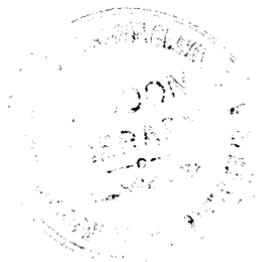


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OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The editor wishes to take this opportunity of expressing her thanks to Mr J. H. Bullock for the very great assistance which he has given her, throughout her term of office, in the production of the Society's publications. His advice has been invaluable and his help so constantly available that he has been, in effect, co-editor. Unfortunately the failing eyesight which all his friends so deeply deplore has prevented him from helping in the production of this volume, for the delay in producing which as well as for any shortcomings in its editing members are asked to accept the editor's apologies.

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HORSEHEATH HALL AND ITS OWNERS

By CATHERINE E. PARSONS

HORSEHEATH is an oblong parish of about 1677 acres of undulating land in the south-east corner of Cambridgeshire. Its northern boundary is well defined by the Roman Worstead Street, the western boundary by the Dene Road leading from Bartlow to West Wrattling; Withersfield, Suffolk, lies on the east, and Shudy Camps and Bartlow on the south. The parish should be well known as the home of the Alington family. My earliest reference to this family, in connection with Horseheath, occurs in 1397,¹ when William Alington, the Treasurer of the Exchequer of Ireland, son of William Alington, held land in Horseheath. It was he who, in 1416, gave three roods of land to enlarge the Rectory garden at Horseheath.² Though William Alington and his wife Joan, daughter of William de Burgh, must have spent part of their lives at Horseheath, I have found no mention of the Hall where they lived earlier than in 1446, when William Alington, then 'senior', of Horseheath, died. In his will³ of that date the manor of Horseheath Hall is mentioned, a manor which had previously been held by the Audley family under the Earls of Richmond. This Audley manor was the first of the three Horseheath manors to pass to the Alington family. It was Thomas Audley,⁴ younger brother of William Audley whose fine memorial brass of 1365, in Horseheath Church, is so well known, who, at his death in 1372, left a son and heir named James, aged two months. This baby heir died, so his sister Elizabeth, a minor who married John Rose, became heiress, whose trustees sold the manor to Alington.⁵ Of the other two manors, one was held by the de Horseths, under Earl Gilbert, the other by the Limbery family under the Earl of Oxford, for the service of holding the Earl's stirrup when he mounted his palfrey at Horseheath, if the tenant be present.⁶ This Limbery manor had passed to William Alington before 1428.⁷ A moated site, on which a farm-house stands, at the east end of Horseheath, is still known as Limbery's. One is inclined to assume that the Audley family, who held the largest manor, had a dwelling somewhere near the site of the present Manor House, and that the

¹ Add. MS. 5823, f. 63.

² *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 4 Hen. V, memb. 24.

³ Baker MSS. Vol. xxxi, f. 259.

⁴ *Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, 46 Ed. III, 3.

⁵ Add. MSS. 5823, f. 229.

⁶ *Inq. P.M.* Hen. VII, p. 426.

⁷ *Feudal Aids*, Vol. I, p. 181.

de Horseths, of the place-name, had a dwelling on the fine moated site just at the east end of the church, and adjoining the Roman Worstead Street on the north.

I have found very little information about the seat of the Alington family in Horseheath from 1397 up to 1663 and later, but it is clear that the Hall must have been built before it could give its name to 'the manor of Horseth Hall' which is mentioned in William Alington's will of 1446.¹ This member of the family was a Commissioner of the Peace for Cambridgeshire. In 1426, with others, he was engaged in raising a loan for Henry VI, amongst the better sort of secular persons in the county.² In 1429 he was inquiring into the wards, marriages, reliefs, escheats and other dues in the county,³ which were concealed from the King. In the same year he was elected Speaker of the House of Commons and he served as a Knight of the Shire. According to an inscription on a brass plate found in Horseheath Church, this William Alington was at one time Treasurer of Ireland and of Normandy. He was buried in Horseheath Church in 1446⁴ with his wife, daughter of William de Burgh, who predeceased him by one year. Hailstone in his pedigree of the Alingtons of Bottisham refers to this William Alington as a son of William Alington of Bottisham and his wife, Dionysia, daughter of William Mallet of Horseheath,⁵ but I have been unable to find the name of Mallet in any record of that period in connection with Horseheath. But the Treasurer's father appears to be the first William Alington in this district, so I refer to his son as the second William.

The second William Alington and his wife Joan, as will be seen by the accompanying pedigree, had two legitimate sons, William, the third of that name connected with Horseheath, and Robert. These two brothers increased their estates by marriage with Elizabeth and Joan, daughters and co-heirs of Sir John Argentine. It was through the marriage of William Alington and Elizabeth Argentine that the office of cup-bearer to the King at the coronation dinner passed from the Argentine to the Alington family, a service rendered for Wymondley manor.⁶ Soon after his father's death, the third William Alington obtained a licence from the King, in 1449,⁷ to enclose with walls, fences, hedges and ditches 320 acres of arable, meadow and woodland, in the parishes of Horseheath, West Wickham and Balsham, to make a park. He had free warren in the Park, where his rights seem to have

¹ Baker MSS. Vol. xxxi, f. 259.

² *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1422-9, p. 355.

³ *Ibid.* p. 552.

⁴ *My All Saints Church, Horseheath*, p. 39.

⁵ *Camb. Antiq. Soc. Octavo publications*, No. xiv, p. 116.

⁶ *Escheat II*, Ed. I, No. 19.

⁷ *Add. MSS.* 5823, p. 78.

been jealously guarded, for when in 1454,¹ the Bishop of Ely wanted some wood carted across the Park, the Bishop had to put in writing that he had no intention of making a highway there in time to come.

As there were three William Alingtons in succession who were direct heirs, and sometimes contemporaries, it is difficult to distinguish which of them held their several public offices, but the third William, the maker of the Park, was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Hailstone says that this third William had a brother John, but John is not mentioned in his father's will. A brother Thomas, not recorded by Hailstone, is mentioned in his father's will of 1446 as having predeceased him. The third William Alington's wife, Elizabeth, died in 1445, and he died in 1459.² Both husband and wife were buried at Horseheath. Three children of this marriage, John, William and Margaret, survived infancy.

John Alington was 31 years of age when he succeeded his father as owner of the Horseheath Hall estate. He married Mary, daughter of Laurence Cheney. In his youth he was charged with being concerned with traitors, in a conspiracy, who were said to be in league with the Kentish rebels at Babraham,³ to deprive the King of his power in February 1452. John Alington was, however, pardoned, and in 1455 he was well horsed and armed at the call of the Duke of York.⁴ For this service he received a fee of 10 marks from the Castle of the Honour of Clare. He served as a Commissioner of the Peace for Cambridgeshire in 1468, 1473 and 1475. With his younger brother William, and others, he, in 1468, made an inquiry into the escape of felons from prisons in Cambridge, and was appointed to serve on many other commissions.⁵ John Alington's brother William of Bottisham married Joan, daughter of John Anstey, in 1457, and his sister Margaret married John Colville. John Alington's wife Mary predeceased him seven years. A memorial brass in memory of her is in the chancel of Horseheath parish church, where John Alington was buried in 1480.⁶ At the time of his death he held manors in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Essex, in addition to the Cambridgeshire manors in Horseheath; West Wickham, Bottisham, Linton, Balsham and Melbourn.

John and Mary Alington left four children: Margaret, the eldest, married John Newport; William, his father's heir and the fourth owner of Horseheath; Elizabeth, the second daughter, who married Henry Pigot; the younger son, Edward, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Gillott.

¹ Add. MSS. 5823, p. 246.

³ *Early Indictment Roll*, 6.

⁵ *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1468, memb. 22d.

² *Inq. P.M.* 38-9 Hen. VI, no. 42.

⁴ Baker MSS. Vol. xxxi, p. 260.

⁶ *Inq. P.M.* 20 Ed. IV, no. 58.

The fourth Sir William Alington, Knight, like his father, was about 31 years of age when he inherited his father's estate. He owned Horseheath for five years. His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Wentworth. There were three children of this marriage, Giles, George and Margaret. The fourth Sir William Alington's second wife, who had no children, was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Sapcotts. This fourth Sir William Alington was a Commissioner of the Peace for the county and for the town of Cambridge. His uncle William Alington of Bottisham died in 1479, so here is an example of the difficulty in distinguishing which William was the holder of a particular office in the county; but both nephew and uncle were Commissioners of the Peace. According to the Patent Rolls, in 1473 the fourth Sir William Alington was appointed one of the tutors and councillors of Edward, Prince of Wales, till he reached the age of 14 years, and in 1478 the fourth Sir William Alington was made a Privy Councillor. For this service he was given a life interest in a third part of the manor of Bassingbourn and a third part in the Honour of Richmond in the hundreds of Armingford, Stow, Pappworth, Chesterton, Thriplow and Cambridge, which George, Duke of Clarence, had formerly held. Unfortunately, Sir William, the fourth Alington who owned Horseheath, was killed in 1485 at the battle of Bosworth. Only a few days before the battle was fought, he made his will,¹ in which he is styled as 'of Horseth'. To his parish church he bequeathed 3s. 4d. for the high altar, a 100s. to the church, and 10 marks for three years for prayers for the soul of Elizabeth, his deceased wife, and for his father's and his mother's souls. To his son and heir Giles, he left two standing silver gilt cups with covers that had been used at the coronation of Edward IV and Richard II. This bequest shows how greatly the hereditary office of cup-bearer was appreciated by the family. The fourth Sir William Alington left his son George and his daughter Margaret another cup each; these cups were to be selected by his second wife Elizabeth, for whom provision was made. Provision was also made for George, and for the marriage of Margaret, who married Edward Green of Stapleford.

The next heir, Giles Alington, Knight, was the first of that name of Horseheath. He was only 12 years of age² when his father was killed at Bosworth, so his estate was held in trust by John Cheney, John Heveningham, and Richard Gardner until he became of age. Richard Gardner died in 1489,³ leaving his daughter Mary, then six years of age, his sole heir. It was she whom young Sir Giles married. Even-

¹ P.C.C. *Milles*, f. 3.

² *Inq. P.M.* 16 (Feb. 1) Hen. VII.

³ *Inq. P.M.* 20 Hen. VII, p. 235.

tually, Sir Giles served as Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire; to him came the honour of being cup-bearer for Henry VIII at his coronation dinner, and he was with the King at the Field of the Cloth of Gold.¹ Cooper says this first Sir Giles Alington of Horseheath 'died from an infectious disease contracted through attending the Lent Assizes held at Cambridge, whether from the savour of the prisoners or from the filth of the house is not known'.² He died in April 1522, at the age of 49 years. He made his will in 1513,³ and it was proved in 1526. By his will, this owner of Horseheath expressed a wish that he should be buried in Wymondley Priory, which was founded by his ancestor. He bequeathed £10 to this Priory for prayers for his soul and 40s. to Horseheath Church for his tithes and offerings forgotten. If the first Sir Giles's wishes were originally carried out with regard to his burial at Wymondley, his body found its last resting-place at Horseheath, as his son was 'buried over the grave of his father in Horseheath Church'. The manors of Bottisham, Halesworth and Wymondley were left in trust for his wife's jointure. The manors of Horseheath Lays, Limbery and Streetly were charged with various payments, including 200 marks for each of his daughters, Audrey and Joan, on their marriage or coming of age. His sons William and John were to have 100 marks each on the same condition. The marriage of his son and heir, the second Sir Giles, was 'to be sold for as convenient a sum of money as he might be sold for so that he married without disparagement', and to his young heir his father bequeathed two standing silver gilt cups with covers, which he received for doing service at the coronation of Henry VIII and his queen. These cups were to be held in trust till the boy became of age. Actually at the time of his father's death the heir was 20 years and 9 months of age.⁴ The trustees appointed in 1513 were William Waldegrave, Roger Wentworth, Robert Cotton and Robert Paynton, Knights, and John More, Serjeant-at-Law, and Geoffrey Gates, Esq., who also held in trust property in Swaffham Bulbeck, Quy, Angelsea and Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire.

Mary, the wife of the first Sir Giles Alington of Horseheath, outlived her husband and was not buried with him. In her will dated 24 November 1537,⁵ she expressed a wish to be buried in the parish church of Westley Waterless under the rood-loft going into the chancel. To that church she bequeathed a crimson velvet cope embroidered in gold, a silver gilt chalice, a 'cushion to lay the cross

¹ *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic*, Hen. VIII, Vol. III, pt. 1, p. 241.

² *Cooper's Annals*, Vol. I, p. 305.

³ *P.C.C. Porch*, f. 14.

⁴ *Palmer's Index of Escheats*, 13 Hen. VIII/16, f. 33.

⁵ *P.C.C. Alenger*, f. 30.

on' and a sheet for the sepulchre. In her will she remembered her grandchildren as well as her sons and daughters, by dividing her bed-linen, beds, pillows and bolsters, clothing, silver, pewter, cushions, and hangings suitably amongst them. According to an inscription on the first Sir Giles Alington's tomb in Horseheath Church, he was the father of ten children, but only six of his family are referred to in the above-mentioned wills.

The second Sir Giles, owner of Horseheath, was destined to have a long and interesting life. He was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire in 1530, and, like other members of his family, was a Commissioner of the Peace. He served as cup-bearer at the coronation dinner of Ann Boleyn in 1533.¹ Three years later he was serving with the King against the Lincolnshire rebels,² and in 1537 he was present at the christening of Prince Edward,³ son of Henry VIII. He was also a member of the Ordinancy of that King. He had the reputation of encouraging men of letters, and patronized Alexander Barclay, the poet and monk of Ely, who prefaced his *Mirror of Good Manners* with a print of himself presenting his work to the second Sir Giles Alington, his patron. But this second Sir Giles Alington's public work did not prevent him from taking an interest in his neighbours. His name frequently occurs; for instance, he was supervisor of a will in 1532 (Ralph Eton, Vicar of Linton).⁴ This second Sir Giles was at the siege of Boulogne in 1544, and from there he brought to Horseheath two mementos, a large copper ball, said to hold as much as 60 gallons, and a fine-toned bell, which was used at the Hall for a dinner bell.⁵ Exactly where the Hall stood in the Park I cannot say. This Hall, the home of the Alington family for so many years, exists for me only in name, an address where so many documents were signed. In a deed transcribed by Cole, a piece of arable land in Horseheath, *temp.* Edward II, is mentioned, called Halefeld. The same piece of land in a deed dated in 1449 is called Hallegatefield. In 1497 the name is spelt Allgatefeld. This field name must surely have some connection with the Hall, and with its boundary in West Wickham, Streetly and Horseheath it points to the assumption that the land lay in the vicinity of the present Hall meadow, where the old Hall may have stood. Owing to the vigilance of the Church I find that the Hall had a chapel, as in 1580,⁶ John Curtis

¹ *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic*, Hen. VIII, Vol. vi, p. 249.

² *Ibid.* Hen. VIII, Vol. xi, p. 233.

³ *Ibid.* Hen. VIII, Vol. xii, pt. 2, p. 320.

⁴ *Consistory Court of Ely*, Vol. 5, f. 180.

⁵ *Notes and Queries*, Vol. x, ser. vi, p. 362.

⁶ *Consistory Court of Ely*, D. Ely.

a servant at the Hall, was presented for not attending his parish church. His explanation was that when his master attended the parish church he attended with his master, but when his master had service or prayers at the Hall, he attended there with his master. In 1550 the second Sir Giles enlarged his Park¹ by an additional 400 acres of land. The first parkland lay in the eastern half of Horseheath, so the Hall must have stood in the old parkland. The additional 400 acres lay partly in Withersfield, Suffolk, over the eastern boundary of Horseheath and elsewhere. The additional 400 acres became known as the New Park and the 320 acres as the Old Park, where, at the time of the enlargement, 80 deer were kept.² Then, as now, troubles arose over poaching. In 1556, Ann, the young Countess of Oxford, brought an action in the Star Chamber against the second Sir Giles, whose men, she alleged, stole and carried away deer from her Park at Castle Camps.³

The second Sir Giles Alington married three times. It was his first wife Ursula, daughter of Sir Robert Drury, whom he married in 1515, who had a son and heir named Robert. This lady died in 1552. The second Sir Giles then married Alice, daughter of John Middleton and widow of Thomas Elrington. Of this marriage there were four sons and six daughters. This second wife died in 1563. The third wife was Margaret, daughter of John Talkarne and widow of Thomas Argall. Robert Alington, son and heir of the first marriage, died during his father's lifetime, in 1552. His memorial brass is in the chancel of Horseheath church. In his will, dated the year of his death, he is described as of Horseheath.⁴ He left sums of money to his four sons and six daughters, to be given to them on their marriage or on coming of age. To his father, the second Giles Alington, he left 'a gold ring, beseeching him to be a good father to his wife and especially a loving grandfather to his children as most assuredly he will be'. No doubt the ten children and their mother for a time made their home at the Hall. Subject to a few gifts Robert Alington left his property to his wife Margaret, who was a daughter of William Coningsby and who later married Thomas Pledger. Margaret was the sole executor to her husband's will. She died in 1598 and was not buried at Horseheath.⁵ The second Sir Giles, as I have already said, outlived his son Robert; he also outlived Giles, son of Robert. Giles Alington went to Trinity Hall as a fellow-commoner and matriculated in 1565.⁶ He

¹ Palmer's *Index to Patent Rolls*, Vol. VIII, p. 4, Ed. VI.

² Add. MSS. 5823, f. 250.

³ My 'A Poaching Affray at Castle Camps' in *Camb. and Hunts. Arch. Trans.* Vol. III.

⁴ P.C.C. Powell, f. 23.

⁵ Monumental inscription, Horseheath Church.

⁶ Venn's *Alumni*.

died in 1572, having married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Spencer; the widow later married Edward Elrington and lived at Carlton-cum-Willingham. By her will of March 1625,¹ she bequeathed most of her goods and chattels to the Elrington family, but to her son, the third Giles Alington, she bequeathed her grey horse. She made charitable bequests to Carlton-cum-Willingham and remembered the poor of Horseheath, Brinkley, Borough Green, Weston Colville, West Wrating, West Wickham, and Withersfield, by leaving 40s. to each of these parishes.

It was the son of Giles and Margaret Alington, and great-grandson of the second Sir Giles Alington who died at the age of 86 years, in 1586, who became the next owner of Horseheath. This great-grandson of the late owner was about 14 years of age when his great-grandfather died. He became the third Sir Giles in the family. The aged knight made a long and interesting will, dated 26 February 1569.² The proof of the will is dated October 1586. He expressed a wish to be buried near to his second wife Alice, in Horseheath Parish Church. He directed that his monument should be set up within a year after his death, engraved with what he was, whom he married, what children he had, and whom he left as his next heir. He also directed that a stone should be put over his father's grave similarly inscribed. Thus we know his father is buried at Horseheath and not in Wymondley Priory. The inscriptions on this monument are according to the aged knight's wishes. He left £5 each to Horseheath, West Wickham, Balsham, and Withersfield, to be distributed to the poor on the day of his funeral. These were the parishes in which his Park lay, and to these parishes he left a further sum of £3. 6s. 8d. to be laid out by his executors. To his parish church he gave 40s. for repairs. He, in his will, referred to his third wife Margaret with great esteem, and considerably left her all the jewels (and they were many and beautiful), the linen, apparel and household stuff she brought him at marriage, and all the jewels and plate he had given her since their marriage. Also six silver gilt cups, silver candlesticks, the deep silver basin he used to wash in after oysters and before dinner, the coach she was accustomed to use and two horses, and her wagon with two of the horses of her choice. Lady Margaret Alington was to have £200 to maintain her for half a year after her husband's death. This sum was to be paid to her within a month of his decease, and during this month the Hall was to be kept going. The servants were to have their wages due with pay for an additional year. Each servant was to have a black coat.

¹ P.C.C. *Skynner*, f. 102.

² P.C.C. *Windsor*, f. 49.

Ten shillings a yard was allowed for the cloth for these coats. Some specified gifts were set aside for the 14-year-old heir if he became of age. Amongst these gifts was a silver gilt basin and ewer engraved with the Alington arms—sa, a bend engrailed between six billets, argent—a set of silver cups, a standing gilt cup with a cover, which the second Sir Giles had recently bought from Lord North. A pair of gilt salts and a dozen spoons marked E.A. The second Sir Giles left his son William £100 and the standing cup he generally used. To his grandson, John Savage, son of his daughter Margaret, he left the standing gilt cup he 'used when drinking sack to show his natural affection for him'. He seems to have left all his living children and grandchildren gifts in kind or money with mourning rings for many of them and his friends. The second Sir Giles' third wife, Margaret, according to her husband's opinion, must have been a model wife and stepmother, for when appointing her as one of his executors he refers to her as 'one whom I must confess I have great cause to love, like and trust, for the experience I have had of her humble duty, good will and affection towards me and mine'. Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls, to whom the second Sir Giles bequeathed a basin and ewer of silver gilt, was another executor; two others were James, a son of Sir Giles' deceased son Robert, and Philip Alington, his youngest son. Lord Burleigh, High Treasurer of England, was supervisor to the will, to whom the second Sir Giles pleaded that he would 'match his heir with one of the daughters of Sir Thomas Cecil, and bring the marriage to pass during the boy's minority'. It is satisfactory to know that Lord Burleigh carried out his friend's wish by marrying the boy to Dorothy Cecil, daughter of Sir Thomas Cecil.

In her will of 1592¹, Lady Margaret Alington styled herself as 'widow of the second Sir Giles Alington, of Horseheath'. She was, however, buried with her first husband Thomas Argall in St Faith's church under St Paul's Cathedral, London. None of the Alington family benefited under her will, a fact it would seem not in keeping with her 'humble duty'. Amongst her treasure she had a gold pomander, a gold tablet enamelled, with pearls, a 'hoop of gold', a little agate, a great chain with pearls, a jewel with the unicorn, several gold rings, a sapphire ring, a turquoise ring, and a ring with a mock ruby; two gold chains, 'a jewel with an agate and garnished with four diamonds' and a flower of diamonds—which items are mentioned in her will.

It is interesting to find that in 1591 some one during the young heir's lifetime made a list of 40 heraldic shields in Horseheath Hall,

¹ P.C.C. *Harington*, f. 72.

10 of which were in the hall, 12 in the parlour and 18 in the chapel. They were as follows:¹

"In the Hall	In the Parlour	In the Chapell
Alington—Brewse	Alington—Mallett	Cheyne—Ayre
Alington—Sapcotts	Alington—Burgh	Pabenham—Engrayn
Alington—Wentworth	Burgh—Berners	Dé la Pole—Engrane
Alington—Reynes	Argentine—Carsleton	Cheney—Cokain
Covill—Alington	Alington—Argentine	Cheney—Rawston
Argentine—Veer	Alington—Engrayn	Alington—Cheney
Alington—Engrayn	Alington—Spencer	Cheyney—Hodleston
Newport—Alington	Spencer—Howard	Say—Cheyney
Raynes—Escudmore	Howard—Huxey	Cheyney—
Anstye—Street	Spencer—Tirrell	Walkington—Cheyney
	Walgrave—Spencer	Spencer—Clifford
	Ashfield—Spencer	Constable—Engrayne
		Cathorp—Engrayne
		Alington—Engrayne
		Alington—Reynes
		Alington—Sapcotts
		Sapcotts
		Graynesby—Seneley”

The 14-year-old heir Giles who succeeded his great-grandfather was the third owner of Horseheath of that name. He was of the tenth generation of the Alington family belonging to Horseheath. In 1599 he was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.

The only Horseheath Manorial Court Rolls I have been able to find relate to courts held in 1606, 1608 and 1610, during the ownership of the third owner named Sir Giles. At the court of Sir Giles, 13 October 1606, the business was conducted in the usual way with twelve jurymen, some of whose surnames still survive in Horseheath. Fines, in 1606, varying from 1*d.* to 4*s.* 4*d.* were reported as being unpaid. There were two surrenders and two admissions of customary tenants. William Webb was fined 3*s.* 4*d.* for ploughing up 2 ft. of a balk in Wormwood, which is to-day called Womansfield. Philip Webb was fined 4*s.* 4*d.* for diverting a water-course at Waversley-end in the King's highway. Nicholas Benton was fined 3*s.* for taking stones from the same highway. Robert Pomell was made constable in the place of Robert Flack. At the court held in 1608 William Webb was fined for two encroachments, one on the road leading to the windmill at Haycroft, the other of 2 ft. on the way against the lime kiln, for which he was fined 2*s.* Thomas James, gentleman, encroached 6 ft. on this same way and was fined 3*s.* 4*d.* John Webb,

¹ *Penes* Alington Pedigree. Mr Alington, Little Barford Hall, Hunts.

Geoffrey Bury, Richard Cockerton, Widow Hanner, Thomas Webb, Anthony Ballard and Thomas Pettit were each fined 3s. 4d. for similar encroachments. At the Court held in October 1610 the last seven offenders had not paid their fines. The above-mentioned encroachments were in or by the three open fields at Horseheath, farmed by the third Sir Giles Alington's tenants. Horseheath had long been a one-owner parish and had never been enclosed in the ordinary way for agricultural purposes, though before the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 an adjustment of the strips of tithe-land was made by agreement; the proposed exchanges were advertised in *The Cambridge Chronicle* on Friday, 23 January 1829. The 320 acres of arable, meadow and woodland, enclosed in 1449, was, as I have already said, for the making of a Park, and the additional 500 acres enclosed in 1550 was for the enlargement of the Park. A considerable stretch on either side of the main road through Horseheath still remains unenclosed.

The third Sir Giles Alington's name occurs in many deeds, bonds and leases amongst the documents the Rev. William Cole later found and transcribed at Horseheath Hall. In 1636¹ the third Sir Giles let his Limbery's farm to Thomas Flack for 21 years at £80 a year. In 1631² he paid the King £200 levied on his body, goods and lands. The cure for the sting of an adder which he has handed down to us is, 'four or six great spiders mingled with English honey, and bound to the place which was stung³.' This and other folk cures and cooking recipes are in his own handwriting in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The third Sir Giles erected the fine alabaster monument on the north side of the chancel in Horseheath Church to the memory of his wife Dorothy, and their ten children, in 1613, when his wife died, with effigies of himself, his wife, and the ten children on and around the monument.

It was this owner of Horseheath who unfortunately made himself notorious when, in December 1630, at the age of 58 years, he married his half-niece, Dorothy Dalton. His niece, who was 24 years of age, was a daughter of Michael Dalton, a lawyer of West Wrating. Dorothy outlived her husband and spent her last days at Linton, in this county, where she died of small-pox in 1644. After their marriage the couple had to appear before the High Commission Court. The marriage was dissolved and both the third Sir Giles and Dorothy had to do penance in London at St Paul's Cross, and in Cambridge at Great St Mary's Church. Sir Giles was also fined £12,000. This heavy fine⁴ may account for the large sums of money which were at

¹ Add. MSS. 5826, f. 225.

² Ashmole MSS. 1413, f. 157.

³ Ibid. 5826, f. 225.

⁴ Add. MSS. 5823, f. 224.

this time lent to him by his sympathetic friends. Cole transcribed a list of the loans amongst the large number of records he subsequently found at Horseheath Hall. Eight years after this marriage the third Sir Giles Alington died. His short will is dated September 1638.¹ It records that he was sick of body but of good and perfect remembrance, praise be to God. He 'willingly, but with a free heart, rendered and gave again unto the hands of his God and Creator, his spirit which he of fatherly goodness gave him when he was first fashioned'. To his daughters, Lady Trace and Lady Leventhorp, he left £500 each, £30 each to the eldest child of his six daughters, legacies to ten men-servants and four maid-servants, including Catherine the dairy-maid, and the kitchen-maid, the latter servants having £5 each. Under this will the poor of the parishes of Horseheath, West Wickham and Withersfield benefited by £10 each parish. All the rest of the third Sir Giles Alington's property passed to his 'well beloved son and heir', the fifth William, who was his father's ninth child and fourth son.

The fifth Sir William Alington was baptized in Horseheath Church on 14 March 1610.² He entered Jesus College as a Fellow Commoner, matriculated in 1628 and took his M.A. degree in 1629.³ This owner of Horseheath married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Lionel Tollmarsh and widow of the Hon. Sir William Compton. The two elder children of this marriage, Lionel and Dorothy, according to an inscription on a memorial tablet in Bottisham Church, were born and died in that parish in 1638. The fifth Sir William Alington no doubt lived at Bottisham when he first married. Other members of the Alington family have resided in Bottisham since the fifteenth century, and a field in this parish is still known as Alington Hill. Katherine, daughter of the fifth Sir William and Lady Elizabeth Alington, was born in May 1640; she was the first of six children of this marriage whose baptism is recorded in the Horseheath Parish Register.

In recognition of various services the fifth Sir William, on 28 July 1642, was given an Irish peerage. He took the title of Baron Alington of Killard, co. Cork. During the Civil War, he, having paid all his dues and taxes, his wife, family and servants at Horseheath Hall were not to be plundered or have any horses taken away on any pretence, but were to be protected by the King's forces. They were also to be protected against tumultuous or vicious assemblies that might molest his Lordship or his family.⁴ After holding the family estate for ten years, the first Lord Alington died in 1648. He was buried

¹ P.C.C. *Harvey*, f. 16.

³ *Venn's Alumni*.

² Horseheath Parish Register.

⁴ *Venn's Alumni*.

in Horseheath Church on 21 October.¹ Lady Elizabeth, his wife, lived till 1671. In her will, dated 5 April 1669, she expressed a wish to 'be buried in Horseheath Church as near to her dear Lord and her children as can be, and as privately as possible without scene or any company, except her sons and a decent attendance'. She made her 'dear son Will, Lord Alington' her sole executor and to him she left her 'great diamond jewel in the shape of a cross to be kept in the family if it pleased him to do so'. To her daughter Elizabeth Seymour she left her diamond bodkin with a diamond drop fastened to it. This bodkin was to pass to Elizabeth Seymour's eldest daughter, Honour. All the other jewels were to be divided by her executors between her two daughters. Her two sons, Argentine and Hildebrand, received £500 each. Lady Alington left her 'trusty and beloved servant Mistress Mary Mynore (?Mynot) fifty pounds in gold, her wearing linen, enough of her Mother's furniture to furnish a chamber and her little black cabinet', when her executors had disposed of its contents. Under this will² Lady Alington's friend, Lady Penelope Nichols, received Sir William Compton's little picture set in gold and the gilt cup and cover he had for a New Year's gift from the King, when he was Privy Councillor. Her sisters received £5 each. She remembered the poor of Horseheath, West Wickham, and Withersfield by leaving £10 to each of these parishes where the Park lay and in which the Hall stood. She left an additional £100 for charitable purposes to be disposed of as her son William pleased. Her servants were given an extra half-year's pay. The money due to her from her mother was not to be demanded from her brother Tollmarsh, and she wished her executor to be very careful to deliver to her sons, Hildebrand and Argentine, their share of the plate which was left to them by her 'Lord according to an inventory deposited in a little red trunk in her closet at the Hall'. The remainder of Lady Alington's effects, not disposed of under her will, including all her plate, old gold, Sir William Compton's and Lady Hatton's mortgage, were left to her son William, who became the second Lord Alington, and his mother's sole executor.

Up to the time of the first Lord Alington's death I have found little information that helps to form even a mental picture of Horseheath Hall, where the Alington family had lived for so long, and where a vast number of documents concerning the family's affairs were kept. A variety of these documents were signed and dated at the Hall. At least one letter written by the first Lord Alington, dated at Horseheath Hall on 11 October 1640, exists.³ It refers to his sister's jointure.

¹ Baker MSS. Vol. xxxi, f. 260.

³ Horseheath Parish Register.

² P.C.C. *Duke*, f. 44.

The chapel at the Hall, the hall, parlour, kitchens, dairy and bedrooms are already mentioned. There is remarkably little to record about the furnishing of the Hall, other than such things as hangings, household linen, beds and bedding, plate silver and gold, pewter ware, a chest, a cabinet, trunk, one picture, personal belongings such as clothing, jewellery and service books mentioned in wills of the family. There must have been considerable stable accommodation for a number of horses, one being the grey horse which was bequeathed to the first Lord Alington. The coach-house had to provide space for many vehicles. There was a dog-house, a dove-house and farm buildings belonging to the Hall. The house is said to have been dilapidated when the first Lord Alington died. In fact it was his father, the third Sir Giles, who was accused of letting the ancestral home at Horseheath fall into a ruinous condition, and considering his tenure of 52 years, with the crippling fine imposed on him on account of his second marriage, this may well have been the case. The first Lord Alington was succeeded by his infant son Giles, the second Lord Alington, who was buried at Horseheath in 1659.

William, the third Lord Alington, succeeded his brother in 1648 at the age of 18 years. He was of the eleventh generation of his family at Horseheath Hall and the tenth owner of the manor. Amongst his activities he was M.P. for Cambridge from 1664 to 1681, Lord Lieutenant of the County from 1680 to 1685; he was promoted to Major-General of the Land Forces in 1678, and served against the Turks in Hungary. From 1679 until his death he was Constable of the Tower of London. It was in 1682 that he was given an English Peerage and became Baron of Wymondley.

This first English peer in the Alington family, the third Lord Alington, either built or rebuilt Horseheath Hall. As I have already stated, the old Hall must have stood somewhere in the Park. The new Hall was probably built on or near the site of the old Hall (see Pl. III). The third Lord Alington employed Sir Roger Pratt as his architect. In one of his note-books Pratt says¹ 'the house was founded on the 13th June 1663'. Seven years later, 1670, John Evelyn dined at Horseheath Hall with the third Lord Alington, who, he says, in his *Diary*, had 'newly built a house at great cost, little less than twenty thousand pounds. . . standing in a park with a sweet prospect and stately avenue, but water still defective. The house also has its informities'. The stately avenue to which John Evelyn refers could scarcely have grown up in seven years, so it looks as though the new house was built to fit in with the old Hall. It may be mentioned that Lysons puts the cost of building at £70,000. The late Mr Pratt of

¹ *Penes* Catherine E. Parsons.

Ryston Hall, Norfolk, kindly lent me his ancestor's small note-book ($4 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in.), in 1909, to copy from it references to the work done on Horseheath Hall. I transcribed the crowded little volume from cover to cover, but the notes are so mixed up that it is difficult to determine to which work the notes refer unless the name of the house is mentioned, as Kingston Lacy Hall, Dorset; Clarendon House and Horseheath Hall were being built by Pratt at the same time and there are references to each of these houses in this note-book. In addition, Lord Alington's house in Bloomsbury was undergoing restoration. We are indebted to the late Dr R. T. Gunther for editing this note-book in 1928, so that the notes are now available for those who wish to unravel their seventeenth-century details.¹

In 1662 the third Lord Alington had some conferences with Sir Róger Pratt.² In August 1663 Pratt went down to Horseheath. By then material would be coming to hand for an oblong red-brick house of four storeys facing west, 140×76 ft. The height to the top of the walls was 44 ft. There was a semi-basement with a passage from one end to the other. Then came the ground-floor, the first floor, and the garrets. The roof was slated up to the leaded platform, which had a stone parapet round it. In the centre of the platform there was an octagon cupola with stone trusses. On the top of the cupola the gilded copper ball from Boulogne was placed. There were eight chimney stacks. The carpenter's estimate for 272 window lights was £27. 4s. 0d. and for twenty lucarne windows £15. Up to the front door there were stone steps with half-paces, balusters and rails. Pratt queried whether the doors should be whole or have glass in them? The centre part of the house had a slight projection with an architrave at the top decorated with a stone coronet and shield bearing the Alington Arms with a label beneath. The coronet was 6 ft. high and 4 ft. wide; the pearls in the coronet were 6 in. in diameter. Projecting 25 ft. there was a courtyard on either side of the house leading to the stables and other offices. The courtyard doorways had stone piers with moulded bases and capitals of Ketton stone and were finished with balls on the top of them. The entrance hall, with a gallery round it, measured 48×40 ft. Just inside the hall on the left, on the north side, there was a door leading to the chapel. Pratt scarcely mentions the chapel in his notes, so one can but wonder if the old chapel with its heraldic shields was incorporated in the new Hall. Next to the chapel on the left stood the great staircase with one flight going and one returning, with half-paces and moulded banisters and rails. The gallery round the hall was furnished in

¹ Pratt MSS.

² R. T. Gunther, *The Architecture of Sir Roger Pratt*.

a similar way. The parlour was at the end of the hall, facing east, and overlooking the New Park. To the right, or south side of the hall, stood the great back staircase. This staircase Pratt considered 'would be useful for gentlemen who alight in the stable yard'. The space left at the end of the chapel Pratt said might be either a vestry, a small wine cellar, butler's pantry, or, he might put in there a small staircase to the first storey to the study, or the chamber next the court by the side of the great parlour in the centre of the house facing east. At the other end of the house, facing south and overlooking the garden, there was a bedchamber and inner rooms. These rooms, according to Pratt, would be a great convenience for the Lady's distempers or lying in. So on the first floor there was the great parlour, with drawing-room and bedchamber, all in great state, or, says Pratt, 'the rooms could stay as they are now, only where the back stairs came up, to be the visitor's chamber and the others the dressing room to it'. Reference to these rooms and back stairs, in the past tense, may or may not refer to part of the old Hall. A room at the north-east corner in the semi-basement was designed for a large wine-cellar or still-room for Lady Alington.

The Hall was finished by the end of 1665. The garden seems to have been laid out by Pratt. He ordered a great variety of fruit trees from Captain Gurle, who had a nursery between Spittlesfield and Whitechapel. When editing Pratt's notes Dr Gunther printed a list of fruit and other trees for Ryston Hall, Norfolk, and adds that the trees for Horseheath Hall are similar, so it may be well here to print the following:

"List of Fruit for Horseheath Hall

Plummes	Muscadine grapes	1/6
Queen Mother Plume	Parsley	
Museule	Red raison	2/6
White museule	Grape of Damascus	"
Amber	Currant Grape	"
Black Damasene		
Prunello	<i>Pears upon Quince stock</i>	
Orleans Plumme	Buon Christens	2/-
White Pear "	Bure de Roy	"
Buon & Magne	Maistre John	"
Damas Plumme	Double Flowre	"
One with the other		
12 pence each.		
<i>Grapes</i>		
Fontiniac red		2/6
" white		

Mem. That the Captian is to warrant both his fruit, their growth, and to make up the fruit to be sent down.

Leo. Gurle.

Peaches

- 1 Musk Peach
- 2 Murry Nectarein
- 3 Roman Peach
- 4 Bourdeau „
- 5 Persian „
- 6 Carliles „
- 7 Alborg „
- 8 Musk Violet „
- 9 Pass Violet „
- 10 Roses „
- 11 Red Necteren
- 12 Howlmans Peach
- 13 Peach de Po'
- 14 Liles Peach
- 15 Scarlet „
- 16 Newington „
- 17 Sheen „
- 18 Ram Bullain „
- 19 White Nutmeg „
- 20 Red Nutmeg „

Orleans Peach
 Superintendant Peach
 Navarre „
 Princes „
 Modena „
 Newington „
 Bloady „
 Bordeaux „
 Smyrna „

Memor. that half of this whole number of peaches is to go at 5/- the rest at 2/6.

Nectarines

Roman nectarine
 Murray „
 Red nectarine clean from ye stone
 Tawny nectarine
 Scarlet nectarine
 20 sh.

Apricots

Orange Apricock 2 sh.
 Early „ 2 sh. 6d
 Maseuline „ 2 sh.
 Holland „ 2 sh.
 Ordinary „ 1 sh. 6d

Figges

White figge 5 sh.
 Little Tauny „
 Great blew figges „

This MS. is endorsed 'L. Alling: fruit'

'Grapes in June & July''

To be had at 2/- with another at Mr. Balles at Branford end.

Province Peach 5 sh.
 Lion Peach „
 Violet Muscatt „
 Persian Peach „
 White Nutmeg & Red 2. 6

The third William Lord Alington's first wife Catherine, daughter of Henry, Lord Stanhope, died at the birth of her first child, a daughter, who was buried with her mother at Horseheath on 4 December 1662.¹ This sad event therefore took place before the new Hall was built. Lord Alington's third wife was Juliana, daughter of Baptist, Viscount Campden. The first child of this marriage was a daughter Juliana, who was baptized at Horseheath on 13 October 1665, and a son and heir was born in 1667 at the Hall, named

¹ Horseheath Parish Register.

William.¹ He, however, died on 3 September at the age of 13 days, and his mother at the age of 22 years died on the 14th of the same month and year, 1667.² After these misfortunes Lord Alington became ill and went to France. From there he wrote the following letter to his brother Hildebrand:

Dear Brother,

Newers, June 13, 1668.³

I am now in very good air where I intend to stay some time having the opportunity in the house I am in every day to see the best company in the Town of both sexes, but it does not occasion thoughts of matrimony, so that my Lady Vaughan may for me be quiet in her retirement at Titchfield where I believe for importunity sakes she will once more loose her liberty. I hope it will be to one that will value her according to her great merit, for I know no lady that deserves a good husband better than she does.

I thank God that I do every month find some ammdement in my health and strength which, I must attribute to your prayers rather than my own, being distrustful of myself, but know you to be of an exemplary good life. I have here inclosed writ two lines to Landsall, if he has not yet paid you your money, send it to him, otherwise you need not.

Pray send me word how my sister Seymore does, and where she is whether Mr A. has finished what I ordered him to do in my drawing room, and of my private affairs that concern me and direct your letter only to Monsieur Herbert for me who will always know how to send them to me.

I am, D. Brother your most affectionate Bro. and servant,

W. Alington.

For Hildebrand Alington Esq. at the Right Honable. the Lord Alington's in the Broad Square near Southampton House.

Lord Alington's sister Seymour was Elizabeth, who married Francis, Lord Seymour.

As Hildebrand Alington was staying at his brother's London house, the work being done on the drawing-room may not refer to Horseheath Hall, but to the London House. After replying to the above letter Hildebrand soon received another letter from his brother dated at Newers, 19 July 1668.⁴

D. Brother,

I have received yours of the 22nd July by which I am glad to hear my sister Seymour is gone down to the country with so great an amendment to her health, as from thence she hopes a perfect recovery. As to my own condition I eat and sleep well and eat my meat, which methinks

¹ Horseheath Parish Register.

³ Rawlinson MSS. D. 861, f. 14.

² Ibid.

⁴ Ibid. D. 861, f. 3.

savours better from my own hand than from anothers, and my flesh and strength increases though it be but slowly, so that I intend again for Bourbon the latter end of August which I hope will perfect my recovery and God willing I will be next March in London, but not to give my Lady a disturbance, who for quietness sake will dispose of herself before that time and nobody else can make me think of marriage, so that you must look yourself out a right companion unless you have a mind our family should die out with us, for I know by experience my endeavours would be unsuccessful and my brother Argentine has so rid himself off his legs as there is no hopes of him, so that from you our family expects its being. Therefore think seriously of it. Since my horses will not sell for what you think they are worth, let them run to grass till I come over. I thank you for your care in taking order for what is necessary about the repair of my house. This enclosed is for Mr. Lane which must satisfy him till I come over. For deals I must let them alone till I come to England since money is so scarce both in Town and Country as that I get little rent and not money for so much as one of my horses.

Let me know what has become of Betty and they that were my servants. [This letter is signed as before W. Alington.]

Jackson the upholster has a mind to have my bay gelding, let him have him for what you think he is worth.

Hildebrand Alington did not take his brother's matrimonial advice, nor did Argentine marry. Again, on 25 June 1670, the third Lord Alington wrote to Hildebrand urging him to marry. Hildebrand was then at Copenhagen with the Earl of Essex, the British Ambassador there. He wrote:

I thank you very kindly for your two letters which I had answered before now, but that I have been in the country and knew not how to direct a letter to you. The King is very well satisfied with what my Lord Essex did in his passage through the sound and is everywhere spoken of. My Lord Chesterfield is married and is my neighbour having brought my Lady Vaughan's House and is now in it with his young lady, your Ambassador's niece, for myself I continue in the same mind I was in when you left England, so that you must never expect to see me married again, but I hope when you are in England you will continue in our name the inheritance of our family. I have paid my Mother the 50^l she returned you when I was in the country and shall pay those other monies you have desired of me. I will write nothing of news for I know you have it from the Ambassador, otherwise I would have told you that Mr. Chicheley (of Wimpole, Cambs.) is now sole Master of the Ordinance and Privy Councillor and is Sir Thomas Chicheley, which I am extremely glad of. The King and the Duke are strangely affected at Madams (The Dutchess of Orleans) death which most here believe was no natural death, but of this you have a quicker account from Paris than you can have from hence.

My Mother is at this time not well being troubled with the same illness she had when I was in France but we do not apprehend her in any danger. My brother Argentine is now gone to the Straits with a letter from the Duke to Sir Thomas Allen to remove him into a better ship upon the first opportunity. When he lay in Dover Road I was with the King when he was aboard my Brother. Madam's present to him was small, only 40 golden Lewises, but his other Captains had no more. Pray continue your kindness to me in letting me hear often from you. I am agoing for all the summer into the country [Horseheath] so that possibly I shall not have opportunity of writing often to you which I hope you will excuse from him who is Dr. Brother, Your most affectionate Brother and humble Servant.

Wm. Alington.¹

After losing two wives and two children, and being rejected by Lady Vaughan, it is natural that the second Lord Alington should continually urge his brother Hildebrand to marry and carry on the family, for whom he had built Horseheath Hall. Any slight hope he may have had of the marriage of his brother, Argentine, was ended on 3 July 1670. As the second Lord Alington had written of him with disparagement in a previous letter, it is a satisfaction to be able to print another letter referring to the bravery of Argentine, which the second Lord Alington wrote to his brother Hildebrand, addressed, 'For Mr. Alington, with the Earl of Essex'.

D. Brother,

I am glad to hear by two of yours to my Mother that you are coming to England where you will find all your relations in great concern for the loss of our brother Argentine, who was unluckily killed the 3rd July last in a fight the Advice and Guernsey bravely maintained against seven Algerian men of war for two days, the last of which had forty guns and their Admiral's sixty apiece. Captain Young and my brother were both killed with small shot the first day. Young was shot in the head and never spoke a word, my brother was shot through the body under the left arm, but lived so long lying upon the deck bravely encouraging his men to fight for the honor of their King and country, their own safety and his honor which he was careful to maintain to the last and told them, if he had many more lives he would upon like occasion, freely sacrifice them for the service of King and country. When he began to feel faint he was carried down to the Surgeon, but when his wound was searched, it was found to be mortal, and after two hours he died with great firmness and constancy. His servant preserved his body for 9 days to come to England but the elements where they are being very hot, they could not keep it so that on the 12th July they buried him in the sea off Alicante. He was the only man killed outright aboard his own ship.

¹ Rawlinson MSS. D. 861, f. 4.

John Flack [of Horseheath] is dangerously wounded in the left arm. Captain Young had 7 men killed in his ship. They saved their merchants and their own ships, but with the loss of their own lives which the King and the Duke say was as much as men could do and everyone looks upon it as a very handsome action. So that we have this allay to the good concern for his loss, that he died gallantly doing his duty. I am going within a few days to the country [Horseheath] where I shall be glad to see you after you have paid your duty to our afflicted Mother. I am now at my own house here [London] where your chamber is ready for you and the heartiest welcome in the world from him who is your D. Brother.

Your most affectionate Brother and humble Servant

W: Alington.

I take it a little unkindly that I should have writ two letters to you and not to have so much as a remembrance from you in the two letters you have lately writ my Mother.¹

Argentine Alington was born at Horseheath in August 1646, so he was about 23 years old when he was killed in this naval action. A letter written by his mother to Hildebrand, dated 'Horseth. Au. 29. 70', shows how united the family was. It runs:

Dear Hill. Your Brother gave you an account of our most heavy loss of my dear Argentine, which I believe you must think was very terrible to me, and in this great affliction it will be a great satisfaction to see you safe home, which happiness God of heaven send me. We are all at Horseth. Your Brother hath reserved a room for you. I have no news to send you therefore I shall please conclude and assure you I am your most affectionate Mother

E. Alington.

To Mr. Alington at Sir Will. Temple's house in The Hage in Holland.²

Another letter³ written by the third Lord Alington to his brother Hildebrand from London, 11 December 1670, has been preserved. In it the second Lord Alington expresses his satisfaction that his horses at Horseheath had got through the bad weather so well, and continues: 'I will say nothing to you of what has happened to the Duke of Ormund since the last News Book, any one of them will particularly inform you of it notwithstanding all the care that has been used, there is yet nothing material discovered. The night after this happened Sir Thomas Chichley's coach was set upon in the streat, but he happened not to be in the coach.' Lord Alington then referred to the help granted by Parliament for Louis XIV against the Dutch.

¹ Ibid. D. 861, f. 6.

² Ibid. D. 861, f. 9.

³ Ibid. D. 861, f. 12.

Eventually, after being a widower for nine years, the third Lord Alington married a third wife, who was Diana, a daughter of the Duke of Bedford. A daughter, Katherine, was born of this marriage in October 1677. A son and heir, the fifth Giles, was born in 1680. A son, Hildebrand, was born in 1681, who died in the following year, and another son, Argentine, was buried at Horseheath in February 1683. His birth is not recorded in the Horseheath Parish Register.

We have Hildebrand Alington to thank for the preservation of another letter,¹ written to him when he was in France with the Duke of Somerset, by his brother the second Lord Alington from the Tower of London, dated 18 November 1680:

Dr. Brother, I have received yours from Saumur, dated 16th of this month and am very well pleased to hear the Duke of Somerset recovers his health pray God continue him a good and long one. I should be very glad to see you both in England when your humour for travelling is over, and well married to both your minds, but your fair one is at present in no good humour, her father [Lord Stafford] being the 30th of this month to come up on his trial which most believe may prove fatal to him. The Bill for the Exclusion of the Duke of York from the Imperial Crown of England and Ireland has miscarried in the House of Lords, there being but 31 for the Bill and 63 against it which tis feared will cause a difficulty between both Houses and that a dissolution may follow, yesterday there passed a vote in the House of Commons to make an address to His Majesty to remove the Earl of Halifax from his Council presence for ever, he having been the occasion of the Prorogation and Dissolution of the last Parliament. All public concerns run very high. God direct unto the best. The young Lady Southampton is lately dead of the small pox. My wife is your very humble servant,

Your most affectionate Brother

Alington.

To Monsieur Alington, Gentilhomme, Anglais, A Paris.

Hildebrand Alington did not marry the fair one in whom, according to the above letter, he was interested. There is a portrait of him in Lodge's *Lives of the Caesars*.

The third William, Lord Alington, died of apoplexy at the Tower of London in 1684. Under the burials of that year in the Horseheath Parish Register, his death is recorded as follows: 'The Right Honorable Wm. Lord Alington, Constable of the Tower of London and Lord Lieutenant of ye County of Cambridge departed this life February ye 1st and was interred ye 17th.' There is now no memorial in Horse-

¹ Rawlinson MSS. D. 861, f. 28.



William, third Lord Alington

PLATE II



Diana, wife of third Lord Alington

heath Church to the third Lord Alington, but according to a draft of his will he wished to be buried as near as possible to his first two wives in his parish church. His portrait (Pl. I) and that of his third wife, Diana (Pl. II), are attributed to Sir Peter Lely and are in the possession of Mr Alington of Little Barford Hall, Hunts. Lady Alington was painted in a blue dress with a yellow striped scarf. The curtain behind her is yellow and brown. The second Lord Alington wears a wig and a yellowish brown cloak.

The third William Lord Alington was succeeded by his four-year-old son, the fifth Giles, and the fourth Lord Alington. But, in 1691, when only 11 years of age, he died of a fever at Eton. Lady Alington's devotion to her son is expressed in a letter¹ written by her friend Richard Georges, of Covent Garden, two days after the boy had been buried at Horseheath. Richard Georges wrote:

upon this sad occasion of God Almighty lay his so heavy hand upon your Ladyship in taking away from you so suddenly and so unexpectedly my Lord Alington your only son. I cannot now forebare to express to your Ladyship my hearty sorrow for this great disappointment of all your pains, care and prudent management of your son and his concerns that he might have appeared in the world worthy of those careful endeavours you had so well carried in his education which would have remained a lasting monument in that family of your wise care and noble concern for its honor and prosperity, but since it hath pleased God in his wisdom to put so suddenly an end to all those your so generous endeavours for the well educating of so hopeful a son, let it be your satisfaction and comfort that you have done your part in giving so great and fair an example of your Ladyship's Motherly and present care of him in all his concerns whilst he lived and that you may make your great and laudable pattern to strive no less in your Christian life bearing of so deep an affliction with an holy resignation to God's will. . . .

The writer of this letter, in a postscript, asked Lady Alington to give his humble service to both her daughters, for whom he wished all health and prosperity, and he hoped they would be a diverting comfort to their mother.

It was nearly nine years after the death of her son Giles, the fourth Lord Alington, that Lady Alington signed her will,² dated 4 February 1700. She was then indisposed. She died on 13 December 1701, and was buried at Horseheath on the 24th. She expressed a wish in her will that 'her body should be buried privately in Horseheath parish church, there to rest till the joyful resurrection'. Lady Alington left to her sons-in-law, Sir George Warburton and Nathaniel Napier, and

¹ *Ibid.* D. 861, f. 39.

² P.C.C. *Herne*, 70.

their wives £100 each for mourning. She left the same amount for the same purpose to her brothers, Lord Edward Russell, Lord Robert and Lord James Russell, and to her sister the Countess of Oxford. She left her daughter, Lady Diana Warburton, the house, grounds and appurtenances in Hammersmith which she had recently bought for her, with all the goods and furniture in the house and in other houses at Hammersmith, and all goods in Bedford House and Horseheath Hall which might be unsold at her death. Her china was to be divided by her executors between her two daughters, £4000 was to be invested in land in trust for Lady Diana Warburton and the same amount for her grand-daughter and god-daughter, Diana Napier, which was to be paid to her father 'to be improved till the child came of age or was married, provided she married with the consent of her father and mother'. She left £100 each to her two other god-daughters. She left her woman Mrs Mary Hartwell £300, all her wearing apparel, linen, woollen and silk, with the interest on £500 to be invested at 5% for her life. She left other sums of money to her servants, varying from £300 to £20 for her cook, John Clementson. As to charitable bequests, Lady Alington left £100 to bind poor children to trades, £20 to the poor of Horseheath to be given away by the minister and churchwardens at her decease, and £60 to be laid out in the purchase of a piece of ground which was to be settled in Trustees and their heirs, 'the rent, issues and profits therefrom to be applied to the buying of a dozen of bread every week to be given out every Sunday after morning service and sermon to such of the poorest people of the parish of Horseheath as come to church and to divine service and sermon at the discretion of the Minister, Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish for the time being for ever', and until such purchase was made her executors were to put the £60 out at interest for that purpose. She left £100 to the poor of Hammersmith, where she lived, and £5 to the poor of every parish in Lincolnshire from which she received her jointure. John Hoskins, of Red Lion Square, and William Betts, of Yoxford, Suffolk, were her executors, to whom she left £100 each and money for their mourning. The remainder of her estate went to her two daughters. The custom of distributing bread provided for by Lady Alington at Horseheath Church door was discontinued early in the nineteenth century. The land purchased is now indistinguishable from other Horseheath Charity land.

When Giles, the fourth Lord Alington, died at Eton in 1691, his bachelor uncle Hildebrand, brother of the third Lord Alington, became the fifth and last Lord Alington, for with him the Alingtons of Horseheath died out. Young Giles was of the thirteenth generation and the twelfth Alington owner of the manor of Horseheath.

According to some letters preserved by Hildebrand, the fifth Lord Alington's kinsman, Giles Alington, acted as his steward. In a letter dated 4 May 1692¹ one gathers he had some difficulty in keeping the owner's affairs in order at Withersfield, wherein the New Park lay. He wrote:

Right Hon^{able}

I writ to your Lordship on Thursday last which I hope you received. I have herein enclosed sent your Lordship a copy of Withersfield Court. The parson there continues very troublesome and saith he will have tithes in the lawn belonging to your Lordship's farm, that John Dally holds which hath not been paid this 50 years. Before I came from London the Parson afrighted John Dally threatening to sue him in the Exchequer if he did not bring his milk every 10th day into the church porch, upon he carried it one day, but I have since forbidden him and have met the Parson and had some discourse with him and told him if he did begin any suit to bring up new customs, your Lordship would prefer a bill in Chancery against him to know how he came by the living, and that all gentlemen that had estates in the town would join with your Lordship and uphold the Ancient Customs. I have herein enclosed a letter I received from Mr. Edgar that hath an estate in Withersfield, his tenant went lately to live near high Suffolk to acquaint him of the Parson's proceedings and Mr. Edgar told him he would spend £500 before he would pay a penny more than the ancient customs. I do not doubt now but in a little time to make him quiet. I writ your Lordship word since I came down that Mr. Graystock had ordered a great many pollards to be lopped in the Park [Horseheath] and I did then think the wood was designed to be spent at the Hall, but this week he hath sold it to several people at Horseheath and Linton. There was 16 load, most of it carried away already. I do now think my Lady (Diana Alington) doth not design to come any more to the Hall, but make what money she can before she take her leave of it, which with my humble duty to your Lordship I shall ever remain my Lord. Your Lordships most faithful and obedient servant to be commanded.

Gile Alington.

For the Right Honorable the Lord Alington.

Att Mrs. Styant's att the Yellow & White Balls in the Pell Mell,
London.

It is quite possible that Lady Alington was looking after her own interests before leaving Horseheath. Amongst the Alington family she is accredited with having been a businesslike and extravagant woman. In addition to the jointure from the third Lord Alington's Lincolnshire estate, Horseheath, West Wickham and Bottisham were similarly charged. This widow received per annum £412. 0s. 4d. in rents from Horseheath, £625. 15s. 0d. from West Wickham and

¹ Rawlinson MSS. D. 861, f. 54.

£175. 5s. 0d. from Bottisham, and there were other charges on the estate for the provision of the third Lord Alington's two daughters.¹ It may well be that owing to such encumbrances Hildebrand, the fifth Lord Alington, by a five-party deed, dated 10 April 1700,² disposed of his estate to Mr John Bromley. But from a second letter written by the above-mentioned Giles Alington in 1710, it is clear that Hildebrand the fifth Lord Alington had reserved part of his estate in Withersfield and Horseheath ten years after John Bromley had settled at the Hall. This letter³ from the fourth Lord Alington's kinsman dated 'Horseheath, December the 16—1710' is as follows:

Right Hon^{ble},

I sent Mr. Challis on Monday last to the post and they told him that I had no letter, but Mr. Bromley's servant going to [Saffron] Walden on Wednesday night last he brought me a letter from the Post House there, dated the 9th of this month from Mr. Alington by your Lordship's order, according to your Lordship's command I will take care to look after Mr. Brand of Withersfield concerning the game, and if he kills any to take action with him as Mr. Alington's letter directs, but since I gave Mr. Brand warning he goes out but seldom yet. Mr. Jackson hath been gone to London sometime. Mr. Brand hath two men and a maid with him now and they have Brewed again on Monday last, so that he believed he will stay sometime and that Mr. Jackson will come down to him again suddenly. . . . The best way if your Lordship will build a new dovehouse is to build it of bricks and I believe a good single dovehouse may be built for 60 pounds.

We have had an abundance of rain of late and great winds which hath done some little damage to the thatching of your Lordship's farms. I hear that Barley sells for about 9 sh. and 9 pence a coome in Horseth, but Rye will not sell for so much. Ro. Praer [Prior] hath sent your Lordship a cock Pheasant and a Hen Pheasant and a Hare and I have sent your Lordship a goose and a couple of Pullets by Fra. Hammond which will be in London on Tuesday morning next, which with my humble duty to your Lordship (wishing your Lordship a merry Christmas) I am and shall ever remain my Lord, Your Lordship's most faithful and obedient servant to be commanded, Giles Alington.

For the Right Hon^{able} the Lord Alington at Doct. —'s House in the Pell Mell, London.

The farms mentioned in this letter are in the parish of Withersfield, with some land belonging to them in Horseheath parish.

¹ Rawlinson MSS. D. 861, f. 83.

² Add. MSS. 5823, p. 78, no. 9.

³ Rawlinson MSS. D. 861, f. 66.

Hildebrand, the bachelor fifth Lord Alington, lived 22 years after parting with the Horseheath Hall estate, which had been in his family 400 years. He died in 1722¹ and was buried in Withersfield Parish Church, which stands on the edge of the park which once belonged to Horseheath Hall.

There appear to be few portraits of the Alington family in existence. I have already mentioned the two portraits at Little Barford Hall; a third portrait there is said to be that of the second Lord Alington as an older man. A miniature of Hildebrand, the fifth and last Lord Alington, once belonged to Mr H. L. Long, of Hampton Lodge, Surrey. It was engraved by Lodge in his *Lives of the Caesars*, as is also a portrait of the third Sir Giles Alington. This portrait, painted on a panel, is said to be by, or after, Cornelius Janssen and once belonged to Admiral Alington of Swinhope House, Lincolnshire. Other portraits at Swinhope House represented members of the Swinhope branch of the Alington family, which diverged from the main line before 1516. At Petworth House there was a portrait by Dahl of Elizabeth, Lady Seymour, daughter of William, the first Lord Alington.

The five-party deed mentioned above, by which John Bromley became the owner of the Alingtons' Horseheath estate, dated 10 April 1700, is between Sir John Chardwin of St Martin's in the Fields of the first part; Lady Diana, widow of William the third Lord Alington, of the second part; the Honorable Diana, his daughter, and Nathaniel Napier Esq. and his wife Catherine of Middlemarsh Hall, Dorset, another daughter, of the third part; John Bense of Grundisburgh, Suffolk and William Betts of Yoxford, Suffolk, of the fourth part; and John Bromley of Bookham, Surrey, Edward Littleton of St Margaret's, Westminster, and Thomas Clarke of Mincing Lane, London, of the fifth part.

For this Horseheath estate, including the fine Hall built by Sir Roger Pratt, John Bromley paid £42,000. After his purchase, John Bromley proceeded to lay out on the estate an additional £30,000. The new owner was formerly one of the Supreme Council of Barbados, where he had made a considerable fortune. He is described in the deed of conveyance as of Bookham, Surrey. In a letter² written from Horseheath Hall on 9 January 1704 to Mr Peter le Neve at the Heralds Office, John Bromley says his 'father was of Herefordshire, and of the Bromleys of that County and not of the Bromleys of Worcestershire, and the arms we give are different from ye arms of Worcestershire'. John Bromley's arms were quarterly per fess

¹ Withersfield Parish Register.

² Harl. MSS. 6775.

dancetté, gules and or. Continuing this letter John Bromley went on to say:

I very well remember the favour you did me with Capt. Millecant [of Linton] for which I am still your debtor, but I intend when I next come to town to repay yr. civility. I shall this week inform myself of ye customs of ye Sheriff of ye County and if my son or myself on this occasion or any other shall have any business to do relating to the Heralds Office we shall willingly make use of your assistance. And if you'll please to give me a line or two whether I shall call on you at ye office by St. Paul's or elsewhere (for I shall be in town on Monday night) you will oblige

Your humble servant,

Jn. Bromley.

The first Mr John Bromley was elected High Sheriff of Cambridge-shire and Huntingdonshire in 1704. In 1705 he was returned as M.P. for the county.¹ But his public work for the county was of short duration as, after occupying Horseheath Hall for seven years, he died in his 56th year on 17 October 1707.² His wife Dorothy was a daughter of Thomas White, of Fettleford, Dorset. She died two years after her husband when 60 years of age. Both husband and wife were buried in Horseheath Church.

A fortnight before the first John Bromley died he made two wills,³ both dated 3 October 1707, in which he is styled of Horseheath Hall. In the will dealing with his property in this country he left his wife Dorothy 50 guineas, the use of his plate, pewter, brass vessels, linen and other household stuff in his mansion house of Horseheath Hall for her life. At her death these goods were to pass to his son and heir John. His widow, Dorothy, was also to choose such coaches and coach horses as she pleased within three calendar months after his death. He appointed his wife and his son and heir John for his executors and guardians to his younger son William till he became of age. Under this will the poor of Horseheath received £50. In this will the first John Bromley mentions his brothers, Richard and William Sheppard, and his nephew Thomas, son of Richard Sheppard, but I have found no mention of a Sheppard in any of the Bromley pedigrees. The other will⁴ of the same date relates to the Barbados property, the White River plantation in the parish of St Philip, which also passed to his son and heir John, but the crop then growing was to be sold for his second son William. These two estates passed to the second John Bromley of Horseheath Hall, and then to the

¹ Add. MSS. 5808, f. 169.

³ P.C.C. *Poley*, 220.

² Horseheath Parish Register.

⁴ *Ibid.* 218.

first John Bromley's grandson Henry, and then to his great-grandson, Thomas Bromley.

The second John Bromley was M.P. for the county. He married Mercy, daughter and co-heir of William Bromley, of Holt Castle, Worcestershire. During the eleven years he was owner of Horseheath Hall he was anxious to improve the Horseheath estate, but he died on 20 October at the age of 36 years, in 1718.¹ He was buried in the brick vault he had built for the family outside the north wall of the chancel of Horseheath Church. The vault was approached by a door leading from the chancel. Cole has left a description of the coffins he saw in the vault; all of them were covered in black velvet.² These coffins were later re-interred beneath the chancel floor when the brick vault, being thought unsightly, was taken down in 1828. As the second John Bromley's life was too short to fulfil his intentions with regard to the Horseheath estate he made provision in his will,³ dated 16 October 1718, for his executors to finish the buildings he had begun at the Hall according to his first design. The gardens were to 'be finished according to plan, unless they could be better contrived with garden walls, iron gates, and all other things necessary'. The second John Bromley left his Worcestershire and Shropshire estates, which came to him through his wife, to his brother, William Bromley of Linton. His son and heir, Henry, when he came of age, inherited the manors and lordships of Horseheath, Carbonells, Limberys, Bower Hall, Jacobs and Goodridges in Horseheath; Yenhall and Streetly Hall in West Wickham, and all the capital mansion known by the name of Horseheath Hall with appurtenances and parks, formerly the estate of William, the second Lord Alington; also all the plantations and stock in the Island of Barbados. In this second John Bromley's will members of the Sheppard family are also mentioned. £100 was left to Richard Sheppard of London, for the care of the Barbados plantation, which was charged with £35 a year each for Mrs and Frances Sheppard, who lived with the second John Bromley. His friend Francis Sheppard, then M.P. for Cambridgeshire, was to have his two best colts, and Samuel Sheppard, whose portrait was in the dining-room of Horseheath Hall, was left two of the best coach horses. All the rest of his horses, his coach and chariot, were left to William Bromley of Bagington, Warwickshire, who was also left 200 guineas to buy a diamond ring, and a further £1000. Henry and Thomas Gallop, of Barbados, were left £200 each. The Rector of Horseheath, Edward Basset, was left 20 guineas, and all such money he owed the second John Bromley.

¹ Horseheath Parish Register.

² Add. MSS. Vol. VII, f. 169.

³ P.C.C. *Tennison*, 231.

The poor of Horseheath and West Wickham £50. The cook, gardener groom, huntsman and coachman at the Hall were each left £10, and the rest of the men and maid servants £5 each in addition to their wages. Mr John Slany, the steward, had a legacy of £20 with an additional £10 for his mourning. The guardians the second John Bromley appointed for his son Henry were, the Hon. William Bromley, Samuel Sheppard, his brother William Bromley, Esq., Martin Sandys, Esq., of Worcester, and Samuel Gatward of Cambridge, who was the Recorder of Cambridge. These gentlemen with the boy, Henry, were executors to the will. If sufficient money was not forthcoming from the Cambridgeshire estate to carry out the specified extensive improvements at the Hall and elsewhere during Henry's minority, money was to be used from the Barbados estate, and if not finished during his son Henry's minority, Henry was entrusted to finish the building. Something may have been spent on kennels, since the second John Bromley seems to have been the first of the family to start a pack of hounds, and his huntsman William Taylor is mentioned in this will. I have been unable to discover anything about Francis Sheppard, whom the second John Bromley describes in his will as his 'worthy friend', nor do I know anything of Mrs Sheppard and her daughter, who lived at the Hall. But Samuel Sheppard, M.P. for Cambridge, was a wealthy London merchant who lived at Exning, Suffolk. He left £30,000 to his bastard daughter Frances, with an additional £10,000, and a further £20,000 provided she married a peer, or a man likely to become one, other than Thomas Bromley, son of Henry, Lord Montfort. In 1758 she married Charles Viscount Irwin. There were five daughters of this marriage, all of whom bore the additional name of Sheppard.

William Cole, in his will of 1782, says that Thomas, Lord Montfort, gave him a pedigree of the Bromley family $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards long, going back to Chancellor Bromley; this Cole lent to Mr Robert Bromley of Worcester; whether this pedigree would solve the Bromley-Sheppard connection I am unable to say. Perhaps Cole had reason to be guarded about his Bromley friends' connections, as he gives no account of the Sheppards in his manuscripts.

Henry Bromley, son of the second John Bromley, was not born at Horseheath, but at the family's residence in Seymour Place, London. He was about 13 years of age in 1718, when, during his school-days at Eton, his father died. After leaving Eton Henry Bromley went as a Fellow-Commoner to Clare College, Cambridge, and took his M.A. degree in 1726.¹ He married Frances, daughter of Sir Francis Wyndham. There was a daughter Frances of this marriage, born at

¹ Venn's *Alumni*.

the London house in 1728. A son Thomas was also born in London. At his birth in 1733 his mother died, and was buried in St Margaret's, Westminster. Henry Bromley remained a widower for the rest of his life. He and the Rev. William Cole, the antiquary, were zealous friends. From boyhood Cole had been a frequent and welcome visitor at Horseheath Hall; in fact he referred to the Hall as the place of his education, and said all that belonged to it was dear to him. Amongst his various activities Henry Bromley was M.P. and Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, 1730-41. He was Keeper of the Rolls for the County, which office he resigned when the Earl of Lincoln became of age to accept the office.¹ He was also High Steward for the Corporation of Cambridge, to which office he was appointed in 1741. Henry Bromley was the most distinguished member of the Bromleys of Horseheath; in recognition of his public work he was, in 1741, created Lord Montfort, Baron of Horseheath. It appears he not only saw his father's building plans carried out at the Hall, but he himself continued to lay out large sums of money on the Hall and Park. According to a Prussian engineer who made a plan of the Horseheath estate in 1746-7 it contained 880 acres of land².

Dr Woodward, when riding through the Park in 1729,³ records that he saw six white deer together. One of the deer-pens by the roadside at Horseheath is still standing. This main road, three miles long, from Withersfield to Linton parish was remade by the first Lord Montfort, who also made another road from the Horseheath Road, by the Hall and through the Park, to the hamlet of Streetly End, which may be regarded as a drive, once adorned by the beautiful iron gates, now at the back entrance to Trinity College, Cambridge. Though the first Lord Montfort is said to have beautified the Park, it was he who cut down the avenue on the west of the Hall.⁴ This avenue of elm trees was at least a mile long extending from the Hall, down the Park, over what is now called Jacob's Meadow to Town's End on the main road to Linton. One Tree Close took its name from a surviving elm tree in the avenue, which I remember, whilst older inhabitants of Horseheath remember a few elms standing in Jacob's Meadow.

The first Lord Montfort turned the Hall Chapel into a dining-room. In his father's day the Rev. Abraham Oakes, D.D., of Withersfield, was chaplain at the Hall. The first Lord Montfort put in mahogany doors to all the best rooms both up and downstairs, and new windows in the whole house with sashes and plate glass in the best rooms. Pratt's stone architraves, friezes, cornices and other

¹ Add. MSS. Vol. VII, p. 169.

² Add. MSS. 5808, f. 168.

³ Phillips MSS. 8161, C.U.L.

⁴ Add. MSS. 5808, f. 223.

stonework remained. But the house was re-roofed with lead where before it had been slate, and most of the rooms were fitted up and furnished in elegant modern taste, i.e. Georgian. Carter,¹ in 1753, describes the house as 'standing on an eminence with a view twenty miles round, a lofty building with very large apartments, but that the two staircases at each side of the hall occupy such large spaces as to lessen the number of rooms one would expect to find from the outward grandeur of the house'. Cole describes the entrance hall as a most noble room with a gallery round it. The ceiling was said to be like that of the Banqueting House at Whitehall.² The measurements of the building given by Carter, and by Colin Campbell in his *Vitruvius Britannicus*, differ from those given by Cole, who says that the entire frontage of the house with its two wings and offices was 500 ft. Campbell says it was 600 ft. with the house occupying 140 ft. and describes all the apartments as being very good, the offices very spacious and commodious. He then falls into the error, as so many others have done, of attributing the building of the Hall to Webb. From Cole we learn that the fine-toned dinner bell at the Hall, already mentioned, hung in one of the pediments adjoining the house with this inscription, 'on a board yt fills ye place—This bell was brought over from the Seige of Boulogne in the Kingdom of France, by Giles Alington, Esq., Master of the Ordinance in the thirty seventh year of King Henry the eighth—Ano Domini 1546'.³

The first Lord Montfort was looked upon as a connoisseur of art. For some time he lived at the Hall in the highest style of elegance and grandeur. He entertained on a large and lavish scale and, like many men of his day and position, he was a gambler. His betting and other debts became a strain on him, and it was said he had reduced his estate by about £100,000. He was placed in financial difficulties when two of his friends, the Earl of Albemarle and Lord Gage, who had been paying him annuities, died on the same day. This owner of Horseheath Hall spent the last evening of his life at White's Club, St James's Street, London, where he gave a party and played whist till the new year of 1755 came in. On reaching his house in Seymour Place that morning, the first Lord Montfort, described as one of the shrewdest men of his time, sent for his lawyer, made his will, then, on returning to another room, he shot himself. Cole⁴ says that 'to those who knew him not he left behind an indifferant character, but with those who knew him more perfectly, the character of a man of as much honour and integrity as to be met

¹ Edmund Carter, *History of the County of Cambridge*, p. 221.

² Add. MSS. 5808, f. 223.

³ *Ibid.* 5802, p. 5.

⁴ *Ibid.* 5808, p. 39.

with amongst the greatest examples of it'. The first Lord Montfort was buried in South Audley Street Chapel, St George's Westminster.

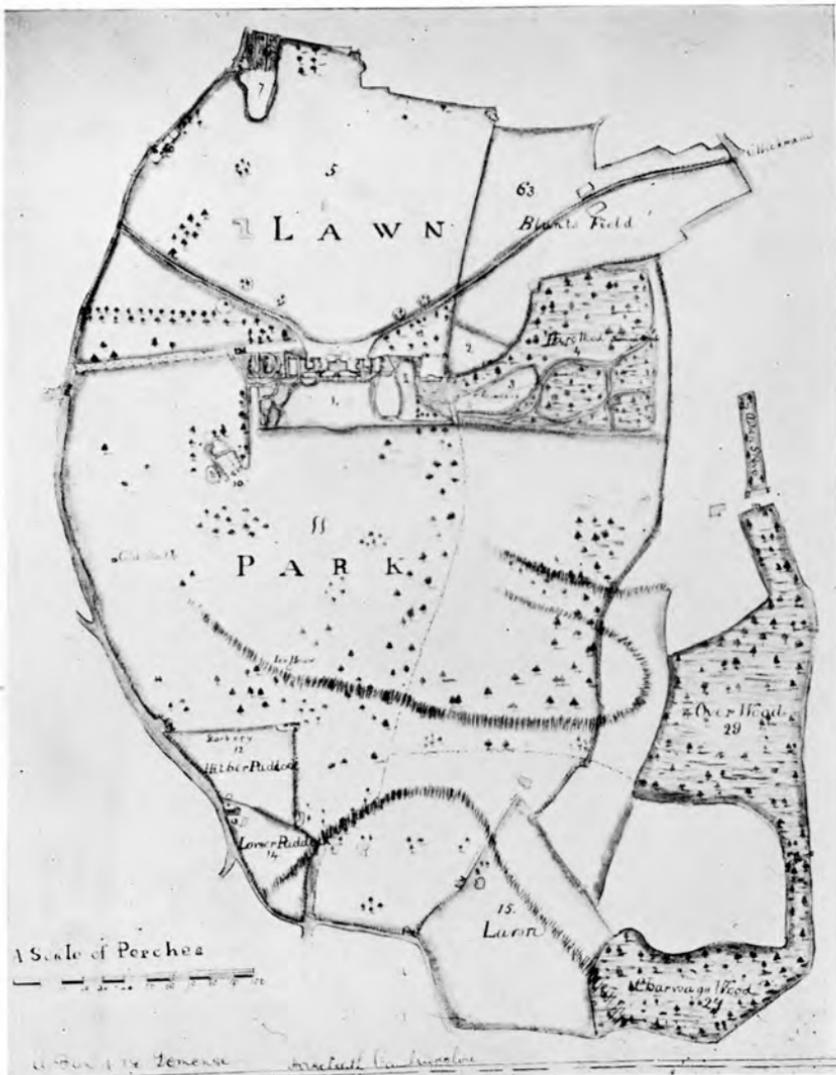
At the age of 22 years, on the death of his father, Thomas Bromley became the second Lord Montfort. He was High Steward of Cambridge in 1755 till his death. It was natural that Cole should have great affection for this promising young man, the only son of his valued friend. Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, was educated at Eton and Clare College, Cambridge. When he was about 16 years of age, Cole says, he was 'a fine youth though small for his age, and of great parts and vivacity'. His mother, according to Cole, was a little woman, but a very beautiful person. Unfortunately, this young man, much to Cole's grief, developed into an intemperate, riotous, racketsy man with a taste for gambling, so that Cole's affection for him was at times sadly strained. The second Lord Montfort continued to improve or spend considerable sums of money on the Hall and on the Park, till it is said it vied with any nobleman's mansion in England. A menagerie was built. As a child I was entertained with stories handed down about the monkeys in it who rode horses. On a summer evening in 1768, the second Lord Montfort took Cole to see his menagerie, on which occasion he did his best to persuade Cole to come and live in one of his houses in or around the Park, and offered to do any one of them up for him to have rent free. The second Lord Montfort further promised his friend that if he would come to live near him he would in future be sober and sedate. But Cole knew from past experiences that he must decline this intended kindness, for he could never keep his young friend in order for long at a time. Indeed, such inconsistent generosity must have annoyed Cole, who must have known that in the previous year the second Lord Montfort had borrowed, on bond, the sum of £48,000 at 5% from Thomas Watts, of the Sun Fire Office, London, and William Hamilton of Lincoln's Inn.¹ To these two men, a year later, 15 July 1768, the second Lord Montfort mortgaged his Horseheath estate for £32,000, including 'the manors, messuages, farms, lands, tenements and hereditaments of which he was vested in Horseheath, and part of the Park, inclusive of the Horseheath Sheep-walk, Pettit's Farm, Gadsby Farm, the Mansion House, called Horseheath Hall, with its stables, barns, outhouses, dove houses, gardens, orchards, and appurtenances, and all the several manors or lordships, or reputed manors or lordships of Carbonels, Limberys, Bower Hall, Jacobs and Goodridges in Horseheath, Barham in Linton, with the respective rights and appurtenances. The manors of West Wickham, viz. Streetly Hall and

¹ Thornton Papers.

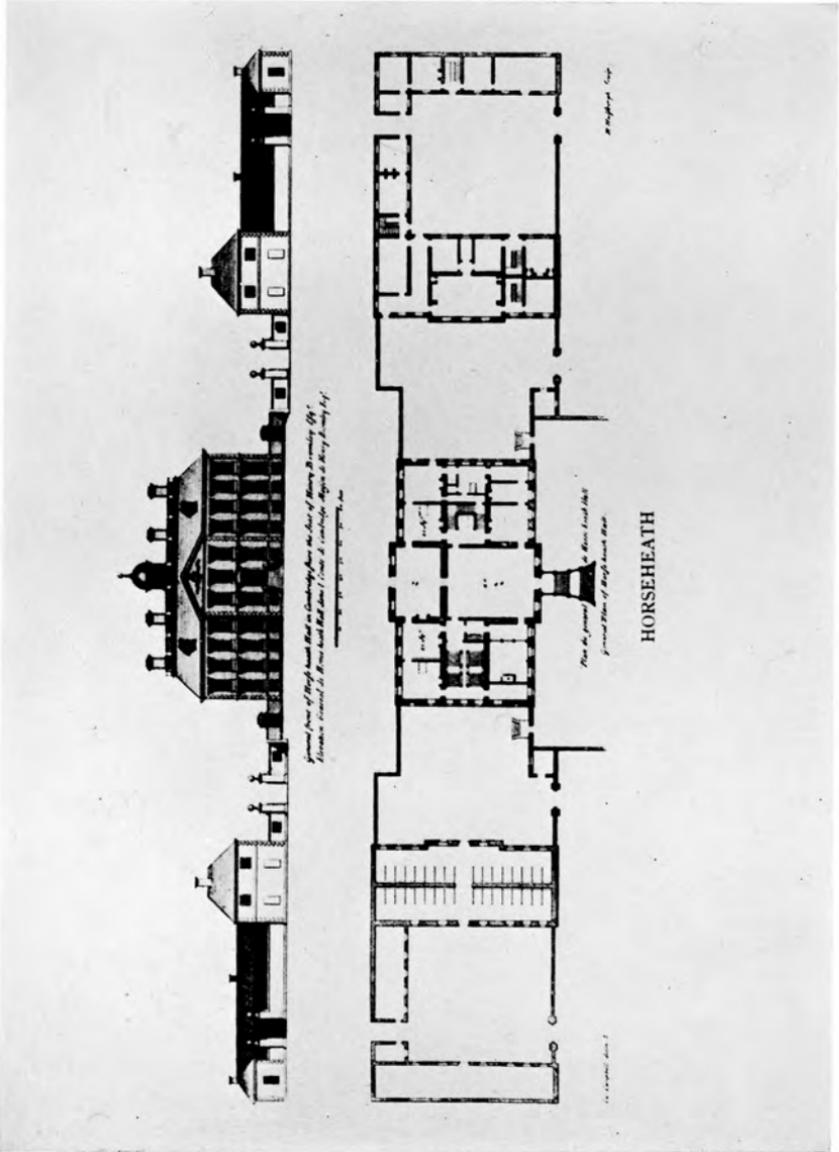
Yen Hall, also The Horseheath blacksmith's shop, held by William Hatley for £5 a year', and other small holdings by other people.¹

The accompanying Plan of the Demesne (Pl. III) gives some idea of the lay-out of the grounds in 1769/70. Number 1 on this Plan refers to the Hall with outhouses, yards, gardens, ponds, cow-yard, wilderness and lawn. No. 2 is a close, No. 3 a menagerie in Hare Wood, where a summer-house is shown. This close, Hare Wood, and Blunts field are in the parish of West Wickham, north of the Worstead Street which runs through the Park between Nos. 5 and 63 and by the dotted boundary to Withersfield parish. A part of Blunt's field is now called Overards, which name, according to an old map, I find is a corruption of the 'Over Hill Yards' belonging to the Hall. No. 7 is another close, No. 8 was the steward's house and premises, later used as a dame's school. No. 9 another house, outhouses and gardens where the deer-pen still stands. Later this house became the Montfort Arms Inn; the Inn signpost, bearing the arms, stood on the opposite side of the road. No. 10 was the gamekeeper's house with a menagerie. The second Lord Montfort's garden and grounds were decorated with statuary. He once presented Cole with three lead statues representing Time, Poetry and Painting for his garden at Milton. These statues formerly stood by the side of the bowling-green at the north end of the Hall. Here the second Lord Montfort, in 1762, built a greenhouse or orangery at the cost of £1300. In it he put 150 orange trees which cost a guinea each. This orangery stood between the Hall and the pond named, after its size, the Acre Pond. The pond was stocked with roach, tench, rudd, and carp. Some of these latter weigh 7-8 lb. and are probably as old as the pond itself. There were two boat-houses, one of which housed a punt for wild duck shooting. A flint-lock punt gun with a barrel 5 ft. long, with other relics from Horseheath Hall, will no doubt be on view at some future time in the Cambridgeshire and County Folk Museum. The walk round this Acre Pond is now overgrown with pine trees, willows, brambles and other shrubs, and the water too is almost overgrown with reeds. A fine cedar tree stands at the north-east corner of the pond, a relic of former beauty in the Hall grounds. The pond at the south end of the Hall by the wilderness is a smaller one, and still goes by the name of the Garden Pond. At the back or east side of the Hall, the lawn extended to the ha-ha (see Plan) from the Acre Pond to the wilderness. The position of the ice-house in the park is shown some distance east of the ha-ha. The two cedar trees planted at either end of the Hall can now be seen from a considerable distance. Stately and beautiful as Horseheath Hall was, it must have been terribly cold in winter, as

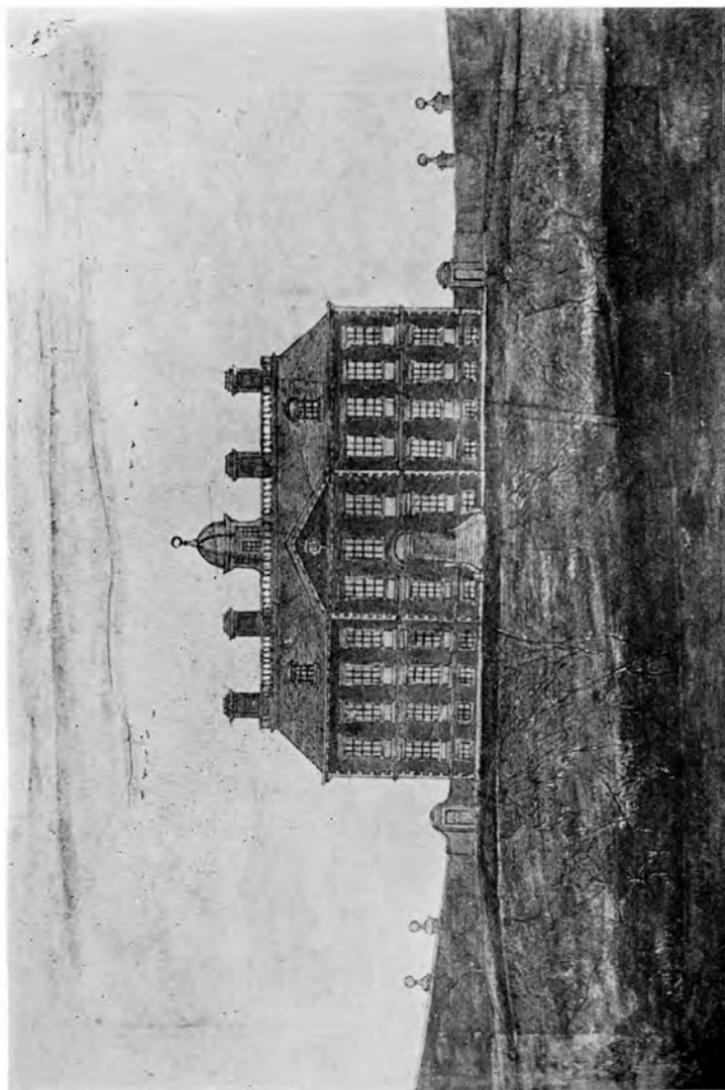
¹ Thornton Papers.



Plan of the Hall demesne

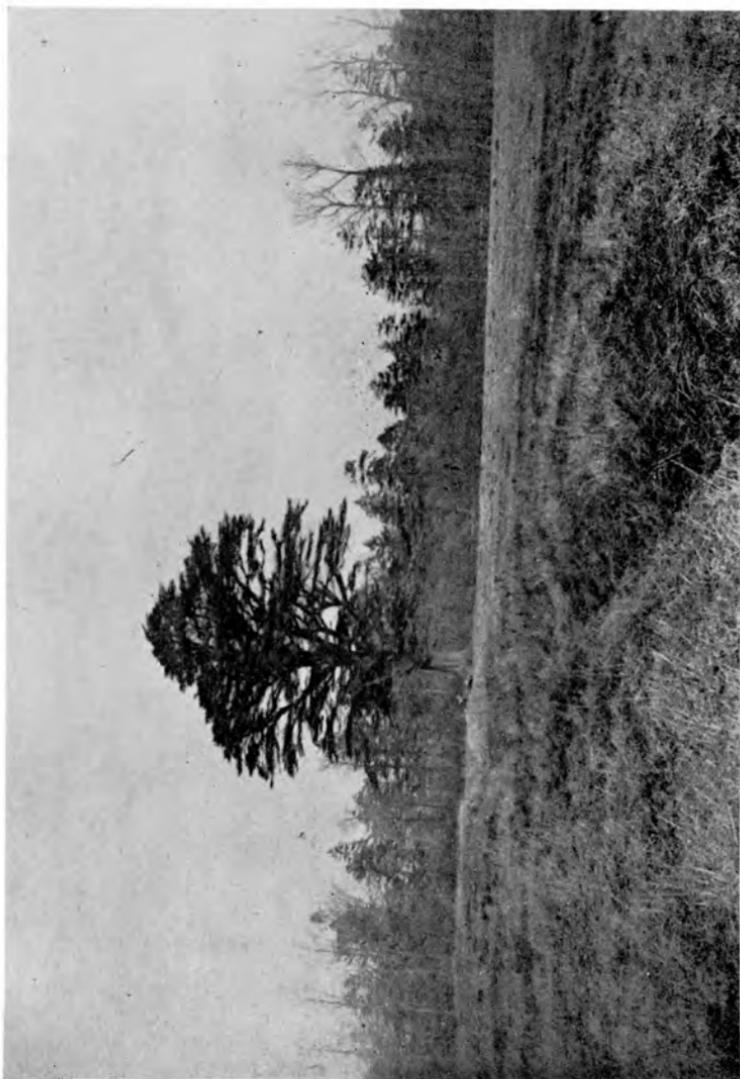


Elevation and ground-plan of Horseheath Hall



West view of Horseheath Hall

PLATE VI



View of Hall Meadow

there is no higher ground between the site of it and the Ural Mountains. It was not until 1758 that Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, put a fireplace in the entrance hall with a handsome chimney piece of Portland stone. From early days tax had only been paid on seven fire hearths in the Hall,¹ no more hearths than in Horseheath Rectory.

The second Lord Montfort took an active interest in the Cambridgeshire Militia. Writing from Horseheath Hall to the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Earl of Hardwick, of Wimpole Hall, he said on 15 January 1758:

By a letter² which I received by last post from Mr. Cadogan I find that your Lordship has not yet received no answer from me with regard to my acting in the Militia. I told the gentleman that brought me a commission from your Lordship that I would accept it, which I accordingly did and shall always be ready to act under you whenever necessity requires it. But as I live at present very little on the spot, I shall defer qualifying myself till a further opportunity.

I am, my Lord with great truth,

Yr. Lords^{ps} most humble servant

Montfort.

In the following year Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, writing from Horseheath Hall on 21 June 1759,³ expressed his opinion on the gaiters and stocks to be worn by the Militia and wrote to the Earl of Hardwick as follows:

My Lord, I was honoured with your Lordships letter and according to your Orders communicated it to Sir Thomas Hatton. If he had any objections to make I desired him to come and take dinner with me at Horseheath and talk the matter over, but I received the enclosed answer: I have marked one or two things that I think had better be changed, I mean only as to the colour, I should like to have the gaiters either white or of a brown colour, for I am apt to think black gaiters will make our men look like the Light Horse, who wear black leather gaiters and are therefore not so proper for Foot Soldiers. I would by all means have the stocks white, for I think black ones have more the air of a highwayman than a soldier. I hope my Lord you will let us have arms as soon as you can for the men have entered with spirit into the service and begin to grow impatient to learn their exercises and we have made a beginning. I think the faster we go the better that we may soon be able to offer our services to His Majesty as well as the Norfolk Militia. If your Lordship will be so good as to order the Taylor that the Adjutant

¹ Hearth Tax 84/437, 16 Chas. II.

² Hardwick Papers, 35,659, f. 2.

³ Ibid. 35,659, f. 26.

employs, to go to Mr. Corthwaite, Taylor, in King's Street, near St. James' Square, he will let him have the exact pattern of the uniform, as he made mine.

I am my Lord your Lordship's most faithful servant. Montfort.

P.S. I have only mentioned my sentiments of the clothing, but leave that and other alterations to your Lordship entirely.

These two letters from the second Lord Montfort are from a considerable correspondence relating to the Cambridgeshire Militia preserved in the Collection of Hardwick Papers in the British Museum.

The second Lord Montfort's many activities are frequently mentioned in the *Cambridge Chronicle* of his day. A Commission of Colonel of the Militia was given to him in 1764. His company of about 480 men was at first reported to be tolerably good and eventually became so perfect that it was little inferior to the regulars, but the second Lord Montfort had his difficulties. During the parliamentary election of 1774 a disturbance occurred on Cambridge Market Hill between the Militiamen and the University students, who surrounded the second Lord Montfort, so that he could neither see, be seen nor heard by his Militiamen. It is said he was pushed down two or three times on the pavement, without hat or wig. The scene was so disorderly that Lady Montfort, who was watching the proceedings from the Rose Inn, fainted. However, the second Lord Montfort stayed on the Hill till all was quiet and dismissed his men as usual.¹

As High Steward of the Corporation of Cambridge, the second Lord Montfort attended a number of functions in connection with the town and University. He seldom failed to attend the opening of Stourbridge Fair, where he went in a procession, preceded by a band, with the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council and freemen of the Corporation. He took a special interest in Addenbrooke's Hospital. At a meeting in May 1776, in connection with that Hospital, he gave £100 towards the completion of the building, and promised an annual subscription of two guineas. After an anniversary meeting of the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hospital, the second Lord Montfort was present at a special service held in Great St Mary's Church, when 'The *Te Deum* and *The Coronation Anthem* were performed by a very numerous band of the most capital hands, under the direction of Dr. Randall, The Professor of Music'.² The sermon on this occasion was preached by the Rev. Dr Lort, and the sum of £151. 6s. 9½d. was collected for the Hospital. The second Lord Montfort sometimes made generous gifts to the poor of Cambridge. He used to entertain

¹ Hardwick Papers, 35,659, f. 137. ² *Cambridge Chronicle*, 27 June 1772.

the Cambridge Corporation and Militia officers, about a hundred of them, at the Guildhall and at Horseheath Hall. It was his custom to give an annual ball at the Hall for about 300 guests. On these occasions the supper and dessert is said to have been extraordinarily splendid and magnificent. The guests would see a fine collection of pictures at the Hall. At Horace Walpole's request Cole in 1763¹ made a list of these pictures, many of which had been collected by Henry, the first Lord Montfort. Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, was able to supply Cole with most of the names of the artists by whom they were painted. Cole not only made a list of the pictures, but he made comments on some of them, and described their position in the various rooms in the Hall where they hung, beginning with the 21 pictures on the west wall of the grand salon. This room overlooked the Park on the east of the house. First on the list is 'a head of *Oliver Cromwell* in armour, having a gold chain about his neck to which is appended a medal of three Crowns of Sweeden'. Cole says: 'this picture was found in an ordinary house and was given to the first Lord Montfort about twenty years ago (about 1743) by Comissioner Greves.' Cole never thought it a picture of any merit till he saw it mentioned by Mr Walpole in his *Anecdotes of Painting in England*, Vol. II, p. 156, as the performance of Robert Walker, portrait-painter to Oliver Cromwell.

2. *A Dutch Brothel House*, being men and women at cards by Hemskirk.

3. *Our Blessed Saviour* bearing His cross, by Andrea Sacchi.

4. *The Israelites Worshipping the Molten Calf*. This is a very large and capital picture, by Claud Loraine.

5. *A Storm at Sea*, by Vandervelt.

6. *Dutchmen at Cards*, by Tenniers.

7. *A Ship in a Calm*, by Vandervelt. This is companion to number 5.

8. *A man's head*, unknown, by Ryley.

9. *A Dutch Brothel*, men smoking etc., by Hemskirk. This and number 2 are companions.

10. *A Bishop Preaching*, by Mola.

11. *A Landscape*, by Philippi Laura.

12. *A Man's Head*, in sable vest, by Titian.

13. *A Landscape*, by Gaspar Poussin.

14. *Pyramid and Ruins*.

15. *Rocks and Shipping*, a large picture by Salvator Rosa.

16. *Landscape*, by Gaspar Poussin.

17. *Madonna*, by Carlo Maratti. Cole notes that 'this is a small but most exquisitely painted picture, formerly in the collection of Cardinal Poignac. It cost Henry, the first Lord Montfort, seventy pounds.'

¹ Add. MSS. 5808, f. 223.

18. *Landscape*, by Gaspar Poussin.
 19. *A Head of a man in Armour*. One of the Barnardistons of Suffolk, by Carlo Maratti.
 20. *Landscape*, by Gaspar Poussin. This with numbers 13, 16, and 18 being companions.
 21. *Pyramids and Ruins*. This and number 14 are companions. These 21 pictures hung on each side of the door leading from the entrance hall.

There were five pictures on the north wall of the grand salon:

1. *A Landscape*, by Nicholas Poussin.
2. *Saint Paul struck with Blindness*, by Baptist Mola.
3. *A Battle-piece*, which hung over the chimney piece, by Le Bourguignon.
4. *View of morning with Triumphal Arch*, by Wooton. This hung over the door leading to the drawing-room.
5. A half-length *Portrait of Beau Feilding in Armour*, by Sir Peter Lely. On the east side in the corner by Mr Feilding's picture on one side, and one of the windows on the other side hung another half-length *Portrait of Mr. Tuniman* in a brown coat and wig, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. On the other side corner of the Salon by the window at the south, *Lord Derwentwater*, who was beheaded, a half-length portrait, by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

At the south end of the Salon there were three pictures:

1. *Lady Derwentwäter* near her husband, half-length by Sir Godfrey Kneller.
2. *A view of Evening*, by Wooton. This hung over a door into a large bedroom and is a companion to that over the opposite door to the with-drawing room.
3. *The marriage of Cana*. A vast picture being a copy of one at Venice. Cole thought the original, by Paul Veronese, was in the Convent of St George.

Between the two windows and the glass door which opened up on a flight of steps to the lawn before the park, hung two most noble pier glasses which were brought down from London by chairmen, having been sent from Paris to London 12 years previously. They were 9 ft. high and 4 ft. wide, under them were marble tables in gilt frames.

In the Grand New Dining Room at the north-west corner of the Hall, originally designed for a chapel, but converted into a dining-room by Henry, Lord Montfort, hung six full-length portraits all by Vanloo, with one exception:

1. *Sir Robert Walpole*, Knight of the Garter in his robes of Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a plain brown coat, by Vanloo.
2. *Charles Duke of Grafton* in his robes of the Garter, by Vanloo.
3. *Robert, Lord Walpole* in his robes of the Bath, by Vanloo.
4. *Sir Jacob Garret Downing* in blue and holding a hat in one hand, by Vanloo.

5. *Samuel Shepherd Esq.* in a brown coat, and cane in one hand, by Pond.

These last two portraits hung on each side of the chimney, the other three at the north end of the dining-room.

6. The late *Lord Montfort* in a wig and cut brown velvet coat, by Vanloo. This hangs above the sideboard at the south end of the room. Cole describes the chimney piece of statuary marble as being very beautiful. 'On the manteline are three beautiful bronzes, Pan holding a flute in one hand, and on each side of him an Horse and a Bull. On the three marble tables, one of white at the south end, and two others between the three windows to the west, of fine marble in gilt frames, stand several Vases of beautiful English Marble, given to my Lord by the late Lord Edgecombe, out of his Estate in Cornwall and finely set in Brass gilt, designed by Mr. Kent.'

Over the two doors, one a false one, at each side of the dining-room sideboard, hung two pictures:

1. *Ruins*, by Pond.
2. *Ruins*, by Pond.

Over the two doors at each side of the chimney at the corners of the dining-room, the north door being the false door, hung

3. *A Landscape*, by Wooton.
4. *A Landscape*, by Wooton.

Over the chimney a large picture:

5. *Ruins and broken Statues*, by Knapton.

Cole records that the portraits by Vanloo cost Lord Montfort sixty guineas each.

In the common dining-parlour at the head of the stairs from the colonnade under the house one way, and a door at the south-west corner of the hall another way, there were several family portraits.

1. A half-length portrait of *Lord Chancellor Bromley* in his black robes sitting in an elbow-chair, with the seals by him, and wearing a ring on the forefinger of his right hand, with his arms on it, viz. Quarterly per Fess indented, Gules and Or. A ruff about his neck, and a cap on his head and cuffs about his wrists. On one side of his head is wrote 1585 Aet. suae 56. It is an half-length. This is on the east side of the room, on each side hang two others that to north over the door from the staircase is a head of —

2. *Sir Godfrey Kneller*, by himself, an admirable picture, looking over one shoulder, a young man in his own hair and blue robe. It is an oval picture with sq. gilt frame.

3. *Mrs. Percy Bromley*, as a Shepherdess, with a crook in her hand, dressed in red and a green robe over it. She appears to be about twelve or fourteen years old. By her, being an half-length hang two other heads in oval frames, that nearest to her on the south side of the room is

4. *Her husband, the son of Mr. Bromley* who purchased the estate of my Lord Alington and grandfather of the late (Henry) Lord Montfort. He is dressed in a large wig, laced neckcloth, and a blue robe. He seems to have been a fat man.

5. *Mr. Bromley*, his son, father of the late Lord. He is in a wig and purple night gown, and seems to be about thirty years of age.

6. *Mr. William Bromley*, whom Cole says he remembered very well. He was called Captain Bromley, and was uncle to Henry, Lord Montfort. The picture represents him as a boy of about ten years old, in blue and gold, a half-length portrait.

On the north side of this Common Dining-Room there were two other pictures:

7. *Mr. Bromley* in a brown wig and a brown robe. He married *Mrs. Walsh* whose portrait hangs next to his.

8. *Mr. Bromley* in a blue and brown robe, both heads by Sir Peter Lely. Cole does not mention the artists of the other Bromley portraits in this room.

'In what was called the new drawing-room on the left of the common dining parlour, made by Henry the first Lord Montfort, out of two small rooms at the south-west corner of the hall, there was a most elegant chimney piece of white marble lined with black marble, supported by two pillars of *giallo antico* (yellow marble) with a frieze of the same, which had at the ends two white marble vases, set in gilded brass, or copper, representing vine leaves, all designs by Mr. Kent.'

In the second Lord Montfort's bedchamber, adjoining the new drawing-room, and facing the south court by the colonnade leading to the kitchen, there hung over the chimney piece,

1. A half-length picture of *Mrs. Bromley* wife of the first Lord Montfort, daughter of Sir Francis Wyndham, dressed in blue, holding a bunch of flowers in her hand, by Gibson.

Cole does not record any other picture in this room. He passes on to 'the elegant and noble library containing three windows, over the salon, which was fitted up entirely by Henry, the first Lord Montfort, where over the chimney at the south end, a full-length picture of him hung. It was a copy of Vanloo's portrait of him except his own hair was painted'. Cole says this portrait was intended for a present, but that it was unfinished when the first Lord Montfort died in 1755. Both portraits were considered very like the original, as were all the six portraits in the dining-room of Sir Robert Walpole and others. The library at the Hall was 'furnished with a fine collection of books, in elegant cases'. At each end of the library there was a 'most elegant and beautiful chimney piece of white marble lined with black marble, the mantelleries were supported by two fluted Doric pillars of *giallo antiquo* marble' which, Cole says, cost £500.

Here Cole's descriptive list of pictures at Horseheath Hall ends,

but a further list was to have been sent to Sir Horace Walpole. It will be noticed the list contains no mention of pictures in the rooms north of the salon, or in the fine hall, or in the gallery round it. The only room mentioned on the second floor is the library, which contained the unfinished portrait of Henry, the first Lord Montfort, who purchased most of the collection. One bedroom on the second floor was once called the 'altar-room', because in it were two Doric fluted pillars. In 1748 these pillars were taken down and given to All Saints Church, Cambridge, for the altar there. When considering Cole's list in conjunction with the plan of Horseheath Hall from Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*,¹ it is possible to visualize some of the rooms with certain pictures hung over doorways and fireplaces. The chapel in the Plan (Pl. IV) shows the position of the altar before it was turned into a dining-room, where the portraits by Vanloo hung. This plan also shows the two slips of rooms at the south-west corner of the Hall before they were converted into the 'new drawing-room' adjoining the second Lord Montfort's bedroom.

In order to raise some money, the second Lord Montfort, about 1770 or 1771, sold his Catley estate in Linton to the Bishop of Ely, who took down most of Catley House, and sent the marble chimney pieces and handsome wainscot and appurtenances to enlarge and beautify his Palace at Ely.²

It was on the first Sunday in March 1772³ that Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, married Miss Mary Ann Blake at Marylebone Church, London. She was sister of Sir Patrick Blake, M.P. for Sudbury, of Langham, Suffolk. Immediately after the ceremony the newly married couple set off for Horseheath Hall. To celebrate his marriage Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, gave £100 to the poor of Horseheath, but Cole, not without reason, had misgivings as to the advisability of this marriage. A son, named Henry, was born at Seymour Place in 1773. One evening that year the second Lord Montfort made out a statement of the rents he received from his mortgaged estate for Cole, who was then staying at the Hall, as follows:

Horseheath	Six farms	£ 917	0.	0.
West Wickham	„ „	1,030	0.	0.
In Hand		600	0.	0.
Woods		100	0.	0.
Withersfield		92	0.	0.
Small rents		58	15.	6.
Quit rents		40	12.	0.
Tithes of West Wickham		30	0.	0.
		<hr/>		
		£2,868	7.	6.

¹ Add. MSS. 5824, f. 388.

² *Cambridge Chronicle*, 7 March 1772.

³ Add. MSS. 5807, p. 173.

It may have been for the sake of his son and heir Henry that the second Lord Montfort was looking into his affairs with Cole. However, things were not going well for him, and it is a matter for regret that he could not always keep the affection of such a friend as the Rev. William Cole. Even on such an occasion as a Militia meeting at the King's Arms Inn, Bourn Bridge, when Cole drove there with him in a chaise with four horses and two postillions, he vexed Cole by behaving most absurdly with Mrs Lagdon, the landlady of the Inn, one of whose family was Lord Montfort's steward.

Only two years after the heir's birth, Cole wrote:

To my great sorrow in the summer of 1775, this noble house [the Hall] was stripped of its furniture. The owner by an imprudent and unreasonable match three years before, hurrying on what his own extravagant conduct would probably have happened soon after... His Lordship offers the home and estate for £120,000. If he sells it for that he may have £50 or £60,000 to begin again afresh and settle an estate on his son, a fine boy of two years of age. Her Ladyship is at Paris. 3. Oct. 1775.¹

Some letters written to Lord Hardwick at this time do indeed disclose a sad state of affairs at Horseheath. But it seems incredible that the Hall, so well and comparatively recently built, and on which the Bromley family had spent so much on improvement, could have been in a very ruinous condition as stated in the following letter:

Cambridge. May 7th 1775.²

My Lord, There was a sale at Horseheath this week as your Lordship will see by the enclosed catalogue of goods etc. in the kitchen. The rest of the house was locked up, and could not be seen and some people say the furniture in the other part of the house will soon be sold by auction, and others say that the goods have been carried away to prevent their being taken in execution. There has been various reports about the state of Horseheath, and some say it is now to be sold, but I cannot rely upon my information, others say the house and outhouses only will be sold and taken down by a tradesman at Linton. And it is reported that there is a bill in the House to enable the trustees to fell a particular number of trees which are already marked, to enable his Lordship to pay his debts mentioned in the bill. This I had from Messrs. Hide and Comings who are large creditors, and I have been told that the house is in a very ruinous condition, and that it would take £40,000 to put it into tenantable repair and to furnish it. If that be true it is not likely that his Lordship will meet with a purchaser soon. It is said Sir Sampson Gideon had

¹ Add. MSS. 5808, f. 22.

² Hardwick Papers, 35,680, f. 370.

a great mind to it at one time, but that he has lately declared that he will have nothing to do with it. I will make the best enquiry I can about it and your Lordship shall soon hear again from

Y^r. most obedient

Jas. Day.

Five days later (12 May 1775) Lord Hardwick received the following letter¹ from James Day, who was the Town Clerk of Cambridge:

I am told that Horseheath is up for sale, but if it is not disposed of soon, the Lord and Lady will be down soon after Parliament breaks up, as I find they live together again and I am informed that, the furniture in the other part of the house cannot be sold, it being assigned to the trustees, and made part of the Lady's settlement, and I find the mortgagees will not consent to the selling of any part of the timber, but there are so many various reports about his Lordship and his affairs, that it is difficult to determine or judge about, or to say what will or will not be done concerning them. I am told there is a person in possession under an authority from the under Sheriff. If I should learn anything more about his Lordship, you may depend upon my intelligence.

The second Lord Montfort's sale mentioned in the first of these two letters was followed on 3 June by a Wine Sale, when a large quantity of wine was sold, 'including clarets, champagne, madeira, port, malmsey, burgundy, sherry, rum, and thirty-five hog's head of strong beer, in several lots'. Other things put up for auction at this sale were 'a large quantity of plants, shrubs, orange, lemon and myrtle trees, exotic plants in pots or tubs, aloes, roses, several garden frames, a large iron roll, a variety of foreign birds with their cages. A pack of hounds, some pointers and beagles. Some plate, several copper ranges, jacks and spits. A large house or turret clock, and a dial for the kitchen.' Horseheath Hall was now practically lost to the second Lord Montfort. A letter² to the Earl of Hardwick from James Day, dated 10 August 1775, reports that

Lord Montfort is not at Horseheath and it is of the opinion of most people that his Lordship will not be down there any part of the summer. It is said that he cannot now get anybody to lend him fifty pounds upon his Bond and that there are several judgements now hanging over his head. He is indebted to Messrs. Hide & Comings upwards of £1,000, for which I don't find they get any security from his Lordship, so I don't see how his Lordship can possibly think of keeping Horseheath and I think he has outstood his market in the sale thereof.

¹ Ibid. 35,680, f. 373.

² Ibid. 35,680, f. 380.

The second Lord Montfort must indeed have been in an unenviable position in the summer of 1775. Though his father had died in financial difficulties, his son had had time to improve the situation, but he had been extravagant. He did not go back to Horseheath in 1775, nor was he able to sell his estate, on which he had raised a mortgage ten years previously. His steward, Mr Jeremiah Lagden of Little Abington, was empowered to let the beautiful Park to Mr Aves, a farmer of Horseheath. In September 1775, a man named Joshua L. Brookes advertised the Park for grazing purposes at the following rates per week:¹

	s.	d.		
Horses	1	9	s.	d.
Colts and fillies	1	3	s.	d.
Cows, heifers and steers	1	3		
Scotch and Welsh Drovers	at 3d. per night.			

Then in the June, October, and November of 1775, Horseheath Hall was advertised in the London and local papers to be let with or without the Park. The advertisements included the manors, pleasure grounds, gardens, hothouses and stables; also, the Park was for sale with the fine and beautiful coloured deer, and a large collection of curious foreign birds. It was from Mr Joshua Brookes, who had a menagerie in New Road, Tottenham, London, whom Lord Montfort had bought his collection of foreign birds. The following ominous notice appeared in the press in 1776, for

all persons having any claims or demands upon the Right Hon. Thomas, Lord Montfort, or his estate are desired to send in an account thereof on or before the 8th day of June next, either to Messrs. Chamberlayne & White, in Gough Square, Fleet Street, London, or to Mr. Haggerston, Attorney-at-Law, West Wickham, near Horseheath, Cambridgeshire, or they will be excluded the benefit of some provision lately made towards the satisfaction thereof.

N.B. Mr. Haggerston will attend the White Bear, in Cambridge, on Saturday next for the above purpose, from 10 o'clock in the forenoon till 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

This notice would be a means of finding out the extent of the second Lord Montfort's debts. What provision had recently been made to pay off the debts I do not know. Certainly there was no money forthcoming to save the Horseheath estate, which had been advertised for sale or hire in the London and local press for over two years. Cole saw and copied an advertisement in 1777 from *The London Evening Post* of 29 July, and at the end of it he wrote: 'Oh! Oh!

¹ *Cambridge Chronicle*, 26 Sept. 1775.

Alas! Alas!!¹ In the *Cambridge Chronicle* of 5 April 1777 there was this advertisement:

To be peremptorily sold by auction by Messrs. Christie & Ansell, some time in May, in several Lots. A noble valuable freehold estate situate lying and being in the Counties of Cambridge and Suffolk, consisting of the manors of Horseheath, Carbonells, Limberries, Borsers Hall, Jacobs, Goodridges, Barham, Eynell, West Wickham, Streetly Hall and Yenhall, together with the Rectory of West Wickham inappropriate of West Wickham. Capital Mansion House, park, lawns, garden, etc., the estates of the Right Hon. Lord Montfort. Also several messuages, farms, lands, tenements etc., containing near five thousand acres of arable, meadow, pasture and woodland, the whole compact, and with a ring fence, divided into several eligible farms let to good tenants at the several rents of (exclusive of the Mansion House) £3050 per an. Mr. Lagden at Great Abington, near Bourn Bridge, will show the estate. Printed particulars are preparing and may be shortly had of Messrs. Chamberlain & White, in Gough Square, and Messrs. Christie & Ansell in Pall Mall, where plans of the estate may be seen.

But still no purchaser came forward for this attractive estate, the home of the Alington family for so many generations, with land in Horseheath and the surrounding parishes. The Earl of Hardwick purchased a small part of the estate. The fine house built by Sir Roger Pratt, for William the second Lord Alington, had stood empty for two years. Then, in spite of, or may be because of, the lavish expenditure on the house and grounds during four generations of Bromley owners over a period of 77 years (see Bromley pedigree), Horseheath Hall was pulled down. On 19 August 1777, and the following days, all the material in and about the Hall was sold. And so was dispersed, according to an advertisement of the Sale,

a large quantity of stone steps, pavements, posts, a stone bridge, balustrades, vases, statuary and outside decoration. Marble mantle-pieces from inlaid to superb. A magnificent stone chimney-piece with ornamental stove, suitable for the hall of a person of rank. Several hundred loads of fine seasoned oak in very long lengths and large scantlings. A large quantity of excellent clean deal and batten fiores, many squares of other boarding to floors, flats and roofs. Rich mahogany carved and plain doors with modern dressings and finishings. A large quantity of window sashes, glazed with crown and very fine Vauxhall plate glass. Deal doors and shutters with their fittings of various dimentions, dados and wainscotting. Many tons of lead with pipes and cisterns. Large iron gates, railing and ironwork. Some hundred yards of clinker paving, bricks, tiles and slating. A greenhouse lately erected, and every requisite for a mansion, together with the dinner-bell and the large copper ball from Boulogne.

¹ Add. MSS. 5823, f. 30.

BROMLEY OF HORSEHEATH

Arms. Quarterly per pale dovetail, gu. and or.

Crest. A deny Lion ramp. sa. issuing from a mural crown or, holding a standard vert with a griffon passant or.
 Motto. Non inferiora secutus.

John Bromley of
 Horseheath Hall, bur.
 at Horseheath
 27 Oct. 1707, aged 56.
 Horseheath Parish Reg.

=

Dorothy, da. of **Thomas White**,
 Insc. Horseheath Church,
 bur. at Horseheath
 14 July 1709, aged 60.
 Parish Reg.

John
 d. 20 Oct. 1718,
 aged 36.
 Parish Reg.

=

Mary, da. of **Wm. Bromley** of
 Holt Castle, Worcester.

Percy

William
 d. unmarried
 bur. at Horseheath
 29 Nov. 1729. Parish Reg.

Henry

1st Lord Montfort,
 b. 1705, d. 1 Jan.
 1755, bur. South
 Audley St. Chapel,
 St George's, Westminster.

=

Frances, da. of **Sir Francis**
 Wyndham, Bart., d. 1733,
 bur. in St Margaret's Church,
 Westminster.

Frances
 b. 1728,
 m. 1747,

=

Charles Sloane
 Cadogan, only son
 of Lord Cadogan.

Lord Montfort, Thomas Bromley

=

2nd Baron of Horseheath,
 b. 1733, m. 1772, d. Nov. 1799,
 aged 66.

Mary Anne Blake,
 sister of **Sir Patrick Blake, M.P.**
 of Langham, Suffolk.
 Thornton Papers.

Henry
 3rd Lord Montfort,
 b. May 1773,
 d. 1850.

= (1) **Elizabeth Watts** = (2) **Ann**, da. of **William Burgham**.

The names of the owners of Horseheath are printed in heavier type.

The large iron gates above mentioned are those which found a home at the back entrance of Trinity College, Cambridge. The copper ball is that formerly on the top of the cupola of the Hall. This ball found a home on the top of Naseby Church steeple, where it became known as 'the old man of Naseby'.¹ It was subsequently taken down and put in a private garden at Naseby. Material from Horseheath Hall may be seen in cottages, houses and gardens in Horseheath and the neighbourhood. The Red House at Streetly End is built entirely from material bought at the Hall sale. The mahogany doors in this house are very fine, as are their fittings. But not all of the material was taken away from the Hall in 1777. C. Vancouver, in his *Agriculture of Cambridgeshire*, says in connection with Horseheath, on 27 February 1794, that 'many of the farm-houses and offices appear in a very ruinous condition, the Hall in particular, a very elegant and modern building is now *levelling with the ground*'.

There is little now in Horseheath by which Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, and his ancestors of four generations are remembered. Until recently the Montfort Arms Inn, at the east end of Horseheath, on the edge of what was once park-land, perpetuated the name of the family, but this Inn is now a private house, Montfort House. The Bromley memorial slab on the chancel floor in the parish church was partly covered by the new choir seats in 1883, so that the inscription can no longer be read.

In a book entitled *The Abbey of Kilkhampton; or, Monumental Records for the year 1980*, by the Rev. Sir Herbert Croft, there is, among the supposed epitaphs upon the leading characters of the author's time, 1751-1816, on p. 23, an epitaph to Thomas, the second Lord Montfort as follows:

On an Oaken Tablet. / Sculpture, lend not thy Assistance / Let a Plank, hewn from the Forests he inherited, / Record the Insignificance of / — Bromley, Lord M...t...t, / Whose egregious Folly and inconsistent Prodigality hath brought / Him to utter Ruin, before they waked him / from a shameless Lethargy. / Lethargy, which his disappointed Heirs have never ceased / to lament in Torrents of Affliction / this noble Peer, after having been Thrice declared an Ideot, / expired at the age of 6— playing at Blindman's Buff with / Farmer —'s daughters at H...heath.

Most of the park-land has been ploughed up, some of it during the recent war. The site of Horseheath Hall is known to-day as Hall Meadow; Pl. VI shows part of the foundation trench on the east side of the Hall. The cedar tree marks the north end of the site. The

¹ *Notes and Queries*, x, ser. vi (10 Nov. 1906), p. 362.

trees in the distance, of recent growth, are round the Acre Pond, once open to view from the Hall. Orchids and other wild flowers abound round this marshy pond and in the meadow. The site of this once famous Horseheath Hall may well be regarded as a beauty spot in Cambridgeshire.

Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, died 22 years after the demolition of Horseheath Hall, at the age of 66 years in 1799. Mr J. H. Bullock has called my attention to the fact that the second Lord Montfort's son, Henry, the third peer, who was educated at Eton, as a decayed member of the peerage in his later years received a pension of £300 a year until he died in 1850, at the age of 77 years.

It may be well to give a brief account of Thomas the second Lord Montfort's successors named Batson who owned the manor of Horseheath. Mr Henry Batson, a Berkshire man, in 1783 took over the mortgaged estate and entailed the property in Horseheath, including part of West Wickham and Withersfield. Most of the property which had belonged to Thomas, the second Lord Montfort, in these two parishes had been sold. I have been told that Mr Batson sold oak trees off the Horseheath estate to the value of the money he had advanced on the mortgage. By his will, dated 5 December 1803, the Horseheath estate passed to Stanlake, son of Mr Henry Batson, who built a large white-brick house on the low ground at the west end of the parish, using red brick from the Hall for the foundations, cellars and garden walls of the new house, called The Lodge. Mr Harry Ling of Horseheath, when 80 years of age in 1944, told me that his grandfather helped to cart the red bricks from Hall Meadow for the Lodge, where formerly a farm-house, called Owl's Hall, stood.

Like the Bromleys, Mr Stanlake R. Batson had a link with Barbados. He married Isabella, daughter of the Governor of Barbados, George Poyntz Ricketts. Mr Stanlake R. Batson at the age of 52 years died at Horseheath in 1857, and was buried in the parish church. The Horseheath estate, and property in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, then passed to his son, the second Stanlake, with the second Christian name of Ricketts, Batson, who was born in 1819. He in 1861 married Gertrude Julianna Louise, eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Henry T. Lowry-Corry. The second Stanlake Batson was a J.P. and High Sheriff of the county. In 1871 he died leaving three young children, two sons and a daughter named Gertrude Isabella, who married Sir Arthur Brooke of Colebrooke, Brookeboro, co. Fermanagh, and became the mother of Sir Basil Brooke, Premier of Northern Ireland. The younger son, Montague Edward Batson, died in his 16th year in 1881. The elder son and heir was Stanlake Henry Batson, on whose few birthday anniversaries at

Horseheath it was customary to ring the church bells. This boy when only eight years old had the misfortune to lose his father, and his mother only three years later. During his minority, partly through his over-generous nature and his inherited love of sport, he became involved in serious monetary difficulties. He sold his life interest in the Horseheath estate before he became of age, so that there was little for him to inherit there except some family portraits, sporting pictures, silver and china which Mr Stanlake Batson had entailed. After being for a short time in the Guards Regiment, Stanlake Henry Batson was bought out of the army. He went to New Zealand, where he died, leaving a widow and children. Thus the Horseheath estate, after being owned by three members of the Batson family, passed into the hands of mortgagees until conditions were such that the estate could be disentailed in 1925, when it was purchased by Mr T. Wayman Parsons, of Horseheath.

After Mrs Batson's death in 1874, and during her son's minority, most of the heirlooms listed by Mr Stanlake Batson were locked away in one or two of the twenty-six bedrooms in the Lodge, the house being occupied by a succession of tenants, till 1925, when Mr Stanlake Henry Batson was free to dispose of the heirlooms. There was a quantity of old china, and 2175 ounces of silver. The family portraits included one of *Mr Stanlake Batson Esquire*, the builder of Horseheath Lodge. A portrait of his wife, *Isabella Batson*, by J. Hopper, R.A. was sold for £388 at the sale of pictures at a London sale room. A portrait of this lady's father, *George Poyntz Ricketts, Esq.*, Governor of Barbados, attributed to Gilbert Stuart, sold for £405. Amongst the more important pictures of race-horses was a portrait of Mr Stanlake Batson's *Plenipo*, with Payne the trainer and P. Connely the jockey, by Abraham Cooper. This picture sold for £399.

The Batsons were keen sportsmen and much interested in horse racing. There was a private training ground at Horseheath Lodge, called the Gallop. The Limbery homestead of 1281¹ was converted into a stud-farm. Here Lucetta was bred by Mr Stanlake Batson, and, in 1829, was sold for 1800 sovereigns. His Plenipotentiary won the Derby Stakes in 1834. This event Mr Stanlake Batson celebrated by adding another storey to his residence at Horseheath, and by giving all his tenants a year's rent. With this gesture I will conclude my brief record of the Lords of the Manor of Horseheath, from 1397 to 1925, and of the Hall, so long the county residence of the Alington family.

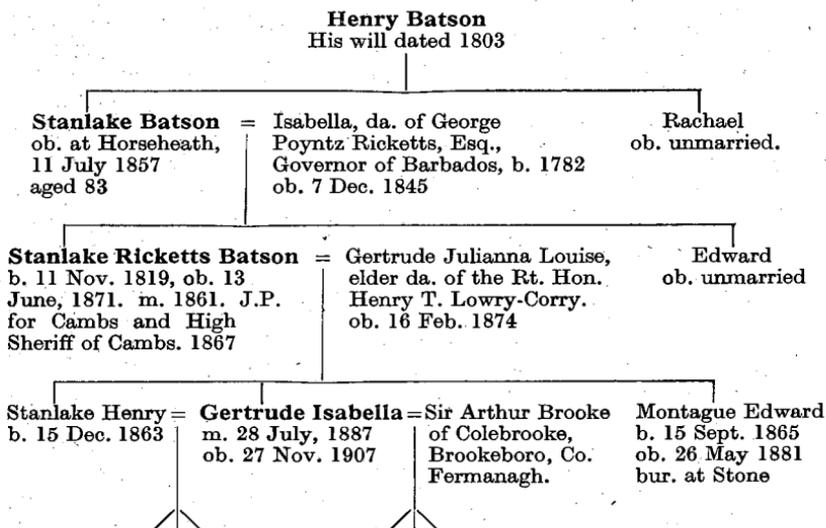
¹ *Rotuli Hundredorum*, Vol. II, p. 420.

PEDIGREE OF BATSON

Arms. Ar. three bats' wings sa. on a chief gules.

Crest. A bat's wing, sa.

Motto. Nocte Volamus.



The names of the Batson owners of Horseheath are printed in a heaviertype.

PEDIGREE OF THE ALINGTONS OF HORSEHEATH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Arms. Sable, a bend engrailed between six billets, argent.
Crest. A talbot passant proper, ermine.
Motto. En Dieu est tout.

William Alington = [?Dionysia, da. of William Mallet.]

William Alington = Joan, da. of William de Burgh,
d. 27 Feb. 1445.
Mont. Insc. Horseheath Ch.

William = Elizabeth, da. of
Sir John Argentine,
d. 1459, bur. at
Horseheath.

Robert = (1) Joan, da. of
Sir John Argentine,
d. 15 May 1428,
bur. at Horseheath.

Thomas
d. ante 1446.
S. Robert a bastard.
Will of Wm. Alington
1446.

John = Mary, da. of Laurence Cheney,
d. 25 Aug. bur. at Horseheath.
Insc. Horseheath 1473.

William = Joan, da. of John Anstey,
bur. at Bottisham.

Margaret = John Colville.

Sir William = (1) Elizabeth, da. of
Henry Wentworth Sir Richard Sapcotts.
d. 1485.

Edward = Elizabeth, da. of
Richard Gillott.
Add. MS. 5823,
p. 63.

Henry Pigot
Son of Thomas Pigot.

Sir Giles = Mary, da. of
Richard Gardner.
Will dated 1537.

George
His father's will
1485.

Margaret
Her father's will
1485.

Sir Giles = (1) Ursula, da. of = (2) Alice, da. of
John Middleton,
widow of Thomas
Elrington,
bur. at Horseheath
20 Sept. 1563.
Parish Reg.

Richard = (3) Margaret, da. of
John Talkarne,
widow of Thomas
Argall, not bur. at
Horseheath. Will
proved, 1592.

William
Insc. on his
father's tomb
at Horseheath.

Robert
His mother's
will 1537.

Richard
Youngest son.
His mother's
will 1537.

Audry
m. William
Mannoek.
Her mother's
will 1537.

Mary
m. Thos.
Hetton.

Robert
d. 22 May 1552,
bur. at Horseheath.

Thomas = Margaret, da. of
Wm Conningsby,
Pledger.

John
His father's will
1552

John
His mother's
will 1513.

Richard
His mother's
will 1537.

Joan
Her father's
will 1513.

Margaret
Insc. on tomb
at Horseheath.

Giles
d. 25 Nov.
1572,
bur. at Horseheath.

Thomas = Margaret, da. of
Sir John Spencer,
renup. Edw. Elrington,
bur. at Horseheath
4 April 1625.
Will dated 22 March
1625.

George
His father's will
1552.

Elizabeth
Her father's will
1552.

Frances
Her father's will
1552.

Beatrice
Her father's will
1552.

Sir Giles = (1) Dorothy, da. of
the Earl of Exeter,
bur. at Horseheath
11 Nov. 1613.

Dorothy,
da. of Michael Dalton.

John
b. 9 Sept. 1573,
bur. at Horseheath
26 Aug. 1647.
Horseheath Parish Reg.

John
His father's will
1552.

Elizabeth
Her father's will
1552.

Frances
Her father's will
1552.

Margaret
Her father's will
1552.

Elizabeth = (1) Sir Henry
Palavasin
1614
Parish Reg. (2) Sir William
Clopton, 3 Oct.
1617.

Thomas
S. & h.
b. 2 Jan. 1599,
d. same year.
Parish Reg.

James
b. 1602,
Parish Reg.

James
b. 1602,
Parish Reg.

William
1st Lord Alington,
Baron of Killard
b. 1610, bur.
21 Oct. 1648.
Horseheath
Parish Reg.

Elizabeth Tollmarsh,
da. of Sir Lionel T.,
bur. at Horseheath
24 April 1671.
Parish Reg.

Mary
b. 1612.
Parish Reg.

Lionel
Dorothy
both b. at Bottisham,
1638.
Insc. in Bottisham
Church.

Katherine
b. 28 May 1640.
Horseheath
Parish Reg.

James
b. 1602,
Parish Reg.

James
b. 1602,
Parish Reg.

William
1st Lord Alington,
Baron of Killard
b. 1610, bur.
21 Oct. 1648.
Horseheath
Parish Reg.

Elizabeth Tollmarsh,
da. of Sir Lionel T.,
bur. at Horseheath
24 April 1671.
Parish Reg.

Mary
b. 1612.
Parish Reg.

Dorothy
b. 28 May 1640.
Horseheath
Parish Reg.

Katherine
b. 28 May 1640.
Horseheath
Parish Reg.

James
b. 1602,
Parish Reg.

James
b. 1602,
Parish Reg.

William
1st Lord Alington,
Baron of Killard
b. 1610, bur.
21 Oct. 1648.
Horseheath
Parish Reg.

Elizabeth Tollmarsh,
da. of Sir Lionel T.,
bur. at Horseheath
24 April 1671.
Parish Reg.

Mary
b. 1612.
Parish Reg.

Infant da.
bur. with mother
4 Dec. 1662.
Parish Reg.

Juliana
b. 1665.
Parish Reg.

William
d. infant,
1667, aged 13 days.
Parish Reg.

Katherine
b. 3 Oct. 1677.
Parish Reg.

Giles
4th Lord
b. March 1680,
3rd Lord Alington,
d. 22 Sept. 1691.
Parish Reg.

Diana = Sir George
Warburton.
Hildebrand
b. 2 Jan. 1681,
d. 1682.
Parish Reg.
Argentine
ob. 20 Feb. 1683.
Parish Reg.

The names of the owners of Horseheath are printed in heavier type.

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