## HARLEY

THE parish of Harley, which lies at the foot of Wenlock Edge, contains 1,963 a.1 Some 110 a. and six houses in the village, formerly a detached part of Much Wenlock parish, were transferred to Harley in 1882.2 On the south the parish boundary runs along the crest of Wenlock Edge; it follows streams for short distances on the east and west, but otherwise makes no use of natural features. The boundary with Cressage on the north-east seems to have been established following a perambulation of the bounds of Harley and Belswardine manors, carried out in 1237,3 that between Harley and Cressage on the north-west was determined at the inclosure of Harley and Cressage Woods, c. 1519.4 A projection of the parish boundary on the slope of Wenlock Edge south-west of Blakeway Farm is probably in origin the assart which the lord of Harley was given licence to make in woodland belonging to Presthope manor in 1331.5

The detached part of Much Wenlock, which represented the lands in Harley held by Wenlock Priory in the Middle Ages, consisted of scattered fields in the north and east of the parish. It was not considered part of the parish of Holy Trinity, Wenlock, in the Middle Ages,6 but tithes arising across its centre and has a number of tributaries. Another stream, formerly called Sandibrook, rises to the north of the village and flows northwards towards the Severn. Harley Brook and its tributaries are bordered by a wide belt of boulder clay. Domas and Rowley, two former hamlets of Harley, lie in this area, to the north and south of Harley Brook respectively. South of the brook the land rises gently from 250 feet to 400 feet near Blakeway Farm. The clay here gives place to Wenlock shales and the escarpment of Wenlock Edge rises sharply

therefrom were paid to the Priory in 15347 and after

the Dissolution it seems to have been accounted

part of Wenlock parish by virtue of the so-called

The parish is watered by Harley Brook (formerly called Plash Brook), which runs north-eastwards

Dictum of St. Milburgh'.

sand and gravel, which produces the undulating landscape of the north-east quarter of the parish. There are smaller deposits of sand and gravel near Domas and Rowley. On the west the land rises towards the Kenley ridge, reaching 516 feet at the

to some 850 feet. Harley village stands at about 325 feet on the southern slope of an extensive bed of

parish boundary.

O.S. Map 1", sheet lxi (1st edn.); O.S. Map 6" Salop. so (1st and later edns.); O.S. Maps 1/25,000, SO 60 (1956); SJ 60 (1958), SJ 50, SO 50 (1950); Rocque, Map of Salop. (1752); Baugh, Map of Salop. (1808); Greenwood, Map of Salop. (1827); B.M. O.S. 2" orig. drawings, sheet 207 (1817); Geol. Survey Map (drift), sheet 152 (1932); par. sec., tithe appt. and map, 1842; S.R.O., 294/5 (Much Wenlock tithe appt. and map (Harley, Wigwig, and Homer), 1846). This article was written in 1962 and revised in 1965.

revised in 1965.

<sup>2</sup> Gensus, 1891.

<sup>3</sup> Close R. 1234-7, 571.

Sta. Cha. 2/30/51.
Sta. Cha. 2/30/51.
Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle 29, no. 4.
Not recorded in perambulation of bounds of Much Wenlock, 1331: S.R.O. 1224 unest.
N.L.W., Wynnstay (1952), box 43, no. 96.
It is described as 'within the precinct of the Holy Trinity of Much Wenlock' in 1541: T.S.A.S. 1st ser. vi. 101. For the Dictum see Eyton, iii. 232-3, 238.

T.S.A.S. 2nd ser. i. 81. There was one reputed papist in 1706: Lich. Dioc. Regy., B/a 11.
Lich. Dioc. Regy., B/v 1/87.
W.S.L., Hand-Morgan uneat., diocesan survey, c. 1680.
O. Sex. Orders, ii. 8.
Visit. Archd. Salop. 1709.
Lich. Dioc. Regy., applications for dissenting meeting-house licenses. This cottage, now demolished, stood on the west of the Condover road: par. rec., tithe appt.
Visit. Archd. Salop. 1823; Kelly's Dir. Salop. (1856); local inf.

local inf.

7 Par. rec., vestry minutes.

8 24th Rep. Com. Char. H.C. 231, p. 385 (1831), xi.

39 Par. rec., tenancy agreements, 1833, 1850.

 Ex inf. the Rector.
 24th Rep. Com. Char. 385.
 Bagshaw's Dir. Salop. (1851).
 24th Rep. Com. Char. 385-6.
 O.S. Area Bh. (1883). The following topographical description is based, except where otherwise stated, on

Much of the south and west of the parish was still woodland in the Middle Ages. In 1086 the manor contained sufficient wood for 100 swine,9 and grants of common rights in Harley Wood are recorded in the 12th and early 13th centuries. 10 Rowley Wood stood in the south-west of the parish, where the tenants of the adjoining manor of Presthope were granted common rights in 1331.11 That the woodland which still covers much of the escarpment of Wenlock Edge formerly extended northwards towards Harley Brook is indicated by the names Rough Hayes and Hay Field borne by several fields in this area, but it appears to have been cleared by c. 1600.12 On the west of the parish, running north from Harley Brook, was a belt of woodland which would seem, from the evidence of field-names, to have been about half a mile wide.13 Some assarting had taken place here by 1537,14 but the greater part was probably cleared to supply charcoal for an iron forge erected on Harley Brook by 1607.15 In 1842 there were 206 a. of woodland in the parish, more than half of it on Wenlock Edge, 16 and there has been little subsequent change.

The former common fields of Harley township<sup>17</sup> were called the Field towards Wigwig (or East Field), the Field towards Cressage (or North Field), and the Field towards Blakeway (or West Field). Apart from the southern half of West Field they lay on the gravels to the north and east of the village. The layout of a typical open-field holding was preserved in fossilized form until 1882 in the detached part of Much Wenlock parish. This also shows how far the process of consolidation of strips had progressed here by the early 16th century. The small scattered strips on the gravels of North and East Field stand in contrast to the compact block of land in West Field, where the gravel and boulder clay regions join. There is no evidence of any formal inclosure. The common fields continued to be mentioned until 1734, the last detailed reference to an open-field holding being in 1683.

The road from Wenlock through Harley to Cressage, possibly constructed in this part of its course by Henry I c. 1102,18 was turnpiked in 1752.19 A toll-house which stood to the south of Harley Brook in 180820 was sold to the lord of the manor in 1875.21 The stone bridge over the brook was built by Thomas Carline in 1843.22

Stone implements found in the parish23 and the Roman villa site at Yarchester24 are evidence of early settlement here. The church, standing at the

junction of roads from Wigwig, Blakeway, and Kenley with the main road, has always been the central point of the village. The site of the manorhouse is not known. The lord was resident in 1327,25 but it was said to be worth nothing in 1349,26 and no lord of the manor has subsequently lived in the parish. The materials of the gatehouse and kitchen, the latter roofed with Harnage slates, were sold in 1368.27 The manorial dovecote, first recorded in the 13th century,28 stood in a field to the north of the churchyard in the 17th century and was still in use in 1688.29 This field, then called The Conigree and later First Coney Burrow, was used as a rabbitwarren at this time.30

Until the 18th century the houses in the village stood on the roads to Wigwig and Domas and on the west side of the Wenlock road between the church and the mill on Harley Brook. The Old Rectory, to the west of the church, is probably the oldest surviving house. The original house, now the south wing, was a timber-framed building with a central chimney stack and a storied porch on the east side. This had probably been built before 1612.31 Later in the 17th century32 a timber-framed wing was added at right angles on the north side, incorporating or replacing the kitchen of the original house. A stone kitchen was built to the west in the 18th century, and a projecting brick wing was added on the north-east between 1805 and 1823.33 Forge Farm, to the north of the Domas road, appears to be the oldest of the existing farmhouses. It is a brick-cased timber-framed house with a central stack, probably built in the earlier 17th century. No. 3, Harley, opposite the church, is the most striking of several timber-framed houses on the Wenlock road, but is unlikely to have been built before the 17th century.

In the 18th century the farms became larger and less numerous.<sup>24</sup> In the original village houses tended to be more widely spaced and several were then rebuilt in stone, for example, the mill, the cottages on the church lands, and Harley House. At the same time a number of isolated farms and cottages were erected, including Cressage Park Farm, 35 Merrishaw Farm, Domas Farm, 1-2, Domas Cottages, and the cottage called Crow's Nest on the Kenley road. The inclosure of the common fields to the north of the village permitted expansion along the Cressage road. The cottage to the north of the churchyard and the old smithy are both stone houses of 18th-century date. Harley

V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.
 Eyton, vi. 231; Hist. MSS. Com. Middleton, 51.
 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 4.

12 Ibid. leases. 13 Between the road to New Hall and Harley Brook it is separated from the former common fields by a number of fields called Stocking.

 Sta. Cha. 2/30/32; ibid. 2/30/51.
 See p. 89. Charcoal burners' 'rings' have been found in several fields to the north of the forge: ex inf. Mr. L. J. Brookshaw, Forge Farm.

16 Par. rec., tithe appt. Description of common fields based on Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases; ibid. box 1, bdle. 29, nos. 2, 4, 6, 9; Lich Dioc. Regy., glebe terriers, 1612–1824; par. rec., tithe appt.

18 Ordericus Vitalis, Historia Ecclesiastica, ed. A. le Prevost (Paris, 1838-55), iv. 176.

19 Shrewsbury-Wenlock road Act, 25 Geo. II, c. 49

(priv. act).

20 Baugh, Map of Salop. (1752).

25 C 135/96/14. 27 S.P.L., MS. 2, f. 438. 28 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle 29, no. 1. 29 Ibid. leases, 1619, 1688.

Did. 1598, 1619, 1664, 1688.
Lich. Dioc. Regy., glebe terrier, 1612, where it is described as a house and kitchen under one roof. 32 Probably before 1662, when the house had 6 hearths:

E 179/255/35 m. 75.
23 Visit. Archd. Salop. 1823.

34 See p. 89.

38 Burnt down 1875: notes penes Miss E. M. Jones,

Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, press 14, no. 87.
 Q. Sess., dep. plans, 65; Q. Sess. Orders, iv. 32.
 T. R. Horton collect., Shrews. Museum.

T. R. Horton collect., Salews., Addeding.
 The site has been partially excavated. See V.C.H. Salop. i. 261; T.S.A.S. Ivi. 7; Shropshire Newsletter, Dec. 1957, July 1958. Adjoining fields were called 'Harechester' in the 16th century: Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.
 T.S.A.S. and ser. xi. 376.

Court (formerly Harley Towers), with the windmill and cottages adjoining and the village shop, were built in the early 19th century. Castle Hill House, near Forge Farm on the Domas road, was built c. 1840, but stands on the site of an earlier house and derives its name from a crenellated brick tower built by John Corfield in 1791.36 Only 3 buildingsthe school (1859), Grove Farm (c. 1923) and the new parsonage-have been erected in the village since 1842, but a few others have been enlarged.

There were two alchouses in Harley in 1616.37 The 'Unicorn', which adjoined the east of the churchyard and lay partly in Harley and partly in the detached part of Much Wenlock, was closed shortly after 1863.38 The village had a second alehouse, 1759-72.39 The 'Feathers', later the 'Plume of Feathers' and now the Feathers Hotel, is first recorded in 1842.40 It is a stone-built house, probably of 18th-century date, which appears to have been converted into an inn in the early 19th century.

There is reason to believe that the 4 manors which existed in Harley before 106641 each represented a distinct hamlet, and that these were Harley itself, Domas, Rowley, and Blakeway. The last three stand on or near a road which formerly ran southwards from Harley to Blakeway, where it was joined by roads from Much Wenlock, Presthope, and Gippols.42 There is no evidence of common fields at Domas-presumably they were incorporated in Harley's West Field-but 'the Field of Blakeway' is mentioned in 133143 and there are traces of ridgeand-furrow in a field to the south-west of Rowley Farm. All 3 hamlets must have shrunk to single farms at an early period. Blakeway Farm and Rowley Farm stood alone when first mentioned in 153644 and 160045 respectively. Both are brick-cased timberframed houses, probably built in the early 17th century. At Domas are only the two 18th-century stone houses mentioned above.

The parish contained 100 communicants in 1676.46 The population rose from 221 in 180147 to a peak of 257 in 1831.48 Thereafter it fell steadily to 178 in 188149 and, in spite of the addition of the 25 inhabitants of the detached part of Wenlock in 1882,50 had fallen to 173 in 1911.51 Since then the

36 Datestone.

 Q. Sess., alehouse reg.
 Ibid.; N.L.W., Castle Hill 2244; par. rec., tithe appt. 19 Ibid.

\*\* Par. rec., tithe appt.

\*\* Par. rec., tithe appt.

\*\* V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.

\*\* This road now ends at Rowley Farm and the roads to Presthope and Gippols are disused. The road to Wenlock has been superseded by one following a less precipitous route, constructed in 1859: par. rec., churchwardens' accts, 1793-1837.

43 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle 29, no. 4-

45 Ibid. leases.

\*\* Ibid. no. 27. \*\* T.S.A.S. and ser. i. 81.

47 Census, 1801.

48 Ibid. 1831.

49 Ibid. 1841-81.

10 Ibid, 1891.

51 Ibid. 1911.

12 Ibid. 1961. 11 V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.

54 Eyton, vi. 231.

15 Ibid. xi. 125. 16 Bk. of Fees, 966.

BR. of Fees, 900.
 Rot. Hund. (Rec. Com.), ii. 62.
 Cal. Inq. p.m. ii, p. 19.
 Cal. Fine R. 1272-1307, 18.
 Cal. Inq. p.m. xiv, p. 350.
 V.C.H. Salop. i. 347.

population has remained static: there were 150 inhabitants in 1961.52

MANOR. Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, was overlord of HARLEY manor in 1086.53 It was annexed, probably in 1102, to the honour of Montgomery,34 with which it was first explicitly associated in 1225, when it was held of Hilary Trusbut.55 William Cauntelow was overlord in 124256 and 1254,57 and on the death of George Cauntelow in 127318 it passed to his sister Millicent, wife of Eudes la Zouche.59 The substitution of the Earls of March as overlords of Harley, first recorded in 1360,60 seems to have arisen from confusion with the manor of Meole Brace, where the Mortimers had been overlords by 108661 and the Cauntelows mesne lords since 1211.62 Edmund, Earl of March, was accounted overlord in 1425, when William la Zouche was mesne lord,62 but the overlordship presumably reverted to the Zouches in 1460, since John, Lord Zouche, was overlord in 1503.64 The overlordship is last recorded in 1623, when the manor was held of Thomas Edwards as of the manor of Meole

Before 1066 Harley was held as four manors by the freemen Edric, Ulmar, Elmund, and Edric, and in 1086 Helgot was lord of the single manor here.66 By 1180 and until c. 1209 the manor was held by Malcoline de Harley<sup>67</sup> and it is likely that Edward and Hernulf, who were successively lords of Harley in the early 12th century, were ancestors of his.68 William de Harley, whose relationship to Malcoline is not clear,69 was lord by 1221.70 He died in 1225, when his heir was a minor.71 This was probably Richard de Harley, who was lord in 1237,72 1242,73 and 1254.74 He was dead by 126273 and his son Robert by 1269.76 Robert's son Richard was then a minor,77 but had come of age by 127678 and died in 1316.79 Robert, son of Richard, was lord from 131650 until his death in 1349,81 but his father's widow Burga held one third of the manor in dower and was still living in 1337.82 The manor then passed to Robert's son Robert,83 who married Joan Corbet c. 1360,84 when it was settled on their joint heirs.85 Robert de Harley died intestate in 1370.86 A con-

61 Eyton, vi. 354-5.

63 C 130/19/32. 64 Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, iii, p. 543. 65 C 142/402/146. 65 V.G.H. Salop. i. 337. 66 V.G.H. Salop. i. 337. V.G.H. Salop. i. 337.
 Eyton, vi. 232; cf. ibid. iii. 294; ibid. iv. 21; ibid. vi.

86, 329.

68 Ibid. vi. 231-2, citing undated charter to Wenlock Priory. Copy in S.R.O. 1224 uncat., Prior Gosnell's reg.

69 He was described as son of Robert Malherve in 1221:

60 He was described as son of Robert Middleton, 51.

27 Eyton, vi. 233. ct. Hist. M355. Colli. Ma 70 Eyton, vi. 123-4, 136, 232-3. 71 Ibid. xi. 125; Close R. 1227-31, 249. 72 Close R. 1234-7, 571. 73 Bh. of Feer, 966. 74 Rot. Hund. (Rec. Com.), ii. 62.

25 Eyton, vi. 234.

26 Ibid. <sup>78</sup> Cal. Pat. 1272-9, 294; Abbrev. Plac. (Rec. Com.), 198.

50 Feud. Aids, iv. 229.
51 Cal. Ing. pm. ix, p. 186.
52 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 5.

81 Cal. Inq. p.m. ix, p. 186.
 84 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, nos.

11-14.

\*\* Ibid.; C.P. 25(1)/195/16/41.

\*\* Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, nos. 18-20; Cal. Pat. 1374-7, 140, 154.

## A HISTORY OF SHROPSHIRE

veyance of the manor to Peter Cornwall in 1370,87 shortly before Robert's death, was probably no more than a mortgage. Later in the same year the manor was settled jointly on Cornwall and Robert's widow Joan,88 but by 1375 it was held by Joan alone.89 She had married John Darras by 1395,90 but in 1400 her estates were settled on herself for life, with remainder to Henry de Grendon and his wife Elizabeth, Joan's grand-daughter by her first husband,91 Elizabeth subsequently married Richard Lacon,92 who was lord of Harley by 1428,93 The manor passed from father to son in the Lacon family until 1618,94 the following being lords: Richard, by 1428;45 William, until 1462;56 Richard, 1462-1503;97 Thomas, 1503-36;98 Richard, 1536-43;99 Rowland, 1543-1608;1 Francis, 1608-18.2 In 1618 Francis Lacon sold the manor to Sir Francis Newport,3 and it followed the descent of Cressage manor until 1734.4

On the death of Henry, Earl of Bradford, in 1734, the manor passed, under the terms of his will, to his mistress Mrs. Anne Smyth in trust for his illegitimate son John Harrison.5 Mrs. Smyth died in 1742,6 having devised the reversion to William, Earl of Bath. John Harrison, who later assumed the name of Newport,8 was a lunatic. His estates were held by William, Earl of Bath, as sole trustee from 1742 until the latter's death in 1764,9 when the trusteeship and reversion passed to William's brother General Harry Pulteney. 10 Pulteney died in 1767, 11 having devised them to William Pulteney, who obtained possession of the manor on the death of John Newport in 1783.12 The manor has subsequently followed the descent of Cressage manor. 13

OTHER ESTATES. An estate of some 110 a.,14 held by Wenlock Priory, is first recorded in 1379,15 but was probably acquired in the 12th century. The

Priory obtained a grant of common rights in Harley Wood in the early 12th century, 16 and their Harley estate was subsequently closely associated with the adjoining manor of Wigwig, granted to the Priory in the time of Richard I.17 In 1379 this property was administered as part of Bradley Grange, 18 but in and after 1390 it was a member of the manor of Marsh. 19 Marsh manor was granted to Stephen Hadnall in 155820 and was sold to Sir John Weld in 1619,21 thereafter following the descent of Willey manor,22 In 1522 the Harley property consisted of two copyholds held by John and Christopher Taylor.23 One of these was enfranchised c. 157824 and the other probably became freehold at this time, since there is no indication that Hadnall or his successors held anything here apart from manorial rights.25 The property held by Thomas Taylor in 157826 was sold to Sir Richard Newport in 1630, 27 but the other, now Castle Hill, has continued as a small freehold estate until the present time. It was owned by the Corfield family by 180828 and had passed by 1830 to John Meire, 29 whose family were the owners until 1922.30

Lands at Blakeway were granted to William Gatacre by Richard Lacon in 1536.31 This estate, first called Blakeway Farm in 1605,32 was sold to Thomas Lawley in 161233 and has since followed the descent of the Wenlock Priory estate.14

ECONOMIC HISTORY. The manor, which was worth 21s. before the Conquest, was waste after 1066, but had recovered by 1086, when it was worth 40s.35 It was then said to contain 4 hides, with land for 4½ ploughs.36 It was assessed at 3½ hides in 1229<sup>37</sup> and at 3 hides in 1254-<sup>38</sup> In 1349 its annual value had fallen from £7 5s. to £3 13s. 6d. on account of the Black Death.30 In 1086 land for 11 plough lay in the demesne,40 which was said to comprise 2 carucates of arable and 3 a. meadow in

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. 24, 27, 275; S.P.L., MS. 4646, p. 285; Q. Sess., gamekeepers' deputations, 1774, 1799.

14 The acreage in 1808: N.L.W., Wynnstay (1952), box

Ibid. 266.
 Dugdale, Mon. v. 77.
 Eyton, iii. 284.
 Cal. Pat. 1557-8, 378-9.
 T.S.A.S. 3rd ser. i. 187-8.
 S.R.O. 1224 uncat., title-deeds of Willey manor.
 N.L.W., Wynnstay (1932), box 56, no. 111.
 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 31, no. 1.
 A serval of the manor of Marsh. c. 1690, includes t

A rental of the manor of Marsh, c. 1600, includes no Harley tenants: S.R.O. 1224 uncat.
 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 31, no. 1.

<sup>28</sup> N.L.W., Wynnstay (1952), box 43, no. 8. Edward Corfield, a ratepayer of Harley in 1734, was probably owner of Castle Hill: par. rec., par. bk. 1700–38.

W.S.L. 350/40/3.
 Castle Hill title-deeds, penes the late Miss Frances

31 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no.

C 3/316/39.
 Wenlock Priory title-deeds, penes Barclays Bank,

See p. 75.

27 Ibid. no. 10.

Dugdale, Mon. v. 77. Eyton, vi. 231. Ibid. 266.

27. 32 Ibid. box 7, bdle. 13, no. 1.

<sup>17</sup> Close R. 1227-31, 249. <sup>18</sup> Rot. Hund. (Rec. Com.), ii. 62.

Much Wenlock.

<sup>25</sup> V.G.H. Salop. i. 337.

29 C 135/96/14. 40 V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.

26 Ibid.

- 87 C.P. 25(1)/288/49/707.
   88 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, nos.
- \* Ibid. nos. 21-22. Cornwall's interest in the manor had passed to Fulk Corbett by 1382: Cal. Pat. 1374-7, 140,
- 154; C 136/28/16.

  \*\*Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 23; Visit. Salop. 1623 (Harl. Soc. xxviii), i. 214.

  \*\*S.R.O. 1224 uncat., deed 1400. cf. S.P.L., Deeds 1715; Visit. Salop. 1623 (Harl. Soc. xxviii), i. 214; ibid.
- xxix), ii. 302-8.

- Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 24.
   Ibid.; Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, iii, p. 543.
   Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, iii, p. 543; Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 25; C 142/58/60.
   C 142/58/60; C 142/68/7.
   C 142/68/7; C 142/312/7. In wardship until 1567: L. & P. Hen. VIII, xiii (1), p. 144; Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 298.
- 38-52.
- Complete Peerage, ii. 275.
- S. Garbett, The History of Wem (Wem, 1818), 107;
- 9 Q. Sess., gamekeepers' deputations, 1743, 1749;
- Complete Peerage, ii. 23.

  10 Complete Peerage, ii. 24. 11 Ibid.

- Visit, Salop, 1623 (Harl. Soc. xxix), ii. 306.
   Fend, Aids, iv. 256.
   For pedigree see Visit. Salop, 1623 (Harl. Soc.
- 93 Ibid.
- box 1, bdle. 29, no. 29a.

  <sup>2</sup> C 142/312/147.

  <sup>3</sup> Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, nos.
  - Sec p. 75.
- Ibid. S.P.L., MS. 2791, p. 397. 8 Complete Peerage, ii. 275.

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1349.41 The growth of the manorial estate, said to contain 1,400 a. by 1609,42 may be accounted for by the clearance of woodland in the west of the parish, in which the lords seem to have taken the initiative. 43 Comparatively little was added by purchase: two small freeholds were bought in the 14th century++ and some 48 a. in the detached part of Much Wenlock in 1630,45 but these were offset by the sale of Blakeway Farm in 1536.46 In 1842, when the manorial estate totalled 1,552 a., the only other sizeable freehold estates, apart from the glebe (53 a.) and church lands (10 a.), were Blakeway Farm (363 a.) and Castle Hill (51 a.)47 There were two other freeholds of less than 10 a.48 The manorial estate com-prised 1,515 a. in 1945.49 lest of Rowley Farm (276 a.) was sold in 1957 and the remainder in 1962.50

Little is known of the administration of the estate before the 18th century. In 1086 there were 3 serfs on the demesne, with one villein and one bordar.51 Assized rents of free tenants, normally worth £4, were valued at only 10s. in 1349.52 There were said to be 20 messuages and 6 cottages in the manor in 1609,53 and 24 tenants attorned to the new lord in 1618.54 Rents produced £131 a year c. 1646.55 Until the mid-18th century a substantial part of the estate was held on three-life leases, 56 The leases, which always included covenants for payment of heriot and for suit of court, contained provisions for military service, 1628-93, and a clause against wearing the livery of strangers, 1638-83.

In 1734 there were 14 leaseholders for lives and 11 tenants-at-will paying rents of £74 and £82 respectively.57 The structure of the estate was little changed in 1747,58 when there were 10 leaseholders, 11 tenants-at-will, and 2 holdings under both tenures. Some 1,020 a. leasehold land produced rents of £57 a year, and a little more than 670 a. land held at will, £135 a year. Large farms were already a feature of the estate—there were five holdings of over 100 a .- but 14 of the 23 tenants held farms of 10-100 a. Many leaseholds had been converted to tenure at will by 1768,59 when there were only 6 leaseholders paying annual rents of £17 and 17 tenants at will paying £276. The transition to large farms was virtually complete by 1842,60 when some 1,250 a. of the estate lay in five farms of over 100 a. In the parish as a whole there were six farms of over 100 a., five holdings of 10-100 a., and 15 of less than

10 a. Most of the smaller holdings were centred on houses in the village; only two of them may have been in origin forest encroachments. Apart from the glebe and the woodland then kept in hand by the Duke of Cleveland (86 a.) and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (120 a.), no land in the parish was held by owner-occupiers. In 194561 1,391 a. of the 1,515 a. in the estate lay in the five large farms and there were only two smaller holdings, each of less than

An 8-acre field to the north of the Kenley road had been converted into allotments by 1846,62 when there were 14 tenants. There were still 4 allotments here in 1945,63 but these have since gone out of use.

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- 41 C 135/96/14.
- 49 Malcoline de Harley cleared some 60 a. woodland in the later 12th century: Pipe R. 1185 (P.R.S. xxxiv), 128; E 32/143 m. 1; E 32/144 m. 1. For later activity by lords of the manor, see Cal. Chart. R. 1300-26, 29; Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 4; Sta. Cha.
- 2/30/32; ibid. 2/30/51.

  44 C 47/76/2/50; S.P.L., Deeds 1715.

  45 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 31, no. 10.

  Acreage from S.R.O. 294/5.

  46 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, no. 27.
- 47 Par. rec., tithe appt.; S.R.O. 294/5.
- 49 Uppington estate office, terrier, c.-1920.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.
- 12 C 135/96/14-53
- C 142/312/147 14 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, nos.
- 50-51. 11 T.S.A.S. 2nd ser. xii. 21-22.
- Ninety Harley leases, 1542-1734, are in Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, wooden box 6, bdle. 19, and wooden box 12, bdles. 13, 16, 21-22, 24-25.

- 57 Ibid. receiver's accts. 1734-41.
- <sup>58</sup> S.R.O. 168/4.
  <sup>59</sup> Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, receiver's accts. 1768–
- Par. rec., tithe appt.; S.R.O. 294/5. Uppington estate office, terrier, c. 1920.
- S.R.O. 294 5.
- 63 Uppington estate office, terrier, c. 1920.
- 64 H.O. 67/14/124. Par. rec., tithe appt.
- Uppington estate office, terrier, c. 1920. H.O. 67/14/124. Letter, 1852, in Visit. Archd. Salop. 1843.

- V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.
   Kelly's Dir. Salop. (1900, 1905).
   Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.
- S.R.O. 1242 uncat., mortgage, 1813. Par. rec., tithe appt.
- Ex inf. Mr. M. P. E. Preece, Harley Court.
- See p. 96.
   S.R.O. 840 uncat., rental of Lacon estates, 1607.
   Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.
- 78 Ibid. Ibid.
- se Ibid.

## A HISTORY OF SHROPSHIRE

in leases after 1638,81 and in 1657 Sir Francis Newport obtained licence to search for coals in the manor, \$2 but no coal is known to have been mined here. Limekilns adjoining the Wenlock road at the foot of Wenlock Edge, were known as the New Works in 1817.83 They were still in operation in 1842, when a rail-road was used to convey limestone from the top of the Edge.84 A field a quarter mile south-east of Blakeway Farm, called Limekiln Piece in 184285 and Lyme Piece in 1714,86 was probably the site of the kiln occupied by Thomas Blakeway in 1522.87 It was part of Blakeway Farm in 1714,88 but by 1780 was merely producing lime for use on the farm.80 Bricks were made at some time in a field near Domas called Brick-kiln meadow in 184690 and Claypit in 1659.91

A smithy is first recorded in 1564, when it stood on Harley Brook to the west of the village,92 near the site of the iron forge, but it had gone out of use by 1628.93 Thereafter the smithy was in the village. Harley had its full complement of tradesfolk in 1852, when there were two bricklayers, two carpenters, two tailors, two shoemakers, and a blacksmith.94 In addition a wheelwright, recorded in 1851,95 occupied one of the cottages on the Wenlock road to the south of the church.96 Only a blacksmith remained by 1909,07 and the smithy closed c. 1944.98 The village shop, on the Cressage road, occupies the

same site as it did in 1842.99

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. There are manor court rolls, 1421 and 1436,1 and suit rolls, 1813-43.2 The parish records include a parish book, containing accounts of churchwardens and overseers, 1700-38, churchwardens' accounts, 1787-1893, and over-seers' accounts, 1793-1837. There are no records of vestry meetings, apart from occasional memoranda in the accounts. Until 1797 there were two churchwardens, who accounted separately, 1735-8 and 1794-7, but between 1797 and 1822 a single churchwarden rendered account, the office being held by the same man for several years. Their routine expenses were covered by rents from the church lands, which produced £6 a year in the early 18th century and £19 6s. in 1841.3 Additional expenditure was met by loans on the security of the church lands, but resort was had to church rates after 1845. The offices of churchwarden and overseer were

occasionally combined in the early 18th century. The two overseers kept a joint account until 1737, but in 1738 and between 1793 and 1816 they each accounted for half their year of office. From 1817 until 1837 their duties were performed and their accounts kept by a salaried assistant overseer. Poor rates, which are entered in the accounts from 1734, were always assessed on a pound rate. A cottage on the church lands was described as the almshouse in 1721, and a poor-house was built in 1724. This was still in use in 1802,5 but in the 1770s the overseers were renting a poor-house from the lord of the manor,6 which they probably still held in the early 19th century.7 Between 1693 and 1738 annual disbursements on poor relief ranged from £3 to £12, but reached £18 in 1734.8 Expenditure had risen to £48 by 1776° and to £150 by 1801.10 From 1801 to 1822 annual expenses were normally over £150 and reached a peak of some £180 between 1810 and 1815. From 1822 until 1834 they fluctuated between £97 and £154.11

CHURCH. Harley church is first recorded in 1291.12 The benefice is a rectory and from the 16th century at least has normally been held with Kenley, with which it was united in 1939.13 The advowson has always followed the descent of the manor.

The rectory was valued at £3 6s. 8d. in 1291.14
Its gross value had risen to £6 by 153515 and to £58 by 1655.16 The annual net income was said to be £200 in 179917 and £276 in the 1830s.18 Tithes were paid in kind until 1842,19 apart from a modus on the mill, and on milk and calves, which had been introduced by 1698.20 They were worth £44 in 1655,21 £107 6s. in 1781,22 and were commuted for a rent-charge of £270 in 1842.23 Tithes payable to Wenlock Priory from its Harley estate, which were worth 18s. in 1534,24 had been leased to Richard Nyld in 1530,25 They were granted for life in 1554 to Stephen Hadnall, 26 who obtained the reversion in 1558.27 In 1655, when they were worth £3 a year, they were held by Edward Harnage.28 By 1846 most of the great tithes arising from the detached part of Much Wenlock were merged in the freehold of the lands concerned, but two landowners paid nominal moduses for small tithes to the vicar of Much Wenlock.20 The bulk of the scattered glebe, worth

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81 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.
s: Ibid. box 2, bdle. 5.
s) B.M. O.S. 2" orig. drawings, sheet 207 (1817).
84 Par. rec., tithe appt.
86 N.L.W., Wynnstay (1952), box E, no. 62.
17 Ibid. box 56, no. 111.
18 Ibid. box E, no. 62.
98 Ibid. box F, no. 8.

90 S.R.O. 294/5.

91 Ibid. 1224 uncat., Marsh manor ct. r. 1659.

92 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.
94 Letter, 1852, in Visit. Archd. Salop. 1843.
95 Bagshaw's Dir. Salop. (1851).
96 Par. rec., tithe appt.
97 Kelly's Dir. Salop (1909).
98 Ex inf. Mr. L. J. Brookshaw, Forge Farm.
98 Par. rec., tithe appt.

    Par. rec., tithe appt.
    S.R.O. 840 uncat., ct. r. 1421, 1436.

       S.R.O. 848/27-32.
ef. Lich, Dioc. Regy., glebe terrier, 1841.
As in 1788, 1793, and 1814.
Par. rec., churchwardens' accts. 1787-1893.
Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, receiver's accts. 1768-81.
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£14 a year in 1655,30 was said to comprise some Par. rec., overseers' accts. 1793-1837.
 Bodl. MS. Blakeway 8, f. 476; par. rec., par. bk. 1700-38. • Rep. Cttee. on Overseers' Returns, 1777, p. 442, H.C. (1st ser. ix, reprinted 1803).

10 Par. rec., overseers' accts. 1793–1837.

11 Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 244. 13 Lond. Gaz. 1939, p. 847.

14 Tax. Eccl. (Rec. Com.), 244.

15 Valor Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii. 184.

16 T.S.A.S. xlvii. 29.

17 Visit. Archd. Salop. 1799.

18 Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues [67], pp. 480-1, H.C. (1835), xxii. Lich. Dioc. Regy., glebe terriers; par. rec., tithe appt.
 Lich. Dioc. Regy., glebe terrier, 1698.
 T.S.A.S. xlvii. 29.
 Letter, 1852, in Visit. Archd. Salop. 1843. 23 Par. roc., tithe appt.
24 N.L.W., Wynnstsy (1952), box 43, no. 96; Valor.

Eccl. (Rec. Com.), iii. 216.
25 S.C. 6/Hen. VIII/3021 m. 8.
26 Cal. Pat. 1554-5, 21-22.
27 Ibid. 1557-8, 378-9.
28 T.S.A.S. xlvii. 29.
29 S.R.O. 294/5.
20 T.S.A.S. xlvii. 29.

1349.41 The growth of the manorial estate, said to contain 1,400 a. by 1609,42 may be accounted for by the clearance of woodland in the west of the parish, in which the lords seem to have taken the initiative. 43 Comparatively little was added by purchase: two small freeholds were bought in the 14th century\*\* and some 48 a. in the detached part of Much Wenlock in 1630,45 but these were offset by the sale of Blakeway Farm in 1536.46 In 1842, when the manorial estate totalled 1,552 a., the only other sizeable freehold estates, apart from the glebe (53 a.) and church lands (10 a.), were Blakeway Farm (363 a.) and Castle Hill (51 a.)47 There were two other freeholds of less than 10 a.48 The manorial estate com-prised 1,515 a. in 1945.49 last of Rowley Farm (276 a.) was sold in 1957 and the remainder in 1962.50

Little is known of the administration of the estate before the 18th century. In 1086 there were 3 serfs on the demesne, with one villein and one bordar.51
Assized rents of free tenants, normally worth £4, were valued at only 10s. in 1349.52 There were said to be 20 messuages and 6 cottages in the manor in 1609,53 and 24 tenants attorned to the new lord in 1618.54 Rents produced £131 a year c. 1646.55 Until the mid-18th century a substantial part of the estate was held on three-life leases.56 The leases, which always included covenants for payment of heriot and for suit of court, contained provisions for military service, 1628-93, and a clause against wearing the livery of strangers, 1638-83.

In 1734 there were 14 leaseholders for lives and 11 tenants-at-will paying rents of £74 and £82 respectively.57 The structure of the estate was little changed in 1747,58 when there were 10 leaseholders, 11 tenants-at-will, and 2 holdings under both tenures. Some 1,020 a, leasehold land produced rents of £57 a year, and a little more than 670 a. land held at will, £135 a year. Large farms were already a feature of the estate—there were five holdings of over 100 a .- but 14 of the 23 tenants held farms of 10-100 a. Many leaseholds had been converted to tenure at will by 1768,50 when there were only 6 leaseholders paying annual rents of £17 and 17 tenants at will paying £276. The transition to large farms was virtually complete by 1842,60 when some 1,250 a. of the estate lay in five farms of over 100 a. In the parish as a whole there were six farms of over 100 a., five holdings of 10-100 a., and 15 of less than

10 a. Most of the smaller holdings were centred on houses in the village; only two of them may have been in origin forest encroachments. Apart from the glebe and the woodland then kept in hand by the Duke of Cleveland (86 a.) and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (120 a.), no land in the parish was held by owner-occupiers. In 194562 1,391 a. of the 1,515 a. in the estate lay in the five large farms and there were only two smaller holdings, each of less than

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MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdie. 29, no. 4; Sui. Chii. 2/30/32; ibid. 2/30/51.

C 47/76/2/50; S.P.L., Deeds 1715.

Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdie. 31, no. 10.

Acreage from S.R.O. 294/5.

Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdie. 29, no. 27.

Par. rec., tithe appt.; S.R.O. 294/5.

Ibid.

49 Uppington estate office, terrier, c:-1920.

50 Ibid.

51 V.C.H. Salop. i. 337-

52 C 135/96/14. 53 C 142/312/147

54 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, box 1, bdle. 29, nos.

50-51. 51 T.S.A.S. 2nd ser. xii. 21-22. Ninety Harley leases, 1542-1734, are in Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, wooden box 6, bdle. 19, and wooden box 12, bdles. 13, 16, 21-22, 24-25. 57 Ibid. receiver's accts. 1734-41.

58 S.R.O. 168/4 39 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, receiver's accts. 1768-

60 Par. rec., tithe appt.; S.R.O. 294/5. 61 Uppington estate office, terrier, c. 1920. 64 S.R.O. 294/5.

Uppington estate office, terrier, c. 1920.
 H.O. 67/14/124.

65 Par. rec., tithe appt

66 Uppington estate office, terrier, c. 1920.

 CPDington Calabara
 T.H.O. 67/14/124.
 Letter, 1852, in Visit. Archd. Salop. 1843.
 V.C.H. Salop. i. 337.
 Kelly's Dir. Salop. (1900, 1903).
 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.
 D. Calabara, mortgage, 1813. 72 S.R.O. 1242 uncat., mortgage, 1813.

Par. rec., tithe appt.
 Ex inf. Mr. M. P. E. Preece, Harley Court.

See p. 96.
 S.R.O. 840 uncat., rental of Lacon estates, 1607.
 Castle, leases.

77 Barnard MSS., Raby Castle, leases.

so Ibid.

courses. In the lowest stage is a late Perpendicular west window of 3 lights. The second stage has roundheaded lancet windows on 3 sides, and the belfry 4 cusped round-headed windows of 2 lights. The top of the tower is battlemented and has a pyramidal

The north aisle was not replaced in 1845-6, when the nave and chancel were rebuilt in local stone to designs by S. P. and J. Smith of Shrewsbury.74 The dimensions of the new church are virtually the same as those of the old. The chancel contains a reproduction of the former east window and chancel arch and has pairs of lancets on the north and south walls. The nave has a stone porch at the west door

and windows in the Perpendicular style.

Little is known of the interior of the church before 1845. Part of a medieval chancel screen was still standing in 1827.75 The existing pews are oak wainscot box-pews of 18th-century date, which were moved to the sides of the nave in 1845 to provide room for free benches in the centre.76 An oak pulpit and reading desk, both of early-17th-century date, were removed in 1845.77 There is a plain round font, probably of 12th-century date, which was replaced by a modern one in 1845, but was back in use by 1912.78 The only notable monument is a brass, formerly on the floor of the north aisle and now in the chancel. This shows a man in armour with his wife and children. Below is a Latin verse inscription. It bears the arms of Lacon and Horde which suggests that it commemorates Sir Richard Lacon (d. 1503).79 There are tablets to Benjamin Jenks and to various members of the Harnage family, 1677-1918, in the chancel.

The church had a clock by 1701.80 A new one, bought in 1814,81 was restored in 1920.82 The church had 3 bells by 1552,83 which were recast in 1878.84 The plate consists of a silver paten of c. 1500, a silver chalice purchased by the churchwardens in 1669, and a silver flagon given in 1865.85 The registers are complete from 1745,86 two earlier volumes beginning in 1590 having been lost before 1823.87

NONCONFORMITY. There were two Roman Catholics in Harley in 1591,88 and Margaret, wife of

74 Par. rec., churchwardens' accts. 1787-1893; Visit. Archd. Salop. 1847; S.P.L., Watton press-cuttings, vol. v, p. 226; Eng. Topog. (Gent. Mag.), x. 78; S.R.O. 800 uncat., draft contract for rebuilding nave and correspondence of John Gibbons.

T.S.A.S. 1st ser. iv. 329.
 Visit. Archd. Salop. 1847; par. rec., churchwardens'

acets., 1787-1893.

77 Eng. Topog. (Gent. Mag.), x. 77.

Eng. Topog. (Gent. Mag.), x. 77-78; T.S.A.S. 1st
 Eng. Topog. (Gent. Mag.), x. 77-78; T.S.A.S. 1st
 ser. iv. 334-7; Visit. Salop. 1623 (Harl. Soc. xxix), ii.
 306; Cal. Ing. p.m. Hen. VII, iii, p. 543-

Par. rec., par. bk. 1700-38.
 Ibid. churchwardens' accts. 1787-1893.

Bi Ibid, churchwardens' accts. 1787–1893.
 Kelly's Dir, Salop. (1926).
 T.S.A.S. and ser. xii. 101.
 Walters, Ch. Bells Salop. 220.
 Arkwright and Bourne, Ch. Plate Ladlow Archd. 32.
 The chalice was originally given by Thomas Taylor in 1580. It is, however, hall-marked 1669–70 and was purchased in 1669. It is said to have been lost in the Civil War: Kelly's Dir. Salop (1909).
 Printed to 1812 in S.P.R. Lich. ii (1), 1–26.
 Vivit Arched Salon, 1822.

Visit, Archd. Salop. 1823.
 T.S.A.S. 3rd ser. i. 412.
 Lich. Dioc. Regy. B/v 1/39-65.

\*\* T.S.A.S. 2nd ser. i. 81. \*\* Visit. Archd. Salop. 1799.

92 Ibid. 1823.

William Taylor, was presented as a recusant between 1620 and 1639,89 but there was none in the parish by 1676.90

There were no dissenters here in 1799,91 but in 1823 there was a family of Baptists and a few Methodists.92 Meeting-houses, presumably Methodist, were licensed in 1821 and 1830,93 but none was recorded in 1851.94

SCHOOLS. A Sunday school had been established at Harley by 1799, when it was kept by John Corfield of Castle Hill,95 but by 1818 it was supported entirely by the rector.96 At this date 50 children attended, 20 of them coming from Kenley,97 but numbers had fallen to 26 by 1846.98

Mossenden Carter taught at a school in Harley in 1693.99 A day school, attended by 12 children at their parents' expense in 1833,1 was still open in 1843,2 but had closed by 1846,3 when children attended schools in Cressage and Much Wenlock.4 A National School was built in 1859 on a site near the Cressage road provided by the lord of the manor.5 The school was financed by voluntary contributions and school-pence in 1877,6 and was in receipt of a government grant by 1892, when school-pence had been abolished.7 Eighteen children attended in 18718 and 40 by 1906,0 but only 12 children were on the books in 1959.10 The school was closed in 1961, when the children were transferred to Cressage school.11

CHARITIES. Francis, Earl of Bradford (d. 1708), left £14 to the poor of Harley for 99 years, to be distributed by the rector and churchwardens,12 This charity had come to an end by 1799.13 By will of 1715 Richard Corfield gave £20 to the poor, the interest of which was to be distributed by the rector and overseers on St. Andrew's Day,14 The capital was held by his descendants until c. 1818, when it was transferred to one of the churchwardens.15 It was invested in stock in 1885.16 In the early 19th century 16s, was distributed annually among the poor at Christmas.17 In 1964 the charity produced an income of some 2s. a year, which was not regularly distributed.18

Q. Sess. Orders, iii. 266, 280.
 H.O. 129/359/1/s.
 Visit. Archd. Salop. 1799.
 Digest of Returns to Citee. on Educ. of Poor, H.C. 224,

p. 753 (1819), ix (2).

Nat. Soc., Ch. School returns, 1846-7.

Lich. Dioc. Regy., B/v 1/89A; ibid. B/a 4/13.

Educ. Enquiry Abstract, H.C. 62, p. 775 (1835), xlii.

Visit. Archd. Salop. 1843.

Nat. Soc., Ch. School returns, 1846-7.

Visit. Archd. Salop. 1847.

5 Ed. 7/102/108; par. rec., copy conveyance of school site, 1858.

Ed. 7/102/108.
 Return of Schs. 1893 [C. 7529], p. 506, H.C. (1894),

lxv. 8 Returns relating to Elem. Educ. H.C. 201, p. 334 (1871), lv. 9 Voluntary Schs. Returns, H.C. 178-XXIV, p. 21

(1906), lxxxviii. 10 S.C.C. Minutes, 1959-60, p. 34.

12 Lich. 1961-2, p. 49.
12 Lich. Dioc. Regy., glebe terrier, 1718.
13 Visit. Archd. Salop. 1799.
14 3rd Rep. Com. Char. H.C. 5, p. 262 (1820). iv.

Char. Com. files.
 3rd Rep. Com. Char. 262.
 Ex inf. the Rector.