

WOTTON UNDERWOOD IN 1657

The recent death of the fifth Earl Temple brought into the market an unusual terrier of the Wotton estate; he had actually sold the land some years ago to Major Michael Beaumont. The bookseller into whose hands it fell sent it to the editor who, with the generous help of four members, Colonel Pearce-Serocold, Mr. J. H. Macdonald, Sir Alan Barclay, and Sir William Currie, has secured it for the Society's Muniment Room. It has been sumptuously bound in Old English red morocco, with fully gilt tooling on back and sides; this is a pity, as it has shaved the margins of some of the 165 pages contained in it, but it was probably done by the second Earl Temple and first Marquess of Buckingham (died 1813) as a fitting ornament to the Gothic Library at Stowe. Inside the back cover is written in pencil: "This book borrowed from Lord Buckingham June, 1797."

The terrier was written by Richard Grenville, who was born in 1611, High Sheriff in 1641, M.P. for Bucks during the Long Parliament, and died in 1665, having been twice married, first to Anne, daughter of Sir Wm. Borlase, and secondly, to Eleanor, daughter of Sir P. Tyrrell. As there were two Richards Grenvilles before him and three afterwards, there were six succeeding generations at Wotton of the same name. Our Richard's grandson married Hester, daughter of Sir Richard Temple, who was created Countess Temple in 1749, having already succeeded her brother as Viscountess Cobham. From him therefore descended directly the Marquesses and Dukes of Buckingham, and the Earls Temple. He had been quite active on the Parliamentary side, having commanded a troop of horse in 1643 and 1644, but apparently made his peace at the Restoration.

The date when the book was completed is given on page 12:

But m^d that as to any thinge else in this present booke & terrior hereafter contayned, it was

written, made, & sett downe in the moneth of
September 1657

whilst in a passage to be quoted later which is found on page 164 there is reference to the "happy restoration of King Charles the Second," and we must all agree that this could not have been written until after 29 May, 1660; though the earlier date has been retained in our heading.

The script is extremely neat and occasionally minute, but always legible. Mr. Grenville set himself a much wider task than that of the ordinary landowner, who usually wanted only to see his rights set out clearly; he embraces the whole parish, and is as particular about the property of the Mercer's Company (who held it as trustees for St. Paul's School under Dean Colet's endowment), or of the Dormer family, as about his own. Some omissions have been made from the extracts which follow, but the actual words and spelling have been faithfully preserved. Grenville's minutely patient detail yields a complete picture of every holding in the parish.

He opens what might be called a general and topographical description of the parish, marred only by an unhappy attempt at derivation, having slightly confused "wost" with "wudu":

- p. 1. The true and antient name is Wotton under Barnwood, and in the old latyne Records it is called Wotton subtus Barnewood, by reason of its vicinity to the Forest of Brill, antiently called Barnewood forest. And in divers very antient deeds it is called Woothong, which in the old Saxon signifieth humida villa, a wett or watery towne, for it lieth in y^e very depth of y^e Vale of Aylesbury in an exceeding durty clay-soyle, and although some of y^e inclosed pastures are indifferent good ground, yeat are y^e inclosed woods very badde for wood by reason of theire wetnes and coldnes; and common feildes, common meadowes, the lawnd, and other commonable wasts are generally

- p. 2. very wett and cold lande, and much annoyed with winter floods, by reason of y^e waters which fall downe into them from Ashenden hills and Brill hills, and of y^e small crooked winter brookes which runne y^e sayd towne and feildes. . . .

Then he comes to the administration of the parish, and shows that the manorial system was somewhat waning in his day:

As to what leete or lawday this towne of Wotton belongeth, it is to be Rembred that the homeward part of this towne (viz. at that part which lyeth from Sprott's lane toward the Church and towards Dourton), is within the leete of Greate Pollycote, which useth to be kept att Greate Pollycotte by S^r Thomas Palmer,¹ and this homeward part of y^e towne payeth certeinty money to y^e sayd leete. But the further or lower part of y^e sayd towne, viz. all that part which lyeth beyond Sprott's Lane downe to Ward Hamme [? Woodham] bridge and the Mote house is within y^e leete of y^e Honor of Gloucester, which S^r Rob^t Dormer of Dourton did formerly keepe, by vertue of a patent from y^e late king dated about 1 Car.² But Quare, who hath y^e keeping of it now ? for I am enformed that it is lately sold away by the Trustees appointed for y^e sale of y^e lands & tenements

¹ Henry VIII granted the manor of Pollicott to his servant Thos. Palmer for life in 1522, giving the reversion, also for life, later to Henry, son of Sir Edwd. Palmer, of Angmering, Sussex, the elder brother of Thomas. It came to Henry in or before 1544. This Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas, cannot be the better known Sir Thos. Palmer (who was executed in 1553, and to whom this grant is ascribed in the *Diet. Nat. Biog.*), as our Thomas was dead 1544. Sir Henry had a son and grandson, both Sir Thomases, who were sued by their tenants in 1599 for extortionate practices. *Vict. County Hist.*, vol. IV, p. 5.

² From 1545 to 1627, when the last mention of its overlordship occurs, the manor of Dorton was held of the king as the honour of Gloucester. (*Vict. County Hist.*, vol. IV, p. 46, quoting *Inq. P.M.*)

&c belonging to y^e King &c. But Mem^m. that these are only Courts leetes, and not Courtes Barons: and the suite and servise which is due to them is by reason of Residence within y^e Respective leetes, and not by reason of any tenure of any land of either of them; and the title of these Courtes should be only *Visus francipledgii cum Curia leeta*, and not *Curia leeta et Baronialis*, neither ought they to enquire of any Articles but what are proper to a Court leete, and not to a Court Baron. And although S^r Thomas Palmer have heretofore claymed & sayd that the Mannor of Wotton was held of him as of his Mannor of Greate Pollycott (of which notwithstanding I doubt), yeat he never claymed it to be held by suite of Court.

Then, with a faint touch of pride almost visible, he mentions his own possessions, but not, it will be noticed, in the first person:

- p. 3. M^d that y^e Mannor or lordshippe of Wotton aforesayd, and y^e greatest part of y^e lands and tenements in y^e sayd ville—have (by God's blessing) been in y^e possession and inheritance of the Grenvils for divers hundreds of yeares, as appeareth by sundry auntient Records, and by y^e Charters and evidences belonging to y^e sayd Mannor; and att this present Richard Grenvile Esq^r. is lord of y^e Mannor theire, and also owner of y^e greatest part of y^e lands and tenements in y^e said towne, and doth or may keepe his Court Baron theire, and Receiveth Quitrents of allmost all y^e freeholders theire
- p. 4. M^d also that y^e right Worshippfull the Company of Mercers, London, have a Mannor in Hamme, which extendeth itselfe into some

part of Wotton, at y^e lower end of the towne, and they have some houses and land in Wotton and some houses in Hamme which have land belonging to them in Wotton. And they usually keepe their Court Baron at the Mote House³ in Wotton, the title of which Court is Curia &c Hamme cum Wotton, and sometymes Wotton cum Hamme; and Mr. Grenville and some few other freeholders owe them suite of Court and pay them Quitrent for some houses and closes which ly at the lower end of the towne.

Then Mr. Grenville has to record a sad blow which fell in his grandfather's day:

- p. 5. M^d also that about Mich^s Terme 38 Reginae Elizabethae [1596] one Robert Barber of Hamme put in an English bill in y^e Exchequer against Walter Dennis and Alice his wife who hold y^e Manor of Wotton and all Mr. Grenvil's then land in Wotton as hir ioynture, she being y^e Relict or Widow of Edward Grenville (deceased⁴), and against Richard Hathaway and others; supposing that y^e sayd Walter Dennis and his wife had intruded into and did conceale and deteine from the Queene twenty acres of land in Wotton, clayming them to be part of y^e iointure of y^e said Alice, and the inheritance thereof to be in Rich. Grenville, my grandfather, who was then living and brother and heire to the aforeseyd Edward Grenville. In v^e proceedings of which suite it was ordered that the Atturney Generall should exhibite an information of intrusion

³ The present house had probably been re-built about that time: the Hist. Monuments Commrs. attribute it to the early 17th century; as Moat Farm it appears as No. (2) in their Report.

⁴ Edward Grenville died in 1585; his brother Richard lived until 1604. Mrs. Edward Grenville, afterwards Mrs. Dennis, was born as Alice Haslewood.

concerning y^e sayd twenty acres of land . . . and that it should be tried by a Jury, which was accordingly done, and the tryall was had in y^e summer Assize 1599; in which suite y^e Queene did recover fourtye nine ridges of land lying dispersed in y^e common feilds, which . . . before that recovery had bin allwaises reputed to be parcell of Mr. Grenvile's Mannor of Wotton, and had alwais bin enjoyed by him and his predecessors. But ever since that recovery they have bin reputed as y^e king's land and enjoyed accordingly. . . . M^d these 49 Ridges of land since the recovery of them by y^e Queene have bin sold away from the Crowne, and are by divers mesne conveyances derived and come unto Henry Egleton of Wotton, gentⁿ. who hath (or at least wise claymeth) an estate of fee simple in them. . . .

A still further shock to the family estate occurred in the time of Mr. Grenville's father; this was church land however:

- p. 6. M^d also that the Rectory or parsonadge of Wotton did antiently belong to y^e priory of Bently (which lay neare to Harrowe on y^e hill in y^e County of Middlesex) which was a cell belonging to the Priory of S^t Gregories in or neare Canterbury, both which Priors came to y^e Crowne by y^e Dissolution of Monasteries in Hen. 8 his tyme, and afterwards in y^e same king's tyme weare by Act of Parliam^t. settled upon and annexed unto y^e Archbyshoppricke of Canterbury. See that from thenceforth y^e Rectory . . . of Wotton with y^e appurtenances became parcell of y^e possessions of y^e See of Canterbury, unto which Rectory there was allwais and unquestionably belonging (besides y^e Church and Churchyard) one messuage or tenement adioyning to y^e Churchyard and called y^e parsonadge house or vicaradge house, with a

little garden and pightell of ground belonging to it, and adioyning also to y^e Churchyard, and also one close of pasture called Parsonadge close, and also nineteene ridges of land liing together in one peice and these premises only weare reputed to be gleabeland and to belong to y^e Rectory, and none other, untill about xj Jacobi Regis George, then Archbyssshoppe of Canterbury,⁵ sued my father Ri. Grenvile in Chancery for some more land lying dispersed in the common feildes. The proceedings of which suite in Chancery and y^e decree thereuppon and the terrior of y^e sayd seaventy nine ridges of land soe recovered (made and sett forth by Commissioners appointed for y^e purpose by y^e Court of Chancery), are all entred at lardge in my greate Chartularie, fol. 418 usque ad fol. 442, and from the tyme of this Recovery the sayd 79 Ridges of land have also bin reputed gleabe land and accordingly have bin enjoyed as belonging to y^e Rectory of Wotton, whereas before that Recovery it had bin allwais reputed Mr. Grenvile's land and enjoyed by him and his tenants, and at y^e tyme of the suite one Rolykson held it as tenant to Mr. Grenvile.

- p. 7. M^d that by Act of Parliament made in the Parliament begunne 3 Nov. 1640 all Archbyshopps, Byshopps, Deanes and Chapters, and y^e whole Ecclesiasticall Hyerarchy weare dissolved & abolished, and their lands and possessions settled for y^e use and benefitt of the common wealth. After which by vertue of other Actes of Parliam^t. for sale of all Gleabe landes all y^e before mentioned gleabe weare all sold to S^r Robert

⁵ George Abbot (1611-1633) when he was succeeded by Laud. He had been Dean of Winchester until made Bishop of Lichfield, 1609, and of London 1610; he was translated to Canterbury in 1611.

Honywood⁶ of Charing in Kent, who did bring all y^e premises in y^e name of his sonne and heire apparent Robert Honyword and James Shaler; after which, viz in May 1655, he the sayd S^r Rob^t. Honyword y^e father, Rob^t. Honyword, y^e sonne, & James Shaller sold all y^e premises to me Ri. Grenville. But yeat (notwithstanding I have bought y^e premises) . . . I shall note it to have bin gleabe, which I doe for some reasons not necessary to be mentioned in this place.

M^d that although y^e gleabe land belonging to y^e Rectory be sold away, yeat y^e tithes, oblations, &c belonging to y^e sayd Rectory . . . still remaine a part of y^e public revenews, and stand vested and settled upon certeine trustees for the use and benefit of y^e Commonwealth, but y^e parsonadge . . . and y^e garden plott and y^e pightell adioyning to it, and the parsonadge close, y^e parsonadge peice, and y^e 79 ridges of land lying dispersed in severall furlongs and places of y^e coñon feilds have alwaies bin tithe-free, and accordingly were sold to S^r Robert Honyword, and by him to me, tithe-free.

⁶ This Honyword family was interesting; their name came from Hene-wood, in the Hundred of Hene in Kent, and appears in that county from the late 12th century. Robert Honyword, who died in 1576, married Mary Atwaters, with whom he acquired Charing; she also presented him with 20 children, outlived him 44 years, and died aged 92, after having passed through some remarkable experience in the way of religion; she was a friend of Foxe and followed Bradford to the stake. Their son Robert purchased Marks Hall, in the parish of Markshall, Essex, in 1605 and rebuilt it very well; the *Historical Monte, Commts.* (Essex, vol. III, p. 178) call it an important 17th century house of some size, with good contemporary wood-work. This son had a son Robert by his first wife to whom he gave the Kentish estate; he was knighted in 1625, and is Mr. Grenville's Sir Robert. He had several half-brothers by his father's second marriage, a Sir Thomas, a Peter, and a Michael, who was Dean of Lincoln and donor of a library in the cloisters there. These 3 brothers dined with Mr. Pepys on 13 Jan., 1661-2 "pitiful, sorry gentlemen," he then thought them (ed. Wheatley, vol. II, p. 160). Some of the family were prominent on the Commonwealth side. Two daughters of the lady who lived to be 92, married two sons of Sir John Croke of Chilton; they would have been our Sir Robert's aunts, and that, or the Canterbury association, may have brought this Bucks land to Sir Robert's notice.

The place at which Mr. Grenville recurs to the glebe is at the end of the book, but to complete this melancholy story it may be well to jump to it now:

p. 164. M^d. Whereas in the Parliam^t. begunn 3 Nov^r. 1640 (commonly called the Long Parliament), all Archbyshopps, Byshopps, Deanes & Chapters, and the whole Ecclesiasticall Hyerarchy weare abolished and dissolved, and their lands appointed to be sold, and accordingly weare sold. And the glebe lands belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury as to his Rectory of Wotton. weare sold unto S^r Robert Honeywood, and afterwards bought of him by me. . . . Now it soe fallen out that since the happy restoration of King Charles the second. All Archbishops are restored againe to their functions and also to their lands & estates, and the sales made of their lands adjudged voyd. Soe that I now lost againe the glebe lands which I purchased . . . but I shall endeavor to procure a lease of them if I cann.

Then he makes a schedule of 19 acres 1 rood 32 perches of inclosed land, and 98 ridges in the Common fields, and closes with the words:

p. 165. M^d. the above mentioned are the lands I purchased of S^r Rob. Honeywood upon the strength of the Acts made in the Long Parliament for abolyshing Byshopps &c and I have lost them againe by the restauration of the sayd Byshopps.

Considering that Mr. Grenville was a remnant of that crew,

“Who, as their foes maintain, their Sovereign slew”
it must have cost him a gulp to write the words
“happy restoration,”

The book gives a very good general description of the whole parish which deserves quotation:

p. 8. M^d. this said ville or townshipp of Wotton consisteth: first of divers and sundry

messuages, houses, and cottages, with small enclosed homestalls or closes to them, and of enclosed pasture grounds, and enclosed woods; secondly, it consisteth of five commonfeilds, viz. the Home feild which is manured and used as one entire feild; the Hamme feild and Cotefeild which (though they ly distant from each other) are manured and used as one entire feild by themselves; the Millfeild (otherwise called Ridgway feild or Upper feild), and the Reddefeild which (though they ly distant from each other), are manured and used as one entire feild by themselves; and these five feilds being in truth used & manured but as three feilds, are respectively each of them severall or in cropt⁷ two yeares, and ly fallow the third year, et sic alternis vicibus; And every yeare either at lammas or else soe soon after as y^e cropt is of[f] they all of them are common. Thirdly it consisteth of a lardge wast or common ground called the Lawnd,⁸ which is common all y^e yeare long, and lyeth all along y^e North side of y^e towne bylanes and passages into or towards y^e feildes; also White's Greene is parcell of Wotton lawnd. Also the Common Moore, or Cow pasture, is another parcell of commonable ground.

Then, at the ninth page, we learn the true origin of the terrier, and though it makes a long story it is not without interest for us.

- p. 9. M^d. y^t although I have among y^e escripts & muniments concerning Wotton some few Terriors of some perticuler farmes or lands in Wotton, yeat y^e first generall surveyor's terrior which I have of y^e whole Towneshipp

⁷ This final "t" where we should expect none is not accidental, it is always used in the terrier, as will be seen a few lines below.

⁸ An open space among woods; our modern word "lawn" is derived from it.

was made in y^e yeare 1608 (viz. 6 Jac. regis), at which tyme Mrs. Dennis, y^e relict of Edward Grenville held all Mr. Grenville's then land in ioyniture; and I take [it] that this Terrior is a very exact one as concerning y^e common feilds & meadowes as they then weare used, but as concerning y^e messuages, houses, & homestalls, & enclosed pastures and woods it is imperfect, setting down theire contents only by a guess & estimation, and y^t also in noe very good method. Afterwards in y^e yeare 1615 (viz. 13 Jac. regis) my father Ri. Grenville, being then Lord of Wotton, did cause to be made a booke of admeasurement of his owne messuages, &c. . . . & of some few parcells of meadowe & land in y^e feilds, which booke I have contayning vi or vii leaves in paper, in which y^e severall particulers are lyned, or plotted out. And after that, viz. in y^e yeare 1617 my father did make a new Terrior of y^e whole townshippe of Wotton upon a very curious view and information of every man's land in y^e towne . . . only it hath this defect, that y^e inclosures belonging to y^e freeholders are sett downe only by guess and estimation of their quantities or contents, neither is it mentioned at all what y^e contents of y^e comon feilds or y^e furlongs in them are, but only y^e quantity or contents of Mr. Grenville's enclosures are set downe according to y^e admeasurement taken in anno 1615.

- p. 10. To remedy which defects in y^e former surveys and Terriors I, Ri. Grenville (sonne of y^e before named Ri. Grenville), did in Summer 1649 employ one Mr. George Sergeant of Brill (an approved surveyor) to admeasure and survey the whole ville or townshipp of Wotton, as well my owne lands as the lands of y^e freeholders, and to describe and plott out y^e same and generally

all y^e land and soyle whatsoever within y^e whole towne, which description or plott y^e sayd Mr. George Sergeant delivered unto me fairly drawne in one parchment mappe, which I take to be a very exact one.
But at that tyme (by reason of other diver-
tions) we did not make any booke or Terrior,
expressing in whose tenure or possession the
sayd houses weare.

This Mr. Sergeant evidently had in fact the reputation for competence which Mr. Grenville suggests, for in 1653 Sir Ralph Verney wrote to his steward about a water supply from East Claydon, and added: "Perhapps Mr. Sergeant at Brill can take the height of it with a Water Levell, & my owne Spring too."⁹ His name should be added to the list of surveyors given on p. 476 of the last volume of the *Records*. The "plott" which he made is still at Wotton, and was exhibited at the Exhibition of Old Deeds, etc., held in the Museum in 1933; So large a map suffers severely from reproduction by photograph, and cannot usefully be reproduced in these pages.

Eventually he caused the terrier to be made in September 1657, and for that reason this date appears on the binding, but, as we have seen, the last page and a half were added after 1660. We are told:

p. 12. that whensoever in this following booke, survey, or terrior, you find it mentioned or sett downe that any messuage etc conteyneth such or soe many acres, roods, or perches by measure, it is intended as it was measured by Mr. George Sergeant in y^e yeare 1649.

We can take it that Mr. Sergeant used statute measure, the nominal acreage attached to some of the "plots and parcells of meadowe ground" is expressly said to be misleading:

p. 164. . . . few or none hold out to be acres or roods &c. in true quality, statute measured, but are only soe accounted and called in the meadowe;

⁹ *Verney Memoirs*, vol. III, p. 116 (edn, 1896).

except only the towne meade (or large meade), which I thinke will hold out to be Statute measure.

The method of setting out the lot meadow in this Town Mead is very precisely given and is worth reproduction here:

p. 153. The Lott meadowe, called the towne meade (or long meade), the further end of it shoteth upon Courtinesway furlong; and the home-wood end shooteth upon Cockers hedge furlonge, and upon some small part of Great West Deane meadowe. And the further side of it adioyneth unto Toulse meade, and the homeward side of it adioyneth unto Drye-meade. And this meade is divided into foure partes or meades, and every of these partes is divided into seaven acres, and every of the seaven acres is subdivided into foure roodes or lotts. And when this meade is admeasured and lotted out you use to beginne att y^e homeward end, where Dryemeade and this Lott Meade adioyne together. And the first acre of the first seaven acres hath at each end (viz. for to guide y^e bredth of it) meerstones¹⁰ sett of old tyme, and the breadth of that first acre being taken it serveth for the rule to measure all y^e rest of y^e acres as to their breadths. And it beareth about 18 foote broad to y^e pole; but for y^e length of y^e acres they goe quite through the meade, & fall out to be some longer, some shorter, according as y^e farre side of y^e meade windeth & compasseth.

An infringement of manorial practice concerns "slit ridges," and deserves to be printed as it is so very specific and precise:

p. 147. Concerning auntient Ridges slitt into two and see multiplied in number, it is to be remembred that the Mercers of London and

¹⁰ It will be remembered that this word, so often met with in pre-enclosure documents, contains the word "more," a boundary.

theire tenants, as also all y^e freeholders clayme and praescribe to common in the Lawnd feilds, and all commonable places according to y^e number of Ridges they have in the feilds, viz. they clayme to keepe for every ridge one sheepe, for every six ridges one cow, and for every eightene ridges one horse soe that if they be suffered to increase & multiply the number of theire ridges by slitting them, and soe making one into two etc., they will thearby in tyme come to claime an increase of common according to the number of theire ridges soe increased by slitting & dividing. Therefore some care would be taken in looking to them & preventing them by order and penalties in the Court Baron, or by some other waye &c. But as to y^e number of new made ridges which at this tyme are knowne I take it to be about one and fourty, of which about 33 have bin made by my tenants, and upon the land which is now mine, & for theire soe doing upon my lands it is noe otherwise an injury to me then that it putteth me out of my tale and reckning, & maketh y^e use of my terriors y^e more confused & intricate; also it may in tyme come to encrease my taxes because many taxes are raised in this towne by the tale of ridges; and therefore my tenants would be forbidden to doe soe any more. And I doe not find above five slitt ridges among y^e Mercers' tenants, whearof one is in Rusbroke furlonge, the other in Portway furlong, in Homefeild; one is in Knappy leise furlonge in Hamme-feild; one is in Maulmy furlonge, and the other in Ashenden brooke furlong in Millfeild.

It will be noticed that the names of several of the furlongs are given above, but those seeking "original" names must beware, since "Knappye

leise furlong is called also Thurlong furlong" (p. 95); again (p. 126) we find

Maulmy furlonge (or Malmy furlonge) and (as I am informed by some antient inhabitants), this is that furlong which in my old writings and terriers is called the Woollands¹¹ furlong.

One name however is of considerable importance and would have rejoiced Professor Mawer had he known it when preparing the *Place-Names of Bucks*: this is the Yeath brook.¹²

It is really difficult to know where to stop quotation from this curious volume; Mr. Grenville shows us his own character very neatly in several places; thus he mentions Tithershill Wood (p. 22) of which Mr. Dormer held one-third, and leased another third from All Souls' College, whilst the remaining third had belonged to "y^e Deane and Cannons of Windsor" and Mr. Dormer leased it from them, buying it at the time Mr. Grenville made his rash purchase of glebe. For some reason the wood had never paid tithe or taxes, and though Mr. Grenville made discreet enquiries at All Souls and at Windsor, he leaves off, with a surmise that as the Dormers used to own the rectory the tithe was not collected.¹³

And since the Rectory went out of their hands the wood hath bin felled but once, which was in winter 1647, and the S^r Rob^t. Honeywood had y^e Rectory, from whose tenants (being but poore men), the tithe was detayned and they not able to contend in law with S^r Rob^t. Dormer. And S^r Robert Honeywood would not sue nor beare only his tenants out in y^e suite alleading to me for

¹¹ Probably this contains the root of O.E. wōh, meaning "crooked, twisting."

¹² On p. 1 describing river-names a charter of 848 is cited naming the "Geht"; it is the stream now called the Ray. Messrs. Mawer & Stenton give Yeat Farm, but the application of the name to the brook was actually unknown to them, although they suggest it under the name of the farm (p. 114).

¹³ That is the true explanation throughout whether due to the Dormers or earlier proprietors.

cause that he had but a short lease in y^e Rectory, which would end before y^e wood would come to be felled againe, and in trueth his sayd lease endeth in November next 1657; besides the tymes weare troublesome.

Matters being thus Mr. Grenville confesses

it never yeat did, nor doth now concerne me soe much in point of interest as to quarrell with a potent neighbour, or to try a suite about it, becaue as yeat my own woods have never used to be rated or taxed to any payments except tithes.

These extracts have assumed such length that it is not possible in this paper to give examples of the fascinating little histories which Mr. Grenville sometimes gives of the holdings; one example must serve for all.

p. 35. Mary Ayres, widdowe, hath one very little small house, the ground on which it standeth and all which belongeth to it is hardly 5 perches; I suppose it to be a late erection built uppe since y^e terrior of 1617 was made, for in that terrior there is noe mention at all made of any house in this place. She claymeth y^t it was hir husband's freehold, but if it weare soe it is forfeited to y^e Crowne, for hir husband was, about 24 or 25 yeares since, attaynted of murder at Aylesbury assizes, and executed.