

## ARTHUR CRABB

Born 1929

Arthur was born at New House Farm, Yondover, which was bought by his grandfather in 1916, when the Manor was sold to Sir Edward le Breton. His grandfather, also named Arthur, was a native of Walditch and he and his brother, Herbert, did some hauling and also used to breed from their shire horse stallion. He rented land in Bradpole and, for a time farmed Church Farm and Walton Farm as well as New House Farm. The latter was known at one time as Shoot House Farm, because of the constantly running spring, that used to run over, but now runs under the road. Arthur's grandmother's family were market gardeners, called Marsh, who eventually sold the allotment at High Acres to Arthur Budden.

In 1926 Arthur's father, Wilfred Crabb took over the farm, which then consisted of 114 acres. He bought more land and, in 1942, he bought Higher Yondover Farm, with a sitting tenant in it. Wilfred took an active part in running the village, as did most of the farmers at that time. He was a member of the Parish Council and the Fete Committee and the family were involved with the church. His mother, in her younger days, pumped the organ. Eventually the land was split between Arthur and his younger brother Maurice, who now lives up the road from each other and run adjacent dairy farms.

Arthur married Barbara Lee (when?), whose family were farmers near Salway Ash. They have three children, Sandra, Adrian and Rosemary and four grandchildren. Adrian looks after the dairy side of the farm and Arthur looks after the sheep, other livestock and the vegetable garden. Barbara sees to the chickens, sells eggs and is a very keen gardener. His brother Maurice, has four daughters, all married. The youngest daughter, Janice, helps him run the farm, as well as being a farmer's wife herself.

# INTERVIEW 9/10

INTERVIEWER: Pat Hughes  
Yondover Farmhouse  
Loders

DATE: November 1989

ARTHUR CRABB, B.1929  
NEW HOUSE FARM  
LODERS

Interviewer: I have with me here, Arthur Crabb, from New House Farm, Loders, who has lived here all his life. You've had a bit of trouble with your cows recently, with lead in the milk. Can you tell me a bit about that.

A.C. Well it was imported at Teignmouth and it come in , there was three boat loads that come in.and...

Int. This is the feed?

A.C. The feed, yea, that goes to the millers and gets blended into other feeds, you see, and it come from Burma and it was sent to Belgium and the Belgians sent it to Holland to be destroyed, but it warn't destroyed and three boat load come into Teignmouth.

Int. And how did this affect you?

A.C. Well, it affected me 'cos I deal off Hayballs and Hayballs are only an agent and they get the cake from Lopen Mills. For they had some of it that they mixed into their dairy feed.

Int. So it was your normal suppliers who were supplying you with the bad feed?

A.C. They don't really know whether there was any in that consignment that come to our place, but as I had a load the 28th October that they was tracin'. It come in on the 14th and it went to those Mills the 20th, so therefore there could've bin some of it in the feed. But they shut me down, took it up on what they call secondary pickup and then they tested my consignments of milk that went on and I had three clear tests, so whether I was contaminated or no, I don't know.

Int. Anyway you were cleared.

A.C. I were cleared, for the milk, but they can't sell any animals

Int. So you still have perhaps a problem with your calves?

A.C. Yes, they got be all blood tested and I'm still waiting for the result.

Int. Anyway, you were born in Loders, do you mind telling me when?

A.C. Yea, the 29th October 1929.



Int. You were born into a farming family, your father was a farmer.

A.C. Father, grandfather, but my mother's side of the family were market gardeners.

Int. Were they, whereabouts was that?

A.C. Well they, my granny's side kept the allotment up there.

Int. Buddens had an allotment didn't they?

A.C. Yea, Arthur Budden bought it off Sidney Marsh, that was my great-uncle, and Sidney Marsh was my granny's brother.

Int. So that was on your mother's side. What was her maiden name before she was married, your mother?

A.C. Hyde.

Int. So she was a Hyde. Was she related to John Hyde or George Hyde?

A.C. No, different family altogether.

Int. Tell me how far back the Crabbs go in Loders, they go back to your grandfather anyway.

A.C. Yea, my grandfather, I've bin told was a native of Walditch and, er, he had a brother called Herbert, and at one time they used to do a bit of haulin', and then they used to take their shire horse round, because horses was all the breedin' then an' he was a horseman an' tha'.

Int. This was your grandfather?

A.C. Yea, me grandfather and he always rented land and grounds an' tha' and he rented some ground at Bradpole, but in 1916 he bought New House Farm and that was when the Manor was sold, but I think he rented it before. And for two years he had three farms, he had Church Farm, Walton Farm and New House Farm, besides land he had t'Bradpole. Church Farm is in t'village, where Frank Osborne lives now.

Int. Can you go back beyond your grandfather at all?

A.C. No, no. That was my father's father and my father's mother was a Fry and the Frys was to Askerswell.

Int. Was this related to Fry's the builders?

A.C.. No, another Fry, they lived to Styrtle(?).

Int. So your grandfather bought New House Farm in 1916, which was when Sir Edward le Breton bought the Manor.

A.C. Yea and all the farms was sold.

Int. The present house you live in was there then, because it's called New House Farm....

A.C. Yea, we don't know how it come New House Farm, at one time it was called Shoot House Farm, 'cos of the shoot of water, but why it got changed to New House Farm I just don't know and I don't think me father knew.

Int. It's quite an old house isn't it, was it thatched at one time?

A.C. Yea, I had the thatch took off, about 20 years ago. It was galvanised on thatch and when you opened the winders the wind used to blow and the birds got up and under there.

Int. Much better to have it tiled.

A.C. Oh yea, the best day's work I done. I always said I were going to have it done. Me father never 'ad, you know, 'e was always buying a bit a land and we only 'ad New 'Ouse Farm and 'e was always buying a bit o' ground, like all where me brother's to was really bought out of New House Farm.

Int. So how much land was there to start with, when your grandfather bought it?

A.C. 114 acres.

Int. Then your father took over the farm from your grandfather?

A.C. Yea, in 1926, and he bought more land. He bought the farm up the road where me brother is, in 1942, with a sitting tenant in, so he couldn't farm it an' tha'.

Int. Until the tenant died. And then when he died, the farm was split between the two of you?

A.C. Yea, we split it up.

Int. Were you just two brothers?

A.C. Yea

Int. And you're the older?

A.C. Yea.

+ Int. The springs are interesting, you called one 'the shoot'. You've actually got two springs haven't you? One of them, the higher one goes very deep down doesn't it?

A.C. No, no, he's a very shallow spring, he's supplied the house for quite a number of years.

Int. It also supplied this house, didn't it?

A.C. Yes.

Int. Are there any pipes under the road, do you know? There must be, somewhere.

A.C. Yes, I suppose there is.

Int. They wouldn't be in very good condition now, I suppose.

A.C. No. I think they were cut off.

Int. I'm sure they were, but it would be nice to drink the spring water again.

A.C. Oh yea, yea, but anyone can go up the road to that shoot and catch it and they got pure spring water.

Int. But you say that's quite shallow, it doesn't come from deep down.

A.C. Not very deep down, no, it just runs out .... well noone's really traced 'm back I don't think, it's just a catch-pit there and the water runs down and it stays there - we got a tap arf of it, yea we still got a tap arf of it.



Int. But it only surfaces just where you can see it? It doesn't surface anywhere else on your land, where the animals can get at it?

A.C. No, no, it's as pure as you can 'ave it.

Int. I should think it tastes very nice doesn't it? Do you drink it?

A.C. Yea, yea.

2. Int. Your father was quite an influence in the village one way and another, wasn't he?

A.C. Yea, oh yea.

Int. I was looking at some of the records of the fete the other day and his name came into that.

A.C. He was chairman of the Parish Council for 8 or how many year. Well, the Parish Council at one time, the chairman was Sir Edward le Breton and I think me grandfather was on it and Mr Budden and it was about 6 farmers. There was Mr Lentall, represented Upton, composite (sic) Upton, and then there was Herbie Bartlett at the Crown, he was a cattle dealer, and his mother and father used to keep the Crown one time. Then there was me father and then there was Harold Bishop, that was here, then there was Robert Tolley and that was how the Parish Council was.

Int. What was your grandfather's christian name?

A.C. Arthur

Int. And what was your father's christian name?

A.C. Wilfred.

Int. So going back to the parish Council, they really ran the village. There were several farmers....

A.C. Yes there were about six farmers. It's altogether different now.

Int. Why do you think it's changed?

A.C. Well, I s'pose Sir Edward le Breton was sort of the head of the Manor and these farmers was tenants or one thing an' 'nother and they was more the backbone of the parish. They owned land, they run land and one thing an' 'nother. Now we got people come in that got no idea of village life. These was all villagers, and well-known villagers and they always hired labour and I 's'pose they were, under Sir Edward, the next second down, really.

Int. Yes, and they had time to do things like being on the Parish Council, did they?

A.C. Well they made time, they made time.

Int. And they felt that the village was their village, and they helped run it.

A.C. Yea, yea.

Int. What about the church? Your father had alot to do with the church too, didn't he?

A.C. He did a bit to the church. Oh yes, my mother's family had a seat at the church.

Int. That was the time when you had your own pew, was it?

A.C. Yea, yes, I think the third one down in the centre was the Crabbs, and then there was another one. But my granny and grandfather, the Hydes, they cleaned the church and me grandfather was all down through with the lights, he always done the lights an' tha'. And my mother, when she was young, even blew the organ, pumped at the organ, that was in her younger days.

Int. That was before they got the present organ. Your father was even more, wasn't he a church warden at one time?

A.C. No, I don't think he was ever a church warden. I don't remember.

Int. Looking down at the old records, the censuses, I was looking at the 1851 census the other day, there are lots of Crabbs in Loders.

A.C. There was alot of Crabbs in Loders, but they were all different, all different families. Raymond up there, he's no relation to me, his family's Melplash.

Int. Yondover, the little district here called Yondover, you remember it as a child, but those cottages in Bar Lane had already been burnt down.

A.C. Yes, I can't remember those, but my father could. He can remember the fire there an' all.

Int. How many cottages were there there?

A.C. Three, I think, but they were cottages, but they were shacks, you understand.

Int. Farm labourers used to live in them, I suppose, but were they part of the farm?

A.C. No, no, they was nothing to do with the farm, not our farm.

Int. They were pretty run down?

A.C. I think so. I heard my father say they was really only dug in the bank, sort of business, an' tha'. Apparently they used to come and get the water from the top spring. A pipe come down and there used to be a tap in the road. The Slades used to be our next door neighbours, in that little cottage, where Monty Dent lives now, and they used to go there for their water.

Int. It didn't have to be pumped?

A.C. No, it was just a tap, just from cavity.

Int. So the Slades lived in the little cottage that is now Brook House. Do you remember what it was called then?

A.C. Brook House.

Int. So it was still Brook House, even before the big house was built. John Francis lived there later, didn't he?



A.C. Oh yea. in my younger days, when I say 7,8,9,10, it was the Slades.

2. Int. Bar Lane used to be a road didn't it, a pretty ancient road.

A.C. Yes, it's a stone road in under there, from Loders to Walditch, it goes straight to Walditch.

Int. It goes right to the top of the hill and then joins Green Lane, doesn't it?

A.C. Well there's a branch, you goes right across a field to pick up Green Lane, but it runs straight to Walditch, like that.

Int. I can never understand how you could get a horse and cart in there, because it's quite narrow in one place, isn't it?

A.C. Yea but it's only over the years that the banks have given in.

Int. Do you think people used to go into Bridport that way?

A.C. Yea, Mrs Ward did. She lived at the bottom of Knowle Lane, number 2, and she used to go Wednesdays and Saturdays to Bridport and bring back her shopping. Up Bar Lane, Mrs Ward.

Int. Your father used to tell you stories about it being really a day out to go to Weymouth.

A.C. Yea, when he was young an' tha' they used to have to...., the war was on...

Int. The first World War?

A.C. Yea, an' he's been waiting at the top of Upwey Hill to put the drug shoe (sic) in, waiting for it, to have a brake before they went down over, an' bin waiting for it to get light. And they used to have to take pigs to Hurdles, when the war was on, and they used to have to pick potatoes for the Navy. And I 'eard 'im say they used to have these gangplanks, you had to go and carry the potatoes across and the sailors used to laugh, hoping you was going to lose yer balance and fall in.

Int. So they went down to the docks and loaded potatoes onto the ships across gangplanks.

A.C. Yea, as far as I know.

Int. Did he ever fall in?

A.C. Not as I know of. He always said about that, waiting for it to be light to go down over Upwey Hill with the horses. It was a good day's work you see, for the horses to go there and back in a day.

Int. That's right, because it's a good 18-20 miles isn't it.

A.C. They must have gone Winterbourne way, they couldn't have gone the crossroads. It was wartime and they wanted the pigs for the Navy and I suppose Hurdles was contracted to kill 'em an' tha'.

Int. When your father farmed New House Farm, was it the same sort of farm, was it a dairy farm?