

## CHAPTER FOUR

## THE MANOR OF UPTON

The manor of Upton (1) was annexed to the honour of Windsor, after the Dissolution, and remained in the possession of the Crown for many years, various grants of its stewardship being recorded from time to time (2). The first grant confirmed Roger Erlwyne and his heirs in possession for 50 years, for a rent of £20 a year (3). After the lease ended, it was granted successively to Edward Hungerford, (4) Thomas Duck and Robert Barker.

Barker, who was King's Printer to James I, had the sole right of printing English bibles, books of common prayer, statutes and proclamations. His most important publication was the first edition of the Authorised Bible of 1611. He obtained a lease of Upton Manor in 1603 for 22 years, at a rental of £20, increased two years later to £40 in consideration of a payment of £300 (5). Barker had trouble with Duck over the agreement, but apparently suspected Mrs. Duck was the real cause of the trouble, for he added that Mr. Duck was acting 'upon the instygation of his woman'. (6) Barker wrote an account of the outcome of the dispute in 1605 which fills two pages, but has become so faint that it is now almost illegible. A printed summary says:

1605, Aug. 4. Robt. Barker to Sir Thomas Lake (7): 'I have ended the dispute with Mr. Ducke respecting the possession of Upton by accepting his demands and giving him an allowance for the rest of the term. I have obtained the lease with reversion for 21 years from the Lord Treasurer on favourable terms. After this, fresh terms were demanded and when not yielded to, complaint was made to the King, but after due explanation the matter was settled as before.' (8)

The Parish Registers record the death of 'Thomas Duk, Sergeant of the Kings's maiest seller Esquire' in 1609. A note was added by Mr. Reynolds in his transcript: 'This man lived at Slowe Farm where the Cedars now stands and was a Lessee of Upton Farm when the Manor of Upton was granted to Thomas Barker'.

'Charles Harbord (9) and others', who had been granted the manor in 1630, sold it to Sir Marmaduke Darrell in the following year. Sir Marmaduke, who had served in the household of Elizabeth I, and was cofferer to James I, had received the manor of Fulmer as a Crown Grant in 1607, and it was he who built the present church in Fulmer village. There is a splendid effigy of him, with his first wife, in the chancel of Fulmer Church. At the time of his death in 1631-2, he was cofferer to Charles I, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Montague, who died three years later, leaving a son and heir, Marmaduke, who was only 14 years of age. He sold both the manor of Fulmer and the manor of Upton. The latter was bought by Charles Doe (afterwards Sir Charles), by whom it was mortgaged to John Lane, and after a law-suit over payment, it eventually came into the possession of Benjamin Lane of Datchet, (10) brother and heir of John Lane, in 1723.

Benjamin Lane was the only lord of Upton Manor who left a lasting memory in Upton. Under his will, proved after his death in 1723, his farm and lands 'called Hencroft' (11) in the 'parish of Upton near Slow', were charged with a yearly rent of £20 to be paid to trustees to buy yearly and distribute at Christmas 6 English bibles, and to clothe six poor men and six poor women of the parish. He gave detailed instructions for the carrying out of his wishes, (12) and also provided money for a sermon to be preached annually, and for the entertainment of the trustees. The sermon is still preached annually on Bible Sunday (the second Sunday in Advent), (13) but the money has been handed over to the Slough Council of Social Service, who have administered it since 1970. (14)

Benjamin Lane's heiress, Anne Lane, was the wife of Vigorous Edwards mentioned in the account of the parish boundaries (see p. 21). By a curious co-incidence, on the death of Vigorous Edwards in 1760, the manor passed to his relatives, the Edwards of Henlow Warden in Bedfordshire, thus reverting to a Bedfordshire family six centuries after the de Beauchamps had given it to Merton Priory. It remained in their possession until the middle of the 19th century, but in 1862, it belonged to Henry Darvill, members of whose family still held it as co-heirs in the first half of this century. (15)

A survey made in 1547 gives some interesting details of the manor, including some Field Names.

Abstract of a Survey of the Manor of Upton, 1547

'SURVEY made and renewed thereon the last day of February. 1 Edward 6, by Thomas Gedge, deputy of George Gyffard, Esqr., Surveyor of the king there in the said county of Bucks, and by oaths of the tenants of the said Manor, to wit:- of John Pytte, Edward Byshoppe, William Sadler, Robert Style, William Warren, William Orlyne, Robert Sever, Robert Ranenyngge, William Tybye, Thomas Grome, John Carde, William Huddesdon, John Woodwarde, etc.'

FREE TENANTS

<i>Name of Tenant</i>	<i>Description of Property</i>		<i>Extent</i>
Thomas Bulstrode Gentleman	Lands and Tenements (31 parcels)	—	60 acres
	Lands and Tenements (15 parcels)	'Aldreds'	—
John Kempe	Land and 1 Messuage	—	90 acres
Robert Rudeston	Land at Upton Field	'Netherhoase' 'Ryefield'	— —
John Woodwarde	Land Garden Land	— 'Wylands' 'Malpas'	— — 4 acres
John Trowe Robert Cokes Churchwardens	) ) ) Cottage and Garden	Formerly 'Uptons'	—
Reginald Crispe	Field in Upton	'Colnersfield'	—
Christopher Carye	Land	'Erble'	—

CUSTOMARY TENANTS

John Woodwarde	Tenement and Land	(In) Chickwell Lee	1 virgate
	Toft and Land	'Fraunchies'	½ virgate
	Toft and Land in Slowe	'Fosters'	1 virgate
	Cottage and Land in Olyvers Lee	—	1 acre
	Toft	'Bellinghaugh'	—
	Tenement of 'Purgages'	—	—
	Toft and Land in Purgages Lee alias 'Hethemans'	—	1 virgate
	Cottage and garden in Lee	formerly 'Frenches'	—
	Land	—	1 acre, 1 rood
	Land	'Brokers' and 'Paundehawe'	1½ virgates

<i>Name of Tenant</i>	<i>Description of Property</i>		<i>Extent</i>
John Pytte	Messuage and Land	'Fludgates'	1 virgate
	Land	'Willoners'	½ virgate
	Land	'Samsons'	1 virgate
	Land in Chalvey	'Vyncente'	½ virgate
	Croft	'Marescroft'	—
Thomas Grome (senr.)	Tenement and Land	'Wardes Towers' 'Bonnchams'	2 virgates
	Toft and Land	in Larkland Lee	½ virgate
Andrew Inwoode	Land in Upton	'Hopkins'	½ virgate
Robert Style	Tenement and Land in the demesne of Upton	'Maundefeld' and 'Stowe'	1 virgate
	Toft, garden and land	'Taylors'	½ virgate
William Warren and Emma, his wife	Toft and Land	'Huchyns'	½ virgate
	Land	'Megge'	½ virgate
Edward Byshopp	Tenement and Land	'Bartelotts'	1 virgate
	Tenement and Land	'Pelltons' alias 'Langleyes'	½ virgate
	Tenement and Land	'Fylbyes' alias 'Shepecottes'	½ virgate
	Croft and Land	'Rylond'	1 acre
	Tenement, garden and Land	'Fytzwilliams'	½ virgate
	Land	'Sharpers'	½ virgate
	Land	'Oakbyns'	1 virgate
	Tenement and Land	'Montagewes'	½ virgate
	Land	'Turbes'	½ virgate
	Agnes Bartlett	Tenement and Land	'Peter Bowmans'
Toft and Land		'Northews'	1 virgate
Tenement and Land		'Greas'	1 virgate
Land		—	1 virgate
William Sadeler	Messuage and Garden	In 'Leslowe'	—
	Toft	'Pytts'	—
	Land	—	1 virgate

<i>Name of Tenant</i>	<i>Description of Property</i>		<i>Extent</i>
William Sadeler (contd.)	Meadow in Slowe	(Part of) 'Fettys more', alias 'Bonkes'	1 virgate
William Erlewyn	Toft, garden and Land	'Parkers', alias 'Smythes'	—
	Toft and Garden	'Clerkes'	—
	Messuage and Land	'Swaynesland'	2 acres
	Toft and Land	'Gilmyns'	1 virgate
William Tyby	Tenement	In Chalvey	—
Robert Sevor	Tenement and Land	In Chalvey	½ virgate
Thomas Marlborough	Grove	'Marksgrove'	14 acres
Rober Philbye	Tenement and Land	—	½ virgate
	Tenement and Land	'Heamynges Colers'	½ virgate
	Tenement and Land	'Yonges'	½ virgate
George Tudevey	Croft	'Sharpescrofte'	—
Richard Sadeler	Messuage and Land	—	½ acre
	Toft and Garden	'Benfames'	—
	Tenement and Land	'Wagers'	1 virgate
John Curde	Garden and part of Tenement	'Moundesfeld'	—
Thomas Butler	Land	—	½ virgate
Reginald Dighbye	Tenement and Land in 'Colebrooke Salles'	—	½ virgate
	Tenement and Croft in Horton	'Okes'	1 virgate
Richard Woodwarde	Tenement in Slowe	—	—
Edmond WyndSOR, Esq.	Meadow lying by the Marsh	—	1 acre
	Land	—	1½ acres
	Land and garden	—	½ virgate
William Hudson	Tenement, garden and Land	'Blabebornes'	½ virgate
	Land	'Brokersall'	½ virgate
	Land in Hempcrofte	'Slanynges'	1 acre
Thomas Grome junr.	Cottage and Land	'Sewetts Lands'	½ acre
	Tenement, Messuage and Land	'Bonames', 'Wardes'	2 virgates
	Toft and Land	'Larkeslands'	½ virgate

'The Sheriff and fellowes of the Royal College of St.Mary of Eaton' hold by indenture:-

Tenement and Land in Upton	'Godwyns'	1 virgate
Tenement and Land	'Kaynes'	1 virgate
Tenement and Land	'Thores'	1 virgate
Garden	'Coppedhall'	
Grove	'The Grove'	
Butt of Land		

The above in the tenure of Robert Ravenyng

Robert Erlwyne holds by indenture Upton Court, etc.

'The said Tenants do enter Common in the wood called Upton Wood.

'Also there is within the said Manor or lordship ten ploughlands, also the tenants of the said town may 'Time' yearly 20 loads of hay coming and growing upon 40 acres of meadow.' (16)

A Survey made in 1605 is also of interest, as it gives details omitted from the account of the parish boundary made in 1739, which it helps to clarify

'Beginning at the house at Mr. Woodward's Spring Corner going after along the brookside parting Upton and Langeley and by the same brook still southwards to a corner of the meadow called Northmeade in Datchet, parting Upton and Datchet ... and from the corner ... to Merke Bridge ... and by the Mill Ditch parting Upton and Datchet, to the Thames southward ... and from the Thames by a ditch parting Eton College land from Upton, west to Stonebridge, and so along the ditch ... to Scipenham Parke .. and along the same ditch parting Scipenham and Chalvey, and parting Chalvey and Farnham Royal, northward into the King's highway by Farnham Mill leading towards London, ... and so eastward along the highway parting Upton and Stoke Poges to a great elme in the middle of Slowe unto a corner house of Andrew Windsor ... and from the elme along by a lane northwards parting Upton and Stoke Poges to a certain ground called Sowetts ... and from there to Mundaies Greene and after to Poke Lane parting Upton and Wexham to Mr. Woodward's Spring corner.'

The same survey records that according to the custom of the manor the heriot was the best cloven-footed beast. The tenants also had common of pasture in lands called the Marsh, Marshmead and Chalvey Green, Moor and Grove, together with herbage and pannage in Upton Wood. (17)

### UPTON COURT

Few, if any, of the lords of the manor lived in Upton Court, and in 1711, Benjamin Lane conveyed to Edward Lascelles and his heirs 'all that capital messuage or mansion house called Upton Court'. Edward Lascelles was probably the grandfather of the Edward Lascelles who was created Lord Harewood in 1796, and was raised to the rank of an earl in 1812. (18) It remained in the possession of the Earls of Harewood for over a century. It was visited on 4 June, 1922, by King George, Queen Mary, Viscount Lascelles (later the 6th Earl of Harewood) and Princess Mary, with the idea that it might serve as a small country home for the Princess after her marriage to Lord Lascelles, but the idea was abandoned, and Upton Court was sold in 1929. (19) It was sold again in 1936, (20) and changed hands several times (21) before it was bought in 1956 by the present owner, Mr. F.R. Groves. (22)

At least one of the Lascelles family lived for a time at Upton Court, and several of the family are buried in Upton Church, but the house was more usually leased to tenants. The Nash family, who came to Upton Court from Beaconsfield in 1707, lived there for over a hundred years. (23)

Among the most notable of the other tenants of Upton Court were G.S. Sala (24) and Sir Douglas Forsyth. George Augustus Sala was a famous journalist who wrote for *Household Words* when Dickens was the editor; for the *Cornhill Magazine* under the editorship of Thackeray; and founded the *Temple Bar Magazine* in 1860, remaining editor until it was taken over by the Bentleys in 1866. Sala also took a leading part in founding the Savage Club, and spent many years as a war correspondent, during which time he saw at least part of the Crimean War, the American

Civil War, the Carlist War in Spain, the Franco-Prussian War, and Garibaldi's fight for a United Italy. (25)

In an article 'Streets of the World – Windsor, Thames Street', Sala wrote:

'How often on calm summer evenings, from the garden of an old house at Upton, have I looked between the two tall elms, across the busy farmyard, athwart the fat meadows with their solemn cows, along the steaming meads of Datchet, across the bright white Thames – looking, with the light full upon it like a razor spread out on a green table – and watched the distant vision of Windsor's castle steep, its shadow bluer than David Roberts (26) ever painted the dome of St. Peter's towering in the far-off Campagna! And I have seen the Round Tower all at once turn fiery red with the last rays of the expiring sun. Then the shadows of night have come down upon it – down, down, down, and then in tower after tower, and along the façade of the Terrace, the windows have been lit up, and from the number of the illuminated casements I have speculated as to whether there were brave doings and grand company in the Castle, or whether there was no addition to the Royal dinner-party.' (27)

On 12 June, 1886, Sala wrote 'Echoes from Ascot', in which he says:

'I resided five and twenty years ago in a dear old house called Upton Court – a weird and ancient mansion, with high-pitched thatched (28) roof and dormer windows, a very antique manor-house of the Tudor period, I should say, with a lake in front, and a garden all run to exquisitely picturesque wildness; and a rosary with eighteen varieties of roses; and a ghost, who, in consequence of her services in frightening servant-maids out of their wits, had been retained in the establishment for upwards of three hundred years. This apparition – I forget whether she carried her head under one arm or not, but the servants were very particular in declaring that she wore a white night-gown richly frilled, with a large stain of blood on the left breast – always walked on Friday night. They could hear her, the domestics declared, crunching the gravel of the carriage-drive as she paced round the house; but do such impalpable entities as ghosts wear boots? and if they are bootless, how can they crunch the gravel? My inward belief has always been that the ghost of Upton Court was really the gipsies, who were very fond of the neighbourhood of Slough, and who were partial to stealing the fire-wood which was stored in my backyard.' (29)

This tradition of a ghost is still handed down at Upton Court, although no one has seen any ghost within living memory. It is believed to haunt a very ancient and narrow staircase leading to the upper story, and not merely the drive, as mentioned by Sala. Nothing is known of the origin of the tradition, or of any event which could have given rise to such an apparition.

Sir Douglas Forsyth, (30) who travelled widely in Central Asia, and was an able Administrator in India, served through the Indian Mutiny, and undertook several diplomatic missions for the British Government before he returned to England in 1876. He took up residence at Upton Court in 1883, and spent the last three years of his life quietly, alternately in London and Upton Court. He interested himself in all the local industries and charities, and especially in the establishment of a Cottage Convalescent Home for Children, in Upton Road, which he visited constantly. Presumably this was the hospital which later became known as the Paddington Green Children's Hospital Convalescent Home, on the site now occupied by the Dudley Court block of flats. He died at Eastbourne in 1886. (31)

#### NOTES

1. Burne (p. 59-60) was under the impression that the manorial rolls of Upton did not go further back than 1649, but Mrs. Elizabeth Elvey, Hon. Librarian, County Museum, Aylesbury, informs me: "The court rolls and books of Upton were deposited here in 1952 by an unknown donor. They cover the period 1618 to 1935. The bundle 1618-43 is in general in good condition, but 1630 and 1631 are missing and 1632 is torn off leaving only a fragment."
2. V.C.H., Vol. III, p. 315.
3. In 1538, Roger Erlwyne, as steward of the manor, and collector of rents there, rendered an account to the Receiver and Accountant of the Court of Augmentations established by Henry VIII to deal with the monastic property confiscated by the Crown (transcribed by

- Burne in Appendix V, p. 91) but this is not so complete and interesting as the Survey of 1547, for which see p. 29.
4. Nothing seems to be known of Edward Hungerford.
  5. Dictionary of National Biography.
  6. Burne, p. 63.
  7. Sir Thomas Lake (1567?-1630), appointed Keeper of the Records at Whitehall in 1603.
  8. P.R.O. State Papers, Dom. Add. James I, Vol. 37, No. 53, p. 464.
  9. (Sir) Charles Harbord, Surveyor-General to Charles I (V.C.H., Vol. III, Datchet, p. 252).
  10. Phipps, p. 74.
  11. Hencroft Street takes its name from Benjamin Lane's farm and lands.
  12. Phipps, pp. 74-75.
  13. I am indebted to the Rector, Canon Eric Perkins, for this information.
  14. I am indebted to Mr. N. Nicholson, General Secretary of the Slough Council of Social Service, for this information.
  15. V.C.H., Vol. III, p. 315; Kelly's Directory, 1938. Manorial jurisdiction was abolished in 1936.
  16. Burne, Appendix VI, pp. 93-95.
  17. V.C.H., Vol. III, P. 315.
  18. *ibid.*
  19. The rate books for March, 1929, show the Earl of Harewood as the owner, and Capt. and Mrs. E.A. Tickler as occupiers; the rate books for September, 1929 show Capt. and Mrs. E.A. Tickler were still the occupiers, but the owner was Mrs. S.A. Tickler. The Earl of Harewood is still shown as the owner of Upton Court Farm, occupied by Frederick Cornish.
  20. Articles in the Daily Telegraph, 5 March, 1936 and Slough Observer, 3 July, 1936.
  21. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, who handled the sales, confirmed this.
  22. Date kindly supplied by Mr. F.R. Groves.
  23. See p. 148 for their descendants, the artists Paul and John Northcote Nash.
  24. George Augustus Sala (1828-1896).
  25. D.N.B., and Ralph Strauss: Sala, *The Portrait of an Eminent Victorian* (1942).
  26. David Roberts, R.A. (1796-1864).
  27. Temple Bar Magazine, Vol. XI, p. 194, April, 1864.
  28. This is the only mention of a thatched roof to Upton Court; it may be a slip of Sala's memory, or journalistic licence.
  29. Illustrated London News, 12 June, 1886.
  30. Sir Thomas Douglas Forsyth (1827-1886).
  31. D.N.B., and *Autobiography and Reminiscences of Sir Douglas Forsyth*, edited by his daughter, Ethel Forsyth (1887).



15. *The Red Cow, Upton, before the road-widening*