

THE HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

CHAPTER I

CHERINGTON

The parish of Cherington lies almost in the extreme south of Warwickshire, having (now that it is joined to Stourton⁺) only the parish of Whichford between it and Oxfordshire. Its curiously long, narrow shape runs north and south, little more than three-quarters of a mile broad at its widest part, and only some 450 yards wide at its narrowest. The village lies nearly in the centre of the parish, 310 feet above sea level and 43 feet above the Stour, which crosses it from east to west. On the north and south, Cherington Hill and the South Hill rise to 500 and 600 feet.

Mr. W. H. Duignan, in his *Warwickshire Place Names*, gives the name as Chiryton, from the Subsidy Rolls of 1327, and says there are about ten places in England named Cheriton and two named Chirton. All these he derives from the Anglo-Saxon root *cyrs*, *ciris*, meaning a cherry (tree) and he explains the name as "*the town of the cherry (tree or trees) perhaps an orchard.*"

A much more interesting and individual derivation is given by George Miller in his *Parishes of the Diocese of Worcester*, where the name is said to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Ciric tun*, a churchyard. This derivation might well be supported by the locality. The dwellers in the Saxon huts by the Stour, which formed the Stour ton or village, may very probably have buried their dead on the slightly higher ground where Cherington Church now stands, for the low ground by the stream must in old days have been subject to constant flooding. When huts were built near this burial place they, too, would take the name. It is spelt Chyriton in 1254 and Chiriton in 1261, and is often spelt differently in the same document.

The Curia Regis Rolls will give us the names of some Cherington people who lived rather more than 700 years ago. In 1203 Henry Falconer and his wife (who had been a widow called Annora de la More) had a law suit with Turstan de Cheriton and his wife Oriolt, about a hide of land. Annora's daughter, Sara de la More, had married Reginald de Clifton, and their names are mentioned in this deed, and will be found again in the next chapter.

In early days when the title to land was uncertain and difficult to prove, a system was evolved by which an action was brought to claim the property. The winner paid a "Consideration" to the loser, and proclamation of his rights was made in the Court at Westminster a certain number of times. The decision of the Court was written on a piece of parchment, which was then cut into three pieces, the Court and each of the claimants keeping one. As this legal decision made an end of all doubt it was called a Fine, from *finis*, an end. The Proclamation was endorsed on the Foot of the Fine and the documents thus got the name of Feet of Fines. The following cases are taken from Feet of Fines for the County of Warwick.

In 1238-39, Bartholomew de Turbervill claimed from William, son of Ralph de Wylinton, three carucates of land in Cherinton and Weginhull. The end of the lawsuit was that De Turbervill "quit claimed" (i.e. renounced all title to the land) to William de Wylinton, the "Consideration" being 50 marks of silver. A carucate is a varying number of acres, and it is impossible to say how much of it lay in Cherington. Ralph de Wylinton, who took his name from the neighbouring village of Willington, was later Lord of the manor of Cherington and of Wigginhill in Sutton Coldfield.

⁺ As is stated in Chapter VIII, Stourton was till 1910 part of the adjoining parish of Whichford.

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The family was still flourishing in 1534, when William Catesby, whose father, Sir Richard Catesby, held the manor of Chastleton, married Katherine Willington, of Barcheston. Their grandson was Robert Catesby, the prime mover of the Gunpowder Plot, who sold Chastleton to raise money for it.

In 1254 we again meet with Turstan de Cheriton, when Peter, son of Walter de Harham, claimed from Beatrix, daughter of Thurstan de Chyriton, two virgates (about 60 acres) of land in Chyriton. Beatrix acknowledged his right, as of her gift, and granted him the land for her life, "*to hold by the yearly rent of a pair of white gloves at Easter, and by doing the services due to the chief lords.*"

A third suit given in the Feet of Fines for the County of Warwick was in 1261-1262, when Robert le Clerk of Chiriton claimed from Robert le Fraunkelyn of Chiriton and Agatha his wife, a house and 33 acres of land in Chiriton. They acknowledged his right to hold of them and of the heirs of Agatha, by a yearly rent of ½d at Easter for all service to them, and by doing the services due to the chief lords, with warranty. The Consideration was one sore sparrow hawk. (A sore sparrow hawk was a young bird that had not yet moulted.)

Annora de la More (or Mare) and her daughter, and granddaughter, had been patrons of the church of Cherington, and in 1289 Sir Peter de la Mare presented Robert de Stepellanynton to "the chapel of Cherinton". The De la Mares were a Wiltshire family and Peter de la Mare was Constable of Bristol Castle. In 1295 he was ordered to receive there eighty Welshmen sent to England as hostages. When in 1296 his son Robert succeeded to his father's estates, Edward I's order to the Escheator to deliver them was given at Perth. The two facts give a vivid picture of the constant wars of the time.

In 1291 the Charter Rolls mention an enquiry "*touching the persons who assaulted Master William de Cheriton at Langebrugg without Warwick (Longbridge outside Warwick) and carried away his goods.*" In 1292 there was a Commission of Oyer and Terminer to William de Cookseye and Master William de Cheriton by juries of the counties of Worcester and Gloucester, touching the persons who broke the parks of Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester, at Alvynchirche (Alvechurch) and at Weston-sub-Egge, county Gloucester, hunted therein and carried away deer.

In 1292 the Patent Rolls speak of a "Protection" granted to Iterius de Ingolisma, who was "*going beyond seas, on the king's service, in Ireland. John, parson of the church of Chiriton, going with the said Iterius.*" In 1295 seventeen men had protection for one year because they were "*staying with Henry de Cobeham on the king's service in the islands of Gerneseye and Gereseye*". The second name on the list is Adam de Chyriton. It will be seen that in 1327 and 1332 Adam was a Cherington name.

William de Cheriton was ordained deacon in 1286 and priest in 1289 at Blockley. In 1297 William de Cherinton, clerk, was appointed steward over the lands of the Bishopric of Worcester. On the 29th of August 1316, William de Chirinton and Richard de Salop, monks of Evesham, brought the news to London that the Abbot of Evesham was dead, and obtained letters of licence allowing the Prior and Convent to elect a new abbot. Perhaps William de Chirinton was sent on this errand because he was the probable successor of the abbot, for a month later we find he is the "abbot elect" and is obtaining a safe conduct for one year in order that he may go to Rome, "the Apostolic See," on business concerning his election.

In October King Edward II signified to the Pope that he approved of the appointment of William de Chirinton, and in March 1317 the temporalities of the Abbey of Evesham were restored to William de Chirinton, "*a monk of that house whose election as Abbot thereof the Pope has confirmed.*"

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In February 1319, there was a complaint from Master Walter de Tydilingnton that Geoffrey de Shipeston, clerk, and John his son, with twenty-two others from Tydelingnton, Berchiston, Tysoe, etc., including Adam de Chiriton, chaplain, assaulted him at Shipeston, county Worcester, and took and carried away 100s. of his. No hint is given as to the reason for the assault, but the assailants included two women and three clergy besides the two mentioned above.

In 1327 the Taxation Roll of Edward III will give us many names of people then living in Cherington, and the amount each paid will shew their respective financial positions. The sums must, of course, be multiplied by at least 30 to bring them to the present value of money.

Chirytone:

<i>D. Lawr Patryk</i>	7s.	<i>Hen: Pach</i>	2s.
<i>Agn Swyft</i>	1s.	<i>Walt: Adam</i>	4s.
<i>Rico Urry</i>	1s. 6d.	<i>Rico de Bybury</i>	8s.
<i>Rico ad aulam</i>	1s. 6d.	<i>Nicho: Adam</i>	1s.
<i>Thom: Molden</i>	1s. 6d.	<i>Johne le mouner (b)</i>	1s.
<i>Thom: atte Zate (a)</i>	2s.	<i>Thom: Malkyns</i>	1s.
<i>Rico le Masoum</i>	2s.	<i>Will: Hobekyns</i>	1s.
<i>Robto de Bybury</i>	5s.	39s. 6d.
(a) Zate, Yate or Gate		(b) Mounier, a miller (Norman French)	

In 1332 there was another Taxation of a Tenth and Fifteenth granted to the Lord King Edward, the third after the Conquest, at Michaelmas.

Chiriton:

<i>Richard de Bybury</i>	13s.	<i>Richard le Mason</i>	4s. 2d.
<i>Robert de Bybury</i>	4s.	<i>Robert Jacken</i>	1s 6d.
<i>Nicholas Adam</i>	1s. 8d.	<i>Thomas Malkyn</i>	2s.
<i>John de Henynton (c)</i>	2s.	<i>Margaret Raunce</i>	3s.
<i>William Stalonn</i>	2s. 6d.	<i>Thomas Molden</i>	2s.
<i>John the Miller</i>	1s. 6d.	<i>Gilbert atte Bury</i>	2s.
<i>Richard atte halle</i>	2s. 6d.	<i>Walter Gibbes</i>	1s. 6d.
<i>Alice le Barouns</i>	2s.	<i>John Lawrence</i>	1s.
<i>Thomas atte Yate</i>	3s. 1½d.	<i>William Robert</i>	1s.
(c) ? Honington		50s. 5½d

Half the names in the two lists are the same, and it is interesting to see how they have become anglicised in the five years. John le mouner is now John the Miller. Incidentally, this shows that there has been a mill at Cherington for at least 600 years. Rico ad aulam is Richard atte halle. The largest house in a village is often called the Hall from the principal room in it; perhaps Richard de Bybury's house was so called and this other Richard was one of his retainers.

The Gate from which Thomas took his name was probably one of the gates dividing the open fields of Cherington from those of the neighbouring villages, perhaps the Mere Furlong Gate which was still in existence in 1805. Mere means a boundary, and the Mere Furlong was the boundary furlong between Cherington and Burmington. The name is still on the Ordnance map.

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Rico le Masoun⁺ had changed in five years to Richard le Mason. In a few more years he would drop the old Norman le (the) and the surname Mason would be established, and would remain as that of a landowner in Cherington till 1756. The name was still on men's lips in 1805 when land "called Mason's" is mentioned in the Award. William Stalonn's name had become Stele by 1510, and both Steel and Adams remained names of landowners in Cherington for more than 400 years. John Lawrence may possibly have given his name to the field near Cherington House, which in 1805 was an old enclosure called Lawrence, and which is so called today. As these names are not in alphabetical order, nor arranged according to value, it may be that they were put down as the collector came to the houses, and that we may thus recognize the neighbours of six hundred years ago.

In 1337 Dugdale gives the name of Leonard de Lucy as presented to the Living of Cherington. In those days the clergy seem to have been as active in violence as the laity, and in 1345 the Patent Rolls contain an account of a curious scene at Little Compton Rectory, when Edward III, having presented Philip de Alcester to that Living, another claimant, Robert Walters, of Icombe, and a number of his friends, broke into the Rectory, and maintained themselves there for ten days. One of these friends was Leonard de Lucy, "parson of the church of Chiryton", and another was "William Leonardesprest de Lucy", that is, Leonard de Lucy's priest, William. Whether William was what we should now call a curate, or whether he was the Chantry priest of the Chapel, I cannot tell. In 1354 Leonard de Lucy was "parson of the church of Ippusley" (Ipsley) and was again concerned in lawlessness when he and a number of others broke the houses of the Earl of Stafford and Edmund de Bereford, "*and carried away the timbers thereof.*"

The largest tax payer in Cherington in 1332 was Richard de Bybury. His name appears in the Close Rolls of 1327 where he is called Richard de Bibury of Cheriton. In 1343 Richard de Chiryton had a Writ from Edward III for money owed to him by the king on exported wool, and in 1346 he received an exemption for life from serving on Assizes, Juries, etc. His connection with the wool trade makes it probable that the Walter de Chiryton of the following page was his son.

Before giving the story of the De Chirytons, we can notice another Rector of Cherington whose name does not appear in any published list of Incumbents. In 1373 Robert de la Mare was patron of Cherington and he allowed an exchange between William Pynnok, Rector of the church of Cheryngton, in the Diocese of Worcester, and John Sampson, Rector of Schawe, in the Diocese of Salisbury (Sede Vacante). John Sampson may have been glad to come to a more peaceful part of the country, for two years later, Robert de la Mare was one of the Commissioners appointed to guard the southern ports, to arm and lead men against the enemy, to light beacons, etc., "*the king being informed that his enemies of France are assembled in great numbers at sea, and are hastening towards the shores of the realm.*"

Edward I had banished the Jews in 1290. Their place was taken by Italian bankers, who lent money to the king, and were repaid by licence to export wool. The following extracts from the Patent Rolls will give some idea of the wool business in Warwickshire in the fourteenth century, and of a Cherington man engaged in it.

In 1340 there was a Protection and safe conduct for three merchants of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who were collecting divers wools purveyed for the king's use, and taking the same to Flanders. "*The like for John de Wesenham and Walter de Chiryton to whom 600 sacks of the king's wool from the county of Warwick are sold.*" The next month, October 1340, five men, including Walter de Chiriton, are to take to Flanders 1,000 sacks of wool according to the indenture. While collecting wool in the counties of Gloucester and Worcester these men have been hindered by the king's ministers and others. The king has therefore appointed Richard de Cortenale, king's serjeant-at-arms,

⁺ The transcription of the 1327 Taxation Roll has le Masoum, and the text comment, le Masoun.

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to supervise the speedy collection and export of the wool, with full powers to arrest and imprison all persons resisting him. The same with respect to 600 sacks of wool taken by John de Wesenhall and Walter de Chiriton from the county of Warwick.

In August 1341, there was a Mandate to the mayor and constable of the staple of the king's wool at Brugges in Flanders. (The staple was the king's warehouse). Edward III owed his kinsman, the Duke of Brabant, some money, and had, therefore, assigned to him the wool from the counties of Warwick and Nottingham, and part of that from the counties of Suffolk, Kent, and Norfolk. But apparently before the wool had been taken to Flanders the king had sold the Warwickshire wool to Walter de Chiryton at 15 marks (£10) a sack, and the Nottingham wool to Hardelen de Barton (perhaps Barton on the Heath). In October 1341, the king was in debt to both these men, who are described as "the king's merchants." Hardelen is called Hardelph de Barton. The Warwickshire wool amounted to 420 sacks.

In 1344 thirteen men named as the king's merchants, including Walter de Chiriton, had protection for two years while travelling for the king on important business in divers parts of England. The same year Walter de Chiriton and another of the merchants were appointed to arrest any collector of customs who was in arrears.

In June 1345, eight of the king's merchants including Walter de Chiriton, became bound at the king's request to Andrew Aubrey, "citizen and pepperer of London," in £840 to be paid at All Saints, for purveyances made for John, Duke of Brittany, for his present passage to Brittany. It is added that if the Duke does not repay this money the king will.

By 1348 Walter de Chiryton and other king's merchants have the custody of all the Customs and Subsidies in England, and they appoint an officer in the port of Boston. Only two of the merchants are mentioned by name, and Walter de Cheriton is the first. They have the Customs "*in every port in England, wine only excepted.*" In 1348 a petition was presented against oppressions committed by Walter de Cheriton and the other merchants while collecting the wool. The king, however, granted that they should not be impeached or molested.

But in 1350 Walter de Cheriton got into trouble which seems to have pursued him for many years. "*Whereas the king lately caused all lands and rents of Walter de Chiriton, Thomas de Swanlond, and Gilbert de Wendlynburgh to be seized into his hands for great sums due to him*". He grants all these to John de Wesenham till the debts are paid. The reason for this favour to John de Wesenham was that he had done good service, and "*has freely delivered to the king his great crown lately pledged to the same John by Walter, Thomas, and Gilbert for £4,000.*" This throws an interesting light on the straits to which the wars with France and Scotland had reduced Edward III and Cherington people may feel proud that a Cherington man was one of three to whom the Crown of England was pledged while the battle of Crecy was fought and won.

Two years later Walter de Chiriton and "his fellows" had been arrested because they could not pay the "farm" of the Customs, and had, therefore, borrowed money to do so. This arrest does not seem to have lasted long, as two months later Walter, Thomas, and Gilbert had protection on account of the business they are doing both for the king and for themselves. Apparently they made enemies everywhere as they fear they will suffer damage to their bodies "*passing through the city of London and all other parts of England.*" In November 1352, the three are in trouble in several places where they ought to have surrendered to the Justices of the Bench, but on their surrendering to the Flete prison they are pardoned. Geoffrey de Chiriton is also mentioned surrendering to the Flete.

In 1353 Walter de Chiriton. Geoffrey de Chiriton, and others have protection that they may not be arrested nor imprisoned for debts to any other person till they have cleared

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off their debts to the king. This must have taken a long time as the "protection" is repeated every six months till the end of 1356, and Edward III also seized "*the manor of Weston by Chiriton by reason of debts due to him from Walter de Chiriton late tenant thereof.*" Walter de Chiriton was not only holding the manor of Weston, but that of Stretele, in Berkshire, granted to him by John de Mohun, lord of the manor of Whichford. This too the king confiscated for Walter de Chiriton's debts, and gave it back to John de Mohun. (For the connection with the manor of Weston see the chapter on Weston).

In 1385 William de Chiriton was son and heir to Walter de Chiriton, and in 1390 Walter Cheryngton was "a late merchant of London." It is interesting to see that his name has become a real surname and that it is so nearly in the modern form. In 1510 and in 1518 Thomas and Stephen Cheryngton were freeholders in Cherington, and in 1528 Alice Cherington was living in the village.

For life in Cherington in later centuries, we must turn to the Manorial and Church records, but the following, though not especially Cherington, will show some conditions in the district.

In 1631 the Justices of the Peace for the Hundred of Kington reported that, the "*Paucity of alehouses in this division, which are the true nurseries of almost all the disorders pointed at in the Book of Orders, gives them little to certify.*" They also mention the "*Subterfuges of recusants to avoid the levy of fines for absence from their parish churches.*" Among these recusants (Roman Catholics disaffected to the Crown) were the Sheldons of Weston.

In 1634 the troubles over Ship money began. Warwickshire was assessed at £4,000, of which Coventry was to pay £500, Birmingham £100, Warwick £100, Sutton Coldfield £80, Stratford-on-Avon £50, and the rest of the county £3,170. Kington Hundred had to pay £710. All sorts of excuses were made to avoid this tax by inland counties who thought the maritime counties should provide for their own defence against the Dutch and Barbary pirates. In 1636 Warwickshire was one of the most backward of the counties in this payment.

One slight connection with the battle of Edgehill in 1642 may be given here. In the hall of Chastleton House hangs a sword with a deep notch in its upper edge. Attached to it is an almost illegible piece of parchment on which is written, "*This sword was the property of one Mc Kensie who was ye friend of Dickins, these two fought side by side at Edge Hill on the side of the King.... was struck at the head of Dickins, which Mc Kensie received on this sword but so violent was the blow that it beat back this sword on to the skull of Mc Kensie giving him his death wound. This sword was possessed by the family of Jarrett in the neighbourhood of Edge Hill. The sword was given to me, Wolryche Whitmore Jones.*" On the back of the parchment is written, "*Wolryche Whitmore Jones obtained this sword from the Jarretts and gave it to me. 1857. Horatio Westmacott, Chastleton Rectory, Oxfordshire.*"

Probably on the death of Mr. Westmacott the sword was given back to the Whitmore Jones family, then connected by marriage with the Cherington Dickins. At the date of the battle of Edgehill the Dickins family was not yet in Cherington but was established at Broadway. The sword may have been preserved by the Dickins whose life was saved by it, perhaps that Anthony Dickins who, sixteen years later, married Margaret Tymes and settled in Cherington. He was eighteen years old in 1642 and may have been partly in the charge of the older man. How the sword became the property of the Jarretts is unknown, but it is a fact that rather more than two hundred years after the battle of Edge Hill. William Jarrett was living (as Bailiff to William Dickins) in Anthony Dickins' original house in Cherington.

CHAPTER II

THE MANOR OF CHERINGTON

Dugdale's account of Cherington begins thus, "*Cheriton. Following the course of Stoure I come next to Cheriton which originally was a member of Brailes and therefore is not particularly mentioned in the Conqueror's Survey.*" (That is, it was counted in Domesday Book as part of the manor of Brailes). Dugdale then gives an account of two law suits about the Advowson of the Church because "*they give some light to the succession of the Mannour, whereunto in those times the patronage of the Church was, except very rarely, belonging.*" The first of these law suits was in 1200, when Henry Falconer and his wife, Annora de la More, recovered the patronage of the Church of Cherington.

It is evident that Annora de la More was the owner of the Advowson, as her daughter, Sara de la More, married Reginald de Clifton, and their daughter, Lucia, brought the second law suit for the same Advowson in 1226. It seems however as though the Advowson of Cherington was one of those rare ones which did *not* belong to the lord of the manor, as in 1289 we find Sir Peter de la More presenting to the chapel of Cherinton, and in 1373 Robert de la More presenting to the church of Cheryngton. Neither of these men was lord of the manor of Cherington as will be seen.

After saying that he cannot trace the owners of the manor exactly till the Lucys obtained it, Dugdale states that in 1236 William Bonchevalier answered for part of a Knight's fee in Cherington under the Earl of Warwick (a Knight's fee was valued at £20 yearly.) In 1252 Ralph de Wylinton (see chapter 1) held Chiriton and other property under the Earl of Warwick. Ralph de Wylinton brings Cherington into connection with one of the great events of English History, for he joined the party of Simon de Montfort, and took up arms against King Henry III, in the retinue of Geoffrey de Lucie. Although Simon de Montfort was defeated and slain at the Battle of Evesham in 1265, Ralph de Wylinton does not appear to have suffered confiscation, as in 1268 he was holding the manor of Cherington by the service of a Knight's fee of the Earl of Warwick. It was then worth £10, the Michaelmas rent being 55s. 6d. It was then still part of the manor of Brailes, and Dugdale says, "*whose tenants in 1279 did their suit twice a year at the Court Leet for Brailes.*" That is, the Cherington copyholders had to attend the Courts in Brailes.

Ralph de Wylinton was succeeded by John de Wylinton, who in 1311 had a grant of Free Warren in all his demesne lands, including "Chiriton, county Warwick." (Free Warren meant that the game on his lands was free to him only.) In 1316 he was holding three quarters of a Knight's fee in Cherington, still under the Earl of Warwick. Edward II had a "favourite" called Hugh le Despenser, and on the death of the Earl of Warwick the king gave many of his manors, including "Brayles with the hamlets of Wyntirton, Chiriton, and Chelmscote" to Hugh le Despenser. The Barons, headed by the Earl of Lancaster, accused Hugh and his father of usurping the Royal authority, and Parliament banished them.

Edward took up arms against the Barons, defeated them, recalled the Despensers, and beheaded the Earl of Lancaster in 1322. That same year "Hugh le Despenser the father" as he is called in the Close Rolls, petitioned the king against the nobles who had sacked his many manors, including Brayles. (From this sacking the Cherington tenants probably suffered with the rest.) In 1326 both the Despensers were taken by the Barons and executed. (In 1379, however, the manor of Wynterton was still in the hands of Elizabeth, wife of Edward le Despenser.)

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There seems to have been a connection between the De Wylintons and the De Lucys. Ralph de Wylinton was in the retinue of Geoffrey de Lucie in the thirteenth century, and in 1347 John de Wylinton was holding land near Sutton Coldfield which he had let to William de Lucy. As early as 1330 Sir William de Lucy, Knight, was in possession of the manor of Cherington in which he had succeeded John de Wylinton. From that date till 1680 the Lucys remained lords of the manor of Cherington.

Although apparently the Lucys were never resident in Cherington, they may have visited their property there, and may have drawn men from the village for their service in war. In 1346 William Lucy, son of Sir William Lucy, "*received summons to prepare himself with Horse and Arms by the Feast of S. Laurence for to wait upon the King in his French expedition.*" The king was Edward III, and the expedition ended in the battle of Crecy. Lucy, however, was not at the battle because he was "*in commission with the Shiriff to array 160 archers in this County for the king's service.*"

Another William Lucy was, in 1382, "*retained by indenture with John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, King of Castille, etc., to serve him with one Esquier for terme of his life as well in times of Warr as Peace, for which service to have £20 a year besides his dyet.*" In 1491 another William Lucy, a Yorkist, was "*one of the Commissioners of array in this County for setting forth men in defence of the Realm against Charles VIII, King of France, then threatening an invasion thereof.*" This invasion seems to have existed only in the imagination of Henry VII, who having raised a large sum of money from his subjects, took an army to Boulogne, and there received another large sum from the French to withdraw it.

The earliest Court Rolls of Cherington that I have seen are now at the Record Office.. The first is the Court of Thomas Lucy, Esq., held in Cheryngton on October 17th, 1510. Thomas Cheryngton and Edward Bramley are essoined (excused attendance) and a Homage of twelve, with two Affeerers, are sworn. It is curious that of the Homage, or Jury, only three men have names that remain in the next century, Robert Hyron, William Kynge, and Richard Stele. Robert Webbe is one of the tenants and his name remained for another three hundred years.

The business of the Court is principally concerned with the state of the buildings. The houses of Richard Stele, Robert Webbe, William Essex, William Kynge, John Wynter, Robert Hyron, and Sibilla Harrys, are all to be repaired before the next Court, most of them being "*ruinous for defect of the roof.*" The "Shepe houses" of John Tomkyns, Thomas Hyron, John Bygges, and Richard Burfford are also "ruinous," as is "*the house in the tenure of John Longedon called a Stable.*" (Some of these names occur in *Wills and Administrations* by E. A. Fry, under Cherington, Thomas Harrys in 1546, John Bigge in 1545, and Juliana Bigge, widow, in 1546).

"*It is commanded to all the tenants of this lordship to scour the ditch called Weste Mere and that they make the hedge of the same before the feast of the Nativity of the Lord.*" This ditch was perhaps the brook which forms the boundary between Weston and Cherington, "mere" meaning a boundary, and "the hedge next Weston ground" mentioned in a Terrier of 1680 may be the hedge made up in 1510. The tenants were also commanded to make "the hedge called le rege hege" at the same time. In 1619 there was a furlong called the Ridge, and in 1680 "the hedge at the Ridge" is mentioned. Thomas Hooper was commanded to make the hedge between himself and John Longedon, and this was also to be done before Christmas. John Longedon may have given his name to Longdon furrow, a name which lasted till 1805.

"*At this Court came Richard Burfford and surrendered unto the hands of the lord one messuage and three virgates of land belonging to the same to the behoof of John Burfford. And he gives to the lord for his heriot and withdrawal 6s. 8d., and for a fine 3s. 4d.*" (A heriot, payable when a tenant died or gave up his holding, was either his best beast or a money payment).

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On the 12th of November 1518, the Court of Thomas Lucy, knight, was held. John Burford having succeeded to his father's holding is now one of the Homage. William Colyns of Tredington, a freeholder in Cherington, is excused for non attendance, but Stephen Cheryton, also a freeholder, is fined 2d. for the same fault.

The greater part of this Roll is the marking of various boundaries. The old Custom of beating the bounds reminds us how important it was in old days to keep the boundaries of the unfenced lands in remembrance. At this Court *"it was presented that the tenants of Sturton encroached upon a certain meadow of the lord called Netherabden in the mowing of their hay but of the true quantity they are ignorant, therefore it was commanded to all the tenants of this lordship to examine and to certify of the true quantity at the next Court under penalty of forfeiture of each of them 12d."* Lower Abden is now a field on Stourton Manor Farm. The tenants were also to make the metes and bounds of one piece of meadow of the lord called a Sydlong lying in Dawbmore between them and the tenants of Sturton. (A Sidelong was a curved piece of land).

"And the metes and bounds of one piece of meadow of the lord now in the tenure of Richard Prophett called Pillershorsslade, lying between the land of the lord and the land of Stephen Cheryton." Pilsor Slade is mentioned in a deed of 1658; it lay north of the Stour. *"And the metes and bounds of one piece of pasture of the lord called Holeforowe now in the tenure of John Bigge."* In a Terrier of 1680 mention is made of a "Sidelong at how furrow," and a little later the name is spelt haugh furrow. It was in Moonhill Quarter, and not far from Pilsor Slade.

The tenants were reminded that it was not lawful for any of them to have more than 40 sheep for one virgate of land (about 30 acres) *"and he shall keep them before the shepherd of the same town. And if any of them shall take any sheep of a stranger to the number aforesaid that then he shall keep them before the shepherd. And of the aforesaid 40 sheep 20 shall be ewes and 20 wethers and this under penalty of forfeiture to the lord 20s."* (These regulations should be compared with the later Court rules.)

Pigs were to be ringed and yoked, and the tenants were not to keep more than three beasts for each virgate of land in summer, and in winter only four beasts no matter how many virgates a tenant held. All "breakings" (ploughing) about Old Pynfold were to be made before S. Martin's Day (November 11th). (A Pynfold is a Pound. The last Cherington Pound stood just north of the Church, but Old Pynfold may refer to one that had gone out of use.)

Another difficulty with Stourton is referred to in an order to the tenants to *"put a certain stone called a Mere stone at Curre Hedge in its old place for the bounds and metes between the land of the lord of Cheryton and the land of the tenants of Sturton, and this shall be done as well by the view of the tenants of the same vill of Sturton as by the view of them"* (the tenants of Cherington). Finally the tenants were ordered to repair their houses, both roofs and walls, under the very severe penalty of 6s. 8d.

On March 10th, 1519, the Court of Thomas Lucy, knight, was held at Cheryton. The two freeholders, William Colyns of Tredington, and Stephen Cherynton were absent, and as before William Colyns was essoined and Stephen Cherynton was fined 4d. The hedge at Weston Meare is again to be made, and ploughing is to be done at Rogeclose before the feast of S. George (April 23rd). *"It is enjoined upon Thomas Hawkys that he execute the iron work of the lord's tenants before he execute that of another (stranger struck out) if he be lawfully required by the lord's tenants."* (This is an interesting light on the village blacksmith under the manorial system. And it is highly probable that his forge stood where the forge stands to-day, on the road and close to the farm houses.)

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

For the next hundred years I have no information about the manor, but in 1616 Edward Tymmes bought from Anne Tymmes, of Sutton, a Close called Thurlyans Close, a yardland of ground (about 30 acres) and a house. This was the house, later called the Lower House, or Mr. Dickins' Dairy, which still stands flush with the road nearly opposite Cherington House.

In 1619 he bought from Nicholas Kinge half a yardland for £28. This purchase included "*common of pasture for two beasts in the common ffeilde of Cherington to be there kepte and depastured according to the usage and Custom of the said place for and in lieu of all the beast pasture belonging to the said half yard land. Together also with all land, meadows, leasowes, portions, lotte, and parte of meadow pasture and feeding for all other cattle.*" This quotation links us with the manor of 1518 when the number of Beasts and sheep was carefully calculated, and gives us some idea of the "common rights" enjoyed by all manorial tenants. With the deed from which these details are taken is a Terrier or list of the different pieces of land, which made up the fifteen acres.

In a ffurlong called the Berrow Crofte

Halfe or almost halfe a ley lying at Weston Leys.

In a ffurlong called Cotsten (?)

One land lying between two ridges or lands of the ffarme ground.

In a ffurlong called the little mores

One yard of land between two of the lands of the said Nicholas and Edward Kinge.

In the ffurlong above the Marsh

One land lying between the lands of Robert Kinge on the East and a land of one William Stout on the West.

Att woodway ffurlong

One land lying on the north of a land of Nicholas Kinge.

In the ffurlong above Lincrofte

One land next to a land of Edward Kinge East and a land of Thomas Mason West.

In the Churchway ffurlong

One land between the land of Nicholas Kinge North, John Collins South.

In a ffurlong called the Ridge

One land lying between a land of the said Nicholas West and a land of Richard Mason's East.

In a ffurlong called the Gores nest

One yard land next to a land of the said Nicholas on the North.

In a ffurlong called hare path

One land between a land of Nicholas Kinge West (sic)

by a place called Turwins hedge

One half land between a land of Robert Kinge East and Edward Tymmes West.

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by a place called Wymmell hedge

One land lying (sic)

In a ffurlong called Longden

Half a Ley of Greensward with the said Nicholas Kinge.

upon the south hill

half an arable land with the said Nicholas Kinge.

att a place called Norbridge Knappe

One land between a land of Edward Kinge North and a land of John Collins South.

in a place called fflaxland

One yard between the land of the said Nicholas North and John Collins South.

in a place called Toolies penne

One land between the lande of the said Nicholas North.

One yerd of ley ground in a place called under Temple between a ley of Nicholas North and a ley of one Jarrett South.

One land in a ffurlong called the Sitches between a land of John Collins East and Edward Kinge West.

One land in a ffurlong called Monhill between Nicholas West and Robert Kinge East.

One land in the middle ffurlong called the great infeild between Nicholas East and a land of the widdow Chistnoll West.

For the field names, see Land Divisions⁺. Of the tenants' names we find Kinge and Collins, still in possession after a hundred years, and Widow Chistnoll must represent the family of Thomas Chesenall who was one of the Homage in 1510.

In the Seventeenth century we get a very full account of the yeomen of Cherington, who beginning as copyholders became freeholders after the sale to them of the manorial lands. It may be worth while to consider what the conditions of farming were then and till the enclosure in 1805-8.

From very early times English land had been to a great degree unfenced and divided into an immense number of narrow strips, the theory being that it all belonged to the lord of the manor, and was held under him by his manorial tenants. Although the produce of these strips belonged to the farmer, the cultivation of them was a communal matter arranged at the Courts, where we have already seen orders given for ploughing, hedging, and ditching.

After 1680, when the copyholders became freeholders, the Courts seem to have become still more dictatorial, with their sentences beginning "We do order and agree." In ploughing a man had to be careful that he did not turn his plough on a neighbour's strip, nor plough up any of the furrow which divided his strip from the next. He could not turn out his calves, pigs, rams, or lambs except at the exact date fixed by "the neighbours." He had a right to send his cows to the common cowpasture, and to mow grass in the Greensward for hay, but both these rights were very strictly watched and limited by the rest of the landowners.

⁺ The description of Land Divisions begins on page 16.

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

If a Yeoman had saved a little money and wished to add another cow to his herd he must first buy some more land as the "Stint" was exactly so many cows to so many acres, and the same rule applied to the sheep. If, on the other hand, he had rather more land than he wanted for his stock he was forbidden to let it to anyone who did not live in Cherington.

There being very few permanent hedges the boundaries between ownerships were as a rule only the furrows, and the stones called Mere stones. The fact that the Jury of the Courts had to go out at least four times in the year to set these stones shows how easily they were displaced, and explains why another part of the duty of the Jury was "to decide controversies." As a man's land consisted of separate strips "lying dispersedly in the open fields," and scattered over the whole parish, the farm houses and buildings, the Homestalls, or Homesteads, were congregated in the village, and the produce had to be brought to them. To reach some of his crops a farmer had to use a rough field track, not always the same but "set out" each year by two of the landowners called the Fieldsmen.

The holdings varied from about 90 acres to about 15 acres, but no piece of land was more than an acre in extent, and many were smaller. These were called lands, (half acres), half lands, leys, half leys, yeards, butts, hades, lotts, sidelings, Throwshooters (or Throughshooters), sellions, ridges etc. The lands or ridges were half an acre in size divided by the furrows. There are many allusions in the Court Rolls to these furrows and the translators of the Bible in 1611, describing a cornfield in the 65th Psalm, wrote, "*Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: Thou settlest the furrows thereof.*" The grass land, which went by the name of the Greensward, was divided into small pieces generally called leys and these were scattered about among the arable.

Perhaps the easiest way to get a clear idea of a Cherington farm before the enclosure of the land will be to give an exact copy of another Terrier, and to remember that these conditions remained unchanged till the year 1805. In 1658 Anthony Dickins, of Broadway, gentleman, married Margaret Tymes, of Cherington, who inherited from her father, Edward Tymes, a house, two Closes, and two and a half yardlands of ground in the Open Fields. Anthony Dickins held this property unchanged till his death in 1690.

The following Terrier (in the possession of W. G. Dickins) is undated, but the names of Meades and Creed, both of whom were dead before the second Anthony Dickins succeeded to the property in 1718, show that the Terrier is of the seventeenth century, and it must, therefore, be the Schedule of the land of Margaret Tymes. (To save space I have given only initials for the points of the compass, and for Christian names).

"A Scedule (sic) conteyning all the Lands Meadowing and greensward belonging to the two yardlands and a halfe of Anthony Dickins in Cherington in the county of Warwick as followeth:

THE WEST QUARTER.

One Land in Ry furlong Major Creed N. Thomas Holtom S.

One Land between Brookes Richard Bishop N. Steven Jarrett S.

One Yard in the same furlong Edward Day N. Edward Stoute S.

One Land there Thomas Holtom S. Thomas Mansell N.

One acre there John Holtom N. S. Jarrett S.

One Yeard in the other furlong, the Yeard of E. Stoute on both sides

One acre there the Parson N. William Meades S.

One Land at Church moores E. Day E. S. Jarrett S.

MANOR OF CHERINGTON

One Land in Berrill Richard Adams N. Major Creed S.
One acre there R. Bishop N. Major Creed S.
One Land in Slyes Hole , widow King E. William Slye W.
One Land above Edward Dayes peice.
One Land in Stone Hill M. Creed S. E. Stoute N.
One Land buting into Little Moors M. Creed N. E. Day W.
One other Land there M. Creed E. T. Mason W.
One Land in Band Land R. Adams E. Thomas Mason W.
One acre there M. Creed E. T. Mason W.
One Land in Berycroft Mr. Granger N. E. Stoute S.
One other land there T. Mason N. Thomas Taylor S.
One acre buting into Turvins Hedge M. Creed N. J. Holtom S.
One Land there M. Creed N. R. Adams S.
One Land in the other furlong T. Taylor N. W. Meades S.

THE GREAT INFELD.

One Land buting into the Cowpasture Mr. Granger E. R. Adams W.
One Land there next the Cowpasture T. Taylor E.
One Land in the middle furlong the parson E. John Mason W.
One other Land there widow King E. John Steele W.
One Land Shooting into adlybrooke T. Taylor N. W. Meades S.
One Acre there W. Meades N. the parson S.
One Yeard there with two Hades at the end next the brooke widow King on both
One Land on Northbridge Knapps S. Jarrett N. Thomas Mason S. [sides.
One Land between the Sitches Richard Holtom E. M. Creed W.
One other Land there Richard Holtom E. M. Creed W.
Two Yeards betweene Sitches T. Mason N. J. Mason S.
One Land over the Highway M. Creed N. T. Holtom S.
One Yeard there W. Meades N. widow King S.
ffour Buts together W. Slye E. E. Day W.

SUTTON QUARTER

One Land in the Little Infeild S. Jarrett E. .J. Mason W.
One Yeard at North Bridge M. Creed E. .J. Mason W.
One Land in Bar furlong widow King E. E. Stoute W.
One Land there next Sutton hedge the parson W.
One Land in Tadnham furlong widow King E. M. Creed W.
One Land there J. Steele E. widow King W.

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

One Acre there W. Meades E. E. Stoute W.
One Acre there W. Meades E. E. Stoute W.⁺
One other Land there the parson E. Mr. Granger W.
One Acre buting into Sutton hedge T. Mason N. R. Bishop S.
One Land next the other Quarter M. Creed E. E. Day W.
One Land and two Yards together above Carpenters Leys T. Mansell N.
One Yard on the top of Pillsor W. Meades E. Mr. Granger W.
One Acre there W. Meades E. the parson W.
One Land there E. Stoute on both sides.
One Land there next the common meare.
One Land in upper flaxland Mr. Granger N. widow King S.
One other Land there J. Holtom N. T. Mason S.
One Land in the other furlong widow King E. Mr. Granger W.
One Acre buting into farmcombe J. Mason W. S. Jarrett E.
One other Acre there T. Holtom E. E. Stoute W.
One Land in Shorbroad R. Adams E. John Hiron W.
One other Land there the parson E. R. Adams W ..
One Land butting into Sutton hedge J. Holtom N. widow King S.
One other Land there E. Day N. R. Adams S.
One Yard there Bishop and Adams N. T. Mansell S.
One Land there widow King N. T. Mansell S.
One Land at Toolyespen J. Mason E. R. Adams W.
Two Yards there the Land of Edward Stoute lying between them.
One Land there Richard Watkins E. T. Mason W.

MOONHILL QUARTER.

One Acre Shooting into beanham Mr. Granger E. widow King W.
One Land and one Yard R. Adams N. W. Meades S.
One Acre there J. Mason N. J. Hiron S.
One Land there S. Jarrett N. J. Holtom S.
One Yard buting into ye Sitch Richard Bishop N. E. Stoute S.
One Land under Clife T. Mansell E. T. Mason W.
One other Land there T. Mason E. E. Day W.
One Yard there Thomas King E. R. Adams W.
Two Yards together there S. Jarrett N. J. Steele S.
One Land there with a hedge J. Mason N. T. Mason S.
One Land buting into Burmington hedge E. Day N. T. Holtom S.

+ This duplicate entry receives no comment, and may be a 1934 typesetter's error.

MANOR OF CHERINGTON

One other Land there J. Mason N. T. King S.
One other Land there T. Holtom N. widow King S.
One Land in Stert E. Stoute N. T. Mansell S.
One Land there widow King N. E. Day S.
One Land there J. Hiron N. J. Steele S.

THE GREENSWARD.

One plot in the middle of Barlyham R. Bishop N. S. Jarrett S.
Parte of a ley next the plowed lands.
The lower end of a Sidelong next Adlybrooke.
Three leyes together between the Sitches R. Adams N .
One ley and an halfe together in Pilsor Slade T. Mansell E. W. Meades W.
One Acre of Leyes there next the plowed lands T. Mansell E.
One Yeard there S. Jarrett M. Creed W.
One Acre of leyes in the Little Infeild E. Stoute E. T. Taylor W.
One Yeard there Mr. Granger E. E. Day W.
One ley at Stouts gate E. Day N. E. Stoute S.
Halfe a Ley T. Holtom E. R. Watkins W.
Halfe a Ley there T. Mason E. M. Creed W.
Halfe a ley with Adams and Bishop in oatemills Hay S. Jarrett N. T. Taylor S.
One plot in ffremard Slade T. Mason N. the parson S.
Three leyes at Carpenters Leyes M. Creed S.
One Acre in ffarmcombe M. Creed and King E. T. Mansell W.
One third parte of an Acre there with Major Creed T. Holtom E. E. Stoute W.
One Yeard the parson E. M. Creed W.
One Yeard under Temple S. Jarrett E. widow King W.
One ley there R. Adams E. J. Hiron W.
One ley at the further end of the feild Nicholas Webbe E. S. Jarrett W.
One third parte of a plot there to divide with M. Creed, widow King S.
One halfe of the comon ley.
One Yeard at comon Yeards E. Stoute N.
The South side of a ley at Dry leys R. Adams N.
One Acre there (blank) N. W. Meades S.
One Acre in Hollows moors R. Watkins E. T. Mason W.
The South end of a ley at Butleyes W. Meades E. T. Holtom W.
One ley there R. Watkins E.
One halfe ley there with R. Adams.

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

One Yeard at Edward Dayes gate T. Mansell W. Edward Stoute W. (sic).

One ley in the other furlong Francis Mason N. T. Holtom S.

One ley at Westway hedge W. Meades on both sides.

The west end of a ley at Weston leyes J. Mason N. M. Creed S.

One Yeard there J. Holtom N. E. Day S.

One broad ley T. Mason N. T. Mansell S.

Halfe a hade between brookes R. Adams N. M. Creed S.

One ley on the hill side T. Holtom on both sides.

One Yeard in Longden Mr. Granger N. J. Holtom S.

*fforty two pole in length of another Yeard there at the lower end and
Thomas Holtom the other parte E. Day N. T. Holtom S.*

One greate ley there & the fourth parte of another ley with M. Creed and T. King.

*One parte and an halfe in five parts to be divided with M. Creed and
the widow King in the hedge next Weston ground.*

One lot of ground by the brook side R. Adams W. widow King E.

One parte in the hedge next Dagtayle E. Day E. T. Mansell W.

Eight Cowes commons or pastures, Seven horse commons one year and eight the next.

*And so many Sheep commons as any other of the landholders there shall keepe for and
in respect of two yardlands and an halfe.*

If we take this Terrier as a guide to show us how a farmer in 1658 had to lay out his day's work, we find that when Anthony Dickins wanted to plough, or sow, or reap, he had to get his implements and horses from his Homestead in the village to more than eighty different places; from the Weston boundary along the south hill, down Adley brook, and across the Stour to the north, east, and west boundaries of the parish. When it came to haymaking it was nearly as bad, and one wonders what a farmer with more than forty hayfields could have said of the weather!

LAND DIVISIONS AND FIELD NAMES OF THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES

The Open Fields of Cherington were divided into Quarters. In the extreme north was Far End Quarter, then came Moonhill Quarter, Sutton Quarter, the Great and Little Infields, Middle Quarter, and the West Quarter. Other divisions were the Cowpasture, and the Greensward, but the Cowpasture was not always in the same place, and the Greensward lay "dispersedly" among the pieces of arable land. There was also the Waste, uncultivated land belonging to the lord of the manor. A smaller division was that into furlongs. I have given the date at which I have met with the names, but it is evident that they may be much older. They were probably all in use till the Enclosure of 1805-8.

Adlibrook furlong, 1651.

Barr furlong, 1651. In 1805 it was bounded by the Sutton road and Stourton.

*Berry Croft furlong, 1619. In 1805 it was next the footpath to Long Compton

*Brook furlong, 1680. In 1805 in the West Field. Now Small Holdings.

MANOR OF CHERINGTON

*Burmington meare furlong, 1680. In 1805 "the meer furlong gate" is mentioned.

Butt furlong, 1680. Now Cherington Butts.

Churchway furlong, 1619.

Cotsten furlong, 1619.

Cross furlong, 1662.

Farmcomb furlong, 1662.

Gores nest furlong, 1619.

Hare path furlong, 1619.

*Knaps furlong, 1680.

"the furlong above Lincrofte," 1619.

Little Moors furlong, 1619.

Long furlong, 1680, "next Stowerton feilds." South of the village in 1805.

Longden furlong, 1619. Allotted to Ralph Sheldon in 1805.

"the furlong above the Marsh," 1619.

Middle furlong, or Great Infield, 1619.

*Moonhill furlong, 1619, now Upper and Lower Moonhill.

Over furlong, 1662.

Ridge furlong, 1619.

Rye furlong, 1651. South of the village in 1805.

Stayne furlong, 1662. On the North hill in 1805.

Sturt furlong, 1680. Next Burmington and Willington in 1805.

Sitches furlong, 1619. "Little Sytch furlong under the hill" in 1805.

*Todnam furlong, 1651.

*Tooleys denn furlong, 1680. On the North farm now.

Woodway furlong, 1619.

*Woodlands furlong, 1662. Now Small Holdings.

In 1805 King's hedge furlong is mentioned.

It was bounded by the Shipston and Spade Gate roads.

(* Still in use.)

FIELD NAMES

* Adleybrook, 1658. Now Adleybrook Ground, Small Holdings.

Band land, 1658. This lay south of the village, 1806 (Dickins papers).

Barland, 1680.

Barleyham, 1658.

*Beanham, 1658. Now Small Holdings.

*Berril under Stowerton Hill, 1658. now Berrills Hill Farm.

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

- *Blindwell Slade, 1662. The Slade on Berrills Hill Farm.
- *Brookes, 1658. On Berrills Hill Farm.
- Butt Leys, 1658. Next the Town Street of Cherington, 1806 (Dickins).
- *Carpenters Leys, 1658. On Cherrington Butts.
- *Church Moors, 1658. On Berrills Hill Farm.
- Cliff, Cliff Bank, under Cliff, 1658. North of the village, 1806.
- *Common Yards, 1658. On the North Farm.
- Dagtayle, 1658. This was in the West Quarter.
- Dawbemore, 1518. No indication of where this was.
- *Dockie lands, 1680. On the Weston estate.
- Dry Leys, 1658. 1806 (Dickins Papers) north of the Stour.
- *Farmcombe, 1658. Hill Farm.
- Flaxland, 1662. North of the Stour.
- Freemeares, Freemard Slade, 1658. North of the Stour.
- Great Close, 1662. The field east of the Rectory garden.
- Greene ham, 1651.
- *The Grove, Weston Grove, 1662. Berrills Hill Farm.
- Holeforowe, 1518. How, or haugh, furrow in 1680, in Moonhill Quarter.
- *Hollows Moors, 1658. Hill Farm.
- *Infield, Great and Little, 1658. Church Infield, Mill House Farm.
- *Lincrofte, 1619, on the Weston estate.
- Little Moors, 1658. South of the village.
- Norbridge Knappe, 1619. Northbridge Knapp about 1734, north bridge nap 1805.
- Oate Mills Hay, 1618.
- Pillershorsslade, 1518. Pilsor Slade, Pilsan hollow, 1658. North of the Stour.
- Rogeclose, 1519. No indication of where this was.
- Round hills, 1662. Round hills next Burmington in 1805.
- Shipston Spade, 1662. Shipston Spade Gate on Shipston road in 1805.
- *Shurbroad, Sturbroad, 1658. On the North Farm.
- Shortlands Corner, 1680. In West Quarter .
- Slys Hole, 1658. South of the village, 1806 (Dickins Papers).
- *The Sitches, Greate Sytch, 1619. Sytch Corner in 1805, now Such Corner.
- Under Temple, 1619, under Temple in 1806 (Dickins Papers).
- Thurlyans Close, 1616.
- *Toolies penne, 1619. Tulipen 1805. On North Farm.
- Water Close, 1616.
- *Weston Leys, 1619. Now Small Holdings.

(*Still in use).

MANOR OF CHERINGTON

FORDS. Greene ham Ford, through the Stour probably.

Metridge Ford. On the North Farm.

GATES Weston Gate, which probably shut off the open Fields of Cherington from those of Weston, is mentioned in 1680. Of gates leading to private property we find Edward Dayes Gate, and Stout's Gate in 1658, and Roundells Gate, probably Round hills Gate, in 1680. Four Gates are mentioned in the Award of 1805-8.

HEDGES They were not very common in old days but a few are mentioned in the various deeds. The open Fields seem to have been shut off from the neighbouring parishes by hedges, as we find Burmington hedge, Sutton hedge, "the hedge next Weston grounds," Westway hedge, and Willington hedge all spoken of in 1680. A man's property often included "part or parcel," or "part of a Lott" in such and such a hedge.

HILLS The North Hill, the South Hill, Stone Hill, and Stowerton Hill are all mentioned in a Terrier of 1662.

LOTS Greenham seems to have been land let by lot. In 1718 Joseph Jarrett bought land which included "One Lott in Greenham 20 yards long, the Lott of Anthony Dickins, South, the Lott of Edward Stout, North." There was "lot ground" on South Hill in 1805.

ROADS The old roads mentioned are Churchway, 1619, the Highway, 1680, North Way, 1684, Ridge Way, 1684, Tadnam Way, 1619, and West Way, 1680. Others are given in the Award.

STILES Gullies Stile, 1680, Gullet Stile, 1732, probably the same as Culletts Stile in 1805, on the "footway to Weston." The Conduit meadow stile, 1805, the Infield Stile, 1680, and Sutton North Stile in 1805.

SOME OLD WORDS USED IN RECORDS

Backside A small enclosure behind a house.

Hades, Hadelands or *Headlands* These lay at right angles to the Ridges, and provided room for the plough to turn.

Hade Ways and *Highways* These were set out by the Jury of the manorial courts each year. They ran along the headlands, and probably those most in use tended to become the highways as we have them now.

Knap is a small hill.

Mound is an old word for a fence.

Sitches In 1737 Whichford copyholders were ordered not to sow more than one bushel of *Fitches* to a yardland. *Sitches* and *Fitches* are both corruptions of the word *Veitches*.

Slade an open hollow where water collects to form a tiny stream.

Sling, or *Slingett* a narrow piece of ground.

Stint a quantity or number.

CHAPTER III

SALE OF THE MANOR, 1680

Manorial property was held by "Fee," which was "*any acknowledgement made of superiority to a higher lord.*" Fee Simple was tenure "*whereof we are seised in those general words, To us and our heirs for ever.*" Most Warwickshire people knew all about this in the seventeenth century and one of them wrote, "*Here's the lord of the soil come to seize me for a stray, for entering his fee-simple without leave.*" (Henry VI Pt. II). The lord's "rights of the soil" will be found mentioned in the Award of 1805. When a Lease was granted to a copyholder he paid a "Fine" (so many years' value of the property), and a "Fine" was due on every transfer of that property by the copyholder. When the lord of a manor, or any freeholder, sold his land, it was also necessary to "Levy a Fine."

One of the deeds by which a Cherington copyholder, William Meades, held his house and land remains in the possession of Mr. Dickins, and the following extracts will show what were the terms of the holding. The deed is dated 1662. For the sum of £220 Richard Lucy, of Charlecott, "*doth grant Sett and to farme lett*" a messuage or tenement, and two-and-a-half yardlands of arable, meadow, and pasture late in the tenure of Edward Stout, and now in the occupation of Anne Stout, his widow. The property is now her "widow's estate," but on the "determination" of that William Meades is to have it for ninety-nine years, if Anne, Alice, and Sarah, his daughters, should so long live.

He is to pay a yearly rent to Richard Lucy of £1 10s. 0d., "*at two the most usual days or feasts in the year, the feast of Saint Michael the archangel, and the annunciation of our blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin.*" At the death of each of the daughters the sum of 40s. is to be paid in lieu of a heriot, "according to the custom of the Manour." After the sale of the manor the "chief rent" on this property was 2s. 6d. due at Lady Day. If not paid within ten days after that date Thomas Lucy had the right to enter the premises, distrain the cattle depasturing therein, drive them away and impound them till the rent was paid.

Sir Thomas Lucy died at Charlecott in 1640, leaving six sons and six daughters. In 1650 his son, Robert, was letting property in Cherington to Richard Creede. In 1676 Richard, son of Robert Lucy, was in possession of the Charlecote property, and having to find a large sum of money for his sister's dowry, he "levied a Fine" to enable him to sell the manors belonging to his family. Cherington, however, was not sold then, but remained in the hands of the Lucy family till 1680, when Thomas Lucy, son of Richard Lucy, sold the manor to the manorial tenants. In a deed of Edward Day's, in 1744, is the following:

"A ffine was levied by Mr. Lucy to Mr. Lawrence of all the manor and lands of Lucys in Cherington. But the Chyrograph of the ffine is in some other of the purchasers hands."

On May 13th 1680, a deed was executed by which Thomas Lucy and William Lawrence sold the Cherington property. This consisted of "*all that manor of Cherrington with the appurtenances and 22 messuages (farm house and buildings), 24 Barns, 3 Mills, 22 gardens, 21 Orchards, 500 acres of land, 130 acres of meadow, 100 acres of Pasture, and 300 acres of Furze and Heath.*"

The purchasers, all of whom had been "in occupation" before, were Richard Creed, of Abington, Berks, Gentleman; George Granger, of Holford, Warwickshire, Clarke; Thomas Mansell of Shipston, Mercer; Richard Watkins of Brayles, Yeoman; and Joane Webb, widow; Thomas Holtham, John Hiorne, Edward Stoute, Francis Mason, Thomas

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Mason, senior, William Meades, Thomas Taylor, Richard Hemings, Richard Tidman, William Steele, John Mason, William Slie, Stephen Jarrett, John Holtham, Edward Day, Richard Adams, senior, Richard Adams, junior, all described as “of Cherrington, Yeomen.”

Mr W.G. Dickins has a copy of this deed on which is written “*The original Deed whereof this is a cobby is delivered and remaining in the hands and custody of Mr. John Holtham which I promise to produce unto any of the parties to whose Use the ffine above mentioned is by the said Deed declared to bee, whensoever they or any of them shall have occasion to make use thereof. Witness my hand sett thereunto the twelfth day of January in the year of our Lord God One thousand Six hundred and Eighty.*” (In the 17th century the year began on March 25th, so January 1680 follows May 1680). As in all other instances which I have seen the signature of this copy is John Holtom, though the name is written Holtham in the deed. The amount of land is puzzling but I have given the figures as they stand.

Some of this property was bought by the Dickins family later, and many deeds remain in Mr. Dickins’ possession. Others are preserved in the Reference Library at Birmingham, and the following facts are taken from these two sources, the Registers, etc. Each purchase included a house and its farm buildings, or Homestall. A yardland was 30 acres.

Richard Creed’s lease is dated 1650, when he was living in Warwick. His copyhold included a house with a Close adjoining, and two yardlands. This he bought in 1680 for £120. His deed was witnessed by Anthony Dickins and Richard Hemings. Although the copyholders by purchase became freeholders, they were still subject to the manorial or “chief rent.” Richard Creed’s chief rent was 2s. His widow left the Cherington property to her grandson, Samuel Greene, who sold it in 1708 to William Dickins for £590. It included the ground on which Cherington House stands.

The Rev. George Granger bought three yardlands for £300. This land had been in the occupation of Thomas Day. The chief rent was 3s.

Thomas Mansell bought three yardlands for £212. There was a Thomas Mansell, a husbandman, in Cherington in 1591.

Richard Watkins bought one-and-a-half yardlands for £90. His house may have been the house opposite what was later the Red Lion, as it has a date stone with a W for the surname, and R and S below, and the date 1720.

Joane Webb may have owned the house in the centre of the village on what was then the Waste, as Walter Webb was there in 1805. She had one-and-a-half yardlands, and raised a mortgage of £160 on it in September 1680. Robert Webb was a manorial tenant in 1510.

Thomas Holtham, of Crimscott, bought two yardlands for £152. The family was in Cherington in 1566, and he had been in occupation of this land since 1651. In 1718 William Dickins bought from the Holtoms the land, farmyard, garden, orchard, and Close which they had bought from Thomas Lucy, and gave £500 for them. The family remained landowners and the name often occurs in the village records. In 1774, Thomas, John, and Nicholas Holtham were Freeholders of Warwickshire, and in 1805 Thomas and Nicholas Holtom were landowners in Cherington (see John Holtham).

I do not know what land John Hiorne bought, but his Homestead was the farm house south of the Rectory garden, which still bears the name of Hiron’s Farm. The name is spelt Hiorne or Hiron indifferently. In 1510 Robert Hyron was one of the Homage at the manorial court, and was ordered to repair the roof of his house; and Thomas Hyron

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was ordered to repair his “shepe house.” There was an Emmote Hyherne in Cherington in 1544, and an Agnes Hiron in 1569. Thomas Hiorns was a freeholder in 1774, and William Hiron was a landowner in 1805.

Edward Stoute bought three yardlands for £180. The Stouts were in the village in 1545. The family seems to have died out in the 18th century. In 1707 Edward, son of Edward Stout, sold to William Dickins part of the land bought from Thomas Lucy in 1680. It was a small Close which lay between Thomas Hiron’s little Tenement and William Dickins’ orchard. There was “*a little Brooke Runninge betweene the said little Close and the orchard called by the name of Adley Brooke.*” The initials of Edward Stout and his wife Sarah are on the house opposite the Post Office, with the date 1716.

The Mason family is rather confusing. The name goes back to 1327. In 1651 Robert Lucy “Demised, Granted, Sett, and to ffarme Lett” to Judith Mason, widow, for £160, one yard land of arable, meadow, and pasture “*as the same is now latelie divided*” and one Close of pasture. She was already in the occupation of this, and the lease was for 99 years “*if Richard, Francis, and John, sons of Judith, shall so long live.*” The chief rent was 10s. a year. In 1680 three Masons bought their copyhold property: Francis, Thomas Mason senior, and John. As John bought one yardland it looks as if he were the surviving son of Judith, whose holding was that size.

The Terrier of these 30 acres remains. It consists of 33 pieces of arable, and 17 pieces of Greensward. The common rights belonging to it were “*Two horse pastures, three cove pastures, and soo many Sheepe pastures as other the landholders in Cherington keepe for or in respecte of one yarde land. And likewise a proportionable pte of all the common grounde with the trees and fuell there uppon growinge, or that shall hereafter growe uppon the same.*” The right to the timber on the land was part of the sale; in the original lease all Tymber Trees were excepted and could not be cut without leave from Robert Lucy. For this 30 acres John Mason paid £76. His son, Richard, sold three-quarters of it, in 1732 to Nicholas Holtham, for £240.

The sale throws an interesting light on the difficulty of adjusting “common rights.” In this case “the neighbours” had to agree as to what was three-quarters of two horses and three cows! As they worked it out Nicholas Holtham was allowed “commons” for one horse yearly and two every other year, and for two cows yearly and three every fourth year.

Francis Mason bought half a yardland for £40, and Thomas Mason bought two-and-a-half-yardlands for £150. In 1717 Francis Mason of Chirington, Yeoman, sold to his eldest son, Thomas, half a yardland with a house, then occupied by Edward Fell, which had been built on a Close called Sheephouse Close. In 1756 Thomas left this, together with another house and half yardland, and all his instruments of husbandry, corn, hay, and cattle of all sorts, to his daughter Hannah and her husband, Daniel Williams. In 1781 William Dickins bought the two half yardlands, then occupied by Walter Long, and Shepards Close which lay south of a Close of William Dickins’ and adjoined on the west to the garden and orchard of William Attwood. In 1805 Nicholas Holtham was in possession of “*two and a half yardlands called Mason’s.*” This may have been the land bought by Thomas Mason in 1680, which was of that extent.

William Meades bought his house, Homestall, and two-and-a-half yardlands for £140. His family was in Cherington in 1625, and he became a manorial tenant in 1662. By his will in 1694 he left his land to his daughter Anne, wife of Thomas Attwood. It consisted of 70 pieces of arable and 41 pieces of greensward. There was also a Close called Great Close “*adjoining to the backside of Christopher Smith, Clerk*” (then the Rector). This was the field east of the Rectory, now Church property. He left money to his other daughter who had married William Hands. The will remains, witnessed by

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Richard Tidnam, Thomas Holtham, and William Bishop. Pinned to it is “*A true and perfect Inventory of the goods, Cattle, and Chattles of William Meades*”, drawn up, as was then the custom, by three of his neighbours, Richard Hemings, Thomas Holtham and Richard Tidnam.

“Imprimis his wearing apparel and money in his purse

Item goods in the hall

<i>“ goods in the Buttery</i>	<i>“ the Cheese and goods in the Cockloft</i>
<i>“ goods in the dary house</i>	<i>“ ffour cows and two heyfers</i>
<i>“ goods in the chamber over the hall</i>	<i>“ all his horses, mares, and colts</i>
<i>“ goods in the chamber over the Buttery</i>	<i>“ ffive and ffifty sheepe</i>
<i>“ goods in the chamber over the milk house</i>	<i>“ two fat swine and three little piggs</i>
<i>“ two carts, a tunbrill, two ploughes, and harrowes</i>	
<i>“ Corne in the Barne and Rickes, with the old Corne and Rey and Corne growing</i>	
<i>“ The hurdells and all other Implements of husbandry and all other lumber.</i>	

One or two things in this Inventory are interesting. The “hall” was what we should now call the living room, into which the front door opened. The original manor houses consisted of one large room to which others were added as comfort became more general. Yeomen and farmers copied the manor house, and built a central room or hall. Next to his hall William Meades had a Buttery (larder or store room) and a Dairy.

Over each of these was a chamber, and it is perhaps worth noticing that the word chamber then (as now in some parts of the United States) was used for an upper room only. This idea remains in the word chambermaid. The uppermost room of a house was the Cockloft. (One of the garrets in Cherington House retained the name of the cockloft as long as it was Dickins property). It will be seen that William Meades grew rye. Rye furlong is mentioned in 1651. The old meaning of “lumber” is household stuff. Unfortunately no figures are given so we cannot tell the value of the Stock.

Thomas Taylor bought his house and buildings, garden, orchard, barn, and one-and-a-half yardlands for £90. The garden was next that of Richard Tidnam. In 1720 John Taylor, son of Thomas, sold the property. In 1769 it was in the hands of Thomas Snow of Tidmington, and in 1800 the Rev. Thomas Snow sold it to William Dickins. The Schedule, or Terrier, attached to the deed is evidently the original Terrier of 1680 as it gives as boundaries the names of the Cherington Yeomen of that date. The Homestead has “*William Meades on the west and the Inclosure belonging to the Parsonage and the Homestall of Richard Tidnam on the east.*” The Taylors were in Cherington in 1537.

Richard Heming bought one yardland for £60. His family was in the village in 1616.

Richard Tidnam paid £30 for his half yardland. The Tidnams were in Cherington in 1615.

William Steele bought a house, a Water Mill, and a quarter of a yardland for £182. This large sum shows how valuable the mill was. The Steel family was in Cherington in 1332 when the name was spelt Stalonn. In a Court Roll of 1510 it is spelt Staleman and Stele, and in 1598 Raffe Steele was a miller in Cherington. The small house by the gate of Cherington House has a stone with S above and J and A below, and the date 1724. These may possibly be the initials of John Steele and his wife Ann, whose names are in the Register in 1701.

The lane by the Post Office had the name of Steel’s Lane in 1706. The house on the right at the top of the lane has a stone with S above and R and M below and the date 1746. The yard behind this house was in 1805 described as “Clark’s yard formerly Steel’s.” In 1774 John Steel, senior, John Steel, junior, and William Steel were all

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freeholders in Cherington, but the family seems to have moved to Todenham, and in 1784 William Dickins bought a house, garden, and orchard in Cherington from William and John Steel of Todenham.

William Slie, or Slye, bought a quarter of a yardland for £15. This had been in the occupation of Dorothy Sly, and Francis Slye, was a witness at the Induction of the Rev. Thomas Rogers in 1616. Cherington is not so many miles distant from Barton on the Heath where Shakespeare found Christopher Sly, and the Cherington Slys may have been related to this character in the *Taming of the Shrew*. William Sly was married in Cherington Church in 1665. The names Sly's Patch and Sly's Hole occur in the field names, and the last was still in use in 1806.

Stephen Jarrett's land, Homestead, etc., cost him £152. The land was two yardlands. John Jarrett was in the village in 1580. The house in the little lane called the Sling has a date stone with J above, and J and M below, and the date 1747. In 1734 Joseph Jarrett was a landowner, and his wife's name, Mary, occurs in the Registers in 1738, when they lost a child. In 1775 there was a wheelwright called Joseph Jarrett. By his will of that date his wife, Mary, is to have the east end of his house, consisting of one Bay "*which I built, commonly called the parlour, with the chamber and garret thereto belonging*", and also "*the garden on the north side*". I do not know if this was the house facing the main road at the foot of the Sling, which has an addition at the east end exactly fitting this description. In 1774 Joseph and Stephen Jarrett were both on the list of the Freeholders of Warwickshire. There was a Stephen Jarrett in Cherington in 1805, but he had sold his land to the Rector. His Homestead adjoined Hiron's Farm.

John Holtham bought two-and-a-quarter yardlands for £135. The house now called Ivy House was bought by William Dickins from George Holtom in 1860: the stable still has the initials G.H. and the date 1843. In 1861 Stephen Holtom sold the house by Hales Yard.

Edward Day bought two-and-a-half yardlands for £190. The Days were in Cherington in 1539. A deed of 1684 remains by which Edward Day the Elder settles on the wife of his son, Edward Day the Younger, half the house he lives in and half the two-and-a-half yardlands as a Dowry, her marriage portion having been £60. In 1744 this second Edward Day sold one yardland to John Holtham. In 1805 Richard Day still owned the remaining one-and-a-half yardlands. His Homestead, now cottages, was on the left at the top of Steel's Lane.

The two Richard Adams bought half a yardland for £30. The name of Adams was in Cherington in 1327. In 1706 Richard and Walter Adams had a house, homestall, garden, and orchard in Steels Lane, this was later Baker property. In 1723 a house, mortgaged in 1715 by Walter Adams, was bought by Edward Fell, of Weston in the Thistles. The house at the bottom of Steel's Lane has the date 1724, and the initials F above, and E and W below. This may, therefore, be the house bought by Edward Fell.

It will be seen that although Anthony Dickins had been a landowner in Cherington since 1658 he bought no right from Thomas Lucy in 1680. The explanation is that he was already a freeholder, his land having been bought from other freeholders. An Indenture of 1669 speaks of him as "Anthony Dickins of Cherington, Gent.", that is, entitled to bear arms, and in 1692 a document signed by Joseph, William, and Elizabeth Dickins, bears their seals with their arms and crest (the arms were granted in 1625).

In 1682 Thomas Lucy finally severed his connection with Cherington by selling "the Royallty and Mannor of Cherrington" to the Sheldons. Ralph Sheldon thus became lord of the manor and Patron of the Church. He also held Weston and Whichford. The Sheldon family held Cherington for about 140 years when it was sold to George Phillips of Weston.

CHAPTER IV

THE MANOR OF CHERINGTON UNDER THE SHELDONS

At the Reference Library of Birmingham are preserved some of the seventeenth and eighteenth century Court Rolls of Cherington. The first of these is dated October 1693. The old "It. is commanded" of the sixteenth century has become "we do order and agree," but the restraints are as great as ever, and everything must be bound by the will of the neighbours, landholders, or freeholders assembled in the Courts. We know already the names of the freeholders.

The only officers of the Courts mentioned in these Rolls are the Jury, the Hayward, the Constable, and the Fieldsmen. This Court is the "Court Baron of Ralph Sheldon Esq" and the fieldsmen (as the old spelling went) were Francis Mason and Richard Hemming. These were to act as general supervisors and referees in all matters connected with the fields except the fences and ditches, which were in the hands of the Hayward, whose name was derived from the Norman word haie, a hedge.

"We do agree that the sheep shall make entry into the Poultz Stubble one week after the cows have been there." (Poults, still in use in some counties, is an old word for peas and beans). The number of sheep for the commons shall be "stinted" as the most part of the inhabitants agree. The horse hitching is to be where the most part of the neighbours shall consent, and every man shall hedge his proportion for the hitching a week after our Lady Day. (I have found no explanation of the expression Horse hitching as a place. It must, I think, refer to ground set apart for horses to graze, the landowners having a right to turn out so many horses as they had "horse commons" for.) *"We do agree that the Hade wayes and High wayes shall be sett out as the Jury shall direct and appoint when they view the Fields."*

At the Court in October 1697, John Taylor and Stephen Jarrett were elected Fieldsmen. *"We do order and agree that one side of the Towne shall find two Bulls for one year, and the other side of the Towne shall find two Bulls for the next year and one cowes common and 4s. to be allowed for each Bull so kept."* Anyone not contributing his share to the buying of the Bulls shall forfeit 5s. No one was to turn out calves or pigs into the Fields "till Harvest be rid", under a penalty of 1s. for each animal. The Hayward is to scour the trenches and turn the waters out of the Highways, and stop the Gaps and ditches in the wheat fields. No one is to plow up any furrows without leave from the Jury.

Lambs and Ridgells (rams) are not allowed in the open fields between Bartholomewtide and Michaelmas. No person *"either Common Leasors or of their own family shall be suffered to leaze untill a Land be shocked upon forfeiture of 1s. for him that suffers them so to leaze for each default."* And *"No person shall suffer any Leazer to leaze upon his Poults or Barley lands till the land be fully ridd, on forfeiture of 1s. for every person that shall pitch the cart."*

In October 1699, another Court of Ralph Sheldon was held. The horse hitching was again to be where the major part of the landholders shall think fit, and was to be hedged by Lady Day. If anyone had a horse common to spare (that is a right to graze one more than he possessed) he might put in a cow. The poults hitching was to be "broke" within ten days after it is Ridd and the rest of the field when the major part of the neighbours should think fit. Everyone that should "break" without their consent should forfeit 5s. to the Fieldsmen. These were Edward Day and John Taylor, and they were to have power to gather a Levy for trenching the Field, and were to give an account to the Neighbourhood of the same. All pigs were to be rung.

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Under "Surcharges of the Common" is the rule that every man turning out horse, cow, or sheep, more than his Stint shall pay 1s. for each, half of which shall go to the Fieldsmen, and half to the Lord of the manor. The Hayward was Nicholas Sturch.

At the Court in 1702 William Dickins, Gentleman, was Foreman of the Jury. The first order was that the cowpasture at the further end of the Fields and the hill shall continue a cowpasture for the term of twenty years, and that "*there shall be no fursen or thorns cutt without letting after May Day next during the said term.*" (It will be remembered that there were said to be 300 acres of Furze and Heath in the manor). Some of the furze and thorns no doubt belonged to the poor and some was taken by "lot" by the landowners; the Lott ground is mentioned.

This cowpasture is to be measured by a Surveyor, and owners of land there will receive ground to the same value elsewhere. Four men from Little Woolvord [Wolford], Whichford, Brayles, and Sutton are to allot this, and anyone refusing to accept their decision must pay £5 to the lord of the manor. No man is to keep more than two cows to a yardland for the next six years at least. Other orders are repetitions of those already given. No one is to mow any of the vetches which seem to have been connected with the horse hitching.

Nobody is to set any horse common to an "out town man." If anyone cannot stock his "common", that is, if he has a right to more pasture than he has animals for, he will receive money for it from the Constable, but he must give an account of it to the Fieldsmen. "*We agree to keep so many sheep in our Fields as the major part of the landholders shall think fitting, and that the Summer Stint shall begin a fortnight after Lady Day.*" No mare or colt shall be tied in the Wheat Fields after the colt be a month old, and not by any land's side.

The Fieldsmen shall have power to pound any pigg or calfe and take 6d. for each, half for themselves and half for the lord of the manor. The Jurymen are to go out in the Fields at least four times in the year to set mear stones and to decide Controversies, and if they shall neglect so to do there is a penalty for everyone who "does not appear in the Fields by ten of the clock."

The Wheat Fields are to be "hayned" within a fortnight after All Saints Day. Hayned has the same derivation as Hayward, and means fencing.

In November 1734, the Court of Edward Sheldon was held. The first two names of the Jury are Mr. Anthony Dickins, and Mr. William Dickins, his son. Stephen Jarrett was "presented" for plowing up Greensward in the common Field at Sturbroad. Nicholas Holtham was presented for Hitching three mares and four colts in the Field by the Land of Barley belonging to William Steel. Nicholas Holtham was also presented for not throwing down his quickset hedge as ordered; and for not keeping his mound and ditch at the further end of Berry Croft in good repair.

Richard Day was presented for having a pile of wood and furze standing upon the Waste in the Towne. William Steel, Joseph Jarrett, and Nicholas Holtham were presented for ploughing up furrows and hades in the Fields. (All these prosecutions and fines inflicted on one another by neighbours must, one would think, have kept the village in constant irritation).

The cowpasture was to be quickset and mounded before Candlemas (Feb. 2nd) except the Gap at the lower end of Milditch Hades, and the clover was to be mounded by S. Thomas' Day (Dec. 21st). "*None shall tye more horses to Latter Math than they have commons for.*" The Winter Stint for sheep was to be sixteen sheep to the yardland.

"*We do order and agree that the Jury shall appear within an hour as the Bell rings, or*

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send the shilling." (We find by another Roll that the Jury met in the churchyard and adjourned to a house). The foreman of the jury was to give public notice two days before the meeting.

At this Court Mr. William Dickins was elected Tythingman for the Constablewick of Brailes, and Tything of Cherington. The word Tything carries us back to the beginning of the manorial system. The Tythingmen were the ten or twelve men who were responsible for the good behaviour of their district, or Tything, and who had to bring offenders before the manorial court. By the eighteenth century the Tithingman, or head of the Tithing, had become a constable elected by the Court Leet. He was generally a man of good position who nominated a Deputy to do the actual work. The Fieldsmen elected in 1734 were Mr. William Dickins and Stephen Jarrett.

On May 14th, 1739, the Court Leet and Court Baron of William Sheldon were held, Mr. William Dickins being Foreman of the Jury. All the landowners were fined 5s. each for not laying down the hadeways between Furlong and Furlong as ordered by the last Court. These hadeways were to be eight yards long between land and land. Mr. Anthony Dickins was presented, as Foreman of the last Court, for not giving timely notice for the Jury to meet. A rather despairing entry is, "*We present that none of the pains and penalties sett last Court are paid.*"

The mud in the Town Pool is to be thrown out and carried away by the Surveyor of the Highways. I have not been able to identify the Town Pool: it was probably on the Waste in the middle of the village.

Two Fords are mentioned in this Roll. "*The clover now growing at the further end of the Field at Metheridge Ford is to be well mounded by each proprietor.*" Metheridge Ford is mentioned in the Dickins Papers in 1806, but the name seems to be lost. "The further end of the Field" would mean in Far End Quarter, now the North Farm. Miss Hews kindly tells me that the road through the fields there crosses a stream which joins the Stour at Willington. In 1739 the crossing was doubtless by a ford. The name Metheridge Ford appears as early as 1662.

Green ham also appears in 1662, when William Meades had two separate "Lotts" in it. Ham means a meadow and this may have been part of the meadow land by the Stour. In 1739 Green ham Ford was to be well cleaned by the Fieldsmen. Farm horses are still taken through the Stour near the Bridge after ploughing, and there was probably a ford there from time immemorial.

The officers elected in 1739 were Thomas Mason, Hayward, and Mr. William Dickins and Stephen Jarrett, Fieldsmen. The Jury were to meet in the churchyard on May 21st, by nine o'clock in the forenoon. The Roll was "Examined by Thomas Mander, Steward."

Court Rolls of 1754, 1764 and 1771 remain, but there is little of interest in them. In 1754 Brook Furlong and-Berry (Croft) Furlong were sown with clover, and the hedges and ditches "from Dagtail to the Park Wall against Weston Grounds" were to be cleaned and scoured. In 1771 "*We present Mary Stanley and John Williams for a Nuisance in emptying Chamber Potts and other offensive things in the Street called Steel's Lane, opposite John Steel's house.*" The ditch from the further end of Sitch land down to the brook was reported to be "ruinous."

Early in the nineteenth century Ralph Sheldon sold the manor of Cherington to George Philips. For the following extracts from Court Rolls of Cherington I am indebted to Mrs. Warriner, now lady of the manor.

The Courts seem to have been held at long and irregular intervals, the "chief rents"

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paid in 1825 dating from 1820. At this Court Leet and Court Baron of George Philips Esq. the Steward was F. F. Findon, and his Deputy was William Allen. (Francis Findon, of Shipston, gentleman, was Clerk to the Commissioners of the Award in 1805). The Foreman was Richard Day.

The Court adjourned from the churchyard to the house of Thomas Salmon who was elected Pound Keeper. Charles Gibbs was elected Constable. The "Crier of the Court" was paid 5s. 6d. Twenty-two tenants paid their manorial rents. At the next Court in 1827 the Rev. T. V. R. Nicoll, the Rector, was presented for an encroachment on the highway leading from Cherington to Stourton, the bank of his field having slipped upon the road. The bank was to be removed and the road widened to twenty feet wide including the footpath.

No Court seems to have been held till October 1829, when the Constable, Richard Day, and the Pound Keeper, Thomas Salmon, were "*to affix the Pinlocks as heretofore, viz., that for each trespass by cattle belonging to persons residing in this manor shall be paid a Pinlock of four pence a head, and when otherwise resident sixpence a head, and for a score of sheep 1s. 6d. to whom they may belong.*" The watercourse between Mr. R. Day's buildings and Mr. John Holtom's orchard, belonging to Sir George Philips, is a nuisance as it is too narrow, and causes repeated floods. It is to be widened and deepened from the Blacksmith's Shop to the Tank near Mr. Dickins' Dairy.

Three men are presented for throwing manure and rubbish in front of their houses in Steele's Lane. Mary Gibbs is presented because she has a sapling elm and three withy trees growing in the Cherington brook, adjoining the orchard belonging to Cherington Mill, and the stream is diverted to the injury of the highway. She is ordered to cut down the trees.

The only other Courts in Mrs. Warriner's Book were held in October in 1833, 1836, 1839, 1844, 1849 and 1854. The rule was that all residents, whether tenants or not, had to appear at the Courts or pay a fine of 1d. In 1844 this fine produced 3s. 6d., but on the other hand 12s. 9d. was paid by the Court for "*31 pints of beer for Inhabitants of Cherington.*" In 1849 forty-eight residents paid their pence for non-attendance, but there is an entry, "*54 pints of ale for residents who attended the Court and answered to their names, or who paid a fine of 1d. each for non-attendance.*" Apparently, therefore, a resident got his pint whether he attended or not.

At the death of Sir George Philips the manor of Cherington became the property of his daughter, the Countess of Camperdown. On the death of the third Earl of Camperdown, the manor of Cherington was left to H. A. Warriner, Esq.

CHAPTER V

THE ENCLOSURE OF THE OPEN FIELDS

It is not unusual to hear the enclosure of the common fields spoken of as an unfortunate and unfair proceeding which robbed the country of a race of sturdy yeomen, living on and working their own land. The facts of the case are as follows.

Each Enclosure Act was entirely separate from any other, and was passed by Parliament in response to a Petition from the particular parish in which a majority of the landowners asked for leave to enclose. That some of the very small owners suffered cannot be denied, but that the country as a whole was immensely enriched is indisputable.

Even the scraps of information we have about the Cherington Fields are enough to show how agriculture was restricted and burdened by communal cultivation. Neither capital nor brains were of much use to a man who was obliged to do everything exactly as, and when, the neighbours wished. That this was realised all over the country we can see by the fact that between the years 1765 and 1785 no less than 47 acts were passed each year. Cherington put up with the old conditions till the year 1805.

The system by which the Enclosure Acts were carried out was that Commissioners, local men of integrity in whom the landowners had confidence, were appointed to rearrange the properties, allotting to each proprietor land according to his original holding in the most convenient place. In the Cherington Award it is noticeable that in almost every case the owner gets some of his land adjoining his farm buildings, or Homestead.

The Commissioners were Henry Clark, of Shipston upon Stower; Decimus Slatter, of Ilmington; and Stephen Godson, of Hook Norton. On April 21st 1805 they affixed to the door of Cherington Church a notice that they would hold their first meeting at the George Inn at Brailes on Monday, May 6th. They there took a solemn oath that they would act without favour or partiality, each of them witnessing another's oath. They appointed Francis Findon, of Shipston, Gentleman, their clerk. (He was Steward of the manor in 1825).

The landowners who had signed the petition for enclosure were Ralph Sheldon, lord of the manor, Rev. T.V.R. Nicoll, Rector of Cherington, William Dickins, Esq., John Beck, William Sturch, William Baker, "and several other persons." They seem to have been chosen as representative of different values, as while William Dickins was the largest, William Baker was the smallest landowner in the parish. When finished, the Award (as the parchment record of the Commissioners' allotments was called) was to be "*deposited in the Parish Church of Cherington or in such other place as the majority in value of the proprietors of Cherington should direct.*"

The amount of land to be dealt with was 808 acres, 1 rood, 22 perches. We get an insight into the absolutely open, unfenced, condition of the place by finding that the first thing the Commissioners had to settle was the course of the public and private carriage roads, bridle ways, and foot ways. How unsettled these had previously been is seen from the expression "its usual track."

The first and most important road, which is to be 60 feet wide, is the Shipston Road, which is to run in a northward direction to and across the North bridge over the river Stower, then in a straight line to the north side of north bridge Nap, thence to the entrance of Burmington parish at the meer furlong Gate. (A field here is still called Burmington meer furlong).

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The Shipston Spade Gate Road, 30 feet wide, leads from the Shipston Road along its usual track to the entrance of Burmington at Shipston Spade Gate.

The Sutton Road, 35 feet wide, leads from North bridge Nap to Sutton. The Weston Road, 35 feet wide, is to follow its usual track to the entrance of the Lordship of Weston.

The Stowerton Road, 30 feet wide, leads from Little Cherington westward to unite with the Shipston Road near Cherington Mill.

Two Bridle ways are mentioned, one from Burmington to Brailes, and the other from the Spade Gate angle to Round hills meadow.

The Stone Pit road, 30 feet wide, leads out of the south side of the village to the lot ground on the hillside and thence to the allotment for public stone and gravel pits.

Three private Drift roads are set out. It will be noticed that the road which now leads from the corner by the Rectory gate to the top of Featherbed Lane is not mentioned. It appears, however, in the Award as bounding Richard Day's land, and is described as "the town street of Cherington or a lane leading thereto."

Ten footpaths are recorded:

- 1 to Weston, "out of Clarke's yard formerly Steel's," to Culletts stile.
- 2 To Little Cherington from the churchyard.
- 3 To Stowerton along the top of the Infield.
- 4 From the gate on the north side of the churchyard across the Shipston road to the stile at the entrance of The Leasow.
- 5 From near the Homestead of John Holtom to the entrance of Cherington Meadow, over the Stower to the stile at the entrance of Burmington cow pasture.
- 6 "Across the Patch."
- 7 To Long Compton, from the Weston footway to the Conduit Meadow stile.
- 8 From Farmington grounds to Sutton North Stile.
- 9 From the Stone pit road to Whichford Wood.
- 10 From near Cherington Mill to Cherington Meadow, to communicate with the Shipston footway in Cherington Meadow.

Four Gates are mentioned, all on the boundary between Cherington and another parish. The Spade Gate and the Meer Furlong Gate between Cherington and Burmington, "the ancient Bridle Gate" where Cherington and Sutton meet, and "the ancient Gate at the north end of a Close in the Hamlet of Stowerton, called Nicholas Holtom's Seabridge Close."

After establishing the roads and paths the Award deals with the rights of the lord of the manor, and the Rector. Ralph Sheldon had "rights of the soil" (waste land, timber, etc.) and he had also a claim on land called freeboard, the boundary between the manors of Weston and Cherington. He also possessed 4 yardlands of ground in Cherington. The Award gave him for "the ancient freeboard of Weston" 2 roods and 31 perches; and for his 4 yardlands some land in the South hill, Longden, the hillside Lot ground, Stone hill, and Sly's hole, in all 84 acres, 3 roods, and 35 perches.

The Rector had three different claims for land:

- (1) For the old Church endowment called the Glebe. For this he received about 35 acres, part in the Infield and part "on the foreside of the Hill."

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(2) For land now to be given to the Living instead of the old Great and Small Tithes. For these he obtained rather more than 178 acres in Far End Quarter, Farmcomb, and the Hill or Sutton Quarter. This land being taken from the Common Fields all owners of land and common rights in the Fields were freed for the future from tithe paying. There were, however, eleven tithepayers in the parish who owned no land in the Fields, and these had to continue to pay tithe on their houses and gardens (One of these was Walter Webb whose house was on the Waste).

(3) For his Lay Estate (which was his own personal property bought from Stephen Jarrett) Mr. Nicoll received some land next his Homestead, close to the Rectory, and some north of the Stower in the corner between the Shipston and Sutton roads.

All the residue of the land was to be allotted to the owners and proprietors thereof. Of these the largest was William Dickins who had 13½ yardlands (rather more than 400 acres), with right of common. For this he received only a little more than 180 acres. Although under the new system the Tithes were thus compounded for, the loss of more than half his land would seem a heavy price to pay. That landowners actually petitioned to have so drastic a change made shows clearly how inconvenient and extravagant the old division of the land was.

The land now allotted to William Dickins seems to have extended from the west side of the Infield (including part of it) through the cowpasture to the freeboard of Weston; and Moonhill quarter, rather more than 127 acres.

Another allotment of about 50 acres gave him land in the West Field extending to Weston, and including Berry Croft. Part of this land was bounded by Nicholas Holtom's Homestead, and it will be remembered that in 1734 Nicholas Holtom was presented for not keeping in repair his mound and ditch at the further end of Berry Croft.

A third allotment gave W. Dickins Elm Close, an ancient enclosure near his dwelling house. It was only 3 roods 38 perches in extent, and was bounded by the public street, by his farm Homestead and ancient enclosures, and by an old enclosure of Nicholas Holtom's called Lawrence. This last was also allotted to W. Dickins in exchange for land which the Commissioners wanted for John Beck.

The remainder of the landowners are as follows, the Award giving always the amount of the old holding in yardlands, and the new in acres, roods and perches. I have placed the yard lands in parenthesis. Catherine and Margaret Clark (1) receive 13:3:1 next their own Homestead and those of Richard Day and John Beck (Clark's yard was "formerly Steel's"). John Beck (4½) received 68:3:2. This lay south of the village and was next his own Homestead. It was bounded by the town street and Stourton and included Church Moors and the Grove, with part of the Weston freeboard. Other names mentioned are Brooks and Berrils, and Ralph Sheldon (see above).

William Hiron (1¾) receives 26:0:3. This was in three almost equal pieces, the first was in "the patch cutt leys" and was bounded by his own Homestead and those of Richard Attwood and William Baker, the street, and Stourton; the second allotment was north of the Stour on the Knaps and Ninelands furlong; and the third was land in "Syche corner". Richard Day (1½) receives 19:2:21 in Todnam Furlong, bounded by Sutton.

Henry Timms (2½) 37:0:22. The greater part of this lay in "Stain Furlong," but about 7 acres was in the west Infield, and was bounded by his own Homestead, the Shipston road, and land of William Dickins. Thomas Holtom (½) 5:7:3. Of this, three roods and thirty-five perches was in "the mill pound hades," next the Stour and his own Homestead, and the rest was north of the Stour next the Shipston road. Joseph Gibbs (½) 5:3:35.

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This was in three parts, in the mill pound hades, bounded by the Mill Homestead, a tiny bit west of the Mill, and the greater part "by the Stour." (The Gibbs family held Cherington Mill in 1829). William Sturch ($\frac{3}{4}$) 9:2:39. Land north of the Stour. William Baker for his one "land" received 30 perches in "Bar Furlong." Nicholas Holtom ($4\frac{1}{2}$) 78:0:26. This, too, was in separate pieces. In "Little Sytch furlong under the hill"; in Butt furlong; in the Cow pasture bounded by the Weston road, the Weston boundary, and the land of William Dickins; and in "King's hedge furlong."

The last allotment was that of 3 acres 1 rood and 24 perches to the churchwardens in lieu of detached parcels of land called Church lands. This was in Sturt furlong, bounded by the Spade gate road and Burmington.

The Cherington Enclosure was completed in two years and nine months. On January 26th, 1808, it was sealed and delivered in the presence of James Findon and George Wall, and enrolled with the Clerk of the Peace. Some of the land thus awarded was later rearranged by private bargaining. In 1822 the Rector, the Rev. T. V. R. Nicoll, had some garden ground on the west side of the Shipston road adjoining land of Henry Timms, and this he exchanged with Henry Timms for Great Close and Little Close.

Great Close, the field east of the Rectory garden, had been part of the land bought by William Meades in 1680; in 1822 it was described as being bounded by "the pleasure ground" of the Rectory, and by Pinfold Lane leading from Cherington to Stowerton. Little Close was the land now added to the churchyard on the north. As part of the bargain Henry Timms also acquired from the Rector about an acre of the glebe called "fforehill Ground on Cherington Hill." In the Award this is described as "on the foreside of the hill."

From the boundaries mentioned in the Award I gather that Thomas Holtom's Homestead was "by the Mill pound Hades," and that Joseph Gibbs was at the Mill. North of the street lay the Homesteads of Henry Timms, William Dickins, John Holtom, and others. This Homestead of William Dickins may have been made in the early eighteenth century when William Dickins and his son, Anthony, were both landowners.

In 1718, when Anthony Dickins succeeded to the whole property, he sold to John Hiorne a bit of land described as "a Slingett of Ground," between the backside of a house belonging to Anthony Dickins, occupied by William Hale, and the common fields. He carefully reserved a right of way through the Slingett so that his "servants, horses, waines, carts, and carriages" could fetch corn, grain, and hay to the Barnes and backside of William Hale's house, and carry manure from that to the common fields. William Hale was evidently a Bailiff, and it is a curious fact that this farmyard preserves to this day in the Dickins family the name of Hale's yard. The tiny lane which runs by it still has the name of the Slingett, or the Sling.

South of the street were Homesteads of William Dickins (Mr. Dickins' Dairy), Richard Attwood, and Nicholas Holtom. At the top of Steel's Lane were the Homesteads of Catherine and Margaret Clark on the right (late Steels), Richard Day on the left, and John Beck. Mr. Nicoll's private property, bought from Stephen Jarrett, lay further east: beyond that was the Homestead of William Hiron (which still keeps his name) and east of that was William Baker's house, opposite the top of Featherbed Lane, the last house in Cherington.

CHAPTER VI

CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE BAPTIST, CHERINGTON

That there was a church in Cherington in Saxon times seems probable (p.1) but there are no remains of any building earlier than the twelfth century, and Dugdale's reference to the patronage in 1200 shows that there was a church there then. He says that in 1291 the church was valued at eight marks (£5 6s. 8d.) In 1292 we know that the Rector was called John, and that he went to Ireland that year (Chapter 1). "John parson of the church of Chiriton," is also mentioned in the Chancery Rolls of 1297.

Like all old churches, Cherington Church has been altered in successive ages. It retains Early English and Decorated windows and arches. On the west wall can still be seen the marks of the Early English roof, which was raised to its present height when the clerestorey was added. Perhaps the large Perpendicular window near the pulpit was inserted later as the clerestorey window above it appears to have been shortened to make room for it.

The tower seems to have been added after the church was finished, as the west door of the nave has mouldings on the outside. Like others of the same early date, the tower seems to have been built for defence as it had no windows in the lower storey, and no outer door. The existing outer door and windows in the lower storey appear to have been roughly made in later times.

When the church was built there would have been no seats for the congregation except possibly a stone bench against the outer wall, to which the weakest could retire when exhausted by their devotions, or during a long sermon. The fact that churches thus offered a large open space, sheltered from the weather, caused them in old days to be used for many purposes quite unconnected with religion, including even dancing, feasting, buying and selling.

Cherington Church may often have heard "the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast." In many places the manorial courts were held in the church, and this would be especially convenient in villages where, as in Cherington, the lord of the manor had no house. That the courts were held in Cherington Church is suggested by the fact that in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the courts still met in the churchyard, and at the sound of the church bell.

The first seats to be used in churches would have been plain oak benches, and in the seventeenth century high pews were introduced. Across the chancel arch there was, no doubt, as in other churches, a Rood Screen, on which stood the Rood or Crucifix. (It is possible that the large window by the pulpit was inserted to throw more light on the Rood).

At the Reformation the Rood was removed and the Royal Arms were placed on the Screen. When that, too, was removed the Arms were put on the front of the gallery at the west end of the Church, and when that disappeared in the alterations of 1877 the Arms were hung on the west wall.

Scattered about in various windows are the fragments of old glass collected in the eighteenth century by the Rev. John Warner, D.D., who was Rector of Cherington from 1741 to 1764. In the large south window are many armorial shields, some of which were bought by him in 1750 from the Manor House at Kiddington. Only one of these has any connection with Cherington. The Arms surmounted by the crest of an arm bearing a sword impaling a boar's head are those of the Actons of Sutton, Worcestershire.

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Joyce Acton married Sir Thomas Lucy, son of that William Lucy whose Arms were painted on the wall of the church. She died in 1595 and her monument is in Charlecote Church.

The most interesting thing in Cherington Church is the beautiful monument between the nave and the aisle. In 1874 M. H. Bloxham, F.S.A, wrote an account of some of the Sepulchral Monuments of Warwickshire, in which he says that there are in England a series of sculptured effigies, no two perhaps alike, of Laymen, Frankeleins, or Lords of Manors, but neither warriors nor ecclesiastics.

As an example he takes the tomb in Cherington Church, which he describes as "*an interesting high tomb, placed beneath a very rich canopied arch. This canopy takes in form that of a low and obtusely pointed ogee-shaped arch, the exterior mouldings of which are crocketted, whilst the under part is cinque foiled; hollow mouldings in the architrave contain a profusion of the ball and four-leaved flower, and other foliage, rich accessories in architectural details of the 14th century. The tomb beneath this canopy has the sides covered or divided by a series of rich canopied recesses, ogee-headed and crocketted, and trefoiled within the heads.*

"On the north side of this tomb, which stands between the nave and eastern part of the north aisle, is a piscina or drain, into which the priest poured the water with which he washed his hands, a most ancient custom, before or during the celebration of private mass. This piscina, forming part of the monument itself, is a very curious arrangement, and I do not remember to have met with it elsewhere. In the church of Arundel, Sussex, a small stone altar forms part of, or is attached to one of the noble monuments there.

"In the church of Cherington this piscina is indicative of the former existence of an altar at the east end of the north aisle. The recumbent effigy on this tomb is very curious, and exhibits a singular specimen of the civil costume, or ordinary dress of a Frankelein, or lord of the manor, or squire of a parish in the 14th century. It is also indicative that the person thus represented was not a knight. The dress is that which in ancient wills of the 14th century is described as consisting of tunica et supertunica, cum caputio, that is, a long coat or tunic, with close-fitting sleeves, buttoned from the elbows to the wrists.

"Over this tunic is worn a supertunic or surcoat, with loose sleeves reaching to the elbows and hanging down. The super tunic is girt by a narrow belt buckled in front, and from this belt is suspended on the right side an anelace, or knife. On the head, and covering the shoulders and breast, is a kind of tippet, combined with a hood, not unlike the modern cape, and called the caputium. On each side of the head of the effigy is an angel, and the feet rest against a lion.

"I have searched in vain for any notice of the foundation of a chantry in the church of Cherington which might lead to an identification of the person here commemorated. This monument is not even mentioned by Sir William Dugdale, or his continuator, Dr. Thomas. I have, however, no doubt but that it represents one of the Lucy family, who for many ages held this manor, and I should incline to attribute it to William Lucy, born in 1277, knight of the shire for this county in five several parliaments in the reign of Edward II, and who was living in 1326: the date of his death I have been unable to ascertain. This is one of the most interesting monuments of its class I have ever met with."

After quoting this in his "Monumental Effigies in the County of Warwick, Mr. P. B. Chatwin adds, "*This effigy lies under a very elaborate canopy, formed of a cusped, depressed ogee arch enriched with crockets, four-leaved flowers, and bell flower ornament. This arch, although very unlike the others, is the easternmost arch of the north arcade dividing the chapel from the church. The effigy is placed on a contemporary tomb-chest of the same material (a fine oolite).*

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“On each side are five moulded panels with cusped ogee heads and elaborate finials and crockets. At the ends and between these are similarly enriched pinnacles. On the north, the chapel side, one of the ogee heads is flattened, and projecting from the panel is a piscina, a unique feature indicating that the individual who is represented here was the builder of the chapel.”

The question as to who this individual was is interesting, and I venture to submit the following theory, premising that although Dugdale begins his account of Cherington with the patronage of the Church, and records that the Lucys were lords of the manor from 1330, and that a Lucy was Rector in 1337, yet he entirely ignores a tomb which would have been notable not only for its beauty but for its connection with a great county family. As the Lucys had no house in Cherington, one would not have expected to find one of their tombs there, nor is it likely that so elaborate a monument should not have shown their arms. And the costume of the figure on the tomb is not that of a knight, which Dugdale says William Lucy was.

Now the Register of Bishop Godfrey Giffard shows that in 1289 Robert de Stepellanynton, Chaplain (that is, priest of a chantry chapel) was instituted to “the chapel of Cherinton” by the Bishop of Worcester, the patron being Sir Peter de la Mare. And in 1319 the Patent Rolls record that Adam de Chiriton, chaplain, was concerned in an assault at Shipston. This chapel was thus in existence before the Lucys became lords of the manor of Cherington, and its tomb must commemorate some other founder.

Now in 1262 there was a landowner in Cherington called Robert le Fraunkelyn, and the figure on the tomb is in the distinctive dress of a Franklin. The two facts are suggestive. Did this Robert le Franklin found a chantry chapel for the good of his soul in his life time, as did Warwick the Kingmaker at Brailes, and did his heir erect the tomb with the effigy of the founder after the death of the latter in the early fourteenth century?

In 1535 Henry VIII had all church property valued. Cherington Church was then worth £11 10s. 7d., and the Synodals and Procurations to be deducted amounted to £1 3s. 0³/₄d. (In 1877 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners resigned the Procurations due to them at the Bishop’s Visitation, which then amounted to two shillings).

In 1547, under Edward VI, an Inventory of Church Goods was taken in every parish. The Cherington list is as follows:

*“Item: there a ij chalice and iii bells and a little bell
viii vestments, iiii silke, ii dornixe
one cope silke
ii towells, ii Altarclothes
A censor bras.*

Memorandum: the p’she hath sold sythe the last Survey one bell to the Amendyng of highe ways and the Repac’ons of theyr churche.”

I do not know if the ij chalice means a chalice with two handles. Three bells was a common number in Warwickshire churches at that time; the little bell was a Sanctus Bell for use at the Celebrations. The material called dornixe is given in Johnson’s Dictionary as “Dornick, a species of linen cloth used in Scotland for the table.”

The selling of a church bell to repair a road is very interesting. At that date and till the nineteenth century the churchwardens were the guardians of all parish possessions and the managers of all parish business. The old parish chests with their three locks, so that no one man could open them, bear witness to this common possession. And

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when the parish could not raise enough money to amend its highways it would seem a simple thing to sell some property of the parish for this purpose. In this particular case the money paid for the bell was spent partly on repairs to the church itself.

About this time the arms of William Lucy, lord of the manor of Cherington, who died in 1552, were painted on the north wall of the church. Six years after his death Queen Elizabeth came to the throne, and in her reign an order was issued that the Royal Arms should be painted in all churches. William Lucy's mother was the widow of George Catesby (whose descendant Robert Catesby sold Chastleton to raise money for the Gunpowder Plot) and the daughter of Sir Richard Empson the hated minister of Henry VII. These arms remained on the wall till 1876.

THE REGISTERS

In 1538 an Injunction was issued for the Registration of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials. This registration seems to have been carried out rather carelessly, and in 1597, to ensure greater security, the Registers were ordered to be copied on Parchment. The Cherington Registers actually contain entries from 1538 copied with great care and neatness, with the dates of the year and that of the reign in columns at the edge of each page.

These first entries were perhaps originally written by Edward Large, who became Rector in 1537, and copied on to the present parchment sheets by Thomas Rogers, who was Rector from 1616 to 1636. The sheets are roughly fastened together and are in some confusion, mingled with later entries, and with many pages missing. The earliest entries are headed, "The names of those that be Buried in the parish of Cherington." They run to the year 1600-1601. The Baptisms begin the same year, 1538, and the Marriages in 1552, the first being that of Alis Holtom, daughter of Richard Holtom.

In 1616 Thomas Rogers enters in the Register that he has read the Thirty-nine Articles in Cherington Church (as is still done by a newly appointed Incumbent). His signature is witnessed by John Hemming, Nicholas Kinge, Edward Stout, and Francis Slye, "with many others." On the same page are the entries of the births of his seven daughters, from 1618 to 1632. He married an Underhill, and christened his fifth daughter Underhilla in 1626. The Underhill Arms are in the east window of the aisle.

In December 1636, John Harris became Rector and made the same statement, his witnesses being the churchwardens, Thomas Mason, and Edward Day. John Harris died in 1640 and was buried at Cherington, the entry in the Register being, "Johannes Harris, Parson of Cherington."

Christopher Smith was presented to the Living in 1640 and made the same entry in the Register. His witnesses were Stephen Jarrett and William Steele, "both churchwardens." He held the living for forty-eight years, all through the Commonwealth and for twenty-eight years after the Restoration.

The Registers of the time are in bad order and there is nothing in them to throw light on conditions in Cherington at that time, with one exception. At the end of the oldest Register is written, "*1653 Collected for the inhabitants of the towne of Marlborough in the parish of Cherington the sum of 14 shillings and 3d. Christopher Smith, Minister.*" This refers to a disastrous fire in Marlborough in 1653, which destroyed over 100 houses. A public appeal for help was issued, "backed" it is said by Cromwell. The sum of 14s. 3d. was generous from so small a village at a time when a working man's wages were but 9d. or 1s. a day.

It may be worth while to notice that Christopher Smith signs the entry as "Minister" and not as Rector. Many incumbents were expelled from their Livings by the

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Parliamentarians, and those suffered to remain may have found it wise not to claim any rank. When he died in 1688 the entry in the Register is "*Christopher Smith, Rector, was buried.*" His monument is on the south wall of the chancel.

In September 1688, a second Christopher Smith became Rector. He may have been a son of the late Rector as he describes himself as "of Cherrington in the county of Warwick," and Charles Smith, one of the witnesses to his reading the Articles may have been a brother. The other two witnesses were Anthony Dickins and Richard Bishop. The Rector has added in the Register, "*Memorandum that Edward Day, Senior, William Bishop, Senior, William Meades, and William Steele were all present also at my reading ye said Articles and din'd with me the same day.*" He died in 1695 and the entry in the Register is "*Mr. Christopher Smith, Rector, was buried.*"

In June 1696, Moulin Ingram became Rector. He was brother to Aston Ingram, of Little Wolford Manor, and when he read himself in at Cherrington his witnesses were "Aston Ingram and Richard Randall, De Wolfordia parva." In 1704 Moulin Ingram gave his brother a lease (which still remains) of all his Tithes, "except the Tithe of the Glebes and the Easter Offerings," at £85 a year, for four years. Pinned to the parchment of this lease is a scrap of paper on which is written, "*Wee, William Dickins and Edward Day, doo own and acknowledge that wee are to give to Mr. Sheldon two and twenty pounds yearly for the Small Tithe arising from Cherrington during four years ensuing the date thereof, to be paid on the days made payable in the Lease that Mr. Aston Ingram hath of his brother, Rector of Cherrington.*"

In 1723 Christopher Drake succeeded to the living. He made the same entry about the Articles but gave no witnesses. In 1724 the Register has, "*Christopher, the son of Christopher and Elizabeth Drake, was born about twelve on Thursday night on the 6th March, privately Baptised on the 6th of March and carried to Church on the 2nd of April.*" (It is possible that this child was the "Christopher Drake, Minister," who signed the Marriage Register in 1757, when John Warner was Rector).

In 1738 the Rector found "in an old Parchment Register Book upon a piece of a leaf of parchment" the following: "*Isabella daughter of Christopher Smith and Hannah his wife baptised September 1694.*" This he added to the Register of 1694. It shows the carelessness with which Registers were kept. In February 1741, "Christopher Drake, late Rector of Cherrington" was buried.

The Rev. John Warner, D.D., who then became Rector, was an Antiquarian. He made some alterations in the Church and added the stained glass in the windows. The Register has a Memorandum that the clump of trees on the south side of Cherrington Hill was planted in the month of March 1759, by John Warner, Rector. (The well known clump of trees in Sussex, called Chanctonbury Ring, was planted about the same time, also by a clergyman). In 1754 the first printed Register of Marriages was issued, each entry being signed by the officiating Minister. John Warner's last signature is in 1764. After this date the clerical signatures in the Register are those of "curates," as if the Living were vacant, till the year 1783, when Charles Willes, who had been Rector of Whichford, became Rector of Cherrington.

Among the church papers is a sheet of paper, undated, on which is, "*We, whose names are underwritten, do engage to pay to Mrs. Mackoness severally such sums of money as are here underwritten for the Inoculation of the poor of the parish of Whichford.*" The first name on the list is Charles Willes, £5 5s. 0d., and the second entry is "Dr. Smith and Miss Ingram, £5 5s. 0d." (This must have been Miss Ingram of Little Wolford). Mr. Sheldon, of Weston, lord of the manor of Whichford, subscribed two guineas, and the whole sum amounted to £31 4s. 6d. Mrs. Mackarness' house at Great Rollright was well known in the district.

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In the eighteenth century smallpox was a terrible scourge and the only weapon against it was to undergo it voluntarily by taking the infection in the mildest form. This was called Inoculation and was practised by all classes, the poor being sometimes forced to undergo it. For these last the alternative was the Pest House (one of which still remains near Moreton-in-Marsh), where patients were isolated.

William Dickins of Cherington was one of Mrs. Mackarness' patients. She retired in 1794, but her house and business were carried on by a Hook Norton man with the help of her "old Nurse." The Whichford subscription must date from before 1783, when Mr. Willes became Rector of Cherington and apparently brought the subscription list with him. It is interesting, as showing how one village dealt with the dreaded disease, and it is possible that Mrs. Mackarness had other villages on the same terms.

In 1790 Charles Willes seems to have resigned the Living. The Patronage was then the property of Richard Nicoll, D.D., who seems to have bought it for the good of his son, Thomas Vere Richard Nicoll. As he was not old enough to be ordained, the Rev. William Dickins, nephew of "the old gentleman," was made temporary Rector, to "hold the Living" till Mr. Nicoll should have taken Priest's orders and so be qualified to become Rector. This system was common at that time but is now illegal. Although William Dickins was in the position of Rector he signs the Register as "Curate." Mr. Nicoll's first signature as Rector is in 1797. He died in 1841 and was buried in the Chancel. His tablet says he was Rector for 47 years, which would make his incumbency date from 1794.

Mr. Nicoll was succeeded by the Rev. Power Turner, whose father had bought the presentation in 1832. Mr. Turner pulled down the Rectory and built a new one on the same site. The old house must have faced west, as in 1694 the field east of the Rectory was described as adjoining to the backside of the Rectory. The legend in the village is that Mr. Turner having bought a green baize door at a sale was compelled to build a house to contain it!

The Rev. Daniel Power Turner succeeded his father, having previously acted as his Curate. He died in 1906 leaving the Advowson to his son, Charles Henry Turner, who presented the Rev. H. O. Barratt. He became Rector of Landewednack, Cornwall, in 1919, and Mr. Turner appointed the Rev. L. G. Tucker.

Until 1877 the Church retained the old high pews of the seventeenth century. In early days churches were not warmed in any way, and the richer churchgoers made their pews as nearly as possible into small rooms, often surrounded with a curtain to keep out the draughts, and with carpet and cushions for greater comfort. Poorer people also had pews so high that children, or people sitting down, could see nothing of their neighbours.

In Cherington Church the Rectory pew occupied the north side of the chancel. Another large pew on the south side was, till 1877, occupied by the tenants of Weston Mill. (It seems possible that this was a survival of an old claim by the owners of Weston as lords of the manor of Cherington).

In front of the monument in the nave and completely hiding its base, was the pew of the Dickins family. The Pulpit, Reading Desk and Clerk's Desk were piled up outside the chancel on the south side of the nave. There was no vestry, the Rector entering the chancel from the Rectory in his surplice.

In the gallery at the west end of the nave were the singers and the players on various instruments. The last survivor of these was William Hitchman, who had played the Bass Viol, and who died about 1892. Mr. John Long, of Cherington Mill, whose father and grandfather were Parish Clerks before him, has an old music book on which is

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written "Cherington Gallery." This begins with "A Fourth Set of Psalms, Two Anthems, and an Hymn for Christmas. With Symphonies and an Instrumental Bass. Adapted to the use of Country Choirs. And figured for the Organ, &c. Composed by Thomas Clark of Canterbury." (He was a shoemaker by trade, and published a "Sett of Psalms and Hymn Tunes" in 1805). Twelve psalms are given in the metrical version; three of them, the 4th, 15th, and 18th, in the old version, and two by Dr. Watts. Two of his verses would have reminded old people of their open fields,

*Those wandering cisterns in the sky
Borne by the winds around
Whose wat'ry treasures well supply
The furrows of the ground.
The thirsty ridges drink their fill
And ranks of corn appear
Thy ways abound with blessings still,
Thy goodness crowns the year.*

Cherington Ridges is still a field name in Stourton.

The four voices, Tenor, Counter Tenor, Treble, and Bass, each have their own line of music. The symphonies are in three separate lines with a figured bass. The music is elaborately interspersed with instrumental passages and many changes of time, quite unsuitable for congregational singing. The two Anthems and the Hymn for Christmas are also very elaborate, but the music shows no sign of wear so they may not have been sung.

In the same book is a "Church Music Book Containing Six Anthems" by H. Tolhurst, of Chart-Sutton, Kent. All these show signs of use, and the pages are worn and mended. They are headed: 1. Proper on Sacrament Days, 2. For Christmas Day, 3. For Funerals, 4. Proper in Time of War, and two others. The instruments named in No. 4 are Hautboy, two Violins, and Bassoon; and in No. 6, Trumpets, Hautboy, two Violins and Basso.

It is remembered that on Wake Sunday, the Band and Choir always performed an Anthem which began, appropriately as they thought, "Awake, Awake." On this day Cherington families made a point of meeting and going to church together. In 1870 a Harmonium replaced the village Band, and from that date to the present day the voluntary care of the church music has been undertaken by different members of the Dickins family.

In 1876-7 all the old high pews and the Gallery were removed, the church was entirely re-seated, and a new Font, Pulpit, Reading Desk, and Lectern were provided. A new Clock was given by William Dickins to replace the old one, which required winding every day. During these alterations services were held in the school. In December 1876, the workmen arranged, at their own wish, that the chancel should be fit for use on Christmas Day in order that Mr. Dickins should be at the Christmas Celebration there as he had been without fail since his Confirmation, some sixty-four years before.

When Mr. George Philips pulled down the Elizabethan house at Weston in the early nineteenth century, the woodwork from the chapel in the house was taken to Cherington Church and formed the Reredos. In the centre was the glass with the head of our Lord now in the east window of the aisle. In 1877 the wood of the Reredos was found to be in very bad order, and after removing the glass, the woodwork was discarded and thrown aside in an outhouse at the Rectory. In 1909 the Rev. H. O. Barratt, then Rector, discovered it there, and, with the help of a friend, restored both

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the carved work and the painting of the panels, and made it into an Altar Frontal. Mr. Barratt also removed the plaster from the walls and ceiling of the chancel, and restored the old oak roof.

In 1905 the churchyard was enlarged to the north, and the footpath which ran by it to the Shipston road was stopped. This path was one of those authorised by the Award of 1805. South of the Church are some old tombs of the Dickins family, Anthony Dickins who died in 1690, his wife Margaret who died in 1682, William Dickins who died in 1718, and his wife Mary who died In 1722.

The village School was, before 1871, held in the large house in Little Cherington at the foot of Featherbed Lane. In 1871 Sir George Richard Phillips gave the ground on which the present School stands for the purpose of building a more convenient edifice. It was to be a Church School, and the land was vested in the hands of the Rector and Churchwardens. It was built entirely by subscription and a grant from the National Society.

The subscribers were Sir G. R. Phillips £293 14s. 0d., W. Dickins, Esq. £150, Rev. H. P. Turner £100, Rev. R. B. Piniger £50, National Society £169 0s. 9d. This was not sufficient, and in 1873 Sir George Phillips gave a further £131 5s. 8d. to wipe off the debt. The ground on which the School stands is in Stourton, and Stourton children attended the School, which explains why the Rector of Whichford was a subscriber, Stourton being then part of Whichford parish, though joined to Cherington in 1910.

The patronage of the Living of Cherington has been in many different hands, and the accounts are so conflicting that it is impossible to understand them. The De la Mares presented in 1373 though Dugdale gives William Lucy as the patron in 1338. In 1682 the Lucys sold the Advowson to the Sheldons. In 1758 the Advowson belonged to Ann Ingram, widow, of Little Wolford, and she sold it that year for £650 to Edward Astley, of London.

In 1800 it belonged to the Rev. Richard Nicoll, D.D., father of the Rev. T. V. R. Nicoll, then Rector, to whom he left it. In 1832 Mr. Nicoll sold the Advowson to Daniel Turner, of Oxford, Esq., who presented his son, the Rev. Power Turner, in 1841. It remains the property of Mrs. Turner, Cherington Butts.

The Incumbents of Cherington are equally difficult to trace, there being many contradictory entries in authoritative documents. I have, therefore, quoted from these under their various dates until we come to the safe ground of Cherington Registers, from which the following are taken:

1616 Thomas Rogers	1764-1783 vacant
1636 John Harris	1783 Charles Willes
1640 Christopher Smith	1794 T. V. R. Nicoll
1688 Christopher Smith	1841 Power Turner
1696 Moulin Ingram	1875 Daniel Power Turner
1723 Christopher Drake	1906 H. O. Barratt
1741 John Warner	1919 L. G. Tucker

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THE BELLS

In the time of Edward VI we know that the churchwardens sold one of the bells, thus leaving only two in the tower. Of the five bells now forming the peal two are dated 1742, and it seems likely that these two (now numbers 3 and 4) are the old Pre-Reformation bells, recast in 1742. They have on them the names of William Dickins, Nicholas Holtom, and Thomas Attwood, churchwardens, and the inscription, "Henry Bagley made me." Henry Bagley was an eighteenth century Northamptonshire Bell Founder, who placed this inscription on many of his bells. In 1742 the names of William Dickins and Nicholas Holtom are in the Register as churchwardens, but I do not know why Thomas Attwood's name appears on the bells.

The other three bells are all dated 1842. Numbers 1 and 2 have on them "Edward Timms, churchwarden," and "W. and J. Taylor, founders, Oxford." Number 5 has on it, "The Rev, Power Turner, Rector" and "Edward Timms, Church Warden." It is rather curious that there should be only two dates on the five bells and that these dates should be exactly a hundred years apart. Of the 1842 bells it looks as if the parish had given the two smaller ones, and the Rector, who was also the Patron of the Living, had given the Tenor.

The Cherington bells are rung as follows:

At 8 a.m. on Sundays a bell is chimed for five minutes to give notice that there will be Service at 11, and it is rung again at 9 a.m. to notify an evening service. After Morning Service a bell is again chimed. The local explanation of this is that it is to warn the housekeepers to have dinner ready. It is more probably a Post-Reformation practice to let people know that a sermon will be preached at the next Service. (At Hook Norton, in the next county, a bell is still always rung before a Service at which a Sermon is preached).

The Cherington bells always ring a peal on November 5th, in remembrance of the Gunpowder Plot; at 5 a.m. on S. Thomas' Day; and at midnight on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. An old custom, now extinct, was that of ringing a peal when a couple was "out asked," their Banns having been read for the third time. This peal was rung after the Morning Service.

CHAPTER VII

THE DICKINS FAMILY

Although Cherington House and much of the land belonging to it has been sold, Mr. W. G. Dickins still owns property in the parish, and a short account of the family settled here for 276 years may be included in a history of Cherington.

The name occurs in the Broadway Registers in 1542, when a son of William Dickins was baptised there. As the Registers only begin in 1538 the family may have been settled in Broadway for many years previously. It is a curious fact that from 1542 to the present day, the head of the family has always been either William or Anthony. In 1658 Anthony Dickins married Margaret Tymes, of Cherington. He is described as "of Broadway, Gent." that is, entitled to bear arms. Margaret Tymes was an heiress in a small way, having inherited from her father his house, buildings and about 7.5 acres of land, divided into the usual small strips.

Besides the strips there was, as seems to have been usual, some fenced-in ground called a Close, near the house. This had the name of Thurlyans Close, and there was another Close, called Waterclose, next the farm buildings. This, I expect, took its name from Adley Brook, which rises just above it. The house, part of which is said to date from the early sixteenth century, stands flush with the road, nearly opposite to, but below, the present Cherington House. (It had later the name of Mr. Dickins' Dairy). Anthony Dickins, "of Cherington, Gent." had five children: four sons and a daughter.

The second son, Anthony, farmed some land at Blackwell near Tredington, and bought land in Cherington after the Sale of the manor. The other three sons all went to London, the eldest, William, being described as "of the Middle Temple.". Anthony Dickins seems to have remained quietly in Cherington, making no change in his property, but content to establish his sons in the world. He died in 1690, his wife having died in 1682; their tomb remains opposite the door of the Church.

William Dickins, born in 1659, succeeded to his father's estate but continued his work in London. This no doubt enabled him to increase his Cherington property by various purchases from his neighbours, who, having become freeholders in 1680, were able to sell their land. Between the years 1690 and 1718 he spent £1,376 in adding to his estate. Amongst other purchases was the land on which Cherington House now stands. Part of it was a Close "late in the occupation of Humphrey Curtis," and this part of the outbuildings still has the name of "the Curtis."

Some time before 1713, when his only son, Anthony, was to be married, William Dickins built that part of Cherington House which faces the road. The front door, now a glass door into one of the rooms, was reached by a flight of steps through the wall which borders the road. The new house took the name of the "Upper House", to distinguish it from the old Tymes house, which became the "Lower House".

William Dickins and his family remained in the old house, and Anthony and his bride occupied the new one. William Dickins was at the Court Baron of Ralph Sheldon in 1693. On the Roll his name was wrongly spelt with an "e" and this was carefully corrected to an "i". Both he and his son attended other Courts. Two of his seven children died in infancy and were buried close to the Dickins vault, at the head of each little grave being a stone with the names of Mistress Mary and Mistress Margaret, the dates being 1689 and 1695. The inscriptions were legible in the early nineteenth century. William Dickins died in 1718.

Anthony Dickins, who succeeded his father in 1718, had married Ann, daughter of John Timms, of Ascot, Yeoman, who in a later deed is described as Gent. On his

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marriage his father had settled on the young couple the Upper House and the land which had belonged to Margaret Tymes, the Terrier of which still remains (p. 12). Besides his father's property Anthony succeeded to land in Cherington and Radway from his uncle, Anthony Dickins, of Blackwell, and to land in Broadway from a great uncle. His wife also inherited money. They had five sons and three daughters. His eldest son William married, when he was only eighteen, Sarah, daughter of John Collier, Gent., of Brize Norton, Oxon. On her was settled the Lower House and the land of Margaret Tymes. Anthony Dickins died in 1742.

William Dickins, who succeeded in 1742, had three sons, Anthony, William, and Thomas, and two daughters. He signed the Registers as Churchwarden in 1739, 1742, 1743 and 1744. In 1739 he was Foreman of the Jury of the Manor Court which fined his father 5s. as Foreman of the last Court, for not giving proper notice of the Court. He died in 1752, his wife surviving him for 43 years. She seems to have left Cherington, as her land there was farmed by Edward Dyke. In 1762 she surrendered this to her son Anthony.

Anthony Dickins, who succeeded in 1752, was then only eighteen and had just matriculated at Balliol. Later he was a Bencher of the Inner Temple, and Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1761 he inherited landed property from a cousin, Rachel Dickins, and the same year he married Sally Scrase, who was then eighteen. She was an heiress, and it was arranged that her eldest son should inherit the Scrase property. Accordingly Anthony Dickins' first son was (contrary to the family tradition) christened Charles Scrase. He was at S. John's College, Oxford, and later was a Barrister. He left Cherington and founded the family of Scrase-Dickins, which is still established at Coolhurst, Sussex.

Anthony Dickins had two other sons, William and Thomas. William was also at S. John's College. He took Holy Orders and held the Living of Cherington from 1791 to 1795. He married Mary Leigh Bennett who was descended from Pocahontas, the Indian princess⁺. Thomas was also a Barrister. He married a granddaughter of Canon Guthrie, of Bristol, and had no children.

Anthony Dickins, having landed property from his cousin, and with his wife, and being actively engaged in the law, severed his connection with Cherington in 1762 by selling all his property there to his younger brother, William, who was then "of the Middle Temple." The deed mentions the Upper and the Lower houses, and the land, about 220 acres. This sale explains why Anthony Dickins, who died in 1795, is described on his tombstone at Cherington as "of Lincoln 's Inn." He left his London house to his wife, and his Chambers in the Inner Temple to his son Thomas. He must have been a wealthy man, as he gave his only daughter, Sarah, £10,000 when she married John Sawyer.

William Dickins, who was born in Cherington House in 1738, was, like so many of his family, a Barrister. In 1761 he inherited £7,000 from Rachel Dickins, and, being apparently greatly attached to his birthplace, he bought the whole of the Cherington property from his elder brother. In 1782 he bought from John Frampton, of Stourton, land in Cherington and Stourton. The Cherington part of the land had been Mason property and was occupied by Walter Long. There was also a Close called Shepards Close, which lay south of a Close of William Dickins', and east of William Attwood's garden and orchard.

In 1785 a Survey of the Manor of Sutton shows that William Dickins then owned 120 acres of freehold land there. Part of this was described as "Late Crofts," and part as "Late Wiltes." Sebastian Wiltes paid the poor rate in Sutton in 1805. Amongst the Dickins papers remains a Feet of Fine of 1754, showing that Edward Crofts, Gent., had a right to land in Sutton-under-Brailes, and Welford, which he had received from

⁺ Later research by relatives of the writer has apparently failed to prove any link with Pocahontas.

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Sebastian Wiltes and others. A very interesting part of the property in 1754 was "three arches in Binton Bridge in Binton, and a passage through the Water there." This must refer to a very old right. The Feet of Fine no doubt came into William Dickins' possession when he bought the Sutton part of the land. The farm house is in Sutton Village. The tenant in 1785 was William Baker, whose family continued to farm the land for another hundred years.

In the year 1800 William Dickins bought from the Rev. Thomas Snow a farm house and about 45 acres in Cherington, for £480. This was the property bought by Thomas Taylor from Thomas Lucy in 1680, and the Terrier of that date remains.

In 1805 came the Inclosure of the Open Fields of Cherington and Sutton: a very inadequate word to express the great change in the position of a man's land, and the loss of at least half of it! William Dickins' four hundred acres in Cherington, broken into tiny strips, and scattered over the whole parish, became about one hundred and eighty acres surrounding his "dwelling house" and his "farm homestead," or the Upper and the Lower houses. The enclosing of this newly arranged estate was expensive, as, for the first time, the land had to be fenced, not only from the land of other owners, but from the Weston and Shipston roads. Up to August 1806 William Dickins spent £228 on posts and rails, doubtless to shelter his new hedges.

This William Dickins had the name in the family of Old Uncle, and in the village, of the Old Gentleman. He was 81 when he died in 1819, much older than his forbears for many generations, and he probably appeared older from being the uncle of the Rector (from 1791 to 1795) and the great uncle of the Rector's child, his successor.

He never married, being one of the unsuccessful admirers of the beautiful Barbara Ingram, of Little Wolford Manor. This lady, whose father had been the Rector of Chastleton, and an earlier relative Rector of Cherington, is said to have had three neighbouring squires in her train, Jones of Chastleton, Chamberlayne of Mangersbury, and Dickins of Cherington. The latter sent her regularly his weekly Paper by the hands of his great nephew. This boy, William, son of the Rev. William Dickins, he adopted as his heir, and from infancy the child spent Christmas with his great uncle.

When this great nephew died in 1883 he had spent ninety Christmases at Cherington House. Old Uncle told the boy the story of how, as a child of eight, he had been taken to the high road to see the troops pass on their way to Scotland, in the campaign that ended at Culloden. (The writer can, therefore, boast that she has heard news of the "Forty Five" through the lips of only two members of her family). And as the troops marched by, Mr. Jones, of Chastleton, was probably drinking the Pretender's health in the Jacobite glass still preserved in his house.

William Dickins, who succeeded to the Cherington property in 1819, was sent to the King's School at Warwick when he was only seven years old, and could remember the bells of S. Mary's ringing for Trafalgar, half muffled for the death of Nelson. He afterwards went to Rugby (riding from Cherington at the beginning of each term) and was called to the Bar in 1820. He went on circuit with Sir James Allan Park, whose daughter he married in 1821. At the wedding one of the relatives described the bride and bridegroom as "each with one foot in the grave." They had thirteen children, all of whom lived to grow up, and they themselves, and two of their sons, celebrated their Golden Weddings.

In 1823, William Dickins retired from the Bar and took up his residence at Cherington House. As his family grew up he enlarged the house at different times, turning the original kitchen into an entrance hall, and adding rooms till the house reached its present shape. On the birth of his thirteenth child he planted 13 walnut trees in the

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Upper Ground, near the house. In 1828 he became a magistrate, and in 1837, when the first Board of Guardians was formed at Shipston, he was elected Vice-Chairman, an office which he held till his death in 1883. In 1833 he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions and in 1843 he became Chairman.

In those days all Sessions cases in Birmingham and Coventry were tried at Warwick, and in 1843 there were 257 prisoners. The Court often had to sit for four or five days. Later, when these places had their own Sessions, the Warwick Court rarely sat for more than two days.

During the whole of the time that he was Deputy Chairman, or Chairman, a period of fifty years, William Dickins was only once absent from the Court (in 1842) till the last year of his life. His decisions were never questioned.

Justice Hayes, who had practised in his Court, said, in 1869, "I attribute my own success to the fact that I have had the advantage of practising in the Court over which Mr. Dickins presides, and I know of no Court where justice has always been administered with such intelligence, combined with fairness and impartiality. I trust I shall follow out the lessons I have learned from Mr. Dickins, for I feel assured that by so doing I shall sustain the honour and dignity of the Bench."

In 1852 he became Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire. In 1870 he received a Presentation from "the magistrates, farmers, and other friends in the County of Warwick." The presentation was made by Lord Leigh in the County Hall at Warwick, and consisted of a silver centre piece, candelabra, and fruit dishes, together with a clock and a volume with the names of the 252 subscribers, the amount given being £800. William Dickins died in 1883. His youngest daughter, Miss Edith Harriet Dickins, of Snitterfield Manor, now more than ninety years of age, retains her love for her birthplace, and has provided some of the material used in the making of this book.

In 1883, on the death of his father, William Park Dickins succeeded to his property. He was a Barrister and became Deputy Chairman of the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions in 1883. This office he held till 1907, when ill health compelled him to retire. His father had always reached Warwick by road, either with his own horses or posting, but the opening of the railway from Hook Norton to Banbury allowed Mr. W. P. Dickins to travel by train, though that entailed rising at 6 a.m.

His record of attendance was as good as that of his father, for out of 95 Sessions he attended 92. He was a magistrate and an Alderman of the County Council, and Deputy Lieutenant. As Deputy Chairman of Quarter Sessions he took his duty very seriously, and it is said he was only known once to laugh in Court, when a County Jury having acquitted a prisoner, begged Mr. Dickins to tell him not to do it again!

William Park Dickins married Catharine Frances Causton, daughter of the Rev. Charles Causton, Rector of Stretton-on-Fosse, and died in 1909. His only son, William Godfrey Dickins, still owns part of the village, and two of his daughters, Miss C. L. Dickins, and Mrs. Alan Dickins, live in Cherington, and give unfailing help, sympathy and friendship to all Cherington people.

CHAPTER VIII

STOURTON

Stourton, like Whichford, to which it was joined for many hundreds of years, took its name from the water which probably attracted the earliest settlers in each village. Mr W.H. Duignan, F.S.A., thinks that the name Stour may be prehistoric: "*the sense may be bustling, stormy, i.e. rapid or else turbid.*" This does not seem particularly appropriate to the Warwickshire Stour, but as there are five other rivers of the same name in England, it was probably used by early settlers as a generic name for any running water.

The syllable "ton" means a group of Saxon huts, surrounded by a hedge or palisade to keep out wild beasts or enemies. Having started by the Stour the village seems to have been quite unaffected by any change, and remains crowded into the narrowest and most northerly part of the district, at almost the farthest possible distance from its parish church of Whichford.

The 930 acres of Stourton are divided from Whichford by the brook in the Long Cliff Coppice, and the boundary follows that to the Stour, and thence to Stourton Mill. Here it rather curiously leaves the Stour, but rejoins it west of the old moated Sutton Manor House. The reason for this is, I believe, to be found in the following extract from the Patent Rolls, to understand which we must remember that the manor of Sutton-under-Brayles was, from before the Norman Conquest to the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the property of the Abbey of Westminster.

In 1375 the Abbot, Prior, and Convent of Westminster applied for the alienation in mortmain to them by Richard Rook, Walter Perham, and John Peeche, of two acres of pasture in Stourton, not held of the king, to find a torch to burn daily at high mass before the high altar in the church of S. Peter, Westminster. (This is an interesting link between Stourton and Westminster Abbey, and preserves the names of three Stourton landowners of nearly six hundred years ago).

But this was not all that the monks wanted. They said that frequent inundations of a water running beneath their manor of Sutton had caused great damage to their lands, meadows, and pastures, and they therefore ask that they may have licence to divert the stream of a certain water running between their manor of Sutton and the said pasture in the borders of the counties of Warwick and Gloucester (Sutton then forming part of Gloucestershire) at the extreme end of the said pasture, and to enclose the pasture with the said manor by the said stream.

A commission was appointed to deal with the question, consisting of John de Blokkley, John Honyngton (apparently local men) and the escheators of the counties of Warwick and Gloucester. They were to make all possible enquiries as to the diversion of this stream, including the question "*Whether there is passage of ships or boats thereon.*" (Incidentally this care for a possible waterway shows how important water carriage was in days when roads were few and very bad.)

Licence for the change was granted "*provided that the stream be as wide and deep as it formerly was, and that the water at the end of the pasture return to its ancient course.*" It is not easy to understand this change, but two things are certain, (1) that part of the course of the Stour between Stourton Mill and the Sutton brook is artificial, and (2) that from Stourton Mill the boundary between Stourton and Sutton follows an old watercourse and only rejoins the Stour west of the old moat which still marks the site of the Sutton manor house.

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The fact, which now excites surprise, that this house should lie south of the Stour, is explained by the action of the monks of Westminster in 1375. The water which separates this moated ground from Sutton was, in 1375, only the Sutton brook, and their action in leading the Stour to the brook on the east instead of on the west of their manor house made no difference to the parish boundary, which to this day follows the old course of the Stour.

From its reunion with the present course of the Stour the boundary of Stourton runs north to the road from Shipston to Sutton, west to the Cherington boundary, and back again to the Stour only some 150 yards west of the point it left. Stourton is thus only that distance wide in its most northerly part. After following the Stour a short distance to the west the Stourton boundary runs very irregularly south, having apparently no natural features to form it, till it reaches the Long Compton road, and then easterly to the Long Cliff Coppice.

When, in 1805, the open fields of Stourton were enclosed, there was a Gate called the Cratton Gate where Whichford, Long Compton, and Stourton meet, and the high ground there had the name of Stourton Cratton. Another gate, called the Brailden Gate, closed the lane between Stourton and Whichford. There do not seem to have been any gates between Stourton and Cherington except one which in the Cherington Award is called "an ancient gate at the north end of a close in the Hamlet of Stowerton called Nicholas Holtom's Seabridge Close."

Sir William Dugdale's first reference to Stourton is in 1221, when William Hose and Margaret his wife brought an action against Alice de Mohun, of Whichford, for certain lands and two mills lying in Stourton. Later one of the De Mohuns granted Stourton away to one of the Cumin family. Majorie⁺ Cumin married John de Cantelupe and so brought Stourton into that family, which in 1275 gave a Bishop to the See of Worcester, in which Diocese Stourton then was.

In 1279, the Cantelupes held Stourton under John de Mohun of Whichford, "*by the service of two parts of a Knight's Fee, having two carucates of land here in demesne, and 18 tenants holding several proportions by certain rents and services of husbandry.*" (A carucate was about 120 acres, and land "in demesne" was that cultivated by the lord for his own supplies. "Services of husbandry" means that the tenants, as part of their rent, had to do a certain amount of work on the lord's land.)

It would be interesting to identify the demesne land of 1279. As a rule, on a manor the lord's land lay round the manor house, and had the name of the infield, while land on the outskirts of the manor was the outfield. Lane's End Farm, which has also the name of Manor Farm, has two fields called Home Infield and Marsh Infield, and another called Moor Close. Moores Close was sold in 1595 by the then lord of the manor.

In 1805 land allotted to the lord of the manor for his "right of soil" was Cherington Ridges, a field on the Lane's End Farm. We may, therefore conclude that the name of Manor Farm is the right one, and that its land is the demesne land of 1279.

Dugdale says that in this record of the Cantilupes of 1279 Stourton is called Noyton, "by reason of its northern situation as I guess," meaning that it lies north of Whichford. Though the Cantelupes had land in their own occupation in Stourton they did not live there but in Snitterfield. In the next century the heiress of the Cantelupes married Sir Thomas West, Knight, who thus became lord of the manor of Stourton.

+ sic.

STOURTON

In 1327 the Taxation Roll of Edward III has these names of Stourton people, with the amount each had to pay:

Sir Thomas West6s. 8d.	Nicholas Howyn 8d.
Johne le Carpent 1s.	Johne Dame Isabell 2s.
John de Chadleinton4s.	Walter Hondus 1s.
John de Burbye 1s.	Walter Howyn 8d.
Johne le Reue 1s.	Robert Fab 8d.
Robert Sped 8d.	Alic Richard 8d.
Walter ppoito 1s.	Adam Piers 2s.
Henry Sped 8d.	Johne Stob 2s.
Ranulph in the Lone 8d.	Wilto Hondes 1s.
Walter Brown 8d.	Wilto de Welneford 1s.
Walter Sped 8d.	Robert of the Lee 1s.
	----- 30s. 8d.

The Taxation Roll of 1332 has these names:

Thomas West6s. 8d.	William de Welneford 4s.
John Jones2s. 6d.	Adam Pieris 2s.
Robert Sped2s. 6d.	Walter Handes 4s.
William Whyn5s.	Ralph in le lone 1s.
William Broun2s. 8d .	Richard Geffes 1s.
Nicholas Whyn2s. 8d.	Walter le Reue 1s.
John Isabel4s.	Robert atte lee 1s.
	----- 40s. 0d.

It will be seen that though the second list of names is shorter than the first both the total amount and the individual payments are larger, as if property had accumulated in fewer hands. The names Howyn and Whyn are probably the same. John and Walter le Reue have the old Norman name for a street, and in 1332 one of the Weston taxpayers was called Thomas in the Street. Handes may be the original form of the local name Hands.

Dugdale says that "*Queen Phillippa, wife of Edward III (1327-1377) had a purpose to have given this Mannour to the Monks of Westminster; perhaps in respect of its nearness to their Mannour of Sutton.*" This purpose was not carried out, and Sir Thomas West and his wife Joan sold Stourton to John Harewell.

About 1377 there was a John Harewell, Bishop of Bath and Wells. His brother, Roger Harewell, married Maud de Stanford, the heiress of property at Wootton Wawen. He died in 1369, and in the Patent Rolls of 1385 is the entry, "John Hastynges of Wycheford pardoned his outlawry for not rendering his account to Roger Harrewell for the time when he was his bailiff in Stourton." Roger Harewell was succeeded by his son John, who died in 1429 leaving four sons, the second of whom is described in the pedigree as William Harewell de Stoorton. (This William was great uncle to the John Harewell whose tomb, of 1505, is in Wootton Wawen Church).

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

In 1432 Roger Harewell of Mozehall, and William Harewell of Henley-in-Arden, were certified to be lords of the manor of Stourton. They may have been sons of William de Stourton. Dugdale gives their arms "from a South window of the chapel" at Henley-in-Arden: they are three Hares' Heads. The Harewells were still lords of the manor of Stourton in 1553, and in 1595 Edmonde Harewell (who was then "of Besford in the county of Worcester, Esquire") received from Richard Taylor of Stowerton "the full sum of Eyghte pounds of lawfull money of Ingeland." This was the final payment for land and hereditaments bought by Taylor from Edmonde Harewell and his father, Edmonde Harewell the elder, in Stowerton and other places in Warwickshire. The parchment receipt for this money (in the possession of W. G. Dickins) is sealed with a Hare's Head.

It may be interesting to notice here that all local deeds spell the name of the village Stowerton down to the Enclosure Act of 1805. The name of the brook from which it is derived was spelt Stowre in 1270, and it is so spelt by Dugdale in 1656, and Stower in the Cherington Award of 1805-1808.

There is in Stourton a field called Chapel field. In it, perhaps, once stood the chapel mentioned in the following account from the Patent Rolls. Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, the King-maker, who died in 1471, had founded at Brailes a Guild and Chantry with two priests to celebrate mass every day and to pray for the soul of the founder.

In 1547, after the Reformation, the endowments of all such guilds and chantries were confiscated to the Crown. At that date the Brailes Guild had property in Stourton, and in 1553 we find from the Patent Rolls that two London men bought from the king "*the messuage and cottage in the severall (i.e. separate) tenures of Thomas Welles and Roger Knakson in Sturton, Warwickshire.*" The messuage of Thomas Welles was worth 6s. yearly payable to Master Harewell and his heirs, and the cottage in tenure of Roger Knakson (also spelt Knackston) was worth 4d. a year, also payable to the Harewells. This property was, in all probability, given to the Guild by the Harewells, the payment on it being the manorial chief rent.

Another entry in the Patent Rolls records what may have been a similar gift to the Brailes Guild. In 1549 John Nethermille, of Coventry, draper, and John Milwarde, of Ansley, Warwickshire, Yeoman, bought a good deal of property from the king, including "the chapel in Sturton, Warwickshire, with its buildings, bells, lead, glass, iron, tiles, stones, and ground, and the enclosure of land there which belonged to it."

Following the example of Sir William Dugdale one may "guess" that the Harewells built this chapel, and attached it to the Brailes Guild, for the benefit of their manorial tenants who lived so far from their parish church of Whichford. (This guess is supported by the fact that the chapel was built on the demesne land).

And perhaps we may also guess that the Stourton people loved their chapel from the fact that, by the detailed account of all its parts, it must have remained unplundered during the two years between its confiscation in 1547 and its sale in 1549. Two lines of footpaths cross one another in Chapel field, and the Ordnance map shows another joining them at their junction. This may be accidental, or it may show five old lines of approach to the chapel.

I have not been able to trace the lordship of Stourton quite fully. In 1658 Richard Crofte, of Sutton-under-Brayles, gentleman, was lord of the manor, and was then in possession of the Seabridge Close. In 1805 the Act for Inclosing Whichford, Ascott, and Stowerton states that Kelynge Greenway and John Woodcock are lords of the manor of Stowerton, and John Woodcock was allotted land in Cherington Ridges for his "right of soil."

STOURTON

Later Henry Timms was in possession of the Manor Farm, and being lord of the manor Mr. Shaw had to obtain his permission before extending his front garden on to the Waste.

Two landowners at the time of the Inclosure were John Rouse and John Sturch, whose barns still bear their names. After the enclosure, when landowners became possessed of several adjoining fields instead of a number of small isolated strips of ground, it would have been worth their while to build barns on their land instead of carting their crops all the way to the village as was the old custom. John Rouse lived in the house in Stourton village now owned by Mrs. Briggs, and Walter Webb, another landowner, lived in the next house. William Webb was in Stourton in 1556. Other Stourton landowners mentioned in the Act for Inclosing are Robert Shaw, and Mary Jaques.

The Commissioners appointed by Parliament, *“for qualitying, dividing, allotting, and inclosing the said Open and Common Fields”*, were John Davis, of Bloxham, Decimus Slatter, of Ilmington, Henry Clark, of Shipston-upon-Stower, and Stephen Godson of Hook Norton, Gentleman. (“Qualitying” was deciding whether land was arable, pasture, or meadow). At their first meeting the Commissioners were to appoint an Umpire in case they should disagree in anything, and a Clerk to assist them.

Their first duty was to allot land for stone and gravel pits for making the roads, and Lime Pits or Quarries for the use of the landowners. The next was to allot land to the lords of the manors in lieu of their “Right of Soil,” i.e. waste land, etc. (John Woodcock received land in Cherington Ridges for his right of Soil). The Rector then received land in lieu of Tithe. After this the remainder of the land was allotted to the various landowners.

The notice of the first meeting of the Commissioners was affixed to the door of Whichford Church on Sunday, June 23rd, 1805, and they met at the Bell Inn at Shipston on July 5th. The Clerk was Francis Findon, of Shipston, and the Umpire was Thomas Eagles, of Allesley, Warwickshire.

In 1813 Dinah French, of Hook Norton, married William Jaques of Stourton, and her Sketch of her life includes some account of life, as she saw it, in Stourton. Unfortunately her views were highly prejudiced, and she gives no dates. After stating that *“Methodism had some few years been established at Stourton,”* she adds, *“This small hamlet and the adjacent little villages were notorious for Sabbath breaking and other sins..... Those judged moral in practice indulged themselves in convivial meetings for the purposes of Feasting, singing foolish songs, card-playing, and occasional dancing and partial excess in drinking.”* (“Partial excess” is an original idea! It will be noticed that she is describing the most moral of her neighbours. One wonders if it ever occurred to her that slander was not a virtue.)

She says Mr. Shaw fitted up one of his buildings as a substitute for a chapel, and eventually *“in the face of opposition a handsome chapel was erected,”* Mr. Shaw giving part of his orchard for the site. William Jaques died in 1838; his tombstone remains in the Chapel Yard. His house and buildings remain south of the street, opposite the house with the name stone of “J.S. 1695”.

In 1910 Stourton was transferred from the parish of Whichford to that of Cherington, which it adjoins. The Stourton Tithe, and one of the Whichford Glebe Farms, Sturch’s Barn Farm of 63 acres, was handed over to Cherington Rectory. At the time of this change the London Gazette stated that no inhabitant of Stourton had a right to a pew or sitting in Whichford Church, a curious fact when Whichford was drawing tithe and owning glebe land in Stourton! And another curious fact is that the door now walled up in the north aisle of Whichford Church is called “the Stourton door” and the footpath leading to it must have been trodden almost entirely by Stourton people.

A Little History Of Cherington & Stourton

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

SOME STOURTON PEOPLE

It will, perhaps, be best to arrange these names in order of their dates rather than alphabetically.

Robert Wellys paid the Lay Subsidy in Whichford in 1523. Thomas Wells paid it in 1542, and in 1553 he was holding land in Stourton under the Brailes Guild. Walter Welles had a house and two yardlands in Stourton in 1576. In 1636 Thomas Wells sold a house and land and emigrated to New England, where he became Governor of Connecticut in 1655 and 1658.

In 1595, Richard Taylor of Stowerton paid eyghte pounds of lawfull money of Ingeland to Edmonde Harewell for land in Stowerton, in consideration of which payment Edmonde Harewell did "*remise, release and quitclaim ... all rygths, tytles and Demands*" ... to the land. The deed ends, "*In witness whereof I the said Edmonde Harewell to these presents have put my sele this fower and twentyeth Day of June in the seven and thyrtieth yeare of the Reyne of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of Ingeland ffrance and Ireland Quene, Defender of the faythe, etc.*" The seal is a hare's head. Among the witnesses are Robert Millward, Thomas Bishopp, and John Tymes.

Robert Milward may have been the son of John Milward who bought the chapel in 1549. In 1639 Nicholas Taylor of Stowerton made his will. He was perhaps the son of Richard Taylor, as his eldest son was named Richard. His property consisted of a house and homestead, two yard-lands in the fields of Stowerton, a Close in the meadow," a Close in the Infield, and Moores Close. (These last two names connect the property with the manorial land of the Harewells). The land was left to the widow and the eldest son, Richard, but should they neglect to pay the portions of the younger children Nicholas appointed his "lovinge and kind neighbours Robert Millward, Thomas Bishopp, and Walter Wollford," to administer the property.

Richard Taylor married in 1669, and in 1676 he sold to William Frampton of Stowerton, yeoman, the house, the little close adjoining the house, the two yardlands, the Infield Close, the Moors, and the Meadow Close.

In 1684 William Frampton married Anne Steele, daughter of Elizabeth Steele of Stowerton. Half the land bought from Richard Taylor was settled by William Frampton on his wife. In 1712 his son, another William Frampton, married Margaret Hiron, of Cherington, and the same property became her dower. In the deed the Little Close is said to contain about two acres, and to be called Seabridge Close. In the Cherington Award of 1805-8 there is said to be an "ancient gate at the north end of a close in the Hamlet of Stowerton called Nicholas Holtom's Seabridge Close." From this gate a private road led to the Sutton road through the allotment of William Sturch. Seabridge Close must therefore be that part of Stourton which lies north of the Stour, and next to it.

The witnesses to the marriage settlement were William and Edward Hiorne, and John Johnson. Outside the deed is written "My Cossen Margaret's Joynture," probably by one of the Hiornes. (Hiron and Hiorne were variants of the same name). The name of John Frampton appears in a deed of 1782, and the field near the front of Mr. H. Shaw's house still has the name of Frampton's Close.

One of the chimneys of Mr. H. Shaw's house has the initials J.J. and the date 1661. The back of the house is older than this date, and John Johnson, from whom the Shaw family descends, may have refronted his house after the Restoration. His name appears as a witness in a Stowerton deed of 1676. The Shaw family was in Stourton in 1770 when R. Shaw, of Stowerton, Yeoman, was concerned in letting land in Cherington.

STOURTON

Several old houses in Stourton have date stones, but some are now illegible. On the north side of the street are two; one house has W .J. 1812, and the other has J.S. 1695. This last may have belonged to the Steele family into which William Frampton married in 1684. All the houses in the north part of Stourton are good old stone houses. At the corner of the road to Sutton is a house with the date 1770, at the corner of Pinfold Lane is one with W.S. 1723, and one close by has the date 1742.

Pinfold lane passes the Village Hall and the School. The name, which occurs in a deed of 1822, is probably a memorial of a Pound there in old days. The fields south of this lane have the name of Oatel, perhaps a corruption of oat hill, from the crops grown there. Leading north from Pinfold lane is Featherbed lane, the boundary between Stourton and Cherington. This lane may have been named from its soft condition. In the memory of man it was impassable for carts in the winter, and loads had to be taken round by Pinfold lane on the higher and drier ground.

CHAPTER IX

WESTON

Weston is so intimately connected with Cherington by its name that a short account of it may well be joined to this little history. In early days, when every tiny settlement was a ton, or enclosed place, it was to the dwellers in Cherington the ton to the west of them, just beyond the little brook which ran down to the Stour. In 1332 it was called "Weston juxta Chiriton," or the west town next Cherington.

In the Seventeenth century it was bounded by the West Quarter of Cherington, and Cherington people called the road towards Weston the West way. In 1279 the lord of the manor of Weston was Ralph Pippard, who had about 45 acres of cultivated ground, a wood of 12 acres, and a water mill. He had a Free Warren, or right to preserve game. On the manor were 31 tenants, and at his Court Leet he had a right to sentence a wrong doer to the gallows.

In 1332 the following names were those of taxpayers in Weston:

John de Segrave	8s.
Robert le Frankeleyn	2s.
John atte Mershe	3s.
Hugh Devote	3s.
Walter Kyrye	2s.
John Kyrye	3s.
William atte Mershe	6s. 8d.
John de Whatcote	5s. 4d.
Thomas le Tayllur	1s.
Thomas in the Street	8d.

	34s. 8d.

John de Segrave was lord of the manor of Weston. Eleven years after this tax was levied Thomas le Tayllur sold to Robert Bybury, of Chiriton, his lands and tenements in Weston. The transaction may have been part of the acquisition by the Cherington Byburys of the manor of Weston. In 1385 the Close Rolls speak of the manor of Weston by Chiriton "*which was seized into the late king's hands by reason of debts due to him by Walter de Chiriton late tenant thereof.*"

Dugdale says that it was falsely certified that Walter de Chiriton had an estate in Fee simple of this mannour, and that William de Peito showed "by good evidence that the said Walter had no right therein farther than for the life of John de Segrave of Folkestone." (Walter de Chiriton was the son of Richard Bybury).

The succession of the manor of Weston is very complicated; it came at one time to Henry Kebull, Alderman of London, who depopulated seven messuages, and one cottage, and enclosed 350 acres "being all that were in this village except the Mannour house, wherewith 80 acres of land were occupied." Dugdale adds that Weston came to the use of William Sheldon of Barcheston in 26 Henry VIII (1535).

HISTORY OF CHERINGTON

In his manor house at Barcheston, William Sheldon set up the tapestry works which have made his name famous. Some of the county maps worked in tapestry hung in the gallery at Weston till 1781, when they were sold to Horace Walpole. These maps show hills, rivers, churches, parks, towns, etc., and Cherington people can see their church marked on one.

William Sheldon died in 1570, and was succeeded by his son, Ralph, who pulled down the house at Weston and built another there. The Sheldons were Roman Catholics, and the house contained a chapel in which was the carving afterwards made into a Reredos for Cherington Church. In 1594 Ralph Sheldon was implicated in Roman Catholic plots to kill Queen Elizabeth and to "offer the Crown to the Earl of Derby, with the assistance of the King of Spain."

Sir Thomas Lucy and Sir John Harrington were ordered to search Mr. Sheldon's house. We cannot be surprised that such plots, which culminated in the Gunpowder Treason, led to the condemnation of the Roman Catholics as "Recusants" and the infliction on them of heavy fines. In 1610 Ralph Sheldon of Beoley and Edward Sheldon of Weston were both recusants.

Another Ralph Sheldon, born in 1624, bought the manor of Cherington from Thomas Lucy, of Charlecote, in 1680, and was holding his Court Baron there in 1693. In John Speed's map of Warwickshire, in 1743, Weston has the name of "Weston in Ye Thistles."

In 1805 the Cherington Award speaks of "the hamlet or Lordship of Weston." That year the last Ralph Sheldon of Weston was living in the Elizabethan house there. Although there was a public right of way through his lands, he had the gate at the top of Harrow Hill locked. Thomas Dickins, a barrister, riding from London to visit his uncle at Cherington House, was stopped by this gate, and knowing it to be a right of way he engaged a passing carter to harness his horses to the gate and drag it open. The next day Mr. Sheldon challenged Mr. Dickins to fight a duel, adding "You may beat down my gates but you cannot make a Gentleman put up with an insult." As he would hear no reason Mr. Dickins took the matter to a Court of Law and won his case.

A few years later the manor of Weston was bought by Mr. George Philips who pulled down the beautiful old house and built a new mansion. His purchase included the lordship of the manors of Weston, Cherington, Stourton, and Whichford. The heiress of the Philips family married the second Earl of Camperdown, and Weston remained in that family till the death of the third Earl, when it was left by him to Mr. H. A. Warriner. The fourth Earl lived in America, where he died in 1933. He had informed his brother, the third Earl, that he would neither assume the title nor accept the estates. In 1934 Mrs. Warriner pulled down the Philips house.

FINIS. HOOK NORTON. JUNE 1932 - JAN. 1934.

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Notes:

William Park Dickins: *the date of his death was printed as 1907 in the 1934 edition, but in the copy used for this compilation, 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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A Little History Of Cherington & Stourton - Index Of Places

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:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Moved from</u>	<u>In</u>
Alderminster (inc. Crimscote).....	Worcestershire1931
Little Compton.....	Gloucestershire1844
Sutton-under-Brailes.....	Gloucestershire1844
Shipston-on-Stour.....	Worcestershire1931
Tidmington.....	Worcestershire1931
Tredington (inc. Blackwell).....	Worcestershire1931
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This is based on the author's (general) index to the 1934 edition. See footnotes.

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Notes

1. Most of the entries in the above Index of Subjects are taken from the author's single index to the 1934 edition.
2. New entries are in italics. They are mainly additions to categories included in the original index, such as named Closes and Farms.
3. Her selection of personal and place names has been removed, and included in the exhaustive Indexes of Persons and of Places, except that original index entries for buildings and other places within Cherington and Stourton themselves remain here.
4. Where entries did not show all relevant page references, this has been remedied.
5. The index may otherwise be taken as a fair reflection on what the writer considered suitable for inclusion, although the criteria used are sometimes difficult to ascertain.

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.19.
bailliff 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.23.
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. 1, a carucate is said to be a variable number of acres, and on p. 47, 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.49 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.23.
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.
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.

Glossary Cu-K

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

culp 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.47.

dornick or "**dornixe**" species of linen cloth, used in Scotland for the table. See p.35.

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.20.

Feet of Fines legal documents proclaiming a person's rights over property: see p.1.

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. 12 & 25.

fine legal decision or (especially) payment due as a result of this: see pp. 1 & 20.

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**.

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.19.

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

hayward (same origin as **hayned**) overseer of hedges etc. cf **fieldsman** above & p.25.

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.8.

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.25.

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.47.

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.47.

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.

Glossary L-Ste

- 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.12 for a discussion of these terms.
lumber the old meaning of “lumber” is household articles. See p.23.
- 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 = £4.
messuage dwelling with its grounds and outbuildings.
mete, mere or mear boundary or boundary stone.
Michaelmas Feast of St Michael (29 September).
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.47.
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.
pouls 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 pinfeld, 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. 50).
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.13, 14).
sidelong a curved piece of land: thus defined on p. 9.
sitches and fitches: both corruptions of vetches (the author has “veitches”). See p.19.
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. 19, 24 and 32.
steward senior administrator of a manor, and often a lawyer. Presided over the Court in the absence of the lord.

Glossary Sti-Y

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.27.

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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(2) *The Oxford Dictionary and Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*.

(3) *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

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Notification of any omissions and errors in this Second Edition will be gratefully received by the compiler. Email history@littlebeams.co.uk or simbar217@googlegmail.com

(Simon J. Bartlett, Member 707 of the Society of Genealogists, London [England]).

Second Edition Acknowledgements and Notes

I dedicate the production of this worldwide edition to my father, John Edward (Jack) Bartlett, who as a Stourton lad ran many an errand on behalf of Miss Dickins to discover and check field names and other details for inclusion in her "Little History".

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The production of this second edition, seventy years on, would not have been possible without the help and support of members of the Dickins family.

Special thanks for their collaboration to Jack Bartlett, to Sally Clubley, and to Rosemary Slasor, for her meticulous proofreading of the main text.

I am also grateful for the assistance of Alison Doyle (Dickens-Dicken-Dickins-Dykins One-Name Study), Barbara Hicks (Hook Norton Local History Group) and Richard Russell (editor, *The Millennium History of Cherington, Stourton and Sutton-under-Brailes 1900 - 1999*; in preparation).

Illustrations reproduced by permission and not otherwise acknowledged are as follows: Sketches of Cherington House, author's book inscription and family photograph on the occasion of the wedding of Irene Dickins; from Dickins family papers.

Portrait of the author; a detail from a photograph in the Hook Norton Local History Group collection.

Portraits of Sir George Philips and of the third Earl of Camperdown, from *A Prospect of Weston in Warwickshire* by Michael Warriner; by kind permission of the Warriner family.

Other black and white photographs are from my collection. Although the original photographers have not been positively identified, many early twentieth century Cherington and Stourton photographs are attributable to Henry Edward Harris. He also delighted the villagers with his baking, and earned the nickname "Jam Puff".

Colour photography by jfs, sjb and hc.

NOTES ON THE SECOND EDITION

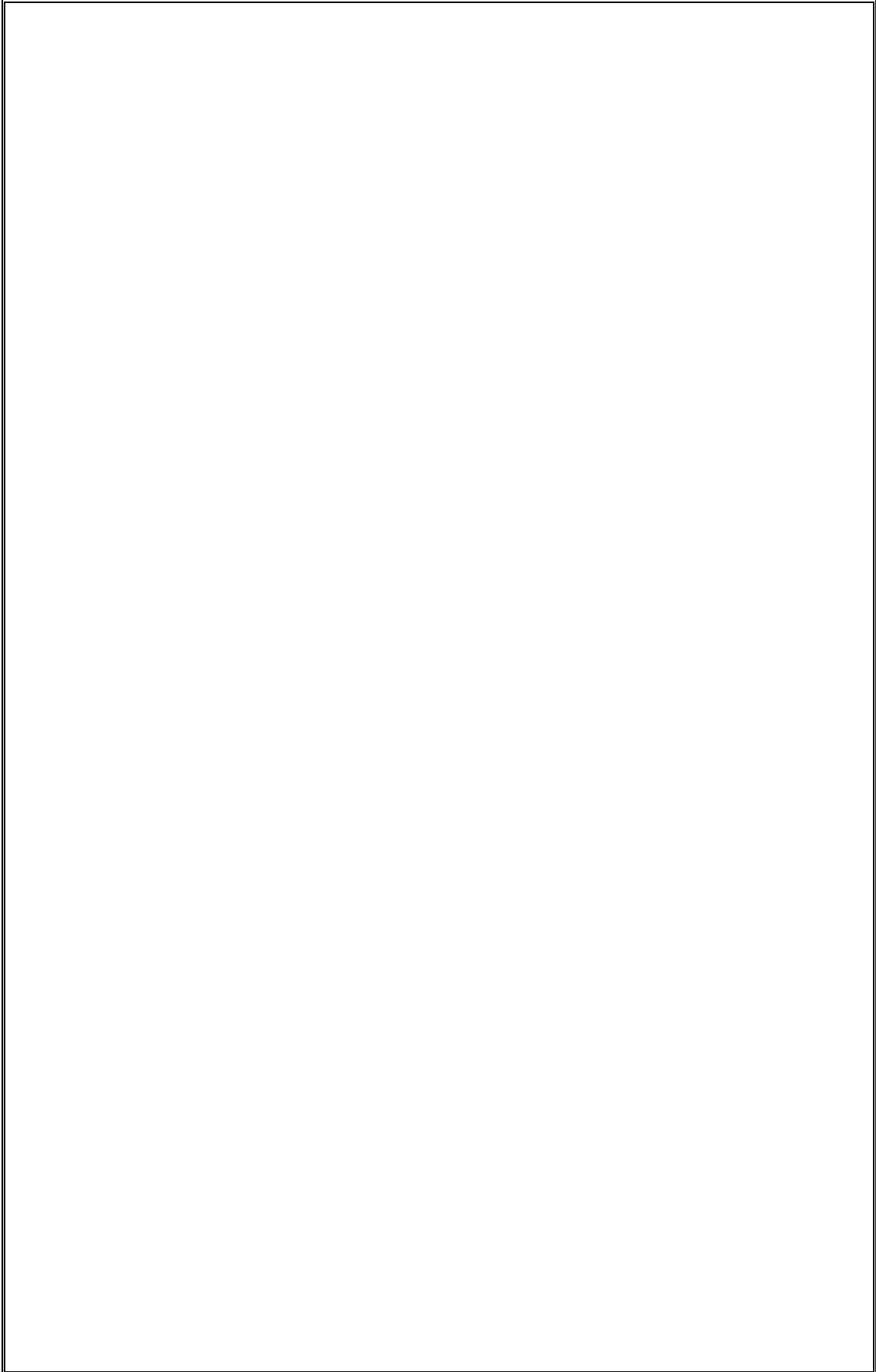
Although an occasional turn of phrase may sound strange to the modern ear, no changes have been made to the actual words of the text except for the (rare) obvious misprints (e.g. "so may cows to so many acres" changed to "so many cows"). Likewise, what today might be considered an excessive use of capital letters (e.g. English History for English history) has not been altered. Where a misprint is suspected but not undoubted, this is noted, but the original text left unchanged. Footnotes added to this second edition are marked (+). All other notes, e.g. (sic) in the text, and notes marked (*), are the author's.

The following changes and additions have been made, with the intention of making the text easier to read, more useful as a work of reference, and to adapt the work to the new medium of publication:

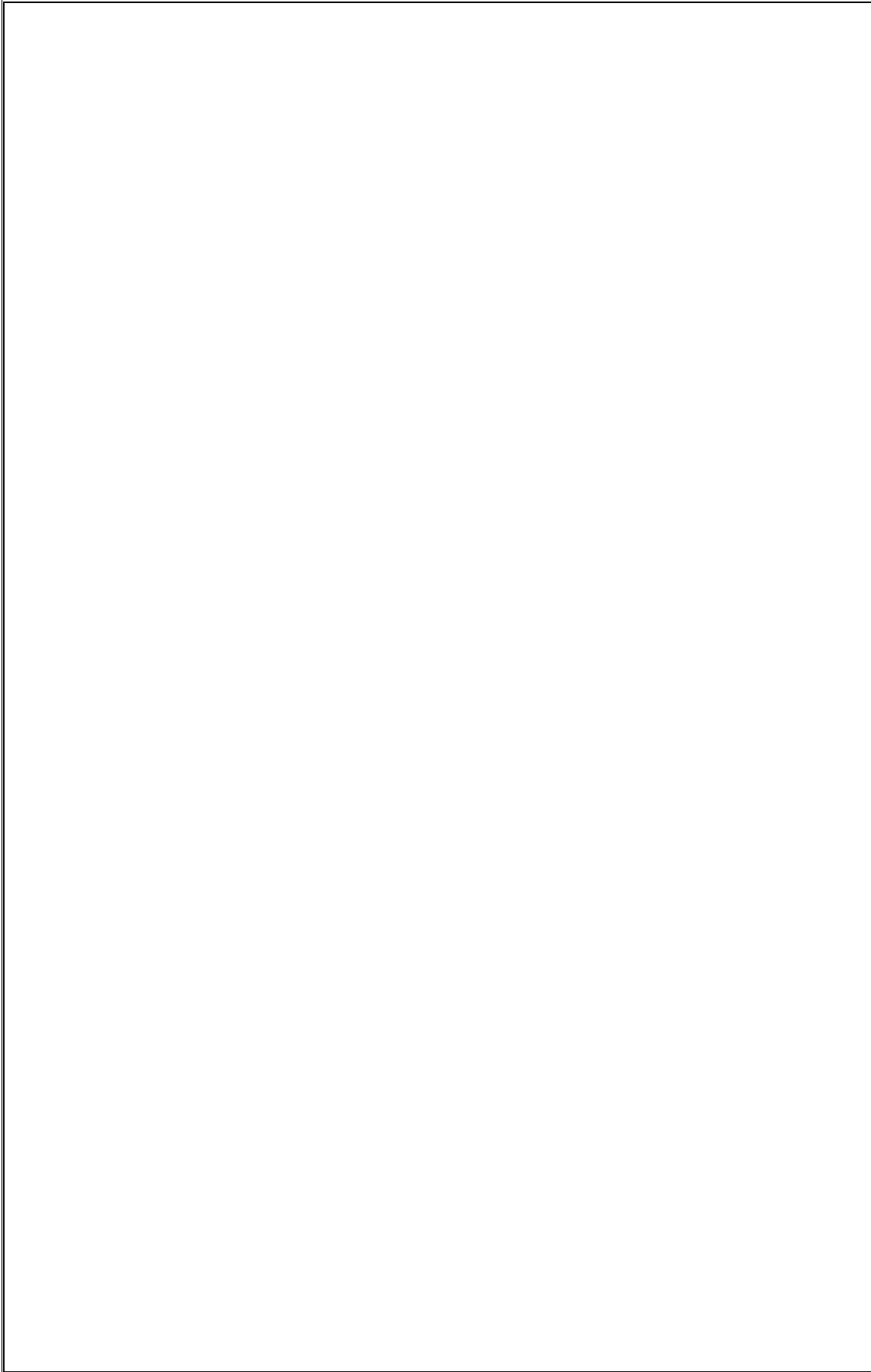
1. Some punctuation altered and some of the longest paragraphs, probably included originally in some cases to save space and cut costs, split up at suitable points.
2. The chosen Bookman Old Style font (10 point in the main text) is sufficiently larger and clearer than the original typeface, while retaining a traditional appearance.
3. The page size has been enlarged to A4 to facilitate printing where required: as a result, page numbering is different from that of the original edition.
4. Comprehensive new indexes have been added, as well as a glossary.

S.J.B.

Personal Notes

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Personal Notes

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