



AN OLD ACCOUNT BOOK

Now in the possession of a local resident is a vellum bound book on the back of which is the date 1741/42. It belonged originally to one of the Fitz family of Fitz House. It would appear to have been in the first place a school book, having many pages of beautifully written arithmetical definitions and exercises. In 1749, and until 1753, it was used as an Account Book of sales of grain, stock, and wool at prices which would now appear very modest.

In 1749 we find Mr Fitz selling sheep at 5/6d each; calves at 10/0d and pigs at 5/-; "24 wait of wool at a guinea a wait", ("wait" = 100lbs); and "70 pounds of Lams wool" at 6 1/2d a lb.

A second series of accounts was begun by Walter Fitz in 1845, the totals being brought forward "from the other book" which latter has unfortunately been lost. An item – "Gave a poor man towards the los of a horse 1/-" suggests that Walter Fitz was charitably inclined. He buy sa a "Box of pills (sugar candy)"; purchases coal at 1/- per cwt; the Chapel Warden gets 11/- for sparrowheads, presumably caught in and about Teffont Magna Chapel – now the Church; farm hands are paid from 5/- to 8/- per week; the "Singers" get 8d as a Christmas box for their caroling; J. Ford receives 1/- for catching six "worts" or moles; and James Kellow achieves some "burn beaking" @ £1 per acre. "Burn-beaking" was a process of stripping turf and burning it for use as fertilizer. With those and other items the book provides valuable material for the student of Economics.

Extract from Teffont Village History Scrap Book by Womens Institute published 1956.