



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

CHIEFLY FROM THE ROLLS OF THE MANORIAL  
COURTS.

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**N**OT many parishes are fortunate enough to have had their ancient Court Rolls preserved so fully as has been the case with North Moreton. These are in the possession of Lord Aldenham, whose father, the first Lord Aldenham, had been (as Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs) lord of the manor for a few years in the middle of the nineteenth century. The Manorial Courts were held, as a rule, half-yearly, and the records of ten of them exist from 1333 to 1362. There are sixteen from 1446 to 1482, and two of 1502. They are fairly continuous, with occasional intervals of four or five years, from 1514 to 1541, and similarly from 1561 to 1621. There are also one of 1705, ten from 1726 to 1737, and one of 1743. One also of 1549 is in the Public Record Office. Together with the Court Rolls in Lord Aldenham's possession are two schedules of lands in the parish, dated respectively 1717 and 1768; and to these the references under those dates in this paper must be understood to refer.

The Manor had passed to the Stapleton family at the close of the thirteenth century, and the Courts of 1333,4, are held for Sir Thomas de Sheffield, who had married the widow of Sir Gilbert de Stapleton. Sir Miles Stapleton, the son of Sir Gilbert and one of the original Knights of the Garter, held his Courts in 1350 and 1364. Another Sir Miles, the last of the Stapletons who owned the manor, held them from 1446 to 1448. After his death in 1466, Katherine, his widow, married Sir Richard Harcourt, and they held their Courts from 1470 to 1482. Sir Miles and Katherine Stapleton had left two daughters, Elizabeth and Joan, the elder of whom married (1) Sir William Calthorpe, (2) Sir John Fortescue, and (3) Sir Edward Howard, second son of John second Duke of Norfolk. He held his Courts in 1502 and died in 1513. No lord is named in the Rolls of 1514. Elizabeth had died in 1505, and the Manor

now passed to Francis Calthorpe, who was her son by her first husband. From 1518 to 1531 the Courts were held for Elizabeth wife of Francis Calthorpe, by Sir Edward Howard's elder brother Thomas, earl of Surrey and from 1524 duke of Norfolk. Sir Francis Calthrop held them in 1536, 1537 and 1541, and William Calthrop esq., his great nephew, from 1561 to 1565. The Manor next passed to William Dunche esq. of Little Wittenham, who held Courts from 1567 to 1595; as did his widow, Mary Dunche, from 1597 to 1600; their grandson, Sir William Dunche, in 1605, his son Edmund in 1621, and Edmund's son Edmund in 1705.\* The next lord of the manor was Robert Hucks esq., and his Courts were held from 1726 to 1743. The "senescall" or steward presiding at the Court is usually named from 1561, and among these are found several well-known Berkshire names: Michael Molyns, 1561 to 1571; Thomas Stampe, 1579 to 1605; Brook Whitney, 1610; John Whistler, 1613 to 1620; Richard Blackall, 1705; Cornelius Norton, 1726 to 1734; Richard Toovey, 1736 to 1743.

The Rolls are in Latin until the year 1732, but afterwards in English.

It is proposed in the present paper to give from these Rolls some notes and illustrations of the topography, many of which are of considerable interest.

The high road which enters the parish at Brightwell Moor-end, passing southward to the eastern end of the village, is called Broadway (1597, 1600, 1717). It is a portion of the Roman road from Dorchester to Speen, of which an account has appeared in this Journal.\* It now stops abruptly at the corner of the churchyard; or rather, it turns westward and forms the village street; but its direct course southward reappears shortly afterwards in a lane dividing the southern end of this parish from South Moreton. Near Broadway was Gollingford Bush (1570, 1600, 1717), probably at the ford where the other branch of the Roman road, forking at Brightwell Moor-end towards Streatley, crosses Kibble Ditch (*Gebyll Dyche*, 1529; *Gibble Ditch*, 1571, 1597, 1600) which forms the boundary between North Moreton and Brightwell. The road leading from the western end of the village to the high ground in the north-western part of the parish is called in 1470 "le lawe path,"—the

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\* The particulars of the Stapleton family and their descendants are taken chiefly from Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*, and those of the Dunche family from Noble's *Memorials of the Protectoral House of Cromwell*.

\* XI., 112.

path to the *hlaw* or hill; and it has a bridge. Also a certain way called "le date" occurs in 1474; and we have "le drove waie" in 1568; "le midle way" from 1590 to 1597. "Fulham way" in 1717 and 1768 was a grass track from the village towards Fulscot, now stopped by the railway. In the rising ground are "the Hightland" (1597, 1717); "Doune furlong" (1514, 1597) or "Dun furlong" (1717, 1768); and "Packman's Down" (1717). We have also "Le Coumbe" (1334), or "Combe" (1482, 1564); "Litulcombe" occurring in 1448, and both "Little Coome" and "Great Coome" in 1717. The "Hanging of the Hill," or "Hanging lands" (1717), implies the slopes of the hill, now called the "Hanging of the Coombs." "The small hills" occur frequently; and we have "le smale hill meare" (1600), or "verge" (*wirge*, 1568); probably identical with "small hill barre" (1605), or "barres" (1597) or simply "le barres" (1583); perhaps identical also with "le smale hylbyn" (1514) and "locus vocatus smale hewen" (1525); all of which appear to be in the neighbourhood of Brightwell Moor.

(*To be continued.*)

## Notes and Queries

### RELATING TO BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON.

*Communications are invited upon all subjects of Antiquarian or Architectural interest relating to the three counties. Correspondents are requested to write as plainly as possible, on one side of the paper only, with REPLIES, QUERIES and NOTES on SEPARATE SHEETS, and the name of the writer appended to each communication.*

### Notes.

"HOBY OF BISHAM."—Under this heading the following occurs amongst "Queries" in the *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal* for October, 1912, viz.: "There is no record of William Hoby's burial at *Hurley*," and this is most certainly a correct assertion! Later on in the same query—with reference to Anne, second wife of Giles Hoby, it is stated—"She died s.p. 1630, and was buried at *Hurley* beside her husband Giles Hoby, who died 1625;" but, as a fact, neither Giles Hoby nor his wife Anne were buried at *Hurley*, according to our *Hurley Registers*.

Inasmuch as the writer of this query tells us that Sir Philip Hoby (knighted 1544) died s.p. in May, 1558-9, and left Bisham to his brother Thomas, and Merton to his brother William; and inasmuch as Merton is close to *Hursley*,