

Arthur Courtier

Traditional varieties of stock.

Before the War every farmer had sheep on the moor, practically, no cattle much, but sheep they used to put up summer time and then they'd take them off, they'd be very little, well I don't know of any until these Scots sheep arrived, and then of course they're there all the year round. In those days it was all either White Face Dartmoor's which would be what we call the Widecombe Sheep, or the Greyface Dartmoor, which they call improved Dartmoors, and we had the Greyface Dartmoor's, very docile sheep, more so than the White Face and of course they cut more wool. I don't remember anybody having cattle on the moor until about 1933, something like that, and then there were a few put up there, but before that – we used to turn some out, springtime, we used to turn some out on the moor from a field adjoining the moor for a few hours, I and my sister used to watch these things, that they didn't stray too far and then we'd tell our father when he came back, but they were never out over night or anything like that, they were never permanently out.

What cattle did you have?

South Devon's, only South Devon's, you never saw anything much else but South Devon's, none of this black and white rubbish! Should I say that?! But nothing like that, none of these coloured or none of these French breeds, or continental breeds or anything like that, it was all, practically all South Devon.