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Some Early Checkendon Documents.

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THE 19 documents here calendared are in the possession of E. Riddell Blount, Esq., of Mapledurham House. How they came into the hands of the Blounts is not known. The Blounts are not mentioned in them, nor has the family ever had any connexion with Checkendon.

A few illustrative notes, geographical and historical, have been added. The references to the Borstall Cartulary, when no further indication is added, relate to the folios concerning Checkendon.

1. John Marmyon, Lord of Chakyndene, leases to Robert Attelee and Isabel his wife, and to their sons Robert and John, for the term of their lives, or of the longest liver of them, a cottage, with adjacent curtilage and croft, in the vill of Chakyn-dene, between the tenements of William Selgrave and Gilbert le Longe. Also a parcel of land called "le parrucks." The rent is 26*d.* a year, and includes all services escheats, church escheats, and heriots. The tenants are liable to military service away from home, and to suit at one manorial court at Michaelmas.

Witnesses : Richard Newland, Roger Crouks, John de Berghefelde, John de la Garstone, John le Justice, Simon, smith, of Yppesdene. Sunday in the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin, 8 Ed. II (8 Sept. 1314).

"Le parrucks," whose acreage is not given here, must be the "three acres called parock, now [1564] in the occupation of Richard Wheler."¹

John Marmyon (*b. c.* 1260 *o. b.?* 1322), Lord of Checkendon (a minor) in 1279, was son of William (Lord in 1255) and father of John (deed 2), Geofirey (deed 3), and Thomas (deed 4), and great grandfather of Cecilia Rede (deed 8).

Robert atte Lee and his son Robert, in 1345, let to John Marmyon (son of John Marmyon of deed 1) and Alice his wife, a rental of 5s. in Checkendon (*B.C.* fo. xvii). De la Garstone, atte Garstone, and plain Garstone, common Checkendon surnames, occur in *Borst. Cart.* frequently from 1322 to 1345. The name Justice occurs abundantly, in connexion with Stoke Marmyon, Stoke Abbas, and Stoke Basset from 1250 onwards (*ibid.*) and appears in Reading records in the early 1500's. This John Justice was a juror in the inquis. p.m. on Sir John de Chausy of Mapledurham in 1313.² John de Berghfeld (Berefeld) of Stoke Basset, with Roger Croke and John atte Garstone, witnesses a transfer of land in Stoke Abbas in 1321: the former is a frequent witness from that date to 1342 (*B.C.* fos. xv-xxvi). Roger Croke of Stoke Meoles held land in Ippesden vill, and witnesses a transfer in 1325: Nicholas Croke held land in Ippesden, 1337-39.³ Roger Crok, in 1279, held a virgate of land and a watermill in Stoke Basset.⁴

We often meet with the "Smiths of Ippesden" from 1275 onwards, in or near which year Walter de Huntercombe grants to Robert son of Simon, "faber," 5 acres which Matilda mother of Robert used to hold. Robert "faber" holds 3 half-acres in Chakyndene in 1296, and Robert "faber" and Simon de Ippesden witness a rebate in 1312.⁵

¹ *State Papers (Domestic)*, Eliz. xxxiv, No. 25, quoted by Pearman, *Notices of . . . Checkendon*, p. 43 (A survey of the Manor). Parrock (=paddock) means a small enclosure or field.

² *Early History of Mapledurham*, p. 72.

³ *B.C.*, fo. xi, xii, xv, xxiv, xxv.

⁴ *Rot. Hundr.*, II. 781.

⁵ *B.C.*, fo. xiv, xxiv, xxviii.

2. John Neel, son and heir of John Neel, quit claims to John de Alvetone and Nicola his wife his rights in a messuage wood and rent formerly held by his father "of the manor of Bensintone in Chakendene."

Witnesses: Nicholas de Huntecombe, Benedict le Engleis, John ate Garstone, John Marmyon, Robert de Padenale, John Bacon, Nicholas de Dunesdene, John Grenelane, Robert Seintesei. Rutherford Pypard, 15 Oct. 6 Edw. III (1332).

It seems that a strip of land at the north side of Checkendon, in which "Neels" was included, formed part of the royal manor of Bensington, and was included in the half hundred of Ewelme, while Checkendon was in Langtree hundred. Neal's farm, lane, shaw, wood, are marked in the ordnance map of to-day. Neel (Nel) is a common name in Woodcote, Stoke Basset, and Ipsden from about 1220 to 1330.

John de Alveton was sheriff of Berks and Oxon in 1335, 1337, 1343-47, and knight of the shire for Oxon in 1332, 1334-5, 1337-8. He acquired the advowson of Checkendon church from John Marmyon in 1339 (*B.C. fo. iii*), and presented to the living in 1350 and 1351. He died in 1362.†

Nicholas de Huntercombe was son of Richard Newbaud and Gunnora, sister of Sir Walter de Huntercombe of Newnham Moryn, who died childless in 1313. Nicholas took the name on succeeding to his uncle's property. His grandson John took his mother's name of Hanyngton (see deed 7) and was known indifferently as Huntercumbe or Hanyngton.⁶

The Engleys family held land in Mongewell, Newnham Moryn, Ipsden, and Cokel (Cookley Green), by Swynecombe.⁷ There is a fine brass in Ipsden church to Thomas Englyshe and Isbel his wife, of date 1570. Benedict le Engleys witnesses many deeds relating to Checkendon between 1322 and 1345, after which he seems to be succeeded by Richard Engleis. "English's farm" still stands up on the hills above Ipsden.

† *Fine Rolls* vii, 249.

⁶ Ipsden deeds, Bodleian Library, Nos. 9, 10.

⁷ *Rot. Hundr.* II, 775, 760.

Robert de Padenale seems to be a variant for the more usual Padehale. Padehale was a hamlet adjacent to Leuknor.⁸ Thomas de Padehale held half a hide of land in Leuknor, "in the tenure which is called Padehale," and had 4 cotarii each holding half a virgate, one of whom was named Robert de Padehale, and another John de Harlingrugge. Thomas is one of the jury for Leuknor Hundred in 1279, charged with the compilation of the Roll.⁹ John Bacun, Robert Padehale, and Benedict le Engles serve on an inquisition relating to Bensington in 1324.¹⁰

The name Bacon is closely connected with Ewelme. Greenerlane is a Henley name: this John was a juror at Henley for the *Nonarum Inquisitiones* of 1340, and his name, with that of John de Alveton, occurs in a list of the inhabitants of Henley dated 1327.¹¹

Robert de Seinteseey witnesses a release in 1312, and is a juror on the Inquis. p. mortem on Sir John de Chaussy of Mapledurham in 1313.¹² A John Seinteseyt is a free tenant of the manor of Mapledurham Gurney in a rent roll of the same, dated 1343.¹³ and a John Seinteseey is a juror for Mongewell in the *Non. Inquis.* 1340 (p. 136).

3. Geoffrey Marmion leases to John atte Grove a messuage and half a virgate of land in Chakyndene, formerly held by Thomas Hawman; also 15 acres land in the same field, 12 of which lie in Northdene, the other 3 on either side of the king's highway. Rent, a rose on June 24. No witnesses. Chakyn-dene, Thursday after the Nativity of John the Baptist 28 Ed. III (28 June, 1354).

In 1279 Walter of the Grove and Eva of the Grove each held a virgate of land in Checkendon, and Thomas and Michael of the Grove each held half a virgate.¹⁴

4. Walter le Smyth of Wodecote and Margaret his wife grant, at the rent of 3s. a year, to John Rouden junior for life,

⁸ *Feudal Aids* IV, 171 (1316).

⁹ *Rot. Hundr.* II, 782.

¹⁰ *Inquis. ad quod dacunum*, 18 Ed. II, No. 154.

¹¹ J. S. Burn, *History of Henley*, p. 28.

¹² B.C., fo. xiii; Blount MSS.

¹³ Blount MSS., Mapledurham.

¹⁴ *Rot. Hundr.* II, 779.

half that Land in Chakendene vill known as Cokeslond and Dame Moldeslond, which Margaret inherited at the death of her father Thomas Marmyon.

Witnesses : John Loveday, John alte Garstone, John Roudene senior. Chakyndene, Monday after the Annunciation, 29 Ed. III (30 March 1355).¹⁵

A conveyance in *B.C. fo. xviii*, dated 1331, recites that John Marmion son of John, grants to his brother Thomas and Agnes his wife the lands known as "Kokelond and Moldelond." Margaret le Smyth is Thomas Marmion's daughter. Henry le Smyth of Stok and Henry le Smyth of Cholsey are on a jury for assessing the income of the church of Stoke Abbas in 1340.¹⁶ Walter appears as principal and witness in deeds dated between 1355 and 1367 (*B.C. fo. xvii-xix*). Richard, his son, was concerned in the action for novel disseisin in 1393, mentioned by Pearman.¹⁷ Another son, John, the heir, who must have died early, is mentioned in *B.C. fo. xviii*.

5. John Loveday grants to Walter le Smyth of Wodecote and Margaret his wife the reversion of half a messuage, 4 virgates of land, 8a. wood and half an acre meadow in Chakendene, held by John Roudene junior for term of his life, which, after the death of John Roudene, should revert to John Loveday.

Witnesses : John atte Garstone, Geoffrey Marmyon, John atte Grove, Walter atte Welle, Almaric le Despenser. Chakendene, Monday after the Annunciation, 29 Ed. III (30 March 1355).

The Lovedays, in 1279, were lords of Mongewell, and held the advowson of the church.¹⁸ William Loveday, about 1290, witnesses a grant by Lady Juliana Bardolf, of Mapledurham Gurney, to her sons Roger, John and William, and also a grant (c. 1295) by Hugh Bardolf to his brother Roger.¹⁹ In 1344 Sir John Bardolf and Margery his wife convey to John Loveday, the principal in this deed, their manor of Mapledurham Gurney.

¹⁵ This deed is in *B.C.*, fo. xviii.

¹⁶ *Nonarum Inquis.* p. 136.

¹⁷ *Notices . . . of the Parish of Checkenden* (Oxford Archæol. Soc., 1893).

¹⁸ *Rot. Hundr.* II, 774.

¹⁹ Blount MSS., Mapledurham.

John Loveday also witnesses a feoffment by Sir John de Dagenhale to Sir John de Chausy, of Mapledurham Chausy, in 1355, and a bond given by Sir Thomas Huscarle, lord of Purley, to Sir John Bardolf.²⁰ The 14th century brass of (presumably) this John Loveday and Joan his wife was in Goring church. "Johan Loveday et Johanne sa femme gisaient [? gisent] icy dieu de lour alme ay mercy Amen."²¹

Deeds relating to the property called Roudens are collected in *B.C. fo. xviii, xix*, where there is a duplicate deed to this of the same date, J.L. conveying to William Harlyngrugge and Alice his wife the other moiety of the same property. Alice and Margery were sisters, daughters of Thomas Marmyon, who held Roudens by grant of his brother John. Eventually (in 1384) William Harlyngrugge (Alice having apparently died) granted the property (deed 14) to John Rede and his wife Cecilia, William's daughter, who left it to her son Edmund in 1407. How the property came into the hands of John Loveday is not clear, but the above deeds are the result of a final concord made in the Court of King's Bench in 1354.

The Despensers held land in Ewelme at an early date. In 1295, Almaric, son of Adam le Despenser, grants, in consideration of the sum of £100, to Sir John Bacun, clerk, all his rights and claim in the manor of Ewelme: the deed is witnessed by the above-mentioned William Loveday.²²

Deeds 6-13 are all concerned with the same subject (the property known as Hawmans), and, in the main, with the same people, and they all fall within the space of less than five years (1383-87). It will therefore be convenient to take them together.

6. John Hawman, with the assent of Walter Garstone and Thomas Broun, grants to John Rede for 4½ years all the lands temements and services in Chakyndene, the woods excepted, which were late his father's, John Hawman, with housbote and heibote from the neighbouring hedges, but ash and oak must not be cut. No witnesses. Annunciation, 8 Ric. II (March 25, 1383).

²⁰ Rawlinson MS. B., 400 c.f.9d.

²¹ H. A. Napier, *Historical Notices of . . . Swynecombe and Ewelme*, p. 19.

²² *Assize Roll*, 1904 m.9.; *B.C.*, fo. xviii.

7. Walter Garstone and Thomas Broune grant to John Haweman, Margaret his wife, and Nicholas their eldest son all the above property, except a wood called Hawemanysgrove, with pasture for their beasts of burden and pigs, but not for oxen and cows, also with housbote and heybote from the underwood, which they must not sell, give away, or use for fuel. Witnesses: William Harlyngrugh, William atte Dene, John Hanyntone, Thomas Qelcok, Richard Englys. Thursday before Michaelmas Day, 7 Ric. II (24 Sept. 1383).

8. The Hawmans (as in deed 7) grant to John Rede and Cecilia his wife all the property formerly belonging to John Haweman in Chakenden and Stoke, except the wood called Hawemanisgrove, with the rights and restrictions as before. The rent is a grain of corn at Michaelmas for the first sixteen years, after that, 100s. The lessors are given the usual right of entry, if this latter rent is in arrear. Witnesses: Thomas Barentyn, John Harwedone, Walter Garstone, William Harlyngrug, William atte Dene. The morrow of the feast of St. Michael Archangel, 7 Ric. II (30 Sept. 1383).

(To be continued.)