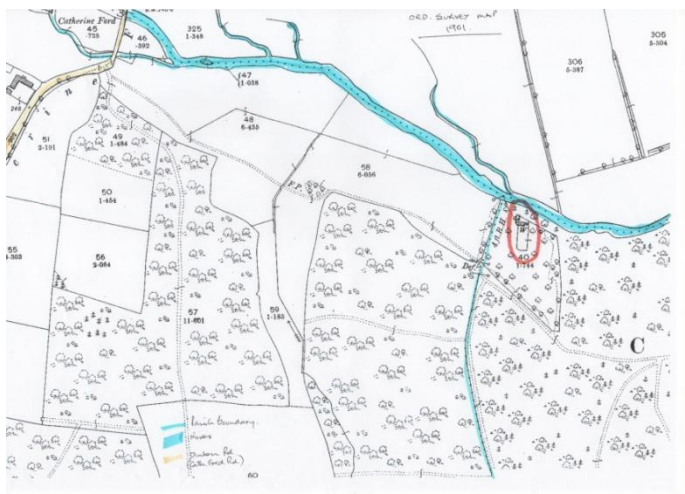


Fever (Isolation) Cottage

Interest in this structure began with an extract from Lou Winter's book of memoirs about her childhood in Dinton, called "*Tales of a Carter's Daughter*"

"This was a red brick cottage built in the Fovant Woods close by the side of the Nadder, which was used by anyone suffering a fever etc. who needed isolation. It must have been in use as a hospital in the early 18th century as when we came to Dinton in 1905 it was a private residence. An old couple lived there, their name was Churchill. He had a white horse and trap which he used to come to the village shop. He also delivered the Western Gazette our local weekly penny paper....the cottage was then known as Churchills.'

The cottage is actually in Compton Wood, just on the border of the three Parishes – C.C., Fovant and Dinton.



OS map dated 1901

In 1849 the cottage, garden, and adjacent land was rented from the Compton Estate (then owned by Penruddocke) by **Samuel Cabil** for 1 shilling. (P. Papers, Trowbridge PRO)

The 1851 Census records that it was occupied by Mary **Cabbel**, widow, address - Compton Woods, aged 65, occ. Late labourer's wife, born Martin. Thomas **Mitchead**, grandson of above, aged 29, married, agricultural labourer, born Swallowcliffe Sarah **Mitchead**, wife of above, aged 19, born Dinton.

(The change in name could have been because the person reporting to the Census Recorder (?Mary herself or Thomas, her grandson) had a cold!!!)

An elderly villager of Compton Chamberlayne said that Mr Churchill was still there during the WW1. At one point he insisted on keeping his horse in the kitchen at night in case the Australian soldiers pinched him. This was not a xenophobic response to strangers roaming the woods but a sensible precaution when three Australian soldiers went AWOL from the Hurdcott camp living rough in the woods, stealing what they could to keep alive. Mr Churchill later committed suicide.

Research is on-going.

Written by Margaret McKenzie (2012)