

GENERAL MEETING, *June 30, 1874.* The LORD JOHN HERVEY,
President.

Starting from Finningham station, the first church visited was that of WESTHORPE, dedicated to ST. MARGARET, an interesting but sadly dilapidated building, chiefly of the Decorated period, the clerestory and roof being additions of the 15th century. The rood screen has been removed, and is lying neglected in the Barrow Chapel, but the East end of the South aisle is still enclosed by Decorated screen work of good design. In the South wall of the aisle is an arched tomb, probably coeval with the building, but covered by a slab having a plain cross in relief which must have been originally intended for some other tomb. The door to the belfry should be noticed for its iron work. The windows of the aisles are still in fair order, but the East window is the work of the village carpenter, who has preserved nothing but a fine coat of arms, De la Pole quartering Burgheshe, *Gu. a lion rampant doubled tailed or.*, impaling France and England quarterly with the garter, the arms of John, 2nd Duke of Suffolk, husband of Elizabeth of York, a sister of Edward IV. On his mother's side this Duke was descended from Geoffry Chaucer, and quartered the arms of Burgheshe in right of his grandmother Maud, daughter and co-heir of Sir John de Burgheshe. On the North side of the chancel is the chapel or rather mausoleum of the Barrows, darkening a beautiful two-light window of the chancel. It is entered from the North aisle through iron gates, and contains an elaborate monument of white marble to Maurice Barrow, 1666, commenced by his cousin and successor, Maurice Shelton, but completed by Henry Shelton. The floor of this chapel is paved with slabs of cement in imitation of marble, on which are jars of flowers, &c., figured in outlines of coloured clays or cements, after the manner of Florentine mosaic work. In the chancel is a mural monument, to William Barrow, 1613, who is represented kneeling at a faldstool, with his two wives kneeling opposite to him. Below are three shields, viz., Barrow of eight quarterings 1 and 2 Barrow, 3 and 4 Bures, 5 Roydon, 6 Fermor, 7 Morieux, 8 Per bend wavy or. and sab., Barrow impaling Wingfield, and Barrow impaling Daundy.

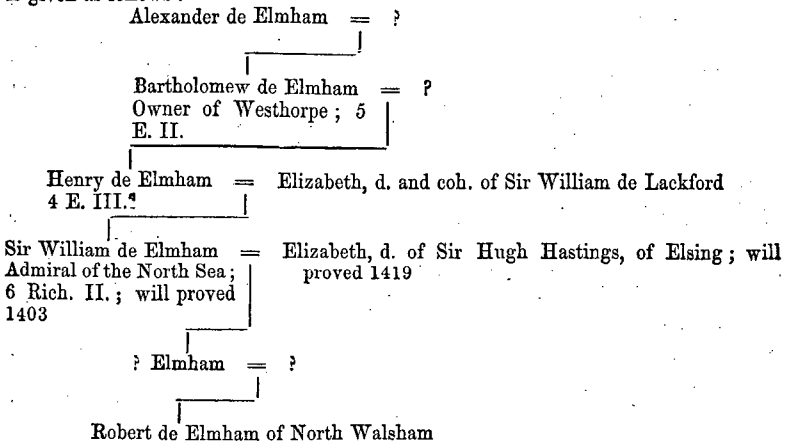
The following sketch of the history of the Manor was read at the meeting :

In the time of Edward the Confessor the Manor was held by one Ulric Hagana; in the time of the Conqueror by Eudo, the son of Spirvic. In the reign of Henry III. mention is made of Walter de Westhorpe, and some time later in the same reign one Robert Hovel held the Manor, a name now represented by the Thurlow family.

In 1307 one Philip de Eye is named as the Lord, and then we come to the important family de Elmham, who became owners of Westhorpe in 1312, and probably resided

there throughout the 14th century. In 1312 Bartholomew de Elmham was Lord of the Manor, and had a grant of free warren. He was succeeded by his son Henry in the fourth year of Edward III., 1330. He lies buried in the church, possibly in the arched tomb in the South aisle. Then follow the names of John de la Ryvere, succeeded by that of his son Richard de la Ryvere, as holding the Manor for William, the son and heir of Henry de Elmham. In 1380 Sir William de Elmham, Knight, became the Lord of the Manor, but nine years previously, viz., in 1371, he had a grant of a market, fair, and free warren. Sir William held command in the army which Spencer, the warlike Bishop of Norwich, led into Flanders ostensibly to support the Italian Pope, Urban VI., against the nominee of France, Clement VII. The expedition failed, chiefly through the jealousy of the Duke of Lancaster, and on the return of the Bishop and his Knight they were condemned in a heavy fine. Sir William de Elmham's share of this fine was 3080 golden francs, which the Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk was directed to levy. This occurred in 1384, 7th Richard II. (Rymer, ann. 1384.) Sir William died in 1403, and was buried in the Abbey at Bury, leaving his estate to his widow, Elizabeth, who died in 1419, also buried at Bury. His arms, Arg. a fess gu. between three eagles displayed sab., are or were, in Wyverstone Church.

Their wills are extant. That of Sir William is short, mentioning his children, but not naming them. The will of Elizabeth is in French, with numerous specific bequests, by one of which she assigns to the altar of St. James, at Westhorpe, "Un vestiment entier de rouge drape soie, &c., avec ij chandelers de laton." Their pedigree is given as follows :



It is not clear what became of the estate on the death of Elizabeth, widow of Sir William de Elmham, in 1419, but not many years afterwards the Manor was held by Sir William De la Pole, 4th Earl of Suffolk. This Earl held high position in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI., being successively created Marquis of Suffolk, Lord High Admiral, and finally Duke of Suffolk in 1448. He was found seized of the Manor at the time of his mock trial and death in the cockboat off Dover.

Sir William was succeeded by his son John De la Pole, who married the sister of Edward IV. ; who was again succeeded by Edmund De la Pole, beheaded by Henry VIII. in 1513, apparently because Plantagenet blood flowed in his veins. The estates were forfeited to the Crown, but assigned for life to the widowed Countess Margaret, daughter of Lord Scroope.

In the month of February, 1514, Charles Brandon, Viscount L'Isle, "one comely of stature and high of courage," the friend and companion of Henry VIII., was raised to the vacant Dukedom of Suffolk, with a grant of the possessions of the unfortunate

noble. On the death of the widowed Countess, in 1515, he took possession of the Manor of Westhorpe. The story of Charles Brandon's marriage with Mary, the sister of Henry VIII., and Dowager Queen of France, need not be repeated; but after their return to England Charles and his Royal wife appear to have spent much of their time at Westhorpe, the Queen amusing herself by laying out her garden after the fashion she had learnt in France, and occupying her later years in the education of her children. Here Mary died on the 25th of June, 1533, and in the month following she was buried with Royal honours in the neighbouring Abbey of Bury St. Edmund's. On the dissolution of the Monastery her remains were removed to St. Mary's Church, and her tomb was re-opened in 1731, and again in 1784. Full notice of these proceedings is given in the late Mr. Tymms' *History of St. Mary's Church*. The Duke died in 1545, and was buried in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. His arms were, Barry of 10 arg. and gu., over all a lion rampant or crowned per pale arg. Three children were the fruit of this marriage; Henry, Earl of Lincoln, who died young in 1525; Frances, who married Henry Grey, 3rd Marquis of Dorset, created Duke of Suffolk on the death of his wife's half brother, Henry Brandon, 2nd Duke; Eleanor, who married Henry Clifford, 2nd Earl of Cumberland. Frances was the mother of that "admirable young heroine" the Lady Jane Grey. Another daughter was the Lady Catherine Grey, who, for having dared to marry Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, without the consent of the maiden Queen, was committed to the Tower, where she died in 1567. Through these daughters of Mary, Queen of France and Duchess of Suffolk, the blood of the Tudors still runs in the veins of the Dukes of Athol and other noble families.*

Of the Hall but little is known. It is said to have been of considerable size, with a chapel attached, and a garden laid out in the French style. It was pulled down about 1750, and, as Martin states, without any regard to the preservation of the ornaments.

Henry Brandon, 2nd Duke of Suffolk, dying childless in 1551 the title became extinct, and soon after, viz., in 1554, Sir Thomas Cornwallis, the builder of Brome Hall, and ancestor of the Lords Cornwallis, had a grant of the reversion, with power to alienate, which he seems to have done in favour of John Cowell and others. In 8th of Elizabeth Sir Nicholas Bacon had a grant of the Manor, and near the end of the same reign it is found in possession of William Barrow.

The Barrows were a family of position in Norfolk and Suffolk. Thomas Barrow, who was living at Cranworth, in Norfolk, 1581, married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Bures, by whom he had a son, William, whose monument is on the North side of the chancel. He married twice; first, Frances, daughter of Sir Robert Wingfield, and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Daundy. Probably he made Westhorpe his residence, and died there 24th Dec., 1613. By his second wife, Elizabeth Daundy, William Barrow left an only son, Maurice, who resided chiefly at Barningham, in this county. Maurice married Maria, daughter of Richard Smith, of Leeds Castle, in Kent, the widow of Sir Jacob Poyntz, and died at the age of 69, in 1666.

Maurice Barrow, though he died at Barningham where he had lived, directed his body to be buried at Westhorpe, and left by his will £500 to build his tomb. Probably he was the destroyer of the fine old Hall, whose ruthless destruction has been so regretfully recorded by Martin.

On the death of Maurice Barrow, the estate passed under his will to his cousin, Maurice Shelton, one of an ancient family connected with both Norfolk and Suffolk. Sir Ralph Shelton, who was Sheriff for Norfolk in 1570, married twice, his second wife being a sister of William Barrow, of Westhorpe, and from this marriage Maurice Shelton was the second in descent. He died s. p. in 1676, was succeeded by his brother Henry, who was again succeeded in 1690 by his son Maurice, who died in 1749.

Maurice Shelton, before his death in 1749, must have settled the property upon his daughter Arabella, as we find it held by her husband, Thomas Taylor, as of her right

* *Gents. Mag.*, 1826, May, p. 397.

and again, in 1746, it was held by John Reilly, in right of his wife Maria Rebecca, daughter of Thomas Taylor and granddaughter of Maurice Shelton. John Reilly died in 1795, and his wife in 1810. Maurice Shelton was buried at Shelton, in Norfolk, where his ancestors had long resided. The inscription on his tomb describes him as the last male heir of his family. He was the author of a book in two volumes entitled *An Essay on Nobility*, printed for the author 1720.

LORDS OF THE MANOR OF WESTHORN HALL.

	T. R. E.		ULRIC HAGANA.
	W. 1.		EUDO, son of SPIRVIE.
24	H. 3.	1240	WALTER DE WESTHORN, bro ^r . of Roger, was seized of 2 p ^r . of a fee. ROBERT HOVEL held it. PHILIP DE EYE 1 E. 2. 1307.
5	E. 2.	1312	BARTHOLOMEW DE ELMHAM had a grant of free warren.
9	E. 2.	1316	ADAM DE COMOIS. L 18 E. 2. 1324. He released all rights to
4	E. 3.	1330	JOHN, son of ROBERT POLLARD. 18 E. 3. 1344.
4	E. 3.	1330	HENRY DE ELMHAM, son and heir of Barth ^w ., held the Manor of Westhorn. JOHN DE LA RYVERE, died, seized 35. E. 3.
35	E. 3.	1361	RICHARD DE LA RYVERE, bro ^r . and heir.
11	R. 2.	1380	Sir WILLIAM DE ELMHAM, Knt., son and heir of HENRY. He had a grant of a market, fair, and free warren. 46 E. 3. 1371. Died 1403, and left it to
4	H. 6.	1403	ELIZABETH, his widow. She died 7 H. 5. 1419. WILLIAM DE LA POLE, D. of Suffolk. Died seized 20 H. 6. 1448.
28	H. 6.	1448	JOHN DE LA POLE, D. of Suffolk, son and heir. Died 7 H. 7. 1492.
7	H. 7.	1492	EDMUND DE LA POLE, E. of Suff., son and heir attainted, and beheaded 1513.
3	H. 8.	1511	ROBERT WASHINGTON, and ANNE his wife, by grant for life, and afterwards 5 H. 8, 1513, in fee.
6	H. 8.		MARGARET, w ^o . of EDW ^d . DE LA POLE, had an assignment for life. Died 1515.
7	H. 8.	1515	THE KING
1 & 2. } P. & M. }		1554	CHARLES BRANDON, D. of Suffolk, had a grant of it. Sir THOMAS CORNWALLIS, Knt., had a grant of the reversion. He had licence to aliene it to
39 Elii.		1597	JOHN COWELL and others.
8 Eliis. Elii.		1566	Sir NICHOLAS BACON, by grant. WILLIAM BARROW, Esq ^{re} ., 1609. Died 1613.
		1613	MAURICE BARROW, of Barningham, Esq ^r ., son and heir. He died 1666. By his will, dated 1665, gave it to
		1666	MAURICE SHELTON, Esq ^{re} ., the elder, his cousin. MAURICE SHELTON, Esq ^{re} ., son and heir. Died 1676. s.p.
		1676	HENRY SHELTON, Esq., bro ^r . and heir. Died 1690.
		1690	MAURICE SHELTON, Esq ^{re} ., son and heir. Died 1749. THOMAS TAYLOR, Esq ^{re} ., in right of ARABELLA, his wife, & dau ^r . of MAURICE SHELTON, Esq ^{re} .
		1746	JOHN REILLY, Esq ^{re} ., in right of his wife, MARIA REBECCA, grand dau ^r . of MAURICE SHELTON (da. of Tho ^s . Taylor). He died 1795.
		1795	MARIA REBECCA, his w ^o . Died 1810.