

BOXSTED HALL.—FAMILY OF POLEY.

THE manor of Boxted, in the Hundred of Babergh, appears to have descended by hereditary possession through a series of at least twenty generations to its present owner, by whose kind and hospitable invitation our Institute has met this day in this ancient hall. In Domesday it is named, *Boesteda*, which seems to be derived from *Bós*—a stall, crib, or *boose*, (qu. box, loose box?) and the common termination *stead*, a place. Compare Bos-ham, in Sussex. At the time of the Domesday survey, it was the land of Roger Pictaviensis, or -vensis (third son of Roger de Montgomery), who held extensively *in capite*, in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire. Boxted was held *t. R. E.* by Utric the King's Thane, a title equivalent to Baron, in whose time it had two carucates of land, two villeins, eleven bordarii, and four serfs. It maintained three horses, five head of cattle, twenty-four pigs, and thirty sheep. The value of the manor was eight pounds a year; it was a league in length, and five quarantaines in breadth. The abbot of St. Edmund's, and of St. Etheldreda, had both rights of soccage in certain lands in the parish.

What became of Boxted in the times immediately following the survey does not appear. But we know that Roger Pictavensis, taking part with Robert Duke of Normandy, against King Henry 1st, was by the latter dispossessed of all his English lands, and with them of the Earldom and honour of Lancaster, to which he had been raised (*Munford's Domesday of Norfolk*), and of which Boxted formed a part, probably, already, as it did in the time of Edmund,

Earl of Lancaster, Edward Ist's brother. Gage (*Brockley*) says that Roger's land reverted to the crown. However, in the sixth Richard I. a certain William Hervey, had lands in Boxted, which he appears to have derived from Hervey Walter, or his father Hervey, the ancestors of the Butlers, of the House of Ormond. Hervey Walter, it may be mentioned by the way, had very large possessions in Lancashire, and the appearance of this William Hervey, as holding in the honour of Lancaster may have some connection with this circumstance. Whether or no he was lord of the manor is not stated (though Sir Simonds D'Ewes asserts that he was), as the transaction in question only relates to the transfer of the third part of a knight's fee, from Theobald Walter to William Hervey, who had previously conveyed it to Theobald. It was part apparently of some family arrangement. This William Hervey must have been the same as held some lands in Brockley before 1184, and who is called by Jocelyn de Brackland, William Fitz Hervey, and was one of six knights holding lands in Norfolk and Suffolk, who in 1187 were chosen to give evidence before the Barons of the Exchequer, as to whether the lordships of St. Edmund were liable to the common amerciament. He is doubtless also the same as William Fitz Hervey, who was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk from the thirty-second Henry II. to the second Richard I. He also appears as a witness to a deed of Sir Robert de Hawstead, temp. Richard I. (Gage, p. 424) and elsewhere. But an inquisition held in the fortieth Henry III. on the death of William Hervey, de Boxsted, (*sic*) describes it as his manor. In the return of the twelve "free and legal men," made to the King's Escheator of Norfolk and Suffolk, we have this heading, "Extenta manerii quod fuit Will^{mi} Hervey de Boxstead," &c. At that time there were two mills in the parish, a water and a wind-mill, the latter of which exists still. The former existed in 1630, and the farm is still called the Mill-farm. The manor was held of the honor of Lancaster, by payment of half a knight's fee. Again in the twenty-fifth Edward

Ist, the manor with the advowson of the church, was held by another William Hervey, of Edmund, the king's brother, Earl of Lancaster, in whom the male line seems to have ended. According to Sir Simonds D'Ewes, and a MS. Pedigree in Davy's Suffolk Collections, Amy daughter and heiress of William Hervey, married Robert de Tyes, and by the marriage of their daughter or grand-daughter with Thomas de Badwell, in the early part of Edward IIIrd's reign, Boxtead became the property of the Badwells, and so continued for three generations. But on the death of her brother without issue, Ann Badwell succeeded to the property, and brought it to her husband Thomas Poley, about the beginning of Henry IVth's reign.

This Thomas Poley, called "of Walsingham" in a deed belonging to John W. Poley, Esq., but otherwise "of Codreth" (MS. Collections for Bury Abbey, formerly belonging to Dawson Turner, Esq., now in Lord Bristol's possession), was descended from a family which resided at or near Codreth, in Hertfordshire, and took their name from Polheye, which Sir Simonds D'Ewes says is the name of a town in that county. The earliest member of that house, whose name has been preserved, is that of Sir Humphrey de Poley, in Henry Ist's reign (1107), who bore arms—Argent, on a bend Gules, three cross crosslets Or. The Pipe Roll for Essex and Hertfordshire, of 2 John, also mentions a Richard de Polhia. From them it is presumed that Thomas Poley above mentioned was descended. This Thomas married first, Alice daughter of John Gislingham, from which match sprung the Poleys of Badley, in Suffolk. He married secondly, as already mentioned Ann Badwell, of Boxted, and so the Boxted inheritance passed to the children of his second marriage. The male line failed in Richard Poley, the tenth generation from Thomas, who was born in 1682, and died without issue. His sister Elizabeth Poley, married Robert Weller, Esq., of Tunbridge Wells. Their only son George took the name of Poley, together with his mother's inheritance, and was great grandfather to the present lord of the manor.

The Poleys in their different branches were for many generations among the principal gentry of Suffolk. The descendants of Thomas Poley and his first wife Maud, *alias* Alice, Gislingham, seems to have resided at Stoke Ash, till the marriage of Simon Poley with Margaret daughter and heiress of Edmund Allcocke, lord of the manor of Badley in Suffolk. He died in 1485 (first Henry VIIth), and was buried, as well as his wife, in Badley church. From that time Badley became the residence of this branch, and Badley church contains many monuments of the family. The earliest was put up by Edmund Poley, Esq., in 1604, and records the names of different members of the family, from Simon, who died in 1548, to his own time. The monuments continue till the death of Henry Poley, in 1707, when this line became extinct. Of this branch, John Poley (who died 1589) married Ann, eldest daughter of John Lord Wentworth, of Nettlestead. As a specimen of the epitaphs in Badley church, I extract the following lines on Dorothy Poley, put up by her husband Edmund, in 1625.

Here a part, but small part, of her lies under,
 Who was her sex's pride, her age's wonder,
 Goodness, Grace, Beauty, Virtue, spotless truth,
 Grayheaded judgement in fresh flowering youth,
 Charity with zeal, piety, all these lay,
 In this cold case, now cased in this cold clay.

Edmund Poley took for his second wife, dame Frances Crompton, relict of Sir John Crompton, Kt., and second daughter of Sir John Croftes, Kt., of Little Saxham. By a later intermarriage, viz. that of Anthony Croftes with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Gipps, of Horningsheath, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edmund Poley, of Badley, and his wife Hester, sister of William Lord Croftes, the Badley inheritance with all the family writings, muniments, &c., came into the possession of William Croftes, son of the above-named Anthony and Elizabeth, *née* Gipps. A letter, in the possession of Mr. Poley, from William Croftes to George

Weller Poley, Esq., dated 1767, in answer to some enquiries addressed to him by Mr. Croftes, mentions these particulars. Sir Thomas Sebright, Bart., being the son of Harriet Croftes, grand-daughter of William Croftes, represents the three families of Poley of Badley, Croftes, and Gipps.

Before we quit the Badley branch it should be mentioned that Edmund Poley, Esq., third son of Sir Edward, was distinguished in public life. He was Minister Plenipotentiary to the Germanic states, viz. at Ratisbon, in Charles IInd's reign, and afterwards British Minister at Stockholm, under James II. There is lying on the table a MS. of a mask performed in his honour at Stockholm, in 1687, in which his praises are sung in no mean strain, and special allusion is made to his scientific attainments, in which he quite cut out Apollo. His brother Henry, to whom Edmund raised a monument with an elegant Latin epitaph, was also distinguished in Parliament and at the bar. Mr. Croftes in the letter above quoted, describes them as his mother's "two famous uncles Mr. Henry and Mr. Edmund Poley." Their sister Judith married Henry Jermyn Lord Dover.

Turning however to the Boxted branch, we find it in nowise inferior in the knightly rank and knightly virtues of its long line, and conspicuous also for its alliances with all the best families in the county, Clopton, Shaa, Jermyn, D'Ewes, Hervey, May, Felton, Heigham, Waldegrave, Croftes, and others.

Thomas, the son and heir of that Thomas who married the heiress of Boxted, married Alice, daughter of Geoffrey Rokell, of Wormingford, Esq., a descendant (says Sir S. D'Ewes) of a most ancient Essex family, surnamed formerly de Rupella. By which marriage Wormingford or Wyrmundford, was brought to the Poles. John Poley his son is styled in a deed of the 24th Henry VIIIth, "John Poley, of Wyrmundford, county of Essex," Esq. One of the earliest deeds in possession of the family, twenty-third Henry VIth (A.D. 1444), is the settlement of the manor of Boxted upon the above named "Thomas

and Alice his wife, daughter of Geoffrey Rokell, Esq." Mr. Almack has pointed out an interesting feature in this deed, that an exact counterpart of it has been engrossed on the same skin of parchment, and the words *Benedictus Deus* written between them. The skin has then been divided by an indented line through the said words showing the origin and derivation of the term, "This indenture." Usually one party took one, and the other the other half. In this case the owners of the estate kept both parts of the indenture. The custom is very like that recorded in Jeremiah xxxii, where in the purchase of land, two deeds of evidence were drawn out, one sealed and the other open. John Poley their son and heir, called of Wyrmundford, who married Agnes daughter of Sir Richard Whetely, Kt., succeeded to the property of both his father and mother, and is said to have died in 1487 (*Sir S. D'E.*). His son Richard again succeeded him. In a deed, fourteenth Henry VIIIth (1522), Richard appears as owner of the property, with two sons grown up, John and Edward. He married Ann, eldest daughter of Sir William Clopton, Kt. He was buried December* 19, 1546, and his wife Ann, on August 15, 1550. There is a perfect brass for him and his wife, in Boxted church. His eldest son John succeeded him. A singular error concerning the date of his birth, occurs in Burke's *Landed Gentry*. He says he was baptized at Boxted, September 27, 1539. He might as well have said 1839. For he tells us himself that his third son Giles married in 1534, five years before his father was born! that Giles had a son born in 1561, whose grandfather therefore was under twenty-two! that his wife died in 1561, her husband therefore being between twenty-one and twenty-two, having borne him at least six children, the pedigree says eight. Now it is quite true that a John Poley was baptized at Boxted, September 27, 1539. But our John Poley was at least forty years old at that time. We have

* Parish Register. Not Feb. as Sir S. D'Ewes, "died and buried same day," S. D'Ewes.

already seen from the deed of 1522, that he and his next brother Edward were then of age, and Sir Simonds D'Ewes tells us that when he died in 1580, he was "extremely old," which I suppose even the youngest here present will admit means more than forty. I therefore put his birth between 1490, and 1500. This agrees well with the date of his grandfather's death, in 1487, and will make him between eighty and ninety at his death. It makes him from sixty to seventy in 1561, when he made over Boxted Hall to his son William, and settled legacies on numerous grandchildren. From this John Poley, and his wife Margery, daughter and eventually heiress of John Blyant, Esq., of Intwood, county of Suffolk, sprung, among many other descendants, Sir John Poley, Kt., of Wrongey (being eighth son of his eighth, or, as some say, his fourth son Thomas), a knight of eminent military prowess. His epitaph in Boxted church, thus records his fame.

Under this marble lies buried, awaiting the second coming of our Lord, Sir John Poley, of Wrongey, in the County of Norfolk, knight; descended from the ancient family of the Poleys of Suffolk, being the second son, and at length heir of Thomas Poley, and grandson of John Poley, of Boxted Hall, in the county of Suffolk, Esq.,—a man famous for his bravery in arms, and for military skill to be reckoned amongst the first commanders. For first as captain of English foot under Henry IVth, King of France, in his wars against the Leaguers, for the space of three years; and afterwards under the standard of Christian, King of Denmark, as colonel-general, more than twenty years, did he fight with success. With the greatest praise moreover, and reputation for bravery, did he war against the Spaniard, under Elizabeth, Queen of England;

When Cales submitted to his conq'ring arm,
And all Iberia felt the loud alarm.

But not only in military virtue and deeds of arms did his praise consist, he excelled too in candour of manners and courteousness of disposition, and on this account was he much beloved both by the above-named Christian, of Denmark, and likewise by James, King of Great Britain; both of whom treated him with familiarity and the greatest kindness. At length our veteran after so much success in foreign wars, now far advanced in years, obtained his discharge, and returned home to his native England, where, at the beginning of the reign of Charles, he passed a tranquil life, blessed with the highest esteem and favour of that monarch, and devoted himself wholly to his God and his king; 'till satisfied with his share of life and

fame, he sunk placidly to sleep in the Lord, having passed his eightieth year. He died in his manor of Wrongey, in the year of our Lord 1638.

The remarkable monument in Boxted Church, to which Mr. Almack will direct your attention, is of him. There is also a portrait of him at the hall, with the gold frog in his ear. Here again the date in Burke's *Landed Gentry*, is erroneous. Sir John Poley was not twenty in 1567. He was born in 1558 or 9. I know not whether the splendid grey charger whose portrait is near the staircase, and of which there is a tradition that he swam over from Flanders, was his, or his brother Absalom's, who died in battle in Flanders.

In connection with Wrongey, which is a corruption of Wermegay, or Wyrmyngey, sometimes written Wringay, in the hundred of Clackclose, in Norfolk, it is worth noticing, as has been pointed out to me by Richard Almack, Esq. that Sir John Poley's residence there was probably caused by an ancient connection of his family with that of the Lords Bardolph. In the retinue of Sir William Phelipe, K. G. at the battle of Agincourt (*Nicolas' Battle of Agincourt*, p. 64), appears the name of Thomas Poley, and Wermegay was one of the manors which Sir William Phelipe acquired, with his wife, from Thomas Lord Bardolph, her father (*Blomfield's History of Norfolk*, vol. vii, p. 498). Probably therefore this branch of the Poley family held some manor of the Bardolphs by tenure of military service. The principal manor and lordship of Wermegay seems to have been quite alienated from the family of Phelipe in the reigns of Elizabeth and James, when Sir John Poley resided there.

John Poley, of Boxted Hall, was also the father of Elizabeth, who in 1554 married William Hervey, of Ickworth, Esq., from which marriage the present Herveys of Ickworth descend. He left legacies to each of the children of "William Harvie's wife." It was his son William Poley, who built the present Hall at Boxted, according to a statement in a MS. book of Family Records, which is repeated by a late hand in the Terrier. But if

so, the date 1540 must be erroneous, as it was not till 1561 (3rd Elizabeth), that John Poley devised and granted to his son William, Boxted Hall, with all houses, lands &c., in Boxted, Hartest, Stanstead, &c., only reserving to his own use "the parloure at the end of the hall, with the chamber within the said parloure, stabling for two horses in the stable at the end of the barn, liberty to fish in the moat, river, and other waters, with egress and regress to the said parlour for himself and servant and friends, and liberty to be in the walks, orchards and gardens, &c., at all tymes meet and convenient." William Poley also covenanting to pay twenty-six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence rent, &c., to find to the said John Poley, sufficient and convenient meat and drink, "mete and convenient to his estate, degree and condition," as well as for his servant and two horses; besides other mutual stipulations. William Poley, Esq., married (in 1540, according to a MS. note by a late hand in the Terrier) Alice, daughter and heiress of Edmund Shaa, Esq., of Horndon House, Essex. The following notice from a Terrier of 1631, to which I shall refer again, is of some interest.

"Horndon howse," called "the Place." "This howse is a very fair lofty auintient howse built of very good tymber, with a wondrous lardge dyneing parlour, and a faire chapell of bricke, &c.; and was in the time of King Edward IVth (1461 *marginal note modern hand*) the mansion howse of Sir John (*sic*) Shaa, knight, then Lord Maior of London, whose heire the nowe owner of this house is by right discent."

William Poley died in 1587, and was buried at Boxted. On the death of his eldest son Sir John Poley, knight, *s. p.*, his second son Sir William Poley, knight, succeeded to the estate. His wife was Ann daughter of Sir Robert Jermyn, knight, of Rushbrooke, grandfather to Henry Earl of St. Alban's, K.G. Her sister Susan was wife of Sir William Hervey, knight, of Ickworth, and grandmother to the first Earl of Bristol. Sir William Poley was M.P., for Sudbury, in 1623 and 1628. His eldest daughter Judith married Sir Humphry May, knight, Vice-chamberlain to King Charles Ist, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Treasurer

of the Household, and P.C., by whom, among other children, she had Isabella, wife of Sir Thomas Hervey, knight, and mother of John Earl of Bristol. He died in 1629. He was succeeded by his son William, also knighted. This Sir William, March 15th, 1636, married at Stowlangtoft church, Elizabeth, his second wife, fifth and youngest daughter of Paul D'Ewes, Esq., of Stowlangtoft Hall, and sister of the celebrated antiquary Sir Simonds D'Ewes. There is a good picture of her in the drawing room at the Hall. To this connection it was owing that Sir Simonds turned his attention to the antiquities of the Poley family, of which he has given some account in his autobiography. The beautiful emblazoned pedigree on the table is also, in part, I believe, the work of his hands, and has therefore the stamp of authenticity, which attaches to the work of so careful and cautious a genealogist as he was.

This Sir William seems to have been a careful manager of his estates. For immediately on succeeding to them, viz. in 1630, he had a terrier of all his manors and lands drawn up, with the name of each tenant, and the amount and nature of his holding, whether by lease or at will, and on what conditions and liabilities, with the rent due, both the amount, and the time and place of payment. This document is dated 1630, and entitled "Terrar de Boxsted Hall—Horn-don House—Horndon Markets—Arden Hall—Barrow Hall—Aldames Fee—Samwell—Barbery." I extract the following curious notices, omitting for the present the notice of Boxted Hall itself.

The tenant of Boxtead hall manor farm, "to have all the Dovehouse muck out of the Dovehouse belonging to Boxted hall."

"To have gatebote, and style boote, and so much plow bote, and cart bote, as shall make one plough in every year, and one cart and one Tumbrill in the said terme (seven years?) and ten cart loads of wood for firebote."*

The tenant of the "water mill, called Boxted mill," is bound "to prevent the flowings of the lord's meadows by drawing up his gates, and at such tyme as the lord shall dwell at his mannor house, shall bring the best

* Elsewhere, "hedge boote, and all other boote, stake boot, style boot."

and choicest fish which he shall happen to get in the myll-damme, and rivers: and shall grind the hard corn which the lord shall spend in the manor house, after the rate of eight-pence the combe, and malt after the rate of seven-pence the combe. The tenant "not to take above two crops of corn together, but shall fallow and summertyll according to the custom of the country; a third cropp of peasen....alone excepted" (same conditions elsewhere repeated). Another tenant "to mewe a cast of hawkes at Boxted Hall every year."

Sum total of the whole number of acres of this manor	a.	r.	p.	
70 1 0 not let	623	3	17	} viz., 277 0 17 of the Demesne lands. and 346 3 0 holden by the Fermors.
206 3 17 let				
Total value—	£	s.	d.	
Manor house and Woods	..	..	..	58 6 8
Demesne lands (let)	..	..	..	110 0 0
Rest of the farm rents	..	..	..	143 9 4

311 15 0

"Reprises to the Dutchie of Lancaster." "The Advowson of Boxted, did long since belong to this manor, but now is united to Hartest, and the Bishop of Ely presents to both parish churches together, yet they be severall parishes to all other purposes." Note in another hand writing—"Noe such thing: exchanged with him, and the King presents."

HORNDON MARKET (ESSEX).

"This Market Hall is a stately howse, of excellent good tymber, built some twenty years since." "In the market place where the pillory stands would be a stall built endwise, east and west, on either side, where did stand coppie hold stalls." "Thomas Coker, that ought the White Hart, did hire leave of Sir William Poley to sell out stalls under his howse, at the first for xxxs. per ann, and afterwards for xvs. per ann. Now John Hovell does it of his wronge very obstinately, and Ben. Kingsman, and Lew. Browne."

Sir W. Poley's first wife was Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Henry Arden, knight, by whom he had a daughter Susan, married (1) to Anthony Massy, Esq., (2) to Richard Savage, third son of John Earl Rivers. He died in 1664. The following is the entry of his burial in the Boxted par. reg. "Sir William Poley, of Boxstead, in the County of Suffolk, knight, dyed there May 17th, about eight o'clock in the morning, and was buried the 18th of the same, in the night about eleven or twelve o'clock. Decessit desideratus." And in the same year, "Sir John Poley, knight, second son of Sir William (not the last)

brought from Bury," November 1664. Dame Elizabeth Poley, relict of Sir William Poley, knight, was buried April 5th, 1698. Sir William Poley was succeeded by his son Sir John Poley, knight, who was owner of Boxted above forty years. He was thrice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter of George Walton, Esq., of Little Burstled, who died 1679. Second to Bridget, daughter of Richard Samins, Esq., of Little Totham, Essex, and relict of Thomas Roberts, Esq., of Braxtead, co. Essex (who died 1689), by both of whom he had issue, but only one of his four sons lived to man's estate, viz., John, son of his first wife. By his third wife Dorothy, daughter of Sir Henry Felton, Bart., of Playford, co. Suffolk, he had no issue. The following account of him is given by Sir Richard Gipps, in his notices of Suffolk families.

"Sir John Poley, the last knight of this branch, was a gentleman of a sound understanding, a sincere heart, and a plain, primitive and open behaviour, a loyal subject, and a true lover of his country; he was chosen burgess of Sudbury without his knowledge, and sat in the Convention against his inclination, where, in that memorable debate, January 28th, 1688, whether the throne was vacant, he made the following short speech:—

"Mr. Speaker, I am sent hither to do the church and Cæsar right, to vindicate the doctrines of ye one, and preserve the majesty of ye other, both which are in danger from gentlemen's arguments on ye debate of this day. Mr. Speaker, here is an affair of the greatest weight before us, both as we are Christians and Englishmen; no less than the deposing a king whom we have sworn allegiance to; will our religion or our laws justifie such a proceeding? I know they will not. Gentlemen, indeed we have laid a mighty stress upon the original contract, and urged the vacancy of the throne from his majesties breach of that, but I hope we shall not proceed rashly on a matter of such consequence to us and our posterity; and therefore, I move that this debate be adjourned till ye original contract be produced and laid upon the table for the members to peruse, that we may see whether his Majesty has broke it or no."

"After ye Prince and Princess of Orange were declared King and Queen, contrary to our known laws, Sir John retired to his seat at Boxted, and never acted in a public station afterwards, but lived and died enjoying the comforts of a private life and a good conscience, beloved and lamented by all who had the honour to know him. He left issue one son John Poley, Esq., now of Boxted, and one daughter, Elizabeth, both unmarried. They bare Or, a Lyon rampant Sable."

Sir John Poley being first cousin to Isabella Lady Hervey, was naturally intimate with her son John Hervey, afterwards first Earl of Bristol, who was also his own second cousin, and the difference in politics (Mr. Hervey being a Whig) does not seem to have interfered with their private friendship. This was further cemented by Mr. Hervey's second marriage in 1695 with Elizabeth Felton, niece to Lady Poley. This marriage took place at Boxted, July 25th, 1695, as appears both by the Parish register, and by the entry in Lord Bristol's diary: "Thursday the 25th of July, I was married to Miss Elizabeth Felton, by her uncle Dr. Henry Felton, at Boxted, about eight o'clock at night. Monday the 29th, I carried her from Boxted to Bury (at that time, Mr. Hervey's Suffolk residence) where she was met at the Guildhall by the corporation in their gowns." Lady Poley was godmother to their second son Thomas. Lord Bristol's diary mentions Sir J. Poley's death thus: "13th September, 1705, my cousin Sir John Poley, of Boxted, died." He was buried at Boxted on the 15th, according to the par. reg. His only surviving son John Poley, Esq., succeeded him at Boxted. He was never married, nor do I know anything of him, except what is said in the above extract from Sir Richard Gipps. From an entry in Boxted par. reg. (1722) of burials, "John Hammond, Mr. Poley's servant," he was probably then living at Boxted. He died (as the marble in Boxted church tells us) in 1757, unmarried.

On this failure of the issue of Sir John Poley, Knight, the property passed to the line of his brother Thomas, whose son Richard dying also without issue, the inheritance passed, as before said, to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Poley, Esq., and grand-daughter of Sir William Poley, Knight, who was the wife of Robert Weller, Esq., of Tonbridge Wells, and whose great-great-grandson the present lord of the manor is.

Besides the above members of this flourishing family, I find in a MS. "Collection for the History of Bury Abbey,"

late the property of Mr. Dawson Turner, now belonging to Lord Bristol, frequent notices, or references to notices, of Poles. In the thirteenth and nineteenth Henry VII, a William Powle, gent., was a capital burgess of Bury, and Thomas Powle, gent., fifteenth Henry VIII. A William Powle seems to have been bailiff to the Abbot, eighth Edward IV. In the time of Elizabeth, Thomas Poley alienated the manor of Swifts to Edmund Jermyn, and in the second Edward VIth, that of Naunton to Ralph Chamberlain; and another manor in Mildenhall, to Roger North, nineteenth Elizabeth. Many extracts seem to be from the Registry of the Duchy of Lancaster, at Bury St. Edmund's. William Poley, of Icklingham, is mentioned in a deed of the Abbots, A.D. 1530. From Register Croftes, fol. 92, Ralph, son of Richard de Poley, for half a mark annual rent, received a grant from Abbot Simon, of a messuage in Chelmsford, called Poley's tenement, "abutting on the high way leading from Bury to London, towards the east and towards the west, *super ripa communis*." William Curtis confirmed the grant in the tenth Henry VIth. It is also noted that Simon Poley (afterwards of Badley) first Henry VIIth, wrote his name Powley, and in many of the above extracts it is written Powle.

As regards Boxted Hall itself, from Thomas Badwell being described in the deed of the 25th May, twenty-fifth of Henry VIth, as, "sometime of Boxted"; it is to be presumed that he resided on this his manor which, in a deed of the same year (6th June) is styled the manor of Boxted Hall; and so afterwards. And from the casual signature of William Hervey, lord of the manor, temp. Richard Ist, to Sir Robert de Hawstead's deed, it is not improbable that he occasionally at least resided on his manor of Boxted. But the deed 3rd Elizabeth, gives the first full evidence of its being the family residence, with the pleasure grounds, gardens, stables, &c., and mentions also the moat. Moreover the description of the house as containing a hall, and a parlour at the end of the hall, and a parlour *chambre*,

is so exactly descriptive of the present house, as fully to confirm the tradition (already alluded to) that the house was built in the time of John and William Poley, though of course great external alterations have since been made, which have effaced its outward Tudor aspect. Perhaps the work of Mr. George Weller Poley, which Mr. Croftes refers to in his letters to him in 1767, saying he should have liked to visit "a place where in his younger days he had been so kindly and hospitably received, and which my worthy good friend Mr. Elwes, has told me is so much altered and improved by your elegant taste," may have contributed to this result.

The following extract from the Terrier of 1631, shows its condition at that time.

The scite of the Manor or Mansion House called Boxsted Hall, with the buildinge yarde and garden within, the moate, the court yarde within the bowling ground therein, lying right before the house, the stable, the dovehouse, and dovehouse garden, the high house, the old orchard encompassing the moat round about the Mansion House, with the fishpond therein, the meadowe behind the house, the new orchard and the church hill lying by to the church, with the warren of conies there conteyninge in the whole by estimation, fifteen acres.

The newe dairie house belonging to the Mansion or Manor House called Boxsted Hall, with a little yard lying before the said house, and the stable adjoining to the end of the saide house, together with the barne and a shed at the end thereof, a hoggefroate and cartlodge, and the yarde wherein the same doe stande, called the barne yarde.

The most interesting features in Boxted Hall of to-day, are its picturesque situation, its ancient moat, with the bridge still preserving decided Tudor features, and the spacious hall with its handsome oak wainscoting of the sixteenth century. The collection of family pictures too is unusually perfect, and contains many of considerable beauty and interest. The series commences in 1575, with Dame Judith Jermyn, daughter of Sir G. Blagge, Knight, of Horningsheath, and wife of Sir Robert Jermyn, Knight, mother to Ann Jermyn, who married Sir William Poley, knight. There are portraits of Sir William Poley, and Ann his wife, and of Sir John Poley, of Wrongey, his cousin; of Sir W. Poley, his son, and Elizabeth D'Ewes his wife,

and many others, with a series of the Weller branch, down to the present day.

The arms emblazoned in the windows of the hall, are as follows, as Mr. Almack has informed me.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Poley qu. Leys or Lyes. | 11 Colt impaling Poley. |
| 2 Poley qu. Badwell. | 12 Poley impaling—? |
| 3 Woolwich impaling Poley. | 13 Poley impaling Shaa. |
| 4 Poley qu. Weyland. | 14 Hervey impaling Poley. |
| 5 Poley qu. Blyant. | 15 Poley qu. Badwell and impaling D'Ewes. |
| 6 Poley impaling Clopton. | 16 Poley impaling Weyland. |
| 7 Poley qu. Rockell. | 17 Heigham impaling Poley. |
| 8 Poley impaling Rockell. | 18 Poley impaling Knighton. |
| 9 Poley qu. Shaa. | 19 Poley impaling Leys or Lyes. |
| 10 Poley impaling Jermyrn. | |

The following arms and inscription, of which a copy has been furnished me by the kindness of the Rev. Arthur White, are on a tombstone in Sapiston church.

CROFTES
ET
SAMPSON.

CROFTES
ET
KITSON.

Hic sub spe resurrectionis quiescit Iana Filia et heres Gulielmi Croftis Armigeri et Ianæ Poley (filia Gulielmi Poley De Boxted Armigeri) uxoris ejus: Quæ Quide' Iana conjugem habuit Thomam Aldham Generosum, ex quo prolem Suscepit Ioha'm, Thomam, Edmundu', Ianam (Quæ obiit infans) et Annam: ex hæc Vitâ migravit Primo Die Maii Anno XPI MDCXXXII. Ætatis vero suæ XXXI.

CROFTES ET POLEY
DE BOXTED.

CROFTES ET POLEY
DE BADLEY.

It should be mentioned lastly, that Mr. Poley has a very interesting series of deeds and writings relating to the Boxted estate, commencing with seventeenth Henry VI, and four others of the same reign; three of Henry VIII, and two of Elizabeth, one of which has Lord Burleigh's autograph. These, with the Terrier of 1631, and the Pedigree transcribed (for its earlier generations) from one made in Queen Elizabeth's time, and then in possession of Edmund Poley, Esq., of Badley, together with the Parish Registers, beginning 1538, and full of notices of the family, form a very valuable collection of family papers, and in the hands of one better

able than myself to handle them, would form an important addition to County History. As it is, I hope that even what has been so imperfectly put together, will have contributed something to a better acquaintance with a family, and a place, which have so long been bound up with the associations and traditions of our county, and which have also in so many instances sent forth from their bosom those who have shown themselves as capable of maintaining the honour of an ancient name, in public life, at home and abroad, in the senate and in the field, as they were of fulfilling the more quiet duties of country life, in their extensive charities, in their intercourse with their tenantry, and in social gatherings under their own hospitable roof.

ARTHUR HERVEY.