

Confirmation of Whitbread's ownership of the Estate of the former Elstow Abbey and his status as Lord of that manor.

*Extracted from Chronicles of the Abbey of Elstow, By Rev'd SR Wigram 1885*

REIGN OF *GEORGE III.*, 1760-1820.

In this reign the Elstow estates once more changed hands, as they were purchased, 1792, by Mr. Whitbread of Southill, great-grandfather of the present proprietor, of the representatives of the Hillersden family, in whose possession they had remained since 1616. In 1797, 37 George III., an Act of Parliament was passed for inclosing the commons of Elstow, the scope and object of which will be most easily gathered from the preamble, which follows;

,"WHEREAS there are in the parish of Elstow, in the County of Bedford, certain common and open fields, common meadows, and other commonable lands and waste grounds, containing in the whole, by estimation, one thousand and sixty acres, or thereabouts.

"And whereas *Samuel Whitbread is Lord of the manor of Elstow aforesaid, and is also proprietor of the said common and open fields, common meadows, and other commonable lands, and is also Impropiator of the Improprate Rectory of Elstow aforesaid, and as such is seised of or entitled to all tithes great and small arising and renewing within the said parish.*

"And whereas Sir Philip Monoux, Baronet, John Leach, John Rogers, Richard Rogers, and other persons are entitled to the residue of the said common able lands, and that they and some other persons, owners of ancient cottages in Elstow aforesaid, are respectively entitled to common of pasture for their cattle in, upon, and over the said common and open fields, common meadows and waste lands, or some part thereof, at stated times in the year, and in certain proportions.

"And whereas the said lands and grounds lie inter mixed, and are inconveniently situate, and are in their present state incapable of any considerable improvement, and it would be advantageous to the several proprietors thereof if the same were divided and inclosed, and specified shares thereof allotted to them in lieu of, and in proportion to their several and respective estates, rights and interests therein, but as such division and inclosure cannot be effected and carried into execution without the authority of Parliament, may it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, &c."