

REPORT BY MURIEL TONKIN ON WARHAM, BREINTON, HEREFORDSHIRE

I have found the following information concerning the Hamlet of Warham, close to the City of Hereford, which I hope will be helpful.

At the time of the Domesday Survey 1086, Warham is described as being a possession of the Cannons of Hereford Cathedral, comprising $2\frac{1}{2}$ hides which pay tax, 8 villagers with 4 ploughs - value is and was 30 shillings. One hide equals 120 acres, thus Warham would be about 300 acres with 8 farms, not all of the same size.

To move to a later national survey, the tithe map and apportionment of 1839 and 1840 respectively for Breinton Parish for the Warham area gives:

Warham (House) 121 acres, 1 rood, 5 perches owned and occupied by Marcellus Newton Esq. The house is situate at number 334 on the map.

Warham (Court) 168 acres, 3 roods, 26 perches, owned by the Custos and Vicars of the College of Vicars in the Choir of the Cathedral Church of Hereford and occupied by Marcellus Newton Esq. The house is situate at number 375.

Pilliners Farm. 107 acres 1 perch owned by Benjamin Biddulph Esq. and occupied by William George. The house is situated at number 380 on the map.

I have photocopied the relevant area from the tithe map which needs piecing together and I notice that Warham Court is shown as Pilliners on the map, but is correct on the apportionment. The numbers refer to the field names. I understand that Mr Newcombe has the field names.

The above three farms at 1840 totalled 397 acres which means that either the size of the acres has changed, or the original farms had been added to.

I found an indenture of a bargain and sale dated 19th November 1765 between Edward Eysam and others, and James Johnson referring to an 'orchard whereon a toft or some ancient building formerly stood and all those several pieces or parcels of land meadow and pasture ground commonly called or known by the name of Custome Sedge lying and being in the Parish of Breynton in the said County of Hereford and containing in the whole by an estimation 15 acres or thereabouts.....

This is field number 370 on the tithe apportionment and shows that a house which probably had some land with it has disappeared.

Obviously the area has been cultivated and farmed by people since at least the time of the Domesday Survey.

From the buildings angle the only one under Warham mentioned by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments published in the 1930s is Warham Court. Mr Newcombe has a report on this building.

According to the Robinson in his Mansions and Manors writing in 1872, he says "Warham, now the property of Mr Wegg-Prosser has traces of considerable antiquity about it and was occupied by the Booths and subsequently by the family of Elfe and Mrs Westphaling (the sister of Herbert Westphaling, MP 1660). It gives its name to a Prebendal Stall in the Cathedral.'

He also states that the Booth family was connected with Breinton as early as 1520 and until 'recent times.' Charles Booth was Bishop of Hereford 1516-1535 so this accounts for the Booth family and its connection with Breinton Parish.

Robinson states that Herbert Westphaling was then a Member of Parliament in 1660 but in the list of MPs he is given as about 1715 to 1727.

There is a large collection of Deeds C38/ concerning the Belmont and Warham Estates which were acquired by the Wegg-Prosser family. There is reference to William Elfe at Warham in 1748 and Lucy Haggitt ^{*}dying at Warham House according to her will of 1863. It would seem that there would be an early core in Warham House; if not, the present house is on an

early site. In 1825 Warham is termed a mansion house with freehold, leasehold and copyhold lands and the field names are the same or similar to those on the 1840 tithe apportionment and indicate that there had been open fields and many orchards.

I would suggest that in the 19th Century, ie later than the date of the Tithe Map (1839) Warham House developed into a gentleman's residence and Warham Farm to the north was built to run the farming side of the estate. Also, some pairs of brick cottages were built. Apart from these 19th Century buildings there appears to have been little development and the area seems to have changed little over the centuries.

In volume 7 of Duncumb edited by Cooke in 1892 there is the following:

Hundreds of Grimsworth

The word Breinton is a modernized form of Bruntune (A.S), a vill near a flowing stream. The manor was evidently not waste during the reign of the Confessor as before the Domesday Survey the fraternity of St Guthlac had possession of a hide of land liable to tax, cultivated with two ox teams and rendering 5 shillings as rent. The portion known as Warham (var, aqua; ham, domus) consisted of 2½ hides belonging to the Bishop of Hereford and cultivated by 8 villeins with 4 teams.

From all the above the Warham area was until recent times under the control of the Bishop and Cannons of Hereford Cathedral when the lands would have been held by tenants on leases. Thus very little change has taken place in the last thousand years; simply (hedges) and the replacement of buildings.

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* Mother of Francis Richard Haggitt
who changed his name to Wegg-Prosser
in 1849