

PLAYFORD AND THE FELTONS.

I have undertaken to read a paper on Playford and the Feltons ; for it is the province of archæology to re-people as it were the places which we visit, with their old inhabitants, and to spread over the ancient walls and turrets which are the objects of our curiosity, the furniture of the old English life which once clothed and animated them. Mere stones, however picturesquely grouped, or grandly piled, are dull and dead things unless we can compel them to tell us something either of the living men who built them into human habitations, or of those who dwelt in them

after they were built. But the very ground under our feet, the very ditches, and hedges, and roads which bound and divide it, and much more, the old oaks and willows which have been so long tenants of the land, and whose branches seem to be hung with the memories of centuries, have a solemn interest when by the force of association they help us to realize the manners, the characters, the actions, the faces the dress, and the appearance of the men of

bygone generations. I may add, however, if you will pardon so long an exordium, that in our archæological views of places there is sometimes a little pardonable, or rather unavoidable, deception. We cannot help throwing upon the spot we are viewing the concentrated light which we collect in one focus, though in reality it was dispersed over several ages and several places, and shone but feebly at any one spot or at one given time. We invest, too, the characters of the past with a few more virtues, and a somewhat brighter hue of heroism, than really belonged to them. Our knights are stouter and more generous, and our ladies more lovely and tender-hearted, as they appear to our

archæological vision, than they were perhaps in reality. Still it is a real gain if, in spite of a little too high coloring, "the great characteristic features of past times are imprinted on the mind for ever." *

I shall endeavour in the first instance to put together the little I have been able to learn concerning Playford itself. And then shall tell you all I know about the Feltons and other families connected with the parish. But before doing so, I would express the great obligation I am under to two gentlemen—our host, Thomas Clarkson, Esq., and the Rev. Edward Moor, Rural Dean. Mr. Moor, in the most liberal manner, sent to me by Mr. Clarkson four vols. of his valuable collections relating to his rural deanery, from which I have extracted much of the information which I shall lay before you to-day. I had also received some documents, including three original letters, from one who took a deep interest in all that related to this parish, of which he was a distinguished ornament—I mean the late Arthur Biddell. I had some correspondence with him on the subject of our meeting here, in which he exhibited his wonted kindness of disposition and vigour of understanding, and I had looked forward with much pleasure to seeing him on my visit here to-day. But God has otherwise ordered it, and another good man sleeps in the churchyard of Playford.

The parish of Playford, in the hundred of Carleford, is thus described in *Domesday Book*:—

H de Carleford
 Plegeforda ten. & ymfrid' fili' Rob'ti. de R. Malet. & tenuit Goduin' fili' alferi. sub regina. t. R. E. i. M. iii. caruc t'rræ. The viii. vill. m^o. iiii. The iii bord. m^o. xxiii. & i. burg'. de Gipeswic. The vi. ser. m^o. i. The in dn'io iii caſ. m^o. ii. The hou' viii. car'. m^o. iiii. Silva ad xx. por. xx aer. p'ti. & i mol. The iii r. The xv. an. m^o. i. The LXIX por. m^o. xxv. The CLX. ov. m^o. xxvi. The vi. vasa apu'. m^o. i. The valuit viii. lib'. m^o. c. sol. i. æcel'a. x aer. & i. val. xx. d. et in eâdem xii lib'i ho'es. comdati. ejusde' G. (odwini) pt. ii. ætheric. & Blacheman' de quib' habuit Halden comd. antec'. G. de

* Macaulay's *Essay on Machiavelli*.

magn'. vill. c. acr. træ. Tnc. III. car, m. II. & II acr. & d. pti. & val. xx sol. R. saca' & soca' & consuetudo & hab & in longo 1 leug. & dim. in lato & de Gelt. IX. d.

By which it appears that it then had a mansion and a church, xi carucates and xx acres of arable, xx acres of meadow, and woodland for xx pigs. The population amounted to 40: viz., 4 villains, 23 bordarii, 1 burgher of Ipswich, 1 serf, and 12 free men (there had been 6 serfs in King Edward's time and only 3 bordarii). There was 1 mill, 1 bee-hive (6 in King Edward's time). There had been 3 rouncies (horses) in King Edward's time, but apparently none now; 1 cow, against 15 in King Edward's time; 26 sheep, instead of 160 T. R. E. The value of the manor had been viii pounds, but was now only 100 solidi.

Between the conquest and Edward the Third's reign, the value of the parish must have greatly increased, since we find the following account of Playford in the *Inquis. Non-arum*, temp. Edward III. The value of the living had also increased; 40 acres having been given it out of the *dominium*, in addition to the 10 it had at the survey:—

Ext'. xii. m̃r'.

Non' garb' vell & agn' ejusdem vill. val' p ann. vj mrc iij's. et no' plus. eo qd rect' ejus eccl'ie h't de dnic' p'dæ ecclie xl acr' terr' et val' p ann' xxs. p't acr' vjd. Itm past' p'tin' ad dc'am eccl'iam val' p ann' vjs. viiid. Itm redd' de'e eccl'ie val' p ann' iij's. viijd. fenu deeim' val' p ann' xxvjs. viijd. Itm oblatôes & appert' valent p ann' xxs.

Et dc'a ecclia tax' ad viijli. und' terr' d'nic & altar' val' lxxvjs. Et sic est s'm ix^e. iiijli. iij's.

In which extract it is interesting to notice the importance of the wool and the lambs; of which the *nona garba* or ninth part, literally the ninth sheaf, was worth 6 marks 3s., although the Rector of the church had 40 acres of the domain, which consequently did not pay *nones* or *ninths* (value 20s. at 6d. an acre, if I rightly understand the passage), on the principle that *Ecclesia decimas non solvit ecclesiæ*. The ninth was due only from the dominica, and was usually paid to some other church, being originally somewhat of the nature of a gift, not compulsory.*

* Nona scil. garba, in Ducange.

The parish contains 650 acres; and the population, according to the census of 1851, was 260. The tithes and glebe, and the whole church property, were given by Robert Malet, who was lord of Playford at the time of the Domesday survey, to the priory of Benedictines, founded by him at Eye; and were granted at the dissolution of monasteries, by Henry the Eighth, to Edward Bedingfield (according to Kirby); but a MS. note of Davy's says that the church and rectory were granted successively to Charles, Duke of Suffolk, Ann of Cleves, and Thomas Sekeford. They are now the property of the lord of the manor; and the sole provision from the land for the Perpetual Curate, is an annual rent-charge of £12. 12s. 0d., on the Playford Hall estate. This, however, is somewhat increased by sundry augmentations from Queen Anne's Bounty, and by a house built on land given for the purpose by Lord Bristol, before the year 1845. Of other early grants of land in the parish, I find that Hervey Fitz Peter gave the rent of half a mark (equal to 2s. 6d., *Mr. Davy*) in Playford, to West Dereham abbey, on its foundation by Hubert fil. Hervey Walter, together with certain homages, before 1189, temp. Henrici II.; which grant was confirmed by King John: * a rent of 1s. 2d. was due to the priory of the Holy Trinity, in Ipswich; and of 8s. to the priory of Eye. The property in Playford belonging to Bury St. Edmund's Abbey, which existed before the conquest, by the grant of Stigand Lanerd, in the time of the first Abbot Unius, ob. 1044, seems to have ceased very soon after, since the whole parish belonged to Robert Malet at the time of the compilation of Domesday.†

There appear to have been in old times three or four manors in the parish: *viz.*, Playford now Playford Hall, with Mitchells, the manor of Lees, and the manor of Mere or Meer hall. The three former were held together from very remote times; but the latter belonged to the De Holbrooks at least as early as 1330, and was inherited from them by the Fastolfs (by the marriage of Sir John Fastolf

* Blomefield, vol. vii., p. 332.

† MS. of Mr. Davy.

with Margery de Holbrook), who were lords from about 1400 to 1507. It then passed to the Rushes, till after 1537. It was part of the dower of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Anthony Felton, in 1613; and in 1723, Elizabeth, Countess of Bristol, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Felton, had it, since which time it has gone as the manor of Playford.

There is no exact record of the time when Playford Hall was first built for a manorial house, but the site is probably the same as that of the *mansio* mentioned in Domesday Book. The present picturesque and curious Hall was built in the 16th century; one date on it is 1589, but some parts are evidently much older. It has been stated* that Sir George Felbrigge built it, but I know not on what authority. It is in itself very probable that he may have built a house here, of which portions still remain, or did remain, till they were taken down in the last century. An old man of the name of Hustleton, who died about 1840, informed Mrs. Clarkson that he remembered, when a boy, a chapel being attached to the east of the present dining-room, completing the north side; at right angles to which chapel ran the east side, corresponding with the present west, so that the present moat washed three sides of the Hall in those days. The Hall, as it now is, is in fact just one-half of what it originally was. Old Hustleton remembered the chapel, &c., "being taken down."

"The last occupiers of the Feltons were two maiden ladies, who were succeeded at the hall by a tenant that was a schoolmaster. After his time, it was reduced to its present condition of a farm-house, and occupied by Mr. Cutting. After him came Thos. Clarkson."† It is said (print of Playford hall, *Davy*) anciently to have had a drawbridge on the east, and a gallery on the south, and to have had four sides enclosing the court yard, but this is very improbable. The drawbridge must have been on the south side, and the shape of the house a half H.

The water-mill is probably, as in so many other cases,

* Clark's *History of Ipswich*.

† MS. note of Rev. E. J. Moor,

the identical one as to its site, mentioned in Domesday Book as the *molendina* belonging to Robert Malet.

The church is said to have been built, or rather restored, in the 14th century, by Sir George Felbrigg, who in Harvey's collections is called "its founder." The following notices are extracted from Mr. Moor's MS. vol. :—

"The church, or at the least the porch of it, was built by Sir Geo. Felbrigg. To him succeeded John Felbrigg, whose daughter and heiress marrying Thos. Sampson of Brettenham, Esq., carried Playford into that family.

"On Sir Geo. Felbrigg's tomb is a very fine engraved brass plate, representing his effigies in armour, with a legend round the stone in old French. Its age about the latter end of the 14th century.—(*MSS. Rev. T. Carthew.*)

"Sir George Felbrigg, whose will was proved May 18, 1401, was buried in the church of St. Mary of Playford, Suffolk. In a window of the church of Playford, which was built by Sir George Felbrigg, was his portraiture and that of his lady Margaret, and the arms of Felbrigg impaling Aspal, Az., three chevronells Or. Sir John Felbrigg, by his will dated Oct. 2, 1423, was buried in the chancel of Playford church, in which church were the arms of Felbrigg impaling Waldgrave, probably his lady. Thos. Sampson, Esq., and Margery his wife, were there buried. Thomas died in 1439."—(*Blomefield's Norfolk*, vol. viii., p. 111.)

"Sir George Felbrigg (younger brother of Sir Simon Felbrigg of Felbrigg, Norfolk,*) and lord of the manor of Playford, in Suffolk, died 1400, and was buried in the north wall of the nave of Playford church, in a chauntry founded by him. His slab remains, and on it his figure in complete armour, a pointed helmet, whiskers, gorget of mail and gauntlets, a lion rampant on his breast, a sword and dagger, picked shoes, a lion at feet. The canopy over him rests on double pillars with an embattled base of quatrefoils: in the point of the arch a lion rampant. The same coat is in the north window. Upon opening the grave in 1784, at five feet depth, were found bones—a skull, a jaw, a tibia, vertebrae, and the os ischium—and a rusty nail in wood. All that remains of the inscription is 'ceste... funda. de. per. al. dieu. Loange. et. suc-mier... pur. l'alme. de. lui. A. dieu. quil est. pete. ei.'—the last word is imperfect; the stops

* This is an error. Sir George Felbrigg was descended from John Bigod, younger brother of Sir Simon Felbrigg;

which Simon was grandfather of Sir Simon Felbrigg.

are an M over a half rose. On the key stone of the porch, an angel holds the arms of Felbrigg. In the window Weever saw: John (George) Felbrigg and Margery his wife."—(*Gough's Sepulchral Monuments*, vol. iii., p. 134.)

"Playford Cherche.—John Felbrydge and Margery his wyef, in the glass wyndow.

"Thomas Sampson, Esquyer, which dyed in Anno M. ccccxxxix., and Margery his wyef."—(*Weever's Fun. Mon.*, p. 783.)

CHURCH NOTES.

"In the Cherche of Pleyford:—

1. *Felbryge*, Or, a lion rampant Gu., on his shoulder a mullet Or, impaling *Walgrave*, per pale G. and Or.
2. Ar., a saltire engrailed G.
3. Or, a lion rampant G.

Iorge Felbrigg, Knight, and Margery his wyef, in the glas wyndow, with the iiij Armes following. (Prob. Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5.)

4. Gu., 6 escallops Arg., 3, 2, 1.
5. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Sa., a cross engrailed Or; 2 and 3, Gu., a cross moline Arg.

Thom. Sampson, Esquyer, wch dyed A^o M^hIIJ^cxxxix, and Margery his wyef.

6. *Sampson*, a cross billeteè, and }
 7. *Felbrige*, Or, a lion rampant G. }
8. *Sampson*, as above, impaling 2 coats. 1, in chief, a lion rampant; 2, in base, three chevrons.
9. Quarterly, 1, *Sampson*, as above; 2, a lion rampant; 3, Erm., on a chief indented, two lions rampant; 4, three chevrons.

Iorge Felbrige, Knight, wch was founder of this cherche of Playford.

10. *Elmham*, Arg., a fess G., between three eagles displayed Sa.
11. *Thorpe*, B., three crescents Ar.
12. George Felbrige and Aspull. *Felbrige*, as above, impaling *Aspull*, B., three chevrons Or.
13. Or, a chevron between three etoiles, Gu.
14. Or, two chevrons B., in chief two mullets Ar.
15. *Debenham*, S., a bend two crescents Or."—(*MSS. B. M., Aysc. Cat.*, No. 4969, fo. 756 and 76. *Harvey's Collections*.)

"Playford font is a hexagon with a shaft, hollowed into niches."—(*Gough on Fonts, Archaeologia*, vol. x., p. 198.)

We will now turn to give some account of the families and individuals of note, who have been connected with Playford ; giving our chief attention, "as in duty bound," to the family of Felton. And first, I will merely cite the lists of the lords of the manor, as I find them in Mr. Moor's volume, completing them to the present time :—

MANOR OF PLAYFORD.

NOW CALLED PLAYFORD, WITH MITCHELLS, LEES, AND
MEER HALL.

T. R. E.		The Queen.
		Godwin, son of Alfer, held of her.
Wm. I.		Robert Malet.
		Humphrey, son of Robert, held of him.
29 E. I.	1301.	Robert de St. Quintin, and Segeyna, his wife.
9 E. II.	1316.	John de Playford.
		Sir George de Felbrigg, Kt. ; died 2 Henry the Fourth, 1400-1.
2 H. IV.	1401.	Sir John Felbrigg, Kt., son and heir ; died 2 Henry the Sixth, 1423.
2 H. VI.	1423.	Margery, daughter and heir, married Thomas Sampson, Esq. ; died 17 Henry the Sixth, 1439.
17 H. VI.	1439.	George Sampson, Esq., son and heir ; died 1458.
36 H. VI.	1458.	Thomas Sampson, Esq., son and heir ; died 16 Edward the Fourth, 1476.
16 E. IV.	1476.	Sir Thomas Sampson, Kt., son and heir ; died 3 Henry the Eighth, 1512.
4 H. VIII.	1512.	Thomas Felton, Esq., son and heir of Margery, wife of Robert Felton, and sister and heir of Sir Thomas Sampson ; died 1 Elizabeth.
1 Eliz.	1558.	Thomas Felton, Esq., son and heir ; died 19 Elizabeth.
19 Eliz.	1577.	Sir Anthony Felton, Kt., son and heir ; died 1613.
	1613.	Sir Henry Felton, First Baronet, son and heir.
		Sir Henry Felton, Second Baronet, son and heir.
		Sir Adam Felton, Third Baronet, son and heir ; died <i>s.p.</i>
		Sir Thomas Felton, Fourth Baronet, brother and heir ; died 1708

1703. Sir Compton Felton, Fifth Baronet, brother and heir; died *s.p.m.* 1719.
 1719. Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Felton, Fourth Baronet, married John Hervey, First Earl of Bristol; she died 1741, he died 1751.
 1751. George William, Second Earl of Bristol, grandson and heir; died unmarried, 1775.
 1775. Augustus John, Third Earl of Bristol, brother and heir; died *s.p.*, 1779.
 1779. Frederick Augustus, Fourth Earl of Bristol, brother and heir, Bishop of Derry; died 1803.
 1803. Frederick William, Fifth Earl of Bristol, son and heir, created Marquess of Bristol ob. Feb. 15, 1859.
 1859. Frederick William, Second Marquess and Sixth Earl of Bristol, son and heir.

MANOR OF MERE; OR, MEER HALL.

- John de Holbroke.
 4 E. III. 1330. Margaret, his widow, claimed two parts as dower.
 18 E. III. 1344. Sir Thomas de Holbroke, Kt.
 John de Holbroke, Kt., and Maud his wife; he died 49 Edward the Third.
 Margery, daughter and co-heir of Sir John de Holbroke, wife of Sir John Fastoff, Kt.; he died 7 Henry the Fourth, 1406.
 1 H. IV. 1400. Sir Hugh Fastoff, Kt., son and heir; died 5 Henry the Fifth, 1417.
 5 H. V. 1417. Matilda, his widow; died 1435.
 13 H. VI. 1435. Sir John Fastoff, Kt., son and heir; died 1445.
 23 H. VI. 1445. Thomas Fastoff, Esq., son and heir.
 John Fastoff, Esq., son and heir; died 23 Henry the Seventh, 1507.
 23 H. VII. 1507. George Fastoff, Esq., son and heir.
 Arthur Rushe, Esq.; died 29 Henry the Eighth.
 29 H. VIII. 1557. Anthony Rushe, Esq., son and heir.
 After 1613. [Elizabeth, widow of Sir Anthony Felton, Kt.]
 1723. Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Felton, Bart., married John, First Earl of Bristol; he died 1751.
 After 1723. Same as Manor of Playford.

MANOR OF LEES.

- Margery Sampson ; died 17 Henry the Sixth,
1439.
- 16 E. IV. 1476. Thomas Sampson, Esq., son and heir [of
George] ; died 1476.
- 1 R. III. 1483. Sir Thomas Sampson, Kt., son and heir ; died
4 Henry the Eighth.
- 4 H. VIII. 1512. Thomas Felton, Esq., son of Margery, wife of
Robert Felton, sister and heir of Sir Thomas
Sampson ; died 1 Elizabeth.
- 1 Eliz. 1558. Thomas Felton, Esq., son and heir ; died 19
Elizabeth, 1577.

Since which, it has gone with and had the
same lords with the Manor of Playford.

Mr. Davy was unable to find any connection between John de Playford and Sir George Felbrigge, Kt., and so concluded that Sir George acquired the property by purchase. But from his time (the latter part of the 15th century), the manor and estate of Playford has passed by regular inheritance, three times by females, to the present owner.

The De Felbrigges were a younger branch of the Bigods, Earls of Norfolk, according to the pedigree of them given by Blomefield and others (see *Appendix D*). Sir Simon le Bigod, third son of Hugh, Earl of Norfolk, marrying Maud, daughter and heiress of Richard de Felbrigge, his descendants took the name of Felbrigge with the property. John le Bigod, second son of Sir Roger, the son of the above-named Sir Simon, had the lordship of Tuttington,* in Suffolk, in 13 Edward the Third, by gift of his father, and was succeeded in it by his son Roger. The son of Roger was Sir George Felbrigge, who acquired the manor of Playford. This Sir George, about the end of King Edward the Third's reign, was Esquire of the body to that King. In the forty-first year of that reign, the King wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury, his Chancellor, to pardon his beloved Esquire, George de Felbrigg, for money due to the

* Qu. Tattingstone, of which the De Holbrookes were lords in 9 Edward the First. On the other hand, Tannington is written Tatintuna (*Suffolk Traveller*).

Tottington Hall was a manor of Sir Simon Felbrigge, in Norfolk ; and Tuttington, of Sir Thomas Wymondham's. — (See *Blomefield in Felbrigg*.)

crown, for lands granted to him on the forfeiture of John But, of Norwich, dated 8th of June. In 1 Richard the Second, he was one of the jury who found Alice Perers (late King Edward the Third's mistress), guilty of maintenance. In the 7th of that King, he and Margery his wife, held the manors of Wortham and Ingham, in Suffolk; and about the said time, Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, granted to him and Roger Mareschall, Esq., the manor and park of Standon, in Hertfordshire, to farm. His seal was then a lion salient; and crest, a plume of peacock's feathers issuing out of a ducal coronet. And that of Mareschall, a chevron between three crescents. He was in the King's army when he marched against the Scots, in his 9th year; was knighted by him on his entrance into that country, and had, on Sept. 9, a grant of £40 per annum, for life, payable out of the issues of Norfolk and Suffolk, by the Sheriff; was appointed one of the King's Proctors, in his 10th year, to conclude a league with William, Duke of Guelderland, and by Thomas, Duke of Gloucester and Constable of England, October 12, and in the 15th year of the said King, one of the Lieutenants in the Court of Chivalry, to hear and determine the cause between the Lords Morley and Lovell. He built the church porch at Playford, and repaired or re-built a large part of the church itself. His fine brass, described above, is one of the chief ornaments of it at the present day. He is said also, as before mentioned, to have built the manor house.

In right of his first wife Alice, daughter and heir of Sir Roger de Hales, he held by courtesy the manor of Hales Hall. His will is dated Feb. 3, 1400; and he appointed Margery, his wife, and Sir Roger Drury, his executors.

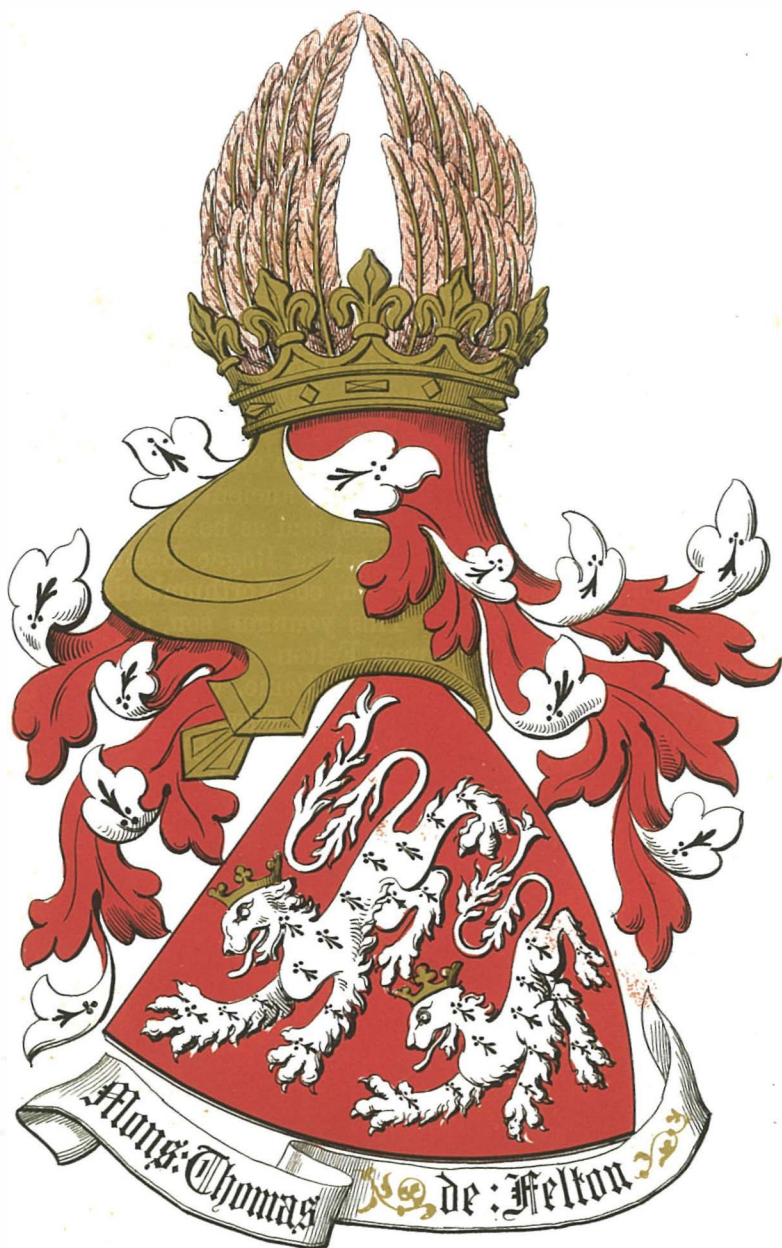
He was succeeded by his son, Sir John Felbrigg. During his life, the elder branch, seated at Felbrigg, became extinct in the male line. Sir Simon, who had left the reversion of some of his manors to Sir John, had directed Felbrigg and Aylmerton to be sold to pay his debts, and John Wymondham had purchased them. He was residing at Felbrigg with his wife, the Lady Margery, daughter of Sir Robert

Clifton, of Bokenham, and relict of Sir Edward Hastings, of Elsing. Sir John Felbrigg, conceiving that he had a right to Felbrigg as heir-at-law, made a forcible entry into the manor house. John Wymondham was from home at the time, but the Lady Margery was in the house. Sir John threatened to set the house on fire; and when this threat failed to induce the lady to go, he seized her by the hair of her head, and dragged her out, and took possession. The King, however, ordering that John Wymondham be put in possession, Sir John Felbrigg withdrew his claim on payment of 200 marks to him by Wymondham.

The manor of Crownthorp, in Norfolk, was conveyed to this Sir John, by William Hales, and Margery his wife.

Sir John Felbrigg's wife Margery, was a Waldegrave, as appears from his impaling Waldegrave. His will was dated Oct. 2, 1423. He was buried in the chancel of Playford church.

His only daughter and heir, Margery, married Thomas Sampson, Esq., and carried the Playford estate into that family. The Sampsons were not destined, however, to hold it long. George Sampson, the son and heir of Thomas and Margery, succeeded them, and died in 1458. His son and heir, Thomas, died in 1476, leaving two children—a son, Sir Thomas Sampson, Kt., who succeeded him, and died without children, in 1512; and a daughter, Margery, the wife of Robert Felton, of Shotley, Esq., who was heir to her brother, and brought the Playford estate to the Feltons. Nothing more is known of the Sampsons who were lords of Playford. But one person of note, Thomas Sampson, born about 1519, was probably a member of this family, as he was born at Playford. He was an eminent puritan preacher and divine. He was educated at Oxford, and studied at the Temple. Becoming a protestant, he took holy orders in 1549, and became Rector of All-Hallows, Bread Street, to which he was collated in March, 1551, and resigned in 1553. He was made Dean of Chichester in 1552. On Queen Mary's accession, he retired to Strasbourg, and returned when Elizabeth came to



*Garter Plate of Sir Thomas Felton,
in St. George's Chapel.*

the throne. He was designed in 1560, for the Bishopric of Norwich, but he refused it on account, as is supposed, of his strong puritanism. He became Dean of Christ Church in 1561, but on account of his non-conformity, was ejected by Archbishop Parker, in 1564. He afterwards became Master of the Hospital founded at Leicester, by William de Wigston;* and a Prebendary of St. Paul's, in 1570; and Theological Lecturer in Whittington College, London; but being attacked with palsy, in 1576, he retired to his hospital, where he died in 1589, and was buried in the chapel there, at Leicester. His works consist of several sermons and theological treatises.

The family of Felton, a branch of which became lords of Playford, in 1513, were a very ancient and illustrious one; descended, as Collins thinks, and as he shews to be highly probable, from a younger son of Roger Bertram, Baron of Mitford, and Lord of Felton, co. Northumberland, who died 26 Henry the Third. This younger son, called Pagan or Paine, was Lord of Upper Felton. William Fitz-Paine or De Felton, the elder son of Paine, was a Commander of great note in the Scotch wars of Edward the First; and his son, Sir William de Felton, Kt., was Sheriff of Northumberland, King's Justice for Scotland, Governor of Bamburgh and Roxburgh castles, Seneschal of Poictou and Limousin, and employed in divers honourable services by Edward the Second and Third. He was summoned as a Peer of the realm to sit in Parliament, 16 Edward the Third. He was killed in battle in Spain, 41 Edward the Third, while attending the Duke of Lancaster. Robert de Felton, second son of the above-named Paine, had the manor of Litcham, in Norfolk; and in 25 Edward the First, had the King's license to hold a market in it. His son was also a Peer of Parliament, and is thought to be the same who was knighted with great solemnity, 34 Edward the First, with 300 others, at the high altar of Westminster Abbey. His son, Sir John Felton, Kt., of Litcham, Norfolk, was also a Peer of Parliament, in 16 Edward the Third. But of all the

* See *Appendix A.*

Felton family, the most illustrious was Thomas de Felton, K.G., second son of the above-named Sir John; and on the death of his elder brother, or, as Gage says, his father, Hamon, became lord of Litcham. Frequent mention is made of him in Froissart's *Chronicles*, and a good memoir of him is given in Beltz's *Memorials of the Order of the Garter*. "The important services," says the latter writer, "for which this eminent person was distinguished, were chiefly performed in Aquitaine, where his military talents were long and successfully employed by his illustrious patron, the Prince of Wales, and where he discharged, during 14 years, the high ministerial function of Seneschal." In 1361, he witnessed the marriage of the Black Prince. In 1364, he attended the festivities at Angoulême, in honour of the King of Cyprus; was employed with Sir John Chandos in negotiating a treaty with the King of Navarre; was taken prisoner in a desperate battle, in which 200 English and Gascon knights and esquires encountered 6000 French and Spanish soldiers, the same in which his kinsman, Sir William Felton, the Seneschal of Limousin, was killed. Being exchanged, he continued to be employed in affairs of great trust, till in an unfortunate encounter with the French near Bordeaux, Nov. 1, 1377, he was taken prisoner by Jean de Lignac. His ransom was fixed at 30,000 francs, and three years given him to raise it in. This large sum was only raised eventually by the aid of King Richard, who placed at his disposal a French prisoner, Guillaume de Bordes, Chevalier, just at the expiration of the term, in 1380. In January, 1381, he was made K.G.; and his garter plate, of which a copy is annexed, from a drawing by William Courthope, Esq., Somerset, is still to be seen in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, in the tenth stall, on the Sovereign's side. He was the sixty-eighth knight from the foundation. He died in April of the same year. Besides his manor of Litcham and others in Norfolk, Sir Thomas Felton had property in Suffolk. He was lord of the manor called Felton's in Barrow, the reversion of which he purchased for 40 marks,

30 Edward the Third, of Sir Edmund de Creting, and had free warren therein granted him in 36 Edward the Third. He seems at the same time to have acquired rights in other lands of the De Cretings, in Risby, Saxham, the three Fornhams, Higham, and Hengrave (*Gage's Thingoe*, p. 11), and to have possessed the manor of Fordham, in Cambridgeshire. His manor of Barrow at his death, was held in trust by Robert, Bishop of London, and others, for Joan, his widow, and after her decease, for Sir John Curson and Mary his wife, Sir Thomas Felton's daughter. Sir Thomas Felton left three daughters, by Joan his wife. Mary, betrothed, but apparently never married, to Sir Edmund de Hemegrave, and afterwards married to Sir John Curson, of Beke or Beek, in Norfolk; Sibyll, wife of Sir Thomas de Morley; and Eleanor, wife of Sir Thomas de Ufford. His manor of Litcham, which he inherited from Sir Robert Felton, upon whom, and Maud his wife, daughter of Sir John le Strange, it had been settled in special tail male, reverted to the family of Le Strange, upon his death without issue male (*Gage's Thingoe*, p. 11; *Beltz's Mem. of Garter*).

Another Sir Thomas Felton was Chief Justice of Chester, from 42 Edward the Third to 5 Richard the Second. His only daughter married Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings, K.G., in the time of Henry the Sixth. According to the pedigrees he was son of Edmund Felton, which Felton was younger brother of Sir Thomas Felton, K.G., and third son of Sir John Felton, of Litcham. But this is impossible, from what has been said of the manor of Litcham. Possibly the said Edmund may have been son of the other Sir John Felton (son of Sir William), whose daughter married Sir Edward Hastings. The locality of Chester agrees better with the northern settlement of that branch; and the double alliance of Hastings, is an additional confirmation.

A branch of the Feltons were also settled at Pentlow, from the close of the fifteenth to towards the close of the sixteenth century. They are not mentioned in the pedigrees, but I am indebted to Richard Almack, Esq., for the infor-

mation of the fact, for the extracts from the registers which will be found in *Appendix B*, and for the knowledge of a tomb in Pentlow chancel, having the arms of Felton. This branch intermarried with the Druries of Rougham, the Lucys, Danyels, Carews, &c. (*Morant's History of Essex*, vol. xi., p. 323).*

The immediate ancestor of the Feltons of Playford, who seem to have been of the same branch as those of Pentlow, were settled at Shotley early in the fifteenth century, by the marriage of John Felton, Esq., with Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Mosel, Kt. But the exact connection of the Feltons of Shotley with the elder branch, is less clear than could be wished, though there can be no reasonable doubt that they were of the same stock as those already mentioned. They bore the same arms; and from the fact of the arms of Curson and Ufford being both seen in the windows of Playford church, by Tillotson, in 1594, it is evident that they considered themselves to be the kinsmen of Sir Thomas Felton, K.G. But for the reasons above given, Edmund Felton, from whom their descent is usually deduced, could not be a younger brother of Sir Thomas, K.G. Whoever he was, he married a daughter of Robert Gerrard, of Coddtenham; and his son John, married a daughter of Roger Dennys or Le Denney, who had the manor called Denneys, in Coddtenham, in the time of Edward the Third (*Supplement to Suffolk Traveller*, p. 539). What, however, was the first step towards raising this branch to distinction in Suffolk, was the marriage of John Felton, surnamed Le Chapman, from his being a merchant, with Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Mosell, Kt., and his wife Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Vis-de-lou, Kt., of

* On referring to Morant, I find that William Felton or Chapman, of Sudbury, Gent., held manor and advowson of Pentlow Hall, in 1490, and ob. 1493. Edmund Felton, his grandson (son of Edmund), presented to Pentlow 1541; and in 1564, bought of Edward, Lord Windsor, his moiety of the manors of Dynes, Hosdens, and Caxton's in Great Maplestead, but sold them again in 1565. Edmund, his

grandson (son of George), ob. 1570, but had not Pentlow (*I.g.m.* 13 Elizabeth). There was also a branch of the Feltons owners of Ovington. Timothy Felton, son of John Felton, of Northumberland, ob. 1683, was the purchaser of the lordship. His son Timothy, was High Sheriff of Essex, in 1692. Timothy or Thomas, son of the High Sheriff, sold the property, and ob. 1711.

Shelfhanger, in Norfolk, and of Shotley. The Vis-de-lous were a very ancient family, Humfridus Vis-de-lou having lived in the time of the Conqueror, and held lands in Berkshire, as appears by Domesday Book. William Vis-de-lou was lord of Shelfhanger in 1170, and it continued in his descendants till early in the fourteenth century* (*Blomefield in Brisingham and Shelfhanger*). They appear to have possessed Shotley for about the same period, seven generations of Vis-de-lous having been lords of the manor.† This ancient line terminated in the above-named Sir Thomas Vis-de-lou, who left two daughters, co-heiresses, of whom the one, Isabella, married Sir John Verdun, Kt.; the other, Margaret, married Thomas Mosel or Mossels, and brought with her the manor and estate of Shotley, as well as a portion of Shelfhanger. Joan, one of the daughters of this marriage, brought Shotley, as aforesaid, to the Feltons, by her marriage with John Felton, le Chapman; together with a portion of Shelfhanger, which was sold by their descendant, Thomas Felton of Playford, in Henry the Eighth's reign, to Richard Yaxley, the heir of Margaret Mosell, Joan's sister. This John Felton doubtless resided at Shotley, since he was buried in the chancel of Shotley church. His son John increased the family possessions in the parish, by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Edmund Alcock, but died in his father's life-time, leaving Robert, his son and heir. This Robert married Margaret, daughter of George Sampson, Esq., and sister of Sir Thomas Sampson, Kt., of Playford, who died *s.p.* in 1513. Robert Felton, however, had died in 1506, and Margaret had also died before her brother. But Thomas Felton, the son and heir of Robert and Margaret, was found to be cousin and heir to Sir Thomas Sampson, his uncle, and so acquired the Playford inheritance for the Feltons, in 4 Henry the Eighth, 1513. It was he who as above-mentioned sold his share of

* Thomas de Verdun presented to Vis-de-lou's mediety of Shelfhanger in 1313. The trustees of Sir John Verdun and Isabella (Vis-de-lou), his wife, in 1349.

† The Shotley estate has thus passed by regular descent, through 23 generations, down to the present time; a period of about 750 years.

the Vis-de-lou possessions in Shelfhanger; but the union in his person of the Felbrigg, Sampson, Vis-de-lou, Mosell, and Alcock inheritances, must have made him a considerable proprietor. He was succeeded by his son and heir Thomas; and Thomas again by his son and heir Anthony, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry, Lord Grey, on whom the manor of Playford was settled in dower, and who held it to a great old age. Anthony Felton was High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1597, and was made a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of James the First. A MS. notice speaks of him as "unfortunate," from which I infer that his character was none of the highest. Whether or no it was in consequence of anything he did in discharge of his office of Sheriff, he gave great offence to a gentleman of the name of Withipole.* The following account of the quarrel, and the judgment to which it gave rise, is extracted from Mr. Moor's collections:—

Anthony Felton (D. E. Davy).

"A Decree by the Earle Marshall touching a Matter in question between Anthony Felton & Edmund Withepole. 13 Maij 1598.

"Anthony Felton Esqr. & Edmund Withipole Esqr. being called before the Earle Marshall for a certayne disgrace by the Bastinado offered by the ^{sd} Withypole to the ^{sd} Felton in the Towne of Ipswich. Upon long large and deliberate hearing of the ground of the quarrell & of the proceedings: the Earle Marshall the last day, being the day above written, having called for his assistants, Thos. Lord Howard de Walden, John Ld Lumley, Thos. Ld Darcy of Chick, Sir Wm. Knowles Knt Comptroller of her Maties Household, Sir Walter Raleigh, Captaine of her Maties Garde, Sir Robert Sydney, Ld Governor of Flushing, Sir Edward Dyer, Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, did decree the cause in this sort: That the said Edmund Withypole should acknowledge that he had done wronge to the said Felton, and to himselfe in taking a quarrell against him without ground, & in proceeding in it without reason. That the said Withipole should confess to the said Felton, he knew him to be a gentleman unfitt to be stroken, & to have any such disgrace offered him, that from hence forward he would maintayne the said Felton's reputation

* An Edward Withipole is mentioned in 3 Edward the Seventh, as interested in some lands in Huntingfield.—(See Suckling's *Suffolk*, vol. ii, p. 413.)

against any that wold by his former unadvised act seeke to impair it, & that which he now spake, he spake from his hart, & would at all times, & in all places avowe, to which order the sd Withipole submitted himselfe, & performed it accordingly.

"Whereupon the sd Felton is adjudged to be cleare from all touch of disgrace, since all the tyme of the assault made upon him, he drew his sword, & as a gentleman offered to defend his reputation, and Sithence till this day, he hath been restrayned by auctoritee from seeking any further meanes to right himself, and now doth receive such satisfaction as the Earle Marshall & his assistants thinke to be fitt for the one party to give, and the other to receave.

"ESSEX.

"With his seale of Arms."*

A curious confirmation of the suppositions above advanced, that it might be in the execution of his office of High Sheriff that he was assaulted, is found in the following letter, given me by the late Arthur Biddell, of exactly this date, written by one Thomas Felton to Sir John Stanhope. Whether the High Sheriff there mentioned means Sir Anthony, who might be his relative, or whether the story relates to the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, is doubtful. But anyhow, it illustrates the perils of being High Sheriff in the days of Queen Bess; and as written by a Felton, may properly find a place here:—

Copy of Letter to Sir John Stanhope from Thos. Felton.

"Sir, "My humble duty remembered. Touchinge her Majesty's service wherein I am commanded I shal be able to increase her revenue according as is specified in this inclosed note, besides very many others, which for want of time I cannot yet enquire of. But with what trouble and danger this service is performed I will leave to the report of this bearer Hugh Wallworth, yeoman of her Majestys garde, who in this service doth help me very much, in that these countries wherein I now serve are well knowen to him. For which cause I humbly pray you to gett him leave to be with me untill these parts be finished. The High Sheriff and myself in doing of duty have been assaulted with pistolls and other forceble weapons, the truth whereof is certified upon examination of the matter to the Lo. chief Baron by Sir Henry Bromley.

* *Harl. MSS.* 6072, fo. 32 b.

"I have been since assaulted by one Thomas Abington with other his confederates in my chamber, the circumstance whereof I leave to the description of the bearer likewise. Humbly praying you at your best leisure to have some conference with the Lord Chief Justice of England, and the Lord Chief Baron, and then to move her Majesty for proper remedys as in her gracious wisdom shall think fitt, In the mean time I will not, godwillinge, for any feare omitt any item of my dutye. And so I most humbly take leave. Worcester this 28th of September 1598.

"To the Right Wor^d
Sir John Stanhope
Knight, Treasurer of
her Maj^{te} chamber."

"Yours in all dutye

"THOMAS FELTON."

Sir Henry Felton, Kt., son and heir of Sir Anthony, was the first Baronet of his house, being so created in 18 James the First (July 20, 1620). He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Basingbourne Gawdy, Kt. A specimen of her letter-writing powers is given in the *Appendix*. Sir Basingbourne Gawdy was of West Harling, in Norfolk, and had considerable property both in Norfolk and Suffolk. By his first wife he acquired the whole estate of the Framlinghams of Debenham. His second wife was a Bacon. He was three times Sheriff of Norfolk, in 1578, 1593, and 1601; and was Member for Thetford in 1593 and 1603, as was his son, Framlingham Gawdy, Esq., repeatedly (*Blomefield's Norfolk*, vol. i., p. 306; vol. ii., p. 145).

Sir Henry Felton died September 18th, 1624,* leaving by his wife Dorothy, his son and successor Henry, second Baronet. This Sir Henry was five years old at his father's death, and was made a ward in Chancery. His grandmother, Sir Anthony's widow, having Playford for her jointure house, he appears to have resided at Shotley; so late as 1677, he was living there. For in *Clarke's History of Ipswich*, there is a story of his feigning illness at his house at Shotley, to avoid meeting Sir Phineas Pratt, who in that year came to him about the purchase of timber for the Admiralty, which it seems Sir Henry had partly agreed to. "My lady," who came to speak with the Commis-

* The Inq. post mortem was taken April 14th, 1625.

sioners instead of her husband, let out the secret of his illness when she said "Sir Henry thought himself not engaged to sell the timber, and could have more for it."

Sir Henry was twice Member for the county of Suffolk, in the convention parliament, and in Charles the Second's second parliament (1661—1678). In a pamphlet entitled *A seasonable argument to persuade all the Grand Juries in England to petition for a new Parliament, or A list of the principal labourers in the great design of Popery and arbitrary power, who have betrayed their country, &c.*, printed at Amsterdam, in 1677, and ascribed to Andrew Marvel, under the head of Suffolk, Sir Henry Felton is set down as "a Pensioner, and his son a Bed-chamber man." (*Cobbett's Parliam. Hist.*) He appears to have quarrelled with his cousins the Gawdys, and to have got into some trouble with parliament, in consequence of some charges he brought against Mr. Gawdy. A letter of his, relating to this business, will be found in *Appendix C*, together with one or two other letters and papers relating to his marriage and his property, which though of no great interest, are given as being original documents, throwing some light upon the manners and education of the times generally, as well as upon the Feltons and their inheritance in particular.

Sir Henry's wife was Susan, daughter of Sir Lionel Tallemache, Kt. and Bart. By her he had five sons and two daughters (see *Pedigree in Appendix*), of whom the three eldest, Adam, Thomas, and Compton, were successively the third, fourth, and fifth Baronets. Sir Henry died in 1690; and the baronetcy became extinct on the death of Sir Compton without issue male, in 1719.

The second of the above-named sons, the Right Honble. Sir Thomas Felton, Bart., Controller of the Household to Queen Anne and the Prince Consort, succeeded his brother, Sir Adam, in 1696, and died in 1708-9. By his marriage with the Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter, and eventually sole heir of James, Third Earl of Suffolk, he had an only daughter and sole heir, Elizabeth, second wife of John Hervey of Ickworth, First Earl of Bristol. On her heirs

and descendants devolved the whole Felton inheritance, and the moiety of the inheritance of Lord Audley, which, with the female Barony of Howard de Walden, had been derived by the Earls of Suffolk from their ancestor Lord Thomas Howard (son of Thomas, Fourth Duke of Norfolk, by his second wife, Margaret, daughter and heir of Lord Audley of Walden, K.G.), who was summoned to Parliament as Lord Howard de Walden, in 1597, and made Earl of Suffolk, in 1603. The other moiety, which had devolved upon the Countess of Portsmouth (*née* Griffin), as the representative of the Lady Essex Howard, the eldest daughter and co-heir of James, Third Earl of Suffolk, and wife of the First Lord Griffin, was left by her, by will, to her sister's son, John Whitwell; and the abeyance of the Barony of Howard de Walden, was by favour of the crown determined in his favour, as great-great-grandson of the Earl of Suffolk; he was also created Lord Braybrooke. But upon his death without issue, in 1797, and the subsequent death of his sister, Mrs. Parker, in 1799, there was an entire extinction of the issue of Lady Essex Howard, and consequently the representative of her sister, Lady Elizabeth Felton, became sole heir to the Barony of Howard de Walden. This was Frederick, Fourth Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry, great-grandson of Lady Elizabeth, who had already inherited from his elder brothers George and Augustus, second and third Earls of Bristol, the moiety of the Suffolk estates, to which George became joint-heir with the Countess of Portsmouth, on the death of Henry, tenth Earl of Suffolk, with whom the line of Theophilus, second Earl of Suffolk, terminated. Lady Portsmouth's moiety, however, passed from the first Lord Braybrooke to the family of Neville, Lord Braybrooke, though nowise related in blood to James, Earl of Suffolk. The right to the Barony of Howard de Walden passed through Frederick, Earl of Bristol, who never claimed it, and his son, John Augustus, Lord Hervey, who died before Lord Howard (in 1796), and Lord Hervey's only daughter Eliza, who married Charles Rose Ellis, Esq., afterward Lord Seaford, and died in 1803, to Charles Augustus Ellis, their eldest son, whose claim to the title was admitted

by the House of Lords, in 1806, and who is the present Lord Howard de Walden and Lord Seaford. The Audley or Howard property passed to the heirs male of Frederick, Earl of Bristol, in whom a portion of it is still vested.

Elizabeth Felton, on her marriage with John Hervey of Ickworth, also brought a splendid pedigree with which to adorn her descendants. Besides being lineally descended from the Plantagenets, from Edward the Third and Edward the First, and consequently from William the Conqueror, and the Saxon Kings, from Philip the Third, King of France, and from Philippe le Bel, and consequently from Hugh Capet, and from Charlemagne, she counted among her direct ancestors, on both father and mother's side, the best and noblest blood of England: Bigods and Mareschalls, De Mowbrays and Fitzalans, Bohuns and Tilneys, Percies and Nevilles, Staffords and Somersets, Howards and De Veres. And yet, such are the vicissitudes of life, at the very moment when the ancient name of Felton was thus heraldically enriched, the name itself became extinct; the male line, once so widely spread, soon disappeared from among us; * and the ancient mansion, dwindled to half its size, soon ceased to be the residence of the Lords of Playford.

And yet, again, by another singular freak, shall I call it, of fortune, the old mansion has acquired in our own days a new and a greater illustration than it ever had before. Not all the De Felbriggess and Feltons, who ever grasped a sword, or hung their armorial bearings in church or hall, have cast on Playford a tithe of the true honour and fame which will for ever dignify this old place, as the residence of THOMAS CLARKSON. His name is for ever identified and bound up with the act which has conferred its brightest glory upon the present century, and has added most largely to England's dignity and fair name, the ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE. Whatever good and valiant deeds may have been done in Church or State, by any of the long line of proprietors who sleep in the churchyard of Playford, we are sure that none contributed more largely to diminish

* There is a Professor Felton in Massachusetts, but I do not know his lineage.

He is a contributor to the *Dictionary of the Bible*.

human misery, or toiled with more energy and determination to protect the weak, and redress oppression and wrong, than he did. And if we value human energy for the benefits which it confers upon the human race, and if we honour human exertion in proportion to its disinterestedness, and if the brightest memories linger around the names of those who have done least for themselves and most for others, then assuredly must our sympathies be drawn out to the utmost as we stand over the grave of Clarkson.

But, indeed, Playford has not degenerated in any respect. If we can boast of its long connection with the successful labours of the great christian philanthropist, we can also claim as one of its alumni, the philosopher who stands at the head of the science of our day, the Astronomer Royal of England. Here were passed many of his youthful days ; and here he has chosen to make his retreat, and enjoy his seasons of leisure and rest from the arduous labours of his high office. The name of Airy belongs legitimately to the roll of the worthies of Playford.

It would not be difficult to mention other titles which Playford has to honourable mention. But I shall close with one more passing reference to one who for many years occupied a conspicuous place in this parish, and was a marked man in the neighbourhood. I mean the late Arthur Biddell. For strength of mind and character, and for sterling worth, for unbending integrity and sincere piety, he was a true type of that class of Englishman who, under God's blessing, have made England what it is. Of an enquiring and active disposition, a vigorous understanding, and a tenacious memory, with a vast fund of information, and a deep interest in his own home and parish, he was also a most intelligent friend to archæology, and in his old age became himself an interesting specimen of the age and class to which he belonged. It would perhaps have been difficult to find in any village in England of the size of Playford, a triumvirate of whom in different ways their fellow-parishioners might be more justly proud, than the three I have just named—Clarkson, Airy, Biddell.

ARTHUR HERVEY.

APPENDIX A. (P. 26.)

William de Wigston, jun., in the year 1513, obtained the licence of King Henry the Eighth to found a Hospital for the maintenance of twelve poor men and twelve poor women, with two chaplains, for ever, *viz.*, the master and his confrere, in the city of Leicester, "to pray every day for the healthy estate of our Lord himself, now king, and of the Lady Katherine Queen of England, &c., and for the souls of my father & mother, my progenitors, antecessors, successors, and the rest of my friends and benefactors, &c., according to the statutes and ordinances of us the said William Wigston, Thomas Wigston, Roger Wigston, &c.; and to be called the Hospital of William Wigston, after the invocation of the most glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of our Saviour, and of Saint Katherine, and Saint Ursula, and her fellows, to the praise of Almighty God." This hospital is still in existence. The family of the founder was very eminent in Leicester, in the 15th and 16th centuries, and are said to have been freemen of Leicester as early as the reign of King John. Reginald of Wykinston or Wigston, occurs in an ancient Talliage Roll, in 1336, when his tenth paid to the King was 18*d*. William Wigston was Mayor of Leicester in 1443 and 1459, and Burgess in Parliament for the Borough, in 1455. John Wigston was Mayor in 1469 and 1480, and Burgess in Parliament in 1478. Roger Wigston was Mayor in 1465 and 1472, and Burgess in Parliament in 1488 and 1491. Richard Wigston was Steward of the Guild of St. John in 1477, and Mayor of Leicester in 1487. Robert Wigston was Burgess in Parliament in 12 Edward the Fourth (1472-3). William Wigston was Mayor in 1498, 1510, and 1519; and his son, William Wigston, jun., in 1499, 1511, and 1520. In 1504, William Wigston, jun., was chosen Burgess in Parliament; and in 1520, Roger Wigston. William Wigston, Kt., was High Sheriff of Leicestershire and Warwickshire, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary (1556, 1557); and Sir Francis* Wigston later. William Wigston, the founder of the Hospital, was eminent as a merchant, and was in consequence placed upon the King's roll of Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen, resident in the county of Leicester, in 1501-2. He had the peculiar privilege of carrying his wool to Calais, of which staple he was four times Mayor. He was married, but had no issue by Agnes, his wife. The family, however, is not yet extinct.

* Not given in Fuller's list. Leland for Francis Wigston.
and Burton are the authorities referred to

Admiral James Wigston is of the same stock ; and so is William Bacon Wigson, Esq., of Horsecroft, Horringer, whose grandfather, William Wigston, adopted late in life the orthography Wigson instead of Wigston, which he used in early life. He bore for his arms party per chevron Ermine and Ermines, chevron party per chevron Sable and Argent, on the first three estoils Or. And for his Crest, a fox's head erased Gules and Blue, per pale guttée d'Or, which is the coat of his grandson, and with a very slight difference in the crest and in the field, that of Admiral Wigston also. It is the same as the arms of the founder, set up over the portal of the Hospital. The name Wigston is derived from Wigston, in Domesday Wichingeston (Great and Little), in the county of Leicestershire.

Thomas Sampson appears to have preached at Leicester, under the influence of the puritan Earl of Huntingdon, before he was appointed Master of the Hospital, as his name appears in the borough accounts among those who were supplied with "Malmsey, Claret, Muscadine, and Gascony wine." His name appears with other signatures in a letter to the Earl of Huntingdon, dated Leicester, April 12, 1587, praying for the appointment of Mr. Travers, "a man of singular godliness and approved learning," to the preachiership at Leicester. Mr. Sacheverel, however, was appointed Preacher and Confrater of the Hospital, in August, 1588.

APPENDIX B. (P. 29.)

Extract from letter of Richard Almack, Esq., F.S.A., to Lord Arthur Hervey, 1 Feb., 1860.

"They (the Feltons) appear to have been at Pentlow for about 100 years previous to 1570....."

"The diary of John Rous, Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk, published by the *Camden Society* in 1856, gives a letter from 'one of the Heighams,' who says 'John Felton was a gentleman, born near to Sudbury, in Suffolk. Felton came to the Duke of Buckingham's lodgings where I had a strong guard.' He gives a particular account of what Felton said and did, and that immediately after the Duke was killed he (Heigham) had, 'in respect of his office,' the custody of Felton, and after his examination by some of the Privy Council, he took him to prison. Lord Clarendon says this John Felton was of a gentleman's family in Suffolk; and indeed all other authorities do the same. Heigham and Rous were both Suffolk men. Pentlow is within five miles of Sudbury. Although the Feltons appear to have parted with their property in that

parish about 1570, they were still in the neighbourhood. I happen to have in my possession a deed of 39 Elizabeth (1595), relating to lands at Steeple Bumpstead, conveyed to Henry Gent, son of Sir Thomas Gent (which Sir Thomas was a lawyer, and Steward for the Earls of Oxford, at Hedingham castle, the old tower of which is within sight of Pentlow rectory). The attesting witnesses to this deed are Thomas Felton* and Vere Gent. Although Felton is not a party to this deed, it is sealed with his seal—a beautiful impression of the arms of Felton, the same as on the tomb in Pentlow church, with a crescent for the distinction of a second branch of this gentleman's family. John Felton had only attained the rank of Lieutenant in 1628, and as he was angry respecting his unsuccessful application for preferment, it is probable he was born about the period at which this deed is dated (1595), and it is not improbable he was the son of this Thomas Felton."

I subjoin the extracts from the Pentlow register, which commences in the year 1539:—

CHRISTNINGS.

- 1544. Edward Ffelton, the sonne of George, Esquire, was baptized the xvijth daye of Marche.
- 1547. Dorothy Ffelton, the daughter of George Felton, Esquire, was baptised the vijth daye of June.
- 1548. George Ffelton, the sonne of George Felton, Esquire, was baptized ye xxixth August.
- 1550. Frances Ffelton, the daughter of George Felton, Esquire, the fourth of July.
- 1551. Wm. Ffelton, the sonne of George Felton, Esqre. the xith Marche.
- 1553. Mary Ffelton, the daughter of George Felton, Esquire, baptised the last day of April.
- 1555. Philipp Ffelton, the sonne of George Felton, Esquire, the xiiij April.
- 1558. Margarete Ffelton, the daughter of George Felton, Esquire, the xxist of November.
- 1562. Margerie Ffelton, ye daughter of George Ffelton, Esquire, the vith of October.

BURIALS.

- 1554. Edward Ffelton, the sonne of George Ffelton, Esquire, was buried the xxvth of August.
- 1558. Thomas Ffelton, Gent., the sonne of George Ffelton, Esquire, the iiij daye of Maye.
- 1563. George Ffelton, the sonne of George, Esquire, xxix of December.
- 1570. William Ffelton, ye sonne of George, Esquire, ye vij of August.

MARRIAGES.

- 1557. John Ffelton, Gent. & Hellyna Goodwyn, Widdow, married the xxi daye of June.
- 1568. Wm. Howe & Ann Ffelton, Gent., were married ye 25th of July.

* Perhaps the same person as the writer of the letter given at p. 32.

With regard to the question broached by Mr. Almack, in the preceding letter, of the parentage of John Felton, I may further remark that a story appears in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August, 1845, on the authority of Mr. Davy, of his having resided in a house at Ashbocking, which was sold some years ago by Lord Bristol, to Mr. Welham. It was inferred from this that the house had been part of the Felton property; and hence, that John Felton was a discarded son of the Playford family. But the Ashbocking property, which was sold by Lord Bristol under Act of Parliament, in 1807, was not part of the Felton property at all. It came into the Hervey family by the marriage of John Hervey, of Ickworth, with Frances, daughter and co-heir of Edmund Bokkyng, of Ashbocking, Esq., in 1582. It is unfortunate that, as Mr. Duffus Hardy has kindly informed me, the examination of John Felton is not among the State Papers, nor is it forthcoming elsewhere. But the examination of his brother *Edmund* is preserved; and that of his mother Eleanor, daughter of Wm. Wright, Mayor of Durham, where she was born. (See *Collection of State Papers, Domestic*, 1628, 1629, pp. 321, 340, 349.) Morant, p. 339, asserts that John Felton was of the same branch as the Suffolk Feltons. "Thomas Felton, Esq., by his wife, daughter and sole heir of Sir Hugh Comins, had Robert, John, and Edmund. Sir Robert, the eldest son, was seated at Felton, in Suffolk (?), and by a daughter of Sir John Danby, had Henry, of Felton (in Suffolk ?), Esq., who married a daughter of Sir Anthony Wingfield, and from them descended the Feltons in Suffolk, and that John Felton who stabbed the great Duke of Buckingham." The statement of Heigham's that John Felton came from the neighbourhood of Sudbury, and the fact of the Pentlow Feltons having had the name of Chapman (merchant), as well as those of Shotley, agree with the above assertion of Morant's.

Since the above was written, I have seen the handsome altar tomb in Pentlow chancel (north side), with the arms of Felton; also two deeds, in possession of John W. Poley, Esq., of Boxted hall (which is five or six miles from Pentlow), of the date of 1542 (34th of Henry the Eighth), with the signature and arms of Edmund Poley.

APPENDIX C.

ORIGINAL PAPERS AND LETTERS.

I. *Notes taken out of the fine after the death of Sir Henry Felton.*

Sir Anthony Felton, Knight, was seised in fee of the Manor of Playford, and Playford and Michells, and the Manor of Meer hall and Lees, and divers messuages and lands in Playford, Rushmere, Culpho, Tuddenham, and Little Bealings, and conveyed the same to the use of himself for life, and after his decease to the use of Eliz. Lady Felton, then his wife, for her life, for her jointure, and after her decease, to the use of the said Sir Anthony and his heirs for ever; and Eliz. Lady Felton, is still living.

He was also seised in fee of the Manor of Tyrell's hall and the Manor of Sproughton alias Dangervill's and Plecbus, and the advowson of Sproughton, the Manor of Lowdens, and a close called Stackton's Corner, in Sproughton.

Of four other closes, called Springhill close, Ward close, Clapper close, Allan's close, and a pistell called Barly pistell, in Shotley, and di (?) acres of marsh in Shotley.

Sir Anthony was seised in fee tail to him and the heirs of his body begotten, the remainder to the right heirs of Thos. Felton, his father, of the Manor of Wortham, the advowson of the moiety of the Church of Wortham, the Manor of Shotley, and diverse lands in Shotley, the advowson of Shotley, of a messuage and lands called Plorman's, in Rushmere, the Manor of Bucklesham, and diverse lands thereto belonging, the Manor of Rushmere, 80 acres of land in Kenbrook, in Bucklesham, Kirton, and of a toft called Mirables pont, in Wortham, xij acres of land in Rushmere, one toft called Pope's, and 80 acres of land in Rushmere, and by his will devised all his manors and lands to Henry his son and his heirs, except those in jointure to his Lady, and the Manor of Dangervill and Plecbus, alias Sproughton Hall, and all his lands in Sproughton, Tunstall, Hintlesham, Washbrook, and Stoke, next *

Which excepted manors and lands other than those in jointure to his Lady, he gave to his 3 daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Penelope, and their heirs, to be equally parted amongst them.

* Some name which I cannot decypher.

Provided that if Sir Henry, his son, should give unto his said 3 daughters £1000 a piece at their several ages of 21 years, or days of marriage, which should first happen after their ages of 17 years, then the devise to his daughters to be void, and his son in the mean time to take the profits.

That Mary and Penelope were alive and unmarried, and the money unpaid.

That the said Sir Henry did pay to the said Elizabeth, his sister, the £1000 according to the will.

That the £1000 a piece was unpaid to Maria and Penelope, and that they were not of age nor married.

That Sir Henry was in his life time seised in Fee of a messuage called the Bull, in Shotley, and the lands thereto belonging, and so seised did bargain and sell the same to Thos. Cutler, Esqr., and his heirs (12th July, A. 18^o R. Jacobi), proviso that if Sir Henry, his heirs, within x years then next, should assure to the said Thomas Cutler and his heirs, the advowson of Sproughton, discharged of incumber, and in the mean time permitt and suffer the said Thos. Cutler to present to the said Sproughton so often as the same should be void, that then the said bargain and sale should be void, and Mr. Cutler did covenant that Sir Henry and his heirs should during the x years possess and occupy the premises so bargained and sold, to take the rents, and so as they should committ no waste. That the said Sr. Henry Felton so being seised of the said Manor of Rushmere, by his indenture dated 7th October, Anno xix Jacobi, in consider. of £530 sterling, per Francis Crowe, did bargain and sell unto the said Francis Crowe all that capital messuage and scite of the Manor of Rushmere Hall, and divers lands devised to Edw^d. Bacon, to hold for 60 years, he paying a xx^s p. corn, and covenanted to levie a fine thereupon, to the use of Francis Crowe, for the term and use of Sir Henry Felton.

That the fine was levied accordingly; that afterwards the said Fr. Crowe, per Indenture A^o xix Jacobi, did assign all his interest in the land to Sir Henry, except the last weeks, upon condition for the payment of £80 yearly to the said Francis, his heirs and assigns, during the life of Henry Crowe, son and heir apparent of Francis, at Lady and Michaelmas equally, or within 20 days after, otherwise the assignment to be void.

That Sir Henry so being seised in Fee tail of Cooke's hill court, 20 acres of land, Aldercarr's court, x acres, and of a meadow called Cooke's hill meadow, court yard in Rushmere, and so seised by his Indenture, 26 October, A^o xix Jacobi, for £300, paid per Edw^d. Bacon de Rushmere, infeoffed him in fee of the last (for) 60 years, on condition that if the said Sir Henry, his heirs, should pay unto the said Edward, his heirs, £300 the 1st of September, 1628, the feoffment should be void.

The inquisition was taken the 18th April, 1^o Carol. Sir Henry Felton died the 18th Sept^r. 22^o Jacobi (1624), and Sir Henry Felton now Baronett, at the time of taking of the said inquisition, was of the age of five years nine months and nine days.

The Manor of Sproughton alias Dangervill's, and Plecbus, and the advowson of Sproughton, are found to be holden of the King, as of his Dutchy of Lancaster, by Knight's service, likewise the close called Stockton's corner.

The rest was found to be holden by mean tenures.

Mem. That the young Lady Felton claimeth an estate for life in the lands purchased by her husband as joint purchase.

Query, to whom the wardship of the body is granted, and to whose use, in whom it is for the lease of the ward's lands, and in whom it now is.

II. *Directions about Sir Henry Felton, his estate.*

Paid. First, to enquire whether the £1000 to Mary, sister of Sr Henry, were paid according to the will of Sir Anthony, & to see a good discharge therefore.

There was no further assurance demanded. Item, to be well informed whether Sir Henry Felton within x years next after the xiith of Julie, Ao xviii^o R. Jacobi did sufficiently assure unto Thomas Cutler, Esqre & his heires, the advowson of Sproughton discharged of incumbrance, and suffer Mr. Cutler to present so often as the said Church became void, otherwise the Bull & lands intrusted by Sir Henry in Shotley, are forfeited, & must be reconveyed to the warde.

This is not done, but Mr. Brook will give securities for this. Item, to redeem the lease for 60 years to Francis Crowe, which must be rendered up to Sir Henry Felton and his heires. And so must the re-assignment made back by Mr. Crowe to Sir Henry, for otherwise that term will be in the heir or admin. if Sir Henry Felton decease.

This was forfeited and was reconveyed to Mr. Brooke, who will reconvey it, & Mr. Bacon will sign a release. Item, to enquire whether the £300 to Edmund Bacon were paid, upon the first day of September, 1628, whether if it were paid at the day & place, then the landes mortgaged to Mr. Bacon are well redeemed for the Warde; but if the £300 were not paid at the day, then is that land forfeited, & must be reconveyed to the ward & his heires.

The deed is in the Court of Ward, in Mr. Taylor's hands. It is pretended that the Bull & land in Shotley purchased by Sir Henry Felton, were upon the purchase assured to Sir Henry & the Lady Dorothy his wife, and the heirs of Sir Henry, which if it shall so appear by the deed, the lady ought to release them to the ward, having consideration therefore.

The ward being under age cannot well make a jointure to any wife. And if he should, it must be done by fine, which fine cannot be taken without a privy seale from his Majesty, and if it should be so done, the ward may revise it during his minority, if there be any error therein.

This is agreed And if no jointure should be made then such wife of the ward shall only be intituled to her dower, which if Sir Henry should die before his grandmother, cannot be out of any of those lands which she hath in jointure, neither if Sir Henry

die before his mother, out of any of the lands which she hath allotted for her dower; nor out of the Bull and lands wherein the Lady Dorothy was joint possessor with her husband, & therefore fitt that Sir Lionell retain part of the portion.

It is the best way therefore to compound with the ladie It is not to be done untill Sir Henry has full age.
dowager for all her estate, as well in her dower lands as in those wherein she was joint possessor, & to take her release to the ward, which cannot be done but by fine, so long as her husband live.

It is fitt that the committees of the ward, and lessees of the lands holden, should by the order or license of the court of ward, assign both body and lands to Sir Lionell Tallemash, or whom he shall appoint, he giving a covenant to save them harmless of the rent, & covenants to his Majesty, and also that the ward should in full court choose Sir Lionell or some other whom he shall appoint, Guardian of the socage lands. The Vice-chamberlain is now guardian & accountable.

And because it is true that Sir Henry may at his full age, This is otherwise agreed.
or sooner, if he be knighted, call the committees, lessees, & guardians to account, it is fitt that an account be first taken and perfected, and then there will be no danger to give them a covenant to save them harmless against the ward from all further account. But if the said account cannot be perfected and agreed, it will be the best way and safest to have the ward knighted, and then that he take the account in court, which may be done in an amicable way.

And howsoever it is the safest way to have the ward knighted before his marriage.

Item, fitt to have the ward discharged of all his father's debts.

Endorsed Sir Lionell Tallemash.

III. *The following seems to be the rough draft of Dorothy, the Dowager lady Felton and her husband Mr. Brooke's covenant, intended to carry out the arrangements for her son's marriage.*

COVENANT.

To deliver the manors of Shotley and Sprowton for maintenance during minority. Their value is to be seen in the particulars.

That £1500 at the day of marriage, £500 at the Michaelmas after be secured to me.

I will be bound in £2000 to deliver Crowe's lease, Bacon's mortgage of Cooke's hill, and all other rights or interests whatsoever, to Sir Harrie or his heirs or assigns, when he shall accomplish the age of 21 years, excepting the Bull in (Inn?), Shotley, and the lands thereunto belonging,

together with my wife's thirds of the whole estate. I also receiving my *quietus*, otherwise my bond to be void, and to stand or fall according to the justice of my accounts.

It., I will be bound with Sir Harrie for any reasonable matter, in case you cannot otherwise proceed.

The estates of Sir Henry Felton, Barronett, in possession and reversion in Suffolke, by their yearly value:—

	£	
Shotley	40	
	100	
	40	
	20	
	17	
	6	
	<hr/>	toto £323
Sprowton	110	
	50	
	22	
	<hr/>	toto £182
Rushmere	80	
	70	
	24	
	3	
	<hr/>	toto £177
Bucklesham	30	
	6	
	<hr/>	toto £ 36
Wortham	60	
	18	
	<hr/>	toto £ 78
Kirton and Terret Hall . . .	3	toto £ 3
	<hr/>	
	totalis summa	£799

The paper is unfortunately torn off below this, but enough remains to indicate that the manors of Playford and Merehall were at this time held in jointure by the Lady Elizabeth Felton, grandmother of Sir Henry; that the park was ploughed up, and that the yearly value of this property was £500, besides the profits of the courts. This added to the preceding £799, makes upwards of £1300. It seems that there was a further income of £200 from some quarter, as the statement is repeated in several papers that the whole of Sir Henry Felton's property was about £1500 per annum.

IV. *Letter from Lady Felton and Sir Henry Felton to Sir
Lionell Tallemache, Bart.*

To the Honrable and my much esteemed friend Sr Lyanyll Tallmadge,
thys presentt.

London,

Sr

Mr. Brooke * returning home much discontented, hath shewed us sum writings of Mr. Mossis, wich he sayth war made for him to seale untoo: whearin are all things new, sum to the enjry of my husbone, the rest to the los of my sonne: wich I thought you would have never bene perswaded too. But Sr that we may know presently what wee have to trust too, my sonne hath joyned in thys purpose with me to send you so far as I assuredly rem., the agrements made with us at first for the porcion. Fiftene honderd pownes was to be paid to my hosbon one the marriage day, and five honderd that time twellmonthe for the bying out of Crow. Thys I did conseve to be, but I se no such thing in thys, and for his giving you schuryty for the resayt of it, thear is forteene hundred powne dew to him upon a count a lowed by Sr Robert Nauton, five year agooe, and thear is threskoor pownd to paye to Mr. Winkfeld and sum to clere wich he is to pay out of it so as, I think, his gaynes will not be greatt, this tooe thousand being payed. The other fetteen honderd powne remaynes in your hands till my sonne comes of age. He was then to make his wife £400 a year jointer, and so no more nor less (than) you had given hir, four thousand pounds, wich if you please to doo, I shall agre to fif hundred a year. Now Sr if you please to send me your dereckt answer what you will do for theas agrements I and my sonne will very gladly com to London as soon as may be. But if Mr. Moss out of his wisdom makes new bysiniss to thys purpoos, it will be no end for me or my sonne to com; for what has been sed or promysed one our parts, be Leave me Sr shall not be lessened a hair breathe, and so we shall remayne friends and sarvants to you and my Lady, and all yours.

DOLL FELTON,
HENRY FELTON.

On Lady Felton's letter, in a different hand, is the following, apparently the draft of Sir L. Tallemache's answer:—

The propositions are £500 p. annum, jointure.

The portion £3500.

Crowe's annuitie to be discharged.

As for the wrightings, they were drawn by the articles. But if Mr. Brooke shall not assent to covenant that £500 per annum shall be assured for jointure, I shall be content to take £500 per annum for present maintenance, £400 p. annum jointure, and trust Sir Henry for the encrease as was formerly propounded. For the marriage portion I am content it shall be paid as your letter requires according to our agreement, provided that the last £1500 shall remaine in my hand untill the jointure be made.

And if anie other difference shall arise, I shall be content to refer it to indifferent friends.

* Second husband of Lady Felton.

V. *Letter from Sir Henry Felton, Bart., to Sir George
Reeve, Bart.*

Playford (no date).

For Sr George Reeve, Kt. and Baronett,*
at the Parliament House doore.

Sir,

On Friday last I was informed that a Committee had sat about examining the business between Mr. Gawdy and I, who married my Lady Barker, concerning a servant of his which was taken in custody by the sargant, for distraing some cattle of myne, and my extreame illness has hindered me from my duty to the House, but I hope by God's Blessing very sodingly to be there, and my request to you is to mouve the Chair-man, that there be no report made to the House untill I have received that common justice which you a-low every man without dores, which is, to be heard. I can but admire never hering of the business till Friday that I should receive no sumons from the Chaireman, and if any report should be made, pray stop itt in the house untill I may answere for my selfe, and if I make not good all that ever I informed the house, they shall hange me at there doore; and pardon this trouble, and believe me your most faithful humble servant

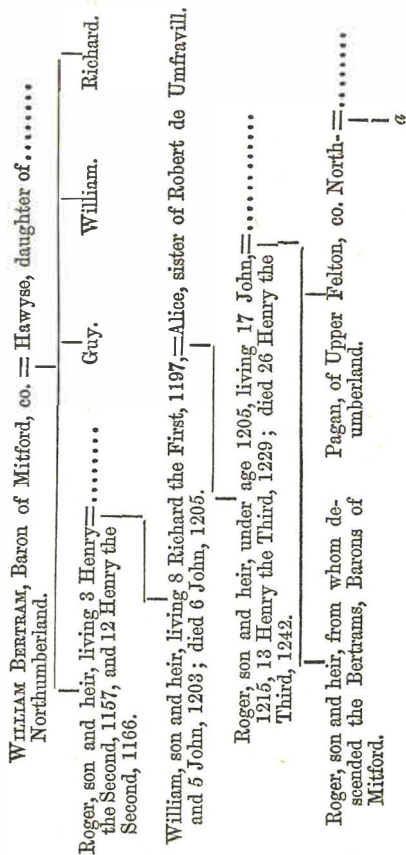
HENRY FELTON.

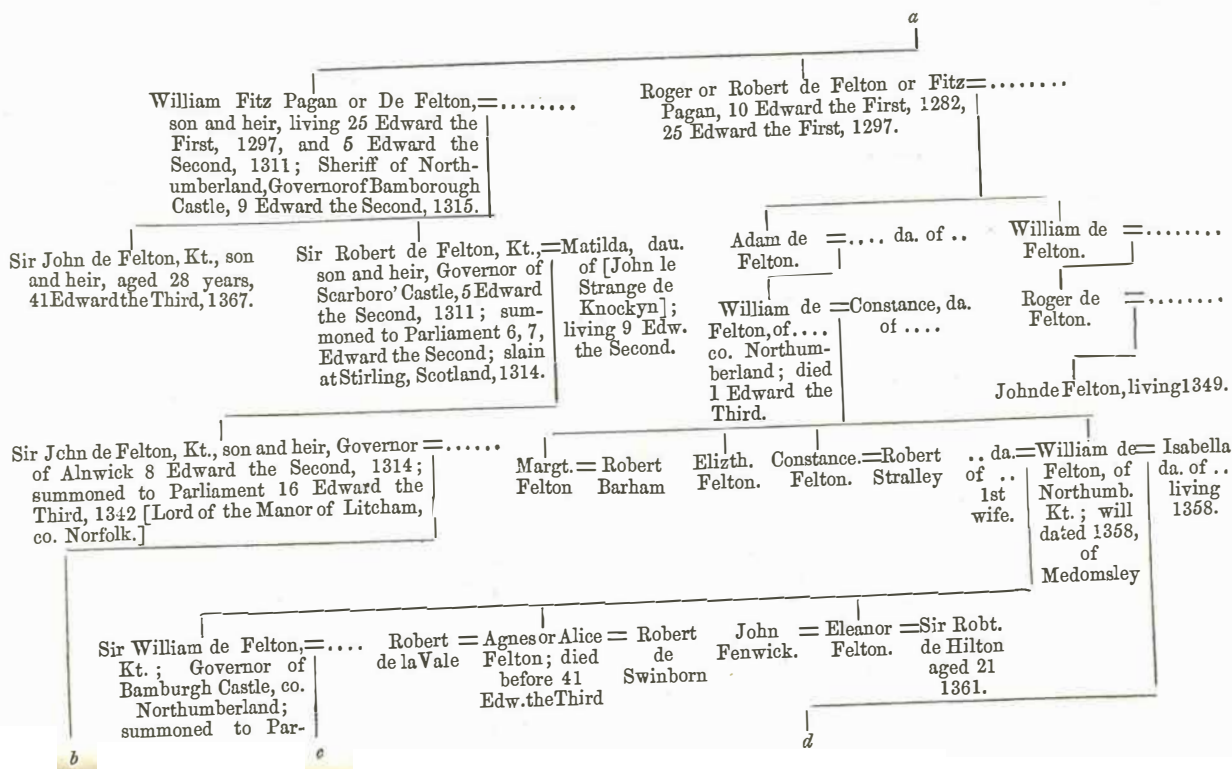
In the margin:—Jock Fillemer can inform you of the chairman if you be ignorant of him.

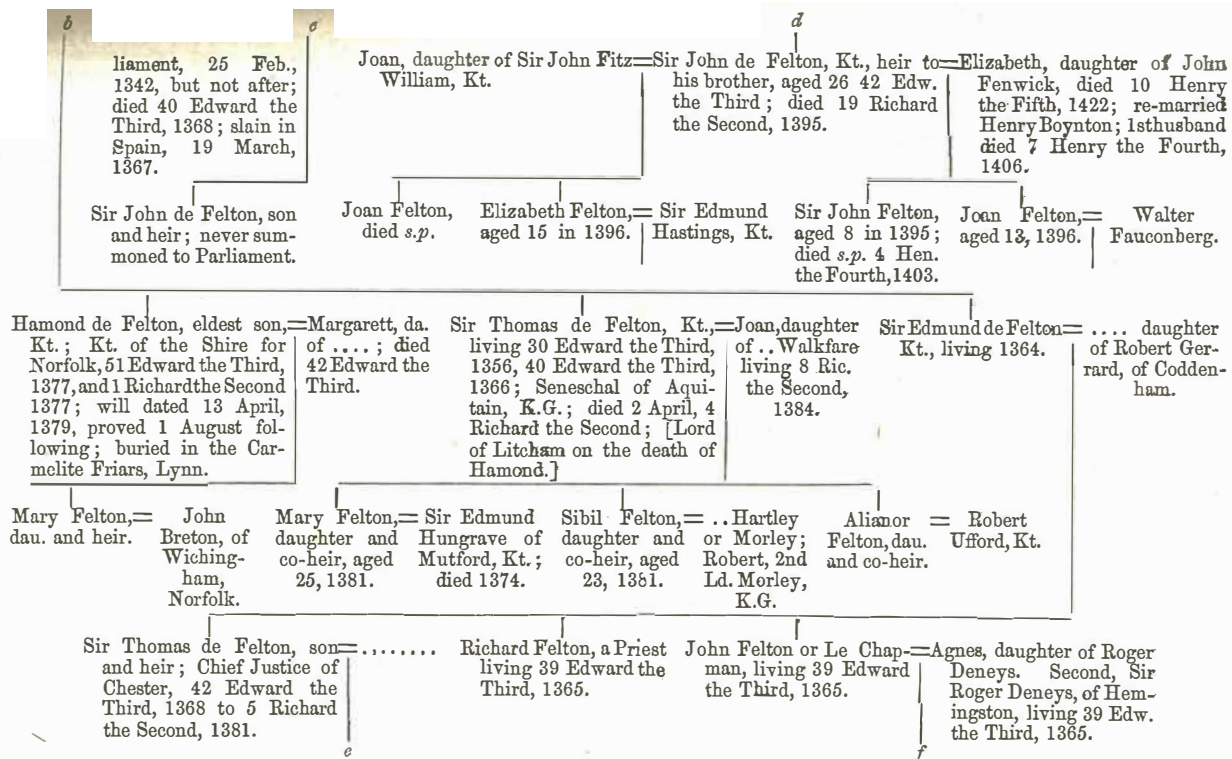
* George Reeve, Esq., of Thwaites, in Suffolk, created a Baronet in 1662-3; died

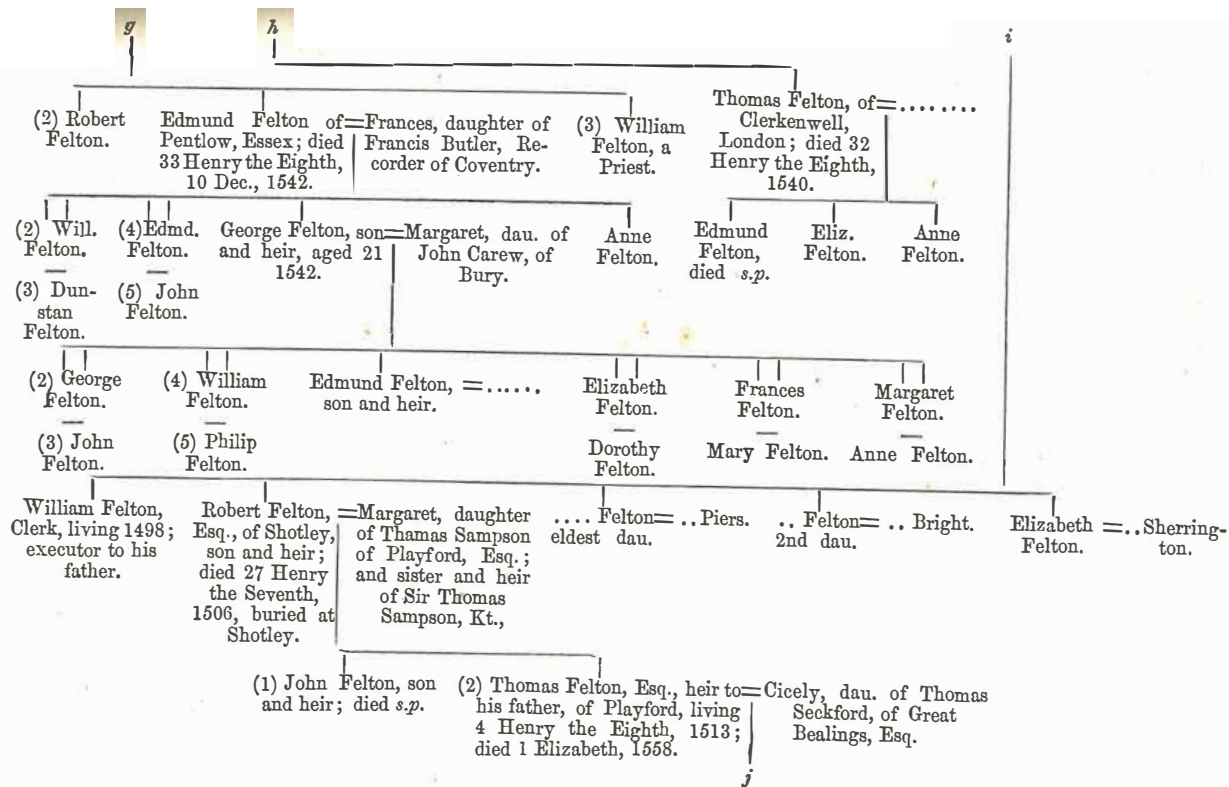
about 1679. (Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*).

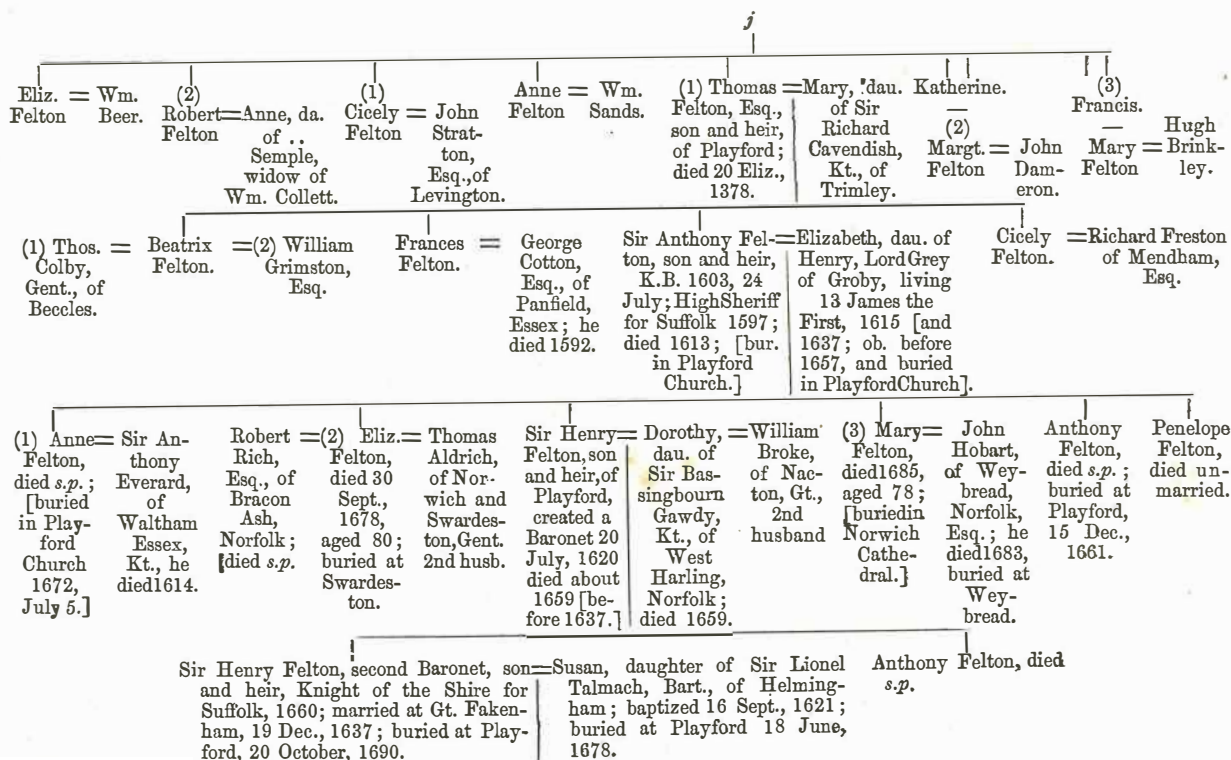
APPENDIX D.

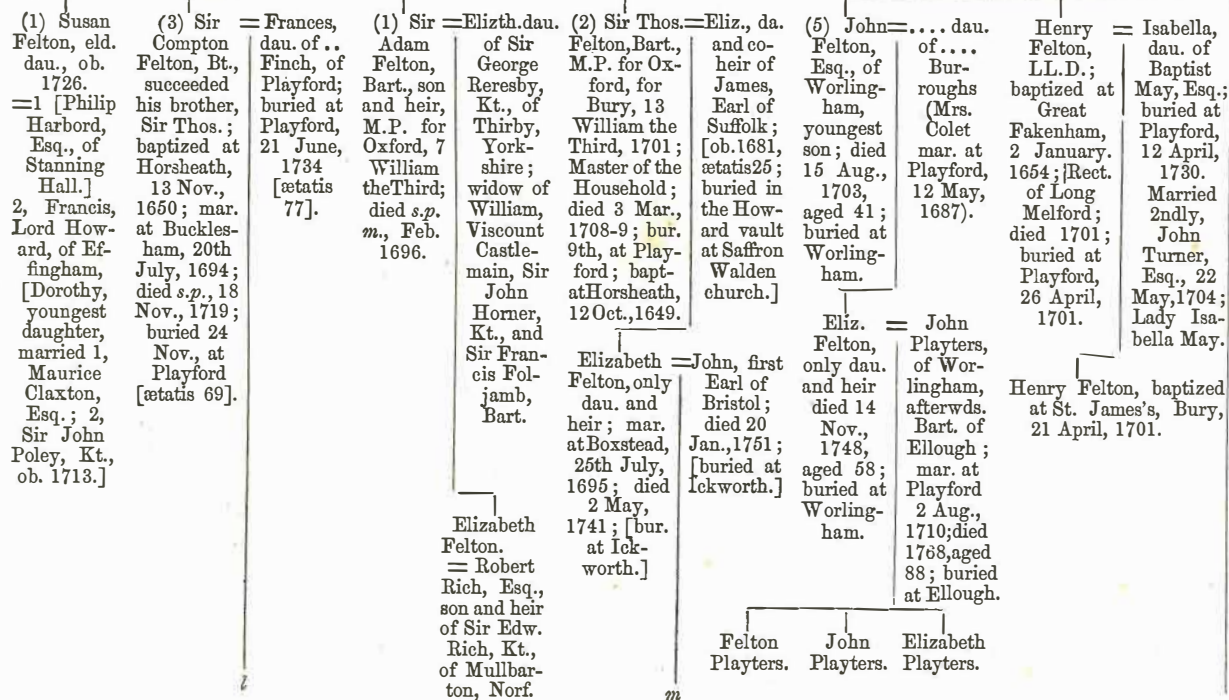
Add. MSS., 19, 129, fol. 120, Dany's Suffolk Collections.

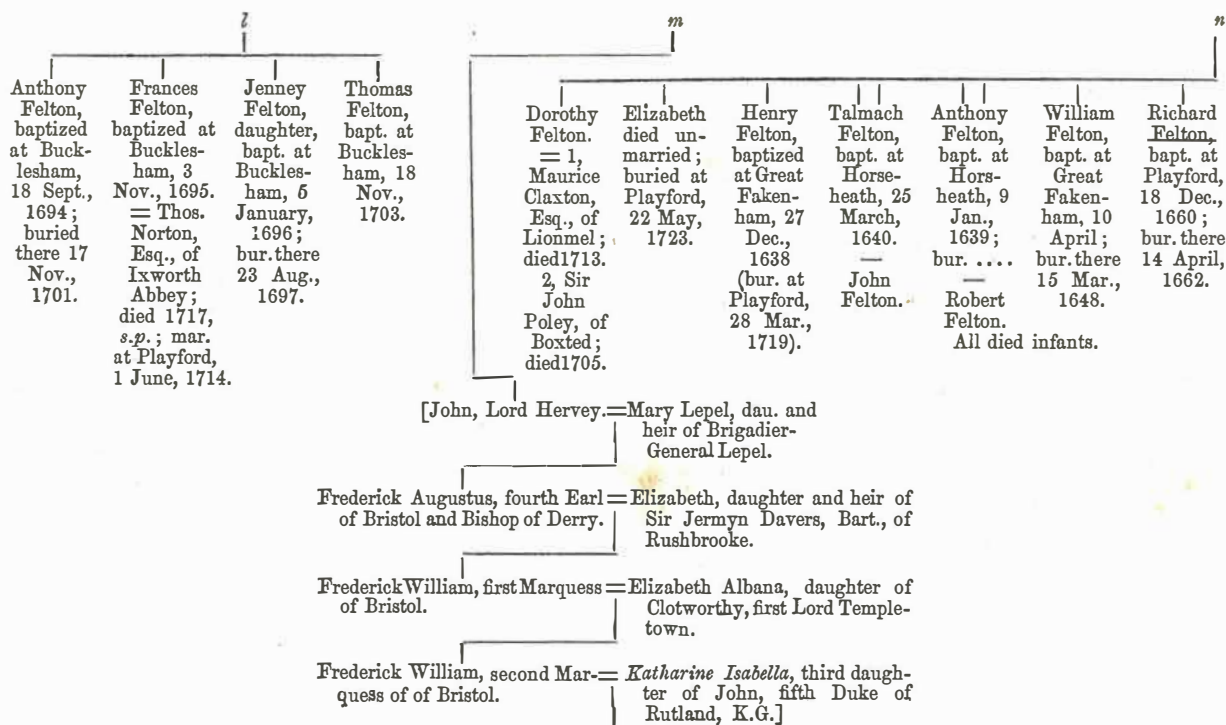






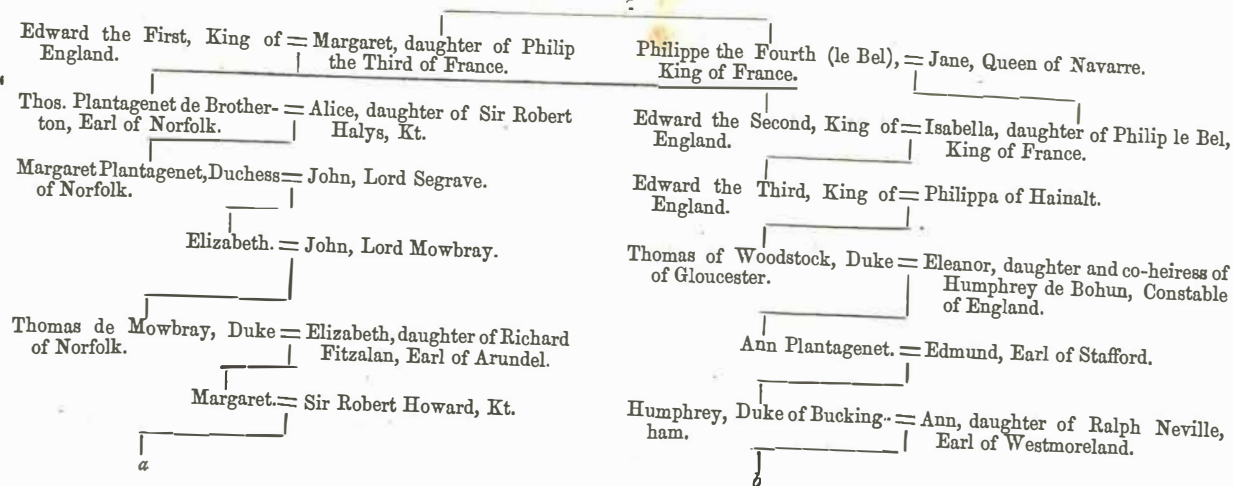


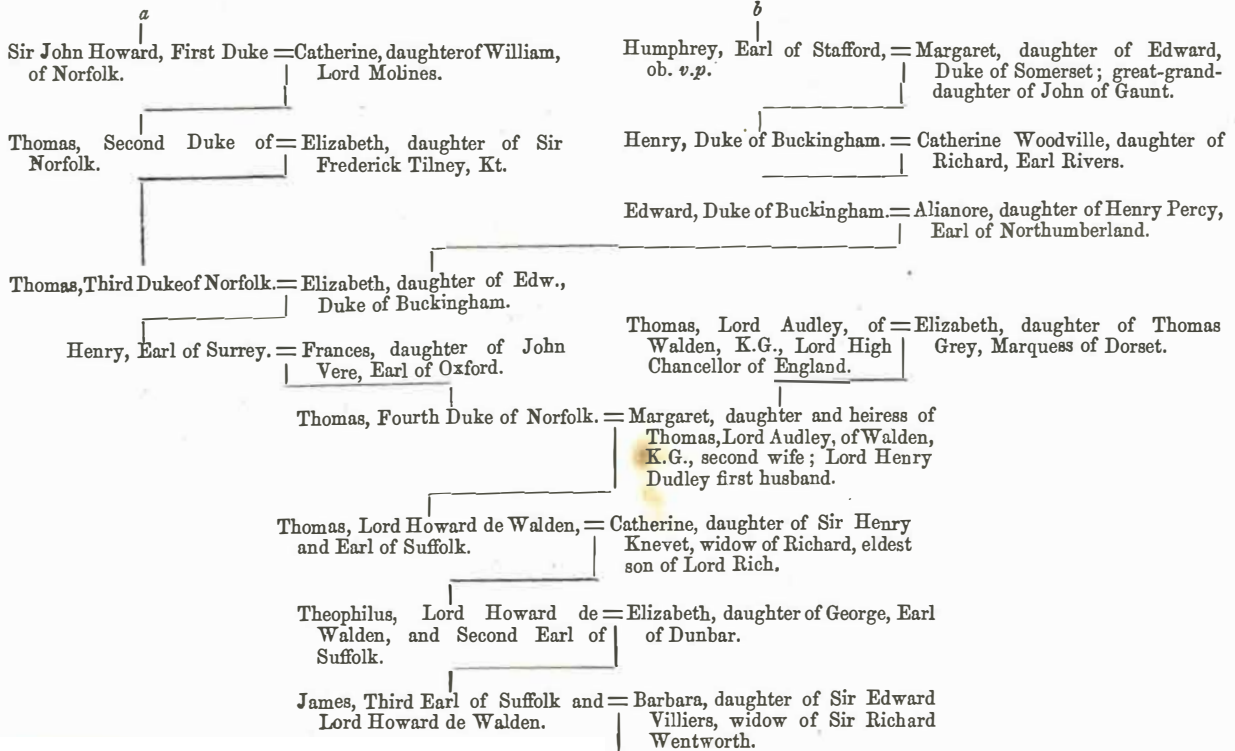


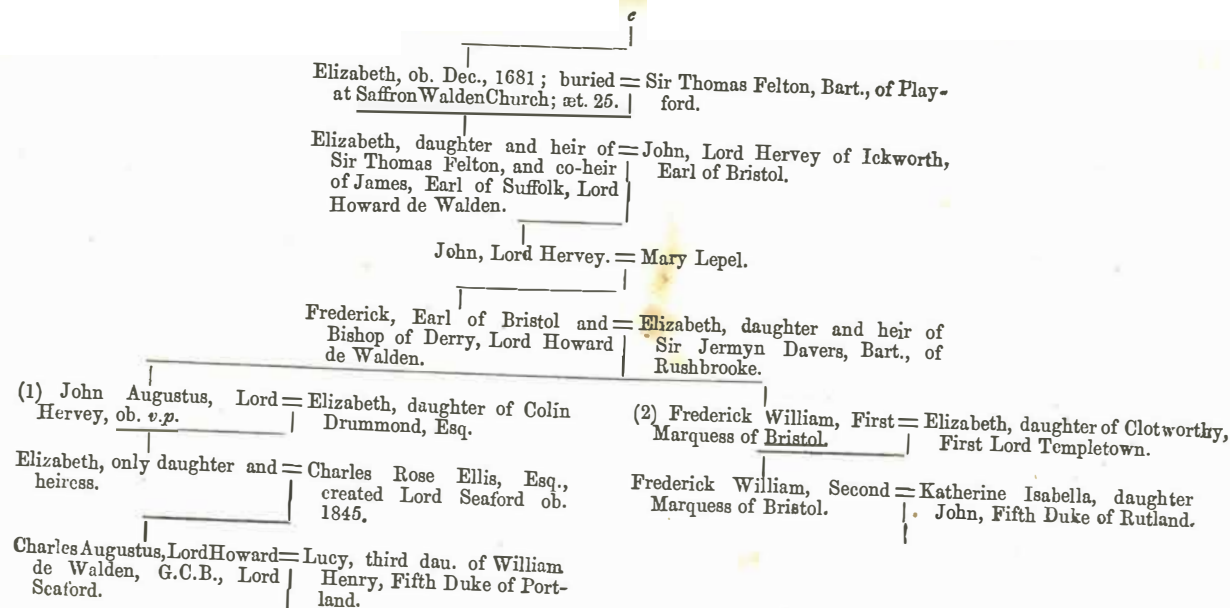


II. PEDIGREE OF THE LADY ELIZABETH HOWARD, WIFE OF SIR THOMAS FELTON, BART.

HUGH CAPET, A.D. 989.







III. BIGOD OR FELBRIGG.

Roger le Bigot, had 6 Lordships = The Lady Adeliza.
 in Essex, and 117 in Suffolk and
 in Norfolk; had lands in Felbrigge.
 —*Domesday*, vol. ii., 173.

William, ob. *s.p.* Hugh Bigot, Earl of Norfolk 1140, =
 6 Stephen.

Roger, Earl of Norfolk, 5 Henry =
 the Third.

Hugh, Earl of Norfolk. = Maud, daughter of Wm. Mareschal,
 Earl of Pembroke.

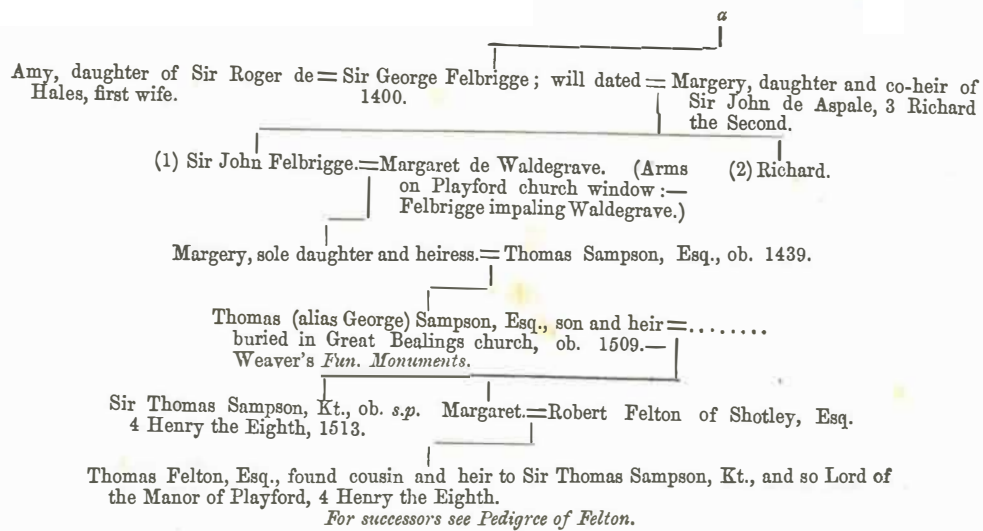
(1) Roger, Earl of Norfolk. (2) Hugh. (3) Sir Simon le Bigod, third son. = Maud, daughter and heiress of Richard
 de Felbrigge.

Sir Roger le Bigod, 3 Edward the = Cecilia.
 First.

Sir Simon de Felbrigge, 28 Edward = Alice, daughter of Sir George de (2) John Bigod. = Lucia.
 the First. Thorp.

Daughter. = John Wymondham.

Roger le Bigod, Esq. =
 a



APPENDIX E.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

(*From Magna Britannia*, p. 291.)

Playford, a Benedictine Abbey, dissolved by Pope Clement's Bull, granted to Cardinal Wolsey, in order to the building of his Colleges at Oxford and Ipswich. Sir Anthony Playford, Kt. (read Felton), made it his seat, and was unfortunate.

References to *Dallaway's Heraldry* and to *Monthly Review*, Oct., 1795, p. 139, for the cause tried in the Earl Marshall's Court, 23rd May, 1598, between Anthony Felton and Edmund Withepole; and to *Blomfield's Norfolk*, vol. iv., p. 305, fol., for the Felbrigg family.

(*From Dowsing's Journal*, 1643.)

Playford, Jan^y 30. We brake down 17 Popish pictures, one of God the Father; and took up 2 superstitious inscriptions in brass; and one *Ora pro nobis*, and *cujus animæ propitiatur Deus*, and a second *Pray for the soul*.

Mr. Tilletson found in Playford Church, 1594:—

St. George's cross A., a cross Gu. (twice.)

Elmham.—Arg., a fess between 2 displayed eaglets Gu.

Thorp.—B. iii crescents Argent.

„ Gu., iii maunches Or, parted per pale Gu. and Arg.

Felbrigg.—Or, a lion salient Gu.

Scales.—Gu., 6 escallops Arg., iii. ii. i.

Tiptoft.—Arg., a saltire engrailed Gu.

Ufford.—Sa., a cross engrailed Or; and

Beke (Curzon).—Gu., a cross moline Arg.

Mr. Tilletson observed on the coach of Felton these coats quartered:—

1. *Felton*.—Gu., ii lions passant Erm., crowned Or.

2. *Alcock*.—Arg., a chevron between iii cocks' heads erased, combes and jowlappet, all Sable.
3. *Sampson*.—Gu., a plain cross Arg., billets Sa.
4. *Felbrigg*.—Or, a lion rampant, stouping Gu.
5. *Bures* [Waldegrave of ?].—Ermine, on a chief indented Sa., ii lions rampant Or.
6. *Aspall*.—B., iii chevronells Or.
7. *Mosswell*.—Arg., a chevron between iii bears' heads couped Sa., muzzled Vert.
8. *Vis-de-lieu* (*loup*).—Arg., iii wolves' heads couped Gu.
9. *Peach*.—A fess between ii chevrons Gu.

Upon the same coach was another escutcheon, lozenge :—

1. *Gerne* (qu. *Gernon*).—Gu., iii piles wavy Arg.
2. *Candish* (*Cavendish*).—Sa., a chevron Or between iii cups without covers Arg.
3. ————Ermine, 3 barres Or.
4. ————Arg., iii barres Gu., over all a lion rampant Or, crowned p. pale Gu. and Arg.

(From *Bentham's Hist. Ely Cathedral*, 2nd edit., p. 199,
and *Suppl. to Ditto*, p. 109.)

Dr. Nicholas Felton, Lord Bishop of Ely, was the third son of Mr. John Felton, of Great Yarmouth, in Norfolk, Alderman. He was born August 3, 1563, and admitted of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, of which college he was chosen Fellow, Nov. 27, 1583; and became Master in 1616. In the following year, being then also Rector of Easton Magna, Essex, and Prebendary of St. Paul's, he was promoted to the See of Bristol, but was translated to Ely, in March, 1618-19. He died at Chingford, Essex, on the 5th day of October, 1626, aged 63, and was buried under the communion table in St. Antholin's church, London, where he had been Rector for twenty-four years, and where his wife had been buried. He was one of the translators of the Bible; was "a most reverend, grave, learned, and religious good man; and lived a most godly, christian, and charitable life, beloved of God, and of all good men."

He married Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, widow of the Rev. Robert Norgate, D.D., in 1588: and by her, who died Jan. 6, 1605, had three children—Nicholas, Robert, and John—who died young.

There is no monument or inscription to his memory in St. Antholin's church, but there is a portrait of him at the Bishop's palace, Ely; and I am informed by the present Bishop of Ely, that he used the Felton arms:—Gules, two lions passant.

Bishop Andrews was his immediate predecessor in the See of Ely, having, like Bishop Felton, been also Master of Pembroke College.

In the Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, Car. I., 1628-29, pp. 321, 340, are the "Directions from the King for the examination of Felton," and "Interrogatories whereon John Felton (vide p. 41), is to be examined;" and at p. 349, is the examination of Eleanor, the mother of John Felton, who says that she was the daughter of William Wright, the mayor of Durham, where she was born; that her mother was next of kin to the Andersens of Newcastle; that her father had five sons, among whom was Hugh, who had been divers times mayor of Durham, and that she had three sisters, one married to Pattison, who served Lord Stanhope.

(From Suckling's History of Suffolk, vol. i., p. 110.)

In Worlingham churchyard, adjoining to the south wall of the nave, is an altar tomb of white marble, bearing the arms of *Playters* impaling *Felton*:—Gules, two lioncels passant guardant in pale Ermine, crowned Or, with a mullet for difference; and an inscription to the memory of Dame Elizabeth Playters, of Sotterley, daughter and sole heiress of John Felton, Esq., of Playford, who died Nov. 14, 1748, aged 58; and also to John Felton, her father, who died in 1703, aged 41. On a hatchment in the church, *Felton* impales Argent, two chevrons between three chaplets Vert.
