

## Great Tithes of Kemble in the Calley Papers in the Wiltshire Records Office

- a. Tithes at Kemble in 1733 property of Mr Thomas Browne of Minety 1673 - 1738
- b. Tithes in Kemble, 1772 - 3 the property of William Calley (Calley) of Buderop Park, Wilts 1709 - 1772

These are in the Wiltshire Records Office and are part of the Calley Papers:  
Ref: 1178/238

'Bundle of deeds and associated papers relating to the impropriate parsonage and great tithes of Kemble, together with the Parsonage Barn and adjoining Pigeon House Close lying in the Parish of Kemble. It includes the above list of tithes and an account of the descent of ownership of Kemble great tithes 1564-1633.' From the WRO website

There is a familial link between the two documents. Thomas Browne is the father of Arabella Calley, the wife of William Calley.

Tithes were a tax on the land in a parish to provide money for the church. Greater tithes were taken from crops while lesser tithes were from animals, sheep and cattle. Malmesbury Abbey had appropriated the Greater Tithes for Kemble and at the dissolution of the monastery they were sold by the crown to a private individual. In 1773, a year after the Enclosure Act for Kemble, Charles Coxe bought the Kemble tithes from Thomas Browne Calley the son of William Calley.

These documents help to show:

1. The continuity of many of the field names on the 1807 map.
2. They give the names of the tenants.
3. They also give land use for the fields such as arable and pasture.

The 1733 account:

1. There is a mention of a connigar, rabbit warren, which is specifically the Lord of the Manor's land. From the rest of that entry it might appear that this rabbit warren was near the Shore fields.
2. The Lord of the Manor, Robert Westley, has 50 acres of enclosed arable land next to Woodcroft. I assume this refers to field 370 on the 1807 map. This is a rare reference in older documents to fields between Kemble Wood and the Ditchfurlong fields. Is this enclosure early 18<sup>th</sup> century? This might explain why the fields in this area are larger like those of the enclosed common fields along the Fosse Way. None of the fields in this area are referred to in the Enclosure Act. Finally, is Wood Croft the original name for the barn on the edge of field 370?
3. There are a lot of small closes (small fields) in the 1733 lists. Did they survive the enclosure act of 1772? Timbrell's Wick Bridge Leaze can be found in a description in the Enclosure Act of the road to Cirencester. It

puts it on the opposite side of the road to fields 280 and 279 on the 1807 map. In 1807 it's part of field 289 which is one of 'Green' fields along the Thames. In the earlier 25 and 6 inch maps you can see a rectangular shape which seems to be partly made by a line of trees. Is this the ghost of Timbrell's Wickbridge Leaze? On the Andrews and Drury map there is a field marked on the map at this point. Does this mean that many of the names on the 1733 tithe account disappeared in the swapping of land in the enclosure process?

Wickbridge seems to be the earlier name for what we now call Clayfurlong Bridge. The Wick would seem to be the original name for the farmyard now called Clayfurlong Barns.

Lester Napper 05/01/24