

TERRIER OF LAND AT LITTLECOTE—1514

The manor of Littlecote, in Stewkley parish, passed in the 14th century to the de Missenden family, and like their other property¹ came to John Iwardby who died in 1485. His daughter Elizabeth was twice married, firstly to Wm. Elmes, and secondly to Serjeant Pigott, and apparently she held Littlecote; the Serjeant acquired various lands and tenements there before his death in 1520, and there exists at Doddershall (and is here printed by kind permission of Lady Pigott-Brown), a terrier of land in 1514 which gives many field-names. The Serjeant's grandson, Thomas Pigott III, put in a claim to the manor in 1580,² but it was Thomas Elmes, presumably descended from Elizabeth Iwardby's first husband, who sold it to Thomas Shepard and in that family it remained until it was sold to the Rothschilds, who still own it. Mr. W. Hedges, who with his father has lived upon and farmed the land there for sixty years is very clear that none of the field-names can now be recognized. Littlecote was one of the places which came under the review of the commissioners who reported upon inclosure in 1517, as having been inclosed by Thomas Pigott in 1494; of the 201 acres reported upon forty were held by him "in jure Elizabeth uxoris ejus," he was accused of having displaced 24 persons, and finally "totum hamelettum de Littlecote devastatur et destruitur."³ There was a further 100 acres, for the inclosure of which William Shepard was held responsible; this displaced 8 persons. The effect of this early inclosure was, no doubt, to divide the great common fields so that the old names became entirely lost; it can be shown however that some of them were names of very long standing.

¹ Overbury in Great Missenden (vide *V.C.H.*, II., 349), and Le Veel in Swanbourne (vide *V.C.H.*, III., 430).

² *V.C.H.*, III., 424, citing *Recovery Rolls*, Easter 22 Eliz. m. 758, and *Fees of Fines*, Bucks, Easter, 22 Eliz.

³ J. S. Leadam's *Domesday of Inclosure*, vol. I., p. 163-165.

Terretorium Johannis a Moore alias dicti Johannis Meryden', Renovatum Anno sexto domini Regis Henrici octavi, ad ejus requestum et rogatum extractum [ex] paupirum vetere tractatu, et cetera.⁴

In the felde of Lyttlycott' in a Furlong callyd Neddyr Rowffurlong.

In Neddyr Rowffurlong thre halff acres lyyng to gydd' ther.

Itm̄ in Over Rowffurlong other thre half acres lyyng Sunderly.

Itm̄ in a Furlong callyd Mychell' Dene an acre lyth to gydd'.

It' a nother acre lyth to gydd' in buttes extendyng upp to Lyttlycott town.'

It.' v half acres lyyng togydd' on Stanwell' Hyll.

Itm̄. in the Bracheffurlong lyen vij half acres whereof iiij of theym lyñ ther Sunderly & the iij resydew lyen' togydd' ther.

It' in a Furlong next to that which ys callyd Wydmo' an half acre lyth.

Itm̄ in a Furlong callyd Smendell' lyth iij half acres of which an acre lyth togydd' & the thyrd land ys an hadlond.

Itm̄ uppon a Furlong callyd Strethamdyche ther lyen iij half acres togydd' extendyng North uppon the seid hadlond.

Itm̄ uppon a Furlong callyd Brookefurlong ij acres lyen Sundryly & eche acre yet lyth togydd'.

It' in a Furlong callyd Myddyllfurlong lyen iij half acres whereof an acre lyth togydd'.

Itm̄ in a Furlong or a quart' of the Feld callyd Oversyche lyth an acre sundyrly.

Itm̄ uppon a nodyr quat' of the Feld callyd Neddyr Syche lyth an halff acre.

⁴ The Latin being very poor, a translation is offered: "Terrier of John a Moore, otherwise called John Meryden, renewed in the sixth year of King Henry VIII.; extracted at his desire and request from the old poor-men's record."

Itm̄ uppon a Furlong callyd Goorebroode lyen ij acres wherof eche acre lyth togydd^r by hyt self.

Itm̄ uppon Schortwynchell lyen v half acres, whereof ij lyen togydd^r & the other ij resyded lyen Sundryrly.

Itm̄ uppon a quart^r of the Feld callyd Grovelayes lyen vi half acres whereof iiij lyen togydd^r & ij lyen Sundryrly; And ther also lyen v Schort buttes callyd yerdes with an hooke of mede att thend of theym extendyng uppon Cublyngton' Grove.

Itm̄ uppon a quart^r callyd Wyggynhegge lyen ij half acres wherof an acre lyth togydd^r & the thyrd half acre lyth by hyt Self.

Pro prato in the Honyhame mede.

Itm̄ in the Honyhame mede lyen ij yerdes of mede Sundirly of which ij lyen togydd^r & the thyrd lyth by hyt Self.

Itm̄ de terra arabili iterum.

Itm̄ in a quart^r of the Feld callyd the Schort Vyrsyn's lyen ij yerds of arabyll' landes lyyng togydd^r.

Itm̄ in a Furlong callyd Thurlong ij acres lyen togydd^r.

Itm̄ in a quart^r callyd the Waterffurlong' an acre lyth togydd^r of arabill landes.

The Summe of acres of Arabyll landes ys xxxvi acres.

The summe of mede ys iij yerdes.

It' a hooke of mede abovenamyd att th ende of the v yerdes or buttes att Grovelayes quart^r of y^e Feld.

A "hook" of meadow was the space contained within the bend or angle of a brook, it was never ploughed. This particular land is recognizable, as it is almost certainly the spot, three quarters of a mile west of Cublington Church, where two streams unite to form the Cublington Brook, the eastern boundary of Creslow Great Ground.

The Rev. H. Roundell had an article in the *Records* in 1862 (vol. III, p. 3-7) which he called "Notes on the Chantry Chapel at Littlecote," it was marked "to be continued," but illness and his death soon after unhappily prevented the completion of these Notes. He recited in this article however⁵ particulars of three acres of arable land settled upon the Chantry, and mention is made of "Long Widemore," "Brockfurlong," and "Micheldon," which are apparently the "Wydmor, Brookefurlong, and Mychell Dene" of our terrier; the date of the Chantry deed is 1248.

A word is perhaps necessary about the two acres in Brookfurlong which "lie sunderly, and each acre yet lieth together;" they were made of two half-acres which were together, but the two pairs of half-acres were separated.

The editor is indebted to the ever-kind Mr. F. G. Gurney for correcting his faulty transcript of the original, and for various notes.

⁵ From *Harleian MS.* No. 4714, fo. 340.