

From a Parish magazine January 1930 about Bishop Monkton

In the Great Survey of the Conqueror of the North of England, made in 1086, Bishop Monkton was then known as "Monucheton" and it is interesting to know that at that time – immediately after the Saxon period the villages' neighbours were called "Torp" (Littlethorpe), "Westwic" (Westwick) & "Merchantone" (Markington).

Another mention is made of the village, but this time as "Monuchton" (the "e" being dropped) as having a thane who had five villanes and three bordars with two ploughs. This fact brings to mind that though today it is never thought about in connection with English History, slavery, or serfdom, as it was commonly called, existed extensively both on feudal and ecclesiastical lands. In the summary at the end of the Great Survey it is made known that the archbishop of York held eight carucates (a carucate being as much as land as a team could plough in one year) in Monkton – this time being spelled "Monulchton". The nearest approach the present name is arrived at in a document "Nomina Villarum" in 1316 spelled "Munketon" and two years later it is mentioned that the Prebend of "Munketon" was levied with a tax of 20 marks for the assistance of the mother church of St. Wilfred of Ripon following the ravages of the Scots. On October 23rd, 1468, a book commonly called "Pupilla Oculi" was given to the church at Ripon and it was ordered that this book be placed in the North part of the Choir and chained to the stall of the Prebend of Monkton.

Next mention is made of its Prebend in 1537, when on October 1st the Archbishop of York paid a visitation to Ripon and among his many injunctions was a very severe censure to the then Prebend of Monkton, one Sir Christopher Brazley. The injunction ran in the following phraseology: -

"That the said Sir Christofer shall forbear from hensforth going to the ale house and playing at the tables cards and dice, that the said Sir Christofer shall bye the booke lately made by the bussehopps (bishops) of Englande and avoiding of idlenesse and for his own instruction reade dayly on the same, and this to be doon withyn thurtie daies next after the date hereof. That the said Sir Christofer shall expel and put out of his house Joanne Calverly, and also abstayne from her company in avoiding such infamie and suspicion as haith byn engendered by reason of their dwelling to gedder, and this to be doon incontinent after receipt hereof. The said Sir Christofer shall were no dagger at any time"

This indeavour and worldly prebend was not ejected from his office, but the record to hand does not say definitely whether this Sir Christofer was the Treasurer of the Chapter (which was a secular position, the Canons not being under any monastic rule) in 1549.

Years before the above date villages may be surprised to know that Monkton was a royal manor, passing into the personal possession of Henry VIII on the dissolution of the monasteries

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I copied this from a page in an old Parish Magazine of 1930 which Mr A Smith (my neighbour) lent me to read. April 10th, 1956