

## NOTES ON SUFFOLK CASTLES.

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## I. HAUGHLEY CASTLE AND ITS PARK.

The site of Haughley Castle, with its irregularities of surface, caused by the artificial mound with its encircling moat, and the rectangular enclosures similarly surrounded, presents to the mind much food for reflection. We are led to consider, who, or what workmen were engaged in throwing up this defensive earthwork; what was the character of the fortress reared upon the mound; and by what fate it was destroyed. A search among early chronicles throws little light upon the subject, and we are compelled to base our knowledge of its history upon a comparison of the earthworks as they now remain, with those of which we have reliable information as to their construction. A few scanty records bearing on its history, however, remain, and will assist us to form a judgment as to the origin and character of the Castle. The plan of Haughley Castle and its defences presents a resemblance to that of Eye Castle, which was probably constructed about the same period. Before dwelling upon the history of the owners and occupiers of the site, we will examine the nature of the defences as shown in the recent Ordnance Survey.

The most striking feature is the artificial mound with its level summit. The diameter of the inner circle of the enclosing moat is 70 yards, and if we measure this diameter from the passage over the moat, proceeding at the same time due north, we shall find the summit is not concentric with the moat, for the distance from the entrance to the summit is  $26\frac{1}{2}$  yards, but only half the distance lies between the northern edge of the summit and the nearest part of the moat. The diameter of the

summit itself is  $26\frac{1}{2}$  yards. These measurements at once speak to us of design, and we note that the engineer of the work conceived it necessary to protect the south side more securely than the north, because the approach lay in that direction, where the highway passed by. The path leading to the castle wound up the steep sides of the slope eastward. Further protection was afforded to the entrance side by making the moat at that place 8 yards (nearly 9 yards) in width, whilst in the north the moat was only four yards wide.

Further, no admittance to the mound entrance could be gained without first passing through a rectangular enclosure, in length measuring 130 yards, and in breadth 80 to 110 yards, the longest side running due east and west. The surrounding moat is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  yards wide; the passage across it was over the eastern side. This passage was protected by another rectangular moated enclosure on the east, where the buildings of Castle Farm now stand.

The mound has all the characteristics of one on which a wealthy landowner, Saxon, Dane or Norman, in the first half of the 11th century reared his fortified dwelling, surrounded by massive timber defences, for himself and family; and which no enemy could approach without first passing through the enclosure reserved for his retainers. If this conjecture is right, and I see no reason to doubt it, we learn from Domesday that Goodmund, who had his hall on this spot in the days of Edward the Confessor, was the probable author of these defensive works. In his days Haughley was an important place, for it gave its name to one of the four Honours which existed at the time of the Conquest; the Honours of Eye and Clare were of subsequent creation. We may therefore consider Haughley Castle to have been one of the earliest castles founded in Suffolk.

The Domesday Survey tells us that Breme, a neighbouring landowner lost his life on the field of Senlac, that his lands were given to Hugh de Montfort, who also acquired the *hall* and estates of Goodmund. This baron was the

Constable, upon whom fell the duty of regulating the supplies of William's army. He is said to have furnished the Norman Duke with 50 ships and 60 knights, when he set sail for England. Unlike the majority of Normans, De Montfort was unshaven, and bore the name of Hugh with the beard. As a reward for his services at the battle of Hastings, he received 114 lordships, 51 of which were in Suffolk. Haughley Castle was his principal seat, which, doubtless, he further strengthened and fortified: He lost his life in a duel with Walcheline de Ferrers; his son Hugh, succeeded to his estates, and as General of the army of William II. he retained the Honour of Hagenet or Haughley (known as the Honor Constabularie) until the year 1100, when, having favoured the cause of Robert against his brother Henry I., he lost his estates and departed on a crusade to the Holy Land. From a statement made in the Pipe Rolls for 15 Hen. II. (1169), it appears that Gilbert de Gant, a grandson of Alice de Montfort, daughter of Hugh; the first Constable of that name, held Haughley castle and manor. He was a warm supporter of Stephen, with whom he was captured at the battle of Lincoln, 1141. He gave a great part of the estate to Gilbert de Ver, and also lands to William, son of Hervey, a freeman at the time of the Domesday Survey. When a prisoner, Gilbert de Gant was forced to marry Rohais, daughter of Wm., Earl of Lincoln, and niece to Ralph, Earl of Chester. Henry II. at his accession resumed his right over the Haughley lands; and upon the marriage of his daughter Matilda to Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony, demanded an aid of 20s. from the town. This monarch marched rapidly throughout his dominions, fortifying the castles in his hands, and erecting new ones as at Orford, and Walton near Felixstowe, to overawe and subdue rebel barons such as Hugh Bigod. The king deprived Beckett of the Honor of Eye in 1164, strengthened its castle, and, probably, at the same time increased the defences of Haughley, although its position did not give it the strategical importance belonging to the coast and

border fortresses. These newly erected castles of Orford and Walton were able to withstand the attack of Robert, Earl of Leicester, and his Flemings, in 1173, their garrisons each numbered 100 men; but Haughley, with a small force of 30 men under Ralph de Broc, was not able to withstand the combined assault made by the 1400 Flemish mercenaries and Bigod's followers. The 30 soldiers and their leader were held to ransom, the castle was destroyed and burnt. Its destruction by fire seems to imply that it was constructed largely of timber. The castle appears never to have been rebuilt, for no notice is taken of it hereafter, although frequent mention is made of this royal manor, and of the visits to Haughley made by the king. Ralph de Broc was one of Beckett's bitterest enemies. At the Council of Northampton, it was "this ruffian adventurer," who rushed upon the Archbishop with cries of "Traitor, traitor"; he held the custody of the archi-episcopal estates for four years, and, although excommunicated, would not give them up; at Saltwood Castle he presided over the council which planned the murder of Becket; and his presence at Haughley is probably due to the fact that he was holding the Honor of Eye, which was taken from the archbishop.

After the destruction of the Castle the history of Haughley is centred around its Royal manor and park. The manor was placed out to ferme by Henry II. to Robert fitz Isilie and Ralph of Rochester; and in the 31st year of his reign to Wm. de Assheford and Robert de Welles, when it brought into the Treasury a revenue of £55 18s. 8d. One of the means, adopted by Richard I. to obtain money that he might embark on the Crusade, was the sale of Royal estates, and it is probable that when he bestowed the hand of his niece, Matilda of Saxony (1187), upon Count Thos. de Perche, he gave with her, as dowry, the manor of Haughley, for upon the death of this noble at the Fair of Lincoln (1218), this estate formed part of his possessions, and by forfeiture once more reverted to the King. Henry III. bestowed the

manor upon his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of Sicily and Emperor of Germany, but, owing to the support given by this Prince and his son Edmund to the rebellious barons, it was again forfeited. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, began in 1246, and finished, at an expense of 10,000 marks, in 1251, a noble Abbey for monks of the Cistercian Order at Hales, or Tray, in Gloucestershire. He endowed this Abbey with part of his Haughley estates, and it was the duty of the Abbot to maintain the gallows erected in Luberlow Field. The patronage of the church was in the possession of these monks, who, at the time when numerous benefices were held by Italian priests, nominated, in 1255, to this living, Master John de Monte Luelli. This priest had an indulgence from the Pope, whereby he was permitted to hold at the same time two other benefices with cure of souls.

The Keeper of the manor was distinct from the Parker or Warrener, and between the two personages constant disputes arose. Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, brought his park-keeper from the neighbourhood of his religious house at Hales, and conferred upon him by charter an annuity of 45s. 6d. and a robe, which was to be supplied to him by the keeper of the Haughley manor. When the manor was in the hands of Edward II., John de Morewode, keeper of the manor, refused to grant this annuity to Hugh de Treie, which he and his father had received for many years. Morewode was dismissed from his office (1313), and Gilbert de Ruston was appointed in his stead; but it appears he was unable to cope with the outlaws, who broke into the park, murdered John King, the newly-appointed keeper, and stole the King's deer. Like Robin Hood's company, these outlaws had among them a green-wood priest, Reginald de Denham, rector of the church of Tofts, who, upon payment of the sum of 60 marks, received pardon for stealing deer. He had for an accomplice a member of a notorious poaching family, Richard, brother of John de Tendringge, who atoned for the murder of King by a payment of £20 to the

Exchequer, Fines and imprisonment did not deter priest or people from these practices. In the year 1318, when the manor was assigned to Margaret, Countess of Cornwall, the King's niece, and afterwards to her husband, Hugh Daudele, John, the bailiff and chaplain of Norton, was cast into prison for deer stealing. William de Marny, under the plea of attending the funeral of a relative, Roger Fillol, the King's yeoman, of Hadleigh, made his escape from gaol, to which he had been committed for the same offence.

Although the Castle had been destroyed, a substantial residence or hall must have been standing on the spot in these days, for in 1325 Edward II. and his Court, after keeping Christmas and New Year's Day at Bury St. Edmund's, made a stay of a week at Haughley before proceeding to South Elmham.

Upon the creation of Robert de Ufford as Earl of Ufford in 1339, the castle, manor, and honor of Eye, and the manors of Thorndon and Haughley, were conferred upon him. The town and manor of Haughley had a yearly value of £126 5s. 7½d. This change of lords did not check deer-poaching raids, for in 1341 Jn. Marceys, of Stowmarket, Rich. Sone, Thos. Chaundelour, Nicholas Treye, of Haughley, and others, robbed the park of its deer, and to prevent their capture by the sheriff's officers, armed themselves and resorted to Stowmarket Church, which they held as a fortress. After the death in 1389 of Isabella, Countess of Suffolk, widow of the last of the Uffords, Haughley park and manor was assigned to the unfortunate Wm. de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, who was beheaded in a boat 1450. The Haughley estates formed part of the possessions of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who, on the 1st August, 1515, granted them to the keeping of his relative, Sir Thos. Tyrrell, and they remained in the hands of the Tyrrell family within the memory of some of the present inhabitants of Haughley. I find in a Haughley rental for 1390 the name of Tyrrell appears as John Tarel.

## HAUGHLEY CHURCH NOTES.

1393. A relaxation of six years and six quadragene to penitents, who on the Feasts of the Invention and Exaltation of the Holy Cross; and that of the Dedication, visit and give alms for the conservation of the Chapel of St. Cross, in the parish church of Haughley.

Papal Letters, p. 456.

*Same date.* Probably the following gift resulted from the above relaxation. Land to the extent of 1 acre 3 roods, formerly belonging to Alice Goodwine and late John Spring, was held by Edward Wulleman, John Glaunvyle, and Wm. Cook, procurators of Haughley Church, to use and common profit of church aforesaid. Rental, *temp.* Rich. II., Record Office.