

LANDOWNERSHIP

Landownership in the parish was dominated by the manor of Bradford, but there was also the manor of Hele, and a number of other estates, including the rectory and chantry estates, and estates at Heatherton and Stoford. The land tax returns of 1766–1832 are further evidence for many smaller estates and freeholds in the parish.¹ The tithe apportionment listed over forty landowners in 1842.²

By the time of the Domesday survey the bishops of Winchester held substantial estates in and around Taunton. Bradford-on-Tone was part of those estates in the Liberty or Outfaring, held indirectly of the bishop, but still subject to certain dues and services, including attendance at pleas three times a year, and payment of Peter's pence and apparently of hundred pence.³ In 1194 it was recognised that the lord of Bradford owed suit at the bishop's hundred court of Taunton and that any dispute between the lord and bishop should be settled by 12 knights of the neighbourhood or hundred.⁴ In the bishop's accounts of Taunton manor for 1207-8 there is an entry fine of 10s. exacted from Roger, the reeve of Bradford, for failure to produce a warrant.⁵ Bradford was still listed as part of the 'Forensic' (or Outfaring) of Taunton in 1316, but there are no further references to Bradford in connection with Taunton manor.⁶

BRADFORD MANOR

Bradford-on-Tone may have been among the lands in Somerset granted in 882 by Alfred, king of the Saxons, to his thegn Æthelstan.⁷ In 1066 Bradford was held by Edwin, and it paid

¹ SHC, Q/REL/35/5.

² SHC, D/D/Rt/A/401.

³ *Domesday*, 234.

⁴ *Rot. Cur. Reg. I*, 73; *Placit. in Domo Capit. Abbrev.* 4.

⁵ H. Hall (ed.), *The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester, 1208-1209* (London, 1903), 66. The actual dates of the pipe roll are 1207-8.

⁶ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 335.

⁷ Finberg, *Early Charters*, 127; Grundy, 'Saxon Charters', *PSANHS* 77, appendix 142-9.

geld for five hides. By 1086 it was part of the estates of the Count of Mortain and was held by Alvred.⁸ This Alvred was Aluredus Pincerna, Alured or Alfred the Butler, the wealthiest of the Count of Mortain's tenants, most of whose land was held in the south-west of England.⁹ When the Mortain fee escheated to the Crown the count's undertenants became tenants-in-chief, and before 1166 10 of Alfred the Butler's holdings were converted into a barony in the hands of his grandson Richard FitzWilliam.¹⁰ It is probable that Bradford was one of these. Richard's estate at Bradford passed to his son John, surnamed de Montague (de Monte Acuto, de Montacute).¹¹ In 1210 John held manors including that of Bradford of the king, the rent for Bradford being £7 4s. 1d.¹² In 1212 the manor of Bradford was stated to be held by him for one knight's fee of the honour of Mortain.¹³

After John de Montague's death in 1228 his estates passed to Lucy de Montague, probably his widow,¹⁴ who still held Bradford manor c.1235.¹⁵ The manor then seems to have passed to John's daughter and heir Katherine de Montague (d. 1242), though there is no specific record of her holding. However, in 1242-3 Katherine had land in the hundred of Taunton worth £20, and this probably lay in Bradford.¹⁶ Her estates passed to her uncle William de Montague (d. 1246).¹⁷ William was succeeded by his three daughters Margery (d. 1257), wife of William de Ettingham, Hawysia, wife of John de Gatesden, and Isabel (or Isabella, d. 1285), who married, firstly, Ralph de la Haye (d. 1254), secondly Thomas de

⁸ Domesday, 251.

⁹ K. S. B. Keats-Rohan, Domesday People: A Prosography of Persons Occuring in English Documents 1066–1166: 1. Domesday Book (Woodbridge, 1999), 143.

¹⁰ Red Bk. Exch. I, 220; I. J. Sanders, English Baronies: A Study of their Origin and Descent, 1086-1327 (Oxford, 1960), 34.

¹¹ I. J. Sanders, English Baronies (Oxford, 1960), 34.

¹² Pipe R 1210 (PRS n.s. 26), 56; Pipe R 1212 (PRS n.s. 30), 120.

¹³ Book of Fees, I, 84.

¹⁴ C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey (ed.), Somersetshire Pleas (Civil and Criminal), from the Rolls of the Itinerant Justices (Som. Rec. Soc. 11), 169.

¹⁵ BL, Add. Ch. 23840.

¹⁶ Chadwyck-Healey, Somersetshire Pleas, 295.

¹⁷ Ex. e Rot. Fin. II, 266.

Audeham (de Aldeham) (d. 1276) and thirdly Richard de Pevensey (de Pevenes, Pevensell).¹⁸

About 1250 Hawysia and Margery, and their husbands, granted the farm of Bradford manor to Emery de Ancott.¹⁹

John de Gatesden made an agreement with Thomas de Audeham and Isabel for manors including that at Bradford.²⁰ He died in 1258, leaving a young daughter, Margaret.²¹ In 1262 Henry III granted to Peter de Chauvent (de Chavent) the custody of 50 librates of the land of John de Gatesden in Bradford-on-Tone and Norton Fitzwarren, to hold until John's heirs should come of age.²² In the October of that year John's widow Hawysia had the manor of Bradford committed to her until reasonable dower was assigned.²³ In 1264 Hawysia's ownership of the manor was disputed by Thomas de Audeham who claimed Bradford's advowson in right of his wife Isabel.²⁴ Though the Audeham claim was successful the manor was included in Hawysia's estates at her death in 1269 when the king gave custody of Bradford manor, which was then valued at £24, to Robert Walrond, husband of Hawysia's daughter and heir Margaret.²⁵

It was later alleged that Margaret, and her second husband John de Camoys, had not adhered to the terms of the agreement made between her father John de Gatesden and Thomas de Audeham, and in 1279 John and Margaret acknowledged the right of Thomas' widow Isabel to the manor of Bradford. Isabel and her third husband Richard de Pevensey then granted it to John and Margaret and the heirs of Margaret to hold of them and the heirs

¹⁸ Sanders, English Baronies, 34.

¹⁹ BL, Add. Ch. 23840.

²⁰ Green, Feet of Fines 1196-1307, 383-4

²¹ Cal. Inq. p.m. I, p. 126.

²² Cal. Pat. 1258-66, 220-1; TNA, C 60/59, 16 Henry III (28 Oct. 1261-27 Oct. 1262), finerollshenry3.org.uk (accessed 6 Aug. 2019). A librate was a piece of land worth one pound a year. OED.

²³ Ex. e Rot. Fin. II, 370, 377, 384.

²⁴ T. S. Holmes (ed.), The Registers of Walter Giffard, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1265-6, and of Henry Bowett, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1401-7 (Som. Rec. Soc. 13), 8-9.

²⁵ Cal. Inq. p.m. I, pp. 224, 300; B. W. Greenfield, 'Meriet of Meriet and of Hestercombe', PSANHS 28 (ii), 197-8.

of Isabel.²⁶ A mesne lordship now arose, Bradford being held as of Chiselborough manor, which had belonged to Isabel's first husband Ralph de la Haye.

Isabel died in 1285 leaving a son, Baldwin de Audeham (d. 1291), who was succeeded in the honor of Chiselborough by his son Francis (d. 1327), and then by Francis' cousin John de St Clair (d. c.1335), and his son Sir Philip.²⁷ The last reference to the Chiselborough mesne lordship over Bradford was in 1345.²⁸

John de Camoys and Margaret do not appear to have retained Bradford manor for long. Between 1279 and 1284 it is found in the possession of Lucy Meriet and her husband, Thomas de Timworth (d. c.1296).²⁹ In 1311 Lucy's son, Walter de Meriet (d. 1345), who was the incumbent of Withycombe, settled the manor of Bradford on her for life, with remainder to her daughter Hawysia, and the reversion to himself.³⁰ Both Lucy and Hawysia had died by 1325, leaving Walter seised of the manor.³¹

However, there was uncertainty regarded the tenure of the manor in this period. In 1313 Ralph, the son of Margaret de Camoys, brought an action against Walter de Meriet, claiming that Lucy de Meriet had only enjoyed a life interest in the manor by grant of his parents.³² The case was delayed until 1328 when the Court of Common Pleas found in Ralph's favour.³³ The decision of the jurors was reversed in 1331, a number of the witnesses being accused of perjury and imprisoned.³⁴ The matter was finally settled in 1347 when Sir

²⁶ Green, *Feet of Fines 1196-1307*, 383-4.

²⁷ Sanders, *English Baronies*, 34; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VII, p. 471; *ibid.* XVI, p. 175.

²⁸ *Cal. Close 1343-6*, 538.

²⁹ *Feudal Aids*, IV, 284.

³⁰ Green, *Feet of Fines 1307-1346*, 113-114.

³¹ Greenfield, 'Meriet of Meriet', 178.

³² *Ibid.* 192-4.

³³ TNA, CP 40/274, m. 57.

³⁴ TNA, CP 40/285, m. 146; TNA, CP 40/286, m. 83d. One of the witnesses, John de Dummere, was committed to the Fleet Prison: *Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, 490; *ibid.* 1334-8, 25, 252, 255, 395.

Thomas de Camoys released all his right to Bradford manor to Simon de Meriet, nephew and heir of Walter.³⁵

A settlement was made by Simon and his wife Margery in 1357 by which in default of Simon's male heirs the manor should revert to their daughter Alice and her husband Sir Thomas Trivet.³⁶ Alice predeceased her father and in 1372 Simon's heir Sir John de Meriet (d. 1391), a distant cousin, conveyed the manor to Sir William de Bonville of Skete, Devon.³⁷ The same year Sir William sold the manor to Sir Guy de Bryan, one of the king's admirals.³⁸ In 1374, for the sum of 500 marks of silver, Sir Guy alienated the manor to seven trustees for conveyance to Sir Henry Perecehay (d. 1380) of Kyton, in Holcombe Rogus, Devon.³⁹ After Sir Henry's death the manor was divided into half-shares.

One half-share passed to Alice, wife of Nicholas Hele of Hele, in Bradninch, Devon, the daughter of Sir Henry's sister Alice Flory.⁴⁰ Their daughter and heir, another Alice, had married William Franceis before 1427, the manor subsequently descending with Combe Florey, the seat of the Franceis family.⁴¹ William and Alice Franceis were succeeded by their son Henry (d. 1456),⁴² followed by his son Nicholas, who was seised of half the manor of Bradford at his death in 1481.⁴³ Nicholas' son John died in 1486, leaving his half-share of Bradford, valued at 6 marks, to his seven-year-old son Nicholas (d. 1526).⁴⁴ Nicholas' son Sir William Franceis held the half-share at his death in 1551.⁴⁵ He was followed by his son John

³⁵ Cal. Close 1343-6, 538; *ibid.* 1346-7, 237; TNA, CP 40/349, m. 2d; E. Green (ed.), Pedes Finium, Commonly Called Feet of Fines for the County of Somerset: 21 Edward III to 20 Richard II, 1347-1399 (Som. Rec. Soc. 17), 1-3.

³⁶ Green, Feet of Fines 1347—99, 183-4.

³⁷ *Ibid.* 191; Greenfield, 'Meriet of Meriet', 100.

³⁸ Green, Feet of Fines 1347—99, 83.

³⁹ *Ibid.* 86.

⁴⁰ T. Westcote (G. Oliver and P. Jones, eds.), A view of Devonshire in MDCXXX (Exeter, 1845), 462; Green, Feet of Fines 1347—99, 207; *ibid.*, Feet of Fines 1399-1482, 167.

⁴¹ F. W. Weaver, Somerset Incumbents: From the Hugo MSS. 30, 279-80 in the British Museum (Bristol, 1889), 338.

⁴² TNA, C 139/163/12.

⁴³ TNA, C 140/79/20.

⁴⁴ Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII, I, p. 49; TNA, C 142/45/128.

⁴⁵ TNA, C 142/94/49.

Francis, whose son William had the half-share by 1632, when he settled it on his wife Margaret, with remainder to the sons of his brother John, who had married Sarah, the daughter of George Luttrell of Dunster Castle.⁴⁶ The eldest nephew, John, succeeded to the half-share on William's death in 1636, having just attained his majority.⁴⁷ The following year he conveyed the half-share to Hugh Popham.⁴⁸

The descent of the half-share during the Civil War and Interregnum is obscure, and the next reference to it is in 1665 when it was conveyed by Sir William Bassett, and his wife Elizabeth, and Edmund Prideaux, and his wife Amy, to Alexander Popham and Francis Luttrell.⁴⁹ Nicholas Francis of Combe Florey was the owner of the half-share by 1687.⁵⁰ In 1694 he sold it to John Doble of Calverleigh, Devon.⁵¹ By his will of October 1705 Doble devised the manor to his cousin Philip Doble of Stoke St Mary.⁵²

Philip Doble died in 1708 when the half-share passed to William Burrige (d. 1758), the son of Philip's sister Hannah, wife of Francis Burrige of Taunton and Thornfalcon.⁵³ William was succeeded by his son, also William. On the younger William's death in 1791 the manor passed to his grandson, another William Burrige (1777-1858). In 1798 the half-share was referred to as a manor or reputed manor.⁵⁴

William Burrige, who was vicar of Bradford from 1819 until his death, purchased the reputed manor of Bradford Prior, the rectory estate, in 1813 and his two Bradford estates were then amalgamated.⁵⁵ The manors were never subsequently identified as separate entities and after 1859 the Burrige estate was often described as the Court House, or Bradford

⁴⁶ TNA, CP 25/2/479/8CHASIMICH.

⁴⁷ TNA, C 142/537/82.

⁴⁸ TNA, CP 25/2/527/12CHASIHIL.

⁴⁹ TNA, CP 25/2/760/17CHASIEASTER.

⁵⁰ TNA, CP 25/2/795/3JASIIMICH.

⁵¹ TNA, CP 25/2/869/5WMandMARYHIL.

⁵² TNA, PROB 11/496/167

⁵³ SHC, A/ADS/4/1, abstract of title of William Burrige, 1803; SHC, A/CSP/2/1/2.

⁵⁴ SHC, A/ADS/4/1, abstract of title of William Burrige, 1803.

⁵⁵ This section, rectory estate.

Court, estate, referring to the Burrige residence around which the estate was centred. On William Burrige's death his estate passed to four of his sons, with William, Richard and Arthur each receiving 1/5, and 2/5 passing to Thomas Waters Burrige. In October 1859 William (d. 1885), a Wellington solicitor, purchased his brothers' shares for £1,800. On his death his Bradford estate, described in his will as his 'manor or reputed manor of Bradford otherwise Bradford Prior', passed to his son, also William. In August 1886 he sold the property to Mary Catherine Brown, a widow of 43 St Giles', Oxford. Mrs Brown conveyed the estate in September 1889 to Maj. Gen. James Williamson (d. 1897) of Howleigh House, Pitminster, for the sum of £2,800.⁵⁶ The estate comprised 17 a. of land in 1894.⁵⁷ Williamson's estate passed to his wife Florence Ann and his brothers John Gover and Charles James. When Florence died in 1899 her brothers-in-law conveyed the estate to Samuel Webber Moore of Dunsley, East Anstey, Devon, for £2,200. In 1903 Moore sold the Bradford Court estate to Thomas Edward Wilkinson, former bishop of Zululand, but he retained the lordship with a property called Lutleys. In September 1918 Moore sold Lutleys with 'All that Manor or Lordship or reputed Manor of Lordship of Bradford' to James Townsend (d. 1960) of Bradford. When his widow Amelia died in 1966 her estate was divided equally between her five children.⁵⁸ Any surviving manorial rights are presumably vested in their descendants.

The descent of the other half-share of Bradford manor following the death of Sir Henry Perecehay is initially more obscure but it was in the hands of the Warre family of Hestercombe by 1424, when John Warre and his wife Joan settled the half-share on their son Robert.⁵⁹ When Robert died in 1465 the half-share passed to his son Richard.⁶⁰ Richard

⁵⁶ H. W. Baldwin, 'The Manors of Bradford and Bradford Prior' (1994) (SHC, PAM 733), 14.

⁵⁷ SHC, Q/AB/73.

⁵⁸ Baldwin, 'Bradford and Bradford Prior', 15-16.

⁵⁹ Green, *Feet of Fines 1399—1482*, 184.

⁶⁰ TNA, C 140/16/17.

married Joan, the daughter of Sir John Stourton, but having no children and intending to make a journey to the Roman Curia, in 1483 he settled his half-share on his next of kin, Richard, the son of John Warre and grandson of Robert Warre of Chipley, who was the brother of John Warre of Hestercombe, the first known Warre owner of the half-share.⁶¹ In 1525 Sir Richard Warre made a settlement on his sons, ensuring that the Bradford half-share passed to his son Thomas on his death in 1541.⁶² Thomas died the following year, when the Bradford half-share fell to his son Richard (d. 1601).⁶³ On Richard's death his estates passed to his son Roger.⁶⁴ When Roger died in 1616 he was succeeded by his son Richard.⁶⁵

In 1626 Richard Warre sold the half-share to Jane, Lady Hele of Cannington, it subsequently passing to her son Sir John Hele of Clifton Maybank, Dorset, and then to his daughter Jane (d. 1664).⁶⁶ Jane married the politician and notorious spendthrift Sir Edward Hungerford (1632-1711) of Farleigh Hungerford, Wiltshire.⁶⁷ The half-share subsequently appears to have become much divided. A 1685 survey of Bradford noted that Sir Edward sold off the half-share to several parties, including Edward Clarke (d. 1679) and Thomas Warre (d. 1682), the nephew of Richard Warre.⁶⁸ The sale to Clarke of an estate described as the manor of Bradford and Heatherton had taken place in 1669.⁶⁹

The Clarke part of the half-share passed to Edward's son, also Edward (1650-1710) of Chipley. In 1683 it seems this portion was the subject of a mortgage, when Clarke leased the estate, described as the manor of Bradford, for the sum of £800, to his friend the philosopher John Locke (1632—1704), then of Christ Church, Oxford, who leased it back to him the

⁶¹ TNA, C 140/84/37.

⁶² TNA, C 142/64/107.

⁶³ TNA, C 142/66/74.

⁶⁴ TNA, C 142/271/153.

⁶⁵ TNA, C 142/355/88.

⁶⁶ SHC, DD/SF/2/7/9, 2 May 1626; F. Brown, *Abstracts of Somersetshire Wills, I* (priv. printed, 1887), 63; *Burke's Extinct Baronetcies* (London, 1838), 254.

⁶⁷ *ODNB* s.v. Hungerford, Sir Edward, politician, merchant, and spendthrift (accessed 13 Aug. 2019).

⁶⁸ SHC, DD/SF/1/3/57.

⁶⁹ SHC, DD/SF/2/7/9.

following day for £100 a year.⁷⁰ On Edward's death the half-share passed to his son Jepp.⁷¹ Jepp (d. 1741) left his properties to his son Edward.⁷² This Edward Clarke died unmarried in 1796, leaving his estates to a distant relation, Elizabeth Whalley, wife of Thomas Sedgwick Whalley of Langford Court, Burrington, for her life, with it then to pass to Clarke's friend John Nurton (d. 1829) of Milverton.⁷³ In 1800 the Whalleys conveyed what was then described as the reputed manor of Bradford to Nurton.⁷⁴ John Nurton had disposed of his lands in Bradford by the time he made his will in October 1827.⁷⁵

The Warre portion of this half-share passed from Thomas Warre (d. 1682) of Swell and Shepton Beauchamp to his son William, a Madras merchant.⁷⁶ William died in 1716, leaving his property at Bradford to his son, also William, a merchant of Oporto, Portugal.⁷⁷ This William died in 1779 leaving his Bradford property to his son William, consul at Oporto.⁷⁸ When William died unmarried in 1823 at his home in Albany Place, London, the Bradford estate, described in his will as a manor or reputed manor, passed to his nephew John Ashley Warre MP.⁷⁹ When John Ashley died in 1860 his son John Henry Warre succeeded to the Bradford estate, which was no longer referred to as a manor.⁸⁰ John Henry Warre died at his home in Ramsgate, Kent, in 1894, the Bradford lands falling to his brother Cmdr. Arthur Brathwaite Warre RN of Onslow Square, London, and Ramsgate. John Henry's Bradford and West Newton properties were valued for estate duty purposes at £19,734. At Cmdr. Warre's

⁷⁰ SHC, DD/SF/2/7/15; DD/SF/2/7/29; ODNB, s.v. Locke, John, philosopher (accessed 13 Aug. 2019).

⁷¹ TNA, PROB 11/518/266.

⁷² TNA, PROB 11/710/116.

⁷³ TNA, PROB 11/1273/232.

⁷⁴ SHC, A/ADS/4/1, abstract of title of John Nurton, c.1800.

⁷⁵ TNA, PROB 11/1771/280.

⁷⁶ TNA, PROB 11/371/522.

⁷⁷ TNA, PROB 11/555/60.

⁷⁸ TNA, PROB 11/1055/56.

⁷⁹ TNA, PROB 11/1677/18.

⁸⁰ SHC, DD/BR/gd/7.

death in 1902 his heir was his daughter Mary Frances, the wife of Capt. William Elliott.⁸¹

Mrs Elliott disposed of the estate, which seems to have fragmented into several ownerships.⁸²

Manor house

There seems to have been an early manor house in Bradford as a 1353 custumal referred to manorial officers dining in the lord's hall during the course of his visit.⁸³ It is not known whether it occupied the same site as the property known as the Court House. This was said to have been the manor house and stood close to the site of the present Bradford Court.⁸⁴ Little is known of the Court House, which was first recorded in a survey, probably of c.1700, of the Francis portion of the manor, when a tenant is listed at a 'moiety of the Court house', suggesting that the house was at this time divided, like the manor itself.⁸⁵ As Bradford was the property of absentee lords for much of its history, it is likely that the house was chiefly occupied by tenants. Robert Prescott, a weaver, was the tenant in 1701.⁸⁶ In 1787 William Burrige (d. 1791) leased the Court House to John Norman, a sergemaker, reserving the right to hold courts there.⁸⁷ William Burrige (1777-1858) was living at the Court House in 1851.⁸⁸ It became dilapidated and it seems that Burrige's son, also William, demolished the property c.1870.⁸⁹ The present Bradford Court, erected c.1903, had no connection to the manor.⁹⁰

RECTORY ESTATE (BRADFORD PRIOR)

⁸¹ SHC, DD/BR/gd/8.

⁸² Baldwin, 'Bradford and Bradford Prior', 11.

⁸³ T.J. Hunt (ed.), The Medieval Customs of the Manors of Taunton and Bradford of Tone (Som. Rec. Soc. 66), 89.

⁸⁴ SHC, D/D/Rt/M/401; D/D/Rt/A/401.

⁸⁵ SHC, DD/CN/1/19.

⁸⁶ SHC, DD/DP/20/3.

⁸⁷ SHC, DD/DP/20/10.

⁸⁸ TNA, HO 107/1921.

⁸⁹ H. W. Baldwin 'The Old Court House Estate in Bradford on Tone, Somerset' (1996) (SHC, PAM 1916), 7.

⁹⁰ Above, landscape, settlement and buildings, built character.

In 1381 John Waskham (alias Walsham or Raddington) alienated the advowson and glebe to the prior and convent of Barlinch; at this time the glebe comprised four messuages, 80 a. of land, 10 a. of meadow and 10 a. of pasture not exceeding the yearly value of 5 marks.⁹¹ At the dissolution of the priory in 1536-7 the rectory was valued at £13 7s. 3d. and the prior's half-share of the rectory farm was worth £9 2s. 3d.⁹² In 1543 the Crown granted the rectory to Richard Parker of Tawstock, Devon.⁹³ The estate was described as the manor of Bradford Prior in a court case of 1557-8 between John Parker, probably Richard's son, and his tenants.⁹⁴ In 1584 William Watkins and Richard Westcombe were pardoned for having acquired the rectory from Parker in 1574, and re-conveyed it to him and his wife Elizabeth.⁹⁵ The rectory remained in Parker's hands until his death in 1590, when his heir was his son Edmund.⁹⁶ At Edmund's death in 1611 he was said to have held the so-called manor and rectory by knight service. The estate then consisted of eight messuages, two gardens, two cottages and 240 a. of land. Parker's heir was his grandson, also Edmund, then aged 19.⁹⁷ Edmund died at North Molton, Devon, c.1675 and was succeeded by his son Edmund (d. 1691).⁹⁸ By his will of 1680 Edmund Parker bequeathed the rectory to his son Edmund for a term of 99 years from his death.⁹⁹ The son, who died in 1715, bequeathed the remainder of the term to his son Edmund Parker alias Southcote of Blyborough, Lincolnshire.¹⁰⁰ In 1717 he was letting the property to John Ritherdon for £55 a year.¹⁰¹ In 1718 he sold the estate to George Parker of Boringdon Hall, Plympton, Devon, for £385.¹⁰² In his will of 1742 George

⁹¹ Cal. Pat. 1377-81, 599; *ibid.* 1381-5, 53, 167.

⁹² TNA, SC 6/HENVIII/3127.

⁹³ L&P Hen. VIII, XVIII (II), 55.

⁹⁴ TNA, REQ 2/95/20; REQ 2/55/21.

⁹⁵ Cal. Pat. 1583-4, 38; CP 25/2/204/16ELIZIEASTER.

⁹⁶ TNA, C 142/224/36.

⁹⁷ TNA, C 142/325/201.

⁹⁸ TNA, PROB 20/1979.

⁹⁹ TNA, PROB 11/406/427.

¹⁰⁰ SHC, Q/RDD/29/411.

¹⁰¹ SHC, Q/RRP/1/25.

¹⁰² SHC, Q/RDD/29/411.

bequeathed the rectory to his son John (d. 1778). On John's death the manor passed to his son John, later 1st Baron Boringdon (d. 1788).¹⁰³

In 1802 the 'manor, or reputed manor' of Bradford Prior, with the rectory and advowson, and 20 a. of glebe, was sold by John Parker, 2nd Baron Boringdon, to William Kinglake of Taunton, for £4,900.¹⁰⁴ In 1813 Kinglake sold the rectory and advowson to William Burrige and the estate subsequently descended with the Warre half-share of the manor as part of the Bradford Court estate.¹⁰⁵

CHANTRY ESTATE

The chantry was founded by John Parson, vicar of Bradford, who died before May 1497.¹⁰⁶ In 1536 it was valued at £4 13s. 4d. yearly.¹⁰⁷ At its suppression in 1548 its value was put at £5 18s. (gross) and £5 14s. 6d. (net). The chantry's properties consisted of an inn and ½ burgage in Wellington called The Swan, and messuages, lands and tenements in Sampford Arundel, Langford Budville and Rimpton.¹⁰⁸ In September that year the king sold the estate to William Chester, a yeoman of Chipping Barnet in Hertfordshire, and Christopher Needham, a Westminster brewer, who shortly afterwards alienated it to two Bradford men, Thomas and Edward Timewell for £137 8s.¹⁰⁹ In 1564 Bartholomew Brokesby and John Walker, both of London, discovered that the chantry priest's house in Bradford had been concealed from the crown by the ex-cantuarist, John Hussey, probably since its dissolution, and re-granted it to

¹⁰³ SHC, A/ADS/4/1, abstract of title of John, Lord Boringdon, to the rectory manor and advowson, c.1800.

¹⁰⁴ SHC, A/ADS/4/2.

¹⁰⁵ Baldwin, 'Bradford and Bradford Prior', 13.

¹⁰⁶ TNA, REQ 2/42/63; below, religious history, chantry.

¹⁰⁷ Valor. Eccl. I, 173.

¹⁰⁸ E. Green (ed.), The Survey and Rental of the Chantries, Colleges and Free chapels Guilds, Fraternities, Lamps, Lights and Obits in the County of Somerset as Returned in the 2nd year of King Edward VI, A.D.1548 (Som. Rec. Soc. 2), 210; G. H. Woodward (ed.), Calendar of Somerset Chantry Grants, 1548-1603 (Som. Rec. Soc. 77), 19-20.

¹⁰⁹ Woodward, Chantry Grants, 19-20.

Edmund Timewell, the son-in-law of Thomas Timewell.¹¹⁰ In 1566 the chantry house was described as a little property with a courtyard adjoining the priest's house. That year Richard Warre, the lord of a half-share of Bradford manor, claimed that it was built on his demesne land and used with his permission by the parishioners 'for their common affairs as also to place these such common artificers as should seem fit.'¹¹¹ Warre must not have been able to substantiate his claim as, in his will of 1582, Edmund Timewell devised the chantry house to his wife Agnes for her life and then to his son Edward, who received all his other property in Bradford.¹¹² The subsequent history of the chantry house and its lands is not recorded.

HELE MANOR

In 1066 Hele formed part of the manor of Taunton and belonged to the see of Winchester. It was then held by Ealdraed and paid geld for one hide. By 1086 it was, like Bradford, part of the estates of the Count of Mortain and held by Alvred.¹¹³ The overlordship was identical with that of Bradford manor and last mentioned in 1194.¹¹⁴ Bradford and Hele had the same lords, Hele also being divided into half-shares between the Franceis and Warre families after the death of Sir Henry Perecehay in 1380. The Warre half-share was described as the manor of Bradford and Hele until at least as late as 1618,¹¹⁵ and the appellation was still applied to the Franceis family holding in 1687.¹¹⁶

FORD

¹¹⁰ SHC, DD/SF/2/7/1.

¹¹¹ TNA, REQ 2/42/63.

¹¹² TNA, PROB 11/65/122.

¹¹³ Domesday, 234, 251.

¹¹⁴ Rot. Cur. Reg. I, 73

¹¹⁵ SHC, DD/CN/1/9.

¹¹⁶ TNA, CP 25/2/795/3JASIIMICH.

Around 1300 William de Ford granted all his messuages, curtilages, lands, meadow and water mill in Ford to Roger de Vernay.¹¹⁷ The grant was presumably a means of raising a mortgage as de Vernay had granted the property back to William, and Maud his wife, by c.1310.¹¹⁸ In 1350 another William de Ford, probably the son of his namesake, settled the estate, which also now included a dovecote, on his son Ralph de Ford, retaining a life interest in the property.¹¹⁹ The estate appears to have been the subject of another mortgage in August 1378 when John Osborne and his wife Matilda (otherwise Maud), the daughter and heiress of the late William de Ford, granted it to Nicholas Amorreter, chaplain, and Thomas Coker, it being granted back in December to John and Matilda, and their son William, with the remainder in tail male to John Anger, Matilda's son by her first marriage, and his descendants.¹²⁰ John Osborne and his son William had died by 1403 when Matilda was in sole possession of the estate.¹²¹ By 1404 Matilda's other son John Anger was also dead and her heir was his son Thomas.¹²² In 1415 Thomas Anger settled his estate on his son, also Thomas, and Thomas' wife Joan. The Ford estate then comprised a messuage, water mill, dovecote, 100 a. of land, 16 a. of meadow, 4 a. of wood and 1 a. of moor in Ford and Heatherton.¹²³ By 1421 Ford was in the hands of Thomas Anger's widow Joan and her second husband, William Dunster of Bristol.¹²⁴

In 1438 Walter Glede and his wife Joan sold Ford to John Bishop of Taunton and his wife Alice.¹²⁵ In 1465 William Waynflete (c.1398-1486), lord Chancellor and bishop of Winchester,¹²⁶ purchased Ford in reversion from John Bishop, and conveyed it to his

¹¹⁷ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 73-Ford 74.

¹¹⁸ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 59; Ford 16; Ford 62.

¹¹⁹ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 54; Ford 72; Ford 70; Ford 53; Ford 57; Ford 81.

¹²⁰ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 49; Ford 60.

¹²¹ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 97; Ford 100; Ford 108.

¹²² Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 56; Ford 76-Ford 78.

¹²³ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 40-Ford 41.

¹²⁴ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, EP 139/3; Magdalen College, Oxford, Ford 14.

¹²⁵ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 29-Ford 30.

¹²⁶ ODNB, s.v. Waynflete, William, bishop of Winchester (accessed 20 Jul. 2019).

foundation Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1482.¹²⁷ In 1495 Thomas Anger formerly of Stowey, but then of Romsey in Hampshire, the great-nephew of the Thomas who had been granted Ford in 1415, disputed Magdalen's ownership of the estate and received £16 10s. in compensation.¹²⁸ Little is known of the subsequent history of the estate. In c.1650 a man named Farewell held 112 a. in Bradford from the college. The president and fellows of Magdalen were presented at Edward Clarke's court in the 1690s for defaulting on their free suit to the manor for their lands in Bradford.¹²⁹ In 1858, for the sum of £245, the college leased all its property in Bradford to John and Richard Easton, who paid a yearly rent of 45s. and annually supplied 432 gallons of wheat and 450½ gallons of malt, or the equivalent value, to the college.¹³⁰ Magdalen still owned the Ford Farm and the mill in 1910.¹³¹ In 1915 the farm and the mill, containing 115 a. 3r. 30 p., was sold at auction, the mill being purchased by Edward Hall and the farm by A. J. Webber.¹³² The Webber family still owned the farm in 1995.¹³³

HEATHERTON

This holding is first mentioned c.1250 when Emma de Heatherton, daughter and heir of Thomas de Heatherton, granted 5½ a. of land in Heatherton to William de Ford, for the sum of 10s.¹³⁴ In 1278 Christina de Washford granted land at Heatherton to Adam de Bawdrip, permission for the alienation being obtained from John de Camoys, the lord of Bradford

¹²⁷ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 2; Ford 38; Ford 4; Ford 34 Ford 79.

¹²⁸ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 86-Ford 89; Ford 99; Ford 115.

¹²⁹ SHC, DD/SF/1/3/61, presentments, 1691-2, 1694.

¹³⁰ SHC, DD/CH/11/7.

¹³¹ TNA, IR 58/82133, 29.

¹³² Taunton Courier, 21 Jul. 1915, 5.

¹³³ H. W. Baldwin, 'Heatherton, Ford and Stoford in the parish of Bradford-on-Tone' (1995) (SHC, PAM 1747), 10.

¹³⁴ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 69.

manor.¹³⁵ Nothing further is known of Heatherton until 1438 when Walter Glede and his wife Joan sold land there to John Bishop.¹³⁶ In 1456 Joan, now a widow, granted further lands at Heatherton to Bishop.¹³⁷ In 1545 Heatherton was the property of Alexander Hamlyn, Katherine, his wife, and Nicholas Wykes.¹³⁸ Alexander's son Giles Hamlyn was sued in chancery by Richard Rowsewell and others who claimed to hold Heatherton by grant of Alexander Hamlyn.¹³⁹ The result of these proceedings is not recorded, but in 1567 Giles Hamlyn and his wife Mary were in possession of property described as Heatherton manor, which they quitclaimed to Richard Warre (d. 1601), owner of a half-share of Bradford manor.¹⁴⁰ Richard's grandson, also Richard, made a settlement concerning Heatherton in 1621¹⁴¹ and conveyed it the following year to Simon Spatchurst;¹⁴² at this time the so-called manor of Heatherton comprised a messuage and garden, 100 a. of land, 20 a. of meadow, 100 a. of pasture, 5 a. of wood and 4 a. of furze and heath.¹⁴³

In 1658-9 Sir Edward Hungerford and his wife Jane made settlements of property at Heatherton.¹⁴⁴ It seems likely that Sir Edward had acquired Heatherton by his marriage as it was through Jane that he had acquired the Warre half-share of Bradford manor.¹⁴⁵ An estate referred to as Heatherton manor was the subject of three settlements by Sir Edward in the space of a decade: to Giles and Anthony Hungerford in 1661; to Sir Thomas Hooke in 1663; to Sir Francis Popham and his wife Helen in 1669.¹⁴⁶ The portion of the half-share of the manor of Bradford sold by Sir Edward Hungerford to Edward Clarke in 1669 was described

¹³⁵ Green, *Feet of Fines 1196-1307*, 244-5.

¹³⁶ Magdalen Coll., Oxford, Ford 29-Ford 30.

¹³⁷ TNA, E 326/654.

¹³⁸ TNA, CP 25/2/36/242/36HENVIIIHIL.

¹³⁹ TNA, C 3/153/18; TNA, C 3/150/64; TNA C 3/156/85.

¹⁴⁰ TNA, CP 25/2/204/9/10ELIZIMICH.

¹⁴¹ TNA, CP 25/2/347/19JASIEASTER.

¹⁴² TNA, CP 25/2/347/20JASITRIN.

¹⁴³ TNA, CP 43/153.

¹⁴⁴ TNA, CP 25/2/593/1658MICH; CP 25/2/593/1659TRIN.

¹⁴⁵ *SDNQ*, II, p. 305; this section, Bradford manor.

¹⁴⁶ TNA, CP 25/2/715/13/14CHASIIHIL; CP 25/2/715/15CHASIIIEASTER; CP 25/2/716/21CHASIIITRIN.

as the manor of Bradford and Heatherton.¹⁴⁷ There is no subsequent mention of any manor of Heatherton, but Sir Edward seems to have sold the house at Heatherton to John Bacon (d. 1679).¹⁴⁸ From Bacon Heatherton passed to Thomas Gunston, who was succeeded by his son John and then John's son Sir Thomas.¹⁴⁹ When Sir Thomas Gunston died in March 1797 the heir to what was now known as the Heatherton Park estate was his brother John, of Bath, who died the following month, and was succeeded by his nephew Procter Thomas of Wellington.¹⁵⁰ The following year Procter sold Heatherton Park to James Bryant of Taunton, who conveyed it to John Cave in March 1804. In 1807 Cave sold the estate to Capt. Hugh (commonly known as William) Adair of Ballymena, Co. Antrim.¹⁵¹ At the time of the sale to Adair the estate comprised 160 a., and the house itself was situated in a wooded park of 70 a.¹⁵² On Hugh's death in 1844 the estate passed to his second son Alexander (1791-1863), who was succeeded by his son Alexander William.¹⁵³ After the death of Alexander William in 1889 Heatherton Park was sold to Thomas Starkey of Wellington.¹⁵⁴ In 1900 Starkey conveyed the estate to Capt. Samuel Henry Woodhouse (d. 1932).¹⁵⁵ Woodhouse sold Heatherton Park to the Woodard Foundation, who opened St Katherine's School there in 1924.¹⁵⁶ After the closure of the school in 1953 Heatherton Park was sold to a property developer and converted into flats.¹⁵⁷

Heatherton Park

¹⁴⁷ SHC, DD/SF/2/7/9.

¹⁴⁸ SDNQ, II, p. 305.

¹⁴⁹ F. M. Ward (ed.), Supplement to Collinson's History of Somerset: Extracts from Locke's Survey (Taunton, 1939), 45.

¹⁵⁰ SHC, DD/DP/38/2, 'Mr Hargrave's Opinion'; TNA, PROB 11/1292/40.

¹⁵¹ SHC, DD/DP/38/2, 'Mr Hargrave's Opinion'.

¹⁵² SHC, DD/DP/38/2, unidentified newspaper cutting, 18 Jun. 1807.

¹⁵³ SHC, DD/BR/p11/3; DD/BR/p11/4;

¹⁵⁴ SHC, DD/DP/206.

¹⁵⁵ Wellington Weekly News, 5 Mar. 1900, 5.

¹⁵⁶ C. M. Hartnell, 'S. Katherine's, Heatherton Park, Taunton: Some Account of its Growth and Activities, 1924-1949' (1949) (SHC, A/DBV/2/1), 1-2. For the school see social history, education.

¹⁵⁷ SHC, D/R/wel/24/2/158; Country Life, 14 May 1953, 1491.

The house was built by Sir Thomas Gunston *c.*1770, replacing a property which probably stood on the same site. The property consists of a main five-bay block facing south and a four-bay east front linked in the north-east corner by a three-bay service wing; there are two small square lodges abutting on the north front, enclosing a service yard. A conservatory, fronting the main block, is linked by an open loggia to the west end of a chapel (now a bungalow) lying north-south. The house is of three stories and has an attic. William Blogg exhibited a drawing at the Royal Academy in 1797 for improving the front of Heatherton House, though it is not certain whether it was for this property or one in Sussex.¹⁵⁸ In 1807 the house comprised a vestibule, library, breakfast parlour, dining and drawing rooms, seven bedrooms, each with dressing rooms, with eight chambers for servants in the attic storey. There were two kitchens, a servants' hall and a housekeeper's room. Outbuildings included a coach house and stables. There were two walled gardens.¹⁵⁹ The porch and conservatory were added *c.*1840 for Alexander Adair.¹⁶⁰ There was a swimming pool in the grounds by 1841,¹⁶¹ to the south of which lay a boathouse by *c.*1886.¹⁶²

STOFORD

A small estate in Stoford, comprising four ferlings, was granted by Richard Burt, William Anketill and Geoffrey Cecil to Dunkeswell abbey in 1227.¹⁶³ However, it is not mentioned in any of the possessions of the abbey at the Dissolution, nor in the grant of its lands to John, Baron Russell, in 1539.¹⁶⁴ In 1542 property described as Stoford manor was granted by John

¹⁵⁸ Somerset HER 40899. The chapel was erected for St Katherine's School; below, social history, education.

¹⁵⁹ SHC, DD/DP/38/2, unidentified newspaper cutting dated 18 Jun. 1807.

¹⁶⁰ Somerset HER 40899.

¹⁶¹ SHC, D/D/Rt/M/401.

¹⁶² OS Map 1:10,560, SOM. LXXIX NW (1891 edn, surv. 1886-7); OS Map 1:10,560, SOM. LXXIX NW (1932 edn.); Somerset HER 43877.

¹⁶³ *Cal. Chart.* I, 17. A ferling was a quarter of a virgate.

¹⁶⁴ Dugdale, *Mon.* V, 679-80; *L&P Hen.* VIII, XIV (I), 585-6.

Portman to John Cuffe of Creech St Michael (d. 1557), his wife Joan and their heirs.¹⁶⁵ The Stoford holding descended like Creech St Michael until c.1626 when it was the home of Edward Clarke of Bradford (d. 1647), whose wife, Ursula, was the daughter of Robert Cuffe (d. 1639).¹⁶⁶ Clarke's residence, which contained a study in 1626,¹⁶⁷ was probably the property called 'Castle House' in a rental of 1674.¹⁶⁸ Nothing further is known of this house or its origins. Edward Clarke's grandson, also Edward, still owned land at Stoford in 1685.¹⁶⁹

In 1842 Betty Petten owned Stoford Farm, a property of 32 a. 2 r. 30 p.¹⁷⁰ The large farmhouse of c.1830, originally called Stoford House, was re-named as Stoford Manor by William Simms, who purchased it from Susan, the widow of Robert Chappell, in 1927.¹⁷¹

OTHER ESTATES

In 1201 a virgate of land at Hele was the subject an assize of *mort d'ancestor* brought by Gilbert, son of Baldwin, against John de Montague, lord of Bradford and Hele, and Isabella, his mother. The case was delayed as John was fighting abroad and its outcome is not recorded.¹⁷² In the early 13th century Maurice de Borham had an estate comprising a carucate of land and mill at Hele and another mill and 3½ virgates of land in Bradford. In 1228 he brought a charge against Walter de Greinville of wrongfully obtaining this property. His

¹⁶⁵ TNA, CP 25/2/36/241/34HENVIIIIMICH.

¹⁶⁶ SHC, DD/SF/16/4/1, acct and commonplace book of Edward Clarke, 'My Study at Stoford, list of books', 14. Jan. 1626; DD/SF/9/3/3; VCH Som. VI, 21-2; H. W. Baldwin, 'Heatherton, Ford and Stoford', 13.

¹⁶⁷ SHC, DD/SF/16/4/1, acct and commonplace book of Edward Clarke, 'My Study at Stoford, list of books', 14. Jan. 1626.

¹⁶⁸ SHC, DD/SF/16/4/1, acct and commonplace book of Edward Clarke, 'My Study at Stoford, list of books', 14. Jan. 1626; DD/SF/1/3/73.

¹⁶⁹ SHC, DD/SF/1/3/57.

¹⁷⁰ SHC, D/D/Rt/A/401.

¹⁷¹ Baldwin, 'Heatherton, Ford and Stoford', 18; Somerset HER 40891.

¹⁷² C. E. H. Chadwyck Healey (ed.), Somersetshire Pleas (Som. Rec. Soc. 11), 10-11.

action was successful and he was again in possession by 1229 when he was sued for it by Warren Bassett and his wife, Katherine.¹⁷³ Nothing further is known of this holding.

VCH DRAFT

¹⁷³ Cal. Pat. 1225-32, 245, 280, 294.