

Two Early Englefield Deeds.

BY FREDERIC TURNER.

THE existing pedigrees of the Englefield family all appear to be based upon those found in the *Heralds' Visitations*, and as these are for the most part undated and unsupported by references or authorities, they can hardly be accepted as entirely satisfactory.

Among the Berkshire deeds and documents in the Reading Public Libraries are two which relate to the family and Englefield itself, and while they do not throw much new light upon the pedigree, they certainly suggest lines of research for the genealogist and local historian.

As neither of these deeds appears in the *Victoria County History of Berkshire* a full translation is appended :—

“ To all faithful in Christ to whom this present writing shall come, William, son of Roger de Englefeld, Knt., greeting in God eternal. Know ye, that I have for ever quitclaimed to Philip, Lord of Englefeld, Joan his wife, Philip their son, and the heirs of Philip, the son of Philip and Joan, lawfully begotten, all the right or claim of right I have or may have in all the lands, tenements, services and rents and all other things whatsoever belonging to the said tenements, which Julian, formerly the wife of Andrew Ilger holds of me in the vill of Englefeld, which same tenements with the appurtenances, I have by demise of Geoffrey Ilger, when it falls due, and which tenements, after the death of the aforesaid Julian, ought wholly to revert to me or my heirs, to remain to the said Philip, Joan and Philip and the heirs of the said Philip, son of the said Philip and Joan, lawfully begotten. To hold of the chief lords of that fee, for ever, by the services appertaining only to the same tenements. And I, indeed, the aforesaid William, oblige me and my heirs to warrant all the aforesaid lands and tenements with their appurtenances to the same Philip, Joan and Philip their son and

the heirs of the aforesaid Philip, son of the aforesaid Philip and Joan, lawfully begotten by him, against all men for ever. And if it chance that the aforesaid Philip, son of the aforesaid Philip and Joan, die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then all the aforesaid lands and tenements with all their appurtenances shall wholly revert to the heirs of the aforesaid Philip, Lord of Englefeld.

“In testimony of which thing to these presents I have affixed my seal.

“Witnesses : William de Offtone, John de Thedemarche, Robert atte More, Edmund Pierson (might be Pinson), John the Heyward of Englefeld, Simon le Venor, William le Moyler, Peter the Clerk and others.

“Given at Englefeld on Thursday in the Commemoration of All Souls, 3 Edward III.”

The seal is broken but looks like a conventual one. The deed is endorsed “yntayes.”

“Manor de Englefyld 2(sic) Ed. 3.”

William the grantor was the brother of Philip and Joan, and the deed looks like a provision for a younger son. Philip the eventual grantee having an elder brother, John. The date is Nov., 1329.

The second deed is as follows :—

“To all faithful in Christ to whom this present writing shall come, Gerard Braybroke, Knight, greeting. Know ye that I the aforesaid Gerard, have granted and by my present writing confirm to Gerard Braybroke my son, Reginald Malyns, Richard Priour, their heirs and assigns, all the lands and tenements, rents and services which Nicholas Englefeld held for term of his life by the grant of John Englefeld in Tilehurst, Silamstede, and Oifton, in co. Berks, together with the reversion of the third part of the manor of Englefeld which Isabel Priour holds in dower, together with the reversion of the manors of Shippelake and Crokesle with their appurtenances in Lachebrok in co. Oxon, and the reversion of

the manor of Achecote with the advowson of the church of the same, and all the appurtenances in co. Bucks. which the said Isabel holds for term of her life and also the reversion of all the lands and tenements which Philip Englefeld holds for the term of his life in Denesdene in co. Oxon., which reversion of all the lands and tenements, rents and services, which the said Nicholas Englefeld held for term of his life in Tilehurst, Silamstede and Oftern, co. Berks. aforesaid while living as also all the reversions aforesaid, I the said Gerard Braybroke Knight late had by the gift and feoffment of the said John Englefeld, together with Master Robert Braybroke formerly Bishop of London, Edmund Hamden, Nicholas Kentwode, William Fauconer and John Wodecok, now deceased, as by a certain charter indented thereof made more fully appears. To have and to hold all the said lands and tenements, rents and services aforesaid and the reversion of the said third part of the manor of Englefeld together with the reversion of the manors of Shippelake and Crokesle with their appurtenances in Lachebrok and the reversion of the manor of Achecote with the advowson of that church and all other appurtenances and also the reversion of all the aforesaid lands and tenements which the said Philip Englefeld holds for term of his life in Denesdene, in co. Oxon., to the aforesaid Gerard, my son, Reginald Malyns, and Richard Priour, their heirs and assigns, of the chief lords of that fee by the services therefor due and of right accustomed for ever.

“ In testimony whereof to this my present writing I have set my seal.

“ These witnesses : Walter Goldyngham, Knight, John Tirell, Richard Baynard, Robert Darcy, Philip Englefeld and others.

“ Given at Dannebery in co. Essex, the 12th day of June in the year of the reign of King Henry the fifth after the Conquest of England, the ninth.”

Seal (partly broken) 7 lozenges.

Endorsed : " Deed of Gerard Braybroke, Knight made to Gerard his son and Richard Priour of manors therein contained. 9 H.5. Englefyld, Shipplake and others. 9.H.5."

The date of this deed is 1421 and the Isabel Priour mentioned was the widow of Sir John Englefeld, elder brother of the Philip mentioned in the deed of 1329. The John Englefeld was her son. She had married again and must have been much younger than her first husband. Of Nicholas Englefeld the pedigrees know nothing, but it is said that the wife of John was Nichola. The Philip Englefeld was probably the son of the Philip of 1329. John and Nichola are said to have left no male issue and the estates devolved upon the descendants of this Philip.

Whilst these deeds do not contradict the pedigree, they show that the Englefelds mentioned lived much longer than most of their contemporaries.

The question arises how did Braybroke acquire his rights over the Englefeld estates, and was he in any way related to them or to Isabel Priour?

" Achecote " is Edgcott in Bucks. It will be noticed that the form of the name is " Englefeld " and this is correct both for the place and the family. The " i " was intruded in the 16th century, not only in this but other place names in Berkshire. At first it followed the " e " and sometimes appears as " y." " Field " and " feld " have exactly opposite meanings.
