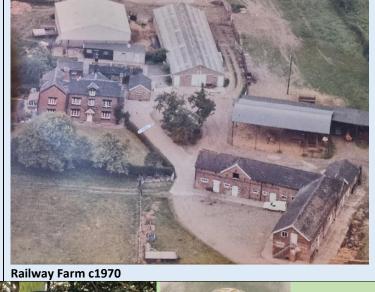
VICTORIAN HISTORY OF MOSTON



Title	Railway Farm, Clay Lane, Elton
Туре	Farm & Land
Date Produced	27 th Nov 2023
Internal Reference	E05P
1840 Owner	Lord Crewe
1840 Occupier	James Walley
Tithe Map Apportionments	346. 349-358, 368-372
1840 Area	81.3 Acres





Railway Farm 2023

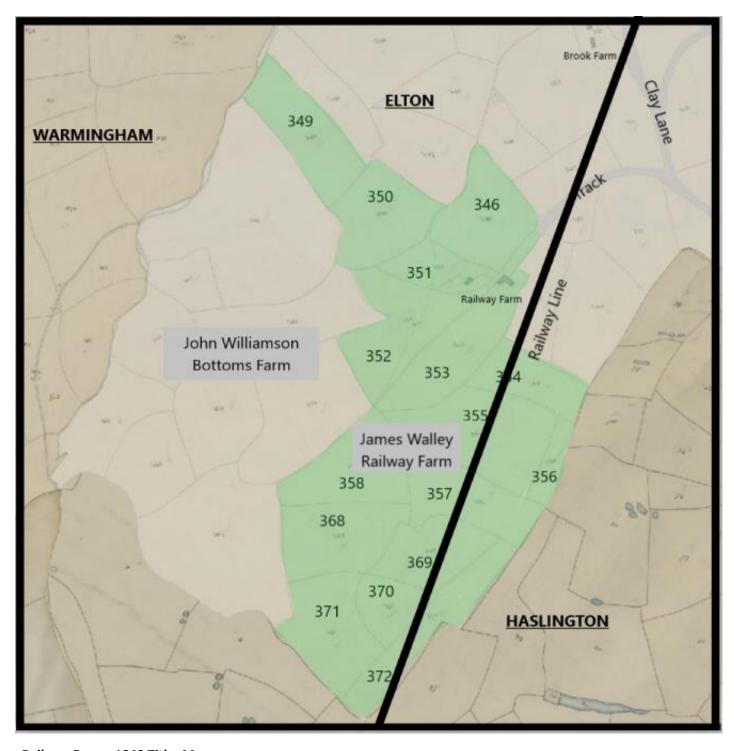






As with virtually the whole of the township, Railway Farm off Clay Lane was part of the Lord Hungerford Crewe estate in Elton. It was was found at the southern tip of the township, bounded by the township of Haslington to the south and Warmingham to the West.

In 1840 the tenant was James Walley who farmed just over 80 acres of land. The land to the West of Railway Farm was attached to Bottoms Farm which was situated in the Warmingham township.

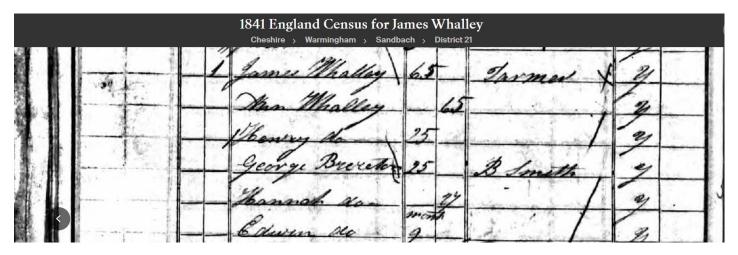


Railway Farm: 1840 Tithe Map

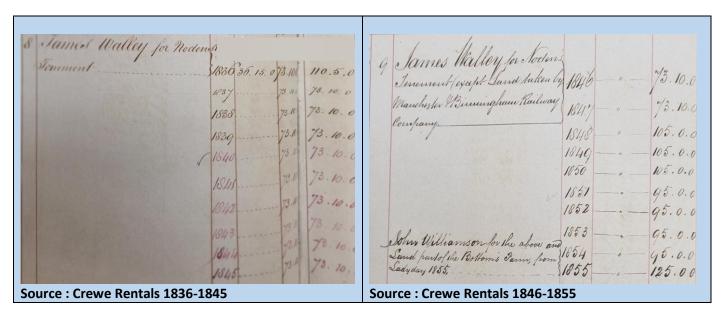
James Walley can be found on the electoral roll around that time with the farm being recorded as "Noden's Tenement" which tells us the name of an earlier occupier. (There was a John Noden recorded on the Land Tax records for Elton in the 1790s)



Source: Electoral Roll for Elton 1837



Source: National Archives 1841 census



Reviewing the Crewe estate records it can be seen that James's annual rent was £73 and 10 shillings. He had some arrrears at the start of the period but this doesn't appear to be a longstanding issue.

It is surprising that on the face of it, no allowance was given at the point the railway was built in 1842, perhaps any reduction was offset against a general increase in rack rents

Rents were increased substantially in 1848 and this will almost certainly be due to him taking on additional land.

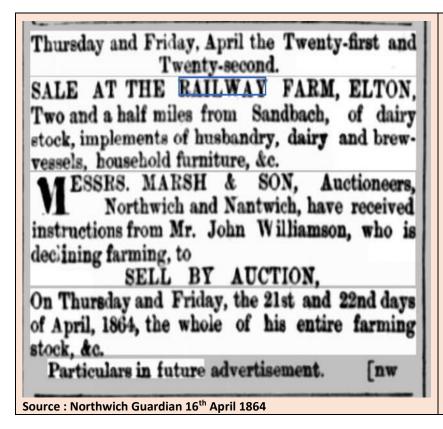
1851 England Census for James Walley									
	Cheshire ;	Elton	> Sand	lbach > 13	3				
Sames Halley Ann Walley Thomas Helhoele Sarah Newton	Head Term	All El	X4 78	House	188 res	Employing 1 mi			
maria Wittaker	2.	Ty	19	1	4 7 h				

Source: National Archives 1851 census

With hindsight, James Walley may have decided not to take up the lease on Railway Farm as (as its name would suggest) Railway Farm was significantly impacted by the building of the Crewe to Manchester Railway line which opened in 1842. This would have had quite an impact on the daily workings of the farm.

James wrote his will in 1848 and revised it 4 days before he died in 1852. In it he mentions his 10 children none of who appeared to take over the farm tenancy. He specifically left his eldest son Thomas one shilling.

This was a well known tactic in the day where a child was in effect disinherited but to avoid a court case challenge to the will on the basis that it is an oversight, the "excluded" beneficiary would be left a paltry sum.



After the death of James Walley, the tenancy of railway farm was taken on by John Williamson. John had previously farmed at Bottoms farm being the son of John Williamson and Jane Ruscoe whose family farmed at Shocklach Hall in Malpas. John never had children and when his sister's family were old enough to take on the farm, John took on the tenancy at Railway Farm.

No sooner had John moved in at Railway Farm a personal tragedy struck him, nevertheless he continued there for about 9 years supported by one of his neices and four servants before moving back to Bottoms Farm to retire. DREADFUL DEATH.—On Saturday night the 19th instant, as the wife of Mr. John Williamson, of Elton, near Sandbach, farmer, was engaged in airing some clothes before the fire, her dress unfortunataly became ignited, and although speedy assistance was almost immediately at hand, through her screams, the injuries she received were so great that death put an end to her internal sufferings on the following day at twelve o'clock. Her family and friends have been plunged into the greatest grief through the above melancholy occurrence.

Source: Macclesfield Courier 19th December 1857

	1861 England Cen	sus for John W	/illiams	son	
		> Sandbach > Di			
1 Fann House			66	mu of 100 acres	1
T Col.	Jane Jaylor	Nuce Mu	45_	darry matel	

Source: National Archive 1861 census

The transfer of tenancy can be seen by reviewing the Lord Crewe estate account books for the period where it can be seen that once Charles Hollinshead had taken over, as he did for many of his tenants, Lord Crewe spent a considerable sum of money to improve the quality of the land by carrying out drainage work and adding fertiliser.

The bone manure will have almost certainly came from the Bone Mill at Rookery Bridge which was set up by Thomas Vickers in 1853 alongside the Trent and Mersey Canal.

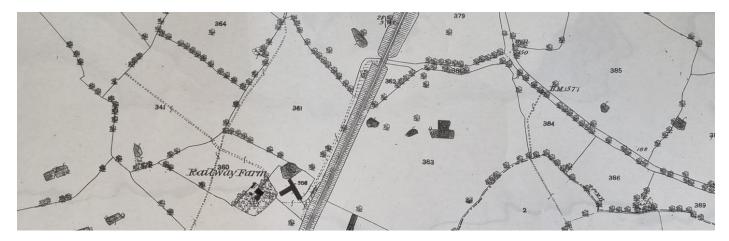
By the census of 1871 we can see that Charles had settled into the farm with his wife Emma, their 4 young children and three servants. The lease was taken from John Williamson and transferred to him in 1864. The farm by then held over 100 acres which was probably reflected in the rent increase when Charles took over, along with an increased amount for the improvements.

Ş	1871 England Census for Charles Hollinshead Cheshire > Elton > ALL > 18							
Railway Farm	Ernue Hollinshead like Mad 38 James hill							
	William So Son 5 Scholar							
	Harry Emma de Maur 3-							

Source: National Archives 1871 census

John Williamson for lake Node Jenement / except Land taken by the Railway Company and for several ful of Land part of the Bottoms Farm. 125. 0 De Interest on \$50 expended in 3.15.	1857 128 1858 128
Be Interest on \$50 hagunado in 3.15. Bone manurel @ 72 Hoent-from Lday: 573 3.15.	1869 128. 1860 128.
Do for the above for 1862. 128.15. Do Interest on 270. expended, in drawing at 5 for cent. 3.10.	1861128
in drawing at 5 fo cent. 3.10.6 Charles Hollinghead for the about from spring 1864 . \$150 Interest of From worth of Boue manue. 8 For 1865 including the Interest of 175 sepended in draining	1864
the Interest of \$125 repended in during	1886
Joseph Bill	1860 172.

Source : Lord Crewe Estate Books 1856-1873



Source: OS Map 1st edition 1875

The 1875 shows the effect on the railway being built. At that time, Mr Hollinshead would have had to come out of the farm onto Clay Lane, turn right under the railway then come back up the other side of the railway line to access the fields which were previously adjacent to the farm buildings.

Likewise the road up to Elton Hall and Four Lane Ends was not built until the late 1960s when subsidence made the old road unpassable.

	1881 Eng	gland Cen			ollinshead 18
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	- Coun	w do	Info	nat 41	Falusor los
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	Mary	buma de	Hand	- 1Z	Les des
	Hand	La do de	dy	Jan 8	de
	Chall	3 de	Low	6	dr

Source: National Archives 1881 census

1891 England Census for Chas Hollinshead								
Cheshire > Elton > ALL > District 18								
Plailing tate / Stand Walling thead Had M. A. Stander at how we want of the stand o								

Source: National Archives 1891 census

	190	Englan	d C	Census for	France	s A Mo	sele	ey			
		Cheshire	> V	Warmingham >	ALL >	District 50					
Whitehall Farms	1		/	Frances A.	Moseley	Head	Wid	2	8	3	Aures
				Gertrude	00	Daur			7		
				Annie	Do	No.			6		1
				Charles Ho	Ulinshead		-	68	1)	Melis	d Tarmer
	1			Emma	Do	Moder	M	6	81		

Source: National Archives 1901 census

1901 England Census for Chas Hollinshead							
	Cheshire > Elton > Sandbach > District 18						
Railway Farm 1	many a. do - Mangher 27.						

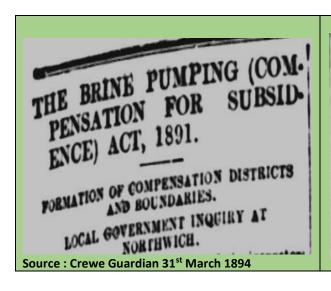
Source: National Archives 1901 census

Charles Hollinshead was at Railway Farm for 35 perhaps uneventful years. In the 1901 census, his youngest son, also Charles was there whilst Charles and his wife had moved a couple of miles away to the farm of his daughter Frances.

This was probably a move out of necessisity as Frances's husband John Moseley (Son of James Moseley of Church House Farm in Warmingham) had been killed tragically in 1899 in a horse and cart accident outside the Pears Paw public house in the village.

It was all change around this time as in 1902, Frances remarried and moved to Church Minshull. Charles Hollinshead senior died in 1901 and shortly afterwards, his son also moved from Railway Farm to White Hall Farm.

The last 10 years of tenure at Railway Farm must have been of concern to the Hollinshead family. Perhaps by the time they had moved in, the impact of the railway line would have been resolved to a certain extent however by the 1880's there was another issue in the area which was rife and that was the subsistance caused by the significant salt mining in the area. No doubt the introduction of the brine compensation scheme couldn't have come a moment too soon for them.



Very heavy subsidence was going on in the Eiton district along the railway line and each side thereof. The viaduct over the river had gone down several feet, and there was a wave of 18 inches in the string course, and the whole was propped up. Many of the brine cuns were very clearly defined, and on each side of the line water was a tlecting in various places. The Brook Farm House was bolted both ways, Railway Farm House was cracked, and an extensive "flash" was forming at &Foul Brook. The subsidence now extended much further south than was shown on the geological ordnance map, embracing Mow Green

So with the end of the Hollinshead family, next to Railway Farm came the Whittaker family with James Henry Whittaker first appearing on the electors roll in 1904 moving in shortly after his marriage. The Whittaker family were farmers at Fields Farm, Warmingham

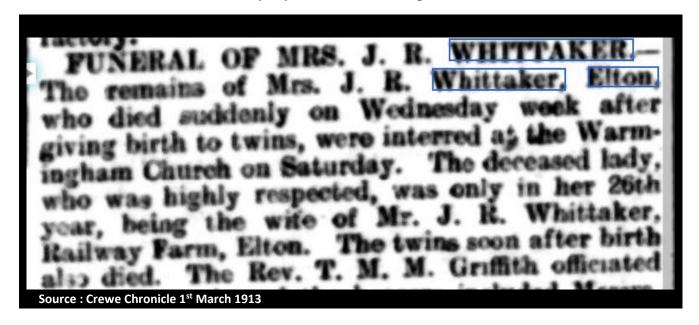
Unfortunately James's wife Mary died a few years later in 1909.

1911 England Census for James Henry Whittaker Cheshire > Elton > ALL > 18								
James Henry Whittaker Hannah Sabina Whittaker	Head	28	9 ,	Widower 8: 1				Former 160
Olive Dodd	Servant	1 2	18	Single			General	Servant (Domestic)
John James Dodd	Servant	14	14,2				Farm	Labourer. 140

Source: National Archives 1911 census

James married a second time in 1912 however things didn't get any better for him as his wife died in childbirth, along with her newly born twins,

In 1915 he married once again and no doubt things were looking up for him with the birth of a daughter and the end of the war. Alas, life can be cruel, things weren't to last and James himself died in 1919 barely a year after his daughter was born.



His wife Hylda and daughter Mary moved to Crewe where they ran a confectioners shop for many years leaving the tenancy at Railway Farm vacant and this was taken on by James's younger brother John assisted by his sister.

During the war, Lord Crewe sold off his estate and all the farms amounting to nearly 600 acres in the area where subsidence was a risk were sold to the British Soda Company

Summary of re mew Markham to Sd	Land in the Tow cently purchased - Broad acts lower	(Cri	
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Hash Farm R. J. Oveton Ellow Hall F. Willis	Same as before	103.627	_ 189.936
Purchases from Sord Crews. The Hall For John R. Whittaker Formerly occupiedly?	\$100-0-0	61-261	
Won Hall Fur R.W. Outlon	Frelds, 372, 363,362) 5 Railway Farrer)	3.984	
Fields Form Solu Soracs (now R. W. Ovel Small Holding) Contlin Wilsh	same as before	119-346	
Small Holding } arthur miloh Mallway Farm John R. Weltake Brooke Fm R. W. Oullow (now Peter Jones	Same as before Same as before	6.388 96.355 68.536	
Geowoods Fin W. Hassel (now. R. W. Oullot)	Same as before	36-726	400. 868
Total hand in the	Township of Ellin	- stat-aues	590.804
7. July 1914		Assul Millewill	

John R. Whittaker	Fead	years, months.	Widower {	Parish of Hamingham	Larmer (11
Hannah S. Wittaker	Sister	35 / 7	Single {	Parish of Harmingham	Home duties
Joseph Gresty	Sevant	18 - 16	Single	le rewe le hes hire	Farm Sattowell

1939 England and Wales Register for Johna R Whittaker Cheshire > Congleton Rd > Lgfj											
	Railway Farm Feton	3/	1	WHITTAKER WAITTAKE R	TOHN R	, F.	M	19th ang	84	4	Former Aurey
1		\.	3 4	PLANT TO STUDIES	HY BRTHUR		M	4 hor 17 * Febr	17,	S	Form Stockman

Source: 1939 National Register

John Whittaker remained at Railway Farm for 36 years before he retired in 1948. During that time, there were a few events considered worthy of publication in the local newspapers, once again confirming that early twentieth century farms were quite dangerous places to work......

A FATAL SHORT CUT.

FALL ON THE RAILWAY.

Taking a short cut along the railway to the Railway Farm, Elton, where he was employed as a farm labourer, Fredk. Wilkinson (50), fell n the back of his head, receiving injuries from which he died a few hours afterwards. H. C. Yates held the inquest at Railway Farm on Tuesday.

Eliza Ann Brierley, a widow, 21, Stoneleyroad, Monks Coppenhall, Crewe, a sister of the deceased, said that her brother called to see her on Saturday evening, when he was quite well and sober. He left at 8 o'clock, saying he was going a bit further.

Source: Crewe Chronicle 25th October 1930

STACK FIRE.-A stack of hay owned by Mr. Whittaker, Railway Farm, caught fire on Sunday evening. Brigade were called out and remained until 11 a.m. the next day. The stack consisted of this year's clover hay.

twenty-ton

Source: Crewe Chronicle 6th September 1941

GORED BY BULL:

FARM LABOURER'S DEATH.

REPEATEDLY WARNED BY EMPLOYER.

DRAMA ON ELTON FARM.

Mr. R. A. Daniel, at the Institution, andbach, on Wednesday, held an inquest on John Thomas Harding (45), a labourer at Railway Farm, Elton, in the occupation of Mr. J. R. Whittaker, Harding was gored by a bull on Sunday morning and died in the Arclid Infirmary.

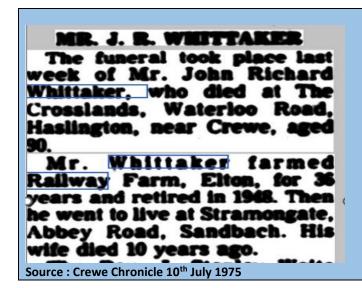
Mr. W. Hetherington, solicitor
present on behalf of Mr. Whittaker

Mrs. Yoxall, Rockcliffe, Sweet Tooth-lane Sandbach, said she went to Arclid Infirmary on Sunday to see her brother. He was un-conscious, and he remained in that state until he died. When he came to see her on Sunday he did not complain of a nasty bull

Source: Crewe Chronicle June 20th 1936

Please Note Alteration of Sale Date TUESDAY, 13th APRIL, 1948. RAILWAY FARM, ELTON, Near Sandbach and Crewe. Entire Dispersal of Farm Stocks and Effects. comprising DAIRY COWS, HEIFERS, YOUNG STOCK and BULL 150 POULTRY HORSES. Collection Implements, Machinery. Vehicles, Gears, Dairy Utensils. An excellent selection of Poultry Houses, also a poption of the surplus HOUSEHOLD FURNI-TURE & EFFECTS. For Mr. J. R. Whittaker, who is retiring. HENRY MANLEY & SONS. cl

Source: Winsford Chronicle: 21st March 1948





After John Whittaker moved out, the new tenant after the war was Joseph Whittaker who had previously farmed at Watch Lane Farm in Moston. Unless it is distant, there was no family relationship between Joseph and John Whittaker.

In around 1900 the Farmhouse at Railway Farm was extended to the front and a further extension added to the side shortly before the estate sale.

In 1915 or thereabouts, the Crewe estate was sold and Railway Farm and a lot of the surrounding farms were purchased by Markham and Co who were interested in the land primarily for salt extraction. At this stage some 65 acres on the south of the railway, previously attached to Elton Hall Farm were passed to Railway Farm.

So when he arrived at Railway Farm after the 2nd world war, Joseph Whittaker was a tenant of British Soda. Once salt extraction in the area had ceased, the farms started to be sold off with the sitting tenants being offered first refusal.

As such, it was Frederick Whittaker in 1987 who took the opportunity to become the owner.

Joseph's family have now been at Railway farm for nearly 75 years and it is currently farmed by his grandson Andrew.

Chronological list of Owners and Occupiers

Year	Source	First Name	Surname	Age	Lived	Occupation	Status	Acres	Rent	Other
1840	Tithe Map	Hungerford	Crewe	28	1812-1894	Gentleman	Owner	81	73	Crewe Hall Estate
1841	Census	James	Walley	63	1778-1852	Farmer	Tenant			
1851	Census	James	Walley	73	1778-1852	Farmer	Tenant	88	105	
1861	Census	John	Williamson	66	1795-1882	Farmer	Tenant	100		also Bottoms Farm
1871	Census	Charles	Hollinshead	39	1832-1901	Farmer	Tenant	103		
1881	Census	Charles	Hollinshead	49	1832-1901	Farmer	Tenant	113		
1891	Census	Charles	Hollinshead	59	1832-1901	Farmer	Tenant			moved to White Hall Farm
1901	Census	Charles	Hollinshead	56	1875-1931	Farmer	Tenant			son of Charles
1911	Census	James H	Whittaker	29	1882-1919	Farmer	Tenant			
1917	Sale	Markham & Co	Limited	n/a	n/a	Salt Mining	Owner	96		From Lord Crewe Estate Sale
1921	Census	John Richard	Whittaker	34	1887-1975	Farmer	Tenant			Brother of James
1925	Sale	British Soda Co	Limited	n/a	n/a	Salt Mining	Owner	96		From Lord Crewe Estate Sale
1933	Rates	John Richard	Whittaker	48	1887-1975	Farmer	Tenant	156		1917 Took over Elton Hall Farm Land
1939	Register	John Richard	Whittaker	52	1887-1975	Farmer	Tenant			
1948	Sale	Joseph H	Whittaker	57	1905-1986	Farmer	Tenant			No relation
1986	Lease	Frederick	Whittaker	57	1929-2003	Farmer	Tenant			Son of Joseph H
1988	Sale	Frederick	Whittaker	59	1929-2003	Farmer	Owner			
2003	Assent	Andrew	Whittaker	43	1960-	Farmer	Owner			Son of Frederick

List of 1840 Field Names

Township	Parish	Ref	Owner	Occupier	Name	Α	R	Р	Total Acres
Elton	Warmingham	346	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Charming Field	5	3	38	6.0
Elton	Warmingham	349	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Brook Field	6	0	22	6.1
Elton	Warmingham	350	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Middle Field	6	2	10	6.6
Elton	Warmingham	351	Lord Crewe	James Walley	House garden & Croft	3	0	20	3.1
Elton	Warmingham	352	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Far Barn Croft	5	1	17	5.4
Elton	Warmingham	353	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Acre and Small Croft	5	0	34	5.2
Elton	Warmingham	355	Lord Crewe	James Walley	White Field	9	1	8	9.3
Elton	Warmingham	356	Lord Crewe	James Walley		1	0	0	1.0
Elton	Warmingham	357	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Oven Field	5	1	16	5.4
Elton	Warmingham	358	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Near Lane Head Field	7	0	20	7.1
Elton	Warmingham	368	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Far Lane Head Field	6	0	18	6.1
Elton	Warmingham	369	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Clover Field	5	3	27	5.9
Elton	Warmingham	370	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Cobby Field	3	0	36	3.2
Elton	Warmingham	371	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Copnall Field	6	1	27	6.4
Elton	Warmingham	372	Lord Crewe	James Walley	Far Meadow	4	2	2	4.5
									81.3