

HINTLESHAM HALL.

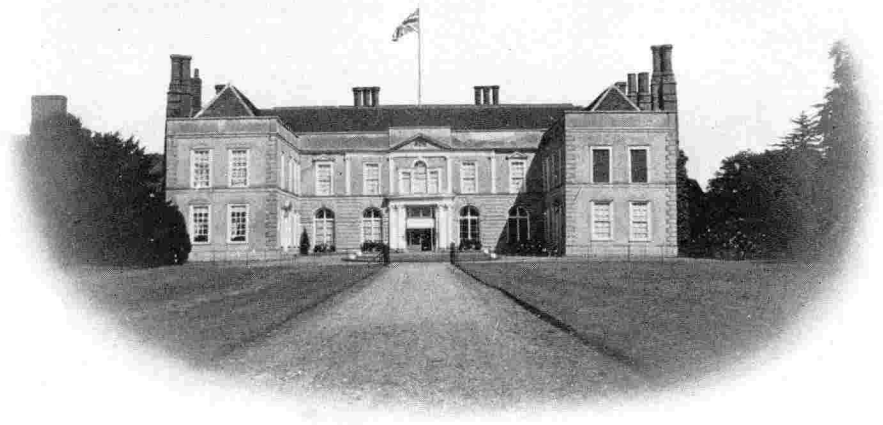
BY J. SHEWELL CORDER.¹

Though the Manor of Hintlesham played an important part in the social life of East Anglia centuries ago, and its owners held a distinguished position contemporaneous records contain surprisingly few references to it. The publications of our own Institute only incidentally mention it; hence it is with a sense of satisfaction that we are able to present our readers with a detailed account of the principal events connected with its past history.

The main Manor of Hintlesham consisted of two moieties now presented by the "Hall" and the "Old Hall." The former is the holding occupied by the Pipard family during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Extents of the manor taken in their time show that a capital messuage than existed, and the author would suggest that the original manor-house of the Pipards occupied the site of the present "Hintlesham," and was enclosed by what is now the outer of the two moats which can still be clearly traced. The inner moat seems to have been made for the protection of the later building.

The house as we see it to-day, though altered from time to time, presents a fine specimen of the recognised type of Elizabethan mansion. It was built by Thomas Timperley, 1570-80, and in it were incorporated some of the earlier buildings. At the back

¹ Incorporated with the paper read by Mr. Corder, 20th July, 1912, are the results of further research carried out since that date by Sir Gerald Ryan, with the assistance of Miss L. J. Redstone.



HINTLESHAM HALL: THE WEST FRONT.



HINTLESHAM HALL: VIEW OF SOUTH EAST.

of the house there is said to be a beam with the date "1513" upon it, showing that an earlier building did exist. This was probably the house occupied by William Timperley, father of Thomas, and by his predecessors.

The Timperleys had been in possession of Hintlesham Manor at least since 1487, and resided in Hintlesham certainly at the beginning of the Fifteenth Century. During the troubled period of the Wars of the Roses they took an important place in Suffolk affairs as followers and "counsellors" of the Duke of Norfolk. John Timperley acted as messenger between the Duke and the King in 1443, and brought to the Tower certain riotous persons from Norwich, receiving five marks for his pains.² This John, or possibly his son of the same name, was admitted burgess of Ipswich in 1454 with power to bring into the town toll-free the produce of his demesne lands.³ In the following year a John Timperley was associated with Gilbert Debenham as Member of Parliament for the borough.⁴ The constant combination of his name with that of Gilbert Debenham and certain others, both in the records of Ipswich, and as trustee for Richard Duke of Gloucester⁵ (*afterwards Richard III.*), goes to prove his identity with the "Timperley" of the Paston letters, who rode with Sir Philip Wentworth when he kidnapped a minor near Hadleigh, was present at Ipswich in 1461 and with others of Norfolk's counsel witnessed the discomfiture of the younger John Paston in 1472. His estate at his death in 1491 consisted of Hintlesham Manor and advowson, Mansers manor in Hadley and Aldham and a tenement called "Hadleys" in Hadley. He was succeeded by his son John Timper-

² *Devon Issues of the Excheq.* 444.

³ Add. MS., 30,158, fol. 17b.

⁴ *Ibid.* fol. 19.

⁵ *Cal. Chan. Proc. Eliz. i.*, p. xc.

ley ("the younger") third of that name, who was over forty when his father died.⁶ He had been admitted a burgess of Ipswich in 1476, and had also represented the town in Parliament.⁷ He was knighted in 1501, and died without male issue.⁸ In his lifetime he alienated the Hintlesham estate to William, son of his younger brother, Nicholas Timperley.⁹ William Timperley married Margaret, daughter of Thomas (Howard) Duke of Norfolk (died 1554) settling on her as jointure certain tenements in Hintlesham, including Makells and Hill Place, the Manor of Mansers and other land in Hadley and Aldham.⁹ He died 1st April, 1528, leaving four young sons, the eldest of whom, Thomas Timperley, was scarcely more than five years old.⁹

It was this Thomas Timperley who built the main part of the present Hall. During his minority he had been placed under the guardianship of the Duke of Norfolk, his grandfather, and he was among the first to acknowledge Mary as Queen in 1553.¹⁰ He successfully proved his claim to hold court leet and to have other royalties, including goods and chattels of fugitive felons in Hintlesham.¹¹ He bequeathed to the Church a bell "to be agreable for a Base to the other twoe which be nowe in the steeple there." He consolidated his estate by purchasing tenements in Flowton and Burstall, and was in treaty for the purchase of Monewdon Manor at the time of his death. The hall which he had built was well furnished with "plate, bedding, hangings, and other household stuff," which he converted into heirlooms to remain with the house "from one heir male to another during God's pleasure."¹²

⁶ *Cal. Ing. p. m.*, Hen. VII., 809.

⁷ *And. MS.* 30,158, fo. 33b, 41.

⁸ Metcalfe, *Book of Knights*, 37; Metcalfe, *Visit of Suff.* 00.

⁹ *Chan. Inq. p. m.* (Ser 2) Vol. 49, No. 15.

¹⁰ *L. and P. of Henry VIII.*, iv., 6,248 (21); *Acts of Privy Council*, 1552-4, p. 430.

¹¹ Memoranda R (Excheq. L. T. R.), Hil. 4, Edw. VI., "Recorda" m, 28.

¹² P.C.C 60, Dixy.

The house was built on the quadrangular principle, a survival of the arrangement evolved from the fortified castle of the Normans. Many examples of this type of house exist in Suffolk, and comparison may be made with Christchurch, Ipswich. As at Christchurch, the Hall is solidly built of brick, probably made locally, and roofed with tiles. The woodwork and framings internally are of English oak, for which the parish of Hintlesham is famed. The façades are bold and striking, the chief features being the simple grouping of the gables. The general effect is that of excellent proportion obtained by skilful design without the aid of superfluous ornamentation.

The plan is the recognised arrangement of the Elizabethan period, viz., a central hall with the residential portion on the right wing and the domestic portion on the left. A projecting porch completed the typical E shaped frontage of the Elizabethan period, and the guest rooms were on the upper storey. The domestic offices were unusually extensive owing to the fact that remains of the earlier building were incorporated with Thomas Timperley's house. Thus some of the rooms on the left of the central hall, which, if the original plan had been followed would have been assigned to the domestic or service part of the house, have been devoted to additional accommodation for the residential part.

The founder of this hall died at Hintlesham 13th January, 1593-4, and an imposing monument to his memory occupies a place on the south wall of the chancel in Hintlesham Church. The same monument served for his son and heir, Nicholas, but the blank left for the date of his death has not been filled in. This Nicholas Timperley was a Roman Catholic, and from his time onwards the owners of the hall suffered considerably from the effects of the Recusancy Acts,

under which the unfortunate person who was convicted of non-attendance at Church was fined £20 monthly or forfeited two-thirds of his estate.

The "benefit" of Timperley's recusancy was granted in 1607 to a certain Captain Thomas Allen,¹³ who at once put the law into force against him; but his neighbours, when summoned as jurors to assess his estate, failed to appear; the witnesses brought to give evidence against him, including William Vesey, of the Priory Estate, swore that he was a regular attendant at divine service in Hintlesham Church, and continued at Church all the time of the sermon; while John Paget, parson of Hintlesham, procured from the Bishop a certificate of his conformity, not without some suspicion of false representations.¹⁴ Nicholas Timperley's wife, Mistress Anne Timperley, the daughter of William Markham, esquire, also had a friend at court in the Spanish ambassador, Goudomar, in whose health she had taken a kindly interest. Through his intervention, James I. mitigated the rigorous course taken against her for her religion, and granted to her husband a lease of the Hintlesham estate, two-thirds of which had been forfeited to the Crown by reason of his recusancy.¹⁵ Nicholas Timperley died 1st January, 1623-4, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Thomas, who had been knighted at Tichborne in Hampshire, 29th August, 1618.¹⁶ He also was a recusant, and suffered the full rigour of the law. A commission sat at Ipswich to assess his estate 17th April, 1626, and two-thirds of the Manor of Hintlesham Hall was let to Charles Grimston, gentleman, in the following July. The lease was to be void if any

¹³ *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1603-10, p. 384.

¹⁴ Excheq. Bills and Answ., Jas. I., Suff. 287; Excheq. Dep. Trin. 7, Jas. I., No. 3.

¹⁵ *Fortescue Papers* (Camden Sec.) 50; Pat. R., Jas. I., m.

¹⁶ Chan. Inq. p. m. (Ser. 2) Vol. 408, No. 109; Metcalfe, *Book of Knights*, 174.

part of the premises were assigned by the lessee to Timperley or to any other recusant.¹⁷ The remaining third of the estate must have been heavily burdened by repeated fines. Thus in 1639 Sir Thomas Timperley, his eldest son Michael, and the latter's wife, Frances, daughter of Sir Henry Bedingfield, each paid £60 as the price of three months' absence from Church.¹⁸ Sir Thomas was buried at Hintlesham in 1651. Michael Timperley, who succeeded, had great difficulty in obtaining even the one-third of the estate which was his by law. Lands at Hadleigh had been assigned to him to the value of £80 yearly, but these were recovered at law by his uncle, Nicholas Timperley, who also intervened on behalf of Thomas, son of Michael, to prevent the latter from felling the timber and pulling down the houses on his property. Michael died in Ireland, 7th July, 1653; his widow, Joan, petitioned for her jointure on the grounds that she was a Protestant, and that her husband had been confused with another Michael Timperley in the charge of recusancy.¹⁹ There is no doubt that the estate was greatly embarrassed when Thomas, son of Michael Timperley succeeded to it. He raised two several mortgages, which were still unredeemed in 1720.²⁰ The Rate Books of Hintlesham show that in 1673 and for some time after, the Hall was not occupied by its owners, although they were living at Hintlesham, probably at the Dower Farm. In 1673 it was occupied by James Howes the elder, a trusted and "loving" friend of Thomas Timperley, whose family were for many years lessees of considerable farms in the parish, and also of the demesne lands attached to the Hall.*

17 Privy Seal, 2006, No. 223.

18 Recusant R. (Pipe Off.) 14, Chzs. I.

19 *Cal. Committee for Compounding*, 2133-4.

20 Close R., 7 Geo. I., pt. ii., No. 24.

* But the Hearth Tax Return of 1674 (Hervey, *Suffolk in 1674*, p. 146) shows that Timperley was assessed for 16 hearths, which can only have been in the Hall.

It seems that Thomas Timperley, whose name is absent from the Rate Books between 1681 and 1685, returned to the Hall shortly before his death, since in his will, dated 22nd October, 1683, he stated that he was then living at Hintlesham, and stipulated that his chief and capital messuage at Hintlesham, with the orchards, gardens and appurtenances and the little piece of ground adjoining called the Paddock," with the "goods, household stuff, plate and other moveable personal estate and furniture in the said messuage as it is now furnished" should pass immediately after his death to his first cousin, Thomas Timperley. The latter died in 1684, and Thomas Timperley, the owner of the Hall was buried at Hintlesham, 27th November, 1686.²¹ His brother Henry was passed over by his will, and the estate went to Henry Timperley, second son of his uncle, Thomas, and brother and heir of the Thomas who had died in 1684. This Henry evidently occupied the Hall until 1688.²² He died in France,²³ having apparently followed James II. into exile. His widow, Susanna, daughter of Sir John Sparrow, lived in France with her father, who was cofferer at the Jacobite Court.²⁴ Henry Timperley, son of Henry and Susanna, was born in France²⁵ and the Hall was let for a few years to John Clarke, gentleman, and to a certain Mr. Harrison. In 1694 Susanna Timperley returned to Hintlesham and occupied the Hall for some years,²⁶ but her son had a pass to travel with Elizabeth Boone, a maid-servant, to Holland, whither his aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Timperley, had preceded him.²⁷ He was

21 Parish Registers.

22 Rate Books.

23 P.C.C. Admin. July, 1691.

24 *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1689-90, p. 376.

25 *Denizations, etc., in England* (Hag Soc.) 256.

26 Rate Books.

27 *Cal. S. P. Dom.*, 1689-90, p. 95, 407.

naturalized in 1698-9, and came of age in 1710, in which year he raised the first of seven mortgages upon the estate.²⁸ In 1720 he sold the Hall, together with all his Suffolk lands to Richard Powys,²⁹ esquire, and is said to have retired to a monastery abroad.

This sale, which alienated from the Timperley family property which they had held for nine generations, is said to have been due to Henry Timperley's speculation in the South Sea Company. The date of alienation in the year of the Company's failure supports this theory. On the other hand, it has been seen that Henry Timperley had no close ties to bind him to Hintlesham. His wife had recently died leaving him childless. His heirs were his uncles, William and John. The estate was embarrassed, not only by his own acts, but also by those of Thomas, son of Michael Timperley, which were evidently the result of years of religious persecution, and Richard Powys had bought up all the mortgages on the property.³⁰ A brief search among records relating to the South Sea "Bubble" has brought to light no connection between Timperley and the Company, although it has shown that Richard Powys, the purchaser, had subscribed £5,000, and his brother, Sir Thomas Powys, £2,000, to its stock in 1714.³¹ This Richard Powys was one of the principal clerks in the Treasury. He was a native of Bitterley, Co. Salop, and resided chiefly in the parish of St. Anne, Soho, but his wife was buried in Hintlesham Church, and he was interred in the same grave 23rd February, 1723-4.³² There is reason to believe that the Hall, which had long been but irregularly occupied by its earlier owners, was much in need of

28 Close R. 7, Geo. I., pt. ii., No. 24.

29 Ibid. Nos. 23, 28.

30 Ibid.

31 Treasury Papers, Vol. 180, No. 52.

32 P.C.C. 41 Bolton.

repair when it descended to Richard Powys, son of the last-named Richard in 1724.

He altered the house and carried out all details and fittings in the Georgian style, leaving it in much its present condition. He heightened the central hall or saloon by taking out the upper storey. He built an open colonnade in place of the old porch, with a gallery over it, connecting the two wings of the Elizabethan building. This open colonnade was afterwards enclosed, and a fine entrance hall was thus formed. At this period the fine mahogany staircase was put in the South wing, and the old Elizabethan features transformed into Georgian detail. The whole of the quadrangle was treated in this style, and though rather incongruous with the remainder of the exterior, it is quite consistent in detail with the best Georgian design of the period. Altogether Richard Powys expended a great sum of money in "beautifying and improving" the Hall, and when he died at Hampton Court, 10th September, 1743, he was indebted in over £4,200.³³ His widow, Lady Mary, youngest daughter of the Earl of Cardigan, resided at Hintlesham after her husband's death, but the whole estate was mortgaged for payment of his debts, and in 1747 she obtained an Act of Parliament enabling her to sell.³⁴ The purchaser was Sir Richard Lloyd, son and heir of Talbot Lloyd, of Lichfield and then a knight and King's Counsel.³⁵ He had recently been connected with this neighbourhood by his appointment in 1739 as Recorder of Ipswich, and the rate-book show that he occupied the Hall while Lady Mary Powys continued to live at Hintlesham; probably in the Dower House; the Timperleys were still represented in the parish by "Mrs. Timperley, widow,"

³³ *Act for Sale of Hintlesham Hall, 1747.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Ingpen, *Middle Temple Bench Book*, 246.

who probably lived at the farm formerly occupied by John, uncle of Henry Timperley. Sir Richard Lloyd became Baron of the Exchequer in 1759,³⁶ but died two years later, and was succeeded by Richard Savage Lloyd, M.P. for Totnes, 1759-61. His son and heir, Richard Savage Lloyd, died unmarried in 1818,³⁷ and the Hall was inherited by his sisters, Elizabeth Savage Lloyd and Harriet Lloyd, through whom the property passed by bequest to Captain James Hamilton Lloyd Anstruther, and in 1909 the whole estate was sold to a syndicate who realised in lots. The Mansion and Park were purchased by the present owner, Sir Gerald Ryan, by whose kind hospitality we are enabled to see it to-day. He has done much to restore this fine building to its previous charm and dignity, and had it not fallen into such generous hands it might have speedily sunk into irretrievable decay.

As it now stands the house exhibits all the features of its original design and the later alterations have merely converted it into a building suitable to present day requirements, and possessing the comfortable arrangements demanded by existing conditions of modern life.

Among the interesting features of the house is a second fine staircase hall in the North Wing with an elaborate staircase of Seventeenth Century design, evidently copied from an earlier one, portions of which still remain in the back hall. On the first floor are the State Drawing Room with an elaborate plastered ceiling bearing the monogram and emblems of the Timperleys; the State Bedroom with its alcove for the bed, and the powdering closets, and the remains of earlier staircases, transferred, no doubt from their

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Parish Registers; information supplied by Miss Deane of Hintlesham

original position, leading now to the inferior rooms of the upper floor.

The exterior preserves the old Tudor feeling in the chimneys of massive size finished with octagonal shafts, only the windows showing the Georgian influence by having sashes inserted. The inner moat enclosed a paved court, shown in old plans, and crossed by bridges to the space beyond, also enclosed by a second moat. In the intermediary were the dovehouse, malt store, stables, etc., and other buildings necessary to the dignity and maintenance of such an important house. The remains of these moats are clearly discernible. In the stables is an old clock dating from Charles the Second's time, and still in excellent working order. The gardens are extensive and well kept. They exhibit in all their arrangement the distinctive character of the carefully thought-out and spacious design of the Georgian period.

Before leaving the members paid a visit to the beautiful plantation and ponds about a quarter of a mile from the house. These have been restored by Sir Gerald Ryan from an overgrown cover for pheasants into a beautiful oasis which it would be difficult to match in the County of Suffolk.