

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Grant By Sir John Benet of Doyly in the County of Middlesex, to  
Pembroke College in the University of Oxford in 1676**

1906, Vol. 29, 317-321

© The Society and the Author(s)

GRANT BY SIR JOHN BENET OF DOYLY IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, KNIGHT OF THE BATH TO THE MASTER FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, MADE THE 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER IN THE EIGHT AND TWENTIETH YEAR (1676) OF THE REIGN OF OUR SOVEREIGN LORD CHARLES II.

BY F. WERE.

IN the *Derbyshire Archæological Journal* for 1907, vol. xxix., pp. 66-76, this grant is printed *in extenso*. It principally concerns places in Derbyshire, but at the end come several places in Bristol and Gloucestershire, which ought to be recorded, I think, in our *Transactions*, as I cannot find these grants to Pembroke College mentioned in the histories. G.E.C. says of Sir John Bennet, son and heir of Sir John Bennet, of Dawley in Harlington or Arlington, co. Middlesex, and Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Crofts, co. Suffolk, that he was born 1618, and matriculated at Pembroke College on the 24th of April, 1635, aged seventeen, as a gentleman commoner; he was made a K.B. in 1661 at the coronation of Charles II., he served as M.P. for Wallingford 1663-79, and was created in 1682 Baron Ossulston of Ossulston, Middlesex. Sir John Bennet purchased these rents from the Crown only three years previous to this grant, and most of them have been redeemed in recent years at various times by the freeholders.

NEWNHAM AURE AND POULTON, £4.

“Also that annual rent of four pounds of like lawful money reserved and issuing out of or for all those the Manors of *Newnham Aure and Pulton* with the appurtenances in the County of Gloucester.”

I suppose this manor is called Newnham Aure from its stretching into Newnham Parish, as there appears to be no other Aure in the kingdom; whilst Rudder, p. 247, says, "Lands formerly belonging to Flaxley Abbey were granted to Sir Anthony Kingston, by the name of the Manor of Newnham, Aure, and Poulton." Perhaps the punctuation is wrong. Poulton with its Court, which both Rudder and Bigland say is a "reputed Manor and House," seems to be by this grant a real manor.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL, £3 IS.

"Also the annual rent or tenth of Three Pounds one shilling of like lawful money reserved and issuing out of or for the scite and precinct of the late *Hospital of Saint John the Baptist in the City of Bristol* and also for divers Manors Rectories Lands tenements & hereditaments to the aforesaid late Hospital in the said County of Gloucester."

This hospital, according to the *Little Red Book of Bristol*, was founded by John Farceyn, alias Farcey, towards the end of the twelfth century, as Barrett, pp. 594-5, says: "1542. Richard Bromefield surrendered this House to Henry VIIIth's Commissioners after above 364 years possession by the friers;" but on the first page he says the hospital consisted of brothers and sisters of the Order of St. Augustine, so possibly it may have been founded earlier. At the Dissolution it was granted to Dr. G. Owen, and valued at £5 3s. 0½d. Its chapel was at the west end of St. Mary Redcliffe's Churchyard, but the site was on the other side of the street, stretching from Redcliffe Pit to the Avon, and it is only recognised now by a lane named St. John's, or Jones' Lane.

LYMINGTON, £3 17s. 4d.

"Also the annual rent or fee farm of Three Pounds seventeen shillings & four pence of like lawful money reserved and issuing out of or for the Manor of *Lymington* alias Lemington in the said County of Gloucester."

The manor seems to have belonged to Tewkesbury Abbey, but after the Dissolution it was granted to Ambrose Smith, whose heirs transferred it to Dr. W. Juxon, Archbishop of Canterbury, in whose family it seems to have been at the date of the grant ; so I imagine this fee farm was a part retained by the Crown at the Dissolution.

BERKELEY CHANTRY, £2 18s. 6d.

“ Also all that annual rent or fee farm of Two Pounds eighteen shillings and sixpence of like lawful money reserved & issuing out of or for certain lands perteyning to the Chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary in *Berkeley* in the said County of Gloucester.”

Bigland, p. 152: “ In this Church also Thomas Lord Berkeley temp. Edward III. founded another Chantry, which was called St. Mary’s or Our Lady’s Chantry, endowing the same with divers Lands and Tenements, out of which George Lord Berkeley that nowe is, receiveth of the King’s Receiver a Chief Rent of 14s. 10d. likewise his Ancestors ever did since the foundinge thereof, though the Lands bee long since sold away by the Crowne.”

This George Lord Berkeley would be the father of another George, afterwards Earl, at the time of the grant ; so the last sentence of the Lands being sold away by the Crown looks as if the Crown retained some portion in 1673, from whom Sir John Benet was able to purchase, and regrant in 1676.

PERTON, £1 6s. 3½d.

“ Also all that annual Rent of Twenty six shillings & three pence halfpenny of like lawful money issuing & payable out of or for the Manor of *Perton* with all its rights members and appurtenances in the said County of Gloucester.”

There are so many Partons, Pirtons, Purtons, &c., in co. Gloucester that I could not decide which was the right one ; but through the kindness of Bishop Mitchinson and the Bursar of Pembroke College, it has been identified by the latter as

Parton or Pirton in Churchdown. But here again we are met with an unexpected difficulty. It appears that there are two places adjoining, which Mr. Swift in his history of Churchdown, pp. 22-3, says are quite distinct. Piriton or Pirton belonged to the Berkeleys, and afterwards to the Priory of St. Oswald, Gloucester, and thence passed through several families. Partone, which Atkyns says is Paston, belonged in the reign of Edward III. to Robert de Paston or Parton, but is not brought down further. As these rents are stated to have been purchased from the Crown, it seems most probable that Parton, not Pirton, is the place intended.

DRYFIELD, £2 18s. 3d.

“And also all that annual rent of Two Pounds eighteen shillings & three pence of like lawful money of England issuing and payable out of & for the Manor of *Dryfield* in the said County of Gloucester aforesaid now or late paid by George Hanger Esqr.”

This George Hanger, Esqr., is identified by the monument in Driffield Church, who departed this life the 30th of May, Anno Dom. 1688, in the 74th year of his age, whose ancestor (Bigland, p. 497), John D'Aungier or Hanger, a merchant in London in the reign of Charles I., purchased the manorial estate extending over the whole parish.

The whole value of the rents given to the College was £62 6s. 1½d., a sum which agrees well with the belief mentioned in the following letter from our late President, the Master of the College:—

PEMBROKE COLLEGE,  
OXFORD, *May 3rd*, 1907.

DEAR MR. TAYLOR,

In my undergraduate days Sir John Benet, Lord Ossulstone, was duly named in the bidding prayer at St. Mary's when a Pembroke man preached as one of our benefactors, and we still commemorate him in Chapel on our annual Commemoration or Gaudy. We have his portrait too in hall.

But we seem now to have tacitly ignored him, I suppose because his benefaction was so small.

In my boyhood here it was believed by us lads that his two fellowships were £20 each, and his two scholarships £10 each. The fellowships were held by the two College tutors (they were the only "open" or unrestricted ones in the College), who made out with tuition fees.

Truly yours,

J. MITCHINSON.

---