

LOWER BURTON  
and  
LOWER BURTON FARM

The first instance of which I am aware when the word *Lower* is used in association with *Burton*<sup>1</sup> does not arise until 1607.

There are many references simply to *Burton* well before then which may well, at least in part, refer to the same area. But, equally, many will not do so.

This Paper covers only *Lower* Burton references, at the same time acknowledging that by association with, for example family names or perhaps even in extreme cases with field-names, some of the references omitted from this may eventually be found to be referring to this same, quite small, area.

The 1607 reference which I mentioned in the first paragraph is a Glebe Terrier.<sup>2</sup> This mentions the “demesne of Burton “ [ie. The lands farmed directly by/ on behalf of, the Lord of the Manor] and “ the Lower farm of Burton”. A little earlier is detailed “...common land now in the tenure of William Bakar of Dorton.” [I take this to be Burton]...and it continues with mention of “the Lower farm of Burton late the lands of Edward Haughton gent...”

This wording indicates the departure of Edward Haughton from Lower Burton Farm; whether he died or moved elsewhere is not currently known to me, nor why he moved [rather than died] if that was the case.

Also dating to 1607 is the Will of William Whittington of Eardsland [24<sup>th</sup> December 1607]. Whether or not the farm mentioned therein is indeed what we now call Lower Burton Farm is not certain, but circumstantially it may well be:

*Item I give and bequeath unto the said Anne Whittington my wife...[other lands]...and the farm of Burton for two years. And after two years I bequeath the farm of Burton to my nephew John Whittington of Notgrove for all the residue of the years in the same lease being.*

The present dwelling house at Lower Burton Farm dates to about this time: “The house was built probably late in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.”<sup>3</sup> This building was recently further reported upon.<sup>4</sup>

Dating to August 1637 is a list<sup>5</sup> with the heading:”Earslande The estate of our parishe is as foloweth” Included in this are four references to Burton:

John Coates Esq owner of the Manor of Burton.  
John Crofte gent the lower Farme in Burton.  
James Munne gent a livinge in Burton  
Richard Morris 2 howses & lande in Burton”

John Croft died either very late in 1680 or in early January 1681. He left no Will but an Inventory of his assets was taken dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 1681. This gives a vivid

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<sup>1</sup> Burton in Eardisland; there are others in the County.

<sup>2</sup> HRO HD2/3/14

<sup>3</sup> RCHM Volume 3, page 50.

<sup>4</sup> James D. *Lower Burton Eardisland Herefordshire. An Investigation of Eight Buildings within the Settlement.* Privately published for Eardisland Oral History Group. June 2008.

<sup>5</sup> BM Portland Loan. Harley Papers: Loan 29/172 via HRO SR 62.

impression of the building at Lower Burton Farm, its contents and some detail of the livestock<sup>6</sup> and crops.<sup>7</sup>

1703 is the earliest date in the "Eardisland Parish Book"<sup>8</sup> but it is not until 1706 that mention of "Lower Burton" is to be found when service as Overseer and Churchwarden was undertaken by "Rd Scandtret for James Parkers Eastate at Lower Burton".

Relevant entries continue throughout the listing and include:

1733 Fra: Stephens for his house in Lower Burton.

1734 (R)d Holland for his house y'. was Jacob Parkers in Lower Burton.

1747 John Edwards for the late Fra: Stephens of Lower Burton.

1786 Edward Powell for Lower Burton.

And so to the Tithe Map, 1844. Of *Lower* Burton places it marks on the map itself only "Lower Burton"- (alongside Lower Burton Farm).

Twenty years later Burton Court and the Manor of Burton were for sale. The sale details, dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 1862,<sup>9</sup> include specific mention of Lower Burton Farm, setting out the extent of it at that time. It sold to John Clowes, who did not delay long before making at least one change. Within a fully detailed Tenancy Agreement for Lower Burton Farm dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 1865, is much information including the (new) acreage (113 acres) – less than half the figure in the Auction Sale Details. Mr Edward James was replaced as tenant by "*Mr Charles Powell of Dilwyn, Farmer...*"<sup>10</sup>

At least four families mentioned in the 1881 Census can be identified as living at Lower Burton: the Morris family, a visitor and two boarders (probably at Round House): the Maund family including a servant: the Lilley family- husband, wife and nine year old daughter: and the Mumford family.

Another schedule of what was worked as 'Lower Burton Farm' is to be found within the Marriage Settlement<sup>11</sup>, P.L.Clowes to Miss E.E.Warren, in September 1895.

Also, in 1895 Kelly's Directory lists four names under the heading "Commercial" associated with Lower Burton. These surnames are: Thomas, Ricketts, Charles, and George. All are listed as farmers.

Both 1903 and 1907 see record of Thomas Davies of/at Lower Burton, mentioned in the W.I.Book and Court House Farm deeds respectively, after which<sup>12</sup> my file jumps to 1950 when full details of Lower Burton Farm are (again) to be found in the Burton Court Sale document; this following the death of Mrs E.E.Clowes in 1949. A comparison with the equivalent document in 1862 might well turn up some points of interest.

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<sup>6</sup> Oxen were still in use.

<sup>7</sup> HRO Hereford Diocese Probate Index ref.73/1/18.

<sup>8</sup> HRO AJ32/58.

<sup>9</sup> Hereford Library, Local Studies Collection. Sale Catalogue No.90.

<sup>10</sup> HRO C69/271.

<sup>11</sup> Photocopy of the original which Paul Selfe lent to me in March 2005.

<sup>12</sup> Also, at HRO N41/2689, there is a "Bundle re Thomas Davies, deceased. Lower Burton Farm, Eardisland. Includes Sale Particulars, correspondence, conditions etc. 1915-1916." which I have not yet seen.

In 1956 the W.I.Book made but little specific mention of Lower Burton: “Lower Burton, 260;” [acres]... on page 61; and on page 27: “.....there is also Knapp Orchard, on Lower Burton Farm.”

In the context of the importance of early “Lower” Burton, Reeves, in circa 1975<sup>13</sup>, is (also) almost dismissive: “Lower Burton: mainly grain.” and on the following page: “There are 3 small holdings (sic) at Lower Burton.”

.....*Finis*.....

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<sup>13</sup> Reeves,N. Notebook Number 10, pages 74 and 75.