

Land ownership & farming in Bridge  
during the 1840's

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1841?

This extraordinary charge ceased when lands to which it was applied were no longer hop gardens after commutation. Conversely, the extraordinary charge applied to lands which were converted to hop production. The gross rent for tithe owners was adjusted according to their involvement in hop cultivation. Under the 1836 Act an extraordinary charge could also be applied to market garden produce. Bridge had just over 14 acres of market gardens, but they were not subject to any extraordinary rent charge in the Schedule.

CONCLUSION

While the Bridge Tithe Apportionment and Map provides valuable information on land ownership and occupation, the information relates only to one point of time, and the picture provided of agriculture in the parish is incomplete in many respects. Information is lacking on soil types and courses of crop rotation. There exists, in addition, tithe files for each tithe district, which contain replies to a printed questionnaire; which in turn had been sent to all tithe payers before commutation. The files have not been consulted in the case of Bridge, since "where there was an Agreement between the parties, the files are not likely to contain very much of interest" (34) A fuller picture of farming in Bridge demands the consultation of other documentary sources, such as probate inventories, or estate records which contain farming accounts or leases stipulating husbandry covenants.

APPENDIX AND MAP RELATING TO APPORTIONMENTS IN BRIDGE  
AND PATRICKBOURNE

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of lands and premises</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity a. r. p.</u>
Garner Harriet (Heirs of)	Boyack Alexander	Y7	House and	Garden	" " 39 ✓
Garner Harriet (Heirs of)	Wilson William	Y8	House and	Garden	" " 13 ✓
Fissenden Peter	Paul Samuel	Y13	House and	Garden	" " 9 ✓
Conyngham Marchioness of	Denne George	Y15	Bridge Field	Arable	7 2 4 ✓
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y16	The Park	Pasture	4 2 19 ✓
Fissenden Peter	Himself	Y17	-	Pasture	" 3 28 ✓
Fissenden Peter	Price James and Others	Y18	Four Houses and	Gardens	" 1 4 ✓
Fage William	Himself	Y24	-	Pasture	1 3 4 ✓
Beckingham Louisa	Horn Henry	Y44	Bourn Paddock	Pasture	39 2 8 ✓

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of lands and premsies</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity a. r. p.</u>
Hardeman William	Horton John and another	Y49	Two Houses and	Gardens	" " 16 ✓
Hardeman William	Goodman Thomas and others	Y53	Four Cottages and	Gardens	" " 11 ✓
Tritton Ann	Williams William	Y60	Two Houses and	Gardens	" " 20 ✓
Tritton Ann	Duckett Thomas	Y61	Houses and	Gardens	" " 28 ✓
Neal James	May Thomas and Four others	Y62	Five Cottages and	Gardens	" " 33 ✓
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y63	Bridge Farm	Homestead	" 3 19 ✓
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y64	Two Acre Meadow	Pasture	1 3 15 ✓
Hodges Charles	Himself	Y65	House and	Premises	" " 3 ✓
Foord Thomas	Lawrence John and others	Y67	Four Cottages and	Gardens	" " 15 ✓
Colegate Frederic	Himself and Dyason John	Y68	House, Yard and	Premises	" " 39 ✓
Page Sarah	Eaden Edward and another	Y69	Two Cottages and	Gardens	" " 11 ✓
Marsh Richard	Callard Thomas	Y70	House and	Garden	" " 15 ✓
Keiler Maria	Hooker Daniel	Y72	House and	Garden	" " 8
Sicard Mary	Herself and another	Y73	Two Houses and	Gardens	" 1 11 ✓
Gambrill William	Himself	Y76	House and	Garden	" " 16 ✓
Guardians of Bridge Union	Themselves	Y92	Union Spot	Arable	" 3 25 ✓
Guardians of Bridge Union	Themselves	Y93	Union House	-	1 1 15 ✓
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y95	Two and a Half Acres	Pasture	2 2 12 ✓

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name and description of lands and premises</u>	<u>State of cultivation</u>	<u>Quantity a. r. p.</u>	
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y96	Union Fields	Arable	5 1 31	✓
Barham Rev. Richard	Richardson James	Y97	Stour Meadow	Pasture	2 3 27	✓
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y102	Bridge Place Meadow	Pasture	9 1 1	✓
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y103	Bridge Place	Homestead	1 2 9	✓
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y104	The Slip	Pasture	" 3 30	
Beckingham Louisa	Rutter Ann and others	Y105	Two Cottages and	Gardens	" 2 16	
Beckingham Louisa	Steed John	Y106	Dog Kennel Meadow	Pasture	3 1 37	
Beckingham Louisa	Steed John	Y107	Dog Kennel Meadow	Pasture	1 " 30	
Beckingham Louisa	Steed John	Y109	Dog Kennel Meadow	Pasture	3 1 3	
Conyngham Marchioness of	Herself	Y110	Bourn Hop Ground	Hops	17 3 "	
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	Y111	Bridge Place Pasture	Pasture	6 3 20	
<u>Patricxbourne</u>						
Conyngham Marchioness of	Hopper William and another	X63(E)	Cottages and	Gardens	" 1 12	
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	X78	Part of Bifrons Park	Pasture	12 2 6	
Conyngham Marchioness of	Brice Richard	X79	Soothouse Meadow	Pasture	3 " 11	
Conyngham Marchioness of	Herself	X81	Mill Plantation	Plantation	5 " 20	

but died in jail soon afterwards. Machoull himself was a forger and kept a disreputable lodging-house in London, whence he retired to the Sussex coast c.1810, to keep up complaints that he was being persecuted! (6)

In similar vein, the preface of another directory lamented the harmful effects of "...narrow-minded and unprincipled comment of certain individuals in the trade (making use of journals)... to propagate the grossest misstatement and cowardly innuendoes..." (7)

Illustrated at this stage is a complete mid-nineteenth-century entry for the village of Bridge.

<p><b>BRIDGE</b> derives its name from its situation in a valley on the Roman and modern road to Dover, at a bridge over a feeder of the Stour. It is in the hundred of Bridge and Petham, and union of Bridge, lathes of St. Augustine, Canterbury county court district, diocese and archdeaconry, Bridge deanery, 3 miles south of Canterbury, with a population, in 1851, of 804, and an area of 1,101 acres. The Union workhouse contained 241 inmates out of this number. The church of St. Peter consists of three aisles, a high chancel, and a north transept or chancel, in the centre of the north of the aisle. The living is a perpetual curacy annexed to Patricxbourne vicarage, joint annual value £350, in the patronage of the Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham; the Rev. John Stevenson, M.A., is the incumbent. There is a National school, and a Literary and Scientific Institution for Bridge and Patricxbourne. In the neighbourhood are several gentlemen's seats.</p>		
<p><b>PRIVATE RESIDENTS.</b>  Aldworth Rev. St. Ledger, M.A.  Boynck Mrs  Edling Mrs  Elgar Mrs  Fryer Mr. Thomas  Gregory Mrs  Jarvis Mr. Henry  Jarvis Mrs  Johnson Mrs  Kingsford Rev. Branchley, M.A. [curate of Bishopsbourne]  Lansberry Mrs  Martin Mr  Pitcock Thomas, esq  Pratt Lieut. David  Smith Rev. Isaac [curate]  Stevenson Rev. John, M.A. [incumbent], Patricxbourne  Winter Capt. Charles</p>	<p><b>COMMERCIAL.</b>  Adams George, farmer  Banks Robert Young, linen draper  Barter John, butcher  Colegate Richd. bullder &amp; wheelwright  Collard Thomas, tailor  Collins John, farmer, Petthouse farm  Davis John, grocer  Dutnall William, brickmaker  Eyers Joseph, <i>Red Lion</i>  Fagg Thomas, blacksmith  Finch William, boot &amp; shoe maker  Freer Fanny (Miss), seminary  Fryer George, miller  Hardeman William, watchmaker &amp; agent to the Kent fire &amp; life office  Hodges Charles, butcher  Homans William, builder &amp; registrar of births, deaths &amp; marriages  Hornsby Charles Fortescue, <i>White Horse</i>  Huxstep Gilbert, farmer</p>	<p>PERKHORSE is half a mile west; Renwell, 1 north-west.  Jarvis Ann (Mrs.), butcher  Kelsey George, ironer  Knight George, shoemaker  Lawrence Job, grocer  Marsh James, farmer  Martin John, a Miller  Moss Alfred, grocer &amp; baker  Mutton Richard, ale &amp; porter brewer, wholesale &amp; retail  Sayer William, plumber &amp; glazier  Sherrard Richard, postmaster  Sicard Amelius, surgeon  Steed John, grazier  Thomas James, chemist  Verrier William Curling, plumber &amp; hop bag manufacturer  Wells Richard, master of National schi  White Thomas, boot &amp; shoe maker  White William, farmer  Williams Daniel, greengrocer  Wills Richard, baker</p>
<p><b>POST OFFICE.</b>—Richard Sherrard, receiver. Letters from London arrive from Canterbury by mail cart at 7 a.m. &amp; dispatched at 8 p.m. The nearest money order office is at Canterbury</p>		
<p><b>PUBLIC OFFICERS.</b>—  Clerk to the Union, William Torth</p>		
<p><i>Registrar of Births, Deaths &amp; Marriages, Wm. Homans. National School, Richard Wells, master; Mrs. Sophia Sayer, mistress. Union Workhouse, James Betts, master. Omnibuses &amp; Carriers to Canterbury &amp; Dover pass through daily</i></p>		

Source: Post Office Directory of the Six Home Counties (1859), 468.

It has been selected from one of several trade directories which have been consulted for this chapter. It helps to set the scene for the later 1850's by offering a general description of Bridge as a parochial community. Considered in isolation it represents no more than a static picture for 1859. Similar and sometimes fuller and more historical accounts can be gleaned from guidebooks, histories and almanacs. (8) Of equal or greater informative value are the lists of "private residents" and those in commerce and trades which follow the opening descriptive and topographical paragraphs. This format or arrangement of entry remained unchanged throughout the period covered by this chapter and was equally applicable to other towns and villages throughout the country.

The historial value of trade directories with particular reference to Sussex has recently been assessed as follows by John Farrant.

"For the social historian they can indicate the internal structures of communities; for the economic historian the relative and changing importance of occupations and industries may be revealed....In few instances are directories undoubtedly better in quality of information than other sources: census enumerators' tallies are more comprehensive and probably more