

Old Histories of Sutton Coldfield

(Sir William Dugdale and others)

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1802 posthumous portrait of Sir William Dugdale by Silvester Harding (1745–1809)

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1. *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the years 1535-1543*, edited by Lucy Toulmin Smith in 1910
[note 1]

A mile beyond Brenischam I passyd over Sharford-bridge of 4. arches of stone. Tame river goythe under this bridge, and the castle of Dudley is on this ryver a 6. miles above Sharford-bridge. Ther be faire meadows about Sharford-bridge [on Tame.] **[note 2]**

From Sharforde to Southeton [alias Sutton,] a 4. miles by sandy grownde, betar woodyd then fertile of whete. For the common corne there is some rye, barley, and ots. There be foure lodges in Southton Chace, Colfeld, Bere wood, Linderige Hille-wood. The soyle is sandy and dry, and good for conyes.

The towne of Southeton apou Colefeeld standinge in Colefeld hethe was [belonging to the Spensers before it came to the Beauchampes. This towne was] in estimation in the Erle of Warwyks tyme and had a market privelegyd, [as the inhabitants there saye.] The erles of Warwike had a meane manar place there, a parke and chace. Some say Richard Beauchamp Erle of Warwike in Henri the 5 dayes made 5 goodly pooles there withe great [and] costly heddes of stone; the Mille Poole, Crosse Poole, Wyndle Poole, Keepers Poole, Bracebridge Poole, all 5 in the parke. One of them is yet there seene, but agayne the west end of the paroche church of Southtown. The heade of this pole servithe for a way into the towne; it is a stronge waule of stone, and there is an arche in it thrwghe the whiche a broket coming out of the poole rennithe, and dryveth a mill, and thens resortith into **[note 3]**

The other pooles be now made dry by policye, and where they were is now good medow grownd. There was a lodge or meane manar place at Southton on a hille by weste [from] the paroche church in Erle Richarde's tyme; there was a [free] chaple of St. Blase [of 5. markes a year] in the manor place. Nevyll Erle of Warwike made [as some say] a praty hawle of tymber there. **[note 4]**

After the erledome of Warwyke was attayntyd and cam to the King's hand, the towne of Southton stondynge in a baren soyle fell dayly to decay, and the market was clene forsaken.

[Wingston by authority of his office sould the tymber of the mannor place, and had part of it himselfe. The hall selfe was after sett up at Broadgate, the Marques of Dorsett's house by Leicester, and there yet standeth.] **[note 5]**

[John] Harman, alias Veysey, Bisshope of Excester borne in this towne, much lamentynge the decay of it got a new prevelege of Kynge Henry the 8. for restorynge the market there, and began to repayre and build new howses ther, and furtharmore obtayned licence to deforest the chace there; whereupon he buildyd dyvars praty howsys of stone in the forest, and plantyd his pore kynsemen in them, allotyng ground conveniently unto the housys, for the whiche the tenaunts bere the Kynge a mean rent; bysydes this the place where the Erle of Warwiks old howse was, is now convertyd to the use of a fermars howse, and in it dwellythe one of the bysshop's kynesmen. The byshope hathe also institutyd there a gramer-schole and endweyd it with lands.

He hathe also buildyd there a praty pile of brike, where he sometime lyethe. This pile stondythe in a grove about hafe a mile from Sowthtowne church by northe. Good frewte trees sett there by the byshope grow with some difficultie. [He built also the north and south part or isles of the church and the steeple, and erected a neate monument for himselfe in the wall of the north isle.]

Thus is Southtown by Harman set at a good stay and dayly encreaseth.

Note 1.

The introduction to Leland's Wikipedia article reads as follows: "John Leland or Leyland (13 September c. 1503 – 18 April 1552) was an English poet and antiquary. Leland has been described as 'the father of English local history and bibliography'. His *Itinerary* provided a unique source of observations and

raw materials for many subsequent antiquaries, and introduced the county as the basic unit for studying the local history of England, an idea that has been influential ever since.”

He was born in London and was educated at St. Paul’s School under its first headmaster William Lily, the famous author of a Latin grammar textbook, known later as the *Eton Latin Grammar*, which was widely used by generations of students well into the 19th century. Leland graduated from Christ’s College Cambridge with a B.A. degree in 1522, having been briefly imprisoned for some unguarded words concerning Richard de la Pole, the last Yorkist pretender to the English throne. His first job was as tutor to the son of Thomas Howard, 2nd Duke of Norfolk. He then became a fellow of All Saints College Oxford and took holy orders, soon becoming one of King Henry VIII’s chaplains, as well as securing other ecclesiastical positions. In 1535 the King commissioned Leland to examine the libraries of all religious houses in England; he compiled a list of the most significant books, which helped towards their preservation when the monasteries were subsequently dissolved. As a consequence of his travels and the perusal of descriptions of Britain in various manuscripts, Leland developed an interest in English and Welsh topography and antiquities. Between 1538 and 1543 he travelled throughout England and Wales, keeping notebooks in which he recorded information from personal observation. These notes, known as *Leland’s Itinerary*, were not published until the 18th century, but they were a major source for William Camden’s *Britannia*, published in 1586, and other antiquarian works. The *Itinerary* was published in five volumes in 1910, edited by Lucy Toulmin Smith (1838-1911), an Anglo-American antiquarian and librarian. In 1542 King Henry VIII presented Leland with the valuable rectory of Great Haseley in South Oxfordshire, and at the same time he was a canon of King’s College Oxford, and a prebendary of Salisbury cathedral. He retired with his papers to London, intending to write up his notes, but in 1547 he “fell besides his wits”, was certified insane and died, aged about 48.

Note 2.

Brenischam is an old spelling of Birmingham. Sharford-bridge refers to Salford Bridge, underneath Spaghetti Junction. Dudley Castle did not stand on the River Tame. The words in square brackets are as they appear in the 1910 edition, presumably editorial additions to the original text.

Note 3.

William de Beauchamp, 9th Earl of Warwick, was the first earl in the de Beauchamp family (1268); before that members of the de Beaumont family were the earls. No other account of Sutton suggests that the Spencer family owned the Manor of Sutton. Richard de Beauchamp was the Earl of Warwick from 1401 to 1439. The Mill Pool was situate at the bottom of Mill Street and its waters powered the town mill there. Cross Pool lay to the south of Mill Pool, where the Wyndley Leisure Centre now is.

Note 4.

Richard Neville (the Kingmaker) was the Earl of Warwick from 1450 to 1471.

Note 5.

Wington was a local official employed by King Henry VIII. Thomas Grey, 2nd Marquess of Dorset was the grandson of Elizabeth Woodville, Queen of King Edward IV, by her first husband, Sir John Grey. Bradgate House near Leicester, built circa 1520, is now a ruin.

2. *Britannia*, by William Camden (1586), translated from the Latin by Philemon Holland in 1610

Next after this [Kenilworth], to keepe on the journey that myselfe made, I saw Solyhill; but in it, setting aside the church, there is nothing worth sight; then, Bremicham, full of inhabitants, and resounding with hammers and anvils, for the most of them are smiths. The lower part thereof standeth very waterish; the upper riseth with faire buildings: for the credit and praise whereof, I may not reckon this in the last place, that the noble and martiall family of the Bremichams, earles of Louth, &c. in Ireland, fetched their originall and name from hence. Then, in the utmost skirt of this shire, north-westward, Sutton Colfield, standing in a woddy and on churlish hard soile, glorieth in John Voisy, bishop of Excester, there borne and bred; who in the reyne of King Henrie VIII, when this little towne had lien a great while as dead, raised it up again with buildings, priuiledges, and a grammer schoole. As I went downe from hence southward, I came to Coleshull, a towne sometime of the Clintons, and to Maxstocke Castle, neighbouring to it, which acknowledged by a continuall line of hereditary succession for his lords, the Limascies, who were also lords of Wolverley, the Ordingsells, that came out of Flanders, and the Clintons, men of greatest worth and worship in their times.

Note. William Camden (1551-1623) was an antiquary, historian and topographer, best known as the author of *Britannia*, a county by county description of Great Britain. He was educated at Christ's Hospital and St. Paul's School in London, and Christ Church Oxford. In 1575 he was appointed as an usher (assistant master) at Westminster School, which enabled him to pursue his antiquarian researches during school vacations. *Britannia* was first published, in Latin, in 1586. Following five further Latin editions, it was translated into English by Philemon Holland in 1610. Holland (1552-1637) was educated at King Edward VI's Grammar School in Chelmsford and Trinity College Cambridge. In addition to the degrees of B.A. and M.A., in 1597 he was awarded an M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) from Cambridge. At the age of 77 he was appointed as the Headmaster of King Henry VIII's Grammar School in Coventry, having previously been an usher there. His numerous translations included Livy's *History of Rome*, Pliny's *History of the World*, Plutarch's *Morals* and Suetonius's *Life of Julius Caesar*. Unfortunately, Camden's account of Sutton Coldfield is very brief, consisting of only one sentence

3. *The Antiquities of Warwickshire*, by Sir William Dugdale (1656), taken from the 1765 Edition ('carefully copied, without the least Alteration, from the old one, published in the Year 1656') [note 1]

SUTTON.

Having now done with Bermingham, and tracing Rhea through the Parish of Aston, I come to its confluence with Tame; following which River, about two Miles lower, I find the Accession of a pretty Torrent from the North-West, at the Head whereof stands Sutton, being a large Parish, but a barren Soil, and containeth divers Hamlets and Places of Note, viz. Wigginhill, Maney, Hill, Little-Sutton, Warmley, Langley, New-Hall, and Pedimore; of all which in their Order.

That this Sutton was originally so called from its Situation, there is no Doubt, and therefore as it stands South to Lichfield, I am inclin'd to believe that the Name at first arose. In Edw. the Confessor's Days Edwine, Earl of Mercia, was Owner of it; but after the Norman Invasion the Conqueror held it in his own Hands, as appeareth by the generall Survey shortly after made, wherein it is rated at viii. Hides; the Woods extending to two Miles in Length, and one in Breadth, and all valued at 4£. But it continued not long in the Crown; for I find that K.H.1. past it away in Exchange unto Roger, Earl of Warwick, for the Mannours of Hocham and Langham in Rutland; Habendum & tenendum dictum Manerium de

Sutton (saith my Authoritie) dicto Rogero Comiti & haeredibus ejus, cum omni libertate & regalitate, sine sectis ad Hundredum, sine solutione Scutagii, vel alicujus forinseci servitii, cum libero Chaceo inter Thame & Bourne, quae dividunt libertatem dicti Manerii ab aliis. Et habeat dictus Rogerius & haeredes sui unum Parcum & unam liberam Hayam in defensione. Et habeant liberam Curiam suam ad voluntatem in omnibus liberis consuetudinibus cum visu Franci plegii. Item habeant boscum forinsecum, communem libere tenentibus, sine Ripario. Item habeant in dominico duas Carucatas terrae, & unum molendinum aquaticum cum sectis. Item habeant Octodecem Cervos non nobiles. **[note 2]**

But it doth not appear by this that any yearly Rent was reserved to the King, his Heirs and Successors, upon the said Exchange; therefore 'tis probable, that by some other Agreement with that King, or King H.2. it might be; for in the Shiriffs Accompt of 23, 24, and 25 H.2. there is xxxixs. per An. answered to the King de Firma de Sutton. In 26 H.2. xviii. xd. de perquisitis: In 30 H.2. xxxixs. de Firma: In 31 H.2. Liis. de Firma; and in 1 R.1. iiiij. de Firma: Howbeit, in these two last 'tis like some Arrears are accounted, in regard that xxxixs. was the standing Rent or Ferm formerly due. **[note 3]**

The next thing in Order to be spoke of is the Chase, whereof the Bounds extended (as by the before-recited Authoritie is evident) to the Banks of Thame and Bourne, (which Rivers are described by the Map) and so consequently out of the Bounds of this Countie, as well as into other Lordships within it, that are no Members of Sutton: To give some Reason therefore for this, I have look't further into the Antiquitie thereof, and do find, that whilst this Lordship continued in the King's Hand, that which afterwards bore the Name of the Chase, was then a Forest; and this appears by a special Inquisition taken in 3 E.2. where the Jury say upon their Oaths, that they had heard their Ancestors affirm the same: For, that the antient Kings of England, before they limited themselves by Carta de Foresta in 9 H.3. might and did make Forests where they pleased. Manwood, in his Treatise of Forest Laws, (whereunto I refer my Reader) doth sufficiently declare. And here, before I proceed further, I have thought fit to insert a Copie of the Bounds of this Chase, as by the before-specified Inquisition they are set down: Sez sount lez boundes trovez de la Chace de Suttone in Colfelde, & se commencez à la teste de Bourne; dekes à la Boltestile; & dekes tank à la Tindit hoc; & dekes tank à Mosewall; & dekes tank à le Holebrok; & dekes tank a le Thame; & dekes tank a Wolford-Brugge; & dekes tank a Schrafford-Brugge; & dekes tank a Wyford; & dekes tank a la teste de Bourne. Most of which Places, if not all, are (I am sure) very well known at this Day. **[note 4]**

That the Earl of Warwick so held it, with all Privileges thereto antiently belonging, may appear by sundry Testimonies, some of which I shall here point at. About the Beginning of K. John's Time the Lord Basset of Draiton (a great Baron in these Parts) erected a Park at Draiton-Basset, which being within the Precincts of this Chase, and questioned by Waleran, then Earl of Warwick, necessitated the said Lord Basset, rather than he would pull down his Pales again, to come to an Agreement with the Earl; which Accord was in 3 Joh. and because 'tis very memorable, I will here recite it. **[note 5]**

Haec est finalis concordia inter Comitem Waleranum de Warewic querentem, & Radulfum Basset tenentem de una sepe in Draiton, quam idem Comes dixit fuisse levatam ad nocumentum Forestae suae de Colmesfeld, unde placitum conventionis summonitum est inter eos coram Justiciariis domini Regis apud Covintriā, viz. Magistro Willielmo de Kilkenny & dominis Henrico de Barton & Nicholao de Trye; scilicet quod praedictus Comes concessit, & quietum clamavit, de se & haeredibus suis, praedicto Radulfo & haeredibus suis, praedictam sepem & totum Parcum de Draiton infra illam sepem inclusum. Et pro hac concessione & in pace dimissione, & quieta clamatione, praedictus Radulfus pro se & haeredibus suis concessit eidem Comiti & haeredibus suis, duos Damos idoneos quolibet anno de praedicto Parco, captos inter Assumptionem & Nativitatem beatae Mariae Virginis, scil. de utroque Damo quatuor membra, & Capud, corio & furcheto; ita quod praedictus Radulfus vel haeredes sui, per seipsos vel per nuncios suos, faciant haebere Bailivis praedicti Comitis, vel haeredum suorum, ad Manerium ipsius Comitis de Sutton, praedictos duos Damos, sicut praedictum est, inter praedicta duo

Festa. Et sciendum quod praedictum Parcum de Draiton ita clausum erit, quod totum erit integrum versus Forestam praedicti Comitis de Colmesfeld, & sine Buckestall. **[note 6]**

To this Agreement were Witnesses Thomas de Erdington, then Shiriff of Staffordshire, Geffrey Sauvage, Hugh fil. Williemi (id est de Hatton) Thomas de Ardern, Raph de Mutton, Will. de Arderne, Rob. fil. Williemi, Henr. fil. Sewalli (Progenitor to the Shirleys) Hugh de Cuilli, Henr. de Ullenhale, Alex. de Mildecumbe, Jordan de Whitacre, and divers other. And that the succeeding Earls of Warwick still held it as their free Chase, the several Licenses that they granted to sundry Persons in their own peculiar Lands and Woods, lying within the Precincts thereof, do sufficiently manifest, viz. to Raph de Limesi, by Will de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, to make a Park at Weford of his Wood, called Ashehay, in 17 E.1. In 18 E.1. to Raph Lord Basset, to hunt in his Woods at Draiton. In 21 E.1. to Will. de Odingsells to hunt in the Woods and Feilds of Weford, Thickbrome, and Hynts: So also to Will. Meignill and Rob. de la Ward, in their Lands and Woods at Hynts, &c. And that this Chase was of high Esteem with those great Earls (who had here a very goodly Mannour-House, with fair Pools near unto it) is evident, as I shall now further manifest. **[note 7]**

In 17 E.1. the last-recited Earl obtained a special Patent of the King, that during his Life he might have free Libertie to follow and pursue such of his Deer as, being hunted within his Chase, fled into the Forest of Kanc, and there to kill and bring them away without any Disturbance of the said King's Verderers, or other Officers of the Forest: Nay, the Earl was so tender in preserving his Game, that though he had given Libertie to the Lord Basset for hunting in his own Woods at Draiton, yet to the End it might appear that he excluded not himself, he questioned the same Lord Basset for his Keepers Over-Boldness in those Woods; so that Basset coming to an Agreement with him, it was concluded, that from thenceforth his Forester for Draiton Woods, for the Time being, should make Oath to the said Earl, and his Heirs, for his faithfull Custodie of the Venison, and to make Attachments and Presentments in the said Earl's Court at Sutton, touching the same: And that the Ranger to the said Earl, and his Heirs, for the Time being, should oversee the Keepership of the Deer in those Woods at his own Pleasure, and make Attachments for the same: As also that the Earl should have the one Half of all Amerciaments, and Recompence for Trespasses done to the Deer in those Woods, to be received by his Bayliff of Sutton. Which Accord was made at Sutton on the Eve of Holy-Rood Day, in the Presence of Sir John Clinton, the Younger, Kt. Thomas Prior of Canwell, Anketill de L'Isle, Rob. de Scheldon, Hen. de Mabely, Will. de Lee, John Russell, and others. **[note 8]**

In 21 E.1. there being a Complaint made to the King by the before-specified Earl, that some Misdemeanours had been committed by certain lewd Persons in killing of Deer within this Chase, a special Commission was directed to Roger, Lord Strange, to find them out, and to punish them according to their Demerits. And in 25 E.1. John, Lord of Little-Barre, came to an Accord with the before-specified Earl, for License to inclose his Woods at Little-Barre; as also to improve them by assarting, and for cutting of Under-Wood there, they being within the Bounds of this Chase: For which Libertie, so granted, he covenanted for himself and his Heirs, to pay yearly to the said Earl, and his Heirs, six barbed Arrows on the Feast-Day of St. Michael, at his Mannour at Sutton. **[note 9]**

I now come to the Mannour. After the Death of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, in 26 H.3. it was, inter alia, assigned to Ela his Countess in Dower: And in 31 H.3. upon the Agreement made betwixt John de Plesssets, who had wedded Margerie Mareschall, Heir to the Earldome of Warwick (as in Warwick is fully shewed) and Will. Mauduit, and Alice his Wife, (Aunt, and afterwards Heir to the same Margerie) it was accorded that the same John de Plesssets, in Case he survived his said Wife, should enjoy this, inter alia, during his natural Life. But the Countess Ela was then living, and a long Time after; for in 32 H.3. Philip Marmiun (Lord of Tamwoth Castle) brought an Assise against her for Common of Pasture within this Lordship; and in 36 H.3. had a special Charter of Free-Warren granted to her for Life in all her Demesn Lands here, as also in divers other Mannours of her Dower. After which, viz. in 13 E.1. Will. de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, then Lord thereof, claymed by Prescription a Court-Leet here,

with Assize of Bread and Beer, Free Chase, Infangthef, Tumbrell, Thewe, Weyf, and Gallows; and it being found that he and his Ancestors had exercised all these Liberties and Privileges Time out of Mind, they were allowed. [note 10]

To the last William succeeded Guy de Beauchamp in the Earldome of Warwick, and Possession of this Lordship, who in 28 E.1. obtained a Charter for a weekly Mercate here upon the Tuesday, and a Faire yearly, to begin on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, and to continue for three Days following: In the Time of which Earl, viz. in 35 E.1. the K. having received Information that the free Chase here at Sutton had been antiently a Forest, sc. in the Time of the King's Progenitors, before it came to the same Earl's Ancestors, made Henry de Spigurnell, and Will. de Mortimer, Commissioners to enquire whether it were so or not; and in Case it should be found accordingly, then to certifie when it was so disafforested, by whom, and for what Reason; as also how it past from the Crown: And the Shiriff of this Countie and Staffordshire had thereupon Command to summon so many honest and lawfull Men to trie the same, as in their Discretions they should think meet: But what Return was made thereupon I have not seen. Shortly after this, viz. in 3 E.2. at a Court-Leet and Court-Baron held for this Mannour, the antient Customes thereof were certified by the Jury upon their Oaths; which, in Regard they are very memorable, I have here transcribed. [note 11]

Inquisitio xii Juratorum capta ad hunc Visum coram Galfrido de Okenham Seneschallo, per Sacramentum Ancelmi de Cliftona, &c. juratorum oneratorum de antiquis consuetudinibus istius Dominii tam de libertate quam de bondagio, quales consuetudines solebant facere & habere, ante Coronationem domini Henrici Regis, avi domini Regis nunc, a tempore Athelstani quondam Regis Angliae, per quem prius usum antiqui domini & consuetudines fuerunt factae & ordinatae.

Qui dicunt super Sacramentum suum; Quod unusquisque liber homo de Sutton praedicta, solebat terras & tenementa sua, vi & effectum Cartae suae originalis, tenere: Et si aliquod Placitum terrae fuerit inter aliquos liberos homines de isto Dominio solebant implacitari & terminari per Breve domini Regis secundum Legem Angliae, coram Justiciariis. Et illi homines de Bondagii tenura, qui tenuerunt integram virgatam terrae vel plus, solebant esse officarii Regis, vel Domini, dum Domino placuerit, quicumque fuerint electi ad illud Officium.

Item illi qui tenuerunt dimidiam virgatam terrae, vel nocatam terrae, vel Cotagium de Bondagii tenura, solebant esse Bedellum Manerii & Decennarium. Et etiam omnes illi qui tenuerunt in Bondagii tenura, solebant vocari Custumarii. Et quotiescunque Dominus ad venandum venerit illi Custumarii solebant fugare Waulassum & Stabulum in fugatione ferarum bestiarum secundum quantitatem tenurae suae; ut illi qui tenuerunt integram virgatam terrae, per duos dies, & sic de aliis. Et solebant habere inter eos dimidiam partem feodi Woodwardi de venatione capta.

Item solebant esse Custodes bruerae de Colfield, quotiescunque fuerint electi per vicinos ad Curiam; & solebant emere & vendere libere tam infra dominium de Sutton & extra, sine calumpnia; Et etiam solebant facere sectam ad Curiam de Sutton de tribus septimanis ad tres septimanas, & solvere redditum Assisae cum Tallagio secundum quantitatem hujusmodi Custumariorum ad quatuor anni terminos usuales, &c. Et solebant habere Housebote & Haybote secundum quantitatem tenurae, per visum Forestarium & Woodwardorum tempore Quadragesimae, sufficienter pro haiis & domibus emendandis super Bondagii tenura.

Et post decessum hujusmodi Custumariorum, Dominus solebat habere nomine Herioti melius animal, & non plus: Nec bone, nec catalla, nec in vita, nec post mortem hujusmodi Custumarii, nisi ea de causa quod primogenitus filius Domini vel filia fuerit maritandus; & tunc Dominus solebat habere, ad voluntatem suam, de hiis qui fuerunt mortui ante administrationem Executorum, tertiam partem omnium bonorum hujusmodi Custumarii mortui. Et de vivis hujusmodi Custumarii, Dominus solebat similiter dimidiam partem habere omnium bonorum suorum, salvis sufficienter bobus pro carucis, & juvencis lactandis, ad primogenitum filium vel filiam maritandam. Et si aliqui hujusmodi

Custumariorum fecerint alienationem Bondagii tenurae suae alicui, solebant sursum reddere in Curia coram Seneschallo illam tenuram, & levare, & finem facere ad voluntatem Domini.

Et etiam aliqui de hujusmodi Custumariis exierint de Dominio, & noluerint plus trahere moram ibidem, solebant venire in Curiam & sursum reddere in manum Domini tenuram suam Bondagii, cum omnibus equis suis masculis, et pullis masculis, et carectam ferro ligatam, porcis masculis, Panna sua integra, Lanea non formata, et meliorem Ollam suam eneam et exire et trahere moram ubicunque voluerit, sine calumpnia Domini, et ipse cum omni sequela sua esse Liber imperpetuum. Et etiam omnes tenentes tam Liberi quam Custumarii, solebant habere communem pasturam cum omnibus animalibus, infra Dominium de Sutton in omnibus forinsecis boscis, & aliis communibus locis, omni tempore anni, & etiam in omnibus separabilibus locis a festo S. Mich. Archangeli, usque ad festum Purificationis beatae Mariae, exceptis Dominicis terris & Parco Domini, & etiam exceptis gardinis Vicinorum.

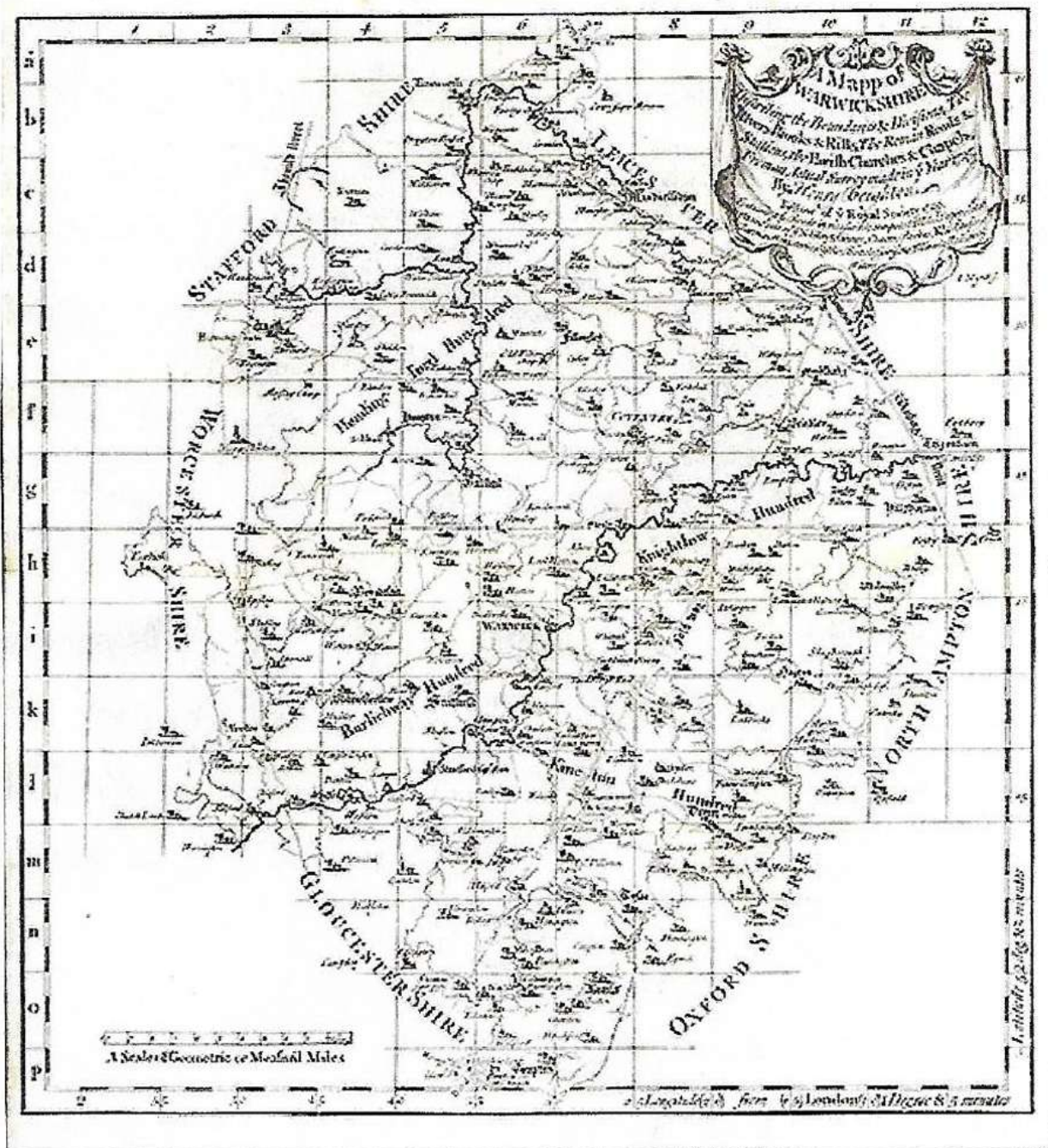
Item nullus hujusmodi Custumariorum solebat molare bladum suum, nisi ad Molendinum Domini aquaticum, dum Molendinum fuerit reparatum ad molandum, nisi solverint totum bladum suum Molendinario Domini prius; sub poena forisfacturae totius bladi, exceptis Tenentibus de Maney Windeley, & Wigula, qui molabant ad Molendinum Domini ventile de Maney. Et etiam dicunt quod audierunt antecessores dicere, quod tempore quo Manerium de Sutton praedicta, fuit in manibus Regum Angliae, tota Chacea fuit afforestata, & omnes Canes infra Forestam solebant esse impediati & amputati sinistro orello: Et postquam devenerunt in manum Comitis Warwici licentiam habere & tenere Canes opertias ex omni genere Canum, & non impediati. Et etiam omnes Tenentes, tam Custumarii, quam Liberi, solebant habere mortuum, boscum in omnibus boscis ubicunque fuerit inventum ad focale.

Et etiam omnes Libere tenentes solebant summoniri ad apparendum per tres dies ante Curiam; & Custumarii similiter. Et si placitum debiti vel transgressionis, vel aliquod placitum fuerit inter vicinos; & Defendentes negaverint, & vadierint Legem versus Querentem, solebant facere Legem cum tertia manu, & solebant se essoiniare de Communi secta Curiae, bina vice; & tertia comparere, & warantizare essoinium: Et similiter de placito tam Querentis quam Defendentis, bis de Placito, & bis de Lege essoiniari, & tertia vice venire, seu habere considerationem Curiae. Et Custumarii solebant bis amerciari in Curia per domos inventas super Bondagii tenura; & tertia, si non fuerit emendatus, solebant incurrere poenam ad voluntatem Domini.

Et praedicti Custumarii solebant reparare vadum circa Stagnum Molendini Domini de Sutton, in opere terreno, quotiescunque necesse fuerit per rationabilem praemonitionem praemoniti: Et si non venerint solebant amerciari ad proximam Curiam sequentem: Et solebant amerciari similiter, si non venerint ad Waulassum, quoties Dominus ad venandum venerit. Et omnes Custumarii, qui tenuerunt integram virgatam terrae de Bondagio, solebant operari cum Domino in Autumpno, per duos dies; & similiter omnes alii Custumarii ad quantitatem tenurae per rationabilem praemonitionem Praepositi; pro quo solebant habere unum Multonem pingue & iiiid. Panem album, & xii lagenas cervisinae; Et si non venerint, tunc solebant amerciari ad proximam Curiam sequentem.

Et dicunt, quod omnes praedictae Consuetudines solebant fieri, & a tempore Regis Athelstani, & tempore Regis Johannis, & ante Coronationem Henrici Regis: Et praedecessores praedictorum Juratorum & dicebant. Et dicunt quod Waleranus quondam Comes Warwici concessit, quod omnes praefictae consuetudines, & omnes aliae antiquae consuetudines, pro se & haered. suis, durabunt imperpetuum. **[note 12]**

The next Things of Note that I have observed concerning this Lordship are these, viz. that in 9 E.2. upon the Death of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, it was valued at xxiii£ iiid.ob.q. per An. As also the next ensuing Year, in Respect of the Minority of his Heir, committed to the Custody of John de Someri: And that in 17 E.2. there was a notable Robberie committed upon a certain Road, thwarting that part of the Chase called Colfeild, then, and yet known by the Name of Rugeway, the Partie rob'd



1730 map of Warwickshire by Henry Beighton (1687-1743)
 on which the map appearing in the 1765 edition of
 Sir William Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire* is based.
 The map shows Icknield Street entering Sutton at square 3c.

being one Elias le Collier, and the Summe of Money taken from him CCC£. about Nine of the Clock in the Morning: Whereupon he commenced his Suit against the Inhabitants of this Hundred of Hemlingford, and those of the Hundred of Offlow in Staffordshire, according to the Statute of Winchester, for not prosecuting the Felons, in Regard that the same Way, as the Record saith, divideth the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, viz. leaving Sutton and Aston, juxta Bermingham, on the one Side of it, (of this Countie) and Barre, Aldrewich, with Part of Shenston, in Com. Staff. on the other Side; and had Judgment to recover the Money accordingly: Whereupon Writts being directed to the Shiriffs of both Shires to levie the said Summe, Return was made that the People were so much indebted to the King, and impoverisht by Murrein of their Cattell, Dearth of Corn, and other Accidents, that they were not able to pay it. Nevertheless, it seems that the Shiriff pressing hard upon them, by Virtue of several Writts to him directed, at the Procurement of the Partie rob'd, levied xl. Marks of it. Much-ado there was about this Money, the Bishop of Cov. and Lich. pleading for himself and his Tenants, Immunitie from such Charges, and the Countie still shifting the Payment, so that at length they procured a Supersedeas from the King to stop any farther Proceeding therein. **[note 13]**

Over part of this Chase there is another antient Way called Ikenild-Street, (though not now much noted) being one of those four eminent ones made by the Romans, concerning which I have said something in my Discourse of Watling-Street; the Tract whereof is yet to be seen in divers Places within this Countie, especially here, and over a Corner of Sutton Park; where, going over the low Grounds, it appeareth to be firm and high ridged up with Gravell. This Way coming from Tinemouth in Northumberland, through Yorkshire, to Bolesover, and thence by Chesterfeild, through Scaresdale, comes over Morley-Moore to Little-Chester near Derby, and so over Eggington Heath, crosseth the River Dove at Monks-Bridge, then over Burton-Moore, and passing Trent at Whichnour-Bridge, stretcheth through Alrewas-Hays; thence to Street-Hey, and so to Wall, (antiently called Etocetum) where it thwarts Watling-Street; thence over Radley-Moore, leaving Little-Aston on the right Hand, entreth this Lordship of Sutton, (as the Map sheweth) and so extendeth itself to Alcester in this Countie. Thence over Bitford-Bridge (leaving Cambden in Gloucestershire a little on the left Hand) to Stow on the Woulds, (where it crosseth the Fosse) and from Stow to Burford, and over Isis at New-Bridge directly to Wallingford; and so through Winchester to Southampton. **[note 14]**

But I return. Perhaps the Tuesday Mercates, formerly granted (as is before exprest) grew to be discontinued; for in 27 E.3. Thomas de Beauchamp, the Earl of Warwick, (and Lord of this Mannour) obtained another Charter for it upon the same Day; by which he had likewise a Grant of two Faires to be yearly kept here, sc. the one on the Eve of the Holy Trinitie, and two Days after; the other on the Eve and Day of St. Martin. With the other Lands, belonging to these great Earls, this Mannour, at length, came to Ric. Nevill in Right of Anne his Wife (as in Warwick is shewed), but towards the later end of H.6. Reign, when this haughty spirited Earl sided with the House of York, it was seized by the King, and demised to Sir Edm. Mountfort, Knight, one of his Carvers, for the Terme of x. Years; and the Rangership of the Chase disposed of by the same King to John Holt, Esq; one of his Household Servants, to hold for Terme of Life, with the Fees and Profits thereof antiently due and payable. How it was afterwards (sc. in 14 E.4.) taken from the said Anne, with the rest of the Lands of her Inheritance, and settled by Act of Parliament upon Isabell and Anne her Daughters, I have in Warwick fully shewed; as also how by a special Grant and Act of Parl. likewise, to strengthen the same, it came to the Crown. It now therefore remains to shew the Course of it since, in which Disquisition I find that K.H.7. in 5 of his Reign, assigned it to the before-specified Anne, to hold during her Life. **[note 15]**

After which, ere long, the Mercate being utterly forsaken the Town fell much to Ruin; and the Mannour Place was totally pulled down by one Wingston, who being imployed as an Officer there for the King, made Use of most of the Timber for himself, selling the intire Fabrick of the Hall unto the Marq. Dorset, which was set up at Bradgate in Leicestershire. And in this decayed Condition did Sutton continue till that John Harman, alias Veisy, Bishop of Exeter, bearing a great Affection thereto, in

Respect it was the Place of his Birth, having obtained of the King in 19 H.8. certain Parcells of Inclosure here, called More-Crofts, and Hethe-Yards, and more than xl. Acres of Wast, with License to inclose it: The next Year ensuing procured Letters Pat. dated 16 Dec. for the making it a Corporation, by the Name of a Warden and Societie, to consist of xxiii. Persons besides the Warden: As also another yearly Faire on Simon and Jude's Day, with a weekly Mercate upon the Monday, (the Tuesday Mercate being discontinued) together with a Common-Hall, or Moote-Hall, for their Assemblies, a Clerk of the Mercate, and a Steward, and one or two Sergeants at Mace; the Warden for the Time being to be Coroner within the same Corporation; and that no Shiriff nor Bailiff shall medle within their Liberties: Granting besides unto them the whole Town and Mannour of Sutton-Colfeild; as also the Chase and Park, to hold to them and their Successors for ever in Fee-Farm, at the Rent of Lviii£. per An. in which Sort it continueth till this Day. **[note 16]**

Concerning the Parentage of this John Harman, I find that he was born in this Lordship, and of a Family residing here, his Father's name being Will. Harman, and his Mother's Joane, Daughter unto Henry Squier, of Handsworth in Staffordshire: From which Henry is also descended my singular Friend Mr. Scipio Squyer, now one of the Vice-Chamberlains in the Exchequer, [(]a Gentleman of great Knowledge in Antiquities, and a special Furtherer of this Work). The first Mention that I have seen of the said John Harman is in 11 H.7. where the King grants unto him, by Name of John Harman, D. of Law, the free Chapell of S. Blase, situate within this his Mannour of Sutton in Colfield, with all the Lands and Possessions thereunto belonging, for Life: By which Pat. Recitall is made, that the same Chapell, &c. was formerly granted also for Life unto one John Herman, Priest, in 20 H.6. to celebrate Divine Service therein according to the Ordination of the Founders thereof; and confirm'd to him by George, Duke of Clarence, (in Right of his Earldome of Warwick) 12 Oct. 11 E.4. and then, viz 11 H.7. surrendered to the King, and cancell'd to make Way for this Grant: Of which Chapell, all I have seen else, is only that in 2 E.3. the King, in Respect of the then Earl of Warwick's Minoritie, confer'd it upon Thomas de Hampton, Clerk, as a Donative. **[note 17]**

But I return to John Hermon. He was afterwards, viz. in 22 H.7. Vicar of St. Michael's Church in Coventre: Next Dean of the Royall Chapell at Windsor to K.H.8. Homo cui nec eruditio deerat, nec prudentia; morum porro comitate insignis perhibetur (saith Godwyn): For which, his Abilities being highly esteemed of the King, he was imployed on sundry Embassies, made Tutor to the Lady Marie, (then the King's onely Daughter) and President of Wales; and after the Death of Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, advanced to that See, being consecrated 6 Dec. An. 1519, (11 H.8.) To this Town he bore a special Affection; and besides the procuring it to be Incorporate (as I have said) bestowed very great Cost, as well for Ornament as Inriching thereof, sc. the Moot-Hall, with a Prison under it, and a Mercate-Place he built, at the Charge of xxxv£.vis.vid. inclosed all the Coppices called the Seaven Heys, and set up Gates and Locks to them, at xliii£.iis.vid. paved the whole Town, at xl£.iiis.viiiid. stored the Park with Mares, Colts, and Horses at xl£. gave to the Ditching and Quick-setting thereof at one Time xvi£.viiiis.xd. and at another x£.xvis.viiiid. paid for Weights and Balances, and the Warden's Expences at the first Leet xlis. for the Organ in the Church (An.22 H.8.) xiiii£.iis.viiiid. for building of two Iles to the Church (An. 25 H.8.) xcii£.xiis.iid. besides the finishing of them iii£.vis.xid. built the School and endow'd it, as I shall further shew anon; destroy'd the Chase for the Benefit of the Poor, who for xxd. per An. had keeping for their Cows, and gave a Meadow for Hay to the poor Widows, appointing the Coppices to be Fewell to the Inhabitants. **[note 18]**

Nay, so great a Desire had he that it should increase in People and Wealth; not doubting but that the Barrenness of the Soil would give an Edge unto Industrie, that building Li Stone Houses within the Precincts of the Lordship, he began to set up a Trade of Cloathing there, in making Kerseys in Imitation of Devonshire, which he saw had much inricht that County: But so much did he impoverish his Bishoprick to do these Things, that (as Godwyn observes) what was so founded upon Sacriledge, thrived but little: For the Cloathing Trade being soon neglected, his Design therein came to nothing:

Neither had that better Success wherewith he advanced his Kindred, which continued not to them for three generations. The latter Part of his Days he spent here at Sutton, having built from the Ground a very fair House, (North-East near a Mile from the Town) called Moore-Hall, where he lived very hospitably, having of his Retinue Cxl. Men in Scarlet Caps and Gowns, his Household Expences then amounting to 1500£. per An. (which was no small Summe at that Time). To Bulloin he sent xx. able Men with K. H.8. and C£ with them; and twice as many to Norwich Field, giving also Money extraordinary with them for their Support, in Case any fell Sick by the Way: And afterwards in Recompence of their Service, bestowed on them Lands and Livings. **[note 19]**

And for Prevention of Robberies, which were in those Days frequent upon the Road over Bassets-Heath (leading from Lichfeild towards London) he erected a House upon a Piece of Wast called Cotysmore, containing 9 Acres of Ground, lying in a Kind of desert Place, near to Canwell-Yate: Which Place, as by an Autograph I have seen, was deservedly called Latronum spelunca et receptaculum, wherein he placed one of his own domestique Servants to reside, paying iis. yearly at Michaelmas to himself and his Heirs, and xviii. to the Warden and Fellowship of Sutton, and their Successors. At his own proper Costs he also built two Stone Bridges within 3 Miles of Sutton, viz. at Curdworth, and Water-Orton; and for that Purpose (as the Tradition is) pulled down the Remainder of the antient Mannour-House (which stood about a Furlong Westwards from the Church): And departing this World at the Age of Ciii. Years lyeth buried on the North Side of the Chancell here at Sutton, having a fair Monument there, with his Statue mitred and vested for the Altar, as I shall shew anon. **[note 20]**

Of the before-specified Mannour-House I may not omit to observe, that it stood very delightfully, having not onely the Chase for Pleasure of Hunting, but divers large Pools near at hand; as also a Chapell within it (that of St. Blase before spoke of, as I take it) wherein the Priest that celebrated Divine Service in 24 H.6. had xxxiis.iiid. per An. for his Stipend. Concerning which Pools, being in number four, I have observed, that Sir Raph Bracebrigge, of Kingsbury, Kt. having a Lease of them for Terme of Life from 7 H.5. covenanted to pay the yearly Rent of x£. or Cxx Bemes, the Price of each Breme reckoned at xxd. but if they should happen to be at a greater Rate, than to be allowed back proportionably. Whereunto I shall adde Part of an Accompt made by the before-recited Earl of Warwick's Bayliff in 32 H.6. that the Price of such Fish in those Days, compared with other Things, may the better appear. **[note 21]**

Item John Burbage and Will. Lempe for fyching on Wensday nexte before the Exaltacion of the Cros, and dyde take ii Brems, and were lade to my Lorde to Lychefelde, be Will. Alyn; And to the seyde Fychers hyre and for her Costs, mans mete and horsmete iis.xd. **[note 22]**

Item the same Fychers were send for again, on Thursday nexte aftir the Exaltacion, and was ther Thursday, Frydaie, and Setyrday, and tok four Brems, ther hyre and ther costs, iis.viiid. Item the costs of bakying the seyde iiii. Brems in flower xiid. Item in Spys, Pepyr, Safurn, Clows and Synamun vid. Item the costs of carrying the seyde iiii Brems to Mydlam to my Lord in the North Contrey, be Thomas Harys of Suttun, xs. **[note 23]**

Item for the Swans, four quarter Otes, and a bushell, two quarter of hem a streke iid.ob. and two quarter and a bushell a streke iiid. (viis.xd.) **[note 24]**

The Church (dedicated to the Holy Trinitie) was in An. 1291, (19 E.1.) valued at xx. Marks; and in 26 H.8. at xxxiii£.ixs. over and above xiis. yearly allowed for Procurations and Synodalls. **[note 25]**

Here was in this Church a certain Chantry, founded by one Thomas Broadmeadow. (but the Time when appears not) for one Priest to sing Mass, and to pray for the Soul of the said Thomas, and his Parents; the Value of the Lands and Rents belonging thereto being in 26 H.8. rated at Cvis.viiid. and in 37 H.8. at Cs. **[note 26]**

Patroni Ecclesiae.
Edwardus Rex Angliae
hac vice Patronus.

Incumbentes, &c.
Rob. Hillari, 7 Id. Maii, 1317

Thomas de Bellocampo,
Comes Warwici.

Joh. de Bukkingham, Accol. 4 Non. Jan. 1345
Will. de Sharneburne, Cap. 2 Id. Jan. 1348.
Sim. Basset, de Sapcote, Cler. 3 Cal. Sept. 1349.
Will. de Barton, Cler. 15 Cal. Aug. 1361.
Rad. de Friseby, Pbr. 12 Cal. Sept. 1361.
Rog. de Tangleby, Pbr. 3 Sept. 1382.
Nich. Stokes, 5 Junii, 1389.
Rad. Bromley, Cler. 13 Sept. 1391.
Thomas Henster, Pbr. penult. Jan. 1391.
Ric. Penne, 16 Apr. 1397.

Thom. Dux Surr. Co. Cantii.

Joh. de Malverne, Pbr. 4 Jan. 1397.

Henr. Rex Angl. ratione minoris
aet. Ric. Comitis Warw.

Ric. Penne, Cap 1401.

Ric. de Bellocampo, Co. Warw.

Ludov. Beelte, 15 Maii 1421.

Joh. Verney, & alii, Ric. Comite Warw.
in part. transmar. existente

Joh. Arundell, 8 Apr. 1431.

Ric. de Bellocampo, Comes Warw.

Joh. Adams, Pbr. 2 Martii, 1433.
Thomas Hill, Cler. 12 Dec. 1436.

Henr. 7. Rex Angl.

Edw. Scot, Legus Dr. 24 Apr. 1499.
Magr. Joh. Taylour, Decret. Dr. 4 Feb. 1504.

Henr. 8. Rex Angl.

D. Georgius Henege, 15 Jan. 1516.
Joh. Burges, S. Theol. Bac. 27 Maii 1521.
Rad. Wendon, 29 Martii, 1527.

Thomas Gybbons, ar.

Joh. Fodon, Cler. 2 Nov. 1563.

Eliz. Angl. Regina

Petrus Sankeye, in Art. Magr. 28 Nov. 1583.

Eliz. Elyot, vidua.

Roger Elyot, Cler. 5 Oct. 1595.

Rob. Shilton, Gen.
[note 27]

Joh. Burges, in Art. Magr. Medicinae Dr. 14 Julii, 1617.

Monumental Inscriptions in the North Isle.

Hic jacet Agnes Filia junior Willielmi Harman domini de Morehall, nupta Willielmo Gibons, per quem habuit duos Filios, Johannem clericum et Thomam, et tres Filias seniore nuptam Thome Keene et tertiam nuptam Edwardo East; que Agnes mater obiit 5. die Februarii an. MDXX.

Orate pro animabus Johannis Leveson et Amicie uxoris sue, qui habuerunt exitum Willielmum Cancellarium ecclesie cathedralis Exon. et Eliz. nuptam Thome Yard armigero comitatus Devonie ac Annam nuptam Gergio Robinson Mercatori Londiniensi. **[note 28]**

The GRAMMAR-SCHOOL here, founded by the before-mentioned Bishop of Exeter, after this Sort.

First, Whereas the annuall Rent of vii£. formerly, by Virtue of a certain Feoffment, had been reserved to the Disposall of the same Bishop, either for the Maintenance of a Priest to celebrate Divine Service thrice every Week in the Parish Church of Sutton, or else of an honest Layman, sufficiently learned and skilfull to teach Grammar and Rhetorique within the said Town, was by him appointed to be allowed and payed for the Support of a fit Man to teach Grammar and Rhetorique as abovesaid; and that, together with his Scholars, should daylie say the Psalm of De Profundis for their Benefactors: And in Case such a meet Person should not be found, then to be employed in the providing of certain Lay-Artificers to teach their Trades within this Town of Sutton, there living well and honestly, or else to other pious Uses ordained and declared by the said Bishop. And whereas, for Performance thereof, he appointed, that whensoever it hapned that ix. of the xxi. Feoffees by him constituted, should be departed this Life, that then the xii. surviving ought, within one Month after, to enfeof other nine of the most substantiall Inhabitants, from Time to Time, for ever. **[note 29]**

And whereas by the said Feoffees not Performance of what was so ordained, and for certain other Causes, the said Settlement thereof became void in Law, he being in full Power to dispose otherwise of the same; out of his wonted pious Regard to the publick Benefit of the Common-Wealth, and this his native Countrey, made a Feoffment of divers Lands lying within the Precincts of this Parish, unto the Warden and Fellowship of Sutton, bearing Date the first Day of October in 35 H.8. to the Intent that the said Warden and Fellowship, and their Successors, with the Profits thence arising, should find a certain learned Layman, fit and skilfull to teach Grammar and Rhetorique within the same Parish; who, together with his Scholars, ought daily to say the Psalm of De Profundis for the Souls of their Benefactors; and if such Person could not be found, then to provide certaine skilfull Artificers to teach their Trades as abovesaid, or to distribute the Rents and Profits of those Lands for the Discharge of Tallage, Taxes, or other Impositions made by the King's Authoritie upon the poor People of the Parish; or else to be employed for the Marriage of poor Maidens, or Orphans, or to some other charitable secular Use, within this Lordship of Sutton. **[note 30]**

Whereupon the said Warden and Fellowship, by their publick Instrument, dated 6 Apr. the Year ensuing, constituted one John Savage School-Master there for Life; granting him an Annuitie of x£. per An. issuing out of those Lands: And on the first of October in 38 H.8. conferred the same again upon Laurence Noel in like Sort; the Memory of whom is still famous for his singular Learning, as Master Cambden observes, *Vir rara doctrina insignis (saith he) & qui Saxoniam Majorum nostrorum linguam desuetudine intermortuam, & obvione sepultam, primus nostra aetate resucitavit.* But though he was a Man so eminent in that Kind, it seems that his Dexterie and Diligence in teaching Scholars fell far short of what they expected; for it appears that soon after his setling here, the Corporation took great Exceptions at him for the Neglect of his School, and exhibited Articles against him in the Chancery: Whereupon, after the Sitting of a Commission, and sundry Depositions taken, he procured Letters from the Councill-Table, admonishing them that they should not go about his Removall, except any notable Crime could be proved against him; so that in Conclusion, finding such slender Esteem amongst them, he accepted of his Arrears, and a Gratuitie of ten Pounds, whereof the said Bishop of Exeter gave five Marks, and in 1 Edw.6. resigned; so that his Stay in this Place was not much more than a Year. **[note 31]**

But how long these Trustees continued so zealous for the Good of the School, and faithfull in disposing the Profits of the Lands before-specified, to the designed Uses, I cannot affirm: Perhaps whilst the Bishop lived, which was till towards the End of Queen Maries Reign. Sure I am, that to such

an Height of Covetousness they did in Time grow, that to prevent the School-Masters from enjoying what was justly due unto them, they contrived to elect them of their Societie, (I mean of the Corporation) before they could be acquainted with their Right; so that having made Leases of their Lands to their Children or Friends, for small Rents reserved, it should not be in the School-Master's Power, being so bound up, as one of that Body Politique, to question the same. Thus was the pious Intent of the well-meaning Founder abused, till that within these few Years, the Fraud being discovered, some Remedie was had by a Chancerie Decree, at the Prosecution of John Michael, the then School-Master, that famous Man the Lord Coventre being Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. **[note 32]**

HILL, and LITTLE SUTTON.

These two pretty Hamlets I now joyn together, because I find that a good Part of them antiently belong'd to the little Priorie of Canwell, situate on the Borders of this Countie, but within Staffordshire. Which Lands, as Part of Sutton, were first given thereto by one of the antient Earls of Warwick, as I guess; for it appears that Waleran, Earl of Warwick, made a Confirmation to the Monks of that House of three Yard Land lying in Hulle, (which is this Hill) given to them by Earl Roger his Father. To which Monasterie they continued till the Dissolution thereof in 17 H.8. but then, by the Name of the Mannours of Hull and Little-Sutton, they were granted, together with the Site of that Religious House, and other its Possessions, by the King's Letters Pat. dated 20 Jan. the same Year, unto Cardinall Wolsey, who soon after conferr'd them on the Dean and Canons of his Colledge, then called Cardinall-Colledg, in Oxford. **[note 33]**

MANEY, and WARMLEY.

These Hamlets are Parcell of the Lordship of Sutton, and therefore not to be farther spoke of.

WIGGINSHILL.

This being possest by Turchill de Warwick in the Conqueror's Time, was by the Generall Survey certified to contain 3 Yard Land, having Woods of two Furlongs in Length, and as much in Breadth, one Bruning being then his Tenant thereto, whose Freehold it had been before the Norman Invasion; but in that Record it is written Winchicelle, and valued at vs. With the rest of Turchill's Lands it came to the Earls of Warwick, as is evident by the Certificate of their Fees in 20 H.3. at which Time one Will. Bonchivalier enjoy'd it: But afterwards, sc. in 36 H.3. Raph de Wylinton held it, together with Chiriton, of the same Earls, by the Service of a Knight's Fee. To whom succeeded John de Wylinton in 9 E.2. who held it single for the fourth Part of a Knight's Fee, and there it is written Wyginghull. **[note 34]**

The next Possessor thereof that I find was Will. de Lucy, who in 20 E.3. held it by the same fourth Part of a Knight's Fee of John de Hull, and he of the before-specified John de Wylinton, and he of the Earl. But by a Court Roll of 35 E.3. Baldw. de Bereford (Owner of Langley hard by) is said to be Lord of it, whose Ancestor Osbert de Bereford had Lands here in E.1. Time: And in 10 H.6. John Hore, of Wishaw, Esq; (Descendant of the same Baldwin) yet not by the Name of a Mannour, but three Messuages, and that he held them by the fourth Part of a Kts. Fee. Which Messuages were in Q. Eliz. Time sold to Thomas Gibbons (then of New-Hall) by Rob. Pudsey, Esq; (Heir to the same T. Hore, as in Langley appeareth) reserving the antient Rent, viz. xlviis.iid.ob. per An. to himself and his Heirs. **[note 35]**

There was antiently a Suit betwixt the Abbot of Leicester, as Rector of the Church of Curdworth, and the Parson of Sutton, for certain Tithes arising out of nine Yard Land lying in this Hamlet, whereof six were of the Earl of Warwick's Fee, and the other three of the Fee of Thomas de Arden, and pertaining to the Church of Curdworth. And because it was a hard Matter to distinguish betwixt these Fees, at length, by Authority from the Pope, certain Judges were appointed to determine the Businesse, who

decreed, that two Parts of the Tithe Corn of the said nine Yard Land should be paid to the Church of Sutton, and the third to Curdworth: And also, that the Inhabitants upon the same six Yard Land of the Earl's Fee should repair to the Mother Church of Sutton on the Feast Days of the Assumption of our Lady and Easter, and there communicate; and that the Priest of Sutton should shrive them in Lent, and on their Death Beds: And moreover, that at Sutton they should bring their Dead, and pay to that Church all their small Tithes throughout the Year. But, because of their great Distance from the said Mother Church, they could not without much Inconvenience go thither, that they should pay all their Oblations and Obventions to the Priest ministering at Curdworth, from whom they might receive Spiritual Comfort as Occasion should require: As also, that the Priest of Sutton should yearly pay to the Church of Curdworth *iiiiid.* to buy Frank-Incense: And lastly, that the Inhabitants upon the other three Yard Land of Arden's Fee should be answerable to the Mother Church of Curdworth for all Obventions and Oblations. **[note 36]**

LANGLEY.

That this was originally a Member of Sutton (in which Parish it lyes) I incline to believe; for in 37 H.3. which is the first Mention that I ever saw of it, Walter de Bereford did (*inter alia*) grant to Walter his Son L. Acres of Land lying in Lonkeleye, Blackmore, and Brockhurst; all of which are said to be within the Territory of Sutton: So that hence I conclude, that the same Walter, or his Ancestors, first had it from one of the antient Earls of Warwick; adding thereto, that by a Multitude of Inquisitions it appeareth to have been of their Fee. But all the farther Mention that I find of this Walter is in the Shiriff's Accompt of 23 H.3. and that in 36 H.3. he [he] brought an Assize of Novell Disseisin against Nich. L'Isle, for certain Common of Pasture in Moxhull. To whom succeeded Walter, his Son and Heir, and to him Osbert de Bereford, who in 2 E.1. was constituted Shiriff of this Countie and Leicestershire; as also the next Year ensuing a Commissioner for levying a Fifteenth; and in 8 E.1. Shiriff again of these Counties; and to him William his Brother; for he and his Descendants went away with this Langley, and certain Lands in Wishaw, Sutton, Curdworth, Minworth, Midleton, and Wigginshill in this Countie; as also Stapleford in Leicestershire. **[note 37]**

Which Will. was in 16 E.1. a Kt. and being learned in the Laws, in 2 E.2. had the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas conferred upon him. But about three Years after such his Advancement to that eminent Place, there was an high Complaint made against him to the King, by John de Someri, (a great Baron in these Parts) for Words of Defamation, viz. that he did so domineere in Staffordshire, that no Man could enjoy the benefit of Law or Reason, taking upon him more Authoritie than a King; as also that it was no abiding for any thereabouts, unlesse they did bribe him in contributing largely towards the building of his Castle (at Dudley). And moreover, that the said John did use to beset Mens Houses in that Countrey, threatening to murder them, except they gave him what he would demand. Whereupon the King issued a Commission to Alan la Zouche, and Will. Trussell, to enquire thereof; and in Case the Words were proved, then to find out whether the before-specified John were really guilty of those Misdemeanours, and to certifie the Truth therein. **[note 38]**

How he answered this Businesse appears not; but in 8 E.2. I find that he was one of the Justices of Assize in this County; so likewise in 13 E.2. As also a Benefactor to the Canons of Kenilworth, by granting to them Lx. Acres of Land, and two Acres of Meadow, lying in Radford-Simelie; and that he departed this World in 20 E.2. leaving Edmund, his Son and Heir, 28 Years of Age; who did his Homage the same Year, and had Livery of his Lands. Which Edmund in 1 E.3. obtained License from the King to fortifie his Mannour-House here at Langley with a Wall of Lime and Stone, and to embattle it. In that Record the K. calls him *dilectus Clericus noster*; yet was he then a Knight; for in a Release, bearing Date at Chaucumbe the same Year, whereby Henry de Bereford, Parson of the Church of Corson, gave up unto him all his Right in this Mannour, as also in Wishaw he is so stiled; the Sealing whereof was somewhat observable. In *cujus rei testimonium* (saith the Parson) *Sigillum meum apposui; Et quia*

Sigillum meum plurimis est incognita, Sigillum Rogeri Hillari nepotis mei apponi procuravi: Whereunto were Witnesses Sir Gilbert de Elsefield, Sir Sim. de Bereford, Sir Miles de Beauchamp, Sir James de Audley, and Sir John de Broughton, Kts. Rog. Hillari, John Dimock, and others. Which Instance, as it shews of what Regard Seals were antiently, so doth it give me an Opportunitie to say something as to the original Use of them in this Realm, and of the great Esteem wherein they have continued ever since. **[note 39]**

[A lengthy discourse on the subject of seals, having no relevance to Langley, is here omitted.]

And so returning to Sir Edmund de Bereford, I find that in 9 E.3. his Seal of Armes was Crusule Fiche, and three Flowre de Lices, the Colour Sable, and the Field Arg. which Coat hath a good Affinity with Hillaries before-mentioned; that differing from this in nothing but a Border, as the Seal also sheweth. In 25 E.3. this Sir Edmund having by his Testament, made at Brightwell in Oxfordshire, bequeathed his Body to Sepulture in the Priory of Chaucumbe, betwixt the Steps and the Altar, in the Midst of the Floor, if with Conveniency it might be: And to his poor Tenants of Chaulgrave in Oxfordshire, Shotswell, Derset, Wishaw, Wiginhill, Maney, Sutton, Bikemershe, and Thorpe, all in this County, given liberall Legacies, died in 28 E.3. leaving John, his Son, possest of most of his Lands, by Vertue of a special Entail in 22 E.3. for it seems he was illegitimate. **[note 40]**

Which John wedded Alianore, Daughter to Ric. Earl of Arundell, and after that another Wife; but dying in Gascoin 30 E.3. left Baldwin, his Brother and Heir, xxiii. Years of Age. This Baldwin was a Knight in 36 E.3. and in 1 R.2. constituted by Thomas de Holland, (Half Brother to the K.) Chief Guardian of all the Forests on this Side Trent, his Lievtenant in that Office. In 4 R.2. he had Free-Warren granted to him in all his Demesn Lands and Woods of Brightwell, Chalgrave, Newnham, and Rufford, in Com. Oxon. Stene and Fernyngho in Com. Northampt. Bykmarsh, Shotswell, and Wyshaw, in this County, with Sutton and Meysham in Derbyshire: And in the same Year was made Keeper of the King's Park at Eltham for Life, with a Fee of iiii. per Diem, to be received out of the Rents of the Mannour. He was a special Favourite and a powerfull Man with K. Ric.2. for besides the Discharge of an C£. due by him for the Wardship and Marriage of John, the Son and Heir of John de Odingsells, he is noted to be one of those who had the Character of an evill Counciller, given him by that tumultuous Parliament held in 11 R.2. and thereupon, with the Lord Zouch, and divers other great Men, expelled the Court. **[note 41]**

But the Affection born towards him by the King was not without great Cause I presume; for he had been Servant to his Father the Black Prince, retained by Covenant for Life as well in Peace as Warr, having an Annuity of xl£. per An. granted unto him out of the Lordship of Coventre, which the said King not only confirmed after his Father's Decease, whilst he was Prince of Wales, but again in the first Year of his Reign.

This Sir Baldwin had a Bear for his Crest, in Regard it alluded so near to his Name (a Course very frequent in those Times): And having no Issue, he settled a great Part of his Estate, by Fine upon John Hore, and Joane his Wife; which Joane was Grandchild by a Co-heir to Will. de Ellesfield, and he Grandchild of Gilb. de Ellesfield, by Joane, eldest Sister to Sir Edmund de Bereford before-spoken of, as the Descent doth shew. This John being of Childerley in Cambridgshire, and likewise Gilbert his Son, resided wholly there: After which, ere long, viz. about the Beginning of H.7. Time, their Male Line extinguished, and this Lordship, with other Lands, came to the Pudseys; for Edith, Cosyn and Heir to the last Gilbert Hore, residing at her Mannour of Ellesfield, near Oxford, having a special Liking to Rowland Pudsey, a younger Son to Henry Pudsey, of Barford and Bolton in Yorkshire, then a Student in that University, and a Gentleman much accomplish, took him for her Husband, the Posterity of which Rowland and Edith have ever since enjoy'd it. **[note 42]**

NEW-HALL.

This, being a Member of Sutton, was about the Beginning of E.3. Time possest by one Will. de Sutton of Warwick; which Will. or his Predecessors, had it (doubtlesse) from one of the Earls of Warwick, and granted it to one Rob. de Sutton, a Merchant of Coventre, who past it in 13 E.3. unto Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and Sir John Lizours, of Fledborough in Com. Nott. Knight, to the Behoof of the said John and his Heirs, as it seems; for the next Year following the said Earl released all his Right therein accordingly; in which Release it is termed one Messuage, called New-Hall. After this till 15 H.6. I have seen no more of it; but then did the Homage in a Court-Baron held at Sutton, present that Sir Ric. Stanhope, Kt. died seized thereof, by the Name of the Mannour of New-Hall, held of the Earl of Warw. by the Service of xs.xd. per An. a Heriot being then seized by the Bayliff. Whereupon James Stanhope, Son and Heir to Sir Richard, exhibited a Deed, whereby it appeared that his Father had in his Life Time enfeofte Sir Thomas Aston, Knight, Nich. Goushall, Esquier, and others, in the Mannour, and other Lands, as well in this County as elsewhere, and therefore required a Discharge from the Heriot. But all that I have further seen thereof is, that Katherine, the Widow of Will. Basset, of Fledborough before-mentioned, demised it in 20 H.6. unto Will. Deping of Sutton, and Ric. Ley of Maney, for 21 Years, by the Name of Dominium Vocatum New-Hall. **[note 43]**

PEDIMORE.

Here is now no more remaining of an antient Mannour Place that the Ardens had, than a large double Moat; for after they settled in these Parts, having another House on the South Side of Tame, called Park-Hall, (whereof I have already spoke) they resided for the most Part there, and let this goe to Ruine. I do not conceive this to have been the Inheritance of that antient Family so long as Curdworth and Minworth, (whereof I am next to discourse) but am of Opinion, that they had it from one of the Earls of Warwick after Sutton (within the Territories whereof it lies) came to their Hands: Howbeit, till 9 E.1. I have not seen any Mention of it at all, no not so much as the Name; but then it was stiled the Mannour of Pedimore, and passed by Thomas de Arden, of Rotley, unto Hugh de Vienna, together with all his Lands in Curdworth, Minworth, Moxhull, &c. Which Grant was no other than a Trust, I suppose; for very soon after did the same Thomas convey the Inheritance of it to Thomas de Arden of Hanwell, and Rose his Wife, together with all his said Lands in Crudeworth, Moxhull, Minneworth, Echenours, and Overton, as by his Deed, whereunto Sir Richard de Mundevill, Will. de Odingselle, John de Clinton, Thomas de Hasele, and Ric. de Whitacre, Kts. Hugh de Bereford, Anketyl de L'Isle, and others, were Witnesses, appeareth. **[note 44]**

Who being thus in Possession of it, began to exercise the like Liberty here as he did in his other Lands, not considering that it was within the Compasse of Sutton Chase, where the Earl of Warwick had so much Priviledge relating both to Vert and Venison, as already hath been said; so that the Earl having begun Suit against him, he was glad to seek his Favour, and submit to a peaceable Agreement; by which it appears that the said Earl (sc. Will. de Beauchamp) condescended to grant unto them the said Thomas and Roesse, and the Heirs of Thomas, Liberty to fish in that little Stream called Ebroke, at his coming to Pedimore, and during his Stay there, so far as his Lands lay adjacent thereto: As also that they might have Liberty to agist Hoggs within their Woods of Curdworth and Pedimore, take Benefit of Paunage, and beat down Acorns for their Swine; and likewise gather such Nutts as should be there growing. And moreover, to cut down Wood for their Fewell and Hedges, without any Assignment of the said Earl's Forester; and to make Sale of twenty Pounds Worth thereof, so that it were by the Oversight of the said Forester, to the End that the Chase might have least Prejudice thereby: As also Timber to repair the Buildings within his said Mannour of Curdworth and Pedimore, by the like Oversight of the Forester upon Warning, or at least one of the Earl's Bailiffs at Sutton, or in those Woods, in the Presence of two Neighbours. **[note 45]**

And if upon such Warning given, the Forester should absent himself, that then the said Thomas, and his Heirs, might by the View of two Neighbours enter those Woods, and cut down and carry away so much as should be necessary: but after the Death of the said Thomas and Rose, neither his Heirs nor assigns to take Estovers for their Fewell and Hedges, nor Timber, but by Assignment of the said Earl's Foresters. And that their Woodward should be sworn to the said Earl and his Heirs, as touching his Venison, carrying only a Hatchet, (or Forest-Bill) without Bow and Arrows. And further, the said Earl did likewise grant for himself and his Heirs, that the same Thomas and Rose, and the Heirs and Assignes of Thomas, should have Liberty to make Improvement of their Wast within the said Mannours, according to the Sutton Measure, to the Extent of xx Acres only, and to inclose them according to the Custome of the Chase, so that Does with their Fawns might leap over the Hedges: and that they might reduce the same Land to Tillage as they should think fit in several Places, to the least Damage of the Chase, and most Advantage of the said Thomas, his Heirs and Assignes; saving to the Commoners their Common of Pasture when the Corn is off. And lastly, that the said Thomas and Rose, as also the Heirs and Assignes of Thomas, might peaceably hold in and enjoy four Acres and an Half of the said Wast, whereof they had received the Crop before the Date hereof; which was at Minworth the Sunday next after the Feast of the Blessed Virgins Nativity in 16 Edw.1. **[note 46]**

In the Mannour-House was antiently a Chapell; for I find that Sir John de Arden, Knight, in 34 E.3. had License from Rob. de Stretton, then Bishop of this Dioces, to have a Priest for Celebration of Divine Service therein: But now all is levell with the Earth, the Site thereof, with the Lands thereto belonging, continuing to the Posterity of the said Sir John (of whom in Curdworth I am to speak) till this Day. **[note 47]**

CURDWORTH.

This, lying on the North-West Side of Tame, and including Minworth, Berwode, and Dunton in its Parish, was in the Conqueror's Days possest by Turchill de Warwick, and by the general Survey, then taken, certified to contain 4 Hides; the Woods being Half a Mile in Length, with as much in Breadth, and all valued at Ls. In that Record it is written Credeworde, which makes me guess that the Name originally arose from some antient Owner of it in the Saxons Time, perhaps Crida, for that was then a frequent Appellation: But before the Norman Invasion one Ulvinus had it. **[note 48]**

In this Place I have made Choise to speak historically of that most antient and worthy Family, whose Sirname was first assumed from their Residence in the Part of the County, then and yet called Arden, by Reason of its Woodinesse; the old Britains and Gauls using the Word in that Sense, as Master Cambden hath observed: Not for that the same Turchill, or his Descendants lived here; for their principall Seats were in other Places, viz. Kingsbury and Hampton in Arden, on this Side the Shire; as also Rotley and Rodburne on the other, whilst some Male Branches lasted; but because this is the chief Place which continued longest in the Family, even till of late Time, (as I shall shew anon) and was near to that, Park-Hall, where for the latest Part of these last 300 Years they have had their Residence. **[note 49]**

Having therefore spoken so fully of the before-mentioned Turchill in Warwick, I shall now passe him by, with this only Observation, that he was one of the first here in England, that in imitation of the Normans, assumed a Sirname; for so it appears that he did, and wrote himself Turchillus de Eardene, in the Days of K. Will. Rufus. This Turchill left Issue Siward, his eldest Son, (by the first Wife) as also Peter, a Monk in the Abbey of Thorney; and I think Raph, of whom and his Descendants I shall speak in Hampton in Arden: And by a second Wife Osbert, as in Kingsbury shall be further shewed. **[note 50]**

Which Siward was not permitted to enjoy any large Proportion of his Father's Lands; the Earl of Warwick having the greatest Part assigned unto him by K. Will. Rufus, about the Beginning of his Reign, in Comitatus supplimentum (for Augmentation of his Earldome); but what he had Leave to retain, was by him and his Posterity held by Military Service of those Earls. Some say that he became Sewer to

Henry de Newburgh, the first Earl of the Norman Race; but all that I have seen further memorable of him is, that he was a Witnesse to some principall Grants made by Geffrey de Clinton, Founder of Kenilworth Priory in H.1. Time, upon his Endowment thereof; and to certain Confirmations of Roger, Earl of Warwick, and others: As also a special Benefactor to the Monks of Thorney in Cambridgshire, by bestowing on them his Mill at Riton, and certain Lands in Fleckenho, within this County; and that he left Issue Hugh and Henry. Which Hugh, being a very pious and devout Man, gave a large Proportion of Lands out of his Mannour of Rotley, unto the Monks of Stoneley: Confirm'd to the Canons of Kenilworth the Grant of Pakinton, (which was of his Fee, and given to them by Geffrey de Clinton). Gave to the Canons of Leicester his Mannour of Berwood, with an Hermitage there; as also one Messuage, one Mill, two Caracutes of Land, Lx. Acres of Meadow, Lx. Acres of Pasture, CCC. Acres of Wood, and xs. Rent in this Curdworth, with the Advouson of the Church: And confirm'd to the Monks of Canwell that Grant made by Cecilie his Sister, of one Yard Land lying also in this Lordship, with the Meadow adjoining thereto: But it doth not appear that he left any Issue, for Henry his Brother succeeded him in the Estate. **[note 51]**

Which Henry in 12 H.2. was certified to hold 5 Knights Fees of Will. then Earl of Warwick, as his Brother Hugh did other five and a third Part; and gave to the Canons of Kenilworth a Meadow in Bathkinton. He likewise confirmed to them the Mannour of Pakinton, and Part of Newton: As also to the Monks of Combe what they had in Bilney: and to the Monks of Pipwell, Causton; all which were of his Fee; and ratified his Father's Grant to the Abbey of Thorney, adding thereunto somewhat more in Riton of his own Bounty. To this Henry succeeded Thomas, as Son and Heir, who gave likewise to the Canons of Leicester certain Parcells of Land and Woods in Berwood; and confirmed to the Monks of Stoneley what they had in Rotley of his Uncle's Gift, making some Enlargement thereof: So likewise to the Monks of Thorney of what his Father and Grandfather had bestowed on them; and moreover gave them all Salbrigge in this County. This Thomas was one of those who met at the Tournement at Blithe in Nottinghamshire, contrary to the King's Prohibition, for which his Lands were seized on: But in 7 H.3. he had Restitution of them again: And having wedded Eustachia, the Widow of Savaricus de Malaleone, a Poictovin, (one of those Courtiers that much guided the K. and against whom the English Nobility took such high Exception) departed this Life before 17 H.3. For in that Year Avicia de Arden (Wife to Will. de Arden, of Rodburne) having made a great Complaint to the King, that whereas her said Husband was gone on Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and not returned; and yet there being no Certainty at all of his Death, the before-specified Eustachia had not only seized upon those Lands which the said Avicia had by her Husband's Assignation to maintain herself in his Absence, but taken away her Son and Heir: Whereupon the King issued out his Precept to the Shiriff of this County, requiring him to put her in Possession again, and restore her Son. **[note 52]**

Which last mentioned Thomas had Issue Thomas, who ratified his Father's Concessions to the Abby of Thorney: And in 35 H.3. was a Kt. In 48 H.3. this Thomas had Summons, together with many others of the most eminent Men in England, to appear at Oxford in Mid-Lent, there to advise with the King, and attend him in an Expedition designed against Lewellin ap Griffith, (Prince of Wales) and his Complices, then in Rebellion: But what good Affection he bore to the King, may be seen by his After-Actions, for he presently took Part with the rebellious Barons, and the next Year following participated of their Fate, being taken Prisoner in the Battell of Evesham. **[note 53]**

Which unhappy Enterprize, notwithstanding the Diction de Kenilworth had made him capable of redeeming his Lands by a tolerable Fine, was (as I guesse) the Ruin of him: For I find that in 9.E.1. he past away all his Lands here in Curdworth, and divers other Places, unto Hugh de Vienna: That in 14 of that King's Reign he quitted to the Kts. Hospitalars the total Interest that he had in Riton super Dunsmore: In 15 sold the Mannour of Rotley, with the Advouson of the Church, unto Nic. de Eton: And about that Time likewise granted unto Thomas de Arden, of Hanwell, and Rose his Wife, the Inheritance of the Mannour of Pedimore, and of all his Lands lying here in Curdworth: As also in

Moxhull, Minworth, Echenours, and Overton: And to shut himself out of all, made a Conveyance unto Will. de Beauchamp, then Earl of Warwick, and Maud his Wife, and the Heirs of the same Earl, of all the Fees throughout England that were held by him. The Armes he bore were Chequi Or and Azure a Cheveron Gules, which his Ancestors assumed, as it seems, in Regard that they held their Lands of the Earls of Warwick, whose Cheveron was Ermine in the like Field; but whether he left any Issue I make a Question. **[note 54]**

I now come to Thomas de Arden of Hanwell, unto whom this Lordship, with other Lands, were past by the last mentioned Sir Thomas, whose Seat was at Rotley. This Thomas was in that Welch Expedition of 5 E.1. but little else have I seen of him that is very memorable, other than the Agreement betwixt the Earl of Warwick and him, whereof I have spoken in Pedimore, and the bearing of his Armes, viz. Ermine a Fesse Chequie, as appeareth by his Seal; as also that he married Rose, Daughter unto Raph de Venum, by whom (I think) he had the said Lordship of Hanwell; and left Issue one only Daughter, called Joan, wedded to Sir John Swinford, Knight. To whom succeeded Robert his Brother, who living at Wykham, near Banbury, became Governour of Banbury Castle: In 15 E.2. and in 16 E.2. was in the Scotch Expedition. This Robert was in 3 E.3. a Knight: After which, viz. the next ensuing Year, he obtained License of the King to fortifie his Mannour-House at Wykam, with an embattelled Wall of Lime and Stone; and in 5 E.3. departed this Life, seized of a very fair Estate, scil. the Mannours of Draiton, Hanwell, Horale, Horynton, Dunstuwe, Yolughburg, Wykham, and Swalweclyve in Oxfordshire: Wapenham, and Sudburgh in Northamptonshire; with Perching, Adburton, Fulking, Lawike, Hangelton, and Note-Knolle in Com.Suss. Whose Grandson Giles, being the last Male of this Branch, left an only Daughter, called Margaret, married to Lodowik Grevill, Esq; from whom the Grevills of this County did descend. **[note 55]**

But the next Possessor of this Mannour, of whom I have seen any Mention, was Raph the Son of Raph, a younger Son to Sir Thomas Arden, of Hanwell. This Raph was in 17 E.2. certified to be one of the principal Esquires in this County, and by Isabell his Wife, Daughter unto Anselme de Bromwich, left Issue John and Henry. Which John bore for his Armes Ermine a Fesse Chequie: And in 33 E.3. being a Knight, as also a powerfull Man in this County (as my Author saith) impleaded the Abbot of Leicester for the Mannour of Berwode, with the Advouson of this Church of Curdworth, given to the Canons of that House by his Ancestors many Ages before: Whereupon the Abbot fearing Partiality in hearing the Cause, for it was to be tried at Warwick, procured the King's Letter to the Judges of this Circuit, viz. Sir John de Moubray, and Thomas de Hingylby, requiring them that he might have equal Right; by Means whereof the Verdict past for the Abbot. This Sir John de Arden resided at his Mannour of Pedimore, as it seems by a License to have Divine Service celebrated in his Oratory there; but left no other than Heirs Female; whereof Rose was married unto one Thomas Pakeson, and the rest dyed issueless: Which Pakeson was outlawed for Felony in 43 E.3. and dyed in 2 R.2. leaving John his Son 7 Years of Age. **[note 56]**

To this Sir John succeeded, as Heir Male, his Brother Henry, who was the first of this Family that seated himself at Park-Hall, as I think; for before his Time I have not seen any Mention of it: But, then scil. in 47 E.3. did Sir John de Botetourt, Lord of Weolegh Castle, (in Worcestershire) not only confirm the same to him, with the Appurtenances lying in Castle-Bromwich, but released all the Services by which he held the same, reserving only a Red Rose to be yearly paid to himself and his Heirs, on the Feas-Day of the Nativity of St. John Bapt. for all Services and Demands whatsoever. After which, viz. in 48 E.3. this Henry became first a Commissioner for Conservation of the Peace in this Shire, and the next Year following a Knight: And having a special Relation to Thomas de Beauchamp, then Earl of Warwick, obtained from him in 1 R.2. in Consideration of his good and acceptable Service, done and to be done, a Grant of the Mannours of Crombe-Adam, and Grafton-Flenorth in Worcestershire, to hold for Life, paying only a Red Rose at the Feast of the Nativity of S. John Bapt. for all Services. **[note 57]**

The same Year he served in the Parl. held at Westminster, as one of the Knights for this Shire; so likewise in the Parl. of 3 R.2. And in 4 R.2. had a Release from Rose, the Daughter and Heir of Sir John de Arden before-specified, of all her Interest to the Mannour of Pedimore, and the Lands in Curdworth, Minworth, Sutton, and Moxhull, of her Fathers Inheritance. In 5 R.2. he was joined in Commission with the Earl of Warwick, and some few other Persons of the superior Rank, to suppress the Rebels then in Armes within this County, that being the Time as Jack Straw and the Plebeian Rout were risen in other Places; and left Issue Raph, who was one of the Retinue to the before-specified Earl of Warwick; and in 7 H.4. assigned to Elene, late the Wife of the same Sir Henry, the Mannours of Wapenham and Sulgrave in Northamptonshire, to hold during her Life; but afterwards that of Wapenham to remain unto Geoffrey his Brother, and to the Heirs Male of his Body, and Sulgrave to Will. his Brother, for Life only. And having served the said Earl as one of his Esquiers at the Seige of Calais, with one Lance, and two Archers, taking for the same Lance and one Archer xx£. per An. and their Diet, and for the other x. Marks without Diet; was a Knight before he dyed, which fell out in 8 H.5. whereupon Joan Beauchamp, Lady of Bergavenny, had the Custody of Robert, his Son and Heir, then but 8 Years of Age. **[note 58]**

Which Robert, in 12 H.6. was one of the chief Gentlemen of this County, who being constituted by Commission, did make Oath for the Observation of divers Articles determined and concluded on in the Parl. then held: And in 16 H.6. executed the Office of Shirriff for this County and Leicestershire. After which, viz. in 21 H.6. being designed to go along with Henry Percie, Governour of Barwick, and General of the East Marches towards Scotland, he had for that Purpose the King's speciall Letters of Protection to endure for one whole Year. But it seems he withdrew himself from the Service, and stayed in Westminster; whereof the King was informed, and revoked his said Protection. In 29 H.6. he served as one of the Knights for this Shire in the Parl. then held at Westminster. After this he sided with the Yorkists in those Quarrells whereof our Historians make ample Mention, and attempted the raising Forces in Shropshire; but being laid hold on before their Successe at S. Albans had made them so powerfull, he was attainted of High Treason by James, Earl of Wiltshire, Richard Bingham, and John Portington, Judges appointed to try him and others of that Party, and lost his Life for the same Offence on Saturday next after the Feast of S. Lawrence the Martyr, 30 H.6. the Custody of his Lands being committed to Thomas Littleton, Sergeant at Law, Thomas Greswold, and John Gamell, Esquires. **Note 59]**

To whom succeeded Walter, his Son and Heir, by Eliz. Daughter and Heir to Ric. Clodshale: Which Walter, having within two Years after his Father's Death obtained the King's Precept to his Eschaetor for render of those Lands in this County of his Mother's Inheritance, and likewise of some other, became ere long possesse of the Residue, and wedded Elianore the Daughter of John Hampden, of Hampden in Buckinghamshire. But little else have I seen of him that is memorable, other than that by his Testament, bearing Date ult. Junii, An. 1502, (17 H.7.) he bequeathed his Body to be buried in the Church of S. Peter and Paul at Aston, juxta Bermingham; and to the Vicar of Aston, for his Mortuary and his Tithes forgotten, his best Oxe: Appointing likewise thereby, that at his Burial xii£. of Wax should be spent in Lights, and six Torchcs born by six poor Men, each having a black Gown for that Service; as also a Trentall of Masses sung for his Soul, and for the Souls of his Father and Mother, and all Christen Souls; constituting Elianore his Wife Executrix, and Edw. Belknap, John Bracebrigge, with John Boteler of Solihull, Overseers thereof. **[note 60]**

This Walter left Issue John Arden, his Son and Heir, one of the Esquires of the Body to K.H.7. Which John wedded Alice, Daughter to Ric. Bracebrigge, of Kingsbury, Esq; but concerning this Marriage there arose no small Difference betwixt the Parents on each Side; Walter Arden (the Father) alledging that the said Richard and his Servants had stolen away his Son: Howbeit, at length by a Reference to Sir Sim. Mountford, of Colshill, Kt. and Sir Ric. Bingham (the Judge, who then lived at Middleton) it was determined, that the Marriage should be somemnized betwixt them in February, 13 E.4. and in

Consideration of CC. Marks Portion, a convenient Jointure settled; As also, that for the Trespasse done by the same Richard Bracebriggs, in so taking away the young Gentleman, he should give to the before-specified Walter Arden the best Horse that could by him be chosen in Kingsbury Park. **[note 61]**

Which John Arden bequeathed his Body to be buried in Aston Church before-mentioned, before the glorious Image of our Blessed Lady of Pitie; in whose Testament (bearing Date 4 Junii, 17 H.8.) there being some Things very memorable, I shall here recite them. – Item I bequeethe for my Mortuary or Cors presente a black Gelding amling, that Almighty God may the rather take my soul unto his mercy and grace. Item I bequeethe to the high Auter of Aston aforesaid, for Tithes and Offerings negligently forgotten, iiis.iiiiid. &c. Item I bequeethe my white Harneis complete to the Church of Aston, for a George to wear it, and to stand on my Pewe a place made for it: provided always, that if the said George be not made within a Year after my decease, that then I will that mine Executors do sell it, and hire a Priest to sing in the Chapell of Orton so long as the money will extend. Item, I will at the day of my burial, that xii. pore women of my Tenants shall have each of them a black Gown, with a Hood, a pair of Bedes, Four-pence, and a Dinner, to bear each of them a Torch about my Herse. Item, I will have burning about my Herse xxiiii. Tapers, and each Taper of half a pound of Wax. Item, I will every Months Day, during the year, be sung a solemne Dirige, and on the morrow Masse of Requiem, for my soule and all Christen soules by Note; and at every Dirige and Masse to be bestowed iiis.iiiiid. amongst Priests, and Clerkes, Ringing, and Lights. Item, I will that a Priest sing at Orton two whole Trentalls of St. Gregorie, with the Diriges belonging, that is for two years, and to have v£. a year &c. Item, my best Gown of black Damask to my parish Church of Aston, to make a Cope withal. **[note 62]**

But here, before I proceed further with my historicall Discourse of this Family, taking Notice of the Mortuaries given by this John Arden, and his Father, it will not be amiss to say somewhat, not onely touching the Antiquitie, but the Reason and originall Occasion of such Bequests; as also how in Times past they were usually paid.

[A lengthy account of mortuaries from Anglo-Saxon times to the reign of King Henry VIII is here omitted as having little relevance to the history of Curdworth.]

And so, having herein digrest enough, by the Help of that learned Gentleman, Master Thomas Barlow, of Qu. Coll. Oxon. my singular Friend, from whom I acknowledge that Divers of the Materials, whereof I have made Use, were imparted to me; I return. **[note 63]**

To this John Arden, who died Junii, 17 H.8. succeeded Thomas, and to him Edward, (Son and Heir to William that died in his Fathers Life Time) in Ward to Sir George Throgmorton, Knight, in 38 H.8. whose Daughter he afterwards married. Which Edward, though a Gentleman not inferior to the rest of his Ancestors in those Virtues wherewith they were adorned, had the hard Hap to come to an untimely Death in 27 Eliz. the Charge against him being no less than High Treason against the Queen, as privie to some foul Intentions that Master Somerville, his Son-in-Law, (a Roman Catholick) had towards her Person: For which he was prosecuted with so great Rigour and Violence by the Earl of Leicester's Means, whom he had irritated in some Particulars, (as I have credibly heard) partly in disdaining to wear his Livery, which many in this Countie of his Rank thought in those Days no small Honour to them; but chiefly for galling him by certain harsh Expressions, touching his private Accesses to the Countess of Essex, before she was his Wife: That through the Testimonie of one Hall, a Priest, he was found guiltie of the Fact, and lost his Life in Smithfield, *Tristis hic exitus nobilis viri* (saith Master Cambden) *qui sacerdotis, insidiis illectus, & ejusdem testimonio percussus, Lecestri invidiae vulgo vertebatur.* Certum enim est illum Lecestrii invidiam, nec immerito incurrisse, cui in omnibus quibus poterat se temere objecerat, quasi adultero obtrectaverat, & ut homini novo detraxerat. Upon whose Attainder his Lands were given away to Edward Darcy, Esquire, and his Heirs: But Robert, Son and rightfull Heir to that Inheritance, being a Prudent Person, and well read in the Laws, by Virtue of an Entail made upon his Marriage, (in his Father's Life Time) after very long Suite, recovered all again, this Mannour of Curdworth and Minworth excepted; and living to a great Age, with no small Reputation in

his Countrey, left Robert, his Grandchild, Heir to the Estate. Which last-mentioned Robert, being much accomplish with Learning, and other excellent Parts, died in the Flower of his Youth, whereby the Inheritance of this antient Family resorted to his Sisters, of whose Marriages I have in the Pedigree before inserted taken Notice. **[note 64]**

Within this Lordship did the Abbot of Leicester in 13 E.1. (having a large Proportion of Land by the Grant of Hugh de Arden in H.2. Time) claim a Court-Leet, as also Infangthef, with Assize of Bread and Beer; and to justifie this Challenge exhibited the Charters of K. H.2. and Ric. 1. whereby the Canons of that House had sundry generall Priviledges granted to them throughout all their Possessions. Whereupon, the Jury finding that they had enjoy'd a Court-Leet, with Assize of Bread and Beer, Time out of Mind, those Liberties were allowed. And forasmuch as it appeared that in the Time of Abbot Henry a Gallows had been set up, and a Thief there taken committing Felony, adjudg'd to Death, and hanged by his Bailiff, the same Priviledge was likewise allowed. **[note 65]**

The Church (dedicated to S. Peter ad vincula) being given to the Canons of Leicester in H. 2. Time by Hugh de Arden before-specified, was soon after appropriated to them by Ric. Peche, Bishop of Cov. and Lich. his Successors, Hugh Novant, and Geoffrey Muschamp, confirming the same. And in An. 1291 (19 E.1.) valued at vii. Marks and a Half, but the Vicaridge at no more than two Marks, having long before been endowed with a certain Proportion of Glebe and Tithes for Maintenance of the successive Incumbents: Which Vicaridge in 26 H.8. was certified to be worth Cs. per An. over and above xs. Dedicated for Procurations and Synodals. **[note 66]**

Patroni Vicariae.	Incumbentes, &c.
Abbas & Conv. Leicestriae.	Mag. Rob. de Leyrcestre, An. 1283. Will. de Sutton. Cap. 1284. Joh. de Berhangre, Diac. 9 Cal. Julii, 1305. Thomas Atteyate, Cap. 19 Cal. Jan. 1350. Henr. Wyshaw, Pbr. 17 Cal. Sept. 1361. Joh. Hamund, Pbr. 5 Id. Martii, 1367. D. Joh. Broke, Cap. 5 Feb. 1404. Ric. Lawrence, Pbr. 5 Sept. 1493. Ric. Singleton, Cap. 8 Martii, 1498.
Edw. Arden, ar.	Edm. Lyngard, Cler. 27 Maii, 1561.
Jac. Rex Angl. &c. ratione minoris aet. Edw. Darcy, ar.	Thomas Aylesbury, Cler. 4 Maii, 1618. Will. Clifford, in Art. Mag. 23 Julii, 1619.
Carolus Rex, ratione ut supra.	Josephus Clifford, Cler. 20 Martii, 1625. [note 67]

In the North Window of the Church these Armes.
Gules a Cinquefoile Ermine. Old Earls of Leicester.

MINWORTH.

This having been the Freehold of one Godric before the Norman Invasion, and in the Conqueror's Time possest by Turchill de Warwick, was by the generall Survey certified to contain 1 Hide; the Woods extending to Half a Mile in Length, and 3 Furlongs in Breadth: All which, with the rest, were then valued at vs. In that Record it is written Meneworde, the later Syllable signifying an Habitation or Dwelling, and the former shewing of whom, though a Name now out of Use. **[note 68]**

But farther of the Village I have very little to say, forasmuch as it continued in the Ardens Family till the Attainder of Edward in 27 Eliz. and was past out of the Crown therewith in 28 of the same Queens Reign to Edward Darcy, Esquire, and his Heirs. That Part of the Park which lyeth Northward of the River, was first impaled by the before-specified Edward Arden, about the Beginning of Q. Eliz. Reign, as I have heard: But before the Recoverie of it by Robert Arden, his Son, from Darcy, all the Trees were cut down, and rid out of it.

BERWOOD.

This being involved originally with Curdworth, is not at all mentioned in the Conqueror's Survey, neither have I seen any Thing thereof till H.2. Time, that Hugh de Arden gave it to the Canons of Leicester, viz. locum de Berwda, cum exsartis & pratis (for those are the Words of the Grant) & omnibus pertinentiis suis, in bosco & in plano, & totam illam partem nomoris sui, quae est inter filum aquae de Ebroc, & filum aquae de Tame, cum Insula de Wychesholme usquae ad divisas de Erdinton, & cum pannago & omnibus libertatibus, &c. Which Grant was confirm'd by William and Waleran, both Earls of Warwick, it being of their Fee, as all the rest of Arden's Lands were. Some small Parcells, lying also here in Berwood, did Thomas de Arden (Nephew to the said Hugh) give likewise to those Canons. **[note 69]**

Here was antiently a Chapell of our Ladie belonging to the said Canons, which long since went to Decay; for in the Beginning of H.4. Time, upon an Extent of what they had in this Place, there was certified to be onely a Hall, with Chambers, Buttry, Bake-House, and all other necessarie Rooms. Concerning which Chapell I further find, that Sir William de Arden, Knight, gave to Robert some Time Abbot of Leicester, and his Successors, one Mess. one Mill, and a large Proportion of Land lying in Curdworth, to find two Canons to celebrate Divine Service therein for the Health of his Soul, and the Souls of his Predecessors and Heirs: But this, together with the Mannour of Berwood, as also the Rectory of Curdworth, appropriated to the before-specified Canons, was after the Dissolution of the Abbies purchased from the Crown by Thomas Arden of Park-Hall, and Simon his younger Son, for the Sum of CCLxxii£.xs. and to be held of the King his Heirs and Successors, by the xxth Part of a Knight's Fee, paying the yearly Rent of xxxs.iiid. into the Exchequer. Whereupon, the next Year following, by Virtue of a special Feoffment made by the above-mentioned Thomas and Simon, the Inheritance thereof became vested in William Arden, eldest Son to the said Thomas, and the Heirs Male of his Body. **[note 70]**

DUNTON.

That the high Situation of this Place did originally occasion its Name, is plain enough; Dun in our antient English signifying a Hill: But till 36 H.3. that Hugh de Mancestre (of whose Family I shall speak in Mancestre) had a Charter of Free-Warren in all his Demesne Lands here, together with those at Mancestre, and Drakeneg in this Countie, I have not found any Mention of it in Record. Which Hugh was then possesst of certain Lands therein; but not of the capital Messuage; for 'tis apparent that Philip Luvell, in 41 H.3. had the like Grant of Free-Warren, from whom the Lords of this Mannour do derive their Title. This Philip is he (if I mistake not) who was one of the King's Clerks in 34 H.3. being brought into his Service by Sir John Mansell, his chief Councillor: But Math. Paris. gives him the Character of a crafty and deceitful Man, making particular Mention of his corrupt Doings, for which he was removed from his Imployment, and in Disgrace; yet it was not long ere he got into Favour again by the Intercession of Alexander, King of Scotland, the King's Son-in-Law, (whose Speech in his Behalf our Historian doth relate) and was made the King's Treasurer; in which Office he continued till for abusing the great Favours he had received, sc. by wasting the King's Deer in his Forrests, he was outed. Which Disgrace went so near to his Heart that he retired to his Benefice at Hamestable, (for he was a Clergieman) and there died of Grief the next Year following; whereof so soon as the King had Notice,

he commanded all his Possessions to be seized on, till satisfaction should be made to his own Content. **[note 71]**

To whom succeeded Henry Lovell, Clerke, in the Possession of this Lordship; who required Suit unto his Court here from the Abbot of Leicester, for a certain Yard Land, named Monks-Field; as also an Oath of Fealtie, and other Services: Whereupon the Canons of that House, whilst the Difference was thus depending, past away their Title therein unto William, the Son of Ankitell de Bracebrigge, (of Kingsbury) of whom the said Henry required the same Service: But at the Intercession of Friends they came to this Agreement, viz. that the said William and his Heirs should pay unto them xxd. yearly Rent, without any Suit of Court, or other Service to the Lords of Dunton for the same.

After this, ere long, it appears that Raph de Gorges became Lord of this Mannour, (though by what Title I have not seen) who, together with Joane his Wife, in 22 E.1. commenced Suit against the said William de Bracebrigge, concerning those Lands before-mentioned; as also against John Lovell of Tichmersh, whereby they required the said John to discharge them of such Services as Amice, the Widow of Hugh de Strelly, challenged of them for their Estate in Dunton: To which Action the said John Lovell appeared, but after the Declaration read, he departed in Contempt of the Court; whereupon the Shiriff had Command to distrain him, and to compel his Appearance again. **[note 72]**

To this Raph de Gorges succeeded Hugh, his Son, who obtained License from Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, to inclose that Place of Wood lying within this his Mannour of Dunton, called Clapshaw; and to make such a Fence about it, as that neither Hart, Hinde, Buck, nor Doe, no nor Goat might enter there; with this Proviso, that if it should not be sufficiently inclosed to keep out the Earls Deer belonging to the Chase of Sutton; and that upon Warning given by the Earls Bailiffs, the same were not made good within xx. Days thereof, that then it should be lawfull for the Earl to lay it open again: And that if any of the said Earls Deer, being driven by Hunting, did break into it, that the said Earl or his Servants might pursue them into the said Park, and there take and carry them away, without doing wilfull Hurt to any of the Deer belonging to the before-specified Raufe: And for the better finding of such Deer, that the Earls Hounds might likewise enter, but no Bow to be brought in with them. Which concession being about the 28 E.1. as I guess, for it hath no Date, was witnessed by Sir Bernard de Brus, Sir John de Clinton, Sir John de Beauchamp, Sir Ric. de Whitacre, and others.

But after this, scil. in 30 E.1. the same Sir Raph de Gorges (for it seemes he was then a Knight) came to a farther Agreement with the said Earl, both for cutting down his Woods in Dunton, and making Improvement to his Wast according to the Assize of the Chase, viz. that he and his Heirs should have Liberty to make a Ditch of three Foot and a Half large, with a Hedge upon it not a Foot and a Half high; in Consideration whereof he and his Heirs were yearly to pay to the said Earl, his Heirs or Assignes, at their Mannour-House of Sutton, a Soar Sparhawk, or Six-Pence at Lammas. And shortly after past away all his Right here to John Lovel, of Tichmersh, his Uncle; which John, by his Deed bearing Date at Tichmersh, on the Feast-Day of the Annunciation of our Lady, 3 E.2. in Consideration of CCC£ Sterling, sold it to Hugh de Quilly, together with all his Lands lying in Lee, Curdworth, Mynworth, and Mokshull, so granted to him likewise by the said Raphe de Gorges, his Nephew. **[note 73]**

This Hugh de Cuilly was Lord of Radclive in Leicestershire, and being Constable of Kenilw. Castle under Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was one of those that had a Hand in the Murther of Piers de Gaveston; for which, with the said Earl and others, he had his Pardon in 7 E.2. It seems that he made his Residence here at Dunton in those Times; for in 8 E.2. he served as a Knight for this Shire in the several Parliaments then held at Westminster and Yorke: And was a Knight before his Death, which hapned at Pomfret Castle, in 16 E.2. he being then the King's Prisoner there. To which Hugh succeeded Roger, who adhering to his Father in that Rebellion with the Earl of Lancaster, became also a Prisoner at Pomfret; but paying C. Marks Fine, and giving Security for his future good Behaviour, he was enlarged. After the last-mentioned Roger, I find another Roger (his Grandson I suppose): Which Roger in 14 E.3. was in Commission for levying and collecting a Fifteenth and Tenth then granted to the King in Parliament;

and likewise for making Sale of the ninth Part of Sheaf, Wool, and Lamb in this County, given also to the King in Parl. about that Time; in which Imployment he continued the next ensuing Year, as appeareth by a new Commission. **[note 74]**

In 19 E.3. he had Summons, amongst the other Knights of this County, to be ready with Horses and Armes at the Feast of S. Laurence, to attend the King in his French Expedition: And in 33 E.3. departed this Life without Issue, leaving Thomas de Cuilly his Uncle and Heir; of whom all that I find memorable is, that in 37 E.3. he obtained License from Thomas, Earl of Warwick, to cut and fell Timber in his Wood called Clapshaw, before-specified; with Proviso that it should be for the Defence thereof till the Spring were grown up according to the Custome of his Chase. Which Thomas left one only Daughter, called Elizabeth, his Heir, wedded to John Stanhope, of Rampton in Nottinghamshire; who had Issue Sir Ric. Stanhope, Knight. Which Sir Richard, by his Deed bearing Date the Sunday next before the Feast of S. Laurence the Martyr, 10 H.5. past away the Inheritance of this Mannour to Nich. Ruggeley, of Hawksheard in Com. Staff. Esq; whose Posterity do still enjoy it. **[note 75]**

This Nicholas was the first of his Family that had to do in Warwickshire, for ought I have seen, his Ancestors being of Staffordshire, and Gentlemen there of very good Note: For in 26 E.1. Will. de Ryggele de Comitatu Staffordiae, as the Record saith, being constrained to abjure the Realm, for killing one Rob de Biskeland, received Pardon for that Fact, which was so granted to him for the faithfull Service he had done to the said King in his Army then in Flanders. And in 10, 13 and 14 E.3. Simon de Ruggeley, being Shiriff of the Counties of Salop, and Staff. had the Castle of Salop committed to his Custody; having the Title of Valettus Regis, which shews that he was a Servant to the King in an honourable Condition. I am of Opinion that the special Affection which the before-specified Nicholas had to Hunting, caused him to settle here at Dunton; for I find that he had the Rangership of Sutton Chase from 2 H.4. which is xx Years before he purchased this Lordship, and that he continued in that Command for the Space of ten Years after, sc. till 10 H.6. at which Time he was an old Man, and not fit for that Imployment: And that in 12 H.6. he is recorded amongst the Knights and Esquiers of this County, who made Oath for Observation of the Articles concluded on in the Parliament then held: But further on this Family I have no more to say, than what the Descent before inserted expresseth. **[note 76]**

WISHAW.

Northwards from Curdworth lyes Wishaw, having been possest by one Ordric before the Norman Conquest, but afterwards disposed of to Will. fil. Corbucionis (of whom I have made Mention in Studley) and by the general Survey, where it is written Witscaga, certified to contain two Hides; there being then a Church, as also Woods that contained three Furlongs in Length, and one in Breadth; all valued at no more than xs. Which argueth that it then lay for the most Part wast, in Regard it is said to have been worth xxxs. In Edw. the Confessor's Days. But there is little to be found thereof in our publike Records till Edw. 1. Time, so that I am not able directly to discover who possest it in the Interim. **[note 77]**

In 29 H.2. John de Doura impleaded Rob. fil. Willielmi, and Will. de Arden, for the fourth Part of a Knight's Fee, lying in Gorcote (juxta Studley) and here in Witteshage: And the Knights Templars were antiently possest of some Lands here, though of whose Gift I yet know not; for about 12 H.3. it appears, that under their publick Seal they granted unto Margaret de L'Isle two Yard Land and a Half lying therein: Which Family have been long Owners of Land in this Lordship; for in 56 H.3. Helewis, the Widow of Nich. de L'Isle, brought an Assize of Novell Disseisin against Anketill de L'Isle and others, concerning certain Tenements here and in Moxhull. But that the Templars, notwithstanding what they so past away as abovesaid, had still some Possessions here, is manifest by that Presentment in 4 E.1. Whereby it was certified that they had withdrawn their Suit to the Hundred Court for 4 Yard Land and a Half thereof. **[note 78]**

Of that Family of Bereford which had to do in this Place, whether Osbert were the first I cannot affirm; for till 16 E.1. I have not found any Thing of him in Relation thereto; but then I do conclude that he was Lord thereof, and that by a Deed of Entail he settled all his Lands in this Wishawe, Langley, Sutton, and elsewhere, upon Will. de Bereford his Brother. It should seem that these Berefords had that here in Wishawe which belong'd to the Templars; for in 20 E.2. (which was after the Accession of the Templars Lands to the Hospitalars, as in Balsall shall be shewed) it was found that Will.de Bereford, before-named, held a Mannour here of the said Hospitalars by the Service of xviid. To be paid at Michaelmas, and the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lady, by even Portions, for all Services. **[note 79]**

Touching the Descendants of which Will. de Bereford, having spoke in Langley, (their principall Seat in this Countie) I have here no more to say of them, than that in 19 E.3. Edmund de Bereford had a Charter of Free-Warren in all his Demesne Lands here. From which Family it came to Hore, and from Hore to Pudsey, both by Heirs Female, as the Descent in Langley sheweth, and therefore 'tis needlesse here to give farther Instance thereof. **[note 80]**

In An. 1291, (19 E.1.) the Church (dedicated to S. Chad) was valued at v. Marks; and in 19 E.2. the Advouson thereof granted by Will. de Castell to Will. de Bereford: But in 26 H.8. the Value was certified at Cvs. over and above ixs. allowed for Procurations and Synodalls. **[note 81]**

Patroni Ecclesiae.	Incumbentes, &c.
Will. de Castello, mil.	Nich. de Castello, 5 Id. Dec. 1306.
Georgius de Castello, miles.	Will. de Laberton, Accol. 10 Cal. Feb. 1310.
D. Edm. de Bereford, miles.	Joh. Stene, Cler. 7 Id. Sept. 1342. Nich. de Lichfeld, Cler. 14 Cal. Aug. 1349 Joh. Grant, Cap. 2 Cal. Julii, 1350.
Baldw. de Whitenay, Decan. Eccl. Coll. de Tamworth, & Tho. de Morehall, hac vice.	Ric. de Geytingdon, Cap. 12 Cal. Sept. 1361.
D. Baldw. de Bereford, miles.	Steph. de Carleton, Pbr. Id. Nov. 1367. Thomas Frome, Pbr. 3 Non. Sept. 1375. Joh. de Eton, Pbr. 12 Cal. Apr. 1376. Thomas Haddon, Pbr. 11 Cal Dec. 1377. Henr. Eayteawayte, Pbr. 18 Nov. 1383. Ric. Brewes, Pbr. 14 Martii, 1396. Joh. Rokay, 15 Aug. 1405.
Eliz. relict Baldw. de Bereford, militis.	Joh. Wermote, Cap. 2 Oct. 1412. Nich. Braddeley, 7 Julii, 1413.
Custos Coll. liberae Capellae Reg. de Windsore.	Joh. Rolf, Cap. 27 Aug. 1414.
Eliz. relict Baldw. de Bereford, mil.	Will. Clerke, Cap. 23 Julii, 1416.

Joh. Hore, dominus de Wishaw, arm.	Thomas Hemyngburgh, 8 Oct. 1425. Joh. Harman, Pbr. 9 Oct. 1431. Rob. Yerburgh, Pbr. 19 Martii, 1431. Rad. Horleston, Pbr. 18 Nov. 1433.
Hilb. Hore, de Childerley, ar.	Thomas Spenser, Pbr. 8 Aug. 1436. Joh. Gallard, 3 Sept. 1439. Ric. Sturges, ult. Apr. 1441. Joh. Tamworth, Canon Regul. S. Aug. 7 Dec. 1444.
Thomas Hore, ar.	Will Beket, Cap. 15 Jan. 1456.
Rob. Perham, ratione minoris aet. Gilb. fil. & haer. Thos. Hore.	Thomas Dene, Cap. 19 Junii, 1494. Wil. Clayton, Art. Magr. 21 Jan. 1494.
Tho. Fulthorp. & Editha, ux sua, filia & haer. Joh. Hore.	Magr. Will. Burgh, in Leg. Bac. penult. Martii, 1504. D. Will. Smith, Cap. Ult. Maii, 1538.
Rob. Pudsey, Gen.	D. Will. Bowes, alias Vicars, 5 Aug. 1552.
Joh. L'Isley, ar. ex concess. Georgii Pudsey, ar.	Edw. Warde, in Art. Bac. 21 Jan. 1584.
Geo. Pudsey, ar.	Joh. Wilston, Cler. 10 Feb. 1602.
Geo. Pudsey, de Langley, Gen. [note 82]	Mich. Walford, Cler. In Art. Magr. 7 Oct. 1629.

Wishaw

In the east window of the Chancell,	In the east window of the South Ile
1 Castell	5 Bereford quartering Ellesfeild
2 Bois	6 Dethick with quarterings
3 L'isle	7 L'isle of Moxhull
4 L'isle	8 Curson with quarterings
[note 83]	[with illustrations of Coats of Arms]

MOXHULL.

This, though it be in the Parish of Wishaw, seemeth to have been originally a Member of Curdworth; for 'tis evident that the Ardens held it immediately of the Earls of Warwick: But the Ancestors of that Family, which doth still enjoy it, have possessed it for more than four hundred Years, and had it first from one of the Ardens, (Lord of Curdworth) as is clear enough by the Tenure; for by severall Inquisitions, and other Authorities, it appeareth to be held of their posterity. The first Mention that I have met with thereof in any Record is in 36 H.3. where it is written Mukeshull, Walt. de Bereford having brought an Assize of Novell Disseisin against Nich. de L'Ile, and others, for Common of Pasture there: Which Nicholas was the Son of William, and he of Henry, (as I think) for I have seen antient Evidences which do import as much; so that 'tis like that Henry was he that seated himself here: And probable enough it is that Herbert del Yle (for so is his Name written) might be Father to Henry; for I find him a Witness

to severall Charters of Geffrey de Clinton (Son to Geffrey the Founder of Kenilworth Castle and Priory) about the Beginning of H.2. Time. **[note 84]**

This William (Father of Nich.) was a Person of the superior Rank amongst the Gentry in this Shire, as may be seen by a speciall Commission constituting him one of the Justices for the Goal-Delivery at Warwick and Kenilworth; but all that I have farther seen of him is, that he was a Witsse to the Grant of certain assarted Lands in Pedimore, which Henry, Earl of Warwick, made to Thomas de Arden: Neither after 10 E.1. have I found any Mention of the before-specified Nicholas, he being then exempted from serving on Juries by the King's Letters Pat. To which Nich. succeeded Anketil de L'Isle who wedded Julian, the Daughter and Heir to Rob. de Blaggreve, of Midleton, and did his Homage to Philip Marmion (Lord of Tamworth Castle) for the Lands he had with her in Frank-Marriage, of his Fee. Which Ankitel had Suits with Raph de Gorges, of Dunton, concerning certain Lands in Moxhull, about 22 E.1. and left Issue Henry, who was a Servant in much Trust and Esteem unto Raph, Lord Basset, of Draiton (a great Man in these Parts): For in the Commission he had from that Baron to treat with Sir Rob. Marmion, concerning the Mannours of Nether-Whitacre, Halughton, Pericroft, and Glascote, (all in this County): In 14 E.2. the Lord Basset calls him nostre chiere & bien ame Vadlet, his dear and well-beloved Esquier. **[note 85]**

And (to manifest that he was a Person eminently qualified) in 18 E.2. he served in the Parliament then held at London, as one of the Knights for this Shire, having iis.vid. allowed him per Diem, for his Expences during that Employment. But in 1 E.3. upon a strong Suspicion of Heresie, suggested against him to the King, a Commission to Will. de Clinton, bearing Date 3 Maii, was forthwith issued out, not only to arrest and take him, but to seize on all his Lands, Goods, and Chattels; of which being advertised, he submitted himself to Prison, and brought in Sureties to stand to a lawfull Triall therein, viz. Raph. de Crophall, of Nottinghamshire, Walt. de Heselarton, of Yorkshire, Edm. de Shireford, David de Caunton, Rog. le Pledour, and John de Alspath, of this County; whereupon he was set at Liberty, and his Lands and Goods restored to him, as by the King's special Precept, bearing Date at Nottingham, 3 Sept. appeareth: After which, viz. in 5 E.3. the said Lord Basset received his full Accompt for all the Time he had served, and reteined to him, and gave him a generall Acquittance. **[note 86]**

To whom succeeded John, who for the Lands in Blaggreve, which sometime belong'd to Rob. de Blaggreve, his Grandmothers Father, obtained a Release from Sir Baldwin Frevill, Knight, (Heir to Marmion) as to the Suit due to his three Weeks Court at Stipershull, and all other Services for that Land, during his own Life, and the Life of Maud, his Wife; saving to the said Sir Baldwin, his Homage and a Pair of gilt Spurs, at the Feast of S. Edith yearly. This John, in 30 E.3. payd to Sir John de Arden, Kt. and Henry his Brother, Executors to Raph. de Arden, their Father, the Sum of vis.viiid. for reasonable Aid due upon the Marriage of Sibill his eldest Daughter, in Respect of the Lands in Moxhull, which he held of him by Military Service; and at the same Time xxxiis.iiiid. for a Relief due to the before-specified Raph, for those Lands: And bore for his Armes three Eglets displayed, Gules, as by his Seal and an old Glasse Window in Bentley Chapell appeareth; which Coat, or Part thereof at least, was assumed by Henry his Father; for I have seen a Seal of his with one Eglet displaied, within the Compasse of a Roundle, and not in a Shield; a Course very antiently used before they put their Badges into Shields, as I have observed in the Families of Beke, of Eresby, and Darcy: the first of which bore their Crosse Sarcile so; and the other their Cinquefoile. **[note 87]**

Which John, bearing a singular Reverence to the Monks of Merevale, desired that his Body might be there buried, as may appear by certain Land and Rent that he assigned to some Friends in Trust for the finding of divers Wax Lights to burn every Sunday and Holiday in the Chapell of our Lady, adjoining to the Gate of that Abby; for which Respect he had a special Grant from Robert de Atherston, Abbot of that House and his Convent, under their publick Seal, bearing Date the Wednesday after Lammass, 33 E.3. of a certain Proportion of Ground within the said Chapell of our Lady, containing seven Foot Square, where he, and Maud his Wife, at the death of each, should have Sepulture; and that upon all

great Festivall Days, as well as Sundays, five Waxen Lights should be burning there; as also that he the said John and Maud should have Liberty to set up Images in the same Chapell in Honour of the Blessed Virgin. **[note 88]**

To which John succeeded John his Son, who, in H.5. Time, was retained by the Earl of Warwick, amongst other of his Esquires, to serve him with one Lance, and one Archer, at the Seige of Caleis, for which he was to receive xx£. per An. besides his Diet. And to him William, and to William Henry, who gave the Rectorie of Wilmecote, with all the Tithes thereto belonging, to Thomas Clopton, Master of the Gild at Stratford super Avon, to the Intent that the Priest singing the first Masse every Day in the said Gild should say De Profundis before the holy Lavatorie, for the good Estate of him the said Henry, and Elizabeth his Wife, and for their Souls after their Departure hence; as also for the Soules of his Ancestors and Successors. Which Henry was Shiriff of this County and Leicestershire in the second and nineteenth Years of K. H. 7 Reign: And by his Testament, dated 13 Sept. 20 H.7. bequeathing his Body to be buried within his own proper Chapell, in the Church of S. Chad, at Wishaw, before the Image of Henry the Sixth, some Time King of England, departed this Life about that Time; for the Probate of his Will beareth Date the next Month following. **[note 89]**

Unto which Henry succeeded John, his Son and Heir, who taking to Wife Anne, the Daughter and Heir of Will. Lecrofte, had with her divers Houses, and a great Proportion of Land lying in Colshill, and other Places. Of this John I find, that upon the Birth of Elizabeth, second Daughter to King H.8. (afterwards Qu. of England) he received a special Letter from Qu. Anne, dated at Greenwich, 7 Sept. 25 H.8. advertising him of the good Speed she had in her Deliverance, and desiring his Congratulation unto God for it; as also his Prayers for the good Health, Prosperity, and continuall Preservation of the said young Princesse. **[note 90]**

To whom succeeded Nicholas, and to him Thomas, who wedded Alice, one of the Sisters and Co-heirs to John Masterson. Which Thomas, in the first Year of Q. Mary, being one of the Justices of Peace in this County, received a speciall Precept from Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, the Queens Lievtenant, forthwith to muster and levy such and so many able Men, well appointed for the Warrs, as he should call together, meet to serve the said Queens Highnesse under that Earl, against the Duke of Suffolk and his Complices, then proclaimed Traitors; and to bring them forthwith, both Horse and Foot, to Warwick Castle, where the said Earl then lodged. In which Service he was so active, that as a Reward for his Diligence, the Q. granted him a Warrant under her Signet to the Marquesse of Winchester, then Lord Treasurer, for a Grant to passe the Great Seal of the Mannour of Hampton in Arden for xxxi. Years, in Reversion after the Decease of Lady Margaret, then Wife to Sir Gawen Carew, Knight, upon the old accustomed Rent of xxx£. to be reserved unto the said Queen, her Heirs and Successors: But the Number of Years fell short in the Patent; for it was but for xxi. Years, and the Rent increased to Lv£. As for the rest which relates to this Family, either in Point of Descent or Matches, the Pedigree before inserted will shew all that I can say. **[note 91]**

Note 1.

The antiquary and herald William Dugdale (1605-86) was born at the Old Rectory in Shustoke, near Coleshill, where his father was steward to the local landowner. He was educated at King Henry VIII School in Coventry, but did not attend a university. He married Margaret Huntbach in 1623, when he was aged 18 and she was two years younger; they had a family of 19 children. His father died in 1624 and with the money he inherited he bought the adjoining Manor of Blyth. He soon developed an interest in local history and antiquarian matters, and made the acquaintance of several notable like-minded men, including William Burton, the author of the *Description of Leicester Shire* who had been a pupil at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. He began work on a history of Warwickshire, which involved researching public archives in London.

In 1638 he embarked on a career in heraldry, his second principal interest, when he was awarded the junior office of Blanche Lyon Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary; he was promoted to the office of Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms in Ordinary the following year. In 1641 the prominent royalist Sir Christopher Hatton commissioned him to make drawings of all the monuments in Westminster Abbey and other English churches, fearing that they might be destroyed in the imminent Civil War. In June 1642 he and all the other heralds were summoned to attend King Charles I at York; he was present at the Battle of Edgehill near Banbury, when the parliamentary army failed to stop the King's progress towards London, and in November he arrived with the King in Oxford, where he worked as a bureaucrat in the royalist capital, and was able to collect material for his books from the Bodleian Library. In 1644 he was appointed as Chester Herald of Arms in Ordinary, and he formed a friendship with the antiquary Elias Ashmole, who later became his son-in-law.

Following the surrender of Oxford he returned to Blyth Hall and was obliged to compound for his estates. He resumed his antiquarian researches, relying on assistants to gather information as he was not permitted to travel. *Monasticon Anglicanum* was published in 1655 in collaboration with fellow-antiquary Roger Dodsworth, and in the following year his magnum opus *The Antiquaries of Warwickshire* was published, which was soon recognised as a model county history. His other books were *History of St. Paul's Cathedral* (1658), *The History of Imbanking and Drayning* (1662), *Origines Juridices*, *Historical Memorials of the English Laws* (1666), *Baronage of England* (1675/76), *A Short View of the Late Troubles* (1681), and *Ancient Usage of Bearing Arms* (1682).

At the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Dugdale was appointed as Norroy King of Arms, and in 1677 he was knighted and promoted to Garter Principal King of Arms, the senior officer of the College of Arms. Lady Dugdale died in 1681 and Sir William died "in his chair" at Blyth Hall in 1686, aged 80.

In 1636 Dugdale was one of 13 men appointed by the Court of Chancery to be the trustees of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in place of the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield, who had abused their position of trust by granting leases of the school lands to their own members, friends and relations at low rents. It was a requirement that new trustees should be appointed when all but three or four of the original 13 had died, but Dugdale was not particularly diligent in this respect, as by 1675, aged 70, he was the sole surviving trustee. However, he saved the day by appointing 14 prominent local men as new trustees, including his son, Sir John Dugdale.

Note 2.

Other authors suggest that the name Sutton arose because the town was (approximately) south of Tamworth, the headquarters of Offa, King of Mercia. This theory is supported by Middleton lying midway between Tamworth and Sutton.

A hide was a unit of land measurement representing the amount of land sufficient to support a single household, usually reckoned as 120 acres.

Edward the Confessor reigned from 1042 to 1066. Edwin Earl of Mercia, whose wife was King Harold II's sister Edith, was murdered in 1070/71.

Roger de Beaumont was the 2nd Norman Earl of Warwick from 1119 to 1153.

The extract in Latin is translated by Agnes Bracken as: "To have and to hold the said manor of Sutton to the said Earl Roger and his heirs, with all the liberty and royalty [royal rights], without suits at the hundred court, without payment of scutage [a tax on knights in lieu of military service], or any foreign service, with a free chase between the Tame and the Bourne, which divide the liberty of the said manor from others: And the said Roger and his heirs may have one park and one hay [enclosed area] fenced: And they may have a free court at their own pleasure, in all free customs, with view of frankpledge [a system whereby the male inhabitants of a district were under a duty to bring an offender to justice in the local court, on penalty of a communal fine]: Also they may have an outwood common to the freeholders, without a fence keeper: Also they may have in demesne two carucates of land [a unit of

land measurement that a team of eight oxen could till in an annual season, estimated, like a hide, at 120 acres], and one water-mill, with suits – (i.e., the customs belonging to it): Also they may have eighteen fallow deer [not red deer, which were known as ‘noble deer’].”

Note 3.

King Henry II reigned from 1154 to 1189. Dugdale dated events by using regnal years, which means you need to know the precise date of the commencement of a reign to work out the actual date of the event. Henry II’s first regnal year ran from 19th December 1154 to 18th December 1155. To complicate matters, until 1752 the first day of a new year was 25th March (Lady Day), so that what we would now refer to as 1st January to 24th March 1155 was then called 1st January to 24th March 1154.

Dugdale expressed all sums of money in Latin, using L or Li, S and D in lower-case for pounds, shillings and pence (librae, solidi and denarii). As a lower-case L also represents 50 in Latin, I have used the more modern £ sign in place of Dugdale’s lower-case L or Li to avoid confusion.

‘De firma’ meant a fixed payment; ‘de perquisitis’ had a similar meaning, a payment sought for.

Note 4.

King Henry III reigned from 28th October 1216 to 16th November 1272, and King Edward II reigned from 8th July 1307 to 20th January 1327.

The Forest of Kank (later Cannock Chase), which stretched from the River Trent to the River Tame and included the Sutton Chase (before 1126), was one of sixty forests created by William the Conqueror. He established a system of forest laws which, much to the resentment of local inhabitants, overruled the common law and its rights and privileges granted to ordinary folk, and served to protect game animals (hart, hind, boar, wolf and hare) and their forest habitats for the exclusive enjoyment of royalty and noblemen. The rules of the chase were similar to the forest laws, but were enforceable by the local owner (the Earls of Warwick in the case of Sutton) rather than the King. The beasts of the chase were buck, fallow deer, roe deer, fox and marten.

The 1217 Charter of the Forest re-established rights of access for free men to royal forests, reversing some of the more draconian laws imposed by William the Conqueror and his son William Rufus.

A Treatise and Discourse of the Lawes of the Forrest was published in 1598, written by John Manwood (died 1610), a barrister of Lincoln’s Inn, the gamekeeper of Waltham Forest and a Justice in Eyre of the New Forest (a circuit judge, formerly known as a Justice of the Forest).

The legal French quoted by Dugdale, tracing the boundaries of Sutton Chase, is partially elucidated by Agnes Bracken: “We must look for the ‘teste de Bourne’ [headwater of the River Bourne] at Bourne pool, under the Beacon [Barr Beacon]; and over the ridge of three obscure points – Boltestile (a stile into an inclosure), Tindithoc (*tyne*, brushwood, *hoc*, hook? or, perhaps, *hoch*, a hill), and Mosewall (an embankment against a bog?), which lead to the Holbrook, on the west side of the Beacon: and following this stream we find Holford, or Perry Barr bridge at the holm, or island or meadow, formed by the river. Schrafford became Salford bridge. It is not improbable that Wyford was Wigford, or a ford near the junction of the Bourne with the Tame at Drayton, *wig*, or *wick*, signifying the bend in the river.” It is interesting to note that the places which Dugdale considered to be very well known were described by Miss Bracken as ‘obscure’ two centuries later. The modern-day Bosty Lane near Barr Common, Aldridge, is thought to derive its name from a corruption of Boltestile. Perry Bridge across the River Tame in Perry Barr was formerly known as Holford (or Wolford) Bridge and the name is still recalled in Holford Drive and Holford Way. Holbrook Stream, which rises at Barr Beacon, flows into the River Tame by Perry Bridge.

Law French was used in English courts following the Norman Conquest until the 1362 Statute of Pleading enacted that all court pleadings should be in English, as a consequence of which Law French fell out of use as a spoken language and became entirely obsolete by the 17th century, apart from

certain legal phrases, some of which are still in use today (such as *force majeure*, *estoppel*, *cestui que trust* and *en ventre sa mere*). Law French had little resemblance to the ordinary French language; ‘sez sount’ = ces son’ (these are), ‘dekes tank à = dès que tant que (from there as far as).

Note 5.

King John reigned from 1199 to 1216.

There were nine generations of Ralph Bassetts of Drayton Basset from 1125 to 1390. The one referred to here was the second in line (1156-1211).

Waleran de Beaumont was the 4th Earl of Warwick from 1184 to 1204.

Note 6.

Agnes Bracken translates the Latin from the Agreement dated 1201/02 as follows: “This is the final agreement between Waleran, Earl of Warwick, plaintiff, and Ralph Basset, holder of one inclosure in Draiton, which the said earl says was raised to injure his forest of Colmesfeld: whereupon a plea of convention was summoned between them before the justices of our lord the king, at Coventry, namely Master William de Kilkenny, and the lords Henry de Barton and Nicholas de Trye, to wit, that the aforesaid earl has granted, and in behalf of himself and his heirs, cried quits to the aforesaid Ralph and his heirs, for the aforesaid fence, and the whole park of Draiton enclosed in that fence: And for this grant and peaceful dismissal, and crying quits, the aforesaid Ralph, for himself and his heirs, has granted to the same earl and his heirs, two good bucks, in any year, from the aforesaid park, taken between the Assumption and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that is to say, of every buck the four limbs and head, with the hide and forket – (The wide part of the chest): so that the aforesaid Ralph and his heirs, by themselves, or by their messengers, cause the bailiffs of the aforesaid earl, or his heirs, to have the two bucks aforesaid at the manor of the earl himself at Sutton, as is aforesaid, between the two feasts aforesaid: And it must be known that the aforesaid park of Draiton shall be so closed up, that the whole of it shall be entire towards the aforesaid earl’s forest of Colmesfeld, and without a buck-stall.”

Colmesfeld was another alternative spelling of Colfield or Coldfield.

Plea of convention means that an agreement had been reached between the parties, which merely required court approval.

William de Kilkenny (died 1256) was later Lord Chancellor of England and Bishop of Ely.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated on 15th August, and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8th September.

A buckstall was a large net placed between trees to trap deer.

Note 7.

There was no requirement in law to have a minimum number of witnesses to a legal document, but the more there were, and the more prominent in society they were, the more weight the document had.

William de Beauchamp was the 9th Earl of Warwick from 1268 to 1298.

King Edward I reigned from 20th November 1272 to 7th July 1307.

William de Odingsells of Maxstoke (1235-95) was the Justiciar of Ireland, William de Meynell’s dates were 1242 to 1313, and Robert 1st Baron de la Ward died in 1306.

Thickbroom is less than a mile to the west of Weeford, just across the London Road.

Note 8.

Sir Ralph Basset 1st Baron Basset of Drayton (1242-99) was the great-grandson of the Ralph Basset referred to in Note 5 above.

Attachments and Presentments were the backbone of the manorial court system: attachment referred to giving security for attending court and a presentment was a written statement of an alleged offence or issue before the court. This clause was saying, in effect, that any dispute would be subject to the jurisdiction of the Earl's local court.

Holy Rood Day was 14th September.

Note 9.

Roger 1st Baron Strange (died 1311) was the Justiciar of the Forests south of the Trent.

Little Barr or Barr Parva (Latin for little – compare Great Barr or Barr Magna) was originally a separate manor from Perry (derived from 'pear-tree'), but later they were joined together as Perry Barr.

St. Michael's Day, or Michaelmas, is 29th September.

Note 10.

Thomas de Beaumont was the 6th Earl of Warwick from 1229 to 1242. His sister Margaret, or Margery (died 1253) married firstly John Marshall (died 1243) and secondly John de Plessis 7th Earl of Warwick (died 1263). Thomas and Margaret were the children of Henry de Beaumont 5th Earl of Warwick (1192-1229) and his sister Alice married William Mauduit. Their son, another William Mauduit, became the 8th Earl of Warwick in 1253.

Philip Marmion 5th Baron Marmion of Tamworth (died 1291) was the King's Champion, an honorary and hereditary office in the Royal Household.

Historically, all wild game belonged to the King. 'Free Warren' was the legal right, granted by the Crown, that permitted a landowner to breed, keep and hunt small game (usually limited to rabbits, hares, foxes and some birds and waterfowl) on his own land.

A Court Leet gave the Lord of the Manor jurisdiction over minor criminal offences, such as theft and assault, committed within the lordship. The court sat with a jury, not in the sense of a modern jury but a body of prominent local men who would bring indictments and give evidence. The Court Leet in Sutton was very active in upholding standards and preventing anti-social behaviour, since it also exercised jurisdiction over failure to repair or maintain roads, hedges, watercourses and landmarks, infringement of public rights and unlawful enclosure of common land. More serious crimes, such as burglary, arson and murder, were sent to the King's justices.

'Assize of bread and beer' established regulations on the price, weight and quality of food sold at the markets or fairs, backed up by routine inspections and penalties (usually fines) for any infringement.

'Free Chase' was the right to hunt any wild game in a specific tract of land. It was wider than Free Warren, which covered only small game.

'Infangthef', or 'infangthief', granted feudal lords the power to execute summary justice, including capital punishment, on thieves caught within the borders of their manors.

'Tumbrel', in addition to meaning a type of cart, was an alternative name for a ducking-stool, used for punishment of disorderly women, scolds and dishonest tradesmen.

'Thewe' was another name for a ducking-stool, used both for submerging offenders in the local pond, and for parading them around the village in their shifts or undershirts.

'Weyf' was the right for a landowner to sell abandoned goods found on his land, or stolen goods if unclaimed after a specific period.

'Gallows' referred to a specific right for the lord of the manor to hang convicted thieves, in lieu of sending them to the King's justices. Gibbets were a fairly familiar sight in the outlying districts of Sutton. An area near the Chester Road in modern-day New Oscott used to be known as Gibbets Hill.

Note 11.

Guy de Beauchamp was the 10th Earl of Warwick from 1288 to 1315, named after the legendary pre-Conquest Guy of Warwick.

'Mercate' meant a market. Trinity Sunday is a movable feast, one week after Pentecost or Whit Sunday, which is seven weeks after Easter, which is itself a movable feast.

Sir Henry Spigurnel (c. 1262-1328) was a Justice of the King's Bench. William de Mortimer Baron Zouch of Mortimer (1265-1336) belonged to a cadet branch of the powerful Mortimer family.

A Court Baron was a manorial court presided over by the Lord of the Manor or his steward with jurisdiction over civil cases, such as debt, personal injury and boundary disputes; it also had responsibility for enforcing feudal services or money due to the Lord, and for recording the selling, buying and inheritance of copyhold property (so called because the evidence of ownership was the manorial court roll of which the owner had only a copy).

Note 12.

In paragraph six of the Latin text, a couple of words may be questioned as possible misprints: 'ibidem', not 'ibiden', means in the same place, and 'omnibus', not 'omnibas', means all.

Agnes Bracken gives us a translation of this 1309 jury's certificate: "The inquisition of twelve jurymen taken at this view, before Galfrid de Okenham, seneschal, by oath of Anselm de Clifton and others, jurymen, charged (to enquire) concerning the ancient customs of that lordship, as well with regard to freemen as bond-servants, what sort of customs they used to make and to have before the coronation of our lord king Henry (III), grandfather of the present king, from the days of Athelstan, some time king of England, by whom aforetime the ancient usages and customs of the lordship were made and settled.

Who say upon their oath, that every freeman of Sutton was accustomed to hold his lands and tenements by virtue and effect of his original charter; and if there should be any plea about land between any freemen of that lordship, they used to be pleaded and concluded by writ of our lord the king, according to the law of England, before the justiciaries. And those men of bondage-tenure who held a whole yardland or more used to be officers of the king, or lord, during the lord's pleasure, whoever might have been elected to that office.

Also, those who held half a yardland, or a nook of land, or a cottage of bondage tenure, used to be bedell of the manor and decenary. And also all those who held in bondage tenure, used to be called customary tenants. And whenever the lord came to hunt, those customary tenants used to drive the wanlass to a stand in driving the wild beasts, according to the quantity of their tenure; as those who held a whole yardland, for two days and so of others. And they used to have among them half of the fee of a woodward of the venison taken.

Also they used to be keepers of the Coldfield heath, whenever they were chosen by their neighbours at the court; and they used to buy and sell freely, both in and out of the lordship of Sutton, without challenge. And also they used to do suit at the court of Sutton from three weeks to three weeks, and to pay the rent of assize, with tallage, according to the quantity of customary tenants of this sort, at the four usual terms of the year, &c. And they used to have house-bote and hay-bote, by view of the foresters and woodwards, in the time of Lent, enough to repair their hedges and houses in bondage tenure.

And at the death of customary tenants of this kind, the lord used to have, in the name of the heriot, the best animal, and no more; neither goods nor chattels, neither in the life nor after the death of a customary tenant of this kind, unless for this reason, that the lord's eldest son or daughter were going to be married. And the lord used to have, at his pleasure, of those who were dead, before the administration of the executors, the third part of all the goods of a customary tenant of this kind who was dead. And of customary tenants of this kind while living, the lord used to have in like manner the

half of all his goods, saving oxen enough for ploughing, and heifers for milking, when his (the lord's) eldest son or daughter were going to be married. And if any of these customary tenants alienated his bondage tenure to any one, they used to give up that tenure in court before the seneschal (i.e., the steward), and raise and pay a fine at the lord's pleasure.

And also, if any of these customary tenants went out of the lordship, and would not abide there any longer, they used to come into court, and give up into the hands of the lord their tenure of bondage, with all their horses and colts, and cart bound with iron, with their hogs, their whole pieces of cloth, their wool not spun, and their best brass pot: and go out and abide wherever he would, without challenge of the lord, and himself, with all his posterity, to be free for ever. And also all tenants, as well free as customary, used to have common pasturage with all their cattle, within the lordship of Sutton, in all the out-woods and other common places, at all times of the year; and also in all separate places from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel to the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, excepting the lord's land and the lord's park, and excepting also the gardens of the neighbours.

And none of these customary tenants used to grind his corn but at the lord's water-mill, so long as the mill was in repair for grinding, unless they first paid (for) the whole of the corn; excepting the tenants of Maney, Windley, and Wigula (?), who ground at the lord's windmill at Maney.

And they also say, that they have heard their ancestors say, that at the time the manor of Sutton aforesaid was in the hands of the king of England all the chase was afforested, and that all the dogs within the forest used to be ringed and maimed on the left paw; and that, after they came into the hands of the earl of Warwick, they had leave to have and to hold dogs of all kind whole and not ringed.

And also all tenants, as well customary as free, used to have the dead wood in all the woods, wherever it might be found, for firing. And also all freeholders used to be summoned to appear for three days before the court, and the customary tenants likewise. And if there was a plea of debt or offence, or any plea between neighbours, or the defendants denied it, and waged law against the plaintiff, they used to make law with the third hand, and they used to essoin themselves of the common suit of court twice, and the third time appear and warrant the essoin; and likewise of the plea, as well of the plaintiff as the defendant, to be essoined twice of the plea, and twice of the law, and the third time to come, or have the judgment of the court. And the customary tenants used to be twice fined in court for houses found on bondage tenure; and the third time, if it was not repaired, they used to incur a punishment at the lord's pleasure.

And the aforesaid customary tenants used to repair the bank round the millpool of the lord of Sutton with earth-work as often as was necessary, being warned with reasonable warning, and if they did not come they used to be fined at the court next ensuing; and they used to be fined in like manner if they did not come to the wanlass, whenever the lord came to hunt.

And all customary tenants, who held a whole yardland in bondage, used to work for the lord for two days in autumn: and in like manner all other customary tenants according to the quantity of their tenure, at reasonable warning given by the overseer: for which they used to have one fat sheep and four pennyworth of white bread, and twelve casks of beer; and if they did not come then they used to be fined at the court next ensuing.

And they say that all the aforesaid customs used to be kept, both from the time of king Athelstan and the time of king John, and before the coronation of king Henry III; and the predecessors of the aforesaid jurymen And they say that Waleran, formerly earl of Warwick, for himself and his heirs, granted that all the customs aforesaid, and all other ancient customs, should last for ever."

The following comments clarify points in the above translation:

King Henry III had two coronations, a rushed one on 28th October 1216 when he was aged nine, and a more formal one on 17th May 1220.

King Athelstan reigned from 924 to 939.

'Yardland' was a unit of land measurement, used primarily for tax assessment purposes; it was the amount of land a team of two oxen could plough in a single season, the equivalent of a quarter of a hide, or thirty acres, also known as a virgate.

'Nook of land' was also a unit of land measurement, roughly twelve and a half acres.

'Bedell' = beadle, a minor parish official akin to a town crier, but with a law enforcement role for petty offences.

'Decenary', or 'decennary', was another name for a tithing, and also for a tithing-man. Under the system of frankpledge, a tithing was a group of ten households, the members of which were responsible for the good behaviour of the whole group. The tithing-man was the group's spokesperson, who represented the tithing in court, also referred to as a juryman.

'Wanlass', also spelt wanlace and windlass, meant, in relation to deer-hunting, a circuit made by some of a hunting party for the purpose of intercepting and driving back the game. It came to mean an appointed station on the hunting-ground.

'Woodward' = keeper of the woods.

'Tallage' was an arbitrary land tax imposed by the crown or a feudal lord; it was abolished in 1340.

The four usual terms were the quarter days: 25th March (Lady Day), 24th June (Midsummer), 29th September (Michaelmas) and 25th December (Christmas).

'House-bote' was the right to take timber off the lord's land for the repair of houses or to use as fuel.

'Hay-bote' was the right to take wood to repair hedges and fences.

'Heriot' was a payment to a feudal lord, in money or kind, on the death of a tenant and on certain other occasions.

The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as Candlemas, was celebrated on 2nd February.

Wigula as a district of Sutton is not easily identified, hence Miss Bracken's bracketed question mark. Roger Lea suggested it was Wylde Green, which makes sense in that anyone living there would be nearer the Maney windmill than the Sutton watermill, but there is no etymological connection between Wigula and Wylde Green, which didn't come into being until much later.

'Ringed and maimed': Under the draconian forest laws, every dog in the forest either had metal rings attached to it or it was maimed by severing the hamstrings, removing the heel-pad or amputating the middle three claws of the left forepaw to prevent it from running after deer. The practice was abolished by the 1217 Charter of the Forest.

'To make law with the third hand': A defendant could clear himself by taking a solemn oath denying the charge against him, supported by two neighbours or local freeholders making the like oath in his support (making three hands swearing to the truth).

'Essoin' meant to give an excuse for non-appearance in court. Anyone who failed to attend on three occasions would have judgment entered against him.

Note 13.

'ob.q' means a halfpenny and a farthing (quarter of a penny) from the Latin obolus and quadrans.

Thomas de Beauchamp 11th Earl of Warwick (1313-69) was only two years old when his father Guy de Beauchamp died. John de Somery 1st Baron Somery and Lord of Dudley (died 1322) was an English nobleman, soldier and politician.

The robbery took place in 1324. The Ridgeway was the name given to a stretch of the Chester Road between Beggars Bush and Queslett Road. A hundred was an administrative district of a county, originally representing sufficient land to support a hundred households. There were four Warwickshire hundreds, Barlichway, Hemlingford, Kington or Kineton and Knightlow, and five Staffordshire hundreds, Cuttleston, Offlow, Pirehill, Seisdon and Totmonslow.

'Aldrewich' = Aldridge.

The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield (one diocese at the time) was Roger Northburgh (died 1358).

'Supersedeas' was a common law writ to suspend the enforcement of a court order.

Note 14.

The four eminent Roman roads were Watling Street, Fosse Way, Ermine Street and Icknield or Ryknild Street.

Modern research has cast doubt on whether Icknield Street began at Tynemouth and ended at Southampton; its route can only be definitely traced from Templeborough in South Yorkshire to Bourton-on-the-Water in Gloucestershire. Most of the places named by Dugdale can still be found on a modern map: Bolsover, Chesterfield and Sutton Scarsdale in Derbyshire, Morley Moor north of Derby, Little Chester a suburb of Derby, Egginton Common near Rolleston on Dove, Monks Bridge across the River Dove, Burton Moor near Burton-on-Trent, Wychnor Bridge across the River Trent north-east of Alrewas, Streethay near Lichfield, Wall, Radley Moor (an area west of Little Aston whose name has been lost), Alcester in Warwickshire, Bidford Bridge across the River Avon near Bidford-on-Avon, and Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire.

Note 15.

27 E. 3 : The 27th year of the reign of King Edward III ran from 25th January 1353 to 24th January 1354.

St. Martin's Day, or Martinmas, is 11th November.

Henry de Beauchamp, the last Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, died in 1446 without a male heir. His sister Anne de Beauchamp (1426-92) was married to Richard Neville who became the 16th Earl of Warwick, both in right of his wife and by Letters Patent dated 2nd March 1450. Known in history as Warwick the Kingmaker, Neville was instrumental in deposing King Henry VI (reigned 1422-61 and 1470-71) and putting King Edward IV (reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83) on the throne, and then, after falling out with Edward over his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, briefly restoring Henry. In 1460 Henry seized the Warwick estates, leased the Manor of Sutton to Sir Edmund Mountford (died 1494) for ten years, and appointed John Holte (c.1400-70), the ancestor of the Holtes of Aston Hall, as ranger or keeper of Sutton Chase. Neville was killed at the Battle of Barnet in 1471, after which King Henry was again deposed and put to death. Neville's heirs were his two daughters; the elder, Isabel, was married to King Edward's brother George Duke of Clarence, and the younger, Anne, the widow of King Henry's son Edward Prince of Wales, was married to George's younger brother Richard Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III. The Warwick estates were settled by Act of Parliament in 1472 on Isabel and Anne, and George became the 17th Earl of Warwick, in right of his wife and by Letters Patent, and Lord of the Manor of Sutton, until 1478 when he was impeached for treason and put to death in the Tower of London by being drowned in a butt of malmsey wine. In 1487, two years after King Richard had been killed at the Battle of Bosworth, and replaced on the throne by King Henry VII, the new King gave the Warwick estates back to Neville's widow, the elderly Anne de Beauchamp, but she immediately gifted them back to the King, who then returned the Manor of Sutton to her for her lifetime. The manor reverted to the crown on her death in 1492, although her grandson Edward Plantagenet (son of Isabel and George) was the rightful heir. He had been imprisoned in the Tower of London, at the age of ten, in 1485, and in 1499 was executed on a trumped-up charge of treason. On the death of King Henry VII in 1509, his son King Henry VIII inherited the Warwick estates; this somewhat convoluted series of events shows how King Henry VIII became the Lord of the Manor of Sutton.

Note 16.

Wingston: see note 5 on page 2.

19 H. 8 : The 19th year of the reign of King Henry VIII ran from 22nd April 1527 to 21st April 1528.

The Feast Day of Saints Simon and Jude is celebrated on 28th October.

Sutton's first Moot Hall, or Town Hall, was built by Bishop Vesey on Okerhill at the top of Mill Street near its junction with Coleshill Street and the High Street. A cottage, which had been occupied by Rev Nicholas Mogg, a chaplain, was demolished as a site for the new building, which cost £35.6.6d.

The rent of £58 p.a. payable by the Warden and Society to King Henry VIII was the same sum as he had previously received from various office holders, such as the Bailiff and Park Keeper, who were free to make as much profit from their office that they could provided they paid the King his rent. There is a popular belief that Henry 'gave' the Park to the people of Sutton, but it made no difference to him whether the £58 came from individual office holders or from the Warden and Society, except that, as was invariably the case at the time, no thought was given to the effect of inflation.

Note 17.

Scipio Le Squire (1579-1659) was a lawyer, antiquary and collector of books and manuscripts. At the time of his death, he was the Senior Chamberlain of the Court of Receipt in the Exchequer and Keeper of the Public Records. He owned early printed editions of some of Shakespeare's plays, which he annotated in his own hand. He was buried in the east cloister at Westminster Abbey.

The chapel of St. Blaise, attached to the Manor House in Maney, was the place of worship for Suttonians before the parish church was built, but by Bishop Vesey's day it was in a ruinous state, and was demolished with the Manor House. St. Blaise (died c. 303) was the Bishop of Sebaste in Cappadocia who suffered martyrdom under the Emperor Diocletian. He was the patron saint of wool-carders (men who prepared wool for spinning with a metal comb), because before his death he was tortured by having his flesh raked by an iron comb. He was also the patron saint of sore throats, as he once cured a boy who was choking on a fish-bone. He was an extremely popular saint in the Middle Ages. John Herman referred to by Dugdale is believed to be Bishop Vesey's uncle, Rev John Harman.

In 1328 the 9th Earl of Warwick was the fifteen-year-old Thomas de Beauchamp, who was too young to make ecclesiastical appointments. King Edward III therefore made the appointment of Rev Thomas de Hampton to St. Blaise Chapel on his behalf. A donative was a church benefice given by a patron without requiring formal institution by a bishop.

Note 18.

Spelling in Dugdale's time was haphazard. Having originally called Bishop Vesey (spelt Veisy) John Harman, and his uncle John Herman, he now comes up with John Hermon. Such inconsistency is very common, but can be disconcerting.

Francis Godwin (1562-1633) was a historian, science fiction writer and priest. The son of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, he himself was the Bishop of Llandaff in 1601 and the Bishop of Hereford in 1617, having been the Subdean of Exeter in 1587. He accompanied William Camden (see note 6 on page 3) on his antiquarian tour of Wales in 1590, and was the great-uncle of the writer Jonathan Swift. His books include *Commentary on the Prelates of England* (1601), *Annales of England* (1616) and *The Man in the Moone, or a Discourse of a Voyage thither* (1620). The Latin extract from *Commentary on the Prelates of England* quoted by Dugdale translates as: "A man who lacked neither learning nor prudence; moreover he is renowned for the kindness of his character." Elsewhere Godwin was highly critical of Vesey for despoiling the see of Exeter to finance his charitable works in Sutton.

The Seven Hayes, or Enclosures, are still identifiable in Sutton Park: Holly Hurst, Darnel Hurst, Upper Nuthurst, Lower Nuthurst, Pool Hollies, Streetly Wood and Westwood Coppice.

The total cost of the items listed by Dugdale comes to £299.0.11d.

Note 19.

'Bulloin' = Boulogne. In 1544 King Henry VIII embarked on his last foreign war, to capture the French port of Boulogne in order to cut off the supply of arms to Scotland.

In 1549 there was an insurrection by 16,000 men of Norfolk, led by Robert Ket, directed against the enclosure of common land. The rebellion was suppressed by forces under John Dudley, the recently created Earl of Warwick, and Ket was hanged.

Note 20.

Latronum spelunca et receptaculum means a den of thieves and a hideout.

The house near Canwell Gate (the entrance to Canwell Priory) still exists, as part of Vesey Grange in Weeford Road.

The inscription on Vesey's tomb in Holy Trinity Church says that he died "in the 103rd year of his age", which means he was born in about 1452, but most local historians take this with a pinch of salt and put the date of his birth at around 1462, which would make him ninety-two when he died, still a truly venerable age in the 16th century.

Note 21.

24 H.6 : The 24th year of the reign of King Henry VI ran from 1st September 1445 to 31st August 1446.

7 H.5 : The 7th year of the reign of King Henry V ran from 21st March 1419 to 20th March 1420.

Richard de Beauchamp 13th Earl of Warwick (1382-1439) granted a lease of the Sutton Manor House with its park and pools to Sir Ralph Bracebridge of Kingsbury Hall for his lifetime in 1419.

'bremes' = bream.

Note 22.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross was celebrated on 14th September.

Note 23.

'spys' etc. = spice, pepper, saffron, cloves and cinnamon.

'Mydlam' refers to Middleham Castle near Leyburn North Yorkshire, the northern stronghold of the Earls of Warwick. 'My Lord' in 1453/54 was Richard Neville (Warwick the Kingmaker).

Note 24.

'streke' = strike, a unit of measurement of dry goods.

Note 25.

Procurations and synodals were payments made by parish clergy to their bishop or archdeacon, procuration being money to cover travelling, accommodation and catering costs of a visiting bishop and his retinue, and synodal being a small fee paid as an acknowledgement of the bishop's authority in the parish.

Note 26.

A chantry was an endowment to provide funds for a priest to celebrate mass for the souls of the donor and his family; it can also refer to the chapel or altar where the mass was performed. Chantries were abolished by Act of Parliament in the first year of the reign of King Edward V in 1547.

Note 27.

The patrons of Holy Trinity Church were the owners of the advowson which gave them the right to appoint the incumbents.

The abbreviations after the incumbents' names have the following meanings:

'accol' = acolyte, or assistant cleric.

'cap' = chaplain.

'cler' = clergyman.

'pbr' = presbyter.

'Legus Dr.' = Doctor of Laws (LL.D.)

'Decret. Dr.' = Doctor of Canon Law (DD)

'S. Theol. Bac.' = Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STB)

'Art. Magr.' = Master of Arts (MA)

The days of the Roman calendar are abbreviated as follows:

'cal' = calends (the first day of the month).

'id' = ides (the 15th day of March, May, July and October and the 13th day of the other months).

'non' = nones (nine days counting inclusively before the ides i.e. the 5th or 7th day of the month).

Other Latin phrases translate as follows:

'hac vice Patronus' = patron on this occasion (during the minority of Thomas de Beauchamp (or de Bellocampo) 11th Earl of Warwick).

'Thom. Dux Surr. Co. Cantii' = Thomas Holland Duke of Surrey and Earl of Kent (1374-1400); King Richard II forfeited the estates of Thomas de Beauchamp 12th Earl of Warwick in 1397 and gave them to Thomas Holland, but two years later Richard was deposed and King Henry IV returned the estates to the Earl of Warwick.

'ratione minoris aet. Ric. Comitis Warw.' = by reason of the minority of Richard (de Beauchamp 13th) Earl of Warwick.

'Joh. Verney, & alii, Ric. Comite Warw. in part. transmar. existente' = John Verney and others, Richard Earl of Warwick being in lands beyond the seas. Verney, formerly the priest of the Chapel of St. Blaise in Sutton, was the Earl of Warwick's General Receiver, responsible for managing over a hundred manors. In 1431 Richard de Beauchamp was one of the leaders of the English forces in France during the Hundred Years War, and was a principal participant in the trial and execution by burning of Joan of Arc. He appears as a character in Shakespeare's *Henry VI Part One*.

'ar' = armiger (a man entitled to bear his own coat-of-arms).

'vidua' = widow. Elizabeth Eliot was the wife of Roger Eliot senior, who was Rector from 1564 to 1583, an omission from Dugdale's list. She acquired the advowson and appointed her son, Roger Eliot junior, as Rector in 1595.

Note 28.

The inscriptions translate as follows:

"Here lies Agnes the younger daughter of William Harman the Lord of Moor Hall, the wife of William Gibbons, by whom he had two sons, John, a clergyman, and Thomas, and three daughters, the eldest the wife of Thomas Keene and the third the wife of Edward East; which Agnes the mother died 5th February 1520."

"Pray for the souls of John Leveson and Amice his wife, who had issue William, the Chancellor of Exeter cathedral, and Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Yard Esq. of Devonshire, and Anna, the wife of George Robinson, a London merchant."

Agnes Gibbons' three daughters (Bishop Vesey's nieces) were Joan, Alice and Ann. Alice was the wife of Thomas Yardley. According to the new style of calendar adopted in 1752, Agnes died in 1521.

Amice Leveson was the sister of Bishop Vesey and Agnes Gibbons.

Note 29.

The original foundation deed ('Feoffment'), now in the School archives, was dated 14th May 1527; it appointed 21 private trustees ('Feoffees') to find a schoolmaster on a salary of £7 p.a. There is no record of the name of a schoolmaster until 1540.

The psalm *De Profundis* is Psalm 130 ("Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord").

Note 30.

The Feoffment dated 1st October 1543 re-established the School by appointing the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield as the trustees; this deed required the schoolmaster to be a layman, which had not been a requirement of the 1527 deed. The reason behind this appears to lie in the momentous events which had taken place since 1527, namely King Henry VIII declaring himself Head of the Church of

England and breaking with the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Vesey remained a Catholic at heart and did not want to see the School in the hands of one of the new breed of Protestant clergymen who were subverting the old Catholic traditions.

Note 31.

John Savage is reputed to have been a local farmer, but he must have been well-educated if he could teach grammar and rhetoric (which meant Latin grammar and rhetoric). His annual salary was now £10.

There were two Laurence Nowells, who were first cousins, at this time; one was an antiquary, cartographer and scholar of the Anglo-Saxon language and the other was a schoolteacher and churchman. Unfortunately, Dugdale conflated the two men. The quote from William Camden translates as: "A man notable for his rare learning and who first in our age resurrected the Saxon language of our ancestors, dead through disuse and buried in oblivion", but Camden was referring to Laurence Nowell the antiquary, not his cousin the schoolteacher. This error was repeated by later local historians and even found its way into the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and it was only in the 1970s that the biographies of the two Laurence Nowells became disentangled.

Note 32.

John Mitchell successfully sued the Warden and Society of Sutton Coldfield in the Chancery Court in 1634 and 1637 and recovered some (but not all) of the School lands which had been fraudulently disposed of, and the management of the School was removed from the Warden and Society and placed in the hands of private trustees, reverting to Bishop Vesey's first thoughts in 1527.

The Lord Chancellor was Sir Thomas Coventry (1578-1640).

Note 33.

Waleran de Beaumont was the 4th Earl of Warwick from 1184 to 1204. His father Roger de Beaumont was the 2nd Earl from 1119 to 1153.

A yard land was approximately 30 acres (see note 12).

Cardinal Thomas Wolsey founded Cardinal College Oxford, using money from the suppression of various priories in 1525, but he fell from grace in 1529 and died a year later before the building work was completed. King Henry VIII refounded the College in 1546 and renamed it Christ Church, its present name.

Note 34.

Wigginshill is a district of Sutton north-east of Minworth, north-west of Curdworth and south-west of Wishaw. This area, on the eastern edge of Sutton, included Langley Hall and Peddimore Hall and was the hub of Sutton's life before the Norman Conquest and until the centre shifted to Great Sutton, the area taking in Coleshill Street, Mill Street and the High Street, when the Parish Church was built in the 13th century.

Turchill de Warwick (c.1040-c.1088) is a shadowy figure; genealogists cannot agree on his dates of birth and death, or the names and number of his wives and children. Also known as Turchill de Arden, and sometimes called Thirkill or Thorkell, he was the son of Alwine who was the Earl of Warwick before 1066.

A furlong is an eighth of a mile, or 220 yards.

A knight's fee was the revenue from an area of land sufficient to support a knight and his retinue, or very approximately £27.

Note 35.

'T. Hore' appears to be a misprint for J. Hore.

It is instructive to compare Dugdale's account of Wigginshill with a recent account, taken from *Minworth Its History and Heritage* (MinworthHistory@gmail.com):

“Wiggins Hill (sometimes spelled Wigginshill) is a hamlet situated in the Minworth area of the civil parish of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. It lies within the City of Birmingham on its northeastern outer fringe, where it forms part of the Sutton Walmley and Minworth electoral ward and borders the North Warwickshire district.

This settlement is a rural hamlet, probably not much bigger than it was a thousand years ago when the manor of Wiggins Hill was listed in the Domesday Book. The name derives from the Old English Wicga’s ing hyll meaning ‘Wicga’s people’s hill’. The 1086 Domesday survey has Winchicelle.

But there were people living here long before Domesday. Two Mesolithic flint cores, from which flint flakes and blades were struck, were found near Wiggins Hill Road. This suggests that over 5000 years ago this was a centre of flint tool manufacture, and therefore of settlement, perhaps a semi-permanent base-camp for hunting. It is interesting to conjecture why here, as flint is not found in our area.

Also off Wiggins Hill Road many scattered pieces of Roman pottery have been discovered. Broken pottery was usually thrown onto the farm’s dung heap and later scattered onto the fields with the manure; clear evidence that a settlement was not far from the present village. And in a small urn buried in the ground was found a Roman coin hoard. This included coins of the emperors Gallienus (253-268), Victorinus (269-271), Tetricus (271-273), Claudius II Gothicus (268-270). Why the coins were buried here sometime after 270 AD and why they were never collected remains an open question.

The Domesday Book lists 3 virgates of land [90 acres] with one ploughteam in the demesne. There were 8 acres of meadow and woodland 2 furlongs long and the same wide. For tax purposes it was worth only 5 shillings. Bruning/Browning was the tenant of Earl Thorkell both before and after the Norman Conquest. He was fortunate: most Anglo-Saxon lords were replaced by Norman lords. The overlordship subsequently passed to the Earls of Warwick, who held it until at least 1407. In 1403 ¼ knight’s fee was given to Margaret, the widow of Thomas, Earl of Warwick. For a small manor Wiggins Hill had a complicated descent. William Bonchevalier held Biggins Hill in 1235 with Cherington near Shipston-on-Stour and Bedsworth near Monkspath as one knight’s fee. Four years later Bartholomew de Turbervill conveyed 3 carucates of land [300 acres] at Wiggins Hill and Cherington to William de Wylinton [Willington, near Repton Derbyshire]. John de Wylinton, his son?, held the fee in 1315, but by 1347 Wiggins Hill was held as ¼ knight’s fee by William de Lucy of John de Hull, who held it of John de Wylinton. Baldwin de Bereford held it in about 1362 with Langley, with which it then descended to John Hore, who held 3 dwellings here in 1431. Subsequently Robert Pudsey sold them to Thomas Gibbons of New Hall but in 1589 reserved to himself and his heirs an ancient rent of 46s 2½d. Wiggins Hill was not specifically referred to as a manor until shortly before 1596 when it was conveyed by Thomas and Francis Gibbons to Edward Burrowes. He conveyed it at that date to Nicholas Wilson. The manor was later divided probably between two co-heiresses. The rights of one descended to Anne wife of Nicholas Wolley and Mary wife of John James. They with Robert Milner and Anne, Anne Wolley’s daughter?, and Edward Crompton and Mary, Mary James’s daughter?, conveyed half the manor in 1691 to John Addyes, Thomas Homer and the widow Anne Burgoyne. They were probably the inheritors of the co-heiress since the whole manor was conveyed in 1766 by widow Mary Homer, Richard Pitts and Mary his wife, spinster Elizabeth Homer, Edward Felton and Jane his wife, to Richard Geast. The descent thereafter is unknown and was presumably lost.”

Note 36.

Oblations and obventions: Oblations were voluntary monetary gifts for the support of the clergy or the poor of the parish. Obventions were fees charged by a clergyman for conducting weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Note 37.

Langley is a district of Sutton on its eastern edge lying between Walmley and Wishaw.

Lonkeley is an earlier spelling of Langley, meaning ‘long field’. The names Brockhurst and Blackmore have not survived in the area. Brockhurst means ‘wood by a brook’ which could refer to Langley Brook.

'Assize of Novel Disseisin' (recent dispossession) was a court action brought by a freeholder to recover land of which he had recently been dispossessed.

'Fifteenth and Tenth' was a form of taxation on the value of personal property, such as household goods and livestock, charged at the rate of one fifteenth in rural areas and one tenth in towns and cities.

Note 38.

Sir William Bereford (died 1326) was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1309.

John de Somery 1st Baron Somery (died 1322) was the Lord of Dudley.

Alan la Zouch 1st Baron la Zouch of Ashby (1267-1314) was the governor of Rockingham Castle. Sir William Trussell (died 1347) was a leading politician who was later the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Note 39.

Radford Semele is a Warwickshire village near Leamington.

'dilectus Clericus noster' means our beloved clerk (clergyman).

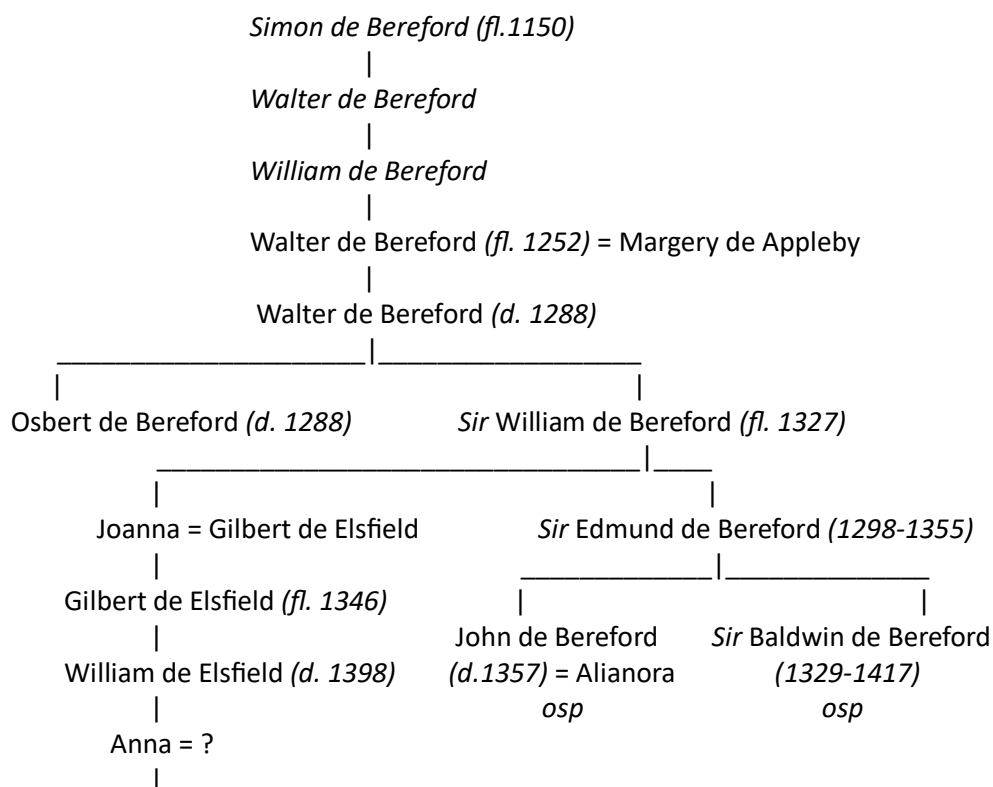
Chaucombe = Chacombe, a village three miles north-east of Banbury.

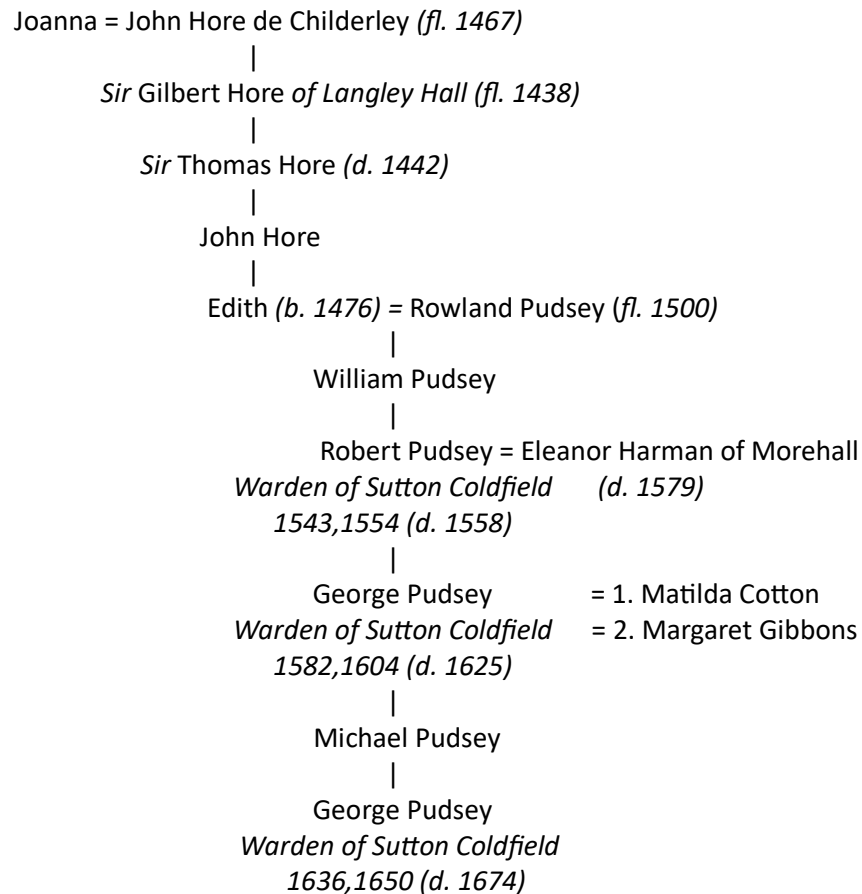
Corson has not been identified.

'In cujus rei testimonium' etc: In witness whereof I have set my seal; and because my seal is unknown to most people, I have procured the seal of my nephew Roger Hillary to be affixed.

Sir Roger Hillary (died 1356) was Lord of the Manor of Fisherwick near Lichfield, and was the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas from 1341.

As a herald, Dugdale had a particular interest in seals and their links with coats-of-arms, but his learned disquisition on the history of seals is omitted as being irrelevant to the history of Langley. However, there is a family tree from Simon de Bereford in the 12th century to George Pudsey in the 17th century incorporated in this omitted section, a simplified version of which, translated from the Latin original, is here reproduced, with some additions in italics:





Note 40.

'crusule' = crusily (scattered with cross crosslets i.e. plain crosses with each of its limbs also terminating in a cross).

'fiche' = fitchy or fitched (of a cross, pointed at the foot).

'Flowre de Lices' = fleur-de-lis (stylized lily).

'sable' = black.

'Field Arg' = background of silver (argent, usually represented by white).

'Shotswell': Shotteswell is a village in south Warwickshire, north of Banbury.

'Derse': an earlier spelling of Dasset. Burton Dasset and Avon Dasset are villages in south Warwickshire.

'Bikemersche': Bickmarsh is a village near Kenilworth.

'Thorpe' possibly refers to Stoney Thorpe, a village near Southam.

special entail: ordinary entails, whereby lands passed from eldest son to eldest son, took no account of illegitimate sons, but a special entail could give them rights of inheritance if specifically named.

Note 41.

'Gascoin' means Gascony in France. A dispute between King Edward III and Philip Count of Valois over ownership of Gascony was the principal cause of the Hundred Years War. Gascony was the continental base of the English forces during the war.

Note 42.

Sir Baldwin's adoption of a bear for his crest was a pun on his surname Bereford.

Note 43.

William de Sutton of Warwick was a descendant of Guy de Beauchamp 10th Earl of Warwick (died 1315).

13 E. 3 : The 13th year of the reign of King Edward III ran from 25th January 1339 to 24th January 1340.

Thomas de Beauchamp was the 11th Earl of Warwick from 1315 to 1369.

Sir John Lizours of Fledborough in Nottinghamshire (died 1361) was the MP for Nottinghamshire in 1312 and 1316.

15 H. 6 : The 15th year of the reign of King Henry VI ran from 1st September 1436 to 31st August 1437.

Sir Richard Stanhope (c. 1374-1436) was the MP for Nottinghamshire from 1402 to 1433, and Sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire in 1404/05.

Nicholas Goushill (died 1402) was the MP for Derbyshire in 1393.

William Bassett of Fledborough married Katherine, the daughter of Sir Richard Stanhope.

'Dominium Vocatum New-Hall' means the Lordship called New Hall. New Hall had been built by the Earl of Warwick in the early 13th century to replace the old and dilapidated Manor House on Manor Hill in Maney as a hunting lodge and administrative centre.

Note 44.

Peddimore is a district of Sutton Coldfield lying east of Walmley and north of Minworth.

9 E. 1 : The 9th year of the reign of King Edward I ran from 20th November 1280 to 19th November 1281.

Thomas Arden de Rotley: Ratley is a village near Stratford-upon Avon.

Thomas Arden de Hanwell was a cousin of Thomas Arden de Rotley; Hanwell is an Oxfordshire village two miles north-west of Banbury.

Hugh de Vienna: Hugh de Vienne was a clerk in the service of Edmund of Lancaster, brother of King Edward I, and the vicar of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Uttoxeter.

'Crudeworth' = Curdworth.

'Echenours' or 'Esthendmore' was a village in North Warwickshire, now lost.

'Overton' is an earlier name for Water Orton.

Sir Richard de Mundeville was the Lord of the Manor of Berkswell.

Sir William de Odingsells (died 1295) was the Lord of the Manors of Solihull and Maxstoke.

Sir John Clinton 1st Baron Clinton (died 1315) was the MP for Warwickshire in 1299.

Sir Thomas de Haseley was the Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1278; Haseley is a village four miles north-west of Warwick.

Note 45.

'Vert and venison' means the greenery of a forest (or chase) and the game animals living within it.

William de Beauchamp was the 9th Earl of Warwick from 1268 to 1298.

'paunage' = pannage, the right to feed pigs in a wood.

'assignation': one meaning of assignation is the transfer of a right or title, here 'without assignation' loosely means without permission.

Note 46.

'estovers' means the right to take wood from another's land.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on 8th September. 16 Edw. 1. = 1288.

Note 47.

34 E. 3 : 1360/61.

Robert de Stretton Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield (died 1385) was born in Stretton Magna near Leicester (now a deserted village); his consecration was delayed by twenty-two months because he was accused (probably wrongly) of being illiterate.

Note 48.

Curdworth is an ancient district on the eastern border of Sutton, now across the Birmingham boundary in North Warwickshire.

Turchill de Warwick: see note 34.

Note 49.

'Rotley' = Ratley (see note 44).

Rodburne = Radbourne, a village two miles south of Southam, which no longer exists.

Park Hall: Edward de Arden (died 1583) abandoned Peddimore Hall and moved to Park Hall, on the south side of the River Tame below Minworth, as the family's principal residence.

Note 50.

Siward (c. 1050-1139), the son of Turchill and father of two very charitably-minded sons, was the ancestor of the Ardens of Peddimore Hall and Park Hall.

The Abbey of Thorney was a Benedictine monastery at Thorney near Peterborough, now the Church of St. Mary and St. Botolph.

Note 51.

A sewer was an attendant at table, with a range of meanings from majordomo to menial waiter. Henry de Newburgh, otherwise de Beaumont, was created Earl of Warwick by King William II (Rufus) in 1088; he died in 1119.

Kenilworth Priory: the Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin in Kenilworth was founded as a priory in 1119 by Geoffrey de Clinton, Chamberlain and Treasurer to King Henry 1st (died 1134).

'Riton' = Ryton-on-Dunsmore, a village near Rugby.

'Fleckenho' = Flecknoe, six miles to the south of Rugby.

'Stoneley' = Stoneleigh, a village between Coventry and Leamington; Stoneleigh Abbey was a Cistercian monastery founded in 1154.

'Pakinton' = Great Packington or Packington Magna, was a hamlet near Meriden, south of Coleshill; Little Packington still exists nearby.

'caracute': see note 2 on page 30/31.

Note 52.

12 H. 2 : 1165/66

'Bathkinton' = Bagington, a village three miles south-east of Coventry.

Newton is a small village east of Rugby.

Combe: Coombe Abbey was a Cistercian monastery founded in 1150, on the east side of Coventry.

'Bilney' = Binley, a small village now within Coventry.

Pipewell/Causton: Pipewell Abbey was a Cistercian monastery founded in 1143 at Pipewell, near Market Harborough, Northamptonshire. It maintained an agricultural grange at Cawston, a village west of Rugby.

'Salbrigge' = Saubridge, a small hamlet five miles south of Rugby.

Tournament at Blythe: King Richard I designated Blyth, north of Worksop in Nottinghamshire, as a public tournament ground in 1194, for the purpose of training knights and their squires in the martial arts in preparation for foreign wars.

7 H. 3 : 1222/23.

Savaricum de Malaleone: Savari de Mauléon of Poitou (c. 1181-1233) was a French soldier whom King John designated as a member of the Council of Regency to govern England during the minority of his son King Henry III.

Note 53.

48 H. 3 : 1263/64.

Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (died 1282) was the self-proclaimed Prince of Wales and the leader of a rebellion against English rule. By the Treaty of Montgomery (1267) King Henry III acknowledged his title and his overlordship of much of Wales. Fifteen years later, he was defeated by English forces under King Edward I and killed in battle. In 1301 Edward appointed his son, later King Edward II, as Prince of Wales, a title held by the heir-apparent to the English throne ever since.

Battle of Evesham: The second Barons' War (1264-67) between King Henry III and the Barons, led by Simon de Montfort, seeking to limit royal power, ended in victory for Henry. The Battle of Evesham took place on 4th August 1265; de Montfort's forces were defeated by an army led by Prince Edward, later King Edward I, de Montfort was killed and the Barons' lands were forfeited.

Note 54.

The Dictum of Kenilworth (31st October 1266) set out the terms on which the Barons who were disinherited following the Battle of Evesham could redeem their estates.

Hugh de Vienna: see note 44.

Nicholas de Eaton died at Ratley in 1330 aged 65.

'chequi or' = chequy or (of a shield, with a gold or yellow chequered field).

'azure' = blue, 'cheveron' = chevron, 'gules' = red (of a shield, with a blue field having a red inverted V across the centre).

'ermine' = of a shield, white with black tails.

Note 55.

5 E. 1 : 1276/77.

Welch Expedition: In 1277 King Edward I led an army into Wales, but there was no major battle as Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, many of his subjects having defected, surrendered, and by the Treaty of Aberconwy (10th November 1277) Llywelyn was left with only the western part of Gwynedd, although he retained the title of Prince of Wales.

'fesse' = fess (a broad horizontal band across the centre of a shield).

Raph de Vernum: Ralph de Vernon (1205-70) was the Rector of Hanwell. His daughter Rose (1250-1316) married Thomas de Arden (1236-87) in 1268. It seems more likely that Joan who married Sir John Swinford (1340-71) was Thomas de Arden's granddaughter.

15 E. 2 : 1321/22.

Scottish Expedition: In 1322 a military campaign and invasion of Scotland was launched by King Edward II against Robert the Bruce, which resulted in failure and retreat.

'Draiton' = Drayton, a village two miles south of Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Hanwell is a village two miles north-west of Banbury.

'Horale' = Horley, a village three miles north-west of Banbury.

'Horynton' = Hornton a village near Horley.

'Dunstuwe' = Duns Tew, a village seven miles south of Banbury.

'Yolughburg' = Youlbury just west of Oxford.

Wykham was a mediaeval village south of Banbury, which no longer exists.

'Swalweclve' = Swalcliffe, a village five miles west of Banbury.

'Wapenham' = Wappenham near Towcester, Northamptonshire.

'Sudburgh' = Sudborough near Thrapston, Northamptonshire.

Perching was a mediaeval village near Fulking, Sussex.

'Adburton' = Edburton, a village at the foot of the South Downs.

'Lawike' is unidentified.

'Hangelson' = Hangleton, a mediaeval village that was deserted after the Black Death, now a suburb of Brighton.

'Note-Knolle': possibly Knoll, another deserted village, now a residential neighbourhood in Brighton. The origin of 'Note' is unidentified.

Note 56.

Anselm de Bromwich (1284-1345) was born at Bromwich Castle, now a scheduled monument in Castle Bromwich; his wife Isabella Arden's dates were 1310-50.

Sir John de Mowbray 9th Baron Mowbray (c. 1310-73) was a Justice of the Bench of Common Pleas.

Thomas de Hingylby or Ingleby was a Justice of the King's Bench from 1361 to 1377.

The relevant records say that Thomas Pakenham (died 1380) was attainted for "felonies committed in Warwickshire" but do not state the nature of his offences.

43 E. 3 : 1369/70, 2 R. 2 : 1378/79.

Note 57.

Sir John de Botetourt 2nd Baron Botetourt (1318-86) was the Lord of Weoley.

'Weolegh Castle' = Weoley Castle, a moated hunting lodge and fortified manor house within a large deer park built in around 1270, now a suburb of south-west Birmingham.

Crombe-Adam, later known as Earl's Croome, is a small village near Upton-upon-Severn in Worcestershire.

Grafton-Flenorth, now called Grafton Flyford, is a village six miles east of Worcester.

Note 58.

5 R. 2 : 1381/82.

Jack Straw/Plebeian Rout: Jack Straw was one of the three leaders of the 1381 Peasants' Revolt, the others being Wat Tyler and John Ball. The uprising, against high taxation and the treatment of the poor, started in Kent and spread to London and other parts of the country before it was suppressed. The three leaders were executed.

Sulgrave is a Northamptonshire village five miles north of Brackley.

Siege of Calais: The English siege of the French town of Calais took place between September 1346 and August 1347, when the Burghers of Calais finally surrendered to the English forces. Calais remained in English hands until it was retaken by the French in 1558.

8 H. 5 : 1420/21. According to Dugdale's family tree of the Ardens (see note 64), it was Robert de Arden who died in 8 H. 5, not his father Henry de Arden. It is clear that if Henry took part in the Siege of Calais in 1346 he must have died before 1420.

Note 59.

21 H. 6 : 1442/43.

Henry Percy 2nd Earl of Northumberland (1394-1455) was the son of Shakespeare's Harry Hotspur. He was the Governor of Berwick-upon-Tweed, a town on the Scottish border which regularly alternated between English and Scottish control. Percy was killed in the First Battle of St. Albans in 1451, which was a resounding victory for the Yorkists.

James Butler 5th Earl of Ormond (1420-61) was created Earl of Wiltshire in 1449 as a reward for his support of the Lancastrian cause; he was executed by the Yorkists following the Battle of Towton.

Sir Richard Bingham (1412-76) was a Justice of the Kings Bench. He lived at Middleton Hall following his marriage to Margaret, the widow of Sir Hugh Willoughby.

Sir John Portington (1385-1454) was a Justice of the Kings Bench.

The Feast of St. Lawrence the Martyr is celebrated on 10th August.

Sir Thomas Littleton (c. 1407-81) was later a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was also a notable legal writer; his book *Treatise on Tenures* was for a long time the leading textbook on land law.

Thomas Greswold (c. 1390-1458) was a Sergeant of the Kings Bench.
John Gemell lived in Wishaw.

Note 60.

Richard Clodshale of Saltley (1384-1428) was the High Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire in 1426.

John Hampden of Great Hampden Buckinghamshire (c.1387-1459) was the MP for Buckinghamshire in 1420.

'mortuary' has a secondary meaning of a gift to the local priest upon the death of a parishioner.

'trental of masses' means a series of thirty masses offered for the soul of a deceased person.

Sir Edward Belknap (died 1521) was a soldier, courtier and Privy Councillor in the service of both King Henry VII and King Henry VIII.

John Bracebrigge or Bracebridge (1444-1516) was the son of Richard Bracebridge and brother of Alice Bracebridge (see note 61). He died at Kingsbury Hall.

John Boteler, otherwise Butler, of Solihull (died c. 1512) was a lawyer and landowner. The Manor of Elmdon near Solihull was one of his properties.

Note 61.

Richard Bracebrigge: Richard Bracebridge of Kingsbury Hall (1425-1501) was the son of Sir Ralph Bracebridge who had taken a lease for life of the Manor and Chase of Sutton Coldfield in 1419, was the father of John Bracebridge (see note 60), and of Alice (1469-1539) who married John de Arden (died 1526). A romantic story is related about this marriage. Living at Kingsbury Hall, Alice fell in love with her near neighbour John de Arden of Park Hall; her love was reciprocated, but John's autocratic father, Walter de Arden, objected to the match on the grounds that the Bracebridges, although wealthy, were parvenues and beneath the Ardens in social standing. The love-sick Alice, like another Juliet, pined away, but her father, who had taken umbrage at the slight to his family's good name, took her part. One night, Richard Bracebridge mustered a small band of retainers and stealthily gained entry to Park Hall, kidnapped the not-unwilling heir and held him captive at Kingsbury. Rather than sending his own men to Kingsbury to rescue his son, Walter applied for a court order for his return. The case was heard by Sir Simon Mountford of Coleshill Manor (died 1495) and Sir Richard Bingham (see note 59), who ruled that the marriage be allowed to go ahead in February 1474, subject to a financial settlement being agreed (200 marks = £133.16.8d.) and compensation for trespass being made. It should be noted that in February 1474 Alice was aged only four or five and John just a few years older. Under-age marriages were common at the time, but as the first of their twelve children was born in 1484, it seems likely that Richard and Alice had to wait a decade before living together as man and wife. This circumstance makes the kidnapping more plausible but rather puts paid to the romantic tale of star-crossed lovers.

Note 62.

'mortuary': see note 60.

'cors presente' is another term for mortuary.

'amling' = ambling.

'auter' = altar.

'my white harneis complete' means my polished steel full plate armour.

'a George' means a model or statue of St. George.

'Orton' = Water Orton.

'dirige' = dirge.

'by note' means singing from sheet music rather than by memory or by ear.

'trentalls': see note 60.

St. Gregory: Pope Gregory I, also known as St. Gregory the Great (540-604) did not invent Gregorian chant, but commissioned a compilation of existing melodies for use by the whole Christian Church, which eventually bore his name.

Cope: a cope is a long, loose cloak wore by a priest on ceremonial occasions.

Note 63.

Rev Thomas Barlow (1608-91) was the Provost of Queen's College Oxford, then the Archdeacon of Oxford and lastly the Bishop of Lincoln. He was the author of several books on religious subjects.

Note 64.

17 H. 8 : 1525/26.

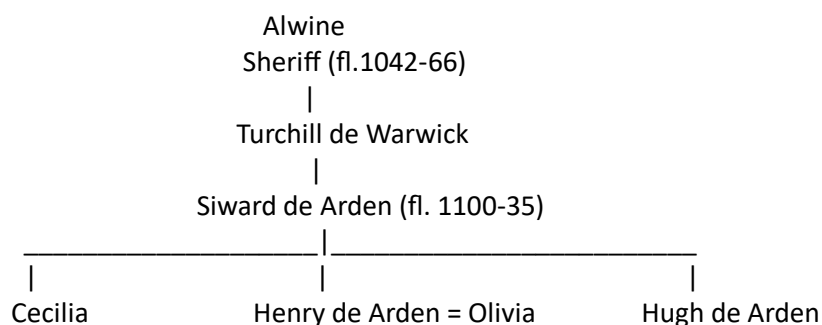
Edward Arden married Mary the daughter of Robert Throckmorton of Coughton Court Warwickshire (1513-81); Sir George Throckmorton (c. 1480-1552) was Robert's father.

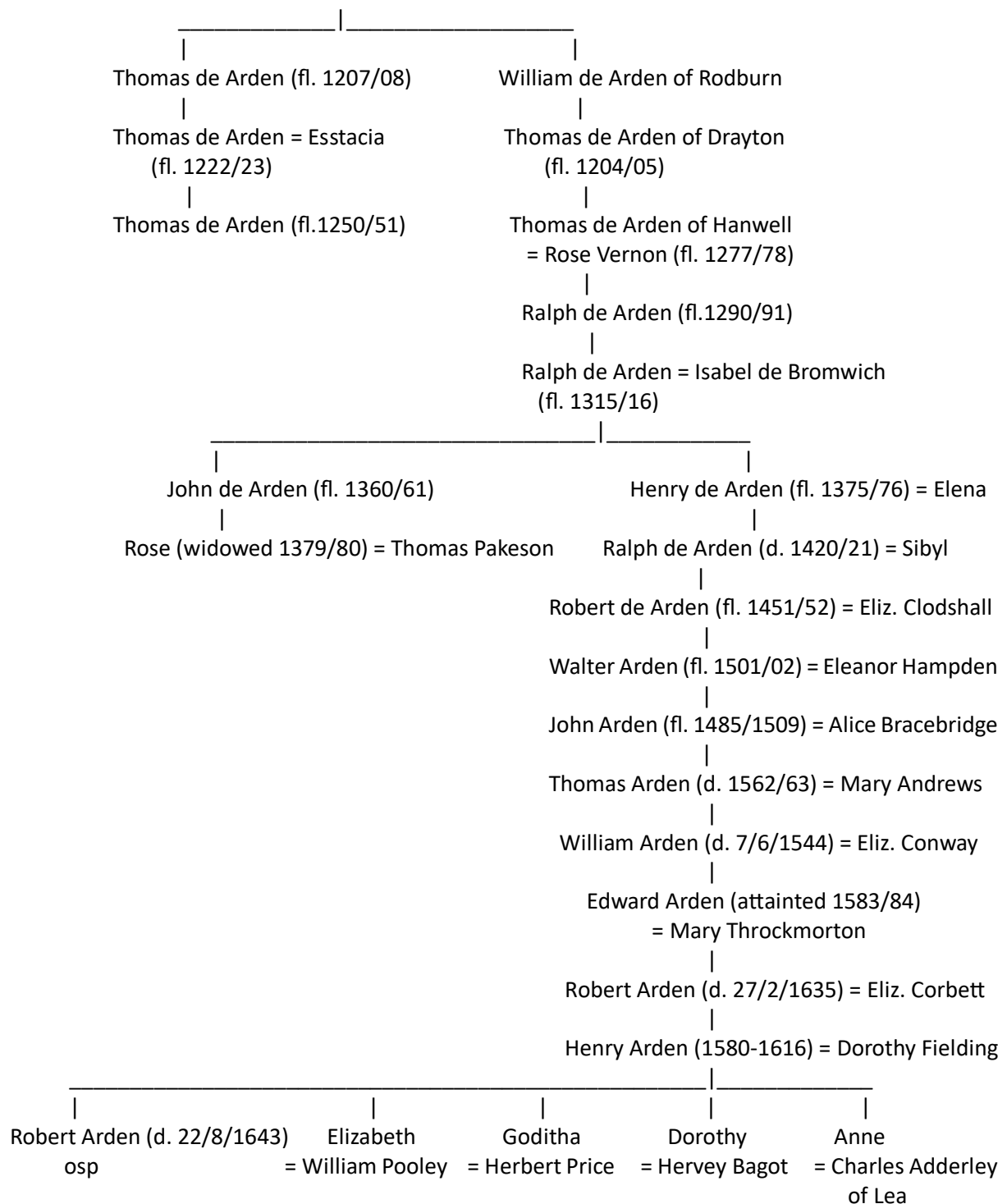
38 H. 8 : 1546/47.

Edward Arden had been the Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1573, but he incurred the displeasure of Queen Elizabeth's favourite Robert Dudley 1st Earl of Leicester (1572-88), partly for refusing to wear the Earl's livery, but mainly for making disparaging remarks about his private life. Leicester got his revenge in 1583 when Arden's son-in-law John Somerville (1560-83), a fanatical Roman Catholic, threatened to assassinate the Queen. Leicester concocted evidence that Arden was implicated in Somerville's crime and he was tried for treason and executed. The Latin extract from William Camden's *Annals of the Reign of Elizabeth* translates as follows: "This is the sad end of a noble man, who was ensnared by the treachery of a priest and condemned by his own testimony; it was commonly blamed on the ill-will of Leicester, for it is certain that he incurred the hatred of Leicester, and not without reason, since he rashly opposed him in everything he could, slandered him as an adulterer, and disparaged him as an upstart." An English version of Camden's book translated by Abraham Darcie in 1625 gives more details of events: "There were certaine books, dispersed by certaine Papists against the Queene and other Princes, as excommunicate, which caused divers admirers of the Papall power to revolt from her Maiestie. Amongst others Somerville was so farre incensed by it, that without acquainting any, he took his way one day towards the Court, breathing forth threats against the blood of Protestants, furiously set upon two with his naked sword. And being apprehended he protested he would kill the Queene with his own hands: Whereupon being brought to judgement, and condemned, he accused E. Ardern, his father-in-law, a man of ancient nobilitie of Warwicke, with his wife and their daughter Somerville, with Halle [Hugh Hall], a Priest, as complices in the fact. Three days after, Somerville was found strangled in the prison; Ardern being condemned was the day following hanged and quartered: as for the women and the Priest, they were pardoned."

Sir Edward Darcy (1543-1612) was a courtier (Groom of the Privy Chamber) and the MP for Truro in 1584/85. In 1598 Queen Elizabeth granted him an exclusive patent for the manufacture and sale of playing cards, which was declared illegal by the Court of Queen's Bench four years later as an unfair monopoly.

Dugdale's pedigree, or family tree, of the Ardens is set out below in a simplified version, regnal years being converted to calendar years:





Note 65.

‘infangthef’ and ‘assize of bread and beer’: see note 10.

Note 66.

‘ad vincula’ = in chains. The story of St. Peter’s miraculous escape from prison is contained in *The Acts of the Apostles* chapter 12 verses 1 to 11: “Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound by two chains And, behold the angel of the

Lord came upon him saying, Arise up quickly, And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision they came into the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord; and they went out And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod."

Richard Peche (died 1182) was the Bishop of Coventry from 1161 to 1182.

Hugh Novant: Hugh Nonant was the Bishop of Coventry from 1188 to 1198.

Geoffrey de Muschamp followed Hugh Nonant from 1198 to 1208.

'procurations and synodals': see note 25.

Note 67.

'Abbas & Conv.' = abbot and convent.

Jac. Rex Angl. = James I King of England.

'ratione minoris aet.' = by reason of the minority of Edward Darcy. This Edward Darcy (1610-69) was the grandson of the Edward Darcy who was granted Edward Arden's estates after his execution for treason (see note 64). He was the son of Sir Robert Darcy (1582-1618) Usher of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales; he married twice and was the father of four daughters, but had no son.

'diac' = diaconus (deacon). For other abbreviations see note 27.

Note 68.

Minworth was a separate manor lying to the south of Peddimore and to the west of Curdworth.

Note 69.

The Manor of Berwood was situated north of the River Tame, where Castle Vale now is.

The Latin taken from the grant to the Canons of Leicester is translated by Agnes Bracken as follows: "The place of Berwda, with the exarts and meadows, and all pertaining to it, in the wood and in the open, and all that part of its groves which is between the stream of Ebroc and the stream of the Tame, with the island of Wychesholm (flag island, from the abundance of the yellow iris), as far as the bounds of Erdinton, with the paunage and all liberties."

'exarts' or 'essarts' or 'assarts' means woodland or waste land converted to arable land.

Wychesholm Island was situated in the River Tame, marking the boundary between Sutton Coldfield and other Warwickshire manors.

Note 70.

Berwood Hall stood at the confluence of the Ebrook and the Tame, just north of Wychesholm Island. It was demolished in the 17th century and replaced by a farmhouse.

Note 71.

The Manor of Dunton was on the extreme eastern boundary of Sutton Coldfield, east of Curdworth, now all but swallowed up by the M42 and M6 motorways.

36 H. 3 : 1251/52.

'Mancestre' = Mancetter, near Atherstone. Hugh de Mancestre (died 1253) was a justice and coroner for Warwickshire and a royal escheator (administrator of confiscated lands).

Rev Philip Lovell (died 1258) was the Treasurer of England in 1252.

'Drakenegge' = Drakenage, a mediaeval hamlet near Kingsbury, completely depopulated in 1497, now the site of Drakenage Farm.

Sir John Mansell (died 1265) was the Provost of Beverley Minster and a leading councillor to King Henry III.

Matthew Paris (died 1259) was a Benedictine monk and chronicler. His *History of England*, written between 1250 and 1255, covered the period from 1070 to 1253.

Alexander III was the King of Scotland from 1249 to 1286. He married Margaret (1240-75) the daughter of King Henry III.

'Hamestable' = Hanslope, a Buckinghamshire village four miles north of Stoney Stratford.

Note 72.

There were three generations of Ralph de Gorges. Sir Ralph de Gorges, who died in 1297, was the father of Sir Ralph Gorges 1st Baron Gorges (1284-1323), who was the father of Sir Ralph Gorges 2nd Baron (1308-44).

'Tichmarsh' = Titchmarsh, a small Northamptonshire village. Sir John Lovell 1st Baron Lovell of Titchmarsh (1254-1310) lived at Titchmarsh Castle, a fortified manor house.

28 E. 1 : 1299/1300

Hugh de Strelly of Mapperley in Derbyshire died in 1254/55; his widow was Matilda de Jorz.

Note 73.

'Soar Sparhawk' : the Eurasian or northern sparrowhawk, which soars when riding a thermal column.

Lamas: a Christian festival celebrated on 1st August.

Hugh de Quilly or Cuilly was the Constable of Kenilworth Castle from 1310 to 1320 under Thomas Plantagenet 2nd Earl of Lancaster (1278-1322). He rebelled with Thomas against King Edward II (Thomas's first cousin), was captured and died in Pontefract Castle in 1322.

Note 74.

'Radclive' = Ratcliffe-on-the-Wreake, Leicestershire.

Piers Gaveston was a notorious favourite of King Edward II, who created him Earl of Cornwall. He was unpopular with the English nobility and was murdered on the road between Warwick and Kenilworth in 1312 by supporters of Thomas 2nd Earl of Lancaster and Guy de Beauchamp 10th Earl of Warwick.

'Pomfret' = Pontefract.

'fifteenth and tenth': see note 37.

Note 75.

19 E. 3 : 1329/30

French Expedition: The sixteen-year-old King Edward III met King Philip VI of France at Amiens in June 1329 to perform homage for Gascony, but other disputed matters were left unresolved, which led to the outbreak of the Hundred Years War in 1337.

Sir John Stanhope of Rampton Nottinghamshire was the escheator for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1359 and 1360.

Sir Richard Stanhope (c. 1374-1436) was the MP for Nottinghamshire between 1402 and 1436, and the Sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire in 1404/05.

Sir Nicholas Rugeley of Hawkshead Staffordshire (1387-1440) was the High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1429. Hawkshead was more usually known as Hawkesyard, an ancient manor in Armitage near Rugeley.

Note 76.

26 E. 1 : 1297/98.

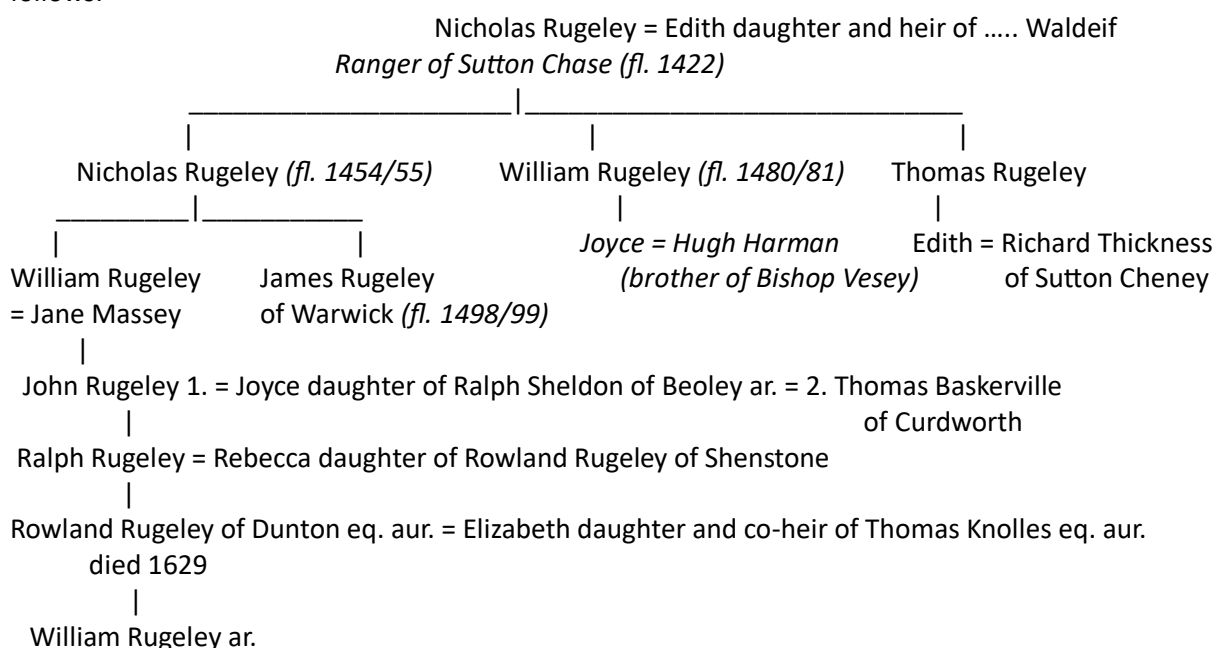
'valettus regis' = the king's valet, a role that evolved into gentleman of the privy chamber or esquire of the body.

2 H. 4 : 1400/01.

12 H. 6 : 1433/34

Parliament was convened in 1433 at a time of financial crisis, the English Exchequer being declared bankrupt. Parliament addressed issues of law and order and granted the Crown the necessary subsidies.

Dugdale's family tree, or 'descent', of the Rugeley family, with some additional details in italics, is as follows:



'eq. aur' = eques auratus (gilded knight, a Knight Bachelor).

'ar' = armiger (a person below the rank of knight who had the legal right to bear a coat of arms).

The 1528 Sutton Coldfield Charter recites that in 1511/12 King Henry VIII appointed a William Rugeley to "the office of keeper of our Chase of Hilwood, and also the office of keeper of our wood and wild animals, and outwood, called Lynriche [Lindridge]".

Note 77.

Ordric: There was a Benedictine monk named Ordric, who was elected as the Abbot of Abingdon, Oxfordshire in 1052 and died in 1066. Although the dates fit with Dugdale's narrative, it is perhaps unlikely that the abbot was the owner of Wishaw.

Will. fil. Corbucionis: William FitzCorbucion of Studley (1045-89) was the Sheriff of Warwickshire in about 1086. He was born in Verdon, Marne, France and died in Studley, Warwickshire. He owned eighteen lordships in Warwickshire, named in Dugdale's account of Studley.

Note 78.

29 H. 2 : 1182/83.

'impleaded' = sued.

Gorcote = Gorcott Hill, a hamlet near Studley.

Witteshage = Wishaw.

56 H. 3 : 1271/72.

'assize of novel disseisin': see note 37.

The de L'Isle family owned the Manor of Moxhull (see below).

Note 79.

Osbert de Bereford: see the family tree in note 39.

16 E. 1 : 1287/88.

20 E. 2 : 1326/27.

The Knights Templar were granted an estate of 650 acres, which came to be called Temple Balsall, in the early 12th century, in recognition of their service in the Crusades. After the Order was dissolved in 1312, the estate was given to the Knights Hospitaller of St. John.

Note 80.

'free-warren': see note 10.

Note 81.

19 E. 2 : 1325/26.

Will. de Castello: the de Castello family has not been traced.

Note 82.

'mil' = miles (soldier). For other abbreviations see note 27.

Baldwin de Whitenay: Baldwin Whitney (1311-86) was born in Whitney Herefordshire.

'Eccl. Coll. de Tamworth' = Ecclesia Collegiata de Tamworth, i.e. the collegiate church and college of priests of St. Editha Tamworth.

'Tho. de Morehall' is an interesting reference to Moor Hall a century before Bishop Vesey's birth.

'hac vice' = pro hac vice (on this occasion).

'relicta' means widow.

'dominus' means lord.

'fil. & haer' = son and heir.

'ux sua' = uxor sua (his wife).

'Custos Coll. liberae Capellae Reg. de Windsore' = Warden of the College of the King's Free Chapel of Windsor, i.e. St. George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle.

'Hilb. Hore': Hilb is a misprint for Gilb. Gilbert Hore of Great Chiderley, Cambridgeshire, the son of John Hore (see the family tree in note 39), was the some time MP for Cambridgeshire.

Although William Clayton was appointed to St. Chad's Church in January 1494, according to the old style calendar, the year would now be stated as 1495 (see note 3 on page 31).

Thomas Fulthorpe of Barnard Castle, County Durham was the second husband of Edith Hore, daughter of John Hore of Elsfield, Oxfordshire, whose first husband was Rowland Pudsey. She inherited the Manors of Langley and Wishaw from her cousin Gilbert Hore in 1497.

'ex concess' = ex concessis (by the concession of)

Note 83.

'Dethick': The Dethick family were associated with the Derbyshire village of Dethick, south-east of Matlock, since 1228.

Note 84.

In Dugdale's day the Manor of Moxhull was not where Moxhull Hall Hotel now is, which was built in Holly Lane in the late 19th century, but occupied the site of the present Belfry Hotel, where within the grounds of the golf course Moxhull Park and Moxhull Pool are still to be found.

36 H. 3 : 1251/52.

Note 85.

'Goal-Delivery' = gaol delivery (bringing suspected criminals being held in a prison to trial).

'Robert de Blaggreve of Midleton': Robert de Blackgreaves was a 13th century landowner; Blackgreaves was likely to have been a moated farmhouse near Lea Marston.

Philip Marmion 5th Baron Marmion of Tamworth (died 1291) was the High Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire in 1249. The boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire ran straight through the centre of Tamworth, with the Castle on the Warwickshire side.

'Frank-Marriage' was a specific type of marriage settlement where land was given to or in trust for a couple about to be married, which was free from normal feudal services for three generations.

Raph de Gorges: see note 72.

22 E. 1 : 1293/94.

Ralph Lord Basset (1265-99) was the 1st Baron Basset of Drayton (Drayton Basset).

Sir Robert Marmion was born in 1263 and died at Tamworth Castle in 1336.
'Halughton' = Halloughton, a hamlet situated within the parish of Nether Whitacre.
'Pericroft' = Perry Crofts, a district of Tamworth.

Note 86.

1 E. 3 : 1327/28.

William de Clinton (1304-54) was the son of John de Clinton of Maxstoke Castle; he was later created Earl of Huntingdon.

Raph de Crophall = Sir Ralph de Crophull (1270-1332), who died at Sutton Bonington, a village in Nottinghamshire.

Walter de Heselarton: Sir Walter de Heselarton owned the Manors of Scoreby (a deserted mediaeval village) and Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire.

Edmund de Shireford: Shireford, otherwise Shelford, was a deserted mediaeval settlement south of Burton Hastings in Warwickshire.

Sir David de Cauntton lived from 1283 to 1340. Cauntton is a village in Nottinghamshire.

'Rog. le Pledour' = Roger the pleader (lawyer).

John de Alspath: Alspath was the former name of Meriden in Warwickshire.

Note 87.

Sir Baldwin de Freville (c. 1295-1343) was the Lord of Tamworth Castle.

Stipershill = Stipers Hill, to the east of Polesworth.

Feast of St. Editha: 16th September.

Bentley Chapel: Bentley is a Warwickshire village two miles south-west of Atherstone. The Holy Trinity Chapel there was in ruins by the 16th century.

'roundel' = coloured disc.

Beke of Eresby: The Beke family were Anglo-Flemish landowners, prominent among whom was Sir John Beke 1st Baron Beke (1223-1301) of Eresby in the parish of Spilsby, Lincolnshire.

'cross sarcile' = cross circle (a cross with a circle round it, also known as a Celtic cross).

'cinquefoile' = cinquefoil (a figure having five stylized petals).

Note 88.

Merevale is a Warwickshire village one and a half miles west of Atherstone. The Cistercian Abbey of Merevale was built in 1148 and dissolved in 1538, after which it fell into ruin.

Robert de Atherstone was the Abbot of Stoneleigh Abbey from 1349 to 1352.

33 E. 3 : 1359/60.

Note 89.

Siege of Calais: see note 58.

'Wilmecote': Wilmcote is a Warwickshire village three miles north of Stratford-upon-Avon, best known as the birthplace of Mary Arden, William Shakespeare's mother.

Thomas Clopton (died 1492) was the Master of the Stratford-upon-Avon Guild of the Holy Cross, which in the late 15th century was the town's semi-official governing body.

'lavatorie' means a hand-wash basin.

20 H. 7 : 1504/05.

Note 90.

William Lecroft belonged to a family long established in Coleshill. He was the owner of property in Marston Green.

'Qu. Anne' = Anne Boleyn.

25 H. 8 : 1533/34.

Note 91.

John Masterson (1526-86) had no male heir, but four sisters.

1st year of Q. Mary = 1553/54.

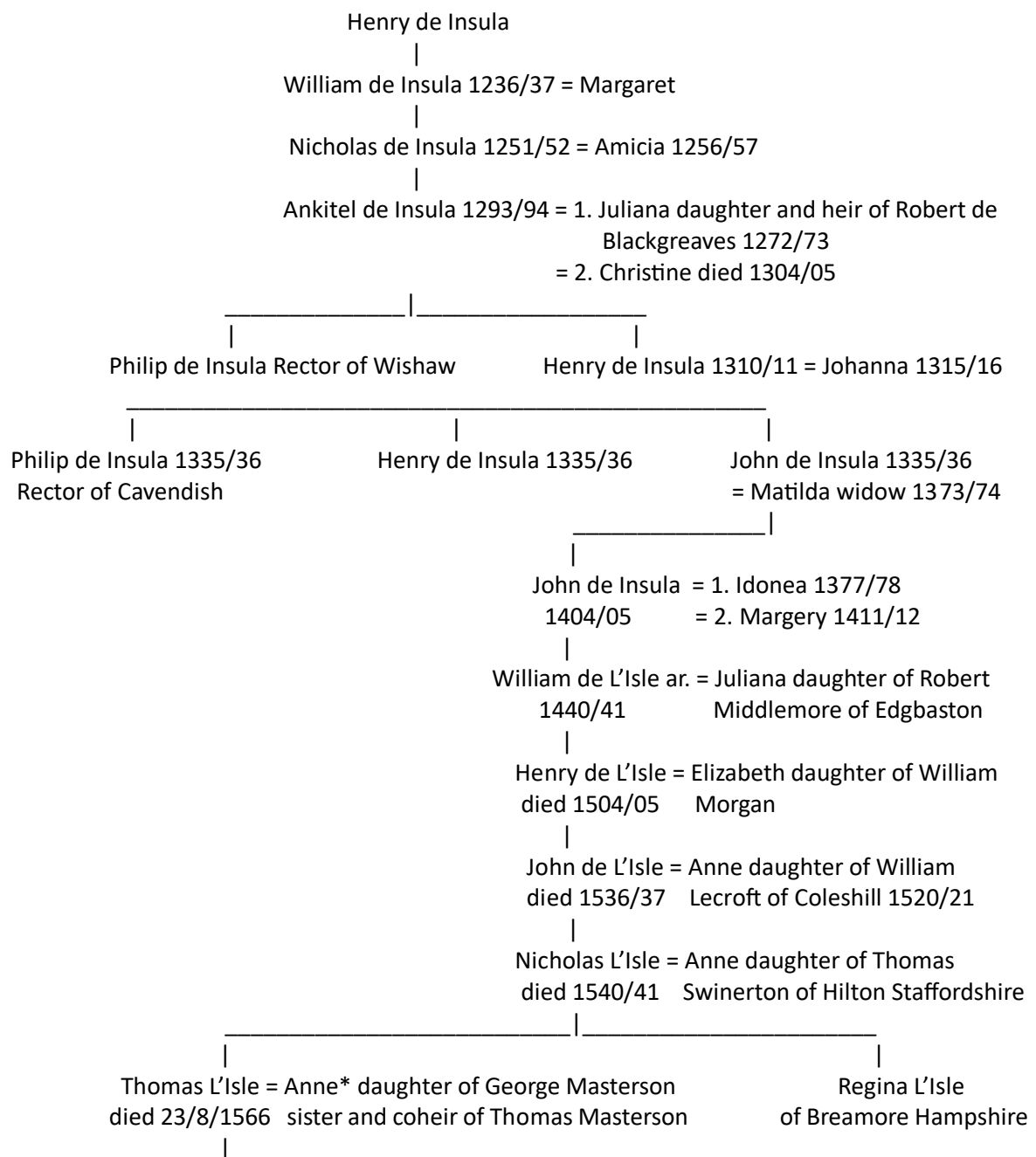
Francis Earl of Huntingdon: Francis Hastings was the 2nd Earl of Huntingdon (1514-61).

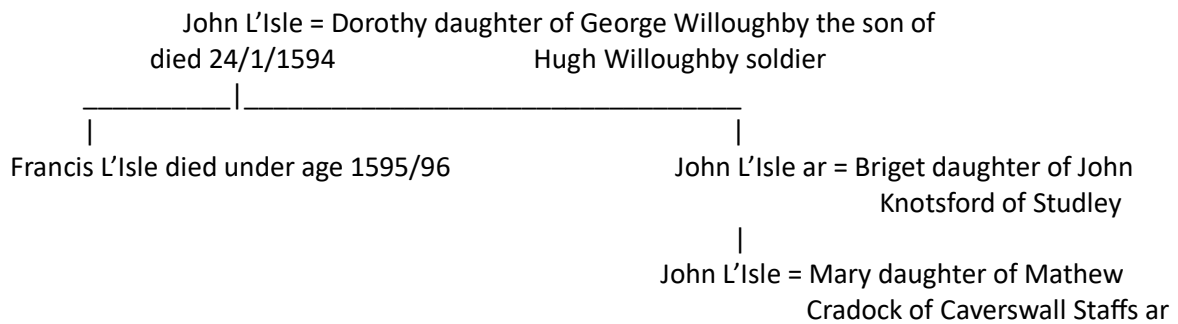
Duke of Suffolk: Henry Grey Duke of Suffolk and 3rd Marquess of Dorset (1517-54) was the father of Lady Jane Grey 'the Nine Day Queen'. When he and others proclaimed Lady Jane as Queen following the death of King Edward VI, Queen Mary had him executed for high treason.

Marquess of Winchester: Sir William Paulet 1st Marquess of Winchester (c. 1483-1572) was Lord High Treasurer from 1550 to 1572.

Sir Gawen Carew = Sir Gawain Carew (c. 1508-84) was the MP for Devon.

Dugdale's pedigree, or family tree, of the L'Isle family, translated from the Latin and with regnal years replaced by calendar years, is as follows:





*named as Alice in the text

ar = armiger (bearer of a coat of arms)

4. *Magna Britannia, Warwickshire* (1711-17) by Thomas Cox.

Sutton Cofield, or Colfield, call'd Sutton, i.e. South-Town, from its Situation Southerly of the City of Lichfield. In Edward the Confessor's Days, Edwin Earl of Mercia, was Owner of it; but after the Norman Invasion, the Conqueror held it in his own Hands, as appears by the General Survey, wherein it is rated at Eight Hides of Land, the Woods extending two Miles in Length and one in Breadth included. But it continued in the Crown no longer than King Henry I's Reign, for we find, that that Prince passed it away in Exchange for the Manors of Hocham per Langham in Rutlandshire, to Roger de Newburgh Earl of Warwick, Habendum & tenendum dicto Comiti, & Haeredibus suis cum omni Libertate & Regalitate, cum Libero Chaceo inter Tame & Bourne, &c. which shews, that the Chase belonging to the Manor extended itself beyond the Bounds of the County, as well as into other Lordships within it. The Earls of Warwick after this, were so jealous of any Encroachments upon their Jurisdiction in it, that the Lord Basset of Draiton having erected a Park within the Precincts of the Chase, was oblig'd to give Waleran Earl of Warwick, and his Successors, two Deer yearly for the quiet Enjoyment of it, and the Lords of the Manors within the Bounds of it were forced to procure Licenses to hunt their own Lands and Demesne, &c. yet not exclusive of himself there, and between his Deer being hunted, sometimes fled into Kanc-Wood, which was the King's Forest, the Earl obtain'd a License of the King to pursue them thither, and there to kill them, and bring them away without any Disturbance from the King's Verderers, or other Officers of the Forest.

After Waleran Earl of Warwick, his Son Henry, and Grandson Thomas, were Lords of this Manor; after whose Death Ela his Countess had it assigned for her Dower, she obtain'd a special Charter of Free-Warren in all her Demesne Lands here for Life, and after her Decease, as the Earldom, so this, and all other the Estate of Earl Thomas passed to Margery his Sister, for want of Issue-Male. She marry'd John Marshall, Brother of William Earl of Pembroke; but he dying so soon after Thomas Earl of Warwick, that his Wife was not gotten into Possession of her Brother's Estate, was not Earl of Warwick, she after marry'd John de Plesssets, who was in her Right Earl of Warwick, but having no Issue by her, her Aunt Alice, the Wife of William Mauduit, was her Heir, and brought the Title of Earl to him. Her Son William succeeded in her Right, but leaving no Issue, William de Beauchamp, who had marry'd Isabel his Sister, became Earl of Warwick, and being Lord of this Manor, claim'd by prescription Court-Leet, Assize of Bread, &c. and was allow'd them. To this William succeeded Guy de Beauchamp in the Earldom of Warwick and this Manor, who 28 Edw. 1. procured a Charter for a weekly Market on Tuesday, and a Fair yearly on the Eve of the Holy Trinity and three Days following; but it seems as if the Market did not turn to Account, or rather was discontinued, because Thomas de Beauchamp, 27 Edw.

3. obtain'd another Charter for it to be kept on the same Day, with the Addition of another Fair on the Eve and Day of St. Martin. This Lordship continu'd thus in the Family of the Beauchamps 'till the Reign of King Henry VI. when with the Earldom it came to Richard Nevill Earl of Salisbury in Right of Anne his Wife, but he deserting the Family of York after he had set Edward on the Throne, and being slain in fighting for the Lancastrians, his Estate was taken from his Wife, 14 Ed. 4. and settled on her Daughters Isabel and Anne, as it continu'd, 'till K. Henry VII. restor'd it to her for Life. In these turbulent Times the Market here was utterly forsaken, and the Town almost quite ruin'd, the Manor-House being pull'd down almost by an Officer of the King's, as it continu'd 'till John Herman alias Veisy Bishop of Exeter, a Native of it, bearing a singular Affection to it as such, and having obtain'd of King Henry VIII. Reg. 19. certain Parcels of Inclosure, called More crofts and Heath-yards, and above forty Acres of Waste, with a License to inclose it, proceeded further to advance the Good of the Town, for he procured the next year Letters Patent for the making it a Corporation, by the Name of a Warden and 24 Assistants, with a Steward, Serjeant at Mace, Clerk of the Market, &c. as also a weekly Market on Mondays, and another Fair on St. Simon and St. Jude's Day yearly, providing them also a Common-Hall for their Assemblies, and granting to them the whole Manor, Chace and Park to hold to them and their Successors for ever in Fee-farm, at the Rent of 50£. per Annum. And to render these his Benefactions more compleat, he built them a Prison under the Hall, and a Market-house, paved their whole Town, stock'd their Park with Mares, Colts, and Hoses, built two Isles to their Church, and erected an Organ, destroy'd the Chace for the Benefit of the Poor, and gave a Meadow to the poor Widows. He built 51 Stone-Houses, and began to set up the Cloathing-Trade in the Town, but it came to nothing. In his latter Days he built himself a fair House in More-crofts, which he nam'd More-Hall, and lived there very hospitably to his Death, which happening here, he was bury'd in the Chancel under a fair Monument, having his Portraiture Mitred and Vested on it, as it now remains. He was at his Death 103 Years old.

The same Bishop Veisy, out of a pious Regard to the publick Good and Benefit of this his native Place, made a Feoffment of divers Lands within the Precincts of this Parish, unto the Warden and Assistants, 35 Hen. 8. that with the Profits from thence arising, they should find a learned Layman fit and skilful to teach Grammar and Rhetorick within the said Parish, and if such an One could not be found, then to provide Artificers to teach their Trades, paying Taxes for poor People, and portion Maidens. A Succession of School-masters was for a-while provided, probably in the Bishop's Time, but afterwards they contriv'd to lease out the Lands at small Rents to their Children, or Friends, that the School-master might not enjoy his Due, or if he did, not have sufficient Grounds to question the same; but at length one John Michael being chosen School-master, he discover'd the Fraud, and by a Decree of Chancery, when the Lord Coventry was Chancellor, obtain'd a Redress, and brought the Revenue to that Pass, as to answer the Intent of the pious Founder.

The Church here dedicated to the Holy Trinity had in it a Chantry, founded by one Thomas Broadmeadow, for one Priest, to sing Mass and pray for the Soul of the said Thomas and his Parents, valued 26 H. 8. at 5£.6s.8d. per Ann. and at the Dissolution, Reg. 37. at 5£. The Monuments found in it, Anno 1640, or thereabouts, (perhaps since defaced) are for Hugh Herman alias Veisy, Brother and Heir of the Bishop; William Herman alias Veisy, and Joan his Wife, in the North Ile of the Church; Bishop Veisy himself, on the North-side of the Chancel, and in the adjoining Window, besides two Monumental Inscriptions for Agnes the Daughter of William Herman, and John Leveson and Amicia his Wife.

Hill, or Hull, and Little Sutton, are two small Hamlets belonging to this Manor. They were anciently given to the Little Priory of Canwell situate on the Borders of this County, but within Staffordshire, by one of the Earls of Warwik, but which of them we know not, yet antecedent to Waleran Earl of Warwick, for he confirm'd them to that House, and Hull in his Grant is said to contain three Yard-Lands, given, as he there says, by Earl Roger his Father. The Monks of that House held them 'till the Dissolution, 17 Hen 8. when they were granted by the Name of the Manors of Hull and Little Sutton,

together with the House itself and the Lands thereunto belonging, to Cardinal Wolsey, who conferr'd them presently upon his College, then call'd Cardinal College, but since Christ-Church, Oxford. There are also two other Hamlets belonging to this Lordship, viz. Maney and Warmley, of which we find no more.

Notes.

Thomas Cox (c.1655-1734) was the Rector of St. Nicholas's Church Chignall Smealy near Chelmsford Essex from 1680 to 1704, and concurrently was the Vicar of St. Mary's Church Broomfield Essex from 1685 and the Rector of All Saints Church Stock Harvard Essex from 1703. He was also a lecturer at St. Michael's Church Cornhill London. As a writer, he published an assize sermon *The Influence of Religion in the Administration of Justice* in 1726. As a translator, he published *The Evangelical History* and *A Compendious History of the Church* by the French historian Louis Ellis du Pin in 1694, *Morals by way of Abstract* by the Greek philosopher Plutarch in 1707 and *History of Many Memorable Things Lost* by the Italian antiquary Guido Pancirolli in 1715. He also wrote lives of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI in Bishop White Kennett's *Compleat History of England*. His major work was *Magna Britannia*, originally published in monthly numbers as a supplement to the five volumes of *Atlas Geographus* by Herman Moll (1711-17). Despite its title, it contains descriptions of only the English counties.

It will be seen that Cox closely followed Dugdale's account of Sutton Coldfield, without adding anything new. The annual rent payable to King Henry VIII by the Warden and Society was £58, as stated by Dugdale, not £50.

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Wikipedia (for biographical details)
Various genealogical websites (viewed with suspicion as they are often contradictory and sometimes absurd)