

10.

Belstead Hall.



Belstead Hall, from a watercolour by Miss Joan Tunstill, probably painted in the 1930s.

One of the three manors of Broomfield recorded in the Domesday Book, Belstead Hall is set apart from the rest of the village, across the river Chelmer on the eastern fringe of the parish where it abuts Springfield and Boreham. Its presence as a part of Broomfield seems curious since the river would appear to make a natural boundary, and the manors of Broomfield Hall and Patching Hall are both on the west side of the river. Belstead Hall might have been more appropriately a part of Springfield or Boreham. There are other, more curious, features to this manor.

The present house gives no indication of its history, which begins, so far as written evidence is concerned, with the Domesday Book in 1086. Its origins are much earlier for it gets its name from the Saxon "bel hus stede", the homestead with the bell tower, and until 1066 it was a Saxon manor. A bell tower suggests a certain social status, sufficient to merit it being so named. Its fellow manors, Broomfield Hall and Patching Hall didn't aspire to such. Reaney notes that it may have signified the homestead of a carl or thegn, a Saxon class of soldiers and landholders; thus the land might have been acquired as a reward for some special service. Belstead isn't a common name in Essex and there are only two mentions in Domesday (though there is a Belhus near Aveley). One is certainly Broomfield's Belstead Hall. And the other could well be a part of the same. Yet there is a Belsteads in Little Waltham - and the Broomfield and Little Waltham lands may have abutted.

Another odd feature is the position of the manor house. Both Broomfield Hall and Patching hall are situated well within their respective boundaries, at the hub of the manor, just as one would expect. But Belstead Hall is on the very edge of Broomfield, almost toppling over into Springfield. When a group of villagers beat the bounds of the parish in 1837 one of the participants, Henry Marriage, made notes as they progressed round the parish boundary. When they reached Belstead Hall they went "across the yard to the parlour window.....through the parlour, across the orchard, through the moat". Part of the house was in Springfield and part in Broomfield! How can this have come about?

Then there is Broomfield Croft. This piece of land

was, until the latter part of the 19th century, a detached piece of Broomfield within Little Waltham parish. It lay against the land of Little Waltham's Belstead yet was apparently once a part of Broomfield's Belstead Hall. And then there is the tradition quoted by Phillips and Bazett of the two bell towers, one at each of the Belsteads, being within earshot of each other and of the monastery at New Hall. I doubt if there were ever two bell towers. King Harold gave the manor of New Hall to a college of secular canons of Waltham Abbey in 1062, so they could have heard the bell or bells ringing, but to what purpose?

Belstead Hall was Belesteda in Domesday and Morant gives the holder of Belstead Hall in 1066 as Godric Poinc. Certainly, one Belesteda was held by Godric Poinc in 1066 and amounted to one hide less 10 acres, i.e. 110 acres, plus six acres of meadow and woodland for 20 pigs. This became part of the massive holding of William de Warren. Although its arable land was only half the size of the other Belesteda entry it had twice the woodland and its value in 1086 was given as 40 shillings, double that of its namesake.

The other Belesteda entry shows that it was held by three free men in 1066 and amounted to 1½ hides plus 40 acres, i.e. 220 acres, plus 15 acres of meadow and woodland for 10 pigs. By 1086 this Belesteda was held by Robert, son of Gobert and the three free men were now bordars, or smallholders. In 1066 this Belesteda was worth 30 shillings, but by 1086 its value had fallen to one pound. There is no reason why both entries shouldn't relate to the Broomfield Belstead Hall, and I think they do, though the land wasn't necessarily all in Broomfield. After all, Patching Hall was split in three in 1066. Little Waltham's Belstead, which Morant doesn't mention, could have

come on the scene later.

There is one other thing to be considered, the possibility that both Belstead entries in Domesday refer to Belstead Hall land within Broomfield. It would have given the manor 351 acres plus woodland for 30 pigs, still smaller than Broomfield's other manors but a reasonable size. In order to calculate the total size and to see how this compared with later figures we need to know how much woodland was needed for 30 pigs and Domesday doesn't tell us. In 1986 Doug Shipman did a survey of the whole of Chelmsford Hundred. The total area of the Hundred is approximately 90,000 acres. The entries in Domesday for this hundred totalled 34,500 acres plus woodland for 10,850 pigs, giving around 5 acres per pig. If this piggage were applied to all three Broomfield manors the acreage would have far exceeded the total size of the parish when it was closely measured for the Tithe award in 1846. Which suggests that either Broomfield pigs needed less than 5 acres of wood each or part(s) of the manors were outside Broomfield. Part of Belstead might well have been outside Broomfield, perhaps part in Little Waltham and part in Springfield.

Although Godric Poinc's Belstead was the smaller in terms of acreage I believe it was he who was at Belstead Hall. His portion was the more valuable, it was worth 40 shillings in 1086 as against the 20 shillings of the other Belstead, twice as much. He is named in Domesday, the free men weren't. The three free men were likely to have had their own dwellings.

The fate of Godric Poinc can only be guessed at. If the bell house did signify a military man, did Godric march with Harold north to Stamford Bridge and then south with his King to

Hastings? And if so, did he survive? If he returned to Broomfield he would have lost his land, the fate of Saxons across the county. Whatever his fate, Belstead Hall fell into the hands of William de Warren.



Belstead Hall from the air

William de Warren came from Varenne in northern France, the son of Ralph and Emma and the grandson of Hugh, Bishop of Coutance. He was a distant relation by marriage to King William I, and was one of William's advisers in his dispute with Harold. For his part in the conquest he was rewarded

with land in no less than twelve counties, including many manors. His main seats were at Castle Acre in Norfolk and Lewes in Sussex. In Broomfield, Belstead Hall was but a very small part of his real estate and one of his followers, Richard, held it for him. de Warren fought against Hereward the Wake at Ely in 1071 and in 1075 he was made Chief Justiciar with Richard de Clare. He remained loyal to William Rufus when some of the barons attempted to replace William with Duke Robert of Normandy and was made 1st earl of Surrey. He was wounded by an arrow at the siege of Pevensey in 1088 and died at Lewes on the 14th June of that year. He was buried in the Chapter House at Lewes.

There is then a gap. A document dated to 1240 refers to a Sir John de Belsted in relation to Broomfield but the tax returns of 1319 and 1327 give no indication of the owner at that time. A guess, by taking the leading taxpayers and eliminating the known owners of Broomfield Hall and Patching Hall, suggests that William Sparkes or Isabel Sarich may have been at Belstead Hall. William Sparkes of Writtle did obtain 2 messuages and 70 acres of land in Broomfield and Little Waltham in 1313/14 which puts it the right area but the acreage sounds wrong. However, the next recorded change of owner was when John Fermer procured a part share from Sir William de Wauton for a service of 20 shillings a year. John died in 1354 and possession of the manor passed to his son and heir Nicholas Fermer.

Another gap and then in 1512 George Strevern and Margaret his wife quitclaimed to William Sewell and William Aylett, and then to the heirs of William Aylett, a moiety of the manor of Belstead Hall and a moiety of one messuage, 200 acres

of arable land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood and 20 shillings rent in Broomfield and Springfield. Three years passed and then in 1515 there was another legal action involving several parties, including John Botiler (Butler) the son and heir of George Botiler, and Margaret Strevern, widow of George Strevern and one of the daughters of George Botiler, with the same lands, etc., as in 1512. So perhaps the 1512 transaction was a mortgage, or a quitclaim to break an entailment.

In 1528 William and Margaret Harris were at Belstead Hall and then in 1542 it passed to the Wiseman family. The owners previous to Wiseman may have been the family of Sir John Hampden, with the Harrises as tenants. Hampden's daughter Barbara was his heir as the following quitclaim demonstrates:

"Trinity 34 Henry VIII. Easter and Trinity.

John Wiseman, gent. plaintiff. George Pawlet esquire and Barbara his wife, daughter and heir apparent of John Hampden, knight, deforciant. The Manor of Belstead Hall and 2 messuages, 300 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood and 20s rent in Broomfield and Springfield. Deforciant quitclaimed to plaintiff and his heirs"

This conveyance is curious in that Morant records that the property had been quitclaimed to Wiseman and his heirs as one of the manors possessed by Richard Lord Rich. This wouldn't have been surprising since Rich had acquired several lordships in the area. The size too is interesting; it puts the manor at 460 acres, not so far removed from the total of the two

Belestedas in Domesday around 460 years earlier.

John Wiseman was one of Henry VIII's auditors of revenues for the Crown. Morant refers to him as John Wyseman of Felsted Esq. Other sources suggest he was a member of the Wiseman family of Canfield Hall. Born in 1515, he died in 1558 and was succeeded by his son Thomas who was then aged about 30. In 1563 Thomas Wiseman and his wife quitclaimed the manor to Ralph Wiseman, gent., and his wife. This was the situation at the time of the churchyard fence list in 1570 when the owner was shown as Ralph Wiseman. However, that family's ownership was short-lived for in 1579 Ralph sold Belstead Hall to Thomas Radclyffe, the 3rd Earl of Sussex, who had been given New Hall by a grateful Queen Elizabeth.

Its proximity to New Hall has added a certain glamour to the story of Belstead Hall. Once owned by Sir Thomas Boleyn, Henry VIII acquired New Hall from him in 1517. Henry then had a large mansion built there, which he named Beaulieu. In 1533 Henry married Sir Thomas Boleyn's daughter Anne but three years later it all ended in tears and a severed head. The presence of the monarch and his queen at Beaulieu, the King's known love of riding and the chase, and a possible desire to be away from his court followers and sycophants, has led to thoughts that Belstead hall might have provided a convenient hunting lodge and a quiet retreat. Philip Magness has postulated that they may have kept the horses there. It is uncertain who was the owner of Belstead Hall in the 1530s, but whoever it was there can be little doubt that it would have been placed at His Majesty's disposal if the need arose. The owner from 1542, John Wiseman, was one of

Henry's auditors and Henry may well have visited Beaulieu in the 1540s.

Thomas Radclyffe was the most celebrated of the Earls of Sussex. He was educated at Cambridge and became Member of Parliament for Norfolk. A renowned soldier, diplomat and scholar, he rose to prominence in 1554 as a result of his part in suppressing the attempt by Sir Thomas Wyatt to depose Queen Mary. He was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1556, a thankless post which he held until 1564 without ever being able to subdue the rebellious Irish. Two expeditions against Shane O'Neill, the chief of the O'Neills of Tyrone, failed.

In 1569 Radclyffe was instrumental in putting down the Rising in the North, an attempt by the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland to restore Catholicism. Loyal to both the catholic Mary and her protestant sister, Queen Elizabeth made him her Lord Chamberlain and granted him Henry VIII's great mansion of Beaulieu (New Hall) at Boreham. The earl died in 1583 and his monument can be found, with those of the two previous earls, in Boreham church. The fortunes of Belstead Hall were now linked to New Hall. In 1583, with New Hall, it passed to Thomas's brother Henry, who also became Earl of Sussex. Henry died in 1594 and it then passed to his son, the next earl, Robert Radclyffe.

In 1619 Robert, Earl of Sussex, leased Belstead Hall to Robert May of Great Dunmow for a term of 17 years and shortly after that Belstead Hall changed hands. New Hall, and with it Belstead Hall, was purchased by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham

George Villiers had made a great impression at the court of James I, becoming a favourite of the King who created him Earl of Buckingham in 1617. Two years later he was appointed Lord High Admiral and in 1623 he became the Duke of Buckingham. He was still the owner of Belstead Hall at the time of his violent death. A high liver, who aspired to be the real ruler of the country, he fell foul of Parliament and was only saved from impeachment by the King's dissolution of Parliament in 1626. In 1628 he was at Portsmouth, recruiting troops and preparing to lead an expedition to relieve Rochelle. Previous expeditions led by him at Rochelle and at Cadiz had failed. He arrived at Portsmouth on the 22nd August and put up at an inn. After breakfast the next morning he had just left the inn when an officer named Felton rushed up to him and stabbed him to death.

Four years before his untimely end the Duke of Buckingham had a survey made of the manors of New Hall and Old Hall. It was carried out by Benjamin Mason and included the farm of Belstead Hall. It shows that at that date Belstead Hall farm consisted of just over 161 acres and the survey named the fields as follows:

| | | Acres | Rods | Perches |
|---------------|---|-------|------|---------|
| House & yards | | 1 | 1 | 36 |
| Green Yard | | 1 | 0 | 23 |
| Little Croft | a | 2 | 2 | 26 |
| Park Field | p | 7 | 2 | 36 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------|----|----|----|
| Middle Park Field | p | 14 | 1 | 28 | |
| Foxes Croft | a | 8 | 3 | 32 | |
| Upper Whittage | a | 12 | 3 | 1 | |
| Nether Whittage | a | 13 | 0 | 3 | |
| Slate Field | p | 13 | 1 | 14 | |
| Brake Field | a | 13 | 1 | 8 | |
| Church Field | a | | 15 | 2 | 13 |
| Barn Field | a | 23 | 1 | 19 | |
| Bell Hull | a | 5 | 3 | 20 | |
| Great Springs | w | 10 | 1 | 26 | |
| Little Springs | w | 2 | 0 | 25 | |
| Long Hose | p | 9 | 2 | 20 | |
| Long Meadow | m | 5 | 0 | 29 | |
| | | Total 161 | 0 | 3 | |

a = arable p = pasture w = wood

Clearly much of what was once the manor of Belstead Hall had been lost. Of the 31 acres of meadow in 1086 only 5 acres remained as a part of the much reduced overall acreage in 1624. I wonder if part of the land had been in Little Waltham and by 1624 this had become a quite separate farm known just as Belsteads? The field names given in the 1624 survey bear little relation to the names given on the Tithe award some 120 years later.

Belstead Hall had long been surrounded by a moat and it was said that years later, long after Buckingham's ownership, when the moat was drained it was found to contain hundreds of champagne bottles, thought to be relics of the days of the wild parties held at Belstead Hall by the notorious Duke of

Buckingham, though this doesn't quite tie in with the lease to tenant farmers. And since Dom Perignon, the man who put the sparkle into champagne, wasn't born until ten years after the Duke's death, the wine must have been pretty flat, unless of course the duke in question was the second Duke.

George Villiers, son of the assassinated Duke, succeeded his father, and from him Belstead Hall passed to George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, but before this much had happened. After the death of his father the 2nd Duke of Buckingham was brought up with Charles I's family and when the king was executed in 1649 George remained with Prince Charles and fought by his side at Worcester. Following that defeat he escaped into exile where he remained until 1657. Meanwhile his estate had come under the control of the successful Parliamentarians, and in 1651 New Hall was acquired by Oliver Cromwell for the bargain price of five shillings! Shortly afterwards the Lord Protector exchanged it for the more convenient Hampton Court and New Hall passed to "three citizens of London".

When the Duke of Buckingham returned in 1657, prematurely as it turned out, he was captured and imprisoned. Time was on his side, however. Cromwell died in the following year, the monarchy was restored in 1660, and Buckingham recovered his freedom and his estates. In 1663 he sold New Hall, and with it Belstead Hall, to the Duke of Albemarle.

George Monck had made a reputation as a soldier in the Netherlands from about 1630 to 1638. He returned to England in 1638 to help Charles I against the Scots and he then went to Ireland where he remained until 1644. The Civil War was now

raging and when Monck returned from Ireland he was taken prisoner and spent the next two years in the Tower. In 1646 he was released to become a parliamentary soldier, returning to Ireland as Governor of Ulster. Monck became a highly successful Parliamentary general but on the death of Oliver Cromwell and the fall of Richard Cromwell, Monck brought his army south from Scotland and effectively took over the country. Made commander-in-chief of the army in England, Scotland and Ireland he declared for Charles II and was instrumental in the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660

Monck was created Duke of Albemarle by a grateful Charles II, and he would have acquired Belstead Hall as a part of the much larger estate of New Hall, which was Monck's seat until his death in 1670. It then passed to his son Christopher, 2nd Duke of Albemarle, who became chancellor of Cambridge University and was Governor of Jamaica when he died in 1688.

Christopher's widow Elizabeth re-married; her second husband was Ralph Montagu. She had a reputation for madness and it was said she had sworn only to marry a crowned head so Montagu wooed her disguised as the Emperor of China! It was through this marriage that Belstead Hall (and of course New Hall) passed into the Montagu family. A courtier of Charles II, Ralph Montagu was several times ambassador to France and a member of the Privy Council. He served several monarchs, was created Earl of Montagu by William III in 1689 and Duke of Montagu by Queen Anne in 1705. He died in 1709.

Since Ralph Wiseman sold Belstead Hall in 1579 it had been a tenant farm. Robert May had apparently farmed there

from 1619 until his death in 1631, although the parish register records the burial of a Steven Barnard of Belstead Hall in 1626. The 1631 burial record for Robert May describes him as "an ancient man, farmer at Belstead Hall". His widow died two years later, in 1633. Robert May was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was churchwarden of Broomfield church in 1634, but Thomas's tenure was short for he died in 1636. At the time of the Ship Money tax in that year his widow Thomasin had the farm, and in the following year she married again, to John Ram, a widower. Thomas and Thomasin May had a son, Robert, born in 1629 and a daughter, Thomasin, born in 1634. When Thomas died he left his "best bedstead and featherbed, 2 great chests in the parlour, the long table, frame, and my great brass pot" to his son Robert. Thomas's widow continued to live in Broomfield where as Mrs John Ram she continued to bear children.

By 1662 Belstead Hall was being farmed by Samuel Harwood. At that time it was still in the possession of the Duke of Buckingham who in that year had granted an annuity of £60 for life out of the income from Belstead Hall to a Thomas Vivian for faithful service to the Duke. Samuel was still there in 1675 when Sarah Surry of Broomfield was examined at the Quarter Sessions in Chelmsford as to the identity of the father of her bastard child. It was established that he was Thomas Wicks. Elizabeth Stileman of Great Waltham testified that she was the midwife who delivered the baby and Sarah Surry had confessed to her that Wicks, "her fellow servant to Samuel Harwood", was the father.

By 1687 it was in the occupation of John Harwood and his wife Sarah; John was doubtless Samuel's son. It is

interesting to find that he was at liberty in 1687 because an assize record of 1682 noted that “John Harwood of Broomfield, yeoman, assaulted Thomas Jackson with a handgun worth 10 shillings charged with gunpowder and hail shot, hit the side of his head, giving him a mortal wound one inch wide and three inches deep of which he eventually died. The outcome isn’t recorded but John Harwood continued to live at Belstead hall.

There are just three Harwood baptisms in the Broomfield parish registers, Elizabeth (1687), Charity (1688), and Susannah (1689), so it may be that John had no son to carry on the line. The Hearth Tax of 1671 shows that Samuel Harwood paid tax on four hearths, the same as Scravels and the Vicarage.

The Harwoods may have left soon after Susannah's birth because an entry in the parish register records the baptism of Mary, the daughter of Robert James of Belstead Hall in 1692, although the parish records show that a Joseph Harwood was present at a vestry meeting in 1693, the year in which Robert James and his wife Mary had another child, James, baptised.

In 1713 Benjamin Hoare Gent., bought New Hall and with it Belstead Hall. Benjamin was the youngest son of Richard Hoare, a wealthy banker of Fleet Street, London, and builder of Stourhead in Wiltshire. In 1728 Benjamin had a new house built, Boreham House, still a feature of Boreham today with its impressive lake in front of the house. It is highly unlikely that Benjamin ever lived at Belstead Hall but some Hoares certainly did for as early as 1702 the burial was recorded of John, son of Arthur Hoare of Belstead Hall, and in 1722 Arthur, who had been the parish's Overseer of the Poor in 1718, died at the Hall. The family was still there when Arthur’s

widow Abigail Hoare died in 1728 and their daughter, also Abigail, died in 1729.

In 1737 John Olmius, the nephew of the Dutch merchant Herman Olmius who had bought Broomfield Hall and Patching Hall, purchased New Hall with the gardens and park belonging to it "but not the manor which still belonged to a wealthy beneficent citizen", i.e. Benjamin Hoare.

Morant doesn't mention the owner or occupant of Belstead Hall in his list of 1735 and there is quite a gap before the next occupant is named. The Land Tax returns take up the story from 1783 when the owner was shown as Henry Hoare, deceased, so this must mark the end of the Hoare ownership. There is, however, some evidence that for several years up to 1774 Thomas Cavell farmed Belstead Hall, no doubt on a lease from the Hoare family. Thomas Cavell first appears in the Broomfield records in March 1760 when he attended a vestry meeting. For the next fourteen years there was no more diligent attendee than Thomas. In 1765 he was appointed Overseer of the Poor and in the following year he replaced John Boosey as churchwarden, a post he held until his death in 1774. There the story might have ended, with no mention of Belstead Hall, but for the last will and testament of Richard Dixon.

Richard Dixon was the owner of Hartford End mill and of a farm at North End, Great Waltham. His family also occupied Broomfield Mill. Richard died in 1797 and his will contains a curious bequest. He left to his wife Mary for the rest of her life the interest to be gained from investing the sum of £295, the value of the furniture and household goods at Belstead Hall Farm, home of the late Thomas Cavell. On her death the

capital was to be divided amongst the children of Richard Cavell, deceased, according to the will of Thomas Cavell. Richard was Thomas Cavell's brother and the children were Thomas's nephew and niece Edward and Elizabeth Cavell.

Thomas Cavell came from Felsted, where his family had Potash farm. He had married Mary Knight of Boreham in 1760 but they had no children, hence his bequests to his nephew and niece. The effects of his will seem to have rumbled on for many years, involving a legacy to his nephew Edward, who had moved to Walworth in south London, and from him to another Thomas Cavell, a glazier and plumber in Dartford. The whole affair is odd - it was twenty years after Thomas Cavell's death when Richard Dixon was bequeathing the interest on his furniture!

From 1783 the picture clears; in that year the occupant of Belstead Hall was William Blyth, and a William Blyth was shown thereafter as both owner and occupant until his death in 1819. His wife Mary died in 1823, but by then the owner was shown as Samuel Blyth. William Blyth's will, proved in 1820, reveals that his executors were his brother Thomas, a farmer at South Hanningfield, and John Blyth of Broomfield. He left Belstead Hall to his brother Samuel in trust for his nephew.

When William's widow died an auction was conducted on Wednesday, June 11th 1823, of all the household furniture belonging to Mrs Blyth, deceased, of Belstead Hall. There were 113 items including, in the kitchen a block-tin saucepan and a box-iron, a trivet, sifter, rest, and blower, a copper tea kettle, a green-painted fender with a brass top, and a skillet and

warming pan. Amongst the items in the parlour were a pair of dimity window curtains, lath, levers and pullies, a 30-hour clock in a painted case, an oval dining table, a writing desk on a stand with drawers, eight framed and glazed pictures, and a Kidderminster carpet 11 feet by 13 feet. The furniture in the bedrooms included a 4-poster bed, a stump bedstead, a 4-foot press bedstead, a walnut-tree chest with five drawers, a mahogany wash-hand stand with a blue bason and ewer, and a fine Marseilles counterpane.

In 1834 John Blyth apparently became the owner of Belstead Hall. A deed dated 7th August of that year shows that the vendor was Elizabeth Partridge, but this may have been the redemption of a mortgage. Certainly by 1837 John Blythe Jnr. had succeeded Samuel Blyth at Belstead Hall and on the 7th October 1837 a party of Broomfield residents set out to beat the bounds of the parish. John was one of the party and he had a vested interest since Belstead Hall is right on the Broomfield-Springfield boundary. Indeed, the Hall as it was in 1837 straddled the boundary, as Henry Marriage's report of the occasion shows:

"Marked the stile going into J Coleby's field, up the South side of East Lodge Field to the East Lodge which is in Springfield. Straight to the gate post, across the yard to the parlour window at Belstead Hall. Marked the East Lodge and gate post in the yard, **through the parlour**, across the orchard, through the moat. It is estimated that about half an acre of these premises are in Springfield parish."

At the beating of the bounds in 1842 John Blyth Jnr was

again present, as was Charles Blyth. Charles was the son of John Blyth Snr. who was still living but he was then probably residing at Hill Farm. The Blyth family may have come to Broomfield from Springfield, they farmed the land of Springfield Dukes at one time, and Samuel Blyth Jnr was shown as living at Springfield Dukes in the 1860s and 70s, although the generations that lived at Belstead Hall were all buried at Broomfield. The Broomfield tithe award and map of 1846 gives a clear picture of the Blyths holdings in that year, but it is useful at this stage to recap on the fortunes of Belstead Hall.

In 1086 the manor of Belstead Hall extended to around 351 acres plus however much woodland was needed to sustain 30 pigs. In 1542 it seems to have covered some 360 acres. By 1624 it had become linked to New Hall and Belstead Hall Farm was then shown as a unit of 161 acres; other parts may have been split off to form separate farms although what became Hill Farm would still have been regarded as a part of Belstead Hall. The Tithe maps of 1837 (Little Waltham), 1839 (Springfield) and 1846 (Broomfield) enable some sort of picture to be painted of the land around Belstead Hall and its owners.

The land farmed from Belstead Hall by Samuel Blyth and then by John Blyth Jnr., came to around 84 acres within Broomfield.. John Blyth Snr farmed a further 74 acres shown as part of Belstead Hall but based around Hill Farm. This gave a total of 158 acres, close to the size given in 1624. If the unidentified Little Croft of some 2½ acres in 1624 was discounted it would come very close. This may well constitute the farm as it was as far back as 1624 and probably much earlier. As for the field names, a comparison of the 1624 survey with the 1846 Tithe award might just work out as follows:

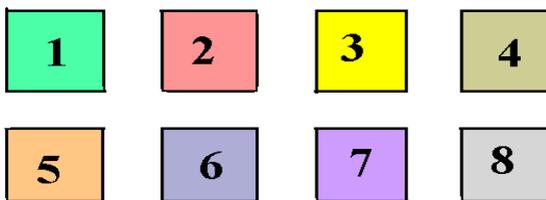
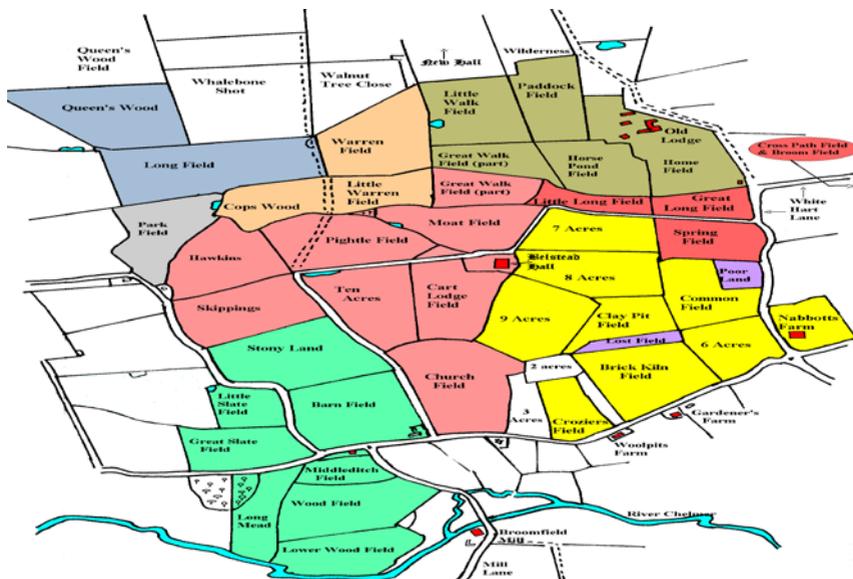
| Name | 1846 | Acreage | ---1624--- | Acreage |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| Foxes Croft | 8.3.32 | | Hawkins | 9.0.31 |
| Middle Park Field | 14.1.28 | | Pightle | |
| 14.1.20 | | | | |
| Park Field/Green Yd | 8.3.19 | | Moat Field | |
| 9.0.05 | | | | |
| Barn Field | 23.1.19 | | 10 Acres/Cart Lodge | |
| 20.2.14 | | | | |
| Church Field | 15.2.13 | | Church Field | |
| 13.1.02 | | | | |
| Nether Whittage | 13.0.03 | | Skippings | |
| 13.0.03 | | | | |
| Upper Whittage | 12.3.01 | | Stony Land | |
| 13.2.23 | | | | |
| Brake Field | 13.1.08 | | Barn Field | |
| 13.2.35 | | | | |
| Slate Field | 13.1.14 | | Gt & Lt Slate Field | |
| 13.2.04 | | | | |
| Bell Hull | 5.3.24 | | Middleditch & Hill | |
| 5.0.39 | | | Farm | homestead |
| Long Hose/Lt Spring | 11.3.05 | | Wood Field | |
| 11.2.05 | | | | |
| Great Spring | 10.1.26 | | Lower Wood Fd | |
| 10.0.16 | | | | |
| Long Meadow | 5.2.21 | | Long Mead | 5.0.29 |

This is only speculation. Nevertheless it is very likely that the 1624 list had a logical sequence and was not just random. The last six fields on the survey tie in very nicely

with the fields of Hill Farm and a spring was the old name for a wood. The minor differences might well arise from waste ground being taken into a field or vice versa, or the straightening out of an awkward bit of land. Barn Field and Church Field are problems. The 1624 Barn Field was ten acres larger than its 1846 namesake was so it must refer to a different field or fields. And two acres is a lot of difference in Church Field - in this case it might once have encompassed the neighbouring strip adjacent to Croziers Field.

The Domesday woodland, although its size isn't known, is likely to have been in excess of 100 acres. Much of this would doubtless have been cleared early on to make way for the more productive arable land. Doug Shipman theorized that some would have been on the west side of the manor, close by the river and the meadows, and this is borne out by the field names, with the rest in the north east corner towards the field called Queen's Wood. But by 1624 the farm of Belstead Hall had only twelve acres of woodland, all down towards the river. And by 1846 this had shrunk to just under two acres.

There is a possible complication when comparing the fields in the two surveys. Samuel and John Blyth Jnr also farmed an extra 37 acres of land within the parish of Springfield, some of which was very close to Belstead Hall, as the sketch below shows. If some of this were in the 1624 survey it would confuse the issue. Luckily none of the acreages tally.



1. Land owned by John Blyth Senr in 1846. Described as a part of Belstead Hall, they were sold to Eliza Seabrook in 1854 as a separate farm which became known as Hill Farm.

2. The lands of Belstead Hall shown as owned by Samuel Blyth and then by John Blyth Jnr. The darker coloured fields, e.g. Little Long Field, also in their ownership, were in Springfield parish.

3. These lands were owned by John Kitching as part

of Nabbott's Farm, Springfield, in 1839 and farmed by Joseph Marriage of Bishop's Hall, Springfield.

4. Old Lodge Farm in Springfield was owned and farmed by John Seabrook.

5. Robert French of Bull's Lodge, Boreham (just beyond New Hall), owned and farmed these fields.

6. Fields in Little Waltham owned and farmed by Samuel Shaer of Park Farm, Little Waltham.

7. These two parcels of land were owned by the Feoffes of Witham Poor.

8. Land farmed by Maurice Bird.

It can be seen from the sketch that if the land of Nabbott's Farm was once part of the Domesday Manor of Belstead Hall then the manor house would have been at the hub of the manor. These fields of Nabbott's came to approximately 66 acres so even adding this to the 158 acres of Broomfield's Belstead Hall and the 37 acres that the Blyths farmed in Springfield it would still only come to just over 260 acres, well short of the Domesday acreage. One can only speculate that the latter must have included more land around the periphery, very likely over in Little Waltham parish where the other Belstead is situated.

John Blyth Snr. died on the 30th May 1854 and his will, made only a week before he died, instructed his trustees to sell all his real estate by public auction or private contract, with the exception of a lease of two cottages and 3½ acres of land at Sluggy Slough that he held of Mary Walker. He left the remainder of that lease to his son Charles. It was at a public auction held by Messrs Baker of London, held at the Saracens Head in Chelmsford that his part of Belstead Hall, the "Hill Farm" portion, was bought by Miss Elizabeth Seabrook of Butlers, Broomfield. The money thus raised was to be shared equally amongst John Blyth's children.

Part of the farm had now been hived off but Belstead Hall and the surrounding farmland remained with the Blyth family. By 1855 John and William Blyth were joint owners but neither lived in Broomfield. John was at Barn Farm, Tolleshunt Knights and William was at Layer Marney Hall. When William died John Blyth became sole owner and he remained so into the 1890s. Farmworkers came to live in the Hall, George Sayward and John Gowers were there in the 1880s.

Gowers was still there in 1889 but he was joined by a new figure, Thomas Mott, who was a tenant farmer at Belstead Hall. He is shown on the 1891 census as a farmer, aged 41, with his wife Susannah. Susannah died in 1895, aged only 43, and Thomas re-married. He appears on the 1901 census at Belstead Hall with his second wife Anne; he was then 51 years of age and his wife was 56. The census reveals that they were both born in Bocking.

By 1908 George Herbert Gray of Gray's brewery was shown as the owner of Belstead Hall. He farmed both Belstead Hall and Hill Farm but continued to live in Springfield. Albert Willsmore was shown as the occupant in that year, together with Frank Russell, both no doubt employed by Mr Gray. In 1918 Ernest Willsmore, very likely Albert's son, was in residence. In 1921 Gray sold Belstead Hall and Hill Farm to John Smith, a farmer from West Hanningfield.

John Smith was born in 1862. His family had farmed Link House farm at West Hanningfield for generations but in 1921 the lease expired. Renewal was an option, but at a higher rent which John could not afford so he looked for another farm. Belstead Hall and Hill Farm were available. The existing dwellings were being used to house farm workers and so John and his wife Margaret had a new house built at the top of Mill Lane, on the land of Hill Farm, which he named Hill House. Three years later the lease of Nabbott's Farm, still owned by the Kitchin family, became available and John took that farm on as well. Thus he brought together much of what may once have been the Manor of Belstead Hall.

On John Smith's death in 1955 at the good old age of 92

his farms passed to his son, David Smith, better known as a writer and broadcaster and Broomfield "character". David Smith's books are a valuable and very readable source of information about life on the farms and the characters he encountered before, during, and after World War II. He left West Hanningfield when he was only 7 and so much of his stories are set in and around Broomfield.

When David married, he and Pru went to live at Nabbott's, just over the border in Springfield, but he remained at heart a Broomfieldian, enthusiastically involved in local matters from the Home Guard to the Parish Council, to the Broomfield Cricket Club or just for a convivial drink in the Kings Arms. He had long had health problems and died in 1957 at the age of 43. A much loved figure in the parish his epitaph from Abu Ben Adhem, "Write me as one that loves his fellow men" was most appropriate. His name lives on in the David Smith playing field close by the Angel.

Belstead Hall was sold to Leslie Magness, then a farmer at Bowers farm in Springfield. In 1958 the Magness family moved into Belstead Hall. Mrs Magness later recalled that at the time one half was tenanted by a Mrs Ransom who had already made arrangements to move out. The first floor was made up of two enormous rooms. A water closet stood in the garden on the south side of the house. There was no main drainage and no water laid on. The downstairs consisted of a large room, no doubt the "parlour" of the 1837 beating the bounds, and a very small kitchen, two-thirds of which was taken up with an unusual old brick range. There was a staircase to one side of the house and only one main door serving both parts. A large chimney stood by the south wall. A previous owner

had installed an electricity supply, the wires being brought overhead across the fields on poles. The old farm labourer didn't often use it, he preferred his candles. The electricity, he said "was alright but too expensive to use all the time".

A moat, which is clearly shown on the Tithe map of 1846, surrounded the property. It was deep but not very wide and joined up with a pond by the wash-house, and then drained into a ditch behind the house. An old labourer, who had started work on the farm at the age of 11 years, once told Mrs Magness "that was where we watered the hosses and washed out the churns!" He recalled having to fetch the drinking water for the house from a spot lower down the field, towards Back Lane.

The moat has since been filled in and alterations made to the house. A sun lounge was built along the whole of the south side. In 1958 the whole lath and plaster interior of the building was demolished, leaving the roof standing on its four corner posts. Gale force winds blew up one night and threatened to bring down the precarious structure. Everyone waited for it to collapse but it was still standing the next morning and remains to this day to cover the present Hall. The two large upstairs rooms became four bedrooms, the kitchen was extended, a new chimney was built in the centre of the building and the mantel in the lounge was formed from one of the old discarded beams.

* * * * *

1570. Belstead Hall and now Ralph Wisemans maketh from Crouch House towards the west one rodd and halfe.

1678. Belstead Hall now in ye occupation of Samuel Harwood maketh from Crouch House towards the west by estimation one rodd and halfe

1687. Belstead Hall now in the occupation of John Harwood maketh from Crouch House westward one rod & half

1735. Belstead Hall - a rod & half

1843. 10. Belstead Hall (two farms) make, in equal proportions, one rod & a half. Owned by J Blyth Snr and J Blyth Jnr. Occupied by the proprietor.

11.

Sewell's Land alias the Church Land.



This is a curiosity in that it is the only entry on the 1570 churchyard fence list to which no building can be attached. There were other entries which referred to land but these were cases where either the building was outside Broomfield and its land lay within the parish or else a house was subsequently built on the land and referred to in a later list. In 1570 this entry referred to "Sewell's land and now the parish's". There was no building referred to on this or on any subsequent fence list. The date given for its gift to the church is generally shown as 1561 but its origins must go back much further. There were a

number of land transactions in Broomfield in the late 13th and early 14th century when the name of Sewell cropped up, but in fact it almost certainly goes back to an even earlier date.

In 1261 Thomas de Wymondham, the parson of St Leonard's church, Broomfield, was involved in the title to some land in Broomfield. The other party was a Robert le Burser. It referred to 23 acres of land in Broomfield, and a jury was summoned to recognize whether the land was "free alms of the said church or the lay fee of the tenant". There was a final concord between Thomas de Wymondham, parson of Broomfield church, plaintiff, and Robert le Burser, tenant of 23 acres of land in Broomfield, which Robert acknowledged to be the right of Thomas and his church of St Leonard of Broomfield and quitclaimed to him and his successors for ever. The deed ends "Pars Roberti le Burser quam habere non curcavit quia nichil retinuit". This must surely be the church land in question. It had been gifted to the church, perhaps to smooth the donor's path to Heaven, some time before 1262 and the parson was asserting the church's rights. Robert le Burser seems to have been a citizen of London and the name crops up in deeds of Edmonton around that time. How he came to be involved in Broomfield isn't known.

Thomas de Wymondham had been vicar of Great Bromley before coming to Broomfield and he seems to have been a sharp fellow. In addition to the 23 acres he also obtained a quitclaim by Thomas Sargeant of Broomfield of a further 8 acres of land which his father William had previously held of the church. This doubtless became the glebe land on which Glebe Crescent was built. Thomas de Wymondham also had the benefit of St Leonard's Fair in the parish.. .

In the year 1290 Isobel de Cloville, the lady of the manor of Patching Hall, granted Sewell de Broomfield three acres of land in Broomfield called Drayscroft, part of the manorial land of Patching Hall. In 1297 Simon Marescall (Marshall) willed that "a house and rents in the Parish of St. Brigid (in London) be devoted to the maintenance of a chantry in the church of Broomfield, near Chelmsford, Co. Essex, for a term of four years; remainder to Sewell de Broomfield". Sewell was Simon's brother and Simon was Broomfield's miller in addition to owning property in London. The Marescall family might have been the same one that also owned property in Great Waltham and which later became Langleys.

Between 1312 and 1338 Sewell's name occurs several times in deeds relating to Broomfield. In 1312 he granted three rods of meadow to Henry, son of William le Cooper of Felsted and his wife Sabina. He was, as might be expected, one of the Broomfield tax-payers on the 1319 lay subsidy list, and in 1322 he was very busy. In that year there was an agreement between Sewell's daughter Matilda and Ranulf & Emma Chopyn of Writtle regarding eight acres of land, one acre of wood and two shillings rent in Broomfield and Chignal which Sewell and his wife Rose held for life. Sewell and Rose were present when Ranulf and Emma paid Matilda £10, a considerable sum in 1322. In that same year William, son of Richard de Irlande and his wife Mabel granted a messuage and pasture in Broomfield to Sewell for life at an annual rent of a rose. Another agreement between Ranulf and Emma Chopyn and Sewell related to a field called Seven Acres between the Prior of Blackmore's land and the Roman land of Writtle.

Moving on a few years and in 1334 Gilbert, the son of Sewell de Broomfield, quitclaimed some land and a tenement in Broomfield to Ranulf Chopyn. And in 1338 Ranulf Chopyn quitclaimed to Thomas Pacchere, both of Writtle, a messuage with gardens, curtilage, 18 acres of arable land, two acres of wood, and one rod of pasture in Broomfield "which were of Sewell de Broomfield and Rose his wife"

All this ties in with the Sewell who, as the 1570 list puts it, sometime held land in Broomfield. Certainly the land was in the right area, in those days Writtle parish extended along the Chignal Road, and Writtle, Chignal Smealey and Broomfield came together close by the Prior of Blackmore's land (Priors). And the 23 acres which became known as the Church Land was in that same area.

. The churchwardens' records for Broomfield go back to 1540 and in the following year William Reynolds was shown as paying 12 shillings for the rent of the Church Land and John Bonner paid 2 shillings for the rent of the Church Acre. This latter was a separate piece of land known as Salmon's Croft, which lay between Stacey's Farm and Wood Hall. Reynolds may have been a tenant farmer at Priors. What is certain is that William Ayre became the owner of Priors in 1545 and he paid the rent for the Church Land up to 1563 when he sold Priors to Thomas Wallenger who in turn paid rent for the same land. The 12 shillings rent was thus paid regularly long before 1561 and continued until long after 1561. This is important for it establishes that this piece of land had been church property since well before John Gyne's "gift".

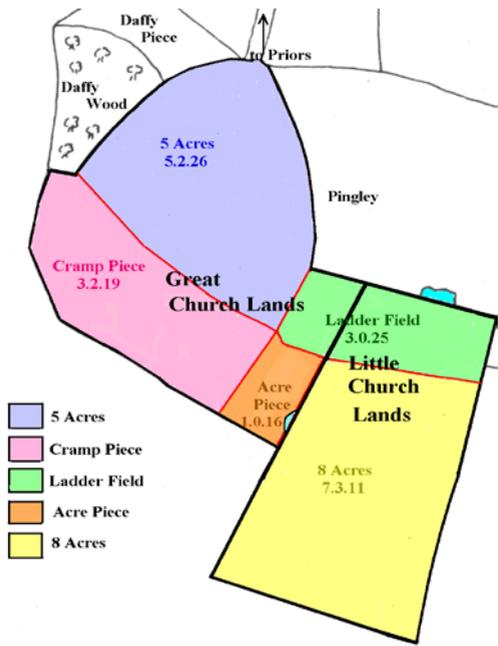
On the 20th August 1561 John Gyne granted to trustees

some 23 acres of land in Broomfield for the benefit of the parish church. This became known as John Gyne's Charity. All but one acre lay between Priors and Writtle and the land was referred to as "sometime were Sewell of Broomfield". This land was surely that referred to in the deed of 1262, which had earlier been given to Broomfield church. The land was then sometime in the occupation of Sewell and was shown as such on the 1570 fence list. This was probably the same Sewell who was involved in all those conveyances back in the 1300s though they may have referred to different bits of land.

The occupant may have held it on trust for the Parish although it is more probable that the trustee or trustees were appointed by the parish and they then rented it out. And although John Gyne gets the credit it really wasn't his gift; rather he had been trustee on behalf of the parish and was merely handing over to other trustees in 1561. John Gyne was very likely related to the Gynes family who were in Broomfield in the 1400s and 1500s and who at one time lived at the Well House. John himself was a prominent man in Colchester. He was a freeman of that town and in 1546 was churchwarden of St Peter's in Colchester.

The whereabouts of the land that Gyne supposedly gave can easily be identified for it was long referred to as the Church Lands and is named as such on the Tithe map of 1846. Excluding the odd bit known as Salmon's Croft, there were originally five parcels of land but by 1846 the field boundaries had been changed and there were then only two, larger, fields. These were known as Great Church Lands (of 12 acres, 3 rod, 25 perches) and Little Church Lands (of 9 acres, 2 rod, 24 perches). They lay to the south of Priors, abutting Daffy Wood

on the west side, Priors land on the north and east sides, and the College Lands on the south side.



The area of the five fields shown on the above sketch comes to 21 acres 1 rod and 27 perches. There were in addition two small pieces of wood adjacent to Daffy Wood which together came to 3 rods and 35 perches, giving a total for the church lands of 22 acres 1 rod and 22 perches. The last bit of the church lands, Salmon's Croft was, as already noted, some distance away, between Stacey's Farm and Wood Hall.

The indenture of 1561 "witnesseth that John Gyne of Colchester in the County of Essex by a certain writing bearing

date the 20th day of August 3 Elizabeth 1561 granted to trustees and their heirs a piece or parcel of land containing 8 acres, one other croft of land containing 3 acres, another croft containing 4 acres called Daffadilly Grove, another croft containing 6 acres, together with a lane or chaseway leading from the highway to the said pieces, and another piece of land containing one acre and a half now called Salmon's Croft which close lies by itself distinct from the rest of the property, with the appurtenances.....”.

Apart from Salmon's Croft the only distinctive name given to the fields was Daffadilly Grove. By 1752 this had become known by the less attractive name of Cramp Piece. The three acre croft mentioned in John Gyne's grant later became known as Ladder Field. The other fields appear to have continued to be known by their acreage.

The same pieces of land were conveyed by an indenture of 1658 to trustees and their heirs. A deed poll dated 20th May 1659 “being a feoffment of livery with seisin endorsed of the same pieces of land to the use of Richard Everard and two others and their heirs in trust for the Parish of Broomfield the whole of which is arable except two closes which are woodland situated in the Parish”. The rents were expended in repairs to the church, the payment of the Parish Clerk's salary, and defraying such other expenses and church services as were usually provided out of a church rate which the Parish had thus no occasion to levy.

In 1786 a Parliamentary Return of charities stated that the land had been given to Broomfield church by Edward Warren and John Bonner. This was later acknowledged as

erroneous. It was another case of trustees handing over an existing trusteeship rather than making a gift of the lands. Warren and Bonner were prominent villagers who were contemporaries of John Gyne, they had no doubt taken on the trusteeship at some time. John Bonner was the man who was renting the Church Acre (Salmon's Croft) as early as 1541. A John Bonner continued to rent it until 1574, in which year John Savage took on the rental. There were two John Bonners, father and son, so it's not certain which one was the tenant. The son died in 1574 and John Bonner the elder died in 1577 when he was then living in Writtle. John Warren was churchwarden of Broomfield church in 1552/3 and it was probably he who died at Little Waltham in 1573.

The tenants of the church lands changed from time to time. The main body of the lands, i.e. excluding Salmon's Croft, was generally let to the owner or tenant of Priors. Thus between 1545 and 1687 the tenancy passed from Ayre to Wallenger to Glasscock to Manwood and to Luckyn. In 1843 the tenant was Thomas Wall Crooks who was then farming the Parsonage lands. Seemingly William Bott, then the tenant of Priors, didn't want it or was outbid by Crooks.

The rent was increased from time to time. Occasionally it was reduced though the churchwardens records give no indication as to why. In 1564 Thomas Wallenger was paying 42s for two years rent; in 1587 Lawrence Glasscock paid 40s for two years. The accounts often lumped the rent in with other revenue and the tenant was frequently not named but by 1644 Thomas Manwood was paying £3.6.8d a year and in 1687 Mt Luckyn paid £5, a figure that still stood 50 years later. However, by 1864 the church lands were yielding £43 a year in

rent, mostly paid by William Bott, the tenant of Priors who had taken it on from Thomas Crooks.

By 1863 there were signs that all was not well with the church lands although attention was mainly focussed on the Church Acre, Salmon's Croft, where there were complaints regarding the state of the access to this small field. The lane leading to it, adjacent to Scravels, was often in a very poor state - it still is! The minutes of a Vestry meeting in 1863 showed that the trustees were concerned about the land, for an entry read: "Chairman be requested to ascertain from Mr Samuel Christy whether in case the parishioners should desire to exchange the lands now called the Church Lands he would be willing to entertain such a proposition". Mr Christy, who had changed his name to Christie Miller, owned both Priors and Scravels but presumably at that stage he wasn't interested.

Nothing happened for a while and then in 1880 Samuel Christie Miller offered to buy the land at £80 an acre, by all accounts a fair price for land at that time. Apparently he wasn't interested in the trustees idea of an exchange. The trustees thought it advantageous to sell the land to a willing purchaser since the money, invested in Public Funds, would produce a "considerably increased income". With the approval of the Charity Commissioners the land was sold for £1,905.10.0d and the money invested in 2½% Consols. This would have brought in some £48 a year in interest which might not be now regarded as a considerable increase in income.

When the sale took place it was clearly necessary to establish precisely the boundaries of the land in question. This relied upon a survey made in 1752 by Joseph Dawson and it is

this map which shows the boundaries of the original five fields. A copy of Dawson's map had been in the possession of William Bott but the original seems to have been lost.

Mr Christie Miller and his successors as owners of Priors did rather better out of the deal. The money, known still as John Gyne's Charity, is still in 2½% Consols and still brings in around £48 a year. The land was used by the farmers at Priors and its value rose out of all proportion to the sum that the Parish received for it in 1880. Today the equivalent of £1,905 in 1889 would be a little over £100,000, and when one considers what has become of Church Lands, now the Newlands Spring housing estate, it would have paid the trustees handsomely to have held on to the land. And if the rent had only kept pace with inflation it would be bringing in around £2,500 a year now. If only they had had a crystal ball!



Daffy Wood is still there and the wild daffodils still pluckily bloom each year in the wood as they have done for centuries.

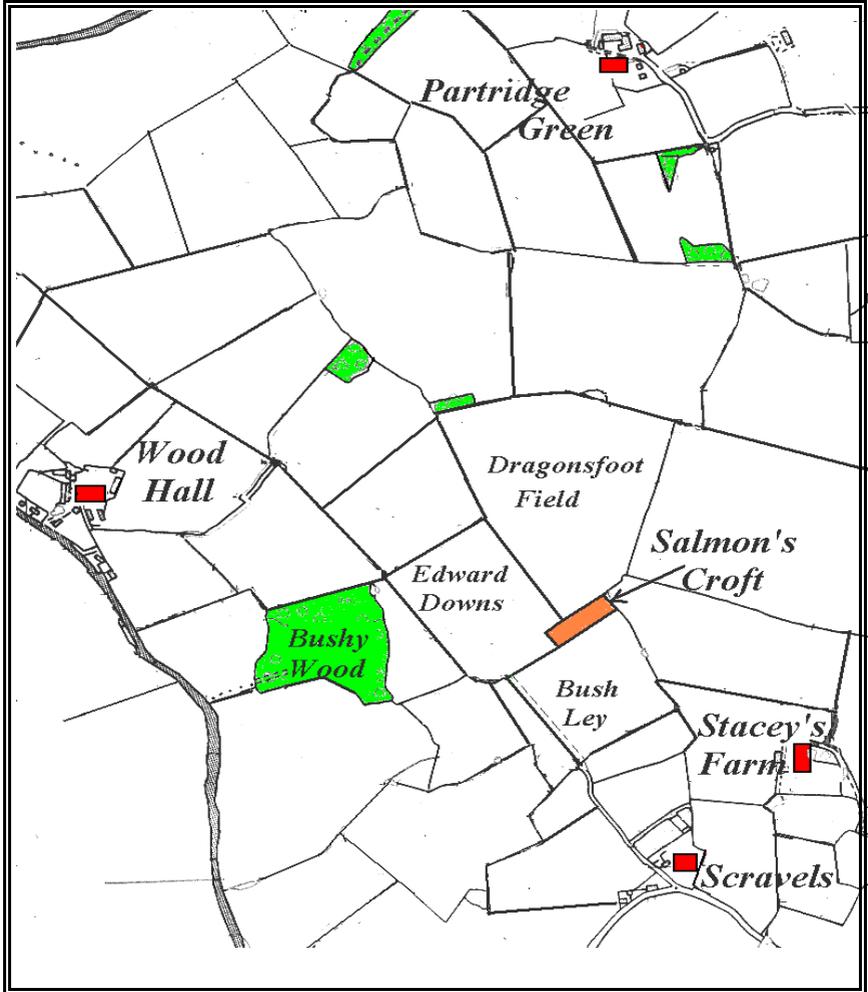


And so too do the bluebells.

What of the other piece of church land, the piece described by the churchwarden in 1541 as the Church Acre? This small field was long known as Salmon's Croft and was no doubt associated with a family of that name who for long lived in the vicinity of Parsonage Green. The name appears many times in the early parish register, usually as Salmon alias Smith or Smith alias Salmon, as if it wasn't quite certain what their surname should be. It may have got its name from one of the family giving it to the church, or it may be that Salmon was at one time the tenant.

John Bonner was the tenant of the Church Acre in 1541 and he was succeeded in 1573 by John Savage. In 1566/7 William Boosey arrived in Broomfield as the new owner of Scravels and he took on the tenancy of the Church Acre. It then seems to have stayed with the Boosey family. In 1608 William died and he was succeeded by his son William who in 1614 was one of the trustees of the parish property. William's brother John was the next owner of Scravels and he too was a trustee of the parish lands and tenant of Salmon's Croft, and he in turn was succeeded by his son, another John Boosey. When the latter died in 1680 his widow Mary continued to rent Salmon's Croft until her death in 1715.

By the 1680s the Booseys were farming both Scravels and Staceys and Mary Boosey was succeeded by another John Boosey who was probably a cousin then living at Staceys because John & Mary Boosey had no sons. This John Boosey continued to rent Salmon's Croft into the 1750s but by 1759 he had given up the tenancy in favour of Mr Sorrell.



The Church Acre, alias Salmon's Croft, was rented at different times by the farmers at Stacey's, Scravels, Wood Hall, and Partridge Green. It was later merged into one field with Edward Downs and Bush Ley.

In 1846 the tenant of Salmon's Croft was Thomas Watcham, a strange turn of events because Watcham was the grocer at Angel Green shop. Why he should have rented an acre of land some distance from his shop isn't clear. In any event he died shortly afterwards; in 1848 his widow Susannah was the grocer. The tenant of Salmon's Croft then became Mark Cowlin, the farmer at Wood Hall. Lying between the farms of Scravels, Staceys, Partridge Green and Wood Hall, all these farms seem to have had a go at the tenancy of Salmon's Croft. With the sale of the church lands in 1880 Salmon's Croft, like the larger lands, disappeared from the parish records. Salmon's Croft was merged with adjoining fields and is still arable unlike the other church lands.



This was Crump Piece, part of Great Church Lands,
and now covered with houses and roads

* * * * *

1570. Sewills Land and now the parishes maketh from Belstead Hall towards the west the church gate and porch.

1678. The Church land maketh from Belstead Hall westward to ye Church gate and ye Church gate.

1687. The Church lands maketh from Belstead Hall westward to the Church gate and the Church gate.

1735. The Parish's land - the Church gate & Porch.

1843. 11. The church land, occupied by T W Crooks, maketh the piece from no. 10 to the gate, and also the gate. Half a rod. Owner - the Churchwardens.