can be traced back to the earliest parish records of Warmingham going back to the mid 1500s. the estate records of Crewe Hall confirm that the current farmhouse was built in 1800.

Her brother Matthew farmed over 100 acres at Brook Farm and another Thomas Hassall occupied similar land at Crabmill Farm. Mary's father Matthew Hassall had died in 1823 and in his will he left her £200 and all the goods and furnitures in the best parlour.

This was about half his estate with his other sons being catered for previously. I'm sure it helped being part of such a reputable family that Mary was allowed to stay at Flash Farm but no doubt she would have been a very capable farmer assisted by her son Thomas

In addition there was also a tied cottage on the farm providing further support. This cottage long since demolished would have been found where the current UPL chemical plant is now located.





## 1841 England Census for Thomas Hassall

Cheshire > Warmingham > Sandbach > District 21

Elton farm	1	Thomas Hassall	40	Farmer	24
		Sarah do	40		24
		Mary Hassall	69	Ind	24
		Will Heathcote	40	A Servant	24
		George Bate	15	A Servant	24

Source : National Archives 1841 census

Thomas Hassall born circa was the son of Mary Hassall, in all likelihood he was illegitimate and I can not trace any other siblings. By the late 1840's he had taken over the lease for the farm from his mother who herself died a few years later.

<u>Elton</u>	1	Thomas Hassall for late	1846	"	160.2.6
		Ledward's Tenement and other	1847	"	160.2.6
		Lands laid thereto	1848	"	160.2.6

Source : Crewe Estate Rentals (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) 1847-56 Cheshire Archives DCR 59-2-24

Thomas continued to run the farm until 1862 when he passed it to John Hassall, the son of another cousin Matthew who was at Yeowood Farm.

## 1851 England Census for Thomas Hassall

Cheshire > Elton > Sandbach > 13

Elton Farm	Thomas Hassall	Head	M	51	Farmer employing Labour
	Sarah do	Wife	M	58	Wife
	Eliza Baker	Serv	U	21	House Servant
	Martha Hey	Serv	U	15	Do
	John Latham	S	U	50	Farm Servant
	William Boston	S	U	21	Do Do
	Joseph Hey	S	U	13	Do Do

Source : National Archives 1851 census

Rack Rents due at Ladyday 1862.						
No.	Description of Property.	Quantity.			Tenants' Names.	Yearly Rent.
		A.	R.	P.		
1	Lafe Sedwards Tenemt.	129	18		Thos. Assall	178. 2. 6

Rack Rents due at Ladyday 1863						
No.	Description of Property.	Quantity.			Tenants' Names.	Yearly Rent.
		A.	R.	P.		
1	Flash Farm formerly Ledwards	113	2	31	John Hassall late Thomas Hassall	165 " "

Source : Crewe Estate Accounts 1862-53 Cheshire Archives DCR 59-5-98 & 99

Soon after John Hassall took over in 1863, he agreed to an £8 a year rent increase to cover £160 expended by Lord Crewe on drainage. This was quite a commercial gain for Lord Crewe as he was in effect making undated loans to his farming tenants at a perpetual interest of 5%.

Having said that, in the years 1866 and 1867, Cheshire was stricken by cattle plague and for those two years, to recognise the hardship of his tenants, Lord Crewe made a 25% allowance against the annual rent when I am sure he would have been contractually obliged to receive the full amount.

The twenty second Day of May in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty four

ON which Day appeared personally Thomas Hassall of Olton in the Parish of Warrington and County and Diocese of Chester Farmer

and, being sworn on the Holy EVANGELISTS, alleged and made Oath as follows:—That he is of the Age of thirty five Years and upwards, and a Bachelor and intends to marry Sarah Carter of Olton aforesaid

aged thirty seven Years and upwards, and a Spinster and he prayed a Licence to solemnize the said Marriage in the Parish Church of Warrington

Thomas Hassall Marriage Licence 1834

Thomas married Sarah Carter in 1834 and they farmed at Flash Farm for over 30 years. Sarah's mother Elizabeth spent her later years at Smethwick Hall Farm in Brereton where another daughter had married a George Lowe who farmed 332 acres there.

When she died, she was returned to her native parish for burial and I guess the vicars mark in the margin says it all.

Elizabeth Carter	Smethwick Hall	January 12 1870	103	Henry J. gen Blackburne	!!!
No. 1051.	Brereton			Actn	

Thomas Hassall

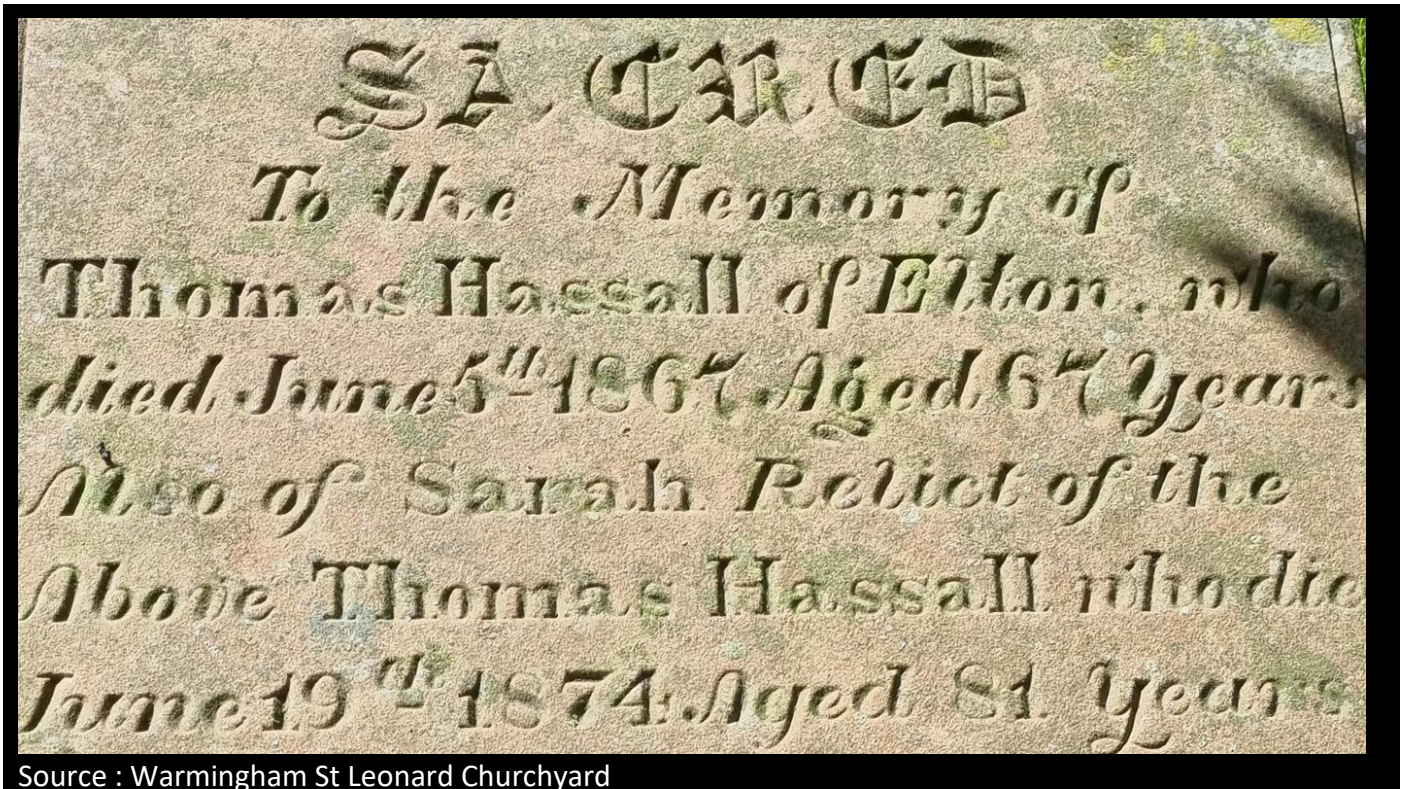


## 1861 England Census for Thomas Hassall

Cheshire > Elton > Sandbach > District 17

Head of family	1	Thomas Hassall	Head	Mar	61	Farmer of 120 acres
		Sarah Hassall	Wife	Mar	68	Farmer's Wife
		Alice Widdrom	Servant	Un	29	Single maid
		Elizabeth Welbrom	do	Un	17	House Servant
		Sarah Eaton	do	Un	12	do
		Isaac Smallwood	do	Un	21	Carter
		Levi Bailey	do	1	13	Cowboy
		William Marshall	do	1	11	Errand boy

Source : National Archives 1861 census



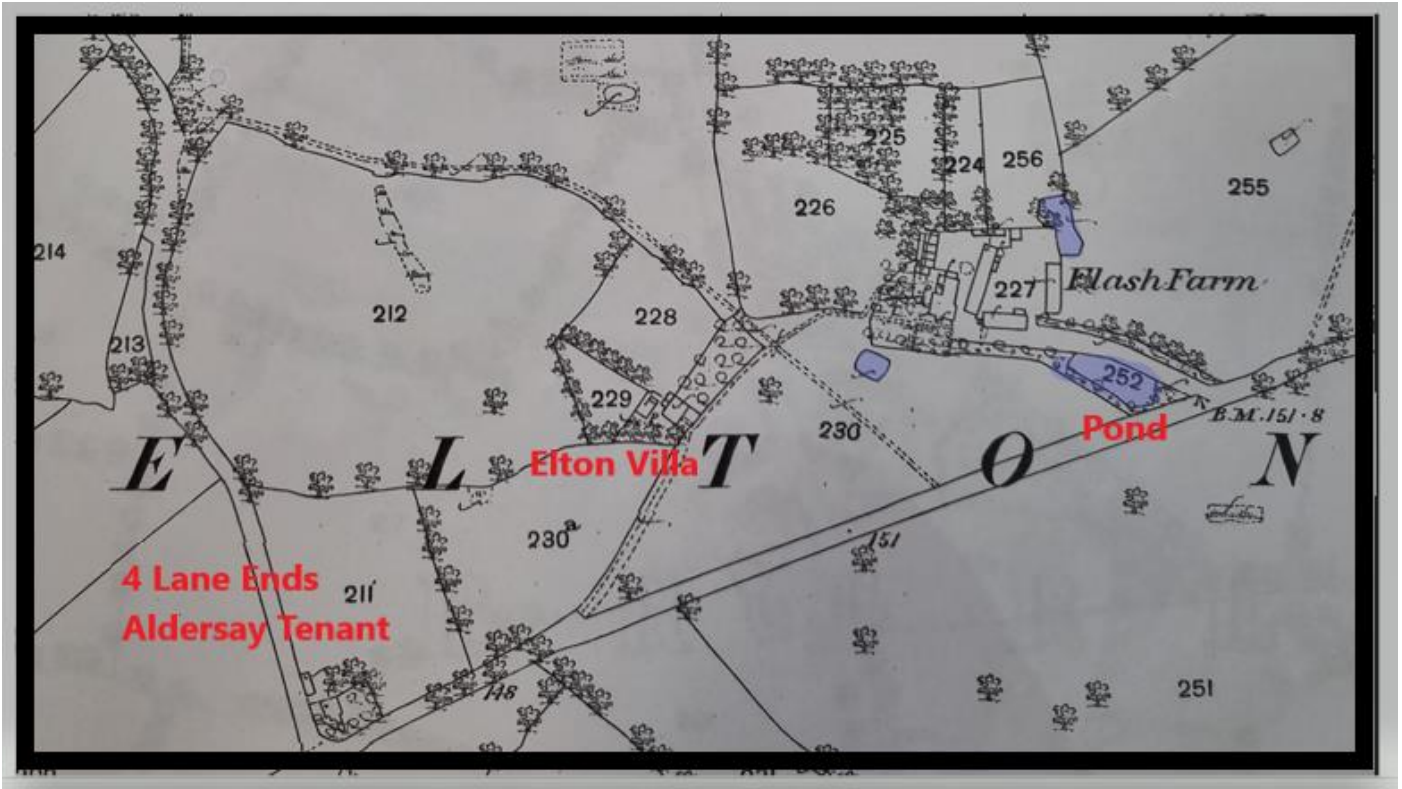
Source : Warmingham St Leonard Churchyard

Thomas continued to live at the farm after his younger relative took over and he died in 1867. Under the terms of his will, half his estate went to his sister in law Martha Lowe of Smethwick hall and after some specific family legacies, the rest was divided up amongst the children of his many Hassall relations. His wife Sarah moved next door to Elton Villa where she died in 1874.

The will also confirms that Thomas held the lifehold lease on 4 Lane Ends Cottage where his tenant was John Aldersay. The remaining term of this lease he left to another relation in Middlewich. It is of note that surprisingly the farm has been known as Flash Farm as early as the 1851 census, this was well before the significant late subsidence in Elton.

I can only assume that the three small ponds shown on the 1875 were an early indication of what was to come (The ponds were not recorded on the 1840 tithe map) and these led to the naming of the farm.





Source : OS Map 1875 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

It is of note that surprisingly the farm has been known as Flash Farm as early as the 1851 census, this was well before the significant late subsidence in Elton. I can only assume that the three small ponds shown on the 1875 were an early indication of what was to come (The ponds were not recorded on the 1840 tithe map) and these led to the naming of the farm.

### 1871 England Census for John Hassall

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > 18

Household	Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation
Flash Farm 1	John Hassall	Head	47	Farmer
	May Hassall	Wife	45	
	Fanny Hassall	Servant	21	
	John James Thomas	Servant	10	
	Stephen Hassall	Servant	10	
	James	112 acres employing 2 labors		
	James wife			
	James Daughter			

Source : National Archives 1871 census

**CLOVER SEEDS.—To Horse Keepers.—To be Sold, 8 tons of first class Clover and Rye Grass Seeds, growth 1877.—Apply J. Hassall, Flash Farm, Elton, Sandbach.**

Source : Northwich Guardian 20<sup>th</sup> July 1878

## 1881 England Census for John Hassell

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > District 18

No.	NAME of HOUSE	habited	(U.) or Building (B.)	more than five	PERSON	RELATION	MARRIAGE	AGE	SEX	PROFESSION
1	Flash Farm				John Hassell	Head	Mar	61	M	Farmer in acres 2 1/2
					Annie de	Wife	Mar	46	F	
					Allice Petham	Servant	Unm	17	F	Grub Serv.
					Francis Boston	do	Unm	17	M	Farm Serv in door
					Wm Thomas	do	Unm	14	M	do do do

Source : National Archives 1881 census

**PIGS.—On Sale, Ten Young Pigs, at J Hassell's, Flash Farm, Elton.**

Source : Northwich Guardian 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 1883

### ELTON.

**FUNERAL OF MR. JOHN HASSALL.**—The funeral of the late Mr. John Hassall, of the Flash Farm, Elton, whose death was recorded in Friday's *Guardian*, took place at Sandbach churchyard on Friday afternoon, in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. The cortege left the deceased's late residence in the following order:—Dr. Rice's carriage, containing Dr. Rice and the Rev. W. Cumberland (Wesleyan minister), bearers, Messrs. John Pye, F. Cooke, Henry Scragge, and R. Phillips; carriage, containing Messrs. T. Hassall, Cookson, E. Eardley, and Johnson; carriage, containing Messrs. T. Venables, J.

Venables, T. Bourne, and J. Bourne; carriage, containing Messrs. M. H. Eardley, J. Thomas, J. Hassall, and W. Thomas; carriage, containing Messrs. W. Hassall, S. Hassall, Finlow, and Oulton; carriage, containing Messrs. J. Lowndes and Clough. The funeral ceremony was performed in an impressive manner by the Vicar (the Rev. J. R. Armitstead). The coffin was of polished English oak with brass equipments, and bore the following inscription:—"John Hassall, died October 7th, 1890, aged 71 years." The coffin was covered with wreaths, which were sent by the following relatives and friends:—Mrs. Hassall, Mr. and Mrs. Venables, Biddulph; Mr. Hassall, Mr. and Mrs. Eardley, Mr. Finlow, Mr. Lowndes, and Mr. Cookson. A wreath was also contributed by the deceased's nephews and nieces from Yeewood Farm, Sandbach.

Source : Nantwich Guardian 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1890

## 1891 England Census for Anne Hassall

Cheshire > Elton > ALL > District 18

No. or NAME of HOUSE	habited	(U.) or Building (B.)	more than five	PERSON	RELATION	MARRIAGE	AGE	SEX	PROFESSION
1				Anne Hassall	Head	Wid	56	F	Farmer
				H. Cookman	Visitor	Wid	69	F	
				Annie Petham	Servant	S.	18	F	General Servant Gen
				Frank Petham	do	S.	18	M	Farm do
									Farmer to Anne, Works

Source : National Archives 1891 census

No doubt as soon as John Hassall had died, plans were set afoot for his estate to be liquidated and the first farm sale took place the next February. The adverts below gives a good indication of the farming activities he undertook. A second sale to sell the remaining stock and household goods was made a year later.



On Wednesday next.  
**Important Sale at the FLASH FARM, ELTON,**  
 about one mile from Sandbach Station.  
**HENRY MANLEY** is favoured with instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. John Hassall, to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on Wednesday, February 18th, 1891, 36 Head of **LIVE STOCK**, viz., 3 fat cows, 17 shorthorn dairy cows, in-calf or with calves at foot; 11 choice, coloury, 2-year-old heifers, in-calf; 1 grand pure-bred shorthorn bull, 3 fat pigs, 10 tons Swedish turnips, 28 tons Magnum Bonum and Main Crop potatoes, 21 fleeces of wool.  
 The herd will be found very healthy; every one of the cows have been reared upon the farm; they have hardy constitutions, and are very free milkers. That magnificent Bull, Windfall, has been in service on the farm since 1880, and his progeny can be inspected at the time of sale. The representatives having agreed to hold the farm on for another year, and it not being convenient to keep a stock of milking cattle, this well-known herd is to be disposed of.  
 Descriptive catalogues may be had on the premises, or from the Auctioneer's Offices, Aston, Nantwich, and Crewe.  
 Lunch at 12 o'clock. Sale at 1.30 prompt. (n

Source : Middlewich Guardian 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1891

**Second Sale at the FLASH FARM, ELTON,**  
 20 minutes' walk from Sandbach Station.  
**HENRY MANLEY** is favoured with instructions from the executors of the late Mr. John Hassall (who are giving up the farm) to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on **TUESDAY NEXT, April 5th, 1892**, the whole of the substantial and modern **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, comprising the appointments of Sitting, Dining, and Drawing Rooms, Entrance Hall and Staircase, 4 Bedrooms, Kitchen, &c., and including housekeeper's cupboard, mahogany glazed bookcase and secretaire, eight-day clocks, mahogany telescope dining table, mahogany centre table, superior hall table, old mahogany wardrobe, Brussels and Kidderminster carpets, steel plate engravings, tabular and brass-mounted bedsteads, 5 prime feather beds, glass, china, &c.; the Dairy Requisites, including 40 useful cheese vats, iron lever cheese presses, &c.; kitchen and culinary requisites, outdoor effects, Ransome's lawn mower, 2 weighing machines, poultry, &c.  
 Full particulars in Catalogues, from the Auctioneer's Offices.  
 Sale at 12 o'clock.  
 As the catalogue comprises nearly 300 lots, a punctual attendance is requested. c42

Source : Crewe Chronicle 2nd Apr 1892

Highly Important Sale at the **FLASH FARM,**  
**ELTON, near Sandbach.**  
**HENRY MANLEY** is favoured with instructions from the Exors. of the late Mr. John Hassall, who are giving up the farm, to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on Tuesday, March 15th, 1892, the herd of 46 Dairy **CATTLE**, 4 waggon horses, and colts, 55 fat and store sheep, seed oats, rye, potatoes, the entire collection of agricultural implements and machinery, horse gears, harness, carts, trap, phaeton, &c.  
 Catalogues from the Auctioneer's Offices, or the place of sale. (n

Source : Northwich Guardian 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 1892

Besides a £100 legacy to a relative, after the death of his wife, the whole estate went to his only child and daughter Fanny Steele Hassall (1949-1911) who had by that time married Samuel Cookson and was living with him at The Poplars on Booth Lane, Moston.

As such in 1892 after many many years, the tenure of the Hassall Family at Flash Farm came to an end.

## 1901 England Census for Robert Oulton

Cheshire > Elton > Sandbach > District 18

Address	Household	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation
Flash Farm	1	Robert Oulton	Head	M. 68	Farmer
"		Elij. "	Wife	M. 62	
"		Rowland "	Son	S. 22	Farm Manager
"		Lama Pratt	Serv.	S. 18	Domestic Servant
"		Ernest Blower	Serv.	S. 16	Coorman & Baller

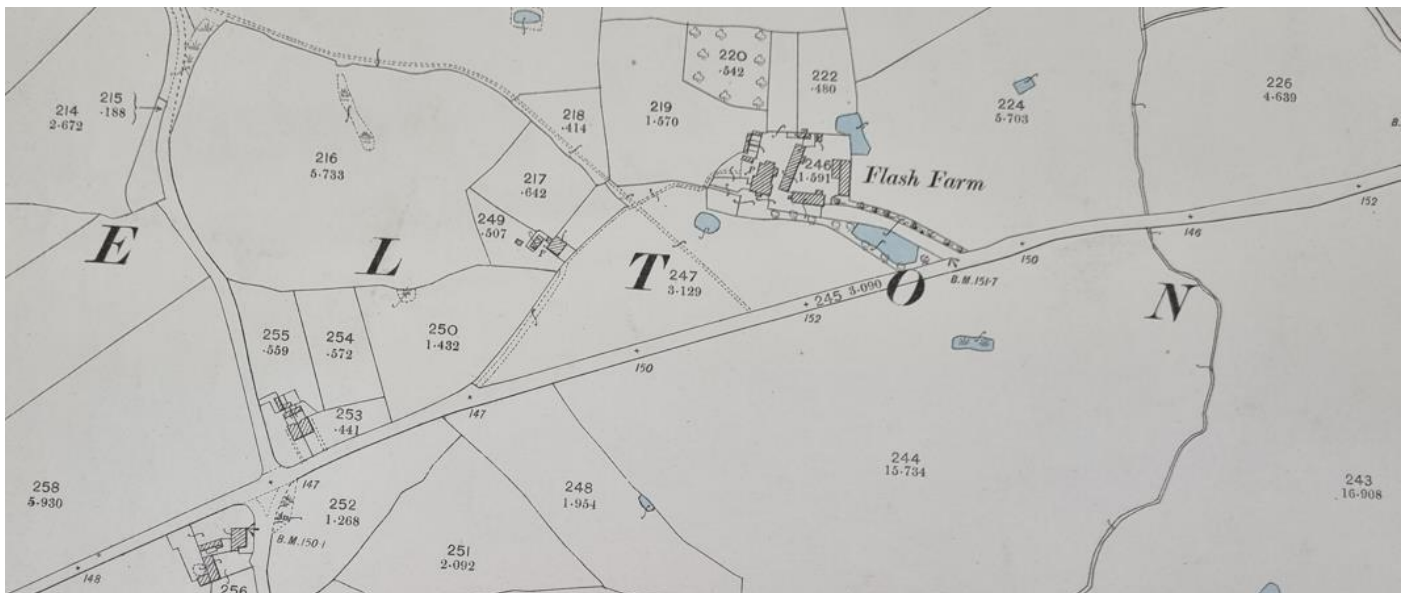
Source : National Archives 1901 census

The next tenant at Flash Farm was Robert Oulton and his family. The Oulton family had a strikingly similar tenure to the Hassall family in Elton, so much so that it was probably not coincidental. They were also an ancient Cheshire farming family where the family can be traced back over 400 years in Barthomley near Crewe. It appeared that Robert's Eldest son John was the first tenant though over the years, the family did appear to move around.

NAME OF OCCUPIER.	NAME OF OWNER.	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.	NAME OR SITUATION OF PROPERTY.	Estimated Extent.			Gross Estimated Rental.		
				A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Oulton John W <sup>m</sup>	Earl of Bruce do	House Bdg & land House & land	The Flash	109	2	19	226		

Source : Elton Rates Return 1897





OS Map 1898 – Flash Farm

The family would of course had an excellent reputation with Lord Crewe, Robert Oulton had by 1870 moved to Crabmill Farm and by the 1901 census, family members were at Crabmill Farm, Flash Farm, Brook Farm and later Yeowood Farm, the same four that the Hassall family had farmed for so long.

1911 England Census for Robert Oulton									
Cheshire > Elton > ALL > 18									
Robert Oulton	Head	78	Widower				Farmer	100	Farming
Lettice Oulton	Daughter	45	Single				Housekeeper		Farm House
Elizabeth Oulton	Daughter	35	Single				Assistant Dairy Work		Farm House
Rowland Joynson Oulton	Son	32	Single				Manager Acct. on Farm		Farming
Ellis Palin	Servant	21	Single				Waggoner on Farm	130	

Source : National Archives 1911 census

In 1911, we can thus summarise the Robert Oulton’s children as follows

Christian Name	Age	Marital	Occupation	Abode	Other	Died
Lettice	45	Single	Housekeeper	Flash Farm, Elton		1911
John William	44	Married	Farmer	Crabmill Farm, Elton	Retired to Alsager	1931
Robert Coomer	42	Married	Farmer	Yew Tree Farm, Tetton	Retired to Shifnal	1937
Richard Whittaker	41	Married	Farmer	Brook Farm, Elton	Retired to Elworth	1955
George Thomas	40	Married	Farmer	Pusey Dale Farm, Crewe		1942
Joseph Herbert	39	Single	Ironmonger	Stockport		1926
Elizabeth	35	Single	Dairy Maid	Flash Farm, Elton	Retired to Alsager	1951
Rowland Joynson	32	Single	Farmer	Flash Farm, Elton	Retired to Elworth	1960

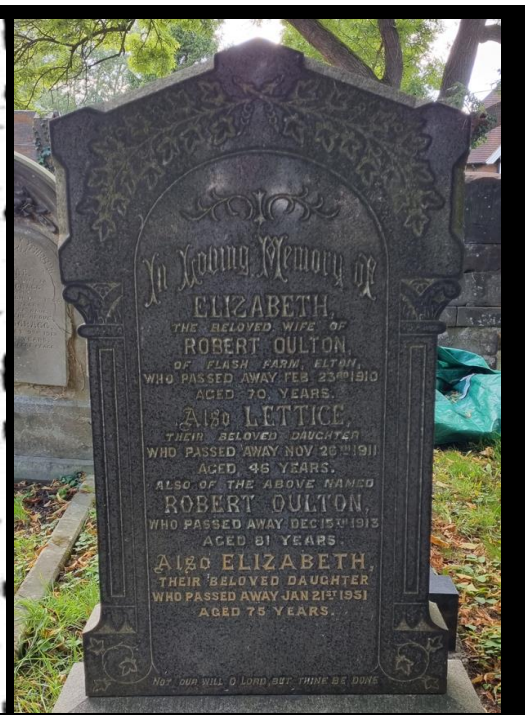
It is interesting to see that in the 1911 census, a young Ellis Palin was in his employment. Some ten years later, Ellis was in a position to purchase three properties on Plant Lane, Moston (Rangatira, Laburnum and Rose Cottages)



Flash Farm Elton		L. S.	
Alterations to Shippens		Prot. Std.	
May 18 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>	S. Whittaker 1 3/4 days 4/6	S. Whittaker Jr. 12 days 5/-	14 12 2
	S. Astbury 2 days 3/-	G. Astbury 12 days 3/-	3 0 0
	S. Whittaker Junr 1 day 5/-	J. Birchall 10 hrs 5 1/8	1 16 0
	G. Astbury 1 day 3/-	" " 1/2 day 4/-	4 10
	W <sup>m</sup> Moore 1 day 1/8	8-1" dowels 5" long	2 0
	G. Gallimore 2 days 2/11	A. Shep 10 days 2/11	1 8
	J. Birchall 1 1/2 days 4/-	A. Shep. June 13 <sup>th</sup> 1 day 2/11	2 11
	W. Swinnerton 15 hrs 5 3/4	W. Moore 10 hrs 2 1/2	2 1
		" " 1 day 1/8	1 8
June 1 <sup>st</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>	S. Whittaker Senr 10 1/2 days 4/6	W. Streets Bricklayer 14 1/2 hrs 8	4 14 8
	S. Astbury 10 1/2 days 3/-	" " Labourers 12 1/2 hrs 5	2 12 8 1/2
	S. Whittaker Junr 7 1/2 days 5/-	Haylors afs May 31 <sup>st</sup> to June 30 <sup>th</sup>	
	G. Astbury 8 days 3/-	17.27 Rough boards 10/6	9 1 5
	G. Gallimore 11 days 2/11	2.25 1 1/2 x 5 P.S. of white bos 15/-	1 13 9
	W. Swinnerton 15 hrs 5 3/4	77.7 10 x 5 x 5 1/2 p pine 2/6	9 14 1
	1 kingbolt 14" long	3. Redo. 20' x 5 x 2 = 60' 2'	10
	1 plate 3" sq	2 " 20 x 5 x 2 1/2 = 40' 2 1/2"	8 4
	2 chisels sharpened	2 " 20 x 4 x 3 = 40' 2 1/2"	8 4
	W. Moses 3 days 4/-	2 " 20 x 5 x 4 = 40' 3 1/2"	11 8
	G. Gallimore 8 1/2 days 2/11	60 kindan Spruce 114 1/2	14/- 7 19 11
	S. Whittaker Senr 12 days 4/6	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jennings Joiner 10 hrs 7 1/2	6 3
	S. Astbury 12 days 3/-	June 15 <sup>th</sup> Streets Bricklayer 15 1/2 hrs 8	10 4
	1 bar iron repaired	Labourer 15 1/2 hrs 5	6 5 1/2
	1 drill sharpened	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> Bricklayer 55 1/2 hrs 8	1 14 0
			£ 65 10 5 1/2
			9

Extensive building work was undertaken on the shippens at Flash Farm in 1912 but unfortunately, Robert Oulton died in 1913 so didn't have time to reap the benefits of this work. His obituary confirms his high standing in the community. He has an impressive headstone in Warmingham Churchyard.

**DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN FARMER.**—We regret to record the death of Mr. Robert Oulton, sen., of the **Flash Farm, Elton**, at the age of 81, which occurred on Monday of last week. Mr. Oulton has been a successful farmer, having gained a high reputation in his profession. The funeral took place at Warmingham on Friday. The service at the church was fully choral, and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. M. M. Griffiths. The hymns, "Now the labourer's task is o'er" and "When our heads are bowed with woe" were sung, and the organist, Mr. Plant, played the Dead March ("Saul"). The mourners were Messrs. John, Robert, Richard, Thomas, Joseph and Roland Oulton (sons); Richard, Robert and Jack Oulton (grandsons); John Coomer, F. Coomer, Charles Hardy and William Wood (brothers-in-law); Robert Oulton and Joseph Basford (nephews), and F. Fitton and H. Scragg. A large number of wreaths were received, and the undertakers were Messrs. Mainwaring and Egerton.



Source : Crewe Guardian 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 1913



On the death of his Father, Rowland Joynson Oulton, Robert's youngest son took over the running of the farm. This seemed logical as his eldest stayed at Crabmill Farm, and the others had married into farming families with one I guess not interested in farming.

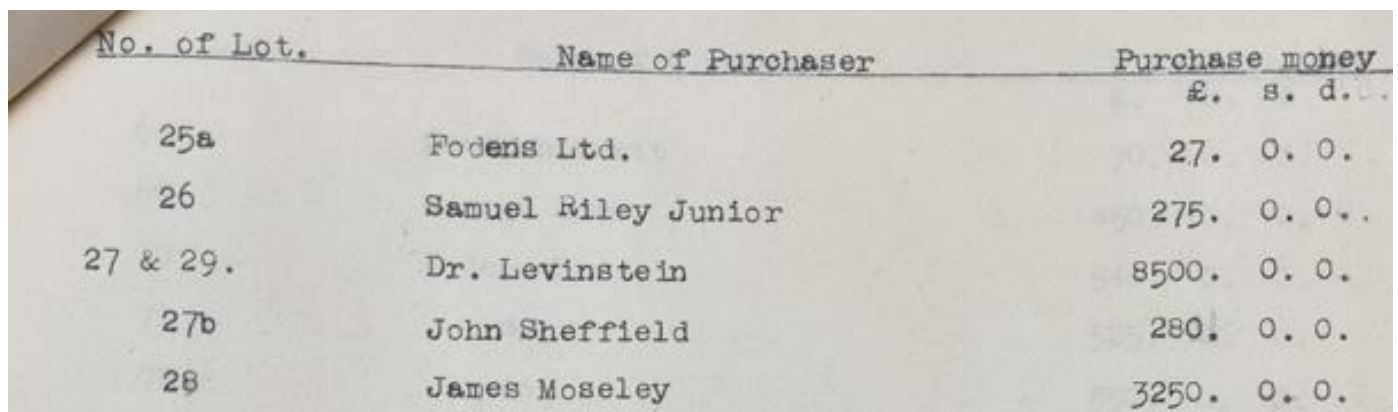
Rowland did have the distinction of seeing the property through the time period when the Crewe estate was sold off and during this period he worked under three separate landlords.

In 1915 as a result of a nationwide fall in agricultural returns, as with many of the big landowners, Lord Crewe decided to sell off his estate and by 1918, all the properties and land in Warmingham, Elton, Tetton and Sandbach had been sold.

The results of the sale had significant impact for the farm as Yew Tree Farm was sold to The Fodens and Crabmill Farm (Lot 28) to James Moseley of Church House Farm, Warmingham. Flash Farm (Lot 27) and Elton Hall Farm on Clay Lane (Lot 29) were at first withdrawn (Flash Farm was withdrawn at £3,300)

The Farm was eventually sold to Dr Herbert Levinstein who was a director of The Murgatroyds Salt Company on Booth Lane, Elworth.

By this time, subsidence due to salt mining was a real problem in Elton and I guess Murgatroyds believed they were removing the risk of litigation if they owned the land under which they were mining.



No. of Lot.	Name of Purchaser	Purchase money		
		£.	s.	d.
25a	Fodens Ltd.	27.	0.	0.
26	Samuel Riley Junior	275.	0.	0.
27 & 29.	Dr. Levinstein	8500.	0.	0.
27b	John Sheffield	280.	0.	0.
28	James Moseley	3250.	0.	0.

Source : Cheshire Archives Crewe Estate Sales

Two years later, Levinstein and Murgatroyds sold the two farms to the British Soda Company at the same time as they purchased many of the other farms (nearly 600 acres) in the area

# LOT 27

Coloured Pink on Plan No. 2.

## A Valuable Freehold Farm

Known as

### FLASH FARM

In the occupation of Mr. R. Oulton, situate on the Wheelock and Warmingham Road, about 2 miles from Sandbach Station

Comprising an Area of

**110 acres 0 roods 36 perches**

Or thereabouts.



### THE HOUSE

Contains Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Milk-house, Shed, 6 Bedrooms and 2 Attics.

### THE BUILDINGS

Contain Shippens for 33 Cows, 3 Loose-boxes, 2 Calf Cotes, 2 Feeding Houses, Trap House, Cart Shed, Fowl House, 4 Piggeries, 2 Granaries.

#### SCHEDULE

No. on Ordnance Survey.	Description.	Acres.
246	House, Buildings, &c.	1.720
219	Field.	1.570
Pt. 247	Field.	1.294
220	Orchard.	.542
223	Field.	4.778
221	do.	3.125
200	do.	9.400
199	do.	11.848
225	do.	5.185
226	do.	4.664
243	do.	16.728
244	do.	15.734
281	do.	6.591
307	do.	6.602
224	do.	5.736
222	do.	.278
201	do.	14.434
	Total Acres ...	110.229



Summary of Land in the Township of Elton  
recently purchased by  
Messrs. Markham & Co. Ltd - Broad Oaks Ironworks - Chesterfield

Farm	Vendor	Rent	Area Stat. acres	Total area.
<u>Purchased from H. Sevinstein - 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1917.</u>				
Flash Farm	R. J. Oulton	Same as before	103.627	189.936
Elton Hall - "	F. Willis	same as before	86.309	
<u>Purchased from Lord Crewe - 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1917</u>				
Elton Hall Farm	John R. Whittaker	£100-0-0	61.261	3.984
	Formerly occupied by F. Willis on east side of Railway. Fields, 372, 363, 362 and 357 now added to Railway Farm			
Elton Hall Farm	R. W. Oulton	same as before	3.984	119.346
	Formerly occupied by F. Willis on east side of R. near Archers Field no. 2874. now added to Fields Farm			
Fields Farm	John Soragg (now R. W. Oulton)	same as before	119.346	6.388
Small Holdings	Arthur Wilson Mrs. Astley	same as before	6.388	
Railway Farm	John R. Whittaker	same as before	96.355	68.536
Brooke Farm	R. W. Oulton (now Peter Jones)	same as before	68.536	
Bottoms Farm	Mr. Johnson	same as before	36.726	400.868
Yeowoods Farm	W. Hassel (now R. W. Oulton)	- " -	8.272	
Total land in the Township of Elton - stat. acres				590.804

7. July 1917

Y. W. Stocks. Asst.  
Yew Tree Chamberlain  
Middlegate

By the 1921 census though he appears to have perhaps been "shoved out of the way" by his elder brother who had by then returned from Yew Tree Farm, Tetton. Perhaps this was a deal between Robert Coomer Oulton and Murgatroyds to get him off the land they had purchased at Yew Tree Farm and was needed for salt manufacture?

A few years later, Rowland was on the electors roll with his eldest brother John William who by then was at Allum Brook Farm, near Holmes Chapel.



		year	month							
1	Robert Oulton	Head	53	1	Married	Cheshire	Elton	Farmer 011/2	Employer 010	0686-11 Elton Sandbach
2	Sophia Oulton	Wife	53	7	Married	Cheshire	Bradwall	Farmer Wife	Home Duties	Elton "
3	Nancy Oulton	Daughter	26	3	Single	Cheshire	Felton	House work		at home Elton Sandbach
4	John Oulton	Son	19		Single	Cheshire	Felton	Farm work	024/6	at home Elton Sandbach 0686-11
5	Bess Oulton	Son	18	1	Married	Cheshire	Felton			at home Elton 0686-11
6	Samuel Walton	Servant	16	2	Single	Cheshire	Oves	Farm Servant	024/6	Flash Farm 0686-6 Elton Sandbach
7	Rowland Oulton	Brother	42	6	Single	Cheshire	Elton	Tenant Farmer at present	011/8	Flash Farm 0686-11 Elton Sandbach
8								out of a farm		

Source : National Archives 1921 census

In the early 1930s, Robert decided to move on and went to live and retire in Shropshire ending a near 50 relationship of the family with Flash Farm. Rowland stayed in the area retiring to Elworth

FRIDAY NEXT, March 4th.  
**FLASH FARM, ELTON, near SANDBACH.**  
 Important Unreserved Sale of  
 37 CHOICE YOUNG DAIRY CATTLE.  
 4 SHIRE MARES and FILLIES.  
 15 Cross-bred In-lamb Ewes, 20 Couple Young Fowl.  
 100 Sacks "Ascot" Oats, fit for seed.  
 The Whole of the AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS and MACHINERY, including Wood's Self-binder, Albion Grass Mower, Blackstone Swath Turner, Ransome's Horse Rake, Powell's Potato Digger, Martin Cultivator, Knapp Corn Drill, Land Roller, Disc Harrow, Ploughs, Drill Harrows, Scuffle, Iron Harrows, Bentall Chaffcutter, Root Fingener, Sheep Dipper, etc., Gears, Harness, 2 Carts with harvest gearing, Light Road Lorry, Shandry, Rubber-tired Ralli Car, &c.  
 The DAIRY VESSELS include Smith's Cheese making Apparatus (100 gallons), Cheese Presses, 2 Churns, Refrigerator, etc.; also a few lots of Household Furniture, including Stained Housekeeper's Cupboard, Kitchen Dresser, 6 Mahogany Chairs, Kitchen and Bedroom Chairs, White-top Tables, Rocking Chairs, Pair Toilet Tables, Bedsteads, etc.  
**JOHN M. BARKER** is favoured with instructions from Mr. Rowland J. Oulton, who is giving up the Farm, to conduct this Genuine Sale as above ENTIRELY WITHOUT RESERVE.

**DEATH OF MR. R. C. OULTON.**—Mr. R. C. Oulton formerly of **Flash Farm, Elton**, and a member of an old Cheshire family, has died at **Commons Farm, Shifnal, Shropshire**. He was 69, and leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter. The funeral was at **Albrighton**, on Thursday. Mr. Oulton was the son of the late Mr. Robert Oulton, who also tenanted **Flash Farm, Elton**, to be followed successively by two sons. The **farm** was in the family for about 45 years. On leaving this **farm**, Mr. R. C. Oulton went to a **farm** at Shifnal, and afterwards retired to Albrighton. The Oultons are probably one of the oldest **farming** families in Cheshire, and for about 400 years there has been an Oulton at **Top End Farm, Barthomley**, on the Crewe Hall estate. To-day it is in the occupation of Mr. John Oulton, a nephew of the late Mr. Robert Oulton, **Elton** whose five sons were farmers.

Source : Chester Chronicle 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 1921

Source: Alderley Advertiser 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 1937



Warmingham Churchyard



Robert Coomer Oulton stayed at the farm for roughly a further ten years before he retired. During this period the extent of land farmed was reduced to 84 acres, firstly when the chemical company took 9 acres then three years later the rates show a further reduction of 5 acres due to subsidence. This presumably refers to the appearance of Watch Lane Flash.

		Additions			
Oulton	Robert Coomer	Markham & Co	Land	The Flash Farm	94 - 20
	"	"	"	"	92

Source : Cheshire Archives Elton Ratings 1924

		Additions			
7	Oulton Robert Coomer	Markham & Co	House & Buildings Land	The Flash	89 - 20
	"	"	"	"	5
	British Soda				
	5 acres submerged				

Source : Cheshire Archives Elton Ratings 1927

**THE MOVEMENT OF CATTLE.**

William **Thomas** Hassal, Flash Farm, **Elton**, pleaded guilty to failing to keep a record book of the movement of a cow.

Defendant said that he had only just started farming, and was not aware that he had to keep a record book. He had now got one.

A fine of 5s. was imposed.

In the 1930s there were probably a few short term tenancies with a William Hassall then James Barlow in 1935.

871	R	O	Barlow, James Herbert	Flash farm, Elton
872	R	O	do.	do.
873	Rw	Dw	Barlow, Sarah Ann	do.
874	R	—	Barlow, James Herbert, junior	do.

William Thornhill and his wife moved to the farm in the late 1930s later to be joined by their son Herbert during the war years. Herbert had been helping on his grandfather's farm at Winehill Hall, Betley, no doubt learning the trade. The Thornhills were on the farm for about 40 years

Source : Wilmslow Advertiser 6<sup>th</sup> October 1933

### 1939 England and Wales Register for William H Thornhill

Cheshire > Congleton Rd > Lgfj

Flash farm, Elton	35	1	THORNHILL William H.	-	M	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug 00	M	Farmer & wife
		2	THORNHILL Edith	-	F	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 11	M	Household duties

Source : National Register 1939

**R**ESPECTABLE YOUTH OF MAN Wanted; general farm work; used to horses; good milker; live in or out; good wages.—**Thornhill Flash Farm, Elton, Sandbach.**

Source : Crewe Chronicle 30<sup>th</sup> December 1939

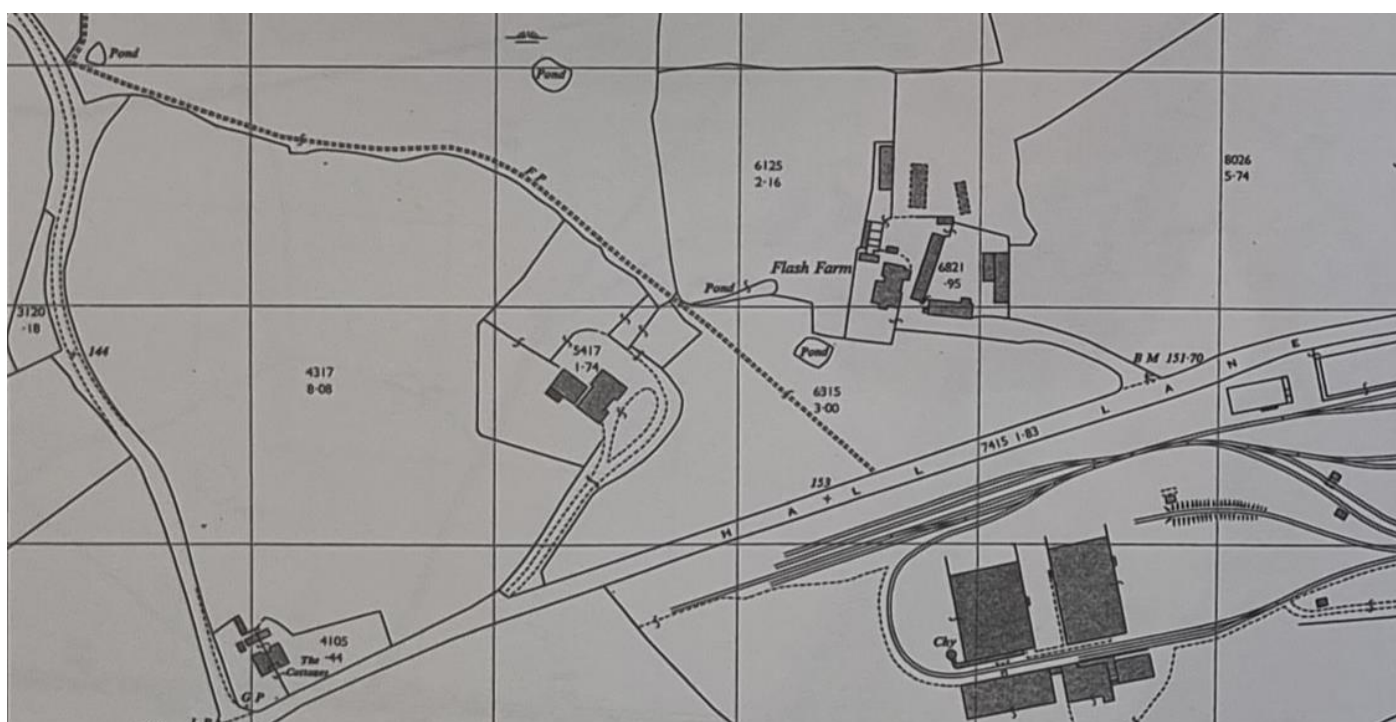
## GALLANT RESCUE ATTEMPT COMMENDED

At the Fetty Sessions on Tuesday, the Chairman, Mr. T. Platt presented a framed certificate of the Liverpool Shipwreck Humane Society to William Henry Thornhill, Flash Farm, Elton, for his gallant attempt to rescue a boy from drowning in the Flash in Having been informed by a boy of nine that Gerald J. Schofield had fallen into the water off a raft, Mr. Thornhill, after running a

quarter of a mile, dived fully clothed and swam about for half an hour to try and find the boy.

Although Mr. Thornhill's gallant action did not meet with the success it deserved, the Bench (said the Chairman) appreciated very much what he had done. Mr. Thornhill did his best. "We thank you," added Mr. Platt, in handing him the framed certificate.

Source : Crewe Chronicle 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 1941



Source : OS Map 1961

## DISPERSAL SALE AT SANDBACH

On Saturday last, October 12, Messrs. Wright and Partners conducted a sale of the whole of the live and dead farming stock at Flash Farm, Elton, Sandbach, on behalf of Mr. H. F. Thornhill.

A large company of purchasers were in attendance and very satisfactory prices were obtained as follows: work bench £10.50, chain saw £55, grain auger £52, Ferguson plough £26, spike harrows £23, chain harrows £26, Cambridge roller £34, Howard rotaspreader £220, Robin Hood turner £79, Jones baler £120, elevator £160, trailers £56, £44, £27, rear-end loader £50, 1962 Nuffield 342 tractor £240,

1962 Fordson Dexta £315, scrap iron £40, poultry houses to £43, hens to £1.02, roller mill £8, diesel engine £120, diesel tank £32.

The store cattle met strong biddings as follows: Black Polled steers to £128, Red Hereford steers to £115, Black Hereford heifers to £109.50. The produce met a very fast trade with 550 bales of barley straw, £290; 440 bales straw, £250; 950 bales of straw £590; 1,050 bales of hay £1,220; 1,080 bales of hay £1,220; 1,100 bales of hay £1,200, etc.; barley £61 per ton.

Source : Crewe Chronicle 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1974



**MR. H. F. THORNHILL**

The funeral of Mr. Herbert Ford Thornhill, aged 66, of Farlings, 24 Cemetery Road, Weston, has taken place at Weston Parish Church. The service was conducted by Rev. D. Parker and followed by cremation at Crewe.

Mr. Thornhill farmed at Flash Farm, Elton, Sandbach, for more than 30 years. He retired to Weston 12 years ago.

Mourners included: Mrs. W. Thornhill (wife), Mr. and Mrs. R. Darlington (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. B. Thornhill (son), Mr. W. Thornhill (brother), Mr. and Mrs. E. Oulton (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. and Mrs. S. Davies, Mrs. D. Griffiths, Mrs. K. Beresford, Mr. and Mrs. F. Davies (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. B. Peak, Mr. and Mrs. K. Beresford, Mr. G. J. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thornhill, Mr. and Mrs. E. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. R. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. E. Thornhill, Mrs. K. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Thornhill, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. D. Colclough, Mrs. E. Oulton, Mr. S. M. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Oulton

Source : Crewe Chronicle 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 1987

**THIS SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 1974**  
at 11 a.m.  
Important Agricultural Dispersal Sale at  
**FLASH FARM, ELTON, SANDBACH.**  
(Situate on the road leading from Sandbach to Coppenhall and Warmingham) which comprises:  
60 ————— 60  
**SHORT KEEP HEREFORD CROSS STEERS AND HEIFERS**  
1962 Fordson Dexta Diesel Tractor, 1962 Nuffield 342 Diesel Tractor, Interesting Range of Farm Implements and Effects.  
60 Golden Comet Laying Hens, 4 Sectional Poultry Houses, Barn Machinery, 50 cwt Barley, 2,700 Bales of 1974 Hay, 1,100 Bales of 1973 Hay, 1,850 Bales of Barley Straw.  
For Mr. H. F. Thornhill.

Source : Chester Chronicle 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1974

## Chronological list of Owners and Occupiers

Year	Source	First Name	Surname	Lived	Age	Occupation	Status	Other
1840	Tithe Map	Hungerford	Crewe	1812-1894	28	Gentleman	Owner	Owner of Crewe Hall
1841	Census	Thomas	Hassall	1801-1867	40	Farmer	Tenant	
1851	Census	Thomas	Hassall	1801-1867	50	Farmer	Tenant	
1861	Census	Thomas	Hassall	1801-1867	60	Farmer	Tenant	
1871	Census	John	Hassall	1819-1890	52	Farmer	Tenant	son of cousin of Thomas
1881	Census	John	Hassall	1819-1890	62	Farmer	Tenant	
1891	Census	Ann	Hassall	1835-1923	66	Farmer	Tenant	2nd Wife of John Hassall
1897	Rates	John William	Oulton	1866-1931	31	Farmer	Tenant	
1901	Census	Robert	Oulton	1832-1913	69	Farmer	Tenant	Father of John William
1911	Census	Robert	Oulton	1832-1913	79	Farmer	Tenant	
1911	Electors Roll	Rowland Joynson	Oulton	1879-1960	32	Farmer	Tenant	Son of Robert
1915	Sale Document	Murgatroyds	Salt Company	n/a	n/a	Salt Manufacturer	Owner	H Levinstein Director
1917	Sale Document	British Soda Ltd	Salt Company	n/a	n/a	Salt Manufacturer	Owner	
1921	Census	Robert Coomer	Oulton	1868-1937	53	Farmer	Tenant	Brother of Rowland
1930	Rates	Robert Coomer	Oulton	1868-1937	62	Farmer	Tenant	
1933	Newspaper	William Thomas	Hassall	?		Farmer	Tenant	Relation?
1935	Electors Roll	James Herbert	Barlow	?		Farmer	Tenant	
1939	National Resister	William	Thornhill	1900-1990	39	Farmer	Tenant	
1970	Electors Roll	Herbert	Thornhill	1921-1987	49	Farmer	Tenant	Son of William, Sold 1974
1977	Newspaper	George	Beech	?		Farmer	Tenant	
1982	Newspaper	John	Beech	?		Farmer	Tenant	Son of George?

