



Extracts From 17th Century Court Cases

Hankerton

CASE Beale v (Robert) Hibbert (Tithes) 7 October 1602

DEPONENTS Nicholas Ridler, husbandman, of Long Newnton, Wilts. Lived there 22 years. Born Duntisbourne Inferior. Aged 60. Richard Gagge, husbandman, of Hankerton, Wilts. Born Milbourne, Wilts. Aged 66. On the part of Robert Hibbert.

DEPOSITIONS (Abstract) Nicholas Ridler has known the grounds called Morden for the past forty seven years. His father, Thomas Ridler, lived at Daglingworth and held the grounds forty seven years ago until his death thirteen years later. In all that time he never knew his father to pay tithes in kind but he yearly paid money to the vicar, though he does not know how much. He knows this is true as he was living with his father and drove cows, hogs, sheep, young beasts and fat beasts in and out of the grounds and most years he helped mow part of the ground and make cock and carry away the hay and left no tithe in kind behind. He did not hear any tithe demanded. He did hear his father say that his father and Mr Powell, late vicar of Hankerton, disagreed about paying the tithes for the grounds and in the end they agreed for certain money but Ridler does not know how much. Mr Powell was vicar for forty years before Mr Beale. He has heard that the grounds are now worth £20 to £23 to be rented. William Rydler of Brokenborough and himself are brothers' children and Robert Hibbert is his kin but he does not know how near. He came at the request of William Rydler who asked him what he would be able to say.

Richard Gagge has known the grounds mentioned for more than fifty years. William Rydler, then living in Much Malvern, Worcestershire, held the grounds called Morden about thirty six years ago until his death about twenty years ago. Before him, Thomas Rydler of Daglingworth held the grounds for twenty years or thereabouts. For about twenty years when William Rydler held the grounds Gagge looked after the cattle going on to the ground and paid five shillings for William Rydler's tithes to Mr Powell, then vicar of Hankerton, and no tithes in kind. He also lived with Thomas Rydler for six years in the latter part of the time he held the ground and knows Mr Powell was paid no tithes in kind but five shillings in respect of them. John Powell was the vicar before Mr Beale. Some parishioners agreed with Mr Powell to pay their tithes in money and some in kind. After William Rydler's death Gagge occupied the grounds called Morden under William Rydler of Brokenborough who is living now. Mr Powell refused to receive five shillings for the tithes of Morden but then he and Powell agreed for a certain sum for Morden and other grounds. Gagge remembers that he did not pay as much as five shillings for Morden's tithes. Robert Hibbert, who now holds the grounds, paid Mr Powell five shillings yearly for a year or two for Morden's tithes then Mr Powell commenced a suit in the Consistory Court in Gloucester against Hibbert and refused to accept the five shillings. He has heard that John Hartland held the grounds before the Rydlers. The five shillings was paid at Lammas. The grounds have been let for £20 yearly. Gagge does not know of any grounds in Hankerton that are free from paying tithes and Mr Beale usually receives all the tithes in kind, except tithe corn. He and Robert Hibbert call each other cousins and are far off kin. His mother and William Rydler's father were brother and sister. William Rydler and Robert Hibbert asked him to come and deliver the truth of what he knew.

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