



## Swallowfield and its Owners.

*By Lady Russell.*

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*(Continued from page 94.)*

1265. Roger de Leybourne to whom Swallowfield was granted in 1265, was son of Robert de Leybourne. He had been, as we have seen, on the side of the Barons, and underwent in consequence the sentence of excommunication by the Archbishop of Canterbury, but not long after, being "drawn off by rewards," as was said, he forsook them and fought for the King.

In some M.S. Political Songs of the 13th century, we find him thus alluded to by a contemporary :

"And Sir Roger de Leybourne,  
Who here and there would turn  
To conquer, kill and burn ;  
Prince Edward had harassed him sore,  
So now he tried hard to restore  
His loss and something more."

After the battle of Evesham, when the King recovered his power, Roger de Leybourne was made Warden of all the Forests beyond Trent, as also Sheriff of Cumberland, Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Sheriff of Kent. He also obtained a grant of the lands of Adam de Despencer including "one messuage and one carucate of land in Beaumys with wood and rents and all its appurts besides the Manors of Berton, Swaluefelde and Stanton which were of Roger de St. John, rebel." [Dugdale, Charter Roll 49, Hen. III.]

1270. In 54 Henry III, Roger de Leybourne was signed with the cross in order that he might accompany Prince

1272. Edward to the Holy Land but he died without performing the journey in 56 Hen. III. He had three wives ; his first was Alionore or Eleanor, daughter of Stephen de Turnham, Sheriff of Wiltshire and Seneschal of Anjou, the said Stephen having given 300 marks to the King for the Wardship and marriage

of Roger de Leybourne. His second was Alionore, daughter of William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and widow of Roger de Quenci, Earl of Winchester, and his third wife was Idonea, daughter of Robert Veteripont or Vipount, hereditary Seneschal of Westmorland. She survived him and afterwards married John de Crumbwell or Cromwell, Justice of the King's Forests. Roger de Leybourne left a son William de Leybourne, who had, says Dugdale, "Livery of part of the lands of his inheritance," but Swalefeld as well as Barton and Stanton, Oxon, reverted to John de St. John of Lageham, nephew to John de St. John of Stanton.

1276. In an Inquisition taken in 1276 we have a list of this John de St. John's tenants in Swalfelde, which is as follows :

Osmund Algar holds	...	...	1 acre.
Simon le Fraunklyn holds	...	1	"
Henry de Mora	"	...	1 "
Crietiana de Mora	"	...	½ "
John Wickrig	"	...	2 "
William Wickrig	"	...	½ "
Richard le Somel	"	...	1 rood.
Nicholas Aleyn	"	...	½ acre.
Thomas Edret	"	...	1 rood.
Walter Pelliparius	"	...	½ acre.
Richard Vulrich	"	...	1 "
Alice Tedrick	"	...	½ "
John Gold	"	...	1 rood.

Five of these names Algar, Wickrig, Edret, Tedrick and Gold appear in the list of "under-tenants of lands in Berks at the time of Edward the Confessor." Fraunklyn was the name of a family who possessed Borstall in the 13th and 14th centuries and we find mention of two Simon Fraunklyns among them. "Christian ffranklin" was buried at Swallowfield in 1588.

1291. In the valuation made by order of Pope Nicholas, in 1291, when Swallowfield belonged to John de St. John, of Lageham, the following occurs :—

"Sarum Dive'.

Arched'. Berk.'

Ecclia Finchmsted	...	...	...	£	4	6	8
Ecclia de Schuningefelde and Swallfelde	20	0	0				
Pensio abb. de Lyra in eadem	...	...	2	0	0		

1297. John de St. John, of Lageham, was summoned to Parliament as first Baron St. John of Lageham in 1297, and was a

prominent character in the reigns of Edward I. and II. He took part in the wars against Scotland, fighting against Wallace and Robert Bruce.

1315. After the destruction of Edward II.'s army at Bannockburn, the English were hardly able to defend their own frontiers against King Robert and his soldiers, and in 1315 Baron St. John "received command to be at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, well fitted with horse and armes, to restrain the incursions of the Scots."

1317. Baron St. John died in 1317, "seized of the manor Swalefeld in com. Berks, etc." [*Esc. 10, E. II., v. 74*] having in 1294 given "for the good of his soul to St. Ethelbert's, Hereford, the advowson of the church of Shingefeld, and the chapel of Swalowefeld." He was succeeded by his son John, second Baron St. John,

of Lageham, who was then, according to Dugdale, forty 1318. years of age, and was, the following year, in the expedition made into Scotland.

1320. We find in the book of John Chandler, Dean of Salisbury, 1415, that in 1320 the then Dean of Salisbury "visited the Church of Sonnyne, with the Chapel of Schenningfield and Swalefeld," and at this same date Roger de Mortival, Bishop of Sarum, endorsed at Sonning a Bull of Pope John XXII., granting the great tithes of the Parishes of Shinfield and Swallowfield for the repairs of Hereford Cathedral.

1323. John, second Baron St. John, died 16 Edward II., leaving John his son and heir, fifteen years of age, and Alice his wife surviving, who married secondly Reginald de Pavely, Lord of the Manor of Wendlebury.

John, third Baron St. John of Lageham, married Catherine de Say, who survived him; she was the daughter of Geoffrey de Say, by Idonea de Leyburne.

In 1323, during the possession of Swallowfield by John, third Baron St. John, the Dean and Chapter of Hereford paid a fine of 5 marks to Edward II. for the licence of appropriating and anvening the Chapelry of Swalefeld with the Church of Shenygfeld in the Diocese of Sarum.

1333. Though Baron de St. John was the Manorial Lord of Swallowfield, it was held in 1333 by Sir John de Ifeld, or Yfeld, and we find that he was "the principal person taxed at Swalughfeld and Schenygfeld in 1333, viz., at 20s." [*Lay subsidy. Roll. co. Berks. No. 73.*] He was son of Sir John de Ifeld, who died 1317 and was buried at Ifield Church, Sussex, where there is his effigy.

on an altar tomb. The figure is in armour, and was engraved by Stothard, as a fine specimen of the earliest plate armour. It has first the thick quilted gambeson, over which is the haubergeon of mail, having above that the aqueton. On his surcoat is painted Argent, a bend, or cotised gules.

1343. Baron de St. John, by fine, granted to his son Roger and Joan his wife, the reversion of the Manor of Swalefeld, which, being his inheritance, was then held by Sir John de Ifeld and Marjory his wife, at whose deaths it was to revert to Roger de St. John and his heirs.

Katharine, daughter and co-heir of Sir John de Ifeld, married Thomas de Foxley, Constable of Windsor Castle, and owner of Bramshill. The name "Ifeld" continued in the neighbourhood under various forms. In 1438 we find Thomas Wyfold of Borstall, gentleman, mentioned in a M.S. [*Chartul de Borstall, f. 64.*] In 1450 Nicholas, son of Thomas Wyfold, was Mayor of Hurtle. In the parish registers of Swallowfield we find in 1541 the burial of Richard Wyfold, and in 1548 that of Elizabeth Wyfold. The name "Ifould" now exists in Wokingham.

1350. John third Baron de St. John died, according to Dugdale on the 8th April, 1350, and is described as having been in 1347 "so infirm that he could not come to the King to do his homage."

His son and heir, Roger, who was 20 years of age at his father's death, was not summoned to Parliament. In 1352 he re-  
1352. leased to Sir Nicolas de Lovayne, Kt., and Margaret, his wife, all his right in the Manor of Lageham, but Swallowfield remained his property and was held at this time by Thomas de Colney or Colley.

1353. Roger de St. John died in 1353 aged 24, leaving a widow Joan aged 17, but no children. Peter de St. John whom Dugdale calls "his kinsman" was his next heir. In the Harl: Charters there is a Charter of Peter de St. John, dated 1356, to Nicolas de Flovaygne, Kt., and Margaret his wife of right in the Manors of Lageham and Mereden.

Swallowfield at Roger de St. John's death reverted to the King and that same year we find that Richard Colney, son of the aforementioned Thomas de Colney, had a suit at Westminster against the King for the ownership of Swalefeld.

1354. It ended in Richard de Colney recognising Swallowfield to be the right of the King who gave him 100 marks for the concession. This Richard de Colney built a chapel in St. Mary's

Church in Reading which was called "Colney's Chantrey." It stood in the south aisle and was instituted "for the benefit of the souls of the King, William and Johanna Catour and Clementia their daughter, Thomas and John de Colney and for the souls of all the faithful interred within St. Mary's Church. In 1372 a licence of Mortmain was granted to William, Baron Bartholomew Mayhew, to apply for the establishment of a chaplain to celebrate mass in Colney's Chantry, an annual rent charge of 25 shillings issuing out of three messuages in Minster Street and two shops with their appurtenances in Soncere Street, Reading. This street was also called Sonkere, Synkere and le Sinker Street afterwards Sivier Street and now Silver Street. [See Coates's Reading.]

William Catour, for whose soul Richard de Colney instituted masses, was probably of the family of Cater or Cator of Letcombe. A John Cator was buried at Swallowfield in 1545 and Emme, daughter and heir of John Cater was the second wife of Nicholas Backhouse, Sheriff of London in 1578, whose son Samuel Backhouse bought Swallowfield in 1582.

1357. In 1357 Edward III. granted to John de Foureby, one of his valets, and Catherine his wife in tail general a messuage, 13 acres of arable and one of meadow land in Swalefeld, which according to the return of Gilbert Randolph, yielded to the King in fee 5s. and 1d. annually. Foureby was written in various ways; we find it as Ferebye, Fferiby and Feriby. In 1325 Rymer mentions a John de Feriby and 10 years later a William de Feriby. Sir Nicholas Ferebye is enumerated amongst the partizans of Richard II. And in 1424 one John Fferiby had a suit concerning the rent of lands in Swallowfield, in all probability a direct descendant of the John Foureby who had a messuage there in 1357.

1358. In 13 Edward III., Joan, widow of the last Baron de St. John of Lageham, being now of age, married Sir William de Quenton and they put in a claim for the possession of Swallowfield. There was a suit at Westminster in which the King and "John Gaunt who follows" were plaintiffs and William de Quenton and Joan defendants. The latter remit their claim to the King for the time of Joan for 100 marks. Sir William de Quenton died in 1387.