Rutlandshire

Papers relating to an
Inclosure of Liddington
States, &c. and Colonel
Monckton's Proposal for
Dividing the Common there.

EX 29/62(b)

20th. these from Mr. Clarke
on 22nd. Decr. 1777.

9th. Decr. 1770 sent a copy
of these his papers to Mr.
Mr. Clarke applied to
2nd. Edicts Orders.
That part of the Common intended to be included belongs wholly to the Parishes of Seaton, Thorpe, Leddington, and Pickworth, and no other town has the least pretence to claim right of Common thereon, but as Offington Brand which joins the Parishes of Leddington and Offington, so joins this Common there, in a commonHave a severall towns aforesaid, on the Common when both parties claim the right of Common only by custom, as is usual, where the Common is of several Parishes, if not divided from each other.

The said four Parishes have an unlimited right of Common for all sorts of Stock which feed promiscuously upon the Common and the Brand as aforesaid. There are no Boundaries upon this Part of the Common intended to be included, to distinguish their several Claims separately. The Parishes of Seaton, Thorpe, and Leddington each perambulate the whole Common. The Parish of Pickworth takes only about onehalf of the same into their Perambulation. Leddington also takes the whole Brand up to a Beaumont Chare, into their Perambulation, and the Parish of Offington takes in the Brand also and comes to the Means that divide the Common (intended to be included) from the Brand, so that Leddington, Seaton, Thorpe, and Pickworth each Claim the Common. Leddington and Offington Claim the Brand, the they all intercommune upon said Parts.

From the Nature of these Claims it appears that the Common cannot be divided to the four Parishes without an Act of Parliament to Appoint proper Persons as Commissioners to examine their several Claims and Allen their respective Shares, without the Authority of Parliament nothing can be done that will be binding to the Parties.

In all places, a Common without Stint, implies no more than a right to keep on so much Stock as was convenient and Necessary for the Use of the Lands and Tenements that Claim a right of Common, and if any Person encroaches, the Common the other Commoners, have their remedy by what of these observations.
A just Division of the Common will not be easily made, unless the
four Parishes are surveyed and a Valuation of the Lands taken, and as this
Business is one of the principal Offences attending Inclosures, there remains
no doubt but Inclosing the whole four Landsips ought to be seriously recommed
as the advantage to the several Proprietors will certainly be very considerable
especially to the Dwellers. The Commons are now of very little or no service, the
greatest part of the Commoners, the Chief advantage is obtained by a very few
Monied Men, but when an Inclosure every Man has his just Occupation
Alotted and consequently enjoys his full and just Right without Oppression.