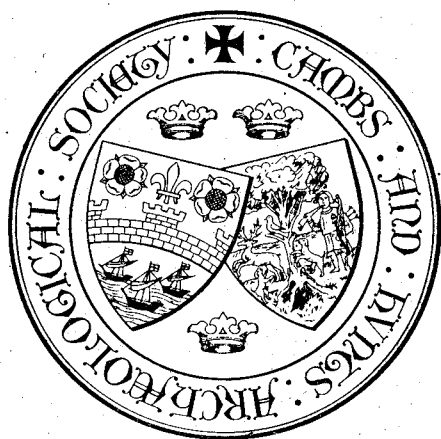


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PAPERS BELONGING TO ELLINGTON CHURCH, HUNTS.

BY S. INSKIP LADDS, A.R.I.B.A.

In March, 1908, the Revd. A. L. Grimley, then Vicar of Ellington, and I searched all the papers belonging to Ellington Church, and did them up in bundles as follows: 1, Churchwardens' Accounts; 2, Overseers' and Constables' Accounts; 3, Deeds of Apprenticeship and Deeds re domicile of paupers; 4, Receipts for Property Tax; 5, Papers relating to the Town Lands; 6, Large Parchment Deeds re the Town Lands; 7, Some ancient Deeds in a little leather box; 8, a bundle of papers marked "Vicarage House," which also contains a Book about the School in the writing of William Ladds (died 1837); 9, a bundle marked "Ancient Deeds"; 10, a copy of a Deed of Augmentation of the Vicarage by £80, by Peterhouse College, 1861; 11, a copy of the London Gazette, Oct., 1861; 12, a fragment of a note-book, by a former Vicar, probably John Smith, 1781-1785, as to payments made or due to him for baptisms, burials and marriages, etc., 1773-1783.

There are also: The Parish Registers; two old Church Prayer Books; a book of the Customs of the Manor of Ellington in the time of Queen Elizabeth; five or six Churchwardens' and other Books; the Enclosure Award and Map in a long tin case.

The papers in the little leather box are particularly interesting, going back as they do to the time of King Richard II, and relating to the Town Lands. They seem to form four groups: I, Deeds relating to Land formerly belonging to John Swift; II, Deeds relating to Land formerly belonging to Reginald Eyr; III, Deeds relating to both properties combined in the hands of the same Trustees; IV, Miscellaneous Deeds of late date.

Group I.—The earliest Deed in this group is dated on Sunday next before the Feast of Epiphany, 22. Ric. II. (1399). By it John Swift enfeoffs Robert Burgeys, John Thacchere and John Caath, of 3 acres of arable land and $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre and 1 rood of meadow in Ellington. It does not say for what purpose. Apparently John Swift was the original donor of the land, but this is not definitely stated.

The next Deed relating to this Trust is dated 6. May 8. Eliz. (1566.). The three Trustees were dead and no-

body had been appointed in their place, so Thomas Burgesse, of Easton, kinsman and next heir of Robert Burgesse, appointed new Trustees, viz., Francis Hallcot, Thomas Bedells, Ric. Henson, John Henson, Junr., Nicholas Gates, Rob. Robinson, Thos. Tall, Wm. Pegg, John Bannister, and John Birt, of Ellington.

On the 16. Oct. 35. Eliz. (1593.) Francis Holcott, gent., and Nicholas Gates, senr., husbandman, the surviving Trustees, enfeoffed Gabriel Throckmorton, Henry Holcott, Edward Holcott, John Morley, senr., John Gates, senr., John Thurston and Francis Morley, of Ellington.

At the same time these men were appointed, by a Deed now lost, as Trustees of the other Trust; and thereafter both properties were conveyed by a single Deed.

Group II.—By a Deed dated 25. July 8. Henry V. (1420.) Reginald Eyr, of Sibthorpe, enfeoffed John Gymer, of Sibthorpe, Thomas Pulter, of Ramsey, John Orton, of Brampton, Carpenter, and John Swift, of Ellington, of 30 acres of land and pasture, 10 acres of meadow and 20 acres of wood in Sibthorpe and Ellington. Apparently Reginald Eyr was the original donor, but the deed does not state the purpose of the Trust.

By a Deed dated 20. March 35. Henry IV (1457.) John Gymer, late of Sibthorpe, and John Anton (evidently Orton), of Brampton, Carpenter, no doubt the surviving Trustees, re-granted the land to Reginald Eyr; and he, by a Deed now lost, enfeoffed them to John Bateman, Thos. Couper, Walter Catelyn and William Cutte, for these men are stated to have re-enfeoffed them to Reginald Eyr.

Reginald Eyr died, and Thomas Warboys, Vicar of Leighton, apparently his Executor, on the 26. July, 6. Edward IV. (1466.) appointed new Trustees, viz., John Holcott, John Faux, John Bateman, Thos. Couper, Walter Catelyn, Thos. Isabell and Robert Hulley.

It is difficult to understand this Deed, because, by a Deed dated 1496, we are told that on the 30. June 1464, John Bateman, Wm. Cutte and Thos. Couper had enfeoffed John Holcote, senr., and John Gymer, Vicar of St. Neots, of the land, and that on the 20. April, 1480, John Holcote, senr., the surviving Trustee, had enfeoffed it to Walter Catelyn, John Brewys, John Bateman, senr., John Robyns, Thos. Freluffe, and Ric. Henson. These two Deeds are, however, lost.

By the Deed, dated 20. July, 11. Henry VII. (1496.) Walter Catelyn and John Brewys, the survivors, enfeoffed John Holcote, gent., Thos. Mallam, clerk, Robert Lane, Thos. Warde, John Isbell, John Hixson, Thos. Bateman, John Bateman, Wm. Colddew, Henry Jude, John Brewys, junr., and Wm. Warde.

On the 6. May, 6, Eliz. (1566.) all the Trustees being dead, Wm. Hollecott, gent., son and next heir of John Hollecott, of Ellington, deceased, and Thos. Bateman, of Ellington, kinsman and next heir of John Bateman, of Ellington, husbandman, deceased, appointed new Trustees, viz., Francis Hollecott, Thos. Bedells, Ric. Henson, John Henson, junr., Nicholas Gates, Robert Robinson, Thos. Tall, Wm. Pegg, John Banister and John Birt, of Ellington,—carefully stating that it is the land enfeoffed in 1466 by Thos. Warboys.

The Deed granting this property to Gabriel Throckmorton and others, presumably in 1593, is missing.

Group III.—By Deed dated 15 July, 1618, Gabriel Throckmorton, gent., Henry Holcot and Edward Holcot, and John Thurston, all of Ellington, enfeoffed to Robert Throckmorton, son and heir of the said Gabriel, Robert Throckmorton, son and heir apparent of the said Robert, John Morley, son of John Morley, Thos. Henson, son of Thos. Henson, John Gates, son of Wm. Gates, John Henson, Thos. Franck, Robert Robinson, Wm. Filbrige, Augustine Beridge, John Tall, son of Christopher Tall, senr., and Thos. Thurston, son of John Thurston, all of Ellington, yeomen, both the estates,—“commonly called the Tounelandes of Ellington.”

There are other Deeds, dated 1623, 1655, 1659, 1752, some are appointments of new Trustees, others are Leases.

Group IV.—Miscellaneous Deeds, including:—

A Deed dated 8 Sep., 1591, between Robert Throckmorton, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Ellington, and his Customary Tenants, as to the Customs of the Manor.

An Indenture dated 15 June, 1613, whereby Robert Slade, of Ellington, gent., grants to Peterhouse College, Cambridge, 1 acre of land in Sowbery Field and 3½ roods in Bean Meadow, to provide 12 shillings worth of bread for the poor of Ellington on Good Friday.

A bond for £50 from Matthew Ensom, of Holywell-Bury in the Parish of Stibbington. 1638.

Several Leases of the Town Lands—1635, 1637, 1655, 1715, 1731, 1790, 1802, 1832 and 1849.

An Assessment for Poor Rate, 1775.

The following statement, painted upon a board in the Church, tells us for what the Income from this property was used:—

Donations given to the Inhabitants of the Parish of Ellington, towards the necessary repairing and ornamenting the Church, &c., the overplus to be given to the Industrious Poor belonging to the said parish.

To and for the several uses, intents and purposes, as the Rents, Issues and Profits of the said premises (consisting of a Barn, Stable, sixty-two acres three roods and thirty-six perches of Land lying and being in the Parish of Ellington, and about three roods lying and being in the Parish of Alconbury) have been heretofore usually applied paid and disposed of, That is to say after payment of the Land Tax, Lord's Rents and Repairs of the Premises and the Conveyance thereof from Time to Time to new Trustees, To and for the use of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Ellington for and towards the Necessary Repairing and Ornamenting the Church belonging to the said Parish of Ellington, Providing Communion Bread and Wine for the Parishioners, Bibles, Prayer Books, Surplices and Hoods for the Vicar of the said Church for the Time being, and for the Discharge of all Just and Reasonable Charges claimed and paid at the respective Ecclesiastical Visitations of the Bishop and Archdeacon, and attending thereat. And that what shall remain of the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Premises after the said several and respective payments made for the purposes aforesaid (by the Treasurer aforesaid) on the Order of the majority of the said Trustees be paid applied and Disposed of. To and for the use of the Poor of the said Parish of Ellington, either by Employing them and setting them on Work, Instructing their Children in Reading, Writing and Accounts, putting and placing them out Apprentices, Hiring Houses for them to live in, Distributing Bibles, Testaments, and other good Books amongst them, Or any Charitable Provision for their Maintenance, Cloathing and Education or any other ways or means whatsoever as shall be thought most likely and proper to prevent their becoming otherwise Chargeable to the said Parish of Ellington, and most conducive towards making them good subjects and useful and serviceable to the Commonwealth and to and for any other Use, Trust, Interest or purpose whatsoever.

N.B.—Refer to a feofment made in the year of our Lord 1752.

Also the sum of One Pound six shillings and eight

pence, every year for ever Issuing out of twenty five Acres one rood and thirty three perches of Land lying and being in the Parish of Ellington, belonging to Peter House College, Cambridge, That is to say, that the sum of thirteen shillings and fourpence be given to the Minister for the time being, for Preaching a Sermon in the Parish Church of Ellington on Good Friday, and the remaining thirteen shillings and fourpence Be laid out in Bread for the Poor belonging to the Parish of Ellington, to be Distributed by the Minister and Churchwarden immediately after Divine Service.

Also the sum of five shillings every year for ever Issuing out of Five acres Two roods and Fourteen Perches of Land lying and being in the Parish of Ellington, belonging to Joseph Strangward (and taken in exchange at the Inclosure of the said Parish, for a close called White Bread Close) to be laid out in Bread for the Poor belonging to the said Parish of Ellington, to be distributed by the Minister and Churchwarden on Good Friday as above.

And also an Allotment of Land lying and being in the Parish of Ellington (called Clerks Piece) the Rent, Issues and Profits appendant to the Office of Parish Clerk of Ellington for the time being.

By Order of the Trustees, 1806.

The following abstracts of papers relating to the Vicarage House of Ellington are taken from the Records of the Archdeacon of Huntingdon, and not from Papers in the Parish, but they form an interesting postscript to the above.

Abstract of Title of Christopher Parker, Alice Jefferson and Mrs. Eliz. Railton, co-heirs of the Revd. Francis Jefferson, deceased, to a freehold Messuage or Dwellinghouse and premises situate at Ellington, Co. Huntingdon.

John Lant, of Ellington, yeoman, by Will dated 27. April, 1804, devised to his wife, Eliz. Lant, all his real Estate in Ellington. Will proved 14. Aug., 1805.

By Indentures of Lease and Release, 9. and 10. Nov., 1815, between Eliz. Hall, of Kimbolton, widow, of the 1st part; Geo. Lant, of Kimbolton, Carpenter, only son of Eliz. Hall, by her first husband, John Lant, of Ellington, shopkeeper, of the 2nd part; George Cole, of Kimbolton, gent., of the 3rd part; Chas. Bloodworth, of Kimbolton, gent., of the 4th part; and William Ladds, of Spaldwick, gent., of the 5th part.

Eliz. Lant had several closes in Ellington,—Lord's Close, and Moor Close or Leys,—and being about to marry again, gave, by deed (22. Aug., 1805), to her son, George Lant, the reversion in fee simple after her death. Lord's Close contained 3 roods, more or less.

Elizabeth and George agreed to sell Lord's Close to George Cole, for £86. and to sell other hereditaments and premises of greater value to Wm. Ladds. Deeds to be in keeping of Wm. Ladds,—he to produce them when required (unless prevented by fire or other inevitable accident).

They call it **THE LORD'S CLOSE**. It was formerly the Estate of Sir William Watson, kt., Lord of the Manor, and by him sold or conveyed, under certain Acts of Parliament for the redemption of Land Tax, to the said John Lant. Bloodworth was a Trustee for Cole. Sir Wm. Watson, of Weymouth Street, Portland Place, Co. Middx., sold it to Lant, 31. July, 1799.

Indenture of Lease and Release, 19. and 20. Aug., 1836. George Cole, of the 1st part; the Revd. Francis Jefferson, of Ellington, of the 2nd part; and Martin Hunnybun, of Huntingdon, gent., of the 3rd part. Cole sells Lord's Close to Jefferson, for £120.

Mortgage, 27. Dec., 1837. Francis Jefferson to Edward Martin, of Esher, Surrey, Farmer and Grazier, for £500:—Lord's Close with Messuage or Dwelling House, Stables, Coach House and other outbuildings then lately erected thereon.

Edward Martin, by will dated 23. Dec., 1837, devised to John Clapham and Martin Hunnybun, "the real estate vested in me as Mortgagee." Died 4. Feb., 1839. Will proved, P.C.C., 18. Sep., 1839.

Indenture of Lease and Release, ——— 1839, between John Clapham and Martin Hunnybun of the 1st part; Richard Martin, of Brampton, Hunts., Farmer, of the 2nd part; Sarah Jefferson of the 3rd part; and Christopher Parker, Alice Jefferson and Joseph and Eliz. Railton, of the 4th part. £500 still owing, but all interest paid. Sarah Jefferson paid the £500, and Clapham, Hunnybun and Martin released the property to C. Parker, Alice Jefferson and Joseph and Elizabeth Railton.

The Revd. Francis Jefferson was son of Robert Jefferson, of Stoneraise, Cumberland. He had three sisters: Margaret (deceased), wife of Christopher Parker; Alice, unmarried; and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Railton, of Carlisle. Christopher Parker, party to this Deed, was son of Margaret. Francis died 31. July, 1838, intestate,

and Administration was granted to Sarah, his widow, 13. Aug., 1838 (Archd. Court of Huntingdon).

Lease for a year. Indenture made 22. Dec., 1839, between Christopher Parker, of Emmanuel Coll., Camb., Esq., Alice Jefferson, spr., and Joseph Raiton and Elizabeth, his wife, of the one part, and the Rev. Wm. Hodgson, Master of Peterhouse Coll., Camb., and the Fellows and Scholars of the same, patrons of the Vicarage of Ellington, of the other part—for 5/- paid to Christopher Parker, etc., the said Christopher Parker, etc., etc., doth bargain and sell to the said Master of Peterhouse Coll., etc., all that brick and slated messuage or dwelling house lately erected on a freehold close of pasture adjoining thereto (called Lord's Close) with all the rights and appurtenances thereto belonging, etc., etc., to have and to hold to the said Master, etc., from the day next before the day of the date of these presents, for and during and unto the full end and term of one year thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended. Yielding therefor the rent of one peppercorn at the end of the term if demanded—to the said intent and purpose that by virtue of these presents and by force of the Statute made for transferring uses into possession the Master, etc., may be in the actual possession of the said premises and may thereby be enabled to accept and take a grant and release of the freehold reversion and inheritance of the same premises.

Release. Indenture made 23. Dec., 1839, between Christopher Parker, Alice Jefferson, and Joseph and Eliz. Raiton of the 1st part, Joseph, Bishop of Ely, the Master and Fellows and Scholars of Peterhouse College, and the Revd. Thomas Ludlam, Vicar of Ellington, of the other part. Premises to be purchased for £800, in accordance with the Act, 17. Geo. III. to promote the residence of the Parochial Clergy by providing for the speedy and effectual building and repairing of parsonage houses,—Do grant bargain sell alienate release and confirm the said Master, etc., in their actual possession now being by virtue of a bargain and sale dated 22 Dec., 1839, for a year. for the Vicars of Ellington, for ever.

Certified as registered in the Registry of the Bishop of Ely, in pursuance of 17. Geo. 3, C. 53, Sect. 10. Dated 25. July, 1840.

To the Governors and Treasurer of Queen Anne's Bounty, the Petition of Thomas Ludlam, Vicar of Ellington, in the Co. of Huntingdon and Diocese of Ely.

Humbly sheweth that there has been hitherto no Residence for the Incumbent attached to the Living nor any fit and suitable place of Residence in the Parish, until the late Vicar, the Revd. Francis Jefferson, built a House upon ground purchased by himself in the Parish, situated near the Church. That upon his death, in August, 1838, the said House was offered for sale, but remained vacant until Nov., 1839, being then to be sold at the price of £800. That it being thought highly desirable to have the house attached to the Living, application was made to the Patrons (St. Peter's College, Cambridge) to aid in the purchase, and they consented to contribute the sum of £200, upon condition of the remainder being raised. That a further sum of £307 was contributed by the various Landowners in the Parish and others who were desirous of forwarding the proposed object; leaving a remainder of £293 (together with the fixtures, valued at £35-19-0) to be defrayed by the Incumbent, who has been compelled to raise the amount on Loan at 5 per cent. interest, being precluded, by the injunction of the Patrons, from raising it upon the Living, the net annual value of which is £84 per ann. By this means the House was purchased in Nov., 1839, and attached to the Living with the consent of the Bishop and Patrons.

It is conveyed to the Master and Fellows of St. Peter's College in Trust for the Vicar for the time being, in witness whereof the deed of conveyance is forwarded with this Memorial.

The Incumbent, being wholly unable to discharge the above deficiency by his own resources, humbly prays the Treasurers of Queen Anne's Bounty that the grant of £200 may be applied towards the liquidation of the debt incurred by him in order to secure the purchase of the House.

(Signed) Thomas Ludlam, Vicar.

We, the undersigned clergymen residing in the immediate neighbourhood of Ellington, testify the correctness of the above statement,

Benjn. Puckle, Rector of Grafham.

Henry Linton, Vicar of Diddington.

Charles Gray, Vicar of Godmanchester.

[Apparently July,] 1840.

Q.A.B. made no grant.