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East Lane Orchard

Part of the Abstract of the Will of Richard Smith, Gentleman of St Albans, Hertfordshire. Proved in the Court of London. October 30 1809:

“To his wife Mary Smith all his estate & effects both real & personal for her life & after her decease to his 4 children Ann Lawrence BROWN, Elizabeth Mary SMITH, his son John SMITH, & Sarah Catherine Firth SMITH but 1st he devises to his son John Smith after his wife’s decease **an orchard in East Lane in the Parish of Wheathampstead** in the County of Herts ”

The Ann Lawrence Smith married William BROWN but Elizabeth Mary and Sarah Catherine may have died in 1822 and 1811 respectively. There was also a connection to the CAPON and FIRTH families of Leighton Buzzard through Richard’s wife, Mary nee HORNE, who inherited land in Leighton Buzzard from her aunt Mrs Mary Capon c. 1795. I am not sure when Mary Smith died but it was before her husband Richard Smith, perhaps 1800.

Unfortunately I have no more information on this orchard or what happened to it. I believe my ancestor was the John Smith so understandably with that name I haven’t found it easy trying to track his movements

Contributed by E M O’Connell, New Zealand - Oct 2014