

## HILLESDEN ACCOUNT-BOOK, 1661-1667.

[By THE EDITOR.]

About the year 1850 a wall at the Manor Farm, Hillesden, either fell down or was pulled down, and there was found within the wall an account book of the Denton Estate for the years 1661-1667. Mr. W. Hedges, who then lived at the Manor Farm, gave the book to the late Mr. T. Barge, of Westfield, Hillesden, and it remains in possession of his family still. The existence of the book is alluded to in Kelly's "Directory," but so far as is known it has not been used for any published writing, and the Society is indebted to Mrs. Bowley and Mr. T. Barge for kindly permitting the following account to be prepared.

The book measures  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and is bound in rough calf, with tooled sides and two brass clasps; it is a cash-book, and is clearly transcribed from a rough book, because every entry is numbered,\* and the expenditure items which follow the receipts are numbered straight on from the last receipt number. Each year is numbered by itself, and runs from Michaelmas to Michaelmas. From a book-keeping point of view there is the grave defect common to books of the period that each page is cast separately, but there is no summary, so that although the total each year is set out it cannot be checked without making a summary of the preceding pages. No indication exists that these entries were ever posted into a ledger; for the purpose of this paper every item was abstracted upon sheets, and the accuracy of the accounts was fully vindicated, but they were evidently audited at the time they were prepared, and at the end of each year the total receipts and disbursements and the balance in hand were not only signed for by the steward and his employers, but they were also sworn before a Justice of the Peace.

---

\* These entry numbers are described as "No. of parcell;" it is interesting because it is the prototype of the very modern "voucher system."

Although each year stands by itself and has a separate discharge, they were all sworn on the 21st October, 1670. There are 318 pages, and nearly 4,500 entries; every page is written upon. The "narrative" to each entry is usually very full.

The accounts are made by William Haynes as steward to the Executors of Edmund Denton, who died in 1657. There were evidently earlier books of account, as the first year recorded in this book, 1661-1662, is described as "Account No. 11."

This William Haynes died in 1667, and was succeeded by his son of the same name, who appears to have written up the whole book as the writing is uniform throughout; this was probably done after September, 1664, as the following entry shows:—

\*306—606 Paid more to my selfe £8:11:0 which the said Trustees allowed me, after the rate of £3 p. an. from Michas. 1664 to my Father's death (who dyed on the 8th of Augt. 1667), being 2 yeares and 312 daies in consideracon of my writing and assisting of my late Father in his businesse concerning the said Mr. Edm. Denton's Estate.

In addition to the Hillesden Estate the Denton trustees had an interest "within the manour of the Prebend-end of Buckingham-cum-Gawcott." The rents accruing there were collected by Thomas Carter, described as of Gawcott, and later of Addington; after 1663 he was succeeded by Paul Symons, of Radcliff, as bailiff for this property. In the final certificate of discharge Thomas Carter is expressly excepted; he was apparently inefficient, as the following entry by Haynes proves:—

217—216 Paid to my selfe the sume of £4 allowed me p. order of the said Trustees in consideracon of my extraordinary paines in collecting Arreares of Fee-farme rents and Quitt rents within the said Manor, which were left uncollected by their late Bayliff Tho: Carter.

For the purpose of obtaining a general view of the turnover of the whole property, a table has been prepared summarizing both income and expenditure under

---

\* These numbers represent (1) the page in the book, and (2) the number of the "parcell." Similar references will be used in all quotations.

convenient heads; a true balance sheet of the estate cannot be prepared, as there are numerous payments, such as loans and transfers of money back from the Trustees to Haynes, which are not quite self-explanatory. In the present article some analysis will be made of the various sources of receipts, and disbursements will be considered later, followed by notes upon particular entries; for example, labour and material will be combined to furnish building costs, or to gauge the extent of inclosure.

## RENTS.

The principal tenancies for the year 1662-3 were as follows:—

NAME.	HOLDING.	RENT		
		PER ANNUM.		
		£	s.	d.
George Adams .....	"The neather ground and meadow in Cowley .....	102	0	0
Robert Friday .....	"Part of the West Field, the Windmill ground, the middle Den meadow and his part in the great meadow in Hillesdon" ...	96	0	0
Robert Brashead* ...	"Part of the new Parke, his home - stall, Mareway ground, and Kingsbridge meade in Hillesdon" .....	104	0	0
Dr. Robert Townsend	"House and lands in Cowley"	98	0	0
Thomas Long .....	"Church-end leas and towne land, and his pt. in Rimlow furze, and Eeles his ground, new mound and groats in Hillesdon" .....	86	1	10

There were about 30 Hillesden tenants; nearly all paid their rent in instalments. The only rent which appears to be quite nominal is that of the Widow Atkins, who paid 1d. per annum for her house and homestall. On the other hand, the Prebend End property had nearly 40 quit-rents, that at Gawcott had over 70 quit-rents, yielding together £7 odd. There were about 50 fee-farm rents connected with the Prebend End Manor, and 6 "Cole-rents." The meaning of this phrase has so far eluded search amongst

---

\* When Robert Brashead died his son Richard paid a heriot of £2—(22 Mar., 1667, N.S.).

RECEIPTS.

	1661/2.	1662/3.	1663/4.	1664/5.	1665/6.	1666/7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward .....	19 14 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	42 0 6	38 3 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	31 4 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	26 18 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	12 4 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Rent* .....	1,155 19 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,122 6 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,144 1 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,122 15 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,030 11 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,145 16 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Timber, Faggots, etc. ...	65 8 11	45 7 6	60 18 10	51 18 11	53 13 4	37 5 0
Crops and Wool .....	24 8 10	59 13 0	18 0 2	31 11 3	42 2 6	34 1 9
Cattle .....	39 8 8	52 13 6	174 11 6	71 12 2	47 19 6	65 4 10
Loan .....	1,305 1 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,322 0 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,435 14 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,309 2 0 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,201 5 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,294 12 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Trustees .....	—	133 6 9	—	10 0	60 0 0	390 6 9
	18 0 0	40 19 2	82 19 10	27 4 11	6 16 6	103 7 3
	1,323 1 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,496 6 10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,518 14 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,336 16 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,268 2 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1,788 6 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

\* Includes transfers from Prebend-end, Buckingham-cum-Gawcott, for six years, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Quit-rents .....	33	14	2
Fee-farm Rents .....	212	14	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Cole-rents .....	4	18	0
Fines .....	24	18	4
Heriots .....	13	14	10
	£290	0	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

EXPENDITURE.

	1661/2.	1662/3.	1663/4.	1664/5.	1665/6.	1666/7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Haynes's Fee .....	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	28 11 0
Labour .....	74 19 1	90 10 3	97 7 4	69 2 11	73 14 4	55 13 2
Materials and Sundries...	12 12 9½	23 10 3	26 10 1	9 11 1	11 9 10	14 7 6
Rates and Taxes .....	72 11 3¼	81 18 2	59 3 5¼	77 4 5	138 1 8½	146 2 4¾
Cattle .....	35 0 0	132 2 5	95 5 4	88 1 6	61 3 6	96 15 3
Interest .....	215 3 2¼	348 1 1	298 6 2¼	263 19 11	304 9 4½	341 9 3¾
Annuities .....	242 7 2	251 15 3	254 8 0	210 18 0	382 3 0	280 13 1
Minister's Stipend .....	234 10 0	256 0 0	97 10 0	98 0 0	103 7 6	140 4 0
Minister's Stipend .....	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	39 0 0	27 10 0	30 0 0
Rent of Rectory .....	53 15 10	38 15 4	38 14 10	33 17 10	33 15 10	37 15 4
Loan .....	—	128 16 9	—	53 0 0	—	234 0 0
Land .....	—	—	—	—	—	106 6 9
Trustees .....	500 4 6	399 15 3	763 11 1½	567 6 11	386 5 10	517 18 6
Children's School, etc....	—	—	—	43 15 6	18 6 1	32 0 3
Carried forward .....	1,281 0 8¼	1,458 3 8	1,487 10 1¾	1,309 18 2	1,255 17 7½	1,720 7 2¾
	42 0 6	38 3 2¾	31 4 7½	26 18 9¾	12 4 7¾	67 19 4½
	1,323 1 2¼	1,496 6 10¾	1,518 14 9¼	1,336 16 11¾	1,268 2 3¼	1,788 7 7¼

HILLESDEN ACCOUNT BOOK.

all authorities, law lexicons, dialect dictionaries, enquiries at the Record Office, the Manorial Society, and even that storehouse of learning, "Notes and Queries." These "cole" or "coale-rents" were "received out of Padbury." Enquiries there have elicited nothing. All Souls' College, Oxford, have owned the Manor of Padbury since the fifteenth century, but neither the Estates' Bursar nor the Steward of the Manors has ever heard of cole-rents.\* Typical examples are:—

Received of Edward Swannell for one yeare's rent ending at Mich'as, 1661 .....	1s. 0d.
Received of John King of Padbury for the like for Sammon's house .....	4d.

One of the Hillesden tenants, Thos. Paxton, had to pay "2 couple of rent capons" annually at Christmas. In the revenue summary the proceeds of the Prebend End Manor are buried with the Hillesden rentals, as round sums were transferred from time to time to Haynes, and were thus included in his account. The most distinguished name among the Hillesden tenants is that of Robert Townsend, D.D.; he was a brother-in-law of Edmund Denton, and lived at Cowley, which lies between Hillesden and Preston Bissett—it is actually in the latter parish. There is an interesting house still at Cowley, but now divided into two tenements, which may have been Dr. Townsend's home. In the easternmost cottage, as arranged to-day, is some panelling, unfortunately covered with canvas and paper, above which is an extremely good frieze, with elaborate arabesque carving, and the date 1614 in very large figures.

The copyhold property at Prebend End gives us some interesting heriots:—

	£	s.	d.
57—13 Recd. of Wm. Phillips for his Herriott of 1 acre of land in the fallow-field .....		1	6
Of Rowl. Lewis for his herriott for 1 bay of housing .....			6

\* The ingenious suggestion of a learned friend is that Cole is a colloquial abbreviation of "College."!

		£	s.	d.
	Of Joane Collett for her husband's herriott being an old cow* sold for .....	1	0	0
	Of John Warre of Barton for his mother's herriott being a land of Corne sold for ...	11	0	
167—152†	Received for a Herriott due at the death of John Collett in Gawcott 3s. 4d. which a small brass kettle was appraised at .....	3	4	
154	Received for a Herriott due at the death of Fris. Fisher 1s. which an old table was appraised at .....	1	0	
157	Recd. for a herriott due by the death of Wm. Rand of Gawcott 20 shillgs. which a small Bullock was appraised at .....	1	0	0
215—197	Received of Anne Clarke for a Cubbord that was taken for a herriott at the death of Alice Clarke and appraised at .....	9	0	
198	Recd. of the widdow of Nich: Paxton for a little brasse kettle for a herriott due at his death .....	1	6	
199	Recd. of Mrs. Lambert, widdow, upon Composicon for a herriott due at the death of her late husband Mr. Wm. Lambert .....	1	0	0
225—137	Recd. for an old Fetherbedd taken for a Herriott due at the death of Robert Morse .....	15	0	
315—168	Recd. of Tho. Fenimore of Gawcott for a Herriott due upon his purchase of Organ Woodford's house, being an Ash tree valued at .....	4	0	
169	Recd. of John Neele of Gawcott for a herriott due upon his alienating a house to John Spatcher, being a small brass pott valued at .....	2	6	
171	Recd. of John Carter brother of Tho: Carter of Gawcott deceased an old mare taken for a herriott due at the death of the said Thomas .....	1	9	0
172	Recd. of Abigal Harris of Gawcott for a black heyfer taken for a herriott due at the death of her mother Abigal Harris .....	18	6	

TIMBER, FAGGOTS, &c.

Underwood, "sold out of Cowley Wood," was sold at so much a pole, from 1s. to 3s.; a more variable price was realised when it was sold by the perch; "lopp faggotts" realized 1s. 2d. for 10, but "40 old hedgewood faggotts out of the new Inclosures" were sold for 2s. 6d. Another method of selling underwood

\* 58-15 "Spent at the appraising of Joane Collett's Cow, the herriott . . . . 1s." The later Collet entry presumably refers to the same change of tenure under another manor.

† 168-161 "Spent at the seizing and appraising of Herriots beforementioned . . . . 1s. 2d."

was by the vague measurement of "1 cutt" at prices varying on the same day from 11s. to 24s. Forest trees seemed to have been sold when windfalls, or defective; thus, 3 windfalls together realized £1:5:0, and the following entry seems interesting in several ways:—

6—67 Recd. of Henry Goodson for 3 doted trees sold him out of Cowley wood to raise moneys towards satisfying Dr. Townsend for timber spent by him about the repaires of his house ..... £1:8:6

Six of these "doted" trees were sold in all, and the bark of all of them fetched 10s.

#### CROPS AND WOOL.

As there was no arable land in the demesne the only prices for corn occur in the sale of tithes, which were owned by Denton. Thus:—

283—216 Recd. for Tythe corne that was inned out of Rimlow field and the little field in Harvest 1666 as appears by a note of the particulars in the bundle of Acquitts belonging to this Accompt, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
For 6 bushels of oats .....		6	8
Q. B.			
For 4 6 of Pease .....	3	7	0
For 2 2 of Barley .....	1	7	0
For 2 7 of Wheate .....	2	17	4*

The 1663 tithe in the same fields yielded 4½ quarters of peas (at 2s. 4d. per bushel), 6 bushels of barley (at 2s. 10d. per bushel), 3 quarters 2½ bushels of wheat (at 5s. per bushel), 3 bushels of oats (at 2s. per bushel), and 1½ bushels of mistling† (for 7s.). Straw produced by this tithe was:—

	s.	d.
14 daies thrash of pease straw .....	14	0
2 daies thrash of barley straw .....	2	0

\* There was something peculiar about these prices; for instance, this wheat works out at no more than 2s. 6d. per bushel; it should be 5s. (*i.e.*, £2 per quarter). The barley works out at 1s. 6d. per bushel, again only half the proper price. Peas and oats are only a little down.

† This word is apparently a corruption, or variation of maslin, or mixed corn, said by Halliwell generally to be a mixture of rye and wheat. Compare Tusser:

The t'other for one Loaf hath twain  
Of Meslin, of rye, and of wheat.



In 1665 wool fetched £1 : 2 : 6 per tod; in the following year the price was down to £1 per tod; while in 1663 it had been as low as 19s.

## CATTLE.

According to the table of receipts and payments Haynes was not very fortunate as a grazier; in the six years he realized £451 : 10 : 2 by the sale of cattle, and paid £508 : 8 : 0 for them during the same period. We cannot deduce much from this, however, as no figures are available as to the stock on hand at the beginning and end of this period. From a rough summary it certainly seems that many more sheep were bought than were sold, and this was not due to the establishment of a large flock, as is clear from such entries as:—

		s.	d.
119—30	Recd. for the flesh of a crazy sheep that was kil'd out of the Windmill ground .....	3	8
184—222	Recd. for a dizzy sheep sold out of one of the grounds in the West field .....	4	8
177—110	Recd. for the skins of 6 rotten sheep that dyed in the Windmill ground .....	8	0

It is difficult to judge prices from the records of a few animals bought at intervals, but it would appear that cattle were dear in 1661, when 10 heifers were bought at £35,\* and a year later 5 heifers were bought at Brackley Fair for £21 : 1 : 6; but by 1667 10 heifers could be bought at Buckingham Fair for £23 : 5 : 0, and about the same time 5 were bought at Biester for £10 : 1 : 0. There certainly seems to have been a fall in prices between these years, because in 1663 a cow fetched £4; in 1665 the price seems to have been £3, and by 1667 cows were being bought for £2 : 5 : 0, and even less.

---

\* This entry (one of several worded in the same way), is worth quoting:—

20-233 "Paid for 10 hayfers bought at Dadington faire to spend the lattermath and hay in Hawkins his meadow, then in the Trustees' hands."

The phrase "to spend the lattermath" is still to be heard in use by Buckinghamshire graziers of the last generation. Compare also the phrase "Spending price" as used in a valuation of farm crops.

Again, in 1663 forty sheep were bought at Banbury Fair for £33:10:0 (16s. 9d. each); in 1665 forty teggs were bought at the same fair for £27:1:0 (13s. 6d. each); and in 1667 fifteen sheep were bought at Buckingham Fair for £9 (12s. each). In 1665 a particular "fatt cow" was sold at Thame for no less than £5, but that was an exceptional price. Generally speaking, cattle and sheep were sold to local butchers. The following representative entries are worth noting:—

		s.	d.
198—507	Paid at Banbury for toll of 40 teggs .....		8
508	Paid for bringing 20 ewes and 20 lambs and 20 teggs from Stratford faire, and expences with them upon the way .....	4	6
509	Paid for bringing the said sheepe from Banbury .....	2	0
105—773	Paid for standing in the pens for the sheepe and lambs which were sold at Winslow faire and other expences there .....	3	0
774	Paid to Joseph Gilks and John Hobbs for driving the said sheep to Winslow .....	1	6

(TO BE CONTINUED.)