

## A NORMAN MANOR HOUSE

Newport Pagnell is not the only town which owes part of its name to the Painell or Paganell family, and amongst other places to which this family has given its name, is the little village of Boothby Pagnell, some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south-east of Grantham.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Ralph Paganel held 45 lordships. He was one of the Conqueror's favourites and his family was very prominent in Lincolnshire in early times. Fulk Paganel was the eldest son of Ralph, and it was through his marriage with Beatrix Ansculf that he became possessed of the Manor of Newport, and he it was who founded Tickford Priory. He was succeeded by his son, Gervase, who married Isobel, a daughter of Robert, Earl of Leicester, and widow of Simon St. Liz, Earl of Northampton, by whom he had issue one son, Robert, who predeceased him. He was followed by Hawyse Paganel, who married Lord John de Somery. With her death, the connection of the Paganel family with Newport apparently ceased, and it is difficult to understand the statement in Leland's Itinerary:—"though the Painells were Lordes of the Castelle of Newport Painell in Bockinghamshire yet they had a great mynde to ly at Bouthby where they had a praty Stone House withyn a mote."

On the other hand, the Boothbys were a very ancient family tracing their descent from Saxon times, having been settled in Lincolnshire about 300 years before the Norman Invasion. In Domesday the name is written Bodebi, but later it is written Bobi or Boby. One Theodoric de Boby was Knight and Lord of Botheby in the reign of the Conqueror, and he, with others, assisted in the laying of the foundation stones of a



MANOR HOUSE, BOOTHBY PAGNELL  
C 1180

new Abbey Church at Croyland on the 7th March, 1114, Simon, Earl of Northampton, and others, also being present at the ceremony. Theodoric is supposed to have built the Norman Manor House at Boothby Pagnell, which is referred to later. His great great-grandson was Hugo, Lord of Botheby, and among his sons was one, Sir Alexander de Botheby, who married Isabella, daughter of Gilbert de Neville. By her he had issue, one daughter, Agnes, who in 1309 married Sir John Pagnell, who by such marriage became the owner of the Manor House of Botheby and gave his name to the place.<sup>1</sup> Another of Hugo's sons was Adam de Botheby, who was born at Boothby Manor House, and later became a Monk of the Monastery of Peterborough, ultimately being made Abbot.<sup>2</sup>

It is difficult to say, but apparently Sir John Pagnell was a descendant of Jordan Pagnell, a brother of Fulk. Another John, with Elizabeth, his wife, occur in 1380. This Sir John died in 1420 and was buried in the north side of the High Altar at Boothby Church; Elizabeth, his wife, who died in 1416, being also buried in the same Church under a plain stone. With him the fortunes of the family began to decline, and the estates were gradually sold off, but one Richard Paynell was living at Boothby at the time of Leland's Itinerary in 1535-43, and died in 1560. The property eventually passed from the Paganells about 1590, one Francis Paganell being then the owner, and after being the property of Lord Burleigh and the Harringtons came to the Letchfords, one Richard Letchford being the owner in 1723 and John Letchford in 1823. Afterwards came the Thorolds, then Mrs. Rayner, but the owner of the Manor House is now Mr. A. F. Ivy White.

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<sup>1</sup> Leland's Itinerary, Vol. I., fo. 27-28.

<sup>2</sup> Notes of Botheby Family, kindly lent by R. T. Boothby, Esq.



Ground Floor—Boothby Pagnell  
Vaulting under Hall on Upper Floor, C. 1180



Fireplace—Boothby Pagnell  
C. 1180

The old Manor House is still standing. It is of late Norman work built in the form of a parallelogram, and is particularly interesting, being one of the few houses of this period which still survive.<sup>3</sup> It originally consisted of two storeys, the lower being divided into two parts, the larger apartment being vaulted and the smaller having a barrel roof. The first storey was reached by an outside staircase, and in it were a hall and chamber with a thick partition wall between them. In the Hall is a fine fireplace with round chimney shaft. The upper storey which now exists was added later. In 1565 it is recorded that an altar stone was taken from the Church and utilised as a firehearth in the Hall by Francis Panell, the then owner.

In the wall of the Hall there is an aumbry, and in one of the windows are some fragments of ancient glass, while the Oratory, for which Sir John Panell and Elizabeth, his wife, obtained a licence on the 13th January, 1405, was apparently here.

Until about a hundred years ago a moat surrounded the house, as noted by Leland; portions can still be traced.

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<sup>3</sup> See two illustrations in Turner & Parker: *Domestic Architecture*, Vol. I., p. 52. N. Lloyd: *History of the English House*, 1931, gives five photographs. There is also a small illustration on p. 269 of Sir Banister Fletcher's *History of Architecture*, 1928.