

Farm Labourer.

THE INVENTORY OF JOHN LETHER, YEOMAN.

NRO ANW 23/23/55

An inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels, sredits and personal estate of John Lether, late of Castle Rising in the County of Norfolk, Yeoman deceased. Taken and appraised 29 of October, 1741.

	£	s	d
His cash at the time of his death	2	0	0
His apparel	3	0	0
Kitchen. 11 pewter dishes, two dozen of plates do., two salvers do.	1	15	0
One lanthorn, two earthen dishes, four plates do. two racks.	0	3	0
Three tables, one form, one bench	0	12	6
One warming pan, one old copper, tea kettle, a tin coffee pot and other tin ware.	0	3	0
Nine chairs	0	8	6
A jack, five spits, five candlesticks, a chafing dish, two dridging boxes, two beef forks, a tin slice, skewers and hook, a pair of bellows, a pair of tongs, cleever, brass mortar and pestil, grid iron, fender, pot hook, iron horse, brandret and brand, pair of snuffers and stand, all old and bad.	0	15	0
Parlor. A writing desk, hanging cupboard and three tables	1	8	6
Two looking glasses, a multiplying glass, seven chairs, pair of tongs, a fire pan, six old knives and forks.	0	10	0
Four silver spoons and weight	1	9	0
A silver spoon	1	10	0
Cellar. Three firkins, one milk cooler, three meat tubs, pair of begs.	0	10	0

Meal House. Some odd things. 0 5 0

Scullery. Three firkins, three boilers, seventeen trenchers, two bottles, six wooden dishes, a copper can, sauce pan, skillet and small kettle. 1 10 0

Back House. Two coppers 3 10 0

One mash tub, three smaller tubs, three firkins, one kettle, one chern, one butter coolers, five pails, one leesetch, one cheese prep, pair of scales and lead weights, one bowl, one meat tray, four stools 2 10 0

Dairy.Eight milk trays, two cream firkins, four milk coolers, four cheese vats. 1 4 0

Backhouse Chamber. Three beds and bedding as they stand. 2 0 0

Parlour Chamber. A bed and standing bedding. A nest of drawers, Table looking glass, six chairs, chest, earthen ware and glasses. 4 0 0

Kitchen Chamber. A bed and bedding, two chests of drawers, three chairs. 3 0 0

Chern House Chamber. Two beds as they stand, one table, one chest. 1 10 0

Dairy Chamber. Twenty stones of cheese by computation. 2 2 0

The Stairs Head. One clock, one chest, one box, old bed. 0 15 0

36 10 6

Corn and Hay

33 acres of rie at 4 cooms per acre 50 0 0

20 acres of barley at 5 cooms per acre 30 0 0

20 acres of oats at 3 cooms per acre 12 12 0

One haystack computed at 20 loads	20	0	0
B. Cattle. 10 heffers coming 3 year old at £1.10.0	15	0	0
7 heffers coming 2 years at £1.5.0	8	15	0
31 cows, 2 steers, 1 bull at £2.5.0	75	10	0
I heffer sold at £3.0.0	3	0	0
13 calves at 10/-	6	10	0
Horses. 3 colts at £3.0.0	9	0	0
1 bay colt	6	6	0
I riding mare, bridle and saddle	10	0	0
5 work horses at £5.5.0	26	5	0
4 old work horses at £2.10.0	10	0	0
Husbandry Geers. 3 carts and wagons	11	11	0
2 plows, traces, collars and 2 pairs of harrows	2	5	0
6 horse harnesses	2	2	0
4 pair of horse chains	0	4	0
4 forks, 6 rakes, 1 bushel	0	9	0
1 fan, 1 screen, 2 riddles, 21 sacks	1	15	0
Sheep, 4 sheep at 5/-	1	0	0
Hogs. 5 hogs at £1.1.0	5	5	0
10 hogs at £0.10.0	5	0	0
7 hogs at £0,7,0	2	9	0
2 sows and pigs	2	0	0
1 close prep at P Andover's House	0	3	0
Table linen and sheets	1	0	0
Due from ye butter factor	49	2	5

From Mr Smith late of Rising for sacks	1	16	0
From James Kemp Taylor	0	4	2
8 acres of turnips at 12/- per acre	4	16	0
4 acres of turnips in Lord's Close at 10/-	2	0	0
4 acres of turnips in Home Close at 5/-	1	0	0
Due from Francis Pooley	5	13	3
Due from Thomas Bennall – desperate	0	10	6
Total	422	13	10

Carriage, taxes and money laid out

Otherwise for ye landlords use to be allowed in ye rent due Michaelmas 1741

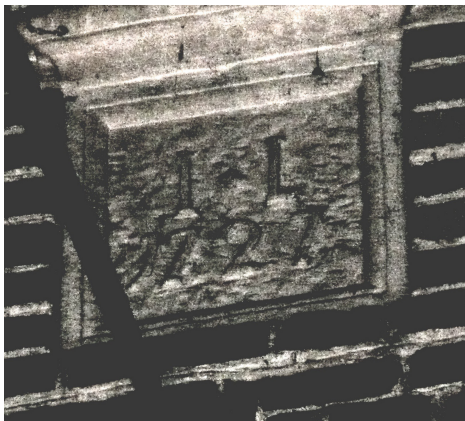
Appraisers Philip Parlee, Francis Wakeield

Relict of John Lether – Susan Lether

15 Dec 1741 Susan Lether swore to the truth of the inventory for a full and perfect one before me

Henry Loftus, Clerk, Commmissary

***John Lether** is a bit of an enigma in the village. Despite bring Mayor in 1738 and 1740, there is little evidence of any other attendance in the Leet Court (apart from a possible very early entry in 1697) and the name Lethor does not appear in any of the records of births, marriages and deaths. Yet his initials are memorialised in the large barn associated with Castle Farm (see below). JL stands for John Lethor and the date is 1727*



He was the farmer who leased the Castle Farm and he was clearly wealthy. There are references to him in letters between the agent and the Howards, and

as mayor he was a Howard man. He followed the tradition of appointing a relative to be the Sergeant-at-Mace. Robert Lether may have been his son. The document referring above to Susan Lether as relict is the first indication that he was married.