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(Continued from page 28.)

the Manor of Beachamsted, we conclude that this is the Manor House of the De Beauchamps. We hear of a Hugo de Beauchamp claiming a large part of Staughton in the Thirteenth Century. And there were branches of the family in the neighbouring county of Bedford, viz. at Bedford Castle and at Eaton Socon. The Barony of the De Beauchamps is now extinct. But Lord St. John of Bletsoe is a descendant. John Leland in his itinerary mentions this House in 1538. Thus “From St. Neots to Stoughton village by some enclosed ground, about 3 miles, it is in Huntingdonshire. There hard by the Church is a pretty house of Oliver Leder and pretty commodities about it. From Stoughton to Melchbourn village, about 4 miles there be much pasture and some corn ground. How water cometh to Stoughton village and then about a mile lower than St. Neots into the Ouse River.” This is the Oliver Leder who bought the Rectory and the Rectory Manor of Henry VIII in 1539.

In the Edwardian Inventories for Huntingdonshire we learn that when Oliver Leder was at Place House, the roof of the Church fell in, and for the repair of this, some of the ornaments of the Church, the vestments, rich cloth and other church furniture were sold. Oliver Leder died in 1557, and Frances his wife the year after. On their death the Rectory and Rectory Manor passed into the hands of Thomas Baldwin, uncle of Frances Leder, and Beachampstead Manor was bought by Sir James Dyer of Wincanton, Somersetshire. He is the author of an important law book entitled “Reports of Cases in the Reign of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth” highly commended by Sir Edward Coke, and still quoted in the courts of law. He was succeeded in Place House by a great-nephew Sir Richard whose figure is on the tomb in the Chancel. Sir Lodovic Dyer was a grandson of Sir Richard (he was a youth of about 15 years, when the Herald’s visitation of Staughton was made), he was owner of this property and also of property at Colmworth. There is a Recumbent figure of Sir Lodovic Dyer on a tomb in Colmworth Church.

The property was in the possession of Edward Coke from 1661 till 1713, and then of Lord Foley of Kidderminster to 1718. He was succeeded by Colonel Howe, son-in-law of Kennett, Bishop of Peterborough. The Rev. Christopher Walters succeeded to the property by marriage with Sophia Howe. We have a touching memorial of the Rev. C. Walters and Sophia his wife in the Communion Plate of Staughton Church given by him in memory of his wife, who died at the early age of 36, in 1750.

There is a brass in the chancel in memory of the Rev. Richard Walters, a member of this family, Chaplain of H.M.S. Centurion, in Commodore Anson's Expedition, and Author of the well-known "Voyage Round the World." He died, March 10th, 1785, aged 67 and was buried in this Church. In 1823 Place House was purchased by Sir James Duberly.

THE MANOR OF GREAT STAUGHTON.

On a hill north-west of Great Staughton Church is a little Farm, marked on the Ordnance Map, 'Old Manor House.' Close to this is an enclosure surrounded by two well-defined moats, shewing that here plainly once stood a fortified dwelling.

This site is sometimes marked on maps as Cretnsbury, sometimes called Cretinburgh and as "Burh," indicates (according to Bishop Stubbs) the dwelling of the Powerful Man of the Saxon Community, this is the place where once lived the Chief of the Saxon Community that settled in Stockton; and here also lived the Lord of the Manor of Great Staughton when the Township of Saxon times had developed into the Manor of the Norman period.

The last owners of the Manor before the Crown were the Wautons. Valentine Wauton, whose name appears frequently in our registers, was married to Margaret, Aunt of Oliver Cromwell the Protector. The Register of their marriage is to be found in St. John's Church, Huntingdon, of the baptism of their children in the Registers of Great Staughton.

He was a vehement Parliamentarian and was on the commission appointed to try Charles I, and which condemned him, and the name of Valentine Wauton appears on almost every one of the lists of those attending the meetings of the Commission. He prevented the plate of the University of Cambridge being sent to the King for his service. He was taken prisoner by the Royalists, but was exchanged and afterwards made Colonel in the Parliamentary Army.

When Monk was endeavouring to effect the Restoration, he fled the country, and he lived in Holland under a feigned name, working as a gardener; and died there. As a Regicide his land was confiscated and is now in the possession of the Crown.

He succeeded George Wauton,¹ whose monument is in the Church, in the Manor of Great Staughton.

A John de Wauton or Waveton succeeded to this property in Staughton by marriage with the heir general of Sir Adam de Cretin, a knight who distinguished himself in the French Wars of Edward III.

It was from his family that the Manor of Staughton got the name of Cretingsbury or Cretinburgh. The Cretins themselves succeeded to the property by a marriage with the heiress of the Criols whose names appear as Lords of the Manor of Great Staughton, and in the document that tells us that Licence had been given to the Engaines to have a Private Chapel at Gaynes, Geoffrey de Mandeville is mentioned as the Patron of the living of Great Staughton. He therefore was one of the Lords of the Manor. The Manor House has long been pulled down, probably when the lands were confiscated.

Staughton as far as one can tell, appears in the Domesday Book under the name of Tokestone, we read: "In Tokestone, the Bishop of Lincoln had vi hides paying geld. There is land for xvi ploughs. There are now in demesne ii ploughs and a half, and xvi villeins and iiiij

^{1.} Sir George Wauton and Sir Oliver Cromwell his friend were both in command of troops in the army that was called to meet the Spaniards in the expected invasion by the Spanish Armada. Sir George was knighted by James I.

borderers having viii ploughs. There is a Priest and a Church and xxiiij acres of meadow and c acres of woody pasture in the time of King Edward, and now worth x pounds. The Abbott of Ramsey claims over the Bishop in this Manor."

THE PARISH, THE RECTORY, VICARAGE, STAUGHTON HOUSE.

The word "Parish" is the equivalent of the latin "parochia" and the Greek "par-oikia." This in the early days was applied to the "District" over which the Bishop himself had the presidency. But afterwards it was applied to that district which the Bishop assigned to one priest to have the oversight of, as his parish.

The "Parish" is not necessarily coincident with the "township" or the "manor," for the township may have several "*parishes*" in it, and the "parish" may have several "*manors*" in it.

The Parish of Great Staughton includes the township of Great Staughton and the Manor of Great Staughton. The manor itself including the sub-manors of Beachhamstead and of the Rectory and the hamlet of Staughton Moor. The Parish also includes the Manor of Dillington with the hamlets of Dillington and Perry. The formation of Parishes grew out of the practice of the Lord of the Manor applying to the Bishop for a chaplain for his household and tenants, and so in course of time the Bishop assigned the Spiritual cure of the district around, whether of manor or manors to the Priest thus appointed.

Those priests who were first appointed to have the cure or rule over the Parish were called "Rectors,"¹ and as the Rectors represented the Parish, they were called the Person or "*Parson*" of the Parish, and it is to the "Rector" of the Parish only, that the designation "*Parson*" rightly belongs. We are able to make a list of Rectors and Vicars of the Parish from the early part

1. Except when the church was built after the parish or manor became monastic property, when the Incumbent seems to have been invariably styled 'Curate.'—(Ed.)

of the Thirteenth Century to the present time. The first name that we have on our list is Radulphus, Rector from 1238 to 1264. And so there follows an almost complete and continuous list from that time to the present.

In 1383 the living was assigned as an endowment to the Carthusian Monastery in London. From this time the Rectory and the Rectory Manor were attached to this Monastic institution, which was however bound to provide "a Vicar" or deputy to perform the duties of the parish and also to provide a sufficient income to enable him to do so.

As the monastery was now the Rector, the incumbents became Vicars and the monastery Patrons.

Before this the Lords of the Manor were patrons, and so we find the Mandevilles, the Criols, and the Cretins were Patrons of the living; and on the suppression of the Monastery in 1539, Oliver Leder and his wife became Patrons, but, on their death the patronage and the Rectorial Property went to Thomas Baldwin, uncle of Frances Leder. The Baldwins then became Patrons and Rectors, and they lived in Staughton House which appears to have been the Old Rectory House.

The Patronage passed from Thomas Baldwin to his son John, and so to two other generations of Baldwins. The last John Baldwin sold the living of Great Staughton (which would include the Advowson and the Lordship of the Rectory Manor but not the Rectorial Glebe, Tithes and House) to Viscountess Campden in 1631 for £1050, and she then became Patron of the living and presented John Gaule to the Vicarage in 1632. But the Advowson was given by her to Archbishop Laud (at one time President of St. John's College, Oxford) and he in turn gave it to that College, and since that time St. John's College has been the Patron of the living, and all the Vicars since John Gaule have been appointed by St. John's College. But although the Patronage of the Living and the Lordship of the Rectory Manor passed from the owners of Staughton House, yet the other property attached to that house did not; but after the death of John Baldwin in 1657, the Staughton House

Estate passed to John Conyers, afterwards Sir John Conyers, Bart., who married in 1675 Mary Newman, who, we are told, brought to her husband the Estate called the Baldwyns, and whom we may presume was related to the Baldwyn family, though what the relationship was has not yet been discovered.

Sir John Conyers died in 1719 and was succeeded by his son, Sir Baldwyn Conyers.

Sir Baldwyn died in 1731, and leaving only daughters, the title passed to a cousin, Sir Ralph Conyers of Chester. The ninth and last baronet, Sir Thomas Conyers died in 1810.

This last baronet, we are told, died in abject poverty; and his daughters were married to labouring men. It is said that he was compelled to go to the workhouse in Chester-le-Street, but he did not die there.

A benevolent antiquarian of Durham raised a subscription for him and had him removed to comfortable lodgings, where he died shortly afterwards. Concerning this family we learn from Burke's extinct Baronetcages that it is one of the oldest in the kingdom; it sprung from Roger de Coigniers, Constable of Durham in 1095, and the family may be traced through the centuries to the reign of Charles I, who made one of them, John Conyers the Baronet, in 1628. His grandson, John Conyers, was the one who succeeded to the Baldwyn's property in Great Staughton.

The last of the Baldwyns who lived at Staughton House, viz.: John Baldwyn, and also those persons living at Staughton at that time, viz.: John Gaule, Vicar, and Valentine Wauton, Lord of the Manor, were all on the Parliamentary side; but the sympathies of the Conyers family were in an opposite direction.

We find some curious notes in the Registers concerning them, viz.: that Sir John Conyers received the Sacrament in Great Staughton Church, September 4th, 1715. Sir Baldwyn on Easter Day, April 9th, 1720, did likewise, also we note that Sir Baldwyn had one daughter christened "Henrietta Maria," and two of his daughters became nuns.

The Coniers were succeeded at Staughton House by Lord Ludlow otherwise Lord Preston descended from the celebrated General Ludlow. He was succeeded by Mr. Parker, and he by the Onslow family. The ashes of the last member of General Onslow's family were buried in Great Staughton Churchyard two or three years ago.

Staughton House appears to have been the Old Rectory, but the Old Vicarage is that house which is now called the Rectory Farm. This formerly was called the Hermitage. We have a note in the Parish Books that Mr. James Pope, who was Vicar between 1796-1820, nearly rebuilt this at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. The present Vicarage was built in 1852 by Mr. H. B. Wilson, who succeeded to the Vicarage in 1850. He is the most famous of the Vicars, at least in later times, as the author of one of the Essays in the well-known publication called "Essays and Reviews."

For his Essay he was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Courts and suspended from his benefice for one year; but appealing to the Privy Council and defending himself, the decision was reversed, and the suspension taken off.

GAYNES HALL.

Gaines Hall is, I believe, the Manor House of the Manor of Dillington. Dillington was the township of the Dillings or the township of persons who were all related to, or supposed to be related to one another, and bore the name of Dillings. Of Dillington we read in Domesday Book, "In the Manor of Dillington (Dillingtune) the Abbot of Ramsey hath six hides that paid Geld. There is land for 12 ploughs. Here there are now in the demesne two ploughs and 16 villeins who have ten ploughs. There are 12 acres of meadow. Wood for pannage one mile and two furlongs long and one mile broad. In the time of King Edward its value was six pounds and it is now four pounds."

The moats of which we find the remains indicate that it was the fortified dwelling of the powerful man of the township, and Dillington the little place below the Hill

was once the Saxon or Engle township of which this house is the burgh or afterwards the Manor House. The earliest Record of Dillington tells us that it was given by a certain Widow (Leofwine) to Ramsey Abbey in the Tenth Century, and that this gift to the Abbey was afterwards confirmed by Charters of King Edgar (974), King Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror. The gift of Dillington with Church was also confirmed by a Bull of Pope Alexander III in 1178. Next we hear of the Manor being held at the end of the Eleventh Century by one Ranulp, who rendered for it the service of one Knight to serve the King on behalf of the Abbot of Ramsey. In 1166 it was held of the Abbot, by service of one Knight's fee, by Richard Engaine, who died in 1208.

It was from this family of the Engaines that the House takes its name of Gaines. There is also left a memorial of the family in the name of the little village in Essex called Colne Engaine. From Clutterbuck's history of Hertfordshire we learn that Richard Engaine married Sarah de Vere, first Earl of Oxford. The Earls of Oxford were possessors of Heddingham Castle in Essex not far from Colne Engaine. The Engaines, as is usual with these great Landowners, came over with the Conqueror—and it is said that the first Engaine was the Superintendent of William's Military Engines from which office he is supposed to have taken his name. Richard Engaine was succeeded in the Manor of Dillington by his brother Vital Engaine.

Concerning this Vital Engaine, from the Lincoln Registers we learn that the famous Bishop Grostete "With the consent of Geoffrey de Mandeville, patron of the Church of Staughton and of the Rector of the Church, gave Sir Vital Engaine and his heirs the right to have in perpetuity a chapel in his Hall, with font and bell and service by his own chaplain." Vital was succeeded by his son Henry, (who died childless), and next by his son John. This is the John Engaine who held the Manor of Gidding on condition of Hunting the wolf, the fox, the wild cat, the badger and the hare in four

counties and a half, viz.: in Northampton, Huntingdon, Oxford, Buckingham and Rutland.

This John died in 1297, and was succeeded by his son John, who died childless in 1322. The property was then divided amongst his sisters, and the manor of *Dillington* apportioned to Mary, who married William Barnack.¹

The property having been thus in the family of the Engaines more than 200 years. It continued in the Barnack family till 1421, when it passed again through the female line into the Stonham family for Mary Barnack married Robert Stonham.

In Camden's Visitations of Great Staughton, 1613, we find an inscription described as existing in the Church as follows. "Here lies Robert Stonham, Esquire and Mary his wife, which said Robert died the 27th day of Barnack, knight, died 23rd day of the month of September, A.D. 1464. On whose souls God have mercy, Amen." We do not find this inscription in the Church now. But there is a slab with the matrix of a brass in the chancel which may possibly have had this inscription on it.

Robert Stonham was succeeded by a son Robert, who left a daughter Elizabeth who inherited the property and married John Broughton. He died in 1529 and was succeeded again by his daughter Catharine who married William, Lord Howard of Effingham, in 1535, the father, by a second wife, of the famous Lord Howard of Effingham, who saved England from invasion by the Spanish Armada. The only child of Catharine Howard was Agnes who inherited the property and married William Paulet, Lord St. John, afterwards Marquis of Winchester. She appears to have let Gaynes Hall for 21 years to Sir Oliver Cromwell of Hinchingbrooke, who again sub-let it to Richard Cromwell. It is not clear how the property went after this. We find in 1607, Sir Thomas Luke holding the property and paying

1. At the death of John Engaine 1322, his estates went to his nephew John, son of his brother Nicholas, then to Thomas, the son of this second John. Thomas dying s. p. in 1569, the estates were divided amongst his three sisters, one of whom, Mary married William Barnack.—(Ed.)

rent for it. Afterwards we find it was purchased by Sir James Beverley for £16,000. His tomb is in the Gaynes Chapel, and he died in 1670 aged 66. We also hear of the family of the Cheneys in connection with this house and property.

There is a monument in Gaynes Chapel to the memory of General Tho. Handasyde who was sometime Governor of Jamaica, and died in 1729, aged 84. He was owner of the Gaynes Estate. We find his name in the Vicar's books in 1717.

He was succeeded in the ownership of the property by General Roger Handasyde, Governor of Berwick in 1745. This was the time of the rising under the Young Pretender, and it was in Berwick that some of the discomfited Royalists, under Sir John Cope took refuge after their defeat at Preston Pans. Next we find Dr. Handasyde at Gaynes.

In 1797 the estate was purchased by Sir James Duberly. He died in 1832, and he was succeeded by his son, Captain James Duberley, who had been present at the battle of Waterloo. He died in 1864 and was succeeded by his son, Captain William Duberley, who died in 1888. The present owner is Captain Grey Duberley, who was present at the battle of Magersfontein and other engagements, and was in South Africa during the whole of the Boer War.

The present house is quite modern and was built by Sir James Duberley. There is little left of the old house unless it be the foundations and the bridge over the moat at the back. The old wall in the garden is very interesting. There are here some interesting relics of a Church which is said to have existed once at Dillington.

The Heraldic shields in the window of the Hall Door, of different families connected with Staughton are interesting, and are said to have been brought here from Place House when Sir James Duberley purchased the Manor of Beachamstead.

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