

Edmund Skinner's deposition, Gobion's Manor.

In 1598 an action was brought by John Carr, Vicar of St. Giles', against Thomas Craswell, the point in dispute being whether certain tithes were, or were not, payable by the tenants of Gobion's Farm.

Depositions were taken at Northampton, 15th September, 40 Elizabeth, before Valentine Knightley, Esq., Francis Harvie, and Wm. Paynter, - Gents. A number of interrogations were put to each witness, the most important being No. 6, which ran as follows :-

"Item, have you not knowne, or have heard by credible report that ye Vicars for ye time being of St. Giles', have had tithe wool, tithe lambe, and tithe milk paid unto them in kind by ye farmers or owners of all sheep and mylch beasts as have gone, Fedd, and pastured within ye lymmits of ye said parishe, or consider aeon for ye same, as ye said Vicars for ye tymebeinge, or ye owners of ye same sheepp and Beasts could agree."

" Edmonde Skynner of Pitsford, clerke, aged xliij yeres or thereabowtes, sworne and examined, saieth yt he doth knowe ye parishe and vicarege of Seinct Giles in Northampton, and hath knowne it for ye space of xvj yeres, and did receive ye fruites thereof by vertue of a sequestracon for ye space of vij yeres, and he served ye cure so longe."

He deposed further that " he knoweth ye farme called Gubbins farme and yt Mr. Britten, and Mr. Harrison have bine occupiers of ye same farme all the time of this deponents memorie. And ye scite of Gubbins' farme is wth in Seinct giles' parishe. The landes in the feilde this deponent knoweth not of what parishe they are."

He saieth further that "this deponent received by vertue of his sequestracon in one vacacon for one yere, viz., 1583, xyjs. of the occupiers of Gibbons' farme for a rate tithe for ye whole farme due to ye Viccarradge of Seynt giles aforeseid ; and in ye other vacacon, viz., 1588 untill 1594, this deponent had and received yerelie of Mr. Britton and Mr. Harrison, occupiers of ye seid farme xvjs. viijd. (sic) for ye rate tithe of all ye farme by vertue of ye Sequestracon. The occacon howe he knowes of ye xvjs. to be paid he saieth was yt he had seane a booke of Mr. Litler's, viccar there immediatlie before ye seid first vacacon, wherein was menconed yt he, ye seid Litler, had received xvjs. for the tithe of the seid farme due to ye vic- car, And ye reason whie he this deponent received xvjs. viijd. was yt John Foster, the last incumbent before this seid seconde vacacon, had so received of the occupiers of the seid farme."

" He knoweth not howe longe ye parishe of Seint Edmond's hath bine decaied, and he saieth yt ye Viccars of Seinct Giles for ye time being have received the fruites of Seinct Edmond's, but by what right this deponent [knoweth] not. Yet he saieth yt he received both the fruites of Seinct Edmond's and also of Seinct giles by vertue of a sequestracon thereof expresslie granted."

He further deposed that " such shepe as have depastured on the commons to Gubbins' farme and Wilkinson's farme have also usuallie gone and fedd in the feildes of Northampton wt owt the perambulacon of Seinct Giles parishe."