

Little Marchweek / Marchweek Cottages

The following information is derived mostly from source material collated by John Usmar in 2007 as part of his study of the Witheridge Outliers.

There is no reference to cottages or Little Marchweek in the Land Tax returns for 1780 – 1832, however an advertisement in the Exeter Flying Post of 11th September 1817 said:-

“A messuage or tenement, called Marchweeke in the parishes of Witheridge and Washford Pyne; comprising a commodious farmhouse. With other conveniences for the farming business, and about 70 acres of meadow, pasture and arable land (be the same more or less) including three acres or thereabouts of orchards in the occupation of the said John Ven, and also THREE COTTAGES belonging thereto, one occupied by a Tenant, and the other two unoccupied.”

The sale was due to “...a Commission of Bankrupt awarded, and issued, and now in prosecution against JOHN VEN...”

Owners

The earliest deeds found for Little Marchweek were dated 1910.

30/8/1915 the Cumins sold Marchweek, which included Little Marchweek land and cottage to the tenant Philip May for £1,000. The property passed through a number of the May family.

23/6/1945 Mrs Maynard bought Marchweek and 73 acres for £3,100.

19/3/1948 Mrs Maynard sold the two cottages and 19 acres of Little Marchweek to Mr P Maynard of Thelbridge Cross Inn. At the same time Marchweek, now comprising 54 acres, was sold to Mr E Kelly.

By the mid-1960s Cyril Ford owned Little Marchweek and sold it to Fred Simpson in 1969; initially it was advertised for sale at £9,000.

From census data there were a number of different families that occupied Little Marchweek; it was only in the 1881 census that the Marchweek cottages were listed.