ON THE RECORD

Newsletter of the
Cambridgeshire Record Society

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Cambridgeshire Record Society

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Cover picture: Map of Cambridgeshire Coloured with Latin text by Johannes Blaeu, based on Saxton (1579) and Speed (1610), published in his *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum sive Atlas Novus*, Vol 4, Amsterdam 1648. It was reprinted in 1662 as *Geographia, quae est Cosmographiiae Blavianae, qua Orbis Terrae Tabulis ante oculos ponitar, et discriptionibus illustrator*, when it appears in Volume 5. (Courtesy of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society)

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Cambridgeshire Archives Update

We are now members of the Archive Card scheme which has superseded the CARN ticket system. The initial application is made online here https://archivescard.com/ then applicants are asked to show two forms of identification when they visit before we issue the card which is free of charge and valid for 5 years.

Opening times:

Huntingdonshire Archives

Day	Opening Hours
Monday	9.30am – 12.45am and 1.45pm - 5pm
Tuesday	9.30am – 12.45am and 1.45pm - 5pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9.30am – 12.45am and 1.45pm - 5pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Cambridgeshire Archives

Day	Opening Hours
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.30am – 12.45am and 1.45pm - 5pm
Wednesday	9.30am – 12.45am and 1.45pm - 5pm
Thursday	9.30am – 12.45am and 1.45pm - 5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

Both Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire Archives are **closed on public bank holidays.**

Accreditation

The service has applied for Accredited Archive status from the National Archives (TNA). Successfully winning accreditation would be the final seal of approval on our new building at Ely and on the quality of our service to the public as a whole. A team of TNA inspectors visited us at Ely and we received our accreditation in summer 2022.

New Accessions

We have received a number of interesting new accessions. These include:

R122/033 Eaden Lilley minutes, accounts, funeral register etc 1850-1994;

R122/022 Rowland Parker's Research Papers,

R122/062 William Marshall's Charity, Welney 1890-2022

Sue Sampson
Public Services Archivist

Forthcoming Publications

H. Falvey and S. Williams, *The Town and the University against the plague 1625-1630* This is a work in progress, more details to follow.

The Bassingbourn Field Book

The 2023 volume for members is The Bassingbourn field Book, edited by Valory Hurst, has just been received from the printers. The Bassingbourn Field Book was produced in the mid-1500s by Edmond Twyngho. His survey, which covered all of the parish of Bassingbourn, was revised twice within twenty years or so, in July 1570, and again in 1578.

The transcription set out in this volume was from a copy of the book written in 1695, or soon after. Evidence for the year the first survey was carried out is considered. The date on the front of the book is 1563, but research relating to the text itself and the activity of the crown during Queen Mary I's reign has suggested an alternative date for this. Also, it has offered a probable reason why the survey was undertaken. A review of other early field books and surveys of villages in Cambridgeshire has examined if any.

A view of the landscape of Bassingbourn in the mid-1500s and some of the people emerging from the book is followed by consideration of the possible location and history of the book until it was gifted to the parish library in 1871.

A Note for Possible Contributors

You have found an interesting or unique source which you think might make a good volume for the Cambridgeshire Records Society series, but you do not know what might be needed to submit a proposal and what protocols might be necessary to edit such a volume.

The first requirement, is of course, an accurate transcription or copy of the source with permission from the institution or owner to reproduce it.

You need to know and be able to discuss who made, the source, why and where it is about = context. This is to set the scene for the source. If this refers to a specific place then its geographical details need to be determined. Its topographical position and links with the wider world, landscape, industry and population at the time the source was produced should be included.

If this is a specific type of source then think about the problems in using this type of source, what it contains and what editorial conventions will be used to make the transcript clear. Examples of how others have used this type of source should be included. The editorial committee will be able to help with this.

References will be necessary, but do not worry about these as help and encouragement will be given by a member of the editorial team to help sort these out and how these should be presented in the editorial introduction. Remember if possible from the start to keep a list of works you have consulted for background reading, but if you have not done this then help will be at hand to trace these.

A bibliography is essential, and again help will be provided in sourcing item and how to present these.

You might ask should the editorial analyse the source? Ideally no. The aim of a Record Society volume should be to present the source and leave it to the reader to decide how this might be used to enhance the history of Cambridgeshire. A record society volume is not the equivalent of an academic monograph. However, if the source is part of your family history then this should be included and the persons mentioned in the source identified and how they fit into your family.

If all this seems daunting. Don't worry. Help will be available from when you first discover the source, to writing a formal proposal, and writing the introduction. The source you have discovered could be a manuscript, map, picture, or even a printed work no longer accessible. Give it a go and try your

idea out with the CRS editorial committee. We can be contacted at evelynlord9@gmail.com

Evelyn Lord

Latest Member Discount

Philip Saunders

The society is not a book club but we do recognise that enabling the publication of historical records comes at a price and its members deserve some reward for their loyalty. To this end we are offering **one-third discount of standard members' prices on any three or more different society publications** purchased at the same time. And if you hanker after completing your series back to *volume 1 The Letters of William Frend* (so far as they are available) and want to buy even more back volumes you can haggle with me for an even more generous discount.

We continue too to make the editions of the diaries of Joseph Romilly, University Registrary, *Romilly's Cambridge Diary for 1842-1847* and *Romilly's Cambridge Diary for 1848-1864*, edited by M.E. Bury and J.D. Pickles, available to members at a special price. Sadly this is because these volumes, on account of their size and ironically the small boxes they are contained in, are about our most expensive to store. The publications continued the work of J.P.T. Bury in making accessible this source, famous for their vivid and witty commentary on the life and society of Cambridge, and are much enhanced by their introductions and extensive notes. These are normally £8.50 each to members, plus postage, but for a limited period we are offering them at £5 for one volume or £10 for both, (*plus £3.00 inland postage where applicable).*

Wonderful Wimpole

In the early years of this century we assisted with the National Trust's publication of David Adshead's *Wimpole. Architectural Drawings and Topographical Views.* I don't need to sing its praises. Just *Google* it and read the glowing description on *Amazon.* Originally this was going to be a joint publication but ultimately the Trust published it alone. It is now considered out of print but I have just three pristine copies and am happy to sell at £12.00 each. First come, first served.

Your Christmas present problems solved

No it isn't too early, and who doesn't like a map? *Cambridge 1574-1904:A Porfolio of Twelve Maps,* has long been recognised as an essential reference tool for the history of Cambridge, and is also a wonderful way for the general reader

to become engaged with the city's history. You must have friends in this category. There's no special discount on this as it amazingly good value at just £9.00 (Members' price). For the more specialist and digitally-adept there's *Jonas Moore's Mapp of the Great Levell of the Fenns 1658,* facsimile of the unique surviving copy, with digital images of this and the 1684 and 1706 editions on CD and accompanying introductory booklet by Frances Willmoth and Elizabeth Stazicker. Available till 31 December 2023 at a reduced members' price of £17.50.

For any of these purchases ontact Philip Saunders (paksaunders@talk21.com). Postage extra in all cases, but if you want to save postage collection can be arranged from central Cambridge or Cottenham.

Cambridgeshire estate records at Trinity College, Cambridge

Adam C. Green

Trinity College has always derived the greater part of its income from land in one form or another, and its archive contains a wealth of records relating to these estates, including many in the college's home county. Most of this property was historically in the form of rectories (the right to the tithes of a parish) and advowsons (the right to nominate the parish priest), but it also owned a few manors and various other lands and tenements.

Trinity College was founded in 1546, but it inherited earlier records, some as early as the 13th century, of the properties with which it was endowed. Most of these relate to properties which had previously belonged to two medieval foundations, the King's Hall and Michaelhouse, which were dissolved to provide the site of the new college and part of its endowment.

Of these the King's Hall was formally founded and endowed by Edward III in 1337, though it had already been in existence as a body of scholars, largely drawn from the royal household, for twenty years. The king bought for his new college a house which stood in what is now the north-east corner of Great Court, and the site of the college was extended by various royal gifts and purchases in that century and the next. The deeds of title relating to these properties are in the archive. The college's endowment, which came piecemeal, included four properties in Cambridgeshire. The first of these comprised the rectory and advowson of the University church, **Great St Mary's, in Cambridge**. This was given by the college's founder, together with three other rectories, in 1342. In 1440 the college was granted the advowson of **Chesterton**, formerly belonging to the abbey of St Andrew at Vercelli in Italy, together with the right to appropriate the rectory (afterwards exercised), with the associated manor, and in 1541 it exchanged certain other property for the rectories and advowsons of **Bottisham** and **Arrington**. The college also acquired other lands and tenements in Cambridge and Chesterton not apparently comprised by the rectories there, as well as some in Cherry Hinton. Two other endowments associated with Cambridgeshire were a contribution charged on the Abbot of Sawtry, then in Huntingdonshire, towards the maintenance of the college members, and a rent from the sheriff of Cambridgeshire.

Michaelhouse was founded in 1324 by Hervey de Stanton, a prominent judge, who provided it with a house and grounds in what is now the south-west corner of Great Court. The deeds associated with this house and the additions to the site in the succeeding decades are, like those of the King's Hall, in the college archive. Michaelhouse was also endowed at its foundation with the rectory and advowson of **St Michael's church in Cambridge**, and it later acquired in this

county the rectory and advowson of **Barrington**, with the manors of Lancasters and Spaldings there, the manor of Valence in **Ickleton**, and lands and tenements in **Chesterford**, **Hinxton**, **Foxton**, **Haslingfield**, **Harlton**, **Grantchester**, and **Orwell**.

Trinity was formally founded and granted its site by letters patent on 19 December 1546, and the remainder of its initial endowment was granted by letters patent five days later. By these two documents—usually referred to as the foundation charter and the charter of dotation—all the Cambridgeshire property already mentioned (with the possible exception of the payment from the Abbot of Sawtry) passed to Trinity. The new college was also provided with a substantial number of properties derived directly or indirectly from dissolved religious houses, of which those in Cambridgeshire were the rectories and advowsons of **Trumpington** (formerly belonging to Haliwell Priory), with the manor there, **Over** (formerly belonging to Sir Francis Brian), and **Shudy Camps** (formerly belonging to Sir Thomas Darcy), and the site of the dissolved house of **Greyfriars in Cambridge**. A further important grant was made by Queen Mary in 1554, but this comprised only properties in Westmorland and Yorkshire.

It is not easy to summarise adequately the records relating to these properties, largely because no proper catalogue of Trinity's archive yet exists. The records, indeed, were not transferred to the care of the college archivist till the 1990s, and they form only part of the large number of records in the archivist's care. Cataloguing work has hitherto largely concentrated on the collections of modern manuscripts in the Library, but some work has been done on selected parts of the college archive and, beginning this year, a systematic attempt is being made to catalogue the archive as a whole.

The most complete list of the volumes in the archive is nothing more than a photocopy of a handwritten shelf list of the old Muniment Room compiled in the early 1980s. The detail provided by this list is limited. It gives no description of the nature and contents of the items listed, besides short titles, and in some cases they are not correctly identified. The historical records of the separate estates, which were formerly in a series of tin boxes, have the advantage over the books, since they were individually catalogued on slips by an experienced historian, W. H. B. Bird, in the early 20th century.[1] These lists, however, lack any general notes, and it is often hard to get a quick idea of their contents, particularly where they are numerous (the list relating to Barrington, for instance, contains over 600 items). Sometimes, too, it is difficult to tell whether a description refers to an original document or a later transcription inserted into the series for reference.

[1] Bird was an alumnus of the college. Besides historical articles, his published work included calendars of some of the close rolls in the Public Record Office and a calendar of the manuscripts of the Dean and Chapter of Wells.

In the following notes I have attempted to describe some of the more important series of volumes relating to the management of the college's properties, and draw attention to some of the more significant items among the other estate papers. The nature of some classes of record, in particular the way in which the contents vary over time, is not yet properly understood. I have only attempted to deal with the period up to the 19th century, after which, as a result of various legal and statutory changes, particularly those enabling the college to sell estates and buy others, the pattern of Trinity's landholding became more complicated. Many modern property records have been added to the archive since the 1980s and are not listed in any way, and many others are still in use.

As already indicated, the income from most of the college's property was derived from tithes, i.e. payments to the rector of a tenth of the parishioners' annual earnings. Tithes were chargeable on various kinds of personal income, but for most of the period in question they mainly comprised agricultural produce. It was inconvenient for the college itself to collect these contributions, owing to the wide distribution of the estates and their distance from Cambridge, and the difficulty of collecting tithes in kind and converting them into cash. As a result the collection of tithes was always leased out by the college to subsidiary landlords for terms of years at a fixed annual rent. This ensured to the college a stable income from its property (provided the rent was paid) independent of the natural annual variations in what the land produced. It also meant that the college had little direct contact with the parishioners themselves. The collection of other local dues was entrusted to bailiffs paid at a fixed rate, and the collection of money from the estates as a whole was committed to a receiver-general.

A large proportion of the college's property records is therefore concerned with its relations with its principal farmers and bailiffs. These include, firstly, the registers of leases, which contain transcripts of the leases and other legal documents to which the college was a party, including from the late 16th century presentations to benefices. The first part of the first book in this series was copied in one go from elsewhere, and, though it includes documents from the college's first year, it omits at least some early documents. With this qualification, however, the series appears to be complete. The originals of some of the leases copied into the registers survive among the records of the individual estates, together with related bonds and other papers. The completeness of the series of lease registers is exceptional; before the late 17th century there are gaps of varying sizes in nearly all the other series of records.

The receipt of rents from farmers and bailiffs is documented in various places, particularly in the accounts of the senior bursar, who was (and is) the financial officer concerned with the management of the college's estates, the junior bursar

being responsible for the maintenance of the college itself. The bursars were among a small number of financial officers elected from the most senior fellows every year, each of whom submitted at the end of their year of office a book containing a formal summary of their receipts and expenditure for examination and approval by the college auditor. The auditor then combined these audit books into a single formal summary in Latin known as a declaration.

The accounts in the bursar's audit books of rents other dues received vary in detail. Most of these payments were made in cash but, after the Corn Rent Act of 1576, which obliged the college to take a third of its rent in corn, the audit books record receipts of wheat and malted barley, presumably from estates relatively near to Cambridge. From 1664 senior bursar's day books also exist, which record more precisely the amounts of individual receipts and the dates on which they were received.

The books compiled for the audit also included an annual arrear book, containing a summary of debts, mainly rents, owed to the college, and, in the 16th century only, an account of the bailiffs, farmers, and other accountable ministers, and an account of the receiver-general. Many of these early records are in the form of parchment rolls. In 1666 an unbroken series of annual rent books begins.

Besides these annual records there are general surveys of the college's estates, the first of which, a fine volume on parchment, was compiled in 1563. Another survey, confined to the northern estates, was made in 1589. Also notable are a number of books referred to as 'Notitia', some of them elaborately presented, containing sequential lists of the farmers of each property and other historical notes.

Turning to the records relating to individual estates, those relating to **Great St Mary's** include a number of documents relating to legal disputes about the payment of tithes, both from the medieval period and after the rectory came into Trinity's possession, and there are some interrogatories and depositions from 1550 concerning the decayed profits of this rectory and that of St Michael. There are a small number of **Chesterton** deeds and a number of court rolls from the period when the rectory and manor belonged to the abbey at Vercelli, a number of documents relating to its transfer to the King's Hall, and manor court rolls and books from the 15th to the 19th century. The earliest of the records relating to **Bottisham** are terriers made in 1562, 1578, and 1609, and a letter written to the college by Lord Burghley in 1595 on behalf of the farmer of the rectory. The 18th century records include a rate book, another terrier (1757), and a valuation of the rectory made in 1794. The **Arrington** records similarly begin in the 16th century, and begin with six terriers dating between 1583 and 1639. There are a few papers concerning a dispute with Thomas Chicheley of

Wimpole, over a house, including a list of articles of complaint, *c*. 1690, entitled 'Wrongs offered at Arrington'.

The records relating to **St Michael's parish, Cambridge**, contain nothing before the foundation of Trinity except a 15th century terrier of lands in Cambridge and Barnwell, which may have been transferred here from elsewhere. The records relating to **Barrington**, as already noted, are particularly numerous. A large proportion of them relate to the manors in that parish. They include a series of manor court rolls and books beginning in the 13th century and running, with little more than a few breaks in the middle ages, till the 20th. There are also accounts of manorial officers (reeves, haywards, and bailiffs) from the 14th century, parcels of surrenders and copies of court roll from the 17th and 18th centuries, terriers of land held by individual tenants dating between the 15th to the 18th centuries, and deeds of all periods. In addition to these there is in a bay in the college's old library (the Wren Library) a very large 19th century map of the parish, measuring about 2 metres by 3 metres. The map is marked with reference-numbers and numerous pencil annotations, but it is undated and untitled, and I have been unable to find any documentation relating to it elsewhere. The records of the manor of Valence in **Ickleton** include some forty-odd 14th and 15th century deeds, a manor court roll and rental of 1431-2, and court rolls and books from the 16th to the 20th century. The records of **Foxton** include court rolls of the manor there (owned by Chatteris Abbey) dating from the 13th to the early 16th century, with more than sixty deeds of the same period. These records do not appear to be mentioned in the *Victoria County History*. The Trinity documents relating to this place include four terriers of the 16th and 17th centuries. The **Haslingfield** documents include over 180 deeds from between the 13th and early 16th centuries, as well as a terrier of the Michaelhouse property there compiled in 1492. The later documents include twelve terriers of Trinity's property compiled between the 16th and 18th centuries, and a valuation of the estate from 1798. The **Harlton** material includes some thirty-odd deeds of the 14th, 15th, and early 16th centuries, and seven terriers dating from between 1563 and 1683. There are seventeen **Grantchester** deeds of the period from 1392 and 1466, with terriers of 1572 and 1663, and two plans of 1795. The **Orwell** documents include seventeen deeds dating from between the 14th and early 16th centuries. Some of the later papers relate to a controversy over the presentation to the living there during the notoriously disputatious mastership of Richard Bentley. There are no separate series of documents for **Chesterford** or **Hinxton**.

The records of **Trumpington** include manorial account rolls of various dates between 1363 and 1540, and court rolls from the 16th and 17th centuries. This is puzzling, as the charter of dotation makes no mention of a manor here being granted to the college, and there is no reference in the *Victoria County History* (vol. 8) to such a manor having been owned by Trinity. There is also a terrier of

the rectory dated 1612 and a field book of 1718, revised in 1758. The records of **Over**, which commence in 1547, include a number of 16th century documents relating to a dispute over the payment of a clerical subsidy, some legal papers of the next century concerning an annual payment by the college to the poor of the parish, and two terriers of 1687 and 1697. The **Shudy Camps** records include a few deeds of the 13th and 15th centuries, four terriers of the 16th and 17th centuries, and two books of observations on the value of the tithes and glebe lands in 1757. From the 18th century there are, among other things, a list of the tenants and landowners in the parish with the acreages of arable land held by them, dated 1759, some similar papers of twenty years later, and a valuation of the rectory in 1795.

The following is a classified summary of the properties mentioned:

> Rectories and advowsons of St Mary the Great, Cambridge; Chesterton; Bottisham; Arrington; St Michael, Cambridge; Barrington; Trumpington, Over; and Shudy Camps.
>
> Manors of Lancasters and Spaldings in Barrington, Valence in Ickleton, Chesterton, and (apparently) Trumpington.
>
> Lands and tenements in Cambridge (including the site of the former Greyfriars), Chesterford, Hinxton, Foxton, Haslingfield, Harlton, Grantchester, and Orwell.

Word-processed copies of the shelf-list and the lists of records relating to individual estates are available on application.

Adam C. Green has been the Archivist of Trinity College since May 2022, previously he was Assistant Archivist. He has also worked at The National Archives, the University of Cambridge Department of Geography, and Birmingham Central Library.

Manorial Surveys 1200 - 1799

William Franklin

After the Norman conquest there appears to have been an increased level of interest and accountability on the part of landowners including the Crown which, after all in theory was the owner of all land in England. In order to ensure effective control and accountability of property it was essential to know what a manor or other holding comprised of. The method of assessing this was the survey. This survey was not necessarily a measured survey, in fact most often a survey was what we might now term a view of the holding, the end result of which was a written description of the property.

Most surveys were long lasting documents, which done correctly in the first place would only need periodic updating. That updating process rarely involved any measuring despite the occasional extension of arable plots by the plough nibbling at the headlands and balks, or tenants rebuilding their houses on part of the common highway, or increasing their plots when fences were replaced. Such was not uncommon, occasionally resulting in inquiries.[1] Hence many sixteenth and seventeenth century surveys contain the words 'by estimation' and 'more or less'. The emphasis here was on knowing who held the property, how much they held and sometimes how much they paid in rent. The usefulness and longevity of such surveys is demonstrated in many later copies which refer to the fact they were copied from the 'Ancient Books' of the township.

When updating a survey, the surveyor(s) would tour the village and its fields, annotating the names of the present tenants next to those of the past. Sometimes a new book was created with one page showing the former tenant and another showing the present one.[2] In the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries it was usual on many estates to compile surveys at frequent, even regular, intervals, for example at Willingham a survey of 1575 now lost and possibly itself a copy of an earlier survey was reproduced in 1603, 1700, 1718 and 1727.[3] Where we are told who drew up a survey it seems normally to have been the work not of a single surveyor but of a committee, a Court of Survey. In every manor across England there was as part of the working of the manor, manorial courts, the jurors of which could come together as required to for a court of survey. These jurors were local farmers, tenants of the manor elected by their peers to act on their behalf in their dealings with the lord of the manor or his representative, the Steward.

The members of the court of survey on being required to either by the lord or his steward, or by a higher authority, would take the latest survey and follow a time-honoured route through the township and its fields. The tenants and other land holders were called to mark out their lands prior to the survey, which would be undertaken over several days. At the end of the survey, the jurors would make a copy of the survey and sometimes under oath report back to the person who had required the survey. The survey itself might often include the names of the

jurors and often words such as, ‘as the jurors say’ or similar.

During the medieval period when rates of literacy were lower than in the early post medieval period, it is likely that the transcription of the words of the jurors regarding their completed survey was made by a scribe, possibly a literate manorial official or a member of the clergy, or in parishes in close proximity to Cambridge, a member of a college. On the estates of monasteries such as Ramsey Abbey a member of the fraternity would have taken this role. In post-medieval manorial records where the work of surveying continued to be closely associated with the manorial court, it is clear that surveys were often drawn up by one or more of the jurors, and in some instances the notes taken by more than one individual jurors has survived.

With the dissolution of the monasteries under King Henry VIII and the subsequent dissolution of Chantry’s, Hospitals, Guilds, and other similar bodies during the reign of King Edward VI, surveys were undertaken by the Crown of the possessions of the devolved bodies in preparation for their sale.
Similarly, the purchasers of these lands often sought to ascertain the extent and worth of their newly acquired possessions, both to compare with the crown survey and to estimate their worth. Many such purchasers being speculators who would sell off the land within a short period of time. Between 1648 and 1660 parliament sent out surveyors to assess the nature, quantity and value of the lands being confiscated from the Bishops, Deans and Chapters and the Crown. In the fens of Cambridgeshire, the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries saw several landowners attempting to capitalise on the common fen and common lands in their manors, which in turn led to disputes.

Evidence presented during such disputes included surveys and custumal's. Anyone researching the historic landscape will therefore easily notice that there is a greater resource in terms of surveys dating between 1539 and 1700 in the archives than for any other period.

It is not clear what procedure was followed when a survey involved actual measurement, It is likely that officials were brought to a manor to measure land; these would be men more experienced than the local jurors in the techniques of mensuration, men who were very adept at using the pole. Professional surveyors do not appear in England before the sixteenth century.

As might be expected, there was never a one size fits all approach to manorial surveys. The reason for their creation was varied and included:

- A survey for or by an individual landowner wishing to keep and ongoing record of his land,
- A survey for the crown or the lord of one or more manors detailing his possessions, including income and customs such as boon works to be performed by the tenants of the manor and special payments to the lord.
- Inquisitions by the crown regarding the estates of a lord or similarly wealthy person on their death or when lands were confiscated.

- Inquisitions by the crown or parliament when property was to be confiscated and sold.

The level of detail not unsurprisingly changed dependent upon the reason for the survey, but even as early as the thirteenth century documents give specific names to types of survey. Such names sometimes vary from the present definition of the terms used, but it is clear that the people making the surveys knew what they meant. Using examples from across modern day Cambridgeshire (the former counties of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire) we shall consider the main types of manorial surveys.

Extents

The Cambridge English Dictionary states the meaning of Extent as being 'the area, length, or size of something'. Earlier more detailed definitions include, 'the limits, bounds or compass of something; the space to which anything is extended; in Law the valuation of lands; tenements etc., by the sheriff, by virtue of a writ called an extent'.[4]

As might be expected of a document that was to have some form of legal standing an extent is usually a meticulous description and measurement of a manorial demesne. Extents typify the period of demesne farming and the care that the efficient landlord would take to watch over his local resources so as to draw maximum profits from them. From Walter of Henley's *Husbandry*, written in the thirteenth century, the Senschaucy tells the manorial steward, 'Make an extent of your lands and your tenements by your lawful sworn men',[5] and while extents can vary in detail, with some being little more than simple demesne surveys or custumals with valuations added. Walter of Henley's extent begins with a description of the manor-house and its surrounding farm buildings, yards and gardens. There follows an account of the demesne arable, measured and valued piece by piece; where a two-or three-field system operated the land in each furlong would be described separately, and a total area and valuation given for each field. In a similar manner, another document known as the Fleta advises, '*Ante Jovis Statuam crepuit satur hiistrio, poenam Juppiter indixit, vivere de propio*' 'so let everyone look out that he lives 'upon his own', that is according to the yearly value of his lands, which ought to be valued by faithful and sworn tenants.[6] The Fleta description of the survey is not dissimilar to that given by Walter of Henley and from the two we can see that the order of a typical extent would be:

Most extents followed such fixed forms as enshrined in law,[7] formularies and estate management books such as those of Walter of Henley and the Fleta. In the context of arable land, they can easily be mistaken for a description of all of the land in the furlongs and fields of a manor, whereas in reality an extent was only concerned the demesne land. After the arable the demesne meadow, pasture, woodland, and other appurtenances were described in turn. There was some minor variation in the exact order of these items on any manor, but it was always the case that for the survey of the arable, the route of the surveyors used for the

first survey was thereafter fixed in order that future surveys could be compared. Many extents conclude with a custumal of the tenants and their services, a custumal that includes a valuation of every item. It should however be noted that while many surviving extents contain valuations, that is by no means always the case, for example, some of the extents of Ramsey Abbey, such as that for Kings Ripton give no values.[8] The tenants' lands are not measured and described as the demesne lands are: the extent is concerned with the property solely from the viewpoint of the manorial lord and his profit, and whereas on the demesne this profit came from exploiting the land directly the profit from the tenants' holdings came from the tenants themselves, and the extent needed to look no further. There are at least three hundred extents or portions of extents, mostly from inquisitions postmortem for the old county of Cambridgeshire and at least 30 more for Huntingdonshire.

Surveys

Whereas an extent is a survey of a manorial demesne, a survey is an examination or description of an estate whether demesne, parish, or other area. By the fifteenth century the term extent was usually associated with inquisitions postmortem, the term survey coming much more widely into use.
Comprehensive surveys do exist from monastic estates of the twelfth century such as Peterborough Abbey (1125) and increase in number after the thirteen century. By the sixteen century there is some intermixing of the term Survey and Extent, for example the 1571 Coton survey is described in its introduction as 'A Survey & Extent' and given that it follows much of the form of an extent, but is concerned with not just the demesne, it is a mix of the two.
With the advent of surveying as a profession in the late 16th century a new survey term appears, that of a Particular. The term 'Particular' indicating a detailed survey. Unlike extents and other surveys, particular surveys appear to have been undertaken not by a local court of survey, but by a professional surveyor. The early enclosures by act of parliament in the eighteenth century usually comprised of two surveys undertaken by professional surveyors. The overall survey of a parish or area to be enclosed being known as the General Survey and the detailed survey being known as the Particular Survey. In the seventeenth century, the General Survey does not appear in the documentation of the time. Possibly the most famous Particular Survey was. "The Particular of the Great Level", by William Hayward, completed in 1636.

Terriers

A terrier is a description of lands that follows a topographical arrangement. The surveyor(s) following an age-old method, established for extents, always commenced at the same spot and proceeded parcel by parcel through the fields, crofts and meadows, listing each strip or selion and that of its neighbours. The part of an extent that describes the demesne lands is in effect a terrier with valuations, and a simple demesne terrier follows just this form.

The description of the lands set out in a terrier, survey, particular and extent, to

William Hayward's Map taken from his '*Particular of the Great Level*'

a greater or lesser degree follows the same methodology. For each field the surveyors went from furlong to furlong, when moving from one furlong to another they described where the new furlong lay in relation to the one they had just completed. Within each furlong every strip or selion was noted, usually the detail gives the holder, the acreage and whose strips lay at the four compass points surrounding it. If the terrier was made of the land of a smaller tenant farmer who kept his land in hand the name of the holder is omitted.

Some terriers often give the tenure by which each strip was held (freehold, copyhold or leasehold etc.). While most terriers are stand-alone documents, some accompany maps, acting as a book of reference to the map, others are to be found attached to deeds, conveyances and grants. A study of terriers reveals them to comprise of four basic types, simple terriers, glebe terriers, field books and meadow books.

Terriers of Individual Property

Terriers of an individual's property are as the heading suggests those made for either an individual land holder or a manor and is only concerned with the specific land of that land holder or manor. Such terriers may cover lands in more than one parish.

Glebe Terriers

Glebe terrier are those which describe the lands belonging to the parish church and vary greatly in detail. Some include the details of the parish house or parsonage as well as the church lands, others, where the parish have no lands may give details of the parsonage.

Field Books

Some terriers of the late fourteenth or fifteenth century cover all the lands of a vill, multiple townships, or other group of lands, even though they belong to more than one manorial lord, for example, the terrier of the West Fields of Cambridge describes,[9] strip by strip, over a thousand separate parcels of land in an arable area of uncertain (possibly divided) manorial lordship, in the hands of many different occupiers and divided between several different parishes. This particular book and a number of others from around Cambridge, and possibly from other major towns with many churches, appears to have been produced to ensure clarity of to which parish the tithe of each strip of land was due to be paid (some strips paid tithe to more than one parish). There is a similar book covering the parish of St Andrew the Less or Barnwell on the eastern side of Cambridge and while both of these describe themselves as 'Terriers', they are what later became known as field books.

Most field books such as those for Bassingbourn, Willingham, Histon and Impington, could also be adequately described as parish terriers, as they cover one single parish and all its lands.

For the landscape or local historian field books are particularly important as they are a complete record of the pre-enclosed landscape in a parish at a particular point in time. These field books list every strip in a parish or township, grouped by fields and give details of furlongs and lands, one by one.

Usually, the quantity of land and name of the owner are stated; sometimes there is more information such as the type of tenure, the name of the tenant, and less frequently, the precise measurement of the lands. Some field books refer to maps, while some later copies of earlier field books include maps within them, such as that for Willingham (overleaf).[10] Others have summary tables listing tenants' names and various details about individual holdings.

The importance of field books cannot be over emphasized. They afford a complete view of a township which can be 'moved' forwards or backwards over many centuries by following the descent of individual estates and farms within it. Field-system structure and furlong sizes can be established, along with details of land size, yardland size, land use, topography, tenure, and the spatial arrangement of the demesne and other estates. It is probable that all parishes had field books at an early date, references often being made to 'the old town book', showing the existence of a complete survey. Few medieval field books now survive.

A page from the Willingham Field Book of 1793

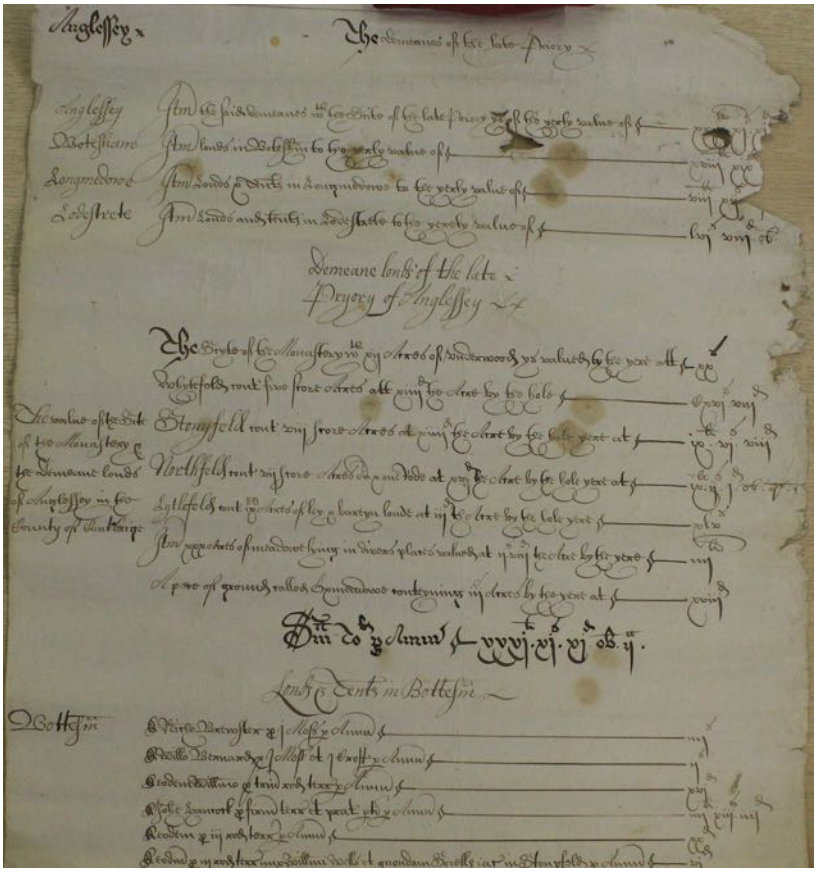
Rentals

A rental is a list of tenants with the amounts of rent (in cash or produce) due from each. On a manor that consisted entirely of rent-paying town houses there is little more than any survey could say, and some of the earliest rentals are in fact for urban properties.mOften it was convenient for the rural landowner too to compile straightforward lists of tenants and the rents they owed. Medieval rents in cash were commonly due four times a year, not necessarily in equal instalments, while any one rent in produce was normally paid on a single annual occasion. This made it easy to set out a rental as a table.

By the fifteenth century, labour services and customary renders of produce had all or mostly been commuted to money rents there would be little to say of a tenant's obligations beyond the amount of money he owed each year. The rental might also be indistinguishable from a financial account. The list of rents was, after all, a list of the annual receipts due from the manor or other property; it needed no more than a note at the end of any that could not be collected and of the costs of collection to turn it into the rent collector's account for the year, and on some estates we find rentals, entitled thus, being drawn up every year to

serve as accounts rather than as surveys.

Rental of the former manor of Anglesey Abbey in Bottisham



Custumals

Custumals, were a survey of rents, services and other obligations owed by tenants to the lord or lady of the manor, and also of the rights and obligations of the lord or lady. They might sometimes begin with a recital of the 'customs' of the manor. They formed a legal and theoretical record of rights and obligations and as time went on, the services and produce listed in them might be commuted to monetary payments. The 'customs' would vary significantly from manor to manor.

Usefulness of Manorial Surveys

Manorial papers can be an important source for the history of the land. They reveal information about how land was managed and cultivated and also give

insights into the nature of land tenure and patterns of inheritance, the developing movement towards enclosure and changes in agricultural practice - for example, what crops were planted and how, and what livestock were kept and why.

Manorial records also contain a wealth of economic and financial detail. It is possible to see changes in accounting practice, to glean information about the changing value of land and of goods, to chart variations in income and expenditure levels, or to follow patterns of inflation, for instance in food prices. These, in turn, may reflect wider economic factors such as a nation-wide crop failure. It is also possible to chart the development of the monetary economy, with the movement away from payment in goods or service towards pecuniary payment.

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AGRICULTURE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1792 - 1815

Interest in agricultural improvement grew strongly in England during the 18th century and many forward-thinking landowners (including many of the clergy) were devising and adopting new methods, and supporting enclosure of common land. In some areas of the kingdom, including Cambridgeshire, farmers remained wedded to the old ways and to open field farming. A rising population and increasing poverty made increased productivity vital. War with France commenced in 1792 made the need for increased productivity the greater and provided an opportunity to press for Government action to speed up change.

After much debate, in 1793 a Board of Agriculture was established by royal charter. Amongst its business the board procured funds for new and innovative developments in drainage and the processing of crops, and between 1793 and 1814 funded county agricultural surveys. The surveyors, usually land agents, valuers or estate managers were required to produce a report to the board. These county reports were subsequently published. Additionally, Arthur Young, secretary to the board, travelled the country visiting land owners, observing for himself the state of agriculture and encouraging innovation. Young, made notes of the things he saw on his journey, which were subsequently published. As secretary to the board, he also invited farmers to write to the board regarding their experiences and experiments, all of which were published.

Cambridgeshire was surveyed by Charles Vancouver between 1793 and 1794 and Rev. William Gooch in 1806-7. This volume concerns the reports of these two gentlemen, Arthur Young's accounts and the correspondence between local farmers and land owners with the Board of Agriculture, and the picture they paint of the state of agriculture in the county between 1792 and 1815.

The book, published by Cambridgeshire Records Society, introduces the surveys and their background. It then provides full transcripts of both surveys, and unlike the originals, this version is fully indexed. It will be of particular interest to those studying local, agricultural or family history .

This volume is priced at £34.50 plus p&p, and can be purchased via the Society's web page, https://www.cambsrecordsociety.co.uk/publications/

Copies are also on sale at Toppings Bookshop, 9 High Street, Ely CB7 4LJ

This is one of a number of volumes produced by the Society all of which can be ordered through the Society's website.

Cambridgeshire Record Society

Background

In 1840 the Cambridge Antiquarian Society was founded to promote the study of the local history and antiquities of the university, town and county of Cambridge. From early in its existence historical records on Cambridge and Cambridgeshire were part of the society's interest, with the first three reports of its Annual General Meetings containing lists of manuscript sources available on the town and county, and several series of substantial transcripts of primary sources were published in the Society's Octavo series. Shorter documentary texts and indexes had also been published in the Society's *Proceedings*, as also (particularly for Huntingdonshire) in the *Transactions* of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society that had merged with CAS in 1952.

In 1969 CAS appointed a committee to investigate setting up separate branch for publishing historical records that led to the foundation of an independent Cambridge Antiquarian Records Society three years' later. The society changed its name to Cambridgeshire Records Society in 1987, the merger of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely with Huntingdon and Peterborough into the modern county of Cambridgeshire that had occurred in 1974 having made it possible to understand in this short name the inclusion of records of Huntingdonshire.

Source: M.W. Thompson, *The Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1840-1990,* CAS, 1990.

The Cambridgeshire Records Society

The Cambridgeshire Records Society exists to promote the history of the modern county of Cambridgeshire through its historical records in local and national archival collections, held in private hands or scattered through the rest of the country or abroad. Its aim is to print and published complete records or a collection of records transcribed from the original and translated from Latin or other non-English language, with the object of making these accessible to the general readership interested in local history, and to provide a source for future analysis and research. In producing printed volumes, and facsimile copies of maps the society aspires to protect the more perishable elements of the county's past for the future.