

Dirt to Decadance

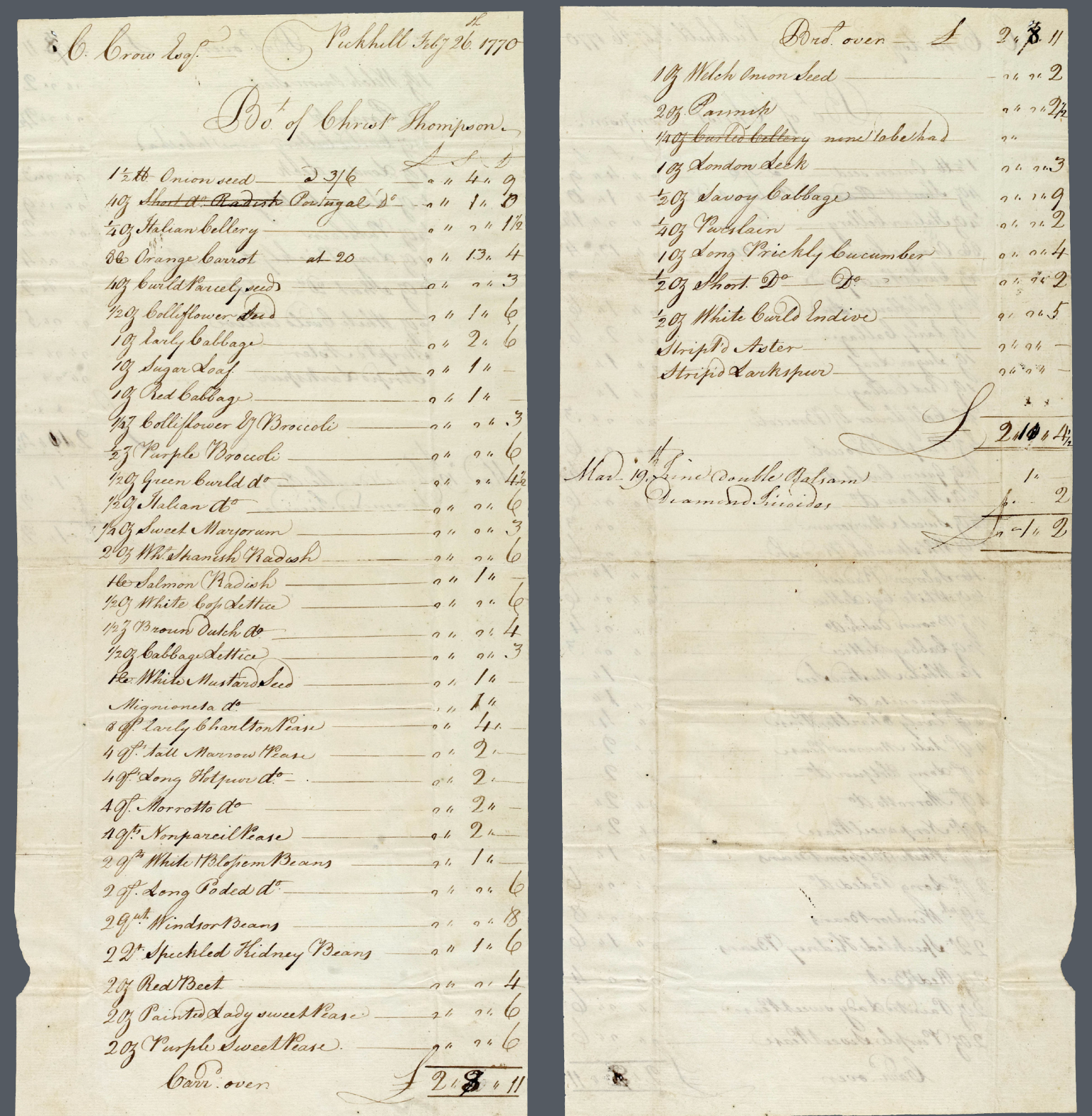
Garden

Growing your own was essential for a country estate. The family and their servants were far away from shops and markets. They created their own fresh food supply on their doorstep.

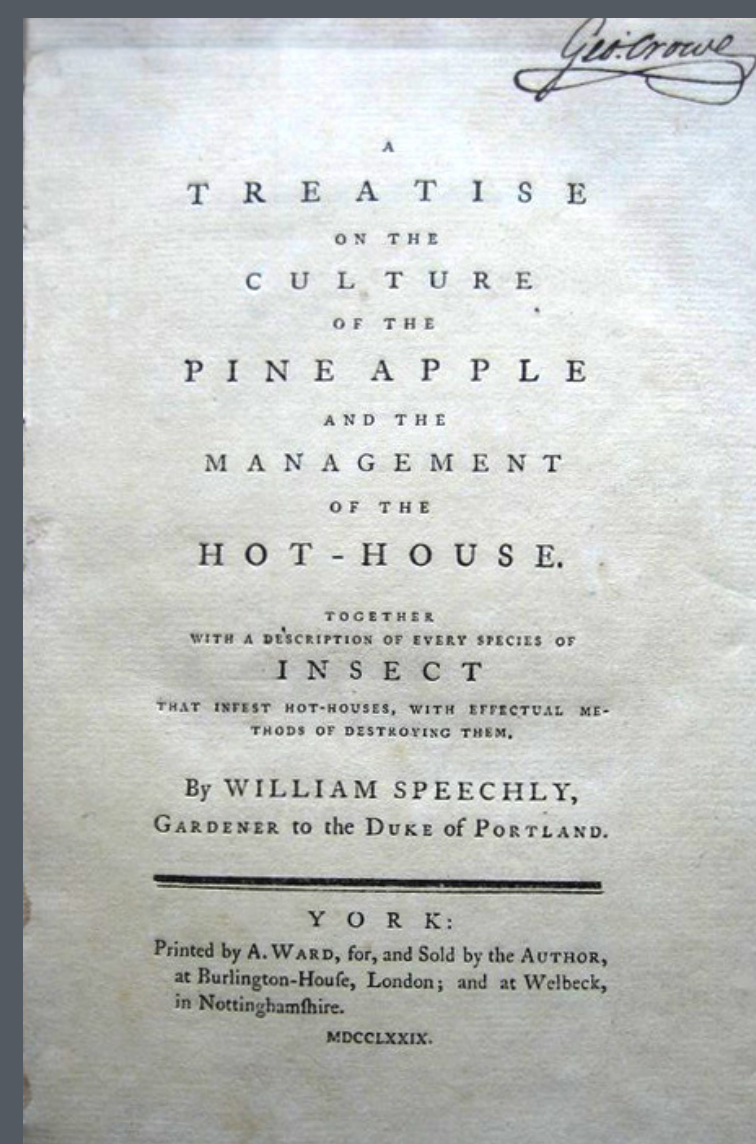
Records show the variety of plants grown at Kiplin. In the 1770s they include purple broccoli, sweet marjoram, and prickly cucumber.

By the 1800s, there were glass houses. These grew exotic fruits such as peaches and pineapples. The walled garden also had apple and other fruit trees.

The three daily meals given to the servants were wholesome and healthy. Fresh produce from the estate was a cheap way of keeping the servants well fed. Sometimes, there was a chance to taste leftovers from the family dining room table. This may have included expensive delicacies such as pineapple or ice cream.



Christopher Crowe the Younger (1716 – 1776) purchased seeds to grow at Kiplin. Image courtesy of The North Yorkshire County Record Office, ZBL IV 3-16 List of seed 1770.



This book is signed by George Crowe. He owned Kiplin Hall 1776-1782. In the 1830s and 1840s, John and Sarah Carpenter won prizes at local horticultural shows for pineapples grown at Kiplin.

From

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Gardener

Maintaining the gardens and growing food for the table was hard work. A team of gardeners looked after the gardens. They were skilled workers, but their success also relied on the weather.

Three to six gardeners lived on-site when the Carpenter family owned Kiplin Hall (1818 – 1904). There may have been daily workers too. This team was overseen by the Head Gardener, who had responsibility for all the gardens. In 1851, this was David Davies. He had an annual wage of £40.

The gardeners did most of their tasks by hand or using mechanical tools. Alongside maintaining the gardens, the fires for the glass houses needed fuelling. Imagine how it felt shovelling coal into the boiler on a cold, dark night.

Gardening was skilled job.

Our gardeners shared their knowledge, publishing articles in The Gardener's Magazine and The Gardeners' Chronicle. They also won prizes at shows for their horticultural skills.

