

COLDHAM HALL, IN STANNINGFIELD.

The fee of Stanningfield, *Stanfella*, *Stanesfelda*, was divided at the time of the Norman survey between Ralph Baynard, Robert Earl of Moreton, and the Abbot of St. Edmunds.

Elflet, a free woman, (says the *Domesday Book*), held under St. Edmund in the reign of the Confessor, a carucate of land in Stanningfield, which after the conquest was given in exchange to Ralph Baynard. There were three freemen in the commendation of Elflet, and thirty acres of land of this fee in the Soc of St. Edmund. Holding of the Earl of Moreton, was a freeman of Almer, or Agelmar, Bishop of East Anglia, upon sixty acres, which, together with other lands, had been given by the Conqueror to the Earl's predecessor Briene,* son of Eudo, Earl of Brittany.

Of the fee of St. Edmund were eleven freemen upon a carucate and a half; and Warren held of the Abbot eighty acres; and the church of Stanningfield had in free alms sixteen acres of land.

The honor of Baynard's castle † becoming forfeited in the 10th year of Henry the First, by the treason of William Baynard, his estate, including the lands of his ancestor in Stanningfield, was given by the king to Robert Fitz-Walter; ‡ and upon the defection of William Earl of Moreton the fee in Stanningfield of his father became either immediately, or at all events after subsequent escheats, vested in St. Edmund; half a knight's service being due in respect of the Baynard fee, and the same service from that of St. Edmund.

* Gemmet. Hist. apud Bouquet, tom xi., page 53; vide also Charter of Alan of Brittany, Earl of Richmond and Cornwall, to the Priory of St. Michael's Mount;

Dugdale (new edit.), vol vi, p. 990.

† Chron. Bromton, 1004 b.

‡ Fifth son of Richard de Tonebridge.

W. Gemet. 312 c. Ingulphus 513, n. 20.

Before the close of the reign of Henry the Second five suits were due to the hundred in Stanningfield, that is to say from the lands respectively of Baynard, William de Coi, Aveline, Godfrey, and the Socmen. William de Coi and Simon his brother held half a knight's fee of Robert de Presseney, and he was tenant of Robert de Cokefeld.

Belet, Richard Fitz-Saxey, Gocelin, Langlif, Fulch miles, Hereward, Wudard, and other socmen, held sixty acres of land, and forty-eight acres *de wara*, rendering warpenny and other rents and services to the Sheriff and the Abbot of St. Edmund's respectively.

Robert de Presseney * appears to have united in himself the fees of Baynard and of St. Edmund, in Stanningfield; and also possessed lands in Holme-hale, in Norfolk, parcel of the Fitz-Walter inheritance, and was living in 1200.† Thomas de Presseney ‡ succeeded Robert. In the 14th Henry the Third Geoffrey de Felsham § conveyed to John de Presseney forty acres of land in Stanningfield. In the 14th Edward the First,|| Richard Presseney held here a messuage and sixty acres of land, two acres of pasture, and three acres of wood, of the Abbot of St. Edmund, by the service of the eighth part of a knight's fee; and there were various tenants of Richard, and among them Margaret Presseney, who had half a messuage. Alan de Presseney was rector ¶ of Stanningfield in the 3rd of Edward the Second, and had lands in Risby. Presseney ** bore a cross between four leopards heads.

Although the family of de Presseney continued owners of lands here in the time of king Edward the First, the whole of the Baynard fee in Stanningfield and Holme-hale, had passed from them during the preceding reign, to the family of de Illeigh or Illey, who also had acquired part of the lands in Stanningfield, holden of St. Edmund.

* Testa de Nevil 283, vide *Blomefield's Norfolk*, vol. vi, p. 8.

† *Chron. Joscelini*, fol. 167, v., where he appears among the knights of St. Edmund, under the name of Radulfus de Presseney.

‡ *Testa de Nevil*, 292, vide postea.

§ *Fin. Suff.*, 14 Henry the Third.

|| *Iter Salomon. de Roff.*, 14th Edw. I.

¶ *Chartæ apud Hengrave.*, vide *Hist.*

Suff., Risby parish, p. 73.

** Vide postea, p. 304.

In the 51st year of Henry the Third,* by a fine levied between Benedict de Blakeham, and Edmund de Illeigh, and Joan his wife, the manor and advowson of Stanningfield were granted to Benedict for his life, nevertheless so that from the feast of All Saints he should hold for eighteen years without other service than was accustomed to be done to the lord of the fee, and after the term pay during his life, a rent of forty pounds, and if he died during the term, his heir was to hold for the remainder of the term, and after his decease, and subject to the term, the manor and advowson were to remain to Edmund and Joan and her heirs. From the tenor of this instrument it may be presumed that Joan, wife of Edmund de Illeigh, was the heiress of Thomas de Presseney.

Edmundus de Illeigh, Dns. Manerii=Joanna fil. et hæres ut præsumitur de Stanningfield, 51 Henry the Third. | Thomæ de Presseney de Stanningfield.

Thomas de Illeigh, filius et hæres.=Agnes vidua 6 Edward the Second. ob. ante festum Sc'i Johannis Bapt. 6 Edward the Second.

Edmundus de Illeigh, Miles, filius=Alicia fil. and hæres Johannis and hæres, ob. 1349, Sepult. in eccl. de Holm-hale, in Norff. | Plumpstede de Plumpstede, in Norff., Sepult. in eccl. de Holm-hale.

Richardus de Illeigh, Miles, filius & hæres; vendidit Man. de Stanningfield. Test. dat. 21 Oct., 1366: <i>s. p.</i>	Robertus de Illeigh, Miles; ob. ante 21 Richard the Second	=Katharinæ Gymingham. Alanus de Illeigh. Sepult. apud Plumpstede. Test. dat. 1 Dec. die prox. post fest. St. Ambrosii. Prob. apud Norwic. nono die mensis Julij seq.
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Rogerus de Boys, Miles. sepult. in=Sibilla fil. et hæres, vidua, 30 eccl. de Ingham, Norff. Test. dat. Henry the Sixth. 22 Feb., 1421.

Edmund de Illeigh was of the house of Henry Illeigh, of Brent Eleigh, in Suffolk, whose heiress married Shelton of Shelton,† in Norfolk. In the 14th Edward the First ‡ Edmund was chief lord of Stanningfield, and held in demesne of Robert Fitz-Walter as of his fee of Baynard

* *Fin. Suff.*, 51 Henry the Third. In the 35th year of the same reign a fine was levied between Andrew de Lawshall and Gilbert de Illeigh, of six acres of land in Stanningfield.

† *Blomf. Norf.*, vol. v, p. 264, vide arms and quarterings of Shelton, Harvey Visit. Suff. xxxvj. Sir Thomas Phillipps' MS.

‡ *Iter Salom. de Roff.*

by half a knight's service, and of the Abbot of St. Edmunds, of his barony respectively, a messuage and 260 acres of land, seven acres of meadow, seven acres of pasture, eighteen acres of wood, and a windmill, with right of boar and bull; and the villans of the lord held 65 acres of the same fee respectively; and the cottarii an acre of land. And Edmund held the advowson of the church of Stanningfield, to which belonged fifty acres of land, two acres of meadow, an acre of pasture, and an acre of wood, with which the church had been endowed by the ancestors of Thomas de Presseney. There were various tenants of Edmund de Illeigh.

Among the chief persons, beside Edmund de Illeigh and Richard de Presseney, before mentioned, who had lands at this time in Stanningfield, were, Philip de Oldhalle, who held the eighth part of a knight's fee of St. Edmund; Richard de Saxham;* Robert de Bradfeld; † Richard Saxey; and the family of Rokewode.

In the 6th Edward the Second, ‡ Edmund, afterward Sir Edmund de Illeigh, son of Thomas and Alice his wife, daughter § and heiress of John de Plumpstede, settled the manor of Hale hall on themselves in tail, subject to the dower of Agnes, widow of Thomas de Illeigh; and in the 15th year of the same reign, this Sir Edmund, grandson and heir, as it is presumed of Edmund, first named, obtained free warren || in his manors of Holme-hale and Stanningfield.

In the 17th of the king ¶ he was summoned by the Sheriff of Norfolk, among the knights at arms, to attend the king at Westminster; and in the 20th Edward the Third, was rated to the aid for knighting the king's son in respect of half a knight's fee in Stanningfield, held of John

* Richard de Saxham held a messuage and sixty acres of land, five acres of meadow, and three acres of wood, of Robert Peche and the Abbot of St. Edmunds respectively; and Robert held of John de St. Clare, and he of the Abbot.

† Robert de Bradfeld held a messuage and one hundred acres of land of the Abbot.

‡ Fin. Norf., 6th Edward the Second. Inter Edmundum filium Thome Illeye and Alie' uxorem P. and Johan' de Plumpstede def.

§ *Blomf. Norf.*, vol. vii, p. 242.

|| Chart. 15 Edward the Second, n. 27, pars unica.

¶ Palgrave's Parl. Writs.

Fitz-Walter.* Sir Edmund died in 1349, leaving three sons, Sir Richard, Sir Robert, and Alan; and was buried with Alice his wife, in the church of Hale, as appears by a brass on a grave stone near the reading desk.

Vous que cette Tombe boies, pour les ames Edmond Illegh Chevalier,
et Alice sa femme et les Enfans priez.

In the east window of the north aisle are the arms of Illeigh, Ermine two chevrons Sable.†

Sir Richard de Illeigh,‡ the eldest son and heir, in the 32nd Edward the Third, sold his manor of Stanningfield to John, afterward Sir John de Rokewode.

It appears from a MS. Book of Evidences, formerly at Coldham, but now at Hengrave, written by a member of the family in 1619,§ that the Rokewodes were established at Acton near Sudbury, in the reign of Edward the First, at which period there were three good houses in that parish, belonging to the De Bures, Rokewodes, and Clerbeckes. These three families very soon after became united by the closest ties. Alan de Rokewode, or Roewod, the earliest recorded member of the family, in 14 Edward the First held of the abbot of St. Edmund's in chief 30 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 18 acres of pasture, by twelve pence rent; and the said Alan had eight free tenants upon an acre and a half of land, in Melford.|| He married Elizabeth de Clerbecke, in that king's reign; and their son Sir Robert de Rokewode, of Acton, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Michael de Bures, and widow of John de Scotland, of Stoke Nayland, before 9 Edward the Second. This Robert appears to have acquired lands in Stanningfield, in 7 Edward the Third, 1332, and to have possessed a residence here in 1351; but the Rokewodes did not become lords of the manor till 1357, when, as before mentioned, Sir

* De Ed'o de Illegh ten' in Stanningfield, dimid. feod. milit. de Joh'e filio Walt'i quod Thomas de Illegh quondam tenuit in eadem Villa de R. fil Walt'i xxs.

† *Blomf. Norf.*, vol. vi, pp. 8, 13.

‡ Sir Richard de Illegh died without issue, leaving Robert his brother and heir.

Vide his will, dated 21st Oct., 1366—*Blomf.*, vol. vii, p. 242.

§ An abstract of this book is published in the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. ii, p. 120, et seq.

|| *Iter Salamonis de Roff.*, fol. 248. Reg. Pynchbec.

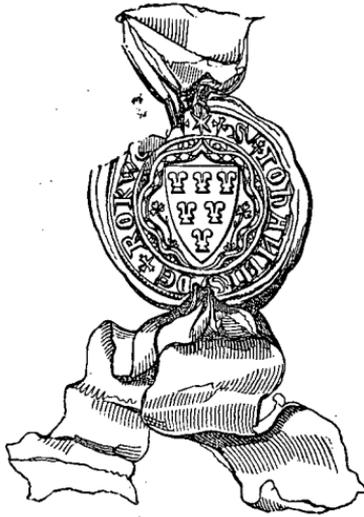
Richard de Illeigh, kt., sold it to John De Rokewode, of Stoke Nayland, son of Sir Robert de Rokewode, of Acton.

From this time to the present, a period of more than 500 years, the manor has continued by uninterrupted descent in the lineal representatives of the family. It will not be necessary here to set forth the family genealogy; * and it may be sufficient to mention that throughout this long period of time the family was essentially a Suffolk one in its alliances; intermarrying with the old county families of Bures, Tyrell, Clopton, Burgate, Heigham, Drury, Martin, Gage, &c.

Sir John de Rokewode, the first lord of Stanningfield, represented the county of Suffolk in Parliament, the 34th and 42nd years of Edward the Third. The seal of this Knight of the Shire remains appendant to a deed in the possession of Sir Thomas Rokewode Gage, Bart., of Hengrave hall, by which Roisia, late wife of John de Saxi of Stanefeld, grants to John de Rokwode and Joan his wife, Sir Robert de Swynebornne, kt., Thomas de Rokwode, and Walter Boteller, parson of the church of Stanefeld, all her lands, &c., in Stanefeld, &c., during her life, at a rental of 8*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Dated at Stanefeld 37 Edward the Third. The deed has three seals—1, Rookwood, as in the annexed plate; 2, arms a cross between four leopards' heads, and SECRETOM THOM. [DE PR] ESSEN'; 3, a priest's head. He married Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Swynborne. This lady was buried in Stanningfield church, agreeably to her will, but no memorial of her exists. Their son John married Eleanor, daughter of Sir William de Burgate and Eleanor Viz-de-Lou; whose magnificent brass, still to be seen in Burgate church, has been engraved in our *Proceedings*, by the liberality of the Rev. C. Manning. Sir Robert de Rokewode was knight of the shire of Suffolk, 21 Edward the Third. Sir William de Rokewode represented the county in the 8th of Henry the Fifth; and William de Rokewode, in 1420; and the name more than once occurs on the roll of Sheriffs.

* This may be seen in the *Collectanea Topographica*, before quoted.

COLDHAM HALL.



SEAL OF JOHN DE ROKEWODE, OF STANNINGFIELD, 37 EDW. III.

Several members of the family have met with tragical ends. Edward Rookwood, of Euston, a younger branch of the Rookwoods of Stanningfield, and who with other Catholic gentlemen of Suffolk, signed a protestation of loyalty and a declaration against the Pope's deposing power, entertained Queen Elizabeth in her progress through the county, in 1578. Of this event a singular account is given by Richard Topcliffe, to George Earl of Shrewsbury, in a letter published in *Lodge's Illustrations of British History*. In return for Rookwood's hospitality, her Majesty, for no other reason than because he was a Papist, not only joined in insulting him in the grossest manner, but had him hurried off to Norwich gaol, and fined him afterward in a large sum, for presuming "to attempt her real presence." The poor man ultimately died in the gaol of St. Edmund's Bury, and his house and estate at Euston were sold to relieve the distress of the family.

Ambrose Rookwood, of Stanningfield, cotemporary with Edward, was implicated in the Gunpowder Treason, and executed at Tyburn, in 1605. His offence was the having concealed some part of the plot, communicated to him and to Sir Everard Digby by Catesby.

At his trial Rookwood says—

"He had been neither author nor actor, but only persuaded and drawn in by Catesby, whom he loved above any worldly man; and that he had concealed it, not from any malice to the person of the king or to the state, or for any ambitious prospects of his own, but only drawn from the tender regard and the faithful and dear respect he bore to Mr. Catesby his friend, whom he esteemed more than any thing in the world."

Robert, the son of the alleged conspirator, was knighted by king James, at Royston, in 1624, and proved himself a faithful adherent to king Charles the First. Two of his sons fell in the Royal cause,—Robert, the eldest, being killed at Oxford; and William, at Alresford. There is a portrait of Sir Robert Rookwood over the chimney piece, in the dining room, at Coldham hall, copied from an original, painted by Wright, in 1660, at Maddingley, Cambridgeshire.

Another Ambrose Rookwood, who was a Brigadier

General in king James the Second's guards, at St. Germans, suffered also as a conspirator, being executed at Tyburn, in 1696, for his concern in the treason called the Barclay conspiracy. At the place of execution he delivered a paper to the Sheriff, in which he says:—

“I do with all truth and sincerity declare and avow I never knew, saw, or heard, of any order or commission from King James, for the assassination of the Prince of Orange, and attacking his guards; but I am certainly informed he had rejected proposals of that nature when made unto him. Nor do I think he knew the least of the particular design for attacking the guards at his landing, in which I was engaged as a soldier, by my immediate commander (much against my judgment); but his soldier I was, and as such I was to obey and act. Near twelve years I have served my true king and master, K. James, and freely now lay down my life in his cause. I ever abhor'd a treacherous action to an enemy. If it be a guilt to have complied with what I thought, and still think to have been my duty, I am guilty. No other guilt do I own. As I beg of all to forgive me, so I forgive all from my heart, even the Prince of Orange, who, as a soldier, ought to have considered my case before he signed the warrant for my death. I pray God to open his eyes, and render him sensible of the much blood, from all parts, crying out against him, so to prevent a heavier execution hanging over his head, than what he inflicts on me.”

The last male representative of the family, Thomas Rookwood, Esq., of Coldham hall, married Tamworth, daughter of Sir Roger Martin, of Long Melford, Bart., niece of Elizabeth, Lady Monson, celebrated by *Butler*. A portrait of this lady is over the chimney piece in the hall at Coldham, with the following lines from *Hudibras* at the foot.

Did not a certain lady whip
Of late her husband's own lordship,
And though a grandee of the house
Clawed him with fundamental blows;
Tied him stark naked to a bed post,
And firked his hide as if she'd rid post:
And after, in the Sessions court,
Where whipping's praised, had honor for't.

This lady, at the time referred to by the poet, was the wife of her third husband, Sir William Monson, created by Charles the First, Viscount Monson, of Castlemain, a nobleman so unmindful of the favours conferred by his sovereign, that he sat as one of the Commissioners and Judges at the king's



COLDHAM HALL.—GARDEN FRONT.



COLDHAM HALL.—PRINCIPAL FRONT.

trial. For this, it is said, Lady Monson inflicted upon her lord the punishment alluded to, and which had the effect of keeping him from the court on the day judgment was passed. At the restoration of Charles the Second, Lord Monson was degraded and imprisoned, and sentenced with others to be led from the Tower to Tyburn and back, on sledges, with ropes about their necks. His wife survived, and took for her fourth husband Sir Adam Felton, Bart.

By the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of Thomas Rookwood and Tamworth Martin, with John Gage, Esq., of Hengrave, one of the pages of honour to Louis the Fourteenth of France, the property of the Rokewodes was carried into that family. Robert Gage, their great grandson, assumed the name of Rookwood in 1799; but dying without surviving issue, was succeeded by his youngest and sole surviving brother, John Gage, Esq., author of the *Histories of Hengrave and Thingoe*. At his death, in 1842, they descended to his nephew, Sir Thomas Rokewode Gage, Bart., of Hengrave Hall, the present lord of the manor.

The old mansion of the Rokewodes, Stanningfield hall, stood on the rising ground facing the tower of the church, on the opposite side of the public road. The site is known by the moat and fish ponds still observable there.

At what period the residence called Coldham hall was first erected, or why so named, is by no means clear. The earliest mention of Coldham hall appears in a deed, dated 8th February, 1486, in which mention is made of the manors of Stanefeld hall and Coldham hall. Whether it ever was a separate manor is not known; it is not so considered at present.

The present manor house * was built in 1574, by Robert Rokewode, whose initials with the date, are over the porch. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Drury, of Hawsted, and was father of Ambrose Rokewode who suffered for his complicity in the Gunpowder plot.

* The annexed plates, representing the south and north fronts, have been engraved and presented by the liberality of Sir Thomas Rokewode Gage, Bart.

The hall windows, filled with stained glass of elegant design, displaying the shields of arms of the family, and its various alliances, and which commemorate the ancient and direct descent of the property, were executed by Willement, in 1838, and placed in their present position by the late Mr. John Gage Rokewode. The range of boots along the wall is a relic of the days of the Cavaliers, and belong to the hall. The armour was given by Lady Arundel, of Wardour,* to the Gages. The portraits of two nuns, over the entrance, represent Mrs. Carey, the Superior of the English Austin nuns at Bruges; and Miss Jennings (the younger portrait), a connection of the Rookwood family. There is also a portrait of Thomas Rokewode, the last of the family, in a grey dress holding a book; and another of Sir William Gage, of Hengrave, father of John Gage, who married his only daughter, Elizabeth Rookwood.

In the dining-room are portraits of Sir Robert Rokewode, Kt. 1660; of Elizabeth Rookwood, wife of John Gage, in a black dress; of Elizabeth, Countess Rivers, a copy of one at Hengrave; of Sir Thomas Rookwood Gage, the fifth Bart., the son of John Gage and Elizabeth Rookwood, and his wife Lucy, daughter and heir of William Knight, of Kingerby, in Lincolnshire; and a curious picture of the celebrated beauty Mary, Lepell, Lady Hervey, painted by Drouet.

In the drawing-room, amongst other paintings, is a portrait of Nell Gwyn by Lely; and a fine St. Catharine, by Luini. The horn of the Narwal kept in an old case in the entrance hall, was brought from Hengrave, and has additional interest from being the "unicorn's bone" bequeathed by the Countess of Bath, in 1561, to her "daughter Kytson." †

A fine old ebony cabinet inlaid with silver, formerly in the drawing-room, is now at Hengrave, where are some other portraits of the Rokewodes.

* She was Lady Mary Grenville, aunt of the present Duke of Buckingham.

† See *History of Hengrave*.

STANNINGFIELD CHURCH.

The church of Stanningfield, although by no means a considerable building, is not devoid of interest either to the archæologist, or to the lover of folk-lore. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and consists of a chancel, nave with south porch, and square tower at the west end. The tower is 54 feet high, and 13 square. It is built of rough flints and stones, strengthened by buttresses at the angles, and finished with plain square battlements. On the west side in the upper story, are two small round-headed lights, under a label head. Under these is a trefoil-headed loop, and below that a handsome large pointed arch, divided into three lights with quatrefoil headings, and transom moulding. Around the whole is a label moulding, rising from figures of angels, which bear the crest of Rookwood—a chess rook on an escutcheon. On the north side is one, and on the south two windows, with a stair turret. The north doorway is early Norman, with shafts, and deep chevron moulding in the arch. The south doorway is very good. It has a profusion of four-leaved flowers in the jambs and arch, and the ball-flower in the drip moulding. On one of the bricks which are close to the threshold of the door, is a glazed tile, on which is the figure of a horse shoe, for the purpose, it is said, of preventing witches from entering the church. This tile and horse shoe are noticed in *Brand's Popular Antiquities*, and in *Aubrey's Miscellanies*. However, in spite of this celebrated horse shoe, placed where it now is for the protection of the parish, it does not seem to have produced the desired effect, as, so late as the year 1795 an unfortunate witch was discovered in Stanningfield, and went through the usual sufferings in a pond close to the churchyard.

The font, of the Perpendicular period, is ornamented with shields bearing the arms of Rookwood and of the abbey of St. Edmund.

There are no remains of the Rood before which John de Rokewode by will dated 1423, desired to be buried.

The chancel is good Decorated, being built by the Rookwoods, in the 14th century; the three-light east window has good tracery; and in the south wall are some two-light windows with very curious tracery in the headings. Against the north wall of the chancel is a fine altar tomb with a canopy, which appears from the coats of arms thereon, to have been erected to the memory of Thomas Rokewode, Esq., who married Anna, daughter of John de Clopton, Esq., of Kentwell hall, and died 12th Henry the Eighth. The arms on the cornice are—on the south side, 1, Rokewode and Swinborne; 2, Rookwood and Clopton; 3, Rookwood and Swinford; 4, Rookwood and Clopton; 5, Rookwood and Swinford; 6, Rookwood and Swinborne; 7, Rookwood alone; 8, Rookwood and Clopton. On the left, or west face, are Rookwood alone, six chess rooks, 3, 2, and 1, and Rookwood impaling Clerbecke.

In the chancel are also memorials to Thomas Rookwood, Esq., of Coldham hall; to Elizabeth, his daughter, wife of John Gage, Esq.; to John Gage, Esq., her husband; and to Elizabeth,* wife of the late Robert Gage Rokewode, Esq. and her children, who all predeceased her; likewise on the same tomb, a memorial to her husband, Robert Gage Rokewode, Esq., who died 31st July, 1838.

The Church has always been and is still appendant to the Manor, and the patronage of the living is vested in Sir Thomas Rokewode Gage, Bart., as Lord of the Manor for the time being.

SAMUEL TYMMS.

* She was only child and heiress of Roman Empire, and uncle to Sir Richard General, Count O'Donel, a Count of the O'Donnel, of Newport, co. Mayo, Bart.