

We may not learn very much about Westhumble as a village from the Burney Diaries, but there are many other sources of information from which we can obtain a fair idea of the life of the hamlet, not only when the D'Arblays lived here, but from that time to the present day. We shall consider the story in three periods: from 1775-1865, 1865-1919, and from 1919 until the present day. The sources of information are numerous and become more so as we advance into the twentieth century; they will be found listed and described in the Appendix D.

Part I 1775-1865

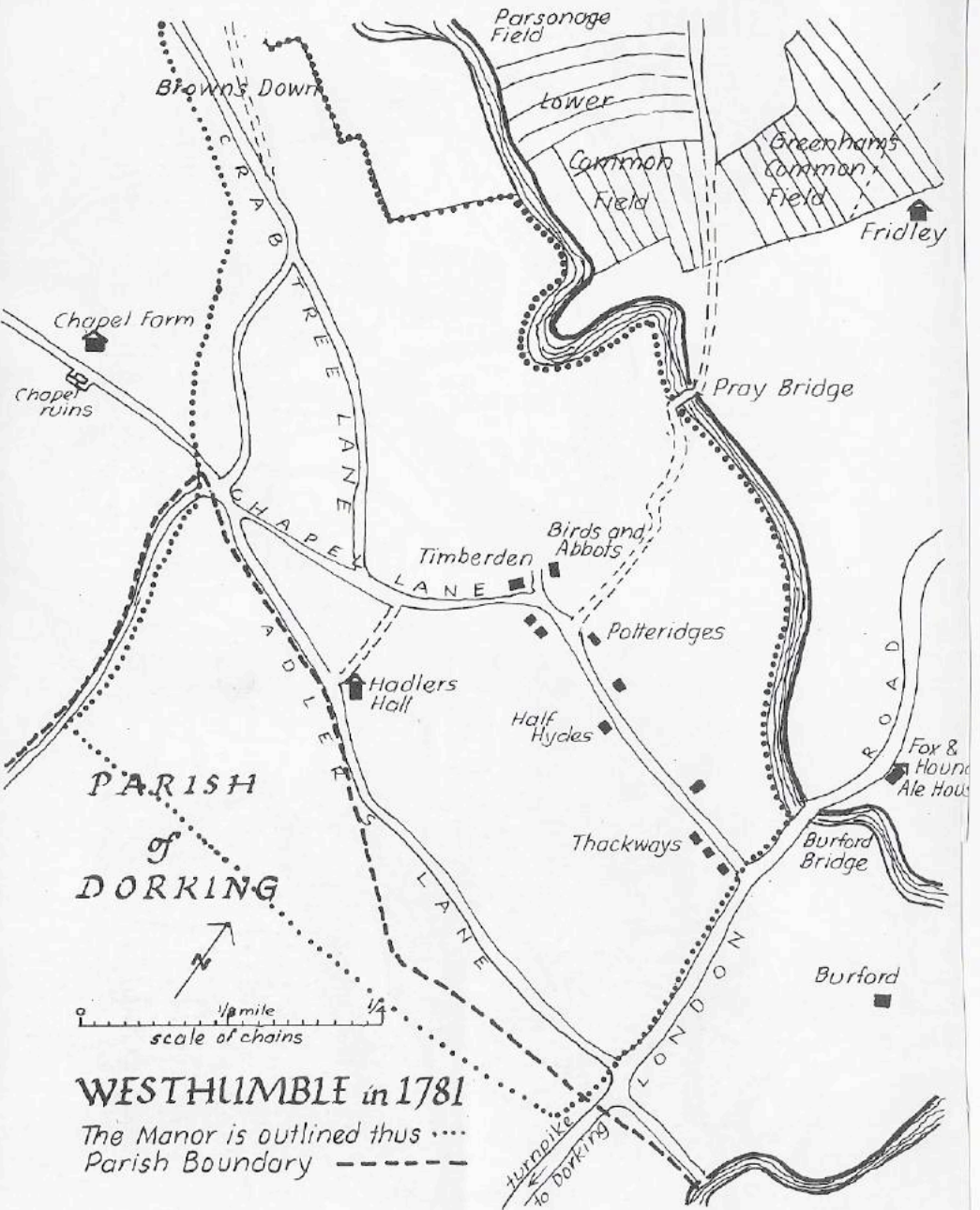
Topography

1775 was the year following William Lock's purchase of Norbury Park, and it has been chosen as a starting point in the present chapter because at that time two maps were produced which show, in a remarkably modern style, what Westhumble and the surrounding district looked like topographically then; also it was the year when the safekeeping of the Manor Rolls recommenced after the destruction of the former collection by Anthony Chapman, and there is, in the County Records Office at Kingston, a succession of these reports right up to 1850, recording most of the transactions in land ownership within the Manor during this period.

First of all, what sort of place was it in 1775; the reproduction of part of Rocque's Map of Surrey shows the village in relation to the surrounding countryside.

The map has a surprisingly modern look and the roads are identifiable today, although one or two have degenerated into footpaths, and it will be noticed that Crabtree Lane joins Chapel Lane at a point some two or three hundred yards further to the west than at present; also that Adlers Lane pro-

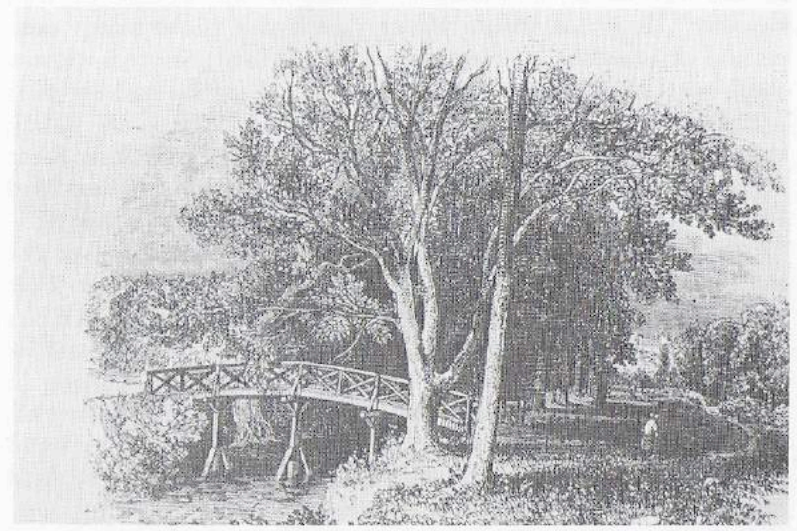




Westhumble in 1781 showing extent of Manor, drawn from Crows Map.

ceeds to its logical termination which is the junction with the London Road, near the spot where the Ancient Track crossed the River Mole at the Stepping Stones.

The second, 'Crows Map of the Parish of Mickleham', 1781 shows the village in greater detail. There are several features here which are well worth noting; the first is a reminder of the past in the three Common Fields lying between the manors of Westhumble, Norbury and Mickleham, all neatly divided into strips; by 1775 perhaps they may have been already enclosed and owned, not by the peasants, but by the surrounding land-owners. The next interesting feature is the path or track forming a communication between Westhumble, the Common Fields and the village of Mickleham, which leaves Westhumble Street at its Western end and crosses the River Mole at Pray Bridge. The remains of this track may still be identified today although the bridge disappeared when the railway was constructed; it must have been in existence here for a long time so that the inhabitants of the western part of the Parish might reach their common fields in order to till them.



Pray Bridge c.1800.