## THE SWAN-MARKS OF SUFFOLK.

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The ancient practice of keeping swans in a semidomesticated state in England dates, so far as documentary evidence tells us, from the close of the twelfth century. It is not however till just over a century later that we get our first knowledge of the custom being exercised upon the waters of Suffolk. This is contained in an entry in the Patent Rolls for the second year of Edward II (pt. I, m. 21d.) which states that on July 16th, 1308, a commission of over and terminer was issued by the King from Windsor to William de Ormesby. Hervey de Staunton and John de Mutford on the complaint of John de Fresingfeld that divers persons had felled his trees at Ipswich, Cleydon, Codenham, Mendham and Cukeleye, thrown down his houses, hedges and walls, carried away as well his timber, utensils and goods, as his brood swans (cignos aerarios) at Mendham, taken away his boats, etc., etc. Such raids appear to have been characteristic of the times and there are many similar entries in the Patent Rolls during the succeeding century, but this is the only one that mentions the seizure of swans in Suffolk. It indicates however that at this early date John de Fresingfeld was keeping swans on the Waveney at Mendham, and, by inference, marking them as his property. He was probably only one of several.

In an apportionment by Hamo de Hethe, Bishop of Rochester, dated July, 1347, of the endowments appertaining to the church of Freckenham between the Rector and the Vicar of that place, the latter was to have the herbage of the churchyard and the tenths of, amongst other things, lambs, sucking pigs, swans, geese, bees and doves. (Monasticon, I, p. 180). There are indications also in the documents relating to the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds listed by Dugdale (Op. cit. III) that swans were kept by the Abbot and monastery in and before 1375, but there is nothing very definite, and

we do not know where they were kept, nor has any record of the abbey mark survived.

For the purpose of considering this ancient custom as it affected Suffolk, it is convenient, as in the case of Norfolk, to separate two main areas from the rest of the county. The larger and more important of these consists of the north-eastern portion that is drained by the Waveney, the other, smaller, one is the northwestern portion adjoining the Fens of west Norfolk and Cambridge. These formed parts of what I have termed, for the purposes of swan-history, the Broadland and Fenland areas respectively, each being under the jurisdiction of a single Deputy Swan-master, who exercised his authority throughout his own area, irrespective of county boundaries. With regard to the rest of the county and the rivers entering the sea between Southwold and Harwich, we have practically no information at all. No doubt many owners of manors kept birds on their private waters, but these would be pinioned and unable to wander from the enclosed waters on which they were kept. They would therefore for the most part be unmarked and not affected by the Swan Laws. The marks of any swan-owners there may have been on these southern rivers ought to be found on Broadland rolls, for they would have come under the jurisdiction of the Swan-master for Norfolk and Suffolk, who was responsible for registering them. As a matter of fact the number of registered marks, whose owners' seats were not within a fairly reasonable distance of the Waveney and its marshes, is singularly small. They included those of Redgrave, Smallbridge and Timworth Halls, the Priors of Butley and the families of Brewes of Wenham, Codington of Ixworth, Jenney of Knotishall, Jermyn of Rushbrooke, Seckford of Seckford and Tilney of Shelley. Several of these owners were seated almost as far from the southern rivers as they were from the Waveney, and it is almost as probable that they had outlying properties near the Waveney upon which their swans were kept, as that their birds were swimming on the southern rivers. What may be termed absentee owners were to be found not infrequently in all swancarrying areas.

Certain differences in the tenure of swan-rights, the characters of the marks used and their method of record, between the Broadland and Fenland areas have been fully dealt with in my paper on the swan-marks of Eastern Norfolk in *The Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society* (Vol. XII) and need not be repeated here. It is sufficient to point out that the manorial tenure of marks is a unique feature only found in the Broadland area, and was common to both counties.

Coming to the Suffolk Broadland marks themselves, they agree in character with Norfolk ones, though perhaps there is a rather higher proportion among them that tend towards the complexity of Fenland marks, than is found in Norfolk Lower mandible, foot- and leg-marks do not appear to have been used, but there is an unusually high proportion (4 in 64) of what may be regarded as true heraldic marks, *i.e.* marks that appear to have been derived from some component of their owners' armorial bearings. On the other hand marks derived from their owners' initials are unusually scarce. The same high proportion (2 in 21) of heraldic marks is found curiously enough in the Suffolk Fenland marks. The number of Suffolk owners of Fenland marks is naturally a small one, since it is only the northwest corner of the county that impinges on that area. There were a few Suffolk families that may be regarded as genuine Fenland owners and these mostly lived in the neighbourhood of Mildenhall. Other Suffolk owners, like Henry Everard of Linstead, acquired their rights by inheriting property and marks outside the county. Others like Sir William Cordall, Sir Thomas Jermey and Sir Henry Doyley, obtained theirs through their wives; others like Edmund Bedingfield were true absentee owners and acquired their rights, most probably, by purchase, while Simeon Steward of Lakenheath brought his with him as an immigrant from Norfolk.

The marks that follow are gathered from an examination and comparison of seventeen Broadland and seventeen Fenland rolls.

## SUFFOLK OWNERS OF BROADLAND MARKS. (A.) Manorial Marks.

- 1. Barsham Hall. This mark dates from 1498 at least, for Suckling (H. of Suffolk) mentions that it is recorded in a manorial roll of that year. He adds that "free right of fishery and Swannery in the River Waveney belonged to Barsham Hall from Moll's Locks to Roos Hall fleet." In the reign of Henry VIII the manor and mark belonged to Sir Edward Echingham, and after his death to John Blenerhasset of Lowdham, who had married (secondly) Mary, one of his daughters and co-heirs. John was still living in 1571. These are the only two owners mentioned on the rolls.
- 2. The Manor of Beccles. The manor and mark belonged in pre-reformation times to the monastery of Bury. Of later owners the only one mentioned is Sir Robert Yallop, who was knighted in 1664 and died in 1705. He differenced the mark by adding a second annulet, so as to make a pair side by side near the tip of the bill. Three other variants are recorded.
- 3. The Manor of Belton. The manor and mark belonged to the Jernegans of Somerleyton and the earliest recorded owner of the mark is Sir John, but whether the one who died in 1503 or his grandson is uncertain. In most rolls the surname only is given, but the existence of several variants of the mark suggests that it passed through several generations of owners and so probably goes back to the earlier Sir John. In 1591 the manor was bought by John Wentworth of Darsham (No. 61) who died in 1618-19. The mark automatically passed with it and we find it recorded in the rolls both for him and for his son, Sir John, who was High Sheriff in 1635 and died in 1651.
- 4. THE MANOR OF BOYES HALL, in Flixton. The only owner given with this is Sir John Tasburgh, who was knighted in 1603 and still alive in 1621.

- 5, 6. Brome Hall. No personal name is recorded for either of these marks, but the manor belonged to the Cornwallis family from early in the fifteenth century.
- · 7. The Manor of Burgh Castle. This is a prereformation mark, the earliest recorded owner being the Prior of Bromholm, to whom the manor belonged. It is evidently a variant of the Priors' mark, used by them in their home waters in Norfolk (cf. Trans. Norf. and Nov. Nat. Soc., XII, p. 431, No. 17). It is also recorded for one of their successors, William Roberts, who was Town Clerk of Yarmouth, and bought the manor in 1560.
  - 8. FLIXTON HALL. No owner is recorded, but the manor belonged to the Tasburgh family:
  - 9. THE MANOR OF KESSINGLAND. No owner is recorded.
- 10. LINSTEAD HALL. No owner is recorded.
- 11. LOUND HALL. No owner is recorded, but the manor belonged to Robert Bayspool in 1573 and then to his son-in-law Sir Walter Devereux, who sold it in 1619 to Sir John Heveningham, son and heir of Sir Arthur Heveningham of Ketteringham.
- 12. LOWDHAM HALL. No owner is recorded.
- 13. THE MANOR OF MONKHALL, in Syleham. No owner is recorded.
- 14, 15. THE MANOR OF OULTON. No owner is recorded for No. 15, but No. 14 has in different rolls the names of Sir James Hobart and Sir Walter Hobart attached to it. The former was knighted in 1503 and died in 1517, the latter was knighted before 1529 and died in 1538.
- 16. Redgrave Hall. The name Bacon is attached to this, but no Christian name is given. The manor was granted to Sir Nicholas Bacon, afterwards Lord Keeper to Queen Elizabeth, in 1543-4. He died in 1579 and was succeeded by his son Sir Nicholas, who was knighted in 1578, made a Baronet in 1611 and died in 1624. His son Sir Edmond, 2nd Bart., the next owner, died in 1649.

- 17. Redisham Hall. The name Garneys is generally associated with this mark, but Nicholas is the only member of the family definitely mentioned. He was High Sheriff in 1592, and died in 1599, being succeeded by his fifth son, also named Nicholas. In a late seventeenth century roll the owner is given as Mrs. Frances Jacob, but I can learn nothing about her.
- 18. Roos Hall. This belonged to another branch of the same family, generally entered as "Garneys of Beccles," the last of whom Thomas dying without issue, the manor and mark presumably remained the property of his widow, for we find the latter recorded for Thomas Colby of Beccles, who became her third husband. He was alive in 1561. A century later both belonged to Sir Robert Rich, who was knighted in 1676, succeeded Sir Charles as second Baronet in 1677, and died in 1699.
- 19. THE MANOR OF SANCROFT AND NEW HALL. No owner is recorded.
- 20. SMALLBRIDGE HALL. No owner is recorded, but the manor belonged to the Waldegrave family.
- 21. The Manor of Somerleyton. Like that of the manor of Belton this mark is recorded first for the Jernegans and then for the Wentworths. It exhibits the same variations and followed the same succession. The two marks are clearly complimentary and themselves variants of one original.
- 22. Sotterley Hall. Owned by the Playters family. The owners given on the rolls are, Sir John, Sir Thomas who was knighted in 1606 and died in 1623, Sir William, and Sir Thomas, who died in 1651.
- 23. TIMWORTH HALL. No owner is recorded.
- 24. Weston Hall.\* The owners recorded with this are William Reade, who was living about 1540 and his grandson John Reade, who was alive in 1561. A century later it was owned by Edward Yallop, brother of Sir Robert (see No. 2), who died in 1676.

<sup>\*</sup>See Suckling's History of Suffolk, Vol. 1, page 98, which seems to imply that Weston Hall was the property of Thomas Rede in the time of Charles II.

—E.R.B.

It is a question whether the next two marks should not have been included in the above group of manorial marks as their tenure seems to have been analogous, though No. 26 seems to have originated as a personal possession.

- 25. The Duke of Norfolk. This seems to have been held by the Duke as Lord of Bungay.
- 26. The Earl of Suffolk. The name given on one roll is Michael de la Pole. There were three Earls of Suffolk of this name. The first was created Earl in 1385 and died an outlaw in 1388. The second. his son, was restored to the title in 1399 and died in 1415, while his son, the third Michael, was killed at Agincourt a few months later. Whichever one was the original owner of the mark makes it one of the earliest that has come down to us. It is interesting too from another point of view, in that it belongs to the small class of true heraldic marks, as without doubt it represents the fesse in the de la Pole arms: "Azure, a fesse between three leopards faces, or." In five rolls it is given for the Duke of Suffolk. William de la Pole, who succeeded his brother, the last Michael, in 1415 was made Duke of Suffolk in 1448 and was succeeded in the title by three more members of the family, his son John (d. 1491) and his grandsons Edmund (d. 1513) and Richard, the last male of his line, who died in 1524. One of these used the mark as here drawn for his predecessors; one differenced it by adding a gap at the left hand end of the distal line, a third by adding one at the right hand end, and the fourth by placing one at both ends. No names are given on the rolls, so it is impossible to say in what order the differencing was effected.

In the seventeenth century the mark belonged to Sir Richard Allen, presumably of Somerleyton, who held it by virtue of his Lordship of the Half Hundred of Lothingland. He used it without any gaps.

- (B) Monastic and Corporation Marks.
- 27. THE HOSPITAL OF BECCLES.
- 28. THE BAILIFF OF BUNGAY.
- 29. The Chamberer of Bury.
- 30. The Prior of Butley. It is possible that the swans with this mark were kept in connexion with the Priors' manor of West Somerton in Norfolk. The last three Priors were William Poley, before 1498, Robert Bremmore in 1506 and Thomas Manning in 1538. The last was created suffragan Bishop of Ipswich in 1542.
- 31. THE PRIOR OF MENDHAM. Thomas Pytte was Prior in 1487, Sir Thomas Bullock in 1501 and Simon in 1523.
- 32. The Master of Mettingham, i.e. the Master of the College of Secular Canons of the B.V. Mary that was removed from Raveningham in Norfolk to Mettingham Castle in 1392. It was dissolved in 1542. Robert Wright was Master in 1480, Richard Branch in 1499, Richard Weybred in 1507, Richard Shelton in 1530 and 1532 and Thomas Manning, Prior of Butley, 1539-1542.

The mark occurs differenced by being made on the opposite side of the bill.

33. THE PRIOR OF ST. OLAVES. There are at least six variants of this mark, pointing to a prolonged period of use before the dissolution and carrying it well back into the fifteenth century. The names of the Priors do not seem to be recorded.

## (C) PRIVATE OWNERS.

- 34. Hugh Austen, of Framlingham Castle. He was at the siege of Caister Castle in 1469.
- 35. Bateman No christian name is given, but it is clear that this was the mark of the Batemans of Flixton and derived from their coat of arms:—"Sable, three crescents, ermine, within a bordure engrailed argent."
- 36. SIR JOHN BREWES, of Wenham, d. 1585.

- 37. ROBERT BUMPSTED, of Willingham St. Mary, d. 1482.
- 38. RICHARD CODINGTON, of Ixworth Abbey, which was granted to him by Henry VIII in exchange for Nonesuch Manor in Surrey. He died in 1567.
- 39. SIR WILLIAM CORNWALLIS, of Brome, knighted 1599, d. 1616. He succeeded his father at Brome in 1604.
- 40. SIR RICHARD FRESTON, of Mendham, to whom the Priory and other lands there were granted in 1555. He died in 1557. The mark goes back to about 1425 and was owned by a succession of Yarmouth families (see *Trans. Norf. and Nor. Nat. Soc.* XII, p 448, No. 107), of whom the last holder was John Lavile. Sir Richard evidently succeeded him. How long it remained in his family is uncertain, but it passed eventually to the Cornwallis's of Brome.
- 41. NICHOLAS GARNEYS, of Redisham, d. 1599. The mark evidently had one, or more, earlier owners, the original one having the initials E.A., but who he was is not recorded.
- 42. Hansard, of Whittingham. No christian name is given. The family came to an end with the death of Giles in 1517.
- 43. Howes of Winston. So recorded on the roll, dated 1667, but I cannot find anything about the family.
- 44. RICHARD JENKINSON. This is presumably Richard of Tunstall, who was sheriff of Norfolk in 1600 and 1616 and used the Tunstall Hall mark in Norfolk waters (t.c. p. 444, No. 84). He used this one at Oulton.
- 45. SIR EDMOND JENNEY, of Knotishall, knighted 1501, died 1522. The mark is also recorded for Edmond Jenney, presumably the second son of his son and heir William.
- 46. SIR EDMOND JENNEY, *idem*. In the seventeenth century this mark was used by George Tasburgh of Flixton Hall.
- 47. SIR EDMOND JENNEY, idem. This was actually a Norfolk mark and belonged originally to Sir Roger Boyes of Little Plumstead, Crostwick and Honing

- early in the fifteenth century (t.c. p. 446, No. 99). It was acquired by Sir Edmond through his marriage with Katherine, the daughter and heir of Robert Boyes, the son and heir of Sir Roger.
- 48. WILLIAM JENNEY, of Knotishall, son and heir of Sir Edmond.
- 49. SIR AMBROSE JERMYN, of Rushbrooke, knighted 1553, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1558 and 1572, died 1576.
- 50, 51. Jermyn. No christian names are given with either of these but presumably they belonged to one branch or other of the Rushbrooke family.
- 52. LADY KINGSTON Mary the daughter and co-heir of Sir Richard le Scrope, the second son of Henry, Lord Scrope of Bolton, was the wife first of Sir Edward Jernegan of Somerleyton and secondly of Sir William Kingston, K.G., who was knighted in 1513 and died in 1541. She owned the Hundreds of Lothingland and Mutford and the manors of Mutford and Lowestoft, and died in 1547.
- 53. CAPTN. ANDREW LEAKE, of Oulton. This mark is probably of middle seventeenth century date.
- 54. Robert Morse, of Stuston.
- 55. Christopher Reeve, of Oulton Hall, which he succeeded to on the death of his uncle, Sir Edmond Reeve, in 1647. He died in 1690. Sir Edmond had purchased Oulton from Anthony Hobart in 1631.
- 56. SIR THOMAS SECKFORD, of Seckford Hall, near Woodbridge, Master of the Court of Requests and living in 1587.
- 57. WILLIAM SIDNOR, of Blundeston, d. 1613. The mark originally belonged to Edmund Widwell, who was Bailiff of Yarmouth in 1422 and 1426. It cannot have belonged to Sidnor before 1570, but the intermediate owners are not recorded.
- 58. Simon Smyth, of Winston, viv. 1570.
- 59. John Tasburgh, of St. Peter's Hall, South Elmham St. Peter. There were at least three successive generations with this name, the third John being

alive in 1561. Sir John, who was knighted in 1603, also used the mark, but differenced it by omitting the annulet.

The mark is pretty certainly derived from the family arms:—"Argent, a chevron sable between three pilgrims staves with pouches hanging on them of the second, garnished or."

- 60. SIR PHILLIP TILNEY, of Shelley, d. 1524. This mark is also presumably derived from the family arms:—"Azure a chevron between three griffins' heads erased gules, armed or," the crescent being taken from the second quarter of the arms:—"Azure, three crescents argent" (for Thorpe, Sir Phillip's grandmother's family).
- 61. JOHN WENTWORTH, of Darsham and Belton, d. 1618-19. The mark had previously belonged to Roger Stanhowe, of Bedingham in Norfolk who died in 1558 and was presumably purchased from his son William who was of Bedingham and Beccles.
- 62. SIR JOHN WENTWORTH, of Somerleyton and Belton, High Sheriff 1635, died 1651. He was the son and heir of John (No. 61). The mark had originally belonged to the Prior of a monastery, which is unnamed on the roll. It was sold by Sir John before 1649 to a Mrs. Steward, whom it is not possible to identify.

Sir John was the owner of a roll of Broadland swanmarks, which was made for him by John Martin in 1649. A copy of it by Dawson Turner is in the British Museum and several of the marks reproduced in this paper are taken from it.

63. Francis Wrote of Gunton, viv: 1649. This mark originally belonged to Richard Blundevile of Newton Flotman in Norfolk, who died in 1490. After descending in his family it eventually passed to Robert King through his marriage with Patience the daughter and co-heir of Thomas Blundevile, Richard's great-grandson. How it afterwards passed to Francis Wrote is uncertain. (t.c. p. 449, No. 115).

64. Humphrey Yarmouth, of Blundeston, who succeeded his father Humphrey in 1557 and sold Blundeston together with this mark to William Sidnor (No. 57) in 1570. The Yarmouths owned Blundeston as far back as 1438, but as no christian name is given with this mark on the roll it would be unsafe to credit it to an earlier member of the family than the younger Humphrey.

## SUFFOLK OWNERS OF FENLAND MARKS.

- 65. ROBERT AUSTEN, of Mildenhall.
- 66. SIR NICHOLAS BACON, of Redgrave, knighted 1558, d. 1579. He was granted a number of manors lately belonging to the dissolved monasteries of, amongst others, Walsingham and Thetford, and it was presumably on some of these in the Fenland that this mark was used.
- 67. EDMUND BEDINGFIELD, of Huntingfield. This mark, known by the name of "the double Bowes," passed through a long succession of owners between about 1500 and 1712, nearly all of whom belonged to the Marshland district of Norfolk, while the swans bearing it almost certainly inhabited the waters about Upwell on the Norfolk-Cambridge border. This Edmund Bedingfield obtained the mark, presumably by purchase, from Mathie Walsingham of Reepham, some time after 1600 and sold it to James Tiffin of Emneth in 1622. The full pedigree of the mark together with the deed of sale to James Tiffin will be found in the Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Nat. Soc., XII, pp. 623, 624.
- 68. SIR WILLIAM CORDALL, of Long Melford, Master of the Rolls, d. 1581. He owned property in, and his wife the manor of, Market Deeping in South Lincolnshire, so that it was presumably in this neighbourhood that he used the mark. It had several earlier and later Fenland owners.
- 69. John Dobbes, of Aspall, alive in 1621.

- 70. SIR HENRY DOYLEY, of Pondhall, in Hadleigh, to which he succeeded in 1534. He married Jane the daughter and heir of William Elwyn, of Wiggenhall St. James, so that the mark was probably used on her property there. He was knighted in 1546, was High Sheriff in 1557 and died in 1564.
- 71. SIR ROBERT DREWRY, of Rougham. This mark forms an interesting pair with that of Sir Drew Drewry (t.c. p. 457, No. 171) because the two branches of the family have adopted as their respective marks different components of the family arms:—"Argent, an annulet gules, on a chief vert a cross tau between two mullets of the first, pierced gules," Sir Drew taking the chief and cross tau and Sir Robert the two pierced mullets.
- 72. HENRY EVERARD, of Linstead, who succeeded to Fittons Manor, Wiggenhall St. Germans, and this mark, on the death of his kinsman John Everard in 1573 (t.c. p. 605, No. 102).
- 73. SIR THOMAS JERMEY, K.B., of Brightwell, who acquired the mark by his marriage with Joan, the daughter and heir of Sir Edward Steward of Taversham, near Cambridge.
- 74. SIR HENRY NORTH, of Mildenhall, knighted 1586, died 1620.
- 75. Henry Reppes of Mendham, d. 1558. The mark is derived from the family arms:—"Ermine, three chevronels sable," and was used by four other branches of the family, all resident in Marshland, each branch having its own method of differencing it (cf. t.c. p. 625, Nos. 196-200). Presumably the birds of the Mendham branch were mixed with those of the others.
- 76. SIR JOHN SPRINGE, of Hitcham, d. 1547. This mark, known by the name of "the Bound Coples or Copled Sparres," had previously been owned by Richard Binknorth of Thetford, so presumably the birds marked with it were on the Little Ouse. After Sir John Springe it passed to later owners in Wisbech and Marshland (vide t.c. p. 596, No. 54). The small

- cross is Sir John's difference mark and was not used by any of the other owners.
- 77. SIR WILLIAM SPRINGE, of Pakenham, Sheriff of Suffolk 1578, knighted 1578, died 1599.
- 78. SIMEON STEWARD, of Lakenheath, viv: 1557. He acquired this mark by his marriage with Joan, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Edward Besbney of Soham, Cambs., who died in 1540 (see Brit. Birds Mag., vol. XIX, p. 306). As used by him the mark was without the gaps on the left edge of the bill, but contained a second one on the right edge just proximal to the W.
- 79, 80 SIMEON STEWARD, idem. He succeeded to both these marks from his father Nicholas Steward of Outwell in Norfolk, whose great-grandfather, Sir John Steward of Swaffham, had owned No. 79 in 1436, having inherited it from his father, so that it goes back well to the beginning of the fifteenth century (see t.c. p. 626, Nos. 212, 213). No. 80 was differenced by Simeon by inverting the central design.
- 81. SIR HENRY WARNER, of Warnhill Hall, Mildenhall, knighted 1603, died 1617.
- 82. WARNER OF MILDENHALL. No christian name is given.
- 83. SIR HENRY WENTWORTH, of Nettlestead, died 1499. The mark was afterwards used by his descendants, the Lords Wentworth.
- 84. LORD WENTWORTH. Sir Thomas Wentworth of Nettlestead, grandson of Sir Henry (No. 83), was created Baron Wentworth in 1529 and died in 1551. There is no means of knowing whether he or one of his successors was the first owner of the mark.
- 85. SIR HENRY WESTON, knighted 1558, High Sheriff of Norfolk 1577 and still alive in 1580. He seems to have been a Suffolk man, but I have not yet located him.





