

THE WOMERSLEY COLLECTION

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2005

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INTRODUCTION

The Womersley Collection is a compilation of financial papers of both the Estate organisation and of the former occupants of Womersley Park and Estate. The Womersley Estate was situated some four miles from Pontefract and although comparatively little has been written about the Womersley Estate, some further details can be gleaned from the brochure produced to advertise the Estate's sale by auction in 1930. At this point, Womersley was made up of the Hall and Park, 25 farms, 8 smallholdings, 56 cottages and two quarries. In total, the Estate was described as 'embracing the entire village of Womersley, the whole covering an area of about 4,688 acres'.

The Womersley Estate is further described as 'one of Yorkshire's most picturesque properties', and is (somewhat tenuously) linked back to the establishment of Pontefract Castle by Ilbert de Lacy in 1080. What is known, however, is that at some point in the mid 18th century the Estate came into the possession of the Hawke family (and it is implied that the famous Admiral Edward Hawke may have been a resident) and that with the marriage of Cassandra Harvey-Hawke to the 4th Earl of Rosse in 1870 the Estate passed into the hands of the Rosse family of Birr, Ireland. The house itself is described in 1930 as being Georgian with extensive gardens and parkland 'enjoying a picturesque unsullied rural situation' which should 'appeal strongly to those in search of a typical Country Home'.

At this point, accounts in the collection show that the Estate comprised of the Hall, the Gardens and Woods (with an account for the upkeep of Game) and other buildings, including the Farm and Estate Brickworks (described as 'not at present in working' in the 1930 catalogue). In common with many other large family Estates, the impact of the First World War and the change in working life (combined with the general increase in financial pressures that hit all wealthy families in the depression) meant that by 1930, the Estate was placed for sale at a general auction in July of the same year. The outcome of the auction is not recorded but records for the Estate continue until the mid 1940's.

The papers themselves cover a wide range of topics, illustrated through the accounts of the Estate and its constituent parts. As well as top-level Estate records recording the general activities of the Estate, there are also more detailed records of a much more personal nature, illustrating everything from the contents of an 18th century granary to the leisure spending of an early 20th century socialite. The documents relating to the sale of the Estate in 1930 also give a hugely detailed appraisal of the Womersley area including building sizes (and in isolated cases, contents) and location; as well as providing several detailed maps of the Estate. The Farm records illustrate well the demands of running a large farm organisation, whilst the Hall records give an intriguing insight to the purchasing habits and the lifestyle of the Hawke family in the late 18th century, whilst the records of an unknown 17th century merchant provide a fascinating insight into the trading culture of the time. Overall, the Womersley Estate papers provide a glimpse into both the general – and very specific – life of a large Estate.

THE ARCHIVES

The Womersley Collection was purchased at auction in May 2005, thanks to generous donation from the Raymond Burton Charitable Trust. The collection is no way a complete survey of the activities of the Womersley Estate, but it does give a distinct flavour of Estate life in certain periods. The papers themselves are overwhelmingly financial in nature and document large scale financial activities of the entire estate to the smaller accounts of the Brickworks and Farm. There are however, many papers where it was impossible to accurately identify the creator. Although every effort has been made to distinguish the author, in many cases this has not been possible. A small collection of documents relating to the Womersley area can be found in the Yarbrugh Muniments collection at the Borthwick Institute (Ref. Y/MD WOM).

The collections at the Borthwick Institute are by no means the only Archives relating to the Womersley Estate. Other collections relating to the Hawke and Rosse family, as well as other Estate material can be found at the following Archives:

Birr Castle Demesne
Birr
County Offaly
Republic Of Ireland

Birr Castle is the seat of the Rosse family, and so contains much information relating to the Estate for the period following the marriage of Cassandra Harvey-Hawke to the 4th Earl of Rosse in 1870.

West Yorkshire Archives (Wakefield)
Registry of Deeds
Newstead Road
Wakefield
WF1 2DE

West Yorkshire Archives (Wakefield) holds papers relating to the Rosse Estate for the period covering 1887-1908.

WOM THE WOMERSLEY COLLECTION 1679 - 1947

WOM/1 WOMERSLEY ESTATE 1689-1947

ESTATE PAPERS RELATING TO BOTH GENERAL ESTATE BUSINESS AND PAPERS THE CONSITUENT PARTS OF THE ESTATE - NAMELY THE ESTATE BRICKWORKS, THE HALL AND THE FARM.

WOM/1/1 GENERAL ESTATE PAPERS 1685-1947

WOM/1/1/1 ESTATE PLANS AND SCHEDULES 1700-1913

WOM/1/1/1/1 'A particular account of all the lands and tennants belonging unto Tobiah Harvey Esq. in the Lordship of Womersley'. May 1700

Detailed Estate survey listing tenants, land owned, freeholds, acreage, meadow/arable. Also lists exchanges of land over a period of years and includes a list of 'ad hoc' land changes

WOM/1/1/1/2 'A Field book showing the content of all the inclosures, meadow, field land and commons in the Lordship of Womersley surveyed by Joshua Marsden and Jospheh Dickinson'. 1700

Shows tenants, freehold land, 'Commons, laines and highways', land at Vicarage and town pinder; various farm enclosures, general account of field land and amount of land held in each field. Fully indexed.

WOM/1/1/1/3 Land Survey Book - Survey of rental value of land, gives acreage of land and assessment of rateable value. Drainage accounts at rear 1788

WOM/1/1/1/4 Womersley Estate Plan Early 20th century

Description of land and use of land for entire Womersley estate - lists acreages arable, House land, grass, cultivation and name of tenant. Has description of use of land and name of field. For each section there is a hand coloured map.

WOM/1/1/1/5	Particulars of Real Estate subject to terms of settlement dated 29th August 1870, executed on the marriage of the Hon. Frances Cassandra Harvey Hawke with the Rt Hon Lawrence Earl of Rosse.	29th August 1870
WOM/1/1/1/6	Schedule of Title Deeds in the Iron Safe at Womersley Includes letter of acknowledgement	1869
WOM/1/1/1/7	Agreement for the supply of electricity - Agreement between the Countess of Rosse and the Vicar / Churchwardens of Womersley Church.	1913
WOM/1/1/2	<u>ESTATE CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
WOM/1/1/2/1	Counterfoil Letter Book	Late 19th - Early 20th century
WOM/1/1/3	<u>ESTATE ACCOUNTS</u>	1900-1919
	THESE LEDGERS RECORD THE GENERAL FINANCIAL RECORDS OF THE CONSITUENT PARTS OF THE ESTATE AS A WHOLE. THE LEDGERS ARE SUBDIVIDED INTO THE HOUSE ACCOUNT, WOODS ACCOUNT, GAME ACCOUNT, BUILDINGS ACCOUNT, ESTATE ACCOUNT, GARDENS ACCOUNT, HALL ACCOUNT AND LADY ROSSE'S ACCOUNT	
WOM/1/1/3/1	Womersley Estate Cash Accounts Also includes Estate Accounts for building work, Hall Wages, Sundry Items, Gardens, Game, Drainage, Charities and summary of Lady Rosse's private account.	December 1893- January 1900
WOM/1/1/3/2	Womersley Estate Cash Accounts	February 1900 - April 1909
WOM/1/1/3/3	Womersley Estate Cash Accounts	May 1909 - October 1919

WOM/1/1/4	<u>ESTATE CASH ACCOUNTS</u>	1886-1925
<p>THESE ACCOUNTS ARE RECORDS FOR ITEMS PAID FOR WITH PETTY CASH, AND COMPRISE ITEMS SUCH AS RAVEL EXPENSES, AMOUNTS MADE FOR LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT, SUNDRY ITEMS, OFFICE STATIONARY ITEMS AND ESSENTIALS; AND OFFICE CLEANING.</p>		
WOM/1/1/4/1	Cash Account Book. Includes Wage bill, expenses for travel, Doctor's Bills, commodity payments and building payments	April 1886 - October 1893
WOM/1/1/4/2	Cash Account Book	January 1899- June 1910
WOM/1/1/4/3	Cash Account Book. Includes some accounts of meat sales in 1917	July 1910-October 1925
WOM/1/1/5	<u>RENTAL BOOKS</u>	1685-1918
WOM/1/1/5/1	<p>Monies rec'd from tennants</p> <p>Comprises: List of freeholders Land survey c. 1700 Account of land as let of June 1700 - tenants' names and no of acres farmed Content of Spring Woods 1703 Names of freeholders c 1700 List of creditors and debtors c. 1690 Rents, c 1606 (copied into this volume at a later date)</p>	1685-1698
WOM/1/1/5/2	<p>Rental Account books by Thos Pulleyn</p> <p>Three books in one volume:</p> <p>i) Current Account book of Thomas Pulleyn. Mostly estate, some personal ii) Rentalls for Scathingwell, Towton and Gateforth. Shows rents due from farm residents, quarterly at Michaelmas and Martinmas; also at Ladyday and Whitsuntide. iii) Rentalls 1749-1759</p>	1739-1759

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WOM/1/1/5/3	Rentalls for Scathingwell, Towton and Gateforth Shows rents due from farm residents, quarterly at Michaelmas and Martinmas; also at Ladyday and Whitsuntide. Marked as being copy for Lord Hawke	1747-1759
WOM/1/1/5/4	Rent and Wage book marked as belonging to William Collingwood. Shows rents in Norton and Womersley, rents being paid ½ yearly. Shows also cash paid to Servants and Labourers, cash paid to creditors and summary of incomes.	May 1750 - October 1755
WOM/1/1/5/5	Rental book, Womersley and Towton Estates Rent book listing tenants, ½ yearly rents, arrears and discounts.	1885-1893
WOM/1/1/5/6	Womersley Estate Rentals for Womersley and Towton Estates. Shows name of tenant, amount owed and date paid/arrearas.	November 1893 - December 1904
WOM/1/1/5/7	Womersley Estate Rentals	May 1905 - December 1918
WOM/1/1/6	<u>PAYMENTS RECORDS</u>	1885, 1947
WOM/1/1/6/1	Tradesmen's Bills Shows when received, name and description of charge, amount of charged, amount paid and date paid.	May 1885- September 1885
WOM/1/1/6/2	Payments Book Payments to local businesses, mostly for Estate work.	August 1945-June 1947
WOM/1/1/7	<u>ESTATE SALE</u> PAPERS RELATING TO THE SALE OF THE ENTIRE ESTATE BY AUCTION IN 1930	1928-1930
WOM/1/1/7/1	Womersley Hall Inventory Comprises a detailed description of items of furniture, paintings and porcelain with a room by room appraisal	April 1928

WOM/1/1/7/1	Womersley Hall Inventory	April 1928
	Contains a detailed description of items of furniture, paintings and porcelain - format is a room-by-room appraisal	
WOM/1/1/7/2	Particulars, plans, views and conditions of sale of Womersley Estate, for sale Wednesday and Thursday 30/31st July 1930	1930
	Sale brochure for Auction: General remarks and stipulations of sale, Estate features, list of tenants, plates of Hall, detailed summary of buildings incl. interior features; particulars of farms on Estate, plats of Pontefract lodge, also quarries, brickworks, Arable land. Plate of Home Farm, Old Manor House and Womersley Village. Details of cottages, conditions of sale.	
	Maps: Whole Estate, Wider area, Womersley, Little and Kirk Smeaton, Stubbs Walden, Norton, Fenwick, Stubbs Common, Balne, Womersley Village. All maps in colour with corresponding key in sales brochure.	
WOM/1/1/7/3	Particulars, Plans and Conditions of Sale of the Womersley Estate	1930
	As above, with extra handwritten annotation but without maps	
WOM/1/1/7/4	Photographs of map of estate, dated 1907	1949
WOM/1/2	<u>BRICKWORKS</u>	1889-1897
WOM/1/2/1	Account Book - the Trustees of the Late Right Hon. Lord Hawke in accountwith H Scott and Son for Drainpipes, Bricks & c	1889-1897
	Shows accounts for manufacture of bricks, pantiles and pipes of various sizes, possibly for Estate use	

WOM/1/3	<u>HALL</u>	1720-1921
WOM/1/3/1	<u>HALL WAGE BOOKS</u>	1909-1921
WOM/1/3/1/1	Servant's Wages	1909-1921
	Shows Servant's name, occupation, Wages per year, when due, Amount Paid and Servant's signature. Divided up by individual employee	
WOM/1/3/2	<u>HALL HOUSEHOLD PURCHASES</u>	1778-1801
WOM/1/3/2/1	Household Sundry Purchase Ledger	1778-1782
	Includes purchases of meat, sundry items, Tea and Coffee, soap, Earthenware, Groceries, Linen and Fish	
WOM/1/3/2/2	Household Provisions Purchase Ledger	August 1798 - February 1801
	Mostly food i.e. meat (with description of meat), ale, wine, tea, coffee, vegetables, sweets, spices, Household goods e.g.; sandpaper, soap. List of items of china at front.	
WOM/1/4	<u>FARM</u>	1771-1888
WOM/1/4/1	<u>FARM ACCOUNT BOOKS</u>	1720-1808
WOM/1/4/1/1	Daily Account Book	July-August 1720
	Farm outgoings, appears to try at times to take in incomings, possibly a rough books. Wages paid, work done. Also items bought and sold	
WOM/1/4/1/2	Farm Account book	January 1807- September 1809
	Weekly expenses, detailed wage accounts. At the end of 1809 there is a summary list of crops planted and a valuation of farm possessions	
WOM/1/4/1/3	Farm Account book	April 1807- December 1808
	Detailed account of monies paid and received, mostly produce sold and expenses incurred e.g. ploughing	

WOM/1/4/2	<u>FARM WORKMEN'S ACCOUNTS</u>	1775-1888
WOM/1/4/2/1	Workmen's Accompt book	1775
	Shows work done weekly, name of worker, profession, amount of time worked, amount paid. Gives weekly report of work actually done, primarily agricultural work	
WOM/1/4/2/2	Amount of work performed	April 1886 -June 1888
	Shows labourers name, days worked, rate per day and amount paid	
WOM/1/4/3	<u>FARM STOCK BOOKS</u>	1799-1805
WOM/1/4/3/1	Flock book for Lord Hawke and Miss Hawke	May 1799-December 1804
	List of sheep on Estate. Broken down into ewes, lambs, scotch, wethers, rams. Also contains a detailed description of movements, disposal, skins and fleeces	
WOM/1/4/3/2	Livestock book for Womersley Estate	1800-1804
	Weekly record of livestock - Horses, Oxen, Cows, Pigs. Broken down into categories, i.e. number of coach horses, number of cows in milk, price sold and bought for.	
WOM/1/4/3/3	Granary Stock Book	1788-1790
	Week to view stock book showing stock, goods and amount taken. Oats, Barley, Wheat, Rye, Beans, Cheese, Bacon, Meats. Inlcudes reason of why produce was taken from the Granary i.e. coaches, Hall, feeding pigs. Rules of granary on inside cover	
WOM/1/4/3/4	Granary Stock Book	January 1804-September 1805
	Shows produce and where distributed. Wheat, Barley, Oats, Black Wheat, Pease, Beans, Malt, Hops, Bacon, Bran, Flour, Eggs, Oatmeal, Hay, Linseed, Cheese, Butter, Coals, Rye	

WOM/1/4/4	<u>FARM NOTEBOOKS</u>	Late 18th - 19th century
WOM/1/4/4/1	Pocket Book Includes notes of addresses with blotting sheets. Bills in town 1771, Recipe for Gargle in Cows, Cash expenses, Notes on Dibbling corn, Leisure Expenses e.g. Opera, Labourers expenses, Lime Account and Sheep remedies. Schematic of Dibbling device on rear cover	Late 18th Century
WOM/1/4/4/2	'Bells Common Place Book for the Pocket' Entires on Borders in fields, Cabbages, Covenants with tenants, Carrots, courses of Husbandry, Clay land, Drill Husbandry, Hops, Manure, Soils, Oxen.	Early 19th Century
WOM/2	<u>PERSONAL PAPERS</u>	1679-1908
	PERSONAL PAPERS OF RESIDENTS/EMPLOYEES OF WOMERSLEY PARK	
WOM/2/1	<u>PAPERS OF LORD HAWKE</u>	1804-1807
	THESE VOLUMES ARE MOSTLY PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, AND APPEAR TO BE ROUGH NOTEBOOKS OF GENERAL SPENDING AND INCOME.	
WOM/2/1/1	Account of money recieved / pay'd by Hon Lord Hawke	1804
WOM/2/1/2	Money received / paid by the Hon. Henry Hawke	1804-1805
WOM/2/1/3	'Money paid' Partly a diary 'of every day since they went to London'. Weekly account of amount paid on trip to London including items purchased.	1805
WOM/2/1/4	Small day book Marked as being for 1807, but cover balance and payments 1805-1806	1805-1807

WOM/2/2	<u>PAPERS OF LADY HAWKE</u>	1754-1759
WOM/2/2/1	Legal Bill for drawing up of a Will from Woodcock and Bannard, with receipt for payment.	1755-1759
WOM/2/2/2	Detailed Legal bill, in respect of dispute with Mr Hammond	1754-1758
WOM/2/3	<u>MERCHANT'S PAPERS</u>	1679-1769
	THESE PAPERS DETAIL THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF AN UNKNOWN LONDON MERCHANT IN THE LATE 17TH CENTURY. THE VOLUMES HAVE, IN SOME CASES, BEEN ADDED TO AT A LATER DATE.	
WOM/2/3/1	Goods bought and received Mostly for cloth and canvas September 1679-November 1695. Also lists income from rent and tithe December 1721-May 1722	September 1679- May 1722
WOM/2/3/2	Inventory and day book 'containing all my ways and dealings in the way of marchantizing' Store inventory giving stock amounts of Cloth, Pepper, Ginger, French Wines. Also lists sales and receipts, January 1682-November 1682. Volume also lists rules for balancing books and accounting, and a diary August 1768-April 1769	January 1682-April 1769
WOM/2/4	<u>OTHER PERSONAL ACCOUNTS</u>	1705-1908
	THESE PAPERS ARE PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF UNKNOWN AND UNIDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUALS. THEY ARE MOSTLY PERSONAL ACCOUNTS AND SO SHOW - IN SOME CONSIDERABLE DETAIL - LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND PERSONAL FINANCIAL BALANCES.	
WOM/2/4/1	Personal and Estate Accounts of unknown author Very detailed list of personal expenses i.e. clothes, food - lists even very small amounts. Includes Militia account 1714-1719, list of debtors and creditors 1704-1719 and a planting plan for the garden 1705.	May 1705-July 1720.

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WOM/2/4/2	Account book possibly belonging to John Barraclough Shows cash debited and credited, cash expenses e.g. wet nurse, wife's account, army pay and commission; land tax, food bought and window tax	October 1772- December 1773
WOM/2/4/3	Cash Book Lists personal expenses - for July 1793 lists bills incurred when lodging, i.e. bills for food, lodging, candles.	January-December 1793
WOM/2/4/4	Personal Account book Shows mortgages and debts; stock and shares; property sold, purchases, investments paid off, benefits, new investments and dividends	1869
WOM/2/4/5	Small Account book marked as being that of Anne Rosse Personal accounts for wages, laundry, shops, house and charity	Late 19th/Early 20th century
WOM/2/4/6	Personal Account Book Lists personal expenses e.g. cigarettes, Harrods Account, lunches, cabs, tips, money to beggars, newspapers, haircuts	July 1905-February 1908
WOM/2/5	<u>PERSONAL ITEMS</u>	LATE 18TH CENTURY
WOM/2/5/1	Handwritten treatise on the treatment of the poor, pp 1-38	Late 18th Century