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## THE KNIGHT HOSPITALLERS IN KENT.

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THE Order of the Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, or, as it was also called, the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, is stated to have been instituted as early as the year 612\* for the protection of pilgrims visiting the Holy City. It was originally more of a monastic character, but the exigencies of the time, and the incursions of the Saracens and Turks, gave it a military character, which became further developed during the Crusades. The capture of Jerusalem by Godfrey de Bouillon, Count Raymond, and others gave an importance and influence to the Order, not only by placing the Hospital on a firmer footing, but enabling it to form various settlements elsewhere, in Rhodes, Malta, and other European states.

The rules for the guidance of the Order required poverty, chastity, and obedience.† They were revised by Count Raymond de Puy himself, Master of the Order, at a council of clerical and lay brethren, and subsequently ratified by Pope Boniface in the sixth year of his Pontificate.

The Order appears to have been first introduced into England in the reign of Henry I., *circa* 1100, by Jordanus Brisset, Knight, who purchased a plot of land consisting of ten acres at Clerkenwell, near London, besides giving an additional ten acres towards its maintenance at Welynhall‡ in Kent. He died A.D. 1110, and both he and his wife Muriel, who died two years after, were buried at Clerkenwell. The first Prior appointed to the Order in England appears to have been Garnarius the Neapolitan. It is worthy of note that this appointment is contemporaneous with that of

\* Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 489.† *Ibid.*, p. 493.

‡ "Wellhall, near Eltham," Hasted, vol. i., p. 470.

the Sisters of the House at Buckland, of which mention is made further on in connection with Stroud. He was succeeded by Richard de Turk, whose name is mentioned in many early documents. Joseph Chancey, the twelfth in order, erected a chapel at Clerkenwell, while the names of many subsequent Priors will be found in the List of Benefactors. William Tothall, the twentieth in order, died in the year 1318,\* and was succeeded by Thomas le Archer, or L'Archer, in whose time the whole Order in England appears to have fallen into financial difficulties of no ordinary sort, so much so that the entire income availed not to meet the more pressing demands of its creditors,† and the moveables of the Hospitallers at Clerkenwell were seized under a writ of "fieri facias" to meet the interest due to the Lombard and Perugian merchants, and the whole Order at that time established in England was in danger of being broken up and dissolved.

To remedy this state of things, Elian de Villeneuve,‡ the Grand Master at Rhodes, instructed Leonard de Tybertis of Venice to act as a plenipotentiary commissioner, to enquire into, and if possible to extricate the Order from, their numerous difficulties; and Thomas le Archer, feeble with age and unwieldy with fat, was compelled to resign his office (A.D. 1328). When he and the treasurer died, Leonard de Tybertis assumed the command, taking the whole affairs into his own hands.

He had brought with him from Italy a quantity of elegant jewels, for presents to members of the Court, and by these and his credentials was fortunate enough to find favour in the eyes of "our Lord the King, and our Lady the Queen," and he succeeded in recovering a large amount of the arrears of which the indolent Thomas had been unable to obtain payment. He cut down wood on the estates and realized more than £1000 by the sale of it, and collected the rents so closely as to bring in £3000 more. By these and other means, and the security of certain jewels, he succeeded

\* Malcomb's *London*, vol. iii., p. 254.

† Larking.

‡ Previously Prior of St. Gillis's Province; was elected Grand Master at Rhodes 1327, and appears to have been an able administrator and diplomatist. He died A.D. 1346.

in raising sufficient to satisfy the more urgent creditors of the Order. The Lombards were entirely paid off, and the Perugians partly so, but there was still a considerable sum owing, for which interest was exacted at 25 per cent.—the best terms the Order could obtain! At this time the Hospitallers held certain lands which had formerly been the property of the Knight Templars, producing £458 1s. 10d., which, by the influence of the Court and Judges of the Courts of Law, were with the sanction of the King conferred on the Order, and for nine years Tybertis so managed to finance the Hospital's resources that he was able to retire, leaving his successor, Philip de Thane, the satisfaction of presenting a favourable report to the Grand Master in 1338.

For these and many other particulars we are indebted to the researches of the late Rev. L. B. Larking, M.A.,\* the Honorary Secretary and one of the original founders of the Kent Archæological Society, and the admirable Introduction to his work by J. M. Kemble, Esq., M.A.

There appear to have been at this time (1338) three classes of brethren, the Knights (*milites*), Chaplains (*Capellani*), and Esquires (*servientes ad arma*), or Serjeants at Arms. Of these three classes there were in England at this time an aggregate of 119 brethren scattered over the country in certain bailiwicks, or preceptories as they were called, under the general control of the Prior of the English langue.

This high functionary resided at Clerkenwell, but once in every year (with few exceptions) visited all the country preceptories. The office was an extremely dignified one, the Prior taking precedence of the lay barons of the realm. His allowance for maintenance at Clerkenwell was 20s. a day; but, when on a visitation, he was paid that sum by the preceptories where he stayed. In addition to this, he received a sum of 140 marks for robes for his household.

In the country, the preceptor occupied the same position as lord of a manor, and received on an average 13s. 4d. for

\* *Knight Hospitallers in England*, published by the Camden Society, 1855-56.

his pay, 20s. for a robe, 6s. 8d. for a mantle, and 8s. for other necessities—the lower officers according to their grades. For instance, in Swenefild the bailiff received 10s.; the woodreve, cook, brewer, fisherman, and pages, 10s. each.

The confrairii\* who were attached to a preceptory did not always contribute personally to the funds, but they were exceedingly useful members, and received a stipend for their services, one of which was to solicit contributions, both for the men, and also for maintenance of the King's forces for the defence of the realm.

There was yet another class of persons called "*carrodarii*,"† those who desired to participate in the hospitality of the Order, and the many advantages it had to offer from the carking cares of life, when violence and robbery was as yet unchecked, who for a sum paid down acquired the right of pensioners, and became more or less domiciled members of the community—having in some cases horses and servants, and feeding sumptuously at the high table, or if of lesser degree at the second table. They also in many cases took upon them the livery or clothing of the Order, as "*John Dyngelee tempore fratris Thome L'Archer et fratris Leonardi xxx marks, et robam de secta clericorum*," or "*robam de secta armigerorum*." At other times not only is the husband included, but his wife or daughter also. Of these gentlemen there appear to have been at least eighty, and as the principles of life-assurance were entirely unknown, they frequently formed a heavy burthen on the resources of the Order.

Clerkenwell kept up a glorious hospitality; beside fish, flesh, and fowl from its demesne, it consumed annually 340 quarters of wheat, 413 quarters of barley, 60 quarters called dragget, oats for brewing 225 quarters, for the stables 300 quarters, 8 quarters of oats and 4 pecks of peas for pottage, and laid out in kitchen expenses £121 6s. 8d. per annum. A special distribution was moreover made on the day of their patron saint (St. John the Baptist) to the poor of the neighbourhood.

\* Kemble, p. xxx.

† Larking, Camden Society, p. 203.

Where there existed no preceptory, there might be a bajula, or a bailiwick, to superintend the management of the estates, as would appear to have been the case at West Peckham; elsewhere they were frequently let to farm at a reasonable rate.

The sources of income derived from the several manors may be summed up as consisting of rent of lands, mills, wind, water, and fulling; the produce of preceptories, gardens, and curtilage; arable, pasture, and meadow land; columbaria, market-tolls, and stallage; donations from pensioners; sale of stock; appropriations of churches and chapels; services of villeins, or copyholders in labour or day's work in kind; assessed rents of tenants in socage; perquisites of the courts in which pleas were tried; lastly, collections or subscriptions from landowners or confrairii.

On the other side there was the annual cost of maintenance, repairs of preceptories and farm buildings, rent and law charges, collecting tolls and dues on ecclesiastical and other properties; lastly, and not least, a generous hospitality to the nobility, clergy, or poor wayfarers. The balance in all cases was paid to the Treasurer and Prior for the benefit of the whole Order, and he in turn accounting with the Grand Master in Rhodes or Malta.

By an Act passed 32 Henry VIII., c. xxiv. (1540), intituled "An Act concerning the possessions of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in England and Ireland, otherwise called Knights of the Rhodes," after reciting that they had sustained the usurped power of the Pope within the realm, and for other causes therein mentioned, were dissolved, their possessions (as in the case of the Knight Templars\*) were transferred to the Crown, the Priors and Confrères of St. John being allowed to be called by their own names and surnames without any addition.

By section viii. of the above Act\* it is provided that John Mableston, Clerk, Sub-prior of St. John of Jerusalem, and

\* On the seizure of the Templars' lands and houses the survivors found an asylum in other Orders and Monasteries. Two shillings a day was assigned for the support of the Masters, and 4d. for each Knight. De la Mare died in the Tower in 1311. Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. iii., pp. 34, 35; ed. 1708.

William Brinstead, Clerk, Master of the Temple in London, should have during their lives all such mansions, houses, stipends, wages, and profits of money, as heretofore, without hindrance of the King or his heirs; the said Master and two Chaplains of the Temple doing their duties and services as they had been accustomed to do.

By section ix. it was further enacted that the said Subprior and Master of the Temple, and two Chaplains, should upon their reasonable suits and petitions have letters patent of their said pensions, mansions, etc., under the Great Seal, without fee.

When the Mastership became vacant by death in the reign of Edward VI. it was filled up by letters patent from the Crown; and, as regards the Temple, has so continued.\*

The several langues of the Order of the Grand Master of Rhodes and Malta consisted of Auvergne, France, Italy, Arragon, England, and Germany. Malta was conceded by the European Powers by treaty to England in 1814, and each langue is now presided over by its sovereign—as that in England is by the Queen, or her delegate the Prince of Wales.

In England the Order possessed property in Kent in the following parishes: † Ash, Bolyngton, Burham, Cocklescomb, Dartford, Ewell, Hadlow, Stalisfield and Ore, Rodmersham, Strood, Sutton at Hone, Swingfield, Tonbridge, Waltham, West Peckham, etc., hereafter mentioned.

#### ASH, ASSCHE, OR EISSE,

Is situate in the Hundred of Axtane; it lies some six miles to the north-west of Wrotham, originally held by Hugo de Port, under Odo, Bishop of Rochester; on his disgrace it was given by the King to Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent. The entire manor was appraised at vij<sup>li</sup>.

In the reign of Henry III. the parish seems to have been divided into North and South Ash, a limb of which formed the manor of St. John's, Ash. After the decease of the Earl of Kent† the property was held by William de Latimer, who

\* H. T. Baylis, Q.C., 1893.

† Larking.

‡ Hasted, vol. ii., p. 469. *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X., p. 153.

obtained a grant, in the thirtieth year of Edward I., of a market on Thursday, also a fair on the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, and free warren\* within all his demesne lands; and his grandson, in the twentieth year of the reign of Edward III., held it of Roger de Mowbray by the fourth part of a Knight's fee, under the King.

The manor of North Ash† soon after the time of King Richard II. was given to the Knight Hospitallers of St. John. In the year 1338 the annual payment from the manor of Asche‡ is returned as producing iiiij<sup>l</sup> to the Prior of Clerkenwell.

In the seventh year of Edward I.§ the church and rectory|| made an annual payment of ten marks to the Hospitallers, by whom it was united as an appendage to their manor of Sutton at Hone, after which it had no separate court of manor.

On the suppression of the Hospitallers in 1532 it was granted to Sir Maurice Dennis.

#### BONINTON, OR BONNINGTON.

William, son of Grosse, held Bonnington of Hugh de Montfort under the King. It answered for one suling, with arable land for four teams. A church was there, viij serfs, and pannage for viij hogs. In the time of the Confessor it was worth iv<sup>l</sup>, afterwards iij<sup>l</sup>, then c<sup>s</sup>. (Domesday.)

The manors of North or Hall Court and Bonnington in the Hundred of Estrains or Street were moieties of the manor of Swyngfeld,¶ which Hasted\*\* tells us appears by ancient records to have been held by a family of that name. Bonnington was subordinate to Folkestone and Turlingham, and so held by the performance of Ward to the Castle of Dover.†† It formed a portion of the property of the Knight Templars, and is mentioned in the register of their demesne at

\* Dugdale, *Bar.*, vol. ii., p. 31.

† Philpot, p. 55.

§ 1279.

¶ The family of Richard Swyngfeld, afterwards Bishop of Hereford, are stated by Hasted to have resided there. He succeeded Thomas de Cantilupe, and was consecrated at Gloucester 1282-3. Hasted's *Kent*, iii., p. 350. Camden Society, vol. lxii., p. 66.

\*\* Hasted, vol. viii., p. 122.

‡ Larking, p. 94.

|| Thorpe, *Reg. Ross.*, p. 128.

†† *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X., p. 129.

the suppression of the Order in the second year of Edward II., and in the seventeenth year of his reign by a provision made by Act of Parliament was settled on the Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.\*

Furley† tells us that there was a church here as far back as 796, and that mention is made of it in a charter granted by King Offa to Gambert, Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the return made by Philip de Thane it is mentioned under the head of Swenfeld, and consisted of 24 acres of arable land and a like quantity of pasture, and at that time produced a rental of xxvi<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>, or quit rent.

John de Criol‡ appears to have died possessed of the manor of Boynton 48 Henry III., and both Boynton and North Court in the third year of Richard II. were held by his descendant. Nicholas Criol gave it to John Fineaux, for having saved his life at Poitiers.

John de Criol is mentioned as contributing xl<sup>s</sup> for land which William Hykmore held in Oxenega, in the barony of Folkestone.

On the suppression of the Order,§ it was granted by Henry VIII., in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, to Sir Thomas Moyle, who conveyed it to Sir James Hales of the Dungeon, near Canterbury, a Justice of the Common Pleas; who was the only Judge who refused to affix his signature to the instrument for placing the crown on the head of Lady Jane Grey,|| declaring that the attempt to exclude Mary was unlawful and unjust. He is said to have drowned himself in despair in the river near Thanington. Mr. Edward Foss, the writer of the article, is of opinion that his case suggested to Shakespeare the hair-splitting subtleties which he put in the mouth of the gravedigger in *Hamlet*, scene i., act v.

#### BORHAM, OR BURHAM,

Was held by Ralph de Curbespine¶ of the Bishop of Rochester. It answers for six sulings.\*\* There is arable

\* Philpot, p. 82.

† *Hund. Roll*, p. 138; vii., pp. 2, 763.

‡ Philpot, p. 82.

§ *Domesday*, p. xiv. The Crookedback.

\*\* Sulin, solin, or caruca, as much land as sufficeth for one plough.

† Hasted, vol. viii., p. 122.

|| *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. V., p. 27.

land of eight teams; in demesne there are two, and fifteen villeins with twenty borderers and six teams, a church, seven serfs, one mill of vi<sup>s</sup>, and ten acres of meadow; wood for twenty hogs. In the time of King Edward (the Confessor) it was worth ten pounds, and he received as much; now twelve pounds. The Bishop of Rochester had houses of this manor, and they were worth vij<sup>s</sup>. Earl Lewin held of this manor.

The same Ralph de Curbespine also held lands in Essewelle, Sellings, and Daneton of the See of Rochester. Hasted states that he resided at Birling,\* and that his descendants continued owners of Burham till the reign of Henry II., when they were succeeded by the family of Magminot, and that the church of Burham was anciently part of the possessions of the Knight Hospitallers.

In 1279† Edward I. issued a writ requiring a return of all the Hospitals appertaining to the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, whether taxed for the tenths or not, which were anciently held by the Templars, and the annual value of the churches fully set out. In answer to this the Bishop replies, that there was in the diocese of Rochester appertaining to the Hospitallers the church of Burgham, which was taxed at xxij marks.

Thomas, Bishop of Rochester, subsequently, with the approval of the brethren of the Hospital, and William de Tothale, the Prior, granted and assigned to the Vicar the usual tenths, with eight acres of arable land in Froghreresland, also eleven acres in Benecroft and Stonhelle, and one acre lying between Hackwood and the church of Burgham, called Oacre, and another pasture lying in Landmedediche, also the tenths of garden produce from a certain tenement called Holenstonesyok, from the manor of Bergham, and ij quarters of corn from the granary of the rectory. The Vicar to preserve and make good all books, vestments, etc., etc. . . . Dated in the church at Burgham, after the Feast of St. Katerine the Virgin, A.D. 1302.

In 1315‡ a dispute arose between John de Ross, Rector

\* Hasted, vol. iv., p. 410.

† Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, pp. 125, 126.

‡ Tanner and Cox's *Cal.*, p. 93, fol. 149.

of the church of Bisshoppesbourne, and the convent of St. Gregory at Canterbury, concerning the great and little tithes of the demesne land of Henry de Burcham, in the time of Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, who decreed that the said John de Ross, and his successors, should take all the said tithes, and pay annually to the said convent vj marks. Dated at Lambeth 2 Ides of Aug.

In 1335 the Hospitallers' Chapter presented Nicholas Hales\* Vicar.

The value of the Church and living is thus given (1338): "Ecclesia† de Burgham valet per ann. . . . xx marcas que ordinantur pro robis, mantellis, et aliis necessariis, Prioris ecclesie," etc.

In‡ the year 1400 Robert Frodsham was appointed to the living.

In§ 1509 the Hospitallers disposed of the living, or Rectory, to Thomas Dowcra, for xxx<sup>li</sup> vj<sup>s</sup>.§

#### COCCELSOMB IN THE HUNDRED OF BEAUSBERG.

Cocclescomb,|| near Lidden, formed one of a group of manors¶ which went to form the Barony of Maminot, held by Hugo de Montfort by Knight Service to the King for the defence of Dover; after Montfort's disgrace it became escheated to the Crown, who granted it to William de Say, by whom it was held in the 38 of Henry III.\*\* Geffery's second son married the sister and coheir of Walkeline Maminot.†† His son Geffery married Alsie, one of the daughters and coheiresses of John de Cheney. John, the last of the Says, died in his minority 6 Richard II. In the time of Edward I. Ralph de Cestreton appears to have held it, and was succeeded in it by Stephen de Bocton, soon after which it became part of the possessions of the Knights of

\* *Reg. Roff.*, p. 198.

† Larking, p. 124.

‡ *Reg. Roff.*, p. 199.

§ Philpot, p. 92, mentions the existence of a fountain in this parish called Haly Garden, much esteemed for its medical virtues.

|| Domesday Book, p. 26.

¶ Hasted, vol. viii., p. 128.

\*\* *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XII., p. 129.

†† Dugdale, *Bar.*, vol. i., pp. 511, 512.

the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, its lands forming part of the possessions of Swynfeld A.D. 1338.\*

In the assessment of Kent Finest† on the knighting of the Black Prince, it appears that the Master of the House in Dover did not return xx<sup>s</sup> for the half knight's fee which the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem held in Cocclescomb, in answer to the rescript of the King, as it was held as a free and charitable gift direct from the Crown.

#### TERENTEFORD OR DERTEFORD, NOW DARTFORD.

King William‡ holds in Terenteford: it answers for one suling and a half. There is the arable land of 40 teams, in demesne there are two teams and 142 villeins with ten borderers, and 53 teams, three serfs and one mill, of meadow 22 acres, of pasture 40 acres, of wood eight small and three large denes, two hythes or ports there. In the time of King Edward it was worth 60 pounds, and as much when Haimo the Sheriff received it. It is now appraised by the English at 60 pounds, but the reve, a Frenchman who holds it to farm, says that it is worth four score and ten pounds, yet he himself renders from the manor 70 pounds weighed, and 111<sup>s</sup> in pence of twenty to the ore, and seven pounds, and 26<sup>d</sup> by tale, besides that he renders to the Sheriff 100<sup>s</sup>.

The men of the Hundred (Achestan) testify that one meadow and one alder bed have been taken away from the King's manor, and one mill and 20 acres of arable land and as much meadow as pertains to ten acres of arable land, all which were in King Edward's farm while he lived. These are worth 20<sup>s</sup>; they also say that Oswald the Sheriff mortgaged them to Alestan the Reve of London, and now Helt the Sewer and his nephew hold them.

They also testify that Hageli, which answers for half a suling, has been taken away from this manor. The Sheriff held this land, and when he lost the Shrievalty, it remained in the King's farm after the death of King Edward, now Hugh de Port holds it with 54 acres of arable land. All this is worth

\* Hasted, vol. viii., p. 128.

† Domesday Book, p. 4.

‡ *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X., p. 130.

15 pounds. From the same manor of the King six acres of land have been taken away, and a certain wood, which the same Oswald (the Sheriff) put out of the manor by mortgage of 40<sup>s</sup>. The Bishop of Rochester holds the church of this manor which is worth 60<sup>s</sup>, and there are three chapels.

In the time of Henry II.\* the Sheriff of Kent accounted to the King for the manor, as well as in the first year of King John, when the Templars under Gilbertus† are mentioned as holding one carucate, valued at 12 marcs, to which Nicholas fitz Twytham added a rental of 15<sup>s</sup>. This portion afterwards became known as the Temple Manor.‡ In the fourth year of Henry III. William, Prior of Rochester, granted to Alan Martel, Master of the Temple, half an acre of land in Darteford. The brethren of the Temple appear at one time to have made an arrangement with the Prior of Dartford to let the Salt Marshes.§

Contemporary with the Templars the Knight Hospitallers of St. John were settled on the adjoining manor of Sutton, founded by Robert de Basing in the time of King John and endowed with lands in Sutton at Hone, Dartford, and Hagel.

On the suppression|| of the Order of the Templars (1313) their lands were given to Robert de Kendal, to hold during the King's pleasure, he to account for them to the King's Exchequer for the profits, and it so continued until the seventeenth year of the same reign, when at a Parliament holden at Westminster the estates were handed over to the Prior and the brethren of the Knight Hospitallers of St. John, who, as we have seen, at that time had a preceptory in Sutton, and held other lands in Darteford.

In the time of Haimo,¶ Bishop of Rochester, 33 Edward III., the Church of Dartford, dedicated to the Holy

\* Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., pp. 52, 544.

† Charter granted by Henry II.

‡ Cott. MS., Nero, E, vi.

§ Nero, E, vi., p. 25.

|| The suppression of the Order of the Templars was effected in the first year of Edward II. (A.D. 1307), at the instigation of Pope John, on account of their vast possessions and superstitious wickedness and crimes which they committed. Thomas le Archer died in 1329. The transfer of lands only took place about 1333 in the Priorate of Leonardus de Tybertis, some four or five years afterwards. (Kembler, *Introduction*, p. lvii.)

¶ Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, p. 120.

Trinity, is mentioned as paying to the Hospitallers the sum of 45 marcs.

It had also an endowment from Laurence, Bishop of Rochester, in 1253, who reserved the greater tithes for his own use, and gave the smaller tithes of 40 marks for the maintenance of the Vicar, which arrangement was confirmed by Bishop Woldham in 1299, who provided a vicarage with 21 acres of land called King's Marsh in Dartford; and it was subsequently enriched by Robert Winchelsea, Archbishop, with tithes of hay from the Salt Marsh in Dartford and 4<sup>s</sup> yearly due from the Knight Hospitallers to the Bishop.\*

Hasted mentions that Thomas le Archer (1328), Prior of the Hospital of St. John, Clerkenwell, granted the land to farm to one of the Cobham family—that they should have done so three years before they had legal Parliamentary possession seems somewhat strange except on the supposition that the Cobham family had been instrumental in procuring these lands of the Crown for the Hospitallers: the lease was contingent upon the Parliamentary grant being obtained. This appears probable, as in the return subsequently made by Leonardus de Tybertis to the Grand Master in 1338, we find under the heading of Dartford: “That there is one carucate with meadows and pasture, and it was let to Ralph de Cobham, Knight, and his wife for life, under the Common Seal in the time of Thomas le Archer.”† The interest in these lands (according to Hasted) appears to have descended to John, son and heir of Henry de Cobham, who obtained a charter of free warren within all his demesne lands in Dartford; though a quit-rent was probably paid on this as on other properties granted on lease.

For instance, in the eleventh year of Richard II. (1388), in the time of John Raddington the Prior and brethren of the Hospital let to Idonye, late the wife of Nicholas Brembre,‡ Knight and Citizen of London, the whole of Dart-

\* Cott. MS., Nero, E.

† Hasted, vol. xi., p. 302.

‡ Sir Nicholas Brambre, Citizen and Grocer, had been elected Lord Mayor of London 1386, but having been implicated with the Archbishop of York, Lord Salisbury, and others of misleading the King, was accused of treason and beheaded on Tower Hill. (*Falyam Ch.*, p. 534.)

ford manor, formerly appertaining to the Templars,\* with all rights and appurtenances which had been recently held by John Strodeye, a Citizen of London, of the Prior and brethren of the Hospital of St. John from the Festival of St. Michael the Archangel next ensuing, for a term of 38 years, for a rental of 15 marcs of silver, at the Feasts of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Barnabas in equal portions, and rendering to the said Prior and brethren with all faithful service of the manor, etc.

It† seems somewhat difficult to reconcile the statement made by Hasted and that of the document last quoted, which is given *in extenso* in the Cottonian MS. in the British Museum,‡ unless this occurred after the decease of Ralph de Cobham or his sons, but so it is; and it further appears from the same MS. that the said Idonye granted an underlease of the above-mentioned manor for the remaining term of years to Nicholas Toche de Stanlake and Alice his wife.

There is an Inquisition in the third year of Henry IV. :

In the third year of Henry IV. an Inquisition§ of the lands and tenements in Derteford was ordered on the next Monday after the Festival of St. John the Baptist, "before John Colepeper, William Hesill, Thomas Lodelowe, John Urban, John Crepyn, John Martyn, and Thomas Appleton, in virtue of letters patent from the King, on the xvi day of July in the year above mentioned. A jury of twelve (whose names are mentioned) present and say, upon their oath, that the Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England holds in the manor of Derteford lvi acres pertaining to their manor of Sutton, of which William Danvers held in farm under the same Prior.

"And that the said Prior of the Hospital of St. John's hold xlvj acres pertaining to their manor of the Temple in Derteford, of which William Cave was the tenant.

"And that the Prior of Rochester holds in the same manor . . . vij acres, and that the manor of Clayndon had vj and a half acres.

"That the heirs of Richard, late Lord Ponynghes, holds iiij acres pertaining to the manor of Rokesle.

\* A valuation of the Templars' possessions in Dartford in the twenty-ninth year of Edward I. will be found set out in a paper communicated by the Rev. R. P. Coates in *Archæologia*, vol. ix., wherein they are given as being at that time xxliij<sup>l</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup> inde xv<sup>ma</sup> xxxij<sup>s</sup> 9<sup>d</sup> per brevo vocala, i.e. exempted.

† Nero, E, iv., p. 259.

‡ *Ibid.*, iv., p. 260.

§ Cott. MS., Nero, E, vi., fol. 260.

"That John Lofferwyk holds in his manor of Littlebroke xviiij acres.

"Also the same jury say and present that divers other persons hold the remainder in the same manor, all and each of whom are holding in the manor of Derteford common lands yearly from the feast of the exaltation of the Sacred Cross to the 1st Friday of March. . . . All of which tenants of land in the aforesaid manor have a common right to fish at any time of the year there at Biggepole, and they only have this right and none other. And they say that all in the aforesaid manor have to maintain whole and entire the walls which enclose the manor, and a certain ditch called the Throwedyche, and a certain watercourse gutter called Throwe, and that the said walls, ditches, and watercourses, wears, or dykes, or retaining walls they were accustomed to keep and amend over the whole manor, and to mend the fences and to make good any damage sustained."

And in the same Inquisition, taken in the King's Treasury, it further appears that there were one messuage and six and a half acres in Dartford aforesaid existing, which the Prioress of Dartford held for herself and her successors for the Priory by licence of our Lord the King, under the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem in England of the manor of Sutton, faithfully to pay eighteen denarii per ann. for the same.

In the Inquisition\* taken at Tunbrygge, etc., they say, upon their oath, that John, lately Duke of Bedford, died seised of two parcels of arable land in the town of Penshurst, called Upperletherhammes and Netherletherhammes with a certain garden thereunto annexed, containing lx acres of land, including a pasture there called Ambermede, containing eight acres of pasture, held of the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem in England for service rendered, vij<sup>s</sup> per ann. for the whole enclosure.

From a recital† of the rents taken in the first year of Henry VIII., in the time of Thomas Doucra, it would appear that the Temple lands at Dartford are returned as producing xix<sup>l</sup> viij<sup>s</sup> iv<sup>d</sup>.

\* Nero, II, p. 261.

† Recital and Sheriffs' Account, 5493, Pat. Roll, m. 35 d.

In the Exchequer Minister's Accounts\* at the time of the dissolution of the Order, 33 and 34 Henry VIII., the manor of Dartford with Sutton at Hone appears to have been held by Elizabeth Statham, widow of Nicholas Statham, Citizen and Mercer, to farm at a rental of £55 per ann., and that the arrears were £7 8s. 11d., making altogether £62 8s. 11d.; after deducting 2s. and £14 17s. 10d. there remains £47 9s. 1d., delivered to Maurice Dennys, Esq., Receiver General of the lands and profits of the late Priory.

#### EWELL OR TEMPLE EWELL

Is situate in Beausberg Hundred.† Hugo (le Port) held it of the Bishop. It answers for three sulings. There is arable land (but the acreage is not given). In demesne one team, and fifteen villeins with twelve borderers have two teams, two mills of 46<sup>s</sup> and four acres of meadow, wood for four hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth 12 pounds, afterwards 100<sup>s</sup>, now 10 pounds, and yet it renders 12 pounds 12<sup>s</sup>. Edric de Alham held it of King Edward. Of the same manor Hugh de Montfort holds seventeen acres of arable land and one dene and a half, which are valued at 17<sup>s</sup>.

The same Hugh holds of the Bishop Wesclive: it answers for two sulings. There is the arable land. . . . In demesne there is one team, and seventeen villeins have two teams. In the time of King Edward it was worth 8 pounds, when he received it 6 pounds, now 8 pounds. Of this manor Hugh de Montfort holds two mills. The same Hugh also held in Solstone of the Bishop in Dover one mill.

Ralph de Curbespine also holds in Ewell three sulings and arable land. . . . In demesne one team and a half and five villeins, four borderers have two teams, wood there for ten hogs. Of this manor a certain knight holds one suling of Ralph with one team and three borderers. The whole manor in the time of King Edward was worth 12 pounds, afterwards 20<sup>s</sup>, now 40<sup>s</sup>, yet Ralph renders 4 pounds. Hugh

\* Roll 136 m., 35 a.

† Domesday Book.

de Montfort has the chief lordship of the manor, 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  mills of 6 pounds. Molleue held it of King Edward.

By an Inquisition,\* *temp.* Henry II. (1185), it appears that William the King's brother and William de Peverel in Ewell gave three acres to the Templars, which were in the tenure of William the son of Welsted. Hugo de Essex also gave a mill of the value of 20<sup>s</sup>, conclusive evidence that the Templars were already settled in the neighbourhood. It is to be noted, however, that they held more settlements in other counties than in Kent.

The proximity of Ewell and Swyngfeld appears to have led to some confusion as to the site of the Knight Hospitalers. Is it probable that two powerful bodies had each of them a preceptory within a distance of barely one mile? Hasted† throws but little light on the subject; he tells us that "the Hospital of the Templars stood on the side of the Hill, about a mile from the village, now called Temple Farm, that is to the south of the Dover Road, but that the Templars had no house there;" others have placed this commandry at Swyngfeld. Tanner,‡ in speaking of Swyngfeld, in a note, adds a query, "Whether this was not situate upon the extremity of the parish, next Ewell? and whether this was not the house of the Templars, sometimes called Ewell, where, near Dover, as Matt. Paris (p. 237) asserts, King John resigned his Crown to Pandulph the Pope's legate in 1213—for the pardon of Archbishop Langton, which was one of the effects of that meeting, is dated at the Temple of Ewell (*vide* Pat. Rolls, 15th of John, m. 48). I rather think Swyngfeld and Ewell to have been the same house rather than two distinct ones, but leave it to others."

On the 25th of May (o.s.) John, A.D. 1213, agreed to receive Cardinal Langton and the Monks into favour, and resigned his Crown and Sceptre to the Pope's Legate and laid them at the feet of Pandulph, who is stated to have retained them three days till John signed the document transferring England and Ireland to the Pope. He also agreed to pay 700 marks yearly as a rental and 300 for Ireland, and

\* Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 527.

† Tanner, *Notitia*, p. 217.

‡ Hasted, vol. ix., p. 428.

did homage to the Pope in the person of Pandulph, who is stated to have proudly trod under foot the money offered by the King. The revolt of the Barons shortly followed, which ultimately led to the signing of the Charter of Rights at Runnimeade. Probably King John encamped at Ewell while awaiting the landing and reception of the Papal Legate, who would take up his quarters at Dover, and the ceremony took place in the church before the altar.

Temple Ewell remained in the possession of the Templars until the Order was suppressed, in conformity with a Bull of Pope Boniface, who attributed monstrous crimes and heresies to the Order; and in a Parliament subsequently held at Westminster in 1312 the manors and estates of the Order were handed over to the Master and brethren of the Hospital of St. John at Jerusalem by Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, acting for the King, in the eighteenth year of Edward II.\*

#### RODMERSHAM.

The manor and church of Rodmersham† is situate in the hundreds of Milton and Teynham, about five miles to the south of the town of Milton. It is within the deanery of Sittingbourne in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Canterbury. In a charter of King John,‡ reciting and confirming various gifts to the Knight Hospitallers, we find that King Henry II. gave this church and all that pertained to it to the above-mentioned Order.§

There were the remains of an old manor house here, which is referred to as St. John's Hole, where even now portions of the old building are found in digging, but it is doubtful if it ever belonged to the Order.

In the chancel of the church the present Vicar, the Rev. W. J. Mellor, found under the plaster a rudely carved "Agnus Dei" on the base of the piscina; this is a link in the chain of evidence, as the Order adopted St. John the Baptist as their Patron Saint, and dropped St. John of Jerusalem when they

\* Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 945; Philpot, p. 149.

† Hasted.

‡ Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 510.

§ Hasted, vol. vi., p. 120.

ceased to be a fighting Order. Again, you descend two steps at the entrance, which custom is found in all churches connected with St. John the Baptist, as typical of going down to the River Jordan. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

In 1338 Rodmersham is returned as paying xxiiij marks to the Prior of St. John's at Clerkenwell.

At the time of the dissolution it was granted to Ralph Fane, Esq., with Tonbridge and Hadlow.

#### STALISFIELD AND ORE.

The parish of Stalisfield is situate on the south side of Eastling—Ore, about one mile north-west of Faversham.

Adam le Port\* held Ore of the Bishop. It answered for two sulings, arable land for four teams. In the demesne one team, ten villeins with ten borderers have two and a half teams. There is a church there and one mill of 22<sup>s</sup>, and two fisheries without rent, and one saltwork of 28<sup>d</sup>, wood for six hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth four pounds, afterwards 60<sup>s</sup>, then 40<sup>s</sup>, now 100<sup>s</sup>. Turgis held it of King Edward.

The same Adam† holds of the Bishop, Stanefelle. It answers for two sulings. In demesne there is one team, and ten villeins have two teams, a church there, and six serfs, and two acres of meadow, wood for sixty hogs. In the time of King Edward it was worth 60<sup>s</sup>, afterwards 40<sup>s</sup>, now 100<sup>s</sup>. Turgis held it of Earl Godwin.

On Odo's disgrace Adam de Port held under the King, and was succeeded by Arnulph de Eade,‡ who gave the manor of Stalisfield to the Knight Templars, together with Ore, and all appertaining thereto. Tenths were paid to the Bishop of Rochester.§

Stalisfield and Ore, on the suppression of the Knight Templars, passed to the Knight Hospitalers of St. John some time previous to Prior Leonard de Tybertis's report to the Grand Master at Rhodes in 1338. They are thus entered,

\* Domesday Book.

† Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 450.

‡ Hasted, vol. vi., p. 438.

§ *Reg. Roff.*, p. 620.



C. F. KELL, PHOTO PROCESSOR, FURNIVAL ST. HOLBORN E.C.

REMAINS OF TEMPLE FARM MANOR, STROOD, KENT.

Stalisfield\* and Ore, as having one messuage with 124 acres of land, twenty of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, let to farm from year to year at the pleasure of the Priory of Clerkenwell, paying each year . . . . 40 marcs.

On the suppression of the Order the property was divided, the manor of Stalisfield being granted to Ralph Fane, Esq., which was valued at 8 pounds, and the manor of Ore to Richard Morris and his assigns, Thomas Alday and Jeremiah Alday, for 12 pounds 8 shillings and 4 pence.

#### STROUD, STROUDE, OR STRODE,

Originally appertaining to the Bishop of Rochester in the time of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux,† it was with other estates of this rebellious Prince escheated to the Crown, and given in the eleventh year of Henry III.‡ to the Knight Templars.

By an Inquisition made in the latter part of this reign, dated 1185,§ it was at that time in the hands of Godfrey and Wilimonde Ros for rent and service to the King, and a yearly payment of xx<sup>s</sup> and charitable alms to Daniel de Crevecour. The extent of the manor being 80 acres, and of the value of xl<sup>li</sup> viiijs.

The grant of this manor was afterwards confirmed by King John and Henry III., but on the dissolution of the Order of the Templars passed to the Crown, and would have remained so but for the interference of Pope John XXII., who in 1332 threatened to excommunicate all who held church property which had once been dedicated to charitable uses. Accordingly King Edward II. granted them to the Knight Hospitalers in the following year.

Notwithstanding this the Prior and Chapter of the Order at Clerkenwell were persuaded to assign the fee of this manor to Edward II., who by writ to his sheriffs directed them to take it into their hands, and to account for the

\* See Larking, p. 124.

† Dugdale, *Mon. Ang.*, vol. ii., p. 526.

‡ In the Hundred Roll of King Edward I. it is stated that King John gave the Manor of Stroude to the Master and Brethren of the Temple of Solomon. (Furley, Lambard, p. 396.)

§ Hasted, vol. iii., pp. 548, 549.

profits. In the eleventh year of his reign he granted it to Mary de St. Paul.

In\* the return made by Philip de Thane to the Grand Master in 1338, the manor is returned as in the possession of Mary de St. Paul, Countess of Pembroke, and held *in capite*.

This unfortunate lady was a daughter of Guy de Chastillon, Earl of St. Paul in France, her husband being Audomere de Valentin, who was killed in a tournament on the day of his wedding. Thus old Fuller remarks, "She was a maid, a wife, and a widow in one day." She was related to Edward III. through her mother, the daughter of John de Drux, Duke of Bretagne and Richmond, and his wife Beatrice, daughter of King Henry III. She seems to have found solace and comfort in her grief in devoting her life and large estates to acts of charity. It was her intention to have founded a religious house in Stroude, but, having exchanged certain lands and tenements with Edward III., she altered her mind,† and removed the foundation of Waterbeach at Cambridge, and founded an abbey at Denny for a sisterhood, and amply endowed it A.D. 1347.

The‡ history of Temple Stroud is curious.§ It was founded in 1160 by Robert, the Chamberlain to the Duke of Brittany and Earl of Richmond, who entered the cloister, and was admitted at Ely. He gave a small island (Elmeny, in the parish of Beach) to that Convent, wherein a cell of their monks was placed, but as the site was frequently flooded, Auberg Picot gave them four acres on higher ground in the Isle of Denny, where they settled, and had a church dedicated to St. James and St. Leonard, A.D. 1169. In this they were succeeded by the Knight Templars, as appears by a taxation of the diocese of Ely, A.D. 1255, where they are styled as "Templarii de Denny." Within 100 years of that date Edward III.|| gave the manor of Dennys to Mary de

\* Larking, p. 212.

† Dugdale, *Mon. Ang.*, vol. i., p. 347, 543. Lambard, p. 395.

‡ According to Malcomb, *Londinium Redivivum*, the foundation of this Monastery was contemporary with that of St. John's, Clerkenwell, by Brother Garnarius de Neapoli the first Prior, vol. iii., p. 253.

§ Turner, p. 44.

|| Charter dated Edward III.

St. Paul, the widow of Audomere,\* Earl of Pembroke. Here she founded a monastery for an abbess† and nuns minorites in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Clare, to which shortly afterwards Waterbeach was added. The sisterhood consisted of 25 nuns, and in the eighteenth of Edward III. the revenues of Strood were added to the foundation. Lady Mary de St. Paul is perhaps more widely known as the foundress of Pembroke Hall, or College, in Cambridge, for six fellows and two scholars. She died April 17, 1377, and was buried at Denny.

The manor‡ continued as part of the possession of the Monastery of Denny up to the general suppression in the thirty-second year of Henry VIII., who granted Denny and Strood Temple, with other lands in Bedford, Essex, and Norfolk, to Edward Ebrington§ *in capite* with Grace his wife, who parted with it to George Brooke,§ Lord Cobham, and his heirs.|| Hasted mentions two messuages, two wharves, and five hundred acres of arable pasture and wood land. Lord Cobham and his sons were implicated in Wyatt's rebellion; by the exertions of Lord Paget and the Council his life was spared; he died 1558, aged 61, and was buried at Cobham. Sir William,¶ his eldest son, succeeded him, and notwithstanding his father's connection with Wyatt's rebellion, he was appointed by Elizabeth as ambassador to Spain; he also received the honour of a visit from Her Majesty at Cobham Hall in 1559. His first wife was Frances, daughter of Thomas Coppinger; his second was one of the ladies of Her Majesty's Bedchamber. In 1585 he was sworn of the Privy Council, and on the 14th of April made a Knight of the Garter. He died 6th March 1596, aged 71. He refounded the College of Cobham for Relief of the Poor. His daughter Elizabeth married Robert Cecil in 1589, but died soon afterwards.

\* Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. i., p. 543-6.

† Philpot, p. 327.

‡ Hasted, vol. iii., p. 549. *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XII., p. 117 *et seq.*

§ Excheq. Mins. Acct. 30 and 31 Henry VIII., A.D. 1531-39. Licence of Accessation granted, *Pat. Roll*, 31 Henry VII., p. 5 (m. 28), (15).

|| *Fleet of Fines*. Agreement at Westminster, 31 Henry VIII., 1540. Ebrington to George Brook.

¶ *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XII., p. 147. Lord Cobham's will is dated 29th September 1558, 5-6 Queen Mary.

He was succeeded in the Baronetcy by Henry Brooke,\* Lord Cobham, born 1564. He married Lady Kildare. On the accession of James I. he and his brother George were said to have been implicated, together with Sir Walter Raleigh, "in treason of the Main,"† and were tried and condemned. George was executed at Winchester, and Lord Cobham remained shut up in the Tower, where he continued till death. The estates were complicated by being entailed, so that the King could only hold during his life. This he sold to Lord Brooke‡ (Duke Brooke) for £10,699, with a grant of manor of Temple Stroude to Charles Brooke,§ brother of Duke, who in the same year executed a deed granting to John Dailtham|| of Shaston, co. Dorset, all manors granted to George Brooke for the sum of £500 during the life of the Countess of Kildare, and a further sum of £40,000 paid in one sum.

Whereupon a recovery (*inter alia*) of the Manor of Temple Strowde was brought by George Rowcliffe and Richard Kippas, Esq., in the Court of Chancery at the petition of the Countess of Kildare.¶

The existing remains of the ancient building of the Templars consist of a vaulted crypt, 41 feet in length by 17 feet 6 inches in width, and 13 feet high to the crown of the vault. The walls, 3 feet in thickness, are composed of chalk, rubble, and flint. The interior is divided into three bays or divisions, with semicircular dwarf columns with plain splayed caps and bases, from which spring the intersecting ribs of the vaulting of stone, the voussoirs filled in with neatly squared courses of chalk. The crypt was originally lighted with three lancet lights in the centre of each bay, 3 inches deep externally, and deep splays inside, of which only one on the south side remains perfect; the others have been enlarged and are of more recent construction.

The crypt formed, no doubt, the basement of a chapel or halls. The superstructure is partly of rubble or brick of a

\* *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XII., p. 159.

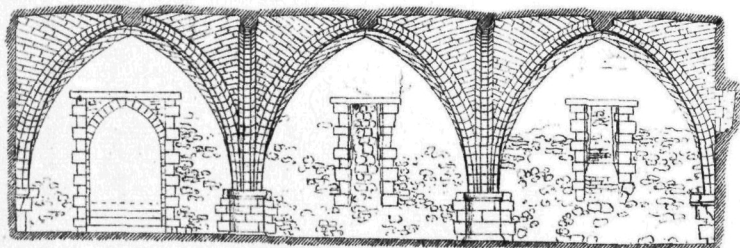
† *i.e.*, Piracy on the High Seas.

‡ *Arch. Cant.*, p. 162, 1606. *Chanc. Ing. p.m.*, James I., p. 1, No. 174.

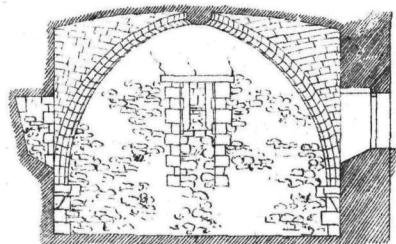
§ *Pat. Rolls*, 5 James I., part xxiv. 1607.

|| *Close Rolls*, 5 James I., part xxx. (1907), 1607. *Ibid.*, 1907, part xxx.

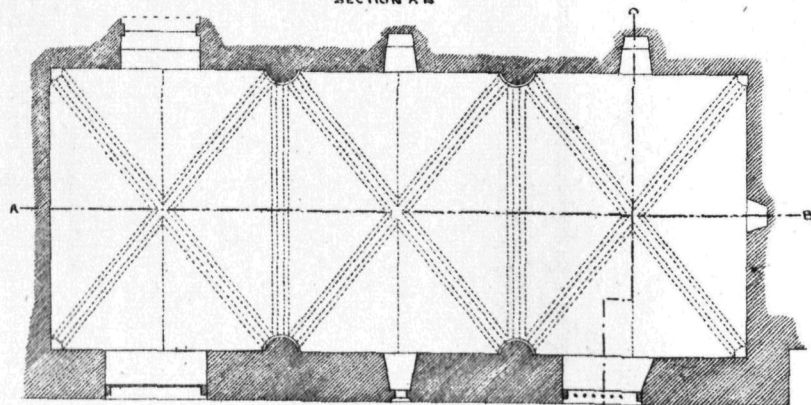
¶ *Close Rolls*, 5 James I., part xxx., 1607.



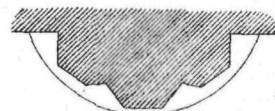
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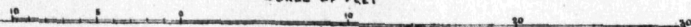
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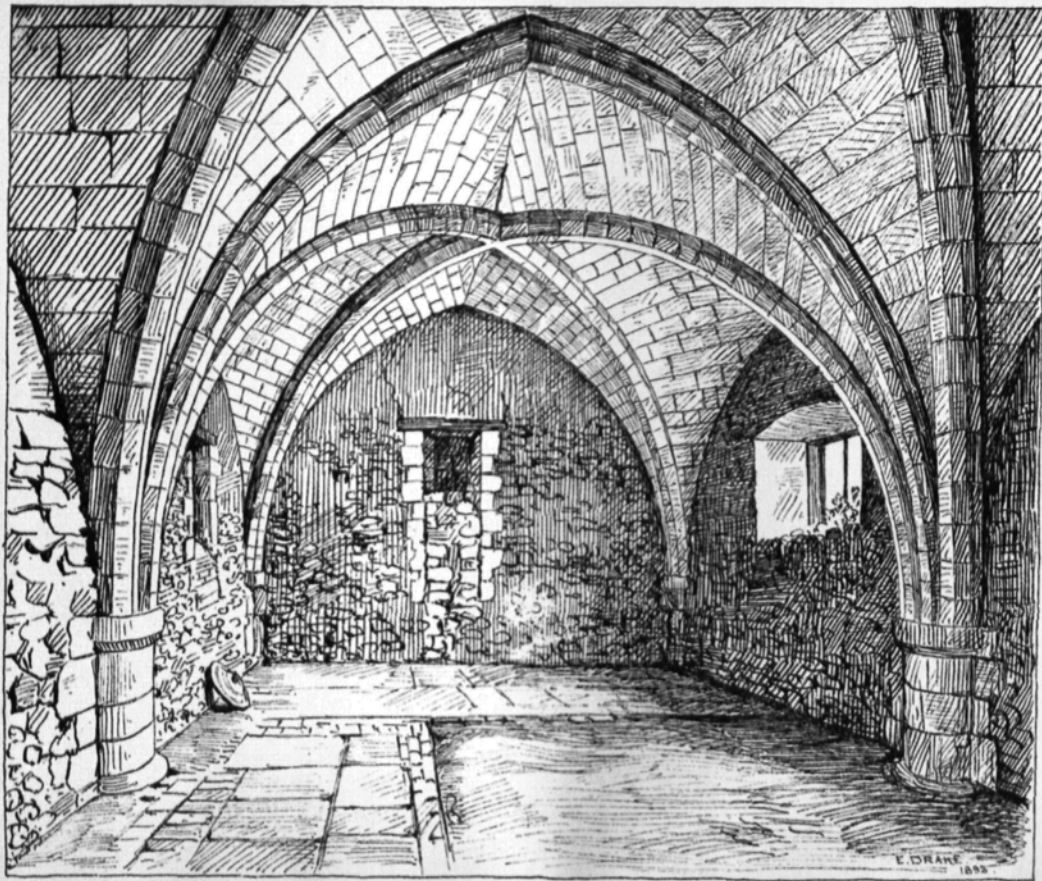


PLAN OF ARCHIVOLT  
SCALE 1/2 TO ONE INCH

# THE REFECTORY TEMPLE FARM STROOD

SCALE OF FEET





J. F. KELL, PHOTO-LITHO. & PUBLISHER, ST. MILDRED, C.

E. DRAKE  
1893

THE REFECTORY, TEMPLE FARM MANOR, STROOD, KENT.

later Tudor period, of the sixteenth or seventeenth century. They are described as consisting of a capital messuage (or manor house), with a farmhouse, a barn, a chapel, and other buildings. There were also two water-mills under one roof, and two gardens containing two acres of land, which were granted by Edward III. to Mary St. Paul.\*

I am indebted to George Payne, Esq., F.S.A., of the Precinct of Rochester, for the accompanying plans and elevations, which have been carefully measured and drawn to scale by Miss E. Drake of Rochester in 1893.

#### SUTTON AT HONE.

Sutton at Hone, in the Hundred of Axtane, lies to the south-east of Dartford and Wilmington. In the General Survey of Domesday it is called Achestan, and derives its definition of Hone from its position in the valley. Henry I. gave the Church of Sutton with the Chapel of Kyngstone, Wilmington, Dartford, and Aylesford to the Bishop of Rochester. Gilbert de Sutton held the tenths for life on a payment of *iiij* marks per annum. In 1291† the value of the living is returned as worth *xxij<sup>l</sup> vijs viij<sup>d</sup>*.

Robert de Basing, in the reign of King John, gave the Mauors of Sutton at Hone and Hagel (now Hawley) to the Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem; and Elen de Sankeville, daughter of Ralph de Dene, gave all her land of Lageham in Penshurst to the Manor of Sutton;‡ and Gilbert, son of William Hales, Prior of Clerkenwell, gave additional lands and rents.

King Edward II.,§ in the first year of his reign, granted to the Prior of Clerkenwell all his liberties and lands in Sutton at Hone, called the Manor of Dartford cum Sutton at Hone, which extended into the parishes of Ash, Penshurst, Edenbridge, etc., together with the *assizè* of bread and ale.

In the eleventh year of Edward III.|| the Manor of Sutton, consisting of three plough lands, was leased to John, Lord de Pulteney, by a precept from the King, and the payment

\* Camden Society, Larking, p. 212.

† Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. iii., p. 2, 69.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 544.

§ *Pleas apud Roff.*, 1 Edward II. [m. 19], clause 14, Edward II.

|| Larking, p. 93, *Knight Hospitallers in England*.

each year reserved\* to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The amount is not given, but the rent received appears to have been xl marks. The brethren received a sum of xx marks, reserved as a voluntary donation on account of the said grant, which was paid to the treasurer of the Priory. The statement is not altogether clear, inasmuch as certain explanatory words are wanting. The total amount which was paid to the treasurer for the support of the Order is given as being lx marks.†

From a perusal of the Register‡ of the Grants and Charters appertaining to the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, dated 1442, in the time of Richard Bottel, then Prior, the grants made to this preceptory were not only numerous, but valuable, and must have considerably added to its wealth and resources. The mere enumeration of them extends over not less than 76 folio pages of MSS., in which the names of the donors or benefactors are given, the nature and value of the property, and where situate, but no date is appended; consequently it becomes a matter of uncertainty at what period they commence, although they were all previous to 1442. To attempt to enumerate the several charters and grants would extend this paper to an inordinate length. I have therefore thought that a few selected examples would be sufficient, as they are all more or less drafted on the same lines. The first refers to Eustachius Calnus and his gift of 12½d., and six days' work charged on his land in Sutton. No. 2, to a charge of 2d. on a messuage in Tonbrigge. No. 3, a rent charge for a chapel lamp. No. 4, a grant by John Basing of his land in Sutton. No. 5, a grant of two messuages to the Vicar of Sutton.

Grant§ of Eustace Calnus relating to the payment of 12½ denarii.

Be it known to all present and in the future that I, Eustace Calnus, give, concede, and by this my grant confirm to God and

\* *Ad sectam.*

† Tanner, in his *Reg. Roff.*, called the Preceptory De la Hone, or atte Hone, as founded by Jeffery fitz Piers, with a reference to Dugdale's *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 437. Tanner adds a note that Dugdale is wrong in placing Sutton de la Hone in Yorkshire, and quotes *Cart. Ant.*, M, n. 9, p. 220. This is incorrect, Sutton de la Hone is in the county of York.

‡ *Cott. MS.*, Nero, B, pp. 22 a and b to fol. 260.

§ *Ibid.*, fol. 230.

the blessed Mary and S. John the Baptist and bretheren of the Hospital of Jerusalem a payment of 12½ denarii in the town of Sutton, that is to say, 5½ which the bretheren of the Hospital of Jerusalem are accustomed to pay me annually for the pasture which is called Dyke, and five denarii which Eustachius de Grana and Roger his Brother were also accustomed to pay truly for the land which William the son of Roger, and Reginald his son held, and one obolum for the way which lies before the gate of my mother Ediline, and six days' work, and one pasture with its appert<sup>s</sup> which lies between Newweye and the pasture of Will<sup>m</sup> de Ros. And I the before mentioned Eustace and my heirs will guarantee the before mentioned payment to the before mentioned bretheren and their successors against all others round about in perpetuity. These witnessing, etc.

Grant\* of Ralph Tonbridge of two denarii.

Be it known to all present and future that I, Ralph the Son of William de Thonebrigg, give and conceede and by this my charter confirm to God and the blessed Mary and S. John the Baptist and the bretheren of the Hospital of Jerusalem, two denarii yearly to the bretheren of the aforesaid House.

Grant† of Alfred de Heilonde of six denarii for a lamp in the Chapel.

Be it known to all present and future, that I, Alfred of the Heylond, give, conceed, and by this my charter confirm to God and the blessed Mary, and to St. John the Baptiste and the bretheren of the Hospital of Jerusalem to pay six denarii to maintain one lamp in the Chapel of the Hospital before the Altar of St. Nicholas, to be maintained for ever.

Grant‡ of Basinges of his land in Sutton.

To all the faithful in Christ to whom the present writings may come, I, John de Basyngges the son of Robert de Basyngges health in the Lord. Know that I, moved with the divine love and for the salvation of my soul, and the souls of my antecessors and successors, give, conceede, and by these my presents confirm to God, the blessed Mary, and S. John the Baptist, and the blessed poor of the holy House of the Hospital of Jerusalem and the bretheren of the House at Sutton att Hone sojourning there, and serving God,

\* Cott. MS., Nero, E, fol. 230.

† *Ibid.*, fol. 233.

‡ *Ibid.*, fol. 240.

all my land, which I hold in fealty of the aforesaid brothers in the manor of Sutton, and all my land in fealty of William de Wahell, Knt., in the same manor, which aforesaid land by any right I have held since the decease of the said Robert de Basyngges in the said manor of Sutton, to have and to hold the aforesaid land with all appertnances to the foresaid bretheren and their successors for free, pure, and perpetual alms, well and in peace from all services, customs, exactions, and without charge or other secular demands. And I, the said John and my heirs give the aforesaid land with all its app'ts to the bretheren and their successors against all other people, whether Jews or Christians, in every place for ever. In testimony of which presents I have affixed my seal opposite. These witnessing, etc., etc.

Grant\* of Hugo, Vicar of Sutton, of Message and House.

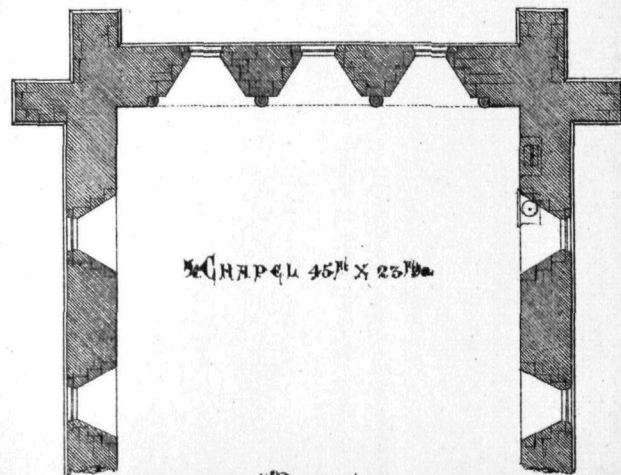
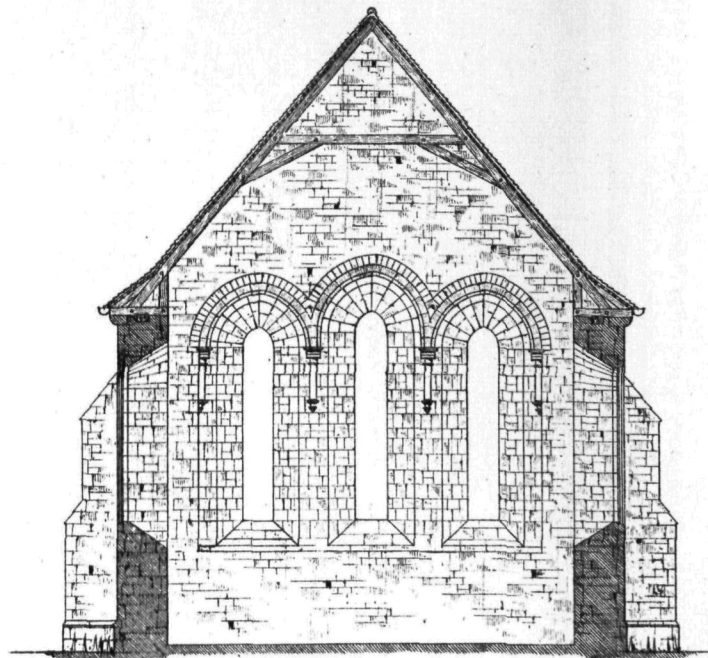
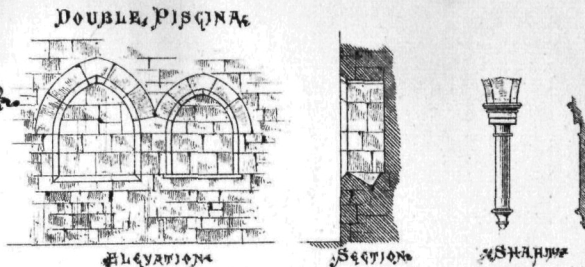
Be it known to all present and future that I, Hugo, Vicar of Sutton, give, concede, and by these my presents confirm to Robert the Deacon of the House and Hospital of Sutton, all my message with the houses built thereon, with the whole croft and all things pertaining to it, which lies between the land which was William Blundel's and the land which Eustace the Porter held aforetime. Moreover I give and concede to the same Robert all my pasture lying in Littlebrok. Moreover I give and concede to the same Robert one acre of my land lying by the land of Roger Cadell, to have and to hold the forementioned land with before mentioned message and house and all things appertaining to me and my heirs to them and their heirs, paying to me and my heirs an annuity of two denarii at one time, that is to say at the Feaste of the Nativity of John the Baptist, for all services, exactions, and demands, saving the service to our Lord the King. And I, the before named Hugo and my heirs, give the whole of the before mentioned land with the message and house built thereon and existing, with all its pertinences, to the before mentioned Robert and his heirs against all people everywhere. In testimony of which I have hereunto affixed my seal. These witnessing, etc.

The house, building, chapel, and offices at Sutton continued as a commandry for the management of these and other valuable estates up to the date of the dissolution of the Order of Knight Hospitallers, of which our public records†

\* Cott. MS., Nero, E, fol. 249.

† Exch. Aug. Off., Particulars of Grants, 35 Henry VIII., 1543.

CHAPEL OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
 OF S. JOHN OF JERUSALEM AT SUTTON AT HONE  
 KENT DEDICATED TO S. JOHN THE BAPTIST.



TRANSVERSE SECTION

PLAN

MEASURED AND DRAWN  
 BY J. B. SUTTON

contain full particulars. The Commissioners were instructed to enquire, and reported as follows: That it was an entire manor of itself; that there was no advowson, chantry, or other spiritual charge. A recitation of the lands are given and the value is assessed at xxvij<sup>li</sup> iijs iiij<sup>d</sup> per annum, which at twenty-one years' purchase would be worth the sum of dxxxvj<sup>li</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup>, including the woodland, which was separately valued as being worth vij<sup>li</sup> x<sup>s</sup>.

This is followed by a grant\* to Maurice Dennys of the manor and chapel of Sutton at Hone for the sum of £536 and 40<sup>s</sup>.

Hasted† tells us that Sir Maurice Dennys was descended from a good Gloucestershire family, and that he afterwards appended the addition of St. John to his name, having acquired a grant of other lands. In the fourth year of Elizabeth he levied a fine of this manor, and died in 1564, leaving it to his wife the Lady Elizabeth,‡ who had previously married Sir Nicholas Statham,§ Mercer, of London. She died in 1577, leaving the estate to her daughter Elizabeth, widow of Vincent Randall, and her two daughters Catherine and Martha, who possessed it in undivided moieties.

Martha carried her moiety in marriage to Thomas Cranfield, Esq., of London, at whose death it passed to Sir Randall Cranfield,|| Knt., who, in the seventh year of Charles I., executed a writ of partition with Sarah, Countess of Leicester,¶ and her son Sir John Smythe.

The other moiety, known by the name of Sutton Manor, was carried by Catherine the other daughter of Vincent Randall to Robert Wrote,\*\* Esq., of Gunton in Suffolk, who in the tenth year of King James I. (A.D. 1613) conveyed it to

\* Patent Rolls, 35 Henry VIII., pt. 14, m. 14 (22), A.D. 1543-4.

† Vol. ii., p. 346.

‡ In the sixth year of Henry VIII. Sir Maurice Dennys obtained a licence of the Crown to alien the manor of Sutton to Elizabeth Statham, whom he subsequently married. Pat. Roll (764), 36 Henry VIII., p. 25, m. 37.

§ Exch. Mins. Acct., 33-34 Henry VIII. Roll 136, m. 35.

|| By a writ, 12 Nov. 1553, the Sheriffs were ordered to distrain on Robert Kelwaye and Richard Randall, Esqs., to do homage to the Queen for the manor of Sutton at Hone and chapel and all tythes thereto appertaining, for not having first obtained licence of Her Majesty to the transfer of Sir Maurice Dennys and his wife. Orig. 37 Henry VIII., Ro. 77.

¶ Exch. L. T. R. Mins., 2 and 3 Philip and Mary.

\*\* Close Rolls, 10 James I., part 14, No. 20, 1612.

Sir William Swan\* of Southfleet, and he in 1613 passed it away to John Cole, Esq., of the Inner Temple (A.D. 1614), who two years afterwards sold this moiety to Sir Thomas Smythe,† the second son of Customer Smythe of Westons-hanger. That part allotted to the Countess of Leicester and her son Sir John Smyth became a separate manor with Brook Place for a residence.

The attempts at a division of the manor of Sutton at Hone between the Countess of Leicester and her son Sir John on the one part, and Sir Thomas Smythe of the other, were referred in the first instance to the arbitration of Sir George Wright and Sir Thomas Wroth, Knights, and John Walter and Francis Downes, who having failed to decide the question, the matter was referred to the Court of Chancery, and it was decided by Right Hon. Lord Coventrie, Keeper of the Great Seal, in the High Court of Chancery.‡ It was decreed that the said agreement, and all matters and things be ratified and confirmed, the defendants forthwith to take out an execution; and that the Sheriff do proceed in execution of the division of the said lands and allotments; and that Mr. Francis Downes and Mr. George Ratcliffe shall determine all differences between the said parties; if need be, Sir Edward Salter, Knt., to act as umpire.

#### SWYNGFELD OR SWINGFIELD.

Swyngfield, as it is sometimes spelt, is situate in the Hundred of Folkestone, about eight miles from Dover and six and a half from Folkestone. It is also referred to by Tanner as Ewell, hence there has arisen some uncertainty. It is in this or the adjoining parish that we are to look for the house of the Knight Hospitallers of Jerusalem.

Tanner§ states "That there was here a house of the Sisters of the Order before they were all placed together at Buckland, but whether this was at Swyngfield is uncertain"; adding, "There was a Preceptory of Knight Templars here before 1190, to which Sir Waresius de Valoris, Sir Ralph de

\* Close Rolls, 14 James I., part 3, No. 44, 1616.

† Close Rolls, 16 James I., part 2, No. 25, 1618.

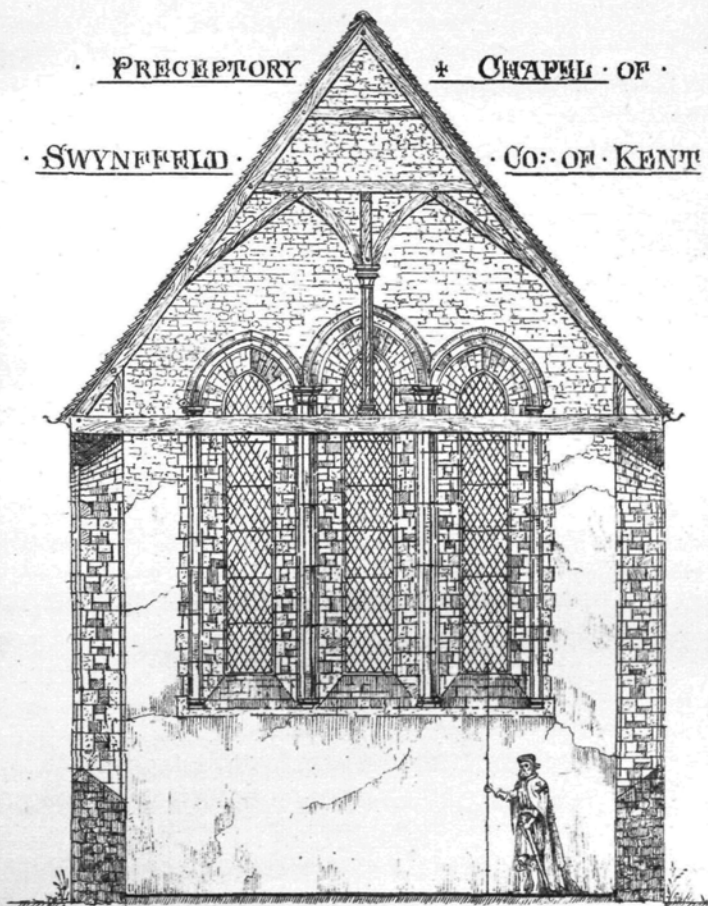
‡ Chan. Enrolled Decrees, R. 508, No. 11, 1638.

§ Tanner, *Notitia*, p. 217.

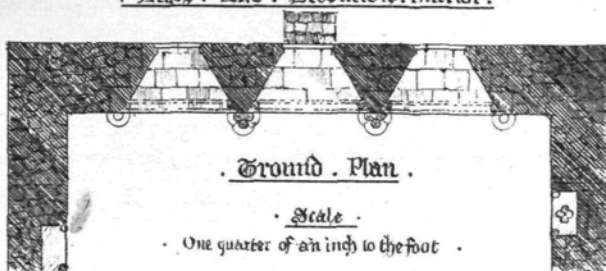
· REMAINS · OF · THE ·

· PRECEPTORY \* CHAPEL · OF ·

· SWYNFIELD · CO.: OF · KENT ·



· East · End · Elevation · interior.



· Ground · Plan ·

· Scale ·

· One quarter of an inch to the foot ·

Clestringham,\* Arnulf Kade, and others were great benefactors. At the time of the Domesday Survey it probably formed part of the possessions of Earl Godwin, previous to the Conquest."

Dugdale states that William de Erleigh for the love that he bare to the King Henry and his Queen Elinore, his son Henry and the rest of the family, and for the redemption of the life of the said William and his wife, gave the whole land of Buckland and the church of Penitone, with other churches and lands in divers other places, as appears by charter, at that time drawn up at the hand of Thomas the Archdeacon, uncle of William de Erleigh, for the planting and ordering of a religious house at Buckland; and that the said canons so planted and ordered in the same place should possess the aforesaid lands and churches for their own use for pious and perpetual charity. After many years the canons forfeited it by their own fault it appears, because they had slain their own seneschal, a blood relation of William de Erleigh. At the same time King Henry, moved with the affection that he bare to Brother Garnarius, at that time Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, with the assent of Richard,† Archbishop of Canterbury, and Reginald, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and many others of the highest in the land, both ecclesiastical and lay, gave and granted the same lands and churches for the placing there of a Sisterhood, about the year of our Lord 1180. On condition that neither the said Prior nor any of his successors should have any other house in England for the reception of a Sisterhood of this Order, except in the aforesaid house of Buckland, because the former sisterhoods were dying out at Hampton, near Kingston, at Herebroke, Swyngfield, and other places.

On the suppression of the Order of the Templars as before mentioned in 1312, the lands were escheated to the Crown and given to the Prior and Brethren of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

Richard II. was undoubtedly a staunch friend of the new Order, and at the supplication of Robert Hales,‡ then Prior

\* Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 546. † Radolph Roffensis, surnamed Nugax.  
‡ Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 553. Prior A.D. 1373 to 1377.

of the Hospital, enlarged their charters and restored to them all the "Jocanalia" (ecclesiastical ornaments), and all other goods whatsoever which were forfeited in consequence of the insurrection in Kent under Wat Tyler, by whom the Preceptory at Clerkenwell had been given to the flames.

The Report\* drawn up and forwarded by Philip de Thane to the Grand Master of the Order at Rhodes fortunately enables us to form a just estimate of the importance of this Preceptory in the early part of the fourteenth century, after the finances of the Order had barely recovered under the able administration of Leonard de Tybertis.

#### BAYULA DE SWENEFELD.

There was a Manor House and Garden of the yearly value of .....	vij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
With a Dovecote producing per ann. ....	v <sup>s</sup>	
Rents of tenants in socage .....	xiiij <sup>li</sup>	
A Windmill of the annual value of.....		xxx <sup>s</sup>
The value of the Church appropriation .....	x <sup>li</sup>	
The moiety of the Church of Tilmanston .....	viiij <sup>li</sup>	
Voluntary Contributions from the bretheren of the value of .....	xx <sup>li</sup>	
Also from iiij <sup>c</sup> xx acres of Land in Coklescomb† worth vi <sup>d</sup> p' acre .....	x <sup>li</sup>	x <sup>s</sup>
And pasture of the value .....		xl <sup>s</sup>
From tenants in socage in Bolynton .....		xxvi <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
And in the same place c acres worth ij <sup>s</sup> per acre ...	x <sup>li</sup>	
Also xxx acres of pasture worth ij <sup>s</sup> per acre .....		lx <sup>s</sup>
And pasture worth .....		xx <sup>s</sup> .

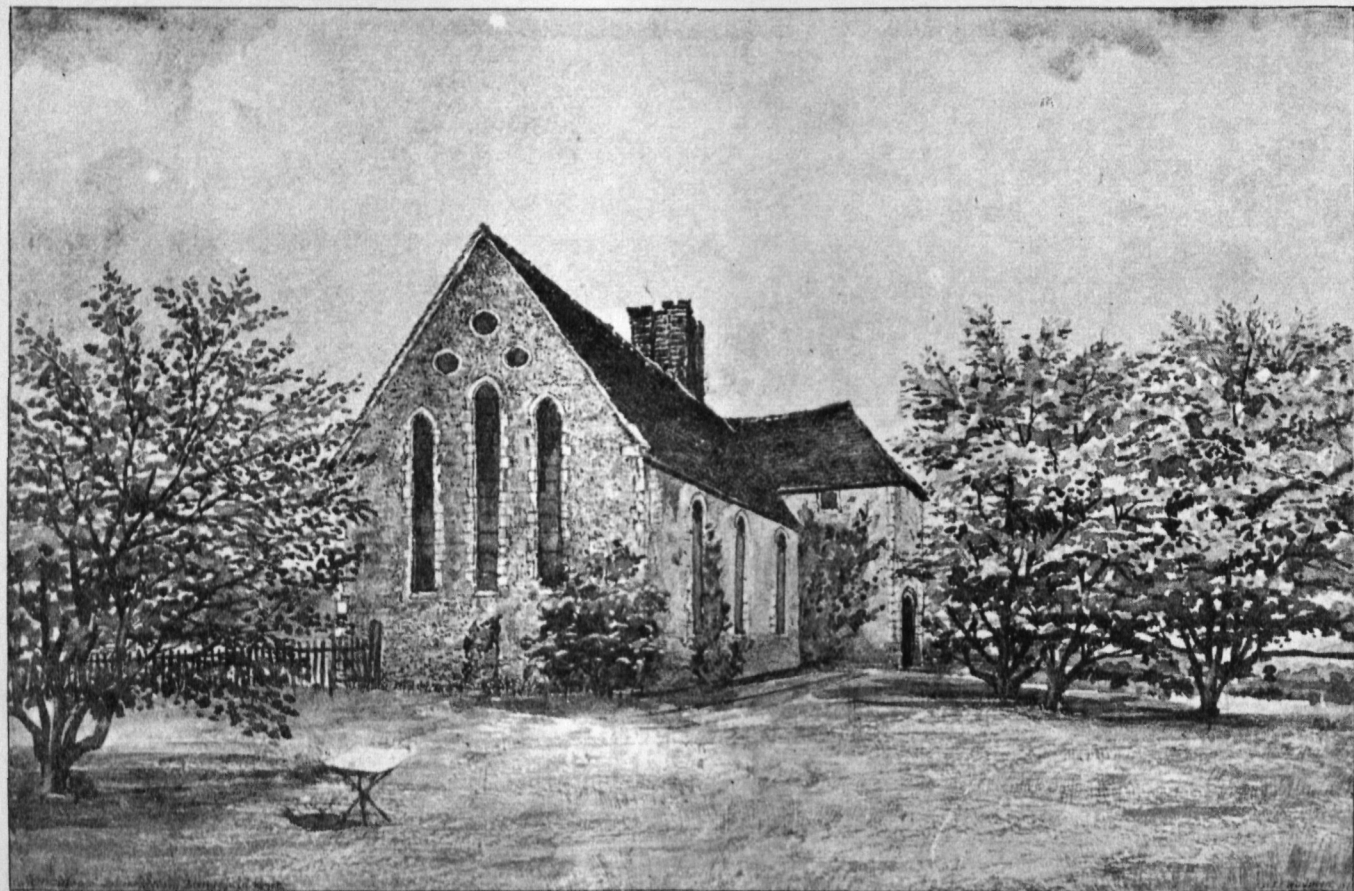
The whole of the receipts and profits of the above mentioned bailiwick iiijxxij iiij iiij...

#### PER CONTRA.

First in house expenses; that is to say, for the Preceptory, one brother Pensioner Henry Reed, one parish Chaplain, and two other Secular Chaplains, and others of the family in the Preceptory House. In the House and for others partaking of the Hospitality.

\* Larking, pp. 91 and 92.

† Coklescomb in Lidden.



C. F. KELL, PHOTO. PROCESS, 8, FURNIVAL ST. HOLBORN, E.C.

REMAINS OF ST. JOHN'S PRIORY AT SWYNGFIELD.

In baking bread lxx quarters of bread at the price of iijs <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> and x quarters of fine wheat flour at ij <sup>s</sup>	Total	xi <sup>li</sup> vj <sup>s</sup>
Malt for beer and threashed barley c quarters at ij <sup>s</sup>		x <sup>li</sup>
For meat, fish, and other requirements for cooking		xl <sup>li</sup>
For robes, mantels, and other necessities for the bretheren .....		lxijs <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
In stipends to iij chaplains .....		lx <sup>s</sup>
In payment to Henry de Reed by agreement .....		xl <sup>s</sup>
And rendered in return to divers Lords and for the ward of Dover Castle .....		1 <sup>s</sup> qua.
For House repairs .....		xx <sup>s</sup>
And for v portions for the protection of divers Lords .....		x <sup>s</sup>
In stipends to Esquires, and two frier clerks, to each 1 marc .....		xl <sup>s</sup>
For officers Stipends, cook, fishermen, porter, bailifs, reapers, and two boys of the preceptory, to each x <sup>s</sup> .....		iiij <sup>li</sup>
In payment to one page .....		iijs <sup>s</sup>
In the Visitation of the Priory, 11 days .....		xl <sup>s</sup>
Sum total of all expenditures lijs <sup>li</sup> viijs <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>		
Net amount which remains to be paid to the Treasurer for the support of the order xliij marcs xij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>		
The names of the { Brother RALPH BASSET, Knight Preceptor. Bretheren are { Brother ALAN MOUNCEUXS. Pensioner, HENRY DE REED.		

Of \* the possessions appertaining to Swyngfield at the suppression of the Order by Parliament in the thirty-second year of Henry VIII., it would appear that the land in Swyngfield attached to the preceptory was thrown out of cultivation for the time being, but the returns of Dover, Ryver, Temple Ewell, Wyngmere, Bloxheme, Belchester, Gate Hurst in Denton, Hoo, and other towns, Brokeland, Canterbury, Ower, Feversham, Tylmanstone, Smalshend, Syberdyswold, etc., etc., amounted to the sum of £60 6s. 9d., out of which certain pensions of 40s. go to the Vicar of

\* Exchequer Minister's Accounts, 38 Henry VIII., and Edward VI., Roll 32, m. 78.

Ewell; and a tenth and free commons had to be paid—the whole of which passed to Sir Anthony Archer, Knight, in two payments of £40.

The only existing remains of the preceptory is the ancient chapel, some 48 feet long by 21 feet wide, having at the east end three early lancet windows, with shaft, caps and bases, and three circular openings above. The roof, which is entirely of oak, is formed with a substantial tie beam and octagonal king-post with moulded caps and bases; there are also the remains of the piscina and aumbry or cupboard, and three lancet windows on either side. At the west end there is a groined porch, and early pointed door. Unfortunately the building is now divided into upper and ground floors, and a portion cut off from the rest by a solidly constructed chimney. Not long since there were other buildings to the west; these have unfortunately been demolished, and a more modern addition erected. The similarity between the chapels of Swyngfield and Sutton at Hone is striking.

#### WALTHAM.

Waltham is not mentioned in Domesday, as it is situate in three different Hundreds, Bridge, Petham, and Stouting.\* Hasted† mentions it in connection with Petham, calling it the Manor of Waltham *alias* Temple, and says that it formed part of the possessions of the See of Canterbury, and that it was given by Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury (the predecessor of Thomas à Becket), to Hamo de Chetham‡ for Knight service and charitable purposes, and that the same Hamo held also 67 acres of arable land, 4 acres of meadow, and 13 acres of pasture, for 53<sup>s</sup> and 8<sup>d</sup>, for all service, and that Ralph, the son of Reginald, held 15½ acres for six shillings; which lands are returned as appertaining to the Knight Templars in the third year of King Stephen, and were confiscated in the seventh year of Edward II., and granted by a Parliament assembled at

\* Philpot, p. 352.

† Hasted, vol. ix., p. 320.

‡ Dugdale, *Mon.*, vol. ii., p. 527.

Westminster to the Order of the Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

In the return\* made by Philip de Thane to Elian de Villa-Nova, the Grand Master at Rhodes, in 1338, it is stated that there is in Waltham one messuage and one and a half carucates of land held during the life of Walter Godchepe on the payment to the Prior and Brethren at Clerkenwell by Thomas le Archer of 40<sup>s</sup>. This land still goes by the old name of the Temple Farm by the appellation of Godchepes.†

On the dissolution of the Order under Henry VIII. it was escheated with other manors to the Crown, and so remained up to the forty-seventh year of Queen Elizabeth, who granted the same to John Mainwaring, Esq., whose daughter married Humphry Hammond, and on his decease‡ to Sir Robert Stapleton.

#### TONBRIDGE.

Odo, as Bishop of Rochester, held church lands and wood in Tonbridge which is returned in Domesday§ as being worth xx lbs., while Richard de Tonbridge held of the Archbishop in his larger lands valued at x lbs., and in Peckham and Hadlow of xxx<sup>li</sup>, and other demesnes in a still larger proportion elsewhere. His son Richard Fitz Gilbert de Clare was created Earl of Hertford, and his brother Gilbert, surnamed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke. Roger the second son of Richard Fitz Gilbert, on the decease of his elder brother in 1152, founded the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene at Tonbridge for monks of the Order of St. Augustine. The date of this foundation is not quite clear, the earliest charters in the Bodleian vary from|| 1135 to 1180; the latter date is the more probable, as the Bull of Pope Celestine confirming the grant is dated 1191. The Church of Baldyngs, the Chapel of Brenchley, with the Church of Strateshelle, and its Chapel of Mereworth, and x marks of silver from the Manor of Tonbridge, are mentioned in

\* Larking, p. 173.

† Furley, vol. ii., part 1, p. 292, note.

‡ Philpot, p. 252.

§ Domesday, pp. viii., x., xiii.

|| Turner and Cox's *Cal. of Charters*, pp. 113, 117. Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, pp. 666-7.

this charter, together with certain lands in Wetelestone and Snoxham on the East, Duddingbury Hanlo, a messuage juxta barram in Thonebrigge, and vj<sup>d</sup> quit rent from Agnets near the Bridge, and the land of Gilbert le Fitz juxta portum nostrum, with other gifts, which go to prove that the foundation was amply endowed.

The same Roger de Clare\* also gave to the Brethren of the Hospital† of St. John of Jerusalem in masses for his soul, as well as those of his ancestors and heirs (about the same time), the church, chapel, and advowson, as far as he himself was concerned; which grant and concession was duly notified to and approved by Walter, Bishop of Rochester,‡ and subsequently confirmed by Pope Clement, at which time William de Ver, who had been presented by the Prior of St. Mary Magdalene, resigned, and all future presentations were made by the Prior and Brethren of St. John's, Clerkenwell.§ This grant to the Prior and Brethren of Clerkenwell appears to have caused no small irritation to the Prior and Brethren of St. Mary Magdalene—so much so that it was necessary for the Bishop|| to write in strong terms to admonish them that all disobedience would be promptly suppressed and punished.

And it was further notified to the Prior and Sub-prior of Thonebrigge, and the Prior and Brethren of the Knights of the Cross, that, in accordance with the apostolic mandate, they should proceed to elect Brother Henry, Master of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem at Sutton, into the corporate possession of the Church at Thonebrigge, and its personalities, by the traditional rights of bell and key, in the usual canonical manner. The epistle is addressed to W. de Sancto Quinto,¶ nominated by the Chapter, Hugo de Tonbridge, Chaplain, Nicholas de Blakeman, Canon of Thonebrigge, William Purdie, Clerk, and other Parishioners, 1267.

Thereupon a mandate from the Prior of the Knights of

\* Dugdale, *Mon. Anglm.*, 510.

† From 1148 to 1182.

‡ Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester and Chancellor of the Exchequer, *Reg. Roff.*, p. 668-9, 1260.

¶ Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, p. 669.

† Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, p. 665.

§ Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, p. 666.

St. John was issued that it should be left to the discretion of the Prior and Sub-prior of Thonebrigge, in the Diocese of Rochester, and Master William de Sancto Quinto, Rector of the Church of Terlakestone, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, who were commanded within forty days of the receipt of the mandate, either by themselves or their proctors, "in accordance with apostolic custom, by our authority to induct into the corporate possession of the Church of Thonebrigge then vacant by our authority, delivering all gainsayers and rebels to ecclesiastical censure." (Dat. apud. Cruceroy 11<sup>th</sup> Kal. Februarii A.D. MCCLXVIIJ.)\*

In the seventh year of the reign of Edward II. (A.D. 1314), John de Stratford, at this time Archbishop of Canterbury, is required to give full information to the Chancellor of the Exchequer of all the churches, tithes, and oblations, held by the Prior of the Hospital of St. John in England, as well as those formerly held by the Knight Templars; the return to which shews, that in the Diocese of Rochester they held the Church of Burgham, valued at xxij marks, and Tonbridge, with the Chapel of Shiburne and St. Thomas the Martyr, of which the annual value was lx marks, together with a payment of x marks from the Church of Ashe, which they held of old time.

In the return† made by Philip de Thane to the Grand Master, Elian de Villanova, in 1338, the Churches of Tonbridge and Hadlo are mentioned as let with the lands and advowsons at a rental of cxx marks per annum, although cc were due, by which it appears that a balance was still owing.

Unfortunately the return is incomplete, and we are only able to form an idea of the extent of the property held by the Hospitallers, when we remember that the average value of arable land at this time was 1s. an acre, and pasture 2s., and the price of wheat 2s. 6d. to 3s. a quarter. Taking the rental at 120 marks, the lower amount stated in the return, it would amount to something like 1000 acres, and, allowing for the difference of the value of money at that

\* Thorpe, *Reg. Roff.*, p. 669.

† Larking, p. 124.

time, it would produce a rental equal to about £1000 a year. The return subsequently made by the Commissioners appointed under Henry VIII. states that the land appertaining to the Order was situate in Tonbridge, Hadlow, and West Peckham (at which latter place there is mention made of a preceptory). At Tonbridge some old houses and farm buildings were still standing in 1880.

In\* 1526 Thomas Doucra, the Prior, and Brethren in Chapter assembled, demised and granted to Richard Fane of Tewdeley their Parsonage of Tonbridge to farm, with all tithes, lands, meadows, pastures, profits, and commodities belonging to the said parsonage and advowson of vicarage, in the Church of Tunbrige, all woods (underwoods only excepted), from the Feaste of St. John the Baptist next ensuing (A.D. 1526), at a rental of xiiij<sup>li</sup> sterling, with the proviso that he and his assigns shall maintain and repair the houses and buildings, palings, hedges, and ditches, at their own costs and charges, as often as neede shall require, during the said term of 14 years; and the said Richard Fane and his assigns are bound with two others in a term of lx<sup>li</sup> sterling by an obligation bearing the date of this indenture, to which the said Richard Fane hath put his hand and seal. Given in our house of St. John's, Clerkenwell, beside London, in our Chapter there holden, the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1526.

It would appear that† Ralphe Fane still retained possession of the church lands at the time of the suppression of the Order in the thirty-eighth year of Henry VIII., as appears from the Exchequer Minister's Accounts, when a grant of the same, together with West Peckham, Stalisfield, the Rectory of Rodmersham, and the Chapel of Selisbourne, was given to him for the sum of cj<sup>li</sup> xij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> in the first year of Edward VI.

On the decease of Ralph Fane the property passed to his wife Elizabeth,‡ who died in 1554, and alienated§ them to Henry Stubbersfield, yeoman, of Tonbridge, 1554, who again

\* *Reg. Roff.*, p. 675. *Biblia Cotton.*, Claudius, E, vi., fol. 263.

† Exchequer Minister's Accounts, 32-33 Henry VIII.

‡ Hasted, vol. v., p. 253.

§ The Rectory and its appurtenances at Tonbridge.

parted with them to Alexander Colepeper, by the description of the Rectory of Tonbridge, with its appurtenances, messuages, lands, tenements, and tithes, etc., in the Parishes of Tonbridge, Southboro', and Brombrig,\* in the Great Park of Southfrith, and the park and land called Northrith, with the pastori and large farms, parcels of the Rectory.

Hasted† tells us that Colepeper passed it away in the seventh year of the reign of Elizabeth to William Denton, whose son Sir Anthony held it by Knight's Service. He was one of the Gentlemen of the Band of Pensioners both to Elizabeth and her successor James I. He died in 1615. His monument‡ is still to be seen on the south side in the chancel of the church, cased in armour, and his wife Elizabeth by his side, both reclining on cushions. She survived, and married Sir Paul Dewes of Suffolk. The property was inherited after his death by his three nephews, Anthony, Walter, and Arthur, the sons of Sir Alexander Denton by Anne, daughter of Lord Windsor.

They disposed of the Rectory, lands, and Parsonage to several persons in districts, or tithe-wards.§ The Parsonage consists of the tithe-wards of Haisden, and Little Barden, formerly the property of John Petley, Esq., of Oldbury Hill, near Ightham, who probably purchased them of the Dentons. At his death he devised them to Gilbert Wood of Market Cross in Sussex, who had married Elizabeth his daughter. Their son, J. Wood of Tonbridge, left issue an only daughter, who married John Hooker of Tonbridge, who in 1730 purchased the Castle Manor and demesne lands, and subsequently sold the estate to William Woodgate of Somerhill.

The advowson of the Vicarage, however, still continued in the Fane family, who resided at Hadlow Place, and was afterwards bequeathed to David Papillon of Acrise. It is at present held by John Deacon, Esq., of Mabledon.

The question remains (assuming that the Vicarage existed on the present site), where was the tithe barn, and necessary glebe buildings for such extensive tithe land? I am

\* Pembury.

† Vol. v., p. 253.

‡ For inscription see *Reg. Roff.*, p. 861.

§ Hasted, vol. v., p. 253.

inclined to think that they stood on a site described as "ante barram in Villa de Thonebrigge," allotted originally to the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene, and that when the Vicarage and advowson was handed over to the Knight Hospitallers the tithe barn and buildings which stood on the north side of the church passed to them also, which transfer was, as we have seen, resented by the Brethren of the Priory, and so called forth strong remonstrance from Walter de Merton,\* Bishop of Rochester, against any interference with the Knights of St. John. It is singular that we find the same words used by Ralph de Tonbridge in a grant of two denarii arising from a messuage "ante barram in Villa de Thonebrigge." When Prior Doucra and the Convent of Clerkenwell granted a lease of the Rectory and tithe lands to Ralph Fane this property passed with it, and at the dissolution became his.

It may appear singular that any old buildings which answer to the description of "ante barram in Villa de Thonebrigge" should have existed down to the present time. They were standing in 1573, when Queen Elizabeth in one of her peregrinations rested here for a while on her way from Burlingham to Eridge, the occasion of her visit to Henry Neville, Lord Bergavenny; as the Royal Arms were painted in tempera in one of the rooms attached to it; but a still older portion remained until a few years ago (1881), when it was demolished in order to make room for a more modern addition to Ferox Hall, at that time the residence of Arthur T. Beeching, Esq., J.P.

The old building (of which an illustration is given) was entirely constructed of oak timber, some 45 feet in length and 22 feet in width. It consisted of two stories, the lower barely 6 feet 6 inches in height, over which was an upper chamber, or hall. It was floored with rough oak slabs, from 13 to 14 inches wide and 8 inches in thickness, and approached with oak winding staircase and newel; the roof, which stood on oak chamfered beams, was 24 feet high to the ridge, with chamfered king post, moulded cap and

\* *Reg. Roff.*, A.D. 1267, p. 668. *Cott. MS. Nero*, p. 230.

bases, and curved ribs. The whole was lighted with two large windows at the east end, and had a fireplace at the other end constructed of brick and masonry 6 feet in thickness. It was no doubt the old tithe farm buildings which passed on the dissolution of the Order to Ralph Fane.

Being old even at that time, and ill suited for a residence, it seems probable that the before-mentioned Fane built for himself and his wife Elizabeth, who survived him, a new residence to the east of the old building, which was constructed in local sandstone, having a centre and two side wings. The walls of this building are 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, and the rooms lighted with Tudor four-light windows. The house has since been much altered by building over the forecourt, but enough remains to shew that the building corresponds to the time of his original grant. In one of the rooms there was until recently some fine carved oak panelling of a renaissance character, with grotesque heads in circular wreathed carvings. These were removed and adapted, as fittings in Ferox Hall, by Mr. Beeching, when the new additions were made, and may still be seen by any curious archæologist.

#### SCHIBOURNE OR SHIPBOURN.

Not mentioned in Domesday, but is returned by Hamo,\* Bishop of Rochester, in the seventh year of King Edward II. as one of the chapelries attached to the Church of Tonbridge; the other two being Hadlow and St. Thomas the Martyre (Capel), which were held by the Prior and Brethren of the Knight Hospitallers of St. John. Hasted† speaks of it as being “under the cognizance of the Preceptory or Commandry of West Peckham as a Chantry Magistrate.”

#### LITTLE OR WEST PECKHAM.

West Peckham, Little Peckham, or Littlefield with its church and manor formed part of the possession of Odo, and is mentioned in Domesday as being in the tenure of Corbin, and answering for two sulings with arable land for six teams. In demesne, having twelve villeins with five teams and eight

\* *Reg. Roff.*, p. 128.

† Hasted, vol. v., p. 52.

borderers, and five serfs with three acres of meadow and wood for ten hogs. In the time of the Confessor it was worth 12 pounds. The King has of this manor three denes where there are four villeins, and they are worth 40<sup>s</sup>.

On Odo's\* disgrace it was escheated to the Crown, and held by Blondeville by Knight's Service of bearing one of the King's goshawks when he went beyond the seas; at this time the manor was valued at 15 pounds.

Tanner,† quoting from Philpot, mentions a preceptory here belonging to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, but it is uncertain to whom the foundation is to be attributed. Philpot mentions the name of Sir John Colepeper as the founder, and that he gave it to the Templars before the dissolution of the Order under Edward II. Hasted traces the manor as being held by John de Peckham in the twenty-first year of Edward I. as passing to Robert Scarlett, and after him to Adam de Brooke, when it was accounted a manor with a messuage, rents of assize, and 184 acres of land and wood, and so held by his widow Dionisia, who died possessed of it A.D. 1332, when it was divided into two moieties; the one held by John de Mereworth and the other by Lionel, Duke of Clarence, in right of his wife Elizabeth, daughter and heir of William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, and his daughter Philippa, the wife of Edmond Mortimer, Earl of March, after which the property passed to the Colepepers, and Sir John Colepeper, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, gave it to the Knight Hospitalers in the tenth year of the reign of Henry IV., A.D. 1408; and this seems the more probable as there is no mention of it in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, or in the return made by Philip de Thane to the Grand Master in 1338.

Sir John Colepeper‡ made his will on the Feast of St. John the Baptist, 1413. After the usual pious bequest of his soul to God and the Blessed Virgin, he directs that his body should be buried beside his sepulchre§ in the Parish

\* Hasted, vol. v., pp. 57, 58.

† Tanner, p. 227. Philpot, p. 269.

‡ Lambeth Palace Library, Chichele, part 1, fol. 265 b.

§ The monument has this inscription on a brass plate: Hic Jacet Johannes Colepeper miles . . . . unus justicius domini regis de communi banco . . . . et Kalri . . . . obiit xxx<sup>o</sup> die mensis Augusti A.D. MCCC . . . . animabus propiciatur Deus Amen.

Church of Westpecham, and leaves the sum of xx<sup>s</sup> to be distributed to the poor residing in the neighbourhood of the parish of Offam; and to the Church of Westpecham he leaves a Service Book, to be and remain in the custody of his wife Katherine while she lives at Oxnode, or to be disposed of in any other way that the said Katherine and his other executors may see fit. "I also leave for my soul and John Solas de Ledys for distribution to the poor xx<sup>s</sup>; also I leave to the bretheren of the House Elisford for the celebrations for my soul and the souls of my ancestors xl<sup>s</sup>; and also for the poor attending at my funeral j<sup>d</sup>; also to Walter Ladde, the Vicar of Westpecham, for tenths, and oblations of obits x<sup>s</sup>; also to the Vicar of Hadlo for a like purpose vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>; also to the Vicar of Wrotham for the like v<sup>s</sup>; also to the Church of Brenchesle for the like x<sup>s</sup>; also to John Wyght xx<sup>s</sup>; also to William Onger xiijs iiiij<sup>d</sup>; also to my farm laborors who I may have at that time ij<sup>s</sup>, to be distributed by my executors; also to the poor house called Spitelhouse at London and Canterbury vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> for my soul and the souls of Walter Colepeper, Richard, Charles, and Alice his wife, to pray for me; also for distribution to the poor in the parishes of Maydeston and Eastfarlegh for my soul and the souls of Walter Colepeper, Charles, and Alice his wife for prayers v marks; also for two thousand masses to be celebrated at London and Canterbury and elsewhere continuously after my decease, 1000 for my soul and another 1000 for my mother's and Walter Colepeper's; also to Walter Throld xl<sup>s</sup>, and the residue of my goods not heretofore devised I leave to my wife Katherine, and appoint my wife Katherine, Thomas Boteller, late Vicar of Hadlow, John Woodchirch, John Brikenden, and John Godfray my executors. In testimony of which I hereby affix my seal." Also to the parish of West Peckham for the work and fabric of the Church xx marks.

The advowson\* of the Church of West Peckham was held by the Prior and Convent of Ledes in the twenty-first year of Edward I., 1298, and confirmed by Thomas, Bishop of Rochester, in 1333.

\* *Reg. Roff.*, p. 514.

Tonbridge and Hadlow\* are stated in the return made by Philip de Thane in 1338 to have been let to farm, at a yearly rental of 120 marcs, and so continued let until the Order was suppressed by Henry VIII., and passed with West Peckham, Stalisfield with its members, the Rectory of Rodmersham, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Shibourn, and Capel to Ralph Fane, and are returned as valued at 101 pounds 13 shillings and 4 pence.

The remains of the preceptory are yet standing on the south-east side of the church, near the vicarage, and consist of a range of timber buildings forming two sides of a square. They are both old and dilapidated, and are now utilized as labourers' cottages. They are picturesque and worth a visit.

Other buildings also which belonged to the Order of Knight Hospitallers are standing on the higher land in the rear of Oxenhoath, being locally known as "Rats' Castle." On the gable may be seen the distinctive letters S. I.; these also are utilized as labourers' cottages. The accompanying views will give a better idea of these ancient buildings than any lengthened description.

"Thus time which wears the stones away  
Of Buildings old, and Ruins Grey,  
Recalls the past—but who may tell  
How long they flourished ere they fell!"

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\* Larking, p. 124.



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PRECEPTORY AT WEST PECKHAM.