

La Welme previously known as Verandah Cottage.

For many years it was home to the Moses family. It was particularly associated with Moses Winfield (1844-1932) a wheelwright and carpenter.

Early Life and Apprenticeship

Moses was the second child of Joseph Winfield (1815–1899) and Ann (née Eden). He was born on March 19, 1844. His father Joseph was an agricultural worker and reportedly a champion ploughman. As Moses later recalled, he left school at nine and worked crow-scaring for just a shilling a week.

When Joseph Winfield became a farm bailiff it enabled him to fund an apprenticeship for his son Moses. This was first as a carpenter, and later as a wheelwright.

Marriage, Family, and Verandah Cottage

In 1868 Moses married Ellen Wingfield (or Winfield). The Winfields were a long-established Ewelme family. Moses and Ellen were to have a large family at Verandah Cottage. There were eight children—Horace, Beatrice, Edgar, Eva, Sidney, Helen, and Mercy Jane. Ellen died in 1891 aged only 51 years, leaving Moses to raise the younger children with help from his daughter Beatrice, who became housekeeper and caretaker to the family.



Above: Moses Winfield and his family outside Verandah Cottage

Craftsmanship and Community Standing

Moses eventually established his own business as a wheelwright, carpenter, and undertaker, maintaining a small workshop both at Verandah Cottage and at the nearby village forge. His craftsmanship gained regional respect. He built wagons, pony traps, staircases, and even coffins. Villagers later recalled that the stairs he built “never creaked since the day they were put in,” and dealers at carriage sales prized “Winfield traps” for their craftsmanship.

He worked into his eighties, completing a pair of cartwheels on his 83rd birthday. In a 1930 interview, he attributed his strength and long life to a simple lifestyle: he never smoked and had not touched alcohol since age nine, when early drunken mischief ended with his father carrying him home.



Moses with his pony and trap outside Verandah Cottage

Public Service and Civic Leadership

Moses was not only a respected tradesman—he was a man deeply committed to public duty.

As Parish Constable, he became part of local history during a small riot in the 1880s outside Monogram House (now called High House), home of the controversial George Eyre. When Moses and another constable attempted to intervene, they were assaulted; Moses’s hat was knocked off during the scuffle. The housekeeper, returning drunk, reportedly berated the crowd and attacked the constables by snatching their hats and beating them with them—a scene preserved in village lore.

In 1894, Moses stood as a Labour representative for the newly formed Parish Council and published a strong and principled election address in the local newspaper. In it, he advocated:

- Permanent land for allotments
- Local employment for road work
- Support for village charities to benefit the poor
- Recreation for visitors—but not on Sundays

He closed with characteristic integrity:

“If I go on the Council, it will be to do my duty thoroughly without fear or favour.”



Above: Verandah cottage can be seen on the right of the photograph, just above the two girls. At this time it had a thatched roof.

Family Legacy

Through marriage, migration, and service, many of the Winfield descendants scattered but they often retained a sense of identity rooted in Ewelme. Many from the generations below who remained in Ewelme ended their days in the almshouses.

Of Moses and Ellen’s descendants:

Edgar became a sergeant in the Royal Artillery and died during the Boer War.

Sidney, grandfather of Cyril Winfield, became a cattle dealer and later a judge at the Thame Agricultural Show.

Helen emigrated to Canada; Mercy (Daisy) became a nanny in the household of the W.H. Smith family.

Beatrice remained at Verandah Cottage, caring for the family and their home into the mid-twentieth century.

Enduring Memory

Moses Winfield died on 11 September 1932. However memories of his presence in the village remained vivid amongst the villagers. Children recalled visiting the workshop, watching the cuckoo clock in the cottage kitchen, and riding in Moses’s pony trap drawn by

Jasper. His grandchildren talked of the smell of wood shavings in his workshop. Decades later, villagers still spoke of him with affection, not only as a craftsman, but as a symbol of the village's continuity. As one elderly resident said:

"He was a great craftsman, and we were proud of him."

Verandah Cottage passed down through family until eventually being sold and renamed La Welme Cottage in the late twentieth century.

Ewelme Archive



The above photo is similar to the one above but a little later as the roof is now tiled.



A 20th century photograph of the cottage showing the veranda before it was enclosed.