

The Manor of Moundsmere

A note by MRS D. COSIER

THERE can be no certainty in tracing any of the Preston Candover Manors back to the Conquest, but there is some reasonable connection in the case of Moundsmere, which was then held by William de Malduith. In 1133 William de Pontearche or Pondlearth held 5 hides 1 virgate. He was keeper of the castles of Winchester and Portchester, and was in charge of Henry I's Treasury at Winchester.

In 1133 he gave his manor in Preston Candover to Portchester and afterwards to Southwick Priory with the consent of his wife Constancia and his sons. The gift was confirmed by Pope Eugenius (1145-1154), calling the manor Canobzia.

Records of confirmation by the Bishop of Winchester also exist in Southwick Muniment Room.

In 1279 the Prior of Southwick was summoned to answer the King why his villeins of Axore in Preston Candover did not make suit at the Hundred Court of Bermondspit; as done in the time of William de Valence, a relative of Edward I.

In 1290 the Prior of Southwick's Manor in Candover was valued at £3 11s. 7d. In 1339 the 9ths due to the Priory in the Parish were 26s.

In 1316 and 1322 the Prior of Southwick is described as Lord of Preston Candover. In Henry IV's reign William Horewode, Lord of Stenbury Manor is attached to reply why he impounded 300 of the Prior of Sothewyhs' sheep at Preston Candover, without right. As of which detention 40 sheep worth £4 died of hunger, etc. On which the Prior, by Thomas Emery, his attorney, complains that on Friday, before the Feast of St Fabian and St Sebastian, 22 Richard ii, with swords, arrows and bows, he took the said 300 sheep. Said William, by John Sutton, his attorney, that he found the sheep in 'sua pali pastura ipsius', and there he impounded them. The Justices of Assize then hear the question at Winchester and declare that William Horewode found the sheep in common pasture of the said Prior, and detained them so that 40 died. They assess the damage at 100s., which the Prior receives.

In 1538 Moundsmere Manor was surrendered to King Henry VIII with the Priory of Southwick. It then formed part of the dower of Henry's queens until 1543 when it was exchanged as part of a considerable deal with Winchester College. In 1544 the plague broke out in Winchester and the scholars were sent to Moundsmere to be out of infection, both in autumn and winter. This 'rusticatio' lasted some 18 weeks.

The Computus Rolls of Winchester College state that the barn was fitted with bed places and windows for the reception of the scholars, and they were supplied with meat from Winchester. They allowed their Steward, John Hanyngton and one Jakes, £16 8s. 9d. for expenses. Baylie, the schoolmaster, however, only received £4, for having charge of the scholars at Moundsmere, a somewhat slender remuneration but it may have been increased from other sources.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

In 1553 the value of the Manor is given as follows:

Rent of assize of free tenants there by the year 10s.

Rent of the customary tenants there by the year £4 16s.

Farm of the site of the Manor etc. and with customary hay at Rotherwick £10.

Fines, stays, heriots and other perquisites 6s. 8d.

In July 1554 when Moundsmere was taken from Southwick Priory the annual value was £14 8s. 0d. Timber above that required for repair £13 15s. 0d.

In 1554 Moundsmere was again visited by the Scholars of Winchester College. £12 14s. 4d., the remainder of the Royal Alms given on Queen Mary's marriage to King Philip of Spain at Winchester, the same year was given to Mr Crane and Mr Langrage (called boweers) 'overseers to repare the childre hows at Mousberie (sic) for their comforte (consorbe) in tyme of sickness'.

	£	s.	d.
Queenes Alms	6	13	4
Kings Almes	10	16	8
My Lade of Chychester	1	0	0

The distribution of these alms given for the hospitality of the College at the wedding is of interest.

To the scholernayter by the order taken XLs.

To the ussher lykwyse by order XX s.

To LXX children after the rate of VI d. a piece XXXV s.

To XXX of the elder scholars for making verses VI d. a peace, beside the former alouansee.

To XVI Qweresters by ye hands of Mr Crane ij s. viii d.

To Purdie writtinge ye verses dedicated ij s.

To Shellye for deliveringe ye verses to the Kinge and Queenes' highness xii d.

So remayneth £XII. xiiij and iiij d. whyche sune was delivered to Mr Crane and Mr Langrage as stated previously.

In all successive leases until the property was sold in 1907 the following clause was inserted: 'Except never-the-less and reserving the new buildings adjoining the said manor house with all and singular the chambers and rooms whatsoever within the same contained or at any time hereafter of new to be built there for such time only as the said Warden and Scholars, Clerks or their successors, or the schoolmaster, scholars and servants of the said College for the time being shall resort, come and remain there for the avoiding the plague or any such pestilential sickness.' However, despite this clause, in 1666 when Winchester was again visited by the Plague, the scholars were either sent home or sent to a farm at Crawley.

The old barn was burnt down in 1915, and a pile of silver coins was found under the floor.

In a Warden's Progress of the Autumn of 1551 to 1552, the only mention of Moundsmere is the expense of 6d. for cleaning gaiters and drying clothes.

In the autumn Warden's Progress 1674, the following entry is found:

Moundsmere Gratuities 4/-. A blind man 2d. One who showed us the way 6d.

Receipts Moundsmere. Relief John Lock 10/-.

The Lordship of the Manor is still in the hands of Winchester College, the property was sold to Wilfred Buckley, Esq., C.B.E., in 1907 and is now owned by H. A. Andreae, Esq. A handsome mansion, in the style of William and Mary, has been erected on the site, but no buildings of archaeological interest now remain.

I am indebted to Brig.-Gen. J. F. R. Hope, C.B.E., D.S.O., for his notes.