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*PART II.—PAPERS, ETC.*

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**History of the Manor of Newton Surmaville.**

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THE manor of Newton is not mentioned separately in the Domesday Survey, and must have been contained in one of the two estates which included Yeovil. From its position it was probably part of the estate of William de Eu, who had for his under-tenant Hugh Maltravers. Although de Eu's attainder for rebellion against William Rufus did not disturb the tenure of the under-tenant, whose name still survives in Hendford Maltravers, some portion certainly fell to the Crown. A member of the royal family, whom a jury in 1219 could not identify nearer than "the daughter of a certain king" (*filia cujusdam regis*), bestowed a part called the free tenement of Yeovil on the parish church of St. John in free and perpetual alms. There is good reason for believing that the Empress Maud was intended under this obscure designation.<sup>1</sup> By a grant from the Crown Newton was created a separate manor, rated at one hide, to be held in petit serjeanty by the annual

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxii, i, 19; xlv, ii, 203.

service of rendering a tablecloth of ten ells measure and a towel of five ells to the Exchequer at the feast of St. Michael.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest reference to Newton that I have been able to find is given in a Final Concord made at Guildford, 28th Jan., 1208 (9 John). The parties to this were Robert de Monasterio and Matilda his wife, by Robert himself in his wife's place, plaintiffs, and William Walensis and Emma his wife, tenants, by William himself in his wife's place, for one third part of the viles of Waie and Newenton and Sideliz, which Robert and Matilda claimed as her dower by gift from Ralph son of Ruand, formerly her husband. This gift having been acknowledged by the tenants, Robert and Matilda surrendered it in consideration of an annuity of thirty shillings during Matilda's life.<sup>2</sup>

Waie and Sideliz are in Dorsetshire. The former is one of several manors of that name recorded in Domesday, mostly small, which compose the modern parishes of Upway and Broadway; the latter is perhaps part of Upsydling in the parish of Sydling St. Nicholas. As Alured de Lincoln obtained the custody of these lands in 1232, we must probably in Domesday look for these manors which were then held by Alured's ancestress, Hawisia widow of Hugh Fitzgrip of Wareham, and afterwards wife of Alured of Lincoln.<sup>3</sup> But in Domesday one of the manors called Waie, which had belonged to Hugh Fitzgrip, was then in the king's hands, and it is highly probable that there it remained. In the return of knights' fees, made in 1166, under the heading "De dono Domini Regis de purchasiis Episcopi Sarisbiriensis" appears the name of Rualent (*Lib. Niger*) or Rualet de Waie (*Lib. Ruber*, i, 218) as holding one-and-a-half knight's fees. Either Rualent (or Ruand) or his son Ralph must have been the

1. *Liber Ruber*, ii, 547.

2. Dorset Records, pt. ix, p. 18. *Ped. Fin.*, 9 John, divers cos.

3. Eyton, Dorset Survey, 78. *Som. and Dors. N. and Q.*, iv, art. 35; vi, art. 27.



donee of Newton, as the wording of the Final Concord shows that Emma Walensis was her father's heir.

Her stepfather, Robert de Monasterio, may have been descended from William de M. who in 1086 held part of Blandford St. Mary. In 1166 among the knights of Alured de Lincoln were William de M. holding three fees and Robert de M. with half a fee. William also held one fee of Cerne Abbey and two hides of Milton Abbey. Matilda de Monasterio may have married for the third time William de Wytefeud, but the evidence is not quite clear.<sup>1</sup>

We will therefore return to Emma Walensis, or de Waie, the most important individual in the concord of 1208. On her death in 1221 a jury, composed of Milo de Hundeston, John de Marisco, Richard de Happelby, Richard de Cantilupe, John Viel, John de Cokeford, and many others, found that Emma de Waie held one hide of land in Niweton of the king by the service mentioned above, and that Philip de Salmunvill her son was her nearest heir.<sup>2</sup>

As several of the jurors, and William Walensis, served on the jury which enquired into the liberties of Yeovil church in 1219, it is probable that the jury of 1221 met at Yeovil or Ilchester. The first husband of Emma belonged to the Norman family of Sarmonville, or Salmonville as it is indifferently written. This is a small village about nine miles north-east of Rouen. The family was resident in Dorsetshire at an early date, as in 1166 Philip de Sarmunville held half a knight's fee of Alured de Lincoln; and his holding was no doubt Langton Sarmavile (but now Herring), which in Domesday was held by the king and the widow of Hugh Fitzgrip. As it is hardly likely that Philip was the husband of a lady who was living in 1221, we must suppose that his son (whose Christian name is not on record) was the first

1. Dorset Records, pt. ix, p. 45. Ped. Fin. 12 Hen. III, no. 91.

2. Inq. p. m. Henry III, anno incerto, but the sheriff named therein held that office 1221-2.

husband of Emma de Waie, and after being the father of Philip de Salmunvill died before 1208. In 1227 Jordan de Sarmunville quitclaimed to Philip de Sarmunville, after an assize of Mort Dancester, all his rights to two hides of land in Langeton and Waie, receiving in return a moiety of the manor of Stertes (Sterthill in Burton Bradstock) with the capital messuage and garden, saving to Philip and his heirs the advowson of the said ville. This looks like an arrangement between two brothers.

After the death of Emma de Waie in 1221, who according to the custom of the period was known by the name of her estate in preference to that of her father or her husband, Philip de Sarmunville recovered Newton from William le Waleis in exchange for one hundred shillings as the result of an action tried at the Assizes, 1225. The wording of the record seems to imply that William had tried to back out of his bargain by a denial of the facts, for which he was left in the king's mercy.<sup>1</sup> A note in the Pipe Roll for 1228 records that Philip had accounted at the Exchequer for his annual service.

Philip married Beatrix, daughter of William, son of Roger, and widow of Gerard de Clist, and endowed her with an hide of land at Newton.<sup>2</sup> During their lifetime they gave to the Abbey of Torre in Devonshire the church of Hennock which was the inheritance of the said Beatrix.

Philip died in 1232, as in that year the king granted to Alured de Lincoln for ten marks the custody of the lands which he had held, notwithstanding that the said Philip held of the king in capite a carucate of land in Newton by the aforesaid service. In 1236 Beatrix de Sarmonvill accounted at the Exchequer for one mark for not prosecuting a suit, and 1241 she accounted for another mark for withdrawing her suit.<sup>3</sup>

1. *S.R.S.*, xi, p. 70; Assize Roll, 9 Hen. III, 314.

2. Close Rolls, 12 March, 1232.

3. Rot. Pip., quoted in Hutchins' "*Dorset*," ii, 744; from which work most of the Dorsetshire references are taken.



Philip's family consisted of three daughters who were all married by 1243. At the Assizes held at Ilchester that year the jurors for Stone Hundred returned that Geoffrey de Warmill and Margaret his wife, Thomas de Crukert and Joan his wife, and Henry de Milleburn and Cecily his wife, hold one hide of land in Newton of the king in serjeanty by the aforesaid service. In spite of the order given to the daughters there is plenty of evidence that Johanna (Joan), generally known as de Sormaville, was the eldest, in confirmation of the editor's note on the above return that though the ladies were apparently co-heiresses, lands held in serjeanty had been treated as incapable of partition, and the eldest daughter could claim the whole.<sup>1</sup>

Cecily de Milleburn does not appear again as interested in the manor, and was either bought out, or died childless.

Thomas de Crukert was the owner of Cricket St. Thomas in South Petherton hundred, most probably descended from William de Cruket who held two knight's fees in 1166 of Henry Lovell. Ralph de Cruket was a juror at the Taunton Assizes in 1201; and was a royal verderer for the county in 1232. Thomas de Cricket died before the close of the reign of Henry III. In the Patent Roll, 1 Edw. I, 1272, is the appointment of Henry de Wollavington to take the assize of novel disseisin arraigned by Mabel Gidye against John de Cricket and others touching a tenement in Newton. In Kirkby's "Quest," 1284-5, Johannes de Cryket and William de Sarneville held a moiety of Nyweton et Samaville by the serjeanty aforesaid, and the other moiety of William de Gowys.<sup>2</sup> On the death of William Gouiz in 1299 it was found that Johanna de Cruket held of him half a knight's fee in Nyweton to her and her heirs, of the annual value of twenty shillings. She pays nothing but renders royal service.<sup>3</sup>

1. *S.R.S.*, xi, no. 867, and note.

2. "Feudal Aids," iv, 274.

3. Hutchins' "Dorset," iii, 695.

This evidence would imply that the Patent Rolls and Kirkby's "Quest" have erred in entering John instead of Johanna (de Sormaville or Cricket), who certainly held Newton at her death in 1307. There was, however, a John de Cricket living at this period, who in 1296 granted lands and the advowson of the chapel in Estham (in Crewkerne), the property of his wife Joan, to Geoffrey de Ashlond,<sup>1</sup> and Michael, grandson of Johanna owned a moiety of Estham as will appear later. It is possible that John de Cricket was the eldest son of Johanna and died before his mother without an heir; or that William was his son.

The exact date of the death of Johanna de Sormaville is illegible in the Inquisition *post mortem*, but this was held at Somerton the 6th July, 35 Ed. I, 1307. The jury found that she held in Nyweton Sormaville one messuage with a garden, 66 acres of land, 1 acre of wood and another of pasture, and 2 acres of alder grove, in petty serjeanty by the abovenamed service. Also that there were five free tenants, of whom William de Warmewelle held a messuage, 22 acres of land, and 3*sh.* 4*d.* rent, paid on the festival of the exaltation of the Holy Cross (14th September); John Godwyn held 12 acres of land and paid 1 lb. of cumin seed at Michaelmas; William de Wontesleigh held 10 acres of land and paid 6*d.* at the festival of the Purification; Henry de Rixchyvel held 5 acres of land and paid 12*d.* at Michaelmas, and Ralph Sallman held 10 acres of land and paid 18 pence. There was also one villein who held a messuage and 10 acres of land and paid 18 pence by half-yearly payments, and two cottagers who paid 12 pence and 9 pence respectively. The jury then delivered a second finding that the property was held of William de Gouiz, who was nephew and co-heir of the late Alured de Lincoln, and left two daughters, Johanna the wife of John Latimer, and Alice wife of Robert le Musteres. Finally, that William de Crucket was her son and heir, aged thirty years and more.<sup>2</sup>

1. Ped. Fin. 24 Ed. I, 25; *S.R.S.*, vi, 295.

2. Inq. p. m., 35 Ed. I, no. 36.



William de Crucket (or de Sarmaville) as heir of his father held Cryket (St. Thomas) of Richard Lovel for one quarter of a knight's fee in 1303.<sup>1</sup> In 1296 Geoffrey de Wermwell and William de Cruket held one quarter of a knight's fee in Southwaye in Culford Hundred. William was dead in 1313, and the jury on the Inquisition *post mortem* found that he held divers lands in Nyweton Sormanville in petit serjeanty by the service as above, also the ville of Cricket held of Richard Lovel; and in Dorsetshire a water mill at Waye Rywand<sup>2</sup> and divers lands in Bradeway; and that Michael his son and heir was forty years old and more.<sup>3</sup>

In 1303 Michael de Cricket held, with Galfrid de Aslond, Estham, Langebrigg, and the tenure of Henry de Legh, of William de Cryket for one quarter of a knight's fee<sup>4</sup>; and he presented to the chapel of Estham in 1313. But before long he had to part with all the lands in Somerset and Dorset. In 1315 he conveyed to Richard de Cruket (his son) and Cristina his wife and the heirs of their body a messuage, mill, and other property in Brodewaye and Wayerwant with reversion to Michael.<sup>5</sup> He also conveyed to his son at a date not yet known, Cricket St. Thomas; and in 1327 Richard and Cristina sold the manor and advowson to Walter de Rodneye.<sup>6</sup> In 1318 the Patent Rolls record a pardon to John Musket for acquiring in fee without licence a messuage, a carucate of land, and 20*sh.* rent in Newenton Sameville from Michael de Cruket tenant in chief, for a fine of one mark. In 1317 Michael and Isabella his wife granted five acres of land in Hewenebar (parish of Hardington Mandeville) to Walter and Nicholas de Helmdone with reversion to Michael and Isabella

1. "Feudal Aids," iv, 315.

2. Grant of a mill called Criketsmull in Waye Ruwant, 15 Ric. II; Cal. Anc. Deeds, c. 985.

3. Inq. p. m. 2 Edw. II, no. 35.

4. "Feudal Aids," Somerset, iv, 317.

5. Ped. Fin., 9 Ed. II, 95; "Dorset Records," pt. xii, 283.

6. Ped. Fin. 2 Ed. III. 24; *S.R.S.*, xii, 133.

and her heirs.<sup>1</sup> In 1321 they granted divers lands with a moiety of the advowson of the chapel of Estham to Ivo and Alice de Ashlond and their children Thomas and Alice for their lives, with reversion to Richard and Cristina.<sup>2</sup> The connection of the family with Somersetshire was now practically severed, and the only trace of them at Newton is the field-name of Cricketsham still applied to a portion of the meadow near the South-Western railway bridge.

The Musket family were originally settled at Hescombe within the Hundred of Tintinhull and apparently in the parish of Brympton, but now unknown. In 1316 John Musket held Hetecombe in Tintinhull Hundred; and in the Taxation Roll of 1327 where Hescombe and Draycote (in Limington parish and Stone Hundred) are conjoined, John Musket heads the list of taxpayers with a payment of four shillings.<sup>3</sup> In 1309 Richard Abbod conveyed to John Musket for one hundred marks of silver a messuage and land in Esthestecombe and Westhestecombe<sup>4</sup>; and in 1316 Richard Hervey conveyed to John Musket for one hundred shillings lands in Kyngeston, Mershe, and Sok Denys.<sup>5</sup> In 1318, as stated above, John Musket acquired the land of Michael de Cruket in Newenton Samaville.

John Musket died 4 Jan., 1351. The return of the Inquisition *post mortem* taken at Yeovil 12th March, 1351, shows that he held of the King in capite by the service of 6*sh.* 8*d.*, a messuage with a carucate of land and 20*sh.* rent in Newenton Sarmevill, worth 40 shillings, a messuage with a carucate of land at Leghe of Richard de Chyseldon, lord of Penne (Selwood), and 30 acres at Elleneston, held of the Prior of

1. Ped. Fin., 11 Ed. II, 31, and 19 Ed. II, 106.

2. Ped. Fin. 14 Ed. II, 17.

3. *S.R.S.*, iii, 224.

4. Ped. Fin. 2 Ed. II, 18.

5. Ped. Fin. 9 Ed. II, 62.



Montacute. His brother William, aged 40 and more, was his heir.<sup>1</sup>

William seems to have borrowed money from Robert de Samborne, Rector of Yeovil, as in 1358 it was found not to the King's damage to allow John Botor to have again four marks issuing from two-thirds of the manor of Newton Sarmavill, acquired from Robert de Samborne for the life of the said Robert, held of William Musket.<sup>2</sup> In 1360 William Musket settled Newton (and probably Elleneston) on his son John and his wife Alianora.<sup>3</sup> John died in 1373; the inquisition though still in existence, is quite illegible.<sup>4</sup> Alianora Musket died 23rd Nov., 1385; the inquisition taken at Yeovil 20th Jan., 1386, returned that she held the lands in Newton mentioned above by the service of 40 pence, and 40 acres of land in the same ville of Robert Latymer as of his manor of Duntish, and 30 acres in Elneston within the manor of Hendford of Reginald Cobham; and further that Agnes daughter of John and Alianora and now wife of John Holine, aged 25 and more was her daughter and heir.<sup>5</sup> After this date the Holine (or Holme) connection with Newton and Hescombe disappears; so we will return to the fortunes of the remaining daughter of Philip de Sormaville, Margaret wife of Geoffrey de Warmwell.

This family took their name from a village in South Dorset, where they settled from very early times. In the return of 1166 (*Liber Ruber*, I, 215) Geoffrey de Warmewelle held one knight's fee of Alured de Lincoln. By a fine levied in 1205 Idonia, who was the wife of Theodore de Warmewelle, received a life interest in property in that ville.<sup>6</sup> In 1235 Geoffrey de Wermwell and Adam Scherard made an arrangement con-

1. Inq. p. m. 25 Ed. iii, 17.

2. Inq. p. m. 31 Ed. III, 2nd nos. 13.

3. Inq. p. m. 33 Ed. III, 2nd nos. 40.

4. Inq. p. m. 47 Ed. III, 23.

5. Inq. p. m. 9 R. ii, 36.

6. Ped. Fin. 6 John, 36.

cerning common of pasture in Meurrige with Eudo Martel.<sup>1</sup> By 1243 Geoffrey was married to Margaret Sormaville, so apparently he cannot be the Geoffrey who with Joan his wife held half an acre of land in Broadway in 1240 (Hutchins, i, 426), Geoffrey de W. was dead before the end of Henry III's reign. By a charter earlier than 1269 John atte Bridport granted to Geoffrey de W., Knt., for 10 marcs of silver all his land in the ville of Walditch (co. Dorset) to which Sir Thomas de Cricket was witness; and by a later deed, *temp.* Henry III, Margaret late wife of G. de W. in her legal widowhood granted to Henry Sherard with Eve her daughter in frank marriage the whole of her land in Wauditch by rent of 1 lb. of cummin for all services save royal. By another charter dated at Wermewelle the Thursday after Epiphany, 53 Hen. III (10 Jan., 1269), Margaret late wife of Geoffrey de W. granted to Adam son of Henry Sherard for his homage and service the rent of 1 lb. of cummin which she had been accustomed to receive of Henry S. and Eve his wife for the land at Wauditch which the said Margaret had given in frank marriage with Henry and Eve her daughter. (Hutchins, ii, 208). The two branches of the family remained on good terms. By a deed dated at West Marsh the Thursday after the Epiphany, 6 Ric. II (8 Jan., 1383), Richard de W. by his faithful in Christ, William, Rector of Warmwell and John Bardolph, of Yeovile, thereby constituted his attornies, gives full and peaceful seizin of all his lands in Warmwell and elsewhere in Dorset to John Fauconer and Matilda his wife (sister of said Richard). In witness thereof he appended his seal, but because his seal was unknown to many the seal of Roger de Warmwell was appended. Gerard gives as the arms of Warmwell "Three mullets, out of a seale."<sup>2</sup>

Another branch of the family settled at Salisbury, where

1. Ped. Fin. Dorset, 20 Hen. III, 119.

2. Gerard, Survey of Somerset; *S.R.S.*, xv, 170.



William Warmwell was mayor in 1380, and Robert Warmwell filled that office in 1419 and 1429.

Geoffrey and Margaret Warmwell were succeeded at Newton by their son William, born in or about 1247. He gave evidence at an enquiry held in 1297 concerning the age of John de Meryet, who was born 2nd April, 1276; and testified that in the same year on the festival of St. Barnabas (11th June) he bought his land at Newton, in the county of Somerset, which he yet holds.<sup>1</sup> There is now no record of any purchase, and I am inclined to think that it may refer to the delivery of his free tenement in Newton after his parents' death. He married late in life, and died in 1307. The Inquisition held at Somerton 4th July, 1307, returned that he held divers lands in Newton Sormavyle of the heir of Johanna de Sormavyle, and with Alianora his wife held a moiety of Pen Mill (in Yeovil); and that Richard de Warmwell his son and heir is seven years old.<sup>2</sup>

In the Tax roll for 1327 Richard de Warmwell paid one shilling in Kingston (part of Yeovil), but after this date he disappears, and was succeeded by Roger de Warmwell, who may have been his son and heir. In the great riot at the parish church of Yeovil, on 8th November, 1349, when the Bishop of the Diocese was treated with great rudeness and violence, Roger, being presumably young and foolish, was a ringleader, to judge by the severity of the punishment imposed upon him. He was to perform public penance in the churches of Yeovil, Wells, Bath, Glaston, Bristol, and Somerton; make a pilgrimage in penitential manner to Christ Church, Canterbury, and pay 20*li.* to the Bishop.<sup>3</sup> He married Felicia daughter of Alice (husband's name not given), who was niece and co-heir of John de Preston. The uncle had died in the late autumn of 1361, and his married daughter Elizabeth de

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xviii, ii, 145.

2. *Inq. p. m.* 35 Ed. I, 17.

3. *Reg. Ralph de Salopia*, *S.R.S.*, x, 599.

Pappeworth only survived him ten days, her only child John being already dead.<sup>1</sup> It was the year of the *pestis secunda*, which was remarkably fatal to the well-to-do and the young.<sup>2</sup>

Roger died on the 8th April, 1387, and his wife on the 25th May in the same year. The two inquisitions return that Roger held one third of the manor of Niweton Sarmaville by the service of 40 pence, and, jointly with his wife, lands, rents, and reversions in Preston Plucknett, Sock Dennis, West Marsh, Kingston juxta Yeovil, Chilthorne Domer, East Coker and West Coker. Their son and heir was John Warmwell aged 28 and more.<sup>3</sup>

Like his predecessors John's name seldom occurs in the records of the time. The Episcopal register of 10 October, 1411, records a licence to Robert Langbroke and Christiana his wife to have masses and other divine services in a chapel or simple oratory within the manor of John Warwelle at Newton Sarnaville.

John died on the 8th September, 1435, aged 76 or more. The inquisition held at Yeovil on 12th October was for some reasons not considered satisfactory, and another was held at Milborne Port, 9th June, 1436. This found that he had settled a messuage with a garden, one toft, half a carucate of land, and 48 acres of pasture in Nyweton Sarmavyle by a deed dated 11th October, 1420 (without the royal licence) upon himself and his wife Margery for their lives, with remainder to Ralph Brett, of Caundle Marsh, *co.* Dorset, now dead, and Agnes his wife, in fee, and the heirs of Agnes, and in default to Richard Peny and Alice his wife in fee, and her heirs, with remainder to the right heirs of the said John. Also that by a later deed, dated 6th September, 1425, he settled two ferlings of land at Newton on Jane his then wife, with remainder as above. Finally that his heirs were his daughters, Alice aged

1. *Inq. p. m.*, 35 Ed. III, ii, 40.

2. Creighton, C., "Epidemics in Britain," I, 203.

3. *Inq. p. m.*, 10 R. II, 51.



36, and Agnes aged 32 ; which names the clerk has apparently transposed. Another inquisition taken at the same time and place gave the additional information that Alice was now the wife of Simon Blyke.<sup>1</sup>

Agnes Brett remarried for her second husband Tristram Burnell, of Poyntington. The Patent Rolls for 20 Hen. VI record a licence, 20 June, 1442, to Tristram Burnell and Agnes his wife to enfeoff certain trustees of lands in Newton Surmaville, to settle the same on Tristram and Agnes and the heirs of her body by Ralph Brett, late her husband, remainder to the heirs of her body by Tristram, remainder to right heirs of Agnes.<sup>2</sup> Her husband may have been descended from a son or nephew of Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who left large estates in this county. Tristram was alive in 1464 when he was party to a fine for settling lands in Yeovil<sup>3</sup> ; but predeceased Agnes who died 27th Dec., 1478. The Inquisition taken at Ilchester 29th March, 1479, returned that Agnes late wife of Tristram Burnell was seised of 3 messuages, 9 tofts, one dovecot, one garden, 140 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 254 acres of pasture in Newton Sarmaville, and of 2 tofts, one curtilage with garden annexed, and 20 acres of land in the same ville, which were all held by the service of rendering a towel and tablecloth of the value of 13*sh.* 4*d.*, and were worth 5 marks ; and were lately the property of John Warmhill ; also of lands in Chilthorne Domer, Kingston juxta Yeovil, East Coker, and West Marsh. Finally that Henry her son and heir was 30 years old and more.

The enumeration of lands in Newton shows that the whole manor was now concentrated in one family, while the disappearance of the free tenants and cottagers points to the fact that the land was being laid down to grass. This is amply confirmed by the will of Henry Burnell referred to below. In

1. Inq. *p. m.*, 14 Hen. VI, 31 (3 in all) ; 16 Hen. VI, 22.

2. See also *Ped. Fin.*, 20 Hen. VI, 12.

3. *Ped. Fin.*, 3 Ed. IV, 5.

1485 John Lisle, Esq., and Amicia his wife conveyed a considerable amount of property in Crewkerne to Henry Burnell and Isabella his wife and her heirs.<sup>1</sup> She also possessed other property in her own right as will be shown in the Inquisition *p. m.* Henry's will composed in English, 5th Jan., 1490, is a long and interesting document. It begins with a singular disposition of his body, which was to be buried under the High Altar of Sherborne Abbey, and then after several charitable bequests, left to his good and loving wife all his farm stock and produce at Charlton and elsewhere. Also to his daughter Jane 20 sheep and a good weight of wool; to Margaret 200 marks, if so that she marry with John Mychell, Esq., of Cannington; to Isabel 100 marks for her marriage; to Alice to make her a "nonne" in the priory of Cannington; 100 shillings to his son Peter now being in the college of Winchester; a legacy to his son William; and to John, his eldest son, certain plate and gold chains. To Sir Henry, his godson, a weight of good wool to make him therewith a good gown and a hood; and 18 weights of wool not specifically disposed of to be sold to the utmost value for the legacies named in the will.<sup>2</sup> The Inquisition *p. m.* was taken at Ilchester 10th April, 1491.<sup>3</sup> It returned that he held the lands enumerated in his mother's inquisition and had settled them by a deed dated 20 May, 1480. He also held, apparently of his wife's inheritance, the manors of Byre Burnell and Otebull<sup>4</sup> worth £17 annually, held of James Daubeneye. In Dorsetshire he held land in Caundel Marsh, Fivehead Nevile, and Lydlinche, held of the Bishop of Salisbury, settled on him by his parents by a deed dated 14 Oct., 1468.<sup>5</sup> In Devonshire he held the manor of Croke Burnell, and lands in Croke Burnell,

1. Ped. Fin., 1 Rich. III, 1.

2. S.R.S., xvi. 290.

3. Inq. *p. m.*, 6 H. VII, 18.

4. Bere and Oathill in Wayford parish, formerly Crewkerne.

5. Inq. *p. m.*, C. ser. II, vol. 6 (19).



Croke Sampforde, Stone, and Holy Croke, all in the parish of North Tawton.<sup>1</sup> Finally John is his son and heir aged 20 and more.

Isabel, the widow, survived her husband 33 years, and died 17th Feb., 1524. The Inquisition *p. m.* was held at Yeovil in June of that year. It returned that she held property in Crewkerne, Cresham and Holestowey in the parish of Cutcombe, and in Harpefford<sup>2</sup> of the Abbess of Canceley, *i.e.*, Canonleigh in Devon; and that by a deed executed at Poyntington on 1st Jan., 1516, she enfeoffed certain trustees of her lands to fulfil her last will. The recital of the necessary clauses follows, which is very fortunate as the will has disappeared. By it she bequeathed certain lands to her son Peter for twelve years to provide for an honest priest, secular and English, to sing for the souls of his parents, and for a solemn dirge to be sung in the Abbey Church of Sherborne. If her son John should disinherit his heirs, then the lands should remain to Peter for his life, and afterwards to his sisters.<sup>3</sup>

John had already disposed of part of his inheritance, for by a deed dated 15th March, 1510,<sup>4</sup> he for 300 marks sold to John Compton 4 messuages, 8 tofts, a columbarie called a dovehouse, a mill, 231 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 88 acres of pasture in Newton Sermaville and elsewhere, saving the life interest of himself, his wife Dorothy (daughter of William Knoul, of Sandford Orcas), and his mother Isabel Burnell. This was a good bargain for John Burnell as he lived till 1544, and then left Dorothy surviving. His will (proved 20th November, 1544), contains elaborate directions for his burial in the chancel of Poyntington church, with a provision for a priest to sing for his soul for three years in the aisle of our

1. *Inq. p. m.*, C, ser. II, 6 (20).

2. Perhaps Harpford in Langford Budville.

3. *Inq. p. m.*, 16 Hen. VIII, 17.

4. Newton deeds.

Lady. No mention is made of any relatives besides his wife Dorothy and his cousin William Portman.<sup>1</sup>

John Compton was of Beckington. His grandfather, also John, in his will made 3rd May, 1494, describes himself as a clothman, and the legacies include pieces of woollen cloth valued at 30 shillings.<sup>2</sup> He was succeeded by another John, whose will was proved 27th Oct., 1505. The document shows that the family were prospering. Two silver-gilt candelabra were bequeathed to Beckington church; portions given to penniless maidens, and legacies to the building of Bath Abbey and the reparation of roads.<sup>3</sup> To him succeeded John, the purchaser of Newton, who died 13th Oct., 1510, and was buried at Beckington, where his brass (given in *Collinson*, II, 201) still remains in the chancel. The family pedigree, recorded at the Heralds' Visitation of 1591,<sup>4</sup> places him at the beginning. From his elder brother Richard were descended the families formerly resident at South Petherton and Sutton Bingham. Thomas, son and heir of John, was the first actual owner of Newton. He died 4th August, 1551, and the Inquisition taken at Langport, 5th November the same year, records that he held the manor of Newton Surmaville, which he had settled on himself and his wife Mary (daughter of Robert Hussye, of Burley, Hants), by a deed dated 20th April, 1546, without acknowledging the life interest of Dorothy Burnell, widow. He also owned the manor of Beckington, and a wood there formerly the property of Mayden Bradley. His son and heir, Joseph, was nine years of age.<sup>5</sup>

Joseph Compton resided at Newton. The registers of Yeovil church record the marriage of his daughter Mary with

1. Brown "Somerset Wills," v, 51-2.

2. *S. R. S.*, xvi, 248.

3. *S. R. S.*, xix, 47.

4. Weaver, "Visitations of Somersetshire," 103.

5. *Inq. p. m.*, 6 Ed. VI, 2, 80.



John Drake, in 1599, and the baptism of his grand-child Henry, son of Henry, in 1593. He purchased in 1587 from Leonard Carent, of Toomer, in Henstridge, part of the manor of Kingston, in Yeovil. But from some unknown cause in the course of a few years Joseph Compton became heavily involved in debt both to the Crown and to private individuals, and was obliged to sell Newton to Robert Harbyne, of Wyke, in the parish of Gillingham, Dorset. The conveyance is dated 18th Nov., 1608; it included the manor of Newton Surmaville, and all that capital messuage, mansion house, and demesne lands thereto belonging; and also gives a list of the encumbrances, including a statute staple due to Sir Walter Raleigh for £600, dated 28th Jan., 1603. The seal on the deed bears three helmets in a shield, the usual arms of the Compton family. By another deed, dated 19th November, Joseph Starr and John Phelps, of Yeovil, were appointed attornies of Mr. Compton to deliver seisin, which an endorsement states was duly given on the 30th November to John Harbyne in a field called "four acres."<sup>1</sup> It is probable that Beckington was sold about the same time, as Collinson states that it was purchased in the early part of the seventeenth century by John Ashe, Esq., who died in 1658. The later history of Joseph is not known, but his eldest son Henry is described in a deed of this period as of Poole.

Although the surname of Harbin is now seldom met with, it was far from uncommon in the sixteenth and following centuries. The earlier spelling is Harbyn, sometimes with a final "e," but this was soon dropped and "i" substituted for "y." Harben is also found. The derivation is uncertain, and it does not appear to fall into any of the four main divisions of classification, according as the name comes from a patronymic, place of birth or origin, business or profession, or personal characteristic. It was very common in Dorsetshire,

1. Newton deeds.

Sussex, and in London that *colluvies gentium*; unknown in the Midlands it appears again in the northern counties, sometimes as Harbinson. From thence it passed over into North Ireland. It is also found in France and South Germany. It is not unknown in the West Indies, and is common in the United States, principally in South Carolina, Georgia, and Texas.<sup>1</sup> It is the name of an important junction on the Siberian railway, but from the scarcity of books dealing with the topography of Manchuria, I cannot be positive whether it is of native origin, or given in honour of an American engineer.

But to return to Dorsetshire. Since Robert Harbin began life as a merchant at Blandford, it is very probable that he came from Milton Abbas, a small village some eight miles west of that town. In the assessment for a second payment<sup>2</sup> of the subsidy granted 37 Hen. VIII (1546), William Harbyn, senior, of Milton, was assessed on his goods valued at *xiii*li**., John Harbyn at *vi*li**., and William Harbyn, junior, at *v*li**. From the date painted on his portrait it appears that Robert was born in 1526. During his residence at Blandford he married Margaret, daughter of Peter Maunsell (or Monsell), who, though a native of Launceston,<sup>3</sup> was settled then in 1546, when his goods were assessed at *xviii*li**., and those of John Swayne, another merchant, at *xvii*li**. However, there is no family tradition that Robert had been apprenticed to her father.

Mr. Harbin, "mercier," prospered well, and in 1576 he demised to his brother William, "mercier," his dwelling-house with all the goods and implements therein for five years, reserving to himself and his wife the right to occupy the great chamber next to the "Bell" (Inn), with stable room for their horses whenever they should come to Blandford.<sup>4</sup> Robert

1. Information from W. N. Harben, of New York.

2. Exchequer Lay Subsidies, Dorset, 104/177, 104/180.

3. Will of John Maunsell, Brown, v, 63.

4. Newton deeds.



moved to Stalbridge, and in the list of subscribers to the National Loan, in 1588, Robert Harbin, gentleman, is down for £100, which was apparently the limit, as nobody gave more.<sup>1</sup>

Continuing to add to his possessions, he soon after purchased Wyke Hall, in the parish of Gillingham. The oldest registers of Milton Abbas and Stalbridge have disappeared, and the Blandford books were burnt in the great fire ; but those of Gillingham are still in existence. They record the burial of Margaret, wife of Robert Harbyn, gent., 6th Oct., 1597. This entry refers almost certainly to his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Mervyn, and widow of William Drewry, of Savernake, whose daughter, Bridget, was married to John, eldest son of Robert Harbin. The register also contains the record of the baptisms of divers grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In the autumn of 1608, when he was 82 years old, Robert purchased Newton ; and at once pulled down the old house of the Compton family, and built the present mansion which was finished in 1612.

The frontispiece shows the north and east (or garden) faces of the house which is built to form three sides of a square, but instead of the wings enclosing a court before the front entrance, as is usually the plan adopted, the front looks due north and is backed by a wing on either side so as to form an apparently solid mass of building. The western face is quite plain without any projection except a small porch to the side door. The most noticeable feature in the design is its perfect symmetry, by which each feature is balanced by a correspondence on the opposite side. Moyns Park, in Essex, built in the latter part of the sixteenth century, has three projections in front, the porch occupying the middle bay, while the wall-spaces between terminate as at Newton in high-pitched gables. In both houses the different stories are marked off by projecting string-courses, but the details are

1. *Som. & Dors. N. & Q.*, I, p. 39.

entirely different. The length of the front at Newton is 85 feet. The east face shows three projecting chimney-stacks, a reminiscence of an older style, which divide the face into four panels containing windows and finished off with balustrades. This side is 56 feet long. The south side of the square was left open to admit sunshine and is now outlined by domestic offices. The material is Hamstone, coarse for the walling, and finely worked in the well-known yellow stone for the frames of the doors and windows. The outer walls are three feet thick on the ground floor.

Entering by the front door, on the left is the oak-panelled hall, 32 feet by 19, and 11 feet high, with a bay window at the further end corresponding to the porch. Beyond this is the drawing-room, 22 feet by 18, which is lined with Brussels tapestry representing scenes from the Old Testament. Opposite to the bay window is a door leading to the dining-room, 31 feet by 17. It is panelled in an eighteenth century design, and contains a number of family portraits. The principal staircase, built round a solid pillar of Hamstone, formerly came down opposite to the dining-room door. Originally the hall occupied the whole width of the building, and formed a passage from either side of the house, but in 1837 Mr. George Harbin added a lobby on both floors, and altered the staircase to fit in with this great improvement, which was the first alteration made in the house. The fine oriel window seen at the south-east corner in the illustration lights the library, a large room added in 1875. The first floor contains a considerable number of bedrooms; one of them is lined with tapestry, which is probably Flemish of the latter part of the seventeenth century. The rooms still contain a quantity of furniture and needlework of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There is no trace of any enclosed court before the house, and the old stables which stood between the house and the river were demolished in 1870, and rebuilt beyond the garden.



The date 1612, with the initials R.H. and a shield on the leaden rain-water pipe-heads witness the completion of the work, and the family were probably in residence that year as the Yeovil church register records the baptism of a great-grandchild, Bridget Harbin, on the 19th July of that year. The considerable property now accumulated by Robert and his eldest son, John, entitled them to a further advance; and in May, 1612, William Camden, Clarencieux King-at-Arms, granted to Robert Harbin, esquire, a coat of arms: Azure a saltier voided between four spear-heads erect or; and for a crest a cubit arm in armour holding a spur. These heraldic insignia were, after the fashion of the day, immediately carved, engraved, and painted in every possible position.

Robert Harbin had conveyed Newton to his eldest son in 1609, without obtaining the necessary licence, for which a pardon was issued to him 16th Nov., 1615.<sup>1</sup> This was probably arranged to shift the burden of superintendence to younger shoulders, but Robert was far from arriving at the last stage. His half-length portrait, painted in 1619, when he was 93, shows a shrewd face with no sign of dotage. One hand holds a small book, and the other a pair of reading glasses, but his eyes are clear. He wears a coif on his head, and the neck is encircled with a close-fitting ruff. He died the 24th Dec., 1621, and was buried in Yeovil church 10th Jan., 1621-2, aged 95. His will had been made 22nd Aug., 1615, when he considered himself to be "sicke of body, but of perfect remembrance (praysed be God)," and was proved 10th July, 1622. It contains many legacies to different members of his family, including his brother William.<sup>2</sup> His children consisted of three sons and six daughters. His youngest son, Robert, was a merchant and alderman of London. In his old age he returned to Yeovil, and in the register is the record of

1. Newton deeds.

2. Brown, II, 38.

his burial: 21st Aug., 1654, Robert Harbin, ye elder gentleman. It is very probable that from him descended John Harbin, merchant, of St. Helen's, Bishopgate, who was there buried 18th Jan., 1672-3, leaving, with other children, George, D.D., a non-juror and an industrious collector and transcriber of English Records (*D.N.B.*, xxiv, 316); Margaret, wife of Sir Francis Warre, of Hestercombe, and Anne, wife of Baldwin Malet, of St. Audries.

The Inquisitions held after the deaths of Robert and his son and heir, John, show that the family property consisted of the manors of Newton, Up-Mudford, East Pennard, and Swyre, and of lands in Clapton within Cucklington, East and West Lydford, Horsington, Trent, Charlton Horethorne, Marsh in Wincanton, Kingston-juxta-Yeovil, Iwerne Minster, Stour Provost, Shaftesbury, Blandford Forum, Kimmeridge, and Wyke in Gillingham, all of which had been acquired in the lifetime of Robert, and apparently by his own exertions.

John Harbin must have been an elderly man at the date of his father's death. His portrait, three-quarter length, at Newton, depicts a gentleman in full dress of the reign of James I. The face is of a type still met with in the south-western counties, and though not corpulent he certainly resembles "the justice with eyes severe and beard of formal cut." He was a member of the Middle Temple, and his signature is of the complicated pattern common among legal professional people at that time. He was high sheriff of Dorset in 1623; and sat on the bench at the Ilchester quarter sessions the same year. From this date he was an active justice of the peace as the index to the Q.S. records will show.<sup>1</sup> In 1631 he was fined £35 because he did not attend at the King's coronation to receive the degree of knighthood.<sup>2</sup>

John Harbin married Bridget daughter and eventually co-

1. *S.R.S.*, xxiv, 326.

2. *Som. and Dor. N. & Q.*, iv, pp. 14, 107.



heiress of William Drewry, of Savernake, co. Wilts, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Mervyn. In the Heralds' Visitation of Somerset, 1623,<sup>1</sup> the entry is John instead of Edward; but that this is an error on their part is shown by the will of Alexander Rosewell, of Soley, co. Wilts, proved 9 May, 1584. It mentions "my very loving friend Will. Drewrye dec. His son Edward (not William as given by Brown). The two daughters of the said William by Margaret, his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Mervyn, knt."<sup>2</sup> He died on 4th March, and was buried at Yeovil 14th March, 1638-9, where his widow was also buried 2nd Feb., 1640-1. Neither of them made a will.

Robert Harbin, the eldest son and heir, matriculated at Oxford from Hart Hall, 6th Feb., 1606-7, aged 18, and was entered a student of the Inner Temple the same year.<sup>3</sup> This gives the date of his birth as 1588. At the age of 22 he was married to Gertrude, daughter of John Stocker, of Chilcompton, Esq., and widow of Christopher Morgan, who had died childless in 1609.<sup>4</sup> The marriage settlement included Kimmeridge and Wyke, where after the death of his grandfather Robert seems to have lived, as the Gillingham registers record the baptism of three children, 1621-2-3. In 1625 Wyke was sold to William Pile, gent., and apparently Robert came to live at Yeovil where his youngest children were baptized 1630-2.

Following the example of his neighbour, Sir Robert Phelippes, Robert Harbin was a strong opponent of the King's policy; and when hostilities began, he was a Deputy-Lieutenant of Militia, and Colonel in the Parliamentary forces.<sup>5</sup> In 1636

1. Harl. Soc., xi, 46.

2. Brown, i, 62.

3. Foster, Alumni Oxon, 1500-1714.

4. He was the eldest son of Christopher M., and grandson of Robert M., of South Mapperton, Dorset. "Visit. Som." 1623; Brown, ii, 28, 29.

5. Bayley, "Great Civil War in Dorset," pp. 8, 67. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xiv, ii, 48 (on page 64 his name is wrongly given as Richard).

his eldest son, John, was a captain in John Paulett's regiment of trained bands, and had his younger brother, Robert, for an ensign.<sup>1</sup> Robert Harbin, senior, signed the letter sent to the Parliament from Shepton Mallet 1st Aug., 1642, concerning the rival efforts to publish the Commission of Array.<sup>2</sup> He was also present at the siege of Wells, and signed the terms of peace agreed to by the Marquess of Hertford on the 6th August.<sup>3</sup> In April, 1643, Robert Harbin was present at the sack of Sherborne, when the Parliamentary forces "plundered one Martin, an innkeeper, with two or three others, who had sent a lewd fellow to Yeovil to stab Colonel Harbin and the rest of the Commanders."<sup>4</sup>

But as time went on, when to the weariness of a struggle which seemed unending, while the losses on both sides were continually growing, was added the conscientious scruples which nearly all felt in fighting against the Sovereign, Robert Harbin made his peace with the King and obtained a pardon, dated at Oxford 15 Jan., 19 Charles (1643-4), for all offences he might have committed between 1st Nov., 1640, and the 9th Nov., 1643.<sup>5</sup> As long as the royal cause flourished in the West Mr. Harbin was at peace; in April, 1645, after he had surprised and nearly captured Cromwell outside Dorchester, Lord Goring dates a letter from Newton, which would be a convenient position for his headquarters.<sup>6</sup> But the battle of Naseby, in June, and the triumph of Fairfax and Cromwell over Goring, at Langport, in July, left the royalist party at the mercy of their enemies. For some time nothing was done. At the Quarter Sessions, held at Ilchester, 1647, John Whitby, J.P., was desired and ordered to receive of Colonel Harbine, late treasurer of the "meighmed" soldiers of this

1. Commissions at Newton.

2. *Proc.* xiv, ii, 61.

3. *Ditto*, p. 69.

4. Bayley, 67.

5. Newton deeds.

6. Bayley, 251.



County, fifty pounds of the surplusage money accruing in his year. On the 27th Aug., in the same year, the Committee for Somerset ordered his estate to be seized to the use of the State upon a charge of delinquency, and on 17th December he was ordered to give security for his appraised goods in case he should be judged sequestrated. Nothing further was done until 5th May, 1652, when Robert Harbin requested the Committee at Taunton to certify these particulars to the Committee for compounding with delinquents at Goldsmiths Hall. On the 3rd November the House of Commons resolved that the appeal of Robert Harbin might be heard. On the 1st December the Committee heard the petition of Robert Harbin, of Mudford, that as his estate had never been actually sequestrated, he might be allowed the benefit of the Act. The Committee was evenly divided, two and two.<sup>1</sup>

Robert Harbin spent the remainder of his life on his property at Mudford, handing over Newton to his eldest son, John. The preamble to a Private Act of Parliament, obtained by the latter at the Restoration, recites that Robert had committed great waste by cutting down trees, and had granted leases in his settled estates, and intended to marry again, yet was unable to make any provision for his wife or his younger children; so by the mediation and persuasion of friends it was agreed that Robert should relinquish all his powers over his life estate, and that his son John should pay £2,500 to his younger brothers and sisters as his father should dispose of by his will. Robert did not remarry, and made his will 7th March, 1658-9 (proved 21st May, 1659). He left directions to be buried at Yeovil, in the Newton aisle, and gave his coach, horses and furniture to the overseers of the will, R. Hunt and F. Wyndham. The sum mentioned above was divided between his younger children, including £300 to his son Edward if still alive.<sup>2</sup>

1. Copies of Royalist Composition Papers at Newton.

2. Brown, II, 38.

John Harbin, the eldest son, was born in 1614. He had been a captain in the trained bands, and as a determined Loyalist suffered sequestration, from which he was discharged 6th March, 1646-7, "at which time he was not possessed of any estate." The same year he married Isabella, daughter of William Pert, Esq., of Arnolds, in the parish of Mountnessing, *co.* Essex<sup>1</sup>; but how, except in the course of a campaign, he could have met the young lady it is difficult to say. The marriage settlement gave him Newton and land in West Lydford; and the immediate result was a fresh sequestration from which he was not released until he had taken the negative oath and handed over £30 to the use of the Commonwealth. He was again sequestered by instructions from London, 8th Oct., 1651 (after Worcester), when his real estate consisted of the lands as above, and his personalty was valued at £50 including three cloth suits. He was allowed the benefit of the Act 13th April, 1652.

The death of Robert Harbin put John in possession of the family estates, burdened with debts and legacies. After the Restoration he was obliged to obtain a private Act of Parliament to bar the entail and enable him to sell the greater part of the property left by his ancestors.<sup>2</sup> The King obtained his own again, but many a Cavalier, ruined by the severity of the Commonwealth procedure, must have wondered in the bitterness of his heart how his loyalty had advantaged himself when the strife was over.

John Harbin's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Strode, Knt., of Chalmington, in the parish of Cattistock, the marriage settlement being dated 6th May, 1665. The licence issued from the Faculty Office gives Clifton Maybank as one of the churches where the ceremony could be performed, so apparently the building was still standing. His

1. The arms of this marriage are carved on a shield over the porch at Newton, and are also engraved on a signet ring still in existence.

2. Contemporary copy at Newton.



widow remarried 21st May, 1684, Richard Mallock, Esq., and, as her stepson parenthetically remarks in his account book, drew an annuity from the estate for many years. John Harbin died 29th May, 1672, his eldest son, Robert, having died the 22nd April the same year.

William, his eldest surviving son, succeeded. The date of his baptism in the Yeovil register is the 9th Aug., 1654, and his Christian name was probably due to his grandfather, William Pert. As a younger son he was apprenticed to Thomas Williams, mercer, and Sara, his wife, of Bristol, on the 16th May, 1670.<sup>1</sup> It may have been his mercantile training that led him to make notes and copies of letters and other documents in his account book or on the fly-leaves of his favourite authors. He thus recorded his first action as head of the family, which is worth giving in full :—

“In the year 1672 one Sir Edward Bish, Clarencieux King-at-Arms, visited this Countie, and by the bailiffs of every hundred and I met at Ilchester in ye same year, and carryed my parchment in which my coat of arms were granted to my family many years ago ; at which time, 72 aforesaid, one of Sir Edward Bish, his servants took my coat of arms, and enquired how many brothers my father had, who he married, how many brothers I have, and on paying 39 shillings and 6 pence for a confirmation came home again. I observed at the meeting aforesaid I saw no justice of peace neither could I learn of anyone yt went the same time, but in Dorsetshire some years after most of the county went, and Sir Edward Bish aforesaid petitioned the Parliament about 82 against these gentlemen in everie countie he has visited to produce their title to their coat of arms, but they threw it out ; after which he made a book of what he had seen and taken in everie county and printed it, in which book is my coat of arms engrossed ; and if ever they come again there is no need of

1. Apprentice Book of Bristol.

going near them on their summons, neither can there come any damage from it, for their coming is more to grant new coats of arms to new upstart families than to review the ancient gentlemen's coats ; neither any of the ancients appeared at all in our county, for I was the best that appeared at Ilchester, of thirty at least, and if I had not been a very young man, not above 18 I believe, I should not have been there, and parted with my money for nothing."

William Harbin might have congratulated himself on getting off so inexpensively. The pedigree entered in the books of the College of Arms is of the most meagre description. The year after he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Wyndham, Bart., of Trent. The youthful couple (their united ages being 36) lived at first with her parents, and it was there that William received news of his uncle Edward, which he duly set down. "A seaman came to me at Trent in January, 1674-5, and told me that he came from Barbadoes, and that there is one Mr. Edward Harbin lives in Bridgtown, he tables at one Coll. Bates his house, as he told me he be clarke to his majesty's navy storehouse for vitting ships in Bridgtown ; whether it be my uncle I cannot tell, and believe not because he was gone out of England twenty yeares before, and never after heard of, and his possessions were distributed between the brethren that were alive."

There were persons of this name in Barbadoes at the end of the century, who had plenty of property both white and black ; but their ancestry is as much a matter of doubt to me as it was to William Harbin.

On the death of Sir Francis Wyndham in 1676, it was found impossible to pay over his daughter's portion, and Lady Wyndham made over all the moveable goods at Trent instead. The schedule is long and very interesting. Although it is difficult now to say whether any of the furniture and tapestry could have come from Trent, there can be no doubt as to the origin of a number of large pewter dishes, bearing the arms of



Wyndham impaling Gerard. Lady Wyndham's last illness seems to have taken place during a visit to her daughter, as she was buried at Yeovil, 25th July, 1698. The much valued relics of the visit of King Charles II to Trent in his flight after Worcester, a day and night cap and a small knife in a wooden sheath, were probably bequeathed by the loyal hostess, who never forgot the warning of her father-in-law, Sir Thomas Wyndham, on his death-bed to her husband: "In all times to adhere to the Crown; and though the Crown should hang upon a bush, I charge you forsake it not."<sup>1</sup> In the dining-room at Newton still hang the portraits of Sir Francis Wyndham, a three-quarter length, and of his four sons, Sir Thomas, Sir Francis, Brigadier Hugh, and Edmund. The portrait of Sir Francis includes a view of the siege of Dunster Castle, which he held, much against the will of its owner, for one hundred and sixty days, only capitulating on 19th April, 1646, when the King's cause was hopeless.<sup>2</sup>

William Harbin's memoranda extended to the fates of his children. On a fly leaf of Downname's Divinity he entered the death of his "son John, on 19th March (1704-5), being Saturday, about four of the clock in the afternoon, after half a year's illness in a consumption. He was 28 years of age the 12 instant." (Born 12 March, 1676-7). His "youngest son, William, died on Wednesday, 16th May, 1705, between 5 and 6 of the clock in the morning, after 10 days' illness and one week speechless;<sup>3</sup> interred in my vault with all my ancestors in Yeovil church, he being my second son of ye name."

The family vault opened in the autumn of this year to receive the father who was buried 28th Nov., 1705. His widow only survived a short time, and died 30th June, 1708.

1. "Claustrum Regale reseratum," by A(nne) W(yndham). The perusal of this work suggests that Lady Wyndham might have been the prototype of Lady Margaret Bellenden, of Tillietudlem Tower.

2. "History of Dunster," by Sir H. C. Maxwell Lyte, I, 182.

3. A common type of infantile fever about 1700; Creighton, "History of Epidemics," II, 56.

The monument placed on a wall of the family pew in Yeovil church by their only surviving son, Wyndham, records that "They lived together many years, being as great patterns of piety and virtue as they were remarkable for their hospitality and extensive charity."

The loyalty of the English people had been so ill-requited by the policy of the Restoration Period that there was a general acquiescence (if nothing stronger) in the changes of dynasty after 1688 ; and as estates were no longer risked in party warfare, it does not seem necessary at present to follow the fortunes of the descendants of William Harbin beyond this period. One may be allowed to express a hope that the ownership of Newton, which has hitherto been a pleasure and a pride, may not in the future be made a penalty too grievous to be borne.