

FARMS AND AGRICULTURE

[mostly about 19th-century Morden]

1805: typewritten transcript of passages describing land in Mitcham/Morden extracted from *A Compendium of Modern Husbandry: Surrey, Volume III*, by James Malcolm 1805 (see **Annex A**; the Oxford English Dictionary says "gratten" is "southern dialect" and defines it as "A stubble-field, stubble. Also, the after-grass growing in the stubble")

Photocopy of table showing *The Price of Labour for the Last Three Years* from page 183 of *A Compendium of Modern Husbandry: Surrey, Volume I*. Typewritten version of the same, giving the dates of the "last three years" as 1803-5 and adding a note to the entry for Reaping "By comparison this is a considerable variation and probably should be £0.10.0 and not as shown."

(There are links to all digitised versions of all three volumes of Malcolm at

<https://mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/digital-classics/> but the scan there does not include pages 394-5 of Volume III).

1967: Reprint of A G Parton "[The 1801 Crop Returns for the County of Surrey](#)" from the *Surrey Archaeological Collections, Volume LXIV, 1967*.

Undated:

Hobalds:

three copies of a typewritten note reading as at **Annex B**, two with photocopies of "Map of Malden in 1627", mostly drawing on *A History of Malden*, Ross 1947, pages 63/4 and 75/6;

one page of typewritten notes, as at **Annex C**.

Thomas Marshall (died 1859): two typewritten sheets headed "List of Land held in the occupation of Thomas Marshall Lower Morden"

Hatfeild School: typewritten note headed "**Hatfeild School**" which considers which farms in Morden might have been on the school site; folded into typewritten table headed "Farming in Morden", with names of those farming from Post Office Directories of 1838 and 1845-1938.

Market gardeners and farm bailiffs: one typewritten sheet with details of "market gardeners", a "bee keeper", and "farm bailiffs" in Morden, extracted from Kelly's PO Directories 1838 to 1930; two handwritten sheets with the same/similar.

ANNEX A: TRANSCRIPTION OF RUDD'S SHEET OF NOTES FROM MALCOLM

"A Compendium of Modern Husbandry", Volume III. Agriculture of the County of Surrey, by James Malcolm. 1805:

Pages 397/8: "Taking up the Reigate road at Tooting, we pass by the extensive physic grounds, &c, belonging to James Moore, Esq. The first farm we come to is that belonging to Henry Hoare, Esq, in the parish of Mitcham, and is strong and holding; but, in the course of my frequent observations on the state of the husbandry pursued thereon, I never saw any thing to commend.

The land is far from being clean, nor is it well ploughed, nor early enough for soil that is so tenacious; the ditches are choked up at every other time, but when a new hedge and ditch is made, and then it is too contracted; the hedges are besides in bad order for a gentleman farmer; and those mixens which we see by the road are not made with skill or science."

Page 402:

From Mitcham to Sutton the Rotation is as under.

1. Fallow for wheat, dressed with London muck, chalk, or lime, yard dung and road scrapings mixed.
2. Oats.
3. Tares cut green, and sold in London in bundles, at 8d. and 10d. per bundle.
4. Turnips, having been twice ploughed and dunged, sold generally to cowkeepers about London.

5. Beans.
6. Dunged for wheat and sown early in December, if a favourable season, upon two ploughings of the gratten, the seed harrowed in.
7. Garden or Marlborough grey early field peas.
8. Oats, Tartarian or Scotch.
9. Fallow for turnips dunged and fed off.
10. Barley, with rye grass and clover.
11. The clover and grass sometimes mowed for green meat, for the London dray horses.
12. Wheat, or now and then rye on the lay.

This comprises some of their best systems; the dung comes round however so very often, and due attention not being paid to weeding and cleansing, the land becomes very foul thereby."

Page 406.

From Morden to Ewell the land is of the same strong quality, both to the right and left, as from Mitcham to Sutton, with very little exception, and the rotation assimilates also."

Page 395. Reference to Mr. Ewart.

"But Mr. Sandiland, Mr. Thomas Lucas, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Robert Bostock, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ewart, of Bysh Court, (who, though a very young farmer, promises to make a very respectable figure) these gentlemen farming their own estates, and a few other respectable men, do not confine themselves to any particular courses, but are guided by the necessities of the times, and therefore, whenever they find it convenient to cross crop, they take care to supply the exhaustion by the timely, and perhaps plentiful dressing of yard dung."

Note: Mr. John Ewart built Morden Park House in 1770 and moved to Bysshe Court, Horen, Surrey, [*what follows crossed out by Rudd:*] in 1788. The reference above would appear to be that of his grandson, since he could hardly be described as young, unless he was new to farming.]

ANNEX B: TRANSCRIPTION OF RUDD'S NOTES FROM A HISTORY OF MALDEN [ON HOBALDES]

A History of Malden - Ross, 1947. Pages 63/64 & 75/76.

"One result of the dissolution of the monasteries was the sale of monastic lands."

(Grant of land ex-Merton Priory, 1554).

"Similarly in 1562 there is a grant in fee simple to Lawernce Shryfe and Thomas Reve of ... "a mansion and farm called Hobbaldes, co. Surrey, now or late in the tenure of Thomas Fromondes, late of the priory or house of Jesus of Bethlehem of ----, co. Surrey, £10.

Thomas Fromond (who had died in 1542) built East Cheam Manor House, pulled down about 1800. The Fromondes were a Roman Catholic family, often in trouble in the seventeenth century for harbouring Jesuits.

Alternative spellings:

Hobalds, Hobald mede, Hoboldes mede, Hobbald mede, Hobbals land (1627), Hobaldes, Hobbaldis.

ANNEX C: TRANSCRIPTION OF RUDD'S NOTE "HOBALDS IN MORDEN" (Abbreviation marks in the Latin omitted)

HOBALD

HOBALD MEDE

HOBOLDES MEDE - Hen. 7. Add. Charters in B.M.

LYTYLL' HOLBOLDES - 16 Apr. 1521 Copy of Court Roll (Minet)

HOBBALDIS - 1538. Ministers Accs. Merton Priory. (Transcribed in Heales Records of Merton Priory, App. CLII, p.cxxviii)

HOBBALD LAND - 1627, Map of Merton College property in Maldon, Surrey (S.A.C 39 p.37)

HOBALDS MEAD - Indenture 1627 (Minet)

GREAT HOBALDS) - Act of Parliament Geo. 3:8:8 (1768-9)

HOBALDS MEAD)

HOBALDS FARM - 1866-7 O.S. Sry. Sh XIII 6" Map, 1st. Ed.

Hobalds was a small Estate in Morden, and is said to have been the property of the House of Jesus of Bethlehem before the Dissolution (V.C.H. Surrey, Vol.4, p.235); although it is referred to in the Ministers Accounts of Merton Priory in 1538 [added in the margin: see reference above], as follows:

Firma Mansion vocat Hobbaldis.

Compus Thome Fremondis Firmar ibm.

Arrerag nulla

Firma. Sma x li

Sma Firme x li. Qui exonantr hic. Et eqz.

See also "A History of Malden" – Ross, 1947. Pages 63/64 & 75/76.