

67.25 Selected transcriptions, Charles I, Charles II and the Commonwealth, 1625–85

Mid-17th-century Survey

'All that messuage or farmhouse with the appurtenents called or knowne by the name of Grovebury Manor lying and being within the --- of Leighton ... All those three pasture grounds commonly called Chapplee grounde and Windmill hill.'

Windsor Documents XV 25, 113

Court Rolls

[First court of Thomas Leigh; these continue up to 1656. 1657–58, three courts of Richard Meade.]

Beds CRO KK 628, 632, Court Rolls

1660 State Papers, Charles II

[Petitions: Lord Leigh petitions the king for the return of his lands which he had sold over-cheaply to regicides of his father Charles I, pointing out that the Duke of York also had ignored rights.]

'Thos. Lord Leigh, Baron of Stoneleigh. For a letter to ... of Windsor, for renewal of his lease of the lordship of Leighton Buzzard, co. Bedford, which he sold to Col. Okey, who had bought the reversion, but is incapable of it, as being one of the murderers of the late King.

Statement of the case of Lord Leigh relative to the above lands, that he sold his lease very disadvantageously to Okey the traitor, Rich. Mead, and two others, rather than buy the reversion; and that Mead and the others try to obtain a new lease, by surrender of the old one, without acquainting the church with the right of the Duke of York to have a fourth part thereof, as being the estate of Okey.

The King to ...Windsor: Certain lands in Leighton Buzzard, belonging to them, the remainder of the lease whereof was sold to Thos. Lord Leigh to John Okey, one of the judges of the late King, have, by his attainder, devolved on the Crown, and were granted to the Duke of York, and by him transferred to Lord Leigh. Recommends his lordship, as a former tenant and also a person of eminent loyalty, for a renewal of the lease, which Rich. Mead, one of the purchasers of the present lease, attempts to obtain.'

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, Charles II, Vol I, 1860, 248

1661 Charles II

'Appointment of Thomas Lord Leigh by the Dean and Canons as their bailiff and attorney to sue Richard Mead for any infraction of a former lease,- whereas on 10 January 1576 the Dean and canons let to Francis Barneham, George Barne, and John Barne the manors of Grovebury, Laighton Bussard, the tythings of Billington, Eggington, Clipstone, Heath, Reach, and Stanbridge in Beds, the manors of ... for 99 years at £179 5s 10¼d. and now that lease belongs to Richard Mead of Bowbrickhill, of which 3 years have yet to run – they have now leased the same for 21 years there to Thomas, Lord Leigh at £179 6s.'

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 373

[This is the whole manor of Leighton.]

1662 **Charles II**

[12 February]

'Lease to Thomas Lord Leigh of all their manor of Grovebury etc. for 21 years at £186 2s 8d.'

[This appears to be the whole manor of Leighton.]

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 373

1663 **Mortgage, Charles II**

[Leigh rents out land; rents include]

'Manor of Leighton Buzzard, £137 2s 11d.'

[This would be the whole manor.]

[Beds CRO; KK 35 Mortgage](#)

1668 **Licence to Alienate, Charles II**

[31 March. Thos. Leigh given licence by the Dean and Canons to alienate his interest in the lease of the:]

'Manor of Grovebury in the p'ish of Laighton Bussard (with appurtenances) unto George Bates

At a yearly rent of £28 5s 8d'

[This is the Grovebury demesne.]

[Beds CRO; KK 37, Licence to Alienate](#)

1668 **Assignment of Lease, Charles II**

[3 April. Thomas Leigh to George Bate, physician to the King; Coleman believes that we see Grovebury again separately leased away from the main manor. The Leighs had been holding leases of both but from this date their association with the Grovebury demesne block ended; they continued to hold the lease of the main manor until the mid-19th century.]

'The Manor of Grovebury in the parish of Leighton Bussard (with appurtenances) ... And all those severall Closes or grounds peeces or parcels of meadow and pasture ground hereafter mentioned being parte or parcell of the said Mano' of Grovebury or thereunto belonging. That is to say the House pasture and meadow ground called the Middleground (139ac 2r 33p) occ. Thomas Whigg gent., Hill Ground (121ac 3r 22p) occ. Francis Winton gent., Ollisses and Windmill Hill (157ac 27p) occ. Richard Doggett gent., Pasture and meadow called Collett (65ac 10p) occ. Edward Ashwell, house, pasture and meadow called Chappell Close and Mantell meadow (29ac 3r 26p) occ. William Theed, gent. Yearly rent of £28. 6s 8d.'

[Beds CRO; KK 38, Assignment of lease](#)

1668 Lease, Charles II

[18 December]

To Sir Demetrius James of Wrotham Kent, John Micklethwaite of London Doctor in Phisick and Luke Wilkes of Whitehall Esquire executors of George Bate late of London and Physician to the King [Lord Leigh Baron of Stoneleigh in the county of Warwick having assigned his former lease to George Bate in his lifetime] Grovebury manor house, the Middle ground containing 139 acres 2 roods 33 perches in the occupation of Thomas Wigg Gent., Mill grounds 121 acres 3 roods 22 perches in the occupation of Francis Winton, Gent., Oliffs pastures and Windmill Hill 157 acres and 27 perches in the occupation of Richard Doigget, Collett pasture, 65 acres 10 perches occupied by Edward Ashwell, Chapel Close and Mantel meadow 29 acres 3 roods and 26 perches occupied by William Theed ... for 21 years at £28 6s 8d. 1 quarter of wheat, keep courts and rolls sent up every three years.'

[The Grovebury demesne.]

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 373

1670 Surrender of Lease, Charles II

[12 February]

'Surrender by Thomas Lord Leigh of his lease of 14 December 1663 of Leighton Bussard at £137 2s 11d'

[The whole manor.]

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 373

1668 Lease, Charles II

[18 February; the old lease has been surrendered but Leigh leases the manor of Leighton without Grovebury and Studham.]

Dalton, J N (ed), 1957. *The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*, 373

1668 Licence, Charles II

[31 March, reciting a document of 1664, regarding the Mannor of Grovebury and the Mannor of Lughton Bussard; the sum clearly relates only to the Grovebury demesne.]

'Thos. Leigh given licence by the Dean and Canons to alienate his interest in the lease of the Mano' of Grovebury in the p'ish of Lughton Bussard with appurtenances unto George Bates at a yearly rent of £28 5s 8d.'

Beds CRO; KK 37, Licence to Alienate

1670 Lease¹

[18 February; Leigh leases Leighton without Grovebury.]

¹ Editor's note: no reference provided

'Dean and Canons of Windsor to Thomas Lord Leigh. Lease for 21 years of – Manor of Leighton Buzzard with other property ... With the exception of the Manor of Grovebury.'