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THE GREAT DIURNAL OF NICHOLAS BLUNDELL

VOLUME TWO 1712-1719

THE GREAT DIURNAL OF NICHOLAS BLUNDELL

OF LITTLE CROSBY, LANCASHIRE

VOLUME TWO 1712–1719

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THE RECORD SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

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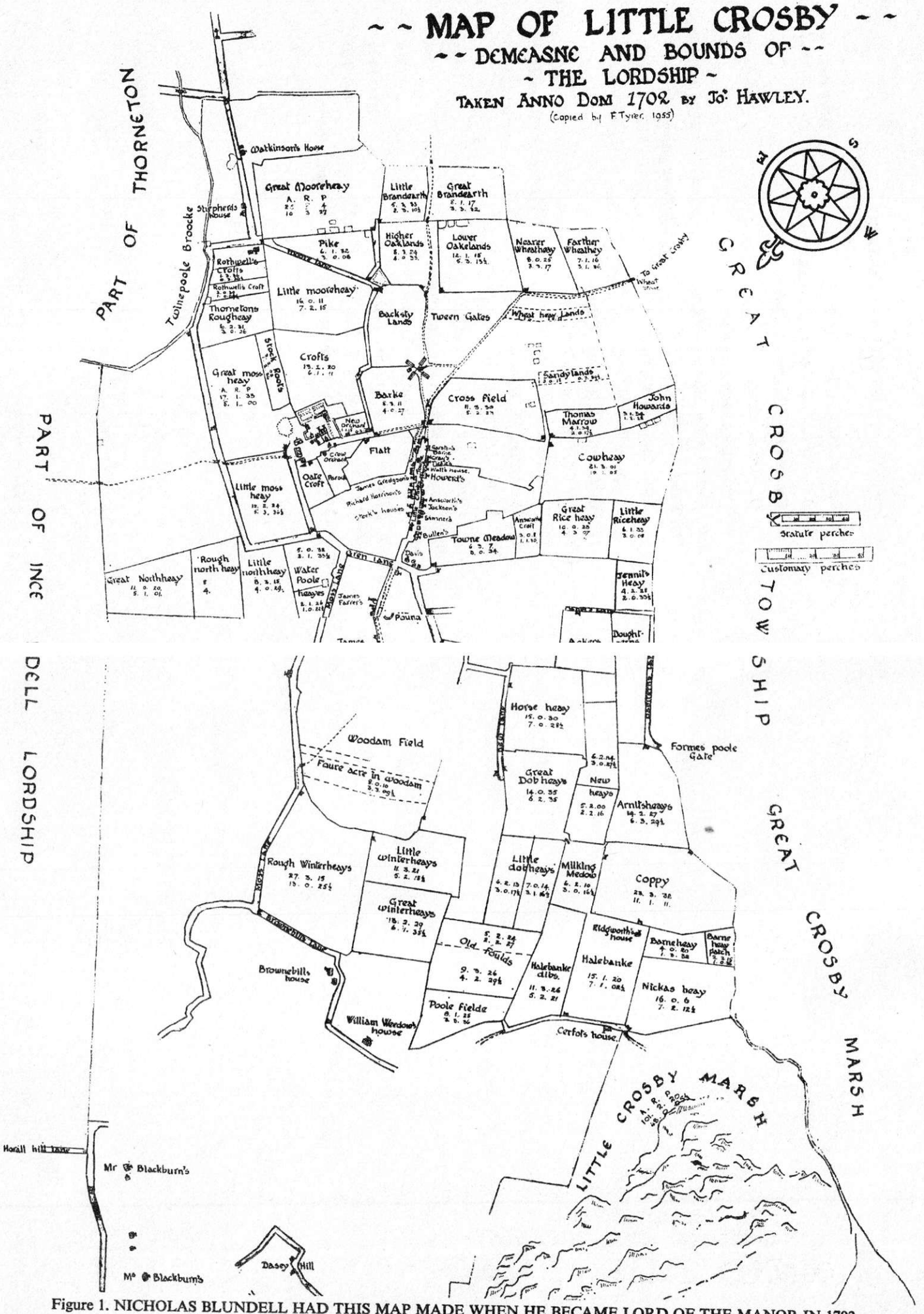


Figure 1. NICHOLAS BLUNDELL HAD THIS MAP MADE WHEN HE BECAME LORD OF THE MANOR IN 1702.
See entries December 12 1702, April 5 and 6 1705 and May 1 1707

Preface

The part of the Diary covered in this volume includes several items of particular interest and importance. Foremost of these was the impact of the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion on the Blundell of Crosby family—house searches, hiding in the hiding hole, consultations with lawyers concerning the descent of the estates should anything happen to Nicholas, and the flight first to London and then to Flanders. Abroad the Diarist still made his daily entries, often describing in great detail the new places and things he saw, and the customs of the people. He recorded the names of almost one hundred religious and almost twice as many lay men and women whom he met across the Channel. Almost all of them were English exiles—Jacobite refugees—and many belonged to well known Catholic families. Quite fascinating, too, is the account of his visit to Chaudfontaine and Spa in the hopes of producing a son and heir.

Dunkirk and Gravelines were the places where Blundell spent most of his time. In Gravelines he lodged at a house belonging to Madam Bagnall, abbess of the Poor Clares, but later took an apartment in Dunkirk. He was constantly on the move, sight-seeing or visiting friends. Thus the 201 days he spent at Dunkirk were made up of many short periods as follows:—1 6 3 1 4 12 5 9 52 8 17 63 16 2 1 1 days. The two long periods of stay were due to sickness. He, and later his wife and children, frequently travelled backwards and forwards in the area between Gravelines, Dunkirk, Nieuport, Bruges and Ghent. Three longer journeys were made—to Antwerp and Brussels; to Lille, Douai, and Cambrai; and to Louvain, Chaudfontaine, Spa, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Liège.

From Easter 1714 to Easter 1715, Nicholas Blundell served as churchwarden of Sefton parish. Being a Roman Catholic in no way excused him from this duty, which was civic as well as ecclesiastical. When he first heard of his nomination, Nicholas protested and tried to get out of the work. He failed, as had many other nominees in previous years. But once he had resigned himself to the inevitable responsibility, he settled down in characteristic fashion to carry out his duties with interest and enthusiasm. He co-operated with his Anglican friends as easily and naturally as they accepted him as their churchwarden.

Prolonged and serious disputes between Little Crosby and the neighbouring townships over water-courses are recounted at some length in this section of the Diary. The land in this corner of south-west Lancashire is flat and low-lying, so that drainage is particularly important. Today, despite large-scale modern drainage schemes, many of the old water-courses are still doing good service.

Two other important aspects of agricultural life frequently mentioned in the diary are enclosure—especially of Great Crosby Marsh—and marling. The spreading of marl, a calcareous or limy clay, on a field increased the crop yield, and of course raised the value if the field should be let or sold. Digging the marl pit and spreading the marl over the fields were heavy labours, and it was customary to celebrate a successful marling with a village jollification. Nicholas describes in detail the merry-making which followed the marling of his fields in 1712.

As one reads the entries in this Volume, one gets the impression of a man thoroughly enjoying life, despite disputes over water-courses, occasional disagreements with his wife, the very real worry as to what might result from the 1715 Rebellion, and the great disappointment of having no son to succeed him. There is little indication of the difficult financial circumstances which gave Nicholas much cause for concern. This is only revealed from the drafts of letters in his Letter Book. The Blundells of Crosby had suffered severely as recusants;

their lands had been sequestrated and a large sum had to be paid to recover possession of the alienated estates. Nicholas's grandfather often referred to this, and Nicholas himself noted in a letter to Lady Gerard, abbess of the English Benedictines at Ghent, dated December 7 1708 that ". . . My Father for the greatest part of his Life had very little to live on, so was fourced to leave severall Debts at his Death. . . ." Nicholas inherited these debts. With the £2,000 received on his marriage, he was able to pay some of them. But this sum was not enough, for in another letter to Lady Gerard, dated January 21 1708, he wrote ". . . I owe yet above £1,000 and have Received and disposed of all my Wives Poursion. . . ." Several letters written to Lady Gerard, to his two sisters, Winny and Frances, who were nuns under her, and to his Aunt Alice in the Poor Clares convent at Gravelines concern the payment of the portions of these relatives and discuss the financial difficulties Nicholas was facing and the causes of it.

May the 23rd. 1708

"To Sister Winny

Just Dear Sister as I was going to answer my Ladys[1] and yours of the 17th March we had bussles and serching in this Country[2] upon account of a Report of King James landing in Skotland which made me not then think it proper to writ at that time. I have uesed my utmost endeavour to take up Money at Interest to serve both you and my Brother Joseph who I believe is in as great want of Money as you are for the hous[3] he is now in is very low and tis but reason he should have a part as well as the rest, I have long had a promiss of £200, one Hundred I design for you, the other £100 for him and as soon as ever I receiv it I assure you it shall be disposed of to that use and no other, could I hier more I would Rather pay Interest here then to you two, considering the great advantage it would be to you, but Money is very hard to be got in this Country for I assure you Neather Corn nor Kattle sell at much more then half Valew for which reason some of my land is turned upon my hands by my Tenants becaus they can not make near their Rent of it and I have already been fourced to set Land for £73 which formerly I received £86 for and am obliged over and above to lay out one years Rent of it in Marling and improving the ground, otherways could make little or nothing of it, all things now bears so low a price. I do not say this to drive you down for I promiss and hope God willing to pay both you and all others off as fast as Money can be Raised; the £20 of my Aunts I own to be indebted to her and hope to pay the £15 you demand so that when the two last Sums are payed and one half of your £200 I shall only be Debitor to you £100 which shall be payed as soon as can be got. I dayly expect orders to receive the Money at London that I have hired and then will forthwith order £100 for your use and £100 for my Brothers and I do not dispair to send some more along with it for you. I did I confess give my Mother some hopes as if I would come see you but at present I can not spare Money for such a Journey so hope you'l take the will for the Deed. Few will let me have Money without a Bondsman and if any be bound with me tis reason I should be bound again with them, a thing I am not willing to do, considering how many do daly breack that seem to be in a good Condition, so shall endeavour (though slowly) to pay my own debts Rather than put my self in a condision to be oblidged to pay others. We have long complained of the Scarcity of Money but it never appear'd so visibly as now, for to my certain knowledg it was easier five years since to borrow £100 then it is now £5 for then some were desirous to put Money out to an Onest Man upon his Single Bond but now realy none knows who to trust, and when I call upon my Tenants for Money they have it not and I know severall of them that were formerly willing to lend a Neighbour for half a year or longer £5 or £6 with out Interest, that can not now borrow 20 shillings; if you knew who they are you would wonder at it, but you went so young out of this Country that you knew not many; otherways you would think it strang that such and such should be quit brock and layed in Jale, such others run their Country[4] for debt, and others again not to be trusted for 20 shillings but thats not my business (did you know them) to divulg their Misfortunes, I will onely pitty them and endeavour by my provident way of living to be able to pay my Debts in the first place and then to provide for others and live as well and within compas as my condision will allow which is truly the desire of

Your Loving Brother
Nicholas Blundell."

---

[1] Lady Gerard.
[2] the district surrounding Little Crosby.
[3] the monastery.
[4] have left the district for safety.

That Nicholas found it impossible to pay the expenses of his two sisters at Ghent was one of the reasons why his mother, soon after the death of her husband, entered the same convent. Nicholas wrote to Lady Gerard on January 21 1708 that if he could have paid the money then "his Mother need not have taken so long and troublesome a Journey, but she was desirous to spend her Joynture where her children were, that they and the House might reap the Profit of all she could spair. . . ." Nicholas Blundell was pressed again and again in letters from Lady Gerard and his sisters to give a definite date when he would pay the money due to the convent. Nicholas refused to do so and in a letter to Lady Gerard, dated December 7 1708 he wrote:—

> ". . . In mine of August the 31th. I told you I had made great Shift to send you £135, as for the Remainder, times were so hard I could not set a Sertain time, and the Saime answer I then gave I still must give you, for I am one that, God willing, will be punctuall to my Word so will not answer as is now in fassion that this time you shall be sure of it or at the farthest a Month after with out faile, this is now the fassion of the World and the Song that I commonly hear. All I can promiss is that as soon as possobly I can get so much together I will send it, and will in the Interim (if you require it) pay Interest for it. . ."

Similarly in another letter to Lady Gerard dated February 11 1709, he stressed the same point:—

> " . . . Perhaps your Ladyship may suspect my Non payment the more because I will not promiss to pay it at this time or the other time as is now the way of the World and then break my word as most doe, that's whot I scorne; all I can Promiss and performe is that when I can get whot is due I will pay it, with Interest for the Same. . ."

Probably as a result of this second letter Lady Gerard advanced at interest the money necessary to pay Winny's portion until her brother was able to do so. By July 1709 the debt owing to Lady Gerard and most of the money for his brother Joseph, who was then in a college in Flanders, had been paid. Continuing financial difficulties faced Nicholas, however, until 1718. The exile of himself and family in London and Flanders was very expensive. To meet his mounting debts Nicholas was finally compelled to lease part of Crosby Hall, the demesne lands and his windmill, and also reduce the number of his servants. It must have been irritating to his wife to admit this humiliation in a letter she wrote to her sister:—

> "February the 7th. 1717/18
>
> Dear Sister,
>
> Thanks for yours and am glad you designe me the Favour of so long a Viset, but much wonder you will talk of paying for the time, that would be extreamly unkind in me especially after your great Civility to my Dear Child, so hope you will not think of paying; you may depend of a Hearty welcom from Mr Blundell as well as from my self but shall not pretend to Treat you like a Stranger, but a Friend with two Dishes and those such as you lick, if you'l be so kind as to name what you would have; for Mr Blundell having set [let] his Demesney and part of the Hous we keep but few Servants, however we have the Gardens in our own hands and keeps a good Roome or two to lodg a Friend in and if you please to accept of this accommodation you shall be truly welcom as any Friend or Relation we have and hope you'l be so kind to let me know some weeks before you come and we'l send one to meet you by which you will oblidge
>
> Your ever loving Sister
> Frances Blundell."

My grateful thanks are especially due to all those who so very kindly gave me guidance and assistance during several weeks in Flanders when I was searching for information concerning Nicholas Blundell abroad: the Director and Staff of the Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Brussels, and especially Mlle. L. Danckaert, les Conservateurs en chef, le Cabinet des Estamps, et le Service Photographique; Mlle. Brunard, conservateur, Musée communal, Brussels;

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For help in preparing this volume I am also grateful to Miss Rosamund Meredith, Archivist, Sheffield Public Libraries. Two people in particular have made helpful and corrective comment upon Volume 1 of the Diary. Lt.-Col. J. S. Close, O.B.E., of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, has very kindly brought to my notice strong evidence which convinces me that the marriage of Nicholas Blundell and Frances Langdale, took place at *Hatherop, Gloucestershire*, and not at *Heythrop, near Chipping Norton*, as has generally been believed. (See Vol. 1, p.3). Hatherop is only four miles from Fairford to which Nicholas and his bride-to-be walked (April 21, May 17, 1703). In Atkyn's *Antient and Present State of Gloucestershire*, first published in 1712, it is stated that Hatherop Church is in the deanery of Fairford and "the rectory is in the presentation of Sir John Webb. Mr Bouchier is the present incumbent." This is the Parson Burchers of Barnsley to whom Nicholas paid his marriage dues, Barnsley being seven miles west of Hatherop. (June 20, 21, 27, 1703). On April 30 1703, Nicholas went to see "the Water Engin at Hatherop Mill." "From a map", says Lt.-Col. Close, "there are two small streams near Heythrop, neither of them appearing 'mill-worthy'. Within half a mile of Hatherop there runs the River Coln. The modern map shows a mill in this river at Quenington, about a mile from Hatherop and across the river." The error has probably arisen from the fact that Frances Langdale was the grand-daughter of Lady Webb, which family were closely associated with *Heythrop* in Oxfordshire.

Mr. Eric Hardy has reinterpreted two phrases used in the first volume. On November 17 1707 Blundell wrote "we killed a Lashe". This, Mr. Hardy says, was not a direct reference to an animal, but a corruption of an obsolete word *leish* or *leesh*, meaning *three* in hunting. So what Nicholas meant was that they had killed three hares. It is possible that the modern word *lashings* meaning *a lot* or *several* is derived from the same word. Again, on April 29 1711, Nicholas stated that "John Bannister took a Fulmert with his hands." It was suggested to me that this was a fulmar. This, Mr. Hardy says, was Blundell's way of spelling *foulmart*, an old name for a polecat, at the time common in south-west Lancashire. The marine bird, fulmar, has only spread around our coasts in modern times. Mr. R. G. Plint, of Kendal, Westmorland, through Mr. Hardy, has suggested that when Nicholas mentioned catching *mungrills*, he really meant *mongrels*, a hybridization or cross breeding of tench and carp (November 9 1709).

Once again, I must thank my Wife most sincerely for the great patience she has shown and the valuable assistance she has given me.

Frank Tyrer.

Anno Domini 1712

JANUARY

1 Parson Letus and his Wife dined here, they stayed not long after dinner. Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill also dined here, we had at Dinner a very Fine Colly-Flower that Grew in my Garden. James Steward was here with some Books to sell. I payed the Land Tax to Richard Jackson.

2 I Discoursed Thomas Farer concerning Richard Swift whether he had paid his Rent and whether Swift had goods of his owne to stock his Farme, our Discours was not long being Thomas Farer was in hast as he told me, to goe to Sutton. William Weedow went to Leverpoole and advised with Mr Plumb about Richard Swifts Sertifycate.[1] My Wife took Mrs Howet and Cozen Gelibronds Wife with her in the Coach to Formby. Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, Captain Robert Fazakerley & I played at Backgamon. Mr Turvill made a Viset hither to see Cozen Thomas Gelibrond. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here.

3 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, his Wife, Pat: Gelibrond & Mrs Howet went hence. My Wife & I went with them to Ormskirk, the Gentle Women rid with my Wife in her Coach. Cozen Thomas Gelibrond and I, &c: dined at Lanslets the Queens Head with Captain Brown, our Wives dined at Mrs Howets. I saw Mrs Walmesley going from Scarisbrick to Garswood to solemnize her Birth-day tomorrow being then 14 years of Age, Sir William Gerard & his Doughter Mary, Cozen Scarisbrick & his Lady, Cozen John Gelibrond &c: were along with her. I was at Mr Houghtons where the privy Sestions were held by Sir Thomas Standley, Mr Brooks & Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, Little Crosby had a Tryall with Ince Town there, concerning the Settlement of Richard Swift & Henry Swift & their Familyes, we lost the Sute. I came home in the Coach with my Wife.

4 John Banister went to his Fathers. Sera Wilson went hence, they designed to walk together to Ormskirk. Mr Aldred & I made a Viset to Mr Gerard Wairings but he was not at home. Betty Harrison came to be the Chaimber-Maid & Dary-Maid, she is to suckceed Ann Tarlton who is gon to Leverpoole to seek after a Service.

5 I gave Darby Wife some slips of Goosberry and Curron Trees. John Farer went with me a Coursing, I went to look at my Water-Cours at the side of Nichols Hey and found it so full of water that it was scarce possible to make it runn better. Betty Secomb went hence, I sent her home on horsback.

6 John Banister came home from his Fathers. Most of my Servants went to Ailes Stewards to eat Christmass-Fair. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Blundell of Ince, it being a very Foggy Night she came home in Mrs Blundells Shayes.[2]

7 The Stock-roots having ben planted for some years and not lickley to suckceed neather by planting nor seting Achhornes, I began this day to dig part of it and design to destroy that Plantation, I helped William Ainsworth to rid up a great many of the Trees & under-wood in the Stock-roots. Mrs Blundell

---

[1] See January 3 1712. This case throws such an interesting light on the practice of relatives or friends harbouring poor people to establish residence in order to obtain maintenance that the whole case is given in Appendix A.

[2] chaise.

made a Viset here. Charles Howerd brought me home a Load of Malt from Leverpoole.

8 Charles Howerd brought me a Cart Load of Skilling[3] dust from Sefton Mill. John Leigh brought me above 5 dozen of Burch Beesoms. Ann Tarlton Left her Service.

9 I payed Ann Tarlton her Waiges in full. Charles Howerd rid up some Trees in the Stock Roots, William Ainsworth & I sourted them & trimed some of them for planting in the Hedges.

10 Parson Richmond being not well I sent John Banister to see him. Mrs Rachel Smith was here to advise with me about her Brother Richard Lathom delivering up his old Teneament into my Lord Molineuxs hands. I sold a Cart Load of Oats at Ormskirk & brought home a Load of Malt Dust.

11 Thomas Tyrer came to look at Brock and Stagg as had hurt themselves with running away with their Tres on them. I helped William Ainsworth to sort & trim some Trees in the Stock-Roots as are to be planted againe elce where. Charles Howerd and Robert Tompson had rid up most of them there; Lawrence Blundell came for some of those Trees, they are to be planted at the side of Mr Aldreds Orcherd. I began to scour my Water-cours between the Great Brandiearth & Scablane-heyes with 4 Hands.

12 I sent a great many Quick sets of severall Sorts in a Cart to my Ditchers at the side of the Great Brandiearth, they were Rid up out of the Stock-Roots and are to be set between the Brandiearth and Scab-laine heyes, & between the Oaklands & Wheat hey.

13 My Wife and I dined at Ince with Mr Wofold and his Wife, &c:, we brought Miss Margarit Blundell home with us in the Coach to lodg here.

14 I Began to plough in the Stock-Roots, it being the first time it has ben ploughed since I began to plant it, and it is the first dayes ploughing I have done since Christmass unless perhaps I may have Waterfurrowed some Stoble Ground. Mr Aldred, Walter Thelwall, Richard Jackson, & I met Mr Richard Molineux of the Grang, Richard Tickley & Edmund Trustrom at the Woden-plat[4] near Brownbills, thence we vewed some few Water-courses in order to hinder our Water from coming upon Ince and also to prevent a Chargeable Sute which was lickley to happen, thence we went to Charles Howerds to drink and hope the Sute will be layed a side.

15 Mr Aldred and I went to Leverpoole, I went to see Mr Houghton the Merchant who was so ill I could not be admited to speak to him, we drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb, Dr Worton, Mr Morphew, &c:. Richard Newhous came to thatch for me. I sent two to Nichols-hey.

16 William Ainsworth brought me home 21 Ewes which he had bought some time agoe & are supposed to be in Lamb. William Ainsworth went to Great Crosby and saw some Ground mesured that Henry Aspinwall & an other was about exchanging for, with each other. I went to Aintry and looked at Doctor Lathoms Housing called Aintry Hous to see in what repair it was in, thence Mr Aldred and I went to Croxtath, I discoursed my Lord Molineux about Dr Lathoms Housing, &c:.

---

[3] Skilling—shilling, sheeling, or shilly—the husk and dust of grain left after winnowing. It was used as a fertiliser.

[4] Wooden bridge over a ditch.

17 I went to Leverpoole chiefly about a Cornelion Ring as was supposed to be broke. I helped Laurence Blundell to serve Mr Aldred Mass, it being the first time he ever served.

18 Eves went to see her Husband who was sick as she said. I finished scouring & Ditching the Water-cours between the Great Brandyearth & Scablain-heys and set a good deale of Quickwood in it, it was 23 dayes work & a half & was not hedged. The Jury met about the Water-Courses & Ordered where Headbolts[5] were to be made to prevent the Water doing a Prejudice to Ince. I went to see Parson Richmond[6] of Walton who was sick, I found there Parson Marsden and I think Parson Becket. Thomas Tyrer Roweled my Mair Brock.

19 I made a Head-bolt by the Order of my Jury between the Little Dobb-Heys and the Milking Meadow. I Began to Ditch with 3 Hands between the two Brandiearths. I Led my first Load of Stones to the Wooden-Plat in order to renew that Plat, I went thither and shewed Robert Tompson where to Lay the Stones and shewed Darby whot work he was to doe at that Plat.

20 Mrs Blundell & Mrs Wofold, &c: Supped here. Miss Mary Blundell of Ince Lodg'd here.

21 Mr Richard Molineux of the Grange came hither and paid me his 10 Penny Rent. Miss Margarit Blundell of Ince & her Sister Mary went hence. Parson Letus, Mr Bower the Church Warden and his Partner, Robert Bootle, &c: came hither a beging upon account of Rebuilding a Church, I gave them 18d. I helped Charles Howerd to Load some Plat Stones and went with him with them to the Wooden Plat, thence he went with me to the Slip, I shewed him what part of it I would have ploughed.

22 I went to Mr Aldreds & saw him make use of his Quadruble Mold, thence I went to the Winterheys where they were leading Feigh from a Mospit & filling an old ditch with it, coming home I called at Ailes Davys & there discoursed Winny Marrow concerning her Husband John Scot. William Abbot came to mend my Little Coach, two of the hind posts being broke. My Wife made a Viset to Ince but Mrs Blundell was gon to the New-hous, so she came back again.

23 I went to my Ditchers between the two Brandiearths. I went to my Workfolks in the Winterheys, I met the Carts coming home, I shewed Charls Howerd how I would have one of the Ditches of the Cole-Croft filled up. Eves returned home from seeing her Husband.

24 I mixed up a Dose for William Abbots[7] Wife who has the Ague Fits. I went to Dr Lathoms & made a slight Computation of what his Personall Estate was worth, he gave me some Directions to alter his will.[8]

25 William Ainsworth rid up some Trees in the Stock-Roots, I helped him to trimm & dress them, they are to be set in the Hedges. Banister planted two rowes of small Thornes almost quit round the Duckcoy.[9] I sent some Cole-Seed to Leverpoole to sell & brought home some Malt Dust.

---

[5] Headbolt—a road over a bog or morass, stopped at one end.

[6] Rev. Richard Richmond was rector of Sefton from 1684 to 1722. He was also rector of Walton where he lived.

[7] A tenant living at Thornton.

[8] Dr. Richard Lathom, living at Aintree. Nicholas was one of his executors.

[9] Duck decoy or pond where duck were lured in by feeding to be trapped, particularly in winter when meat was in short supply. See *Natural History of Derbyshire, Lancashire and Cheshire* by Dr. Leigh, 1700.

26 I writ out Dr Lathoms Will according to the Directions he gave me upon the 24th Inst. John Lurting brought me some Walfrute Trees and set them. William Ainsworth went towards his Fathers.

27 My Wife and I went to Leverpoole and heard Mr Manock[10] Preach, Mr Tute & Mr Morphew &c: were there, we were invited to dine with them but did not, but dined at Mrs Brownbills with her and Mr Manock, we stayed Vespers &c:, we made a Viset to Mr Lancasters. Coming home Mr Gerard Wairing overtook us on the Sands, we came together as far as oure way lay. Thomas Tyrer layed a Charge to Brock.

28 My Wife went to Formby to meet Mrs Blundell but being very ill in her Head and of a Cold she came soone back and left Mrs Blundell, Ails Tickley &c: at Cattys.

29 I began to draw out a Copy for a Screen, for Eves to make of Ribans but she did not use it. William Ainsworth came back from his Fathers, he brought a Hors along with him for me to use when I had Occation.

30 John Melling cut down two Ashes in the Crow Orcherd, they are designed for Cooper Timber. I helped to take some old Pigeons, they are for servants & Workfolks. I payed James Davy Slater in full for Slats & Flaggs which I had from Roby Delf last Summer. John Lurting brought me some Apple Trees to be planted in the New Orcherd, he, William Ainsworth &c: went with me to Cours a Hare as John Melling had found set.

31 John Lurting helped to plant some Apple Trees for me in the New-Orcherd as he brought yester-day and some others of my own. Thomas Kerfoot and I vewed the Ground or at least most of it as he Racks from me towards the Heal-bank, I told him I had some thoughts of taking part of it into my own hands & I threatoned to straine of him for my Rent if it were not payed soone.

Till the 8th generally faire, though for the most part close Heasy weather, from the eighth to the 17th cold close weather seeming to incline to Snow being now and then some Sleet, from about the 17th some five dayes of a hard Frost, 23rd & 24th a very Cold Thew with som Raine, from the 25th to the end very fine Weather.

FEBRUARY

1 Walter Thelwall and Henry Hunt payed me part of their Rack Rent for the Coppy &c:, I shewed them my Printed Account of Grass-Seeds.[11] John Tickley cut some Boughes of Oak Trees that were prejudiciall to the Gardens, I helped him. I began to plant some Crab Stocks in the Long Garden, I designe to make a Nursery there for Grafts. I had a Present of Oysters sent me by a Formby Woman from Mr Plumb of Leverpoole. Ailes Kerfoot lodged here.

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[10] Father Francis Mannock, S.J. lived in the house of Thomas Brownbill, a sea-captain, in North John Street and used an upper room as a chapel.

[11] See March 5 1712. This must have been a book on agriculture giving instructions on the cultivation of grass. See May 5 1712.

2 My three Women Servants & two of the Men[12] went to Leverpoole. Mr George Carys called here as he was coming from Leverpoole to a Cocking at Ince.

3 My Wife and Ellin Harrison walked to see Nicholas Shepherd who is sick. Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here, I gave them a Treat of Oysters. Nanny Eves Lodg'd here.

4 Laurence Gilberson & John Blundell confirmed a Bargan in my Closet, I drew writings of it which they signed in presence of William Ainsworth. Richard Sefton & Joseph Carter came to saw some Burch-Wood &c: for me. I went to Dr Lathoms with his Will which I had drawn for him, he signed it in Presence of Rachell Tyrer &c:, comeing home I called to see Nicholas Shepheard who was sick.

5 I Sowed some Wheat in the Stock Roots upon one Bed of Ground as was Diged & upon some Buts as had ben twice Ploughed, but neather proved well. I shew'd Henry Ascroft where I intend to have a new Water-Course near the side of Nichols Hey, he marked it out in part, Mr Aldred, Walter Thelwall, William Ainsworth, &c: were with us. Thomas Meddow & his Son John began to Rid Gors in the Pike.

6 Ned Rycroft sent for two Fat Cows as William Ainsworth had sold him. I began to make a new Water-Cours neare the side of Nichols Hey and the Barne-hey patch which for the future I Intend to call by the Name of my Grand Water-Cours, 'tis at that side next the Sea and is to run immediately into Formospoole Gutter. After Dinner I went to my Workfolks at my Grand Water-cours.

7 Thomas Kerfoot paid me part of his Rent, I came upon a New bargan with him. I went before dinner to my Grand Water-Cours, I had in it three hands, two Fillers, Two Carts & one driver, thence I went to the Morehouses & spoke for more hands; after dinner I went to Margery Blundell & gave her Grand-Son Thomas Gorsuch[13] a Book to read in, thence I went to Thomas Blansherd & ordered Robert (he being the Cunstable) to come to me tomorrow morning, thence I went to Richard Tickleys & desired him to get as many hands for me as he could to work for 8d per day at my Grand Water-Cours, I found at Richard Tickleys his two Doughters Mrs Molineux & Betty Blundell, Pat: Wofold, Pat: Philip, &c:. I gave Mr Aldred 2 Busshell of Oats and half a Busshell of Beans.

8 I Agreed a Difference between William Wignold and John Blundell Taylor concerning Margits Field. Robert Blansherd the Cunstable and William Ainsworth seased upon some goods of William Davys for Arreers of Rent due to me but upon some proposalls made by him to me, I delivered them again to

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[12] "25 March 1712 One Quarter's Wages paid to

	£	s.	d.
William Ainsworth, in nature of a Steward	1	0	0
John Banister, Butler and Gardiner		18	9
Charles Howerd, Head-Hind, Groom and Coachman		15	0
Robert Tompson, Ploughman		15	0
William Weedow, Cowman	1	0	0
John Kerfoot, Miller at his own Board	2	5	0
Ellen Eves, Wives Maid and Nusry Maid		15	0
Betty Harrison, Chamber Maid & Dary Maid		10	0
Catherin Howerd, Cook		10	0
Mr Aldreds Sallery	2	0	0"

[13] Elizabeth, daughter of Margery Blundell, had an illegitimate child by Thomas Gorsuch of Gorsuch. See Vol. 1, pp. 29–30.

him at Night. I went to my Grand Water-Cours I had in it Coping five Hands, three Fillers, two Carts & one driver. I took my first Load of Gors-roots to the Cop at the Side of Nichols-hey and planted them there in order to preserve my Grand Water-Cours from the Sand Blasts.

9 I sent 30 Busshells of Barly to be Malted by Mr Smith. I was most of the after Noone with my Work-folks at my Grand Water-Cours, I had eight hands all day diging, Filling & Coping, &c: and one hand half the day, three Carts and one driver, it was a Bitter Cold wind. Hors Chesnut Trees set.

10 Richard Bridge & John Johnson were here, I gave them an Account of the Mesure of some of Richard Makings & Henry Aspinwalls Ground which I had Computed the Mesure of, I discoursed them and Thomas Syer about a Water-Cours being to be cut through my Coppy to their great advantage, they stay'd drinking with me some time. My Wife and Children made a Viset to Ince.

11 I was with my Workfolks at my Grand Water-Cours both before and after dinner, I had 15 hands Digging, filling and Coping, &c: four Carts and one driver whilst I was with them in the after Noone some of Great Crosby came to see me viz: Thomas Syer, Thomas Gower, John Johnson, Richard Bridge, Henry Fleetwood, &c: to see what I would doe in order to eas them of their Water that lay and was lickley to lye on their Marsh, I took them to the Coppy Wall & there made a proposall that a Sluce might be cut thorrow my Coppy upon the tearmes I then proposed & not one of them then present sayed one Word against it, but all or most of them seemed to think what I proposed would be advantagious for them and that it was kindly & Fairly proposed by me. Thomas Meddow and his Son John finished riding Gors in the Pick; I pay'd 10s. to Thomas Meddow for riding them.

12 Thomas Meddow and his Son John Cut and Rid some Blackberry Bryers for me in sixteen Aickers.[14] I went to the Buriall Place to see Hugh Bullen goe past as he was removeing hous into Darby,[15] he had Fourteen Carts and mine was one of them, I saw them all goe past. Thomas Syer, Richard Making and Richard Bridge came to Acquaint me that the Township of Great Crosby did accept of the proposall as I had made them to make a Water-Cours thorrow my Coppy, they shewed me a writing signed by some of Great-Crosby by which they accepted of my Proposall. I went before dinner to my Workfolks at my Grand Water-Cours, I had 12 hands all day digging, Coping and filling, &c: one Cart & one Driver, after dinner I had two hands more & an other Cart. I went to Leverpoole and gave directions to Mr Plumb to draw writings between me & the Township of Great Crosby upon Account of the Water-Cours that is to be made thorrow my Coppy. I drunk at Mr Stubs with Nicholson a writing Master, Mr Taylor of Leverpoole the Watchmaker, &c:. Pat: Gelibrond and Mr Lancaster came to the Wool-pack to me. I bought Lining Silk, &c: at Mr Hursts to make up a Sute of Clothes for my self the Outside was of our own spining, Mr Hurst was ill of the Gout, I went to see him.

13 I was both before and after dinner with my Workmen at my Grand Water-cours, I had 13 hands ditching, filling, &c:, three Carts & two drivers, after dinner I had one hand more. I set a great many Roots of Blackberry-bryers at the side of my New Cop at Nicholls-hey-side to hinder the Sand from blowing,

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[14] "12 Feb. 1712—Riding Gors in the Pike . . . . . 10s. 0d.
Cuting & Riding Bryers in the 16 Aiker . . . . . 1s. 0d."
Pike or *Picke* and 16 *Acres* were field-names in Little Crosby.

[15] West Derby.

and they have grown very well since they were set. I Removed the very long Stone that has for time out of mind ben in the Chicken Court and plased it at the side of the Cole-hous wall where it is a good Seat.

14 I went after dinner to my Workmen at my Grand Water-Cours, I had 8 hands Ditching, filling, &c:, two Carts & one driver all day, after dinner I had 4 more hands. John Rigby Lodged here, he came to pais William Ainsworths Hors. William Ainsworths Father Lodged here.

15 I was before dinner with my Workmen at my Grand Water-Cours, I had 12 hands, 4 Carts, & two drivers all day, after dinner I had one hand more. I went to Henry Stananoughts & advised with him about a Snigg Net[16] & looked at his.

16 I was with my Workmen at my Grand-watercours both before & after dinner, I had tenn hands two Carts and one driver all day ditching, Filling, Seting Quickwood in the Cop, &c. I planted severall pritty Large Withen Trees at the Edge of my old Water-Cours, Just at the side of Great Crosby Marsh and as far as those Trees I do clame my Land. I & severall of my Workmen were busy most of the after noone Planting Withens and Cutings of Withen at that edge of my old Water-cours which is next to Nichols-hey Side, My Wife and Children went thither with me, they rid back with Charls Howerd. The Sawers Finished for me.

17 Mrs Blundell, her Sister-in-Law Mrs Bridget Blundell, and Mr Turvill made a Viset here. John Blundell Taylor told me Laurence Gilberson was over run his Wife & that the Township of Ince would oblidge him the said John Blundell to maintain Ellin Gilberson if they could or to deliver up his interest in that Teneament.

18 William Grundy &c: came to make me a New Sute of Clothes, the out side was of our own spining.[17] William Atherton came hither, I stated Accounts with him, he payed me by Bills of Disbursments & in cash all his Rent as was due to me at Candlemas last for my Demesney of Ditton. I Sealed a Leas to Christopher Parker of that Teneament in Ditton which formerly I had leased to Henry Chester. I helped to plant some Withens & Hods of Rushes on the Cop at the Side of Nichols Hey between the old Water-Cours and my Grand Water-Cours to prevent the Sand blast.

19 I cut severall Withen Stakes & prepaired them for seting. William Ainsworth sold a Fat Swine to Michail Short.

20 I went before dinner to the Scourers of Formospoole-Gutter, there were twenty Hands of Great Crosby, Morehouses and Little Crosby; I called those of Great-Crosby together that were there & desired Walter Thelwall to read to them the Artickleys of Agreement made between the Township of Great Crosby and me, when he had read them without any one excepting against them, I gave them to Richard Macking that the Township of Great Crosby might peruse them. After dinner I sent Charls Howerd, Robert Tompson and two others to open the end of my Grand Water-Cours next to Formos-poole-Gutter

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[16] Net for catching snigs or eels.

[17] "Woosted Ready Spunn at 2s. per Pound . . . . . 7s. 0d.
Druget 18 yards weaving at 4d. per yard . . . . . 6s. 0d.
Dying, Walking (fulling) and Presing 14 yards of Druget at 3½d. per yard . . . . . 4s. 1d.
Bonnets for the Children . . . . . 11d.
Nicholas Johnson for Taylors Work . . . . . £1 13s. 6d."

& let it run into the said Gutter; towards evening by the assistance of some o the Workmen that had done working at Formospoole-Gutter, I pulled down part of the Coppy wall & let the Water run out of the Coppy into my Grand Water-Cours, the Workmen at Formoss-Poole Gutter were Thomas Fooler, Henry Fleetwood &c: William Tompson, John Sumner the Elder & the younger of the Morehouses &c: Walter Thelwall, William Gray, Nicholas Davy, &c:. after dinner I helped William Ainsworth and John Banister to plant Cuttings of Withens in the Copp to prevent the Sand from Recking up my Grand Water-Cours. I wained my Red Bull Calf & my two Whit Twin Calves.

21 I Killed a Larg but not very Fat Swine. I examained William Athertons Disbursments for the last year & booked them in Ditton Book. Banister found a Rabats Nest with two Larg Rabats in. William Ainsworth sold 2 Barron Heffers at Ormskirk.

22 I had two Hands part of the day leting the Water run off the Coppy and mending my Cop by my Grand Water-cours. I began Lenton Seeding viz: to sow Beans.

23 I went to Leverpoole & payed £05–02s.–00d. to Mr Cottom Mr Hursts Journey-man in full of what my Aunt Frances Blundell ought to Mr Hurst, I drunk at Mr Hursts with him, Parson Richmond, Mr Silvester Richmond, Mr Brenan &c:, I payed Mrs Leadbeter in part what I ought her. I payed Elizabeth Bolton for a Snigg Net which she had knit for me. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb, Mr Lancaster, &c:. Mr Shepperd of Ince came with me as far his way lay.

24 Mr Taylor of Ormskirk Watch-maker dined here, he gave my Wife a pair of Silver Clasps for her Necklases. My Wife went to Ince to see Mrs Howet who was come thither as a Guest.

25 The Souldiers Fortune was Acted at Mrs Ann Rothwells in this Town.[18] I was present all the time excepting a very few Mineuts & heard all the Gigg, My Wife went with me both to the Play & Gigg, I drunk at Ailes Davys with John Rose, Bryan Fleetwood Junior, Richard Making, Nicholas Johnson &c:. I went to Mr Aldreds where I found Mrs Blundell, Mrs Howet &c:. The Actors of the Play were Thomas Farer [as] Sir Davyd Dunce, William Marrow [as] Captain Bewgard, Watty Thelwall [as] Sir Jolly Jumble, &c:.

26 William Hodgson the Glasyer Mary Fleetwoods Journey-man mended my Windows, I went with him to Mr Aldreds & ordered him to mend some Windows there, thence I went to my Workmen at my Sniggory, they Layed all or most of the Flaggs & set up the Frame for the Clough. I helped to set out my Tenn Roods which I am to make of a Water-Cours within the Coppy. Mrs Howet made a Viset here from Ince with Mrs Blundell &c:. Sir James Poole Lodged here. Mr Aldred put out his Shoulder & hurt his Side with a Fall. John Rigby went hence, he had ben pasing William Ainsworths Hors Toping and Backing Mr Aldreds Colt Baronet.

27 I was with my Work-folks at my Sniggary. I went to Great Crosby expecting there would have ben a Court, but there was none, I drunk at Ann Ashtons with Mr Ford the Steward, Thomas Goar, Thomas Syer, &c:. My Wife made a Viset to Ince.

28 I went before Dinner to my Sniggary but it being so wet a Morning noe Workmen came. Sir James Poole dined at Ince, I went in the Evening to

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[18] "25 Feb. 1712 Spent at Mrs Anns Play . . . . . 1s. 0d."
The Rothwells were tenants in Little Crosby, as also were the actors.

him, we came home together. Mr Yates told me he was willing to let me have part of the Legasy as was left by Ralf Low to William and Margaret Davy, they consenting to it that I should receive part of it upon Account of Rent owing to me by William Davy.

29 Dr Lancaster dined here. John Banister set a Virginia Achhorn but it came not up, I suppose it had ben kept too long. Sir James Poole & I went to the Grange where Pat: Wofold treated us with a Bowl of Punsh, there was Mr Richard Molineux of the Grang & his Brother Edward &c: at the drinking of it.

From the begining to end of this Month very fine weather for the most part, excepting two or three dayes that it Rained; about five or six dayes together were very heasy, close and Misty & though the rest of this Month was generally very good yet for the most part the Air was Cold & Raw.

MARCH

1 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Sir James Poole and I made a Viset to Mr Gerard Wairing, he was not at home but we found his Uncle the Schoolmaster of Prescot there so we went all three to Nicholas Johnsons & drunk.

2 Sir James Poole went to prayers to Ince, My Wife & I went to prayers to the New-hous. I went with Sir James Poole to Charls Howerds where we drunk with Mr Molineux of the Grange, Richard Tickley, Edmund Trustrom, Pat: Wofold &c:. Mrs Blundell, Mrs Bridget Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here.

3 Mr Gerard Wairing made a Viset here before dinner to Sir James Poole, Young James Williamson the Saylor came with him. I went to my Workmen at my Sniggarey before dinner, where Mr William Crisp and Thomas Syer met me to see where the new Water-Cours was to be cut through my Coppy, they were very sencible of my kindness to let them cut it there & said it would be very advantagious to Great-Crosby. After Dinner I went to Great Crosby Court, which was called upon Account of this New intended Water-Cours, I drunk there with Mr Ford the Steward, Mr William Crisp,[19] Mr Gerard Wairing, William Thelwall, &c:. Sir James Poole went hence, I went with him to the Hall of Maile, thence we went to Parson Daines of Melling, coming home I called to see John Holland & stayed a while with him.

4 William Davy signed an Assignment of Rises heys to John Rothwell & a Bond in Presence of me and William Ainsworth. I stated Accounts with John Tickley for money owing to him for work & Timber; and from him to me for Rent, Stones, Flea-turf &c:, he went with me to my Sniggary where we advised about building a hous over it. Thomas Blansherd paid me some Rent. Severall of the Neighbours turned their Pan-kakes here after supper, and dansed in the Hall, Henry Kerfoot played to them.

5 My Wife & I went to prayers to Ince, so did most of the Servants and heard Mr Turvill Preach. I transcribed the use of some Grass Seeds & the Ground Propper for them &c:.[20] Mrs Blundell of Ince, Mrs Bridget Blundell, my Wife, &c: made a Viset to Mr Aldreds, I was there when they came; I went to him again in the Evening and found Mr Burton there.

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[19] William Crisp was the bailiff or steward of Lord Molyneux of Sefton.

[20] See February 1 1712 and foot-note.

6 James Davy the Slator began to paint my Mill. I went to my Sniggary & gave directions to Ned Hawks-eye what compass the Hous was to be over it, thence I went to Great Crosby & told Henry Fleetwood he might send some hands as soon as he would to cut a New Water Cours in the Coppy. I helped Henry Ascroft to Plant some Withens & Cutings of Withens to hinder the Sand from Recking up my Water-Cours. William Ainsworth sold three barren Heffers at Ormskirk.

7 I went to my Workfolks at my Grand Water-Cours in the Coppy, I saw three of Great Crosby in the Coppy, they began today to make their part of their Water-Cours there. My Wife went to Ormskerk to speak to Mr Taylor the Watch-Maker ere he went to London. I was busy most of the afternoone triming Cutings of Withens & Populars to Set in the Cop between my old Water-Cours and my Grand Water-Cours to stop the Sand Blast.

8 I was busy most of the after-noone putting a Cord to my Snigg-Net. Thomas Syer was here, he asked me to meet some of Great Crosby on Munday to Consult about enclosing part of the Marsh & to vew the Ground & to Consider about the designed New Water-Cours.

9 My Wife & I dined at Mosbourgh with their own Family & Sir James Poole, coming home we called at Eckleston & saw Mrs Eckleston.

10 I began to spread Mole Hills. Mr Plumbs Tenant John Bixter came hither with a Cart for some Plane Trees which I sent by him to Mr Plumb. Some Popular Trees were planted in the Cop at the lower end of the Little Morehey. I met all or most of Great Crosby Jury, viz: Thomas Gower, Thomas Syer, John Lurting, Thomas Arnold, &c: in the Coppy, we followed Formos-poole Gutter to the Sands & discoursed about cuting it Strighter and about inclosing part of Great-Crosby Marsh.

11 I Began to Sow Oats in the Cross Field. I was busy most of the day peruseing my last years Letters and puting them into their proper places where they were to be kept. Winny Scot was here to Consult with me about the misunderstanding as is between her and her Husband, I gave her my advice and let William Weedow help to make them Friends. Thomas Patton of Leverpoole was here & got some Cutings of Plumbs & Cherrys, he broke my Bottle of Linceed Oyle.

12 I stated Accounts with William Ainsworth for his Receipts & Disbursments for my use. My Wife made a Viset to Ince, Mrs Barker made a Viset here.

13 James Davy Finished painting my Mill. I tryed my Wooden Rowler in the Oat-Croft to see how it would doe, tis the first I had of this sourt 'tis designed to Rowl sowed Corn with. I gave directions to Ned Hawks-eye how I would have the Plat by Brownbills made which is called the Wooden Plat, he began to work at it; though I am at the charge of doing it now, yet it ought to be done at the Cost of Little Crosby & the Morehouses & I not to be at the least charge about it being exempt by custom from any Repairs in the Common highways of this Town-ship, yet for my own advantage & upon some other considerations allowed me, I am willing to be at the Charge now of making this Plat called the Wooden Plat to my own licking & for my own convenience.[21] Pat: Tasburgh made a Viset here. John Banister went to Ormskirk upon account of his Brother who he heard was presed a second time to be a Souldier.

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[21] See January 14 1712.

14 The Masons finished the Wooden Plat, I set it a Running. Edward Stockley was here a Beging with a Petission signed by Mr Molineux of Wooton.[22]

15 I went to Leverpoole, I bought some Ling & Hearing of Bessy Peele.[23] I payed Mrs Leadbeter for the Carriage of some Grass Seeds & Garden Seeds, &c: from London for me.[24] I sent Charls Howerd with Money to pay what I ought to Mrs Lancaster, Thomas Harper, Bessy Peele & Edward Clifton, &c:. Charls Howerd brought home my Grass Seeds, &c: in my Cart. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb & Mr Lancaster, I went to see Mr Hurst who was ill of the Gout & Gravell, I think old Mr Poole was with him, Mr Shepheard came homewards with me as far as Great Crosby.

16 My Children were both of them ill & lay down by turnes in the Cradle. I set down my yesterdays Disbursments at Leverpoole.

17 I helped to plant Star, Gors, Populars, Broome, Hep-bryers, &c: between the Great Cop and my Grand Water-Cours to hinder the Sand from Recking it up, Henry Swift was the chief Planter, the Gors were got by Margaret Darby and the Star by Henry Ascroft and John Marser. Mr Molineux of the Grange gave me the Star. I was almost all day with my Planters of Star & Gors, &c:. John Banister grafted some Cherry and Plumb Trees in the Kitchen Garden. I opened my London Grass-Seeds and weighed and mesured them.

18 Toping the Parriter was here a beging for Corn, I gave him some. Betty Bolton came to see my Children, she was sent for to them.[25] As I was going to my Setters of Star to hinder the Sand from recking up my Grand Water-Cours, I met in this Town William Harrison the Clark of Sefton, I gave him 2d instead of 12 Paist Eggs. Captain Robert Fazakerley and Mr Lancaster of Leverpoole made a Viset here.

19 William Truman of Leverpoole dined here, he bought an Incalf Heffer of mine of William Ainsworth. Henry Worthington of Ormskirk was here to have bought some Barly but bought none. Gabriall Norris made me a Viset, he gave me a Bowl of Tobacco & some Hands. Mrs Blundell & her Sister-in-Law Mrs Bridget Blundell made a Viset here.

20 Dr Lancaster came to see my Children as were not well, I payed him all Arreers. Mrs Molineux of the Grange came to see my Children. I began to make a Scope Net[26] for Fishing Pits & finished the kniting of it. I Began to set the New-Marlpit in the Town-Field a Runing & design to drain the Water out of it in order to Fish it. I went in the Morning to the Cole Croft with Charls Howerd and ordered him to plough there. Thomas Goer, Thomas Syer & William Tarlton were here, they deliver'd me the Fowl drought of the Artickles

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[22] "14 March 1712—Given Edward Stockley . . . . . 2s. 0d."

[23] "Hering half a Hundred . . . . . 3s. 4d."

[24] "Carriage of 236 lb. of Grass Seeds &c. at ¾d. per pound . . . . . 14s. 9d." See March 17 1712.

[25] Elizabeth or Betty Bolton, described as a 'Chirurganess' from Liverpool on one occasion, was called in to look at the children who were ill. It would seem that she did other jobs as well. On February 23 1712 an Elizabeth Bolton had been asked by Blundell to knit an eel-net for him. On March 18 he seems to have paid for this work, which suggests that it was one and the same woman—

"Hemp for a Snig Net at 10d. per pound, Spining & twisting at 3d. per pound, Kniting it 4 shillings, in all . . . . . 7s. 9½d.
Mending a Drought Net & making some little Nets & finding Thread . . . . . £1 0s. 0d."

[26] scope net—a scoop-net, or a small net with a long handle; also known as a dip-net.

of Agrement that are between Great Crosby and me, the Township of Great Crosby had them from me to peruse.

21 I Rid out with my Wife to my Grand Water-Cours, she rid upon Doctor to try him how she licked him. I was with Henry Swift & Darby Wife when they were seting Starr at the Cop to prevent the Sand from Recking up my Grand Water-Cours. I dressed some of my Linceed it being full time to sell it.

22 I was very busy most of the after noone fiting up my small Snigg net & puting Hoops to it. Mrs Bridget Blundell, Pat: Wofold, Betty Blundell of the Car-side, &c: came to see Fanny.

23 Thomas Kerfoot paid me part of his Rack Rent. I discoursed some about Marling for me if I had Occasion.

24 I Stated Accounts with Ned Hawks-eye and John Mason for Masons Work done by them and paid all I ought them for Work.[27] William Davy Skinner & John Blundell Taylor came to agree with me about Gilbersons Teneament, I made a Bargan with them. I helped William Ainsworth & Henry Ascroft to boar for Marle in the Pike, it was the first time we boared there, when I came home I found Mr Tasburgh and Mr Burton here, they came to see Fanny who was ill. Some of the Work-horses were Bludyed.

25 Thomas Kerfoot brought 3 Beasts which William Ainsworth had agreed with him for, they are in part of whot he is indebted to me for Rent. I payed Nicholas Johnson in full for Taylors work done by him and his Men till this day and he paid me his Rack Rent. I stated Accounts with Charls Howerd my Servant & we Clear'd off all as was due to each other. John Sumner of the Morehouses & Thomas Marrow of the Gate paid their Rent to me & I payed them for work done by them and theirs at my Grand Water-Cours, severall others of my Tenants paid me their Rent, Viz: Walter Thelwall, Jane Bryanson, &c:. Eves went to Leverpoole to meet her Husband. Pat: Gelibrond & his Nephew Thomas Gelibrond lodged here, they came to see me drain a Pit with my Cheane Pump, I went with them to the Town-field Pit which I designe to fish, thence we went to Mr Aldreds.

26 They fixed my Chean Pump in the Town Field pit in order to drain it. Mr Molineux of the Grange came to Acquaint my Wife where she might have some Burch Water to make Wine on, she sent for it. I was Indisposed and took my Bed. Dr Lancaster came gratis to see Fanny. I had severall Visitants here, viz: Pat: Wofold, Pat: Manock, &c:.

27 They are Pumping in the Townfield pit. Richard Cartwrit let me blood. Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvile made a Viset here. William Ainsworth sold me two Incalf Heffers at Ormskerk.

28 I sent for Doctor Lancaster, he gave me a Vomit, he Lodged here. Mr Hurst sent to see me. Captain Robert Fazakerley came to see me. Mr Lancaster and his Wife made a Viset here. They drained the Townfield Pit and took one very larg Carp and a pritty many Ells and some other Fish.

29 Doctor Lancaster, Pat: Gelibrond and Cozen Thomas Gelibrond went hence together as farr as their way lay. I gave my Cozen Thomas Gelibrond a Bowl made of Tobacco. I sent John Banister to the Funerall of Nicholas Shepheard.

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[27] "25 March 1712—Masons work about the hous and out housing . . . 14s. 2d
Ditto for building the Duckcoy and the Soughs to it & from it . . £1 7s. 8d.
Ditto for the Sniggary. . . . . 16s. 0d.
Ditto mending Coppy Wall & Plats . . . . . 14s. 0d."

30 Mr Scarisbrick sent to see me. Parson Gerard Wairing came to see me. Being extreamly ill of a continuall Fit of Heckoping which lasted for about 15 Hours without ever any Long intermission both Dr William Lancaster & Dr Andrews came to me, they Lodg'd here. I Signed my third Will.

31 The Doctors went hence, Dr Andrews came again & lodged here. Lord Molineux sent to see me. Pats: Maynard, Burton and Manock came to see me.

Till the 16th generally a Cold sharp Frosty Air, 16 & 17 Cold Raine, then till the 22nd. Close and hot Weather, then till 25th warme Showers and then till the 30th bitter Cold with some Rain, the two last dayes tollerable warme & Fair.

APRILL

1 Doctor Lancaster came to see me, both the Doctors went hence.[28] Widdow Eckleston sent to see me. Pat: Tasburgh came to see me. I got up being on the mending hand.

2 They sent from Mosburgh, Morehall & Ince to see me. Edward Hatton, Thomas Blansherd and severall of my Neighbours came to see me. Charls Howerd took a Sweat being indisposed.

3 Mr Molineux of the Grange came to see me, Mr Gorsuch came to see me, he din'd here. Parson Richmond & Mr Wofold of Morehalle sent to see me. William Ainsworth sold me two Incalf Heffers at Ormskerk.

4 I Layed a good Foot Bridge between Arnolds Heys and the Milking Meadow but I intend to remove it. Mrs Blundell sent to see me.

5 I Began to cast for Potatows in the Stock-Roots. I began to sow Clover and Trefoyl Seed in the farthest North Hey and to use my Rowler the first time by rowling the Oats and the above said Grass-Seeds in the same Field. William Ainsworth and Henry Ascroft boored for Marle in the Pick. William Ainsworth shaved me. Sir Roger Bradshaws Stewerd Mr Winstanley brought me a Letter from his Master, and an other from Mr Shakerley,[29] I answered Mr Shakerleys, William Ainsworth writ and I indibted it.

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[28] "Fees to Dr Lancaster & Dr Andrews when I had that sevear bout of Heckoping . . . . . £2 0s. 0d."

[29] Nicholas Blundell being ill, William Ainsworth, a servant, wrote the following letter in reply for him. Additional interest in the letter are the references to postal arrangements.

To Sir Roger Bradshaiw, Parleament Man Aprill the 3d. 1712

Honoured Sir

Your Oblidging Letter (though long upon its way) has at last got safe to my hands. I suppose the slow progress it made was occationed by it being sent by the Ormskerk Post for although it be almost as near as our Common Post Town of Leverpoole yet we have very little commerce there from our Neighbourhood of Crosby. And though the Letter come to Ormskerk very safe as yours has done, they often lye very long for want of a convenient opertunity to send them hither. The Long stay of yours in the Post Office at Ormskerk and my now ten dayes of a Violent indisposition has ben the true reason I did not sooner return an answer. And even now when I hope to be on the recovering hand, I am fourced to make use of an other Pen not being yet able to writ my self and hope your goodness will pardon all. [*Continued over*]

6 I Being ill Mr Aldred prayed & dined here & Preached. I took a turn in the Garden. Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvill came to see me.

7 Dr Lancaster made me a Viset. Henry Stananought came to begg some Pick Fray when I take any. Banister sowed Seeds of Tulops & Saxifrage in the Flower Knot.

8 William Ainsworth and Henry Ascroft boar'd for Marle. I shaped 60 Paper Baggs to put Brass into.

9 I Payed the Half years Window Tax to Mary Farer and the Quarterly Land Tax to William Tompson. Ailes Steward was here with her Pack & sold some goods to my Wife, &c:. I had 14 hands and a half, 4 Carts and four Drivers at my Grand Water-Cours within my Coppy, some of them spread the Earth. I fetched one Load of Coles from Wisalls Pit. Thomas Worthington & his three Partners the Push-ploughers came hither tonight in order to push for me tomorrow.

10 The Push-ploughers Pushed in the Slip and the Cole-Croft. I finished sowing Clover & Trefoyl Seed in the Farthest North-hey. The Masons layed a Plat over my Grand Watercours in the Coppy. Yester-Night & this Morning I took a Doce of Pills. Mr Plumb made me a Viset, I gave him farther directions how to draw the Agreement between the Township of Great Crosby and me in Relation to our New Water Cours.

11 I Rid out to take the Aire, it being the first time I have ben from about the Hous since I was sick, William Ainsworth went with me, I went to look at my Grand-Water Cours in the Coppy, thence to my Push-ploughers in the Winterheys, thence to look at the Farthest North-hey which is sowed with Oats, Clover and Trefoyl Seed, then to see where they had ben Boaring for Marle in the Great Morehey & Pick, and then came home. I Began to set Potatows in the Stock Roots. I walked both before and after Dinner to my Delvers for Potatowes in the Stock Roots. John Banister went in the Evening to see his Step Mother who was ill.

12 Mr Scarisbrick came to see me, he dined here. Eves went to meet her Husband at Leverpoole. I reconed with some of my Workmen & payed them off what I ought them for Work, viz: Ascroft, Darby, &c:.

13 Mr Molineux of Mosburgh sent to see if I had any Seed Barly to part with. My Wife made a Viset to Ince, being it Rained I sent to fetch her home on Hors-back.

14 I Set some Marling to John Darwin, Thomas Westhead & their Partners, and to Charls Stevenson, John Harrison & their Partners and we Signed Artickles of each Side, some of the Marlers went with me to the Great Morehey where we set out the Marl-Pit, the rest of the Marlers came to us to the Great More-hey. I led some Gors Roots for Mrs Ann & Margery Sheppherd.

[*Continued*]

As to your paying £5 per Annum to Cozen Clifton, it is whot I find has ben done both by your Grand Father and Father and since then by your self or at least by Mr Shakerley on the same account which is an acknowledgment of the Debt from Generation to Generation so hope you will answer the Interest due since the death of Cozen Do: Clifton or at least use me in honour as a Friend and Relation and when I shall receive the Principall with whot Interest is allowed by your Honour such reasonable discharge as shall be required shall be given by

your oblidged and humble Servant
Nicholas Blundell"

(Letter Book, p. 92)

He also wrote in similar terms to Shakerley. (Letter Book. p. 92)

15 Yester-night and this Morning I took a dose of Pills. Thomas Syer, William Tarlton &c: came to acquaint me what they had done with my Lord Molineux in Relation to the Enclosing of Great Crosby Marsh & left with me some Proposalls to be peruesed by me which they designe to make to my Lord. I made a great many Palme Crosses. Richard Jackson desired to know what I would ask for ading a second Life to that one in his Teneament.

16 I Agreed with Richard Jackson to ad a second Life to his Leas & made some proposalls to him for ading a third, he paid me Twenty Pound.

17 I Killed a Larg Red Bull Seg. Mr Molineux of Mosburgh sent hither for 50 Busshells of my seed Barly. I finished seting of Potatows. I Began to Feigh[30] for a Marl-pit in the Great Morehey, tiss designed for Marling the Little Morehey & Pike William Ainsworth payed Mr Wilson at Ormskerk £21 for the use of Mr Smith alias Kitchen, £20 was the Principall Money & one Pound was Interest in full.

18 Mr Aldred prayed here & preached a Passion Sermon but did not dine here. William Ainsworth & Charls Howerd went with me to the Winterheys, I made Charles to let some Water of the Cole Croft & some of the Moss-pits, and gave William Ainsworth directions about geting of Turves in that Ground, we Coursed a Hare as we went. I payed Ned Hawkseys £02–02s–06d for Stones which he & John Mason got last year in my Delf. I payed John Lurting for some Frute Treess as I had from him this Spring.

19 I was very busy all day Booking my Disbursments for the four last Months. Captain Robert Fazakerley called here as he was going to the Grange from Leverpoole. Eves Doughter Nanny Lodged here. I finished thrashing Beans & Barly.

20 Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here. Bess Fowled a very fine & Large Bay Hors Colt, it was drown'd before Morning.

21 William Ainsworth went home. I went to Great Crosby Court where the Artickleys between the Township of Great Crosby and me Relating to the new intended Water-Cours was Signed by most of the Persons Mensioned in it viz: Thomas Goar, Thomas Syer, Richard Westhead, William Tarlton, Nicholas Johnson, Henry Fleetwood, &c: in Presence of Mr Thomas Ford the Steward of the Court,[31] Josua Lathom, and John Jackson. After Supper my Wife & I saw part of the Play Called the Schoole of Complements Acted at Henry Bushels by a Company as came from towards Scarisbrick. Captain Robert Fazakerley Lodged here. Ginny had her 4th Litter of Whelps, she had eight.

22 Captain Robert Fazakerley went hence. I agreed with severall to find Carts for my Marling viz: Robert Johnson, Henry Fleetwood, &c:. Mr Aldred and I made a Viset to Mr Wairings but he was not at home. My Wife went after dinner to Ormskerk and advised with Dr Lancaster about removing Fanny to Ditton for Change of Air for her health.

23 Fanny went to Ditton to William Athertons at the Bank Hous to stay for Change of Aire for her health, My Wife went along with her, Mally and I went with them as far as Leverpoole, after they were gon towards Ditton I went

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[30] See Appendix B. Feying or feighing here means the removal of the top soil or moss covering the marl. It also has the meaning of 'scattering'.

[31] This agreement is now in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston, DDB1/46/30.

with Mally to the Whit-Mettle houses[32] and bought a Punsh Bowl &c. We went to Mr Lancasters, Brownbills, &c:, as we came home Betty Harrison and Catty Howerd met us on the Sands & ride home with us in the Coach. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Alanson & Mr Lancaster, it is the first time I have ben at Leverpoole since my Recovery. My Miller was at Leverpoole but came not home with us.

24 My Wife came home from Ditton. William Hodgson Mary Fleetwoods Journey Man came to mend the Washing Boyler. I began to teach Mally to write. I began to delve Fleas this year in the Winter-heys. Charles Howerd sowed above half a Busshell of Rye Grass Seed and four Quarts of St Foyn[33] in the Cole-Croft, I was with him, thence I went to the Snigary to John Blundell and Tickley who were working there, they reered it. The Push-ploughers finished pushing for me,[34] I payed them. Mr Ralph Winstanley Sir Roger Bradshaws Steward brought me a Dischearge to signe upon Account of £100 which Sir Roger is to pay me, he Lodged here.[35]

25 Henry Worthington brought some Perry Wiggs for me to look at, but I bought none. William Ainsworth & William Blundell went with me to the Winter-heys, I helped them to set out some Flea-Turves, thence I went to my Sniggary, Charles Howerd met me there, he sowed between my Grand Water-Cours & the old Cop about one Busshell of St Foyn which come very well up & bruarded finely, but ere Summer was over it went quit away, I think that Sand was too hot for it, he also Sowed about three Quarters of Rye Grass which did tollerably well, but it grew not up to any great hight, and about one Pound & half of Clover & Trefoyl mix'd, the Clover did tollerably but the Trefoyl little or Nothing.

26 I went to Leverpoole and gave Mr Clayton a Receipt for the Acknowledgment of £100 Received from Sir Roger Bradshaw upon Account of a Debt owing by Bond from his Grandfather, and at the same time I gave his Grandfathers Bond to Mr Christopher Bradshaw, by which I demand the said £100, in Consideration of which said Receipt & Bond Mr Clayton is to pay me £100 when he has Received it from Sir Roger Bradshawe. I discoursed Mr Loton of Prescot about the Money Mrs Margery Michelson demands of me upon account of Mrs Blackbourne and assured him I was not liable to pay that debt. I bought a Wigg of Jack Whit for 25s. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Parson Walsh, Parson Wairing, Mr Plumb & Mr Alanson. Ginny Fowled a Hors Colt, tis to be called Ginson.

27 My Wife and Mally made a Viset to Ince. I Read in a Spirituall Book.

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[32] This may have been the white metal mug shop at the end of Dale Street. The Liverpool Town Books state that Alderman Josiah Poole in 1714 was leased some property for use as a pot or mug house at the north-west corner of what is now Lord Street and Whitechapel. There was another pottery on Shaw's Brow, which in 1714 was handed over by Alderman George Tyrer, a merchant, to Samuel Gillbody and Thomas Morris, who were described as brick-makers. In the list of voters for 1734, Samuel Gillbody is described as a 'potter', and in the list for 1737 as a 'dealer in white earthenware'.

[33] Sainfoin—a clover-like plant used as fodder.

[34] "24 Aprill 1712—Push-plowing part of the Cole-Croft at 1s. 3d. per day & Meat, Drink & Lodging . . . . . £1 0s. 0d."

[35] This refers to a sum of money owing to William Blundell the Cavalier by Christopher Bradshaigh, of Wigan, who died in 1678.

28 William Ainsworth went with me in the Morning to the Slip, We Mesured it Round that I might know how to Sow my Malt Dust &c: upon it, we set out some Peeses of Moss-pits in the Winter-heyes. After dinner William Ainsworth, John Banister and I &c: sowed 74 Busshells of Malt-Dust in the Slip. I had three Boones & one Plough of my own Ploughing in the Farthest Wheat hey. Henry Ascroft began to delve Turves in the Winterheys. Parson Letus made me a Viset but I was not at home.

29 Bess was horsed by Izack Lightbowns Young Dogg-Lad. William Ainsworth, Margery Lurting & I sowed 53 Busshells of Shilling Dust in the Slip. Margery Lurting and I marked out a part of a Moss-pitt in the Winter-heys. I met Thomas Westhead at my New intended Marl-pit in the Great-More-hey to Consult how the Paises should be made, thence I went to the Nearer Wheat hey where I had two Boones & one of my own Ploughing. Parson Wairing sent a Mair for me to look at but I did not buy her.

30 I went to Ditton to see Fanny. Mally Rid behind me, we Lodged at the Bank-hous, I went to the Whit Bull, there should have ben a Hat shot for there but there wanted Company to Shoot, Mr John Hurst was there, we drank together, thence we went to his Tenants where Mr Hurst treated me in his Summer hous.

Till the 10th very unsetled Weather, then 3 Days very Fair, from the 13th to the 22nd generally Rain every day, from the 22nd to the end fine & Fair Weather.

MAY

1 I went in the Morning to Henry Heys with Mally. Joseph Bolton told me he could not pay his Fine now. I came home from Ditton and left Mally there. Betty Harrison & Catherine Howerd walked to Morehalle.

2 William Ainsworth bought me a Whit Hors called Grime of Thomas Worthington of Oughton. Charles Howerd brought me 32 Busshells of Coleseed Dust from Leverpoole. Mrs Moss was here, she had ben delivering Mary Farer of a Doughter. I turned out my Milk-Cowes. I smoked most of my Apple Trees to prevent the Cross-flyes from doing them a prejudice they being this year very numerous and I think very much sooner then the time of the year they are uesed to come.

3 I went to Leverpoole and fetched Mally home behind me, she had ben at Ditton to see her Sister & came from thence to Leverpoole today, we saw the Drummers Wife of Leverpoole whipt for Stealing. I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr Plumb & Whit the Barber, I payed Whit 25s for a Perrywig. The Young people of this Town had a Merry-night, Tatlock played to them, my Wife & I went to see them dance.[36]

4 Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvile made a Viset here. Thomas Worthington was here and received the remainder of his Pay for his Horse Grime.

5 Mr Aldred payed me £20 upon Account of a Bill which I gave him. My Jury met to consider of Matters against the Court is kept. I began to burn that part of the Slip as was pushed this year. I began to make ston Plats in the Winter-heys. I Sowed 18 Bushells of Cole-Seed-dust in the Slip and 14 Busshells in the little Moss-hey, I also sowed in the Little Moss-hey about 24 Busshells of

[36] Probably part of the May Day celebrations.

Malt Dust and about 32 Busshells of Shiling Dust, there was two Busshells sowed on one Rood, I find the Dust above to have done some good espetially in the Meddowing in the Little-Moss-hey, but I think it dos not answer the Charge, whilst I was busy in the Little-Moss-hey William Harrison the Clark came to me, I paid him Easter dues &c:. I sowed four sorts of Grass-Seeds viz: Clover, Trefoyl, St Foyn & Rye Grass Seed in the Middle-North-hey but none of them did well, one reason was becaus the Moulds were not fine enough.

6 My Wife took a Dose of Pills. I went to Ormskerk Sessions in order to have got a Hunderd Bridge made over Formospoole Gutter but could not.[37] I din'd at Lancets with Mr Fazakerley of the Hill-hous, Lawyer Blundell, Atturney Green &c:, there was at the other Table Mr Clayton of Leverpoole Merchant, Mr Brooks of Ormskerk, Lawyer Starkey &c:, I drunk at the Talbot with Mr Robert Fazakerley & Doctor Lancaster.

7 William Ainsworth and Weedow sowed 22 Busshells of Hay Seeds in the Slip, I was with them, thence William Ainsworth and I went and set out part of a Mosspit in the Winterheys & set out severall Roods of Fleas. I Led Muck with five Boone Carts and two of my own. Betty Harrison & Catty Howerd went towards Ditton to see Fanny, they design to Lodg at Leverpoole & goe on their Journey tomorrow.

8 I Booked my Receipts for December, January, February & March. I helped John Banister to take up Severall Flowers out of the Nursery & to plant them in the Knot in the Stone Garden. I mended my larg Huswife Net & Layed it in the Great Pit in the Great More hey, John Banister was with me, tiss the first time I uesed it this Summer.

9 James Rigby came to work for me. John Farer & his Nephew Ned came to dress the Coach Harnish. I Removed the Bridg from between the Milking Medow & Arnolds Heys into the Winterheys & layed an other in its place. I helped to corde one of the Nursery Beds. Betty Harrison & Caty Howerd came home from Ditton.

10 I went to Leverpoole to Receive £100 from Mr Clayton upon Account of Sir Roger Bradshaw but he was not at home. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Aldred and Mr Plumb. Eves came home by the way of Leverpoole from Ditton where she had ben some time to attend my Doughter Frances.

11 Mr Aldred not being at home Mr Tasburgh supplyed his place, he dined here. Richard Cartwrit let my wife blood in the Foot. Mr Plumb lodged here, he came to keep my Court tomorrow.

12 Mr Plumb kept my Court at William Davis. I there signed the Agreement made between me & Great Crosby about our New Water-Cours in Presence of Mr Plumb, William Ainsworth & Thomas Farer; there was out of Great Crosby to see it signed & to receive it Thomas Gore, Thomas Syer & Ned Hatton. I shewed Mr Plumb my Grand Water Cours. In the Court I gave Gabriall Norris liberty to have 6 Cow Gates upon the Morehous Marsh. I lent

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[37] The bridge over the Farmosspool Gutter was one of some importance as it lay on the road from Liverpool, along the shore, through Crosby, to Preston and the Fylde. Nicholas was anxious to have a bridge built and maintained by the Hundred of West Derby, but was not successful. During severe flooding in 1720 the bridge over the Gutter was badly damaged and at the Easter Quarter Sessions, 1721, a successful claim was made for the bridge to be repaired. (QSP/1175/6 and 7, L.R.O.)

"6 May 1712—Dining at Ormskerk Session with the Justisess of the Peas when I would have got a Bridg over Formospoole Gutter . . . . . 3s. 0d.
More spent on my self & horses . . . . . 1s. 8d."
See May 26 & 27, July 22, August 11, 1712.

Mr Plumb Button till after Ormskerk Rase. William Davy Skinner paid me £11 in full for his Fine for Gilbersons Teneament. Edward Farclough brought a Hors for Mr Plumb to look at but he did not buy him. I Sheer some of my Weathers.

13 I went to Ormskerk Rase with my Wife and Mallly in the Coach & came back with them but I rid upon the Ground, there was my Lord Peters & his Lady, Lawyer Starkey, Parson Letus &c:, the Rase was won by an Iron Gray hors of one Mr Batters, he run against my Lord Molineux his Darcy & a York Shire Gentlemans. Ben Branker gave me an enamoled Reliquary to expose to sale for him, I Shewed it to Mr Scarisbrick &c:. I bought a Hat of Quaker Holme.

14 My Wife went to the Gallaway Race at Ormskerk, there none but two run, it was won by a Gray Mair called the Stond Mair, thence my Wife went to make a Viset at Morehall. Cozen Thomas Gelibrond sent his Servant on purpose to invite Fanny to come to his Hous for change of Aire for her health.

15 I Led Muck with 4 Boone Carts & three of my own Teames. I helped William Weedow to remove some Beasts out of the Winterhey into the Dob Heys. Henry Dauber & his Man came to work at my Mill to raise the Lyer & to turne the Trundle &c:. John Banister took 11 young Moles in their Nests, tis the first day he has ben out this Season.

16 Mr Aldred shewed me how to take the Meridion. I fited up the Parlor Window Curtains much better then they were.

17 I Received £100 at Leverpoole from Mr Claytons Servant except what was to be allow'd out of it for Commission &c; it was an old Debt owing by Sir Roger Bradshaw to Mr Christopher Bradshaw. I signed a Leas at Leverpoole to John Bolton of his Teneament called Normons Teneament.[38] I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr Plumb, Mr Hurst &c:. I finished Barly Seeding this year.

18 Mrs Scarisbrick and Mrs Fazakerley dined here, they were here at prayers.

19 John Lidiat & his two Men came to make me a Pair of New Wheels for my Marle Cart. I was in the Winter-heys with my Workfolks, it was a great Thunder Shower & all or most of us took shelter in Thomas Brownbills, thence I went to see John and Jane Bryanson who were ill.

20 I Began to Rail the Side of Nichols-Hey better by taiking up the Stubs & laying the Railes considerably higher then they were, I was with them, there was James Rigby, John Renold &c:. I began to lead Clay to my Snigary for Daub. I sowed about 22 Busshells Malt Dust at 3 Busshells on two Rood, and about 7 Busshells of Shilling Dust at 4 Busshells on two Rood upon the Farthest Stubble in the Cowhey.[39] William Ainsworth went to Leverpoole in hopes to sell his Hors Toping but he light of some Disapointments. John Banister brought my Wife a Box from Leverpoole as came from London with a Callico Mantew & Pettycoat. My Wife made a Viset to Betty Blundell of the Car-Sid, she was lying in. They began to spin some of this years woole to make me a Sute of Cloths on.

21 I went to Garswood & payed Sir William Gerard £104–10s–06d in part of Stock & Interest due to Dungenhall upon Account of my Purchass so that now I onely owe £75 upon that Account, I dined at Garswood with Sir William Gerard, Lord Peters, Mr Culcheth & their Ladys, Sir Francis Andrews &c:. I went in the Evening with Sir William Gerard & Sir Francis Andrew to Burchley & so came home. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here. One of my Hives of Bees swarmed and went into a hole at the end of the Granery.

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[38] in Ditton.

[39] "Shilling Dust at 1d. per Busshell . . . . . 8s. 1d."

22 Thomas Kerklington was here, I went out with him a Simpling, we went to the Winterheys, I helped William Ainsworth to sow some Hayseeds in the Slip, thence we went a Simpling to the Sand Hills, Thomas Kerklington lodged here.[40] Mr Tasburgh suped here. Fanny came home from Ditton, she had ben there for change of Aire for her health.

23 Pat: Gelibrond went hence, my Wife went with him part of the way & so went to the Peele to shew her foot to Mrs Bootle which was soar with being Bluddied. I went to see John & Jane Brianson who were ill.

24 One Mr Thwaits a Convent Parson was a beging here, he Lodged here. Bess was horsed with Thomas Bixters Bay, she had ben horsed before with Izacks young Dog Lad but did not hold by him. William Ainsworth swaped away his hors Toping.

25 Ellen Eves went hence, she left my service. Mrs Molineux of Mosbourgh & her Kinswoman Mrs Mary Molineux dined here & Mrs Molineux of the Grange.

26 John Darwin came to discours me about Marling & to know when I would begin. I began to thatch my Snigary, I went to see it, thence I went to Edmund Tristrom & discoursed him about Impannalling a Jury to get a Bridge over Formospoole Gutter, I also spoke to Roger Haddock one of the Baylis of this Hunderd to Stand my Friend in procuring me a Jury, he had ben here beging Corn. William Ainsworth bought me some Timber at Walton.

27 I bowled at Ince Greene with Mr Burton &c:, I there discoursed Mr Formby about Jury men to get a Bridg over Formospoole Gutter. William Ainsworth went towards Wigan Fair with a Bull of mine.

28 My Teame & severall of the Neighbours led Coles for Mr Aldred. I was with them seeing them repair the Cop with Gors at the side of Nichols hey or the old Water-cours. William Ainsworth came home from Wigan Fair, he sold not my Bull but he has bought me one.

29 I was at Ince Green but did not bowl, there was Parson Letus, Parson Wairing, Parson Darbyshire of Formby, Robert Bootle &c:. My Wife made a Viset to Betty Blundell of the Car-Side. Ellin Rigby brought me six very young Shell Ducks[41] but I could not keep them.

30 Ten of my Marlers came & shot the two paises of my New Marlpit, I was with them both before & after dinner. I was after dinner at my Snigary, Richard Newhous was Laying Riging Sods on it.

31 I Stated Accounts with William Ainsworth for his Receipts & Disbursments for my use since March the 12th and I took his Accounts of Corne ues'd in the hous, got by the Mill &c: since Christmass last. Dr Lancaster made a Viset here, so did Captain Robert Fazakerley. I began to Rowl my Oats in the Farthest Northhey. Brock was cover'd by Bixters Bay, tis the first time she was ever cover'd.

This was a very seasonable Month as to the Weather, being severall very warm days with now & then very agreeable showers of Raine, I think never above four dayes together without some Rain & never too much at a time, which made both the Wet and the Warme Weather very acceptable, though a little more Rain would not have done a miss.

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[40] A pedlar visiting Crosby. See Vol. 1, pp. 97–8, 235.

[41] Type of duck seldom far from the sea; likes sandy and muddy coasts. Common along the shore in Crosby district, where they still breed in the sandhills, but in decreasing numbers.

JUNE

1 My Wife made a Viset to Ince. I help'd my Wife to writ some Letters.

2 Some of my Darby Marlers came to see when I would begin of my Marling I began to set Gate Stubs to some of the New Closes in the Winterheys & to. daube my Sniggary. I was with them in both plases after dinner. My Teame and severall of the Neighbours helped Richard Webster our Smith home with his Coles.

3 The Marlers Drink was tuned, I computed how much there was & how many Quarts a day it would be for the Marlers. I went to the Snigary, John Renold & I tryed to get some very small Pickerill[42] in the New Water Cours in the Coppy, we got one Small fish but I think it was not a Pick, thence I went to Thomas Ridings & advised with him about making Lincy Wolcy Saile-Cloths. I found a Sheep of mine very ill, we gave it a Pipe of Tobacco backwards[43] & let it blood.

4 I had a hive of Bees Swarmed about seaven of the Clock in the Morning, they knit pritty well & then flew away & went up in the great Gatehous at Ince. It being Mr Blundells Aniversary I went to prayers to Ince, there was my Wife, Mr Molineux of the Grange, Richard Tickley, &c:.

5 William Ainsworth and I mesured over-cross the Little Morehey & the Pick which are to be Marled, we computed how many Carts they would take, thence we went to my Snigary, & so to the Scourers of Formosspoole Gutter, there were 12, thence we went to the Winterheys and mesured all the Moss pits there of this years to know how much Feying I have to pay for. I finished delving Turves in the Winter heys unless perhaps I may give some few ends of Pits to the Delver.

6 Ned Hawkseye mended the Hob in the Kitchen or endeed rather made a new one it was so bad, he set up a Grate in the Snigary, I was with him, thence I went to the Scourers of Formoss-poole Gutter, there were twelve hands. William Ainsworths Gray Gelding Doctor wrested in the Cart I bet him sevearly. James Rigby worked at the Snigary.

7 I Fetched home two Load of wood from Walton, tis part of what William Ainsworth bought me there. I set my Net the first time in my Snigary having now finished that building except some few things which are to be done of no great Charge, my Wife ride thither behind me & came home her self, she sent her horse back to me. I paid Jane Bryanson £10 which I had borrowed formerly of John Bryanson, he being now dead.

8 My Wife, I, and my Children were at the Funerall of John Bryanson of the Morehouses, there was Mr Molineux of the Grange, Richard Tickley, &c:, it was the first time that Fanny has ben at a buriall or in Sefton Church.

9 I took Thomas Hartley & George Nailer of Leverpoole hunting Wild Ducks in the Cowhey, they had one Gun but wood not deliver it. I went with my Wife to Mrs Anns, we bought a bottle of Syder. I payed Henry Ascroft for Feying & Delving Turves & for other work. I set a Swarme of Bees of this years in the Kitchen Garden, tis the first Swarme I set there.

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[42] young pikes.

[43] by the anus, probably as an enema.

10 My Wife went to Ormskerk Fair. John Banister & I baithed in the Sea, we came home by my Snigary. I computed how many inches there was in a Marl Cart and what number of Inshes were lost if the Carts were an Inch or more too little.[44]

11 I went in the Morning to my Delvers of Turves in the Morehouses thence to my Burners in the Winterheys. I Stated Accounts with William Pooley which were of a very Long Standing.

12 I Began to Marle the Little Morehey and Pick out of a Pitt made in the Great Morehey, I had two Companys & each Company Consisted of three Hewers & four Fillers, there was twelve Carts, four Spreders & one Water Bayly, they got out 754 Load, I was with them soone after three of the Clock in the Morning. I went to Leverpoole and advised with Mr Major & Mr Plumb about the addisionall Land Tax of 6d per Pound which is imposed upon us in order to ease Simonswood.[45] I went towards evening to my Burners in the Winter heys, thence to Ince Greene, there was Parson Sherley of the Meales, Mr Lancet of Ormskerk, &c:.

13 My Marlers got out 8 Hundred Load or more. I mesured most of my Marl Carts to see whether they were big enough. Pat: Burton & Pat: Mashter made a Viset here, I went to my Marlers with Pat: Burton, he & Mr Aldred got Collation here.

14 I was pritty much with my Marlers, they got out 8 Hundred & 23 Load of Marl. I turned off John Tarltons Teame because his Horses were supposed to have the Scab. Robert Tompson killed about 15 Adders or Long Wormes.[46] I helped John Banister to Bottle off two Runlets of Aile, being about 12 Dozen.

15 I found Ch.ho.[47] & Betonbed at three ith morne. My Children went to the New house with Ellin Harrison.

16 Severall of my Ditton Tennants viz: William Atherton, Joseph Bolton, Henry Heys, &c: and some as were not, came along with them to see my Marlers, they were tenn & I suppose all of them gave some thing to the Marlers, they all dined here & afterwards I drunk with them in the Hall, when they were gon I went to Great Crosby & got some Workmen against tomorrow, I found some of my Ditton Tenants drinking at James Davys doar, I drunk with them. Thomas Bigarstaff came and tryed three of my Mayers[48] with his Stoned Horse, but none of them were Proud.

17 I Began to fey the Marl pit, part of it deeper. It was so wet that the Marlers could not get out their dayes work.

18 I put a new Cord to the Jack. I Redied my Closet in part & put severall things into their proper places elce where.

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[44] This is typical of Nicholas Blundell. It is not evidence of meanness, but of his keen desire to be exact, tidy and accurate.

[45] See June 27, 29 and 30; July 2, 5, 15 and 16, 1712.

[46] Like many countrymen, Nicholas confused grass snakes with adders. Adders would be found on dry heaths, but grass snakes would have been common in the damp areas around Crosby. The measurements he gives indicate that it was grass snakes that were being killed: they were too long for adders. See Vol. 1. pp. 139, 175, 177, 257, 292-4.

[47] probably Charles Howard, a servant, and 'Bet' may have been either Betty (Elizabeth) Blundell or Betty Harrison, also servants.

[48] mares.

19 William Ainsworth & Charles Howerd went to Prescot Fair. My Wife rid behind me to Leverpoole, Betty Harrison, Catherine Howerd, &c: walked thither, we saw the Play Acted called the Earle of Essex, there was present Mr Heskaine, Mr Jams Gleast, Will Rollins, &c:. My Wife & I came home in the Wet between 4 & 5 next Morning, but it was so excessive wet that our Maids came not home till after Noone.[49]

20 William Ainsworth & I Rid out to my Sniggary & set my Net, thence to the Sea Side & so through Great Crosby to my New Marl-pits where they were Leaving the Rain Water out; when I came home I found Parson Gerard Wairing & John Dugdale &c: who were comne along with George Nayler to petission for him, he being one of them as I prosecuted for Shooting a Wild Duck in the Cowhey.

21 I Took 31 Pickarills in my Snigary & sent Margaret Marrow with 30 of them to Henry Stananoughts but onely three of them lived. My Wife began her Journey towards Holywell, she Rid to Leverpoole and designes to walk the rest, John Banister & Betty Harrison &c: went to Holliwell.[50] I began to digg Turves in Marrows Heys. Severall of my Marlers helped to fey the Clay off, being it was so wet they could not Marl. It was a most violent Hail-Storme here for about an hour & raised the Waters about the Morehouses & at Formospoole to a very great hight before night, though am told that in some plases not far off there was Little or no Raine.

22 William Ainsworth went with me both in the Morning & Night to my Snigary, in the Morning I got 10 Picks & about 9 Pound of Eles, & at night I got 21 Picks.

23 I Booked my Receipts for Aprill and May. I made Catherine Howerd order Eles three different ways to try to keep them, I strained my Foot with Hanging some of them up. William Ainsworth went with me in the Morning to my Snigary, we took 55 Piks & about 3½ lb. of Eles, we fixed some Pullis in the Snigary. Henry Stananaught went in the after noone with me to my Snigary, we took 10 Piks, I gave him about 56 Picks, he & his Boy designed to carry them home alive to stoar in Pits, then I went to Leverpoole in expectation to meet my Wife from Holy well but she was not comne to Leverpoole, I saw Acted in the Castle the Play called the Yeoman of Kent.[51] there was at the Play Mr Sandeford Junior, William Rollins, James Gleast &c:, when it was over I came home. I advised with Mr Plumb about prossecuting Hartley for shooting a Wild Duck. Charles Stevenson one of the Lords of my Marl-pit was hurt by a small fall of Marle.

24 My Wife &c: came home from Holy-well. James Farer came to borrow my Cheane pump to cleer his Marling Pit from Water, I lent it him. John Sumner, William Wignold &c: paid me their Rent. I took Fourty one Piks and two Eles in my Snigary.

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[49] "19 June 1712—Seeing a Play at Leverpoole,
my Wife & I . . . . . 2s. 0d.
Spent at Leverpoole when we saw the Play. . . . . 1s. 8d."

[50] "My Wife for her Journey to Holy Well . . . . . £1 2s. 4d."
Mrs. Blundell may have decided to make the long and somewhat treacherous walk to Holywell as a form of penance.

[51] It is probable that the play was acted in the part of the castle then used as an assembly room. (See Broadbent, R. J.: *Annals of the Liverpool Stage* (1908), p. 14).

25 I went to the Hay-Makers as were making Clover Hay in Ince for Walter Thelwall & me, thence I went a Duning to William Abbot &c:. I took 32 Picks in my Snigary.

26 I got home some of my Clover Hay out of Ince. I Booked my Disbursments for Aprill. I bought a Gray Guelding for my Wife of William Ainsworth I call him Doctor. I got 17 Picks in my Snigary.

27 I Led Clover-Hay out of Ince with four Carts. I set out my New Marl-pit somthing biger being we thought there was not enough feyed. The Carters led five Load of Shilly from my Stone Delf to mend one of the Paises with. Plumb the High Cunstable came to this Town & the Morehouses & ordered William Davy & John Sumner to appear tomorrow at Ormskerk before some of the Commissioners for the Land Tax, tis about an imposition of 6d per Pound which is layed thorrow Darby Hundred & though severall have payed it, I & this Township doe intend to stand out for some time. I took 4 Picks in my Snigary. Dr Cawood from Dublin came to Lodg here, tis the 2nd time he has comne hither from thence.

28 I got home the last of my Clover hay. I turned of two of my Marl Carts not having occation for them. William Ainsworth helped me to mesure the Ground that was already set with Marle to see whether it was set according to the Propourtion as I intended.[52] I took two Picks in my Snigary. Dr Cawood went with me to my Snigary & helped me to take up my Net, the Flud being much what over. Pats: Gray, Tasburgh & Aldred made a Viset here.

29 I went after dinner to Leverpoole to advise with Mr Plumb about my being ordered to appear before some Justises of the Pease in Relation to the Imposition of 6d per Pound Land Tax layed in Darby Hundred, but I saw not Mr Plumb, I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Ford the Putarer &c:. My Wife & Mally made a Viset to Hugh Bullins in [West] Darby.

30 I went to Leverpoole and advised with Mr Plumb about the Imposition of the 6d per Pound, I breackfasted with hime at his house, I came home by way of Jane Bryansons, it being a Mining day there was Pat: Wofold, Pat: Tasburgh, Richard Tickley, Walter Thelwall, &c:. Dr Cawood, the Children & I were at my Marlers, thence we went to Margery Shepperds, the Dr Applyed somthing to Ailes Shepperds Eye. Ann Turner was here. I payed the Land Tax to Charles Howerd and John Sumner of this Town, I paid Thomas Whidby for work done by his Brothers Teame in my Marl-pit.

The three first dayes wet, then till the sixteenth very hot weather for the most part, from the 16th to the 27th every day some Rain and some dayes very much, from the 27th to the end generally Fair, though some times a Shower.

JULY

1 Pat: Wofold & Richard Tickley gave Money to my Marlers, I was with them, they came home with me and drunk here. My Wife and Children walked with me to my Snigary.

2 Dr Cawood went with me to Ormskerk, thence we went to Lodg at Croston. I drunk with him, Mr Robert Fazakerley and Dr Lancaster at the Talbot & at the Golden Lyon. I Appeared before Sir Thomas Standley and Mr Brooks

[52] See Appendix B.

of Ormskerk about the Imposition of the 6d per Pound Tax.[53] I brought home my Great Dogg Turk with me, he had ben taken up by a Quaker some weeks since and kept till now by him.

3 My Wife intended to have ben at Nanny Howerds labouring but she was brought to bed ere my Wife came. I made a Sword Dance against my Marl-pit is flower'd.[54] Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

4 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Some of the Young Foulks of this Town[55] met those of the Morehouses & of Great Crosby to consider about the Flowering of my Marl-pit, some of them met at Weedows & others at my Mill.

5 I went to Leverpoole & told Mr Plumb I thought it convenient for me to pay the Imposition of 6d per Pound Tax as is now Layed on Darby Hunderd. I went to the Printhous tis the first time I was to see it.[56] I drunk at the Wool-pack with Dr Cawood and Mr Plumb and at Mrs Lawsons with Dr Cawood and Mr Molineux of the Grange.

6 Dr Cawood and I went to look at my Marl-pit, then we went to look at my Cole Seed and finding it pritty ripe I spoke to some Shearers to come to it tomorrow.

7 I Began to sheer my Cole-Seed. I was very busy most of the after-noone shaping Tinsall &c: for the Garland for my New Marl-pit and after Supper the Women helped to Paste some things for it. I began to teach the 8 Sword Dancers their Dance which they are to Dance at the Flowering of my Marl-pit, Dr Cawood played to them. I gave the Marlers, Spreaders, &c: a good Quantity of Boyled Peyes. James Hunt paid me Some Money as Mr Molineux of Mosbourgh ought me for Seed Barly. Mrs Edwards of Leverpoole & her Nephew dined here, I went with him to my Marlers, he gave them Money. Two of my Marlers William Stark & John Sumner Rid my Lords Wooden Hors. I took a Larg Rat in my hands in the Green Roome. Ned Hawkseye set up a New bottom part of a Still in the Kitchen.

8 I was very busy in the after Noone making Kaps &c: for my Marlers & Dansers, severall of Great Crosby Lasses helped me. The Young Women of this Town, Morehouses & Great Crosby dressed the Garlands in my Barne for Flowering of my Marl pit. I tought my 8 Sword Dancers their Dance, they had Musick and Danced it in my Barn.

9 I was extreamly busy all Morning making some things to adorn my Marlers Heads. My Marl-pit which was made in the Great Morehey out of which I Marled the Picke & Little Morehey was flowered very much to the Satisfaction

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[53] "2 July 1712—Spent at Ormskerk where I appeard before Sir Thomas Standley & Mr Brooks concerning the Tax for Symonswood Money . . . . . 3s. 0d.
Wm. Davys Charges about the 6d. Simonswood Land Tax. . . . 12s. 0d."

[54] When marl was spread on a field to improve it, the field could be leased at a much higher rent. The marlers worked hard from dawn to dark. Nicholas frequently took friends and visitors to see the men getting the marl, and they gave presents, usually money or ale, to the marlers. When the work was finished great celebrations were held, and here Nicholas is making preparations for the entertainment.

[55] Little Crosby.

[56] This printhouse was established by Adam Sadler, an old soldier of Marlborough's army. John Sadler, son of Adam, and his partner, Guy Green, discovered the art of printing on pottery from engraved plates. But as this discovery was made after 1712, it is clear that Blundell was referring to the printing of books. The first book to be printed in Liverpool was in 1712 by S. Terry (See Chandler. G. *Liverpool*), Terry's work was continued by Adam Sadler. On April 2 1728 Blundell says "Mr Sadler brought me a Silver Tobacco Box on which he had engraved My Crest."

of the Spectators, there was present Ailes Tickley, Mrs Molineux of the Grange, Mr Burton, Mr Shepperd of Ince, &c:, they Suped here, all the 14 Marlers had a Particular Dress upon their Heads and Carried each of them a Musket or Gun, The six Garlands &c: were carried by Young Women in Prosestion, the 8 Sword Dancers &c: went along with them to the Marl-pit where they Dansed, the Musick was Gerard Holsold & his Son and Richard Tatlock, at Night they Danced in the Barne,[57] Thomas Lathord of Leverpoole brought me to the Marl-pit a Dogg Coller against my Bull Bate as is to be in the Pit.[58]

10 I went to the Winterheys to John Blundell who was Seting Gate Stubs & hanging Gates there, Dr Cawood went with me, my Dogs killed a Large Leverit in the Cole Croft. My Wife, Doctor Cawood & I walked out after Supper to my Cole-Seed as was shorne, thence to my Marle-pit, we saw the Marlers Beds in Rothwells Barn and most of the Marlers was gon to Bed.

11 I Stored 34 Small Picks or Jacks in the Cross-field Pit. Dr Cawood fished for Showlers in the Townfield Pit but took none.[59]

12 I Began to thresh my Cole Seed in the Middle North hey, we threshed part of it viz: about 17 Busshells, William Ainsworth, William Gray, &c: helped to dress it.

13 My Wife, Dr Cawood & I dined at Scarisbrick. Coming home my Wife called at Gorsuch, Dr Cawood & I called at Lidiat but Mr Moston not being at home we did not light.

14 I Threshed the Remainder of my Cole seed but had not time to dress it all, there was 44 Busshells threshed today. I took up one Strong Stalk of Cole Seed which had on it 16805 Seeds besides whot were shed which I computed to be 400. Mr Tasburgh made a Viset here.

15 I went early in the Morning to Leverpoole & acquainted Mr Plumb that William Davy was in custody at Ormskerk & lick to pay some Money uppon Account of his refusing formerly to pay the Imposition of 6d per Pound Tax. William Davy came home. I Baited a Large Bull in the Bottom of my New Marl-pit in the Great Morehey, he was never baited before as I know off, yet played to admiration, there was I think 8 or 9 Doggs played the first Bait & onely two the 3rd Bait, I think there was not above two Doggs but what were very ill hurt, some Sticked into the Side or Lamed or very ill Brused, I gave a Coller to be played for but no Dogg could get it fairly, so I gave it to Richard Spencer of Leverpoole being his Dogg best deserved it, There was present at the Bait old Robert Bootle, John Fooler, John Tarlton, John Knowles of Leverpoole, &c:

16 William Davy gave me an Account how he came of yester day at Ormskerk. Walter Thelwall payed me part of his Rack Rent for the Coppy &c:. I sent Ginson my Sucking Colt to the Farrier, it had the Strangland very ill.[60]

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[57] This great barn still exists (1969), and was used for village festivities until the 1940s.

[58] "Hoops for a Garland . . . . . 2s. 0d.
Tinsal & Guilt Paper for the Garland . . . . . 1s. 2d.
Warning my Bull to be bated . . . . . 6d.
Dogg Coller for the Bull bate . . . . . 2s. 0d."

[59] Nicholas frequently mentions fishing for showlers or shoalers. The old Lancashire fish-name *shoaler* was used for dace, but since he netted his shoalers from his field pits and dace are river fish he must be using the term loosely for fish-shoals. The only common pit and pond fish he does not mention precisely are rudd and perch, as roach would then be chiefly river fish. Thus he probably uses the word *shoaler* to mean shoals of young rudd or perch.

[60] Strangles, strangullion (an obsolete form)—a disease in horses and other animals, characterised by inflamed swellings in the throat.

17 William Ainsworth & I mesured that part of the Pick & Little More-hey as is yet unset with Marl and Computed how much it would take.

18 Cozen Nanny Gorsuch came to Lodg here, and to be as a Companion & an Assistant to my Wife, her Brother Thomas brought her, he dined here. Mr Aldred began to make some kaps for some of my Sword Dansers against the Finishing day.

19 Dr Cawood & I went to Leverpoole, Mr Simpson treated us at his owne house, we drunk together at the Wool-pack with Mr Pont. Mr Plumb Lent me £10 but I have paid it to him since. Sera Atherton paid me £10 upon Account of Ditton Rent.

20 Mr Taylor of Ormskerk the Watchmaker dined here. I payed Henry Bridge &c: for working for me.

21 Dr Cawood went towards Preston, he designed to lodg at Ormskerk, I gave him my Letter of Recommendation. Pat: Aldred told me the Township of Ince designed this Sessions at Ormskerk to take some course with me as to my Water-Cours and said they objected that the Plat over my Grand Water-Cours was too Stret, I went & mesured it and thence went to Ince Bowling Green where I found Parson Sherley of Meyles, Parson Darbyshire, and Mr Whithead the School-Master of Formby, &c:

22 I went early in the Morning to my Marlers thence to Great Crosby and prevail'd with Mr Thomas and Richard Cartwrit to goe today to Ormskerk Sessions and try if they could prevale to get a grant for a Hunderd Bridg to be made over Formosspoole Gutter, when I came home I found my Wife extreamly ill of a Fit of the Stone. William Kennion, Christopher Parker, and their Wives, Sera Atherton, John Mather &c: dined here, they came some of them to give to my Marlers and others to present my Wife against the Finishing of my Marling, I went with them to the Marl pit, coming home we met Mr Plumb, he had ben here and was going to Ormskirk Sessions upon my Account to look after a Sute which I doe apprehend may be Commensed against me by the Township of Ince Concerning my Water Courses & partlye to prosecute some who had ben Shooting Ducks in my Cowhey. I Agreed with John Mather to ad his Life to two others that are in part of that Teneament, he & Robert Atherton Lodged here.

23 I Finished my Marling unless I doe perhaps get out about one day Work more which is already feyed, they finished betimes in the Morning and I bought a Marl Pick of one of them. I had my Finishing day for my Marling and abundance of my Neighbours & Tenants eat & drunk with me in the after noone, severall of them had made presents to my Wife of Sugar, Chickens, Butter, &c:. All my Marlers, Spreaders, Water-Baylis & Carters din'd here except one or two Carters as I think were absent, I payed off my Marlers, & Spreaders and some of my Carters. we fetched home the May powl from the pit & had Sword Dansing & a Merry Night in the Hall & in the Barne, Richard Tatlock played to them, I drunk in the Paintry with Mr Aldred, Mr Burton, Thomas Syer, William Tarlton, Walter Thelwall, Mr Shepherd of Ince, &c: there was also here John Rose, Thomas Tyrer, John Tarlton, &c:.

24 William Ainsworth went to see his Wife. I mended some of the Frames of the Glasses for the Great Coach. I went with Charles Howerd to the Marlpit & ordered him to make some demings in it to keep the Water from some Little Marle as is yet to be got out.

25 I paid off some of my Marl Carts viz: Ned Hatton, John Tickley &c:. I stated Accounts with Tickley for other work done by him, he payed me part of his Fine, he told me his Secret & his greatest Troble & advised with me about it. My Wife & Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went to Leverpoole Fair, Dr Cawood came home with them, he had ben at Preston.

26 I payed Richard Whithead for his Carting in my Marl-pit. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch Lodg'd at Hooton.

27 Mr Shepherd, Mrs Betty Wofold, & Dr Lancaster were at prayers at Mr Aldreds. Dr Lancaster din'd here, I payed him what I ought him for Phisick &c:, it was chiefly for Fanny.

28 One Company of my Marlers got out the remainder of my Marle viz: 4 Hundred & 13 Load, I layed it on a heap by the Pit not having Occation for it at Present. Mrs Barker of Ormskirk dined here.

29 I had five Large young Shellducks brought me from Nicholas Johnsons. John Blundell put up some Shelves on the other side of my Seller to lay Cheeses on. I went with William Blundell to the Winterheys & shewed him where he might delve some ends of Pits &c: for Turves for himselfe. Mr Swarbrick looked at my Cole Seed, he bid me a price at it but we did not bargan. Dr Cawood went towards Prescot & designes to goe to Warington ere he comes back. William Ainsworth came home, he had ben at his Wives.

30 I Lay'd up Mr Aldreds dansing Caps and my Huswife Net and some other things in their proper plases.

31 I Led a deale of Turf-Mull to make a way over from the New Orcherd into the Terras-Walks, some few Loads of Sand was lade before in the Ditch. William Ainsworth helped me to mesure slightly over my New Marl-pit & I computed it up to see how many square Roods it was by Measure, which I suppose was not exactly right, though I think not much amiss. I went with Robert Tompson to the Winterheys & order'd him to mend some holes there in the Cart way & shewed him where to Lead Earth in the Cole Croft, thence I went to Mr Aldreds where I found Mr Thomas Ford the Puterar,[61] Jack Whit the Barber, Doctor Barret & Pothecary Lathom, I drunk there with them, when they went thence they came hither with me, I gave them a drink at the Gatehous but they did not light, Mr Aldred came along with them.

Till the 11th not one day with out Raine except the first, from the 11th till the 17th very very fair, from the 17th to the end not one fair day except the 22nd. These Raines has ben very prejudiciall to the Low Medowing, it being much Fluded, it has ben very bad Hay Wether.

AUGUST

1 I went to the Cole Croft, they were filling up the Moss-pit which goes cross it.

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[61] Thomas Ford was noted for his great strength. In his Anecdote Book, Blundell wrote the following about him:—

> "I knew one Thomas Ford a Brazier at Leverpoole who could have writ his name upon a wall at arms length with half a hundred weight hanging at his little finger."

2 I went to Leverpoole expecting to meet Joseph Bolton but he came not. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb, Dr Cawood & Pothecary Pont. Dr Cawood & I made a Viset to Mr Hurst, he shewed us his new hous. I brought Cozen Nanny Gorsuch home behind me from Leverpoole, she had ben at Hooton, coming home, Mr Gerard Wairing overtook us on the Sands, we came home together as far as our way lay.

3 Mr Weaver[62] of Wigan came hither with his Son to let Dr Cawood look at his Eyes then dined here & after dinner I went with them to Richard Ainsworths, where his Son is to be tabled for the Convenience of Dr Cawoods dressing his Eyes.

4 I kept my Fathers Aniversary with four Presbiters viz: Tasburgh, Wofold, &c:, they dined here. Walter Thelwall, Mr Shepheard, Richard Cartwrite &c: were here at Prayers.

5 I made a great many Grins[63] for Rat Traps & set some of them in the Sellar, I tooke one Rat.

6 Pat: Gorsuch lodged here, his Sister Ann came with him, she had ben at home one Night. I planted some Artichok Sets to bear Larg ones but they did not doe, tis too late by a Month or more.

7 I Put my Little Calf into an other Glass Violl, & put it into fresh Spirits of Wine. I walked before dinner into the Town with Pat: James Gorsuch, after dinner he and his Sister Ann made a Viset to William Williamsons of Litherland. Mall Butler who had formerly ben Nursery Maid here made a Viset hither, she came today from Chester & intends to goe back, she serves one Mrs Greenhill.

8 Pat: James Gorsuch went hence, I clensed my Pair of Sneesers, they were much out of order with Lying by. Moss the Bayly of Farnworth Court was here, I gave him a Shilling for Service done.

9 I went to my Work-men that were Scouring the Ditch between the Winter-heys and Brownbills Laine. I finished Mowing this year & paid some of my Mowers.

10 Mr Weaver breakfasted here and then went home to Wigan, he lodged last Night with his Son at Richard Ainsworths. My Children buried one of their Babbys[64] with a great deale of Formallity, they had a Garland of Flowers Carried before it, and at least twenty of their Playfellows & others that they invited were at the Buriall. My Wife went out in the Coach, she made a Viset to Antony Fleetwoods Doughter that Married Richard Tatlock.

11 Mr Roby Breackfasted here & then I went with him to vew Formosspoole Gutter where he considered about making a Bridg over it & took his dementions how it was too be maid.[65] I went with him to my Stone Delf, we called at Mrs Anns.

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[62] Usher to the schoolmaster at Wigan.

[63] Grin—a snare for catching birds or other animals, made of cord, string, hair, or wire, with a running noose.

[64] Dolls. In the early eighteenth century a *doll* was usually known by the name *baby*.

[65] Christopher Roby of Upholland was responsible for public bridges in the Hundred of West Derby. In the records of the Quarter Sessions held at Ormskirk, Easter 1721 when he was ordered to inspect the Farmosspoole Bridge he was called the 'Superizor of the publick brigges'.

12 I was at the Smithy whilst the Smith made some Staples &c: as I wanted, then I came home and put the Latch to the Mated Chamber Doar & fixed the Chimney Peece fast in the Parlor-Chamber & did some other od things as wanted.

13 I was busy most of the afternoone puting up Window Curtans & puting some other things in order being we expected some Strangers tomorrow. Mall Butler Lodged here, she has left her Service at Chester.

14 Mr Standish, Mr Roger Diconson & their Ladys &c: dined here.[66] I drew some pits to get fish for them.

15 I Stated Accounts with John Melling & paid him for work &c:, he brought me a Rake for Corne. Dr Cawood & I made a Viset to Mr Moston at Lidiat, coming home I shewed him Sefton Seller.[67] My Children saw part of a Stage Play at Melling, they went thither in the Coach.

16 I sent a second Load of Cole Seed to Leverpoole. I put Hooks & Staples to the New Gates at the Slip & the Cole Croft.

17 Mr Weaver was here in the Morning, he took his Son away with him from Richard Ainsworths. My Wife & Mall Butler went to William Abbots. William Ainsworth shot a Waterhen. Mally walked with Mary Weedow &c: to Darby, it was the Wakes, she Lodged at John Harrisons.

18 The Masons began to make a Wall to Support the Plat between the Terrass Walk & the New Orcherd. I got in the last of my Hay. John Banister took a Swarme of Bees at the back of the Granery, it had a good Quantity of Hunny in.

19 I Led Turves with 14 Boon Carts & two of my own, it was the first day Leading Boone Turves this Year. Mally came home from Darby Wakes. My Wife went to Preston with Dr Cawood, they lodged at the Whit Bull.

20 I was served with the Sherriffs Writ upon the Sute of Mr Molineux of the Grange, Richard Tickley, &c: it was about the Water Courses, the Baylifs were Roger Haddock & Samuell Cook but onely one of them arrested me. I went to Prescot & advised with Lawyer Blundell about this Business.[68]

21 I went to Ormskirk and gave Mr Tyrer my Note that I would stand Sute against Ince. I drunk at the Talbot with Mr Robert Fazakerley, Dr Lancaster, &c. Mr Hesketh of Rufford spoke to me in behalf of Thomas Hartley about his Shooting Wild Ducks in my Demesney.

22 My Wife came home from Preston, Ellen Eves came along with her, she Lodged here.

23 My Wife and I went to Leverpoole, Eves &c: went along with us. Eves went to Mrs Maginnis to discours her about being a Mistres under her. My Wife, Eves and I went to the Whit-mettle Mugg hous and bought some Coffy Cups.[69] I discoursed Mr Plumb about the Sute which is lick to be between Ince and me

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[66] Ralph Standish of Standish Hall. Roger Dicconson of Wrightington.

[67] The cellar at Sefton Hall, where the Molyneux family lived before moving to Croxteth Hall. By this time the Hall was partly in ruins. Recent excavations commenced by F. Tyrer and carried on by Merchant Taylors' Boys School, Crosby, have revealed many features of the structure, including the cellar.

[68] This was the beginning of a long dispute, sometimes bitter, between Nicholas and the neighbouring townships of Ince Blundell and Great Crosby concerning water-courses or drainage ditches. From now on for many months there are numerous entries concerning this dispute.

[69] "Coffy Pots of Leverpoole Mettle . . . . . 2s. 3d."

upon account of my Water Course. I drunk at the Wool Pack with Mr Plumb, Mr Aldred &c:. Peggy Jackson Lodged here.

24 Mr John Jackson one of the Masters of Mathematicks at Leverpoole made me a Viset.

25 William Harrison the Clark of Sefton came to acquaint me about a Mistake he had committed in Warning a Court to be kept for me and brought me a Note about it. I led Turves with twelve Boone Carts. I Ride with the Children to the Turf Moss in Mathew Travis Cart. Doctor Lancaster of Ormskirk and Cozen William Walmesley the Watchmaker dined here. Eves went hence.

26 I began to Shear this year, Oats on the Wheat-hey Lands. I help'd Henry Swift to set out part of a New Water Cours between Arnolds-Hey-Fleame and Great Crosby new Fleame that is in the Coppy. Margery Bullen brought me a Letter from Mr Scarisbrick wherein he desired me to speak to Ellen Whithead to signe a Letter of Atturney to impower Antony Hawkins to receive whot Money is owing to Thomas Whithead for his Waiges at Sea, which said Letter of Atturney was Signed by Ellin Whithead in Presence of me and John Banister.

27 I took a Dose of Phisick by Advice of Dr Cawood for an outbreack at the side of my Nose. Catty Howerd left her Service.[70]

28 Ann Davy came to be the Cooke. William Ainsworth took some Oxen and Heffers to Ormskirk Fair but sold none. My Wife, Mall Butler and I &c: went after Supper to the Mill, we dansed in the Kill.

29 I Stated Accounts with William Ainsworth for his Receipts and Disbursments for my use since the last of May & for Corn got by the Mill, uesed in the Hous &c:. Betty Sheperd complained to William Ainsworth and me that her Turves were stolne out of the Winterheys, she fell down in one of her Fits. James Glover came to be instructed by me in the Catholic Religion but I think is since gon off. I made a Larg Head-bolt in Arnolds-Hey-Fleame to keep Great Crosby Water from coming towards this Town. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went home for a Night or two.

30 I went to Leverpoole, I drunk at William Griffys with Mr Plumb & Dr Cawood. I saw the Little Woman Catherin ——, she was a Hanaverian, she was as near one yard & Insh high as could be. I attended the Corps of my Landlady Secomb[71] as far as into the Church Yard, there was at the Buriall Hous, Mr Maior, Dr Tarlton, Parson Stith, Parson Walsh, &c:.

31 Mr Charles Butler came to fetch his Doughter Mary from hence, he Lodg'd here. Mrs Betty Wofold came hither in the Morning. Father Aldred was not able to say Prayers, so my Wife, I, Mr Charles Butler, Mrs Betty Wofold, &c: went to prayers to the New-hous, Mr Molineux of the Grange, Richard Tickley &c: were there. Mr Charles Butler & Mrs Betty Wofold dined here, ere dinner was don Mr Thomas Gorsuch & his Sister Nanny came. Mr Aldred being ill I went to see him, whilst I was there, Samuell Sir James Pooles old Coachman came to me a beging.

Very unsetled Weather all this Month being much Rain, yet sometimes three or four fair dayes together.

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[70] Catherine Howerd had been the cook at 10s. 0d. per quarter. She returned again as cook on September 3 1712.

[71] Mrs Secombe had carried on the business of the Woolpack Inn in Liverpool after the death of her husband. [See Peet H. *Liverpool in the reign of Queen Anne* (1908), pp. 80, 84.] The Secombe family seem to have continued at the Woolpack till 1718, when it was taken over by a Mr 'Rensh' (Wrench). Wrench died October 28 1722 (See entry in Diary).

SEPTEMBER

1 I began to Mow Oats in the Farthest North hey. I had a Cradle from Leverpoole for Mowing Oats, I shew'd it to Henry Ascroft but he uesed it not today. I took a Dose of Phisick by Orders of Dr Cawood for some Humours that lay in my Face and Eyes. I expected the Family of Scarisbrick to Lodge here but Mr Scarisbrick sent word they could not come being his Lady was not well. Eves Lodged here in her way to Leverpoole whither she is going to live with Mrs Maginnis.[72] Mall Butler went hence.

2 I finished making my Water Cours between Arnolds-Hey-fleam & Great Crosby new Fleame in the Coppy, I went to the Workmen ere they finished, when they had done it, I made them raise the Plat Stones considerably higher that lay over my Grand Wathercours in the Coppy, then I set my Snig Net; then we viz: Charles Howerd, Robert Tompson, Henry Swift and I went down my Grand Water-Cours from the Sniggary to the very lower end of it & though there had ben the Night before a deale of Raine we could scarce perceive it to move for want of free passage in Formosspoole Gutter which in Formby Rode we Judged to be not two Inches deep; my Grand Water Cours was tryed in above half a dozine places & some places found to be near a yard deep & we thought the shallowest place was above two Foot. Mr Thomas Gorsuch walked hither from home, he Lodged here. James Parker told me his Mother in Law would not have any more mantainance out of this Town.[73]

3 Dr Cawood, Mr Thomas Gorsuch & I went to my Sniggary, we took nothing. Mr Thomas Gorsuch went hence, Nanny Davy left her Service & Catty Howerd came agane to be the Cooke in her place. Mr Aldred instructed James Glover in the Catholick Faith.

4 I Booked my Disbursments for July & August. Eves went hence to live with Mrs Meginnis. Pat: Gelibrond lodg'd here.

5 I and eight others went to see in what Condition Ince Division Ditch was in & their Headbolts at the side of it, we also vewed some of Mr Molineux his Water Cours towards the Grange, & Ince Water Cours over their Mosses & so to their Morelane Gate, all which we found very bad for the most part; there was with me Walter Thelwall, William Gray, Richard Webster our Smith, Henry Swift, Henry Ascroft, Thomas Blansherd, William Tompson, & John Farer.[74] My Wife & Pat: Gelibrond made a Viset to Mrs Blundell[75] it being the first time since Mrs Blundell came out of York-Shire.

6 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Being indisposed I walked to the Mill and sat there some time.

7 Mr Taylor of Ormskirk the Watchmaker dined here. Mr Scarisbrick sent his Servant to let me know he & his Lady, &c: designed to come tomorrow to Lodge here.

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[72] Mrs. Maginnis ran a boarding school in Liverpool.

[73] It would appear that Parker's mother-in-law, as a poor person, had been maintained by Little Crosby, but was now no longer entitled to relief.

[74] Preparing his case for the suit concerning the watercourses.

[75] Mrs. Blundell of Ince.

8 My Black-Bull was Baited at Mrs Ann Rothwells,[76] there played but three right Doggs & two of them were ill hurt, there was Thomas Tyrer, John Knowles, Henry Ascroft, &c:. Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here, tis the first time they have ben here since they came from York. Mr Scarisbrick, his Lady, Brother Edward, &c: Lodged here.

9 Cozen Scarisbrick & I walked before dinner to see some Oats as I had mow'd in the Farthest North Hey; after dinner he, I, & our Wives went to the Grange, we found both Mr Molineux and his Wife at home.

10 Being indisposed I lay in Bed till after dinner. Pat: Tasburge and Mr Burton dined here.

11 Cozen Scarisbrick, I, and our Wives went in the Coach to the Newhous. We played at Cards after Supper.

12 I went to Jane Bryanson, she being indisposed desired I would dispose yearly of the Interest of some Money she intended to leave at her death & gave me directions how it was to be disposed of by me. My Wife, Mrs Scarisbrick & Pat: Edward Scarisbrick went in the Coach to Leverpoole, they saw a Play Acted called the Queene of the Scots. Mr Scarisbrick went with me to my Sniggary, then we went to my new Marlpit, thence to Mr Wairings but he not being at home we did not Light.

13 Mr Scarisbrick, his Lady, Pat: Edward Scarisbrick, &c: went hence, my Dogg Turk went a longe with them, when they were gon my Wife went to bed being much out of order.

14 My Wife went to see Ned Hattons Wife who was lying In. Mrs Mary Butler Lodged here.

15 Mr Plumb dined here, before Dinner we went out a Seting but got no Parteridges, I tooke the Grewhounds with me, we killed a Brace of Hares; after dinner Mr Plumb & I went to vew the Divition ditch between Ince & Little Crosby, and Ince Water-Course that should run to the Lady Green, there were with us Henry Curedon, Richard Cartwrite, Nicholas Rothwell and John Marser ere we had looked over the divition ditch William Weedow brought John Oughton, & Thomas Kerfoot to us. Captain Robert Fazakerley lodged here. I began to get my Corne into the House.

16 I sent John Banister to Leverpoole with Dr Cawoods Male Trunk, being he designes shortly for Ireland, John brought home with him a Box as came from London with some Coffy & a Mantew for Mally, tis the first Mantew she has had.[77] Captain Robert Fazakerley went hence. Dr Cawood and I made a Viset to Parson Wairings.

17 I bought some Glasses of a Woman at the Gates.

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[76] Ann Rothwell lived in a cottage at the north end of the village at the cross roads, known as Four Lane Ends. She was noted for her brew of ale, and her cottage thus became one of the social centres of the township. This thatched cottage was pulled down early in the twentieth century.

[77] "Coffy 4 Pound at 6s. 8d. per Pound . . . . . £1 6s. 8d.
Peeling at 1s. 6d. per yard for Mally . . . . . 18s. 0d.
Making Mallis Mantew . . . . . 3s. 6d.
Box & Pourterage &c: . . . . . 1s. 10d.
Carriage of the above Box from London . . . . . 2s. 0d.
Galloone for Mally . . . . . 9d."

18 Dr Cawood helped me to examain my Simballing things & to see in whot order they were in, Parson Wairing made a Viset here; he, Dr Cawood and I drunk & smoked in the Hall. I helped to put a peece into the Tent for a Quilted Petty-Coat for Mally.

19 Mr Turvill made a Viset to my Wife before dinner, he dined here, Dr Cawood and I went back with him part of the way to Ince, we took the Grewhounds with us, we coursed two Rabets in the Great-Moss-Hey & killed one of them. Mrs Blundell of Ince & Mrs Wofold made a Viset here. My Teame sowed Wheat for Walter Thelwall.

20 I Booked my Receipts for July and August. I went to Leverpoole, I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb, Mr Morphew, &c:. Dr Cawood, Mr Plumb and I went on borde Mr William Kellys Ship the John of Dublin.

21 Mr Weaver Usher to the School Master of Wigan was here this Morning and Stated Accounts with Dr Cawood for what he had done to his Sons Eyes. After dinner I went to Croxtath to wish my Lord Molineux a good Journey to London. Dr Cawood went with me, Pat: Wofold came home with us from Croxtath as far as his Way lay; I called at Dr Lathoms as I went and chapterd Betty Lathom about her unkindness to her Uncle & Aunt. My Wife &c: went to see Jane Bryanson, the Bet there between Mr Aldred & Mall Butler about Mesuring an Eshen.[78]

22 I sold my Black Bull to Thomas Bleven & after loosed that Bargan and sold him to Thomas Tyrer of Knowsley for a Game Bull to be bated by him. Mrs Fleetwood Butler Lodged here. William Ainsworth went to Scarisbrick to have bought a Hors for Mr Plumb but did not. This being Mallys Birth day the Miller played to the Servants after Supper, Mally began to Joyn in Writing. I bought some New fassioned Flint Glasses of a Woman at the Doar & she afterwards repented of her Bargan.

23 I was busy most of the day tying up my Eyebright,[79] Mrs Fleetwood Butler & Dr Cawood &c: helped me. Francis Farer came hither with a Hors as William Ainsworth had looked at for Mr Plumb, I sent William Ainsworth to Leverpoole with Francis Farer to Mr Plumb who bought the Hors & Francis came back hither & Lodged here. Mr Plumb sent his Black Hors that he had from Mr Wofold to Run here this Winter.

24 I took a Dose of Phisick by orders of Dr Cawood. I cut the Neck in the Midle North-hey. My Wife was at the Bearth of Betty Renolds eldest Child. I wained Ginnys Colt, I call it Ginson.

25 I gave William Thelwall some Powder for a Hors Eye. Martha Tompson declaired to Thomas Marrow Junior the Overseear of the Poore & to me that she would not have any longer a Mantainance out of this Town.[80] Dr Cawood went with Mrs Fleetwood Butler & Mrs Mary Butler to the Grange.

26 Pat: Wofold dined here, he, Dr Cawood, Mr Aldred & I went a Coursing. My Wife was extreamly ill of the Gravell.

27 I went with Darby to Arnolds hey Fleame & made him pull up a Plat that lay over it between Arnolds Hey & the Coppy. Coming home I killed a Hare in the Bark when it was dark. William Ainsworth by Sw tr down.

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[78] A wooden pail or shallow tub.

[79] "Gathering eyebright . . . . . 1s. 2d."
Nicholas paid children of the village to gather eyebright for him. He used the plant in making a wash or ointment for his eyes.

[80] See Appendix C.

28 Mr Thomas Gorsuch & Mr Richard Howett dined here. My Wife & Mrs Fletwood Butler made a Viset to Ince.

29 William Gray, William Harrison, Watty Thelwall, &c: went a Coursing with me. My Wife and Mrs Fleetwood Butler made a Viset to Ailes Tickley.

30 Being I was told that Mr Molineux of the Grange, Mr Shepheard, Richard Molineux, Richard Tickley, &c: had ben to vew my Water-Cours & Sniggary & had reported that both the Clows[81] were down, I took Henry Swift with me to day to look at it, we found the first Clow some little within the Water but we could not perceive that it stoped the Water in the least, we set the Snig Net. Betty Harrisons Knee was Spurd. Walter Thelwall paid me some Rack Rent, I discoursed him about Stocking my Ground with Welsh Bullocks. Hugh Bullen discoursed me about taking some Pasture Ground of me. Mrs Blundell made a Viset here.

Till the 13th not above two dayes without some Raine, from the 13th to the 19th very fine Weather & a bundance of Corne was housed, from the 19th to the end onely two or three dayes without Raine, the other days generally very much Raine especially the three last dayes which caused a great Flood.

OCTOBER

1 Thomas Kerfoot payed me some Rack Rent, he told me he had got about 7 Pound of Eles upon the Sands, yet I got none in my Snig Net, Dr Cawood went with me to it. Dr Cawood and I made a Viset to Mr Turvill, when we came home we went to my Snig Net but took nothing. I sent Henry Swift to look at Richard Molineux his Plat, he thinks it is 9 Inshes too Low.

2 Dr Cawood, William Ainsworth & I went in the Morning to my Sniggary, we took about 6 Pound of Eles, we took the Grewhounds with us and Coursed one Hare. Dr Cawood went a Coursing with me after dinner, I found a Hare set, we went to Parson Wairings, but he being gon to the Funerall of Mrs Moreton we went to James Davys & drunk a while. Catherine Weedow went hence upon account of a Fawling out as had ben.

3 Lawyer Blundell, Mr Plumb, John Farer, William Gray, Henry Swift and I vewed the Waters about Weedows, my Snigary, & Water-Cours, the Wooden Plat &c: Lawyer Blundell & Mr Plumb dined here, when Lawyer Blundell was gon, Mr Plumb, Mr Aldred and I went a Coursing, we brought Mr Plumb part of the way towards Great-Crosby. William Ainsworth went to the Snigary & took about 4 lb. of Eles.

4 The Flood being now much upon the decay William Ainsworth took up my Snigg Net this Morning. John Miller sent me some Sope & Candles, tis the first time I have had from him.[82] I went with William Ainsworth to my New Marl-pit & made him Boar about four Foot into the Rock that is at the Bottom of it but we did not Boar through it. My Wife & Mrs Fleetwood Butler went to Leverpoole, Charles Howerd overturn'd the Coach upon Leverpoole Rocks & dammadged it very much and hurt my Wife & Mrs Butler, he brock it worse in Great Crosby Field.

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[81] Clows—has two meanings: *a.* possibly absolete word for a mill dam or dam for water, *b.* a sluice or floodgate, especially the outfall sluice of a river or water-course communicating with a tidal river. It is most likely that it is the second meaning which applies here.

[82] "Candles at 5s. 3d. per Dozen Pound . . . . . £1 12s. 8d.
Sope at 5d. per Pound . . . . . £2 1s. 8d."

5 The first day that Mally woar a Mantew and that I wore my second homs Made Sute.[83] Mr Yates looked at my Wives Shoulder as was hurt yesterday, he and Walter Thelwall drunk with me in the Paintry, Thelwall acquainted me with some discours he & Mr Shepheard had relating to the Water-Courses.

6 I payed the half years Window Tax to William Gray. Mr Aldred, Charles Howerd and I went a Shooting at the Sea Side at full Sea. Mr Aldred Shot his dog Tray, as we were coming back to Charles Howerds we saw some of Ince Town & Great Crosby vewing my Sniggary and Watercours in the Coppy, I went to them, there was Mr Molineux of the Grange Richard Tickley, Edmund Trustram, Thomas Goar, Thomas Syer, Richard Cartwrit, Richard Thorp, Richard Bridge, John Lurting, Thomas Arnold, Henry Fleetwood. The five first above named went with me and Mr Aldred to Charles Howerds, we drunk there till pritty late; Edmund Trustrom and I discoursed hotly about the Water-Courses. Mrs Molineux & Ailes Tickley &c: came to see my Wife upon account of her fall in the Coach.

7 I payed the Quarterly Land Tax to Charles Howerd. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. My Wife went to Leverpoole and came back before dinner.

8 I went to the Sniggary & set my Net, I took the Grewhounds with me but found not a Hare. I Booked my Disbursments for September. William Ainsworth went towards his Wives.[84] Little Crosby Townfield was turned Common.

9 I sent Charles Howerd with a Letter to Mosbourgh to let them know my Wife and I designed to be there next Munday. Though I was fully convinced that the Plat in the Coppy and my Sniggary did not stop the Water-Course, yet to Convince my Adversaryes who oppose me therein, I ordered both the Plat & the Sniggary this after Noone to be opened and we almost compleated the whole work, the Persons that Worked at it were Thomas Marrow Junior, Henry Swift, William Gray, Watty Thelwall, Richard Ainsworth, John Sumner of this Town, Nicholas Davy, Darby Mackdonnal, Henry Ascroft & Robert Tompson, Dr Cawood, Mr Aldred and I was with them all the while.

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[83] "I had a Webb of Druget made for my own Wearing, it made one Coat & Wastcoat and two Pare of Britches, reckoning my own Wool & Spining &c: to the utmost it cost about 2s. 4d. per Yard, some of the Particulars as followeth:—

	£	s.	d.
"Weaving 15 yards of Druget		5	0
Woosted Yarne, 3 pound		6	0
Wolen Yarne, one pound		1	0
Dying & walking (fulling) 12 yards of Druget		4	0
Satinet of 2sh. per yard with Bordering Silk, Thread, &c: for a mantew and Petticote for my Wife	3	1	0
Making Mantew & Peticoat		5	8
Canvas & Whalle Bone &c: for a Hooped Petty Coat		4	6½
Making my Wives Hooped Petty Coat		1	6
Pins, Needles, Thread, Tape, &c: for my Wife		11	9½
Muslin for my Wife		4	2
Gloves & Busk for my Wife		3	9
Shoes for my Wife		2	8
Stockings for me two Pair		4	4
Shoes for me		4	0
Shoes for the Children		5	6
Dyed Linen for the Children		4	0"

[84] his wife's home.

10 I went to my Snigary before dinner, where Darby, Ascroft & Henry Swift were taking the Remainder of the Stones out of the Water. I went to Great Crosby & told Thomas Syer that I had opened the Snigary and desired that he & others would Vew it, then I went to the Marsh to look for William Tarlton but could not find him, I called at Nicholas Johnsons and told Parson Wairing I could not dine with him at the Goosfeast, Parson Letus was with Parson Wairing at Nicholas Johnsons, I did not light, coming home I overtook Edmund Trustrom & told him I had opened the Sniggary. I got those few Apples as I have this year.

11 Mr Golding sent hither for some Young Pigeons to stock his Dove Cort with, I gave him a dozine or more as I think.

12 Doctor Cawood went hence to Leverpoole in hopes to goe for Dublin with Mr William Kelly on Bord the John of Dublin. I went to Great Crosby Goosfeast with my Wife and Mrs Fleetwood Butler &c:, I drunk at James Davys with Mr Morphew, William Gray, &c:. I drunk at Nicholas Johnsons with Mr Aldred, John Jackson, &:. William Ainsworth came home from his Wives.

13 Fanny went to Lodge at James Rigbys in Great Crosby. My Wife, Mrs Fleetwood Butler, I & Mally went in our Coach & six to lodge at Mosburgh, we found Mr Aldred there, it was the first time Mally was there, The Water in Rainford was very high and came into the Coach and wet some of our things in the Male Trunk and Boxes.

14 I sent William Ainsworth home with some of my Horses from Mosburgh. Mr Robert Molineux & I walked in the Gardens.

15 Mr Robert Molineux, Mr Aldred and I dined at Garswood, Lawyer Starkey was there, I discoursed him & Sir William Gerard about my Sute with Ince concerning the Water-Courses.

16 Mr Aldred went home from Mosburgh being he was to dine at James Davys with Richard Tickley, Edmund Trustrom, &c:. Mrs Molineux of Mosburgh, my Wife, &c: dined at Eckleston. Sir William Gerard and his Brother John & Mr Worthington of Blanscow dined at Mosburgh, Sir William Gerard payed me £30 upon Account of a Bill which Mr Aldred left with me. Mr Plumb came to Mosburgh to meet Sir William Gerard, we had a Bowl of Punsh. William Ainsworth told me after I came home viz: upon the 21th that this day he, John Farer, William Gray & Henry Swift vewed the Wooden Plat, Weedows water, and my Grand Water Course and found it not altered in the least to what it was this day seven Night viz: the day when my Sniggary was opened considerably wider, Walter Thelwall came to William Ainsworth, &c: when they were going to my Grand Water Course.

17 I helped to draw a small Fishpond of Cozen Molineux his we took some small Tensh & Carp. Mr Poole of Burchley & his Wife dined at Mosburgh. Mr Francis Escot came in the after noone.

18 Mr Molineux of Mosburgh and I met Mr John Gerard of Garswood a hunting, Mr Francis Escot came to us, we killed a Brace of Hares. Mr Molineux gave me a Bowl of Punsh. William Ainsworth came back with my Horses to Mosburgh. Fanny came home, she has ben to Lodg in Great Crosby.

19 Cozen Molineux and I went on Hors Back to Burchley; our Wives, Mrs Fleetwood Butler and Mally went in the Coach, we dined there with Mrs Eckleston, tis the first time Mally was at Burchley.

20 My Wife, I, &c: came home from Mosburgh, we got one of the Coach Wheels mended at a Smithy on the Roade. Walter Thelwall discoursed me about Scouring Formospoole Gutter and about the Bridge as is to be made over it.

21 I gave Darby some Saplin to repaire his Outhousing. Mr Knight prayed & dined here & then went towards Leverpoole. I calsigned some ------ and tought Watty to make powder to take a Filme of a Horses Eye.

22 I dresed our Little Chamber Pendelom. Walter Thelwall dressed the Jack. Thomas Riding & Thomas Swift came to see whether I would let the Bargan stand which they had made but I refused to let Thomas Swift come into this Town.[85] I helped William Gray to mend Mrs Fleetwood Butlers Fan. I set a Trencher Trap in my Seller.

23 Roger o Neale Butcherd a Cow in my Slawterhous, tis the first he killed there. William Ainsworth bought me Seven Manks Bullocks at the Hall of Maudsley.

24 I drained the Water out of my Duckcoy to make a hole in the Bottom to Raise a Spring in it, but I think it will not doe. Pat: Wofold dined here. Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh sent a How-doe-you to see how we got home from thence.

25 Mrs Fleetwood Butler & her Neece Mary went hence, I sent them to Morehall. Betty Harrison & Catty Howerd saw a light at their Chamber doar about 12 of the Clock in the Night & heard a noyse & knocking below Stayers. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch cut of my Hair.

26 My Wife & Fanny went in the Coach to Gorsuch, Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went hence with them, she stayed at home and her Sister Frances came hither in her Place, they called at Lidiat as they went & heard prayers, Mrs Scarisbrick came to Gorsuch to my Wife and went with her to Ormskirk to make a visit to Mary Place & wish her Joy. I was at Margery Shepheards at the Marriage of her Doughter Ailes to Roger Oneale, there was Walter Thelwall, Richard Whithead, Thomas Bootle, Richard Webster Junior, William Gray,&c.:

27 Henry Trustrom brought me home a Webb of Lincy Wolcy doble Twill Sale-Coth.[86] The Parlor Chamber was scoured, tis the first time I ever remember it to be scoured. There was 8 hands clensing Formoss-poole Gutter till towards twelve of the Clock, but it Rained so much and the Water was so high they could doe noe moar good.

28 I Payed Bryan Lea & Umphrey Darwin all Interest due to John Bryanson till September last. My Wife went to Margery Shepperds to wish her Doughter Ailes Joy.

29 I Ploughed some Water-Furrows in the Little Moss-hey to let the Marle Water runn over the Medowing. John Farer and I went a Coursing, we found nothing.

30 I was at James Davys in Great Crosby where Mr Green kept the Court, he suckceeded Mr Ford; Mr Green and his Clark Mr Writ was there, as also was Mr Bamber, William Crisp, Parson Wairing, Edmund Trustram, &c:. My Miller bought me at Leverpoole some very good Cloth for Mill Sailes viz: Hollan Duck and English Cloth.

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[85] From MSS at Crosby Hall and quarter sessions' records the Riding and Swift families, living in Little Crosby and the neighbouring townships, appear to have been paupers, lazy and idle. It was for this reason Blundell did not want them in Little Crosby. See Appendix A.

[86] See November 3 1712 and foot-note.

31 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here, he, I and John Farer went a Coursing but found nothing whilst Captain Robert Fazakerley was with us; after he went we killed a Rabbet. I gave Mr Aldred two Pare of Dise. I gave John Bannister a Quarters warning, but since we have peesed[87] againe so he dose not Leave my Service.

This was a most extraordinary wet month, it Rained every day except the 06th, 14th, 16th & 24th.

NOVEMBER

1 John Farer, Richard Webster Junior, Watty, William Harrison, &c: went a Coursing with me, we killed two Hares, coming home William Whithead came to us & said he had found a Hare set in the Little More hey, we coursed her. Mr Turvill suped here. Ellen Eves lodged here. John Blundell Write & Robert Blansherd desired to know what I demanded for Fines of their Teneaments.

2 Ellen Eves went hence, I sent her to Leverpoole.

3 Thomas Marrow began to make very good Saile cloaths for my Mill of Holland, Duck, Lincy Wolcy, &c:[88] Ned Hawkseye & John Mason began to fey to get Stones to parts. I holed about 60 Busshells of Potatows.

4 I Helped John Banister to bottle about 6 Dozen of Aile. I went to my Grand Water Cours to see how much the Water was falln since I opened my Snigary viz: since the 9th ultimo & to the best of my observation (for I had made severall marks) I think it was falln about ¾ of an Inch and Formby way was opened since my Sniggary, otherways I think it would have fallen none, thence I went to Weedows plat & found it to runn as much as usuall, thence to the Wooden Plat & it Run about the thickness of a Crown Peece, then I went to Gabriell Norris his to Look for a Leas his Wife should have had from my Lord

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[87] peaced—made peace.

[88] Blundell was experimenting with a new material for the sails of his windmill, which at this time had six sails, and not the usual four. The material was linsey-wolsey, a mixture of linen and wool. See June 3, October 27 and 30, and the following entry in his Disbursement Book:—

"November 12—I made one half of a new sail Cloth for each of my six Sailes & put them upon the driving or following sides, some of it was Lincy-Wolcy woven Twill-way & a full yard broad, it lay me in 18d. per yard viz: 7d. per Pound for the Wool when it was Spun; Teer of Hemp Spun fine at 10½d. per Pound; Weaving 26 yards at 4d. per yard & all out cast was paid for; Winding the Teer of hemp at ½d. per Pound. Total Lincy Wolcy when woven lay me in £1. 19s. 0d. Holland Duck 2 Foot 6 Inches wide at 21d. per yard—£1 0s. 1½d. Rushton Yarne supposed to be woven licke Pole Davy, some of it was above 2 Foot wide at 9d. per yard, some Not so wide at 9½d.—15s. 10½d. Hare Cording at 8d. per Pound, Tarr Cording at 4½d. per Pound, the Cording cost 11s. 5d. Holland Thread two Pound—1s. 8d. Making the six half Sailes at 6d. per day and Meat to the Taylor—4s. Part of some of the above mensioned things was left so that the six half sailes lay me in . . . . . £4 7s. 1d."

Also in his Disbursement Book he notes:

"21 Sept. 1712—Spining Wool at 3½d. per Pound for Sale-Coths for the Mill . . . . . 4s. 9½d."

Nicholas sometimes had the cloth for the windmill sails woven locally; sometimes he used ship-sails. On the whole, however, he seems to have bought material which had been made for use on the sails of windmills. He gave his custom to various people in Liverpool and Meols (now Churchtown, Southport), and to some person called 'The Quaker' who appears to have carried on his business at Ormskirk. It would seem that the cloth was renewed every June, when the mill was not busy.

Molineux but I found it not, then I went to see Richard Riding & his Wife who were both ill, thence to Charles Howerds where I found Mr Aldred & Mr Molineux of the Grange, I stayed a while drinking with them & then came to Jane Bryansons & mesured the Eshen about which Mr Aldred had Layed a wager formerly, it held something above 19 Quarts,[89] coming home I called at Thomas Blundells & told him I desired to farm his part of Margarits Field that I might get Turves in it, we made no bargan. William Ainsworth brought me home 7 Manks Bullocks from Mauddesley as he had bought there some time since, he also brought home a Fat Cow as he bought there today.[90]

5 Pat: Swinbourn, Mr Burton & Mr Turvill dined here, Mr Aldred came to us after dinner, when Mr Swinbourn & Mr Burton were gon Mr Aldred & I went part of the way with Mr Turvill, we took the Grewhounds with us & Coursed a Hare but killed her not. Mrs Fleetwood Butler & her Neece Mary came to Lodg here, I sent Horses to fetch them from More Hall. Mally went to Lodg at Leverpoole at Mrs Maginnis upon account of a Bawl as is to be this Week in Leverpoole.

6 William Atherton dined here, he paid me his Martine-Mass Rent as much as was behind, I gave him three young Wallnut Trees. I coursed a Hare as Thelwall found set & killed her, My Wife, Mrs Fleetwood Butler &c: was present. I coursed a Hare as William Johnson found set in Thornton but did not kill it, Parson Mallery, Mr Eckleston the Brewer, old Robert Bootle &c: was present.

7 William Ainsworth, Ned Farer and I went a Coursing, Ned started 4 Hares, we onely Coursed three of them but killed none. I whiped Fanny because she was Stubborn & disobedient. Mr Thomas Gorsuch made a Viset here. Charles Howerd brought me home 20 Busshell of Salt from the Dungeon.

8 I went to Leverpoole & fetched home Mally from Mrs Maginnis, I gave Mrs Maginnis a Hare. Mr Swarbrick payed me £4 in part for Cole-Seed, I drunk with him and Mr Plumb at the Woolpack. I paid Mrs Leadbeter £03–01s–00d. which she had formerly lent my Wife.

9 Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here, so did Mr Robert Fazakerleys Son & Mr Frane.

10 I met Mr Turvill & Mr Burton a Coursing, Pat: Wofold & Mr Aldred came to us, Pat: Wofold coursed with us but Mr Aldred went soone off, we had one fine Cours & killed.

11 I took a Colt of Nicholas Rothwells to Score. My Wife & Mrs Fleetwood Butler, &c: went to Leverpoole Fair. I Layed three of my Work-Horses into the hous, an other of them I had lay'd in some time agoe. Parson Letus, Richard Trustram, &c: were here a Beging for the Rebuilding the Church of Whitchurch, I gave them one Shilling. I went to James Browns & the New house to see for Pat: Wofold but missing of him I went to the Grange & gave him a Pair of Tenns to get cheaned by Mr Robert Chantrell for Mr Molineux of Mosburgh, I drunk at the Grange with Pat: Wofold & Mr Richard Molineux, coming home I called at Thomas Blansherds.

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[89] See September 21 1712.

[90] "Manks Bullocks seaven . . . . . £17 10s. 0d.
Fat Cow . . . . . £5 17s. 0d."

12 I agreed with Robert Blansherd to Seal him a Leas for his own and his Wives Life of one Moyety of Tompsons Teneament of the Han-Yate. I set the two Rothwells Crofts upon the Rack to Roger Neale. I helped Mr Aldred and William Abbot to kast a Lead Mold for Wax Candles. I Layed the Milk Cows &c: into the Hous twelve in all.

13 Roger Neal killed a Fat Cow for me, tis the first time he Butchered for me. Henry Ascroft & I mesured the Ground that he took of me in the Stock Roots to set Potatows on. William Davy acquainted me he was about making a Bargan with his Son in Law for part of his Teneament and for his Son to mannage it and to live in this Town but I would not consent to it. Mrs Fleetwood Butler made a Viset to Ince but Mrs Blundell was gon to Leverpoole.

14 Robert Blancherd paid me £28 for a Fine for his own Life & his Wives. I agreed with John Blundell Writ for a Fine provided he & Walter Thelwall can bargan for his Brothers Teneament. Rachell Smith brought me £20 which I am to keep for Mr Lathom without Interest till he call for it, but tis since paid all in. I drained the Duckcoy and made part of it considerably deeper in hopes to Rais a Spring but do not find it to take effect.

15 I payed off Richard Websters Bill for Smiths work done by him for me since Mid-Summer. My good old Coach-Hors Jack I suppose dyed Last Night.

16 I Looked at Thomas Mellings Eye as was not well. I Read in a Spirituall Book.

17 William Davy acquainted me with the bargan he was about making with his Son in Law & desired I would give him my Consent but I would not.[91] Ned Hawkseye & his partner mended the Kill at the Mill & did some other work.

18 Ned Hawkseye & Partner opened the Dary Sink & put some Slates on the out housing then they went to the New-Marl-pit & Boared a while in the Rock as is at the Bottom of it, but could get no deepness into it. Mr Yates & Thelwall payed William Davy £7 in my Hall as a Legasy left to him & his Wife by Ralf Low, I Received part of it for Rent due to me from William Davy. I fetched Bess home being she had Cast her Fole eather last Night or yesterday as I suppose. Mr Gorsuch din'd here, he brought his Doughter Ann to Stay and serve here & took his Doughter Frances home. Mr Manock was here, he brought the News that Duke Hamilton & Lord Moõē had killed each other in a Duell.

19 William Ainsworth helped me to beat for a Garden Hare before dinner, after dinner we went a Coursing, we killed a Rabbet but did not see one Hare, Roger Neal came to us. My Wife and Mrs Fleetwood Butler went in the Coach to the New-hous, Mrs Fleetwood Butler made a Viset to Ince but my Wife went not with her. I Stated Accounts with Mr Aldred & payed whot I ought him.

20 Mrs Fleetwood Butler & her neece went hence towards Preston, I sent them as far as Ormskirk. My Wife, Cozen Ann Gorsuch & I went in the Evening to Leverpoole, I took a Brace of Hares with me & sent William Ainsworth with one of them to Mrs Alanson & an other to Mrs Leadbeter,[92] we found Mr

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[91] The members of the Davy family were unsatisfactory tenants, both Nicholas Blundell and his grandfather, William Blundell the Cavalier, making notes to this effect in their Tenants Books.

[92] The wives of Liverpool shop-keepers.

Aldred at the Wool-pack, we saw a Poppet show in the Lord Street & a Woman dance with 4 Swords in her Hands & turne round extreamly fast removing them to her Eyes, Eres, &c: We coursed a Brace of Hares.

21 I began to sow Wheat on some Potatow Ground in the Stock Roots but it proved not well. Parson Wairing having brought his Wife home I went to wish him Joy.[93] I gave my Grewhound Speed a Purge of Allowes & Jallop & some Worme Powder being I perceived him to be out of order for some dayes, but soone after he went his Wayes & was never seen here after this Night, and I have much reason to think he went Mad and dyed some 3 or 4 dayes after.

22 I sent my first Cart Load of Barly this year to Leverpoole Market. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch began to Lye in the Green Roome and the Childrens play things were removed thence.

23 Mrs Bootle of the Peele made my Wife a Viset. John Rothwell acquainted me that he would be very easy with William Davy if he would pay him Interest duly.

24 William Marser went with me to the Stone Delf, I showed him where I designed to make a Wall in Ned Howerds Hey. James Rigby borded the Nursery Closet. John Miller brought me 66 lb of Sope & 77 lb of Candles.

25 Roger Neale killed a Fat Hogg, tis the first Hog he killed for me. Mrs Scarisbrick & Mrs Hesketh of Rufford dined here, they came when we had done dinner.

26 Mr Plumb dined here, we went a Coursing before dinner but found no Hare, Walter Thelwall was with us. We coursed after dinner, John Farer was with us, we run three & killed two of them, I found one Hare set; Mr Plumb brought his Dogg Spring with him & lent him me. Ned Rycroft sent 67 Sheep which I am to Scoar for him. I Layed four more Beasts in the House.

27 I took William Ainsworths Accounts of his Receipts & Disbursments for my use, but we did not finish those Accounts. John Banister helped me to set some Bottles of Lickar into better order in my Seller & to mark those that wanted. I layed two more Saddle Horses in the Hous to ly in onely in the Nights. Richard Robinsons Brother came to see what work I had to be done.

28 I Finished my Accounts of Receipts and Disbursments with William Ainsworth. I sent William Ainsworth to Sefton to Invite Mr Molineux of Mosburg to Lodge here, but he came not.

29 I Booked my Receipts for Sept: Oct: and November and my Disbursments for October. John Banister went to Leverpoole in expectation to meet his Father, but being he came not, John went to Lodg at his Fathers.

30 John Banister came home; in his way he spoke to Catherine Molineux about coming to be Servant here if Betty Harrison leaves her Service. I had a Letter to invite me to the Funerall of Mr Male of Male.[94]

This Month extreamely wet, never two Fair dayes together except the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, and somtimes five or six dayes together eather raine or some Little Snow without being one day fare between.

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[93] "1712, Nov. 13—Mr Gerrard Waringe and m^rs Julian Crosse".
—*Sefton Church Marriage Registers.*

[94] Mr Maghull of Maghull.

DECEMBER

1 I was at the Funerall of Mr Male of Male, there was at the Hous, Alderman Clayton & Mr Shaw of Leverpoole, Mr Poole of Low Hill, Parson Becket, Parson Letus, Mrs Bootle of the Peele, &c:. I went with the Corps into the Church and then came home, my Wife met the Corps at Sefton Church, I came home before her.

2 I Looked in the Gardens &c: for a Garden Hare before dinner but found none, after dinner Ned Farer, &c: went a Coursing with me, we found one and killed her. I Agreed with William Gray to put his Life into that Teneament which formerly belonged to William Stock & to put out the Life of my Cozen Richard Butler which is now in the said Teneament, but by this Bargan William Gray is not to have any Teneant Right to that same Teneament. I sent William Ainsworth to look for my Grewhound Speed, by the Account he heard, he thought he was taken up behind Leverpoole and was gon Mad & dead, so made no farther Enquiry after him.

3 I took Account of William Ainsworth of Corn got by the Mill, uesed in the Hous &c:. I went to Farers Stone Delf with Thomas Marser, we considered how to order the Delf & to get Stones there.

4 I went to my Work-folks that were Leading Feigh from the New Marl-pit to fill up a Hole with it in the Little Morehey.

5 Mr Aldred examained Walter Thelwalls Wife in the Parlor concerning some Reflecting things which as tis said she Reported of him. Mr Aldred & I Scated on a Large Flash in the Little Moss hey, Ned Farer came to us, I lent him my Skats, he put them on.

6 I Skated on my New Marlpit in the Great Morehey & in the Little Mosshey, I hurt my Hip ill with a Fall on the Ise in the Little Mosshey.

7 Ned Hatton paid me his Rack Rent. Mary Morecroft dined here. Mr Aldred Skated in the Little Moss-hey, I went to him, but Skated not becaus I had hurt myself ill yesterday, there was sliding Henry Bushell, Richard Webster oure Smith, &c:.

8 My Wife boyled up some Burch-Wine that was not good & had never ben botled, but it proved not well, she made some Mead. I Recommended Ma: Mo: to W:G:.[95]

9 I killed a fat Hogg. A Catholick as he said from Leverpoole came to see if I would employ him in making me Brick at Ditton.

10 Richard Jackson payed both Rack & old Rent. Mr Thomas Gorsuch came hither a Gunning from the Grange, he dined here. I coursed a Hare as old Richard Webster found set, his two Sons & John Sumner of this Town &c: was with us, as we were going we met Mr Manock, he also went with us, we Missed the Hare, but killed a Rabbet.

11 Sir James Poole Lodged here, he came in the Morning to Mr Aldreds whilst we were at Prayers. I went after dinner with Sir James Poole to Parson Wairings, we found there Parson Letus, Mr Parr, & Young Bryan Fleetwood, coming home we called at James Davys & drunk there, Sir James bought some Cakes there for my Children.

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[95] Probably Mary Molyneux, chamber maid at Crosby Hall, being recommended as servant to Rev. William Gillibrand.

12 I Stated Accounts with William Gray for Carting in my Marl pit and for other work for which I payed him, and he paid me for Rent and part of his Fine for Stocks Teneament. I went to Charles Howerds with Sir James Poole, we had a Bowl of Punsh.

13 I went with Sir James Poole to Ince, when we had ben there some time Mr Turvill & Mr Burton came to us, they had ben Coursing.

14 I gave Thomas Blansherd my Cap or Bastard Wigg. Richard Robinson was here to receive farther orders about Making a Frame for my Wives Patch work Screen.

15 Being I had but Little Flax this year I dryed it on my Kill & Braked it. Seeing it was lickly for Frost I pumped some Water out of the Long Brick-kill hole to flud part of the Little Mosshey to Skate on. I had a Cow cast its Calf, I Lay'd it to shoot Kits at through the Long Garden Wall.[96] I Pickled some Black Pudings.

16 I Shot 3 Kits through the Long Garden Wall. I Skated both before & after dinner in the Little Moss hey.

17 I Skated before dinner in the Little Moss hey. I walked with Sir James Poole to James Davys, we sent for Parson Wairing to come to us, but he & his Wife being gon to Leverpoole we sent for Thomas Syer who came & drunk with us. I bought in James Davys a Peece of Fustion of a Pedler, he called it Holland Strip. I took a Rat out of a Trap, one half of it was eat away by Rats (for no Cat could come to it) viz: the Tale & hinder Quarters for so much of it was out of the Trap the other part they could not come to.

18 I Cut of the large Boughs of the Great Summer-Paremane Tree in the Crow Orchard, pritty near the Boyle to trye if it would put out fresh Wood & Bear again. John Banister Hiered Catty Molineux to be Dayry Maid & Chamber Maid here, but she is not to come for Betty Harrison stayes againe.

19 Captain Robert Fazakerley made a Viset here. John Banister went out in the Snow both before & after dinner a Trasing, they got onely one Rabbet. John Garret swept the Dary & Kitchen Chimney.

20 Sir James Poole went hence, he design'd to dine at Ince. Fanny went to Lodg at Ditton, she Rode behind me to Great Crosby & then William Ainsworth took her before him, My Wife & I went with her to Leverpoole, most of my Ditton Tennants met me at the Wool-pack & paid me their Rent. I payed off part as I ought to Mr Hurst & Mrs Leadbeter. I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr Plumb, I brought him home his Dog Spring as he had lent me.

21 John Peak of Bootle took my Seck with some Sugar &c: in it from Leverpoole yester day & sent his Servant with it hither today.

22 William Ainsworths Mair was ill cut in each Buttock I Suppose by my Mair Ginny who was newly Cockned. Mr Burton was here, my Wife gave him a Fat Goos & sent John Banister to his Hous with it. I cut Mallys Hair.

23 I glewed a Glass Fraim of William Grays & my Wives Busk[97] & some other things.

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[96] Blundell was using the dead calf to attract kites and thus provide sport and game.

[97] corset.

24 I Lent my Coach Carriage to carry Catherin Marser[98] to Sefton, I met the Corps about the Wooden Plat & saw it Inter'd, there went along with it Walter Thelwall, John Tickley, Bryan Lea, John Molineux, &c:.

25 Mr Turvill made a Viset here. She took a Glister.[99]

26 Thomas Kerfoot paid me part of his Rack Rent. I sent £10 by Mrs Boyer to Doctor Lathom, tis in part of the £20 which I have of his to keep. John Blundell Taylor was here & made a Bargan with Weedow for his Teneament. I coursed a Hare as Richard Webster our Smith found set, there was present William Ainsworth, Walter Thelwall, &c:. My Wife was at Ellen Rigbys Labouring but stayed not till she was delivered. I played after Supper with some of the Neighbours at Ohear.

27 A Kite which I shot upon the 16th was alive this Morning & never eat anything since it was shot as I doe know off, but it dyed I think at Night. My Wife, Mally & I Lodged at Mr Golding at Southward,[100] Mally rode thither behind me, we found there Lawyer Johnsons Doughter of Warington & Mr Booth.

28 I sent John Banister to Culcheth of a How-doe-you. Mr Booth went with Mally & me &c: to Dobs Font.

29 Mrs Golding, My Wife, & I dined at Culsheth, Mr John Culsheth was there. Mrs Golding Rode thither behind me.

30 Mrs Golding, my Wife & I dined at Mr Langtons of the Low with young Mrs Gifford & Mr Helme, Mrs Golding Rode thither behind me. Mally dined at Culcheth, they sent to fetch her from Southard.

31 Mr Golding, I & our Wives & Mally, &c: heard Mass at Mr John Corleys and dined there with Joseph Ford &c:.

Till the 7th a Moderate Frost, from the 7th till the 14th Wet & very heasy Weather, then seaven dayes of Frost with some Little Snow, from the 21st till the End of this Month almost every day some Raine excepting the two last days.

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[98] wife of a tenant.

[99] Glister—obsolete and dialect form of 'clyster', a medicine injected into the rectum, to empty or cleanse the bowel; an enema.

[100] Southworth Hall, Winwick, Lancashire, tenanted by Mr. Golding, a Roman Catholic lawyer.

Anno Domini 1713

JANUARY

1 Mr John Corley & his Wife din'd at Southard. Mr Culcheth & his Lady &c: made a Viset to my Wife and me at Southard.

2 My Wife, I & Mally came home from Southard, we light at Winwick & went into the Chourch to look at Mr Leighs Monument, we saw a Man in the Street play tricks with a Sword, I brought home with me a Grewhound Hector which Mr Golding had given me.

3 The Half plucked Goos by Catherine Howerd brought to her Sister.

4 I sent William Ainsworth to Ditton, he is to bring Fanny home from thence tomorrow. Mr Aldred began to explicate the Mass after Benediction and designes to continew explicating it and other things.

5 Fanny came home from Ditton, William Athertons Doughters Ailes and Mary and his Son Robert came along with Fanny to Lodg here. John Banisters Sister Ellen Lodged here. I sent Charles Howerd to see Mrs Scarisbrick who was ill, he brought my Dog Turk home with him from thence, he Follow'd that Family when they went hence the Middle of October last. Thomas Tyrer Layed a Charge to Bucks Shoulder.

6 William Ainsworth &c: went a Coursing with me, 'twas the first time I saw my Grewhound Hector runn. I took two Rats at once in my Cowfer Trap in the Morning and three at once in the Night. We had a Merry Night, Richard Tatlock play'd here, we had a great many Dansers, they Dansed my Sword Dance. Mr Crisp and Mr Shepheard drunk with me in my Parlor, I played at Cut in the Paintry with Joseph Blansheard of the Lady Green, Robert Massom, &c:.

7 Mr Molineux of the Grange was here, he paid me his Chief Rent. Pat: Burton dined & Suped here, I paid him the Money I brought for him from Southward, he & John Farer, &c: went a Coursing with me.

8 My Wife & I went in the after noone to Mr Burtons & eat some Christmass Cheere with him. William Ainsworth went towards his Wives to stay some dayes in those parts. I began to plant Ashes this Season. I began to Plough this Season for Barly in the Cross Field.

9 More Ash-trees planted. William Athertons Children that came hither upon the 5th went hence. John Banisters Sister Ellen went hence, John went with her to Lodge at home.

10 I got my Breackfast at Ellen Harrisons[1] being I had not eat any Christmass Fair with her.

11 John Banister came back hither from his Fathers. I coursed a Hare as William Gray found set. Pat: Aldred told me Charles Howerd had a mind to leave my Service.[2]

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[1] Wife of a tenant.

[2] Charles Howard was head hind, groom and coachman at 15s. 0d. per quarter.

12 I spoke to Charles Howerd about his designe of leaving my Service. I began to pick Paving Stones off the Marled Ground. John Blundell, &c: cut down an Oak Tree to make a Rowler on for rowling Corn. My Wife was very ill of a Swelling in her Mouth.

13 I went to Leverpoole, Mr Swarbrick paid me the Remainder of what he ought me for Cole-Seed.[3] I paid Mr Allanson in full. I drunk at Mr Morphews & paid him what little there was between us upon the Ballance of our Accounts, I drunk at the Wool-pack. William Ainsworth had ben at his Wives, he came home today & brought a Hors for me which he had got in exchange for Doctor, I call him Jack. John Lidiat, &c: came to work for me to mend some Ploughs.

14 William Ainsworth & John Lidiat went a Coursing with my Grewhounds, they killed a Brace of Hares. I Booked my Disbursments for November.

15 I booked my Disbursments for December. I paid Catty Howerd her Wages & she left her Service. Charls Howerd told me he was now resolv'd to leave my Service soone.

16 My Wife hiered Nanny Blundell to be her Cook. Five young Abell Trees that grew on my Bed in the Long Garden I helped to bend down and lay in the Ground to get Suckers from them. I layed a new Bridg in the Winterheys by Brownbills & fixed an other Bridge in the Winterheys and placed a herple pole by it, William Ainsworth went with me to the Workmen in the Winterheys, we Coursed & kil'd a Hare, We went with old John Sumner of the Morehouses to High-field Hey and considered about geting Turves in it.

17 I think this will be the last day of my planting Ash Trees this Season, I have planted this Season 384 fine young Ash Plants, and today I sent Mr Plumb 120 Fine Ash Plants and my Great Dog Turk.

18 Cozen Nanny Gorsuch took a Sweat and lay in bed a good part of the day. I told Robert Tompson that I intended him to Suckceed Charles Howerd in his Place when he leaves my Service.

19 Nanny Blundell came to be Cooke here. William Ainsworth & Henry Swift mesured some of Water-Courses, I was with them, the Old Water Course at the side of Nicholls Hey was 310 yards long, my Grand Water-Cours & within the Coppy was 384 yards Long and Great Crosby Water Cource within the Coppy was 214. We led some old Wood home that had made a Plat between the Coppy and Arnolds Heys. I began to lead Paving Stones off the Marled Ground. Nelly Shepheard of Sefton lodged here.

20 They began to spin Gersey. John Melling came to work here. John Leigh brought me some Burch Beesoms & Wiskets. One Oliverson came to see if John Banister would let him have any Money upon security. Charles Howerd instructed Robert Tompson to drive the Coach being he is to suckceed him, they went out with the Coach and the Children &c: went in it. I was busy most of the afternoone pasting some Escutchions up in the Hall and pasting up Pictures in other Plases.

21 Mr Burton dined here. Mr Turvill made a Viset here after dinner, we played at Cards. John Blundell cut of some of the lower bows of some of the Abell

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[3] "Tole for Carrying Cole Seed to Leverpoole . . . . . 1s. 0d."

Trees. Betty Swift sent me a Mare to lay to shoot Kits[4] at, it was layed for that purpose in the Crofts. I tryed my Hors Jack to draw in the Coach the first time, the Children &c: rid out in the Coach.

22 John Blundell cut an old Apple-Tree and a Pare-Tree off almost at the Boyl[5] to try to make them bear better. Robert Tompson shot a Kite through the Long Garden Wall. I went to the Grange to see Mr Molineux who was very ill, there was there Mr Tasburgh, Mr Burton & Richard Tickley.

23 I agreed with Thomas Blundell for liberty to delve Turves in his High-field Hey. I was at Mr Aldreds a good bit whilst he was prepairing against Candlemas.

24 I helped Mr Aldred to lap up some Wax Candles before dinner. Betty Harryson lodged at the Grange one Night.

25 My Wife sent Charls Howerd to Ormskerk with a Letter to Pat: Gelibrond.

26 I Stated Accounts with Hod and paid whot I ought him for Fish, Fowl, and Bearme. Peggy Thelwall and I paisted three Score Paper Baggs to put Brass in.

27 Mr Molineux of the Grange[6] being dead this Morning my Wife and I went thither to pray but all the Masses were over ere we came. Betty Harrison went to help them at the Grange & to stay all night being she has ben Servant there.

28 I went to the Grange to pray for Mr Richard Molineux, I heard 3 Masses and said the Office for the dead with 4 Priests. Pat: Gelibrond came hither when we had dined, he lodg'd here. Walter Thelwall, William Gray, Henry Ascroft and John Farer went with me to vew my Grand Water-Cours, we found it both above the Snigary & below generaly 3 Foot deep of Water & in many plases 3½ or four Foot, and in Formby Rode not five Inshess deep and it was considerably deeper then when my Snigary was pulled up, those that had ben with me to vew it came home with me, I gave them a drink, coming home Walter Thelwall found a Hare set, we coursed it. Thomas Whawley brought my Wife a Pair of Stayes as he had made for her, she paid him for them.[7]

29 Henry Swift vewed my Grand Water Cource & found it much what as we had done yesterday. Pat: Gelibrond went hence. I went to the Funerall of Mr Molineux of the Grange, there was Mr Wofold of More-hall, Mr Harington, Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh, Parson Letus, Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, Mr Formby, &c: I lent Captain Robert Fazakerley a Mare to ride on to the Buriall, he Lodged here.

30 Mr Aldred and I went to Dr Lathoms & spoke to him about parting with one of his Teneaments to my Lord Molineux & then we went to my Lord to Croxtath and Acquainted him what we had done; My Lord ordered Mr Crisp to draw Writings of the Bargan which we had concluded of in the Behalf of Dr Lathom with my Lord, Coming home I called at Hugh Bullens and told him, he should not set any Land in this Township to John Renold. Captain Robert Fazakerley went hence.

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[4] Nicholas almost certainly uses the word *kite* for buzzards in most cases, the commoner of these two wide-spread carrion-feeders at that time. Even to-day countrymen in Wales, where both still abound, find it difficult to distinguish them.

[5] bole.

[6] Alt Grange, near the mouth of the River Alt, once belonged to Whalley Abbey. It had been Molyneux property since 1543. It is just in Ince Blundell and not Little Altcar as stated in Vol 1. p. 250, f.n. 27.

[7] "Stayes of Canvice for my Wife . . . . . £1 5s. 0d."

31 I had a New Side-Saddle brought home as Mr Norton made, twas of Leather, it was hansoled[8] tonight by five Women. William Ainsworth & I went out to Cource.

The Four first dayes were frost, the 5th very Cold thaugh, then till the 10th very unsetled weather, from the 10th till the 20th every day some Raine except the 16th and 17th; the 20th & 21th Fair, then six dayes together some Rain & generally very Cold, the 4 last dayes Fair and tollerable warme for the Season.

FEBRUARY

1 Mrs Mary Morecroft dined here. John Banister went to see his Sister Ellen who is not well.

2 Charles Howerd left my Service and is succeeded by Robert Tompson. Henry Kerfoot came to be my Servant and comes in the place of Robert Tompson.[9] I sold my Rabbet Skins. Thomas and Mathew Worthington were here, I went with them to the Nearest North-hey, they have engaged to push it for me. My Wife & Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went towards Leverpoole but being it was lickly to Raine hard they turned back home. Thomas Kerfoot and his Partners paid me their Rent for my Warand. John Bannister came home, he had ben at his Fathers to see his Sister Ellen.

3 Mr Crisp Read to Mr Aldred and me a fowl drought which he had made of a Bargan between my Lord Molineux & Mr Lathom. John Farer went a Coursing with William Ainsworth and me, my Grewhound Hector took a Live parteridge & runn with it in his Mouth.

4 Mr Aldred and I went to Dr Lathoms and Read to him a Fowl Drought of the Bargan made between my Lord Molineux and him concerning his Surrendering up of a Leas of one of his Teneaments to my Lord. Mr Aldred & I went thence to Croxtath and dined there with my Lord, his two Sons Carroll & Thomas, Mr Harington, &c: my Lord Signed the Bargan between him and Doctor Lathom. The Stone Garden Well was fixed with a larg Winglass. James Davy Slater came to work here.

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[8] Used for the first time.

[9] Robert Tompson was formerly the ploughman at 15s. 0d. per quarter, now as head-hind, and coachman at 12s. 6d. per quarter. Henry Kerfoot, who now became ploughman, was paid 10s. 0d. per quarter. Actually Robert Tompson was still being paid 15s. 0d. per quarter, but 2s. 6d. was deducted quarterly until March 1715 to pay for his livery. From the Disbursement Book we learn the cost of the livery:—

	£	s.	d.
"2 Feb. 1713—Charles Howerd for one Month, Left my Service . . .		5	0
Given Charls Howerd instead of a Livery for 13 Months last past .	1	12	0
12 Feb. 1713—Outside Lining &c: for a Livery for Robert Tompson . .	3	12	6
Part of a Livery given to Henry Kerfoot	3	4	6
Two Hats for my Livery Servant		5	0
Silver Lace for my Livery Hats		15	0
Blew Livery Stockings.		1	2
Making two Sute of Livery at my Bord.		9	0
Taylors Work more		1	0"

Henry Kerfoot, who was appointed ploughman, also acted as assistant coachman. He also had to pay in instalments for his livery, receiving 10s. 0d. a quarter instead of 12s. 6d. a quarter until March 1715. The tailor made the suits of livery at Crosby Hall where he received free board in addition to the 9s. 0d.

5 Walter Thelwall and I had some serious discource about prepairing for a Tryall at the next Assizes about the Water-Courses, we then chiefly considered about making a Map of the Water-Courses and examained some Maps which now I have. William Ainsworth and William Davy by my Orders strained upon Thomas Kerfoot for Rent owing by him, they took 8 head of Black Cattle, but I let Thomas Kerfoot have them again in his own Custody but he is to deliver them when I require it.

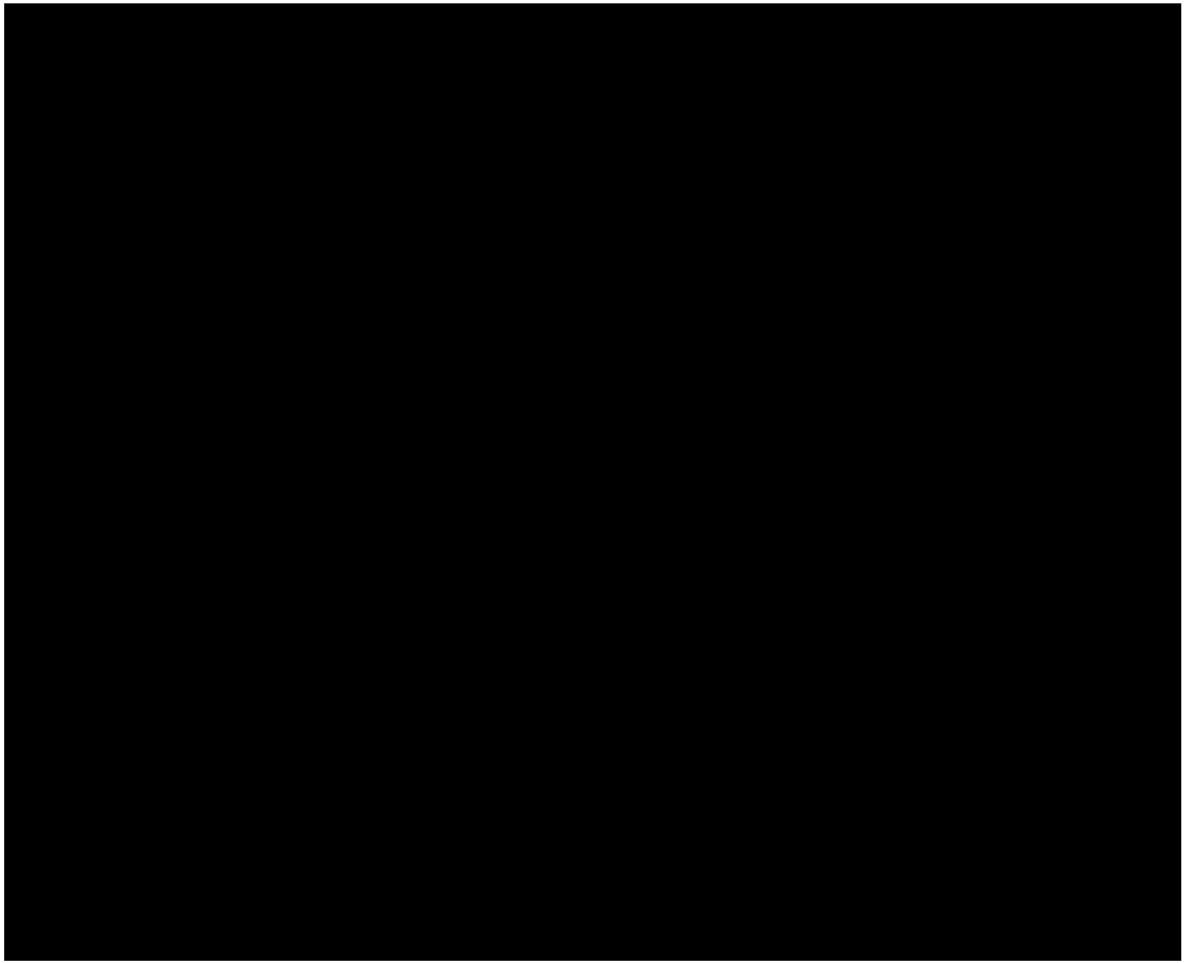
6 I drew out part of a Map of some of my Water-Courses to prepare it against the Assises. I writ a good part of the after Noone. William Ainsworth told me he had ben with Richard Tickley & Edmund Tristram &c: at Charls Howerds, they had ben vewing some of my Watercourses. Richard Tickley owned the Wooden Plat did them no harme now & I think there is as great a Flood at this time as ever has ben this Winter. Edmund Tristram said he could prove Walter Thelwall a Rogue.

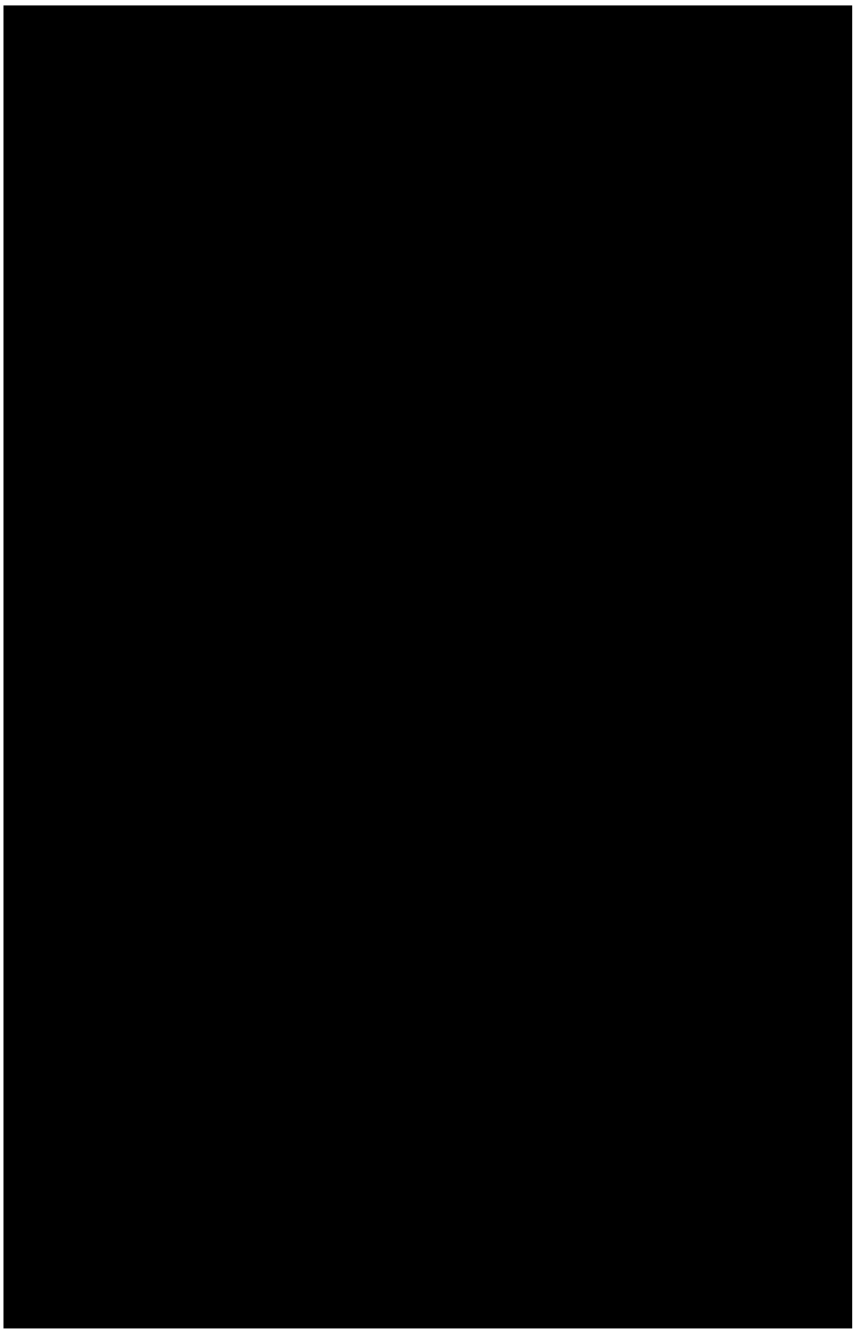
7 John Farer, Henry Swift, William Gray and Henry Ascroft went with me to Vew the Division Ditch, we found 20 Hed-bolts Running, see more particulars in my Book of Vewed Water-Courses; we went to Orrill Hill plat & found it Running a Streame of 15 Inches deep & the Wooden Plat runn but one Inch deep. I made up a Headbolt, which was brock, to keep the Water from Runing out of the New Marl-Pit. My Wife & Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went to Leverpoole.

8 My Wife, Mally, & Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went to the Grange to condole Mrs Molineux for the death of her Husband.

9 I was busy most of the day taking some Notes out of my Diurnall which I thought would be usefull for me Relating to the Water-Courses.

10 Thomas Kerfoot asked my leave to sell the Beasts that I had strained on for my Rent, I gave him my Answer. I gave John Tickley some Thornes to set in his new Close in Wood-home. Richard Blundell of the Car-Side sent hither for some thorns, I let him have some. I got some Hasles for Fish-rod Tops &c:. I went to see William Tompson, I was told that severall of Ince &c: had ben to vew my Water-Courses, I suppose they pitched upon today becaus it is now as great a Flood as has ben known these many Years, for yesterday was a most bitter day of Continuall Rain and there has not ben one day this Month without Rain and generally pritty much. I am told the Flood is now so great that Alt has brock over the Cop into Ince. When I went to the Morehouses I found the Waters much out in the Moss-Lane, it had run over towards Ince in 3 or 4 places & one or two of them were very well mended which stopped the Water, and Hanyate plat received all the Water as came, though the Covering Stones were some little within the Water; Those that came to vew my Water-Courses were as I am told about nine viz: Richard Molineux, Thomas Syer, Richard Tickley, Edmund Tristram, John Molineux, Thomas Gore, John Jackson, &c:. The Water runn with a great streame at Weedows Gate, at the broad Lane gate and at Beans Gate and runn over in two places in Weedows Lane and yet was not two Inches deep at the Wooden plat and not near the Horses knee in Formby Rode. William Gray tells me he was today at the Hall of Ince and trased the water from the Pit before the Gates as far as the Divition Ditch and that the Water runn over Ince More Lane in three Places and so to the Division ditch and in one place it was so broad that it was soded to make it passable for Foot Folks. I signed a Bargan & Thomas Blundell for Liberty for me to get Turves in his High Field Hey.





11 John Farer went a Coursing with William Ainsworth & me. Mrs Bridget Alanson & Mrs Betty Chorley came to Lodge here, they came hither on my Horses from Leverpoole. I made a Mixture of part of a Legg of rosted Mutton &c: to draw Rats togeather to one Place, I think it kill'd none of them.

12 My Wife and I went in the Coach with our Gests to Mr Smiths of Mail, he was not at home but his Wife was. Mr Aldred and Walter Thelwall were here after Supper, we discoursed about the Watercourses &c:.

13 Mr John Simpson & Mr Nathanil Brown-Sword dined here, they came to fetch our Gests away, after dinner we all went up to the top of the Hous to look about us. My Wife took Mrs Bridget Alanson & Mrs Betty Chorley in the Coach to Parson Wairings. Mr Simpson stay'd here awhile to take a Pipe & a Glass with me and then I went with him to Parson Wairings from whence all oure Gests went home to Leverpoole & I came home with my Wife in the Coach, tis the first time my Wife has ben at Parson Wairings since he was Married but we found neather him nor his Wife at home. Captain Robert Fazakerley was here, I gave him some Money upon Account of Mrs Ellin Fazakerleys Aniversary, I lent him a Grewhound to Cource with today he being to meet some Company at Great Crosby.

14 I sent William Weedow to Club-More with some Geese as are to be kept to parts by John Harrison. Eves lodged here. I helped Ned Farer & Nicholas Davy to set out a Cock-Clod at the four Lane Ends.[10]

15 I drunk at the Four Lane Ends with Mr Aldred, Walter Thelwall, Richard Whithead, William Gray & Darby, we stayed very late.

16 John Farer & I met Mr Turvill and Mr Burton in the Mosses a Coursing. William Ainsworth was at the Mesureing of some Ground which is to be exchanged between Richard Westhead & Henry Aspinwall.

17 I Layed some Rosted Mutton with the Whit powder on it to kill Rats with but I think it kill'd none, whot I layed before was onely to draw them together. Eves went hence, I sent her to Leverpoole, I was at the Cocking at Mrs Ann Rothwells at the Four Lane Ends, there was four Battles, a Cock of mine play'd one; there was Mr Aldred, Mr Burton, Young Robert Bootle, John Rose, Richard Webster the Father & Son, Lunt the Schoolmaster of Ince &c:. I saw Ailes Sumner, Catty Howerd, &c: threshing in William Davys Field for a Hen. I went after Super again to the Four Lain Ends & drunk with young Robert Bootle, John Rose, Young Bryan Fleetwood &c: we concluded to have a Cocking there upon Easter Munday, to play eather Battle Victory or Battle Royall. My Children & the Maids &c: went in the Coach to Robert Shepherds.

18 I planted some Holy-Oaks between the Firr Trees in the Bleaching Yord, but they did not grow well.

19 Being I heard that some of Ince had said that upon the 9th or 10th Instant the Water at the Milking Meadow Plat runn towards Weedows, I went along today with Henry Ascroft & Henry Swift and found it runn as it ought to doe viz: towards Formospoole, I question very much whether the Water ran towards Weedows as Ince party said or that it was not rather the Wind which carryed what they flung on the top of the Water that way; the Wind being then Southerly & a Prodigious Flood. I was with Ascroft & Swift &c: when they

[10] A cock-fighting arena.

were seting Bryers and Withens &c: at the Grand Cop-Side to grow, to stop the Sand-Blast, thence I went to Charles Howerds, Jane Bryansons, &c:. John Banister went to Ormskerk of a howdoe you to Mrs Fazakerley who was Lying in.

20 John Blundell put a Large Winglass to the Pumpcourt Well. One of Mary Fleetwoods Servants was here & mended what Windows wanted.

21 I went to Leverpoole, Joseph Bolton met me and should have payed me some money but did not, I gave him my Grewhound Hector to keep for me. I dined with Mr Plumb. I went to see Mr Thomas Fourd who was not well. I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr Hurst, Mr Shepheard, Edmund Tristram, Walter Thelwall, &c: we had strong Arguments about the Water-Courses and Ince side seemed to desire a Referrence. Edmund Tristram & Mr Shepheard &c: came home with me as far as their way lay.

22 Mr Aldred, Richard Whithead, & Walter Thelwall smoked a Pipe with me. Ellen Shepheard who had ben here for some time as a Gest and to help to spin Gersy went hence. My Wife and Mally went in the Coach to see Mrs Fazakerley of Ormskirk who was lying in. William Ainsworth went towards Blackbourn Fortnight Faire which will be tomorrow, I suppose he will goe to his Wives & his Fathers, I pay'd him 2 years Wages.

23 I went in the Morning to the Saile of goods at the Grange, I bought some small Casks & some Pewter, Mr Wofold, Richard Tickley, Walter Thelwall &c: was there. I set some Roots of Renunculas in the Flower Knot, I think it is too late of the Year, they have ben kept out of the Ground. My Wife tryed to make some Red Ginger-Breads after the York Fassion.

24 My Wife and Mr Aldred went in the Coach to Leverpoole. I went to Wigan, and came back again, I dined at the Legs of Man, I made a Viset to my Lady Bradshaw and Widdow Hesketh but they were both so ill I could not be admited to see them. I discoursed Dr Thomas Worthington about seting his Hous ready Furnished which was my chief business to Wigan, it was for my Brother Langdale, I drunk at the Legs of Man with Dr Francis Worton, Tony Weaver &c: I made a Viset to Mrs Brown, she gave me some Sets of Riculases.[11]

25 William Ainsworth came home, he brought a Cock with him to fight at Mrs Anns in Easter Week. My Millers Son in Law Henry Swift was a beging here upon Account of his Hous & Barn being burned.[12] Pat: Busby was here, tis the first time he was here, Mr Manock came with him. It has ben so extraordinary wet a Winter that there is I think scarce four days ploughing done since Christmas in this Townfield & though I have done one half day ploughing since Christmass, yet today I think I may onely say I have begun. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here.

26 James Davy went hence, he has ben puting up some Slates on the Hous & out housing where they wanted. My Wife & Pat: Gelibrond made a Viset to Ince.

27 I sent to the Grange to fetch Home some small Casks and Puter as I had bought there at the Saile. Mr Shepheard was here and Acquainted me that those of Ince were willing to have the Sute (depending between them & me) refer'd but will not own that they desire it, Mr William Crisp came with him.

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[11] auricula.

[12] See May 8 1713 and foot-note, and Appendices A and C.

28 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. I helped John Banister to Bottle about 9 dozen of Aile. Hearing Thomas Syar had said lately that Formospoole Gutter was two foot deep of Water; Mr Aldred, John Farer & I went to it & found that it was not four Inches deep in Formby Road, and in many places of the Gutter it was not three, and my Grand Water-cours was generally two Foot deep. Notwithstanding the great Raines we have had, yet Formoss-poole is falne to Admiration the lick scarce known at this time of the year.

Till the 24th onely three Fair dayes, from the 24th till the end of this Month all Fair dayes.

MARCH

1 Mr Scarisbrick and his Lady dined here, they brought their Son Robert with them, he is for going to Blandick. Mr Scarisbrick gave me a Legasy as was left by my Aunt Frances Blundell to me and my Children. Dr Lancaster dined here. Mr Aldred prayed & dined here.

2 William Troughton &c: came to make Liveryes for Robert Tompson & Henry Kerfoot. I went to Leverpoole and discourced Mr Plumb about the Sute depending betweene Ince & me, he was gon out of Town, but I stayed till he came & then put severall questions to him. Mr Simpson treated me at his Hous. I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr Alanson & with Doctor Tarlton. I gave Thomas Kerfoot Leave to hold the Ground under me one year longer. Charles Howerd the Taylor came to desire I would let my Cart lead some Lime for him from Leverpoole.

3 Thomas Medows Sister was here to let me look at her Eye as was not well, I gave her somthing for it. Mr Aldred, Walter Thelwall & I went to Prescot, we Light at Thomas Moss'es the Signe of the Ship, I sent for Lawyer Blundell to me and we discoursed him about the Water-Cours Sute, I made a Viset to Oliver Lime.

4 Robert Tompson &c: made some Beenes to keep Beanes in in the Barne tis the first time I have known that way uesed at this hous. I sent William Ainsworth to Ince to tell Mr Shepheard I would not referr the Water-Cours-Affaire unless my Adversarys desir'd it.

5 Jenet Blundell & Mary Weedow were here to see if I would break the Bargan which I have made with William Weedow for part of William Blundells Teneament. Pat:Wofold made a Viset here. William Ainsworth brought me home from Ormskerk a Fat Cow which he had bought above a Week since.

6 I Began to lead Clay in order to make a new Smithy. My Cart Lead Lime from Leverpoole for Charles Howerd Taylor, he should have had more Carts but they came not. Betty Harrison went to Mosburgh & was Hiered to be Chamber-Maid there. Mally writ two Letters, they are the first she writ with an Intention they should be sent.

7 I was very busy most of the after noone examaining three of my Drawers in my Cabinet & puting the things in them into better order.

8 I took a Weesley[13] in the Inner Hen-hous with my Cowfer trap. Mary Morecroft dined here. I walked in the evening to meet my Wife, but missing of her I went to see Thomas Riding who was ill.

[13] weasel.

9 I Began to make my Lenton Seeding viz: to sow Beanes in the Nearer Wheat-hey. John Banister planted 31 Fir Trees of about three years old on my Bed in the Long Garden. There were some Hunters in the North-hey & Little Eases, I heard it was Mr Molineux of Wooton hunting the Fox, My Wife and I &c: went up into the Leads to look at them.

10 I Drained the Horspoole with my Chean Pump & took out of it 62 Carps, four Tensh and one Bream. William Ainsworth helped me to put 40 of the Carps into my New Marl-pit between the Pike and the Great More-hey, the Rest of the Fish were otherways disposed of, the Carps that I took out of the Horspoole were all or most of them thos that I had from Hooton in June 1709. William Harrison the Clarke of Sefton was here, I paid him 2d instead of Paist Eggs. Mrs Wofold din'd here, she went with my Wife in the Coach to Leverpoole, my Wife bought some Blew Camblet[14] &c: at Mr Hursts to make her a Cloake on; she bought some Sugar & Sope &c: for Mrs Scarisbrick, she brought Mrs Wofold in the Coach to the Hall of Ince & so came home.

11 Thomas Bradley was here, I sold him some Thornes and gave him some Ashes and Hasless.

12 I Rid the Gors in the Cole Croft and planted some of them between the Cop and my Grand-Water-Cours. Mrs Wofold, Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvill made a Viset here. Pat: Wofold dined here.

13 I went to Leverpoole & Made Mrs Holiwell a Viset & wished her Joy. I bought a Sword and Belt. I gave Mrs Lettonby some Money towards her Sons Journey, Parson Stith shewed me his Garden. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Hurst & Mr Norton, I discoursed Mr Plumb at William Griffiths about my two Sutes of Law, coming home I lost my Way and came thorrow the More houses.

14 John Banister helped to Garden at the Grange. Cozen John Gelibrond Lodged here.

15 There were 186 People at Prayers at Mr Aldreds this after noone. Cozen John Gelibrond made a Viset to Mrs Blundell of Ince.

16 Cozen John Gelibrond, Walter Thelwall and I walked before dinner to Vew Lady Green Water-Cours & the Division Ditch between Ince and Little Crosby, after dinner we rid out to vew the Wooden Plat, Richard Molineux his Plat, my Grand-Water-Course, Formoss-poole Gutter &c:, we drunk at James Browns with Mr Tasburgh & Edmund Tristram and there discoursed of the Water-Courses. I began this Year today to spred Mole Hills. Patton the Gardiner of Leverpoole dined here.

17 Yester Night and this Morning I took a Dose of Pills, my Children took Phisick. William Ainsworth brought me a Cock from William Athertons of Ditton, I designe to feed him against the Cocking as is to be at Mrs Anns on Easter Munday. I began to plough the Pike as was Marled the last Summer. Cozen John Gelibrond and Walter Thelwall met Edmund Tristrom, they looked over some of the Water-Courses & discoursed about the Matter now in debate betweene Ince and me, in the Evening Cozen John Gelibrond & Walter Thelwall went to the Hall of Ince & discoursed Mrs Blundell & Edmund Tristrom about the Water-Courses.

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[14] Camblet—a variation of 'camlet'—a light material of women's dress, made of wool hard spun; originally a costly eastern fabric.

"Camblet & Silk Faising &c: for a Cloak & Cap Hood for my Wife . £1 4s. 0d."

18 Cozen John Gelibrond, Walter Thelwall and Pat: Aldred went before dinner with Mr Turvil to vew the Wooden Plat &c:, Mr Turvill dined here. Thomas Worthington & his three Partners came hither and began to Push Plough the next-North-Hey, Cozen John Gelibrond went with me to my Push-Ploughers.

19 William Ainsworth bought me 5 Manks Bullocks in Maudsley. William Weedow sold me a Heffer in Ormskirk. I was at a Cocking at Mrs Ann Rothwells, there was there my four Push-ploughers, Richard Webster our Smith &c:. Skiner Blundells Cock fought against Henry Blundells and lost. Cozen John Gelibrond dined at Ince, after dinner my Wife made a Viset to Mrs Wofold at Ince & in the Evening I went thither, we three came home togeather from the Hall of Ince and then went to the four Lain ends & saw a Battle between two Cocks.

20 I weighed my Cock and some others as are up in my Pens. William Ainsworth brought me a Cock as Robert Shepheard has lent me to fight on Easter Munday, I have put him up to feede. John Farer came to dress the Coach Harnish. Cozen John Gelibrond went to Leverpoole, he lodged there.

21 I spared four Cocks that are up in my Pens to feed. I went to Leverpoole and dined at the Wool-pack with Cozen John Gelibrond, Pat: Gelibrond & Mr Shepheard. Cozen John Gelibrond, Mr Plumb and I discoursed about the Sute depending between Ince and me. Cozen John Gelibrond came back with me and lodged here. Bridget Harrison fell of her Hors coming home with us.

22 John Whitley brought me a Cock which he lent me against my Cocking on Easter Munday. I paid Umphrey Darwin & Bryan Lea £23 & Interest owing by me to John Bryanson. My Wife dined at Scarisbrick. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went to her Fathers & came back again with my Wife. Cozen John Gelibrond and Walter Thelwall met Mr Shepheard, they vewed some of the Watercourses & then went to the Hall of Ince & discoursed about them.

23 My Wife hiered Catty Howerd to be her Cook.[15] I gave Cozen John Gelibrond a Fivety Pound Bill upon Mr Rodbourn and setled some Accounts between him and me. I had two hands clensing my Grand Watercours and taking up some deming in it which could not be done whilst the Water was high.

24 I Sowed some flower Seeds in the Knot and set some Almonds up and down the Garden in severall places. Cozen John Gelibrond met Mr William Holy-well in Litherland, they dined there and then he came to Ince & discoursed Mrs Blundell & Mr Shepheard about the Water-Courses.

25 Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh and his Kinswoman Mrs Mary Molineux dined here. Cozen Molineux went with me to Mrs Anne Rothwells where I received some Money from John Rose, Robert Pope, &c: upon Account of a Cocking as is to be at Mrs Anns on Easter Munday, when Cozen Molineux was gon I went again to Mrs Anns & made a Match with John Rose to play my Ditton Cock Clumsy against one of his. Mr Aldred came home with me, I told him my Brother Joseph was comne to London. I sent a Chess-bord and Men of a Present to Sir William Gerard by William Arnold. Cozen John Gelibrond went

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[15] "23 March 1713—Earnest to Catty Howerd . . . . . 1s. 0d."
As was the custom the shilling was paid to 'seal' the arrangement. She only stayed for one quarter year.

to Ince & had a farther discource with Mrs Blundell, &c: concerning the Water-Cours Sute and the Matter seems now to be much-what Concluded. Betty Harrison left her Service.[16]

26 Cozen John Gelibrond writ fair over the Artickleys of Agreement between Ince & me relating to mending the Watercourses and prevent a sute, he went in the Evening with them to the Hall of Ince & left them with Mrs Blundell to peruse, I went with him, we got our Collation there.[17]

27 Four of the Coks in my Pens were spar'd, I onely saw two of them spar. I went after dinner with Cozen John Gelibrond to Ormskirk, as we were going we met an Express to Cozen John Gelibrond with Letters of the death of my Lord Peter. Cozen John Gelibrond and I made a Viset to Mrs Howet, we found there Mrs Scarisbrick &c:, thence we went and wished Mary Place Joy, it being the first time we had seen her since she was Married. I went to Pothecary Bartons & drunk with him at his own hous.[18] Richard Robinson brought a Walnut Frame hither for a Patch-work Screene.

28 Cozen John Gelibrond, Walter Thelwall & I went in the Morning to the Wooden Plat to conclude where I should make a Head Bolt but I did not make it, thence Walter Thelwall went to Ince to propose it to Mrs Blundell & now the Sute depending seems to be at an end between Ince & me about the Water Courses. Cozen John Gelibrond went hence.

29 My Grewhound Ginny had this day or the last night her 5th Litter of Whelps since I had her, she had 7 Whelps. I began my Journey towards Lancaster in Order to try Thomas Hartley for destroying the Game within this Lordship, I dined at Mr Richard Walmesleys in Preston with him, his Wife & Doughter Better, I made a Viset to Mrs Fleetwood Butler & then went towards Lancaster with Mr Tarlton the Maior of Leverpoole and Lodged at Marshalls the Signe of the Queens Arms, I suped there with Mr Darcy Chantrell &c:.

30 Mr Plumb went with me to my Counsell Sergant Lutwage and Chesshir and to Lawyer Blundell, I feed them. I heard Judg Barron Berry give his Charge in the Morning. I dined at my Lodgings with Mr Parker of Broosom,[19] Mr Lister, Mr Darcy Chantrell &c:, after dinner I was in the Court most of the time while the Judge was siting. Ned Howerd came to live in Little Crosby he having left his Service. I began to sow the Pike with Oats and Henry Ascroft began to dig in it for Potatows.

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[16] Betty Harrison served as a chamber maid and dairy maid at 10s. 0d. per quarter.

[17] This dispute concerning water-courses was one of the very few interruptions in the friendly relations between the two neighbouring families, the Blundells of Ince and the Blundells of Crosby, over a period of several hundred years. Fortunately the proposals made by John Gillibrand seemed to have been acceptable to Mrs. Blundell; Robert Blundell then being a minor.

[18] Blundell relates a story concerning Apothecary Barton in his Anecdote Book:—
"Pothacary Barton of Ormskerk built a Summer Hous & ere it was finished he had a mind to goe to the Top of it; his Workmen perswaided him to the Conterary saying it would be dangerous for him least he should fall; he answered he would take caer of him self; but he built it with that intent that some one might fall & hurt themselves, that he might get Money by cureing them; The Pothecary did goe to the Top of his Summer Hous & fell down and got such a fall that it put him into a distemper of wch he dyed."
Anecdote 165.

[19] Browsholme.

31 I Feed Lawyer Fazakerley, I was in both Courts before dinner & heard in them severall Tryalls, one was got by Mr Hesketh of Oughton against a Woman who had robed him, he was in the Court by me. I dined at my Lodging in a by Roome with Mr Winter Parson of Cockrom[20] & an other, after dinner I was in the Court of Iseprise[21] all the while where I had my Tryall with Thomas Hartley & cast him; when the Court was over I drunk a Pint of Wine with Parson Winter. My Hors-poole was Slutched but not the ditch.

The four first dayes raine, then very faire till the end excepting now and then a small shower sutable to the Season.

APRILL

1 I was present at all the Tryalls in the Iseprise Court before dinner, some were tryed there for Felony. I dined at my Inn with Captain Parker of Broosom &c:. I was in the Court most of the after noone. My Fighting Cocks were spared the third and last time, they being to fight at Easter. I killed a very Fat and Little Cow.

2 I began my Journey homwards from Lancaster, I called at Parson Winters in Cockrom but he was not at home. I dined at Richard Jacksons in Preston, I went with Mr Richard Walmesley to look at Mr Husons Hous to see if it would be proper for my Brother Langdale. I made a Viset to my Lady Elizabeth Eyre[22] and to Mrs Fleetwood Butler, I was in the Coffy Hous with my Cozen Eyre, two of his Sons, Mr Thomas Standley &c:. I came part of the way with John Heys the Atturney & so came home.[23]

3 Mr Aldred prayed & preched here a Passion Sermon, he came hither after & I went back with him to his Hous and I discoursed Ned Howerd about inlarging the Chappell & promised him somthing towards it. Eves Lodged here.

4 I Finished my Lenton Seeding. I Sowed some nb[24] seed or Bastard-Bale in the Stock Roots, it came to no perfecsion.

5 I broke Lent with Black-Pudings as were made before Christmas. Peggy Jackson Lodged here.

6 I told Thomas Blansherd I had a place for his Son Edward at Mrs Bagnolds but it was not accepted on by them. Mr Aldred, Ned Howerd & Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here, when dinner was done William Atherton, Joseph

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[20] Cockerham.

[21] This was probably his way of spelling *Nisi Prius*—the trial or hearing of civil causes by the judges of assize; hence Nisi prius Court.

[22] Lady Elizabeth Plunkett married Rowland, son of Thomas Eyre, of Hassop, Derbyshire, in 1683. Sometime after 1705 Rowland (who Blundell often called Cozen Eyre) and his wife settled in Preston. He was a member of the Mock Corporation of Walton-le-Dale, a gentlemen's Club of Tory, and reputedly Jacobite, leanings.

[23] "Spent in my Journey from hom to Lancaster and back again in ordinary &

Extraordinary for my self, being five dayes	8s. 7d.
Ditto for my Servant & one Witness	12s. 4½d.
For three Horses four Nights & some Oats	9s. 1d.
Fees at Lancaster to Lawyers & their Clarks	£3 18s. 9d.
Vales at Lancaster where I Lodged	1s. 6d."

[24] See Vol., 1, p. 298, 21 Aug. 1711, where Blundell calls it a weed or Bastard Flax, and refers to it as "Bail or nb".

Bolton & Henry Heys came and also Mr Simpson. We had a great Cocking at Mrs Ann Rothwells they played Battle Victory, I had two Cocks in the Battle and one of them got two Battles, there were nine Battles played this after-noone. Captain Robert Fazakerley and William Atherton &c: Lodged here. Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here, but I came not to them from the Cocking.

7 I stated Accounts with William Atherton & he paid what was due to me till Candlemass last, part of his Rent he payed me yester-night. Eves & Peggy Jackson went hence, I sent them on Horsback to Leverpoole. Captain Robert Fazakerley, William Atherton, &c: went hence. Toping the Pariter[25] was here abeging Corne, I gave him some.

8 I went to the Farther Wheat-hey to see how my heavy Oak Rowler did, it being the first time it was uesed to Rowl with, thence I went to my Digers for Potatows in the Cowhey.

9 My Wife kept her Bead till after Noone being much out of order, she had this Morning & in the Night a most sevear fit of the Gravell & Vomiting. I began to take William Ainsworths Accounts but did not finish them because Mr Turvill was here, he came to see my Wife & to Acquaint us that he, Mrs Blundell & two of her Doughters are soone for going towards London. Mr Glegg lodged here, he came to see if I could help Sir Rowland Standley to some Pike Tray.

10 My Wife & Mally went to Ince to take leave of Mrs Blundell & her Doughters, I went after them, they came home, but I stay'd & signed the Artickleys concerning the Water-courses, and Mrs Blundell, Richard Tickley and Edmund Tristram signed them to me in presence of Mr Crisp and Mr Shepheard.

11 I went to Leverpoole & shewed the Signed Artickleys between Ince & me to Mr Plumb, I gave his Clark Ralph Marser a pair of Gloves & half a Crown. I sold some burn'd Silver to Mr Branker. I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr T. Ford, Edmund Tristram, &c:. Catty Howerd came again to be Cook here and Nanny Blundell went into the Dary & Chambers.

12 I Payed the Window Tax for one half year to William Gray.

13 I Payed one Quarters Land Tax to Charles Howerd, I lent him my Teame to lead Brick with for his New Building. Mrs Hesketh of Rufford sent an Express to my Wife to borrow a Man & Horse to goe with her to Chester tomorrow. I finished my Accounts of Receipts & disbursments with William Ainsworth which we began on, upon the 9th instant, I took his Accounts of Corn got by the Mill, uesed in the House &c:.

14 I took some young Pigeons for Roger Cook of Ormskirk, he was here for them. I made up severall Pair of Neck-Lases for my Children. I Booked my Receipts for December, January, February & March. I was at Charles Howerds Rearing, there was Walter Thelwall, Richard Whithead, John Molineux, &c:.

15 I booked my Disbursments for January & February. I gave Ned Howerd £3 towards inlarging his Chappell. William Ainsworth went to Leverpoole with Bess & got her Coverd twice by Thomas Bigerstaffs Bay.

16 Richard Jackson declaired to me he made choyce of his Grandson Richard Jacksons Life to be aded to his Leas. William Ainsworth went to Leverpoole with Brock & got her coverd by Thomas Bigarstaffs larg Bay Stallion. I shewed

[25] Apparitor or summoning officer of an ecclesiastical court.

Thomas Kerfoot where he should delve Turves in Thomas Blundells High-field-Hey, I made Thomas Kerfoot open a Pump at the end of Blansherds Lain. Mall Puss had 7 Citlings, it was her first Litter. John Banister came home he had ben at Chester with Mrs Hesketh of Rufford, he brought me from Leverpoole some Eye-water from Doctor Cawood to sell for him.

17 I gave John Farer an old Hors-Hair-Wigg. William Ainsworth helped me to mesure the Slip, Snigg, and Knowland, we mesured them two differrent ways to see what quantity of Ground each was.

18 I went on purpose to Leverpoole to receive some Money of Joseph Bolton but he did not meet me, I drunk at the Wool-pack with the two Mr Fords, Mr Ireland, &c: and with Mr Plumb, and with James Houghton, I bought six plate Buttons of Mrs Shields for my Frock. I planted part of the Terras Walk with Harty-Choks. William Thelwall brought me a Long Ash-Tree for which I am to give Ned Howerd an Oak beame for his new Building.

19 I Read in a Spirituall book. Nanny Scarisbrick was here.

20 Fanny took phisick. Yester Night & this Morning I took a dose of Pills. Ned Howerd dined with me in my Roome. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

21 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. I cast up to see what quantity of Ground the Knowland was I having lately mesured it with the Cheane.

22 I cast up to see what quantity of Ground the Snig & the Slip were, I having lately mesured them with the Cheane. I sent John Banister & Nanny Blundell to great Crosby to buy Pann-Muggs &c:.

23 There was a poore Woman here that sang and played the Beasts to it with her Fingers upon the Table, she is the first I have seen doe so. William Gray payed me £3 in part of his Fine. My Wife went to Leverpoole and bought a Coat for Fanny, Ned Howerd went with her, tis the first time he has gon abroad with her. I sent William Ainsworth to the Buriall of Richard Rose.

24 William Ainsworth helped me to mesure 5 of the Fields which are taken out of the Winter Heys viz: the Gate Hey, Flay-Land, Cole Croft, Fleam Hey and Winter-Hey, whilst we were there the Push plowers came to us, I came home with them and paid them they having finished Pushing the Nearer North-Hey.[26] Mr Smith of Sefton was here, his Landlord Captain Croston came with him.

25 I sowed 4 Quarts of Bale Flax seed in the Stock Roots. I cast up to see what quantity of Ground those 5 Fields were as William Ainsworth helped me to measure yesterday.

26 My Wife & I went to see Dr Lathom. The Crossions went to Great Crosby and the Antecrossions played at the Cross in the Townfield after Supper.

27 Henry Ascroft began to delve Turves in Thomas Marrows Moss. Though I had tryed some dayes since to burn the Cole-Croft, yet this is the first day I began in good earnest this year to burn it, I had six hands & was with them most of the day. My Wife had two small Peeces of Searge brought home from Leverpoole by one that dyed them for her, they were of our own spinning of Gersey.[27]

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[26] "24 Aprill 1713—Push ploughing for 46 dayes
in the Nearer North hey at 16s. per Aicker & Meat . . . . . £3 2s. 0d."

[27] "Weaving Stuff of our own Spinning at 4d. per yard . . . . . 10s. 0d.
Dying & Pressing 3 yards of Stuff & Serge . . . . . 8s. 6d."

28 My Wife took Phisick. Yester night and this morning my Children took Phisick for the Wormes. I was with my Burners in the Cole-Croft both before and after dinner. Dr William Lancaster was here but I was not in the Hous so I saw him not.

29 I walked in the fore Noone to my Burners in the Cole-Croft, after dinner I rid to them and thence to Margery Blundells and had some talk with her about seting her part of the Teneament, thence I went to Ann Blundell and looked at her Meadows to see how they should be fenced, thence to Thomas Meadows in Ince.

30 I made William Blundell take a Rubing Stub to the Great Brandiearth and some Grained Stubs and Rails to Thomas Marrows Moss, I went along with him and orderd where they were to be set. Richard Cartwrite let my Wife Blood. Parson Wairing was here, he paid me for Stones. William Ainsworth went home to his Wives, he bought me ten Beasts at Ormskirk and sent 9 of them home by William Weedow. My two Teames and four others led some Slates for Ned Howerd for the enlarging of his House.

This Month was generally faire, yet now and then some small showers and some Snow, the first half of it was very cold and the other part was not warme, scarce above two dayes this Month as could be called warme, a very backward season and the end of this Month great want of Raine.

MAY

1 My Wife and Margarit Davy dined at Nanny Scarisbricks, thence my Wife walked to the Hall of Scarisbrick of a Viset. Mr Owen of Leverpoole, his Wife and Sister Mary dined here. I went to Great Crosby Court which was kept by Mr Green. Thomas Syer, Thomas Gore, &c: were of the Jury, Parson Wairing, &c: was there; John Jackson the Writing-master past a Surrender to Marmaduke Maltus; Thomas Moss the Bayly of Farnworth was at the Court hous, I gave him one Shilling.

2 I began to sow that part of the Cole-Croft with Barley as was burned this year, I was there a good part of the after noon & gave directions to Robert Tompson to sow four sourts of Grass Seeds, none of them did very well, the Clover and Rye Grass did the best. I lent William Blundell my Cart to carry 12½ Busshells of Potatows to Leverpoole Market being part of what he had bought of me.

3 My Wife was going of a Viset to Widdow Rose but I sent for her back to Pat: Gorsuch who was comne to lodg here.

4 John Banister took Bess and Ginny to Leverpoole and got them cover'd by Thomas Bigarstaffs Larg Bay. Ned Howerd began to build a Chamber for himself.

5 Ginny was cover'd at Leverpoole by Thomas Bigarstaffs large Bay. I met the Corps of my Lady Molineux at Ormskirk and attended it to the Funerall at Sefton, there was Sir William Gerard, Mr Standish, Mr Roger Diconson, &c: when the Buriall was over I went into the Ail hous at Sefton with Doctor Lancaster to take a Glass. William Ainsworth came home from his Wives.

6 I tryed a day or two since to see how the Nearer North hey would bourn, but today I began to burn it in good earnest with 19 hands before dinner and three more after dinner, I was with them a good part of the day. Mr Gleg came hither before dinner he Lodged here and shewed me how to order his Twig-Pick or Munkey to katch Fish with, I went after Supper with him to the Cross-field pit, we layed it in. Pat: James Gorsuch went hence. We washed above 60 Sheep as I kept to score for Ned Rycroft. An Express brought me some Letters from Leverpoole as came from my Brother Joseph & my Sisters.

7 I killed a Large Hogg. I finnished Burning the Nearer North hey excepting some Sods as were left on Purpose, I payed off severall of my Burners.

8 My Teame carried a Load of goods for Henry Swift into the More-houses he being to remove thither out of this end of the Town.[28] I put 15 Beasts into the Clover in the Farthest North Hey they had all or most of them ben there before, now and then, but they are now designed to continew there to be fed.

9 Mr Gleg went hence. Robert Tompson fetched home a Killfull of Malt from Mr Smith as he has made for me, I helped to mesure it to see what out cast there was. My Hair of my head was cut off. I Rowled about one third part of the Clover in the Farthest North-hey, I think it did it neather good nor hurt.

10 Mr Aldred prayed here because the additionall part of his Chappell is not finished, he, Ned Howerd, and Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here.

11 I Led Muck with 4 Boone Carts & three of my own to the Cross Field, I had 5 Fillers most of the day. I went in the Morning with Landers to Flay-Land[29] and gave him directions how to begin to get Fleas in it, after dinner he and his two Sons began to get Fleas and I helped him to mark out the Roods. My Wife took a Dose of Pills from Dr Lancaster. I began to Shear the Sheep as I take to Score for Ned Rycroft. John Banister began to take young Moles this year; before dinner he took 8 young ones and one old one, and found 15 young ones dead in their Nests, 'tis now rather with the latest by 3 days.

12 William Ainsworth went with me to Fley-land where we set out some Roods of Fleys as I design to sell and the buyers are to dig them.

13 I Booked my Disbursments for March. I cut a good many Breads for the Alter.

14 Mr Aldred prayed and dined here. Mr Wilding dined here. My Wife and Children made a Viset to Widdow Rose.

15 I Booked my Disbursments for Aprill. Richard Heaton the Wheel Right came and cross-cut some Ashwood for me tis the first time he has worked for me, I designe him to be my work-man. William Ainsworth set out some Turves at Thomas Marrows Moss 'tis the firsts dayes Sale of Turves this year. I went to Flayland where Landers & his two Sons were delving Fleas for me, thence I went to Richard Tickleys and got 40s. of him for the Nunns at Gravling, thence I went to Alt-bridge and saw the Men at Work as were clensing the River, there was I think 25 besides Lightbown to overlook them, thence I went to the High-Town so to the Coppy and then home.

16 I began to lay sods upon the Heaps of Ashes where Fyers had ben in the Nearer North-hey. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went to Leverpoole, Eves came back with her to Lodg here. Thomas Bigerstaff sent his Stalion to be kept here by William Ainsworth.

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[28] See February 25 1713 and Appendices A and C.

[29] Flea-land. See Vol. 1, p. 217, n. 30.

17 Eves went hence, I sent her part of the way on Horsback towards Leverpoole. Thomas Bradley was here and desired as from my Lord Molineux that I would prevale with my Tenants whose land lay under the Levell to help to Scour Alt.

18 Bess was cover'd by Thomas Bigarstaffs Bay as is here with William Ainsworth. Anne Jackson payed me part of her Fine for ading a third Life to her Teneament. I was at Sefton Ailhous[30] at a Parish meeting concerning repairing the Steeple, there was Mr Williamson of Litherland, Mr Parr, Mr Shepheard, Edmund Trustram, Thomas Syer, &c:. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

19 Pat: Gelibrond and Mr Aldred went to the New-hous to meet their Superior, Mr Babthrop. I sent William Ainsworth to Ditton to see if he could get eather Money or Goods of Joseph Bolton. Mr Tuts Servant brought a Gelding to be scored with me, I took him at 02s-06d. per Week. Mr Smith was here and I paid him for making Malt for me and for duty for it and he paid me some Money I had lent him. Catty Howerd and Nanny Blundell should have set up in the night with their Sweet-hearts but they were discover'd and prevented.[31] My Lord Molineux his Waranders took five young Foxes in the Warand. I Finished Barly Seeding this year in the Cross Field.

20 John Blundell came and chaptered his Doughter Nanny for her last nights Project. Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Ned Hawkesey began to dress Stones for my New Smithye. Mr Clenton who has a Mare scored with me was here, there was an other Gentle-man with him, I gave them a Drink.

21 I took a Dose of Phisick, twas part of what was orderd by Doctor Lancaster for my Wife.

22 Parson Wairing & Mr Peter Morton called here as they were going to Ince Green, I went along with them and bowl'd there with Parson Letus, Parson Wairing, Parson Darbyshire, Young Mr Butler of Radcliffe, &c:. Eves Lodged here.

23 I sold Eves six Bottles of Dr Cawoods Eye-water and made them up for her, she went hence to Preston, I lent her a Hors. I went to Leverpoole and payed Mrs Edwardson what I owe her for making Malt and for Duty of it, I payed Mrs Leadbeter in part of what I owe her. Mr Clenton gave me a pint of Wine at the Talbot, Mr Pont was with us. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Dr Tarlton, with Walter Thelwall and James Gregson, and with Mr Alanson. Catty Howerd went to lodg at Mosburgh.[32]

24 I writ Letters a good part of the after-noone as I intend to send to my Sisters, &c: by Nath: Howerd. I sent Cozen Nanny Gorsuch home to stay for a Few nights. My Wife bought me Black Scarf. At night I took four Rats at once in my Cowfer Trap.

25 James Addison gelded my Colt Ginson. I sent Mr Clentons Mair to Leverpoole as had been Scored some Weeks with me. Nat: Howerd began his Journey towards Madam Bagnolds,[33] he came hither to take leave and to receive

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[30] This inn stood within the wall of Sefton churchyard. Parish meetings were usually held there.

[31] Catherine Howerd, the cook, and Ann Blundell, the dairy maid and chamber maid.

[32] Mossborough, about 8 or 9 miles away. Quarter's Wages List of June 21 1713—"Catty Howerd, Cook, she stayed till after this Quarter day & I paid her . . . . . 13s. 0d."

[33] Rev. Mother Catherine Dominic Bagnall, 7th. abbess of the Poor Clares, Gravelines, Flanders, (1705–1736).

my Letters. I made a Viset to Parson Wairing, there was his Uncle Henry Wairing, Parson Letus, Parson Walsh, Thomas Syer of the Ford, &c: towards evening some of us went to Nicholas Johnsons viz: Parson Wairing, Mr Henry Wairing, Pat: Wofold, I, Thomas Syer of the Ford & Pat. Burton.

26 My Wife and Children went out to take the Air in the Coach. Catty Howerd came home from Mosburg.

27 Ned Rycroft sent to fetch his Sheep hence as had ben scored with me. Ned Hawkseye & John Mason came to set two Leads or Boylers better but they did not finish them. Mr Scarisbrick dined here, I stated Accounts with him between my Aunt Frances and me and payed him one years Interest. Parson Wairing & his Wife made a Viset here, tis the first time she has ben here since she was Married. Mr Shepheard was here.

28 Parson Wairing called here as he went to Ince Green, I went along with him thither and Bowled there with him, Parson Letus, &c:, Parson Darbyshire, Mr Formby, &c: was there.[34]

29 John Banister took up the Tulop Roots in the Knot and in some other plases and I was busy most of the after noone dressing them. Eves came back from Preston, she lodged here.

30 I helped John Banister to set above 400 Chives of Tulops in the Nursery, they were taken from Tulop Roots. William Ainsworth went home towards his Wives, William Atherton was to meet him on the Road.

31 Henry Sefton and Ned Blansherd of Lady-Green were here. My Wife and the Children went out in the Coach to take the Aire, they took Eves with them part of the way to Leverpoole, she went hence.

The Begining of this Month was very fair and we were apprehendsive of want of Rain but we had every now and then till the end very agreeable and seasonable Showers which would have ben of great advantage both to Corn and Grass had not there bene very Cold winds, and endeed there were very few warme dayes this Month.

JUNE

1 I sent Henry Kerfoot to Hooton to see my Cozen Standley who was lying in of her Son Henry and to see my Uncle Lawrence Eyre[35] who is not well there. Mr Gorsuch brought his Doughter Nanny back hither, he dined here, and so did Mr Maynard. Henry Dauber & his Man came to put up an other Lyer and a set of new Coggs and Rongs. Young Robert Bootle & Umphrey Coppold was here, I gave them a Drink and sold them some Paving Stones.

2 I went to the Morehouses and spoke to William Wignold, Thomas Blansherd, &c: to know whether they would pay towards scouring Alt, thence I went to Altcar to acquaint Mr Nicholas Fazakerley what answer they had made

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[34] "22 May 1713—Lost at Ince Bowling Green . . . . . 4s. 0d.
28 May 1713—Spent at Ince Bowling Green . . . . . 11d."

[35] Sixth son of Rowland Eyre, of Hassop, Derbyshire, and brother of Mary, mother of the Diarist.

me, but Mr Fazakerley was not there with the Work Folks as I Remember, then I came home thorrow Scaffold Lain, Ince Towne was mending it with above 20 Carts as they told me.

3 Parson Letus & Parson Wairing called here as they were going to Ince Greene, I went with them and bowled with them, Mr Burton, Edmund Tristram, &c:. Parson Wairing & I came home together as far as oure way lay.

4 I sent William Ainsworth to the Stone delf with some of Ince Town, he sold them some Stones for their Highwayes. I stated Accounts with Henry Ascroft, William Blundell, & Weedow for Delving & Wheeling Turves.

5 Though there had ben some Fyers in the Middle-North Hey before, yet I onely began now in good earnest to burn it, I was with my Burners in the North-Hey most of the day, whilst I was there in the afternoone William Harrison the Clark of Sefton came to me, I paid him my Easter dues & Clarks wages. I fixed a Gate near the Cole-Croft into the Winterhey. William Ainsworth took a Bull of mine with him to the Hall of Eckleston as he had sold to the Steward Mr Waterworth. The Millwrits put me up an other Lyer.

6 I went betimes in the Morning to my Burners in the Middle-north Hey & sent them off because I thought the Smoke was so great they could not work. Mr Crisp was here and spoke to me about my Tenants paying to the Scouring of Alt. I went to Leverpoole and order'd Mr Ford to Arest William Davy for Money owing me but afterwards I prevented it, I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Ford the Atturney & Ford the Puterar. Thomas Riding dyed sodenly at Leverpoole.

7 My Wife went to Ormskirk & advised with Dr Lancaster about some breakings out, she called at the Peel and shewed Mrs Bootle a Soar Place in her Legg.

8 I was in the Morning with my Burners in the Midle-North-hey thence I went to Thomas Blundells High-Field-Hey where they began today to delve Turves for my own use, 'twas the first pit I made in that Field, coming home I called at Thomas Ridings & prayed there, he being to be buried today. I was with my Burners a good part of the after-noone in the North-Hey. I began to get home my Provision of Coles with my own two Teames.[36]

9 I was with my Burners a good while both before & after dinner. I Fetched home four Pigs as William Ainsworth bought. I designe to keep them, they are about seaven Weeks old. William Ainsworth bought me some Timber at the Hall of Martine. John Hunt brought me two yearling Bullocks as William Ainsworth had bought of him.

10 I went to the Moorhous-Moss & shew'd William Tompson how far he should delve his Pit, he being now almost at the end of the Moss in that Place. Mr Smith of Croston Lodged here.

11 I Stated Accounts with John Tickley for Cartwheels &c: bought of him & for Rent &c: due to me. Walter Thelwall paid me some Rack Rent.

12 Mr Smith of Croston went hence. Dr Lancaster was here. After dinner I went to the Morehous-Moss but John Sumner was gon off, I went to Thomas Blundells Highfield-Hey, Thomas Kerfoot was there, but not then

[36] "Coles 128 Baskets . . . . . £1 0s. 7d."

diging Turves, I gave him orders where to digg Sail Turves.[37] I took a Drought of Sack & Oyle but found no great good by it. I made William Davy pay to William Ainsworth what he ought him.

13 I went to Leverpoole with my Wife, she shewed her Legg to Mrs Maginis, she bought a Black Callemanco Petty Coat of Mr Hurst.[38] I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Langley, Mr Ford the Atturney, &c:.

14 Young Robert Bootles Wife and her Sister Made a Viset here, they suped here. John Banister helped a Cow of mine to bring forth her Calf. I sent to see Mrs Scarisbrick who was lying in of a Son. Darby Wife gave me a Cock.

15 Mrs Bootle of the Peele sent to invite my Wife to dine with her at the Peele. Mr Trafford of Croston & his Son John dined here, they went with us to a Hors Rase as was on Great Crosby Marsh, there was there Mr Langley, Mr Ford the Putarar, Mr Simpson, &c:. When the Rase was over Mr Trafford & his Son came home with us and stayed here a while, the Mistake of a Guiney given to my Servant. Young Mr Barrows the Appothecary & an other came hither in the Evening & took a Glass of Aile at the Gates on Horsback. I had a Small Swarme of Bees, tis the first of mine as swarmed this year.

16 I drew up some Reasons in Writing why my Tenants of the Morehouses ought not to pay towards Scouring of Alt according as the Ley is now layed for it.

17 My two Teames and eleven others Led Coles for the Smith of this Town. In the after noone I set a few hands to burne some of the Sods in the Midle-North Hey, I was with my Burners. I began to Weed my Flax.

18 Mrs Meginnis came to Look at my Wives Legg, she dined here, we brought her forwards & backwards to Leverpoole. I got home the last of my Provision of Cole as I suppose I shall have Occation for.

19 It being a Fine Wind, in the afternoone I set 13 hands to burn the Remainder of the Sods in the Midle-North-hey, I was with them part of the while, that Burning is now much what Finished for this bout. I went in the Evening with Robert Tompson to the Winterheys & ordered him where he should lead Feigh from, to fill up some old ditches with.[39]

20 John Banister & Katty Howerd began their Journey towards Holy Well.

21 Thomas Browns Wife came hither to see me, I shewed her the Hous & Gardens. My Wife sent to see Mrs Scarisbrick who was Lying in. I went with Margarit Darby to Flay-Land and ordered her to dress some Flays there for my own use. I payed Richard Whithead four Church Leys. My Wife had a most sevear Night of the Gravell, I called Mr Aldred to her after Midnight.

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[37] Turves for sale.

[38] "Calemanco Pettycoat out Side and Bordering, &c: for my Wife . . . 19s. 6d."

[39]

	£	s.	d.
"Feying, Delving & Wheeling and dressing my own Turves	6	6	3
Feying, Delving & Wheeling Turves for Saile in Petchers Field & Marrows Moss	6	5	5½
Burning part of the Cole Croft		12	6
Burning the Nearer North hey	1	5	9
Burning the Middle North hey	1	18	3
Footing & Winrowing Fleas at 1½d. per Rood		2	9
Ditching at 4d. per Rood		9	0"

22 I sent William Ainsworth about three in the Morning to Wigan to fetch Dr Thomas Worthington to my Wife, the Doctor came back with him before we had dined. Mr Burton, Maynard, and Busby made a Viset here, Sir William Gerards Son John came hither with Mr Busby.

23 John Tyrer came in the Morning to let me know that Dr Lathom was dead, I being one of his Executors went with my Partner John Tyrer to Dr Lathoms where we considered how to order the Funerall, coming home I called of Parson Letus & told him somthing would be given upon Account of Dr Lathom to the Parish Stock for the Poore.[40] Richard Cartwrit came to let my Wife blood, but he could not bleed her. I brought home some Timber as was bought at the Hall of Martine. Mrs Molineux of the Grange and Pat: Wofold made a Viset here. John Banister & Catty Howerd came home from Holywell.

24 I being one of Dr Lathoms Executors I went to his Hous to order his Buriall, he was caried on my Coach Carriage to Walton Church, there was at his Buriall John Tyrer, Mr Bower and his Wife, Mr Crisp, &c:, there was at the Hous Mr Shaw of Ormskirk, John Crew, &c:. I had a Box came home from London with a Petty-coat in for my Wife & some Cloths for Mally and some Coffy. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here.

25 Pat: Buno Anderton made a Viset here in the Morning but stayed not, I went with him to Mr Aldreds. My Wife took a Purge from Betty Bolton. I mowed the New Orcherd. Mr Scarisbrick came to see my Wife so did Ailes Tickley and her Doughter Betty Blundell. My two Teames & eight others Led Slates for William Thelwall.

26 Madam Molineux of Wooton sent to let my Wife know she would dine here on Munday. I writ severall Letters.

27 I went to Leverpoole and ordered Mr Ford to prosecute Henry Hunt upon Account of Money owing by him to me, I came home part of the Way with Antony Fleetwood and old Robert Bootle. I got home the first of my Slates for the Smithy viz: two Load.

28 Mary Place came to see my Wife, her Husband came with her, they came when we had almost don Dinner. Mrs Hesketh of Rufford and Mrs Tute made a Viset here. I had a second Swarme of Bees this Season. Fanny Lodged at Ann Cassetyes in Formby, tomorrow being Formby Fair.

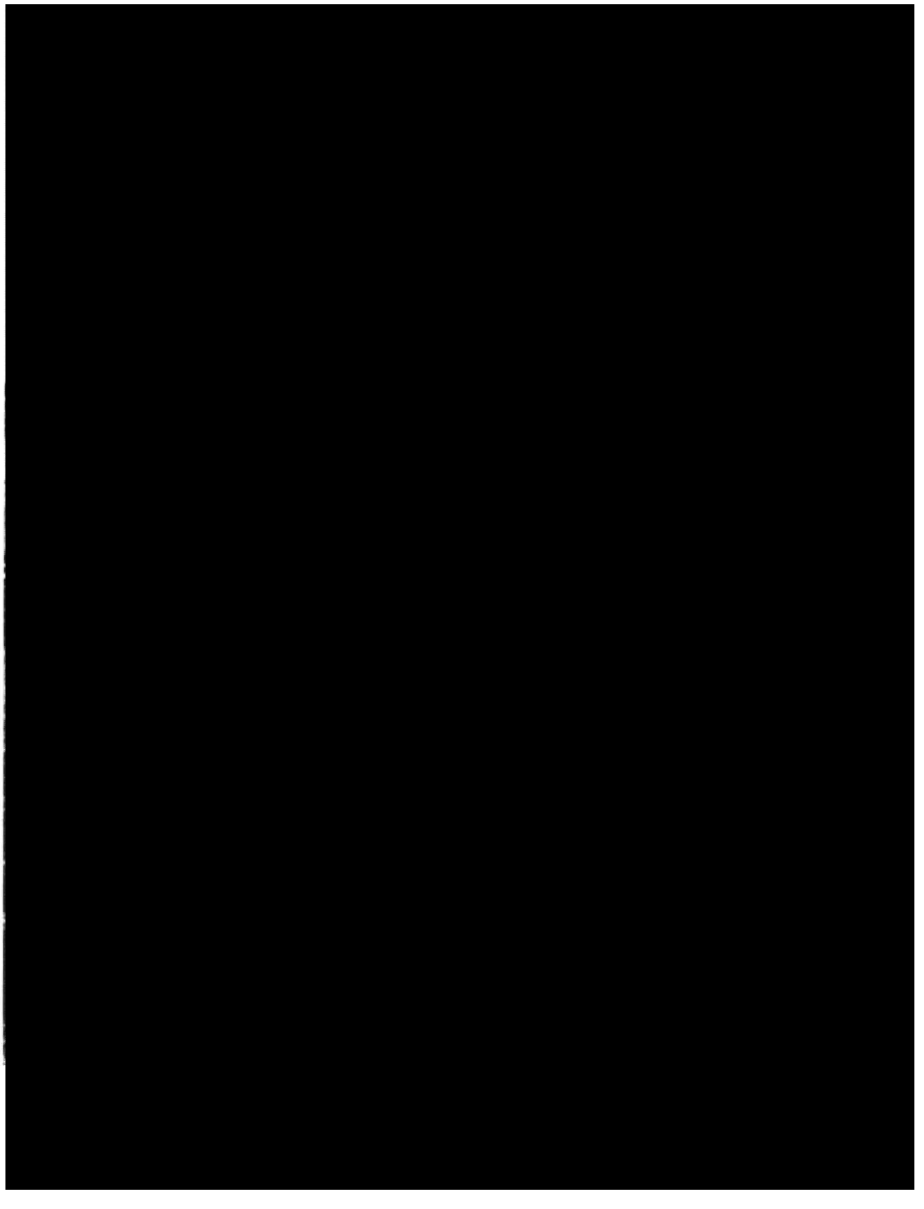
29 I went very early in the Morning to look for Foxes in Great Crosby Warand, we thought we found the Pricks of two but we saw not one Fox, Thomas Syer, William Tarlton, Mr Taylor of Ormskirk Watchmaker &c: was with us. Mrs Molineux of Wooton, her Doughter Mary & her Sister-in-Law Mrs Mary Molineux dined here, when they were gon my Wife went in the Coach to Leverpoole to shew Mrs Maginis her Leg, I, &c: went with her.

30 Old Mr Walmesley late of Showley came betimes in the Morning hither but stayed not. It being the Aniversary day at Jane Bryansons My Wife and I went thither to prayers, we heard three and a peece, we dined there with Richard Tickley and his Wife, Mrs Molineux of the Grange, Pat: Wofold &c:, Some of the Company went but Pat: Wofold, Mr Tasburgh and I Stayed to drink a Bowl of Punsh. My Wife left me there and ere we parted Mr Maynard

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[40] The following entry appears on a list of benefactors made by Nicholas when he was churchwarden. It still (1969) hangs in Sefton Church.

"1714—Mr. Richard Latham of Aintry, Left . . . . . £3 0s. 0d."





came to us. I payed Thomas Whawley for making a Coat for Fanny,[41] he brought it hither yester night but we were not at home when he came.

Till the 15th very seasonable Weather being now and then some Little Rain, from the 15th till the 24th were generally hot dayes with now and then a very agreeable Shower of Raine, from the 24th till the end every day some Raine and some times pritty much.

JULY

1 Parson Wairing called here in the Morning as he was going home from the New-house where he lodged the last Night, he got his Breakfast with me. I went to Ormskirk to Doctor Lancasters, there was Mr Scarisbrick, Mr Peter Ashton, Mr Woodrove, Mr Harding of Sutton &c:, The Doctor treated us with a Bowl of Punsh.

2 I took up some Roots of Renunculas out of the Knot as did not flower this year. Mrs Dorothy Webster was here, I gave her a Busshell of Corne.

3 Mr Ford the Atturney was at Mr Aldreds before dinner whilst I was there. I met John Tyrer at Mrs Smiths, we looked over Dr Lathoms Personall Estate & sold his Mare to Darby Mackdaniell.

4 Robert Bootle and Umphrey Coppold paid me for some Paving Stones, they Smoked their pips with me. I got in some Hay out of the New-Orcherd. Mrs Molineux of the Grange Lodged here, she came to goe tomorrow with my Wife to Scarisbrick, I cleer'd off all Accounts between my Miller and me Except what I owe him for Wages.

5 My Wife, Mrs Molineux of the Grange, Fanny and I went in the Coach to Scarisbrick, tis the first time Fanny has ben there, we found Mr Barlowes Son of Barlow there, he went thence before dinner, we dined there, Mrs Scarisbrick was Lying Inn of her Son Thomas, Mrs Wofold came to see her. Mr John Blundells Widdow lodged there. Coming home we cracked the Coach Pole. Mrs Molineux of the Grange went hence.

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[41] "June 1713

	£	s.	d.
Shoes & Clogs for my Wife		16	8
Holland &c: for my Wife		15	8
Stockings & Gloves for my Children		3	4
Shades, Pins, &c: for my Children		4	1½
Shoes for my Children		12	7
Bone, Buckrom, Canvis &c: for Fanny's Coat		9	0
Thomas Whawley for making Fanny's Coat		5	0
Stuff for Fannys Petty Coat		2	3
Coffy at 6s. per Pound	1	16	0
July 1713			
Black Bodesway at 11s. 6d. per Yard for a Pettycoat for my Wife	5	3	6
Bordering &c: for the Pettycoat		7	1½
Making my Wives Pettycoat		6	0
Silk for Mallys Pettycoat & Lining her Mantew	1	15	5
Bordering &c: for Mallys Pettycoat		3	9
Making Mallys Mantew & Petticoat		7	0
Box & Pourterage		2	0
Carriage of my Wives & Mallys Cloths from London		2	6"

All this buying and making of clothes was in preparation for the visit to be made to Thomas Gillibrand's at Chorley by the whole family, 18–23 July.

6 My Wife sent William Ainsworth to Scarisbrick with a Childs Coat as I light on at Leverpoole. Captain Robert Fazakerley suped here as he was going from Leverpoole to Lodge at the New-hous.

7 My Wife went to Leverpoole to shew her Leg to Mrs Maginnis. I stated Accounts with William Ainsworth for his Receipts and Disbursments. I went with Ned Hawksey &c: to Formospoole-Gutter where we met Richard Cartwrit &c: and Considered about making a Plat or Bridge over it.

8 John Tyrer & I went to Mrs Smiths when Mr Bower & William Abby praysed Dr Lathoms goods, we four dined together there; after Dinner we went to Ezabell Winstanley. As I was coming home I met Richard Tatlock, I turned back with him to Mrs Smiths & sold him some of Dr Lathoms Chirurgicall Instruments. William Ainsworth went to carry his Mother-in-law from Scarisbrick. I got home the last of my Timber from Martine, but the day being extreamly wet they came not home till after tenn of the Clock at Night.

9 Mr Tasburgh, Burton & Novell suped here, I sold Mr Novell my Base Violl. Henry Hunt was here about some Money he ows me for Rack Rent, he promised to pay me in a Short time.

10 I helped Mr Aldred to regulate Blandicke Accounts.[42] Thomas Marrow sewed up the Base Viall in a Course Canvice Cloath.

11 I went to Leverpoole & order'd Mr Plumb to keep my Court next Fryday. Mrs Bower and I went with Betty Lathom to Mrs Maginnis we discoursed her about teaching Betty Lathom to sew &c:. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Parson Walsh, Parson Wairing, the two Mr Fords, &c:, I drunk at the Talbot with Edmund Tristrom, Mr Rigmaden and some of Ince Town.

12 I Lodged at Ditton at the Bank at William Athertons, Fanny rid behind me, twas the first time she ever rid doble neare so far, we called at the Woolpack in Leverpoole and stayed a while.

13 Henry Heys went with me to Mr Writs of Cranton, I discoursed him about seeking Coles in Ditton. We came home by Croxtath and called at John Tyrers but did not light. William Weedow had a Reering of one bay of Shipponing all or most of my Servants were at it pritty late.

14 John Leigh brought me some very good Burch Beesoms. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here. My Hive of Bees as I had in the Kitchen Garden swarmed & went to the end of the Garner.

15 I was at a Sale of goods at Mrs Smiths, I sold some things & bought others. I dined there with John Tyrer, Mr Bower & William Abby.

16 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Walter Thelwall and I marked out a New Jury.[43] Mrs Betty Evans lodged here.

17 Mr Plumb kept my Court at William Davys before dinner, he dined here, after dinner he went to Mr Aldreds, he took his Black Horse home with him as had gon a good while in my Pasture & left his Whit-Horse with me. When Mr Plumb was gon I went to John Farers and drunk there with Richard Whithead, Walter Thelwall, &c:. We adjusted the Difference between George Cottom and John Tickley about a Tup. Thomas Blundell bought two Lanses of John Molineux.

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[42] Possibly this means they were checking on the money which they had been given to send to the English Jesuit College at St. Omer.

[43] Chose the men who were to serve on the jury at the manor court.

18 George Cottom weighed a Tup here as he had sold by weight to John Tickley, he was in rigour I think above six Score Pound but extraordinary wight being allowed he past for onely 118½ lb. Oliver Brownbill was here & bought some Oats of William Ainsworth, all as he thought I could spare. My Wife, I, & the Children lodged at my Cozen Thomas Gelibronds of Chorley.

19 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, his Father & I went to Chorley to Cowlings, I drunk there with Mr Charles Townley & Mr Charles Chorley; Cozen John Gelibrond & Mr Chorley met there upon the Townes Business.[44]

20 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, I & oure Wives went to Preston, my Wife, I and Cozen Gelibronds Wife dined with my Lady Elizabeth Eyre, after dinner I went to the Bowling Green at the Signe of the Whit-Hors, there was my Cozen Eyre, Mr Cicill, &c:, I drunk at the whit Bull with Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, Mr Thomas Singleton, Mr Edmund Ashton, &c:, I made a Viset to the two Mrs Blundells Ann & Bridget and to old Mrs Walmesley.

21 Cozen Gelibronds Wife and mine made a Viset to Mrs Howet in Chorley. There came a prodigious quanty of Fish to the top of the Water of the Carthous Pit, not only Flat Fish but eaven Pikes & Eles, a great many of them dyed & severall of them recovered; there were Eles taken out of about 2 lb. a peece & one Pick as weighed 12 lb. and was a yard long wanting one Insh, I was not then at home but this is the Account as was given me. I do believe the Water was poysoned, and the occasion of so many recovering as I do suppose was because there fell a fine shower of Raine while they were upon the top of the Wather which I think made them recover.

22 Cozen Gelibronds Wife & mine made a Viset to Mrs Brooks at Asley. Cozen John Gelibrond went to Ormskirk Sessions to prevent a Family being put upon Chorley to be kept, but could not effect it. We killed a very good Swine considering it was not Fed. Mrs Bradley and Betty Wastley played on the Virginells at my Cozen Gelibronds, and after Supper there came in some company to Dance.

23 My Wife, I, and my Children came home from Cozen Thomas Gelibronds,[45] we called at Ann Howerds in Coppold, Cozen Gelibrond went thither with us and brought us farther of our way.

24 They pulled my Whit Twin-Bullock out of a Mospit in the Winterheys and he was yesternight pulled out of an other Mosspit. Pat: Wofold made a Viset here. Ned Hawkseye and I drew out the Plat forme for my New Smithy. William Ainsworth sold ten of my Manks Bullocks at Leverpoole Fair.

25 My Wife and Mrs Betty Evans went to Leverpoole Fair, Eves came back with them & lodged here. Dr Lancaster came to see William Davy who is very ill, he dined here. I went to Ince Green with Mr Aldred; Mr Crisp, Walter Thelwall, &c: was there, I drunk in the Ailhous with Pothecary Barton of Ormskirk, Richard Tickley, Edmund Trustrom, &c:.

26 My Wife went to Ince to welcom Mrs Blundell home from London, but she was not at home.

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[44] Within three years of this visit Chorley died in a Liverpool prison where he had been placed on suspicion of taking part in the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. His father, Richard, was executed at Preston, February 9 1716, their estate was forfeited and sold to Abraham Crompton, a banker, of Derby, for £5,653 18s. 1d. Thomas Gillibrand, whom the family was visiting, was a Catholic lawyer living at Astley Hall, Chorley.

[45] "Toyes for Cozen Thomas Gelibronds Children . . . . . 1s. 0d.
Vales at Chorley when we lodged ther . . . . . 10s. 0d."

27 I went to Margery Shepheards & rectify'd some misunderstandings that were amongst them. I sent two Cart Load of Oats to Athertons Kill as Oliver Brownbill had bought of me.

28 I bought a small Load of Hay in the Town of William Gray, he helped me to get in some of my Hay.

29 My Children took Phisick for the Wormes.

30 William Ainsworth took Ten Manks Bullocks to Thomas Sterrop near Newton Town as he had sold to him not long since. Ned Hawksey &c: began to lay the Foundations of my New Smithy. Ned Hawkseye, John Mason and I went to my Stone Delf with William Tarlton, Richard Cartwrite, William Marser & others of this Town to consult about making a Plat over Formospoole Gutter. Mr Thwaits a Convert Parson Lodged here.

31 Mrs Hesketh of Rufford Lodged here. I set the Great Morehey for one year from Next Candle-Mass to William Whidby. William Ainsworth sent home 6 Cows as he had bought at Newton Fair.

I think not above 5 Fair dayes at the most this Month, it rained all the other dayes less or more and some dayes extreamly, which made a very bad Hay-Harvest and most of the Hay had ben spoiled but that about a dozen dayes towards the Middle of the next Month proved extraordinary Fine.

AUGUST

1 Mrs Betty Evans went hence to live in Leverpoole.

2 Robert Johnson paid me £10 in part of his Fine, Cozen John Gelibrond & his Brother lodged here.

3 I kept my Fathers Aniversary with five Sacerdotals viz: Pat: Wofold, Burton, Tasburgh, &c:.[46] Mrs Molineux of the Grange & Captain Robert Fazakerley dined & Suped here.

4 Cozen John Gelibrond went hence before dinner to Ince, he designed to lodg there, I made him a Present of a Kaine and a Handsom String for it. Pat: Gorsuch dined and Lodg'd here, he went with me to Ince Bowling Green, there was Mr Formby, Dr Smith, William Griffy, &c:.

5 Richard Sefton and Joseph Carter came to saw some Timber for my New-Smithy. I Stated Accounts with Ailes Steward for goods bought by her for me at Chester Fair and for things bought of her, we cleared off all Accounts as were between us. Mr William Holy-well dined here. Mrs Hesketh went hence with him to Leverpoole. Pat: Gelibrond went to Leverpoole. Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvill made a Viset here, 'twas the first since they came home from London. Cozen John Gelibrond came hither with them.

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[46] "2 Aug. 1713—My Fathers Aniversary . . . . . £1 0s. 0d."
Probably because of this gathering of friends Nicholas forgot to mention in his Diary a note of two events which he did, however, enter into his Disbursement Book on August 2:—
"Buttons, Silk, Shammy Skins, &c: for making up my first home made Sute of Clothes . . . . . 16s. 6d.
Paper book for a Diurnall . . . . . 4s. 10d."
His last book had been filled with entries up to December 1712. He was now ready to begin transferring the 1713 items from his small diurnalls.

6 Pat: Gelibrond came back hither from Leverpoole. I sold all my Fethers to Christopher Parker.

7 Pat: Gelibrond and I went to Mr Aldreds, we drunk with Ned Howerd in his Chamber. Mr Aldred and I layed a Wager about the Hight of Robert Tompson.

8 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. My Wife & I went to Leverpoole, I drunk at the Wool pack with the two Mr Fords. Catty Howerd left her Service.

9 John Banister lodged at his Fathers, he went thither to discource his Sister Ellen about her designed Marriage being her Sweetheart had ben here this Morning to acquaint John Banister with it.

10 I was at Charles Howerds where Mr Plumb kept my Court, Walter Thelwall, Edward Howerd, &c: were on the Jury, I drunk after the Court with Gabriall Norris, William Gray, &c: in the New-hous, and with Mr Shepheard, Edmund Tristram, &c: in the Old hous.

11 I Finished Mowing for Hay. I walked to the Winter Heys with my Gunn but I shot nothing.

12 I turned off some of my Hay-Makers having now little for them to doe. I tryed how the Sods would bourne in the Nearer-North-Hey that lay over the heaps of Ashes, but finding them both Rotton and very wet I will not burn them.

13 Mr Scarisbrick, his Lady, Mother, Brother Thomas, &c: dined here. Mary Hoome came to be Cooke here.

14 Mr Tute sent a Horse to be Scored here. I finished Hay-Harvest which has ben most extreamly wet hitherto excepting these five last dayes. I began to put fresh Earth &c: into some of the Beds in the Flower Knot.

15 My Wife went to Leverpoole to Mrs Meginnis. Thomas Morris was here, I went with him to look at my Smithy as is in building and discoursed him about teering & daubing it within, then I went to the Winter-hey and helped to pull my Whit Twin-Bullock out of a Moss-pit, tiss the fourth time he has ben in a Moss-pit, The Smith, Thomas Farer, William Weedow &c: helped to pull him out.

16 I found Mall-puss and her six Large Kitlings in the Fals-Roofe, I gave her & two of the Kitlings to Ezabell Marser. My Wife made a Viset to Ince. I sent John Banister to Rightington with a Present of Sets of Gelyflowers, thence to Chorley of a How-do-you to Cozen Gelibronds Wife who was not well.

17 John Banister came home from Chorley & brought a good many sets of Gilliflowers as Cozen Gelibrond had sent me. Mr Turvill made a Viset here, I gave him two Papers of the Harkerk Coyne. Mr Swinbourne made a Viset here & soone after Mrs Eckleston came. My Wife was at Ellin Websters Labouring of her second Child & eldest Doughter Frances.

18 I helped Banister to set some Layers of Gillyflowers in the Knot as he brought yester day from Cozen Gelibronds. Ezabell and I set a Bed in the Knot with Polianthos Cowslops &c:. The three Tows Led Stones with eight Carts to Formosspoole Gutter, I went to them. Philip Garston brought me a Naturall Wig of Hors Hair. I began to plough the Nearest-North-Hey for Cole-Seed. Thomas Kirklington lodged here.

19 I Led Turves with twenty Boone Carts and two of my owne, this is the first day this year of Leading Boon Turves. Sir William Gerard, Mr Swinbourn,[47] Mr Robert Fazakerley & his Wife dined here.

20 I took William Ainsworths Accounts of Corne got by my Mill uesed in the Hous &c: and of Turves and Fleas sold. Cozen Scarisbricks Gardiner was here for slips of Hartychoaks, I gave him about 50. My Wife dined at Ince & then went with Mrs Blundell & Mrs Eckleston to Formby.

21 My Stone Smithy was Reared, there was the two Masons, the two Writs, William Ainsworth, Henry Ascroft, &c:, I was with them. William Ainsworth began to sow the Nearer-North-Hey with Cole-seed, I was with him.

22 I went to Leverpoole and Saw Sir Thomas Johnson come into Town from London, his Party had Tobacco Gilded in their Hats and the opposit Party viz: Mr Clayton and Mr Cleaveland had the Myter, there was great squabling about the Election of some of them for Parleament Men,[48] I shewed some good Gilliflowers to Parson Stith.[49] I drunk at the Wool-pack with John White, John Marsden, Mr Aldred, &c:. I finished plowing and Sowing Cole-Seed in the Nearest-North-Hey.

23 Mrs Blundell of Ince, Mrs Eckleston, &c: dined here.

24 I saw Thomas Blevin cut off two Paps of a Cow of his because her Elder was sweled & had Corrupsion in it. Eves came to lodge here upon the 22d and today my Wife sent her back to Leverpoole, but she went with my Wife first to Darby, they saw Mrs Maginnis there. I went to Sefton to see William Thelwall who was dangerously ill, Pothecary Barton came to look at his Broked Legg & made a larg Insition in it, William Thelwall made a Virball Will in Presence of me &c:, Pat: Wofold was there and did his Duty to him in all Accounts to prepare him for the next World. Cozen John Gelibrond sent an Express from Ditton to let me know he was there expecting of me. I Stated Accounts with severall of my Hay-Makers &c:.

25 I Led Turves with 18 Boone Carts. Richard Heaton and his Prentice came to New Ring and mend me some Coach-Wheels. I went to Ditton, Cozen John Gelibrond Valewed 174 Trees for me besides a great many Syfors as were not worth Marking, Robert Barrows and Henry Heys, &c: followed us as we vallewed them and when we had don they bid Money at the Trees. Cozen John Gelibrond and I lodged together at William Athertons at Bank. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch went home to meet her Aunt Billington and a great many of her Relations.

26 I gave a Tree at Ditton to Christopher Parker. I went with Cozen John Gelibrond to the Lower Hous and Maid a Viset to Maior, Cozen Gelibrond went hence and I came back to William Athertons, he paid William Ainsworth

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[47] Rev. John Swinburne, S.J. alias Savage, born March 21 1661, in Derbyshire. Served the Jesuit mission in Lancashire, where he died September 11 1716.

[48] Parliament had been dissolved on August 8 1713. Liverpool's two members had been Sir Thomas Johnson, a Whig, and John Cleveland, a Tory. Johnson was a prominent tobacco merchant. Cleveland, lord of the manor of Birkenhead, was also a Liverpool merchant. At the next election, held in February 1714, the freemen of Liverpool returned Johnson and William Clayton, a Tory merchant who had been Johnson's political opponent for many years.

[49] Rev. Robert Stythe, rector of Liverpool died in December 1713, and not in 1719, as given in Vol. 1, p. 169, n. 28.

£10 for my use, I came home by Mr Martingalls Blumary[50] and Acquainted him I had some Timber at Ditton to sell, then I went to the Hall of Sefton to the Buriall of William Thelwall, there was Mr Smith the Malster, Mr Peter Morton, Mr Bower, Mr Crisp, &c:, I suppose all of them went to his Buriall; when I came home I found Mr Gorsuch here, he had ben bringing some of his Relasions to Leverpoole, he brought his Doughter Nanny back hither. I began my Corne Harvest with two Mowers of Barly and four Binders in the Cole-Croft, they finished it and set it up.

27 I went with Henry Ascroft to the Cole-Croft and made him Rake the Slatterd Corne[51] with the Large Rake.

28 I Began to Lead home my Fleas and to Rake the Fiers with them, I was in the Field all the Fore Noone with them. William Ainsworth sold me three Beasts at Ormskirk Fair and brought me home 4 to be Scored, they are his Fathers or his. Darby Wife went upon an expedition with Cock Chikens.

29 I went with my Wife to Leverpoole, she met Mary Morecroft & discoursed her about living here. John Banister went to Ormskirk to the Marriage of his Sister Ellen. I Began to pull my Flax.

30 William Tarlton and Richard Westhead were here, I discoursed them about paying them in Money for the Tith of my Corn being I intend to Mow most of it.

31 I agreed with the Tithmen viz: William Tarlton, &c: to give them Money instead of Tith Corn. I killed a Fat Cow. James Davy came to Slate my New-Smithy. John Melling came to work here, he brought me a very large Rake for Corne. I began to sow Rye in the Middle-North-hey with three Ploughs, as came on purpose from Formby, the Ploughmen and Drivers lodged here.

Till the 10th generally wet weather excepting two dayes as it was Fair, from the 10th to the 23rd Fair Weather and 4 or 5 dayes extreamly hot, from the 23rd till the end of this Month wet especially the three last dayes.

SEPTEMBER

1 Christopher Parker brought my Grewhound Hector from Ditton, he would have bought William Ainsworths Gray Gelding.

2 Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh, his Lady and Brother lodged here, soe did William Ainsworths Brother-in-Law Mr Robert Blundell.

3 The Wheelrights finished my Coach Wheels, they made in a manner one pair of Little Wheels and New Ringed the Great Wheels. Cozen Molineux & I walked out in the Morning to my Mowers of Oats & to my Plowers for Rye. The Formby men as Plowed the Midle-North-Hey for me for Rye finished it & went hence, I paid them. Mrs Molineux of the Grange & Mr Ned Molineux dined & suped here. Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made a Viset here and Suped here.

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[50] Blumary—a form of 'bloomary' or 'bloomery'—the first forge in an iron works through which, after smelting from the ore, the metal passes and is hammered into 'blooms'. See January 26 1714.

[51] Corn which has slattered or split.

4 Cozen Molineux and I, &c: went out a Seting before dinner, we took seaven, My Wife & Children came to us when we had set & saw us take them. Mr William Molineux being this day 44 years old I gave a Bowl of Punsh to solemnize his Birth day. Thomas Holland was here, William Ainsworth paid him for Slates as I had of him for my Smithy &c:. I began to get in my Corn as I have mowed.

5 Cozen Molineux and I, &c: went out a Seting before dinner. Cozen Molineux and I, &c: made a Viset to Ince, oure Wives went to Leverpoole and brought Mrs Hesketh of Rufford back with them to lodg here.

6 Cozen Molineux, I, and our Wives, &c: dined at the Grange with Mr Richard Wofold, &c: when we came home we found Mr Swinbourne and Mrs Eckleston here who were comne hither to lodg. I sent Darby Wife to Mosburgh for Cozen Molineux his Setter Tory which he has lent me.

7 Mr Swinbourn went hence. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. Mr Ball lodged here. Cozen Robert Molineux, I, &c: went to Mr Aldreds, he treated us with very good Claret.

8 Cozen Molineux & his Lady, &c: dined at Ince, my Wife stayed at home to keep Mrs Hesketh of Rufford company. I went to Leverpoole to the Elecsion of Parleament Men but stayed not till it was finished, Mr Hurst treated me at his own hous. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Dr Barret, Mr Simson, &c: and with Parson Richmond, Parson Marsden, &c:.

9 I went a seting in the Morning with Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh, he, his Lady, Mrs Eckleston, &c: went hence. Mrs Blundell, Mrs Wofold, &c: made a Viset here, so did Pat: Wofold.

10 I was in the Cross-field most of the day with my Leaders of Corn. I sent my Grewhound Ginny to Mr William Walmesley, I have lent her for some small time to his Father old Mr Walmesley of Showley. James Davy pulled of the Slates from over part of the Nursery & part of the Green Roome in order to Slate it with New ones.

11 I was in the Farther-Wheat-Hey most of the after-noone whilst they were leading Oats thence. Mr Plumb sent to fetch his Whit Guelding hence as has Run in my Ground for some time.

12 I was very busy in the Farther-Wheat-Hey in the after Noon with my Leaders of Oats. Mrs Hesketh of Rufford went hence, I sent her to Leverpoole, Eves came from Leverpoole and Lodged here.

13 My Wife took Phisick from Mrs Meginnis, she went out in the Coach and tooke Eves with her part of the way with her towards Leverpoole. Mr John Gerard sent to look at William Ainsworths Gray Gelding but they made no bargan.

14 I was in the Nearer Wheat-hey & the Cross Field most of the day with my Leaders of Oats & Barly. Darby Wife washed my Flax out of the Water.

15 William Ainsworth went to St Ellen Chappell & swapt his Gray Gelding with Mr John Gerard. I was at Ince Green when the six Matches every one different were bowled by Mr Burton, Mr Formby, & Parson Darbyshire, against Mr Aldred, Parson Letus & Parson Wairing; Mr Nicholas Fazakerley was there.

16 I Cut the Neck in the Nearer-Wheat-Hey with Mowing Beans & then the Men-Servants &c: went to James Davys in Great Crosby. I began to make stacks of Fleas by the Winter-hey Gate to sell.

17 I was in the Winterheys in the Morning with my Leaders of Fleas I went thence to the Dobb-Heys and helped to pull my Whit Twin Bullock out of the Ditch.

18 I went in the Morning to Leverpoole chiefly to the Post-hous, I there paid Mr Swarbrick for two Busshells of Cole-Seed. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Alanson, I came home before dinner & called at Parson Wairings but did not light. Henry Hunt brought £10 hither in part of his Rack Rent. I not being at home he paid it to William Ainsworth. I Bowled at Ince Green against Parson Letus &c: there was Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, Mr Formby, Mr Tatlock of the Bank & his Brother &c:.

19 I went to Leverpoole and drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Ford the Attourney, Mr Plumb, &c:. I paid to Mrs Lancaster, Mr Allanson and Mr Norton all I ought to them.

20 I gave Henry Sefton a Note to shew to the Parish that it was agreed that he and his Partners should have Aile allowed them when they poynted the Steeple. My Wife and Children were at the Buriall of Ralf Nelson. I dryed up my Eyres, being my Eyes are pritty well.

21 John Tyrer was here and discoursed me about some apprehension as he was in that it would be convenient for us to prove Mr Lathoms Will. Mr Plumb sent his Irish Pad to be Scored in my best Pasture. I Sealed a Lease to John Tickley of his Teneament, we setled Accounts & I paid all I ought him. I Setled Accounts with Ascroft & Darby for Mowing Corne and other datall work and also with Skinner & some other of my work folk.[52] Dr Lancaster made a Viset here, I paid him what I ought him for Phisick.

22 I Booked most of my Disbursments for June. I began with three hands to scour my great Fleame between the Coppy & Arnolds Heys and I intend now to clense all my Watercourses, I went to the Scourers of my Fleame & thence to Formospoole Gutter were the Masons were working, they began to lay the Foundation.

23 I Booked my Disbursments for July. I Began to sow Wheat this year on the Wheat-hey-Lands. Samuell Clerk, John Cooper and Mr John Fletcher had ben in Great Crosby about an exchange of Part of Taylors Teneament, they are Trustrees for the Poore of Windle it being left to them,[53] they came hither & discourced me about it & about a mistake as is in that Surrender.

24 I took my first Cart Load of Beans to Leverpoole as are bought to goe to Guinea. John Tyrer came to discource me about signing a Receipt for Dr Lathoms Money at London & afterwards Mrs Smith desird I would sign it, but I thought it not proper. Richard Ainsworth desired I would inform him who had accused him of Commiting wilfull Trespass in the Night.

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[52] 'Skinner'—nick-name for one of the tenants, 'Skinner Davy'.

"Mowing Corn. . . . . £1 14s. 0d."

Datall—a form of 'daytale'—work paid for at a daily rate. A dataller or day-taler was a workman who was engaged and paid by the day. In the monthly accounts there is always an entry for datall work:

"Sept. 1713.—Datall Work . . . . . £2 15s. 0d."

[53] Thomas Taylor, in 1684, gave some property in Great Crosby to trustees for the benefit of the poor of Windle, in the parish of Prescot, Lancashire, and of Great Crosby.

25 I went to Leverpoole and bought some things for my Wife & Mally against we goe to Scarisbrick.[54] I drunk a dish of Tea with Mr Hurst at his hous, we drunk together at the Wool-pack. Mr Tute sent for his Hors as had ben scored with me.

26 I sent three Cart Load of Beanes to Leverpoole, they are to goe to Guinea. I helped John Banister to set most of the Tulops in the Knot.

27 I sent William Ainsworth towards Preston to Mrs Walmesley the Younger of Showley who was lying in of her Doughter Mary, perhaps he may goe to Preston tonight. I sent a Present of Pigeons to Mosburgh. I Stated Accounts with Thomas Kerfoot, Henry Swift, &c: for Delving, Wheeling Turves, &c:.

28 I payed the Land Tax to Walter Thelwall and Gabriell Norris. I was in the Nearer Wheat-hey most of the afternoone whilst they were leading Beanes out of it. I helped to set some Tulop Roots as were dresed with Ink after different manners & some as were order'd otherwayes in hops to change their cullor but to no good effect. The rich Posy sent from hence to William Weedows Breaking. Formospoole Plat was finished.

29 I paid the Window Tax to William Harrison. Robert Johnson paid me in part for his Fine. The Overseears of Ince paid me for some Free Stone and bought some paving Stones of me. Richard Bridg, Bryan Lea, &c: paid me their Rent. Hugh Bullen came hither and fetched Mally away to lodg at his House. Being Watty Thelwall is to begin his Journey tomorrow towards Madam Bagnolds he came to take leave of me, he and his Father suped here.

30 Watty Thelwall began his Journey towards Madam Bagnolds. I began to Refit my Sniggary it being destroyed in part to convince the Township of Ince that it did them no harme, I was with them both before & after dinner. Mr Darcy Chantrell and his Wife made a Viset here. I finished my Wheat Seeding in the Stockroots this year. I got home the last of my Corn. William Ainsworth came back, he brought my Bitch Ginny home with him.

Till the 21th little or noe Raine except a few flying Showers, but on the 21th there was a pritty deale, from thence to the 26th very faire, and from that to the end now & then a flying Shower which did noe harme. There has scarce ben known so fine a season for geting Corne into the Barns & for sowing Wheat.

OCTOBER

1 Mr Aldred went a Coursing with me, this is the first day I have coursed this Season, we went to my Workmen at my Sniggary. I sent to the Buriall of old Margery Burgeos, she was carried to Formby.

2 John Blundell fixed up a New Wins in the Dary to Chern with but it did not answer expectasion. Mally came home from Hugh Bullens. I mended two of my seting Nets. James Davy and I computed what quantity of Slates the Smithy took. My two Teames went for John Tickley to Ash-hurst Delf and brought him home two Load of Flaggs.

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[54] As always when going to stay several days with friends, new clothes and materials to make new clothes were bought. Only four months before new clothes had been bought or made for the visit to Chorley (See June 30 1713 and footnote).

3 I went to Leverpoole I paid Joshua Lathom two Guineys by Mr Plumbs order in his Office, it was upon account of George Nalor. Joseph Boltons Wife paid me some Money on Account of ading an other Life to his Leas. I agreed with William Kennion to ad an other Life to Henry Rosons Teneament but that Bargan is since brock. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Tarlton the Maior, Mr Brunand, Mr Plumb, &c:, Mr Gibbans was also there with us, and William Ainsworth paid him all I ought him upon Account of an Irish Bill. Parson Wairing overtook us as we were coming home, we came together as far as oure way lay, but we were lost upon the Marsh. This Town Field was turned abroad.

4 Mr Plumb sent for his Irish Hors as has ben scored with me for awhile. My Wife sent to see Mrs Wairing who was lying in of her first Child.

5 Darby Wife sowed about 50 Graines of Virginia Wheat in my Gardens, but I think none of it came up. My Wife, I, and Mally went to Scarisbrick to Lodge, we found Pat: Pinington there. Pat: Wofold was here when we went hence.

6 Before dinner Cozen Scarisbrick & I walked into his Plantasions; after dinner we went a Seting but saw not one Parteridge, Mr Peter Ashton came to us he rid about the lanes pritty near us.

7 Mr Trafford of Croston, his Lady, Son and Doughter dined at Scarisbrick, Mr Aldred & Mrs Hesketh Lodged there. Formospoole Gutter was well scoured by sixteen hands it being the first time since the plat was laid over it.

8 Cozen Scarisbrick I & our Wives dined at Croston, old Mr Standley of Preston was there.

9 Cozen Scarisbrick and I made a Viset to Gorsuch, our Wives made a Viset to Parson Brownhills of Holsold.

10 My Wife, I and Mally came home from Scarisbrick, we called at Gorsuch and stayed awhile, we found Peggy Jackson here when we came home.

11 I sent William Ainsworth to Scarisbrick with my Setter Tory, I have lent him awhile to my Cozen.

12 John Tyrer was here, I discourced him about proving Dr Lathoms Will. I sowed a quarter of a Hundred of Broad Clover and as much Hopp Clover in the Middle-North-Hey when the Rye was a Bruard[65] but very little or none of it came up, I suppose the reason was because it was not harrowed or elce the dryness of the Season both before and after it was sowed. I began in earnest to gather my Apples and lay them up in Reeds, there were 9 Hands employed in it, they gathered without shaking, carried & laid up about Fourty five Bushells.

13 I Sealed a Leas to James Norris of Rothwells Teneament. William Gray payed me part of his Fine. I stated Accounts with Ailes Steward for things she bought for me at Chester Fair. Pat: Maynard dined here. Mr Burton made a Viset here.

14 William Ainsworth paid me £20 in part of his Receipts for my use. I was busy packing up & prepairing for my Journey to Stockhild with Mally. I went to my Workmen as were clensing my Grand Watercours.

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[65] Bruard—a corruption of 'breward' or 'brewerd' meaning 'to sprout' or 'to shoot' in reference to corn.

15 I Began my Journey towards Stockhild[56] with Mally; Mr Aldred, Walter Thelwall, &c: came to take leave of her, we called at Runshaw to see Miss Farnworth, we bated at Fletchers the Signe of the Bucks Heads in Brindle, I there discoursed George Abbot about being my Steward; we lost our way and went to Rushton where we got a Guide towards Great Harwood, we lodged there at Christopher Fieldings the Signe of the three Pigeons.

16 We went to Gisbourn where we dined at the Signe of the Dowe thence went to Skipton and Lodged at Gilbert Johnsons the Signe of the Black Horse.

17 From Skipton we went to the George in Long Adington where we called, and thence came to Stockhild with my Doughter Mary.

18 Mr Witham formerly of the Bass & his two Sons dined at Stockhild.

19 My Brother Midleton took me in his Coach to Wetherby where we dined at the Talbot with the Fox Hunters viz: Mr Henry Stapleton, Mr Plaxton, Mr Ned Tompson, &c:. My Brother Joseph came to Lodg at Stockhild.

20 My Brother Midleton, his Lady, My Brother Joseph,[57] Mr Knowles and I play'd at Cards.

21 Brother Midleton and his Lady took my Brother Joseph and me in their Coach to make a Viset to Mr Plumpton.

22 I left Mally at Stockhild and began my Journey Homwards, I lodged at William Heaks the Red Lyon in Yellom. My Winters provision of Candles were brought.[58]

23 From Yellom I came through Berry, Bolton, &c: and so to Wigan where I bated at the Legs of Man, thence came home before twelve of the Clock at Night.

24 Mr Maynard was here before dinner but stayd not. Mr William Glegg Lodged here so did Mrs Evans and Eves.

25 My Wife went out in the Coach and took Mrs Evans and Eves along with her part of the way towards Leverpoole. I booked down my York-shire Journey in my Diurnall.

26 Mr Glegg went with me to my Sniggary, we pitch on a place to keep Picks in for Sir Rowland Standley when I can catch him any, we coursed as we went. My Flax was braked at Skiner Blundells.

27 I paid James Davy the Slater for Work done at my Smithy, &c. Mr Gleg went hence. I lent my Grewhound Hector to Captain Fazakerley, Jack Whit, & to Mr Lathom our Landlord to cours with, in the Evening I went to them to James Davys in Great Crosby.

28 Robert Moss came to buy some of my Ditton Timber but we did not bargan. John Banister, Henry Gray, &c: went out a Coursing with me. Henry Dauber came to put up a New Sale Rod to my Mill.

29 John Tyrer and I got Mr Lathoms Will proved at Ormskirk, I dined at the Talbot, I drunk there with Dr Lancaster and Mr Robert Fazakerley. I bought some Haire-Cloth of the Quaker for Cloaths for Mill Sailes.[59]

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[56] Stockeld in Yorkshire. See Vol. 1. pp. 112–3.

[57] His brother, Rev. Joseph Blundell, S.J., was then serving the Yorkshire mission.

[58] "22 Oct. 1713—Candles at 5s. 4d. per dozen . . . . . £2 5s. 4d."

[59] "Hair-Cloath 12 yards for Mill-Sailes . . . . . 14s. 0d."

30 I Stated accounts with William Ainsworth for his Receipts and Disbursments for my use. Mr Aldred, Walter Thelwall, &c: went with me to cours a Hare as Ned Hatton found set. Henry Kerfoot shot Herron.

31 I Paied Mr Simpson and Mrs Leadbeter all I ought them, and I paid to Mr Hurst £11-05s-00d in part of what I owe him, Parson Wairing and I drunk with him in his owne House. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Thomas Ford the Puterer, Mr Wainright, Parson Wairing, &c:. Mr Tute paid me at his owne house for the Score of his Horse. Parson Wairing and I came home together as far as our way lay. I fetched home a Pole from Leverpoole for a Sale Rod for my Mill.

Very Little or noe Rain this Month except now & then some flying Showers, onely the 17 it rained pritty much, so dry a Season at this time was never known, the Rodes as good as in the Summer, and Ditches scarce ever known so dry in Summer as now they are.

NOVEMBER

1 Mrs Bower of Aintrey and her Doughter Ailes &c: dined here.

2 John Oughton, William Gray, &c: came to discource me about Margery Brownbills seting her Teneament to her Sister-in-Law. I went to Margery Shepheards & endeavoured to make peace betweene her Doughter Ailes & Roger Neal her Husband but I did not much good. William Ainsworth brought me home Mr Plumbs Grewhound Spring from Prescot.

3 Oure Smith and I went to Cource a Hare as William Johnson found set. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here, so did Mr Thomas Walmesley & his Wife. Captain Robert Fazakerley made a Viset here.

4 Mr Thomas Walmesley and I went out a Coursing, Henry Roobothom was with us and found a Hare set. After Supper we played at Cards.

5 Mr Thomas Walmesley, I and our Wives went in the Coach to Leverpoole. I went with Mr Thomas Walmesley & his Wife to see the new Church[60] and then made a Viset to Mr Morecroft. Mr Thomas Walmesley & I drunk at the Wool-pack with Ben Branker, &c: Henry Dauber put me up a New Sale-Rod to my Mill.

6 The Milrights went hence having done working for me at present. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here.

7 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. I went with Mr Thomas Walmesley to the Newhous to make a Viset to Mr Burton. Mr Thomas Walmesley helped me to fix my Snig Net in the Frame.

8 William Johnson found a Hare set, I did not Cours it, but they tooke my Grewhounds. Mr Thomas Walmesley, I and oure Wives played at Cards in the Evening.

9 William Johnson found a Wood-Cock set & came hither to borrow a Gun, he shot it. Mr Thomas Walmesley and his Wife went hence. I sent William Ainsworth part of the way towards Leverpoole with some Beasts that they might be the readier for Leverpoole Fair Tomorrow.

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[60] Probably St. Peter's in Church Street, consecrated in 1704.

10 William Ainsworth sold four Beasts for me at Leverpoole Fair. John Blundell went with me to the Sniggary, we fixed the Clowes better and put Ropes to the Pulles and hung up the Net to be in readyness.

11 William Gray was hear and discoursed me about Fining for Stocks Teneament but we did not bargan.

12 I Booked my Receipts for June and July. I helped John Banister to Bottle about four dozen of Aile, and to set about twenty Roots of Renunculases on a Bed in the Flower Knot. John Blundell Removed the Bedstocks in the Green Roome and Dressing Roome from one Roome to the other. Cozen Nanny Gorsuch Left her Service, I sent William Ainsworth with her home, thence he went to Scarisbrick & paid Mr Scarisbrick what I ought him upon my Aunt Frances Account.

13 Robert Write, Daniell Ayrey and Thomas Houghton dined here, I agreed with Robert Write for the Bark of my Trees as are to be sold at Ditton, he barganed with me in behalf of Daniell Ayrey & Thomas Houghton and they signed the Agreement. Mr Worthingtons Doughter Ursula came to be my Wives Maid. I booked my Disbursments for August.

14 Mr Aldred went out a Coursing with me, we went to Whartons in Ince to drink, where we found Pat: Tasburgh, Pat: Burton & Chattering John Rimer. I sent a Cart Load of Turves to Sefton, they were owing by Dr Lathom.

15 Mrs Rachell Smith dined here. My Wife went to see Jenett Blundell.

16 Walter Thelwall paid me part of his Rack Rent. Richard Webster took posestion of my New Smithy, his prentice John Radcliff made a Horse Shoe in it, it being the first work as was done in that Smithy.[61] I went to Mrs Rachell Smiths and fetched home my things from thence in a Cart, John Tyrer met me there, thence we went to Ezabell Winstanleys & drunk.

17 George Lathom & his Wife were here to see if I would let them take Ann Ridings Teneament from her upon the rack. I put most of my Books into their proper places as I had bought at Doctor Lathoms, and I tooke some of the Picturs as were his to Ned Howerds, some of them I hung up there in the Chappell & some I gave to Charles Howerd towards furnishing his new Hous. Mr William Gleg and his Son Edward lodged here, I paid his Son for Gloves and Mits as he had sent my Wife. George Abbot Lodged here, I hiered him to be my Steward.[62]

18 John Beancow alias White, a Spanish Chirurgeon as he said, was here, he cut some Cornes for my Wife and me, he gave me some very good Receipts as he said in Phisick. Thomas Blevin paid me some Rack Rent for the Oak Lands, &c:. I put on my first half Sale-Cloath of Hair on my Mill.

19 Walter Thelwall went out with William Weedow & me to Poole Field to see how the Water was to be turn'd of Weedows Ground. I Booked my Disbursments for October & Receipts for August, September & October.

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[61] Richard Webster came from Thornton. He got into debt and fled from Little Crosby about January 26 1720. See entries January 11 1715 and entries between December 26 1719 and May 2 1720. The smithy still stands (1969) at the entrance to the village from Great Crosby. In the wall is a date-stone, 1713, and outside is one of the shoeing blocks. It is no longer used as a smithy.

[62] George Abbott became steward at £1 10s. 0d. per quarter. When he was hired he was given the usual shilling.

20 Cozen Scarisbrick, his Lady & Mr Traps the Younger, &c: dined here, Mr Scarisbrick gave me some Money to distribute amongst the Poore of Great Crosby & Little Crosby & also some for the poore of the Parish & some Money for some Neighbouring Priests. I paid William Harrison my Martine-mass dues or Composition for small Tiths. George Abbot came to be my Steward.

21 I went to Leverpoole and received £5 from Mrs Brownbill upon Account of her Fine, I met George Lathom at the Wool-pack and discoursed him about taking Ann Ridings Teneament. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb & Mr Brunand. Mr Plumb sent for his Irish Hors hence as had ben Scored with me for some time. Mary Morecroft was here & promis'd my Wife at our Lady-day.

22 William Abbot was here to see if I would take any More Scoar into the Great-More-hey.[63] Ned Howerd played at Cards after Supper with my Wife & me.

23 I distributed part of the Money as my Aunt Frances Left to the Poore of Great Crosby & Little Crosby.[64] I bought Ann Ridings good will of her Teneament but the Bargan is since brock. John Tyrer was here & brought a Sertificate for Mr Lathoms Buriall, he dined here.

24 There was a Rat ran up John Banisters Coat Sleeve, we killed it. I went to Leverpoole & deliver'd a Cheese to the Carrier for Mr Ascough. I setled Accounts with Halsold the Putarer & paid him the Ballance of Accounts, I paid Thomas Harker for Shoes, I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb & Halsold, &c:. I layed my Fat Beasts and Milk Cowes into the Hous.

25 I took William Ainsworths Accounts of his Receipts and Disbursments for my use & I took Account of him, of severall other things being he is shortly to leave my Service. George Lathom & his Brother Edmund were here about taking Ann Ridings Teneament, they Lodged here.

26 John Robinson was here and paid me for keeping his Strayed Calf. Cozen John Gelibrond sent his Servant hither from Ince of a How-do-you.

27 George Abbot and Roger Neal went out a Coursing with me, I shewed Roger some of the Closes in the Winter-heys and set them of a price to him, thence we went to Petchers Field, George and I mesured part of a Moss-pit as Tompsons had feyed, coming home I called at Widdow Ridings to see what goods would be proper for me to buy of her. William Ainsworth left his Service. George Lathom and his Brother Edmund went hence, all Bargans being now concluded concerning Widdow Ridings Teneament, & since this day all bargans are brock againe, greatly to the Prejudice both of George Lathom & myself by the advice of William Davy who since has Married Widdow Riding. Parson Wairings Wife made a Viset here.

28 I helped John Banister to Bottle about nine Dozen of Aile. I began to lead Stones to make a New Wall at the Side of the Oate-Croft. George Abbot went the first time to Market for me at Leverpoole.

29 Cozen John Gelibrond came from Ince & dined here.

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[63] People, especially those living in towns, sometimes sent their horses to be kept or scored in one of Blundell's fields. His new steward was enquiring if any more animals were to be kept in the field called the Great More Hey. See December 15 1713.

[64] Also see December 10, 14 and 15 1713.

30 I sold my Timber at Ditton as is marked to Robert Moss and then went out a Coursing; Richard Webster oure Smith, John Blundell Write, &c: being gon out with my Dogs a Coursing I went after them.

The three first dayes some Rain the Rest of the Month generally very fair and Fine Weather excepting now & then some little Raine. This Month has ben like some of the foregoing Months viz: extraordinary Fair and Calme for the Season.

DECEMBER

1 I found Mary Holme[65] & Henry Bridge in the Gatehous Chamber about four in the Morning for which I turned her out of my Service. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here.

2 I Began to fix a Wooden Chimney upon my Kill at the Mill. Pat: Gelibrond dined at Ince, Aunt Frances Aniversary.

3 I Began to Plant Ash & Thornes in the New Cop between the Stock Roots & Crofts, tis the first days planting this Season. Cozen John Gelibrond made a Viset here from Ince in the Evening.

4 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Richard Davy of Leverpoole came to buy some of my ordinary Cheeses but we did not bargan. My Wife took a Doce of Pills from Doctor Lancaster.

5 I Rid Roger Neals Hors to Leverpoole of a Tryall. I bought some Flaxon of Mr Tatlock & drunk with him, Mr Travis and Mr Tute, &c: at the Woolpack. George Lathom and I signed Artickles between us for a Rack of Widdow Ridings Teneament but that Bargan did not stand. I made a Viset to Mr Plumb he not being well. I took two Hackney Horses to Lye in in the Hous in the Nights.

6 My Wife took a Dose of Phisick from Betty Bolton.

7 The Masons began to build a second fire-place in my New Smithy. I began to dress some of the Corne as wanted it with lying too long in the Granery. Ginny had her sixth Litter of Whelps, she had seaven Whelps.

8 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond came to prayers to Mr Aldreds, he Lodged here. Cozen John Gelibrond & Mr Turvill made a Viset here, they suped here.

9 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond and I made a Viset to Ince, we found Mrs Wofold there, after Supper Mr Shepperd came hither to see Cozen Thomas Gelibrond.

10 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond went hence, I gave him some young Walnut Trees & some Suckers of the Great Nuts. I distributed part of my Aunt Frances Blundells Charity to some of the Poor of this Parish.

11 Ned Hawkseye fixed me up a Stove in the Day-rye[66] to heat Heaters in.

12 I clensed my Pump-Court Well being I intend erelong to fix a Pump in it. Eves Lodged here.

13 My Wife took Eves with her in the Coach part of the way towards Leverpoole.

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[65] Mary Holme had only recently been appointed to serve as cook.

[66] Dairy.

14 George Abbot went a Coursing with me. I shewed Henry Swift how far he might take in upon the Waist for a Gardin if he pleased, I called at Peg Ridings & gave her part of my Aunt Frances Blundells Charity. I called to see Margery Blundell & her Doughter Nelly Whithead, they were neather of them very well. Mrs Bootle of the Peele made a viset here.

15 George Abbot and I went to the Great More-Hey and took Account of the Beasts & Horses there, to see if all were right Being I had a great many scored with me there. Cozen John Gelibrond came hither from Ince to take leave of us ere he left these parts. I gave my Aunt Frances Blundells Charity to the Poore of Orell, Litherland & the Ford &c:.

16 George Abbot went with me to the Wheat Heys &c:, I took my Setter Tory with me but we found no Parteridges. The Butcher fetched hence two Fat Cows as George Abbot had sold for me.

17 John Garret swept the Kitchen and Dary Chimneys. I got home the Remainder of my Turves as were left at the Morehous Moss.

18 I set a Little Lock upon the Lower Garner doar & gave George Abbot the Key of it, we took Account of what Sacks I had.

19 I went to Leverpoole, most of my Ditton Tenants met me & paid their Rent. Robert Johnson and I Sealed a Leas to each other. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Swarbrick, he proposed to farme the Nearer North-Hey for a Terme of years. I paid Mr Plumb £10 as I ough him upon a Note of Demand. Nuttys[67] Brother Mr William Worthington came hither to see her, tis the first time he has ben here since she came. James Marser paid me for two Cowes.

20 Mrs Eckleston sent hither to let my Wife know that Mosburgh Family durst not come to keep their Christmass at Eckleston for feer of the Small Pox.

21 George Cottom, Nicholas Davy, &c: went a Coursing with me. I sent to Invite Croston Family to come and keep their Christmass here, but they could not come. Henry Hunt paid me the Remainder of his Rack Rent.

22 I Killed a Large & Fat Manks Bullock. Mr John Lathom and John Tyrer dined here, I went with Mr John Lathom to Mr Aldreds. Captain Robert Fazakerley suped here, he brought me a Letter from Mr Ascough which I read to John Tyrer.

23 I Booked my receipts and Disbursments for the last Month.

24 I painted a Pair of Little Wheeles for the Coach. Captain Robert Fazakerley called here as he was going to Leverpoole from the New-hous.

25 Ned Howerd dined here. I Read most of the after Noone in a Spirituall Book.

26 Thomas Kerfoot paid me some Rack Rent. I paid James Davy two Church Leys. Mr Shepheard brought me a Message from Cozen Thomas Gelibrond. Eves Lodged here. George Abbot, John Hunt, John Blundell, &c: went a Coursing with me, we were out all after Noone, most of the time we were 7 or 8 Beaters and found not one Hare.

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[67] Nickname for Ursula Worthington.

27 Mr John Lathom dined here, he came to let me know what answer my Lord Molineux had made him concerning his Uncles Teneament. My Wife went to Pat: Gelibrond to Ormskerk.

28 I Housed my Whit Twin Beasts to make them tame, they being extreamly Wild. Oliver Brownbill was here & paid me what he ought for Oats & agreed with me for some more.

29 Mr Thomas Worthington the Saylor dined here. Ann Riding the Widdow gave me £10 to keep for her till she call'd for it, I gave her my Note for it, but the Note is since lost, and I paid her the Money upon the 13th of Aprill, A.D. 1714. I went out a Seting in the Evening but found no Parteridges.

30 I Heard Mr Molineux of Wooton[68] was seeking for a Fox in the Warands, I went to hunt with him, but could not light of him. Bessy Peele made a Viset here.

31 Some of my Servants went out a Coursing but killed no Hare. John Blundell and I cast up the Vallew of the Timber as was uesed about my New Smithy.

This Month has ben like severall of the foregoing Months viz: very Fare and warme for the Season, not but that there has frequently ben some Rane more or less, but never any great Shower, nor I think one day as could properly be called Winterly Weather unless now and then some sharp Cold Winds.

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[68] Woolton.

Anno Domini 1714

JANUARY

1 Mr Aldred and I made a Viset after dinner to Croxtath to my Lord Molineux, we found there Sir Rowland Standley & his Son; Mr Aldred and I discoursed my Lord Molineux in behalf of Mr John Lathom to get somthing for him upon Account of Tenant-Right, Coming home we called at Mr Smiths and gave Mr John Lathom an Account what my Lord had promised us. John Banisters Sister, her Husband & his half Brother Lodged here.

2 My Wife and I Lodged at William Athertons at Ditton, Eves went with us and was hurt with a Fall as she went. I was at Mayors at Ditton Towns meeting, there was Justice Wright, Joseph Bolton, Henry Heys, &c: when I came back to William Athertons I played some tricks of Legerdemesney to his Gests & Neighbours as were in his Hous.

3 My Wife & I went to Mr Maiers to Prayers, after dinner my Wife made a Viset to Henry Heys, when she came back we came home togeather.

4 Thomas Barrow from Ditton was here, I gave him some Powder for his Doughter as has the Falling sickness or Convulsion Fits. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. John Tickley, James Wignold, &c: went a Coursing with me, when we had done we went to Mrs Anns & there John Blundell and George Abbot made a Cock-Match. I sent my Teame to Cozen Thomas Gelibronds with a Firr Bawlk.

5 I Removed the Ship in the Hall & charg'd the Gunns against tomorrow. I went to Richard Whit-heads and took a Glass of his Christmass Drink with him, Mr Taylor, Mr Tasburgh, &c:. My Teame brought me home a Pump from my Cozen Thomas Gelibronds.

6 Doctor Lancaster, Mrs Letus and her Sister Wairing dined here, Mr Plumb dined & Lodged here. Two of William Athertons Doughters & one Son and one of Henry Heys Doughters and Cozen Thomas Gelibrond Lodg'd here. Mr Plumb, Doctor Lancaster, I, &c: was at Mrs Anns Cocking, there were three Battles, but I onely stayed two of them. Tatlock was here,[1] we had a Merry-Night and Fier'd the Gunns of my Ship.

7 We began to fix a new Pump in the Pump-Court, but some things being out of order we did not finish it. Mr Plumb went hence, I lent him a Horse. Ellen Eves went hence.

8 I Began to build a New Wall between the Foulds and the Oat Croft. We fixed the Pump in the Pump Court. Two of William Athertons Doughters, &c: went out in the Coach.

9 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond and my Ditton Gests went hence. I sent 30 Busshels of Barly to Mr Smith to be Malted, 'tiss the first I have made this Winter.

10 I writ some Phisicall Receipts in my Receipt Book. I Read much in a Spirituall Book.

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[1] "7 Jan. 1714—Tatlock for Fidling one Night . . . . . 4s. 0d."
These were Twelfth Night celebrations.

11 Mr Tatlock, Mr Smith of Maile, Mr Aspinwall, &c: were a Hunting this way, I invited them hither & made them drink at the Gates; in the Evening I went to Garrets to them and drunk with them, Robert Bootle, and his Son, old John Lunt, &c:. I took in hand to cure Ginnet Blundells Legg tis the first time I apply'd any thing to it, but she did not long continew my Pasient. I sent 60 Busshells of Oats to Athertons Kill, Oliver Brownbill was here & saw them mesured.

12 I Lent a Brace of Grewhounds to Young Robert Bootle, John Rose, &c: to course with today.

13 I Booked my Receipts and Disbursments for the last Month.

14 George Abbot went out a Coursing with me, we went to Charles Howerds, I ordered his Wife to provide a Dinner for Mr Tatlock & me, &c:, we called at Gabriell Norris his and smoked a Pipe. I called at Ann Davys and wished her Joy, she being married to Skinner Davy. William Ainsworth Lodged here.

15 Nutty Worthington went hence, she left her Service. Ned Hawkseye and I mesur'd my Smithy and computed what the Masons work came to, and what the Stones.

16 William Ainsworth went hence. I overtook Parson Wairing as I went to Leverpoole, we went thither together. Robert Moss and I Signed Artickleys of the Bargan he made with me for some of my Ditton Timber. John Mather paid me some Money for a Fine. George Lathom met me at the Wool-pack & discoursed me concerning the Bargan he had made for Ridings Teneament, Richard Whithead was present. I bought some Salt Cod of Mr Scarisbrick of Leverpoole,[2] I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb. John Tyrer & I Signed a Receipt at the Wool-pack for Doctor Lathoms Pension.

17 I set down my Disbursments for yesterday at Leverpoole. My Wife made a Viset to Elethan Hunters.

18 I agreed with John Garret and his Partners to get up Stock in Thornton Rough-Hey but they soone flew of the Ban. George Abbot began to look for Stocks in Thornton-Rough-hey.

19 Sir James Poole Lodged here. I went to dress Ginnet Blundells Leg. I discoursed William Davy-Skinner about George Lathoms Bargan.

20 Edward Clifton painted my Pump. Richard Heaton came to make me a New plough and to dress up and put in order some old ones.

21 I went to Charls Howerds in expectasion to meet Mr Tatlock of the Bank, Mr Smith of Maile, &c: a Coursing and to dine there, but none of them came, I shewed Charles Howerd how far he might inclose to make a Garden and marked it out for him, ere I went from Charles Howerds, Hurlston and Marmaduke Maltus came thither. My Wife and Sir Jams Poole made a Viset to Parson Wairings but they were not at home. I put some New Hinges to the Joynted Hors as is for hanging Linnen on.[3]

22 Two began to get us Stocks to parts in Thornton Rough-hey. I Discoursed George Lathom and Skinner Davy about the Bargan for Ridings Teneament, but could bring them to noe good Conclusion. Sir James Poole and I made a Viset to Parson Wairings.

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[2] "16 Jan. 1714—Salt Codfish, half a Hundred wight . . . . . 12s. 0d."

[3] A clothes horse. In winter the washing was dried on a clothes-horse indoors, but in summer, when the weather was suitable, the washing was spread out over a hedge near the house, called the Clothes Hedge, Close hedge or just 'the Hedge'.

23 Parson Wairing made a Viset here. Eves lodged here. Thomas Marser began to get Stones again at Farers Delf.

24 Sir James Poole and I went to the Grange, Pat: Wofold gave us a Bowle of Punsh; Richard Tickley, Mr Ned Molineux, &c: was there. My Wife took Eves in the Coach part of the way towards Leverpoole.

25 I Set the Crossfield to John Tickley, William Marser & Thomas Marrow; Walter Thelwall and Richard Whithead had discoursed me in the Morning about it, but we could make no Bargan.

26 William Hodgson the Glaysior mended some of my Windowes. Antony Fleetwood was here, I gave him one Busshell of Old Beans. Sir James Poole went hence, my Wife and I went with him to the Blumary in Aintry, but being they were not Working we did not light, Sir James and I went to a little Ailehous and drunk with Mr Martingall, John Tyrer, &c: and my Wife made a Viset to John Tyrers, Sir James Poole went to Lodg at Croxtath and we came home where we found Pat: Gelibrond, I agreed with him to come Monthly to help my Wife.

27 I went to the Grange to Mr Molineux his Aniversary, I heard one and a peece and then came to Charles Howerds where I found Mr Tatlock of the Bank, his Brother Thomas Tatlock the Dier, Parson Becket of Kerkby, Mr Smith of Maile, Mr Aspinwall, &c:, We went out a Coursing and then came back to Charles Howerds where we dined together.

28 My Wife & Pat: Gelibrond went in the Coach to dine at Croxtath but lost their Labour my Lord being just going abroad & his Doughters were already gon. I was at Mr Aldreds whilst he & Mr Burton were prepairing against Tuesday. Gray bluddyed my Red Bull for a Violent outbreak or overheat.

29 I Put Lead about the Pump to preserve it & set the Long Stone Trough under the Spout of it. Lord Molineux sent a Servant to let us know he intended to dine here on Thursday.

30 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Thomas Tyrer gave a drink to my Red Bull and a Heffer as were not well. I paid Mr Smith for making me 30 Busshell of Malt & for Duty of it. I set my New Smithy to Richard Webster.

31 Mrs Rachell Smith dined here. I Read in a Spirituall book, my Wife writ Letters by me in the Paintrey.

Generally very fair with now and then some Little Frosts and some times a little Raine. The Springs continew still very drye.

FEBRUARY

1 I Sold my Rabet Skins to Ned Halsold. John Banister went out a Seting with me, we took four Parteridges. I Stated Accounts with Darby, Ascroft, &c: for work. My Jury met in the Fields to adjust some disputes about the Dowles,[4] &c:.

2 I paid Mr Crisp four Grats[5] for four years Customary Rent to my Lord Molineux. I sent George Abbot to the Saile at Peele but he bought nothing. I met Parson Wairing, Mr Crisp, Thomas Syer, Ned Hatton, &c: at Thomas

[4] A boundary stone between fields or parts of a field.

[5] Groat; 4d.

Hesketh to consider about the Inclosing of Great Crosby Marsh, then I went to a Cocking as was in the Pinfold, there was Walter Thelwall, John Hunt, &c:, I was at Dukes and drunk there with Mr Thomas, Thomas Fooler, &c:, thence I went againe to Hesketh and drunk with Edmund Barton, Richard Whithead, William Tarlton, &c:.

3 George Abbot and I went out a Coursing but we had no Cource, I went to the Masons as were geting Stones to part at both my Delfs.

4 Lord Molineux, his Sons Carroll & Thomas and Doughters Ann & Bridget dined here so did Cozen Scarisbrick and his Lady. John Miller brought me a Provision of Sope.[6]

5 James Davy the Cunstable was here, I order'd him to Strane on Thomas Kerfoot & William Davys Goods for Arreers of Rent, but for some Reasons I countermanded him. George Abbot brought me home three Beasts which Thomas Kerfoot had given him in part of Rent. They say this dayes Tide was most extreamly high in Alt River and at Leverpoole and no Occasion known for it, the Wind endeed was pritty brisk and for it but no wayes violent and it is not yet the Spring tide by one Month.

6 My Wife and I went to Leverpoole to meet Mary Morecroft but she came not to us. I drunk at the Woolpack with William Atherton, Walter Thelwall, &c:, I weighed two Bullocks as had never ben drawed before as I suppose. I went to Mr Plumb with Robert Blansherd about a Table as he had bought & would not be deliverd to him.

7 My Wife, Fanny and I went in the Coach to Scarisbrick, we dined there. Mrs Fazakerley of Ormskirk made a Viset thither after dinner.

8 I order'd Walter Thelwall to writ John Mathers Leas and agreed what to give him per Leas for writing for the Future.[7] I planted some of the Hedges at the End of the Close-Hedg-Gardens. Thomas Kerfoot paid me part of his Rack Rent. I drew the two Bullocks in the Ploughs as we Weighed the other day.

9 Ned Holsold fetched some Rabet Skins from hence as he had formerly bought of me and left here. Rebecca Hunter dined here. I was at a Cocking at Mrs Ann Rothwells, there were four Battles Play'd and this Town lost every one of them, I saw 3 of the Battles. I drunk in John Farers with Richard Westhead, Walter Thelwall, John Rothwell, &c:.

10 Thomas Fleetwood, &c: paid me for Score of their Beasts in the great-More-hey. I mesured some Oats & find there is just two Busshells difference per Score between Stricking all of and mesuring as the Badgers doe. John Blundell Taylor paid me 50s. in part of Weedows Fine. Captain Robert Fazakerley was here, I gave him 30s. upon Account of Mrs Ellen Fazakerleys Aniversary.

11 George Abbot and I went to Look at my Slutch as lyes in the Sand Hills thence we went into the Morehouses, I stayed some time at Thomas Blansherds and Smoked a Pipe, I order'd him, John Sumner, William Wignold, &c: to lead Slutch for me on Munday into Nichols-Hey.

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[6] "4 Feb. 1714—Sope at 4d. per Pound . . . . . £1 19s. 0d."

[7] Walter Thelwall, for many years steward to Nicholas, his father and his grandfather, though no longer a servant, was still called in to copy out leases, letters and other documents.

12 I sent George Abbot to Ditton with my Bitch Ginny to be kept by William Kennion. I Began to pill the outward Bark off some of the Apple Trees in the Crow Orcherd. I went with Mr Branagan, Marmaduke Maltus, Thomas Key, &c: to find out the nearest way between this Town and Formby,[8] we went to Henry Norrises in Formby and drunk there a while, Mr Branagan came home with me and Stayed here a while.

13 George Abbot came home from Ditton, he brought me two Chieses from thence to Leverpoole. I sent John Banister to the Funerall of Henry Bushall.

14 John Tyrer was here to advise with me about a Bill as I had Received from London for Doctor Lathoms Money.

15 I put up two Large Hoggs to feed & brought home two Piggs as I bought a few dayes since of Darby. I Led Slutch out of the Sand-Hills as had layed there about two years & a quarter, they Led 77 Load to the Medowing in Nichols Hey excepting two Load of it as I brought home for the Gardens, I had 5 Hay-Carts & one Muck-Cart, 4 Fillers & 4 Spreders, and after dinner I had a 7th Cart but not so larg as the others. 12 Load per Cart was an easy days work.

16 William Davy Skinner helped me to make a Rode through his Ground for Mr Branagans Hors to Runn, Richard Whithead also helped me to make a Rode through his Ground for the same Hors.

17 I went to Leverpoole and got Mr Simpsons man to pack up a Chees for me to send to Stockhild. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Morphew &c:, Mr Branagan & Patrick Norris came with me from Leverpoole, we went to Formby to vew the Ground for Mr Brenegans Hors to Ride. Mr Brenegan came home with me and lodged here, he had sent his Horse hether before as is to run tomorrow. Patrick Norris also Lodged here.

18 I went part of the Way towards Formby with Mr Branagan & Patrick Norris to look at the Road as Walter Thelwall has set out over Ince Mosses for Mr Branagans Gallaway that is to Run 3 times between Formby and Leverpoole in 4 Hours Time, which he performed & finished his Course in less time by above a quarter of an Hour, I was at the Race and Rid with Mr Branagan from this Town to Formby and from thence back to Leverpoole Sands, there was at Formby, Mr Formby, Mr Shepheard, &c:, Duke Maltus, Walter Thelwall, Mr James Tildesley, &c: Rid part of the Rase a long with me. John Tyrer dined here.

19 Banister weighed some Cheeses & mesured some Apples as I intend to sell tomorrow at Leverpoole. I gave John Tickley & his Partners the Clover-Seed as I sent for from London for them to sow in the **X** Field.[9]

20 I sent a Cart Load of Apples, Chees & Eggs to Leverpoole & sold it all, they brought home a Cart Load of Lime.[10] My Wife & I went to Leverpoole & met Mary Morecroft and got her finall answer which pleased not. William Atherton clear'd off his Rack Rent due last Candlemass. John Mather and I sealed a Leas to each other. I made Mr Morphew a Viset.

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[8] Part of the preparations for a horse race to be run between Formby and Liverpool.

[9] Cross-field—part of the town-field at the edge of which the village cross stood. In the early nineteenth century part of this field was incorporated in the parkland of Crosby Hall, so the Cross is now walled off in the park.

[10] "Lime to lay on Meddow Ground 12 Busshel . . . . . 6s. 0d."

21 I went to Ormskirk & discourced Mr Shaw about Returning Dr Lathoms Money for us from London. Pat: Gelibrond came to the Talbot & drunk with me, I saw Thomas Ridihoughs Garden, I gave him a Drink.

22 My Wife Hier'd Catty Howerd to be her Cook. I Booked my Ditton Disbursments for the Last year in my Ditton Book.

23 Mr Cork & Edmund Barton came to buy some Barly of me, I shewed them mine but sold them none. William Harrison the Clark of Sefton was here, I paid him 2d instead of 12 Eggs.

24 Mrs Bootle of the Peele & her Relasion Mrs Dandy made a Viset here. Catty Howerd came to be the Cooke. Pat: Gelibrond Lodg'd here.

25 I discoursd William Davy the Skinner about Making George Lathom Satisfacsion, & about his Seting his Newfield Ground without my Consent. John Banister brought me some Roots of Flowers &c: from Thomas Ridihough as he gave me. Ned: Hawksey began to lay a Stone Sough overcross Pat: Gelibronds Walk and made a therd Pair of Stayers in the Duckcoy for the Ducks.

26 Margery Lurting went hence, she has ben assisting in the Kitchen for about 12 Weeks till we were provided but was never Hier'd. Mrs Bootle sent a Man for some Ash-plants as I had promised her and for some Thornes as she had bought of me. Pat: Gelibrond went hence towards Knoctorum but he stayed all Night at Leverpoole. I made some Scull Powder for the Convulsion Fits or Falling Sickness.[11]

27 I sent 50 Busshells of Barly to Leverpoole to Patrick Noris being part of a Hundred as I had sold him. George Abbot and I mesured over that part of Nichols Hey as is set with Sea Slutch, it is one Roode Land and nine Fawles.

28 I gave Thomas Marrow Junior the Particulars of the Charge of the Clover Seed I had from London for him & his Partners. My Wife & I went to see Darby who is sick.

This Month has ben very seasonable for the time, yet being so unconstant it was more lick March then Feb: for ther was seldom above two dayes together eather Fair or Fowl and though it Rained now & then, yet never much at a time; there has ben endeed four or five dayes of high Winds, some Snow and now & then a pritty sharp frost, it might properly be called March Weather.

MARCH

1 Antony Fleetwood was here. I sold him some Beanes & order'd them to be threshed forthwith, being I have yet Threshed none of them. Robert Bootle and his Son Robert and John Rose were here, I sold them some thornes which they took with them & I gave them some Plane Trees, we smoked our Pips together. My Wife went to bed after dinner she being very ill of her Legg and in her Head. Betty Lathom cut the Hair off my Head. Ja: L: made us laugh till we cryed with a Puff.

2 Mr Branagan was here, I Stated Accounts with him & he gave me what he ought upon Account of his Gallaway Race. Mr Smith of Croston & Mr Turvill made a Viset here. I Lent my Chean Pump to Richard Whithead to drane a Pit with & in the Evening I went to see how it was fixed & helped to pump

[11] See Appendix D.

with it. I Planted 36 Scotch Firs on my Bed in the Long Garden, they were Sowed in February An: Do: 1709/10. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here, he came from Hooton. Betty Bolton was sent for to look at my Wives Legg.

3 I went before dinner with Pat: Gelibrond to see Richard Whithead Pumping one of his Pits, in the Evening Fanny went with me to see them Pump the Pit. I helped Thomas Darwin to take up five Hundred Thornes for William Lurting.

4 I went before dinner to Great Crosby, John Johnson & I looked over some Ground as Thomas Syer and Thomas Thelwall have some thoughts of Exchanging with each other. I spred 12 Bushells of Lime upon 12 Square Rood of Medowing in Nichols Hey. I went in the Evening to see Richard Whitheads pit Pumped, I found Mr Aldred & Pat: Gelibrond there, we came altogether to Mr Aldreds where we Stayed a good while.

5 I was at the Fishing of Richard Whitheads Pit as we have ben pumping, this is the 3rd dayes Pumping, We got today about 85 lb. of Eles, there was at the Fishing Mr Aldred, Pat: Gelibrond, Richard Whithead, Henry Ascroft, &c:. I began this year to Sow Oats in the Little More hey.

6 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. I sowed some Hedg-Mustard-Seed on the Border at the Side of the old Hasley Walk, very little of it came up. I went in the Morning to Richard Whitheads Pit or rather to Winny Scots and saw some few Eles taken as were left yesterday in the Slutch; In the Evening I went again to the Pit and it being pritty empty of Water, I made them let off an other Pit into it, in order to Fish it. I sent a Cart Load of Beans to Leverpoole as Antony Fleetwood had bought of me, I think they were put on Bord the Planter. Nanny Blundell & Catty Howerd went to Leverpoole with Eggs, Chees, Fresh-butter & Salt butter, they sold almost all.

7 Thomas Morris dined here, he came to see his Wife. My Wife took Phisick by advice of Betty Morris. I put Fourty Eles into the Duckcoy.

8 I Began to Spread Mole-hills. I paid the Land Tax to Gabriell Norris and Walter Thelwall, I paid the Window Tax to William Harrison. I went both before and after dinner to see Richard Whithead Pump a second Pit. I clens'd my Gunn.

9 My Wife took Phisick from Betty Morris. I was at the Fishing of Richard Whitheads second Pit as he drained with my Pump, we took a Few Eles. I sent Darby Wife to burn old Fog in the Winter-heys & Dob Heys.[12] I went to Leverpoole and smoked a Pipe with Mr Lancaster at his owne House thence I went to Mrs Lawsons & wished Mr Branagan Joy, he went with me to see Mr Hurst who was ill of the Gout, thence Mr Branagan and I went to the Wool-pack and drunk there with Mr Simpson and Dr Tarlton, I paid off Mr Simpsons Bill for Groceris &c:.

10 I Payed off most of my Spreaders of Mole-hills and turned off Ailes Davy from working for me because she took some Wood more than I gave her. Darby worked for me again, it being the first time since his Sickness. I began to make Aspargus Beds on the Terras Walk. I sowed some Beanes in the Nearer Wheat Hey.

11 Four hands were very busy all the after Noone Carrying out & Winnowing 82 Busshells and a half of Oats. George Abbot sold a Cow for me at Ormskirk.

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[12] "Burning old Fogg on the Ground . . . . . 1s. 4d."
Fog is a type of grass, rather coarse.

12 James Addison gelded my Red Bull. Robert Tompson brought me home 3 Speanings[13] from Ormskirk as George Abbot was about buying for me yesterday. John Lurting was here I advis'd with him about Aspargus Beds being I am now making some. I took up a Large Root of an Oake as lay in a Hole in the New-Orcherd, 'tis to Lye in the bottom of an Aspargus Bed. Antony Fleetwood was here & looked at my Beanes to see if they were fit for carrying to Sea. Betty Lathom being much out of Order went to her Aunt Smiths for a Few dayes.

13 My Wife took a Doce of Phisick by Advice of Betty Morrice, 'tis the 3rd time she has taken from her since Lent came in. I sent some Potatows to Leverpoole and sold them all.

14 I Read and heard Reading in a Spirituall Book. I gave Betty Morrice a good Book of Phisick & Chirurgery.

15 John Banister Botled off 5 Dozen of Strong Aile. I went to Laurence Formbys & discours'd his Wife about a Cask of Clarret, coming home I went to see old John Harrison.

16 As I went to Leverpoole I called at Duckes[14] and gave him a Crown for Assisting Mr Branagans Gallaway when he Ran between Formby & Leverpoole. I met Betty Lathom at Leverpoole and helped her to buy a Mantew and Pettycoat of Mr Cottom. I Bought some Twill for Secks & a Window-sheet of William Trumans Wife.[15] I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Cottom. Betty Morris went hence, she having much what Cured my Wives Legg, she has ben here almost constantly for a Fortnight last past.

17 My Wife made some Meth. I sent a How-do-you to Widdow Scarisbrick being I heard she was not well. Jemmy Marrow tended the Crows off the Oats in the Little-More-Hey, I lent him a Gun which he shot off, but never had shot one off before today. I made an End of Writing downe the year 1712 in my Large Diurnall & has set it down in the first Index as the other Preceding years are done, so that now I have finished my first Large Diurnall onely making a Short Index for it at the End, the first being abundantly too Long & therefore not very usefull.

18 Betty Marsh from towards Southward was here & sold some dryed Sweet-meats. I finished Oat Seeding in the Little-More-Hey.

19 Westhead paid me for Score of his goods in the Great-More-hey. Thomas Kerfoot paid me his Rack Rent.

20 Betty Lathom came hither again, she had ben some few dayes taking Phisick at her Aunt Smiths. I finished making my six Aspargus Beds on the Terrass Walk, I have not yet devided them into Beds, I think they took above Sixty Load of Muck.

21 Mosburgh Gardiner[16] was here in the Morning but did not stay Prayers, Mr Plumbs Man Jack brought me a Letter from his Master which came Inclosed from him from London. My Wives Leg not being yet well she went to Leverpoole & shewed it to Betty Morris.

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[13] Weaned pigs.

[14] Duke Malthus, at Great Crosby.

[15] "Delf & Whit mettle Wair . . . . . 2s. 8d.
Window Sheet at 7d. per Yard . . . . . 9s. 11d.
Secking at 8½d. per yard . . . . . 19s. 10d."

[16] The gardener of Mr. Molyneux of Mossborough.

22 I was with John Banister when he took a Rabets Nest with four Young ones in it in the New-Orcherd. Peter Stock, Thomas Bradley, William Harrison of Sefton &c: was here to beg towards the Repaire of a Church, they had a Breefe.

23 I went to Leverpoole and heard Prayers at Mrs Brownbills thence I went to Mrs Ladys with Mr Branagan and Patrick Norris, I sold Patrick Norris an other Hundred of Barly. John Banister of Leverpoole paid me £3 in part of a Bill from Mr Thomas Tatlock. I paid William Truman for some Secking as I had formerly bought of his Wife. I drunk at Mr Simpsons with him & Mr Allanson. I bought a Hat of Widdow Leversage. I paid Mr Halsold the Putarer all I ought him.

24 Antony Fleetwood was here to know what quantity of Beanes I had sent to Leverpoole, I gave him a Sample of two Sorts of Oats. I payed my Foure Threshers for Working for me.

25 I went to Charles Howerds and drunk with Mr William Clayton the Master of the Suckcess Brigantine. The Ship-Carpinder, John Tickley and I went to look at the Suckcess as had suffered Ship-rack then we came back to Charles Howerds and drunk a while, William Wignold came to us.

26 I Killed a very good Hogg. I gave my five Men Servants each of them some of my old Cloths or Stockings. I pulled the Shoes of my Breeding Mairs. I fetched home some Hay from Richard Whitheads as George Abbot bought for me there. I helped John Banister to sow Aspargus Seed on three of those Beds as I had prepair'd for it on the Terrass-Walk. I met John Tickley in the High Town, we had Intended to have bought part of the Suckcess Brigantine but nobody being there to sell it, I stayed some time at William Wignolds & Richard Ridings.

27 George Abbot went out with me to have got an Easter Hare but we could not find one. I went to Charles Howerds to have discoused some Persons about buying part of the Suckcess but they were gon ere I came, I found William Wignold at Charls Howerds. Ellen Eves lodg'd here.

28 I went to William Athertons at Ditton & Lodged there. Mrs Rachell Smith dined here.

29 Henry Hawkseye and William Atherton discoursed me about ading two Lives to one now in being in Henry Athertons Teneament, William Kennion came to the Bank-hous and there told me that Widdow Roson was not willing that he should be made Lasy in her Leas. I went in the forenoone to Edmund Lathoms in Speak Town in hopes to have heard Prayers, I found Mr Maor there but he had done ere I came. After dinner William Atherton went with me to Farnworth, I was at the Chappell meeting & heard most of the Wardens Accounts Read over, there was present at the Reading of them, Parson Hargrave, Mr Nicholas Bold, Mr Sankey, Mr Harding, &c:, I signed the Accounts and then went to the Griffen where I drunk with the above named & also Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, The School-master, &c:, I there gave 07s-07d to Parson Hargrave as a Free Guift in Presence of all or most of the above Named. My Wife and Eves walked to Sefton to Mr Crisps.

30 I came from Ditton to Leverpoole where I served Mr Phillipson at Mrs Brownbills, thence I came home and then went to Sefton to the Parish meeting but all business was over ere I came & found the Parish had chosen me

to be their Church Warden.[17] I drunk there with Parson Letus, Parson Wairing, Mr Byer, Mr Crisp, John Tyrer, the two Robert Bootles, &c:. Eves went hence.

31 Ned Hawkseye & John Mason layed the Foundasion for an out Ile for my New Smithy for seting Horses in. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Bootle of the Peele. I mesur'd part of the Cross-field but had not time to finish it, being called off to come to some of Thomas Syers Family of the Ford who wanted me, being John Banister was not at home.

Till the 14th generally very Fair Wether, yet now and then some small Showers, from thence to the 21th very Windy for the most part and every day Raine more or Less, from the 21th to the end very Fair except the 26th & 27th as it Rained a little. This Month has ben remarkable for Wind & Fair Wether; Raine is now much to be desired.

APRILL

1 Gabriell Pinington bought some Oats of me, he helped to put up 40 Busshells of them, I was with him in the Granary. I went to Ormskerk and advised with Mr Brooks about my being Chosen a Church-Warden of Sefton Parish. I drunk at the Griffan with Dr Lancaster and at the Talbot with Dr Lancaster & Pat: Gelibrond. Pat: Aldred broke his Collar Bone with a Fawl of his Horse.

2 William Gray payed me part of his Fine. I went to Charles Howerds and discoursed Mr Clayton the Master of the Success Brigantine about buying part of her, John Tickley & William Wignold were there but we did not bargan, thence I went to Sefton to tell Parson Letus, I would not Stand as Church-Warden but he not being at home I called at Mr Smiths and there found William Harrison the Clark so I told him my resolusion in Presence of Mr Smith.

3 Catty Howerd was Extreamly ill and after a very od manner somtimes complaining of her Head or Belly, other times Started & looked Madish, then would rave. I went to John Sumner of the Morehouses to ask him to serve as Church-Warden for me till farther orders but he was not at home.

4 Brock Fowled a Filly Fowl, it is her first Colt, I intend to call it Bonny.

5 I met Dr Lancaster in this Town-field as I was going towards Leverpoole where I did not light, but Rid on towards Runkhorn, I stayed on this side the Water about an hour expecting the Boat and then went over & so towards Chester, I called of John Wainright in Helsby & discoursed him about some small Arreers of Ditton Rack Rent, I lodged in Chester at Mr Pantons the Signe of the Whit-Bull out of Norgate. I sowed about 5 Busshell of Linn Seed in the Little-More-Hey.

6 I Acquainted Mr Boucher[18] that I was chosen Churchwarden for Sefton Parish and advised with him about it. Mr Panton[19] went with me to look at severall Flower Gardens in Chester. I bought some Gloves for my Wife of Mr Edward Glegg & left my Leather Breeches with him to get washed, since which

[17] Blundell, together with Thomas Syer of Great Crosby, served as churchwarden of Sefton parish, from Easter 1714 to Easter 1715. There are a great number of entries in the Diary dealing with his activities as churchwarden.

[18] Richard Boucher was a lawyer, and proctor of the abbey court, Chester.

[19] In the rolls of the freemen of Chester, 1732, a Charles Panton, goldsmith, is mentioned as the "son of Edward Panton, innholder."

time I have received them very well done.[20] I came from Chester to Runckhorne where I stayed in the Boat hous till we went over the Water, coming home I called at William Kennions & William Athertons and so kame through Leverpoole home.[21] Mr Smarley & George Lathom had ben at Skinner Davys concerning the Bargan I had made with George Lathom about that Teneament, Mr Smarley left a Letter with Walter Thelwall for me about that Matter.

7 I went to Skinner Davys olim Ridings, but William being gon to his other Hous olim Gilbersons I went thither to him & Looked what improvements he had made both within Doars & without, I made him Digg for a Rabbets Nest as I found as I came to his Hous but there was no Young ones in it, I took the Grewhounds with me, I had 2 Courses & killed not. Pat: Wofold made a Viset here.

8 I set the Snig to William Marser for 3 years. Ned Hawksey & Partner began to build a Pare of Stayers for the Hawks mew, The Stones were most of them ready drest.

9 My Wife & I dined at Croxtath, we took Fanny with us in the Coach & left her till we came back at Mrs Smiths. My Lord Molineux heard from one Levis of Worsester Shire.

10 I went to Leverpoole and met William Atherton & his Brothers Widdow I made her some proposalls about Leasing with her. I went to see Mr Hurst who was ill of the Gout. William Truman treated me with a Bottle of good Aile at his Doughters. I drunk at the Woll-pack with Benjamin Branker & Mr Taylor the Watchmaker, and with the two Robert Bootles. Thomas Kennion paid me off a Bill drawn upon him by Mr Thomas Tatlock. Richard Robinson was here & fited up the Patchwork Skreene.

11 My Wife and I went to Eckleston, we heard Mr Swinbourn hold forth, there was present Mr Holland of Sutton, Mr Complin, &c:, We dined at Eckleston.

12 Brock was Horsed at Leverpoole by Thomas Bigarstaffs Bay Stallion. Oliver Brownbill paid me for Oats. John Banister took a Mous whilst it was eating a Tulop Root within the ground. I went to Charles Howerds, he William Wignold and I devided some Timber amongst us, it was Part of the Suckcess Brigantine, we cast Lots & I had two very Large Load to my Share for 20s. I drunk at Charles Howerds with Gabriell Norris, Thomas Bleven, &c:.

13 I Paid William Davy Skinner £10 which his Wife gave me to keep for her before she was Married to him, both he & his Wife signed a Releas to me in full of that and all other Demands what soever. Thomas Bigarstaff sent his Stalion to cover Brock but she was not in order, he covered her yesterday. Antony Darwin brought a Cart hither for some Flags, I sold him some, James Davy the Slator came with him.

14 Yester night & this Morning I took a Dose of Pills by Order of Dr Cawood. Ned Howerd went to Leverpoole with an intension to goe to Dublin.

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[20] According to the rolls of the freemen of Chester, 1709–10, Edward Glegg was the "son of William Glegg of Whitby, Co. Chester, gentleman, apprentice of Thomas Jackson of Chester skinner, defunct."

"6 Nov. 1714—Washing and mending my Leather Breeches . . . . . 4s. 6d."

[21] "6 Aprill 1714

A Fee to Mr Boucher	3s. 6d.
Spent at Chester on my self, Man & two Horses	5s. 9d.
To the Barber, &c: at Chester	8d.
Spent on the Rode going & coming	1s. 6d."

15 Early this morning or in the Night Ginny Fowled a Hors Colt, I intend to call it Jewill. I killed a Large Hogg.

16 I went to Healbank & looked to see how it & some Grounds there abouts was fenced and to see how the Spring comes forwards, but the Grass was very backward for want of Rain & upon Account of the Sharp Winds, thence I went to John Sumners but he not being at home I went to where he was, & agreed with him to Ackt in part as Church-Warden for me. I fetched home a Bull Calf from Scarisbrick which I intend to Rear.

17 I went to Leverpoole & bought some thing of Mr Hursts Prentice to be the outside for a Summer Frock for me. I went to Mr Plumbs & wished him welcome home, he and his Wife being lately comne from London. I drunk at Mrs Ladys with Parson Walsh, Parson Orme, Parson Wairing & his Uncle, &c: and at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb and Dr Tarlton.

18 Dr Tarlton sent hither for some Young Pigeons, I let him have some. I payed Richard Whithead for some Hay I had formerly of him. My Wife went to see Betty Blundell of the Car-side who has ben very ill.

19 Yester Night & this Morning I took a dose of Pills by Orders of Dr Cawood. William Marrow came to discours me about Fining for his Mothers Teneament, we made noe absolute Bargan, Walter Thelwall and John Farer came with him.

20 Laurence Jump came to prepare Daub for my Smithy. I began to smoke my Apple-Trees to destroy the Caterpillers.

21 Charles Howerd came hither to make me a Summer Frock, tis the first time he has worked here for me as Master Taylor. I turned some of my Beasts out to Grass as lay in the Hous in the Nights. I met Thomas Syer at Harsnops,[22] 'tis the first time we met to consult of the Parish Affaires, since we were Church-Wardens, we caused a Chest over the Church Pourch to be brock open as had not ben open'd of very many years,[23] we drunk at Harsnaps; Parson Letus, Mr Croston, Mr Smith the Malster, &c:, coming home I called of Margery Shepheard, she told me her mind concerning making her Will.

22 George Abbot bought me two Bulls in Ormskerk Market & sent them hither by two Men, thence he intended to goe to Brindle & Chorley Fair ere he came back.

23 My Wife rid part of the way behind me towards Leverpoole but the Hors flung her so she walked home on foot, and I went to Leverpoole, but Mr Plumb being Just ready to goe to Bank-hall to shoot young Rooks, I had very little discours with him.

24 Mr Smith was here, I paid him for Making Malt for me & for Duty of it.

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[22] John Harsnop or Harsnip was landlord of the Church Inn.

[23] It is probable that Nicholas Blundell, the moving spirit of the two, had a particular interest in breaking open the chest. In 1686/7 his grandfather, William Blundell the Cavalier, was engaged in a legal suit with the churchwardens of Sefton parish, who were demanding payment of a certain sum of money as his share towards some repairs done to the Church and churchyard in 1684/5. William Blundell refused to pay this levy, saying it was imposed, not to pay for church repairs, but to make a cart way on the outside of the churchyard to Sefton water-mill. Nicholas Blundell already possessed the family documents relating to the affair, and now, by breaking into this chest, he had the churchwardens' accounts and could see exactly how they had really spent the money. So interested was Nicholas, that he got the parish clerk, William Harrison, to copy out for him these accounts from Easter, 1684 to Easter, 1686. These are amongst the Blundell of Crosby documents now deposited in the Lancashire Record Office, (DDB1/31/4), and are the earliest churchwardens' accounts for Sefton parish known.

25 My Wife sent John Banister to Ince of a How-do-you to my Lady Anderton who was lately comne thither, & sent George Abbot to Croxtath to see my Lord Molineux his two Doughters who as we had heard (though fals) had the Small Pox.

26 I Began to lead Muck into the Pike with 4 Boone Carts & one of my own, after dinner I had two more of my own Carts, there was 4 fillers most part of the day & never more then one Hooker, but they did not near finish it. I went with Landers to that part of the Winterheys as I call Flea-land & helped him to set out some Ground as he is to delve Fleas off. Henry Ascroft began to delve Turf in Thomas Marrows Moss, I think 'tis the first dayes delving of Turves for me this year. Antony Fleetwood paid me for some Beanes as Mr Gilders had of me to send to Sea, he stayed & smoked a Pipe with me, I gave him some Apples home with him.

27 I Began to sow Barly this year in the Pick. John Banister botled off about five dozen of Mead. Captain Robert Fazakerley called here as he was going from Leverpoole towards Formby to shoot Dotterrell.[24]

28 Bess Fowled betimes in the Morning a Large Bay Hors Colt, I intend to call it Diamond. I sent some Faided Apples to Leverpoole to sell, they are the last I have now to part with. Betty Morris lodged here, she brought my Wife a Dose of Phisick to take tomorrow.

29 My Wife took a Dose of Phisick from Betty Morris. Thomas Syer came hither to advise with me about meeting tomorrow at Leverpoole.

30 I met Thomas Syer at Leverpoole, we being the Church Wardens bought two Locks for the use of the Church and promised Richard Eckleston that he should doe the Plumbing & Glaising work at Sefton Church, he treated us. Thomas Syer & I Looked at the Legasy Table in the Old Church in Leverpoole.

First day very fine Weather, the four Following very Cold & windy with some Sleet or haile, then 3 Fair dayes, the next three dayes some little Raine, from the 12th to the 26th very fair, & pritty much Wind, the four last dayes some Raine, which was very acceptable.

MAY

1 Thomas Syer and I met at Harsnops to Receive the Church Leyes through the Parish from the Cunstables but few of them came, we looked to see in what Repaire the Leads were in and the Windows, we drunk at John Harsnops with Parson Letus, Thomas Bradley, &c:. Thomas Bradley was here in the Morning, I Signed a Petission for him to shew to the Bishops Court about geting a Seat in Sefton Church, he suckceeded in it.

2 Mrs Betty Wofold & Mr Crisps Sister Margaret dined here. I paid Thomas Tyrer for some Phisick, &c: for some of my Beasts. Ned Hatton fetched a Horse hence as he had Scoar'd with me for his Friend. I gave Mr Aldred some Money upon Account of Mr Christopher Bradshaw.

3 I Dined at Scarisbrick, I went thither to take leave of Mr Scarisbricks Son William who was going to Blandike. Mr Scarisbrick went out after dinner

[24] Dotterel—ringed dotterel or ringed plover, a sea-shore bird formerly shot for sport.

upon Business about Martine Meer.[25] I smoked in Maynards Chamber with Mr Gorsuch. Mrs Barker made a Viset to Scarisbrick. Mr Aldreds Brother George came to his Hous to see him, it is the first time he has ben in this Town.

4 I Led Muck in the Morning with Boon Carts, after dinner I made some of them Lead home Fleas that were Stacked in the Winter-Heys. Landers cut out that Ground into Roods as we had lately Marked to get Fleas off in that part of the Winter-Heys as I call Flea Land.

5 John Sumner the Cunstable for the More-houses paid me two Church Leys.

6 James Davy the Cunstable of this Town Paid me two Church Leys. Sir Frances Anderton & Mr Steven Anderton made me a Viset. Bess was Horsed at Leverpoole by Thomas Bigarstaffs Large Bay.

7 Thomas Bigarstaff was here with his Hors and tryed one of my Mares & some of the Neighbours Mares but none of them were in order, I paid him three half Crownes for 3 Colts as his hors got me the last year. John Banister went out to take young Moles, 'tis the first day he has ben out this Season, he took 7 it is too soone I think. I Removed 30 or more good Tulop Roots out of the Nursery into the Knot and took up a good Many bad ones. I set some Indian Wheat on a Hot Bed & on an Aspargus Bed, it did very well and would I think have comne to pritty good perfecsion if it had ben set a Month since. Mr John Taylor was here, he brought me a Watch he had of mine to Clense.

8 I Went to Wigan to the Funerall of my old Lady Bradshaw & came home in the Night, there was at the Funerall or at least in the Roome Sir Thomas Standish, Mr Banks of Winstanley, Mr Standish, Mr Scarisbrick, Mr John Gerard, Dr Thomas Worthington, &c:, I spoke to Mrs Aspinwall in the Church Yord about a Mart[26] she had lade with me & I would have had three Guineys or £3 for a Composition but she said she would eather pay all or none. I payed Dr Thomas Worthington in his own hous all I ought him in presence of Mr William Poole, &c:, I drunk at my Inn the Legs of Man with Mr Trafford of Croston.

9 My Wife walked to Bootle of a Viset to Hugh Bullens Wife. Ned Howerd came home, he had ben in Ireland.

10 I went to Flea-Land where Landers two Sons were Delving Fleas for me, thence I went to the Funerall of Richard Riding, there was at the Funerall Hous Richard Tickley, Edmund Tristram, Walter Thelwall, Joseph Rigby, &c: all or most as I named went I think to his Funerall. John Banister took five young Moles, he got some Roots of Tulops for me in Sefton Town. Mall-Puss was ill bitton by Hector. I finished Threshing my Corne. Antony Fleetwood paid for some Oats, but I think it was my Wife as received the Money.

11 I went with George Abbot to Thomas Marrows Moss and to Flea Land & told him how to sell Turves & Fleas, we helped William Blundell to mark out some Roods of Fleas in Flea-Land. William Harrison was here, I paid him my Easter dues and Clarks Wages. John Banister took I think 14 young Moles.

12 I went to Harsnops where the Old Church Wardens got their Presentments drawn up against tomorrow; I paid William Melling all as was owing to the old Wardens to Ballance their Last years Accounts, I drunk with him, John Hughson, &c: I ordered Richard Webster to make some Iron work for the Font and gave him direcsions how to doe it.

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[25] Martin Mere, between Rufford and Crossens, drained later in the eighteenth century.

[26] There are two meanings of the word *mart*: 1. an ox or cow fattened for slaughter; 2. to trade in merchandise.

13 I was at the Bishops Court in Ormskerk, the Chancellor gave me leave in the Presence of Mr Roberts & Mr Sankey to put Doars without Locks to my Pew in Farnworth Chappell. Being Thomas Syer and I are the Church-Wardens we dined at the Talbot in Ormskerk with Parson Letus, Parson Wairing, &c:, I paid £3 to Parson Letus upon Dr Lathoms Account.[27] Mrs Ann Molineux & her Sister Bridget dined here. John Wainright Lodged here.

14 I went betimes in the Morning to Thomas Marrows Moss, this being the first publick day of Selling Turves this year. John Wainright & I stated Accounts concerning his Doughters Rent for Ditton Rack but we could not come to a Conclusion. My Lady Anderton and Mrs Blundell of Ince made a Viset here so did Mr Turbervile, &c:. Mary Morecroft Lodged here I gave her notice I would pay in what Money I ow her upon Bond since which time I have paid it to her Brother-in-Law John Molineux. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here.

15 I Turned my Work-horses out to Grass. I brought some Stones home from Farers Delf, to be ready as I have occasion for them.

16 Patrick Norris of Leverpoole & his Wife din'd here, I gave him some young Shepsters,[28] there came three hither to goe with Patrick Norris to Formby, they intend to Fish in the Meer tomorrow, one of their Names was Gamond. Betty Morris was here, she took in hand to cure Pat: Gelibronds Legg.

17 My Wife went to Aigbourth to Condole the Death of Mr Harington, she dined there. Richard Westhead & William Tarlton Reconed with me for the Money I am to pay them for the last years Tith Corn, but we did not conclude the business, they told me they had taken seaven Young Foxes today in a Denn in the Warand, I think they will bring them all alive to Wooton to Mr Molineux· James Boone lodged here, he brought five Cocks along with him, they are fed and he designes to play them if he can tomorrow at Charles Howerds.

18 William Weedow Signed a Bond to me. William Davy Signed a Bond to John Banister. My Wife made a Viset to my Lady Anderton at Ince. I was at Charles Howerds where there was a Battle Victory fought for a Saddle by eight Cocks 'twas wone by a Leverpoole Cock as belong'd I think to Jack Whit, there was at the Cocking, Jack Whit, Marsden, Dugdale, Hurlston, &c: there were some by Battles fought, but when the Saddle was wone I & most of the above named came to Jane Bryansons where we found Pats: Wofold, Burton, &c: we drunk there with them.

19 Mr Turbervile Made a Viset here. Natters his Wife came & tryed a Pair of Stayes as her Husband had made for my Wife.

20 I Finished Delving Flea-Turves this year. I sent my last Load of Barly to be Malted for this Season. My Lady Andertons Woman Mrs Osboldeston made my Wife a Viset.

21 I went to Leverpoole and received some Money of Mr Plumb as he had received for me at London, it belonged to Dr Lathom. Patrick Norris paid me in part for some Barly. I paid Thomas Harper, Mr Cottom, &c: what I ought them. I gave Mr Plumb a Quart of Wine at the Talbot & treated Patrick Norris at the Woolpack.

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[27] See June 23 1713.

[28] Starlings.

22 Cozen John Gelibrond Lodged here. I finished the Index at the End of my Large Diurnall, so that now I hope I have no more to writ in it. Pat: Aldred lodged here upon Account of a fals Allarum that there were some People Searching at the Grange for Pat: Wofold.

23 Cozen John Gelibrond made a Viset to Ince, he Suped there. My Wife went to see Ailes Melling who was not well.

24 Mr Taylor the Watchmaker dined here. Cozen John Gelibrond walked with me to the Winter-heys, I shewed him my Improvements there, he and I went to Mr Aldreds where we found seaven Pats: S:J: all but one dined there with him,[29] Mr Maynord sup'd here. I paid Money to Ned Hatton ensted of Tith Corn for the last year.

25 Cozen John Gelibrond went hence being sent for home to young Mr Tempest. Mr George Aldred was here, I bought a Wigg of him. Dr Lancaster was here.

26 I brought one Load of Coles from Cozen Molineux his Pits for Mr Aldred and an other for my self, they are the first Coles I have got home this Summer.[30] Henry Dauber having raised the Lyer & turned the Rongs and done some other work at my Mill went hence. My Lady Anderton and Mrs Blundell made a Viset here. The Quarrell with Walter Thelwall about my Beasts and his in their Rong Pastures and the Wager Layed by him with George Abbot of a Crown. Mr Thwaits a Convert Parson of York-shire Lodged here.

27 Betty Morris came to dress Pat: Gelibronds Legg, she also dressed Thomas Blundells Legg. A Messenger came to invite me to the Funerall of Mr Golding.

28 My Wife sent Banister to Townley of a-how-do-you to her Sister Langdale. I Booked my Disbursments for February & March.

29 William Tarlton went with me to Southard to the Funerall of Mr Golding, he was buried at Winick, there was at his Buriall, Mr Gerard of Highfild, Mr Culcheth, Mr Johnson of Warington, Parson Alanson, Mr Blackbourn of Orford, &c: I paid Landers for Delving Fleas for me.

30 Pat: Gelibrond and I went to Mr Aldreds to wate of Sir Francis Anderton who was there, he & Mr Wofold of Morehall came back with me, we drunk a Glass in the Gate-hous, but they came not into the Hous.

31 I went to Leverpoole and stayted Accounts with Mr Plumb for Money owing to him upon Account of Law Matters & by him to me for the Score of a Hors and for some other things & I gave him my Note to pay the Ballance which is since payed, he treated me at his own House, I drunk there with his Brother & Dr Maxwell &c: and at the Wool-pack with Mr Swarbrick & Clifton.

Notwithstanding that there was now and then some pritty brisk showers yet there was great want of Rain this Month, som times 3 or 4 dayes or more together & noe Raine, then perhaps as many dayes together each day a small Shower but generally so little it did but Little or no good.

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[29] This meeting of seven priests may have had something to do with the recent 'false alarm' of May 22.

[30] "Cole at 2d. per Basket . . . . . 13s. 2d."

JUNE

1 Pat: Gelibrond took a Purge from Betty Morris. I dined at Richard Heyses in Aintry with Mr Bower, John Tyrer, &c:, John Tyrer and I adjusted all our Accounts almost Relating to Doctor Lathom. I went to Orrell to William Tarltons Marlers and made them shout.[31]

2 Alexander Vose brought me a Mare to look at for my Wife but I bought her not. I took up my Anemony and Renunculas Roots. I Booked my Receipts for February and March. I hanged my old Dog Tory, the Seter as Cozen Molineux of Mosburg had given me.

3 My Grewhound Ginny came home from William Kennions of Ditton upon her owne accord, I suppose it was because she was then Jolly for she came home neather before or since that time till I sent for her. Thomas Tyrer of Orrell brought me a Mare to look at for my Wife but we did not bargan. I Booked my Receipts and Disbursments for Aprill and May. Hugh Tootall brought me a Millstone from Whitley Hills, I paid him for it.[32]

4 George Abbot being gon to the Morehous Turf-Moss I went after him betimes in the Morning & helped him to sell Turves, it being the first dayes sale there this yeare, when I came home I found William Kennion here who was comne in quest of my Bitch Ginny, he took her home with him. After dinner I went to Darby Wife to Flea-Land, she was dressing Fleas for me, thence I went to William Tompsons who was dangerously ill, then to Charles Howerds, his Wife acquainted me of her Resolusion to brew;[33] and discoursed me about helping them with Money, she went with me to look at her Turves as are delved. I brought home two Cart Load of Cannell from Sir Rogers Pits.[34]

5 I Began my second Large Tombe of Diurnalls by begining to writ out my small Diurnalls into it. I helped John Banister to Bottle about 4 Dozen of Aile. I took up about 50 small Seedling Tulop Roots out of the Knot, they are two years old.

6 Ned Howerd treated Walter Thelwall and me in his Roome, tis the first glass of Aile he has given me. My Wife & Fanny made a Viset to Ince. Mrs Fazakerley was here.

7 I went with William Eckleston to Flea Land and set him out a Rood of Fleas. Henry Blundell Junior of Ince Town was here a good while expecting Betty Morris, when she came he shewed her his Ancle which he is lame of.

8 George Abbot came home & brought me a Pritty Bay Mare as William Ainsworth had helped him to buy for my Wife but I think it will not be for her purpose, I call it Cherry.[35] Master Lunt was here and desired he might writ

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[31] It is not clear what this means. On several occasions when Nicholas took visitors to see workmen getting marl out of a marl-pit, the marlers were made to shout. Maybe it was to produce an echo. Usually the visitors rewarded them with 1s. 0d. or 2s. 6d. with which to buy ale.

[32] "3 June 1714—A Mill-Stone . . . . . £4 5s. 0d."
The mill-stone was obtained from Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley.

[33] Charles Howerd of the Morehouses. It is quite possible that his wife was one of the earliest inn-keepers of the inn in Moss Lane in the Morehouses, Little Crosby, now (1969) known as the Pheasant Inn.

[34] Sir Roger Bradshaigh's pits at Haigh, Wigan.

[35] "8 June 1714—A Bay Mare I call Cherry . . . . . £5 10s. 0d.
Spent in buying my Mare Cherry . . . . . 7s. 3d."

out some of the Old Church-Wardens Accounts if they were to be writ out for Hier. John Banister brought a Box from Leverpoole as came from London with a Podesway Mantew &c: for my Wife.[36]

9 My Lady Anderton, Mrs Blundell, &c: made a Viset here. H. Simkins brought me some Saile Cloth for my Mill at 4½d. per yard.

10 I was busy a great part of the day helping to pack up against our Journey to Stockhild.

11 I sent some things to Leverpoole to goe by York Carrier for my Wife. Pat: Gelibrond went hence he having bene here some time to have his Legg Cured by Betty Morris. Mr Samuell Thomas brought a Mare for me to buy for my Wife but we did not bargan. I set my Warand for 3 years to William Wignold & Thomas Kerfoot.

12 I went to Leverpoole and bought a Sute of Clothes of Mr Hurst except some little thing as I had by me towards making it up, I drunk at the Woolpack with Mr Wilding, Antony Fleetwood and his Son, Mr Smith of Sefton the Malster, &c:. My Wife came after me to Leverpoole, she made a Viset to Mrs Fazakerley, &c:, she Rid home behind me, she had a most sevear Fit at Night of the Gravell or Stone.

13 My Wife being very ill of the Gravell she kept her Bed till after dinner, Emblem Blansherd made my Wife a Viset. Thomas Syer was here, we Consulted about the Affairs of the Parish.

14 Charles Howerd began to make me a Cloath Sute. Eves walked from Leverpoole hither to see my Wife ere she goe towards Stockhild. My two Teames and William Marsers Led Coales for our Smith.

15 Richard Cartwrit let my Wife blood in her Arme, he took about 13 ounces of Blood from her. I began to lead home my Fleas. My Lady Anderton & Mrs Blundell and their good Men made a Viset here. I had my first Swarme of Bees this year.

16 I had my second Swarme of Bees this year. Mr Martindale and Mr Aspinwall called here as they were going to Ince Bowling Green. Mr Turbervill dined here. I was very busy giving directions how to Saddle & fit the Horses against my Wives Journey tomorrow. Mrs Osboldeston & Dorothy Blundell made a Viset here.

17 My Wife, I and Fanny began our Journey towards Stockhild, we called at Thomas Places in Ormskerk, his Wife gave us a drink at the doar, we bated at Fletchers the Signe of the Bucks Heads in Brindle thence went to Gisbourn where we lodged at John Yates the Spoted Hind.

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[36] "Black Podesway at 9s. per yard for a Mantew for my Wife . . . .

	£	s.	d.
	5	5	9
Making the Mantew		8	0
Lining for the Body of the Mantew		4	0
Neck Carshaff of Gaus & Silver		9	6
A Fann		10	0
Oring Flower Water one Quart		3	6
Muslin & Edging for Childrens Caps and Ruffles	1	1	0
Starching & Making Childers Caps, &c:		5	0
Knots & Wiers for the Caps		2	8
Coffy at 6s. 4d. per pound		19	0
Box and Pourterage		2	3"

The family were once again preparing for a journey to relatives in Yorkshire. As always when he buys clothes from London, he also buys coffee to be sent in the box.

18 From Gisbourn we came to Skipton where we dined at Gilbert Johnsons the Signe of the Black Horse thence we went to Stockhild where we Lodged, we found my Lord Langdale there.

19 I sent to York for my Trunks of Apparrell but they were not comne. I walked with my Lord Langdale to my Brother Midletons Bath.

20 Sister Midleton and my Wife walked into the Gardens. I walked with my Brother Middleton to his Warand.

21 Mally began to drink the Sulfure Spaw-Water. My Brother Joseph came to Stockhild and went thence with my Wife and me to York where we Lodged at Mrs Hawksworths in Little Blake Street, or as some call it the leading Street over-against the old Mint-Yard.

22 Mrs Naper dined with us at our Lodgings and then made a Viset with my Wife and me by Coach to Mrs Pastons, to Mrs Eringtons, &c:.

23 My Brother Joseph, my Wife and I dined at Mrs Napers. Brother Joseph and I made a Viset to my Cozen Thomas Selby thence we went to the Whit-Boar Coffy-Hous where we drunk with Pat: Bostock and one Mr Brigham.

24 My Wife and I made a Viset to my Lady Smithson[37] thence she went with us to Viset Mrs Ferfax and so came with us to our Lodgings, in the Evening we went from York to Coggrave or Saint Mungoes. I lodged there but my Wife went back to Loftus-Hill to Mr Hodgsons.

25 My Wife came from Loftus Hill to Coggrave to me. Dr Craythorne and I went into the Baith or St Mungows Well, after dinner he & I played at Cards with my Wife, Mrs Doleman of Pocklington and the two Sisters Mrs Dolmans.

26 My Wife and I dined at Coggrave at our Lodging with the three Mrs Dolmans, Mr Wilks & his Wife, Mrs Bullock, &c: and then we came thence to Lodg at Stockhild, my Lord Langdale was gon from thence ere we came.

27 Young Mr Plumton, Mr Chumley of Bransby & Pat: Philipson dined at Stockhild.

28 Brother Midleton & I saw them draw a Pond and take some Carp. Mr Hammond and Pat: Cass dined at Stockhild.

29 Mr Charles Ferfax, Sir Thomas Tankerds eldest Son, Pat: Medcalf & Pat: William Fenwick dined at Stockhild, Mr Dolman of Pocklington and his Wife Lodged at Stockhild.

30 Pat: Graves, Pat: Smith & Mr Plumpton Senior dined at Stockhild, Sister Middleton took my Wife and me in her Coach to Harragate or Knelburrow Spawes, I went chiefly to see my Cozen Joe Ingleby who was at the Royall Oak, thence we went to the Green Dragon where we also light, then to the Sulfure Spaw & so home to Stockhild.

The Four first dayes fair, then four dayes some little Rain now & then, and one good Large Shower, the rest of the Month faire and extreamly hot except the 25th on which was a pritty good Shower, Never was that want of Raine known as now is, all ditches being almost dry & tis extreamly hard to get Water for the Cattle. Grass is burned up, Flax & all Corn is extraordinary poore except Wheat and Rye.

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[37] Elizabeth, daughter of Marmaduke, second Lord Langdale, was married to Sir Hugh Smithson, of Stanwick, Bart. She was the aunt of the wife of Nicholas Blundell.

JULY

1 My Wife, I and my Children came from Stockhild to Burgwallice where we lodged. Mally is comne quite away from Stockhild where she has ben for some time for change of Aire.

2 Cozen Ann of Frickley and his Wife dined at Burgwallice. My Lady Smithson lodged at Burgwallice.

3 Edward Fletcher the Fidler played to us at Burgwallice; My Lady Smithson, I, &c: danced Country Dances, &c:.

4 Cozen Duke Ann of Frickley and his Wife dined at Burgwallis. My Brother Joseph Lodged at Burgwallis.

5 We came from Burgwallis to Henry Nowells in Duesbury where we dined, it is an extraordinary dear house, thence we came to the George at Holcroft Head where we bated a while & then went to Sampson Sunderlands the Black Lyon in Rippondale where we lodged, tiss a very Cheap Inn & sivell oblidging People, but the Lodging very ordinary.

6 We came from Ripandale to Bolton where we dined at Henry Wilkinsons the Signe of the Swan with two Necks, thence to Wigan where we bated a while at the Legs of Man & so home about twelve of the Clock at Night.[38] Brother Joseph came home with us. I began to Shear my Cole-Seed in the Nearer North Hey.

7 I shewed my Brother Joseph some of the Alterasions I had made in the Hous & Gardens. I sent John Banister and Nanny Blundell to Leverpoole with some Gardin-Stuff to sell viz: Hartichoks, Peas, Frute, &c:. Walter Thelwall, William Davy, &c: came to wish us welcome home.

8 William Pooley was here to Score two Calves with me but I could not conveniently do it. William Smith fetched a Heffer from hence as I got warned yesterday, she was a Wafe. I finished shearing my Cole-Seed & paid off four Men as came out of Darby to Shear for me.[39] Pat: Tasburgh and Pat: Burton made a Viset here.

9 I Began to Stack some Fleas in Roods where they were delved, I went to see them Stacking. Brother Joseph[40] and I went with George Abbot to my Snigary, and saw him take some Eles there as could not get out for want of Water.

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[38] "Spent when my Wife & I went into York-Shire & came back with our Children in Travelling Expenses:—

	£	s.	d.
for our selves, Servants & Horses	2	18	7
Vales in York Shire	1	13	6
Coaching in the Sitty of York		4	0
Spent in York at our Inn on Selves, Servants, and Horses	1	10	7½
Accidentall Charges as mending Sadles, &c:		4	1
At Harragate and at Coggrave	1	2	9
Toyes bought for Nephew Midletons		7	1
Sword Hilt, &c: for me		4	5
Toyes for my Children		1	0
To a Fidler at Burgwalles		1	0
Carriage of our Lugage backwards and forwards & charges in geting it	1	3	9"

[39] "8 July 1714—Hierd Shearers of Cole Seed at 12d. per day . . . . 12s. 0d." These shearers came from West Derby.

[40] His brother had come with him for a few days from Yorkshire.

10 I went to Leverpoole and Setled Accounts with John Smalshaw, I drunk with him and Mr Simpson at the Wool-pack. I paid Mr William Plumb some Money as his Father had paid at London by my Orders. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Swarberick and barganed with him for my Cole-Seed.

11 My Brother Joseph held forth at Mr Aldreds and then went to dine at Ince.

12 My Brother Joseph and Pat: Aldred went to dine at Mosburgh & thence to goe lodg at Garswood. I began to Lead home some of my Turves with my own Teames. I began to pull my Flax. I daubed my four hives of Bees which are all I have this year.

13 Ailes Stewerd was here I bought some Starch & Grounds, &c: of her and cleer'd off all Accounts with her. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here. I helped to pull Bess out of a Moss ditch in the Winter-Heys.

14 Mr Molineux of Mosburgh dined here.

15 William Davy brought me some Vinegar from Ormskirk. I Booked my Receipts for the Last Month.

16 I Booked my Disbursments for the last Month. Cozen Molineux of Mosbourg sent hither for 4 Busshell of Gray Peas as I had sold him. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. Joseph & Pat: Aldred came home.

17 Mr Scarisbrick dined here, he came chiefly to see my Brother Joseph. Pat: Gelibrond went hence.

18 Walter Thelwall and I went to Leverpoole and discoursed Mr Plumb and Mr Smarley about George Lathoms Sute with Walter Thelwall. My Wife and Brother Joseph and Mally walked to Lidiat Hall and the Coach went to Fetch them home.

19 I Led Turves with Boone Carts, tis the first days Leading of Boone Turves this year. I Rid in a Cart with my Children to the Turf Moss.

20 I Led Turves with 14 Boone Carts, I went betimes in the Morning to my Turf Moss both to Petchers Field & Blundells High-field Hey. I strained upon some goods of William Davys for Rent. I went to my Snigary & took away my Net as had long Hung up there in expectasion of a Flood.

21 Mr Scarisbrick, his Wife, Son Francis, The three Sisters Blundell; Mrs Fazakerley and her Son Robert; Pat: Aldred and Pat: Tasburgh dined here. I went to Charles Howerds in quest of some things he should have brought for my Wife from Leverpoole. I began to ripple my Flax as grew on my Marled Ground in the Little More-Hey.

22 I went to Leverpoole with my Brother Joseph on Purpose to shew him the Town, we drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Simpson & then we went to the Golden Fleece where I treated them with Perry.

23 I Reconed with my Mowers, they having almost finished, I paid them in part. Brother Joseph and I went to Ned Hattons to see if he intended to goe to Holly-well but he was not within. I put my own Flax to Reet. I helped to examen the Cloaths as were come by the Carrier out of York-Shire.

24 Thomas Bradley was here to borrow some Money of me but I had none for him. I went with my Wife, Mally and my Brother Joseph to Leverpoole, they went thence towards Holly-Well, I drunk at the Crown in Water Street with Mr Morphew, Mr Robert Fazakerley, &c: I saw the Show of the Waterworks at the Griffan, there was Mr Dugdale, &c:, when I came home I found Sir James Poole comne to Lodge here.

25 Sir Jams Poole went to Great Crosby, I went after him & found him at Ned Johnsons where we drunk with Marmaduke Maltus.

26 I went with Sir James Poole to the New-hous to prayers to Pat: Tasburgh, there was Mr Crisp, Mr Shepheard, &c:. I Reconed with William Davy for what he owes me, he paid me in part and I let him have his Beasts again as I had Strained upon. My Wife, Brother Joseph, &c: came home from Holly Well.

27 Brother Joseph, Sir James Poole and I made a Viset to Pat: Wofold at the Grange but he not being at home we stayed a While with Mrs Molineux and then went to Charles Howerds where we had a Silly-bub.[41] I sent my Teame with some of my Neighbours to bring Slates for Thomas Thelwall from Scots Delf in Holland, Robert Tompson coming home with his Load, the Cart Ran over his Thigh and brock it, he stayed under Pothecary Bartons Hands and Lodged at Winstanleys in Ormskirk. There came an Express from Stockhild to invite me to my Brother Midletons Funerall, I began my Journey towards Stockhild about eleven of the Clock at Night.

28 I came to the Swan with the two Necks in Bolton about six in the Morning where I bated, thence I went to Bradford where I Lodged at George Fletchers the Signe of the Black Swan, I drunk there with his Brother who they called Captain Fletcher, he had ben at St Omers.

29 From Bradford I came to Stockhild before Dinner where I found my Brother Langdale, Mr Plumpton and his Wife came thither after dinner. Pat: Graton and Pat: Pewell Dined here. I Began to Thresh my Cole-Seed in the Nearest-North-Hey with almost Fourty Hands.

30 I came from Stockhild to the Blackhors in Skipton where I Lodged.

31 From Skipton I came to Preston where I Lodged at Richard Jacksons, I bought some Roots of Flowers in Preston of one Dolphine, I made a Viset to old Mrs Walmesley of Showley. I finished threshing my Cole-Seed, I had 148 Bushells of the best sort.

Though many of the last Months have ben extreamly Fair & there has ben extraordinary want of Rain yet now the Weather seems to alter there having ben this Month many very fine Showers, sometimes 2 or 3 dayes together Fair, & then as many dayes now & then an Acceptable Shower, and seldom three dayes together without Raine.

AUGUST

1 I heard Mr Knights Mass, there was at it old Mr Walmesley & young Mr Standley and their Wives &c:, from Preston I came to Ormskerk to see Robert Tompson. Doctor Lancaster dined here and then came along with my Wife to Ormskerk, I found her there, we came home together, severall of our Neighbours came along with us as far as our way lay viz: John Tickley, Young John Sumner of the More Houses, Darby, &c: they had all ben to see Robert Tompson.[42]

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[41] Sillabub, sillibub— a combination of cream or milk with cider or wine to form a soft curd, sometimes with a flavouring added.

[42] Robert Tompson, coachman, had, a few days earlier, 27 July, broken his leg in an accident and was lying at the house of someone named Winstanley in Ormskirk. See August 15, 22, 25, and October 21 1714. Blundell paid Tompson his usual 12s. 6d. a quarter until he returned to work in October 1714.

2 I Began to shear my Corne this year viz: Rye in the Midle-North-Hey. Thomas Kerklington the old Simpler of Herbs, and Picture seller lodged here.

3 I was busy most of the after Noone transscribing part of the Church-Wardens Accounts for the Last year in order to perues them as Occasion served.

4 Captain Robert Fazakerley called here as he was going from Leverpoole to Ince Bowling Green, my Brother Joseph went with him to Ince Greene.

5 Duke Maltus came hither and Bludied Mr Simpsons Mare & gave her a Drink for her Cough she had. Mr Gilbert Barrows Pothecary of Leverpoole dined here, he took some Rew,[43] &c: home with him as I gave him. Mrs Barker of Ormskerk Lodged here.

6 I Lent £6 of Dr Lathoms Money to Thomas Bradley. I set some Roots of Renunculas & Anemonyes on two Beds in the Knot, they had ben kept dry out of the Ground. I sowed some Seeds of Anemonyes in the Knot & Removed part of a Duble Piany Root.

7 Peter Taylor and Samuell Cook two Baylys from Ormskerk were here. I lent Margarit Davy 35s. which she paid to them upon Account of a Debt to Henry Helbsby and for Cost &c:. My Brother Joseph Married Michael Mackdaniell to Catherine Taylor, Walter Thelwall, William Gray, John Banister, I, my Children, &c: were present.

8 Pat: Gelibrond came from Ormskerk betimes this Morning & prayed here. Thomas Syer was here, we advised together about the affaires of this Parish.

9 My Brother Joseph went hence towards York Shire, he went with Pat: Gelibrond to Cozen Gelibronds and intends to lodge there, I went with them part of the way and then came to Harsnops where the Cunstables were severall of them met to make their Presentments to the Assizes. Some of the Cunstables viz: Robert Shepheard & John Whitley payed me their Church-Leys.

10 Walter Thelwall & I went to Leverpoole and advised with Mr Plumb about George Lathoms Sute, I dined at Mr Plumbs, Parson Richmond came thither in the after Noone. My Wife and Mrs Barker came to Leverpoole, I drunk at the Wool-pack with William Truman, &c: and then made a Viset to Mr Woodrove at Low-Hill, My Wife & Mrs Barker came thither after me.

11 I Dressed most of my Tulop Seeds. I killed Bats in the Dining Roome, I think we killed tenn, Mrs Barker & John Banister were with me.

12 I helped George Abbot to give Mr Simpsons Mare a drink for her Cough, I had the ingredients from Walter Thelwall.

13 William Bolton brought me 13 Geece as George Abbot had bought of him yesterday. I paid John Molineux £40 as I ought his Sister Mary Morecroft upon Bond, I also paid the Interest & he deliver'd me up the Bond. I began to get in my Wheat and Oats.

14 I Led Corne with three Carts. There came a Woman from Croston with a Letter for Mr Aldred.

15 My Children went to Ormskerk to see Robert Tompson who was lame there. My Wife and Mrs Barker made a Viset to Emblame Blansherd. Mr Robert Fazakerley of Leverpoole and his Son Robert made a Viset here.

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[43] Rue, formerly used as a stimulant in medicine.

16 I was most of the day in the Little-More-hey and Pick with my Leaders & Turners of Oats and Reapers of Barly.

17 I went to my Mowers in Nichols Heys then thorrow the Hightown and so to the same Mowers againe who were then Mowing Beanes in the Nearer Wheathey, I was also with my Shearers of Barley in the Pike and with my Leaders of Oats in the Little-More-Hey. Walter Thelwall brought me a Box home from Leverpoole with some Presents in it from Graveling for Laurence Formby, Walter Thelwall, &c:.

18 I went betimes in the Morning to Ormskirk and there met Mr Plumb at the Talbot and Consulted with him about my going to Lancaster Assizes, I drunk with Dr Lancaster at the Talbot.

19 I began my Journey with Walter Thelwall towards Lancaster, Mr Plumb & we met upon the Road & went together to Garstang where we bated at the Kings Head and then went together to Lancaster where I Lodged at Marshalls the Kings Armes.[44]

20 Mr Plumb went with Walter Thelwall and me to Lawyer Bootle for his Opinion. I was in both the Courts and heard some Tryalls, the Judges, I think, were Powell & Trecy. I dined at my Lodging with Mr Brockolds &c:. My Wife was extraordinary ill.

21 I heard the Tryall between Williamson and Rushton and £160 damage given to Williamson. Mr Brockolds and I dined together. I came from Lancaster to Prestor & lodged at Richard Jacksons, I Received 12s. for Interest of Mr Laomond for Mrs Ellen Fazakerleys Money. I saw some tricks of Legerdemesney and a Woman dance with Swords & Tankerds at Preston.

22 I came from Preston to the Hall of Boscow where Pat: Gorsuch selebrated, thence to Ormskerk where I called to see Robert Tompson who I found walking on his Crutches and then I came home.

23 I went to my Ditchers in the Town Medow and being something out of order with a Cold I stayed some time in John Farers.

24 Mr Branagan & his Wife and Captain Robert Fazakerley came to Mr Aldreds & dined here. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Blundell of Ince who has ben abroad with my Lady Anderton.

25 Mrs Hurst of Leverpoole made a Viset here. I fetched home Robert Tompson from Ormskerk in a Cart. I helped John Banister to set a great many good Roots of Ericulases in the Knot as Mr Gibans gave me. This is the first day as I perceived my Indian Wheat to have any thing on lick Ears of Corn, they seem to be two Inshes & a half long & 12 or more upon the top of one Stalk and a great many more appeered soon after, they Looked very lick Ears of our Wheat but they were onely the Blossoms or Flowers.

26 My Teame helped John Tickley to bring some Timber home from behind Ormskirk out of Skermasdale Ground.

27 Mrs Blundell made a Viset here. I cut the Neck, with Barly in the Stock Roots.

28 I went to Leverpoole and Received Ten Guineys from Mr Swarbrick in part of payment for Cole-Seed since which he has paid me all, I drunk with him and Mr Alanson at the Wool-pack. I paid George Norton the Sadler all I ought

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[44] This inn was known as the Queen's Arms in 1708 (August 18). Obviously a quick change in names following the death of Queen Anne a week earlier, August 12 1714.

him. I was at the Funerall of one Walls a Quacker School Mistress & heard Robert Hadock Preach, coming home I light & let my Mare over goe me, I walked home & she was brought to me next Morning. I set some Seedling Tulops as were two years old and sowed some Tulop Seeds on a Bed in the Knot.

29 My Wife went with Mrs Barker to make a Viset to Ince, when she came back she went hence I sent her home to Ormskirk.

30 My Wife, I and the Children dined at Mrs Barkers it being Ormskirk Fair, I shewed my Children the Strange Creatures as were to be seen, I think there was a Tyger, a Sivet Cat, &c:, I shewed the Woman dansing with Swords and Tankerds & her Husband playing Tricks of Leger-de-mesney to my Wife, Mrs Barker and my Children; Mr Brooks and his Wife made a Viset to Mrs Barker.

31 I took one of old Hives of Bees. I was very busy redying my Closet.

Till the 12th every day some Rane more or less except the first day, from the 12th to the end of this Month generally Faire Weather tho now and then a little Rain. It has ben very fine Harvest weather & tis an extraordinary forward Harvest.

SEPTEMBER

1 I fetched home a Load of Coles for William Weedow with my Teame. I fetched home some Gees as John Harrison had of mine to parts. This is my first dayes Coursing this Season, I killed one Hare.

2 Laurence Formbys Wife came hither for some things as his Brother had sent of a Present, they were chiefly Nuns Work.

3 Nanny Blundell left her service and went home. Rachell Tyrer was here and desir'd I would let her Husband have some of Dr Lathoms Money but I refused him. I mark'd all my Gees.

4 Ginnet Blundell beged my Wives pardon for some things she had said against her.

5 Mr Thorp, Jack Whit, & their Wives came in the Morning to Mr Aldreds, they dined there. Mrs Blundell was at Vespers at Mr Aldreds and then came hither with my Wife.

6 I was busy most of the day clensing my Closet & puting things into Order.

7 I Housed the last of my Corn. One came from Peel to get some Pigeons for a Feast. I sent Thomas Westhead his Share of Flax home, and some Turves to dry it with. I Received £50 from Pat: Aldred for which I am to give him a Bill.

8 William Harrison, Richard Webster, George Abbot, Henry Kerfoot, &c: went a Coursing with me.

9 Roger Neall killed me a Little Bullock as was unruly in his Pasture. I put my Scholasticall & Phisick Books into a more Regular order. Captain Robert Fazakerley Lodg'd here.

10 Captain Robert Fazakerley went hence, I lent one of my Grewhounds to him and Pat: Aldred, they killed two Hares. I met Thomas Syer at Sefton Church, Richard Eckleston was there, we concluded what was to be done at the Leads. We gave Richard Webster Junior directions to make Iron-work for the Font.[45] Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

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[45] Richard Webster was the smith at Little Crosby.

11 I went to Leverpoole with Mally and got a Rotton Tooth of hers pulled out by a Mountebank. I Stated and cleered off Accounts with Mr Swarbrick, he ought me for some things and I ought him for others, he paid me what he ought to ballance the Accounts. Patrick Norris pai'd me the Remaining part of what he ought me for Barly. I payed Mr Simpson, Alanson, & Hurst all I ought them. I changed a good Quantity of old Puter and Brass with Mrs Holsold for New Dishes & Plates, &c:.

12 Mr Daniell Morphew & Mr Ward came to prayers to Mr Aldreds, they dined here, I went after Vespers with them to James Davys where we drunk with our 3 Irish men. My Wife brought Eves towards Leverpoole in the Coach, Henry Kerfoot drove them, 'twas the first time I think he drove 4 Horses so far. I sent Mr Simpson his Mare home, he lent her me, when my Wife & I went last into Yorkshire.

13 Richard Eckleston sowder'd a Hole or two up in my Brewing Lead. I mended my Pump it being out of order. I payed Richard Hetons Prentice all I ought his Master.[46]

14 I had a great Breaking of Flax as grew in the Little More-hey, part of it was my owne & part was sowed to parts, it was 4 Busshells & ½ Seeding, there was 12 Breakers, 12 Scutchers, 11 Slansers, 4 to tend two Gigs[47] & one to take up the Flax, in all 40 Persons; besides what was onely scutched I had 55 pound well dressed, I gave a good Supper to my own Breakers & Swinglers. Tatlock played to them at Night, we had 4 Disgisers & a Garland from Great Crosby, & a deal of Dansing.

15 Mary Hulme Lodged here, she is to brew this time for us.

16 I Began my Wheat Seeding in the Farthest Wheat-hey. Cozen Scarisbrick sent to let me know his Family and Croston Family designed to Lodg here on Munday next. John Miller sent me part of my Winters provision of Candles.[48]

17 William Ainsworth came hither betimes in the Morning, he brought my Wife a Present of Fish, he went to Leverpoole and came back in the Evening & went out a Coursing with me, he Lodged here. Young Mr Trafford lodged here.

18 Mr Aldred went with young Mr Trafford to Leverpoole. I sent a Cart to Leverpoole for some provisions for my Gests against the next Week. Fanny went to stay awhil at Mrs Maginniss.

19 Mr Aldred went to Formby with young Mr Trafford of Croston.

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[46] Under the date September 13 1714, in the Disbursement Book appear the following entries:—

"Richard Heaton the Plough Right for work	3s. 6d.
An Axeltree	2s. 0d.
Iron Driping Pan at 6d. per Pound	4s. 6d.
Frying Pan at 6d. per Pound	2s. 4d.
Nailes of severall Sourts	7s. 9d.
Bottoming 5 drinking Horns	6d.
Sauspan	2s. 8d."

[47] Gig—machine used in breaking flax.

"Brakers of Flax, dryers and under Witches	7s. 6d.
Skansers & Clean Swinglers	8s. 6d."

Work on this flax was not completed until the following spring. See March 16 1715.

[48] "1 October 1714—Candles 90 lb. at 5s. 4d. per dozen £2 0s. 0d.
Mold Tallow Candles one pound 6d."
On December 22 1714 he paid 5d. "for Rushes for Candles".

20 Mr Trafford of Croston, his Lady, and two Doughters; Mr Skarisbrick, his Lady, Son Francis & Doughter Betty Lodged here.

21 Mr Aldred Treated my Gests at his Hous. Pat: Maynard Lodged here. Mr Scarisbrick, Young Mr Trafford and I played at Cut & Trante Carrant at Night.[49]

22 Mrs Scarisbrick, Mrs Trafford & her two Doughters and my Wife, &c: went to Emblane Blansherds. Old Mr Trafford & Mr Scarisbrick went a seting. Young Mr Trafford, I, &c: went to Hunt a Tame Mallerd in my New Marl-pit. Pat: Tasburgh & Pat: Burton dined here. This Town-field was turn'd Common.

23 Mrs Trafford and her Doughters, Mrs Scarisbrick and my Wife went to Leverpoole, My Wife and the two young Mrs Traffords stayed to see a Play at Leverpoole and to Dance, they came home next Morning. Young Mr Trafford went a Coursing with some Leverpoole People at Great Crosby. Old Mr Trafford, Mr Scarisbrick and I went out a Seting. I Finished Wheat Seeding.

24 Mr Heskaine & Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here, they went with Mr Scarisbrick, Young Mr Trafford, me, &c: to Ince Greene where most of us bowled, and when we had done we drunk in the hous with Mr Shepherd, Richard Tickley, &c:, Young Mr Robert Fazakerley and Mr Huson came to the Green to us, they had ben here first. Mrs Trafford and her Doughters, Mrs Scarisbrick & my Wife made a Viset to the New-hous to Mr Burton.

25 All my Gests went hence, my Wife went part of the way with them.

26 I Stated Accounts with Darby, Ascroft and Roger. My Wife sent a large Lives of Sants to Lidiat as she had borrowed of Mr Moston.

27 Pat: Aldred and Young Mr Ince was here about Ellin Hods: going to Graveling. I wained my three Colts Jewell, Diamond, and Bonny; they were all got by Thomas Bigerstaffs Larg Bay. I Began to gather my Apples.

28 I Stated all Accounts with our Smith but he did not cleer them off. I Rid up the Barron Pare-Tree by the Back Court Doar. I made the Children a Garden under the Dary Window and set Flowers in it. I helped Banister yesterday & today to remove severall Beds of Flowers in the Knot.

29 Mrs Woodrove dined here. Thomas Houghton dined here, he paid me in part for Bark. I paid £20 to Bryan Lea in part of £50 owing upon Bond to to John Bryanson, I paid all Interest due to the said Bond. My Wife dined at Croxtath, she went through Leverpoole and took Mrs Sweeting, &c: with her, coming home through Leverpoole she brought Fanny home with her from Mrs Maginnis. I went in the Evening to Great Crosby Court but it was broke up ere I came, I drunk at Hesketh's with Mr Green, Parson Wairing, Mr Henry Wairing of Prescot, &c:.

30 James Davy paid me the two Church-Leys.[50] Walter Thelwall paid me part of his Rack Rent. Pat: Aldred and I went to Ince to make Sir Francis Anderton a Viset, but he, not being in the hous, we went to the New-hous to Mr Tasburg.

Till the 13th every day some Rane, more or less, except the 2nd & 5th, from the 13th to the 25th every day Fare except some little Raine on the 18th, the five last dayes some Faire some Fowle.

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[49] "20 Sept. 1714—Lost at Cards . . . . . £1 10s. 0d."

[50] James Davy, one of the parish constables, was here paying the rates he had collected to the churchwarden.

OCTOBER

1 I Cut up one Stalk of my Indian Wheat, from the top of the highest Flower or Bob to the Earth, it was High 9 Foot-1¾ Ins., it had 15 Joynts; it was in Sircumference near the Bottom 0 Foot-5½ Ins., It had at the Top 27 Long Bobs or Flowers some of them were above 10 Inshes long, One Leaf was 3 Foot-10¼ Insh, it had 5 full shaped Ears, one of which had Eanes shot out of the Husk near two Insh long, the Long Eans were 8¼ Insh long, the Solid Ear was Long 3¾ Ins., it had eight Rowes of Graine, two of which I Counted & had in each Row 38 visable Grains of Wheat besides some as seemed not to be shaped. I have an other Ear as grew upon the Same Stalk which I take to be fully as large in all respects as the former.

2 George Abbot went a Coursing with me, I sent him off the Ground to see Mrs Molineux of the Grange who was ill. Henry Kerfoot brought me home my Provision of Salt from the Dungeon.[51]

3 Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole and her Son Robert made a Viset here.

4 Lord Molineux his two Doughters Mrs Ann & Bridget dined here. I Stated Accounts with Thomas Kerfoot. I Booked my Disbursments.

5 I went to Great Crosby & Spoke to Thomas Syer about the Parish Affairs, then I went to Richard Heatons & William Abbots to see how they went forward with the Corps Carriage[52] & Pulpit Stayers. Robert Moss paid me in part for Ditton Timber. I Signed a Schedall to my Will in Presence of Walter Thelwall, Robert Moss and Richard Whithead. I went a Coursing and in the Evening I made a Viset to Parson Wairing. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

6 I hung up one Stalk on my Indian Wheat in the Hall, it grew in my own Garden & was above 9 Foot-1 Insh long.

7 Ned Hawkseye took up my Great Brewing Lead in order to set it better and to fit it up with a very good New Grate, I was very busy most of the after Noone beating out the Great Lead and puting it into better Shape. Roger Neale killed a Fat Cow as he had bought of me, in my Slaughter-hous. I sent George Abbot to Ormskirk with some Beasts half thicks but he could sell none of them.

8 I Booked my Receipts for the last two Months. Walter Thelwall, William Gray, &c: went a Coursing with me, I found a Hare set.

9 I intercepted a Peece of Beef as Margaret Ridgat was sending to her Mother for which I turned her out of my hous for this Night, but upon her great Submission I took her the next day.

10 I made a Viset to Croxtath where I found Mr Molineux of Wooton & his Lady, Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh and his Lady, Mr Massy of Pudington, Sir James Poole, &c:. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Blundell.

11 John Farer went out a Coursing with me. Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh sent for some old Gray Peas as I had sold him.

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[51] "2 Oct. 1714—Salt 16 Busshell at 4s. per Busshell and 56 pound to each Bushell . . . . . £3 4s. 0d."

[52] Corpse carriage—bier or shroud board, and in the seventeenth century the parish hearse, a term which Nicholas uses.

12 My Wife went to see Mrs Molineux of the Grange who was ill. Mr Billinge came of a Message to my Wife from Madam Ann Molineux. One From Leverpoole brought a Ticket for my Wife of the Play as is to be acted there tomorrow.

13 My Wife, Mally & I dined at Wooton, there also dined, Mr John Gerard, My Lady Gerard & her Doughter Mary, Mr William Pools Wife, &c: we went thither through Leverpoole and took Mrs Holywell with us to Wooton in the Coach and brought her back, and then went to the New-Market where we saw a Play Acted called Mackbeth.[53] Mr Plumb sent his Hors to be Scored here and the Messenger took my Grewhound Spring back with him to Leverpoole.

14 I opened Doctor Lathoms Box of Church-stuff & lent part of it to Pat: Aldred.

15 George Abbot brought my Bitch Ginny home from William Kennions, Coming home he got Bess horsed by Izaack Lightbourns young Bay. I went with Walter Thelwall and coursed a Hare as he had found set, John Rose, Young Robert Bootle &c: went with us.

16 I went to Leverpoole there Thomas Syer and I discoursed Richard Eckleston and made him give us a more moderate Bill of work done by him for Sefton Church. I paid Thomas Harper the Shoemaker all I ought him and told him why he had lost my Custom. I gave William Athertons Doughter Ailes some Layers & other Sets of tollerable good Flowers.

17 I dined at Mosburgh, I went thither to have paid all I ought upon Mrs Ellen Fazakerleys Account but Mr Molineux would not receive it; coming home I called of Mr Smith of Male & enquired of him whether he had any Hay to sell.

18 I Dined at Parson Wairings with Doctor Tarlton & his Wife, Parson Walsh, Mr Peter Morton &c:, after Dinner Parson Wairing and a great many of his Gests viz: Parson Letus, Parson Jackson, Parson Darbishire & I, &c: went to Thomas Hesketh's; from Hesketh's I went to Dukes where I drunk with Pat: Aldred, Edmund Tristram, Thomas Syer, &c:.

19 William Atherton paid me one half years Rack Rent for Ditton. I went to Thomas Syers & took a Bottle and a Pipe with him, thence I went to James Davys and there drunk with William Gray, Thomas Syer, &c:, some of Leverpoole called at the Doar, viz: Mr William Plumb, Mr Simpson, &c:, Ralf Marser light & came in and Dansed; Richard Westhead and Ned Hatton, &c: came and drunke with us.

20 John Tarlton, John Farer, &c: went with me to Course a Hare as Walter Thelwall found set. I went with my Wife & Children to James Rigbys and Thomas Foolers and eat some of their Goosfeast Cheere.

21 Being one of the Wheeles of Sefton Bells was broke I met Thomas Syer at Harsnops where I found my Teame as was gon to Mr Smiths with my first Load of this years Barly to be Malted, thence I went to Leverpoole and got a Warant to Apprehend Margaret Ridgat; I searched her Mothers and her Brother Johns Hous in Great Crosby, Robert Johnson the Cunstable; I drunk at James Davys with Henry Williamson, Ned Hatton, Duke Maltus, &c: I fetched home some Achhorns from Garstan for Feeding Swine & for Seting. Mary Fleetwoods Man mended my Great Bruing Lead & some Windows. Laurence Blundell (who had supplyed here whilst Robert Tompson was Lame) left his Service.

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[53] Earliest known Liverpool production of a Shakespeare play. The New Market was under the shadow of the ruins of the old castle of Liverpool.

22 James Davy the Cunstable came hither to carry Margarit Ridgate before Sir Thomas Johnson, but my Wife beged me to pardon her. I received some Money from Mr Traffords Servant, it is for Mr Aldred. Richard Dauber came to new Cogg & Rong my Mill.

23 I Prepaired some Hare ready to make Snares on to catch Rats and after Supper I made some Snaers. I planted some Holly Oaks between the Fir Trees in the bleching Yord.

24 Thomas Syer was here & acquainted me that we were desired to meet Parson Letus tomorrow at Harsnops to Examain Richard Eckleston about his Bill of Plumbers work done for Sefton Church.

25 Thomas Syer & I had Richard Eckleston and the Clark under examination about the Plumbers Bill, we examained them before Parson Letus at his own Hous; Young Robert Bootle & John Rose came to us to Harsneps.

26 My Wife took a Purge from Betty Morris. John Tyrer dined here, he and I perues'd our Accounts concerning Dr Lathoms Money, we have much what setled that affair.

27 Richard Dauber went hence, he having put me up a New Set of Coggs & Rongs. I set the Wheat-hey-Lands to John Tickley. I was at William Marsers at the Marriage of Robert Thomson to Catherine Howerd.

28 William Harrison, William Marser, &c: went a coursing with me, we had extraordinary good Spourt and killed two Brace of Hars. Doctor Lancaster lodged here, he came to see my Wife & prescribed her somthing for the Gravell. I sent a present of Pigeons & Walnut Trees to Cozen Thomas Gelibrond.

29 I set the Dobb Heys & Milking-Meadow to Walter Thelwall and he is to Relinquish part of what he formerly took of me. I went with James Banner to the Great-More-hey to see if that Feigh or Clay would be fit to make Brick on.

30 I set Nichols Heys & the Healbank to William Wignold. I stated Accounts with Hod & paid him for Fish. George Abbot brought me home a new Saddle as the Catholick Sadler of Chorley had made for me. I met Robert Tompson at his Mothers in order to make them Friends, thence I went to see Mrs Molineux of the Grange who was ill, I found there Pat: Wofold & Ailes Tickley. Richard Wignold & his Wife were here, I sold them some Rabet Skins. Mrs Phill Poole lodged here, she came from Mrs Maginnes for a few Nights.

31 Dr Whawley of Sparth came to see my Wife,[54] he Lodged here. William Abbot was here, I discoursed him about making Stayers for the Pulpet of Sefton Church.

Till the 9th almost every day some Rane more or less, from the 9th to the 17th almost every day Fair, then the Tenn next dayes wet and some of them a good deale of Rain, the four last dayes Fair.

NOVEMBER

1 Walter Thelwall, John Tickley, John Farer, &c: went a Coursing with me. Dr Whawley went hence.

2 Thomas Woodcock fixed my Pump better it being out of order. I sent for my Dog Spring home from Leverpoole. Pat: Wofold made a Viset here, so

[54] "1 Nov. 1714—Fee to Dr. Wawley for my Wife . . . . . £1 12s. 3d."

did Mrs Blundell & Mrs Betty Wofold. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here, I paid him £4 in full of what he is to receive from me upon Account of my Uncle Thomas Blundell.

3 John Gregson of Leverpoole came & took measure of my Wife & Children to make them New Shoes, William Truman came with him. Richard Tickley & Ann Riding dined here, I Leased one Acker in the Newfield to her. I went to Sefton Church to see how they went forward with mending the Bell Wheele. Richard Heaton & John Melling were working at it.

4 Roger Neal killed my Whit Cow as I had sold to him & some others of my Workmen. Pat: Gelibrond and John Farer went a Coursing with me. Pat: Tasburgh was here & invited me to come to solemnize his Jubily.

5 Roger Neal killed a very small Cow for my own use. I began to cover my Aspargus Beds. I went to Harsnops, Thomas Syer & I vewed the New Bell Wheel, we drunk there with Mr Smith the Malt-Man, William Harrison the Clark, &c:, Parson Jackson & Peter Moreton were with us part of the time; Mr Ralf Marser came to us, he took a peal at Ringing, Mr—— —— came with him but he did not stay in our Company.

6 John Farer & Richard Whithead went out a Coursing with me, Old Richard Webster came to us, we Coursed a Hare as he found set, George Cottom, &c: was there. I began to sow Rye in the Nearest North Hey but it proved so ill that I have since Plowed it up. My Linnen Press was finished by William Thelwall.

7 Margarit Rothbottom & her Son James dined here. I sent Mrs Phil Poole back to Leverpoole.

8 My Wife went to Lodge at Eckleston. Margarit Ridgate left her Service. I sent a Present to Pat: Tasburgh against his Feast tomorrow for his Jubely.

9 I dined at the New-hous it being Pat: Tasburghs Solemnizing of his Jubely, there was at Dinner Mr Scarisbrick, Sir Francis Anderton, Mr Wofold, Pat: Tasburgh, Pat: Babthrop, Pat: Gelibrond, &c:.

10 I went to Ailes Stewards & Setled Accounts with her for things she bought for me at Chester Fair, thence I went to the New-hous, Mr Babthrop & Mr Tasburgh set their Hands to the Clearing of what Money I ought upon my Uncle Thomas Blundells Accounts. Mr Babthrop paid me 20s. an old Debt for Brick & Stones. I drunk at the New hous with Captain Robert Fazakerley, Richard Tickley, &c:, coming home I called at Pat: Aldreds to see if his Gests were come but they not being come, I light & smoked a Pipe with him. Leverpoole Hounds Hunted about this Hous.

11 I Fetched 400 of Brick from Mr Rigmadens to mend my Oat Kill with Walter Thelwall paid me for a Bullock as George Abbot sold him.

12 John Harrison came to mend some Tubs for me, tis the first time he worked for me of the Coopers trade. My Wife sent Henry Kerfoot home from Eckleston.

13 I have ben very busy for some dayes puting my Books in order and Redying my Closet & this day I Rubed it & has now put it into good order.

14 I made a Shutle-Cock for my Children but they could not play with it. I sent Henry Kerfoot to Eckleston to my Wife.

15 My Wife came home from Eckleston. I Layed two large Oxen and one Bull-Seg into the Hous to feed.

16 Ned Hawkseye took up some Tiles, &c: in my Oat Kill in order to mend it. John Farer & Richard Whithead coursed with George Abbot and me. Frances Harrison came to supply in the Chambers till we were better provided. John Banister cut of some of the Lower Bowes of some of the Fir Trees in the Avenew to the Raile:.

17 Walter Thelwall killed a very Little Bull in my Slaughterhous. I set the Ackars, Arnolds Heys, &c: to John Tickley & his Partners. Ned Hawksey fited up the Swinhouses with a wall &c: so as to hinder them from pulling their beding abroad.

18 I sent George Abbot to Townley to see my Nephew Langdale[55] who I heard was ill of the small Pox. Ned Hawkseye and I mesured the Down-Dubb at my Smithy and computed how Accounts stood between him and me for Stones got at my Delf.

19 Mrs Wofold and Mrs Blundell of Ince made a Viset here but my Wife was gon to see Mrs Molineux of the Grange.

20 I went to Leverpoole and paid Mr Swarbrick for some Brandy and Wine, I drunk with him, Mr Ford the Putarer, Thomas Hurst, &c: at the Woolpack.

21 My Wife went to Ince to make a Viset to Mrs Wofold.

22 William Harrison the Clark of Sefton was here, I paid him my Martinemass Dues.[56] I took up the Green Plot in the Midle of my Flower Knot in order to Rais it higher with Barren Sand. I took my Milk Beasts into the Hous to ly in in the Nights.

23 Mrs Blundell of Ince made a Viset here. I went to John Tyrers, we Adjusted Accounts about Doctor Lathoms Buriall and some other Expencess.

24 Mr Plumb fetched his Hors from Hence as had ben scoared with me. I Booked my Disbursments for the Last Month.

25 I Booked my Receipts for the last Month. Mr Scarisbrick sent hither for some Achhorns as I gave him to set.

26 I Bought some Glass Cruets &c:. John Tyrer was here and brought a Warand for Money to be payed for Vagrants &c:. I went to my Workmen as were beerding my Grand Cop at the Side of Nichols-Hey.[57]

27 Doctor Lancaster of Ormskirk was here, he came chiefly to see my Wife being she had lately taken some thing from him for the Stone or Gravell.

28 Betty Morris brought a Purge for Fanny to take tomorrow. There were 3 Distinct & Larg Knocks heard upon a Warming Pan which were supernaturall and three dayes after my Aunt Frances Blundell dyed at Roan.[58]

29 Duke took the Haw out of Jacks Eye. Fanny took a Purge from Betty Morris for the Wormes. I coursed a Hare as William Whithead had found set.

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[55] Marmaduke, son of Marmaduke, 4th. Lord Langdale.

[56] "22 Nov. 1714—Martinemass dues or Composition for Small Tiths paid to Wm. Harrison . . . . . £1 6s. 0d."

[57] Beerding—'bearding'; making thorn hedges on top of a bank or wall to prevent animals getting over.

[58] Rouen.

30 My Wife went to Leverpoole, she bought a Black Poplin Petty-Coat for Mally. John Farer, John Tickley, &c: went a Coursing with me, we had very fine spourt, Parson Latus came to us & told me that Parson Wairing and Thomas Syer were coming to my Hous, so I turned back with him and entertained them, after the Parsons were gon Thomas Syer and I talked of the Parish affaires. Mary Heatly came to offer her service to be Dary Maid, &c: but I did not accept of her for Nanny Blundell came againe tonight to be Dary Maid & Chamber Maid. Duke Maltus Bluddied my Hors Jack.

There was scarce above three Right Fair dayes this Month the others were very foggy espesially the Mornings & Evenings and now and then some little Raine.

DECEMBER

1 Henry Simpkins brought me some Sale Cloth and Hair Cording for my Mill.[59] Ned Howerd shaved Fannys Head and mine. Mr Turvill made a Viset here. George Abbot helped me to mark out part of the Flat which I designe to set Achhorns in. I went with Richard Ainsworth to my Delf to see if there were any Stones as would be proper for what he wanted them for. My Wife began to take Dr Whaleys Phisick.

2 I Layed some Achhornes in the Ground in that part of the Flat as I intend to set them in. I put up a Hogg & began to feed him with Achhorns, he eat them very well but did not feed with them, I suppose they were too dry with keeping. I fetched home a Swine as I had bought of Henry Ascroft.

3 I put a Reele & some Silk upon it into a Bottle, 'tis the first time I tryed to doe it. John Blundell put a Lock upon the Great Salfe.

4 I put up 3 Geece to feed, they are the first we have fed this Winter. Frances Harrison went hence we having now Nanny Blundell for Chamber-Maid and Dary-Made. Cozen Gelibrond sent his Servant to desire my Wife would be God-Mother to his Son Thomas who was borne the 2nd Inst.

5 I Coursed a Hare as William Johnson found set. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Blundell of Ince.

6 I killed an unfed Hogg. I met Lord Molineux, his Son Carol, Cozen Robert Molineux of Mosburgh, &c: at Dukes in Great Crosby, we drank Wine there and a Bowl of Punsh, Pat: Aldred treated us with five Bottles of Claret. Cozen Robert Molineux came home with me and Lodged here.

7 I Paid Cozen Molineux £35 being what I ought him upon Account of Mrs Ellen Fazakerley.

8 I Walked to the Grange to see Mrs Molineux, I found Mr Turvill & Richard Tickill there, Mr Turvill walked back with me and led his Hors as far as Jane Bryansons, I went into the Hous to see her, being she had ben out of order. My Wife went to see Laurence Blundells Wife who was lying in of two Sons.

9 I sent John Banister to Ormskirk to buy me some Turnops, &c:, he walked thither & Lodged at his Fathers. I paid the Window Tax to Richard Swift & the Land Tax to Richard Whithead.[60]

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[59] "1 Dec. 1714—Sale Cloth at 5d. per yard . . . . . £1 10s. 0d.
Haire Cording for Sale Cloathts . . . . . 5s. 0d."

[60] "9 Dec. 1714—Window Tax . . . . . 15s. 0d.
Land Tax . . . . . £7 5s. 7d."

10 I put a less Bucket to the Stone Garden Well. Richard Jackson paid me both Rack & Ansient Rent.[61]

11 I went to my Sniggary, George Abbot went with me & helped me to set my Snigg Net.

12 My Wife went towards Ormskirk intending to have made a Viset to Mrs Barker but finding it very slippy Riding, she turned back again.

13 I went to Leverpoole and as I was going I saw a Bote coming a Shoar with the Keel upwards, I told Sir Thomas Johnson of it. As I was vewing the Dock I met Mr Bland & I think young Mr Willis, they desir'd my Interest to Vote for Parleament-Men. I dined at Mr Hursts with him & his Wife. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumb and Benjamin Branker.

14 Cozen John Gelibrond sent his Servant from Ince Hither of a how-do-you. John Johnson came with his Cart for some Tiles as I had promised to Thomas Thelwall to give him for his New-Hous.

15 I went to Abbots & Heatons to Look after the Pulpet Stayers & Hearse. I made Abbot to key my Reele fast in a Bottle. I layed 3 of my Coach Horses into the Hous to ly in onely in the Nights, I do not intend to give them any Hay, onely Bean Straw at present.

16 Cozen John Gelibrond came from Ince & dined here, Mrs Blundell made a Viset here after dinner. Cozen John Gelibrond sent at Night to desire I would lend him my Bottle & Reel to look at at Ince.

17 Richard Wignold was here, I sold him my Rabet Skins. James Davy was here in the after-noone pointing some few places as wanted in Paintry and Parlor.

18 Kat: Mist as she said. I went to Leverpoole and received most of my Ditton Rent from William Kennion, Henry Hey, &c:. James Houghton & Henry Athertons Widdow discoursed me about altering her Leas. I bought some Wine at the Talbot for the Parish use. I brought home some Geer for the Parish hearse. I brought home a new Cloth Hoosing, I payed Mr Norton what I ought him for it, and drunk with him & Mr Simpson at the Wool-pack. I gave Mrs Dorothy Webster some Corne. Our Smith had my Cart and one of my Horses to Leverpoole.[62]

19 Mr Turvill made a Viset here. John Blundell paid me his Rent and part of his Fine, I paid him for Work.

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[61] Rack-rent was generally an excessive or extortionate rent, but here it means an additional rent.

[62] While at Liverpool, Nicholas did some Christmas shopping:—

"18 Dec. 1714—

	£	s.	d.
Shoes for my Wife		2	8
Shoes for my Children		3	8
Seting one Stone in my Wives Ring		2	6
Phisick for my Wife		11	6
Wine & Drams	1	19	8
Pepper, Mase & Hard Spises		18	2
Tracle & Sugar of all sorts	1	13	9½
Rasons, Currons & Fruts		8	2
Oyle one pint		1	9
Capers & Anchoveys		2	2½
Carraway & Coriander Seeds			4
Stone Blew & Smelt			5
Sope		1	2
Beefe 103 lb. under 1¾d. per Pound		14	6"

20 I Lent Pat: Aldred my Grewhounds but he killed nothing. Garret swept some of my Chimneys.

21 George Abbot, Roger Neal, William Harrison, &c: went a Coursing with me, we had very good Spourt.

22 I killed a Hogg as I had fed with Achhorns but it was not very Fat. I made an exchange with William Weedow between two Speanings of his and a young Swine of mine. Mr Smith was here, I payed him for making Malt for me & Duty for it. I Booked my Disbursments for the last Month.

23 I sent a Table to Mr Aldred with three Drawers in as I had formerly promised to lend him. Captain Robert Fazakerley made a Viset here, he had ben at Scarisbrick and was going back to Leverpoole.

24 Being Mrs Molineux died yesterday, I went this Morning to the Grange to pray for her, I heard three Masses & helped to say the Officium Defunctorum. Eves came hither to keep her Christmass. I sent to see Mrs Scarisbrick who was Lying in of her Doughter Mary.

25 My Wife went to the Grange to Mass to pray for Mrs Molineux, I went to the Grange to Mrs Molineux her Buriall, there was Mr Wofold, Mr Gorsuch, Yeomond of the Goar-Houses, &c:. I did not goe with her Corps to Sefton being Mr Charles Harington came to make my Wife a Viset, so I came hither along with him.

26 Richard Webster our Smith found a Hare set, Georg Abbot, Walter Thelwall, &c: went with him to course it with my Grewhounds.

27 William Davy the Skinner refuesed to shew me his Leas of what Ground he holds by a Leas from Mrs Blackbourn. John Tickley, Nicholas Davy, &c: went out a Coursing with me. Mrs Ann Molineux and her Sister Bridget lodged here so did Mr Molineux of Mitch Wootons two Doughters. Edward Hawkseye of Ditton discoursed me about a Fine for his Sister Ailes Athertons Teneament, he lodged here. My Children dined at Walter Thelwalls.

28 My Lord Molineux sent a Servant to let us know he could not dine here tomorrow as he had once intended to doe he being ill of the Gout.

29 Mr Carroll Molineux and Brother William[63] dined & Lodged here. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here. After Supper Mr Carroll Molineux, Pat: Aldred and I played at Cards at Trante Carant.

30 Mrs Ann Molineux and her Sister Mrs Bridget & my Wife went in the Coach to the New Hous, Mr Carroll & his Brother William, Pat: Aldred and I walked thither together.

31 All our Croxtath Gests went hence. Pat: Gelibrond went hence, he designed to lodge at Ormskirk.

This Month was very unsetled Weather being some times very sharp cold Winds, sometimes Faire for three or four dayes then perhaps as many dayes wet or Foggy cold Weather, then may be one day or two fine and pleasant but generally pritty cold though not much Frost.

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[63] Mr. Caryll Molyneux became the 6th Viscount Molyneux in 1738 on the death of his brother, Sir Richard Molyneux. He died in 1745 and was succeeded by the brother, William, mentioned with him in this entry, who was then the Rev. William Molyneux, S.J.

This Year has ben remarkable for Fair Weather all over England and in parts so great want of Water that the Cattle were fourced to be driven severall Milles to Water. In June the Mill Well and most of the Wells in Little Crosby were in a manner dry. Almost all the Ditches in this Neighbourhood were so dry that they were not fence and it was hard here to get water for Cattle excepting in the Marl-pits. Very Fair Harvest Weather both for Hay and Corne, but neather the Hay nor Edgish had that virtue in it as usually espesially for feeding Cattle. We had very poor Crops of Hay, some Meadows not having a fifth part as much as formerly. Wheat and Rye was extraordinary good & great Crops. Barly generally very poor and very small Crops. Field-Beans extraordinary Short & very few of them yet those few generally very good. Field Peas very poore Crops. In —— many Months after a very great Mortallity amongst Cattle espesially amongst Milk Beasts near London which was supposed to proceede through want of Water and by their eating Graines. The Puplick news gave us frequently account of —— or more as were burned on one day becaus neather the Milk nor the flesh was wholesome. I am very well assur'd that there were several Persons in London that for some Months Eat neather Beef, Veal, Milk or Butter. The whole Number of Cattle as dyed this year on this unuessuall Distemper (as a Breef for beging Charrity for the Releef of those who had lost Cattle gave Account) was 5418 Cowes and 439 Calves; the Loss as the same Breef gave an Account was computed to Amount to £24598–14s–00d. besides what the Government had given towards each Persons Loss.

Anno Domini 1715

JANUARY

1 Thomas Syer was here he and I confered Notes about the Church Accounts and proposed some Laws to be made for the good of the Parish and then ordered Walter Thelwall to writ them Fair over. I sent to Ormskirk for Mrs Barker, she came to Lodg here for a few Nights.

2 My Wife and Mrs Barker made a Condoleing Viset to Ailes Tickley, they took my Children with them in the Coach to Jane Bryansons.

3 I sent to invite Parson Latus and his Wife to dine with me on Twelveth day but he was pre-engaged.

4 My Wife, Mrs Barker and I made a Viset to Mrs Scarisbrick who was lying in of her Doughter Mary, Mr Scarisbrick was not at home, we dined at Scarisbrick. Mrs Rose Maginnis Lodged here. The Gay Mare was here but did not shew her qualificasions.

5 I was at a Parish Meeting at Harsnops where we agreed there should be twelve Representatives or Consulters chosen for this Parish, There was Parson Latus, Mr Bower, Thomas Syer of the Ford, John Tyrer, Antony Fleetwood, &c: we then chose the 12 Representatives, but since that time we have waived that affair. I sent some Barly to be made into Malt by Thomas Tickley and fetched home some Malt from Mr Smiths. The Gay Mare was here & shewed what was to be seene.

6 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined & Lodged here. Mr Clifton the Painters two Doughters Lodged here. My Wife, Mrs Barker, &c: went out in the Coach & made a Viset to Mr Crisps Sister Margarit. Pat: Aldred and I went to Formospoole & Scated there, Captain Robert Fazakerley went with us. We had a throng[1] Carding Night at Cut, I played awhile with them viz: Richard Coxhead, &c:.

7 I sent George Abbot towards Preston with Cherry to sell her there at the Fair but could not.

8 I met Ailes Atherton Widdow at Leverpoole & agreed with her to put her Life and one of her Sons into her Late Husbands Teneament. I put out £30 of Dr Lathoms Money to Interest to Henry Fradsham. I paid Mr Chorley for my Wives Hat, & Mr Norton for some Accutorments for the Parish Hearse. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Brunand, Mr Alanson, Mr Branker, &c:.

9 Mrs Barker went hence. Mrs Eves & Mrs Rose went hence, my Wife & Children went with them in the Coach to Mrs Meginnis. I eat some Christmas Fair at Ellin Harrisons.

10 I Stated Accounts with Ned Hawkseye for Stones sold by him & John Mason, for work done by them at my Smithy, &c: and for Stones sold by me or made use of by my Orders & the Ballance between us I paid him. I began to Plow for Barly in the Little-More-Hey 'tis my first dayes plowing since Christmass. I coursed a Hare as the Smith of Thornton found set.

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[1] Throng—crowded, packed, dense, fully attended.

11 I Disgested the Charg of Building my Smithy and put the expence of it into a better Method.[2] Betty Lathom was extreamly ill & kept her bed.

12 Pat: Wofold was here beging Charity for Lisbon Collage, I gave him some.[3] I sent George Abbot to Leverpoole to pay Mr Hurst £30 as he had lent me last Saturday, he payed it to his own hand.

13 I saw Pat: Aldred set a Hen-Egg upon an end on a Looking Glass, he shew'd me the way. I sent some old Gees to Garrets to be kept by him to parts but they are since removed to James Parkers.

14 Mr Aldred and I dined at Croxtath, I went to see my Lord Molineux who was ill of the Gout but being he was taking Phisick I could not see him, coming home I stayed awhile at John Tyrers. My Jury met to look after the affairs of this Town. I layed some Achhorns in the Ground but they were most of them spoyl'd with keeping them out of the Ground too long.

15 I went with John Hunt to cours a Hare as he had found set, thence we went to Great Crosby and drank a while at James Davys. Our Smith began to take the Iron work off my Crane Neck Carriage as was for my great Charriot.

16 My Wife and I went to John Blundells to eat some Christmass Fair, whilst we were there Betty Lathom and Nanny Blundell came to us in their way to Formby Dowvale where they were to stay one Night or two.

17 I booked my Disbursments for the last Month. I began to feed my Red Bull-Segg with Oats. I helped George Abbot to remove my Beasts out of the Little-More-hey into the Heal-bank-Ground, we went to the Snigary and set my Net. James Brown began to get Stocks in Thornton Rough Hey. I weighed the Iron as our Smith has taken off my Crane-Neck'd-Carriage & sold it to him, it was 274 Pound wight.

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[2] "November the 16, 1713 Richard Webster took possestion Of a New Stone Smithy which I had built for him but have not yet set down the Charges of it which is as Followeth:—

	£	s.	d.
Stones bought of the Masons	1	2	3
Slates at the Delf at 20s. per Rood	1	16	6
Ridging Stones		5	0
Nales of all Sorts		10	0
Lock & Key		1	4
Bands, Gugeons & Iron Rings		7	10
Stone Trough		4	2
Build the Smithy & Sheoinge Place at 6d. per yard with Stones dressed and at 10d. per yard dressing and seting them, the Masons found themselves Meat & made their Morter	4	14	11
Dressing Slats at the Delf at 5s. per Rood		9	2
Slating at 12s. per Rood & Meat	1	2	0
Building two Brick Chimneys & harths		7	1
Carpinders work besides Meat	2	0	6
Daubing & Serving the Dauber		12	0
All above I payed Ready Money for viz:	£13	12s.	9d.
Stones of my own, worth	3	14	8
Timber & Lats of my own	8	14	0
Brick, Lime, Clay & Litter		10	0
Leading Stones, Timber, Clay &c: about home at 2s. per day	1	3	2
Leading Slates, &c: from about home at 3s. per day	1	18	0
The vallew of the Next above being my own goods, & work done by my Servants & Horses amounts in all to	£15	19s.	10d.

More layed out towards finishing the Smithy & Shoeing place but I have forgot the Particulars."

[3] "12 Jan. 1715—Towards Rebuilding Lisbone Collage . . . . . 10s. 0d."

18 I Book'd my Receipts for the two last Months. I planted six Apple Trees in the New Orcherd in the Roome of some as came not forwards very well.

19 I began to Inclose part of the Flat in order to set Achhorns in it. George Abbot brought home about two Pound of Eles, they are I think the first as I have taken in my Snig-Net since I inlarged the Sluce. My Wife was extreamly ill, but not of her old Distemper, she went to bed in the Evening.

20 I was very busy casting up John Tyrers Accounts & mine about our Executorship for Dr Lathom, I have now finished them & writ John Tyrers part out fair for him.

21 I set an Egg upon one End tis the first time I did it. I went to Abbots & gave him farther direcsions about the Parish Hearse, thence I went to Thomas Hesketh's where I found Parson Latus & Parson Wairing, I spent my Penny with them. I killed a Small Hogg.

22 I Planted a good Load of Gors between my great Cop and my Grand-Water-Cours to prevent the Sand from blowing, my Children went thither with me but the Workmen were gon off ere we came.

23 Thomas Syer was here, we Discoursed of the Affairs of this Parish.

24 Mr Plumb dined here, then we went towards Charles Howerds a Seting where he kept my Court, Walter Thelwall was the Foreman of my Jury, I stayed pritty long drinking there with Gabriell Norris, William Wignold, &c:, Captain Robert Fazakerley came to us ere we parted, I agreed there with Thomas Blundell for him to have the Reversion of his Mothers part of her Teneament & to enjoy it after her Death during his owne Life.

25 Parson Latus and his Wife dined here, Parson Wairing, &c: should have dined here but did not, he came towards Evening. Thomas Syer sat with us in the afternoone.

26 I sent John Banister to Wooton to welcome Mr Molineux & his Lady home, thence he was to goe to Ditton to set some Ash & Wallnut Trees as he took with him hence. I gave a Poore Woman a Doce for the Falling Sickness & a quantity of the same to take according to my Direcsions, she had yester Night a sevear Fit in my Gatehous. This day Mr Richard Molineux his Aniversary being kept I went to the Grange & heard 3 and a peece. Dr Lancaster was here, Mally being much out of order he prescribed her a Blistering Plaster, he let Betty Lathom Blood.

27 John Farer & I went a Coursing, we killed a Hare as had a pritty large young one in her. William Ainsworth lodged here.

28 Mr Smith of Croston made a Viset here from Ince. Captain Robert Fazakerley called here as he was going to Leverpoole, he signed a Generall Releace for Money Received by Mr Molineux of Mosburgh from me upon Account of Mrs Ellen Fazakerley. Mr Molineux of Mosburgh sent to see if I would sell him any Seed Barly.

29 I Finished making & backing my Cop overcross the Flat, which is to inclose a small spot to set Achhorns in.

30 I Coursed a Hare as Walter Thelwall found set, George Abbot took her up out of her Seat,[4] then we turned her out and she bet[5] a Brace of my Grew-hounds.

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[4] Set.
[5] Beat.

31 I sold my Hors Swap to William Ainsworth, he went hence and took him hence and also my Grewhound Hector as I had given him yester Night. Being indisposed with a Cold I kept my Bed till towards Noone. My Wife began to take Dr Whawleys Doce a second time.

Till the 8th Snow and Frost, from thence till the 24th unsetled Weather, but generally some Raine, being two or three dayes Rain more or less, then one day faire, then perhaps a little Rain, the eight last dayes it Rained some more or less & especially the four last may well be called Wet and Windy.

FEBRUARY

1 Whilst I was with Pat: Aldred laping up Candles, there was a most prodigious Wind, it blew down Thomas Marrows the Taylors Barn & did more dammage in this Town than has ever ben knone done by Wind here, I had a Brick Barne in the Coppy blown down. James Davy was blown of his Hous & very ill hurt. The Salt water was carried from the Sea with this Wind to Holland near Wigan as some have told me, but it is undoubtedly true that the Hearbs & leaves in my Gardens were salt with the Sea Water. I was very busy most of the afternoone working a ball as I have since put into a Glass-bottle. My Wife was taken with a pain in her Back but not as usually, but so as she could not goe or stand upright.

2 William Atherton sent his Son to let me know I had sufferd some Dammage at Ditton by yester-dayes Wind, I gave him some Phisick to take with him for three that had the Ague-Fits. Ned Rycroft fetched hence two Large Red Bullocks as he had formerly bought, he payed for them.

3 I went to the Coppy Barne to see what dammage I had sustained, I set some hands on work to sourt the Brick, Timber, &c:. Mr Turvill made a Viset here, he brought the Cuning Purs as was somthing hard to be opened.

4 I called at Heys'es in Aintry where I discoursed John Tyrer and Mr Boyer concerning Mrs Smiths Money as I had put out, thence I went to Croxtath where I dined, Mr Molineux of Wooton & Mr Massy of Pudington came thither ere we had done diner, I discoursed my Lord Molineux in behalf of Jack Lathom, &c: then I went to Ditton to see what dammage I had sufferd by the wind, I Lodged at my own Hous the Bank.

5 William Atherton and I went to Henry Heys his, I gave him a good Oak Tree as grew in his Teneament, I came home from Ditton through Leverpoole, I stayed there awhile & drunk at the Wool-pack with Parson Henry Richmond, Mr Taylor of Leverpoole the Watchmaker, &c:.

6 It was a bitter cold day, Pat: Aldred was here a good while. Thomas Marrow of the Gate and John Tickley paid me their Share for their Rack Rent of the Cross Field.

7 I sent George Abbot to Chorley to see Pat: Gelibrond who is sick. Henry Kerfoot and Henry Ascroft fought each of them a Cock in the Great Courts. I met Thomas Syer at Sefton, we went to vew the Pulpet Stayers as William Abbot is seting up, we drunk a while at Harsnops and then went to William Abbots & gave him full direcsions about the Parish Hearse.

8 William Barton was here, he order'd something for my Mare Cherry, then went to Leverpoole and came back to Lodge here.

9 William Barton gave a Drink to my four Coach-Horses & to my Mare Cherry. I opened some Apple Trees at the Roots and powred in some Miding Water. Thomas Syer & I met Parson Latus at Parson Richmonds, we discoursed the Parson concerning the twelve Men as were chosen for the Parish, from Parson Richmonds we three went to the Black Hors to take a Pot & Pipe. Catty Howerd left her Service. Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole made a Viset hither, she came to invite my Wife to a Ball as is to be tomorrow at Leverpoole.

10 I Booked my Disbursments for the last Month. John Blundell clove two Ash-Trees into Husbandry ware, they were blown down in the Crow Orcherd.

11 Christopher Parker did some Tinkers work here for me. I was very busy most of the afternoone drawing out a Table of Fees the first time over, which when approved of and Writ Fair over is to be hung up in Sefton Church.[6]

12 My geters of Stocks in Thornton Rough Hey viz: James Brown and his Partners finished geting, they have got up 57 Rooks which is computed to be near as many Cart Load. I put my Worked Ball into a Glass Bottle.

13 Margery Lurting came to supply here till we got a Cook. Mr Turvill made a Viset here.

14 I killed a very Wild Red Bull-Segg. I Raised an Appletree in the New Grounds as was blown down upon the first Instant. Fanny cut her Toe, I sent for Betty Morris to cuar it, she Lodged here. Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh sent his Servant to let me know he could not meet me at Dukes in Great Crosby today.

15 Mr Burton dined here. I sent Betty Morris part of her way home towards Leverpoole.[7]

16 Thomas Syer and I met at Sefton Church, we were there with the Glasior as was mending the Windows, We drunk at Harsnops with Robert Bootle and his Son Robert. I began to set Achhorns in my new Plantation as I took out of the Flat, but they were so long kept at the first out of the Ground I think few of them will ever sprout.

17 I sent the Hide & Suet of my Red Segg to Ormskirk to be sold. I dryed some Flax on my Oat Kill to make it swingle the better.

18 I finished seting Achhorns in my New Plantation in the Flat. We winnowed Oats & Barly most of the day.

19 I fetched home some of the Thatch as belonged to my Barn as was blowed down in the Coppy, I put it into the Miding Lack to rot for Muck. I lent my Teame to Robert Tompson to lead one Load of his own Turves with.

20 Thomas Syer was here, I shewed him the Table of Fees I had drawn, & the Orders as I intended to propose for the good of this Parish.

21 William Barton roweled my Mare Cherry.[8] John Farer came to mend and Licker the Coach Harnish.[9] Henry Dauber came to put me up a New Mill-Stone.

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[6] See Appendix E for Table of Fees.

[7] "Betty Morris for Curing Fannys Toe . . . . . 2s. 0d.",

[8] "Given to two Farriers for Cherry . . . . . 13s. 0d."

[9] "'Train Oyle for Lickering Harnish . . . . . 4s. 3d.
Mending & Lickering Coach Harnish . . . . . 9s. 5d."

22 Pat: Aldred and I dined at Dukes with Mr Molineux of Mosburgh. I gave him my Picture of the Woman & Pale, when he was gon Parson Latus and Parson Wairing came to us.

23 I went to my Workmen as were at my great Cop by my Grand Water Cours being the Sand is now blown over it in many Places.

24 William Atherton dined here he payed me the Remainder of his Rack Rent. William Tarlton and Thomas Syer looked at some Oats of mine for Seed but they bought none of me.

25 Richard Jackson paid me the Remainder of his Fine. I Booked William Athertons Disbursments for my Desmesney at Ditton for the year 1714. I Removed some July Flower Layers in the Knot and covered some Seedling Tulops with Sea-Sand as were coming up, The Tulop Seeds were sowed the 28th of August last.

26 Henry Dauber put me up a New Mill-Stone. I went to Leverpoole & paid Mr Plumb £28 in Presence of his Son William, a great part of it was upon Account of my Sute with Ince about the Water-courses, I had formerly given him my Note for it, but he now gave it me back again & also his Receipt for the £28.[10] I was at William Griffiths Cock-pit, I saw some Battles played, there was present Richard Thorp, Mr Holsold the Putarer, &c:. John More paid me for two Green Hides. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Swarbrick; and with Ben Branker.

27 My Wife & I went to prayers at Lidiat but came full late enough, I dined there with Mr Moston; and my Wife went to Ormskirk, she made a Viset to Mrs Barker and Collonell Russells Lady. Mally Lodged at Hugh Bullens & Fanny at Mrs Smiths in Aintry.

28 I put the Harnish as were fited up and bought for the Parish Hears, on two of my Horses & drue them in the Harnish & rectifyed what was a Miss.

The first day of this Month there was a most Prodigious great Wind, which did a bundance of Damage in some parts of England, though others sufferd little or nothing by it; I am told that in one Parish in Lancashire it blowed down 14 Barnes and it is not to be immagined how many Barnes were blowed down in this County & many of them were built of Brick and in good Repair of which mine was one. The chief dammage was upon Barnes, to say nothing of the great Quantity of Thatch as was blown off Houses and Barnes which made Straw in some Plases above three times the Price it formerly was and so scarce that severall were fourced to lay on their old Thatch & cover it over with Sods of Earth. They say in Chesshir & Wales this Wind did more dammage than in Lancashire; some sayes this wind was a greater loss to this County than one years Land Tax. The Hearbs in my Gardens were perseptably Salt with sea Water as was blown hither & I have heard it affermed the Sea Water was carried with this Wind as far as Holland by Wigan and that the Hearbs in the gardens there were salt. A great Number of the Leaves of the Lawrell & Bay Trees in my Courts were turned perfectly wither'd & brown at the Edges & the small ends,

[10] "26 Feb. 1715

To Mr Plumb on Account of Dixon	£5	3s.	11d.
Ditto on Account of Hartleys Sute	£7	2s.	9d.
Ditto on Account of Ince Sute	£15	12s.	2d.
Ditto on other Accounts		1s.	2d."

which certainly proceeded from the Salt Water that by degrees fell from the Middle of the Leaves to the edges & tip ends of the Leaf. The second day was Windy & some Rain, then 3 fair dayes, from thence to the end some days fair, others Snow or Rain, very proper for the Season.

MARCH

1 The Millwrits went hence they having put me up a New Millstone, I paid them for their Work.[11] My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Wairing who was lying in of her Son John. Henry Kerfoot took some Cocks with him to Leverpoole and fought two of them there, he fed them in my Pens. The Miller played of his Fiddle to the Servants &c: after Supper till pritty late.

2 Ellen Sergeant came to be Cook here.[12] Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here, he came to stay some dayes here being he has ben much out of order. James Davy and his Man came to Repair the Slates of my Barn &c: as were Blown off by the great Wind on the first of last Month. Thomas Syer met me at William Abbots, My Children went with me to Abbots, I got a Bowle &c: turned there for them, thence we went to Sefton Church & went upon the Higher Leads.

3 Pat: Gelibrond took a Purge by order of Doctor Lancaster.

4 George Abbot went to Wiggan and discoursed Thomas Barton concerning my Mare Cherry, he said he would come tomorrow to see her.

5 Thomas Barton came to look at Cherry & orderd something for her, Robert Lyon met him here. I Stated Accounts with Roger Neale, I paid him all I ought him & he paid me in part what he ought me. James Davy went hence he having Repaired the Damage the Great wind had done me in my Slates.[13] I Baked somthing for the Falling-Sickness, I had it from Nelly Farer.[14]

6 Nicholas Steevenson paid me two Church-leys for Ince. John Lurting the Gardiner was here. My Wife and Pat: Gelibrond made a Viset to Ince.

7 John Webster a Bayly was here a beging Corn, I orderd him a quarter of a Busshell of the worst Tole. Pat: Gelibrond and I were at Mr Aldreds, he gave us a Bowl of Punsh, Parson Wairing was there. I set the Carthous-Pit a Runing in order to fish it this Lent.

8 John Blundell the Taylior was here to advize with me about his Brother Thomas Blundells Funerall.

9 Ned Howerd Shaved Pat: Gelibrond and me, he and Pat: Aldred dined here, it was a bitter day of Rain. Thomas Blundell was buried.

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[11] "1 March 1715—Mill Rits at 8d. per day . . . . . 9s. 6d."
The millwrights also repaired some damage which must have been done during the great storm of February 1:—
"24 Feb. 1715—Mending Iron Geer of my Mill . . . . . 14s. 6d.
Spent on Man & Hors when the Iron Geere was mended . . . 2s. 0d."

[12] Nelly Sergeant was engaged on February 27 and left on July 6.

[13] "James Davy, Slater at 10d. per day and his Man at 8d. per day . . . 6s. 0d."

[14] Wife of a tenant, Edward Farrer. The 'something' was the 'after-birth' or placenta which was used in making medicine for the falling-sickness. See Appendix D and February 26 1714.

10 Being I expected my Lord Molineux to dine here today, I drew part of the Carthous-Pit. My Lord Molineux, his two Sons Mr Carroll & Mr William dined here, we all went after dinner to Mr Aldreds, he gave us a Bowl of Punsh, I bought Mr Aldreds Sword.

11 Pat: Gelibrond went hence. Dr Lancaster was here. I put 10 New Leathers on my Chean to pump with.

12 I went with Skinner Blundell to his Mothers & there made him a promiss of his Brothers part of the Living for this year, we made a Viset to Margarit Blundell Widdow of Thomas Blundell, thence I went to William Abbots to see how he went on with the Parish Hears, he not being at home I went to John Garrets where I found him & drunk with him, Mr Smith the Malster, John Barton of Ormskerk, &c.

13 Being Pat: Aldred prayed today at Leverpoole, Pat: Tasburgh supplyed his place in this Town. Pat: Tasburgh, Patrick Norris & one Mr Formby dined here. John Rose, Young Robert Bootle, John Barton of Ormskerk, &c: came hither to see my Bottle & Reel, I shewed them it. Mrs Betty Wofold came hither from the Grange to see my Wife but she was gon to see Rachell Tyrer who was lying in of two Sons.

14 I began to Swingle with 10 Hands the Remainder of my last years Flax which was onely Scutched over the last Summer. I Began to pump the Karthous-Pit with 4 hands, the Pump was ready fixed last Week. George Abbot sold me two Calves to Cheetham, and one Cow & two Swine to Crofts & his Partner. William Harrison the Clark of Sefton was here, I gave him 2d instead of twelve Eggs.

15 I went to Thomas Blundells Saile of Goods, I there spoke to Ralf Marser Senior & John Sumner of the More-houses. I drew part of the Carthous Pit severall times over. Pat: Gelibrond Lodged here, he came to see the Karthous Pit Fished. Thomas Tickle was here, I paid him for Making Malt for me and for duty for it.

16 I Began to sow Beanes in the Pike. I Finished Swingling my last years Flax and paid off all my Swinglers at 6d. per day, this Swingling bout was 32 dayes work. Ralf Marser Senior & Henry Harper were here, they setled Accounts with Betty Blundell as to what was between her and her Brother Thomas Blundell, she was Hatchelling[15] here for me. Ralf Marser Junior came to see me fish the Carthous Pit.

17 I began to spread Mole-Hills. Notwithstanding that we had severall disapointments at our Pump we drained the Carthous-pit so as to make a Deming to the Island and divided it into two Pits. Thomas Syer was here, we cast up our Church Accounts and Computed as well as we could what more Money would be wanting, he got his Collasion here.

18 I sent a good many Breame Fray of a Present to Leverpoole to Mr Ralf Marser. Mr Burton dined here, he came to see the Carthous-pit Fished, I got most of the Water out of it so as to get the Flat Fish & some Eles, we took six Large Carp, one was 2 Ft-4¾ in. long. Since we began to fish it this bout, we got 9 Tensh, 7 of them were put into the Horspoole; Carps got in all eight larg ones of which 4 were put into the Pike New pit & two into the Horspoole. Breames got in all besides smalle Fray about 557. Brames stored in the Horspoole 20 lb., in the Duckcoy about 30. Eles got in all about 30 lb.

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[15] Hatchelling—combing flax with an instrument called a hatchell or flax-comb.

19 Mr Scarisbrick his Lady two of his Doughters Betty & Nanny and two Doughters of Mr Traffords of Croston dined here, Miss Nanny Scarisbrick was never here before. Pat: Gelibrond went hence.

20 John Sumner paid me two Church Leys, I shewed him the Harnish for the Parish Hears. I went to great Crosby to Dukes to see Mr Aldreds Strawberry Gelding, I drunk there with Mr Aldred, Thomas Syer, Richard Westhead, Mr Billing my Lords Servant, &c:.

21 Thomas Syer and I met at Harsnops to hear the Cunstables make their Presentments to the Assizes, there was Young Robert Bootle, Peter Stock, John Tyrer, &c:, some of us went into the Church and layed one Church Ley & then went into a Roome from the rest of the Company except some few of them as came to us, in our Company there was Parson Latus, Thomas Bradley, Thomas Syer and I, &c:.

22 Mrs Blundell of Ince came hither but came not into the Hous because my Wife was gon to Gorsuch to meet Mrs Scarisbrick &c: there. Margery Lurting began to spin for me in the hous at 7d. per Week. George Abbot went with me into the three North-Heys to see how the Corn & Grass looked, thence I walked to William Abbots to see how he went forward with the Parish Hears.

23 I turned out some of my Milk Beasts to grass as were ues'd to ly in the Hous in the Night. I turned out Ginny and Cherry in the day time, they are uesed to ly in the Hous day and Night. Crofts and an other Butcher paid me for goods they had bought here. I bought a peece of Indian Chink Callico in this Hall for my Wife.[16] George Abbot began to gather some of the Fines as were layed in my Court.

24 Pat: Wofold dined here, he brought me Nierembergs Difference between the Temperall and Eternall and I gave him Pat: Parsons Resolusions for it. Mally asked me for some Hair Cloth.

25 Bryan Lea, Margery Tompson, &c: paid me their Rent. William Marser paid his Rack Rent in part. Henry Ascroft & his Wife were here with Richard Whithead about selling their Teneament to Richard Whithead.

26 I went to Walton and advised with Parson Richmond[17] about going to Chester upon the Parish Account, then I went to Leverpoole and Sealed a Leas in the Wool-pack to Ailes Atherton of Ditton, she paid me £15 in part of her Fine & out of it I payed Patrick Norrice who was present for 24 Bushell of Seed Barly. I drunk at the Woolpack with Patrick Norriss & Mr Becket the Cork Cutter.

27 I writ down my yesterdayes expences at Leverpoole. Thomas Syer was here, we took a Pipe together, I shewed him the Harnish as I had prepaired for the Parish Hears.

28 Ann Riding was here and paid me the Remainder of her Fine, Richard Tickley came with her and paid me two years Rent for Land in the Grange Warand.

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[16] "23 March 1715—Indian Chink Callico for my Wife . . . . . £3 10s. 0d." This was bought from an itinerant salesman, who probably also sold her some muslin for 12s. 6d.

[17] The Rev. Richard Richmond, rector of Sefton, 1684–1722, and also rector of Walton, where he lived. From the entries for January 5 and February 9 it would seem that a suggestion was being canvassed for the election of a select vestry for Sefton parish.

29 Mr Burtles of Leverpoole and William Abbot were here and advised with me about painting the Parish Hearse. Captain Robert Fazakerley was here, I went with him to see Pat: Aldred who had strained his Ancle yesterday very ill. I began to plough up that part of the Nearer-North-hey as was sowed with Rye and intend to Sow it with Oats because the Rye is not Lickley to be a tollerable good Crop. Walter Thelwall paid me part of his Rack Rent. I put up my Cock to feed as Darby Wife gave me in order to match him if I can at Easter.

30 John Sumner of the Morehouses went with me to Petchers Field, Heighfield-hey and Moores-Meadows, we consulted where to delve Turves this Summer. I got up a very fine Oake Tree in the Nearer-North-hey, it is very thick and seemes to be above seaven yards and a half of good Timber, part of it I have since cloven into good Laths.

31 I saw them bring my larg Tree home out of the Nearer-North-Hey as we found there yesterday. Parson Latus, Thomas Syar & I met at Parson Wairings, thence he went with us to Walton to Parson Richmonds where we advised with him about the Affairs of the Parish, and then we went to the Black Hors; as I came home I called at William Abbots to see how the Painter went forwards with the Parish Hearse.

Till the 24th very seasonable Weather for this Month, being now and then 2 or 3 dayes together fair, then perhaps a pritty Spring Shower, but the 9th was a most sevear and bitter day of Rain; from the 24th. to the end generally cold sharp winds & some times Rain.

APRILL

1 Nelly Sergeant came home from Lancaster, she had ben there, the time of the Assizes emproving her self in Cookery. I fixed a Gate to the Flat nearer to the Road than it uesed to be. Young Mr Yates came to look at Pat: Aldreds Ancle.

2 I Began to sow Oats in the Stock Roots, I finished it with two Harrowers. Mr Burton dined here, John Banister shaved him.

3 Wignolds Son paid me what his Father was fined in, in my Court. Thomas Syer and I consulted our business against I goe to Chester. Mally and I began our Journey towards Chester, we Lodged at William Athertons at the Bank at Ditton, Henry Heys came thither to me and promised to keep me a Grewhound Whelp.

4 From Ditton Mally and I went by Runkhorn Bote and so by Helsby where I stated Accounts with John Wainright and his Son John upon Account of Ditton Rack. I gave old John the Ballance of Accounts, thence we went to Chester and lodged at Edward Parsonidge his the Signe of the Golden Lyon. I discoursed Mr Boucher about this Parish Affairs. Yester Night & this Morning Bess was Cover'd by my Lord Molineux Darcy.

5 I bought some Gloves for my Children of Mr Gleg, he came along with me to my Lodging, from Chester we came to Eastom & came over in the Boat with Edmund Barton, Mr Low the Atturney, &c:. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Holland the Customhous Officer, Mr Plumb, &c:. Mr Plumb proposed

to me to buy Sir Cleavs Land in the Morehouses.[18] Mally and I came home.

6 I went both before & after dinner to William Abbots to see how the Painter went forwards with the Parish Hears. I went to Sefton Church to see what the Painter had done at the Pulpet, I drunk at Harsnops with Dr Only, John Darwin, &c:. Mr William Glegg lodged here.

7 I went to William Abbots and gave the Painter farther direcsions how to paint the Parish Hears, my Children walked along with me thither.

8 I went to William Abbots in the Morning to see how the Painter went forwards. Henry Kerfoot spard some Cocks as he has up feeding in my Pens, I saw them Spar; two of them are mine, one was onely taken up today. John Leighs Wife brought me two dozen & a half of Birch Beesoms.

9 We brought the Parish Hears from William Abbots to the Church and there set it up. Thomas Syer & I drank at Harsnops with Parson Latus, &c:, Thomas Bradley came to us ere we Parted. I shewed Parson Latus and Thomas Syer a Petission as I had drawn up to the Bishop of Chester.

10 Being Pat: Aldred is not yet recoverd of his Laimnes my Wife and I went to prayers to the New hous. Ned Howerd writ some Letters for my Wife to Cozen John Gelibrond, &c:. I prevailed with a great many of this Town to meet Parson Richmond tomorrow at Sefton.

11 I met Parson Richmond at Sefton Church where he proposed that 12 Representatives should be chosen for the good of this Parish. I dined at Harsnops with Parson Richmond, Parson Latus, Alderman Tyrer,[19] Mr Faran, &c:, coming home I called at Parson Latus his & stayed there a good while with him and Parson Wairing.

12 Pat: Aldred came to see Nelly Sergeant by her own desire, she being very ill, 'tis the first time he discoursed her, her Sister Mary Lodged here. Thomas Syer & I met at Sefton, we order'd how the Table of Benefactors was to be hung and gave the Painter orders about it,[20] William Abbot was there, Thomas Syer computed what Timber was uesed about the Pulpet Stayers, we examained part of William Abbots Bill. We drunk at Harsnops with Parson Latus, Thomas Bradley, &c:.

13 I payed the Land Tax for half a year to Richard Whithead. I Sealed a Leas to William Harrison & Ellin and they sealed a Leas to me. William Gray & I sealed a Leas to each other. John Melling came to look at some Mosswood of mine to see how it might be cloven to my greatest advantage. Thomas Syer dined here, he and I were extraordinary busy both before & after dinner drawing up our Parish Accounts against Easter.

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[18] Towards the end of the seventeenth century, the Moores of Bank Hall were beginning to run into financial difficulties. In 1678, Sir Edward Moore had been succeeded by his son, Cleave, then aged 15 years. In 1690, the Lancashire estates of Sir Cleave were mortgaged for £12,650, to pay off heavy debts. About 1715 some of the estates were sold. In 1724/5 Lord Derby bought Bank Hall and the Moore estates. See April 29 and 30, May 6 1715. Sir Cleave Moore died March 29 1730; the title persisted till 1810, the later members residing in the south of England.

[19] Alderman George Tyrer, mayor of Liverpool, 1726, bailiff, 1728. This is the last reference to the appointment of twelve men, but some entries in the Diary for later years suggest that such a body had been elected and that Nicholas was a member of it.

[20] See Appendix F.

14 Brock was Cover'd at Ormskirk by Blackbourns Fine Stallion he calls him ——. Bess was cover'd at Dukes by my Lord Molineux his Darcy. George Abbot sold three Beasts for me to Mr Nicholas Fazakerley. I peruesed Thomas Syers and my own Accounts for the Parish Church and took some Notes out of them. William Abbot was here, I examained him farther concerning his Bills of Church Work. I Killed a small Swine.

15 Thomas Syer dined here, he and I had an extraordinary Long dayes work about adjusting the Parish Accounts. It Rained pritty much almost all day which was very acceptable.

16 Thomas Syer came hither early in the Morning, we finished our Parish Accounts so as to shew them in the Church, but have not adjusted what is between us. I took some Notes out of the Parish Bills for work, wood and Painting, &c:.

17 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here after Vespars, he and I smoked with Pat: Aldred. My Wife made a Viset to Ince but Mrs Blundell was not within.

18 Henry Kerfoot fought a Cock of mine in Lidiat. My Children and the Maids went in the Coach to Formby Faire, there was a Stage Play Acted there. Mrs Blundell made a Viset here. I was at Great Crosby Court and heard a great part of James Williamsons Tryall, Mr Green was the Steward; Mr Ford and Mr Plumb were the Atturneys, there was present Parson Wairing, Mr Samuell Thomas, Thomas Syer, Thomas Gower, &c:, John Lurting was the Fore-man of the Jury, Nicholas Hatton, John Ridgat, &c: were on that Jury: Before the Tryall I drunk at Dukes with Thomas Syer of the Ford, &c:.

19 Thomas Syer and I deliver'd up our Accounts as Church Wardens they were read in the Church and severall Stints were set for the better Regulating the Affairs of the Parish, there was Present Parson Wairing, Thomas Syer of the Ford, Mr Williamson of Litherland, Thomas Bradley, &c:. I gave Parson Latus £5 towards the Augmentasion of the Parish Stock.[21] Thomas Syer and I payed off John Melling, Richard Heaton, &c:, we drunk awhile at Harsnops with Mr Bower, John Tyrer, &c:, and then went to Thomas Tickleys where we drunk with Parson Latus, Parson Wairing, Mr Henry Wairing, Thomas Bradley, John Rose, &c:. My Wife went to see Betty Blundell of the Carside who was lying in, Henry Kerfoot fought a Red Cock of mine at Alker against Mr Edward Molineux.

20 I sowed some Asparguss Seed on some of my New Beds on the Terras Walk. Mr Shepheard was here, I suppose he came to speak to Pat: Gelibrond.

21 Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh fetched hence three Score Busshell of Barly as he had bought of me for Seed. Parson Wairing and his Uncle Henry Wairing called here as they were going to Ince Green, they stayed here a while & then I went with them, we and Parson Darbyshire bowled three Rubers. Pat: Gelibrond & Mr Aldred came to us.

22 Pat: Gelibrond and I, &c: observed the great Eclips of the Sun. George Abbot & Thomas Farer the Cunstable of this Town strained upon three of William Davis Beasts for Rent owing to me by him.

23 My Wife and Mally went to Leverpoole, she left Mally at Mrs Meginnis to be tought by her. George Abbot went towards Brindle to stay thereabouts

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[21] See Appendix G.

for two or three Nights. Henry Kerfoot went to a Cocking in Magul. Some of my Servants went to Leverpoole upon their own business. Towards Evening I walked to the Mill, Dr Only came thither whilst I was there, I got him to walk hither with me, we took a glass together and I shewed him my Reel and Bottle and my Little Calf & some other of my Curiossitiss.

24 Fanny went to the Sea side to see a Man as was cast up. Betty Farer olim Harrison was here with her Mother; my Wife had a strong debate with Ellen Harrison about her Doughter Bettys staying with her for a year. My Wife & I went to see Mr Boyers Son John, but he being gon to Richard Heyses the Ail-hous we went thither where we found him, his Father and Mother, and Young Dr Lancaster of Renold & his Wife.

25 I went with John Farer to Flea-Land he made choyce of one Rood of Fleas for himself and I chose an other Rood for Margery Lurting; coming home I came through Wat Thelwalls Moss and some others of my Neighbours as were burning them. I Booked my Disbursments for February. Henry Ascroft took a Heffer hence as I have Hierd to him.

26 I Booked my Disbursments for the last Month and my Receipts for January and February. Being Mally is to stay at Schoole at Mrs Maginnes I sent her Cloths &c: to her.

27 I payed Mr Boyer £10-6s-0d. upon Account of what I owe to William Abbot for Work done by him for the use of Sefton Parish. I turned my Milk-beasts out to grass. Mr Turvill made a Viset here. The Overseear of Ince brought Joseph Massy and his Wife into this Town, being this is their Setlement, we accepted of them but they doe not come yet to live here.

28 I turned my Mare Ginny out to Grass she had lane in the Hous in the Nights. I locked up the Town-Meadow. My Lord Molineux was at Great Crosby and being he wanted Licker Pat: Aldred who was with him sent hither for Brandy I lent him two Bottles and some Sugar.

29 I went to Leverpoole chiefly to see Mally at Mrs Meginnis, 'tis the first time I saw her since she went. I discoursed Mr Plumb about buying one Aicker of Sir Clave Mores Land as Lyes in Blundells Teneament. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Jack Marsden, &c:.

30 I went to look at Sir Clave Mores Aicker as is in Blundells Teneament.

This Month has ben very agreeable, some times fine Springing Showers, then two or three Fair dayes, then perhaps a good Soaking Shower or two, which was very acceptable. Most Seasonable Wether this Month and a very forward Spring both of Grass and Corn and a very great Show for all Sorts of Frute.

MAY

1 Richard Whithead was here, I discoursed him about taking a great Rack from me. Thomas Syer & I adjusted the Accounts as were between us as Church-Wardens that we might know how we stood with each other, he Suped here.

2 Frances Farer from Mosburg and his Wife Betty were here, we had a hot debate about her Lying inn in this Town. John Tickley went with me to the Daltron and shewed me where he would have it better mended.

3 Thomas Syer paid me what Money he had in his Hands remaining of the Church Leys received by him. Betty Lathom went to Leverpoole, she is today in hopes of being well. William Abbot sent two Beasts to be scored with me. I went to William Fleetwoods but neighther he nor his Wife was at home, we met them as we came home, Fanny went with me, she rid single.

4 James Addison gelded my two Colts Diamond & Jewell, they were under Bess and Ginny and got by Thomas Bigerstaffs Bay, they are somthing above one year old, he also gelded my Mischievous Little Bull. I gave some of my Old Cloths to George Abbot & John Banister. I went to Ince Green, Pat: Burton & I bowled against Pat: Aldred & Parson Wairing. I stayed drinking at Wartons with John Fooler, Edmund Tristram, &c: after most of the Company was gon.

5 George Abbot sold one of William Davys Beasts at Ormskirk as he had strained upon for Rent. Mr Shepheard from Ince was here, I gave him a pair of Gloves by my Wives desire, Fanny went with John Banister to his Fathers, she lodged at John Clarks. I Lead some Flea Turves for Margery Lurting.

6 I took up 64 Seedling Tulops, I took up 52 Seedling Tulops as came from Pods with four Edges or Divisions, these Seedlings were all of them sowed August the 28th 1714 on a Bed in the Flower Knot & this day I layed them againe in the Ground to lye for a few Weeks. I went to Leverpoole & contracted with Mr Plumb for one Aicker of Sir Clave Mores Land, I got a Bill of two Pound from Mr Morecroft tis for Jack Lathom.

7 Henry Nelson was here, I made a Bargan with him to get Stones for me. I began to sow the Little-More-hey with Barly.

8 Mary Orrill dined here. Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvill made a Viset here. Nelly Sergeants Mother lodged here.

9 I Led Muck to the Little-Morehey with six Boone Carts & three of my own. John Banister went to take Young Moles, it is a proper time, but he onely found two. Ann Thelwall was here & had a Sevear Scoulding Bout concerning her Doughter Margarits Truth & Honesty.

10 Pat: Norris[22] my Lord Ferfax Sacerdotal made a Viset here, Pat: Turvill came with him.

11 I sent some Pigeons to Leverpoole, they are the first I sold this Season. Ailes Steward was here, I paid her for some things as my Wife has had from her. Mr Moss the Baylie of Farnworth was here. Dr Lancaster made a Viset here.

12 I Led Muck to the Little-More-hey with two Boone Carts and three of my own till Noone, but it rained so hard after dinner we did not Lead any.

13 I was busy most of the afternoone helping John Banister to take up some Tulop Roots in the Knot. We began to make the Parlor Harth black and intend to keep it that Colour in imitation of Black Marble.

14 Nelly Sergeants Kinswoman Betty Bolton & her Child lodged here so did Peggy Jackson. The Young Folks of this Town had a Merry-Night at James Davis, Tatlock played to them; the Young Weomen treated the Men with a Tandsey as they had lost to them at a Game at Stoole Balle.

15 Richard Cartwrite let my Wife & me Blood. Mrs Boyer dined here.

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[22] Probably Rev. Andrew Norris, S.J., a member of a branch of the Norris of Speke family; the son of John and Elizabeth Norris (Foley's *Records*, Vol. 5, p. 616).

16 Yester night and this Morning I took a dose of Pills.

17 Pats: Burton, Aldred and Turvill made a Viset here. I went to William Abbot and got a Whip fitted up for the Dove-Coat. My Wife took a dose of Phisick from Dr Lancaster. I went to the Buriall of John Whittle, but the Corps was gon from the hous ere I came, but I got to the Church before it. I drunk at Tickleys with Parson Letus, Thomas Syer, Robert Bootle the Father & Robert the Son, John Rose, &c:.

18 William Davy payed me part of what he owes me for Rent, &c:. Parson Wairing called here as he came home from Ince Bowling-Green to beg some Rue to apply to his Rist in order to cuar his Eye, I gave him some.

19 I finished my Barly-Seeding having now sowed all the Little-More-hey. Robert Johnson scored a Hors with me. Pat: Holsold from Stockhild Lodged here.

20 John Melling began to cleeve part of a Larg Mosswood Oak-tree into Lats. My Wife took Pat: Holsold & Pat: Gelibrond with her in her Coach to Leverpoole. I went to John Sumner who was delving Turves for me in Leas Field, thence to Jane Bryansons and so to Ascroft who was Feying for Turves in Thomas Marrows Moss.

21 Pats: Holsold, Aldred, and I went to the New-hous but the good Men not being within, we went to Wartons, they came thither to us.

22 My Wife, Pat: Holsold and I went in the Coach to Scarisbrick, we dined there, Mr Richard Wofold made a Viset thither, coming home we called at Gorsuch; Pat: Holsold and I called at Holsold & went into the Church, we drunk at the Ailes-Hous with the Parson.

23 Pats: Holsold, Aldred and I went to Great Crosby, we had a Bowl of Punsh at Dukes, Pat: Wilson was with us, he Lodged here. Joseph Massy and his Wife came to live in this Town.

24 Pat: Holsold and Pat: Wilson went hence. Alderman Tyrer of Leverpoole met Thomas Syer & me at Harsnops where we Examained the Ringers to know whether they would Ring upon the Termes as now order'd,[23] the Present sworne Wardens made their Presentments to the Daines Court. When Mr Tyrer was gon Parson Latus, Thomas Hesketh, William Tarlton and I &c: went to Tickleys awhile.

25 I Paid Skiner Davy for 10 Busshell of Seed Barly as I had of him. I took up all my Arenunculasses except four as I let stand for Seed. I took up one Bed of Tulops as was in the Nursery. Betty Lathom went to Burchley & Mosburgh to take leave of her God-Mother & her God-Father, but Mr Molineux was not at home.

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[23] From an examination of the Churchwardens' Accounts for the nearest years available both before and after 1715, we note that there was a substantial increase in the payments, but when the increase was granted it is not possible to say:—

"Easter, 1685—Easter, 1686

Paid to the Ringers the 29th of May	5s. 0d.
Paid to the Ringers the 5th of November	5s. 0d.
Spent on Crismos day and given to the Ringers	1s. 6d.

1746

paid Ringers for 11th of June	10s. 0d.
paid Ringers 5th November	10s. 0d.
paid Ringers on Christmas day	5s. 0d.
spent on our Selves that day	2s. 0d."

(*Churchwardens' Accounts, Sefton Church*)

26 William Fleetwood of Simons-wood & his Wife dined here, I shew'd them the Hous and Gardens. Betty Lathom went to Aintry to stay a Night or two, to take leave of her Friends ere she goe to Roan. My Wife made a Viset to Ince, Mrs Blundell brought her in her Coach with her back hither.

27 Landers & his Son began to delve Fleas for Sale in Flea-Land, I went to them both before & after dinner. I paid Jaine Bryanson £40 as I ought her & all the Interest as she demanded for it, Bryan Lea Received the Money from me. I put my Whit-Twin Beasts into the Crofts to feed, they are now about 6 years old as I think.

28 I was at the Bishops Court at Ormskirk, I heard the Wardens sworne for Sefton Parish, I advised with Mr Roberts about choosing new Ringers. I dined at the Angell with Mr Prescot of Leverpoole, Parson Latus, Parson Wairing, Mr Wofold, &c:, coming home I made a Viset to Mrs Barker. Eves Lodged here.

29 Mr Sherlock & Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. My Wife went to Leverpoole with Eves and discoursed Mary Woodcock about coming to serve her. I payed Bryan Lea £30 as I ought him upon Bond and all the Interest as he demanded for the same. Walter Thelwall was here, I gave him some Pamflets to writ out. Nellys Flea Night.

30 I Mowed the New-Orcherd. I had formerly proposed to Richard Whithead to take a Rack of part of my Demesney & to live in part of this hous, and today we began to make a Bargan but could not conclude it. My Teame and severall of the Neighbours led Coles for Parson Latus from Blay-Gate.[24] We having at present left off Spining, Margery Lurting went from hence.[25]

31 Betty Lathom came back from her Aunt Smiths. Nelly Sergeant declaired to some of the Servants that she intended to leave her Service tomorrow but she has since changed her Mind.

This Month may well be called wet rather than otherwayes, there seldom being above one day together without some Raine more or less but never so much as to doe any prejudice eather to Grass or Corne, both which seemes now to make a good Appearance for a very great Crop. This Month has generally ben cold & Windy espesially till the Middle of it.

JUNE

1 Betty Lathom went to Garstan to take leave of her Cozen Hitchmough, she Lodged there. I went in the Morning to Henry Ascroft who was Delving Turves in Thomas Marrows Moss; after dinner I went to Thomas Kerfoot who was Feying for Turves in Blundells High-Field Hey, then I went to John Sumner who was delveing Turves in Leyes Ground then through the High-Town and so home. Ned Hatton & his Partners fetched away the Remainder of their Oats as I had let them lay in my Granery. Michael Short sent for his Cow as he had bought of me & since scored her here till now.

2 George Abbot went to Ormskirk, he bought me two Piggs there, Ned Hatton carried them home for me to his own Hous.

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[24] Skelmersdale.

[25] "Margery Lurting for Spining Flax at 7d. per week . . . . . 5s. 3d."

3 This being the first day of Selling Turves this year I went betimes in the Morning to Thomas Marrows Moss & sold some to Henry Watkinson, Margery Molineux, &c: then I went to the Morehous Moss where I found George Abbot who had sold some Turves to William Eckleston, Richard Molineux, &c:, coming home I met Old Robert Bootle and went with him to Flea-Land and sold him 3 Rood of Fleas.

4 Mally, Mrs Rose Maginnis, Miss Grimbleston and Eves came to Lodge here, I sent the Coach for them. Mrs Barker Lodged here, I sent to fetch her; After Supper my Wife, Mrs Barker, &c: played at Cards at Loo.

5 Mrs Blundell & Pat: Turvill made a Viset here. Betty Lathom left her Service, she went hence to Leverpoole in order to goe tomorrow towards London.

6 George Abbot bought me 3 Cowes for feeding. I was at Thomas Hesketh's Cocking at Great-Crosby, there was Mr Daniell Morphew, Walter Thelwall, &c:, I sent for Aile from Hesketh's to Catty Fazakerleys where I drunk with Parson Latus, Parson Wairing, Mr Taylor of Lidiat Watch-Maker, Richard Westhead, Richard Whithead, &c:.

7 Mally and my Leverpoole Gests went hence, my Wife and Mrs Barker went with them to Leverpoole. I had a Hive of Bees Swarmed, they are the first I have had this year. Thomas Blansherd & his Son Robert paid me part of their Rent. I paid off our Smiths Bill and he paid me in part what he owes to me.

8 Thomas Syer brought me a present of Fish, I had some talk with him about Farming part of my Demesney. I cut off the Ears of Rye as grew amongst the Wheat in the Wheat-hey with Shearing Hooks. I got in my Hay out of the New-Orcherd. I went to Ince Green & Bowled there with Mr Formby, Mr Tatlock of the Bank, &c:, Parson Latus, Parson Wairing, Mr Aspinwall of Leverpoole, Pothecary Lathom, &c: were there.[26]

9 Henry Nelson came to mend the Hobbs in the Kitchen and Bake-hous, 'tis the first time he has worked for me. Pats: Aldred, Turvill, & Tasburgh made a Viset here. Robert Johnson took his Colt out of my Ground.

10 This being my second day of Selling Turves this year George Abbot went betimes to the Morehous Moss & I went to Thomas Marrows Moss where I sold some Turves to John Rose, John Lunt, &c:, thence I went to the Morehous Moss and sold some Turves to Richard Whithead, Thomas Syer was there. I went twice to Flea-Land before dinner and sold some Fleas to William Whidby, Richard Whit-head, &c:, after dinner I went to Flea-land & helped Landers to set out some Roods of Fleas on the nearer side of the Field.

11 I had my second swarme of Bees this year, it came from the Hive in the Kitchen Garden & was I think the bigest I ever saw. Ned Howerd was here most of the after noone making Scull-powder for me. I was very busy most of the day drawing up Proposalls for me to make to Thomas Syer ere I set part of my Demesney to him.

12 Mrs Rachell Smith dined here. Thomas Morris and his Wife &c: were here.

13 My two Teames & som others Led Coles for Pat: Aldred from Cozen Molineux of Mosburghs Pits. John Nicholson of Leverpoole dined here. Thomas Syer was here, I set part of my Demesney to him.

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[26] See Appendix H.

14 I went to Leverpoole and dined at Alderman Tyrers with him & his Wife, &c:. I was at Mr Sherlocks Schoole & saw Mally Dance. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Sherlock, Mr Daniell Morphew, &c:.

15 Parson Wairing called here as he went to Ince Green, I went along with him, there was Parson Latus, Wairing, Darbishire, Mr Formby, Mr Tatlock, &c: Young Parson Brownell & I bowled against Parson Latus and Mr Bayron. I had two Swarme of Bees, one of them was put into a New Hive, but the other went up againe. My Wife and Mrs Barker walked to the Grange.

16 My Swarme of Bees as went up againe yesterday after they were out, played the same trick today, they being well knit but forthwith went up again into their Hive. Mr Betty who made Mallys Stayes was here, I payed him for them. Mrs Barker, my Wife and I went to Ailes Mellings, we saw the Morris Dansers of Sefton as were going their Round in order to Rear a May-Pole in Sefton, there was with us at Ailes Mellings Mrs Syer of the Ford & her Kinswoman Ned Websters Doughter, &c:. I went to Antony Fleetwoods and smoked a Pipe, he was at home, his Son Antony was there, so was his Son-in-Law Tatlock.

17 Mrs Blundell & Pat: Turvill made a Viset here so did Mr Digles & his Wife, &c:. I had my 4th Swarme of Bees this year.

18 I was at Leverpoole, I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Lancaster, Mr Daniel Morphew, &c:. Edmund Tristram gave me a pint of Wine at the Talbot. I saw a Beast somthing like a Cammell with two larg Bunshes on its Back. Mary Woodcock came to be my Wives Maid, Mally came home with me for a few Nights.

19 Mrs Betty Wofold dined here. Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole & her Son Robert suped here.

20 James Bibby & Thomas Marser were here, I agreed with them to give them 4d per yard for Rebuilding the Coppy Barne. Though I have for some dayes since Mowed the New-Orcherd, yet I may properly say I onely began today in good earnest, begining now with 3 Mowers in the Town-Meadow. John Banister, Nanny Blundell, &c: began their Journey towards Holy-Well.

21 Edmund Tristram was here, I acquainted him with the Bargan I had made with Thomas Syer who came along with him.

22 I set the two Oakelands to Thomas Bleven for the next year. My Wife dined at Croxtath. I gave a great many Flowers towards the Flowring of Ince Cross. I sent Button to Leverpoole for Eves to ride on to Preston. I had my 5th Swarm of Bees. I was at Ince Bowling Greene, there was Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, Mr Formby, Mr Tatlock, Mr Lancelet of Ormskirk, &c:. My Brother Langdale lodged here.

23 My Brother Langdale & I went to Ince Green, we Bowled there with Pats: Burton & Aldred, Edmund Tristram was there, when we had done we went into Whartons and drunk, John Fooler came to us. I sent two Cart Load of Oats to Ormskirk as I had formerly sold to James Bretherton.

24 I paid Landers for Delving Fleas for me and paid some of my Wheelers of Turves. Some of my Tenants paid their Rent to me viz: Walter Thelwall, John Blundell Carpinder, &c:. Mrs Barker went hence for a Night or two. Mally came home from Leverpoole to stay a Night or two. I went to Leverpoole with my Brother Langdale, we drank Wine at Swarbericks. My Children went to the Flowring of Ince Cross.

25 Parson Wairing dined here, he went with my Brother Langdale and me to Ince Green where we Bowled, Parson Latus met us there.

26 Mrs Barker came back to lodge here. Mary Syer was here tis the first time she has ben to see the Hous since her Husband & I Barganed.

27 I went to Leverpoole with my Brother Langdale, we took Mally with us in the Coach back to Mrs Meginnis. My Brother Langdale & I went to Low-Hill Bowling Green, there was Alderman Tyrer, Mr Danvers, Young Mr Write, Young Mr Cleaveland, Dr Fabius, &c:. When my Brother Langdale had done Bowling I went with him to the Talbot where we and Mr Heskaine, &c: took a Glass of Wine together.

28 I had a Swarm of Bees hived but they did not stay, I beleive they Swarmed a day or two since because they had made a good part of a Comb in the Tree where they were knit. I went with my Brother Langdale to Croxtath to wate of my Lord Molineux who was newly come from the Bath. Thomas Syer made me a Handsome present of Fish, I set my Mill to him.

29 I went to Ince Green with my Brother Langdale and Bowled there with him, Parson Wairing, Mr Tatlock, &c:,[27] Parson Latus, and Edmund Barton, &c: were there. After Supper we played at Cards at Loo.

30 My Brother Langdale, my Wife and I went to Wooton, we dined there with my Lord Molineux, &c:, we took Mrs Barker with us in the Coach to Leverpoole & there set her down & then took her up againe with us as we came back.

Till the 16th some dayes fair, some very fowl and much more Raine than we desir'd, then four or five dayes faire & very hot, from thence to the end of this Month allmost every day Raine and some dayes pritty much, which has made it bad Hay Weather.

JULY

1 My Brother Langdale went hence, I went with him over to Runkhorne and then came to William Athertons where I Lodged. Eves came from Preston & brought Button back, she Lodged here.

2 I came home through Leverpoole, I drunke at the Wool-pack with Mr Alanson and Edmund Tristram.

3 I had a Swarme of Bees went up behind the Garner Stayers but whether they were my own or came from some other place I know not. Eves went hence. I lent Mary Woodcock a Hors to ride on to Leverpoole, Eves & she went together.

4 I led Slates with one Teame from Scots Delf for Ned Hatton. Mrs Barker went hence. John Banister Daubed 4 or 5 Hives of this years Swarmes & was most severely Stung. Alderman Tyrers Servant brought me a Letter from his Master wherein he told me he was gon to Chester.

5 I was at Harsnops at a Parish meeting, there was Parson Latus, Richard Higinson, the two Wardens John Briscow & William Tarlton, and onely a Few more, the meeting was chiefly about the Ringers and to see what was to be done at the Leads but John Crane the Plumber came not, I found Mr Joseph Poole & some others there from Leverpoole, the Aile being very bad we went to

[27] "Lost at Bowles this Month . . . . . £1 9s. 4d."

Thomas Tickleys where we stayed awhile, Thomas Syer came home with me and carried a quantity of Brass for me as I had received at Harsnops.

6 Two of my Teames and six others Led Coles for Richard Webster our Smith. Nelly Sargeant left her Service and went hence. I have this day made an end of Transscribing my small Diurnalls into my Larger Books and have also finished the Large Indexes at the begining of those Larger Books and also the small Indexes at the end as far as I can at present so that I have at last got eaven with that tedious peece of Work. Margery Skiner alias Blundell came to be Cook here or at least to stay till we can get a better.

7 I was very busy most of the day drawing Artickles in forme of the Bargan made between Thomas Syer and me for Part of my Demesney, when I had drawn them almost once fowl over he came hither and I shewed him how far I had proceeded in my Drought of our Bargane, he went with George Abbot & me to the Snigary & helped to set the Net. My Bitch Ginny began to Whelp towards Evening, I think this is her seventh Litter, she had nine this time.

8 I was very busy drawing up some Addisionall Artickleys in forme between Thomas Syer & me which I thought too tedious to Insert in the Artickleys of Indenture between us of our Bargan.

9 The Little Boyes & Girles of this Town diverted themselves with Rearing a May-pole in the West-Lane, they had Morrys dansing & a great many came to it both old and young chiefly out of this end of the Town.

10 Alderman Tyrer sent to invite me tomorrow to the Buriall of his Father in Law Alderman Clayton.

11 I took Fanny to Leverpoole with me, Mr Betty met me there & brought a pair of Stayes with him as he had made for Fanny, he tryed them on, I paid him for them. My Children & I, &c: went on Bord Mr Lancasters Ship the Planter, both he & his Son John were on Bord. I drunk at the Woolpack with Captain Lancaster, Mr Sherlock, &c:. I was at the Funerall of Captain Clayton,[28] there was in the Roome with me Parson Richmond, Parson Becket, Mr Green & Mr Blundell of Prescot, &c:.

12 I Began to Ingroce the Artickleys of Indenture faire over upon Stamped Paper as I had drawn between Thomas Syer and me of his Bargan for part of my Demesney. Captain Robert Fazakerley called here as he was going from the New-hous to Leverpoole, we Smoked our Pips together.

13 I Began to dress Bricks at my Coppy Barne in order to rebuild it, I went to Darby Wife who was dressing the old Bricks, thence I went to the Flint Hoy she had brought some bricks from Leverpoole for Margarit Brownbill; John Hunt, John Tickley, &c: was leading them, I went on Bord her. Mr Samuell Thomas was on Bord her. Mr Burton dined here, he took 3 Wild Ducks in the Cowhey pits. I went to Ince Greene and Bowled there with Parson Latus, Parson Wairing, Mr Tatlock, &c:, Mr Formby, Mr Smith of Maile, &c: was there. Thomas Syer brought his Cow with the Great Knee to be kept in my Grass.

14 Mrs Tute, Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole and her Son Robert made a Viset here.

15 I went to Mr Hursts Buriall,[29] there was at his Hous Alderman Tyrer, Mr Richard Norris, Parson Richmond, &c:. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Cottom and Mr Wilding.

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[28] Alderman William Clayton, Tory M.P. for Liverpool and father of Sarah Clayton, buried at St. Nicholas's Church.

[29] Mr. Hurst was a silk mercer and tailor; one time mayor of Liverpool.

16 I Began to Rake my Edish with my Corn Rake to get some more Hay, but think it is not worth while to doe it. I ingroesed upon Stamped Paper almost all the lesser Artickleys of Agreement between Thomas Syer & me. My Wife was at Mary Weedows Labouring when she was deliver'd of her Doughter Frances.

17 Fanny dined at Will Weedowes, My Wife went thither to see the Lying in Wife.

18 I made an end of Ingrosing both the larg Sheet of Artickleys of Agreement between Thomas Syer & me and also a smaller Sheet of other Agreements between us not so materiall as the Larger Sheet, both were upon Stamped Paper, then I went to Thomas Syers but he not being at home I told his Wife I was now ready to Signe the Writings when he would; I came home through the High-Town and called to see Jane Brianson & Margery Blundell, I also went to the Brick-Layers as were building Brownbills Barne. Fanny stood God-Mother to Weedows Doughter Frances.

19 John Banister took a Present of Goosberrys to Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole and some Hartychokes to my Land-Lady Mrs Lathom, he brought a Box home with him from Leverpoole as came from London with a Quilted Petty Coat &c: in it for my Wife. Thomas Syer suped here, I shewed him the Fair Drought of our Bargan which I had Ingrossed upon Stamped Paper.

20 I Bowled at Ince Green with Mr Tatlock, Mr Formby, &c; Parson Latus, Wairing, Darbyshire and Mr Whitle, &c: were there. I finished Mowing Grass.

21 Mrs Lurting of Leverpoole and Mrs Miller made a Viset to my Wife.

22 Thomas Marser began to make Morter for Rebuilding of my Coppy Barne, I went thither to him & then went to the Grange but Pat: Wofold was not at home. I helped John Banister & Ezabell to set two Beds in the Knot with Roots of Tulops, tis too soone by some Months. Christopher Parker was here, I sold him some Fethers.

23 Thomas Syer, Edmund Tristram & I dined together at the Talbot in Leverpoole, Thomas Syer & I signed the Artickleys of our Bargan between us for his Rack of part of my Demesney, Mr Plumb peruesed & Corrected them first, and was present at our Signing of them.[30]

24 I stated Accounts with my three Mowers and payed them off for Mowing & for other daytall Work.[31] Mr William Bayly, Mrs Ann Tarlton, &c: were here from Leverpoole to look about them. My Wife was at the Birth of Betty Farers first Child. My Wife made a Viset to Margarit Fleetwoods.

25 My Wife made a Viset to William Tarltons Wife of Orrill, 'twas the first time she went thither to see them since they lived there at their New Hous.

26 Pat: Aldred and I dined at Croxtath, Mr Penny was there. My Wife, Fanny, and some of the Maids went to Leverpoole Fair, my Wife and Fanny lodged at Mrs Maginnis. Thomas Pinington & John Grimshaw came to see if I would

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[30] "When Thomas Syer & I signed our Bargan for Part of my Demesney—
I spent at Leverpoole . . . . . 2s. 8d.
My Share of the Stamps & for Writing . . . . . 8s. 7d."

[31] "Mowing Grass . . . . . £2 12s. 6d.
Charge of Geting Turves this year most of these were for Sail . £7 0s. 9d.
Driving Plow & Cart . . . . . 8s. 8d.
Datall work at 8d. per day . . . . . £1 14s. 4d.
Weeding in the Gardens . . . . . 7s. 6d."

joyne with Margarit Brownbill to have some Bricks brought by Water from Leverpoole.

27 I Bowled at Ince Green with Mr Tatlock, Mr Formby, &c:, Mr Nicholas Fazakerley and Richard Tickley, &c: came to us. Thomas Marrow began to make me part of a New Sute of Cloths trimed with Black.

28 I Booked my Disbursments for May, and my Receipts for Aprill & May.

29 I Booked my Receipts & Disbursments for June. I Stated Accounts with severall of my Hay-Makers & paid them for that & other work as some of them had done. George Marser brought a Webb of Flaxon, I paid him for weaving it. I paid Ailes Stewerd for my Wigg-Powder as she had bought for me at Chester Fair.[32]

30 I quilted my Girdle. Mally & Mrs Maginnes lodged here.

31 Mr Sherlock came to let my Wife see how Mally was improved,[33] he Lodged here. I shewed Mr Bower how Accounts stood between Mrs Rachell Smith and me.

The Nine first dayes very wet, the two next some Raine, then 3 dayes fair, from the 15th to the end every day Rain & most of them very wet which has made extraordinary bad Hay weather.

AUGUST

1 Thomas Bradley paid me six Pounds as he had Hier'd of Mr Lathoms Money. James Har: offered his Service to me. James Bibby & two others came to Rebuild my Coppy Barn, I helped them to pull some more of it down, they dressed some of the Brick & Just made a Begining to Build it up againe.

2 My Children walked with me to the Coppy Barne where there were three Bricklayers Rebuilding it, we Rid home together in my Cart as had brought Straw to be watered for Thatch. Doctor Lancaster was here, I paid what I ought him for Phisick, &c:. Mrs Bootle late of Peele sent to see if I would sell her any of my goods or Furniture.

3 I helped Pat: Aldred to setle his Accounts for Blandike.

4 I sowed some Enemony & Arrenunculas Seed in the Midle Bed of the Flower-Nursery & set the first Bed in the Nursery with Chats of Tulops. I put up some goods into my Ovall Trunk & into a dale Box. Mr Hardesty called here as he was going to Lodge at the Newhous.[34]

5 I set my Roots of Arenunculas on their own Bed in the Knot. I Booked my Receipts & Disbursments for the last Month.

6 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. I got in the last of my Hay. James Bibby and my other two Bricklayers were here, I gave them Drink & Tobacco and Barganed with them to Rebuild my Coppy Barn for £3.

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[32] "Wigg Powder, one Dozen . . . . . 4s. 3d."
More Powder . . . . . 2s. 6d.

[33] Improved in her schooling and dancing.

[34] Father John Hardisty, S.J., alias Tempest, succeeded Father Mannock, S.J. as Catholic priest for Liverpool in the spring of 1713. Up to this time Mass had been said in the house of Thomas Brownbill, a sea-captain, but growing numbers of worshippers led Father Hardisty to build a church and house in what is called Edmund Street.

7 Mally went back to Mrs Maginnis, she had ben at home above a Week.[35] I went towards Evening to Croxtath, I called as I went of Mrs Smith & gave her an Account of Betty Lathoms being with her Sister.

8 I went to Margarit Brownbills Rearing and gave the Workmen some Money, I eat there with her and her Brother James Hornby and —— Hailwood of the Clock-hous, &c:. Thomas Marser made a Sough from the Lime-Hous to the Plat at this end of the Bowling Green. I killed an unfed Hogg. Margarit Brownbill & her Brother called here as she was going to Leverpoole from her Rearing, I sold her a Score of Wheat.

9 My Lord Molineux sent me a Present of a Side of Venison. I went to John Tyrers and setled Accounts with him concerning a Bond of £10 as he had Signed to Doctor Lathom, thence we went to Richard Heyses & spent our Penny.

10 The Cunstables John Sumner & James Scarisbrick summonsed me to appear at Ormskerk on Fryday next to take the Oaths. John —— Blansherd of Lady Greene was here I gave him somthing for the Falling Sickness for his Neece. I stated Accounts with John Sumner of the Morehous and paid him what I ought for Delving Turves, &c:.

11 I made cleane my dark Gallery. I brought home some Timber from Leverpoole for my Coppy Barne.

12 George Abbot and I were in the Arches in the after noone.

13 I Fetched home my Snig-Net & both the Clows from the Sniggary. I writ two very long Letters faire over in my Letter Book.

14 I dined at Mosburgh with Black, Dr Lancaster and Captain Robert Fazakerley. Mrs Molineux was not at home but he was, whilst we were drinking Parson Low came to us.

15 Mrs Boyer dined here. Mrs Maginnis called here as she was going home from the Grange. Mr Taylor the Watch-Maker made a Viset here, so did Roger Price. Hugh Bostock came to see what this Town would allow him towards his Mantinance.

16 I began to shear this year Wheat in the Wheat-hey with 19 Hands most part of the day. My Seters of Brick having finished my Coppy Barne they dined here & I paid them. I was at the Rearing of my Coppy Barne, besides the Workmen that built it, there was Richard Cartwrite, James Wignold, &c:.[36]

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[35] "Given Mally for her pocket . . . . . 1s. 6d.
Mallys Schooling to Mrs Maginnis . . . . . £3 0s. 0d.
Given Mally towards the Dansing Ball . . . . . 5s. 0d."

[36] "My Coppy Barn which was blowed down the first of February is now Rebuilt & Finished & besids what Timber, Straw, &c: as I had of my own it cost me for:—

	£	s.	d.
Bricks, I forgot to keep an Account	–	–	–
Lime at 6d. per Busshel	1	12	0
Dressing the old Brick		4	6
Seting Brick, Serving & making the Morter	3	0	0
Timber	1	13	4
Rits Work	1	0	0
Nailes		10	0
Pricks & Tarpolion		4	2
Thatching & Serving the Thatcher		15	0
Given the Workmen to drink		1	0"

17 I went to Ince Green & bowled with Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, Mr Formby, &c:, Parson Latus, Wairing & Darbyshire, Mr Formby and Whittle, &c: were there.

18 Henry Valentine the High Cunstable serched here for Horses, Armes and Gunpowder.[37] Mrs Wairing and Mrs Ann Wairing made a Viset here.

19 Parson Brownhills Wife & his Doughter Tatlock made a Viset here. I began to writ in my Book as I call help to Discource. George Marser brought home a Webb of Flax Heards as he had Woven for me.[38]

20 I turned some out of the Wheat hey as were Songoing[39] without Leave and took their Corn from them and gave it to those as were there by my Leave.

21 Mr Plumb sent a Hors to Run for some Weeks in my Grass. Mr Sherlock Lodged here.

22 Mr Sherlock went hence, I paid him for one Quarters Dansing for Mally.[40] Richard Westhead brought a Beast to be Scored in my Edish. G:A: the Cobler.

23 I began to gather some of my forwardest Apples. Poore Suzan was here and seemed to be Distracted because she had ben extreamly abuesed as she said, by some of the Young People of Great Crosby.

24 Mr Scarisbrick, his Lady, and two of his Doughters dined here; so did Captain Robert Fazakerley.

25 I went with Thomas Syer to the Moorhous-Moss to look at his Turves, thence we went to Charles Howerds and drunk awhile. My Wife went to Leverpoole to buy some things for her York-Shire Journey, to goe see her Sister ere she leaves Stockhild, Mally came home with my Wife, she is comne quite away from Mrs Meginnis.[41] My Teame brought home some Timber from Eckleston for Walter Thelwall. I turned my Fat Beasts into the Edish.

26 George Abbot clensed my two Larg Spits & then went and set my Snig Net.

27 Roger Cook was here for some Pigeons, I sold him a Dozen. I went to Leverpoole and bought some Gold Lace for my Wives Cloke of Mr Cottom,[42] I drunk with him & William Atherton at the Wool-pack and with Mr Plumb.

28 Mr Lancaster of Leverpoole, his Wife and Doughter Mary Dined here; My Wife went with them in her Coach part of the way towards Leverpoole.

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[37] With the outbreak of the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion Blundell was under suspicion. Not only was he a descendant of staunch Recusants, but some of his wife's relations were actively engaged in the rebellion or were close friends of the leaders. Her brother, Marmaduke Langdale, was married to the daughter of Lord Widdrington, one of the commanders of the Jacobite forces. The Langdales were also related to the wife of Lord Derwentwater, the leader of the Jacobites in the north of England. There is nothing in the letters, diary or other of his note-books to suggest Blundell played an active part in the rebellion.

[38] Flax-hurds or hards—the coarse parts of flax, tow, separated in hackling. Nicholas must have used them in weaving:—

"Weaving Flaxon at 2d. per Yard . . . . . 7s. 0d.
Weaving Flax Heards at 1½d. per yard . . . . . 3s. 9d."

[39] Gleaning.

[40] "22 Aug. Quarters Dansing for Mally . . . . . 15s. 0d."

[41] "26 Aug. Mallys Schooling for 3 Weeks . . . . . 15s. 0d."

[42] "Gold Lace for my Wives Cloke . . . . . 14s. 0d."

29 I order'd some Green Peas for keeping a good while, I prepaired some Green Beanes for the same use but did not finish them. I began to Mow my Oats. I gave my Miller warning to goe at Michalmas.[43]

30 Some of my Tenants led Turves hither for Boone for Thomas Syer. I went to Ormskirk Fair & swaped my Mair Cherry with Robert Bradshaw for his Hors Dick. I drank at the Golden Lyon with Mr Taylor the Watchmaker, Dr Lancaster, &c:. I saw a Girle about three years and a quarter old turne round with four Swords & put them to her Cheeks, &c:.

31 I went to Leverpoole and saw the Mulbury, the Batchlor & the Robert all in the Dock, they came in this Morning & were the first Ships as ever went into it; the Mulbury was the first.[44] I Breackfasted at Mr Owens, he went with me to a Smithy at the lower end of Red-Cross-Street where I saw an Ox Rosting.[45] I went to see Mr Tute who was ill. My Wife took a Dose of Phisick from Dr Lancaster & was very ill with it. I was at Ince Green, there was Parson Latus, Wairing & Darbyshire, Mr Formby, &c:, we had Penny Pyes there, 'tis the first day we had any.

Till the 11 every day Rain and generally pritty much, then some days fair some fowl but a great many more fowle than fair so that it may well be called a wet Month.

SEPTEMBER

1 I Stated Accounts with Thomas Blansherd and his Son Robert, Thomas Blansherd gave me a Note upon Demand for what he ought me. John Tickley paid me some Money as I had formerly lent him.

2 I was very busy most of the after-noone amongst my Leaders of Mowed Oats out of the Stock Roots.

3 I Began to Mow my Barly in the Little-More-Hey. I Harrowed the Nearer-Wheat-Hey for Thomas Syer to sow with Wheat.

4 Thomas Melling came to look at a Fat Cow of mine as is ill Swel'd. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

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[43] No indication is given why John Kerfoot, who had served as miller for over thirteen years, was dismissed. He does not appear to have been dismissed in anger, for not only was he paid the £2 5s. 0d. quarterly wage owing to him, but was also given a gift of 5s. 0d. extra. Neither does it appear he was dismissed because of his age; he was probably still very active for he was not buried till March 1 1742 at Sefton Church. Another curious fact about his being asked to leave was that at the time the Windmill had been rented to Thomas Syer. One would have thought that the dismissal and appointment of a new miller would have been the business of Syer and not Blundell.

[44] In the muniments of Lord Gisborough it is stated that the ship *Marlborough* was the first to enter the new dock on June 8 1715. This date is wrong for the dock was first in use at the end of August as Blundell says. Blundell's *Mulbury* could have been Gisborough's *Marlborough*, but there was a ship *Mulberry* owned by Bryan Blundell of Liverpool. (Note error in volume 1, p. 261, n. 49, where Gisborough's date has been attributed to Nicholas.)

[45] The smithy visited by Nicholas Blundell may have been the one in Steers Alley close to the dock and run by Thomas Steers, who designed and built the dock. The main business of the smithy was making ships' anchors. Later the smithy was carried on by his son, Spencer Steers. (See Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Volume 82, p. 193.)

5 Mrs Ford, Alanson & Heyes dined here, we expected them to diner, but they came not ere we had dined. Mr Tasburgh made a Viset here. Pat: Aldred paid me above £50 as he had ought me along time. Hugh Bostock was here to see what this Town would allow him, The Overseear John Blundell & I agreed with him for 20s per Annum.

6 I went to Prescot & gave Lawyer Blundell direcsions to draw a Deed for the Farther setling my Estate. I drunk at the Bull with Alexander Holland & William Case, thence we went to the Ship and there drunk. I made a Viset to Mr Oliver Lime. My Wife sent Margarit Darby to Much Wooton with a Present of Pigeons.

7 Parson Wairing called here, I went with him to Ince Green & bowled there, there was Parson Latus, Parson Darbyshire, Mr Formby, Mr Tatlock, &c:.

8 My Wife went to Leverpoole, she light at the Black Horse & heard the Singing there, she saw the Great Ship and severall others in the Dock.

9 I Killed a Cow I had in feeding, she came not on, because she had the Water Gargow, there was in the Calf-Bead about 83 Quarts of Water, besides 10 quarts as we supposed was lost upon the flore, she had a Calf in her which seemed to be within two Months of its time, the Calf had a good Quantity of Water in it & its Kidneys were as larg as a four year old Beast, The Cows Bladder was shrivelled and run up on Rooks & had but very little Water in it, and there grew to the out side of one of its Pudings a great Lump like a Wen about the bigness of a small Hens Egg made up of small lumps about the Bigness of little Peas, the Calf was in a seperate Calf-Bed from the Water. I was most of the after-noone in the Little-More-hey with my leaders of my Mowed Barly. Mr Burton made a Viset here.

10 I went to the Morehouses & warned some Boones against the next Week. I sent Stag to Great-Crosby Smith to be shod, &c: by him for his Laimness.

11 My Wife and I heard Mr Hardesty Preach, 'twas the first time we heard him, we dined at Mr Lancasters. I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Lancaster and his Brother the Doctor, &c:.

12 I Began to make a Stack of Hay behind the Stables. Pat: Burton dined here. The Collector of Leverpoole had a Dozen of Pigeons here. I agreed with the Tith-Men Tarlton, Westhead and Edward Hatton and gave them £4-5s-0d for part of my Tith.

13 Thomas Syer dined here, he help'd to stack his Turves as are here. Weedow bought me 20 Geece towards Croxtath & brought them home in a Cart.[46]

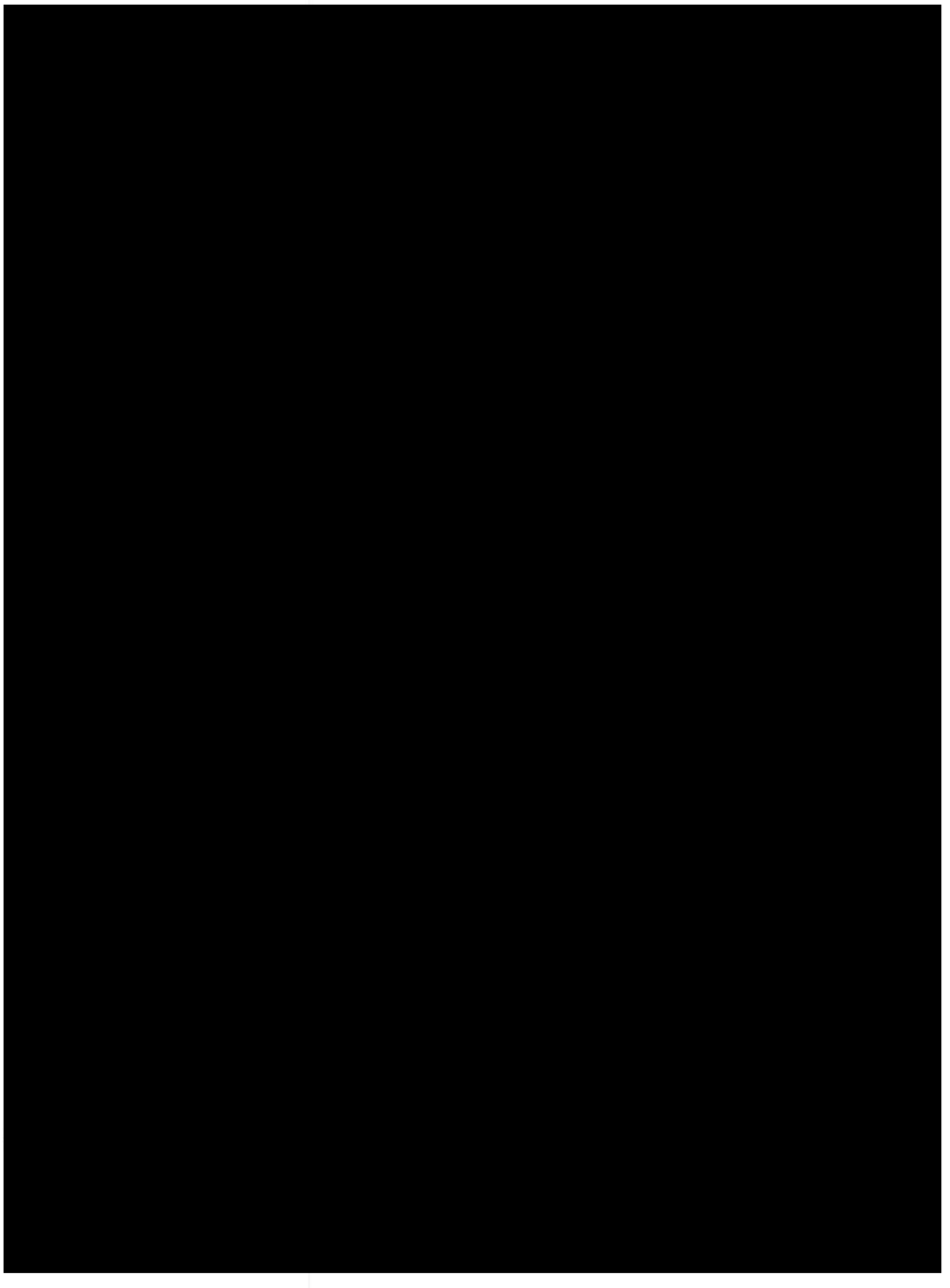
14 I dined at Dukes in Great Crosby with my Lord Molineux, his Son Carroll, Mr Laybourn, Captain Penny, &c:.

15 Betty Morris applyed a pultice to my Wives Side, it was much Inflamed & soar.

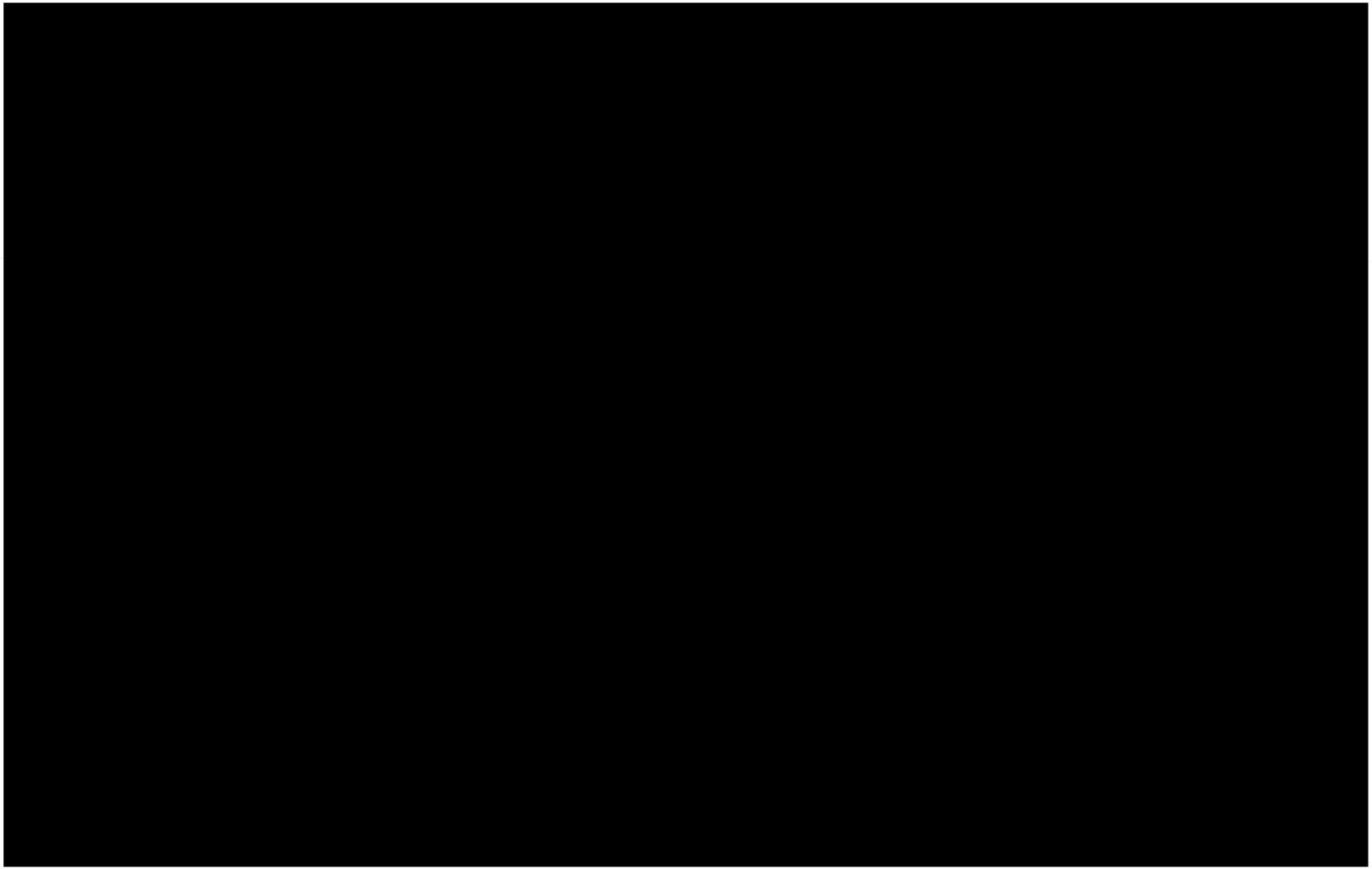
16 Mr Plumb dined here, he came a Seting & took 5 Parteridges before dinner but I was not with him; after dinner I went out with him & as he was going to draw at Parteridges he found a Hare set, but the Hare Start & the Parteridg would not lye so we had no sport at all. We went in the Evening with Pat: Aldred to Dukes where he treated us with a Bowl of Punsh.

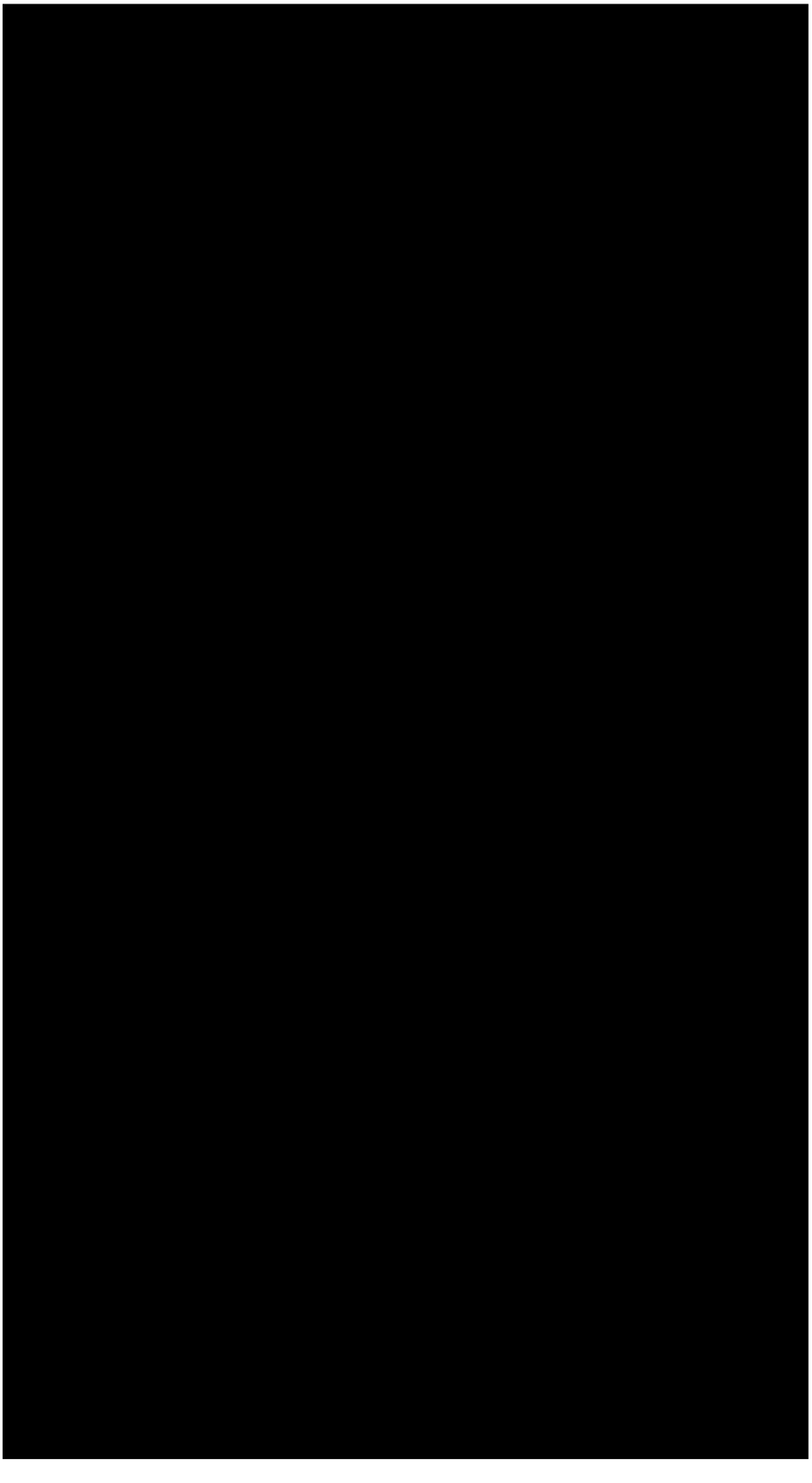
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[46] "Geece at 10d. per Gooce . . . . . 16s. 8d."









17 I was a good part of the after noone in the little-Morehey where four Carts were leading Mowed Barly for me. I went to the Coppy Barne where Richard Newhous was thatching for me & thence to the Morehouses where I warned Boone Carts to lead Corne for me.

18 Ned Hatton and Richard Thorp were here & complained to me that some of their Turves were stolne.

19 I met Alderman Tyrer & Mr Crane, &c: at Harsnops to consult about taking up the Leads of Sefton Church; when Alderman Tyrer was gon, Parson Worthington, Latus & Wairing, &c: went with me to Thomas Tickleys.

20 Thomas Bradley brought 4 Beasts to be Scoured by me in Edish. My Children, &c: went to James Davys to partake of Margery Skiners Fare-Well.

21 I went to Ince Green and Bowled there with Parson Darbyshire, Mr Formby, &c: then I went into the Hous & drunk with Edmund Tristram, Mr Sheperd, &c: but stayed not long because I heard (though fals) that Margery Skinner was to goe tomorrow towards London; as I came home I met Mr Cottom & Pothecary Lathom going towards the Green.

22 Thomas Blevin paid me his Rack Rent, I went to the Morehouses and Warned some Boone Carts, I went into Robert Blansherds and there eat some thing, being they were Breaking.

23 I made an end of Mowing my Oats and Barly and Setled Accounts with my Mowers. Pat: Turvill dined here.

24 I went to Leverpoole, I drunk at the Wool-pack with Mr Darcy Chantrell and his Brother Robert, Cozen Robert Fazakerley, Mr Cottom, &c:, I went with Thomas Blansherd & William Weedow to Mr Plumb who forgave them all as they ought to him.

25 Mr William Glegg lodged here. Margery Blundell left her Service and went hence to Leverpoole in order to goe tomorrow towards London.[47]

26 I began to teach my Doughter Frances to write.

27 I went to Prescot and heard Lawyer Blundell read over a Deed of Setlement as he had drawn for me, in Case I have no Son nor a Grand Child, I dined at Mr Blundells; I light at the Ship and drunk there with Mr Boyer, Mr Golding of Heartshey, &c:. I sent John Banister to Mosburgh with a Letter to Mr Molineux. Betty Farer brewed me twelve Bushell of Malt for Strong Aile for Botling.[48]

28 Pat: Aldred and I desided the Difference as was between Roger Neal and Margarit Ridgate. Pat: Aldred paid me £50 as Sir William Gerard sent to him. I Bowled at Ince Greene with Mr Tatlock, Parson Wairing, &c:, Mr Whitley, &c: was there.

29 My Wife & I went to the Scoues[49] to wish Mr Harington Joy it was his Birth Day, tis the first time we have seen them since they were Married, we dined there with Mr Molineux of Mosburgh, his Lady, Mrs Eckleston, &c: coming home I called of Mr Blundell in Prescot but did not light, he gave me Mr Plumbs Declarasion of Trust. Mr Plumb, Benjamin Branker, &c: came to cource and set here abouts.

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[47] Margery Blundell had been cook at 10s. 0d. per quarter.

[48] "27 Sept.—Betty Farer for Bruing for me . . . . . 1s. 0d."

[49] Scholes Hall, Eccleston, in the parish of Prescot.

30 I went with George Abbot to set my Snig Net, we lined part of it with Single Twill. I gave warning to four of my Men Servants as I shall part with.

This may well be called a very wett Month there having never ben above two fair dayes together & some dayes abundance of Raine and often great winds.

OCTOBER

1 I Paid John Kerfoot what I ought him for Waiges, he now leaves my Service, he has ben Miller here thirteen years & almost a half. John Rigby is comne in his place.[50] My Wife took a Sweat from Betty Morris. I sold Thomas Syer all my Barly as grew in the Little-Morehey.

2 Thomas Kerfoot and James Wignold paid me part of their Rack Rent for the Heale-bank &c:, William Harrison, &c: paid me their Hous Rent. The Cunstables James Scarisbrick & John Sumner shewed me their Warant for geting the Milicia Armes in order.

3 Yester night and this Morning Mally took a dose of Phisick from Betty Morris. I was very busy most of the day clensing and Redying my Closet and peruesing some Papers concerning my Contributeing to the Milicia Hors.[51] Richard Webster our Smith fixed a new Iron Stanseond in the Brewhous window. We tuned some very strong Aile as Betty Farer had brued for me, I designe to bottle it.

4 I layed up some things in my Pothecary Shop & put severall things into better order in my Closet. Richard Sefton and his Partner began to Saw for John Tickley at my Saw-pit. I began to teach my Grewhound Whelp Buty to Lead. I Booked my Disbursments for August. Walter Thelwall paid me part of his Rack Rent.

5 I cut the Neck in the Pike, it had a very good Crop of Beanes. This being the finishing day of Bowling I dined at Whartons in Ince with Parson Brownhill Junior, Mr Whittle, &c:, before dinner I went out a coursing with Parson Darbyshire, Mr Formby, &c: but we found not one Hare; although the Green was very wet & raine almost all day Parson Wairing and Mr Tatlock, &c: bowled, Mr Cottom and Pothecary Lathom came home with me & lodged here.

6 Mr Plumb of Leverpoole sent his Gray Hors to be scored here.

7 I Booked my Receipts for August and September. I coursed a Hare as Thomas Syer found Set in the farthest Wheat Hey, we started an other in the same Field and killed them both, this was the first dayes coursing I saw this Season. John Banister brought me Deeds from Lawyer Blundell of Prescot as he had drawn for me, and had got them Ingrosed.

8 John Banister went to Leverpoole & paid Thomas Hurst for some Timber as I had of him, and bought some Wine for me of Swarberick and paid him for it, and paid all I ought to Mr Cottom.

9 Dr Lancaster dined here, he came to see my Wife, she had an Inflamation in her Arme.

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[50] John Rigby, a Formby man, was paid £2 10s. 0d. a quarter. He remained miller at Little Crosby till Christmas 1725.

[51] When Nicholas fled to London and Flanders, his accounts in the Disbursement Book were for some time kept up by his wife. Her first entry reads:—

"In November and December payed to the Militia . . . . . £3 13s. 9d."

10 George Marser brought home a Web of Flaxon as he had woven for me. William Weedow went upon his own Business to Prescot.

11 I payed the Land Tax and Window Money to James Scarisbrick. Mr Plumb sent his Gray Hors back again hither, he had sent for him from hence upon the ninth.

12 Mr Plumb and Pat: Aldred dined here, I went out with them a Seting both before & after dinner, we found Parteridges enough but got not one. Betty Farer brewed me 12 Busshell of Malt for Strong Aile for Botling. Dr Lancaster sent hither for some old Oats as I had promised him, I gave him 3 Busshell.

13 William Weedow went to Great Crosby Court to speak to Mr Green upon his own Business. Thomas Syer suped here.

14 I helped Ezabell & John Banister to lay up Apples in Wheat Straw in the Dining Roome. I went to Great Crosby, and advised with Duke about Mouthing my Colt Ginson.[52]

15 Robert and Henry Kerfoot layed up my Apples in Straw in the Dining Roome. This Town Field was turned abroad.

16 It being Crosby Goos-feast my Wife & I, &c: went towards Evening to James Rigbys. I sent to Croxtath of a How-do-you.

17 My Wife and I dined at Thomas Syers with James Tristram & his Wife, a Son and Doughter of Thomas Fleetwoods, &c:, thence some of us went to Thomas Hesketh's where some of us dansed, thence Edmund Tristram & I went to Dukes where we drunk with Atturney Berry, Parson Wairing, Darbyshire, &c:. Mally Lodged at Thomas Syers and Fanny at Richard Newhouses.

18 Mr Sherlock, Patrick Norris & Pat: Hardesty dined here. I went with them to Nicholas Johnsons, thence we went to Margarit Lurtings, we drunk & stayed a while at each place. Pat: Hardesty Lodged here.

19 Duke let my Wife blood in her Arme.[53] I led Oats out of the Nearer North hey with three Carts in the after-noone. George sold three Beasts to Michael Short.

20 Captain Robert Fazakerley and Mr Robert Fazakerley Junior dined here, I went out acoursing with them, we killed three Hars, one of them I found set, Walter Thelwall and John Farer came and Coursed with us. Lawyer Blundells Man Richard Holsold brought me some writing which his Master had drawn & got Ingrosed for me. I payed him for those and some other writing as his Master had drawn for me.

21 I peruesed a Deed of Setlement & some other Deeds as Lawyer Blundell had drawn for me provided I dye without Issou-Male and made my Observasions on them.[54] I got in the last of my Oats out of the Nearer North Hey.

22 I writ out most part of my Last Will. I went to John Melling to see if he had finished the Kann for the Poors Almes. I finished Thomas Syers Wheat Seeding in the nearer Wheat Hey with my two Teame. John Banisters Sister Mary lodged here. Robert Moss paid me in part for Ditton Timber.

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[52] Mouthing a colt—to accustom a horse to the use of a bit.

[53] Mrs. Blundell was attended by Dr. Lancaster, whose fee was ten shillings, but Duke Malthus, who looked after the horses of Lord Molyneux and others at Great Crosby, was called in to do the bleeding.

[54] "20 Oct.—Lawyer Blundell for Drawing and Ingroceing a Deed of Setlement &c: . . . . . £9 0s. 0d."
Given to Lawyer Blundells Clark . . . . . 5s. 0d."

23 My Wife made a Viset to the Grang to Mrs Betty Wofold.

24 I had five hands all day sorting & laying up Apples in the Dining Roome. I began to make Thumb Ropes of Hay to bind Beans in.[55] My Wife began to drink her Diet-drink from Dr Lancaster. Parson Letus, William Tarlton, &c: were here a beging for some in the South as had lost a great deale by the Death of their Cows.[56]

25 I took three of my Work Horses into the Hous to lye inn in the Nights. Mr Robert Fazakerley Junior of Leverpoole made a Viset here, so did Mr Shepheard and Thomas Syer. Leverpoole Men cut my Milstone.

26 John Gregson came and took measure to make me a pare of Boots. I got into the Hous the last of my Corn, it was Beans out of the Pike.

27 I made a Viset to my Lord Molineux in the Morning & I suppose came soone back. Mr Crisp came to me of a How-do-you whilst I was at Dinner. George Abbot sold three Beasts of mine to Thomas Syer. I lent Grime to Mr Sheperd to Ride on to Leverpoole. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here. I made an end of geting my Apples.

28 Dr Lancaster came to see Mally. Some of my Servants & Neighbours went out a Coursing with my Doggs, they killed a Hare, and Spring run a Fox which they found in the Oaklands.

29 We expected the Hors Militia to come serch here. My Children should have lodged at Thomas Banisters but I thought it not proper. William Atherton sent me his half years Rent by George Abbot.

30 Mr Aldred and Gelibrond made a Viset to Ince. Mr Sheperd made a Viset here.

31 I was with Edward Hatton when he was sowing Wheat. I came not in till dark Night expecting a Call.[57]

Till the 18th every day Raine & excepting two of them it rained very much, from the 18th till the end some days fair some fowl and somtimes very great Winds, this may well be called a very wet Month.

NOVEMBER

1 Doctor Lancaster sent an Express with some Phisick for Mally. My Children rid out to take the Air, they called at the Grange & stay'd there awhile.

2 I gave Mally a Vomit by advice of Doctor Lancaster. Walter Thelwall kill'd his lame Bull in my Slawterhous. Mr Plumb dined here, I advised with him about my Will & asked some Questions concerning the new Setlement I have made, he & Pat: Aldred, &c: went out a Coursing, they had very good Spourt, they killed three Hares. I signed & Sealed my New Deed of Setlement and some yearly Annuetys, &c:.

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[55] Thumb Rope (dialect)—a rope made by twisting hay or straw on the thumb.

[56] "24 Oct.—Given to a Beging Breef for loss sustained by death of Cattle . 2s. 6d."

[57] This entry suggests that Nicholas Blundell was with his tenant, Edward Hatton, in order to avoid unpleasant enquiries concerning his attitude to the Jacobite Rebellion.

3 Michall Short sent me £7 in part of what he ows for 3 Fat Beasts. Thomas Syer put five Heffers into the Crofts. William Thelwall began to work of his Trade for himself in my shop or Work-hous, I having lent it him for some time.

4 I Booked my Receipts & Disbursments for the last Month. Thomas Bradley fetched his Fat Beasts from hence as he had Scored with me. Mary Fleetwoods Servant John Idinn came to mend my Windows & being he could not finish them he Lodged here. John Miller brought me my Winters provision of Sope and Candles.

5 They began to fortify Leverpool by kasting up great Banks for feer of my Lord Darwinwater.[58] I placed some Barrells in my Seller to be ready against I make Syder.

6 Thomas Kerfoot took the Hungary Worme from my Whit Grew-Hound Buty. I Signed my fourth & last Will.

7 I made 33 Bushells and a half of Apples into Syder, 'tis the first time I ever made any, Mr Shepperd was here just when we began. Pat: Burton made a Viset here, so did Pat: Hardesty. I began to serve the poore of Sefton Parish with their Monthly Alms but for some reasons did not then go on with that way.[59]

8 John Gregson brought me a Pair of New Boots, I paid him for them & for some Shoes for my Wife & Children. I finished making Sider, we pressed yesterday & today 37 Bushells & a half of Apples and made of them almost one Hogs-head & a half of Syder, we made today the Great Lead full of Bumperkin & there will be a Barrell more to be made tomorrow.

9 Pat: Gelibrond helped me to past some papers on my Boxes. four Horses taken in. I sent for John Harrison, he lodged here. We made some Bumperkin but it rained so hard we gave over.

10 I lent my Grewhounds to Pat: Aldred and Mr Thorp, Mr Thorp made me a Present of some Pickless & gave me a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Aldreds. Thomas Goar came to discourse me, Richard Cartwrite came with him. I shewed Thomas Syer my Books for Ansient & Rack Rents.[60]

11 John Molineux was here, I could not bargan with him but I did with Thomas Farer. I sent my Tenant to Ince Town. Mr Thorp dined here. Mary began to learn to Quilt.

12 I applyed the Cobra Stone to a Cut.[61] The Fight at Preston was begun.

13 We drank a Bowl of Punsh. This Hous was twice sirched by some Foot as came from Leverpoole, I think the first party were about twenty six.[62]

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[58] Liverpool supported the Whigs and the Hanoverian, George I. As the rebels advanced south towards Preston, guns were mounted to defend Liverpool, trenches dug, and the townsmen mobilised and drilled.

[59] The money given by benefactors for the relief of the poor, that is the Poor Stock, was put out to interest. This interest, in Sefton parish, was distributed monthly. On his return from Flanders in 1717, Nicholas was again responsible for the distribution, but expressed dissatisfaction with the method of giving the money. See September 23 1717; November 27, December 1 1718; December 24 1725 and January 10 1726, and Appendix G.

[60] Throughout October and November Nicholas was making preparations for the smooth running of the estates in case he had to leave Crosby. He chose Thomas Syer to be in charge.

[61] Cobra stone—may mean copperas-stone, the name given formerly to iron pyrites or marcasite.

[62] This was the very day the Jacobite force under Thomas Forster surrendered to Generals Carpenter and Wills in Preston.

14 Mrs Lancaster, &c: went hence, they lodged here the last night.

15 Robert came to me in the Morning, so did Thomas, I gave him some Cheese.[63] I killed a fat Hogg.

16 Mr Martingall and Mr —— ——[64] were here, my Wife lent them my Grewhounds. I set in a Streat place for a fat Man.[65]

17 I took a Nap between four of the Clock & five and then went to seek my Lodging.[66]

18 I made an End of Reading a Book called Englands Jests.[67]

19 I made an End of Reading the Book called the English Rogue, it was the fourth part of it I finished today.[68] This Hous was sirched today by some from Leverpoole, Mr Huson[69] & Mr Robinson was amongst them.

20 I was in the Boys Chamber and heard him talk. I had a Bed-Fellow.[70]

21 My Bed-fellow and I parted. I began to read the Unparalled Adventures writ by R. Burton.[71]

22 I brought Sawny home and got some Plumbs & Whit-Wine.

23 I heard some Writings read over but they were not Signed. I took the best Screen out of the Frame.

24 I Rid over in the Boat at Runkhorn and did not light till I came to the Ail-Hous, where we baited, thence we went to Cole-brook where we lodged at Robert Pickerings the Signe of the Cock.[72] On Dellamore Forrest there are some very small Brows which if you cut a larg Sod off it, near the Top and walk round that place, you may tread up a sort of Slutch which when 'tis dryed will burne well & is a Tollerable good sort of Turf; They also make some Turves by working & Claping them with their Hands, but most of their Turves excepting the Top Turves or Fleas are made by Spreding a Sort of Moss-Slutch upon the Ground about four Inshes thick which when it grows pritty dry they cut into peeses lick Brick & turn them and dress them for use.

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[63] It is unusual for Blundell to use Christian names only. If *Robert* was Robert Atherton, the son of his chief tenant at Ditton, William Atherton, then it may have some connection with the following entry in the Disbursement Book:—

"24 Dec. 1715—pd Wm. Atherton for a Chees to go to London . . 9s. 4d."

If this assumption is correct, then it would appear that Blundell is sending it on in preparation for the stay in London which it now seemed evident he would soon have to make.

[64] Two lines appear in the Diary here.

[65] This was the first of six consecutive days that Nicholas had to spend in the priest's hiding hole at Crosby Hall. 'Streat'—straight, tight.

[66] His hiding place.

[67] *England's Jests Refined and Improved*, by Humphrey Crouch.

[68] *English Rogue: A History of the Most Eminent Cheats of both Sexes.* 4 volumes, 1665.

[69] 'Mr. Huson' may have been John Huson of Litherland, who was churchwarden of Sefton parish, 1713–1714.

[70] 'Him' was probably the man in charge of the searchers. The 'bed-fellow' may have been his chaplain, Father Aldred, but since he departed the next day it may just as well have been a fugitive from the fighting at Preston.

[71] This was probably *Unparalleled Varieties, or the Matchless Actions and Passions of Mankind*, by R. B. (Richard Burton, pseudonym of Nathaniel Crouch) 1683.

[72] The situation must have deteriorated rapidly, that Nicholas found it necessary to leave Crosby Hall so suddenly. He made his way to London, probably hoping to lose himself in the anonymity of the city.

Colebrook —? *Cotebrook*, Cheshire, south of Delamere Forest.

25 From Cole-brook I came through Whit Chourch to Newport where I Lodged at Justice Stantons the Signe of the Whit Swan. Mr Tully Oneall came thither with me & lodged there.

26 From Newport Mr Tully Oneall & I came to Wolverhampton where we bated at Widdow Bembows the Signe of the Cock, thence we went to Bermidgham & lodged at Robert Corbits the Hen and Chickings. Coming on the Rode I observed some things viz: Cabbages buried in the Ground with their Stalks upwards to keep them. In or near Abington a pair of Stocks with a Building over them, two Parish Churches within a Bow shoot or less of each other. I came past severall Houses as are for ordering Flax, they call them Tutering Houses.

27 Mr Oneall parted with me a little out of Birmidgham and I went to Lodg at Mr Bethams at Rowington.

28 From Rowington Mr Stamford went with me to his Hous Sawford where I Lodg'd.

29 From Sawford I went to Stow where I baited at Luis Jones the Black Bull, thence I went to Corn-well Inn where I lodged at Joseph Scraggs the Signe of the Crown.

30 I went from Cornwell Inn to Waterperry where I Lodged, Mrs Brinkhurst a Relation to Sir John Curson was there.

This Month has ben seasonable enough though generally very cold especially the Latter end of it.

DECEMBER

1 From Waterperry I went to Higher Wickham where I lodged at Widdow Winshlowes the Red Lyon.

2 From Wickham I came to London and set up my Mare at Mr Ogles the Signe of the Whit Hors at the End of Little Wild Street,[73] I dined at Mr Aldreds[74] & lodged at Captain Stevens near Grays Inn Passage.

3 I dined at Mr Aldreds near Lincolns Inn Arch in Duke Street.

4 I went to the French Embassadors with my Land-Lady, I dined with her, and began to Bord with her.

5 I made a Viset to Counsellor Eyre, Mr Rodbourn, &c:. I Removed my Horses to the Cock and Dolfin in Grays Inn Laine.

6 I shewed Counsellor Eyre my Morgage as Mr Plumb drew. I made a Viset to Dr Eyre & his Brother John.

7 I went to Hide Park with Mrs Ann Aldred then we went to Kingsington, so to Chelsey Collage and through St Jameses homwards; then I went to Mr Blevins where I Suped and spoke to Mr Holland.

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[73] Blundell travelled to London on his mare *Ginny* and was accompanied by one servant, Thomas Gower. While in London he met several other Lancashire Catholic gentry who may also have fled there for safety.

[74] Brother to Father Aldred.

8 I went with Mrs Stevens to Stepney to Captain Stevens where we dined, coming home we called at Mr Carters the Signe of the Wool-pack in Cornhill near Stocks Market where we took up three Hamburgh Lottery Tickets.

9 I saw the Preston Prisoners come into Town. I went with Mr Aldred to paile Ailes & saw Mr Hampson there. I left my Roome for Mrs Smith and Mrs Cullum to lodg in.

10 I went with Mr Aldred to the Bell in Vair Street and Smoaked a Pipe with him.

11 I took a Glass of Wine at the Vine Tavern in Holbourn with Mr Rodbourn, Mr Good, Mr King the Undertaker for Burialls & severall others.

12 I made a Viset to my Lady Darwend-water in Lester Street. I Received a Letter from my Wife, it was the first since I came to Town.

13 I writ to my Children for Thomas Gower to take with him, and to my Wife by the Post. I began to burn my own Candles. I mended the Clock upon the Stayers at my Landladys.[75]

14 Thomas Gower began his Journey Homwards. I went to see St Pauls Church.

15 I went to the Bell in the Strand & saw Thomas Gorsuch there. I treated Counsolor Eyre & his Brother John at the Queens Head in Holbourn.

16 I went to Cliftons the Bull and Gate in Holbourn & to other places to sell Ginny but to no purpose.

17 I saw the Wax work in Fleet-Street and the Birds and Beace. I paid my Land Lady for a Fortnights Lodging & Victualls.

18 Mrs Bond and her Doughter and Mrs Silliard were at my Lodging, I waited of them home.

19 I met Thomas Gorsuch and his Brother Nicholas at the Bell in the Strand. I drunk at John o Gaunts with Mr John Gorsuch and Mr Renolds. I saw the English Opera Acted called Dioclesian.

20 I made a Viset to Doctor Eyre in his new Lodging in Red Lyon Street.

21 I made a Viset to Mr John Gorsuch at his Lodgings near the Swan Tavern in Kings-Gate Street, he treated me. There fell a great deal of Snow.

22 I made a Viset to Doctor Eyre and to Mr Holland. I went with Mr Aldred to pail Ailes.

23 I saw five Men and two Women carted towards Tibourn there to be Executed. I was in Smithfield in hopes to sell Ginny but could not. Mrs Smith & Mrs Cullom went home to Totteridg.

24 I bought a Gold Laced Hat of Mr Renolds, I drunk with him and Mr John Gorsuch & at John a Guants.

25 In the Evening I went to Jefersons. Cozen John Eyre made me a Viset.

26 Mrs Stevens & I dined at Mr Bonds with Captain Warren and his Wife, &c:, there was a Lottery of 31 Chances & they gave the winer 28 for one.

27 Mr Stevens and I dined at Mr Watkins with Mr Mutchell & his Wife, &c:. Cozen John Eyre gave me, &c: a Treat at his own Chambers, I played at Trant Carant there with him, his Brother Henry, Mr Smith, &c:.

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[75] The mechanically-minded Nicholas could not resist doing repairs to the clock. We shall observe this throughout his stay in London and Flanders.

28 I made a Viset to Mr Smith Rumsy at his Lodgings and smoked a pipe with him.

29 I made a Viset to Mrs Berry at her Hous near Burtons Coffy-Hous in Kings Street St James'es. I saw the Antilop and other Beasts in Holbourne. Mr John Culcheth & Mr Smith Rumsy made me a Viset.

30 The Osler sold Ginny in Smithfield & paid me the Money, I saw the moving Picturs in Smithfield.[76]

31 Mr Aldred went with me to buy a Surtute[77] but I licked none of them.

This Month has ben very Cold & now and then some little Snow; on the 21 & 22th it snowed very much which lay till January the 21th.

This year has generally ben Windy & very wet; March & Aprill were seasonable & we had a very forward Spring, the Rest of the Months generally very wet which made us have a very bad Harvest both for Hay and Corn.

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[76] These moving pictures, a German invention, were brought to London in 1709 by Pinkethman, the great London showman. Each moving picture, about ten to thirty feet across and ten to twenty feet in depth, consisted of a backcloth in front of which were stage sets of trees, houses, etc., amongst which people, animals, etc., were moved by mechanical means. The human and animal figures, with movable limbs, were about one foot high. Part of a hand-bill issued by Pinkethman reads:—"To all Gentlemen, Ladies and others, Notice is hereby given, that here is arrived from Germany, a most artificial and Wonderful Original Picture, the like never seen in all Europe: Part of this fine Picture represents a Landskip and the other part the Water on Sea. In the Landskip you see a Town, out of the Gates of which cometh a Coach Riding over a Bridge through the Country, behind, before, and between the Trees till out of sight; coming on the Bridge, a Gentleman sitting on the Coach, civilly salutes the Spectating Company, the turning of the Wheels and motion of the Horses are plainly seen as if natural and Alive. There cometh also from the Town Gate a Hunter on Horseback, with his Doggs behind him, and his Horn at his side, coming to the Bridge he taketh up his Horn and Blows it that it is distinctly heard by all the Spectators. Another Hunter painted as if Sleeping, and by the said Blowing of the Horn awaking, riseth up his Head, looks about, and then lays down his Head again to Sleep, to the great Amazement and Diversion of the Company. There are also Painted and Represented, Country men and Women, Travellers, Cows and Pack horses going along the Road till out of sight. And at a seeming distance on the Hills are several Windmills continually Turning and Working. . . ." (See John Ashton: *Social Life in the Reign of Queen Anne* (1882), pp. 286–9).

[77] Great-coat or overcoat.

Anno Domini 1716

JANUARY

1 Mrs Stevens and I went to Mr Bryers in the Morning at Mr Blevins. Mr Wilson dined with us. Mr Smith Rumsy treated his Friend and me in his Chamber. It thawed much.

2 Mrs Ann Aldred helped me to buy out Side & Lining for a Surtute at that Shop in the Strand as is now called Doyleys.

3 I dined at Mr Muchells with Mrs Stevens, Mr Watkins, his Wife, Son & Doughter. I suped at Counsellor Eyrs with his Brother the Doctor, Mr John Culcheth, &c:, we played at Trante Carant.

4 I went to Southerick and saw severall walking upon the Ice above the Bridge.

5 Nailer the Taylor brought my Camblet Sertute,[1] I began to wear it.

6 I made a Viset to Mrs Bridget and Mrs Dorothy Standley at Mr Ormanbys near Little-turn Stile. I eat some Kings Kake at Mr Aldreds.

7 Cozen John Eyre gave me, &c: a Bottle of Wine in his Roome. I went to the Castle & Folcon for a Chees as was to have come by the Carrier but it was not then comne.

8 Mr Watkins, his Wife & Son dined with us. Mr Brigs suped with us, he gave us a Bottle of Wine.

9 I began to learn French of Mr George Barton overagainst the Sun in Great Wild-Street. I drank at John a Gaunts with Mr Blevin, Mr Renolds, &c:

10 I went to Mr Muchells to have given him a Bottle of Wine, but he was not at home.

11 I took the Clock upon the Stayers in peeces part of it. Mr Smith Rumsy made me a Viset.

12 I gave a very large Cheese most of it to Mr Aldred & a small part to Mrs Stevens. I sat in the Chear of State upon the Themes, I danced on the Themes in a Booth & at the Warwick-Shire Booth I got a Dish of Sausages Fryed. I walked over the Themes from Temple Stayers to Southerick and back again.

13 I went to look at my Lord Castlemains Hous but did not goe into it.

14 I writ out a deal of News in the Coffy hous.[2] I went to see Mrs Aldred.

15 I made a Viset to Mr Smith Rumsy and smoked a Pipe with his Brother Thomas. I went to see Mrs Aldred.

16 I made a Viset to Mrs Silliard in Gloster Street and to Mrs Standleys. I went to Counsellor Eyre, he tooke some Notes for a Setlement to be made for paying my Debts.

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[1] All such incidental expenses are included in the complete account he made of his disbursements in London and Flanders. See Appendix I.

[2] Copying it from the news-sheets at the coffee house to relate to friends or to send home. For excellent account of London Coffee-Houses, see John Ashton, *Social Life in the Reign of Queen Anne*, Vol. I, chap. XVIII.

17 I put the Lock again on my Closet doar and have got a new key made for it. Counsellor Eyre gave me a bill upon Mr Pirson.

18 I made a Viset to Mrs Bridget Butler at the blew Ball in Little Wild Street. I received £5 at Mr Persons. I began to play with Mrs Stevens at Tables.

19 I was upon the Themes & there saw an Ox Rosting, I eat a part of it as I saw cut off the Spit, they say there were two Oxes Rosted on the Themes today. I was at the New Exchange & there saw a Looking Glass as was in one peece 86 Inshes Long and 44 Insh wide Valewed at £130.

20 I made a Viset to Mrs Bond & gave her some of my Rosted Beef. I Received £5 from Councellor Eyr for the use of Mrs Stevens & gave it to her.

21 I went to pay some Money to Mr Wooleston from Mrs Stevens but he would not receive it. I bought some Wine of Mr Carter for Mrs Stevens. I was at the Royall Exchange. It began to thaw & continewed to be a very mild and fine thaw without much Rain.

22 I dined at Mr Berrys with Parson Paine & Mrs Evers, Mr Berry went with me to St James'es.

23 I dined at the Whit Hart in Chancery Lain with Mr John Culcheth & Mr Smith Rumsy. Mary Wood was buried.

24 I dined at a Cooks Shop in New Turn Stile.

25 I dined at the Whit Hart in Chancery Lain with Mr Smith Rumsy, Mrs Smith & Mrs Cullome lodged with us.

26 I dined at Mr Berrys with Parson Pain and Mrs Evars, I treated that Family there with a Shew of Monstures viz: a Whelp with 8 Legs & Feet & one Head & a Kitling deformed after the same Manner & a Kat without her Fore Feet or Legs instead of which it had onely Claws before. Doctor Eyre made me a Viset. I told Councellor Eyre the whole Truth and Fee'd him.[3]

27 I dined at a Cooks Shop in New Turn-Stile.

28 I dined at Cliftons the Bull and Gate in Holbourn. I eat Oysters at Jefersons Coffy-Hous.

29 Jane Gibson made me a Viset. I went from Jefersons with Mr Barney, Captain Kelly, &c: to the Cock and Hoop in Holbourn where we drank good March Beere.

30 I clensed my Closet & put things into an other Method. Sera Christian went to seek, as she sade, for an other Service. This was the first day since the Frost as Boats past over the Themes safely above London Bridge.

31 I went to Mrs Standleys Lodging but they not being at home I went to Mr Coxons & smoked a Pipe. Sera went out about a Service as she said and came not home till the next Morning.

Till the 21th a very hard Frost with now and then some Snow & pritty oft a Considerable deale, but on the 21th it began to thaw & so continewed, onely now and then some little Frost; the Thaw was very mild and fine with very little Raine.

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[3] What is meant here is uncertain. It may have been about Blundell's debts or about his going to Flanders. Parliament had lately passed an act compelling Catholics to register their lands and possessions. It contained a clause that . . . "if any person required to make such registry as aforesaid shall be beyond the seas upon the eighteenth day of June 1716, then such person . . . shall procure his name and estate to be registered in such a manner as aforesaid at any time within six months after the twentieth day of May 1717."

FEBRUARY

1 I bought some Eggs and eat my Dinner at Mr Aldreds.

2 I helped Mrs Stevens to Settle Accounts between her & Mrs Wood upon Account of her Doughter.

3 Mr Coxon paid me £10 for a Bill & I paid Mrs Ann Aldred for some Crevats.

4 Mr Brigs treated me in his Chamber with Tea. I made a Viset to Mrs Bridget Butler at her Lodging at the Blew Ball in Little Wild Street.

5 Mrs Lloyd brought us the News that the Pretender & the Rebells were fled from Pirth.

6 Mr Barton came the first time to teach me French at my Lodging. Mr John Culcheth came to me, I went with him to Mr Browns Lodgings thence we went to Tuttles the Bunsh of Grapes where we had a Bowl of Punsh. Mr Tompson & Smith Rumsy came to us.

7 I made a Viset to Mr Harnish and there I writ for Bridget Harrison to come up.[4]

8 I made my first & onely Viset to Mr Mullins. I deliver'd my Deed to Councellor Eyre as he had drawn for me.

9 I made a Viset to Mr Tompson, we, Mr Smith Rumsy, &c: drank Wine there and got somthing to eat.

10 I bought some Bath-Mettle Tenns of Mr Fleewood for Mr Brown.

11 My Brother Langdale came to make me a Viset but I was not in my Lodging. I went with Mrs Stevens to Mr Lloyds.

12 I made a Viset to my Brother Langdale but he not being at his Lodging Mr Berry & I went to Burtons Coffy-Hous. Mr Siliard & his Lady were at our Hous.

13 I dined at Mr Berrys but dinner was almost over ere I came. I saw the Moving Images in Shanlow Street, it was the first time they were shewed. I saw one spin Glass near Chearing Cross.

14 I made a Viset at Mrs Bonds but the young Ladys were not at home.

15 Mr Coxon came to me and told me that Mr Plumb was come to Town.

16 Mr Plumb and his Son made me a Viset in the Morning, they came againe in the Evening, I went with them to the Castle & Sun in Holbourne, one Mr Starkey came to us.

17 Mrs Cullum went home. Mr Smith Rumsy came to take leave of me.

18 I went to Mr Carter to Enquier about the Hamburgh Lottery. I eat Aspargus in Convent-Garden. I bought a Snuff Box for Mr Plumb.

19 I dined at Mr Berrys, I walked with him round St James'es Park. I presented Mr Plumb with a Snuff Box.

20 I went to the Castle & Sun Tavern in Holbourn and gave Mr Plumb some things to carry for me into Lancashir.

21 I went with Mr Plumb to Mr Berrys to make a Viset to my Brother Langdale. I got my Collation at Mr Blevins.

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[4] One of the servants at Crosby Hall.

22 I made a Viset to Mrs Bridget Butler. I got my Collation at Mr Aldreds.

23 I paid Councellor Eyre £5 as he had lent me, I gave him a Scedall of my Debts.

24 Lord Derwinwater and Kenmure were Executed. I made a Viset to Mrs Standleys.

25 I writ two Letters for Mrs Stevens. I eat my Collation at Jefersons.

26 Jane Gibson made me a Viset. I read most of the afternoone in a good Book.

27 There was High-Mass for Lord Derwinwater at the French Envoys, severall Persons of Note were there.

28 I hunted about from Place to place for a Letter as was for me from Madam Cross. Our Street Doar Lock was picked and the Doar opened.

29 I saw a Woman whiped at the Carts Ars, twice round Red Lyon Squaire. I was taken with a Fit of Vometing at Jefersons.

This was an extraordinary fine Month & very warme for the Season, there was some little raine the six last days, which might properly be called pritty sweet Spring Showers, we had also some other days little small Raine.

When I come to Flanders where they recon by the New Stile I shall set the day of the Month according to that account at the end of each day but shall keep on the old Account in the Margent as formerly.[5]

MARCH

1 I went to Mr William Plumbs Chamber, it was the first time I found him in it, he went with me to John of Gaunts where I treated him.

2 I made my first Viset to Sir John Curson at his Lodging. Nailer shewed me some very Rich Cloths he had made.

3 Mrs Ann Aldred helped me to buy a Roclore[6] & a Tissu Waiscot at Thomas Stevens the Signe of the Duke of Ormond on Horsback. Mrs Gibson came to receive my Orders about her Sister Bridget.

4 Mr Wilson & our Ladys the Lodgers dined with us. I went to see young Mrs Bond & to take leave of the good Ladys. My Brother Langdale came to my Lodging, I went with him to the Row Buck in Bow-Street where we drank Burgundy, &c:, Dr Eyre came hither to us.

5 I Received my Pass.[7] I took my Leave of Sir John Curson. I payed my Way to Mr William Plumb at John of Gaunts. I took part of a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Jefersons it was a Christoning day of his Child, Mr Barny, Mr Bedford, &c: were at the drinking of Punsh with me.

6 I took my leave at Mr Blevins. Mr Thomas Walmesley made me a Viset. I gave Mrs Bridget Standley & her Sister Dorothy a small Collation at their

[5] See 15 March, where he begins to mark the dates by the New Calendar at the end of an entry in Roman numerals.

[6] Roquelaure—a knee-length cloak.

[7] The pass was the permit to leave the country. This was most likely obtained by his old friend and lawyer, William Plumb, who had come to London from Liverpool, and his son, who was a lawyer with chambers in London.

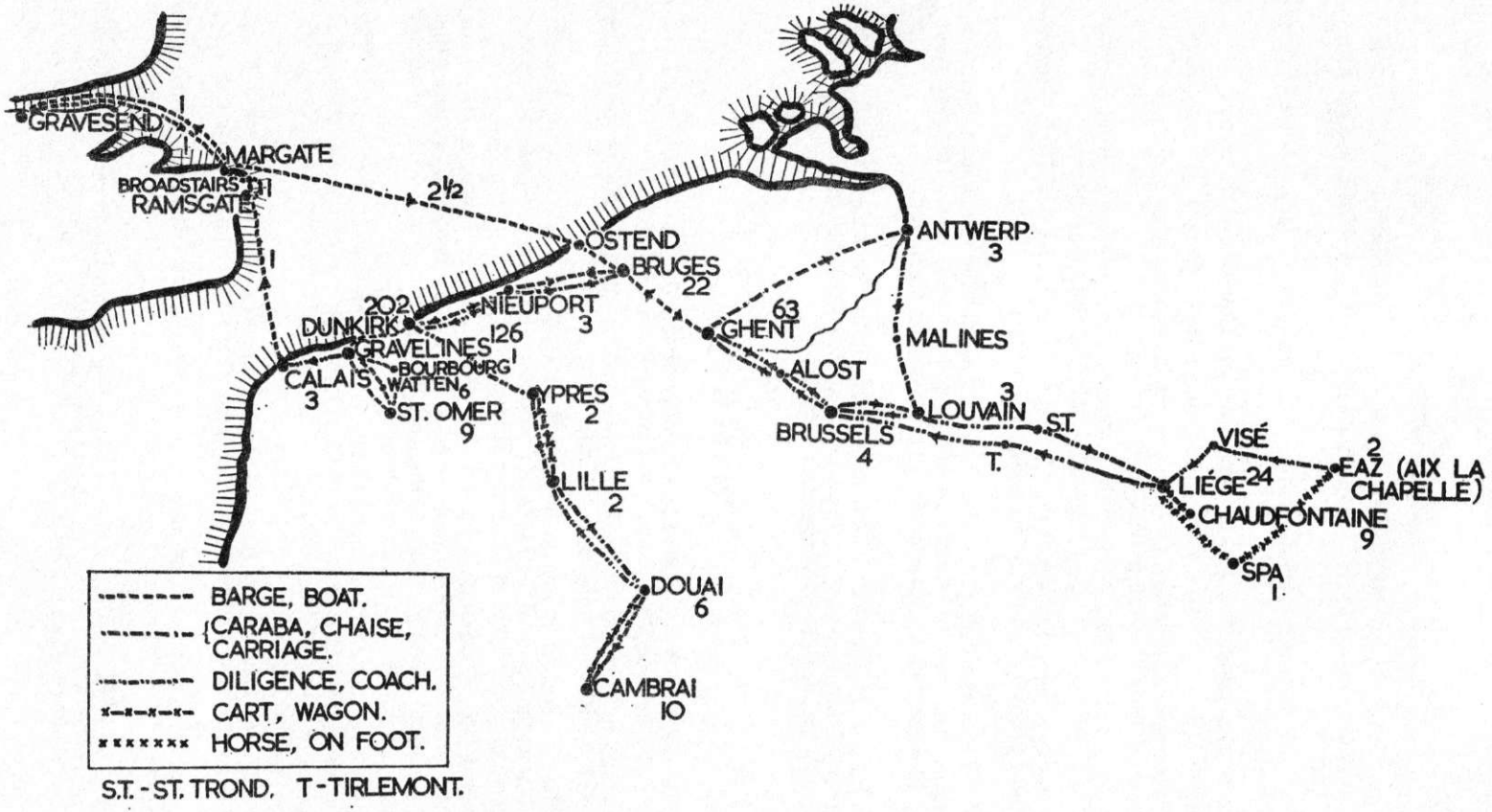


Figure 2. BLUNDELL'S TRAVELS IN FLANDERS, MARCH 8 1716—AUGUST 5 1717.
The figures indicate the number of days spent in a single place or in crossing the Channel.

Lodging, they & I went out to see the Apparitions in the Air lick Clowds of Fier & Smoke.

7 I Signed a Deed for the Payment of my Debts. I took my leave at Mr Aldreds. I was at Mr Rodbourns near the Ship in James Street Convent Garden, he paid me my Annuety as will be due the 25th of this Month.[8] I drank my Farewell with Counsellor Eyr & his two Brothers & Mr John Culcheth at the Castle Tavern in Holbourn near Fullers Rant. I sat up all Night prepairing for my Journey tomorrow.

8 I came from my Lodging in a Coach to Billing-Gate where I stayed a while at the Blew Bell and then came in the Tilt Bote[9] (in about 3 Hours & a half which is twenty Miles) to Graves end where I lodged at Michall Baylys the Signe of the Hen & Chickens. Tilbury Fort is Just on the other Side of the River.

9 I Dined with Mr Dodd[10] & my Landlord, they and I, &c: played at Whisk awhile, I played with Mr Dod at Cribbage. If the Wind had Served we had gon off today.

10 Mr Dod & I walked up to the Wind Mill, it was a fine prospect, he and I dined together in my Roome, then we went to his Roome where we played at Cards, I lay in his Roome in an other Bed.

11 I dined at my Lodging with a Dutch Captain & a Lieuetennant as were come out of Scotland.

12 I went on Bord the St John of Bridges[11] a Smak of 50 Tunn, John Docas Roby Master, we Sailed at Seaven in the Morning & cast Ancor at Magarit[12] about half an Hour after three in the after Noone.

13 We weighed Anchor at one in the Morning & Sailed till 4 at Night, we cast Ancor two or three times today. I dined with Mr L'Longe and his Wife.

14 We Lay at Anchor over against Fi for about seaven Houres.

15 We landed at Ostend before twelve of the Clock at Noone, we were at Sea three Nights & were under Saile onely 36 Hours. I dined with Mr Harvy, &c: at Ostend at John Heys the Signe of the King of Spades Head. I lodged in Sass at Widdow Shavans the Signe of the Skipers Hous. The Slews-Bridges[13] were opened & shut with Coggs & Rongs, 'tis a poor place but very well fortifyed with Mud Walls. XXVI

16 At Sass I gave Mr Macken (formerly a Vallanteer in a Scotch Regeament in the Hollan Service) some English Money for other Coyne. I came in the Barge to Bridges[14] & lodged at Nicholas Egars in Gray werker Straet.[15] I made my first Viset to the Austin Nuns.[16] XXVII.

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[8] The annuity of £100 bequeathed to his wife by her grandmother, the Dowager Lady Webb, then deceased.

[9] A tilt boat was a large rowing boat with a tilt or awning.

[10] Probably the Rev. Hugh Tootell, alias Charles Dodd, author of *The Church History of England*, was on his way to France from Mossborough Hall, Lancashire, where he had been chaplain to Robert Molyneux.

[11] St. John of Bruges.

[12] Margate.

[13] Sluice.

[14] Bruges.

[15] Grauwerkerstraat—Street of the Fur-workers, is a very narrow short street of typica Flemish houses.

[16] The Augustinian Nuns, or the Convent des Dames anglaises, rue des Carmes, still exists.

17 I went in the Morning to see the three Merchants,[17] they went with me to the Dominicans Church which is remarkable for the Carved Pulpit, which is hung or at Least the Top of it with wood carved lick Rops, I think there is also some Iron work in Imitation of Ropes; after Dinner they went with me to the Archers Hall[18] where I saw two Silver Bowes & two Arrows of Silver, their Buts are about 8 Rood, made of Straw, the Arrow Heads of Horne, the Bird they shoot at for King is made of Leather. I made my first Viset to the Nuns of the 3rd Order of St Frances.[19] The Exchange has a very handsom & High Tower, as high as most Spier Steeples.[20] XXVIII

18 I Heard Mass in the Bishops Church,[21] it has very good & large Statues upon the Pillars, there are 17 Alters in it. I din'd with the 3 Merchants, &c:, they & I went to see the Bishop of Bridges make his Publick Entry, there were in Prosestion before him about 167 Religious, about 57 Clergie, 36 Cannone & two Abbots, young Mr Williamson was there. I went at Night to the Bishops Pallace where I saw the Illuminations & Sky Rockets. XXIX

19 This was the first time I heard Mass at the Jesuits Church,[22] it is remarkable for very fine Baristers of Carved whit Marble, it is a very light & neat Church & prittily Flaged with black & whit Marble, under the Windows are large & good Pictures. I saw there a Relick of St Xaverius with a Christall over it. XXX

20 I walked with Mr Maide to the Come[23] where the Ships lye thence to one of the 3 Aile-Houses between & Dam[24] then we came to the Carmolits Church[25] where I heard Salve & saw Lord Dovers Tombe. Pat: Benedict Walker shewed me the Refectory & Gardens. XXXI

21 I kept my Chamber most of the after noone being busy Transscribing my small Diurnall Papers into my small Diurnall Book. April. I

22 The 3 Merchants & I were at the Archers Hall where their King & 14 others were shooting for a Prise.[26] I walked towards the Coome with Mr Bond and his Sister Mrs Elliss & one of the Mr Hudlestons. II

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[17] Nicholas frequently met these three merchants, but gives no information about them.

[18] The Hall of the Archers Guild of St. Sebastian in rue des Carmes. A very fine building, unchanged since the time he visited it. The butts and the shooting gallery are to be seen, the latter exactly 8 roods or 44 feet, as Blundell described them. Also still to be seen is the stuffed bird, perched at the top of a very high, rather flexible pole. The competition is still held to decide who is the King archer.

[19] The English nuns of this Order were established here in 1662 in the Princenhof. After the French Revolution they came, first to London, then to Winchester, and finally in 1808 to Taunton, Somerset.

[20] The Exchange Tower or Belfry, well known to visitors to Bruges, had an additional tower on top when Nicholas saw it.

[21] This was the cathedral church of St. Donat; demolished at the end of the eighteenth century. The bishop he saw making his first entry into Bruges was Bishop H. J. van Susteren.

[22] Now St. Walburga's Church; a baroque church dating from 1619, and formerly the convent church of the Jesuits. Most things still remain as Nicholas saw them, but the relic he mentions no longer exists.

[23] Come (Flemish 'Kom')—the inner dock of Bruges in the Middle Ages. Now covered with green algae and known as Minnewater or le Lac d'Amour.

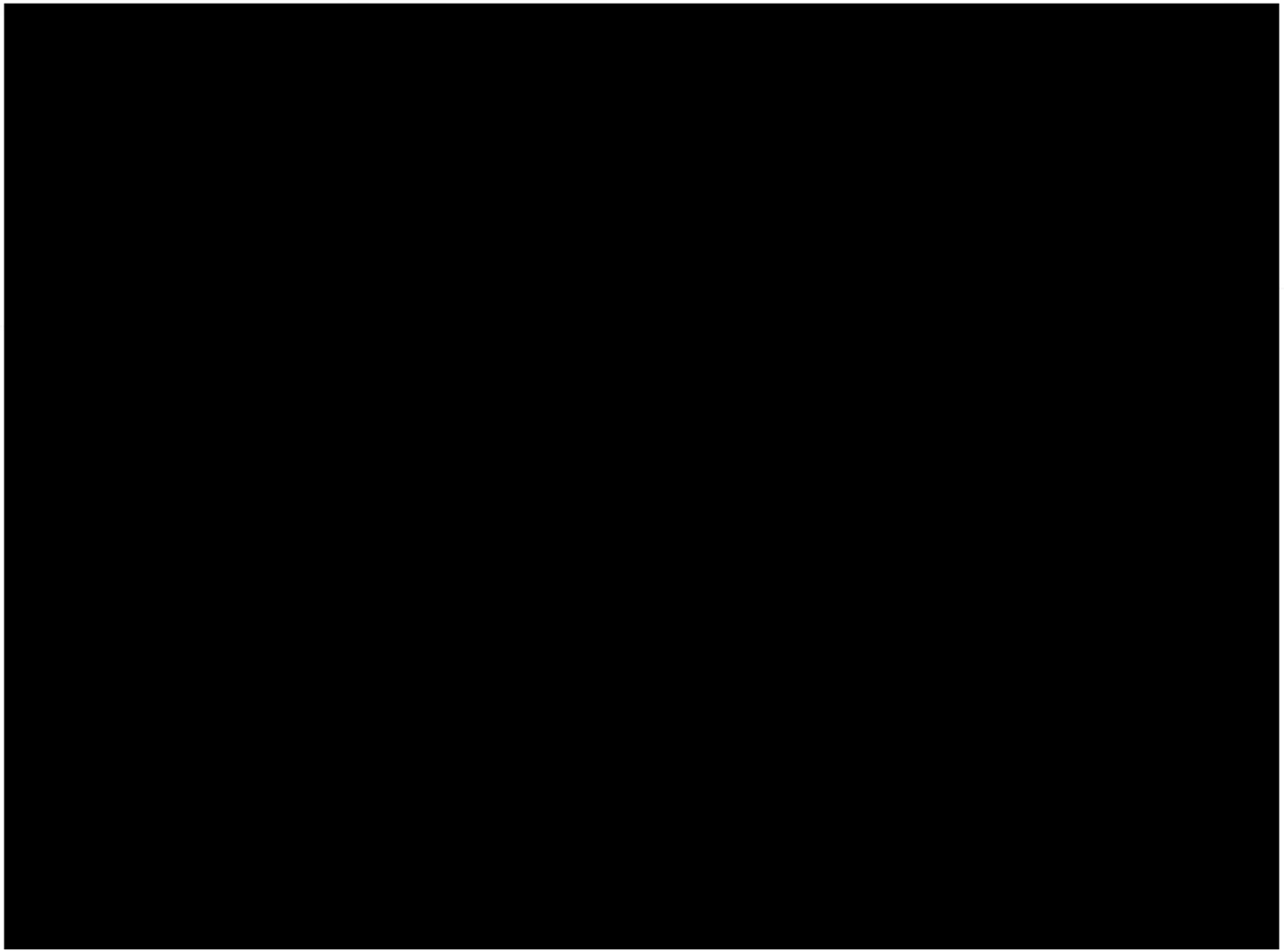
[24] Damme—a small village north of Bruges.

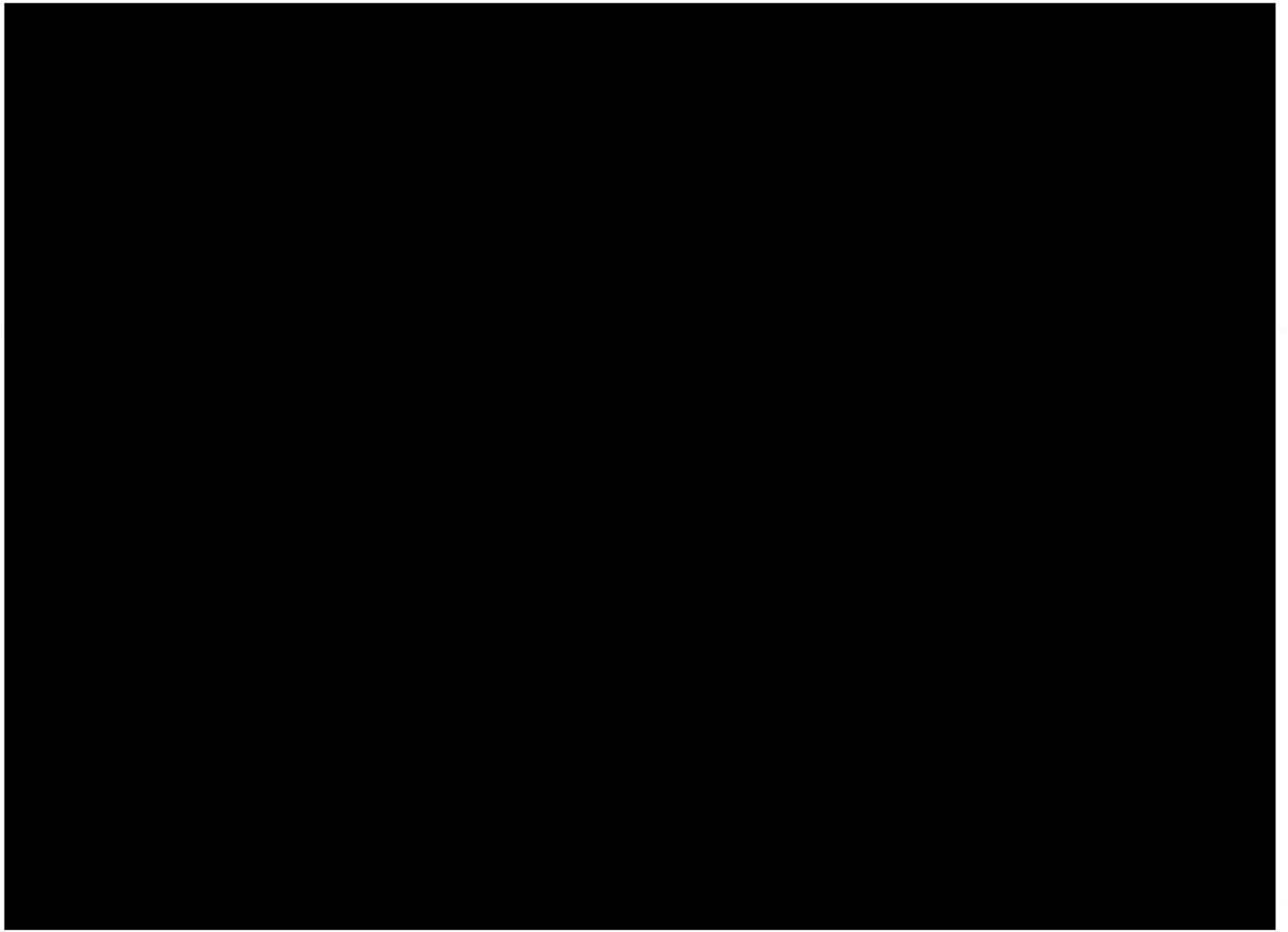
[25] Convent des pères Carmes, demolished during the French Revolution.

[26] The actual silver arrows, the prize which he saw them shooting for, can now be seen amongst the many treasured possessions on display in the Archers Hall.









23 I was at the Chappell of the Holy Blood as was brought by one of that Country out of Jerusalem or there abouts, he got it when he was in the Holy war against the Jews,[27] it is the Blood of Christ, I kissed it. Mr Newgent payed his way & gave us a Snaker of Flip[28] in my Chamber. Watty Thelwall made me a Viset. Apr: III

24 The Taylor brought my New Coat and Breeches as are trimed with Silver. In the Market place I saw 4 Pigs in one Round Basket made like a Bird Cage. they strick the Beanes close off the Measure with a Round Strick-lea as is Sealed.[29] I was at the Jesuits Church where the poore Girles were going to Confestion with a great deale of Devotion. I think there were 102. I went to the 3 Merchants thence we went to Sallew[30] at the Jesuits, they & I were at Egringtons where we put in to the Brussells Lottery, my Share is half a Ticket and my Motto is, *Prove well*.[31] IV

25 I was at the 3 Merchants lodging with Mr Shelly, &c:, they treated us, I saw there the Prosestion representing our Saviors Passion,[32] there were as I counted about 700 concerned in it, of which I think there were about 450 Penitents. the Prosestion was 50 Minnets in Passing by us. Mr Egrington brought me my new Linnen, I paid him for it. V

26 I came from Bridges in the Barge to Gaunt in about 8 Hours & a Half. I Suped at Mr Harvys & Lodged at Sise Nicas.[33] VI

27 I made my first Viset to my Sister Winny, & dined there with Sir Walter Blunt.[34] I made my first Viset to my Lord Waldesgrave.[35] Pat: Turbervill went with me to the Jesuits I made my first Viset there and got my Collation. VII

28 I dined at my Lord Waldesgraves with him, my Lady Gerard Brumbley,[36] Mr Brinkers, &c:. I was at Tenebrys[37] at the Ursulines. VIII

29 I dined at Pat: Norris his with him and Pat: Daniall.[38] I was at Tenebris at the Benedictain Daimes.[39] IX

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[27] The Relic of the Holy Blood (still to be seen in the Chapel of the Holy Blood) was brought to Bruges by Dirk van de Elzas, Count of Flanders, on his return from the Crusades in 1149. He received it from the Patriarch of Jerusalem as a reward for the deliverance of Jerusalem from the Turks.

[28] Flip—a mixture of beer and spirits sweetened with sugar, and heated with a hot iron.

[29] To strick—to strike off the corn or beans level with the brim of the measure. This was done by filling the measure then passing a smooth straight piece of wood called a strickle (i.e. 'strick-lea') over the top.

[30] Salue or benediction.

[31] Probably the pseudonym he used.

[32] Possibly this may have been the Procession of the Holy Blood, held every year, though now on the first Monday after May 2.

[33] Size Nicas—unknown to Archivist of Ghent.

[34] Sir Walter Blount, 3rd. bart. of Sodington, Worcestershire. Died at Ghent in 1717.

[35] Lord Waldesgrave, 3rd. baron, married Mary, daughter of Sir John Webb of Odstock and Hatherop.

[36] Daughter of Sir John Webb of Odstock, Wiltshire, and widow of Charles, 6th. Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley; cousin of Nicholas Blundell's wife.

[37] Tenebris—Tenebrae—the office of matins and lauds of the following day, usually sung in the afternoon of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in Holy Week at which the candles were lighted at the beginning of the service and extinguished one by one after each psalm, in memory of the darkness at the time of the Crucifixion.

[38] Rev. Richard Daniel, confessor to the English Carmelite nuns at Antwerp, was a member of the Lancashire family of Daniel of Dutton.

[39] English Benedictine Convent.

30 I was at St Nicholas Church where I met with an Irish man who was Cannon there. I dined at my Lord Waldesgrave. I walked to some Churches with my Lady Gerard & Pat: Richardson, he went with me to see them make Snuff,[40] & to the Grand Beginage[41] where they say there are between 800 & 900 Begeens, he came back with me to my Lodging. X

31 By my Sister Winnys desire I went to St Anns Church at Butlers & when I came back I dined at the Grate[42] at the Daimes. I went to the Cathedrall or St Johns Church,[43] I counted in it 29 Alters, there are in it some extraordinary fine Monuments cut in Alablaster as I take it, there are 4 Candlesticks of Copper so high that I think I can not reach the top of them with a Stick a yard long.[44] I saw one Hors draw nine Barrells upon a Sledg all full of Aile as I suppose, and I think each of them was near as big as a Half Hogs-Head. XI

There were severall very cold days this Month, so that it may well be called very cold for the Season.

APRILL

1 I heard High-Mass at the Cathedrall. I dined at the Daims with Pat: Turbervill, &c:, after Dinner Pat: Daniell went with me to the Munks on St Peters Hill,[45] they have been setled there 1000 years, they have about twenty eight Villages belongs to them, the Monks now there are in Number onely about 25, Pat: Cockens shewed us some very fine Peeces of Tapestry about six yards long each & about four broad, he said three Thousand Pound Sterling was refused for one peece of it; I saw there a very long Cross with a Large Foot both of Silver, the Crusifix is of Massy Silver and by weight comes to 75 Pound Sterling besids the Fassion. I walked with my Lord Waldesgraves, Mr Brinkers, &c: into the Castle & to the Rampers[46] of the Town. I supped at my Lord Waldesgraves. XII

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[40] Snuff factory—unknown to the Archivist of Ghent.

[41] The Ancient St. Elisabeth Béguinage, founded in 1234, was replaced by a new one in 1874 on another site. Of the original, there still remain the infirmary, a few houses and Convent and some ruins. The institution of the béguines originated in Belgium in the thirteenth century. Each béguinage is a community of women who are not bound by any vows and gain their livelihood by some form of work, largely lace-making. They first spend two years in a convent attached to the béguinage where they become novices, and then live in the small houses in the community. Thus each béguinage with its convent, church, chapels, infirmary and the houses of the Mother Superior and béguines forms a small self-supporting community walled off from the ordinary civil community. The béguines were quite free to leave the béguinage during the daytime, but had to return before the Angelus.

[42] Grille or grating or iron lattice-work in a door, or place near it, where friends could speak to nuns.

[43] The Abbey of St. Bavon, formerly dedicated to St. John. Magnificent Gothic building, part of it dating back to 1150. There are in it 29 altars as Blundell describes.

[44] The four candlesticks he mentions are of particular interest to English visitors. They were designed by Benedetto da Ravazzano, and were intended to be used as pillars of the canopy over the tomb of Henry VIII. This monument, however, was never finished, and the pillars were sold during the Interregnum. They were bought for the Cathedral at Ghent, but were not placed in the Cathedral till 1669, when sockets were added to make them into candlesticks. They are now in the chancel.

[45] The Abbey of St. Peter on Blandin Mount, founded by St. Amand, 625–630. Restored 1592–1634.

[46] Ramparts.

2 I dined in my own Roome with my Landlord, &c:, I drank some Leomond Tea.[47] XIII

3 I dined at the Jesuits[48] & discoursed Pat: Berbeck & Poyns. I heard Pat: Clark hold forth at the Daimes, I took leave there & at my Lord Waldesgravs. XIIII

4 I came from Gaunt in the Barge to Bridges where I Lodged at my old Quarters, I made a Viset to the three Merchants & Suped with them. XV

5 I Played with the 3 Merchants at Mr Delcores at Trante Carante. I took my leave at the two Monasterys. XVI

6 I intended to have come from Bridges but I was too late for the Barge. I proposed Sera Christian to both the Lady Abbesses for a Servant. I walked quit round Brudges upon the Rampers and read most of the time. I dined and Suped at my Lodging with one Mr Brooks of Oxford. XVII

7 I Came from Brudges in the Barge to New-port[49] where I Lodged at the Armes of France. I made a Viset to the Cathusions, they are 16 as belongs to that Hous, their Church is very small but most extreamly neat & pritty but not costly; Thomas Clarkson the Joyner introduced me to Pat: Vicker & Pat: Bets, I saw their Pritty Sells & Gallerys. I was in the Fryers Church where instead of an Alter-peece for the high-Alter, there was a Statue of St Michell fighting against a large Statue of Lucifer which had seaven Serpents Heads, which in my opinion looked very obsurd and rediculous in that place. XVIII

8 Pat: Hunter came to my Lodging and helped me to change my Money & was most extreamly oblidging & ready to serve me. I hiered a Shais & came from New-port to Dunquerk where I lodged at the Poore Clairs, I suped there with Mr Hind, &c:. I made a Viset to the Daimes. XIX

9 I came from Dunquerk in the Barge with two or three of the North, we dined together at Burbruck[50] & thence I walked to Graveling where I Suped at the Poore Clayers with Pat: Sebrand, Mr Barret, Mr Johnson, &c:. I lodged at a hous belonging to Madam Bagnall.[51] XX

10 The Italion Singing Woman went towards Dunquerk. XXI

11 I was at the Funerall of a Souldier, the Souldiers shot into his Grave one after an other as they passed by it. XXII

12 I opened my Male Trunk and put my things up in order, I took Account of what Linnen, &c: as I had and set all things down. The first time I saw My Aunt Ailes & my two Sisters[52] at the Higher Grate. XXIII

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[47] Lemon tea.

[48] Jesuits' Church—completely demolished, 1798–99.

[49] Nieuport.

[50] Bourbourg in Pas de Calais.

[51] Madam Bagnall (Catherine Dominic) was seventh abbess (1705–36) of the Poor Clares, Gravelines.

[52] Alice Blundell—daughter of William Blundell the Cavalier; aunt to the Diarist. Born June 11 1649. When sixteen years old left England to become a Poor Clare nun, which she did on July 6 1665 at the Convent at Gravelines. Died January 14 1720, aged 71 years. She attained the position of Venerable Mother Jubilari.

Ann Blundell—eldest sister of the Diarist. Born May 7 1672. At the age of 30 years entered the Poor Clares' Convent at Gravelines. Died October 8 1719.

Mary Blundell—sister of the Diarist. Born September 7 1673. Entered Poor Clares' Convent at Gravelines on September 8 1690. Died May 22 1719.

13 We all five went out a Fishing, I Angled awhile & then went along with Mr Johnson & saw him Trowl. XXIIII

14 I saw the Poore Clayers singing the Long Letinys round their Garden. XXV

15 I saw the Nuns kneeling in order in the Quier, I spoke to & saw some of my Friends & Acquantance as I had not seen since I came hither. I saw the Church Yord blessed because there had ben a good quantity of Human Blood shed there in a Quarrell which had so profained the place that no one was to be buried there, till it was blessed. XXVI

16 I began to learn French of Peter Gardo, he is in Collonell de'Leons Regeament, his Military Name is le'Anglois. XXVII

17 I saw 15 Companys of French viz: fourty in each Company drawn up in the Market place to Muster which made one Batallion viz: 600 Men besides the Offisers; I also saw a Batallion of Swiss, &c: drawn up viz: three Companys each consisting of 200 Men. Mr Smith, Nevell, & Braddell lodged in this Town. XXVIII

18 Mr Manners came to Madam Bagnalls to Lodg for some time. XXIX

19 Bridget Harrison came to this Town. I received a Letter from my Wife, 'tis the first since I left London. XXX

20 Mr Smith, Pat: and I walked out of Town with the four Convictrises. May the I.

21 Bridget Harrison went hence towards Rohan,[53] Mr Dod went with her in the Caraba[54] to Callice,[55] he made me a Viset. II

22 I saw two Quier Sisters and one Lay-Sister professed, Mrs Fisher Sister to Widdow Anderton was one of the Quier Sisters. III

23 Mr Johnson, Smith and I, &c: waited of my Lady Hailes and Mrs Butler to Mr Prince the Commedant; my Lady obtained of him that two Hoars[56] as were to have rid the Wooden Hors today should be exempted from that Punishment. IV

24 Lady Hailes & Mrs Butler, &c: went by Boat to St Omers, Mr Smith, &c: went along with them, I took leave of them in the Boat & then left them. Mr Johnson, Barret and I went into the Monastery through the Breach, I saw my Sister Mary in the Infirmary. V

25 There was a Great Porpoys or Sea-Hog[57] of about 8 Foot & a half long English Measure brought hither to Mrs Bagnall. Mr Williamson & Pat: Barker dined with us. VI

26 I addorned my Roome with some Pictures. My Lady Hailes & Mrs Butler returned back to this Town. Pat: Powell Rector of St Omers, Pat: William Mansell and two Students came along with them, they Suped with us. VII

27 Mr Johnson treated the 3 Paters, Mr Barret and me with Wine in his own Roome. VIII

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[53] Rouen.

[54] The eighteenth century fore-runner of the char-a-banc and motor-coach or omnibus.

[55] Calais.

[56] Whores.

[57] Probably a bottle-nosed dolphin.

28 I went to Kindall[58] with Intention to have gon by Bote to Lodg at Watton, but meeting Mr le'Tose & Mr Smith there I returned back with them to Gravling; at Night I went with them, Mr Johnson, the 3 Paters, &c: to Bows on Fain where I bought the Lased Hat. IX

29 Mr Smith, the three Paters, I, &c: went to Mr Johnsons Roome, where we Drank Wine and were very merry. X

30 My Lady Hailes, Mrs Butler, &c: went towards Dunquerk, Mr Jones went along with them. Pat: Rector, Pat: Mancell, Mr Smith, &c: went hence to Watton. XI

This Month has generally ben very Cold and sharp winds for the Season and so little Rain that I think if it were all put together it would not make one good Aprill Shower.

MAY

1 Mr Simpson cut the Hair off my Head. I writ most of my Disbursments since I left home fair over in my small Account Book. XII

2 Mr Barret & I, &c: walked to Kindall, there took Boat and came to St Omers where we lodged at the Collage.[59] XIII

3 I was in the Schooles when the Boyes had their Places given them and Premiums. Mr William Poole shewed me a good Part of the Collage. Mr Carroll[60] being to goe away tomorrow gave his Schoolfellows the Returritions[61] a Treat, Mr Le' Tose, Mr Smith, I, &c: partooke of it. Mr Johnson Lodged here at the Collage, he came from Dunquerk. XIV

4 Mr Le' Tose, Mr Barret, Mr Johnson, Pat: Ploydon, I, &c: went by Bote to Clare-Marre, where the Abbot shewed us an extraordinary Refectory, a very good Church, a Large Immage of our Lady I think fully three Foot Long of Silver & an Antependium most part of it of Silver; The Monastery was founded by King Steven of England; coming back we went to two of the largest Swiming Islands, they are about twenty yards long & not half a yard thick, the water under them is about two yards deep.[62] XV

5 I was in Great Figures whilst six of them answered to severall Greek Books, some to all the New Testament, and some to other books, Jack Clovell was one of them. Pat: Mansell went with me to the Bisshop of St Omer & asked some favours of him for my Wife and Doughters which he granted. Mr Le Tose, Smith and I came by Bote to Watton where we lodged. XVI

6 I saw Mr Le Tose his Appartment and his Pritty Garden. I walked with Mr Smith in the Great Garden. XVII

7 Mr Le Tose, Smith and I walked into the Wood and saw the Sargeant make a hole or Pit-fall to take young Foxes in; I saw People making Fagots. Mr Barret came to lodg at Watton. XVIII

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[58] Guindal—a hamlet and sluice on the River Aa, south of Gravelines and about two miles west of Bourbourg. A guindal was a lifting machine for loading barges.

[59] Nicholas had been a scholar at the English Jesuit College at St. Omer about 1686. Very little of the original building now remains.

[60] Probably a member of the Sussex family of Caryll.

[61] Rhetoricians.

[62] The marshes of Clairmarais still exist, but the abbey was destroyed during the French Revolution. The floating islands have also disappeared.

8 I saw some of the Hair of our Blessed Lady, it had ben here at Watton above 500 years, the Church was Built in Honour of our Lady upon that Account. XIX

9 Mr Barret, Pat: Clifton, and I came from Watton in the Barge to Kindall & thence walked to Graveling. Mr Smith came with us as far as Kindall, we met with Dr Hesketh there. XX

10 We have not had so much Raine for above two Months as fell today which was very acceptable. XXI

11 I went a Fishing with Pat: Confessor, Mr Barret, &c: but I katched not one, Mr Johnson took agood many with an Artificiall Flye. XXII

12 Dr Hesketh came hither, he Lodged here. Pat: Sebrand came hither as Extraordinary, he Lodged here. XXIII

13 Pat: Sebrand sang High-Mass in our Church and gave Benediction at Vespers. XXIIII

14 Pat: Heys came hither, he dined here, & lodged in the Town. XXV

15 Mr Tompson came hither from Brudges, he Suped here & lodg'd in the Town. XXVI

16 There was a whole Sturgeon brought to Mrs Bagnall to be sold, I saw it before they took it back again. Pat: Smith Tantum non my Lord was here, he lodged in the Town. XXVII

17 Mr Johnson, I, &c: had intended to have gon today to Dunquerk but it being a very Rainy Morning we deferred our Journey. XXVIII

18 Mr Johnson, I, &c: rode thorrow old Mardicke to looke at the New Canall which is 51 Yard one Foot & 8 Insh wide at the Top English Measure, and when at the deepest is 25 Foot English of Water, there were within the Flood-Gates about tenn pritty good Ships, some carried or were made for carrying twenty Guns or more, there were also severall small Ships in the Canall; then we went to Dunquerk, I observed as we went, that one was cutting with a very Little Sith the Tops of the Yellow Flower off, as are called Cetlock[63] and grow amongst the Corn, it seems to be a very good way. We lodged at Mr Chevalleers the Signe of the Court of France. We went to the Great Church where we saw an extraordinary Picture of the Martyrdom of St George of that Vallew that upon all Alterations of Government as have ben in that Town, it has still ben one of the Artickleys that that Picture should not be defaised nor carried away. XXIX

19 I dined at the Poore Clayers with Pat: Francis, Mr Brown, &c:. I walked to the Top of the Rich[64] Bank and to the Bason. I observed in the Market great quantity of Salleting & Garden Stuff; most of it I suppose came from Hoppone.[65] XXX

20 I dined by myself at my Inn, I Suppose the rest dined at the Daimes. XXXI

21 Mr Johnson, I, &c: dined together at our Inn, we met together at Night and took a Bottle. June the I

22 I went in the Morning to severall of the Churches. I was at the Poor Clayrs most of the afternoone. II

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[63] Charlock.

[64] ? right.

[65] Haut-Pont, north of St. Omer. Now a suburb where innumerable vegetable gardens, separated by small canals or water-courses, are still to be seen.

23 I walked out with Mr Brown, we saw three very fine Copper Kannons, the longest of them was 22 Foot as they told me. June the III

24 Mr Brown & Tompson went towards Brudges. Mr Barret and I, &c: came by the Barge from Dunquerk to Burbrook where we dined, coming out of Town we walked into the Capesines Garden. IIII

25 Doctor Hesketh went out to gather Herbs for a Dyet drink. Mr Johnson, Barret, Pat: Doctor & I cleered off the Accounts as were amongst us for Gaiming & paid what we ought for Wine. V

26 Mr Johnson went to Dunquerk in hopes to meet his Lady. Mr Elmor a Santomarion came hither in his way from Ipers, Pat: Hure who belongs to the Cathedrall of Ipers came with him. VI

27 Mr Elmor & Pat: Hure went hence towards St Omers. I was with my Aunt & Sisters at the Higher Grate. VII

28 Mr Barret went hence towards Brudges, Mr Marsh went part of the way with him, when he came back I played with him at Tables. VIII

29 Pat: Newton, Minister of Watton dined here. The Lame Glover of Cros: came to this Town. IX

30 I washed my Feet in my Neighbours Appartment. X

31 I Served Pat: Burbeck High-Mass. I went part of the Way in the Procession. XI

Till the 10th we had very little Raine, but that day we had abundance & from thence to the end of this Month we had very frequently good Showers, so that now I think we have had Rain enough.

JUNE

1 I went with Pat: to look at the Organs in the Great Church. I went through the Great Gate by my Lodging to the Magaseen and looked at the Bombs and Morters, &c: as are there, Peter Gardo was with me. XII

2 I was very busy studying upon a Question in Mathematicks as Peter Gardo proposed to me. XIII

3 Pat: Wofold Procurator of Watton Suped and Lodged here. XIIII

4 Frat: Bedingfield, Gerard of Highfield, and an other Novice as were going a Beging before they left the Hill Suped here. Pat: Curson lodged here. XV

5 Two English Men came hither to see if they could sell any English Malt to Madam Bagnall. XVI

6 Five English Men viz: Cottom, &c: were here. Joseph Thelwall came home with the Sheas from Bullan a most sad creasy thing. XVII

7 Pat: Curson, Dr Hesketh, I, &c: went out a Fishing but had very little Spourt. Pat: Vancaster, Pat: Wormwood, &c: made a Viset after Super to Pat: Berbeck we were together with them in his Chamber. XVIII

8 Pat: Curson & I walked out to France with the three Convicteresses. Pat: Lawrence Bryers came hither from London. We solemnized St Gervasius & Protatius upon account of Pat: Berbeck. Pat: Beeson Rector of Watton and Pat: Morphew came hither. XIX

9 Peter Gardo and I shewed each other some tricks. Mr Marsh and I were Partners at Whist, we lost three Gaimes at eight Deales & neather played Slams nor Lurches, we got not one eather by Tricks or Honours. XX

10 Dr Hesketh and I walked round the Rampers with Mr Morelly. Mr Morelly & I shewed each other some tricks. XXI

11 Pat: Berbeck and I went to the Habitation of some of the Priests of the Great Church where we smoaked our Pips and talked French. XXII

12 Pat: Berbeck stayed very late working at the Organs of the Great Church, and came home very Hot. XXIII

13 I Began to drink Diet-drink every Morning for some time. I Played at Tables with Pat: Berbeck after Dinner and Supper. XXIIII

14 Joseph [Thelwall] went to the Fair at Burbrooke and sold a Hors there for Mrs Bagnall and bought her a large Maire. XXV

15 Pat: Berbeck, Mr Simpson and I went a Fishing, we had very little Sport, I took a very Large Breame. XXVI

16 I cast up my Receipts and Disbursments since I came from home to see how they agree and find them not to vary much. Mr Marsh came home from Watton, Brother Clarkson came with him, he lodged here. XXVII

17 Pat: Cunstable & Brother George Bell came hither, they lodged here. XXVIII

18 We hansoled[66] the New Parlor. Mr Marsh and I walked out with the three Convicterises to our Ladys Chappell *Pur Bien Fin* we were pestered with a Drunken Man who had lost his Snuff Box. XXIX

19 I Prepaired some Cards for my Trick of Fewcloths. Mr Johnson & his Lady and Pat: Talbot of the Dames at Dunquerk came hither, they lodged in Town. Dr Hesketh came back from Dunquerk, he lodged here. Pat: Bergbeck shewed us some Tricks of Legerdemesne with Balls, Counters, &c:. XXX

20 Pat: Cunstable & Frater George Bell went hence.[67] Pat: Wofold of Watton Lodged here. July the Ist.

21 Pat: Bergbeck, Dr Hesketh and I, &c: went out a Fishing, we had pritty good Spourt. July the II

22 I barganed with Peter Gardo to teach me French, &c: whilst he stayed in Town, I gave him a good Peece of Nuns-Work. I was at the Buriall of a Woman who was carried to her Grave by six of the Black Sisters. Count Deosfield Inspector Generall of the Fortifications, &c: came to vew this Town. III

23 I writ out some Tricks as Peter Gargo tought me. IV

24 Frater James the Chirurgion of St Omer Collage was here, I saw him not. V

25 I Received my two Tye Wiggs as came from St Omers. Mr Medcalf the Pothecary caled here in his way to the Spaws. VI

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[66] Celebrated the occasion of using it for the first time.

[67] Blundell names more than 90 Roman Catholic priests out of England that he met; though some of these were not Jacobite refugees. He also names about 200 lay persons out of England he met, including members of well-known Catholic families—Middletons, Cliftons, Talbots, Scarisbricks, Fazackerleys, and Langdales; Sir Walter Blount, of Sodington, Worcestershire, Lord and Lady Waldegrave, Lady Gerard of Gerard's Bromley, Lady Hales, Lady Smith, Lady Swinbourne, Lady Kilmeer, Lady Mountgarret, Lady Knatchbull, Lady Lucy Herbert, Lacys of Wiltshire, Sir John and Lady Webb, Lord Rivers, Lady Derwentwater, Lady Abercrombie, and Hindes of Lincolnshire.

26 We made a Bowl of Punsh with Juce of Currans but not good. Pat: Perce Ployden the Procurator of St Omers lodged here. VII

27 Pat: Berbeck, Doctor Hesketh and I, &c: went a Fishing, we had very good Spourt, Mr Johnson went not with us. Mr Johnson and I waited of Pat: Ployden out of Town, he went hence. VIII

28 We hansoled the New Stove Grate in the Parlor. I played at Backgammon with Mr Johnson. IX

29 It was a perfect winterly day, being a very cold Wind & Rain. Pat: Sebrand lodged here, he came to Examen Nelly Hodgson. X

30 Mr Roger Sawcold came hither, he lodged in Town. XI

Till the 20th generally pritty fair and some few days very hot, from thence to the end every day some Raine and some dayes very much with very cold winds & very Winterly weather.

JULY

1 I was at the Prosestion of Nelly Hodgson. Mrs Lettenby came home hither from St Omers. XII

2 Mr Sawcold, Dr Hesketh, and all of us being seaven in Number went a Fishing, we had pritty good Spourt. XIII

3 The four Convictrisses dined with us, Mr Marsh and I walked out with them to St Georges Church. I lent some Linnen, &c: for their Annuall Play. XIV

4 Miss Witherington came home hither from St Omers, Pat: Thomas Conniers came with her, he lodged here, some of the Convictrises went to meet her. XV

5 Mr Johnson and his Lady went hence to live at Dunquerk. I saw some Dragoons come into Town. I began to make a Draught in Paper for Wanscoting one side of the Parlor. XVI

6 Dr Hesketh went hence towards Paris. My Wife & Children came in Harvis Ship, they landed today at Dunquerk,[68] I came to them, my Wife and I lodged at the Poore Clairs and the Children & Maids lodged in the Town. XVII

7 I got my goods from on Bord Mr Harvys Ship and sent some of them to Graveling. I made a Viset to Mr Johnson but he was not at home. XVIII

8 My Lady Smith, Mr Johnson and his Wife made a Viset to my Wife. XIX

9 My Wife and Children made a Viset to the Daimes. I went up to the Top of the Great Church Steeple with my Children, Miss Margarit Blundell, &c: we saw two Children Christoned. XX

10 My Wife, Children and I, &c: hired a Shais and came from Dunquerk to Burbrook where we saw the Miraculus Immage of our Blessed Lady, thence we came to Gravling where we lodged. XXI

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[68] From the Disbursement Book we learn what was going on in Little Crosby while Blundell was in London and Flanders. At first the accounts were written by Mrs. Blundell, but were later kept by one of the Diarist's relatives and great friend, John Gillibrand. A change occurs in the entries—butter, cream, eggs, milk, meat and rabbits now appear in the foodstuffs bought, which suggests the demesne lands had all been leased. See Appendix J.

11 Mr Barret came home hither from the Spaws. Betty Gorsuch went into the Monastery to try if she were able to doe service there.[69] XXII

12 Pat: Hevers of Holk[70] went hence, so did Pat: Baker. Madam Bagnall gave my Wife a Handsom Dressing Box of Straw. XXIII

13 I shewed Madam Bagnall the Drought I had made for wainscoting her Parlor. The Royall Marine Regement came to Quarter here. XXIIII

14 My Wife and I went in the Caraba to Holk where we dined and then came from Watton to St Omers where we lodged at the Port de'Ore. XXV

15 My Wife & I dined at the Collage with an English Gentlewoman & her Son, Mr Sawcold, &c:, we walked about and saw the Collage & then my Wife, I, Mr Howerd, &c: went to St Bartines[71] & saw the Relicks, &c:. XXVI

16 My Wife and I saw the Master of Returicks Action and Places given for the Great Composition. XXVII

17 My Wife & I came from St Omers in the Count of Holks Boat to Watton where we dined & saw the Relicks, thence we went in the same Boat to Gravlinge, Pat: Baker came along with us. XXVIII

18 Pat: Berbeck went to Watton to mend the Organs. I went to severall houses in this Town to see for Lodgings. XXIX

19 My Wife and Mary Woodcock[72] dined in the Monastery. I played at Tables with Pat: Dorrell an Austin Fryer. XXX

20 Mr Medcalf late Book-seller was here. I helped to pack up some things against our Journey to Guant. XXXI

21 Pat: Gaughagan went hence to live in Loraine. My Children & I were in the Town Majors Gardens, he and his Lady shewed them to us. August I

22 This being the Feast of Portiuncula my Wife & I did our Devotions at the Fryers Church. II

23 My Wife, I, and my Children came to Dunquerk where we Lodged, we came most of the way in Mathews Carriage. III

24 Mr Hind and I went to the Chappell of our Lady of Fountains near the old Rampers & to seek out for a Shais for me against tomorrow. IV

25 My Wife, I and Children came from Dunquerk to Newport in a Shais where we met with Mr Dorrell and there took bote towards Brudges but being the River was almost dry near the Town, we were forced to come some Miles by Wagan & twass so late we could not get into Brudges, so my Wife, Mr Dorrell & I Lodg'd near the Town at the Golden Crown a good Hous, my Children & Mary lodged at an other Hous. We left Betty Gorsuch at Dunquerk. V

26 My Wife made a Viset to the Austin Nunns at Brudges in the Morning, My Wife, I & Children came in the Barge from Brudges to Guant where we lodged at the looking Glass. VI

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[69] Betty Gorsuch, daughter of Gorsuch of Gorsuch Hall and relations of the Blundells, had travelled with Mrs. Blundell from England as her 'second maid'. It was her intention to become a Poor Clare nun at Dunkirk.

[70] Holque (old spelling Holck), a village less than two miles north of Watten, between St. Omer and Bourbourg.

[71] The Abbey of St. Bertin is now in ruins; only the lower part of the tower remaining.

[72] Mrs. Blundell's maid; and later, when they took an apartment in Dunkirk, she acted as cook.

27 Mally being very ill I hired a Coach and we all came in it to our New Lodging at the Bakers. My Children went into the Convent as Pentioners.[73] VII

28 I went with Sir Walter Blunt to Mr Mairzes[74] Garden, he was in it. VIII

29 I shewed Mary Woodcock the Church as is under the Great Church, I think there was in that lower Church 13 Alters[75] or at least places for them, I saw the Tresures at the Great Church viz: a very Massy Thurible as formerly was made use of by the Turks in their Sacrifises, a large Cross with a very large Foot of Silver, three peeces of our Saviors Cross, &c:. My Lord Kilmeer, Mr Patricks and I shot with a Cross Bow and Dart at Paulus his the Whit Cross.[76] IX

30 My Lord Kilmeer & I saw five Persons shooting with Cross Bow & Dart for a Prize at the Signe of the Bear; they shot at a Wooden Pigeon, Pothecary Kirkhoue was with us. My Lord Kilmeer & I went thence & shot our Match out with Mr Patricks at the Whit Cross. Dr Maheu came to see my Children, they went very ill at Night into the Convent. I saw a large & Handsom Doctors Coach drawn with onely one Hors. X

31 The Pothacary let Mally Blood 'tis the first time she was ever let Blood. Pat: Daniell went with my Wife & me to the Austin Nuns at Deynce where we saw the Lilly Root with a very plain Crusifix on it, it formerly grew on Mount Calvary. XI

It Rained severall days this Month, more or less and some of them it rained very much, the latter end of this Month was very hot.

AUGUST

1 This being St Clairs Day my Wife and I heard High-Mass at the Collatines. I made a Viset to Pat: Norris. XII

2 I went a Fishing in a Bote with Mr Harvy, he took very few and I took none, we bated with Slobler. XIII

3 I went in the Morning to the Coffy Hous with Sir Walter Blunt. After dinner I walked my self about the Streets to severall parts of the Town and saw the Doar as opens both to the Right hand & the Left. XIV

4 Fanny was bluddied, 'tiss the first time she was let blud. My Wife and I made a Viset to Mrs Langdale & her Doughters, Sir Walter Blunt and his Neece went with us. XV

5 My Wife & I were at the Grand Prosestion from our Ladys Church. Pat: Daniall went with my Wife & me to Mr Hudgsons, we saw his fine Garden and a Roome of Pictures valued at 6000 Pound Sterling. XVI

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[73] They only remained as pensioners on this occasion for a short while. However, on September 21, Frances (Fanny) was left at the Poor Clares Convent at Gravelines in charge of an aunt who was a member of that community. Fanny was then eleven years old. Mary (Mally), then aged thirteen years, was settled in the English Benedictine Convent at Ghent, in charge of an aunt, who was a member of that community, on October 16.

[74] Mr. Mayor's garden (i.e. the Burgomaster).

[75] The Lower Church under the Great Church, St. Bavon's Cathedral, is the Crypt, built in 942 and enlarged in 1228. There are still in it, as Nicholas described, thirteen altars or places for altars and all the treasures he mentions.

[76] Unknown to the Archivist of Ghent.

6 Pat: Daniall went with my Wife and me to the Vickars and got leave for her to goe into the Convent to see the Children, then we went to Fodergills the York-shire Hatters.[77] XVII

7 I saw in Caesar Market[78] a Large Iron Cannon[79] as is not kast, 'tis more for show than service, I mesured it to be Long 5 yards one Half & half an Insh English Measure, the Diamiture is half a yard 6 Insh & ¾ of an Insh. My Wife went into the Convent the first time, she dined there and gave them a Treat of Coffy & waiked with the Children. XVIII

8 My Lord Nicholas Kilmeer went with me to Mr Blundells, his Armes is the Spread Agle, his Crest two Wings Erected,[80] he shewed me a Semitor, Battle-Ax and some other such like Forren Armes and said he had a Gun which would shoot Bullets with wind instead of Powder & kill at a Considerable distance, but it was not then in order to pump the wind into it, he shewed me about 160 or More old Medalls most of them of Copper or Brass. I saw his pritty Garden with Pillars of Indion Cresses & his Grotto with Concave Glasses as I thought, which made a Pritty Prospect in Miniture & raised a River above 6 yards high in appearance as Ran near his Grotto or Summer Hous. XIX

9 My Lord Kilmeer, Sir Walter Blunt and I walked to Dence,[81] I bought a Medall & Picture of the Lilly Root, Fanny was Bludied with a Leetch. This being St Bernards day Sister Frances went with my Wife and me to the Bernardine Nuns. The two Mrs Langdales made a Viset to my Wife. XX

10 Pat: Daniall and I went to Fodergills, he changed me two Moyders and treated us. XXI

11 I bought a Bell for Pat: Daniall and gave it to him. Mr Alderson brought Mr Edward Blunt hither from Doway. XXII

12 The two Mr Alexanders who came from the Dominicans of Burham dined with us. Mr Fodergall and his Wife, &c: took a dish of Tay with us at our Lodging. XXIII

13 My Wife and I went to the Austin Nuns at St Agnes his where we saw one Professed & an other Clothed. This is the first day Mally came to the Grate since she was ill. Sir Walter Blunt & I went to look at our Voyature and took a Bottle of Wine together. XXIV

14 Fanny came to me to the Grate the first time since she was ill. Pat: Geram & Pat: Cunstable went with me to look at a pritty Flower Garden, I treated them near the two Cocks. XXV

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[77] Nicholas rarely mentions any social contacts with the local inhabitants. He may have dealt with local shop-keepers for daily necessities, but for clothes, household linen and medicines he dealt with English merchants and apothecaries. The Jacobite refugees apparently formed a circle of their own.

[78] 'Caesar Market' has for hundreds of years been known as the 'Vendredi Markt' (Friday Market), and is so called now. It was Emperor Charles V who ordered it to be called the Caesar (i.e. Emperor) Market. It has always been the centre of Ghent's communal activities, the scene of tournaments, riots and executions.

[79] 'Dulle Griet' or 'Mad Meg'. It is of wrought iron and was made in the fifteenth century during the Burgundian period for the defence of Ghent. It was, however, never used. It has occupied its present site in the Friday Market since 1578.

[80] There were several families named Blondel or Blundell, bearing these arms in and around Ghent. The arms bear no relationship to the arms of the Blundell of Crosby.

[81] Deynze.

15 Sir Walter Blunt and I, &c: came from Gaunt in a Shais to Antwerp 'tis 11 Legues, we dined at the half way Hous the Star & lodged at Antwerp at the Red Tun in the Mair a most noble Street[82] which is Hollow from one end to the other so as Boats may pass lengthways under it and under the Jesuits Church, coming along I observed very little of each side of the Rode except great Plenty of Buck-Wheat, Oats and Clover there being little elce to be seen especially Buck Wheat or as we call it in Lancashire French Wheat; the most part of the Rode was planted with Oaks on each side as are to be croped for Fagots and in severall places where the Rode is braud 3 or 4 or some times more Rows of Oak Trees with Cart ways between each Row, the Rode is deep Sand most of the way; Antwerp stands upon the Skeld a Noble River and formerly a Town of great Trade. XXVI

16 I saw them shoot with Match Locks in a place on purpose for that diversion. I saw a most Butifull Chapell in the Carmes Church,[83] it was Flaged with Marble which made severall Ovells & other such lick Figurs, the Joynts most of them being Filled with Brass; on one side of it were two Larg Lanceskips most curiously Carved in Marble and on the Alter a Silver Immage of our Blessed Lady which together with its Pedestall I take to be one yard and half high. I went to the Hous of the Professed English Jesuits & saw their Church[84] which is Remarkable for the great variety & plenty of Marble. The Communion Rales are very long & of whit Marble finely carved and in it is a Statue about half a yard long representing Humility, so well carved that the King of France profered for it, its weight in Gold and also to get an other made for them as lick it as he could; in that Church are thirty six or more originall Pictures of Rubins & Vandike, there is also a Chappell in that Church which was built by Madam Houtapple, it is most extreamly butifull, having great variety of Choyce Marble and good Pictures, there is an other Chappell in that Church which has in it an Alter-peece carved extreamly fine by one of their Lay Brothers now an Inhabitant amongst them. They have in the Church, the Bodys of 16 Saints except some little as if taken from some of them for Relicks. I saw their Silver Cross & Pedestall which was about two Yards & a half high, they have four Pair of Silver Candle Sticks the Highest about four Foot the others gradually decending. I saw their Antependium of Beaton Silver, and severall Vestments of Silver Needle work the Ground, and most Richly imbossed, they have Antependiums belonging to them of the same work and severall most extraordinary Rich Vestments, Copes & Antependiums of Imbossed work & beset with Pearls. I saw a Vaile which was valued at £100 Sterling. In this Church upon one Shrofe-

[82] Place de Meir is at the present a very wide street, the shopping centre of the City. On a map of Antwerp in 1565 it is marked Pons Marinus. It appears to be a canal and part of the defensive moat. At one point it passed close by the Jesuit Church as can be seen on a later plan. It was later covered in to form the road or street Nicholas describes.

[83] This chapel, the Monastery of the Carmelites, in the Meir, no longer exists.

[84] The House of the English Jesuits was unknown to Prof. dr. Blockmans, archivist of the City of Antwerp. Prof. Blockmans says that the Jesuits in Antwerp had in use the ancient 'Hof van Liere' which had been the House of the English Merchant Adventurers in the sixteenth century (in Prinstraat, now the St. Ignatius Institute of Commerce). It is clear, however, from the lengthy description Nicholas gives that their church was the former Church of the Jesuit Fathers, now called St. Charles Borromée's Church. It is a remarkably fine example of Baroque style, built 1615–1621 by Peter Huyssens of Bruges and Francois Aguilon. The facade and tower were designed by Rubens. Indeed, all the great contemporaries of Rubens, including Van Dyck, did some work at the Church. Within two years of the visit paid by Nicholas, this church, except for the apse and facade of Rubens, was completely destroyed by fire, including the thirty six paintings of Rubens and Van Dyck which Nicholas mentions. The fire is said to have been caused by lightning on July 18 1718. It has since been rebuilt in the original style.

Sunday the Jesuits kept count how many Confessions they heard in about eight hours time, which were eleaven Thousand or very neare it, there were about sixty Jesuits as heard Confestions, in that Church, Sacristy & some parts of the Hous so that one with an other each heard 183 Confestions & some heard more. I was in their Region of the Dead or Seller where they bury which is very Neat, and in their Museum or Studi-place where they are writing the Lives of all the Canonised Saints, this work was begun about 90 years since by Pat: Bolandus & is now carried on by Pat: Janingus and three others, they have finished the end of June & writ twenty four Folios, I went to the top of the Steeple of our Ladys Church,[85] I counted onely 618 Steps up, but they told me there were 620. The Finger of the Clock is said to be 16 Foot long their mesure, the Great Bell is in Diamiture 6 Ft.–11¾ Ins. English measure. This Church has in it 36 Alters, there are seaven Iles in it reconing those at the Side which are part taken up with the Alters. XXVII

17 I went to the Teretians,[86] Mrs Berbeck is Reverent Mother Priores, they are now eighteen Quier Nuns & must never exceed the Number of 21 and of three Lay Sisters, they must take no Pentioners, I went into the Convent by the Bishops leave where I saw the Holy and uncorrupted Body of Mary Margarit of Angells, her Name in the World was Wake, she was born of English Parents at Antwerp, her Body was found uncorrupt upon the 2nd of this Month or upon the 13th New Stile, she dyed in her third time being chosen Priores & had ben buried above 38 years, there was an Insition made under her stomack and by five Doctors and one Chirurgion who came to examain her, her Heart, Liver & all her Bowells were found intire and uncorrupted which all of them agreed to be supernaturall, the Bishop was present at this Examination & is of the same opinion; not the least ill smell came from her Body or Bowells. There were 16 Graves opened at this same time, but all the rest of the Corps were consumed or in part as naturall, I was in their Region of the Dead where I saw the Grave of the late Reverend Mother who dyed in no less opinion of Sanctity than the Former; I also saw the Graves of two good Nunns who after their death appear'd to the late Reverend Mother and told her they were in Glory in Heaven, but had ben some days in Purgatory, I think the one 3 days and the other tenn. I saw St Teresas name writ with her own Hand viz: Teresa de Jesu. I went with Sir Walter Blunt to the Plantineon or larg Building for seling Books in Albis and for Printing them,[87] but I saw not the Prints the —— ——[88] being out of order. Mr Edward Blunt & I were in the Academy of Painters[89] where young ones are

[85] This was the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the largest and most important Gothic church in Belgium, begun in 1352 and finished in 1530 with one of the twin towers and steeples incomplete. Nicholas remarks on the number of steps; according to the official guide there are 622! There are, indeed, seven aisles, as he says, or rather a nave and six aisles with 125 pillars.

[86] The Priory of the English Theresians no longer exists; its place is now taken by a monastery of the Redemptorists. It was situated in the Hopland.

[87] The Plantineum was the home, studio and workshop of Christophe Plantin, who was born near Tours *c* 1520 and died in Antwerp in 1589. In 1549 he established himself in Antwerp as a book-binder, then from 1555 as a printer. In 1576 he acquired these premises, having in 1570 been granted the monopoly of printing all religious books in Spain by Philip II. Descendants of Plantin continued printing here till 1872. In 1876 the Plantineum was taken over by the City, who have maintained it as it was at the time of Plantin. It is now known as the Plantin-Moretus Museum, with a wonderful collection of prints, books, wood-cuts, etchings, and the only museum of its kind in the world. Even in the sixteenth century monarchs and princes visited this house.

[88] A gap of two words.

[89] The Academy of Painters, founded in 1662 by Tavid Teniers junior. The Academy, originally in the Antwerp Exchange, was destroyed by fire in 1858, a new one being built to replace it.

tought that art, we saw there most extraordinary good Pictures. We were in the Sitadell which is very Strong & has very pritty Houses in it for Souldiors to lodg in, The Town is also well Fortified & has the finest Walls of any Town I have seen, part of it so broad that four Coaches may goe in a Brest upon the Rampers & Noble fine Trees growing upon those broad Rampers. We went to the Norbertine Munks[90] where we saw severall very good Rooms with most extraordinary fine Tapestry Hangings and some good Pictures, their Refectory is Wainscoted quit round from top to bottom with good Pictures. XXVIII

18 From Antwerp I went to Mecklin[91] where I dined at the Kettle, I observed on each side of the Rode great Store of Buck-Wheat, Oats & Clover, from Mecklin we went to Lovin where we lodged at the Golden Cup, From Antwerp to Lovin is commonly called nine Legues. XXIX

19 I dined at the Austin Nunns[92] Reverend Mother Sheldons, they are 57 Religious. I saw a Bell as Hung out of the Steeple of the Church. Mr Lamb went with me & Mr Edward Blunt to see a Crusifix as grows out of a Stone in the Wall, it grows biger every year as the Neighbours near it doe affirme and some Miracles there said to be wrought may conferme the same, it is now by my own mesuring just nine Insh & a half long English measure, I meane the Immage onely besids the Cross; there was present a Woman who did assuer me that she has heard her Father or Mother, I have forgot whether it was, say that they remember it to be not above half the length it now is. I saw in St Peters Church[93] a large Crusifix (of wood I think) upon an Alter with the Right Hand fallen downwards off the Cross, which said Hand took hold of a Man whilst he was robing the Alter and there held him till he was apprehended. I saw the Bones of Fiere Margareta van Loven who was Murdered A.D. 1225 in defence of her Chastity and is esteemed a Saint as many Mirracles well attested and in Print do witness. The Jesuits Pulpit has two ways up to it, which are prittily shaided by Boughs of Trees carved with Leaves and Frute on.[94] This Town of Lovin is fortifyed, but I think not well. The Town-hous is not very large but maks a very Handsom Show. XXX

20 I walked to Haver Church[95] where I saw the Tombs of the Duke of Ascots Family[96] & their Pedigry (writ with a Pensall upon the Wainscot) derived down from Adam. I saw one of the Peeces of Silver as our Savior was Sold for by Judas, 'tis by wight worth 15 or 16 pence, I was in the Monks Garden there, which is most extreamly pleasant with the River runing at the Side of it, a Larg Fishpond and other pleasant waters in it, togeather with a most butifull Island prittily adorned with Arbors, Greens, &c;, there are severall very long Walks and Proportionable in bredth, the sides of the Walk of Hornbeame most extreamly High and neatly trimed. After dinner we went from Loven to Brussels

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[90] St. Michael's Monastery of the Nobertins was partially destroyed during the Napoleonic period and totally destroyed in the Belgian Revolution of 1830.

[91] Malines (Mechelen).

[92] Convent of the English Augustinian Nuns. The community was suppressed in 1798 and the fine church demolished in 1811.

[93] This fine Gothic church, begun in 1425, was severely damaged by bombardment in 1944.

[94] All but the facade of the former Jesuit Church, now the Church of St. Michel, built 1650–1666, was destroyed by bombardment in 1944. It has since been restored to its original perfection.

[95] The Church and Convent of the Celestines at Heverlé, pronounced locally *Hever*.

[96] The notable Flemish family, the Duke of Aarschot.

where we lodged at the Signe of the Green Wood, the Rode was most of it Cawsay way and a most pleasant charming Country, when we came near Brussels we saw 8 or 9 Men hanging on one Gallows & as many lying upon wheels, and not far from thence were severall more both on the Gallows and on Wheels. When any one kills himself 'tis the Custom in those parts to hang him up upon a Grained Stake with his Head through the Graine and some of these I have also seene. XXXI

21 I went with Sir Walter Blunt to the Daims my Lady Waldesgraves,[97] there are 25 Religious. After dinner Mr Bishop and Mr Carù went with Mr Edward Blunt & me to the Armory[98] where we saw a Sheeld most curiously worked with Images Raised very fine upon it, an other Shield with Images neather raised nor Ingraved, yet appeared very plain to the Eye, but not to be perceived by feeling. The Armor of some Indions which seems to be made of Leather & black Horne or Bone, they look well and are light. Some Indion Arrows whos Points are said to be poysoned. An Indion Bow which was very short. The Arms as the Students of Loven are uesed to carry becaus they were not permited to wear Swords. The Armor of severall Persons of Note from Head to Foot. Armor for Horses. Shirts of Wier & other things worth seeing. In the Town-hous which is a most noble Building,[99] I saw severall curious fine Rooms with delicate Pictures & a great quantity of extraordinary good Tapestry and two Tables of Marble with Maps most incomperably Painted on them. We were at the Dominican Nuns[100] at the Spelecans. We saw the Fowntain called Man he can Piss.[101] The Market place is not large, but has very fine Buildings round it, at Night we were there & saw them throwing Sky Rockets at the Golden Agle to set it on Fier. This Town stands much upon little Hills & is very well furnished with Water having Fountains playing in severall parts of the Town. September I

22 Mr Edward Blunt & I took Mr Bishop & Carù with us in a Coach to the Prince de la Tours Garden,[102] he is Post-Master Generall of the Empiour, his Garden is very neat & pritty. We went to the Capusigns[103] and saw their very pritty Garden full of fine Greens where they keep severall sorts of Birds as fly about in it, we were in their Long Garden which has most butifull Walks of Yew Trees and some of the walls covered with them a great hight. We went

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[97] Dame Theodosia Waldegrave, (baptised Joanna), daughter of Sir Henry Waldegrave of Staininghall, Norfolk, 2nd. bart., English Benedictine nun at Brussels, professed 1666; 8th. abbess, 1713–19. Died 1719. (C.R.S. Vol. 14/189; Vol. 7/57.)

[98] The Royal Armoury, close to the Palace, in what is now called rue de Namur.

[99] Hôtel de Ville in the Grand-place.

[100] The Convent of the English Dominican Nuns, rue Spellekens, in the north-east quarter of the city, was reconstructed in 1777, but completely destroyed in 1794 in the French Revolution.

[101] Manneken-Pis, the well-known bronze statue. First mentioned in 1452. The present statue modelled by the Belgian sculptor, Duqnesnoy, dates from 1619, and was completed in 1770 by a niche of blue stone.

[102] The beautiful gardens of the town house of the Princes de la Tour-Taxis, near the place du Sablon. The Carmelites occupied the house in 1790. The property was sold to the nation in 1798. All that remains of the garden now is a small square, the Place du Petit-Sablon.

[103] The Capucins Church and Convent, near what is now the rue Haute in the north-east of the city. The church was destroyed in 1796 during the French Revolution, and after the suppression of the community the first manufacture of Belgian *tulle* was started here.

to the Toore a lè Mode[104] or as some call it de la Rivour and to St Anns Well. I was in the Park[105] which is a Plesant place, the Fountains in it are pritty being imbellished with Rocks made up of Loos Stones and one is prittily done with Roots of Trees. Most of the Trees in the Park I take to be Limes. I was at the Pallace which stands very Prittily. Sept. II

23 I came from Brussells to Allost where we dined at the Indian Kings an extraordinary good Inn, the Road thither was extraordinary good & well paived, I observed ere we came thither severall Hop Yards of each side the Rode, from Allost we came the Strightest Rode immaginable and all paived and set on each side with Trees, to Gaunt where I lodged at my old Lodging. III

24 Mr Tompson & Tildesley dined with us at Paters. The two Mrs Langdalls made us a Viset at our Lodgings. We play'd at Cards after Supper, 'tis the first time since we came hither. IV

25 Mally came out of the Convent to us, 'tis the first time since she was so ill. I went to Mr Fodergall and got some Moyders changed, he gave me a Bottle of Wine. V

26 I was at the Great Church and heard Te Deum Sung for the Victory over the Turks. My Wife and I went to the Cooter[106] at Night & saw them throw Sky-Rockets with Stars in. VI

27 My Wife was at the Jesuits great Action. I walked with Sir Walter Blunt to the Austin Nuns by St Georg his,[107] we saw Miss Mair there, coming back we went into the small Beginage. VII

28 My Wife went with Pat: Daniell towards Loven. Sir Walter & I drank a Bottle of Wine near the Clock Hous[108] with Ned Scot. VIII

29 Mr Edward Blunt and I were at the Walloone Jesuits Great Action and saw them give their Premiums. IX

30 Sir Walter being abroad I dined at the Grate with my Children & Austin, I stayed with Austin all the Afternoone. X

31 I walked out into the Country to learne their way of Reaping Corn, Mr Edward Blunt went with me, we called at a Cabbaray & played at Bowls upon an Alley. XI

This Month was rather hot than otherways for the Season; the 15th & 21th a great deale of Raine but the Rest of the Month pritty fairé.

SEPTEMBER

1 This being my Birth-day, I gave my Sister, &c: a Pot of Coffy & Tay at the Grate and to Sir Walter Blunt a Bottle of Wine at Dinner. XII

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[104] The Tour a là Mode or the 'Allée Verte' was a fashionable promenade by the side of the canal de Willebroek to the north of the city. Only the name exists now, its place being taken by a far less pleasant industrial street. The Archivist of the City of Brussels had no information about a 'St. Ann's Well.'

[105] The Park (le Parc de Bruxelles) has changed very little since Nicholas saw it.

[106] The Kouter (Flemish word meaning *field* or *plain*) was formerly a popular parade or square. To-day, this tree-lined square is a car-park in the day-time, but at night band concerts are given. It is also named 'place d'Armes', most probably after the victory of the army led by Prince Eugène of Savoy over the Turks at Peterwardein on August 5 1716.

[107] This Inn, St. Jorishof, or St. George's Court, opposite the Town Hall, is now a hotel.

[108] The Belfry, erected *c.* 1300; completed 1913.

2 Mally was dressed, she came out and Dined with us. Sir Walter gave us a Pot of Tea in his Chamber. XIII

3 I Examained my Landladys Bill, set down the particulars & payed it all off except for Lodging. I walked through the Bylock[109] with Sir Walter Blunt to Dans where I saw my Lady Mountgarret, 'tis the first time I ever saw her. XIV

4 Fanny took a Vomit. My Wife and Pat: Daniell came back from Lovain. XV

5 Mrs Howerd and her Doughter (who came last Night to lodg in the Convent) dined with us. XVI

6 I went with Mr Peters, &c: to the English Jesuits, we found there Mr Barret, Tompson, &c:. Pat: Norris lent me some Money. Sir Walter Blunt went to Brudges to meet his Brother. XVII

7 My Sister gave me a Bill of all I owe to the Convent. I paid the Doctor his Fees. XVIII

8 Pat: Cunstable made me a Viset, he brought me some Flower Seeds. Mr Barret made us a Viset. I Paid Mrs Everit all as was owing to her by my Wife. XIX

9 Mary went to Dans and saw the Lilly Root. Lady Abbess gave my Wife and Fanny some pritty things. I paid my Landlady for our Lodging. XX

10 I was busy helping to pack up our things against tomorrow. The two Mrs Langdales came to take leave of my Wife. Sir Walter Blunt and his Nephew Mr Edward Blunt came back from Brudges. XXI

11 My Wife, Children, Sister Farmer and I came from Gaunt in the Barge to Brudges where we Lodged at the Golden Lyon. Lady Knatchbull are in all thirty six.[110] XXII

12 I went with my Wife, &c: to Princen-Huf[111] Madam Ropers they are in all 36.[112] Mr Rumsy dined with us & then we went in a Coach to the Augustins My Lady Lucy Herbarts[113] they are about Fivety eight in all. XXIII

13 We came from Brudges in the Barge to Newport, where we refreshed awhil at the signe of the Parrot & then came in a Caraba to Dunquerk where we lodg'd at the Cour de France. Two Young Benedictans travelled with us this days Journey. XXIIII

14 My Wife, I, & the Children came to the poor Clayers at Dunquerk, we dined & Lodged there. I opened my Box as came hither from London. XXV

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[109] The Abbey de la Byloke, founded in 1228 by the sisters caring for the sick in the adjacent hospital. The abbey and the hospital formed a large unit in the district called Byloke (which means *enclosure*). It is now open to the public as an archaeological museum.

[110] Lady Mary Knatchbull was eighth abbess of the Benedictines in Ghent. She was the grand-niece of Lady Lucy Knatchbull, who was abbess 1624 to 1629. 'Thirty-six' refers to herself, her nuns and her pensioners.

[111] Court of the Princes, the ancient residence of the counts of Flanders. The English Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis were settled there in 1662. They were driven out in the French Revolution, and re-established themselves, first in London, then in Winchester, and in 1808 in Taunton where they still flourish.

[112] Roper, Margaret Clare, daughter of John Roper, esquire, and Mary Dormer. Entered 3rd. order of English Franciscan nuns at Bruges (previously at Brussels) in 1672. Abbess 1700 to her death in 1719. (CRS. Vol. 24/40, 56, 205.)

[113] Lady Lucy Herbert, 4th. daughter of William, 1st. earl and marquess of Powis. In 1693 she professed as a canoness of the English Augustinians at Bruges. She died January 19 1744, aged 75.

15 The Procurator of the English Carthusions dined here. XXVI

16 My Wife and I were at the Daimes at prayers, both in the Morning and afternoone. XXVII

17 I came from Dunquerk in the Barge to Burbruck with my Children where Joseph Thelwall had provided a Caraba for us in which we went to Gravling, they are Fivety five in all, I Lodged in Mrs Savorys Roome. XXVIII

18 Mr Bodnam Lodged here, so I left him my Roome in the Court & went to my old Roome. XXIX

19 Mally had the Habbit of the Poore Clairs on, I went with her to the Fryers and got her Enrowled for the priviladg of the Courd. Mr Johnsons Brother lodged here, his Namesake came with him. XXX

20 Pat: Gardian came hither and put the Courd about Mally. I stated Accounts with my Aunt Luisa & paid her all as I ought to the Convent. Octob: I

21 I left Fanny at Gravling & came with Mally to Dunquerk where we Lodg'd at the Poore Clayers, Mally & I Walked from the Flud Gates at the New Canall of Mardike to Dunquerk. Octob: II

22 This being Mallys Birthday she treated us with Coffy. III

23 My Wife and I went to the Daims to High-Mass, thence we went to the Fryers. Mr G: Lacy & his Wife dined here. Mr Marsh suped here, he lodged in Town. IV

24 I went into the Poor Clayers Garden and gave Edward directions how to rais Mulberry Trees, I looked all about in the Monastery. V

25 Mally Atkins my Sister Midletons late Maide, made my Wife a Viset. VI

26 Mr Hind dined with Mr Wolescot, &c:. Mr Herringden went on Bord in order to goe for England. VII

27 Mr Herringden came again being driven back by Storme. Pat: Berbeck made a Viset here. VIII

28 Pat: Burgbeck dined here. Mr Rumsy, &c: made a Viset here. Sister Farmer & her Sister Henrietta made a Viset here. I went to wate of Sir John Webb who came to Town today. IX

29 My Wife & I dined with Sir John Webb and his Lady, &c: at their Lodging. Pat: Mannock came hither, he is just come from London. X

30 My Lady Abercuminy introduced my Lady Webb, my Wife and Mally into the Convent of the Poor Clairs. My Wife and I waited of my Lady Webb to the Daimes. XI

This was a very wet Month there not being above four days without some Raine and three or four of them very wet.

OCTOBER

1 I went with my Wife to the Chas Royall and tooke leave of Sir John Webb and his Lady who were going towards Calliss. I made a Viset to Mrs Johnson. Mr Herringden went on Bord for England againe. Mr Rumsy came hither from St Omers and paid me some Money. XII

2 I Received some Money of Mrs West for Mother Abbess of Graivling & gave it to Joseph. Betty Lathom[114] Beged at the Gate, we gave her some Bread. XIII

3 My Wife and I went by the Callis Coach to Gravling where we Lodged at our old Lodging. XIIII

4 We were at the Prosession of the two Sister Peters & Widdow Anderton, we dined there with Pat: Mannock, Mr Cumpton, &c:. XV

5 My Wife and I came by Callis Coach from Gravling to Dunquerk. XVI

6 Mr William Poole Junior was here. I helped him to Hier a Shais against tomorrow to carry him to Newport for seaven Livers.[115] XVII

7 This being the Dedication of the poor Clairs Church Betty Lathom was profesed by the Name of Elizabeth Mary Joseph. XVIII

8 Mally and I were at the Buriall of a Woman and a Child in the Church-yord, thence Mr Lacy went with us to our Ladys Chappell of Fountains. XIX

9 I went with my Wife & Mally to the Churches of the Minnoms,[116] Carmes and Jesuits. I went with Mally into the Monnastery of the Black Sisters. XX

10 I went by Coach from Dunquerk with Mally & Electia to Newport where we lodged at the Crown a good Hous but most extraordinary dear. XXI

11 We three went to the Carthusions & then came by Bote to Brudges where Mally and I Lodged at my old Lodging. XXII

12 I went with Mally & Electia to see the Holy Blood[117] and the Jesuits Church, then we went by the Barge to Guant, Mally went into the Convent, I lodged at my old Lodgings and took a Lodging for Elesia and got a place for her in the Brussells Coach. XXIII

13 I shewed Mr Kelly a Watch as I was desired to exchange with him. I made a Viset to Mr Fodergall and to my two Cozen Langdals. XXIIII

14 I went in the Morning with Mally to the Great Church and to five others. My Lord Arondale, his Son Thomas, Pat: Ploydon the Provinsiall, Pat: Norris the Rector, &c: dined with us. XXV

15 I payed all I ought to this Convent. Pat: Daniell & I saw in the Town-hous a most extraordinary fine Picture valued at £1000 Sterling, I do believe there were in it at least two Thousand Faises and severall of them drawn to the Lickness, I take it to be the Representation of Charles the Fifth, Emperor making his Entrance into Guant after their Rebellion.[118] Pat: Daniell, Mr Peters and I played lè Poole at Back-Gammon after Dinner and Supper. XXVI

16 I left Mally Pentioner at Guant and came by the Barge with Pat: Cunstable & Pat: Moston to Brudges where I lodged at Mr Egars. XXVII

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[114] Niece of Dr. Richard Lathom, surgeon, of Aintree, Lancashire.

[115] Livres.

[116] The Minims—the Minim Hermits of St. Francis of Paola.

[117] The reliquary in the Chapel of the Holy Blood.

[118] Nicholas makes no comment on the magnificence of the Town Hall, but was attracted by the picture. When visiting this building I eventually found the painting, which was, as Nicholas describes, a painting of Emperor Charles V entering Ghent. If he had visited Ghent almost exactly a year later, Nicholas would have been delighted with the illuminations and fireworks at the Town Hall on the occasion of 'the solemn inauguration of the Emperor Charles VI as the Count of Flanders'.

17 I came from Brudges by the Barge with Mr Crow alias Ingleby to New port where we lodged at the Arms of France. XXVIII

18 Mr. Crow and I came in the Caraba from Newport to Dunquerk, I went with him to Mr Wests and there left him, and came home to the Poor Clairs but was very Aguish. XXIX

19 The Picture as Mother Viccaris drew of the Blessed Virgin Mary was hung up in their Church. XXX

20 I writ a Letter to Mr Ch: Lathom at Hamburgh & Mrs Rachell Smith. XXXI

21 I had some Simtoms of an Ague, it was my second Fit. Novemb: I

22 Doctor Strickland lodged here. I sent some things to my Lady Smith as I brought her from Guant. II

23 My Wife & I were at the Great Church at the Christoning of two Children. III

24 Doctor Strickland went hence. My Wife bought some Silk to line a Tabby Night Gown. IV

25 I was to have payed off Mary Woodcock but I wanted Money, she should have left our Service. V

26 I gave some Money to the Fryers to pray for my Father. Mr Johnson treated Mr Michall Johnson & me at his Hous with good Pontack. VI

27 I went to Gravling & Rid most of the Way in Josephs Caraba. VII

28 Sister Diddacus came a Beging to us for the Lay-Sisters. VIII

29 I came from Gravling to Dunquerk in the Caraba. IX

30 Mr Lacy dined with us, and his Wife went into the Monastery. X

31 I went to see the Jesuits Church in its Splendor for their new Beatifyed Pater Johannes Franciscus Regis. XI

It Rained often this Month, though not oft very much, but there were more days as it rained than were quite Fair.

NOVEMBER

1 I Being very ill of my Eyes Mr Lacy came to smoke a Pipe with me, his Kinsman the good Fryer was here. XII

2 Being the Daims solemnized the Feast of all the Saints of their Order my Wife went thither both in the Morning & Evening. XIII

3 We began to have a Fyer in our Roome. The Barber came to shav me. XIV

4 Pat: John Chorley the Pryor of Doway made me a Viset. XV

5 I got not up till Noone and slept a great deal in the after-noone. XVI

6 I began to dress my Eyes with Dr Cawoods Oyntment. XVII

7 Mr Ferdinand the Chirurgion applyed a Plaister above my worst Eye. I got not up till Night. XVIII

8 Mr Ferdinand let me blood. The Apothecary gave me a Glister. XIX

9 I took a Purge. Pat: Linsh came to see me so did my Dr Mr Meays and my Chirurgeon, and Mr Hugh Wadsworth. XX

10 I was very ill all day. Hugh Wadsworth came again to see me. XXI

11 I got up to Prayers, but when it was over I went very ill to Bed and lay till Evening. XXII

12 I took a second Purg but was much out of Order all day. XXIII

13 Mary Woodcock was at the Marriage of Mr Frogmorton. XXIV

14 Mr Johnson, Mr Lacy & his Wife came to see me. XXV

15 Mr Scarisbrick came from Watton to see me, he lodged here. I took a second Glister. XXVI

16 Mr Thomas Fazakerley was here and took leave of me being he hoped to goe soone for England, but he was forced to stay a long time after. XXVII

17 Pat: Linsh came to see me. XXVIII

18 Pat: Francis preached here, but I heard him not, being I lay in Bed pritty long. I payed off my Chirurgeon. XXIX

19 Mr Scarisbrick went hence by way of Birgs.[119] I was pritty well & dined and Suped in the Parlor, and played at Cards after Supper. XXX

20 I mised my Fit but was somthing indisposed after diner and went to Bed sooner than ordinary. Decemb: I

21 I saw a Souldior Run the Gantlet and an other Ride the Wooden Hors. Mr Thomas Fazakerley began to bord here. II

22 Mr Marsh came from Gravling, he lodged at the next Hous. III

23 Mr Marsh went towards Gravling but being one of the Commees[120] took some old Money from him, he returned back to Dunquerk. IV

24 Mr Marsh went hence. I payed off my Apothecary. Iph: was here from Gravling. V

25 We gave some Bread at the Gate to Sister Bets. VI

26 My Wife and Mr Hind walked out to meet Fanny in the Caraba from Gravling, but she came not as we expected. VII

27 I was at Sister Bets Prosestion here. Being pritty well I left off my Night-Gown & was dressed as usually. I went with my Wife to the Daimes to Salu. we made a Viset to my Lady Smith. VIII

28 My Wife went to pray by the Corps of Mrs Mahuson who dyed sodenly the other day. IX

29 Pat: Francis and Mr Hind went to Lodg at the Carthuseans at Newport. My Wife and I were at the Buriall of Mrs Mahuson. My Wife and I went with Mr Lacy to his Hous I smoked a pipe with him, 'tis the first time I was there. X

30 Mrs Lacy went with my Wife to Mrs Wests and looked at some Callicows and Holland. XI

This has ben a very Stormy Windy Month though not very much Raine.

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[119] Bergues.

[120] Commis. The clerks of the services of customs and excise were called *commis aux douanes, aux portes, etc.* There would be many of these in the region of Dunkirk, and some of the less scrupulous ones might very well take money illegally from travellers, or it may have been money which was no longer legal currency.

DECEMBER

1 I went to Wests and payed for some Holland and bought a new Peece, thence I went to the old Key. XII

2 I went with my Wife to the Jesuits and Heard High-Mass. Mr Thomas Fazakerley and I saw the Calf with two Legs growing on its Shoulder and three Claws on one Foot. XIII

3 I Returned the Peece of Holland to Mrs West as I bought of her the other day. I walked to our Ladys of Fountains with Mr Thomas Fazakerley. Pat: Francis and Mr Hind came back from Newport. XIV

4 I went out with my Wife to look at some Callicows & Holland. I went with the three Misses to Look at the strange Calf but it was gon. XV

5 My Wife and Mrs Hodgson went in the Caraba to Gravling. XVI

6 Mr Best wast here, we had a Bottle of Wine, I suppose Mr Hind gave it upon Mr Bests account. XVII

7 I writ to my Aunt Ailes and intend to give it tomorrow to Joseph who they say is to come to Town. XVIII

8 I saw them leading Snow out of the Streets in Carts. I was at Salu at the Whit Nunns. XIX

9 I went to the Daimes to Mass with Pat: Fetipl: XX

10 I was at Mass in the Park. My Wife and Miss Hodgson came back from Gravling. XXI

11 Pat: Linsh was here both before Dinner and after. XXII

12 I bought a Carding Cloath and sent to Gravling by Joseph. XXIII

13 My Wife and I were at the Buriall of one of the Brown Nunns Called the Pennitents. Mr West paid me 300 Livers by Order of Madam Bagnall.[121] XXIV

14 My Wife and I were at the Daims betimes in the Morning and heard one High Mass and two others. XXV

15 Mr Umphrey Griffen & Mr Thomas Fazakerley went on bord Mr Harveys Ship in order to goe to England. XXVI

16 Mr Lacy and his Wife dined here. Mr Goff made a Viset here. XXVII

17 This being Holy-Innosents day I saw severall young Girles dressed in Nunns Habit. My Wife and I were at Mass at the Jesuits & the Minims. XXVIII

18 Mrs Johnson made my Wife a Viset. I played at Whist with Mr Johnson, Pat: Tolbot, &c:. XXIX

19 I came in Joseph Caraba to Gravling where I lodg'd in the Extraordinarys Roome. XXX

20 Pat: Berbeck went in to the Sick Nuns and stayed till Evening. XXXI

21 This being New-years day some of the Paters of the Great Church came to wish a good New year. Janu: I

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[121] It would appear that Nicholas was having difficulty in getting money from home or from his lawyers and friends in London. Madame Bagnall must have attended to the finances of the Poor Clare nuns for many years. Nicholas's grandfather and father as well as Nicholas himself had sent money to her for the Poor Clares at Dunkirk and Gravelines.

22 I shaved Fannys Head. I played at Cards with Pat: Berbeck, &c: Janu: II

23 Mr Cumpton & Mr Hobson came hither, they had ben at St Omers. III

24 I went from Gravling in the Caraba to Dunquerk. IV

25 I went with Mr Hind to taist some Wine for the Poor Clayers, he bought one Kask. I bought some Silver Buttons for Mr Hind and gave them him for a New-years Guift. I began to make a Balsom for Betty Lathom who had scalded herself. V

26 I went to the Jesuits and spoke to Pat: Hammerton. VI

27 My Wife being much out of Order she lay in Bed till towards Noone. VII

28 I stated Accounts with Sister Amanda & paid all off till begining of January, New Stile. I took my Doce for the Ague. Mr Hobson was here, we played at Cards. VIII

29 Mr Lacy made me a Viset, so did Mr Gregson & Mr Hugh Wadsworth. IX

30 Pat: Hide & Pat: Wofold made me a Viset, I went with them to the Daims thence I went to Salu to the Great Church where I saw in the Prosestion the Silver Canopy and six Silver Lanthorns. X

31 Pat: Wofold made us a Viset. Pat: Francis took Phisick, we went up to his Chamber & played at Cards. XI

Some Snow this Month and some little Raine and some times a Frost, but al. very moderate for the Season, though pritty cold with high Winds.

This year has ben remarkable for High Winds both in the Summer and Winter The Summer was extreamly dry; the Winter hitherto mild enough; In France the Vintage was good, in England the Harvest not bad.

Anno Domini 1717

JANUARY

1 My Wife and Mr Hind went with me to Watton Bote in which I went from Dunquerk to Watton with Pat: Wofold where I lodged. XII

2 I dined in Mr Le Toses Appartment with him & Mr Scarisbrick and was with Mr Scarisbrick most of the day. XIII

3 I dined in the Strangers Hall with Pat: Wofold and after dinner walked down to Watton Town where I took Boat; after some time Pat: Hide came on bord, with whom I went to the Collage of St Omers where I Lodged. XIV

4 I went with Mrs Perkings to the Painters to look at some Roomes for my Wife and me to have kept Hous in, but I did not bargan. I discoursed Pat: Sebrand seriously in his Chamber. I saw the Shrine of St Ursula & other things belonging to the Sodality. I was in most of the Sellers at the Collage, and went to look at the Mill, the Cogg-wheel is about seaven yards or more in Diamiture, the Mill-stones I think a little above four Foot. One Hors will grind six hours per day and do some other little work besids, he will grind near 3 Busshells of Wheat in an Hour. In Bruing they Burn 300 Larg Fagots before the Water is rightly set on Boyling; They Boyl their Beer 14 Hours, and at Gravling, their Beer is boyled Twenty two Hours. XV

5 I went from St Omers by the Barge to Burbrook where I lodged at the Ballance, there was an Irish Clergy Priest in the Barge with us. XVI

6 From Burbrook I came by the Barge to Dunquerk. XVII

7 Mr Lacy and his Wife went with my Wife and me to see out for some Roome to keep Hous in, we saw severall but pitched upon none. XVIII

8 Mr Hind went with my Wife and me to look at a Hous for us to live in, but we did not bargan for any, then we three took a long Walk. XIX

9 My Wife took a long walk by herself. I told the two Sisters I would not take their two Rooms yet. XX

10 Pat: Francis was Bludied. I went into the Clairs Garden & helped to Prune and Nail some of their Vines. XXI

11 I trimed a good part of the Largest Vine in the Clairs Garden. I shewed most of them severall Tricks of Leger de Main. Mr Turk a Chirurgeon came to look at my Wivs Brest & Order'd her some thing. XXII

12 Molly —— went with my Wife and me to look at some Rooms for us. My Wife by Mr Turks Orders took something at Night to make her sweat but it had not that effect. XXIII

13 My Wife by Orders of Mr Turk Lay'd a Plaster to her Brest. I sent a Larg Trunk of Cloths by Joseph to Gravling to be ready there for us against we came. XXIIII

14 I trimed a Vine in the Clairs Garden and some Trees as are to be set to the Wall. I took a peece of Money out of a Cloath as was tyed fast and shew'd them some other tricks. XXV

15 I Helped to plant two Trees to the Wall in the Clairs Garden and to plant those we took from thence in other places. This being Mother Abbes Election day 20 years since I shewed them some tricks of Leger de Main & tought them some of my best. They began to set up the Wainscot in the Clairs Church. XXVI

16 Pat: Francis & I walked to the Intendants Garden and the New Canall. I made my Observation how Birgs River[1] & others ran towards the old Harbour & how near they came to the old Bason and other Observations about those Waters. XXVII

17 I trimed the Clairs Vines as long as I could well see to Work. Mr Lacy, I, and our Wives went up to the top of the Dunquerk Steeple. XXVIII

18 I made some Mous traps for the Clairs Garden. Pat: Baker was here in his way towards Brussels. XXIX

19 I shewed Sister Clare John how to set the two sort of Mous Traps. I began to Trim an Apricock Tree in the Clairs Garden as was grown out of Shape. XXX

20 I heard Mass at the Carmes. I was at Salu with my Wife at the Conseptionesses or Whit Nuns, and at the Daimes. XXXI

21 I went to our Ladys of Fountains thinking to find my Wife there. I paid off all for our Diet, &c: till tomorrow Inclusive. Lord Rivers came hither, he Suped here. February I

22 I went with my Lord Rivers[2] to Salu to the Daimes, I made a Viset there. Edward the Poore Clairs Gardiner came home from London. Feb. II

23 Pat: Talbot came with my Wife and me in the Caraba to Gravling. III

24 Pat: Sebrand, Pat: Heys & Mrs Watenton suped here. the 3 Brids in Fiery had their last Bits put into their Mouths. IV

25 Mr Johnson Suped here, he walked from Dunquerk, his Sister Mary Joseph dyed. V

26 Mrs Mary Lettonby, Mary Peters & Rebecca Pigot were Clothed. I Led Mrs Peters, Pat: Talbot, Pat: Heys and Mr Johnson went hence. VI

27 Sister Mary Jesus was buried, I went in as Clark. Mr William Poole and Pat: Sebrand went hence. VII

28 I was at the Fryers at High-Mass and in the after Noone at Benediction. VIII

29 I made some Snairs for katching Rats. I played at Cards after Dinner a Great while. IX

30 This being Ash-Wednesday I had Ashes at the Great Church, 3 Paters gave at once at one Alter. Pater Conniers came hither before dinner. I packed up some goods as Mother Abbes lent me towards keeping Hous at Dunquerk. X

31 John helped me to set some Snear Traps for Rats in one Garret. XI

The Weather this Month was very seasonable, rather warm than otherways for the time of the year, there was now and then 2 or 3 days Frost.

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[1] This must have been the canal de Berges, which ends in the old dock. There may have been a River Bergues but rivers were canalised very early in this region, which may account for Nicholas's mistake.

[2] John Savage, 5th. and last earl Rivers, was a priest. He succeeded his cousin, Richard, the 4th earl. in 1712.

FEBRUARY

1 I walked with my Wife and Fanny into France. I made a Viset to Pat: Vancaster and Smoked a Pipe with him. I was at Salu at the Great Church, it being now the Solemnity of the Perpetuall Adoration, there were abundance of Candles light, I counted them to be almost 700, the Church was intirely set round with light Candles. XII

2 I went into the Convent & trimed some Wall Trees, &c: I shaved Fannys Head. XIII

3 Mary Woodcock walked into France with Mr Sulman, &c:. My Wife and I were at the lower Grate a good part of the after Noone with my Aunt Luisa and others. XIV

4 My Wife and I came in the Caraba with Mr Cumpton and Pat: Berbeck from Graveling to Dunquerk where we took Possestion of our own Apartment at Andrew Vanderbusk's and began to keep hous there. XV

5 Mrs Lacy went with my Wife & me to buy some Table Linnen, &c:. XVI

6 Mr Hind helped me to buy some Wine. Pat: Francis and Mr Hind made us a Viset. XVII

7 Mr Lacy and I walked out and went into a Wind-Mill, there were 25 Steps up into it, the Coggs were of Ash, the Weather end & top was covered with small Peeces of Oak Bords about three Inshes broad & twice as long & Nailed on in imitation of Slaits. XVIII

8 I Bought some Brandy at the Cantone. Mr Lacy, I, & our Wives went to the Intendants Garden & walked in it. XIX

9 Mr Hind brought me some News Papers to Read. XX

10 Pat: Tolbot and Mr Hind made us a Viset. XXI

11 I went to keep Mr Hind company & played at Tables with him. Mr Lacy went with me to the Brewers to bespeak some Drink for me and shewed me the Method of geting it. XXII

12 Mr Johnson made me a Viset. The Brewers brought me half a Tunn of Beer. XXIII

13 Mrs Hodgson made my Wife a Viset. I played at Tables with Mr Hind. XXIV

14 I saw two Swish[3] Souldiors hanged for Deserting. I walked out to the Sea Side with Pat: Francis & Mr Hind; My Wife, Mr Lacy & his Wife followed us. XXV

15 Being out of Order with a Violent Cold I stired not much out of Doars, Mr Lacy kept me Company most part of the After-noone. XXVI

16 Mr Hind and I went to the Daimes, I played there at Tables with him & Pat: Talbot. XXVII

17 I was at High-Mass at the Great Church and at Salu at the Daimes. My Wife made a Viset to the Clairs. XXVIII

18 Mr Lacy, I and our Wives walked to the Key and saw them unloading Wine. I went home with Mr Lacy and smoked a Pipe with him. March I

[3] Swiss.

19 Pat: made a Viset to us. I spoke to Mother Vicaris about my Marbling the Cornish of the Wainscoting in their new Church. Mr Barret was there. Mar: II

20 Mr Barret made us a Viset, so did Mr Hind and Mr Johnson. I sowed above a dozen sorts of Flower Seeds in Pat: Frances Garden. III

21 I walked out of Town and saw some Dragoons playing at Cudgells upon the Plaine. I made Pat: Tolbot a Viset. IV

22 I was at Mr Johnsons and got a Rosor of Coles[4] from thence. I went after dinner to Mr Johnsons, whilst I was there Captain Magay came, he treated us with good Pontack, I learned there the exact Demention of the new Canall at Mardick viz: that the Bottom is 100 Foot & each side flyes out 20 Foot which is in all 140 Foot French Measure or 151 Foot 8 Insh English measure, each Frensh Foot being one Insh longer then ours & yet only consists of 12 Insh, so that the Canall is wide at the Top 50 Yards–01 Foot–08 Inshes English Measure; The Great Sluce is wide 47 Foot-08 Inshes, The Little Sluce 23 Foot–10 Inshes & the Island between them 36 Foot–10 Inshes England Measure. The Bend in the Canall makes an Obtuce Angle. V

23 Mr Johnson helped me to buy a New Sute of Cloths. VI

24 Pat: Francis made us a Viset. I took Mr Hinds Watch upon a Tryall in order to buy it if it went well. VII

25 My Lady Smithson made us a Viset, so did Mr Hobson & Mr Hind. I took a Watch from Mr Sutton upon tryall in order to exchange with him if it went well. VIII

26 Pat: Rector of St Omers & Pat: Rector of Watton made us a Viset. IX

27 Mr Lacy & I began to Paint the Clairs Church and with some help we finished it the first time over. X

28 I writ Letters a good Part of the after noone. I made a Viset to my Lady Gerard at the Chase Royall. XI

This has ben a very mild Month for the Season, there were endeed some few days as it was pritty Cold. very little Rain this Month.

MARCH

1 My Wife and I made a Viset to my Lady Gerard at the Chase Royall, she went thence towards Callis. This being St Gregorys day abundance of the Children of this Town met in the Great Church & heard High-Mass, severall of them were dressed fine and were called Kings and Queens. XII

2 I got a Silver Cheane for my Watch of Mr Sutton. Mr Lacy and I, &c: began to paint the Clayers Church with the second Colour. XIII

3 The Taylor brought me a New Sute of Cloths. I went with my Wife to Salu to the Daimes, thence we went to the Great Church. XIV

4 We four painted the most part of the Clairs Church with the second Colour, part of it not being done thick enough before, we mended it today. I got my Collation at the Clairs. XV

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[4] Rosor—razor or raser; a dry measure equal to about 4 bushels.

5 Mr Lacy, his Wife & I made an end of Painting the Clairs Church the Second time over, as much as is now to be done. XVI

6 Mr Lacy, his Wife and I were at an Action at the Walloon Jesuits. XVII

7 Mr Lacy, I and our Wives walked out along the side of the Furnes River awhile & then went to look at some pritty Gardens where I observed some Hedges made very neatly with Reeds, others with Bean Stalks, the Sids of the Beds were made up prittily with Claping upon it Spadefulls of Earth. XVIII

8 This Being Mother Vicaris Feast day Mr Lacy, I & our Wives dined at the Poore Clairs. XIX

9 I did somthing in order to inlarg our Bed. I did somthing at my Cross in order to put a Glass into it. I got a Razor of Coles from Saladens. XX

10 I went with my Wife to Salu to the Daimes & the Great Church, thence we went to the Clairs, whence I went home with Mr Lacy & eat a Bit with his Wife. My Wife was shut out of her Lodging. XXI

11 I sent a Present of Oysters to Gravling by Joseph. Being Mr Hind took Phisick I went to keep him company & played at Tables with him. XXII

12 Black Betty was here abeging Candles for the Sepulker. I sent a Present of Oysters to the Clairs of this Town. I fixed an Image of our Lady & some Relicks in the Bottom of my Crusifix. XXIII

13 Mr Sutton fixed me a Glass and a Brass Fraime over it, to my Larg Crusifix. Mr Lacy and I went to Tenebris to severall Churches in Town. XIV

14 I made my Easter. I went with my Wife to Viset the Sepulkers, we were a eleaven Churches which are all in Town. XXV

15 I visited severall Bair Alters and some Crusifixes. I walked out of Town to meet Fanny in the Caraba, she came from Gravling & Lodged with us. XXVI

16 Fanny & I were at the Great Church when they were performing the Seremoneys of the day. I walked with Fanny to our Ladys of Fountains. XXVII

17 My Wife & I went with Fanny to make a Viset to the Clairs, we were at the High Grate and saw the two Sister Lathoms, &c:. XXVIII

18 Pat: Francis and Mr Hind made us a Viset. My Wife & Fanny made a Viset to my Lady Smith. XXIX

19 The three little Pentioners from the Clairs came to our Lodging to play with Fanny. My Wife and I went to the Clairs & played at Cards with Pat: Francis and Mr Hind. XXX

20 Fanny went hence to Gravling in the Caraba, I went with her to the Base-vile. We four began to paint the Clairs Church with the third Sort of Paint, we stayed Supper there. XXXI

21 We four and Pat: Francis finished the Clairs Church with the third sort of Paint. Aprill I

22 Pat: Francis & Mr Hind made us a Viset, we played at Cards. Mr Hind paid me the Remainder of what he ought me for a London Bill. Apr: II

23 I Received a Letter from Mrs Ann Aldred & sent it to Gravling. III

24 Miss Margarit Blundell from the Daimes made us a Viset, my Wife went with her to the Clairs. IV

25 The Minnims kept today the Feast of St Francis of Powlay, and the Daims the Feast of St Benedict. I dined at the Daimes with Mrs Wood, Pat: Linsh, &c:. My Wife went into the Clairs Monastery with my Lady Abercummy. V

26 I was at the Jesuits at a Prosestion they had from their Sodality to their Church. Mr Lacy and his Wife suped with us. VI

27 I gave Joseph some Flower Seeds for Mr Marsh to sow in Gravling Garden. I advised with Chirurgeon Firdinand about making use of Aqua Fortis for the Tooth Ach. VII

28 This being a most bitter day of Rain I stured little out. I did some little Glewing work at my Pocket Books,[5] &c:. I got my Landlord to mend some Trunks for me as were broken. VIII

29 Mr Lacy, I and our Wives, Mr Hind, Pat: Francis and the three young Pentioners walked all out to the Sea side. IX

30 My Lady Smith made us a Viset, she found Mr Lacy & his Wife with us. X

31 I Stated Accounts with Mary Woodcock for Waiges due to her till our Lady day last. XI

This Month has rather ben wet and Cold than otherways, not that there was above two days that could properly be called bitter days of Rain, but there were above 20 days that there fell some Rain more or less, and in Lancashire it began to Snow extreamly upon the 14 & so continued till the 17th, the like has never ben seen in those parts in the Memory of Man and the Towns were forced to Rais Men to make the Rodes passable.[6]

APRILL

1 I Sowed severall Sorts of Flower Seeds in Antony Tevenet the Taylors Garden. I was at a Puppy Play[7] and some Tricks of Leger de Main at the Signe of St Barbera. XII

2 We four and Pat: Francis began after dinner to paint the Clairs Church with the fourth and last Colour. Joseph came from Gravling to acquaint me about removing Fanny to St Omers for Feere of the Small Pox at Gravling. I went to Bed ill of an Ague and Burned all Night. XIII

3 I took a Sweat in the Morning and lay in Bed till three of the Clock or after. Mr Lacy & his Wife and Pat: Francis finished Painting the Clairs Church except the 2 cross Beames in the Middle viz: they Finished the Bottom of the Doxell & the two Beams under it and about the Doar, we having finished yester day the Wainscot round the Church. XIV

4 Being out of Order I stired not out into the Street. Mr Lacy made me a Viset, so did Pat: Francis. XV

5 The Clairs made us a Present of a very good Chees Cake. I saw Mr Johnson at the Clairs & paid him for Coles. XVI

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[5] See Introduction, Volume 1, pp. 7–9.

[6] This observation was probably recorded after returning home.

[7] Puppet play.

6 I went to Mr Suttons and got him to set my Watch right. I bought some Bottles to put Reels in. XVII

7 I took three places in the Coach for our Doway Journey and then Walked with Mr Lacy to the Intendants Garden. XVIII

8 I was very busy packing up against tomorrow. I went with some of my Goods to the Poore Clairs & tooke leave of some of my Acquaintance. XIX

9 My Wife and I went by Coach from Dunquerk through Birgs thence to Risbrook[8] a long Street where we dined at the larg Golden Apple, thence to Popering[9] a pritty little Town, the Horses baited there awhile, that Country is famous for Hops, thence we went to Ipers[10] a good Town & well fortifyed, we lodged at the Golden Head; this days Journey was all Cawsey way and the Country open & Champeon.[11] XX

10 We saw the Great Church and the Jesuits Church which is extreamly Handsom and fine. The Town Hous very noble & extreamly long. We went to the Irish Daimes[12] My Lady Butlers, they are in all 13. We went from Ipers in a Wagan to Warneton where we stayed a while & then through Conway a pritty Village, to Lisley[13] where we Lodged at the Signe of Chevallier Rouge a good & Cheap Inn. Lisley is a most Butifull & fine Town, Large and well fortified. XXI

11 I saw the Great Church[14] which is tolleble Handsome, it has more Brass Bannisters round it between the Iles and the side Alters than I have seen in any Church, The Font and Cover is of Brass and very Handsom. The Dominicans have a pritty Church with broad Gallerys made like the Jesuits at Antwerpe, their Quier large and very pritty. The Fryers Church is the prittyest of theirs I have yet seen. The Jesuits Church[15] is very large for them & very pritty, it has in it 12 Confestion Places. I saw all these Churches and observed that in two of these Churches the Holly-water was in Troughs (of Lead as I think) round some of the Pillers which was very convenient and looked pritty. The Town-hous or Exchange is a very Butifull Building, but not very high, 'tis built round a Court like the Royall Exchang at London, but the Court is much smaller. The Market place is very long & a resanoble Bredth; in fine the Town of Lisle is a most butifull and fine Town, and clearly the best in Flanders. We went from Lisley in the Dilligance, going out of Town I counted (looking out of the Dilligance on one side) I think 36 Wind Mills at once and had I then ben out, I question not but I could have counted above dubble that Number. I was told there were 120 Wind-Mills or thereabouts belonging to that Town,[16] a great many of them were for

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[8] Rousbrugge.

[9] Poperinghe or Poperingue.

[10] Ypres.

[11] Champagne country, i.e. flat rich fields.

[12] These were the English Benedictines of Ypres, but after 1684 exclusively Irish. The House was still existing in 1914. (See Nolan, P. *The Irish Dames of Ypres.* (Dublin, 1908).

[13] Lille.

[14] This was probably the Collegiate Church of St. Peter which no longer exists. The site is now occupied by the Art School and Academy. Or it may have been the Church of St. Maurice.

[15] Practically all the buildings which Nicholas visited in Lille have disappeared. The Jesuit Church, however, still remains as the Church of St. Etienne, rue de l'Hôpital militaire. La Vieille Bourse and la place du Marché (Grand Place) also are still to be seen.

[16] Up to 1858, there were still 36 mills belonging to the community of Lille, but none of these exist now.

making Rape of Oyle. We past Fort Scarp and came to Daway[17] we Lodg'd at the Golden Head. I made a short Viset to the Clergy Collage and to the Munks. This days Journey & the last was Cawsay way, and the Country on each hand open and Champion and Fine Corn Land. XXII

12 From Doway we went in the Wagan to Cambray where we lodged at the Benictan Daims my Lady Swinbourns,[18] they are in all I think 34. The Rode extreamly bad & little or noe Cawsay way, the Country open & Champion and Corn Land. XXIII

13 My Wife and I made our first Viset to Lady Abbes at the Grate, we made a Viset to Mrs Langdale in her Lodgings and played at Cards with her & my Sister Midleton.[19] XXIV

14 I went to the Cathedrall our Ladys Church,[20] 'tis the best adorned with large and good Images I ever saw and a bundance of them; the great Pillars has most noble and very fine Images on each side of the Middle Ile, and severall of the side Alters has a great many small and pritty Images of Brass, &c:, there is one Chappell of our Lady in it, which is extreamly rich, the steps for the Candlesticks are faced with Beaton Silver, a great part of the Antependium is of beaton Silver and there are abundance of Silver Images and I think above thirty Silver Lamps; This Church doth look truly like a good old Cathedrall and has a great deale of Antiquity & Grandour in it, The Spyor[21] Steeple is hollow and very pritty and it's said to be built without Lime. XXV

15 This day being kept the Solemnity of St Mark the Evangelist I walked the Streets in Procestion with I think about Fourty in Surplises, of which above half were I think Priests and I believe all of them belonged to the Cathedrall. XXVI

16 My Sister Midleton went in the Morning with my Wife and me to the Jesuits Church which is very Larg for them and extreamly handsome, we went to St Sepulkers Church, it belongs to the Monks, 'tis the most Butifull Neat pritty Church I have seen considering there is but little Marble or painting in it, 'tis new built of most delicate fine whit Free Stone handsomly carved which looks neat and clean and it is very lightsome. After dinner we walked to the Splenade which is a plesant Green Hill upon which stands the Sitadell, we went into it, I take it and its out works to be above a Mile round, 'tis by much the strongest place I have ever ben in, the dry ditches round it are extreamly deep and the Walls very good, the out Works, &c: fine and convenient with Valts and Retreats from place to place, in fine I take it to be as strong as Art can make it with dry Ditches. XXVII

17 I Walked into the Town with my Nephew Jackey Midleton, we were in the Hospitall of St Julian & of St John, both of them are tended by Augustin Nunns and are both for Men & Women, we went into severall Churches. I observed Straw layed in the Streets which was to Carry a Corps on, it being the Custom when any Person of Note dyes to strow the Street with Straw from their

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[17] Douai.

[18] Swinburne, Margaret (or Mary), daughter of Sir John Swinburne of Capheaton, 1st. bart. Entered the English Benedictine convent at Cambrai in 1684; abbess 1701–5 and 1713 to her death in 1741. (CRS. Vol. 13/54–5.)

[19] Mrs. Middleton was Mrs. Blundell's sister. She formerly lived at Stockeld in Yorkshire, but on the death of her husband, came with her young son, Jackie, to Cambrai.

[20] Almost all the buildings which they saw in Cambrai still remain.

[21] Spire.

Hous to the Church. My Wife treated with Coffy in Mrs Langdales Roome. XXVIII

18 My Wife and I went into the Monastery, 'tis a good Hous especially the Infirmary which is by much the best I have seen in any Monastery. XXIX

19 I went with my Nephew Jackey Midleton into the Capusines Garden. I walked quit round the Town upon the Rampers. Sister Midleton, &c: was with me most of the time. XXX

20 This being May day the Drumers came a beging to the Monastery. The Companys of Shooters shot for their King, I saw him come into Town in Tryumph. May I

21 My Sister Midleton, my Wife & I, &c: went into the Town to make Visets but we were disapointed in two places. May II

22 Mrs Witherington and my Sister Midleton went with my Wife and me to make a Viset to Mr Blondel, thence we went to St Julians Hospitall, they are Augustine Nunns as attends it, the Priores shewed us the Hous which is most neat & pritty, thence we went to Primy Monastery,[22] they are also Augustine Nunns inclosed but not exclosed, so we saw part of the Monastery below Stayers, but not above, the Cloysters are large and fine. The Companys of Shooters shot today for their Provow, My Nephew Jack and I saw him come into Town in great Tryumph. III

23 My Sister Midleton, her Son John and her Doughter came with my Wife and me from Cambray to Doway where we lodged at the Golden Lyon, I went very ill to Bed of an Ague. IIII

24 My Wife, I, Sister Midleton & her Doughter dined at the Monks with Mr Southcot, &c:, thence we made a Viset to the Clergy Collage. V

25 I went to the Scotch Jesuits, thence Pat: Rector took a Schollor with him for a Companion & went with me to the French Jesuits which is a Noble Collage, their Recreation place is the largest I have seen, the Refectory & Library is also large & handsom, thence we went to the English Fryers, a good Hous & about 40 in Community, their Church is new built & the handsomest & neatest Fryers Church as I have seen; Pat: Gardian took me into his Room & shewed me severall Curiossitys which Sir Henry Fletcher had given them viz: his Prayer Book bound in a Solid thick plate of Gold, a Pair of Strong substantiall Gold Cruets for the Alter and a plate for them of Massy Gold, A Gold Crusifix with a Crown of Diamonds over it of I think 38 Stones and a Chain of Gold to hang it in. A Sute of Vestments with a Solid Plate of Silver on the back the Bredth of the Cross & about sixteen Inshes long; they shewed me a Living Tortoys which they said they have had seaventeen years and 'tis not above nine Inshes long. From the Fryers I went to dine at the Clergys Collage but having a Fit of an Ague I went back to my Lodging & had a most violent Fit, My Sister Midleton, my Wife, &c: dined there. VI

26 We all dined at the English Monks and then went to St Albans Church, both the Holly Water Pot and the Font are of Brass, thence we went to Abby de Prez a Monastery of Benedictain Nunns, they have 48 Pentioners and soon expect to have more, but onely two of them are English, I was permited to goe into the Abbises Appartment which is very Noble, I was in their Gardens and Orcherds which are extreamly large and I think eight times as big as most I have

[22] Primy Monastery does not appear to be an English house.

yet seen; their Wall-Trees are carried up with one thick Boyl[23] fully two yards high before a Bough is permitted to spred. We were in some New Appartments as are fiting up in the Parleament Hous which will be very Noble, but we could not see the Roome where the Parleament Men sit. VII

27 I was at St James Church, the Font is larg & of Fine Marble, the Cover of it is of the same and so heavy 'tis not possible to lift it of with out an Engin, I think 'tis near four Foot in Diamiture & considerably above one foot thick in the middle, so there is an Engin with Wheels to rais it up with, the lick Invention I have not seen. I was ill of an Ague Fit & took Mr Bryers his Remedy. VIII

28 My Wife and I came by the Diligance from Doway to Lile where we lodged at the Signe of Shevalire Rooge. IX

29 We went by a Dilligance of Return from Lisle to Ipers where we lodged at the Golden Head. X

30 From Ipers we came to Risbrook where we dined not at the Coach Inn, but at a much better, thence we came by Coach to Dunquerk & so to our old Lodgings. In this our Journey I observed more then once four Horses drawing in a Brest at one Wooden Harrow, and severall times I saw three Horses in a Brest. XI

Till the 11th almost every day Raine more or less, then till the end of this Month generally very fair & fine weather.

MAY

1 I fetched my things home from the Poore Clairs. I took out a Billet and spoke for a Kask of Beer. XII

2 They brought me a Kask of Beer. I was very busy writing most of the day. I saw the Swish Souldiors drawn up in the Market Place for a Revew, there were above 600 in all of them. XIII

3 Joseph Thelwall was here from Gravling and brought some Letters to cleer Fanny from some Storys as Pegg had told of her. XIV

4 I walked to the Intendants Garden. My Wife took a Vomit. I played at whist at Mr Johnsons with him, Mr Hind, &c:. XV

5 My Wife and I were at the higher Grate, she went to the Great Church and took my two Little Cozens the Miss Langdalls along with her. XVI

6 Whilst my Wife & I were at the Clairs Mr Johnson and his Lady came thither, she went with my Wife to our Lodging. I played at Tables with Mr Johnson & Mr Solcold and then they came with me to our Lodging. XVII

7 I saw the Troopers drawn up in the Market place to be Revewed, and after them the Dragoons. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Johnson and to the Daimes, Lady Abbes came to her. I was at Benediction at the Fryers and went with our Lord in Procestion round the Cloystures. XVIII

8 I went into the Clairs & gave directions to Edward to make a Cowfer Trap to Catch Weesels, but he could not finish it. I layed some Bait in the Garret to intice the Rats against I set some Snair Traps. I saw Sister Margarit Claire Worthington. XIX

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[23] Bole or trunk.

9 My Wife and I dined at the Clairs. she went into the Monastery by the Means of my Lady Abercummy, she got her Ears boared. I went into the Monastery & helped to make some Rat Traps. I gave 60 Livers to Mr Hind to send to Doway, I had formerly borrowed that Sum there. XX

10 Pat: Francis walked with my Wife and me to a Hous of the Intendants as was formerly a Fort, it Stands upon the side of Birgs River, we went into the Garden. XXI

11 I went into the Clairs Monastery[24] and Dined with them in the Refectory, after dinner I helped Edward to finnish the Weesley Trap and to fix 9 Rat Traps in the Garrets; after I came home I was very much troubled with shortness of Breath and was bludied by Ferdinand the Chirurgeon. XXII

12 Pat: Francis & Mr Hind made us a Viset after dinner so did Brother Clarkson. Mr Hunter, my Wife and I went together from the Great Church to the Poore Clairs. XXIII

13 I was very Busy puting Reels into Bottles, I got one in & fixed it Compleatly. XXIV

14 The Taylor took measure of me to make me a Blew Waiscot and Breeches of Camblet. XXV

15 Miss Scroop from the Daimes went from Dunquerk by the Barge with my Wife & me to Burbrook where we dined at the Ballance, thence to Kindall where we met Brother Clarkson & so to St Omers, we went to the English Collage and Lodged at the Town Hous. XXVI

16 We saw the Great Prosestion. We dined at the English Collage & then went with Miss Scroop to the Garden of our Lady to setle her there. We left our Lodging & came to Lodge at the Port de Ore. XXVII

17 Mrs Perkings went from St Omers with my Wife & me in a Pleasure Bote to Watton, we went up the Hill & Suped there with Mr Scarisbrick, we Lodged in Watton at the Kings Head. XXVIII

18 Mrs Perkings went with my Wife & me in a Bote, as was Hired on purpose, to Gravling, where my Wife & I Lodg'd in our old Lodgings. XXIX

19 Mr Lacy & his Wife came to Gravling. The Poppits[25] played in the Extraordinarys Roome. XXX

20 My Wife and I came in Josephs Caraba from Gravling to our own Lodging in Dunquerk, we began to pack up for our Journey to Gaunt. Mrs Johnson made my Wife a Viset. I went to Mr Demays and told him the news from Hamburgh. XXXI

21 I sent some of our Cloths & Household Goods to Gravling by Joseph.[26] Pat: Francis & Mr Hind walked with me to Mr Alarts Garden & Mr Taverns, the latter has pritty Rowes of Box in the Bair Paths or Figures between the small Grass-plat Figures. June I

22 I helped Edward to dress the Arbor in the Clairs Garden by their Loretto. My Wife and I supped at the Clairs and played at Cards after Supper with Pat: & Mr Hind. We had intended to have began our Journey towards Guant but my Wife being very ill we defered it. June II

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[24] Poor Clares convent. Using 'monastery' exclusively for monks and 'convent' exclusively for nuns is a modern practice.

[25] Puppets.

[26] Once again, before going on a journey of several weeks, he sends some of his possessions to be stored at the Poor Clares at Gravelines.

23 My Wife and I left our Lodgings at Dunquerk and went in a Diligance from thence to Newport, we made a Viset to the Carthusions and then came by Bote to Brudges where we Lodged at the Golden Lyon. III

24 We went by the Barge from Brudges to Guant[27] where I took a Coach & we came to our old Lodgings. IIII

25 Pat: Daniell went with me to look at a pritty little Garden. I told Pat: Norris I had orders to receive some Legases from him. V

26 I took places in the Coach for Brussells, I played at Billiards with Mr Peters, &c:. VI

27 My Wife and I went from Guant in a Coach and three Horses to Allost where we dined at the Whit Swan. The Tillage on each side was chiefly Rye & cole Seed; thence we came to Brussells where we lodged at the Queen of Swaids.[28] VII

28 From Brussells we went at four in the Morning in the Diligance to Lovain where we changed horses, thence to Tirlemount where we changed our good Diligance for one with two Wheels, then to St Trone[29] where I dined[30] and got my Trunk mended and so to Leedge[31] where we Lodged at the Whit Sheep.[32] VIII

29 I went with my Wife to St Lamberts Church.[33] I advised with the Doctor about going to the Spaws for a Son.[34] My Wife and I went to Mrs Dolmans the Reverent Mother of the Sepulcrians they are in all 31.[35] I saw the Famous Miroir or Steel Burning Glass which I saw melt Iron and Stone, &c: in a Minnets time as I think, and set Timber on Fier in a Moment, it altered the shape of your Face severall ways according as it was placed when you looked at

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[27] The barge carrying passengers between Bruges and Ghent was very elaborate and gay. An awning sheltered the passengers. It was large enough to take on the coach or carriage of the passengers if they so wished. The journey took 8½ hours.

[28] Queen of Sweden's Inn (La Reine de Suède) in the rue de l'Evêque. In 1845 it was called Hôtel de Suède.

[29] St. Trond.

[30] Nicholas has underlined the *I*.

[31] Liège.

[32] Hôtel du Mouton Blanc, at the corner of 'la rue du Mouton blanc' and 'la rue du Pont d'Avroy', was demolished about 1930.

[33] St. Lambert's Cathedral built *c.* 1200, stood at the south-east corner of Place St. Lambert in front of the palace of the prince-bishops. It was demolished in 1794 during an uprising of the people of Liège.

[34] The supreme reason for this prolonged journey. The mineral water baths at Chaudfontaine are claimed to be effective in the treatment of rheumatism, and disorders of the kidneys, bladder, liver and skin. Those at Spa, which the Blundells visited after Chaudfontaine, are particularly efficacious in the treatment of rheumatism and *gynecological* ailments. But at Spa they only drank the waters! The water at Chaudfontaine from the Source Thermale is quite warm, 97 degrees Fahrenheit, and has a sharp pleasant taste. It contains carbonates of calcium, sodium, and magnesium, and is slightly radioactive. All the records of the Thermal Establishment at Chaudfontaine were lost during the German occupation in the Second World War. So these entries of Nicholas Blundell were of interest and value to the authorities at the Establishment.

[35] The convent, which no longer exists, was situated on the site of the Institut Montéfiore, rue St. Gilles, in the old quarter of Liège. The English Sepulchrines—English canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre at Liège—were also known as the English Jesuitesses, having adopted the rules of St. Ignatius. Dolman, Marina, of Pocklington was the second prioress. She abdicated in 1720 and died in 1722.

it.[36] I Receiv'd some Money from Pat: Parker upon account of a Bill from Madam Knatchbull of Guant. IX

30 I saw St Pauls Church which is larg, very light & Clean,[37] also St Martines which is little & Dark[38] and the Dominicans which is in the Forme of a Cupula and in my opinion a Conceipted sort of a Building.[39] From Leedge we went by Bote to Chaude Fontaine or the hort Bath where we Lodged at the Chief hous Mr Canools, I observed there the long moving Joynted Engin for Pumping Water, the Bote we came in was extreamly long & flat Bottomed, it was drawn by a Hors as waided in the River a good part of the way, it had no Rudder but the Man guided it with a bord about half a yard squair fixed at the end of a Powl, which also served for an Ore but it was uesed much after a different manner. I dined at the Ordinary. X

31 My Wife & I began to Baith, each of us went in twice. I saw a pritty Tent Summer-hous. It being very hot above we changed our Roome for one below. XI

This month was very Cold for the Season there being very few warme days except four or five of the last, and it might properly be called a cold & wet May.

JUNE

1 Oure Leedge Doctor Homes came hither, I consulted him. My Wife went twice into the Bath, & I onely once viz: at Night. We had a most violent Storm of Thunder & Lightoning even for this Country, and so continued for near an hour extreamly violent. XII

2 My Wife not being well, we onely Baithed in the Morning, after dinner we took a good Walk and went into a pritty Garden. XIII

3 Mr Wright & Cannon Wipeur came to see us, they dined with us, I gave Doctor Homes a Bottle of Wine and consulted him. Mary[40] went into the Bath with my Wife in the Morning and I went in with her at Night. XIV

4 I walked up to the Top of one of the steepest Hills here. Each of us went twice into the Bath. I shewed Mary the whole contrivance of the Water Engin. XV

5 We went each of us twice into the Bath. I walked out with my Wife in a pleasant Field by the River Side. XVI

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[36] This was probably 'Le Miroir Ardent' invented by Nicholas Francois Villette in 1713. It was a device using a concave mirror to concentrate the sun's rays at one point to produce heat sufficient to burn things or melt metal. Villette lived at Nos. 8/10 rue Soeurs-de-Hasque. His house was demolished about 1949 to make way for new buildings.

[37] Collegiate Church of St. Paul, commenced in 1232, became the Cathedral of the Diocese of Liège after the demolition of the Church of St. Lambert.

[38] Basilica of St. Martin, original burnt down in 1312, rebuilt in 1506. It is surprising that Nicholas called it 'little and dark'. It is neither. More surprising still is that he does not mention the fact that in this church the Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted in 1246. The chancel is certainly dark and it may have been because of this that he did not see the series of large paintings telling the story of this.

[39] The Church of the Dominicans built in the seventeenth century, demolished in 1817; site now occupied by the Theatre Royal.

[40] Mary Woodcock.

6 My Wife being out of Order of the Gravell she went into the Bath in the Morning, it being made very warme; I went in, in the Evening. Mr Grimes was with us in our Chamber. Mr Geezell shewed me the Fountain from whence the Warm Water as we Bathed in Springs, 'tis neaver above seaven Foot deep of Water, which is always warmer then new Milk yet never so hot but one may easily drink it, he also shewed me in his Garden a small Animall (or rather as I think an Insect, being it's supposed to proceed from Putrifaction) with Feet like a Mole & somthing biger then a Larg Beetle or Black Clock which roots in the Ground and is very destructive to the Roots of small Hearbs, &c:. I payed my Land-Lord for the time we have ben here & told him of 05 F.–13 St. as his Servants had not charged me with. Mary attempted to Climbe up one of the great Hills.[41] XVII

7 We went into the Bath in the Morning, it is my Wives 13th time and my eleventh. We went in the Common Boat from Chaude Fontaine which stands upon the River Vesses,[42] to Leedge where we Lodged at Liuetennant Bayly Grizar's in that part of the Subbers as is called Sur Auroy.[43] We Supped at the English Sepulcrian Nunns. XVIII

8 Mr Wright went with my Wife and me to the Church of the Augustin Fryers[44] & to the Benedictain Nuns Church,[45] it is the prittiest Nuns Church I have seen. I saw a sort of Hurdle made of small Powles tyed together with Withs, it is to carry som sorts of Merchandize on upon the Water instead of Boats. I went to the Collage & made Pat: Provincial a Viset, as I was going I saw them tempering Lime & Water after the same Manner as the Mugers doe who make Whit-waire when they temper their Clay, after it has stood some time & the Water is run from it, it will be extreamly white & cut like Marmolit;[46] to make Morter of it they put one part of Sand to three or more of Lime. XIX

9 I was at High Mass at the English Sepulcrians, I saw some of their Riches in the Sacristy, I was in the Church of St Christopher,[47] I walked out of Town to St Gieles his, but was not in the Hous.[48] I take them to be Cannon Regulars. XX

10 I walked in the Morning to see Churches and was in eight as I had never before ben in, The Leioyce Jesuits is a pritty Church & tollerable large,[49] that as belongs to the Monks of St James is a most butifull Church handsomly painted and some very good Carved work in it in Marble;[50] one of the Monks shewed me two Pair of Stairs in one 'tis a great peece of nicity, a very large &

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[41] About 500 to 700 feet.

[42] River Vesdre.

[43] 'Sur Avroy'—this was probably an Inn situated on the 'quai d'Avroy' on the left bank of a branch of the River Meuse. This has since been filled in and to-day is the 'boulevard d'Avroy', and the quay is now the right side of the boulevard d'Avroy.

[44] The fifteenth century Church of St. Anne des Augustins, which Blundell visited, was replaced by the Church of the Holy Sacrament in the second half of the eighteenth century.

[45] Constructed at the end of the seventeenth century; Abbaye de la Paix-Notre-Dame, Boulevard d'Avroy.

[46] Marmolit—marmolet—an obsolete form of marmalade.

[47] Church of St. Christopher, built in thirteenth century, restored 1890.

[48] Church of St. Gilles, thirteenth century.

[49] Probably the Church of the 'Jesuites Wallons'; now forms part of the University.

[50] The Church of St. James is regarded as the most beautiful Belgian church in the flamboyant style.

fine Remonstance and severall other Ritches for their Alters. I also saw a great many Relicks in very handsom Reliquarys, I saw half of one of the Shirts of one of the Holy Innocents and some other very great Reliques. I was at a Gardiners near our Lodging where I bought some Tulop Roots. My Wife treated the English Nuns with Coffy, 'tis what is seldom granted to them. I was in the Jesuits Garden & saw their fine Hedges both of Hornbeam and Cornelion, their Diolls & the Flowing & ebing of the Sea, I discorced Pat: Provincial. XXI

11 I was in the Church of the Selestin Nuns [51] and an other very new Church; after dinner Mr Wright went with my Wife and me to the Augustine Nuns,[52] we saw their Church which is called the Angells, it is a pritty sort of a Church & has a Gallery above, quit round it, their Quier is extreamly handsom and I think the Broadest and the lightest of any I have seen, I never before was in any of these Churches. We were also at the Williamets.[53] I was in that part of the Town where they Twig Bottles for Carrying Spaw-water &c; I saw them twiging of them, for which they have not quite 13d. English per dozin.[54] XXII

12 I went in the Morning into twelve Churches as I had never ben in before. In the after noone I went to the Williamits and saw them Fish part of their Mote. XXIII

13 I was in seaven Churches as I had not ben in before, in one of them endeed I had ben in the Quier, but never took much notice of the Church. My Wife & I went to the Inglish Jesuits, we saw severall good things in their Sacristy viz: a Silver Remonstrance so heavy I could not easily lift it stright up with one hand, A Picture made of Birds Fethers very Artificially, the Face being most extreamly naturall, a Vestment very curiously imbrodered by a Lay-Brother as shewed us the Things, some good Antependiums, &c: we saw. I went ill to Bed of an Ague Fit. XXIV

14 My Wife and I walked out in the Morning. I was in 3 Churches as I had never before ben in. I let some of the Nuns see me set an Egg on a Looking Glass. XXV

15 I went in the Morning to eight Churches as I had never ben in before. Mr Vodoneer the famous Chirurgeon looked at my Wives Brest. I with severall Hundreds more expected most of the after Noone to see the Zar of Muscovy come into Town, but he came not although the Guards & severall Coaches were wateing for him. XXVI

16 Though I saw not the Zar when he came into the Town today, yet I saw him at the Monks of St James'es and there I also saw the Mill or Engin cuting or rather Sawing Stone for small Flags. I was in the Church of the Gray Sisters.[55] XXVII

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[51] This church, once situated in the rue des Célestines, no longer exists.

[52] Constructed in the seventeenth century in the precincts of the old 'hôpital de Bavière' place de l'Yser. It has since been reconstructed stone by stone in the rue des Bonnes Villes at the end of the last century for 'les Soeurs hospitalières de St. Augustin, who since the seventeenth century have continued to care for the sick of l'hôpital de Bavière.

[53] Williamites—Benedictine nuns or monks, founded by St. William of Vercelli, 1197.

[54] Making baskets of straw or thin willow twigs to hold bottles of wine.

[55] This church was situated in the rue des Clarisses; the convent is now occupied by the Dames de la Miséricorde, whose chapel in the seventeenth century replaced the ancient chapel of the Grey Sisters.

17 The Zar went out of Town in the Morning. I went with my Wife to St Peters Church[56] but it was not open. XXVIII

18 This being a great day at St Peters I was there at High-Mass & saw the Procestion in which I counted above 40 in Copes. Pat: Provincial, Pat: Parker, &c: dined with us at the Sepulcrians. I shewed most of the Nuns some of my Tricks. XXIX

19 Mr Wright[57] went with me to some Cole Pits, we went most of the way by Bote, they wind up about one Hogshead & a half of Water at a time with 3 or 4 strong Horses, the Cole Pits are generally very deep & some of them above 80 Fathom, at one Pit I saw a place like a well made of Brick with a Bucket of Fier which hung down in it to prevent the Damp, and over it there was a Chimney like that of a Glass-hous. I was very ill of an Ague Fit, so hiered a Hors & rid home to my Lodging & then went to Bed. XXX

20 I was at the Monastery of St Lawrance where I walked, in the Refectory, as I take it, expecting Pat: Wright but he came not whilst I stayed. July I

21 I went to the English Jesuits where I saw their Load Stone,[58] there is generally an Iron Ball of about four Pound wight hanging to it, I saw some most curious Chinea Paper made of the Bark of Trees. I was in a small Procession in which there were a dozen Violls, fore Base Violls, five Trumpets & a Pare of Cettle Drums. I was in four Churches as I had never ben in before, one was St Stevens in which I saw a Famous Miraculous Immage of our Blessed Lady. July II

22 Mrs Waldesgrave applyed som-thing to the Little Finger of my left Hand to cure me of the Ague Fits, not-with-standing which I had a Fit and they still continued with me. July III

23 Mrs Turvill and Miss Nelson came to live at Madam Dolmans.[59] Patl Provinciall came to take his leave here. My Wife went into the Monastery and was dresed. IV

24 I played some of my best Tricks at Cards to Mrs Doleman and most of the others. Mrs Laurence & Mrs Monington dined at Mrs Dolmans, I was with them at a Neighbours Hous from whence we saw the Monastery and the Garden. V

25 Being Pat: Write & some of the good Ladys did not see me play my Tricks yesterday, I shewed them today some few of my best. I took Pat: Bryers Remedy for my Ague & went ill to Bed. VI

26 I went of a Hiered Hors to the Spaws where I tasted the Spaw called Pohone.[60] I made a Viset to Mrs Diconson and Mr Roger Diconson.[61]

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[56] This old collegiate church, founded by St. Hubert in the eighth century, was demolished at the beginning of the nineteenth century following the Revolution. It was situated near what is now the Notger Square.

[57] Rev. Peter Wright—a secular priest, confessor to the English Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre at Liège.

[58] Lode-stone—magnetic iron ore.

[59] The House of the English Sepulchrines was popular with English families whose sons were being educated at the Jesuit College, or daughters at the English Convent.

[60] The mineral spring of Pouhon is in the Place de Spa, almost in the centre of the town. The water has a very acrid taste and stones nearby are discoloured orange-brown, which suggests the water is highly impregnated with iron salts.

[61] This was Roger Dicconson of Wrightington, near Wigan, who had been outlawed for taking part in the Jacobite Rebellion.

Mr Grimes walked with me up & down. I was in the Capusines Garden which is very pritty and Places alloted in it both for Men & Women. I bought severall Spaw Trinkets. I suped at the Court of London and Lodged at the whit Sheep. VII

27 I went on a Hired Hors from the Spaws to Burset where I saw the Boyling Springs which were so hot it was not possible to put ones hand into them, there came a very great Smoke or steame from them, they teast like the Sulfer Spaw in York Shire but not so strong, thence I went to Eaz[62] alias Acrisgram where I took a Glass of Wine with Collonell Bellingham[63] at the Golden Dragon, I suped & lodged there. VIII

28 I Tasted the Water at the Chief Fountain which is neather so hot nor so strong as those at Burset. I saw severall of the Baiths. I was in our Ladys Chourch which is round lick the Dominicans at Leedge but most extreamly dark, I saw there a Miraculous Image of our Lady and severall very great Reliqs viz: part of our Saviors Reed, Part of his Spunge, part of one of the Nails with which our Savior was Nailed to the Cross, part of one of his Thornes, part of the Cord with which our Savior was tyed to the Piller, some of the Blood he lost as he lay in his Sepulker, a great part of one of the links of St Peters Chean as he had on in Prison. I saw severall other very great Relicks and some curiossitys as the Crown as was given by Margarit Queen of Scots to Charls the Great, the Cope which the Pope had on when he Consecrated that Church which is severall Hundred years since, I saw severall Copes with Silver Bells at the Bottom, made in the shap of a Pome Grannet Flower. I saw severall Rich old vestments given by Emperors, &c:. I Smoked Tobacco with Collonell Bellingham of one Pistole per Pound, I drank Neker[64] Wine. I took Pat: Bryers Powder for my Ague & went ill to Bed. IX

29 I came in the Diligance from Eaz to Foronge (Toronge ?) a small Vilage where we dined then through Vizè a pritty good Town where we pased the River by Bote and then to Leedge. I distributed some of my Spaw Trinkets & lodged at my old lodging. Eaz is Famous for Making Needles, I have ben told that six Thousand Persons are mantained in that Town by making Needles. X

30 I advised with Mother Xaveria about Mrs Smackers and writ a very long Letter to her. Sister Mary Teresa took the first Habit. There are I believe more Churches & Religious Houses in Leedge than in any Town proportionable for its bigness, during the time I was there I went into 52 different Churches to the best of my Memory and doubt not but there were above as many more. XI

Till the 20th generally very hot Weather eaven for Leedge and most of those days espetially the begining of the Month most excessive hot; from the 20th to the end of the Month pritty much Raine.

JULY

1 I payed all I ought to the Monastery for Victualls, &c:. I payed my Land-Lady for our Lodging & prepaired for our Journey tomorrow. Being somthing out of Order with my Ague I took my own Remedy but went not to bed

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[62] Aix-la-Chappelle.

[63] Colonel in the army of William III in his Irish War. See *Bellingham's Diary*; ed: Hewitson.

[64] Neckar.

upon it. After Supper when we had taken leave of our Friends we went to the Golden Lyon where we lodged, to be the more ready for our Jorney Tomorrow Morning. XII

2 We went by the Diligance from Leedge to Tirlemount a pritty good Town where we eat some cold Chicken, &c: and thence came to Brussells & Lodg'd at the Queen of Sweads a Tollerable good Inn and Cheap. XIII

3 From Brussells we came to Allost where we dined at the three Kings and so to Guant where we Lodged at the three Golden Keys. XIV

4 I went to the Apothecarys & took somthing for the Ague Fits and soone after went ill to bed. XV

5 I Received some Money for Mrs Reed[65] and Mrs Bagnoll. I Pai'd what I ought my Sister upon Mallys Account for Linnen, Gloves, &c:. XVI

6 I took a pritty good long Walk with my Wife and my Doughter Mary. Pater Provinciall came to make us a Viset, but he could not find our Lodging. XVII

7 Pat: Provinciall, Pat: Rector, &c: dined with us. I sat a good part of the afternoone at the Grate with my Sister & was ill of an Ague Fit most of the time. XVIII

8 My Wife should have given a Treat of Coffy but could not get it made, she went into the Fair with Miss Blunt. XIX

9 I helped Mary to choose some Pictures for Sister Lathom. My Wife treated Mrs Knatchbull, &c: with Coffy. XX

10 I paid off our Bord at Mrs Knatchbulls and our Lodging at the Inn. I took the Nunns Receipt for the Ague and had an easier Fit than ordinary. XXI

11 My Wife, I and Mally came from Guant by the Barge to Brudges where we Lodged at the Golden Lyon. XXII

12 I went with my Wife and Mally to the Augustin Nuns, thence we went to Princen Hofe where they shewed us a very large fore part of a Tabernackley of Silver which was my Lord Dovers and a great deale of Plate as he had given them. I reconed with Mr Egrington for a peece of Cloath and paid him in part. Mr Egars helped me to hier a Caraba against my Journey tomorrow. XXIII

13 We went in the Caraba as I had Hiered on purpose to Newport where we baited a while & then went to Dunquerk where we lodged at the Court of France. XXIV

14 From Dunquerk we went by the Barge to Burbrook from whence my Wife and Mally walked to Gravling, I followed them with my goods in a Cart, My Wife and I lodged at Mrs Strabans. XXV

15 We had a Roome fited up for us at Doctor Simonez & lodged there, where we are to lodg during our Stay at Gravling. XXVI

16 Mr Barret, &c: went to Dunquerk. Mr Tompson came hither. XXVII

17 Mr Tompson went hence to Callis with Intention to goe off for England. Pat: Berbeck &c: went a Fishing, after dinner Dr Harrison and I walked to the Fishers with Mrs Betty Clifton & my two Children. XXVIII

18 Joseph brought home Gill & her Colt from their Run. Mr Barret made us a Viset in our Lodgings and stayed a good while. XXIX

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[65] Abbess, Poor Clares, Dunkirk.

19 I received some Money from my Aint Ailes. I readyed my little Trunk and put some things in order against I send them from hence.[66] I gave Joseph some Money to pay tomorrow to Sister Amanda & Mr Sutton. I had very little or nothing of my Ague Fit today though I had somthing of it yesterday, which was out of Order, so hope it is leaving me. XXX

20 Pat: Pryer[67] of Doway and two others were here. Pat: Manock brought Mrs Fitz-Gerard hither. XXXI

21 This being the Eve of Portiuncula I went with my Children &c: to the Recolets Church.[68] Joseph came back from Dunquerk, Edward Gender &c: came along with him. August I

22 Mr Barret and I walked to Kindall and my Children, Mr Manock, &c: went thither in the Cart, thence we went in the Barge to St Omers, we were in the Barge I think 19 English; Mr Barret and I, his Sister and my Children lodged at the Golden Cannon. Au: II

23 I saw Mr Cartwrights Great Action called Bellizarius. I shewed my Children the Sodality, the Infermery, &c: Mrs Perkings dined & Suped with us at our Lodgings. III

24 My Children and I came by the Barge from St Omers to Kindall, so did Pat: Francis & Mr Hind, from thence we all went in the Cart to Gravling. IV

25 Pat: Francis and Mr Hind went hence to Dunquerk. Mr Barret & Pat: Berbeck came back from St Omers. V

26 My Wife and I went in Mathews Caraba to Dunquerk where we lodged at the Court of France. VI

27 I walked to Mardike and walked over one of the Demings as is made in order to destroy the Work at the Sluses, there are to be 8 Mills or Water Engins with 5 or 6 Horses each to drain the Water, I was told that the Brass Poynts at the Bottom of the Great Flud-Gates are about 20 English Inshes in Diamiture, from thence I walk'd to the Caraba where I met my Wife & came in it with her to Graveling. VII

28 Captain Galaway suped here. I took leave of some of my Friends at the Higher Grate. Mrs Betty brought my Wife a New Callico Night-Gown from Dunquerk. VIII

29 My Wife and I dined with Dr Harrison and Pat: Berbeck, &c: in Madam Bagnolls Roome. IX

30 From Graveling my Wife, I and my Children, &c: came to Callis where we lodged at the Silver Lyon. X

31 I made a Viset to Mr Gance. I got my Goods Searched and leaded and put on bord.[69] My Children returned back to Graveling.[70] XI

Till the 9th every day but one some Raine more or less, from thence to the end generally very fair.

[66] By the summer of 1717, the hostility towards the Jacobites had died down considerably and an act of clemency paved the way for a return of the exiles from Flanders.

[67] Father Prior.

[68] Recollects; an Order of the Franciscans.

[69] Examined and sealed by the customs men before being put on the boat.

[70] The daughters returned to their convents, and there remained until Mr. and Mrs. Blundell came to take them home in 1723. From the Disbursement Book we note that their father paid for new clothes for them, and gave them a generous allowance of pocket-money. See Appendix I.

AUGUST

1 My Wife and I, &c: went on Bord the Betty Yot[71] in hopes to put to Sea but she having sprung a Lake we came on Shoer againe. My Wife and I made a Viset to Mr Ganse & walk'd in his Garden. XII

2 Some Gentlemen walked with my Wife and me upon the Peer-head. I went with my Wife to the Queens Head where I smoked a Pipe. XIII

3 We went on Bord Mr Gallaways Vessell the Betty Yot and Sailed out of the Harbour of Callis with a tollerable good Wind to Ramsgate where we Ancored. XIV

4 We Sail'd to Braud-Stairs alias Bradstar where we cast Ancor and most of us went on Shoer to the Brick Layers Armes as I take it, where they dined, but I turned back and went on Bord with Mr Glover who searched the Vessell & seazed on Some Brandy, My Wife, I, &c: walked to Margarit, where we lodged at the Whit Hart.

5 We went from Margarit by Bote on Bord the Betty & Sailed with a very brisk wind almost all day; we came to London, My Wife and I lodged at the Cross Keys in Gratius Street.

6 My Wife and I lodged at Mr Le Sages. I went to the Custom-Hous, &c: in hopes to get my goods on Shoer but could not, I went on Bord the Betty Yot and gave the Offisers a Bottle of Wine.

7 I was busy all Morning about geting my goods on Shore which at last I did, but could not bring them to my Lodgings. I Received £30 from Mr Formby. I saw the skin of a Lamb which was stuffed, it had two Heads and the Necks were each near half a yard long, it had six feet and two Tails, I saw some other unusuall Creaturs at the same time.

8 I got my Trinkets home from the Scotch Womans & there drank with one of our Tide Waiters. I made a Viset at Mr Blevins, but he was not at home.

9 Mr Berry went with me & helped me to get home my Trunks. I made my first Viset to Mrs Stevens, &c:.

10 Mrs Ann Aldred went with my Wife & me to help us to buy new Cloths, my Wife bought a Red Satine Sute and I Dove Colour Cloath-Sute. My Wife and I made a Viset to Mrs Scaresbrick.

11 Mr Richardson made us a Viset & said my Lady Gerard was to goe out of Town tomorrow. I made my first Viset to my Cozen Mrs Thornton & to Dr Eyre. I drank a Glass of Aile with Mr William Wofold at John a Gaunts & at the Lamb in Vair-Street.

12 I took my Wife and Mrs An Aldred to Tatnam Fair where we saw a Play acted called Jane Shore.

13 Mrs Ann Aldred went with my Wife and me to the Tower where we saw the Lyons, &c:, The Armory of small Armes is now in extraordinary fine order, and Armes in it as they told me for a Hundred Thousand Men. After dinner I gave my French-Master Mr Barton a Glass of Aile at John a Gaunts, in the Evening I made a Viset to the two Sisters Mrs Standleys.

14 I gave Mr Harnish the Present I brought for him from Mrs Reeds. Mrs Naper made a Viset to my Wife from my Cozen Thornton.

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[71] Probably 'yacht'.

15 My Wife and I made a Viset to Mr Scarisbrick in Newgate[72] thence we went to Mr Blevins and made Mr Holland a Viset and so to Mrs Stevens, she was at Home but not the Captain.

16 I went to make a Viset to Sir Thomas Johnson but he was not at home, I was in the Coffy-Hous with Mr Farran and I think Mr Smallwood. I made Mr Le Tose a Viset. My Wife and I saw a Play called Titus Andronicus acted at the Play hous in Drury Lain. Mary Woodcock had her Pockets plucked from her.

17 I saw the Fishes hand it is about five Foot long, I also saw a Flying Tortoyce as they called it, it had no feet but four things partly like wings.

18 I made a Viset in the Morning to Captain Stevens. Mrs Scarisbrick made my Wife a Viset, my Wife and I went home with her.

19 Nicholas Gorsuch made me a Viset. I was at Wills Coffy hous in hopes to meet some Company to take a Bottle of Wine with, but met with none but Mr John Culcheth.

20 Cozen Thornton and his Brother-in-Law my Cozen Eyre made us a Viset Mrs Barbara Blundell made my Wife a Viset.

21 I smoaked a Pipe at Mr Blevins with him, Jack Gorsuch came with me from thence as far as his way & mine lay together. There was a most violent Wind.

22 My Wife & I made severall Visets in the Coach viz: to the Mrs Standleys, two of them were at home, to Mrs Dalton, to Mr Blevin and to my Lady Hailes, but my Lady being lately delivered we saw her not, onely saw her Mother Mrs Bagnoll, we went to some other places where we found not the Persons at home as we wanted to see.

23 Mrs Berry went out with my Wife a Viseting into the Citty. Mr John Culcheth made us a Viset.

24 I went to Leaden-Hall Market and to the Jews Sinegog. I called at Mr Griffins at the Black Prince in Watling Street. This being Bartholomew Fair I went to Smithfield & saw a Fars acted which was called Argulus & Parthenia, and a Poppy Play called the Earl of Essex. I met Mr John Culcheth, Mr Francis Poole, Mr Thornton, Mr Tompson, &c: at the Brittish Coffy Hous where we got somthing to eat & took a Bottle of Wine together.

25 My Wife and I dined at Mr Blevins, coming home we took a Turn in Lincolns Inn Gardens. I gave my Cozen Hodgson a Glass of Aile at John a Gants, Mr Quick, Mr Colegrave, &c: was there.

26 I made a Viset to Mr Rodbourn and to Mrs Percy. I went with my Wife to Bartholemew Fair, we saw a Farce Acted as is called Robin Hudd & Little John, and a Poppy Play called Patient Grissell & the Babes in the Wood.

27 I made a Viset to Mr Thomas Walmesley. I was at Mr Daintrys at the Signe of the Punsh Bowl in the Mint. I heard him whistle upon the Edge of a knife in Imitation of a Flute, & play upon the Kettle Drumbs upon a Pack-thread. I went to see my God-Son James Blackbourn at the Signe of the Ship in Fanchurch Street.

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[72] Robert Scarisbrick, of Scarisbrick, John Ashton, and John Gregson had been committed to Newgate Jail, suspected of being implicated in the Jacobite Rising. In 1718 Scarisbrick was admitted to bail at Lancaster, and on trial, was acquitted. His estates were restored to him.

28 I Walked to see Kingsington Gardens which are very large & fine and two Walks in it with Rows of Elme Trees on each side trimed on the Top & Sides like Hedges, the Trees are 40 Foot High. Nicholas Gorsuch was there with me, and then we went into the Town where we took a Glass of Aile together & so walked thorrow St James Park where we saw some of the Trees as were Blowed up by the Roots & some as were snaped of 7 or 8 Foot from the Ground by the Great Storme of Wind which Happened uppon the 21th Instant in the Morning & the Night precedent, some of the Trees were about 3 yards in circumference. My Wife made a Viset to Mr Scarisbrick in Newgate. Captain Stevens & his Lady made us a Viset. I began to pack up goods to goe by the Carrier.

29 Mrs Hide, My Wife, Mr Berry and I went to Malburgh Hous, 'tis a pritty little Hous, and some good Pictures in it drawn by L'Garr,[73] we were not in all the Rooms; thence we went to Buckingham Hous which is really Noble and fine & Severall Pictures in it of great Vallew, a pritty Amber Cabinet and other things worth seeing, then we went to Westminster.

30 I went to Wills Coffy hous near Covent Garden in expectation to goe from thence with some company to Greenwidge but was disapointed. I sent my goods to the Waganners & then follow'd them. I found Mr Berry there at the Castle & Folcon in Aldersgate. I made a Viset to Mr Scarisbrick in Newgate, I drank there with Mr Blackbourne who has ben a Prisoner there as I take it above 21 years,[74] Mr Gregson and Mr Ashton was also with us.

31 I went to Bedlom in Morefields with my Wife[75] and then we went to see the Show of the Waterworks but were disapointed they not being to be shewed this night. Mr Berry & I went to the Coffy Hous near St Jameses.

Till the 8th fair, from thence to the end of the Month generally pritty Fair & some days extreamly hot for the Season, yet now and then a good brisk Shower and upon the 21th in the Morning and the preceding Night very great Wind.

SEPTEMBER

1 I tooke leave of Captain Stevens at his Hous, and of Counsellor Eyr, Mr John Culcheth, &c: at Wills Coffy-Hous near Covent Garden. Mrs Scarisbrick & Pat: Thomas Scarisbrick dined with us at Mr Berrys. I treated Dr Gerningham, Mr Sauthcot, &c: with Wine. There was a Bone Fier and Illuminations in St Jamses Squaire for the Victory obtained by Prince Eugaine over the Turks. Francis Harrison came to our Lodgings.

2 We began our Journey in the Stage Coach from London, we dined at the Mairmaid at St Albons & Lodged at the Red Lyon at Woobourn a very dear Inn.

3 We went from Woobourn to Northampton where we dined at the Bull and Goat, we lodged in Coventry at the Coach & Horses a nasty and bad Inn

[73] Louis Laguerre, a French painter, who did much work on ceilings, staircases, etc., of great houses in England.

[74] This was Robert Blackburne, son of Richard Blackburne of Thistleton, Lancashire. He had been arrested in 1694 on suspicion of plotting against William III. He was imprisoned and never brought to trial, remaining imprisoned for fifty-one years, until his death.

[75] To watch the antics of the lunatics in 'Bedlam' was one of the entertainments of London for visitors.

4 From Coventry we went to Merryden & Baited at the Bulls Head a very clean Hous & most extraordinary good Ail, Mr Scot left a Present there for the Brewer, we dined at the Wesh Hand[76] and lodged at the Red Lyon in Newport, my Brother Langdale came to us, we met with very good accomodations this day in every place.

5 We dined at the George in Whitchourch where I saw the Chourch which is really very pritty and most extreamly light, we lodged at the Coach and Horses in Chester, we had very good Accomodation this days Journey at both places.

6 My Wife and I dined at our Lodgings in Chester with three of our Fellow Travellors & then came on a Hier'd Hors to William Athertons[77] where we Lodged.

7 Joseph Bolton, Henry Heys, &c: made us a viset in the Morning. We came from William Athertons of his Horses home to Crosby.

8 Dr Lancaster & Mr Aldred dined with us. Paters Wofold, Turvill, Turbervill, &c: made us a Viset.

9 The Young Ladys of Croxtath[78] sent hither of a How-do-you and to wish us welcome home. Mrs Blundell made us a Viset, Mr Harington & his Lady, &c: came along with her.

10 Mr Shepperd made us a Viset. William Thelwall clensed the Jack and our Little Pendelom. I took two Hives of Bees.

11 Richard Tickley and Edmund Tristram made us a Viset so did Mr Cottom and his Wife.

12 My Wife and I dined at Ince with Mr Harington and his Wife, Mrs Wofold, &c:. Mr Gorsuch and his Doughter Anne came to make a Viset here but not finding us at home they came after us to Ince.

13 Mr Harington drove Ince Charriot hither, he came a Nuting. Mr Molineux of Mosburgh and Mr Tankerd dined here. Mr Plumbe made a Viset here.

14 Mrs Smith of Aintry sent my Wife a present of some Fowl. I was busy most of the day booking my Disbursments since I came out of France.

15 Mrs Smith of Aintry dined here. I distributed severall of the Presents I brought with me, to Hugh Bullen, Nurs Newhous, &c:. Young Mr Robert Fazakerley and Mrs Lentonby made us a Viset.

16 Mr Burton & Mrs Betty Wofold din'd here. Ailes Tickley made us a Viset, Lord Molineux sent of a how-do-you to us.

17 I helped Edward Howerd to bottle off a Rundlet of Aile. Parson Letus, Parson Wairing and Mr Thomas made me a Viset. Lord Molineux sent me a Present of Part of a Stagg.

18 Mrs Molineux of Much Wooton sent a How-do-you to my Wife. Mrs Hurst, Mrs Fazakerley & Mrs Tildesley all from Leverpoole came to wish us welcome home. Mr Row drew my Wife a Tooth.[79]

19 My Lord Molineux, his Lady, and two Doughters, &c: made us a Viset.

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[76] Most probably *Welsh Harp*.

[77] At Ditton, Lancashire.

[78] The daughters of Lord Molyneux of Sefton.

[79] "Drawing my Wives Tooth . . . . . 5s. 0d."

20 Mrs Blundell[80] made us a very Neighbourly Viset. Charles Howerd Taylor[81] worked here, he helped Edward Howerd to Bottle off a Rundlet of good Aile. I sold some Apples to John Banister.

21 Mr Crisp made me a Viset, he took some Minutes out of Dr Lathoms Leas which I had in keeping.

22 Widdow Glaist of Leverpoole came to discours me concerning a Bond of £15 owing by her Husband to Mr Plumbe and me. Mr Williamson of Litherland made me a Viset. William Tarlton paid the Remainder of what was due to me when I was Church-Warden. George Barker came & offered to be my Gardiner.

23 I Began to serve the Poore of this Parish after my own new Method & gave Money to every Famoly as came in the Morning.[82] My Wife & I met Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvill at Mr Aldreds where we dined & Suped, after dinner & Supper we all played at Cards. John Tyrer made me a Viset but I being gon to Mr Aldreds he came thither to me.

24 Widdow Clayton of Leverpoole sent to welcom-home my Wife & me. I took a Swarm of Bees at the Granory Stairs, it had a Bundance of Fine Hunny.

25 William Thelwall broke a place into Thomas Syers Kitchen to put a Doar in a different Place.

26 Watty Thelwall came to take leave of us ere he went again to Mrs Bagnolls. Thomas Marser began to make the Wall between Syers Kitchen & our Scullery.[83] Mr Whit of Leverpoole came to see if I could let him have some Money upon Interest towards paying for his Purchas of part of Sir Cleave Moars Land.

27 Thomas Marser broke down a passage between our Kitchen & Scullery. My Wife Hiered Ann Blundell to be her Maid.

28 My Wife sent a Present of Pigeons to Mrs Molineux of Much Wooton.

29 Pat: Gelibrond lodged here, it is the first Viset he made us since we came home from London.

30 I began to gather my Crabs to make Vargeus of.[84] Thomas Syer bought some Gees to put into his Stoble.

Till the 20th generally pritty fair, yet now and then some little Rain which did noe great damage to our Harvest it being often a good brisk wind, so that till the 20th the Harvest and Wheat-Seeding was very good, but from thence to the end of this Month generally very wet.

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[80] Of Ince Blundell.

[81] Charles Howerd, the tailor of Little Crosby, who was also concerned with bottling wine.

[82] Entries in the Diary for November 27 and December 1 1718 shew that the new method was a card system. Every December Nicholas prepared the cards, and every January gave them out. See, for example, January 2 1721, December 24 1725 and January 10 1726. It is interesting to note that on his return from London and Flanders he gave gifts to the poor, to beggars, and to the villagers:—

"Charrity to the Poor of Sefton Parish when I came home . . . . . £1 9s. 0d.
Charity to Begars and Neighbours . . . . . 16s. 0d."

[83] "Carpinders work & some Timber uesed chiefly about Thomas Syers new way into his Kitchen . . . . . 3s. 10d.
Window Shutters & Hinges for the Parlor Chamber . . . . . 10s. 0d.
Joyners Work in the Hous . . . . . 1s. 5d."

[84] Crab apples used in making a sour cider—verjuice.

OCTOBER

1 I went to Leverpoole 'tis the first time I have ben there since I came hom from London, I made a Viset to Mrs Clayton, to Mrs Houghton & to Mrs Tyarer. I dined at the Wool-pack with Sir Clave Moar, &c:, I payed £18 to Mr Plumbe for a Purchas of one Aiker of Land from Sir Clave Moar. I let John Whit have £50 upon Interest for which he gave me his Bond.

2 Mr Trafford of Croston and Mr Chorley made me a Viset.

3 Mr Aldred and I met Mr Chorley & Mr Turvill a Coursing in the Winter-heys, Mr Traffourd should have ben there, but he went a Seting. I dined at Ince, after dinner my Wife came to Ince, and then we all went to Mr Burtons viz. Mr Trafford, his Lady, &c:, Mrs Blundell, my Wife, &c:. My Wife and I stayed Supper at Ince and then played at Cards with the Rest of the Company.

4 I Began to writ out some Particulars of my Tenants in order to Regester.[85]

5 Captain Fazakerley made me a Viset. I was very busy all day prepairing to Regester & sat up longer than usuall about it.

6 It being near Full Moon I cut my Wives Hair off. About 10 of the Clock at Night there were very great and unusuall Cracks of Thunder for these parts and Litoning with Raine; The Wind being very high Thomas Syer and I got up about Mid-Night and went to see if the Mill was Standing.

7 I began to gather my Apples by Hand. I met my Lord Molineux in Little Crosby Town-field some of his Company were there a Coursing. I dined at Dukes in Great Crosby with Lord Molineux, Mr Thomas Whittle, Parson Wairing, Joly Brown of Leverpoole, &c: and layed a Waiger with Mr Whitley which is not to be payed of some time. Cozen John Gelibrond lodged here.

8 Cozen John Gelibrond & I stated Accounts & he counted & pai'd me what Money was remaining to ballance Accounts, he helped me to put things in a Method for Registering.[86] Mrs Blundell, Pat: Billinge, Pat: More, &c: made us a Viset here, they all Suped here, after Supper we all played at Cards. Margery Blundell was here & beged hard I would writ to Mrs Cross in her behalf to let her come again.[87]

9 Cozen John Gelibrond and Water Thelwall were very busy all day helping me to prepaire for Registering. Mr William Holywell dined here. I Signed a Leas to Edward Howerd of his Teneament. I Layed Buck into the Hous, Joseph Rigby is to tend him.

10 Cozen John Gelibrond went hence. I chose some of Thomas Syers Geece for my own use. We dressed the Wa[-?]as I took this year.

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[85] By an Act of 1715, papists had to register their names and real estate. The majority of those in Lancashire seem to have registered theirs in 1717. See *Lancashire Papists' Estates, 1717–1788*, edited by R. Sharpe France: Record Society, Volume 98.

[86] See 9, 14 and 15 October, and Appendix K.

[87] See Appendix L.

11 Edward Howerd paid me £40 in part of his Fine & £3 for an old Debt. I payed the Land Tax to William Weedow and William Harrison and the Window Tax to Edward Rothwell.[88]

12 I was busy all day Redying my Apothecary Shop & my own Seller. I put almost the quantity of two Nutmegs of Lofe Sugar to a Bottle of Flat decay'd Syder, I ordered a Dozen of that Manner to try to recover it, it is now two years old.

13 It being Crosby Goosfeast I went to Dukes where I drunk with Mr Rodes and Mr Tatlock of Leverpoole, thence I went to Margarit Lurtings where I drunk a while with Thomas Gower & Jane Bryanson, &c:, then I went to Nicholas Johnsons and drunk with Mr Aldred, Mathew Preston, &c:.

14 I went to Wiggan it being the first day of the Sestions. I dined with Mr Standley (the Master of the Hous of Correction of Preston) at the Leggs of Man and lodged there.

15 I Registered my Reall Estate at the Sestions in the Town-Hall before Mr Case & Mr Owen, I came home through Ormskirk where I took a Glass with Doctor Lancaster at the Talbot.

16 My Wife went to the Grange to see Mrs Betty Wofold who was not well, thence she went to condole Ailes Tickle for the loss of her Husband who was found this Morning drowned near his own hous.

17 My Wife and I went in the Morning to Ailes Tickleys to prayers, there was Mrs Blundell, Mrs Formby, Edmund Tristram, &c:.

18 I was at Sefton at the Buriall of Richard Tickley, there was at his Hous, Yeomon of the Gore Houses, Mr Formby, Mr Cottom of Leverpoole, Mr Wofold, &c:, My Wife met the Corps at the farthest Gate of Ince Folds.

19 I tryed an experiment of scraping old Tallow Candles to hinder them from Swealing, but it did no good.

20 Young Mr Robert Fazakerley of Leverpoole dined here, he came to invite my Wife & me to dine on Bord the Barbados Merchant on Wednesday. Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill made us a Viset. William Fleetwood of Simons Wood was here to have ben Married to his Fourth Wife but was disapointed.

21 Thomas Marser began to make a Sink in the Scullery. William Lurting & Robert Tompson came to mend & licker[89] the Little Charriot. I made a Viset to Parson Letus & to Parson Wairing, 'tis the first time I have ben at their Houses since my returne home, Thomas Syer came home with me from Parson Wairings.

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[88] "Second payment to the Militia . . . . . £ 1 0 9½
Land Tax 2 Payments 5 9 2½
5 9 2½
For Warrants for Bridges &c. 15 5½
For Warrants for Bridges &c. 1 2 11
Fiveteens for the use of this Town 9 6
Fiveteens for the use of this Town 7 6½
Church Leys 2 12 0
Window Tax, one Payment . . . . . 15 0'.

[89] Lubricate, usually with 'hog's grace' or lard.

22 I stated Accounts with Thomas Syer for his Receipts & Disbursments for my use.

23 My Wife and I went with Mrs Blundell, &c: on Bord the Barbadas Merchant & dined on Bord her, Captain Bryan Harding is Master, he gave us some Guns. My Wife and I when we came on Shoar went to the Wool-pack where we stayed a while and then came home.

24 Thomas Syer breaked here. Mr Aldred dined here.

25 Mr Framsome of Leverpoole brought a Bay Hors hither for Thomas Syer to take a Tryall of. I bottled off some Hunny drink or small Mead. One Brought me a Load of Haws, they are the first I have had this year.[90]

26 I put some Hornbeam and Uea Seeds into a Mugg and buried them. I was very busy examaining Cozen Gilebronds Receipts and Disbursments for my use.[91]

27 I acquainted Richard Westhead with my Designe of Buying Gregsons Land. Mr Aldred and I went to Ince and smoked a Pipe with Mr Turvill.

28 Mr Wofold came to wish us welcome home, 'tis the first time he has ben here since we came home. Mrs Blundell & Mrs Flemin made us a Viset. I made a farther agreement with my Waranters for this Winter. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here.

29 Mr Turvill came hither with his Grewhounds and I went with him to Mr Aldreds, he went out a Coursing with us & when we had done, we went to Mr Aldreds where we dined.

30 I was busy Examaining my Book of Rack Rents and taking some Notes out of it.

31 Cutbert Parr brought me a Cart Load of Haws viz: 24 Busshell. I went to look at my Colt Favorit, he was got by my Lord Molineux his Darcy & Fowled by Bess, March the 26, 1716, then I went to my Sniggory and so to make a Viset to my Nurs. Mrs Edwardson of Leverpoole and her Nephew Thomas Wharton came to wish us welcom home, she brought my Wife a present of Indion Sweet-meats.

Till the 13th every day some Raine and most of them very much Raine, from the 13th to the 19th very Fair, then the next eight days wet, then fair till the end of the Month except some little Rain the Last day.

NOVEMBER

1 This being my Wives Birth day Mrs Blundell, Mrs Fleming, &c: dined here and took a Collation here, we played at Cards. Robert Tompson came to serve me.

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[90] "Haws for sowing, 112 Bushells . . . . . £2 13 11½"

[91] See Appendix J.

2 We delt Saw-loves to the Poore,[92] it being the first time any Saw Loves were given here as I remember; of 2 Busshell of Barly we made 420 Loves, but they were too little, if three had ben made into two they would have been pritty well. Although it was a fine day and the ways very good, yet I believe there was about one third part of the Saw-Loves left and very few came as were not Inhabitants of this Parish. Robert Tompson and Joseph Rigby helped me to bury 24 Busshell of Haws in a Hole in the Plantations in the Flat. Mary Rigby lodged here with her Husband.

3 Mr Hardesty called here and stay'd awhile, he was going to lodg at the New Hous.

4 Mary Rigby went Hence. I helped Robert Tompson to bottle off 7 dozen of small Aile. Kerfoot and James Wignold paid me some Rack Rent. Robert Weedow and Ann Blundell came to be Servants here. I made a bargan with Edward Rothwell to Leas Rothwells Crofts to him.

5 Little Henry Weedow left his Service. I payed Ellen Harrison her Waiges & told her she should be welcom to her Meat, Drink & Lodging for some time. I looked in the New Plantation in the Flat and marked the Holes where I found any young Oaks.

6 Margarit Making came to choose out some young Apple Trees, Richard Cartwrite helped her to choose them. Roger Nail paid off his Rack Rent and clear'd off some other old Debts. My Wife made a Bargan with Charls Howerd to take Henry Weedow as an Apprentice, William Weedow and I were present.

7 William Atherton paid me his Half years Rack Rent for Ditton, Henry Heys came with him, they lodged here. I received seaven Gallons of Brandy from Mr Aldred as he had bought for me.

8 I sent Robert Tompson to strain of Gabriell Norris for Arrears of Rent, but Gabriells Wife prevented it & came and payed the Rent. I went to see Margery Blundell my Nurs who was very ill & desir'd to see me.

9 I went to look at Flea Land & some other of those Fields as were divided in the Winterheys. I was in Brownbills New hous.

10 My Wife and I made a Viset at Ince, we suped there, my God-Doughter Miss Betty Blundell came to me, which is the first time I ever remember she did.

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[92] Soul-loaves or Soul-cakes were spiced cakes or buns especially made for distribution on All Souls Day (2 November) to parties of children, who went 'souling', or to the poor. This custom seems to have been confined to the northern and north midland counties. Groups of children would go from house to house, singing doggerel verses and begging for 'soul-cakes'. Here are two examples of such verses:—

(From Knotty Ash and West Derby, both now part of Liverpool)

"Soul! Soul! for an apple or two,
If you have no apples, pears will do.
One for Peter, two for Paul,
Three for him who made us all.
So pray, good dame, a souls' cake."

(From Cheshire)

"Step in your cellar, see what you find,
If your barrels be not empty, I hope you will prove kind,
I hope you will prove kind with your 'apples' and strong beer,
And we'll come no more a-souling until this time next year."

From the wording of the Diary entry it would seem that the distribution of 'soul-loaves' was a common custom, but one which in Little Crosby was unusual.

11 Richard New-hous thatched for me at the Coppy Barn and Sniggary. I sent Robert Tompson with a Load of Bryers and Pous[93] to my Grand Cop by my New Water-Cource and with some few Asps to set there; I went to him whilst he was seting them and to my Thatchers.

12 I began to take Calibeat prepaired.[94] I stated some Accounts with Thomas Syer. John Atherton brought me my old Mair Brock to look at but she being lame I would not take her again on the Price.

13 I went to Parson Wairings in the Morning and got the Boys leave to play and then went a Coursing with Parson Letus, Parson Wairing, Mr Syer of the Ford, &c:, when we had done we came to Hesketh's where we dined, we were Tenn in all viz: Mr Clarkson & Mr Parkinson, both Masters of Ships, Mr Byron, two Robert Bootles;[95] towards evening Parson Wairing and I went to drink with Great Crosby Jury, whos Gests we were today, viz: with Thomas Syer, John Hunt, Richard Westhead, &c:.

14 I sold an old Cow to William Gower as John Blundell had of me to Hier. I began to gather Heps.[96]

15 Jackson the Gardiner began to dress my Aspargus Beds & to cover them and the Harty Choks. I began to lay my Apples up in Rye Straw.

16 I planted or pricked out some Cabbage plants which is usuall to doe to those as are to be the first sort of Cabbages, I began to dig amongst my young Apple Trees & Stocks which is propper at this time. I set part of the Winter Heys to James Scarisbrick.

17 Mrs Smith dined here. Mrs Dorothy Henry Blundells Wife made a Viset here.

18 I Barganed again with John Tickley and Partners for the Ackers, Doltron, Arnolds Heys, &c:.[97] Mrs Blundell, &c: made a Viset here. I finished sorting my Apples and laying them in Straw.

19 I met severall a Coursing in the More-houses, being we were a great Many we devided into three Companys, we all killed 7 Hares, I found one set. In my Company was Captain Thorp, Young Mr Robert Fazakerley, Captain Burch, &c:. Burch told me that about the 14th of October last he with some others were a Coursing in the Haws & started 24 Hares all of them as I think in my Warant, the rest of the Coursers as I saw today were Mr Cotton, Mr Henry Tatlock, &c:. I treated severall of my Neighbours with a Bowl of Punsh viz: Parson Wairing, Mr Syer of the Ford, Mr Byron, two Robert Bootles and John Rose, this day was appointed for them to come hither otherways I had dined at Charls Howerds with the Coursers.

20 I brought Rachell Tyrer the Present as Betty Lathom sent her by me. I went to see the Iron Forge in Aintry. Mr Poole of Burchley & his Son came from Leverpoole and Lodged here.

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[93] A form of *pulse*. *Pous* or *Pouce* is also the name given to flax-dust by workers in flax-mills. The name was also given to dust, dirt, rubble or refuse.

[94] Chalybeate—mineral water, usually impregnated with iron salts.

[95] What a fascinating picture of early eighteenth century life—the headmaster of the Grammar School being persuaded to give the boys a holiday so that he can join his friends in coursing!

[96] Rose hips.

[97] Names of fields in Little Crosby.

21 Mr Poole & his Son went hence to Leverpoole. Walter Thelwall came to acquaint me that William Weedow was falty in Stoping the Water at his Pinbow, & that some of Ince People were negligent in Scouring the Divition Ditch.

22 I drunk a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Aldreds as I had wan of him, Pat: Turvill should have ben there but came not.

23 Ellen Harrison was blown down with the Wind at the Higher Bark Gate and very ill bruesed.

24 It being extreamly wet & Windy today I stired little out.

25 Margarit Making fetched away some Apple Trees as I had sold her, in a Cart. I went to Margery Blundells she being dead & advised her Doughter Betty about the Buriall. I drank a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Aldreds with him & Mr Turvill.

26 I helped Mr Holsold of Waltons Man to Bottle off some of Thomas Syers Brandy.[98] Robert Tompson got up a great many Hep Bryers as were growing up & down in my Garden, I trimed most of them.

27 I Planted the Cop between the New Plantation & the Flat & also the Cop between the New Orcherd and the Crofts very well with Hep-Bryers. Edward Rothwell payed me in Full for his Fine for Rothwells Crofts.

28 I went to Robert Tompson who was planting Bryer Roots in my Grand Cop by my New Water-Cours. Thomas Syer killed a fat Bull in my Slawter-Hous.

29 I took up some Walnut Trees in the New Grounds where there grew two near together & planted some of them in more convenient places in the New Grounds. I gave some Apples to John Poole.

30 William Rimer of Formby brought me a Large Bay Hors to look at, to buy for drawing in the Coach.

Till the 12th every day Rain & severall of the days very much Rain, then five Fair days, from the 18th till the end of this Month not above two fair days & severall of the days most extreamly wet and Windy so that this Month may truly be called a very Wet Month.

DECEMBER

1 William Gowar brought me a Hors to try in my Coach, I tryed him and the Hors as William Rimer brought me, but being neather of them would then goe quietly I took one of Thomas Syers Horses & went to Ince with my Wife, I made a Viset to Mr Tasburgh and then came back to Ince to my Wife.

2 I tryed my two New Horses in the Morning & that which I pitched upon to buy I went out with in the Coach to Jane Bryansons, I went to see John Sumner Senior who is very ill.

3 Yester night & this Morning I took a Dose of Pills from Dr Thomas Worthington. I sent Robert Tompson to buy one of the Horses as I had tryed to draw my Coach and that as I dislicked he sent back again.

[98] Mr. Halsall of Walton was buying spirits and the servant he had sent for it was helping to bottle it. The gentry from the neighbourhood often sent to Little Crosby for wine and spirits. Some Diary entries show that smuggled wine from France was hidden, bottled and sold at Little Crosby.

4 I planted about 16 Pritty Large Ellar Trees, the tops being first cut off, at the end of the New Orcherd for Shelture, I began to plant this Winter Ash Trees in the Hedges.

5 Ellen Rigby brought us word that there was a Ship loaded with Butter as had sufferd dammage the last Night, some of it was brought up to Great Crosby, she bought us three Muggs of it.

6 Walter Thelwall paid me some Money as he ought me upon a Note of Demand.

7 Mr Aldred went with me to Croxtath to wate of my Lord Molineux, 'tis the first time I have ben there since I came home from my Long Ramble.

8 I Drank a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Aldreds as he gave Mr Thorp and me. Mrs Thorp made my Wife a Viset.

9 I went to Ailes Tickleys to meet Mr Wofold but he came not till after dinner, we peruesed some of her Leases. I dined there with Mr Molineux of the Grange, Mr Robert Chantrell, Richard Blundell, &c:. I gave my New Hors Stagg a Purge.

10 It being a Wet & Windy day I stayed much in my Closet and began to write some Letters as I intend to send with some things to Graveling.

11 I Helped Robert Tompson to Bottle off above 6 Dozen of Aile. Thomas Syers Cart brought me home a Barrell of Sugar from Mr Thorp of 3C–3q–10lb Groce.

12 I opened the Barrell of Sugar as came yester day & put it into Muggs. Pat: Turvill & Burton made a Viset here.

13 I put some Ingredients into two quarts of Sower Syder to make Ink on. William Thelwall put me up a Case over my Jack.

14 Joseph Rigby gave my New Hors Stag a second Purge. Captain Fazakerley called here as he was going to Leverpoole from the New Hous.

15 Mr Aldred and Thomas Syer smoked a Pipe with me this after Noone.

16 I made about 6 Bushell of Crabs into Verguce, but being kept so long they yealded very little & it was not sower.

17 Yester Night and this Morning I took a second Doce of Pills from Dr Worthington.

18 Lithgoe killed a good Swine here as he had bought of Thomas Syer. I bought a Runting Swine of Thomas Syer to keep. I set some Roots of Renunculas in the Right hand Hedg Garden.

19 Thomas Syer went with me in the Morning to the Ackers & Doltron to see what I ought to give to one for Riding those Gorce for me. I went to Lidiat to see Pat: Moston, I made a Viset to Dennats Wife, she told me that for above these 12 years last past she has not eaten any thing but spoone Meat, not so much as a peece of Bread or Puding, all her Sustenance being what she drinks or eats with a Spoone for other Victuall disagrees with her Stomack.

20 I was going to make Parson Wairing a Viset but met him and Parson Letus going to Hesketh so I turned back with them to Hesketh & took a Pipe or two, then went to Robert Tompson who was seting some Alder Stakes &c: for me at my Grand Cop by the Sniggary, thence I went to the Morehouses to make a Viset to most of my Tenants, at whose Houses I had not ben at since I came home.

21 I met some of my Ditton Tenants at Leverpoole, they paid me their Rent, I Dined at the Wool-Pack I drank there with Thomas Syer of the Ford, Thomas Whittle, Mr Byron of the Edg, Mr Cottom, &c:.

22 My Wife went to see William Marrows Wife as is lying in. I stayed most part of the after noone at Mr Aldreds with him. Joseph Rigby gave a Drink to my New Hors Stagg.

23 John Lurting planted me two Plumb Trees to the Wall. I cut some of the lower Boughs off the Fir Trees of the Avenew. Mr Burtles of Leverpoole and his Friend dined here. I shewed them my Picture of the old Man & Candle.

24 I payed William Thelwall for work done by him since my coming home & for Timber for my use.

25 As Ellen Harrison was lying in a Slumber between 6 & 7 of the Clock this Morning she felt some Body as she thought feeling about upon the Bead-cloaths, she called out (thinking it was her Bed-fellow Ann Blundell who was gon in the Night to Mr Thomas Wofold to her Devotions) and said, Nanny are you not almost Starved? yes answer'd somthing for the Kinding has not taken hold, meaning that the Turves as the Fyer was raked with, were not on fire, then said Ellen, had it not ben better for you to have gon this Christmass day to Confestion to Mr Aldred than have gon so far this cold Night to Mr Wofolds, then somthing answered with a Sigh & said I would rather goe to him than any Body; Ellen not hearing her stir in the Roome, nor hearing her goe out spoke again but nothing answer'd which did somthing surprize her, knowing that Ann Blundell could not get into the Hous, the Doars being all Locked or Bolted; so Ellen got up & went down Stairs, found all the Doars fast as she had left them when she went to bed; and Ann Blundell came not Home till near nine of the Clock; This Account Ellen Harrison gave me this Morning who assuers me there was no body in our Part of the Hous except herself and my Wife and I, she says also she took the Voyce to be Ann Blundells, what this means I suppose time will shew for certainly it was somthing supernaturall.

26 This being Mrs Blundell of Inces Birth-day Mr Aldred, my Wife and I dined there.

27 Thomas Syer and I setled our Accounts, he paid me his first half-years payment, by Cash & Bills of Disbursment.

28 Margery Blundell the Skiners Doughter Lodged here.

29 Mrs Blundell and Mr Turvill dined and Suped here.

30 Thomas Syer & I looked over the Houshold-goods he had of mine to see how they agreed with the Catalogue. They sent hither from Culcheth to wish us well-come-home. My Wife & I met Mrs Blundell & Mr Turvill at Mr Aldreds, we dined and Suped there & played at Cards.

31 Robert Tompson and I marked out the Middle of the Avenew as is to be made in the Crofts.

Till the 18th not above two dais fair the other days being generally very wet and very Windy then 7 days fair onely that there was a little Rain one day, from the 25th to the End generally very wet & very Windy with some Snow, the 31th it began to Settle to Freese, This Month may well be called very wet & very Windy.

The Beginning of this year rather warm for the Season; the Summer excessive hot & Hay-Grass very poore. Begining of Corn Harvest very good the latter end very wet, the Generallity of Corn small, Apples and Wall-frute great plenty, The End of this year very Wet & very Windy.

Anno Domini 1718

JANUARY

1 My Wife and I were going to Jane Bryansons but it being a bitter cold day and Snowing very fast we turned home againe. Cozen Thomas Gilebrond & Thomas Walmesley lodged here, so did Pat: Gelibrond.

2 My Wife, our Gests and I dined at Thomas Syers with Edmund Tristram, Mrs Renolds, &c:, Thomas Fleetwood Senior came to us after Noone to our Bowl of Punsh.

3 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, Mr Thomas Walmesley and I went to Leverpoole & dined at the Wool-pack, we went to look at the Dock & the Charity Schoole.[1] I tasted some very good Wine in Mr Ginks Seller.

4 I went with Cozen Thomas Gelibrond to Ince but Mrs Blundell not being at home we came back to Mr Aldreds & went with him and Thomas Walmesley to Formos-poole, where Mr Aldred & Thomas Walmesley skaited, thence we came back to Mr Aldreds where he gave us a boul of Punsh.

5 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond & Mr Thomas Walmesley went hence, I went with them to Sefton and shewed them the Hearse,[2] I stayed in the Aile-hous till after Church time and then drunk there with the Church Wardens, Parson Wairing, two Robert Bootles, John Rose, &c:, then I went to see Parson Letus who had hurt his Legg.

6 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here, he walked from Leverpoole and back again.

7 It being a Frost I led Muck for the Gardens. I skated on the Carthous pit, it being the first day I skated this year or I think of the two Winters last past. Mrs Blundell & Ailes Tickle made a Viset here, I went to Edward Hattons and asked him to let me cart over his Dowl[3] at the side of the Ackers Lane. I paid the Land Tax to William Harrison & William Weedow.

8 William Gray and I Signed a Leas & Counterpart to each other of his own Teneament. John Blundell began to trim the Great Popular Trees before the Gates.

9 Robert Tompson laid a Cart plat between the Ackers Lain and the old Moss. I Strained my Ink as I have ben making & put a full quart of Water to the Ingredients to make a wors sort.

10 I took my last Doce of Calibeat, Thomas Syer, James Scarisbrick and I, met William Gray, Roger Neal, &c: at Mrs Ann Rothwells in order to reconsile a Difference amongst them, but could not doe it.

11 I went to Astley to wish Cozen Gelibrond Joy, It's the first time I have ben there since he was Maried, I Lodged there.

12 Cozen Gelibrond & I walked in the Morning to Cozen Thomas Gelibronds to prayers. I made a Viset to Mrs Howet. Cozen Thomas Gelibrond & Mr Thomas Walmesley met Cozen John Gelibrond and me at Cowlings the Kings head in Chorley where we took a Pot together.

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[1] The Old Dock, still being finished, and the Blue Coat School, erected 1716–1717.

[2] The Parish Hearse or Corpse Carriage, made at Nicholas's instigation when he was churchwarden.

[3] Field boundary.

13 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond and his Wife &c: dined with us at Astley.

14 We went from Astley viz: Cozen Gelibrond, his Wife, and I to Cozen Thomas Gelibronds where we dined with Mr Thomas Walmesley William Low, &c:, Cozen Thomas Gelibrond shewed me his Gardens, Fishary, Fountain, &c:, I gave some small Rings & Spaw Crosses to my Little Cozens there.

15 The Gardiner at Astley walked with me in the Gardens and gave me some Lawritinus. Pat: Gillebrond & his Nephew Thomas Gillibrond dined at Astley and then they, Cozen Thomas Gilibrond & I went to Lathoms in Chorley. Mr Ovsey came to us.

16 I came from Astley, Cozen Gelibrond came with me to Croston where we dined, thence I came to Ormskirk, stayed awhile at Dr Lancasters and so home.

17 Jackson who was Gardening for me planted some Plumb Trees, &c: as I brought with me from Astley.

18 Cozen Thomas Gelibronds Servant went hence with some Walnut Trees, &c: as I had given to his Master. I made a Viset to Edward Howerd discoursed him concerning leaving somthing to the Parish Stock, &c: when he dies.

19 I proposed to Margery Tompson to goe to serve Madam Cross.

20 I Began to make holes or Marks in the Crofts for Planting an Avenew of Firs. I Planted four Pair Trees in the New Orcherd 3 of them were very large.

21 I Began to take up a quantity of Thornes for selling this year. Margery Blundell having received a Denyall from Madam Cross came to desier my farther assistance in that affair. Mr Hardesty Lodged here.[4]

22 My Wife and I were present when Mr Turvill[5] made his Profession so was Walter Thelwall & his Son William, Edmund Tristram, &c:. We dined at Ince with Ailes Tickley, &c:, I eat of a very good Chees as was twelve years old & made by Thomas Foolers Wife of Great Crosby. I drank Punsh in the Hall at Ince with Mr Turvill who treated us. Pat: Smith of Culcheth, Pat: William Molineux, Pat: Richard More. &c:. John Rothwell signed a Bond to me for payment of £5. I sent to see Mr Wofold of More Hall who is very ill, and also sent of a How-do-you to the good Widdow Eckleston.

23 Mr Aldred and I were going towards Parson Wairing to make him a Viset but being told that he was gon to Dukes we went thither, where we found Dr Tarlton, Pothecary Lathom, Mr Oldfield &c: all of Leverpoole.

24 I Began to cut some Boughs this year out of my Apple Trees. Robert Moss paid me the Remainder of what he ought for my Ditton Timber. Mrs Blundell of Ince sent her Gardiner for some young Ash Trees as I had promised her, he took them up.

25 I was busy all the after noone cuting Thornes as were taken up & counting them into Hundreds.

26 It being a cold Snowey day I stired little out of the Hous.[6]

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[4] Father John Hardisty, alias Tempest, S.J., succeeded Father Mannock early in 1713 as Roman Catholic priest in Liverpool, where he had built a chapel and a house in North John Street (then Edmund Street).

[5] Rev. Charles Turville, S.J., chaplain at Ince Blundell.

[6] See Appendix L.

27 I Began to Plant my Avenew of Firs in the Crofts & to fence them; I Scoupered or burned the long Stakes as went into the Ground from the Points upwards to prevent them from Roting.

28 My Wife & I went to the New-Hous to pray for Mr Tasburgh, we dined there with Mrs Blundell, &c:, I was in my Mill when Mr Tasburgh was carried past to be buried.[7]

29 My Wife made a Viset to Scaresbrick to the Widdow 'tis the first time she has ben there since we came home from London. I strained my second sort of Ink.

30 Captain Fazakerley dined here and went back to Leverpoole. Edward Howerd and I helped Mr Aldred to make provition most part of the after Noone against Sunday. I sent a second time to see Mr Wofold who is ill.

31 Edward Howerd and I helped Mr Aldred to lap up[8] against Sunday. Robert Tompson marked some Trees in the Padock & Crow Orcherd as are to be cut down or Crop'd. Roger Hadock the Bayly of this Hunderd[9] was here.

The six first days frost & Snow, the Tenn next days generally some little Rain, then five days of Frost, the next five dais various Weather, the five last days Frost, but the last it began to Thaw.

FEBRUARY

1 John Blundell & Robert Tompson cut down & trimed severall Trees in the Padock as I order'd yester day to be marked for that purpose.

2 My Wife and I made a Viset at Ince, Mr Turvill shewed me where there is to be an Orcherd Planted, we consulted about it. As Mr Turvill and I, &c: were smoking our Pipe Mr Cottom of Leverpoole[10] came up to us.

3 William Weedow payed Ten Pound to John Blundell Taylor, I setled Accounts between them & made all things pritty easy on both sides, all was agree'd before me in my Hall.

4 Mr Aldred and I went to Parson Wairings being invited thither to drink a Bowl of Punsh, Thomas Syer came thither so did also Captain Fazakerley.

5 I went to Morehall to attend the Funerall of Mr Wofold,[11] there was there Sir Edward Standley, Mr Brooks of Ormskerk, Mr Formby, Mr Molineux of Wooton, Mr Standley of Hooton, &c: I did not goe with the Corps to Highton Church but turned off with Edmund Tristram & Richard Blundell who came homewards with me as far as our way lay together.

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[7] Rev. Henry Tasburgh, S.J., a native of Suffolk, born 1641, entered the Society of Jesus 1664/5, and was sent on the Lancashire Mission in 1673. Died at the New House in Ince Blundell on January 27 1718, and was buried in the Harkirk, Little Crosby.

[8] 'lap up' candles.

[9] The Hundred of West Derby, Lancashire.

[10] Cottom, a tailor from whom Nicholas bought livery, clothes, etc. Fond of bowling and coursing, for which pastimes he frequently came to Little Crosby.

[11] Richard Wolfall of Wolfall was the last of the family to reside at Wolfall Hall in Huyton, near Liverpool. He had married Anne, daughter and heiress of Edward Stanley, of Moor Hall, near Maghull. He died childless, and his estate passed in succession to his brothers, William (died 1720) and Henry.

6 I was very busy most of the after noone seting Brick Traps to katch Mice in the New Orcherd, &c: where Pease & Beanes are sowed, and in Shaping Sticks for other ueses in the Garden.

7 Being Mr Turvill had sent to desire me to come to Ince I went thither today, we consulted farther about planting of the Orcherd.

8 I Helped Robert Tompson to Bottle off two Rundlets of Aile.

9 I had some Discource with Thomas Syer concerning his Continuance upon his Rack, he suped with me.

10 William Weedow and I took up about fifteen young Oaks as grew too thick in Rows in the Padock and planted them in other places there, where there wanted.

11 William Weedow Scoupered or Burn'd 120 or more Stakes at the Bottom end, to hinder them from Roting, they are to guard my Avenew of Firrs. I planted severall Sorts of Herbs & Roots in the Kitchen Garden.

12 Pat: Gelibrond who came yester night went this Morning to Formby to see one as is sick. William Weedow & I was busy most of the day planting Oaks in the Padock. I sold a Cow to John Ridgat for 30s. if he pay me at or before Michalmas, if not I am to have five shillings more.

13 Though I had some days since planted two Firr Trees for a begining of my Avenew in the Crofts, I onely began today to plant it in good earnest.

14 Notwithstanding that it was a very windy & cold day and wet I went on in Planting my Avenew. I made a Viset to my Tenants in Thornton & to those on this side viz: Edward Rothwell, &c:. My Wife finished spining of Strick Hemp, she has had five going Wheels on foot at once for some few days last past. Pat: Gelibrond, Mr Aldred & I smoked a Pipe at Thomas Syers.

15 I Finished Planting my Avenew in the Crofts but have not guarded the Trees quit so well as I intend, there are in that Avenew 46 Firrs.[12] William Weedow & I planted 11 Ash-plants in the Padock most of them five yards high as I guess and most of them were taken up with very large Sods sticking fast to their Roots.

16 Robert Tompson went to Morehall of a How-do-you to Mrs Wofold the Widow.

17 Joseph Rigby went hence with intention to live again at Preston, he having for a long time ben in these parts. I set seriously to work to put my Flower knot into Order.

18 I gave Robert Bushell some Codling Trees & some Burs of Codlings,[13] I planted some Dutch Curron Trees and some Howeboy Strawberry Plants as I had from Ince. I Sowed some Crab Peps[14] and some Crabs as had ben crushed for Vargeus. I dined at the New-hous with Pat: Billinge and Mr Sail &c:, I flung a Trash after Mr Saile.

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[12] "Carpinders work chiefly for prepairing Staiks, &c: for my Avenew of Firs &c:. . . . . £1 3s. 9d."
Spaidmens Work chiefly for prepairing Holes & Planting Firs in the Avenew . . . . . 12s. 0d."

[13] Codling—a variety of apple; bur—a knot or knob in a tree; in this case it was probably a cutting for grafting.

[14] Pips of crab apples.

19 I shewed Edward Farrer where he might have a Spot of Ground upon the Hill to build on & for a Yord or Croft.

20 I layed in my provition of Oat Meale. Thomas Syer walked with me into the Padock, I gave him an Ash as I had fallen there.

21 I began to cut Vistows for a Sort of false Avenew from the More-hey-Laine to the Garden Railes, Mr Aldred helped me to mark them out. I was busy most of the afternoone Gardening for Kitchen Stuff.

22 I planted some Firr Trees between the Henhous & the Flat Gate, & took up some Oaks as grew there in unproper places & planted them in the sixteen Aiker.

23 Mrs Blundell and Pat: Turvill dined here. Edward Lathom and his Wife dined here, they came to see me.

24 I went with my Wife to Leverpoole, I went with William Truman to his Doughters overcross the Street, John Gregson was with us, whilst we were there William Truman was seaz'd with a sort of a Fit & was not sencible for a little time. I took a Pipe at Mr Cottoms, he went with me to the Wool-pack where we drank with Sir Clave More, Mr Plumbe, &c:.

25 Thomas Syers Cart brought me a Box from London as came by the Carrier with some Coffy, &c: in from London.

26 I planted two very large Abells & some large Firrs in the Cop between the Crofts & More hey for what I call my fals Avenew.

27 Joseph Greenwood fetched my Rabet Skins away and pay'd me for them. William Atherton & his Wife dined here, he payed me his Rack Rent for Ditton by Bill of Disbursments & by Cash. I went to Parson Wairings to wish his Sister Kelsey Joy. Parson Kelsey[15] was there, we had a Bowl of Punsh.

28 I went to James Gregsons & discours'd his Wife concerning his selling his Land in Little Crosby, thence I went to Croxtath where I dined, but my Lord not being well I saw him not, Mr Aldred had ben abroad & met me at Croxtath.

Not two days together fair this Month except the 4th, 5th & 6th, the rest of the days generally very wet and extraordinary Windy and very great Stormes. This Month has ben very remarkable for Wet & Wind but especially for wind.

MARCH

1 William Thelwall fixed a small Bell for our use for the Parlor Chamber where we lye. I picked Stones out of some Pounds of Coffy as I had from London.

2 I gave Jemmy Marrow[16] a Letter of Recommendation to serve Cozen John Gilebrond.

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[15] Rev. Theophilus Kelsall, curate of St. Helens in the parish of Prescot, had married Anne, daughter of the Rev. John Waring. Her brother Gerard had succeeded his father in 1711 as parson of Great Crosby and headmaster of the Grammar School.

[16] Son of a tenant.

3 Thomas Syer began to make a Garden in the Lime Kill Croft. Ellen Harrison went to see her Doughter Betty & to stay some Nights with her, I went to the Hall of Male and got some Cutings or Imps of the Apple called the Summer Queening.

4 Jackson grafted some Harrison Apples and Summer Queenings in my Nursery, he Grafted three Summer Queening in the Crow Orcherd. Mary Syer was delivered of her Son Thomas.

5 I Sowed Peas, Beanes and Salleting in the New Orcherd. Mrs Blundell & I stood Gossops[17] to Thomas Syers Son Thomas, he gave Pat: Turvill & me a Bowl of Punsh.

6 My Wife went in the Coach to More hall to make Mrs Wofold a Viset, Mrs Blundell met my Wife at Sefton, they went together & dined at More-hall. I made a farther Bargan with Thomas Syer for a Longer Terme to hold his Rack under me.

7 I sent to see my Lord Molineux who is dangerously ill & to see Mr Molineux who is not well. I sent a Cart Load of Apples to Formby but could not get my price for them, so sold none but afew by Penny worths. I Grafted two Harrison Apples in young Oaks, & three Harrisons in young Ash plants but none of them lived.

8 I Sent a Cart Load of Apples to Leverpoole and made a sort of Bargan with Bessy Peele for them. I sent 6 Walnutt Trees to Mr Cottom. I Drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Plumbe & Mr Swarbrick. I was at the Drinking of a Bowl of Punsh at the Wool-Pack as Atturney Hulme gave.

9 My Wife and I went to Ince, we found Young Mr Robert Fazakerley there.

10 Formospoole Gutter being much stoped with the last Winds, it was opened today. Mr Needham lodged here, he & I walked to the little Brandiearth, Thomas Syer began his Seeding this year by sowing Beanes there. Ellen Harrison came back hither, she had ben to see her Doughter Betty. Charls Howerd and two Men worked here chiefly for my Wife. William Weedow & Charles Howerd set on Digers to Dig in my Oak Plantation.

11 I Planted a Row of Firr Trees in the Foulds from the Hors poole towards the Bark and Fenced them well with Rails &c:. Mr Saile of Hopkar[18] came to Thomas Syers, Thomas Syer gave a Bowl of Punsh to Edmund Tristram, to me, &c:. I planted some Abells in the Crofts for a Dooble Avenew.

12 I was one of the Bearers at the Funerall of my Lord Molineux,[19] there was then at Croxtath, Mr Case of the Red Hasles, Lawyer Gibson, Atturney Hulme, Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, &c:, Mr Culcheth came home with me from Sefton Church, he lodged here.

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[17] God parents.

[18] William, the son of Gilbert Sale, of Hopcar, esquire, then deceased, was probably visiting Ince Blundell to pay his respects to Jane, the daughter of Edmund Trustram (or Tristram), a yeoman of Ince Blundell. Within a few months he married Jane.

[19] Sir William Molyneux, of Sefton, 4th viscount, had registered estates as a Papist, worth £2,352 a year. He had married Bridget Lucy, and on July 22 1716 his second wife, Mary Skelton. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard, who married the Hon. Mary Brudenell, daughter of Frances, Lord Brudenell, in 1705. Richard resided at Woolton Hall, which he had built in 1704, till his death in 1738.

13 Mr Culcheth went hence, I met Mr Hulme the Atturney at Ormskerk, he pay'd me £30 and Interest, part of it was Dr Lathoms Money, it was first put out to Henry Fradsom. I treated at the Talbot Hulme the Atturney, Mr Byron of the Edge, Yeomon of the Gore Houses, &c:.

14 I Sowed some Beans & Peas in the New Orcherd.

15 Having planted & Fenced out my Firr Trees with Posts, &c: I turned off my Work folks William Weedow and John Blundell the Rite.

16 Pat: Needham held forth at Mr Aldreds. William Gray consented to let his Doughter goe to serve Madam Cross.[20] Mary Marser being very ill Dr Lancaster came to see her, he lodged here, so did Pat: Gelibrond.

17 I Helped to Bottle off above five dozen of Aile.

18 Thomas Cooper of Kerkby brought me some Burch Water, we boyled some of it with Hony to make Mead on & the rest we order'd for Burch Wine. Parsons Letus, Wairing and Kelsey made me a Viset, I gave them a Bowl of Punsh.

19 I had a Swine out of Order, I shewed him to two Butchers, one of them cut off his Ears & part of his Taile. Pats: Gelibrond, Needham, Aldred & I met at Parson Wairings, we drank a Bowl of Punsh there with Parson Kelsey, &c:.

20 Mr Needham went hence. I sold some Timber to Thomas Smawshaw. Mrs Shutleworth brought her Doughter hither for me to provide a place for her, they lodged here.

21 I Killed a fat Swine because he would not eat & seemed to be much out of order, the Occation was a Fish bone as stuck in his Pudings & drew them all on Rooks. Where the bone was his Puding grew to his Side. I tuned some Burch Wine & Burch Mead.

22 I marked some Flowers with Sticks to know each sort when I take them up I put some Reasons, Leomonds, &c: into the Burch Wine & Mead as was tuned yesterday.

23 I called at the Post Hous in Leverpoole[21] thence I went to Childol[22] where I drank at Fletchers with Parson Martland, Mr Plumbe, &c:, thence I went to Ditton where I Lodged at the Bank-Hous.

24 I gave Possestion to Christopher Parker of his small Teneament in presence of William Kennion, Henry Hawksey, &c:, I made a Viset to Henry Heys and sold some Trees to Samwell Chaddock.

25 I came from Ditton to Much Wooton where I dined with Mr William Holy-well, &c:, Mr Case and Mr Green the Atturney were there before Dinner but stayed not. I came to Leverpoole where I drank with Mr Robert Fazakerley the Father and the Son and Discoursed them concerning some Money as According to promiss ought to have ben payed tomorrow. Mr Syer, Mrs Wairing & Mrs Kelsey came home with Thomas Syer & me as far as their way lay.

26 Thomas Syer and I examained some of his former Receipts & Disbursments, he went with me to Foremoss-pool Gutter where there were 12 Men opening it.

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[20] The abbess of the Poor Clare nuns at Rouen. See also Appendix L.

[21] See Appendix M.

[22] Childwall.

27 I was Busy most of the day in the Gardens sowing Peas, Sallet Seeds, &c:.

28 Thomas Syer brought 10 Load of Timber home hither from the Park.

29 Mr Robert Fazakerley the Father gave me Bond at the Wool-Pack for £270 Principall with Interest, Henry Hey counted most of the Money for me, part of it was paid to Mr Morphew & I think part to Mr Houghton the Merchant who were present at Counting all or most of the Money. I Dined at Mr Cottoms with Mr Molineux of the Grange, &c:.

30 Doctor Tarlton dined here. I consulted him about my Wife she having ben extreamly out of order the last night; he came to deliver John Tickleys Wife, he took from her with his Instruments a Mail Child but it did not live. I paid Robert Tompson his Waiges & told him he should be the Groome.

31 Thomas Syer went to Formby with a Cart Load of my Apples & sold them for me. I made some preparation for Margery Blundells Journey to Rohan[23] by puting up some things & by writing Letters.

The four first days Windy & some Raine then Fair till the 16th except one day, then to the end of the Month every day some Rain except two, & many of them winedy.

APRILL

1 Mr Crumpton of Leverpoole the Upholstarer dined here, he came to see what work I had for him.[24] I sent to Scarisbrick to know what News from the Assizes.[25]

2 Margery Blundell & Margarit Gray began their Journey towards Rohan. I payed the Land Tax to William Harrison & William Weedow. I pay'd the Window Tax to Edward Rothwell. I sowed severall sorts of Garden Seeds for Sallets & Pot Herbs. Dr Tarlton was here.[26]

3 I went to Ned Howerds & smoked a Pipe with him & heard his Complaints.[27] I layed some Night Hooks into the Carthous pit to take some Eales for my Wife, the Morning following I tooke one.

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[23] Rouen.

[24] From now on for several months a great deal of work is done at the Hall—alterations in the furnishing and upholstery, new furnishings, white-washing, new linen, and old linen, not used for some time, being washed. Nicholas Blundell was about to take the Hall entirely into his hands again, and this, together with the need for 'spring-cleaning' the house all through after their long absence, and the entertaining of guests, led to a tremendous amount of activity. Mr. Blundell notes all this in his Diary and Disbursement Book. Mr. Crumpton's visit was well repaid and he received an order:—

"Curtans & Vallance for the Windows in the Gallery & the two best Roomes, & for covering 10 Cushens and one Squab. Lace, &c: for Repairing the Beds in the Garden and Parlor Chambers & for Workmanship in the four above mentioned Roomes . . . . . £8 1s. 0d."

[25] See August 15 1717 and footnote 72.

[26] Dr. Tarlton, intimate friend of Nicholas and the doctor he very frequently consulted, was the son of Captain Edward Tarlton, merchant, sea-captain, and in 1682, mayor of Liverpool. He lived at Church Stile House, a black and white timbered house near the Church Gate in Chapel Street, Liverpool. Fond of greyhounds and coursing.

[27] Part of Ned Howerd's cottage was still being used as a chapel and as a residence for Father Aldred. The numbers attending Mass were growing. Shortly afterwards Nicholas began to draw up plans for a new chapel, the first in Little Crosby. See Volume One, facing page 233.

4 I went to wish Mr Scarisbrick well-come home from the Assizes. My Wife had some Hempen Yorne brought home from John Blundells the Write.[28] I sowed some Beans for Seed.

5 Thomas Smawshaw sent two Men to Cross cut some Trees as I had sold him. I met them coming as I was going towards Leverpoole. Ailes Atherton paid me the Remaining part of her Fine. I Bought some Hugaback & Diaper of Mr Henry Tatlock[29] & some Wine of Mr Ginks, I drank with them & Mr Crumpton at the Wool-pack.

6 My Wife being extreamly ill of a Cold she kept her Roome, Jane Tristram came to see her. Mrs Smith dined here, I gave her the Overplus of the Twenty Pound.

7 James Worroll the Mill-Write laid me a Barr of Iron upon the Mill-Shaft where it was falty. I went to Lidiat and enquired after one for a Servant for me, I think his Name is Richard Ascroft, coming home I called at Sefton Ailhous & drank there with Mr Nicholas Fazakerley, Yeomon of the Goar Houses, Thomas Syer of the Ford, &c:.

8 I made a Viset to Mr Turvill who was not very well, Pat: Wofold & I met there accidentally at the Gates, he said my Lady Dowager Molineux was gon today towards London.

9 I sowed most of my Guant Flower Seeds. Thomas Syer paid me the Remainder of his Rack Rent.

10 I sowed some of my London Flower Seed & some as I had at Leverpoole, I sowed some Sellary Seed.

11 I cut Robert Weedows Hair and his Brother Henrys Hair.

12 I sent Button to Great Crosby Smith he having hurt his Foot.

13 Posion well £10 in Cath.[30] my Wife writ a Letter in my Closet.[31]

14 I should have met William Weedow and some of my Neighbours to have considered about making a Head Bolt to hinder so much Water from coming into Weedows Ground, but it being a wet day I went not.

15 Thomas Syer and I went to the Saile of Quick Goods at Croxtath but I found nothing to my Purpose. My Wife walked to Ince, when I came home I followed her on Horsback but it being wet we came home in the Coach.

16 I went to see how Edward Farer went on with his New Hous and gave his Masons a drink. Robert Weedow fetched me home a Swine from Croxtath as Thomas Syer bought yesterday. I began to draw a fowl drought[32] of my second bargan with Thomas Syer for part of my Demesney.

17 My Wife and I went to the Saile at Mrs Ropers, coming home we called at William Tarltons in Orrill & stayed there awhile, we eat somthing there.

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[28] "Flaxon for Sheets . . . . . £1 17s. 6d.
Hemp Yarn for Servants Sheets . . . . . £1 17s. 10d."

[29] "Diaper & Hugaback for Napkins . . . . . £2 15s. 0d.
Cambrick &c: for a Twe-Light . . . . . 14s. 0d."

[30] Nothing known as to what this entry means.

[31] Only two letters of Mrs. Blundell are copied in Blundell's Letter Book.

[32] Draft, rough copy.

18 I went with Pat: Gelibrond to Lidiat and there discoursed Richard Ascroft about coming to be my Servant, but we did not Bargan. Mr Plumbe made me a Viset here, but I was not at home.

19 Mr Turvill and two of Mrs Blundells Doughters came hither to take leave of us ere they went for London.

20 My Wife and I went to Ince to take leave of Mrs Blundell and her three Doughters who are to begin their Journey tomorrow towards London, Ailes Tickley was there.

21 James Davy came to put up some Slates & Repair the Hous where it Rained in. Edward Howerd paid me the Remainder of his Fine. Mr Crumptons Man came to repair the Cornish &c: of the Bed in the Parlor Chamber.

22 I was on the top of the Hous with James Davy to see where it wanted mending. I marked some Flowers against it be time to take them up. Mr Saile was Married.

23 Mr Saile and his Wife were here, Mr Aldred came to see him & took him, Thomas Syer, Edmund Tristram & his two Sons to his Hous & gave them a Drink, I went along with them.

24 Mr Molineux of Mosburgh & Mr Walter Tankerd dined here, they went out to the Marsh in the Evening in hopes to find some Game to shoot, I was at Edward Farers Rearing[33] and thence walked to the Marsh, my Gests lodged here.

25 Mr Aldred and I went to Formby with Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh & Mr Tankerd, we expected to find Dotterell and onely one was seen, we dined at Henry Norris'es.

26 Mr Molineux & Mr Tankerd went hence. I sold the last of my Apples I have to part with.

27 Ellen Harrison went to lodg at her Sister Ann Howerds, I sent her to Ormskerk. My Wife made a Viset to the Car Side. Uein Maudsley the Whit Limer came to know how long I could be ere I wanted him.

28 I sowed some of my last years Aspargus seed on my second Aspargus Bed on the Terrass Walk, there's now no Aspargus growing on it.

29 I dined at the Grange with Pat: Wofold & his Brother William, Mr Robert Chantrell & two from Ormskerk. Cozen Gelibrond of Astley and Mr Shepperd lodged here.

30 Pat: Wofold and his Brother William, Mr John Molineux of the Grange and Pat: Aldred dined here.

Till the 20th not above two fair days and generally very wet then four fair days then four very Hot and fair days and then generally very cold till the end of the Month and some Rain.

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[33] An interesting account of the building of this cottage on the waste at Little Crosby is given by Nicholas Blundell in his Tenants Book:—

"Farrer, Edward has Anno Domini 1717 or thereabouts erected a Cottage built with Stone containing two good Bays by the Consent of me Nich: Blundell upon the Waist, oposet his Brothers Hous which said Hous & Teneament belongs to my Lord Molineux. Edward Farrer has also inclosed a long Garden Spot & a pritty little Croft upon the Waist adjoyning to his Hous in Consideration of which he is to pay me yearly 2 shillings & to doe one day Reaping yearly or instead thereof to pay 6d. He the said Edward Farer is to enjoy the said Hous, Little Croft, and Garden for 99 years determinable upon the life of Edward, Ellen his Wife & James their Son, & being he was at the sole Charge of Building the said Hous I did not demand any Fine, though I think hereafter a Small Fine may be Demanded & perhaps he may have the Liberty to inclose a Little more off the Waist."

MAY

1 Mrs Saile went with my Wife & me in the Coach to Leverpoole, Mr Robert Fazakerley Junior signed two Bonds to me in presence of John Marsden & Mr Lathom of the Wool-pack. My Wife bought some things at Mr Cottoms Shop, he was not at home.

2 Mary Fleetwoods Son and an other came to mend my Windows.

3 My Wife and I went to Ormskirk, I intended to have met with Mr Jackson at Mr Henry Tyrers[34] and my Wife Intended to have gon to Preston but both of us were disapointed so we came home together.

4 I turned out my three Horses to Grass, they are now to ly out day and night. Ellen Harrison came home she had ben to see her Sister Ann.

5 Ewin Maudsley & his two Men came to whitlime most of this hous.[35] I went to John Sumner the Elder & advised with him about geting Turves. I payed Easter Dues &c: to William Harrison. I went to the Grange to see Mr William Wofold after his Fall.

6 It being very dry Weather I began to water severall of my Garden Beds.

7 I went to William Fleetwoods in Simons Wood & looked at his Gardens.

8 I went to look at Parson Hindleys Garden but he being ill of the Gout I could not see him, thence I went to Ormskirk & dined at Doctor Lancasters, I drunk at the Tolbot with Dr Lancaster & Thomas Bradley; Edward Hatton & Richard Jump came home with me as far as their way lay.

9 I put 8 dozen & four Bottles of Sower and very flat Syder into a Kask and set it in the Air to stand some time in the Sun, I put one pound of Allom into the said Kask. I bought two Punsh Bowls of Mr Robert Fazakerley Junior,[36] coming home from Leverpoole I met Mr Cottom & Pat: Philipson[37] upon the Marsh going from the Grange towards Leverpoole.

10 I went to Mr Robert Quicks & discoursed him concerning Miss Wilding, then I went to the Bank Hous at Ditton where I dined, thence to Prescot, I light at the Ship Thomas Moss his, I went to Mrs Glovers to look at Mr Limes Quondom Garden.

11 John Sergeant paid me some Money upon Account of Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh as he had ought me for some time. Henry Blundells Wife Mrs Dorothy dined here. William Dandy brought my Wife a Pair of New Canvis Stays.

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[34] Nicholas was hoping to buy some land in Great Crosby which Jackson was selling through Henry Tyrer, a lawyer in Ormskirk.

[35] While he was in Flanders Nicholas was so taken with the 'whiteness' of the white-washed buildings there that he copied out in one of his note-books how it was done:—

> "Boyle in Water two ounce of Stone-Blew powdered and then put to it about six Pound of Lime finely sifted and with it whit-Lime or wash over the walls of your Rooms as the Whit-limers doe, it will at first be very Blew but by degrees it grows whiter & whiter; it will in a few dayes be an extraordinary good Whit, this is what is always uesed at Guaint & in other Parts of Flanders and is abundantly whiter than our common English way of Whit-washing." (Anecdote Book, 373.)

[36] "Drinking Glasses . . . . . 5s. 8d.
Punsh Bowls two . . . . . 3s. 0d.
Whit Mettle Wair . . . . . 4s. 0d.
Muggs . . . . . 2s. 8½d."

[37] Father William Phillipson, O.S.B. came to serve at Aigburth.

12 I sent Robert Tompson out to take young Moles, he took 25 its rather too late by four or five days. I went to Mr Aldreds I found Pat: Gelibrond there, Mr Aldred gave us a Bowl of Punsh. I Racked off 20 Bottles of Crab Vargeus, as I made last Autumn it had never ben close cover'd, onely a Slate layed over the Ail-Pots, I put a peece of Allom about the Bigness of a small Field Bean into each Bottle and set them where, for some time they may stand in the Sun.

13 I went to Leverpoole and paid all to Mr Crumpton the Uphoulstarer as I ought him, I drank with him & Mr. Plumbe at the Woole-pack.

14 I went to Ince Bowling Green & Bowl'd with Parson Wairing, Mr Bayron, &c:, Dr Lancaster was there, he went with me part of the Way, he found me in Flea Land. there was as much Thunder & Litoning to day as has generally ben known in these parts, & I think there fell in this Parish very large Hail-Stones though we had little or noe Hail upon the Green onely some Thunder Showers.

15 Pat: William Molineux and his Brother Thomas dined at Mr Aldreds, I went thither after dinner & took a Glass with them, Pat: Gelibrond, &c: was also there.

16 I went to Leverpoole & took up the outside &c: for a Livery Sute for Robert Weedow at Mr Cottoms Shop,[38] he treated me at his Hous and gave me a dooble Snuff Box. I bought a Swine in Daile Street.[39]

17 I went to Ormskerk & met Mr Jackson and his Son, but Mr Tyrer not being at home we could doe little but talke about the Matter.

18 My Wife went to Henry Blundells in Ince to make a Viset to his Wife Mrs Dorothy, when she came home she went to bed ill of a Fit of the Gravell.

19 There were two Men from John More the Tanner as came to pill some Oak Bark of mine in the New Orcherd. I planted some Hartichok sets on the Terras Walk in the Places where others were dead. I went to my Delvers of Turves in the Morehouses and in Thomas Marrows Moss. This being Mr Aldreds Birth day he treated Thomas Syer and me at his Hous, he is today 46 years of Age.

20 Robert Tompson went with a Cart Load of Wood to Thomas Smawshaw at Leverpoole as I had sold him, he brought me home a quantity of New Puter & two other Boxes all came from London to Mr Cottom today.[40]

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[38] "Frock &c: for Henry Weedow . . . . . £ s. d. 14 4
Livery for Robert Weedow 2 1 8
Stockings & Hats for Henry & Robert Weedow 8 7
Taylors Work . . . . . 1 1 4"

[39] "Swine for Keeping . . . . . £1 13s. 10d.
Grains bought for Swine . . . . . 1s. 0d."

[40] More buying of table-ware to prepare for the coming visit of Lord Langdale:—

	£	s.	d.
"Plates of London Puter at 18sh. per Dozen	4	10	0
Water Dishes of London Puter at 2sh. per Pound	2	17	9
Box for the Puter & a Cord		4	6
Carriage of the Box of Puter from London & two other Boxes at 1d. per Pound		15	0
Knives & Forks of each one Dozen with Ivory Haffs & Silver Hoops	3	12	0
Box for carrying some London goods			10
Guilt Coffy Spoons six	1	12	0"

21 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. Pat: Billing & Mr Saile made a Viset here. The Pillers finished my Bark in the New Orcherd.

22 My Wife sent Nanny Blundell with her New Stays to Leverpoole.

23 John Tarlton killed me a good little Hogg. I mesured some peeces of Moss pits in Thomas Marrows Moss.

24 I went to old John Sumner who was delving Turves for me & advised with him about Delving an other Pit onely the half Bredth.

25 Peter White of Wicklow dined and Lodged here. Mr Saile and his Wife made a Viset here.

26 Charles Howerd and his Man came to Appolster for me, I was with them most of the day helping them and puting things into Order.

27 I was most of the day Scouring and clensing Pictures and puting them up in the Chappell, Gallery & severall other Roomes, Robert Weedow helped me all day.

28 Robert Tompson & Robert Weedow were with me most of the day helping me to put up Maps, Picturs, and Scutchons, &c: in the Hall, Stare-case & Entryes. Mr Nicholas Fazakerley came to discource me concerning Betty Lathoms selling Dr Lathoms Teneament.

29 Pat: Aldred shewed me how to clense or Purify Quick Silver. I went to Thomas Marrows Moss, Walter Thelwall was there.

30 This was my first day of selling Fleas and Turves this yeare, Thomas Syer sold them for me. Robert Bootle called here in the Morning, he had ben buying Turves, we smoked a Pipe together.

31 Ewen Maudsley & his three Men went hence, they have some of them ben 3 or 4 Weeks whit washing & pointing, &c:[41] I put up some Escouchions and Pictures in Mrs Ann Rothwells and Joseph Massys hous to make them fine.

The two first days some little Raine, then very faire & warme Weather till the 14th and great want of Raine for Barly Ground; from thence to the end of the Month almost every day some Raine & generally pritty much; in most parts of Lancashire they had too much Raine, but hereabouts we had too little.

JUNE

1 Richard Ainsworth told me that Hugh Bostock was now very ill and likely to be more chargeable to this Town than formerly.

2 Doctor Gerards Brother William dined here and then went towards Leverpool. My Wife and I, &c: were going on foot in the Morning towards Lidiat to Mr Mostons but being it rained we turn'd back againe.

3 My Wife made a Viset to the Young Ladys at Croxtath, being Robert Tompson was gon to Ormskirk Faire William Kerfoot drove the Coach to

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[41] "A Brush for whit Liming . . . . . £ s. d. 6
(This brush was for his own use)
To Whit Limers when all my part of this Hous was whit washed, some of them had 8d. per day 2 6 2
Given the Whit Limers to drink 1 2
Hair & Lime 5 7
Petches for Size 2 2
Paint whit, Black &c: and Oyle . . . . . 18 0"

Croxtath. I was at a Cocking at Thomas Hesketh's, I discorsed Nicholas Gorsuch there before Walter Thelwall.

4 I began to take up severall of my Flower Roots viz: Renunculas, Emonys, Tulops, &c:. I went to John Roses Marlers and gave them some thing & then went to Ince Greene & bowled with Parson Darbyshire, Mr Smith of Magul, &c:, old Robert Bootle was there.

5 Mr Cottom called here at the Gates but would not light.

6 I was at all my Delvers of Turves. James Parker told me he would tourne his Horses into the Laines in the Night and would try Titles with me & gave me very sawsy Language.

7 I planted out 66 Colliflower Plants in three different places. Robert Weedow helped me to dress the Gallery Grate & Chimney with Moss & Shells.

8 I sent to the Post. I paid Roger Neal nine fifteens towards the Repair of our High-ways.[42]

9 Robert Weedow helped me to dress the Grate in our Chamber with Moss & Shells. I went to John Rosess there was Parson Letus & Wairing, Mr Bayron, Young Robert Bootle, &c:.

10 Pat: Gelibrond and I walked to Charls Howerds, there was Mr Cottom, Jack White, Pat: Wofold & his Brother William, &c:. My Brother Joseph Lodged here.

11 I went to Ince Greene & Bowl'd with Parson Letus, Wairing, Mr Byron, &c:.

12 My Brother Joseph & I went into the Town & saw some of our Neighbours, we went to Mr Aldreds, Pat: Gelibrond was there, he & Mr Aldred gave us a Bowle of Punsh.

13 Mr Nicholas Fazakerley was here, he came to discours me about Betty Lathoms selling her Interest in Dr Lathoms small Teneament.

14 Pat: Clifton made a Viset here. I bought a Saddle of Roger Neale.

15 My Brother Joseph held forth at Mr Aldreds. My Wife walked to Ince to welkom home Mrs Blundell from London & her Doughter Bridget from Paris, My Brother Joseph and I followed her thither. Ailes Tickley was there.

16 I went to wate of my Lord Darby at Knowsley, it was the first time I was there since his Lordship came last into this County, I dined there with him, Mr Windam, Parson Antwisley and his Brother, & young Mr Case; after dinner all of us played at Bowls except Mr Windam.

17 I went to the Sail of Goods at Croxtath[43] & bought some of Thomas Syer

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[42] "Church Leys . . . . . £ 19 s. 6 d.
Easter dues & Clarks Waiges 3 8½
To Warants for Bridges &c: 3 8½
Fiveteens for the use of the Town (Town—Little Crosby) 4 11 4
Post Letters . . . . . 12 9"

[43] Nicholas bought quite a number of articles of furniture at the sale held at Croxtath following the death of Viscount Molyneux:—

£ s. d.
"Press for hanging in my Wives Cloths 1 10 0
Plod for Window Curtons 6 6
A Sedar Chest of Drawers 1 10 0
Ovell Table 1 6
Under Quilt 3 0
Frame for warming plates 2 6
Pictures three . . . . . 4 6"

& some of — — — —. Thomas Whittle, Mr William Nelson, Mr Allonson, Mr Henry Cottom, &c: was there. Pat: Hardesty Lodged here, he came with my Brother from Leverpoole. Mrs Blackbourn & her Son James made a Viset here.

18 I went to Leverpoole and gave Mr Plumbe Directions to draw a New Deed of Setlement of my Estate,[44] then he went with me to Mr Ginks his Sellor where I bought some Wine & Brandy of him.[45]

19 Robert Tompson helped me to Bottle off about 10 dozen of Aile. I sowed some Turnop seed, Radish & Letice Seed.

20 Pat: Hardesty went hence, he, Pat: Aldred, my Brother Joseph & I made a Viset to Mr Wairings. Nanny Blundell[46] went towards Holy well.

21 My Brother Joseph went towards Holly Well. I Fetched from Croxtath the things I had bought there at the day of Sale, Shepperd the Gardiner helped Robert Tompson & me to Load them, from thence I went to Leverpoole & bought some open Silver Lace of Mr Maior for my Wives Hat. Thomas Syer came home with me.

22 My Wife and I went to Leverpoole and heard Pat: Doodell[47] hold forth at Mr Hardestys, we dined there with Mr Tute & his Nephew Mr Nugent &c:.

23 I fixed the Sedar Chest of Drawers as I bought at Croxtath in my Closet. One of my Hives of Bees swarm'd today, 'tis the first I have had this year onely one as came to the Granery.

24 I went with my Wife to Leverpoole and bought somthing at Mr Cottoms to be a Blew Riding Coat for me.[48]

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[44] It now appeared to Nicholas that he was never to be blessed with a son and heir, in spite of all the bathing at Chaudfontaine in June 1717. He was now making arrangements for the settlement of the estate on his two daughters. This must have been quite a blow to him since for over 600 years the estate had descended without a break from father to son. See October 7, December 3 and 20 1718.

[45] "

	£	s.	d.
Wine	3	19	6
Brandy and Drams		15	9
Malt	2	4	0
Hops	1	0	0
Vinegar		3	0"

[46] One of the servants.

[47] This was the great church historian, Father Hugh Tootell, alias Dodd. Father Tootell had been living at Mossborough Hall, Rainford.

[48] Not only did he buy a blue riding coat for himself, but also several items for his wife:—

	£	s.	d.
"Blew Mantue & Pettycoat all Materialls for it & making	8	2	9
Two Whail-Bone Busks		1	0
Muslen, Edging, Neck Carchaff, Milleners work	4	8	0
Blew Drab &c: for a Riding Coat	1	19	6
Woosted for mending my Stockings			8"

Other items were bought, but whether from Cottoms is not clear:—

	£	s.	d.
"Flaxon for Aprons		4	8
Milleners work & Edging		14	0
Silk for a Black Hud		5	0"

In addition to all this spending on clothes for the occasion of the coming visit of his wife's father and sister, Nicholas also increased his wife's allowance. Usually this varied each quarter between £2 and £5. However, for this period, March 25 to Midsummer it was trebled:—

"An Allowance given to my Wife	£10 0s. 0d.
More in Cash to my Wife	£5 0s. 0d."

25 I went to the Hall of Ince and Stay'd a while with Mrs Blundell and went to the Green where I Bowled, there was Parson Darby-Shire & Wairing, Mr Heys the Stuard to my Lady Moon, &c:.

26 My Brother Joseph came back from Holly-well. James Barnes came to discource me about being my Servant.

27 Jackson came to dress my Wall Trees. I went to Leverpoole, Mr Cottom gave me a Glass of good Aile at his House. I smoked a Pipe there and drank at the Wool-pack with Jack White. I payed Mr Cottom all I ought him.

28 My Brother Joseph went hence, I went with him as far as Blind-Leg, where we found Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh & his Brother, Mr Percy & Ned Farnworth, &c:, my Brother went to Lodg at Mosburgh. James Barnes came to be my Butler and Gardiner.[49]

29 Jack Whit, John Marsden, & Peter Wilkinson were at Mr Aldreds; I was with them there after dinner, Mr Aldred gave us a Bowl of Punsh.

30 Mrs Blundell & her Doughter Bridget called here of my Wife, they went to Mr Aldreds where they found Pat: William Molineux & his two Sisters Mrs Ann & Bridget; I also went to Mr Aldreds where I found the forementioned Company & Mr Percy & Dr Molineux, we had a Bowl of Punsh there & most of us suped there.

Till the 11th every day except two some Raine more or less, then five fair days; from the 16th to the end of this Month now & then some little Raine and some days very hot and great want now of Wet espetially in Sefton Parish.

JULY

1 Mr Henry Tyrer sent an Express to me to desire I would meet Jackson at Ormskirk on Thursday next concerning his Hous. I Buryed about 10 Busshell of Haws on the Saw-pit Brow, they have layd dry ever since they were gathered but were as much sprit when they were taken up as those which were buryed severall Months since.

2 Mr Pursall dined here. Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole and her Son Robert made a Viset here. Jackson Inoculated some Wall Frute for me in some of my Stocks in the Nursery, &c:.

3 I Began to get home my Coles, I had three Boone Carts and two others. I went to Ormskirk to have met Mr John Jackson but he came not, his Son was there so was Mr Williamson & John Farclough, &c:, I drank with them & Mr Tyrer at the Talbot & with Pat: Wofold, Dr Lancaster, &c: at the Golden Lyon.

4 I went to Leverpoole, I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Cottom & Dr Rice. I payed Mr Cottom all I ought him. I drank a Glass of Aile with him in his own Hous, Pat: Clifton and Turvill were there.

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[49] He did not remain long for in the Wage List for Midsummer to Michaelmas 1718 we read:—

"Waiges to James Barns when he went . . . . . 10s. 0d."

In the same list:—

"Waiges to Ann Blundell when she went . . . . . 5s. 0d."

Probably they were both temporary appointments for the visit.

5 Mr Tyrers Son and Jackson came hither, we pitched upon an other time to meet. Pat: Gelibrond came very late & brought word we might soone expect a sevear Serch for Priests.[50]

6 Captain Fazakerley dined here. we expected som unwelcom Gests, I prepair'd for them. My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Saile.

7 James Harrison gave me a Bowl of Punsh here, we began it in the Morning, Pat: Aldred came after dinner and helped to finish it, Pat: Clifton and Turvill were also here. We lodg'd in our old Roome.

8 Ann Bradley came from Preston to be Cook here awhile, being we expected my Lord Langdale & Sister Midleton to come. I went ill to Bed.

9 Being my Wife thought Ann Bradley would not do well in the Kitchen I sent her to Leverpoole. Pat: Turvill came to see me. My Lord Langdale & Sister Midleton came hither to make some stay here.

10 After dinner I played at Cards with my Sister Midleton, and took a Pipe with my Lord Langdale.

11 My Lord Langdale went in the Morning a shooting, I was with him. My Lord Langdale and I, &c: went after Dinner to the Grange.

12 I met John Jackson & his Son, Mr Henry Tyrer, &c: at Dukes in Great Crosby but John Jackson was very Refractory.[51]

13 Mr Kendall from Wigan dined here. My Wife took my Lord Langdale & Sister Midleton out with her in the Coach. Mr Smarley & Mr Antwisley &c: came to Acquaint me that the Bargan was much what concluded with Jackson, I signed a Note by Jacksons order.

14 Mr Aldred gave my Lord Langdale & me a Bowl of Punsh at his Hous.

15 My Lord Langdale, Mr Aldred & I went a Seting & Shooting upon the Moss behind Formby, coming back we called at John Pooles where we had a good Refreshment. There was an impudent disbanded Souldior carried hence by the Cunstable to Leverpoole where the Maior ordered him to be whiped. I had a Merrinight, Tatlock play'd here.

16 Lord Langdale went to Ince Greene with me, I bowled there with Parson Wairing, Mr Bayron, &c:, Mr Molineux of Mosburgh was there.

17 I drew the New Marl-pit between the Pike & Great More-hey, we took but little, Lord Langdale was with us.

18 My Lord Langdale, Sister Midleton & I, &c: intended to have gon to Leverpoole but were prevented by hearing of the death of my Nephew Peter Midleton.[52] Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh and his Lady, &c: came hither. Mr Williamson and John Farclough were here upon John Jacksons account.

19 My Lord Langdale and I went to Ince to make a Viset to my Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh.

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[50] This is the last occasion on which he records that his house was searched or likely to be searched. This threatened search on the eve of his father-in-law's and sister-in-law's visit must have been very inconvenient.

[51] "Purchas of Jacksons Hous and Land in Great Crosby . . . . . £190 0s. 0d." Later he crossed this out and added the following note:—"I sold it again to him." See July 21 and October 9 1718.

[52] Mrs. Middleton, widow of Peter Middleton, of Stockeld, Yorkshire, was the sister of Mrs. Blundell. This Peter Middleton was her son.

20 Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh & his Lady, Mrs Blundell of Ince, &c: dined here.

21 Mr Henry Tyrer, and Hulme the Atturney, Mr Williamson, &c: were here to settle Accounts about Jacksons Debts, I paid most of the Purchas Money to the Creditors as were here. After dinner I rode to the New Park[53] with my Lord Langdale.

22 Lord Langdale & Mr Martine went out a Seting & Guning, they got a good Dish of Parteridges, I went not with them. I gathered most of my Tulop Seed, & sow'd some Turnop Seed.

23 My Lady Molineux, her Doughters & Mrs Mary Molineux dined here, I also expected Lord Molineux & Lord Cardigan.[54] Lord Langdale & I went to Ince Greene, I bowled there; there was Parson Darbyshire & Wairing, Mr Formby, Mr Bayron of the Edge.[55] Thomas Whittle, &c:.

24 Lord Langdale and I dined at Mosburgh, we bowled there after dinner. Cozen Gelibrond of Astley sent a large Salmon hither of a Present.

25 John More was here, he paid me for my Bark. My Lord Langdale & Sister Midleton went to Leverpoole with my Wife and me. My Lord Langdale & I drank Punsh at the Wool-pack with Mr Thomas Whittle, Mr Plumb &c:.[56] Cozen Gelibrond of Astley Lodged here.

26 Parson Wairing dined here. Pat: Wofold made a Viset here, We had a Bowl of Punsh and I gave my Lord Langdals Servants one.

27 Mr Fazakerley of Leverpoole & his Son Robert dined here. Mr Cottome came ere we had done Dinner.

28 My Lord Langdale went hence, I went with him to Astley[57] where we lodged.

29 Cozen John Gelibrond & I went with my Lord Langdale to Cozen Thomas Gelibronds where we heard three of his Doughters play on the Harpsicolls. Cozen Thomas Gelibronds Wife & Mr Richard Chorley din'd with us at Astley.

30 Cozen John Gelibrond and I went with my Lord Langdale to the Cross Keys in Blackbourn where we drank Punsh, we left my Lord there & came back to Astley.

31 Pat: Gelibrond came to Astley in order to come with me to Crosby today but we stayed there.

This has ben a very hot Month, yet pritty frequently some Raine & very often Great Showers and much Thunder.

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[53] This may have been New Park, Croxteth Hall, but see September 11 1718.

[54] Second Earl Cardigan, father of Frances, Lord Brudenell, whose daughter, Mary, was the wife of Richard, the fifth Viscount Molyneux.

[55] The Edge, Sefton.

[56] "Spent with Lord Langdale at Leverpoole . . . . . £1 9s. 6d."
Usually when visiting Liverpool with friends his expenses came to a few shillings. While Langdale was at Crosby, Nicholas provided for the keep of his horses, and since his own farm was let to Thomas Syer, he had to buy the fodder:—

	£	s.	d.
"Pasture & Hay for my Lords Horses	1	3	11
Oats for my Lords horses.	1	6	8
Hay for my own Horses	7	14	0
Keeping my Colt Favorit	1	3	4"

[57] Astley Hall, Chorley.

AUGUST

1 I came home from Astley, Pat: Gelibrond came with me, we stayed awhile at Mathew Prestons in Ormskerk.

2 This being my Fathers Aniversary I had five here viz: Pat: Wofold, Turvill, &c:.

3 Sister Midleton, my Wife and I dined at Ince. Stag was very wresty[58] in the Coach.

4 John Barton came to mend my Hous Clock. Mr Plumbe made a Viset here.

5 Mr Smarly the Atturney was here, I paid him what I ough him upon Account of the Purchas of Jacksons Land. My Brother Langdale[59], Dr Traps, and Mr Heskaine made a Viset here, I gave a Guiney to Mr Heskaine towards Crosby Race. Thomas Melling gave a Comfortable Drink to my Cow she being ill of the Yallows.

6 I went to Ince Green and Bowled with Parson Darbyshire, Mr Formby, and Thomas Whitley; Parson Wairing and Mr Bayron were there.

7 My Brother Langdale & Mr Percy dined here. Mrs Blundell & her Doughter Bridget, &c: made a Viset here.

8 Thomas Syer and I went to Crosby Marsh to see where was proper to set out Ground for a Hors Race,[60] Richard Westhead, Richard Cartwrite, &c: was with us. Roger Price was here, 'tis the first time I saw him here since his Imprisonment.

9 Mr John Lathom of London was here and desired I would petistion to Lord Molineux for him. I went to Leverpoole, Mr Thomas Whittle signed a Note to me for Payment of Fifteen Guineys when due, Ben Branker was Present. I drank Wine at the Talbot with Edmund Tristram & Thomas Syer.

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[58] restive.

[59] Marmaduke, the son of the third Lord Langdale. Within a few months of this visit, Lord Langdale died, and "my Brother Langdale" then became Marmaduke, 4th Lord Langdale.

[60] Since before 1630 the Blundells of Crosby had been responsible for measuring out the course on Crosby Shore. William Blundell the Cavalier, writing in 1663 in one of his manuscripts at Crosby Hall, states that his father, Nicholas Blundell, had measured out the old Liverpool race course, partly on the race course at Crosby. This Nicholas Blundell died in 1631, so this is a very early reference to horse-racing on the shore. These races were held fairly regularly until the Civil War. In the same note, William Blundell the Cavalier states that "This course as it is now (i.e. 1663) used upon the marshes of Great and Little Crosby was stooped out by me A.D. 1654, at the request of Richard, Lord Molyneux." Probably during the Civil War the course was neglected, and so the remeasuring of the course in 1654 by William Blundell marked the resumption of the races.

This new course was on land partly held by Lord Molyneux and partly by the Blundells of Crosby, near the Morehouses. In 1682, William Blundell drew up new rules for the race (See *Cavalier's Note Book*) and in 1683 he altered the course so that the start and the finish were in Great Crosby.

In June 1695, Walter Thelwall, Mr. Blundell's Steward, measured the course to be 403 roods 4 fathom. Since each rood was 24 feet and the course was covered twice, the total distance of the race was about 3¾ miles.

The race was run fairly regularly in Nicholas Blundell the Diarist's time, but there seemed to be no fixed date. In 1704 it was run in July, in 1706—April and October, in 1713—June.

For some reason, about 1724, Lord Molyneux transferred his horse training from Crosby to Wallasey in the Wirral peninsula, and the horse races on Crosby Marsh lost much of their interest.

10 My Wife & I took my Sister Midleton out with us in the Coach to the Marsh & thorrow the Morehouses and so home.

11 Thomas Bradley was here, I paid him for some pot Butter.

12 My Sister Midleton, my Wife and I dined at Wooton with my Lord Cardigan, Brother Langdale, &c:.

13 I took up some more Flower Roots though tis too Late. I warned some to do Boone by Stacking & casting Turves.

14 I Led Turves with six Boone Carts and one of my own, it was the first day this year. I was very busy all after Noone dressing Flower Roots.

15 I hired William Kerfoot to be my Servant. I went to Great Crosby where I saw a good part of Don Quick-sot Acted, I drank at Dukes with Parson Wairing, John Rose, Robert Bootle Junior, &c:.

16 Mr Carroll Molineux dined here and then I went with him to Crosby Marsh & helped to set out the Cours, Mr Darcy Chantrell, Thomas Syer of the Ford, &c: was there.

17 Mrs Blundell of Ince & her Doughter Bridget dined here. Mr Heskaine made a Viset here.

18 My Sister Midleton, my Wife and I went to lodg at William Athertons in Ditton, being it was lickly to raine we stayed awhile in the Road.

19 My Sister Midleton, my Wife and I made a Viset to Henry Heys, Joseph Bolton came thither to us; after dinner we came home but stayed awhile at the Black Hors in Walton. Ann Howerd who had ben here for some days went hence. Ann Blundell came home she had ben for some time under Betty Boltons Hands.

20 My Brother Langdale & Mr Thomas Heskaine dined here.

21 My Sister Midleton, my Wife and I dined at Mosbourgh with Mr Harington and his Lady, after diner I Bowled with Mr Harington, &c:.

22 Mr Syer and I gave Directions how the Posts were to be set on Crosby Marsh for the Race, we saw most of them set & then went to Dukes.

23 James Barnes left my Service and went hence.[61] I mended the Pump.

24 My Wife & Sister Midleton made a Viset to the Ladys of Magull; Mrs Blundell & her Doughter Mrs Bridget made a Viset here.

25 I began to make some Milk Punsh and I botled off the Remaining part of the Keg of Brandy. Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here.

26 I went to Crosby Marsh & ordered where the Distance Post should stand & saw them fixing the Chear.[62]

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[61] Brought in as temporary servants, with others, to help during Lord Langdale's visit:—

"Cooks whilst Lord Langdale was here	£1 10s. 0d.
Charwomen	11s. 0d."

Other extra costs were:—

"Washing Napkins, Wallets and small Linnen being 84 Dozen at 4d. per Dozen	£1 8s. 0d.
Washing 41 Pair of Sheets at 3d. per Pair	10s. 3d.
Washing 8 Dozens of Shifts at 18d. per dozen	12s. 0d.
Washing 9 Dozen of Table Cloths	9s. 0d.
Washing five under Petty Coats	6d.
Scouring the Pewter	1s. 0d.
Mending Stockings	4d."

[62] On a map of Great Crosby, 1741, the race chair is distinctly shown on the shore. It seems to have been the starting point.

27 My Wife, Sister Midleton & I dined at the Scous[63] at Mr Haringtons with Mr Molineux of Mosbourgh & his Lady, Ned Ogles, &c:, Mr Percy came home with us to lodg here.

28 Mr Percy went a Parteridg shooting, I went with him. Pat: Wofold and Mr Molineux of the Grange came hither and made a complaint of Thomas Blansherd for killing the Grange Rabets.

29 I went to Ormskerk Fair & Swaped away Stagg for a Black Harburo Filly as I call Bess, I bought a Bay Gelding for my Coach, I call him Jack.[64]

30 Mr Carroll Molineux and I saw four Horses mesured at Dukes, they are to Run on Crosby Marsh for the Gallaway Plate, Mr Egerton, Mr Boslom, &c: were at Dukes. Mr Atkinson Lodged here.

31 My Lord Molineux sent his Keeper to me with a side of Venison. Mr Charles Harington and his Lady Lodged here.

Almost every day this Month very hot for the Season and some days extreamly hot, the eight first days some Raine except one day, the rest of the Month very hot yet now & then some Raine and two or three last days very wett.

SEPTEMBER

1 I was at the Gallaway Race on Crosby Marsh and was in the Chear with my Lord Darby & my Lord Molineux & four Horses ran and Mr Bosloms wan the Plate.

2 Mr Sale, Richard Tristram & their Wives were here. We had three Fidlers here & danced Country Dances. Mr Harington and his Lady went hence.

3 I began to lead home my Fleas & to stack some of them in the Winter Hey. I was at Ince Green but did not Bowl, Parson Letus, Wairing, & Kelsey &c: were there. Mrs Blundell and her Doughter Bridget dined here & then went with my Wife and Sister Midleton to Leverpoole.

4 Pat: Billing made a Viset here. I met Pat: Wofold, James Harrison, Thomas Blansherd, &c: at Charles Howerds to adjust some misunderstandings but could doe no good.[65]

5 My Cow and severall of Thomas Syers were Roweled in the Dewlap & Bluddied in the Neck for a Distemper as was amongst them, their fore Legs were scabby & great peeces of Skin pilled off. My Wife, Sister and I dined at Ince, after dinner we played at Cards, my Wife being very ill she went home and left us.

6 I was pritty busy most of the after-Noone seting down my Accounts, in the Evening I went to Mr Percy who was shooting Partridges near the Hous.

7 Mrs Fazakerley of Leverpoole and her two Sons dined here so did the Famoly of Ince.

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[63] Scholes Hall, near Prescot.

[64] "Jack a Coach Hors . . . . . £6 9s. 0d."

[65] This was a dispute about the use of a lane giving access to certain fields. Thomas Blansherd or Blanchard, a tenant farmer, claimed that Nicholas had made use of the lane without his permission. A decision was eventually made against Blundell:—
"For Trespass in Thomas Blanshards Lain . . . . . 8s. 0d."
But see August 28.

8 I went to Lawrence Formbys in expectation to see a Pannier Race but being there was none[66] I stayed awhile and smoaked a Pipe with Pat: Wofold.

9 Mr Percy went hence. Mr Smith of Magull, Mr Bayron & Thomas Whittle were here, I treated them with Bottle Punsh. I brought home three Loads of Slates.

10 I began to cut my Mustard Seed in the New Orcherd. Emblem Blansherd brought us word that Cozen Scarisbrick was discharged at Lancaster.

11 I Rode out in the Morning with my Sister Midleton into my Lord Molineux his New Park[67] and looked at the Deer & Whit Beasts, thence we went to the Iron Forge[68] but they were not working so we came home and went againe after dinner to the Iron Forge, My Wife went with us, we saw them working & then went to Mr Bowers where we stayed awhile.

12 I was Busy most of the day helping to set Tulop Roots.

13 I new earthed severall of my Beds in the Knot & set severall Sorts of Flowers on some of them.

14 Margarit Gray was here, 'tis the first time since she came from London. Nanny Blundell left her service.

15 I went to Scarisbrick to congratulate Mr Scarisbrick for his good Suckcess at the Assises 'tis the first time I was there since I came from London, Mr Lathom a Londoner dined with us, Mr Lancet, &c: made a Viset there after diner.

16 I made an end of seting my Tulop Roots, I set this year in all of Tulops and their Chives 3123 besides some as I gave away and some as were not worth seting. Jackson dressed my two Cradles & some other Trees on the Terrass Wall. I began to gather my Apples I shall have about four Bushells. Pat: Philipson lodged here.

17 Pat: Philipson went hence. I was at the Pannier Race at Alcar, I drank Punsh there with Mr Nicholas Fazakerley and his Brother, Mr Writ, &c:, I bought a small Galloway there.[69]

18 The Galloway as I bought yesterday was brought to me hither, I call him Mous. My Wife, Sister Midleton, & I dined with the Famoly of Ince at Mr Aldreds, Mrs Wofold was also there.

19 I examined my Pillions, Saddles, &c: and got them into order against my Sister Midleton goe hence.

20 Mr Nicholas Fazakerley and his London Brother &c: were here, I gave them a Bowl of Punsh. I sowed some Anemony & Tulop Seeds in the Cloth-Hedge Garden.

21 Mr Percy & the Famoly of Ince dined here so did Mrs Wofold.

22 My Sister Midleton went hence, my Wife and I went with her, we dined at the Scows with Mrs Catherine Standley and Mrs Eckleston and lodged at the Red Lyon in Warington a very good Inn.

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[66] The race was eventually held on September 17.

[67] Croxteth Hall Park.

[68] Martingale's foundry at Aintree. See August 26 1713 and January 26 1714.

[69] "Mows, a Galloway . . . . . £3 14s. 0d."

23 From Warington we went to Chester where we lodged at Coach and Horses a very good Inn, we walked upon the Rampers[70] and went into the Castle Yord.

24 My Wife went to Eastom & thence by Runkhorne to Ditton where she lodged at William Athertons. Sister Midleton & I went to Whitchourch where we din'd at the George and thence to Longford where we lodged.

25 My Brother Langdale & I walked into the Fields & the Pritty Gardens.

26 My Brother Langdale & I walked to the Bowling Green where we Bowled with Mr Mills, &c: and drank with Mr Homes and some others.

27 I came from Longford, dined at the George in Whitchourch and lodged at Colebrook.

28 From Colebrook I came by Runkhorne to William Athertons at Ditton and so home, I met Mrs Blundell & Mrs Catherine Standley who had ben making a Viset here.

29 I Leased two small Parcells of Ground out to John Sumner Senior for 3 Lives. William Kerfoot came to be my Servant.

30 I planted some Elmne Trees on a Bed in the Long Garden, the two Rows on one side are of one sort, & the two other Rows are of an other sort of Elmne.

Till the 10th very hot & some days extreamly hot, from thence to the 26th generally Faire & very warme, from the 26th to the end of the Month every day some Raine and sometimes pritty much with great Wind; There has scarce ben known so warm a September nor so fine a Harvest both for Hay & Corn. The Weather being so dry made Wheat Seeding somthing late.

OCTOBER

1 Doctor Lancaster was here, I went with him to Mr Aldreds where we found Mr Thomas Molineux, we had there a very good Bowl of Punsh.

2 Crosby Smith gave my two Coach Horses a Drink for their Cold. John Atherton brought Brock & her Colt for me to look at.

3 I bought John Athertons Colt, I call it Jewell. I got the large Pullus[71] for the Jack turned deeper & I fixed them up.

4 Not having my Rent-Tally perfect for this year, I put my Rent Tally Books into better order.

5 I went to Leverpoole & drank at Mrs Ladys with Mr Smarley & Berry two Atturneys thence I went to Childol and advised with Mr Plumb about my being Summonsed to Appear at Darby Court. I saw Parson Becket in Childol, he preached there today.

6 Jackson Blanshed my Sellary which should have ben done long since. I took Mous into the Hous.

7 Mr Plumb read me over his Fowl Drought of Setlement of my Estate upon my Children I dined with him, &c: at his Sons.

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[70] ramparts or walls.

[71] pulleys.

8 I went to Ailes Mellings and bought some Geese.[72] My Wife took a Dose of Pills from Dr Lancaster.

9 I paid the Land Tax to William Weedow. I sowed some Cabbage Seed & Salleting in the Kitchen Garden. I was at Crosby Court where John Jackson delivered in (to Mr Green the Steward of the Court) the Surrender of Jacksons Land which I had bought in William Athertons Naime, I drunk at Thomas Heskets with Parson Wairing, Mr Crisp, Mr Williamson the School Master of Formby and some others.

10 I was busy most of the day reading over old Letters.

11 I took up some Roots of Crown Imperiall & Yellow Turncaps and set them on other beds in the Knot.

12 William Davy the Skinner came and acquainted Margarit Davy that he had ben arrested and taken as being supposed to be her Husband.[73]

13 I went to Crosby Goosfeast and drank at Margarit Lurtings with Edmund Tristram, Mr Molineux of the Grange, Thomas Goar, &c:, I eat some Goosfeast Cheer at Edward Hattons.

14 The Dispute about whit washing in spots over the Pantry Fyer. Mrs Blundell &c: made a Viset here.

15 My Wife took a second Doce of Pills from Dr Lancaster and was extreamly out of order, Mrs Blundell came to see her.

16 I took up 45 Good Cabbages & ordered them five different ways to try to preserve them. I stated Accounts with Thomas Syer for Turves, &c: as he had sold for me.

17 I Stated Accounts with Thomas Syer for what he had Disbursed for my use. William Thelwall mended the Parlor Windows some of the Cords of the Sashes being brocken. I put some Ising-glass to a Keg of Burch Wine to Cleer or Refine it.

18 I Brought home som Withen Stakes for Pat: Gelibronds Arbor & Lead some Earth for it. Betty Farer Lodg'd here.

19 I Stated Accounts with William Weedow for his Shrop-Shire Journey.

20 I set the Anemony Roots as Pat: Philipson gave me. Mr Plumb Lodg'd here.

21 Mr Plumb & I went out a shooting Cocks in the Morning and after that we went a Seting but we got nothing. after Dinner I went with Mr Plumb to Charles Howerds where he kept my Court, I drank there with Edmund Tristram, Mr Saile, James Gregson, &c:.

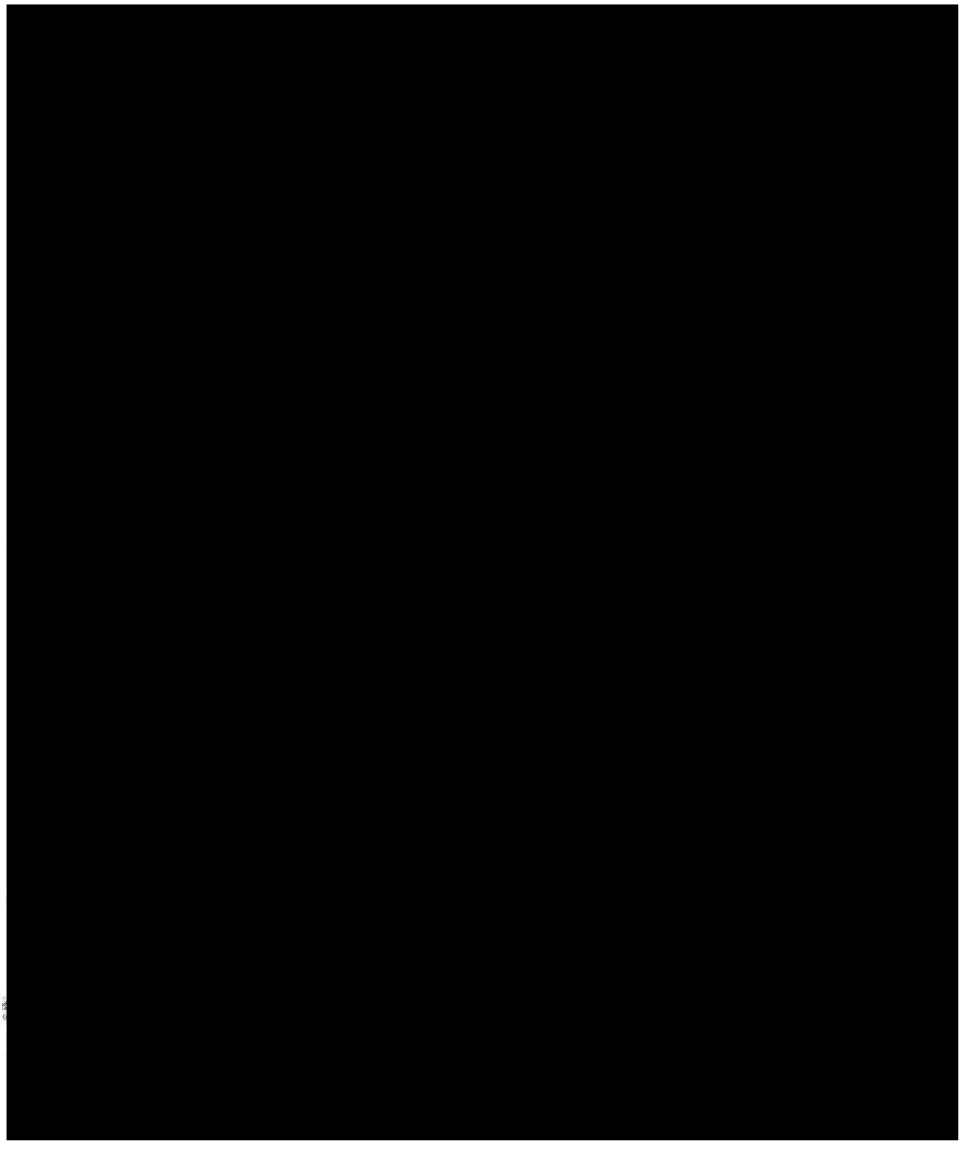
22 I borrowed a Brace of Grewhounds from Ince & went out a Coursing. Pat: Ploydon, Billing, & Turvill lodged here.

23 My last Nights Gests went to Leverpoole and dined there. Mr Saile and I went out a Seting, in the Morning we took nothing but after dinner we took eleven and turned out the old Hen.

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[72] "Gees twelve . . . . . 16s. 0d.
Oats for Gees . . . . . 1s. 3d."
This entry is further evidence that because his land was still leased to Thomas Syer he had to buy fodder for his animals. A little below this entry in the Disbursement Book is another:—
"Beans for Feeding a Swine. . . . . 9s. 0d."

[73] There were two men named William Davy in Little Crosby. This was a case of mistaken identity.





24 Pat: Ploydon and Billing went hence. I bought a Quarter of Beef of William Harrison.

25 I sent to look for Cozen William Gelibronds Hors and for Favourit as were gon out of the Pasture & found them. I set severall Brick Mous Traps in the Gardens.

26 Francis Farer the Gardiner at Mosburgh came to see what work I had for him to do.

27 I went to John Mellings and spoke for more Withens for my Arbour. I went to Dukes & got my Gallaway Mous mesured there.

28 I went to Leverpoole, Mr William Plumb signed a Deed of Trust to me of Sir Clave Mores Land as was bought for me in his Naime. I drank at the Wool-pack with Alderman Earl, Mr Cottom, Mr Plumb, &c:.

29 Francis Farer and Jackson began to set Withens about my Arbour to shape it right for Planting other Trees round it.

30 I prepaired some thing for the Falling Sickness as Mary Norris brought me from Betty Pinington.

31 I being out of Order with a Cold did very little but walk about. I sealed a Leas to William Weedow and he the Counter-part to me.

Till the 14th almost every day great Winds and much Raine, then five days fair with Frost, from the 19th till the end of this Month very fine & fair Wether except the 23rd & 24th some little Raine.

NOVEMBER

1 Jane Bryanson of the Morehouses made a viset to my Wife.

2 I made a Viset to the Hall of Ince & stayed there pritty late expecting the News-paper.

3 Francis Farer & Jackson finished making my Arbour, they also planted it round with John-Thorne, &c:. Mr Hardesty was here.

4 The Butchers dressed a Boar here as Thomas Syer bought at Leverpoole. Mrs Blundell made a Viset here.

5 Jackson planted some Wall Trees as Francis Farer brought for me from Mossburgh. Mr Saile brought me Mr Plumbs Setter as he had lent me. I began to teach Robert Weedow to writ.[74]

6 I tryed to draw my Black Mare Bess and she taking very well to drawing I led with her and others some larg wood out of the New Orcherd.

7 I shewed Edward Farer a Fowl Drought of the Bargan between him & me for his New erected Cottage. I parted my Swine and put up one to feed.

8 Thomas Syer boyled his Brawn. I helped Robert Weedow to Bottle off two Rundlets of good Aile.

9 I went with my Wife to Ormskerk, we thought to have seen the two Mrs Blundells but they were not at home. we were at Dr Lancasters but he was also abroad.

[74] Robert Weedow became his butler at 10s. 0d. a quarter up to Michaelmas 1722, when his wage was raised to 15s. 0d. per quarter.

10 Yester night I took a Dose of Pills which so worked with me today that I kept my Roome most of the day. I lent Henry Bridg a little Money & refused his Pawn.

11 William Atherton came hither and paid me his half years Rack Rent, Henry Heys came with him, they lodg'd here. It being Leverpoole Fair I went thither, I drank at the Wool-pack with John Whit, Mr Cottom, &c:.

12 Robert Weedow went out with me a Seting but we took nothing.

13 I was not very well so took some Burned Brandy when I went to Bed.

14 Mrs Wilding & Mr William Walmesley dined here. I was at Mr Aldreds with Parson Wairing, we had a Bowl of Punsh.

15 I put some Achhornes into a Hole in the Ground there to ly till I set them.

16 My Wife went in the Coach to Ormskerk to see the two Sisters Mrs Ann & Mrs Bridget Blundell.

17 I Botled off two small Kasks of different sort of Licker as I had made of Burch Water.

18 I drew off a kask of sower Syder as had stood out this Summer in the Sun, it had some Little Allom put into it; I think the Allom has don it some little good.[75] John White was here & paid me the Interest due for Mr Ch: Br: £50.[76] I drank Punsh at Mr Aldreds with John White & Peter Wilkenson.

19 Yester Night & this Morning I took a Dose of Pills according to Dr Cawoods Orders. Pat: Clifton & Turvill were here, I shewed them some tricks of Legerdemesne.

20 I helped to sort those few Apples as I have. I put some more things into my Seder Drawers[77] & paisted Papers upon some of them.

21 I went to Darbys and bought their Swine. Thomas Syer came home from Hopker after having composed Matters between the Mother and Son.

22 I set severall Moustraps in the Long Garden.

23 My Wife made a Viset to Ince, I kept the Hous and read most of the after Noone. Nanny Kerfoot & Catty Weedow came to gather some Herbes in my Garden, I shew'd them where they were, they were for Phisick for Nanny Blundell.

24 Lithgoe the Butcher looked at a Pair of Bedstocks of mine but they were not good enough for him. Thomas Syer and I went to Ogden and six others who were beating in my Ground for a Hare, I desired Ogden to goe off but he did not when I left him, they had one Whit Grew-hound with a light Brown Ear or Ears, an other a Blewish sort of a Grew-hound with a little whit on his Brest & a small tip of white on his Taile, I am pritty confident they had an other Grew-hound but can not describe it.

25 I went to the Mugg-hous & Congratulated Captain Fazer for his Post there, Young Mr Fazakerley gave me a Bowl of Punsh. I stated Accounts with Benjamin Branker and drank with him at the Wool-pack.

26 I Began to fence my Grand Cop at my New Water-Cource with small Bows & Fearn, &c: I went to them after dinner. Pat: Clifton & Ince Famoly made a Viset here.

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[75] See May 9 1718.

[76] Probably Christopher Bradshaigh.

[77] See June 17 and 23 1718 and foot-note.

27 I made Card Tickets ready for most of the Poore of this Parish against the next year. Mr Saile and his Wife came to lodg at Thomas Syers, they intend to Table with him for some time.

28 I fetched home 3 Dozen of Whit Wine from Mr Aldreds as he bought for me yester day at Leverpoole. [78]

29 I went in the Evening to see Mr Aldred who had hurt himself on Thursday with a fall coming from Leverpoole. Pat:Wofold came whilst I was there.

30 I Read most of the after Noone. My Wife and I went in the Evening to see Mr Aldred.

Till the 15th very Fair except the 3rd & 4th which was very wet, from the 15th to the End of this Month generally very wet with great Stormes of Wind.

DECEMBER

1 I gave Tickets in the Morning to most of the Poore of this Parish, they are to receive their Almes by them for the next year. Mr Plumb lodged here, he came to keep my Court tomorrow.

2 Mr Plumbe & I peruesed some Deeds of Setlement in the Morning, after dinner he went to Charls Howerds to keep my Court but I went not with him.

3 Mr Plumbe and I having fully Peruesed the Deed of Setlement which he had drawn for me & rectifyed the small mistakes we found therein, he went hence. William Harrison the Fore-Man of my Jury & some others of the Jury viz: Bryan Lea, John Tickley, &c: came hither and Acquainted me with some Water-Courses & things as were to be done by me. Pat: Gelibrond & I went to the Hall of Ince but the Famoly being abroad we went to Edmund Tristrams, he not being at home, we walked to Henry Whartons where we stayed a while and then walked home.

4 I helped Robert Weedow to Bottle off two Rundlets of good Aile.

5 It being a very wet & windy day I was busy reading over old Letters.

6 Mr Saile and I went out a seting but took nothing.

7 I read in a Spirituall Book a good part of the after Noone.

8 Henry Arosmith came to look at my Lame Colt Favorit & dressed his Back Sinew with some thing. I Signed the Contract or Bargan between Edward Farer and me for his New erected Cottage, and to Henry Swift for his small Cottage & they also Signed their Bargan to me in Presence of Margarit Davy, &c:. My Wife went to Ince, and coming home saw a great Rat in the Coach which frighted her extreamly, when the Coach came home they found four Larg young Rats in it, but killed not one.

9 Mr Bower and John Tyrer met me at my Lords Arms in Aintry. Mr Bower made some proposalls to me for the Purchass of Dr Lathoms Fifteen Aicker.

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[78] "Malt . . . . . £2 2s. 0d.
Hops . . . . . 7s. 0d.
Wine . . . . . £2 12s. 10d.
Drams . . . . . 6s. 0d."

10 I made a sort of Tyring Irons if one may so call it of wood and Leather-thongs.[79]

11 I went to Ince and shewed Mr Turvill my wooden Tyring Irons. I killed a pritty good Hogg.

12 I read over old Letters the most part of the day.

13 I went to Leverpoole and drank with Mr Rench at the Wool-pack, he is to be Land-Lord there. [80] Mr Plumb and I had a small examination of the Setlement he is now drawing for me. Pothecary Par gave Jolly Brown and me a Bottle of Wine at his Hous, we smoked a Pipe there. Mr Heskaine gave me a Grewhound, I call him Spring.

14 Bryan Lea was here to know when he might have an answer about fining with me for his Wives Life.[81]

15 Jackson covered my Aspargus & Harty-Chocks. John Melling & James Rigby sawd a Large Logg of Timber for me Flitch ways.

16 I went to Mr Aldreds to Chancelor Heys and Thomas Maudsley who wanted to speak to me, Pat: Burton came thither, I came hither with him where he stayed awhile.

17 Mr Turvill came to condole my Wife for the Death of my Lord Langdale.

18 I sent to Mr Cottom for Mourning for my Wife and me, &c:, Mr Cottom came hither in the after noone partly upon that business. I sent my Hors Jack to Dr Longworth at Ormskerk, he says he has the Farcy.[82]

19 My Wife and I dined at the Wool-pack at Leverpoole, we went to Mr Cottoms about Mourning for my Lord Langdale.

20 I met severall of my Ditton Tenants at the Wool-pack in Leverpoole, they paid me their Rent, I drank there with Mr Cottom, Mr Robert Fazakerley Senior; I paid Mr Cottom for what my Wife & I had bought of him for Mourning for my Lord Langdale.[83] I signed the New Deed of Setlement upon my Doughters, &c: as Mr Plumbe had drawn for me.

21 Mary Blundell shewed me part of a Letter as she had writ to her Sister Margery.

22 I Prepaired some things for my Chaff Nets & set them in part. Mrs Blundell and her Doughter Bridget came to condole my Wife upon the Death of my Lord Langdale.

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[79] An ancient game. Tyring, tiring or tarrying irons—ring puzzles, in which a number of rings (usually of iron), 7 to 10 in number, were placed on an oblong closed wire loop or bow. The puzzle was to take all the rings off, which took time; hence the name 'tiring' or 'tarrying'.

[80] The Secomb family probably continued at the Woolpack Inn until Rensh (?Wrench) took over.

[81] Lea, who had leased some land from Blundell, was asking that his wife be added in the lease, for which he would have to pay Blundell a fine.

[82] A disease of animals, especially horses.

[83] "Crevats for Mourning two . . . . . 4s. 6d.
Dressing my Mourning Sute . . . . . £1 0s. 11d."

23 I tooke some small Birds in my Chaff Nets[84] & some I shot at a Scrap.

24 I cut Boughs off some of my Fir Trees to dress the Hous with against Christmas.

25 We went betimes in the Morning, at tenn of the Clock and after Dinner to Mr Aldreds.[85]

26 My Wife, Mrs Saile, and I went in the Coach to Ince, this is Mrs Blundells Birth day, she now enters into her fortith year.

27 John Tickley, Thomas Marrow and Mary Marser paid me some Rack Rent. My Wife and I went to Lodg at Cozen Thomas Gelibronds, we called at Grises in Ormskerk where I drank with Dr Lancaster and Mr Wilson the Atturney.

28 Cozen Gelibrond of Astley Dined with us; his Lady made my Wife a Viset after dinner.

29 Mr William Brooks, Captain Warren, &c: dined with us, we had a Bowl of Punsh.

30 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond and I went to Charnock where we met Cozen Gelibrond of Astley, we drank there with Robert Foster, &c:.

31 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond, I & our Wives dined at William Lowes, after Dinner our Wives went to Chorley Town.

Till the 13th every day Rain & for the most part very much with great Winds, then tenn days of Frost & Snow but of neather very much, from the 23rd to the end of this Month generally a very cold Thaw with some Little Snow and Raine.

January was very seasonable weather, February very hot for the season and most extraordinary great Winds, March, Aprill and May very seasonable weather, June hot and dry, July hot and much Thunder, August & September extreamly hot & dry for the Season hardly ever so good a Hay Harvest known, the Corn Harvest was also very good, October very Seasonable weather, from the midle of November till the end of December extreamly wet and very great Winds.

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[84] Nets used for catching chaffinches and other small birds for food. Alternative spelling—'clapnet'.

[85] for Mass.

Anno Domini 1719

JANUARY

1 Cozen Thomas Gelibrond and I and our Wives dined at Astley, Mr William Brooks was there.

2 I walked to Cozen Gelibronds Cole Pit. My Wife and Cozen Gelibronds met old Cozen Gelibronds Wife at Chorley.

3 We came home from my Cozen Gelibronds at Chorley, we called at the Swan in Ormskerk where I payed Dr Longworth for Phisick &c: for my Hors Jack.

4 I went thorrow Leverpoole to Low-Hill where I Acquainted Mr Plumb that I was likely to be chosen a Cunstable for Ditton, thence I went to Prescot to Mr Cubbons where I found Mr Bretter, I acquainted him that I was going to Ditton to prevent being chosen a Cunstable,[1] I stayed a while at Thomas Mossess and thence went to Ditton where I lodged at the Bank at William Athertons.

5 I was at Ditton Towns Meeting where I prevented for a few years at least my being chosen the Cunstable of that Town, George Harrison was the chief as opposed me, Henry Heys and Joseph Bolton were also against me, Mr Wainright, Robert Barrow, &c: was there.

6 I came from Ditton to Mr Bowers where I stayed awhile but he was not at home, thence I came home but my Famoly was all abroad.[2]

7 Gabriell Norris paid me his Rent, he signed the Counter Part of his Leas to me which till now he had never signed.

8 I set some Large Black Radishes as Cozen Molineux of Mosburgh sent me before Christmass. Mr Molineux of the Grange and Pat: Wofold came to discource me concerning my being a Referry in behalf of Mr Molineux of the Grang concerning some Land in Alker.

9 I planted five Walnut Trees in the New Orcherd.

10 Mr Darcy Chantrell and I met at the Talbot in Leverpoole where we setled the difference as was between Mr Molineux of the Grange and Mr Robert Chantrell concerning two Teneaments lying in Alker & belonging to Richard Tickley deceased, but oure Award not being approved of by Mr Molineux of the Grange he soone broke it. Mrs Ann Blundell & her Sister Bridget from Ormskerk lodged here.

11 Mr Scaresbrick sent to Condole the Death of my Lord Langdale. The Famoly of Ince dined & suped here, Mrs Ann & Bridget Molineux came along with them.

12 I Planted six Maple Trees. I brought the Seed as I raised them from, out of Warwick Shire before I was Married.

13 My Wife, I, and Mrs Ann & Bridget Blundell[3] dined & Suped at Ince with their Strangers.

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[1] The office of parish constable, to which all male members could be nominated and elected, was not one taken up with pleasure.

[2] Not at home.

[3] Relatives of Mr Blundell of Ince Blundell.

14 I paid the Land Tax to Thomas Marrow Senior. I took up most of the Thornes as were on the larg Bed in the New Grounds & intend to plant severall of the smallest sort of them. I was very busy most of the day Reading and peruesing my New Setlement. My Wife, Mrs Ann & Bridget Blundell went in the Coach to Leverpoole where they dined at Mr Fazakerleys.

15 I Planted pritty large Oak & Ash and put Oats into the holes with them.

16 After Dinner Thomas Syer and I, &c: went into the Ackers to Boar for Marle or rather for Clay for Brick, we tryed in four or five places, the farther we went into the Field from the Gate, the deeper was the Feigh.[4]

17 I was busy before dinner helping to plant Ash Trees in my Wood.

18 Captain Fazakerley dined here, he came to make a Viset to Mrs Ann and Bridget Blundell.

19 James Banner should have come to have discourced me about making Brick but he sent his Wife.[5] Mrs Ann & Bridget Blundell went with my Wife to the Hall of Maile.

20 Thomas Syer and I, &c: set out a place in the Ackers[6] where Brick was to be got out. Thomas Syer & I went to Great Crosby and drank at Thomas Hesketh's with Parson Wairing, Crichley a Malster, Richard Tildesley, &c:, I discoursed Richard Tildesley who has Taken Dukes Tearme in Jacksons Hous.

21 Mrs Ann & Bridget Blundell went hence, I sent them to Ormskerk. I drank a Glass of Aile at Mr Aldreds with Parson Wairing, Mr Syer and Thomas Syer.

22 I began to fey[7] for Brick in the Ackers. I helped to Bottle off two Rundlets of Aile.

23 Mrs Saile was delivered of her first Child, her Son Richard about five of the Clock in the Evening.

24 I went to Leverpoole & Acquainted Mr Jackson that I would let him have his Land in Great Crosby. I gave Mr Plumbe my new Setlement, he is to send it up to London to have 5s. Stamps put to it. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Thomas Whitle, Mr Halsold and Mr Harper, &c:.

25 A Messenger from Croston brought me a Letter from Pat: Smith.

26 I went before & after dinner to my Work Folks in the Ackers, I tooke some Aile with me for them. Old Mrs Saile, &c: came to lodge here & at Syers.

27 Mr Saile & his Kinsmen made my Workmen in the Ackers to shout, I was with them. Parson Wairing made me a Viset, Thomas Syer & the three Mr Sailes came & drank with us.

28 I dined at Thomas Syers with his Gests. I lent my Man & Horses to carry Darby[8] to his Grave in the Herce.

29 Thomas Syers Gests went hence. I went to my Work folks in the Ackers after Dinner & helped to set my Pump there.

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[4] This marks the beginning of work on the new chapel.

[5] Bricks for the new chapel.

[6] The Ackers, one of the estate fields. To-day, one can see the great pits in this field left after digging out the clay for brick-making.

[7] Clear away the surface turf and mossy sod.

[8] A labourer who often did day-labouring for Blundell.

30 I Diged & Mucked the Borders in the Back Courts and planted them with Flowers. William Atherton paid me his Rack Rent for Ditton, he Lodg'd here.

31 I was with my Workfolk in the Ackers about noone, but it Rained so hard that it drove them off from their Work & continewed to Raine & Snow most of the day.

The four first days very fair, the six next, some faire some Snow or Raine, the nine following days extraordinary dark and Heasy Misty Weather, then generally to the end of this Month some Raine though not much.

FEBRUARY

1 I sent of a how-do-you to Scarisbrick to bid the young Master welcome home.

2 Mr Cottom dined here, he and I went to Thomas Hesketh's where we drank with Parson Letus, Wairing, Mr Syer, &c:.

3 I stated Accounts with Margarit Darby. My Jury was out to see what was amiss, William Harrison the Fore-man & John Tickley came to tell me where I had some Water-Courses out of order.

4 Whilst I was with my Work-men in the Ackers, Pat: Aldred, Mr Thorp and Mr Molineux of the Grange came a Coursing past us. I went awhile with them & then came home to my Dinner.

5 Digles formerly a Glaysor in Leverpoole but now a sort of an Itinnerant mended my Windows here.

6 I Sealed a Leas to Edward Rothwell of the two Crofts called Rothwells Crofts & he Sealed the Counterpart to me.

7 I Squeesed the Juce out of two Dozen of pritty large Leomonds,[9] but it did not make near one quart of Juce, I put about the like quantity of Brandy to it, and intend it for making Punsh with.

8 My Wife & I dined at Scarisbrick with Mr Robert Fazakerley Junior, Mrs Ann & Bridget Blundell. This was Mrs Sailes upsiting day, they had a deal of Company.[10]

9 I put the outward Pill[11] of a Dozen Leomonds into a Bottle of Brandy, they would have ben enough for two Bottles.

10 My Wife & I made a Viset to the Hall of Ince, it being Srofe Tuesday we eat Pan kakes there.

11 I gave William Blundell some Young Ash Trees to Plant, & I gave his Doughter Mary some Flower Roots.

12 Thomas Syer began to Plough this year by breaking up the Farther Oaklands.

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[9] "Leomonds . . . . . 8s. 0d."

[10] Upsitting day—the occasion of a woman's first sitting up to receive company after a confinement.

[11] peel.

13 Pat: Gelibrond lodged here, he has not ben here since before Christmas. My Wife was walked out to William Weedows.

14 I went to Leverpoole where I discoursed about a Farther Bargan with William Atherton for Ditton.[12] I drank at the Woolpack with Mr Crisp & Mr Holsold of Walton. I Finished feying for my Brick.

15 Mrs Blundell & her Doughter Bridget made a Viset here.

16 I Planted sone Cabbage Plants & set some Pease. James Banner and one other Hand began to cast clay for Brick in the Ackers. I Sealed a Leas to Richard Jackson & he the Counter part to me.

17 I began my Seeding this year of Sowing Haws, Heps, the Seeds of Uew and Horn-beame, each sort had lain two Winters Buried. I sowed some Colly-flower & Parsly Seed. Mr Nicholas Fazakerley sent an express to me about Mrs Smiths Hous in Aintry.

18 Ellen Marser came to me to desire I would help her to some Monastery, Ellen Bolton came along with her. I was busy all after Noone with my sowers of Heps & Haws.

19 I had some Eales from Staninought in Fazakerley. Bess was burned in the Mouth for Lampers.

20 I fetched home some Hay as I had bought of Richard Webster our Smith.

21 I set severall Brick Traps for Mise in the New Orcherd. I planted Straw-berry in the New Orcherd.

22 Young Mr Robert Fazakerley was here, he came cheefly to look at some Cord Wood but it was not for his purpose. I opened a Rat as had six Livers & was knoted for six young ones about the bigness of a good Fitch but they were not shaped.

23 I was busy all after noone in my New Plantation in the Flat.

24 I went to Leverpoole and desired Mr Thorp to carry a Chees for me to London by Sea, but it was afterwards carryed by an other,[13] I gave Mr Allanson Directions about the Cheese. I saw a Man that eat Fier but I did not see him eat it. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Jackson & discoursed him about buying the Land in Great Crosby.

25 I went to Crosby Court, Mr Green the Stewerd was there so was Captain Rachdale, Parson Wairing, Thomas Syer, &c: Mr Thomas came to us ere we all parted.

26 I went to William Blundells & gave him leave to fall two Ash Trees, as I was going I saw the Corps of William Weedows Doughter Barbara carried to be buried.

27 I made an end of Thining the Rows of Oaks in my New Plantation in the Flat and of Planting them elce where in the Plantation where there wanted.

28 Yester day & today I set a few Achhornes in the New Plantation in the Flat. I sowed all my Peas for Seed & some for the Hous use.

The first six dayes very wet, then till the 14th every day some Raine, the 3 next days fair the four next days every day a little Raine, the two next wet, the four last fair.

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[12] In the Disbursement Book there is the following entry:—
"To Sera Atherton for a Valentine . . . . . 1s. 7d."
Sarah was the wife of William Atherton, steward of Ditton. They lived at the Bank House.

[13] "Carrying a Chees to London . . . . . 1s. 5d."

MARCH

1 Thomas Kerfoot & James Wignold paid me the Rent for my Warant.[14]

2 Mr Plumbe called here as he went to the Morehouses, I went along with him, we had two Sets as we went & took one Brace of Partridges, we went to Charles Howerds where he kept my Court, there was a Case of Gabriell Norris his tryed there as he had Traversed, I dined there with Mr Plumb, his Clark Thomas Moss, Edward Tristram, &c:.

3 Part of the Ackers was Push Plowed where I must Lay my Brick. William Harrison & Partners paid me their Rack Rent.

4 Dr Lancaster made me a Viset. Mrs Wofold made a Viset here with Mrs Blundell of Ince & her Doughter Bridget. Margery Marrow and her Doughter Ann began to weed for me in my Gardens. James Banner & partners finished Casting Clay for Brick in the Ackers.

5 I payed James Banner for Casting for Brick for me in the Ackers. James Rigby, &c: Railed between Bryan Leas Ground and Ann Blundells, I was with them in the Morning when they began.

6 I made a Viset to Ince, Mr Turvil was not at home. Pat: Wofold was there.

7 I began to make some Aqua Coelestis, it has Leomond Juce in it.

8 My Wife and I walked to Ince, being it rained as we came back we stayed awhile at Widdow Renolds till our Coach came & then went home in it.

9 My Wife and I went to Ormskerk to meet Dm Standley, Mrs Frances Traford came with her, we all dined at the Wheat Sheafe, Dr Lancaster dined with us. Mr Berry the Atturney and Henry Tyrer came towards evening & smoked a Pipe with me at the Wheat Sheafe.

10 I made a Bargan with Bryan Lea to ad his Wives Life to his own in Bryansons Teneament. Robert Tompson paid me six Pound by order of William Gray, I had formerly payed the lick Sume upon Margarit Grays Account. Pat: William Molineux made a Viset here.

11 I took up most of my Fir Trees as I had Planted out in Order, and being they were dead I intend to set others in their Roome.

12 Mr Shepperd dined here, he went to Ince Town and came againe towards Evening.

13 I made a Viset to Parson Wairing, ere I came away Parson Letus came thither, I called to see Nicholas Johnson who was not well.

14 I made an end of Botling this last Mixture of Aqua Coelestiss. H: Oliverson, &c: was here in his way towards Leverpoole when he went about Nanny Blundells Child.

15 Jackson the Gardiner was here, we were together a great while in the Gardens. I went to see Richard Jump who is very ill. My Wife walked to Jane Bryansons.

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[14] For many years these two men had rented the rabbit warren and sold rabbits caught there. It was near the shore and old plans show a warren house. Warrenhouse Road in Great Crosby to-day runs close by the site.

16 I went to Mr Crisps & desired he would meet about marking out my Bonderys for Fishing on the Sea Cost. I went to Parson Letus and got some cutings of his best Pare-Tree & tought him to set some brick Mous-traps. I smoked a Pipe there with him and Peter Morton, then Parson Letus went with me to Thomas Tickleys where we stayed awhile and took a Glass.

17 I sent my Teame to my Cozen Gelibronds of Chorley for some Larg Firr Trees.[15] Ellen Harrison went very ill to Bed of an Ague Fit.

18 Bryan Lea payed me some Money in part of his Fine. I sowed some Seeds of Scotch Fir in the Long Garden, & seed of Silver Firr in the New Orcherd.

19 My Wife made a Viset to Betty Tristram. I stayed at home and Read most of the after Noone in a Spirituall Book.

20 William Weedow, Nicholas Davy, &c: helped me to plant all the Fir Trees as William Kerfoot brought upon the 18 from Chorley, I put Oats at the Roots of all of them. I also planted the other things as came with them viz: Fillaray, Asley Damson Trees, some good Riculases and one stript Hollin. I made a Bargan with John Fletcher for ading one other Life to that in being in what is called Taylors Assignes in Great Crosby, he told me that he saw yester Night a strang and unusuall Light proceed from the Moone somthing like a Commet & shooting downwards till it disapeered, it cast an extraordinary light but did not last above one Minuet, it happened between 8 & 9 of the Clock at Night as others also did afferme who saw it.

21 James Rigby, &c: Railed and fenced all the Fir Trees in the Folds. I Grafted some of Parson Letus best Pare Tree Cutings on some of my Pair Trees in the New Orcherd.

22 My Wife & I went in the Morning to Ince, we dined there.

23 I Grafted 2 Cutings of Parson Letus best Pairs & three sorts of Apples in the Nursery. I uncovered my Aspargus which ought to have ben done above a Week sooner.

24 Thomas Syer began his Lenton Seeding by sowing Oats in the Farther Oaklands. I sowed two sorts of Flower seeds in Rows round the Back Courts, & two sorts of Sun Flowers in the Great Corts. The Sun Flowers should have ben sowed sooner.

25 Mr Aldred not being at home Pat: Gelibrond went thither to supply his Place. Thomas Keen was here I payed him for some Damask as he had as we bought of him. Mr Boyer dined here. Mr Jackson paid me a considerable Sum in part of the Purchas of his Fathers late Land in Great Crosby.

26 We made about 30 Quarts of Mead. I sowed severall sorts of Peas for the Hous use.

27 I payed one Church Ley to Edward Rothwell. I took Thomas Syers Disbursments ever since Christmas.

28 I went to Leverpoole and Dined at the Wool-pack with Lawyer Blundell and Mr Plumbe, &c:.

29 I went in the after Noone to Mr Aldreds where I drank part of a Bowl of Punsh with Pat: Swindal and Mr Thorp.

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[15] "Firr Trees at 3d. per Tree . . . . . 19s. 0d.
Given & spent when the Firr Trees were bringing home . . . . . 2s. 8d."

30 I Stated Accounts with Margarit Davy & rectifyed what Accounts were between us, I pay'd her all Waiges due till Lady day last.

31 I went to Sefton to the Parish Meeting but all was over ere I came, I drunk there with the old Church-Wardens & the New elected ones, Parson Letus, Kelsall, &c:. Mr Jackson paid me in full for the Purchas of his Land in Great Crosby.

About eight of the first days this Month and as many days at the end of the Month were very unsetled but the rest of the Month was generally very cold but for the most part faire, onely now & then some Sleet or Snow.

APRILL

1 Roger Hadock the Baylif of the Hundred was here for what he could get[16]. I was very busy all day leading Hay from Richard Jacksons but I Led not all I had bought.[17]

2 I killed a pritty good Swine. I sold my Rabet Skins to Joseph Greenwood.

3 Mr Saile took a Halk in my Pigeon Hous. Thomas Syer & I Peruesed the Foule Drought I had made of our second Bargan but had not time to finish it because Mr Mayfield came to lodg here.

4 I gave Ann Howerd of Coppold some very good Flower Roots.

5 Dr Lancaster came to Ned Howerd, he made a Viset here. Mr Shepperd and his Wife suped here. Mrs Blundells Doughter Bridget lodged here.

6 Pat: Woods and Pat: William Molineux made a viset here.

7 I met Mr Crisp at Thomas Hesketh's, we stayed a while there with Parson Letus & Wairing. Great Crosby Jury and my Jury met Mr Crisp and me at the Sea side where we Staked out the Bonderys between Great Crosby and the Morehouses that each Town might know their Liberty to fish in, I do not know that any of eather Jury was absent except Edward Howerd; I went to Charles Howerds where I drank with most of my Jury viz: William Harrison, Bryan Lea, John Sumner Senior, Edward Rothwell, &c:.

8 Thomas Fleetwood discoursed me concerning an old Woman coming to live at Thomas Farers.[18]

9 I Grafted some Virgin Apples in one of the Rows in the Nursery before Dinner; after Dinner I was very busy with four Hands sowing more Haws upon some Beds where I had lately sowed, because the first did not come up so well as I expected. My Wife & Mrs Bridget Blundell walked out to Lady Greene & to Smart Blundells. Mrs Bridget Blundell went home after Supper.

10 I payed the Land Tax to Thomas Marrow the Taylor. I was very busy all day helping to sow Haws, they should have ben sowed above two Months since.

11 I went to Mr Hindleys the Parson of Oughton his Curate Mr Loxdale shewed me severall od sorts of Flowers, he went with me to the Aile-Hous where we smoked a Pipe.

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[16] "Given to the Bayly of the Hundred . . . . . 6d."

[17] "Hay for Horses . . . . . £6 10s. 0d."

[18] Probably Fleetwood as overseer of the poor was concerned whether the old woman might become chargeable on the township.

12 My Wife made a Viset to Mrs Shepperd being she was soone to leave these Parts[19] Mr Shepperd came home with my Wife and gave me a Paire of Weding Gloves.

13 Mr Shepperd called here & his Wife as they were going home to Darby, some others came along with them viz: Thomas Pemberton, Betty Blundell, &c:, I writ my Will new over with some Alterations.

14 Thomas Syer began with 22 Hands to burn that part of the Great Moss-hey as now I call Brund Croft. Ellen Marser came to me for my Instructions, & to take leave of me.[20]

15 I was at Great Crosby Race where five Hunters Ran for a Plate, a Hors of Mr Cleevelands wan it, I drank upon the Ground with Mr Standley of Hooton, Mr William Estcot, &c: then Mr Loxdale went home with me, I gave him some of my best Flower Roots & then went to Mr Aldreds where I found Mr Darcy Chantrell & Mr Smarley the Atturney.

16 I had two Men came to saw wood for me and two others as came to make a Cart for me. I was at Nicholas Johnsons with Thomas Hesketh.

17 I met Mr Crisp at Charls Howerds; Mr Crisp, I, Charls Howerd & William Wignold marked out my part of the Sands where it parts between me & the Grange.

18 Mr Saile, his Wife and Family removed from Thomas Syers & went hence to live at Hopkar. I went to Leverpoole, William Atherton met Mr Jackson there at the Wool-pack about pasing over Jacksons late Land by Surrender, I was with them. Mr Plumbe & I partly setled our Accounts for what I owe him for writing, keeping my Court, &c:[21] I sent some Clay to the Mugg Hous & Pip-Makers to be tryed there.

19 Mr Shepperd & Betty Blundell dined here. Betty Blundell went in the Coatch with my Wife to More-Hall. Mr Aldred came & took a Pipe with Mr Shepperd and me. My Cow Calved.

20 William Johnson came to look at my Cow as had lately Calved.

21 I went to see Betty Swifts new Building as is Reared today[22] thence to

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[19] "Mugg waire given to Mrs Sheperd . . . . . 4s. 9d."

[20] See February 18 1719.
"Given Ellen Marser when she went to London . . . . . 2s. 6d."

[21] "Drawing & Engrosing a Deed of Setlement, Parchment & Stamps for it & all other accidentall Charges . . . . . £ 11 s. 18 d. 0
Writings to secure the Purchas of Sir Clave Moars Land 3 0 0
For Keeping my Court . . . . . 1 1 0"
The next entry in the Disbursement Book:—"My not appearing at Darby Court . . . 1s. 0d." reminds us that Little Crosby was in the West Derby Hundred and Blundell was required to attend. See May 30 1719.

[22] The following appears amongst the Blundell of Crosby muniments in the Lancashire Record Office (DDB1/54/41.):—
"Swift Elizabeth did by the Consent of Me Nich: Blundell about the Year of our Lord God 1720 Erect & Build a Cottage upon the Waist not far from the Pound in Little Crosby & also inclose a few Perches of Ground for a Garden Spot, which said Cottage & Ground she is to enjoy during her own Life & to doe yearly one day Reaping of Corne or pay in lew thereof six pence, she has no Tenant-right, but I shall allow it to her Children if she have any unles by so doing I may endanger bringing in a Famoly of Begars & in such a Case it may be more advisable to turne off her Children & give them some small consideration."

Mr Aldreds where I found Dr Lancaster, I stayed awhile there and then the Doctor came with me to the Hall. I went to Great Crosby and bought some Bottles of Duke Maltus.

22 I paid my Easter dues & Clarks Waiges to William Harrison the Clark.

23 Dorothy Blundell & Betty dined here, Betty Blundell went with my Wife and me to Viset Mr Shepperd and his Wife in Darby, whilst we were there Mr Robert Chantrells Wife came thither.

24 I went to the Winter-heys & gave young Launders directions where to dig Fleas. I washed my Gun & Fix'd it in a New place on purpose in the Kitchen. I sowed some Turnop Seed in one of the Cloes-hedg Gardens.

25 I took part of the Hous Clock in peeces & got it clensed and set it againe a going. William Thelwall mended our Bed-Stocks. I new Planted the Harty-chock Bed on the Terras Walk in most of the places where there wanted.

26 Dorothy Blundell and her Sister-in-Law Betty Blundell dined here. Catherin Syer came home from Hopker.

27 I began to make Hot beds for Cowcombers. I was at Betty Swifts second Rearing, James Rigby & Timothy were there.

28 I Trimed my Fine Hollin[23] in the Midle of the Knot. I sow'd Peas & Beanes.

29 Ellen Harrison rode single to Leverpoole. I finished my Seeding of Haws this year in the Plantation in the Flat, they should have ben sowed above three Months since. I set some Onions for seed, some of them had yellow Sprouts above two Insh long. I went to Thomas Syers burners[24] in the Nearer Oaklands, there were 24 besids two to overlook them. Mrs Blundell came hither but my Wife was gon to see young John Sumners Wife who is Lying in. Richard Ainsworth brought home a Cow of mine as he has had to Hier.

30 William Weedow sold a Cow of mine at Ormskerk. I sent Favourit to William Athertons, he is to put him & my Colt Jewell to a place to be scoared. I went to Thomas Syers Burners in the Nearer Oaklands & gave them some thing to make them to drink being they finish burning today. William Thelwall mesured some sawing as was done for me.

The five first days fair, then till the 22nd somtimes 2 or 3 fair days & may be as many days some raine some of them pritty much others very little raine, the eight last days all fair except one, so that now the end of this Month we want Rain very much.

MAY

1 My Wife and I went to Ince to wish Mr Turvill & Mrs Margarit Blundell welcome home from London. Ailes Withington dined here.

2 I trimed the Hasles at the Side of the Long Hasle Walks to make them grow regular & cut out a good deale as grew into the Walk.

3 Arrowsmith bluddied Bess and gave her a Drink, he Lodged here. I drank a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Aldreds with him, Peter Wilkinson & John Marsden.

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[23] Holly.

[24] Labourers employed to burn gorse and surface turf which had been ploughed up.

4 I sold Button to Arrowsmith. I sowed some Purslin & Cowcomber Seed on a Hot Bed.

5 Parson Loxdale and John Aspinwall came to see my Flowers, I shewed them my best & also my Cheane Pump. I went to Mr Case his, but he was not at home so I smoaked a Pipe with his Son Henry & then went to the New Engin as is to draw up Water from one of the Cole-pits,[25] thence I went to the New Glass-hous but they were not working, Mr Case came past whilst I was there so I followed him to his Hous, where I stayed awhile and desired him to be one of my Executors.

6 I gave Mous a Drink for his Cold. I sowed some Seeds for Salleting and some Kidney Beanes, I planted out a Few Collyflowers & some very young Lettice.[26]

7 The Play of Don Quicksot was Acted at James Davys.[27] Dorothy Blundell made a Viset here. As my Wife and I were walking out after Supper we met Mrs Syer, I followed her hither & shewed her the Gardens. Thomas Syer went with my Wife awhile towards James Davys.

8 I Led some Shilly[28] from my own Delf for my Flower Knot & sifted some of it and layed it in some of the Reanes of the Knot.

9 I took up 35 Seedling Tulops, this is their first years groth. I was going towards my Delvers of Turves in the More-houses and to my Delvers of Fleas but hearing that none of them had began to delve Turves and finding that my Delvers of Fleas were gon of the Ground I came home.

10 I Turned Bess to Grass in the Great Dobb Heys. Mrs Blundell & her Doughter Margarit & Mr Turvill made a Viset here, 'tis the first Viset Mrs Margarit made since she came home from London.

11 Mr Plumbe made a Viset here, he swoar Thomas Marrow of the Gate to be a Ley Layer for the Fifteens thorrow this Town.[29] Mr Shepperd brought my Wife some good Receipts for Cookery. Thomas Marser, James Rigby and his Men, Charles Howerd and his Men came to work here. Thomas Syer and I Setled our last years Accounts and Peruesed our Contract for our second Bargan.

12 Ann Oughton removed Hous & came to live in Bullens Parlor, John Briscow, Thomas Fleetwood the Father & Son, &c: came with her, I was there both before and after Dinner. I went to the Winter Heys & took account of John Landers (who was Delving Fleas) of what Roods he has sold, thence I went to the More-hous-Moss but my Delvers had given over ere I came.

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[25] The Newcomen engine or 'fire-engine' which Jonathan Case of Red Hazels left in his will dated 1729. (See *Cross Papers*, Lancashire Record Office). It was erected in Whiston, near Liverpool, at one of Case's collieries.
See *The Early Steam-Engine on Merseyside*, J. R. Harris. Transactions Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 1955, Vol. 106.

[26] It was about this time that Nicholas, a very keen gardener, bought a book on the subject:—
"Book of Gardening by Lawrence . . . . . 6s. 6d."

[27] The cottage in Little Crosby of one of the tenants.

[28] Shilly—shilling or sheeling—the grain removed from the husk, also the husk of oats, wheat, etc.. It is the husk which is meant in this entry and it is being used to improve the soil. Rean—a ridge or terraced strip.

[29] A tenant in Little Crosby. There was another Thomas Marrow in the village who was known as 'Thomas Marrow, the further from the Gate'. Marrow was here being appointed to collect the rates. See Appendix N.

13 William Kerfoot brought a Load of Pouce to my Grand Copt & then followed me to the Sand Hills from whence he brought home a Load of Sand & Shells, William Atherton dined here, I went with him to Crosby Court where I proposed to the Jury to Joyne with them in Prosecuting of those who Fished on our Coast but it was not Accepted, when Mr Green the Steward was gon I stayed & drank with Parson Wairing, Thomas Syer and James Williamson.

14 William Gray came hither this Morning, he Breakfasted with me. I went to Parson Hindleys and looked at his Pritty Flowers. Mr Loxdale gave me some very good Roots of Anemonys and Renunculas thence I went to Ormskerk and showed my Toe to the Mountebank Dr Fry, I drank at the Swan with Dr Lancaster, I gave Thomas Ridihough some very good Flower Roots.

15 I met Mr Shepperd at the Hall of Sefton and bought some old Wainscoting of him, when we had mesured it we went to Thomas Tickleys and took a Glass of Aile. I sowed some Seeds of Cardoone,[30] Scorcheniry & Scerret as Mr Turvill gave me.

16 I Began to lead Sleck for my Brick-kill. I warned some Boones in this Town to Lead Sleck.[31] I called at Mr Aldreds & smoked a Pipe with him & Pat: Wofold. Mr Aldred took 10 very large Young Wild-ducks as were supposed to be above 6 weeks old. Being this Month has hitherto ben so cold and the Spring so backward I turned not out my Coach-Horses till tonight. Thomas Syer finished his Barly Seeding in the Little Brandy Earth.

17 Edward Howerd was here, 'tis the first time since he has ben so very ill, we smoked a Pipe together, I gave him some Receipts to writ out for my Wife.

18 My Wife and I dined at Lidiat with Mr Moston, thence we went to Mickering where we found Mrs Wofold & Mrs Bridget Blundell; Pat: Blackbourn was there. Ellen Harrison went to her Doughter Bettys to stay some Nights.

19 I sent Spring to Ditton to be kept by Thomas Houghton. Pat: Gelibrond and I went to Ince, Mr Turvill was not at home.

20 James Davy the Slator & his Boy came to work here. I went to Thomas Marrows Moss and Advised with John Sumner of this Town about geting Turves in the farther side of that Field.

21 I met severall of my Boons at the West Lane Gate[32] when they came from the Cole-pit with Sleck for my Brick. I peruesed severall Letters to & from Guant to find if I was under any obligation to pay them any more Money.

22 Pat: Gelibrond went with me to the Hall of Sefton, I helped to lode the Wainscoting as I have bought there[33] and then went with Pat: Gelibrond and Mr Crisp to Thomas Tickleys where we found Parson Letus & old Robert Bootle, we drank together.

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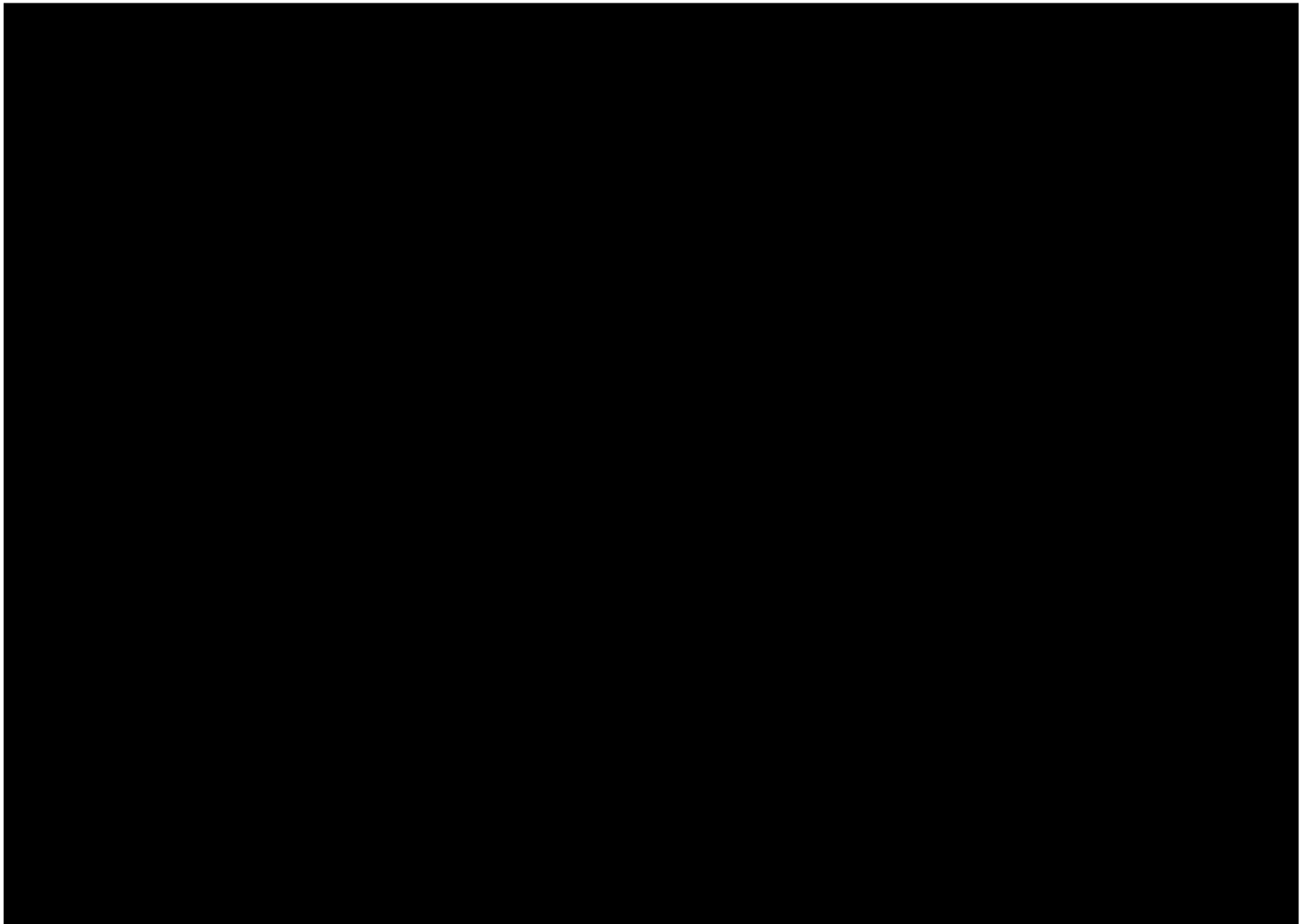
[30] Cardoone—1. great thistle or teasel. 2. a composite plant closely allied to the artichokes, and cultivated in kitchen gardens for the fleshy stalks of the inner leaves, which are made tender by blanching. From the entry for October 8, it is clear that he was growing the cardoone which was eaten and not the teasel.

[31] slack.

[32] West Lane Gate—the lane in Little Crosby where the chapel was to be built.

[33] As well as wainscotting, he must also have bought some glass:—
"Old Wainscot and old Glass Windos . . . . . £4 0s. 0d."





23 Margarit Darby went with me to Flay Land I ordered her to dress Thomas Syers Flays & mine. Old John Sumner helped me to mesur two Mosspits as he has feyed in Blundells Sparling Field, I began of a New Turf-Stack as has in it about 48 Load.

24 Captain Robert Fazakerley dined here. My Wife sent of a How-do-you to my Lady Molineux to welcom her home from the Bath.

25 John Sumner of this Town began to Delve Turves this year in Thomas Marrows Moss, I went to him, we mesured the Feying of the Pit he is now Delving.[34] Some of my Boons as led Sleck for me today came past the Hous to shew me their Loads. My Wife made a Viset to the Car Side.[35]

26 I went to Richard Rimers by Croxtath & looked at a Set of Coach Wheeles, thence went to Mathew Withingtons where I stayed a while & then to Mr Shepperds where I stayed a good while & bought the Coach Wheels of him, coming home I called at Mrs Smiths & stayed there a good while.

27 I went to the Morehouses & Warned some Boon Carts to lead Sleck. Mr Taylor of Ormskerk brought a New Clock to Thomas Syers for Mr Saile. Mr Taylor and I went to Ince Green where I bowled with Mr Cottom, Patrick Norris, Mr Madock, &c:. Ellen Howerd came to be my Wives Maid. I Began to take up my Anemonys & Renunculas.

28 My Wife walked to the Ford[36] to see Mrs Syer who is very ill. Ellen Harrison came home hither, she had ben to see her Sister Ann & her Doughter Betty.

29 My Teame & Edward Hattons brought me home some Flags and Slates from Roby Delf. Thomas Syer paid me part of his last years Rack Rent.

30 I went to Leverpoole & paid Mr Plumbe for Drawing my Deed of Setlement upon my Children, &c:, for Engrosing it, &c: and for other Writings, and keeping my Court. I drank part of a Bowl of Punsh at Mr Cottoms, the Riding Parson was there.

31 My Wife made a Viset to Ince, I stayed at Home & Read a good part of the after Noone.

Till the 6th very Fair, from the 6th till the 21th generally every day pritty much Raine except two Fair days, from the 21th till the end of the Month extreamly Hot & pritty much Thunder but very little Raine.

JUNE

1 My Wife and I met Mrs Blundell and her two Doughters Mrs Bridget & Margarit and Mr Turvill at Ailes Tickleys where we had an after noones drinking. James Davy began to Flag our Pantery.

2 Thomas Syer was very ill hurt by a Fall off his Hors, Mr Turvill came to see him. I took up most of my Best Anemonys.

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[34] "Charg of Delving Fleas at 5d. per Rood & something given for his selling some of them & his Care . . . . . £ 1 s. 4 d. 0
Charg of getting Turves for Sale 5 7 7
Charg of geting Turves for my own use & for the Mill 1 19 11
Charg of Dressing my Turves . . . . . 5 0"

[35] Carrside—a small hamlet and part of Ince Blundell.

[36] A neighbouring township.

3 I went to Ince Greene & Bowled with Parson Letus & Wairing, Mr Whittle, Byron, Henry Harper, Mr Molineux of the Grange, Mr Oldfield, Patrick Norris, &c:.

4 I was very busy most of the after noone writing fair over the Agreement between Thomas Syer and me for a longer Terme of years.

5 Being Thomas Syer was not able to sell Turves for me I went to the Morehous Moss & sold a good quantity to old Robert Bootle, Mr Byron, &c:, this is my first day of selling Turves this year at that Moss. I sold in Flealand some Fleas to William Whidby, Ailes Molineux, &c:. Dr Tarlton came to see Thomas Syer, he made me a Viset.

6 I shot the Millers Hen as was grown wild and lay in the New Orcherd. James Davy finished working here, he has ben pointing most of the Ridging, Tactables and Gable ends of this Hous & Slating it where it wanted. I sent a pritty Large Swine to James Dennet and brought home two pritty Speanings instead of it.

7 The Famoly of Ince made a Viset here viz: Mrs Blundell and her two Doughters Mrs Bridget & Mrs Margarit and Mr Turvill.

8 Margarit Davy left her Service. James Dennet sent to let me know that the Swine as I sent him was out of order. I fetched home the Coach Wheeles as I had bought of Mr Shepperd.

9 I went to James Dennets & saw the Swine as I had sent him, 'tis almost killed with Carying it in a Cart. I fetched home from the Hall of Sefton the old Glass as I had bought of Mr Shepperd.

10 Ellen Harrison went to her Doughter Bettys to attend her when she Lyes in. Mr Wairing & Dr Tarlton came to see Thomas Syer, they took a Glass of Aile with me at the Gates. I gave Mr Turvill a Bowl of Punsh, Thomas Syer was with us awhile, Richard Westhead was with us all the while.

11 Thomas Syer being very ill this last night Mr Turvill came in the Morning to see him, he prayed & dined here. Dr Tarlton came to see Thomas Syer, so did Mrs Blundell.

12 I sold Turves this Morning at Thomas Marrows Moss and at the Morehous Moss. I fixed some new Leathers to my Cheane Pump.

13 Doctor Tarlton came to see Thomas Syer, I went with him to Leverpoole, Mrs Bayly helped me to buy some Chinea.[37] I was before Mr Mayor & got Nanny Blundell bound to contribute towards Maintaining her Bastard Child. I drank at the Wool-pack with Captain Tarlton, Mr Syer, Mr Byron, &c:.

14 I Red over some Godly Papers as I had bought yesterday at Leverpoole. William Davy the Skinner refused to shew me his Leas, we fell out about his geting Turves.

	£	s.	d.
[37] "Mugg for Butter & Milk, &c:.		5	10½
Water Eshen,[1] sive & wooden Bowls		3	8
Glass Bottles		17	5
A Starr Mat for the Flake[2]		2	4
Punsh Bowl		1	0
Chinea Coffy Cups & Dishes, of each half a dozen		16	0"

[1] A wooden pail or shallow tub.

[2] Flake—various meanings, but here it probably means a frame for storing provisions, especially cakes, or a rack for drying fish. The mat seems to have been made from star grass.

15 My Teame helped two of Thomas Syers to lead Coles for Henry Curedon. James Banner, &c: came in the Evening in order to begin as soone as they could to make Brick in the Ackers.

16 I went to the Brickmen in the Ackers, they were prepairing against to-morrow. I called at Mr Aldreds and Smoked a pipe with him, Francis Farer came whilst I was there, thence I went to Abidant & Josiph Massy who were scowering my Water-cours between the Wheat-hey & Hesketh Ground. William Gray and James Scarisbrick, &c: came to complaine of James Parker for Breaking the Pound.

17 James Banner began to make Brick for me. I fenced the Ground with a Rope where my Brick where to ly. I went to Whartons in Ince where we had a Meeting concerning geting a Rode to be made over the Key at Leverpoole and severall Sign'd to a paper for Raising Money towards procureing the said Rode if it was necessary; the Subscribers were Mr Formby, Mr Syer of the Ford, Mr William Williamson, Edward Darwin, Yeomon of the Goar-houses, myself and severall others.[38] I bowled at Ince with Mr Bayron, Mr Whittle, Mr William Nelson, &c:.

18 I went with John Rose to Thomas Marrows Moss & sold him some Turves. I payed Richard Heaton all I ought him for making me a Cart, &c:. Mrs Shepperd & Betty Blundell were here but my Wife was gon to see Ellen Crofts.

19 I sold Turves at Thomas Marrows Moss & at the Morhous Moss. I began to Ditch in the Ground where my Brick are to be made, I was with them most of the after noone.

20 I went to Leverpoole & had James Parker before the Deputy Mayor Mr Kelsey for breaking the Lock of the Pound for which he was put into Prison. Mr Formby, Mr Thomas Whitle, Yeomon of the Goar houses and I, &c: met at the Wool-pack about making a Road over the Key at Leverpoole, I shewed the Deputy Mayor what we intended to doe in that affair, Mr Green came to the Wool-pack to us who were then met upon that Account and we discoursed him about it. Robert Weedow went towards Holly-well.

21 I gave a great many Flowers to two young Women for Flowering of a May-Powl.

22 I had a second Molder of Brick began to day to Mold. I went to Mr Shepperds, thence I went with him and Mr John Bolton to the Golden Hors-Shoe by Darby Chappell where I would have made an Exchange with Richard Wofold of Darby for a Large Bay Gelding but we could not bargan.

23 Robert Weedow came home from Holly-Well. Thomas Syer and I went to my Makers of Brick; we looked over severall of the Tenants Turves to see how many they had got. I Finished new laying of my Brick dust walk.

24 Pat: Gelibrond went with my Wife to Ince, I went after them, she came home before us, and Pat: Gelibrond & I stayed awhile with Mr Turvill.

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[38] The most frequently used road from Crosby and district to Liverpool was along the shore. Since, however, there was no regular road along the shore at Liverpool, and since vessels were moored by ropes crossing it, there was great inconvenience and danger to travellers on horse-back and coaches. Blundell was the moving spirit in an attempt to get a safer road made. After this meeting at Ince Blundell, a more important meeting was held at the Woolpack Inn on June 20 1719. The alternative was via Everton. But this also was not without its dangers as Blundell noted on October 4 1712.

25 Jackson came to dress my Wall Trees, he Trimed & Nail'd severall of them. William Kerfoot began to Mow the New Orchard.

26 Thomas Syer went to the Turf Mosses today, 'tis the first time he has sold any this year. I sowed some Spinage Seed & Salleting. Mr George Tyrers Lady and two others (I think her Sisters) made a Viset here. I was at Mr Aldreds where he made up a falling out as was between Thomas Syer and Edward Hatton. Thomas Syer and I signed our Artickleys of Agreement of our second Bargan & also Bonds of Performance. I Botled off a Small Rundlet of Mead.

27 I went to Great Crosby and Smoked a Pipe with Parson Wairing at Nicholas Johnsons, Mr Oldfield of Leverpoole had ben there and was just going as I came towards the Hous.

28 I went to the New-hous to see Pat: Clifton who had not ben well, but he was not at Home; coming back I called at the Hall of Ince where I found Mr Cottom & Mr Branker[39] we had a Bowl of Punsh.

29 I sent William Kerfoot to see my two Bay Colts as are scored in my Lord Darbys Ground called the Farme, 'tis in or neare Childol. My Wife went to see Betty Farer who is lying in, she lives at the Hall of Boscow. I went to a pit of Ned Rothwells as he, James Scaresbrick, and Richard Webster our Smith laved today, I saw them fishing it.

30 I Stated Accounts with Thomas Syer for his Disbursments for my use since March last. I went to my Makers of Brick and gave them some Bottles of Aile. Thomas Syer began to Mow this year in the Little Moss-hey, it should have ben Clover.

Till the 8th very fair & some days extreamly hot and great want of Raine, from the 8th till the end of the Month very unconstant Weather being now and then two or three days pritty much Rain and then perhaps a day or two fair and very hot.

JULY

1 Mr Charles Harington made a Viset here from Ince, but I was gon to Ince Green, where I Bowled with Mr Formby, Whitle, Bayron, &c:, Parson Mount, Mr William Wofold, & Yeomon[40] of the Gore was there.

2 I drew out part of a Modell for Mr Aldreds new Hous.[41] Mrs Margarit Blundell made a Viset here.

3 I sent back the Holser as I had borrowed at Leverpoole. Mr James Tildesley & his Wife & Sister with the Famoly of Ince made a Viset here.

4 Mr Shepperd was here in the Morning and Breakfasted with me, we went part of the way together towards Leverpoole, but I went by the way of Earton.[42] I drank a Glass at Mr Cottoms with him, Mr John Bolton and Captain Fazakerley. I saw a Woman dance on the Stret Rope. I paid Mr Allonson[43] all

[39] Cottom, the tailor, and Benjamin Branker, a silversmith, both of Liverpool.

[40] Mr Yeoman, of the Gore-houses near Lydiate.

[41] From this entry it looks as if the first design was for a house only. See July 10 1719.

[42] Probably Everton.

[43] A Liverpool ironmonger.

I ought him and drank at the Wool-pack with him, Mr Cottom, Mr William Williamson, Edmund Tristram, &c:. Thomas Syer and I came home together

5 The Famoly of Ince made a Viset here. My God-Son Thomas Syer claped me Blessing 'tis the first time.

6 Ellen Harrison not being at home I served the Poore.[44] This is the first time William Weedow Brewed, Margarit Davy came yester night to teach him.

7 I gave William Gray two sixpences for two Guineys if Ja: Bu: come within one Month. I went to the Morehouses and warned some Boones to lead Coles for my Brick-Kill. I call'd at Jane Bryansons and should have signed a New Lease to her but we were disapointed, thence I went to Gabriell Norrises to see what Alteration he had made in his House thence I went to Ince, Mrs Blundell gave me some Money to send to my Sister Midleton.

8 I went to Ince Green and Bowled with Mr Formby, Whittle, & Mr Oldfield, &c:, Parson Wairing and Mr Syer were there. I gave one Guiney to Mr Whittle upon Account of a second Mart.

9 Thomas Syer paid me above twenty two Pound in Gold upon Account of his Rack Rent. I sent my Sister Midletons Box of Cloths to Leverpoole in order to goe by the Wagan tomorrow towards London. Philip Syer found a Swarme of Bees in the Stone Garden, I gave them him & hived them for him.

10 I Drew a second Drought of a Hous for Mr Aldred, this has a Chappell in it, I went to his Hous & shewed him the Drought, I found Mr Edward Molineux there, we smoked a Pipe together, the Hous being now to stand in an other place, I was forced to alter this days drought and draw it over againe. Mr Aldred, James Rigby, William Gray, I, &c: consulted how to build the Hous near the West Laine Gate.

11 I sowed some Turnop Seed in the Cloth-Hedg-Garden. I marked some whit Rasberry Trees.

12 My Wife sent to Wooton of a How-do-you to my Lady Westmoreland.[45] Captain Robert Fazakerley was here.

13 I went to Jane Bryansons & Signed a Leas to her, she signed the Counter part to me, John Molineux & Robert Blansherd were present. I went with Charles Howerd to his Turves & made him pay me more than he had done before, becaus they were extravagantly large and very ill laid & I think more than he took them to be. Ellen Harrison came home hither from her Doughter Bettys where she had ben for some Weeks.

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[44] On August 22 1698, 'the Cavalier' had leased some land to Richard, the son of an old tenant, William Harrison, for ninety-nine years.

"But if Ellen do outlive her husband or son, then Ellen is to enjoy but ½ of the premisses dureing the terme abovesaid." Richard Harrison died on April 18 1709, and so at the time of the above entry Ellen was the tenant. She died in 1722. In the Quarter, June 24 to September 29 1719 we find this entry:—

"Corn given Monthly to the Poore . . . . . £2 17s. 11d."

Other entries show that Nicholas also gave the poor medicine when they were ill. In the Quarter, January 1 to March 25 1720, for example:—

"Charrity to the Poore of this Parrish . . . . . £1 8s. 6d.
Given to Poore Begars . . . . . 5s. 4d.
Phisick for the Poore . . . . . 8d."

[45] Wife of Thomas Fane, 6th Earl, and widow of Richard Beaumont, Esq., of Whitby. She was the daughter of Thomas Stringer, Esq., of Charleston, Yorkshire. Wooton—Woolton.

14 I paisted a Larg Map of Scotland upon a Linnen Cloth. I began to Mow the Town Medow this year with my own Servant & three other Hands.

15 Mr Plumbe & Mr Cottom dined here, I went to Ince Green with them where I bowled with Parson Wairing, Mr Byron, Mr Whittle, &c:.

16 I Raised a Hive of Bees in the Kitchen Garden to make it larger becaus it was too little for them & they would not swarme for they had made a Combe under the Hive-Stone. Henry Aspinwall came to tell me he was going to Serve my Lord Witerington.

17 I went to Leverpoole & bought a Commicall Drinking Glass,[46] &c:, I dined at the Wool-pack. I discoursed Mrs Cottom about a Muslin Head, &c: for my Wife. I Led Hay with two Carts out of the Town Medow.

18 I went to the Car-side and looked at Fanny Blundells Eyes but durst not apply any thing to them. I put my Map of Scotland into a Fraime and Hung it up in the Paintry. Richard Heaton, William Gray, &c: helped William Kerfoot to fix the Great Charriot upon the Carriage.

19 I went with my Wife to Leverpoole thence she went to Wooton to wate of my Lady Westmoreland, I dined at Mr Fazakerleys & drank at the Wool-pack with Dr Tarlton, Mr Darcy Chantrell, &c:.

20 I payed the Land Tax to William Weedow. I led two Load of Turves out of Thomas Marrows Moss, they were very wet.

21 Mrs Scarisbrick, her Son James and Doughter Frances, &c: dined here. Mr Molineux of the Grange and Pat: Wofold made a Viset here, Mr Molineux of the Grange paid me his Rent of 10d. per Annum for the two last years.[47]

22 Pothecary Lathom, Mr Cottom & his Wife and her Sister Mrs Mary Yates dined here; I went with Mr Cottom and Lathom to Ince Greene where I Bowled with Mr Lathom, Parson Wairing and Mr Formby, &c:.

23 I went to my Hay makers in the Town Medow and to my Brick Men.

24 William Weedow, &c: came to advise with me about the Buriall of James Parkers Wife who dyed yesterday. I payed £10 to James Banner in part, for making Brick.

25 I payed Thomas Syers three Workmen for scouring the Water-Cours behind the Wheat-heys & Brandiearths. It being Leverpoole Fair I went thither with my Wife, we dined at Mr Cottoms. We saw the Girle Tumble &

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[46] Probably a puzzle jug.

[47] This was a chief rent. Nicholas Fazackerley, steward of 'the Cavalier', made this note in the *Great Hodge Podge*, page 192:—

> ". . . . yeasterday being friday the 4th of febuary 1669 I demanded in my masters name from Mrs Molinex of the grang a Cheefe rent due unto him at martinmas last—videlized tenpence for land in the hose which she paid unto me acoringly and I paid it to my master. the same day I demanded from John Johnson three Cheef rents for my said master William Blundell of Crosby Esqr., that is to say 1s. 6d. ob. for land in the morhouses Lately bought by John Brainson of Master More, allso fourpence for Ballards Land and fourpence for ould inclosed land all which being tou shillings toupence halfpenny due at martinmas last past he paid unto me on demand made.
>
> Witness my hand
>
> Nicholas Fazakerley
>
> february the 5th 1669."

some Tricks of Leger de Mesney. Mrs Mary Yates was with us. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Hurst the Ship-Carpenter & Mr William Plumbe and also with Mr Whitle & Byron; Mr Whitle Signed our second Bargan of 15 Guineys upon a Mart.

26 My Wife and I made a Viset to Ince, Ailes Tickley was there.

27 William Thelwall mended some Holes in the Floor in the Arches and dressed some of the Chimneys with Green Boughs. My Wife sent two Cheeses of a Present, the one to my Lady Westmoreland and an other to my Lady Molineux. My Wife Received a Box from Dunquerk with some Sprigs of Flowers.[48] They killed a Dogg as came into this Town & was supposed to be Mad becaus he had bit severall Doggs.

28 I went to Leverpoole & smoaked a Pipe at Mr Ashtons, he gave me a Bottle of Wine at his own Hous. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Oldfield, Mr Cottom, &c:. I saw the Woman tumble upon the Slack Rope, Captain Robert Fazakerley and Thomas Gore was there.

29 I went to the Great More-hey to Thomas Syers Shearers of Wheat, they Began this year today to Shear there, he had 22 good hands besids four that were indifferent & he was to overlook them, though I say Thomas Syer began this day to Shear, yet some little was shorne yesterday in order to make it more ready for so many hands.

30 I got in the last of my Hay out of the Town Meadow. My Lady Molineux sent to let my Wife know that she & my Lady Westmoreland, &c: would dine here on Munday next. The Famoly of Ince made a Viset here. I have this day made an end of writing in my Large Diurnall all as I have writ in my small Diurnalls & have also made my Indexes right, so that now I am not behind hand with that work, which formerly I was very much, upon Account of my being so long abroad.

31 I went to Formby to seek out for Fowl against Munday,[49] My Wife went to Crofts, I rode before her.

Till the 18th very Hot and for the most part extreamly hot & generally very Fair, from the 18th to the end of the Month for the most part Hot & pritty much Raine. The begining of Hay Harvest extreamly Faire & Hot which made it very forward, but the Latter end of Hay Harvest extreamly wet. The End of this Month People were extreamly busy reaping Wheat and all other Corn grows ripe very fast, scarce ever known so forward and so soden a Corn Harvest in these Parts.

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[48] "Duty for Nosegayes from Dunkerk . . . . . 1s. 6d."

[49] "Fowl & Powltry. . . . . 15s. 0d."
But fowl were not the only things he bought in preparation for his visitors:—

	£	s.	d.
"A Pigg		2	6
Rabets		8	0
Fish		3	6
Pigeons		11	4
Butter, Eggs, & Milk, &c:	1	18	9
Sugar, Treackley & Sweetmeats		19	10
Hard Spice viz: Sineomond, Pepper, &c:		11	9½
Frute viz: Reasons & Currons		1	8½
Leomonds			5"

AUGUST

1 I went to Leverpoole and bought some Wine, &c: against Monday,[50] In the Morning I took a Dish of Coffy with Mrs Cottom at her Hous. I dined at the Wool-pack with Doctor Traps and a Doctor as was come from Guiney.

2 Dorothey Blundell came hither and began to prepair against tomorrow,[51] all Hands were as busy as was proper.

3 My Lord Molineux his Keeper brought me a Present of a Side of Venison. My Lord and Lady Molineux, my Lady Westmoreland, my Lord Belew,[52] the Ladys of Magull,[53] Mr Trentham and Mr Turvill, &c: dined here; Mrs Blundell & her two Doughters Mrs Bridget and Margarit made a Viset here. Cozen Gillibrond of Chorley, his Wife, his Son John and Doughters Margarit & Jane lodged here.

4 Mr Plumbe dined here. My Wife went out in the Coach with Cozen Gillibrond & her two Doughters, Cozen Gillibrand of Astley & his Lady lodged here.

5 The Famoly of Ince made a Viset here, Pat: Billing came with them.

6 Cozen Gillibrand of Astley & his Son Pat: Gellibrand and I went to Mr Aldreds, he gave us a Bowl of Punsh. Mr Syer was here & took my Subscription towards a Plate at Great Crosby.[54]

7 My Wife and I went with our Gests to Leverpoole, we dined at the Wool-pack. Cozen Gillibronds two Doughters played upon the Organ at Leverpoole. Mr Ashton treated my Cozen Gillibronds the Father and Son and me, &c;, Cozen Gillibrond of Astley & his Lady lodged at the Wool-pack. Mr Plumb, Walter Thelwall & I had a hearing before Cozen John Gillibrond concerning Lathoms Sute.

8 Cozen Gillibrond of Astley and his Lady came hither from Leverpoole. A Grand falling out about turning her out of his Office.[55] Cozen Thomas Gillibrond & I made a Viset to Parson Wairing.

9 Mr Shepherd dined here, I paid him for Wainscoting, &c: as I had bought of him. My Wife, I, and our Gests made a Viset to Ince.

10 All my Gests from Astley and Chorley went hence.

11 My Teame and tenn others lead Slate from Ashurst Hill[56] for Mr Aldred

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[50] "Wine . . . . . £ 1 s. 11 d. 4
Vinegar 5 9
Lime Juce 1 6
Malt 3 6 6
Hops 2 4
Coffy . . . . . 10 3"

[51] "Given Dorothy Blundell for Cooking . . . . . 5s. 0d."
Dorothy was daughter of a tenant. She acted as nurse-maid to his children in 1710.

[52] John, 4th and last Baron Bellew of Duleek of the Peerage of Ireland. Born 1702, died 1770. No heirs. (Burke's *Extinct Peerage*).

[53] Probably members of the Molyneux family living at Peel, Maghull.

[54] For a horse race.
"Given towards Crosby Plate . . . . . £1 1s. 0d."

[55] It is not clear who was concerned in this quarrel.

[56] Ashurst Beacon, about thirteen miles from Little Crosby.

12 I went to my Brickmen & gave them some Bottles of Aile, I boar'd there in the Brick-kill Hole in the Ackers above five yards & a half deep all in good Marle & found no bottom of it.

13 I was busy both before and after dinner dressing my Tulop Roots as were taken up out of the Knot. My Teame brought two Bolster[57] Load of Timber for Mr Aldred out of my Lord Molineux his New Park, there were five other Teames.

14 I Planted my two Larg Tulop Beds in the Knot & new earthed them with fine earth & Sea Sand, I took up my Forrain Tulops & planted about 37 of the largest of them amongst the other Tulops in the Knot, some very few Tulop Roots makes a show of Rooting. My Brick-Men James Banner and Henry Margison finished Molding Brick for me in the Ackers.

15 Mr Aldred and John Vose came hither, we consulted about building the West-Laine Hous.[58] Hugh Bullen of Boscow came to us.

16 My Wife went to Wooton to wish my Lady Westmoreland a good Journey out of the County. Mrs Blundell, her two Doughters Mrs Bridget and Margarit and Ailes Tickley made a Viset here, so did Mr Robert Fazakerley Junior. Nelly Howerd went to lodg at Darby upon account of some Merriment as is to be there, Margarit Gray supply'd her place.

17 I Began to make an other Drought for the West-Lain Hous, being the Chapell is now to be in the Garret. Captain Fazakerley make a Viset here. I went to Great Crosby & acquainted Ann Sefton she might goe to serve Mrs Cross. I saw some of the Runing Horses in Great Crosby & drank at Nicholas Johnsons with Mr Aldred and Captain Fazakerley.

18 Mr Aldred now intending his Chapell to be in the Garret I finished the drought of the Whole Building. Mary Blundell came hither, I told her she must prepaire to goe to Rohan. I had a New half-Barrell brought home as John Melling made for me.

19 Mr Turvill & Pat: Winkley were here, I went to Ince Green & Bowled with Parson Wairing, Pat: Burton, Mr Molineux of the Grange &c:, Parson Wairing and I came home together as far as to the Bark Gate.[59]

20 I set on a Bed in the Close-Hedg Garden about 342 Roots & Chives of Forren Tulops. I cut the Aspargus off the farthest Bed in the Close-Hedg Garden to try if it would spring up soone againe.

21 I went to Leverpoole & drank at the Bird in the Hand with Mr Plumb, Mr Cottom & Benjamin Branker, &c:. I payed Norton all I ought him and drank a Tankerd of very good Aile at his Hous.[60]

22 I went to Ince and asked Mrs Blundell whether her Cowman John was leaving her. I went into five of Thomas Syers Corn Fields & took account what number of Threaves he had in each Field. Mr Saile, his Wife & Son came to lodg at Thomas Syers.

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[57] Bolster—the transverse bar over the axle of a wagon which supports the bed.

[58] The West Lane led from Crosby Hall to the lane north of the village known as Back Lane. West Lane no longer exists.

[59] Bark—a field-name in Little Crosby.

[60] Mr. Norton, a sadler at Liverpool.

"A Bridle	1s. 8d.
Quilting the Harnish	5s. 0d.
Mending Saddles, Pillions, &c:	2s. 4d."

23 Ellen Eves lodged here. Mr Turvill made a Viset here, so did Betty Tristram, a Doughter of Mr Graddalls came along with her.

24 Mr Harington came hither from Ince with Mr Turvill & then they went to Great Crosby. Eves went to Leverpoole & coming back lost her way so was forced to returne to Leverpoole where she lodged.

25 Thomas Syer and I helped James Banner to count the Brick he has made for me. Mr Scarisbrick & his Son James dined here & then we went to Great Crosby Race where six Ran for the Plate, a Croped Hors of my Lord Molineux his wan it; Cozen Rowly Poole, Mr Henry Tyrer, &c: was there, I drank in a Booth with my Lord Molineux, Mr Molineux of Mosburgh, Mr William Wofold, &c:, I gave one Guiney to Mr Syer being what I had Subscribed towards the Plate.

26 Mr Scarisbrick & his Son James made a Viset here, he gave me £50 for which I gave him my Demand for the like Sume upon Mr Rodbourn, we went together to the Gallaway Race at Great Crosby, my Lord Molineux his Brack Rowly & a Mare of Mr Hesketh's ran for the Plate, my Lord Molineux wan it. James Banner & his Partner began to make the first of my two Brick-kills in the Ackers, I went to them.

27 Mary Blundell began her Journey from hence towards Rohan, her Father & Margarit Gray went with her to Leverpoole. I writ Letters most of the day & severall were upon Mary Blundells Account.

28 I went into the Dove Coat to see if there were any Pigeons ready for sending to Mr Plumb towards storeing his Dove-Coat, I tooke none. I went into this Town and the Morehouses to get Boone Carts to lead home my Turves, I called at Charles Howerds and smoaked a Pipe, William Norris being dead I called at Gabriells. I called at William Blundells where I gave them both some advice & heard some Complaints.

29 Thomas Syer shot a Bull-Bitch as was mad & was about this Hous. Thomas Syer finished shearing all his Corne as he had upon my Demesney, the last was Barly in the Brund Croft.

30 John Blundell spoke to me about an Oak Tree as he sade I had given him.

31 I led Turves with six Boone Carts, they & some other Carts lead 39 Load from the Morehous Moss, I went to the Moss to them and called to see William Weedow who is ill. I sent some Bottles of Aile to my Brick-Men & went to them.

The most part of this Month was very faire and severall days very hot, some days endeed it Rained but seldom so much as to hinder Reaping of Corn; Never was known so forward a Corne Harvest in these parts not often so fine an August which made Reapers extreamely scarce & in Chesshire severall gave 2s. per diem to a Reaper, but that was not onely occationed by the Sodanness of Corn growing ripe but also by a great Sickness as was in that County & some others in England, it was not very Mortall, but was a lingering sort of an Aguish Favour, we had somthing of it in Lancashire, but very little within Sefton Parish.

SEPTEMBER

1 I set thirty Slips of Pagles[61] on a Bed in the Flower knot, Parson Loxdale brought me them today but I was not in the Hous when he came. I sent a Present of young Pigeons to Mr Plumb to stoar his New Dove-Coat in Wartery with.[62] My Brick-Men set the first of my Brick-Kills on fier in the Ackers, I was with them whilst they were fiering it.

2 James Rigby the Sawer & his Partner David Rushton began to work for Mr Aldred towards the Building of the West-Lain Hous. I went to Ince Green and Bowled with Parson Wairing, Walter Thelwall, &c:, I went to see Edmund Tristram who was ill of a broken Shinn. Parson Wairing, Mr Aldred and I came home together as far as our way lay.

3 Pat. Kannell[63] made a Viset here but I was gon to my Brick-Men & my Wife was gon to the Carside. I took an account as well as I could of each sort of Apple & Pare Tree as I have in the New Orcherd & set them down in order on a Paper. John Tickley, James Scaresbrick &c: came to advise with me about the Tith becaus they think more is demanded from them than what is due.

4 I brought home my first Load of Coles this year for my own burning.

5 Pat: Wofold & Mr Aldred made a Viset here, we smoaked our Pips together.

6 I went to Ince to wate of Sir Lawrence Anderton he being come from London. Mr Saile & his Wife went with me, we came back together.

7 James Banner & Henry Margison having set my second Brick kill on Fyer in the Ackers and now having done working for me I payed them all I ought.[64] Mr Syer, Parson Wairing, Mr Crisp, James Scarisbrick, John Tickley,

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[61] Pagle, paggle, pagil—obsolete forms of Pagle or Paigle—Cowslip.

[62] Wavertree. Plumbe, a lawyer had built a new house, known later as Plumbe's Hall. The site is now Victoria Park, Wavertree.

[63] Father James Cannell, S.J., whose mother, of the Isle of Man, suffered persecution for her religion (See *Cavalier's Note Book*, p. 163). He was born in 1649, served chiefly in Wigan, where he is said to have been the earliest missioner. Died at Wigan in 1722.

[64] "This Summer I made two Hundred Thousand Bricks & burned them in two Kills

	£	s.	d.
Feying for the Clay at 8d. per day	3	4	8
Carting off the Clay at 2s. per day	4	15	0
Leveling the Ground, Push-plowing it & Fensing round the Brick, Cleering the Water, feting a Cable & for the use of it, and the use repair of my Pump	1	17	10
Leading Sods & Sand at 2s. per day		8	0
Given to the Work-Men in Drink Money, Tobacco & Hors Grass		10	0
Leading Coles & Sleck with my own Teame & Boones which I recon at 2s. 6d. per day, including what Mr. Aldred lead	5	2	6
Coales at 7s. 6d. per Work	3	0	0
Sleck at 3s. 0d. per Cundit	3	0	0
Turves & leading them		7	8
Geting Sods at 4d per Cent		7	0
Lodging paid for the Workmen at 5d. per Week for each Person	1	13	4
Casting, Moylding & Killing two Hundred Thousand Stock-Brick at 4s. per Thousand	40	0	0
Allowed my Farmers for the loss of the Ground upon all accounts for making brick there		15	0"

Continued over]

William Harrison, &c: met in the Moss Lains and vewed over some of the Poore Mosses & Burned Ground, to see whether it were Tithable, they agree'd to have the dispute refered but it never came to it. I went to Thomas Hesketh's where I drank with Mr Syer, Parson Wairing, John Rose, Robert Bootle Junior, &c:.

8 My Brick-Men & some of this Town went out a Coursing with my Bitch & Thomas Syers Dogg. Mr Sheperd dined here, we went out a Seting together before and after diner but took nothing.

9 Mr Syer acquainted me that my Lord Molineux would have all the Tith in our Mosses & would not refer the Matter to any Person, he & I smoaked together in the Gatehous. I made Aqua Coelestis, sower Mead served in part both for the Sowering and the sweet.

10 My Teame & six others led Slate for Mr Aldred from Ashhurst Hill. William Harrison, James Scarisbrick & three others went to Wooton with a Letter from me to my Lord in their Behalf concerning the Tith pretended to be due from severall of my Tenants Mossy & Barron Ground, they discoursed my Lord about it.[65] I sowed a great many Tulop Seeds on my Seedling Bed in the Nursery, near this end of it I set in a Round about 19 Brown Seedling Tulops & towards the other end I set in a Round 24 Whit Seedling Tulops all of the last year.

11 Some of my Neighbours acquainted me what they had don yesterday at Wooton. Mr Shepherd was here, after diner we went out together a Seting & tooke two Brace of Parteridges. Dorothy Blundell, Betty Blundell & Mrs Shepherd made a Viset here. I began to gather my Apples with six Hands.

12 I was very busy gathering my Apples before dinner with severall Hands. Edward Howerd made about three Bushells of Crabs into Vargeus here.

13 A Servant of Mr Scarisbricks was here. My Wife read to me a good while in the Hall. I paid James Davy for lodging my Makers of Brick.

[*Continued*]

"Anno Domini 1719. I Nicholas Blundell burned two barrills in the Ackers being two Hundred Thousand Bricks in both Kills; each Cundit Contained ten thousand and cost £3 14s. 2d. which comes to 7s. 5d. per Thousand. The cost of both the Brick Kills besides the loss of Ground was £74 3s. . . .here recon all Manner of charge & compute work done with my Servants & Horses as much as if I had hiered it. The Feying was very Chargeable it being very deep and the Weather bad which made it soft. Each Cundit had 24 Baskets of Coles & 48 of Sleck, I think I uesed about six load of Turves. They uesed two Thousand Sods for Covering the Brick whilst they stood in the Walls besids what Sods were uesed for covering the Clay when it was Tempered in the Pit. I gave four Pence per Hundred for geting the Sods for making the Brick being all Stock Brick I paid 4s. per Thousand out of which the Temparor is to have 9d. the wheelor 5d. and Carrior off 3d. per Thousand & the Remainder to the Molder. I found lodging for all the Work Folk and Carried all their Tooles for them hither and back againe. James Banner of Leverpoole was my Chief Workman."

[65] Part of a letter which Nicholas wrote to Lord Molyneux on September 10 1719:—
"Mr Syer of the Ford was here yesterday & told me he came by your Lordship's Orders to let me know you did insist upon it to have all the Tith in our poore Mosse & Hathy Ground which is what has neaver hitherto ben thought Tithable, your Lordship is much in the right to insist upon your due & none of my Tenants dos denigh what has hitherto ben tithed or what can reasonably be Judged Tithable by impartiall People, part of what is now in dispute is a poor Heathy & I think I may truly call it Barron Gound in it self, tis part of my Demesney consisting of 25 Customary Aikers or Thereabouts and has ben set by my Grandfather, Father and myself at £5 per Annum and was at last Turned upon my hands becaus they could make no Advantage of it without being at an extravagant Charge . . . . . " See September 15 1719.

14 I was very busy all day gathering Apples with severall Hands, I gathered all and some few Crabs.

15 Some of Formby Teames led Slate for Mr Aldred, I was with them whilst they were unloading. Thomas Syer began his Wheat Seeding in the Farther Wheat Hey. I and some of my Tenants met Mr Henry Tyrer, Mr Syer & Mr Crisp in the Winter-Heys where we discoursed about the Tith of our Mossy Ground; John Tickley, &c: went to James Davys where a bargan was made for the Tith of this end of the Town between the Tith Men & some of my Tenants.

16 I set some Flower Roots as I had from Ailes Melling & severall sorts of my own in a Bed in my Flower Knot. My Wife, I and Pat: Gillibrond walked to Athertons Hill whence we saw a Race upon the Marsh between Mr Heskaines Hors & Pothocarry Barrows Mair. This Town Field was turn'd abroad.

17 Pat: Gillibrond, my Wife and I rode out to see the Land Mark as is building at the Grange,[66] thence we went to Charles Howerds; Pat: Wofold & Mr Molineux of the Grange & Captain Fazakerley followed us thither where we stayed some time.

18 I was very busy all the fore Noone dressing Riculas Roots & other Flower Roots. Pat: Gillibrond went hence, my Wife and I brought him past Maile-Clent & when I came home I helped to bottle off a Rundlet of Aile.

19 I sowed some black Radish Seed, some other Sallet Seeds and one Bed of Green Mail Seed.

20 Henry Blundells Wife Mrs Dorothy made a Viset here. I had somthing of an Ague in the Evening.

21 Mr Shepperd dined here, he went a Seting before dinner but took nothing. I lent my Grewhound to some of this Town both before & after dinner but they got nothing and I think they saw not one Hare. I sent William Carefoot to see my Colt Favourit as was hurt in my Lord Darbys Ground.

22 I sent the Brick-mens Tooles to Leverpoole & brought a Load of Lime for Mr Aldred, he began to Lead his Lime with five Carts.

23 I drew out a sort of a Drought of the long Garden giving an Account what Frute Trees there are in it. John Mason & Thomas Marser began to work at my Stone-Delf[67] for Mr Aldreds new Hous but they had soone done, I went to them. I got home the last of my Winters provision of Coles.

24 Sir Lawrence Anderton, Pat: Clifton and Mr Turvill made a Viset here. Robert Weedow was taken very ill and went to bed.

25 Robert Weedow continewing very ill he went home to stay at his Fathers. I went to Leverpoole and at the Golden Lyon I spoke to Mr Plumb in behalf of Mary Fleetwood. I drank at the Wool-Pack with Mr Robert Fazakerley Senior, Patrick Norris, &c:.

26 Being very ill in my Eye I did little but walk about. I went to the Mill where I stayed a good while and Smoked a Pipe.

27 My Eye being out of Order I was not able to read much, Betty Blundell of the Car-Side made a Viset here.

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[66] A wooden tower for the guidance of shipping approaching Liverpool.

[67] The quarry was at the north end of the village. It was used from *c.* 1650 up to the first quarter of the twentieth century.

28 I was able to doe little being ill of my Eye, I went to Betty Swifts where I stayed a good while, she was Ropeing Onions for me. I brought home the Stubs as were to fence my Brick-Kills.

29 I was so ill of my Eyes I was not able to goe in the morning to Mr Aldreds, I kept my Roome part of the afternoone, Thomas Syer stayed with me, we discourced about his giving up his Farme. I sent William Carefoot to enquire after my Colts Favourit & Jewell, I got Jewell scor'd by the Week for as long as I please.

30 I took my Mill into my own Hands, it being according to the Agreement made yesterday between Thomas Syer and me. Mrs Blundell came to see me being I was ill of my Eyes. John Vose began to build the West Laine Hous, I layed the first Stone with my Coat of Armes and the first Letters of my Wives Name and mine engraved of it, it is the Foundation Stone of the most Westerly Corner.[68]

Though there was till the 18th now and then some Raine, yet from thence to the end of this Month it was more licke Spring than Autumne being most curious fine Weather & scarce a drop of Raine. The Ditches & the Roads are now as dry and as Fair as ever in Summer and great want of Water in the Fields for Cattle the like never known in the memory of Man. Though this and other preceading Months has ben very Fair and generally pritty hot, yet it has ben unhealthfull in most parts of England, but not very mortall in Lancashire; in these parts, & I suppose in others, the Distemper began like an Ague and turned to a Lingering Favour.

OCTOBER

1 I went to the West Laine Hous and discouced John Vose about making the Stone Stayers according to my Way.

2 Ann Howerd of Coppoll dined here, I walked with her into the Gardens. Betty Blundell of the North-end came to discource me about going to serve Madam Cross. I agreed with William Carefoot for a longer time to serve me.

3 William Gray helped me to make about 8 Bushells of Crabs into Vargius, I made a good Rundlet of it. Nelly Howerd went to be under Betty Morrison upon account of a soar Legg.

4 Thomas Syer shaved me, he stayed and smoaked a Pipe with me.

5 Thomas Marser began to make Notches in the Wall for Fixing in Horizontall Shelters. Ann Howerd went hence, her Sister Ellen Harrison went with her, they went to Boscow to lodg at Betty Farers. Sir Lawrence Anderton, Pat: Clifton, and I, &c: went with Mr Aldred to his Hous where we had a good Bowl of Punsh.

6 Yester Night & this Morning I took a Doce of Pills according to Dr Cawoods Directions. Mr Baxter brought a Horce for me to buy for the Coach but he is not for my purpose. John Walmesley profered his Service to goe to Madam Bagnolls so did John Twotale. Betty Swift, &c: went disgised to Thomas Piningtons.

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[68] "Coat of Armes for West Lane Hous . . . . . 2s. 6d."
It was carved by Ned Litherland of Liverpool.

7 I went the first time to take up Tole Corne, since I had the Mill in my own Hands. I discourced the Miller about serving me. William Anderton played on his Pips and Fiddle at Thomas Syers.

8 I hung up some Bunshes of Grapes to preserve them. I Covered some Cardoone with Straw to Blansh it.

9 I took Particular Notice to what Quarter of the Heavens my Frute Walls Faced and set down some Trees as I should want for them from London.

10 I sent William Carefoot to fetch home my Colt Favorit but he not being quit sound he brought him not.

11 This being Goocefeast Sunday my Wife & I stayed at home & kept the Hous. I sent William Carefoot to see if he could harken me out a Miller but he could not.[69]

12 Yester Night and this Morning I took a Doce of Pills according to Dr Cawoods Directions. William Weedow was here, we had a hot discource about his Son Robert leaving my Service. Pat: Gelibrond lodged here, it is his Birth-day.

13 My Lord Langdalls Servant Francis was here of a How-do-you. Pat: Aldred dined here, Pat: Gilibrond and I went with Pat: Aldred to his Hous where we took a Pipe.

14 I paid the Land Tax to William Weedow. Pat: Gilibrond, my Wife and I went to James Rigbys where we eat some Goosfeast Fare, thence we went to Thomas Hesketh's where we stayed a good while.

15 I payed the Window Tax to Edward Rothwell. Pat: Gilibrand and I went to the New Hous to make a Viset to Mr Lovell.

16 It was so bitter a day of Raine Pat: Gilibrond could not goe hence. Betty Swift went to Leverpoole to dispose of some Rose-Mary Sage as I had given her. My Teame brought some Slates from Ashhurst Delf for Mr Aldred.

17 It being Goosfeast week I went to Nicholas Johnsons & drank there with Thomas Arnold, I also drank at Gutteridges & at Margarit Lurtings.

18 My Wife went to Leverpoole to see Nelly Howerd. Ellen Harrison came home hither, she had ben at her Sister Anns & Doughter Bettys.

19 I Stated Accounts with Thomas Syer and gave consent he might take Richard Westhead for his Partner. Mrs Thorp dined here, my Wife sent to fetch her from Leverpoole but it being a wet day she lodged here. I was at the Funerall of Parson Letus[70] but the Corps was carried to the Church ere I came, so I stayed in the Ailehous till the Sermon was over and drank with Mr Crisp, Mr Bower, Thomas Fleetwood, &c: Parson Becket, Mr Byron, &c: were at the Funerall.

20 John Twotall began his Journey from hence towards Gravling. I fetched home my Colt Favorit from Childol, it had ben ill wounded when it was Scored in my Lord Darbys Ground. I gave some Bottles of Aile amongst the Work-men at the West Laine Hous.

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[69] John Rigby agreed to stay on and remained as miller until January 11 1726. He was paid quarterly—£2 15s. 0d. plus 2s. 6d. "for finding Light & Licker".

[70] Rev. William Latus was curate of Sefton Church.

21 I Booked my Disbursments or at least most of them for the last Quarter ending at Michallmas.

22 I went to Thomas Tickleys & barganed with his Wife for a Cart Load of Malt, I drank there with Mr Molineux of the Grange, there was some Drunken troblesome Company in the Hous.

23 Nelly Howerd came home from Leverpoole, she had ben some time under Betty Morrison.

24 I went to Thomas Tickleys & paid him for 24 Bushells of Malt which my Cart brought home today.[71]

25 My Wife and I made a Viset to Ince.

26 One who called herself Elizabeth Aspinwall was here & told me away to destroy Rats & Moles but it was a Sham. I made a proposall to Richard Webster to continew at my Smithy. My Wife went to condole Mrs Letus for the death of her Husband.

27 I Layed some Rotton Pairs in Drills in the Nursery that the Seeds of them might grow. I set 26 Stones of Whit Plumbs in the Nursery but I think they had lane too long parching in the Sun. I planted some Roots of Schorchenira and some Shallot and Hollick.

28 I went to Ditton & lodged at the Bank at William Athertons, I played them some tricks of Leger-de-mesne & set them upon some Chrismass Tricks, we were extreamly Merry.

29 William Atherton, Joseph Bolton, &c: went a Coursing with me, I had my Dogg Spring as is Tabled in Ditton and my Bitch Flye as I brought from home with me; Parson Hargrave and Gilligant, &c: came to us; when we had done Coursing severall of us went to the Signe of the Cock, where we took a Glass of Aile; severall of our Company being invited by William Atherton went and dined with me at William Athertons, dinner being done I shewed them a few Tricks of Leger-de-Mesney & then some of them went with me to the Ball, viz: Henry Hey, Daniell Eckleston, William Welshman, &c:.

30 William Atherton & I went to Henry Heys, he went out a Coursing with us, we ran a Brace of Hares with my Grewhounds and killed one of them. Henry Heys Dined with us at William Athertons, I came home from Ditton.

31 I put some Sallery and Endive into the Ground to blansh.

Till the 9th very fine & Faire weather as it had ben most part of the last Month from the 9th till the end of the Month almost every day pritty much Raine and very Winterly Weather so that it may well be sade the Faire Weather began upon the ninth to break.

NOVEMBER

1 This being my Wives Birth day, Mr Aldred came hither in the after Noone, we drank her health and took a Pipe.

2 I began to lay my Apples in Straw in Order to keep them. I began to fix some of my Horizontall Shelters as they are to be.

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[71] "Malt . . . . . £4 4s. 0d."

3 John Blundell began to thin the Boughs of my Appletrees and is to thin severall other Trees that shades the Gardens too much.

4 Robert Atherton brought home my Colt Jewell as was Scored in my Lord Darbys Ground.

5 I let William Carefoot goe a Coursing with Robert Atherton, they killed one Hare, I gave him severall Sorts of Flower Roots for his Mother. I finished laying my Apples in Straw. I drank at Sefton Aile-hous with Parson Wairing, Robert Bootle Junior and two others as were to sell Parson Letus his goods, I would have bought some goods of them but we could not bargan.

6 I Brought some Aile to the West-Laine Hous to the Work-Men, I went with Mr Aldred to his Hous & smoak'd a Pipe with him, we had some serious Discource.

7 Pat: Hardesty made a Viset here, Mr James Clenton came with him and proposed to take a Teneament under me, we walked together to the West-Lain-Hous, & when we came back we went into Thomas Syers Kitchen where I gave them a Glass of Aile.

8 The Famoly of Ince made a Viset here.

9 Thomas Marser has ben for some time fixing the Horizontall Shelters, but now having done for the Present I payed him off. William Carefoot went to the Bare-Bate[72] at Formby.

10 John Blundell cut down a larg Poplar Tree at the Foot of the Hen Hous Stairs. The West-Lain-Hous was Rear'd, I was with them the most of the while & till they had reared it. John Molineux and I discoursed Margaret Darby concerning Thomas Taylor. Pat: Gillibrand & I had a good Bowl of Punsh at Mr Aldreds.

11 I was at Mr Aldreds with Parson Wairing, Mr Bayron, Yeomon of the Gore-houses &c:, he gave us a very good Bowl of Punsh, we were eight in all. I began to lay my two Coach Horses in the Hous in the Night.

12 I payed Thomas Holland for Slates, &c: for the West-Lain-Hous. Sir Lawrence Anderton & Mr Turvill made a Viset here. My Colt Favorit was shod before, 'tis the first time.

13 I Planted some Pear Trees &c: between the New Orcherd & [torn] Grounds, they had all of them g[torn] against Walls in other Places. My Lord Langdale sent his Servant Francis hither from Wooton of a How-do-you.

14 I dined at the Wool-pack in Leverpoole with four Strangers, I suppose they were Londoners. I saw Mathew Buckinger who was born without Hands or Feet, I saw him writ very well with his Stumps & tipe very dexterously some nine Pins down and play Tricks of Leger-de-Mesne. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Whitly & Mr Bayron, they went with me to see the Little Man play his Tricks.

15 The Ladys of Maile sent hither of a How-do-you and to invite my Wife to dinner but she could not goe conveniently.

16 Jackson planted me 18 Wall Trees as I had from London[73] & set some Cabbages to stand for Seed, I covered my Aspargus. Captain Fazakerley came to cource here but I could not goe with him so lent him my Bitch, he killed one Hare. Henry Rosthbottom Lodg'd here.

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[72] Bear-baiting.

[73] "Wall-Frute Trees from London & some Seeds & carriage . . . . £1 3s. 4d."

17 I went with Henry Rothbottom to Thomas Bradleys where we stayed awhile. John Vose & I mesured the Brickwork at the West-Laine-Hous.

18 John Vose & I computed what his Work came to at the West-Lain-Hous, I paid him for all due upon that account. I paid James Rigby £5 in part for his Work at the West-Lain-Hous.

19 I helped to lay up the old Glass as I had bought at Sefton, & I put severall other things into order.

20 I dined at Mr Cottoms with Mr William Plumbe & Mr Pepper. I drank at the Wool-pack with Mr Cottom & John Marsden. I paid Ned Litherland for Carving my Coat of Armes for the West-Lain-Hous. Coming home I lost my Way & walked home on foot from the Marsh.

21 I took account what sort of Wall Trees I had & set the Names down of most of them as well as I could to know each sort.

22 Mr Rigmaden[74] was here, I discourced him about sending his Doughter to Madam Cross.

23 Robert Weedow had his Finall answer that he was not to come again to be Servant here. I set some Beans by the Stone Garden Doar. I set my Best Anemony Roots & the remainder of all my other sorts of Anemonys. I paid James Rigby & Davyd for all the Sawing they had don for the West-Lain-Hous.[75]

24 I made some Punsh against tomorrow. I set some Peas by the Bee Hives in the Stone Garden. I planted some Lawrell & Bay Trees at this end of the Union Walk.

25 Parson Wairing, Yeomon of the Goar-hous, Mr Byron the High Cunstable &c: made a Viset here, I gave them a good Bowl of Punsh. My Lord Langdale sent his Servant Francis hither to let me know he would come hither on Fryday. Thomas Gill came to mend my Kill.

26 Thomas Syer & I stated Accounts, he paid me all his Rent as was due at Martinemass last.

27 I sent my Coach Carriage to carry the Corps of Cicily Lea to Sefton.

28 I Payed William Renold for Lime as was bought from the Land-Mark at the Grange by Mr Aldred. My Lord Langdale and Mr Heskaine lodged here.

29 Richard Webster our Smith shewed me a Fox as he had killed it'h Mosses.

30 Mr Heskaine went to Wooton and came back againe before Supper. Lord Langdale, Pat: Aldred and I went to Thomas Hesketh's where we took a Glass of Aile.

Till the 10th almost every day Raine and some days pritty much then four days Faire, from the 14th to the 28th onely one faire day, the others generally very wet, the three last days fair & Frosty.

DECEMBER

1 We had some pritty good Grapes for Dinner as I had kept by Hanging them up. My Lord Langdale, Mr Heskaine and I went to Mr Aldreds where he treated us with very good Licker.

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[74] Thomas Rigmaiden, of Ince Blundell; a descendant of the Rigmaidens of Woodacre Hall.

[75] "Sawing Timber at 8d. per Rood . . . . . 9s. 0d".

2 I began to open some of my older Sort of Apple Trees at the Roots and lay them bair all Winter. Lord Langdale went a Shooting about the Hous.

3 Lord Langdale went hence, I went with him to Leverpoole and saw him take Bote for Chesshire. I payed William Bibby in full for Lime for the West-Lain-Hous; when I came home I went to Great Crosby Court which was held on purpose for confirming a Bargan between Thomas Syer & Robert Johnson, I would have entered then a Sute against John Ridgat but Henry Fleetwood answered for him; when the Court was don I drank at Hesketh's with Mr Syer, Mr Whitley, James Williamson, &c:. Thomas Syer & I came Home together. Thomas Syer layed his Milk-Beasts in the Hous.

4 It being a Bitter cold and sharp Wind I stir'd little out of the Hous.

5 I put half a pound of Horn-beam Seed into a Mugg-Hive with Earth; over them I layed some Oak Leaves and a peece of a Starr Matt & then I put in a Quarter of a pound of Yew-Seeds, I buried the Mugg-Hive in the Cop behind the Arbour.

6 I made up a doce of Phisick for young Henry Curedon for the Ague Fits and gave it him to take.

7 I prepaired Tickets against the next year for most of the Poore of this Parish.

8 Henry Swift and Roger Marser asked me leave to fish on the Sea Cost within my libertyes.

9 I Burned half a Groce of Pipes. I saw Richard Webster our Smith burne the Lampers out of a Colts Mouth.[76]

10 Pat: Gillibrond & I went to Parson Wairings where we stayed pritty late, it was an appointed day,[77] but none met us there except Thomas Syer.

11 I Began to lay my Colts in the Hous in the Night.

12 Richard Webster began to make the Iron-worke for my Box Rat-Trap.

13 Mr Aldred having strained his Anclew very ill as he went to Ince called here as he came back & steep'd it in cold Water and then by the Assistance of two Men he walked home.

14 John Ridgat paid me an old Debt. I set about seaven Score larg Nuts in the Border at the side of the Union Walk.

15 Thomas Bigarstraff came hither with a Petission for me to signe to the Parleament to make the River Wever Navigable, I did sign it.[78] I set all my Renunculas Roots.

16 I sowed my best Sun-Flowers in the Kitchen Garden & some of the Common sort in the Great Courts.

17 I was in my Oat Kill a good while with Thomas Gill whilst he was rebuilding the Cundit. I took measure to know how much would be sufficient for a pair of Sail Cloths for my Mill.

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[76] Lampas, lampars or lampers—a disease of horses in which the fleshy lining of the roof of the mouth behind the front teeth swells.

[77] The local gentry, parsons and priests met as a social club. This was one of the days on which they had agreed to meet.

[78] The first Act for rendering the Weaver navigable from Frodsham Bridge to Winsford was passed in 1720.

18 I made an exchange with Thomas Syer for some Ground he has of mine in his Hands for which I am to allow him the Great Brandiearth & to give him some Money yearly during his Tirme.

19 I went to Leverpoole to meet my Ditton Tenants; William Welshman, William Kennion, &c: paid me their Rents at the Wool-pack. I dined at the Wool-pack. I bought some Cloath of Thomas Cliff for one Pair of Sail-Cloths. I went to Mr Plumbs Offis & wished him welcome-home, he had ben at Dublin.

20 I saw Pat: Wofold at Mr Aldreds, he invited my Wife and me to come in the Morning on the 23rd to keep Mrs Molineux'es Aniversary at the Grange and to dine there.

21 Thomas Syer proposed to set part of his Rack to some of my Tenants, he acquainted me with what he had done therein, he stayed & Smok'd a Pipe with me.

22 Thomas Syer & I stated Accounts for what he had Disbursed for my use and for what he ought me for Turves and for my Boone Shearers.

23 This Being Mrs Molineux'es Aniversary I went in the Morning to the Grange, there was Mrs Blundell and her Doughter Margerit, Mr William Wofold, Young Mr Robert Fazakerley, Walter Thelwall, &c:. I went to the Buriall of William Bawer but came too late so that I met the Corps & went to Sefton, when the Buriall was over I stayed drinking at the Aile-Hous with Dr Lancaster, Selsby of Ormskerk, Young John Yates.

24 Thomas Gill having finished my Kill yesterday, went hence, I payed him for his Work.[79]

25 It being Christmas day my Wife and I went in the Night to Mr Aldreds, we also went thither about tenn of the Clock this Morning, my Wife was extreamly ill and I was not very well.

26 William Gray came to advise with me about a Debt owing to him by Richard Webster our Smith.[80]

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[79] An important factor in the grinding of corn was its state of dryness; the drier the corn the easier it was to grind. Clearly an important adjunct of the mill was, therefore, the kiln where the grain was suitably dried preparatory to grinding. In the kiln the heated air from a furnace passed beneath a floor of perforated tiles by which the corn was gently warmed. The drying kiln required constant repairing; most of the damage being done by over-heating. Indeed, the danger from fire was quite a real one and at one time it was stipulated that the kiln was to be built not less than nine paces from the nearest cottage. Such fires must have been responsible for much of the repair work that had to be done at the Little Crosby windmill. See November 17 1712; July 27, December 2 1713; November 11 and 16 1714; January 10 1715.

On this occasion it must have been quite a major repair job which Thomas Gill carried out and the cost was rather high:—

	£	s.	d.
"New Laying & Mending the Kill	1	5	3
Tile for the Kill	1	1	0
Iron for the Kill Grate		14	8½
Smiths Work for the Mill & Kill		2	8"

On January 14 1720, the drying kiln was once more in use.

[80] This was the beginning of serious trouble for the new smith, Richard Webster Junior, and the cause of a bitter quarrel between the townships of Little Crosby and Thornton. Richard Webster took up his position as "the Smith of this Town" on January 10 1711. Unfortunately he ran into debt and one of the persons to whom he owed money, William Gray, reported him to Nicholas Blundell. The whole story is told by several entries in the Diary up to May 2 1720.

27 Mrs Rachell Smith dined here. Pat: Aldred came to see my Wife and stayed a good while.

28 Thomas Syer shewed me a Note of part of my Demesney as he had set being part of what he farms from me with a Particular of the price & to whom. William Sumner the Miller paid me his Rent.

29 Francis Farer brought me some Sets of Spina Cancer or Johns Thorne to plant round my Arbur where the others are dead.

30 The Sets as Francis Farer brought me yesterday were planted round my Arbur.

31 Ned Howerd shaved my Face and Head, his Sister Ann Lodged here.

Till the 9th a pritty moderate Frost, the four next days very cold Thaw, with some Snow then Fair till the 18th, from thence to the end of the Month every day some Raine & some days pritty much.

January, February, & March were very seasonable Months; in Aprill we began to want Rain; May very hot and much Thunder but little Raine; June extreamly hot & though we had frequently some Raine, yet we wanted still more; July generally extreamly hot though not without some Raine, a very forward Hay Harvest & Wheat now ripe. Never were so many Whit Butter-Flyes as were seene this Summer. August extreamly faire, Barly full ripe but not well fed; a very sickly time as well in other parts as in England, though pritty well in Sefton Parish; September still Sickley, Ditches and Rodes dryer now than generally in Summer; Middle of October winterly weather began to come; November pritty much Rain; December cold & raw though not much Frost sharp & cold winds.

This is the end of the second volume of the original manuscript of the Diary, except for the following note and for a shorter form of the index which Nicholas placed at the beginning of the first and second volumes. See Volume One, pp. 13-14.

'The Index or Table at the Begining of this Book being so very large, I have made the following one in the same forme onely abundantly shorter, having onely set down in it those things which I think I shall have hereafter most occation to look for or desire to know.'

Appendices

APPENDIX A JANUARY 3 1712

SETTLEMENT OF RICHARD AND HENRY SWIFT

In 1712 a dispute arose between Little Crosby and Ince Blundell concerning the place o settlement of a poor person. Thomas Farrer, a tenant of Nicholas Blundell in Little Crosby, had sublet some land to a Richard Swift. Towards the end of 1711 and the beginning of 1712 Blundell had some doubts about Richard Swift's ability to pay the rent, so on January 2 1712:—

> "I Discoursed Thomas Farer concerning Richard Swift whether he had paid his Rent and whether Swift had goods of his owne to stock his Farme."

The discussion seems to have served no purpose:—

> "our Discours was not long, being Thomas Farer was in hast, as he told me, to go to Sutton."

Blundell was apparently not satisfied that Swift was not going to become a charge on the township and on the same day he tells us that William Weedow went "to Leverpoole and Advised with Mr. Plumb about Richard Swifts Sertifycate." Swift had come from the neighbouring township of Ince Blundell to Little Crosby, and would carry a certificate from the Ince overseers of the poor.

The matter must have been under consideration for some time, for on the following day, January 3, Blundell went to Ormskirk and informs us that:—

> "I was at Mr Houghtons where the privy Sestions were held by Sir Thomas Standley, Mr Brooks & Mr Nicholas Fazakerley. Little Crosby had a Tryall with Ince Town there concerning the Settlement of Richard Swift and Henry Swift & their Familyes, we lost the Sute. I came home in the Coach with my Wife."

Richard and Henry Swift were thus allowed to remain in Little Crosby, and in 1713, about a year later, Henry Swift, with the consent of Nicholas Blundell, bought a cottage, or rather a one-roomed hovel, for which he paid thirty shillings to the overseers of the poor. The hovel was, in fact, one which the people of Little Crosby had been compelled to build for a poor woman, Martha Tompson, by order of the justices of the peace some years before. Martha Tompson was now dead. But Blundell was not very happy over this business and, as he tells us in his Tenants Book,[1] he bought the hovel back again from Henry Swift in 1718:—

> "Swift Henry. Anno Domini 1713. Bought by my Consent a small Cottage which was built at the Charge of this Township for Martha Tompson for which he payed 30sh. to Thomas Marrow then Overseeor of the Poore, But afterwards he being in want of Money & I not thinking it proper to have a Freeholder though of onely a Cottage I gave him, An: Do: 1718 the like Sume of 30sh. for the same Cottage & to enjoy it for 99 years determinable upon three Lives, onely doing yearly one day Reaping or paying instead thereof yearly six pence. When his tirme is out, there ought some Rent to be payed beside the Boone above Mentioned."

There is also in the Tenants Book a reference to a cottage being built in 1720 by an Elizabeth Swift, but whether she was any relation to Richard and Henry is not known. However, the reference is worth quoting as showing how careful Nicholas was to avoid bringing paupers into Little Crosby.

> "Swift Eliz: did by the consent of me Nich: Blundell about the Year of our Lord God 1720 Erect & Build a Cottage upon the Waist not far from the Pound in Little Crosby & also inclose a Few Perches of Ground for a Garden Spot, which said Cottage & Ground she is to enjoy during her own Life & to doe yearly one day Reaping of Corne or pay in lew thereof six pence, she has no Tenant-right, but I shall allow it to her Children if she have any unles by so doing I may endanger bringing in a Famoly of Begars & in such a Case it may be more advisable to turne off her Children & give them some small Consideration."

The Farrers mentioned in this case were very unsatisfactory tenants in Little Crosby, and in the Tenants Book illuminating comments have been made upon them. William 'the Cavalier' leased to James Farrer, the father of Thomas Farrer mentioned in the Diary, January 2 and 3, 1712, two closes on September 3, 1698. In 1710 Nicholas made the following comment upon this lease:—

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[1] DDB1/54/41. Lancashire Record Office.

"An: Dom: 1710 I conceive the two Closes above Mentioned were leased abundance too Cheap and Thomas Farrer has upon some Occasions not carried himself like an Oblidging Tenant, wherefore he ought not to have any Favour shewed him if it ever be leased againe to him or his, but I intend not to Leas it to him, one reason is becaus conterary to my desire he set his Teneament to a Poore Farmer & by that meanes brought three poore Famolys into the Town which might have ben of ill consequence but they being industrius, have not yet ben chargable."

When James Farrer died and his son Thomas took over the lease, Nicholas made the following observation in his Tenants Book:—

"James Farrer father to the present Thomas Farrer agreed with William Blundell my Father on 3rd. Sept. 1698 for two Closes formerly called Rices Little Ease; they are called four Acres but I think they are more. I believe there is no Lease only a Contract. My Father received only £10. 0s. 0d. for a Fine for the Lives of Thomas and Edward Sons to the above mentioned James, who then came an entire stranger to it, he pays Rent Yearly 3s. at two Equall payments viz: Midsummer & Martinmass, one day Reaping or instead thereof 4d.

Thomas Farrer told me he had set this Ground for £4 per Annum. Thomas Farrer has upon severall accounts been an ill neighbour and particularly to me, upon severall occasions (as may in part be seen in the Old Tenants Book) so am resolved that none of his shall enjoy it after it falls loose.

Thomas Farrer died May the 29, 1729."

This was not the end of these tenants, for in 1753, when James Bastin who had married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Farrer, applied to renew the lease, Henry Peppard, who had married Frances and had succeeded Nicholas Blundell as lord of the manor, made the following note in the Tenants Book:—

"In 1753 James Bastin, who maryed Mary Farrar daughter & Heir of said Thomas proposed to me to renew, which I refused as he lives in Ormskirk & Racks it to one Tenant after another who have ruined the ground by pushing & burning on't & neither he nor his Predecessors using it otherwise; they ought not to be Leased with. There is Marle in the ground by which it might be improved; upon Basten's offer to renew I told him I would give him back the £10 fine paid her on for his Interest, though Leased 55 years before & only one life now in being, but he would not sell it. 1766 Edward Farrer the last life being dead as aforsaid, I took the said Ground into my own hands & set it for one year to Richard Sheppard our Smith at £4 per annum, but hope to make it much better worth."

APPENDIX B APRIL 17 1712

DETAILS OF MARLING CARRIED OUT BY NICHOLAS BLUNDELL, WRITTEN BY ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS IN A MANUSCRIPT 'THE GREAT HODGE PODGE', NOW AT CROSBY HALL.

"1712 **Aprill 17** My Father Nicholas Blundell began to Fey the Lower Pit in the Great Moorhey which was very chargable, there being above 2 spadings deep of extream tough Clay upon the Marle; the Pit was layd out about 54 yards long & 28 yards broad, the Fey & Clay one place with another about 3 feet & a half deep. June 12th began to marle out of the said Pit, The Litle Moorhey & the Pike which together are about 11 acres, on which Layd 22 thousand 5 hundred & 6 loads at 6 Score to the hundred. The Marle was very good & the lower the better, & the further they went into the Moor hey the better the head of Marle for in the Pace, which was in the Pike, they bottomed on a soft kind of free-stone Rock, but it dipped so fast that before they got to the further side they did not go through the marle, at the further side for the Pace, the Marle was . . . feet of a head, and the end next to Great Crosby was by half a yard deeper than t'other end. The feying and carting by workmen & his own servants, according to what he paid £11 1s. 4½d & £3 6s. 0d. amount to £14 7s. 4½d. which was above 10/- per Rood, the same being 20 Roods — —

	£	s.	d.
There were 2 Companies of Marlers in the Pit vizt John Darwin, Thomas Whitehead, Robert Fartlough, Henry Ascroft, Henry Merser, Thomas Westhead & Abram Harrisson: Charles Stevenson, John Harrisson, Roger Cross, Ralph Stevenson, Darby McDaniel, William Starkey & John Simner, to whom paid at the rate of 25/- per thousand on 22m. 5c. 6 1	28	2	7½

	£	s.	d.
They got about 413 Loads more of marle which they layd on the brow till might be wanted & for which paid them		10	3
Paid the Carters at 2/- per day, besides grass for their horses	28	16	9½
my own Cart & sometimes two valued at £5. 6s. 6d. & grass £13. 2s. 6d.	18	9	0
the carting out to lay on the brow the above 4 hundred & 13 Load		8	3
Paid 4 Spreaders at 12d. per day	5	12	6
Paid the Water baliffs 12d. per day for clearing of water	2	8	0
Gave the Marlors at making bargain 5/- & shooting 2 paces 5/-		10	0
Filling up one pace & putting in some of the fey		7	0
Given the Marlers by the familly–9/-, 12 Bushells of malt brewed for them into Ale – £1. 18s. 0d., meat & drink at finishing &c. – £6. 18s. 4d.	9	5	4
Totall the Expence is near £10. 0s. 0d. per Acre (Besides about or above £7. 0d. 0d. given by neighbours to the marlors	£108	17	2

APPENDIX C SEPTEMBER 25 1712

MAINTENANCE OF MARTHA TOMPSON, LITTLE CROSBY, 1692–1712

Martha Tompson was a widow living in Little Crosby, her husband having died in 1692 as a result of injuries received at the hands of a neighbour in the township. Thus she was deprived of her sole source of income. In addition she was on bad terms with her neighbours on religious grounds, and was turned out of the small dwelling which she occupied. At the Midsummer Sessions held at Ormskirk in 1692 she made a complaint. As a result the justices of the peace ordered the overseers of Little Crosby to pay her 40s. 0d. a year and provide her with a dwelling place for which she was to pay 5s. 0d. a year.[1] This sum was duly paid until Michaelmas 1697, when for some reason, which we are not told, payment ceased. So at the Quarter Sessions held at Ormskirk at Easter 1698, Martha made a complaint about this and also stated that the house provided for her was unfit to live in.

"The humble petition of Martha Thompson
of Little Crosby, Widdowe
Sheweth

"That the overseeres of the poore of the said Townshipp was by an Order made in the yeare (1692) to pay unto your petitioner forty shillings a yeare. And to find her a suffitient place of habitation Shee paying for the same five shillings a yeare which was performed accordingly till about Michaellmas last (Save a place of habitation that was soe badd has was not fitt for any person to Inhabitt in) and for want of payment of the money in Arrear since Michaellmas last, your poore petitioner has been constrained to take up corne without moneys of a neighbour who was of the Church of England to the vallue of thirty shillings or upwards, otherwise shee might have Starved & been famished for want of bread in the winter the rest or most of the said Townshipp beinge Roman Catholicks and shee not on the same perswasion was very cruell and severe with her, soe that Shee is not in any wise able to pay for the corne or maintaine her selfe for the future without releiffe of this Court."[2]

Martha's petition was successful, and the overseers of Little Crosby were ordered to make up the arrears of payment, to continue the payment of 40 shillings a year, and also provide her with a more suitable dwelling place. Martha was ordered to wear on her right sleeve a badge showing the letter P for pauper.

The next we hear of this case is this entry in the Diary. For twenty years Martha had been maintained out of the poor fund and at the expense of the people of Little Crosby, then she suddenly turns to the overseer of the poor and says she wanted no more assistance.

Martha Tompson must have died soon afterwards for the cottage built for her was sold by Nicholas Blundell to Henry Swift in 1713.[3]

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[1] QSP/718/10. L.R.O.

[2] QSP/811/1. L.R.O.

[3] See February 25 and May 8 1713 and foot-note, and Appendix A.

APPENDIX D FEBRUARY 26 1714

CONVULTION FITS OR FALLING SICKNESS TO CURE[1]

Take the first After-Birth of a Woman provided the Child be a Son, cut it into thin peeces lick Collops, but do not wipe it, put it thin in a Dish or Mugg-Platter & bake it in the Oven after a Batch of Pyes or Bred, when 'tis cold take it out of the Oven, & turn every peece the other Side upwards, & then set it a second time in the Oven after an other Batch, & twill probably be hard enough to knock [grind into a powder]; if it be not you may put it into an Oven after Tarts or such lick things, for after a second Baiking it dos not require so hot an Oven as the two first times; then beat it in a Morter to Powder & sift it fine. Take Young Ravons which are ready to fly & put them alive into an Oven after somthing has ben Baiked in it, but be sure the Oven be not so hot as to burne them, yet it must be so warme as to kill them with the heat of it, hold the Oven-Stone up with your Hands till they are dead, elce they will throw it down; let them ly in the Oven, as long as there is any warmnes in it; when you bake another batch again, put them in again & so continew to do, for severall times, for they will require to be put in severall times ere they be dry enough. the hoter the Oven is the better; provided it do not burne the Fethers; when they are sufficiently dryed, beat them to Powder, & Sift all together, Feathers, Guts & Bones &c. Take a dead-Mans Scull which has ben so long buryed that there is no Skin &c. on the Outside of it, nor Braines remaining in it; wash & wipe it very cleane, so that nothing is remaining, but what may properly be called a Schull remaining, then knock, & sift it. Take the Roots of Single Piannets [peony] which the Appothecarys call Roadix Pianae, which you may rais in your own Garden; dry them in a Cool-Oven and beat them to Powder; I think the best time to take them up is when they are fully Blown, but that you may advise about. Having provided the four above mentioned pouders take of each an equall quantity, mix them well together & put them up in a Gally-Pot for use, but do not keep it in a moist place. The proportion of this Mixture is, at one Doce, as much as will ly upon half a Crown, taiken in the Morning fasting in a Glass of Whit-Wine or Burch-Wine by those who can afford it; if not Whey or Malt-Licker will suffise; they may fast about an Hour after it; it has no Phisicall Operasion eather by Stoole or otherways, so that the Person needs not to keep Hous when he takes it. The times Persons are seazed with the Convulsed Fits or Falling Sickness is generally at the New-Moone and at the Fool, so tis proper to take six doses at each time viz: three before the New-Moon and three after; and then againe three before the Full Moon & three after; the day of the New Moon & day of the Fuul Moone must be one of the six days viz: the third or fourth day of their Taiking each six doses.

I do not know any one who is acquainted with this Secret but myself, but having don so much good by it, think tis pitty so benefissial a Remedy should die with me, so leave it for the good of others, to my Heires, but advise them if they think proper to be servisable in this way to their Neighbours; to take all the opertunitys of geting the two first Ingredients viz: After-Berth & Young Ravons both which I have found very difficult somtimes to get. This I know by 30 Years Experience to be a most extraordinary Cure for the Convultion & Falling Sickness having cured severall, especially about Warington & have sent it, with very good Suckcess into other Parts of England, having seldom or neaver failed making a Perfect Cure, or at least of doing the Pasient abundance of Service. I call 12 papers or Doses a Packet, & never gave above two Packets to any one without good Suckcess and somtimes the first complaited the Cure.

APPENDIX E FEBRUARY 11 1715

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF TITHES AND FEES IS TAKEN FROM A TERRIER FOR SEFTON PARISH, DATED 20 JUNE 1716. [DRL/3/SEF. TER. 1716—LANCASHIRE RECORD OFFICE.]

"The custome of tythes in our parish consist in corn, hay, hemp, flax, milke, caulves, Lamb, wool, coults, Gees, bees, Piggs, Eggs, Milne, Webster for his trade, Mortuaries besides Easter offerings.

As to the custome of payeing and Receveinge of the Afforesaid tythes in there particulars as followeth—

And first of Corn the tenth is due except otherwise compounded.
2ly. Hay the tenth is due except it be otherwise compounded; only in Great crosbie, Some pay 2d., some 1½d., some 1d., some ½d. by old coustome.

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[1] Nicholas Blundell's Recipe [Prescriptions] Book, page 86.

3ly. Hemp and flax After twelve pence A mesure sowinge whether it be more or less through the whole parish Except Ince Blundell and there is but three shillings and four-pence a year paid for that Lordship in Lieu of hemp and flax by the Hall of Ince Blundell.
4ly. Cows, Every cowe a penie for her Milke and every calfe a halfe penie Except there be five then in such case five shillings for halfe a calfe and so on to the Greater number that is to saye if there be nine or ten a whole calfe to its vallew.
5ly. Lambe and wool, A halfe penie a lambe Except there be five then halfe a lambe to its vallew and so on to the Greater number, eight nine or ten, then a whole Lambe. Wool, A penie a fleece Except there be five Then halfe a Fleece, and so on to the Greater number According to the Lambs.
6ly. Coults—a penie a Coult.
7ly. Gees. Except there be five nothing but if five then half a Goos and so on to the Greater number as afforesaid Eight nine or ten then a whole Goos and so to the number of the Flock.
8ly. Bees. a half penie a swarm.
9ly. Piggs. Except five nothinge but if five halfe a pigg and so on to the Greater number as Aforesaid.
10ly. Eggs. Every house in the paris[h] Rich, or poor, is to [pay] twelve Eggs other wise two pence in money, and due and payable in Lent Every year if they be demanded.
11ly. Milnes. a water Milne two shillings a year; & Every wind Milne twelve pence and payable at Easter.
12ly. The webster for his trade four pence a year.
13ly. Mortuarys. If ten pound of debtless Good[s] Three shillings and four pence, If forty Marks, six shillings and eight pence, if forty pounds, ten shillings.
14ly. Easter offerings. Man and wife three pence. Smoke a penie; Garden, halfe penie; and for every Person they keep in there house that [is] above sixteen years of age, a half penie.

Certified by me Wm. Latus, Curate.
John Brisko
Wm. Ruson Churchwardens."

APPENDIX F APRIL 12 1715

TABLE OF BENEFACTORS SET UP BY NICHOLAS BLUNDELL AND THOMAS SYER, CHURCHWARDENS, STILL TO BE SEEN IN SEFTON CHURCH.

1714
NICH. BLUNDEL. ESQr
THO. SYER. CROSBY, MAGNA
CHURCHWARDENS.

A True, List, of, Such, Who, have, ben, so, Charitable, as to Bestow Any Thing Towards The Better Mantainance of the Poore of This our Parish of Sefton, or, Any Good use

Ano[d]		£ s. d.
1713	The Rever[nd], Mr, Rich[rd] Richmond, Rector of Sefton Gave to The Poor of this Parish	05 00 0
	Ralf Low of Little Crosby, Left	2 00 00
	Rich[rd] Rose of Thornton, Left	04 00 00
1714	Antony Darwin of Sefton, Left	03 00 00
	Mr Rich[rd] Latham of Aintry, Left	03 00 00
1715	Nichol[s] Blundell of Crosby, Esq[r], Gave	05 00 00
	Tho[ms] Syer of Crosby Magna, Gave	00 10 00
1718	Mr George Tyrer de Leverpoole gave	? 00 00[1]
1727	The Rev[d] Mr Richmond. A. For[sd] Left	10 00 00
1716	Edward Darwin of Sephton, Left	02 10 00
1724	Edward Darwin of Netherton Left	05 00 00
1715	Mrs Jacson Gave to this Church One Silver Flagon to the Vallue of	17 10 00
1726	Mr Samuel Thomas de Crosby Magna Left	05 00 00
1728	Mrs Margery Michaelson de Crosby Magna Left	04 00 00
1731	Anthony Copple de Ford left	16 00 00
1728	Mrs Ann Molyneux of Liverpool left to buy a Silver Chalice and make the Altar-piece	40 00 00

[1] Paint worn away.

APPENDIX G APRIL 19 1715

THE PARISH STOCK

The parish stock was a general fund which could be used for the maintainance of the church fabric and for various charitable uses such as relieving the poor. People gave money to the stock, as Nicholas Blundell and Thomas Syer did, and sometimes money was left to it by will. Sometimes gifts in kind were made.

William Farrer, in some notes on Sefton Parish,[1] had the following to say on the Parish Stock there.

> "In 1717, Bishop Gastrell found that about £400 had been given by various persons to charities. . . . . Some of these benefactions were appropriated to particular townships, and £5 each had been bequeathed by John Lurting and James Rice to Great Crosby.
>
> These sums were probably the bases of the various "Poor-stocks" which the Commissioners of 1821 found still to exist, though their origin was unknown. . . . .
>
> For Sefton quarter the poors-stock amounted to £84 in 1828, of which £30 had been invested in the Ormskirk Workhouse and £54 lent to the highways surveyors, and £4. 4s. 0d. interest was still paid to the poor, but in 1898 it was found that the £30 had been "lost" by the dissolution of the Old Union in 1834, and after 1874 no further payments had been made, nor had the £54 ever been repaid.
>
> At Little Crosby the constable's book stated that Thomas Cross of that place had (in 1801) bequeathed £40 to the ley-layers and other officers of the township, who were to pay half the interest to the officiating priest of Little Crosby Chapel and half to poor housekeepers of the township. The money was laid out in repairs of the highways, the interest paid out of the rates, and distributed as directed. Several other small sums had at different times been given for the benefit of the poor, and £2. 2s. 6d. (including £1 from Cross's gift) was annually distributed, according to the report of 1828, among poor housekeepers not receiving relief. There was also 5s. 0d. bread money annually, of unknown origin, properly used. The report of 1898 states that the "constable" having ceased to be a parish officer the payments cannot be enforced; but a voluntary rate is levied, and though the distribution of bread has ceased sums of money have been granted to the poor, (to 8 widows since 1881) to the present time and to the priest down to 1893."

APPENDIX H JUNE 8 1715

NICHOLAS BLUNDELL'S LETTER TO FATHER ALBERT BABTHORPE, S.J.[2] [NICHOLAS BLUNDELL'S LETTER BOOK, PAGE 122]

"June the 14th [1715]

"Sir

I Hope you'l pardon the Freedom I take in concerning my self in your Affair which I onely doe upon Account of my well wishes to you & yours and if I have done amiss herein, I must intirely take the fault upon myself it being onely my own doing.

By some of yours[3] abstaining from harmless and good Company as upon Occasion they have with a great deale of Innocency kept, and by some words as by the by I have heard, I do conjecture (Pardon me if I mistake) that it is by your Orders; but this Refusall of their usuall conversation I know is taken very henously, & not without Reason especially by some Parsons who have offten ben checked for being so conversant with some of yours, and have notwithstanding those Rebukes still desired their Company becaus they find them Men of Parts, good Company and Conversasion, & free from all manner of Vice; but now to refraine their Company at this Juncture, they say is onely because the Priests must caball amongst themselves and at the least prospect of change contemne those who wish them well & have suffer'd Reproch for speaking well of them; this and much more is said. And if these Sivell Parsons (in whose power it was to doe a diskindness) be exasperated I am afraid it may be of ill Consequence. Sir, it is not in my power to advise you herein, yet perhaps it may be worth your while

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[1] 'The Farrer Collection', Manchester City Library.

[2] Father Albert Babthorpe, S.J., was the fifth son of Sir Ralph Babthorpe, of Babthorpe, Yorkshire. He was at the time this letter was written chaplain to Lord Molyneux at Croxteth, and the Superior of the Jesuit priests in the area.

[3] i.e. the Jesuit priests under his charge.

to consider of. I suppose the Occasion hereof may proceed from the insinuasion of some who perhaps may spend their time less innocently then those who meet with Parsons & some of the best of the Parish once a week to keep up a good conversation & correspondence and to divert themselves at the expence of 6d. per week; or elce from some doting old Devotes who would have them spend their time like Superanuited Missioners and have no conversation with any but such as come to their Chambers, I could say more by word of mouth but if what I have said be well taken tis enough, if not tis too much; however hope you'l take it in good part as its ment by

Your Humble Servant,

Nicholas Blundell."

APPENDIX I JANUARY 5 1716

EXPENSES OF JOURNEY TO LONDON AND FLANDERS AND BACK FROM NOVEMBER 24 1715 TO SEPTEMBER 7 1717.

On August 3 1717 Nicholas Blundell and his wife left Flanders for England, and after spending a month in London returned to Crosby Hall on September 7. At the end of a week, on September 14 he began to write out in his Disbursement Book the account of all his expenses while in London and Flanders.

	£	s.	d.
"1715 1716 Disbursed by me, Nicholas Blundell, from Nov: the 24.1715 being 1717 the day I left Crosby till Sept: the 7th.1717 being the day I came home. Disbursed also for my Wife, Children and Servants from July the 6th.1716, being the day they landed at Dunkerk till after my Children were setled and my Wife & I came home to Crosby. These following Disbursements are in Grose being devided into severall Heads. The Particulars may be seen in my Buck of Traveling Disbursments.			
Expences for one Servant and two Horses for above a fortnight, & for my self almost 15 Weeks viz: from the time I left Crosby till I left London; for Meat, Drink, Lodging, Washing, Candles, & Vailes; Tavern & Coffy-Hous Expences, Seeing Plays, Shoes, Coach hier and Gaiming. Paid to my French-Master, Post Letters and Charrity to the Poore .	25	3	2
Spent in my Travell from the time I left London till I setled at Graveling being almost 5 Weeks	3	11	8
Meat, Drink and all other Expences from the time I setled at Gravling till my Wife & Children came to Dunquerk being almost Thirteen Weeks	10	8	2½
Meat, Drink, &c: all Travelling Expences and carriage of our goods for my self, Wife, two Children & one Maid from the time my Wife and Children came to Dunquerk till the Children were setled & we began to table at Dunquerk being almost 15 Weeks during which time we all went to Guant & stayed a good while. I took a Toore into the Country, so did my Wife & her Maid at an other time; some other Journeys we took, somtimes one, two or more of us at a time & Spent in all things these 15 Weeks (Apparell of all sorts, Phisick & Doctors Fees excepted) the Sume of	57	1	1
Meat, Lodging & other Expences as first above and some small Guifts to Nuns and other Charitys whilst we were Tablers at Dunquerk being about 15 Weeks.	29	10	0
Meat, Hous Rent & other Expences as first above, & some little Furniture (which afterwards we gave) during the time we kept Hous at Dunquerk being about eleven Weeks	15	11	10½
Meat, Lodging and other Expences as first above on the foregoing Page, from the time we left off Hous-keeping till we landed at London being 6 weeks, during which time we went to Guant, St Omers, &c: to take leave of our Friends and made a short stay at Gravling .	24	19	6
Expences (as above) in our Journey from Dunquerk to Cambray & back to Dunquerk and some small things bought for Presents . . .	11	1	8

	£	s.	d.
Spent (as above) in our Journey from Guant to Leedge and back to Guant, all Charges in Baithing & drinking the Spaw Waters and all other Expencess, except Apparell & small Trinkets	23	5	11
Meat, Drink, Lodging, Washing, Candles, Vailes, Carriage by Land and Water, Tavern Expensess, seeing Plays and Shoes, Post Letters, & Charrity, all which Expences are to be understood in all the foregoing paragraffs. Geting my goods out of the Custom-hous at London, and all expencess here reconed for, excepting Apparell, from the time my Wife and I came to London till we came home to Crosby	21	16	3
Coats, Wascots, Breeches, Cloke Frock and for making them, during this my Absence from home	28	2	8
Linnen & Lace for my own Wear viz: Shirts, Ruffles, Crevats, and Handkarchaffs and making them, some of them when I was at London but most of them bought in Flanders	6	13	10
Hats, Shoes, Stockings & Gloves for my own wear	5	19	0
Perrywigs, Shaving me, Washballs & Powder	5	1	2
Some things bought by me which may be reconed as Apparell viz: Buckles, Garters, Sword and Belt, Woosted & Thread &c: for mending my Stockings and Cloths	2	12	4
Mantews, Petty Coats, Night-gowns and Cloke for my Wife; Silk for Huds, Scarves and making them and altring them	26	0	7
Linnen & Muslen &c: for Shifts, Heads and Ruffles for my Wife; and for Lace, Ribans, Silk for short Aprons, Powder, Patches, & Fans	22	4	3
Shoes, Cloggs, Stockings and Gloves for my Wife	3	0	3
Some things bought for my Wives use as Sizars, Prayer-Book, Mending a Snuff-Box, &c:	1	17	3
Green Poplin Sute for Mally and Carridge to Dunquerk	3	5	7
Sheets two Pair for Mallys use at Guant.	1	7	0
Linnen Apparrell for my Children viz: Shifts, Heads, and Ruffles, &c: Lace, Ribans, Silk for Short Aprons & Huds; Stockings and Gloves; these things were bought for my Children by us when we were in Flanders	10	14	2
Pocket Money for my Children	3	16	9
Fees to Doctors & Surgeons for my Wife, me and the Children & for all the Phisick	5	1	10
In Exchange for a Watch, a new Silver Cheane &c: for it.	3	6	4
Some things bought by me when I went hence to London and when I was in Flanders viz: Books, Pictures, Spaw-Trinkets, &c: and somthings for Presents for Mr Plumb, Mr Hind, &c:	7	18	0
Some things bought by me when I came back to London chiefly for the use of the Hous and Gardens viz: Seeds and Roots of Flowers, Garden-Seeds, Picture Fraimes, Tobacco, Coffy, &c:	5	5	1
Holland for Sheets bought in Flanders	10	13	4
Diaper for 6 Napkins bought at Dunquerk		7	4
Waiges paid to Mary Woodcok and given her to carry her down into Lancashire and also given to Betty Gorsuch	5	12	6
Drawing & Engroceing a Deed of Debts owing by me.	2	3	0
Totall of this & the two foregoing Paiges being what was spent by me for my Wife & Children	383	11	7

The Groce Sume above is divided into som Few Heads viz:

Travelling Expencess, Meat, & Lodging, Tavern Expencess, Vailes, Charity, Washing, Fire & Candles, Post Letters, seeing Plays & Curiositys &c:	222	19	4
Apparell of all Sorts for me	48	9	0

	£	s.	d.
Apparell of all Sorts for my Wife	53	2	4
Apparell for my Children	13	19	9
Fees to Lawyers & Doctors, Phisick. Pocket money to my Children, & Waiges to Mary & Betty Gorsuch	16	14	1
Things bought, chiefly to be carried home	28	17	1
[*sic*]	383	11	7

While the children, Mary (Mally) and Frances (Fanny) were left as pensioners in convents in Flanders, their fees had to be paid. These were generally paid through some person in England acting as agent for the convents, or sent by friends who were going to Flanders.

In the disbursements for the quarter January 1 to March 25 1719 we find the following entry:—

"Formerly paid two years Pention for Mally . . . . . £40 0s. 0d.
Ditto two years for Fanny . . . . . £40 0s. 0d.
For Mallys Learning to Dance . . . . . £ 4 0s. 0d.
Pock Money for Mally . . . . . £ 1 0s. 0d.
Pock Money for Fanny . . . . . £ 1 0s. 0d.

And in the quarter March 25 to June 24 1719:—
"Sent to Mally by Mrs Standley . . . . . £ 1 1s. 0d."

While in the Michaelmas—Christmas Quarter, 1721:—

"Sent to Fanny . . . . . £ 3 0s. 0d.
Mallys Pension &c:. . . . . £25 0s. 0d."

APPENDIX J JULY 6 1716

JOHN GELIBROND'S (GILLIBRAND'S) ACCOUNTS OF EXPENSES WHEN MRS. BLUNDELL AND HER TWO DAUGHTERS WENT TO JOIN NICHOLAS IN FLANDERS, AND A SUMMARY OR STATEMENT OF FINANCES AT THE TIME, TAKEN FROM THE DISBURSEMENT BOOK.

"This 16th of June Mrs Blundel with her two Daughters, a maid Servant, my self and my Servant began our Journey from Crosby.

1716		£	s.	d.
June 16,[1]				
17, 18	Spent at Warington and Chester ourselves, Servants & seven horses	2	8	4
18, 19	Spent from Chester to London, 5 in the Coach, and my man in the box	4	10	8
20 & 21	To later moyty of Coach hyre	5	10	0
	To Thomas Letharbarrows charges about a Maid Servant for Mrs Blundel	1	15	0
	To Mrs Blundels pocket		9	0
22	To Mrs Ann Aldred[2] for provisions		10	9
	To her for same	1	1	6

[1] William Weedow, a servant, had been sent two days before to Liverpool to hire a boat to take the family coach over the River Mersey and to book seats in the Chester—London Coach:—

		£	s.	d.
"June 13	Chester Coach	5	0	0
	Weedows Journey to Chester for to take one place in the coach		1	0
14	To Boat hyred going to take Coach		2	6
	To charges to Chester and back again		3	6
	To half pay for 4 Seats and Half in Chester Coach.	4	10	0
16	To Wm. Weedow to journey to Chester Mrs Blundells order besides 18d. he had in mony		3	6"

[2] Mrs Ann Aldred, friend of the family and probably wife of a brother of Father Aldred, bought provisions while they Lodged at Mrs Saville's.

			£	s.	d.
	24	To Wm Woodcock for provisions	1	1	6
		To Mrs Blundels pocket	5	7	6
		To Mary Blundel her Mothers guift and sent by Mrs Blundels hand		2	6
	26	To Mrs Blundels pocket		5	0
		To Letters from Mr Crofts		1	8
		To things bought for two Misses		1	6
		To a Trunk for Mrs Blundel, her own broke to pieces by Carryer		4	6
	30	To Mrs Ann Aldred by my Man	1	1	6
July	2	To Mis Blundels disbursmts for her Mother		3	0
	3	To my Man for provisions		17	0
		To Mrs Blundel for a silver spoon		17	6
		To pinns		7	6
		To fish hooks		1	0
		To Mrs Ann Aldred cariage of boxes from Crosby to London	1	1	6
		To a Night Gown for Mis Fanny		13	0
		To Mrs Blundels pocket		10	9
		To Mrs Blundels pocket		10	0
		To Mrs Ann Aldred for a Gown for Mis Mally	1	1	6
	4	Coaches to Billingsgate		4	6
		Porters there		1	0
		Boat to Gravesend		6	0
		Refreshmts at Gravesend		2	0
		Supper at the Inn in Gravesend		7	6
		Mrs Savil in Dukes Street a fortnits lodgings with 3s. 8d. for milk	1	15	8
	5[3]	Custom hous officers gratuity		2	6
		and 6d. a piece for passengers duty		2	6
			33	15	4
		To Mary Woodcok which she is to make account for to her Mrs	1	1	6
		For roasted ffowl to take on board		2	6
		To Betty Gorsuch[4] to pay her passage		10	0
		To Mis Mally Blundells pocket[5]	5	0	0
		More to her what she had disburst		1	0
		To Mrs Blundels pocket		10	0
		To Harvey Captain of the Ship in part of their passages to Dunkerk (two guinys and an half more to be due on the other side the Water)	1	1	6
		To Mrs Blundel in a purs ten french guinys, Six Mogders, one double pistol, forty Guineas in all	63	4	0
		Botedg to the Ship[6]		1	9
		Lodging and Dyet at Gravesend		17	1
		To Mis Blundels disbursmts		2	0
		Botidg to London[7]		4	6
		Lodgings at Cliftons with 6d. spent		2	0
		To disbursement by my Man provisions for the Ship a bottle of cordial Waters, botidg &c:		19	3½
	6	To Mrs Ann Aldred for Stays and cloaths mended for two Misses		7	6
		To Mrs Ann Aldred for pains and assistance by Mrs Blundels order	1	1	6
		To leather bags for od things on Ship-board for present use		2	0
		To Mr Formby by bill payable to Mr Blundel as he calls for it	210	0	0
		To disbursement by my Man at sundry times and places for Provisions, Ale, small beer, od things bought whilst Mrs Blundel & Company found their own victuals	1	9	1

[3] These are the sums paid by Gillibrand after the party had gone on board Harvey's ship, and after it had left for Flanders.

[4] Betty Gorsuch acted as maid to Mrs Blundell on the journey. Actually she was on her way to become a Poor Clare nun at Dunkirk. Mary Woodcock was Mrs Blundell's real maid and remained with her in Flanders.

[5] No money seems to have been given to Fanny, the younger daughter.

[6] Fare for a small boat to take them from land to the ship.

[7] Fare for boat to take Gillibrand and his man servant back to London.

12	To Mr Formby a gratuity from Mrs Blundel		10	9
	To Mrs Aldred a pettycoat quilting for Mrs Blundel		9	0
	To Mis Fannys Man to & a pettycoat with ferret & a bag made 6d.		9	6
		288	6	6
	with disbursments on the left page	33	15	4
	Total disburst for Mr Blundel and his Wife in this journy	322	1	10
	Received of Mr Blundel in mony	254	11	0
	Due to Accomptant John Gillibrand to even the ballance	67	10	10

Which said £67. 10s. 10d. I payd my Self this 16th of November, 1716

JOHN GILLIBRAND

Having seen the ladies off to Flanders Gillibrand returned to Crosby Hall, completed his accounts concerning this journey, and finally prepared a complete statement of the moneys at the Hall for later presentation to Blundell.

		£	s.	d.
	Disbursements per J. G.			
Novbr13	To Wat Thelwal Mr Crosss Bill for like had of Wats Son	5	0	0
15	To Mr Aldred Michalmas and Christmas Allowance for 1717	4	0	0
18	To Robert Bushel in part of Wages & dyet	3	10	0
	To Ellin Harrison part of Wages		10	0
	To Gratuities and expences		3	0
16	To my Self what I was out of pocket for Mr Blundell in the foregoing page [*sic*]	67	10	0
1717				
Jany 25	To Robt Tompson loss of time with expences on the road in the late troubles		5	0
	To expences of my own on Coz: Blundels busnes at sundry times		2	0
Feb 7	To Thomas Syer for Meat and horses		6	0
July 11	To a bill sent to Mr Formby—at London by order of and for Mr Blundells use—therty pounds	30	0	0
	To Ellin Harrisson to compleat her years Wages (besides the ten shillings she had before) forty shillings, her year ending the 16th of June, 1717	2	0	0
	To Robert Bushel in full of his Wages whilst at Crosby viz from the 26th of May to the 10th of December, this making the Sum of four pounds in the whol		10	0
	July 13, 1717	113	16	0
1716 June 16	Mrs Blundell with her two Daughters left Crosby.			
	After theer going found in the Hous in Gold and Silver	150	19	0
	Received from that time to July 13 inclusive, 1717	304	8	4½
	Total Received	455	7	4½
	Disburst to July 13, 1717	113	16	0
	Ballance due for Accomptant	341	11	4½
	Which is thus Evend			
	By Gold in a bag	215	4	6
	By Silver	100	0	0
	By Thomas Syers bills on demand X	16	0	0
	By Wat: Thelwalls bill on demand X	8	10	0
	By Tho: Kerfoots bill on demand X	1	16	10
	tis paid			
		341	11	4

1717, October 8. I acknowledg the Receit of three hundred forty one pounds, eleven shillings, fourpence (the ballance of the above accompt. from my Kinsman John Gillibrand, Witnes my hand. 341 11 4

NICHOLAS BLUNDELL"

APPENDIX K OCTOBER 8, 9, 14 and 15 1717

REGISTRATION OF ESTATES BY ROMAN CATHOLICS

In 1715 an Act (1 Geo I, cap. 55) was passed to oblige Papists to register their names and real estates. As a result during the next few years Roman Catholics had to submit details of their estates, and these were entered in rolls kept by clerks of the peace. The tenants of Blundell of Crosby did not register their estates until 1717, probably because Nicholas was away in Flanders. Soon after his return he got down to the business of preparing for the registration, searching through old documents and leases, his grandfather's and his own Tenants Books, and visiting tenants, in order to gather the required information together. He called in his cousin, John Gillibrand, and his former steward, Walter Thelwall, to assist him. To make sure it was all in proper legal form, he also sought the advice of his lawyer friend, Plumb, from Liverpool. In his Disbursement Book he recorded the expenses entailed in this preparation:—

"Walter Thelwall for writing upon Account of Prepairing my Register . . 10s. 0d.
Fee to Mr Plumb . . . . . 3s. 6d."

On October 14 he went to Wigan to present the document to the justices of the peace at the Quarter Sessions. This document, written in his own hand-writing giving details of all his estates in Sefton parish, Ditton in the parish of Prescot, and in Liverpool, together with the annuity of £100 he received from Lady Webb, his wife's grandmother, upon his marriage, is a long one and is now to be seen in the Lancashire Record Office (QDP/2/6), together with the documents submitted by other papists (QDP/2/1–22) and also the actual Rolls made from these at the Quarter Sessions (QDP/1/1–22). From this document we learn that the real estate of Nicholas Blundell was of the annual value of £482. 12s. 2½d.

In his Disbursement Book he made a note of his expenses at Wigan:—

"To the Clark for Regestering . . . . . 10s. 9d.
Spent at Wiggan when I Regestered . . . . . 6s. 6d."

The statement does not waste any words. It gives the names of the tenants, and a precise and excellent summary of the details of the various types of tenancy and of the descent of the estates.

Nicholas Blundell was not the only one in Little Crosby to register his estates, though his was by far the highest in value. His tenants who were Roman Catholics had to register also:—

1717 (6th. Roll)
Margrett Sheppard, widow
Thomas Marrow, taylor
Margery Blundell, widow
Richard Ainsworth, husbandman
William Weedow
John Blundell
William Gray, husbandman
Thomas Blanchard
Edward Howerd
Walter Thelwall, gentleman
John Tickle, yeoman
Thomas Mather, yeoman
William Harrison, yeoman
Bryan Lea
William Harrison
Thomas Farrer
Richard Jackson.
William Wignall
James Davy
John Molyneux
William Marrow
Gabriell Norres, marriner[1]

1723–1725 (8th Roll)
William Wignall
George Rydeing, yeoman
Ann Rydeing, widow
James Wignall, yeoman

[1] in the 8th Roll the entry for Gabriell Norris reads—"Gabriell Norres, late of Formby, now of Ince Blundell, marriner."

All the registrations were made in the following manner—

"To the Clark of the Peace of the County of Lancaster or to his Deputy, I, THOMAS MARROW of Little Crosby in the said County Taylor desire you or one of you to Register my Name and Estate in the manner and words following:—

"I, Thomas Marrow of Little Crosby and in the Parish of Sephton in the said County stand seized and possessed of one Messuage and Tenement holden by Lease under Nicholas Blundell of Little Crosby aforesaid Esquire for the terme of ninety nine years determinable upon my own life for which I payd for a fine the summe of twelve pounds ten shillings, Rent and boones yearly reserved for the same nineteen shillings four pence, now in my possession.

Th. Marrow."

APPENDIX L JANUARY 26 1718

EMPLOYMENT OF SERVANTS IN CONVENTS ON THE CONTINENT

On November 8 1717 Nicholas wrote the following letter to 'Madam Cross at Roan' concerning Margery Blundell, daughter of a tenant in Little Crosby, who had left the service of Madam Cross

"Madam

Although I had a most Impertune Letter whilst I was in your Parts from Margery Blundell (with all Expressions imaginable of a true repentance for what she has don and in the most humble expressions immaginable owning herself to be the only occation of her own misfortune which could never be redeemed without she were so happy as once more to be admited into the Post she was) yet I did not presume or indeed think it proper to writ in her behalf, but since my coming home she has upon her knees with Magdalene Teers and the protestations of perseverance Joyned with an humble acknowledgment of her own falt beged me to intercede for her to your Ladyship which now I can no longer forbear to do especially hearing that upon all occations she is still lamenting her own misfortune and laying the falt intirely upon her want of Courage and resolution to goe thorrow with what she had begun, not saying as severall upon the lick occation would say, that she wanted Strength or could not agree with such or such a person, her Story still is *It was my own doing, I had a good example and good Counsell enough given me but yealded to the Temptations of the Divell which now to my daily sorrow I see when 'tis too late and without I can be so happy as to be admited againe into that Virtuous and good Community I can never expect to have content of Mind.* these and such lick expressions she often ueses; she has not onely spoke to me but got others also to do it; my opinion is that she is truly penitent and sincere and doubt not but if ever she be so happy as to be again called one of your Family she will be much better than if she had never left you, for those are always the most virtuous who are the most sencible of their own failings. Madam 'tis not for me to advise in this affair you knowing perhaps how such sort of Persons have proved and also knowing your Occation or want of an other Servant, but still she lives in hopes of a Favourable Answer if she may be thought worthy.

Madam,
Your Ladyships Obedient Servant
Nicholas Blundell

As a result of this letter the abbess wrote to Margery, who, distressed by what the abbess said, again begged Nicholas to plead on her behalf. He did so, and in a letter dated January 26 1718 to Madam Cross explained how repentant and full of sorrow Margery was and asked that she might be taken into service again. Apparantly Madam Cross was having great difficulty in obtaining servants, and in the same letter Nicholas refers to another woman from Little Crosby who he thought would have been a good servant—

". . . Mary Shepperd as your Ladyship writ about would I believe have done very well and would have had a pritty fortune for a Servant but she is lately Married to a Barber in Leverpoole and a Papist. I have spoke to two young Women who formerly desired to goe beyond the Seas and would be very proper, they still continew in the same resolution but one is prevented by her Mother, the other by her Father. I have some others as have offer'd themselves but dare not pitch upon any of them being unwilling to send one but who I am pritty confident will doe, so am now enquiring farther from home after one but shall not send her till I give you a farther account how she is qualified, unless I have your farther orders so hope you'l please to answer this. . . ."

From the entry in his Diary for January 19 1718, we find that he had "proposed to Margery Tompson to goe to serve Madam Cross."

Abbess Cross at last agreed to take Margery Blundell back again, and on March 9 1718 Nicholas wrote a letter to her saying how delighted he was and how full of joy Margery was and eager to make amends.[1]

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[1] The three letters are to be found in Nicholas Blundell's Letter Book, pp. 96, 97 and 99. See also Diary entry for March 16 1718 and foot-note, and also Appendix M.

APPENDIX M MARCH 23 1718

LETTERS WRITTEN TO LORD MOUNTGARRET AND MADAM REED, ABBESS OF POOR CLARES, DUNKIRK.

One of the letters he must have posted was the following to his cousin, Lord Mountgarret. From it we note his honesty, his desire for friendship; he hated misunderstandings and quarrels, and was nearly always the first to make overtures for peace in such unpleasant situations. His desire to have accounts settled by his cousin is typical of his urge to have all his business neatly completed. His desire to leave no loose ends, to have everything neat and tidy is characteristic of him:—

"March the 17th 1717/18

My Lord

I Suppose you may have heard that I went abroad some time since to setle my Doughters, the Elder is with my Sister Winny and the Younger with my Aunt Ailes; I came home in September and left all my Friends well and hope all Continews so, but Whether this Account or a Letter from me will be acceptable to you or noe I know not for I have writ thrice to you and yours about the end of 1712 or 1713 viz: to yourself, Cozen Richard your Son and to my Cozen your Doughter, but none of you, vouchsalfed me an Answer, whether it was that you had all forgot you had such a Relation or elce thought me not worth owning or writing to of so many years I know not; but do suppose the true reason was, because I desired Accounts should be setled between us, and that what you ought me should be returned, for besids some small Debt which is not yet Ballanced there is an Account unsetled relating to James Gleast which stands to be setled between Mr Plumb and me, who, though he has ben an Honest Man and good Friend to me, yet I love to be out of his Book Debts as well as others to fulfill the old Proverb, an Honest Reconing makes long Friends; However though you will not favour me with a line, I can not let William Gray goe into your Parts without a Letter from me, who I hope will take care to get this safe by which your Lordship will see I am still desireous of your Friendship and Correspondence.

In my last to your Lordship I let you know that I had a small Silver Challice that is none of my own as I know of, it has upon the Foot of it St Dominick Engraved on, if it be yours please to let me know how you will have it disposed of as also your Will which you left with me An. Do: 1707 which I suppose ere this time is out of Date, there having ben so many alterations since then in your Famoly, most of which I am truly sorry for; but as for your own I do heartily congratulate your Happy Choyce in so good a Lady, and any good News of you and yours will be most extreamly acceptable to

My Lord
Your Lordships Affectionate
Kinsman and Humble Servant
Nicholas Blundell"

(Nicholas Blundell's 'Letter Book', page 100)

By the same post he sent the following letter to Madam Reed of the Poor Clare nuns at Dunkirk. On March 20, 1718, Mrs Shuttleworth had brought her daughter to Crosby Hall to see if Nicholas could find a place of service for her. (See March 20, 1718). Nicholas must have suggested service in one of the convents in Flanders and so wrote the following letter:—

"To Mrs Reed at Dunquerk

Having Received so many Favours from your Ladyship and the rest of your good Community I make bold to propose one to you for a Lay Sister hoping it may be an advantage to you if you be at want of any such, it is one of Poor Mr Shutleworths Doughters, she is 16 years of Age and has ben brought up not like a Lasy Gentle Woman but upon all occations has put her helping hand to wash or clean the hous or what elce she could doe, she is in hopes of procuring sufficient to bear her charges & £30 towards her portion & when she comes to Age she will have £20 more paid her as was left by a Relation and is I hope in good Hands. she seems to be a modest good Humoured Young Woman & hope in time she may make a Laborious good Sister, if you be at want of one or could recommend her to any other place it would be a very great Charity, who will be paymaster for the £30 I know not but have good reason to believe my Lady Peters will be her chief benefactrix by what I have seen under my Ladys own Hand. I shall be impatient till I have your Ladyships answer and if this

proposal be acceptable I shall be very proud it lay in my power to assist one as is so great an Object of charity and at the same time to Serve you who I hope you will ever find to be

Madam
Your Cordiall true Friend & Faithfull
True Servant
Nicholas Blundell."

(Nicholas Blundell's 'Letter Book', p. 100)

Madam Reed did not accept the girl, who, however, succeeded in getting a post at Louvain, as we learn from a paragraph in a letter he wrote to Madame Reed, dated May 1718:—

". . . . I am glad to find by yours that you are so well provided with Servants when I proposed Dorothy Shuttleworth. I was in hopes it would have ben an advantage to you; but being you are provided, she has got a Place at Loven for considerably less then £50. . . ."

(Nicholas Blundell's 'Letter Book', p. 101)

APPENDIX N MAY 11 1719

LEYS AND FIFTEENTHS

The church leys were the rates or taxes levied upon the parishioners, who were assessed according to their real and personal property. The ley was reckoned as so many tenths or fifteenths, which originally were a tax of one-tenth of the value of movable property of people owning property or dwellers in cities and boroughs, and one-fifteenth of that of other inhabitants which was paid to the King from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries.

William Blundell the Cavalier made the following notes in 1660. They were written in The Great Hodge Podge.

"The Parish of Sephton is divided into 4 parts for gethering fifteens

Sephton Township & its Hamlets viz Netherton & Lunt reckond	one quarter the fifteen £1–19–4½
Great Crosby 20/6 Thornton 18/8	one quarter the fifteen £1–19–2
Ince Blundell 21/9¼ Little Crosby 26/8	one quarter the fifteen £2–8–5¼
Litherland 16/4 Orrell 6/-, Ford is not valued by itself, Antree 11/8	one quarter the fifteen £1–14–0
	The fifteen in all £8–0–11¾"

A fifteene in Little Crosby is, as appeareth
£1–6–8 which contayneth just 160 twopences.
To compleat which sumne the Lord payeth 52,
the Towne 53, & the Morehous 55."

William Blundell then gives a detailed account of how this was paid. Sometime later, probably in 1675, he made some additional notes and these have been put in, in italics. Apparently he realised that changes which occurred would make alterations necessary, and so in the margin by the side of the list of the fifteens he wrote:—

"It will be convenient after many years are past to write down these things in a fresh page in this book changeing the names according as time shall change them otherwise it will not be understood."

"1660 A *true* particular of the fifteene which every Person is to pay within Little Crosby

The whole fifteen being £1–6s.–8d.

	s.	d.	
Imprim William Blundell Esqr for his demaine	08	08	
Exact Robert moorecroft . *Watkinson*	00	04	
John Barton . *Sheperd*	00	01	
Rothells tenement	00	02	
Garstans tenement . *Gray*	00	8	
Garsse tenement. . *Tickley*	00	03	
Margret Ryce & my master for the whole tenement . *Thelwall*	00	04	
John Howard	00	05	
John Answorth for the whole tenement	00	06	
Margret Brough for the whole . *Jackson*	00	05	
William Arnold . *Sumner*	00	03	ob
James Ryce for the whole . *Radcliff*	00	10	
Ellin Worrall & William Marcer for the whole . *Marrow*	00	07	
Richard Davie	00	02	qr
Thomas Farrer	00	07	ob
Nicholas Davie for his owne tenement	00	4	ob qr
William Stocke for that of the tenement 6d & Humphrey Blundell for part 2d ob in all		08	ob
William Harrison & Jane for the whole	00	06	
Alice Rynold	00	10	
Marrowes tenement lately belonging to Thomas Marrow	00	03	
John Marrow	00	05	ob

The totall sume (besydes 8s–8d for the Lord) is 8s–10d.

Exact

Moorehouses pay at each fifteene as followeth

Exact

Thomas Tickle . *Now Brownbill*	00	06	
William Widall	00	04	ob
Richard Rafeson of Ince for a house & ground. (He should pay 3d).	00	02	
Thomas Thomson	00	05	
John Marcer . *Wm. Harrison*	00	11	

	s.	d.	
Issabell Ryding for the whole	00	04	
Alice Griffyth . *Wignold*	00	02	ob qr
Bryan Gray . *Flowers (or Howers)*	00	04	ob qr
William Bushell . *Wignoll*	00	02	ob
John Blanshard	00	04	ob
Robert Tomson . *Blansherd*	00	07	qr
Ellin Blundell	00	00	ob qr
Bryan Richardson . *Lea* (quere what he payes in Ince)	00	02	qr
John Tyson . *Sumner*	00	03	
John Johnson, *Norris*, for his owne house 1s. & for Almonds 3d. . *Rogerson*	01	03	
John Williamson, *Wilding*, 4d ob for his house & 4d for moores medow	00	08	ob
Richard Ryding	00	03	
William Blundell he hath one acre of Mr Moores & this is for all	00	09	
Robert Ryding one peny	00	01	
Lawrance Blundell . *Taylor*	00	04	
Ellin Boulton of the North end 1d ob . *Tyrer*	00	01	ob
John Rynold of Ince	00	01	
William Blundell Esqr for the Greenehey	0	3	
The same Willm Blundell for that of Norris tenement	0	3	*It was since leased to L. Bl.*
Robert formeby for half an acre ob	0	00	ob

The totall sume for the moorehouses being exactly sumed is 9s–2d. which maketh a compleat fifteene

By a warrant which came to us A.D. 1660: November

	£	s.	d.	
The County appeared to be charged for the monthly tax with .	939	6	8	
of which Darby hundred with	233	6	8	
of which this quarter with	10	18	9	
of which £10–18s–9d the parson payd (as Thos. Cawsey said) .	00	05	5	ob qr
Will Blundel Esqr	01	13	9½	qr
The Towne	01	14	4	ob qr
moorehouses	01	15	8	oo qr

Examin how this agrees with the truth, and the old accounts"

"The Fifteen of Ince Blundell was antiently £1–1–9¼. But it is said to be now (1675) £1–3–1d. ob. I am informed that the addition was made by an Order (in the tyme of Usurpation) for certain persons to pay who lived out of the Township and yet had lands there: as som of the Inhabitants of Sephton (&c) whoe have meddow ground nere Alt bridge."

In some notes accompanying these lists William the Cavalier complained that the four quarters of Sefton Parish were not taxed evenly; Little Crosby and Ince Blundell as one quarter paying far more than any of the other quarters.

In some notes made in 1664 in the Great Hodge Podge he records:—

"Leyes for repayers of the church—every house in the town [Little Crosby] payes 2d."

It should be noted that the Morehouses is part of the manor of Little Crosby, but since as early as the thirteenth century, it was often considered almost as if it were a separate manor.

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Names mentioned more than once on a page are indexed only once.
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