

OULTON.



OULTON is not mentioned by name in the Domesday Survey but probably Suckling's conjecture is correct that the Duneston of the Survey is identical with Oulton.

A manor was held in this place by Ala under commendation to Manning, and consisted of 45 acres, half a bordar, half a ploughteam, wood for the maintenance of 4 hogs, and half an acre of meadow, valued at 10s. At the time of the Survey it was held by R. de Vallibus of Roger Bigot, and the value was 3s.¹

Another holding was that of Tored, a freeman, consisting of 15 acres valued at 30d., the estate at the time of the Survey of Earl Alan.²

MANOR OF OULTON OR OULTON HIGH HOUSE.

In 1280 the lordship belonged to Edmund Bacon, who appears to have been succeeded by Sir John Bacon, Knt., who presented to the church in 1301. His successor was Sir Adam Bacon, and to him and his brother Edmund Bacon the manors were conveyed by Robert de Askeby, parson of Ingham, by fine in 1303. In 1306 the two Bacons had a grant of a market and fair and free warren here.³

This Sir Adam and his brother Edmund were sons of Robert Bacon, of Baconsthorpe, and their mother, a daughter of Robert de Hingham. Robert's father was Richard Bacon, and his mother Alice, a daughter of Conan, son of Elias de Moulton. Sir Adam, who held the manor in 1306, married Margery, daughter of Simon Felton, and on his death⁴ the manor passed to his son, Sir Edmund Bacon.⁵ He married twice—1st Joan Brewse, who died in 1337, and 2ndly Margery Poynings. He settled the manor in 1334, as we learn from a licence on the Patent Rolls this year. It enables Edmund Bacon to enfeoff Thomas de Bradewell and Robert de Jernemutha, the younger, of 4 messuages, 2 mills, 200 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 60 acres of marsh, and 100s. rent in Oulton, Carlton, Lowestoft, and Flixton, with the advowson of the church of Oulton, held in chief, and for them to regrant to Edmund, Margery his wife, and the heirs of the body of Edmund, with remainder to Sir Robert Bacon and Sir John Bacon successively in fee tail.⁶

On Sir Edmund Bacon's death in 1349⁶ his widow Margery held the estate in dower as of the King in chief.⁷ In an order on the Close Rolls in 1350 it is stated that the manor was held of the Countess of Pembroke in free socage by the service of rendering 12s. 2d. yearly to her, and that Robert Bacon, Knt., son of Henry Bacon, Adam's kinsman, was his next heir.⁸

It is clear, however, that Sir Edmund Bacon left two daughters, and they were evidently minors, for in 1357 the King granted to Joan, wife of John de Moleyns, the custody of the manor during the minority of the heirs.⁹ Sir Edmund's estates were in 1360 partitioned between his daughters, this manor being allotted to the daughter Margaret, married to Sir William de Molyns, who presented to the rectory in 1379.

¹ Dom. ii. 336.

² Dom. ii. 294.

³ Chart. Rolls, 35 Edw. I. 52.

⁴ He was living in 1314. I.Q.D., 7 Edw. II. File 94. 19.

⁵ Pat. Rolls, 8 Edw. III. pt. i. 4.

⁶ I.P.M., 23 Edw. III. 23; 27 Edw. III. 2, 8; 30 Edw. III. 42.

⁷ Close Rolls, 24 Edw. III. pt. i. 16.

⁸ Close Rolls, 24 Edw. III. pt. i. 16.

⁹ O. 31 Edw. III. 7.

Sir William de Molyns died in 1380,¹ and Margaret his widow conveyed the manor by fine in 1382 to Sir Simon de Burley and Sir Richard de Burley.²

In 1503 Sir James Hobart was lord and patron of Oulton. He was the son of Thomas Hobart, son of William, son of Thomas, son of Jeffrey, son of John Hobart, who was living in 1385. Sir James Hobart was Attorney-General 1486 to 1507. He received the honour of knighthood at the creation of Henry, Prince of Wales, afterwards King Hen. VIII., 18th Feb. 1504. Besides his many benefactions to his parish church of Loddon, which he rebuilt from the ground, he laid a fine bridge over the River Waveney, which divides Norfolk from Suffolk, and a good causeway thereto. He is said to have been "a right good man, of great learning and wisdom." He was the friend of John Paston, and an account will be found of him in the Dict. Nat. Biog. xxvii. 31, where he is said to have died in 1507. He was the great-grandfather of Sir Henry Hobart, the more famous lawyer, Attorney-General 1606-13, created a baronet in 1611, and Chief Justice of the Common Pleas 1613-1623, still well known for his reports, first published in 1641.³ Sir James Hobart married Margaret, daughter of Peter Naunton, of Letheringham, and if we may be permitted to disagree with the great Dictionary of National Biography, died 24th Feb. 1516,⁴ when the manor and advowson passed to his son and heir, Sir Walter Hobart, who was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1535. He married 1st Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Heydon, of Baconsthorpe, in Norfolk, and 2ndly Anne, daughter of John Radcliffe, Lord Fitzwalter. He settled the manor on Henry his son, and died 27th Nov. 1538,⁵ when the manor passed to his son and heir, Henry Hobart, who in 1544 had a fine of the manor levied against him by Nicholas Rokewode.⁶

Amongst the Star Chamber Proceedings in the time of Philip and Mary we find an action for assault on plaintiff's tenants and as to cutting of reeds and grass in Fresh Marsh, by Hoberte against one Wade.⁷ Henry Hobart married Anne, daughter of Sir John Fineux, Knt., Lord Chief Justice, which Anne died 31st Oct. 1530.

Henry Hobart died in 1561, when he was succeeded by his son and heir, James Hobart, who presented in 1569. He married in 1549 Frances, daughter of Sir William Drury, of Hawstead, Knt., who died in 1609, and was buried at Loddon, in Norfolk. James Hobart died in 1615 at the age of 91, and was also buried at Loddon.

There is a warrant to Richard Berry, steward of the manor, to collect rents in 1598 amongst the Egerton MSS. in the British Museum.⁸ Amongst the Chancery Proceedings in the time of Queen Elizabeth we find an action by James Hobart against William Sydnor to recover rent of a moiety of a marsh called Gorleston Marsh, held of this manor.⁹

James Hobart seems to have been somewhat litigious, for we find amongst the Chancery Proceedings another action by him. It was brought against him by Henry Hobart and Edward Dukê to quiet his title to possession during life to this manor and the Manor of Blythford, and divers lands in Oulton and Blythford, late the inheritance of Henry Hobart, plaintiff's father.¹⁰

¹ I.P.M., 14 Rich. II. 38.

² Feet of Fines, 6 Rich. II. 13.

³ See D.N.B. xxvi. 30.

⁴ I.P.M., Hen. VIII. 25.

⁵ I.P.M., 33 Hen. VIII. 81.

⁶ Fine, Mich. 36 Hen. VIII.

⁷ Star Cham. Proc. Ph. & M. Bundle 3, 9.

⁸ Eger. 2713.

⁹ C.P. ii. 11, 55.

¹⁰ C.P. i. 396.

James Hobart had a son, Henry Hobart, who married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Rous, of Dennington, and died in his father's lifetime about 1600 leaving a son and heir Anthony, who on the death of his grandfather, James Hobart in 1615 succeeded to the lordship of this manor. Anthony Hobart married Anne, daughter of George Breton, of Layer Breton, in Essex, and by deed dated 2nd Oct. 1631, conveyed the manor to Sir Edmund Reeve, of Stratton, in Norfolk, and Mary his wife. Sir Edmund Reeve was afterwards Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, to which office he was advanced 14th March, 1638, and died in 1647, when the manor passed to his widow Mary, who held her first court and presented to the rectory this same year, and died in 1657, when the manor passed to Sir Edmund Reeve's nephew, Christopher Reeve, clerk, on whose death in 1690 the manor vested in his son and heir, Christopher Reeve, who died in 1702.

In this year the manor was vested by Act of Parliament in trustees in trust for sale, which trust they exercised in 1716 in favour of Gerard Van Heythuson, who held a first court for the manor this same year.

By deeds 3rd and 4th Aug. 1716, the manor was settled on Gerard Van Heythuson the younger for life, then on Sarah his wife for life, then on Gerard Van Heythuson the elder, and P. Delme and others upon trust for all and every the son and sons, daughter and daughters, of the marriage of Gerard the younger, and Sarah in tail as tenants in common, with remainder as to two-thirds for such persons as Sarah might by deed or will appoint, and in default for her in fee, and as to the remaining one-third to Gerard the younger in fee.

The manor ultimately appears to have passed to the son and heir, Delme Van Heythuson, whose executors sold it to Thomas Anguish, of Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, by deeds dated 21st and 22nd Dec. 1772, and a fine was duly levied in Michaelmas term, 1772. Thomas Anguish held his first court the following year.

He by his will dated 3rd Sept. 1784, directed his trustees and executors, Sir William Henry Ashurst, Knt., and John Hare, to sell the same, and they duly offered the manor and mansion house called Oulton High House, comprising 33 acres, and also 425 acres and a free rent of 17s. 9d., by public auction in 1786,¹ and again in 1787, but did not then effect a sale. However, they subsequently carried into effect their trust, and by deeds dated 1st and 2nd Sept. 1789, conveyed the manor to Susanna Blackwell, then of Normanston House.

The description of the property conveyed was: "The manor or lordship of Oulton and the capital mansion or manor house called Oulton High House, &c., and certain lands in Oulton and Lowestoft, containing about 32 acres, late Van Heythuson's, Oulton Broad and fishings, also 14 acres and a cottage, and all wastes, court-leets, courts-baron, view of frankpledge, and rights, royalties, and appurtenances, except the advowson." Susanna Blackwell held her first court in 1793.²

Susanna Blackwell married Sir Thomas Graves, K.B., and Rear-Admiral of the White Squadron, and by their marriage settlement dated 19th and 20th July, 1808, the wife had a power of appointment over the manor which was included in the settlement subject to the lives of herself and her husband. She made her will dated 28th Dec. 1813, and appointed and devised the manor to trustees upon trust for sale, the produce after payment

¹*Ipswich Journal*, 8th April, 1786.

²Suckling, *Hist. of Suff.* vol. ii. p. 36.

of her debts as to one moiety to go to Robert Baxter, of Furnival's Inn, one of the trustees, and as to the other moiety to be invested for the benefit of Marianne Baxter, daughter of her friend Dudley Baxter, of Atherstone, in Warwickshire, and after her decease upon such trusts as the said Marianne Baxter should by will appoint. Robert Baxter died in 1824 or 1825, and Marianne Baxter married General Nathaniel Wilmot Oliver, and they by an arrangement with the parties entitled to the other moiety of the proceeds of the sale of the manor, if sold, succeeded to the whole, and the trust for sale under Lady Graves' will was never carried into effect.

In 1855 the manor was held by the executors of General Oliver, in 1885 by Mrs. Caldecott, and it is now vested in Mrs. Copeland Tracy.

The manorial residence, called Oulton High House, stands near the north-east border of this parish, and from its style must have been built by the Hobarts in the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, or early in that of her successor. It has been much modernised, and perhaps disfigured, by the introduction of sashed windows; but it still bears an aspect of a good but somewhat decayed mansion. Its interior fittings partook of considerable expense, if we may judge by the labour and ornament bestowed on a mantel or chimney-piece which still remains.¹

A fine was levied of "Oulton Manor" in 1591 by Nicholas Hare and others against Henry Hobart.²

Arms of HOBART: Sable, a star of eight rays, Or, between two flanches Ermine. Of REEVE: Azure, a chevron between three pairs of wings conjoined and elevated, Or.

MANOR OF FASTOLFS, FASTOLF HALL, OULTON HALL OR TENEMENT ROLFE'S, HOUGHTON HALL.

We first meet with this manor under the name "Houton Manor" in 1306, when it formed the subject of a fine levied of it and the advowson of the church of Oulton by Adam Bacun and Edmund Bacun against Robert de Askeby, parson of Ingham church.³

A fine was also levied of both manor and advowson in 1320 by Adam Bacun and Nicholas de Olton.⁴ Davy mentions as the first lord a Henry Rolf, and then Ralph Browning and William Everwood, clerk, who sold the manor to John Fastolf. He married Katharine, daughter of Roger de Welysham, by Margaret his wife, sister of Edmund Bedingfield. She was the widow of John Sampson, of Harkstead. John Fastolf died 31st January, 1445. He was buried in the church of Oulton near the south door of the chancel. The spot is marked by the effigies of a man and woman in brass each about two feet in length. The knight is in armour, with a greyhound couchant, collared at his feet; the lady is a very graceful figure with a long veil, and beneath is a line of brass with this inscription:—

"Hic jacet Johēs. Fastolff Armiger qui obiit ultio. die Januarii Ao. Dm̄. MCCCCXLV. et Katerina uxor sua quæ obiit IIII. die mensis Januarii Ao. Dm̄. MCCCCLXXVIII. q̄m. aīabz. ppiaet. de' aīe."

Above are two shields. That over the knight is defaced and doubtless contained the arms of Fastolf; on the other side over the lady are depicted, according to Druery, those of Bedingfield, an eagle displayed.

But it is clear that Hugh Fastolf, the father of John, was lord of Oulton.

¹ Suckling, Hist. of Suff. vol. ii. p. 37.

² Fine, Trin. 33 Eliz.

³ Feet of Fines, 34 Edw. I. 21.

⁴ Feet of Fines, 14 Edw. II. 3.

On John Fastolf's death the manor passed to his widow Katharine.¹ She and certain trustees conveyed this manor in 1477 to James Hobart. Suckling states that about the middle of the 15th century Edmund Fastolf, son of Sir Hugh Fastolf, Knt., released to William Jermy and Katharyne the widow of John Fastolf and his heirs all his right in the Manor of Oulton called Houghton Hall, and all other things pertaining to the said manor in the towns of Oulton, Lowestoft, Gunton, Flixton, Blundeston, Carlton, Beccles, and Westhall.

In 1476 Thomas Fastolf, nephew and heir of the above Edmund Fastolf, released to John, Lord Howard, to Thomas Howard, William Jenney, serjeant-at-law, and others, all his right in the Manor of Oulton called Houghton Hall, "which was formerly the property of John Fastolf late of Oulton."²

We meet in 1477 with a fine of Oulton Manor and advowson, which was no doubt effected on the sale by Katherine Fastolf to James Hobart. It is by John Howard, Thomas Howard, William Jenney, John Clopton, Richard Suthwell, Thomas Heigham, Edmund Jenney, John Cheke, Richard Heigham, James Hobart, Katherine Fastolf, widow, lately wife of John Fastolf, late of Oulton, Edmund Bedyngfeld, John Jernyngan, Robert Rastwold, Thomas Payter, William Bedyngfeld, clerk, and Thomas Banyard against Thomas Fastolf, son, and John Fastolf, late of Nacton, and Ella his wife.³

Amongst the Early Chancery Proceedings is a suit by James Hobart against William Bedyngfeld, clerk, and Simon Sampson, feoffees to uses as to the manor and lands in Oulton and Flixton, "sold to complainant by Catherine Fastolf."⁴

In 1509 the manor vested in John Sampson, of Oulton, who sold it in 1511 to William Wade, on whose death in 1520 it passed to his son and heir, William Wade, who died in 1556.

In 1604 Sir Nicholas Cooke, of Dagenbaum, Essex, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir George Harire, held the manor, and they sold it in 1606 to Benedict Campe, of Kessingland, who sold it in 1615 to Thomas Love, of Ellough. He the following year enfeoffed Gisleham Woolhouse, of Lowestoft, sen., and Gisleham Woolhouse, jun., and in 1636 William Woolhouse, son and heir of Gisleham, held the lordship. He sold it in 1679 to Sir Andrew Leake, of Lowestoft, who died in 1704, and left it by his will to his nephew, Andrew Leake, who died unmarried, when it devolved on his brother, John Leake, of Yarmouth, who died in 1732 without issue. The manor passed to his widow Sarah, who by her will dated 1742 devised it to the Rev. Thomas Macro, D.D., and the Rev. John Tanner in trust for sale. Tanner, the trustee, conveyed it in 1745 to Thomas Hunt, of Oulton, son of Thomas Hunt, by Martha Bell, of Gorleston, his 1st wife.

He died intestate, and the manor passed to his son and heir, Thomas Hunt, who died 18th May, 1808, aged 74, and was buried at Oulton.

¹ She died 4th January, 1478, and her will is dated 20th November the same year, being proved at Norwich 20th July, 1479.

² Suckling, *Hist. of Suff.*, vol. ii. p. 35.

³ Feet of Fines, 17 Edw. IV. 9.

⁴ E.C.P. Bundle 53, 87.