

19th century Farms & Cottage rents

It was George, yet another nephew of William the 2nd Viscount, who was to become the 5th Viscount and it was during his reign that we have further information on life at Beckett.

One notable change occurred with regard to the road. The main road to Longcot was very narrow and would be extremely close to the new Mansion House being planned. So, it was decided to re-route it to the course that it is today. The construction of it was carried out through 1817 and 1818, overseen by George Merryweather, the Steward of the Beckett Estate. The photograph below shows the original course.



Great Tythes due at Michaelmas. Occupiers of the lands & annual rent

Robert Bennett	£1.11.6
Thomas Chillingworth	£0.10.6
John Gunnel	£18.0.0
John Lawrence	£0.3.6
John Lawrence (mown ground)	£0.7.0
Thomas Lewis	£2.0.0
Richard Pettit	£2.5.11
Berkley Wilson	£5.5.0
Joseph Wirdnam	£1.15.0

Sandy Tythes due at Christmas. Occupiers of lands & annual value

William Akerman	£1.13.4
John Fairthorne	£1.16.1
Late Henry Fairthorne	£1.17.8
Late Henry Fairthorne	£0.16.10
William Hazell	£0.6.3
John Horne (Bourton)	£0.3.9
Susannah Lucas	£0.1.6
Susannah Lucas	£0.10.10
Charles Rickards	£4.19.2
Edward Warren	£2.0.0
Berkley Wilson	£0.16.0
Joseph Wirdnam	£2.14.4

It was from George's tenure that a large accounts book survives and is now in the archives of the Berkshire Record Office indexed as BRO D/EX52/E1. In the description at the beginning of the book it notes, '*An account of the Rents received by George Merryweather since he came to Beckett in April 1815. Pages 1 to 29, a specification of the Beckett Farms at Michaelmas 1815, grounded on Mr Barnes' valuation in 1811. Also, the Rent Roll, the result of his valuation, subject however, to the incidents and changes posterior to Mr Barnes valuation in 1811.*' This gentleman was Steward to the Rev. George Barrington, the 5th Viscount Barrington, who was the Prebendary of Durham Cathedral and Rector of Sedgfield. Being mostly away he left the running of Beckett Estate to Merryweather and paid him £300 per annum for so doing. A large cache of letters written by George Merryweather to his employer, Lord Barrington, were discovered in a Barrington family file at the British Library. These have been transcribed and are now available in a SHS publication called 'The Letters of George Merryweather.' It is available at this link:-
<http://publications.shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk/>

List of rents for farms and lands circa 1815

Sand Hill Farm. **Occupier:** Moses Akerman. 158 acres. **Rent:** £372 per annum

Home Leaze Farm. Robert Bennett. 214 acres. £548

Shrivenham & Longcott. Thomas Bowles. 203 acres. £388

Galley Hern Farm. Richard Butler. 140 acres. £210
Farm at Bourton. William Canfield. £80
Shrivenham Abbots Hill. John Fairthorn. 8 acres. £23.18.9
Shrivenham & Ashbury. Sarah Fairthorn. 194 acres. £350
Stainswick Farm. William Gerring. 277 acres. £632
Shrivenham. Isaac Giles. 158 acres. £378
Shrivenham. Thomas Haynes. 2 acres. £47.7.1
Galley Hens. William Johnson. 53 acres. £110
Shrivenham & Ashbury. Peter Killard. 245 acres. £560
Shrivenham & Longcott. William King. 254 acres. £406
Shrivenham. Susannah Lucas. Barrington Arms Public House & some land. 17
acres. £80. Annual rent for the pub £30.
Watchfield & Longcott. John Perring. 175 acres. £287
Shrivenham. Thomas Rich. Townsend Piece. 16 acres. £70
Shrivenham. William Tucker. Coppice & Paddock. 1 acre. £1.8.3
Shrivenham. Edward Warren. 132 acres. £304
Shrivenham. Stallpits. Mary Williams. 284 acres. £676
Shrivenham. Sarah Willoughby. The Barnicles. 6 acres. £24
Watchfield & Shrivenham. Berkley Wilson. Days Field. An Orchard called Hop
Ground & Coppice adjoining. 10 acres. £31.
Shrivenham. Thomas Wilson. (Coal Merchant). Damson Trees and Feeding
House. 8 acres. £46
Longcott & Shrivenham. John Waughton. 18 acres. £26

The above list would appear to be an accurate representation of the rental affairs of the Beckett Estate as it came out of a 20year trust period in 1814. The letters of George Merryweather mentioned above, confirm this to be the case. The survey also included domestic property rentals and serve as an important record of those people living in estate premises and at what cost.

Cottage rents circa 1815. Names of tenants, annual rent due at Michaelmas (29th Sept)

Thomas Akriel	£3.10.0
James Brindson	£3.10.0
Canfield	£9.0.0
Thomas Cavey	£3.0.0
Simon Crook	£22.10.0
William Freeman	£0.5.0
William Fuce	£5.0.0
Thomas Gardner	£5.0.0
John Giles	£2.10.0
William Gorton	£3.10.0
Jonathan Green	£3.0.0
Betty Hacker	£3.0.0
William Hazell (Jnr)	£4.0.0
William Horne	£15.0.0
Joseph Hughes	£5.5.0
Moses Jefferies	£0.5.0
Jones & Reason	£0.5.0
John Knapp	£3.10.0
Edward Langham	£0.1.0
Richard Martin	£3.10.0
Richard May	£3.0.0
William Mopham	£3.10.0
Robert Robey	£2.0.0
William Sealey	£3.0.0
John Sellwood	£5.0.0
Shrivenham Parish	£3.0.0
Henry Skinner	£3.10.0
William Smith	£3.10.0
Samuel Streat	£15.0.0
William Warren	£3.0.0
John Webb	£0.5.0
Thomas Wheeler	£2.10.0
Martha Willoughby	£0.10.0
John Wirdnam	£1.10.0

Garden rents due at Michaelmas circa 1815. Tenants, admeasurement (acres, roods, poles) annual rent.

Thomas Akriel.	10.0.9	£0.5.0
Alexander Ball	10.0.9	£0.5.0
Edward Cavey	0.0.10	-----
Thomas Cavey	0.0.10	£0.9.6
Elizabeth Church	0.0.10	£0.5.6
John Giles	0.0.9	£0.5.0
Dianah Gosling	0.0.12	£0.6.6
Richard Hewer	0.0.10	£0.5.6
Moses Jefferies	0.1.4	£1.0.0
George Knapp	0.0.9	£0.5.0
Benjamin Lawrence	0.0.8	£0.4.6
Joseph Lawrence	0.0.16	£0.9.0
Henry Moulding	-----	£20.0.0
Richard May	0.0.11	£0.5.0
Daniel Powell	10.0.20	£0.10.6
Richard Reason	0.0.21	£1.0.0
Henry Sealey	0.0.10	£0.5.6
Joseph Sealey (Jnr)	0.0.9	£0.5.0
William Sealey	0.0.11	£0.6.0
Shrivenham Parish	-----	£0.5.2
Charles Sly	0.0.17	£0.10.0
Robert Townsend	0.0.8	£0.5.0
Stephen Warren (Jnr)	0.0.11	£0.6.0
John Webb	0.0.12	£0.6.0
Richard Wheeler	0.0.9	£0.5.0

Reserved Cottage rents due Michaelmas annually

Thomas Akriel	£1.0.0
John Edwards	£0.12.0
Betty Hollick	£0.10.0
Richard Hollyhock	£1.5.0
William Lake	£0.10.0
Thomas Lewis	£1.0.0
Thomas Merrifield	£0.10.0
Henry Moulding	£0.12.6
John Perring	£3.0.0
Daniel Powell	£0.12.6
John Powell	£0.15.0
Mary Sealey	£1.0.0
Richard Sealey	£1.5.0
Charles Sly	£1.5.0
Elizabeth Sly	£1.5.0
Thomas Trottman	£1.0.0
Richard Wheeler	£1.0.0
William Whiteway	£1.5.0
Isaac Willoughby	£0.10.0
Stephen Wirdnam	£0.10.0