

# “Names of Tenants in Coton Manor”

Robert Woodlark, the College’s founder, began buying land in Coton in the 1450s. In 1475 Woodlark transferred his acquisitions, amounting to c. 133 acres, to the College. In 1513 the college bought Maidenbury's manor in Coton. Subsequent small purchases brought the College’s land in Coton to 275 acres after inclosure; all of which was sold in 1920. The College therefore has a great deal of material relating to Coton within its archive and this article focus on a list of tenants from 1801.

Names of the present copyhold tenants of  
the Manor of Coton & Engaynes <sup>belonging to</sup> the  
Scoll Mares & Hallows of Catharine Hall with the  
Estates to which each tenant has been adm<sup>d</sup>

John Angier admitted in 1777 To a piece or parcell  
of pasture ground consyest one Acre more or less  
commonly called Buckin Acre in Coton with divers other  
lands & pastures late Cyprian Pemberton

William Day admitted in 1785 To a Cottage or Tenement  
in Coton with the Orchard & Appurtenances thereto belonging  
late Wm Stearns

John Neaman admitted in 1795 To a Messuage or  
Tenement & right of pasture ground thereto belonging  
late Joseph Stearns

Robert Nightingale & Ann his Wife admitted To  
a Cottage or Tenement in Coton of record with the Appurtenances  
formerly Neighbors

Henry Meadley admitted in 1770 To a Barn & Yard  
thereto belonging  
And also to the fourth part of an Acre of pasture ground called  
Brick Hill here with the appurtenances

Elizabeth Launder admitted in 1748 To the north part  
of a Messuage or Tenement in Coton near Uppfield here consisting of two  
low Rooms & a foretedge  
And also to one Acre by est more or less of customary Arable  
land in Uppfield in Coton in a certain furlong here called  
Burlongs furlong

Launder first married John Bull — afterwards married  
John Roe — Elizabeth Roe Widow — and that  
Elizabeth Roe Widow is her only child & next heir

Lists such as this list of tenants are incredibly useful for family historians, those researching land history and social historians, as they often provide a wealth of extra information as well as confirming who lived in a particular place at a particular time. Here the focus is on two of the entries in particular, that of John Angier (the first tenant listed) and Elizabeth Launder (the last tenant listed).

John Angier admitted in 1777 To a piece or parcell  
of pasture ground consyest one Acre more or less  
commonly called Buckin Acre in Coton with divers other  
lands & pastures late Cyprian Pemberton

From this entry we can see that Angier was admitted as a tenant in 1777 and the piece of land he occupied was commonly known as Buckin Acre, previously occupied by Cyprian Pemberton. John Angier was from a long line of Angiers who had lived and farmed in Coton. He died in 1835 and the lands were inherited by his son Henry who sold all their land and left the parish in 1855.

Elizabeth Launder admitted in 1746-90 the north part  
of a Messuage <sup>or Tenement</sup> in Coton near Upfield there consisting of two  
low Rooms & a low lodge  
And also to one rood by est more or less of customary arable  
land in Upfield in Coton in a certain furlong there called  
Burlongs furlong

Elizabeth Launder's entry is very interesting: as well as providing information about the land she held - two low rooms and a low lodge near Upfield in Coton and one rood of arable land known as Burlongs Furlong, it gives information on her personal circumstances. The Steward has noted that Elizabeth first married John Bull, and latterly married John Coe. Coe died, as perhaps Bull had done earlier, though this is not recorded. Her daughter, also called Elizabeth, is also listed as her heir, but she too is a widow, having married a Mr Pratt. It is not clear which marriage she came from. This level of biographical detail can be invaluable and in the 19th century, when women rarely held property in their own right, it is interesting to see a single woman listed as a tenant.

#### References:

St. Catharine's College Archive, XVII/1/6/12

Diane K. Bolton, G. R. Duncombe, R. W. Dunning, Jennifer I. Kermode, A. M. Rowland, W. B. Stephens and A. P. M. Wright, 'Parishes: Coton', in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 5*, ed. C. R. Elrington (London, 1973), pp. 189-198 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol5/pp189-198> [accessed 23 April 2015].

#### Further information:

Search the Janus website for material relating to Coton held by the Cambridge Colleges (<http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/>).

Search the Cambridgeshire Archives and Local Studies catalogue for Coton material held in the County Archives (<http://calm.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/calmview/default.aspx>).

The Archivist is always pleased to answer questions about the College. Enquiries should be directed to [archivist@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:archivist@caths.cam.ac.uk), or call 01223 338343. The Archivist only works for the College on Thursdays and Fridays so there is sometimes a delay in being able to answer queries.