

MEADOW NAMES. 71.

MEADOW NAMES which have developed in the last 100 years struck us as rather dull and not worth recording. We have concentrated, therefore, on the old names as recorded in the Tithe Map, in the hope that our farmers will be persuaded to go back to the old names.

Unfortunately the Parochial Copy of the Tithe Map for our Parish cannot be traced, and in the time available to us to use for research in Hereford it was not possible to trace every meadow, particularly since the great change in boundaries slowed up our work considerably. We would apologise, therefore, to those farmers whose meadows may appear to have been "neglected", and we hope to be able to fill in the blanks at some later date.

Our farm names are fairly straightforward and have not changed in the period. Both Twyford and Broom are reputed to have been the site of Roman camps. Folly is a common name in Herefordshire. Ruddimoor is probably of Welsh origin (Wales is only nine miles distant); the Brouch is referred to in the Tithe Map as Broaches, and both may be the result of a clerk's error for Brook. Another farm whose name is variously spelt is Styches, or Sytches, spelt in the former way on the Tithe Map. Other names are The Barr, Lower Burton, Crown Farm, Riverside, Hardwick, Hinton, Lyme, Lynch, Grove House, Court House, and Nunhouse; romantic theories exist as to the history of the latter, especially in view of its proximity to Monks Court (meadow) but we have been unable to come on anything factual.

In the matter of meadow names we have our fair share of Plocks, Coppices, Crofts, Closes, Pieces, Slangs and Gobbets (Fr. gobet, a morsel): also a great number with a Surname origin, such as Wolbreys, Vernals, Patteshalls Orchard, Greenlys Field, Passeys Grove, Moses Orchard, Hills Stubbs (Tree-stumps?), Harmer Hill, Bulls Hill, Doctors Hopyard, Tippetts Brook, Duppas Land, Knapp Orchard, Dinchalls Meadow, Bottlers (or Botelers) Plock, Benbow Field, Hemmings, Foxalls, Cliftons, Bals Croft, Jones Croft, Pencotts Meadow, Westleys, Parrys Meadow, Tuchalls, Martins Croft, Hammonds Meadow, Prices Meadow, Hughes Meadow, Tuchalls, Hollands Field, Lewis Plock, Molly Hall Meadow, Lawrences Croft, Southalls Meadow, Cobb Meadow, Jacobs Close, Davies's Croft, Walters Plock, Barbers Plock, Smiths Pit, Dicken Croft, Orchard by Tongs, Wall Croft, Coles Orles, Prickendall (or Prickenell) Bengoughs Leasow, Rowlands Croft, Hooks Coppice, Field above Lloyds, Pats Leys, and Stanmer Orchard.

Then there are interesting names with a "physical" slant, such as Clay Gobbets, Quarry Field, Lake Head, Honey Plock, New Hays, Floodgate Meadow, Pool Field, Wetmoor Orchard, Folley Meere, Broomy Field, Rushy Leasow, Withy Bed, Mill Meadow, Coal Works Piece, Pigeon House Meadow, Horse Plocks, Cow Pasture, Pool Plock, Flax Piece, Brook Meadow, Redgate Meadow, Clay Croft, Nursery Croft, Lumber Croft, Rye Piece, Rye Grass, Banky Piece, Straw Piece, Broadmarsh Coppice, Dry Meadow, Poplar Meadow, Three Corner Croft, Sheepcot Orchard, Golden Valley Windmill Field, Brickfield Plantation, Leak Field, Heathyfield, Turnpike Croft, Lower Downs, Ox Pasture, Ashes, Peartree Orchard, Banky, Pretty Well, Hazel Croft, White Field, The Quirks, Long Acre, Holly Berry Field, Bannut Tree Walk, French Barn Orchard, Penny Plock, Crabtree Hall,

Roughs, Windmill Coppice, Admarsh Grove, Badgers Wood, Sheep Meadow, Flax Piece, Barley Close, Farlow Field, Nearlow Field, Little House Meadow, Merry Prill Bank, Plantation, and Mans Plock.

More colourful and interesting still are such names as Bloody Croft Orchard (could it have any connection with the Nun-house, near at hand?); Lady Meadow, Little Lady Meadow, and Lady Pool Meadow; Cock Shut Croft; Gaul Ditch; Weighing House Meadow; English Meadow; Meadow Herring Hall; Old Liens Meadow; Longrun (or Longrum); Pothall Meadow; Severn Field; Black Hales, or Harls; Golden Law; Orls (Alder); Quick Sets.

In different parts of the Parish we have Upper and Lower Medless, and Upper and Lower Minlias. The latter are now called Moorleys, or Morleys - but one wonders whether the origin of all four names is Welsh 'maen', a stone, and 'llyws', a hall. Then we have Quinton (Queen's manor?) Orchard; Dowsage (Black sedge?); and Bodbury - quite a big area, with Ash Wood Bodbury, Bodbury Croft, and Arable Bodbury. One of our small fields on the boundary of the Parish is known as Dead Stones.

Another old name is The FrETHs - a river meadow, still known as The Free - and Wardermoor, Pigmore, Nunsfield and Moses Field are all mentioned in the Burton Court Manorial Rolls as long ago as 1555.

But perhaps the most interesting of all, historically, are the enormous number of Inclosures, Common Fields and Ridges which existed in the Parish 100 years ago, and we should like at some future date to investigate these further. Their names, too, are interesting. We have Twenty Ridges, Seven Swords, Fiddlers Piece and Star Field; Common Field, Burtons Common Field, Common Tack Meadow, Tin Meadow, Tinings, Little Tinings, and Shirl (i.e. boundary) Field; and a great number of others with straightforward names such as Hardwick Inclosure and Rudinmoor Field. Within living memory Shirl Field was strip-farmed, and some of the ridges are still visible to the naked eye.

The Tithe Map is on the following page >>>

Civil Parish of Eardisland.
Field Names, Tithe Map, 1842.



Extracted from O.S. Map, Scale $\frac{1}{10560}$
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