



## *Unusual Weather at Codford*



### **LOCAL NEWS IN 1795**

A SUMMER HAILSTORM.- The intense cold which set in on Thursday night, the 18<sup>th</sup> (June 1795), there is great reason to apprehend will materially check the progress of vegetation; and from information already come to hand very much mischief has been done among the flocks, just shorn of their wool, and deprived of that warm clothing which, from the unseasonable severity of the weather, was then so peculiarly necessary. At Broadchalk, nearly 200 sheep perished, about half of which were the property of one farmer; and 120 at Downton. 123 were killed at Steeple Langford, the greater part suffered from the hailstorm. Mr Russel, near Shaftesbury, lost no less than 300; sixty were lost in Coombe and its neighbourhood; 100 at Place Farm, Swallow Clift, and a great many at Codford, and on almost all the farms around Salisbury Plain. In short, it is computed that one-fourth of the flocks in Wiltshire are destroyed by this sudden and unexpected calamity.- Salisbury Journal, June 22, 1795

(*Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1853)

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Owing to the rapid thaw on Saturday last, the water rose to a very unusual height at Codford, and its neighbourhood; the turnpike road was for a while nearly impassable, and the inhabitants near the stream running from Chittern were obliged to leave their dwellings from the dread of their being washed down upon them. Mr Fry, blacksmith, of that place, a very honest industrious man, has had his shop and a great part of his premises carried away, and great fears were entertained for the dwelling house, which for some time was in imminent danger. Mr Wm. Bennett was also very seriously inconvenienced, from the same cause. So rapid was the increase of water, that during the time his carter was eating his dinner, it had risen to the horses middles in the stable. The horses were removed as quickly as possible to the George inn. A flock of sheep belonging to the same gentleman were obliged to be carried off in wagons, which was not effected without great difficulty. The cribs from which they had been feeding, were all washed away.- Several cart sheds and mud walls have been completely razed. This was the highest flood ever remembered.

(*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*, Thursday, 21st January, 1841)