



## Swallowfield and its Owners.

*By Lady Russell.*

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*(Continued from page 147, Vol. III.)*

Among the presentments made at the Court Leet held at Swallowfield on the 23rd October, 1780, the following seem of some local interest: That John Walter, Esquire, holds a house and five acres of land at Farley Hill (late Alexander's)<sup>1</sup> of the Lord of this Manor. Also that the said John Walter holds another house and ten acres of land called "Delawares" in Swallowfield Street (late Oades), also the said John Walter holds another houses and eight acres of land at Farley Hill (late Lanoe's), also the said John Walter holds two other houses and nine acres of land in Swallowfield Street, part laid into the garden (late Turner's), also that the said John Walter holds two acres of common and a lane on Farley Hill enclosed by Col. Lanoe<sup>2</sup> (whereon the house is built and laid into the Park.) Also that John Elisha holds tenements and land at Dunningshole<sup>3</sup> (late

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1. We find in the Calendar of Berkshire Wills that Richard Alexander, of Swallowfield, made his will in 1579, John Alexander in 1628, and another John in 1635.

2. Col. Charles Lannoy. The de Lannoys were a very old and noble French family who took their name from the little town of Lannoy, near Lille. Jean Scotier gives the genealogy of this family in the second volume of his "*Recueils Généalogiques*", and begins with Hugues, Seigneur de Lys et de Lannoy, who died in 1349. Several members of the family fled from their country in the 16th century in consequence of religious persecutions, and we find them soon after in this country entering into various mercantile pursuits. Jean de Lannoy was Mercer to Queen Elizabeth, and his descendant, Sir Timothy Lannoy, a most eminent silk dyer, became Lord Mayor of London in 16 . Elizabeth Lannoy, daughter of Sir Timothy, married John Hunter, merchant, son of Henry Hunter, *alias* Venour, merchant, of London, 1633 (descended from the Venours of Lincolnshire, who were also of French descent), and her son Henry Lannoy Hunter, who married into another Huguenot family, that of the Bosanquets, of Languedoc, purchased Beech Hill, and was ancestor of the present Henry Lannoy Hunter, of Beech Hill, and of Sir Charles Hunter, Bart., of Mortimer. It is interesting to note that the proficiency in the art of Venery, from which the patronymic of "Venour" arose, is specially maintained in the above-named representatives of the family.

3. Dunningshole is still so called. In the parish rates of 1801 we find it written "Dunalshole" and "Donelshoe."

Ball's).<sup>4</sup> Also that the widow Watmore holds a house and 3 piddles (pightles) of land, about 8 acres, in Swallowfield, as well as eight acres of land called "Raggett's,"<sup>5</sup> adjoining to Farley Hill, and a coppice called "Eames,"<sup>6</sup> at Farley Hill, and seven acres of moors at Farley Hill late "Lawrence's,"<sup>7</sup> and a house and garden at Farley Hill in the possession of Hugh Burrett,<sup>8</sup> and a house and garden and blacksmith's shop at Farley Hill in the possession of Philip Crither and Edward Watts. Also that Thomas Horne held 4 acres of land called "Coxetter's,"<sup>9</sup> at the bottom of Farley Hill near Read's Lane.<sup>10</sup> Also that Lord Dartmouth<sup>11</sup> holds a house and 40 acres of land at Dunningshole and a farm and lands in Frog Lane. Also that Mr.

4. The Balls of Barkham and Wokingham were an old family bearing arms, and a special interest attaches to the latter in consequence of the strong presumption held by some authorities that the great General Washington was connected if not descended maternally from one of them. Col. Joseph Ball, of Virginia (son of Col. Will Ball in Virginia in 1650), married secondly, in 1707-8, Mary, widow of — Johnson, and they had a daughter Mary Ball, who married Augustine Washington, and became the mother of the General. After the death of her second husband in 1711, Mrs. Joseph Ball returned to England with this daughter and an elder one, Eliza Johnson, whom she had by her first husband. It is not known where they went first. Augustine Washington is said to have met Mary in Cheshire, but eventually they appear to have settled at Wokingham, which we learn from the following note which has been found in the letter-book of Joseph Ball, of Gray's Inn (son by his first wife of Col. Joseph Ball, of Virginia), uncle of General Washington:—"Madam,—As you were so gentell when I was at Wokingham that you would not withhold Mr. Ball's picture and gloves from me as I was of the family (and I am fully persuaded that he was my grandfather's uncle). If you will make a present of his picture and gloves, I will make you a present of something that shall be as good, or better to you. But if you don't like this proposal, please to let me know what is the lowest you will take for them in money, and I will tell you whether I will give it or not. I think they would be most properly placed with me.—I am, good Madam, your humble servant, JOSEPH BALL. July 5th, 1750. Stratford by London. To Mrs. Johnson at Wokingham, Berks." Then follows a note stating that Mrs. Johnson had given the picture and gloves for 5 guineas. Now the interesting suggestions of this letter are: How did this portrait get to Wokingham? Was it not because the Balls of Virginia came from Wokingham? And that Mary Ball returned to the home of her husband's ancestors? Mary Ball's maiden name is not known: she appears to have been of humble extraction, and it is supposed she may have been a companion to Col. Ball's first wife, who was Elizabeth, granddaughter of Sir William Romney.

5. Letters of administration of the estate of Thomas Raggat, of Yatendon, were granted in 1557. In 1823 a map gives "Raggots or Rackett's Lane."

6.\* Amongst the Berks wills at Somerset House are those of George Eames, 1593, of Robert Eames, 1623, of Christian Eames, 1632, all of Finchampstead.

7. John Lawrence, of Swallowfield, married, in 1708, Flora Round, of Swallowfield, a god-daughter of Flora, Lady Clarendon.

8. The name "Burrett" is a very old one in Swallowfield, and still continues.

9. In the Calendar of Berks wills we find those of Robert Cocksetter, or Coksetter, of Cookham, in 1543, and that of William Coxeter, of Abingdon, in 1606.

10. Read's Lane. John Rede, of Swallowfield, made his will in 1569. There are many "Reedes" still in the parish.

11. William Legge, second Earl of Dartmouth.

Thomas Flory<sup>12</sup> holds a farm and lands at Swallowfield Cross. Also that Mrs. Fletcher<sup>13</sup> holds a house and 20 acres near the park pales called "Bird's." Also that Mrs. Noyse holds 1 acre of land in Swallowfield common mead.<sup>14</sup> Also that the Rev. Mr. Waterman holds 20 acres at Chill Hills.<sup>15</sup> Also that Elizabeth Fulker<sup>16</sup> holds five acres of land lying in Mr. Walter's park. Also that John Dodd, Esq., is possessed of a toft by the Church, the house pulled down, late John White's.<sup>17</sup> Also that the parish officers of Swallowfield hold a house and piddle of land called "Poor's land," in "Park's Lane."<sup>18</sup> Also that Mr. Hollick holds a piece of meadow ground called Bridge Mead near Swallowfield Bridge. Also they order that no hogs go roaming about the Common of this Manor under the penalty of sixpence for each hog to be paid by the owner to the Hayward for taking up and ringing the same. Also they present the clay pit upon Farley Hill being dangerous to travellers for want of a fence, therefore they order that unless the same is properly fenced by John Dodd, Esquire, the Lord of the Manor, before Lady Day next they amerce him five pounds. Also present the foot bridge called Salter's Bridge being not of a proper width and dangerous, unless altered and made safe by Lady Day they amerce the Lord of the Manor twenty shillings. Also they present William Hunter for digging clay pits in Aspin Lane, and unless he fills up the same or shelves the same down so as not to be dangerous on or before Christmas they

12. Amongst the Berks wills are those of William Flourreye, of Aldermaston, 1572; Thos. Florrie, of Shawe, 1610; and Thos. Florrie, of Donnington, 1616. In a map of Swallowfield estate in 1812 there is some land marked "the Devises of Stephen Flory."

13. John Fletcher, "Alderman's Deputy of ye Ward of ye Tower," 1633, married Anne, daughter of Richard Teusley, of Swallowfield, and had four sons, John Fletcher, of the Middle Temple, John Fletcher, also of the Middle Temple, George and James. In 1801 we find by the Churchwarden's accounts that "Earle, Esq.," was assessed £116 2s. od. "for Fletchers."

14. This is now in Swallowfield Park, and Swallowfield Cross was on the site of the present School.

15. Chill Hills, at Farley Hill, is still so called. There is a pedigree of the Waterman family in Berks Visitation for 1664.

16. Amongst the Berks wills is that of Henry Fulker, of Swallowfield, 1622. John Fulker was coachman to Lord Clarendon at Swallowfield in 1688, and was buried there in 1712, and in 1752 Flora, daughter of John Fulker, was baptised at Swallowfield, called no doubt after Flora, Lady Clarendon. One of the oldest tombstones in Swallowfield churchyard is that of John Fulker, the parish clerk and grave-digger, who was buried in 1712.

17. In the Calendar of Berks wills we find that of Thomas White, of Swallowfield, made in 1555.

18. "Park Lane" should be "Part Lane," and was so called because it separated Swallowfield, Berks, from Swallowfield, Wilts. The latter was annexed to Berkshire by the Acts 2 and 3 William IV., cap. 64, and 7 and 8 Victoria, cap. 61.

amercer him ten shillings. Also they present the surveyors of this parish and all other persons digging gravel in the pit on Farley Hill for not digging the same in a proper manner and of a proper depth whereby the pit is enlarged too fast under the penalty of ten shillings. Also they present that no person shall keep any more cattle upon the Common of this Manor in the summer than they can winter, under the penalty of twenty shillings. Also they present the ditch in Coppice Lane unless scoured by St. Thomas' Day. Likewise they present that Thomas Green is sworn into the office of Hayward of this Manor for the year ensuing, and that Thomas Hasker<sup>19</sup> is sworn into the office of Tything-man. Also that Charles Bailey is sworn into the office of Bailiff of this Manor for the year ensuing. Also they present the hatch-gate and rails at Tilers' Hatch for being out of repair, and also Great Ford Bridge.

John Elisha	The mark of
Peter Cook	X
Edward Watts <sup>20</sup>	George Child
David Watts	George Read
The mark of	James Hopkins
X	John Eyres <sup>21</sup>
James Child	The mark of
Thos. Green	X
Austen Norman <sup>21</sup>	Hugh Burrott
	Thomas Hasker
	William King <sup>22</sup>

Examined by Tho. Round, Steward.<sup>24</sup>

John Dodd died at his house in Audley Square 11th February, 1782, aged 65, being then M.P. for Reading and Lieut.-Col. of the Berks Militia. He was buried on the 18th February at Swallowfield Church where his remains lie in the vault under the Russell tribune.

19. "Hasker," probably from "Handsaker," "Hansaker" and "Haseaker," names which we find at Lamborne and at Easthampstead in the 17th century.

20. John Watts, of Shinfield, made his will in 1644.

21. The name of Richard Norman appears in the neighbourhood as early as 1386; he and Will<sup>d</sup>. Tanner were the witnesses in that year to the signature of Will Farle de Stratfelde Turgis to a lease from Will Farle to John Godard of land in Stratfield Turgis.

22. John Eyre, of Shinfield, made his will in 1623.

23. Edward King, of Swallowfield, made his will in 1641, and William King, of Shinfield, in 1557.

24. The Rounds were at Swallowfield in the 17th century. William Backhouse left by will £8 to "young Round" in 1660. In a map of Swallowfield, 1823, there is land marked as belonging to Stephen Round, Esq., but the name is now no longer in the parish.

John Dodd left by his first wife one son, Col. John Dodd, his heir, and one daughter, Jane, married as heretofore stated to Robert Dalzell, Esq., of Tidmarsh.<sup>25</sup> By his second wife John Dodd left three daughter and one son : 1 Juliana, born 1754, married Col. John Yorke, Governor of the Tower<sup>26</sup>; 2 Fanny, married General Hamilton Lambart,<sup>27</sup> and lived to be nearly a hundred; 3 Amelia, who married, five years after her father's death, Col. Joshua Westenra, of the 9th Dragoon Guards, son of Warner Westenra, Esq. (see Rossmore), by his wife Lady Hester Lambart; 4 Harry Dodd who was only 16 at the time of his father's death. He was educated at Harrow and became a Captain in the 1st Dragoon Guards. He married Castellina Westenra, elder daughter of Warner Westenra, Esq., M.P. for Maryborough, by his wife Lady Hester Lambart, daughter of Richard, 4th Earl of Cavan. Captain Harry Dodd died at Purley on the 29th October, 1789, aged 23, of consumption, and was buried at Swallowfield, November 6th. His widow remarried December, 1890, Sir Edward William Crosbie, of Crosbie, co. Wicklow, 5th Bart., who was executed at Carlow 5th June, 1798, during the Irish Rebellion, in consequence of his (alleged) intercourse with the rebels. The soldiers severed his head from his body and fixed it on a pike at Carlow.\*

John Dodd was succeeded by his eldest son, Col. John Dodd, then about 40 years of age. He was a Col. in the Guards and had been A.D.C. to the celebrated Marquis of Granby, and Equerry to the Duke of Cumberland. He is said to have been very handsome, but had lost an arm in a duel. He lived in a fashionable set and managed to run through a great deal of money. At his father's

25. Robert Dalzell, of Tidmarsh, left one son Robert, born 1765, who sold Tidmarsh about the beginning of this century. His son, Robert Dalzell, married Margaret, daughter of Mr. Legh, of Lyme, and their daughter, Miss M. L. Dalzell, of St. Alban's Priory, Wallingford, is the only representative living of the first family of John Dodd, of Swallowfield. Miss M. L. Dalzell has some curious old stained glass with arms which came from Tidmarsh as well as some most interesting old plate which belonged to her French Huguenot ancestors, the St. Legers and the Chardins.

26. Juliana Yorke had 3 children: Field Marshal Sir Charles Yorke, G.C.B., who died in 1882, aged upwards of 90; Emilia Yorke married in 1820 to General Nepean, she died 1860 leaving a son, the Rev. Evan Nepean, and a daughter, Anna Maria, who married General Parke. This lady has got a portrait of John Dodd. It was sent to Haines Hill when Swallowfield was sold and delivered up to her some years ago by Mr. Garth.

27. General Hamilton Lambart was son of Charles Lambart, Esq. (by his wife Elizabeth, only daughter of Gustavus Hamilton, Viscount Boyne), and great grandson of Charles 1st Earl of Cavan.

\* Their son Sir William Crosbie, born 1794, died sp in 1860, and was succeeded by his cousin, Sir William R. Crosbie, father of the present Bart.

death he found himself greatly encumbered and that same year sold the furniture and plate in the family house in Audley Square, as also the Manor of Colham, Hillingdon, and in June, 1783, he sold Swallowfield. The sale lasted seven days and was effected by Messrs. Christie and Ansell. The catalogue of the sale gives us some idea of the arrangement of the house: There was the "Great Hall" (which contained pictures by Snyder); the "Study"; the "Eating Parlor," containing the following pictures: a fruit piece by Van Huysem, portraits of Charles II. and King William by Van Dyck, a "penitent" by Salvator Rosa, "Naples, a chef d'œuvre of that most admired master Marlow," a sea piece by Brooking,\* and many other works of art; the "Yellow Damask Drawing-room," in which was a "curious embossed row waggon and a pair of girandoles with figures and flowers of the Chelsea porcelane," the lot fetching only 18s.; and a coloured Japan octagon basin, pair of olive coloured storks, etc., realized 9s.; the "Gallery," which contained amongst other pictures portraits of Horace Walpole, Mr. Neville, Sir John Elwill, Lord Robert Sutton, the Marquis of Granby.† Amongst the bed-rooms we find the "State Velvet Room," containing a superb state bed 18 feet high, the furniture a rich Genoa crimson velvet, six gilt back stool-chairs, and two dressing stools covered to correspond; the "Green Lorine" bedroom, the "Blue Lorine" ditto, the "Yellow Damask" bedchamber, the "White Camblet" ditto and the "Cassoy Paper" dressing-room.

Soon after the sale of Swallowfield, Col. Dodd took up his residence in Sloane Street and afterwards moved to Queen's Buildings, London, where he died on the 1st April, 1816, aged 74. His wife, Mary, did not long survive him. She died at the same place on the 31st of the following month. They were both buried at St. Mary's Abbots, Kensington.

At the age of 27, Col. Dodd was the principal actor in the rescue of Major-General Gansell of the 55th from the custody of the Bailiffs for debt. His conduct on this occasion called forth the following attack from the pen of "Junius": "A Major-General of the army is arrested by the Sheriff's Officers for a considerable debt (£134). He persuades them to conduct him to the Tilt-yard in St. James' Park, under some pretence of business which it imported him to settle before he was confined. He applies to a Sergeant not

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\* Now in the possession of Miss Dalzell.

† Lord Braybrooke bought some of the pictures, so they are probably now at Audley End.

immediately on duty to assist with some of his companions in favouring his escape. He attempts it ; a bustle ensues ; the Bailiffs claim their prisoner. An officer of the Guards not then on duty (Lieutenant Dodd) takes part in the affair ; applies to the lieutenant commanding the Tilt-yard Guard (Lieutenant Garth) and urges him to turn out his Guard to relieve a General Officer. The lieutenant (Garth) declines interfering in person ; but stands at a distance, and suffers the business to be done. The Officer (Dodd) takes upon himself to order out the Guard. In a moment they are in arms, quit their guard, march, rescue the General and drive away the Sheriff's officers, who in vain represent their right to the prisoner, and the nature of their arrest. The soldiers first conduct the General into the Guard-room, then escort him into a place of safety, with bayonets fixed, and in all the forms of military triumph. I will not enlarge upon the various circumstances which attended this atrocious proceeding. . . . I consider nothing but the wound which has been given to the law itself, to which no remedy has been applied, no satisfaction made. Neither is it my design to dwell upon the misconduct of the parties concerned, any further than is necessary to shew the behaviour of the Ministry in its true light. . . . Are they (the Ministry) aware of the outrage offered to their Sovereign ? . . . What are we to conclude from so scandalous a neglect of their duty, but that they have other views, which can only be answered by securing the attachment of the Guards ? ”\*

Sylvanus Bevan, Esq., of Fosbury, Wilts, who bought Swallowfield in June, 1783, was son of Timothy Bevan, of Swansea, who came of an old Welsh Quaker family and was related to the Fox's, Hanbury's, Gurney's, Barclay's and Hoare's. Mr. Sylvanus Bevan was great grandson of Robert Barclay, of Ury, the celebrated apologist of the Quakers.† One of Robert Barclay's brothers married Priscilla,

\* The Adjutant-General ordered the Sergeant and men close prisoners to the Savoy, but they got off with a severe reprimand. General Gansell meanwhile having surrendered himself into custody, was tried at the Old Bailey for firing at the Bailiffs, and, though it is said that the fact was clearly proved, he was under the direction of the Judge (Nares) acquitted, but was detained upon the arrest and committed to the Fleet prison, where he died in 1744. Lieutenants Dodd and Garth appear to have got off scot free.

† Robert Barclay, who was of old Scotch descent, was, through his mother, allied to the Huntleys (Marquis). When in Paris he became a Roman Catholic at the age of 15, but turned Quaker when he was 19 years of age. One of his grand-daughters married Cameron, of Lochiel. She had twelve daughters and three sons, the eldest of whom was the celebrated Donald Cameron, of Lochiel. Hannah Lightfoot, whose beauty so touched the heart of George III., was also a descendant of Robert Barclay.

daughter of Joseph Freame, a banker in Lombard Street, who afterwards took him into partnership. Sylvanus Bevan also became a partner in 1768, and on Joseph Freame's death in 1770, the firm became known as Barclay, Bevan and Co. Sylvanus Bevan was born in 1743, he married Miss Louisa Kendall, and had six sons at the time of his purchase of Swallowfield, and in September, 1788, had a seventh son, Richard, born at Swallowfield.

That same year Mr. Bevan sold Swallowfield in consequence of having been involved in a dispute with one of his neighbours respecting game.

The Bevan crest, a griffin, still remains on the stone mantel-piece in the hall at Swallowfield. Mr. Bevan survived till 1830, when he died, aged 87, leaving seven sons, David, Henry, Frederick, Charles, George, Robert and Richard. David's son, Mr. Robert Cooper Lee Bevan, of Fosbury and Trent Park, is the present representative of the family.

Timothy Hare Earle, of Moor Place, Herts, the next owner of Swallowfield, was son of Timothy Earle, Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber to George II., by his wife Dorothy, daughter of Nicholas Trist, of Bowden, Devon, and grandson of Edward Earle, of Totnes, by his wife Mary, sister of and co-heiress with Timothy Hare, of St. Kitts. He was born at Totnes in 1737 and married in 1772 Anne, only daughter of Elisha Biscoe, of Spring Grove, Middlesex, by whom he had two sons and three daughters: 1, Timothy Hare Altabon; 2, William Henry, who married Anne, daughter of Rev. Nicholas Earle, and died in 1847; 3, Mary Ann, born 1773, married at Swallowfield Church in 1809 the Rev. G. T. Tyndale, Curate of Swallowfield,\* and died 1826; (William Earle Tyndale, the eldest of her five children, who was born at Swallowfield, took the name of Biscoe on inheriting the Holton property); 4, Elizabeth Dorothy, died 1863; 5, Frances Latitia, born 1774 and died 1865. Mr. Timothy Hare Earle died at Swallowfield on the 1st June, 1816, aged 79, and was buried at Rickmansworth.

His son Timothy Hare Altabon Earle succeeded to Swallowfield, being 37 years of age and unmarried. In 1821 Mr. T. H. A. Earle was High Sheriff of Berks, and in January he received from Lord Folkestone a requisition signed by 35 freeholders of the county of Berks requesting him to call a meeting "to consider the propriety of

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\* Mr. Tyndale became Vicar of Woburn and Rector of Holton.



presenting an address to the King, on the subject of the treatment which the Queen, his consort, has experienced, or is experiencing on the part of the Ministers," &c. The following was the answer sent by Mr. Earle: "My Lord,—Having given the requisition the fullest consideration, I feel it my duty to decline calling the meeting there requested. I regret extremely differing in opinion upon the subject with your Lordship, and the many other respectable characters whose names I observe affixed to the requisition."

The Earles are said to have "lived in very grand style" at Swallowfield, but in consequence of the depreciation of West Indian property, Mr. T. H. A. Earle became considerably impoverished and sold Swallowfield in 1824, removing to a dower house which he possessed in Wokingham called "The Elms."\* He died there unmarried in 1836 and was buried at Holton, which had become the property of his mother on the death of her brother Elisha Biscoe in 1830 when she assumed the name of Biscoe. At her death the Holton estate passed successively into the hands of her three daughters, Mrs. Tyndale, Elizabeth and Frances Earle, all of whom took the name of Biscoe. It now belongs to William Earle Biscoe, Esq.

Swallowfield was bought in 1824 by the Right Hon. Sir Henry Russell, Bart., who married Anne Barbara, sister of Charles, Earl Whitworth, K.G., C.B., and his son Henry was father of the late Col. Sir Charles Russell, Bart., V.C., and Sir George Russell, Bart., first M.P. for East Berks, the present owner of Swallowfield.

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\* The name of this house was changed to that of "The Dower House" when occupied by the Countess of Desart, but the present owners have reverted to the former name.

