



Extracts From 17th Century Court Cases

Hankerton

CASE Beale v Hibbert (Tithes) 3 June 1602

DEPONENTS John Hibbert of Hankerton, Wilts. Lived there 80 years. Born there. Aged 86. John Gagg of Hankerton, Wilts. Born & lives there. Aged 80. Alice Stock, wife of Thomas Stock, of Hankerton, Wilts. Born & lives there. Aged 80. John Head, husbandman, of Hankerton, Wilts. Born & lives there. Aged 63. On part of Mr Beale.

DEPOSITIONS (Abstract) Some sixty years ago John Hibbert saw John Hortland, who was a farmer of ground called Moorden, pay tithe calves, wool and lamb to Sir Hughe Whithorne, then vicar of Hankerton, for calves, lambs and sheep that fed and were born on Moorden. He also paid three pence every Lammas for every new milch cow and two pence for every cow that had no calf. John Hortland's daughter, Elizabeth Kyrby, wife of Kyrby of Yanworth, held the same grounds after his father for many years and afterwards Thomas Rydler of Hankerton was the farmer. Sir Hughe Whithorne received tithes from that at the rate Hibbert had stated which he and his neighbours have paid for sixty years or more to the vicar of Hankerton. John Hortland lived in Hankerton and held other grounds in the parish. Hibbert thinks he paid tithes for Moorden because his kine only pastured there. There is the foundation of a house in the grounds called Moorden. Thomas Rydler held a house and a yard land in Hankerton under his mother when he held Moorden. He has heard that Richard Gagg farmed Moorden from William Rydler for £22 a year and that Thomas Rydler of Daglingworth agreed with Mr Powell, late vicar of Hankerton, for five shillings yearly for all the tithes arising from Moorden.

John Gagg gave a similar account. He added that John Hortland had held the grounds called Moorden sixty years ago and for many years before. After Thomas Rydler of Hankerton occupied the grounds Thomas Rydler of Daglingworth compounded with Mr Powell for tithes and other parishioners also agreed to pay Mr Powell for the tithes they had formerly paid in kind. The vicars of Hankerton have received all manner of small tithes for more than sixty years. He has heard that the Abbot leased the grounds called Moorden to Thomas Rydler and William Rydler.

Alice Stock knew that Sir Hughe Whithorne received tithes from John Hortland because her mother-in-law, Margaret Heyward, kept house for Sir Hughe and she was much at the house so knows it to be true. Her evidence agreed with that of the previous witnesses.

When he was a boy John Head had heard his father, John Head, say that John Hortland was the farmer of Morden. John Powell had become vicar after the death of Sir Hughe Whithorne. Mr Powell let the tithes of Morden to Thomas Rydler for five Shillings, which grounds have since been improved and made worth more.

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