

**'Thomas Wakefield,  
Rector of Horseheath'**

Inventory of his goods, 1668

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*with note by Dr.W.M.Palmer*

## THOMAS WAKEFIELD, RECTOR OF HORSEHEATH, 1668.

## INVENTORY OF HIS GOODS.

An inventory of the household furniture and outdoor effects of a country rector in the middle of the seventeenth century could not fail to be interesting. The rectory of Horseheath at the time this inventory was made was a living of more than ordinary value, being worth about £100 a year.\*

Thomas Wakefield, the rector whose goods are here enumerated and valued, was born at Horseheath rectory in October, 1600, his father being then rector. On the death of his father, in 1626, he succeeded him. Mr. Wakefield, the son, must have been a person of colourless politics, or perhaps he was of a philosophic turn of mind, seeing clearly both sides of a question. For although episcopally ordained and instituted, he had decided Puritan leanings. In the visitation of Bishop Wren, in 1640, it was stated that neither he nor his curate wore the surplice at baptism, nor observed the holy week; and, being asked about the publication of the King's declaration concerning games, they said they knew nothing of it. A little later he must have forsworn his orders altogether, subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant, thrown over the Book of Common Prayer, and used the Directory. For he kept his living during the Civil War, and in 1650 is described by the Parliamentary Commissioners as an "orthodox and godly divine," the former being apparently of great if not chief importance. How sound his orthodoxy was, may be judged by the fact that when Presbyterianism went in 1660 and Episcopacy came to its own again, he readily forswore the Solemn League and Covenant, and took to the Book of Common Prayer. But he was not quite sound in the matter of dress, for in 1662 he was reported to the Bishop for wearing white stockings and a cap contrary to the articles.† From his will, which he made in 1663, we find that he had some real property which is not mentioned in the inventory, a house and land in Castle Camps and Westhoe Lay. This was left to his widow Mary for life, and afterwards to his son Phillip, and he within three years of inheriting was to pay his sisters, Judith and Elizabeth, £60 each, in the south porch of Horseheath church. The rector had probably got this property from his father, who was in the habit of making loans of money to his parishioners.‡ The will mentions a son with two Christian names, which is unusual at this date, Thomas Quartus Wakefield. The library must have been of considerable value. It was left to son Nathaniel, on the condition that he paid £5 to each of his two sisters.

\* The comparative value may be judged by the values of neighbouring livings at the same time. Balsham, £234; Castle Camps, £160; Bartlow, £20; Shudy Camps, £20.

† See *East Anglian*, vol. vi., p. 4.

‡ *The Ancestor*, vol. i., p. 274.

The inventory was exhibited by the widow and executrix when the will was proved. The original is still preserved in the Probate Registry at Peterborough. The old spelling has been retained, but otherwise the document has been slightly condensed.

*Thos. Wakefield, Horseheath, Clarke, an Inventory of his Goods and Chattels.*

	£.	s.	d.
In ready money in his purse	..	..	10 0
His wearing apparel	..	..	5 0 0
In Hall: one long table, two formes, one short table, 3 chairs, 7 joined stools, one bench bord, 7 cushions, one presse for cloths, 2 bracelets, one pair of andirons, firepan and tongs, one table carpet, one livery carpet, and one still	..	..	3 0 0
In parlour: one table and trand, 6 joined stools, one elboe chaire, 6 backe chaires, 6 covered stools of turke worke, one square table, one livery cubbord, 3 cushions, one table carpet, one carpet for a square table, one livery carpet, a pair of andions, fire shovell, tongs, paire of bellows, hangins in parlour, chess bord and chesmen	..	..	5 6 8
In parlour chamber: bedsted, fetherbed, 3 blankets, one covered, 2 bolsters, 4 pillowes, curtains, valance, one elboe chair, 3 back chaires, wecker chaire, 7 low stools, press for cloths, dust sheet, 3 cushions, oris hangings, press, carpet, truncke, box, joined stooles, bason and ure, 2 candlesticks, one chamber pot, all earthenware, pair of andions, fire shovel, bellows	..	..	10 0 0
In Hall chamber: bedsted, fetherbed, 2 bolsters, 2 pillows, 4 blanketts, covered, curtains, valance, window curtaine, elboe chaire, backe chaire, 5 stools, livery cupbord, deske, cabnett, 2 chests, livery carpet, 4 cushens, cobirons, bellows	..	..	6 0 0
In Maids' Chamber: posted bedsted, fether bed, 2 blanketts, 2 bolsters, pillow, Rugg, curtains, valance, trundle bed, flocke bed, 2 blanketts, bolster and pillow	..	..	4 0 0
In Kitchen Chamber: posted bedsted, 3 blanketts, 3 bolsters, fetherbed, another fetherbed, rugg, 3 pillowes, covered, bolster, curtains, valance, truncke, closs stool, livery cubbord, wicker chaire, cushen, 2 small stools, box, pair of andirons, tongs, bellows, fire shovells	..	..	7 0 0
In man's chamber: fether bed, flock bed, 3 bolsters, blanket, 2 covereds, old box, press	..	..	2 0 0
In Barn: wheat, barley, Oats, Rye	..	..	27 0 0
In Barn: one sercul, bushel, pecke, strike, lader, 10 sacks, a casten shovell, 2 stans	..	..	13 4
In Hay Barn: hay	..	..	6 13 4

	£.	s.	d.
Dung in yard and Cow partes .. .. .	1	0	0
One macteqe, spade, and other things used for husbandry	13	0	0
5 paire of fine sheets, 10 paire course sheets, 9 paire pellubeers, table cloth of dieper, a dozen dieper napkins, cubbord cloth of same, 2 doz. course napkins, 3 long table cloths, 6 small table cloths, 12 towells .. .. .	10	0	0
Tillts: 7 ackers and half 4 earth at 4/- the earth,* 3 ackers strucke .. .. .	6	6	0
Seaven roods wheate of the above seaven ackers with 3½ bushels wheate .. .. .	14	0	0
For plowing oat land 6 akers and three roods .. .. .	1	7	0
For sed 7 bushels peas 16 bushels oats .. .. .	1	19	2
For carting 23 load dung and for dung .. .. .	2	0	0
For 4 fitches bacon .. .. .	2	0	0
Poultry hens in yard .. .. .	5	0	0
10 Silver spoons .. .. .	3	10	0
2 Silver salts .. .. .	2	0	0
Chaff and strawe .. .. .	2	0	0
Debts owing .. .. .	21	18	7
For goods omitted .. .. .	10	0	0
Total .. .. .	£243	4	9½

Ric. Lansdall,  
John Haylock,  
Adam Blackwell,  
Thomas Wakefield, ) Appraisers.

Mary Wakefield, Executrix.

Exhibited 13th May, 1668.

The rectory consisted of six rooms: hall, parlour, and kitchen with a chamber over each, and two attics. There were fireplaces in each room, as shown by the fireirons. Fireplaces in bedrooms were rare luxuries in those days; in small houses many farm houses are without them to this day. In 1674 Horseheath rectory contained seven fireplaces, but Linton vicarage only three. § It will be noticed that fourteen joined stools (besides a dozen other stools) are enumerated. If they were so numerous as this in each house, we can understand why they were afterwards so common in cottages in this neighbourhood. The chessmen show that chess was a game not banned by the Puritans.

Linton, Cumbs.

W. M. P.

\* A day's ploughing.

‡ The total is thus given in the original, but the different items when added up only come to £133 6s. 1d. In one part the document is torn, so some portion may be missing. No mention is made of books, but, as noted above, a library is bequeathed in the will, and this ought to have been and probably was included in the complete inventory.

§ Hearth Tax Roll.