

Sale of a Farm at Lower Bourton in 1810

By Neil B. Maw

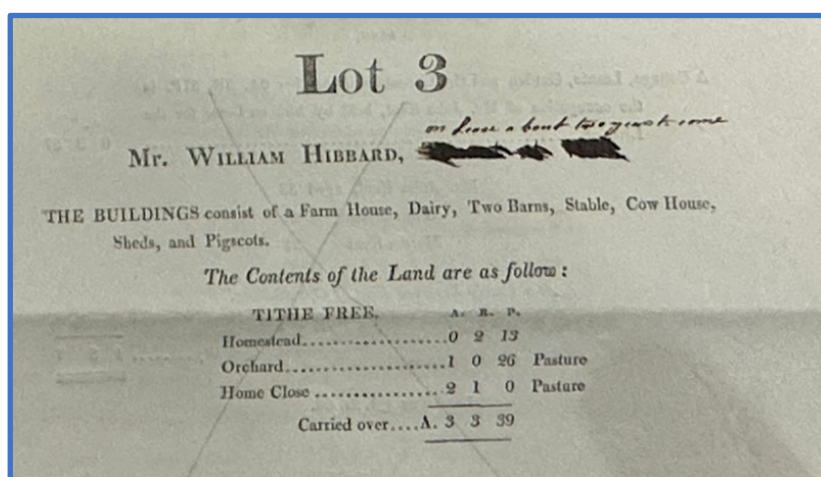
At the beginning of the 19th century the Earl of Radnor was Joseph Pleydell-Bouverie. The need for cash was clear to see by the amount of land and property being sold off. The Berkshire County Archives at Reading hold many of the records of the Radnor Estate, based locally at Coleshill House, but for administrative purposes the family seat of Longford Castle in Wiltshire. This listing concerns a small farm at Lower Bourton.

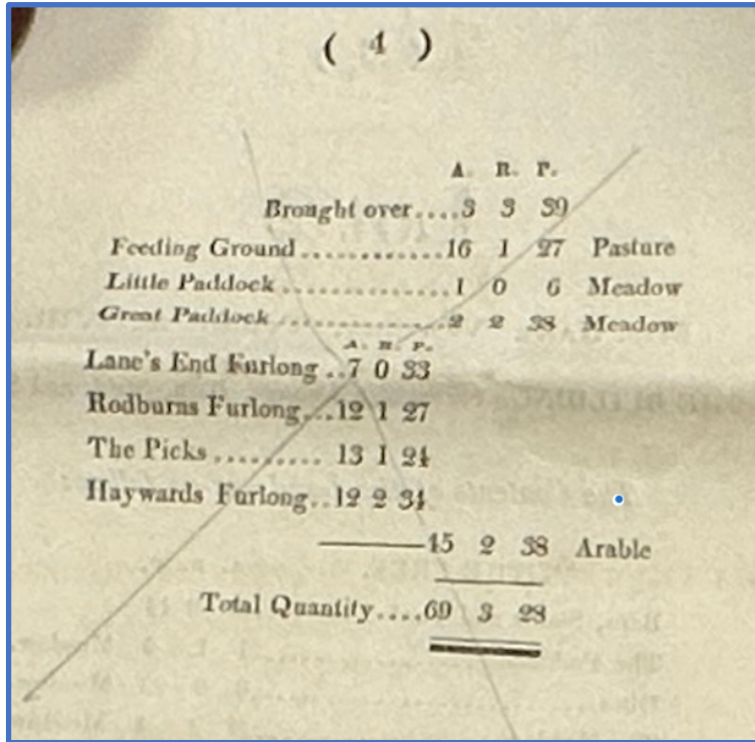
There is an article of Agreement dated 13th December 1810, made between Henry Wakeman (Surveyor & Agent) on behalf of the Earl of Radnor and John Kent of Bourton, near Shrivenham. (BCA. D/EPB/E111). The farm in size total is 69a 3r 28p and is in Lower Bourton, the Homestead being down the spur road on the bend that leads off to the west before the railway bridge. The original buildings have now gone, and new buildings erected. The first map below seems to have been drawn up at the same time circa 1810, and then reused for subsequent sales. The second map is from Ordnance Survey circa 1880.





The price that John Kent paid was £5481 and was freehold, so therefore completely free of the Radnor Estate. The farm was occupied by the tenant at that time who was William Hibberd. In the catalogue particulars it was Lot 3.





John appears on the Census for 1841 and we can only assume that Hannah, 25 years his junior, was his wife.

John Kent in 1841

1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census
 Bourton, Shrivvenham, Faringdon, Berkshire & Oxfordshire, England

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Household members (11 people) Copy to clipboard

First name(s)	Last name	Sex	Age	Birth year	Birth place
John	Kent	Male	65	1776	Berkshire, England
Hannah	Kent	Female	40	1801	-
Mary	Kent	Female	10	1831	Berkshire, England
Maria	Kent	Female	8	1833	Berkshire, England
Edwin	Kent	Male	6	1835	Berkshire, England
Alfred	Kent	Male	4	1837	Berkshire, England
Jane	Kent	Female	1	1840	Berkshire, England
Harriett	Marcham	Female	20	1821	Berkshire, England
John	Perry	Male	35	1806	Berkshire, England
Thomas	Reasy	Male	20	1821	-
John	Pearse	Male	65	1776	-

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An advertisement appeared in the newspaper in September 1844 announcing the sale of all the farm stock and household goods of John Kent of Bourton. (Devizes & Wilts Gazette 19th September 1844). It states that he is leaving the farm but it's not known where he went. One could assume that at age 69 he would have been considering retirement.

SIXTEEN SUPERIOR FAT COWS,
ONE COW IN CALF,
EIGHT NAG AND CART HORSES,
IMPLEMENTS IN HUSBANDRY, DAIRY and BREW-
ING UTENSILS, and HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
At BOURTON, BERKS, near HIGHWORTH.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION on the Premises by W. DORE and SON, on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, September the 25th and 26th, 1844, all the LIVE AND DEAD STOCK AND EFFECTS, The Property of Mr. JOHN KENT, who is leaving his Farm at *Micheldever*.

Comprising 16 very superior and well fattened cows and heifers, one cow in calf, ~~one~~ very clever four years old hackney mare, by Shortwast; a five years old gig horse, six fresh active cart geldings, from four to seven years old; three two-tooth and one full-mouthed Southdown rams, four narrow-wheel waggons, three six-inch-wheel dung carts, market cart, 2 two-wheel ploughs, two swing ploughs, two drill ploughs, nine harrows and tackle, 10 sets of trace and thill harness, set of gig harness, 10 upstand cow cribs, three nine-stone rick saddles, turnip cutter, chaff box and knife, capital haymaking machine, quantity of sawed wheelwright's timber, large stone water trough, iron ditto, sheep cages, ladders, pig troughs, husbandry tools, &c., &c. The Dairy and Brewing Utensils comprise a double lever cheese press, one double and one single whey leads, milk lead, two cheese tubs and stands, three barrel churns and stands, butter kiver, brass milk pan, milk and cream tins, two pair of milk buckets, two brass milk kettles, quantity of different sized cheese vats, eight-bushel mash tub, six-bushel ditto, sundry kiving tubs and kivers, six capital sweet beer casks, containing 100 gallons each, seven smaller ditto and stands.

The Household Furniture, which will comprise the second day's sale, will consist of a set of mahogany dining tables, mahogany loo table, pair of mahogany card tables, handsome set of six small and two arm mahogany chairs, set of six small and one arm ditto, two pier glasses, a very large substantial oak dining table, Pembroke ditto, oak bureau, three four-post bedsteads in dimity and other furnitures, four capital goose-feather beds, three flock ditto, hair and wool mattresses, four sets of bed-room chairs, mahogany and oak chests of drawers, circular and square wash-stands and fittings, swing dressing glasses, several turnup and stump bedsteads, the usual assortment of culinary articles, &c., the whole of which will be enumerated in catalogues to be had three days preceding the sale at the place of sale, principal neighbouring Inns, and of the Auctioneers, Swindon.

From the well-known judgment of the Proprietor as a first rate feeder, it is presumed that the above cows and heifers will be found well worth the attention of the Public, having been fed on oilcake and grass during the summer, and are considered equal to compete with, or even excel, those that may be commended or obtain prizes at the ensuing Christmas cattle shows.

Refreshments will be laid out, and the sale commence each day at 12 o'clock, beginning the first day with the fat cows.