

## Shropshire Archives – Purchase of Lacon Childe of Kinlet deeds and documents

As a result of financial support from the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society and Shropshire Family History Society, Shropshire Archives has purchased an important collection of Shropshire deeds and documents relating to the Lacon Childe family of Kinlet.

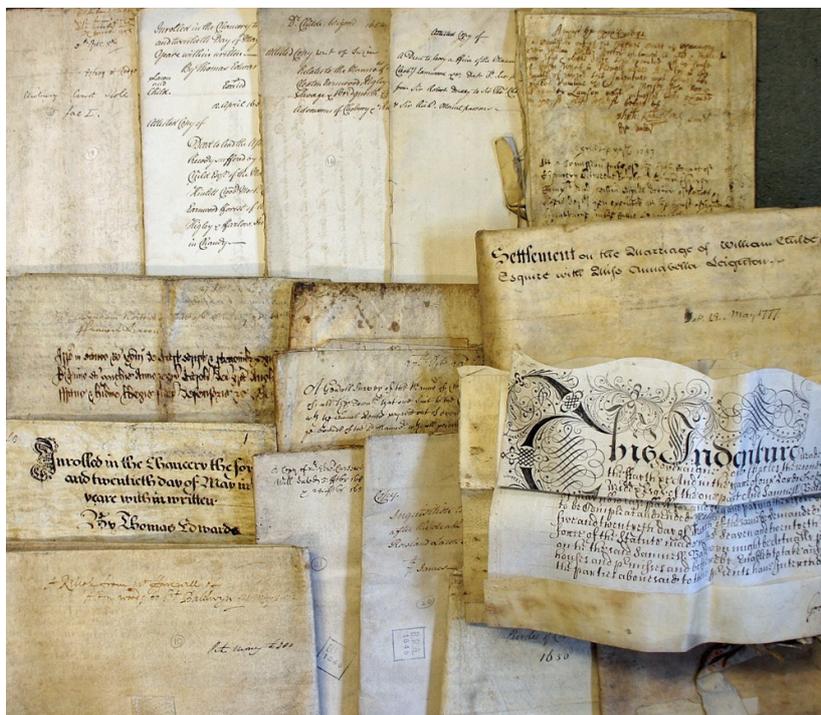
This collection of over 100 deeds, legal documents and correspondence dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It includes material on the parishes of Kinlet, Cleobury Mortimer and surrounding areas.

The Lacon family held Kinlet from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and remained Catholics following the reformation, though they were prepared to compromise in order to hold a variety of public offices. One of the deeds records the sale of the town and manor of Cleobury Mortimer by Bonham Norton (1565-1635), of Church Stretton, printer to King James, to Sir Francis Lacon of Kinlet in 1626. Sir Francis was MP for Bridgnorth in 1610 and Sheriff of Shropshire in 1611-12.

The marriage of Ann Lacon, Sir Francis' granddaughter, to Sir William Childe, a master in Chancery, in 1640, brought the Childe family to Shropshire. Their grandson William Lacon Childe was also MP for the county of Salop in the 1720s and 30s. A selection of his correspondence, mainly about legal matters, survives in the collection. The Childe family remained at Kinlet Hall until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Also amongst the deeds is one dated 1565 signed by Sir William Cecil (1520-1598) in his role of Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries. The court managed the estates of orphaned heirs until they reached full age. In this case the estate is held on behalf of George Pygott of Kinlet.

The collection complements the existing holdings relating to the Lacon and Childe families held by Shropshire Archives in a number of different collections.



A selection of the Lacon Childe documents

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