

Duffield Forest in the Sixteenth Century.

By the Hon. FREDERICK STRUTT and
the Rev. J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.*



THE Forest of Duffield, though one of the smallest of England's royal forests, was of no mean extent, for its considerably reduced area at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign was contained within a circuit of thirty miles. It was usually known as Duffield Frith; frith being the old name for a forest, which still survives in this county in Chapel-en-le-Frith.

The history of Duffield Frith has yet to be written; nothing whatever has been printed on the subject save three pages in the *Reliquary* (April, 1871), and a doggerel poem on the forest written by Anthony Bradshawe in 1588 and reproduced in the same quarterly magazine in 1882.† The materials, however, for such a history are bewildering in their amplitude. They are chiefly to be found in the great stores of the Duchy of Lancaster muniments at the Public Record Office; but also among the Woolley MSS. of the British Museum, the Talbot papers at the College of Arms, the Shrewsbury papers at Lambeth Library, as well as among various private manuscript collections.

All that it is proposed to do in the present article is to give some of the surveys and other documents that treat of the extent and condition of the Frith in the reigns of Henry VIII.

* The two members of the Society who contribute this article have long had the intention of bringing out a history of the great parish of Duffield, and have made considerable collections with that object. The materials are almost overwhelming and so much work is involved before such a project could be brought to a successful issue, that it is thought well to give in this *Journal* some of the hitherto unpublished matter relative to Duffield Forest.

† See, however, the various references to Duffield and to Anthony Bradshawe, in this vol.—ED.

and Elizabeth, with a few introductory remarks, reserving for some future occasion both the earlier and later history. It is also hoped that a map of this forest will be supplied, with a subsequent article, on which the exact positions of the various parks and other important sites within its limits may be marked.

In writing of this or any other forest district of England, it is well to recollect that the term never implied, in medieval English history, a mere tree-clad extent of country; it meant a certain defined area, reserved in the main for the purposes of the chase. Old Manwood, in his *Forest Laws*, thus defines it:—"A forest is a certain territory of woody grounds and fruitful pasture, privileged for wild beasts and fowls of forest chase and warren to rest and abide in the safe protection of the king, for his princely delight and pleasure; which territory of ground so privileged is meered and bounded with unremoveable marks, meers, and boundaries; and also replenisht with wild beasts of venery or chase, and with great coverts of vert, for the succor of the said wild beasts to have their abode in; for the preservation and continuance of which said place, together with the vert and venison, there are certain particular laws, privileges, and officers belonging only to the same."

The manor and forest of Duffield were assigned to the great family of Ferrers after the Conquest, and remained with them until their rebellion in the time of Henry III., when their vast estates were confiscated in 1266. Duffield Frith was then granted by Henry to his third son, Edward, Earl of Lancaster. It continued in the Duchy of Lancaster until the days of Charles I., having come into the immediate hands of the crown in 1399, when Henry, Duke of Lancaster, became king.

The particularly interesting nature of the early account rolls of this portion of the Duchy of Lancaster, which was a member of the Honor of Tutbury, will become apparent when two or three facts are taken from a single one of these altogether unexplored contributions to Derbyshire history, namely, the roll from Michaelmas, 1314, to Michaelmas, 1315. From this document

it becomes apparent that there was a great larder at Belper, where the venison of the deer killed off for winter stores about Martinmas was salted down, £2 2s. 8d. being paid that year for salt; that there was a great cow-house (*domus vaccaria*) in the lower part of Shottle, by the Ecclesburn, at the place still called Cowhouse Lane, and two much smaller cow-houses at Belper and Postern; that a dairy was associated with the great cow-house where the cattle were stalled during the winter, and that the milk of eighty-eight cows realised £10 1s. 3d. in the year; that the sheep were milked, but that the profits from that source, as they were few in number, were added to the accounts of Hartington in North Derbyshire, another member of the Duchy, where there was a large sheep walk; that ninety-six does and twenty-five bucks were killed that year, of which number thirty-one does and one buck were salted down at Belper; that sixteen large oaks and six smaller ones were felled by special order of the Earl of Lancaster; that the names of all those to whom timber or venison was sent are entered; that the Earl's residence (and subsequent royal shooting box) was at Ravensdale, and not at Belper, as hitherto universally stated; that much building or re-building was then in progress at the great house, for 7s. 6d. was paid for 1,300 roofing shingles and for 200 rafters, and 16s. for glazing the windows of the chapel, with 10d. for iron bars for the same, together with 30s. for pales to enclose a small park round the mansion (*mancellus*); and that the road between the parks of Shottle and Postern was repaired for the carriage of coal to the lord's forge.

One instance may be quoted of a visit of the Duke of Lancaster to his Ravensdale residence. He was there in August, 1375, and issued therefrom several warrants, including one to the Master Forester of Duffield Frith to deliver two oaks to the Carmelite Friars of Nottingham, and thirty oaks to the Dominican Friars of Derby, for building purposes. The same official was also instructed to permit the Abbot of Darley to take some dead wood for fuel out of the woods of the chase.

In 1411 a warrant was issued to the Master Forester to deliver to the tenants of Duffield sufficient wood for the rebuilding of their bridge over the Derwent. This and other entries relative to wood for river bridges does not necessarily imply that they were wooden bridges, but rather that the timber was used for piles, and for frames and supports during their repair or reconstruction in stone.

By the time that that great sportsman Henry VIII. came to the throne, the stock of deer in Duffield Frith had materially diminished. During the fifteenth century, there were constant proceedings against the tenants and neighbours in good positions for taking the king's deer in this forest. Nevertheless they remained in large numbers at the Wirksworth end of the forest, especially in the parks of Ashleyhay and Alderwasley. That they were still fairly abundant in 1541 is clear from a letter that the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Chief Forester, wrote to the Earl of Southampton on July 6th, hoping that the king, at his coming to Nottingham, would visit his poor house at Wynfeld (Wingfield Manor House) and hunt in Duffield Frith. But before the end of the month the Earl was dead.

In 1540 a special commission was appointed, under the direction of Sir George Gresley, to take evidence and report by jury as to the waste of wood in this forest during the three previous years. The following is their report *in extenso** :—

D. S. RENTALS AND SURVEYS —.

The presentement of the Jurye in Duffild frith within the County of Derby taken at Duffild Townte on Saynt Lucke day anno Regni Regis Henrici viij the xxxij before Sir George Greyseley knyght Roger Wigston Mathew Knifton Rouland Babyngton esquiers And William Wigston and John Hercoin gentlemen as consernyng wastes of woods don within the said frith and parkes by the Kepers ffosters and other officers within the space of iij yeres past as hereafter more playnly appereth presentyd by John Ball Thomas Bradshawe Thomas Chawner

* Duchy of Lancaster, Rentals and Surveys 21.

John Blysworth Robert Sowter Thomas Odame John Jonson
 John Eggington John Chetham Gefferaye Spendelowe James
 Wilkynson Robert Asshemoore Robert Strete Richard Dole
 John Norman Homfraye Webster John Milnes Thomas Mellors
 Thomas Starer (?) William Daye Thomas Wylkocson Thomas
 Brew . . . Thomas Blake John Orchard Robert Harrison
 Hugh Milnes John Wyllett Thomas Smythe Thomas Blount
 John fletcher Richard Wernay John Spenser and Robert
 fletcher Sworne.

THE PARKE OF SHETTELL.

Sir John Hiron Knight Chefe Keper Robert a Wodd William
 Parker and George Brockshawe his depute Kepers ther.

Inprimis the said Jurye present to be ffallen within the saide
 parke of Shettell within the space of iij yeres by the
 kepers vj trees.
 Item ffallen more by theym xv Rampickes*.
 Item ffelled more by them xxiiij loades of wode.
 Sum of trees and loades of wodde felled in Shettell
 parke xlv loades & trees.

MORLEY PARKE.

My Lorde ffrainces Erle of Shrewesbery Chef Keper and
 Thomas Doughty deputie.

The said Jurye present to be ffallen ther by the Kepers vj trees.
 Item ffallen more by the said Kepers xiiij Rennelles.†
 Sum of trees felled ther xix trees.

Belper parke and wood William Cokkes keper. The said
 Jurye present to be ffallen within the parke of Belpere to the
 kepers own use viij trees. Item more ffelled within the said
 parke for hymself and his deputie called ffe trees vj trees. Item
 ffelled more within the warde of Belpere to the kepers own vse
 xxxviij trees. Item ffelled more in Rampickes in the said

* A ram-picked or stag-headed tree was an old overgrown oak, having
 the stumps of boughs standing out on the top.

† *Rennales* or Rundles (variously spelt) was a name for hollow pollard
 trees.

Warde xiiij trees. Item ffelled more ther An Asshe and an Elme ij trees. Item ffelled more within the saide warde of vnderrwood xxxiiij loades. Item ffelled more ther by Christofer Chettam viij trees.

Sum of all the Loades of wodds and trees solde out of Belpere parke and warde v^{xx} x loades.

DUFFILD WOODE.

Rauffe Brockshawe ffoster of ffee. The saide Jurye present to be ffelled within the said warde by the said Rauff xxx loades of wodd. Item ffelled more by the said of Crepping wodde xxxv loades. Jamys Else claymithe yerely ffee wodde whiche has ffelled within the said wodde for iij yeres past xlvj loades. My Ladye Minors clamyd yerely ffee woode within the said warde which ffelled for oon yere xxx loades. Thomas Jonson clamythe ffee wodde within the said warde which ffelled for iij yeres past xvij loades. Ellen Brockshawe claymithe also ffee wodde within the said warde, which ffelled for iij yeres past xxx loades.

Sum of all the loades of woodde solde and ffelled out of Duffild woode ix^{xx} ix loades.

POSTERNE PARKE.

Harry Brockshawe Keper. The said Jurye present ffelled ther by my Ladye Mynors Commaundement nowe beying dede for the reparation of the King's fferme within the said parke of Posterne called the Cowe house xiiij trees.

HOLLOND WOODE.

William Camyll keper. The said Jurye present ffelled within the said warde of Holland by my Ladye Minors in her tyme which she clamyd as ffee wodde for her ffuell for iij years past lvij loades.

The same Jurye present ffelled within the said warde by Mr. Humfrey Bradburne oon of the ffosters of ffee for iij yeres ffuell xv^{xx} loades.

The said Jurye present ffelled within the said woode of Hollond by Mr. John Knyfton oon of the ffosters of ffee for iij yeres ffuell vij^{xx} loades.

The said Jurye present felled within the saide woode by the said keper William Gamyll xvij loades.

The said Jurye present ffelled within the said warde of Crepping woode which the Kinges tenantes clayme of Custome yerely for ther ffuell and cattail xj^{xx} loades.

Sum of all the loodes of wodde ffelled within Holland warde for iij yeres past vij^c xv loodes.

Sum total of all the woodes ffelled by the kepers and other officers within Duffeld ffrith for iij yeres past that we can have knowledge of M^l xxxij trees and loades of wood.

George Greysley knight.

Roger Wigston.

Mathew Knyfton.

Roland Babyngton.

William Wigston.

John Harwar.

A viewe taken by the said Commissioners within the said parke and wardes of Duffeld what wodde may be solde to the King's most graciouse proffitt.

SHETTELL PARKE.

The said parke of Shettell extendithe in compas vij miles wherein is no tymber nor yett other wodde but oonly Thornes olde Rennelles and Rampickes wherfor as we thincke ther may be non solde.

POSTERNE PARKE.

The said parke of Posterne extendithe in Compase iij myles wherin ther is moche ffayre wodde as oke and ashe And we thincke ther maye be spared and solde to the Kinges proffitt specially of Asshe and some oke of Crepping wodde to the value of xx merkes.

MAUNSYLL PARKE.

The said parke of Maunsill extendithe in compase iij miles And standithe all by hollyes and hassill wherin we thincke ther maye be spared and solde to the King's proffitt xx nobles.

MORLEY PARKE.

The said parke of Morley extendithe in compase by estimacion iij myles wherin is moche fayre tymber wodde of okke And ther maye be solde to the King's proffitt xx merkes or xx^{li}.

BELPERE PARKE.

The said parke of Belpere extendith in Compase A myle and standith all by Birche wher as maye be made to the Kings most proffitt v^{li} or vj^{li}.

RAUNSDAYLE PARKE.

The said parke of Raunsdayle extendith in compase iij myles wherin is non other wodde but olde Rennyilles and Rampickes and ollers* whereof we thincke ther may be solde of the sande ther to make in money a v^{li} or vj^{li}.

Mathew Knyfton.

Roland Babyngton.

William Wigston.

In 1560 an elaborate Survey was taken of all the wood and underwood of the Honor of Tutbury, within the counties of Stafford and Derby. This Survey of Duffield Frith is of much interest as showing the nature and extent of the timber.† The large trees were entirely oak; there is just a single mention of an oak and an elm. The underwood included white thorn, black thorn, hazel, holly, maple, crab-tree, alder, and birch. The totals of the forest timber, if correctly described at so many per acre, work out to the large amount of 111,968 trees; of which 59,412 were large oaks, 32,820 small oaks, and 19,736 oaks in more or less state of decay, and only suitable for fuel.

* "Oller" or Aller was an old variant in spelling for Alder.

† This return is a reproduction of a copy in the possession of Lord Scarsdale, kindly lent to Mr. Strutt. It was taken from the original in the Public Record Office in 1882 by the late Mr. Bland of Duffield, by whom it was "written out as read by one of the transcribers there." From the spelling it is clearly not an exact copy, but we suppose the main points and figures are reliable. It was at that time numbered "Duchy of Lancaster, class xix, No. 8." The Duchy documents have since been rearranged on a much better plan. Considerable search, aided by authorities, has been made to find the original for purposes of collation, but all in vain; in the rearrangement it has got mislaid.

DUFFELDE FRITH.

The following are the particulars:—

First, the said frith containeth in circuit by estimation 30 miles, and it is divided into 4 small Wardes, *i.e.*, Duffelde Warde, Colbroke Warde, Beaurepa Warde, and Hollande Warde; and amongst the said wardes ther are sundry Parkes, as particularly appeareth hereafter.

I.—DUFFELDE WARDE.

Also there is one warde called Duffelde Warde within the said Duffelde Frith wherein is one woode named—

(a) *Cheven bancke* containing 90 acres slenderly set with small holly, hazel, whitethorne, and blackthorne of an old growth and of evil wax, for it is common to divers towns adjoining to the said wood. It is so eaten and kept down by cattle that it is very little worth, and there groweth in every acre 30 old oakes for building timber, and 12 oakes of a younger sort for building timber and 6 dottard* oakes for fire wood.

(b) *Depedale*.†—Also there is in the said Warde one wood called Depedale, containing 70 acres slenderly set with small holly, hazel, whitethorne and blackthorne, of the age aforesaid and there groweth in every acre 40 old oakes for building timber, and 8 oakes of a younger sort and 4 dottard oakes.

(c) *Holme*.—Also there is in the said Warde called the Holme containing by estimation 46 acres slenderly set with hazel, holly, whitethorne, and blackthorne of the age aforesaid, and there groweth in every acre 60 small oakes for building timber.

(d) *Hameley bank*.—Also there is in the said Warde one wood called Hameley bank, containing by estimation 76 acres, set with holly, hazel, whitethorne, and blackthorne, and there groweth in every acre 36 oakes and 14 dottard oakes.

(e) *Bruntreholme*.—Also there is in the said warde another wood called Bruntreholme, containing by estimation 220 acres, set with holly, hazel, maple, whitethorne and blackthorne, and there groweth in every acre 40 oakes and 6 dottard oakes.

* Dottard or dotard was a term applied to trees beginning to decay.

† Depedale, a steep declivity or narrow valley in the present parish of Hazelwood, now known as the "Depths of Lum."

(f) *Reydebanck*.—Also there is in the same warde one wood called Reydebanck, containing by estimation 92 acres, set with hazel, holly, whitethorne, and blackthorne, and there groweth in every acre 24 oakes.

(g) *Collewayes*.—Also there is in the same warde one wood called Collewayes, containing by estimation 60 acres, set with hazel, holly, crabtree, and whitethorne, and there groweth in every acre 36 oakes and 6 dottard oakes.

(h) *Owkerhill*.—Also there is in the same Warde one wood called Owkerhill, containing by estimation 38 acres, set with holly, hazel, maple, and crabtree, and there groweth in every acre 24 oakes and 6 of a smaller sort, and 6 dottard oakes.

(i) *Wollens Cliff*.—Also there is in the same Warde one other wood called Wollens Cliff, containing by estimation 120 acres set with hazel, holly, whitethorne, crabtree, and blackthorne, and there groweth in every acre 44 oakes and 6 dottard oakes.

(j) *Stanley Wey*.—Also there is in the same Warde one other wood called Stanley Wey, containing by estimation 95 acres, set with small holly, and there are 160 fair old oakes, 80 oakes of a smaller sort, and 40 dottard oakes.

(k) *The Turnditche*.—Also there is in the same Warde one other wood called the Turnditche, containing by estimation 24 acres, set with hazel, holly, whitethorne, and blackthorne, and there groweth 20 oakes in every acre.

Also the rest of the said Warde is slenderly set abroad with small crooked oakes, holly, whitethorne, and blackthorne, all for tynsell and hedgebote.*

And there groweth abroad in the said Warde 3,000 small oakes for building timber, and 1,700 dottard or decayed oakes for firewood.

Also the said Warde is platted with many laundes and plaines whereon groweth no timber nor underwood.

Also there is in the said Warde 16 acres lying abroad in diverse places in the said warde, in some place 2 acres, in some other

* "Tynsell" was an old term for small firewood suitable for ovens. "Hedgebote" or haybote was a right to cut wood for the repair or making of hedges.

place 3 acres, and in some other place 6 acres, and in some other place 5 acres well set with young ollers, some of 3 years' growth and some of 4 years' growth, lately sold in the time of King Philip and Mary.

Memorandum.—The underwood in the same Warde is very thin, and evil thriven, and not like to amend.

Also there goeth yearly for trees out of the said Warde to divers persons whose names particularly follow:—

(a) To Thomas Ireton, bow-bearer of the aforesaid frith under the Earl of Shrewsbury, one tree.

(b) To Richard Holland, ranger of the same under Thomas Cocker, one tree.

(c) To Rauffe Brokesbye, keeper of the warde, one tree.

Also there is in the same Warde one tenement in the tenure of Thomas Wynson, called the Bromefeld, and there groweth in the same 80 small oakes for building timber.

II.—POSTERN PARKE.

There is in the said Warde one parke called Postern parke, containing 3 miles about, and there is in one part of the said park a place called

(a) *Cowhouse park*, containing 14 acres well set with underwood, as hazel, oller, whitethorne, and blackthorne, and some crabtrees of the age of 16 years, and there groweth in every acre 16 oakes for building timber, and 10 oakes for firewood.

(b) Also *Foxholes bank* containeth 10 acres, slenderly set with small hazel, whitethorne and oller of the age of 12 years, and there groweth 6 oakes and 10 dottard oakes in each acre.

(c) Also the *Hill* containeth 6 acres, and there groweth 8 small oakes and 12 dottard oakes in every acre.

(d) Also *Welhole* containeth 4 acres, and there groweth 16 small oakes and 8 dottard oakes in every acre.

(e) Also *Hilla-toppe* containeth 7 acres, set with hazel and whitethorne of 16 years' growth, and ther are 5 oakes in each acre.

Also there groweth in the said Park abroad 80 small oakes for building timber and pale, and 220 old dottard oakes for firewood.

Also there groweth in the Ring of the said parke 30 old oakes and 54 dottard oakes for firewood.

Thomas Wynston Esquire is farmer there.

Memorandum.—That all such fee trees as have been accustomed to be taken out of the said park are now stayed.

III.—COLEBROKE WARD.

No wood of any value in this Warde, for that most part of the said wood did grow in a place called Alderwasley, which was given to Edward Lowe, Esquire, and to his heirs in fee farm yielding the rent accustomed.*

IV.—SHOTHELL PARK is 7 miles about, and there is in the

(a) *East End* of the said parke one place called *Herkeninge place*, and in the same there groweth a few small bush thorns and 38 small dottard oakes for firewood. Also in the

(b) *West End* of the said park a few small thorns of little value and 80 dottard oakes. Also in the

(c) *South Part* there are 30 acres, slenderly set with small brushwood, whitethorne, blackthorne, and briars of an old growth, and of small value, and 90 dottard oaks. Also in the

(d) *North Part* there are 4 acres, slenderly set as above, and 28 small old dottard oakes.

Also there groweth abroad in the said Park 160 dottard oakes for firewood. Also 8 acres well set with young oller of 4 years' growth, which was sold by commission.

Also there groweth in the Ring† of the said Park and near unto the Pale,† 40 fair old oakes for building timber, 20 oakes of a small sort, and 24 dottard oakes, and 44 fair old oakes for building timber.

Thomas Wynston Esquire is farmer there.

* The manor of Alderwasley, a parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster and a member of Duffield Frith, was given by Henry VIII. to Anthony Lowe, his standard-bearer. He died in 1555, and was succeeded by his second son and heir, Edward Lowe.

† The Ring was probably a small inner enclosure within the Pale of the whole Park.

V.—BEAUREPER WARDE.

In Beaureper Warde there is one wood called

(a) *Swinney Wood*, adjoining to Beaureper town, containing 114 acres, slenderly set with holly, birch, hazel, maple, whitethorne, and blackthorne of an old growth and evil thriven, for that all the said wood is common to divers towns adjoining. The said wood is kept down with eating of cattle. There groweth in every acre 40 small oakes for building timber, and 8 dottard oakes for firewood. The said wood standeth in such craggess that it is evil to be gotten from thence where it groweth. Also

(b) *Elesegg*, containing 20 acres set with birch, holly, hazel, and whitethorne, and there groweth in every acre 30 oakes and 6 dottard oakes. Also

(c) *Another Wood*, adjoining to the lands of Edward Firth, containing 24 acres, set with birch, holly, hazel, and whitethorne, and there groweth 46 oakes and 6 dottard oakes in every acre. Also

(d) *Another Wood*, in the East end, near to the Barr Gate, containing 64 acres, set with holly, birch, hazel, and whitethorne, and there groweth 24 old oakes and 10 oakes of a younger sort in every acre. Also

(e) *Holling cliffe*, containing 110 acres set with hazel and whitethorne. And there groweth 36 small oakes and 8 dottard oakes in every acre.

(f) Also *Whitemore*, containing 16 acres set with birch, holly, hazel, and crabtree; and there groweth 24 old oakes and 14 dottard oakes in every acre.

(g) Also *Morly hole*, containing 68 acres set with birch, hazel, and whitethorne; and there are 20 old oakes, 14 of a younger sort, and 4 dottard oakes in every acre.

(h) Also *Heygate*, containing 256 acres, set with birch, holly, hazel, and crabtree; and there are 34 oakes and 8 dottard oakes in every acre.

(i) Also a *Wood* adjoining to Heighedge, containing 7 acres well set with oller, sold by commission. There are 16 small crooked oakes in every acre.

(k) Also *another Wood* adjoining to the said ollers, containing 90 acres, set with birch, hazel, whitethorne, and blackthorne. There are 38 small oakes and 4 dottard oakes in every acre.

Also rest of the said Warde is slenderly set abroad with crooked oakes, whitethorne, and small holly, and blackthorne; all for tynsell.

And there groweth abroad in the saide Warde 4,000 small oakes for building timber, and 658 dottard and decayed oakes for firewood.

Also the said Warde is platted with many laundes and plaines, whereon groweth no timber nor underwood.

Fee Trees.—Also there goeth of the warde divers fee-trees, viz. :—

(a) To Thomas Ireton, deputy bow-bearer of the said Frith—one tree.

(b) To the said Thomas for keeping the Queen's axe—one tree.

(c) To Richard Holland, deputy ranger of the said Frith—one tree.

(d) To Thomas Brokesbey, keeper of the said Warde—one tree.

(e) To John Greye, his deputy—one tree.

VI.—BEAUREPER PARK, containing one mile about, and there is next adjoining to Beaureper town 12 acres, very slenderly set with old birch, and some hazel of 50 years' growth, and 4 small dottard oakes.

Also there is in the midst of the said Park one fair old oak with a large top for building timber, and it is called the Raven Oak.

Also the rest of the said Park is overgrown with small thorns and briars for tynsell.

Also there groweth in the Ring of the said Park 6 small oakes for building timber, and 4 small dottard oakes for firewood.

Thomas Brokesbey is deputy keeper there to Thomas Cockes.

VII.—MORLEY PARK containeth 3 miles about, and there is one wood in the East end called

(a) *The Hyrne*, containing 20 acres very slenderly set with small whitethorne and blackthorne for tynsell of 20 years' growth, and 30 old oakes fair and large in every acre, and 12 fair young oakes, and 16 old dottard oakes.

(b) Also the *High Edge* containing 48 acres, with whitethorne, blackthorne, crabtree, and holly for tynsell. There are 16 fair and large oakes, 8 young oakes, and 46 dottard oakes.

(c) Also in the *North End* one wood containing 34 acres, set with small hazel, whitethorne and blackthorne. There are 10 fair oakes, 6 young oakes, and 26 dottard oakes in every acre.

(d) Also the *Oller Carr* containing 6 acres, well set with young ollers and old by commission.

Also there groweth in the Ring of the said Park 54 fair old oakes and 6 dottard oakes.

Also there groweth in the Park the fairest timber for any building that is within all Duffield Frith.

Thomas Eytun is deputy keeper to John Poole.

Fee Trees.—Also there goeth of the said park yearly fee trees, viz. :—

(a) To Thomas Ireton, deputy bow-bearer, one tree.

(b) To said Thomas having the custody of the Queen's Axe—one tree.

(c) To Thomas Eyton, deputy to John Poole, one tree.

VIII.—BRADLEY LEYNES.

Also there is in the same warde of Beaufreper one tenement called Bradley Leynes, in the tenure of Henry Sacheveril, Esquire, and in the same there is 8 acres indifferently set with hazel, whitethorne, and blackthorne of the age of ten years' growth, and in the same there groweth 18 small oakes for building timber.

IX.—HOLLANDE WARDE.

There is in the same warde one wood called

(a) *Twyforthefield*, in the tenure of John Rospere, containing

14 acres set with small blackthorne and briars for tynsell, and there groweth in every acre 24 fair old oakes for building timber, and in the said wood there groweth 30 small dottard oakes for firewood.

(b) Also *Ireton Syde* containing 42 acres set with holly, hazel, whitethorne, and blackthorne; and for that it is common to divers towns, it is eaten with cattle, and there groweth in every acre 26 old oakes, and 20 young oakes, and 8 dottard oakes.

(c) Also *Buttreley Carr* containing 30 acres well set with young holly and 30 small saplings.

(d) Also *Black Carr* containing 32 acres well set with holly, and 16 small oakes in the same.

(e) Also a *Wood* adjoining to Butterley plain containing 160 acres set with hazel, birch, and whitethorne, common to divers towns and kept down with cattle. There groweth 40 oakes and 8 dottard oakes in every acre.

(f) Also *Thick* of Butterley, containing 230 acres set with small holly, birch hazel, and whitethorne. There are 30 oakes and 8 dottard oakes in every acre.

(g) Also *Water Banck*, containing 80 acres set with small holly, hazel, and whitethorne; and in every acre there are 26 oakes and 10 dottard oakes.

(h) Also *Redynyre*, containing 160 acres set with small holly, birch, hazel, and whitethorne. In every acre there are 34 small saplings, and in the said wood 120 dottard oaks.

(i) Also *Shoughtonsyde*, containing 34 acres, and set with hazel, holly, birch, whitethorne, and blackthorne. In every acre are 26 oakes and 10 dottard oakes.

(k) Also one *Wood* adjoining Showtonsyde, containing 80 acres, and set with birch, holly, hazel, and crabtree. In every acre there are 16 oakes and 8 dottard oakes.

Also rest of the said Warde is slenderly set abroad in divers places with small crooked oakes, whitethorne, small holly and blackthorne, all for tynsell. And there groweth abroad in the said Warde 4,000 small oakes for timber, and 800 dottard oakes.

Also the said Warde is platted with many loundes* and plaines wherein groweth no timber nor underwood.

Fee Trees (a) To John Ireton, deputy bow-bearer, one tree.

(b) To Francis Curzon, ranger of the Frith, one tree.

(c) To the keeper of the Warde, one tree.

Memorandum.—Sir Humphrey Bradburne, knight, is one of the foresters in fee, and John Topylffe is his deputy, and claimeth to have in the same ward firewood for his house, but he taketh none and is quietly so content.

Thomas Knyfton, Esquire, is another forester in fee, and he taketh firewood in his own hand and delivery for his house, and timber likewise.

X.—RAVENSDALE PARK containeth 3 miles about.

(a) In the *West End* there is a wood containing 12 acres well set with young oller of 4 years' growth, lately sold to the use of King Philip and Mary.

(b) The *Rest of the Park* is very slenderly set about with holly and some whitethorne, and there groweth abroad in the said Park 130 small dottard oakes for firewood.

Also in the Ring there are 12 old oakes for building timber or pale, and 12 old dottard oakes.

Fee Trees (a) To Thomas Ireton, deputy bow-keeper, one tree.

(b) To the said Thomas who keepeth the axe, one tree.

(c) To Richard Holland, deputy ranger, one tree.

(d) To the Deputy Keeper there, one tree.

Sir Thomas Cokayne, knt., is the keeper there.

XI.—MARNSHULL PARK containeth two miles about very well set with fair large Hollynge (holly) almost throughout, and there groweth abroad 210 old dottard oakes.

Also in the Ring there are 16 small oakes for timber, and 24 dottard oakes.

Also on a Little Hill there are 12 old oakes decayed, but they bear fair tops.

* Lounde, or Launde, was the term for a patch or parcel of unploughed land clear of trees, in the midst of a wood or forest. It is still occasionally used, e.g., Belper Laund, and it survives in several field names on old township maps of the Duffield district.

Sir William Sayntlowe Knight is keeper there.

Fee Trees (a) To Thomas Ireton, deputy bow-bearer, one tree.

(b) To Richard Holland, deputy ranger, one tree.

(c) To the deputy-keeper, one tree.

It seems possible, however, that there is some miscalculation in the number of the timber trees, for another briefer Survey, though it omits a considerable section of the Frith as given in the 1560 survey, produces such much smaller totals. Otherwise there must have been a most extraordinary waste of timber in the course of a quarter of a century. This latter survey, which follows, is of interest inasmuch as it gives the money value of all the wood, and also from the difference of nomenclature. Only 2,764 large oaks and 3,032 small oaks are mentioned. The total value of the whole wood of the Frith was somewhat under £2,000, according to this return:—*

Com. Derby. The foreste or chace of Duffield frithe ys divided into three wardes viz Imprimis Duffield Warde alias Chevine which lyethe in parishe of Duffield in the countie of Derby aforesaid it^e conteynethe in compasse 4 myles there groweth within thys ward of tymber trees—1040 everie tree worthe one with another—10^s—which amounteth to the some of —520^{li}.

There groweth also within thys ward of pollingers or younge timber poles—440 everie pollinger worthe one with another—5^s— which amounteth to the some of 110^{li}.

There groweth also within thys ward of stubbed trees—97 everie stubb worthe one with another—2^s—which amountethe to the some of—9^{li} 14^s.

There is growinge also within this ward underwoodes of hasell hawthorne birche older and hollies to the quantitie of 60 acres which have not bine used to be incopized nor any sale to be made therof everie acre worth to be sould 20^s which amounteth to the some of 60^{li}.

* *D. L. Misc. Books*, 114, pp. 63-5.

BROMEFELDE.

A pasture inseparable lying within Chevine.

Bromefeild ys a pasture inseparable lying within the said warde. There groweth herein of timber trees—40—every timber tree worth one with another 6^s 8^d which amounteth to the some of 13^{li} 6^s 8^d.

There ys also growinge in Bromefield of pollengers or younge timber poles—80—everie polenger worth one with another 3^s 4^d which amounteth to the some of 13^{li} 6^s 8^d.

HOLLAND WARDE.

Item Holland Warde which lyeth in the parishe of Duffild in the said Countie it conteynith in compasse—6—myles. There growethe within this warde of timber trees—480—everie tree worth one with another 6^s which amounteth to the some of 144^{li}.

There groweth also within thys warde of pollengers or younge timber poles—1740, everie pollenger worth one with another 3^s which amounteth to the some of 261^{li}.

There groweth also within Holland Warde of stubbed trees—300—everie stubb worth one with another 2^s which amounteth to the some of—30^{li}.

There is also growinge within thys warde vnderwoodes of hasell hawthorne hollies &c. in severall places of the warde to the quantitie of 40 acres everie acre worth to be sould 20^s which have not bine used to be incopized nor any sale therof to be made and they amounte to the some of 40^{li}.

There ys also growinge within thys ward underwoodes of older to the quantitie of 40 acres which have bine heretofore sould and are nowe of the growth of eightene yeares everie acre worth to be soul 20^s which amountith to the some of 40^{li}

TWYFORDFELD.

A pasture inseparable lying in Holland Warde Twyfordfield is a pasture inseparable lying within the said warde conteyning 60 acres. There is growing herein of timber trees 400 everie tree worth one with another 5^s which amounteth to the some of 100^{li}.

There groweth also in Twyfordfield of pollengers or younge timber poles 200 everie pollenger worth one with another 2^s 6^d which amounteth to the some of 25^{li}.

There groweth also in Twyfordfeild of stubbed trees 200 everie stubb worth one with another—2^s which amounteth to the sum of—20^{li}.

There ys also growing in Twyfordfield of underwoodes of hasell hawthorne &c. to the quantitie of 4 acres everie acre worth to be sould—6^s 8^d which have not bine used to be incopized nor any sale therof to be made and they amounte to the some of 1^{li} 6^s 8^d.

There ys also growing in Twyfordfield vnderwoodes of older to the quantitie of 4 acres which have bine heretofore sould and are nowe of eighteen yeares growth everie acre worth to be sould 10^s which amounteth to the some of 2^{li}.

BELPAR WARDE.

Item Belpar Ward which lyeth in the parishe of Duffeild in the said Countie yt conteyneth in compasse—5 myles and a halfe. There groweth within this warde of timber trees 584 everie tree worth one with another 5^s which amounteth to the some of 146^{li}.

There groweth also in thys ward of pollengers or yonge tumber poles 452 everie pollenger worth one with another 2^s 6^d which amounteth to the some of 56^{li} 10^s.

There groweth also within Belpar warde of stubbed trees 405 everie stubb worth one with another—2^s which amounteth to the some of 40^{li} 10^s.

There is also growing within thys ward on a bancke called Swynney on a bancke called Dunge and on a banke called Todmere banck underwoods of birch older hawthorn &c. to the quantitie of 68 acres which have not bine used to be incopized nor anie sale heretofore to be made thereof and they are worth everie acre one with another to be sould 1^{li} 10^s which amounteth to the some of 102^{li}.

There is also growing within thys ward on a banck called Shawebanck like underwood to the quantitie of 40 acres everie acre worth one with another to be sould 2^s which amounteth to the some of—4^{li}.

BELPAR PARKE.

Belpar parke lyeth in the parishe of Duffield in the said Countie yt conteyneth in compasse 1 myle Ther ys growinge only in this parke underwoodes of older hasell hathorne &c. to the quantitie of 80 acres everie acre worth one with another to be sould 6^s 8^d which amounteth to the some of 2^{li} 13^s 4^d.

RAVENSDALE PARKE.

Raunsdale parke lyethe in the parishe of Muggentone in the said Countie yt conteyneth in compasse 3 myles. There groweth in thys parke of stubbed trees 240—everie stubb worth one with another 1^s which amounteth to the some of 12^{li}.

MAUNCELL PARKE.

Mauncell parke lyeth in the said parishe of Muggentonne in the countye aforesaid yt conteynith in compasse 2 myles ther groweth in thys parke of stubbed trees 80 everie stubb worth one with another 1^s which amounteth to the some of 4^{li}.

POSTERNE PARKE.

Posterne parke lyeth in the parishe of Duffield in the said countie yt conteyneth in compasse 3 myles. There groweth in thys parke of timber trees 220 everie tree worth one with another 10^s which amounteth to the some of 110^{li}.

There groweth also in thys parke of pollengers or younge timber poles—320 everie pollenger worth one with another 2^s 6^d which amounteth to the some of 40^{li}.

There ys also growinge in thys parke of stubbed trees 80 everie stubbe worth one with another 2s. which amounteth to the some of 8^{li}.

In 1581 a Commission was issued to Edward Stanhope and other gentlemen to survey and fully report on the condition of the Frith and its capabilities. At this time there were only a very few deer left in Maunsell Park; Alderwasley was no longer reckoned as part of the Frith. Their return is of quite sufficient interest to be cited in full.*

The Certificate of Edward Stanhope Willm Agard and Simon Arden esquiers upon their veiw and survey of the waste of Duffield frith and other things to them and to George Abell gent comitted to view and certifie by virtue of the Quene's Majestie's Commission bearing date the xxij day of ffebruary in the xxij year of the Quene's Majestie reign.

1.—By virtue of the Quene's Majestie's Commission to us directed under her Majestic seale of the Duchy of Lancaster bearing date the xxij day of ffebruary in the three and twentieth yere of her highnes reign We came the third day of April last past to the place mentioned in the saide Commission in the county of Derby and calling before us the woodwardes and collectors of the wardes being the wastes of Duffield ffryth mentioned in the said Commission and divers also of her Majestie's Tenantes copyholders and free holders of her mannors within the saide frithe of Duffield with the members to the number of Thirtie and upwarde We doe finde as well by our owne viewe perambulation and survey As by their Confession That there are within her Majestie's free chase of Duffield frithe aforesaid Three great wastes or comon groundes whereof thone is called Holland Ward thother Duffild Ward the third Bellparr warde And that of eche of the said wardes there is one woodward Collector or forester in fee viz. John Roper who claymeth the patent to be collector of Holland warde, Roger Brokeshawe who claymeth to be forester in fee of Duffild warde and Collector of the same by patent And George Sellers who claymeth to be Collector by patent of Bellparr warde Whiche wardes appeare and are likewise confessed as aforsaide That they were and are a free chase of ffallow deare vnto her Majesties honor of Tudbery

* Duchy of Lancaster. Special Commissions, 305.

and were till of late yeres replenished with game of fallow deare and had divers other officers and ministers of chase as ffosters in ffee Bowbearer and suche like. Some of which offices divers gentlemen and others of those partes of that Countrey did clayme to them and their heires in ffee And to have by their grauntes thereof houseboote hedgeboote and fierboote* within the said chase But because the said game is utterlie destroyed and gone we did not call for the sight of any suche their graunts or further presse of the same.

2.—And as unto the vnderwoods groweing upon the said wastes and woodsoyle therof mentioned in the saide Commission we do finde by our view perambulation confession of the Tenantes and conferens with them and with the saide officers of the saide wardes That within the said Holland Warde there is a great deal of playne grounde and a great quantity of wooddy and bushy ground The estimate of the acres whereof we cannot sett downe because it consisteth chieffie and is but thinn sett thorow out the saide waste with scrubby hollyns, white thorne, old okes but litle timber some hassill and other vnderwood here and there in Tufts And a good quantitie of alders groweing in sundry plattes.

3.—Item that there is in Duffild Ward likewise a great deale of playne ground and a great deal also of wood soyle some part wherof is knowen by the name of Chevyn The quantitie of which wood ground by acres we cannot likewise sett downe because it is but thinn sett with wood and yet semeth to have ben better preserved then the former woods consisting chieffie of the vnderwood of hollyns mapill hassell white thorn and other underwood And there are also many great okes wherof divers of them are tymber.

4.—Item that there is in Bellparr warde likewise a great deale of playne ground and a great deale also of woodsoyle the quantitie of which woodground by acres we cannot likewise sett downe because it is but thim sett of wood consisting chieffie of birkes hollyns and some other underwood but in divers bankes

* *i.e.*, Wood for building, hedging, and fuel.

and places therof the most store of underwood is birkes And there are also divers okes whereof some of them are tymber trees.

5.—And furder we do fynde by the clayme demaund and confession of the saide Tenantes and officers That the woodes within the saide wardes have ben thus vsed by Her Majesty's Tenantes and Copyholders bordering upon the same have vsed to have every thirde yere reasonable hedgeboote to hedge those partes of their comon corne fieldes that do abutt upon the saide woodes or waste groundes And further that they have used in winter yerly to cropp browse or topp of the hollyns and of some other of the saide vnderwoods groweing within the said wardes by a good quantity yerly for browse and relieff of the Quene's game when there were deare there and the Tenantes for their Cattail and shepe for which cropping and relieff for their cattaill and shepe they are yerly amerced, having regard to the quantity, that is yerly so cropped Which wood notwithstanding so cropped browsed and topped The collectors have used towards the latter end of winter to view and deviding the same into parcells to sett unto the Quenes Majesties use to her Tenantes aforesaid as he and they could agree for fierwood accompting for the same at her Majesties Auditt at Tudbery And that all borderers and straungers not being Tenantes taking away any of the saide woodes or Tenantes taking away any without the sale of the saide Collectors are for the same amerced in her Majesties Courtes of Duffield called Woodmotes.

And furder we do finde as aforesaide That all the Alders within the saide Wardes have ben felled and sold by the ground to her Majesties use of late yeares And that all her Majesties Tenantes of Duffild Bellparr, Makely, Hasselwood, Windell and Turneditche, Howbroke and Southwood Holland Ideridghey Byggin Ireton wood Bellparr Hiege, and other houses within the precinct of the saide Duffild frith do clayme and use comon of pasture for their shepe and all other cattaill within and thorow out the common soyle of all the said wardes namely those chiefly in eche of them which do abutt and boundes vpon the same

Item we do furder finde as aforesaide That small benefite may arise to her Majestie by encosping of the saide woodes as well for that the same be for the moste parte but thinn sett upon the saide wastes as aforesaide as for that they consist chiefly uppon hollyns which being old trees do well renewe in Topp wood after cropping and browsing And are doubtfull they would not in long tyme arise to any good wood being felled at the roote ffor that also the Alders by being loked unto from stelthe and cutting will sufficientlie rise againe without encosping, being felled by the roote And for that the birkes which be chieffie in Bellparr warde being felled by the rootes eche yere bear a reasonable portion and being loked unto by a woddward appointed to kepe great cattaill of from the spring thereof three or foure yeres after they be felled will rise sufficientlie to be trees againe.

The chief reason also why we thinke none of the premises convenient to be encosped is for that the encosping thereof would be more prejudiciall to her Majesties tenantes dwelling within the said frith being a great manred* of men and many of them pore men living chiefly upon the relief of the pasturage of the commons for their cattaill and shepe then avaylable for the increase of the said woodes But we do finde as aforesaide That her Majestie may make to herself suche yerlye renew and profit as hereafter enseweth by making a lease of the said vnderwoods So as the same may be used in maner and forme hereafter ensewing That is to say the said Alders within all the saide three wardes and the wastes of the same to be letten for yeres to such as shall devide them or proportion them into Tenn partes or haggest† selling every yere one hagge only not encosping the same nor selling any suche hagge after the first fall vnder tenn yeres groweth.

Item the said hollyns and other vnderwoodes to be letten for yeres to suche as shall devide and proportion by markes and boundes only without any other partition the woodsoyle of every

* Manred = dependence, or vassalage.

† "Hagge" or hag was the name given to a certain portion of wood to be felled assigned to a single woodman, the whole fall was termed a "flag."

of the said three wardes into tenn partes or haggas not encopping the same And after the same so proportioned To begynn with one hagge that shall lye at one end or side thereof Topping the bowes of the said hollyns within the said hagge vsually to be topped at the height they have ben usuallie Topped betwixt the first day of December and the first day of Marche onlie yerlie And letting every of the said toppes lye after it be topped one monethe at the least for the cattaill of her Majesties tenantes to browse uppon the leaffe and barke of the saide toppes Per- mitting also any of her Majesties tenantes commoners within the said ward to topp any of the hollyns within the saide hagge of the said warde that yere by her said Tenantes appointed to be topped at any time betwixt the said first day of December and the said first day of Marche yerlie The said Tenantes com- moners letting the said Toppwood lye for the browse of their cattaill onlie And the wood thereof to remayne to him to whome her Majestie shall demise the said Toppwood which order of Topping of the saide hollyns we have thought in favour of her Majesties tenantes and copyholders there convenient to advertise and certifie that it is requisite for the Tenante that shalbe of the saide woodd to obserue in his said graunt, because we do finde the browse thereof to be a great relieff for the Quenes Majesties tenantes and Inhabitants of the said frieth for cattaill And in like maner to deale withall maner other vnderwood standing within the saide hagge that yere appointed to be topped Saving that there is to be allowed and felled onlie by her Majesties tenantes and copyholders out of the Toppes of the said vnderwood that yere to be topped except hollyns Suche reasonable hedgeboot for their ancient hedges boundinge upon the same as they have vsuallie had by the view of the wood- wardes of the saide woodes Or as shalbe by a furder inquiry or Survey found that they have customablie had and convenient to be enioyed All which other underwoods to be topped above the height or reache of ordinary beastes for destroying the spring of the hedd there And so the next yere to procede with the next hagge to the same adjoining And in like order to go

thorow the hole ward not topping in any one hagge after it is once topped till the toppes be againe of tenn yeares growethe Item that in every suche proportion or hagge within the said Bellparr warde That the tenante thereof may fell all the birkes that yere groweing within the same by the ground appointing a carefull overseer of the said woods that shall for the space of three years after any of the said birkes be felled kepe of noysome and hurtfull beastes for suche wood till the saide birkes shalbe of iij or iiij yeres groweth ffor all which saide Alders topwood of hollyns and ther onderwood aforesaid and birkes to be topped and felled yerelie in maner and forme aforesaide we do certifie that we thinke her Majestie may reserve the yerlie rent of five poundes.

6.—Item We do furder finde as is aforesaide That there is in his saide lease to be excepted and allowed vnto the collectors woodwardes and other officers of eche of the said wardes so many loades for ther fierwood or hedgwood as shall hereafter by certificate upon a furder survey be found That either by graunt or customable use hathe belonged or ben dewe unto them for the execution of the saide offices and that hath ben so vsuallie had and taken out of the underwoods aforesaid Or in default of such commission and survey suche as they shall hereafter in the honorable court of the Duchy prove to be dewe and belonging to the said Offices They attending and regarding the saide wardes and the woodes as well standing as to be felled or topped as aforesaid from spoyle waste destruction stealing or carieing away in suche sorte as hertofore they have vsuallie done or ought to have done.

7.—Item the aptest places that we do finde within any of the saide wastes for the erecting or setting up of any bloweng mill for the melting of lead ower (the same intended to be a water mill) is in Holland warde at one litle broke called Holland broke or the broke in Holland ward rising within the same of two or iij small springes And in Chevyn or Duffeld ward at one litle broke called black broke about the bottom and lowest falls of eche of the said brokes which said brokes are thought will serve

for that purpose So there may be one small overshot mill at eche of them and will haue water to furnish worke one day at thone and an other day at thother onles it be in the drought of somer And which we are rather inclined to thinke because that nere unto the broke which is in Holland ward we do see one or two great and auncient heapes of Iron slagg or Cinders whereby it should seem there hathe ben some water worke there for melting of Iron stone* therefor if any will take upon him to erect suche a mill upon eche of the saide brokes we do finde that without any great prejudice to any of her Majesties tenantes there, there may be taken in of the soyle for the seate of the saide mill at eche of the saide places and for necessary yerdes backsides and easements to be used with the same and passage to the mill damme.or dammes two acres of grounde And we do find that he may then yeld to her Majestie for the said soyle and milles so to be erected at his own charges five shillings a pece by the yere so as he may have some allowaunce of timber for the building thereof and libertie to gett aswell stone for his damme and other workmanship aboute his saide Mills and fierstone if any be, or other stone for his harthes and furnisses from tyme to tyme to be taken digged or gotten within any of the saide wastes.

8.—Item We do finde by conferens with some of the tenantes and with some others at the same time that haue had to do in matter of lead melting and buyeng of ower That divers lordes and owners of mannors within the said County of Derby haue used to haue the preferment of buyeng of such ower as is gotten within their saide manors by the Mynors And that the moste lordes and owners of mannors within the saide Countie of late yeres that haue ben disposed to buy ower and make the led themselves have had the preferment of buying of suche ower as is gotten within their saide manners offring to pay and payeing at the meet dayes redy money for the same as muche as the vsuall price is and as others do geve And we do therefore likewise and upon viewe of some other matters concerninge mynerye

* See the reference to a forge in the cited account roll of the Frith for 1313-14.

thinke and finde that the same preferment is and may be in like sorte used within her Majesties mannors and groundes aswell within her Majesties Wapentake of Wirkesworth as els where within her countie of Derby being parcell of the possessions of her honor of Tudbery or Duchy of Lancaster And it is worthe to be geven for every loade of ower so to be bought by pre-emption one halfe peny of which loades every twelve do comonlie make a fother or there aboutes and In witness of which this our Certificate for the execution of the said Commission we whose names be hereunder written have hereunto sett our handes and seales.

E. Stanhope.

Wm. Agard.

Symon Arden.

In 1587 the inhabitants of Duffield Frith sent the following Petition to the Queen through the Duchy official.

Most humblie besecheth your honor your poore suppliantes the inhabitantes and borderers of the Quene her Majestie's Chase called Duffelde ffrith being her Majestie's waste of her mannor of Duffield and of her highnes honor of Tutberie in the Countie of Derby that where your honours humble suppliantes inhabiting and borderinge the same Chase being of Coppie houlders free houlders and auncient Cottagers and householders In number five hundred and nine and of their wifes children and families in number eighteen hundred all which freeholders coppie houlders and all those whose estates they haue beyng her Majestie's tenants have tyme out of mynde hadetaken and quietly enjoyed free comon of pasture for their catle without number in the same Chase and waste ground called Duffield fryth and have also used by all the same tyme every yeare from the feaste daye of saint Martine in winter to crope and browse of her Majestie's said woods in the said Chase reasonable and sufficient bowwood of all maner underwoodes therfore their saide Catle so oft as snoe froste or any harde wether sholde hapen to be and as their Catle needed vntill the ende of februarye nexte following the said feaste daie of Sainte Martine And in thende of every winter

the said cropping and browseedes have been soulde in the said inhabitants and borderers by her Majestie's officers of the same Chase and the prices thereof aunswered to her Majestie And also by all the time of mans remembraunce some of the said inhabitants and borderers have used taken and hade in the same her Majestie's chase by grantes or custome as in right of her manor and howses howsebootes heybootes plowebootes and hedgeboote with convenient and reasonable firewood to burne in their dwellinge howses and maner places besides the great relief of the said poore auncient Cotagers inhabitinge and borderinge the said her Majestie's Chase whiche they have hade of the comon and woodes in the said chase by her Majestie's goodness and good favour of the honorable Chauncellors of her Duchie of Lancaster your honours predecessors and quietly in reasonable sorte enjoyed to their great eade and comfort and meinteining of their lives tyme out of mynde Nowe if it may please your honor we your humble suppliants the said inhabitants and borderers are put in feare that some haue or seeke to haue by lease or otherwise her Majesties woods and vnder woods in same Chase from us your poore supliants and so as not only therby all your honors poore suppliantes having any right or interest in the same woodes by auncient custome or other wayes are like to be molested and grevouslye troubled and put to extreme charges in suite for the same but we and all the reste of your honours suppliants brought to great needines and povertie if those her Majestie's woodes or comon of pasture in the same chase be graunted from us for Right honorable suche is the barrennes of our soil there and so stande our habitations as her Majestie's woodes or our comon of pasture in the same chase taken from us we and all ours shall be utterly impoverished therby and constraigned to seeke dwellinges other where In tender consideration whereof as your honor hath bene alwayes a moste carefull majestret for the honor of her Majestie and preservation of her comon wealth then which her highnes nothing more intendeth nor regardeth our humble petition is that it may please your honor of your meare accustomed pitie and tender

love towards us her highnes faythfull loyall people who without redrese by your honor are in great feare least we and all ours shalbe made poore and unable to abide where we are not only by your honors wysedom and authoritie vnder her highnes to assist and shield us her majestie's people from that extremitie sought against us and so order our cause as to your wysedom maye seme meetest for her Majestie and us her poore subjectes but also to move her highnes most honorable and gracious favor towards us so as her Majestie's graunt of these woodes if any be by bill assigned or otherwise paste from her Majestie as we feare ther is her Majestie by your honors good meanes may be moved to revoke the same And we her Majestie's people prayinge for her highnes as we alwayes have done shalbe bound to praye also for your honors longe contynuance in the state of government vnder her Majestie wherein your faithfull service to her highnes hath bene and with all care and dew respecte to her Majestie moste honorable employed.

Endd. 2 Sept. 1587.

The petition of the inhabitants and borderers of Duffield fryth in the County of Derrby.

In June, 1588, Mr. Edward Stanhope was appointed by the council to enter into the grievances of the tenants of the Frith, and wrote them the following letter :—

I commende me hartely unto you and as the bearer can informe you it is Mr. Chauncellors expresse pleasure that I should appoint a tyme when half a score of you best acquaynted with the state of your liberties may come in the behalfe of you all unto me to Nottingham where I may make you acquainted with his honours intention in a late sute made unto him for some comodite to be rayسد to her Majestie of some of the woods and underwoods in Duffield ffrith as well how farr forth the same is meant to be done as wherein the same may prejudice you or any of you her Majestie's tenantes wherein his honour will I hope be drawn to graunt litle or no more then was about five or sixe yeres past certified by a Commiseion directed to me and

others what might be done without great prejudice to you whereof at that tyme I had special care, and so will still have if I may finde you inclinable to my good conformity This shalbe therefore to will you to send unto me against ffriday morninge nexte being the vth of July by viij of the clocke to Nottingham about the number of viij or x of yourselves as is before specified to whome I may imparte Mr. Chauncellors pleasure further at large and may heare of them in all your behalves how farr forth the same may any way justly greve you and to debate and conclude what shall seme further reason upon conferens therof, wherof faile you not for I shall go presently after that day to York to serve her Majestie there and shall hardly have any other tyme till Michelmas. From Grays Inn the xxvijth of June 1588.

Your loving ffrinde,

E. Stanhope Supervisor.

Endd.—To his loving ffrindes the Quenes Majestie's Tenantes of Duffield ffrith.

The representative tenants appeared before Mr. Stanhope at Nottingham in the following month, and the following Report was then forwarded to the Chancellor of the Duchy :—*

By your honors appointment for me to deale with the Tenantes of Duffield to call them before me and heare what they could alledge why your honor for thadvancement of her Majestie's revenewe might not demise the woods of Duffield ffrith especiallie in such sorte as was certified upon a former commission dated the xxijth day of february in the xxijth yere of her Majestie's reigne and returned into the Court Or els to heare what they would yeld to those whome her Majestie meant to bestowe it of, if the Tenantes might have it graunted to themselves to vse and pay as that certificate dothe direct, I did warne them to be with a competent number of the better sorte of them before me at Nottingham the vth of July last past whither came

* Duchy of Lancaster, Special Commission, No. 305.

Roger Brockshawe	} The Quenes Majestie's Tenantes of Duffield ffrieth in the busines of themselves and the rest.
John Roper	
William Bradshaw	
Henry Wetton	
George Alestrye	
William Johnson	
Roberte Mellors	

And after I had imparted your honors good intent towards them and also read unto them the saide Certificate declaring that I was assured, and that they could not well denye but that your honor might so graunt it according to the Certificate without wrong doeing to them any way And therefore wished them not to refuse the great favour was offred them And that if they would not deale with it themselves That they should then shewe what they could that was inconvenient in that Certificate which I then read vnto them.

Vpon long debating the matter and shewing suche reasons as they had before preferred in writting to your honour which in truth nothing impeached that certificate when they were conferred together yet they semed not willing to deale for it themselves And the chiefest inconvenience of our former certificate which they could alledge was That if the felling should be in tenn hages so that every yere all should be felled in any one place of eche ward. The browse thereof could not pleasure all the Comoners dwelling iij or iiij miles compas To which was aunswered that some provision in theire favour might be made to remedy that point and yet not in dewtie for that their having the browse was but of curtesy since the deare were decayed in the ffrieth.

But they concluded that they were not willing to deale to redeame the lease or his good will that should have it for that the Comoners being many, divers would not contribute and many would be unruly in felling and taking if it were devided emongest a multitude And therefore in the end required that they might have a further day to conferr to offer some reasonable consideration to have the same remayne as it hath done, and to know

their customes of fines heriottes and suche like duties from them to her Majestie and for them to enjoy of her Majestie to be confirmed and enjoyed as they should be dewlie proved by inquisition and othe To whiche end they toke respite till the xxth of July At whiche time the said Roger Brockshawe George Alestry William Johnson together with Antony Bradshawe James Spendlove and Thomas Eton came in the behalfe of themselves and the rest of her Majestie's Tenantes there Who as unto the lease that was motioned concerning the woods say They do no further aunswere then before they have done And that they themselves could not convenientlie deale with it for the respects aforesaide but deferred the same to be done or vsed as should seme good to your honour hoping you would have consideration of their greves in their former petitions exhibited And for the rest being the confirmation or putting in certaine of their customes neither did they make any offer to be accompted of neither did I urge them further in that point being no part of the substance of my comission So that I perceive your honour's lenytye and favourable hearing them doth rather annymate them to hope they may enjoye still the spoile and waste of her Majestie's woods yelding litle for it whereof her highness may make some better Commodity lawfully and orderlie without wrong or just prejudice to them it being used in suche sorte as is particulerly sett down and directed in the saide certificate made by myself Mr. Agard and Mr. Arden upon the former commission the whiche I have herewith likewise returned to your honour together with this my aunswer of the service you commaunded me in that behalfe which I deferred to aunswer in the vacation in hope they would have ben better advised and have come to me with some further resolution by Michelmas But I hard no further of them And so I humble cease to trouble your honour this xth of October 1588.

Your honours humbly to commaund

E. Stanhope supervisor.

Endd.—To the right honourable S^r ffrancis Walsingham Knight
her Majestie's principall Secretarie and Chauncello^r of the
Duchie of Lancaster.

The last document for which space can be found in this issue of the *Journal*, shows that there was another commission appointed to secure true measurements of the "wood grounds" in the Frith, a task which the jury appointed for the purpose found impossible to execute.*

The Answere of the Jury after thrice meting with the Commissioners taken the vth of January 1592.

We cannot admeasure the wood grounds within the wardes of Holland Duffield and Belpar because there is divers-barryn and stony places therein not being woodgrounds where the cattaill of the Quenes Majestie's Tenantes and Inhabitanes who have common within the said woodes cannot for the barrenes and coldnes there ioist (agist) nor gett foode in the time of winter and cold weather but are forced to go into the wood groundes for foode and warmenesse And also within the said wood groundes there be divers playnes where no woodes growe.

The meates meares and boundes for the saide woodgroundes we cannot present because of the barren places and playnes therein.

We cannot present how many ookes like to make tymber have ben vsuallie vpt or lopt, but divers of them have ben cropt for some browse for the cattaill of the Quenes tenantes and inhabitantes who have common there in the tyme of hard weather without which otherwayes they were not able to relieve them and her Majestie hathe ben answered as we thinke for the saide browse at her Majesties Auditt.

Also the abovesaid tenantes and inhabitants have had therof tynsell byndinges and stakes for the ryng hedges and so have used to have tyme out of mynde.

Also divers trees have ben felled and some lopped and topped for repaire of her Majesties tenantes Milnes weares pales

* Duchy of Lancaster, Special Commission, No. 404.

gates fences and suche like the certaynty wherof we knowe not neither can certainlie present but we thinke the same have ben and still ought to be so necessurilie used.

And touchinge the waste done or number of trees felled by the space of theis tenn yeres now last past and some other poyntes in the said articles and commission we can no further present or certifie then afore we and others upon former commissions and inquirys have certified.

E. Stanhope.
William Monday.

It will be noticed that every family of importance in Derbyshire was more or less-closely connected with the administration of the affairs of Duffield Frith. Any account of the officers and their duties must be held over for another occasion.