

## **Newspaper Reports connected to Crowell**

Transcribed from various sources, listed in no particular order.

### **.From Jacksons Oxford Journal 6th August 1859:-**

Fire - On the 28th ult. an alarming fire broke out at Crowell, about half past four o'clock in the afternoon, which destroyed ten houses and cottages, with barns, stables, hayricks, two pigs, &c. The furniture of the cottages was also nearly all destroyed, as well as the tools and stock, with the house, of Mr. Cooper, carpenter and wheelwright. The fire appears to have been occasioned by two little children, who, having procured some lucifer-matches, attempted to make a bonfire near Mr. Hill's farm, which caught fire and spread as above. Several other buildings were in much jeopardy, by catching fire from sparks from the burning mass, but by the exertions of the parties present with the engines, they were preserved. The engine belonging to the Earl of Macclesfield, together with the one from Thame, rendered great service; and nothing could exceed the determined manner in which the poor people worked to save the property. The buildings are mostly insured in the County, Globe, and Royal Exchange offices. Eight families are homeless. One poor woman, who had been confined on the previous day, was, with her infant, obliged to be taken out of bed; she was removed to the house of Mr. Abel Hill. Stevens, the landlord of the "Wheel," was absent, but a great deal of his furniture was removed and saved; his wife and three children were sheltered for the night at the Rectory. J. Brown, Esq., A. H. C. Brown, Esq., A. Wykeham, Esq., the Rev. Mr. Williams, and other gentlemen, were there till a late hour.

### **.Thame Gazette 2nd August 1859:-**

#### **CROWELL**

#### **Alarming Fire.**

A messenger arrived here on Thursday evening, from Crowell, requesting assistance of our engine, from what we could learn of him, property to a vast amount was in imminent danger of being destroyed. On reaching the village a most appalling spectacle presented itself. The fire in a short space of time had extended over an area of some four or five acres of ground, the wind being high together with the dryness of the season, it was utterly impossible to stay the fury of the flames on the several places that had taken fire. Immediate attention was directed towards those that had hitherto fortunately escaped; cloths, sheets, blankets, &c., were thrown over the ricks and buildings, and a copious supply of water was poured on them. The fire was occasioned by some children making a bonfire in Mr Hill's rickyard close to the barn, which adjoins the "Wheel" public house. The whole of these premises were burnt to ashes, also a rick of straw. The church which stands close to the inn yard, narrowly escaped; at one time we thought it almost impossible that the sacred edifice would be saved from the devouring element. At this moment the wind took a slight turn, the burning embers flying and dropping in all directions. At the back entrance to the rectory, a thatched building standing only a few yards from the "Wheel" was quickly covered with eight blankets, and well saturated with water; this wise precaution saved the whole of the Rev. J. Beauchamp's property, and we are sure the service rendered at this particular spot will not be forgotten. The cottage of James Harding together with two others belonging to Mr. Beauchamp were the next to take fire, these were totally consumed. The buildings of Mr. Cooper, viz:- his own dwelling house and two cottages which with his stock in trade, furniture, &c. were nearly all consumed. Thence to a small farmyard occupied by Mr. Hill, in which and just around it stood three other cottages, all sharing the same fate. Every exertion was used to save one of the latter-mentioned cottages, on its being known that a poor woman was lying in bed, having been confined only the day previous, but all to no purpose, and in this delicate state she was removed to the house of Mr. Abel Hill. The fire

still spreading reached a stable and two hay ricks of Mr. Heybourn's which were consumed. The engine belonging to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Macclesfield, together with the one from Thame rendered great service; nothing could exceed the determined manner in which the poor people worked to save the property under the direction of the several police officers. The buildings are mostly insured in the County, Globe, and Royal Exchange offices. The poor cottagers' positions are most distressing. Eight families homeless and scarcely a particle of clothing or furniture left in a few houses. Stevens the landlord of the "Wheel" was absent, a great deal of his furniture was removed and saved; his wife and three children were sheltered for the night at the rectory. J. Brown, Esq, A. H. C. Brown, Esq., A. Wykeham, Esq., Rev. - Williams, and other gentlemen were there till a late hour.

#### **.Thame Gazette 7th March 1871**

##### **CROWELL**

**DISCOVERY OF A HUMAN SKELETON.** - On Monday the 20th ult., the "navvies" when digging ballast on the new line of railway passing through Crowell upper field, discovered a perfect skeleton, about 2 ½ feet below the surface, on land in the occupation of Mr A Hill. According to opinion, appearances, and firm state of the bones, the body could not have been there more than 18 or 20 years. Unfortunately parties were allowed to disconnect, break up, and carry away parts of the frame, which has made sexual proof difficult, although it is hoped the remaining parts taken charge of, and carefully conveyed by Mr Superintendent Sears to Watlington, for surgical examination, will be sufficient to remove the present uncertainty, especially as strong suspicion prevails that the remains are those of a young woman named Ratley, who mysteriously disappeared from her service with Mr Robinson at Stokenchurch, at about the time above stated, and has not been seen or heard of; a shawl belonging to the missing young woman was found at the time in Crowell Wood, in the direction and about midway between Stokenchurch and the spot where the skeleton was found, which now seems to strengthen and confirm the belief that she was the victim of some fiendish (and at present undiscovered) assassin, and that the now discovered remains are those of the missing and unfortunate young woman.

#### **.Thame Gazette 13 June 1871**

##### **CROWELL**

**CATTLE POISONED BY EATING PAINT.**- About a fortnight ago, Mr Abel Hill had a stirk die, in one of his fields at Sydenham, and on Tuesday last, a labourer (who works for Mr Witney) called and told him that a heifer was bad. Mr East veterinary surgeon, of Risborough, was sent for, and on examining the animal found that tetanus had set in, and declared the symptoms to be of such a character as those produced by poison. On his calling the following morning, the heifer was dead and four more unwell; these were put in the cowhouse; Mr Hill went there about three o'clock on Thursday morning, two more were dead and a third lying with his head resting on one of the dead beasts, the fourth was standing in a stupefied state, which also died on Friday. A postmortem examination of the bodies was made, and it was found that the animals died from the effects of eating lumps of dried paint, which had been spread on the land in some manure purchased by Mr Hill.

#### **.Jacksons Oxford Journal 27 Dec 1856**

Petty Sessions, Watlington Division Dec. 20:-

Edwin North, landlord of the Wheel, Crowell, charged by Thomas High with keeping his house open for the sale of beer after twelve o'clock on Saturday night the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, was fined full penalty of 5l., and costs 10s: allowed six days for payment; in default, a warrant of distress to be issued to levy the same, and, in case of deficient effects, to be imprisoned three calendar months.

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 22 June 1878**

"The Open Common Fields" in the parish of Crowell, in the County of Oxford. In pursuance of the directions of "The Commons Act 1876," Section 31, - Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned, being two-thirds parts in number and value of the persons seized possessed of, entitled to or otherwise interested in the said open common fields, intended by virtue of the provisions of an Act passed in the Sixth and Seventh years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, Chapter 115, intituled "An Act for facilitating the Inclosure of Open and Arable Fields in England and Wales," to inclose the said open common fields, after the expiration of three months from the date of this notice - Dated this Twenty-first day of June, 1876.

Signed

PHILIP THOS. HERBERT WYKEHAM

ARTHUR H. C. BROWN

H. W. BURROWS

AUBREY WENMAN WYKEHAM-MUSGRAVE

W. HATTON

T. A. CHAMPION

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 31 August 1878**

CROWELL

THE INCLOSURE.- A first meeting was held on Thursday the 22nd inst, at the Catherine Wheel Inn. Mr. Henry Birch, solicitor, having been sworn, read the Act of Parliament referring to the Inclosure. The commissioners, Messrs, W. T. Franklin, and A. R. Howland, then proceeded to settle the boundaries. Some other preliminaries having been got through, the meeting terminated. There were also present A. H. C. Brown, Esq., Rev. J. Churchill, vicar, Messrs. G. Sheen, W. Sheen, A. Hill, T. Franklin, and the surveyors (Messrs. W. Webster and W. Neighbour).

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 12 July 1879**

Petty Sessions:-

John King and Moses Sewell, of Crowell, labourers, were summoned for trespassing in search of game at Crowell on the 15th ult. The case was proved by P.C. W.H. Tipping. Fined 1s and costs 8s 3d each.

John Bowler of Crowell, labourer, was summoned by Mr. Wm Clark for taking game without a licence at Aston Rowant on Sunday the 12th ult. Fined 10s and costs 11s.

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 29 Sept 1849**

ASTON AND CROWELL - We class these two parishes together on account of there being no service in the former, owing to the church in Aston undergoing a complete renovation; but the Vicar, the Rev. Robert Williams, was not idle: in the afternoon he did duty in Crowell, when the church was crowded to suffocation, and numbers had to go away, not being able to find room.

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 27 March 1875**

Petty Sessions, Watlington:-

Mr. Randall Cooper, of Crowell, wheelwright, was charged by Mr. Morris, of Thame, Inspector of Nuisances, with allowing a filthy privy on premises belonging to him to overflow a footpath at Crowell; ordered to pay costs, and to remove the nuisance within 14 days. Highway-rates were allowed for the parish of Crowell and the liberty of Chalford, and a poor-rate for the parish of Britwell.

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 22 September 1888**

CROWELL

SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVAL. – On Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. through the kindness of the Rev. C. C. Beck, the Sunday School scholars, parents and friends were invited to tea, which was provided on the lawn at the Rectory. Splendid weather prevailed, and the juveniles were pleased with the racing contests which took place during the evening.

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 28 November 1885**

CHINNOR

SALE OF FREEHOLD COTTAGES. – The following twelve freehold cottages, with out buildings and gardens, situate at Crowell, Watlington and Stokenchurch, were disposed of by auction at the Royal Oak Inn, by Messers, Mumford and Bond on Wednesday last :- Lot 1, three brick, flint and slated cottages, with out-offices and gardens, situate at Crowell Oxon and occupied by Messers. G Holland, N. Allan, and J. Young, at rents amounting to 10/. 10s. per annum; sold to Mr. J Hill, Kingston Blount, for 115/-. Lot2, four brick and thatched cottages adjoining Lot 1, and occupied by Messrs. H. North, S Humphreys, and others, at annual rents amounting to 12/ 10s.; Mr Hill also became the purchaser of this lot at 140/-. Lot 3, two brick, flint, and slated cottages, with wheelwright's shop, other offices, and yard, near to the previous lots, and occupied by Messrs G.H. Cooper and B. Hill, at 8/. per annum; this lot was knocked down to Mr. T Busby, Chinnor, at 150/-. ....*article continues about sale of properties elsewhere.*

**.Jacksos Oxford Journal 25<sup>th</sup> July 1885**

WATLINGTON PETTY SESSIONS JULY 18.

Frederick Green, of Crowell, labourer, who did not appear, was fined 1/. and 10s costs, or 14 days imprisonment, for driving a wagon and horses without reins on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**.The Spectator August 6, 1859**

By the burning of two villages – Buttermere in Wiltshire, and Crowell in Oxfordshire – nearly one hundred persons, men women and children, have been deprived of their homes, and placed in great distress. Both fires occurred during the day when nearly all the adults were in the harvest-field and none but children and old folks were in the cottages. It is supposed that some of the children, left to themselves, played with Lucifer matches and thus set their homes on fire. Something should be done for the sufferers by public subscription.

**.The Annual Register for 1859**

[Aug]

Disastrous Fires In The Rural Districts – A great number of fires have occurred in our country villages, arising, in most instances, from the careless use, in others, perhaps, from the criminal application, of Lucifer matches. Buttermere in Wiltshire and Crowell in Oxfordshire, have been thus laid in ashes, while all the able-bodied inhabitants were labouring in the fields. *[continues]*

**.The London Gazette 27 May 1913**

DISEASES OF ANIMAL ACTS 1894 TO 191 – *continued.*

The following Areas are now “Infected Areas” for the purposes of the Swine-Fever (Regulation of Movement) Order of 1908 – *continued.*

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*Oxfordshire.* – An area in the administrative county of Oxford comprising the parishes of Sydenham, Emmington, Chinnor and Crowell (26 May 1913)  
[continues]

#### **.The Church Times July 14 1944**

##### Other Clerical Changes

The Rev. L. W. Day has resigned the living of Crowell to which he was instituted last year, and has been appointed by the Bishop to the rectory of Newington with charge of Berrick Salome and Chalgrove. Before coming into the diocese, Mr Day was priest – in - charge of St Andrew's Leighton Buzzard. [continues]

#### **.The Church Times 29 December 1944**

##### Preferments and Appointments

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Rev T. D. HICKES, B.A., Vicar of Aston Rowant, Lewknor, Oxford; also Rector of Crowell, Oxford (in plurality). Patron Mr. H. W. Wykeham-Musgrave  
[continues]

#### **.Bucks Herald 28 Jan 1888**

##### **CROWELL**

Fall from A Rick – On Wednesday afternoon, 18<sup>th</sup> inst., as a labourer named Humphry, in the employ of Mr Sheen, was on a newly-built stack of straw, he fell from the top to the ground beneath, severly injuring both his wrists and bruising his left leg.

#### **.Bucks Herald 7<sup>th</sup> April 1888**

##### **CROWELL**

Church Decorations – The Easter decorations were somewhat marred this year owing to the lack of spring flowers. The pulpit, lectern and window bases were trimmed with ivy and other green foliage, and there were also a few pots containing flowers in bloom placed in suitable positions.

#### **.Bucks Herald 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1888**

##### **Crowell**

Sunday School Tea – On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, the Rev C C Beck, rector of this parish, gave a substantial tea to the children belonging to the Sunday School, who returned to their homes at eight o'clock, having spent a very happy evening.

Accident – On Tuesday evening last, as Mr J Stevens, district postman, was proceeding up the Crowell-road to collect the letters from the wall box, the night being extremely dark, he accidentally stepped upon a large stone, which caused him to fall heavily to the ground, injuring his wrist. It is hoped that he will soon be able to resume his duties.

#### **.Bucks Herald 22 Sept 1888**

##### **Crowell**

Sunday School Festival – On Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., through the kindness of the Rev C C Beck, the Sunday School scholars, with their parents and friends, were invited to tea, which was provided on the lawn at the rectory. Splendid weather prevailed, and the juveniles were greatly pleased with the racing contests which took place during the evening.

#### **.Bucks Herald 7 Jan 1888**

##### **Crowell**

Daring Highway Robbery – On Friday evening Dec 30<sup>th</sup> as a man named Larner was returning home from work across Chinnor-hill, a ruffian rushed upon him, violently knocked him down, took 5s from his pocket, and then hastily beat his retreat.

### **.Bucks Herald 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 1888**

#### **Crowell**

Snow in Harvest – The adage “As welcome as snow in harvest” was literally verified on Tuesday morning, for at half-past nine snow commenced to fall and continued for about 45 minutes, some of the flakes being very large.

Harvest Festival – On Sunday last, harvest thanksgiving services were held in the Parish Church, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion with wheat, barley, oats fruit and vegetables; virginia creeper, ferns and bright flowers being also liberally employed. Two appropriate sermons were preached by the Rector, the Rev C C Beck, morning and afternoon. Several of the harvest hymns were sung, with the assistance of Mrs Beck, jun., at the harmonium. At the close of the services collections were made in aid of the Cottage Hospital at Watlington.

### **.Thame Gazette 19 May 1868**

#### **Crowell**

Found, on Friday last, Crowell, A BLACK SOW PIG, with a white star on face. The owner can have it by paying the expenses incurred, on application to  
Mr FREDERICK BOWLER, Crowell.

### **.Oxford Journal 30 Sept 1870**

#### **CROWELL, OXON**

Six well erected cottages, with valuable gardens, and TWO Plots of BUILDING LAND, TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By J A MUMFORD

At the Cherry Tree Inn, Kingston Blount, Oxon, on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1870, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, in three lots.

Lot 1 – All those SIX most substantial Brick and Flint built thatched COTTAGES, with good out buildings and neat Front Flower Gardens and a particularly valuable plot of Garden Ground to each cottage in the rear, let to James Hill, Thomas Larner and others at moderate rents amounting to £21 per annum.

Lot 2. - A most desirable Plot of GARDEN Ground adjoining Lot 1. with a capital frontage to the road, and forming a most eligible Building Site, in the occupation of Thomas Larner, at 10s per annum.

Lot 3. - a similar Lot, in the occupation of Messrs Terry, or their under-tenant, Frederick Bowler.

There is an excellent supply of water on the property, and it is Freehold without any Outgoings.

To view apply to tenants and for further particulars to W Parker, Esq., Thame or to Mumford and Son, actioners and land agents, Clinton Park Farm, Thame, Oxon.

### **.Southern Reporter April 1931**

#### **BORDERER ENGAGED**

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr James and Lady Scott. Broadland's, Kelso, Roxburghshire and Betty, daughter of the Rev. Victor and Mrs Collier, Crowell Rectory, Oxfordshire.

**.Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette 16 March 1850**

Second important sale of extremely valuable

Freehold Inns & Public Houses

In the counties of Oxfordshire, Bucks and Berkshire

.....Various listed

Catherine Wheel, Crowell, Oxon.

.....Various listed

**.Buckinghamshire Examiner 15 August 1975**

**Twelve miles along Ridgeway By V. B. Burden**

*Article.....*

As you walk there are sweeping views across the Oxfordshire plain to the left Aston Rowant, Kingston Blount and Crowell are all historic settlements nestling at the foot of the hills.

It is interesting to recall that the one major disadvantage of the Ridgeway was the lack of water. Travellers had to make their way down off the path at intervals to refill their water bottles, and find a stream or pool where their animals could drink.

In medieval times the drovers who used to herd their cattle to market at Watlington or elsewhere would leave the Ridgeway at dusk. They would move down into the valley to stay overnight in a small inn such as the Catherine Wheel at Crowell.

There after a simple diet of ale, bread and soup they would sleep, probably only on an earthen floor, but at least sheltered from the elements.

*Article continues....*