

In 1267, Burleigh Wood and Burleigh Mead were granted to Godstow Manor by Henry III, but in 1274, a Farmer of Bladon claimed they belonged to his Manor. This land passed through a number of hands until sold to George Spencer, Duke of Marlborough in 1771.

Burleigh Farm was built in about 1801, but the builders used earlier materials including a doestone of 1605. Burleigh Farm which has identical plan to Burleigh was also built about same time using 16th Century materials probably from demolished houses in Cassington by the Bladen Estate.

In 1265, part of the Manor of Cassington belonged to Thomas Cheyne, whose brass can be seen in the church. It passed through his family to John Elmes and then to Henry Albutt. In 1711, Henry's son sold this part to John Churchill by Duke of Marlborough.

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There was clothmaking in Cassington in 16th, 17th & 18th centuries. The Mill was occupied by Fuller in 1581 & 1588, the Miller who died in 1697 was also a clothworker. Rack Fulling took its name from rack used for drying fulling cloth.

Other village occupations:-
Carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors & a cobworker.

Cassington men supplied 10 and 12th Century from Oxford. In the 17th Century and in the late 18th and in 20th Century, came from Cassington (Oxford) twice a week.

The Electricity supply was connected in 1934.

POPULATION OF CASSINGTON
1577 - 216 people
1774 - 252 "
1801 - 374 "
1831 - 428 "
1861 - 381 "
1891 - 454 including Railway workers
Fell steadily to 1921 - 243 people
1971 - 699 "
1981 - 662 "
1992 - approx 800

Coat of Arms of "GREENWAY"
Yeomen of Cassington & Owners of Mead Farm & Thames Head Farm.

In Domesday Book - Cassington was held of Otto of Bayeux, by Wadard & by Thetle Luy, who between them held five manors.

The main industry in Cassington has always been Farming. In 1851, there were 46 farms - by 1871 reduced to 9, i.e. Manor Farm 272a, Jericho Farm 230a, Rectory Farm 360a, Burleigh Farm 272a, Glebe Farm 130a, Burleigh Farm, Thames Head Farm & 2 others. Chief crops recorded in 1851 & 1871 were wheat, barley, peas, beans, oats, hemp, carrots, parsnips, turnips, cabbages & onions. Farmers also kept cattle, sheep & pigs.

Robert Townsend (1599) owned 13 cattle & 2 calves worth £35, 131 sheep, 131 corn = £26, 140 corn = £24.

Richard Greenway had 97 sheep & lambs = £14, 8 cows = £18, 8 corn = £19.

Coat of Arms of "DE LA PO"
Earl of Suffolk
Lord of the Manor until 1504.

A40 was built in 1935. Until then the main road from Oxford to Eynsham was south of River Thames. Local roads went through Cassington, one was "Woodstock Way" which went from Bladon to Oxford and Portway between Cassington & Eynsham. Another road entered Cassington from Eynsham. There was a ford at Cassington Mill which was replaced by a bridge in 1977.

The building of the A40 brought light industry to Cassington, including woodwork, truck Smith's Ready Mix Concrete, Cassington Builders & Trinity Market Hire.

In 1778, The Mill was owned by John, a brick and mason in the parish family until 1862 when it passed to George Homan. It was sold in 1878 to Thomas Hodge and stayed in that family until 1943. The Mill was rebuilt in the early 19th century and was greatly enlarged by the Hodge family, when machinery was added to augment the water power.

The Mill was last used in 1938 and the site is now a Caravan Site.

The opening of the railway in 1861 was the end of the canal business. Cassington had several Railway labourers living in Parish whilst building railway from Witney to Oxford. A Mill was opened in 1862 & closed in 1962.

Mr. John Partridge bought the Mill in 1960, he was born in Cassington, and has run the Commercial Vehicle Business for 38 years & it should be to acknowledge his help in producing this Map.

The lower village centres on a small green, on east side is former Bell Inn, from which a doestone dated 1688 was recovered. On the south side is the Old Manor, which has no connection with any of the Manors of Cassington and was called this by the owner in 1930 who was Henry Hine (Historian).

Lilly Water delivered Milk in a gallon can and in the past & half pint measure. It was used to run Sunday School at Methodist Chapel.

For several years a fair was held on the Village Green after the parish wake held on the first Sunday after St. Peter's Day, it was called Cassington Feast. The Habbell family who have been resident in Cassington since turn of Century provided Calypso Horse at the fair, and still travel the country with their fairground amusements.

The Village Green at the Upper End of village has a row of 18th & 19th century terraced cottages including The Red Lion & the Village Shop. The village hall on south side of green was built in 1920's.

Manor Farm (formerly Cassington House)
Mr. H. Partridge lived at Manor Farm in 1932, and after the war Mrs Partridge used one wing of the house as a Youth Hostel.

Cassington Oxfordshire

Henry II visited Cassington between 1180-1189 when his Chancellor Geoffrey de Clinton held the Manor.

Charles I and his army passed through in 1645 when they escaped from Oxford during the Civil War. James II passed through village in 1686.

William Meldon owned Godstow Manor in 1524. In 1573 it was sold by the then owner, Thomas Norwood, to Richard Greenway, Cassington Yeoman. He divided the Manor between his four sons.

Robert, John, Richard & Thomas, the surviving house has a doestone of 1507, and is particularly famous. In 1992, Mr. Jim Hale lived at Thames Head Farm aged 84, he was born here, his father James William Hale was also born here, and his father also lived there for many years.

The Reynolds were Roman Catholic & had a secret Chapel at the farmhouse which was still visible in 20th Century. The sign to let people know that this was to be held was washing hanging on bushes.

There were five manors at Cassington, one of which was MORT FARM. South East of Church granted to Geoffrey de Clinton in 1123. In 1255 William Montacute, was Lord of the Manor & was succeeded by his descendant, William Montacute Earl of Salisbury in 1344. & then to John Montacute who was executed in 1400. The Manor passed to William de Pole Duke of Suffolk. The Manor had a number of owners until it was bought by Edmund Reynolds in 1610. In 1700 another Edmund Reynolds sold the estate to John Greenway (from a long established Cassington family) but he retained the farmhouse, which still remains.

In 1799, Mary Greenway sold the estate to George Spencer, Duke of Marlborough. The Duke of Marlborough have remained the largest landowners until present day. The site of the Manor, which was owned by William Montacute in 1344 stood within a moat and is about 20 yards east of Reynolds Farmhouse. The house and pigeon house in grounds are 17th century.

A40 Thomas Foster - Vicar 1894-67 did not live in Cassington, but took an interest in the parish. He helped the church and helped to establish a school in 1892. Congregations were only about 60-70 adults & 50-60 children out of a population of 454. Foster suggested that the demoralization of the farm workers was due to the vicious and irreligious Railway labourers residing in the parish.

In 1894, The Bishop has an anonymous complaint from a parishioner saying that the vicar, greatly & shamelessly neglected his duty, often only one service on Sunday and this was recked through "like a ploughing machine, it killed". This had little effect as the vicar lived in Taunton (Somerset) and the curate in Kidlington.

St. Peter's Church was built in 12th Century from rubble & in 14th Century was remodelled by the Lords of the Manor the Montacute family. By 1861 Cassington Church was in a very bad state of repair. Repairs were carried out in 1861-62. Many of the beautiful stained glass windows came from Christ Church and so did brass candelabra and the carved 17th century stalls. There is now only a trace of the 15th century paintings on the walls. The base of the medieval tower can be seen in the church yard.

Area of gravel around Cassington attracted several early settlements, one was situated near Cassington Mill, 2 others have been located in fields at North East side of village & at Horton, whilst another was found near Burleigh Farm. All four areas have produced evidence of occupation from Neolithic to early Anglo-Saxon periods. In the south, from Cassington Mill, and a Romano-British village probably quite close, by the banks of River Evenlode.

In 1953, The Duke of Marlborough gave site in centre of village and a school & master's house was built by parish, Church & Albutt funds. In 1971 the school was overcrowded with 67 children, in 1976 there were 84 children when Eynsham School was opened in 1970 some children went there. The new school was built in 1973.

William Plasterer bequeathed £20 to teach poor children to read in 1711 & Henry Albutt left money to teach girls & apprentices boys from Cassington. A small school for 4 boys was maintained from this charity throughout 18th century. In 1808, 30 children paid to attend the school but in 1815 only 8 boys & 4 girls attended.

This Map has been drawn with great pleasure by the artist & is intended to give the reader an insight into the traditions of an Oxfordshire village & not as a reference of exact historical detail.

It was finished in July 1992 and this is No.

Janet Westman

Thomas & Ann Peachman gave the Parishioners of Cassington a plot of land up Burleigh Lane. This was called "Poor's Piece" & the rent from this ground went towards bread charities to help the poor & needy. In later years the parochial Charities provided that the cottages in Church Lane belonging to the Peachman & Plasterer's Charities should be used as almshouses for the people of Cassington & they have been made into four flats.

Frankie Bridge was a Rag & Bone dealer who sold his wares from his bridge. He only had one hand on one other arm. He had a hook! He rode his bike sitting on the carrier!

