



The Family of Palmer of Wokingham, and Rye, Sussex.

By the Rev. J. Holford Scott.

(Continued from page 31, Vol. 23.)

Six children were born of this marriage, and two sons succeeded each other in the possession of East Court Manor. The elder, Richard Palmer born in 1647, died without issue, and but little is known of him, save that his wife was called Susanna and that he lived in a house on "Simonds Green," which house was in 1711 in the occupation of Charles, Duke of St. Alban's. Was "Simonds Green" the property which originally belonged to Johannes Symonds in 1309 or even earlier? If so, it is a further proof of the long tenure of property enjoyed by the Palmers in the immediate vicinity of Wokingham.

Charles Palmer, M.D., on the decease of his brother became the heir. By his wife Anne Aldworth he had no children, and as far as the writer can discover, on his death this branch became extinct. A sister, Maria Palmer, had married the Rev. Dr. Brabant, Rector of Berkhamstead, but there is no mention of any surviving children, and Maria Brabant was buried in the Chancel of Finchampstead Church on November 1st. 1728.

Dr. Charles Palmer in his will, to the exclusion of the Rye branch, left his property to his kinsman by marriage, Henry Fish, the youngest son of his cousin Humphrey Fish "the younger," of Ickwell Northill, Beds., with the condition that he took the surname of Palmer in addition to that of Fish.

The late Mr. William Lyon of East Court, in his excellent work "The Chronicles of Finchampstead," says "The name of Palmer ought to be held in high esteem and veneration by the town of Wokingham."

By a deed dated April 11th, 1664, Richard Palmer granted a parcel of ground in "Eversleigh" upon trust to pay the sexton of the Parish Church of Wokingham or such other person as the

trustees should think meet, to ring out the greatest bell belonging to the said Parish Church that shall be fit to be rung half an hour every evening at eight o'clock, and every morning at four o'clock, or as near to that hour as may be, from September 10th to March 10th in each year in order to induce a timely going to rest in the evening, and early rising in the morning to the labours and duties of the day (things ordinarily attended and rewarded with thrift and proficiency) and that strangers and others who should happen in winter nights, within hearing of the ringing of the said bell, to lose their way in the country, might be informed of the time of night, and receive some guidance into their right way; and further that the ringing of this bell might lead people to think of their own passing bell and day of death and of their resurrection and call to the last judgment.

Charles Palmer, M.D., gave £10 a year to the Minister of the Church of Wokingham for ever provided that no part of his salary payable by the impropiator be thereby lessened, which bequest was made chargeable to his estate and lands in the Parish of Wokingham on condition that "the Minister of the said Church preach a sermon on 15th February in every year towards the promotion and encouragement of charity."

Charles Palmer also gave £20 a year to the parish of Wokingham towards maintaining at school 20 poor boys of the town and parish of Wokingham, the sons of members of the Church of England; the boys to go every Sunday to the Parish Church and be taught the Church Catechism and examined in the Church by the Minister: the payment to be made out of the rents from his lands in Wokingham. He appointed the Rectors of Wokingham, Finchampstead and Aborfield (Arborfield?) for the time being (besides several other persons named) to be trustees of this his Charity.

Charles Palmer's sister Martha, who died in 1723, founded a school for 12 girls, to be called "The Maiden School"; the children to call each other sister, and to be taught to read, work, spin, etc. It is interesting to note that when the "New Public Elementary Schools" were erected in the year 1874, in the place of the "Old National Schools," £1,000 was obtained by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners from a local Educational Charity, called "Martha Palmer's Charity," and the schools were named "The Palmer Schools" to commemorate this charitable foundation.

As regards the family of Fish-Palmer (the prefix was spelt Fyshe after 1814), three generations succeeded to the estates of East Court Manor and Luckley. The grandson of Henry Fish-Palmer, Charles

Fyshe Palmer, married Lady Madelina, second daughter of Alexander fourth Duke of Gordon, and widow of Sir Robert Sinclair, Bart., and dying without issue left all his property to his step-son, Sir John Gordon Sinclair, Bart., who eventually sold the Luckley and East Court estates to Mr. John Walter of Bearwood in 1849.

(*To be continued.*)

A Survey of Wallingford in 1550.

By the Rev. J. E. Field.

(*Continued from Vol. 23, page 29.*)

Fish Street, east side (*continued*),

- (5) Lady Anne Reede holds there one tenement in the tenure of Thomas Maskall with a parcel of land adjacent, containing in length 46ft. and in breadth 32ft., and pays per annum iij*s.*
- (6) Ralph Pollyngton holds there one tenement called Jeys with curtilage adjacent, containing in length 52ft. and in breadth 98ft., late Elizabeth Polhampton's, and pays iii*s.*
- (7) The same Ralph holds there one tenement called Dousys with a parcel of land adjacent, in length 47ft. and in breadth 19ft., and pays per annum xx*d.* [He refuses ij*d.*, 1561].
- (8) John Bell holds there one tenement with land adjacent, in length 45ft. and in breadth 40ft., late Elizabeth Polhampton's, and pays ij*s.*
- (9) xvij*s.* iiij*d.* Rose Cheyney holds there one tenement with curtilage, in length 143ft. and in breadth 127ft., formerly Elizabeth Polhamptone's, now in occupation of William Dell, and pays vj*s.*

The sums named at the close of each entry appear to be due to the Lord of the Honour, but there is no note to indicate to whom