Further Light on the Manors of Burton Overy
by Ian Payne

There were two medieval manors in Burton Overy: the Ferrers Manor; and the Noveray Manor, from which the parish takes its name, and which after 1526 was known as Pulteney’s Manor. In the following historical note, which presents some revisions to the article on the parish in V.C.H. Leicester, an attempt is made to identify small portions of both manors as they descended through various interrelated yeoman families during the 16th-18th centuries.

In 1946, in a seminal paper on the genealogy of county yeoman families, the late Professor W.G. Hoskins wrote:

yeoman pedigrees can be traced back in Leicestershire to a more distant past than in most parts of England, partly because it was a county consisting to a high degree of small peasant freeholders with deep roots in their ancestral lands; and partly because the medieval records are more readily available in Leicestershire, thanks to the monumental work of Mr George Farnham, and to a lesser extent, Nichols’ History....¹

Both of the works cited in this quotation, with their large numbers of fines detailing land transactions great and small, testify to the subinfeudation of manorial holdings. Burton Overy is a perfect example of this process and, as the V.C.H. points out,² the exact descent of its manors is sometimes hard to follow. However, some light can be shed on two aspects of this descent, using (among other sources) local wills to trace portions of manorial property from the 16th to the the mid-18th century. They are dealt with under two separate headings.

Pulteney’s Manor and some Ward families

One problem facing the author of the V.C.H. article on Burton was the sheer number of individuals named Ward with property interests in the parish. Although the earliest family (the de la Wards, who held a manor there until the early 14th century, when the family became extinct in the male line) was easily identified,³ the later Wards were treated as one family and two distinct (and probably unrelated) families were conflated:

In 1576 a presentation to the rectory was made by William Warde, yeoman, and

² V, 70, 71.
³ Ibid., 70.
after Ward’s death the advowson descended to his daughter Anne, wife of Francis Hodges.... Anne and Francis Hodges conveyed the advowson to Ric. Burditt and Ric. Warde, who in 1599 conveyed it to Wm. Burditt.... In 1622-3 the patron was said to be William Warde, who was, however, then dead.4

The William Ward who flourished in 1576 was descended from a prosperous Carlton Curlieu family which was one of many cadet branches of the Wards of Givendale and Guisely, Yorkshire. (See Chart 1, below.) William, the third son of John Ward of Carlton and Elizabeth Ashby, held various estates in Carlton, and married ‘[Elizabeh] Weston de Carlton’, herself a descendant of a family with ancient roots in Carlton and Burton.5 By his will (proved 10 May 1582) William left to the eldest of his three daughters, Ann, ‘my close in Burton adjoyninge to the p[ar]sonage ... on the southe syde, and so a Close in the tenure and occupac[i]on of Thomas Hookes on the northe syde’, as well as ‘the p[ar]sonage and the gifte thereof, and all thinges belonginge thereunto’. His second daughter, Joan, inherited ‘Moure Hall close, w[i]th three yarde lande and a halfe’, while his granddaughter ‘Margret’ Woodward (daughter of his youngest daughter, Isabel, wife of Bartholomew Woodward) was given 20 marks.6 Perhaps the Burton property was William Ward’s share of a messuage, 16 acres of land, 4 of meadow, 6 of pasture which his father, John Ward of Carlton, and three others had purchased by a fine dated Easter 1525 – the family’s only Burton Overy property deal recorded by Farnham.7 Although it is not known how the Ward family obtained the advowson, Ann Hodges clearly inherited it from her father. And in 1605 her husband, Francis Hodges, seised of ‘the manor of Burton Overy’ and extensive property there, sold this holding to William Burdett clerk, Richard Ward and Richard Burdett, for £300.8

Two important points must be made with regard to the discussion so far. First, the manor which changed hands in 1605 was probably Pulteney’s Manor, as the old Noveray manor had been known since about 1526: the V.C.H. reports that ‘it is not known when the manor passed out of the hands of [Sir Thomas] Pulteney or his heirs, but in 1605 it was held by Francis Hodges, and between 1605 and 1618 a series of complex transactions took place, the manor being conveyed to various parties by fines’.9 (Chart 1 shows how the Wards of Burton Overy descended directly from the Pulteneyes via Elizabeth Ashby: there is no evidence that the Wards acquired any of their Burton

4 Ibid., 74, and nn. 36, 37.
5 Ibid., 78; Visitation of Leicester (1619), edited by J. Featherstone, Harleian Society, II (London, 1870), 83. The Wards bore for arms Azure, a cross fleury between four annulets Or, clearly a differenced version of the ancient Yorkshire coat, Azure, a cross fleury Or. (See The Complete Peerage by G.E.C., XII, 345-7, and the references there cited, especially that to W. Paley Baildon.) Famous descendants of the many cadet branches include John Ward (c.1589-1638) the composer (Visitt. Essex 1634) and Seth Ward, Bishop of Exeter (see Sir B. Burke, The General Armory (London, 1884), 1074, where some other collateral branches can be traced). The Westons are well documented in Farnham, V.C.H. Leicester and Nichols, though a connected pre-c.1600 pedigree is hard to compile. Hoskins (‘The Leicestershire Farmer in the 16th Century’, TLAS, 22, 1944/5, 38) remarks on the wealth of the Carlton Wards, adding that ‘almost of equal wealth was Nicholas Weston, descended from a free tenant of 1381, whose family dated back to Edward I’s time at Carlton’. Their most famous descendant is Hugh Weston (c.1505-58), the Oxford theologian (see Nichols, op. cit., II, 537 and D.N.B.).
6 LLRRO DE 681/1.
7 Farnham, Leics. Notes, I, 281.
8 Ibid., 283.
9 V.C.H. Leicester, V, 71, and n. 64. For the fines see Farnham, Leics. Notes, I, 282ff. According to Nichols (op. cit., III, 516 and IV, 319) Thomas Hodges (Francis the elder’s father) married Dorothy, daughter of Michael Pulteney. But Farnham (Leicester Medieval Pedigrees (Leicester, 1925), 54) states that Michael died without issue: it is therefore more likely that she was daughter of Francis Pulteney, and sister of Michael.
Chart 1: Ward of Carlton Curlieu and Burton Overy

Sir Thomas Pulteney, of Misterton
(d.1507: P.C.C. will)

John Pulteney
(d. vado patriae 1492)

Sir Thomas Pulteney
(d.1540)
of Misterton

[1] Theobald Ward
(see above, n. 12)

(See above, n. 12)

Francis Pulteney
(P.C.C. will proved 1548)

Robert Ashby, of Quenby
(d.1558)

Elizabeth Ashby
= John Ward
of Carlton
(fl. 1525)

Robert de Haustede, of Harpole

Simon Ward = Ann Haustede
(d. by 1381/2)

[1] Dorothy
= [Elizabeth] Weston,
of Carlton

[3] Isabel = Bartholomew Woodward,
of Burton (d.1593)
m. 28 October 1578

1. Thomas Ward,
of Carlton

= Peter Aston
of Burton

[2] Francis Hodges,
of Burton

[3] Isabel = Bartholomew Woodward,
of Burton (d.1593)
m. 28 October 1578

Randal Ward = Elizabeth Woodward
(eldest daughter:
bap. 4 October 1582)

(many others, including
Margaret Woodward)

Francis Hodges
(aged 30 in 1619)

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= [Elizabeth] Weston,
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property as a result of this relationship, though the fact that two of the families with an interest in portions of this manor — Hodges and Aston — had married William Ward’s eldest and second eldest daughters and coheirs is certainly suggestive.\(^\text{10}\)

Second, and more important for our purpose, Richard Ward, who in 1605 acquired part of Ann Hodges’s interest in Pulteney’s Manor, was not a member of this particular Ward family, since neither the accurate 1619 visitation pedigree\(^\text{11}\) nor the Burton parish records mention anyone named Richard. This Richard Ward (undoubtedly also the man referred to by the \textit{V.C.H.} as party to the 1599 conveyance) was in fact the patriarch of a flourishing yeoman family from Husbands Bosworth, dying there in 1613.\(^\text{12}\) His eldest son, William, died on 24 August 1628 holding a large estate at Bosworth, some of it

10 Through the Ashby’s of Loseby (who were heirs of the Burdett family there) William Ward was a direct descendant of Agnes Pulteney, sister of Sir Thomas of Misterton (d.1540) after whom Pulteney’s Manor at Burton was named. (See Farnham, \textit{Pedigrees}, 47-8, 54 and the Ashby pedigree in Nichols, \textit{op. cit.}, III, 298-9 which (according to Farnham) is probably correct from the generation of Robert and Barbara, though its earlier generations are hopelessly confused.) It is worth putting on record here that Agnes Pulteney is placed by Nichols (\textit{op. cit.}, IV, 319) one generation too late, as the dates printed by Farnham (\textit{Pedigrees}, 54) make abundantly clear. In the Ashby visitation pedigree (\textit{Visit. Leics.}, 14) only William Ashby the elder is recorded, and ‘Agnes, D[au]ghter of Sr. Tho. Poulteny’ is stated to have been his first wife, Agnes Illingworth his second. Farnham apparently either found no documentary trace of her, or chose to ignore the fact that she is mentioned in the will of Sir Thomas Pulteney proved at the P.C.C. on 21 June 1507 (PRO PROB 11/15, LH194-RH194) as ‘Agnes Pulteney my nece’. If, as is likely, ‘nece’ means granddaughter, then Agnes would be the daughter of John Pulteney (d.1492) and sister of Sir Thomas (d.1540), rather than the latter’s daughter as stated by Nichols. However, it is not absolutely certain that this Agnes was Ashby’s wife: the fact that Sir Thomas refers to her in 1507 by her maiden name (it was usual to refer to married daughters by their husbands’ surnames) implies that she was not yet married; and further doubt is cast by the fact that George Ashby (d.1544), William and Agnes’s son and heir, was said (in his father’s inquisition post mortem) to be aged 50 in 1543, placing the approximate latest date of Agnes’s marriage at 1493. Nevertheless, no other Agnes Pulteney occurs in Pulteney wills for the period; and Sir Thomas’s choice of William ‘Ashby’ as one of his executors, together with the marriage evidenced by the visitation pedigree of Ashby, leaves no room for doubt that an Ashby-Pulteney match took place. (Nichols may have derived some of his pedigree information from William Burton, \textit{The Description of Leicestershire} (London, 1622), 184, who also identifies Agnes as a daughter of Sir Thomas Pulteney, in error. Additional evidence of the close relationship between the Ashby and Pulteney families at this time is however found in the Archives of Trinity College, Cambridge, where much material relating to the manor of Whetstone is deposited: in three documents dated 1496 and 1498 (TCA, Box 32/8-10), Thomas Pulteney, knight, and William ‘Ashbe’ or ‘Ashbe’ the younger were parties to a common recovery of property in Whetstone.)

11 He was probably a descendant of Robert le Ward of Husbands Bosworth, bailliff of John de Stoke’s manor there, about 1325 (LLRRO DG 39/676), and of the William Ward who flourished in 1502 (LLRRO DG39/2).

12 From the Ward/Ashby marriage the information provided by the 1619 pedigree, where it can be verified, is accurate. And as regards the earlier portion, Simon and Ann Ward are stated to be Theobald’s parents in a fine dated 1381 (Farnham, \textit{Leics. Notes}, II, 11), while G. Wrottesley (\textit{Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls...1200-1500} (London [1905]), 171-2, 258) states that Simon was dead in 1381/2 and gives his issue as Theobald (who married Avice, daughter of William de Burgh) and two daughters, but mentions no other sons. He adds that Simon’s wife (whom he names Elizabeth, not Ann) was the daughter of Robert de Haustede, of Harpole, Northants, who held the manor of Kegworth. This Simon is probably the man identified by J. Wright (\textit{The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland} (London, 1684-1714, R1788), 103) as the Keeper of Oakham Castle in 1373/4. Theobald is well documented in G. Farnham and A. Hamilton Thompson, ‘The Manors of Ailson, Appleby and Ashby Folville’, \textit{T.L.A.S.}, XI (1913-20), 419-20, and in \textit{V.C.H. Rutland}, II, 33, where he is said to have died before the autumn of 1392. (The 1619 pedigree, however, gives 1446/7 as the year of his death.) As a glance at Chart 1 will confirm, this pedigree of the Ward family between Theobald and the Ashby marriage seems to lack at least one generation.

13 See William’s 1630 inquisition post mortem, in Farnham, \textit{Leics. Notes}, VI, 147. It is probable that it was this William Ward who owned the Burton advowson in 1622-3, referred to in \textit{V.C.H. Leicester}, V, 74, n. 37 and quoted above.
recently purchased from William Burdett, which passed in turn to his eldest son, John.\textsuperscript{13} The Bosworth Wards are outlined in Chart 2, below. The elder Richard Ward (d.1613) probably had, besides William (d.1628), two other sons: Randolph (\textit{alias} Randal, baptized 1578); and Richard, a husbandman at Bosworth (baptized 1589). Randal's future was assured when, in 1601, he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Bartholomew Woodward (d.1593)\textsuperscript{14} and Isabel, third daughter of William Ward. Elizabeth's parents were both of Burton, where Randal presumably lived until his death in 1633, since he appears in the bishop's transcripts for 1607/8 and 1629/30 as a churchwarden.\textsuperscript{15} Randal's son, Richard (baptized 1609), also a husbandman, probably married, as his second wife, Frances Coleman (from a yeoman family with connections in Burton, as well as the Langtons) on 5 May 1638 at Oadby.\textsuperscript{16} There is a gap in the Burton parish register, 1641-53; but Randal Ward (d.1723) was surely their direct heir, and had two sons (Richard and Thomas) and a daughter (Frances). When Randal died in 1723, his younger son Thomas (baptized 1681) received the following bequest in his father's will:

\begin{quote}
Item I give and devise unto my son Thomas Ward all that messuage cottage or tenement with the app[ur][tenance]s ... being in Burton Overy ... togeather w[i]th the Yard Orchard & garden & all outbuilding[s] thereunto belonging and also all that my halfe yard land w[i]th the app[ur][tenance]s in the fields of Burton Overy afores[ai]d. And also all that Little Orchard which I purchased of one Thomas Oram and also all those severall peices [sic] and parcels of meadow and Ley ground containing halfe an acre in each of the three fields of Burton Overy... and an acre of meadow ground in West Meadow which I purchased of one Mr Taylor
\end{quote}

His son and heir, Richard (baptized 1676) was described as already possessing 'all that my Other Quarterm of Land w[i]th the appurtenance[s in Burton Overy' bequeathed to him at the time of his father's death in 1723.\textsuperscript{17} In due course both Richard and Thomas Ward had sons called Randal, one of whom was the village schoolmaster who, by his will dated 29 July 1773, left 'all the rent and profit of that my Close situate and being on the East part of Old hill in... Burton Overy Lordship' to his widow, Eleanor. The property itself was eventually to pass to his only child, Hannah, along with 'all that my Dwelling House with the Garden Yard Barn Stable and all other appurtenances' there.\textsuperscript{18}

There is some evidence for these alleged family connections between Burton and Bosworth. Although the Ward connection is not proved by marriage licences or wills before 1675,\textsuperscript{19} the dates supplied by the registers of both parishes, together with the

\textsuperscript{13} Unfortunately, Bartholomew left no will; but the Woodwards were certainly a rising family, as William Woodward paid the second highest tax contribution (on lands) at Burton at the 1628 lay subsidy, and by 1640 owned a large estate there (Farnham, \textit{Leics. Notes}, I, 284-5).
\textsuperscript{14} LLRRO, Burton Overy, bishop's transcripts. (A 'Randalus' Ward was buried at Medbourne in 1626, but was not born there, nor apparently at Burton. He is certainly not identical with Randal (bap. 1578), but may well be a relative.)
\textsuperscript{15} LLRRO, Oadby parish register.
\textsuperscript{16} LLRRO, Leics. Wills (no reference number): will of Randal Ward 1723.
\textsuperscript{17} LLRRO DG4/100. For further purchases of property by this family, in 1749 and 1751, see LLRRO DG4/98 and 99. Also of interest is an assignment of mortgage (LLRRO DE 2774/254, dated 1713) which proves a business connection with the Coleman family of East Langton.
\textsuperscript{18} The Burton register states that in this year Thomas Ward, blacksmith, of Bosworth married Patience Hooke of Burton. That they settled at Burton is confirmed by the baptism there of their first child, Mary, in 1677.
Chart 2: Ward of Husbands Bosworth and Burton Overy

Richard Ward (V.C.H. Leicester, V, 74), of Bosworth (fl. 1599 fine; d.1613)

William Ward, of Bosworth, yeoman (bap. 1573, d.1628) Inq.p.m. 1630

Randulf (Randal) Ward = Elizabeth Woodward of Burton; m. there 1601 (see Chart 1)
(bap. 1578, Bosworth; d.1633, Burton)

Richard Ward, of Bosworth, yeoman (bap. 1589)

(d.1637) 2 = Frances [?Coleman m. Oadby, 1638] (others)

Mr William Newby, of Illston = Mrs Elizabeth Woodward, of Burton (m. there 1661)

Randal Ward, = Mary... (d.1710)
of Burton, yeoman (Churchwarden, 1700/1; d.1723: LRO will)

(m. licence, 1707) (bap. 1676) (bap. 1681) (m. licence, (bap. 1685) 1717)

Randal Ward = Randal Ward
(bap. 1708) (bap. 1718)

(One of these was R.W., schoolmaster, who m. Eleanor... and by his will dated 1773, left property to his only daughter, Hannah)
evidence provided by the relatively uncommon Christian name, Randolph/Randal, establish it beyond reasonable doubt. More conclusive evidence is provided by the visitation pedigree of the Burdett family (see Chart 3, below). Originally from Huncote, his ancestors’ ancient seat, Thomas Burdett moved to Bosworth. His son, William, was the clerk (rector of Burton, 1582–1627) named in the 1605 fine cited above. William the rector married Ann, daughter of Francis Hodges and his wife, Ann, eldest daughter of William Ward of Burton (d.1582) also referred to above. The Richard Burdett who was also a party to this transaction was presumably the rector’s fourth son.20

Chart 3: Burdett of Huncote, Husbands Bosworth and Burton Over (from Nichols, IV, *630)

The Ferrers Manor: Payne and Wraske

Of another 16th-century land deal at Burton Overy the V.C.H. reports that ‘a moiety of a manor at Burton Overy was sold in 1547 by John Silyok, his wife, and Thos. Dynham, to John Harryson. This may have been the Ferrers manor [my italics]’.21

The descent of the Ferrers manor is clear until 1453, after which ‘divided between various owners, it seems to have ceased to exist’.22 The V.C.H.’s reservations notwithstanding, however, there is no doubt that the property bought by Harryson in 1547 was the Ferrers Manor because an inquisition held on 7 November 1507, dealing with the Leicestershire property of Joan Ormond, heiress of Sir Thomas Chaworth, found that the ex-Chaworth lands in Burton were being held of Thomas, Lord Ferrers of Groby, by service of one-eighth part of a knight’s fee.23 Joan Ormond’s inheritance, which included the Chaworth Manor of Medbourne, passed to her three daughters, one of whom married Thomas Dynham of Eythorpe, Bucks.24

20 See the Burdett pedigree in Nichols, op. cit., IV, *630, 820.
22 Ibid., 71.
In January 1551 William Payne (d.1561) of Medbourne, and Anthony Andrewes of Uppingham, purchased Dynham's interest in both the Medbourne and Burton manors. Shortly afterwards Andrewes released his interest to Payne, who retained the Chaworth Manor at Medbourne (it later came to be known as Payne's Manor). The original January 1551 purchase of these manors by Payne and Andrewes does not provide a detailed extent of the property, and the Latin text does not specify where individual properties were situated. Translated from the Latin, this extent reads 'a moiety of the manors of Medbourne and Burton Overy with appurtenances, and also (neclnon) a moiety of 20 messuages, 10 tofts, one windmill, one watermill [etc]... in Medbourne, Burton Overy, Tugby, Welham, Slawston and Drayton'.

At Easter 1551 Payne sold to William Hannes (?recte Hames), a moiety of a messuage, 2 cottages, a toft and a third part of 200 acres of land, 40 of meadow and 12 of pasture in Burton. And at the same date another Burton yeoman, Robert Wrask, bought a moiety of a messuage and a sixth part of 200 acres of land, 40 of meadow and 12 of pasture there. Robert Wrask passed on this estate to his son, also named Robert, in 1607; when the latter made his will, in December 1623 (proved 1633), he gave a fuller picture of the extent of his holding. After bequeathing 'unto Richard Wrask al[i]a[s] Raske my sonne Two Bayes of buildinge and p[ar]cell of myne house' he proceeds to identify 'the p[ar]cell of my Land which beene herafter limited butted or bounded':

Vitz. in the Mill feild [sic] there one headland upon Toftes, One halfe rood on a furlonge called at Porters Hedge, In the East Field one rood on a furlonge called Kuesnes, Item one other rood on a furlonge called at Towe syde. In the West Field one rood on a furlonge called in redmore and one rood on a furlonge called at Johane Wardes Close And also all the parting grounde and lotting grounde belonginge to my Messuage Tenem[en]t or Cottage Landes Tenem[en]t and hereditam[en]tes in Burton aforesaid.

The later descent of this property is not entirely clear (see Chart 4), but both this Richard, and another son (who is not named in the will but is identified as Robert's son in the register), passed on portions to their descendants: Richard, by will dated April 1685, left property to his wife during the minority of their son, Richard, who was under 16 at the time; and Robert (described as a yeoman, and the elder, in his will dated May and proved June 1674) left stock and crops to his eldest son, John. John died, by his will dated November 1691 and proved January 1692 he

25 *Ibid., loc. cit.* William Payne's ancestors had probably long been settled at Thorpe Langton, where he was presumably living before the purchase of the manor at Medbourne: see *V.C.H. Leicest.,* V, 207.

26 LLRRO DE 221/4/3/17. Nichols (op. cit., II, 533) states that in 1458 Chaworth died seised of 7 messuages, 4 virgates of land and 10 acres of meadow in Burton, but does not identify the source of this information.

27 Farnham, *Leics. Notes,* I, 282 and 283, respectively.

28 His inquisition post mortem states that he died seised in fee of 'a messuage and virgate of land, meadow, and pasture', and one cottage (Farnham, *Leics. Notes,* I, 283). Some of this was presumably part of the Ferrers Manor purchased from William Payne. (It is possible that Robert the purchaser in 1551 and Robert who died in 1607 are one and same, as the parish register records no death of a Robert Wrask during the latter part of this period; however, the pre-1575 register does not survive, and it is more likely that two individuals are implied.)

29 LLRRO DE 681/4. Perhaps 'Johane Wardes Close' was one of the closes mentioned in William Ward's will of 1582, which he may have inherited from his father, John, of Carlton. If so, then it is probably part of the interest which John had acquired in 1525. The named 'Mill feild' might possibly suggest that the unidentified windmill mentioned as part of the January 1551 purchase of Ferrers property was situated in Burton, but it is not possible to be certain of this point.
Chart 4: Wraske of Burton Overy

Robert Wraske, of Burton
(fl. 1551; purchased property there from William Payne of Medbourne. Possibly identical with the following)

Robert Wraske, yeoman
(d. 20 December 1607; Inq.p.m. 1608; possibly identical with the preceding). Left property to his son, Robert.

Robert Wraske, 'sheppard'
(LRO will dated 1623, leaving estate to eldest son, Richard; proved 1633)

(not mentioned in father's will; but sons of Robert in register)

Richard Wraske, Thomas Wraske
innkeeper, (bap. 1600)
d.1686
(LRO will names son, Richard)

[one generation missing?]

Richard, innkeeper,
under 16 years old in 1685
(bap.1673, d.1703; LRO will)

Robert Wraske = Ellin... John Wraske = William Johnson, grazier
(bap.1602) (bap.1605) (bap. 1621; d. 1689)
the elder, yeoman
(d.1674;
LRO will)

[1] John Wraske, the elder,
yeoman; d.1692, leaving
'a parsil of land' and house
to his four daughters, all
born in 1680s (LRO will)

Ann Wraske = John Johnson
m. 1712 (licence)

Thomas Johnson = Frances Ward
(see above, Chart 2)

Benjamin Payne = Elizabeth Johnson
d.1753
(bap. 1713; m. 1737 at Burton)

Randal Payne, of Huncote, farmer, grazier and miller
(1744-1817)
bequeathed to his four daughters ‘that parsil of land that my mother [‘Ellinn’] hoolds & the house’.\textsuperscript{30}

It is not known whether the Payne family retained a small interest in Burton after Easter 1551; but in 1737 Benjamin Payne married Elizabeth Johnson (a family closely related to the Wraskes as Chart 4 shows) in the parish church there. Payne may have been born in 1688 at Medbourne, and married late in life: he died in 1753 at Burton Overy and his widow remarried at Burton four years later. Certainly, cadet branches of the Medbourne Payne family were settled in most parishes where the original Medbourne manor extended (Thorpe Langton, Slawston, Welham). And in Weston-by-Welland, Sutton Bassett and Dingley in Northants, it seems likely that the Medbourne Paynes also acquired former Chaworth lands, especially a moiety of the manor of Weston, which had also passed to Thomas Dynham via Joan Ormond.\textsuperscript{31} But, whatever the truth of this matter, the fact that all these families were related underscores both the richness of Leicestershire yeoman interrelationships hinted at by the \textit{V.C.H.} and Farnham, and the piecemeal fragmentation of manorial lands in the county. Regarding Medbourne, the \textit{V.C.H.} states that the parish ‘in the late 16th and early 17th centuries was dominated by a few interrelated yeoman families’.\textsuperscript{32} this statement applies with equal force to Burton.

\textbf{Personal details}

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\textit{Note: all baptism, marriage and death dates are taken either from wills, or from the appropriate parish registers (for Burton Overy, Husband’s Bosworth, Medbourne, and Oadby), preserved at the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLRRO), , unless otherwise stated. The surname Ward is spelled without the old terminal ‘-e’, except in direct quotations.}

\textsuperscript{30} LLRRO Leics. Wills. (John’s mother, ‘Ellinn’, who was alive in November 1691 when he made his will, is probably identical with the ‘old widow’ named ‘Elenor’ Wrask whose burial in January 1692 is recorded in the Burton parish register.)

\textsuperscript{31} Calendar of Inquisitions, no. 1009, p. 516. (The other moiety passed to the Griffins of Dingley in 1552/3: see J. Bridges, \textit{History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire}, 2 vols (Oxford, 1791), II, 359.) There is no doubt about the Medbourne family’s Northants interest, because John Payne, gent., of Medbourne (LRO Leics. Wills, 1593) bequeaths to his eldest son, Benjamin, not only ‘my farme & house w[h]ich I dwell in’ in Medbourne, and land in Slawston, but also his house and lands at Weston-by-Welland.

\textsuperscript{32} \textit{V.C.H. Leicester}, V, 234.