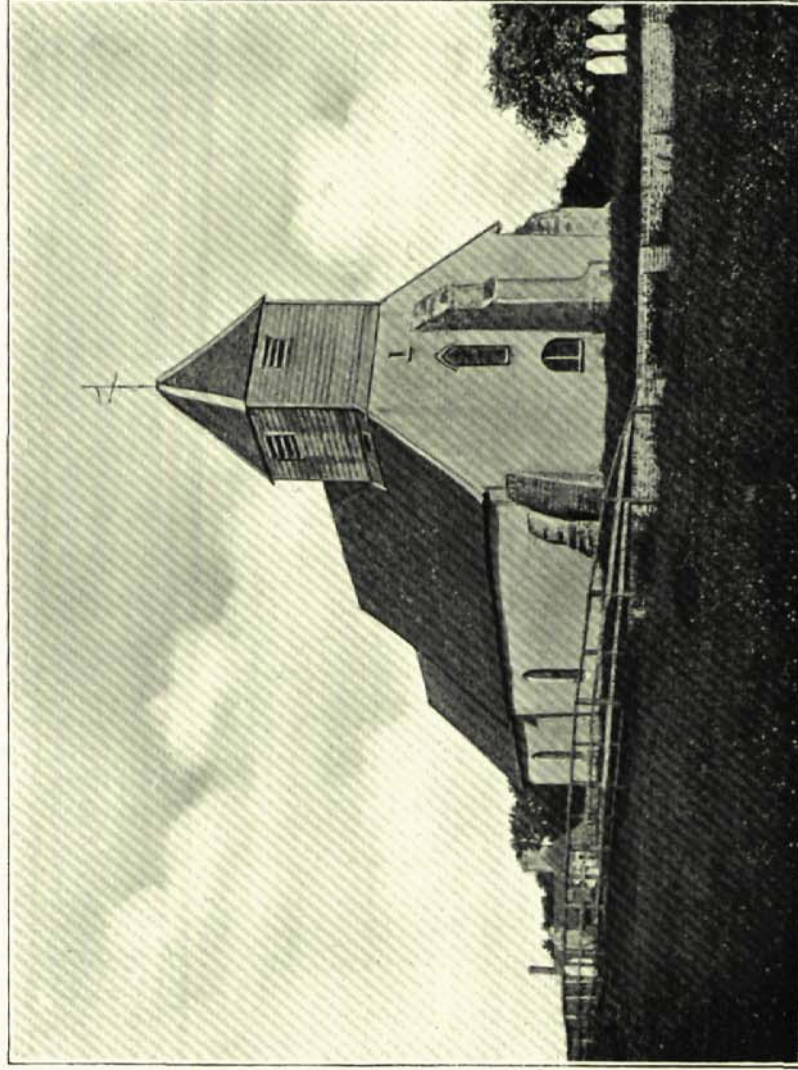


HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



FARLEY CHURCH.

FARLEY CHAMBERLAYNE AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS.

BY MRS. SUCKLING.

We have been told by the late Mr. T. W. Shore that Farley Mount, with its ring-shaped entrenchment, is the work of Celtic mound builders. But, he has further said, it is too large to be an ordinary tumulus; so perhaps we may be permitted to regard it as one of those hill-top fastnesses which the early inhabitants of this country used to make to guard themselves and their herds from the depredations of the packs of wolves which were wont to infest all the valleys. That it was an inhabited spot in very primitive times is clearly indicated by the fact that some of the most ancient roads in the county are to be found in its neighbourhood. Moreover, the Saxon settlers have left the marks of their agricultural industry on the eastern slope of the mount, which still shows unmistakable traces of the ancient common fields which were worked by the labour of the inferior tenants of the manor. It appears, too, that the folk of Farley combined with those of the neighbouring manor of King's Somborne from very early times to cut timber in the forest of Bere and in Parnholt wood for feeding Farley beacon, which for many ages has been used as a warning signal to the surrounding country.

At the time of Edward the Confessor, says Domesday Book, Farley was assessed at five hides and was held of the king by Ulwin, and there were eight plough lands and three in demesne and seven villeins and four bordarii with four plough ands. But by 1086 it had depreciated in value and was then rated at one hide only. It was at that time called "Ferlege in Sumborne hundred" and was held by Herbert the son of Regius, who probably was present when King William the Conqueror, travelling from Winchester to Salisbury along the old Roman road which may be still traced, passed through Farley parish in August of that year.

In the Testa de Neville it is recorded that Galfry le Chaumberleyn held Farley in the 13th century at half a knight's fee as part of the military fief of Igeramus de Patell, and that it was a manor of old enfeoffment before the death of Henry the First. With the Chamberlayne family (who gave the second name to this manor) Farley appears to have remained some time, and it was probably in their possession in 1290 when, for the purposes of the last Crusade, the Church of Farley paid a tax of £1 4s. as a tenth of its annual value.

In 1342, when the *Inquisitiones Nonarum* were held for the purposes of the tax known as the ninth of corn, wool, and lambs, the jurors then sworn "super Sacramentum" (probably in this church) were David Rigg, Hugh le Estement, Andrew Godwine, and William Gobayre, the latter two of which names still survive in these parts.

From the Chamberlaynes this manor passed to William de Berton, who obtained it with the advowson for eighty marks of silver; in 1316 Nicholas de Berton held it by knight service. In 1335, however, Sir Thomas de Missenden, whose chief possessions were at Missenden and Quainton, in the county of Bucks, held this manor as mesne tenant to Henry Duke of Lancaster, and had right of free warren here. Sir Thomas de Missenden died in 1369. He was succeeded by his son Sir Edmund, who, by Juliana daughter of Lord Grey Rotherfield, was father of Sir Bernard (aged eight at his father's death, the last male heir of his line), whose daughter and sole heir Katherine was married before 1432 to John Ewarby. This genealogy gives us an unbroken record of the lords of the manor of Farley from the conquest to the present day; for the Ewarby arms, on the tomb of William St. John in Farley church, are those of his grandmother, Joan, daughter and sole heir of Sir John Ewarby "lady of the manor of Farley Chamberlayne," who married Sir John St. John of Lydiard Tregoz in the county of Wilts, and lies buried in the church of that place, under the arms of St. John impaling Ewarby, quartering Carew. Sir John died in 1512, and his son, also called John, later married as his first wife Margaret, daughter of this Sir Richard Carew, of Beddington in Surrey, and as his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Whethill. When he made his will on the 20th April, 1574, he left the manor of Farley Chamberlayne and the advowson to "the

right heirs male of mee, by Elizabeth my last wife, deceased." His heir by his last wife was William St. John, who bore quarterly, 1st, St. John, differenced by a crescent on a crescent (for a second son descended from a second son); 2, Beauchamp of Bletsho; 3, Ewarby; 4, Carew of Bebbington impaling Gore (of Aldington, county Wilts). The second of these quarterings is explained by the romantic story, told by Leland in his *Itinerary*, of the marriage of Oliver St. John, in the reign of Henry VI., to Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp of Bletsho and Lydiard Tregoz. This Oliver St. John was grandfather of the John St. John, husband of Joan Ewarby of Farley. On Oliver St. John's death, Margaret his widow, married John, first Duke of Somerset (a grandson of John of Gaunt, of King's Somborne), and was mother of Margaret Beaufort, who became the wife of Edmund Tudor Earl of Richmond and mother of King Henry VII. Therefore it is not surprising to find that John St. John was executor to the will of Margaret Countess of Richmond in 1509, and was knighted by his "kinsman," King Henry VII.

Of the ancient line of St. John's it is impossible to speak now, save to say that their original ancestor was William de St. John, who entered England at the Conquest, as Grand Master of the Artillery, and bore for his cognizance, the hames and collar of a horse. From him descended Muriel St. John, whose daughter, Mabel, married the powerful Adam de Port of Basing. Her son William de Port (Sheriff of Hampshire in 1215) assumed the name of St. John. From him have come down in two lines, the great families of St. John, first those of Basing, ending in the heiress who married John Paulet, from whom have descended the Marquises of Winchester; and, secondly, those who eventually became Lords of Bletsho, and Earls of Bolingbroke.

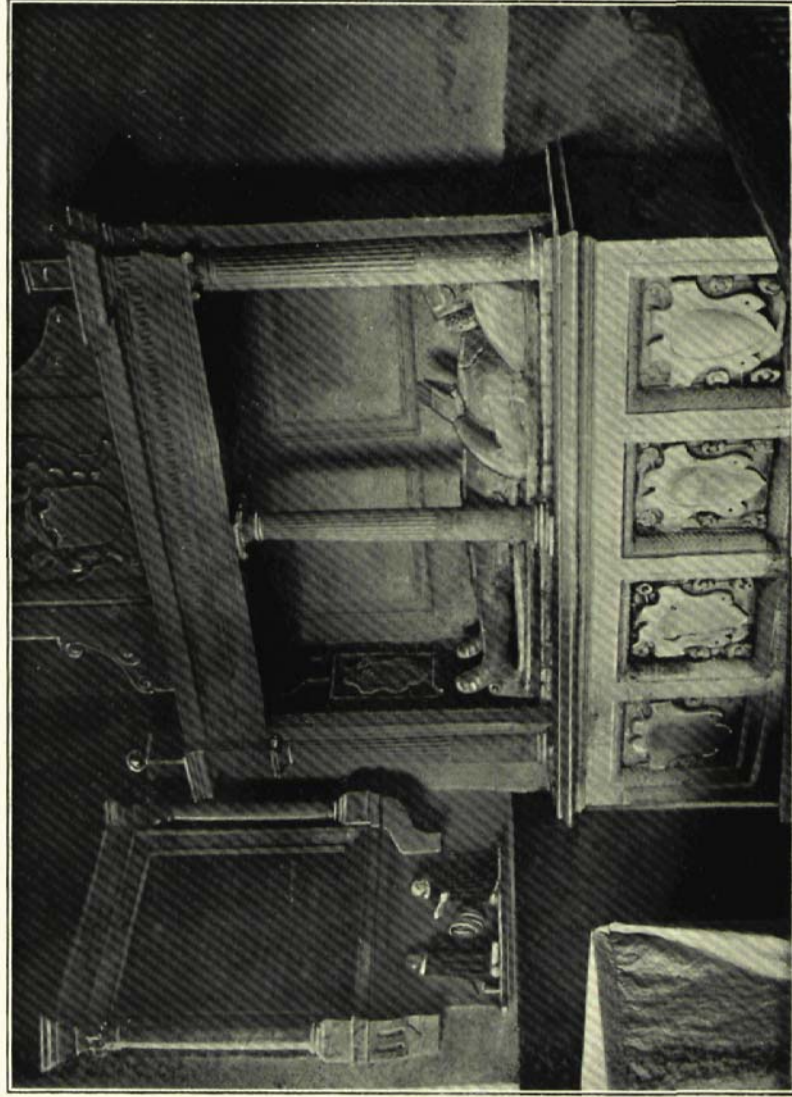
When William St. John first came to this manor of Farley does not appear; he is said to have been "a captain over five regiments in Hampshire," and Farley seems to have been settled on him by his father on his marriage with Barbara Gore, of Wallop. This event probably took place before the date of the father's will in 1574, which states that "Farley shall be and continue to Barbara St. John, the wife of my son William St. John, during the natural life of the said Barbara." The will of William cannot be found, but he appears to have

been buried at Farley on April 10th, 1600. His son and heir was Henry St. John. He had, also, several daughters, one, Elizabeth, was married about 1597 to Sir Francis Castillion, of Benham Vallenge, Berks; she died the 28th December, 1603, in her 27th year, and was buried at Speen, where she is represented in a farthingale and flowered gown and veil, almost covering the body. On a centre panel of her tomb is a shield with the arms of Castillion impaling the same arms as those on her father's tomb here. The other daughters were Jane, married to Young, of Ogborne, Wilts; Mary, married to Sir Henry Astry, of Harlington, Beds.; and Barbara, married, first (1585) to Sir Thomas Worsley, of Appuldercombe (who died 1604), and secondly to Sir Richard White, knighted December, 1605.

Henry St. John, son and heir of William, appears to have been twice married, first to a lady named Dorothy, by whom he had a daughter Barbara (baptised at Farley on the 20th July, 1601), and a son John (baptised on the 2nd January, 1603). He afterwards married Ursula, daughter of Sir Henry Stewkley of Mersh, in the parish of Dunster, county Somerset. She was sister of Sir Thomas Stewkley, who purchased the manor of Michelmersh in 1606, and died in 1642. In 1604 was baptised at Farley, Anne, daughter of Henry St. John and Ursula, his wife, followed in August, 1606, by Ursula, daughter of the same, and in October, 1608, by Oliver, son of the same, and in 1610 by Henry. After 1610 there are no more St. John baptisms, until 1618, when Mary, daughter of Henry St. John was christened here. Possibly this was the child of a third wife, for Margaret, wife of Henry St. John, Esq^{re}, was buried in 1636. Henry himself appears to have died on the 8th April, 1621, and to have been succeeded by his son, John St. John (born 1603).

It would be interesting to discover where the St. John family lived, for tradition places their capital messuage near the site of the old government semaphore station by the church, now the village school. Here are some yew trees, and near them the traces of paths, while garden flowers occasionally push their way through the turf. Mr. Montagu Edwards, whose forbears owned Compton Morceux, near here for generations, possesses a large map of Farley, dated 1838

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



TOMB OF WILLIAM ST. JOHN, FARLEY CHURCH.

with some suggestive field names, such as "Dog kennel field," "Spital field," and the "Stables"; possibly the present Farley farm may be their remains.

John St. John married Susannah Gifford, daughter of Sir Richard Gifford, of King's Somborne. The sad story of their brief wedded life is told pathetically by a monument in Farley Church, which represents Susanna with a widow's veil kneeling face to face with her young husband, while between them lies a babe in swaddling clothes. The inscription runs:—"Erected to the memory of John St. John, Esq^{re}, who deceased the 7th day of September, 1627, and of Susanna his wife, the daughter of Richard Gifforde, Kt., who chang'd this life for a better, the 5th of May, 1628, aged 23, and John St. John their sonne, an infante, born after his father's death, and dyed before his mother, the 26th Februarie, MCXXVIII., who be all here together interred."

Oliver St. John, who succeeded his half-brother at Farley, and held it for nineteen years, was buried here on the 3rd August, 1665, aged 57. His wife Constance, daughter of Walter Dawley, of Lainstan, was buried beside him on the 16th September, 1666, leaving a son Oliver and a daughter Christian. Oliver held the manor for twenty-three years; his tomb at Farley (26th August, 1687) sets forth his descent from Margaret Beauchamp. His wife's stone records she was "Margery, the wife of Oliver St. John, patron of this church, she was one of the daughters of Francis Rivet, of King Somborne, Esq^{re}, and died 27th June, 1681, leaving two daughters and one son, namely, Oliver, Frances and Margery." This inscription should be noted in confutation of various errors in the later St. John pedigrees. Oliver St. John the son is not given in Berry, but his name appears in Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses* as "Oliver, son of Oliver St. John, of Farley, Hants. Balliol Coll.: Matriculated 14th December, 1694, aged 17." At that time he was Squire of Farley, and probably present here at the time of his sister's wedding, which is thus recorded in the Farley Register: "Walter Godfrey of Lee gent, and Margery St. John were married ye 30 of May Anno pd 1698."

Apparently Margery clung to the little wind swept church of her girlhood's home, for she buried her daughter and namesake within its walls in May, 1698, together with her twin

babies; Margery and Walter Godfrey, who were here interred in April, 1700, as "children of Walter Godfrey Gentleman of Lee, and Margery his wife." And hither, too, came Margery herself to lie beside them on the 20th April, 1703.*

Young Oliver St. John died unmarried on the 20th May, 1699, aged 21; and with him ended the male line of the family of St. John of Farley.

His sister Frances, married on the 6th December, 1699, her first cousin Ellis Mew, but died childless, 25th March, 1700. Her arms impaling those of Mew, are in the floor of Farley Chancel, with a Latin inscription to her memory. Ellis Mew, who assumed the arms and name of St. John, married as his second wife Martha, daughter and heir of John Goodyer of Dogmersfield, Hants, and of Fenchampstead, Berks; by whom he had a large family. Of these, Paulet (his heir) was baptised at Farley in January, 1704; he eventually succeeded his father, and was created a baronet in 1772. Another son, Ellis, inherited his mother's estate of West Court, Finchamptonstead, and espousing Elizabeth Pollen, of Andover, founded the line of St. John of West Court.

Paulet St. John in 1736 married Mary, daughter of John Walter of Brecknock, and widow of Sir Haswell Tynte, Bart., by whom he had a son, named after himself, and baptised at Farley in 1737. Later in life, his first wife having died, he married again, his second wife being Jane, daughter of Richard Harris of Silkstead. This lady survived her husband who died in 1780. She was buried in Farley chancel in 1791, under the arms of St. John, with the Ulster badge, impaling those of Harris.

The second baronet (Sir Paulet St. John) died in 1784, aged 44, his hatchment is in the gallery of Farley church. He had married Dorothy, daughter and heiress of Abraham Tucker of Bletchworth Castle, and he left a son, Henry, aged 20, to succeed him.

* Lee Manor House, like Farley, has utterly disappeared, and the story of Margery St. John herself is so absolutely forgotten that even the armorial stone of her daughter Elizabeth Puckridge in Romsey Abbey has become a puzzle to antiquarians, and yet all the while the story has been safely hidden in Farley registers. Walter Godfrey remarried at Eldon Chapel in 1706 to Sarah Douse; and of his two daughters by Margery, Elizabeth married at Mottisfont the 18th May, 1721, and was buried the 3rd December, 1736 in Romsey Abbey, under an armorial stone with the arms of Godfrey impaling St. John.

The third baronet (Sir Henry St. John), in 1786, married Jane, daughter of Carew Mildmay, Esq., of Shawford House, Hants. He died in November, 1808, having assumed the name of Mildmay.

Early in the nineteenth century the St. John mansion was razed to the ground, and the manor was subsequently sold to the Heathcotes of Hursley Park. They, too, have now passed away from the neighbourhood, and nothing remains to tell the tale of those who have lived and loved and sorrowed here save the records in the little Norman church, which still faithfully guards its dead in sunshine and in storm on Farley heights.
