

## The Village of Fenton.

The Manor of Fenton was formed in the middle of the twelfth century when Gilbert de Gant divided his estate of Holm, giving 37 bovates of land, including the services of 14 villeins, in Fenton to his constable, Herbert, son of Adelard in exchange for lands Herbert had previously owned in Bressingby Yorks. Included in the grant was land at Orrbey, a village on the east coast of Lincolnshire from which the family took its name on future generations. A church at Fenton is first mentioned around 1160, the nave and chancel were presumably built by Herbert soon after he received the grant from Gilbert de Gant, closely followed by the addition of a north aisle. The original Manor House may have stood where Fenton Old Hall stands today and the original church may have been as much a Manorial chapel as a satellite of Beckingham church.

A dispute arose in the next century when John de Orrbey, the son of Herbert, claimed the advowson of the church and was continued by Phillip de Orrbey who succeeded his brother. This action has the appearance of an attempt to establish the church at Fenton in its own right, but nothing more is heard of the Orreby claim which, had it succeeded would have seriously reduced the value of the Beckingham living.

At the end of the thirteenth century there is a mention of a Robert de Fenton and Cicely his wife holding land in Fenton of the Orreby's. Robert was also one of the tax collectors of the area and was taxed himself on his moveable property :-

1 quarter of wheat	3.0
1 quarter of dredge	2.0
1 quarter of beans & peas	12
1 draught animal	2.0
1 ox	5.0
	-----
	13.0
	-----
Tax at 1/9 <sup>th</sup>	17d
	-----

And in the lay subsidy of 1332 John ad Aula (at the hall) was taxed 3.0 shillings.

In 1338 the Fenton estate appears to be held jointly by Fulk de Orreby, Robert de Wylloughby and Robert de Cressy: the last connection with the

Orreby family being Joan, after whose death in 1394 the estates were dispersed.

Lord de Wylloughby is recorded as holding 1 KF in Fenton in 1428 and in 1505 there is an indenture of sale for 400 marks from William Willoughby, Lord Willoughby (note how the spelling changed) & Eresby to William Fitzwilliam Alderman of London of Fenton Manor with 20 massuages, 400 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture and 100 acres of marsh at 31 shillings and  $\frac{3}{4}$  rent.

The village courts were held under the aegis of William Fitzwilliam into the second decade of the sixteenth century at which time the estate appears to have been broken up and sold.

Fenton Hall was probably bought by Richard Lucas of Newark, and from the stone set in the front wall it was his son Richard who rebuilt the Hall. The stone is dated 1597 the year of Richard's death, but much alteration has taken place since and it is by no means certain that stone is in its original place. It was from Richard's time that the family took up residence at Fenton and he was succeeded by his son Bryan who was 2 years under age at the time of his father's death. There is a mention of a Peter Lucas holding land in Fenton in 1600 but no other references to him have been found.

Bryan was followed by his son Anthony and Anthony by his son Timothy who married Mary the daughter of George Neville of Auburn Manor. When George Neville died, Timothy changed his name from Lucas to Neville in order to inherit the Auburn estate. Timothy's brother Gervase became governor of Belvoir Castle for the Manners family and died on foreign service in the East Indies.

Timothy died in 1652 and his widow married Richard Holland the rector of Hascomb Surrey. He was no doubt related to Robert Holland whose family had been leasing land in Fenton for several generations from Corpus Christi College Oxford; the college having acquired the property on the dispersal of the Manorial estate. Through this connection the Lucas family probably acquired further property in Fenton as George the son of Timothy and Mary continued to lease the land from the college.

George married Penelope the daughter of a local baronet William Thorold of Marston Hall and his son Anthony gained a considerably larger property than that at Fenton by his marriage to Anne the daughter and co-heiress of Charles Holland of Edith Weston in Rutland.

From Anthony's will it seems that his eldest son George was to inherit the Edith Weston estate whilst the younger son Anthony, who was a minor at the time of his father's death, was to get the property at Fenton: until he attained his majority the Corpus Christi College land was leased to trustees including his mother for the benefit of Anthony and his sister

Penelope. As Anthony at the time of his father's death was being educated at Oakham school it seems probable that the family had moved to Edith Weston. This certainly was the case when Anthony inherited his brothers estate after his death in 1728/9.

Whilst they lived in Fenton almost invariably members of the Lucas family were buried at Fenton church and this continued in certain instances after the move to Edith Weston. How long after this move the family retained the Fenton property is uncertain but they no longer leased the College lands. Until of late no record has been found of the building of the brick and tiled wing, which would appear to have been added in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

In 1868 Mary Dorothy Lucas, a niece of John Milnes of Beckingham Hall who married Richard Lucas the great grandson of Anthony left £100 to which her executors added £50 for coal for the poor of Fenton and in 1888 Richard Lucas probably her son left £250 for repairs to the church.

To go back to the reason why the brick and tile wing was built, in 1775 there was a great fire at the hall burning down two thirds of the original building (there are still charred roof timbers in the roof space), this is the time the Lucas family moved to Edith Weston the remains of the hall being sold. It is believed that a local builder bought the hall and an amount of land to begin farming the name Hutchinson is mentioned at this time and there is a grave in the churchyard bearing this name. He was also a church warden for many years.

It seems likely that the stables were built at the same time there being the name of Hutchinson carved on one of the beams, unfortunately the stables were demolished a number of years ago.

In the late nineteenth century Colonel, Sir Edmund Royd of Stubton Hall bought Fenton Old Hall and rented out the property to farmers, it had many tenants over the years and became run down the stables were in a sorry state and the house not much better. Colonel Royd became bankrupt due to his tenants not paying their rents. He did own several properties besides the Fenton one. The Colonel was also a prolific writer especially on local family history unfortunately due to the poor state of Stubton Hall most of his books were lost to the damp conditions.

The name William Willoughby and Eresby previously mentioned in this village history cropped up in a programme on television about the clearance of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. During the latter part of the 18th century, apparently they were owners of land in that area and were responsible for the forced removal of crofters from their lands to make way for the grazing of sheep.

Sometime in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the families of Willoughby and Eresby joined names, probably through marriage and the name still lives on the owners of Grimsthorpe castle in Lincolnshire are of that name, Willoughby-Eresby.

To be continued.

1613 June 5.

L.A.O. INV 115/290.

Inventory of Anthony Lucas Esquire of Fenton.

Taken by Josua Crosse gent, Thomas Thorpe yeoman, Christopher Masca & ..... Head Husbandman.

His apparel & money in his purse	13. 6...
In the <u>INNER PARLOUR.</u> 1 stand bed with truckle bed	13...
2 mattresses, 3 coverlets, a rug & 1 pair of blankets	23. 4
2 feather beds, 1 bolster & 5 pillows	40. 0
Curtains & curtain rods, a mat & a pair of snuffers	10. 0
9 linen sheets, 5 pair of linen pillowbearers & 2 pairs of holland	3. 5. 0
3 long yable cloths, 4 livery cupboard cloths	
2 linen towels & a dozen & 8 linen napkins	27. 0
2 dozen & 8 napkins, 1/2 dozen course napkins	12. 8
2 dozen linen napkins & 2 midlin towels	18...
4 pair of midlin sheets, 4 pairs & 1 harden sheets	33. 4
2 midlin table cloths & 4 course table cloths	9. 0
2 truks & 3 chests	18. 0
4 livery (livery) cloaks	6. 0. 0
In the <u>GREAT PARLOUR.</u> 1 three leaved table )	
1 dozen of joined stools, a cailed chair & a )	38. 0
livery cupboard )	
1 long carpet & 3 short carpets, 8 cushions, &	
11 needlework cushions part unwrought	33. 4
An old bible & a Common Prayer Book	6. 8
In the <u>CHAMBER OVER THE GREAT PARLOUR.</u> an old chair	
a featherbed, a bolster, 2 coverlets & a mattress	30. 0
A still	2. 0
In the <u>CHAMBER OVER THE INNER PARLOUR.</u> a featherbed )	
a mattress, a bolster, 2 fustian pillows, 2 coverings )	3. 0. 0
a pair of blankets, a mat ?, curtains, rods & vallens )	
A livery cupboard, a chair, 2 little joined stools	
a coffer & a black box	13. 4
.....	5. 0
In the <u>UPPER CHAMBERS.</u> the cheese	13. 4
A firkin with.....of soap & 4 new boards	3. 0
2 quarters & 1/2 of malt, a strike of wheat & rye	3. 0. 0
a winnowing cloth, 2 sieves, & an old trunk	10. 0
20 yards of harden cloth	12
2 ? drinking glasses, with certain violes ? & other ? glasses	30. 0
A fowling piece with the case	
In the ..... a silver bowl, a beaker	9. 3. 4
.....	12. 0
.....a flagon	
..... )	20. 0
..... )	
..... )	6. 8
..... C.....	
.....little.....	25. 0
.....	12
.....wooden dishes	
.....pots, .... pans )	3. 4
.....a broyling )	

The inner parlour was used for sleeping and the great parlour as a dining-room. There is no mention of fire irons or cooking utensils in either room so presumably neither had a fireplace. Cooking utensils are mentioned in the part of the inventory which is illegible and no doubt referred to the kitchen. The chambers over the parlours were used as bedrooms and those above these for storage. There is no mention of a 'hall' which is unusual but at the time the inventory was taken this may have been used as, or included in, the kitchen area. Neither is there mention of farm animals etc and suggests that the 'fara' was leased out.

1746 March 20

L. A. O. Misc Don 454/1/10

Will of Anthony Lucas of Edith Weston

To be buried at Fenton.

To Elizabeth dau. - £1.400 within 12 months - interest at 4%

To Penelope dau. - £1.400 at 21 or on marriage with interest at 4% for her maintenance

To wife - jointure already made on her, pursuant to the will of my late uncle Richard Halford Esq. Use of all plate, linen, pictures & household goods at Edith Weston for life. My coach & horses & all hay, corn & other things.

To Richard son - £200.

Trustees to see 1/3rd property in Edith Weston; 1/3rd manor of Claypole etc to pay debts & legacies.

To Anthony son - Annuity £40 for life, to cease if he mortgages it.

To George son - now a minor at Oakham School at 21, the manor of Fenton for life & then in tail male. £50 p.a. for maintenance whilst a minor.

To wife - residue.

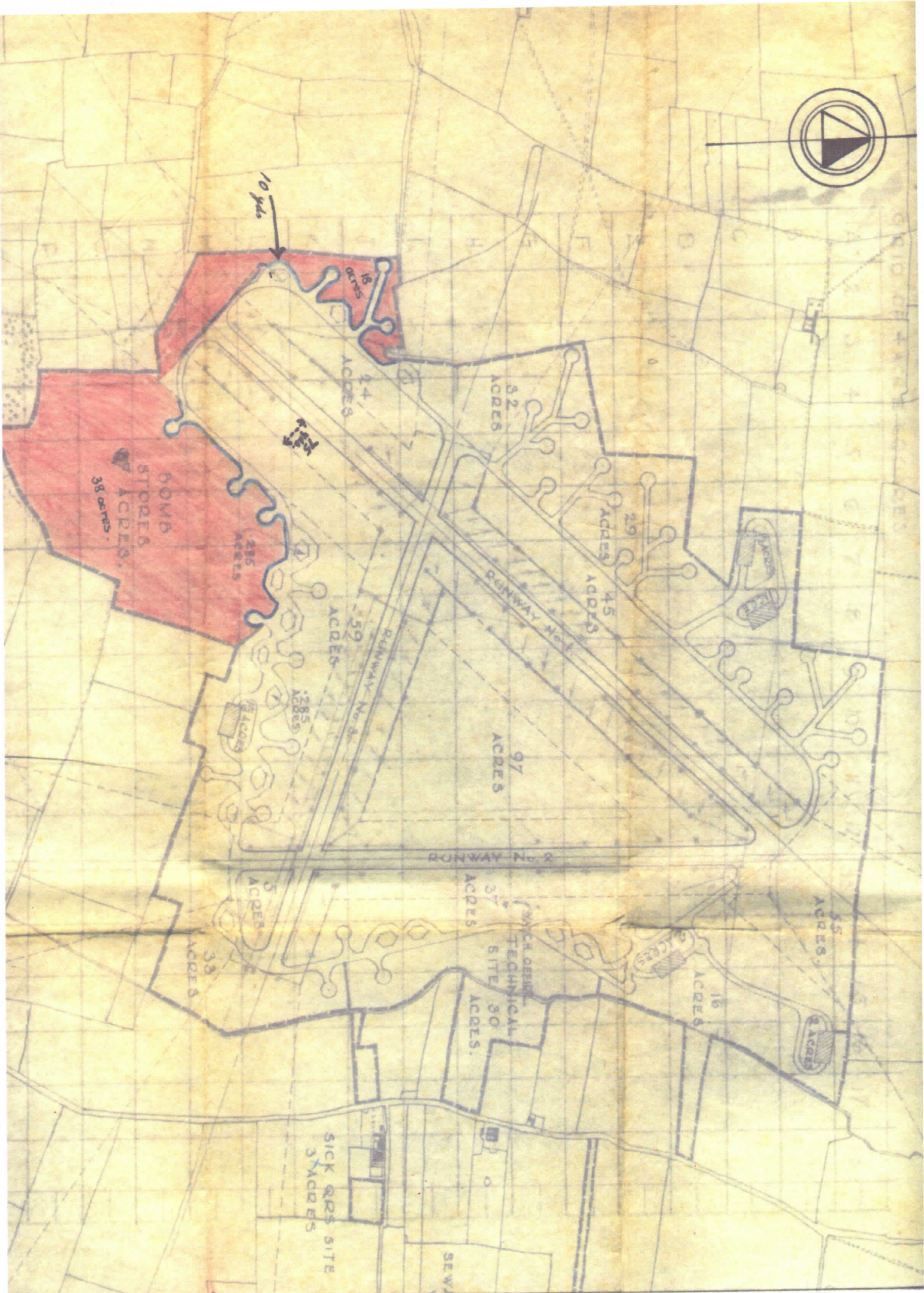
Extrix - wife

Proved 19 April 1749.

FIELD PLAN PRE 1939.







FURBECK AIRFIELD 1942-43