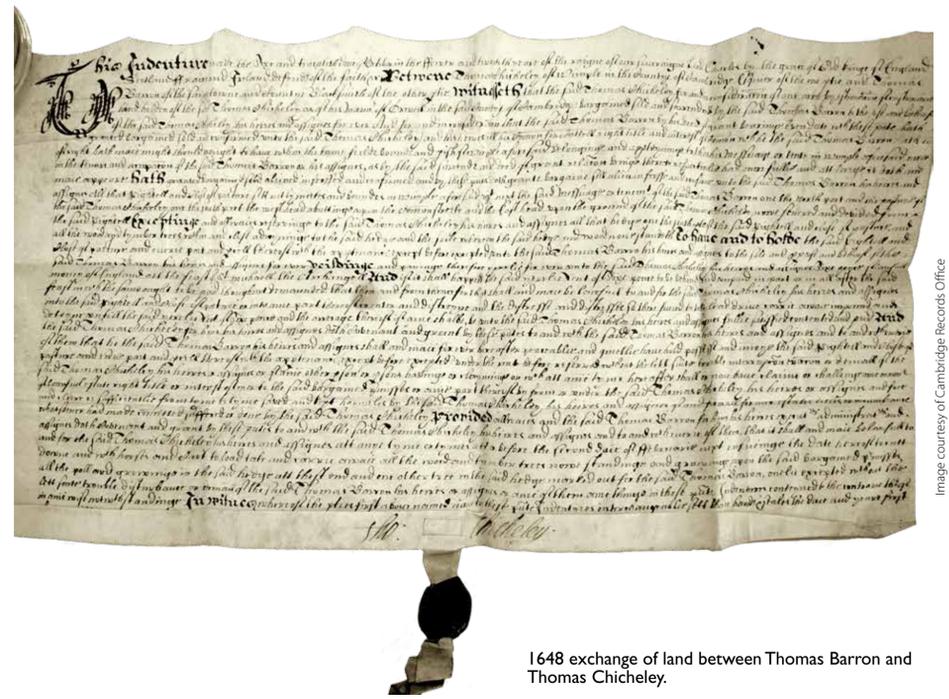


Evidence from Documents: 2



17th century documents helped to piece together what happened to people and their property.



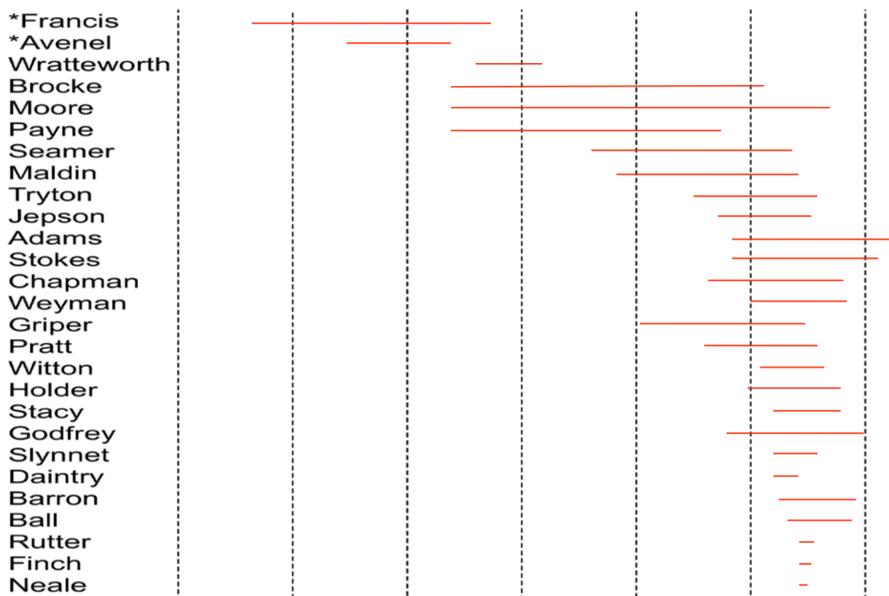
1648 exchange of land between Thomas Barron and Thomas Chicheley.

Extract from the Hare Map of the middle of the estate, with the manor house and houses around it, including Thomas Barron's, the park and open fields. *East is at the top*

Putting the information from the documents together, we can see how long families were living in the parish. This chart shows a selection of the families and their time in Wimpole.

Few who appear in 1638 are still in the parish after the 1660s. We know what happened to some people – Robert Finch, son of Daniel who in 1638 was the largest landholder in the parish after Thomas Chicheley, was a maltster in Royston by 1648 – but for many, the last record we have is of a death, suggesting that the Chicheleys and their successors reclaimed the lands.

1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700



* indicates lords of the manor

Documents like this can tell a story:

- 1629 George Jepson sold his house and croft to Thomas Barron, a blacksmith
- 1638 Thomas had the house - shown on the Hare Map - and 3.9 acres of land in 5 holdings
- 1640 Thomas' land was valued at 20 shillings
- 1648 Thomas gave up an acre of land and his right to graze cattle in return for pasture land next to his house
- 1662 Thomas' house had one hearth
- 1674 The house had two hearths
- 1691 Thomas left the house, close, orchard and garden to Richard Barnard and his wife, formerly Elizabeth Barron (possibly Thomas' sister)
- 1694 Richard sold the property to the Earl of Radnor, new lord of the manor

Documents also help us to work out when the remaining open fields were enclosed. This must have been largely complete by 1654, when we have the first mention of 5 farms.

- 1638 35 tenanted houses. Whole estate 1652 acres
- 1648/9 Thomas Chicheley leases the Orwell manor and starts land exchanges
- 1654 5 farms named by tenant, 3 other sizeable land holdings, 5 smaller holdings (1174 acres mortgaged by Thomas Chicheley) 11 tenanted houses plus at least 6 more
- 1662 26 houses with hearths
- 1674 20 houses with hearths
- 1684 8 farms named, 2 other substantial holdings, Thresham End and Bennall End, south and south-west of the Hall have gone
- c. 1710 Hamlet immediately north of the Hall goes
- 18th C Cobbs Wood Farm replaces Little End. Brick End cottages built
- Early 19th C Houses under and opposite the current Home Farm disappear
- 1837 The present 9 farms appear on the Tithe Commutation Agreement Map

FAMILY TREES

We dug test pits on William Griper's plot. This is his family tree. Richard also lived in Wimpole in 1638.

This is just an extract from the full tree. The earlier members of the family were reasonably well-to-do, and William's will of 1644 leaves, besides money, a gold ring. The tree shows how just one family intermarried with others in Wimpole.

In 1638 William had 19.9 acres in 7 holdings. Richard had 21.5 acres in 32 holdings (some joint). In 1640 William was assessed for tax at £3 on goods. Richard was assessed at 20 shillings on land.

