

## NOTES ON ELING.

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The earliest remains of antiquity in the parish of Eling are those of the British period, the remains of an entrenched camp at Tatchbury Mount, and another not far from the present parish boundary near Ashurst. Another similar earthwork probably existed, as its name implies, at Bury, now Bury Farm. In addition, we still have the remains of round barrows, in which bronze implements have been found. Roman remains have also been found at Bury Farm. A Roman-British road certainly connected Eling with Lepe on the Solent. This road still exists on Beaulieu Heath, and as it skirted the north-west corner of Southampton Water it is probably represented at Eling by the road which passes near the church.

Eling was part of the King's demesne land in Saxon and Norman time. The account given of the manor in Domesday Book is interesting, for it tells us how the land was held both before and after the Norman conquest. One of the obligations in the time of King Edward the Confessor was to provide for half a day's entertainment for the King, a tax probably paid in kind. It was always very extensive, the old parish being one of the largest in the county. At the time of the Domesday survey some of the land was in the King's hand, and the other farmed by the inferior tenants for their own subsistence.

The Domesday record tells us that a large part of this manor had at that time been included in the New Forest. There was at that time an important fishery and a saltern here free from tax. In the Domesday Book Eling is written Edlinges. In some other old records Yelinge, and the name probably means the place of meadowing, being an old name for a pasture. Many Abbeys and other religious houses held land and other possessions in Eling. The advowson of the

church and rectory was given by charter 6th John to Mottisfont Priory, and that Abbey or Priory continued to hold the church until the time of its dissolution. At the time when the record known as the *Valor Ecclesiastus* was compiled in 1535 Henry Hawkins was the vicar of Eling, and the Rectory was still held by the Priory of Mottisfont.

The Priory of Amesbury held the tything of Wigley in this parish. The tything of Ower was held at the time of the Domesday survey by the Abbot of Glastonbury; later on by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and from 1290 to the dissolution by the Abbey of Hyde. Totton was held early in the 14th century by the Abbey of Netley.

The Priory of Ellingham held the tything of Colebury, which was known as Eling Colebury in the 14th century. The Monks of Ellingham had a chapel there, and were allowed to hold their own religious services. The names of Chapel-lane and Chapel-copse at Colbury are surviving traces of this chapel. The Abbey of Beaulieu had possessions in Eling worth 60s. annually at the end of the 13th century.

Similarly the priory of Breamore had property in Eling worth 80s. annually in the 13th century. This appears to have been the tything of Langley. The tything of Wade was held in the 14th century by the College, or Oratory, at Barton, in the Isle of Wight. I think the origin of one of the most noted of Hampshire legends, that of the Cadnam oak, may with some probability be referred to the connection of Glastonbury Abbey with the Manor of Ower. Ower adjoins Cadnam, and the original winter leaved oak may well have been a boundary tree, which, in imitation of the more celebrated tree at Glastonbury, did something to maintain the tradition of the Abbey. The Abbey of Glastonbury ceased to be connected with Eling parish in the 13th century, and consequently if this connection is the origin of the Cadnam legend, there would have been plenty of time, as generations passed away, and the original tree perished, for another, in the imagination of the people, to take its place elsewhere than on the boundary of Ower and Cadnam. It is at least a curious circumstance that the tradition of the tree which puts on its

leaves in winter survives nowhere else in Hampshire than close by where Glastonbury Abbey held land in Eling parish in Norman time.

There were some curious tenure by which land was held at Eling. The land afterwards known as Bury Farm, in Eling, was held by the service of presenting a brace of white greyhounds in silver couples when the King came to the New Forest. This custom was continued to the present century. Another part of the parish was held by the service of carrying the King's writs to the Isle of Wight and south-west parts of Hampshire. In the time of Edward II., John de Eling, son and heir of Richard de Eling, held a messuage 40 acres of land, seven of pasture, and seven of wood by this service.

Cobbe, the smith, in the time of King John, held his land at Eling by payment of 22s. 6d. and by the service of providing 50 arrows. Some time after the accession of Henry II. an estate was held in Eling by a knight named John de Gatesden, at one knight's fee. One of the tythings of Eling is still known as Baldoxfee, and is probably the same land. Reginald de Buttethorn held a yardland in Totton by the service of finding a man at arms, with his coat of mail, to serve the King for 40 days. This was rather an onerous burden on a small holding. On the other hand, Roger de Bestesthorn held his land by the easy tenure of providing litter for the King's bed and hay for his palfrey when he should sleep at Ives, a place near Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

The manor and tythings of Eling were connected with some distinguished persons and families in the middle ages. I can only give a few names. There is reason for believing that a long line of Saxon kings before Edward the Confessor were its lords. The kings after the conquest kept the manor in their own hands until the time of King Richard, who gave it to one of the most successful merchants who ever lived in Southampton, Gervase of Hampton, the founder of God's House Hospital. The kings of that time did not give their manors to merchants for friendship, but for services of some sort. Gervase was a merchant, King Richard was a crusader, and it is hardly possible to avoid thinking that it may have been for some services in connection with King Richard's

expedition that Gervase became lord of the manor at Eling. This appears probable, because its gift to Gervase was apparently for his life, as it reverted to the Crown in the next reign. The next owner of Eling Manor was a lady named Emma de Clere, to whom it was given by King John. In the next reign it was held by her daughter and her son-in-law, Cecilia and Henry Hoese. The manor was subsequently granted to the Camoys family as part of the barony of Camoys, and was held under them by a feudal tenure by a knightly family named Waleraund. Subsequently it passed for a time out of the Camoys family, and was held as part of the Honour of Wallinford by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. He was the son of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, who was elected King of the Romans, the highest title under the Roman Empire and next to the Emperor in dignity. Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, was a nephew of Henry III., and first cousin of Edward I. In the reign of Edward II. the manor was recovered by the Barons Camoys, and held by that family until 1376, when it was sold by Ralph de Camoys to Bishop William of Wykeham to form part of the endowment of his school at Winchester, known as Winchester College. The subsequent history of the manor of Eling itself has been identified with the history of Winchester College.

Eling parish, however, contained other ancient manors, all of which have had a history of their own. Langley is one of these. At the date of the Domesday survey it was held by two tenants—Cola, one of the King's huntsmen, whose father had held it of King Edward, and a Norman knight named Hugh de St. Quinton, who held it under the Bishop of Bayeux. This bishop was the prelate who caused the celebrated Bayeux tapestry depicting scenes of the Norman Conquest to be made. Hugh declared that he came into possession of his manor by exchange for a mill and a man which belonged to him. This exchange of a man is an instance of the survival of a system scarcely to be distinguished from actual slavery. About four and a half centuries later Langley Manor came into the King's hand on the suppression of the Priory of Breamore, and was granted by Henry VIII. as part of the dower he settled on his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves.

Eling Manor has been the subject of some remarkable trials. In 1280 the manor was held by Alan Plunkenet, and he was summoned to show his title. The case was held at Winchester, and he proved that he acquired it from Robert Waleraund, to be held by him and his heirs of Sir Ralph de Camoys, Baron Camoys. In 1308 another Alan Plunkenet, son of the former, had to defend his right in the case of the contested succession of John Waleraund, who was fatuous, *i.e.*, a fool. Alan Plunkenet claimed the manor on one side as a descendant through his grandmother, Alicia Plunkenet, daughter of William and Isabella Walderaund; that Alicia's brothers died childless, and that she had only one sister who was Abbess of Romsey. On the other side four claimants appeared and claimed the manor as descendants of other female branches of the Waleraund family. The dispute related to other manors in various counties as well as that of Eling, and it was agreed to refer the whole case to a jury consisting of six Hampshire knights and six of Gloucestershire. This jury gave their verdict in favour of Alan Plunkenet, and Eling Manor was delivered to him by the King as the result of the trial.

Eling Church was one of the few Hampshire churches which was endowed with land as early as the time of Domesday survey, when it was possessed of half a carucate of land. It was the gift of the King. King Richard gave both the manor and church to Gervase de Hampton. Gervase gave the church to Roger de Hampton, and by the charter of the 6 John, the King, in whose gift it again came, conveyed it to Mottisfont Priory, which held the rectory and its belongings from 1205 to the dissolution, a period of about 330 years. The priory and convent of Mottisfont in the 19 Edw. III. were required to repair the bridge at Rumbridge as an obligation on their possessions in the parish of Eling. In 1290 the rectory of Elyng was worth £26 13s. 4d. per annum and the vicarage £14 13s. 4d. The tithes of Eling at the present time have been subdivided, and are now in many hands, the holders of which are assessed to the share of tithe property they possess.

The parish of Eling was part of the Saxon Hundred of Redbridge, a hundred which extended only on this side of the water. As hundreds were commonly named from the places of meeting, the meeting place for this hundred was probably on the Totton side of Redbridge bridge. This bridge is one of the oldest in the county, and is mentioned as a bridge in the Domesday name of the hundred. The oldest parts of the present bridge date from about the beginning of the 15th century, but there are notices of the repair of an earlier bridge in 1270, 1276, and this or an earlier one in 1358, 1359, 1362, 1370, and 1380. In 1359 a special inquisition was ordered by the King to ascertain what repairs were necessary to this bridge, and in 1402 extensive repairs certainly took place, for a pontagium or tax for repairing or renewing this bridge was then levied.

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