

## CHAPTER 6 – THE TITHES OF STAPLEFORD

### **Old testament**

Tithes can be summed up succinctly in one sentence: “the humbug of the old days”. Although they were part of life for so many centuries they were never looked upon with any favour-except, of course, by those receiving them. The first mention of the payment of tithes is in the Scriptures in Genesis xiv.20, where Abraham is recorded to have given to Melchizadek a tenth of all; a circumstance alluded to in Hebrews vii.4. The New Testament contains no directive on the subject but the early Christians recognised the duty of supporting their ministers and considered that such men were worthy to receive, at least, as much remuneration as had been prescribed for the Levitical priesthood and began very soon to inculcate in its members the practice of giving to the service of God one tenth of all that with which He had blessed them.

### **Tithes paid to rector or monastery**

In England in the early days the tithes were paid to the monasteries wherein the bishop and clergy lived together. But when landowners built churches on their own estates they naturally paid their tithe for the support of the services in their own church. The way of doing this was to bestow them on the priest appointed to serve the church and where this occurred, he was styled “parson” or “rector”, and received the whole of the tithes: the landowner claimed the “advowson”, or right of appointing him, and was called “the patron”. But in some cases the landowner chose to pay his tithes to one of the numerous monasteries, etc., which began to be formed, and then looked to the monastery which received the tithes, and therefore became the rector of the parish, to supply a clerk in holy orders to perform the services of the church.

### **Geoffrey Heriz gave part of tithes to Lenton**

The two latter situations, we know, have applied to Stapleford. The earliest mention of tithes in connexion with this parish is when Geoffrey Heriz I gave two parts of his tithes to Lenton Priory c1105. (On the basis of subsequent taxation, it would seem that 2 parts constituted one third of the whole.) This act, however, appears not to have affected in any way his right of patronage of Stapleford church and the remaining tithes would go in support of his own parish priest.

### **Stapleford church given to Newstead**

This situation continued up until the time, C1220, when Avice de Heriz gave Stapleford church to Newstead Priory, by which act that monastery became the patron and received the tithes which had previously been paid in support of the local priest, Lenton Priory continued to receive the two parts already granted to them. The

two monasteries probably considered the existing set-up was in need of some re-arrangement, and at Michaelmas 1259 the Prior and Convent of Lenton passed to the Prior and Convent of Newstead all their tithes, great and small and without diminution, within the parish of Stapleford. For these the Prior and Convent were to pay them 5 marks of silver annually, half at the feast of St Martin-in-Winter (11th November) and the other half at Pentecost on pain of a penalty of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mark if not paid within 15 days of either feast, and subjecting themselves to the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Nottingham who would have power to recover, for the Prior and Convent of Lenton, both the principal and the penalty. But if it should so happen that the Prior and Convent of Newstead be excluded from the church of Stapleford and this prevented from paying the 5 marks. Then the tithes must revert to the Prior and Convent of Lenton. NC.13. So now all the tithes are paid to Newstead and Newstead pays £3:6:8 in cash annually to Lenton.

### **Enquiry of 1288**

Later in the same century King Edward I wanted to know the extent of the lands and other possession of the Prior of Newstead in Nottinghamshire and at the enquiry held August 30th 1288 (when one of the jurors was Benedict of Stapleford), it was found that the Prior held in Stapleford, in demesne, 1 messuage and 1 virgate of land worth yearly 50 marks. Also in free rent yearly rent there was 4 shillings. The Priory also held in Stapleford, of the nuns of Derby, 4 oxgangs of land and rendering to the nuns 2 marks annually. There was also 1 acre of meadow worth 2 shillings yearly.<sup>1</sup> The facts set out in this enquiry approximate very nicely to the particulars which can be gathered from charters etc. contained in the early Newstead Cartulary.

This enquiry was the result of Pope Nicholas IV's grant of the Tenthos to King Edward for six years towards defraying the expenses of an expedition to the Holy Land. (First Fruits-the profits on the first year's income from a benefice to which a new appointment had been made-and Tenthos-one tenth part of the profit on each subsequent year's income-of all ecclesiastical benefices were paid to the Popes of Rome). In order that these tenths might be collected to their full value a Taxation by the King's Precept was begin in 1288 and finished in the Province of Canterbury in 1291, and in that of York in 1292. Under this the church of Stapleford was returned showing a figure of £10 per year plus the annual payment of £3:6:8 to the Prior of Lenton; a total of £13:6:8, or 20 marks a sum which became the basis for taxation purposes, and by which all taxes paid by the church, as well to the King as to the Pope, were regulated, until the Survey made in 26 Hen. VIII and known as the "Valor Ecclesiasticus."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Chan. IPM 16REDI No.4 D.M.4

<sup>2</sup> Tax. P.NIC.IV pp.310 and 388.

### **Nonarum Inquisition 1341**

We have to wait 50 years, for the Nonarum Inquisition, to find out the details of the tithes and rents which went into the make-up of this value of 20 marks. By a Statute passed on the 15th year of the Reign of Edward II (1341) Parliament granted the 9ths (with the 15ths) to the King for two years for the purpose of maintaining an army. To this end a Commission (the 3rd of its kind) was directed to Assessors and Venditors on January 26th of that year, whereby they were instructed to levy the ninth of corn, wool and lambs in every parish, according to the value upon which churches were taxed (Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV) if the value of the ninth amounted to as much as the tax, and to levy more where the true value of the ninth should be found to exceed the tax: but should the value of the ninth be less than the tax, they were directed to levy only the true value of the ninth, and disregard the tax. To gather information of these facts the Assessors and Venditors were directed to make inquisition upon oath of the parishioners in every parish. When the ninth had been levied it was sold to provide the money.

The inquisition for Stapleford,, along with others in the neighbourhood, was held in Nottingham on 13th March 1341 before the Venditors and Assessors by oath of 12 men, none of whom, apparently, were actually from Stapleford, who found that “The church of Stapleford is valued for taxation purposes at 20 marks (£13:6:8), and they say that, for the ninth, the tithes of shares of corn, wool and lambs of the same church are valued at a true value of 13 marks 8 shillings (£9:1:4) yearly and not more: and that also 40 acres of land belong to the same church as an endowment of the same, of which the value is 20 shillings a year; also 12 acres of meadow belonging to the same church are worth 20 shillings; also the tithes of hay are worth 13 shillings and 4 pence a year; mortuary payments and other small tithes of the said church, are worth 2 marks 5 shillings and 4 pence (£1:12:0) a year.”<sup>3</sup>

In 1428 the church was taxed for Feudal Aids at one tenth of the value. As in the foregoing taxation the basic figure was 20 marks. 15 marks (£10) with the Subsidy, or Tax, fixed at 1 ½ marks (£1), plus the annual payment to the Prior of Lenton, which was 5 marks (£3:6:8). Subsidy on which was ½ mark (6/8d)

Total value - 20 marks (£13:6:8)  
Total tax - 2 marks (£1:6:8)<sup>4</sup>

### **Valor Ecclesiasticus 1534-5**

We now come to the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII; the King wanted to know the “whole, true, and just yearly values of all possessions of churches, monasteries

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<sup>3</sup> NONARUM ING 13 EDWIII p 288

<sup>4</sup> Feudal Aids. Vol IV

etc.,” and for this purpose caused to be drawn up, in 1534-5, this famous document from which the following entries for Stapleford are taken,<sup>5</sup>

Value in tithes of sheaves of corn and hay With other emoluments in normal years	£10 0s 0d
Paying annually therefore to the Prior of Lenton and his successors, a pension of	£3 6s 8d
To the Archbishop of York for Synodals	6s 0d
To the Archdeacon of Nottingham for Procurations	6s 8d
To William Dutton (a canon of Newstead) “vicar perpetual” of Stapleford per year	£2 13s4d £6 12s8d
Remaining to the Monastery of Newstead	£3 7s 4d
From Demesne Lands which the Priory of Newstead holds in Stapleford	
Value in rents and fixed payments per year	£3 5s 8d
In respect of a payment made to the nuns of Derby, per year	£1 6s 8d
And remaining clear to the Monastery Of Newstead	£1 19s0d
Total value	£13 5s 8d
Total outgoings	£7 19s4d
Total profit to Newstead	£5 6s 4d

It would seem that, for some unaccountable reason, the compilers of the “Valor” are one shilling out in their overall value of Stapleford church compared with all previous assessment at the full round sum of 20 marks i.e. £13:6:8.

**Suppression of the Priory and the account of the King’s Bailiff-Henry Gaaswayne**  
After the suppression of the Priory of Newstead on 21st July 1539, many of its possessions were sold to divers persons but some were retained in the King’s hands;

<sup>5</sup> VALOR ECC’ HENVIII VOL. 5 pp. 153.154

this was the case with the lands etc. of that monastery which were situate in Stapleford. These were leased, or had been leased by the late Prior, and such leases appear to have been honoured, to various person for an annual rent, accounted for by the King's Bailiff, and the following is one such account by that officer: -<sup>6</sup>

Stapulforthe

"Account of Henry Gaaswayne, bailiff there, from Michaelmas 31 Henry viii(1539) to Michaelmas 32 Henry viii (1540), to wit, for one whole year as follows:-

Arrears	None, because he was quit from his last account onwards	
Total		None
Income	Received 6s 6d of the income of of Assize assize of the free tenants of the King In Calverton, 2s6d, and in Stapulforthe, 4s0d	6s 6d

To be paid at the festival of Pentecost  
And St. Martin-in-the Winter, in equal  
portions annually.

As by a new rental made and renewed  
before William Bolls, knight, Receiver,  
and John Wyseman, Auditor;  
Commissioners of the King, in the year of  
his reign 30, after the old account and  
rental was viewed and scrutinised by the  
examination of John Blake, the late Prior,  
who was sworn and examined upon this  
account

Rent of

And 44s 8d of the rent of divers tenements and cottages with lands Belonging to them in Stapulforth, to wit, of one tenement with appurtenances in the holding of Hugh Chambers	17s 0d
Of 1 cottage etc., in the holding of William Bryght	4s 8d
Of 1 cottage etc., in the holding of Burton	6s 8d
Of 1 cottage etc., in the holding of John Green	8s 0d
Of 1 cottage etc., in the holding of Thomas Harryson	5s 0d
Of another cottage etc. in the holding of Henry Briggs	3s 0d
Of 1 garden etc. in the holding of Robert Teverey	4d

<sup>6</sup> Lands of Dissolved Religious Houses S.C 6 Hen VIII 7384 mem.40

Which holdings are demised to them From year to year, and which money has to be paid at Pentecost and St. Martin-in-the-Winter annually and in equal portions	
Lands in Bramcote	2s 0d
And in 18s.0d of the rent of one tenement with lands belonging to it in Stapulforthe, this demised to Thomas Dullye 1 for a rent by an indenture, not yet enrolled, to be paid at the same times as above, annually and in equal portions as appears in the same rental.	18s 0d
And 2s.0 of the rent of 1 cottage etc. there, in the holding of Thomas Wryghte at a rent by an indenture	2s 0d
1 Westminster Clerk's error for Tulle (Towle) not yet enrolled, to be paid as above	
Rent of the Rector's benefices	
And 53 4d of the rent of the mansion of the Rectory of Stapulfirthe with the Glebe lands belonging to it, demised to Peter Martyll at a rent by an indenture not yet enrolled to be paid at the festivals of Pentecost and St. Martin-in- the-Winter, annually and in equal portions, as appears by the afore-said rental	£2 13s 4d
And £7:6:8 of the rent of the tithes of sheaves of corn, lambs and wool there, demised to Richard Archer, for a rent etc as above £7:- 6: 8	£7 6s 8d
Total £10 : 0: 0	£10 0s 0d
Sale of wood	
Nothing received for the sale of wood or underwood sold that year, because no such sale has taken place inside the period of this account by the oath of the accountant -	
Total Nothing	
Perquisites of court	
Nothing receivd of the pleas or perquisites of court there for that year because no such court was held inside the period aforesaid.	
By oath of the said accountant ---	
Total Nothing,	
Pensions to be paid with maintenance and Synodal dues	

For an annual pension to be paid to the Prior of Lenton from the rector's benefices of Stapulforthe, at 66s. 8d per year, this year paid nothing because it was paid by the recorder.

For a pension to be paid to the Prioress of Darley from the Lands in Stapulforthe, at 26s 8d per year paid nothing, for the aforesaid reason.

For a pension to be paid the chaplain of Stapulforthe from rector's benefices of the same place

at 53s 4d per year, this year paid nothing for the same reason.

For money to be paid to the Arch-Bishop of York for Synodal dues from the rector's benefices in Stapulforthe, 6s 0d, and to the Arch-deacon of Nottingham for maintenance and synodal dues from the church of Stapulforthe, 6s 8d, to wit, for this year nothing because it was paid by the Recorder.

Total Nothing.

It will be seen that, excepting those items not applicable to Stapleford, the total amount in the account comes to £13:13:8d. eight shillings more than the value set out in the "Valor". This amount of eight shillings can be arrived at in many ways; however, it seems clear that either (a) the King, through his bailiff, was determined to get more revenue from these lands, albeit only 8 shillings, or (b) since the suppression of Newstead additional land or rents had come to light and had now been added to the rent roll.

### **Rent of the "mansion of the rectory" and the tithe of hay**

The items which principally concern this chapter are (a), the 53s 4d rent of the "mansion of the Rectory of Stapulforthe" with the Glebe lands belonging to it. Of this sum, 40 shillings were for the premises and 13s 4d for the tithe of hay, (this last amount was old (Nonarum) value of the hay tithe). The tithe of hay had become divorced from the other great tithes and had been leased, along with the 'mansion of the Rectory' to Peter Martyll alias Martin by the late Prior. Peter Martyn was later described as enjoying "the tithe hay of the hades and baulks of the fields of Stapleford".<sup>7</sup> They were later to emerge in the possession of John Broadbent, and (b) the tithes of sheaves of corn, wool and lambs demised to a Richard Archer (d) for a rent of £7:6:8. Total rent to the King for the tithes - £8.

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<sup>7</sup> Depos. Exch R 36 Eliz I.

Let us forget the tithe of hay for the time being and concentrate on the other tithes.

### **Tithes of corn, wool and lambs**

By an Indenture dated 5th September 1538 the Prior and Convent of Newstead leased their tithes of corn, wool and lambs, together with their tithe barn in Stapleford to a Richard Archard for 60 years at a rent of £7:6:8 to be paid annually and equally at the fests of St. Michael (29th September) and the Annunciation of our Lady (25th March). By his will dated 5th November 1558 Richard bequeathed those tithes etc. to his wife Margery, after whose death they were to go to his children; one half to son John and the other half to daughters Johanna and Agnes jointly.

John eventually sold his moiety, including the tithe barn to Edward Revell of South Normanton, Derbyshire who, in turn, sold it to John Teverey. The Indenture between Revel and Teverey was signed 31st November 1575 although the obligation concerning the sum of £200 for the tithes was not signed until 28th January 1577. This sale did not include payment of the annual sum of £7:6:8.<sup>8</sup>

The moiety held by Johanna and Agnes eventually passed into the hands of Edmund Downinge, Peter Aysheton and Theophilus Adams who sold them on 15th May 1582 to John Teverey for an unspecified sum. John Teverey now owned all the tithes of corn, wool and lambs which were held of the Queen's Manor of East Greenwich (a point not mentioned in the Revell-Teverey indenture) by fealty, in free and common scutage and not in chief not for knight's service. Out of these tithes John Teverey was now to pay the annual sum of £7:6:8 to the Queen; £2:13:4 as a salary for the curate of Stapleford, and 6s:8d for the Archdeacon of Nottingham's procurations. Payment was now to be made at Michaelmas to the Receiver General for the County or to the Receiver of the Queen's Exchequer.<sup>9</sup>

### **Non-payment of tithes**

However customary or lawful, tithes may have been, payment of them was never popular with the independent-minded Stapleford folk, and if they had a mind to avoid it they had a jolly good try. In the Archdeacon's Court Records are some interesting encounters between the farmers of the tithes and those who had to pay.

On 8th July 1581 John Teverey brought before the Archdeacon's Court, Peter Chambers, John Clarke, senior, and Richard and John Fawkener, all for with-holding tithes.

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<sup>8</sup> DEED AT MATLOCK.

<sup>9</sup> M5204, NOTTM. CITY LIBRARY.

Chambers offered 12 pence and costs in full satisfaction of the tithes, and these were accepted on behalf of the plaintiff.

Clarke, senior, offered 18 pence plus costs. This was accepted in respect of tithes of lambs and skins mentioned in the plaint, but not in respect of sheep killed or dead. Clarke then offered 11 pence, with costs for sheep killed or dead after the feast of the Purification (2nd February) in the year mentioned in the plaint. These were accepted and the costs fixed at 13s 4d, and to be paid before he next court.

In the case against John and Richard Fawkener the plaintiff accepted the lamb offered by John, and the bill of costs was brought in, the defendant contended that he could not be made to pay these costs as the delay was not caused by him, “and he had always been ready and willing (I wonder!) to pay the said lamb which the plaintiff had clearly and publicly refused to accept”. Then Fawkener admitted that Mr. Teverey’s man came to him on May Day and asked him whether the sheep were at home, for his master would have his tithe of lambs”. Fawkener answered that he would not fetch home the sheep except he would take the tithe, which he had done.

This action stood upon Richard Fawkener as well, for they were joint tenants of the land.<sup>10</sup>

On 26th July 1592 Richard Towle was before the Archdeacon, charged by John Teverey, for withholding tithes. The case was adjourned, but when it was due to be heard for the second time Towle was absent and was excommunicated, Eventually, at a court held October 31st Towle paid 10pence for all the tithes asked for according to the customs of Stapleford, and was then ordered to pay before Christmas, the costs fixed at 15 shillings; but these he did not pay until 7th January 1593.

In March of that year, he was again before the Court on a similar charge. On this occasion he straightaway paid the 5 pence due was then ordered to pay, by 1st May, costs fixed at 23 shillings and 4 pence. These he did not pay, and the case was brought up on the 3rd and 30th May and again on the 12th June. On each occasion Towle neither paid nor appeared in Court and so he was excommunicated.<sup>11</sup>

At about this time John Broadbent, too, was having difficulty with the collection of his hay tithes. On 19th July 1592 he summoned William Greasley for withholding his tithe of hay. Apparently, Greasley did not inform him of the day, place, and time when the separation of the tenth part of the hay from the remaining nine parts would be made, and when he carried away the hay the tenth part was neither set aside nor offered.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> ARCH D. ACT BOOKS.

<sup>11</sup> ARCH. D ACT BOOKS

<sup>12</sup> ARCH D ACT BOOKS.

No punishment is recorded but it is more than likely that William had to pay something by way of satisfaction plus costs.

Page 108 is inserted here.

### **Teverey v Broadbent for non-payment of tithes**

One of the many confrontations between Gervase Teverey and John Broadbent took place in 1602, in a Tithe Cause in the Ecclesiastical Court of York. Unfortunately, as is so often the case, complete documentation is non-existent but sufficient remains to determine the reason for the litigation. Gervase Teverey, through his Proctor, William Fothergill, charged John Broadbent with the non-payment of tithes of corn, wool and lambs arising from 2 oxgangs of land. Broadbent maintained that the 7 oxgangs of land which he held were glebe lands and that no tithes were therefore payable. It was asserted that only 5 oxgangs of the 7 were glebe and that no tithes were therefore chargeable.

Apart from this, very little else can be gleaned; by a deposition taken in 1617 concerning the Common Fine it is clear that only 5 oxgangs of land were glebe but the action appears to have extended from 21st March 1601 until (at the earliest) 5th December that year and must have caused considerable inconvenience to the witnesses as well as entailing great expense.

Witnesses for John Broadbent were William Foster, Joanna Briggs and her husband who were JB's tenants; Ann Ainsworth, servant to the defendant who, upon further examination was stated to be a single woman with child "begotten of her body in fornication". This, of course, had no direct bearing on the case but illustrated the lengths to which litigants would go to impugn the character and credibility of witnesses for the opposing side. William Graysley (Greasley), another witness, was described as "an intimate friend of John Broadbent and a mortal enemy of Gervase Teverey. All of them were declared, on behalf of Gervase Teverey, to be persons of ill-report.

The names of witnesses for Gervase Teverey have not been preserved, but it is known that John Warburton, the curate, was one who deposed in this cause and it is fairly safe to assume that he was on the side of GT.

Unfortunately, the sentence imposed and the assessment and apportionment of costs etc are not on record.<sup>13</sup>

### **Transmission of the Teverey tithes 1669-1772**

As has been previously stated, the Teverey tithes continued in that family for many years. When William Palme was engaged in selling his Stapleford estates, the tithes

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<sup>13</sup> YORK DIOS. REG CP. H.782

were the subject of a separate transaction and by this time the tithe of hay had come into his possession.

William Palmes had sold much land, including the tithes, to John Borrows in 1669 and Stapleford Hall, land and tithes to Arthur Warren the younger in 1675. This seems to have split the lands from which the tithes came to pay the rent of £7:6:8. In December 1677 Edward Cowle of Stanton-by-Dale, yeoman, paid William £25 for the tithes which William got John Borrows and Arthur Warren the younger to release. These were the tithes arising from the lands etc. commonly known by the name of Hollingsworth's Farms or Livings and out of which Edward Cowle was to pay the £4:6:8 to the king; £2:3:4 for the salary of the curate; and 6s 8d for the Archdeacons' Procurations <sup>14</sup>

Not all the tithes were included in this transaction but it seems to cover all those that were not in individual ownership and those which were necessary to support the rent charge. Neither was all the land of Stapleford subject to tithe payments: in Peter Martyll's time (ante 1546) the Stone Meadows, Upper and Nether, were tithe free and possibly other parcels of land as well. With some of the smaller parcels sold by William Palmes the tithes went also, as in the case of the purchase made by William Teabould in 1670 and 1673. John Greasley, who died in 1707, bequeathed several selions of land and meadow to his sons, all tithe free for, as he says, "the Reason I give my Land all Tythe free is in Regard I bought the tythe". <sup>15</sup> These would not be isolated instances but would be part of the pattern developing with the break-up of the Palmes estate.

Upon the death of Edward Cowle c 1739 all his tithes in Stapleford plus 1 meadow called Plum Pudding Meadow, (an indication that at some time EC bought more than just tithes from William Palmes), were to be sold to provide certain legacies. From subsequent deeds it would appear that Michael Cowle, Edward's eldest son, purchased the tithes from his father's trustees and which upon his death devolved upon his daughters Catherine, married to Michael Bagguley, and Elizabeth married to John Wheldon.

By an Indenture dated 26th August 1757 the Bagguleys and Wheldons sold the tithes of corn, wool, lambs and hay and all other tithes arising out of the farms etc. in Stapleford and known by the name of Hollingsworths Farms or livings. The purchaser was Moses Atkin and he paid the princely sum of £200 for them. At that time the tithes were held, rented or collected by Moses Atkin, John Ingleton, William Butler, Moses Greasley, Ann Stocks, John Butler, George Brown, John Collinson and John Enson. Out of these tithes Moses was to pay the rent charge of £7:6:8, a sum which had remained unchanged for more than 200 years. <sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> M5294 Nottm. City Library.

<sup>15</sup> YORK WILLS.

<sup>16</sup> DDPF/122/52 County Archives.

Not all the tithes owned by the Bagguleys and Wheldons were at that time sold, for almost a year later, on 5th May 1758, they parted with the remainder (together with certain properties) to Joseph Stubbins and John Chappell for the sum of £120. These were tithes of corn, wool, lambs and hay arising out of some 110 acres of land, 28 acres of meadow and 58 acres of pasture. These, too, must have found their way into the possession of Moses Atkin.<sup>17</sup>

After the death of Moses Atkin in November 1768, the tithes, together with the rest of his not inconsiderable estate, were inherited by his only surviving child, a daughter, Elizabeth then married to William Antill of Spondon. This William died soon after his father-in-law and in October 1770 Elizabeth married Humphrey Hudson of Little Chester. At the time of the Enclosure Award in 1771 Humphrey was awarded 23 acres 3 perches of land in the Bridge Field in lieu of the tithes which he was then holding in the right of his wife. These tithes arose out of open land belonging to William Chambers D.D. and out of all enclosed land belonging to the same gentleman. All other tithes arising from all other land in Stapleford belonged to their several owners and did not qualify for an allotment. The 23 acres 3 perches was equal in value to one seventh part of all open lands liable to pay tithes, and to one tenth part of all enclosed lands that were liable to pay tithes.<sup>18</sup>

### **Claim by the perpetual curate to certain tithes.**

With Enclosure Act all tithes were extinguished but it seems that a small Easter Offering had been collected by the “Vicar” once a year, for a very long time, from such of the inhabitants who thought it proper to pay it and consequently only a small sum was obtained. This was assessed in the following manner: - 2/6d the litter of pigs; 1/- an orchard; 1 1/2d each cow; 4d. a foal, 2 eggs for a hen and 3 for a cock; 9d “for the smoke going up the chimney.” (?)

In or about the year 1846 the incumbent, Richard Haygarth, in order to convert the Easter Offering into a more permanent tithe first put in his claim to the tithes of Stapleford. He died soon afterwards but his successor, William Almond (a most energetic man in many ways), prosecuted his predecessor’s claim. The landowners vigorously opposed this mooted imposition and a meeting was held on 28th March 1850 at the “Warren Arms” inn before the Assistant Tithe Commissioners.

The only evidence for the vicar was given by the Parish Clerk, William Daykin, who, on oath, deposed that he and his predecessors in that office for at least 50 years had collected the Easter Offering. He could produce no written evidence of such

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<sup>17</sup> M3117, Notts. City Library

<sup>18</sup> Encl. Award Notts. C Archives.

collections except for an old book, which had belonged to his grandfather, wherein payments from certain inhabitants had been recorded.

This was deemed sufficient evidence by the Commissioners on which to found a Tithe, or Rent –Charge, and on May 17th 1850 they declared that the Perpetual Curate of Stapleford was entitled to all tithes of Pigs, Foals, Milk and Apples and was paid in the manner following: -

Litter of Pigs: 2/6d in lieu of tithe of Pigs  
Every Milk Cow: 1 1/2 d in lieu of tithe of milk  
Every foal: 4d in lieu of tithe of Foals  
Every orchard: 1/- in lieu of tithe of Apples.

and awarded him a Tithe, or Rent-charge of £10 per year in lieu and to be paid out of certain lands by the owners of those lands. Forty-one landowners, both large and small, were lumbered with this charge and the acreage affected amounted to 82 acres 3 roods 27 perches. The nominal amount was fixed according to the estimated value, at that time, of the tithe to which the plot could be subject.

Amongst those who protested at the proposed imposition, and who eventually had to make the largest contributions, were Mrs. Fisher, (wife of Captain A.G.Fisher and heiress to Millicent Stokes) £2:18:0; Lord Vernon (grandson of Sir John Borlase Warren) £2:13:9 1/2; John Jackson, gentleman (of the manor) £1:2:8 and J S Sherwin Esquire, 16/2s; others who protested, and whose amounts were negligible compared with the aforementioned sums, were John Lamb, 4 1/2 d; Joseph Smedley, 4d; John Daykin, 3d; John Hallam. 2d; and John Palmer. 2d. One can just imagine them saying “It’s not the money, it’s the principle of the thing”.

Although no tithes of any kind are now paid the Churchwardens of Stapleford each year request the parishioners to give generously to the collections on Easter Day, which collections are offered to the Vicar “in accordance with ancient custom.”

