

Rochester Hollymans

+ Canterbury Hollyman

Dear Glenn

Thanks for the information on your latest Blog post.

The 1533 Will is fascinating and gives a real glimpse in to life at that time. As you rightly say the contrast in the Will of John's son, Thomas (Will 1558), just twenty five years later is distinct. I am very much enjoyed transcribing these early Wills as they reveal so much about the lives of the pre-modern individuals.

If you are interested in a good book about life and religion and the upheaval that occurred in the mid sixteenth century, Eamon Duffy's *The Voices of Morebath* is the one to read. I note it is only about \$9 on Amazon, so well worth it.

Morebath is a small Devonshire village and might be compared similarly with Cuddington. Christophe Trickey was the Priest there from 1520 to 1570 and therefore saw through all the religious changes and upheaval of the Reformation. Christopher kept meticulous accounts for the parish and these have survived and are the source documents of Eamon Duffy's book. From *The Voices of Morebath* the reader is given a glimpse of not only the religious practises and upheaval in the Tudor era but a glimpse of life at that time in villages across England. One example that equates with the situation of John HOLYMAN of Cuddington is that Christopher Trickey is recording, in the church accounts, who is looking after the sheep that belong to the church. Remember the 'lord's stock' in John's Will. Perhaps John too looked after cattle or sheep for the church. I have read the book twice now and is it is highly recommended.

In recent years, the book has won several literary prizes. Here is one review:

"...Eamon Duffy uses the written accounts of a sixteenth-century country priest - Sir Christopher Trychay - to reveal Morebath's complex social life, its strains, tensions and conflicting personalities, and its busy pre-Reformation piety. They also offer us a unique window into a rural world in crisis as the reformation progressed. Through Sir Christopher's eyes, or rather, through his voice - for he wrote these accounts to be read aloud to his parishioners - we catch a rare glimpse of life and death in an English village...."


Back to the Manor of Cuddington and Haddenham, I have found that in the early medieval period, the manor had a connection to Rochester in Kent. This may be where the early HOLYMANS originated. If you can access the following link, the National Archives indicates where surviving records from the Manor are held

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/searches/detail.asp?SubjectID=205049&CountyID=233&FirstDate=&LastDate=&ParishName=&MDKeyword=>

As you can see there are documents held at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies as well as the National Archives at Kew. Interestingly, there are few documents relating to the manor at the Medway Archives, Kent and the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

I have been trying a similar search for the Manor of Cauldwell Priory in Bedfordshire (where Thomas HOLLYMAN was a tenant) but unfortunately the National Archive Manorial Records database does not cover the county of Bedfordshire, see <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/searches/advancedsearch.asp>

Early
Hollimans

I am still trying to locate where other seventeenth century records, relating to Cauldwell Manor might be held (if they have survived) other than those already looked at in the Bedfordshire Record Office. If I come up with possibilities I will let you know. 

Finally, something to think about. The entry in Cavaliers and Pioneers lists three HOLLIMANS, Christopher, Judith and an unknown. Some sources have the unknown name as Epper and relate this to a diminutive of Christopher. It would be very interesting to see the original text of this entry. An extreme hypothesis now, and one that needs to be eliminated: what happened to Ellen or Eleanor sister of the Christopher and Judith in Bedford? Could Ellen be the third HOLLIMAN? The double letter 'p' of 'Epper' may be two 'l's written with loops at the top of the letter, the 'E' may have looked like a cross and the 'n' not completely finished therefore looking like an 'r'. You could see how a badly written 'Ellen' might be transcribed as 'Epper' It is a bit extreme, I know. But if possible, the original text of Cavaliers and Pioneers should be looked at some time.

No

Looking forward to more of your Blog

Kind Regards

Anne

1436-1451

Bob Hollyman-Mawson 4:35 AM (6 hours ago)

to me, am.holmes

Glenn

LOGAN, Donald F., (1996), 'Runaway Religious In Medieval England, c. 1240-1540.'
Cambridge: CUP.

Appendix 5. 1451-1500. P196:

'Richard Holiman. St Augustine's Abbey (Canterbury). Returned as repentant apostate c. 1436 and received papal mandate for full reconciliation, 30 April 1451.'

I sent you these details a few years ago.

Regards,