

CONTENTS OF A MUNIMENT ROOM

THE word muniment itself, as we know, comes from *munire*, to fortify, to defend; a muniment, therefore, is a document which defends a right or privilege, and the muniment-room defends the documents. When we visited the excellent little loan collection in our Museum last year we saw that the defence of rights and privileges might range from little slips of notched wood to a simple receipt for the tax due on windows in 1773. The Exhibition was called one of deeds and manuscripts, for private letters (such as the great one written by Captain Fremantle) were not eschewed—and rightly, but it shows the difficulty of stating in one word the nature of the records it is desired to preserve. One can only say that the Muniment Room will offer protection to any record which is not wholly printed.

All the Court Rolls which time has spared will eventually come to us; other deeds relating to landed property will, one hopes, also accrue; but there are innumerable records in many families which may be of no great interest to their owners, and may yet serve to throw some side-light on the past history of our County, which it is our Society's object to record.

To illustrate this some notes have been compiled upon three types of documents, and in choosing them it must not be thought that more important documents could not have been chosen, even from our own records. Probably there is not another document in the County of the same age and importance as the

Boarstall Cartulary (which has been printed by the Oxford Historical Society), but many of our members may have, or may know of documents such as are here described for illustration.

- I. The first is a Court Roll of Winslow, of a late date, 1671, but, as it happens, quite perfect.
- II. The second is a little group of wills from Swanbourne, from 25 to 60 years later.
- III. The third is more uncommon, being a schedule of bucks taken in 1766 in Whaddon Chase, and the persons to whom they were presented.

So far as is known, none of these documents has been printed previously.

ED.

1. A COURT ROLL OF WINSLOW

“The court leet and court baron were included in the manor of Winslow from the 17th century onwards.”¹ On the 19th May, 1671, both courts were held by Roger Chapman, gentleman, and steward to the most noble George, Duke, Marquess, and Earl of Buckingham. Later in the year his Grace granted the manor to trustees “probably for the purpose of evading his creditors”² The names of the homage, those essoined, or in mercy for default, and the customary tenants, are given as forming a kind of directory of Winslow at the date; they appear in

¹ *Victoria County History*, vol. iii., p. 467.

² *Op. cit.* quoting Close Rolls 9 Will. III., pt. viii., no 24.

English and in alphabetical order at the end of these notes.

The names of the open fields and their contained furlongs are also given in a second list.

Examples of (A) an ordinary presentment, (B) a conditional surrender, and (C) the presentment of a death, are also given. In each of these cases the contracted Latin has been expanded, and a translation has been set opposite to it, by the great kindness of Mr. F. G. Gurney. These are perfectly normal entries, and the only object in giving them here is to print typical specimens of such entries.³

Amongst the names in the list one notices that of Benedict Holland, junior; he appears amongst those who were essoined and his holding is not named, but he is almost certainly one of the family resident at Granborough since the mid-sixteenth century. Lipscomb cites⁴ several entries from the register of both names, the last two being born in 1607 and 1609 and either of them may easily have been our Benedict; Lipscomb fails to connect Cornelius Holland, the regicide and grantee of Creslow during the Commonwealth, with this family. Amongst the homage another Benedict Holland (not marked "junior") appears, and a Thomas Holland, of Botolph Claydon, was amongst those fined 2^d for non-attendance, whilst a John Holland appears amongst the homage.

The name of Mark Slingsby (*generosus*) occurs and one cannot help associating him with the bearer of that name who figures in the history of Newport

³ The untrained record searcher spends much time in deciphering a court-hand through unfamiliarity with the words which may be contracted to very few letters.

⁴ Vol. i p. 251, note 2

Pagnell⁵, he was an attorney who was married at Newport 15 Apr 1638, and buried there 16 July 1677—apparently in unconsecrated ground.⁶ He was in trouble through visiting Oxford whilst the King was there (1643), and had to compound with a fine of £15. He left an endowment to provide loaves for the poor of Newport.

The names of Grace, Illing, Benbow and Barton, are still represented in Winslow. Several members of the Lowndes family appear; Wendover Lowndes was probably the uncle of "Ways & Means" Lowndes, he was born in 1633 and died in 1687.

Hugh Seaton held a close of 6 acres at Longmeades furlong and stretching to Soundbreach; he also had one bay at the west of the barn belonging to his messuage, and a croft which was part of the yard and orchard and reached "a principale poste horrei per ripam usque fenestram pistrini, anglice the Millhouse"—"from the principal post of the barn, by the bank, to the window of the Millhouse." The use of the word "ripa" in conjunction with Millhouse at first suggests a water-mill. From the roll it certainly appears that this was in the town itself, where no water-mill could be; but another entry refers to a rood of "swardground" in Oldmill Field at "Gilsehooke," and the suffix "hook" may be applied to "a bend or turning in a river, the land enclosed by such a bend."⁷ This association of Hook and Oldmill may not indicate the spot where Hugh Seaton's croft was. Newmill Field (Mr. A. J. Clear kindly informs the Editor), covered "all that part now cut in two by the railway"; two of the furlongs named

⁵ F. W. Bull: *History of Newport Pagnell*, pp. 268-273.

⁶ *Records*, vol. xi., pp. 89-90.

⁷ Wright's *Dialect Dictionary*, *sub. verb.*

in the roll ("Orillhill" and "Bubblesgore") can still be identified as adjoining closes on the north side of the line, though the second of these has scarcely become more euphonious through being called "Gubblesgore."

The rather high-sounding Demoram Field has become Van Diemen's Field; as Tuckey Hill occurred in that field and Tuckey's Farm and covert remain to this day, one gathers that Demoram lay to the west of the town, whilst Redfield (still to be found on the map), lay to the north-west. Exactly on the opposite side (that is, south-west of modern Winslow), Blackgrove Field must have stretched, since it included a furlong called Hoggston Ford, which still exists as a name on the Swanbourne side.

In the town itself we have not much which we can identify, though Sheep Street still stands in which John Underwood held a messuage.

The roll, which is in excellent condition and over six feet long, was offered to Lord Cottesloe, and, through him, has now been deposited in the new Muniment Room.

(A) ORDINARY PRESENTMENT

Ad hanc Curiam venit Edwardus Palmer, generosus, unus Customariorum Tenentium huius Manerii, et in aperta curia Sursumreddidit in manus Domini, per manus Senescalli predicti, totam illam peciam sive parcellam terre in Winslow predicta, iacentem ad orientalem finem domi Johannis Godwin iuxta stabulum hospitii vocati le Angell' Inn, continentem in longitudine novem pedes, et in latitudine extendentem ab uno fine eiusdem domi usque ad alterum, cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentiis, Ad opus & usum dicti Johannis Godwin et Rabsie, uxoris eius, pro et durante termino vitarum suarum naturalium, et vite diutius eorum viventis, Et post eorum decessus ad usum heredum de corporibus eorum inter eos legitime procreatorum, et pro defectu talis exitus, tunc ad usum rectorum heredum dicte Rabsie in perpetuum, secundum consuetudinem manerii. Quibus quidem Johanni et Rabsie presentibus in curia, Dominus, per senescallum suum predictum, concessit inde Seisinam per virgam, habendam et tenendam sibi et assignatis suis pro et durante termino vitarum suarum naturalium et diutius eorum viventis, et post eorum decessus ad usum heredum de corporibus eorum inter eos legitime procreatorum, et pro defectu talis exitus remanere rectis heredibus dicte Rabsie in perpetuum, de Domino per virgam ad voluntatem Domini secundum Consuetudinem manerii, per annualem redditum unius denarii, Sectam curie, et omnia alia onera, consuetudines, et Servicia inde prius debita, et de iure consueta. Et dant Domino pro fine vi^d (sex denarios) fecerunt fidelitatem et admissi sunt inde Tenentes in forma predicta.

To this Court came Edward Palmer, gentⁿ, one of the customary tenants of this manor, and in open court surrendered into the lord's hands, by the hands of the steward aforesaid, all that piece or parcel of land in Winslow aforesaid, lying at the eastern end of the house of John Godwin, next the stable of the inn called The Angell Inn, containing in length nine feet, & in breadth stretching from the one end of the same house to the other, with all and singular its appurtenances,—To the use and behoof of the said John Godwin and of Rabsia his wife, for and during the term of their natural lives and the life of the longer liver of them; and after their decease To the use of the heirs of their bodies, lawfully begotten between them: and for failure of such issue, then To the use of the right heirs of the said Rabsia for ever, according to the custom of the manor. To which said John & Rabsia, present in court, the lord, by his steward aforesaid, granted seisin thereof by the rod, To have & to hold to themselves and to their assigns for and during the term of their natural lives and of the longer liver of them. And after their decease to the use of the heirs of their bodies, lawfully begotten between them, and for failure of such issue to remain to the right heirs of the said Rabsia for ever,—of the lord by the rod, at the lord's will, according to the custom of the manor, by the yearly rent of one penny, suit of court, and all other charges, customs & services formerly owed [due] therefor, and of right accustomed. And they give to the lord for fine sixpence, did fealty, and were admitted tenants thereof in the form aforesaid.

(B) CONDITIONAL SURRENDER [equivalent to a mortgage in the case of freehold]

Ad hanc Curiam venit Silvester Claver, Customarius Tenens huius Manerii, Et in aperta Curia Sursumreddidit in manus Domini, per manus Seneschalli predicti Totum illud Messuagium sive Tenementum cum pertinenciis in Winslow, modo in occupatione, Willelm Hogson, et unam acram terre, anglice *leyes*, iacentem post dictum Messuagium, cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinenciis, Ad opus et usum Suzanne Michell, heredum et assignatorum suorum in perpetuum, secundum Consuetudinem Manerii per annualem redditum vi^d sub condicione tamen quod si predictus Silvester, heredes, Executores vel Administrators sui, sive aliquis eorum, solverent sive solvi Causarent prefate Suzanne Michell' executoribus Administratoribus vel assignatis suis, plenam Summam Sexaginta et trium Librarum et duodecim solidorum super decimum nonum diem Maii, qui foret in Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo Septuagesimo secundo, tunc dictam Sursumreditionem Vacuam fore, aliter remanere in pleno robore et virtute. Cuiquidem Suzanne, presenti in Curia, Dominus, per Seneschallum suum predictum, Concessit inde Seisinam per Virgam Habendum et tenendum sibi, heredibus, et assignatis suis in perpetuum, Subjectum tamen Condicioni supradicte, Ad Voluntatem Domini, secundum Consuetudinem Manerii, per Redditum, Consuetudines et Servicia inde prius debita, et de iure consueta. Et Dat Domino pro fine quinque solidos, fecit fidelitatem, Et admissa est inde Tenens:

To this Court came Silvester Claver, a customary tenant of this manor, and in open Court surrendered into the lord's hands, by the hands of the steward aforesaid, All that messuage or tenement with appurts. in Winslow, now in the occupation of Wm. Hogson,—and one acre of land, in English *leyes*,⁸ lying behind the said messuage, with all and singular their appurtenances,—To the Use & behoof of Susan (or Susanna) Michell, her heirs and assigns, for ever, according to the custom of the manor, by the annual rent of 6^d,—Nevertheless upon condition that if the aforesaid Silvester, his heirs, Executors or Administrators or any of them shall pay or cause to be paid to the said Susan her executors, administrators or assigns, the full sum of £63 . 12^s . 0^d on the 19th day of May which shall be in the year of the Lord 1672, then the said surrender to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue. To which said Susan, being present in Court, the Lord by his steward aforesaid has granted seisin thereof by the rod, to have and to hold to herself, her heirs and assigns for ever,—subject nevertheless to the condition aforesaid,—at the will of the Lord according to the custom of the manor by the rent, customs and services therefor aforesaid due and of right accustomed. And she gives to the lord by way of fine five shillings, did fealty and was admitted thereof tenant.

⁸ *i.e.* (temporarily) under grass or rough herbage.

(c) PRESENTMENT OF A DEATH, &c.

Ad hanc Curiam presentatum est per homagium quod Anna Eeles, vidua, vna Customariorum Tenentium huius Manerii, qui [*should be quæ*] tenuit sibi et heredibus suis per Copiam Rotulorum Curie, secundum Consuetudinem Manerii, Unum Cottagium sive Tenementum cum pertinenciis in Horwood parva, cum vna pecia, anglice *ley* pasturalis terre, Citra vltimam Curiam obiit inde seisita unde accidit Domino de herriotto vnus denarius per Compositionem⁹; Et quod Johannes Eeles est eius—[blank] et proximus heres, et infra Etatem, videlicet Etatis octo Annorum. Cuiquidem Johanni, presenti in Curia, Dominus per Seneschallum suum predictum Concessit inde Seisinam per Virgam, Habendum et tenendum sibi, heredibus, et assignatis suis inperpetuum, Ad voluntatem Domini, Secundum Consuetudinem Manerii, per Redditum inde per Annum iii^d, Sectam Curie et omnia alia onera, Consuetudines et Servicia inde prius debita et de iure consueta. Et dat Domino pro fine v^s, fecit fidelitatem, Et admissus est inde Tenens.

⁹ Agreement, composition, generally by the whole body of tenants in an indenture with the lord, but frequently individually, at an earlier admission.

It was presented to this Court by the homage, that Anne Eeles, widow, one of the customary tenants of this manor,—who held to herself & to her heirs by copy of the court-rolls, according to the custom of the manor, A Cottage or tenement with appurtenances in Little Horwood, together with a piece, in English a *ley*, of pasture land,—has deceased [died] since the last court seized thereof, whereby there fell to the lord by way of heriot one penny by agreement. And [it is also presented] that John Eeles is her ——, and next heir, and is under age, to wit, of the age of eight years. To which said John, being present in Court, the lord, by his steward aforesaid, has granted seisin thereof by the rod—to have & to hold to himself his heirs & assigns for ever at the will of the lord, according to the custom of the manor, by a rent therefor of 3^d yearly, suit of Court, and all other obligations, customs and services formerly due therefor, and of right accustomed. And he gives to the lord as fine [*i.e.*, fine on entry] 5^s, did fealty, & was admitted tenant¹⁰ thereof.

¹⁰ This could hardly be the fact because the heir was under age. Fealty at least must have been respited. The error was clerical.

PERSONAL NAMES IN ROLL

Addams, Roger	Fuller, John
Anchell, Susan	Furth, Will ^m
Anstee, Benjamin	Glenister, Abigail
Aston, Rich ^d	(widow)
Bampton, Eliz.	— Francis
Barrett, John	— John
Barton, Rich ^d	Godwin, John
— (widow)	— Tho ^s
Bassett, Francis	Grace, Tho ^s
Bavin, John	Grange, John
Bayly, John	Grassom, Jane
Beadles, Ann (widow)	Griffith, Morris
Beale, Rob ^t	Hart (gent ⁿ)
Beeley, Tho ^s	Heale, Rob ^t
Bence, John	Hoberoft, Edw ^d
— Tho ^s	Hobbs, John
Bendbow, Rich ^d	Hogson, Will ^m
Bett, Tho ^s	Holland, Benedict
Bigg, Tho ^s	(jun ^r)
— Will ^m	— Tho ^s of Botolph Claydon
Bingley, John	Holliday, Jo ^s
Bishopp, Mathew	Holloway
Bletchley, Emma	Hopkins, Edw ^d
(widow)	— John
Bowden, John	Howe, Rob ^t
— Rob ^t	Hubbert, Cha ^s
Bowles, Cha ^s (jun ^r)	Hunt, Will ^m
Branford, Tho ^s	Hutt, John (gent ⁿ)
Capp, John	Illing, John
Ceeley, Tho ^s	Kerby (widow)
Chandler, Tho ^s	King, Will ^m
Chennell (widow)	Knight, Tho ^s
Claydon, Will ^m	Lake, Rich ^d
Coates, Christ ^r	Leach, Benjamin
Claver, Silvester	— Edmund
Cooke, Ralph	— Mary (spinster)
Curtis, John	Leay, H ^y
Daniell, Rich ^d	Lownds, Alice
Dearinge, Rich ^d	— Peter
Dymcok, John	— Wendover
Eeles, Ann	Markham, Edw ^d
Elliott, Georgina	— Tho ^s
— Tho ^s	Marriott, Tho ^s
— Will ^m	Meade, Will ^m
Emerton, H ^y	Michell, Rob ^t
Falconer, Rich ^d	Michell, Susan
Finch, John	Miller, Dorothy
— Ralph	

- Miller, Sam^l
 — Tho^s
 Moorecroft, John
 Mountague, John
 — Tho^s
 Neale, Tho^s
 Norman, John
 — Michael
 Norris, Will^m
 Oakley, Tho^s
 Palmer, Edw^d (gentⁿ)
 Parker, Tho^s
 Parradine, John
 Pease, Tho^s
 Phipps, Rich^d
 Pim, Ann
 Pitkin, Benedict
 — Edw^d
 — H^y
 Plomer, John
 Reade, Richard
 — (widow)
 Riddall, Edw^d
 Ridgway, Jo^s
 Robinson, Tho^s
 Rodgers, Rich^d
 Rutland, John
 — (widow)
 Sayre, Abel
 — Daniel
 Scott, Rob^t
 Seaton, John
 — Hugh
 — Rich^d
 Sheffield, Tho^s
 Shelton, John (sen^r)
 — Rich^d
 — Rob^t
 Slingsby, Mark (gent)
 Smyth, Arthur
 — Christopher
 — Henry
 Snow, John
 Spooner, Rob^t
 — Will^m
 Stamford, Cha^s (gent)
- Stephens, H^y
 — John
 — John, de la Elme
 — Ralph
 — Richard
 — Robert
 — — (sen^r)
 — Thomas
 — (widow)
 — William
 (jun^r & sen^r)
 Stiles (widow)
 Stredwick, Leonard
 Sturman, Rich^d
 Stuthbery, Peter
 Teagle, Abraham (of Shenley)
 — Dianis
 Thorpe, Hugh
 — John
 — Rob^t
 — Will^m
 Tomlin, Edw^d
 — (widow)
 Townsend, John (gentⁿ)
 — Will^m
 Underwood, John
 Varney, John
 — Rich^d
 Watts, John
 Wells, Rob^t
 Westley, Aaron
 Whiteball, Will^m
 Willett, Newman
 Willis, Tho^s
 Willmott, Tho^s
 Worrall, Benedict
 — David
 — John
 — Tho^s
 Wyatt, H^y
 — Nicholas
 — Robert
 — Will^m
 Younge, Stephen (gentⁿ)

FIELD NAMES

	<i>Name of field</i>	<i>Name of furlong, pasture or other detail</i>
Winslow ...	Demoram ..	Lower Asmead (with acre stretching to Claydon Way)
		Tuckey Hill
	Oldmill ...	Berryleyeshedge
		Coledome
		Stonefurlong
		Gilsehook
		Low furlong plot
	Newmill ...	Anckersland
		Hawkshaw (stretching to Addington Hedge)
		Smalldell
		Orillhill
		Brach
		Bubblesgore
		Overleyes
		Pawkins Mead
		Rushmead
.. (Shipton)	Blackgrove	Housham
		Hogston Ford
		Reeden
		Newleane
		Shortblackgrove
	Red	Lower Clay
		Shortbarnham
		Foxtan
		Amersland
	Licehill ...	Langland
		Snout
		Drymead
Granborough Mill Field ...		Rush Mead
		Little Deane
		Overleyes

II. SOME YEOMEN'S WILLS

The archivist holds himself well rewarded when his researches have extracted from some long neglected document a few facts which throw light upon a life of time past. The material he has to work upon is generally the deed which serves as the title to property of some kind; its redundant phraseology, its scrivener's penmanship, its abbreviations when the language is Latin—all tend to discourage the searcher, and earn for him the sobriquet of "Dryasdust." But even the dullest parchment may reveal something of the person who dictated it, particularly if it be a will. Consider only the amount of light thrown upon the Middle Ages by such a collection as *Early Lincoln Wills, 1280-1547*,¹ or the more ample material published by the Lincoln Record Society²; these embrace a certain number of wills relating to Bucks, though they are necessarily in a minority in so wide a diocese as Lincoln was.

Upon a retrospect it seems curious that so few wills have been printed in our *Records*; a very good example of the information which may be contained in them was given³ in our last volume (XII., pp. 119-124) where we saw the possessions of an important landowner at the close of the sixteenth century described

¹ Edited by Alfred Gibbons, and printed in Lincoln, 1888.

² Edited by Canon C. W. Foster, vol I., in 1914.

³ By an unpardonable blunder of the Editor the proof of this was not submitted to Mr. Gurney, who kindly transcribed the will, and some unfortunate misprints have crept in. Mr. Gurney's accurate work is too well known for anyone to impute the blame for this to him.

somewhat fully. Mr. John Purefoy was lord of the manor, and might be supposed to have everything very comfortable about him.

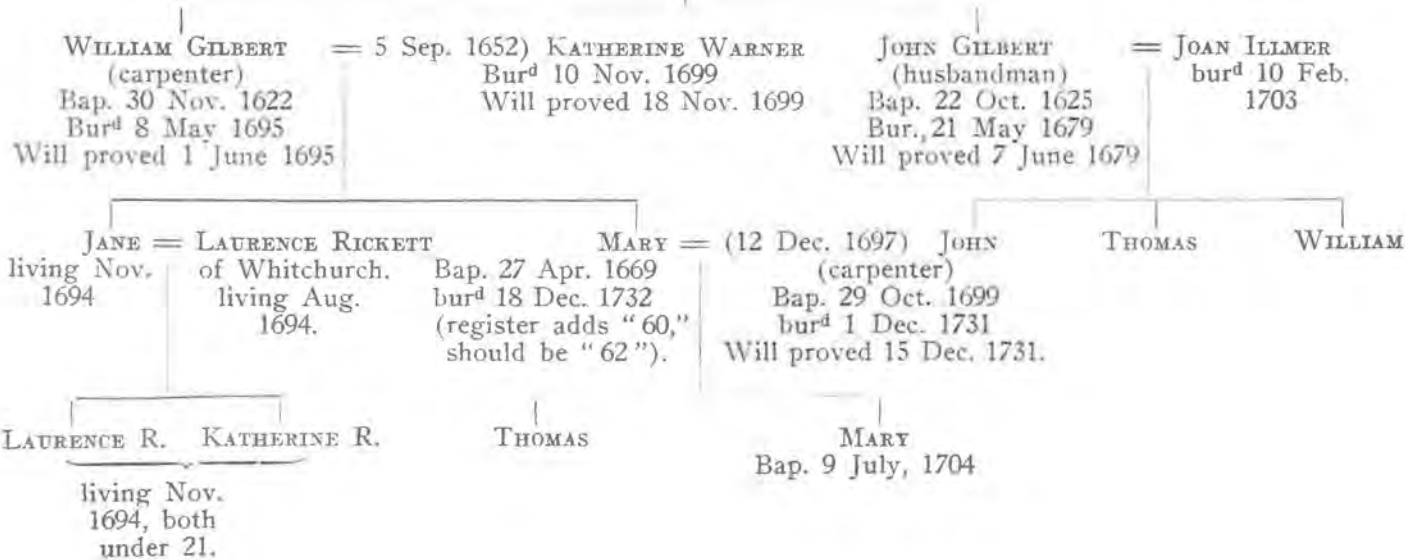
The belongings of humbler people are the subject of the present notes, which are submitted as representative of what anybody may find in a bundle of old deeds, for the use of which the Editor warmly thanks Mr. W. M. Neal, of Winslow, a descendant of the testators. They concern two generations of the Gilbert family, of Swanbourne, and, in days when the population was far more stationary than at present, it is impossible to think that these testators of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries were not descended in some degree from that Ambrose Gilbert to whom the manor of Swanbourne was granted in 1544⁴ at the Dissolution; formerly it was owned by Woburn Abbey. Ambrose's son, George, sold the manor in 1577,⁵ but ten years later the Gilberts attempted (ineffectually) to have this sale set aside. The next Gilbert we hear of at Swanbourne is in 1621 when Thomas Gilbert was married to Jane Carpenter.⁶ In the following year a son, William, was born, and in 1625 another son, John. These and their children are the testators with whom we are concerned, and the following brief pedigree sets out their relationship.

⁴ *Memoranda Rolls (Exchequer: Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer)*, Trin. 9 Eliz., m. 79.

⁵ *Recovery Rolls*, Mic. 19 Eliz., m. 721.

⁶ *Parish Register of Swanbourne*, transcribed by the Rev. R. Ussher, 1915.

THOMAS GILBERT = (5 May 1621) JANE CARPENTER
 Bur^d 16 Apr. 1633 "Widow Gilbert buried 3 Nov. 1652"



The first of Thomas's sons to die was John, who gave to his "deerely beloved wife Joane all my Messuage and lands in Swanborne" except the "acre of Leyes on the Back side & the Dole mead and a ley at Little Meade," so that she may bring up his children until they are able to go to service. The excepted land was to be sold to pay his debts with, and, if it realized £25, his brother William was to be paid that sum, which John owed to him, and £10 was to be paid which was owing to their father Thomas.

William was the next to die. He left his property to his wife Katherine for her life, with reversion to his daughter Mary. The inventory of his personal belongings is not very detailed. The last item is perhaps the most curious, the mind somehow associates beans with peas, and to find them linked up with bees comes as a surprise.

Soon after William's death John's son, another John, seems to have married his cousin Mary and presumably to have inherited his uncle's business as a carpenter; the inventory of his goods is fairly detailed and is given in full below. The last line has interest for us by containing a word which is long since obsolete, "sperate," the antonym of "desperate"; the *O.E.D.* associates it with debts: "having some likelihood of being recovered."

Our fourth will is that of Katherine, the widow of William; she leaves her property to her daughter, with legacies to grandchildren by another daughter which were not to be paid to them until they "come to the age of one and thirty years"; as the sums bequeathed were £5 to each child it is clear that their grandmother did not intend them to lead a riotous life.

Rightly or wrongly one cannot help imagining these testators, dimly appearing through two centuries and more:—William the Creditor, John the Debtor—typical of Elia's 'Two Races of Mankind'; Mrs. William (Katherine), the cautious and frugal widow; John the Second making a prudent marriage of convenience with his cousin.

By the statute 21 Hen. VIII (c. 5) executors were under obligation to prepare an inventory of personalty and chattels real only; that is, leases would be included, but not real estate. They then had to collect this personalty, pay the debts and legacies, and hand over the balance to the residuary legatee. The wills in these Swanbourne cases were registered at the Archdeaconry Court at Aylesbury. In those days no tax was levied on an estate; an embossed stamp to the value of a shilling on the inventory and ten shillings on the probate, was all that the executors were called upon to pay.

AN INVENTORY of all the goods and Chattels of WILLIAM GILBERT, Carpenter, of Swanborn, deceased.

	£	s	d
Imprimis His Wearing Apparrell & tools	10	00	00
Item his wood and Timber in the yard	02	00	00
Item Two cows and a hog	06	00	00
Item the bed and goods in the Chamber below	03	00	00
Item the goods in the other Roome below	01	00	00
Item the goods in the Milkhouse ...	00	10	00
Item the goods in the roome above stairs	02	05	00
Item the Wheat and Mault... ..	02	10	00
Item the Brick and Lime	01	04	00
Item his money in hand and by bond	140	00	00
Item his beans and bees and all other things omitted or forgotten	01	00	00
Summe totall	169	09	00

WILL. GODWYN
 WILL. KING
 Appraizors
 1 June 1695

A TRUE INVENTORY of the goods and Chattels of
KATHERINE GILBERT, widow, deceased.

	£	s	d
Imprimis Her weareing apparrell & money due	5	0	0
Item The Wheat, barley and beanes...	1	5	0
Item, The hay	2	0	0
Item, Two Cowes	4	0	0
Item, In the Chamber one bed & beding and bedstead, one Chair, one box and one Stool	1	10	0
Item, In the Chimney roome, one table, and one forme, and two Cushions	0	5	0
Item, In the milk house one barrell, one Churme, a Salting trough, and one dough kiver ⁷ , and one Mesh fatt.			
Item, The Wheat growing on the ground	2	0	0
Item, One old kettle and 4 pewter dishes	0	5	0
Item, Five Chests, one Cheese press, with anything omitted or forgotten	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
Summe Totall	17	18	4
	<hr/>		

Appraised by us
WILL GODWIN
WILL. KING

⁷ A shallow vessel of wood, oval in shape. *O.E.D.* cites *cyff*, a tub. "Mesh fatt" *alias* "mash vat."

A TRUE AND PERFECT INVENTORY of all & Singular the Goods, Chattels, credits, and personall estate of JOHN GILBERT late of Swanburne in the County of Bucks, Carpenter, deceased, taken and appraised by us William Gilbert & John Anstee, whose names are hereunto Subscribed this 6th day of December Anno Dni 1731.

	£	s	d
Imp ^{rs} his wearing apparrell & money in pocket	5	0	0
In the Kitchen one long table, four Joyned stooles and fourme, brass & pewter & other furniture there ...	2	0	0
In the Milkhouse five little barrells & salting trough & a Cheese press ...	0	10	0
In the Hall one long table, three Chairs, & an old Cupboard, &c. ...	0	15	0
In the Hall Chamber one old bedstead, a flock bed & bedding, five Chairs & two Coffers	1	1	0
In the Kitchen Chamber one old feather bed & flock bed & bedding, two old bedsteads, one box, a trunke, one Coffer & linnen	1	10	0
In the Little Chamber over the Entry one old bedstead & other lumber ...	0	5	0
In the Barns a Parcell of hay, a small parcell of barley in the straw, & a small parcell of Beans in the straw..	3	10	0
In the Wheat house a small parcell of wheat unthreashed	0	15	0
In the yards Three Cowes, one pigg, & firewood	8	15	0
Debts sperate & desperate	35	0	0
Summe totall	59	1	0

WILLIAM GILBERT
JOHN ANSTEE
Appraisers

III. WHADDON CHASE IN 1766

In the sale of the late Col. Pixley's library was a large guard-book filled chiefly with letters and documents regarding tithes of parishes in Bucks; it is now in the possession of Major C. Disraeli, who has kindly allowed access to it. The manuscripts are mostly dated just before the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act, but a few stray papers of earlier date, and dealing with other matters, are included, one of them being a keeper's list of the 41 bucks killed in Whaddon Chase during the season, which extended from 16 July to 10 Oct., 1766. It was the very year of Mr. Cole's *Blecheley Diary*, and many of the recipients of venison figure in that delightful book.

The date is of interest, too, in the history of Whaddon, because it was only six years before the death of T. J. Selby, whose will with its strange proviso furnished the Courts with matter for litigation for very many years.

Mr. Selby's character is drawn to the life.¹ We see him a "very worthy man," doing a great deal of good to everyone except himself, for by 1765 he is paying now "with Interest for the Liberties of the Bottle in earlier Days," and has severe fits of the gout continually. He had been educated at Westminster and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he became a very respectable scholar "endowed moreover with a great share of innate good sense, improved by reading, he became an intelligent and judicious man."² This did not prevent him from forming one of "a knot of neighbouring gentlemen, mostly of the old Cavalier school, ultra loyal, and Bacchanalian to excess. . . . At one of their jolly meetings the Duke of B., happening to lean back in his chair, his wig fell on the floor. Sir Bottlor Chernock instantly started up, and triumphantly stamping on the lapsel

¹ Cole's *Paris Journal*, p. 380.

² *Selbyana*, p. 39-41. The vivacious baronet's name is also rendered Sir Butler Chernock, or Charnock, of Ilcote, Co. Beds.

tegument, exclaimed 'Down with the Whigs!' " " Mr. Selby was unmarried, but a Mrs. Vane, "a very good sort of woman and very handsome," lived with him. Mr. Cole who mentions³ this had not himself seen the lady. She was left a life interest in the Wavendon property by Mr. Selby.

The list of those to whom the venison was sent gives us a very fair notion of the Selby circle. As the entries are uniform in wording it seems unnecessary to print in full, as many are identical in all respects, but about half are given with notes upon the recipients. The very first is as follows:—

July y^r 16. A Buck kill'd in Oakell, broke up at Robins Lodge, all to Master at Wandon, and a Haunch sent from Wandon to Mr. Knapp.

Selby was living at Wavendon on the property purchased by his grandfather in 1653 and 1660⁴. "Mr. Knapp" might be either Primatt Knapp, the rector of Shenley, or his brother Matthew, the owner of Little Linford; but as Matthew comes later and is properly described, it is more likely to be his reverend brother who figures so often in the *Blecheley Diary* as a first-rate purveyor of gossip. The Shenley property, too, adjoins the N.E. end of Whaddon park, where Oakhill Wood is.

Two more bucks were killed and sent "all to my master at Wandon," and then on

July y^e 29th A Buck kill'd in Nettle Beds, broke up at Will Clarke's, half to Master at Wandon, and half to Lady Monoux.

Lady Monoux was the wife of Sir Philip Monoux, the fifth baronet, of Sandy Place. She was married in 1762, and died in 1770.⁵ Possibly she was staying at Simpson with her cousin, as it would not be easy to send venison to Sandy in July.

³ *Paris Journal*, p. 380.

⁴ *Victoria County History*, vol. iv., p. 494.

⁵ G.E.C. *Complete Baronetage*, vol. iii., p. 135, where her name is given as Elizabeth Riddell; it should be Reddall, as she was related to the Rev. Dixon Reddall, rector of Simpson,—see Cole's *Paris Journal*, p. 386.

August y^e 6th. A Buck kill'd in Thrift broke up at Robins Lodge, all to Matthew Knapp, Esq^r, for our hunting Oakell.

Matthew Knapp (1728-1782) succeeded to Little Linford on the death of his Uncle John; he married Catherine, the daughter of Thos. Uthwatt, of Great Linford; and was himself succeeded at Little Linford by his brother, the Rev. Primatt Knapp, of Shenley, whose acquaintance we have already made. Mr. Cole frequently met Matthew Knapp at dinner, but he does not appear to have visited Little Linford himself; indeed, during a long gossiping story, he says roundly that he had "no Opinion of the strict veracity of the Esquire."⁶

August 17th A Buck kill'd upon Steat Hill, broke up at Viccarses, all to New Collidge.

Do. A Buck kill'd in Thinbare, broke up at Robins Lodge, all to New Collige in Liew of a brace of Does the last two Doe seasons.

New College received venison because its land at Great Horwood bordered the Chase in that direction. A large wood between Whaddon and Great Horwood is still called College Wood on the map; the old maps refer to it as "The Six Copses."

August 24th. A Buck kill'd in Codemore broke up at Edmunds Lodge, all to Sr. Sampson Giddeon, for our hunting Saldin Woods.

Sir Sampson Gideon was born in 1745, and created a baronet when he was only 13, his father being a very wealthy Jew. In 1789 he took the name of Eardley, and was made Baron Eardley, of Spalding. He died in 1824.⁷ His father had purchased Salden about the middle of the eighteenth century.⁸

August 27th. A Buck kill'd in Thinbare broke up at Edmunds Lodge, all to Sr. Sampson Wandon, and half to Walden Hanmer Esq.

⁶ *Blecheley Diary*, p. 73.

⁷ *G.E.C. Complete Peerage*, 1900, vol. v., p. 133.

⁸ *Victoria County History*, vol. iii., p. 404.

Walden Hanmer was born in 1717, was called to the Bar, and became M.P. for Sudbury, Suffolk; was made a baronet in 1774, and died in 1783. His father had acquired Simpson by marriage with a Walden heiress. Cole mentions seeing a letter "from Mr. Hanmer dated from Simpson Place to our no small Amusement,"⁹ but Lipscomb says that he lived at Broughton, and his mother at Simpson. He stunned Mr. Cole with talking on one occasion, spoke rather ill-naturedly about his neighbours on another, though when the Rev. Dr. Pettingal beat his maid very severely and she applied to Mr. Hanmer for a warrant against him he "civilly refused it to a neighbour."¹⁰ On another occasion Mr. Hanmer refused an ale-house licence to a poor old man who, Mr. Cole thought, "incurred Mr. Hanmer's Displeasure, tho' he was his Woodward before, by not leaving off to buy his Malt of one Mr. Goodman, the chief opposer in the Inclosure for Simpson."¹¹

On 7 Sept. Mr. Hanmer invited Mr. Cole to "Dinner on an Haunch of Venison on Friday." If this was the Whaddon venison it would certainly have been well hung by 12th Sept.; but the rector of Bletchley did not go.

August 27th. A Buck kill'd in Thinbare, broke up at Robin's Lodge, half to Mrs. Willis and half to Mr. Adams.

Mrs. Willis is the second wife of Browne Willis's eldest son Thomas, a lady who is admirably summed up in Miss Waddell's brilliant introduction to the *Blecheley Diary*, as "anxious, characterless and somewhat loveable, a good-natured hen of a woman, imposed on by her servants, in debt to the trades-people, and apt to send for Mr. Cole when she is low-spirited."¹¹ On p. 107 of that great book we find that on 28th August she sent Mr. Cole "a very fine Haunch of Venison," which is certainly part of the

⁹ *Blecheley Diary*, p. 50.

¹⁰ *Op. cit.*, p. 253.

¹¹ *Op. cit.*, p. xlii.

buck killed in Thinbare on the previous day. Later she receives two more half-bucks, each time described as "Fee Bucks,"—for Whaddon Hall was Mrs. Willis's jointure

August 28th. A Buck kill'd in Old Rowdin, broke up at Viccarses Lodge, half to Mr. Lord and half to Miss Willises.

The last-mentioned ladies were the twin eldest daughters of Browne Willis (Gertrude and Katherine), who lived as old maids at Whaddon, and were apt to call upon Mr. Cole to help them in their financial difficulties; "they grow more foolish," he says "every Day than other." They were the "Lambs," their younger sisters, the "Lions," married.

Mr. Lord is son of the rector of Drayton Parslow, and Mr. Cole's sketch of his character is in his best vein:¹² a tall, handsome, good-tempered young fellow who married "my neighbour Cartwright's sister, the most suitable match that ever was made in point of tempers, they equally living on horse-back, in the fields, by the sides of Rivers, or anywhere but in their own house, which is at Mursley, where their father has established them in a farm after failing at Baldock in a malting."

September 3rd A Buck kill'd in Snelshall Coppice, broke up at Edmunds Lodge, half to my Master at Wandon and half to Sr. Thos. Alston, Bart.

Sir Thos. Alston, of Odell, Beds, was the fifth baronet, and died in 1774. Mr. Selby's own mother was Mary, daughter of Sir Rowland Aston, the fourth baronet. When Serjeant Selby proposed marriage to her he is said to have observed that, "besides the plainness of his person, she might take three other objections, and peradventure demur to his suit. One that he was old; another that he chewed tobacco, and a third his determination not to make a settlement."¹³ The lady passed over these defects, however, made him

¹² *Op. cit.*, p. 44.

¹³ *Selbyana*, 1825, p. 22.

an excellent wife, and was mother to two children. Mr. Cole says that the Alston family "being rather disordered in their Intellects, Mr. Selby has no communication with it."¹⁴ That was written in 1765, but a year later, as we see, the courtesy of a present of venison was practised.

September 4 A Buck kill'd in Old Rowden, broke up at Vicarses Lodge, half to Master and half to Mrs. Uttwaight.

Mrs. Uthwatt was Frances, daughter of Sir John Chester, the sixth baronet, who married Henry Uthwatt, of Great Linford and Lathbury. He was grandson of Richard Uthwatt, to whom the manor of Great Linford came under the will of his uncle, Sir William Pritchard. He died when still young, and his widow survived him over forty years. She was supposed to have intended to marry the Rev. Lawson Shann, whom she had presented to the living of Great Linford, but he, too, died young. As compensation for the fact that she was not prepossessing, she was of a very amiable and generous disposition.¹⁵

September y^e 14th A Buck kill'd in Pennitree, broke up at Viccarses Lodge, half to Richard Lowndes, Esq^{ro}, and half to Rev. Mr. Gibberd.

Richard Lowndes, of Winslow, was grandson of "Ways and Means" Lowndes, and had been one of the M.P.'s for the county for 25 years at this date owing to the jealousy between the Earls Temple and Fermanagh, "who care not to draw their swords against each other and can hardly keep them in the scabbard."¹⁶

Lord Fermanagh was actually Earl Verney in 1766, and the Verneys certainly had no love for Mr.

¹⁴ *Paris Journal*, p. 381.

¹⁵ *The Chesters of Chicheley*, vol. ii., p. 614. She was present at the great turtle dinner with Mr. Shann and his sisters,—see *Blicheley Diary*, p. 136.

¹⁶ *Paris Journal*, p. 381.

Lowndes, who, they said, liked to "diminish if he can, other people, in order to aggrandize himself."¹⁷ Mr. Cole complained that Mr. Lowndes had veered politically towards the Whigs: "to hear people argue in a style quite different from their original Opinion to me is quite offensive."¹⁸ Mr. Cole discusses the chances of Mr. Richard Lowndes, or his brother Robert, who lived at Great Brickhill, to be made Mr. Selby's heir. "Both the brothers were his original Acquaintance, [and] are alive with him to cultivate their Interest, which it is said they do not neglect." Mr. Cole seemed to think their chances equal, but in the event it was neither of the brothers, but Richard's son, William, whom Mr. Selby constituted and appointed his lawful heir, if no heir-at-law were found. Both Richard and Robert outlived Selby, but as Robert had no children, Selby named Richard's son, and four descents since William have vindicated the choice.

The Rev. Mr. Gibberd, who received the other half of the buck, was then curate of Whaddon and Great Horwood; but was on the point of leaving to become vicar of Sharnbrook, Beds.

September 22nd A Buck kill'd in Thickbare, broke up at Edmunds Lodge, half to Edward Allen, Esq., and half to George Wright, Esq.

Three George Wrights in succession owned Gayhurst, which had been bought by the father of the first in 1704; he was Lord Keeper Sir Nathan Wright. The third George succeeded the second in this year, and it was probably he who received the vension.

Various other names occur: Roger Altom, Esq.¹⁹ (*rectius* Altham), married Mary Isaacson in 1746, and so obtained a moiety of a manor in Wavendon.¹⁹

¹⁷ *Verney Letters of the Eighteenth Century*, vol. ii., p. 208 and 255.

¹⁸ *Paris Journal*, p. 382.

¹⁹ *Victoria County History*, vol. iv p. 491.

Dr. Fothergill is most probably Anthony Fothergill, of Northampton, who visited Mrs. Willis just before she died.²⁰

Then there were apparently Oxford friends. Selby had been at Brasenose College, and the "Rev. Dr. Pye, in Poland Street, London," suggests that Robert Pye, who was at New College in 1739, and died, a prebendary of Rochester, in 1788.²¹ Arthur Gregory Esq. at Stych hall, near Coventry," matriculated at University College;²¹ and "Cholmely Dering," brother of the fifth baronet, had been at Oriel College.²¹

On one occasion half a buck was sent to London "by Mr. Hide's Direction." This undoubtedly refers to the Rector of Wavendon since 1742. He died a year after he appears in our list, and Mr. Cole called him "a very gross Man and full of Humours, which he had acquired by a very free Life formerly with Mr. Selby & his Set, & since by Indolence & free eating & drinking, which filled him with Gout and ill Humours . . . he was always ill-tempered."²²

As regards the coverts named, it is interesting to note that Jeffery's map, dated 1770, but actually begun in 1766, is of little or no use in placing them; but Bryant's fine map of 1825 names a good many (the name of the coppice bordering the Bletchley road on the E. of the Chase is unfortunately printed "Thick,"—then, and now, the correct name is Thrift). The whole of the southern part of the Chase has been cleared, and the names of the coppices have therefore disappeared, but some excellent maps, made just before and after 1800, preserved at Whaddon Hall, show most of the places named in the list.

²⁰ *Blecheley Diary*, p. 215.

²¹ Foster's *Alumni*, *sub. nomine*.

²² *Blecheley Diary*, p. 269.

Oakell is Oakhill Wood, still existing on the N. of the park, and bordering on Shenley.

Steat Hill was almost exactly in the centre of the Chase, and is now represented by Steart-hill Farm.

Codemore survives as Coddimore Farm, on the E. of the Road leading to Whaddon Village.

Old Rowdin is Old Rodings Copse, at the extreme southern end, or N.E. of the site of Swanbourne Station to-day.

Vicarses Lodge was at the S. end of Norbury Copse, or near to the Wood End, Little Horwood, of to-day.

Snelshall Coppice was about on the site of the Priory, which was due E. of the Hall.

Pennitree was Penny Tree Copse, south of Steart Hill, and roughly between that point and the present Crabtree Farm.

Thickbare still remains, with the remains of some noble oaks, just N. of Coddimore, and S. by E. of Whaddon Village. It looks as though it would afford good cover for deer still.

Another stray piece of paper relating to Whaddon is printed as a curiosity of spelling, and for the sake of the word "trowsin," which seems to be the third meaning given by Wright (*English Dialect Dictionary*) under the spelling "trouse," namely, "to trim a hedge."

The fence ran along the S.E. corner of the Chase.

To save the reader's time it may be said that "H' S'" is intended for "humble servant."

Endorsement

ESTIMATE OF FENCE FROM CRAB-TREE-GATE TO
SALDEN-GROUNDS, 1768.

Whaddon

March y^e 8th 1768

Honoured S^r,

The measure of the Sid of Bechley-leys by the Chase
is 138 Pole as is worth Eight Shillings y^c Pole Work
and Stuff (work only exclusive of Caridge 3^s—6^d p^r
Pole) to make a Strong Ruff mound with three Rails
on the

	£	s	d
Ditchbank as comes to work & stuff	55	4	0
Work only	24	3	0

I am, Honoured S^r your most Obleiged
and Obedient

H^l. S^t. John Bent

[In another hand] The Dechem and Trowsin the
Hedge of the Bank the Dich six
fut wide and sloping to too fut
and a half at the Botam and
Raring the Bank being 138 pols
at 1^s shilen p^r polle

	£	s	d
	6	18	0