



Margaret Dickins (1858 -1947) in 1912

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A Little History of Cherington and Stourton
plus background information is available on the Internet at
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READER AIDS

for the first (1934) edition of

**A Little History of Cherington and Stourton, Warwickshire
by Margaret Dickins**

compiled by Simon Bartlett



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INDEX OF PERSONAL NAMES

Indexes and glossary valid for the 1934 edition only: pagination is different in the second, internet edition, pub. 2003. These indexes are comprehensive, except that places within Cherington & Stourton themselves are only in the original general index.

Note that some indexed pages contain several references to a particular name, and that a single name may refer to more than one individual, or a single individual have more than one name. This index is strictly alphabetical, e.g. Willington, Woodcock, Wylinton.

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(b) History of Weston (see Chapter IX): further reading -

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(c) Glossary based on definitions and information from:

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 - (2) *The Oxford Dictionary and Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*.
 - (3) *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.
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Glossary *stint* to *yeoman*

stint or **gate** (here) a limit on the number of animals per tenant allowed on common land. In general, a stint is a quantity or number, or the amount of work one could do in a day.

Subsidy Rolls Lay and Clerical Subsidies were taxes levied on movables (money or goods) from the late 13th to the late 17th century and recorded on sheets of parchment (animal skins) sewn together into rolls. Place names and, at certain periods, personal names were given.

T temporalities income of monasteries and churches from purely secular sources, such as rents.

tenement land or buildings held by a tenant from a lord.

terrier written description of landed property by acreages and boundaries.

tippet covering of fur etc. for the shoulders, formerly worn by women.

tithingman or **tythingman** the elected representative of a tithing or manorial district, and in later years, a sort of constable. See p.32.

V virgate (also known as a **yardland**) a quarter of a **hide**, usually some 30 acres.

W waste land usually on the manorial boundaries, originally common pastures, although later often brought under cultivation or used for new villages.

Y yardland see **virgate**.

yeoman in the Plantagenet period (1154-1485) a knight's servant or retainer. Later, the term gradually replaced that of **franklin**, a substantial free tenant farmer.

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Glossary: mortmain to steward

mortmain see **alienation**.

mound an old word for a fence.

N nap see **knap**

O ogee the shape of the typical “Gothic” arch.

outfield a lord’s land on the manor’s outskirts, as opposed to the **infield**. See p.58.

Oyez and Determiner Commission of Provincial court where justices of the royal courts "heard and decided" more serious cases.

P Patent Rolls comprise copies of open letters issued by the royal court of Chancery.

perch about 5 metres. 40 square perches (or rods or poles)=1 rood.

pinlock fine to be paid to manor or parish before impounded animals would be freed.

poult old word for peas and beans, said by the author to be “still in use in some counties”.

Pound Keeper or **pinder** looked after the pound, or pinfold, an enclosure in the manor or parish where stray or trespassing animals were confined.

prothonotary or **protonotary** a chief clerk of any of various courts of law.

Q qualitying “deciding whether land was arable, pasture, or meadow” (p.61).

quitclaim see **remise**.

R recusant used most commonly to refer to Roman Catholics, but in fact anyone who absented themselves from Anglican church services.

remise or **quitclaim** surrender of ownership of property or other rights.

reredos ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of an altar.

rid(d) (land etc.) to clear.

ridgel(l), ridgling a ram (here) or other animal with only one testicle left or in place.

rood (1) a quarter of an acre (2) a crucifix, especially, one raised on a beam or screen at the entrance to the chancel of a church.

S shocked (of land) corn was cut and bound into sheaves which were stood up in the fields in groups to dry, with their heads together. These groups, usually of a dozen sheaves, were known as shocks or stooks.

shooting into jutting into (pp.16, 17).

sidelong a curved piece of land: thus defined on p.11. **sitches** and **fitches**: both corruptions of **vetches** (the author has “veitchies”). See p.22.

slade an open hollow where water collects to form a tiny stream; low, moist ground.

sling or **slingett** a narrow piece of ground. see pp. 28 and 39.

steward senior administrator of a manor, and often a lawyer. Presided over the Court in the absence of the lord.

Glossary: glebe to Michaelmas

glebe originally simply “a field”, it came to mean land attached to a parish church.

H **hades, hadelands, hade ways** provided room for the plough to turn in a field: p.22.

hayned fenced, from Norman French *haie*, a hedge: see p.32.

hayward (same origin as **hayned**) overseer of hedges etc. cf **fieldsman** above & p.30.

headlands see **hadelands** above.

hereditament property capable of being inherited or of passing by inheritance.

heriot a tenant’s best beast, or money, payable on death or giving up a holding: p.11.

hide (of land) see **carucate**.

hitching, hitchland, hitched land, was a part of a common field used in its fallow year for special crops such as peas, beans and root vegetables. See also p.30.

hookland = **hitching**.

husbandman as an occupation, anyone who cultivated land. When referring to status, a smallholder, who was also often a labourer.

husbandry work done on the lord’s land by a tenant, as part of his rent: see p.58.

I **indenture** agreement written out on one sheet of parchment or paper in as many copies as there were parties to the accord. A wavy (“indented”) line was drawn between the copies, and the sheet cut up along these lines. Each party retained a copy, which could be identified as the edges would tally when brought together with other copies. **infield** lord’s land lying around the manor house, as opposed to **outfield**. See p.58.

K **knap or nap** a small hill.

knight’s fee grant of land by the sovereign in return for armed service by the knight, from which he could be exempted in return for a monetary payment.

L **Lady Day** Feast of the Annunciation (25 March).

leasor one who leases.

leaze to glean (gather ears of corn etc. left after the harvest).

ley field temporarily under grass. Possibly related to the verbs lay and lie, hence “a land lying” could be a ley. See p.15 for a discussion of these terms.

lumber the old meaning of “lumber” is household articles. See p.27.

M **manor** for 500 years after the Norman Conquest of 1066 the Manor, an agricultural estate, was the unit of local government.

mark monetary unit of account, never minted in England. 6 marks equivalent to £4.

messuage dwelling with its grounds and outbuildings.

mete, mere or mear boundary or boundary stone.

Michaelmas Feast of St Michael (29 September).

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Glossary: court to gate

Court Baron periodic meeting, originally of the free (rent-paying) tenants of a manor; from the 16th century it dealt with agricultural matters including the rights and duties of lord and tenants, and tenancy agreements.

Court of Common Pleas former high court having civil jurisdiction; common pleas were civil actions between English subjects over which the Crown did not exercise exclusive jurisdiction.

Court Leet originally the administrative and judicial manorial court responsible for matters concerning villeins, men who were given land and a cottage in return for labouring on the lord's land and who needed his permission to perform certain acts, e.g. marry. After 1500, the body which appointed local officers and dealt with policing.

crocket small carved ornament, usually a bud or curved leaf.

Curia Regis Rolls Judiciary documents relating to the King's Court.

cusped projecting point between arcs in Gothic tracery.

D demesne those parts of the lands and rights of a manor that the lord retained for himself, (as distinct from those of his tenants), and cultivated for his own supplies. See note on p.58.

dornick or “**dornixe**” species of linen cloth, used in Scotland for the table. See p.43.

dower portion of a dead man's estate to which the widow is entitled. Fixed at one-third in common law, but local manorial custom could mean that anything from 25% to 100% was received.

drift road = drove-road; old, usually grassy track, used or once used by cattle drovers.

E escheat to revert to the superior lord. The Escheator was an administrator of Crown lands and responsible for ascertaining the succession on the death of a tenant.

essoined excused attendance at the manor court (on paying a fine).

F fee simple, in property thus held was permanently leased from a higher lord: p.23.

Feet of Fines legal documents proclaiming a person's rights over property: see p.2.

fieldsman elected supervisor and referee in all matters concerning the fields (except fences and ditches, overseen by the **hayward**) and access to them: see pp. 15 & 30.

fine legal decision or (especially) payment due as a result of this: see pp. 2 & 23.

finial ornament finishing the top of a pinnacle, apex, corner of a tower, etc.

franklin or **frankelein** see **yeoman**.

freeboard strip of land outside a fence or boundary, or the right thereto.

freeholder held land in perpetuity; it passed to his heir on his death.

furlong (here) piece of land formed by parallel strips 220 yards (201 metres) long.

G gate (as a quantity) see **stint**.

GLOSSARY OF HISTORICAL, ARCHAIC & ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

- A** **acre** approx 0.4 hectares (1 hectare [100 metres square] = 2.47 acres).
- architrave** moulded arch, frame or beam, or the moulding on it.
- advowson** right to recommend or appoint clergy to a vacant benefice.
- alienation** (of property) transfer by sale, inheritance or other means. *Alienation in mortmain* meant transfer to an institution such as a religious body, guild or municipal corporation.
- B** **backside** (location) a small enclosure behind a house: thus defined on p.22.
- bailiff** a manorial lord's local manager, appointed from outside the tenantry. Conducted relations with the tenants' representative, the reeve.
- Bartholomewtide** the last week in August. The Feast of St Bartholomew is August 24.
- behoof** benefit or advantage.
- but** (*noun*) = butt, a remnant or endpiece; cf. Cherington Butts. See **buting into**.
- buttery** larder or store room: thus defined on p.27.
- buting into** butting, abutting or bordering on.
- C** **carucate** of land Basically, like a **hide**, what an eight ox-team could maintain, i.e. what one family could subsist on. As the number of oxen in a team varied in different parts of the country, and ploughing speed depended on the soil and the terrain, it is difficult to estimate in absolute terms. Some authorities give around 170 acres for a carucate and 90 to 120 for a hide, but in places, a hide and a carucate were synonyms, while elsewhere, a hide contained several carucates! On p. 2, a carucate is said to be a variable number of acres, and on p. 58, is given as "about 120 acres".
- chantry** endowment for a priest to celebrate masses for the founder's soul, or the priests, chapel, altar etc. so endowed. See p.60 for an example (the 15th century Brailes chantry).
- Charter Rolls** records of royal grants of lands or rights to boroughs, churches or families, and related documents.
- clerestorey** upper row of windows in a church, above the level of the aisle roofs.
- close land** enclosed within hedges, fences or walls; as opposed to the "Open Fields".
- Close Rolls** copies of sealed letters giving instructions to royal officers, and of private deeds registered at the royal Court of Chancery.
- cockloft** the uppermost room of a house: thus defined on p.27.
- constable** the Petty or Parish Constable was the forerunner of the police constable. He was appointed to this honorary position by the manor court, and from the seventeenth century, by the parish vestry.
- copyholder** tenant who held land originally in return for agricultural services, but since Tudor times, for rent. The copyholder replaced the villein in the sixteenth century

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Notes on the Index of Places

1. It appears that where a place was sufficiently close to Cherington and Stourton to be known to local people - the intended readership to judge from the author's Preface - she omitted its county when mentioning it in the text.
2. Counties are correct for 1934; where a place was formerly in a different county, this is stated (see note 11). County abbreviations used are the standard (Chapman) genealogical codes, as follows: BRK Berkshire; CHI Channel Islands; CON Cornwall; GLS Gloucestershire; KEN Kent; LIN Lincolnshire; LND City of London; OXF Oxfordshire; SSX Sussex; WAR Warwickshire; WOR Worcestershire; WIL Wiltshire.
3. Ascot: bearing in mind the comment made in Note 1, above, this is almost certainly the hamlet in Whichford parish rather than any more distant Ascot.
4. Chelmscote: Upper and Lower Chelmscote are two hamlets N. of Brailes and SW of Tysoe.
5. Little Cherington is the NW part of Cherington, bounded to the E. by Featherbed Lane; to the N., by the road between Featherbed Lane and Cherington Mill; to the W., by the road from the mill S. to the church, and to the S., by the road from the church to the war memorial at the top (S) end of Featherbed Lane. When the telephone exchange was built, in the days before STD (numerical area) codes, local numbers used the name "Little Cherington", since the exchange was in Little Cherington (near the Village Hall).
6. Little Wolford: a hamlet in Great Wolford parish, a mile NE of the church.
7. Schawe, diocese of Salisbury: probably Shaw WIL, near Melksham.
8. Sutton, Worcestershire: this is possibly the hamlet of Sutton, 2 miles SE of Tenbury. It is the only Sutton in that county in Lewis's Gazetteer of 1850.
9. Tydilingnton/Tydelingnton: in view of the origins of the other people involved in the assault and the scene of this, Shipston-on-Stour, the names may perhaps refer to what is now Tidmington WAR, just over a mile south of Shipston.
10. Welford may be identified as Welford-on-Avon in Warwickshire by the reference to the bridge near the adjoining hamlet of Binton.
11. Warwickshire places mentioned that were formerly in another county include: Little Compton and Sutton-under-Brailes, which left Gloucestershire in 1844; Alderminster (inc. Crimscote), Shipston-on-Stour, Tidmington and Tredington (inc. Blackwell), which moved from Worcestershire in 1931; and Welford-on-Avon, which migrated from Gloucestershire in the same year of 1931.

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Notes:

William Park Dickins: *the date of his death was printed as 1907 in the 1934 edition, but in the different copies seen during the preparation of these reader's aids, the date had been corrected to 1909, apparently in a contemporary hand and possibly by the author herself.*

William Pynnok: *the 1934 text has Pynnok and the author's index, Pynnock.*

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