

Child Ockford, Dorset, 4th August 1645: "Cromwell marching towards Shaftesbury with 1,000 dragoons, prevailed on a large body, posted on the top of a hill, to disperse. He then advanced to a larger number who had white colours and were all armed. Cromwell summoned them to lay down their arms, which they refused, being encouraged by their Commander, *Mr. Bravel, Rector of Compton*, near Shaftesbury, who threatened to pistol whoever gave back. Cromwell ordered his *own troop* to charge, which was repulsed with the loss of two killed, eight or nine wounded, etc." (See Hutchins, vol. iv, page 80.)

CHANCERY BILLS AND ANSWERS, CHARLES I

G 2/27 G 12/27 G 34/39

Galping v. Powlett (Abstract)

A.D. 1631, Nov. 16.

To the Rt. Hon'ble Thomas, Lord Coventry, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

Humbly complaining showeth unto your Lordship your daily orator John Galping, clerk, vicar of the parish church of Portesham, Dorset, that Sir John Powlett of Winton, Co. Southampton, Knight, being seized of the parsonage and rectory of Portesham did by his deed dated the 24th August 1628 present your orator unto the said vicarage whereupon your orator was lawfully instituted and inducted into the parish church of Portesham about the 27th August 1628. And whereas the said vicarage is anciently endowed with divers tithes taken and received by the vicar of Portesham for the time being, as by ancient composition remaining, as your orator conceiveth, in the hands of the said Sir John Powlett more fully may appear. But so it is the said Sir John Powlett combining and confederating with one John Coward of Portesham, yeoman, to defraud and utterly deprive your orator of such tithes, having gotten into their hands and custody the said composition as well as divers other writings and evidences concerning the said vicarage, have not only most unjustly by force and arms hindered and interrupted your orator from collecting and receiving the said tithes, but also have for a long time taken and still take to their own use all the tithes in the

said parish of Portesham. May it therefore please your Lordship to grant unto your orator a writ of subpoena to be directed unto the said Sir John Powlett and John Coward commanding them therein to appear in Court to answer to the premises and to abide such further order as shall stand with equity and good conscience. And your orator shall daily pray, etc.

(Signed) JOHN STEVENS.

The defendant Sir John Powlett, knight, answers and says that he believes that the Abbott and Convent of the Monastery of Abbotsbury, Co. Dorset, were heretofore in right of their said Monastery seized in fee of the said rectory and parsonage of Portesham, until the dissolution of the said Abbye, and that the vicar of Portesham only enjoyed the house, gardens, and orchards lying near the parish church, wherein the complainant now dwelleth, and also a yearly pension of £8 13s. 4d. And this defendant doth believe that about 30 Henry VIII (1538-9) the Abbott and Convent of the Monastery of Abbotsbury granted and surrendered the said parsonage with the advowson of the said vicarage thereunto belonging, to the said King and his heirs. That the said late King Henry VIII died thereof so seized in fee, after whose death the same descended unto Queen Elizabeth who by her letters patent bearing date the 20 January in the third year of her reign (1561) did grant the said rectory and church of Portesham and also the advowson of the said vicarage to the Rt. Hon'ble William, late Marquess of Winchester and his heirs for ever. The estate and interest of the said Marquess in and to the said parsonage is by mean conveyances and assurances conveyed and come to this defendant and his heirs by virtue whereof this defendant is of the said parsonage lawfully seized in fee.

This defendant doth deny that to his knowledge any vicar for the time being of the said parish church hath ever had or received any tithes arising within the parish of Portesham as in the bill of complaint is suggested, or that he this defendant hath combined or confederated with the other defendant John Coward or any other persons to defraud or deprive the complainant of any tithes or duties. And this complainant saith that ever since he presented the complainant to the said vicarage he hath paid yearly the said £8 13s. 4d. unto the complainant

until about April last past. Is ready to maintain and prove all the aforesaid matters to be true and prays to be dismissed with reasonable costs and charges wrongfully sustained.

Two years later, in May 1633, the Vicar of Portesham had an action in Chancery with Elizabeth Poulet, widow and relict of Sir John Poulet, late of Hydestreet, near the city of Winchester, Hampshire, Knight, deceased, also over tithes at Portesham.

Likewise in January 1637-8 he had an action with one Anthony Stocker of Chilcompton, co. Somerset, Esq., also over tithes at Portesham.

PORTISHAM VICARAGE

The return of the commission, 1650, was that the vicarage was in the King's books £8 13s. 4d., that Sir John Paulet gave by his will 20 nobles to the vicar, and since the Parliament has given $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the impropriation of Affpuddle. The parsonage is worth £120 per annum. Mr. Essex Paulet, proprietor, and Mr. Weares receives the profits to his use. Mr. Galpin, incumbent. Mr. Ash, an able preacher who wants but means, supplies the cure and has nothing for his salary but what he can get out of Affpuddle.—Hutchins' *Hist. of Dorset*.

The following extract from Hutchins has some bearing on the vexed question of the ownership of the Portisham tithes.

There was a composition made between the Abbot and Convent of Abbotsbury, proprietors, and Thomas Churchill, vicar (1474-1490) by which it was agreed, and confirmed at Sarum by the bishop (May 30, 1476) that the vicar should have a mansion, garden, and curtilage on the north side of the church, all oblations, etc., the tithes of *lamb, wool, fleece*, etc., etc., tithes out of Ayslond, Aysmede, and Aysdown, etc., a parcel of land called Twelve Acres, tithes of the parish of Corton, etc., etc., tithes in North Letterley, etc., 40s. yearly, 62 acres of arable land in the parish of Portisham, etc., and much besides.

The "rapacious monks" who ever oppressed the secular

clergy tried to break the agreement, to cut down the vicar's income and strip him of almost everything by an appropriation which "appears to have been irregular and unusual."

"Since the Reformation," says Hutchins, "some augmentations have been made; for in Mr. Bailey's time (instituted 1692) the value of the vicarage was considerably more than now; but its ancient fate of being plundered has again attended it, and some late impropietors have copied the monks' example."—See Hutchins, vol. ii, p. 766.

Note.—The vicar's contention was that the composition made between the Abbot and Convent of Abbotsbury and the Vicar of Portesham was still in force and that the monks' attempt to break the agreement was illegal and therefore they could not hand on to their successors the tithes which did not belong to them.

CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS (AFTER THE RESTORATION)

Golping *v.* Were, 1662

The several answers of William Were, Gent., to John Golping, Clerk, complaining.

Defendant says about nine years since, the said Essex Pawlett did present to the Vicarage of Portisham Joseph Ash, Clerk, the complainant (Galpin) having many years before absented himself from the charge and cure of the said Church of Portisham and taken the charge of the church of Durweston aforesaid, and that the said Joseph Ash constantly served the cure of the said church until about two years since the said Joseph Ash did resign, after which resignation one Henry Bartlett, Clerk, was instituted and inducted who served the cure there to the time of his death.

— about May last, since which time the complainant hath obtained possession of the said church and vicarage.
 — the complainant was soe many years absent from the church and vicarage of Portisham aforesaid (the former lease of the said ffarme and parsonage above recited being made null and void as aforesaid) [the complainant] hath obtained a lease of the said Andrew Richards of the said ffarme of Portisham with its appurtenances for the term of one and twenty years at a

certain rent, and this defendant hath likewise obtained of the said Essex Pawlett a lease of the rectory and parsonage of Portisham for the term of nineteen years at the rent of 110 pounds. And this defendant saith that the said John Galping in the late unhappy warre did absent himself from and did leave the charge and cure of the said vicarage of Portisham.

— — — and the defendant hath been informed that the complainant did afterwards resign the said vicarage and church of Portisham unto John Trenchard and John Brown, Esqre. aforesaid, etc., the patrons of the said vicarage and took the charge and cure of the church of Durweston in the co. of Dorset vacant by sequestration which he held, etc. — — for the space of fifteen years or thereabouts (until) the happy Restoration of his Majesty when the former incumbent who for his loyalty was turned out [was restored] and in the meantime the said ffarme of Portisham, etc.

MILTON ABBAS

28 March 1658. Marriage of Nathaniell Galpinge of Milton Abbey, son of John Galpinge of Durweston, Clarke and [blank]. Banns in church.

CANFORD MAGNA

1656-7, Jan. 21.	Master John Galpen, minister	bur.
1709, Sep. 25.	Richard Gaulpin and Ann Rose	mar.
1709, Nov. 7.	Richard Gaulpin	bur.

WOOLLAND

Subsidy Roll, P.R.O., 1593	
Agnes Gawpen	in goods
Henry Gawpen	„
William Gawpen	„

1602.

John Gawlpin of Woolland and Ibberton, Yeoman
Will of John Gawlpin of Iberton, co. Dorset, Yeoman. Dated
4 Oct. 1602, proved 8 Nov. 1602 and 8 May 1610. (P.C.C.,
Montague, 77.)

to be buried in the Church of Iberton.
to the Church of Iberton six shillings, eight pence.
the poor of the parish of Iberton twentie shillings for a