

An Elizabethan Swainmote Court Roll of Finchampstead Bailiwick.

By LT.-COL. G. A. KEMPTHORNE, D.S.O.

THE bailiwick of Finchampstead was one of the four administrative areas of Windsor Forest. The first mention of a bailiff in the Calendars of Patent Rolls is in the reign of Richard II., when Walter Wimmbushe held that appointment at a salary of 6d. a day, and, with three of the local gentry, was ordered to apprehend Matthew Bail, butcher, of Wokingham, who had resisted arrest for trespass of vert and venison in Windsor Forest.¹ From this date down to the time of the Forest Inclosure of 1813 the appointments of his successors, latterly termed rangers, are found in the State Papers.

The Public Record Office contains a number of proceedings of the "Swainmote Courts" held in the bailiwick during the 16th and 17th centuries which often provide details of personal or topographical interest. The fir plantations which in the nineteenth century covered the country were then absent, and the eastern three quarters of the bailiwick, which included the chapelry of Sandhurst, the parish of Easthampstead, and parts of Finchampstead and Wokingham, were open heath. In 1615 Easthampstead had 55 houses, Sandhurst 23, Finchampstead 59, Barkham 15.

The courts in which forest law was administered were the Attachment Court, supposed to be held in each bailiwick at forty-day intervals, and the Eyre. At the former, cases of trespass on the vert, as distinct from venison trespass, were presented, and the offenders either amerced in small fines, or bound over to appear at the next Eyre. As poachers, if caught, were committed forthwith to the "Cole Hole" at Windsor Castle to be dealt with under the order of the Chief Justice of the Forest, venison pleas are not found in the Attachment Court Rolls. The term Swainmote, properly the periodic meeting of the forest officers to discuss business, was, in the sixteenth and following

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1383, 1438.

century, applied to the Attachment Court. The Forest Eyre, a cumbrous and costly proceeding, was held at long and uncertain intervals. Only trivial offences, which could be met by a four-penny fine, could be summarily disposed of at the inferior court. To this fact the increasing laxity of forest discipline under Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth may be partly ascribed. Under James I. the Verderers' powers were enhanced, and in his son's reign the Eyre was held with all the obsolete formality.

The Swainmote held at Wokingham in 1594 was the first held in the bailiwick since 1590. The last Eyre appears to have been in 1488. The procedure can be gathered from the following transcript of the roll, which for convenience, is translated from the Latin. The Verderers, who presided, were always gentlemen of position. The Regarders were drawn from the yeomen and small gentry. One of their duties was to make a triennial Perambulation of the bailiwick. From the earliest times the attendance of the tithing-man and sidesmen from the various villages had been insisted on when inquisition was made on the death of a deer. In these courts they also took the opportunity to represent matters affecting the interests of the inhabitants in general such as trespass on their grazing grounds by the Yateley and Eversley cattle, repairs needed for bridges, etc.

[CHANCERY SWAINMOTE ROLLS, BUNDLE II. III.]
[TRANSLATION].

Finchmstd Bailiwick
in Windsor Forest in
Co. Berks.

*Swainmote of Our Lady Elizabeth, by
the Grace of God Queen of England, France,
and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, held at
Okyngham within the said Bailiwick Sept.
25th in the 37th Year of her Reign.*

Capital Forester of
the Bailiwick.

Charles Howard, Baron Effingham
KG, Great Admiral of England, Capital
Forester of the said bailiwick by Thomas
Lyndsey his deputy².

² *Thomas Lyndsey.* He was apparently Keeper of Bigshotte Walk.

Verderers. Richard Lovelace esq^r.³ and Richard Conynsbye esq^r.⁴

Regarders. William Taylor (gent), John Ball, John Bannyster, William Wylkes, John Goodinge, William Martyn (gent), Thomas Eldridge (dead), Richard Thelwall, William Poulter, Thomas Symons, Nicholas Taylor, Edmund Heyford (to be removed), Regarders of the said Bailiwick, came and presented on oath that one of the Regarders, Thomas Eldridge had died since the last Swainmote and that Edmund Heyford was infirm. And now Thomas Lane of Swallowfield, John Fulkes of the same, Francis Bulloc of Okyngham, and William Thelwall of Easthampstd, who by letters of the Queen to the Verderers should be substituted for them, being sworn with the old Regarders, make declaration on oath.

Subforesters. Thomas Lyndsey (gent), one of the Subforesters, represented by Edward Geffry his servant, appears and makes presentment.

John Atrithe,⁵ one of the Subforesters, appears and makes presentment.

Thomas Cheslake,⁶ represented by Lawrence Cheslake his son, do.

KEEPERS OF PARKS AND WALKS.

Esthampsted Park. Richard Conynsbye esq^r, Keeper of the Park.

³ *Richard Lovelace.* Keeper of Cranbourn Walk He was one of the family who built Lady Place on the ruins of Hurley Priory.

⁴ *Richard Conynsbye.* He was appointed the previous year Keeper of Easthampstead at a salary of 3d. a day. He was knighted by James I. In 1615 he purchased the post of Inspector of Playing Cards. The patent brought him in 5/- a gross on all packs imported.

⁵ *John Atrithe.* Keeper of Easthampstead Walk.

⁶ *Thomas Cheslake.* Keeper of Sandhurst Walk.

Bearé Wood. Robert Knolles esq^r,⁷ Keeper of the Walk, represented by Thos. Symons his servant appears and makes presentment.

KEEPERS OF WOODS.

Finchampsted Wood belonging to Francis Parkyns Esq^r and Thomas Harrison gent. Richard Matthewe, woodward for Francis Parkyns esq^r appears and makes presentment.

Nicholas Taylor, woodward for Thomas Harrison gent⁸ do.

Farley Moor belonging to Thomas Lane gent. Thomas Lane appears.

Bearé Wood belonging to the Queen. Ralph Cripse woodward there.

NAMES OF VILLES.

Yeunden⁹ with the Hamlet of Okyngham. Francis Ball, tithying man of Yeunden, with Richard Marlowe, Thos. Mylles, Ralph Taylor and Edward Ball, sworn, and make presentment.

Sandhurst Vill. Wm. Coxe tithying man, with John Woodes, John Lorimer, and John Alexander present "all well."

Finchampsted with the Hamlet of Barkham. Wm. Bannyster, tithying man, with Edward Felder, Robert Feltham, and John Prettie present by bill.

Esthampsted Vill. Francis Arewe, tithying man, John Chambers, deputy, Andrew Cottrell and Matthew Monyer appear and present by letters.

Swallowfeld with the Hamlet of Farley Hill. Nil.

Newlande within the Parish of Hurst. Marmaduke Newbury tithying man, with Thomas Bulloc, George Goodander and John Finch sworn, and present by bill.

⁷ Robert Knolles. Probably the 4th son of Sir Francis Knollys, the Queen's Kinsman and Treasurer.

⁸ Francis Parkyns and Thomas Harrison were lords of the manors of West and East Court respectively.

⁹ Yeunden. The manor of Evendens.

Jury for the Queen.

John Hellyar of Okyngham, William Holloway of Finchampsted, John Hinde, Richard Olyver, and Humphrey Taylor of the same, John Prince of Swallowfeld, Laurence Smyth of Okyngham, William Heath, Henry K....., and Thomas Seymour of the same, Richard Allnut of Barkham, Richard Symons of Arberfeld, Thomas Thaackham of the same, William Wastell of Sandhurst and John Slithurst of the same.

[The above was in Latin. The presentments were entered by the Regarders on a separate roll, usually also in Latin. In this case however it was in English. The following are the main entries.]

THE REGARDERS' PRESENTMENTS.

Imprimis we present that one Brockett¹⁰ having his legges broken was recorded in Esthamstede in John Trythe's walke in Jan. 1592, and was bestowed upon the poore by John Atrithe deceased.

Item one hind calf was found dead by Richard Cottrell of Esthampstede in John Trythes' walke and had been shott through the jawe with a bullet in Feb. 1592.

Item in Feb. 1592 one stagg being gyddy in the hedd was bitten blood by John Trythe in Esthampstede and afterwards dyed and was bestowed upon the poore by the Keeper Robert Newdick gent. and others.

Item at the view of Her Majesties Park at Esthampstede in anno 1593 there had been felled 24 loades of cabeleis.¹¹

Item we present that at the view of Esthampstede Park in anno 1595 there were felled 16 loades of browse wood.¹²

¹⁰ *Brocett*. A hart in its second year.

¹¹ *Cabelais*. Cablish, wood from fallen trees.

¹² *Browse Wood*. The smaller branches of trees cut off by the keepers for the deer to strip off the bark and leaves in winter.

Item at Finchampstede in Aug. 1593 a hind calf came down the strete of Finchampstede and was pulled downe by the dogges there in the strete, and Gregory, Mr. Bulloc's man, had it. How it was disposed we know not.

Item we present that John Felder of Finchampstede hath newly sett upp this present yeare one cottage upon a parcell of his owne inheritaunce.

Item one Robert Feltham of Finchampstede hath enclosed a little parcell of grounde conteyning by estymacion fyve perches in lengthe and two perches broad or thereabouts, and it lyeth in a lane that leadeth from Reading towards Farnham upon Mr. Perkin's waste.

Item one stage being pynched by a greyhound dogg of Thomas Taber of Yateley in co. Southⁿ was afterwards recorded, and when he was killed to be given to the poore his head was full of greate wormes and was bestowed on XVI poore persons.¹³

Item William Barrett of Wokenghame in co. Wilts, dyer, hath felled this yeare 1594 parte of the coppes called the greate frith parcell of the inheritaunce of Thos. Beryngton gent, by estymacion 1 acre, by what authority we know not.

In the yeare last above sayde one Thos. Boill of Wokenghame¹⁴ hath newly sett upp, one cottage upon a parcell of Her Majesties' customary land in Wokenghame called Fletyers.

Item in July 1595 there was one soken hind found dead in the parish of Wokenghame by the Keeper of Bygshot Walke, and lay in a moores dytch betwene the groundes of Richard Palmer and Thomas Symes, and was attaynt when it was found.

Item one brockett was found dead in Wokenghame near Woodcrey in Nov. 1592 and had his legg cutt off, and savored when it was found by the Keeper.

¹³ This occurred in the purlieu of the Forest. In the Forest itself it was illegal to keep greyhounds unless "lawed" i.e. deprived of the three claws of the fore feet. At the court in 1633 several inhabitants of Wokingham were presented for keeping mastiffs.

¹⁴ *Wokenghame*. It will be observed that the spelling varies in this document. The omission of the initial letter seems to date no earlier than the late 15th century.

Item Clement Dawbeney gent. hath newly sett upp one foder howse in the parish of Wokenghame by the heathe syde upon a parcell of his owne inheritaunce belonginge unto his farme called Cowdries in Wokenghame since last Swanemoth.

Item Thos. Larward gent. of Finchampstede hath felled one coppys called Wyford Coppes in Swallowfeld containinge xii. acres, by what authority we know not.

Item we present that in anno 1594 and 1595 untill here of late we have been surcharged with Keepers in Bygshotte Walke, for there did walk under Thomas Lynsey gent. Keeper of the saide walke—Maskall and—Smythe, and none of them sworne to our knowledge.

Item we present there hath been kept this somer tyme 40 rother beastes and horses and 20 scheepe in Bygshotte Rayles wherebye the pastures of Her Majesties' game are surcharged.

[counter signed]

R. Connongesbye.

NOTES.

THE PARKS AND RAILS.

Easthampstead Park. The manor of Easthampstead, originally held by the Abbey of Westminster, was in the thirteenth century farmed to the monks of Hurley, who held it until the Reformation; but in the reign of Edward II. we hear also of a royal manor of which Gilbert de Ellesfield was Keeper. From 1320 onwards royal letters were, from time to time, dated from the hunting lodge, which was evidently then in existence. There was a park here in 1345, the year of Crecy, when Master Robert le Arbalister and Simon Russel were appointed "to fell some trees called ewe suitable for cross-bows in the King's manor of Yeshamstede Berks, and to make cross-bows out of them."¹⁵ There is still a spot called Yew Tree Corner at the Southern end of the park. In later years the park supplied timber for the building of Eton College. The appointment of several Keepers occurs in the Calendars of Patent Rolls. William Alfrede 1367, John

¹⁵ *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1345.*

Nell 1399, John Horsy 1403, William Malthouse 1423, Marmaduke Beek 1485, Sir John Williams 1488, Lord Sandys c. 1535. The repair of this and other royal lodges was secured under the King's prerogative of *purveyance*. In 1459 the Constable of Windsor was given permission to arrest stonemasons, carpenters, tilers and other artificers for the purpose, and to purvey carriage for timber, stones, etc.¹⁶ The workmen's wages seem to have been 2d. a day. In 1501 King Henry VII. and Prince Arthur rode out from here towards Dogmersfield to receive Katharine of Aragon. The latter was staying at the lodge as the Queen of Henry VIII. when her divorce was being arranged. Henry VIII., a keen huntsman, dated several letters from Easthampstead. John Norden, writing in Sir Richard Conyngsby's time (1607),¹⁷ described the park as " a grounde heathie and barren. It is in circuit 3¼ miles and containeth about 265 acres of verie meane grounde." In 1629 Easthampstead was disparked, when Charles I. granted it to William Trumbull, the diplomatist, on condition of his maintaining 200 deer for him to hunt.¹⁸ The Walk continued under Forest Law. The existing house was built by Lord Downshire, on a fresh site in 1860.

Swallowfield Park. This was one of the royal parks between 1353 and 1553, being usually part of the Queen's dowry. Edward III. maintained a stud farm there. It was disparked, and ceased to be under forest jurisdiction, when granted to Christopher Lytcot by Edward VI. Thomas Lane was the owner at this date.

Bigshotte Rayles. The Rails are now the site of the East Berks Golf Course. The residences of the Keeper, then Sir Charles Howard, and of the Under-Keeper, Hankyn, are shown in Norden's Survey of 1607. Ravenswood, formerly known as Hannican's Lodge, embodies part of the old house. The date at which the enclosure was made is uncertain. In 1507 Sir John Williams, who had been Bailiff of Finchampstead and Keeper of Easthampsted Park, (where it is presumed he lived) became

¹⁶ *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1459.*

¹⁷ John Norden's Survey in the MSS. Dept. Brit. Mus.

¹⁸ Vide *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic 1661.*

Lieutenant of Windsor Castle. His salary of 6d. a day was divided between John Bigge and John Davy, as Walkers and Keepers each of a moiety of the Bailiwick.¹⁹ It seems likely that the lodge was built about this time. The railings were pulled up by John Lilburn and the Levellers in the Commonwealth time, but were repaired by an ex-sergeant-major, René Bailly, who was appointed Keeper in 1649.¹⁹ In 1730, when both the rails and the house were ruinous, repairs were again carried out. The title of Ranger of Finchampstead was claimed by the Keepers of Bigshotte and Sandhurst Walks, whose residence it was, in the eighteenth century.

THE WALKS.

The Bailiwick was divided into Easthampstead, Sandhurst, Bigshotte, and Bearwood Walks. Part of the last was occupied by the wood Bishopsbere, formerly exempt from the royal jurisdiction, but which passed into the Queen's hands with the manor of Evendons by an exchange with the Bishop of Sarum in 1574. In 1613 Richard Arrowsmith, joint Keeper with Sir Francis Knollys, inclosed a park of 120 acres and built a second lodge, which was much resented by the commoners. In 1614 a number of people gathered in the night in disguised apparel and riotously pulled up and overthrew the hedge and ditch he had made round Newland Copse, of which he complained to the Star Chamber.¹⁹ During the Commonwealth the villagers, having killed all the deer, petitioned to have the lodge destroyed. After 1663, when Sir Thomas Rich was granted the manor of Evendons, the Keepership of the Walk went with the lordship of the manor. The formation of the great Walter estate commenced about 1830, the land having been all disafforrested in 1813.

THE WOODS.

At the time of the Domesday Survey Finchampstead provided wood pasture for 200 swine, Barkham for 40, Swallowfield for 20, Finchampstead Wood, which in the reign of Henry VIII. measured 600 acres, ran into Farley Moor, which again was continuous with Bishopsbere; and the wooded area extended through the Queen's wood of Ashridge to Billingbere in Fynes Bailiwick.

¹⁹ *Calendars S.P. Dom.*

Bishopsbere (Bear Wood) was in the 13th and 14th centuries a Naboth's vineyard, over which the Bishop of Sarum was at constant war with the Constable of Windsor. His assertion that it was a free chace, exempt from the assize of the Forest, was however eventually conceded by the Crown.²⁰

Subject to limited rights of house-bote, hay-bote, fire-bote, etc., the right of the other proprietors to cut their timber was narrowly restricted. Permission, if granted, was subject to the proviso that the game should receive no prejudice, certain trees had to be left standing, and the area fenced. In serious cases of waste, the wood might be attached by the Crown. The woodwards, though maintained by the owners, were sworn officers of the Forest, and responsible to the Warden for the preservation of vert and venison. At the time of the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey, during the reign of Edward III., special exemption was allowed to private owners to cut and sell their wood. In 1352 a depot was formed at Barkham, whence timber for the roof of the choir was carried to Bray and floated down the river.²¹ In Elizabeth's reign the woods in the Bailiwick must have covered about 1,500 acres. Large clearances were made during the Civil War, and subsequently to build the Commonwealth navy. In 1801, before the fir plantations were made, the woods had become reduced to 523 acres.²²

THE DEER.

The Red Deer ran wild over Bigshotte, Sandhurst, and Easthampstead Walks having, as Queen Elizabeth herself admitted, "a great part of their feeding within the fields, meads, and pastures of our subjects, and thereby do great damage." When the Fallow Deer are mentioned in the 17th century they were mainly confined within Easthampstead Park or within Rails in Bearwood Walk. The deer were not always hunted in the open. The State Papers have constant references to toils and engines used both by the poachers and by the forest officials on their lawful occasions. Elizabeth not only followed the hounds on her palfrey, but shot driven deer from "standings" erected

²⁰ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1280, 1300. *Pat. Rolls* 1337.

²¹ *Pat. Rolls* 1352.

²² *Reports of Windsor Forest Commissioners* 1807-1.

for the purpose. There are two hills in the parishes of East-hampstead and Sandhurst called respectively King's Standing and Queen's Standing hills. One of the very few persons privileged to kill the royal game was the judge when on circuit, on whose warrant a stag was killed in Sandhurst Walk in 1608. Deer stealing had been rife from the earliest times, and was by no means confined to the poorer classes. The attempts of James I. and his son to tighten up forest discipline only made matters worse, and the gentry, annoyed by imposition of fines for breaches of the forest law condoned for over a century, and the ravage of their crops by the deer, joined with the common people in their destruction. During the Civil War most of the deer disappeared. The Forest was restocked at the Restoration. In November 1731, in spite of the depredations of the Wokingham Blacks,²³ there were 13,000 deer. In 1806, through starvation and neglect, their number had dwindled to 318.

ASSARTS AND PURPRESTURES.

The primary object of the restriction of assarts (inclosures of the waste) and purprestures (erection of buildings) by forest law was to preserve the vert for the deer. As the law stood, no hedges must be so high as to prevent the animals leaping over. In 1719, reporting on the absence of discipline in the Forest the Solicitor to the Treasury wrote that "the people threaten a total destruction of the covert. Hedges are made so high and gates spiked so that deer cannot move about."²⁴ It is improbable that in this reign any action followed the formal record of these transactions, but under James I., whose advisers endeavoured to make the Forest a source of revenue, fines, sometimes very heavy ones, were exacted by the Exchequer. A windmill on the waste was objected to in that reign because it frightened the deer and drew company to the disquiet of the game; brick burning was forbidden, and, under Charles I. the East India Company's powder factory on the outskirts of the Forest had to be shut down because the deer received prejudice.²⁵ The race of heath-dwellers, some of whom survived within the memory of the present generation

²³ Vide *Berks, Arch. Journal*, Jan. 1912.

²⁴ *Calendars of Treasury Books*.

as broom-dashers or squirrel-catchers, were a continual nuisance to the forest officers, but beyond their power of suppression. Their wattle huts, protected by a low turf bank, might be destroyed, but they only moved on to another site. In later years, some parish authorities assumed a purely imaginary right to grant immunity from disturbance by the payment of a fee to the parish chest, and at the time of the Great Inclosure, the claims of their descendants, some of whom had now substantial cottages, were difficult to disprove. There is a small farm on the borders of Bagshot Park which started as an encroachment on the heath in the reign of James I. In the course of 170 years by gradual extension it had acquired 35 acres, which in 1783, the descendant of the original squatter, one Rapley, had under cultivation.²⁶

In 1630 the Verderers reported to the Constable of Windsor regarding cottages and other encroachments in the King's woods, that the cottages were the ruin and destruction both of woods and game and the shelter of deer stealers and all disorderly persons. Ten years later the Grand Jury complained at the Assizes that the woods were full of people in hiding to avoid payment of ship-money, impressment, prosecution for poaching, etc., and their families were a charge to their parishes. At the Restoration the highwaymen and footpads who operated on the Reading and Basingstoke roads found convenient hiding places in these isolated dwellings. As late as 1807 the Forest Commissioners advised the removal of their inhabitants into the villages where they could be kept under observation.

RIGHTS OF COMMON.

Rights of Common at this date seem to have been exercised by the tenants of the forest manors with little less restriction than elsewhere. In a rental of the manor of Sandhurst made in the third year of Edward VI. it is stated that the tenants could graze their sheep and cattle in and through the whole Forest. Up to the outbreak of the Civil War the presentments made by the villagers at the Swainmote show that attempts made by outsiders

²⁵ *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1625.

²⁶ *Archaeologia*, Vol. VII., article by T. B. Handasyd.

to usurp this privilege were resented ; but in the last hundred years of the Forest huge flocks of sheep were grazed on the heaths by persons not domiciled there. Some were even driven in from Buckinghamshire. There was no warrant for the cutting of turves, peat, heath, and fern under forest law, but in the 16th century no serious attempt was made to check it within the manors of those concerned. Charles I. granted a licence of turbarry to Sir Richard Harrison and his Finchampstead tenants in 1640, but the manor court rolls prove it to have been an existing custom ten years before. Browse-wood, consisting of the lops and tops cut by the forest officers for the deer, was the perquisite of the inhabitants when the animals had stripped the bark and leaves. That the concession, later interpreted as a right to the removal of the branches of all fallen trees, was already abused is shown by the enforcement of the law limiting the weight and calibre of the boughs by James I. Rootage was an ancient right to turn pigs into the woods at certain seasons, not, as the people maintained in latter days, the right to carry off the roots of all trees felled.

On the accession of James I. the amenities associated with life in the Forest were somewhat rudely disturbed. The Stuart King, having no doubt studied Manwood's recent treatise on "The Lawes of the Forest," was deeply shocked at the lapses of the royal prerogative allowed by his predecessors. "He had hoped," he wrote in 1604, "seeing that his subjects knew how much he delights in his hunting that none would have offered offence to him in his sports. In the late Queen's time, her years being less fit for recreation, the game was less carefully preserved, but the King and his posterity, liking the recreation, it seems strange that any should have more licence in his grounds than he would allow in his own. Such offences show insolence and want of reason, and he wonders that they should think that he would not enforce the forest laws which are as ancient as the Great Charter."

Charles I. imported so many fresh deer that the magistrates complained that in a few years they would leave neither food nor

room for any other creature in the Forest. He also took the field against the poachers, and caused forest law to be expounded from the pulpits of all the forest churches. His efforts caused some amusement, but had little success. When however, in order to balance his budget, he began to exact substantial and even ruinous fines from the gentry and respectable inhabitants for alleged encroachments made by their fathers and grand-fathers, it raised a storm which precipitated the Civil War. From that date to the time of the Great Inclosure of 1813 there was very little discipline maintained in the Forest.

THE BOUNDS OF FINCHAMPSTEAD BAILIWICK.

(From a Perambulation c. 1631).

The Perambulation commenced at the south east corner, a little to the west of *Blackwater alias Twichen Bridge*, and proceeded along the right bank of the river, "the auntiant River called *Dudbrooke*, the true and auntiant bound of the Forest." Between this point and *East Mille*, which was in Darby Green Lane, *Halle Grove*, *Perrymoore*, and *Dawney Mede*, three fields belonging to John Geale of Sandhurst, are mentioned. Formerly on the Sandhurst side of the river, they then, owing to the diversion of the stream, were on the left bank. The next place mentioned is *Greene Mille*. There was a cart bridge at East Mille in 1586, and a horse bridge at Greene Mille, both out of repair. Neither appears in John Norden's Survey of 1607. At *Yatley Mille* the line followed the branch called *the Sheire Stream* and so to *Blackwater Bridge* (Eversley Bridge), *Oulde Ford* (Joulding's Ford), and *Thatcher's Ford*. "From thence to *Swallowfield Bridge* including the house of Sir John Backhouse Kt., and soe alonge the river to *Arborfield Bridge* including the house of William Standen esq., from thence alonge the river [Loddon] to *Sindlesham Mille*, thence to *Lodone Bridge*, and soe alonge *the Lodone meade* to *Sandforde Mille* excluding the mille, and thence, leavinge the Lodone and comeing up a little river called *Embrooke*, to a bridge called *Merryhill Bridge*, from thence alonge the same river to a bridge and hyghewaye that leads from Okingham towards Reading, from thence to *Okingham markett*

place, from thence down Beach Streete to the church there, from thence along the hygheway along a certaine lane that lyeth betwene groundes called Popters and Hayetts . . . to the corner of a copse called Northgrove." The perambulation then followed the boundary of Easthampstead parish by *Buckhurst* (exclusive), across *Hawbrooke*, by *Cooper's Hill* and *Penny Hill*, "crossing the heathe into the way that leads from Windsor to Frimley comeinge to *Wishmoor Cross* and from thence alonge a little streame called the *Wishmoor Streeme* which goeth into *Dudbrooke* excluding *Blackwater Bridge.*"²⁷

NOTES.

In the Crondall cartulary, A.D. 976, the starting point is called *Brydanforde* and the river *Duddan broc*. *Twichen* implies the fork of a stream, the name William atte Twichene is found in a Sandhurst subsidy roll of 1327, and the family is mentioned later in the neighbourhood.

The Backhouse family acquired Swallowfield Park in 1582. The Standens held Arborfield between 1589 and 1730.

In the 14th century the forest bounds extended beyond the Blackwater westward over an area which at one time formed an isolated portion of Wiltshire. In a Perambulation of 1300 the line runs from *Bredeforde* along the river *Dodebrok* as far as it goes between the counties of Berks and Southampton up to *Swalewe* and thence to *Rysle* . . . and thence to *Stanford* at *Stratford Say* and thence along *Lodona*."

The Perambulation of 1642 says "as far as the *bridge near Sandforde Mille* and across the middle of the waste called *Lee heath* as far as *Merrie Hill Bridge* over the rivulet called *Emmes Brooke* as far as the north corner of *Pypers Close* and so lying as boundes between the counties of Berks and Wilts as far as the churchyard of *Okingham*."

Wishmoor Cross, the junction of five parishes, is called in a Perambulation of the Surrey Forest 1327 *Roluescrouche*, the county boundary running "by the middle of *La Shete* (Bagshot Park, Bageshet) to *Gundrichesforde*, to *Roluescrouch*, and by *Wysshemoresden* to *Brydeforde*."

²⁷ S. P. Dom. Car. i. ccvi. 67.

