

NOTES ON THE COURT ROLLS OF THE RECTORIAL MANOR AT WADDES DON.

Mr. Howard Sammons, steward of the Manors of Benthams, Muttons, and Greenend, has to-day (25-8-10) allowed me to examine his Court Rolls. The Rectory of Waddesdon was divided into three parts, and the Rector of the first part was Lord of the Manor of Benthams, and the Rectors of the second and third parts the Lords of Muttons and Greenend respectively. As there is now only one Rector of Waddesdon, he is Lord of all three Manors. The present Rector, the Rev. J. E. G. Farmer, has kindly consented to the publication of these notes.

As late as 1898, there was a reservation in an admission to property in Benthams of rent and two days' work yearly, viz., one in mowing grass and the other in reaping bread corn, and of a heriot by composition. As far as I could see there were no similar reservations in Muttons, but as late as 1857 I found such a reservation at Greenend.

The earliest roll is that for Benthams in 1595 (11 Sept.):—

2 Suitors fined for default.

Thomas Rose ordered to fill up ditch by which he had enclosed some land wrongfully.

At this court it was ordered by the homage in answer to the humble petition of John Hughes and Thomas Bradley, son and heir of Thomas Bradley deceased that they should view a certain piece of land lying at (some place of which the name is illegible) within the jurisdiction of this court And should inquire to whom the inheritance of the said piece of land pertained And should present and certify to this court what should be found concerning it. Which jurors upon a view of the said piece of land during the sitting of this court say that as to the title by which the aforesaid parcel of land is held they

know nothing, but they further say that the aforesaid Thomas Bradley the elder in his life without contradiction of any person cut trees and carried away timber growing on the premises as though it were his own free tenement. Therefore to the intelligence of the homage the aforesaid piece of land ought of right to belong to the aforesaid Thomas Bradley the elder and the reversion thereof to the aforesaid Thomas the younger by hereditary right after the death of the aforesaid Thomas the elder now deceased.

Admission to property held at rent and 2 days work. Heriot one cow.

Jurors have a day given on which to bring in terriers of their own lands.

- 4 Jac. I. Inquiry as to heir: jury find that one claimant is a bastard.
- 6 Car. I. Heriot for a part of a domus mansionalis is a feather bed. Jury present that certain tenants have not repaired their mounds: Order to do so.
Submission of dispute to the determination of the homage.
- 10 Car. I. Admission to tenement and six acres with reservation of best animal as heriot.
Presentation that Alice Bradley placed a post on the land of John Spencer: ordered to remove it under penalty of 1s.
Alice Bradley fined 2s for not repairing her mounds.
- 5 Car. I. Heriots to be fixed by agreement with Lord.
1654. One mare of black Colour value 50s as heriot.
Heriot by agreement, instead of being in specie, 10s only.
1656. Heriot by agreement 30s, of which Lord allowed 20s for burial of tenant.

These rolls are mainly composed of conveyancing entries only: they contain no information about the cultivation of the Common fields: the usual size of a tenement is six acres only; none are larger, but I

have seen one of four acres. They are said to lie in the fields of Waddesdon and Warmston.

Evidently offences against the laws of the Township were tried at some other court. But these rolls are interesting as showing a manor with jurisdiction over only a portion of a township.

Benthams was a very small manor; the homage varied from 3 to 5.

A. BALLARD.