

NOTES ON WELLOW.

That this neighbourhood was inhabited in prehistoric time the ancient earthworks which exist in or quite close to this parish prove. These earthworks are two considerable defensive camps and tumuli of several kinds. The larger of these earthworks is the entrenched camp at Dunwood, on the north, formerly a small extra-parochial place, but now included in the parish of Wellow. It was probably a fortified site within a forest in Celtic time. The smaller earthwork, which we view to-day, is on the south, and situated between Wellow and Bramshott.

The tumuli near this camp are of two kinds, but both, apparently, of the bronze age.

Two stone implements, described as "Celts," were found about 50 years ago on Embley Common, in this parish, and were exhibited at the meeting of the Archæological Institute, at Winchester, in 1846, by Mr. S. Deverell.

Wellow was a place of some note in Anglo-Saxon time. It was part of the ancient demesne land of the Saxon kings, and both East and West Wellow were at that time in this county, the two being known under the one name. Wellow is mentioned in King Alfred's will, drawn up, it is believed, about A.D. 885, although his death did not occur until A.D. 900. The words referring to it in that will are these—"and to my ilderyst dourhter I grawnt the toune of Welewe." She was Ethelfleda, who married Ethelred, the Earl, or sub-king of Mercia, which she governed after her husband's death, and was known as the Lady of the Mercians. She did much to restore the towns that had been ravaged by the Danes. She was buried in the Abbey of St. Peter, now the Cathedral at Gloucester.

In the collection of Saxon charters, known as "Cartularium Saxonicum," edited by Mr. de Gray Birch, of the British

Museum, Wellow is identified as the place where King Æthelstan held a Witanagemôt in A.D. 931. The charter which refers to this in No. 676 in that collection, and in it the king grants land to the theyn Wulfnoth in a witan held in the royal town, which is called Velhope, and which was attended by bishops, abbots, aldermen of counties, and other distinguished personages. I differ from Mr. de Gray Birch in his identification of this place Velhope, or Welhope, as being Wellow. I think it refers to Wallop, but as this, if it happened at Wellow, adds to the historical interest of this place it is worthy of mention.

Wellow was included during the later Saxon period and at the time of Domesday Survey in the Hundred of Brocton or Broughton, afterwards known as the Hundred of Thorngate, and its manors formed the most southernly part of that hundred. Its tythingmen must have attended the hundred court held in Saxon time at some spot on the Broughton Hills. At the time of the Norman Survey it comprised two manors or separate holdings, viz., Wellow and Embley.

In the time of Edward the Confessor the present parish was known as Wellow, as it had been from the time of King Alfred, and the distinctions of East and West had not been made. This division of the parish dates from a time just after the Norman Conquest, when a man of much authority held many manors along the borders of Hampshire and Wiltshire named Waleran. He was described in Domesday Book as Waleran the huntsman, and was apparently the superintendent of the forest land along the country borders. His lands were equal in extent to a barony, and comprised 14 manors in Wiltshire, including Kennet in the North to Landford near Wellow in the South.

Waleran's lands in Hampshire also comprised seven manors along the western border of this county. His authority was sufficient to alter the old Saxon boundary between the two counties, which he did by dividing this parish of Wellow, and making the stream which flows through it the boundary between Hampshire and Wiltshire. At the time of the Domesday Survey the surveyors recorded this circumstance under Wellow in these words:—"From this manor Waleran

took away a yardland and a half, and separated it from the county and put it into Wiltshire and three yardlands of this land are in the king's forest." Apparently no higher authority disapproved of this alteration, and the parish remains partly in Hampshire and partly in Wiltshire. Its topography bears to this day the mark of the authority of the king's huntsman, who for some purpose of his own thought fit to alter the boundary of the two counties.

Wellow at that time was held of the king by a Saxon thane named Agemund, who had held it of King Edward, and who had not been disturbed in his holding. The account of it says that it was assessed at 5 hides, and that the arable land amounted to 3 ploughlands, of which Agemund had one and his 10 borderers had the other two, which they cultivated for their own subsistence.

The Domesday record also states that there were two mills, the site of one of which is probably the place where the mill is situated at the present time. The mills are said to have been worth 100 pence. There were 12 acres of meadow, and wood for six hogs. The manor was of the value of 60 shillings, but at the time of the survey only worth 40s.

Embley was held at that time by Bernard Pancevolt, who was apparently a Norman, and a tenant named Godwin had held it of King Edward. It had been assessed at half a hide, and was worth ten shillings, but its Norman holder had apparently let the land go out of cultivation, for the Domesday records say that "now it is waste."

The connection of Netley Abbey with Wellow began with the establishment of that abbey, and lasted until its dissolution. By his original charter Henry III conveyed land and other possessions in this parish to the abbey, and the monastic estate here was enlarged subsequently by the same king. It was not, however, granted free from feudal obligations, but held at half a knight's fee, and was apparently the same land previously held at half a knight's fee by William de Hanton. In the 32 Henry III. twelve and a half acres of assart land, which had previously been forest land, was given to the abbot, apparently one of the earliest examples of inclosure round the

New Forest. In the next reign 5, Edward I., the Abbot of Netley made fine with the king in twenty shillings to enter upon his lay fee in East Wellow, and in the same reign he made fine with the king in a hundred shillings to enter on or continue in possession of certain tenements in Wellow and Hound. In the 8, Edward I, about 1290, when a strict inquiry was being made concerning all exceptional privileges, the Abbot of Netley was summoned to show by what warrant he claimed assize of bread and ale in Wellow and Codington. The latter place is that now known as Woodington in this parish.

The Abbot appeared by his attorney, and said that King Henry, the father of the reigning king, had granted him these privileges, and he produced the charter.

At the time of the dissolution of the Abbey its revenue from Wellow was £17 10s. 7d. per annum, and made up of:—

Payments from customary tenants	...	...	£8	14	2
Farms of the Manor and tithes	...	...	5	6	8
Other revenue of the Rectory which belonged to the Abbey	3	0	0
Other rents and Court dues	0	9	9
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			£17	10	7

The Vicar's name at that time was William Lusse, and the vicarage was declared to be worth £5. Among other privileges which the Abbot of Netley had in Wellow was a fair granted in the 35 Henry III., and a market granted in the following year.

The rectory of Wellow was taxed at £10 and the vicarage at £6 13s. 4d. for the purposes of the Crusade in the time of Pope Nicholas, A.D., 1291, and the tenths paid were £1 and 13s. 4d. When the church revenues were taxed for Edward III.'s wars, in 1341, the ninth of sheaves, wool, and lambs of this parish were declared to be of the value of ten marks and 6d. The tithe of the mills and other small tithes with oblations and mortuaries were stated to be worth at that time £6 13s. 4d. There was a house and 60 acres of land belonging to the church at that time. The jury of four parishioners sworn for this assessment in 1341 were named William Hedecote, John le White, John Cockeral, and

John Empuele. They also declared that the ninth of the temporalities of the Abbot of Netley in the parish was worth 8s.

The place names Cross Oak Farm and Kitts Merries Copse in this parish are perhaps altered old names connected with the monastic land. The church of Wellow is chiefly of the Early English style of architecture, and must be referred to 13th century date. As the Abbey of Netley possessed a manor in this parish with the tithes and other privileges, it can scarcely be doubted that this church owes its erection wholly or partly to that Abbey.

In the reigns of Edward II. and Edward III. Wellow was held by the St. Martin family of Oliver de Ingham, a noted baron of that period. Laurence de St. Martin was lord of the manor of Wellow under Oliver de Ingham in 1316, and had apparently succeeded his father William de St. Martin. The manor was held by knight service. Oliver de Ingham was the son of Sir John de Ingham of Ingham in Norfolk. He was summoned to Parliament as a Baron, and his estates in Hampshire were outlying parts of his possessions. In 1310 and 1314 he was ordered to assemble his military force for service in Scotland, and either Lawrence de St. Martin or his deputy from this manor must have been with that force. The year 1314 was the date of the battle of Bannockburn. Oliver de Ingham was made Warden of the Castles of Marlborough and Devizes. He took a leading part in the political affairs of Edward II. reign.

As we wander into different parts of this county little scraps of English history are made to stand out in relief before us from the associations of the places where we visit. It is so here, we are reminded of the troublous time in the reign of Edward II. Oliver de Ingham was a strong supporter of the Queen, Isabella, and Mortimer against the King. In 1325 he was appointed Seneschal of Aquitaine, the highest position under the English crown of its kind, in what remained of its French possessions. In 1326 he returned to England and was named one of the twelve councillors, who, in conjunction with the Queen, governed the country. In 1328 he

was appointed one of the justices for a trial at Winchester of those who took part with Henry of Lancaster against the Queen's party. In 1330 he was arrested by order of the young king Edward III. as one of Mortimer's supports, but regained the royal favour and was again appointed Seneschal of Aquitaine. He held that office for ten years, and in 1339 defeated a French army before Bordeaux, the seat of English government in the south of France. He died in 1344.

In the 14th century West Wellow formed part of the Earldom of Salisbury, and is included in the estates of William de Montagu, Earl of Salisbury, as shown by the lists of knights' fees and parts of knights' fees held by that Earl in the 20th year of Richard II. In the next reign it was held by Thomas de Montagu, Earl of Salisbury. In the early part of the reign of Henry V. Wellow manor, in the County of Southampton, was held not by knights' service, but by the service of the custody of the New Forest, and its holder at that time was Edward Duke of York, who was killed at the battle of Agincourt.

The parish of Wellow has been fortunate in respect to its registers, for it has found in Mr. Charles W. Empson, M.A., barrister-at-law, and a native of this parish, a gentleman who has devoted much time and labour in the publication of an index to these registers. This index, which Mr. Empson published at his own cost, is a model for publication of this kind, and in respect to it Wellow occupies a position which is unique among the parishes of this county. Mr. Empson says in the preface to this book that, as his father was Vicar of Wellow for 39 years, he had every opportunity of consulting the registers at leisure, and through the kindness of the Rev. G. Meyrick John, the succeeding vicar, the index was completed to the end of the year 1887. It was published in February, 1889. The registers date from 1570, and among the names of the 16th century are Aldridge, Langley, Crocker, Tutt, Freemantle, Ghost, Anthony Morris, Bennis, Palmer, Pollard, Precy, Read, Pritchell, and others. Mr. Empson has included in his book some interesting information relating to the letters from the Sovereign authorising collections to be made in churches for charitable purposes, and which were

known as briefs. Among such collections made in Wellow are some of historic interest. Thus on July 30, 1665, there is an entry:—

Collected for 2 men of ye Ile of Wite taken prisoners into Turky out of ye vessel of South. £4 6s. and 8d. in ye hands of Strong.

On August 2nd, 1665, being Wednesday, collected for ye poore distressed with ye pestilence 9s. 9d. in ye hand of Richard Strong.

This apparently refers to the great plague in London, which was at that time raging.

On Nov. 3rd, 1667, collected at Wellow for distressed seamen taken by ye Turks 2s., which was paid by appointment to Widow Miles, of Rumsey.

On April ye 23rd, 1771, collected for Hungarian slaves by Henry Pressey 1s. 7d.

March ye 23rd, 1772, collected for ye refiners of sugar in London by Nathaniel Feltham, churchwarden, 5s.

There is a detailed account of "what mony have been collected in ye parish of Wellow for ye redemption of poore Christians from captivity of Turkish pyrats," dated November 23rd, 1670. This account amounts to £1 7s. 7d., and is signed by the vicar and churchwardens. There is a record of a similar collection ten years later, in 1680, for "ye redemption of ye poore distressed Turkish prisoners."

In 1681 there was a collection here "for the French Protestants made Januari ye 20 and 21, 1681." That was the time of great religious excitement in France, which preceded the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, when no doubt Protestants in France were in great distress. Many of the briefs related to fires in all parts of the country. I will only mention one, viz., the fire at Nether Wallop. On Oct. 5, 1673, there was collected at Wellow for the distress at Nether Wallop 17s. 2d. Wellow had formerly a small trade in the manufacture of clay tobacco-pipes, now hindered by distance from a railway. There is a fine bed of whitish clay of the Lower Bagshot age in the parish, which is capable of being made into fine pottery. Some specimens are contained in the Museum at Southampton. Tobacco-pipes were formerly made here from this clay, and, as shown by the parish registers, the business was carried on at West Wellow, in the middle of the 18th century, by a family named Sawyer.