

LORDS OF THE MANOR OF FARLEY CHAMBERLAYNE.

BY MRS. SUCKLING.

At the time of the visit of the Hampshire Field Club to Farley Chamberlayne, in July, 1908, so much interest was expressed in the isolated and romantic situation of its ancient church, and in the tomb of William St. John, with its armorial bearings, who was born at Farley, 1538, and there buried, 1609.

A subsequent search has resulted not only in the elucidation of the mystery surrounding these arms, but also in the proof of William St. John's direct descent through the successive Lords of this Manor, dating back to 20 Edward III. (1346-47).

In the Testa de Nevil it is stated that Geoffrey le Chamberlain, in the year 1201, held one knight's fee in Ferleigh, of the King, in chief and also another tenement as being chamberlain to the Sovereign¹ At that time it is believed that a populous settlement clustered around the church, as its broken ground testifies, and that a Saxon place of worship preceded the present church. Since "some of the most ancient roads in Hampshire are to be met with in the vicinity which have all the characteristics of the 'old hollow ways' mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charters as being 'ancient ways' more than 2000 years ago."²

In the latter part of the reign of Henry III., Robert le Chamberlain made an application to the King's Court for leave to transfer this Manor with its feudal obligations, to William de Breton.³ This record says that in consideration of the said Robert having been faithful to the King's cause

¹ Testa de Nevil (Rec. Com.) 235.

² T. W. Shore.

³ Testa de Nevil (Rec. Com.) 236.



REMAINS OF THE OLD MANSION AT FARLEY,
NOW AT THE RECTORY.

in the late troublous times, that he was "allowed to dispose of his interests without reference to his immediate feudal Lord." Further, that he received 80 marks of silver from William, in payment for the Manor and for the advowson of the church. Both these possessions appear to have remained in the latter family until 1346,¹ when John de Breton granted them to Sir Thomas de Missenden, the King's groom, who in 1347 married Isabel, daughter of Sir John Brocas, of Beaurepaire, in Hampshire.² Possibly Farley formed part of her settlement since her second husband, Sir John de Golafre presented to the church "jure uxoris," in 1378.

Sir Thomas de Missenden, who had large possessions in the county of Bucks, with the Manors of Great Missenden and Quainton, died seized of Farley in 1369-70,³ having shortly before settled certain property upon his son and heir, Edmund, and upon the latter's wife Juliana, daughter of Lord Grey of Rotherfield, co. Oxon. After the death of Sir John Golafre in 1379 at Quainton, Isabel is said to have retired to a convent and to have made over her estates to her son, Sir Edmund de Missenden, who deceased in the 18th year of Richard II., leaving an only son Bernard, then 8 years of age, in the wardship of the King, who in 1395 granted his marriage and the custody of the Manor of Farley to Juliana, his widowed mother, jointly with Sir Bernard Brocas, senior, the boy's great uncle.⁴ Juliana re-married Sir Thomas Shelley, who held Farley "jure uxoris," until he was beheaded for high treason in 1400.⁵

The story of the Lords of this Manor as told by ancient records, is not without interest, and is illustrative of the arbitrary fashion in which the widows of those times, together with their second husbands ruled over and enjoyed the possessions of their children until the last possible moment. Particularly was this so in the case of young Bernard de Missenden, who seems to have had small concern in his estate, and even after his marriage when under age,

¹ Feet of Fines Hants 20 Ed. iii. ² Burrow's Brocas of Beaurepaire 117. p.m. 43 Ed. iii. ³ Burrows op. cit. 118. ⁴ Ing. p.m. 1 Hen. iv.

to Isabel Frome, to have lived and died on his father-in-law's property in Buckinghamshire,¹ where Catherine their daughter was baptised, circa 1405-6, and where Bernard himself was buried about 1408.²

In 1435, John Irwardby brought a writ of formedon against Isabel, his wife's mother, Lady Cheney of Chesham Bois, on the descent of Bernard de Missendon,³ he having married Katherine Missenden, but at what date the marriage took place is not known, nor is Farley mentioned in the writ, which relates only to the Buckinghamshire property. By this marriage John Irwardby had issue a son Nicholas, to whom a confirmation of the lands of his maternal ancestor was granted in 1449-50. Nicholas Irwardby died in 1462,⁴ and was succeeded by his son John, who 13 years later (1475) granted the Manor of Farley to the Sub-Dean of the College of Wallingford, Berkshire.⁵ In 1482 John Irwardby, son of the above-mentioned John, had the Manor regranted to him by the College.⁶ John Irwardby was described of Farley Chamberlayne, Hampshire, and of Ewell, in Surrey, but on the 1st of August, 16 Edward IV. (1476-7) he was residing at Fennelles, in Ewell, a rental in the Rawlinson MS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, apparently in his own handwriting, describes the great garden and close, and divers fields containing 144 acres, the property of Fenelles having been purchased by his father, John Irwardby in the year 1436-7 from Richard Liversigge.⁷

This brings us to the disputed question of the Carew quartering on the tomb of William St. John, a great grandson of John Irwardby, in Farley Church. It is said that Sir John Irwardby had three wives.⁸ All authorities agree that Sir John Irwardby had an only daughter and heir Joan, who married Sir John St. John (1473-1512).

¹ John Frome was granted custody of the manor of Farley Chamberlain, ing. p.m. 1 Hen. vi. No. 5. ² Ibid. 2 Hen. vi. No. 54.

³ Lipscombe, Buckinghamshire 396. ⁴ Ibid. ⁵ V.C.H. Hants iv. 443-4.

⁶ Ibid. ⁷ Manning & Bray, Surrey i. 459. ⁸ Ibid 460.



SUNDIAL FROM THE OLD MANSION, NOW AT FARLEY RECTORY.

Collins makes her the daughter and co-heir of Sir Hugh Annesley, of Maple-Durham, co. Oxon¹; but seeing that Collins is obviously wrong as to the identity of William St. John's own mother², it is permissible to suggest that he is in error regarding Joan, particularly since her descendants did not quarter Annesley, but on the other hand did quarter Carew. Moreover, in the Carew pedigree,³ Sanctia, daughter of Nicholas Carew, of Beddington, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Langford, is shown to have married Sir John Irwardby, of Farley, Hants, and in the will of Margaret, widow of this Nicholas Carew, dated at Reading in 1501, he mentions "my daughter Sanctia Irwardby."⁴ There is a further legacy of 20 . to Beddington Church for prayers for the souls of her husband, Carew, Nicholas her son and for herself. The history of the Carew family is so closely interwoven with that of the Lords of Farley about this time, that it will be well to explain that Sanctia's father, Nicholas Carew, succeeded his father at Beddington in 1457, under the will of the latter, entailing Beddington in Croydon on his heirs male, which included Sanctia's only brother Nicholas, aged three years, at their father's death in 1466, but the latter did s.p., circa 1493, when Beddington fell to their uncle, James Carew, and passed afterwards to his son, Sir Richard Carew, of whom anon .

The Manor of Great Purley, in Berkshire, probably passed to Sanctia, since Sir John Irwardby was later described as its lord, and his daughter Joan, Lady St. John, possessed it and was buried in Purley Church, where a monument may still be seen. Sanctia Carew is described in all the Carew pedigrees as the co-heir of her brother, with her sister Anne, who married Christopher Trapnell, of Clatfield, Wilts, and there was another sister Elizabeth, who married Walter Twynho.

The somewhat uncommon name of Sanctia has a romantic origin, and was given to her by her mother, Margaret Langford, in memory of her Spanish descent.

¹ Collins Peerage vi. 275.

² Will of Sir John St. John 20 April, 1574, proved 1576. P.C.C. 15.

³ Berry, Surrey Pedigrees. ⁴ Will P.C.C. Blamyre 15.

Sir Walter Blount in 1367 accompanied the Black Prince and John of Gaunt to Spain, in the expedition to restore Dom Pedro the Cruel, to the Throne of Leon and Castile. After the successful termination of the expedition, John of Gaunt married Constantia, daughter of King Pedro, while Sir Walter Blount espoused one of Constantia's ladies, Donna Sanctia de Ayala, daughter of Don Diego Gomez, of a very ancient family. Sanctia Blount, her granddaughter, married Edward Langford, of Shales, Isle of Wight and Bradfield, Berks.

To return to the descent of the Manor of Farley, John Irwardby, husband of Sanctia Carew, was made a Knight of the Bath at the marriage of Prince Arthur, on 17th November, 1501 (17 Henry VII.) when he was described as bearing for his crest, "out of a ducal coronet or, a maiden's head proper crined of the first"; his arms were "argent a saltire sable on a chief of the second two mullets of the field."¹ John Irwardby died in 1525, when the Manor passed to Joan, the widow of Sir John St. John (1473-1512), who was the only son and heir of Sir Oliver St. John, of Lydiard Tregoz.

The family of St. John derived their surname from St. Jean-le-Thomas, near Mont St. Michel, and came into England in the reign of Henry I.² Sir Oliver was the second son of Sir Oliver St. John, by Margaret Beauchamp, sister and heir of John Beauchamp, Lord of Bletsho. She re-married after Sir Oliver St. John's death, John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, by whom she was mother of Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of King Henry VII. Sir Oliver St. John is described by Leland as "a stout black man, who died in 1492, at Fontarabia in Spain," leaving by Elizabeth³ (who died in 1503), daughter of Lord Scrope, three daughters and a son, John St. John, who was knighted by his cousin Henry VII., in 1487, for having brought forces to the King's aid at the Battle of Stoke against

¹ Metcalf, Book of Knights.

² Round, The families of St. John and of Port in Genealogist, July 1899.
Round, Peerage and family history 62, 66-67, 125.

³ Will P.C.C. proved 10th April, 1497.

Lambert Simnel, supported by the Earl of Lincoln. Being very high in favour at Court, Sir John St. John was made chamberlain to Margaret, Countess of Richmond, the King's mother, and by the will of this lady he was appointed one of her executors, June 6th, 1500, in which she desired her son, the King, to shew to Sir John St. John "special favour, help and assistance." The Countess of Richmond died in the first year of the reign of her grandson, Henry VIII. (1509), and Sir John departed this life "in parts beyond the sea" in 1512 on the 1st of September, leaving two little sons, John, his heir, and Nicholas.

Joan, widow of Sir John St. John, re-married a kinsman of her own and neighbour at Ewell, Nicholas Saunders, a grandson of William Saunders, by his wife Joan, daughter of Nicholas Carew, of Beddington. Nicholas Saunders had three daughters by his wife Joan, whose marriages are given in the Saunders pedigree¹—Ursula, wife of . . . Hungerford; Joyce, wife of . . . Woodcock, co. Wilts; and Joan, wife of Richard Bray, of Ewell. We find Richard Bray standing as surety in 1542 for Thomas Serle, the first Rector of Farley after the Reformation, who in that year compounded for his "first fruits."

Meanwhile the Carew estates, with Beddington, had devolved upon Richard Carew, first cousin of Sanctia, who was 22 years old at the time of his father, James Carew's death in 1493. He was made a Knight Banneret in 1497 at the Battle of Blackheath. By his wife, Mary, daughter of Robert Oxenbridge², of Ford, in Sussex, he had a large family, which must have formed a merry party at beautiful Beddington, when young John St. John was sent among them to be brought up as the ward of Sir Richard Carew, who is said by Collins to have married him to Margaret, one of his daughters. If this was so the marriage must have been a youthful one, for Sir Richard died on the 5th May, 1520, and was buried in the chantry chapel under his effigy in armour, with his surcoat of arms. Nicholas Carew, then 24

¹ Berry, Surrey Pedigrees.

² Manning & Bray, op. cit. 533.

years of age, succeeded his father, Sir Richard, in the estates. He was a great favourite with Henry VIII., who created him a Knight of the Garter and Master of the Horse, loading him with favours, until he fell into disgrace with that fickle monarch, it is said through a game of bowls.¹ Possibly his staunch adherence to the "Catholic faith" had some thing to do with his fall, for he was charged with being engaged in a conspiracy to set Cardinal Pole upon the throne. His trial was summary, and he was beheaded on the 3rd of March, 1539 and buried in St. Botolph's Church, Aldersgate, under a tomb commemorating Sir Nicholas Carew, K.G., his wife Elizabeth, and Mary, his daughter, with her husband, Lord Darcy. But the tragic end of Sir Nicholas Carew, and the confiscation to the Crown of Beddington and its treasures all happened after the decease of Margaret, Lady St. John, who died leaving her husband, with Nicholas his heir, and another son, John.

We now come to another point in the history of the Lord of Farley. In 1575 Sir John Irwardby died, and his daughter Joan became Lady of the Manor. The question here suggests itself—was there a mansion house at Farley at that date? This question we cannot answer, nor do we know whether Sir John Irwardby ever resided there. It is probable that Sir John St. John built the great house between 1525-38, when he was constantly living there with his wife, Elizabeth Whithill; for their son William records in his will that he was born at Farley in 1538. In 1544 Lady St. John settled the Manor upon herself for life with remainder to her son, John St. John and his wife Elizabeth, in tail male². How long she survived after this settlement is not known as there is no inscription remaining on her tomb; possibly she survived until 1553-4, when with the accession of Queen Mary, Francis Carew, the son and heir of the unfortunate Sir Nicholas, was taken into that Queen's service, and became so much in favour that he obtained restitution of all his father's estates. He not only re-built the house at Beddington in a magnificent

¹ Fuller's Worthies, Part II., 96.

² Feet of Fines (Divers Cos.) Mich. 36. Hen. VIII.

manner, but also laid out the gardens lavishly, planting them with rare shrubs which he secured from abroad. Aubrey says that Francis Carew was the first to introduce orange trees into England, which he planted out of doors, protecting them in winter by a moveable shed, in which manner they flourished for about a century until destroyed by the hard winter of 1739. Sir Francis Carew died unmarried at the age of 81, on the 16th May, 1611, leaving Beddington to Sir Nicholas Throgmorton (son of his sister), who at one time was the Lord of Badsley Manor, near Romsey.

Joan, Lady St. John, appears to have died at Purley and to have been there buried in the church where (circa 1611) her great-grandson, Sir John Carew, the first baronet, placed a tomb over her remains with a Latin inscription, which roughly translated reads—"Jane, daughter and heir of John Irwardby, Knight, Lord of this Manor of Purley, the most virtuous and devoted wife of John St. John, finally his widow; also two of her great grandsons, Michael and Richard, by her grandson Nicholas St. John. Here rests in hope of a blessed resurrection John St. John, knight and baronet, the direct heir of the said Jane, placed this sacred to her memory." Her grandson, William St. John, who is said to have been a captain over five regiments in Hampshire, married about 1567, Barbara Gore, the widow of Thomas Twyne, of Norton, in the Parish of Wonston, Hants, who died there in 1566, leaving her with two daughters, his co-heirs, from whom William St. John eventually purchased the property. The deed of recovery dated 1567, executed by Sir John St. John, father of the above William, is connected with her marriage settlement. In his will, 3rd April, 1574, he alludes to the settlement of Farley on his son's wife, Barbara. William and Barbara St. John had four daughters and two sons. Of the former Jane was baptised at Wonston, in 1577, and there married to William Young, of Osgood, in 1606; her sister Barbara was married in 1580 to Sir Thomas Worsley; Elizabeth in 1595 to Francis Baptiste-Castillian,¹ and Mary in 1611 to Henry Astry. The eldest

¹ Knighted at the Charterhouse 1603. Visitations Berks (Harl. Soc.) II. 91.

son of William and Barbara St. John, Henry by name, lost his wife Anne and her infant son, and they were buried at Wonston in 1595. Some time before 1601, Henry St. John married secondly Ursula, daughter of Sir Hugh Stewkeley, of Mersh, by Elizabeth Chamberlain, sister of John Chamberlain the "letter writer." And as the children of this second marriage were all christened at Farley it is presumed that he occupied the Mansion House there while his father resided at Wonston, from whence he dated his will 31st March 1600-01, styling himself of "Norton Watrey." He "desired to be buried at Farley, commonly called Farley Chamberlyne. My body to be buried in the Parish Church of Farley St. John in the chancel with as little cost as may be. Yet for a memorial to my posterity and because I was born there on the 1st August, 1538, there shall be at the charge of my executors one tomb or monument of freestone, or Isle of Wight stone made over and above my grave, whereon I will, shall be graven St. John's arms, with some other remembrance of my children and to whom they were married, so that the charge thereof shall not exceed £20, whereas I have assigned my lease of Littleton to my nephew, Sir Oliver St. John, knight, Sir Alexander Tutt, knight, and Sir Richard White, knight, my son-in-law, in trust for my sons Henry and William,¹ to my daughter Mary St. John all my corn in the farm ground at Littleton near Weyhill, if she marry with the consent of her mother. To my son William, my bedding, &c., in my house at Littleton. To my son Henry, four hundred of my best sheep at Norton, six cart horses, twelve kine, four pieces of arras hangings, all at Norton. Should he die before me, the same to his son John, to be kept by his mother Ursula, until he is of age of 21. To my wife's two daughters, by her first husband, Anne and Margery, £100 each. To Elizabeth Justrell £10." Then follow money legacies to servants. Forty shillings to the poor of Wonston. "Residuary legatee My wife Barbara. Overseers, my son-in-law Sir Francis Castillian, knight, my grandson Richard Worsley, Esquire,

¹ William St. John baptised, Wonston, 5th Nov., 1584; buried at Farley, July 1638.

my son Henry St. John, and my cousin german, Oliver St. John, Esquire." He speaks of his grandson Thomas Castillian, an infant,¹ his mother, "my daughter, Lady Castillian; being dead." The will was proved 27th June, 1609, by Barbara St. John and Richard Worsley. There is a memo on this will, that a commission dated 9th February, 1613, was issued to Henry St. John, son of the deceased, to administer the goods of Barbara St. John, deceased. In the Wonston Registers is the burial on 3rd January, 1613, of Barbara, widow of William St. John, buried in the same grave with her sister Margaret, wife of Leonard Ely, of Wonston.²

Henry St. John succeeded to Farley on the death of his father, William St. John, in 1609, and on the 10th November, 1614, he made his will,³ but his burial did not take place at Farley until 8th April, 1621, he styled himself "of Norton Watrey," and willed to be buried in the Parish Church of Farley St. John in the vault by my wife Ursula, over which I would have some monument erected, whereon shall be engraved St. John's and Stewkeley's arms, with some other remembrance of us and of our children, and to whom they may be married, in time to come. The charge thereof to be £30. Also my will is that a monument be erected at Wonston at the upper end of the seats on the right-hand side as you go up, where lieth buried close by the wall, my eldest son Henry, that I had by my second wife Ursula, and by him lieth buried my eldest son William, which I had by my first wife, Anne, who also lieth buried close by him and a little below her my good mother, buried in one grave. At one time with her sister, Mr. Leonard Elys' wife and my sister Fisher and my sister Astrey's eldest son. Of all of whom, on the said monument, I would have a remembrance made, according to notes collected out of a large book covered with parchment, upon which tomb I would have some £30 bestowed at the least, and for disposing of my worldly goods," he

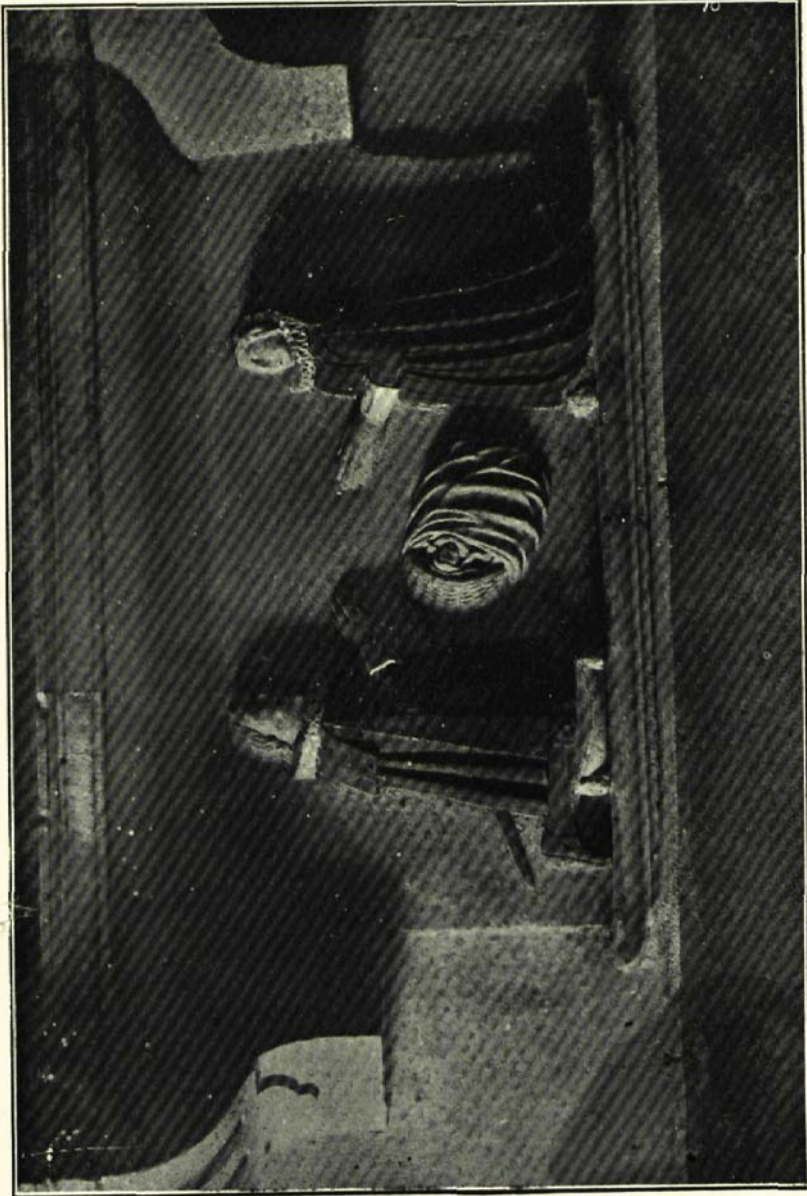
¹ He was born 1604. Visitations, Berks. (Harl. Soc.) I. 80.

² Leonard Ely buried 1615. His sister Margery was wife of Michael Renniger of Crawley. ³ P.C.C. 53 Dale.

made his trustees, " Sir Richard Worsley, his good nephew, Sir Thomas Stewkeley, his good brother-in-law, and Douglas Castillian, my friend." He also mentions that his younger children, Oliver, Henry and Barbara, were to have annuities out of Farley. This tomb was never erected at Farley, and although the testator's burial is recorded in the registers, no stone marks his resting place, unless a slab below the altar rails (long since defaced by a stove) was placed over these burials. Also no monument to these St. Johns was erected at Wonston.

John St. John, who was born in 1603, succeeded his father Henry in 1621, and married about that time Susanna, daughter of Richard Gifford, of East Tytherley and Kings Somborne. At the date of John St. John's burial, the 1st September 1627, there were no surviving children; but a posthumous son was born 24th February, 1628, who was christened John, but he was buried on 26th of that month, the young mother following her husband and son to the grave on 5th May. A monument to them still remains on the chancel wall with the arms of St. John, impaling Gifford. Oliver St. John, younger brother of Henry, was next Lord of Farley, which he held 37 years, dying in 1665. He married Constance, daughter of Walter Dawley, of Lainston, near Winchester, by his wife, Christian Whitehead, of Norman Court, West Tytherley; their daughter, Christian St. John, married at Farley on the 4th October, 1666, Ellis Mewes, of Winchester.

The next owner was again Oliver by name, son of the above Oliver St. John, who married Margery, daughter and co-heir of Francis Rivett (who in 1625 was of the "Middle Temple"). Margery died in 1681, and her husband, Oliver, in 1689; both lie buried under the arms of St. John and Rivett. On the death of their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, in 1691, a silver alms dish was presented to the church to her memory, by her husband, Robert London, which is still there and is thought to have been part of the St. John family plate with an additional shield added, London impaling St. John. The other coat of arms, which is said



TOMB IN FARLEY CHURCH OF JOHN ST. JOHN (1603—1627), SUSANNA, HIS WIFE (DIED 1628) AND
JOHN, THEIR SON (DIED 1628).

to be older, is quarterly—1st, St. John ; 2nd, Beauchamp ; 3rd, Irwardby ; 4th, Carew, with Rivett in pretence. This piece of plate was given to Farley Church eight years before the burial there of Oliver St. John (1678—1699), the last male heir of the St. John of Farley Chamberlyne.

Margery St. John's personality is interesting, in that the arms on her tomb at Farley shew her to have been a descendant of the old Suffolk family of Rivett, of Rishangles, who are mentioned in the " Visitation of London." Her father, Francis Rivett, M.P., was a well-known supporter of the Parliamentarians in the Civil War. He purchased the Manor of Kings Somborne about 1665 from the Gifford family. This Manor later devolved upon his daughter Margery ; hence, her arms are borne as an heiress.