Charles Sheldon (Blacksmith) of **Cromwell House, High Street, Wheatley (100, High Street)**

Clifford John Druce (1886-1978) wrote about his memories of his Grandfather, Charles Sheldon, in a booklet 'Recollections of Childhood in Garsington 1890s - 1930s published by the Garsington Local History Group in 1995.
My mother (Gertrude) was the eldest daughter of Charles Sheldon of Wheatley, another blacksmith. His visits were a joy and an excitement arriving in a trap drawn by a sleek, well-fed pony. He was knowledgeable about animals both wild and tame. It must have been in his company that I first saw the inside of a pub. His house at Wheatley was called Cromwell House, the legend being that the oak panelling in one room had come from Holton House with which Ireton, if not Cromwell had some connection.
We spent several Christmases at Cromwell House, my mother and myself staying there and my father walking down each day.
Charles Sheldon, blacksmith, lived in Cromwell House in 1900 and died in 1910, aged 81. He was the son of Thomas Sheldon, also a blacksmith, who was born in 1776. Thomas Brazell (1846 - 1926), blacksmith, took over from Charles Sheldon before 1907. His son, Walter Joseph, was here until his death in 1951, when his daughter Mrs Ivy Pratt, and her husband acquired the house. Mrs Pratt lived here until her death in 1978.