

NOTES ON EATON

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OTHER SOURCES

DOMESDAY BOOK (1081)

Dugdale's Monasticon

Burton' History of Leicestershire (1622)

Nicholl's History of Leicestershire (1780)

White's History of Leicestershire (1862)

Throsby's Leicestershire (1790)

Lay Subsidy Rolls

Leicestershire Architectural & Archaeological Societies
Reports 1892-99

North Church Bells of Leicestershire

Trollope Church Plate of Leicestershire

Church Registers

Dr. Barber Forgotten Chapter in English Church Histoy

EATON

Situated on the hills to the South of Belvoir castle, about seven miles to the North of Melton Mowbray.

It is bounded on the North and on the West by Braunston (Branston); by Eastwell on the South; and on the East By Croxton.

In the ecclesiastical division of the county it is within the deanry of Framland.

DIRIVATION OF THE NAME OF EATON

In Anglo-Saxon EA' means water, TON or TOWN signifies an enclosed settlement or fortified place - hence it would signify a 'Water Town' or a place surrounded or divided by water.

This would refer to the river DEVON or DERE-AVON i.e. 'a clear stream which flows through Eaton'.

The natural formation of the place points tx there having been in former days, a much larger stream and and a great deal of water here.

The rising ground near the mill (Robottom's) on the road between Eaton and Branston shows that in the earliest times as far back as the 'Glacial Period';

this part of the country would be mostly under water.

This accounts for the peculiar formation of the rocks about here and also for the quantities of fossils found.

Another derivation of the name EATON may be from the Anglo-Saxon 'Elf' - an island i.e. a sound piece of land in the middle of a swamp.

The name EATON is generally spelled in old books 'EYTON'

REFERENCE 'ELVELEGE'

The place is lost. the name form either Old English (personal name) Aelfa, leah 'The wood of Aelfa'

or Old English 'elf' leah 'The wood of the elves'

1041-1066

In the time of Edward the Confessor, two ploughs were employed in the lordship of Elvelege, which was then of the annual value of two shillings.

1081 DOMESDAY BOOK

At the general survey, it was the property of *Hugh de Grentemaisnil*:

the annual value being then ten shillings. One plough and two bondmen were then retained in the demesne. There were two bordars on the lordship; and a wood four furlongs long and two broad (1).

HUGH DE GRENTEMAISNIL

In the year 1086 (William the Conqueror), Hugh de Grentemaisnil held the manor under the Countess Judith. She was a sister to the Conqueror's wife and married the Earl of Northumberland, who was beheaded at Winchester for a rebellion against the King.

WILLIAM DE EVERMO

One of the earliest landowners whose name occurs after the conquest is Lord William de Evermo or Evermue, and by him the Church of 'Eyton', the Rectorial Manse with a 'toft and croft', a fountain and other 'appurtenances' were given to the Abbot and convent of St. Mary de Pratis, Leicester. He also gave them with his body to be buried in their church, 4 bovates of land, for repose of the soul of Johelm, his son.

The 'Lady' or Chantry Chapel in the south aisle of the church would be the chapel where the priest in olden times would pray for the souls of the founder of the church and his relations. the 'piscina' (i.e. the stone nich or basin in the wall, where the preist would cleanse the sacred vessels) shows that there was a side altar originally in this aisle, and the nich in the wall above them shows where the.....? would be.

The abbot of St. Mary de Pratis Leicester held 26 acres and one rood in the South field; and 20 acres 3 roods in the North field; which were sowed (seminantur) every year; besides 46 acres of meadow (2).

William de Evermo had two daughters; of whom the eldest, Amabilia, was the second wife of Sir Robert Boteler; and Ysouda, the youngest, was married to Henry de Segrave. His lands were in consequence divided between the families of Boteler and Segrave.

1199-1200

In the Leicestershire 'feet of fines' made in the first year of the reign of King John 1199-1216.

there is mention of an action brought for the conveyance of land on St John the Baptist's day, at the Court of Westminster, between Agnes, daughter of Emma, plaintiff and Martin de Maresia, tenant of the 6th part of 1 hide of land in Eaton Leicestershire. (4½ acres of land)

These 'feets of fines' are amongst the most important source of records for tracing the devolution of landed property. They were practically deeds, transferring land through nominally the official memorandum of the 'finis' or end of a fictitious judicial action.

Very early, they became a popular method of conveyance because they put an end to a hostile suit in the King's Court and also ensured safety to the purchaser, as a duplicate of each 'fine' was preserved in the custody of the court.

They are all preserved in the Public Record Office in London.

ROBERT DE ARRABY

Robert de Arraby was another early land-owner at Eyton, and a benefactor also to Croxton abbey; to whom he gave, *cum corpore suo*, two bovates of land, with the appurtenances, of the fee of Griseleye, which appears to have been subordinate to that of Ferrars (3).

The family of Arraby also ended in a female; who brought their property by marriage to the Botelers.

In the same fee of Griseleye the abbey of Croxton had eight bovates, called Robert Busci's land; two bovates, the gift of William Malherbe; and five of Robert Maynard.

WILLIAM LE BOTELER

William le Boteler held, under the lord of Belvoir, in demesne, four bovates and a half, on an annual payment of 8*d.* and foreign service. He also held three cottages, as tenant at will, at 10*s.* a year.

JOHN BOTELER

John le Boteler held, under the king, 5 virgates and half a bovate of land at Eyton; of which three virgates and a bovat were demesne.

MATILDA SHOT

Matilda Shot held one free cottage, for which she paid 18*d.* a year to the prior of Haverholm; 1*d.* to the abbot of Croxton, and 2*d.* to John de Boteler.

1228

The lordship of Eyton in 1228, as appears by the Croxton Register, consisted of three distinct fees; that of *Ferrars*, containing three carucates and three bovates; that of *Belvoir*, half a carucate; and that of *Albemarle*, or *de Insula* (4)

1230 ROGER DINE

In 1230, *Roger Dine* held in domain in Eyton three virgates and a half, held of *William Marshal* earl of Pembroke., who married Alice, daughter of Baldwin de Betun, earl of Albemarle (5). He held also two cottages, as tenant at will, at the rent of 6*s.*

ROBERT DE ROS - ROBERT BASSET

Robert de Ros, lord of Belvoir, confirmed to Robert Basset, of Wolsthorp, all the eight oxgangs of land he held in Woolsthorp and elsewhere, of the fee of Edward le Dyne of Eyton, by the service of giving a rose on the Nativity of St. John The Baptist (6).

CROXTON ABBEY

The two abbeys of Croxton and Leicester possessed very early a considerable portion of lands in this lordship; which consisted in the whole of twelve curacates; and seven of these were the property of those religious houses.

The abbot of Croxton had at Eyton 13 bovates before the war betwixt John and his barons; and after the war he obtained 10 bovates of the fee of Albemarle, in exchange from *Henry de Segrave*, and 2 from Robert Mainard. The abbot gave Segrave in return 12 bovates and a windmill in Ilveston.

The lands tilled for the subsistence of Croxton abbey in 1228 are thus described in their registers:

Thirteen bovates and a half of land at the Grange, and lying in the fields of Eyton, paid no tithes in kind to the abbot of Leicester, a solemn agreement being entered into to pay 20 s. a year in lieu of tithes. Elias abbot of Croxton engages with Osbert abbot of Leicester to lay down no lands in tillage,

nor to inclose any lands; and to pay tithes of all other his lands which he then had, or should hereafter have, in Eyton, notwithstanding any privilage obtained, or to be obtained, to the contrary; and to pay tithes in kind from all their other lands, lying in any parish where the abbot of Leicester had tithes, whether occupied by themselves or others.

1240 - DE NEVILL

In the Testa de Nevill, about 1240, four ploughlands and a half are mentioned as being of the fee of Albemarle.

1243 - CHRISTIANA MALLORE

In 1243, Christiana Mallore surrendered to the abbey of Croxton all right to an annual rent of 5 s. whith the

appurtenances in Eyton, on condition of her and her heirs being permitted to participate in the benefits and prayers of the convent. *Et abbas Galfridus recepit predictam Christianam & heredes suos in singulis beneficiis & orationibus que de cetero sient in ecclesia sua predicta in purpetuum.*

1248 - WILLIAM BRETON

In 1248, William Breton and Amabilia his wife, to whom the abbot's fee of Grisleye owed *forinsecum servitium*, confirmed to the abbey a carucate of land, with five tofts in Eyton; and were admitted to the benefit of all the prayers in the abbey church for ever.

1258 - WILLIAM BOTELEJ Jnr.

The property of the abbey of Croxton in this town will be so particular described in the Appendix, that we say no more of it here than that, in 1258, the abbot recovered against William, son of William Boteler, for not doing his *forinseca servitia*, and homage due to the abbot for lands held by him in Eyton of the abbotts fee. He agreed to do these duties, and to pay suit and service to the abbot's court.

1280

In the Itinerary of 1280, Eaton, Godeby, Eastwell, and Braunston, answered collectively as one vill.

1296 - GILBERT DE BASSERVILLE

X In 1296 it appears that the 'town of Eaton' was held 'in fee of the honour of Leicester' and that Gilbert de Basserville? held the same of the Earl, and the Earl of the King 'by the service of a [✓]quarter of one knight's fee'

It is well known that the Abbot of St Mar de Pratis at Leicester held lands in the parish.

Leicester Abbey was founded in the year 1143, for the 'Black Canons'

(these were in fact Monks and obeyed a rule which was very similar to that of St Benendict, and was said to be based on the writings of St Augustine)

The two abbeys of Leicester and Croxton possessed very early and aconsiderable portion of the lands in this Lordship.

Many of the lands were the property of religious houses. The Knights Templars and others.

1319

In 1319, *William Boteler* gave one messuage, one bovate and 5 yard lands here, to the abbey of Croxton (2); who had before divers other lands here (3).

1327 LAY SUBSIDY ROLL

In the year 1327, being the first year of the reign of King Edward III,

a list of householders in each parish was made for a Poll Tax to be levied to pay for the expenses of the King's war with the Scots. (Lay Subsidy Roll)

The amount collected in Eaton amounted to 45 shillings.

1344 PETER'S PENCE

In the year 1344, during the reign of Edward III The 'Procurations' were

Seven shillings and sixpence three farthings.

The Vicarage was taxed at 12 marks, and paid by 'Peter's Pence' i.e. the tribute paid yearly by each family in England to the Pope from about the 8th till the 16th century.

The Procurations were pecuniary composition paid by an incumbent to an ordinary or other ecclesiastical judge, to commute for the provision, or entertainment, which formerly expected to provide for ... such ordinary at the time of visitation ????

1345 LAY SUBSIDY ROLL

In the subsidy of 1345, Eyton was rated at £.2.14s.4d.

1352 - WILLIAM DE ROS

In 1352-3, William de Ros of Hamelak died seised of the sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Eyton, held of the king *in capite*; which *William le Boteler* held under the lord Ros (4).

1461 - JOHN MOUBRAY

In 1461, *John Moubray*, duke of *Norfolk*, died seised of half a knight's fee in Eyton, which *Thomas Babington* held (5).

1552 - WILLIAM BRABAZON

In 1552, *William Brabazon*, knt. died seised of the manor of Eyton, held of the king, as of his duchy of Lancaster (6).

1564

During the reign of Elizabeth I, there were 31 families in Eaton.

1611

In 1611, *William, Martin, and Nicholas Dawes*, all held lands *in capite* at Eyton.

1630

During the reign of Charles I, Robert Simpson was the only freeholder mentioned in the list.

1722

During the reign of George I, the number of families recorded were 41 -

the inhabitants being 208, all being C of E except one Roman Catholic family.

1769 - ENCLOSURE ACT

In 1769, an act was passed for dividing and inclosing the several open and common fields, common pastures, common meadows, and waste grounds, lying and being within the manor parish of Eaton, computed to be 97 oxgangs and a half of land, and to contain about 1800 acres.

DUKE OF RUTLAND

John duke of *Rutland*, as lord of the manor, and principal impropiator, was entitled to 84 oxgangs and a half of land, and to a right of common in and over the said fields, and also to all the great tithes arising upon 13 oxgangs and a half of land, and upon certain old inclosures called *Brackendale Closes*;

CHARLES MORLEY & ANTHONY ROGERS

and *Charles Morley* and *Anthony Rogers*, as tenants in common, were entitled to 8 other oxgangs and a right of common, and also to all the great tithes of the said 8 oxgangs; and were entitled to all the great tithes arising within the said open and common fields and common pastures,

also within 8 old inclosures lying within the said parish of Eaton, save and except the 13 oxgangs and an half of land belonging to the duke of Rutland, and a certain piece of ground in the said open fields called *Plain Meer*;

REV. RICHARD HARDY

and the Rev. Richard Hardy, clerk, as vicar, was entitled to a piece of land in the common lings, called *Plat Meer*, and to a right of common for one cow, and to all the tithes of wool and lamb, and other small tithes arising out of, in, and upon, the said open fields, common pastures, common meadows, and waste grounds in Eaton;

and to the great and small tithes of the homesteads, or home closes, within the ring of the town of Eaton;

and the rest of the said 97 oxgangs and a half of land, and the said open and common fields, common pastures, and common meadows aforesaid were the property of **Thomas Wright, William Goode, John Morris, Edward George, a minor, and others.**

An allotment of four acres was directed to be used as a quarry for mending roads, and the herbage for use of the poor;

In the next place the vicar to have a compensation for his glebe-land and right of common;

and afterwards the impropiators and vicar to have a seventh part of all the land in the said fields (except the duke's 13 oxgang, the impropiator's 8 oxgangs, and a piece called *Plain Meer*), and a seventh part of all the old inclosures (except for a seventh of *Brackendale Closes*);

and from the oxgangs and closes just excepted, the impropiators and vicar to have one fiftieth part only; which said seventh and fiftieth parts to be a full composition for all tithes and payments, whether impropriate or vicarial, burial and surplice fees alsoan excepted, and to be divided into 85 parts, of which 60 to be paid to the impropiators, and 25 to the vicar.

Provision is made for building a stone-wall on the North-west side of the open and common fields of Eaton, as a boundary fence betwixt the open and common fields hereby intended to be inclosed; and the lordships and Stathern respectively to begin at, and adjoin to, the West-end of a certain stone-wall, already erected as a boundary fence in the parish of Braunston, and to be carried on to a certain piece of ground, called Standard-hill, otherwise Standherd-hill, on the West end of the said open and common fields by this act intended to be inclosed.

The whole parish consists of about 1800 acres, of which more than 1500 are the property of *John Henry* duke of *Rutland*, and the rest of about ten freeholders.

The soil, in general, is indifferent; but, since the inclosure, much has been converted to grazing.

CHURCH REGISTER

THE REGISTER

The register begins in 1591, and is very imperfect.

In the twenty years that appear tolerably perfect, near the beginning, are 126 baptisms, 46 burials, and 24 marriages. In the last twenty-years, ending in 1788, are 108 baptisms, 72 burials, and 35 marriages.

The old church register has not survived but it began in 1591 and was described as 'very imperfect'. The existing register dates from 1724, during John Holden's time as vicar.

Robert Simpson is the only freeholder mentioned in the list of 1630.

At the general election in 1722, 7 freeholders polled from this parish; and the like in 1778.

The number of families in the parish are 41, and inhabitants 208; all of the church of England, except one family, Roman Catholic.

The nett expence of the poor 1776 was 29*l*.3*s*.

Medium of three years, 1783-1785, 59*l*.4*s*.2*d*.

EATON CHURCH

The probable date of Eaton church is about 1180.
Styles of architecture are Early English 1189 - 1372.
The church stands very high above the village, which is 312 ft }
above sea level.

THE TOWER

Is Early English, 12th & 14th centuries. The steeple of the church must have been added later, as shown by the different style of the windows e.g.
the window due west in the embattled tower is undoubtedly very early English, it had a mullion down the centre.
The small turret windows in the steeple with Trefoil i.e. the threefold ornamental curves in the stone work on the west side, shows a later period of architecture - the transition stage which partakes of both Norman and Early English

THE CLERESTORY

Or Clearstory i.e. the upper storey of windows in the church rising clear above the aisle roofs are perpendicular, the period which succeeded the decorated about the 14th century, and was followed by the Tudor and Elizabethan styles. The north aisle is evidently of later work - the Tudor period, time of Henry VIII as shown by the square headed windows.

FEATURES OF INTEREST

The 'Nail-head' tracery on the capitals of the two centre pillars in the south aisle, also on the capitals of the pillars in the porch at south entrance point to a very early date; probably 1200.

Nichols dates arches between the north and south aisles of the nave, also those of the tower windows to be Saxon!. ? 1200?

The 'Dog-tooth' tracery on the south side (outside) the church is transition Norman, as it is not crossed, (not the oldest as in the windows of the tower?) 1200?

The Priest's door visible only from the outside on the north side of the chancel is of early English work. This must have been earlier than the north aisle as this doorway has been blocked-up and part of the archway has become embedded in the stonework. The archway on the north wall of the transept shows where the entrance to the rood loft was originally approached by the stone steps now removed.

There was an altar here in this north transept as shown by the piscina.

This was probably dedicated to the Patron Saint of the church.

There is a fine old oak chancel screen of 14th century work, but this has been much disfigured by thick coatings of paint.

The iron bracket on this screen shows where the hour glass used to stand. In puritan times, the hour glass was used when the sermons often lasted an hour.

It was customary in those times for churches to have a large wooden gallery or loft stretched across the Chancel arch carrying upon it in life sized figures, the representations, in painted wood of Christ on the cross with St Mary and St

John on either side. This oaken beam or gallery would have allowed the priest to stand and recite, on Good Friday and other days in Holy Week, the gospel accounts.

In the south wall of the Chancel there is a fine specimen of a low-sided or 'Leper's window.

Formerly, the window reached to the stone work as shown by the iron work.

There are various theories as to the use of these windows - one is that the window was so arranged that a person standing outside might be enabled to see the priest at the Altar during the consecration of the elements in the Communion Service.

Others have thought it was for a Confessional. The priest would sit inside the Chancel, the penitent would kneel outside the church at the window.

Some have supposed that the small hand bell used in those pre-reformation days would be rung by one of the attendants out of the window, to let the people in the village know that the Communion Service was taking place.

In support of this theory it may be noticed that the church is usually so built that the village is on the south side of these windows.

The church is dedicated to Denys - the Patron saint of France (AD273) commemorated on October 9th. St Denys is generally represented as carrying his head mitred in his hands, or in one hand. There was formerly a stained glass window at the east end of the church, but this has long since been destroyed.

CARVINGS

X There is a circular stone shelf ~~to~~ at the Chancel end of the South aisle which may have held a figure, the base of which is carved a comical impish face.

In the stone corbels supporting the beams for the roof of the North Trancept, there are some grotesque figureheads.

It was the custom amongst the ancients to place stone heads representing evil spirits on th North side of churches as the Britons beleived that all evil came from the North.

THE CHANCEL

The floor of the Chancel being on the same level as the Nave shows that this is the work of Puritan times in 1642.

The Puritans when they destroyed the carved figures in the churches, levelled the floors so that the Nave and the Chancel were at the same height.

They also moved the altars from the East end of the Nave and placed 'Table-wise' but the Chancel was of course originally raised up by steps (or a step) from the nave, and the altar would be higher still.

The floor of the Chancel would also sink below the level as it was formerly used for the interment of the families of the Lay

X Impropriators - there being a vault (now close~~d~~) under the Chancel floor on the North side of Eaton Church for the burial of the Rodgers family.

The Royal Arms on the Hatchment was formerly set up over the Chancel Arch.

The mark on the arch shows its original position.

The custom of placing the Royal Arms in churches first arose sometime in the 16th century to show that they were in the patronage of the Crown.

THE FONT

There is an ancient rectangular font; no doubt this was the original font of the church.

On April 21st 1906, a new font cover was given to the church by Mrs Goodacre of Melton Mowbray.

It is a flat cover of oak, shaped to the top of the font and moulded round the edge and ornamented with carved Tudor roses and other flowers.

A wrought iron cross, with scroll ends, is fixed to it by cushion headed nails;

the centre part of the cross being beaten up to form a handle.

SOUTH PORCH

The stone niche or bracket over the south doorway would in olden days have contained a figure of St. Denys the Patron saint.

The two stone figures (stone heads) on each side of the entrance of the doorway are noticable; the one on the right hand is that of a monk 'tonsured' or shaven headed, the left hand is that of a nun with a wimple over her head, showing that the church formerly belonged to a monastery and nunnery.

The Clustered Columns at the entrance are Early English - the columns are three-fold - a symbol of the Trinity.

There was once a nunnery in this parish. In the year 1724 there was discovered at the upper end of the north aisle a stone inscribed "bethe Dymmok priorisse" the other parts of the stone had been defaced with a chisel, or the rest of the inscription would have been perfectly legible. Some Archaeologists have thought that this might have been brought from Nuneaton (Nun Eaton) in Warwickshire, and that one of the Prioresses may have died and been buried at Eaton.

Conjecture

THE BELLS

1. 1589 "Jesus be our speed" 34cwt
2. 1613 "All glory be to God most high" 36cwt
3. 1628 "God save his church"
4. 1788 "God save his church"
5. 1885 (no inscription)

The fifth bell, which is much smaller than the others was purchased by subscription by the inhabitants of Eaton, from messrs Taylor of Loughborough.

The cost was about £45. Around the end of the 18th century, remains of a turret were visible at the East end of the nave roof; this housed the Sanctus bell which was always rung when the Priest pronounced the words of the Consecration at Holy Communion. A stone cross now stands on the roof of the Nave where the Sanctus bell formerly hung.

(The cross at the East end of the Chancel has now disappeared)
?

In the 6th year of King Edward VI (1553), there were three bells with a small one in the steeple.

The bells hung silent from June 1940 to Easter Day 1943 due to the war. IIWW.

During these three years they were only allowed to be rung in the event of enemy invasion.

PANCAKE BELL

The old custom of ringing the church bell on Shrove Tuesday at 11 a.m. the Pancake Bell is observed now in this parish.

The observance probably derived from the old custom to herald the approach of Lent, when the shops were closed on Shrove Tuesday, a carnival ensued.

The old custom of soliciting a contribution of a penny for every plough to be paid between Easter and Whitsuntide is still observed here on Plough Monday - first Monday after Epiphany, so called because the people returned to their business after the festivities of Christmas.

THE ALMS CHEST & COFFIN STOOLS

The old oak chest for alms, with double locks and mounted with iron bounds is in good condition. It is mentioned in the Canons of the church as one of the necessary legal ornaments of the church; to be used by the churchwardens

There are two black oak stools possibly dating back to the 17th century; these are used as coffin rests during burial services.

REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

The roof of the church was thoroughly repaired and rebuilt for the most part in 1892 at a cost of £200. This expence was met by local subscription and donations from the Duke of Rutland and Major Paynter of 'Eaton Grange'.

In the Spring of 1897, new altar furniture, choir seats, an oak lantern and Chancel lamps were placed in the church. The wooden partition at the West end of the church was taken down, thus opening out the fine Western arch and much enlarging the belfry at acost of about £60

The new choir seats and lantern were solemnly dedicated by Bishop Mitchinson, the Archdeacon of Leicester.

Repairs to the roof of the North Trancept were carried out at a cost of £25 in 1898.

In July 1899, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, The Rev. the hon. G. Carr Glyn D.D.

paid his first visit to Eaton; he was very interested in the ancient parish church and expressed a hope that before long, the parishioners -

"would see their way to replace the unsightly high pews in the Nave

which hid the proportions of the fine Norman pillars, for modern seats or

chairs."

Six years later on Monday 20th March 1905, builders - Messrs Rudd & Son of Grantham commenced repair work to the Nave which included the entire removal of 'deal' box pews.

The account for alterations followed thus; -

EATON CHURCH
Receipts by Rev. J. Standbridge

DONOR	£	s	d
.....			
Duke of Rutland	10	-	-
Marquis of Granby	50	-	-
Major Paynter	£		100 - -
Mrs " "	5	-	-
Mr. Stokes	5	-	-
Lady Henrietta Turner	2	-	-
Mr. J.H. Goodacre	1	1	-
Sir A. Hazelrigg	1	1	-
Mr. James Pacey	1	1	-
Madame T ?	1	-	-
Captain Paynter	1	-	-
Mrs. (?)	1	-	-
Mr. T. Beastall jnr	1	-	-
Mr. Attenborough	1	-	-
Mr. W Arnold M. R. C. S.		10	-
Mr. J. Tillingham		10	-
Mrs. Bloodworth		6	-
Mr. G Coalson		5	-
Sale of work April 11th 1905	81	-	-
do. Nov 1903, Rummage sale 1904	40	10	8
Rummage sale 1905	5	-	-
Church Close rents	25	-	-
Collection at re-opening service			
19th June 1905	9	3	9
Collection following Sunday	1	-	-
Harvest Festival (half collection)	1	6	9
Collection cards	9	13	5

Overdrawn from bank 66 11 1

It is recorded that Mr. Samuel Rodgers removed his box pew out of the North side of the church at 2.30pm on Wednesday 22nd March 1905.

In 1940, £35 was spent on the porch and the South Aisle of the church.

X On 31st January 1943, the lead work on the roof of the Chancel was badly damaged by a gale-force wind. £131 was raised by local subscriptions from the Iron stone companies and from the efforts of various organisations such as Mothers Union and the young people.

The damage was repaired by Henry Herbert and Son of Leicester at a cost of £75.

Major repairs were carried out to the tower and steeple in 1963.

A storm-damaged gargoyle on the South-West corner of the tower was replaced by a rough 'long stone' obtained from Eastwell cross-roads.

This stone once lay beneath a large (?) tree and was previously a local meeting place. The mason working on the tower fashioned the stone and carved a drainage gully before setting in place.

History of Eaton

THE VICARS

DATE	VICAR PATRON
1220	Richard Abbot & Convent of Leicester
1235	Hugo de Croxton
1276	Gisbert de Beresford
1288	William (Frelherby)?
1534	John Burton Ralph Jackson (fiure uxoris)?
1605	
1701	John Holden The Crown
1734	William Houlding
1755	Philip Hacket
1768	Richard Hardy B. A.
1793	Wm. Peters L. L. B. Exeter Coll. Oxford
1818-1845	Rev. R. Walker (curate)
1845-1860	Wm. Fowke M. A. The Lord Chancellor Queen's Coll. Cambridge

1860-1887	John Haddersley Williams M. A. St. Mary Hall, Oxford.
1887-1894	Francis Geo. Lys M. A. St. John's Coll. Cambridge
1894-1897	Thos. Glyn Ridley M. A. B. C. L. Exeter Coll. Oxford.
1897-1904	Theodore Rivington M. A. Clare Coll. Cambridge.
1904-1906	John Standbridge
1906-1915	Harold James Blathwayt
1915-1928	James Harry Moore M. A. (George Albert Tolhurst) Priest-in-Charge.
1930-1932	James Aldred Cutter M. A.
1932-1939	Godfrey Harold Soloman?
1939-1944	Philip Calvert Lindsay F. R. G. S
1945- ?	Arther ^v E. Bass

In the old records, Eaton is mentioned in the reign of King Henry III as having one Richard for vicar and the living being in the patronage of Leicester.

Before the reign of King Henry VIII, Peterborough fell within the limits of the vast diocese of Lincoln, which extended from the Humber to the Thames; Eaton was therefore formerly in the

diocese of Lincoln. It was not until 1539 that a law was made to establish (Bishopries)? for Peterborough, Oxford and other places out of the spoils of the suppressed monasteries. Afterwards, Leicestershire was included in the diocese of Peterborough.

John Holden held this living at the end of the 17th century, he was also vicar of Croxton Kerrial and is buried in that church.

1768

On January 4th, the Rev. Richard Hardy B.A. was instituted to the vicarage of Eaton. Mr. Hardy resided at Harby, and had as curate Rev. William Orme M.A. who is stated to reside at Oakham.

1793

William Peters was chaplain to George Frederick, Prince of Wales - this required his frequent attendance at court. He was also Rector of Woolsthorpe and Knipton, and Vicar of Scalford. He held all these livings by dispensation from King George III (Owing to the prevalent custom in the 18th century for the Vicars of small parishes to hold more than one living, it was necessary to have a resident curate. This accounts for so many curates of Eaton during this period.)

Mr. Peters was also an artist of great reputation, belonging to the Royal Academy.

He left the neighbourhood after he resigned the Rectory of Woolsthorpe in the year 1808. One of his children died there and was buried in the old churchyard.

1818

The Rev. R. Walker was curate of Woolsthorpe after Mr. Peter's death and was afterwards instituted to the Vicarage of Eaton. Rev. Walker continued to reside at Woolsthorpe as there was at that time no suitable house available at Eaton.

A licence for non-residence being given to Mr. Walker by the Bishop of Peterborough.

At this time, the vicarage house was a 'poor little cottage' (Glebe Farm - Waltham Lane) occupied by a person named Harding who farmed glebe land in the vicinity.

Mr. Walker's successor - Mr. Fowke, resided in a house called 'Eaton Cottage' near Branston. It is unclear when 'Vicarage Farm' served as residence for the vicar. 1845

The Rev. W.L. Fowke was vicar of Eaton from 1845-60. Of Barkestone 1860-72, and afterwards vicar of (Bishooke?) 1872-87. He died at (Impington?) 'Empingham - Leics?' and was buried there in the churchyard.

1860

The Rev. J.H. Williams remained vicar of Eaton until his death there in 1887.

He was buried in St. Denys, his tomb being under the East window.

1887

The Rev. F.G. Lys was vicar for seven years, when upon his death in 1894 his remains were buried in the cemetery. He is recorded as once being Chaplain to Queen Victoria in India.

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THE VICARAGE

In 1850-51, the purpose built Vicarage was built on land given by John Henry (Duke of Rutland). There had been a sum of money^e accumulating for this purpose for some time. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave a grant; the Duke and Mr. Fowke also contributed. Later, the house was enlarged and much improved by Mr. Lys.

INVENTORY

In the inventory of Framland Deanery transcribed by the late Prebendary Walcott F.S.A. from the uncalendered MSS in the public records office and printed in the Associated Architectural Societies Reports Vol XII - 133.

Eaton or Eyton has;

2 Crosses of Brass

1 Vestment of green (off by rgy's ul the) Albe)? *unreadable in text*

1 couple of Dimdamaske ?

This was the inventory of such goods as were left behind by the commissioners in the churches of Framland. They were made with a view to stopping any further sale of goods by the parishioners in the reign of Edward VI (1552).

CHURCH FINANCES

In the year 1650, a Parliamentary survey of the Parishes and Ministers was made. Of the Parish of Eaton, the Minister is noted as 'sufficient'.

During this survey, most of the church clergy who had succeeded in retaining their benefices were 'dispossessed'. To be regarded as 'sufficient' meant that the clergy abstained from using the prayerbook in public services - thus encouraging the Puritans.

Until the time of King Edward VI (1547-1553), the Tithes of Eaton land belonged to the church, but afterwards they passed into the hands of laymen and became alienated from the church.

The Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty gave £200 by lot for the augmentation of the living.

The living is now (1897) a discharged 'Vicarage', the nett yearly value being £120 with a residence in the gift of the Lord Chancellor.

The income of the living is derived from the rents of 55 acres

of glebe land situated to the West of Waltham lane, either side of Green lane. 12 acres of glebe land held at Sewstern and Buckminster also provided rents.

A small endowment was paid quarterly each year by the Commissioners.

A 'discharged' Vicarage is one which has been released from the payment of 'First Fruits'. Under the act of Queen Anne, the first fruits represented the profits of one year of every living - except vicarages under £10 a year in the 'King's Book'.

APPENDIX TO NICHOL'S EXTRACTS(1)

"Idem Hugo de Grentemaishill tenet 2 carucatas terræ in Elvelege. Ibi 2 carucæ suerunt. Nunc sunt ibi a bordarii, Silva 6 quarentenarum longitudinis, and quarentenarum latitudinis. Valuit 2 solidos, modo 10 solidos."
Domesday, p. 236. a. col. 1.

(2) Galba, Edw. III. p. 103.

(3) "De seodo de Greseleye comes de Ferrariis est capitalis dominus."

See p. Appendix, p. 92. Such was the case at Drakelow; where king John, in 1216, gave to William de Ferrars earl of Derby the service of William de Griseleye, with all his lands in that town, to be held by the Griseleyes, on paying to the earl annually a bow and quiver of twelve bearded arrows.
Harl. MSS. 84. p. 114.

(4) William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarle, assumed the title also of de Insula, as husband of Isabel, the great heiress of the sovereignty of the Isle of White and earldom of Devon.

(5) Croxton Register p. 29.

(6) Dr. Vernon, MS. from an updated deed at Belvoir.

(7) Croxton Reg. p. 23. b.

(1) Inq. 24 Edw. I. in Scaccario.

(2) Ad quod damn. 13 Edw. II. n. 9.

(3) See Appendix to Croxton Abbey, p. 90.

(4) Esch 26 Edw. III. No 53. Leic.

(5) Esch. 1 Edw. IV. No 41. Leic

(6) Esch. 6 Edw. VI.