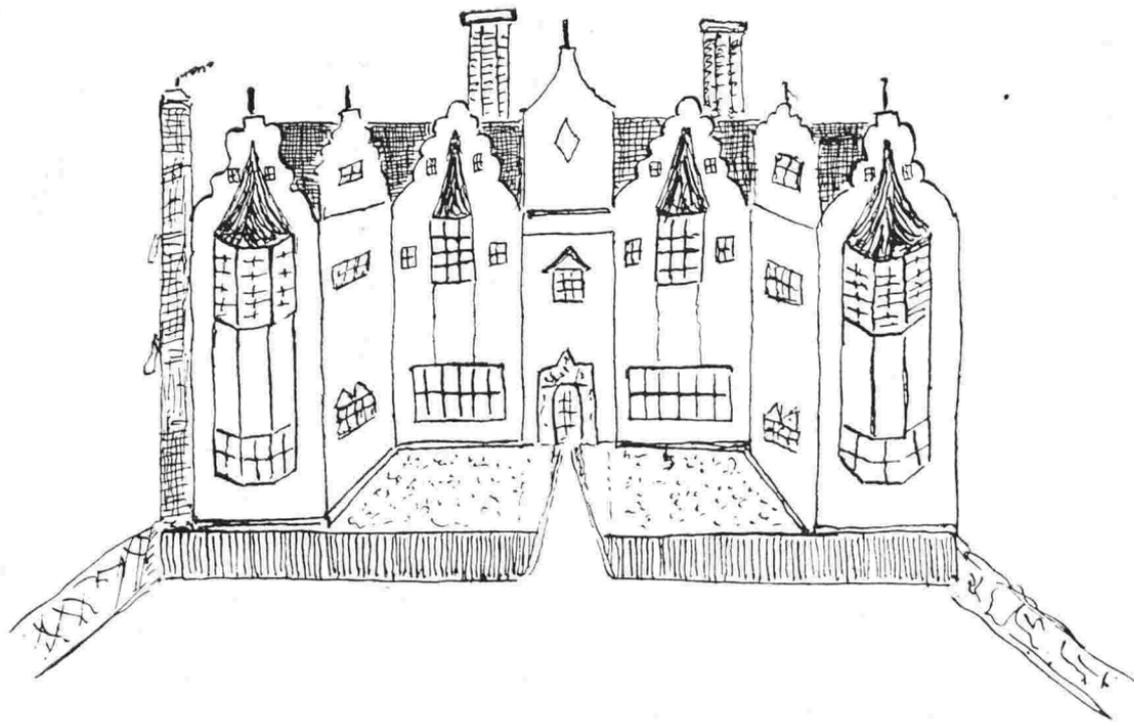


LEATHERINGHAM ABBEY.

From a Water Colour by H. Walling, c. 1850.



LEATHERINGHAM ABBEY.

From the MS. of Loes Hundred, c. 1712.

LEATHERINGHAM ABBEY.

BY E. FARRER, F.S.A.

Two illustrations are herewith presented of Letheringham Abbey, erected by Sir Robert Naunton, soon after 1600, on the site of the small priory of Black Canons, founded by William de Bovile about 1310.

The pen and ink sketch shows us what it was like about 1712, when Robert Hawes, the steward of the Framlingham manors, wrote his "History of Loes Hundred," which has never been published, but of which there are a few copies in manuscript. The sketch here given is reproduced from a copy of the MS. in possession of the late Prince Frederick Duleep Singh in the library at Blo' Norton Hall, but I remember to have seen another similar to it, in the Fitch collection at Moyses Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.

The second illustration was made presumably by H. Watling, about the middle of the last century, from which it will be seen that both wings were demolished when the house was partially pulled down in 1770. The main block still remains. The two effigies of Sir Anthony Wingfield and his wife were evidently seen by Mr. Watling, and this little bit of information is carefully written below the sketch. "These beautiful mutilated effigies of the Wingfield family were thrown about the churchyard after the destruction of the chancel, and now are placed at the door of the counting house of the forman of the abbey estates (see Vol. 2, Ant. of Suff., by H. Watling, page 38). The church chest is now used as a chickens' coop. Sir Anthony

Wingfield died, Dec. 29, 1605 sp. Anne his wife da. of Willm. Byrd of London or of Denton (?Denstone), Suff."

Everyone is no doubt acquainted with the fact that the very fine wainscot from Letheringham Abbey was removed to Scotland in 1919. I found to-day among my collection of such a typical letter of the late J. S. Corder, dated April 23, 1919, in which he says "I have recently visited Letheringham and measured up the panelling for the Marquis of Graham, who is removing it all together with the fine refectory table, to Arran, he having sold the farm. There was over 3,000 superficial feet in the house, some of it quite unique, all natural wood, and unpainted." Mr. Corder then goes on to describe what he thought was the original plan of the house, of which he draws plans, and moreover in the letter is a beautiful little sketch of a panel of that unique wainscot, which I described in my articles on Letheringham Abbey in the "East Anglian Miscellany" during 1916.

I wonder what has become of the two effigies, which were "at the door of the counting house" of the estate agent. I have a recollection that when touring round this part of Suffolk in 1889 with the late Rev. C. R. G. Birch, rector of Brancaster, one of the most assiduous brass-rubbers in England, he told me that they were in some Rectory garden, adorning a rockery. Can this have been true?



EFFIGIES OF SIR ANTHONY AND LADY WINGFIELD
AT LETHERINGHAM ABBEY,

B. H. Watling.