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**Old Catholic Families of Gloucestershire: The Casseys of
Wightfield in Deerhurst**

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OLD CATHOLIC FAMILIES OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE:
THE CASSEYS OF WIGHTFIELD IN DEERHURST

by J. N. LANGSTON

THE first of the Cassey family to reside at Wightfield (or, modernized, Whitefield), one of the hamlets of Deerhurst, Glos. was Sir John Cassey, knight, who held the manor from about the year 1380 until his death in 1400, and whose descendants continued to hold it for close upon three centuries more. Wightfield is the Wicfeld of the Domesday Survey which belonged to the great Manor of Deerhurst given by Edward the Confessor to the Abbey of Westminster.^{1*} During the reign of Edward III, Gilbert Despenser and John de Legh, senior, purchased, in fee, 2 messuages, 400 acres of arable land, 110 acres of meadow land, 20 acres of wood, and £6 rent, in Wightfield and Apperley, held of the Abbot of Westminster by the rent of 20s per annum,² and this was the estate that passed to John Cassey. Gilbert Despenser was seised of it in 1378,¹ but soon afterwards sold his portion to John de Legh,² and, as will be seen, Thomas de Legh, in 1382, gave a quitclaim of the lands to John Cassey and others.

There is evidence that as early as 1160 a William de Cassy was living in Gloucestershire, probably at Down Ampney, and that in 1321 Henry Cassy was holding property in Minsterworth,¹ but the Wightfield Cassys belonged to a branch of the family settled in Worcestershire, at Cassy in the parish of Wychbold.³ In 1316 John Cassy of Wych the elder, and John Cassy his son, received a five years' grant of dues called pavage upon all wares brought into the town of Wych (Droitwich) to provide for the paving of the town.⁴ Shortly before this term

* For References, see p. 149.

expired, commissioners were appointed to audit the Cassy accounts to ascertain how much they had actually collected and how much had been applied to paving, as complaint had been made that, although they had received a great sum, they had not cared to apply the same to the paving of the town, to the great loss and grievance of men passing through and staying there.⁵ The result of this inquiry does not appear, but ten years later, when a similar grant was made to the bailiffs and good men of the town of Wych, Thomas Cassy was made a collector of the dues.⁴ Twenty years after (in 1351) another grant was made to John Cassy, with two others, of Droitwich, and the bailiffs of that town, but although this grant was for six years, John and his two co-grantees were discharged only nine months later of the collection of pavage.⁴

This John Cassy was most likely father of the 'John Cassy the younger' named in a Close Roll of 2 June 1372, who must have been the John who some years later acquired the manor of Wightfield. This seems evident from an indenture dated 'the morrow of Midsummer,' 1382, from John Cassy the younger to James de Lacy.⁶ It refers to an earlier charter, the date of which is not given, whereby James de Lacy and John de Bodyngton vicar of Clyve Pipard, co. Wilts., gave to John de Cassy the younger, Richard his brother, parson of Kenesyne (Kempsey), Richard Harbergh, parson of Wolston, and Richard Trilleye, chaplain, their heirs and assigns, 2 messuages, 400 acres of land 110 acres of meadow, 20 acres of wood, and £6 rent, in Wyghtfeld and Appurleye, co. Gloucestre, and all their lands, rents, reversions, etc., in that county. After seisin had been given, the three Richards made a quitclaim of such lands to John Cassy the younger and to his heirs; and by the indenture above-mentioned, John Cassy covenanted that James de Lacy should not, during his life, be troubled by virtue of the charter. In the middle of October following Thomas de Legh, of Essex, quit-claimed John Cassy, Richard Herbergh and Richard Trylleye, and their heirs and assigns, of the same lands in Wightfield and Apperleye named in the charter, as well as 'all other lands, &c., belonging to those manors held by James de Lacy and John de Bodyngton by gift of the said Thomas.'⁶

It is not known when James de Lacy died and John came to reside on the manor. The former was still living in January 1384,⁶ but little more than a year later, a Close Roll of 10 February 1385, mentions 'John Cassy of Wyghtfelde.' For a decade before this John had been associated with Gloucestershire. In 1375 John Cassy of the county of Worcester and Richard de Welford of the county of Gloucester, were given custody of the alien priory of Derhurst, then without a prior, at a yearly farm of £110, for as long as the war with France continued⁵; and two years later John Cassy, Walter Bromwych and Richard Cassy were similarly entrusted with the keeping of the alien priory of Brymmesfeld (Brimpsfield), rendering to the king £6 yearly.⁵ As a lawyer John Cassy served as justice of the peace in Worcestershire in 1377 and 1379, and also for Gloucestershire in 1380,⁴ and he continued to sit at most sessions of the peace for both counties until 1398.⁷ In addition to being justice of gaol-delivery, of array, and of oyer and terminer, he was also named on several local commissions, including those to suppress rebels in 1382.⁷ Two years previously he was one of the commissioners appointed, with the abbot of St. Peter's in Gloucester, to visit and enquire touching the state of the hospital of St. Bartholomew in the same town, and to examine the warden or prior and his brethren, and to make ordinances for its reformation.⁴

On 4 February 1388, John Cassy was appointed Justice of Assize in the south-western circuit,⁴ and, in the following May, in the eastern circuit and South Wales.⁶ He was made Chief Baron of the Exchequer on 12 May 1389, and in September he was allowed £40 a year over and above the usual fee to enable him to support the expenses of that office, with an additional yearly grant of 50 marks and two robes of fur.⁴ On 13 November the minutes of the Privy Council record that letters under the privy seal for that office were directed to be issued to him, and that he was to receive payment for the time he was in Wales.⁸

On 5 January 1389, William Ruthepote, parson of Salwarp church, granted a messuage and land in Witton St. Mary by Wych to John Cassy of Wightfeld, who regranted the same,

11 June 1392, to Thomas Prat and Agnes his wife.⁹ John Cassy, in 1395, purchased for 540 marks the reversion of the manor and advowson of Stratton by Cirencester, which were held for life by Katherine, widow of John Lucy, by lease from William Hompton. Katherine, who may have been a Cassy or perhaps a Hompton, subsequently married John Gibbes. First of all, on 5 February 1395, William Nasshe, brother and heir of Roger Nasshe, clerk, quitclaimed John Cassy of Wyghtfelde, Richard Wyche, parson of Tredyngton and brother of John, William Perham, parson of Chepyngenorton, and John de Rede of Chakenham, and the heirs and assigns of John, of the manor and advowson. Then, at Michaelmas, William Hompton made a quitclaim to the same persons of the manor and advowson, the reversion whereof by fine levied in the king's court, he had granted to John Cassy. On 11 November William Hompton gave John a receipt for £100, in full of the 540 marks due to him, for sale to John and others of the reversion of the manor and advowson after the death of Katherine.⁶

John Cassy was summoned to Parliament in 1395, and, on 15 September 1397, he was one of many who lent 100 marks to the king, being then described as 'John Cassy, knight, Chief Baron of the Exchequer.'⁴ In this latter year Henry Grene, knight, and Maud his wife, granted, by fine in the king's court moieties of the manors of Little Taynton and Kilcot to John Cassy, Richard Wyche, William Parham, clerk, and Henry Rose, vicar of the church of Tirley. This grant was recited in an indenture dated 20 May 1397, between Henry Grene and John Cassy, whereby Henry and Maud were bound to warranty of the premises; John agreed to pay the costs of the said fine; and the muniments of title were to be delivered to the purchasers.⁹ On 13 November 1396, Pope Boniface IX granted an indult to John Cassy and Alice his wife, that the confessor of their choice might grant them, being penitent, plenary remission; and the fact that the Pope granted a like indult to John Cassy, knight, alone, on 3 September 1397, points to the conclusion that Dame Alice had died in the meantime.¹⁰

Upon the accession of Henry IV, 30 September 1399, a new patent was issued to John Cassy as Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and he was allowed the accustomed fee.⁴ In the following year Sir John died and was buried in Deerhurst church, where, on the floor of the north aisle, a memorial brass commemorates him and his wife Alice, who was probably a daughter of Thomas Mills of Haresfield by his wife, Juliana Rous of Harescombe.² Fortunately this brass, one of the finest of its class remaining, with its petition for mercy, escaped the ravages of the iconoclasts sent round the country in a later century to destroy everything of a 'popish' nature. The figure of Sir John affords a splendid illustration of the costume worn at that period by judges and barons of the exchequer, and that of Dame Alice has the reticulated head-dress then favoured by ladies, while her embroidered shoes rest on a dog, with a collar of bells; it was evidently a special pet since its name, 'Terri,' is engraved beneath. A shield above the effigy of Sir John bears the family arms of the Cassys: *Argent, a chevron between three griffins' heads erased gules*. The latin inscription may be translated thus: 'Here lies John Cassy, knight, and formerly chief Baron of the Exchequer of our lord the King, who died the 23rd day of May, A.D. 1400. And Alice, his wife, on whose souls may God have pity.'¹¹

Sir John's brother, Richard Cassy *alias* Wyche, already spoken of as parson of Kempsey in 1382, and of Tredington in 1395, was presented to the church of Sapperton on 2 November 1399.⁴ He also held a prebend in the collegiate church of St. Chad, Shrewsbury,⁴ which he relinquished on becoming a canon of York. He was granted the prebend of Osbaldwick in that cathedral on 26 October 1414,⁴ being installed on 5 December following.¹² He remained rector of Tredington until his death, when he was buried in the middle of the chancel there, where, Nash says, a brass inlaid upon a marble stone portrayed him in the processional vestments of cassock, surplice, almuce and cope, surrounded by an inscription, in old letters, of which the following part remained:

Inceptor legum jacet hic in carne Ricardus Cassy
 rector erat hujus et ecclesiae
 Henrici quinti quondam fuit ipse sacerdos
 Eboracensis canonicus.

There were also two shields, both charged with the Cassy arms.¹³ The date was indecipherable, but it was doubtless 1427, in which year Richard's will was proved.¹⁴ In it he named his brother, Nicholas.

Little is known about Sir John's successor, his eldest son, William, and only three references to him have been found. On 20 November 1401, a writ of *supersedeas omnino* was sent to the treasurer and barons of the exchequer in respect of any process against the heirs and executors of John Cassy and the tenants of his lands by reason of letters patent of 1 June 1389, 'as that commission came never to the hands of John Cassy, as William Cassy, his son and heir, has made oath in chancery.'⁶ In 1405 William was referred to as the 'son and heir of John Cassy, and Alice who was wife of the said John';⁶ while in a document of 15 July 1406, he was described as 'son and heir of John Cassy of Wyghtfeld, knight.' This was a release by Richard Wych, parson of the church of Tredyngton, and William Perham, parson of the church of Quynnton, clerks, to William, of all their right in the manor of Stratton by Cirencester, otherwise Stretton, with the advowson of the church appendant thereto.⁹

The date of William's death has not come to light, but a grant of 1454 affords the information that he had a son and heir, John, as well as a brother, Thomas.⁹ The first mention of John occurs 1 May 1434, when he was certified into chancery by the knights of the shire as one of the persons who should take the oath not to maintain peace-breakers referred to in an Act of the last Parliament.⁴ By a charter dated at Compton on 1 October 1436, Walter Percyvale, esq., and Blanch his wife, late the wife of Nicholas Cassy, gave John Cassy, esq., possession of the whole manor of Compton Cheddeworth and Hawnpenne, though the grantors reserved power to enter and again possess the manor, thrusting out John, if the rent of 10

marks fell one quarter in arrear.⁶ Some weeks later mention occurs of 'John Cassy of Wightfield,'⁵ and in 1437 he is called a 'Knight of Parliament.'⁵ On 23 January 1442, Robert Boure, rector of Tyberton, granted all his lands in Tiberton to John Cassy, esq., and others.⁹

On the Tuesday before St. Peter's Chains, 1443, John Cassy of Whightfeld, esq., was indicted before the justices of assize in the county of having on the same day assaulted the Coroner, John de Anne, at Gloucester, and 'well-nigh severed his right arm with a knife called "a custell,"' while Thomas Toky of Yevynton, co. Glouc., 'gentilman,' Thomas Turner of Tredungton, co. Glouc., 'yoman,' Richard Walssh of Whightfeld, 'yoman,' and John Ballard of Newent, 'yoman,' were accused of having aided him, as the said justices certified at Westminster before the justices of the King's Bench. All the accused submitted themselves before the latter justices and found mainpernors for the fines for their offences. Cassy was assessed at £40, Toky at £10, and Turner, Walssh and Ballard at 100s each, while Cassy was committed to the Tower of London by the lords of the council until the fines were paid. Fifteen months later, by the mediation of his friends, John de Anne accepted £80 in satisfaction, and the king pardoned all the accused and their mainpernors the fines and offences, on the ground that such sums could not be borne without the destruction of John Cassy and the sale of his goods, and further he was put to no small costs by reason of his imprisonment in the Tower, and because the other accused were supposed by the indictment to be his servants and he had it on his conscience to save them harmless.⁴

John Cassy was escheator in Gloucestershire in 1451, and is named as a knight coming to Parliament in 1453.⁵ On 19 April 1454, Thomas Cassy, son of John Cassy, knight, granted the manor of Stratton to John Cassy, son and heir of William Cassy his brother.⁹ In February following a commission was appointed to make inquisition in the county touching all concealments, misprisions, extortions, and deceptions, committed by John Cassy, esq., within the county.⁴ In December 1459, John Cassy

was made a commissioner of array to resist the rebellion of Richard Duke of York, and the Earls of March, Warwick, Salisbury, and Rutland, who had been attainted of high treason by the authority of the Parliament held last at Coventry.⁴ He was a justice of the peace for the county from 1456 to 1481,⁴ sheriff in 1469-70 and 1470-71,⁵ and a commissioner to deliver the gaol of Gloucester castle in 1489.⁴ He fought at the battle of Nibley Green, near Berkeley, in March 1470, on the side of Lord Berkeley, and was awarded for his services an annual pension of four marks.² This was the last private battle fought in England.

As the date of death of John Cassy, son of William, remains undiscovered, and, to add to the confusion, his son and heir was also named John, it is difficult to distinguish items relating to the father and those concerning the son; but a reference to 'John Cassy of Mesirden, co. Glouc., the younger, gentilman,' on 14 December 1480,⁴ may indicate that John the elder was then living, though he must have been a very old man. He may have died towards the end of 1454, in which case subsequent particulars relate to John the younger. At all events he was dead by 11 April 1493, when 'Elisabeth Cassy, late the wife of John Cassy, late of Whightesfeld, the elder, esquire,' made her will as follows:

'I give my body to be buried in the parish church of Durhurst nygh by the corse of my said husband. I bequethe to the moder church of Worcester, 2s 4*d*. To the parson of my said parisshe church of Durhurst for tewthinges forgotten, and for to pray specially for my husbondys sowle and myne, 6s 8*d*.

'To every pouer man and pouer woman being brother or sister in the hospitall of St. Barthilmew in Glocester in the day of my decesse, 2*d*, in the which hospitall be conteyned 52 beddys, which will draw to the some of viijs viij*d*.

'Also I bequethe to every brothur and sustur in the hospitall of St. Mary Mawdelyne otherwyse called Dudstone, in the day of my decesse, 1½*d*, wher be conteyned in the hoole noumbre 8 bretherin and sustren, to the some of 12*d*.

'To the 3 ordurs of Freres, that ys the whight, the blacke, and the gray, to every ordur by hymself, 3s 4*d*.

'To the reparacion of long bryge without the west yate of the towne of Glocestre, 8*d*.

'To Annes, my sone Johnys doughtur, to her maryage, 5 marks, yf she lyve so longe; otherwise to remeyne to her next sustur unmarried.

'To every prest that shalbe at the syngyng of *placebo* and *dirige* over eve and at masse on the morrow the day of my burying, 5*d*; to every parisshe clerke, 2*d*; and to every other child weryng a surplesse and redyng and syngyng at the service, 1*d*.

'I bequethe 10 payre of shetyes which I have let make syns my husbond decessid egally to be departed bytwene my sone John his wyf and my doughtur Kateryn. To my doughter Elizabeth my sone Wylliam hys wife 3 payre of shetyes new made.

'An honest seculere prest shall synge masses and say other hooly prayers in the parishe churche of Durhurste at the auter over the body of my said husbond for oone yere next after my decesse, and ons in every weke he shall say *placebo* and *dirige* and masse of *requiem eternam* with these speciall colettes: *Deus qui in terra promissionis*, etc.; the said preste takyng for his salery, 100s, quarterly to be payde.

'My executors shall dystrybute in clothes to my children and othur my kynnsfolkys and other pouer people beyng at my burying, and in mete and drinke and light about my corse and in other almes dedys 20 marke yf my money may strecche so ferre.

'I give to Jane Delamere, my servant, my second best blak gowne and two of my best threden kerchers. To my godsonne Gyles Cassy, toward his preferment, 5 marke. To John Westby, a coverlet of grene with flowres, which I bought late at Cysseter, and that it be delyvered to keping of Roger Porter to theuse of the sayd John.

'All the residew of my goodys I geve to my sone William Cassy and sir Richard Trussam, parson of Redcombe, whom I make my executors.'

The will, which was witnessed by William Sarjaunt of Staunton, esq., and John Carwent of Glocester, clerk, was proved in the prerogative court, 22 June 1494.¹⁵

William Cassy's wife, Elizabeth, subsequently married again, for a pardon was granted in 1514 to Henry Kemys and Elizabeth, formerly the wife of William Cassy, deceased, for marrying without the king's licence.¹⁶

John Cassy, known as John Cassy junior, died 17 January 1508, seised of the manors of Stratton and Compton (or Little) Cassey, as well as of 4 messuages and 200 acres in Chedworth, 100 acres in Elmstone Hardwick, and 200 acres in Sapperton.² According to a pedigree his wife was Margaret Barnaby, by whom he had a son and heir William, and a daughter, Ursula, (her will was proved 28 September 1558), who became the

second wife of Richard Fletcher of Adwick-le-Street, Yorks.¹⁷ He had another daughter, Annes, who was mentioned in his mother's will. His son, William (or perhaps the William, son of John the elder), had held the office of the escheatry in county Gloucester 1469-70 and 1470-71⁵; and a pardon was granted, 3 December 1480, to William Cassy, esq., late escheator.⁴ The Parliament Rolls for 1496-97 contain the entry: 'Persons apoynted to be comysioners for the shires, and with Justices of the Peas to be associated: Glouc., Will'us Cassey, Arm.'² William, who survived his father little more than a year, died in 1509, leaving two sons, Leonard and Robert, by his wife, Elizabeth Bruges of Cubberley. Her memorial brass in Deerhurst church now lacks a name, but Bigland has preserved the inscription, which read: 'Here lyethe Elyzabethe Rowden, sumtyme Wyffe to Will'm Cassey, of Whyghtfyld, Esquyer, after the Dethe of the sayde Wyll'm was maryed to Walter Rowdon, Esquyer, and was Doughtyr to Thomas Bruges of Coverle, Esquyer, which Elizabeth dyed the xxvi Day of Januarie, Anno D' ni MDXXXV, for whose Soule of your Charite say a Pater Noster.' At the time of Bigland's visit to Deerhurst one of four escutcheons remained, bearing quarterly: 1 and 4 Bruges, 2 de Chandos, 3 Berkeley of Cubberley. In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury is the will of 'Walter Rouudon, gent., monastery of St Petur, Gloucester,' under date 1514,¹⁸ thus suggesting that Walter, perhaps in ill-health, had retired to the abbey of Gloucester to spend his last days and had succumbed there.

Leonard Cassy was only three and a half years old at his father's death in 1509.² On 4 March 1512, a commission of inquiry was set up in the county as to the possessions, heir, etc., of Will. Cassey of Compton, deceased, and on 20 April following Robert Morton was given the custody of the lands, wardship and marriage of Leonard, son and heir of John (*sic*) Cassy, an amending order being issued 10 August substituting the words 'son and heir of William Cassey.'¹⁶ The guardian, Sir Robert Morton of Barnsley, Glos., fondly hoped for a marriage in due course between Leonard and his daughter Dorothy, or her

sister, and planned accordingly in his will dated 31 May 1513. He bequeathed all his goods and chattels to Dame Jane his wife 'except my obligacions and the warde and marriage of Leonard Cassey my warde and his heires unto the tyme oone of theym comme to his full and lawfull age; whiche warde I woll that he be married to my daughter Dorothe yf they will thereunto agrée and consent, and yf not I woll that he be married unto myn other daughter yf they will thereunto agree and consent; And yf not than I woll the seide warde be solde be myn executors to the best avauntage, and the money receyved of the same.' However, Leonard Cassy died in the next month, followed by Sir Robert in the next year, and Robert Cassy when he came of age in 1529, chose neither Dorothy nor her sister for his bride.¹⁹

On 20 December 1529, Robert Cassy *alias* Carssey, was given livery of his lands as brother and heir of Leonard Cassy *alias* Crassye, deceased, son and heir of William Cassy, junior, deceased, and kinsman and heir of John Cassye, viz., brother of said Leonard, son and heir of said William, son and heir of said John.¹⁸ Shortly after, Robert married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Pole of Isleworth,²⁰ a squire of the king's body, who had purchased the manors of Coates and Sapperton in 1487, and had died in 1517. On 21 February 1530, Robert settled upon Sir John Bridges of Cubberley and other trustees his manors of Stratton and Cassey Compton to the use of himself and his wife Elizabeth and their issue, and in May following, he settled his manor of Wightfield upon other trustees to the same uses.²

Robert Cassy died 2 June 1547, leaving his widow, Elizabeth, seised of his manors, as Henry, his son and heir, was only thirteen years old.² He also left four daughters, Elizabeth, Anne, Florence, and Katherine. The will of 'Robart Cassy of Wyghtfyld, Gent.,' was dated 10 April 1547, and proved at Tewkesbury on 22 October:

'My Sowle to God, to owr Lady Seynt Mary, &c. The sepulture of my body to be in the churche of Derhurst besyde my pue there.

'To Elyzabethe my wyff the keypyng of all my plate duryng hyr lyff, and after to Henry my son and heyre and to Elyzabethe my dowghttter egally.

'I geve to and for the preferment of maryage of all my dowghtttrs that shall hapen to lyve to age of 17 yeres or more the hole profyttes of my landes in Droytwyche, Merynton, Seynt Mary Wytton, and all Wothyr in towne of Worcester, and renttes of Upcote, Cotwell, and Grynslly in cownte of Gloucr.

'The residue of all my landes, tenymenttes, patronages, medowse, lesuys and pastures, renttes, reversyons and servysys, to Elyzabethe my Wyff accordyng to the effect of certen feofmenttes that I have made to hyr.

'To every one off my servanttes that hathe servyde me a hole yere, 6s 8d.

'I wyll myne executryx shall lay a feyr stone of marbyll upon my corpe with my pycture and an eputaphy in copur theron with myne armys as is ensyde, and the seyd stone to be leyde withyn one yere after my decese. Residuary legatee and executrix: Elyzabethe my Wyff. Overseer: My brothyr in law Wyllyam Reed.'¹⁵

On 6 December 1548, William Rede, esq., was granted the custody of one capital messuage in Upcott and all lands in Cotwell and Grenenesley called Upcottes and Russelles, in Wethington, Glos., of the yearly value of £5 3s 4d, late of Robert Cassy, esq., deceased, and in the king's hand by the minority of Henry Cassy, son and heir of the said Robert, who held of the king in chief by knight's service. He was also given the custody, marriage, etc., of Henry.⁴ In less than two years, 'Elizabeth Cassy, widow, late the wife of Robert Cassy, esq., deceased,' died, leaving a will dated 26 July 1550, which was proved in the prerogative court on 11 November:

'I desire to be buried in the parish church of Deerhurst. I give to my son, Henry Cassy, all the household stuff and plate given and appointed by my late husband, his father's legacy; also my signet of gold wherein is graven my husband's cognizance; my freestone slates and timber that now lyeth at Wightfelde.

'To Elizabeth my garnet beads with 10 gawdes of gold, and the plate appointed by my husband's legacy; also my gown of black satin, &c., one goblet with a cover of silver overgilt which I bought of the late bishop of Gloucester's executors.

'Whereas my late husband Robert Cassy appointed by his last will the rents of Droytwich, Merynton and Wothers should be employed for the preferment in marriage of our four daughters, Elizabeth, Anne, Florence and Katherine, and as I am executrix to my late husband, my executors shall reckon her share and out of my goods add such an amount as will make 100 li; also I give my bay mare and her colt which I bought of Smert.

'To Katheryn my daughter the profits of all my purchase lands for 15 years yet to come, and then those lands to remain to my son and heir; also my gold chain containing 323 links; my basin and ewer of silver, &c.; my gown of Murrey damask, &c., all which is to be safely kept till she marry or come to her age of discretion; also my bay mare bought of Gyles Gryme.

'My daughters Anne and Florence shall have their portions at the days of their marriages or years of discretion.

'To my nephew William Reed all my trees in Rye Grove. To my cousin William Bridges a horse colt. To my brother William Reed my grey horse and brooch of gold. To my nephew Thomas Reed one horse colt that goeth at Mytton.

'Residuary legatee and executor: William Reed, my brother. Overseer: my nephew William Reed.' (No witnesses.)¹⁵

On 4 July 1555, a licence was issued to Henry Cassy, son and heir of Robert Cassy, esq., deceased, who held of Edward VI, to enter upon his lands, and to receive the issues therefrom from the time he attained the full age of twenty one years.⁴ In the next year Henry married Dorothy Fettiplace, the union being commemorated by some stained glass giving the armorial bearings of the two families, which was at one time preserved in a window of the drawing room at Wightfield Court, but was later removed and stored in the house.²

In common with all Catholics, Henry had to suffer for his religion. After 1580 the penalties imposed upon recusants were greatly increased: refusal to attend the reformed church meant a forfeit of £20 a month for each person, the months being reckoned at 13 to the year; to hear Mass, to receive the Sacraments, or to educate children as Catholics, incurred loss of property or life imprisonment. In October 1585, the Sheriff was ordered to search the houses of recusants and requisition light horses. On reaching Wightfield he found that Henry was in London, but somehow managed to extract a promise that

he would find two horses. Next month the Sheriff reported that he had received £50 of Henry Cassy in lieu of two light horses, and had paid the sum into the Exchequer.²¹ In 1588 Henrie Cassy of Wightfeild, Armiger, contributed £25 towards the extraordinary Aid, by way of loan, which 'Her Majesty required from her loving subjects for the better withstanding of the intended invasion of this Realme upon the great preparacons made by the King of Spaine, both by land and sea the last yere, the same havinge been suche as the like was never prepared yet anie time against this realm.'²²

Henry died towards the end of 1595, aged sixty-one, and his widow, Dorothy, was buried at Deerhurst, 8 March 1609.² Their son and heir, Thomas, who succeeded, was born in 1558 or thereabouts as his age was given as thirty-seven years at the time of his father's death.²³ He had then been married for fifteen years to Cassandra, daughter of John and Jocosa Gifford, of Chillington, Staffs. The marriage settlement was dated 10 December 1580, whereby Henry Cassye of Wytefyeld, Gos., esquire, agreed to assign to John Gifford and others, in view of the marriage of Thomas, son of Henry, to Cassandra, daughter of John Gifford, the manor of Cassis Cumpton in the parish of Whytington, Gos., with appurtenances; a mansion house in Ashechurch, Gos., with Shepehouse Close adjoining; pastures called Whome Leasowe and Middle Leasowe; the manor of Wytffeld, Gos., with all appurtenances in Wytffeld, Aperley, Derhurste and Walton; and Kylcott Wood, Gos.; but excepting all property of Henry Cassy in Whytington, Cassis Cumpton, Wytffeyeld, Aperley, Derhurst, Walton and Ashechurch, the Hay and meadow adjoining, and pasture called Ashefurlong in Ashechurch and Newton, and lands in Taunton (Taynton) and Kyllcote (other than Kyllcote wood).²⁴ A marriage licence was issued, 13 December 1580, by the bishop of London, to Thomas Cassy of the City of London, Gent., and Cassandra Gyfford, spinster, of All Hallows in the Wall, London²⁵; and, on 4 January following, Henry Cassy executed a deed assigning the properties set out in the settlement for the use of himself, his son Thomas Cassy, and Cassandra whom Thomas was about

to marry.² There were at least four children of the marriage, Henry, the heir, born presumably in 1582, and three others whose baptisms are entered in the Deerhurst registers, Thomas 1583, Gyles 1590, and Catherine 1594.

The Feet of Fines records several transactions in which Thomas was concerned. In the Michaelmas term of 1604 Thomas Cassy, esq., gave £500 to Sir Thomas Throckmorton, knt., and his son William, in respect of the manor of Derehurst, and of the site of the late Priory of Derehurst, and also ten messuages, 80s rent, common of pasture, free fishery, and view of frankpledge in Derehurst and Leigh, and also the rectory of Derehurst with all its tithes and oblations, as well as the advowson of the Vicarage. In 1610 John and Edward Seaborne gave £400 to Thomas Cassye, esq., and Cassandra his wife, and Henry Cassye, gent., son and heir apparent of Thomas, and Winifrid his wife, in respect of the same manor, site, etc., as set out above.²⁶

Another instrument of 1604 shows that Thomas Cassy, esq., and Henry Cassy, esq., his son and heir apparent, received £800 from Robert Atkynson in respect of the manors of Asshechurche, Kylcotte, and Little Teinton, and twenty messuages and £5 4s 5d rent in Asshechurche, Kylcotte, Little Teinton, Great Teinton, and Newent.²⁶

In 1609 Thomas Cassie, esq., and Cassandra his wife, and Henry Cassie, gent., son and heir apparent, suffered a fine of £600 to William Dutton and John Wakeman, of the manor of Wightfielde with appurtenances, and ten messuages, etc., in Wightfielde, Walton, Appurley, Deerhurst, Little Compton *alias* Cassies Compton, Great Compton, and Withington, with common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in Wightfielde, Apperley, Walton and Deerhurst.²⁶

Thomas Cassy died 31 May 1634, and was buried at Wenlock in Shropshire. It was found by inquisition taken at Tewkesbury, 3 April 1635, that he died seised of the rectory of Deerehurst, and all the tithes, oblations, and profits thereto belonging, growing in Deerehurst and Leigh; the advowson of the vicarage of the church of Deerehurst, which were held of the King in

chief by knight's service, and were worth, clear, 13s 4d per annum; the manor of Wightfield, and divers messuages, cottages, lands, rents, etc., to the same belonging, situate within the parishes of Deerehurst, Lye, and Treddington, held of the dean and chapter of Westminster in socage, by the yearly rent of 20s, and were worth, clear, 33s 4d per annum; and one messuage and divers lands, tenements and services in Deerehurst Walton, containing 8 acres, which were held of the king as of his manor of Church Stanway, by fealty only and not in chief, and were worth, clear, 2s 6d per annum. The jurors stated that Thomas died 31 May last past, and that Henry Cassey, esq., was his son and next heir, then aged forty years and more and still surviving at Tewkesbury.²⁷ It appears that he was really fifty-two years of age.

Henry Cassy, the heir, and his son Thomas, were living at Wightfield in 1632, in which year an indenture (kept in the parish chest) was made between the Feoffees of the parish lands, Henry Cassy, esq., his son Thomas, with 15 others, and William Flooke of Wightfield, granting the last named a lease of certain of the lands for 21 years on the yearly payment of 28s.¹ As both Henry and Thomas were Royalists and recusants professing the Romish faith, two-thirds of their lands and tithes were sequestered in 1643. On 1 July 1646, the Committee for Plundered Ministers ordered that £50 a year should be paid out of the profits of the impropriate tithes of Wightfield sequestered from Henry and Thomas Cassy, esquires, recusants, for the maintenance of an assistant to the minister of Tewkesbury. As no assistant, however, was forthcoming, the same Committee directed, 26 February 1650, that the money, with all arrears, should go to the minister pending any such appointment.²⁸

A list of papists in the county, dated 23 March 1648, shows that Henry Cassy's lands in Wightfield were valued at £165 a year, and that the sequestered two-thirds were let at £40; and that his tithes of Deerehurst, valued at £248, were let as to two-thirds at £140. The property of Thomas Cassy in Deerehurst was valued at £153 a year, of which two-thirds were let at £60.²⁹

On 13 December 1653, Thomas Cassey, recusant, of Whitfield, applied to contract for his sequestered two-thirds under the Recusants Act, and ten days later, his fine for so doing was fixed at £240, *i.e.* four years value. The money was paid on 17 February 1654, and the estate was discharged. Henry Cassy of Whitfield, petitioned to contract on 17 January 1654, but it does not appear that he was able to proceed any further in the matter.²⁹

Henry died probably in 1659, and Thomas about two years later.¹ As the latter seems to have had no issue by his wife, Jane daughter of Richard Brent, a Catholic of Larkstoke, Glos.,²⁹ the Wightfield estate passed to Thomas's cousin, John Cassey, another grandson of Thomas and Cassandra,¹ who, about 1670, sold the manor to Peter Fermor and so ended the long Cassey ownership, though John retained an estate in Deerhurst and he was buried there in 1676. His will, proved in that year, mentions the sale.² James Cassey, of Badminton, whose will was proved in 1698, left lands in Apperley to his kinsman, Edward Cassey of Worcester, gent.,² and Atkyns mentions that Thomas Cassey owned a good house and estate at Apperley in 1712.

Under the Act of 1715 requiring 'papists' to register their estates, Mary Cassey, of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, spinster, registered a life estate at Deerhurst, then in the possession of William Finster and others, valued at £44 10s per annum. She may possibly have been a daughter of the 'Mary Cassey, wife of Edw. Cassey, who has no estate,' presented by the curate of Idbury in a 'Return of Popish recusants for co. of Oxford,' dated 1705-6.³⁰ Her will, dated 17 March 1725, names her cousins Anne and Mary Cassey, Elizabeth Smith, and Mary and Anthony Slauter, her residuary legatee being Elizabeth Conquest (daughter of Robert Brent of Larkstoke, and widow of Charles Conquest, M.D.) The will was proved on 18 January 1729, and a deposition states that she 'died on the Sunday previous' to that date, having 'lived for twenty years as a lodger at the house of Mr John Sheppard, a turner, near Long Acre in Drury Lane.'³¹

Sir John Cassey's house, long since destroyed, is represented by Wightfield Court on the same site, a fine example of a 16th century manor house and of considerable interest. The house, once moated, has gables in the step form common in Belgium, and its two square towers—perhaps higher at one time than they are now and possibly older than the rest of the house—contain winding staircases constructed of solid oak blocks. It may well be that some of the stones once formed part of the ruined apse of Deerhurst church. This apse or sanctuary seems to have been disused after the virtual dissolution of the priory in 1469. Its walls were still standing three-quarters of a century later when the impropriation of the priory was granted to George Throgmorton. He, as Lay Rector, sold the ancient stones to the lord of Wightfield, as is shown by a presentment made by the Wardens of Deerhurst in 1547 that 'theire Chauncell is in decaye throgghe the sale of a chapell which Mr Cassye bought.'¹⁵ This would have been Robert Cassey, who doubtless intended to use the stones for rebuilding his manor house at Wightfield, only three-quarters of a mile away. Owing to his death in the same year, it fell to his widow Elizabeth, and his son Henry, to complete the work, for which purpose Elizabeth, in 1550, bequeathed to Henry her 'freestone-slates and timber that now lyeth at Wightfelde.'

THE FERMORS AND MOORES OF WIGHTFIELD

Peter Fermor, who purchased the manor of Wightfield from the Casseys, belonged to the Catholic family of Fermor of Tusmore and Somerton in Oxfordshire. He was son of Henry Fermor by Ursula, daughter of Sir Peter Middleton, knt., and great-grand-daughter of Charles Neville, the last Earl of Westmorland. His father died 30 June 1673, and by his will bequeathed to 'My second son Peter Fermor, lands, etc., in Mitton Bashall al's Bashall Tanes, co. York., and in Cold Ashby and Elkington, co. Northt.' His first wife was Elizabeth Carrill of Tanglely in Surrey, who died 2 June 1677, aged twenty-four,

and was buried in the chancel of Deerhurst church, Peter being the Impropriator. He later married Mary, only daughter and heir of a Monmouthshire knight, Sir Anthony Morgan of Kilfiggen, by whom he had three children, George, buried 25 November 1689; Mary, buried 10 July 1686 (both at St. Giles-in-the-Fields); and Margaret, born in 1686.³²

Peter, dying 16 December 1691, was buried near his first wife, and their memorial slabs, formerly on the floor of the chancel but subsequently moved to the west end of the north aisle, bore the following inscriptions:

1. 'Hic jacet Elizabetha, uxor Petri Fermor, Armigeri, toparche huius Manerii, Filia Johannis Carrill de Langley (*sic*) in Surria, Armigeri, et ex nobillissima prosapio comitivo Longfordie Angero oriunda, piissime obiit sicut vixit ij Junij An'o 1677. Ætatis 24.' Then follows a latin verse from the Book of Proverbs, evidently a loving tribute from her bereaved husband, which is given in the English version thus, 'Who shall find a valiant woman? far and from the uttermost coasts is the price of her. The heart of her husband trusteth in her'; and the inscription ends with the forbidden words, 'Requiescat in pace.'³²

2. 'Here lyeth the Body of Peter Fermor, second sonne to Henry Fermor, Esquire, of Tusmore in Oxfordshire: he dyed on the 16th Day of Decem: Anno Domini 1691.'³²

The will of 'Peter Fermor of London, Esq.,' dated 17 September 1683, was proved 2 January 1692, by Mary Fermor, the relict:

'To be buried in Chancel of Deerehurst Church, co. Glouc., near my late wife Elizabeth. Marriage settlement, 14 December, 1680, between me Peter Fermor of 1st part, Lawrence Lord, gent., and Ambrose Holbech, gent., of the 2nd part, Mary (my now wife) by the name of Mary Morgan, sole daughter and heir of Sir Anthony Morgan, late of Kilfiggen, co. Monm., deceased, of the 3rd part, Tho. Powell, esq., and Tho. Goodwyn, linen draper, of the 4th part, and Francis Bagshaw, esq., of the 5th part. Manor or Lordship of Wightfield, or Whitefield, co. Glouc., which I purchased of John Cassy, esq., and lands, etc., in Apperley, Deerehurst, and Walton, co. Glouc., to Geo. Fermor (under age), my son by my said wife Mary, and if he dies *s.p.* then to any other child I may have by my said wife, and if no other child, then to

my nephew, Richard Fermor, gent., second son of my eldest brother, Richard Fermor of Tusmore, co. Oxon., gent., my nephew William Fermor, third son of my said brother Richard Fermor, Henry Fermor, esq., son and heir apparent of my said brother Richard Fermor. My wife to be guardian of my said son (or other children) and if she dies, then my friends, Geo. Holman of Warkworth, co. North'ton, esq., John Caryll of Harting, co. Sussex, esq., and Richard Carryll of West Grinstead, co. Sussex, esq., to be guardians. My said wife Mary, sole ex'trix. Witnesses: John Powell, Tho. Powell, Ja. Eyston.³²

In a Terrier of 1704, preserved in the Gloucester Diocesan Registry, the minister of Deerhurst declared that he had no land, but only £6 13s 4d paid out of the Manor of Wightfield by Madam Farmer, Impropriator.¹ Mary Fermor was carried away, for burial, from St. Giles-in-the-Fields, 23 April 1711.³²

When Margaret, the only surviving child, was twenty years of age, she married John, son of John More or Moore, senior, of Kirklington, Notts., by his wife Catherine, daughter of John Constable, 2nd Viscount Dunbar. In 1711-12 an Act of Parliament³³ was passed 'for selling certain lands part of the manour of Wightfield, *alias* Whitefield, and other lands in the county of Gloucester, for the payment of the debts heretofore of Mary Fermor, widow, deceas'd, and of John More, Junr., of Kirtlington, in the county of Nottingham, esq., and Margaret his wife.' The Act recited Indentures of Lease and Release dated respectively 15 and 16 October 1706, made between John More, junior, and Margaret his wife (sole daughter and heir of Peter Fermor, late of the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlx., by Mary Fermor his late wife, since deceased), declaring the uses of a Fine and common Recovery therein agreed to be (and which were afterwards) levied and suffered, of the manor or lordship of Wightfield, and the Manor House of Wightfield wherein John Cassy, esq., deceased, used to dwell. The lands mentioned, estimated to contain Three score acres which were previously in the possession of John Cassy, and in the tenure or occupation of Roger Mortimer, gent., and reputed to be the Demesne lands of the manor, were called Great, Further, and Little Receivers, Receivers, and Little Receivers, Hill, Old

Park, Walls Mead ground next to the stable, New Park, Ashaple Close, Long Conyger, Little Conyger, Cobney Mead, and farms and closes called Sturdyes, Grove, Mier, Evenesses, Man's Quarter, Milton, in Whitefield, Apperley, Walton and Deerhurst. Also included were the Rectory and Parsonage Improprate of Deerhurst. 'All which said Manour, Rectory and Premises were heretofore purchased by the said Peter Fermor, late Father of the said Margaret More, of and from the said John Cassy, and were granted and conveyed by the said John Cassy to Lawrence Lord of Frithwell, Oxon., gent., and Ambrose Holbech of Mollington, co. Warw., gent., and their heirs, in Trust for the said Peter Fermor, his heirs and assigns . . .'

As a 'papist' John Moore, Junior, of Kirklington, esq., registered in 1716 his life estate at 'Deerhurst and elsewhere' in Gloucestershire, worth yearly £284 12s 7d, but his main income derived from a life estate at Langford and Hockerton, Notts., valued at £1300 per annum. His father also registered a life interest in the manors of Langford and Hockerton, at £1172 1s.³⁰ Subsequently, John and Margaret sold Wightfield manor to John Snell, esq. Margaret died a widow in 1738, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Paddington, where a tombstone was set up with the following inscription: 'Here lyes the Body of Mrs Margaret More, Widow of John More of Kirtington in the County of Nottingham, Esqr., only daughter and heiress of Peter Fermor, Esq., a younger son of Tusmore in Oxfordshire. She died the 27th of April 1738, aged 52. *Requiescat in pace.*' Her will, dated 23 September 1735, was proved 2 May 1738.³²

Another 'papist' of 1715, Anne Symonds, widow, of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlx., registered a life estate at Whitefield, Deerhurst, of the annual value of £28. She had purchased the land from Peter Fermor, of London, on 2 April 1684, when she was Anne Bixby.³⁰

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- ³ Thos. Habington, *Survey of Worcestershire*.
- ⁴ *Cal. Patent. Rolls*.
- ⁵ *Cal. Fine Rolls*.
- ⁶ *Cal. Close Rolls*.
- ⁷ *B.G.*, LXII (Dr E. G. Kimball, 'Rolls of the Gloucestershire Sessions of the Peace').
- ⁸ *Acts of Privy Council* (1834), I, p. 12d.
- ⁹ *Cal. Ancient Deeds*.
- ¹⁰ *Cal. Pap. Reg.*, 'Letters', v, 30, 44.
- ¹¹ C. T. Davis, *Monumental Brasses of Gloucestershire*.
- ¹² C. T. Davis, *Monumental Brasses of Worcestershire*.
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- ¹⁴ *P.C.C. Wills* (Brit. Record Soc.), I.
- ¹⁵ *Hockaday Abstracts*, 'Deerhurst' (Gloucester Public Library).
- ¹⁶ *L & P, For. & Dom. Hen. VIII*, I.
- ¹⁷ *Hunter's Pedigrees* (Harl. Soc.).
- ¹⁸ *P.C.C. Wills*, II.
- ¹⁹ *B.G.*, xx (Rev. E. A. Fuller, 'On Cirencester Documents').
- ²⁰ *Visitation of Gloucestershire*, 1623 (Harl. Soc.).
- ²¹ *Cal. S. P. Eliz.*, CLXXXIII, 44; CLXXXIV, 31.
- ²² *Glos. Notes and Queries*, I, 440.
- ²³ Atkyns, *Gloucestershire*.
- ²⁴ *B.G.*, LX (*Glos. Deeds*—'Shrewsbury (Talbot) MSS').
- ²⁵ *Marriage Licences of Bishop of London*, (Harl. Soc.).
- ²⁶ *B.G.*, xvii (Sir J. Maclean, *Pedes Finium*, 1588-1612).
- ²⁷ *Inq. p. m.* 13 Chas. I, p. I, no. 71.
- ²⁸ J. Bennett, *History of Tewkesbury*.
- ²⁹ *Cal Committee for Compounding*, 1643-1660.
- ³⁰ E. E. Estcourt and J. O. Payne, *English Catholic Nonjurors of 1715* (1885).
- ³¹ J. O. Payne, *Records of English Catholics of 1715* (1900).
- ³² *Roman Catholic Families of England* (ed. J. J. Howard and H. F. Burke, 1887).
- ³³ 10 Anne, c. 25.

Several registrations concerning Wightfield are given in 'A Register Book for Popish Estates in the County of Gloucester pursuant to the Statute of the 1st of King George, 1716,' kept by the Clerk of the Peace:—

The registration of MARY CASSY, spinster, of the parish of St. Martins in the feilds, Middlx., was subscribed in open Sessions on 30th April, 1717:

One annuity or yearly payment of £10 issuing out of a certain meadow ground with appurtenances called Walls Mead, and three parcels of pasture or arable ground called the Old Park, situate in the parish of Deerhurst, of which annuity she was intituled to the trust thereof for a term of four score years if she so long lived. A tenement or house with the outhouses, curtilage, etc., and all the land, arable meadows and pastures therewith in the parish of Deerhurst, which she held for the term of her life, in possession of William Finster, tenant at will, at the yearly rent of £30, whereout was to be deducted 40s for a chief rent reserved to the Lord of the Manor of Whitfield. A parcel of arable and pasture land with hereditaments in the parish of Deerhurst, which she held for life, in possession of John Greening, tenant at will—rent £4 10s, whereout was to be deducted 5s for a chief rent to the Lord of the Manor of Whitfield.

ANNE SYMONDS, widow, of St, Gyles in the Feilds, Middlx., on the same day, registered:

A true particular of the Tenths and Tithes, and all other small or predial tithes commonly called or known by the name of small or privy tithes in Wightfield alias Whitefield, Apperly, Walton, and Deerhurst Charged with the annual sum or yearly rent of £28 payable to her for her natural life and secured to her by one Indenture of Demise and another Indenture of Redemise, the Indenture of Demise dated 2nd April 1684, made between Peter Fermor, of London, Esq., of the one part, and the said Anne Symonds by the name of Anne Bixby, spinster, whereby Peter Fermor, in consideration of a competent sum of lawful money of England to him in hand paid by her before the sealing and delivery thereof, did demise and grant to her by the name of Anne Bixby, All the tenths or tithes of hay, wool, lambs, calfs, milk and apples And all other the small or predial tithes whatsoever of him, the said Peter

Fermor, from time to time arising in Wightfield alias Whitefield, Apperly, Walton, and Deerhurst To hold to her from the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary then last past before the date thereof for and during the term of four score years if she should so long happen to live, under a peppercorn rent. And the Indenture of Redemise dated 3rd April 1684, made between her by the name of Anne Bixby, spinster, of the one part, and the said Peter Fermor, Esq., of the other part, whereby she, for the consideration therein mentioned, did grant, sell, demise and to farm let unto Peter Fermor, his executors, administrators and assigns. All and singular the said tenths and tithes To hold to him and his assigns from the Feastday of the Annunciation of the B.V. Mary then last past for and during the term of Three score and nineteen years and eleven months (if she should so long live), yielding and paying therefor yearly during so many years and so long time of the said term of years as both should jointly happen to live, the yearly rent or sum of £20 And also yielding and paying from and after the decease of Peter Fermor for and during so many years of the residue of the said term thereby demised as she should happen to live and no longer, to her and her assigns the yearly rent of £28 upon the feast days of St. Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the B.V. Mary by equal portions. And Peter Fermor being since deceased by virtue of the said Indentures of Demise and Redemise, she, the said Anne Symonds, was intituled to the said annual sum or rent charge of £28 for the term of her natural life.

JOHN MORE, JUNR., of Kirtlington, Notts., Esq., subscribed his registration in open Sessions on 9th October 1717:

The manor or lordship of Wightfield or Whitefield, with the rights, members, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, with the chief rents or quit rents arising within the same amounting to the yearly sum of £2 1s 5d, then in his possession. The Manor House of Wightfield alias Whitefield, in possession of John Healing, tenant at will, at the yearly rent of £109 15s. Tithes arising in parish of Deerhurst in possession of John

Healing—rent £145. Two acres of meadow in Deerhurst in possession of John Greening who held for life—rent 2s. Messuages and lands late in possession of Anne Cassey, deceased, for her life, and then in hand: one called Fawkes, yearly value £13 os 8*d*; another called Smith, yearly value £6 10s; and a third called Jacksons, yearly value £5 10s. A messuage and lands, also a piece of land and meadow, both in possession of Mary Cassey, who held for life, at respective rents of £2 and 5s. A piece of land and meadow in possession of Thomas Cook who held for his wife's life—rent 9s. A parcel of land in possession of Sara Font, called Sutters, who held for her life by lease—rent 3s 4*d*. A little close in possession of Widow Goody who held for her life by lease—rent 2*d*. Of which said manor and premises he was seized for the tenure of his natural life without impeachment of wast.

MARGARET MORE, widow of John More, Junr., deceased, registered in open Sessions on 24th January 1719, an estate identical with that declared by her late husband. Of which said manor and premises she was seized of an estate in fee simple to her and her heirs for ever, subject to a mortgage of £400 principal money and interest.

The 'Quarter Sessions Order Book No. 4 (1714-24),' in the custody of the County Records Officer, contains 'A List of the Papists and Reputed Papists in the County of Gloucester,' with the item: 'Apperly and Whitfield, Mrs ffarmer'; followed by 'An Account of the Roman Catholicks who have Estates in the County of Gloucester,' with the item: 'Apperly and Whitfield, Mrs ffarmer of London, about 3000^l p. an.'

