



Sandhurst, Berks.

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(Continued from page 114, Vol. 20.)

CHAPTER IV.

THE MANOR OF SANDHURST.

1316. Early in the fourteenth century Sandhurst, with the
Feudal rest of Sonning hundred belonged to the Bishop of Salis-
Aids. bury. In 1316 the Bishop contributed one man-at-arms
for the King's service for each of the following :—

Villa de Sonnyng cum Roscombe.

Villa de Erburghfelde.

Villa de Wokingham cum Yeuyndon et Sandhurst.

1397. In the 20th year of Richard II., Thomas, brother and
Feet of heir of William atte Halle of Sandhurst, transferred to
Fines Hugh de Byseley of the County of Gloucester the manor
Berks of "Halle Place in Sandhurst" with 2 messuages, 100
20 Ric. II. acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 10 acres of wood, and
40/- rent, "to be held of the chief lords of that fee."
Hugh giving Thomas 200 marks of silver, and himself and
his heirs during the latter's lifetime paying 5/- at Easter
and on S. Michael's day.

The Bishops of Salisbury disposed of their Sonning
property in the reign of Elizabeth. Their successors con-
tinued to exercise a paramount right in Sandhurst as chief
lords of the fee, and the right was duly claimed before the
Windsor Forest Enclosure Commissioners in 1807.

A portion of land towards the eastern end of the
parish, though apparently of no great extent, was retained
in the hands of the chief lord for many years after.

Lay With regard to the family of atte Halle. One of their
 Subsidies number paid a subsidy in Sandhurst in the reign of
 Berks 73/5 Edward I., and William atte Hall and John atte Hulle
 Do., 73/6 senior were inhabitants in 1327. In 1354 the name of
 John atte Halle is found in connection with the acknow-
 ledgment of a debt of £10 owed by him to a certain
 Cal. Close John de Fenton. The same family held Halle Place in
 20 Ed. III. Yateley in the 14th century. There is more than one
 "Hall's Farm" in the Blackwater valley at the present
 time. "Hall Grove" and a place called "le hale" are
 mentioned in the Sandhurst surveys.†

Wills Hugh de Byseley's will is preserved at Somerset House
 P.C.C. dated Sept. 21, 1415. He directs "My body to be buried
 2 Laffer- in the churchyard of the church of All Saints of Byseley
 nan. [Glos.]. To the cathedral church of Worcester vi^a. To
 Johanna my wife a moiety of my goods at Byseley, after
 the payment of my debts and legacies. All my lands and
 tenements which John Gerald and William Moleyns had
 by my feoffment in Sandhurst co. Berks to be sold to pay
 my debts, etc. Residue to be disposed for the safety of
 my soul." John Gerald was appointed executor.

1424. In 1424 William Moleyns* of Lechlade, Glos., quit-
 Close claimed to Matilda Merfield, Joan, who was the wife of
 Rolls. Richard Okele, and John Westmer their heirs and
 3 Hvi. assignees all rights . . . in the manor of Sandhurst
 and in all other lands etc. etc. in the vill of Sandhurst
 "which I the said William lately held conjointly with
 William Medford clerk, Richard Whytyngton citizen and
 alderman of London, Thomas Goldhoppe clerk, and
 Robert Kynghon, now deceased, and John Gerald now
 surviving, by the gift and feofment of Hugh de Byseley,
 excepting a water mill with a pond, and a certain field
 called Hullemede.

† In discussing the suffix—*hale* in place names, Prof. Skeat stated that the form *hale* is the dative of the A.S. *halh* the modern *haugh*, meaning a nook or corner, used especially to denote "a flat piece of alluvial land by the side of a river."—See Skeat, "Berkshire Place Names."

* NOTE.—In the 14th century members of this family held the manor of Henley, in the parish of Ash (Surrey), under Chertsey monastery, with certain lands in Fremelsworth (Frimley). Henley Park became a royal manor in 1359, when it was surrendered to Edward II. by a William de Moleyns.—See Manning and Bray, Hist. of Surrey.

1428. In 1428 Matthew Masshebrook and Joan his wife
Feet of transferred a moiety of the manor of Sandhurst to John
Fines, Feriby esq., Robert Woodcock, Thomas Grene, and
Berks. Richard Paulyn, clerk, for 100 marks of silver.
Hil. 6 Hvi.

1431. In 1431 John, son and heir of John Westmere, con-
Close firmed to John Feriby Esq., Robert Wodecok, John
Rolls. Blakeman, and Richard Pawelyn clerk, a moiety of the
10 Hvi. manor of Sandhurst.

The deed, which was executed at Sandhurst, was witnessed by Thomas Foxle, Richard Restwold, Thomas Bullok, William Perkyns, William atte Grove, John Bokeler, and Peter Barbour.

1440. In 1440 John Feriby esq. and Margaret his wife
Close transferred to Richard Combe, Richard Russell, and John
Rolls. Kyngesdowne "our manor of Sandhurst with its appur-
No. 292. tenances . . . with all those lands and tenements in
20 Hvi. the said vill which once belonged to Nicholas atte Hull
and also a certain water mill and close, and a field called
Hulmede, which were Hugh de Byseleys."

Several other manors and lands in Berks, Hants, Wilts and Surrey were transferred at the same time.

1498. In the 14th year of Henry VII. the manor is found in
Kr. Misc. the hands of St. Peter's Monastery at Chertsey, when a
Bks. rental of the estate was made for the monks by Brother
No. 25. John Bury. The names of 21 tenants are mentioned, and
9 messuages and 2 cottages are referred to. The rental
shows that some of the tenants, besides paying their rent,
had to provide labour on the lord's fields at certain times
of the year. For example, William Abbott, who held two
crofts called Hullecroft and a messuage called Cokkisplace,
besides the payment of 3 shillings rent, had to provide 2
days' work in the autumn or 6d. in lieu thereof. William
Stoppesaule, who held a messuage and 12 virgates of land
and a meadow called Risshgrove, had to pay 2d. for a
day's mowing in the autumn; and William atte Grove, who
had a messuage and 7 acres, paid 2d. for "medesilver"
besides $1/1\frac{1}{2}$ rent.

Nicholas Miller held a messuage and a virgate of land called Hullerslond, identical perhaps with Hulmede already mentioned.

John Cuishulle held with other lands a place (placiam) called "le hale."

1510. In 1510, the second year of Henry VIII., the manor
Misc. was leased by the Abbot of Chertsey to William Rogers
Bks. LR. for a term of 40 years. A person of this name was buried
Vol. 187. at Yateley in 1513.

In the year 1539 the abbey shared the fate of the other
great monasteries, and its possessions were surrendered to
1543. the crown. In 1543 a lease of Sandhurst manor was
do. granted to William Braconbury, gentleman, for a term of
21 years.

1544. In 1544 a grant in fee of "the manor of Sandhurst
Pat. p 19 Surrey in the tenure of Richard Stafferton, which belonged
m 28. to Chertsey monastery," was made, together with other
manors, to a number of persons, all London tradesmen,
"the grant to be void if the purchase money is repaid
within the year."

1546. In 1546 William Boxe grocer of London and his wife
Letters Anne appear to have got possession of the manor. In
and September of this year they were allowed to exchange it,
Papers. with that of Roxston Beds, for lands, lately in the posses-
Hen. viii. sion of Abingdon monastery, in Mercham and Frilford.
vol. xxi, ii.

1549. In the 3rd year of Edward VI. a rental of the manor
Misc. was made by Roger Amyce, described as surveyor of the
Books King's lands. At this time William Braconbury was still
LR the lessee. From this document, a translation of which
vol. 187. will be found in the appendix, it is seen that the total
number of houses was the same as in 1498, with the
addition of a messuage at Moor Lane End and 2 acres,
which was held under the manor of Sonning. The site of
the manor (scitum manerii) was occupied by Thomas Cox ;
and, judging from the names of the demesne fields, must
have been near the present Sandhurst Lodge.

1561. In 1561 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor in fee to
Pat. 4 "our beloved counsellor Sir John Mason" for the sum of
Eliz. p. 5 £248. The property was then stated to be of the clear
(980). yearly value of £8. The advowson of the rectory was
specially excluded from the grant, and the Queen also
reserved for herself and her successors "all the bells and
all the lead of in and upon the premises except the lead of
the gutters and windows." Mention is also made of 32/-
issuing from the premises and payable to the Bishop of
Salisbury.

Sir John Mason was a person of importance during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, and a most typical product of that age. The son of humble parents, he was born at Abingdon and bred as a servitor at All Souls, Oxford. Here he was fortunate enough on one occasion to attract the notice of King Henry VIII. by a Latin oration. The King, according to Fuller, gave orders on the spot "for his education beyond the seas as confident that he would prove an able Minister of State." Under Edward VI. he became Clerk to the Privy Council, Master of Requests, and Dean of Winchester. He was a layman and held the Deanery 1549—1553. At the King's death he made the one mistake of his life by allowing himself to be involved in the proclamation of Lady Jane Grey. Realising, however, the way the tide was setting he saved himself by an early submission to Mary. He was Treasurer to the Household under Queen Elizabeth, Chancellor of Oxford, Ambassador at Paris and Brussels, and for many years had an important voice in the foreign policy of the nation. His death occurred in 1566, when he was succeeded by his adopted son Anthony Weekes, a grandson of his mother by a second marriage. He is stated by Camden to have been "*vir gracilis atque eruditus*," "which I like much better," adds Fuller, "than that which follows," namely "*ecclesiasticorum beneficiorum incubator maximus*."*

Anthony Weekes, who took the name of Mason, succeeded also to the Hampshire manors of Winchfield and Hartley Wintney, at the latter of which places he resided.

Chanc. Proc. Eliz. vol. ii. R.E. 8.50. Do. P.P. 4.50. The Sandhurst property was subsequently sold to Richard Geale, when Anthony Weekes *alias* Mason and his son John became involved in Chancery proceedings.

This Richard Geale was buried beneath the altar of the old church and a brass was set up to his memory, which is now in the south chapel. On it is depicted Richard Geale himself, his wife Elizabeth, and their four sons and five daughters. The inscription states that "The saide Richard deceased the 18th September anno Dni 1608."¹ His wife died ten years later.

* For a full account of Sir John Mason see Dict. Nat. Biog.

¹ According to the register he died September 18, 1607.

Misc. In a survey of 1613 are found the names of Richard
Books and John Geale, presumably two of his sons. The former,
L.R. 199. who was Lord of the Manor, had two houses, the latter
three, and they held Harriesmoor in common. In this
year Richard married Eleonor Sellon, and by her had issue
Elizabeth [1616], Eleonor [1618], John [1620], and Sarah
[1622]. John, whose wife was named Elizabeth, had issue
Elizabeth [1612], Nicholas [1615], John [1617], Richard
[1619], and Joan [1622]. John Geale the elder was
buried in 1658, surviving his wife by five years.

Parish In the reign of Charles II. Richard Geale,
Books probably John's son, was in occupation of the manor
1674. lands, and was summoned at the Herald's Visitation of
1665-6 but did not appear. This was probably the
Richard Geale who was buried in 1679. In 1695 Richard
Geale with 18 other "gentlemen" was appointed a
Regarder of Windsor Forest.

The Geales were people of importance in Yateley,
Sandhurst, and Eversley during the 17th century, and
increased and multiplied exceedingly. One of the Yateley
branch had engaged in trade in London, and was cup
maker to Charles I.* During the 18th century the for-
tunes of the Sandhurst family seem to have declined
though they continued to hold land in the parish up to
1739.

1738. In the eighteenth century the manor belonged to the
Parish Williamson family. In 1738 "Cornal Williams" as lord
Books. of the manor took part in repairing the churchyard rails.
"Church- In 1752 an indenture was made between Elizabeth Wil-
yard liamson, widow of Adam Williamson Esq., and Elizabeth
Rayles." Caroline, spinster, daughter and only child of Adam and
1752. Elizabeth, and devisee of Adam; and Edward Inge and
C.P. Enr. William Baldwin; for the bairing of estates tail. "The
Trin. said Elizabeth and Elizabeth Caroline granting to Inge
25 & 26 . . . the manor of Sandhurst . . . to hold for the
Geo. II. suffering of a recovery in which Elizabeth Caroline shall be
m. 42.† vouchee. To use of the said Elizabeth for life, then to
use of Elizabeth Caroline her heirs and assignees, except a

* Stookes. History of Crondall and Yateley.

† For this reference the author is indebted to the Editor of the Victoria
County History of Berks.

Re- coveries. Trin. 25 & 26. Geo. II. tenement called Hall Place and several closes in the parish of Finchampstead which is settled to the use of Elizabeth Caroline." The property in the recovery deed is described as "the manor of Sandhurst with the appurtenances and 5 messuages, 1 toft, 8 gardens, 140 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 50 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 50 acres of moor, £4 5s. rent, and common of pasture and turbary in Wokingham, Binfield, Sandhurst, and Finchampstead."

It seems fairly reasonable to assume that Elizabeth 1786. Caroline Williamson married Daniel Fox, esq., of Binfield; "Reading and that she was the same Elizabeth Caroline Fox who, as Mercury." "lady of the manor of Sandhurst," inserted a notice about May 26. the sale of turves in the "Reading Mercury" in 1786.

1787. In 1787 Adam Williamson was lord of the manor, and Do. May, signed a similar notice, dated from London.

1789. In 1789 Richard Heaviside, Esq., of Parsons Green, Private deed. Fulham, purchased from Colonel Adam Williamson of The Terrace, Spring Gardens, "a cottage and 2 acres of land together with the manor or lordship of Sandhurst with the rights, members, liberties, and appurtenances thereof" for £1,850.

During all this period there were constant disputes between the lord of the manor and the tenants over their respective rights of common. The former, who did not reside in the parish, looked to making a considerable profit on the sale of turves cut on the waste. In May of each year, at a time previously advertised, a large sale took place on Shelborne Hills, and the "Sandhurst tods," as they were called, seem to have found a ready market in the neighbourhood.

The freeholders denied the right of the lord to sell the turves, and complained that he did not leave enough herbage for the maintenance of their flocks.

In 1772 Daniel Fox, esq., of Binfield, described as the lord of the manor of Sandhurst, tried to get his claim ratified by Act of Parliament. In March of the same year the freeholders presented a petition at the Bar of the House in which they pointed out that they were entitled to certain rights of cutting heath, turf, peat and fern on the waste. That Mr. Fox and his predecessors had already cut so much peat and turf that there was not enough

herbage for their cattle, and that if the act was passed things would become even worse. The King's deer, deprived of their browsing ground, would invade their inclosures and destroy their crops. Mr. Fox had no legal right to sell his turf at all.

B.M.
Library
215.1.2
(133).

To these objections a printed answer was circulated, in which it was stated that the manor contained 4,700 acres, of which 1,700 were inclosed land of a yearly value of £600, the rest consisted of heath with 70 acres of peat bog. The number of tenants entitled to common of turbay for fuel was under 30, and there never had been any right of cutting peat, heath, or fern. The lords of the manor had from time immemorial exercised these rights to their own emolument and the advantage of the neighbourhood, which was ill supplied with fuel.

The disputes continued during Mr. Heaviside's time, and frequent law suits took place, decided almost invariably in favour of the lord of the manor; but on one occasion the freeholders were successful, and Mr. Heaviside had to insert a notice in the paper promising to indemnify his workmen, and those who bought from his agent, against any expense they might be put to, presumably in the case of legal proceedings being taken against them.

At the Assizes held at Reading in July of 1798, John Rackstrow, one of the farmers, obtained an injunction against Messrs. Thrift and Minchin, employed by Mr. Heaviside, from cutting and carrying away for sale "the surface of certain grassy parts of the common, called tods or sods, to the detriment of the tenants having common of pasture." It being proved that they had carried off several waggon loads.

It was a great triumph for the tenants; and a notice appeared in the next week's "Mercury" declaring their intention to proceed against any person found cutting herbage on the waste. Mr. Heaviside, however, at once appealed, and the decision was reversed by the King's Bench. A similar action next year also failed.

After incendiary fires and other unpleasantness, the question was finally settled by the Forest Enclosure Act of 1813. This time Mr. Heaviside became involved in legal

proceedings with the crown. He contended that Sandhurst Manor was exempt from the law of the Forest, and that therefore the King could claim no allotment there in respect of his forestal rights. This he failed to prove to the satisfaction of the court, though he established a right of cutting and selling turves on the waste, in consideration of which he was granted a special allotment of a hundred and fifty acres out of the King's share.

1807,
Reports of
Claims
made
before the
Windsor
Forest
Commis-
sioners.

Mention has already been made of a portion of land in the parish which excluded from the rest of the manor. At the time of the Windsor Forest Commission Mr. Heavyside claimed "the fee simple of the said manor extending over the whole parish of Sandhurst." There was, however, a second claim, made by Mr. W. Blackall Simonds, to manorial rights over a portion of the parish. No proofs were advanced to this claim, and it was apparently not gone into. In 1817 this gentleman was holding what is now called College Farm, adjoining the R.M.C. property, and the adjacent fields. To the west of his property were a few acres belonging to Mr. Rackstrow, of Rackstrow's Farm, and then Mr. Charles Simonds' holding round Sandhurst Farm. There must have been a tradition in the Simonds' family that either all or part of their land was not subject to the lord of the larger manor, and certain facts seem to bear this out.

1515.
Chanc.
Misc.
Rolls
13/14.

In the reign of Henry VIII. Sir William Sandys,* who then held Mr. Charles Simonds' property above mentioned, was said to be seized of two mesuages, called "Buckhurst" and "Crisshylls," "in dominico suo ut de feodo." In the second year of the same reign his Sandhurst estate was referred to as "The manor of Buckhurst in Sandhurst," and in the third year of Edward VI. a mesuage at Moor Lane End, which was apparently on the same property, though not then held by the Sandys family, was directly under the manor of Sonning.

1510.
Close
2 Hviii.
No. 378.

It would seem therefore that there were for a certain time two mesne manors in Sandhurst, both subject to the paramount right of the lords of Sonning.

* Afterwards known as Lord Sandys of the Vyne. His creation as a Baron is dated April 27th, 1523.

1810. Mention must also be made of the so-called "manor Report of Sandhurst which comprises the Royal Military College of the estate." The estate in question is so referred to in a Blue Book of 1810. No evidence has been found to support the view that this was ever a separate manor. Some account of the history of the government property is given in another chapter.

The Washington Arms and Pedigree.

By Mrs. Suckling.

FROM a long article recently published in America, it would appear that doubts have arisen as to the accuracy of the pedigree supplied to General Washington by the Heralds' College, which doubts "are based upon investigations (not yet completed) by the Rev. Dr. Solloway, Vicar of Selby, Lancashire (?), England ; that our father, George, did not, after all, derive from the Washingtons of Sulgrave, but was probably a descendant of one of two brothers, who went to Virginia from Lancashire." What is known about Washington's forebears is, that they were John and Laurence Washington, who came from England in 1657. When Washington became President and sent to Sir Isaac Herd, Garter King-at-Arms, for his pedigree, it was ascertained that Laurence Washington, who died near Sulgrave in 1616, had two sons John and Laurence, who were accordingly assigned to the President, as belonging to him. It is said that he never was satisfied with this pedigree, but respected a tradition that his family came from farther North. Now comes forward the Rev. Dr. Solloway, "who has noted an heraldic window in the Abbey Church, which shows the Washington Arms, and which has led him to reconsider this matter of the pedigree. Laurence Washington the elder, who died in 1616 (Dr. Solloway has ascertained), was married in 1590 and had seventeen children. Of these, John and Laurence (whom Herd supposed to have been the founder of the American family) were the fourth and fifth members ; so that in 1657, about the time of their emigration, they would be some sixty years old." The writer goes on to suggest "that Herd was mistaken, and that this John and Laurence never left England at all, and that the John and Laurence who did go out to Virginia were not of the Northamptonshire branch of the family. And the truth is that John stayed in England to become Sir John Washing-