

FWP06

A POTTED HISTORY OF FYFIELD, WILTSHIRE.

IWB 01.02.95

NB - sources and biblio. require further work

date unknown - estate of Fyfield assigned to sacrist of the cathedral church of Winchester.

1066 - held of the Bishop of Winchester by a monk, Alsi. The estate was assessed for geld at five hides. Valued at £5.

1086 - held of the Bishop by Edward. Enough land for 3 ploughs. There were 2 ploughs and 1 serf on the 3 demense hides. Elsewhere on the estate there were 3 villeins and 9 borders with 2 ploughs. There were 3 acres of meadow, 30a. of pasture, and woodland 3 furlongs long by 1 broad. Valued at £5 (VCH ii, pp 120-1).

early 12th C. - The prior of St. Swithun's withdrew his manors of EO & Fyfield from the Selkley hundred and included them in his own hundred of Elstub, which also included Alton, Patney & West Stowell. The courts were held at Alton.

12th C.- Church at Fyfield. Font made.

1210 - Fyfield valued at £8 (VCH iii, 194., Inderdict Doc. [Pipe R. Soc., N.S. xxxiv], 17). Flock of 100 sheep recorded (ibid. 24-5).

1243 - The prior of St. Swithun's claimed the manor of Fyfield.

1281 - Chaplain at Fyfield mentioned (VCH iii. 201; Mun & Winton ct. roll, 1281)

1284 - Fyfield confirmed to the prior by the Bishop of Winchester (VCH iii. 192; Bk. of Fees, ii. 748; Reg. Pontoise [Cant. & York Soc.], ii. 436).

- St. Swithun's priory gave up any right to the advowson of Overton, to which the parochial chapel of Fyfield is attached with rights of baptism & burial (VCH iii. 199), in favour of the bishop in return for the bishop's acknowledgement of St. Swithun's lordship over the manors, including Fyfield & Alton.

1291 - St. Swithun's appropriated Overton church with its dependent chapels. The church, including Fyfield chapelry, was assessed at £13 6s. 8d. (VCH iii. 200; Tax Eccl. [Rec. Com.], 189).

later 13th C - Fyfield is administered as part of the manor of East Overton, although with separate open fields. The combined manors consist of 11 holdings of 1 virgate (20a.) held for the usual agricultural services and small money rents. The virgater who acted as woodward was excused certain of the usual duties but was instead bound to carry the lot and crop of the manorial timber to the lord's court. There were also 13 holdings of

1/2 virgate. These tenants owed services similar to those of the virgaters, but owed half their money rent. The cottar, probably at Raddon, looked after two of the lord's plough-teams at the ox-yard there (Hanna, pp. lvi-lvii, 458; WAM. lviii. 109-).

1299 - The combined manors of East Overton and Fyfield supported 717 ewes, 400 hoggasters and 322 lambs. These were folded into three sheepcotes, one south of the Kennet at Audley's Cottages, and two north of the river at Hackpen and at 'Raddon' - see 'Raddon' paper (VCH iii. 194; Mun. D. & C. Winton., acct. roll, 1299).

early 13th C. - Chancel of St. Nicholas at Fyfield built.

1300 - The prior and convent received grant of free warren in their demense of Fyfield (as well as in their holdings in East Overton) (Cal. Chart R. 1300-26, 1).

1309 - The manors are now interdependent and together their joint income was £116 (Mun & Winton, 1309).

1344 - 'Little Fyfield' assessed for taxation with East Overton (VCH iv, 299)

1377 - The chapelry of Fyfield has 22 poll-tax payers (ibid. 310).

1541 - The Crown granted the advowson of the Overton chapels to the newly formed Winchester chapter, and after it descended like the manor of EO.

1545 - At least eight of the inhabitants were able to contribute to the benevolence of 1545 (VCH iii. 186; Taxation Lists[WRS. x], 4).

1547 - The crown, at the Dissolution, granted the manor, with EO, to Sir William Herbert, later earl of Pembroke. It then passed with the title to Philip, earl of Pembroke and Montgomery (d. 1683).

1550s - Curate serves at Fyfield (VCH iii. 201).

1567 - The demense farmer leased an additional 3 yardlands. At Fyfield there were 1 copyhold farm of 2 yardlands, 5 of 1 1/2 yardland and 2 of 1 yardland (VCH iii. 194; FPS, i. 291). The sheep for both EO & F were stinted at 100 to the yardland. Can we therefore deduce that, seeing that Fyfield consisted of 14 1/2 yardlands in total, there were approximately 14,500 sheep?

- Fyfields' fields were named North, South and Rylands and a common meadow called Berry mead.

- Fyfield contained a sheep down of 130a. called North down. Atleys or Audley's down, 80a, south of the village, was common to the tenants there during the spring, summer and autumn, but after 11 November the farmer of East Overton was entitled to it (VCH iii. 195; FPS i, 252).

- Fyfield contains Fyfield wood, 40a., and Audley's coppice, 8a.

1584 - Reader serves at Fyfield (VCH iii. 201).

1644 - Fyfield Down is described as 'a place so full of a grey pebble stone of great bigness as is not usually seen', where 'they lie so thick as you may go upon them all the way' (VCH iii. 186; Diary of the Marches of the Royal Army [Camd. Soc. 1st series, lxxiv, 151).

1686 - Vicar of Overton ordered to rebuild benefice at Fyfield (VCH iii. 200).

1697 - At least from this date, Fyfield manor is administered separately from EO, although perhaps much reduced from its original size (VCH iii. 195). The manor is now in the hands of Thomas Fowle and remains so until 1840.

1719 - Some lands in the open fields and common meadows of EO & F were inclosed. and in some cases exchanged, by agreement between the lord of EO, his tenants there, the freeholders and leaseholders of Lockeridge tithing, the lord of Fyfield manor and others (VCH iii. 195).

1724 -

1728 - East Overton manor contained Hackpen and 'Rodden' downs, 276a., Hursley down, 26a., and a tenantry down of 101a. (VCH iii. 195; Blenheim Mun., Wilts. deeds, survey).

1743 - Bath to London road turnpiked.

1812 - Estate is offered for sale (by RC Fowle?) and is bought by John Goodman who owns it by 1815 (VCH iii. 192). By 1812 Fyfield manor comprised of three farms, two, of 338a. & 27a., containing land on either side of the Bath road, and one of 112a. representing the remenant of the former demense (WRO inclosure award & map)

1821 - Parliamentary inclosure; Lord of EO was allotted some 500a. in Fyfield chapelry for the manor of EO. The lord of Fyfield was allotted 218a. The vicarial glebe of Overton comprised of 46a in Overton & 18a in Fyfield (now council houses).

1831 - Population probably calculated with EO & Lockeridge.

1840 - Revd. F.C. Fowle dies.

1841 - 150 people lived in Fyfield (VCH iv. 349).

1856 - North Farm at EO & Fyfield Farm are worked together.

c. 1860- Numerous cottages near river, south end of the village, burnt down

1861 - 200 people

1867 - R. C. Long described as 'Lord'

1880 - By this date large warren established on Fyfield Down. In 1910, Alexander Taylor killed c. 14,000 rabbits to make downland gallops safer.

1891 - 152 people

1896 - Clatford civil parish and extra-parochial place of Overton Heath transferred to Fyfield

1901 - 178 people

1906 - Fyfield Farm, 573a., now worked separately from North, 958a., & South, 451a., Farms at EO.

1930s - Fighting Cocks inn, Congregational chapel and many cottages south side were demolished when road was widened.

1931 - 143 people

1971 - 134 people