

The Gawdys of Norfolk and Suffolk

BY

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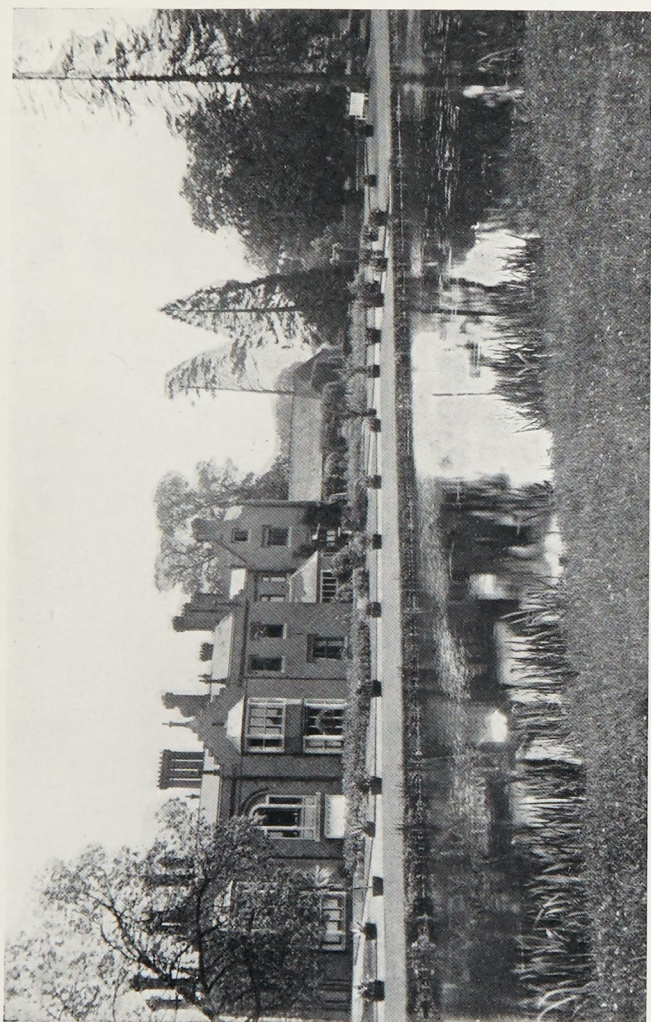
PART I.

AT REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

The Gawdys, a family of lawyers, flourished in Norfolk and Suffolk in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The true fortunes of this family were founded, in the Tudor period, by the remarkable genius of three half-brothers who rose to positions of eminence in the legal profession. The eldest, Thomas Gawdy, sergeant-at-law, became Recorder of Norwich and Lynn; the second, Sir Thomas Gawdy, became Justice of the Queen's Bench; and the third, Sir Francis Gawdy, became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

The rise of the family name to distinction, however, was meteoric. It would indeed have been phenomenal had any Gawdys of the succeeding generations been moved to aspire to the high seats formerly occupied by their fathers, or to make successful bids for even greater academic honours. The influence of these three great lawyers lent such prestige to the name of Gawdy, and brought the family into such close contact with prominent persons and affairs of State, that one of the main points of interest in the history of the family lies in the observation of the causes which eventually led to its gradual fading into obscurity.

The family correspondence and papers, which chiefly concern the main, or West Harling, branch have been preserved—apparently almost intact. Most of them are now in the possession of the Department of Manuscripts of the British Museum. These records which are contained in eighteen large volumes, cover the period 1509-1713 and are replete with information of great genealogical, historical and literary value.



GAWDY HALL, REDENHALL.

But hitherto, in spite of this *embarras de richesses*, the full value of these documents has not been obtained—for the simple reason that the actual relationship of many of the persons mentioned in them could not be decided with any accuracy. After several years of research, and with the additional help of parochial and other public records, it is now possible to offer a general biographical history of the Norfolk and Suffolk branches of the family, supported by pedigrees which have been compiled with the greatest care, in the hope that many of these problems of identity will be finally solved.



Gawdy.

The family seems to have been of French origin, and the first member to arrive in England was, according to Norris,¹ SIR BREWS GAWDY, a French knight taken prisoner in 1352, who became naturalised and who settled in Suffolk.² He appears to have married a daughter of William Hammond of Swaffham Bulbeck in Cambridgeshire, with which place the family is recorded to have had some connection for about a century.

¹ Norris, A.: *MS. Pedigrees*, Norw. Pub. Library.

² He is also mentioned by Joshua Barnes in his *History of Edward III.*, 1688.

The versions of Starling,¹ Norris² and Davy,³ respectively, of the pedigree of the Cambridgeshire family, show many points of difference and therefore do not seem to be altogether reliable; and a genealogy of the family compiled, in 1611, by order of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling,⁴ more or less agrees with that compiled by Norris who probably had access to it.

There seems little room for doubt that the Gawdys who came to Redenhall in the fifteenth century were representatives of a minor branch of the Cambridgeshire family. Their possessions in Norfolk were not imposing, and the fortunes which came to them in after years were the reward of hard work combined with business acumen—especially where marriage was concerned.

In the fifteenth century, a branch of the family settled in Norfolk. On 27th January, 1459, ROBERT GAWDY, senior, of Redenhall, executed his will which was proved three weeks later.⁵ By this will, he ordered his body to be buried at Redenhall and mentions his wife, Catharine, to whom he gave the life enjoyment of all his lands and tenements in Redenhall; his sons, Robert, Thomas and John; and his daughter, Alice. Of these, the last was possibly his daughter-in-law, married to his son, John.

The eldest son, ROBERT, apparently died in 1467, and administration of his goods was granted to Catharine,⁶ his relict, and to Robert Foster of Corston. According to Norris (who mentions no authority), he

¹ MS. *Pedigrees*, Norw. Pub. Library.

² Norris' version is epitomised by Walter Rye in his *Norfolk Families*.

³ MS. *Pedigrees*, Brit. Mus.

⁴ Add. MS., Brit. Mus., 27535.

⁵ Proved 20th Feb., 1459 (Norw. Arch., *Reg. Grey*, fo. 288a)—Norris *Wills*, Norw. Pub. Library.

⁶ Daughter of John Peck, Esq. (Norris). Members of this branch of the family seem to have migrated to the south coast, for we learn that, in 1536, a Robert Gawdy of the Isle of Purbeck, supplied Purbeck stone and slate for the storehouse at Portchester Castle. *Cal. State Papers (Domestic)*.

had a son, WILLIAM,¹ who married Joan, daughter of Robert Lenrick, or Kenrick, by whom two sons, both named Thomas, the elder being of Wortwell and the younger of Harleston, the latter being father of the three famous lawyer-brothers. In view, however, of the persistent use of the same Christian name it seems more probable that these two brothers, Thomas, were the sons of Thomas Gawdy, the second son of Robert Gawdy, senior, of Redenhall; but this has not yet been definitely established.

JOHN, the third son of Robert Gawdy, senior, of Redenhall, is probably identical with the person of that name who was living in 1472 and 1479 at Mendham, Suffolk, where he was almost certainly a tenant of the Priory manor. His wife, Alice, predeceased him; and he, having died childless in 1510, was buried near her in Redenhall church. Blomefield records that, in the middle alley of the north chapel was formerly the following inscription on a stone under the portraitures of a man and a woman:—

Orate pro animabus Johannis Gawdye & Alice uxoris
sue. qui obiit 1^{mo} Maii An Dni: M.lc.x. quorum ani-
mabus propicietur deus Amen.

By his will, proved at Norwich in 1510, he made Thomas Gawdy, junior, the younger of the brothers of that name, whom he describes as *at that time Bayly of Harleston*, his executor.

From this point, the history of the Gawdy family can be recorded with a very great measure of accuracy.

THOMAS GAWDY of WORTWELL was, as has already been mentioned, the elder of two brothers bearing the same name. He married twice, but left no issue. His second wife was Agnes, a sister of Simon Tower, citizen and mercer of Norwich.² In 1523, he obtained a manumission of all his lands in Mendham, Metfield

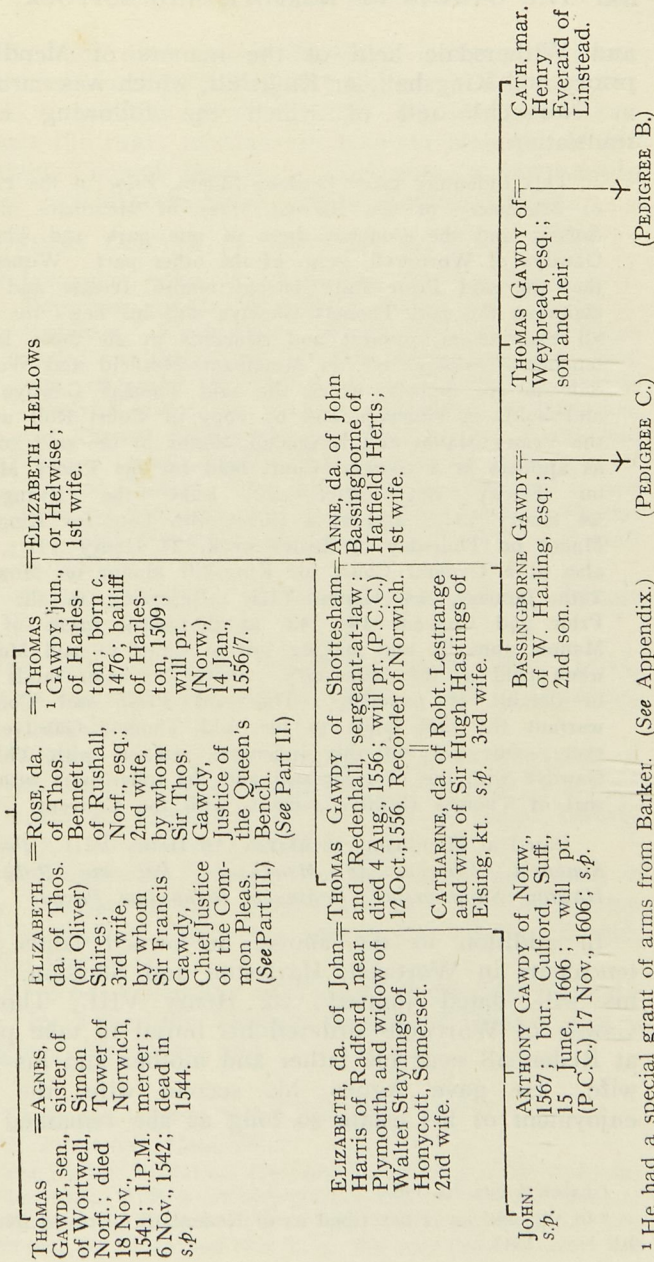
¹ Died *circa* 1491 (Norris).

² Son of Thomas Tower, hardwareman, of Halesworth and Harleston. Thomas Tower paid for the hire of ground on which he erected his stall in Norwich market, 1482-3—*City Records*.

GAWDY of REDENHALL and HARLESTON, NORFOLK.

PEDIGREE A.

Arms:—Vert a tortoise passant argent.



and Withersdale held of the manors of Mendham priory and Kingshall, or Kingshill, which was enrolled at Norwich¹ and of which the following is a translation:—

This Indenture made between Simon, Prior of the House or Monastery of the Blessed Mary of Mendham in co. Suffolk and the Convent there of one part, and Thomas Gawdye of Wortwell, gent. of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Prior and Convent remise, release and quit claim to the said Thomas Gawdye and his heirs for ever all their claim, interest and demands in all those lands, tenements cottages etc. in Mendham, Metfield and Wedysdale in co. Suffolk, which the said Thomas Gawdye has and holds in villenage and by copy of Court Roll within the Priory Manor and Kingishill Manor in the said county as appears at a General Court held for the Priory Manor on Friday next after St. Luke the Evangelist, 24 Henry VII.; and at a Court with Lete for Kingshill Manor on Thursday in Easter week, 21 Henry VII.; and also at a General Court for Kingshill Manor on Monday, 26th January, 14 Henry VIII. Reserving to the said Prior and Convent 19s. 4d. at the usual feasts of the Manors annually and making suit of Court to said Manors when held at the Monastery. Power to enter lands etc. in default of payment. The said Prior and Convent warrant the said lands to the said Thomas Gawdye for ever. One part of this Indenture remains with Thomas Gawdye with the Convent seal and the other part with the seal of Thomas Gawdye remains with the Convent.

Dated at Mendham, 12 March, 15 Henry VIII. *Per me Simonem, Priorem de Mendham. Per me Robertum Howton, Suppriorem. Dompnum Richardum Payne.*

In addition to the above, he owned lands and tenements in Wortwell, Harleston and Starston. By his will, dated January, 32 Henry VIII., Thomas Gawdy of Wortwell² ordered his burial to take place at Redenhall near his father and mother and his first wife. He gave Agnes, his second wife, the life enjoyment of his estate so long as she remained his

¹ *Liber Albus*, fo. 146.

² In the will he is described as of Redenhall. Proved (Norw.) 9th Nov., 1543.

widow; and made James Marsham, citizen and grocer of Norwich and John Call of Bale, gent., his executors.

An inquisition *post mortem*¹ on his possessions reveals the exact relationship between himself and his brother, Thomas Gawdy of Harleston—a relationship which has hitherto given rise to much confusion.

Thomas Gawdye of Wurtwale in Norff., gent.

SUFF: Inquisition taken at Stowmarket, 6th November, 1542. Tenements called Undirwoodis, Sibleis and Canelles in Mendham, Wethersdale, Homersfelde and Mettfelde settled on himself and his wife, Agnes, for their lives, with remainder in tail male successively to Thomas Gawdye,² eldest son of Thomas Gawdye of Harleston, and Thomas Gawdye of Harleston, brother of the said Thomas Gawdye of Wortwall, then to the right heirs of the said Thomas. The said Agnes survives, and is now living at Harleston, co. Norff. The deceased Thomas died 18th November, 33 Hen. VIII. (1541) at Rednall in Norfolk.

Thomas Gawdye of Harleston, his brother and next heir is aged 66 and more.

The will of James Marsham, dated May, 1544, records the fact that Agnes Gawdy, wife of Thomas, was then dead.

THOMAS GAWDY of HARLESTON, the younger of the two brothers, was born *circa* 1476, and is described as Bailiff of Harleston in the will of John Gawdy (1509). He married thrice:—

(1) Elizabeth Hellows (or Helwise), by whom a son, Thomas Gawdy, sergeant-at-law, of Shottesham and Norwich. From him sprang the Harling branch of the family.

(2) Rose,³ daughter of Thomas Bennett of Rushall, esq., by whom Sir Thomas Gawdy of Claxton and a daughter, Margaret; and

¹ Wards and Liveries, P.R.O., vol. 1/42.

² Of Shottesham Hall, 1544.

³ The Suffolk Visitation, 1561, and also Norris in his *Pedigrees* call her *Anne*. This is possibly correct, and the lost monumental inscription dated (probably erroneously) 1530, at Redenhall, which is recorded by Blomefield (vol. v., p. 363) may refer to her.

(3) Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas (or Oliver) Shires, by whom a son, Francis, who eventually became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and other children.

Thomas Gawdy of Harleston was thus the progenitor of the three great branches of the family in East Anglia.

The persistent use of the same Christian name was remarkable in this family as in other families living at a time when life was constantly endangered by disease and physical violence. It was the expression of a passionate desire to perpetuate, at all costs, the traditional family name. In fact, even Francis, the third son mentioned above, was named Thomas at his baptism, and it was not until the continuity of the name had been ensured by his elder brethren that his name was changed at his confirmation.¹

Thomas Gawdy was evidently a lawyer, and the house in which he dwelt at Harleston was almost certainly that which is now known as Reydon House. Formerly, it seems to have belonged to a family of the name of Mene, and it remained connected with the legal profession even after the Gawdys had parted with it, for, in 1608, it belonged to one, Robert Purdye, an attorney, and afterwards to Daniel Sayer, also an attorney and a local celebrity.

Thomas Gawdy of Harleston survived his eldest son, the sergeant-at-law, by five months; and the fact that they both died in 1556 has hitherto caused much confusion.² His will is dated 12th August, 1556—eight days after his son's death. By it, he ordered his body to be buried at Redenhall by his first wife, and mentions his house called Menes house;

¹ *Coke Litt.*, 3a.

² Foss, in his *Judges of England*, erroneously states that Thomas Gawdy of Harleston was of the Inner Temple and a sergeant-at-law. He confuses him with his two sons, Thomas Gawdy of Shottesham and Thomas Gawdy of Claxton. He also falls into the error of representing Thomas Gawdy of Claxton (afterwards Sir Thomas) to be the son of Thomas Gawdy, the sergeant-at-law, whereas they were, in fact, half-brothers!

land at Long Stratton; his daughters, Elizabeth Southall and Catharine Gawdy; his wife, Elizabeth, to whom he gave the life enjoyment of his estate; and his sons, Thomas and Francis, whom he made executors.¹

His relict, Elizabeth, was buried at Redenhall in 1563. Her will, proved at Norwich, 23rd September, 1563, mentions her daughter, Margaret Aldrich; her grandchild, Catharine Southall; her god-child, Elizabeth Gawdy; her daughter, Catharine Gawdy, whom she made executrix; and her sons, Thomas and Francis,² supervisors.

THOMAS GAWDY of Shottesham, Redenhall and Norwich, sergeant-at-law, was the eldest son of Thomas Gawdy of Harleston by his first wife, Elizabeth Hellows. He is mentioned in the inquisition *post mortem* (1542) on the goods of Thomas Gawdy of Wortwell, his uncle. In 1533, he was worth £40 a year.³ He entered the Inner Temple where he was Lent reader in 1548 and 1553 and was fined for refusing to read in the latter year. In 1545, he became Recorder of King's Lynn, and in 1547 was M.P. for that town. In 1550, he was elected Recorder of Norwich and at the same time was given the freedom of that city. He held these offices of Recorder until his death. In 1552, he was promoted to be sergeant-at-law, and in 1553 represented Norwich in Parliament. In 1554, he was one of a Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the doings of the conspirators in Norfolk in connection with the proclamation of Queen Mary; and, in 1555, was in the commission for the peace for Essex where he distinguished himself from his colleagues as the only favourer of the protestants.

¹ Proved (Norw.) 14th Jan., 1556. In 1533, he was worth £100 a year. *Cal. State Papers*.

² Her step-sons, afterwards Sir Thos. Gawdy of Claxton and Sir Fr. Gawdy of Wallington, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

³ *Cal. State Papers*.

His manifold duties necessitated a residence in Norwich, in which city he owned an imposing house in the parish of St. Julian.¹ At the time of his death this house was in the occupation of his half-brother, Thomas (afterwards Sir Thomas) Gawdy of Claxton, who sub-let it in 1564 to John Throckmerton of Claxton, esq. In 1567, however, this Thomas Gawdy of Claxton purchased it outright of his nephew, Anthony Gawdy of Norwich, gent., son of Thomas Gawdy, sergeant-at-law, deceased. The property is described in the enrolled deeds as a capital messuage, houses, stables, gardens, yards, fishing ponds and flues, meadows, etc., in St. Julian's in Conisford and in Thorpe-next-Norwich.²

Thomas Gawdy of Shottesham and Norwich, sergeant-at-law, married thrice: (1) Anne, daughter of John Bassingborne of Hatfield, Herts., by whom two sons, Thomas and Bassingborne, and a daughter, Catharine; (2) Elizabeth, daughter of John Harris of Radford, near Plymouth, and widow of Walter Staynings of Honycott,³ Somerset, by whom two sons, Anthony and John; and (3) Catharine,⁴ daughter of Robert Lestrangle and widow of Sir Hugh Hastings of Elsing, by whom no issue.

He died in 1556, five months before his father. Thomas Gawdy of Harleston. His will⁵ is full of genealogical interest and deserves a generous summary:—

Thomas Gawdye, esq., sergeant-at-law.

Dated: 1st Feb., 1 Mary, at Sergeant's Inn, Chancery Lane.

I bequeath to my son, Bassingbourn Gawdye, all my

¹ Blomefield, vol. iv., p. 84.

² Deeds enrolled (Norw. Mun. Room), 16th Dec., 7 Eliz., and 16th Jan., 1567.

³ Holnicote, a hamlet of Selworthy, on the Porlock-Minehead road. Brasses in Selworthy church to the Staynings are mentioned by Collinson in his *History of Somerset*, vol. ii., pp. 40, 41.

⁴ Her will proved, Norwich, 1564.

⁵ P.C.C., *Ketchyn*, 16.

lands etc. in Rusall, Langmere, Lingcroft, Dickilborough, Thorpe Abbot and Brodishe, co. Norff., in tail male, in default of such issue, contingent remainders to my sons, Thomas and Anthony, my father, Thomas Gawdye of Harleston, esq., to my daughter, Catherine Everarde.

To my youngest son, Anthony, my manor of Pernowe and all other my lands in cos. Norff. and Suff. which I bought of Sir Arthur Hopton, knt., with remainders as above.

To my son and heir, Thomas, all my lands etc. in cos. Norff. and Herts. which I have in fee simple, with remainders as before.

To my brothers, Francis and William Gawdie, my lands etc. in Suff. which were my father's, after my father's death.

There is money owing me by Mr. John Southwell.

To my sister Evererd, one of my late wife's bracelets, she to be good to her son and my daughter.

To my daughter, Honour Gawdye, her mother's apparel and jewels.

To my daughter, Elizabeth Staynings, £40, and on her marriage £20.

To my son, Philip Staynings,¹ my interest in the manors and lands in cos. Devon and Somerset which were his father's, he paying his sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Staynings £20 a year, and to my son George Staynings, his brother, £4 a year.

To my brother, Skarff, £4. Legacies to servants.

To my sons and daughter, my house in Norwich and my lease of Walsham parsonage.² To Megge, the bastard, £10.

Executors: my father and my son, Thomas.
Supervisor: Mr. Caryll. No witnesses.

Codicil dated 3rd Aug., 3 and 4 Philip and Mary:

My now wife Dame Katherine Hastings to have my lands in Rusall, Lanmer, Lynkrafter, Dycolborow, Starston, Pulham, Fishpond, Parnow Somers, for life.

¹ The Staynings mentioned were the children of his second wife by her first husband. Honor Gawdy, mentioned in the will, was also one of them—she married Thomas Gawdy, the testator's eldest son.

² South Walsham tithes held by the city of Norwich and granted to Gawdy by the Assembly, 5 Edward VI.

Witnesses: John Stone, Martin Corenbek, John Sherman. Proved: 12th Oct., 1556, by Thomas Gawdye, junior; power reserved to the other executor.

Then followed an inquisition *post mortem*¹ taken at Harleston on 9th October, 1556, which throws further light on the extent of his possessions and especially on his third marriage. It states that he was seised of the manors of Pernowe and Seymers; tenements in Rushall, Starston and Pulham; and in Redenhall, Wortwell, Harleston and Alburgh, etc. On 9th July, 2 Mary (1554), he made a settlement on his future marriage with Dame Catharine Hastings, widow. They were married later in the church at Elsing. She survived and was then living at Elsing. He died 4th August, 1556. Thomas Gawdy, esq., son and heir, was aged 25 and more.

It is interesting to note that his last wife describes herself in her will as "Dame Katherine Hastynges, widow, late wife of Thomas Gawdy, late Sergeant-at-Law, and before that the wife of Sir Hugh Hastynges, Kt." This is the only mention of the name of Gawdy in the will. She was buried in Elsing chancel in 1564.

THOMAS GAWDY of WEYBREAD, Suffolk, was the elder son of Thomas Gawdy, sergeant-at-law, by his first wife, Anne Bassingborne. He was born in 1531,² and married Honor, daughter of Walter Staynings of Honycott, Somerset, whose widow, as we have seen, eventually became the second wife of the sergeant-at-law. He inherited, *inter alia*, his father's estate in Redenhall. In 1569, his daughter, Catharine, married Edward Bacon of Harleston who was lord of Holbrook manor in Redenhall which formerly belonged to the Turbervilles and Tyndales. In 1570, Thomas Gawdy purchased this manor of his son-in-law; and at about this period the ancient mansion called Holbrook was demolished and the building which ever since has been known as Gawdy Hall was erected. In the same

¹ Chancery: Series II., vol. 110, no. 123.

² See I.P.M. on his father.

PEDIGREE B.

GAWDY of WEYBREAD.

<p>ELIZABETH, da. of John Harris = THOMAS GAWDY, sergt.-at-law, of Radford near Plymouth, of Shottesham and Redenhall; and wid. of Walter Staynings eld. son of Thos. Gawdy of Hatfield, co. Herts.; of Honycott, Somerset; 2nd his 1st wife; <i>ob.</i> 1556. (See PEDIGREE A.)</p>	<p>ANNE, da. of John Bassingboorne of Hatfield, co. Herts.; 1st wife.</p>
<p>BASSINGBORNE GAWDY of W. Harling, esq.; mar. and had issue; 2nd son. (See PEDIGREE C.)</p>	<p>CATHARINE, mar. Henry Everard of Linstead, co. Suffol.; a Popish recusant for some time incarcerated at Bury St. Eds.</p>
<p>OWEN GAWDY, bap. 12 May, 1558, at Redenhall; adm. Inner Temple, Nov., 1578, Frances, da. of Francis Bolton of Burston and sister of Ruth, at Snitterton, 29 Dec., 1590.</p> <p>BASSINGBORNE G., bur. Redenhall, 5 July, 1558.</p> <p>RALPH G. of Runc-ton Holme, gent.; bap. 21 Oct., 1561, at Redenhall; will pr. 22 Nov., 1610.</p> <p>NICHOLAS G., 1572-1574; bap. and bur. at Redenhall.</p>	<p>HONOR, da. of Walter Staynings of Honycott, Somerset; <i>ob.</i> 1601; will pr. (Beccles) 22 Sep., 1601.</p> <p>RUTH, da. of Francis Bolton of Burston, co. Norf.; mar. at Redenhall 6 Apr., 1580.</p> <p>THOMAS GAWDY of Weybread; liv. 1600; adm. Inner Temple, 1571.</p> <p>MARY, mar. (1) Francis Greene at Snitterton, 6 Jan., 1579; (2) Tyte. She was bap. (Redenhall) 10 Mar., 1562; buried there 29 July, 1637.</p> <p>ANNE, bap. (Redenhall) 26 May, 1565; mar. John Hovell at Snitterton, 6 Nov., 1591.</p>
<p>FRANCIS GAWDY of E. Wretham, co. Norf., gent.; born at Burston, 1593. Servant to Framlingham Gawdy of W. Harling, Will pr. (P.C.C.) 1633.</p>	<p>HONORA, bap., 15 Jan., 1580, at Redenhall.</p>
<p>ROBERT GAWDY of Wangford; living 1652. Admon. 1659; died at Wood St., London, bachelor. will, 1673.</p>	<p>MARGARET, da. of John Rushbrooke of Eriswell, co. Suff. mar. lic. 1607.</p> <p>THOMASINE, liv. 1652; of Denton, co. Norf.; will pr. 28 Sept., 1673 (Norw.); unmarried.</p> <p>FRANCES, liv. 1652.</p>

year, he purchased Weybread Hall manor of William Calthorp, esq.¹

Circa 1570, he petitioned to be excused lending the Queen 100 marks on privy seal, alleging that he had lent the late Queen £10 which had not been repaid. He declared that he had since been at great charge in building, having borrowed from friends and others 1000 marks to complete a purchase and the said building, and to support his wife and many children. He added that he was not "any great meddler in the trade of the law."² The building to which he refers is certainly Gawdy Hall. Walter Rye and other authorities attribute this petition to his uncle, Thomas (afterwards Sir Thomas) Gawdy of Claxton, Justice of the Queen's Bench, but this is obviously an error, as Thomas Gawdy of Weybread was at this time in full possession of the Redenhall estate, and further it is hardly likely that the last sentence of the petition quoted above would have been written by so eminent a lawyer as Thomas Gawdy, the Judge!

The will of William Bigot of Starston, dated and proved (Norw.) in 1580, describes Thomas Gawdy as of Gawdy Hall, esq., and mentions his son, Thomas Gawdy, gent. At about this time Gawdy was involved in law suits and suffered considerable losses³ which compelled him, in 1583, to sell the manor of Redenhall to his uncle, Sir Thomas Gawdy of Claxton,⁴

¹ Copinger, in his *Manors of Suffolk*, is very erroneous in his account of this transaction. He confuses Thomas Gawdy of Weybread with his uncle, Sir Thomas Gawdy of Claxton; and also Henry Gawdy of Weybread (grandson of Thomas Gawdy of Weybread) with Sir Henry Gawdy, son of Sir Thomas—vol. iv., p. 98. A deed in the Norwich Public Library, dated 26th Sep. 24 Eliz., describes Thomas Gawdy, the elder, as of Weybread, co. Suff., esq., and lord of the manor of Redenhall Hall *alias* Redenhall Bacons, co. Norff., and Thomas Gawdy, gent., son and heir apparent of the said Thomas the elder.

² Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. (*Gawdy Letters*), p. 5.

³ *Cal. State Papers (Domestic)*.

⁴ Set forth in I.P.M. (Sir Thos. Gawdy, 1589). According to Peter Le Neve's notes, Sir Thos. appears to have been mortgagee of the Gawdy estates in Redenhall as early as 1576, although the final conveyance was not executed until 1583. This probably explains his being described as of Gawdy Hall in the record of his knighthood in 1578.

and, in 1584, his manor of Seymers in Harleston, Mendham, Needham, and Starston to Stephen Baxter of Long Stratton, Norf., gent. He thereupon retired to Weybread Hall, his only remaining possession in East Anglia, and died *circa* 1595,¹ his wife, Honor, surviving him.

The will of Nicholas Hare of Stow Bardolph (dated 1596, and proved 1597) contains an interesting bequest:—

I give to Mrs. Honor Gawdie, widoe, one hundred marks and thirty pounds yearly during her life . . . which I think myselfe bound in conscience to give unto her for that she by my persuasion released unto Sir Thomas Gawdye, Knight, all her title of dower in the lands which the said Sir Thomas purchased of her husband, in consideration whereof the said Sir Thomas promised to deale liberalie with her, but in dede performed nothinge.

Honor Gawdy of Weybread died in 1601, and, by her will proved at Beccles² in that year, ordered her body to be buried in Weybread church. She mentions her eldest son, Thomas; her sons, Ralph and Owen; her brother, Anthony Gawdy; her daughters, Gawdy, Frances, Hovill, Bacon, Tyt;³ and made her sons, Thomas and Owen, executors.

HENRY GAWDY of WEYBREAD, her grandson, parted with the estate;⁴ and, as time went on, this branch of the family sank more deeply into poverty and its members became dependent on their more wealthy relations. The accompanying pedigree (B) gives all the information concerning them which it is necessary to record.

¹ See Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. (*Gawdy Letters*), p. 48; and Carthew, *Launditch*, vol. ii., p. 653.

² Archd. Suff., vol. xxxviii., fo. 399 *et seq.*

³ Thomas Tyte *alias* Ducke appears in the Suff. Subsidy, 1568, as worth £3 in goods, at Weybread.

⁴ He assigned the manor to Elizabeth de la Fontaine and Geo. Blomefield. In 1603 he was in an impoverished condition, and, in 1627 and 1628, was in a debtor's prison—the Wood Street Counter, London.

AT WEST HARLING, NORFOLK.

BASSINGBORNE GAWDY, the second son of Thomas Gawdy, sergent-at-law, entered Cambridge University in 1545¹ and was admitted at the Inner Temple in 1551. In 1558, he married Anne,² daughter of John Wootton of Tuddenham, co. Norfolk, esq., by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and co-heiress of Robert Berdwell of West Harling, esq. Thus the Harling estates came to the Gawdys. By Anne, he had two sons, Bassingborne (afterwards knighted) and Philip.

He was High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1578;³ and in June, 1588, Anne, his wife, died. In December of the same year, he contracted a marriage with Margaret, daughter of Eustace Sulyard⁴ and widow of Thomas Darcy of Tolleshunt Darcy, co. Essex. This marriage took place in the Sulyards' house,⁵ and references to his brothers and sisters, Darcy, are made by Philip Gawdy in his letters. Margaret Gawdy (described as the widow of Bassingborne Gawdy, esq.) was buried at Tolleshunt Darcy, 15th August, 1590.

Bassingborne Gawdy's letter-book, 1576-1589, will be found among the Tanner manuscripts at the Bodleian Library. Most of his early life seems to have been spent in London—in legal circles and at the Court; but after his marriage he settled down in Norfolk and devoted himself to local affairs. His

¹ Matric. pensioner from Trinity Hall, 1545, *impubes*.

² Her sister, Elizabeth, married John Noone of Tostock, Suff. who figures largely in the Gawdy letters.

³ Blomefield (vol. i., p. 306) wrongly gives this date as 1573 and (also wrongly) attributes this post to Bassingborne, junior.

⁴ Of Flemings, in Runwell, co. Essex.

⁵ Philip Gawdy's letters.

half-brother, ANTHONY GAWDY,¹ assisted him in the management of his estates and served him well by the exercise of a steady influence over his two young sons who were placed in his charge while students in London.

He died 20th January, 1589/90, and was buried at West Harling on the 25th of the same month.²

Inquisition *post mortem*³

Suff. Bassingborne Gawdye, esq. Inquisition taken at Bury St. Edmunds, 24 Sept., 32 Eliz. (1590).

One, Anne Woodhouse *alias* Rippes, who was seised of the manor of Drayton Hall in Skarninge, co. Norff., married the said Bassingborne, and they had issue, Bassingborne and Philip, both now living. Afterwards (Trinity Term, 13 Eliz.), Francis Gawdy, esq. and John Wolmer, gent. recovered against the deceased Bassingborne and Anne the manors of West Harling, Middle Harling, Gastropp, Drayton Hall and Sackfords *alias* Hackfords etc., to the uses in an indenture set

¹ Anthony Gawdy was the son of Thomas Gawdy, sergeant-at-law, by his second wife, Elizabeth Harris of Devon. He was probably born in his father's house in St. Julian's parish, Norwich, and his name appears in the final conveyance of this Norwich property to Sir Thomas Gawdy of Claxton in 1567. He does not appear to have married. He is always remembered with affection in the letters of his favourite nephew, Philip, whom he made his executor and residuary legatee. In 1587, he held some military office in connection with musters and attained the rank of captain. A special room was reserved for him at West Harling, where he seems to have been a very popular and permanent guest. His will, which is dated 4th Sep., 1600, describes him as of Castleacre, Norf., esq. By it, he gave Robert Bowlton of Garboldisham and Eliz., his wife, 500 marks; to his servants, George Mylles and Wm. Palgrave, £20 each. Residuary legatee and exor. his nephew, Philip Gawdy. Proved (P.C.C.) 17th Nov., 1606.

John Gawdy, his full brother, might be identical with the person of that name who was of Thetford at the time of the 1574 muster (See *Pub. Norfolk Record Society*, vol. vi., p. 7). If so, he was older than his brother Anthony, who is described in his father's will as his youngest son. No doubt he was the John Gawdy, gent., who was buried at Flordon, 5th Feb., 1580.

² *Bassingbourne Gawdye sen. Esquier was buried xxv daye of Jan. 1589.*—West Harling register.

³ Chancery: Series II., vol. 225, no. 105.

PEDIGREE C.

GAWDY of WEST HARLING.

BASSINGBORNE GAWDY of W. Harling, esq., = ANNE, da. of John Wootton of Tuddenham, 2nd son of Thos. Gawdy, sergt-at-law, by Anne, his wife; bur. at W. H., 25 Jan., 1589.
 MARGARET, da. of Eustace Sulyard of Flemings in Runwell, Essex, and wid. of Thomas Darcy of Tolleshunt Darcy, Essex; mar. Dec., 1588; bur. Tolleshunt Darcy, 15 Aug., 1590; 2nd wife. *s.p.*

PHILIP GAWDY.

SIR BASSINGBORNE GAWDY of W. Harling; born 19 May, 1560; knighted 1597; bur. W. H., 23 May, 1606; will pr. (P.C.C.) 30 Apr., 1607.

(See PEDIGREE D.)

DOROTHY, da. of Sir Nich. Bacon of Redgrave. (See PEDIGREE F.)

SIR CHAS. GAWDY of Crow's Hall; 2nd son.

FRAMLINGHAM GAWDY of W. Harling, esq.; son and heir; pap. W. H., 17 Aug., 1589; buried there 26 Feb., 1654; will pr. (P.C.C.) 16 June, 1655.

(See PEDIGREE E.)

FRAMLINGHAM G., 2nd son; pap. W. H.; 25 Jan., 1613; lived at Crow's Hall; bur. Debenham, 19 Aug., 1686; will pr. (Norw.) 1686.

CHARLES G., = MARY, da. pap. W. H., 4 Mar., 1618; Nunn admon. 20 Oct., 1685; 5th son. Troston, Suff. creat. bart., 1663; bur. W. H., 18 Aug., 1669.

BASSINGBORNE G., 3rd son; pap. W. H., 9 Mar., 1614; died at Bury, bur. at W. H., 22 Oct., 1692; will pr. (Bury) 10 Feb., 1692.

ANNE, da. and co-hr. of Sir Chas. Framlingham of Crow's Hall in Debenham, Suff.; pap. Debenham, 6 Oct., 1567; bur. W. H., 9 June, 1594; 1st wife.

LETTICE, da. and co-hr. of Sir Robt. Knowles, K.B., who died in 1618; uncle Philip Gawdy; mar. 16 Feb., 1608, in London; bur. W. H., 3 Dec., 1630; 1st wife. (See PEDIGREE D.)

ANNE, pap. W. H., 1620; bur. 1622.

LETTICE, pap. W. H., 1616; bur. 1622.

THOMAS G., 4th son;
 bap. W. H., 13 Oct.,
 1617; bur. Deben-
 ham, 25 Sep., 1680;
 unmarried.

ROBERT, 6th son;
 bap. W. H., 16 July,
 1622; at Caus
 Coll., Camb.; bur.
 W. H., 16 Aug.,
 1649.

BASSINGBORNE G.,
 bap. W. H., 3 Mar.,
 1664; wife named
 Elizabeth; admon.
 (Bury) 7 Oct., 1701.

CHARLES G., bap.
 W. H., 22 Dec.,
 1666.

ELIZABETH,
 bap. 19 Feb.,
 1662, at W.
 H.; mar.
 at W. H.,
 12 Nov., 1683,
 Nicholas
 Edgar of Gt.
 Glemham,
 Suff., esq.

WILLIAM G.,
 3rd son; died
 21 Feb., 1660,
 of small-pox;
 bur. in Temple
 Church.

LETITICE,
 bap. W. H.,
 29 Dec., 1668.

MARY, under
 21 in 1670/1.
 See cousin
 Mary
 Gawdy's
 will.

BASSINGBORNE
 G., eld. son;
 bap. W. H.,
 3 Aug., 1637;
 died 23 Feb.,
 1660, of small-

pox; bur. in
 Temple Church,
 London.

FRAMLINGHAM
 G., of Crow's
 Hall, 4th son.
 A deaf-mute;
 bur. W. H.,
 26 March, 1673
 unmarried;
 will pr. (Norw.)
 5 Sep., 1673.

SIR JOHN
 GAWDY,
 bart., 2nd
 son; bap.
 W. H.,
 4 Oct., 1639;
 died Jan.,
 1708/9. A
 painter and
 a deaf-mute.

ANNE, da. of Sir Robt.
 de Grey of Merton, kt.;
 married at St. James,
 Bury St. Eds., 6 Nov.,
 1662.

MARY, died unmarried, 11 Oct.,
 1671, aged 22; bur. in Temple
 Church, London; will pr.
 (P.C.C.) 2 Nov., 1671.

SIR BASSINGBORNE GAWDY,
 bart., of W. Harling; bap.
 St. Jas. Bury, 14 June,
 1667; died 10 Oct., 1723;
 bur. at W. H.; unmarried.

ANNE, bap. St. Jas. Bury, 2 Mar.,
 1665; mar. Oliver le Neve of
 Witchingham, esq.; she died
 18 Feb., 1695/6. Her three
 daughters, Henrietta, Isabell,
 and Ann, inherited and sold
 the Harling estate.

LETITICE and ELIZ. died in
 infancy.

forth including a settlement on the marriage of their said son Bassingborne and Anne Framlingham.

Anne, his wife, died at West Harling, 14th June, 30 Eliz. (1588). He died 20th January last. His son and heir, Bassingborne Gawdy, esq. *aet.* 29 and more.

It should be mentioned here that Blomefield¹ has hopelessly confused Bassingborne Gawdy, senior, with his son, Sir Bassingborne Gawdy, and his account of these two persons is therefore unreliable. The most serious error occurs on page 305 where the year of the death of his father should read 1589, *not* 1569.

SIR BASSINGBORNE GAWDY OF WEST HARLING was the elder son of Bassingborne Gawdy by Anne Wootton, his wife. He was born 19th May, 1560,² and apparently had no academic career. He was M.P. for Thetford, 1592-3 and 1603-4; High Sheriff of Norfolk, 1593, 1601; knighted, 1597; M.P. for Norfolk, 1601.

He married (1) Anne, daughter of Sir Charles Framlingham of Crowshall in Debenham, co. Suffolk, by his wife, Dorothy, daughter of Sir Clement Higham. Anne Framlingham was an heiress and brought the whole of the Framlingham estates to the Gawdys.³ By her, Sir Bassingborne had two sons, Framlingham and Charles (afterwards Sir Charles). He married (2) Dorothy, daughter of Sir Nicholas Bacon of Redgrave, bart., by whom two sons, Bassingborne and Bacon; and three daughters, Dorothy, Frances and Anne.

His activities are recorded in the family correspondence and household books, most of which are preserved in the British Museum.⁴

Some idea of the size of Berdwell Hall, the house in which he dwelt at West Harling, can be gathered

¹ Blomefield, vol. i., p. 305 *et seq.*

² Carthew, *Launditch*, vol. ii., p. 745.

³ She died 23rd June, 1594.

⁴ Add. MSS., Brit. Mus., 27395. Egerton MS, 2713-2722.

from an inventory¹ of his moveable goods taken immediately after his death in 1606.² The house consisted of a hall, a parlour, two galleries, kitchen, pastry, pantry, scullery and storehouse, 32 chambers of which 26 were bedrooms, dairy, brewhouse, still-house, stable and bailiff's storehouse; but no reference is made to the *family chapel* mentioned by Blomefield.

A few of the items recorded are: 13 pictures, three maps, his armour, Turkey carpets, *a tester imbrodered with silver with twoe scutchins of armes*, tapestry and arras work, 13 halberds and other armour, *twoe Ancients of blewe & yellowe with either of them a red crosse in the middest & one with a Tortus & a leadinge Staffe*,³ a coach and horses, and *a double silver salt with a guilt bowle*. He owned 5460 head of sheep, and the total value of his moveable effects was estimated at £2312 3s. 11d.

Rooms were reserved at Harling for Sir Bassingborne's uncle, Anthony Gawdy; for his brother, Charles; for Anthony Rawlings, his secretary; and for Richard Sutton, his farmer.

Sir Bassingborne Gawdy was buried 23rd May, 1606, at West Harling.

His will is dated 17th May, 1606. He left all his goods and chattels, lands, etc., to his eldest son, Framlingham Gawdy. He desired his brother-in-law, Sir Edmund Bacon, and his uncle, Anthony Gawdy, esq., to sell his manor of Brettenham to pay his debts and to divide the residue among his younger children, Bacon, Dorothy, Anne and Frances Gawdy at their ages of 21 years. His executors were his son, Framlingham, and his uncle, Anthony. Proved (P.C.C.) 30th April, 1607, by his son—Anthony having in the meanwhile died.

At an inquisition⁴ taken at Wymondham, 12th June, 1606, it was found that he was seised of the manors of West Harling, Middle Harling, Sackfords *alias*

¹ Add. Charters, Brit. Mus., 1654-9.

² See Appendix.

³ His arms.

⁴ *Wards and Liveries*: vol. 29 p. 21.

Hackfords and the reversion of the manor of Gasthorpe after the death of his wife, Dame Dorothy; and tenements in Rusforth, Bridgham, etc.; and the advowsons of West and Middle Harling. He died 17th May, 1606. Framlingham Gawdy, his son and heir, aged 16 years, 10 months and 14 days at the date of the inquisition.

In 1609, Sir Bassingborne's widow, Dorothy, married Philip Colby of Culford, co. Suffolk, and died in 1621, aged 47.

PHILIP GAWDY AND HIS FAMILY.

We must now leave Harling for a while and notice Sir Bassingborne's only brother, Philip, whose messages to his friends and relations in Norfolk and Suffolk provide us not only with a vivid account of his adventurous career, but are full of interesting and intimate details concerning himself and his family.

PHILIP GAWDY, the younger brother of Sir Bassingborne Gawdy of West Harling was born 13th July, 1562;¹ admitted at the Inner Temple, 1578; Clifford's Inn, 1580;² M.P. for Thetford, 1588-1593; M.P. for Eye, 1593-1597; M.P. for Thetford, 1597-1601; M.P. for Sudbury, 1601-1603; M.P. for Dunwich; appointed undersheriff for Norfolk, 24th November, 1609, by his nephew, Framlingham Gawdy.

Young Philip does not appear to have taken life very seriously while at Clifford's Inn, much of his time being occupied with lute-playing. On 8th February, 1587, the day of the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, he wrote to his mother "Muche uncerteyne newes touching the Queene of Skottes In that she should have hidd herself in the topp of a chymney and so by that meanes not being found . . . she might have escaped."³

Philip was on the *Revenge* in 1591 with Sir Richard Grenville, and on the *Defiance* in the same year with

¹ Add. MS., Brit. Mus., 37535.

² Egerton MS., 2804/3.

³ *Ibid.*, /19.

Lord Thomas Howard. In 1592, he was imprisoned in Lisbon Castle after the foundering of the *Revenge*, but was ransomed for £200 by his brother, Bassingborne. The following extract from a letter¹ written to his brother in 1591 gives us some idea of his adventures while on the *Revenge*:—

From Plommouthe we sayled the whole fleete together two dayes when our shipp the *Revenge* lost my Lord and the whole fleete. They all put in at Famouth being dryven thether by the extremty of the weather. We tackt about to the wetherward and lay uppon the coste of France Betwene Sylla and Ushin wher we did endure very sore weather as might be abiden at the sea. We spent bothe our mastes, but by Godes grace, they wer espyed in good tyme, and strengthened with fishes, wolding and calking, and now thanks be to God, they be in very good plight.

In another letter² to his brother which appears to have been written on 29th August, 1594, he reports a conspiracy against the Queen's life (by York and Williams) and that, in consequence, no persons were in future to appear before, or attend upon her majesty *wearing any long cloke beneath the knee It commeth in a good hower for taylers and mercers and drapers for all men ar settled into longe clokcs.*

On 16th September, 1594,³ he writes saying he is resident either at Court "or els continually with Don Antonio Peres at Essex howse." Don Antonio was a fugitive Portuguese Secretary of State who had found shelter in England.

Philip Gawdy married (c. 1597) Bridget, daughter of Bartholomew Strangman of Hadleigh, Essex, by Maria, daughter of Robert Crane of Chilton, Suffolk, esq.⁴ He thereupon settled down in England, begot eight children in rapid succession, and, on account of his restless temperament and improvident nature,

¹ Jeayes: *Letters of Philip Gawdy*, p. 57.

² Egerton, 2804/109.

³ *Ibid.*, /111.

⁴ Bartholomew Strangman died in 1580, and his widow, Maria, married Dudley Fortescue of Faulkborne.

became a constant financial drain on his Harling relations.

On 19th December (but no year mentioned), he writes to his brother from Tostock¹ mentioning his wife, Bidd, and expresses a desire to go to Harling for Christmas. He asks for Bassingborne to send his coach for them. "And now agaynst Christmas mee thinkes you shold remembre olde Peter the tothedrawer for a Christmas man in the Chimneye corner, but I do not knowe that he travysted with any mystrys."²

During their early married life, Philip and his wife seem to have spent most of their time at Chilton, her mother's home, and the children were more or less adopted by relations. Bridget died in 1609 and was buried at Westminster. Philip died in London 27th May, 1617, and was buried on the 30th of that month at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West.

A history of this man's remarkable career and a delineation of his character can be gathered from his voluminous letters. Once he wrote "I may justly say that I have travelled farther than any of my name." His varied experiences as a lawyer, a courtier and a sailor made him, in spite of all his faults, a most fascinating and loveable person who always remembered the land of his birth with great affection—"And when I think of Norffolk and your sweet companyes . . . I sighe and saye the sea doth not content me."

Philip Gawdy's will is in the form of a letter of attorney,³ signed on his death-bed and dated 27th May, 1617, by which he authorised Sir Clippesby Gawdy, kt., Framlingham Gawdy, esq., and John Shardelow, gent., to receive of Sir Charles Gawdy, kt., the full sum of £400 which Sir Charles owed him. This money he desired to be distributed in the following

¹ Egerton, 2804/143.

² Mysteries.

³ See Add. MS. Brit. Mus., 27395-117. The witnesses at the subsequent enquiry were John Alpe of Potter Heigham, Norf., yeoman, born at Burston, and Thos. Watts of Harleston, gent., born at Thorpe Abbots. See also Add. MS., 27396/26.

manner:—To Lady Jermyn, wife of Sir Thomas Jermyn, £50; to Framlingham Gawdy, £20; to Mary, his daughter, £100; to Lettice, his daughter, £50; to Francis Gawdy, his son, £100; to Anthony Gawdy, his son, £80. The names of his two daughters, Elizabeth and Dorothy, do not appear in this document.

This £400 did not necessarily represent his entire fortune. He had received legacies from time to time, among which was a substantial portion of the estate of his uncle, Anthony Gawdy, who died in 1606; so that his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, and William Napper of Drury Lane, her husband, immediately proceeded, after Philip's death, to take out letters of administration of his goods. This at once placed the Nappers in opposition to the three persons appointed by Philip in his death-bed declaration, and led to legal proceedings instituted by the Nappers (as administrators of Philip's goods) against Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, the surviving trustee.

The proceedings commenced 31st January, 1633, and the evidence shows that Philip Gawdy died in the house of one, George Fouch,¹ in Chancery Lane. His death-sickness, which lasted eight or nine days, is described as a *surfett*. The document was read to the dying man in an audible voice and he agreeing to it, signed the same in the presence of witnesses who did not hear him "talk a word to his daughter, Elizabeth." The depositions are interesting and informative. Anthony Rawlyns² of West Harling, gent., born at Moulton, Lincs., certified that all the several legacies mentioned in the schedule had been paid. Rawlyns stated that he knew Philip Gawdy for thirty years, that Philip had six children, namely two sons and four daughters (two others had died in infancy), and that Elizabeth was commonly reputed to be a lawful daughter of the said Philip.

¹ Fouch was born at Wotton-under-Edge, Glouc., 1582. He was a messenger of the king's bedchamber and had dwelt in Chancery Lane for twenty years.

² Secretary and factotum at Harling.

Francis Gawdy of West Harling, born at Burston, Norfolk, and son of Thomas Gawdy of Weybread and Ruth Bolton, his wife, stated that he was forty years of age; that he was of equal relationship to Framlingham Gawdy and Elizabeth Napper; and that he was an attendant in Framlingham Gawdy's service. He lived at Harling Hall and had a stipend for his attendance. He endorsed Rawlyn's statement.

The judgment of the court was that Framlingham Gawdy was entitled to the residue of Philip's estate, and that Elizabeth Napper had no claim.

THE CHILDREN OF PHILIP GAWDY.

FRANCIS, the eldest son, was born *circa* 1600 and is mentioned in Sir Charles Gawdy's will (1629); in Mary Mingay's will (1649); and in the will of Dorothy Gawdy, his sister (1660).

On the renewal of hostilities with Spain in 1621 by Maurice, Prince of Orange, an army of six thousand Englishmen was sent to Holland. Francis evidently joined this army, for, in July, 1623, he sent the news of the total defeat of the Duke of Brunswick to his cousin Framlingham from Bommell in Gelderland.¹ In 1629, he came to England on leave and stayed at Harling. On his return to military duty he wrote from Hasselt thanking Framlingham for his hospitality.² *Circa* 1632, he wrote a news-letter from Rhineberke to Framlingham, mentioning his cousins Charles and William, his sisters, Dorothy Gawdy and Mary Mingay, his brother Anthony and Anthony's wife, and expressed a desire to enter the service of his cousin, Charles.³

Circa 1634, Charles Gawdy suggested to his cousin Framlingham that influence be exerted to obtain for Francis the rank of *Anchient*. From 1636 to 1638, Francis was at Bergen-op-Zoom. In 1655, we find him at Breda writing a letter of sympathy to his kinsman,

¹ Add. MS. 27395/174.

² *Ibid.* /232.,

³ Add. MS. 27396/52.

THE DESCENDANTS OF PHILIP GAWDY.

PEDIGREE D.

PHILIP GAWDY, 2nd son of Basingborne = BRIDGET, da. of Bartholomew Strangman
Gawdy of W. Harling, esq., and Anne of Hadleigh, Essex, by Maria, da. of Robt.
Wootton, his wife; born 13 July, 1562; Crane of Chilton, Suff., esq.; mar. c. 1597;
bur. St. Dunstan's in the West, Lond., 1617.

PHILIP G. ANTHONY GAWDY, = MARGARET,
bapt. born c. 1602; da. of
W. Harling, clerk in holy William
30 Sep., 1605. orders; of Caius Wythers,
College; rector of rector of
Garboldisham, Wethering-
Sternfield; vicar set, Suff.;
of Aspall; ob. ob. 1649;
1652/3; bur. at bur. Aspall,
Aspall; will pr. Suff.
(P.C.C.) 10 June, 1653.

ANTHONY, bap.
Garboldisham,
23 June, 1637.
Not mentioned
in his father's
will.

CHARLES, bap.
Aspall, 14 July,
1647. Not men-
tioned in his
father's will.

MARY, bap. Wetheringsett, 11 Aug.,
1633; dead in 1659; mar. Thomas
Rous of Sternfield, Suff., clerk.

BRIDGET, bap. Aspall, 1634; bur. Gar-
boldisham, 1637.

ALICE, bap. Garboldisham, 21 July,
1636; liv. 1652/3; mar. Wm. Canham
of Garboldisham.

MARGARET, bap. Aspall, 1638; liv.
1652/3.

ELIZABETH, bap. and bur. Aspall,
1641.

FRANCIS
GAWDY,
eld. son;
a soldier;
at Breda,
1655; liv.
1660; mar.
circa 1640.

BRIDGET, bap. W. Harling, 18 March,
1599; *ob. inf.*

ELIZABETH, mar. Wm. Napper of
Drury Lane; liv. 1649.

MARY, mar. Anth. Mingay of Norwich
at St. Stephen's, Norw., 1627/8; bur.
there 1649; will pr. (Norw.) 22 Aug.,
1649.

DOROTHY, mar. Framlingham Gawdy,
her cousin; bap. W. Harling, 17 Oct.,
1596; mar. at W. Harling, 28 Jan.,
1652; buried (W. H.) 5 Oct., 1659;
will pr. (Norw.) 16 April, 1660. *s.p.*

LETTICE, unmarried, bur. in Bath
Abbey, 28 March, 1631.

FRANCES, born 1642; mar. John Trout-
beck of London and Cheshire, M.D.,
Cantab. She died 29 Aug., 1683. He
died 19 July, 1684.

JOANNA, ment. in her Aunt Dorothy
Gawdy's will, 1660.

UTRETTA, born 1655; mar. John
Tompson of London, at St. Andrew's,
Holborn, 1682.

William Gawdy, on the death of the latter's wife (née Elizabeth Duffield). He continues: "My wife and pore children desire their humble service to be remembered unto you, likewise to Mrs. Duffill and my cozen Higham."¹

Circa 1659, Francis writes (no place mentioned) to William Gawdy of Bury St. Edmunds (afterwards Sir William Gawdy of West Harling, bart.) complaining of great misfortune; is not yet a Lieutenant; his youngest daughter presents William's daughter with a picture; his wife and children join him in love to cousins Bassingborne, Thomas and Charles.²

Francis married *circa* 1640. By his wife (whose name does not appear) he had three daughters, Frances, Joanna and Uretia who are mentioned in their aunt Dorothy Gawdy's will (1660). Concerning the marriages of two of these daughters the following evidences have been found:—

1668, November 16th. John Troutbeck of Westminster, Doctor of Physic, widower, and Frances Gawdy of St. Olaves, Hart Street, London, spinster, about 26, at her own disposal. At St. Olaves, aforesaid, or any other Church in the Diocese of London.³

From Musgrave's *Obituary* we learn that Frances Troutbeck, daughter of Francis Gawdy and wife of John Troutbeck, M.D., of Cheshire, died 29th August, 1683.

1682, April 5th. John Tompson of St. Martin's in the Fields, citizen and mason of London, widower, about 38 years of age and Mrs. Utracia Gaudy of St. Andrew, Holborn, London, spinster, about 27, at her own disposal. At St. Andrew's, aforesaid.⁴

ANTHONY GAWDY, second son of Philip Gawdy, was born *circa* 1602 and was educated at Botesdale, Suff. and Blo' Norton, Norf. He was admitted

¹ Add. MS. 27396/194.

² *Ibid.*, /234.

³ Mar. Lic. Fac. Office, Archbp. Cant., Lond.

⁴ Mar. Alleg., Vic. Gen., Archbp. Cant.

pensioner at Caius College, Cambridge, 21 March, 1620/1, age 18; B.A., 1625/6; M.A., 1629; deprived of his scholarship in 1627 for assaulting the dean who had struck him;¹ ordained priest (Norwich) 1629/30; rector of Garboldisham, Norfolk, 1634-1637; of Sternfield, Suffolk, 1652; curate or vicar of Aspoll, Suffolk, 1632-1652.²

In 1632, he married Margaret daughter of William Wythers, rector of Wetheringsett, Suffolk. Margaret was buried at Aspoll in 1649, and Anthony was buried there, 8th March, 1652/3.

His will, dated 6th Jan., 1652/3 (of Sternfield), mentions Mary, Alice and Margaret, his daughters and executrices; his sister, Dorothy, then living in Kenninghall; lands in Kenninghall and Garboldisham. Proved 10th June, 1653, by Mary Gawdy, "now wife of Thomas Rous, one of the executrices, power reserved to the others."³

ELIZABETH NAPPER, daughter of Philip Gawdy,⁴ has already been mentioned. Her husband, William Napper, died in his house in Drury Lane, near the *Red Bull*, 15th October, 1639, leaving his widow and children in poverty, whereupon she wrote a begging letter to Framlingham Gawdy of Harling stating that her husband's family would not help her a groat "in regard that I am not of their religion." Elizabeth is mentioned in the will of her sister, Mary Mingay (1649); and Dorothy Gawdy, another sister, in her will (1660), mentions Thomas Napper, her kinsman.

MARY MINGAY, daughter of Philip Gawdy, was married at St. Stephen's, Norwich, 21st February, 1627/8, to Anthony, son of John Mingay, alderman of Norwich. She was buried at St. Stephen's, 20th August, 1649; Anthony, her husband, was buried there, 7th August, 1649.

¹ Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. (*Gawdy Letters*), p. 124.

² Venn: *Biog. Hist. Gon. and Caius*.

³ P.C.C.

⁴ In her early childhood, Elizabeth had been adopted by John Nunne of Tostock, Suff., and Elizabeth, his wife (née Wootton). These Nunnnes were Philip Gawdy's uncle and aunt.

In her will, dated 15th August, 1649, she mentions John, her eldest son (under 21); Anthony, her younger son; Susan, her daughter, married to William Rant of Yelverton; her sister, Elizabeth Napper of London; her brother, Anthony Gawdy, clerk, and Mary, his daughter; her brother, Francis Gawdy and his children; her sister, Dorothy Gawdy; and others. Proved at Norwich, 22nd August, 1649.

DOROTHY GAWDY, daughter of Philip Gawdy, was baptized at West Harling, 17th October, 1596; in her brother Anthony's will, 1632, she is described as of Kenninghall. She became housekeeper to her cousin Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling after the death of his wife, Lettice Knowles. She married the said Framlingham at West Harling, 28th January, 1652/3, Mr. John Cademan, rector of Banham, officiating. She was buried at West Harling, 5th October, 1659.

Her will (undated) mentions her brother, Francis, and his three daughters, to whom she gave all her lands and tenements in Bridgham; Catharine Gawdy, widow of Bacon Gawdy; Frances and Thomasine, daughters of Henry Gawdy; Dorothy Spurling of Quidenham; son-in-law, Framlingham Gawdy; nephew, Anthony Mingay; Alice, wife of William Canham of Garboldisham; Mary Gawdy; and the poor of Garboldisham, Gasthorpe, Kenninghall, Banham, and West and Middle Harling. Proved at Norwich, 16th April, 1660.

RETURN TO WEST HARLING.

(PEDIGREE C.)

We now return to West Harling where the two sons of Sir Bassingborne Gawdy by his first wife, Anne Framlingham, claim our attention.

FRAMLINGHAM GAWDY of WEST HARLING, the elder son, was baptized there, 17th August, 1589; admitted at Gray's Inn, 15th February, 1623/4; High Sheriff of Norfolk, 1628; M.P. for Thetford, 1614, 1620, 1623-26, 1640 until his death.

At the age of sixteen—just before his father's

death—he became involved at Harling in an undesirable love affair with a serving maid called Havers, and was promptly sent away to London to his uncle Philip who seems to have been successful in diverting his attention to the superior attractions of Town. He was shown “the Lyons¹ and the tombs at Westminster,” was presented at Court, made himself universally popular, and thoroughly enjoyed his uncle’s good company.

He was a young man of considerable importance. Not only was he heir to his father, but he also inherited a portion of the estates of his grandfather, Sir Charles Framlingham.² On 16th February, 1608, he contracted a marriage with Lettice, daughter of Sir Robert Knowles;³ but the marriage was solemnised under such peculiar circumstances as to cast some doubt on its validity. The surrender of Gawdy Hall at the close of the sixteenth century to Sir Thomas Gawdy who, in fact, represented a junior branch of the family, caused an undercurrent of animosity to exist between the Gawdys of Claxton and those of Harling. It is not surprising therefore, that a member of the Claxton family, George Gawdy, should make an attempt to prove the invalidity of Framlingham’s marriage with a view to merging the whole of Framlingham’s inheritance into the Claxton estates.

George Gawdy’s case was that the marriage had taken place in Sir Robert Knowles’ private house and had not been registered in the church; but he was careful not to take action before the death of Lettice which took place in December, 1630. The documents relating to this action⁴ are undated, but the evidence of the letters shows that the case was tried in 1635.

The depositions and sentence for my marriage which I produced because my marrying was not registered in the church by reason I was marryed in a private house where many were present.

Framlingham Gawdy.

¹ The Tower menagerie with its famous lions was one of the chief sights of London.

² Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. (*Gawdy Letters*), p. 106.

³ Of Berkshire. Made a K.B. at the coronation of James I.

⁴ Add. MS., Brit. Mus., 36990/104.

Framlingham and Lettice were married together by a lawfull minister and by and with the consent of the said Sr. Robt. Knowlles and in the house of the said Sr. Robt. and called the Vinegarden situate in the parish of St. Margaret Westminster aforesaid by vertue of a speciall licence granted by the Ld. Archbp. of Cant.

Lettice Knowlles *alias* Gawdie died in Dec. 1630 and from the time of the marriage to the time of Lettice's death they carried themselves and lived together as man and wife and had 10 children lawfully begotten &c.

Witnesses in the case:

Anthony Rawlyns of W. Harling said he was a servant to the party producent when the said producent was a ward unto the late Sr. Robt. Knowles 26 years since. Declared that Sr. Robt. tendered his dr. Lettice in marriage to the said producent. Licence of marriage was obtained. He stated that the marriage took place at the house of Sr. Robt. Knowlles, called the Vineyard on 16 Feb., 1608 by Mr. Leach, a minister.

Jeremias Leech, Rector of the Church of St. Mary le Bone, born in London, *aet.* 52, declared that he had carried out the marriage.

The result of the case was that the marriage was declared valid.

In 1611, he caused an elaborate heraldic pedigree of his family to be compiled,¹ with emblazoned arms, by W. Lowther. This pedigree is tolerably accurate from Thomas Gawdy of Harleston (died in 1556) downwards. The suggested inaccuracies of the preceding portion of this genealogy have already been mentioned.

Framlingham's life was not uneventful. As the head of his branch of the family, a magistrate and a public man, his friends and relations made him share the joys of their good fortune and came to him for assistance in their times of trouble. He was a kindly, affectionate person, gifted from his youth with the quaint sense of humour which made him, as a twelve-year-old schoolboy, write to his father:

deare father, i thought good in these few words to remember my duty, when i am a better Scholar youe shall have a better letter

Your loving sonne,

Framlingham Gaudy.²

¹ Add. MS. 37535.

² Add. MS. 5522/50.

This sense of humour remained with him all his life as the following story¹ shows:—

Old Framlingham Gawdy walking with a young gallant in London Streets that used to be most vainly prodigall in his habit of Dresse and finding that the splendour of his comrade drew such a goodlie traine of Beggars whose broken consert quite confounded the harmonie of ther private and ther serious discourse, and perceiving that they would not desist or disperse after many thundering oaths and execrations from the gallant, Framlingham turns about very soberly and says "Good people, be quiet and let the Gentleman alone for hee's a very sociable, sweetnatured man and I'll be bound hee shall keepe you company within one twelve month."

He does not appear to have taken any active part in the events which led up to the Rebellion, but sat as a Member for Thetford in the Long Parliament from its first meeting in 1640 until his death in 1654, and has left us *Notes of what passed in Parliament*, 1641, 1642.²

After the death of Lettice, his first wife, Framlingham's cousin, Dorothy, daughter of Philip Gawdy, came to Harling as his housekeeper, in which capacity she remained until he married her in 1652/3. Concerning this marriage it has been recorded¹ that "When Mr. Framlingham Gawdy was a widower, an old servant of his (that had been so for many years to that Family) came to him in a good, honest, plaine way: 'Sir,' says he, 'they say you are toward marriage, but God sheeld it, for second wives in this house have allwayes proved very Bables'—and so had they, sayd those that knew them." It is to be hoped that this prophecy was not fulfilled.

Framlingham Gawdy was attended in his last sickness by Dr. Browne—undoubtedly identical with the famous Sir Thomas Browne—whose prescriptions were made up by George Dey, an apothecary of Norwich.³

¹ Harl. MS. 6395.

² Add. MS. 14827/28.

³ *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. (Gawdy Letters)*, p. 184.

He was buried at West Harling, 25th February, 1654,¹ leaving five sons surviving of whom William (afterwards the first baronet) was the eldest.

His will is dated 20th August, 1652, some months before his second marriage. By it, he gave to Bassingborne, his son, messuages and lands in Sternfield, Suffolk, then in the tenure of Samuel Jesope; to his son, Thomas, messuages and lands in Sternfield and Benhall in the tenure of Jeremy Jesope; to his second son, Framlingham, £1400, to be paid by his eldest son, William; to his son, William, his lands, etc., in Gasthorpe, Norfolk; to his son, Framlingham, £100 bequeathed to him by his uncle, Sir Charles Gawdy, deceased; to his cousin, Dorothy Gawdy of West Harling, his barley rents out of his lands in Garboldisham. Residuary legatee and executor, his son, William. Proved 16th June, 1655. P.C.C. *Aylett*.

Framlingham had six sons and two daughters of whom the last died in infancy—probably of small-pox. Of the sons, four were sent to Bury St. Edmunds Grammar School and two to Thetford; and all six entered Caius College, Cambridge.

William, the eldest son, who afterwards became SIR WILLIAM GAWDY, first baronet, will be noticed later.

FRAMLINGHAM GAWDY, second son of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, was baptized there in 1613. Having spent some time at Bury School, he was admitted at Caius College in 1630/1, and at the Inner Temple in 1634. He made arrangements for the defence of his father in the suit brought against him in 1635 by the Nappers; and old Framlingham, in a letter giving instructions to his son concerning the case, advised him in his characteristic manner to "serve God and give yourself to honest mirthe." In 1637, young Framlingham was invited by his cousin, Charles, to Crow's Hall in Suffolk—a fateful invitation, for he was destined to make that place his future home.

¹ D.N.B.

His news-letters are vividly descriptive as the following example¹ shows:—

18 March, 1640. Framlingham Gawdy, jun., to Framlingham Gawdy, sen. From Tudenham.
 Lord Bristow in the house told the King that if he would hear the right complaints of his subjects and redress their grievances by parliament and govern according to the Laws of his Kingdom then he would find every man's heart and purse ready to assist him in the beating back of the Scots (if reason would not satisfy them). And all the Lords with one voice cried, "All, All, All!" To which the King answered he would give them his faith that he would.

He writes on another occasion (October, 1655)² to his brother, William: "I cannot much encourage you to send your man to the Inns of Court or to this towne, it being a place of great deboishing amongst young people." In 1661, he negotiated for the marriage of his nephew, John Gawdy (afterwards Sir John) and Anne de Grey, and, in 1669, made arrangements for his father's funeral. He was an indispensable person at Crow's Hall. His capacity for business, combined with an evenly-balanced outlook and sympathetic nature, enabled him to control some of the wildness of his scatter-brained young nephew, Sir Charles Gawdy, and to be one of a very few to show true loving-kindness to his unfortunate and disfigured little niece, Mary, who lived at Crow's Hall under his special care. He died, unmarried, after a short illness, in 1686, and was buried at Debenham.³

BASSINGBORNE GAUDY, third son of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, was baptized there in 1614. He attended Bury School, and was admitted at Caius

¹ Add. MS. 27396/156.

² From London. *Ibid.* /207.

³ His will is dated May 26th, 1686; then in health; mentions Sir John Gaudy, bart., his nephew; Bass. Gaudy, son of his brother, Charles; Margaret and Bridget Gaudy, daughters of Sir Chas. Gaudy, kt. and bart.; Vere Gaudy, eld. daughter of the said Sir Charles; Levold Watts of West Harling, gent., his loving friend. Proved at Norwich, 1686.

Levold Watts was the secretary and factotum at W. Harling.

College in 1632. In 1666, he was living with his brother, Charles, at West Harling. The latter part of his life was spent at Bury St. Edmunds, and he died, unmarried, in 1692 and was buried at West Harling.¹

THOMAS GAWDY, the fourth son of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, was baptized there in 1617. He also attended Bury School, and was admitted at Caius College in 1636. He lived at Crow's Hall where he died, unmarried, in 1680, and was buried at Debenham.

CHARLES, the fifth son of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, was baptized there in 1618. From Thetford School he was sent to Caius College in 1637, where it was found that "his incapacity of University learning" was such "that more than ordinary diligence was necessary with him." In December, 1638, he was sent home by William Moore, Fellow of the College, who reported that "he was averse for the condition he was in so that the longer he was at Cambridge the more he would be prejudiced as it was detaining him from some fitter course of life." Being therefore unfitted physically for a professional career, he lived at West Harling, and, after his father's death, farmed it for his brother, William. We find him there until 1670. He married Mary, daughter of Fitz Nunn Lambe of Troston, Suffolk, by whom two sons, Bassingborne and Charles; and three daughters, Elizabeth (married Nicholas Edgar of Great Glemham, Suffolk), Lettice and Mary (mentioned in Mary Gawdy's will, 1670/1). The last years of his life were spent at Bury St. Edmunds, and he died, intestate, in 1685.²

¹ Will of Bass. Gawdy of Bury St. Edmunds, gent. Dated: 3rd Apr., 1691. Mentions lands in Sternfield and Benhall which he gives to Bass. Gawdy, son of the late Mr. Charles Gawdy; also mentions Sir John Gawdy of West Harling, bart., and Bassingborne, his son; his kinsman, Nicholas Edgar and Elizabeth, his wife, and John Edgar, their son. Proved: 10th Feb., 1692.

² Admon. 20 Oct., 1685. Estate of Charles Gawdy, formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, to Bassingbourn Gawdy, son of the said Charles.

ROBERT, the sixth son of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, was baptized there in 1622. He was intellectually the most brilliant member of the family. After a preliminary education at Thetford, he was admitted at Caius College in 1638/9; graduated, B.A., in 1642/3, and M.A., in 1646. He died in 1649, unmarried, and was buried at West Harling.

SIR WILLIAM GAWDY, the eldest son of Framlingham Gawdy of West Harling, was baptized there in 1612. He attended Bury School, and was admitted at Caius College in 1629. Having taken the degree of B.A. in 1632, he was admitted at the Inner Temple in 1634. In 1636, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Duffield of East Wretham, Norfolk, gent., by whom four sons and a daughter. Elizabeth, his wife, died at Wretham in 1653, and was buried at West Harling.

After his wife's death, William, when in East Anglia, spent most of his time at Bury where he lodged near the Angel Hill with Robert Sharpe and his wife. Afterwards, he seems to have resided at the Abbey, to which address his letters were sent. He evidently suffered from ear trouble, for his brother, Framlingham, writes: "Mr. Bokenham¹ advised Moulin² "was fitt to undertake your ear" but goes on the suggest that "he is a clever man but inclined to drinking."³ In 1660, he was appointed major of a regiment of *Militia foot*,⁴ and in the same year was at the Hague in attendance on Charles II. before his return to England. On 13th July, 1663, he was created baronet.⁵ He died at Barton Mills in 1669, and was

¹ Thomas Buckenham, M.D., of Bury St. Edmunds; died 1682.

² Lewis du Moulin, M.D., L.R.C.P. (See *D.N.B.*)

³ Letter dated 24th Oct., 1662. Add. MS. 27396/263.

⁴ Add. MS. 36990/188. His regiment was called out in Jan., 1665/6, to guard against a threatened invasion. *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep.*, p. 200.

⁵ On 16th May, 1661, his brother, Framlingham, wrote to him: "I could wish you would make those advantages in the world others doe, that you would amongst your old & new acquaintances gett yourselfe made a Barronett." Add. MS. 27396/255.

buried at West Harling on 18th August of that year. The great tragedy of his life was the physical condition of his children. Two of his sons, John and Framlingham, were deaf and dumb; the other two, Bassingborne and William, both died in 1660 of small-pox; and his daughter, Mary, suffered from exophthalmic goitre.

His will,¹ which is dated 15th September, 1666, is as follows:—

Upon the marriage of my eldest son, John, I settled the greatest part of my manors and lands for a provision of maintenance for him, jointure for his wife, and to remain to the heirs male of his body, and I give him my lease of lands in West Wretham held of Eaton College and give them in trust for him to my brothers Framlingham, Bassingborne and Charles Gaudy. I have also by indenture bearing date 14th Sept., 1666 conveyed to my said brothers and to Mr. William Davy lands etc. in Garboldisham, Lopham and Kenninghall, Norf. to raise £2,500 for the portion of my only daughter, Mary, and £80 a year until her age of 21; and I have also provided that my son, Framlingham, have an annuity of £100 a year out of my manor of Gasthorpe, Norf., and I now confirm the same. Residuary legatees: my said three brothers in trust for my son, John.

10th Feb., 1669/70. Commission signed and issued to the above-named brothers of the deceased to administer the goods, etc.

BASSINGBORNE GAWDY, Sir William's eldest son, was born at West Harling in 1637; admitted at Christ's College, Cambridge, 1653/4, but did not graduate. In 1659, we find him in France travelling for pleasure.² In May of that year, his uncle Framlingham wrote to his father telling him that Bassingborne intended proceeding to Italy, and says "He has been a credit to the family. God bless him and bring him safe home."³ In August, 1659, the lad

¹ P.C.C. Penn, p. 21.

² He obtained a pass for France, 15th Oct., 1657, with a son of the Earl of Desmond, and two servants (*Cal. State Papers*). Venn, in his *Gonv. and Caius*, confuses him with another of the same name.

³ Add. MS. 27396/220.

wrote to his father saying that he had left Blois and had made a little voyage to Amboise and Tours, and was then staying at La Flèche (in the Department of Sarthe) where he intended staying six or seven days "to see a Tragedy acted by the Jesuit schollers." He saw, when at Amboise, "all the court come by and go to Bayonne where the marriage between the King of France and the Infanta of Spayne will be celebrated." He had decided to postpone the Italian voyage until the spring as he wished to see the King's return with the Infanta to Paris "which will be so splendid as I shall never see the like as long as I live again."¹ From other letters, we gather that he enjoyed his stay in France and that he had learned to speak French fluently. His projected tour in Italy does not seem to have materialised, for, no doubt, the impending Restoration caused his early return to England—and to his death. He died, unmarried, of small-pox and was buried in the Temple Church, London, in 1660/1. A detailed account of his funeral expenses is recorded in the family letters.²

WILLIAM GAWDY, Sir William's third son, was admitted at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1657/8, and at the Inner Temple, 11th May, 1660. He died, unmarried, in London of small-pox in the following February, and was also buried in the Temple Church. It may be mentioned here that the very severe epidemic of small-pox which was raging in London at this time claimed many notable victims—among them being Henry, duke of Gloucester, brother of the king.

FRAMLINGHAM GAWDY, Sir William's fourth son, was a deaf-mute. From 1663 to 1665, he was studying art in London under the personal direction of George Freeman and under the supervision of Sir Peter Lely who, in a letter dated 31 December, 1663,³ reported on Framlingham's progress to his father. In 1664/5, he suffered from a mild attack of small-pox. Shortly

¹ Add. MS. 27396/228.

² *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep.*, pp. 191, 192.

³ *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep.*, pp. 198, 199. Egerton MS. 2713.

afterwards, he visited his relations at Crow's Hall, Debenham, and remained there until his death in 1673. He was buried at West Harling, and his will is of genealogical value.¹

Some special mention must be made of MARY, the only daughter of Sir William Gawdy, bart. This unfortunate girl not only suffered from goitre, but also from an eczematous condition of the skin of her face. Her brother, Framlingham, writing in 1660/1 to William, her other brother, refers to her condition and says: "The swelling in her face is more swelled than ever, it was quite down and is lately increased very much. I would have you ask the King's Surgeon what he would advise you."² In another letter to their father, Sir William, dated 2nd October, 1667, Framlingham says that she (Mary) "has aversion to take any physic from Dr. Bokenham, and believes that physic will do her little good for the roughness of her face."³ One of the most pathetic of all the Gawdy letters was written by her to her father in 1664,⁴ in which she says: "I hear that the King have cut of his heare and if hee have, pray Sr, gett me sum of

¹ The will of Framlingham Gaudy, the younger, of Croweshall, Debenham, co. Suff., esq. Dated; 2nd May, 1672. To my brother, Sir John Gaudy, bart., £500; to Mrs. Anne Gaudy of Croweshall, da. of the Lady Vere Gaudy, £200; to my uncle, Mr. Bass. Gaudy, £20; to my uncle, Thos. Gaudy, £20; to my uncle, Mr. Chas. Gaudy, £20; to my nephew, Mr. Bass. Gaudy, £20; to my neece, Mrs. Anne Gaudy, £20; to the said Lady Vere Gaudy of Croweshall, £20; to my uncle, Framlingham Gaudy of Croweshall, esq., £500; and I appoint him, my said uncle, sole executor.

Witnesses: William Smyth, prebend of Norwich, Barnabe Gibson.

Appended to the will are instructions and the following certificate:—These instructions for a Will were written with the proper handwriting of the said Framlingham Gaudy, who is a person both deafe and dumbe and soe not able otherwise to express his minde and this was written of his proper motion, the second day of May, 1672, in the presence of William Smyth, Preb. Norw., B. Gibson.

Proved (Norw.), 5th September, 1673.

² Add. MS. 27396/260.

³ *Ibid.* /297.

⁴ Add. MS. 27396/271.

it, if you can, to weare about my neck, for Mrs. Franklen have a daughter that had such a swelling in her neck as I have and she gott a lock and wore it about her neck and it have almost cured her, and they think it was that." She, following her two brothers, died of small-pox and was buried near them in the Temple Church in 1671, aged 22. In her will, proved (P.C.C.), 2nd November, 1671, she mentions her uncles, Framlingham, Bassingborne and Charles; her brother, Sir John Gawdy, bart.; her second brother, Framlingham; her god-daughter, Mary, eldest daughter of her uncle, Charles Gawdy; her cousin, Anne Gawdy, only daughter of Lady Vere Gawdy; her friends Katherine, Elizabeth and Caroline Lee, daughters of Sir John Lee of Bury St. Edmunds; and made her uncle, Framlingham Gawdy, executor.

A mural tablet in the Temple Church, London, bears a coat of arms: *Vert, a tortoise passant, arg.* (Gawdy). Crest missing. With the inscription:—

In the Middle Ile of this Church lyes buried the body of Mrs. Mary Gaudy (onely Daughter of Sr. William Gaudy of West Herlyng in the County of Norf., Bart.) who died the 11th of October in the yeare 1671 at or near the age of 22 years, whose virtuous and unblamable conversation here gave her great hope, if not assurance (through the mercies of God in Christ) to obtain eternall life. Her desire was to be buried here by her 2 brothers and cozen. Bassingborne Gaudy, the eldest dyed the 23rd of February, William Gaudy the 3rd the 21st of February both in the yeare 1660. Framlingham Gaudy her cozen (2nd son of Sir Charles Gaudy of Crowes Hall in Debenham in the County of Suffolk, Kt.) dyed in the same yeare, on the 26th of the same moneth, all within 6 dayes each of other of the small-pox. Nor could this innocent virgin escape the same Disease, now growne the common fate of the Family. She is lineally descended from Thomas Gawdy, Sergt.-at-Law, eldest of the three brothers who were in their generations all eminent lawyers of this Honble. Society. This Monument Sacred to the memory of her was erected by Framlingham Gaudy, Esqr., her unkle and Exectr.

SIR JOHN GAWDY, bart., second son and heir of Sir William, was baptized at West Harling in 1639.

He was also a deaf-mute and therefore had no University career, but "compensated part of these misfortunes by a talent for painting in which he was not unsuccessful. He had learned of Lely, intending it for his profession, but on the death of his elder brother, only continued it for his amusement."¹ In 1660, his brother, Bassingborne, a month before his death, wrote to their father saying: "I would be glad to see some little worke of my brother Johns. I beleeve by this time he is growne an arts master."² In September, 1677, John Evelyn visited Lord Crofts at Bury St. Edmunds, and on the 7th "there dined this day at my Lord's one Sir John Gaudy, a very handsome person, but quite dumb, yet very intelligent by signs, and a very fine painter; he was so civil and well bred, as it was not possible to discern any imperfection in him. His lady and children were also there, and he was at church in the morning with us."

In 1662, he married at St. James', Bury St. Edmunds, Anne, second daughter of Sir Robert de Grey of Merton, kt., and by her had four children. His name is frequently mentioned in the *Le Neve Correspondence* which has been edited and produced by Walter Rye. He died in January, 1708/9,³ leaving a son, SIR BASSINGBORNE GAWDY, third and last baronet, and a daughter, ANNE, who married Oliver Le Neve of Witchingham, Norfolk—two other daughters having died in infancy. Sir Bassingborne was baptized at St. James', Bury St. Edmunds, in 1667, and was educated at Thetford. He seems to have held a commission in the Militia, for he is frequently mentioned in the *Le Neve* correspondence as Captain Gaudy. He led a sporting life; was intimately associated with his brother-in-law, Oliver Le Neve, of duel fame; died, unmarried, in 1723, following an accident in the hunting field; and was the last of his name to be buried at West Harling.

¹ Walpole, H., *Anecdotes of Painting*.

² Add. MS. 27396/240.

³ Blomefield erroneously gives this date as 1699.



CROW'S HALL, DEBENHAM.

The baronetcy thereupon became extinct, and his estate went, by letters of administration,¹ to his three nieces, the daughters of his sister, Anne Le Neve. When these ladies sold their inheritance, the long association of the name of Gawdy with West Harling ceased; and fate, seemingly disposed to extinguish not only the family name, but also its memory, immediately decreed that the Gawdys' old home at Harling and even the chapel in which they were laid to rest should be demolished, and their memorials lost.

AT CROW'S HALL, SUFFOLK.

Crow's Hall manor is situated in Debenham, Suffolk, and derives its name from one, John Crow, who owned it in 1287. It afterwards passed to the Talbots of Hintlesham, and, in 1397, was purchased by John Framlingham in whose family it remained until the death, in 1595, of Sir Charles Framlingham who left this and other estates to his grandson, Charles (afterwards Sir Charles) Gawdy. The present Hall is said to have been built by Sir James Framlingham who died in 1519.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY of CROW'S HALL, knight, was the younger son of Sir Bassingborne Gawdy² of West Harling by Anne Framlingham, his wife. He was born in 1591.³ Neither he nor his elder brother, Framlingham, seems to have entered the University. In 1611, he married Judith, daughter of Sir William Waldegrave of Smallbridge, by whom a son, Charles. In 1613, Charles, senior, was knighted at Royston, and in 1614, his wife died after giving birth to a

¹ Commission issued to Henrietta, wife of Edward Le Neve (citizen of London), Isabel Le Neve, spinster, and Anne, wife of John Rogers (Doctor of Physic), nieces, by the sister and next-of-kin of Sir Bassingbourne Gaudy, bart., late of West Harling, co. Norfolk, bachelor, decd., to administer the goods, etc., of the said decd. 8th January, 1723/4. P.C.C. *Admon. Act Book*, f. 8d.

² The inventory taken in 1606 of Sir Bass. Gawdy's goods includes certain items at Crow's Hall and elsewhere. See Appendix.

³ Add. MS. 37535.

daughter who did not long survive her. Sir Charles died in 1629 and was buried in Debenham chancel.

The majority of his letters which have been preserved are addressed to his brother, Framlingham, and almost without exception deal with finance. It appears that Charles had borrowed money of every possible member of his family. He was unable to collect his rents, so he devised a cunning scheme, not uncomplimentary to his brother, which is revealed in one of his letters—to the effect that he, Charles, would be willing to lend Framlingham £800 for nothing, but for not more than six months, and goes on to say that his “tenants will be the readier to pay it in if it bee for you.” As we have already seen, Charles owed his uncle Philip the sum of £400 which the latter allotted to certain of his children in his death-bed letter of attorney. These children, for years afterwards, were constantly dunning Charles for this money, and it is doubtful whether it was ever repaid.

We get the impression that Charles' income was inadequate for the upkeep of his position and his home. Combined with this, perhaps, were the beginnings of that thoughtless extravagance which showed itself so markedly in the actions of his descendants, and which eventually brought them to poverty.

His will is dated 6th December, 1629, and is as follows:—

I desire to be buried in the chancel of Debenham parish church near my grandfather, Sir Charles Framlingham, knt. I bequeath all my manors and lands to my executors until my son, Charles, attains the age of 21. To George and Robert Tovell and Andrew Ruddocke, £10 a year out of my farm called Oldhall in Debenham, for a weekly sermon in Debenham church. To Francis, eldest son of my late uncle, Philip Gawdy, £10 a year. To my nephew, Bassingbourne Gawdy, £200, his father, my brother, Framlingham Gawdy owes me, at his age of 21. And the other £400 he owes me to his younger sons. To my brother, Bacon Gawdy, £100. To my friend, Mr. Henry White, preacher of St. James', Bury St. Edmunds, £40. Legacies to servants and poor. I hope the King will grant the wardship of my son to my

brother, Framlingham Gawdy, and my cousin Edmund Mundeford, esq., and I make my said brother and cousin executors. Residuary legatee, my son. Codicil dated 12th Dec., 1629. I bequeath the parsonage of Aspell, co. Suff. to Anthony Gawdy, gent., my cousin, for life, with remainder to my son. To my cousin, Thomas Gawdy, gent. five marks a year and £20. Proved, 6th February, 1629/30. P.C.C., *Scroope*, 16.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY of CROW'S HALL, knight, the only surviving child of Sir Charles, was born at Bury St. Edmunds in 1612. The early years of his life were spent at Feltwell with Sir Edmund Mundeford, his guardian, and at Cambridge with a tutor. His education never reached a very advanced stage as the following letter to his uncle, Framlingham, proves:¹

Loving Uncle, I hope you will excuse my not presenting my Services in writing, but the reason was because I was afraide I shoulde have troubled my braine more in reading youer hand then in plaiing at ches, but now I am astudying when to reade all manner of hands and I hope to reade youers when you writte to youer faithfull freind to Command, Charles Gaudy.

Sir E. Mundeford's letters to Framlingham Gawdy of Harling reveal the fact that Charles was a young man of extravagant tastes. In 1631, he reports that "he does not think Charles either plays or drinks," and continues: "Charles is at Newmarket, very busy in his observations of the garb of the place; much amazed with the glory of the Court. I hope before his return out of France his judgement will be ripened and his appetite glutted with viewing others' braveries; then will the pleasure of his own possessions appear."²

At about this time the timber at Crow's Hall was being cut down, much to the annoyance of the tenants, to raise money. In 1632, Charles was in London spending money lavishly, and quite out of the control of his guardian. The letters of Sir Edmund Mundeford graphically describe the events which led up to this

¹ Add. MS. 27396/61.

² *Hist. MSS. Comm. Rep. (Gawdy Letters)*, p. 138.

PEDIGREE F.

GAWDY of CROW'S HALL, DEBENHAM.

DOROTHY, da. of Sir BASSINGBORNE GAWDY of West Framlingham, son and heir of Bassingborne Harling, son and heir of Crow's Hall in Debenham; bap. Debenham, 6 Oct., 1567; died 23 June, 1594; 1st wife.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY, Crow's Hall, kt.; 2nd son; born 13 May, 1591; knighted at Royston, 26 Nov., 1613; died 13 Dec., 1629; bur. at Debenham; will pr. (P.C.C.) 6 Feb., 1629/30.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY of Crow's Hall, kt.; born at Bury St. Edmunds, 18 Dec., 1612; knighted at Newcastle, 6 July, 1639; bur. at Debenham, 24 Feb., 1650.

FRAMLINGHAM G., 2nd son; born in London c. 1641; adm. Inner Temple, 4 Feb., 1657/8; died 26 Feb., 1660/1, of small-pox; bur. Temple Church.

EDWARD G., born in London, c. 1643.

HENRY G. of Queens' Coll., Camb., 1665; Inner Temple, 1667/8. s.p.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY of West Framlingham, son and co-heir of Sir Chas. Framlingham of Crow's Hall in Debenham; bap. Debenham, 6 Oct., 1567; died 23 June, 1594; 1st wife.

JUDITH, da. of Sir Wm. Waldegrave of Smallbridge, Suff., kt.; mar. at Rushbrooke, Suff., 8 Aug., 1611; bur. W. Harling, 21 May, 1614.

VERE, da. and co-heir of Sir Edward Cooke of Guidy Hall, Essex; bap. Romford, 4 July, 1612; bur. Debenham, 16 July, 1685; will pr. (P.C.C.) 8 July, 1689.

MARY, da. of George Fielding, Earl of Desmond; mar. 5 July, 1657, at Euston; bur. Debenham, 8 Sep., 1691.

ELIZABETH HARRINGTON, mar. St. Mary le Bone, London, 5 Feb., 1694/5; 2nd wife.

CHARLES GAWDY, esq., born 1666; bur. Debenham, 3 June, 1694.

FRAMLINGHAM GAWDY of W. Harling, esq., eldest son. (See PEDIGREE C.)

JUDITH, bap. W. Harling, 18 May, 1614; bur. at Rushbrooke, 30 Jan., 1625.

ANNE, mar. WentworthGarneys of Boyland Hall, Norf., at Debenham, 21 July, 1679; died 7 Sep., 1681; bur. at Morningthorpe, Norf.

VERE, born 6 Oct., 1658, at Euston, executrix to Fram., brother of Sir Wm. Gawdy, 1686.

MARGARET, mentioned in her father's will.

BRIDGET, mentioned in her father's will.

wilful young man's marriage, and how most of his estate was involved in a jointure to his future wife of £800 a year to which, contrary to the advice of his friends, he had agreed. In 1634, in spite of their earnest pleadings, he married the lady in question, Vere, daughter of Sir Edward Cooke of Gidea Hall, Essex, and by her had five sons and a daughter. But, in fact, this marriage was the wisest act he ever performed, for his wife, in a business-like way, was, to some extent, able to preserve herself and her children from the consequences of his extravagance and bankruptcy.

He was with the army which had been sent north to deal with the Scots, and was knighted at Newcastle on 6th July, 1639. At this time he wrote an interesting letter to his uncle Framlingham¹: "A troope of Scotts horse to the number of 54 came into Yorkshire and pilaged sum gentlemen's houses, there was sum fower of our troops of horse which had orders that morning to quarter at a towne they call Richmond not far from the place wheare the Scotts ware, and sent 60 horse to the place where they heard the Scots were and captured or killed them."

In 1646, he was fined £1789 as a delinquent, but managed to have this amount considerably reduced by compounding. He died in 1650 and was buried at Debenham. He was the personification of a roysterous, hare-brained Cavalier, brave, wilful and charming, who forced his way through a career of gaiety and pleasure utterly regardless of cost.

Page, in his *History of Suffolk*, says that a brass plate,² taken from a vault in Debenham chancel, bore this inscription:—

This is the body of Charles Gawdy, Knt., sonne and heire to Charles Gawdy of Croweshall, in the county of Suffolk, Knt., who in his life time was blessed in the happie choice of a most vertuous wife, by name Veare

¹ Add. MS. 27396/160.

² The brass was taken from the vault in May, 1806. (See also *East Anglian Notes and Queries*, vol. iv., pp. 189, 190.)

Cooke, of Gvidyhall, in the county of Essex. A lady, to say noe more, severely modest, and of a most pure and unblemished conjugal affection: by her he left a hopeful issue, five sonnes and one daughter. He lived and died a zealous professor of the Reformed Religion, settled and established in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Act of Parliament. A lover of Monarchy, and of an undaunted loyalty to his sovereign, Charles the 1st, which he frequently manifested, by espousing his cause and quarrel to the uttermost hazard of his life and fortune.

Having sojourned heere the space of 38 yeares, or thereabout, the 10th of November, 1650, being the Lord's day, about twelve at night, he departed, I cannot say he died; for by a voluntary, chearful, and devout resignation of himselfe into the hands of the Almighty (to the wonder and astonishment of the beholders) though he prevented not the stroake, yet assuredly he felt not the bitterness of death.

If the date of his death given in the above inscription is correct, his body must have remained above ground for a considerable time, for we learn from the Debenham register that he was buried on 24th February following. He did not long survive the King, his master, to whose cause he had given, unstintingly, his most faithful service.

Sir Charles Gawdy's wife, Vere, was baptized at Romford in 1612. She survived her husband as his widow for 35 yeares, and, as the letters show, superintended the business side of the Crow's Hall estate. She died at Crow's Hall in 1685, having survived all her children except her two sons, Charles and Edward, whom she mentions in her will which was proved (P.C.C.) 8th July, 1689.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY, first and only baronet of his line, was the eldest son of the preceding Sir Charles Gawdy of Crow's Hall, and will be noticed later.

FRAMLINGHAM GAWDY, second son of Sir Charles of Crow's Hall, was born in London in 1641. He attended Bury School and afterwards proceeded to Christ's College, Cambridge, which he entered in 1656. He was admitted at the Inner Temple, 4th February, 1657/8, and was one of the three young men of the Gawdy family who died within a few days of one

another of small-pox in 1660/1. As has already been mentioned, all three were buried in the Temple Church.

EDWARD GAWDY, third son of Sir Charles of Crow's Hall, was born in London in 1643. He also attended Bury School and entered Christ's College, in 1656. He is mentioned in his mother's will (dated 28th March, 1682), under which he received a small legacy; and there is no doubt that he is identical with the person, described as *brother Gawdy*, mentioned in the will of his brother, Sir Charles Gawdy, bart., dated 15th April, 1699.¹

HENRY GAWDY, fourth son of Sir Charles of Crow's Hall, was admitted at Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1665, and is described as of Essex. He was admitted at the Inner Temple in 1667/8. In 1659, "little Harry Gaudy fell from the high baulke in the barne to the ground and his head was the first that came there—which is sorely bruised."² He appears to have died in early manhood without issue.

In addition to the above, Sir Charles had another son, also called Framlingham, who died in childhood and was buried at Romford in 1652.

ANNE, Sir Charles' only daughter, married Wentworth Garnish of Boyland Hall, Norfolk, at Debenham, in 1679. She died in 1681, and was buried at Morningthorpe, Norfolk.

SIR CHARLES GAWDY of CROW'S HALL, baronet, was the eldest son of Sir Charles Gawdy of Crow's Hall, knight. The date of his birth is uncertain. He married twice (1) Mary, daughter of George Fielding, Earl of Desmond, by whom a son, Charles, and three daughters, and (2) Elizabeth Harrington, by whom no issue.

His early years were an exact imitation of those of his father—gay, reckless and extravagant. He had been placed in the charge of his father's cousin, Framlingham, who had made Crow's Hall his home.

¹ Probably the Framlingham Gaudy, who was residuary legatee in the same will, was Edward's son.

² Add. MS. 27396/242.

In 1656, Framlingham wrote to his brother William: "My cozen Charles is somewhat better, but not lesse wilfull." Shortly after William Gawdy of West Harling (afterwards the first baronet) had become a widower, Charles wrote him from London as follows:—

"Noble Sir, I am very sorry you are not heere in towne for I could helpe you to one of the finest Wenches in England. I am now going to her in hast or ells you should heare more from your Servant, Charles Gaudy."¹

The Debenham register contains the following entry:—

1657: The agreement of Marriage between the right worshipfull Charles Gaudy, Esquier living in Debenham single man and the right honorable the lady Mary Feilding living in Euston Single-woman was published in Debenham in the publike meeting place commonly called the Church there sevrall Lord's Dayes vizt:—June 21st, the 28th, July the 5, according to the act in that case mad and provided. The right worshipfull Charles Gaudy Esquier and the right honorable the Lady Mary Feilding weare married.²

They were married at Euston, 5th July, 1657. Lady Mary Gawdy died in 1691 and was buried at Debenham. Sir Charles thereupon married, in 1694/5, Elizabeth Harrington who survived him. A few months before this second marriage, Sir Charles' only son and heir died without male issue and the baronetcy was threatened with extinction. In 1697, Sir Charles parted with all his Suffolk estates which were purchased by John Pitt, uncle to the first earl of Chatham. Sir Charles died in September, 1707, evidently in London; but the place of his burial does not appear to be known. His will is dated 15th April, 1699. In it, he says:—

I have by indenture bearing date 18th Feb., 1696/7, conveyed my estate in co. Suffolk to trustees, Compton Felton, esq., John Squibb and Patrick Lacy to sell the same and I now ratify the same. Mr. Pitt's trustees, without my consent, put in the agreement £250 for my daughter,

¹ Add. MS. 27396/230.

² *East Anglian*, (N.S.), vol. iv., p. 189.

Margaret. I give to my brother Gaudy £80 a year for life. To my wife, Elizabeth, £1,000. To my grandchild, Mary Gaudy, £400. To my cousin, Peter Squibb, the younger, £200. Residuary legatee: Framingham Gaudy,¹ if he leave no children, then to my daughter, Bridget. Executors: Thomas, Lord Jermine and John Squibb.

Patrick Lacy of the Inner Temple, London, esq., swore to the handwriting of testator, who died in September, 1707, as also Anne Newman, living at Mr. Squibb's in Lincoln's Inn, spinster, aged 27, and John Squibb of Lincoln's Inn, esq.

Proved (P.C.C.), 10th January, 1710/1, by John Squibb, the surviving executor.

There is no evidence that Sir Charles' three daughters, Vere, Margaret and Bridget, ever married. CHARLES, the only son of Sir Charles Gawdy, bart., was born *circa* 1666. In 1691, he married in London, at the age of 25, Eleanor Cage² of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, and had by her one child, MARY who married one, Crooke, a barrister-at-law. Young Charles Gawdy, the last of this branch of the family, died in 1694, thirteen years before his father, and was buried at Debenham.

SIR BASSINGBORNE GAWDY'S SECOND FAMILY.

Anne Framlingham, Sir Bassingborne Gawdy's first wife, died in 1594. Within a year, Gawdy had married again. On 30th April, 1595, he married at Culford, Suffolk, Dorothy, daughter of Sir Nicholas Bacon of Redgrave, by whom he had five children. Dorothy, his wife, survived him. In 1609, she married Philip Colby of Culford, at Beccles; and, in 1621, she died, aged 47. There is a monumental inscription to her in Redgrave church.

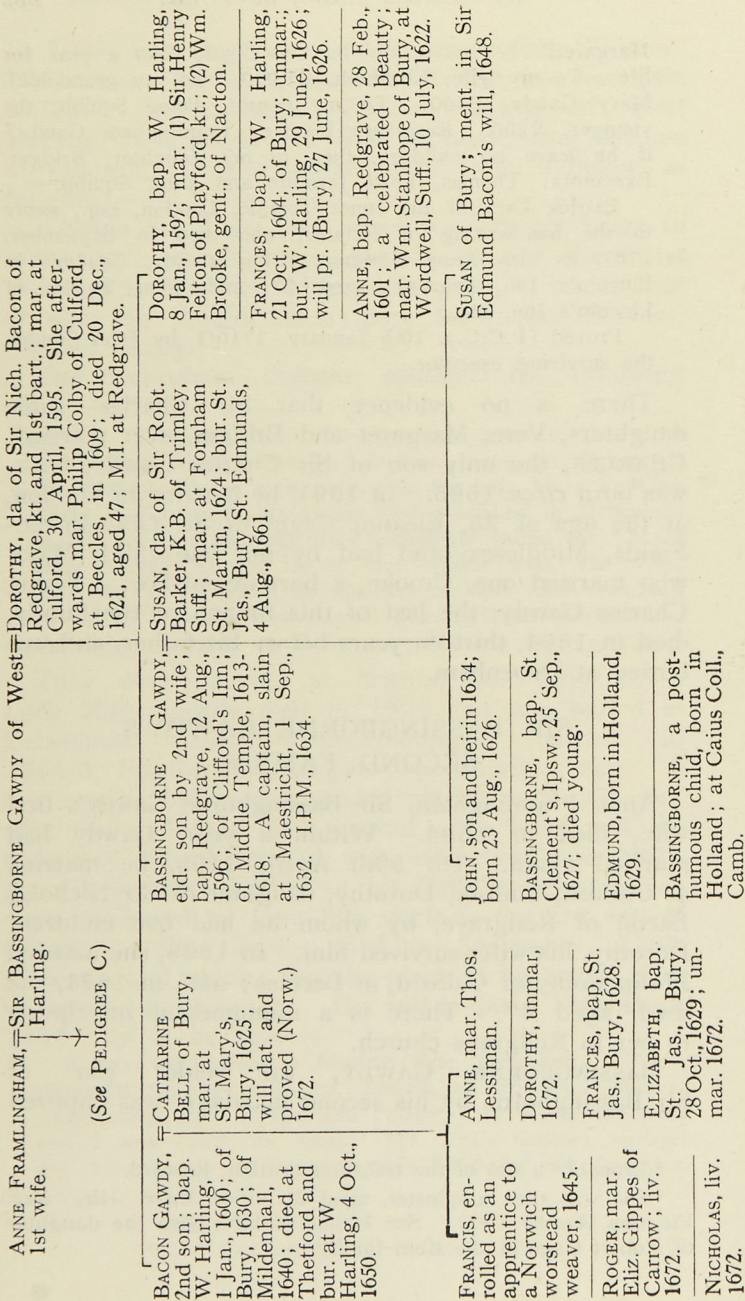
BASSINGBORNE GAWDY, the elder son of Sir Bassingborne by his second marriage, was baptized

¹ Probably a son of the testator's brother, Edward.

² She was then a spinster, aged 22. (See *Marr. Alleg. Reg. Vic. Gen. Archbp. Cant.*) She is said to have been the daughter of Robert Cage of the Kent family.

PEDIGREE F.

SIR BASSINGBORNE GAWDY'S SECOND FAMILY.



at Redgrave in 1596. The usual legal career was chosen for him, and during the period 1613-1618, he studied at the Middle Temple and at Clifford's Inn. In 1624, he married Susanna, daughter of Sir Robert Barker, K.B., of Trimley, Suffolk, by whom he had several children. *Circa* 1628, he joined (as a captain) the English army in Holland where he met his cousin Francis, son of Philip Gawdy, whom we have already noticed. His wife accompanied him, for, in 1629, they were living at Zwolle where a son, Edmund, was born.¹ Bassingborne's news-letters to his half-brother, Framlingham Gawdy of Harling, contain much interesting information concerning operations of a warlike nature which were being carried out in Guelderland in 1629/30. In view of the length of these letters, however, it is only possible to quote here a portion of one, sent from the Hague in February, 1629.²

I had writte to you by my Sergnt had not his passage bene more suddeine as my expectation wch. I hope you will excuse & accept this. I have not hearde from you by Whighte as Franke Gaudy told mee: I knowe not the reason for it.

We have newes which makes the Prince inwardly sadde. Orange is lately betrayed to the French Kinge by the Gouvernor for a somme of money (I hope Judas like to buy him a halter withe) there are marche into it 2000 Swishe.

Our masters heere holde a Generall Counselle for the warres and have sent out letters for the reinforcinge of certaine newe Dutch comp[anies] of 5000 foote to 20000.

The Prince demands a levy of 4000 more and yet cannot paye us, wch. I thinke will make us all beggars. We expect a timely risinge for the feild this year and tis thoughte, Burse, Breda, or Weesil muste undergoe our fury; the enemy dares not drawe to a heade for feare of a Mutiny which they are scarce able to suppress nowe in their Garrisons, their payments are so ill. But nowe our Lords in the middle of their consultations about this sommers preparation are troubled muche by all the Townes of Hollande whoe have written to their Deputees in the Hage, that they shall not procede in any busnesse till the

¹ Add. MS. 27395/216.

² *Ibid.*, /234.

dissentions in Amsterdam be Quieted. I am assured you have heard of the troubles there aboute Arminianisme wch. growes by farre too muche amongst us, as alsoe of an 8 Comp. Garrison'd on the Towne and commanded by Mounseire Wittes, our Serg. Major General, as good an Arminian as the beste—the ende of these troubles are likely to be ill enough.

Sr. Chas. Morgan is said to be in Hamburgh, his forces in Luck state hee and the Gouvernors could not agree upon commands for as nowe he furnishes his troopes with offrickoning [?] Tobacco & Wooden Spooones, but Mr. Beare hath the disposing of all the Monneys, without him.

The States in curtesy for the abundance of Treasure brought in by Peter Heyme have given the Dunkirkers as freely 14 shippes laden with French Wines this other daye & as I thinke to Carowse away sorrowe. The Listes of all the Companies were given up yesterdaye to the Prince for prickinge to the feilde

Captain Bassingborne Gawdy never returned to England, for he was killed at the siege of Maestricht, 1st September, 1632. It was found at an inquisition *post mortem*¹ taken at Diss, 18th April, 1634, that he was seised of two messuages in Rushall, Norfolk, and tenements in Langmere, Lyncroft, Dickleburgh and Thorpe, which in 1623/4 he conveyed to Sir Charles Gawdy, kt., William Stanhope, esq., and Francis Croft, gent., to the use of himself and Susan, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies. He died 1st September, 8 Chas. I., Susan surviving. John Gawdy, their son, his heir, was aged seven on 23 August, 9 Chas. I.

It seems that, before 1648, only two of Bassingborne's children were living, for in that year Sir Edmund Bacon, his uncle, executed his will² by which he gave "Unto the widowe Susan Gawdy, my nephew Captaine Gawdyes widowe, who was slaying at Mastricht, Fifty pounds. To her daughter Susan, Fifty pounds, and to Bassingborne her sonne, Fifty pounds."

Susan Gawdy, the captain's widow, died at Bury St. Edmunds in 1661. Her son, BASSINGBORNE

¹ *Wards and Liveries*, vol. 85/7.

² A transcript of this will appears in *Bury Wills and Inventories*, 1850 (Camden Society).

(a posthumous child), was born in Guelderland.¹ He was educated at Bury and Gressenhall, and in 1648/9, was admitted at Caius College, Cambridge, aged 16, but did not graduate. Venn, in his *Gonville and Caius*, confuses him with Bassingborne, son of Sir William Gawdy of Harling.

BACON GAWDY, Sir Bassingborne's second son by his second marriage, was baptized at West Harling in 1600, and married Catharine Bell of Bury St. Edmunds² in 1625. Two of their numerous issue deserve some special mention. FRANCIS, the eldest son, is mentioned in the will of Sir Edmund Bacon, and it is interesting to note that he was apparently the first and only member of this branch of the family to enter a trade. In 1645, he became bound as an apprentice to Thomas Barnard of Norwich, worsted weaver, for eight years;³ but as he never took up his freedom at the expiration of this term, we can assume that he probably fought in the Civil War and was killed. At any rate, we hear no more of him.

ROGER, Bacon Gawdy's second son, was gentleman-usher to Lady Frances Hobart at Chapel Field House, Norwich, in 1664;⁴ and an enrolled deed dated 4th January, 1667/8,⁵ records that he was then married to Elizabeth Gippes of Carrow-next-Norwich, with whom he was living at Carrow.

But probably ANNE GAWDY, daughter of Sir Bassingborne by his second marriage, attracted more attention at Court than all the contemporary

¹ Venn (*Gonv. and Caius*) says he was born at *Teile in Geldria*.

² Her will was dated from Thetford, 18th May, 1672, and was proved at Diss probably the same year. She is described as of Thetford and a widow. She mentions her son, Roger Gawdy; her daughter, Dorothy Gawdy; her daughter, Lessiman; her son-in-law, Thomas Lessiman; her daughters Hatsfield and Seamour; her daughter, Eliz.; her son, Nicholas; her grandchildren, Bellona and Robert Lessiman, and Windwood and Garret Seamour. C.C., *Norw. Reg.*, 1672, f. 441.

³ Appr. Ind. Enr., Norw., 24th Nov., 1645.

⁴ *Norf. Archæology Visitat.*, vol. ii., p. 145.

⁵ Norw. Mun. Room.

members of her family put together. Her beauty, was so far-famed that in the early part of 1619, she being eighteen years of age at the time, the King, the Prince and their favourite, Buckingham, actually visited Sir Nicholas Bacon's mansion at Culford on purpose to see her. So struck were they by her beauty that the Prince was moved to a poetic outburst in her honour.¹ John Heneage Jesse's version of this incident, however, presents the King in anything but an honourable light, and Buckingham as an unpleasant person from whose clutches Anne was rescued in a truly romantic manner by her brothers and cousin, and hidden for her own safety in a secret chamber.² In July, 1622, she married William Stanhope of Bury St. Edmunds—a marriage which seems to have been blessed with children and happiness.

This completes a brief biographical review of the Gawdys of West Harling. We have been able to follow them in their times of prosperity, in their gradual decline, in the extinction of their two baronetcies, and in the eventual dispersal of their estates. Their history reveals a combination of scholarship, travel, and military and local activity. It presents to us a group of persons, strongly linked by loyalty and family tradition, ready to help one another in times of distress, and giving, wholeheartedly, their best service to their country and county.

¹ Nichols, *Prog. James I.*, vol. iii., p. 528.

² *Memoirs Court Eng.*, vol. i. p. 74.