

The Estate papers of the Swindon (Wiltshire) Goddards

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Joan Dibble acting research co-ordinator September 2011

Estate papers
of Swindon
GODDARDS

held by Wilts
Record Office

rough library

Henry Ross

DOCUMENTS

relating to the

G O D D A R D F A M I L Y

of North Wiltshire

Swindon Public Libraries

1960

PREFACE

The Goddards of North Wiltshire have been Lords of the Manor of Swindon for almost 400 years, but the name was well-known in the district long before Thomas Goddard of Upham acquired the Manor in 1563. Much of the family story is to be found in the documents of which this is the catalogue. The earliest item bears the date 1336 and is to be found in the group devoted to the Welsh properties, but there is one for Swindon which is dated a mere ten years later. The documents are now in the custody of the Swindon Public Libraries and the responsibility for their cataloguing and arrangement have been undertaken by the Libraries for the Borough Council, and with the assistance of Captain J. W. H. Goddard, the heir and present owner of the Goddard estate, and the family solicitors, Messrs. Townsends of Swindon. The catalogue is the work of Mr. A. W. Mabbs of the Public Record Office, and acknowledgments are also due to the Town Clerk's staff who duplicated the manuscript and to Mr. T. S. McNeil and Mrs. J. V. E. Gibbs for checking and proof reading.

Central Library,
Swindon.
April, 1960.

Harold Jolliffe
Borough Librarian
and Curator.

INTRODUCTION

The collection is arranged in a single series of 1,732 items, many consisting of a number of separate documents, together with an index. The documents have been classified into ten broad groups, and a short note on each is given below:-

(1) DEEDS (nos. 1-784)

These are deeds of conveyance and other legal instruments relating to properties and matters in the following topographical groups:-

- (a) Swindon
- (b) Stratton St. Margaret
- (c) Wroughton
- (d) Wanborough
- (e) Wellow, Steeple Ashton, etc.
- (f) Chelworth, Cricklade, Stanton, etc.
- (g) Rudlow.
- (h) Chippenham
- (i) Miscellaneous

More than half of the 784 deeds relate to properties in Swindon. The earliest is a grant of a tenement in Newport Street which is dated 1346, but the great majority of these documents are of the late 16th century and onwards. Deeds relating to the acquisition in 1563 of the manors of Swindon by Thomas Goddard of Upham, letters patent by Charles I granting a market and fair in Swindon, and a lease which refers to the conversion of the church house into a market house, are examples of conveyancing instruments which appear among the collection of title deeds.

Copies of deeds are included in this class, but drafts, which often contain legal notes and other material, are classified in the next section.

(2) ESTATE MANAGEMENT & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS PAPERS

(nos. 785-1023)

Business papers concerning the management of the estates of the Goddard family include abstracts of title, drafts of deeds, legal opinions and accounts which relate to conveyancing matters, accounts of rents, and many miscellaneous documents of an administrative nature. Amongst such miscellaneous papers relating to estate matters is found, for example, a letter from Humphrey Repton, landscape gardener, quoting fees for a visit. Papers relating to more general business interests of the family include some documents of canal undertakings.

(3) LEGAL PAPERS (nos. 1024-1146)

These comprise papers originating in law suits and also wills and other documents relating to testamentary matters. Papers of a legal nature which concern conveyancing or are not directly attributable to a law suit will be found in the preceding classes.

Of the many legal actions in which the Goddards were involved, directly or indirectly, in local or central courts, three are outstanding in the number of papers which have survived: a suit in the court of Chancery commenced in 1745 by Edmund Goddard against Ambrose Goddard which led to a division between them of some of the estate; an Exchequer action in 1775 by the vicar of Swindon concerning tithes in the parish; and a Queen's Bench action in 1853 concerning the recovery of a piece of manorial waste in the High Street. Included also in this

(4) MANORIAL DOCUMENTS (nos. 1147-1261)

ets:
These relate mainly to the manors of Swindon but some manorial documents of Stratton and Wanborough are included. The Court Book, in which is entered copies of court rolls of Swindon from 1644 to 1860 (with a gap between 1684 and 1743) is already quite well known, and extracts have already appeared in print. Court files often supplement information in the Court Book, and, together with the many rentals, provide lists of names of many Swindon inhabitants in the 17th century and later.

(5) PARISH DOCUMENTS (nos. 1262-1335)

Earliest of these is the parish register of births, deaths and marriages in Swindon for the years 1623 to 1640, which has strayed from the parish church into the papers of the Goddard family. Poor law, highways, and land tax are the main subjects of documents in this class. Some papers relating to tithe matters have been included here, although it is not unlikely that some of these have strayed from the papers relating to the tithe suit referred to above.

(6) PERSONAL & MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS (1336-1449)

This class includes a miscellany of manuscript and printed papers, some probably of little interest, which either are of a personal nature or cannot be classified elsewhere. Documents here range from a theological treatise printed in 1580 and bound in a vellum cover which is part of a medieval manuscript of a Latin text on Logic, to correspondence concerning parliamentary elections in the 19th century. Other documents preserved in this class include Long Rolls of scholars of Winchester College, various commissions to serve in militia regiments, and papers relating to the Swindon Free School.

(7) FROXFIELD HOSPITAL (1450-1456)

A few papers relating to the administration of this hospital have been included in this separate class.

(8) DOMESTIC & PERSONAL ACCOUNTS (1457-1482)

Tradesmen's bills and other domestic accounts.

(9) WELSH PROPERTIES (nos. 1483-1731)

Deeds and other documents concerning properties in Wales, mainly in and near Carmarthen, which came into the hands of the Goddard family as the result of the marriage, in or about 1776, between Ambrose Goddard and Sarah Williams, daughter of the Reverend T. Williams. The earliest documents in the whole collection (dated 1336) is in this class; there are also many more early 16th century deeds here than amongst the Wiltshire deeds. The Welsh documents have been calendared more briefly than the remainder.

(10) SERMONS (no. 1732)

Several hundred sermons and theological notes: unsorted, and not catalogued.

List all.
Regs.
P.L.
Highways
Land tax

C O N T E N T S

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(1) DEEDS:		
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	(d) Wanborough	584 - 622
	(e) Wellow, Steeple Ashton, etc.	623 - 663
	(f) Chelworth, Cricklade, Stanton, etc.	664 - 677
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(2) ESTATE MANAGEMENT & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS PAPERS		785 - 1023
(3) LEGAL PAPERS		1024 - 1146
(4) MANORIAL DOCUMENTS		
	(a) Swindon manors	1147 - 1236
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(5) PARISH DOCUMENTS		
	(a) General	1262 - 1293
	(b) Land Tax Assessments	1294 - 1319
	(c) Tithes, Rectory, Vicarage	1320 - 1335
(6) PERSONAL & MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS		1336 - 1449
(7) FROXFIELD HOSPITAL		1450 - 1456
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(9) WELSH PROPERTIES		1483 - 1731
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(1) DEEDS

SWINDON:

- 1 (2 July 1346) Gift by Constance Dolyn of High Swindon (Hegheswyndon) to Robert and Robert her sons: a tenement in Newport (Nyweport) Street. (Parch. 1 m. Latin)
- 2 22 Jan. 1559/60 Letters Patent of Elizabeth I granting to Thomas Stephens, gent. of Inglesham and William Coxe the rectory of Swindon, lands and tithes in Wilts. late of the monastery of Southwick (Hants.), and advowsons, lands, tithes etc. in various places (named) in Bucks, Hereford, and Yorks. (Parch. 1 m. Latin)
- 3 10 Nov. 1562 Gift by Rice ap Owen gent. of Upton (Pemb.) and William Warkyns gent., of Llangorse (Brec.) to Thomas Goddard gent. of Upham: the reversion of the manors of Nether and Over Swindon, with other lands etc. (not described) in Swindon; a rent from the manor of North Wyddell. (Parch. 1 m. Seals)
- 4 Hilary 5 Eliz. I (1563) Two indentures of a Final Concord between (1) Thomas Goddard gent. and (2) Richard Abower esq., and William Watkins gent: the manor of Over Swindon and Nether Swindon (alias East and West Swindon), 60 messuages, 40 cottages, 2 water mills, one dove-cote, 100 gardens, 100 orchards, 600 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 120 acres of pasture, 30 acres of wood, 1000 acres of heath, and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in rents in Over and Nether Swindon, Nether Stratton and Nether Wyddell; the fair and market of Over Swindon. (Parch. 2 m. Latin)
- 5 Hilary 23 Eliz. I (1581) Two indentures of a Final Concord between (1) William West, and (2) Anthony Bridges esq. and Jane Harcourt widow: a messuage, 3 cottages, 4 gardens, an orchard, 70 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ rent, common of pasture in High Swindon and West Swindon. (Parch. 2 m. Latin)
- attached: a memorandum concerning the manor of West Swindon. (1f)
- 6 24 Oct. 1582 Feoffment by William West, yeoman of Swindon, to Matthew Barber, clothworker of Swindon: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow, etc. in Bullock's mead in West Swindon. (Parch. 1 m. Seal. Latin)
- 7 4 July 1584 Gift by Walter Bettridge husbandman of Swindon to Richard Hollwaye Wheeler of Swindon and others: a rod of land in Newport Street adjoining the Church House. (Parch. 1 m. Latin)

where?

- 8 10 Oct. 36 Eliz. I Letters Patent for a pardon of alienation to
(1594) William Weste for the conveyance by Anthony Bridges and Jane Harcourte of a messuage, 3 cottages, 4 gardens, an orchard, 70 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 40 s. rent, and common of pasture in High Swindon and West Swindon. (See No. 5)
(Parch. 1 m. Great Seal. Latin)
- 9 18 July 41 Eliz. I Lease (for lives) by Nicholas Stephens esq. to
(1599) Bryse Barnard husbandman of Swindon, Anne his wife, and John his son, of a tenement etc. in Wood Street, Swindon.
(Parch. 1 m. Seal)
- 10 1 May 13 Jas. I Lease (41 years) by Thomas Westropp husbandman
(1615) of Eastcott, and Agnes his wife, to Thomas Stichall husbandman of Swindon: a messuage etc. in High Street; 4 acres in the fields of West Swindon and Eastcott; Bullock mead in Brinchcombe; common of pasture.
(Parch. 1 m.)
- 11 24 June 19 Jas. I Covenant by William West gent. of High Swindon to
(1621) convey to Thomas Goddard esquire of Upham the capital messuage etc. known as the Crowne in High Swindon, with all appurtenances.
(Parch. 1 m. Seal)
- 12 13 Sept. 19 Jas. I Bargain and Sale by William West gent. of High
(1621) Swindon to Thomas Goddard esq. of Upham: the capital messuage etc. known as the Crown, with appurtenances in Swindon.
(Parch. 1 m.)
- 13 Mich. 19 Jas. I Two indentures of a Final Concord between (1)
(1621) Thomas Goddard, and (2) William West: a messuage, 3 cottages, 4 gardens, an orchard, 70 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 40 s. rent, and common of pasture in Swindon.
(Parch. 2 m. Latin)
- 14 18 Mar. 22 Jas. I Lease (for lives) by Thomas Goddard esq. of
(1625) Swindon to Joan Browne widow, Randle Browne her son, and Elizabeth his wife: a messuage etc. in Newport Street.
(Parch. 1 m. Seal)
- 15 20 July, 2 Chas I Letters Patent by Charles I granting to Thomas
(1626) Goddard a weekly market to be held in Swindon on Mondays, and two fairs to be held annually on the second Monday in May and on the second Monday in December.
(Parch. 1 m. Latin)
- 16 21 April 1629 Release by John Smith alias Tailor, blacksmith of Swindon, to Thomas Goddard esq. of Swindon: house, tenements, lands, etc. (not described) leased to him by John Thornborough, Thomas Goddard, or Richard Goddard.
(2 ff. Seal)

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? printed.