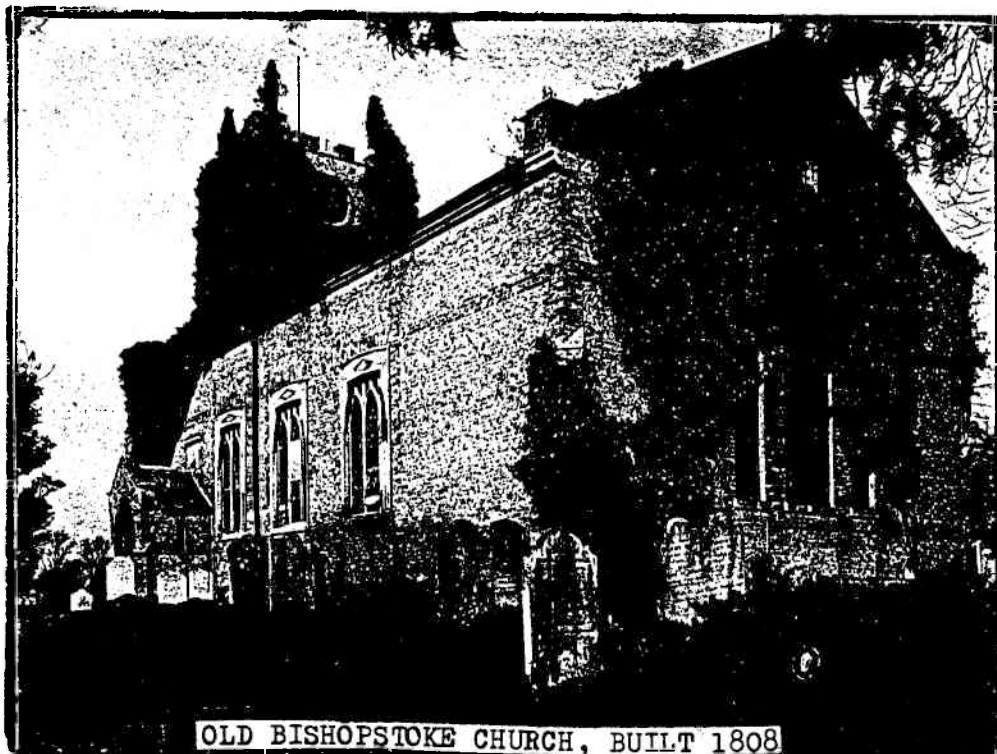
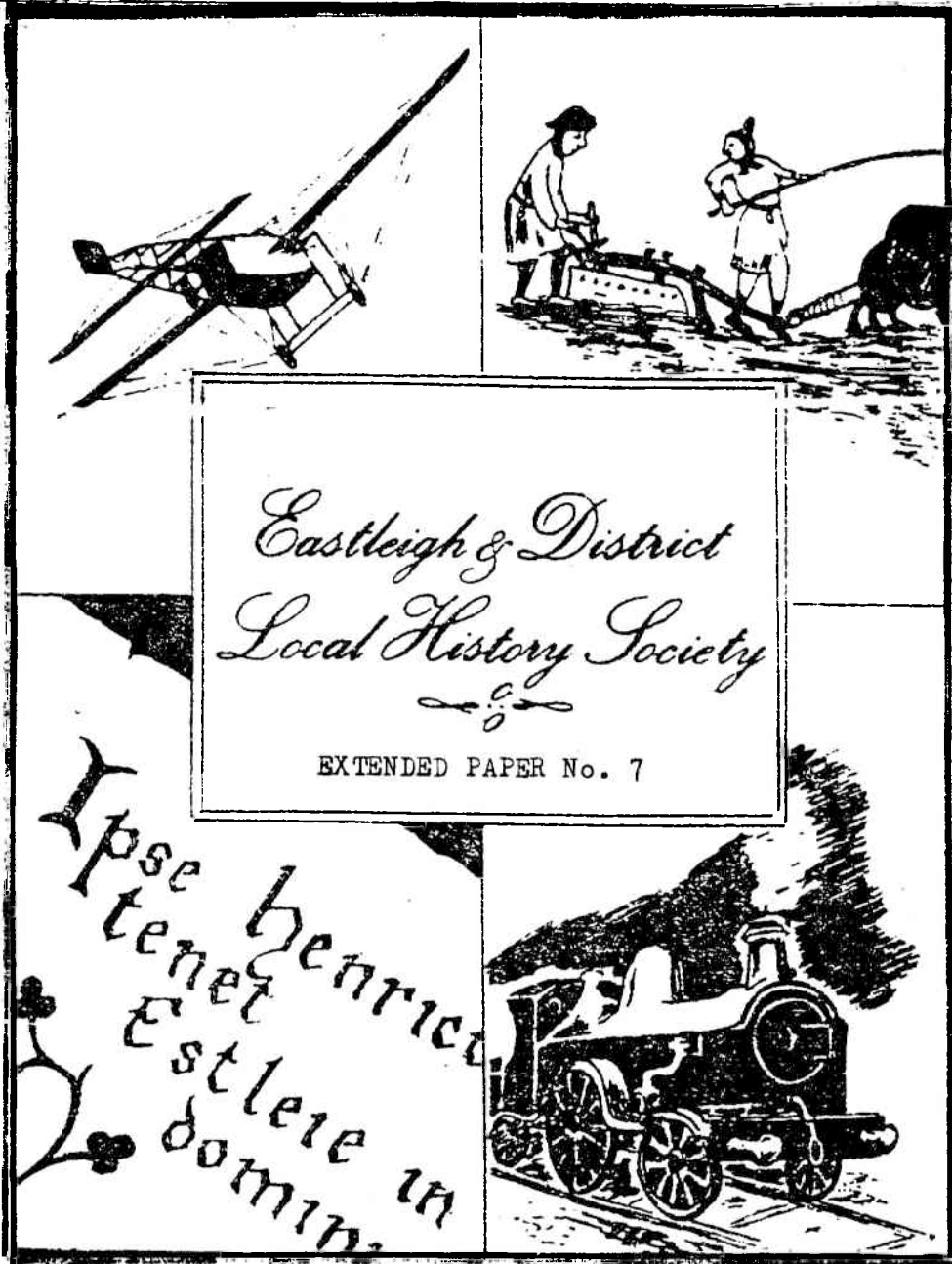


Power in the Parish of Bishopstoke. 1720-1859



POWER IN THE PARISH

THE TWYNAM FAMILY AND BISHOPSTOKE

THE PART PLAYED IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

FROM 1720 TO 1859

VESTRY MINUTES: 13th April, 1826.

"We propose a committee to inspect the poor-house monthly, accompanied by the overseer, when such regulations may be adopted as are expedient for making the poor as comfortable as possible."

MANOR BOOK OF PRESENTMENTS: 5th October, 1829.

"William Dumper has made default of 16s 8d rent for one year due Michaelmas 1828 and for two preceding years. The plea for not paying same by reason of not getting an allotment under Inclosure is no exoneration for non payment."

: 14th May, 1788.

"In a common meadow called Horton Heath several pits have been made by cutting peat, which are very dangerous to cattle feeding, and unless the same be filled in or fenced by 1st September - fines of £10 each."

The three items quoted above come from documents concerning the parish of Bishopstoke and serve to illustrate some of the powers vested in the local inhabitants before the Local Government Act of 1888. Since Tudor times the parishes in the country had been developed as the administrative units of an area. A parish was a self-governing community under the supervision of the Bishop and the Justices of the Peace.

Local power was vested in the officers of the parish, such as the churchwardens, overseers, tythingmen and assessors of the rates. So who were the men who wielded the power in Bishopstoke?

PARISH RECORDS

Documents such as the Manor Book of Presentment, the Minutes of Vestry Meetings, Churchwardens' Accounts and the Highways Surveyor's Book list the men who were prominent in

local affairs, and the extent of their lands and holdings, which gave them the right to take office. In Bishopstoke, an agricultural community, these were the farmers, and certain names recur frequently throughout the years.

Families usually resided within the same parish for many generations, for, before the coming of good roads and railways, travel was not easy. The parish of Bishopstoke was much bigger at the time of which I write, covering an area of 3,430 acres, and included Fair Oak, Crowdhill and Horton Heath within its boundaries. I have taken the men of the Twynam family as representative of those who had power in the parish.

THE TWYNAMS AS JURORS AT THE MANOR COURT

A study of the Manor Book of Presentments - the records of the Manor Court of Bishopstoke, which dealt with minor misdemeanours, shows successive generations of Twynams serving as jurors. Members of this jury were duty bound to attend the court, which met usually twice a year. If they failed to attend they could be fined and they were sworn to make their decisions with impartiality. Their judgements were recorded in the book by the steward. They were unpaid, but in 1752 they suggested that: "The Lord Bishop of the Manor ought at every court to find and allow unto the jury a dinner of plain butcher's meat and something in moderation to drink in lieu of the pains and trouble they are at in attending and doing the business of the court."

The presentments - or reports - might be such things as not keeping ditches clear on their land, a dangerous tree needing

to be felled, taking wood when they were not entitled to it, or even building a cottage on wasteland. Thomas Twynam served as juryman from 1720 to 1742, when he died. From 1742 to 1771 his sons Thomas and Henry were on the jury, followed by Henry junior 1790 to 1830, and then by his sons, Thomas, Walter, Edward and John until 1861. Besides being listed on the jury every year from 1720 to 1861 certain members of the family held specific offices during that time

In 1766 and 1776 Henry is named as Hayward - one of the officers elected to look after boundary fences and prevent animals from straying. In 1764 Henry was tithingman - responsible for maintaining order in the parish. Several Twynams served as foremen of the jury, and in 1811 another Henry was Reeve - or principal officer in the parish.

These responsibilities did not preclude members of the family being named as offenders also. 1747, Thomas Twynam failed to appear as juryman; 1784, Henry Twynam named for opening a sand pit on Quobly. This digging of sand, peat and clay appears on numerous occasions, in fact it would sometimes appear that a large part of the population was engaged in digging holes, sometimes in very unsuitable places. I quote a few examples.

7th October, 1756: "No person not belonging to Bishopstoke has any right to dig sand nor carry any away, on penalty of 10s a load".

4th April, 1765: "George Lomer for digging sand in Noel Hill Lane."

18th April, 1782: "James Anell for digging sand and thereby rendering the road in Nole Hill Lane impassable."

26th April, 1818: "Pit in Nole Hill Lane is a very dangerous place caused by people carrying sand away and we impose a fine of £1 per head."

Roads seemed to hold a fascination for the inhabitants for we note that not only did they dig sand and build cottages on them, but there is also an instance in 1781 where John Bisant is named for "lying timber etc on the road and digging a sawpit which, if timber not removed and sawpit filled up, shall forfeit £5." Despite the fines, however, people were obviously not deterred from digging up the roads. In fact the tradition has continued to this day, although it is now officially sanctioned by the boards of water, gas, electricity and telephone companies.

LAND TAX ASSESSMENT LISTS

In order to find out just how extensive were the land holdings of the farmers in the parish we can turn to other documents among the parish records, such as the Land Tax Assessment lists. Up until 1831 parliament imposed a tax, based on the annual value of land, and the lists give us details of the holdings of individuals within the parish. A comparison of tax paid each year also reveals whether the area of the property held by them grew or diminished.

1799 Henry Twynam for Knowhill	£3 0s 10d
Quobly	£3 4s 10½
Late Sparsholts	£3 9s 3d

Pyle Hill £2 15 9d

Until 1818 these amounts remained relatively unchanged, the total tax paid in 1818 being £15 12s 4½d for all the properties.

CHURCH RATES BOOK

Another record allows us to verify the amount of land held, and the names of various properties. This is the church Rates book in which are listed all inhabitants of the parish liable to pay rates. Before the days of local councils, rates were levied to pay for the upkeep and repair of the Church, and to collect money for relief of the poor. The amount needed was decided at a meeting of the vestry, and the rates collected were listed in the Church Rates book alongside the list of parishioners. In 1784 a rate of 1d in the £1 was levied for repairs of the church, bringing in a total of £6 7s 9½d.

By 1796 Henry Twynam's lands were assessed at £17 1s, and included the properties of Quobly, Fair Oak, Cosens, Wickham's Nole Hill (spellings changed frequently) and the Malthouse. His properties increased in succeeding years to a total of 12 in 1812, valued at £22 18s. This does not necessarily mean he was the freehold owner of the lands and buildings. Most of the farmers in the parish were "copyholders", that is they nominally held their lands as tenants of the Lord of the Manor - who was the Bishop of Winchester, and had to pay him an annual rent, in lieu of performing services. The land had to be surrendered back to the lord on the death of the copyholder before it could be passed on to his heir. So we find entries

in the Manor Book of Presentments such as: 25th March, 1742, "Thomas Twynam died and he surrendered his copyhold estate within this manor to the use of his will."

As well as their own holdings, many farmers occupied and worked on land belonging to their neighbours, so entries in the Church Rates book list both the owner and the occupier of properties. Bishopstoke Farm is an example of a property which seems to have passed between various owners and occupiers through successive years. James Wooldridge is listed as owner in 1800, until 1805 when he was listed as occupier, but not owner; in 1813 it is listed as owned by the Earl of Northlisk, with both James Wooldridge, and two brothers, J. and W. Hollis as occupiers.

THE VESTRY

Besides having to attend as jurors at the Manor Court, various members of the Twynam family played prominent roles as officers in the parish. The vestry was a meeting place for parishioners who elected the churchwardens, who were responsible for the repair and maintenance of the church, and overseers, who were responsible for money raised to help the poor in the parish.

The vestry minutes are a record of these meetings, the business discussed and the decisions made. Items range from a discussion of the amount of money to allow individual paupers, difficulties over the assessment of land for church rates, the auditing of churchwardens' accounts, raising money for church repairs, and items concerning the local roads and bridges for

which the parish was responsible. The name of Twynam appears numerous times in the signatures at the end of the minutes, either as churchwarden or overseer of the poor.

In 1782 Henry Twynam, with five other parishioners, met to consider how to "farm out poor children", that is, they allocated children of paupers, from the age of seven years upwards, to work for local farmers. In the lists of "Poor children put out" from 1753 to 1782 Henry Twynam's name appears six times as one of the farmers receiving a poor child to work for him.

It was not always easy to find work for paupers and their children and discussions about this occur frequently in the vestry minutes. Farmers were not always able to take on extra workers, so jobs suggested were breaking stones for the road, or grave digging. At a vestry meeting on 11th December, 1817 (held at the Anchor public house) "it was resolved that the labourers should be distributed agreeable to the annexed list". The signature "Henry Twynam" is on these minutes, and we see on the list that he had been assigned seven men to work for him, so his farm must have been a large one. We realise, from a letter written some years later by yet another Henry Twynam that the families assigned work were not always grateful. Writing to the overseer Henry Twynam complains about one of his labourers: "I beg to say himself and family is such a notorious set I cannot countenance them any longer on my premises. They have been several times detected, by myself and others, cutting

all the best wood out of my rows. More than 100 rod of hedge torn, pales, boards pulled down and burnt. This man has lately worked by the quarter and does not begin till about 8 O'clock. He has received from me 28s 6d from March 30th." He concludes by saying he wants to exchange this man for someone else from the list. This is presumably someone he considered might get up earlier in the morning and be more amenable to hard work.

The business of actually collecting the rates from local inhabitants also presented problems. They were presumably just as loath to pay these as we are today: 13th April, 1826 "Mr Dumper submits to the vestry that the poor rates are unequally levied." The proposal is made to form a committee to investigate the rates assessment. However, they do not foresee the trouble ahead. It is soon realised that it can not be dealt with by a committee, so they appoint a surveyor to measure the land. His valuation list meets with numerous objections as to the accuracy of his measurements, and they refuse to pay him the agreed amount for his work. Finally a local landowner - Mr Wooldridge - completes the valuation, although not without further objections.

The following year they have more problems with the collection of rates. People with property below a certain value are exempt from rates, and a list of exemptions is drawn up. However the minutes for 5th November, 1827 read: "It was decided that the overseers should inform any persons desiring such indulgence (that is exemption), that they should attend at the vestry, stating their cases, in order that they may be made

sensible of the indulgence granted, it appearing that several persons have conducted themselves disrespectfully to the officers calling upon them for their rates." Collecting the rates appears to have been sometimes a hazardous occupation.

Meanwhile they argue that the tythingman should be paid 18s 2d for services done - that is, collecting rates in the parish. An examination of entries in the churchwardens' accounts reveals the wide range of items they had to deal

with:	1788	paid for sparrow heads	12s 3½d
		1 fox head	1s 0d
		1 polecat	6d

These creatures were all considered to be vermin as they damaged crops and stock, so a price was put on their heads, and parishioners were paid a fixed sum for each head produced as proof of a killing. For the church itself during that year money was spent as follows:

mending church windows	1s 3d
new bell ropes	11s 0d

Bell ropes were always a considerable expense as the church bells were rung frequently, not only to summon people to church but to celebrate victories, or on special occasions such as coronation day.

churchyard railing	£2 2s 0d
sacrament bread and	
washing surplice	11s 0d
wine (for communion)	15s 0d

However, in hand for the next year they had seven bottles of

Lenten wine and 13 empty bottles.

clerk's salary	£3
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The duties of the clerk included keeping order in church during services, chasing out dogs, and attending christenings, weddings and burials and entering details of these in the church records.

Another item in the accounts is the payment to constables. These were not the equivalent of modern day policemen. They were officers of the parish who attended the quarter sessions to give information about offenders, or make returns to the Justices of the Peace about households. They also served summonses to appear at quarter sessions. In March 1828 a payment in the accounts of £23 9s 9d to a Mr Blundell (presumably a constable) raises objections. It is considered "exorbitant, and in one instance particularly conspicuous for journeys when he was daily passing the house." They deducted £10, and further state: "re Bill of Constables - they are not justified in making a charge for serving summonses within the parish, being a part of the duties attendant on the office." It is Thomas Twynam whose signature appears on the vestry minutes as churchwarden from 1826 to 1835.

EXPENDITURE ON THE POOR

The main items of expenditure from church rates were in connection with the poor. Money was given weekly to keep families where the breadwinner was ill or injured, although all the other members of the family, including children from the age of seven years, were expected to find work, if possible, to

help the family income. The churchwardens were given strict rules to apply to those who wanted relief. All able bodied men must work, they were not allowed to keep a dog, and even gathering wood was considered a gainful occupation. Money paid to families was called outdoor relief.

POOR HOUSE

In 1792 Henry Twynam's name appears as a member of the committee which met at "The George" in Fair Oak to decide on the building of a poor house, - or house of industry, as it was to be called - in Stoke Common. The following year this was built in Stoke Common Road, on a site which is today Pendula Way, for the sum of £570 16s 2½d. James Wooldridge lent £370 of this, £70 being repaid soon afterwards, with interest being paid annually up to 1820.

The poor house was in use up to 1839 and people unable to support themselves - often widows or children were ordered in to the poor house - where they had to work to earn their keep. In 1839 when Bishopstoke was incorporated into the New Winchester Union the poor house was put up for sale and the money put into an account in the name of Bishopstoke.

On 3rd November, 1828, while Thomas Twynam was churchwarden, and dealing with the finances of the parish, there is a "notice from Henry Twynam for payment of £300 loan with arrears of interest, secured on the poor house." Perhaps Henry Twynam had taken over this debt from James Wooldridge who had left the parish in 1824. The vestry decides to form a committee to consider the debt, and the overseers give notice

to the rector, Dean Garnier, and all other gentlemen of the parish, requesting their attendance. On 13th November they make an offer to Henry Twynam to pay off the debt in annual amounts of £50, but he refuses. A year later, September 1839, the debt is still being discussed. The final suggestion at this meeting is that it should be paid off by public subscription: "Mr Scouell is to take a paper round to see what each individual would subscribe." However, 'individuals' appear not to consider this a worthy cause to which they wish to subscribe. In October 1829 after auditing the churchwardens' accounts they have a balance in hand of £17 8s 7d and Thomas Twynam suggests they pay this to Henry Twynam "towards defraying the interest and principal of his bond." This leads to an argument and one of the vestry committee - Captain Jarvis - objects that it is illegal to do this, and signs his objection in the minutes. Dean Garnier however, "considers Mr Twynam entitled, if not by law, by equity, to receive the principal and interest of the said bond out of the parish rates", and he also signs.

Almost another year later the matter is still cause for disagreement, although they do pay £45, being three years' interest on the debt. As to paying off the principal, it is proposed that a rate of 1s in the £1 be used instead for repairs to the church. Meanwhile other matters are needing their attention.

A new bridge - Berryfield Bridge - is planned, and they examine tenders from builders for its construction. They also

write to the Bishop to ask him to supply timber for it, which they consider is their right, "by manorial custom." The Bishop denies their claim, but says they may have six tons of timber "assigned in error for this bridge, but may be used for it." They decide to accept a tender of £52 for building the bridge "with two substantial brick arches."

ENCLOSURE

A few years previous to this, the Act of Enclosure for Bishopstoke was passed in 1820. It had taken the following three years for the commissioner to survey the parish, hear objections and allot land to claimants. Meetings were convened by him, mostly at the "Old George" in Fair Oak, where he met those "having claim to common or other rights" and received the schedules of their lands. Once the land had all been allotted, those to whom it had been awarded had the duty of fencing it properly. This also meant that roads and footpaths had to be properly defined, as people and animals could no longer wander about the parish on common lands or unfenced fields.

HIGHWAY RATES AND SURVEYOR'S BOOK

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, until 1894 when the Local Government Act was passed, the parish was responsible for the upkeep of roads within its boundaries. This was accomplished by means of hired labour, paid for out of the rates, or by an annual four days of unpaid labour and cartage service from local landholders and householders.

An entry in the Highway Rates and Surveyor's Book for 1811 reads: "The surveyors of Highways require six days' work to be

done for repairs of the roads in the parish, or compound for the same at 4s 6d per day each team."

The following list shows the assessment for each parishioner: £143, Twynam, Henry; Composition £3 15s 9d. Responsibility for overseeing the highway surveyors rested with the Justices of the Peace. In February 1822 they state: "The common highways belonging to the parish of Bishopstoke are so far out of order that they can not be sufficiently repaired by the means prescribed by the Act of Parliament. A sum not exceeding 1s in the £1 upon every occupier of lands, tenements, woods etc., shall be collected and applied to repairing the highways." The rate set was 9d in £1 and Henry Twynam is listed as having 12 properties, with a total of £6 11s to pay.

VESTRY DECISIONS CONCERNING ROADS

In 1825 a vestry meeting concerns work needed on the roads, and the minutes state: "Mr Twynam's consent being obtained to divert the road from Fair Oak to Bishopstoke through a field belonging to him called Dears Ash Crop - accepted and carried into effect." In 1826 the vestry passes the following resolutions:

- 1 Surveyors may enter fields belonging to Mr Twynam and Captain Jarvis to get materials for road repairs.
- 2 Mr Twynam, Mr Churcher, Mr Scouell and Reverend Garnier are named as a committee to value and afford satisfaction for damages done upon the lands in which the

materials are obtained.

3 The above named are to inspect roads to be diverted through the fields of Mr Twynam, Mr Light, Mr Scouell and Lord Northesk and decide for effecting the same.

4 6d rate to be collected for said improvement.

The diversion of the roads is probably in connection with the Enclosure of Bishopstoke. In 1823 the commissioner had published a list of 17 "private carriage roads" each 16 or 20 feet wide, and seven public footpaths, four feet wide. The "materials for road repairs" would have been gravel, of which Bishopstoke had, and still has, a plentiful supply, as witness the recent excavations in the gravel pit to the side of Church Road.

Mr Twynam was concerned with the formalities connected with enclosure, for the introductory paragraph to the enclosure document of 1825 cites him alongside the Bishop of Winchester, Dean Garnier, the Earl of Northesk, Charles Smythe of Brambridge House, and John Fleming of Stoneham Park - member of parliament for the county.

Returning to the diversion of roads, in a letter of December 1826, Mr Twynam agrees to an alteration of the road, for which he "gives up that part of the field called Ash Cross in exchange for the Old Road, down Allington Lane, under the full impression that every person does give like accommodation

to the line of the road leading to Bishopstoke, where it is necessary to make a similar improvement."

CHARITY

Although the members of the Twynam family would seem to have been astute businessmen, as far as their lands and holdings were concerned, they were not without thought for the poorer members of the community. In 1834 Henry Twynam established a charity to provide fuel and clothes, which were to be distributed on 21st December each year among the poor on the west side of the parish. He also granted a house, garden and orchard in Fair Oak, net rents to be applied for the benefit of the poor on the east side of the parish. In 1846 his son George bequeathed £200, the income of which was to be applied in the distribution of bread and fuel among the poor. There are still, in 1989, houses in use in Fair Oak belonging to the Twynam charity.

THE TITHE AWARDS 1840

Since the 8th century compulsory tithes (one tenth of all produce) had been exacted by the church. By the 19th century many of these payments in kind had been commuted to money rents. In Bishopstoke in 1840 the Tithe Commutation Act substituted a money rent, based on average corn prices for the past seven years, to be paid by all landowners. The map of the parish, drawn up for these awards, with the list of land owners and the acreage of lands gives us a detailed picture of the parish in that year.

Thomas Twynam was the third largest landowner, holding 259

acres, behind J. and G. Atkins owning 288 acres and Winchester College 282 acres. However, Thomas Twynam also occupied 356 acres of land belonging to Winchester College - so he would have been farming the largest area of land.

GRAVEN DIRECTORY OF HAMPSHIRE

Some 17 years after this, the Craven Directory of Hampshire for 1857 lists Walter Twynam among the gentry in Bishopstoke, and in 1859 the Twynam family is on the list of the larger farmers.

AGE OF CHANGE

By this date the railway had come to Bishopstoke which thus had (through the station named Bishopstoke Junction, for Eastleigh) a direct link with Southampton, Winchester and all the towns en route to London. Large houses such as Fair Oak Park, Itchen House, Spring Grove and later Longmead House were built, as the village was developed, and wealthy families were attracted to the area. Walter Twynam had The Mount built in 1844, but it was later pulled down and rebuilt in 1893. The long established farming families were to be joined, and later sometimes replaced, in positions of power by these wealthy newcomers. Occupations connected with the railway are listed in the census returns of 1851, alongside the farming trades of dairyman, blacksmith and shepherd.

In succeeding years the area and influence of Bishopstoke was to diminish. In 1871 Horton Heath and Fair Oak separated from Bishopstoke to become an independent parish. Twenty years later Bishopstoke came under the Winchester Rural District

Council, and finally, was amalgamated with Eastleigh in 1898-99.

Joan Simmonds
1989.

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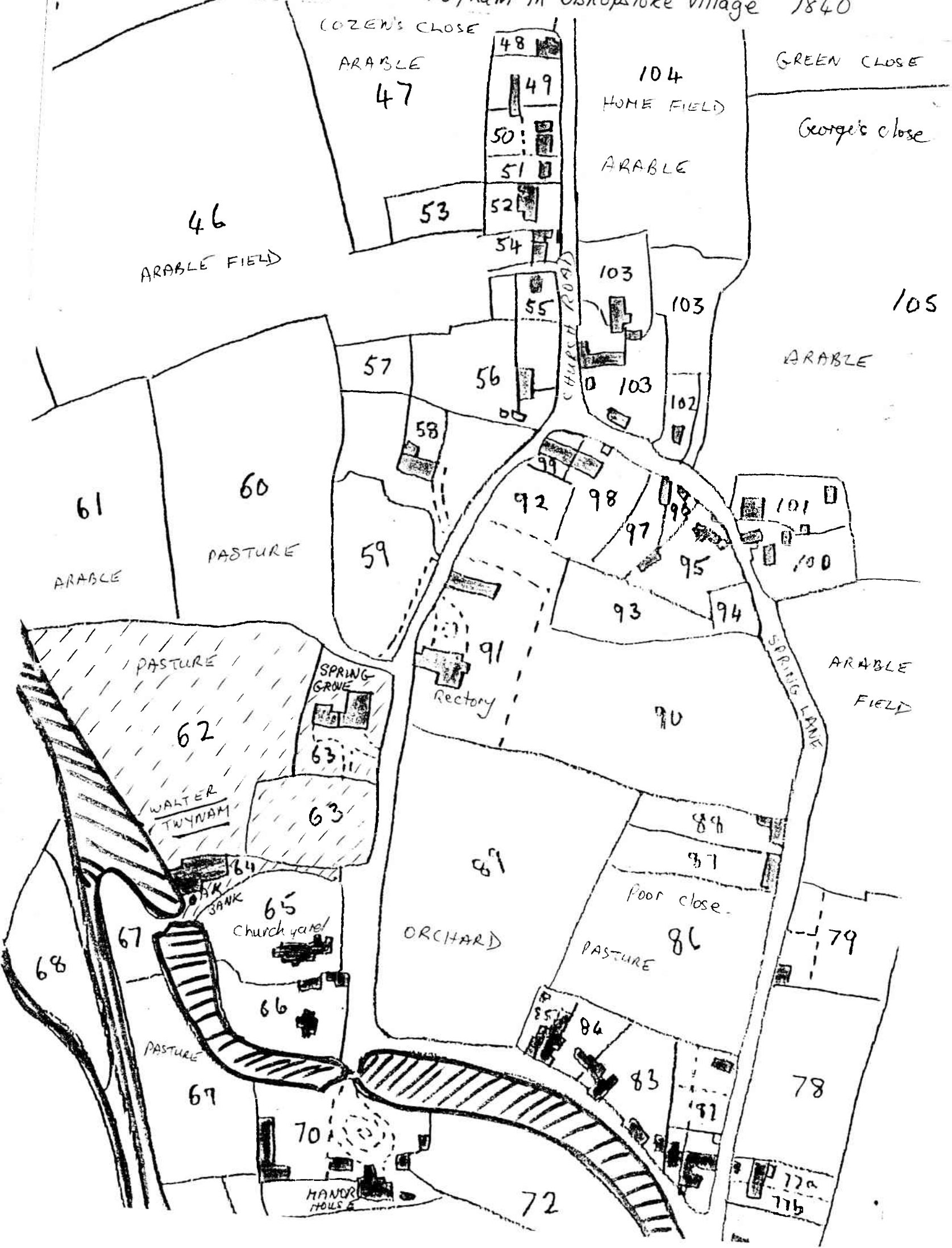


Drawn by J. Wood

Engraved by J. Wood

THE OLD CHURCH OF 1825

Property owned by Walter Twynam in Bishopstoke Village 1840



COZEN'S CLOSE

ARABLE
47

48
49
50
51
52
54
55

104
HOME FIELD
ARABLE

GREEN CLOSE

George's close

46
ARABLE FIELD

105

ARABLE

57

56

103

103

103

102

61

60

PASTURE

59

58

92

98

97

95

101

100

ARABLE

PASTURE

62

SPRING GROVE

63

63

WALTER TWYNAM

64

WATER SINK

65

Church yard

66

Rectory

61

ORCHARD

90

ARABLE FIELD

SPRING LANE

89

87

poor close

86

PASTURE

79

68

67

PASTURE

69

70

HANDS HOUSE

85

84

83

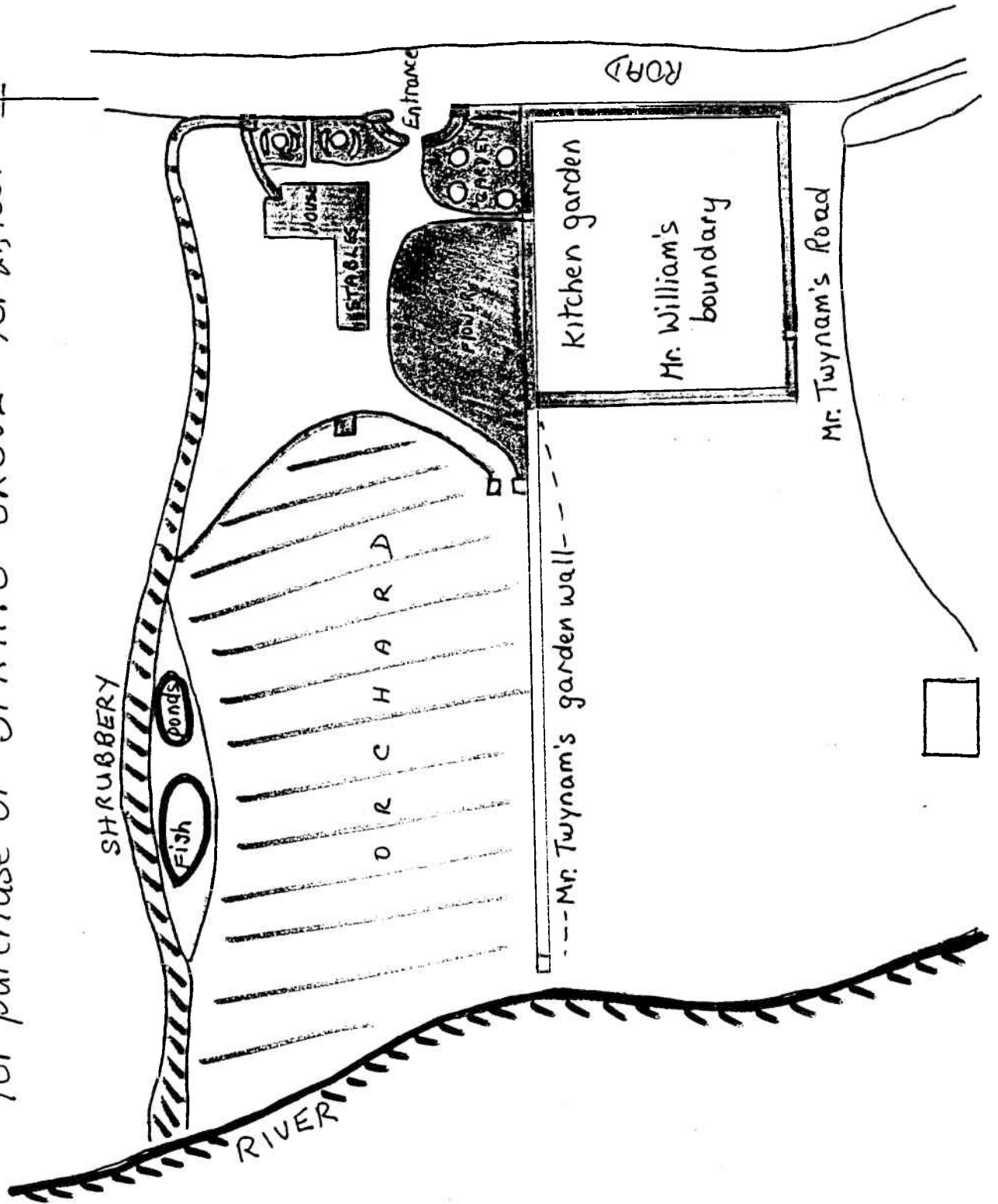
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72

78

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77b

1842 Covenant between Walter Twynam and J.N. Williamson for purchase of SPRING GROVE for £1,100. ↕

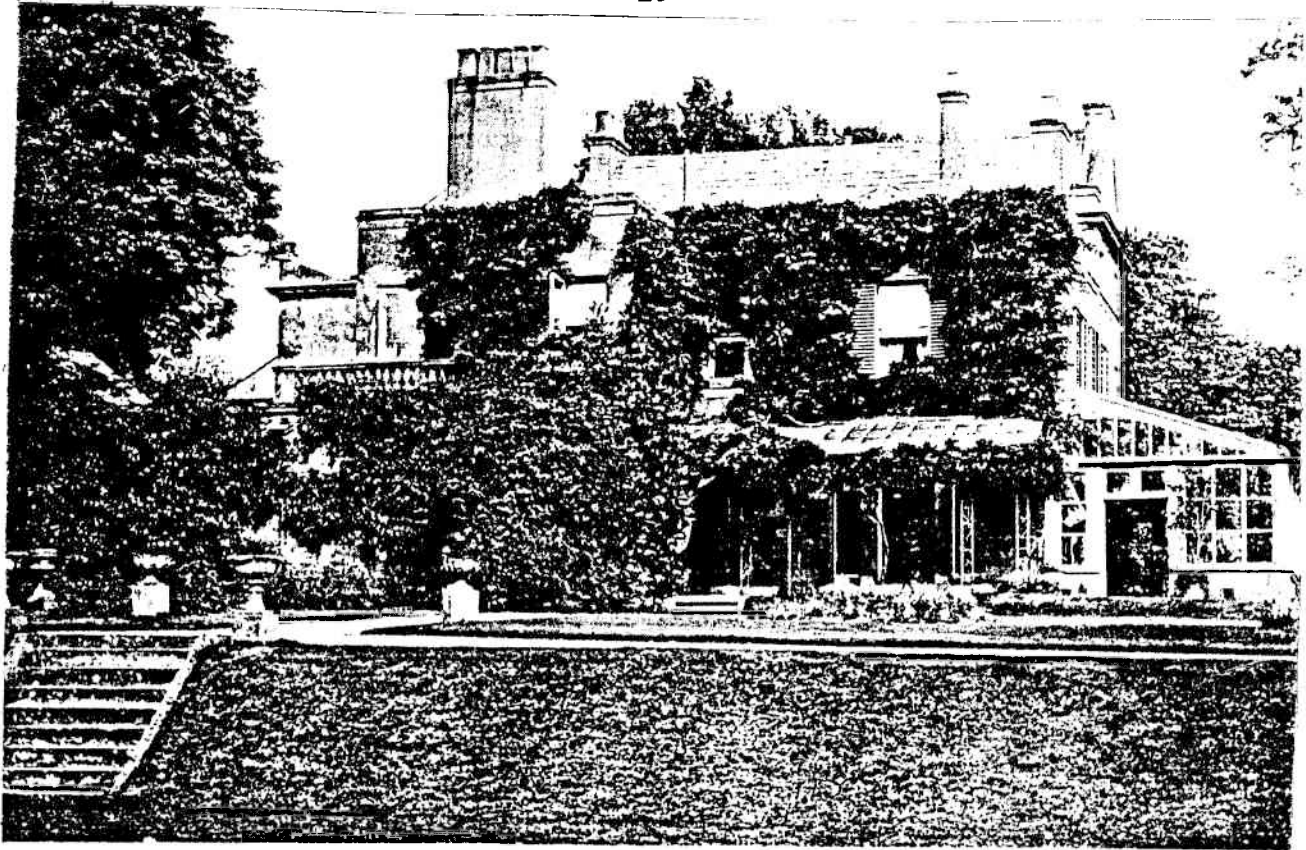




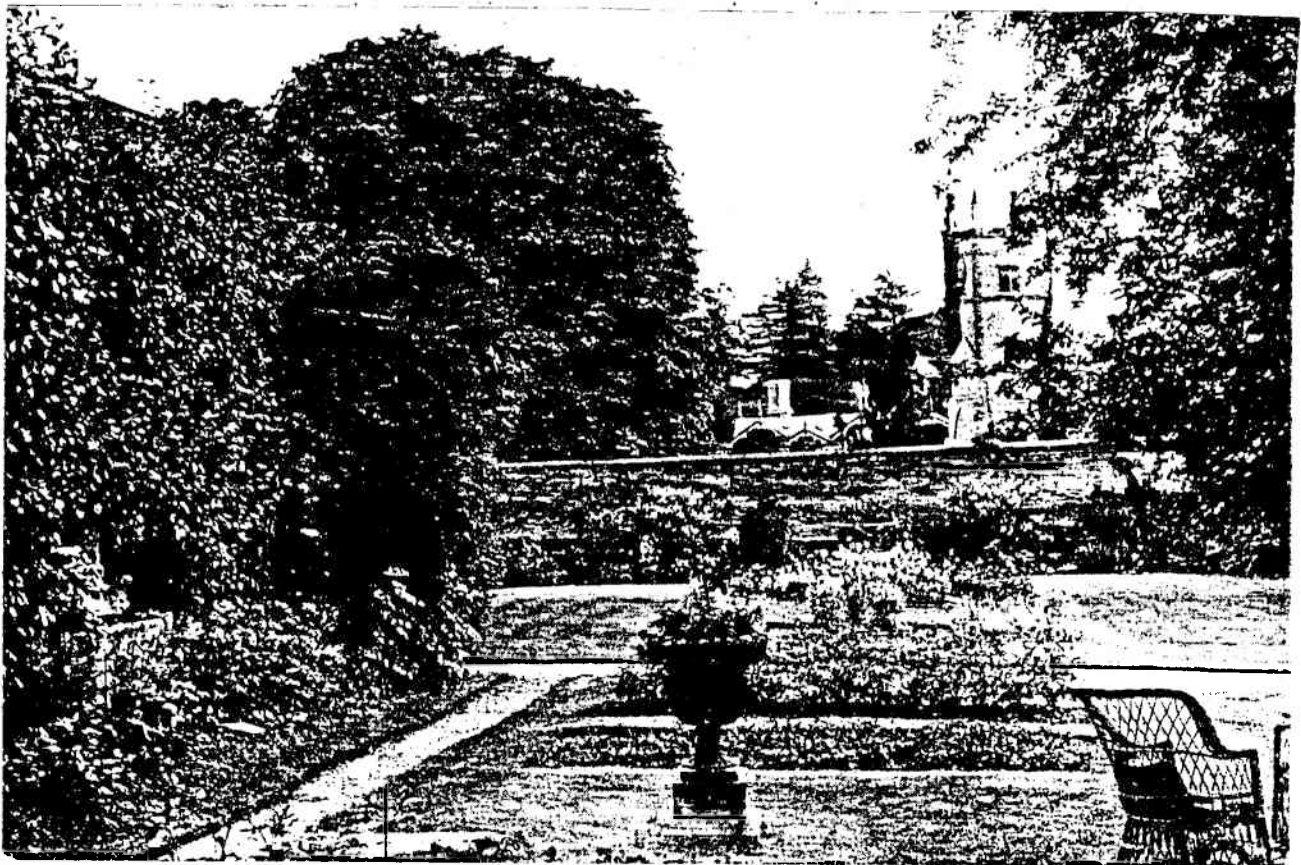
THE ANGLERS INN, AND, ON RIGHT, THE ANCHOR,
SCENE OF MEETINGS CONCERNING PARISH AFFAIRS



"OAK BANK", FORMER PROPERTY OF THE TWYNAM FAMILY



SPRING GROVE, FACING WEST
Once the property of Walter Twynam



THE OLD CHURCH TOWER
As viewed from the garden of Spring Grove. Showing also the chestnut trees and roof of The Cottage.