



Notes on the Topography of the Parish of North Moreton, Berks :

CHIEFLY FROM THE ROLLS OF THE MANORIAL
COURTS.

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(Continued from page 120, Vol. XVIII.)

THE south-eastern portion of the parish is low-lying meadow-land, including the North mead (*pratum boreale*, 1334; *north mede*, 1447, etc.), the South mead (*le south mede*, 1448, etc.), the Breach (*la braech*, 1334; *le breche*, 1514, etc.), and the Moor (*le moore*, 1564, etc.). In 1527-8 we have also "le In mede." "Haywards Hook," in an angle beside Kibble ditch, still bears its name; and in 1561 it is stated that "a certain piece of land lying in the common meadow called Northmeade, named the Haiwards Hooke, is in the land and the free tenure of the lord of this manor." "Le Heywarde pece" occurs in 1580 and "heywardes dyche in 1447. In the same parts were "the Ham" (1583, 1586, 1717), and also "the Two Ashes" (1570, 1597). "Le Grete Ash" is mentioned three times in 1514, and a ditch beside it was called "Midwynters." "The little ash way" frequently occurs from 1568 to 1600. A field-track called "Ash Way" crossed the angle where the Didcot road turns off westward from the Broadway. The horse commons or "horse-leas" (*communia equorum anglie horsleses*, 1600) appear to be in the same part, for a ditch passed from "le horse leas corner usque Bryghtwell more end" (1597, 1599). But the "Summer leas" (1717, 1768) are on the western side of the parish; and "Somer leas bushe" is named in 1597. In the south mead is "Rushcroft" (1570, 1583, 1717, 1768), and adjoining it is a small pasture, forming part of the glebe, which the tithe-award of 1842 marks as "the Dollots," with "Churchwarth" included in it. A ditch connected the south mead with "Whichgoldyche" (1448), this Whichgold being apparently the same that appears in 1529 as "le Wyrgold"; and in 1524 Robert

Todmerton was fined 4d. for a trespass on the lord's land in cutting down four elms on the land called "Wt. Golde" and carrying them away without licence of the lord or his bailiff. The pasture which was called the Breach (1514, 1561) is mentioned frequently down to 1768. Fines are imposed for two cattle taken in "la Braech" in 1334 and for a pig allowed to go into "le Breache" not ringed in 1568. At a corner of it was "the Conyston" (1564), "Coningstone," or "Cunninge-stone," frequently mentioned in the sixteenth century (1586 to 1597). Near the Breach-gate was Brookslade; a ditch passing "a Brock slade yatt usque ad brack yate" (1590); and "Brookslad mere ditche" is mentioned (1570). The Breach was drained by a ditch called "shyd-bryche" (1502) or "schete-breche" (1514), which had a "shetell" (1529) or "shuttel," and afterwards two (*ambo shuttels*, 1571), distinguished as the "stonye shettells" (1586, 1595, 1597) and "boured shettells" (1595, 1600); one of these being probably the same that is called elsewhere "gurges" (1448), "le water plashe" (1580, 1583), or "the sluice" (1734). This was between the "long lake" and the "short lake" (1570, 1580, 1583, 1597), called in later times the "long ditch" and the "short ditch" (1717; *langdyche* occurs 1471). The Breach was divided by a "bond," or boundary hedge, from the Moor (1564), and the "breache end" adjoined the "More gate" (1594). The "Hurst" (1334, 1734), adjoining the Moor (1589, 1590), appears to be called "Mead Husk" now. It is "le More-hurst" in 1583; and "More Hurst Island" occurs (1580). There is also "Rodwey More" (1583), "le Workemans More" (1531), the "Furmoore" (1717), and the "Blackmoor" with "Blakemoredyche" (1482), "the black ditch" (1571, 1597, 1768), and "the black bridge" (1583, 1595). "Le Heath" is named in 1597. Besides the ditches which have been mentioned we have "Woodland ditch" (*Wodlondyche*, 1470), "Mallesdyche" (1482), "Pantersdyche" (1471, 1476, 1478, 1527, 1537) called afterwards "le Pantrie ditche" (1605, 1616); also "Le Gore ditch" (1518, 1571, 1600), taking its name from Mackney Gore in the parish of Brightwell (1514, 1586, 1600). "Le Mede dyche" led to Brightwell Moor (1527). In 1571 "le new diche a le little ashe way ad Brightwell Moore End" required cleaning. There was also a ditch from little ash way to "Prebend hill" (1600). A bridge was distinguished as "handle bridge" in 1590. "Shepebridge mere is named in 1597 ("Shippridge meare," 1588). Chadwell is a field upon the rise on the north side of the Brightwell and Didcot road which crosses the middle of the

parish from east to west, known as the Portway.* In 1523 all the tenants having land at "Chaldewell" are ordered to dig and clear the ditch there, and in 1514 three persons were fined because their sheep were in the corn at "Chaldewell mere." A ditch or ditches divided the south mead from "le Arlonds" (1571; evidently *earlands* or ploughlands) and from the "Otelonds" (1477, 1478, 1527, 1531, 1583, 1717). "Lady furlong" is south-west of the village, and beyond it is "Louse furlong" (1717). South of this is "Standel" (Standall, 1717), and in 1447, 8, John Randolff is charged in three successive courts with having encroached six feet upon the lord's ground at "Standale." Other existing field names are "Flax furlong" and "Rye furlong" (1717, 1768); "North longlands" and "West longlands" (1717); "Picked piece" (*pykyd lond*, 1477); "Pix furlong" (*pissh-furlonge*, 1583; *pisser furlong*, 1717); "Womin" (probably Warming furlong, 1768), and the "Long Strings." These last are adjacent to "Mapleton furlong" (1768), which appears as *Mapledon* in a patent roll of 1600. There are also "Black lays," "White lays," "Catbrain piece" and "Naps." "Teen acre" (*tene acre*, 1448), is miswritten "Kem" in 1842. Other old names are "le Henchlond" (1448), "Toune furlong" (1482), "Garlocke" (1567), "le Pulce fild" (1571), "le Edge feilde" (1583). "Litton" or "Lyton," occurring in 1571, may be supposed to be an outlying "little ton" in the parish (the adjoining parish of Little Wittenham had a cluster of cottages called "Little town" until recent times). A meadow called "Furton" and a garden called "Hamptones" were surrendered by John Walys in 1476. "The Saffern garden" is named in 1565. There was also a pasture known as "Blakhalles" (1481; "Blackhall," 1528, 1567). Lands belonging to the Stapleton Chantry founded here in 1299, now East and West Chandry, near the north-west corner of the parish, were known as "le Chauntery pece" (1514), or simply "The Chauntrye" (1571, 1583); and "le Chantery More" or "Meare" is named (1571, 1583). The farm belonging to it is "Hempsey" (1481) or "Hempsis Farm" (1567). We have also "Hempseyes half acre" (1481), "Hempsey corner" (1482), and "Hempses Close" (1568). In 1482 the ditch at Hempsey had been neglected and allowed to flood the high road. The name survives as "Hempsteads," which is a pasture of two acres on the west side of Broadway, close above the entrance to the

* See Vol. XII., p. 12. This portion of the road is called *Porthway* in a survey of the lands of Wallingford Priory in South Moreton, *cir.* 1524 (*Reading Mercury*, 5th April, 1890, p. 2).

village, and a pond by the road side adjoins it. A close called "the Park" lies south of the Church and the Vicarage. It belonged to the lord of the manor (1592). In 1536 Richard Danrygge was fined 6s. 8d. for allowing the croft called "le Parckke" to lie open, and in 1589 all were forbidden to cross the private land of the lord of the manor called "le perk and the lordes meadowes." In 1590 it is "divarium vocatum the perke." A ditch passed between "le perke et le paddocke" (1569), and the Park ditch is mentioned in 1471 and 1734. At a Court held in 1730 orders were given for making a step" at each of ye two stiles in ye churchway leading from Park Corner to ye Church"; also to "order ye antient watercourse so that ye water may not stand in ye churchway." A larger enclosure lying east of the Park and called "the Grounds" is protected by a moat on the east and north and partly on the west. Hence it may be presumed that the site of the manor-house was here. A small pasture north of this moat is "Puckhurst," perhaps a corruption of Park-hurst. But the "Puckhayse" occurs, apparently in these parts, in 1717. And at a court held on the morrow of St. Valentine in 1447 it is stated that the lord of the manor has a ditch uncleared "juxta Pedeheys," which again may be miswritten or misread for "Perkheys." Park End Farm is north of the entrance to the village on the east side of Broadway. "Parkende" occurs in 1482, "Parke end pyll" in 1514 and 1592, "Park end down" in 1768. It seems to be identical with a "messuage called Parkins *alias* Larkins" leased by Edmund Dunch to Edward Dew in 1717. Several tenements are described in the sixteenth century as having borne a certain name from old times (*ab antiquo vocatum*), as "Court" (1514, 1518; *Couerte*, 1567), "Pymmes" (1502, previously named in 1481), and "Walys" (1518); the last being perhaps "Walys" in 1448 (John Walys was a tenant in 1476, as already mentioned). Other tenements are "Hulbeye" (1447), "Chatmodes" (1480), "Hylmans" (1480, 1529; Holemans Close, 1565), "Beckinghams" (1567; John Beckingham occurs in 1514), "Hynchemans" (1567, 1583), and "Beakes Place" (1592). Messuages called "Pykynge" and "Panninge" were held together in 1593 and separately in 1621. We meet with John Pannyng in 1448, and this may be the farm now known as "Pannels." A messuage called "Horsleys" (1717) is explained by the fact that Thomas Horsley was a tenant in 1521; Henry in 1561, dying in 1570; and Robert appears from 1579 to 1605. "Baldens Corner" is named in 1482 and "Sponers Corner" in 1571 (Richard Sponer occurring in 1579).

On the rising ground north west of the village, above the old road which led to Wittenham, the site of a former windmill is marked by "Windmill furlong." In 1521 Richard Randall is required "to make and occupy the customary way (*viam usualem*) at Wyndmyll hyll in such way as it was used from old times, under penalty of a forfeit of 12s." ; and in 1588 Robert Addams is fined for keeping his horses "super le Wyndmyll hill" contrary to the order of the court. The old road from this point passed up a field called "the Dean," and the new road which has superseded it crosses a field to the east of this known as "Brim furlong," or "Burn furlong." A paved causeway in the village is mentioned in 1561, when all the tenants are required to repair "strata via vocata the Causey juxta domum Nicholai Knowlle." This may have been in the village street where the pathway is raised on account of the fall of the ground. The village pound is mentioned in 1605, when "Parcus domini anglie the pounce" needed to be repaired.

In connection with the Hayward's Hook, which has been described, it should be added that the appointment of the Hayward, or superintendent of the harvest operations (*messor*, 1333, etc. ; *superintendens operarum in autumpno*, 1356 ; *prepositus vocatus le Heyward*, 1514), was made constantly down to 1734. In 1362 "Richard Horlok was elected to the office of *Ripereve* and sworn." In 1599 John Mayne and Richard Feild were elected "*supervisores fossatorum anglie ditch-lookers*," Robert Adams and Richard Baker were elected "*leas lookers*" and sworn. In 1580 "it was ordered that there be elected annually at the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord one *Talpator* for the parishioners of Northe Morton or the greater part of them, and that none escape his salary at the appointed time under penalty" ; and in 1583 William Mayne was fined 12d. for not paying it ; also in 1588 it was ordered that every tenant of certain lands "shall pay the stipend and allow food and drink to the *moletakers* according to the rate heretofore agreed upon." So in 1734 Thomas Wicks was sworn Hayward, and a salary was assigned to him "for taking moles."

