

Additional Notes on Barrington and the Strodes.

BY JOHN BATTEN.

COLLINSON'S account of this place (*Hist. Somt.*, iii. 113) is very meagre. He does not appear to have known that the Church was in reality a Chapel of the mother Church of South Petherton which was appropriated to the Priory of Bruton in the time of Henry II, if not earlier.

There are two curious documents relating to Barrington in the Bruton Cartulary belonging to the Earl of Ilchester which it may be interesting to notice. The first is a document under the hand and seal of Jocelyn, "Bishop of Bath," dated at Wokey in the 35th year of his episcopate (A.D. 1241), whereby the Bishop in consequence of the distance of Barrington from the mother Church of Perreton, with the consent of the Prior and Convent of Bruton, the owners both of the mother Church and of the Chapel of Barrington, consecrated a churchyard for the burial of the dead of the parish of Barrington, but neither the Prior and Convent, nor the mother Church, were to be prejudiced in any manner, nor was the Chapel to be taxed as a Church for procurations to the Archdeacon, or be subject to any other burden incident to mother Churches.

The second document is an ordination of the same Bishop, which seems to have been made from some apprehension that the churchyard might thereafter be found inconveniently near the Chaplain's House, and therefore after repeating the direction that the Archdeacon of Taunton shall not exact any procurations from the Chapel of Barrington, the Bishop declares that if he or his successors shall think that the Chaplain's

House, which then stood close to the Chapel, ought to be removed, the parishioners shall be bound to provide sufficient land near, but outside the cemetery, wherein such house may be erected.

Passing on to the Manor of Barrington and its owners, the same historian's short notice ends with Thomas Phillips, Kt., son and heir of Thos. Phillips, who died in 1618.

Mr. Bond's paper on Barrington Court (*Proc. Som. Soc.*, vol. 23, p. 26) states that Thomas Phillips, the father, purchased the estate in 1605 of Sir Gervase Clifton his brother-in-law, and that Thomas Phillips, the son (who was created a Baronet) mortgaged it about 1621 to Arthur Farwell; soon after which (about 1623) it was sold to the Strode family, and that by purchase from a female descendant of the Strodes it eventually came to the present owner.

These transactions most probably relate, not as Mr. Bond supposes, to the Manor, but only to Barrington Court and the lands surrounding it, which seem to have been severed from the Manor after it got into the hands of Strode. It is difficult now to ascertain the exact facts, but the recitals in some documents still preserved at Montacute House shew how the Manor passed out of the hands of the Phillips family. The mortgage to Farwell, or Farewell, was made by Sir Thomas Phillips (1st Baronet), 14th Feb., 1621, and by it he conveyed the Manor of Barrington and the capital messuage (i.e. Barrington Court), the Park containing 100 acres, and also the demesne lands thereof, and 1200 acres in the Forest of Neroche, to his sister's husband Arthur Farewell Esq. of Bishop's Hull, for securing £2010 and interest. In 1625, Sir Thomas Phillips and one Addis a second mortgagee, in consideration of £3800 conveyed all the property to William Strode and his son William Strode and the heirs of William Strode, the father.

In the following year (1626) Sir Thomas Phillips died, leaving his son Thomas (2nd Bart.) a minor and ward of the

King, the wardship being assigned to Sir William Ogle, afterwards Lord Ogle, who had married his mother.

In 1629 Ogle took proceedings in the Court of Wards against Arthur Farewell, infant son and heir of the mortgagee, for redemption of the mortgage, which was decreed, and Farewell was ordered, when of age to re-convey to Phillips on payment of what was due. Ogle then proceeded to establish his ward's right to the property as against Strode. In 1633 he filed an information in the Court of Wards against William Strode the father, alleging that the conveyance to him was only intended to be a mortgage, and praying redemption. An issue was directed which came on for trial at the Taunton Assizes before Chief Justice Finch, and after evidence given the case was referred to Sir John Stawell and Sir Robert Phelips, who awarded a sum of money to Strode, and directed that on payment thereof he should re-convey the property to Sir Thomas Phillips the ward. Unfortunately for him payment of this money was neglected, and the war breaking out, Sir Thomas and his brother Sir James (who succeeded him), engaged for the King, and Sir James died, leaving a son only two years old.

In 1642, Arthur Farewell and Sir Thomas Phillips (2nd Bart.) being both of age, together with Sir William Ogle, but without the concurrence of Strode, sold the manor (except the said 1200 acres in the forest which were conveyed to Sir Thomas Ogle) to Richard Chumby Esq. and Margaret his wife, of Bigdon, Devon, for £4100; and by deed dated 21st January 1642, it was conveyed to them in fee simple. They afterwards sold it to Sir Thomas Putt, whose representatives are the present owners. How the purchasers cleared off Strode does not appear.

William Strode, the father, died in 1666, and prior to 1667 Sir James Phillips (4th Bart.) grandson and heir of the first Sir Thomas, renewed the attempt to recover the property from the Strodes, and filed a Bill in Chancery against William

Strode, the son, for redemption of the mortgage, on the ground that the conveyance of 7th April, 1625, was only a mortgage, and accounting for the delay in taking proceedings by the infancy of his ancestors, and alleging also that Sir Thomas Phillips, his uncle, was slain in the wars, and that Sir James, his father (3rd Bart.), who was also actively engaged in them, had all his estates sequestered. To this Strode pleaded that the conveyance was a *bonâ fide* absolute conveyance in consideration of money paid, and that he had been in quiet possession for 50 years. At the hearing of the cause in 1677 the Lord Chancellor dismissed the Bill and confirmed Strode's title, and so Barrington Court remained in his family until the sale already mentioned. Papers on Barrington, and the Strodes' connection with it, will be found in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. xiii, pt. 2, p. 6, by Mr. Serel; and vol. xxx, pt. 2, p. 32, by Mr. E. Green.
