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Some Account of the Parish of Brookthorpe

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SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PARISH OF BROOKTHORPE.

BY THE

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BROOKTHORPE is situated in the Hundred of Dudstone and King's Barton, four miles on the south of Gloucester; and is intersected by the turnpike road leading thence to Stroud.

Portions of Harescombe and Whaddon were formerly intermingled with it, and detached pieces adjoined the Church of Pitchcombe, three miles distant. The operation of the "Divided Parishes Act," (1882), has removed these anomalies, and its present boundary line includes certain scattered lands formerly belonging to Whaddon, Harescombe and Quedgeley, whilst the remaining outlying portions have been, for the most part, annexed to the civil parishes of Harescombe and Pitchcombe.

THE MANOR.

What cause of offence the first lord of Brookthorpe (of whom we have any certain knowledge) had given King Harold, we know not; but it appears from the Domesday Survey that, during his brief reign, Aluric, lord of Brostorp was dispossessed of his lands, as were also Edmar, lord of Haresfield, Sandhurst and Hatherly, and Wiflet, lord of Harescombe. "In Brostorp Aluric held iii virgates of land: he had two plough teams, one villein, three 'bordarers,' four serfs."

At the date of the Survey, these five manors, which were taken away by Harold after the death of King Edward, were in the hands of the Sheriff, Roger de Ivreio, who had put them to farm for £46 13s. 4d. per annum.

This Roger, who had obtained Siward's great lordship of Tetbury, containing twenty hides, married Adelisa, a daughter of Hugh de Grentmesnil, whose donation of Brockthorp Church and

Manor to the Abbey of St. Peter is thus recorded—"Adeliza uxor Rogeri de Breio dedit ecclesiæ Sancti Petri Gloucestris Brocthorp tempore Serlonis Abbatis cum ecclesia ibidem."¹

This grant was confirmed by a charter of Henry I. The tithes of the demesne of Brockthorpe were granted by Walter the Constable to the Church of St. Owen in Gloucester, probably between the years 1101 and 1131. The possessions of this church, however, not long afterwards, were almost entirely absorbed in the foundation of the new Lanthony at Gloucester, and by charter, dated in 1181, the Prior and Convent of Lanthony, on the petition of Roger Fitz Alan, granted the tithes of five virgates of land which the villeins of Brockthorp held, and which pertained to the Church of St. Owen, to the chaplain of his Chapel of Harescombe.²

Between 1148 and 1179, Gilbert de Myners confirmed a grant of lands in "Brocthorpe" which Roger Parvus had made in the time of Abbot Hameline, who also obtained from Roger and Hugh his heir, eight acres near the Court of Brocthorp.

Hugh, holding a virgate of land of the monastery, situated near Queddesley, at an annual rent of ten shillings, some dispute arose, which was referred to arbitration—one of arbitrators being Gilbert Foliot, Bishop of Hereford, and previously Abbot of St. Peter's; it was decided that Roger, son and heir of Hugh, should grant a virgate of sixty-four acres "in his manor of Brocthorp to the Church of Gloucester"—"non de ipso tenendam, sed ab ejus tenura et feodo comitis," but lest this should be deemed too favourable to the monastery and too disadvantageous to Roger, he was to receive seven mares of silver; thus, says the bishop, the assent of the Earl of Hereford having been obtained, this virgate at Brocthorp passed into the possession of the church and St. Peter (1148-63).

William de 'Punthdelarge'³ (Pont de l'Arch), with the assent of Margaret his wife and their heirs, granted to God and St. Peter, and the abbot and convent, the course of a certain spring

¹ Hist. et Cart. Mon. Scti Petri, Glouc., I., 62, 123.

² Trans. B. & Glouc. Arch. Soc., Vol. X., p. 88.

³ Hist. et Cart. Vol. I., p. 177.

called Bersewelle—which rose in the field of Brockthrop; and it was conceded that they might make a watercourse, two feet wide, through ‘Cuthesthorne’ and the land which William Bisp held of the said William, and thence at their convenience until they come to their Court of Brocthop’, provided that if any impediment arose in the said land, it should be lawful for the abbot and his men to have free entry to remove it.¹

John “le Hayward de Grofende” granted an acre and a half, arable, lying in Kylthornescrofte, between the land of Walter de Oure and the grove of Robert de la Felde, to the abbot and convent for ever, rendering to him and his heirs one silver penny at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, for all services, for which concession, the abbot and monks gave him a cow and a calf.²

“Alexander Heremon, by the counsel and forethought of his parents and friends,” quit claimed for himself and heirs to Henry Foliot (Abbot, 1228-43) all his right in a farundel of land and a messuage with appurtenances, in the ville of Brocthop, which Walter le Graunger formerly held; for which he received seven shillings of silver.³

A messuage and three virgates here were given to Sir Henry Rous by King Henry III., says the Chartulary, but afterwards claiming to hold the land of the Earl of Hereford,⁴ Edward “ousted him and compelled him to redeem it by the payment of fifty marcs, half a marc per annum, and suit of court.” It was found by the inquisition taken on the death of Henry’s son, Sir Roger le Rous, dated 22nd Edward I.,⁵ that he held three virgates of land of the king *in capite*, belonging to the Berton of Gloucester by socage, 6s. 8d. rent per annum, and suit of court at the King’s Berton, John son and heir.⁵

In the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, A.D. 1291, we find the abbey rated for two carucates in this manor of “Brotehop”—each carucate worth 30s. per annum, and 6s. 8d. for relief from work; total value £3 6s. 8d.

¹ Hist. et Cart., Vol. I., p. 175. ³ Hist. et Cart. Vol. II., p. 200.

² Hist. et Cart. Vol. I., p. 177. ⁴ Fosbrooke, Vol. I., p. 269.

⁵ Inq. p. m. 22nd Edw. I., (No. 5). *Ibid*, Fosbrooke cites this inquisition but it is not now extant.

When Roger, Earl of Hereford, became a monk at Gloucester, he gave to the abbey one hundred solidates of land in the county of Hereford ; but in the time of his brother Walter de Hereford, these were exchanged for six virgates near Haresfield. Four of these being in 'Harescumbe,' and adjoining the manor of the abbey at Brockthrop, were annexed to it ; hence in the "Extent of Broctrope," given in the Chartulary, it is difficult to distinguish between them ; some tenants, described as of Harescombe, holding lands situate in Brookthorpe :—

Reginald Atteparde had a messuage with curtilage, a virgate of 40 acres and a grove, rent 13s. 4d. ; he was required to give 7s. of aid, to provide one man to reap in the autumn for three days ; he was to have pannage for his pigs, for which he was to pay 1d. per annum for pigs of over one year old, and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for those under that age ; if he brewed and sold his ale, he paid "octo lagenas"¹ as toll ; if he sold a horse, shod, 4d. ; if unshod 2d. ; he could not alienate his son or give his daughter in marriage without license, and he was to make suit at the Hallimot Court. After his death, the lord should have his best chattel as heriot, and his heirs should be admitted to the land at the will of the lord ; and his widow, if she died in the same lands, should be treated as the said Reginald. Richard de Holeberwe, Elyas Bunte, Will. Colston, and Robt. de Felda de Broctthrop held their lands on like terms. Adam Attehulle, Rich. Oswolde, Hen. Mereyet, Rich. Danyel,¹ Robert Locke, Walter le Bonde ; 'Lundinarii' or 'Mondayers,' (from their being bound to work on the lands of the abbey each Monday), Walerond, John Colston, Robt. Bissop, Will. Colston ; these are followed by the cottagers who held messuages with curtilages, and laboured for the abbey in time of harvest, &c., the value of their services being 6s. 11d. per annum.

There is now an interval of a hundred and fifty years marked by many stirring events in our national history, during which we have no record of this manor.³

¹ A flagon or stone bottle.—Ev.

² The name of this man probably survives in that of the stream called "Daniel's Brook. ³ Reg. Braunche.

By Indenture, dated 10th June, 16th Hen. VII., (1501), the Abbot granted to Andrew Nyblett, his wife Johanna, and a son yet unborn, a lease of the site of the Manor of Brokethrope with appurtenances, also the reversion of a certain pasture called "Le Burne" which John Nyblett held for the term of 70 years, after the death or surrender of the said John, if they or the survivor of them should so long live, rendering to the Cellarer of the monastery £8 per annum, for the tithes 40s., and for the pasture 10s., and to the vicar for pension assigned 33s. 4d., at the Feast of St. Michael, the Nativity of our Lord, the Nativity of St. John Baptist, and the Annunciation of the B.V. Mary, by equal portions.

Twenty years afterwards, 5th Sept., 1514, (6th Hen. VIII.)¹ a lease of the same premises was granted to Andrew Nyblett, Johanna his wife, and *Agnes and Margaret their daughters*, for a like term of 70 years,² and on the surrender of this, a new lease dated Oct. 23rd., 1528, (20th Henry VIII.) to Andrew Niblett, Johanna his wife, and Robert Wood, and Margaret his wife, for a similar term of 70 years, and a like rent. This is, apparently, the beginning of the connection of the family of Wood with this manor, which lasted for a hundred and eighty years. This Robert will be the Robert a Wood,³ who paid l. viii^d. on xix^{li}. He died *ante* 1584, and Richard his son, in that year paid subsidy. In 1598 the latter was buried in the chancel, where was formerly a brass plate with this inscription :

**"Here lyes the body of Richard Wood, Gent., who
after the pilgrimage of lxxi yeares surrendered his
soule into the Landes of his Redeemer.—Mense
Junii, Anno Dñi MDLxxxviii.**

Virtus post funera vivit."

The abbot and convent granted July 1st, 1504, (19th Hen. VI.) to Symon Wyman, Johanna his wife, and Edward their son, for a term of 70 years, at a rent of 27s. 4d. per annum, the reversion of two messuages with appurtenances, meadows, &c., in "Brookthorpe and Harescombe," which Thomas Organ had formerly held.⁴ Also,

¹ Reg. Malvern.

² *Ibid.*, 912.

³ Subsidy Rolls, 4th & 5th Phil. and Mary.

⁴ Reg. Braunche, fol. 38.

in 3rd Jan., 1529, to William Walter, Margaret his wife, and John their son, a messuage with one virgate and appurtenances, lying in Brokethrope and Harscombe, lately in the tenure of Simon Colley, for 61 years, paying to the cellarer 16s. 8d. per annum suit at the court for the manor of Brokethrop and Harscombe, heriot, 13s. 4d. ; Housebote, heybote and fyrebote as usual.¹ Also to Edward Harres and Mabella his wife, on Oct. 23rd., 1538, three farundels of land,—the name occurs in Subsidy Roll, 4 and 5 Phil. and Mary, where he pays 24s. on a rateable value of ix^{li}. A family bearing this name has been connected with this parish and that of Whaddon, till quite recently.

Under the year 1532, (23rd Hen. VIII) we meet with a very interesting document,² viz., a grant by the abbot and convent to John Niblett³ and Richard Organ, proctors of the Church of St. Swithyn, of Brokethrope, of a house built upon a parcel of land there, and called the "Churche House," for a term of 80 years, paying 4d. per annum to the collector of rents. A chamber called "le Crosse Chamber" to be used by the presbyters who celebrate the divine offices, but when the wardens are preparing for the Church Ales⁴ or similar entertainments, they are otherwise to accommodate the priest.⁵

The abbey registers show that serfdom existed on their manors so late as the 16th century.⁶ In 1505, Abbot Braunche and the convent declare that they have manumitted and set at liberty John Bond, a "native" of their demesne of Brokethrope, with all his children (sequela) already begotten, or in the future

¹ Reg. Malvern, Vol. II., p. 37.

² Reg. Malvern, Vol. II., p. 392.

³ The will of John Nyblett was proved A.D. 1543, and has been printed in *Glouc. Notes and Queries*, Vol. II., p. 350.

⁴ Vide *Records of Gloucester Cathedral*, Vol. I., 125-6.

⁵ The Church House was an important factor in ancient parochial life, in and around it festive gatherings and public games were held. Every parish possessed such a building—Whitsun Alea, Bride Ales, Church Ales, Clerk Ales, Bid Ales were found an easy mode of raising money and entertaining friends, and "many an honest man decayed in his estate was again set up by the benevolent contribution of his neighbours" at such feasts.

⁶ For Manumission granted in 1575, see *History of Trigg*, by Sir John Maclean, F.S.A., Vol. II., p. 269.

begotten,¹ together with all his goods and chattels whatsoever, so that thenceforth neither the abbot and convent, nor their successors, will have any right or title or claim or demand in connexion with him, “vel vendicare poterimus in futuro” :—to this charter their common seal was affixed in the chapter house, Nov. 2.²

There is a later charter, dated Dec. 18th, 1507, which mentions “John Bond, *alias* John Buckland, (another of their manors) lately of our Manor of Brokethrope.”

The “Valor Eccles.” 1534, furnishes us with the returns for this manor :—

Rents of Assize of Customary Tenants in Brokethrope, per annum - - -	£ s. d.	}	33 1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$
16 13 1 $\frac{3}{4}$			
Rents of Customary Tenants in Harscombe, per annum -	4 9 6		
“Site” of Manor and Demesne Lands, per annum - -	9 13 4		
Perquisites of the Court held there	0 5 3		
Farm of the Rectory, per annum	2 0 0	}	2 2 8
Reprises :			
Fee of Thomas Morgan, Bailiff and Collector of Rents, per annum - - -	0 9 4		
Annual Pension paid to the Perpetual Vicar there - -	1 13 4	}	<u>£30 18 6$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
Clear yearly value - - -	- - -		

At the Dissolution of Religious Houses this manor was happily chosen to form a portion of the endowment of the new See of

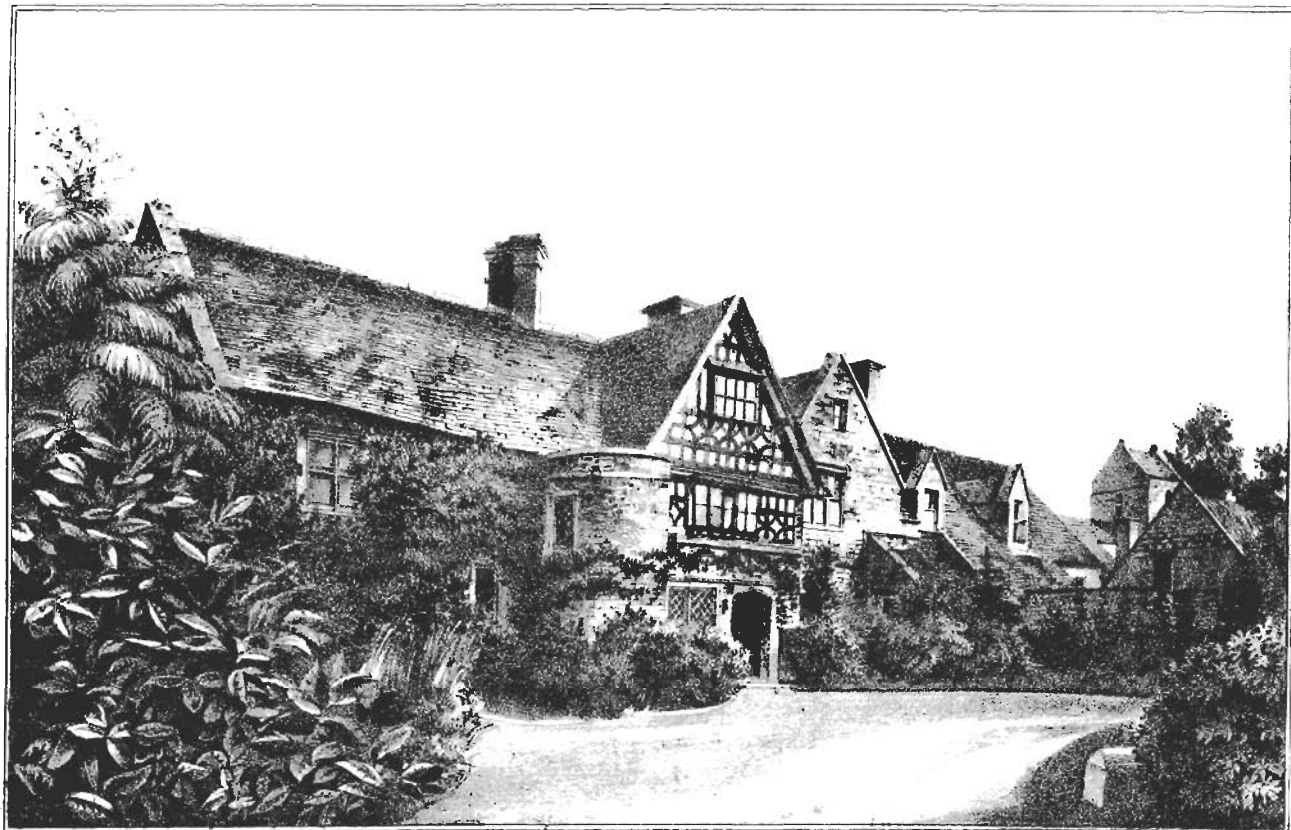
¹ A Commission was issued on the 5th March, 1628, to Sir Thomas Wise and others, to examine the tenures in villenage of the tenants of the King, and compound with them, (State Papers, Dom., Charles I.) Moreover, tenures in villenage continued as late as 1654, as shewn by various petitions, in very violent language, presented to Oliver Cromwell from tenants of manors in some of the northern counties, complaining of the services due to the Lords according to the customs of the manors from time immemorial, and the petitioners allege “that they are kept as absolute vassals and bond-slaves to their (the Lords’) tyrannous and perverse wills, and ourselves and

² Reg. Braunche, fol. 118.

Gloucester founded in 1544, by Henry VIII. The foundation charter mentions "All those our Mannors of Brokethrope and Harescombe in Our County of Gloucester, with all their rights, members, and appurtenances"—and a yearly payment of 26s. 8d. to the bailiff thereof. This grant was confirmed 6th Edward VI. Willis gives the annual value, in 1541, as £28 13s. 9d. In 1647, the "present profitts" of these manors averaged £29 10s. per annum, 'worth upon improvements over and above the said annual rent £200'; and on the subsequent sale of Bishops' Lands, "the Manors of Brockestropp and Harescombe" were purchased by Arthur Cresswell and John Watson for the sum of £817 8s. 4d.; at the Restoration, however, 'all such pretended sales were declared null and void' and the Manors reverted to the Bishopric.

A lease of these lands was granted to Richard Wood in 1608. They were held by his descendants for several generations. As was frequently the case during the Great Rebellion, when families were divided in their opinions, some members of this family supported the King, others, as Sylvanus Wood, opposed him; a politic course, which, in some instances, obtained its reward!

Later on, Atkyns states that "this manor has been lately purchased by John Cox, (Cocks) Esquire, who has a large house by the Church (see *Pl. XVIII.*) and a fair estate; he is the son of Sir Richard Cox, of Dumbleton, and uncle to the present Sir Richard." In this, however, Atkyns is inaccurate; doubtless, he refers to a lease, granted by Edward Fowler, Bishop of Gloucester in 1703, to John Cocks, Esq., of that city, of the capital posterities miserable and slavish Beggars for evermore." The particular services of which they complain, are among others, having to grind their corn at the manor mill, to give service in harvest time, to pay certain rents in poultry, and to pay a heriot on the death of the tenant, and a fine of one or two years' rent on the renewal of the tenancy, Whether any oppression was or was not committed by the Lords does not concern us now. If so, from the violence of the petitioners' language we should conclude that it was grossly exaggerated. Our object is simply to shew that tenure in villenage continued down to the latter half of the 17th century, and, notwithstanding the petitions, Cromwell refused to abolish them, but affirmed by a "special Act that all rents certain, and heriots due to mesne lords or other private persons should be paid." (See *Archæological Review*, Vol. I. p. 444.) The status of *villans in gross* or *villans regardant* had fallen into disuetude long before this time, but many of the services here complained of, such as grinding at the manor mill, payments of poultry and heriots have continued to our own time.—ED.



BROOKTHORPE COURT.

message or tenement called the "Mannor House" with all buildings, dove-houses, gardens, and orchards: Little Godwyns, Luffley, the Plack, Stonylands, Berryfields, Whitehill, Rodley Mead, Cowleasowes, Gilsmore, Far Bradley, 17 acres arable in Wickfield, &c.: these lands being parcels of the 'scite of the Mannor of Brokethrope and Harescombe'; except two messuages and lands demised to Thomas Lysons for the lives of Sylvanus, Mary, and Elizabeth his children; *e.g.* Grand Leaze, Grand Ley-stalls, Buckmead, 10 acres in Avfield, Dockworth, Demesne lands lying in Grandley, Goodingworth, Ashenstabling, Shortborne, Edgworth and Monkenfield, in the parishes of Brokethrop and Harescombe rent, Grandleaze, £2; Demesne lands, £1 11s. 8d. and 13s. 4d. heriot. Except, also, lands demised to Rowland Wood, of Brockthrop, Gentleman, *viz.*, Perry Close, Grove, Harnells, Windowe's Orchard, Niblett's Harnells, Oatcroft, Cowleaze, &c. for his life, and those of Elizabeth and Judith his daughters, spinsters, at the yearly rent of 15s. Except, also, lands demised to John Shorey, citizen and pewterer of the City of London, for his life, and the lives of John, William and Bartholomew his sons, *viz.*, one message tenement and one yard-land, rent 16s. 8d., with 13s. 4d. in lieu of heriot. Except, also, lands demised to John Cocks, for the life of Anne Cocks his wife, John, eldest son of Robert Cocks, of Rowbright, co. Oxon., Doctor in Divinity; and Thomas Savage, eldest son of George Savage, of the City of Gloucester, Esquire, one pasture called the "Burns" at the yearly rent of 10s., to hold Godwyn Leaze, Whitehill, Little Wick, &c., to John Cocks, and John, Charles and Richard, sons of Dr. Robert Cocks, yielding £5 per annum for the capital message, and for the remainder, £27 6s. 8d., at Lady Day and Michaelmas.

The Manor and Demesne were afterwards held by Ann Busby, spinster, then by Caroline her sister, who became the wife of Alexander Maitland, Esq., father of the Rev. Samuel Roffey Maitland, D.D., Librarian at Lambeth Palace, and a well-known author, whose grandson, Mr. Frederic W. Maitland, Downing Professor of Law in the University of Cambridge, is the present owner of the estate.

THE CHURCH.

The church consists of chancel, nave, south porch and western tower with "pack-saddle" roof, and gables. Such towers are, we believe, common in Normandy. M. de Caumont considers them to belong to a period as late as the 14th century, consequently they are additions, when found with earlier work. Dunteshorne Rous has a tower of this description, also Maidford and Thorpe Mandeville, in Northamptonshire. The date suggested in *Parker's Glossary of Architecture* is circa 1380.

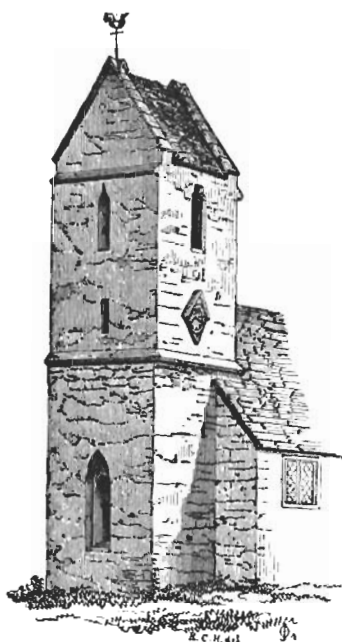


Fig. 13.

The general character of the church is Early-English of the 13th century. The stairs of the rood-loft still exist, and above the present ceiling there are traces of the canopy (extending westward of the chancel arch 8 or 10 feet) which once surmounted it. Under the wall colouring can be seen the remains of the Lord's Prayer (black letter with red border) which, with the Commandments, and texts of Holy Scripture, had, during the reign of Edward VI., taken the place of mural paintings, anciently found on the walls of churches; and in their turn were treated, during Mary's reign, to a course of "whyte-lyming," in subsequent days periodically renewed.¹

We are permitted to add a description of the fabric from the MSS. of the late Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart., after inspection in 1850:—

¹ Bishop Bonner's Visitation Articles relate to the Restoration of Images, Roods, &c., and to the defacement of Scripture Texts put up by the Reformers.

1540. (Edw. VI.) Item, payde to John Whyte for whytyng of the Churche and pavyng of bothe porches. liij^s x^d.

1554. (Mary) Item, Three bushels Lyme. xvij^d.—*Churchwardens' Accounts, Hawkhurst, Kent.*

“ A small church having nave and chancel only, the latter well developed and lower than the nave. There is a south porch, and western tower, which is the most remarkable feature of the church, the upper part being of the saddle-back form, the east and west sides gabled. This steeple is First Pointed and of rather small dimensions, opening to the nave by a discontinuous pointed arch. The west window is a trefoil-headed lancet of good splay and deeply recessed. The belfry windows all vary, but each a single light, that on the south, a squared trefoil ; the others lancet or trefoil-headed (see *fig. 13*). There is no west door. The south porch is Middle Pointed, the outer door having a shouldered arch. The chancel has a pyramidal buttress on the north, near the Rood loft's place.

On the south side of the nave are Third Pointed windows of two lights, not good ; on the north is one of single light, moulded, with cinquefoil moulding. * * * * *

The chancel arch is segmental, discontinuous, and of early First Pointed character. The east window a single lancet. On the south of the chancel are two windows : one of two lights, trefoiled ; one, square headed of three lights ; also a [priest's] door. On the north, a window as above. The rood-stairs and doors remain. The chancel has an open roof of the 13th century. It has been rather nicely arranged, fitted with stalls and has an arcaded reredos with shafts and buckle hoods. There is a pointed arched recess in the south pier of the chancel arch facing west, just backing the pulpit. The font is octagonal, modern, and too small. The gables have crosses. The church is prettily mantled with ivy. April 23rd, 1850.”

The socket of a Village Cross is preserved in the garden of the vicarage. It had been built into the angle (base outwards)¹ of a barn taken down about the year 1865. Its upper bed is an octagon, reduced to a thin square lower bed by large and remarkably fine broaches, there is a square mortise for the insertion of the shaft ; it measures 26 inches square, and 15 inches in height, the outlines as sharp as if just chiselled—late 13th century. A fragment of

¹ Pooley's *Notes on the Old Crosses of Gloucestershire*, p. 2.

a large stone slab, probably 12th century, having an incised cross fleurie, 25 inches from point to point, within a double aureole, 27 inches in diameter, was found near the door of the modern vestry, also ancient encaustic tiles, bearing the emblems of Our Saviour's Passion, with crowns and inscription.

The restoration of this church is proposed. When sufficient funds are forthcoming, it is desired to add a north aisle, to remove the western gallery, to open out the elegant tower arch, and to re-seat the church.

There are two bells, with clock in the tower, one of which, belonging to the Pre-Reformation period, probably early 14th century, has the legend, in early Gothic capitals :

1. ✠ ETERNIS § ANNIS § RESONET § CAMPANA¹ § JOHANNIS. 32 ins.
2. "GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH." A.R. Ⓐ 1711. 39 ins. F. #

The hexameter verse, found on No. 1, also occurs on a bell in the Cathedral of Gloucester, at Sapperton, Turkdean, and on one lately in St. Werburgh's, Bristol.²

The church is dedicated to St. Swithun. It is one of forty-three in England so dedicated, of which four are in this county, viz., Hempsted, Quinton, Brokethorpe, and Stanley St. Leonard's; probably, in the last instance, a re-dedication through the acquisition of relics of this English Saint.

There is an inscription, which may easily escape observation, rudely cut on the western side of the cornice in the porch; it is, however, of some interest as a Chronogram, the letters of larger size furnishing the required date:—

TER DENO IANI LABENS REX SOLE CADENTE
CAROLVS EXVTVS SOLIO SCEPTROQVE SECVRE.

From first line, DDCLLXII.	1212
From second line, CCCLLXVVVVVI.	436
			1648
Year of Martyrdom	1648

Literally: "In the afternoon of the 30th January, the falling King was stripped of Throne and Sceptre by the Axe."

¹ Ellacombe's *Bells of Gloucestershire*, p. 35.

² *The Old Bells of Glouc.*—B. & G. Arch. Trans., Vol. VII., p. 63.

Or in verse by the late the Rev. F. T. Bayly, Rector of St. John's, Gloucester, and father of the late Vicar of this parish :

“ On Thirtieth January's Setting Sun,
The Axe on Royal Charles its work had done—
His Throne and Sceptre lost—his short race run.”

THE BENEFICE.

As we have seen, the Church of Brockthrop was given to the monks of St. Peter's by Adeliza, wife of Roger de Ivreio. There is, however, an interesting document contained in the Chartulary (1092-1112) which shows that it was not an absolute, but a conditional gift¹—and also, that, in such transfers of churches and endowments, the donors were disposing of what was their own, and not national property, or anything given in any way to the church by the nation.

“ *Onnibus Sanctæ Mariæ Wygorniensis Ecclesiæ fidelibus S[amson] Dei gratia Wigorniensis Episcopus, Salutem ;*

Notum sit omnibus vobis quod A[elyna] Yurerio, me audiente et concedente, concessit monachis et Ecclesiæ Sancti Petri de Gloucestria Ecclesiam de Broctthrop liberam et quietam. Eo, tamen tenore, quod filius G. eam teneat liberam et quietam, dum vixerit. Et post mortem ejus, nisi sponte sua eam dimiserit prius, redeat in dominatum ecclesiæ et monachorum.”

On the dedication of Serlo's Abbey, A.D. 1100, “ Broctrope ” was one of the churches, the tythes of which were appropriated by Bishop Samson to the abbot and monks “ for their sustentation and the increase of hospitality,” reserving portions to be assigned by himself or his successors, to the Vicars ministering therein.² The “ portion ” assigned, in this instance, was not large ; nearly a hundred years afterwards we find £1 6s. 8d. (two marcs) mentioned, as the value, in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas. A similar sum was paid by the Knights Hospitallers to the vicar of “ Nethergutyng ” (Guyting) in 1338. But it is evident that some other arrangement existed in such cases, since we find “ præter

¹ *Hist. et Cart., S. Pet., Glouc., Vol. I., p. 177.*

² *Hist. et Cart., Vol. II., p. 40.*

mensam" named in connexion with stipends paid to chaplains and others: e.g. "Vicarius de Grafton, de certâ pensione, præter mensam, per annum xx^s." A statute 39th Edward I., contains a provision for the restraint of any excessive liberality on the part of the laity towards the clergy of that day: "If any secular man pay more than five mares to any priest yearly in money or other things, or if he pay to any priest abiding at his table above two mares for his gown and other necessaries, he shall pay to the king fully as much as he paid to the priest."

From this we gather that entertainment at the table of the lord—or in case of monks, at their manor—was to be reckoned equivalent to 40s., or three mares per annum.¹

In A.D. 1340, the parochial church of "Brokethorp," returned as of the value, with its portion, of two mares, fifteen shillings is declared exempt,² because it was within the tax.

In the "Valor Ecelesiasticus;"³ the Farm of the Rectory is stated to be worth 40s. per annum and the vicar's portion paid by the abbey, £1 13s. 4d. (two mares and a half). Total value of the benefice £7 17s. 5½d.

BROKETHORP VICARIA.

Valet in redditibus et firmis unacum decimis et Oblacionibus
ibidem per annum ultra v^d, solutos Domino Episcopo pro
visitacione juxta ratum cujuslibet tercii anni xvij^d, minus

In tota oblatione	-	-	vij ^{li} xvij ^s v ^d ob.
Decimis inde	-	-	xv ^s ix ^d

By ancient custom the vicar received sixteen thraves⁴ of wheat, sixteen thraves beans, and thirteen and a half bushels of pulse per annum, for which, after a while, a money payment was substituted.

¹ *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 413.

² *Parochialis Ecclesiæ de Brokethorp*.

De nonis garbarum vellerum et agnorum parochialis ecclesiæ de Brokethorp taxatis cum poreionibus ad duas marcas xv^s, nichil hic quia infra taxationem et respondit de eadem nona inter alia minuta beneficia ut patebit infra.—*Inquisitiones Nonarum*, p. 413.

³ *Valor Ecelesiasticus*, Vol. II., p. 499.

⁴ A thrave is 24 sheaves.—ED.

Although the manor with all its lands passed to the bishop, the King included in the grant of endowment of the new Dean and Chapter of Gloucester, "all that our Rectory and Church of Brokethrope in the said county. . . . We also give and by these presents do grant to the said Dean and Chapter, all and all manner of advowsons, nominations, donations, presentations, collations, free dispositions, and right of Patronage to the Vicaridge of the Church of Brokethroppe, in our said County of the City of Gloucester."

Certain lands called Sawyer's, and a portion of tythes here, formerly belonging to the Priory of Lanthony, were granted 35th Hen. VIII. to Rich. Andrews and Nicholas Temple

	£	s.	d.
First fruits - - - - -	7	17	6
Tenths - - - - -	0	15	9
Procurations - - - - -	0	0	0
Synodals - - - - -	0	2	0
Pentecostals - - - - -	0	0	4½

The National School, with class room, built in 1874, by voluntary subscriptions, aided by a government grant of £101—total cost £651 1s. 9d.—is intended for the children of the Parishes of Brookthorpe, Harescombe, and Whaddon. The site was given by the Rev. S. R. Maitland, D.D., owner of the estate of Brookthorpe and Harescombe.

The Great and Small Tythes of this parish were commuted Feb. 10, 1841, and thus apportioned:—

	£	s.	d.
To the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester, or their Lessee, S. R. Maitland, D.D., Clerk, of Lambeth - - - - -	155	0	0
To the Vicar - - - - -	92	0	0
To the Impropiator (Thos. Lediard of Cirencester) - - - - -	4	7	0
	<hr/>		
	£251	7	0

The First Schedule refers to lands estimated at 950 acres, of which 204 were arable, and 746 pasture; the Second Schedule to

lands paying tythe to the Impropriator,¹ 22 acres 2 r. Vicarial Glebe, 2 acres 6 perches, free of tythe. This appears to be a relic of the ancient endowment. Additional glebe was acquired in 1747, (by means of a Benefaction of £200 from the Rev. Thomas Savage aided by a grant from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty) by the purchase of "an estate situated in the parishes of Hartpury and Hasfield, in this county, consisting of a messuage, out-buildings, garden, and twenty acres of land with right of common." Rudder, apparently, refers to this benefaction as "a legacy bequeathed by one Mr. Hodges." Other small augmentations have been made of late years by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, viz: 6 acres of Glebe adjoining the vicarage house, in lieu of a rent charge of £15 per annum "out of the Rectory of Brookthorp," previously given by the Dean and Chapter.

By an Order in Council, dated May 22nd, 1840, the Perpetual Curacy of Whaddon was united¹ with the Vicarage of Brookthorpe; provision being made for the patronage and right of presentation, thus: Dean and Chapter, two turns, Sir John Neeld, Bart., one turn. This was a convenient ecclesiastical arrangement by reason of locality, yet it destroyed the ancient connexion which had subsisted for many centuries between the parishes of Whaddon and Moreton Valence, which formed a part of the Prebend of that name, founded in the Cathedral Church of Hereford.

A terrier of 1679 mentions the "Vicaridge House conteyning about Fower Bays of building and the garden and orchard adjoining to the said house," whilst a later terrier dated 1731, speaks of "the

¹ The Impropriator's Tythe is chargeable on the following lands, viz:—

	acres.	r.	p.
Part of Barn Close	3	1	23
Berry Field	13	0	10
Ratty or Radley Mead	2	2	3
Little Berry (or Bury) Field	3	2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22	2	0

These were probably connected with Lanthony Priory.—*Vide Supra.*

² It may be remarked that this was the first union of benefices effected under the "Plurality Act," of which Mr. Thomas Holt, Bishop's Monk's Secretary, was said to be Editor.

vicaridge being *lately new built* and containing six rooms." These, apparently, occupied the same site, at the very edge of the parish, in the garden adjoining the hostelry known as "the Four Mile House," which is situated in the parish of Harescombe.

The present commodious vicarage was erected in 1846, during the incumbency of the late vicar, the Rev. Francis T. J. Bayly, upon a new site, and close to the church, at a cost of £1,000, from the designs of Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon, of Great Russell St., Bloomsbury.

VICARS OF BROOKTHORPE,

With dates of Institution.

A.D.	VICARS.	PATRONS.
1268.	Sir William de Norleche, chaplain. ¹	Abbot and Convent of St. Peter's, Glou- cester.
1289. v. Kal. Octob.	Sir Gilbert de Rysin- don, presbyter. ²	do.
1297. III Id. Sept.	Sir Robert de Meisi Hampton, presbyter. ³	do.
— — —	Sir John Keke.	
1430. — — —	Sir Thomas Taylor, chaplain. Vacant by the death of Sir John Keke. ⁴	do.
1438. Oct. 23.	Sir John Watthe, presbyter. Vacant by the resignation of Sir Thos. Taylor. ⁵	do.
1449. Apr. 10.	Sir Richard Forde, ⁶ chaplain, Vacant by the resignation of Sir John Watthe.	do.
— — —	Sir Richard Scaltok.	
1499. June 28.	Sir William Coke, chaplain, Vacant by the death of Sir Rich. Scaltok.	do.

¹ Reg. Giffard, fol. 14.⁴ Reg. Pulton, fol. 85.² Ibid., fol. 302.⁵ Reg. Bouchier, fol. 51.³ Ibid., fol. 401.⁶ Ibid., fol. 80.

1503. Sep. 15.	Sir Robert Barton, chaplain. Vacant by the resignation of William Coke.	do.
1509. Jan. 19.	Sir John Grefyth, chaplain. Vacant by the resignation of Robert Barton.	do.
1513. Aug. 8.	Master William Burghill, 'utriusqueJurisBaccalaur,' ¹ Vacant by the death of John Grefyth.	do.
1521. Mar. 8.	Sir Wm. Nicholson. Vacant by the resignation of William Burghill, Doctor in Decrees, with annual pension of sixty shillings.	do.
1534. Jan. 10.	Walter Marwent, Bachelor in Theology. ²	do.
1559. Apr. 21.	Sir Roger Wheler. ³ Vacant by the death of Walter Marwent.	Thos. Bell, by grant of Abbey of Glou- cester, 10th June, 30th Hen. VIII.
1571. Jan. 29.	Rich. Tyrrel. Vacant by the death of Roger Wheler.	Walt. Jones, LL.B. by grant of the Dean & Chapter of Gloucester, 25 Nov. 1561.
Unknown.	Edmund Bynge.	
1583. May 23.	Richard Smythe. Vacant by the death of Edm. Bynge.	Dean and Chapter of Gloucester.
1613. Sep. 27.	James Bradshaw, A.M. Vacant by the death of Richard Smythe.	do.
1618. July 22.	Withastone Massinger. Vacant by the death of Jas. Bradshaw.	do.

¹ William Burghill became Rector of St. Michael's, Gloucester, in 1521, and June 13th, 1522, Vicar of Churcham and Bulley, on death of Richard Cooke; he was also Vicar of Kempsford.

² Sir John Reynald, probably a parish chaplain, witnesses the will of John Niblett, of Brookthropp, in 1543.

³ Vicar of Matson and resident there; also curate of Moreton Valence.

1632. Mar.22.	William Lord. Vacant by the death of Withastone Massinger.	do.
1659. Unknown.	George Venn. ¹	—
1690. Sep. 3.	John Hodges, A.B. Vacant by [resignation of G. Venn].	Dean and Chapter of Gloucester.
1700. Dec. 2.	Thomas Pugh, A.B. Vacant by the death of John Hodges.	do.
1708. Sep.21.	Richard Collins. Vacant by the resignation of Thomas Pugh.	do.
1727. Unknown.	Jeremias Butt Vacant by the death of R. Collins.	do.
1733. Nov.8.	Rich. Done, A.M. Vacant by the cession of J. Butt.	do.
1740. July 19.	Wm. Hewlett, M.A. Vacant by the death of Richard Done.	do.
1751. Apr.15.	Wm. Deane, B.A. Vacant by the death Wm.Hewlett.	do.
1754. Aug 17.	John Newton, A.M. Vacant by the death of William Deane.	do.
1791. Apr.1.	Samuel Farmer Sadler, A.M. Vacant by the death of John Newton.	do.
1804. Nov.12.	Arthur Benoni Evans, A.B. Vacant by the cession of S. F. Sadler.	do.
1809. Apr.28.	Robert Clifton, A.B. Vacant by the cession of A. B. Evans.	do.
1817. Jan. 4.	Wm. Wilton Mutlow, A.M. Vacant by the resignation of R. Clifton.	do.

¹ 1694. "Mr. George Venn, formerly Minister of this Parish, was buried March 9."—*Parish Register*.

He was probably an intruder in the time of the usurpation.—Ed.

1820. July 6.	John Bishop, A.B. Vacant by the cession of W. W. Mutlow.	do.
1828. Dec. 11.	Richard Jones, B.A. Vacant by the cession of J. Bishop	do.
1835. Dec. 24.	Thomas Evans, M.A. Vacant by the death of R. Jones.	do.
1839. June 17.	Francis Turnour Jas. Bayly, B.A. Vacant by the cession of T. Evans.	do.
1883. June 25.	Stuart Routledge Majendie, B.A. Vacant by the death of F. T. J. Bayly.	do.

The Registers of Christenings, Marriages, and Burials in this parish, now contained in the parish chest, begin with 1730, but the transcripts deposited in the Bishop's Registry, commence with the year 1569; thence to 1577. A second series dates from 1617 to 1638, after which for 30 years they are wanting, viz., between 1639 and 1669; in 1671 a fresh start is made, and the transcripts come down to the middle of the present century.

Terriers dated 1678, 1679, and 1807, exist in the Diocesan Registry; also the "Catalogue of a Parochial Library in the parish of Brockthorp, in Gloucestershire, No. 17," with values appended, together with the acknowledgement of the receipt of the books by the Rev. Richard Collins, vicar, Nov. 25th, 1713, in the presence of John Cocks (probably the lessee of the manor) and James Butt: mention is made of certain "rules prescribed by the Act of Parliament for the better preservation of Parochial Libraries." The Terrier for 1678 is given in the Appendix.

This parish receives £4 10s. per annum from the trustees of "Giles Cox's Charity" (1620) and £1 18s. 2d. from the bequest of Ellen Matilda Bedwell, spinster, in 1876.

SUBSIDY ROLLS (1327-1584).

The annexed lists furnish us with the names of the principal residents in the parish of Brookthorp at different periods of time,

viz, in the reigns of Edward III., Philip and Mary, and Elizabeth ; the third is taken from the Gloucester Corporation Records.

I.

SUBSIDY ROLL, 1 Edw. III. (1327).

Hund: de Duddeston.

Brocthop.

John Bonde	-	-	-	-	-	-	xvij ^d
Robt. Colston	-	-	-	-	-	-	vij ^d ob.
Robt. Oswrede	-	-	-	-	-	-	xvj ^d
Walter Meriet	-	-	-	-	-	-	ix ^d
Ric. Meriet	-	-	-	-	-	-	xiiij ^d ob
Robt. Danyels	-	-	-	-	-	-	ix ^d q
Gilbert in the Felde	-	-	-	-	-	-	vij ^d ob
Robt. Bysshop	-	-	-	-	-	-	vij ^d q
Ric. Fox	-	-	-	-	-	-	vij ^d q
Henr. Joene	-	-	-	-	-	-	xviii ^d q
Willm. in the Felde	-	-	-	-	-	-	xij ^d q
Agnes Loke	-	-	-	-	-	-	vj ^d ob.
Thomas Bigge	-	-	-	-	-	-	xiiij ^d q
Walter de Holbergh	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxiii ^d q
							Summa xiiij ^s xj ^d ob q

II.

SUBSIDY ROLL, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary (1557-8).

(Public Record Office: Glouc. $\frac{11}{348}$)

This subsidy was required for the war with France, which Queen Mary had declared, on the 7th of June, in support of her husband. In the course of the war Calais was lost, which occasioned great discontent throughout the kingdom.

Will. Payne, on goods	vj ^{li}	-	-	xvj ^s	
Elizabeth Niblett ,,	C ^s	-	-	xiiij ^s	iiij ^d
Robt. Richards ,,	C ^s	-	-	xiiij ^s	iiij ^d
Thos Richards ,,	C ^s	-	-	xiiij ^s	iiij ^d
Robert a Wood	xix ^{li}	-	-	l ^s	viiiij ^s
Edward Harres	xi ^{li}	-	-	xxiv ^s	
Will. Hallyng	ix ^{li}	-	-	xxiv ^s	
	Sma		vij ^{li}	xiiij ^s	viiiij ^d

III.

SUB-SIDY ROLL, 26 Elizabeth (1584).

Richard Wood	-	-	-	lij ^s	
Edward Harres	-	-	-	xj ^s	iiij ^d
Margery Hawlynge	-	-	-	xj ^s	
Johan Berry	-	-	-	viiiij ^s	
Robert Winston	-	-	-	v ^s	
John Loarde	-	-	-	v ^s	vj ^d
Agnes Niblett	-	-	-	iiij ^s	
Robert Woman	-	-	-	v ^s	vj ^d
William Blisse	-	-	-	v ^s	
George Morgan	-	-	-	iiij ^s	
Simon Organ	-	-	-	ij ^s	vj ^d
Robert Pain	-	-	-	ix ^s	
25 Eliz.	Levy for powder and bullets.	Brockthrop paid	xviiij ^s		
2nd	do.	do.	do.	do.	xxxviiij ^s
30 Eliz.	Levy for expenses of 1500 footmen.	Brockthrop paid			
	(Time of the Spanish Armada)				iiij ^{li}

(*Gloucester Corporation Records.*)

CIVIL HISTORY.

From its proximity to Gloucester, Brockthrop could hardly escape suffering during the Civil wars; accordingly, under date Aug. 5th, 1643, we read that "Garrett, a royalist general shewed himself in the vale with a regiment of cavalry, and that plundering and skirmishing took place on Monday at Tuffley and Brockthrop." "News being brought to Gloucester that the enemy was plundering at Tuffleigh, Capt. Evans, Capt. Pury the younger, with Lieut. Pierce, went out to surprise them, but found they were gone away with their plunder to Mr. Wood's house at Brockthroppe, about a mile and a halfe further. They thereupon (having not above 40 foote, and some few of Capt. Backhouse's horse) left some few foote to secure their retreat, and with the rest marched forward to meet with the enemy, skirmished with them, compelled them to take refuge in the house¹ (Brookthorpe Court), killed one in the orchard, and hurt or killed others in the house, and tooke one prisoner and seven horses."—*Diurnall*.

¹ In the course of repairs to the Court House, a few years ago, a musket of this period was discovered under the flooring; it is now to be seen in the Museum, Gloucester.

Corbet describes the skirmish near Brookthrop Hill, in which Governor Massey had a narrow escape, thus : "Two thousand men of the King's forces, after the siege of Gloucester, marching from Tewkesbury to Painswick, the Governor Massie sallied out of Gloucester with 200 musketers and 100 horse, and marched to the top of Brocktrop Hill, there to expect the enemy, whom he found divided into three bodies, and himself borne down by the multitude : for whilst two parties faced him, the third stole down a hollow lane, and had almost surrounded him unawares, by the negligence of his scouts : so that our whole body was brought into danger, driven by a sudden and confused retreat, and the Governor himself left deeply engaged. Yet most of our men got off, being preserved by the gallantry of a few resolved men that stood in the breach ; and of them Captain George Massie, striving to retard the pursuit, grappled with three together, hand to hand, received a very sore wound in the head, and was happily rescued by a serjeant of the company. Of ours, two lieutenants and sixteen private soldiers were taken prisoners ; the rest, in disorder, ran down a steep, through a rough and narrow lane, and recovered a house at the foot of the hill, where a party was left to make good the retreat, and the enemy durst not pursue ; by which means all the bottom was preserved from spoil."—(*Corbet's "Military Govt. of Gloucester."*)

Local tradition points to a disused road, formerly the "King's Highway," leading from Painswick, *viâ* Huddiknoll Hill to Brookthorpe, and to certain pits near the house called Whitehall, as the graves of the slain in the encounter.

In 1622, Royal aid	-	-	-	£93	12	0
1694, Poll tax	-	-	-	6	4	0
„ Land tax	-	-	-	103	4	0
1770, „ at 3s. in the £	-	-	-	77	18	0

POPULATION.

In Bishop Cheyney's account of the Diocese of Gloucester, 1562, the number of Households here is given as 16.

The following table shews the number of inhabitants and of dwelling houses in this parish in the years 1700 and 1774, and at the stated intervals of the census in the present century :—

	1700	1774	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881
Inhabitants . . .	200	107	112	137	160	193	169	151	180	165	151
Houses	40	27	24	22	26	29	38	40	40	36	36

The gross estimated rental (1888) of the newly-arranged civil parish of Brookthorpe is £2258 15s., and the rateable value £2033 15s. Acreage, 1031 . 0 . 22.

APPENDIX I.

BROCKTHROP, A.D. 1678.

A Terrier of all the glebe lands and tythes, small and great, lying and being in the parish of Brookthropp, belonging to the church thereof, exactly drawn up by us whose names are hereunto subscribed the 4th day of Aprill, Anno Domini, 1678.

Imprimis. The Vicaridge House the Garden and Orchard adjoyning to the said house.

Item. The Churchyard and the close of ground adjoyning to it, lying on the North side of a ground belonging to Rowland Wood Esquire called Hill Mead and butting on the High Way containing by estimacõn about half an acre.

A TERRIER OF PREDIAL TYTHES.

Imprimis. The predial Tythes of about twenty acres now in possession of Thomas King of the parish of Pitchcomb lying between Paynswick and Pitchcomb.

Item. The Tythes of about eleven acres now in possession of Richard Gardiner and lying under the Hill called Huddynoll.

Item. The Tythes of about nine acres now in the possession of Thomas Eldridge lying under the aforesaid hill called Huddynoll.

Item. The Tythes of about Twelve acres now in possession of Sara Bryan Widdow lying also under the hill aforesaid.

Item. The prediall Tythes of a little ground called Harnells containing by estimacõn one aere or thereabouts and now in possession of Rolland Wood Esquire lyeing and being on the side of the Hill neare the King's High Way.

Item. All the Privie Tythes of the whole parish.

Geo. Venn, *Cler.*

Thomas King
and
George Birt } *Churchwardens.*

Exh. in Reg. Glouc.

29^o Aprilis A.D. 1678.

Car. Peirson Reg' Dep'.

