

Map of Over Haddon and Meadowplace, near Bakewell, Derbyshire, c. 1528

By E. M. YATES

IN the Public Record Office are preserved a number of sixteenth-century maps of great agricultural interest. Many were drawn as evidence during the hearings before the Chamber of the Duchy of Lancaster and it is possible in some cases to find the associated written evidence. The Over Haddon map was prepared in 1528 during a dispute over common pasture, and some details of the dispute are available.¹ The map is coloured naturalistically with blue streams, green pasture land, and greyish brown arable land. The wall around "Newbygyng" is coloured red. The district is in the Derbyshire limestone country, and the valley scars are shown in white, with the same symbol for limestones as used today. The cartographer also attempted to show the limestone boulders on the valley slopes below the scars by white patches. The area of land portrayed is about 4 miles by 2 miles. No scale is given but the size of the original map is 24 by 20 inches. The map shown here on p. 122 is a relettered redrawing.

The general theme of the dispute is obvious from the comments on the map. The tenants of Over Haddon, in particular Thurston and Edmund Hogekeynson, complained in 1525 that the abbot of the Leicester monastery of the Blessed Lady of the Meadows had denied them common of grazing and rights of estover in Lathkilldale. In the dispute that followed the abbot appears to have obtained the judgement, although (according to the Over Haddon tenants) only by making "dyverse and sundreye untrue depositions and sayings," including those by poor local people "which were corrupted and wagyd." Subsequent complaints were made by the tenants of Over Haddon, in

this instance represented by Allen Sutton, yeoman, and Thomas Fayrfyld, husbandman. They stated that, although they had kept to the terms of the decision reached by the Chamber, the abbot's tenants, including Richard Addyshed and Humphrey Smetheley, were now exceeding their rights. They (the abbot's tenants) had impounded stock found grazing at Burnab and the Springwood, and during the disturbances cows and oxen belonging to the Over Haddon people had been killed.

On the 14th of February 1528, owing to these further complaints, an instruction was sent from the Duchy Chamber to the abbot of Derby, Richard Howton vicar of Bakewell, John Wells, and Anthony Babyngton. They were required to go to Over Haddon and to put into writing "by a cart or platt the meres and boundes" and to send this to the Chamber "by the hand of one suche person as shall be well instructed by you to declare the same plot." Sworn evidence was collected from the local people on 16 April and it is likely that the map was drawn at about that date. The majority of the sworn testimonies supported the claim of the abbot that the Over Haddon tenants had no right to pasture in Meadowplace (Medowplek on map), and once again the abbot appears to have gained a decision in his favour. This did not terminate the grievance. In 1529 more depositions were taken and some of the witnesses claimed that Allen Sutton had probably had the result of the hearings communicated to him by the abbot, but that he had never informed the other tenants. In 1531 the abbot complained against Sutton and other men of Over Haddon. He stated that they had "riotously with force and

¹ P.R.O., M.P.C. 59; DL1, 2, 02; DL1, 21, 02; DL1 8, 01; DL3, 19, S1; DL3, 18, L1.

had come to an end before the dissolution.¹

Despite this change the grange had left an abiding mark on the landscape. On the map, Meadowplace appears as a separate farm unit, divided by well-laid hedges or wattles from the open fields of Over Haddon. Over Haddon fields are open no longer, but the dry stone walls (of which incidentally there is no trace on the map) enclose long strips, and their pattern contrasts with the square fields of the grange.

Roche abbey was a Cistercian house established in 1147, and like Leicester abbey it received lands from William Avenell. No cartulary is extant but in one of the deeds quoted by Dugdale these lands were "a hill beyond the river and 20 acres in the field of Haddon." The hill beyond the river probably became Callinglow and One Ash granges. Like Meadowplace, both these granges were let for rent in 1538-9 when the valuation of the property of the abbey was made.² Roche and Leicester figured in the Florentine lists as wool producers, and one might guess that the grange farms provided some of this wool. This may have been true of the Roche granges, since, in the valuation of 1538-9, outgoings from One Ash included payments for common of pasture in Hartington moor and in Middleton moor (Hartington and Middleton are adjacent parishes, and since the pasture was common the grange was not an entirely independent unit). At Meadowplace however the appearance of a good deal of arable suggests that a mixed husbandry was practised in 1528. It was, of course, not exceptional for an Augustinian house to have a grange farm: Ronton, the Augustinian house in Staffordshire, had granges on the Millstone Grit country of the south-west Pennines.

The land-use of this part of Derbyshire, as portrayed on the map, was obviously controlled by slope. The steep valley sides, with their limestone scars, were grazing land; cultivation took place on the upland. Despite the upland character (Over Haddon fields go above 900 ft) the district appears to have been a corn-growing one. The numerous mills

show this, and one of the witnesses in the dispute, Thomas Clayton, testified to driving 200 oxen from Over Haddon to the pastures. Over Haddon fields are shown as open on the map, but there is no evidence in the depositions of the field division or of the rotation followed. There is however one extraordinary further reference to Over Haddon fields which can only be interpreted as a yearly re-allocation of strips.

In 1526 an entirely separate matter had been brought before the Chamber, regarding the ownership of 100 acres of land in Over Haddon called Wyndelonde.³ William Fayrefeld, perhaps kin of Thomas Fayrfyld above, appeared in this case. He held 10 acres of the 100, and said his ancestors had held it for 200 years. Asked where the 10 acres lay, his reply was "he cannot till howe ner the sayed 10 acres lye to the house of the sayed William Fayrefeld (himself) for they have it by lot as it is cast." This last part of his reply had been crossed out by the clerk, perhaps because it appeared irrelevant, but it is quite legible.

The persistence of the differences in field pattern shown on the map has already been mentioned. The difference is of course related to a contrast in settlement pattern which also persists; the contrast between the village and the single farmstead. If the identification of "the hill beyond the river" with One Ash and Callinglow be correct, then monastic farming has been responsible for this interposition of isolated farmsteads between the earlier villages. "Newbyggynge" suggests that Meadowplace may be another example of the same development.

This limestone country has little surface drainage apart from the main streams, and the supply to Meadowplace appears to have come from the stone cistern shown. A small pool, presumably spring fed, remains on the site of the cistern today. There is also near by a small wood, probably the descendant of the Springwood to which reference is made in the depositions. Lathkilldale also remains wooded, with a later growth of trees.

One of the most astonishing features of the

¹ P.R.O. SC6, Hen. VIII, 1827.

² SC6, Hen. VIII, 4534.

³ P.R.O. DL3, 16, R10.

dispute is the drawing of the map. The instructions from the Chamber assumed a familiarity with map drawing. There are of course much earlier maps of estates, such as that of part of the lands of Chertsey Abbey c. 1430, but the Meadowplace map is incomparably better as a large-scale guide to terrain. Its sketching must have called for a considerable knowledge of the district and for considerable skill. Similar large-scale maps appear in the Chamber records from about

1520 onwards. Some of the earliest are highly stylized and rectangular, but as a method of recording evidence over land disputes they are a great advance on verbal descriptions. A key and a scale are generally lacking, but in this instance the key was to be provided by the person "to declare the same plot."

From the evidence of the handwriting in the written evidence and in the map, the map-maker was probably Richard Howton the vicar of Bakewell.

Notes and Comments

THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Readers of this journal will learn with regret that John Higgs, the Secretary of the Society since its inception, the Treasurer, Professor Edgar Thomas, and the Editor of the REVIEW, Professor H. P. R. Finberg, have resigned from office this year. The Society owes more to them than to anyone, for it is through their labours that it has been established on such a firm foundation and that the REVIEW has achieved its high scholarly reputation.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the British Agricultural History Society was held at St Patrick's Hall, Reading, from 10 to 12 April in conjunction with the Economic History Society. On the first afternoon Dr A. H. John and Dr E. L. Jones read papers on 'Agricultural Change and Economic Growth in the Eighteenth Century' and in the evening Professor E. F. Söderlund spoke on 'Banking and Economic change in an Agrarian Economy: mid-nineteenth century Sweden'. The following morning Miss Barbara Dodwell read a paper on 'Holdings and Inheritance in Medieval East Anglia'. In the afternoon most members of the conference visited the parishes of Ardington and Lockinge in the Vale of the White Horse under the guidance of Mr B. Loughbrough, Assistant

Keeper, Museum of English Rural Life, and Mr M. A. Havinden. In the evening Professor F. J. Fisher discussed 'Agrarian Problems of sixteenth-century England'. The conference concluded on the Sunday with papers by Professor W. N. Parker on 'American Agriculture—North and South—1850 and 1910' and Mr H. S. Cobb on 'Documents of Interest to Economic Historians among the Records of Parliament at the House of Lords' Record Office'.

At the annual general meeting held on Sunday, 12 April, Mr R. V. Lennard was re-elected President of the Society. Professor Edgar Thomas and Mr J. W. Y. Higgs resigned as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Mr C. A. Jewell was elected Treasurer and Mr T. W. Fletcher, Secretary, thus leaving two additional vacancies on the executive committee. Three members of the committee, Mrs C. S. Orwin, Mr W. Harwood Long, and Mr G. Houston, retired at the expiry of their term, and Miss Audrey Beecham, Mr G. Bisset, Dr W. H. Chaloner, Mr G. E. Fussell, and Mr J. W. Y. Higgs were elected to the five vacancies.

Mr Harwood Long, in presenting the report of the executive committee, paid warm tributes to Professor Thomas and Mr Higgs who had served the Society from its inception

(continued on p. 128)