

The Manor House Ogbourne St George

The greater part of this document (pages 1 to 28) is a transcription of a history commissioned by Oliver Frost in January 1938. The research, principally at King's College, Cambridge, was done by Mr William Le Hardy of Hardy & Reckitt, 2 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn.

The Manor House Ogbourne St. George

Ogbourne St. George lies three miles north of Marlborough and eight miles south of Swindon on the Wiltshire Downs.

According to the Domesday survey¹ compiled by the instructions of William the Conqueror and completed about the year 1086, the King held one manor consisting of thirty hides (about 3,000 acres) of land of which twenty-five virgates (about 600 acres) were arable. Of these, eighteen hides (1,800) acres pasture, and four virgates (100 acres) were in demesne. Miles Crispin held "Okeburn Harald" with ten hides (1,000 acres) and a mill; "Harding" held a third portion consisting of 500 acres and "Turchil" a fourth comprising about 200 acres.

There can be little doubt that these four properties covered the whole area of the present day parishes of Ogbourne St. George and Ogbourne St. Andrew which lies two miles south of it.

Some time early in the twelfth century all these properties had probably come into the hands of Maud de Wallingford. She was the daughter and sole heiress of Robert D'Oiley, a member of a well-known Norman family, who had crossed with the Conqueror. She married Miles Crispin who held "Ogebourne Harald". It is possible that the other Domesday holder Turchil was connected with the de Wallingford and Maud may have become possessed of his holding by inheritance. There is no information as to how she came into possession of the King's holding or that of Harding. At any rate Maud de Wallingford early in the twelfth century, granted² both manors (that is to say Ogbourne St. George or Ogbourne Magna, and Ogbourne St. Andrew or Ogbourne Parva) to the Abbey of St. Mary of Bec Herlowyn in Normandy, which had recently commenced to establish cells in this country.

On the site of the present manor house, this Benedictine order built a priory which was to become the *caput* of the Abbey in this country and its richest cell.

As early as 1103 Henry I granted³ to the Abbey "all liberties and free customs which the King is able to give to religious men" and in 1252 Henry III granted⁴ to the Abbot and Convent of Bec free warren throughout their manors of "Okeburn" so long as they did not infringe on the King's chases.

The priory was doomed to a comparatively short existence, for Henry V in the second year of his reign (A.D. 1414) believing that the existence of priests of a foreign nationality in this country was responsible for the leakage of secret information to France, suppressed all the "alien" monasteries and priories in

1 Domesday Book
2 King's Coll. Doct. D.D. 17.

3 King's Coll. Doct. D.D. 16A
4 Kings' Coll. Doct.D.D. 23.

England and seized all their possessions. In this manner Ogbourne St. George came into the King's hands.

In 1422, the King granted¹ the spiritualities of the manors to John, Duke of Bedford by whom they had already been assigned to the College at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and the Dean and Chapter still² have the gift of the living. The management of the College affairs seems to have been extremely lax and in 1438 a commission was appointed³ to enquire into its activities. This found that "certain canons occupying the office of steward and treasurer have long been making payment by favour, squandering the goods of the College at their will and for their own profit, without paying the portions due by the account of the College, leasing the churches, manors, and possessions of the College without security to insolvent persons, taking allowance for unreasonable amounts as expended on alleged repairs, while other timely and necessary repairs were neglected, and making payments to themselves out of the manors of the Priory of Okeburn, lately granted to the College" etc.

The temporalities were granted⁴ in 1438 to John Saintloo "an esquire of the King's body" for life and in 1439 the reversion⁵ after the death of Saintloo to Thomas Langton, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

In 1441 the King, who had founded Eton, instituted King's College, Cambridge, and granted⁶ to it the manors of Ogbourne together with much other property. This foundation charter cancelled the previous grant to the University, but was subject to the life interest of John Saintloo. He, however, died shortly after this grant was made.

Complications in the title of the manor arose as a result of the Wars of the Roses which opened with the battle of St. Albans in 1455. The Yorkist forces were successful and Edward, Duke of York was crowned⁷ King of England in 1461 as King Edward IV. Immediately after his accession the new king passed an act which it is alleged cancelled all grants made in mortmain by his predecessor and relying, no doubt on this statute, he granted⁸ the "alien priory of Okebourne and the manor of Okebourne *alias* Okebourne St. George in Great Okebourne and Little Okebourne, co. Wilts" to the "Prior and Convent or House of the Salutation of the Mother of God of the Carthusian order by London" in other words the "Charterhouse". Very little is known of the manor of Ogbourne during this period, but matters eventually came to a head and were settled by arbitration in the Court of Chancery, whereby it was agreed that the College should enjoy the property on payment out of the profits of £33. 6s. 8d. a year to the Charterhouse. This arrangement was confirmed⁹ by a charter of Henry VIII. Whatever the position may have been, it seems obvious that the property must in fact, have been restored to the College before the confirmation of Henry VIII, for in 1500 the College again leased the manors. The payment of an

1 Pat. Roll 10 Hen.V.m.2.

2 1937

3 Pat. Roll 16 Hen.VI.pt.1.m.11.

4 Pat. Roll 16 Hen.VI.m.35.

5 Pat. Roll 17 Hen VI.pt.2.m.15.

6 Pat. Roll 19 Hen VI.pt.2.m.13&14.

7 Act of Parliament 1 Edw IV Cap. I.

8 Pat. Roll 1 Edw IV.

9 Pat. Roll 11 Hen VIII.

annuity did not burden the College for long, as in 1534 the Charterhouse was dissolved and five years later Henry VIII granted¹ the annuity back to the College, which remained in undisputed possession of the unencumbered estate until the sale of the property in 1927.

It is certainly fortunate that this was the case, for as a result of it, there are still preserved in the College a vast collection of documents relating to the manors from the foundation of the College, and even long before it. There are, in fact, some of the earliest original court rolls known to exist dating as they do from the year 1246 and running a series – unfortunately with many gaps – right down to the abolition of manorial tenure a few years ago.

The courts held within the manor consisted of a court baron and a view of francpledge, i.e. a court resembling the modern petty sessions. At these homage was sworn for the court baron and a jury for the court leet. At the former, surrenders and admittences to copyhold lands were recorded and persons appointed as constables and tithing men. The homage presented roads and bridges which needed repair, hedges which needed cutting, or ditches which needed cleaning. Stray animals, which if not claimed for a year and a day would belong to the Lord were enumerated on the court rolls.

At the view of francpledge, trespasses especially on the common lands by damage or by overloading them with cattle; small debts; and assaults and other like offences were presented² and the offenders heavily fined or bound over in sureties. Even the smallest crimes did not pass unnoticed and at the court held in 1315, Walter de Upham was fined 3d. for allowing one of his chickens to trespass in the corn of the Lord. At the same court, Walter Niwomen was fined 6d. for allowing his dogs to trespass over the land of Dom Robert the Chaplain.

At the court held in the year 1342 [C.16] the vicar was presented for that he “unjustly drew the blood of William Webb’s pledge”. Some light is thrown on topographical matters as when in May 1552 [C.139] the hedge between “Drove end and the Chapel” required making up. William Palmer the vicar in 1521 got into trouble for taking two cartloads of “les thornes” from Yeldon Wood. In 1523 [C.109] one Nicholas Williams *alias* Michael Thomas, a horse thief, unlawfully tried to use the church as a sanctuary. In 1577 [D.11] it was ordered that the tenants of the manor should keep no greyhounds.

During Elizabeth’s reign [D.113] many persons were presented for unlawfully playing “ball”. It was feared that the encouragement of ball games might detract the youth of the country from the more useful pastime of archery and several Acts of Parliament were passed prohibiting such sport.

In 1591 [D.36] William Goddard, the farmer of the Manor and John Wallrond were cited for digging clay near the highway next the mansion house of the aforementioned William, and in 1652 the stocks at Ogbourne St. George were ordered to be put in repair.

1 Pat. Roll 31 Hen VIII.Pt.6.m.9.

2 King’s Coll. C.15.

These rolls naturally abound with the names of the local inhabitants and it is interesting to note how many of the surnames such as Goddard, Pink, Waldron, and Eve, are found throughout the centuries.

Many instances are found in the early rolls of persons marrying without the consent of the lord of the manor.

In addition to the court rolls there are several rentals or surveys of the manor of which perhaps the most interesting¹ is that compiled in 1447 of which many copies have been preserved. This sets out the names of the freehold and copyhold tenants of the manor together with the customs. Upon the death of every tenant of a yard land or half a yard land his legal representative had to pay a heriot of his best beast, but if a tenant held less than a half yard land, 2s. 6d. was payable and a fine of 40s. A yard land was the survivor of the virgate mentioned in Domesday Book. Its area varied in different parts of the country but was probably about twenty-five acres in Wiltshire.

From this rental it appears that the Abbot of Shaftesbury paid 46s. 8d. a year to the Chantry of Ogbourne.

Almost immediately² after the property had come into the hands of the College, the Provost leased out “the site of the manors with all houses built on the same site and all demesne lands, meadows, pastures, and feedings of the same manors together with the sheepen at Poghecombe, the conywarren of Hereswyke and the close next the manor and the fishery of the water next Polton”. The first recorded lease was made to Peter Brite alias Peter Amys, Thomas Brite, some of the same Peter, Robert Morley, John Brend, and William Eyre for nine years at the rental of £50 and 1 quarter 1 bushel of wheat 3 quarters 6 bushels of barley and 4 bushels of oats by the year.

It is perhaps unfortunate that even from these early days the tenant was made responsible for the repair and upkeep of the buildings except in regard to “stone and great timber”. Were this not so, there can be little doubt that the series of estate accounts which are now preserved at the College would have thrown some interesting light on the early manor house.

The leases were for a short term of years, in fact under the statutes of the College they were not allowed to lease any property for more than twenty years. These leases were recorded in the College Ledger Books and registers from 1456 down to the date when they sold the property in 1927. A list down to 1804 is appended³ with names of known tenants of a later date added. Extracts from two of the earliest leases are also appended⁴. These show that both manors with houses built on the site and all demesne lands, meadows, pastures and feedings were included together with the sheepcot at Pogham, the coneygree at Hereswyke and next the manor, and the fishery of several waters next Poulton.

1 King's Coll. D.D.50,52,53
2 King's Coll. Reg. Book folio 11.

3 Appendix No. 1
4 Appendix Nos. 2 & 3

The lease makes provision that the pasture shall be handed over in as good a condition at the end of the lease as it was when the lessee took it over from Peter Amys the former lessee. The term was eleven years at a rental of £50 per year. This is a large sum for those days and is equivalent to about £300 in present day¹ currency. The lessee also had to pay a “messor” or steward and to do all repairs necessary to keep the property in good condition, except wall stones and great timber which the College had to provide.

The lessee was to be given every year a coat similar to the livery of the College or 6s. 8d. instead.

If the Provost did not visit the property during the year then the lessee had to pay the expenses of a messenger to ride to Cambridge to pay the rent. One may well imagine that this journey of over 120 miles carrying a large amount of gold cannot have been one of which many would be envious.

The lessee was also to leave the rabbit warren well stocked at the termination of the lease and to look after and account for any strays which came into the manor which of course belonged of right to the College.

In 1500 we find the lease² to John Godard, or Goddard, a member of a well-known Ogbourne St. George family. It should be mentioned that this lease and all subsequent ones recorded in the College ledgers are written in English which was unusual at this period, as it was not customary to use the language of the country in legal documents until about the middle of Queen Elizabeth’s reign.

The language of the lease is therefore interesting and a full extract from it has been taken in order that the quaint phraseology may be appreciated. The tendency to put verbs at the end of the sentence indicates that the legal draftsman was used to drawing up similar documents in Latin.

The terms of the lease are much the same as the former one except that the Provost undertakes to defend the lessee’s title against Charterhouse, while the tenant undertakes to inform the College of any attempt on the part of the Charterhouse to oust him from the property. If the tenant had to send a messenger with news of such happenings the College undertook to pay his expenses. The rent had been raised to £69, and the term extended to twenty years.

The next lease recorded in 1511, immediately after the confirmation by Henry VIII finally settling the dispute with the Charterhouse, omits this clause indicating a complete settlement of the dispute. The rent remained the same and no further change occurred in subsequent leases during the greater part of the reign of Henry VIII which were all made to members of the Goddard family. In 1544 however, this family ceased their direct tenure and a lease in similar words was granted to John Barwick or Berwick, though it appears that Vincent Goddard was a sub-tenant. In this lease the payment of a fine of £180 is first recorded. It appears that the College at this date lacked ready money and it was considered preferable to charge a large

1 1937

2 Appendix No. 3

fine rather than raise the rent. We do not learn from any subsequent leases the amount of such fine, but it was, I believe on this account that leases were renewed with great regularity a long time before they expired. The College, no doubt, offered advantageous terms after the lease had run say seven or eight years, and probably demanded a smaller fine than would have been the case if the term was nearing completion. Thus the tenant got security of tenure and the College received more frequent cash payments.

The lease granted to Thomas Gardiner introduces us to another scheme on the part of the College in the management of their affairs. Again the cash rent was not raised, but in addition to the £69 the lessee had to deliver to Cambridge “ten score (200) fat wethers” each of which was to weigh at least 40lbs. after its head had been cut off and its entrails removed. The sheep were to be delivered with their wool uncut. In return the Provost was to pay 2s. a head for each sheep.

It must, I think, be presumed that at this date it was anticipated that the lessee would actually deliver the sheep at Cambridge having driven them up from Ogbourne, though as we shall subsequently see, this was soon altered to an alternative cash payment. It may cause some wonderment how as an economic proposition, two hundred head of sheep can have been delivered by road to arrive in first class condition.

It seems likely that the direct lessees from the College after this date were not always in residence at the manor house, and that the Goddards may have continued in residence until William Younge of Ogbourne took up residence probably in about 1583. In that year Younge also obtained a lease of Priors Wood which although in Albourne parish formed part of the original manor. After this date the wood was always included in the lease of the manor.

In 1605 Richard Younge obtained a new lease from the College, in which the rent was reduced to £46 per annum, but 34½ quarters of wheat and 46 quarters of barley had to be delivered to the College in lieu of rent. If default was made in this delivery the current price of those commodities in the market at Cambridge had to be paid in cash. The number of sheep to be delivered was reduced to 120 and a cash rent of 53s. was charged for Priors Wood.

In the year 1623 Thomas Bond of the Middle Temple became the College's lessee, and while the rent and corn quota remained the same he had to pay 180 sheep or £72 in cash.

It is difficult to say whether Bond actually lived at Ogbourne or not, but he continued as a lessee until the year 1648 when John Hall of Gray's Inn obtained a lease. It seems possible that he may have been a trustee, for in 1663 we find George Bond, possibly a son of Thomas, receiving a lease. George Bond is described as of Ogbourne, indicating that he lived in the manor house. In 1686 the lease passed to Richard Kent of Cosham, but in 1693 John Jeffreys of St. Mary Axe, London obtained a lease. During part of his lease at any rate, Thomas Griffin was his sub-tenant and in residence in the manor house.

Jeffreys' lease varied slightly as he had to deliver 20 carcasses of sheep in addition to the live wethers. He appears to have left before 1719 when Alexander Popham is shewn as being in residence, though Walter Carey of St. Martins-in-the-Fields was lessee.

In 1726 John Jeffreys of West Sheen in Surrey became tenant, but whether he was identifiable with – or a relative of – the previous John Jeffreys we cannot say. He continued lessee until 1747 when the Rt. Hon. Horatio Walpole of Wolterton, co. Norfolk, one of the tellers of His Majesty's Exchequer obtained a lease. He was the famous diplomatist who subsequently was created 1st. Baron Walpole and was the brother of Sir Robert Walpole, the celebrated Prime Minister. He was a fellow of Kings College. Walpole's sojourn at Ogbourne, if it took place in person at all, does not appear to have been of long duration, and in 1755 Thomas Hatton of Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, obtained a lease. He must have died about the year 1768 when Peter Thomegay, a merchant of College Hill in London, and Elizabeth his wife, as persons appointed by his will obtained the lease and enjoyed the property until 1777.

In this year Thomas Ryder of Lincoln's Inn and Mark Thomegay of Moorfields were appointed under the will of Peter Thomegay. Ryder continued as sole lessee from 1782 until 1804 and was in residence in 1794 when the Inclosure Award¹ was made.

A copy, made in 1837, of the map compiled at the date of the Inclosure Award is preserved at King's College and a photostat² thereof has been obtained and is sent herewith. From this it is learnt that racing stables had been built in the field to the west of the house but whether these were used by Ryder or his predecessors is not known.

Ryder probably continued to live at Ogbourne until 1804 when Robert Canning took over the lease. He had to pay £126 a year in lieu of the sheep in addition to the £46 rent and £136. 12s. 8d. in lieu of land tax. It is interesting to note that the nominal delivery of the sheep continued right down to the passing of the College Estates Act in 1854.

According to a survey made of the College estates the manor of Ogbourne St. George during the tenancy of John Jeffreys consisted of the house, courts, gardens, and orchard, 6 acres 2 roods and 4 perches; the Pidgeon House close (i.e. the field to the west of the house), Coney gree and Sheer close 24 acres 2 roods and 5 perches, and White Hill Piece 7 acres 3 roods 36 perches of arable. These are set out in a plan compiled by John Doharty of Worcester in 1751 and there are shewn on a photostat³ of this plan which accompanies this report.

The other farms were Packham Barn 1183 acres 2 roods and 24 perches, Herdswick farm 745 acres 3 roods 10 perches, Whitefield Farm 313 acres 4 perches, Cowcroft

1 Appendix IV
2 Photostat No.3
3 Photostat No.1

Farm 162 acres 1 rood 22 perches and Acreman Field 92 acres 2 roods 22 perches, while the Woodland consisted of Great Welldon Coppice, Inkwood Coppice, Round Hill Coppice, Priors Wood and Short Wood.

The plan¹ of the property shows the house U-shaped with each wing stretching further than the sides now seem to extend. It is possible that the house was much larger than it is now and that the bottom of the U is all that is left of the original. By the year 1794 when the Inclosure Award was made, these side pieces seem to have been removed (*vide* the copy of this plan preserved at King's College, compiled in 1837). There is a rough sketch map² now preserved at the College dated 1865 showing the house to the south of the continuation of the line of the churchyard wall. At this date the house did not have a west or an east wing.

It would appear that the buildings marked "race horse stables" in the Inclosure Award map of 1794 had been built before 1751 (see Doharty's plan). They are also shewn in the Tithe Award map of 1844.

The pidgeon house is clearly shown near the race-horse stables in Doharty's plan and it again appears in the Inclosure Award map, but not in the Tithe Award, though there is a square shewn on the present ordnance survey sheet at approximately the spot where the pidgeon house originally stood.

A survey³ was made in 1865 when Thomas Gale was tenant and this shows that the property consisted of the manor house and land 3 roods 15 perches, the manor house garden 1 rood 26 perches, the garden and orchard 1 acre 2 roods 15 perches, the farm yard and buildings 2 acres 1 rood 24 perches, Cowpen and yard 1 rood 14 perches, Pidgeon House meadow stables and roadway 25 acres 3 roods 27 perches.

The surveyor sets out that the manor house "requires certain repairs but is substantially good". The farm buildings which adjoined the manor house were in a "most disgraceful and dilapidated state" and should be "swept away". Their position was in his opinion bad for farming purposes and he suggested that new buildings be erected "about the centre of Heswick Great Field against the road".

The Canning family who obtained the lease in 1804 continued in residence for many years, and at the time of the making of the Tithe Commutation Award in 1844 Samuel Canning was living there. The lessees of the manor have not been followed up beyond this date, but it is known that Thomas Gale was in residence in 1865 and remained there until after 1868 and that William Bodman occupied the house up to the time of his death which occurred shortly before 1927. In that year the College sold the freehold of the estate to Major Harry Colemore late of the VIIIth Hussars who established a racing stable on the property. He sold it in 1934 to Miss Winifred Eva Tatton and in 1936 she sold the manor house, the Pidgeon House Meadow and the Coneygree to Captain Frost.

1 Photostat No.3
2 Photostat No.4
3 Photostat No.4

The earliest account¹ of the property during the time when it was in the hands of the Abbey is that for the half year Michaelmas 1276 to April 1277. This account and those which follow it are of considerable interest to the student of economics and farming, for they give in exact detail the profits from rents, stock, corn, and the mill, and the expenses of the ploughs, carts, dairy, etc. They also set out the exact number of head of cattle purchased during the year and what was sold. From an entry in the roll it would appear that the Lord Chancellor, Robert Burnell, Archdeacon of York, visited Ogbourne St. George at this period, for the accounts show details of hay, oats and straw provided for his horses. It is even possible that the King was also present, for he was at Cirencester in December 1276.

Under the heading "amending of the houses" is found "The Accountant accounts for one roofer hired and three hired men for roofing the great grange at the south end and one piece on the west end and another piece on the east end at task in gross 14s. 1d. In hooks and hinges bought for a door in the hall 5d. In — bought for the doorway of the calf shed 9d. In one lock bought for the door of the room of S. de Ryslep 3d. In 300 boardnails 12d. In 1 roofer hired for the roof of the house in divers places for 24 days 6d. taking by the day 3d. In 1½ quarters of lime bought 12½d. In moss 8d. In 900 'lachnayls' 9d."

Under the heading "small expenses" we find that "2 quarters of salt" were "bought for the larder and for the use of the house 15s.; for binding and mending vessels with hoops bought for the same 18d.; for one pound of cotton bought for making candles 7½d; for a lantern made for the same ½d. in 24 pounds of ox tallow bought 2s. 6d.; for men hired at divers times for removing hay and oats and for journeys made and afterwards for carrying the same hay to the grange 8s.; in men hired for tossing the hay at Wyke 4d.; for 8 — of hemp bought for making cloth thereof 2s. 5d."

As has already been stated the fact that the tenants had to keep the manor house in repair takes away the chance which there would otherwise have been of obtaining interesting details in regard to its building. The accounts do, however, show that the College allowed the farmer 55s. 8d for repairs in 7 - 8 Henry VIII (1515-6) and that he claimed £6. 17s. 4d. for repairs in 8 - 9 Henry VIII (1516-7) which was disallowed. It may be presumed that these were in respect of stone and big timber which, under the lease, had to be supplied by the College, and these comparatively small amounts may indicate repairs or rebuilding on a larger scale, the balance of the rest having to be provided by the tenant.

There is obviously a great deal more to be found out about this interesting manor. What has been set out above will, it is hoped, assist in making clear the more salient points in its history².

1 King's College, Computus Roll
2 This pamphlet was a source for the Country Life article of December 25th, 1942 (Appendix VI)

List of Lessees of Ogbourne St. George

-----	Peter Amys	Ledger I.f.8.
34 Hen. IV 1455	Thomas Goddard	Ledger I.f.8.
16 Hen. VII 1500	John Goddard	Ledger I.f.172d
1501	John Goddard died P.C.C. Will 23 Moore	
2 Hen. VIII 1502	Thomas Goddard	Ledger I.f.226d
12 Hen. VIII 1520	Thomas Goddard and Anthony his son	Ledger I.f.241
16 Hen. VIII 1524	"	Ledger I.f.266
25 Hen. VIII 1533-4	Thomas Goddard	Ledger I.f.292
1538	Thomas Goddard died P.C.C. Will 15 Dyngeley	
26 Hen. VIII 1544	John Barwick or Berwick of Eston, co. Wilts	Ledger I.f.327
1 Edw. VI 1547-8	John Berwick	Ledger I.f.334
1565	Thomas Gardiner of London	Ledger II.f.105
1566	"	Ledger II.f.141
26 Eliz. 1583	William Younge of Ogbourne St. George	Ledger II.f.335
3 Jas. I 1605	Richard Younge of Ogbourne St. George	Ledger III.f.146d
9 Jas. I 1610-11	"	Ledger III.f.338
17 Jas. I 1619-20	"	Ledger IV.f.39
20 Jas. I 1622	William Younge of Ogbourne St. George	Ledger IV.f.84
20 Jas. I 1622-3	Thomas Bond of Middle Temple	Ledger IV.f.99
4 Chas. I 1628-9	"	Ledger IV.f.187
7 Chas I 1631	"	Ledger IV.f.234
14 Chas. I 1638	"	Ledger IV.f.433
24 Chas I 1648	John Hale of Gray's Inn	Ledger V.f.43
1652-3	"	Ledger V.f.149
1659	John Hale of Gray's Inn	Ledger VI.f.149
1663	George Bond of Ogbourne	Ledger VI.f.77
1670	"	Ledger VI.f.195

1677	"	Ledger VI.f.300
1684	"	Ledger VII.f.82
1685	Richard Kent of Cosham, co. Wilts	Ledger VII.f.109
1686	Assignment by Richard Kent to John Jeffreys	Ledger VII.f.219
1689	John Jeffreys of St. Mary Axe	Ledger VII.f.461
1692-3	"	Ledger VII.f.511
1705-6	Thomas Griffin	Ledger VIII.f.33d
1712	"	Ledger VIII.f.118
1721	Walter Cary of St. Martins-in-the-Fields	Ledger VIII.f.198d
	Let to Alexander Popham Esq.	King's Coll. Doct.D.D.64.
1726	John Jeffreys of West Sheen, co. Surrey	Ledger IX.f.27d
1734	"	Ledger IX.f.89
1740	"	Ledger IX.f.137d
1747	Rt. Hon. Horatio Walpole of Wollerton, co Norfolk, one of the tellers of His Majesty's Exchequer	Ledger IX.f.212
1755	Thomas Hatton of Savile Row, Burlington Gardens. co. Middlesex, Esq.	Ledger X.f.14
1761	"	Ledger X.f.106
1768	Peter Thomegay of College Hill merchant and Elizabeth his wife devises named in the will of Thomas Hatton deceased	Ledger X.—
1775	Peter Thomegay	Ledger XI.f.77
1777	Thomas Ryder of Lincoln's Inn and Mark Thomegay the younger of Moorfields in the City of London, Esq., named and appointed by and in performance of the will of Peter Thomegay deceased.	Ledger XI.f.101d
1782	"	Ledger XI.f.210
1789	"	Ledger XII.f.127d
1796	"	Ledger XII.f.257

1804	Robert Canning of Ogbourne St. Andrew, gent. In residence to 1821	Ledger XIII.f.135d
1840	Samuel Canning	Tithe Award
1859	Thomas Gale	
1927	William Bodman	Abstract of Title
1927	King's College sold to Major Harry Colmore	

The Manor House was sold to Mrs Winifred Eva Tatton in 1934, and then to Oliver Harry Frost in 1936. It was sold by his son Timothy Oliver Frost in 2003 to Andrew Marmaduke Lane Tuckey.

King's College Ledger Book I. fol. VIII

(Extracts in Translation)

2 November, 34 Henry VI (1455)

Indenture between Robert Wodelarke Provost of King's College and the scholars of the same college and Thomas Goddard. The aforesaid Provost and Scholars lease to the aforesaid Thomas The site of their manors of Okebourn Magna and Okebourn Parva co. Wilts together with all houses on the same site built and all demesne lands meadows pastures and feedings of the same manors together with the sheep-pen at Pogham with the closes of Hereswyke and the closes next the manor and the fishery of the several water next Polton. To have and to hold the aforesaid site house meadows pastures and feedings together with the sheep-pen and the closes and fishery aforesaid and the demesne lands in the several fields adjoining to the same Thomas from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel last past before the date of the presents up to the full term of 11 years then next following Saving always and reserved that the said Thomas shall keep so much of the several pastures for sheep in each sheep pasture of the manors aforesaid in the time of summer in the last year of the term aforesaid as was wont to be kept by Peter Amys late farmer there in the several pasture in the time of summer for the sustenance of the sheep being in the manor aforesaid in the time of winter in the preceding years and so leave that pasture at the end of his term aforesaid. To have also the aforesaid demesne lands adjoining the waste field from the time of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past up to the end of the term of 11 years then next following and fully to be completed. Rendering therefor yearly to the aforementioned Provost and scholars and their successors £50 at the feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael the Archangel by equal portions and finding a messor in the aforesaid manors at his proper costs and charges during the term aforesaid. And the aforesaid Thomas shall well and sufficiently repair and maintain all houses closes and inclosures of the same manors at his own costs and charges and shall hand them over at the end of his term so repaired, wall stones and great timber excepted, which the aforesaid Provost and scholars and their successors shall find and cause to be made at their own costs. And the aforesaid Thomas shall cause all the necessary timber to be carried for the same repairs at his proper cost and charge during the term aforesaid and the aforesaid Thomas shall fold all his sheep into folds upon the demesne lands of the manor aforesaid during the last year of his term by the allowance of the aforesaid Provost and scholars or their successors of 26s. 8d. for the stipend of his shepherd who shall give carry and place the folds aforesaid upon the demesne lands of the same lords in winter time in the last year And if it shall happen that the aforesaid farm of £50 in part or the whole shall be in arrear for two months after any term in which it ought to be paid then it shall be well lawful for the said Provost and scholars and their successors to enter into all the aforesaid site houses lands meadows pastures feedings sheepfold rabbit warren and fishery

and retain all those in their former state the present grant notwithstanding And the aforesaid farmer shall not let his estate in the premises nor any parcel thereof to anyone without licence of the said Provost and scholars or their successors during the term aforesaid and the aforesaid farmer shall have housebote haybote foldbote and fyrebote without waste by the survey and livery of the steward or other person limited or deputed for this purpose by the aforementioned Provost and scholars and their successors and the said Provost and scholars and their successors of the livery of their grooms or 6s. 8d. during the term aforesaid for the same And the aforesaid Thomas grants for him and his heirs and executors that if the aforesaid farm shall be in retard unpaid for any six weeks after any of the aforesaid feats within the term aforesaid then it shall be well lawful for the aforesaid Provost and scholars and their successors to seize take chase carry away and sell the goods and chattels of the aforesaid farmer within the same houses or elsewhere within the Kingdom of England to the value of the sum so in arrear.

If the Provost does not make his yearly progress at Easter time then the said farmer is to pay the cost of a messenger to the College for which he will receive 2s. 6d. And the aforesaid farmer shall leave the rabbit warren well and sufficiently stocked with rabbits at the end of his term. The farmer shall look after all strays at his own costs and charges.

King's College Ledger Book I fol. 172 dorse.

12 November, 16 Henry VII (1500)

Indenture made at Great Okebourn in the county of Wylteshire between John Dogett provost of King's College Ryall of our lady and Seynt Nicholas in Cambridge and shcolars of the same on the one part and John Godard of Great Okborn husbandman on the other part witness that the said provost and scholars have let to farm to the said John Godard "their maners of Great Okeborne and lytell Okborn" with all the demesne lands and all other lands tenements meadows leasures pastures rents fines amerancements "availes" and profits of all manner of courts leets and all other commodities and appurtenances to the said manors and either of them in any wise pertaining together with the keeping of the sheepecots at "Poghcombe and Conyngere of ye close beside the said manor and with fisshynges of the severall water beside Polton" Except and to the said provost and scholars reserved the advowson of the chantry of Great Okeburn and all manner of woods and underwoods to the said manors or either of them in any manner pertaining To have and to hold the said manors and other the premises to the said John from the feast of St. Michael last past to the end of the term of twenty years yielding and paying therefor £69 a year. The said provost shall deliver cloth for a gown of the price of 6s. 8d. in money and shall allow 13s. 4d. for plowbote and foldbote. All the courts leet that shall be holden shall be holden in the name of the provost and scholars who shall pay unto their steward his fee but the said John shall pay all other fees including the fee of the rent gatherer, hayward and woodward And the said John shall find sufficient meat drink and lodging for the provost and his servants with hay litter and provender for their horses when they shall visit him.

During the last year the said John shall fold as many sheep upon the demesne lands as the same lands shall "mowe susteyne for the which ye sayd provost and scholars and their successours shall alowe un to ye said John to his executours or assigns in payment of ye last half yerys rent of the said term xxvj^s. viij^d. sterlynges toward the wages of their shepardes that shall remove ye foldes of ye sayd shepe upon the sayd demesne landes in the sommer seyson of ye said last yer" The said John shall reserve as musch several pasture for sheep "to the avails of the said provost and scolars" in every pasture for sheep of the said manors in sommer season for feeding of sheep in winter in the said last year as the said John should keep for his own sheep in any year and so to yeild up and deliver the same several pasture to the said provost and scholars in the end of the said term and the said John shall "inne all the corn and hay growing and for to growe upon the landes and medowes of ye said manors in the barns and howses of the sayd manors and in noon other place" and on lady day before the end of the term shall yield up to the provost or to his deputy all such landes of the demesne lands above said as then shall happen to be unfallowed "they ther on to plow at ther wyll with out denay of the aayd John". At the end of the term the said John shall leave the said "conyngers as well stuffed as they be nowe". The said John not to sublet without licence of the provost The college shall

pay “all such dymes, taxes and talages” to be granted payable within the said term with which the manors shall be charged “and all manner of charges of reparacyons of ye howsyng of the sayd manors as in stone wallys slat and grossetimber shalberer and support as offte and when nede shalbe duryng the sayd terme” except that the said John shall at his proper costs and expenses bear the reparation of all thatch “splynt and clay” of the houses of the said manor “or yff a rafter or two be defectiff in any thached howses of the sayd manors do hym to be a mendyd or sett newe in their places and all hedges and dyches of ye said manors do to be mayd repayred amendyd dyked clensted and scowred as ofte and when as nede shalbe duryng the sayd terme” Except that “yf any walles or other partes of ye sayd howsing in defeaute or neclygence of the sayd John his executours or assignes gestes servaunts bestes or any of them in any wyse withyn the sayd terme be broken hurt brint [burnt] or empared then the sayd John his executors and assignes all such brokyngis hurtis brumynges and empayringes shall make agen amd amend as oft as it ys so happeth at ther owne proper costes expenses by all the sayd terme”. Distraint clause if rent is unpaid.

“Also it is covenanted and agreed by twene the seyde parties that the seyde provost and scolers and their successors shall aquite defende and harmeless kepe ye seyde John his executours and assignes duryng the seyde terme agenst the seyde Pryor of Charteshouse in Smythfyld and his executours and all other persons of and for the possession occupacyon and havyng ye seyde manors and other premises by virtue of this present les and graunte” The said John on his part to uphold and defend the said provost and scholars “and also yf he shall have knowledge of troble or vexacyacyon [*sic*] that shall be attemptyd or meovyd agenst the seyde provest and scolers and their successours or of for or in their title and interest whiche they have or shall have in the seyde manors and other premises he then thereof shall warne or do warne and put in knowledge thereof the provest and scolers their successours or their councell as in hasy tyme as thei may conveniently do provided alwey that yff the seyde John or his executours shall have any charge or cost in rydyng goyng sendyng or any sute plee or keping of the ryght title possession and interest as ysbyfor seyde, the seyde John or his executours shall have of the seyde provost scolers and their successours upon payment of the rent for the seyde manors yerely yf such cas shall happen his resonable allowans”.

The indenture also witnesses that the said John and Richard Godarde the elder of Alborne husbandman have bound themselves to perform the covenants.

Ogbourne St. George Inclosure Act and Award

Private Acts 32 Geo. III cap. 26. 1792

[Extracts relating to roads, footpaths etc.]

An act for the Dividing, allotting, and laying in Severalty the Open and Common fields, Common Pastures, and other Commonable Lands or Grounds within the parish of Ogbourn Saint George, in the county of Wilts.

Whereas there are in the Parish of Ogbourne St. George in the County of Wiltshire, several Open and Common Fields, and several Common Pastures, and other Commonable Lands or Grounds:

And whereas the Right Worshipful the Provost of the King's College of our blessed Lady and Saint Nicholas of Cambridge, and Scholars of the same College, are Lords of the Manor of Ogbourn Saint George, and Ogbourn Saint Andrew, within which Manor the Open and Common Fields, Common Pastures, and other Commonable Lands or Grounds in the Parish of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid do lie:

And whereas Parts of the said Open and Common Fields are Customary Freehold Lands of Inheritance, which are subject to certain yearly Quit Rents, and to certain Heriots and Reliefs, payable to the said Lords of the Manor of Ogbourne St. George and Ogbourne St. Andrew aforesaid, other parts thereof are Copyholds for the lives held under the said Lords, a small Part thereof is Leasehold held under the said Lords, and the Residue thereof are held in Common Soccage or Freehold:

And whereas John Wooldredge, John Griffin, and James Kemm, Gentlemen, and Elizabeth Wollredge, Spinster, and divers other Persons, are Owners and Proprietors of or interested in the said Open and Common Fields, and several Common Pastures, and other Commonable Lands or Grounds:

[whereas the lands lie intermixed and dispersed a division would be advantageous. Commissioners named: their oath set out. Notice to be given of their meeting. Survey to be made before the 25th June 1792].

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid [King and Parliament], that as soon as the said Survey, Plan, and Valuation are completed and adjusted, as hereinbefore directed, the said Commissioners and their Successors, or any Two of them, shall set out and allot, to the Lords of the Manor aforesaid, such Parcel or Parcels of the said Commonable Lands lying within the said parish of Ogbourne St. George, not less than the Quantity of Ten Acres, nor exceeding the Quantity of Twenty Acres in the whole, as they shall think proper, for raising Furze or other Fuel for the Use of all and every the poor Inhabitants of the same Parish for ever; which Parcel of Land, or Allotment, with the Produce thereof, shall be vested in the Lords of the said Manor for the Time being, for ever, in Trust for such poor Inhabitants of the said Parish of Ogbourne St. George, and shall be, from Time to Time, appropriated to and for the Use of such poor Inhabitants in such manner and Form as the officiating minister and Churchwardens of the said Parish of Ogbourne

St. George, or a Majority of them, shall order, direct, or appoint, and shall be free from all Taxes.

And be it further Enacted, that, from and immediately after the said Commissioners shall have made the said several Allotments before mentioned, and shall also deducted a sufficient quantity of the Lands herein directed to be divided and allotted for the Purpose of setting out Roads and Ways, the said Commissioners and their Successors, or any Two of them, shall also set out ascertain, divide, and allot all the Residue of the said Common Fields, and other the Premises by this Act directed or intended to be divided and allotted, unto and amongst the several and immediate owners or Proprietors thereof, and the Persons having Right of Common or other property in or over the same, or any Parts thereof, at the Time of making such Allotments, in Proportion to their several and respective Lands, Rights of Common, and other Rights and properties therein respectively at the Time aforesaid, and such Allotments shall immediately afterwards be vested in the said Proprietors and Persons interested, respectively, in Lieu and full Bar of, and Compensation for, all such their former lands, Rights, and Properties, respectively, as aforesaid

[Allotments to be “adequate and convenient” to the Proprietors. The Commissioners to settle disputes. Allotments to be in bar of former rights. Allotments to be accepted and fenced within six months. Exchanges may be made].

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That for rendering this Act more completely beneficial, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners and their Successors, or any Two of them, by and with the consent of the Lords of the said Manor and respective Customary Freeholders, or their Guardians, Trustees, or Committees, in Writing ... to settle, fix, and ascertain by their said Award such additional Annual Quit Rents, in Lieu of, and as in the Judgment of the said Commissioners shall be adequate to, and a full Compensation for Heriots, Reliefs, Fealties, Suit of Courts, and other Services incident to the present Tenure of the said Customary Freehold Lands in the Parish of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid, and that in such Case, the same Lands, and every part thereof, shall from thenceforth be turned into, and held and enjoyed by the Proprietors thereof respectively, in Free and Common Soccage, discharged from all such Heriots, Reliefs [etc] incident to the present Tenure thereof, and the said additional Quit Rents shall from thenceforth for ever be payable and paid by such Proprietors, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, in such Manner and at such Time or Times in every year, to the Lords of the said Manor, and their Successors or Assigns for ever, and the same, together with the present Annual quit Rents wherewith these Lands are respectively charged, shall from thenceforth be recoverable by such Ways and Means as Rack Rents in Arrear are recoverable by Law, or by any Public Statute or Statutes of this Realm.

Provided always that this Power shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to the Abolition of any Copyhold Tenure for life or Lives within the said Manor, or to any other Rights within the said Manor than those hereinbefore expressed.

[The Commissioners to set out Public and Private roads, the public ones to be at least 40 foot wide. Present roads may be exchanged or diverted. Enactments in

regard to trees, fences and watercourses. The Commissioners to direct the course of husbandry till the Allotments are made. The Award to be made after the making of the partition and Allotments and before the 21st December 1792, and to be enrolled in one of His Majesties Courts of Record at Westminster, or with the Clerk of the peace or Custas Rotulorum of the County of Wilts. The Award to be kept in the Chest of the parish Church of Ogbourne St. George.]

[Allotments to enure to the same uses as the lands for which they are exchanged. Leases at Rack Rent to be void. Enactments in regard to the expenses of the act and the Commissioners' accounts, etc. Appeal may be made to the General Quarter Sessions. Saving of manorial rights.]

AWARD

The Award of Richard Richardson of the Devizes in the county of Wilts William Jennings of piddletown in the County of Dorset and James Pepler of the parish of Calne in the said County of Wilts Gentlemen

Whereas in and by a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the thirty second year of the reign of his present Majesty King George the Third Intituled "an Act for dividing allotting and laying in severalty the open and Common Fields Common Pastures and other Commonable Lands or Grounds within the parish of Ogbourne Saint George in the County of Wilts" The said Richard Richardson and James Pepler together with Richard Blaxham therein named were appointed Commissioners [etc]

And whereas [the Commissioners] did pursuant and according to the Directions of the said Act make or cause to be made a true and perfect Survey and Admeasurement Plan and Valuation of the said open Fields Common Pastures and other Commonable Lands or Grounds and found that the said open Fields Common Pastures and other Commonable Lands or Grounds did contain together in the whole One thousand six hundred and twenty four Acres and twenty four Perches including the publick and private Roads herein set out appointed and described.

And whereas the said acting Commissioners in further pursuance of the Powers vested in them by said Act Did set out and appoint such convenient publick and private Roads through and over the said Fields Common Pastures and other Commonable Lands or Grounds as are hereinafter described containing in the whole Fifty eight Acres one Rood and one Perch And as soon as the said Survey Plan and Valuation were adjusted did set out and allot to the Lords of the Manor of Ogborne Saint George and Ogborne St. Andrew such two Parcels of the said Commonable Lands as are hereinafter awarded and confirmed to the said Lords for the purpose hereinafter mentioned And from and immediately after making the said last mentioned Allotments and deducting a sufficient Quantity of the said Lands in the said Act directed to be divided and allotted for the purpose of setting out Roads and Ways Did set out ascertain divide and allot All the residue of the same

Common Fields and other the Premises by the said Act directed or intended to be divided and allotted unto and among several and immediate Owners or Proprietors thereof the Persons having Right of Common or other property in or over the same or any parts thereof at the time of making such Allotments in proportion to their several and respective Lands Rights of Common and other Rights and properties therein respectively as aforesaid.

And whereas the said acting commissioners in further Execution of the Powers vested in them by the said Act have prepared or caused to be prepared and do hereby publish and declare this to be their Award for the purposes of the said Act mentioned And do hereby describe the Roads Ways and Foot Paths hereinbefore mentioned to have been as aforesaid set out and appointed by them in manner hereinafter mentioned (that is to say) one Publick Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out called Millway and High Street Way being part of an ancient Road leading from Mildenhall towards Swindon in the said County of Wilts beginning on the north side of Bitham Down belonging to the Trustees of John Brathwaite Esquire in the said Parish of Ogborne Saint George and extending from thence northward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said late Common Fields called Redlands and Boarlands to White field Farm in the said Parish of Ogbourne St. George One other Public Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is marked or staked out called Draycott Way being part of an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. Andrew towards Draycott both in the said County of Wilts beginning at the south side of the late Common Field called West halve at the south west corner of an Allotment hereinafter numbered 34 and awarded to Charles Masters and Elizabeth Masters and extending from thence northward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the Field called the West halve and the said late Common Field there called Whitehill to the south end of an ancient Lane in Ogbourne St. George aforesaid called Coomb Lane and commencing again at the north end of Coomb Lane aforesaid and extending from thence in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the other of the said late Common Fields called Whitehill the West Field to Hesseck Farm in the Parish of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid at or near the north west corner of an Allotment hereinafter numbered 85 and awarded to John Cole. One other Public Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. George aforesaid towards Ruckley branching out of the last mentioned Road at or near a place in Westfield called Westfield Green at the south east corner of an Allotment already set out and hereinafter numbered 57 and awarded to James Hyam and extending from thence westward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said late Common Field and Down called the west Field and West Down into the parish of Ogbourne St. Andrew aforesaid. One other Public Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out called the Long Lane Road being part of an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. George aforesaid towards Aldbourne lying at the East end of the Village of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid at a place there called Townsend Green and extending from thence Eastward in or near its ancient course

or direction through and over the said Common Field called Redlands and the said late Common pastures called the Cow Down and Sheep Down to an ancient Gate called the Warren Gate in or near the Parish of Aldbourne aforesaid in the said County of Wilts which said Road or Way is part of an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. George aforesaid towards Aldbourne aforesaid and is called Long Lane Road. One other Public Road and way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from Marlborough towards Wanborough in the said County of Wilts beginning at the north end of Bitham Farm adjoining the Down and extending from thence northward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over Allotments in the said late Common Pastures called the Cow Down and Sheep Down hereinafter numbered 42, 56, 69, 23 and 45 and respectively awarded to James Smith Thomas Chance John Richens John Griffin and the Trustees of John Brathwaite Esquire to a certain place in the Parish of Ogbourne aforesaid called Wanborough Gate adjoining the Parish of Aldbourne. One other publick Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. George aforesaid towards Ramsbury in the county of Wilts branching out of the aforesaid Mill Way at the South West corner of the Allotment numbered 56 and extending from thence eastward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said Common Field called Redlands and the said late Common of Pasture called the Sheep Down into a certain Lane leading to Ramsbury at a place called Gravesend. One other publick Road and Way of the breadth of Forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from the south end of the village of Ogbourne St. George towards Wanborough beginning at the north west corner of the said late Common Field called Macehill and extending from thence eastward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said last mentioned Field and said late Common pasture called the Sheep Down No. 42 and 56 till it falls into the aforesaid Road hereinbefore described leading from Marlborough towards Wanborough at or near a certain pond called Rushmore pond. And one other publick Road and way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient road leading from Ramsbury towards Wanborough aforesaid beginning at an ancient Gate in the said parish of Ogbourne St. George called Cowcroft Gate and extending from thence northward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over an Allotment in the late Common pasture called the Sheep Down and the Cow Down hereinafter no. 23 and awarded to John Griffin into the aforesaid Road hereinbefore described as leading from Marlborough towards Wanborough aforesaid. One other public Road or way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out branching out of the aforesaid Public Road called Draycott Way at or near the north west corner of an Allotment hereinafter awarded to Job Matthew no. 58 and extending in a south east direction to the north west end of Halham Drove leading to Halham Bridge. One Publick Foot Road or Way of the breadth of four feet as the same is now marked out being part of an ancient Road leading from the South to the north end of the said Village of Ogbourne St. George beginning at an ancient stile at or near the south west corner of an Allotment in the

said late Common Field called Burslade hereinafter no. 21 and awarded to John Griffin and extending from thence in a north eastward direction and in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said last mentioned Allotment and also through and over an Allotment hereinafter no. 6 and awarded to John Wooldredge to an ancient stile in the west boundary of an old Inclosure called the Landy belonging to the said John Griffin. One other public Road or Way of the breadth of four feet as the same is now marked or staked out the same being part of an ancient Road leading from the south east end of the village of Ogbourne St. George towards the Church and beginning at or near the aforesaid ancient stile at the said south west corner of the before mentioned Allotment no. 21 and extending from thence northward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said last mentioned Field into the south end of an ancient Lane or Church Road in Ogbourne St. George aforesaid at or near the south west corner of an old Inclosure then belonging to the said John Wooldredge called Flums Close. One other Publick Foot Road or Way of the breadth of four feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from the village of Ogbourne St. George towards Marlborough branching out of the aforesaid Foot Road leading from the south to the north end of the said Village of Ogbourne St. George in the aforesaid Allotment no. 21 and extending from thence westward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the said last mentioned Allotment and also through and over an Allotment in the late Common Field called Burslade hereinafter no. 51 and awarded to Philip Pearce to the north boundary of an old Inclosure in Ogbourne St. George aforesaid called the Home Close belonging to the said Philip Pearce. One other public foot Road or Way of the breadth of four feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from the village of Ogbourne St. George towards the Church beginning at the west corner of an Allotment in Swinghill hereinafter no. 29 and awarded to William Goddard and extending in a north east direction over the said Allotment to an ancient stile in the eastern boundary of an old Inclosure belonging to Herswick Farm. One other publick Foot Road or way as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Way leading from the village of Ogbourne St. George to Whitefield Farm beginning at an ancient stile called Hop Yard Stile in the East Boundary of an old Inclosure called Bushy Cow Lease belonging to Herswick Farm and extending from thence northward in or near its ancient course or direction under or adjoining to the eastern boundaries of other old Inclosures belonging to Herswick Farm through and over the Allotments in the said late Common Fields called Borelands hereinafter nos. 17, 16, 70, 72, 64 and 28 and respectively awarded to Elizabeth Wooldredge Catherine Paine John Reynolds John Crook and William Goddard. One other Public Foot Road or Way of the breadth of four feet as the same is now marked or staked out being part of an ancient Road leading from the south to the north end of the village of Ogbourne St. George beginning at an ancient stile in the north boundary of an old Inclosure in Ogbourne St. George belonging to the Trustees of John Brathwayte called the Garston and extending from thence north eastward in or near its ancient course or direction through and over the late Common Field called Kempshill on the north west side of

Allotments hereafter no. 20 and 79 and respectively awarded to the said John Griffin and Moore Goddard to its entrance into an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. George towards Marlborough. And one other Public Foot Road or Way of the breadth of four feet as the same is now marked or staked out being other part of an ancient Road leading from Ogbourne St. George aforesaid towards Marlborough beginning at Halham Drove aforesaid at the north east corner of an Allotment to Job Matthew and extending from thence south westward in its ancient course over the said Allotment and Allotments to Elizabeth Brunsdon Charles Masters and Elizabeth Masters to an ancient Stile in the north east boundary of the parish of Ogbourne St. Andrew aforesaid. One Private Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked and staked out branching out of the aforesaid Public Road leading from Ogbourne St. George towards Ruckeley at or near the north west corner of an Allotment in the said Field called West Field hereinafter no. 57 and awarded to James Hyam and extending from thence northwards through and over the said Field called West Field to an Allotment hereinafter no. 81 and awarded to Thomas Ryder Esquire as part of Heswick Farm which said Private Road is bounded by several Allotments in the said Field called Westfield hereinafter respectively awarded to James Hyam John Winter and the Trustees of John Brathwaite no. 57, 54, and 47 on the north east side thereof and the several Allotments in the said last mentioned Field hereinafter no. 26, 25, and 38 and respectively awarded to Thomas Hemm and Richard Hemm on the south west side thereof. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private Carriage and Drift Way for the Use of the owners and occupiers for the time being of the aforesaid Farm called Heswick Farm and of the several Allotments adjoining thereto and to which the same leads. One other Private Road and way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked and staked out branching out of the said Public Road called Draycott Way in or near the Middle of the west side of an Allotment in the said Field called West Field hereinafter no. 65 and award to John Crook and extending from thence eastward over the said last mentioned Allotment and an Allotment in the same Field hereinafter no. 50 and awarded to Philip Pearce to the west end of Woolmoor Lane and commencing again at the east end of the said Lane and continuing in the same direction over the late Common Fields called Boor Lands until the same enters the Public Roads hereinbefore described called High Street Way. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private carriage and drift way for the use of the Owners and occupiers for the time being of Lands in or heretofore part of the said late Common Field called the West Field. One other Road and Way of the breadth of thirty feet as the same is now marked and staked out beginning at the east end of Jubbs Lane and extending from thence in an Eastward Direction over the late Common Field called Swinghill between the allotment hereinafter no. 85 and awarded to Sarah Manning on the south side and the Allotments hereinafter no. 22 and 87 and awarded to John Griffin and William Liddiard on the north side and through and over an allotment hereinafter no. 3 and awarded to John Wooldredge into High Street way aforesaid at or near a place called Chapel Stone. And the said Commissioners do

hereby order and determine that the said Road or way shall be and remain a private carriage and drift way for the use of all the Owners or Occupiers of Lands in the Parish of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid for the time being. And also a public Foot Road or Way for all persons whomsoever to pass and repass at their pleasure. One other private Road and Way of the breadth of twenty feet as the same is marked and staked out beginning at the west side of an old Inclosure of the said John Wooldredge called Flums Close and extending from thence westward over the allottments hereinafter no. 5 and 53 and respectively awarded to the said John Wooldredge and John Winter in the late Common Field called Burslade [“to an” deleted] ancient Road leading into an old Inclosure of the said John Griffin called Broad Mead, which Road or way shall be and remain a Private Carriage and Drift Way for the use of the owners or Occupiers for the time being of the Allottments over which the same passes an which adjoin thereto and of the several Inclosures to which the same leads. One other private Road and Way of the breadth of twenty feet branching out of the last mentioned Road at the north west corner of an Allottment hereinafter no. 76 and awarded to William Bennett and extending from thence Southward over the aforesaid Allottment no. 53 till it enters an Allottment hereinafter no. 46 and awarded to the executors of the said John Brathwaite. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a Private Carriage Road and Drift Way for the use of the owners or Occupiers for the time being of the Allottments over which the same passes and for the Allottment to which the same leads. One Private Road and Way of the breadth of sixty six feet as the same is now marked or staked out branching out of the aforesaid Publick Road called High Street Way at the north west Corner of the Allottment in the late Common Sheep Down called Churchill Down hereinafter no. 52 and awarded to the said Philip Pearce and extending from thence in an eastward direction over the said last mentioned Allottment till it enters the Allottment hereinafter no. 66 and awarded to the said John Crook. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private Carriage and Drift Way for the use of the said John Crook and the future Owners or Occupiers for the time being of his last said mentioned Allottment. One private Road and Way of the breadth of forty feet as the same is now marked or staked out branching out of the aforesaid Public Road leading from Marlborough towards Wanborough over the Downs at a Pond called Rushmore Pond and extending from thence in an Eastward Direction through and over the Allottment in the late Common Sheep Down hereinafter no. 69 and awarded to John Richens till it enters an old Inclosure belonging to the said John Richens and then turning northeast ward and extending in that direction through and over the said last mentioned Allotment by the side of Old Inclosures belonging to James Smith and the said Trustees of John Brathwaite to the end of Cowstreet Lane. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private Carriage Road and Drift Way for the Use of the owners or Occupiers for the time being of the said Allottment over which the same passes and also for the use of the Owners and Occupiers of the said several Old Inclosures to which the same leads. One Private Road and Way of the breadth of

forty feet as the same is now marked and staked out beginning at the end of Macehill Drove and extending from thence in an eastward direction through and over an Allotment in the late Common Sheep Down hereinafter no. 42 and awarded to the said James Smith at or near the North Boundary of Bytham till it enters the publick Road hereinbefore described and called the Public Road and leading from Marlborough towards Wanborough over the Downs and then continuing in the same Direction through and over other part of the said Allotment and by the north side of Bytham Farm until it enters the eastward Allotment hereinafter no. 2 and awarded to the Lords of the Manor for the time being for ever In Trust for the Poor. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private Carriage Road and Drift Way for the Use of the owners and occupiers of the Allotments over which the same passes and to which the same leads. One Private Road and Way of the breadth of thirty feet as the same is now marked and staked out branching out of the aforesaid publick Road called Draycott Way at the north east corner of an Allotment in the late Common Field called West Field hereinafter no. 47 and awarded to the Trustees of the said John Brathwaite and extending from thence westward into through and over the Allotments hereinafter nos. 13 and 12 and awarded to the said John Wooldredge till it enters the Allotment hereinafter no. 11 and awarded also to the said John Wooldredge. And the Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private Carriage and Drift Way for the Use of the owners and occupiers for the time being of the said several Allotments over which the same passes and to which the same leads. One Private Road or Way of the breadth of twenty feet as the same is now marked and staked out beginning at the south east end of Screech's Lane and extending from thence in a south east Direction over part of the late Common Fields called Garston Ends until it enters an Allotment to James Smith no. 41. And the said Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a private Carriage and Drift Way for the Use of the Owners and Occupiers of the Allotments adjoining the same and for the use of the Owners and Occupiers of the Old Inclosures adjoining the said Lane called Screech's Lane. And one Road or Way of the breadth of twenty feet as the same is now marked and staked out beginning at the south west end of an allotment hereinafter no. 89 and awarded to the Trustees of Thomas Rider and extending from thence northward on the east side of the Homestead belonging to the said Thomas Rider and the Churchyard of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid. And the Commissioners do hereby order and determine that the said Road or Way shall be and remain a Common Way to and from the said Parish Church of Ogbourne St. George aforesaid. And the said Commissioners do hereby allot the Grass and Herbage growing and renewing in and upon such of the said publick and private Roads and Ways here inbefore set out and appointed as lead through or over any of the Allotments hereinafter described to the respective Proprietors of such Allotments so far as such Roads or Ways lead through or over the same.

And the said acting Commissioners in further pursuance of the powers vested in them by the said Act do by this their Award confirm unto the Lords of the Manor

*Number of
Allotments*

aforesaid All those two Allotments or Parcels of the said Commonable Lands lying within the said Parish of Ogbourne St. George next hereinafter described and hereinbefore mentioned to have been set out and allotted to them by the said acting Commissioners for raising Furze or other Fuel for the use of all and every the poor Inhabitants of the same Parish for ever according to the tenour and directions of the said Act (that is to say) One Allotment or Parcel of Land containing eleven Acres two Roods and nine Perches situate on Bitham Down bounded on the west and on part of the north by the Allotment to James Smith no. 42, in other part on the north and on the east by the Allotment to Job Matthews no. 60, and on the south by Lands belonging to Bitham farm. And one other Allotment or parcel of Land containing eight acres and twenty-three perches situate on Bitham Down aforesaid bounded on the West and North by the aforesaid Allotment to Job Matthews no. 60 on the east by Lands in the Parish of Mildenhall aforesaid and on the South by Lands belonging to Bitham Farm aforesaid. And the said acting Commissioners confirm the several Allotments hereinafter described and hereinbefore mentioned to have been by the said Commissioners set out ascertained divided and allotted unto and among such owners or proprietors thereof and other persons as aforesaid (who are hereinafter respectively named) for or in lieu of their several and respective Lands Rights of Common and other properties hereinafter mentioned And have given such Directions as they have thought necessary to whom the boundary Fences of the said several Allotments shall respectively belong as hereinafter expressed (that is to say) the said acting Commissioners have set out and allotted and by these presents do confirm unto John Wooldredge for and in lieu of ... his freehold estate called Princehold the two several Allotments or Parcels of Land next hereinafter mentioned (that is to say) One Allotment or Parcel of Land containing thirty-four acres two roods nineteen perches stiuat in Swinghill and Boar Lands and bounded [etc] And one other Allotment or Parcel of Land no.3A containing [blank] situate in Redlands Field and the Down adjoining and bounded [etc] And the said acting Commissioners have set out and allotted unto John Wooldredge One Allotment or Parcel of Land containing two hundred and thirteen acres two roods twenty-five perches situate in Redlands Field and the Down adjoining. One other Allotment or Parcel of Land containing thirtyfour perches situate in Burslade and adjoining to the said old Inclosure of the said John Wooldredge called Flums Close and bounded on the north and west by the said Close on the South by the Allotment to William Bennett no. 76 and on the West by the publick Church Path leading across Burslade And one other Allotment or Parcel of Land containing one acre eleven perches being a new Plantation of Wood situate at Whitehill and bounded on the North by an old Inclosure belonging to the said John Wooldredge called Coomb Close on the East by the Publick Road leading from Ogbourne St. Andrew towards Draycott and on the south and west by an Allotment to Elizabeth Brunsdon no. 37. And the said Commissioners have set out and allowed ... unto and for the said Thomas Ryder for and in lieu of the Lands Rights of Common and other Properties in the Open and Common Fields Common Pastures and other Commonable Lands or Grounds belonging to his Leasehold Estate there All those two Allotments next hereinafter described that is

*No. 1**No. 2**No. 3**No. 3a**No. 4**No. 5**No. 8*

to say All that Allottment or Parcel of Ground containing ten acres one rood and twenty-five perches situate in the late Common Field called the West Field and bounded on the east by an old Inclosure belonging to the said John Wooldredge called Crockers Garston on the south by ... and on all other parts and sides thereof by Lands belonging to the said Thomas Ryder. One other Allottment or Parcel of Land late part of the Waste land of the said Manor containing a Quarter of an Acre lying near the Church and bounded on the East by Old Inclosures on the south by the Street and on all other Parts and Sides thereof by Lands belonging to the said Thomas Rider and the Church Yard. And the said Commissioners do hereby direct that the Boundary Fences of the Allottment on such parts as are hereinafter mentioned shall belong to the said Thomas Rider (that is to say) on such parts of the said Allottment no. 81 as adjoining the Allottments of the said John Wooldredge and the Trustees of John Brathwaite And of the Allottment no. 82 in such part as adjoins the Street. And the said Commissioners have set out and allotted Drucilla Richens four acres three roods ten perches situate in the late Common Field called Westfield bounded part north by Sarah Manning no. 87 part by Thomas Potter no. 33 east by lands belonging to Thomas Ryder south Drusilla Richens no. 84 [Also to Drusilla Richens] four acres in Westfield.

In witness whereof the said Richard Richardson, William Jennings, and James Pepler here hereunto set their Hands and Seals the twenty seventh day of May in the 36th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George III ... and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six.

Description of The Manor House

by Nicholas Cooper,
of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

A house of equal sophistication [to West Woodhay, described in the previous paragraphs] but whose history is particularly tantalising is Ogbourne St. George in Wiltshire (pl ...)¹. The front of Ogbourne is immediately deceptive; it was transformed in the eighteenth century with new windows and in the twentieth century with a new front door (itself a perfectly genuine Georgian one), but the original character of the house can be seen in the unaltered rear elevation: this has stone surrounds to tall, mullioned and transomed windows in a local vernacular manner. Until recently the house bore a date of 1619 on the chimney², and this would be readily acceptable for these details as also for the principal staircase with turned balusters, the only substantial part of the original decoration to survive internally. However the plan is a double pile of unusual form, with the front rooms heated in the spine wall, the rear rooms in the end gables. While in plan the house is very advanced for such a date, in its silhouette it is unbelievably so. The rear range is gabled at either end, but the roof of the front range is hipped and swept in a manner occurring in Jones's house for Lord Maltravers, dated to the late 1630s³.

The dating of the house is made more problematical still in that its undoubted builder, Thomas Bond, did not acquire it (on a long lease from Kings College, Cambridge) until 1621; his predecessor was described as 'yeoman' in his deeds. Most tantalising of all is that according to John Aubrey (who as a Wiltshire man is likely to have known) Bond travelled abroad with Sir John Danvers whose extremely advanced London house was described on page Danvers's own country house, where he made a garden as renowned as the one he made in London, was at Lavington in the same county⁴. It is difficult to know how to interpret Ogbourne. The most obvious explanation is that it is an enlargement by Bond of a house built by his predecessor that had originally been only one room deep, but there is no structural evidence of this in the house, nor do the details of the plan support it. Even if the date of 1619 has to be discarded and a date of some ten or fifteen years later has to be preferred on grounds of probability, Ogbourne is still an exceptional building and one that by its appearance and its plan one would have no difficulty in attributing to a member of the circle of the Royal Works. Through Danvers at least, Bond must have been in touch with the most advanced cultural circles.

(1998)

1 Christopher Hussey, 'The Manor House, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire' *Country Life* 92 1942, 1226-9 (see Appendix VII).

2 Now removed, but preserved in the cellar

3 John Harris and Gordon Higott, *Inigo Jones: Complete Architectural Drawings*, New York, 1989

4 Aubrey, *Natural History of Wiltshire*, ed. John Britton, London 1847, 93. See also Strong 1979 179-81

COUNTRY LIFE – DECEMBER 25, 1942

THE MANOR HOUSE, OGBOURNE ST. GEORGE, WILTS.

THE HOME OF MR. AND HON. MRS. OLIVER FROST

A former property of King's College, Cambridge, and previously an "alien" priory, the Court Rolls of the Manor are among the oldest in existence. The date 1619 on the house probably indicates its age.

COLLEGE bursaries can tell some of the oldest of all stories about the land and its people. Lately we explored Parsonage Farm at Stanton Harcourt in these pages, which belongs to All Souls College, Oxford, and whose tenants had kept everything about the house just as it was in Charles II's time. The manor of Ogbourne St. George, remote in the Wiltshire Downs between Marlborough and Swindon, has had a great number of tenants and was one of Henry VI's original endowments of King's College, Cambridge, in 1441. Before that it had belonged to a Norman abbey, Bec Herlouin, whose muniments passed with the property and so carry the intimate records of these fields and their cultivators back longer than the annals of Parliament – to about 1246.

There are two Ogbournes (Domesday: Ocheburne = Occa's stream). St. Andrew lies two miles south along the valley from St. George. In Domesday, Miles Crispin held "Ocheburne Harold", some 3,000 acres in extent, of the King. Soon after 1100 both manors are found in the hands of Maud of Wallingford, heiress of the prominent Oxfordshire Norman family of D'Oiley, and she gave them to Bec Abbey. Ogbourne forthwith became the capital "cell" of the Benedictines of Bec in this country, and there is reference to a priory being built here. No vestiges of any buildings survive, and the community was dissolved in 1414 by Henry V under his suppression of the "alien" priories – a security measure prompted by the belief that foreign priests were fifth columnists, or at least spies, in the pay of France. There followed a confused period, during which the King's brother, John, Duke of Bedford, assigned the spiritualities of the manor to the short-lived college attached to St. George's Chapel, Windsor, whose management of their properties was so lax that a Commission of Enquiry was appointed in 1438. The temporalities were soon afterwards given by Henry VI to King's, but, after his deposition, were transferred by the Yorkist *régime* to the London Charterhouse. Eventually, under Henry VIII, King's was confirmed in possession of Ogbourne on payment of an annual sum to the Charterhouse, which, however, was shortly afterwards dissolved, and with King's the manor remained till 1927.

All this seems to have made very little difference to the people of Ogbourne, who followed the rotation of the seasons on a mediæval manor, with their ploughings and sowings and reapings and holidays, whoever their lord might be. The Court Rolls, some of which are among the earliest known, are those of a Court Baron, dealing with such matters as surrenders and admittances to copyhold land, the appointment of constables and tything men, the upkeep of roads and bridges, trimming hedges and cleaning ditches; and a View of Francpledge, *i.e.* a court resembling the modern petty sessions, which dealt with trespasses on the common

land or their overloading with cattle, small debts, and assaults. The smallest misdemeanours came before it. In 1315 Walter Upham was fined 3d. for letting his chickens trespass in the corn of the lord (the Herlouin monks seem to have been aggravating landlords). At the same court a man called Walter Niwomen was fined 6d. because his dog trespassed on the land of Dom Robert the chaplain. In 1342 the vicar got into trouble for that he “unjustly drew the blood of William Webb’s pledge,” *i.e.* someone who was standing surety for Webb. In Tudor times the downlands begin to give some local colour to these personal fragments. A horse-thief, one Nicolas Williams *alias* Michael Thomas in 1523 tried to take sanctuary in the church; 50 years later tenants of the manor were forbidden to keep greyhounds – perhaps the College gentlemen were asserting their sporting rights over the downs – and, oddly, many persons were prosecuted for unlawfully playing “ball”. This was in the cause of national defence: it was feared that the encouragement of ball games might attract boys from the more important pastime of archery. Several Acts of Parliament were passed in Elizabeth’s and James I’s reigns prohibiting idle games.

In later centuries the College met the rise in real values, not by raising the rent, but charging each new tenant of the manor a large fine, which began to be supplemented in the sixteenth century with annual payments in kind. The then tenant had to drive to Cambridge “ten score fat weathers”, each of which had to weigh at least 40 lb after its head had been cut off and the heart and entrails removed. In 1605 this number was reduced to six score, plus a quota of wheat and barley. By 1700 the tenant had to deliver 20 carcasses in addition to the live wethers. This payment “by drove” was not commuted to cash (£126) till 1804. By then a more familiar feature of the Wiltshire landscape is referred to in a lease: the existence of racing stables in a field on the property.

But among all the mass of records, which would give material for an almost complete social history of a mediæval manor, there is little information about the manor house. Almost as soon as the property had come into the hands of the College, it was leased to the family of Goddard, of whom Thomas and his wife (d. 1517) are commemorated by a brass in the church. The tenants were made responsible for the repair and upkeep of the buildings except in regard to “stone and great timber”. Since the existing house is built of brick, no entries occur under that head, and only relatively small sums in respect of stone and timber are 1516, and £6 17s. 6d. (for repairs which were disallowed) in 1517. There is, however, a survey plan compiled in 1751 (Fig. 7) by John Doharty of Worcester, which gives the impression that the house was once a good deal larger.

Then, as now, the village street led off the Marlborough road towards the farm and yards of the manor farm. Taking a turn round these, the approach brought one to a pair of gate-piers in front of the house, which still exist. West of the house was the pigeon-cote and the “race-horse stables”, and to the east lay a long bowling green (Fig. 1) with the church alongside it. But the plan shows a U-shaped house, with wings running northwards forming a court, whereas to-day there is no sign of them on what is now the entrance front (Fig. 4).

The house in its present form is a rectangle, roofed with two parallel ridges joined at the ends so that the effect is of a hipped roof. At either end is a massive chimney stack (Fig. 2). The walls are of a mellow brick on a stone foundation. The north front retains mullioned and transomed windows, but the south front was evidently modernised towards the end of the eighteenth century, when sash windows were inserted, apparently retaining the original drip-mouldings. The front door has a flat hood of which the brackets, early Georgian in type, were found elsewhere. On the end walls ordinary sash windows were inserted, in some cases making use of the earlier relieving arches which are a feature of the little-altered north front. Beside the east chimney is an almost round-headed stone doorway; other original details are of late Tudor or Jacobean type.

The south front is occupied by two rooms of which that west of the centre line is now the library (Fig. 8) and seems, from its wide fireplace, to have always been the principal living-room – probably the hall of the original house. Its door of entry is evidently the former front door of the house (Fig. 6), re-erected in this position. The middle of the north side is occupied by a staircase hall, entered from the front door beneath the banding of the fine old oak staircase (Fig. 5). Adjoining it in the northeast corner is the dining-room (Fig. 10). Its panelling is probably contemporary with the staircase which, with its Inigo Jones pattern balusters, is unlikely to be earlier than about 1620.

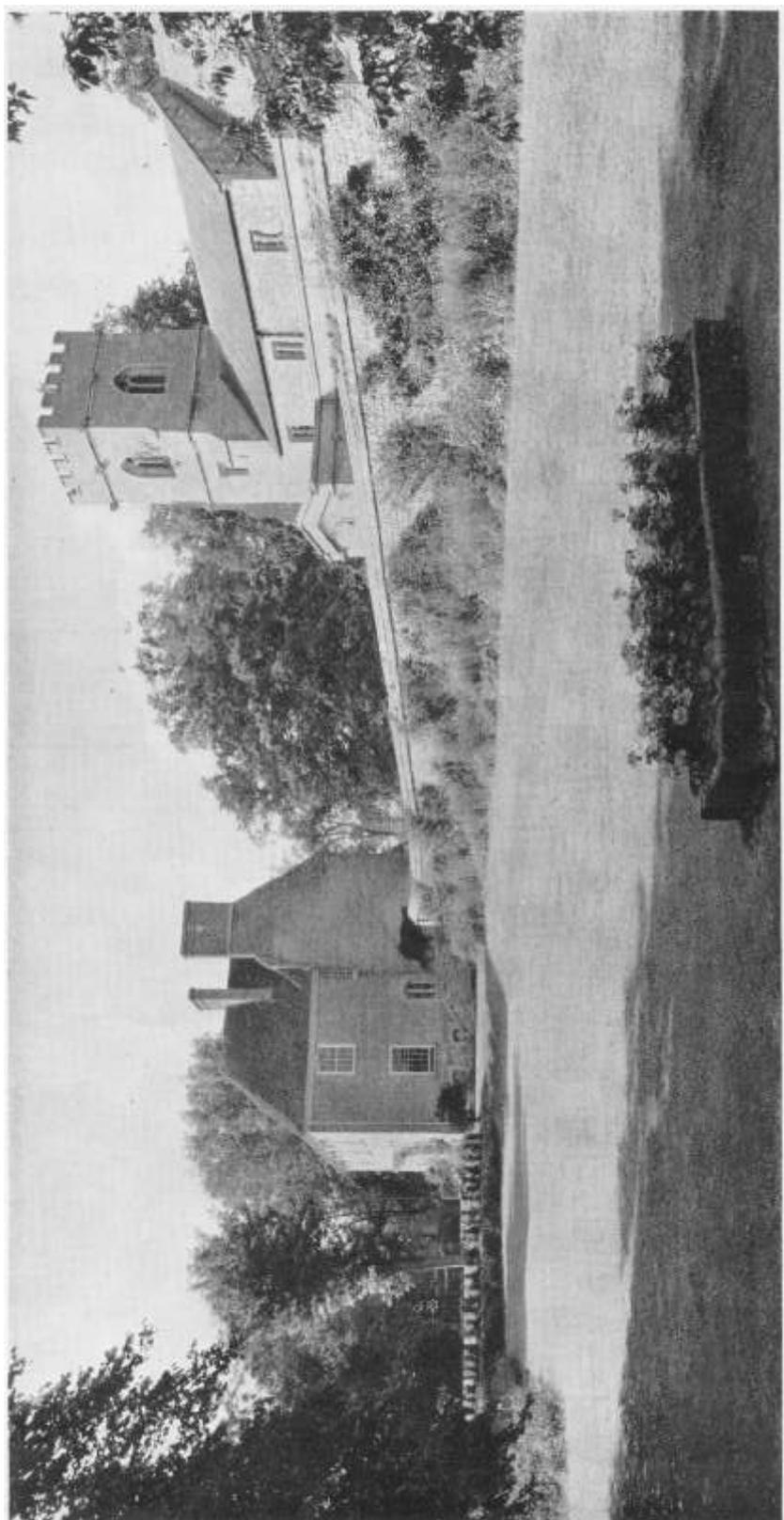
The date 1619 occurs in a stone panel at the top of the east chimney stack. This may well be the date of the house's building. Hitherto the occupants had been, so far as one can tell from the leases, of the yeoman type. But in 1623 it was let to Thomas Bond of the Middle Temple. It is possible that Bond was a trustee, but he continued as lessee till 1648, when John Hall of Gray's Inn obtained it, and in 1663 John Bond resumed the lease and is described as "of Ogbourne". Again in 1693 a London man became lessee, John Jeffreys of St. Mary Axe.

The most likely time for a reconstruction of the house was at the juncture when it was ceasing to be a tenant farmer's home pure and simple. Possibly a reduction in the rent from £69 to £46 made to Richard Younge, tenant, in 1605 may have been connected with his expenses in re-building, but he had also to find 34 quarters of wheat and 46 quarters of barley annually in lieu of the reduction. A date about 1620 is borne out by the plan and design of the house as it stands. The mediæval arrangement of a single-span roof and a hall was by then being generally abandoned in favour of more compact planning such as is illustrated by the placing of the staircase beside the hall here. In the original design there may well have been gabled dormers giving a more characteristically Jacobean air to the house, but done away with when the south front was altered. As to the wings shown in the survey plan, they were clearly no structural part of the 1620 house, which is complete as it stands. But on the east chimney the outline of a roof is traceable above the upper floor suggesting that a wing was subsequently added here, and presumably on the other side too. The basement may possibly be of monastic origin, since there is the opening to a vaulted passage apparently running in the direction of the church.

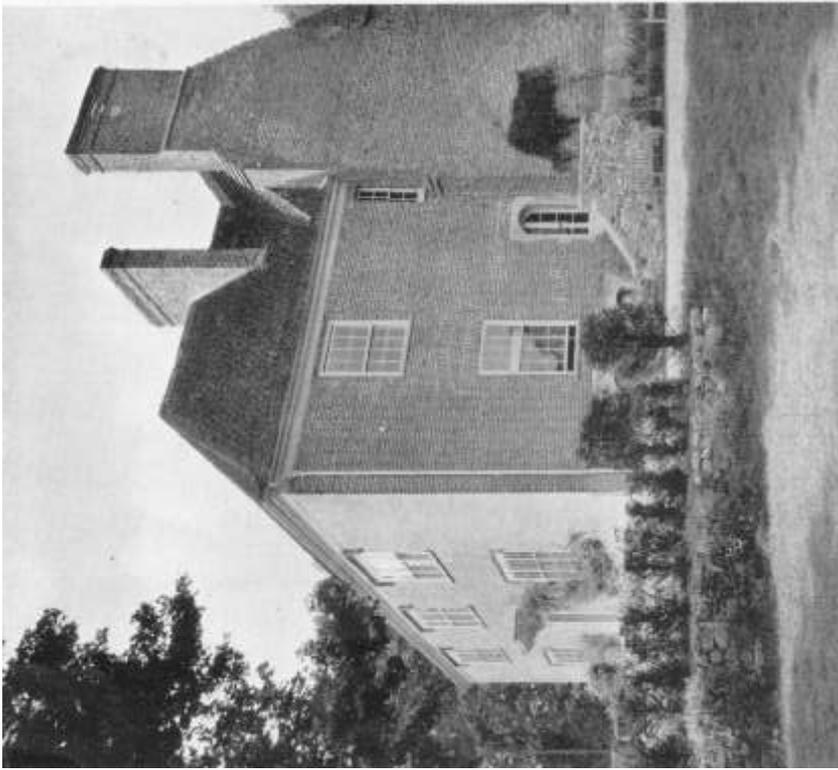
After various Londoners had leased the manor, in 1747 it was taken by the Right Hon. Horatio Walpole, of Wolterton, the diplomat brother of the Prime Minister and later first Baron Walpole. His only evident connection with Ogbourne is that he was a Fellow of King's. If he shared his brother Robert's interest in sport, a point on which his biography is silent, he may have wanted a hunting or hawking "box" on the Wiltshire downs. Otherwise his motive is obscure. Succeeding tenants were Thomas Halton of Savile Row (1755), Peter Thomegay, merchant, of College Hill (till 1777), Thomas Ryder of Lincoln's Inn (1782-1804). The interest of these city gentlemen in this remote little house may have been connected with a racing stable. Subsequently members of the Canning family held the lease for many years. In 1927 the College sold the freehold to the late Major Harry Colemore, 7th Hussars, who established a racing stable on the property. He sold it in 1934 to the late Mrs. Winifred Eva Tatton, and she, in 1936, to the present owner.

The interest of Mr. Frost's alterations, for which the architects were Messrs. Pakington and Enthoven, lies in the way the bones of the old house have been dealt with in a sympathetic but contemporary manner. Everything possible has been done to conserve original character where this existed; for example the three-light bower windows on the south front are copied from those above, replacing later substitutes, and the garden door hood is new, using old brackets. But in the much altered interior, no attempt has been made to reproduce a period atmosphere. The library has, at either end, finely detailed but up-to-date oak bookcases, made by Andrew A. Pegram, who is also the maker of the walnut dining-room suite. Bedrooms and service quarters are entirely contemporary in treatment, for example the south-east bedroom (Fig. 9). This is as it should be in a house that, as shown by the researches made for Mr. Frost into the College records, has a most ancient history but has not taken a deep impress from any period or personality.

Christopher Hussey.



1.-MANOR HOUSE AND CHURCH FROM THE BOWLING GREEN



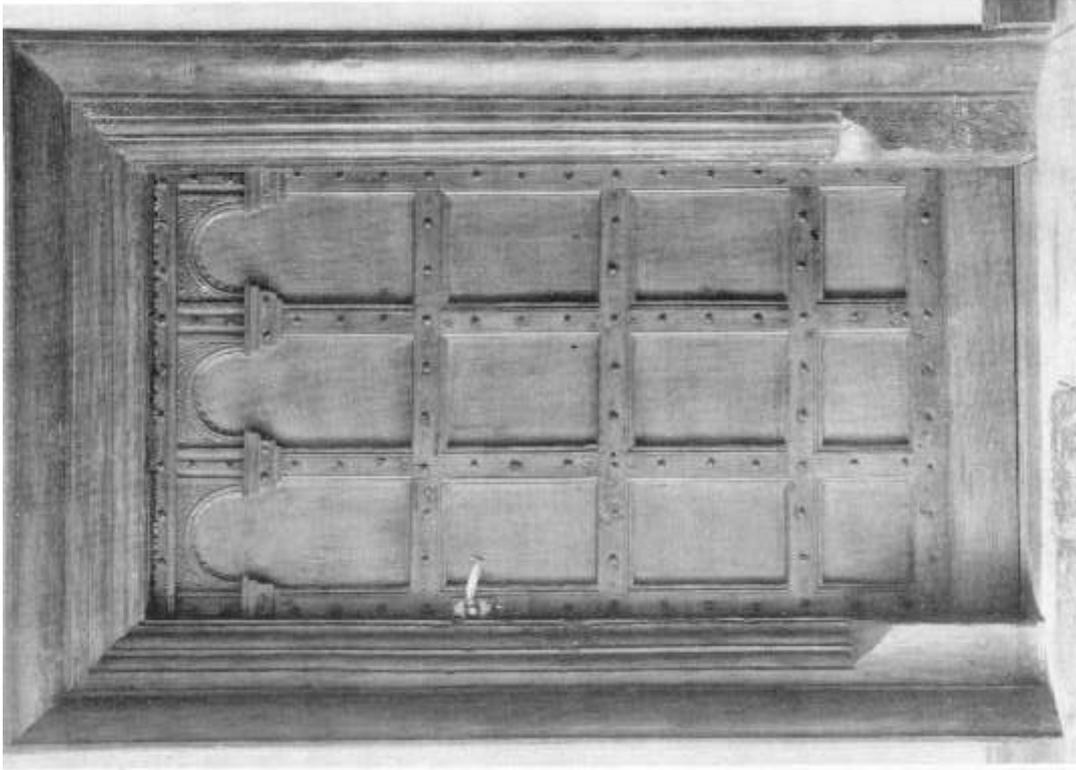
2. -JACOBAN BRICKWORK WITH GEORGIAN ALTERATIONS



3.-THE SOUTH FRONT AS ALTERED IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY



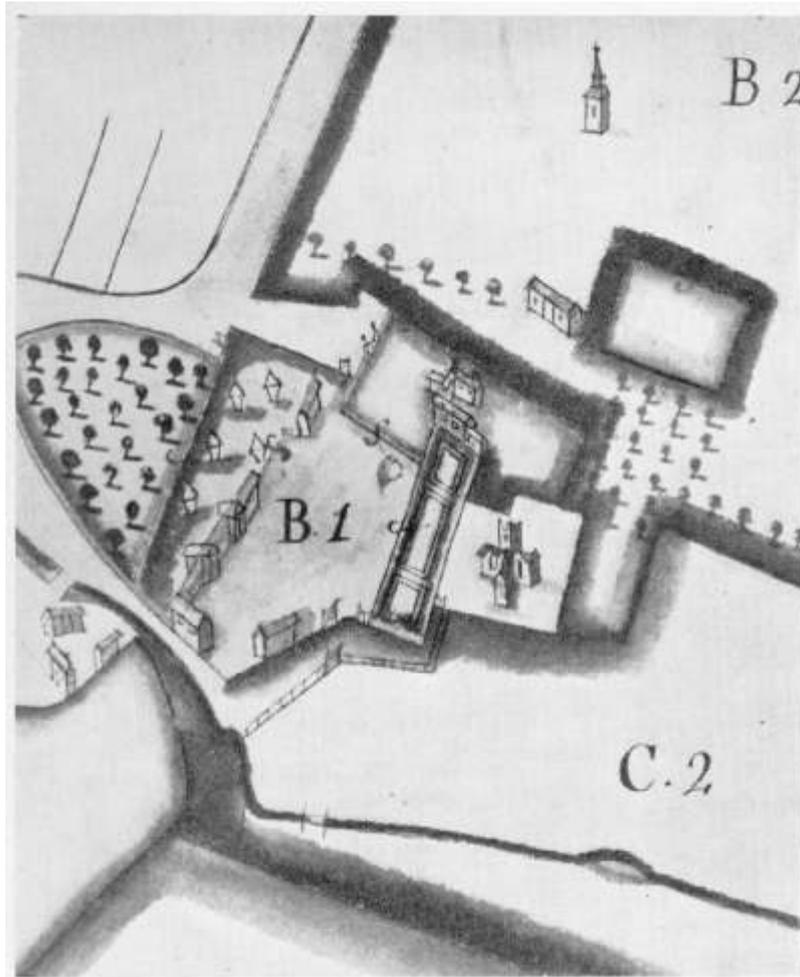
4.-THE JACOBEBAN NORTH FRONT



6.- FORMERLY THE FRONT DOOR,
NOW IN THE LIBRARY



5.- THE OAK STAIRCASE, PROBABLY
CONSTRUCTED ABOUT 1620



7.-THE MANOR IN 1751, FROM A SURVEY PLAN



8.-THE LIBRARY IN THE SOUTH FRONT



9.-A CONTEMPORARY BEDROOM



10.-THE DINING-ROOM, WITH PLEASANT
MODERN FURNITURE



The Manor House in May 2001